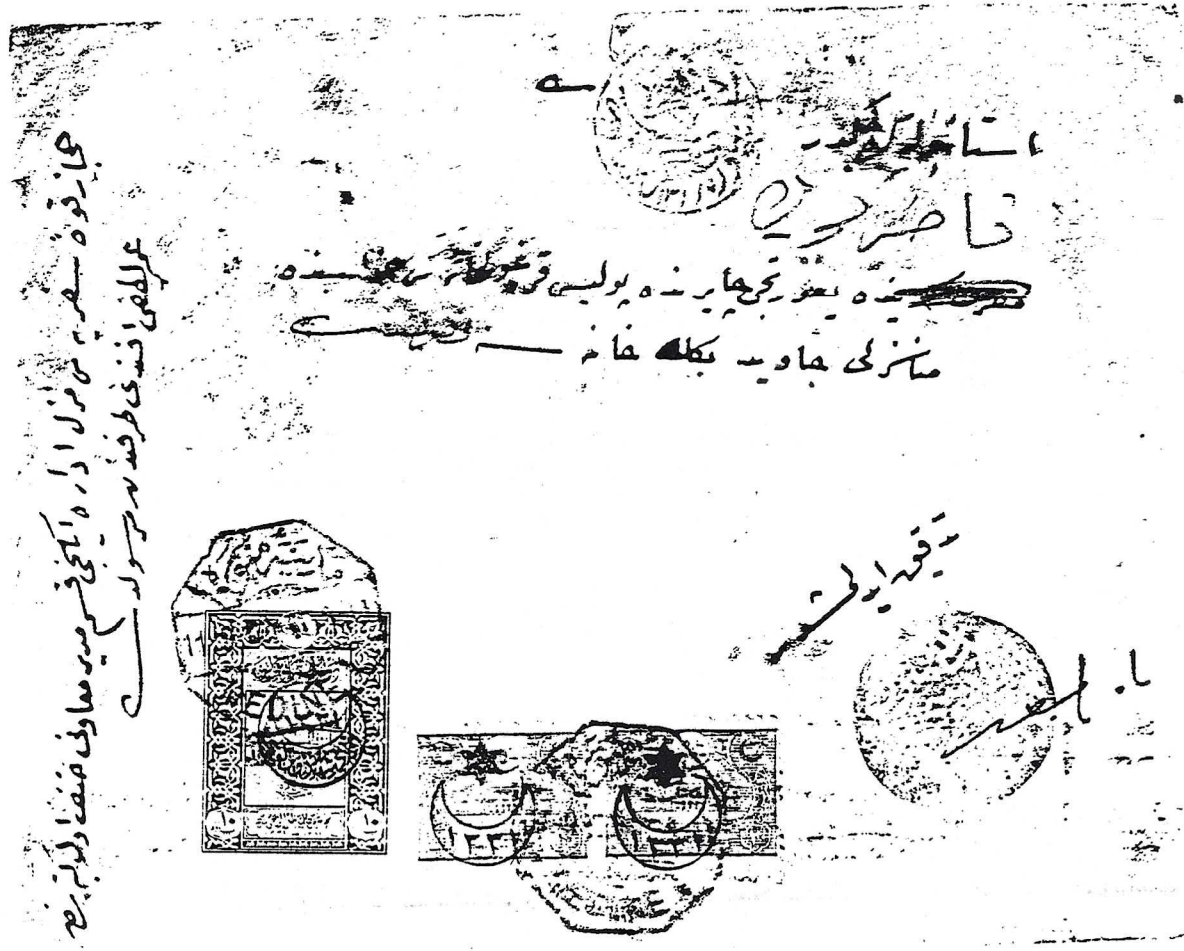


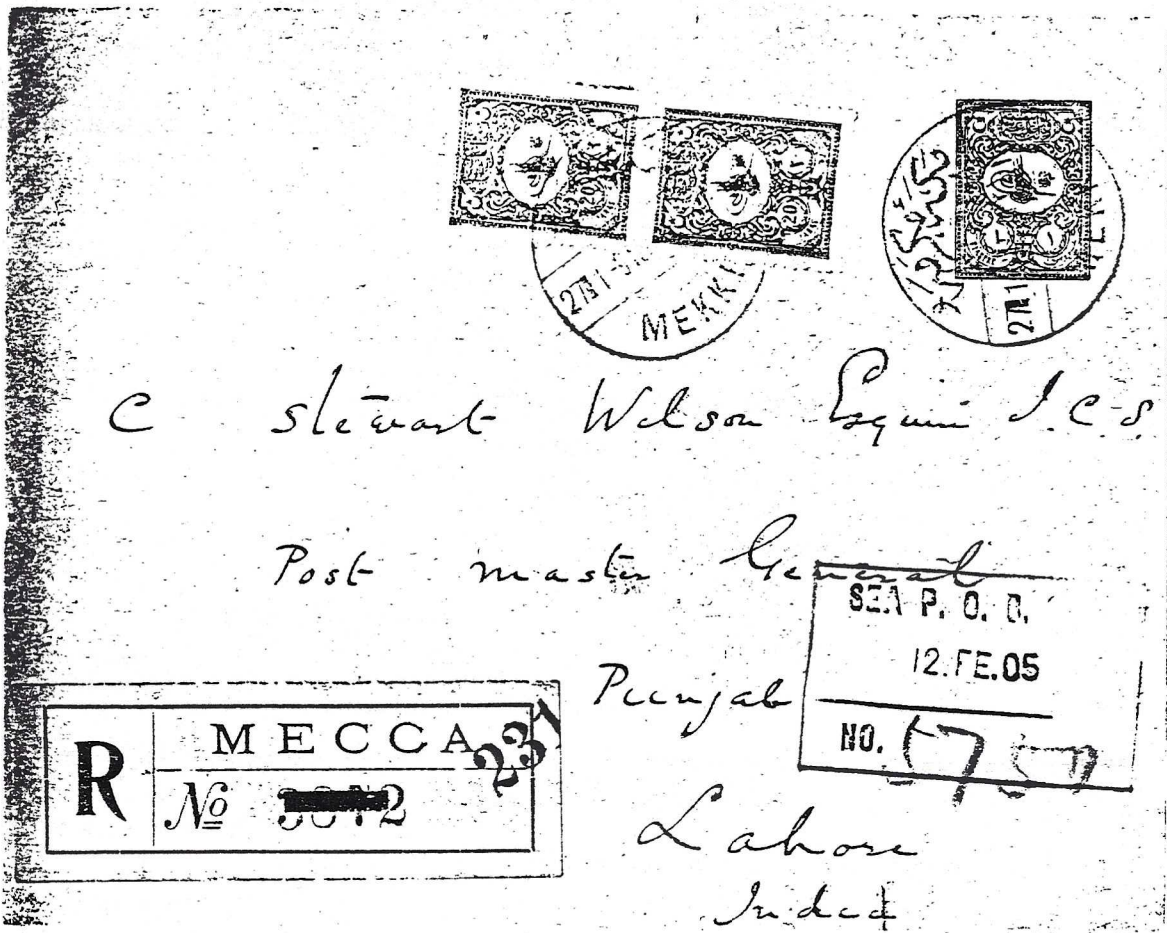
Damascus-Medina TPO



Postmark of the Hedjaz Railway used on a postcard sent on 9 February 1917, a most unusual usage.

Octagonal postmark used on cover sent on 11 September 1916 by an Turkish officer of the Hedjaz Expeditionary Force from Medina to Istanbul. The special seal cachet is of the Hedjaz Transport HQ.



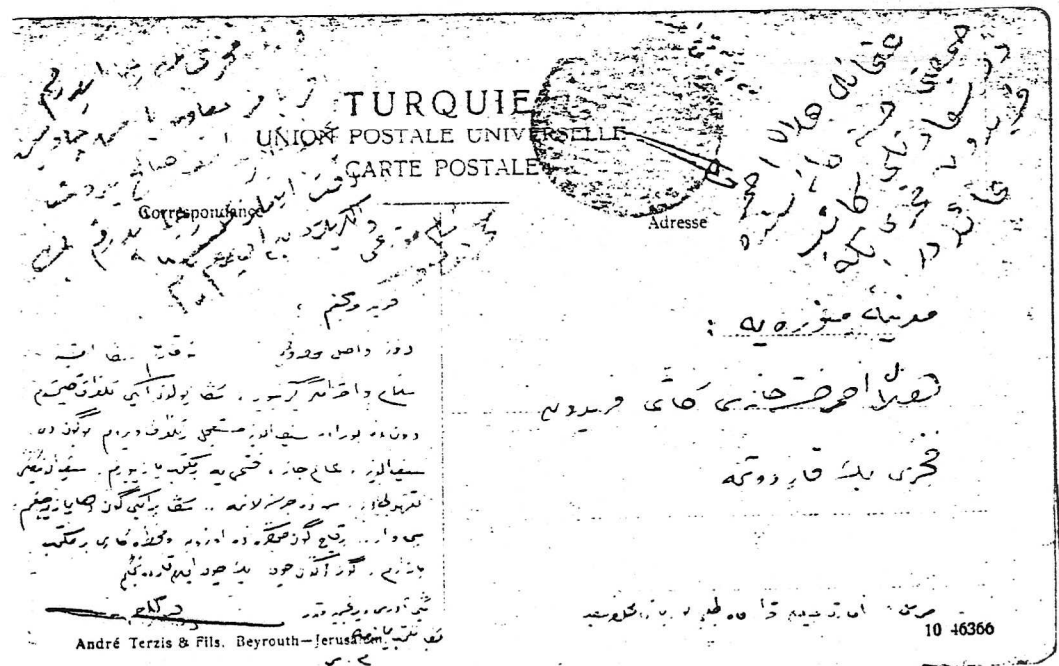


Postmark of Mekke used on registered letter to India mailed on 27 January 1905. The use of the special registration label is most unusual.

The Holy City known as "Mekke-i Mukerreme" (Mecca the Revered) was a very important location, being the focus of the haj or Moslem pilgrimage. It was a key objective of the Arab revolt which began on 10 June 1916. The city was taken by the rebels on 9 July 1916, thus ending the long rule of the Ottomans.



Octagonal postmark of Mekke on postcard sent by an artillery officer on 18 March 1916. The negative seal at top is the unit cachet of the "Hedjaz Command." Oval mark is the censorship seal.



Internal postcard sent by a Turkish soldier from Mecca to Medina on 20 March 1916. Negative seal is the cachet of the "Mecca the Revered, Headquarters Command."

