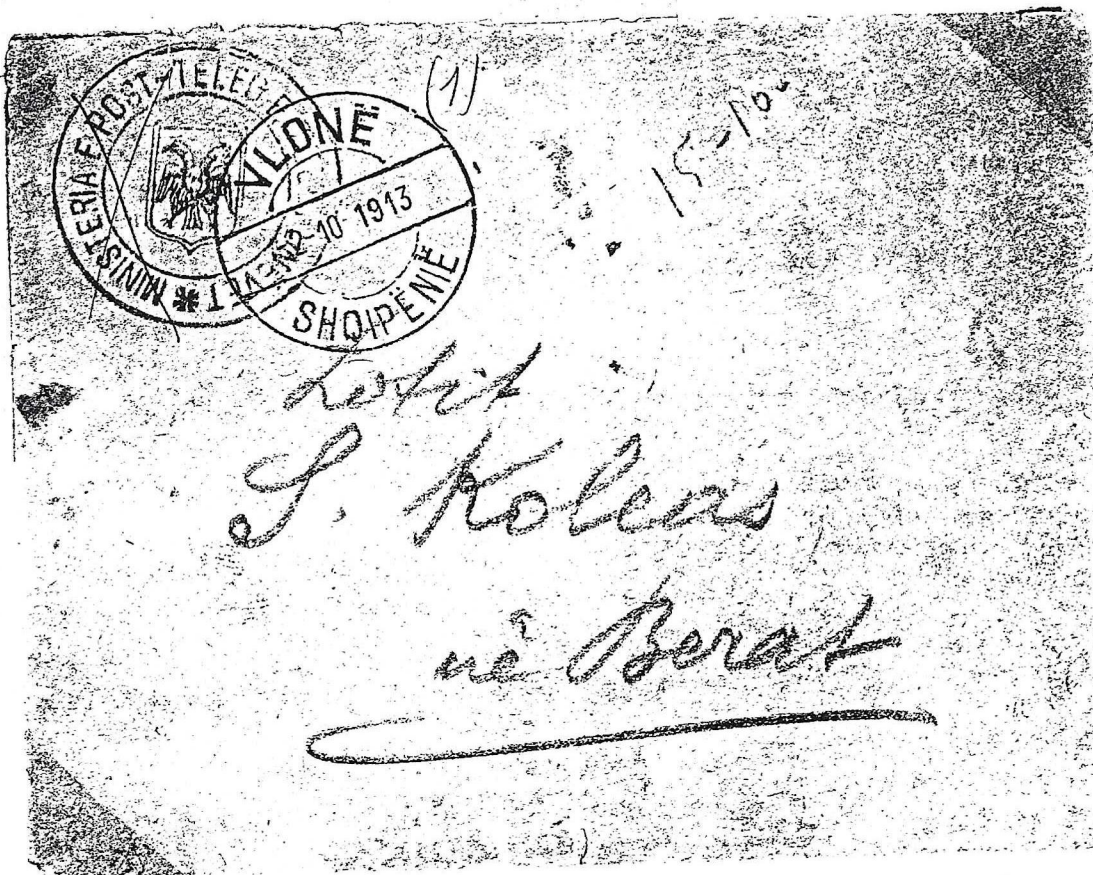
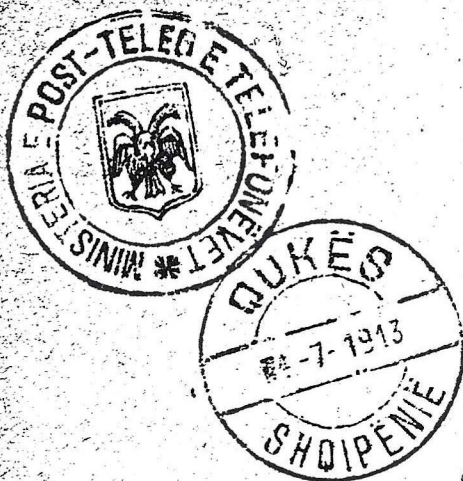


PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Alarmed by the sudden collapse of the Turkish army and the advance of the Serbian and Montenegrin forces into northern and central Albania as well as a Greek army in the south, the non-Slav and mostly Moslem inhabitants declared their independence on 28 November 1912. Conditions in Albania were chaotic for some months until an international control commission was established by the European Powers and William of Wied, invited to serve as ruling prince, arrived on 7 March 1914.

Qukes
4 July 1913

Vlone
2 October 1913



Postal service was erratic in the early period, with most international mail being handled by the Austrian and Italian offices abroad in Scutari and Valona. The first "stamp" issue on 5 May 1913 consisted of a circular handstamp reading "Ministry of PT&T" and double-headed eagle (valued at 1 grosh) that was impressed on 2,232 envelopes. Covers with this issue are very scarce.

