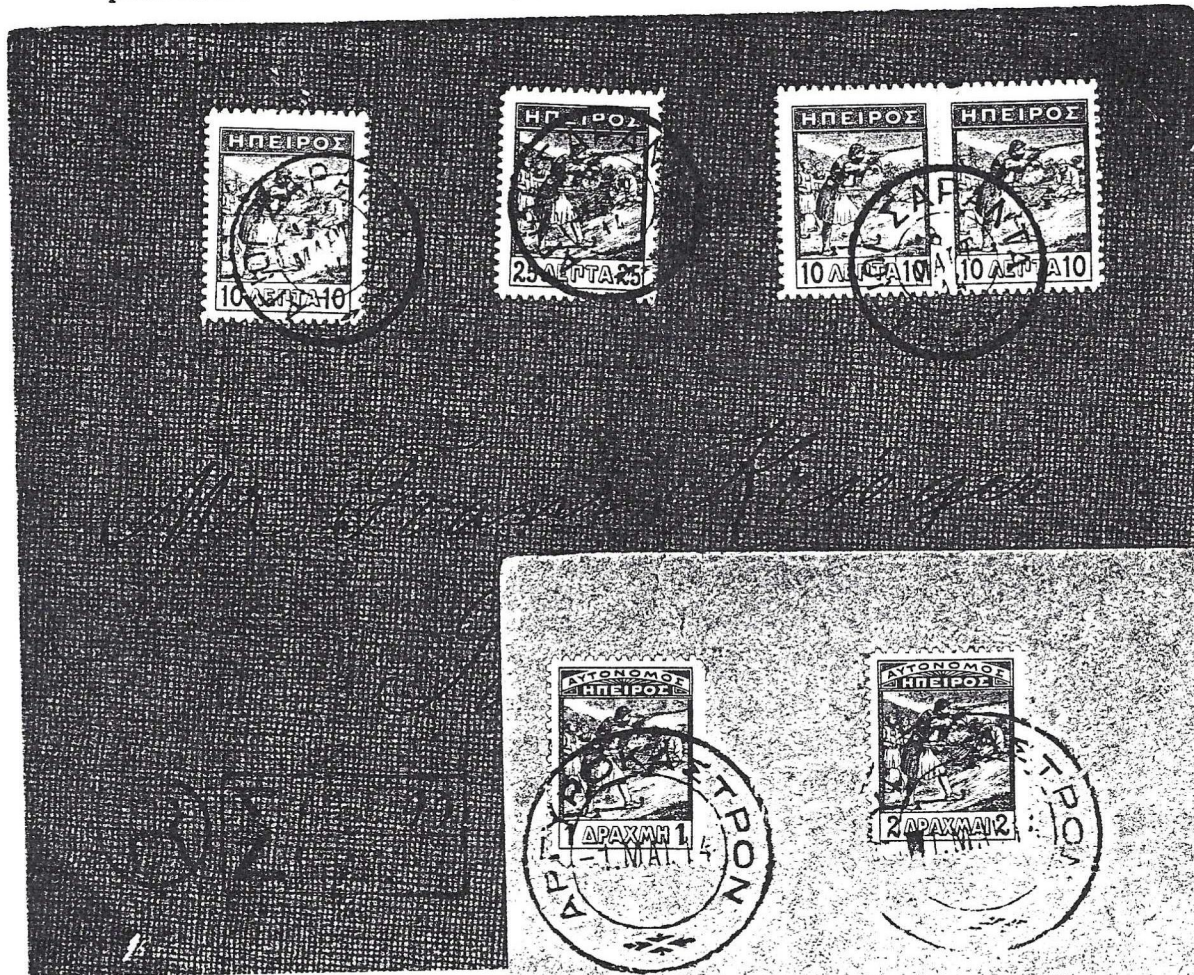


GREEK OCCUPATION -- EPIRUS

Although the European Powers forced Greece to officially withdraw from North Epirus, the ethnic Greek inhabitants did not wish to become a part of Albania. As a result, on 17 February 1914, the Autonomous Republic of Epirus was proclaimed. This entity thus served as an interim holding operation that remained in place until the second Greek occupation in late 1914.



Agios Saranta
18 March 1914

Argirokastron
1 May 1914

On 5 March 1914, the first two stamps, which were inscribed simply "Epirus," were placed on sale. There were complaints from the powers that this was not a recognized political entity, so that for additional denominations issued three weeks later the inscription was changed to "Autonomous Epirus."

GREEK OCCUPATION

Autonomous Republic of Epirus

Korytsa
26 November 1914

Agi Saranda
19 September 1914

Εκδοτής, Κ. Χ. Σχενδερης-Κορυτσα.

Κορυνθ. α' 26-11-914
 Ηρώς
 Άγαπήν ἀγάπησιν
 μου ἐκτρέφεις. Τόσον
 να' ἔσχησέν μου ἐπὶ
 εἰς μέγαν.
 ἤγα ἀγάπῃ.
 Μαίμης

61551 Éditeur, Con. Skenderis, 2 me édtlon. Bromilt --



Tubor Coasting
Kempston Engineering
Tubor Tax. & Eng.
Seymour

G5074 13



Joseph Traugott

Wren I.
Wallace 32

A second official issue, depicting the flag of the Autonomous Republic, was placed on sale on 20 August 1914. This set had a short life because World War I had broken out and the Allies were fearful of an advance southward by the Central Powers. Thus, they invited the Greek army to return to southern Albania in December 1914. This change led to the replacement of the Republic's stamps by an overprinted Greek issue.

