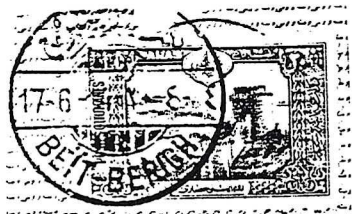


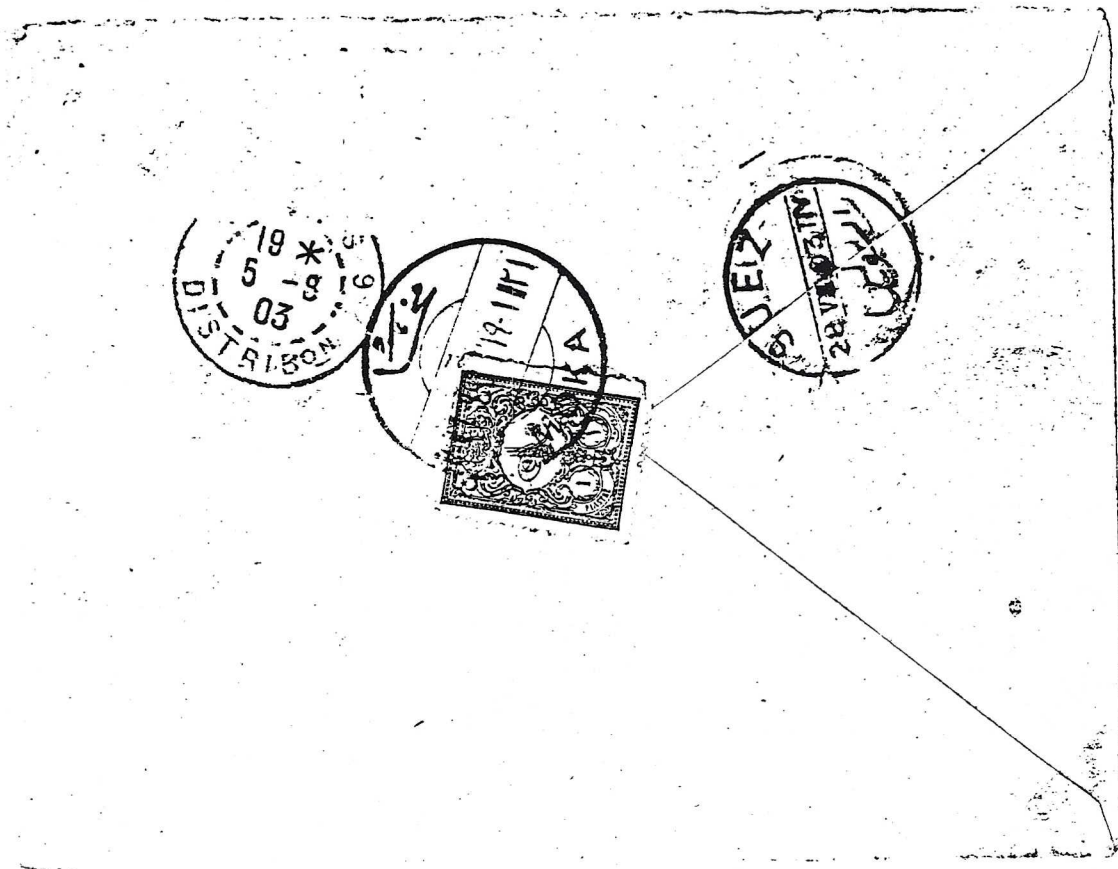
Beit Berich



Lahie



Menahe



Moka (Mocha)

Cover from Moka to Paris via Suez in 1903. (The name of this town, which was located in a key coffee-growing area, was the origin of the nickname for the beverage.)

Altogether, postmarks from 1900-1918 have been reported from 17 locations in Yemen. With the exception of Hodeida and Sanaa, these markings range from scarce to one of a kind.

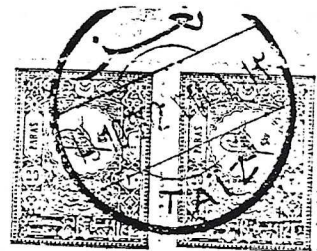
Sanaa



Souk-ul-Hamiss



Taiz



Zeidie



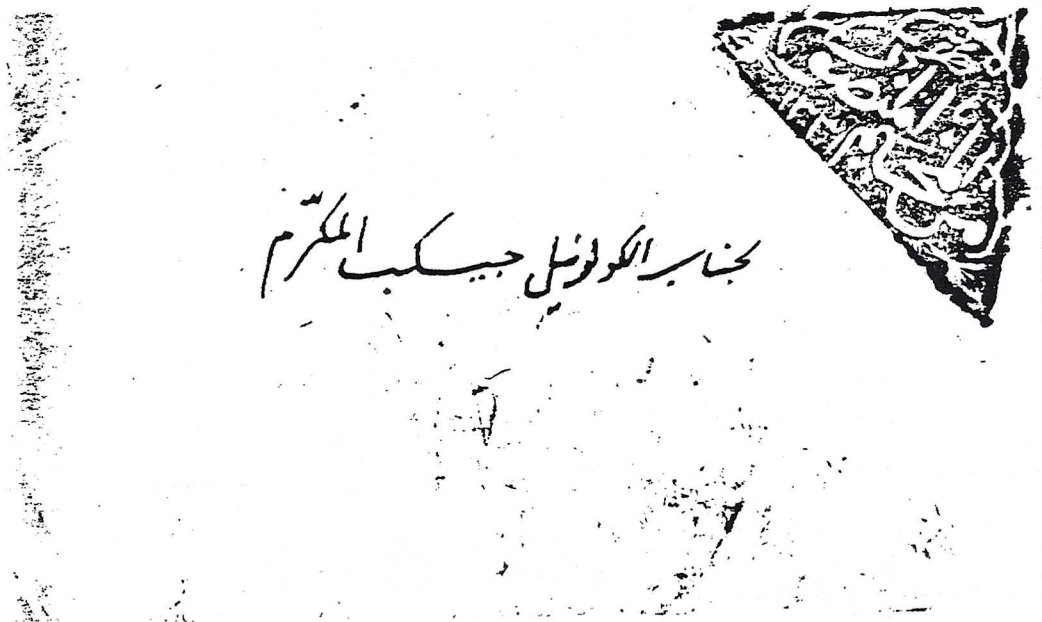
AREAS TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED DURING WORLD WAR I

ADEN Turkish Occupation

1915-1918

At the outbreak of the war, Turkey maintained garrison troops in Yemen. A plan was devised to use a portion of these forces, supplemented by local Moslem irregulars, to attack the Aden Protectorate. This threat to the port facilities at Aden was thwarted by the deployment of a contingent of British troops from India, leading to a stalemate under which the Turks remained in occupation of an area in the north of the Protectorate for the balance of the war but were unable to cause further trouble.

Lahej



In the absence of any standard postal supplies being made available by the Turkish military authorities, a negative seal was improvised as a franking postmark and used at Lahej (located roughly halfway between the Yemeni border and the port of Aden) during the occupation period.

The Coles & Walker and Passer handbooks both provide illustrations of this controversial marking but do not give additional details as to its use.