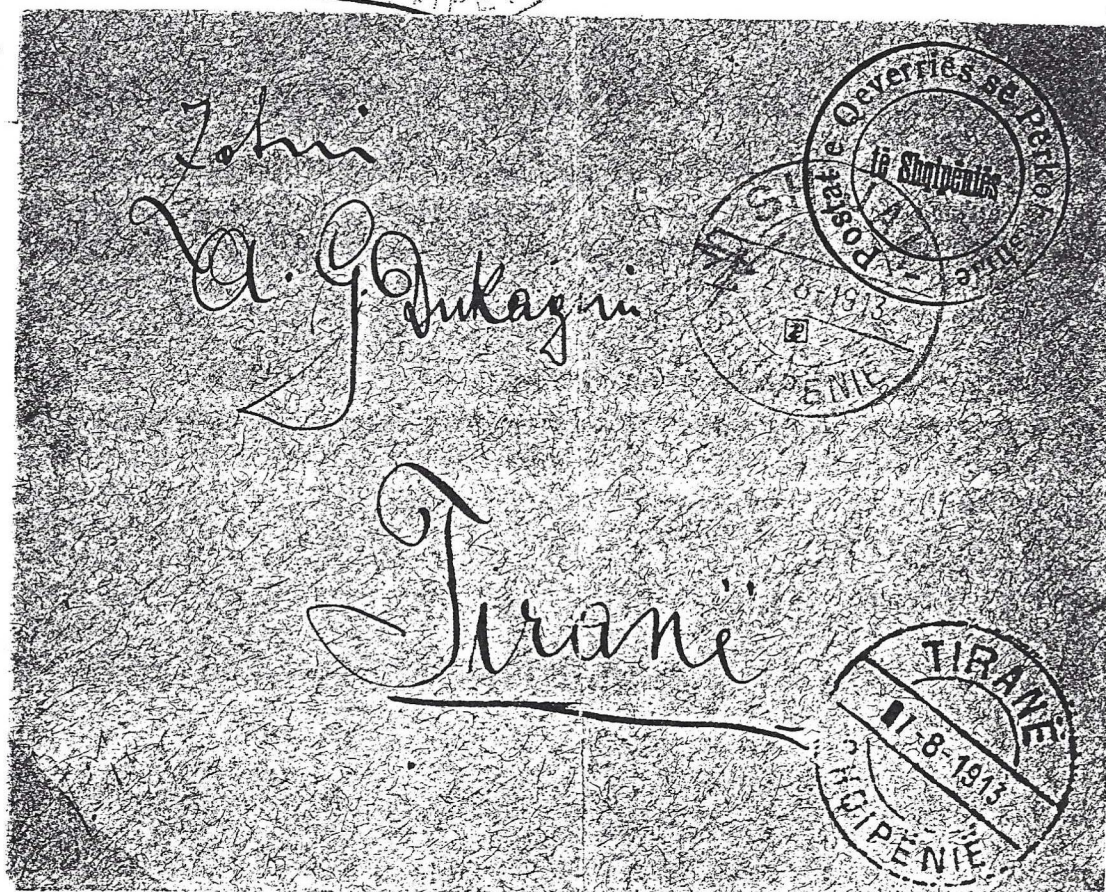
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Pequin
9 July 1913

Shijak
2 August 1913



اولو سید ده محمد اف دیوت نقد به حبیبی هایدیه



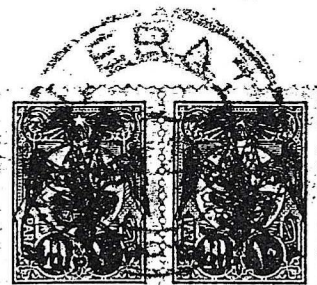
A second issue of about 2,400 pieces was made on 1 June 1913 but the wording was changed from French to Albanian and included "of Albania" in the center instead of the eagle. Upper cover sent from Pequin has a transit marking of Lushje and arrival marking of Fier, both dated 22 July. Lower cover sent from Shijak to Tirana.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

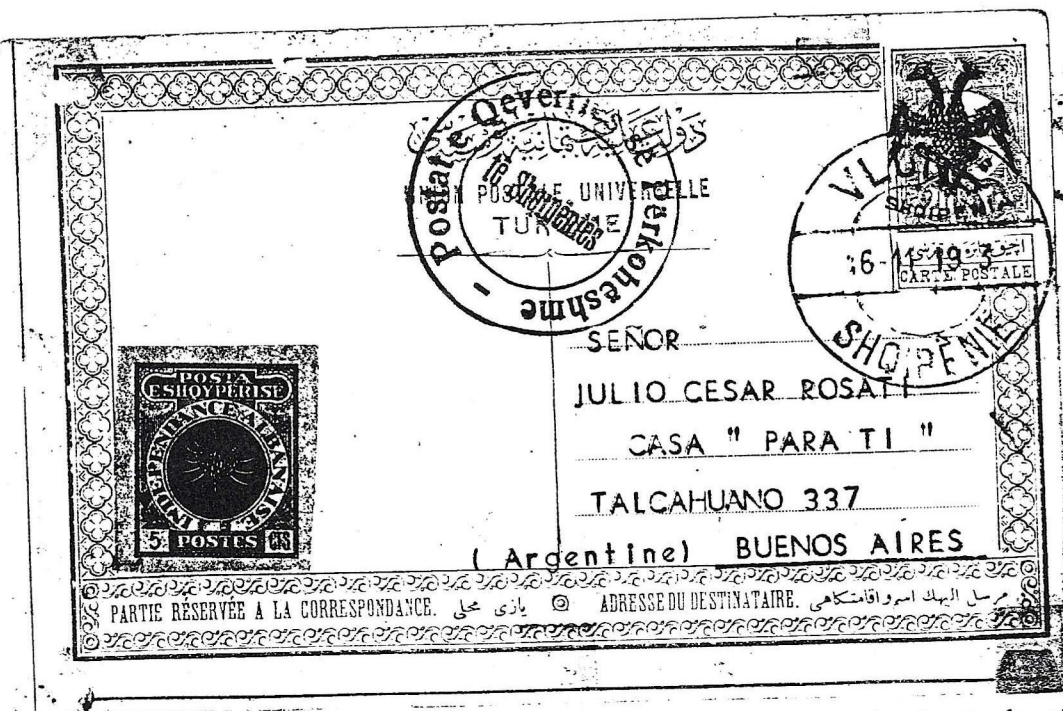
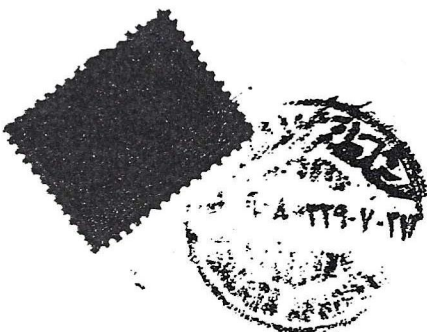
Berat

