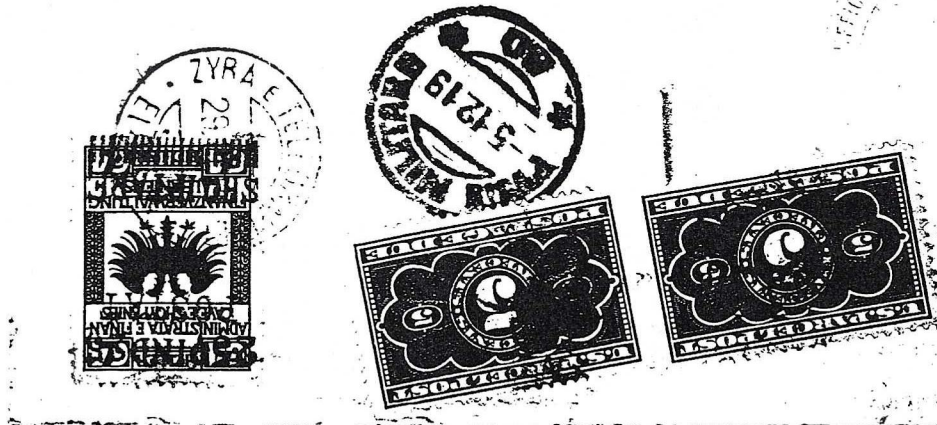


PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

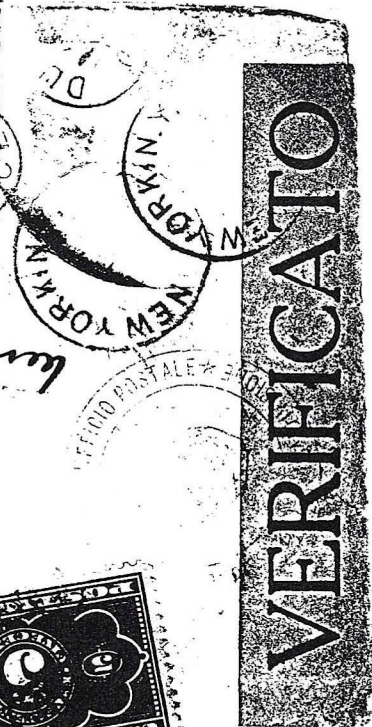
Elbasan
29 November 1919

