

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Odrin
6 July 1913

Tscham Korija
15 July 1913



After the Turks were defeated, the Allies fell out over the division of the spoils of war. Frustrated by the decision of the European Powers to create an independent Albania, Serbia sought to annex Kichevo, Ochrid and Prilep, which had been originally assigned to Bulgaria. The Bulgarians objected and on 28 June 1913 attacked the Serbian forces, thus touching off the Second Balkan War. The Greeks joined the Serbs in the West, while Romanian forces crossed the Danube and invaded Bulgaria from the North and the Turks went on the offensive from the East. This combination made short work of the Bulgarians, and an armistice was signed on 30 July.

Mail posted during the Second Balkan War is unusually elusive. Cover above has the cachet of the "Odrin Military Headquarters" on reverse. Post card shows unusual lightning bolt unit marking of the Telegraph Corps.

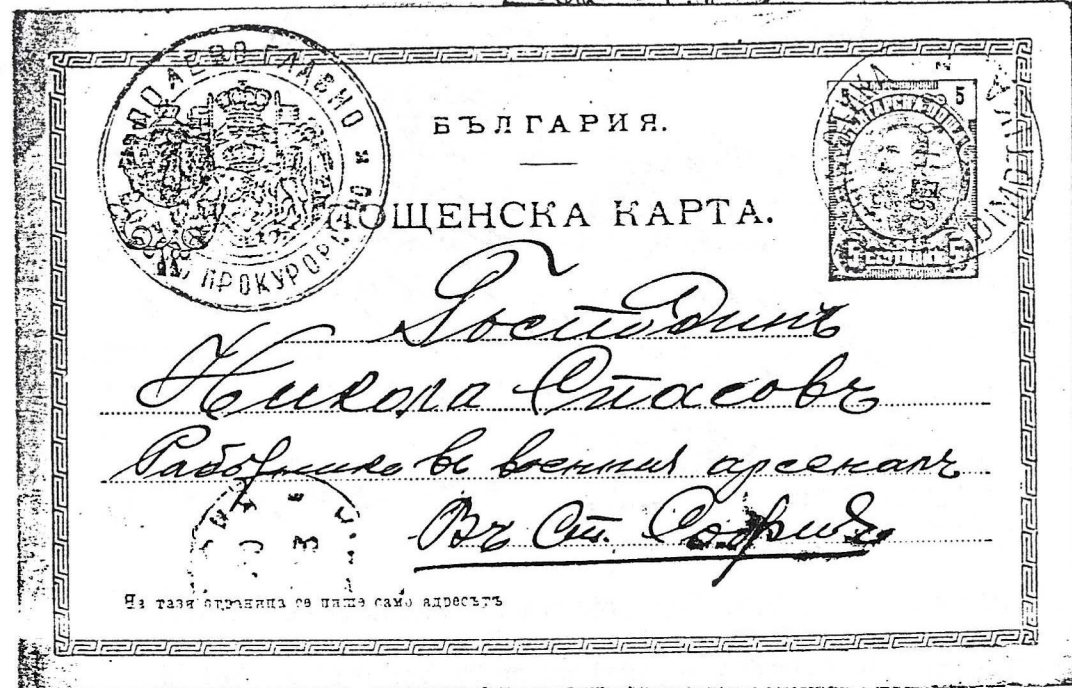
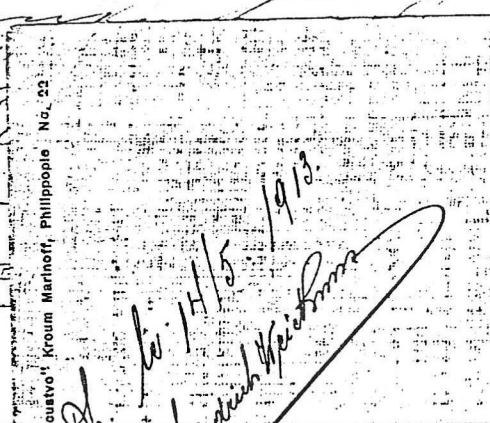
BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Alpolou
18 January 1913

Dede-Aghatche
14 May 1913

Dimotika
9 February 1913

Drama
3 May 1913



After the Bulgarians advanced into Macedonia and Thrace, new bilingual Cyrillic/Latin postmarks were introduced in the liberated towns. The postal card from Alpolou is one of only two or three examples known from this small village; its postmark is considered one of the rarest from this period. Drama was taken over by Greece at the end of the Second Balkan War. Dede-Aghatche (today Alexandroupolis) and Dimotika (now Didymotichon) were annexed by Greece in 1919 following the end of World War I.

BULGARIA

Balkan Wars

Gumurdjina
11 November 1912
24 December 1912

Kavala
11 June 1913

[illegible]

Gumurdjina (now Komotini) and Kavala were a major towns in Western Thrace, now a part of Greece. From 1912 to 1919 they were part of "New Bulgaria." Examples from Gumurdjina show use of old Ottoman postmark and new bilingual Cyrillic/Latin cds on money order form for 9 leva to be paid to addressee in Sofia. Military card from Kavala has proper unit marking to assure free franking.