Vlone

16 November 1913



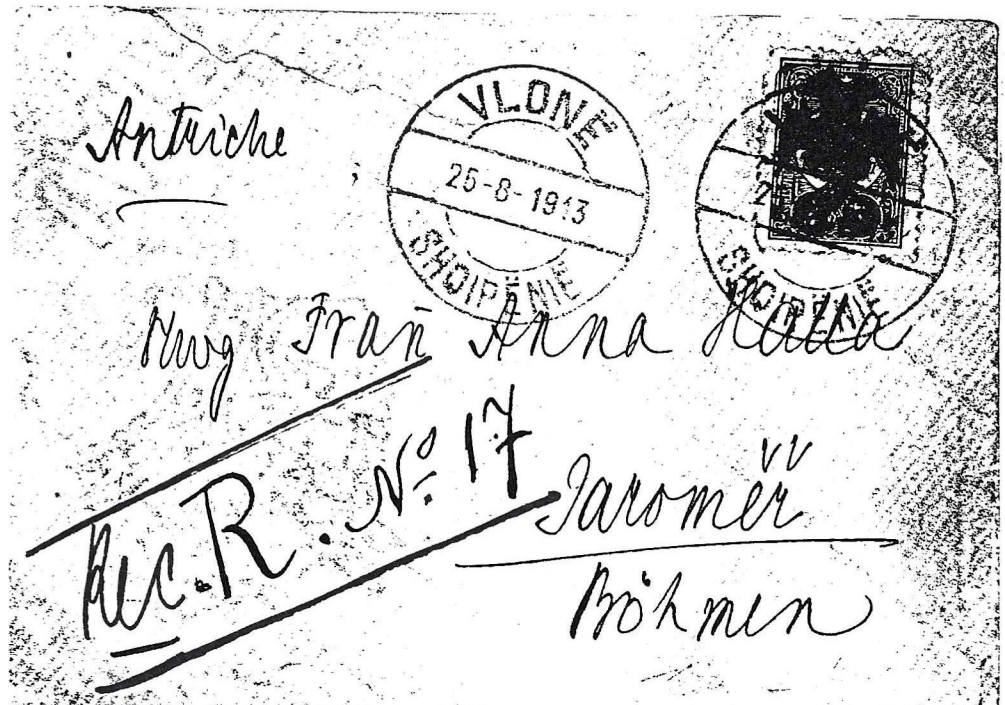
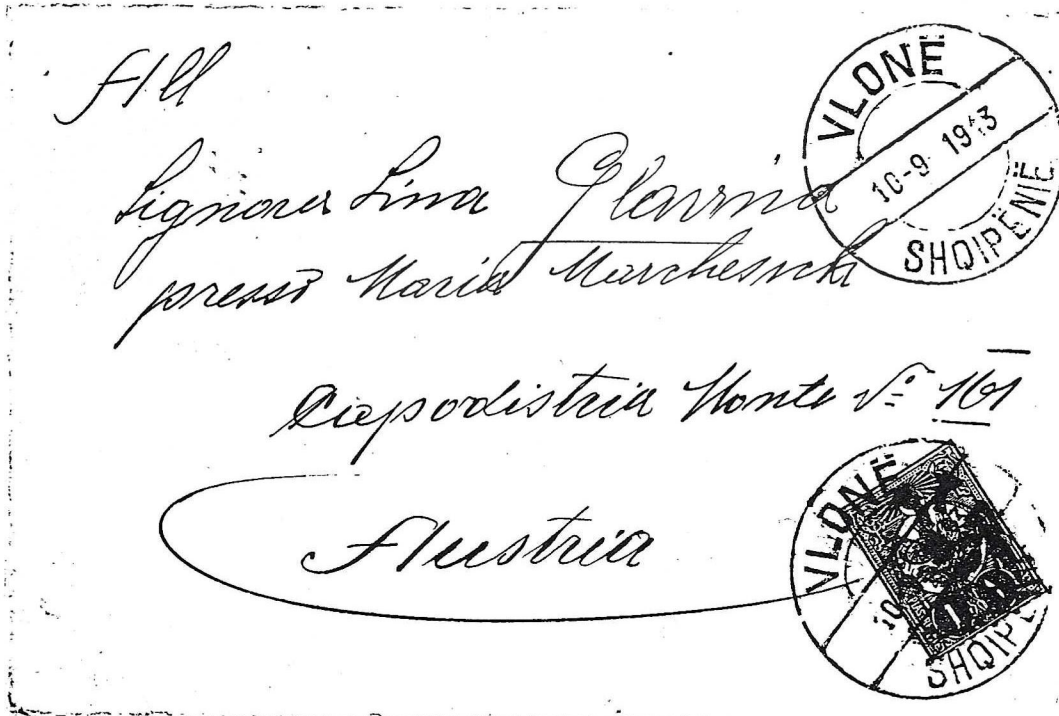
استانبولده غلط ره آزاره قبوله ابراهیم
ارهم بکر و قبوله بول



With a shortage of postage, the authorities decided to overprint the stocks of Ottoman postal paper found in the post offices, using the eagle design and the word for "Albania." These were issued on 16 June 1913 in small quantities. Shown above are a pair of the 10 para stamps used on a cover from Berat to Constantinople. As these paid only the domestic letter rate, there was postage due of an additional 20 paras. This was assessed at the double deficiency rate of 1 piaster upon arrival in Constantinople (Galata branch) and an appropriate postage due added on the reverse (see photocopy). Postal cards were similarly overprinted.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

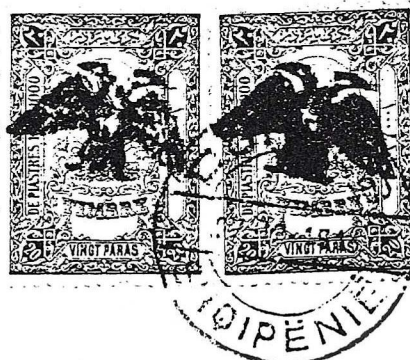
Vlone
25 August 1913
10 September 1913



Shown above are covers paying the 1 piaster international letter rate and the 2 piaster international registered letter rate. Only 3,758 copies of this latter value were issued, with registered covers being very elusive.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Durres
25 December 1913
27 December 1913
21 March 1914



Sig.
Fr Schneider

Firma

Hugo Schneider fù Enrico
(Franz Schneider)

TRIESTE 8

Postfach 34

In addition to Ottoman postage stamps, revenues were also pressed into service on occasion to pay postage. These were also overprinted with an Albanian eagle to denote the change in regime. Several examples are shown above; the cover to Trieste is backstamped for receipt on 30 December 1913. The four revenue stamps on piece were used to frank a registered letter to New York. A pity that they were cut from the cover, but a very rare use.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Vlone
6 November 1913
27 November 1913

M. Wilhelm Cziener
n. 10 par. E. 22.5. 1907 e II, 1

JA *Carte* **STAMP** **N**
IPROFTUR TË DRE **BËTA**
NË, DITËN E MËRKURË **N.**
 Shprehim përmes: O. DERATI.