Lushne
1 January 1920



kurir Bleueh R. de
814 - 58 in Shop

Barometts

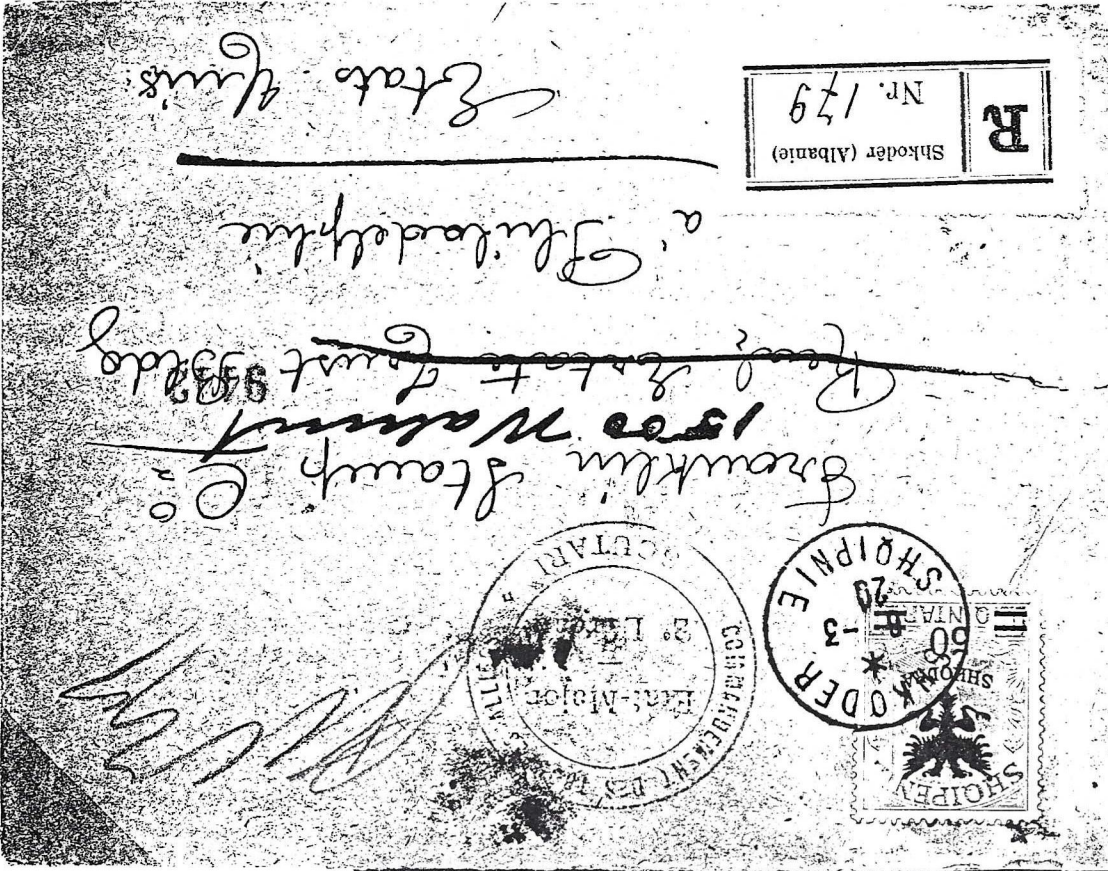
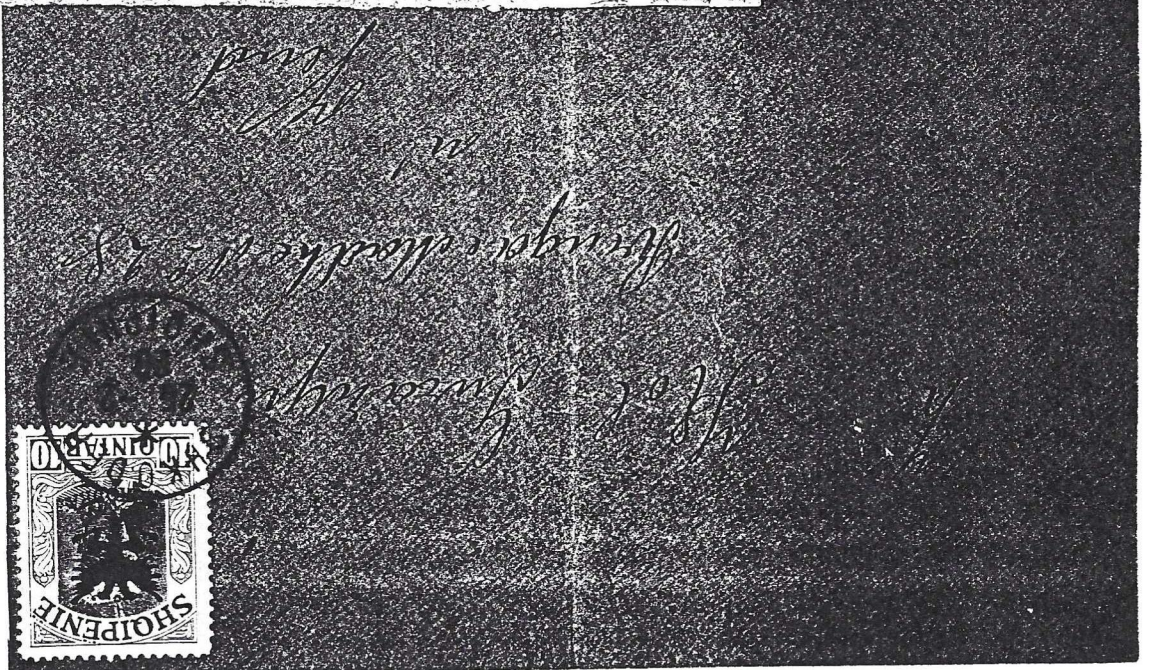