Ebha



Hedye



Yambo

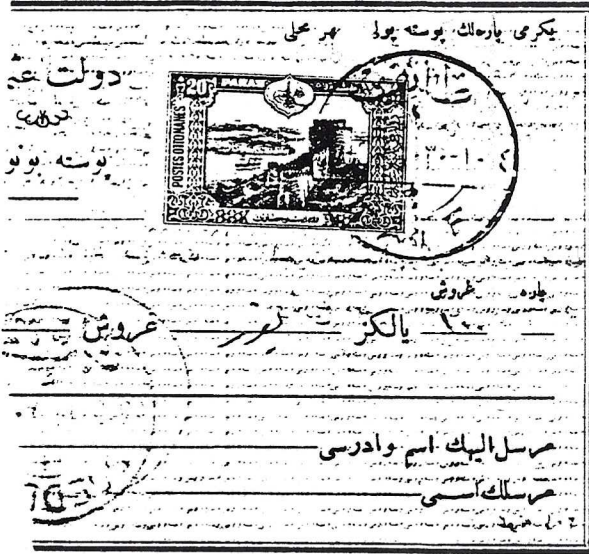


Taiz



Inbound postcard from Sana, Yemen to Taiz in the Hedjaz. This is a very uncommon routing and a highly elusive postmark.

Ebha and Konfida (not shown) were the only two towns with post offices located in the Sandjak of Asir in southern Hedjaz. In fact, until 1899, this area had been attached administratively to the Province of Yemen.

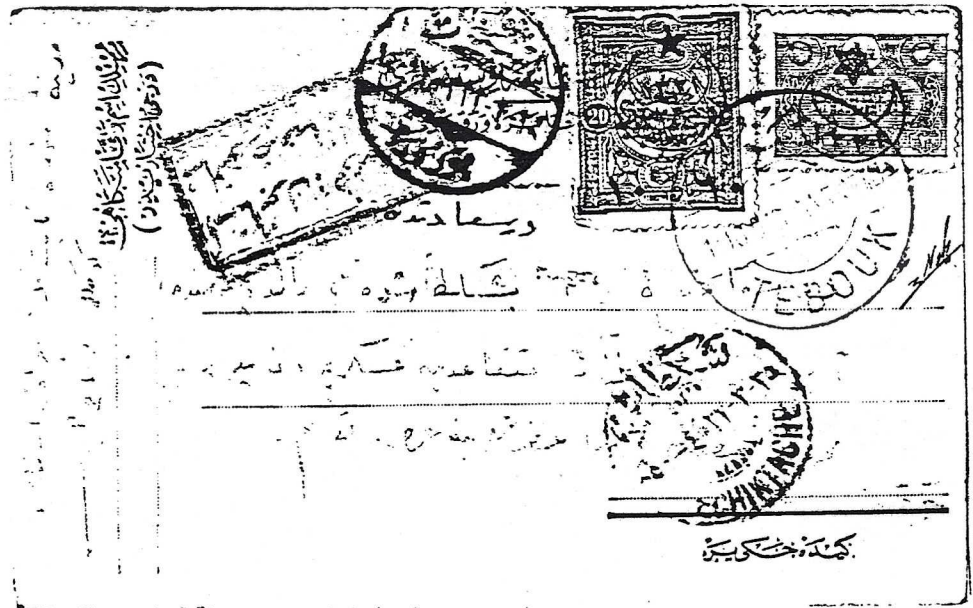


Taif

Taif postmark on a substantial piece of a money order form, a most unusual usage from the Hedjaz.

Tebouk

Postcard sent from Tebouk, the northernmost station on the Hedjaz line on 1 October 1916. This marking is one of the most elusive in the province.





El Ula

The only special postmark used in the province was from El Ula on 19 August 1907 to commemorate the opening of service on the Hedjaz railway to that point.

موروده بوسوسی



Hedjaz Expeditionary Force

Postal card sent by a member of the 58th Division, then stationed at El Ula, to Istanbul on 22 January 1918. Transit mark of Damascus 2. The rectangular negative marking is the cachet of the 58th Division HQ -- only recorded example.



Including Jeddah, Mecca and Medina, ten post offices operated in Hedjaz during the 1900-1916 period, nine of which are shown in the exhibit. Examples of most of these markings are very elusive and sought after by specialists seeking Saudi Arabian forerunners.

# IRAQ

Turkish Administration

1900-1917

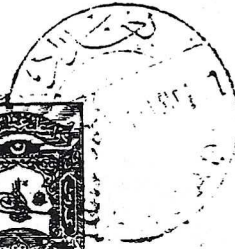
The area of present-day Iraq (ancient Mesopotamia) was taken over by the Ottomans in 1534. Its capital, Baghdad, was a cosmopolitan city and center of commerce for the fertile valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Iraq was well developed postally, with more than 40 offices being recorded. Shortly after Turkey entered the war, the Indian Expeditionary Force landed from the Persian Gulf and occupied Basra. The first march northward ended in a British defeat at Kut-al-Amara, but the forces were later reinforced and captured Baghdad on 11 March 1917. After the defeat of the Turks, the area became a British mandate with Emir Faisal as regent.