SYNDICAT POUR LA BANQUE NATIONALE EN ALBANIE

SINDIKATA PËR BANKËN KOMTARE TË SHQIPËNËS

VALONA



BUREAU DE TRÉSORIERE
ZYRA E THESARIËS



For che

New Fresh Prime

Thien I

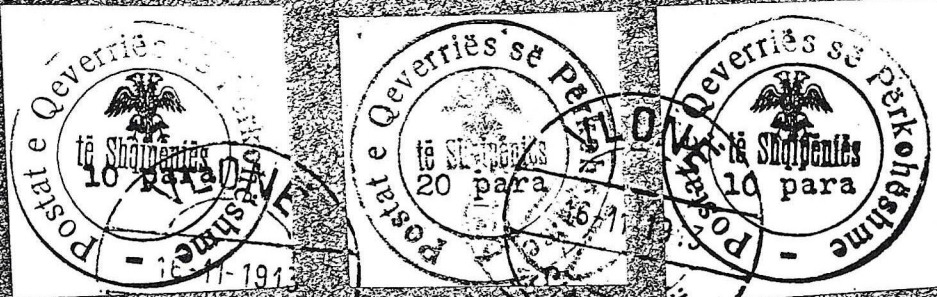
Österreich

Overprints on the Ottoman stamps ran out, so a third provisional issue was produced. The circular second marking was utilized but a small eagle was added at the top (in violet, black or blue) and the denomination added at the bottom by typewriter. The 10 para example shown above is on a newspaper sent to Zagreb, Hungary.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Vlone
16 November 1913
22 November 1913

RECOMMANDÉ
N° 940



Valona



RECOMMANDÉ
N° 1099



Munich

*Herrn Schaber
bei Herrn Pichel
München / Bayern
Volkmarsstr. 26 III*

Upper cover sent to Cattaro, but the addressee had returned to Valona. It was forwarded there and backstamped for arrival at the Austrian post office on 7 December 1913. Lower cover sent to Munich, where it was backstamped for arrival on 25 November. Both paid the proper 2 grosh rate for international registered letters.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Vlone

7 December 1913

13 December 1913

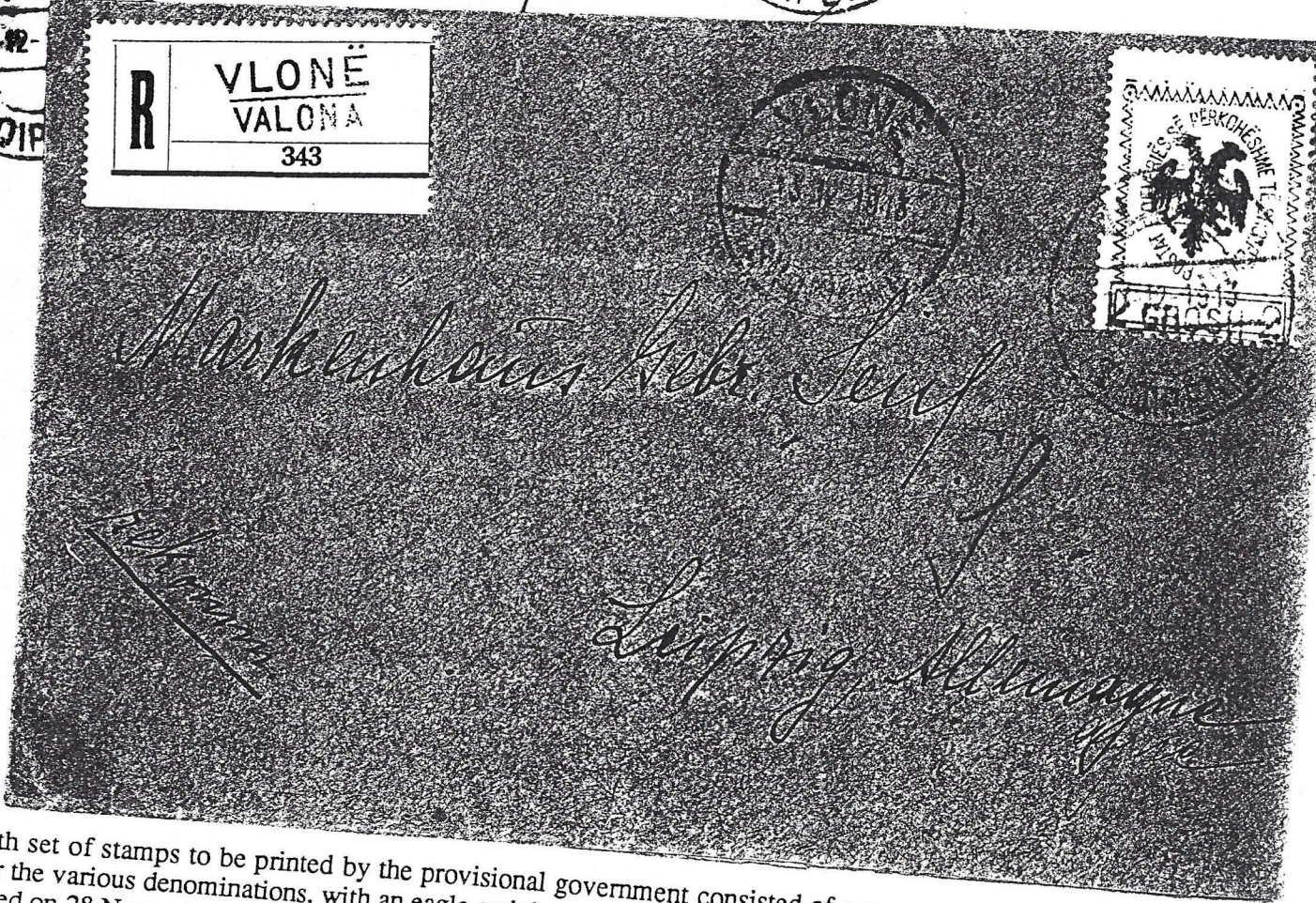
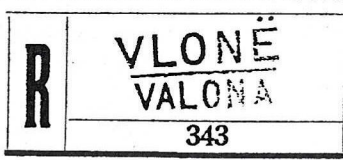
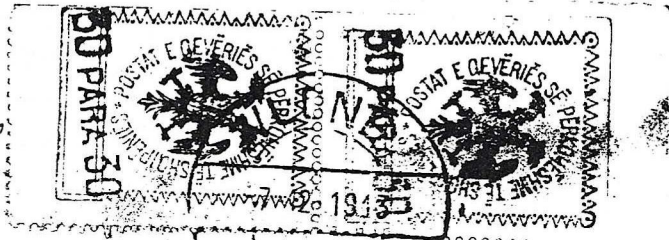
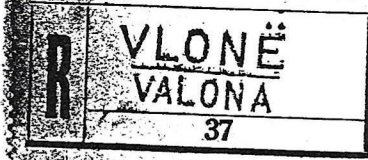
An

Wohlgeb.

