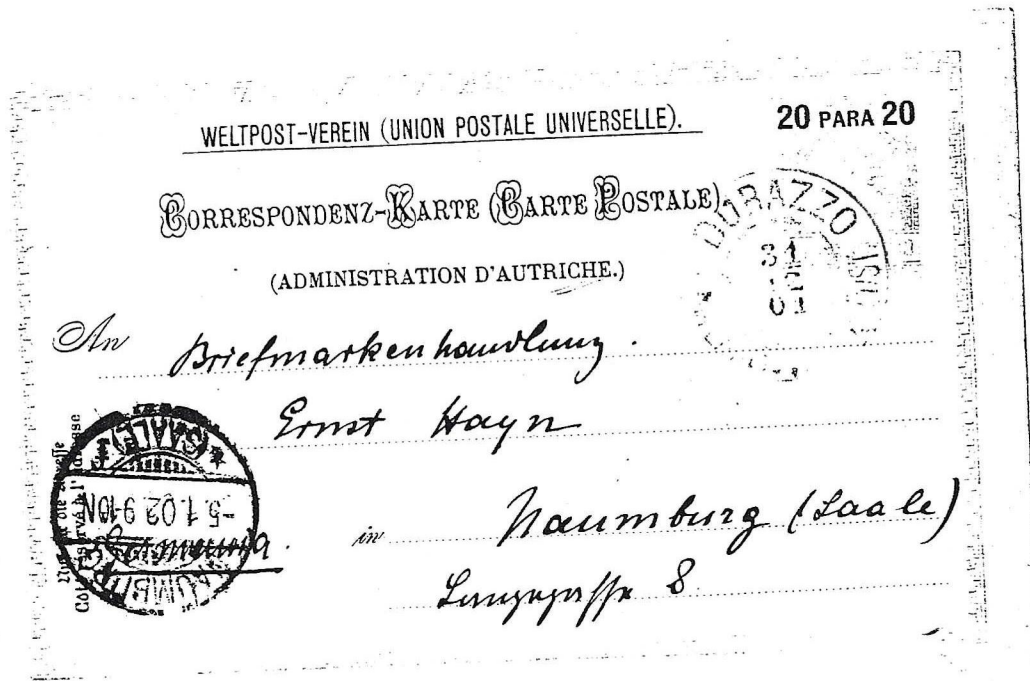


AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Because of the lack of proper mail service in the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, along with other European Great Powers with commercial interests in the area, opened their own postal agencies. The first Austrian post offices in Albania were started in 1854 when the Austrian Lloyd Steamship Co. inaugurated its Albanian Line, establishing shipping offices with postal facilities at its ports of call along the Adriatic. By the beginning of the 20th Century, the Imperial & Royal postal service was operating five agencies: Durazzo (Durrës), San Giovanni di Medua (Shengjin), Santi Quaranta (Sarandë), Šcutari (Shkoder) and Valona (Vlorë). Due to disruptions caused by World War I, these were all closed in 1915.

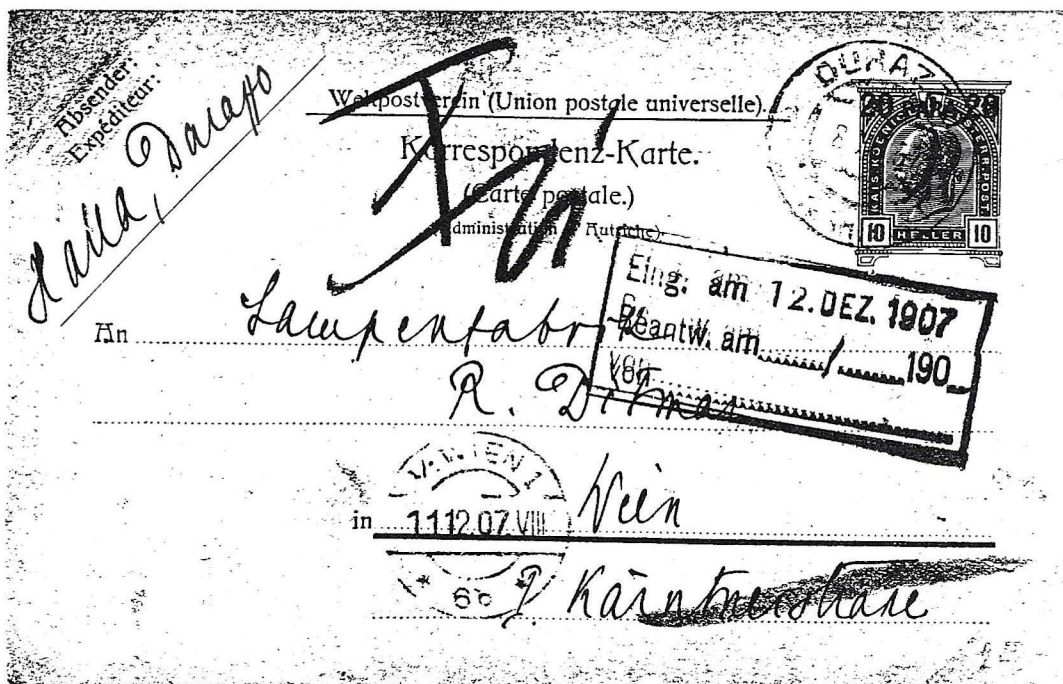
Durazzo
31 December 1901



For the most part, the stamps used at the Austrian offices in Albania were those issued for the Austrian-Hungarian postal services in the Levant and denominated in paras and piasters. This large double-ring cds, inscribed "Durazzo/Austrian Post" was in use from about 1895 until the latter part of the first decade of the 1900s. The above example used on a 20 para international postal card overprinted for the Austrian Levant sent to Germany.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Durazzo
8 December 1907
28 November 1914