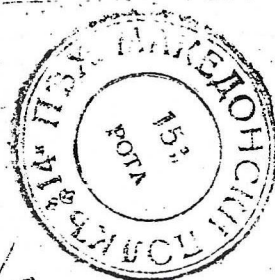
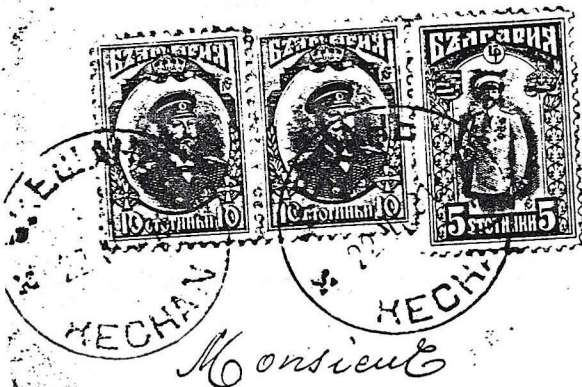
BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Kechane
22 June 1913

Koukouch
5 April 1913

Lozengrad
21 December 1912

*правителство
Календар*



Господин

Василь Крушев работи



Каназирев

София



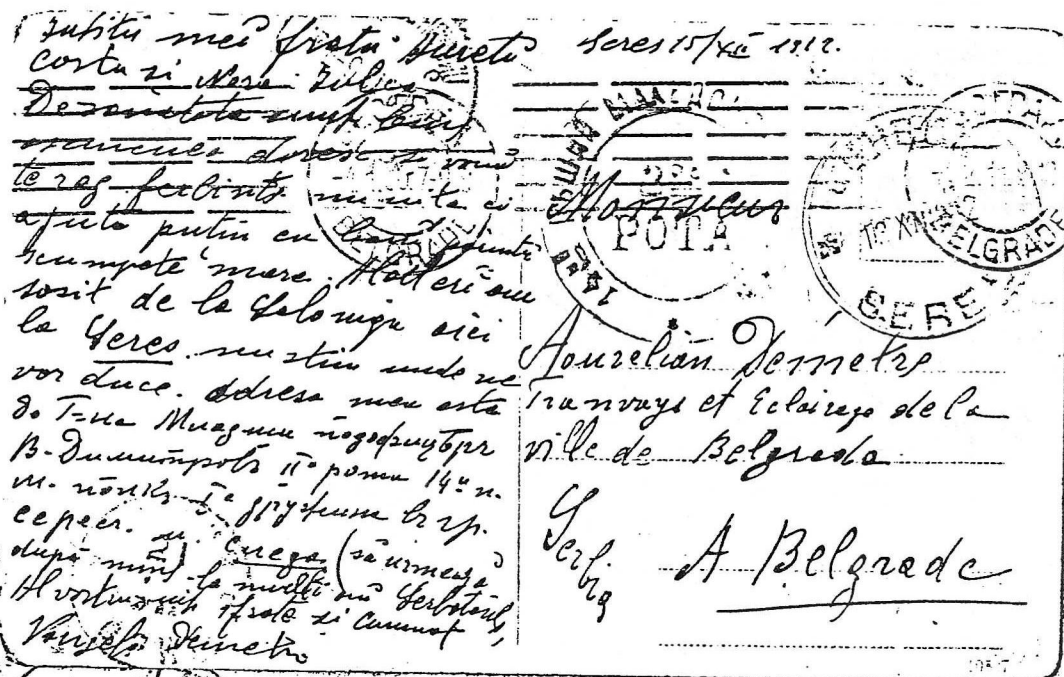
Large piece of cover from Kechane shows unit marking of military administrator of the town. Military cover has very scarce postmark of Koukouch and unit marking of the 14th Macedonian Regiment. Lozengrad postal card properly paid to foreign destination.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Saray
18 January 1913