Bagdad (Baghdad)

٤٩٩٨

الى بيروت

بمخبر بشرف حضرت ذي الفقيد الانجيد عبد الباسط  
اذق الانبي صاحب كتابا بخانة الانبي  
وصول مقوره العز



Bakouba



Postkarte Carte Postale  
Weltpostverein  
Cartolina Postale  
Correspondenz

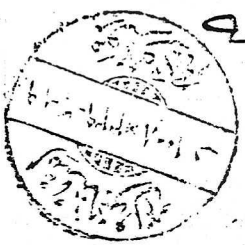


BAGHDAD DISTRICT

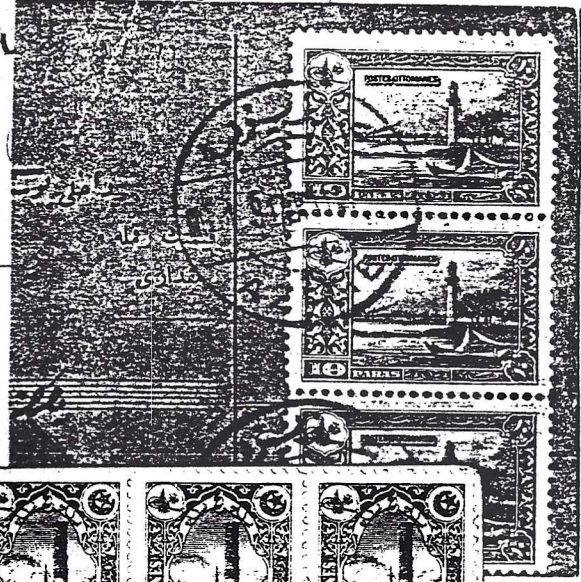
Afchar

Handwritten Persian text on the left side of the card, including the word 'Korrespondenz' and several lines of script.

Handwritten Persian text in the center, including the words 'فد علیه' and 'مداوند'.



Azizie



Handwritten Persian text on the left side of the lower card, including the words 'مکتب' and 'مکتب'.



Divanie



Large handwritten Persian text in the center of the lower card, including the words 'بند آدم' and 'خاننده'.

Handwritten Persian text at the bottom right of the lower card, including the word 'مکتب'.

The three post offices shown above were located in the Baghdad Villayet in Central Iraq. Afchar is unlisted in C&W, while the postmarks of Azizie and Divanie are rated as "very rare."

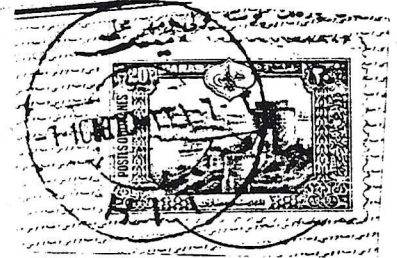
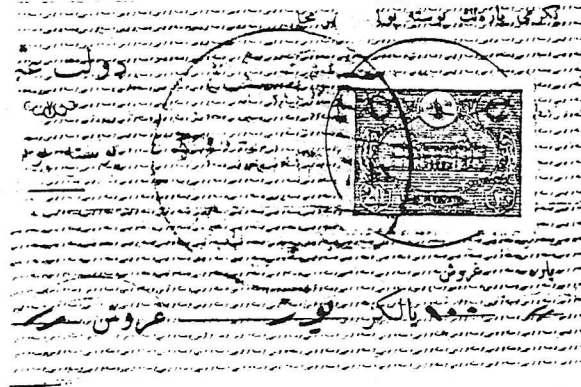


