

ALBANIA
Principality

Durres
6 April 1914

Shengjin
15 April 1914

Kol Marz, Photograph, Scutari d'Albanie. Propriété réservée - No. 7

S. Giovanni di Medua
am 16. April 1914

Sehr geehrter Herr Direktor
auf der Rückreise
von Lintan, einen
erhebenden Gruss.

H. Sauer



Herr Robert Gastner
k.k. Direktor

Boden

Tirol - Handelschule



Herrn

Josef Klecka

k.k. Rechnungsrat

Prag II - 630

K.K. Tel. Korr. Bur.

Because the Skanderbeg stamps were printed in a new currency involving quintar and francs, for which no banknotes existed, the public was very confused. Thus, on 2 April 1914 the authorities surcharged the stamps in the familiar para and grosh, producing the final stamp issue prior to the outbreak of World War I. Above examples used to Austria on post card from San Giovanni di Medua and on registered cover from Durazzo.

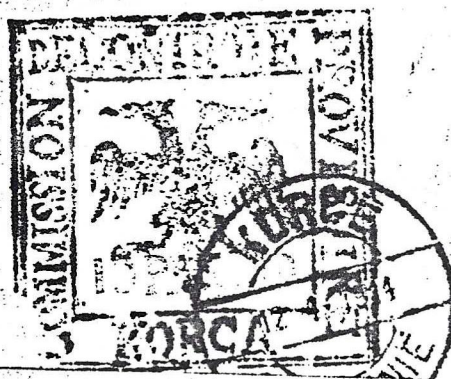
ALBANIA
Principality

Korce
19 March 1914
15 April 1914

Tepelene
7 June 1914



*el vëne
Poste K*



Defat Kanina

Vlorë

Elbasan

Considering the unsettled political situation and shortages of stamps, several local issues were purportedly used in various parts of Albania. Most of these were unofficial and some outright fantasies. However, two issues were considered sufficiently sanctioned by local authorities to warrant inclusion in specialized catalogues for the period prior to World War I. In Korce (Koritza), a total of 2,500 sets were imprinted on envelopes in violet and black and issued on 19 March 1914. In Tepelene, a 1 grosh imprinted stamp was issued on 30 May 1914.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Kozana
16 October 1912

Serfidje
21 October 1912

TELEGRAMME

تلغرافنامه

تلغرافنامه ك اخذى ساعت و دقيقه سنك مربوط مقبوضه درج اوليى خاصه دريغ
Est instamment prié d'indiquer sur le reçu l'heure de reception



Kozana
Kupior

Mex. Karyánni
30 iday Bouzou



Kupior

Mex. Karyánni
30 iday Bouzou

Admiral



Greece entered the war on 18 October 1912, and its army quickly moved north into Epirus and Macedonia against light resistance. As a result, Greek forces quickly captured captured Salonica, Prevesa, Janina and Parga.

The initial philatelic record of this advance comes in the form of covers showing unoverprinted Greek stamps and Turkish postmarks from liberated towns. (Apparently the date had not been changed in the Ottoman cds used on the upper cover so a military postmark of the 18th was added.)

GREECE
Balkan Wars

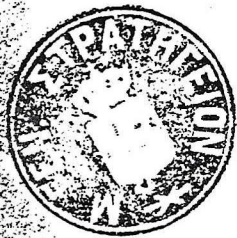
Thessaloniki
26 October 1912



The major prize for Greece was the capture of Salonica, the capital of Macedonia on 26 October 1912. In fact, the Greek army took control of the city just nine hours before the arrival of the Bulgarians. As shown, four different postal markings were provided on the first day, including a rectangular box commemorating the liberation of the city, which read simply "Greece" and the date.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Reserve Field Post Office
4 November 1912
4 November 1912
1 December 1912



Κίπια

Ευρωπαϊκή

Καπ



Κίπια

φ. Μ. Π. Π. Ο.