Seres
13 December 1912

Sketcha
2 February 1913



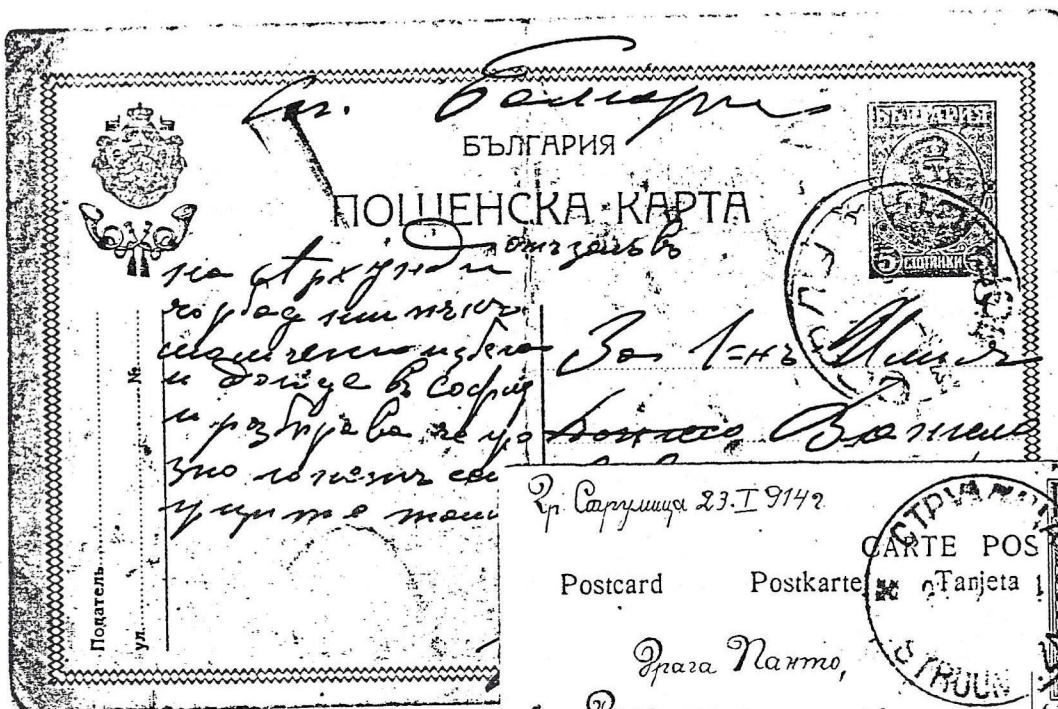
Additional town cancellations from New Bulgaria. Two of the items are unfranked military mail with unit cachets; postal card is from Sketcha, the initial Bulgarian name which was later changed to Xanthi (became Xanthi in Greece since 1919). Cover from Saray has the marking of the Danube Division Field Hospital. Upper card has unit marking of the 14th Macedonian Regiment and, showing the close relations between the Allies (then) was transmitted to Belgrade free of postage.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Soflou
3 January 1913

Stroumitza
23 January 1914

Tchorlou
21 March 1913



г. Сириница 23. I 1914

Postcard

Postkarte

CARTE POST

Tanjeta

Cartolina postale

Драга Пакто,

Sofia
Iscritto

Въло мълтах, нафвах се
частично да помогне и да се
обадя отъ другад-по близу, но
виждаше още стиге въ Сириница
макаръ вѣка тоца да отахвалъ
да донесе прѣдписане за прѣдписане
и тѣх ми - Ако се даваха нѣма по



Госпожица

Пактмейка Стоянова

Учителка

1. 94

Троянско



БЪЛГАРИЯ.

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА.

Господин

Педеричинъ А. Вуровъ

2 прохъ икарски попки

5 див и зид.

Странго

На тази страница се пише само адресътъ.

и сѣдѣла

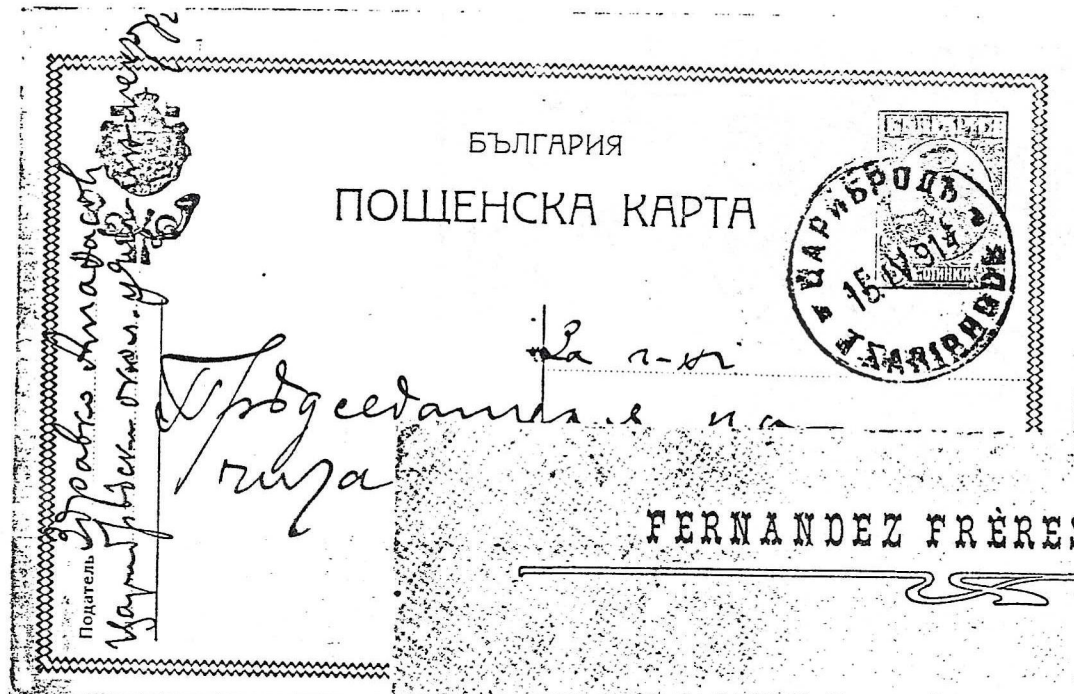
Soflou was the Bulgarian name for the town called Souflion, which has been part of Greece since 1919. Stroumitza was in that part of Bulgaria which was assigned to Yugoslavia following World War I and today is in the Republic of Macedonia.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Tsaribrode
15 April 1914