R. v. Pierron
DURAZZO

Herrn
Franz Hugo Schneider

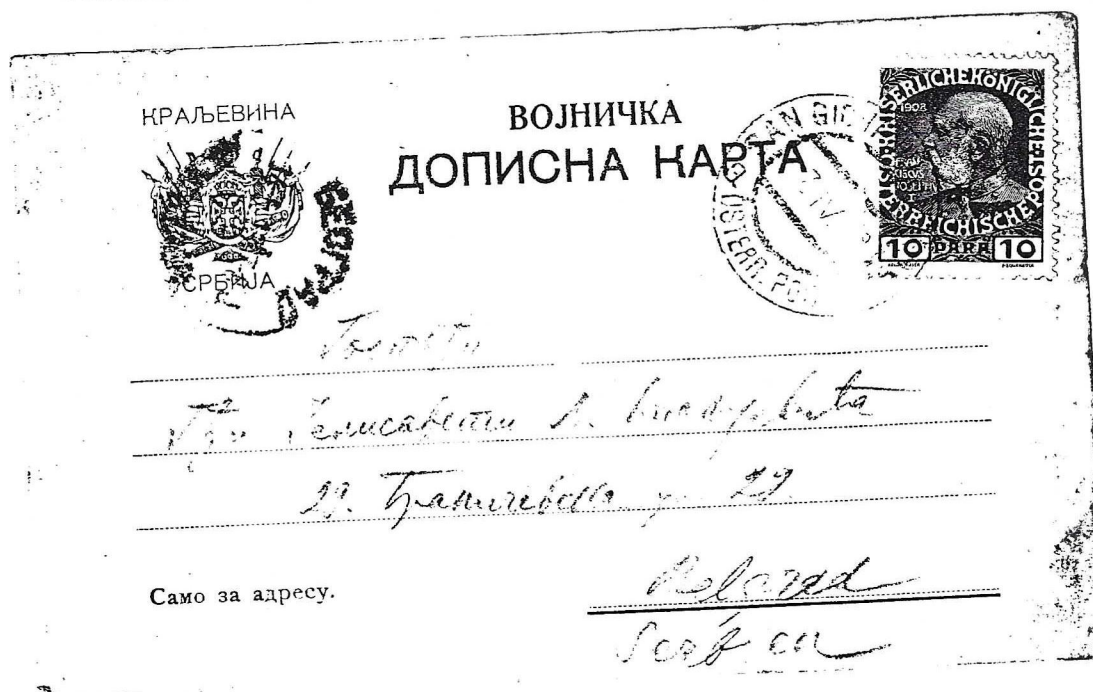
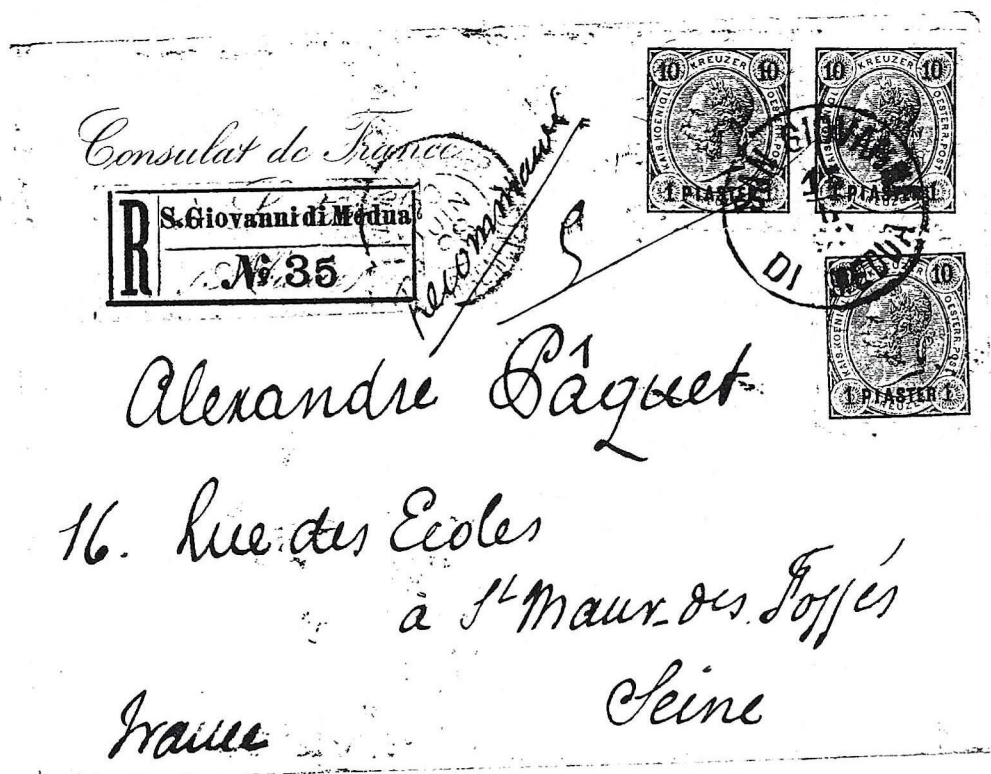