Λεγ. οργάνων

*Προβ. της Κίπιας
Καπ. Κιόρτζης
Ευρωπαϊκή
Καπ. Κιόρτζης*



Καπ. Κιόρτζης

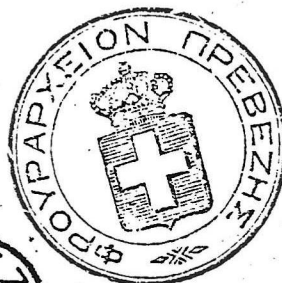
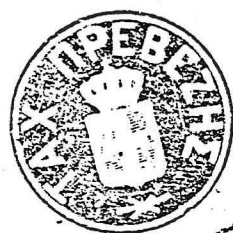
Military mail was entitled to free franking, providing that proper endorsement was provided. Above examples postmarked at Reserve FPO in the early days of the campaign. Upper cover has receiving mark of Athens on 9 November. Reverse of lower cover has divisional cachet and receiving mark of Patras of 6 December.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Prevesa
21 February 1913

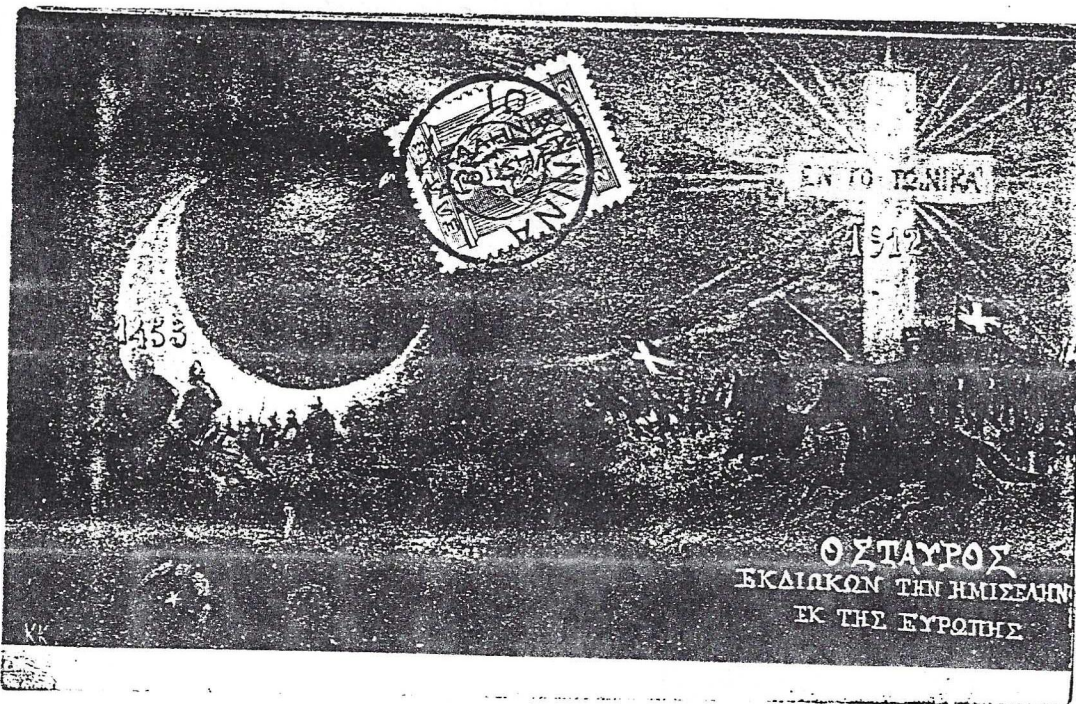