Xanthi
8 October 1915

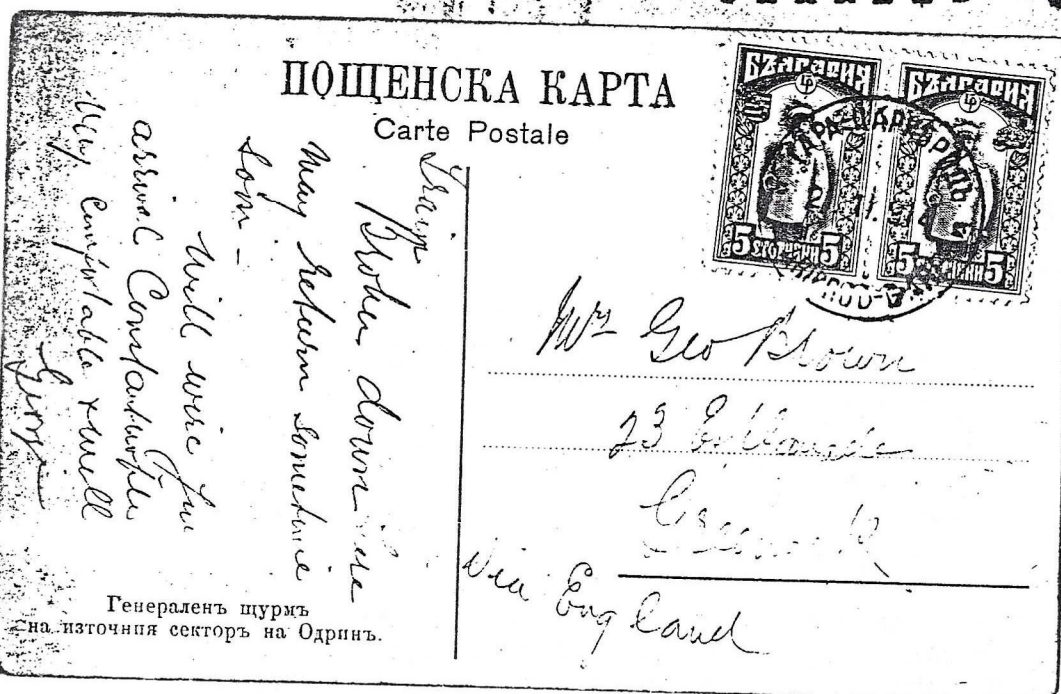
Zaribrod-Gare
21 February 1914



FERNANDEZ FRÈRES — XANTHI

MONSIEUR

CHARLES SPIERER



CAVALLA

Additional items from towns in New Bulgaria. Included are both spellings of Tsaribrode, with the lower card showing cds of the Railway Station; this town was in that part of Bulgaria which was assigned to Yugoslavia in 1919 and is now in the Republic of Macedonia.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Odrin
17 May 1913
5 July 1913

BANQUE DE SALONIQUE

Recommandée

Banque de Salonique

BULGARIE

R

I Евангелска болница — Одрин —



До Командира

на 10^а Болничарска Држка

3120



Служба.

The strongest Turkish resistance was put up at Adrianople (called Edirne today), the main city of Eastern Thrace. The Bulgarians were required to conduct an extended siege and did not succeed in forcing its surrender until 26 March 1913. The occupation period was, thus relatively short, as the Turks recaptured the city on 22 July 1913.

Above examples show commercial registered mail and military letter with unit cachet of the 1st Bulgarian military hospital in Odrin.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Demir Tache
3 May 1913

Kechan
12 April 1913

Malgara
20 April 1913

Rodosto
19 December 1912

Изд. Модерно Искуство, София.

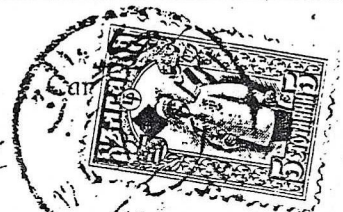
Прѣпечатването забранено.
Фот. Д. Карастояновъ.



CARTE POSTALE
Postcard Postkarte Tarjeta postale

Postcard Postkarte Tarjeta postale

мо саръа
Хусти
ади
вотъ
вотъ



Географ. Училище

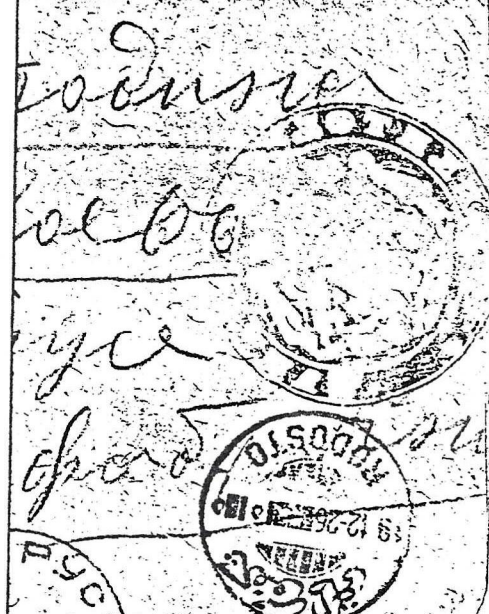


ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА.

До вѣнника
Георги Др. Крѣвѣвѣ

Врѣ. Самонковѣ.

На тази страница се пише само адресътъ.