Lern

Dr. Hans Woerz

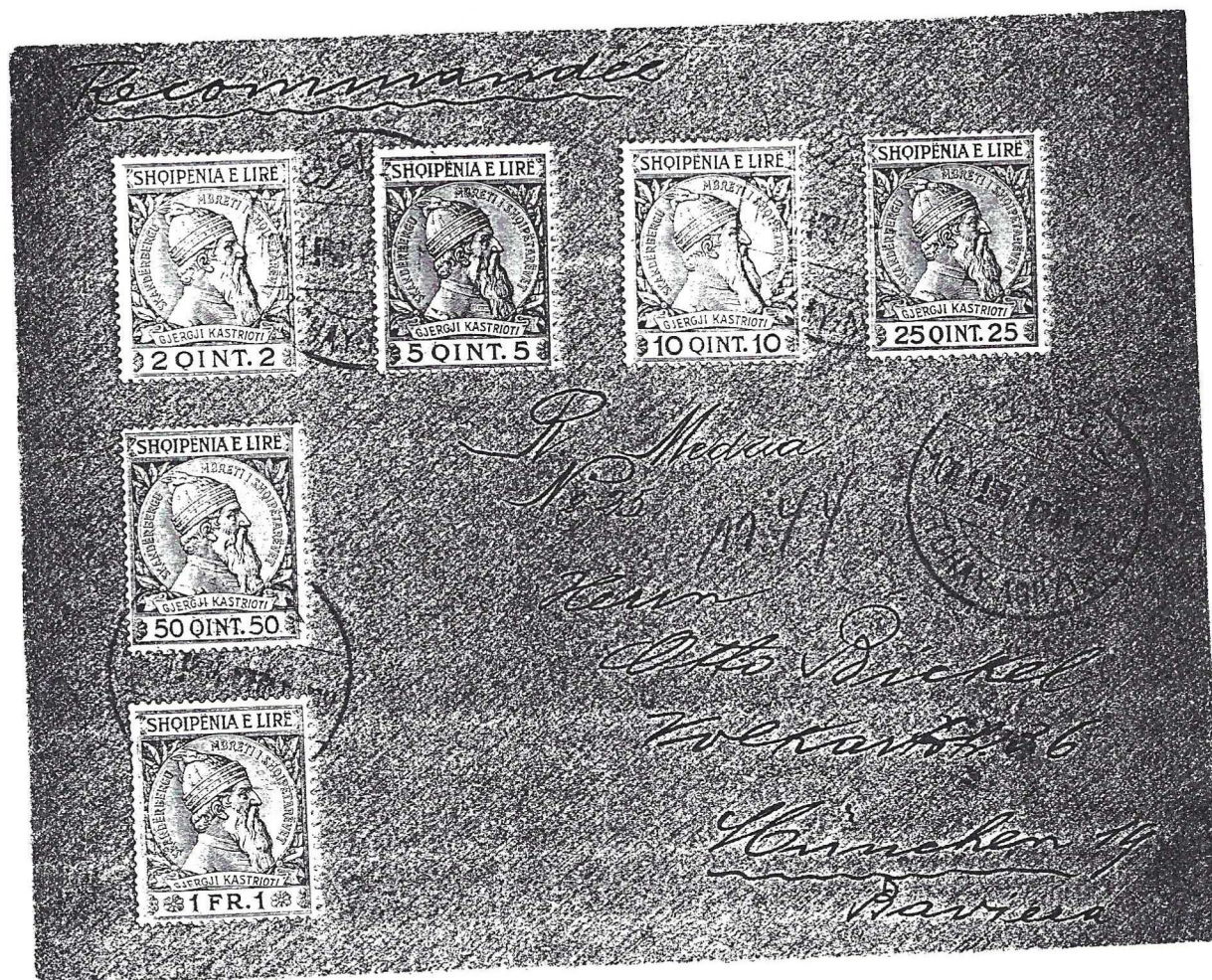
Vienne (Autriche)



The fourth set of stamps to be printed by the provisional government consisted of a common frame in different colors for the various denominations, with an eagle and the values added in black in separate steps. These stamps were issued on 28 November 1913 to commemorate the First Anniversary of Independence.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Tchay-Aghzi
10 January 1914