Moore & Co. Belmonte
Sydney - Australia

Unusual usages of provisional overprints. Upper cover to California was double weight but underpaid, so 10 cents postage due was assessed. Lower cover was philatelically franked with the complete set of first provisionals and addressed to Australia.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

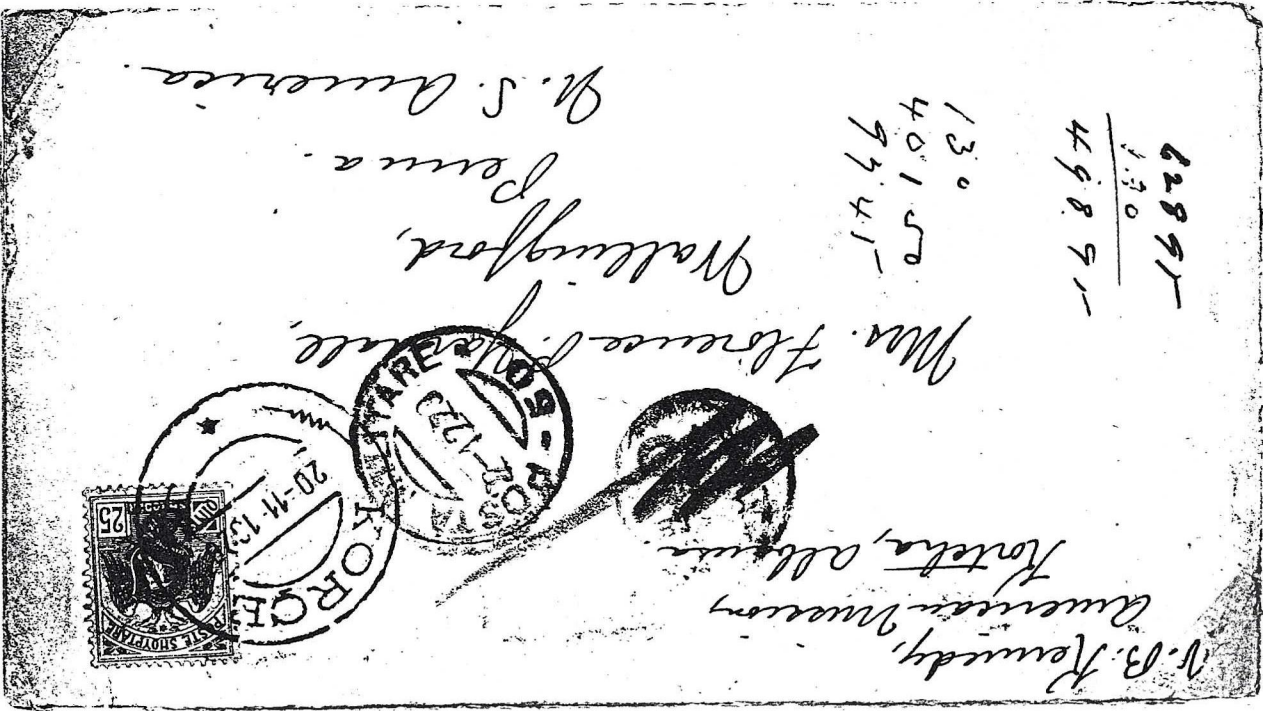
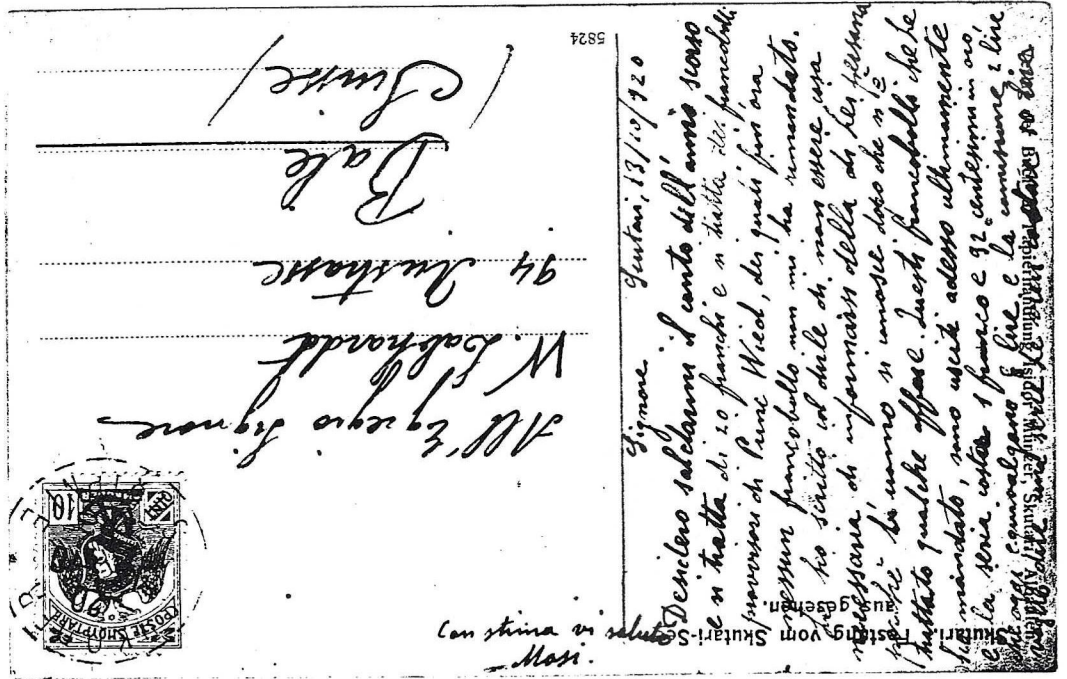
Shkoder
25 February 1920
6 March 1920