Several additional towns in Eastern Thrace were occupied briefly by Bulgaria during and immediately following the First Balkan War. However, by participating in the Second Balkan War, the Ottomans managed to recover part of their territory (up to the present-day boundaries of European Turkey). In fact, the old Ottoman postmarks remained in use at a number of the post offices throughout the Bulgarian occupation.

Kara-Agatch
25 May 1913

Strandja
21 February 1913

Tcherhezkeu
23 March 1913

25/5/1913 KARASATCH "TURKEY" RR

Tafel Opus 25/1-9/347.

ПѢЩЕНСКА КАРТА.

CARTE-POSTALE

51. полкъ при Юурушъ Тене.
Das 51. Regiment bei Jurusch Tepe.

Re¹² Bolniza
VII Darsia
Uzun-Küpe

ПОЩ. КАРТА
ДЕСАНТЪ ПРИ
ШАРЪ-КЪОИ"

СТРАНОВА
21. II. 1913
СТРАНОВА

Mr F. S. Tudor

2 The Avenue

Hitchin

Amelia

Herts-

Тара Черкезкөн 124-м 918-м CART

Postcard

CARTE POSTALE

postale

Carolina p

23 IN 9

1

CHEER

of the

10170

5/24/01

11250

51-100

11

2

24244

202/10/10

usage was 1

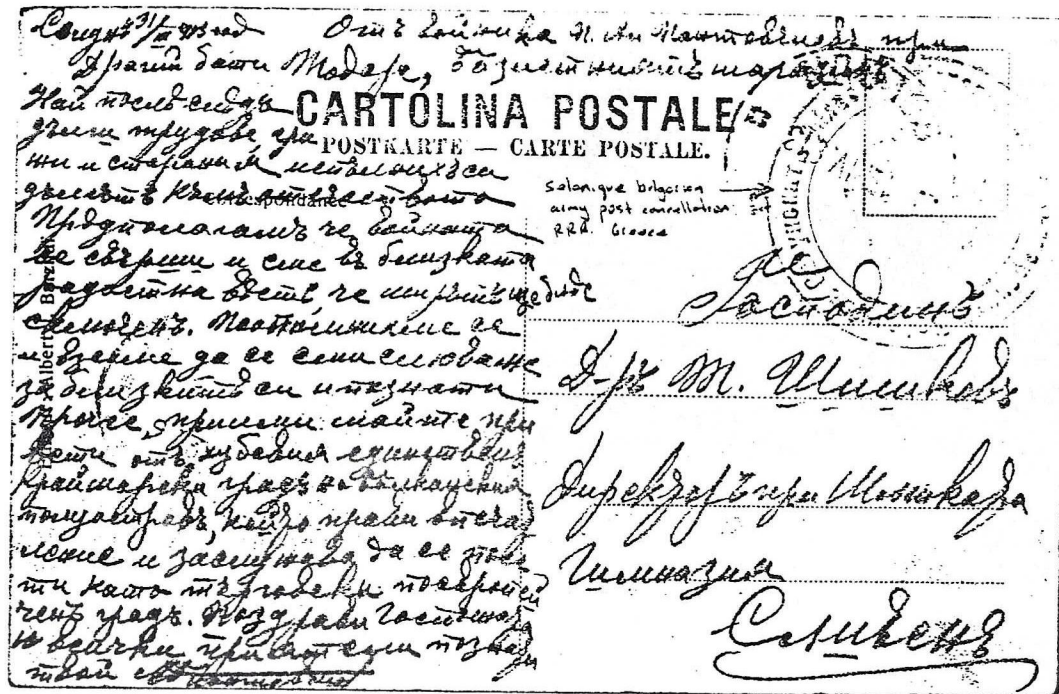
, usage was 1

Some of the towns in Eastern Thrace did receive the new bilingual Bulgarian postmarks. However, as this area was returned to Turkey under the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest signed on 10 August 1913, usage was limited and examples are particularly elusive.

BULGARIA

Balkan Wars

Soloun
31 March 1913
2 April 1913



As was the case with the Serbs, the Bulgarians also wanted Salonica but its troops arrived in the town too late to head off the Greek occupation. However, the Bulgarians did maintain a 1,300 man garrison and operated a post office there from 5 February to 30 May 1913.