Triest I
Postfach

The final Austrian postmark for Durazzo was a smaller double-ring device which was used from about 1905 until the office was closed down in July 1915 when the retreating Serbians occupied the town.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

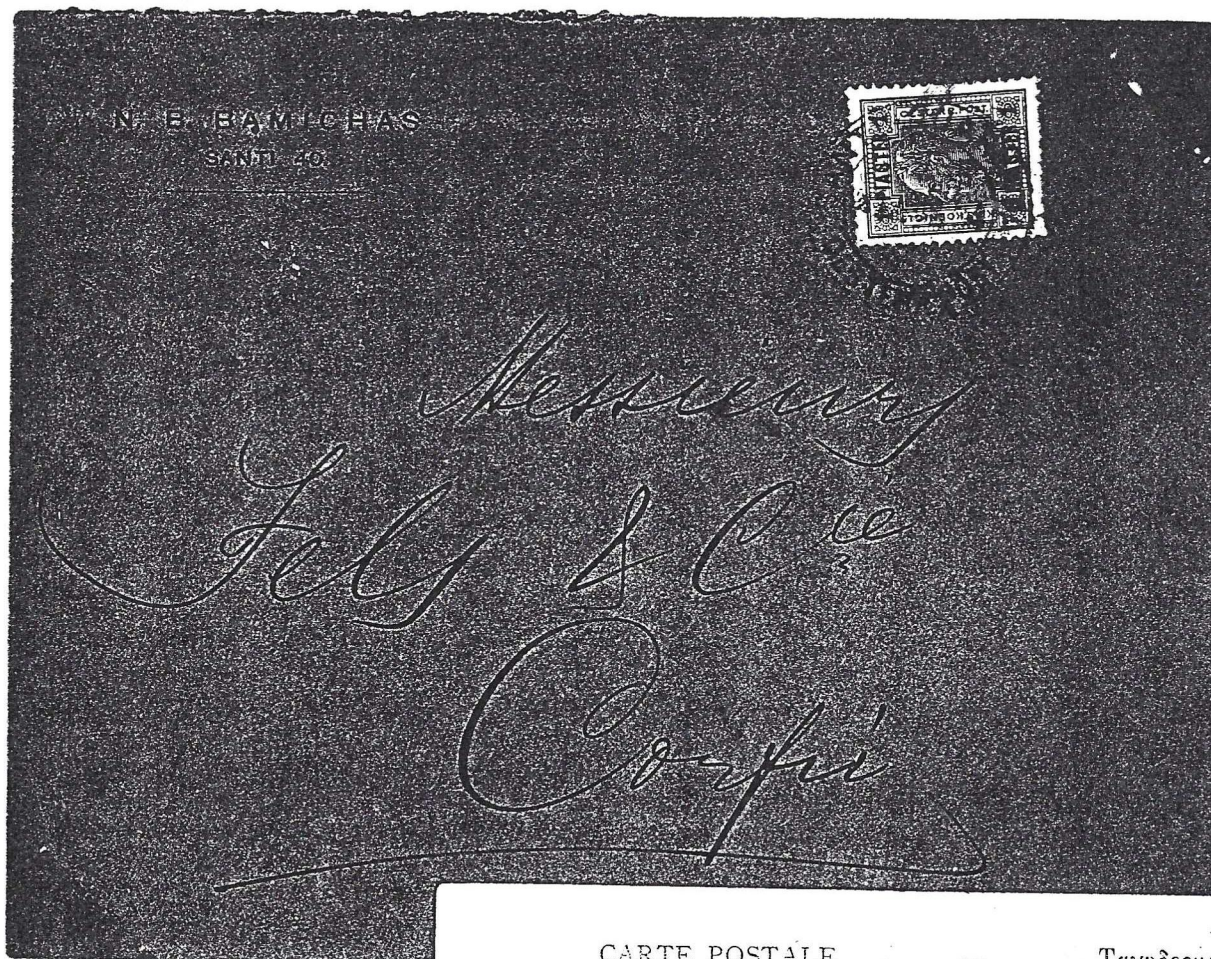
San Giovanni di Medua
15 June 1898
27 April 1913



Only two postmarks were used in San Giovanni di Medua. A single-circle cds was introduced in 1881 and used until replaced by a double-circle type in 1907. This latter was in use until August 1915 when the office was closed by the Serbs.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Santi Quaranta
2 July 1904
13 April 1910



CARTE POSTALE	Ταχυδρομικὸν δελτάριον
Santa Quadaranta Albania, Turkey Apr. 13-1910. Hear Ones. We are here at anchor for a short time while freight is being loaded on by the Turks. A town of 300 inhabitants bombarded recently by Greeks. Lovely times but bushy are the time. Yours E. A. G.	Adresse H. E. Graham Hales, N.Y. U. S. A.