GREEK OCCUPATION
Autonomous Republic of Epirus

TAXYΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ
ΚΟΡΥΤΣΑΣ

Koritza
1914

Argirokastro
6 March 1914

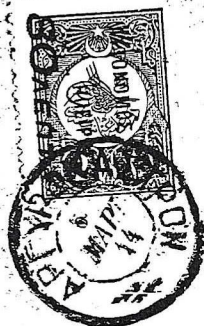


Messieurs F. & J. WEIGMANN

18 - Rue du Toinpon

BRUXELLES

Belgique



Recommandée



*Monsieur
Pierre N. Vasel
Poste restante*



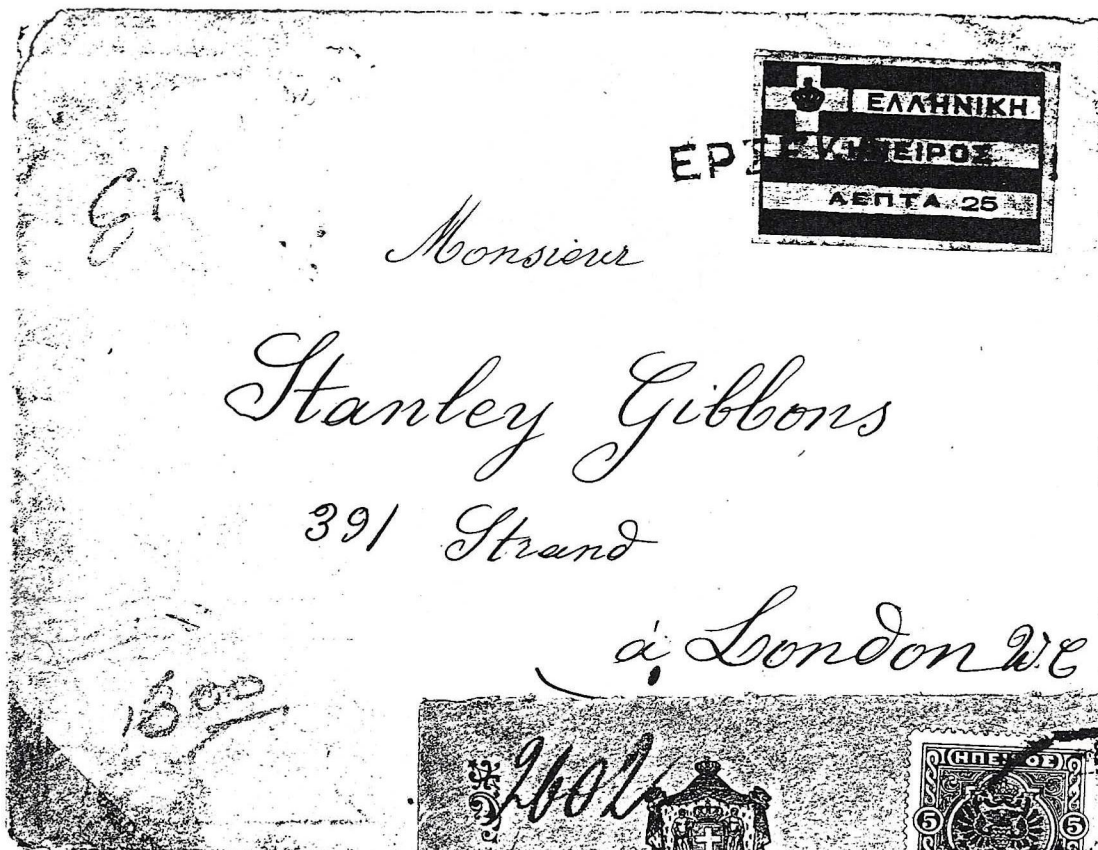
Athènes

In addition to the official issues of the Autonomous Republic, local issues were prepared in several towns -- with varying claims to legitimacy. Among these issues were Albanian stamps overprinted at Koritza and Ottoman stamps overprinted at Argirokastro, both of which read "Autonomous Epirus" and have new values in lepta.

GREEK OCCUPATION
Autonomous Republic of Epirus

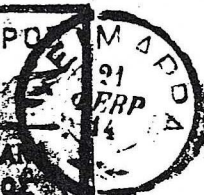
Erseka
November 1914

Moschopolis
November 1914

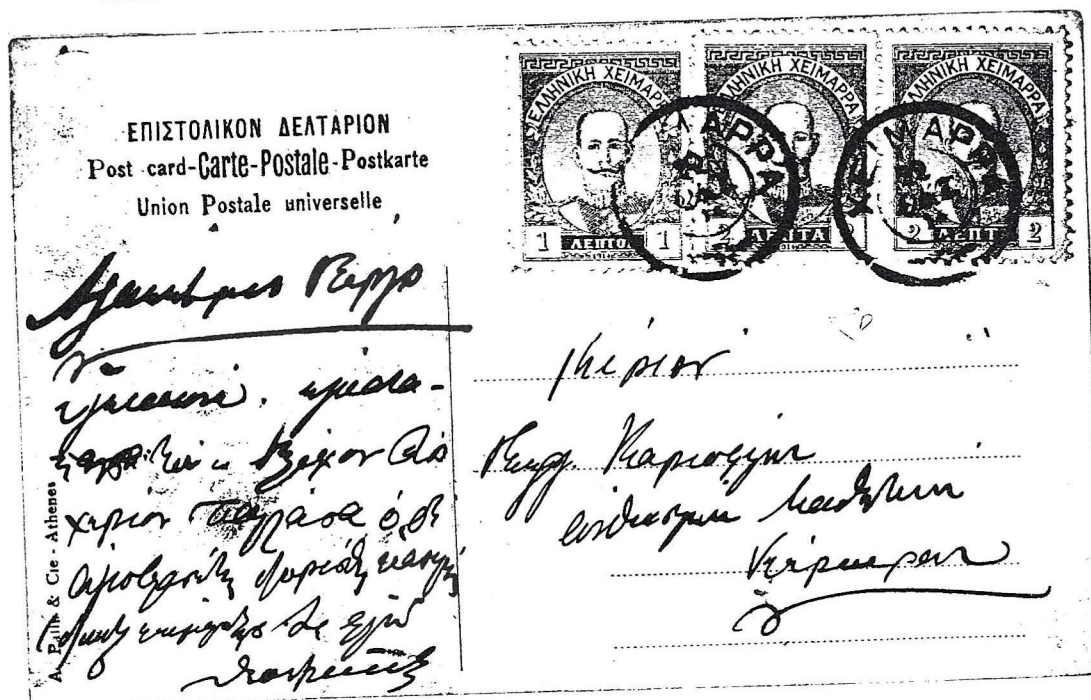


Just prior to the second Greek occupation, several other sets were issued by local authorities. Two of these that are listed in the Vlastos catalogue are from Erseka and Moschopolis. The above covers, both sent to prominent stamp dealers, have a transit mark of Athens dated 17 November and receiving mark of Braunschweig on 27 November, respectively.