Philippias
2 February 1913

Janina
28 February 1913



Handwritten signature/initials

Handwritten mark

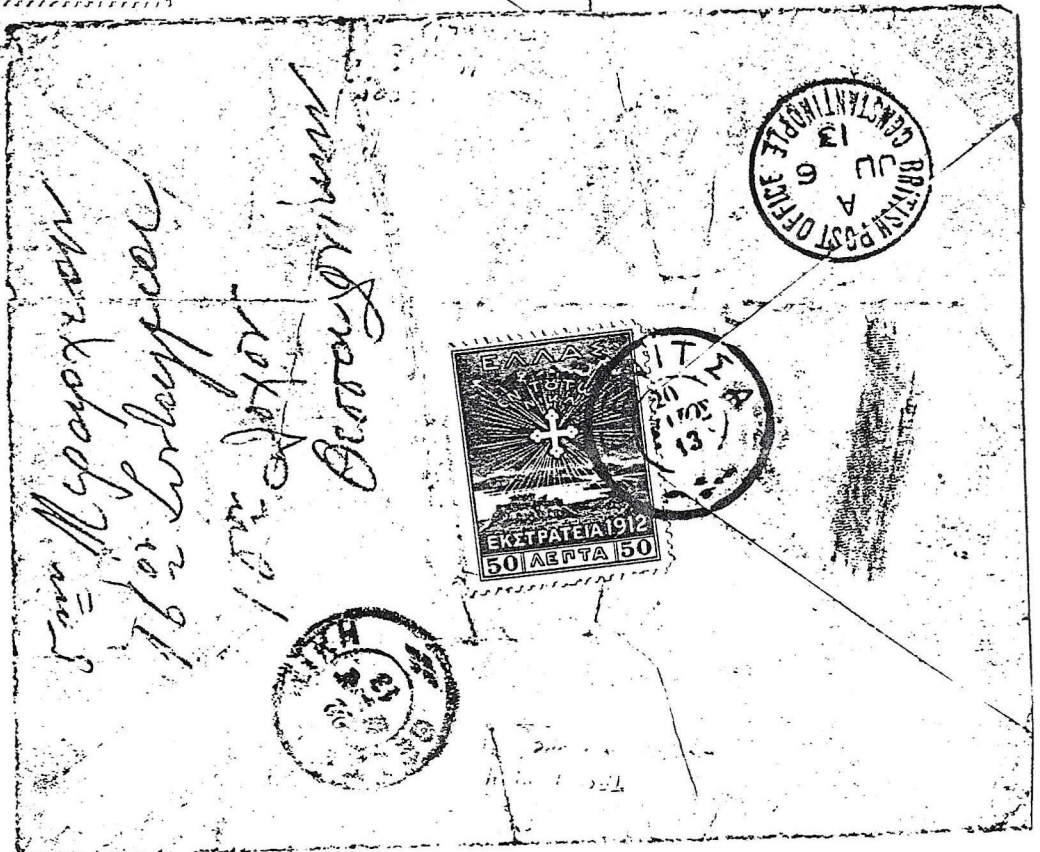
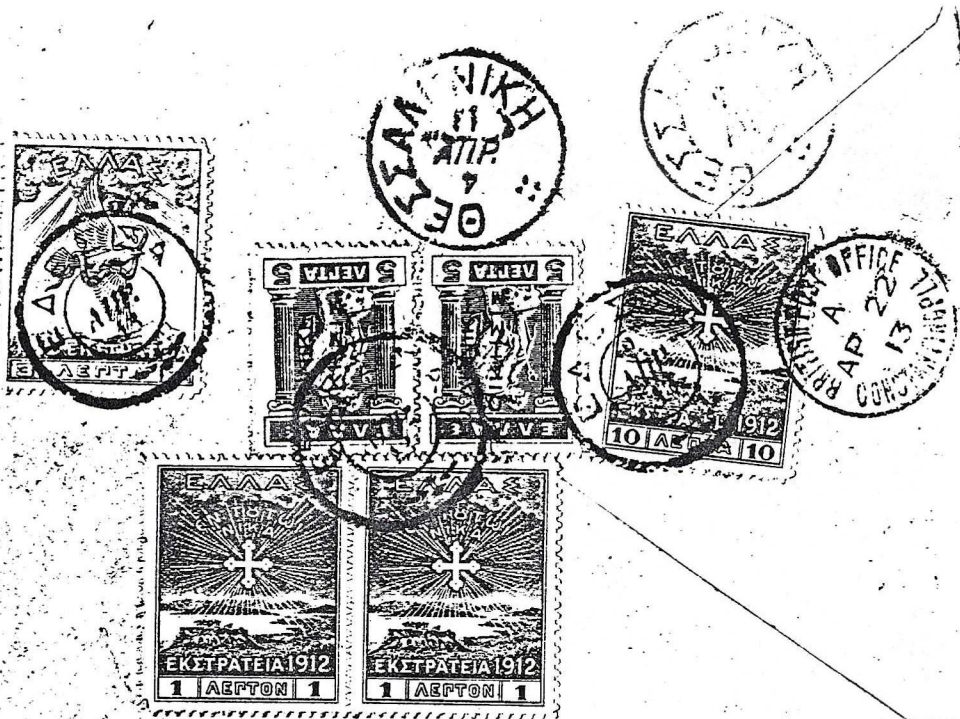


As the political situation stabilized, new steel circular datestamps were introduced with the names of the towns in Greek lettering. Examples are from the liberated area of Southern Epirus. Cover from Philippias has adjacent cds reading "Military Post Epirus" reflecting its status as the temporary HQ of the Greek army in that province.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Edessa
2 April 1913