EGYPT

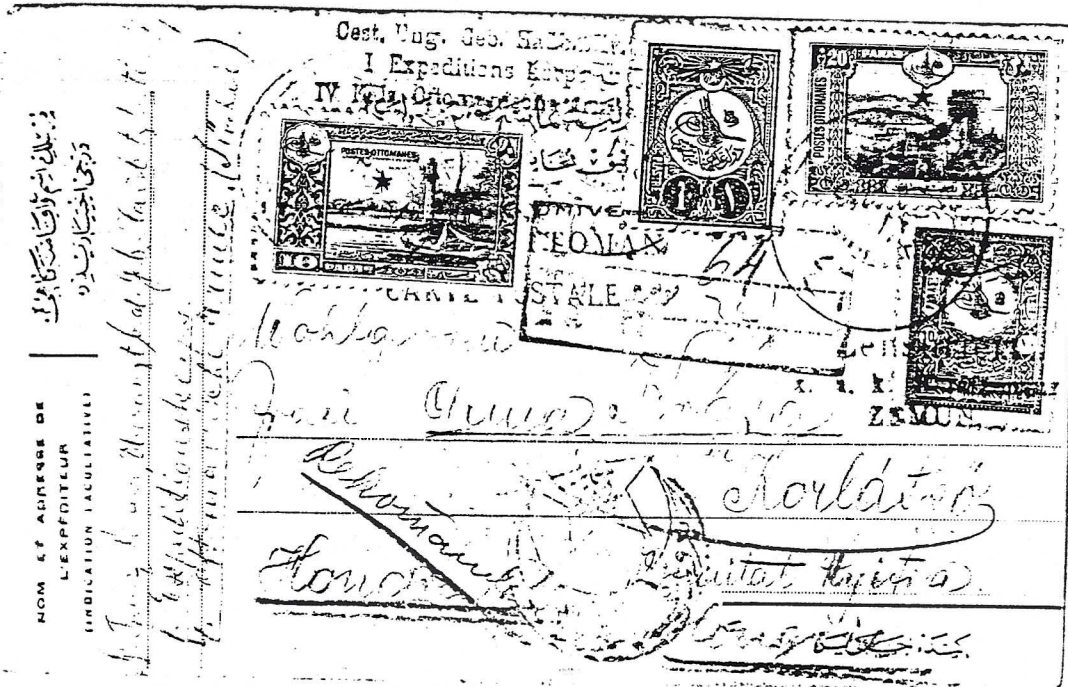
Turkish Occupation

1915-1916

One of the war objectives of the Ottoman government was to drive the British from the Suez Canal and occupy Egypt. To this end, an expeditionary force was organized and started west from Beersheba on 15 January 1915, crossing the Sinai Peninsula and reaching the banks of the canal between Lake Timsah and the Great Bitter Lake at the end of the month. (Two companies of the 25th Division actually managed to cross the canal on the night of 2/3 February.) However, the logistics to resupply the troops were not in place, and they were forced to withdraw. A second and better prepared assault on the canal was mounted in 1916, but the results were the same as, in the meantime, the British and Imperial (mostly Anzac) forces had been reinforced and were able to both halt the Turks and, in time, go on the attack, driving the Ottoman troops out of the Sinai and entering Palestine.

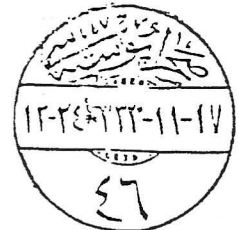
Suez Canal Ottoman Red Cross

Special marking of Red Cross" post office on cover dated 3 February 1915 to Amassia.



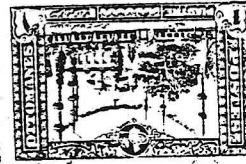
FPO 46

Registered postcard sent by an Austro-Hungarian artillery officer from El Arich to Hungary on 4 July 1916. (Date is four weeks prior to the earliest recorded date for Ottoman FPO 46 in the literature.)



El Arich

The first temporary postmark for El Arich had a fixed year date of 1914 (1330 in Turkish) Three examples are recorded.



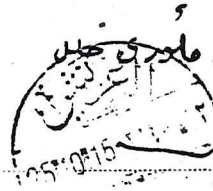
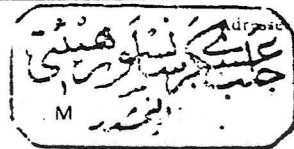
الطاب
موسم

صاحب البريد
الطاب
صاحب الخزانة
صاحب الخزانة

Carte Postale

Correspondance

قد تبارك في اليوم بالبريد
يرود شوان ايد رينو محمد و ترون
دقي الحزبه او طلي حيا جعد تم اسرع
بزه لوز دي وضو بلاغ ايه اسقا - ملك
لوتدر برانم قارنه جلد س تمام الملك
لند بلو حليده نور محمد لوي سار - ياني حيا
عاجد في تم ايد حوا بكارم اتم اه
زوتق بقى ذاده
موضي



العريشه
عريشه ليمان
حيا في ايفر

Standard bilingual cds was introduced for El Arich during 1915. Only three covers and a few pieces are recorded.

Ibin

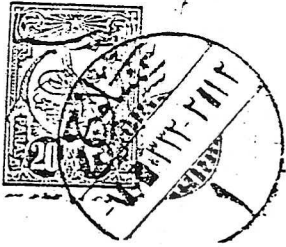
The only other PO to operate in the Sinai (per C&W addendum) was at Ibin, which was the HQ of a German force under Kress von Kressenstein.



One of the first objectives of the Turks was the capture of El Arich, the principal town in the Sinai Peninsula. This was accomplished at the end of October 1914. The town remained in Ottoman control until early 1916 when the Egyptian Expeditionary Force was able to clear the Sinai.

Litho type collection complete centre Fr. 6 - 67

Asludj



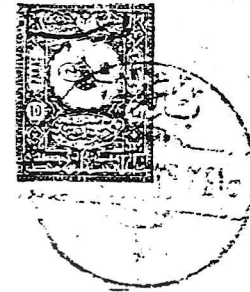
Bir ul Abid



Bir ul Mezar



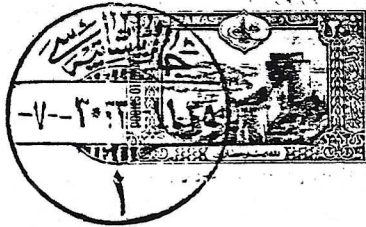
Birin



Daika



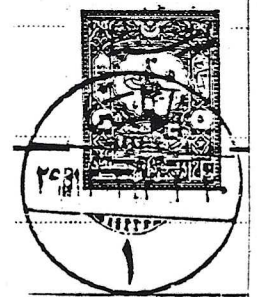
Djema! Pasha Tepesi



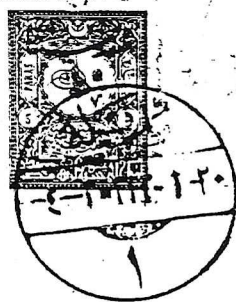
Fehidich



Katya



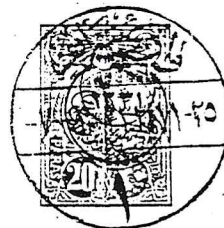
Mudeyle



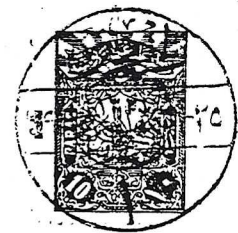
Tel Edid



Wadi Sherif



Wardi



A curious aspect about the Sinai was the preparation of postmarks for every conceivable crossroads in the Peninsula, inhabited or not -- presumably a political decision made by someone far from the scene. Devices are known (including some negative seals) from about 30 different locations, mostly struck on Turkish stamps on pieces. A selection of such pieces is shown here for their interest as souvenirs of the Sinai campaign.