BAGHDAD DISTRICT

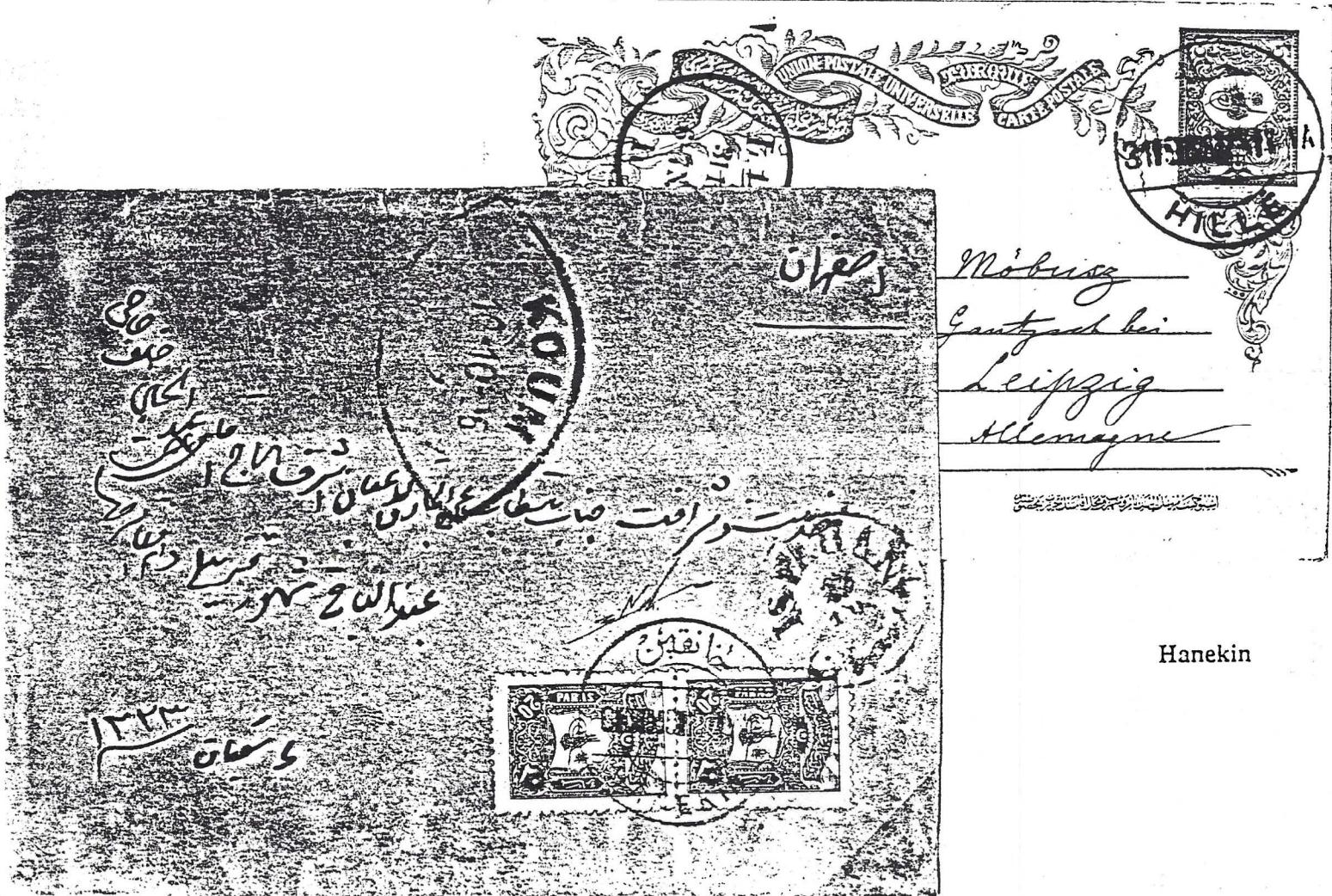
Filodja

Hadice

Hit



Hille



Hanekin

Hadice is unlisted in C&W, while the postmarks of Filodja, Hille and Hit are rated as "very rare."

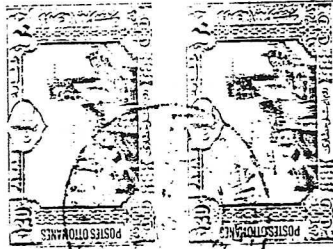
IRAQ  
Turkish Administration

1900-1917

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Bagdad Turkey

no 357

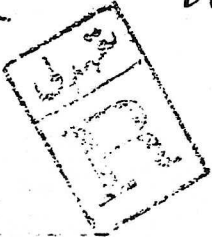


BAGHDAD DISTRICT

Kerye Bachi  
(Bagdad)

Mr. F. M. Terrell  
% Otto & Kitts mfg & supplies co  
Woolworth Building  
New York City

Jan 19 1917



Kerbela



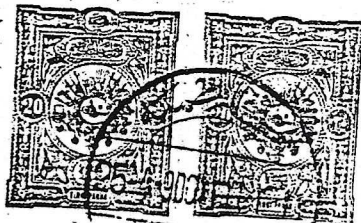
Handwritten notes in Arabic script, possibly indicating a date or location.

Handwritten notes in Arabic script, possibly indicating a date or location.

Handwritten notes in Arabic script, possibly indicating a date or location.

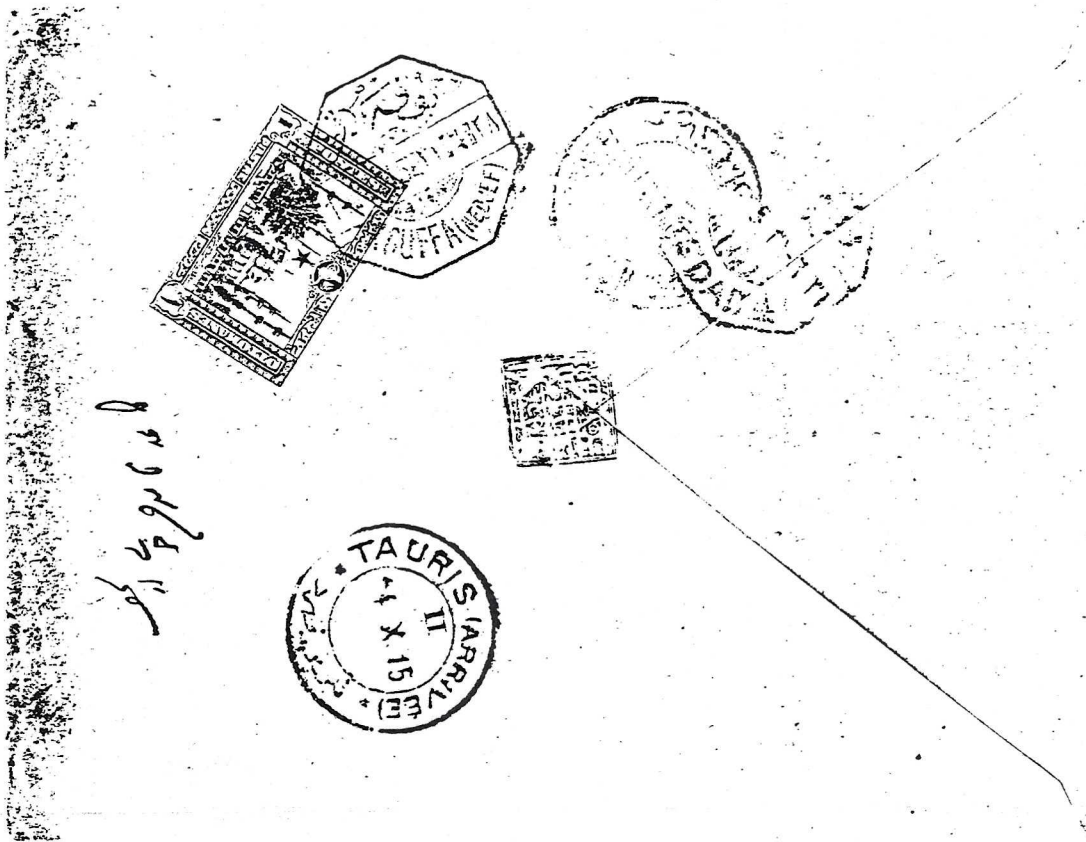
Handwritten notes in Arabic script, possibly indicating a date or location.