The third and final set of postwar provisionals was issued on 16 February 1920. These were overprints on the unissued Prince William stamps from 1914. Some values were also surcharged to enable the postal authorities to provide all of the necessary denominations.

Shkoder
13 October 1920

Korce
20 November 1920



The French military authorities had ordered a set of six definitive stamps depicting Skanderbeg that they planned to issue for use in North Albania. However, the troops were withdrawn before the stamps arrived from Paris. When delivered, the Albanian government ordered that they be overprinted with a posthorn control marking to obliterate the wording "Shkoder" at the bottom of the stamps and placed them on sale on 1 April 1920.

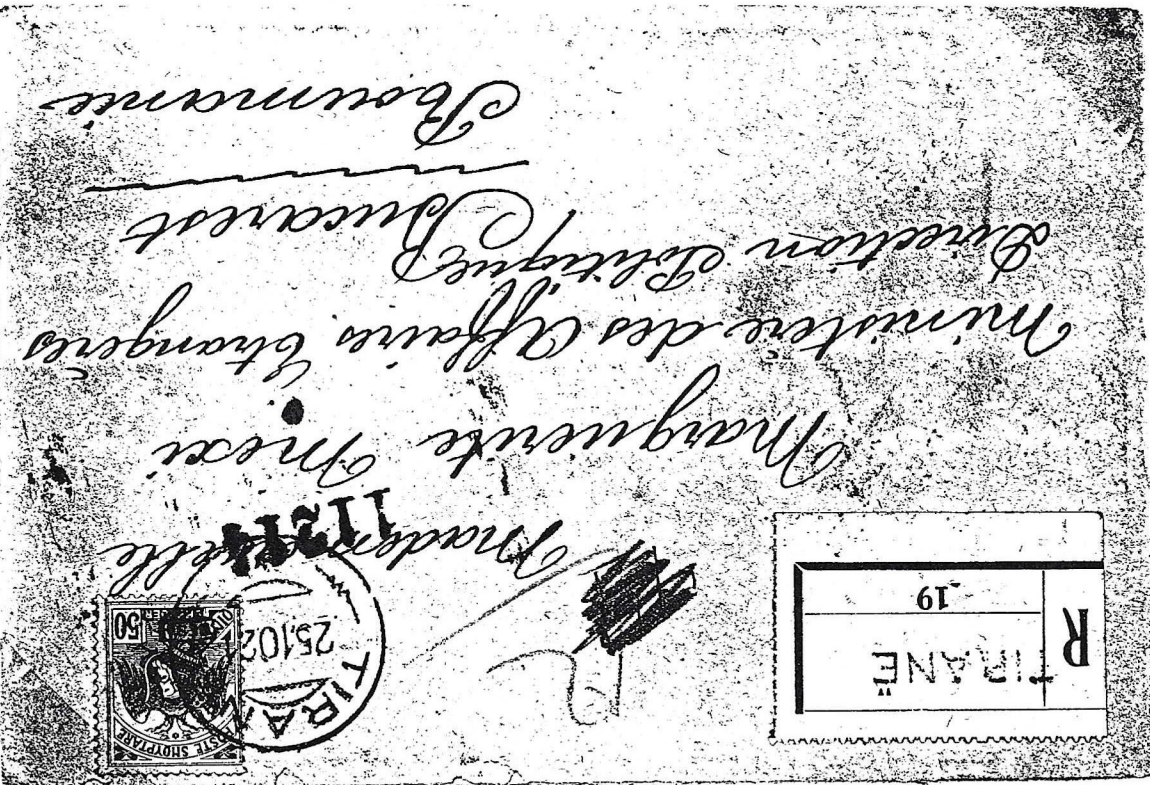
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