PERSIA

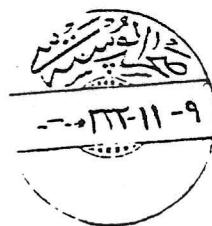
Turkish Occupation

1916-1917

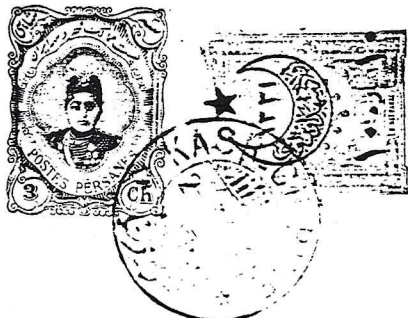
The Turkish General Staff and its German advisors conceived the idea of a thrust into Persia toward India as likely to cause the Allies to divert forces from other fronts. In August 1916, the 13th Army Corps crossed the frontier and soon occupied several cities, including Hamadan, Kasr Chirine and Kirmanchah. However, in March 1917 the expedition was terminated due to concerns that the Turkish forces would be cut off by Russian and British troops advancing from the North and South, respectively.



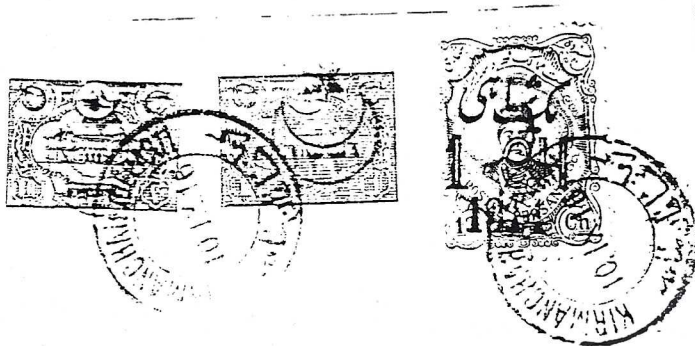
Postmark of Fieldpost Office Hamadan on picture postcard of Persian Azerbaijan on Istanbul in November 1916. This is the only recorded example of use from the Ottoman military post office in Hamedan.



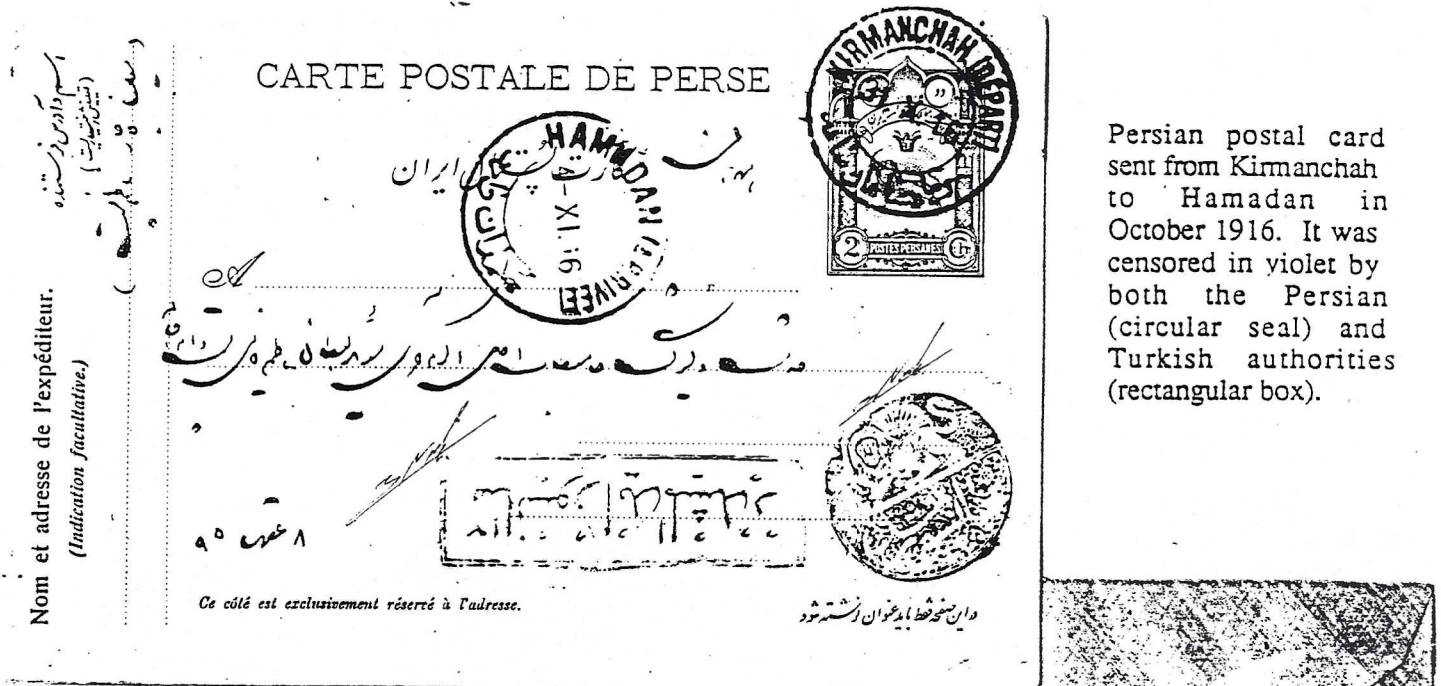
Mixed franking on pieces with Persian postmarks from Kasr Chirine and Kirmanchah dated September 1916.



These are believed to have come from covers mailed by Turkish officers, who did not enjoy the free franking of enlisted men.