Himarra
21 February 1914
22 October 1914



Kύριον
Κυρτζ. Λεωτομένην
Εὐαγγελιστῶν
Εὐ. Αδώνη



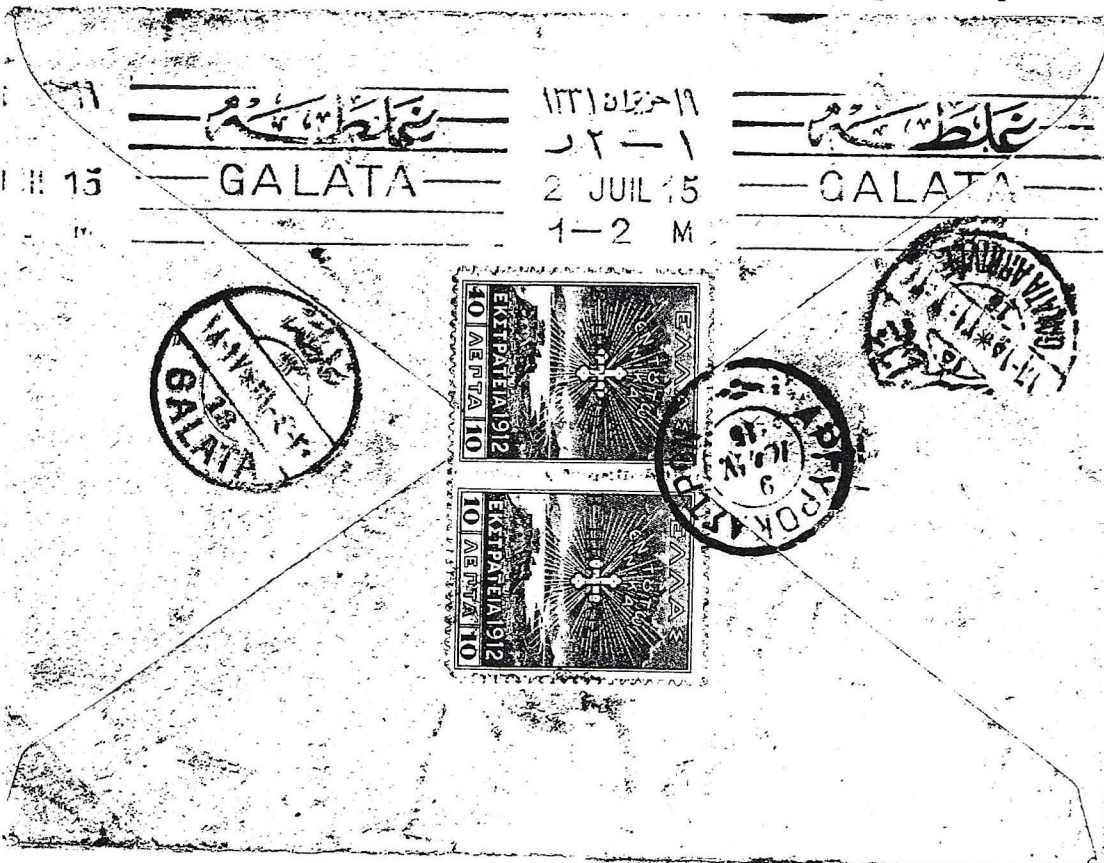
Local issues were also prepared for use in Himarra. The first set, issued on 10 February 1914, depicted a Byzantine eagle over skull and crossbones. A blue oval negative seal with the initials "SP" was applied as a form of endorsement by Spiro Spiromilios, the local militia commander. Cover shown above has additional 25 lepta stamp on reverse to pay the registration fee and shows receiving mark of Athens dated 7 March. A new set with the portrait of King Constantine of Greece was printed in Athens and issued in Himarra in October 1914. Genuine stamps of these issues properly used in Epirus are exceedingly elusive.

GREEK OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

Fearing that the Central Powers posed a threat to Albania, the Allies requested the Greeks to move back into North Epirus as a buffer zone against a potential Austro-Hungarian invasion. This second Greek occupation lasted from late 1914 into the fall of 1916, when the Greek troops were replaced with French and Italian forces.

Argirokastro
20 November 1914

Delvinon
8 March 1916



georges zangin
18 kneeland

Boston Mass St.
U. S. A.

Overprints for "Northern Epirus" on the New Greece definitives were introduced on 8 December 1914 in the principal towns.