Kiazimie



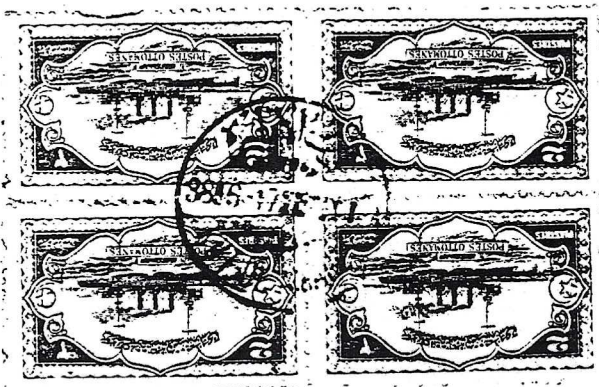
BAGHDAD DISTRICT

Kouffa  
(Nedjef)



Kut-ul-Amara

Mendeli

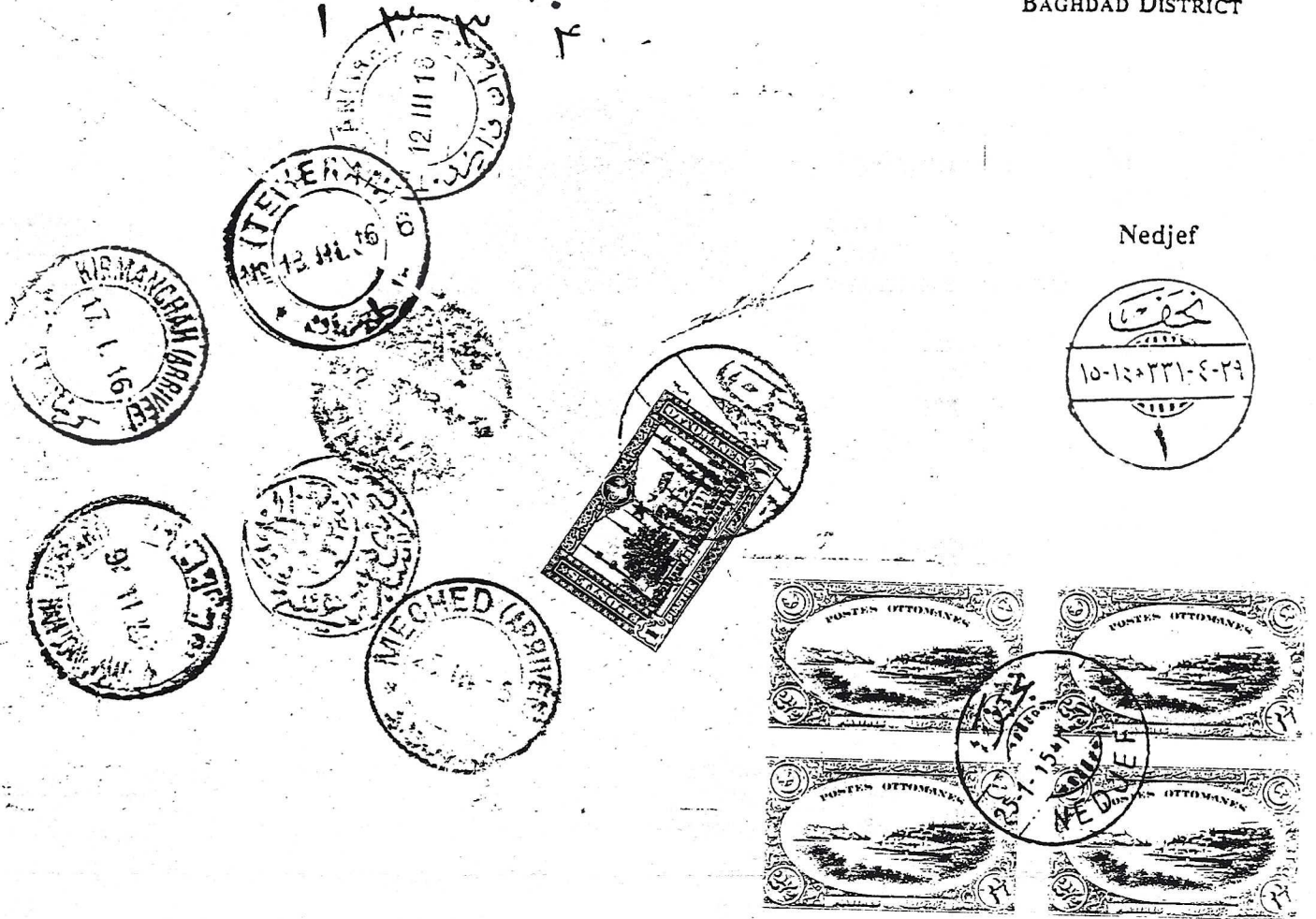


Of these cancellations, Kouffa is unlisted in C&W while Mendeli is rated as "very rare."