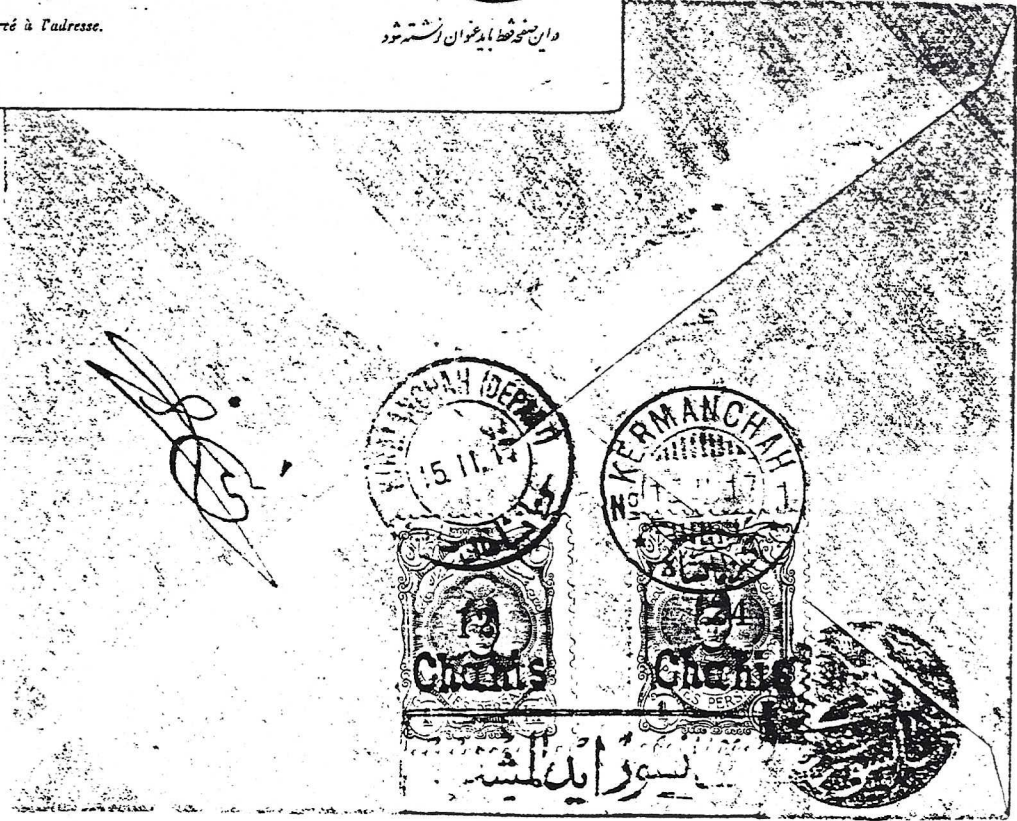


Postal evidence of the Ottoman presence in Persia is limited, consisting of the above postcard from Hamadan, some pieces from Kasr Chirine and Kirmanchah and a dozen examples of civil mail with Turkish censorship.

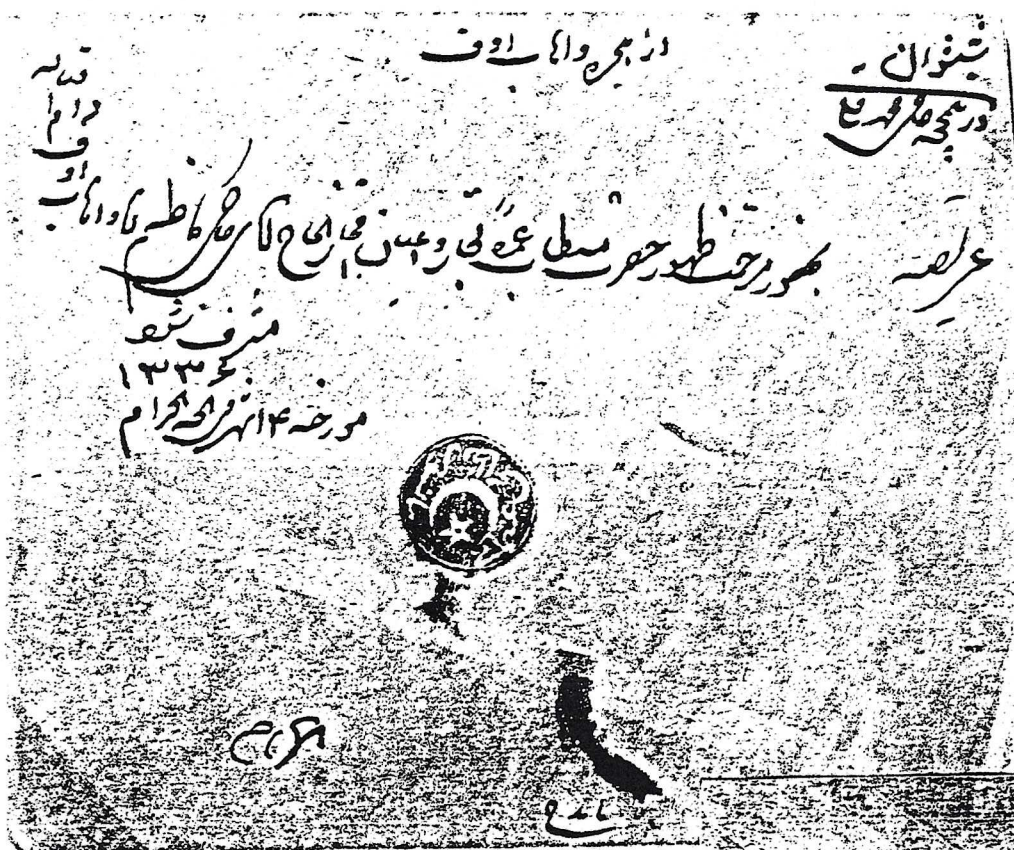


Persian postal card sent from Kirmanchah to Hamadan in October 1916. It was censored in violet by both the Persian (circular seal) and Turkish authorities (rectangular box).

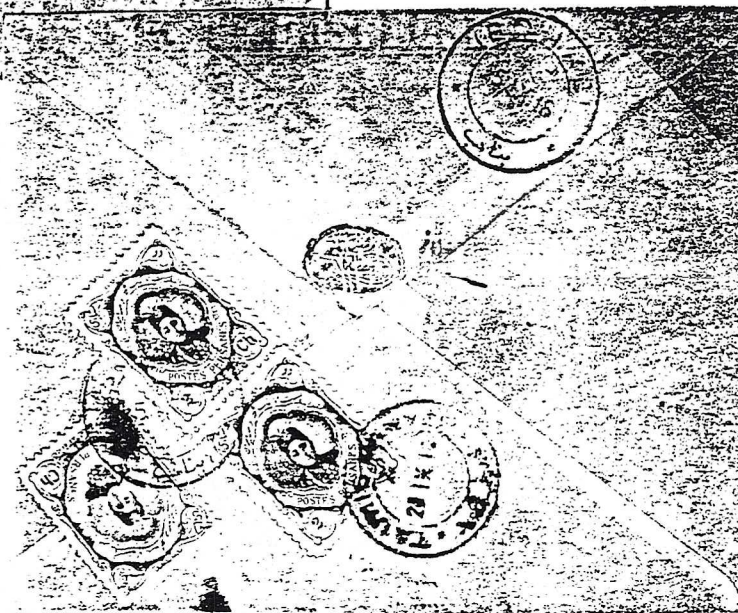
Cover sent from Kirmanchah in February 1917 with set of provisional overprints on Persian stamps. The same censorship combination applied, but the markings are in black.



The Ottomans viewed their position in Persia as administrators rather than as an occupying power. Thus, their postal authorities did not function in the territory. However, when certain values ran out of stock in January 1917, the Persian postmaster of Hamadan arranged for overprints of 12 and 24 chahis to fill the need for these denominations; only 500 of the 12 ch. and 200 of the 24 ch. were sold. Collectors generally regard these stamps as having been issued under Turkish occupation. Covers showing their use are particularly elusive.



Cover sent from Bonab to Tauris in September 1918 with small negative seal with star and crescent. Text inside reads "has been Censored."



Under the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, the Russians were required to withdraw their military forces from all occupied territory, including northern Persia. This presented a new opportunity for Turkish incursion. Thus, their troops moved into Persian Azerbaijan and occupied Tauris (Tabriz) in mid-1918. Following the Armistice of Mudros on 30 October 1918, the Turks were forced to withdraw once again.