Shkoder
19 June 1922
Tirana
25 October 1921



Mr. Ambros KELLY
Field Director, Junior American Red Cross

TIRANA.



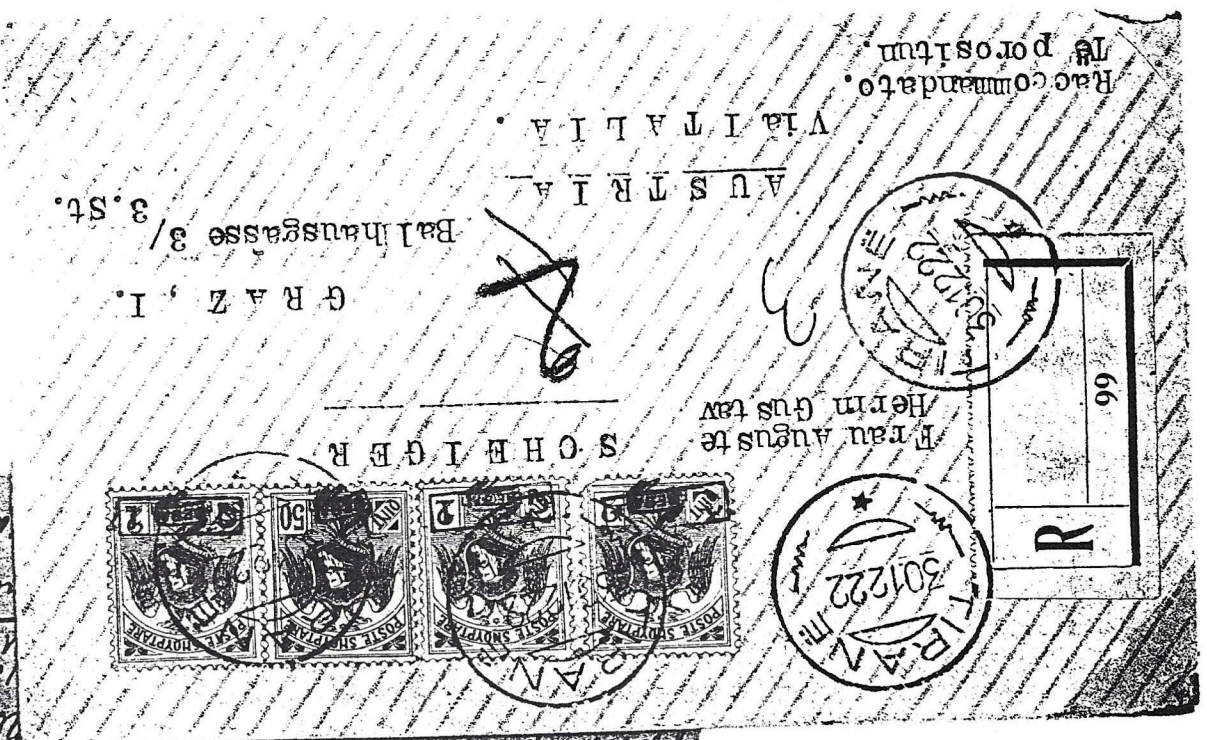
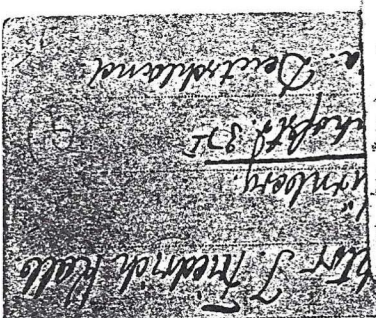
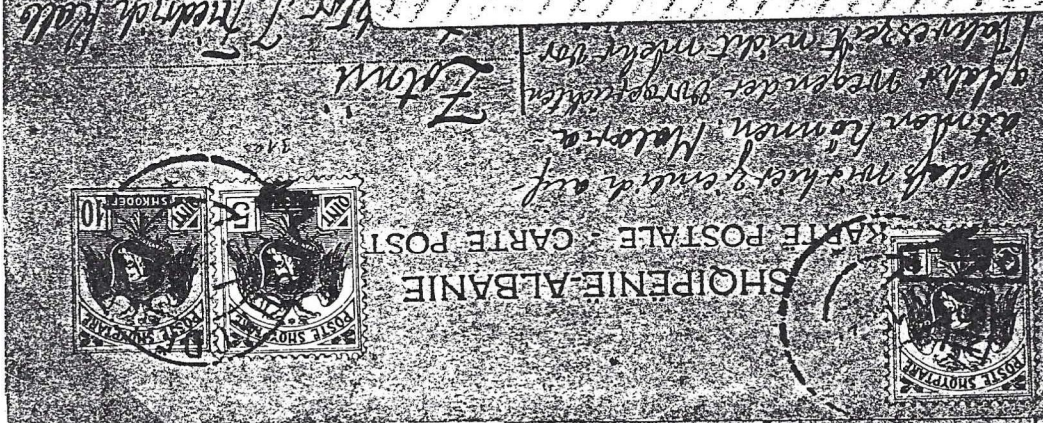
In April 1921, there was a new overprint of "Besà" (meaning amnesty for rebel groups) applied in place of the posthorn. The upper cover has 2 copies of the 5 qint. value on a cover to the Field Director of the American Red Cross in Tirana. Lower cover shows use of a 50 qint. value of this issue on an international registered cover to the Romanian Foreign Ministry in Bucharest.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