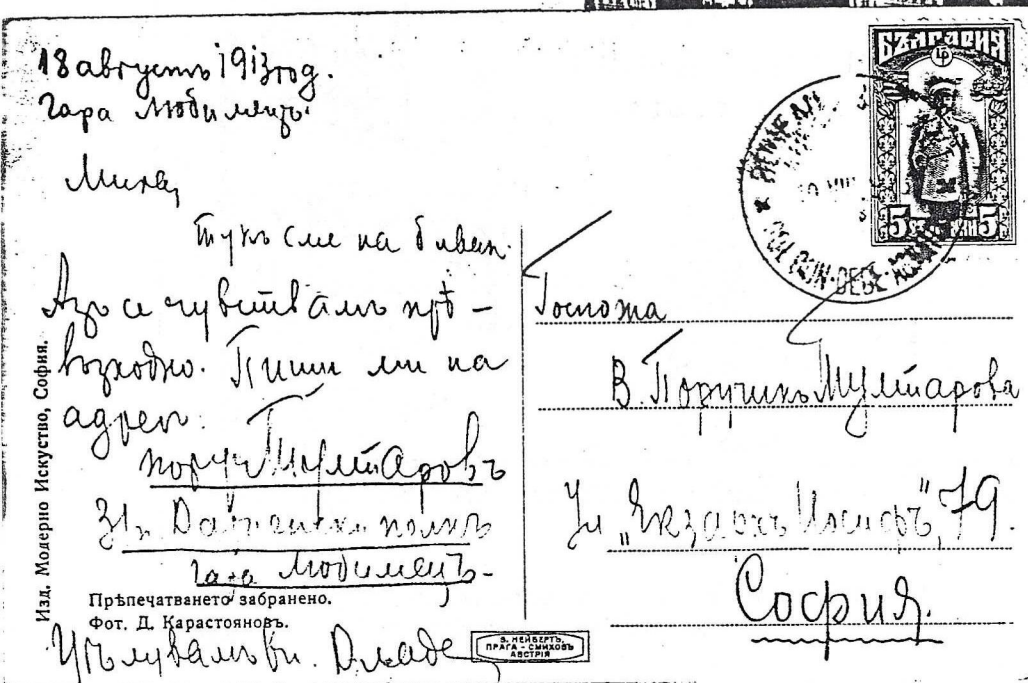
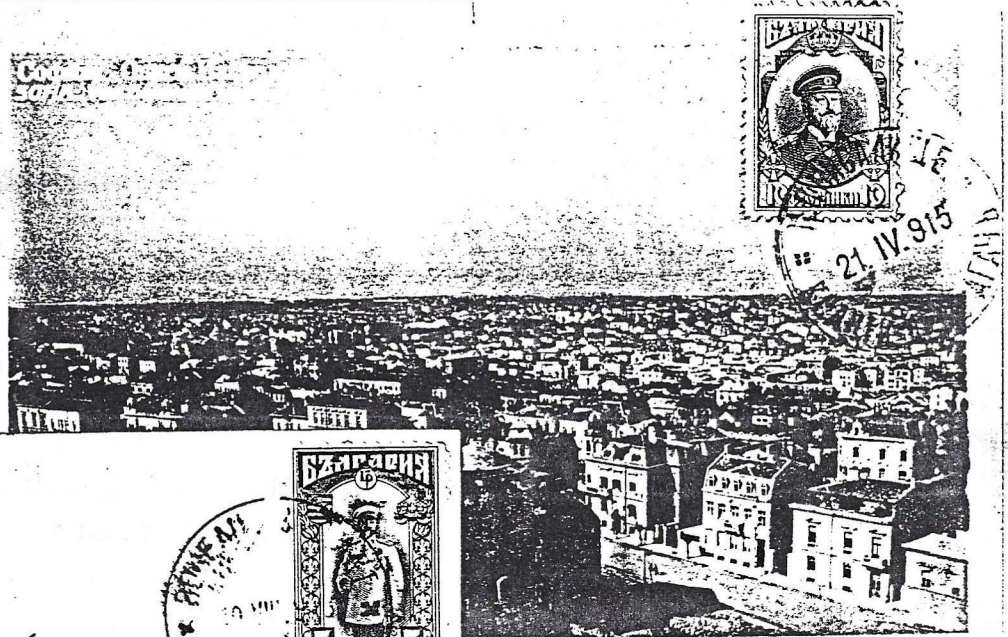
Military post card has unit cachet of the Bulgarian army post in Soloun. Bulgarian postal card to Germany uprated by 30 stotinki for registration and represents the only example of registered mail (albeit to a known philatelist) seen by exhibitor from this office.