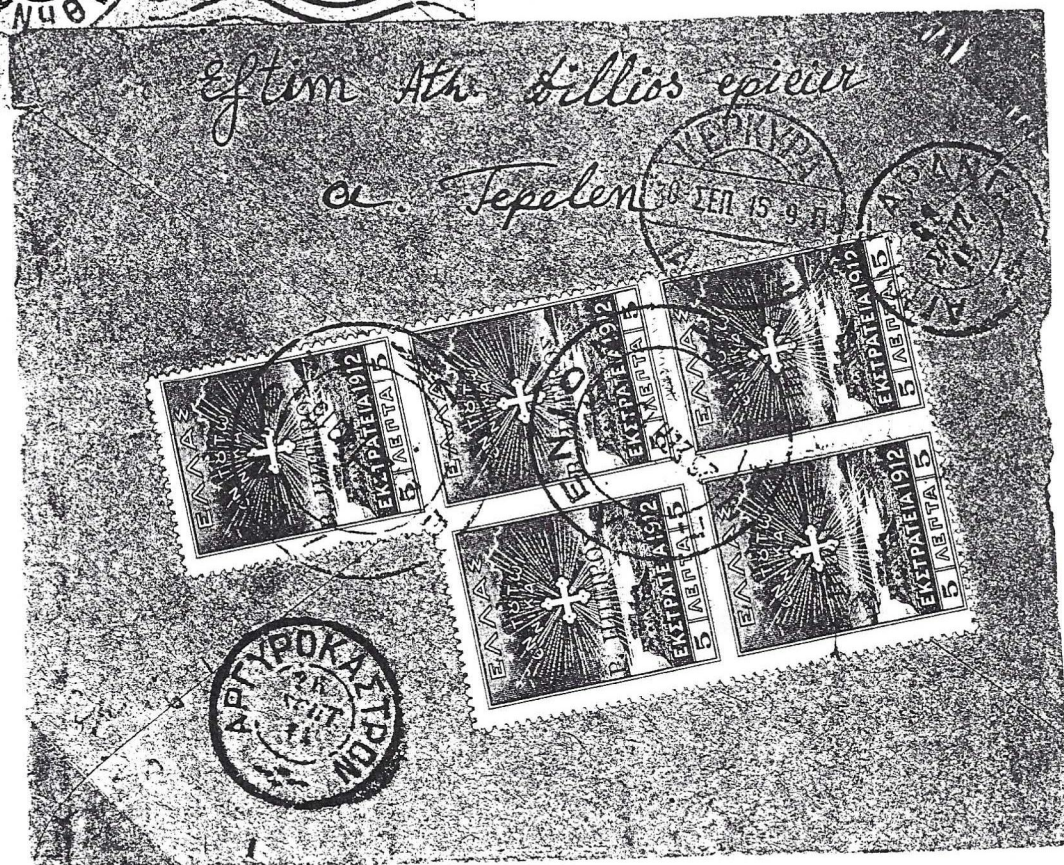
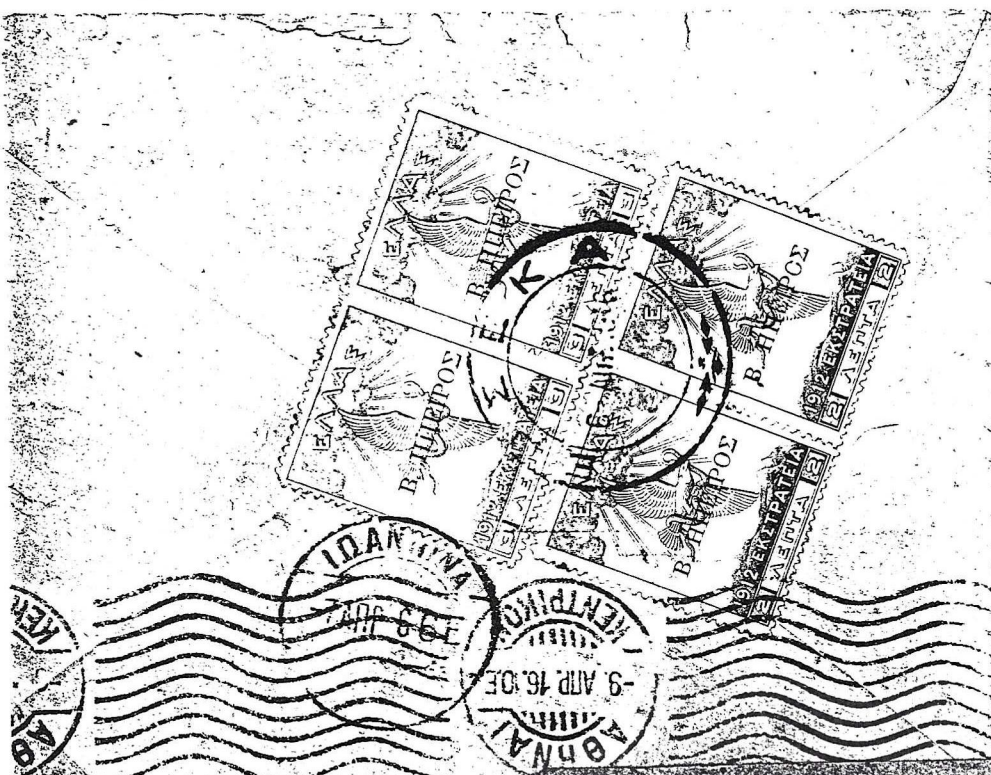
GREEK OCCUPATION
World War I

Erseka
6 April 1916

Koritsa
20 November 1915

Premeti
31 May 1915

Tepeleni
25 September 1915



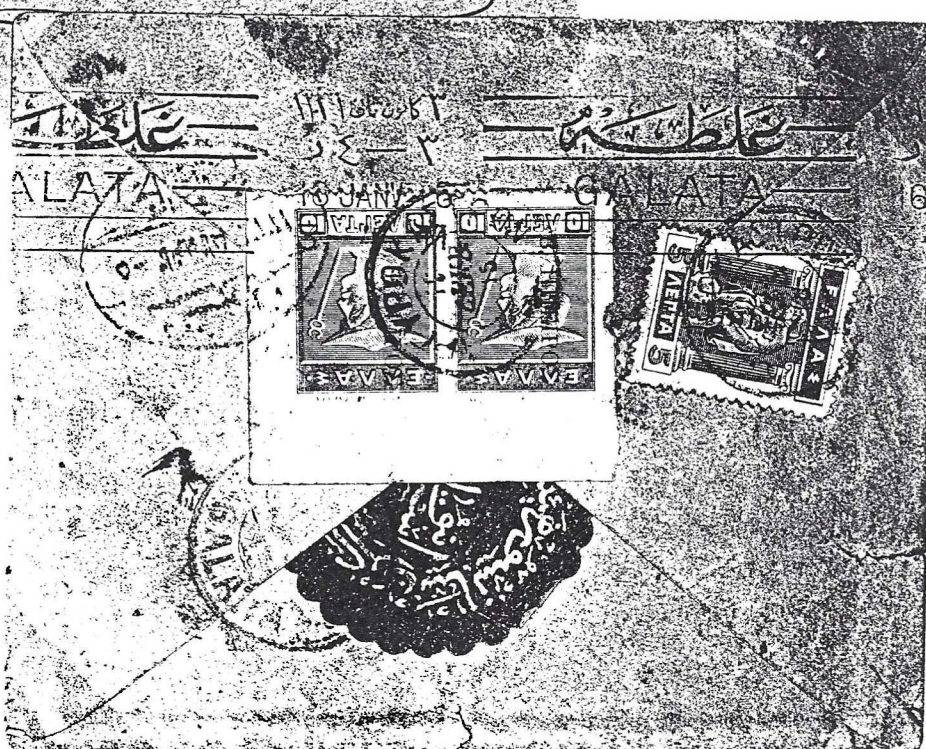
Additional examples of "Northern Epirus" overprints used during the second Greek occupation.