Gjinokaster
11 February 1922

Shkoder
15 October 1922

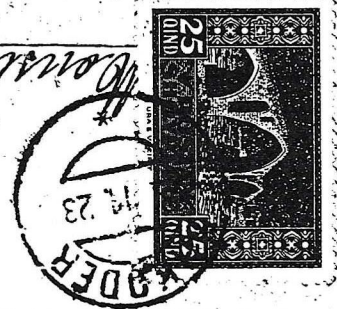
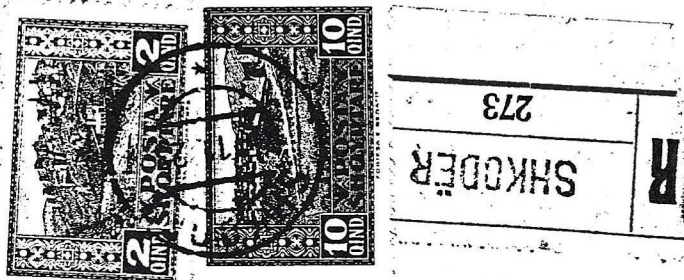
Tirane
30 December 1922



Postal cards were also printed in the Skanderbeg design. However, these were not overprinted but used in conjunction with the "Besa" stamps. Due to a reduction in the postal rate for newspapers, there a need developed for 1 qint. stamps. As a result, some of the 2 qint. stamps were surcharged with "Q 1" in a rectangular box and issued in October 1922.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

Shkodër
25 November 1923
Jergucat
18 January 1924



*Stathari Shkodër
Hajgeni White House 32.*

*Provisional Government
New Shkodër*



*Mister
Alexandros M. Papadopoulos
P.O. Box 175
Clinton Mass
U.S. America*

At long last, in January 1923, a new 7-value pictorial set prepared at the Austrian government printing works in Vienna was placed on sale. Ordered by the appropriate postal authorities, these can be considered the first truly Albanian stamps of the postwar era. Upper cover shows registration to Lucerne, Switzerland. Lower cover is an example of the postmark from a village so small that it had not been previously noted by exhibitor.