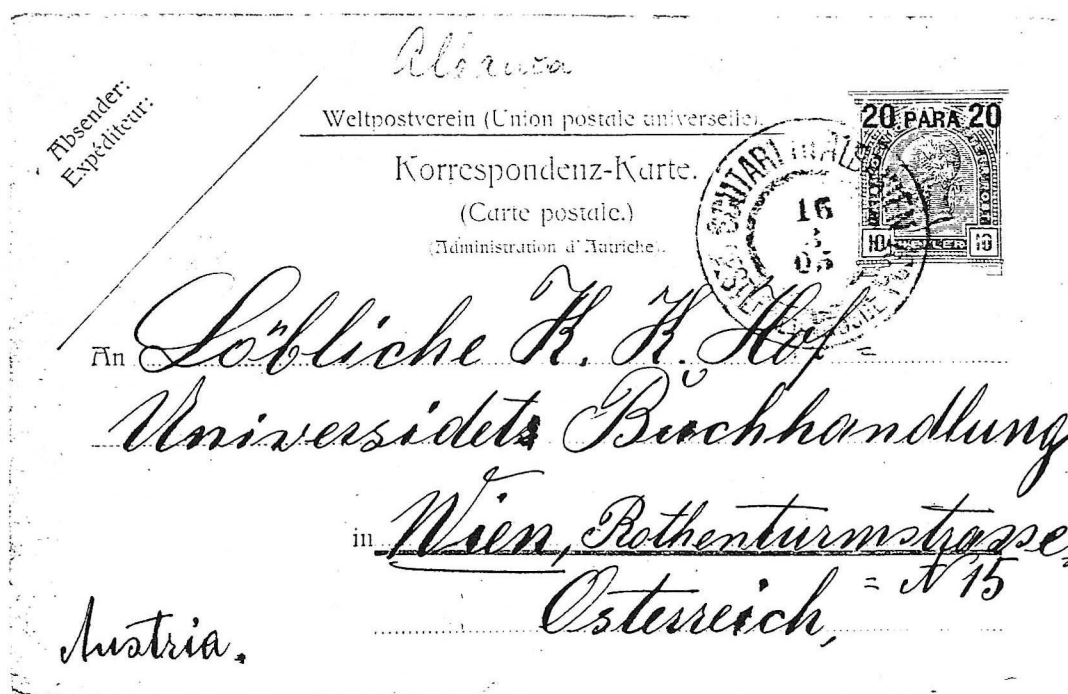
This postmark with very thin circles and lettering is unlike any used elsewhere in the Austrian Levant offices. It was introduced in the 1890s and used until replaced in 1910 with a more conventional marking.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Santi Quaranta
18 June 1913



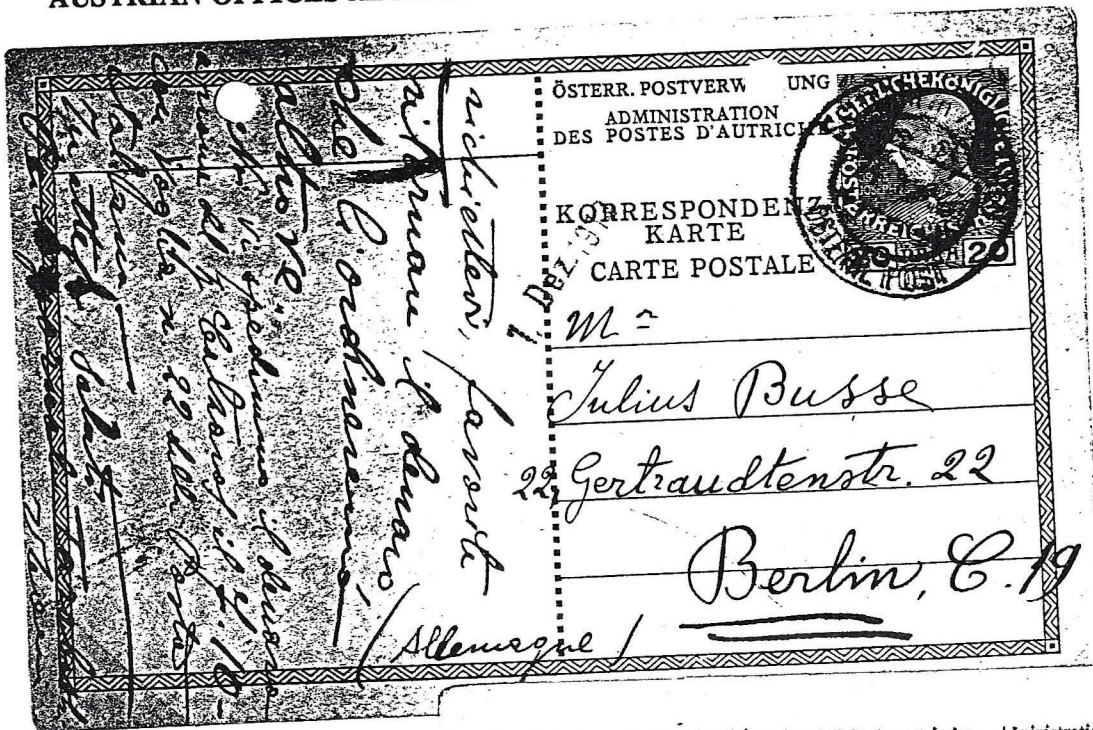
The final postmark for Santi Quaranta was introduced in 1910 and remained in use until October 1915 when the town had been occupied by the Greek Army. Note the use of Austrian Levant stamps denominated in centimes and francs, issued to combat competition at foreign post offices due to relative currency depreciation.