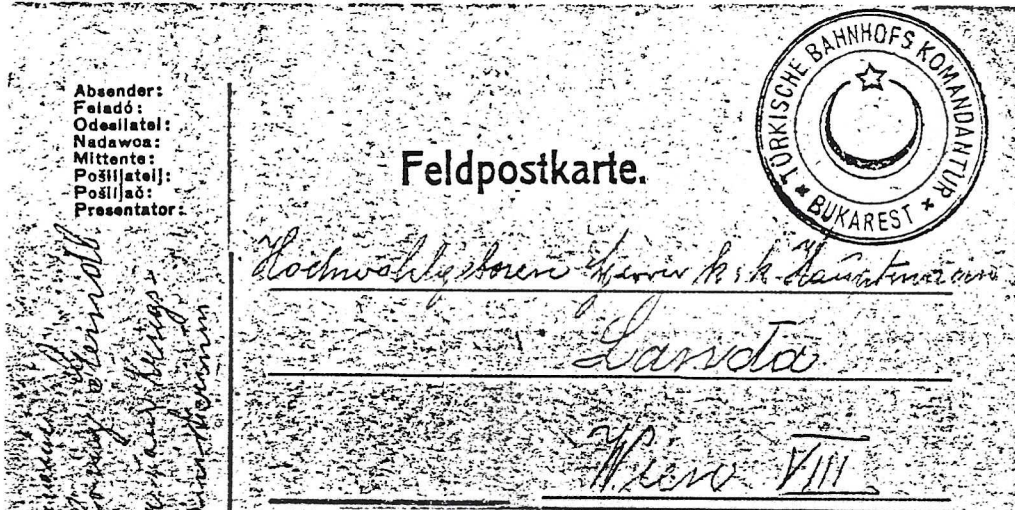
The only philatelic record of these events is a handful of covers with Ottoman military censorship markings.

ROMANIA

Turkish Occupation

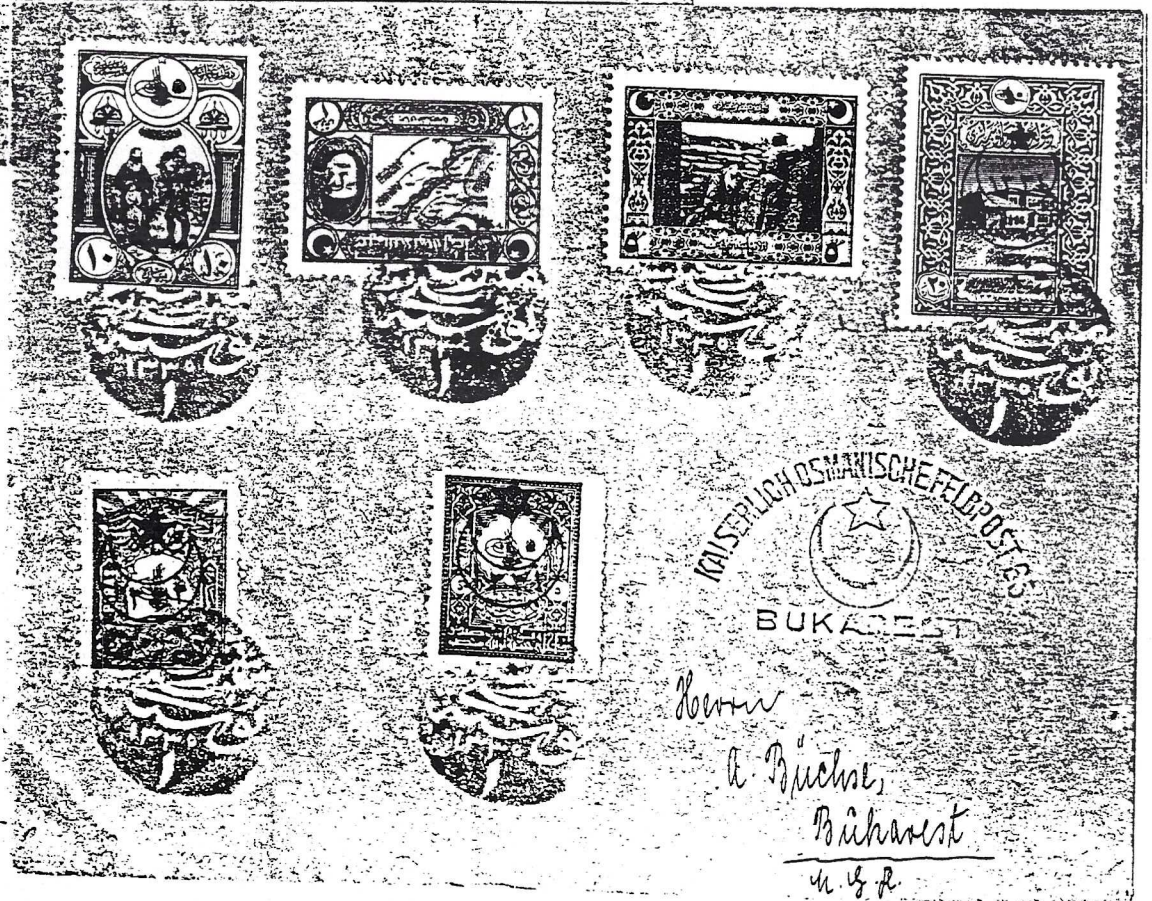
1916-1918

Sensing an opportunity to enhance their territory at the expense of Austria-Hungary, the Romanians entered the war on the side of the Allies on 22 August 1916. However, Germany and Bulgaria came to the aid of the Austrians and soon overran most of southern Romania, including the capture of Bucharest on 6 December 1916. All of the Central Powers, including Turkey, participated in the administration of the occupied territory.

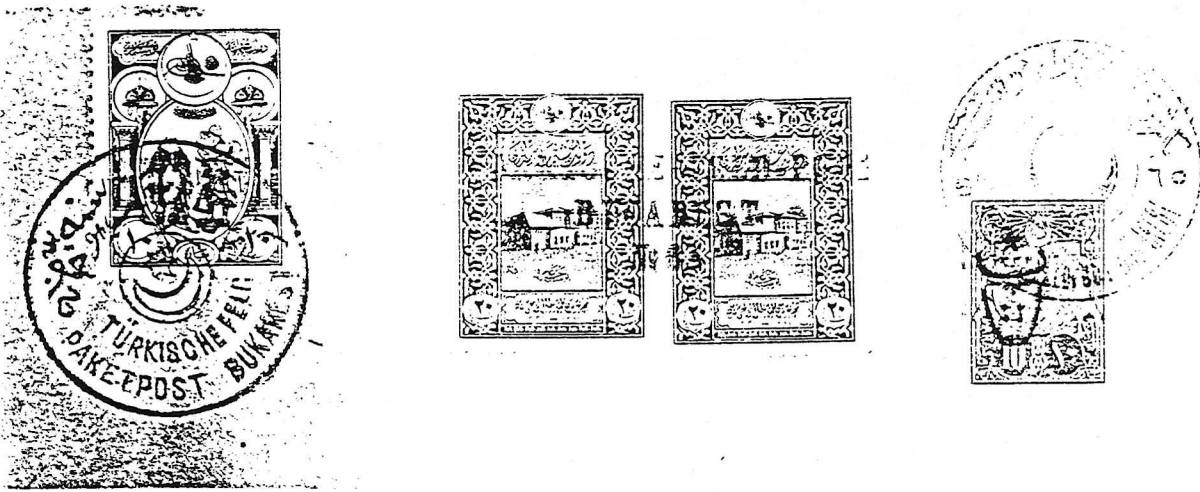


Postmark of Turkish Railway Station HQ in Bucharest. Not previously recorded in the literature.