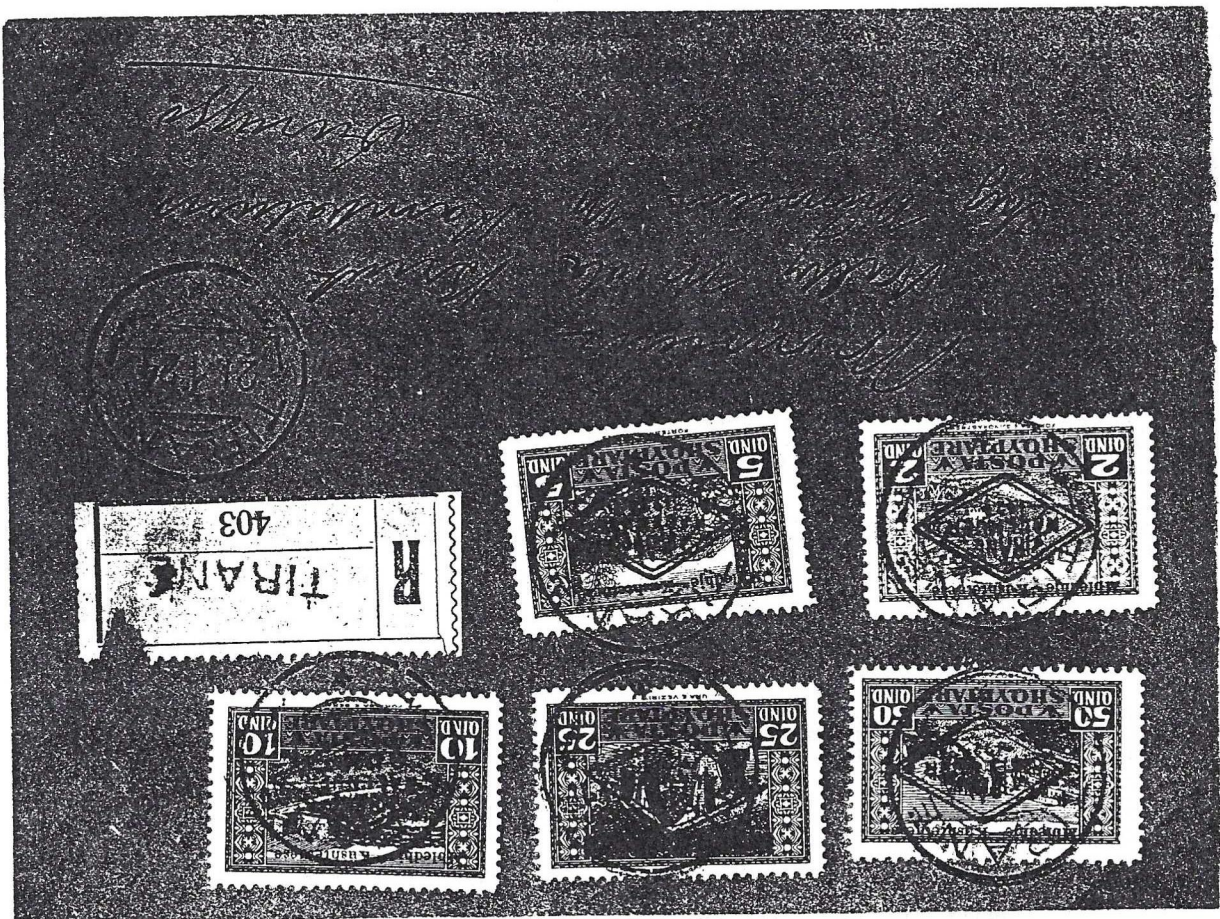
Tirane
17 May 1925



Two copies of the 50 gind. pictorials (with added 25 and 50 gind. values on the reverse) on an insured value declared (for 193 Italian lire) letter from Tirana to Vienna. Backstamped for transit at Bari and Tarvisio, Italy. An extraordinary usage of these stamps.