The large double-ring postmark was introduced at Scutari in April 1901 and used until about 1910. The example shown above used on international postal card overprinted for the Austrian Levant and sent to Vienna.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Scutari in Albanien
24 November 1913
10 February 1914



Österreichische Postverwaltung — Amministrazione delle Poste austriache — Administration des Postes d'Autriche.



LEVANTE.

Cours du change
Somme payée*

Internationale Postanweisung.

Vaglia postale internazionale — Mandat de poste international.

Über den Betrag von }
Per l'importo di }
De la somme de }
(In Ziffern
in cifre arabe
En chiffres arabes)

(Währungseinheiten in Buchstaben mit lateinischen Schriftzeichen — Le unità in lettere a caratteri latini — Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins)

Auszahlen an }
Pagabile a }
Payable à M }
Bestimmungsort }
Luogo di destinazione }
Lieu de destination }
Wohnung des Empfängers }
Domicilio del destinatario }
Adresse du destinataire }
Bestimmungsland }
Paese di destinazione }
Pays de destination }
Wien I.
Schulerstr. No 17.

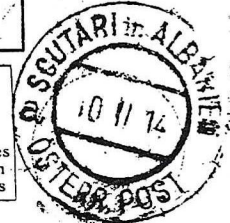
Nr. des Annahmabuches } 312
No. del Registro d'impostazione }
Numéro d'émission }
Tag der Einzahlung }
Data dell'emissione }
Date d'émission }
Aufgabe-Postamt }
Ufficio d'impostazione }
Bureau d'impostazione }
Postdirektions-Bezirk }
Direzione delle Poste }
Direction des Postes }
Triesne
Scutari

Gut für — Buono per — Bon pour
4 Kr
Das ist — Cioè — Soit
17 Franken
17 Centimes
17 centimes

Unterschrift des Annahmebeamten.
Firma dell'impiegato ricevente.
Signature de l'agent qui a dressé le mandat.

* Indication à remplir par l'Office destinataire, lorsqu'il opère lui-même la conversion ou qu'il fait usage, pour ses paiements, de papier-monnaie déprécié par rapport à la monnaie métallique ayant le cours d'or.

Raum zum Aufkleben der Marken.
Spazio per l'applicazione delle marche.



Stempel des Aufgabepostamtes.
Bollo dell'Ufficio d'impostazione.
Timbre du bureau d'origine.

The final postmarks used at Scutari were similar double-circle devices. The upper example is used on a 20 para Austrian Levant postal card. The cancel on the 1 piaster stamp on the money order form below has larger letters and a code "a" to the left of the date, which is extremely elusive with only a few examples recorded.