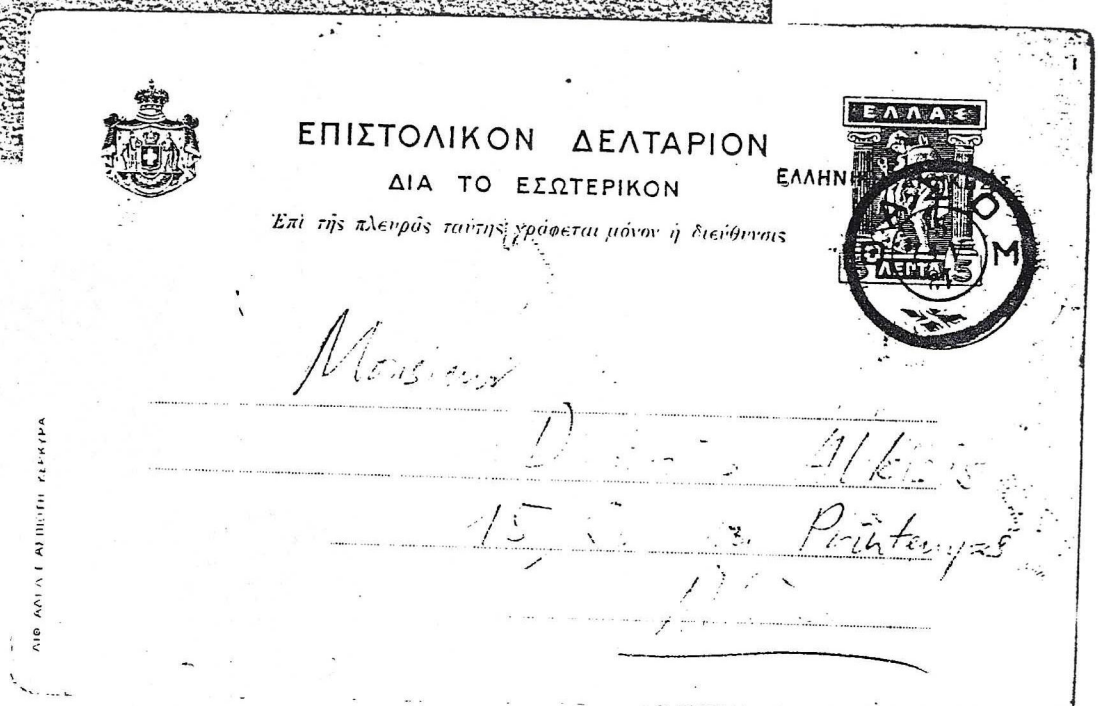
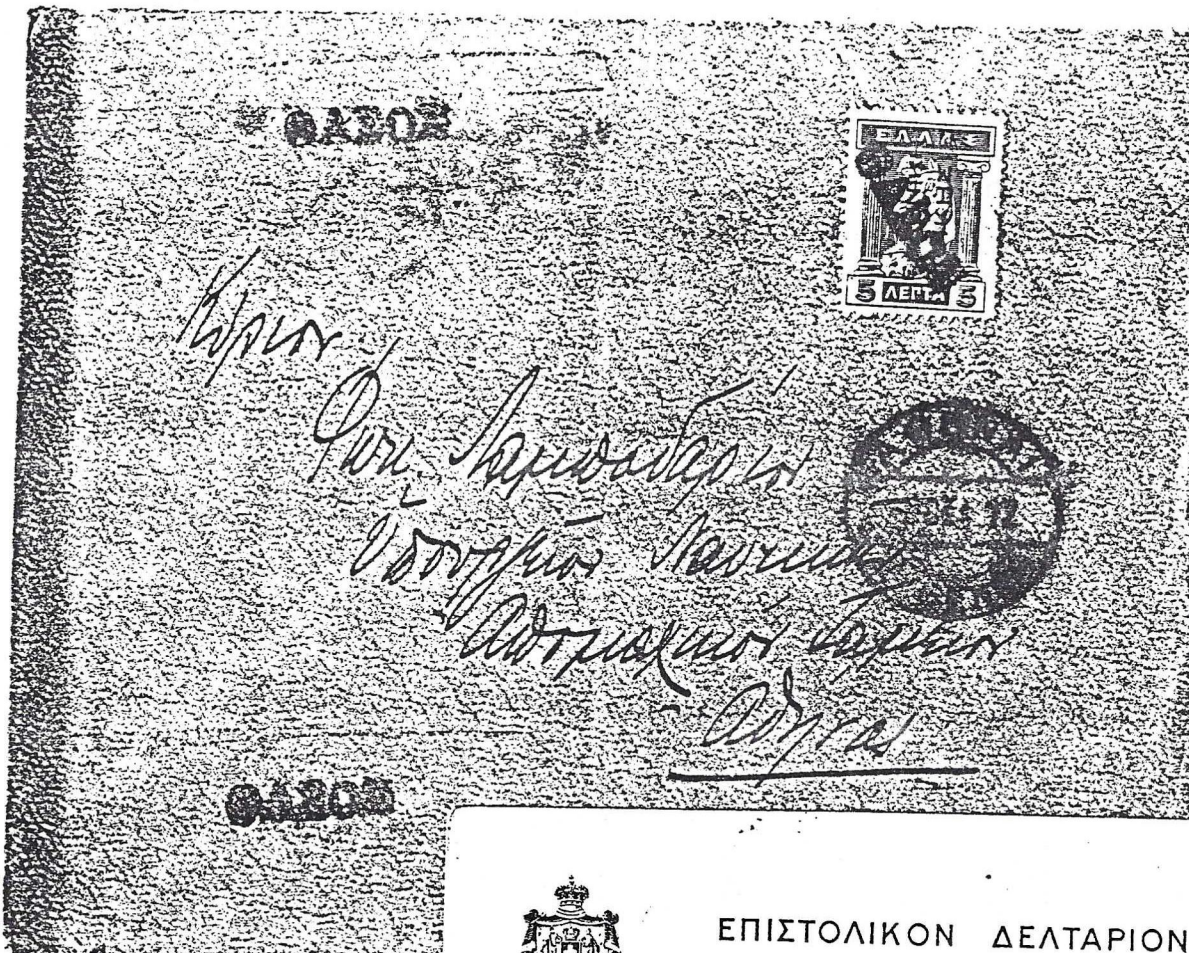
Genitsa
20 June 1913