Negative Turkish postmark reading "Bucharest 1" with additional marking of FPO 65.



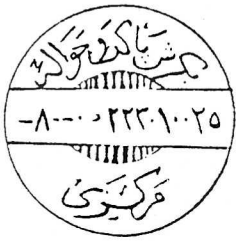
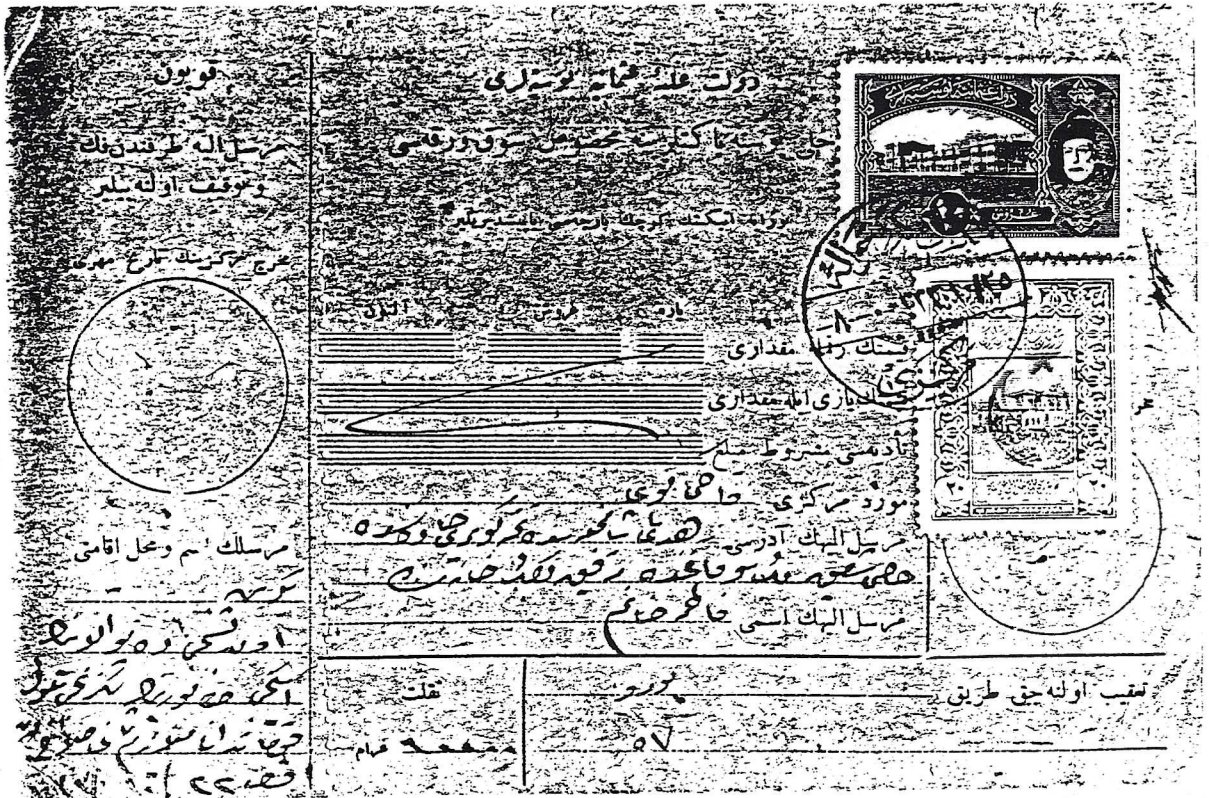
Most of the Turkish forces were located in Bucharest (FPO 65) but small contingents were stationed at Braila (FPO 57) and at Constanta in the Dobrudja.



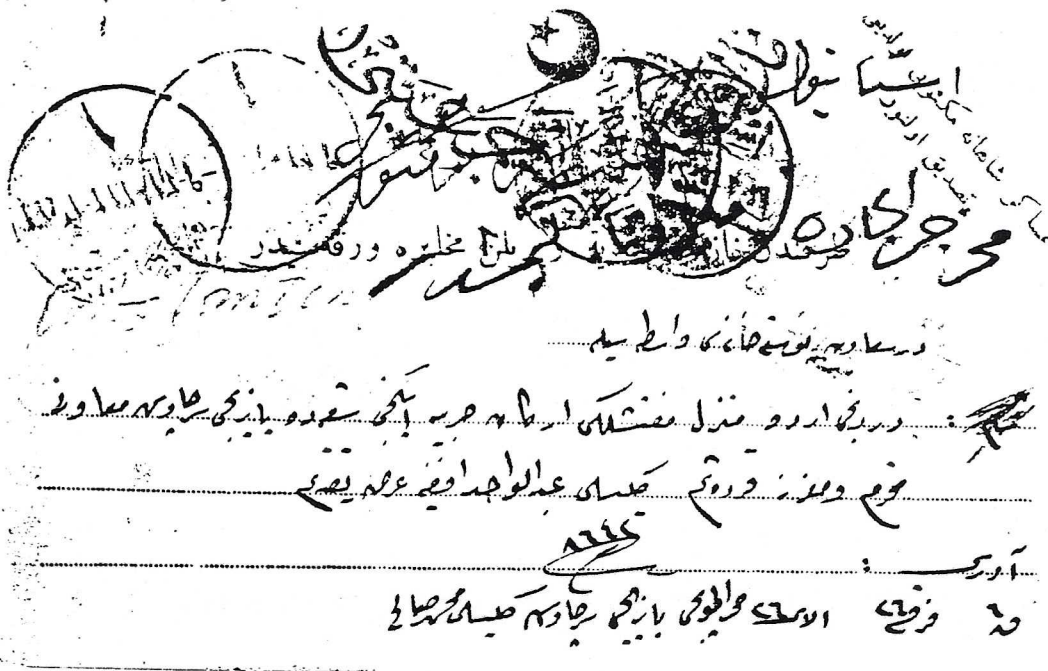
Three different types of Turkish fieldpost markings used in Bucharest, including one for parcels. Two of these include the FPO number designation 65.

Address card with marking "Bucharest Parcel/Money Order Center" for package sent October 1917.

This postmark not previously recorded.



The Ottoman troops in Romania essentially served as representatives of Turkey as a member of the Central Powers rather than a serious occupation force. As a result, actual soldiers' mail is quite elusive. Most items with Turkish FPO markings represent souvenir mail sent home by philatelically-inclined Austrian and German troops.



Special imprinted Turkish fieldpost card used from a soldier in Braila in November 1916. Postmark is illegible as a result of overstrike.

Address card with postmark of FPO 57 for package sent April 1918 by a member of the 6th Division.



Examples of Turkish military mail used from locations other than Bucharest are most unusual.