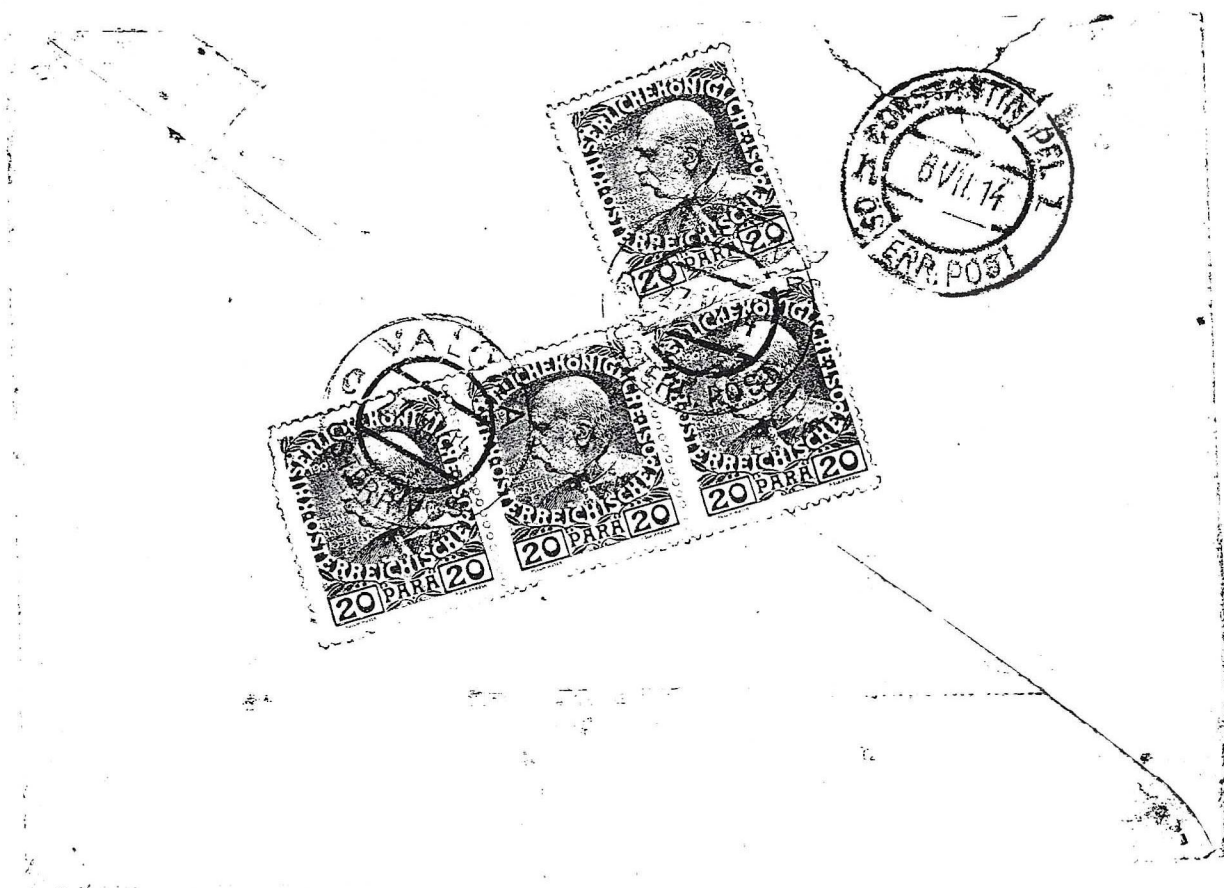
Österreichische P. O. Valona 31		Administration des Postes d'Autriche	
LEVANTE.			
Begleit-Adresse. — Bullettino di spedizione. — Bulletin d'expédition			
Hiebei Annesso Ci-joint	Ein Gruppe	Zahl der Zolldeklarationen Numero delle dichiarazioni doganali Nombre des déclarations en douane	
Wertangabe Valore dichiarato Valeur assurée	Zwei mila nove cento		Frances
An Al A	Sig. N. Margaritti.		
Bestimmungsort Luogo di destinazione Lieu de destination	Trieste		
Strasse und Hausnummer Via e numero Rue et N°			
Gewicht—Peso—Poids:	Zollgebühren Tasse doganali Droits de douane	Beförderungsweg Avviamento Acheminement	
1 kg 500 g		Sicilto	

*) Vom Eintritts-Auswechslungsamt des Bestimmungslandes auszufüllen.
Da riempire dall' Ufficio di cambio d'entrata del paese di destinazione.
Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'échange du pays de destination.

The Austrian P.O. at Valona used this large double-circle marking from about 1895 until 1910. It is shown above on an address card for a value declared parcel of 2,900 francs sent to Trieste.

AUSTRIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Valona
27 June 1914



The final postmark used in Valona was a smaller double-ring cds introduced in 1910 and used until the office was closed in April 1915 during the Italian occupation.