مكتبة شرح الاملاط شره

BAGHDAD DISTRICT

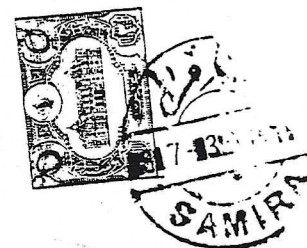
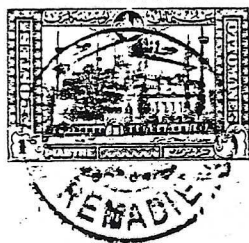
Nedjef



Remadie

Samira

خانه خان افندی



پوست

The all-Arabic cancel of Nedjef is unlisted in C&W. The other three postmarks shown are all very elusive.

Military Mail

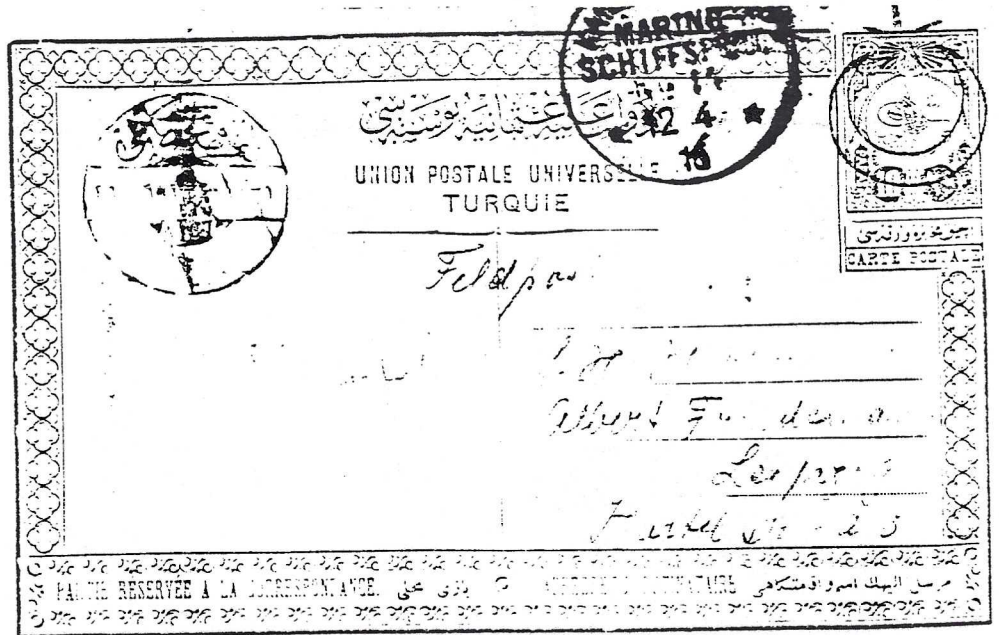
Fieldpost Office

Cover to Istanbul from 45th Division HQ at Kut-al-Amara on 6 March 1916. The two-thirds negative circular marking of this unit is one of three recorded.



Iraq Headquarters No.1

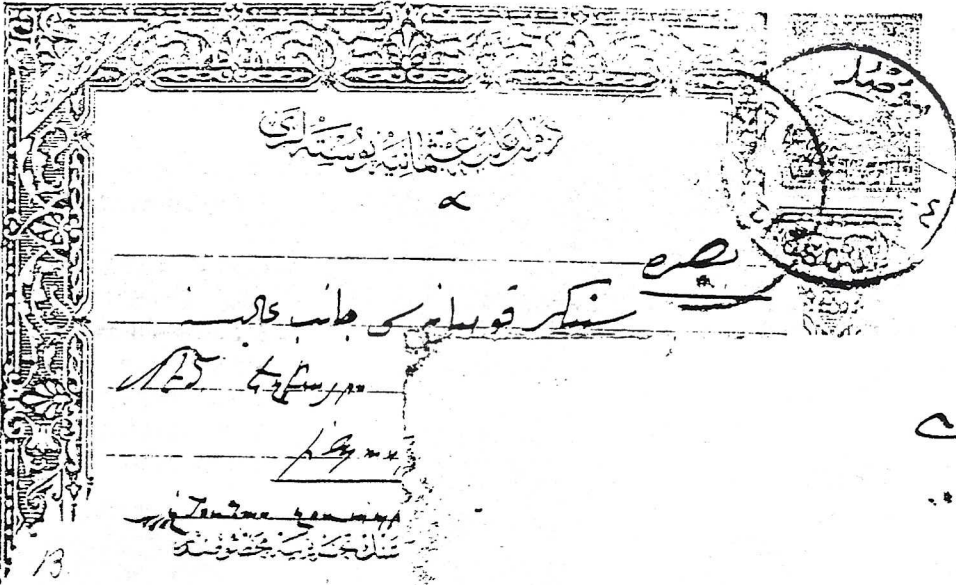
All-Arabic cds reading "Irak Karargahi 1" on special postal card pre-censored for officers (i.e. star and crescent overprint) sent on 10 March 1916 from Baghdad via German naval P.O. on SMS Loreley stationed at Constantinople.



Many Turkish troops, with their German advisors, were stationed in Iraq in order to resist the invasion by the IEF. Kut-al-Amara was the scene of particularly heavy fighting, with the town changing hands several times in 1916-17.