GREEK OCCUPATION
World War I

Agios Saranda
21 February 1916

Argirokastro
16 December 1915

Himarra
15 March 1916

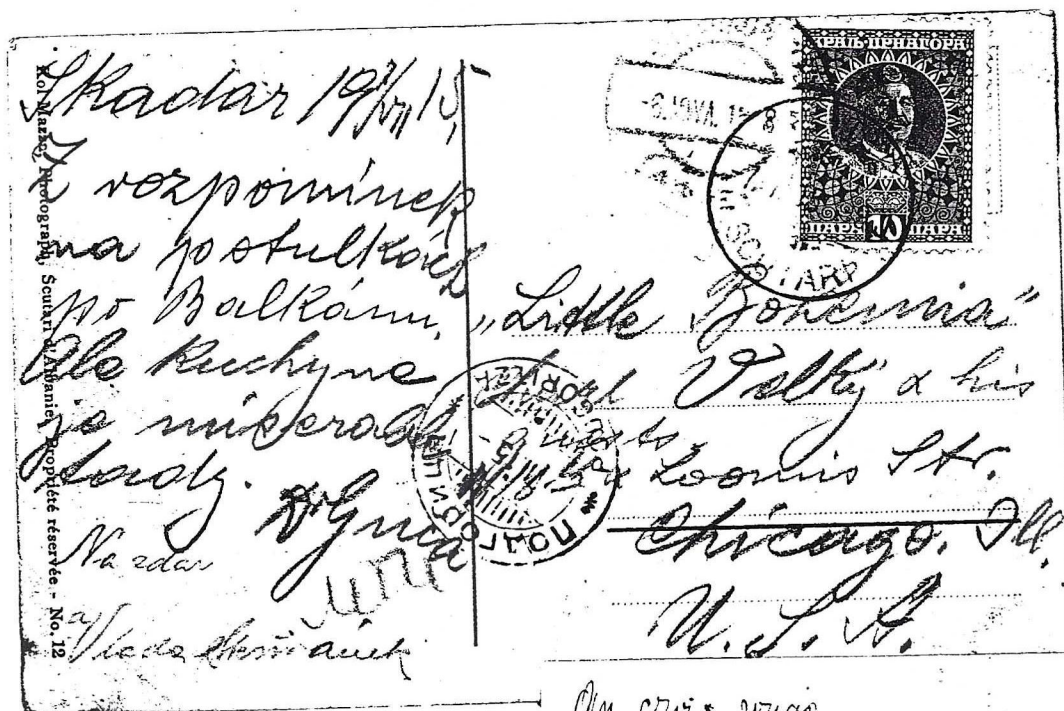


In late 1915 and early 1916, a further set was distributed in Northern Epirus, consisting of overprints on the current Greek definitives. This issue was used until the final withdrawal of the Greek forces later in the year.

MONTENEGRIN OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

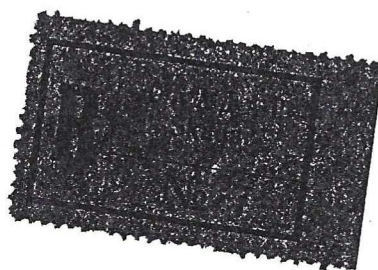
As in the Balkan War, on 11 June 1915 Montenegrin troops invaded Albania and occupied Scutari, the main city in the northern part of the country. However, on 23 January 1916 Austro-Hungarian forces took the city, thus ending the second Montenegrin occupation.

Scutari
7 July 1915
7 January 1916



Om cruz wage
internationale
Bern
Suisse
Via Italia

Mara Sr. Paunovic ca
Nitsch - Nis^r
Sr. Savelec Gubija / br. 10



Above examples show the use of the bilingual Montenegrin postmark for Scutari during the occupation period. Note that the registered cover is addressed to the International Red Cross in Switzerland for forwarding to Nish in Austrian-occupied Serbia.

SERBIAN OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

When the Serbian army was defeated by the combined effort of the Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian and German forces in the 1915 campaign, it retreated across the mountains to the Adriatic Coast of Albania. Initially, mail was handled using Serbian stamps and temporary handstamps with just the name of the towns. The Allies then sent ships to evacuate the Serbs to Corfu for rest and refitting.