GEORGIA

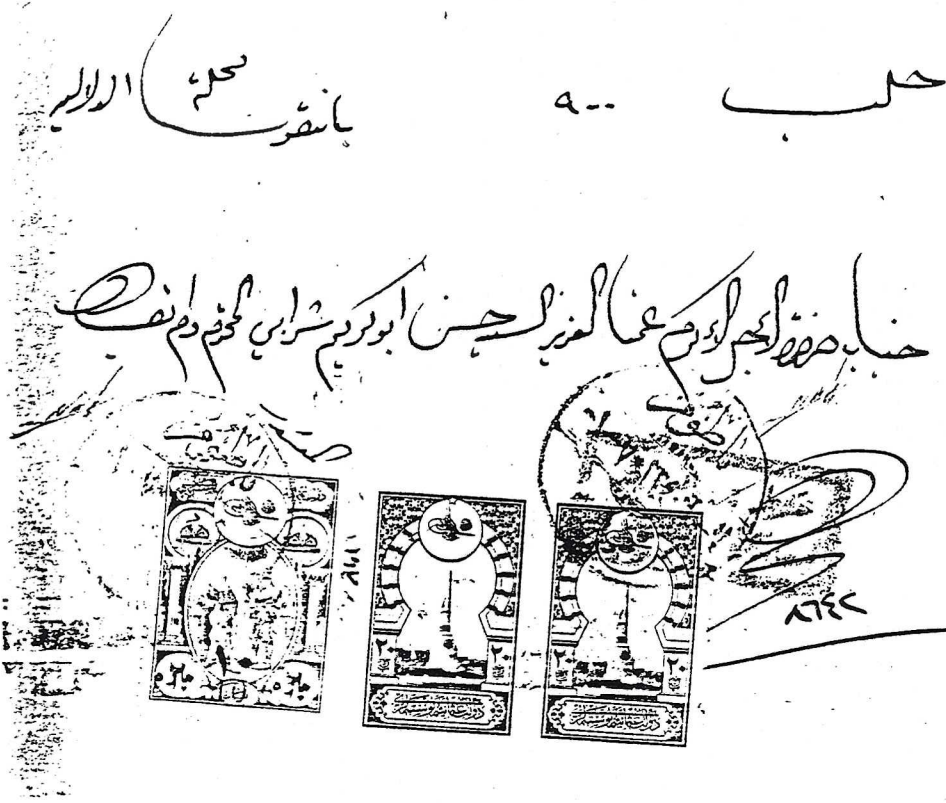
Turkish Occupation

1918

At the time of the Bolshevik Revolution in November 1917, Russian forces occupied large portions of Anatolia extending 200 miles westward from the prewar boundary. However, under the Treaty of Brest Litovsk, they were required to evacuate Turkish territory and, in addition, cede the districts of Batum, Ardahan and Kars to Turkey. As a result, Ottoman troops moved forward into these new areas and captured Batum on 15 April 1918. (After the Armistice, British forces arrived from Constantinople to take over the city on 22 December.)

Batum

Postmark of Batum 1 on cover mailed by an officer in the 13th Caucasian Division to Aleppo in September 1918.



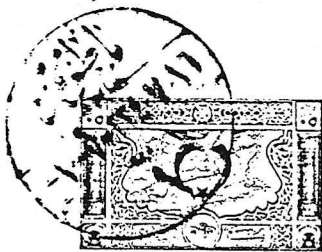
Tchourouk-Sou

The postmark of this small town located between Batum and Tiflis, on piece of a postal money order. This is one of only five reported pieces showing this postmark.

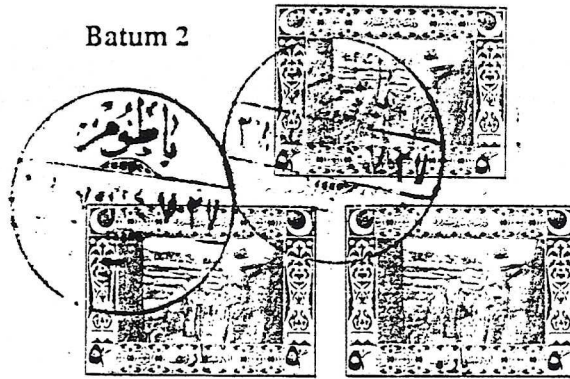


Postal evidence of the Ottoman presence in Georgia is very limited, consisting of a few pieces from Tchourouk-Sou and a handful of items from Batum.