ITALIAN OFFICES ABROAD

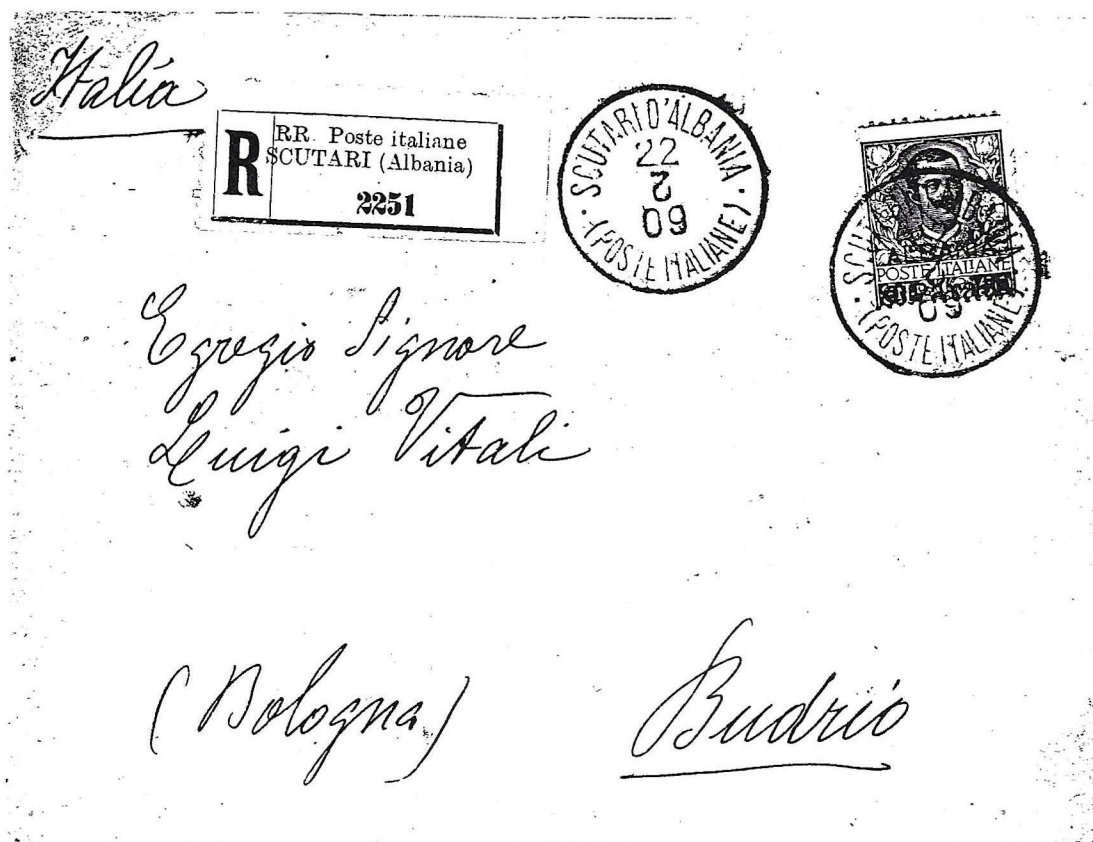
Italy opened its first postal agencies abroad in Africa during 1863. However, it was a latecomer to Albania, with the first office at Scutari not opening until 1901. This was followed by Durazzo in 1902 and Valona in 1908. The first special stamps issued on 1 September 1902 were overprinted "Albania" and new values in para. Later, the same stamps without "Albania" were issued, as well as special sets with the names of each of the three offices. These agencies were all closed at the end of 1922.



The Durazzo office opened on 25 June 1902. The postmark shown above is inscribed "Durazzo/(Italian Post Office)." It is shown on a postal card and a registered cover with the stamp overprinted for this specific office.



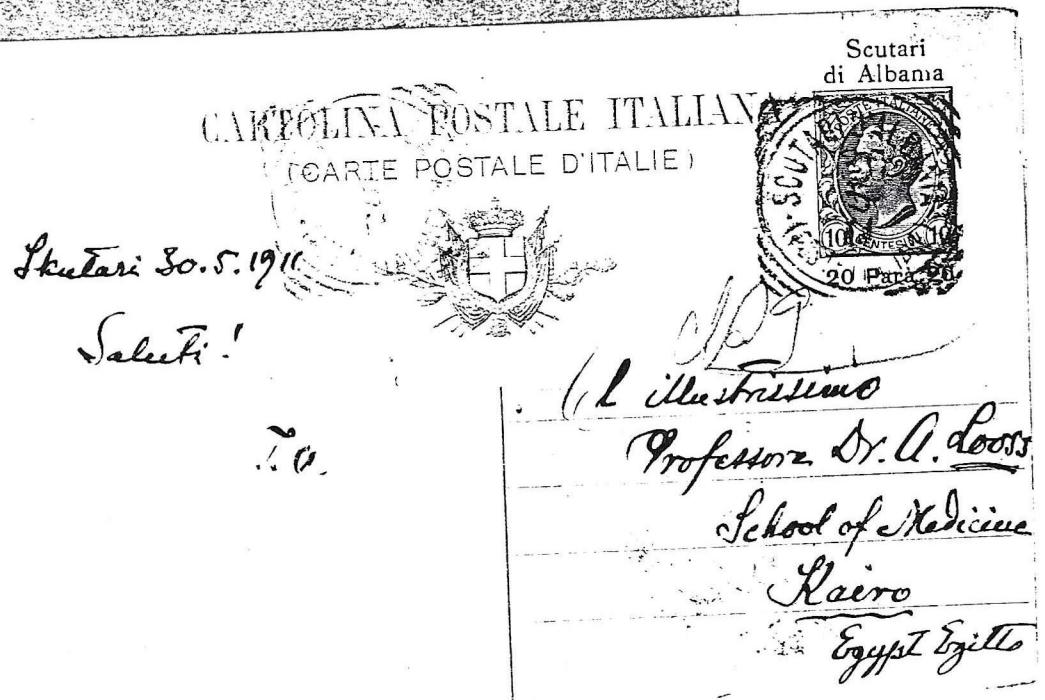
A second postmark with squared-off corners seems to have been used contemporaneously with the first type. It is shown here on a registered cover franked with the 20 and 40 piaster top values of the Durazzo overprints, which were issued in very small quantities and are extremely elusive on cover, even one to a philatelic dealer.



The office at Scutari opened on 1 November 1901 and used the same two postmarks as Durazzo. The single-circle type is shown here on a registered cover to Bologna. This cover is franked with an 80 para stamp of the 1902 overprints for Albania.

ITALIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Scutari d'Albania
23 July 1907
30 May 1914



The postmarks shown above are the second type with the squared-off corners, used to cancel stamps overprinted "Albania" on a registered cover and a specially overprinted postal card for this office that was mailed to Egypt.

SHKODER 25 DHETOR

BASHI



Handwritten text in Albanian script, possibly a date or address.

LAJME E REKLAME

.....	7 Grosh rreshti, 80 mm	1 ^{re}
.....	5 " " , 80 "	2 ^{me}
.....	3 " " , 80 "	3 ^{me}
.....	1 " " , 80 "	4 ^{me}

PER LAJME
ret vesht n' drejtim t' Shtypshkrojes.

PAJTIMET. 

*do t' pertrihen pajtimet
ntaar t' rii, paa pritun
a' madurë ai Drej-*

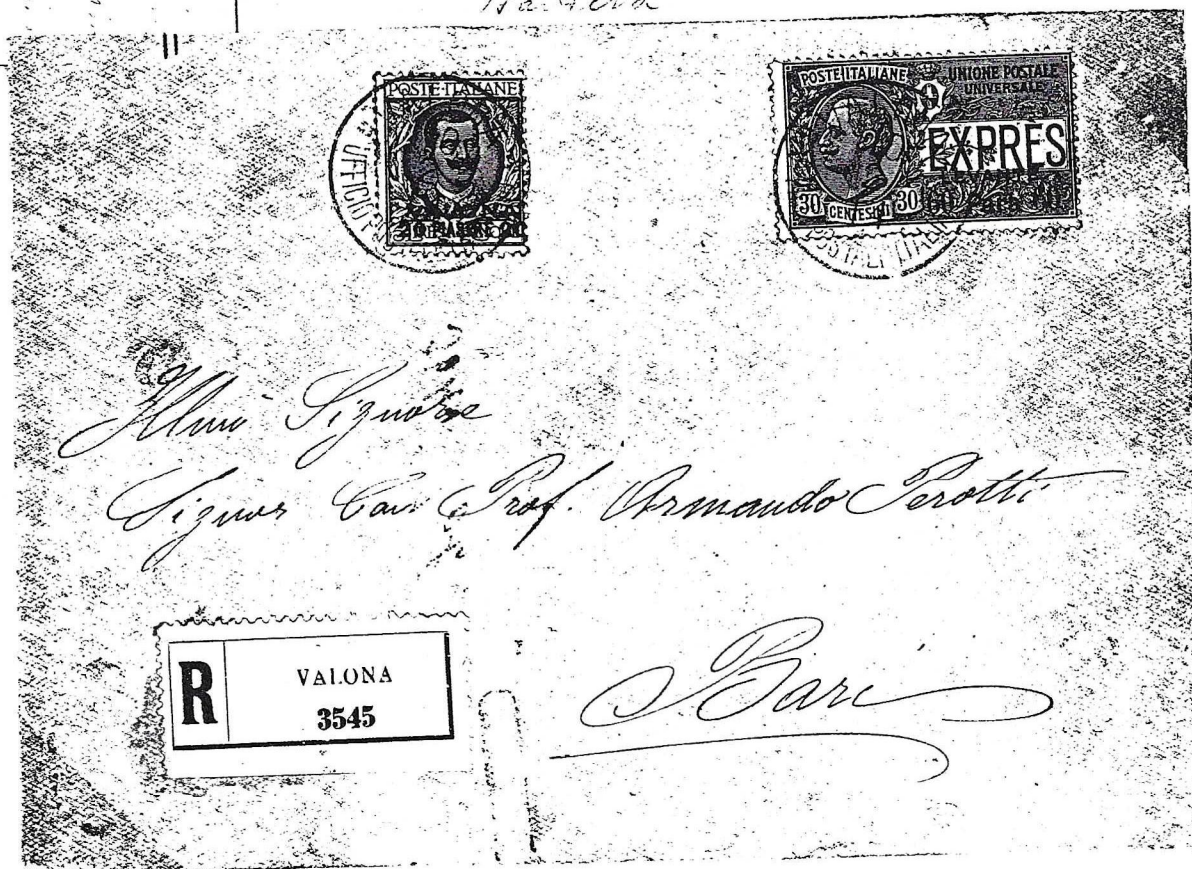
Msimi e besit

Tesh pak dit nisi Stamolla kate,

Example of the overprinted stamp for Scutari used to pay the printed matter rate to Bari, Italy. Specialists believe that this is the only recorded example of an Italian Offices Abroad stamp used from Albania on a newspaper.

ITALIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Valona
16 November 1913
10 February 1914



The Valona office did not open until 5 May 1908. Its postmark is shown used to cancel a 10 cent. postal card with overprint for this office and on a registered cover to Paris. Note that the latter has mixed franking of a "Valona" overprinted stamp and a generic Italian Levant special delivery stamp. This combination came about because no special delivery issues were overprinted for the offices in Albania..

ITALIAN OFFICES ABROAD

Valona
28 February 1916



A late variety of postmark was only used at this office. It was inscribed "Royal Italian Posts/Valona." The cover shown above was franked with the "Valona" overprints on the 15 cent. and 20 on 15 cent. surcharged stamps.