Tirana
September 1915

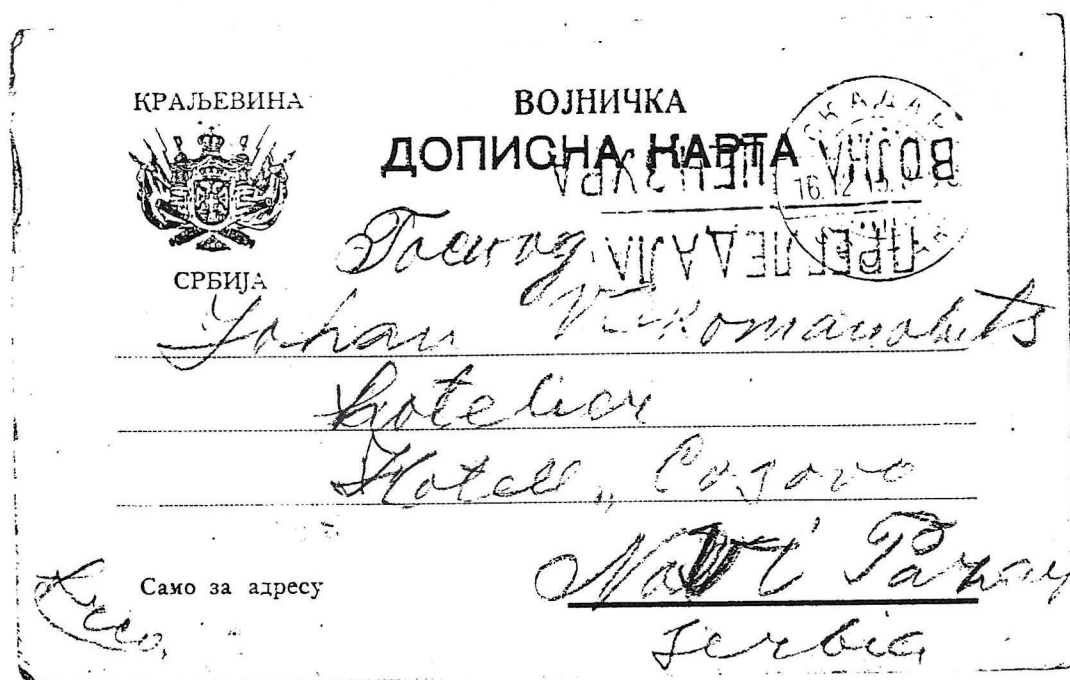
Elbasan
25 September 1915



The Tirana cover has a previously unrecorded censor marking of Qukes and a receiving postmark of Debar. The Elbasan cover has a local censor mark; it was sent to Skoplje but could not be delivered and was returned to Elbasan on 3 October.

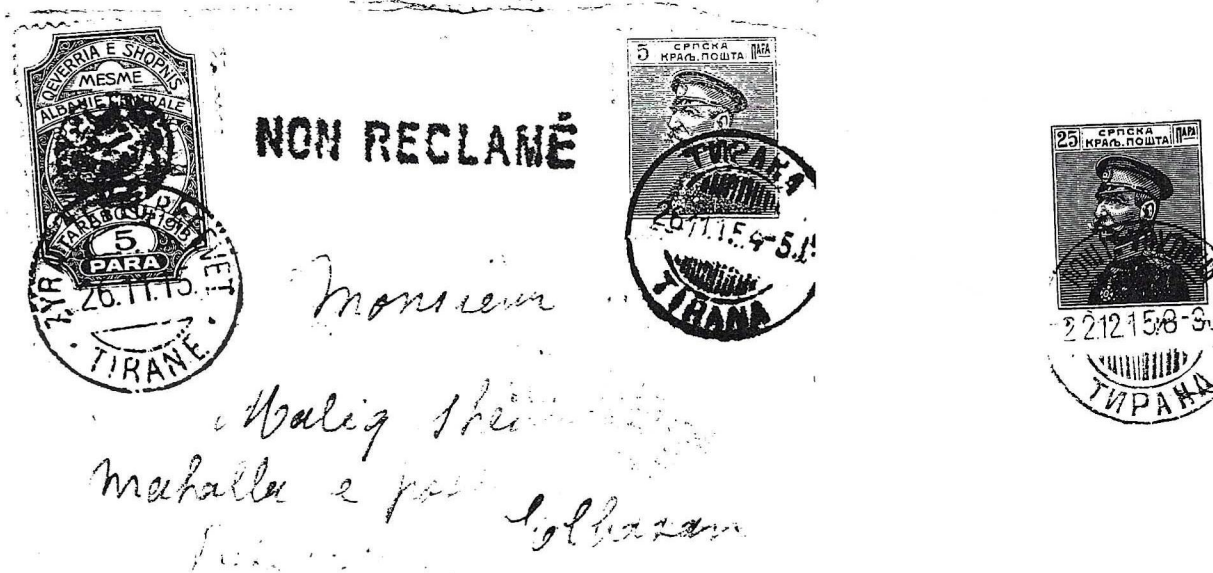
SERBIAN OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

Dated bilingual postmarks were introduced as soon as practicable in the Albanian towns occupied by the Serbs, but examples are very scarce.



Scutari
16 December 1915

Tirana
26 November 1915
22 December 1915



Above examples are of a fieldpost card mailed from Scutari to Novi Pazar and a cover from Tirana franked with both a Serbian stamp and a Central Albania regional issue. In addition, there is a Serbian stamp with an unlisted special cancel for money orders issued in Tirana.