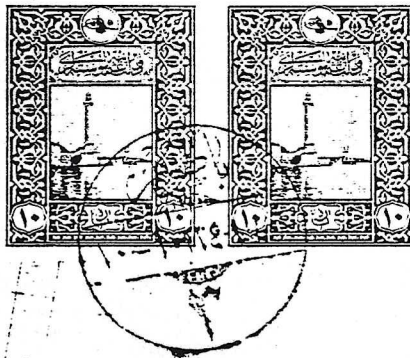
Batum 1



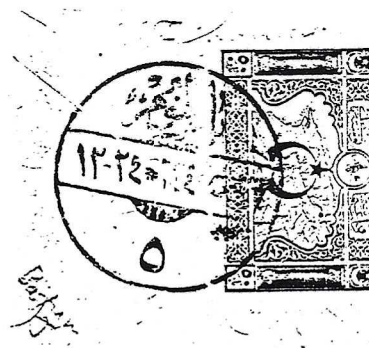
Batum 2



Batum 3



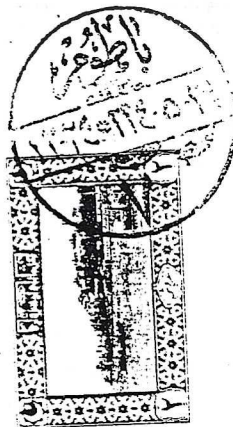
Batum 5



Batum 6



Batum 7



Batum 8



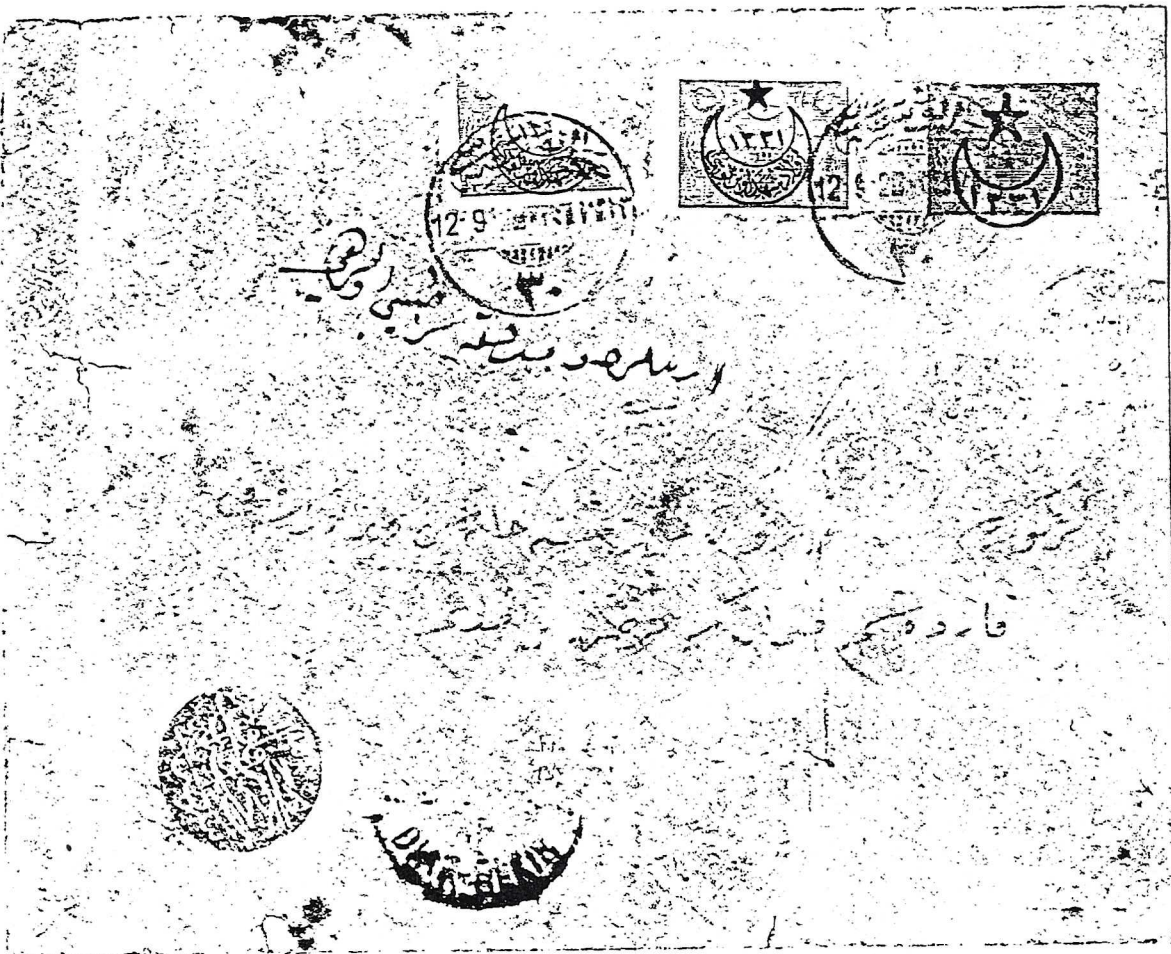
An unusual philatelic aspect of the occupation of Georgia was the preparation of postmarks for actual or potential branch offices in Batum. Shown above are examples up to number 8 struck on Turkish stamps glued to pieces. (Batum 6 and 8 pieces ex Oktay.) There is speculation that the numbers actually run as high as 10 or 12, but Coles & Walker state that there is no evidence that any numbers above 3 passed through the post. In fact, this exhibitor is aware of only three covers from Batum, all with the code 1 postmark, as in the example on the previous page.

ARMENIA

Turkish Occupation

1918

As the Russians withdrew from northeastern Anatolia, the Ottoman forces advanced into Russian Armenia, capturing Ardahan on 19 March and Kars on 25 April 1918, towns which had been lost by the Turks following the 1877-78 war with Russia. Alexandropol (called Gumru by the Turks, Leninakan by the Soviets and now Giumri by the Armenians) was taken on 15 May. With the Bolshevik Regime being out of favor with the Allies, the Turks were eventually permitted to retain Ardahan and Kars in the peace settlement.



FPO 30

Postmark of Fieldpost Office 30 in Giumri on cover sent to Kirkuk. The negative censor marking is of the Chief Surgeon of the 21st Caucasian Mobile Hospital. This is the only recorded cover from Giumri.

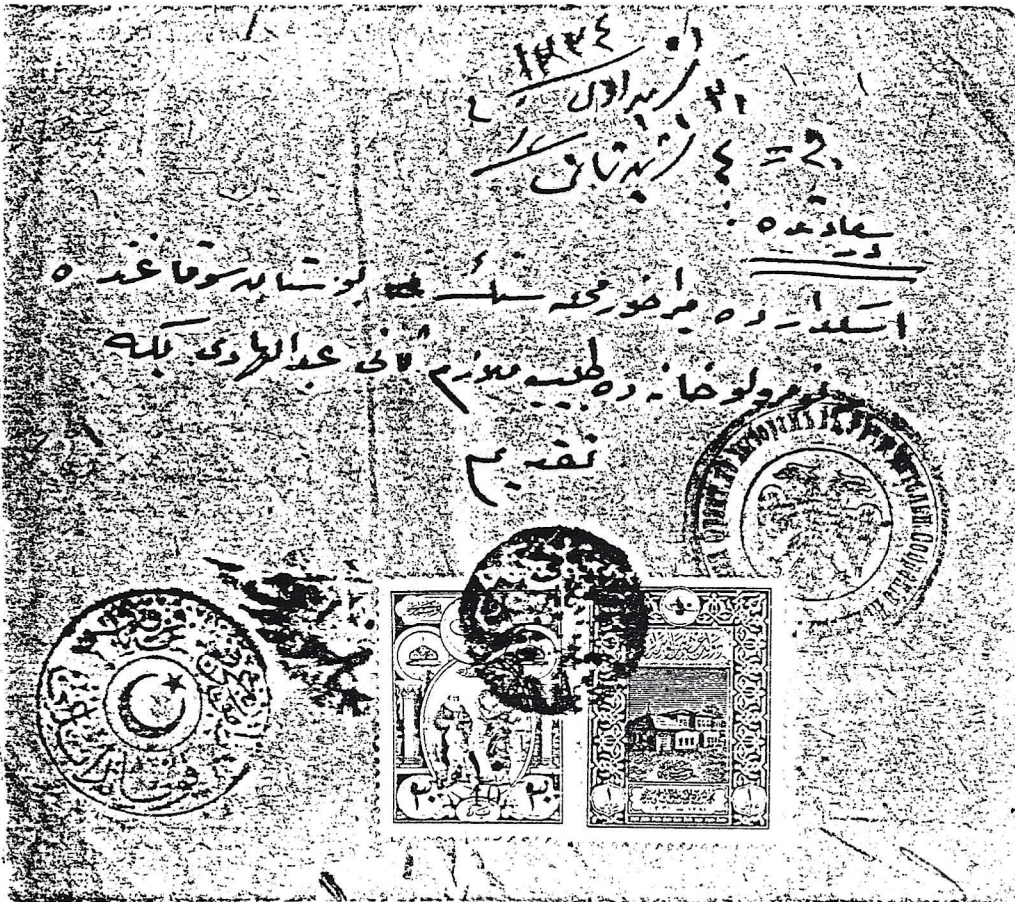
Postal evidence of the wartime Ottoman presence in Armenia is very limited, consisting of the above cover from Giumri and a few items reported from Kars.

AZERBAIJAN

Turkish Occupation

1918

Following the collapse of the Russian front, the 10,000-man Ottoman Caucasian Army continued its advance to the east into Azerbaijan. By June 1918, Nakhichevan was in Turkish hands, and on 15 September Baku on the Caspian Sea was captured. Success in this area, however, was fleeting, as reverses elsewhere led to the Armistice of Mudros under which the Turks agreed to withdraw from the occupied territories. Baku was evacuated on 10 December 1918, and British forces from Persia occupied the city twelve days later.



FPO 62

Negative postmark of Fieldpost Office 62 in Nakhichevan. Cover sent to Istanbul. Censor marking with star and crescent is inscribed "Headquarters of 9th Caucasian Division." The Pulhan certificate states that return address is of Major Lutfi Bey, Head Veterinarian. This is the only recorded example from Nakhichevan.

Postal evidence of the Ottoman presence in Azerbaijan is extremely limited, consisting of the above cover and two items reported from the occupation of Baku.