MOSUL & DISTRICT

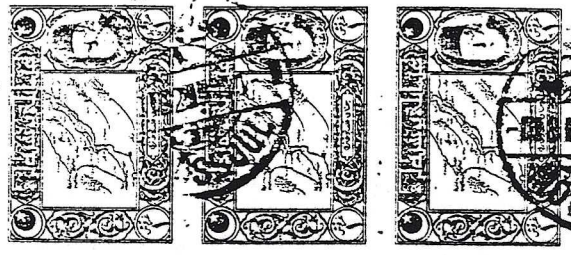
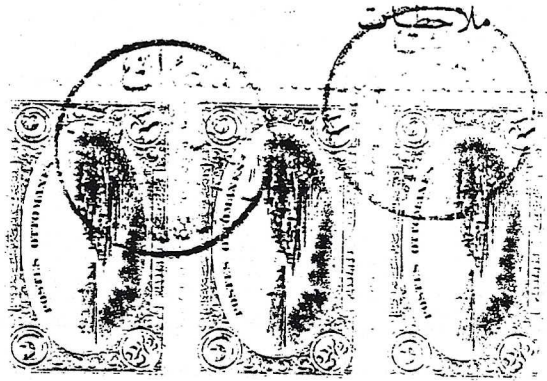
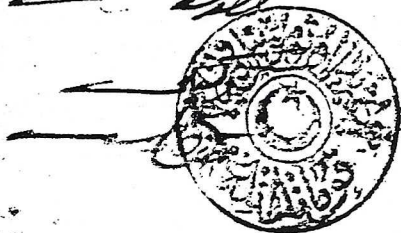
Moussoul (Mosul)



در سعادت

غلام ده صفات مخمده حلی می خود را  
و امکای بوزباش نوسیده تقدیر

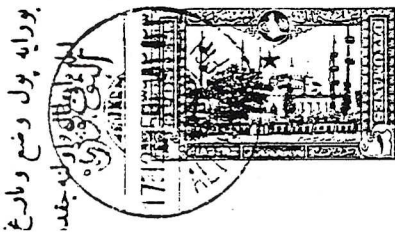
Moussoul all-Arabic cds on military cover from an officer to Galata (Istanbul) on 1 October 1918. Seal struck in purple is the cavalry division unit marking.



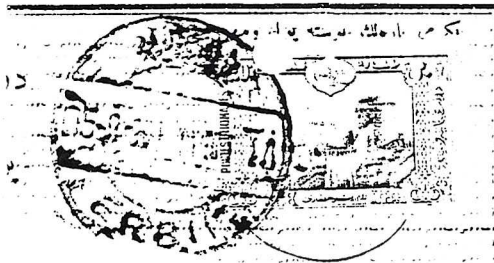
Mosul was the principal commercial center of northern Iraq, which included a large ethnic Kurdish population. The postmarks shown are representative of those used during the relevant time period.

MOSUL & DISTRICT

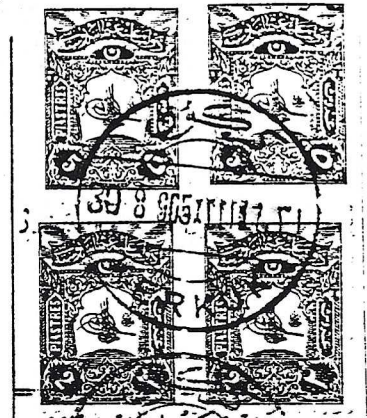
Altoun Keupru



Erbil



Kerkuk



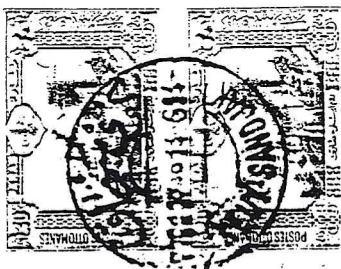
Rayat

Postal card from an officer with the First Expeditionary Force Headquarters was sent to Istanbul. Circular mark is a unit handstamp of the HQ.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE  
EMPIRE OTOMAN  
CARTE POSTALE



Keui Sandjak



Touz Hourmato



Zakho

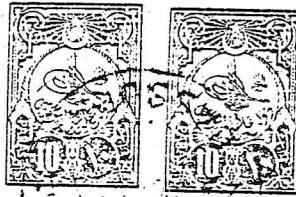


Except for Mosul, all of the postmarks of northern Iraq are at least scarce. Rayat, Touz Hourmato and Zakho are rated as "very rare" in Coles & Walker. The town of Kerkuk is the location of the largest oil field in Iraq.

BASRA & DISTRICT

CARTE POSTALE

باصره  
تاریخ ۱۳۰۰  
شماره ۱۰۰



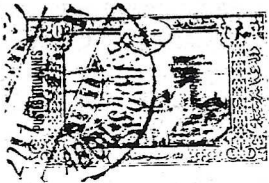
Bassora (Basra)

Basra Empire Ottoman  
Pedagogue

Amara

Abu-Sikhair

۴ لورو عماره دن اعاده لیدر  
۷۷

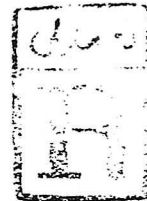
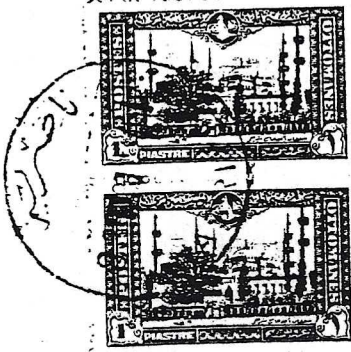


در صورت

۱۹۰۱  
صید پاشا در جابر جوارند رسوم سری پاشا کرد که

مفتوزید به خان انندی حضرت پاشا تو باغ

Nasriye



۷۷

Except for Basra, examples of the postmarks used in southern Iraq seem to be unusually elusive. The registered cover from Amara is extraordinary.