BULGARIA
Balkan Wars

Amb. Dede-Aghatche - Xanthi
23 June 1913

Amb. Xanthi - Dede-Aghatche
21 April 1915

Amb. Soloun - Dede-Aghatche
19 August 1913

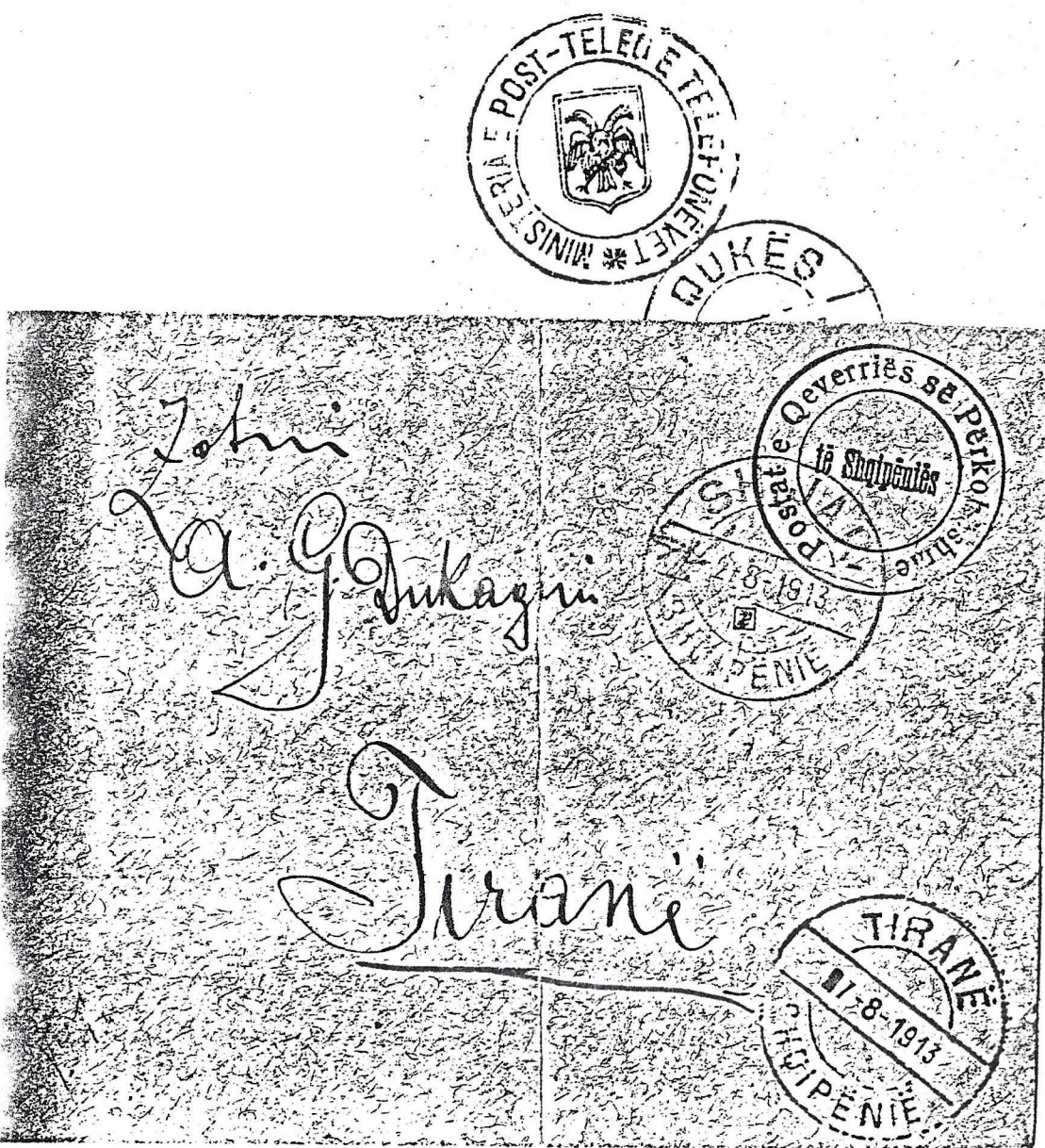


The Bulgarians took over the sections of the Ottoman Railways located in the liberated territories. The Ambulant (TPO) markings from this period are exceedingly elusive, with only a few examples known. The lower card shows the only recorded example of the cds of the branch to Salonica.

ALBANIA
Provisional Government

Qukes
4 July 1913

Shijak
2 August 1913

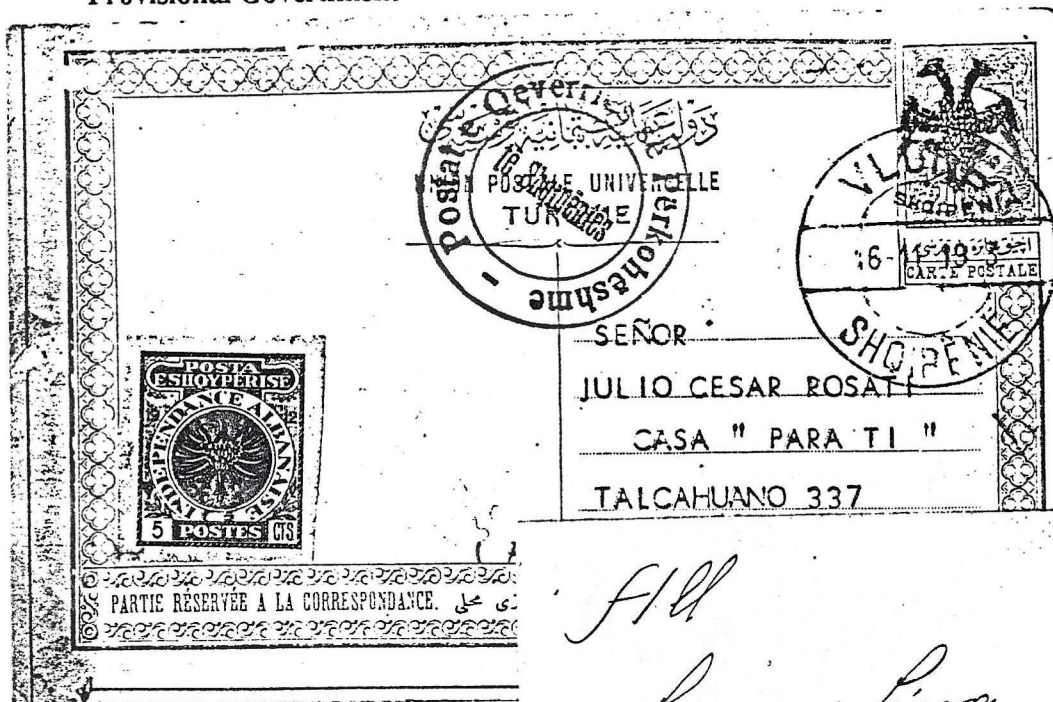


Alarmed by the sudden collapse of the Turkish army and the advance of the Serbian and Montenegrin forces into northern and central Albania as well as a Greek army in the south, the non-Slav and mostly Moslem inhabitants declared their independence on 28 November 1912. Conditions in Albania were chaotic 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.