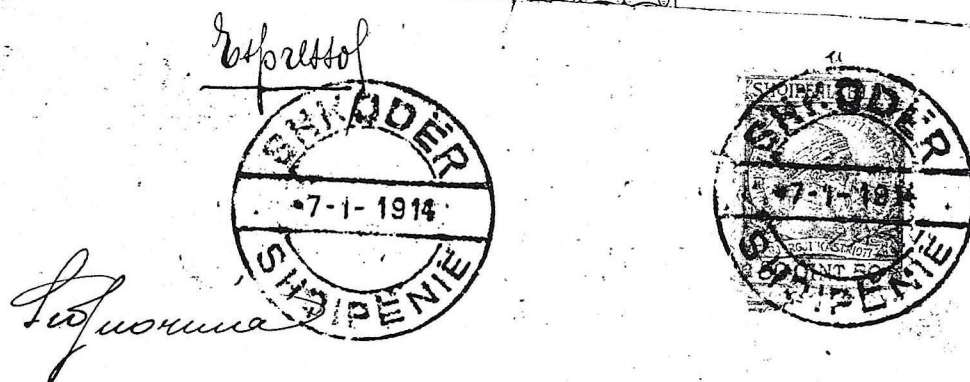
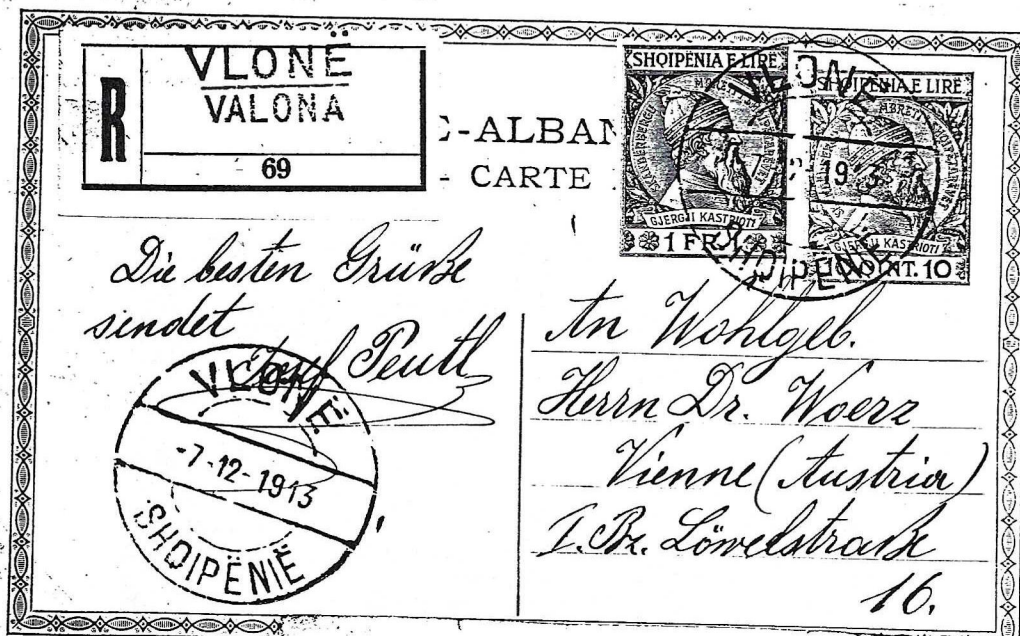
More than a year after independence, supplies of new definitives with the portrait of Skanderbeg arrived from the Italian government printing office in Turin and were placed on sale on 1 December 1913. The public disliked the stamps, mainly because they were denominated in a currency that did not yet exist, and most of the available covers are philatelically franked with complete sets addressed to stamp dealers.

Very few of these stamps were sent to the smaller post offices. This cover shows the set postmarked by the old Turkish cancel of Tchay-Aghzi, in itself is an extremely scarce marking, much less on Albanian stamps.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Vlone
7 December 1913

Shkoder
7 January 1914



Giua Migliorina



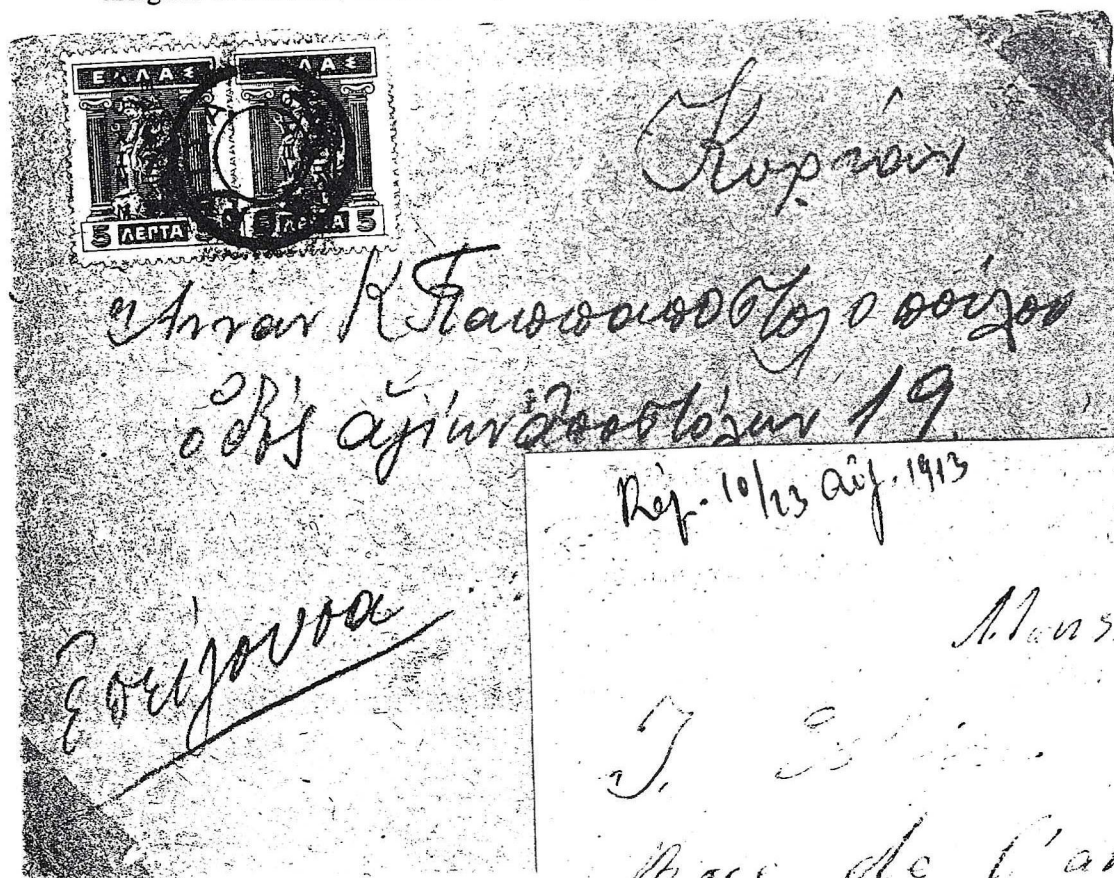
(Como) Varez

Cocquis S. Andrea

Because of the limited and highly philatelic use of these stamps, this registered postal card with added 1 franc adhesive and registered cover to Italy with a 50 qintar value are unusual. The red "AR" label for return receipt is the discovery example of this previously unrecorded type.

GREEK OCCUPATION -- BALKAN WAR

Greece declared war on Turkey on 18 October 1912, and its army quickly moved north into Epirus and Macedonia against light resistance. As a result, Greek forces quickly captured Salonica, Prevesa, Janina and Parga. In addition, a number of towns were occupied in North Epirus. An armistice was signed with the Ottomans on 3 December 1913 and the final terms of peace were ratified by the Treaty of London on 30 May 1913. However, the European Powers demanded that Greek forces withdraw from the territory that they assigned to Albania, which took place by early 1914.