The high values of the pictorial series are very difficult to find properly used on cover. This example shows three copies of the 2 franga stamp plus a 50 qind. on a parcel address card to Michigan. Transit markings of Brindisi, Italy and Chiasso, Switzerland.

Mod. 58

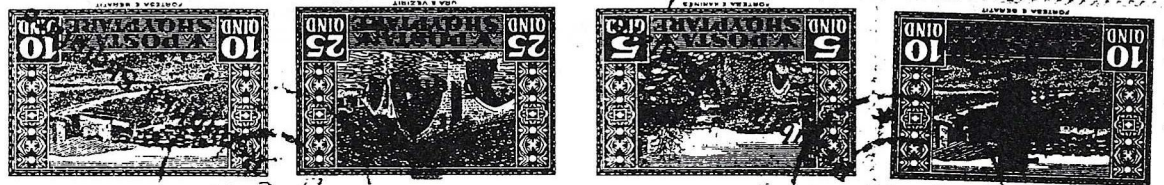


The pictorial set became raw material for overprinting quite quickly. Initially, 3,500 sets of five values were issued to commemorate the opening of the National Assembly. The literature says that they were only on sale from 21 to 31 January 1924, which accounts for the difficulty of finding them on cover.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

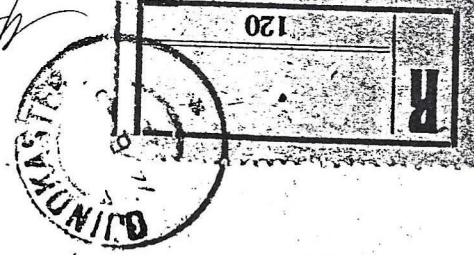
J. Tommasini, professeur au collège de Calvi (Corse) - France

Reçu en double



50210

Monsieur Charles Adenot
11 rue de la Poste

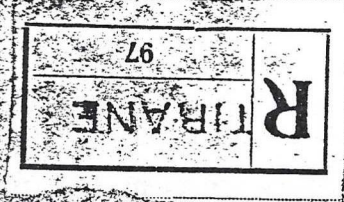


1/20
REGISTRE



Herrn

Gustav Schneider



U.S.I.R.I.A.

Batignolles 8/8.

The second overprinted series was issued in November 1924 to raise funds for the Albanian Red Cross. Four values were overprinted and surcharged with an additional 5 gind. for the benefit of the charity.

Gjinkaster
22 June 1925
Tirane
6 February 1925

REPUBLIC

A measure of stability was achieved in Albania following a coup d'etat in which Ahmed Zogu forcefully displaced his political rivals on 24 December 1924. This action was confirmed by the constituent assembly, which declared the country a republic on 21 January 1925, with Zogu as President. However, Zogu decided that he would rather be a monarch and, on 1 September 1928, he was proclaimed King Zog I.

Durres
15 March 1925



On 5 March 1925, the Albanian post office belatedly issued a set of overprints on the pictorial issue to commemorate the "Triumph of Legitimacy," which referred to the Zogu coup of the previous November. One source states that 40,000 sets were prepared and that the issue was on sale for only ten days.

REPUBLIC

Tirane
11 April 1925



Another belated set of overprints was issued on 11 April 1925 to honor the decision of the constituent assembly on 21 January 1925 to create a republic. No information has been found as to how many of these stamps were prepared or how long they were on sale. However, it can be noted that covers franked with them are scarce.

Tirane
11 August 1925



A monopoly of internal air routes was granted to the Adria Aero-Lloyd company (a predecessor of Lufthansa) on 2 November 1924, prior to the Zogu coup. A set of airmail stamps was ordered from the German government printing works in Berlin but not issued until air service was started on 30 May 1925. At that time, approximately 20,000 sets were issued -- with substantial quantities being retained and subsequently overprinted.

REPUBLIC

Shkoder
25 June 1928



Some 22,000 sets of the remainders of the airmail stamps were overprinted "Rep. Albania" and placed on sale on 18 January 1927. This cover, addressed to the Post Office in Tirana, was flown from Scutari and backstamped for receipt the same day.

Tirane
18 November 1926