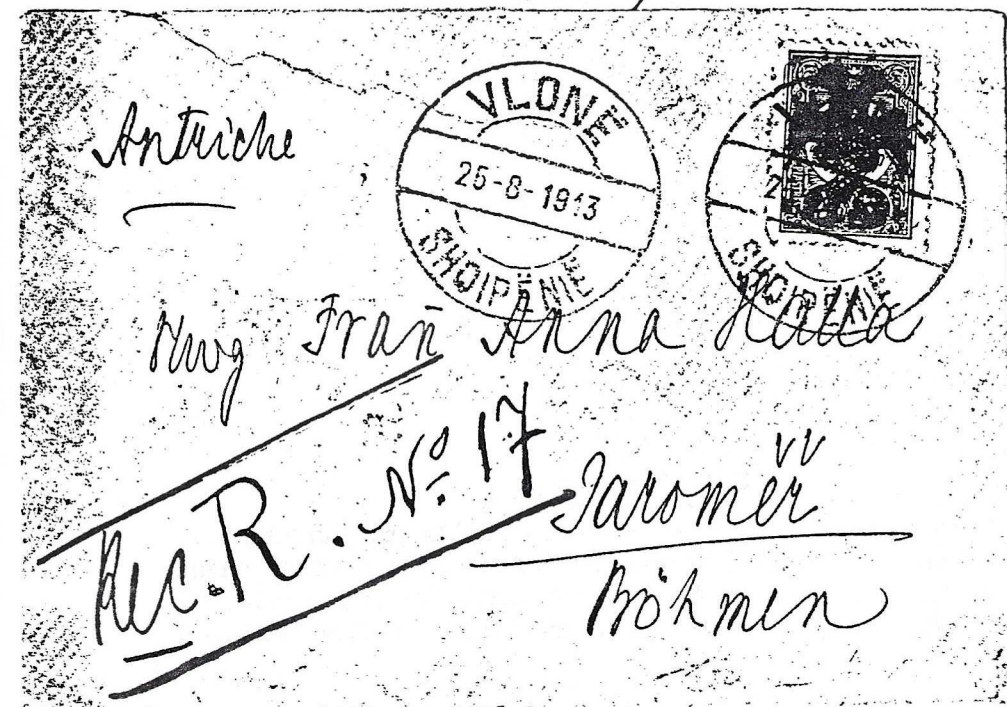
Postal service was erratic in the early period, with most international mail being handled by the Austrian and Italian offices abroad in Scutari and Valona. The first "stamp" issue on 5 May 1913 consisted of a circular handstamp reading "Ministry of PT&T" and double-headed eagle (valued at 1 grosh) that was impressed on 2,232 envelopes. A second issue of 1,643 pieces was made on 1 June but the wording was changed from French to Albanian and included "of Albania" in the center instead of the eagle. Covers with these issues are very scarce.

ALBANIA
Provisional Government

Vlone
25 August 1913
10 September 1913
16 November 1913



*All
Signora Lina Plennia
presso Maria Marchesini*



istia Monte N. 101

stia



With the need for postage, the authorities decided to overprint stocks of Turkish issues found in the post offices, using the eagle design and the wording "Albania." These stamps were issued in small quantities on 16 June 1913. Above examples show 20 para postal card, 1 piaster international rate and 2 piasters international registration. Only 3,758 copies of this latter value were issued. and registered covers are very elusive.

ALBANIA
Provisional Government

Vlone
10 February 1914

Shkoder
5 February 1914



More than a year after independence, supplies of new stamps with the portrait of the Albanian national hero, Skanderbeg, arrived from the Italian government printing office in Turin and were placed on sale 1 December 1913. The public disliked the stamps, and the vast majority of available covers are philatelically franked, often with complete sets. Thus, postal card, uprated by 25 qint. for registration and 50 qint. on registered cover to Germany represent unusual usages.

ALBANIA
Principality

Vlone
10 March 1914

Shkoder
19 March 1915

SHQIPËNIË
KARTË POSTARE



Lohit

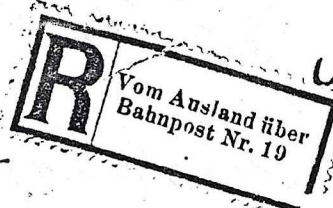
Osman Litohova

Shkoder - Bazar



Raccomandato.

Mr. Max Peters



Germania

*Bayern, Patenstempel
Cologne S/W.*

On 7 March 1914, the arrival of Prince William of Wied to serve as ruler provided the occasion for the first Albanian commemoratives, consisting of overprints on the Skanderbeg definitive stamps and postal cards.

As with the underlying issue, most of these stamps were used on philatelic covers. Thus, properly franked cover to Cologne with 75 quintar postage (double weight UPU rate plus registry fee) represents a very unusual usage.