SERBIAN OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

Pogradec
19 November 1915

Elbasan
9 October 1915
4 December 1915

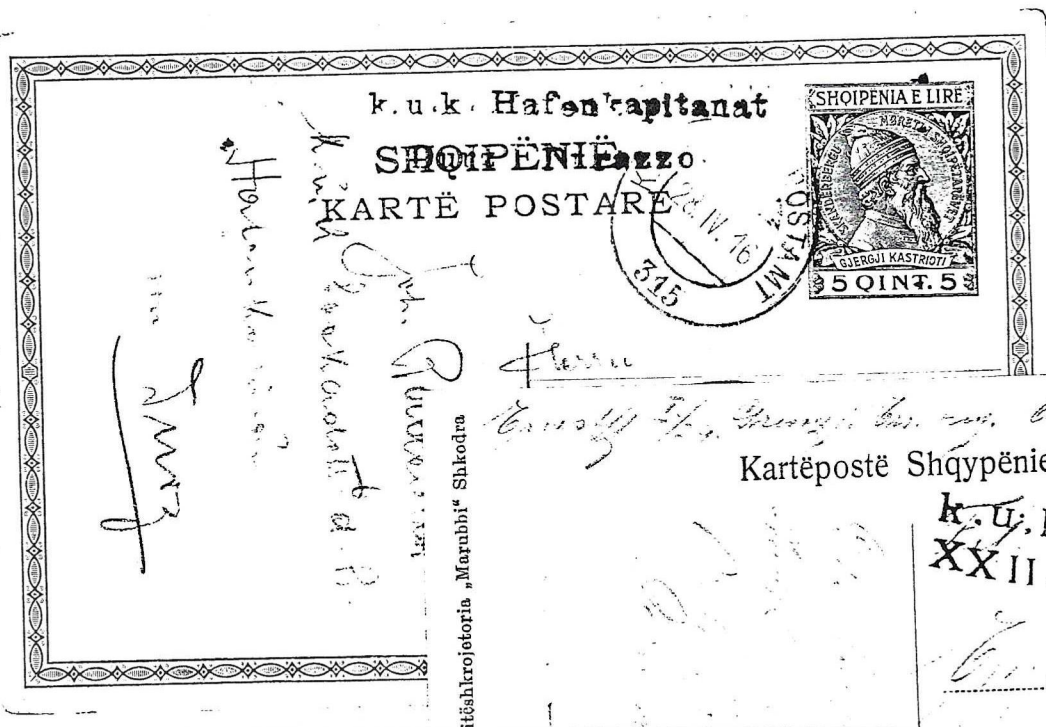
Cukas
8 October 1915



Any Serbian postmarks from Albania are scarce, but those from the smaller towns are exceptionally so. (Certificate from Dr. Velickovic states that the Pogradec post office only functioned for several weeks.) Cukas (Qukes) transit postmark on the reverse of the cover from Struga to Elbasan is the discovery example of this marking. It is unlisted in Rasic, and the Derocco handbook states that this post office never came into operation.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

In the fall of 1915 Austria-Hungary, with help from its Bulgarian and German allies, overran Serbia, and its forces pursued the retreating Serbs into Albania. Scutari was occupied on 23 January 1916. Eventually, the Austrians were able to occupy all of northern and central Albania, but they were blocked by the presence of French and Italian forces in the southern portion of the country. Once stabilized, the lines remained essentially unchanged for the duration of the war.



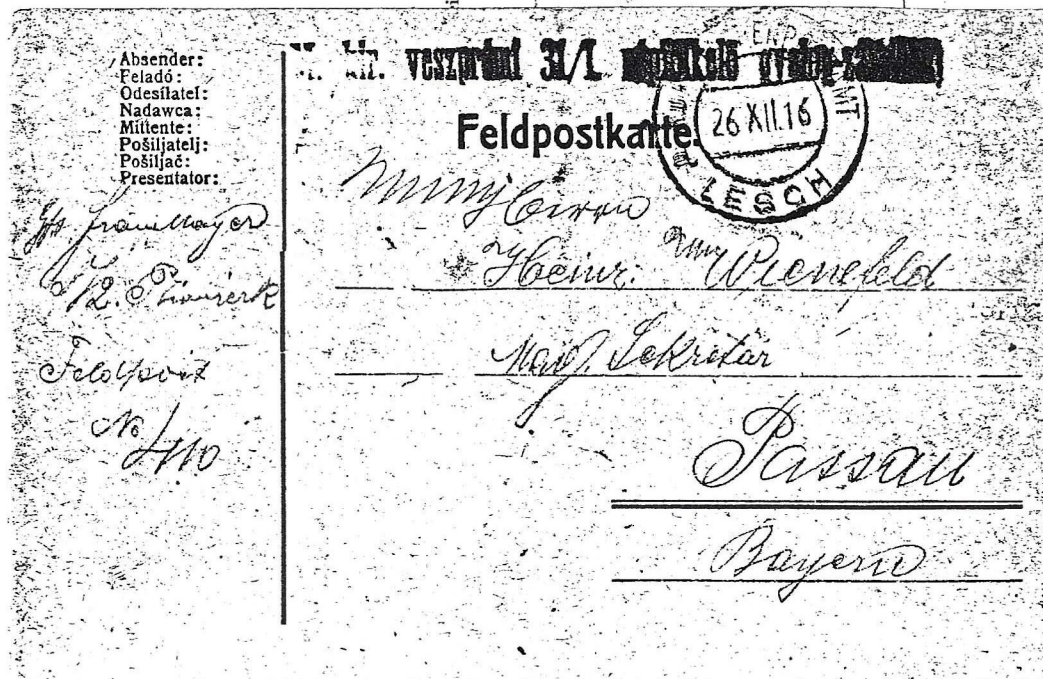
K.u.K. Feldpostamt 315
24 April 1916

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 319
4 September 1916

Lesch
26 December 1916

Kartëpostë Shqypënie

K.u.K. b. h. F. J. B. A. 7
XXII. M. r. ch. k. m. p.



Examples of fieldpost cards sent by Austrian troops in Albania. Use of the Skanderbeg postal card "remainders" provided an attractive souvenir for the soldiers as postage was not required.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I

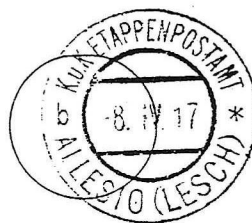
Allesio (Lesch)
8 April 1917

Alessio (Lesch)
21 June 1917

Bazar Sjak
3 July 1918

Absender:
Odeslatel:
Nadawca:
Посылающий:
Mittente:
Pošiljatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presentator:

Feldpostkarte.



K. u. k. Stationskommando Burgalet

Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte.

Absender:
Odeslatel:
Nadawca:
Посылающий:
Mittente:
Pošiljatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presentator:



Feldpostkarte.



Leib Vberpflichtwart

A. Markl

K. u. k. Feldpostamt Nr.

Hornenberg A.O.

at D. M. Allesio (Lesch)
E. B. Prag II.
Friedrich-Lanebrunn
Heiermark
tel. Ingelberg-Johann.