Korytsa

Biglitza

23 August 1913

Ref. 10/13 aif. 1913



Monsieur.
J. Es.
Place de l'ancienne
Douane 16.
Tunis Afrique

The first stamps used in the newly-won territories, including North Epirus, were regular stamps of Greece overprinted "Greek Administration." Covers used from the Albanian area during this period are extremely elusive. The upper example was sent from Korytsa (undated cancel) to Athens, but the date on the receiving mark is illegible. Lower cover sent from Biglitza (today Bilisht) in far southeastern Albania to Tunisia. Transit marks of Salonica and Alexandria and received in Tunis on 23 August 1913 (new style).

GREEK OCCUPATION -- BALKAN WAR

Agios Saranta
27 January 1914

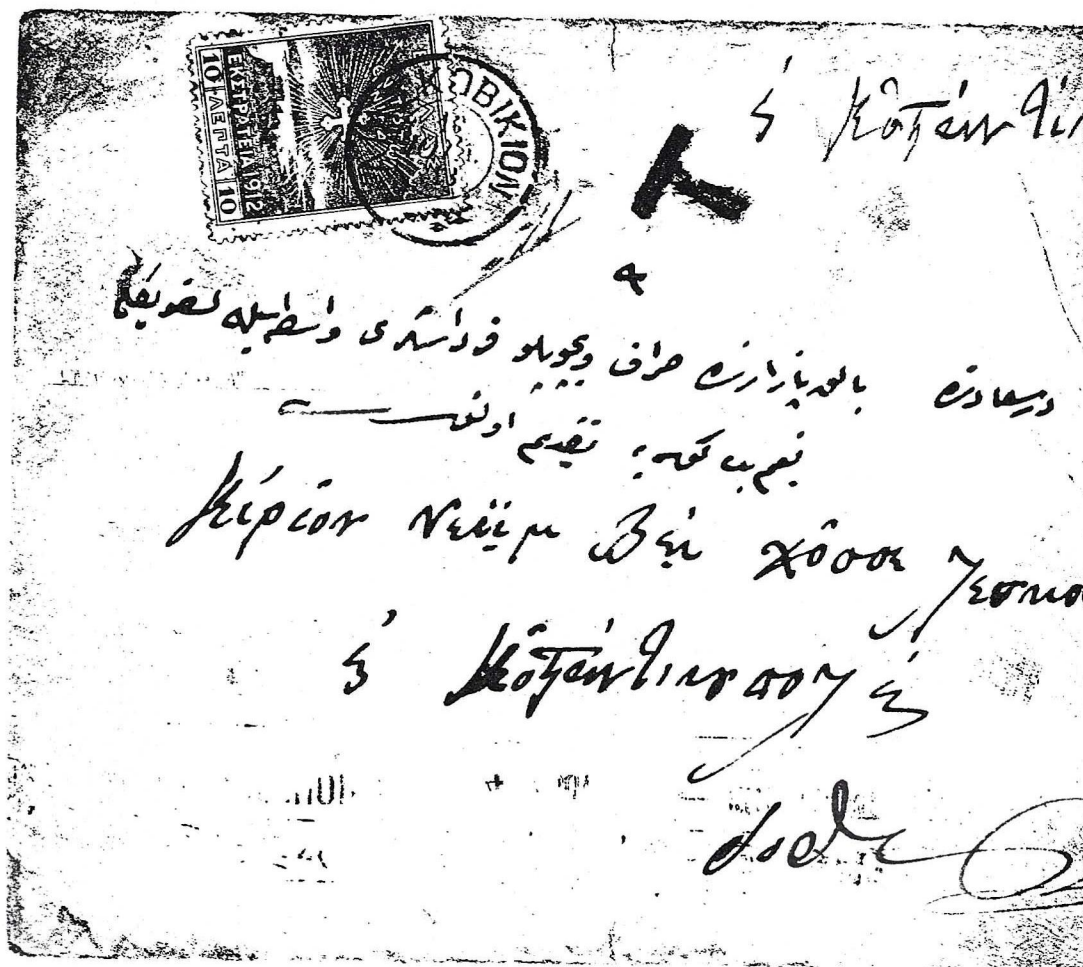
Argirokastron
24 January 1914

Liaskovikion
10 June 1913

Delvinon
January 1914

Premeti
26 October 1913

Tepelenion
3 November 1913



On 16 April 1913, Greece issued a pictorial set to commemorate its victory in the Balkan campaign. Initially, these stamps were used in the newly-won territories, including North Epirus. Covers from this period are very elusive but an example is shown from Liaskovikion (Leskovik). Examples of other cancels from this area are shown on individual stamps.

MONTENEGRIN OCCUPATION -- BALKAN WAR

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

Scutari
17 June 1913



Н. Кр. В. Къаз Мирко свечано улази у Скадар.

Prince Mirko enters Scutari

Propriété réservée. Atelier photographique "Merubor", Scutari (Albanie)

Carte Postale



Scutari

Scutari 16.6.13.

Scutari 16.6.13.

Signor

Vincenzo Rajter

Bohianetto

Italia

Upper card depicts H.R.H. Prince Mirko leading the Montenegrin troops into Scutari; this card was mailed from Cetinje to Bohemia on 5 June 1913. Lower picture postcard of Scutari franked with 10 para King Nicholas stamp and cancelled with the bilingual Cyrillic-French postmark during the Montenegrin occupation period.

MONTENEGRIN OCCUPATION -- BALKAN WAR

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



Sv. Jovan
26 December 1912

Chinkine
17 November 1912

Postal card sent from St. Jean after occupation of the town by Montenegro but before the arrival of the permanent postmark. Cancelled in red ink with manuscript "Sveti Jovan," the Slavic name.