The Austrians opened a dozen military post (Etappenpost) offices in Albanian towns, with the first being at Scutari in September 1916. The postmarks all included the letters "K.u.K." which stood for the German words for "Imperial and Royal," denoting that in the Dual Monarchy the Emperor of Austria was also King of Hungary.

The name of Lesch was changed to Alessio in March 1917 but the new cds misspelled the name, so that a revised postmark was introduced a few months later.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I

Durz
15 November 1916

Durazzo (Durz)
13 November 1917

Dzuri
27 July 1917

gdybci Durazzo 15.11.16
Munic Durazzo
St. post Durazzo

Absender:
Odesilatel:
Nadawca:
Посылающий:
Mittente:
Pošiljatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presentator:

Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte.

K. u. k. Geb. Kan. Munitions-Kolonne 2/G. 21

Kor. Gorkov Landekha Kark
Inf. M. Kolone 1

Arthur ROUYROY
BRUXELLES

K. u. k. Eisenbahnregiment
Betriebsdetachment

Durz-Vorra-Boka.

unam Durz
unam
Hermann Lielmann

13. XI. 17
DURAZZO (DURZ)

gdybci Durazzo 15.11.16
By K. Durz
St. post Durz
Albania

Absender:
Odesilatel:
Nadawca:
Посылающий:
Mittente:
Pošiljatelj:
Pošiljač:
Presentator:

K. u. k. Bezirkskommando Durz

Feldpostkarte.

T. M. A. C. E.
Géyeggyűjtő Karosztályának
Budapest
VII Csányi n. 12.

Vien VIII
ungarn 70

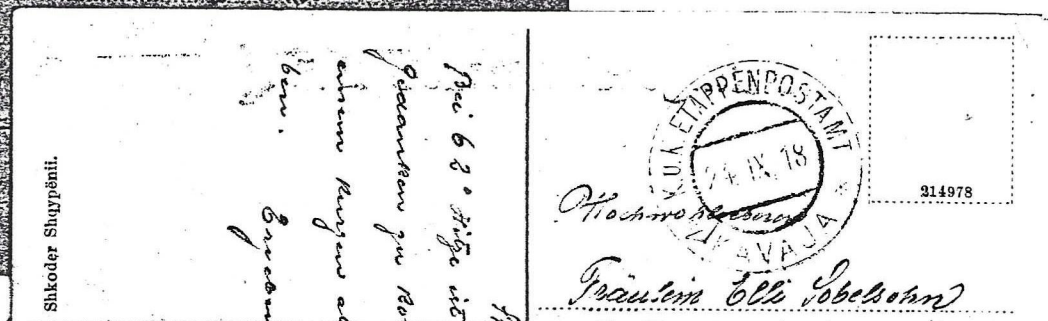
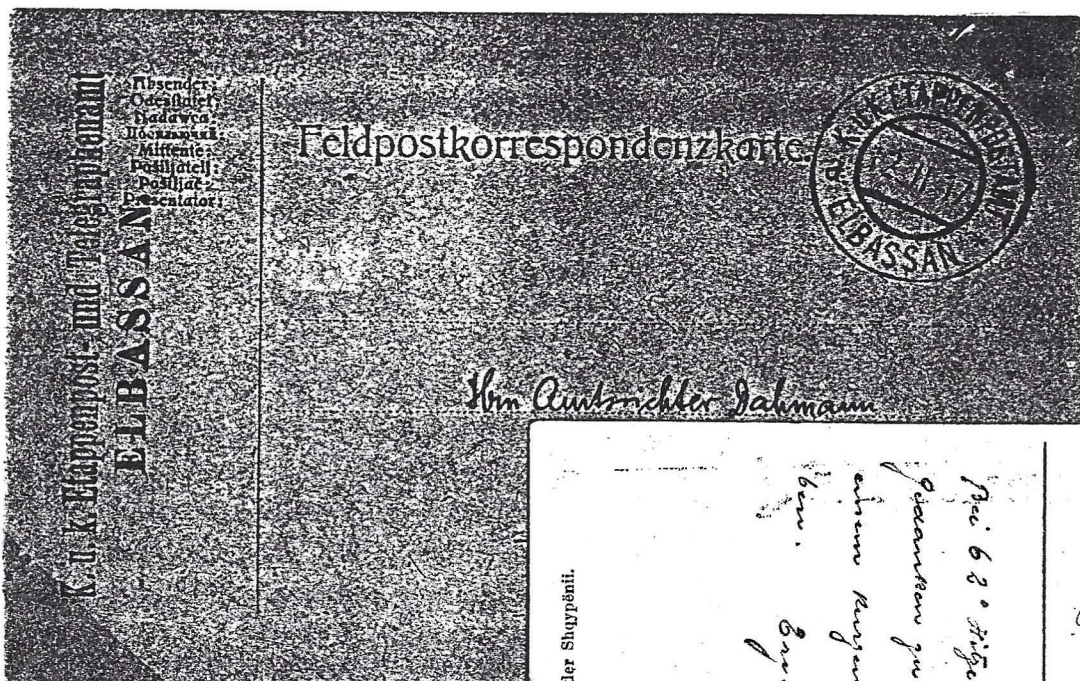
The initial postmark for Durazzo used the Albanian spelling of Durz when this office opened in November 1916. However, in April 1917 a new cds was introduced with "Durazzo" as well in order to reduce confusion.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I

Elbassan
12 February 1917

Kavaja
24 September 1918

Kula Lums
22 October 1916




FELDHILFS- u. LABESTATION
der oester. Gesellschaft vom Roten Kreuze
An der Geldverlagerung

R. 238 SZ.



Wien I.
Markt 5

die K. u. k. Kriegsrechnungs-Abteilung des
Kriegs-Ministeriums

Wien II

Burggasse 16

Gingeschrieben!

The Kavaja Etappenpost office opened in November 1917. Its marking is one of the most elusive ones.