TELEGRAMME



تلفرافنامه

تلفرافنامه لك اخذى ساعت و دقيقه سنك مربوط مقبوضه درج اولئى خاصة رجا اولئو
On est instamment prié d'indiquer sur le reçu l'heure de réception

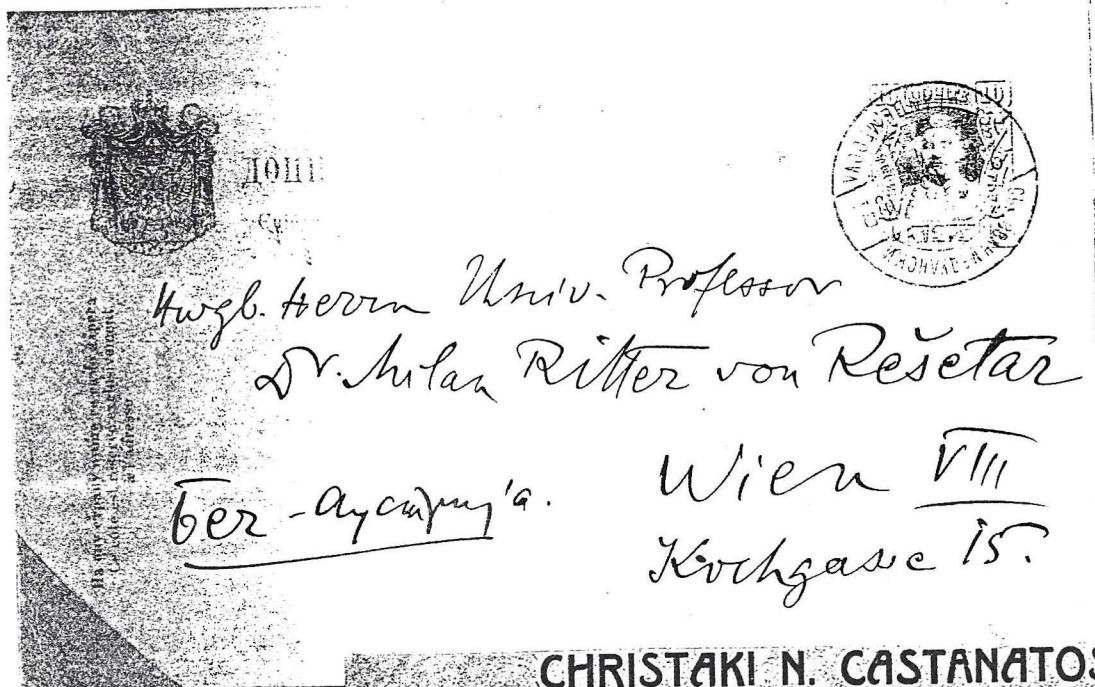
موزه هیتج بر آیه وریله جکدر
(موزه)
Il n'y a rien à payer au porteur



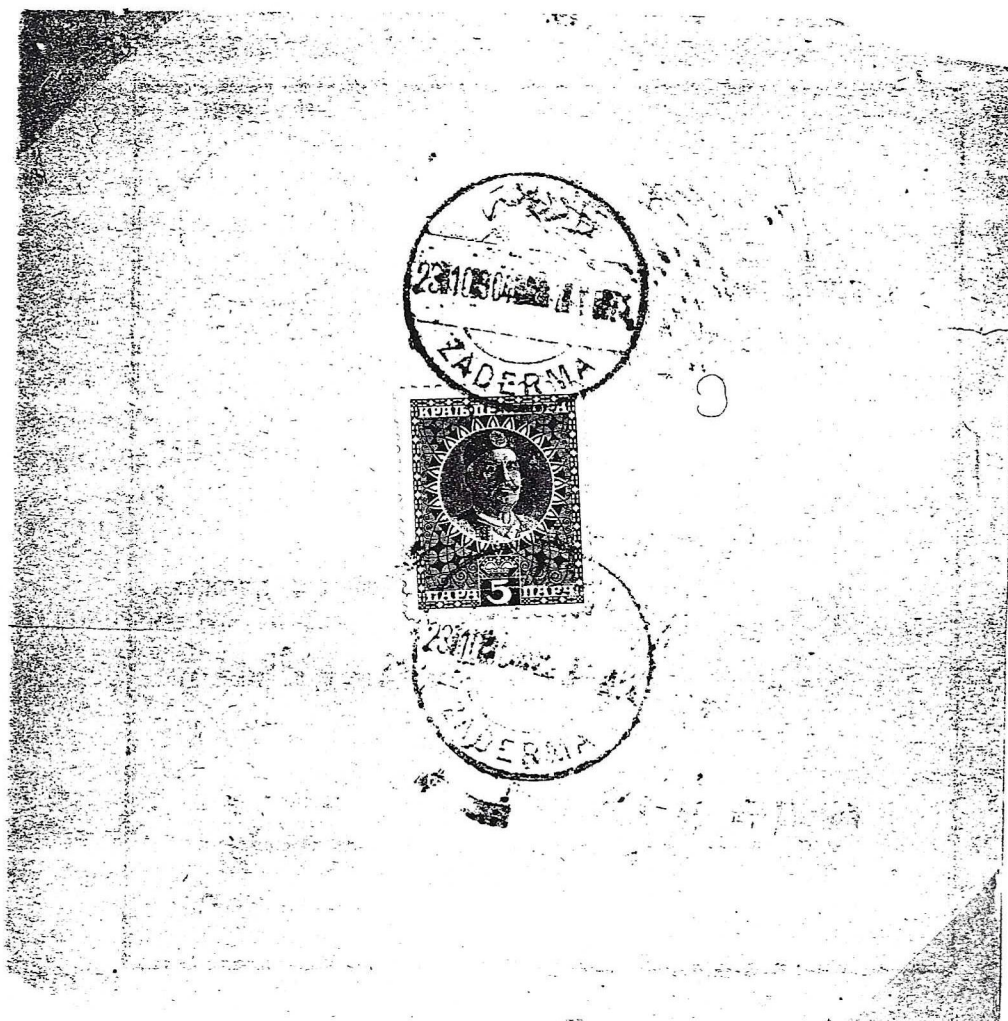
A few forerunners exist posted before the availability of the Montenegrin postmark. The Ottoman telegraph envelope used as a cover was postmarked with the old Turkish cancel, with added red manuscript "Kingdom of Montenegro." Mailed to Cetinje where it was backstamped for receipt on 30 November 1912.

MONTENEGRIN OCCUPATION -- BALKAN WAR

St. Jean de Medova
2 February 1913
2 July 1913



Montenegrin postal card and cover from St. Jean showing use of the new bilingual (Cyrillic & French) postmark. The cover is philatelically inspired but pays the correct rate of 35 para for a registered letter to Austria. The registry label is very scarce.



The Turkish postmark of Zaderma was prepared for use in a district, of which Puka is the main town. This marking is not recorded as being used during the Ottoman period, but there are a few CTO examples known from the time of the Montenegrin occupation. The stamp shown above was affixed to the reverse of a post office receipt form and cancelled with the Zaderma postmark, thus providing a very unusual souvenir.