Examples of Greek steel postmarks used in liberated Macedonia. In each case, the covers were franked with the "New Greece" stamps (25 lepta international letter rate and 50 lepta international registry, respectively). Both transited Salonica en route to addressees in Constantinople via the British office abroad in that city.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Thasos
December 1912
5 January 1913



No special postage stamps were issued for the island of Thasos, which lies south of the port of Kavala. However, a straight-line provisional postmark was used in the early period after liberation. Later, a standard Greek cds was introduced, shown above on "Greek Administration" overprinted postal card.

Chios
28 May 1913
15 June 1913
17 June 1914

ny. 1924. 10. 26
of your account 'mumps' less confere-value

 quand on m'a appris que
vous me teniez plus avec la
Grèce pour un pays hostile ni fait-
et des plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement.

4 vous prie de me faire savoir
si cela est, car si vous consentez
à acheter les 2000 livres de papier

Helmi M. Kootso

Chro. 1947



Recommender:

Monsieur

A. Auberson

Secrétaire de la Direction Générale des Télégraphes

Σ ΑΡΙΘ. 597
ΓΡΑΜ.

Perme.

Miss

On 14 April 1913, a single provisional overprint was issued on Chios with the initials "E. D." (for Greek Administration). However, it had a short life as soon thereafter a set of "New Greece" definitives was prepared and sold in the annexed territories.

GREECE

Balkan Wars

Midilli
9 November 1912

Mytilene
24 November 1912
20 December 1912



The military commanders of some of the Aegean Islands prepared their own postage stamps prior to the availability of the "Greek Administration" issue. One such set consisted of Turkish stamps overprinted with "Greek/Authority/Mytilene" issued on 9 November 1912.

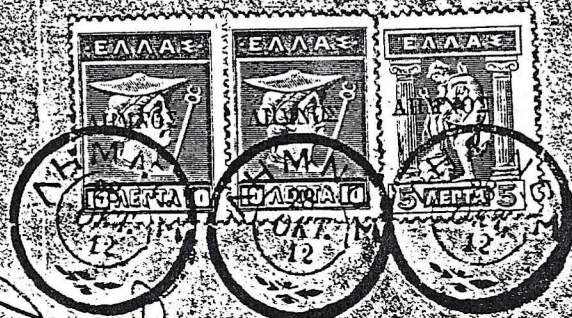
GREECE
Balkan Wars

Lemnos
28 October 1912



Kaplan

Kaliva Koutavos



*22
Goway*

*Monsieur F. Roszney
G^e Admynne Hongrie de
Banque et de Commerce
Gnyrne*

Provisional postmark reading "Greece/Lemnos" is considered to be a very early usage. The issuance of Greek stamps with overprints reading "Lemnos" commenced in late October.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Ikarias
15 December 1912
25 January 1913

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ Ε. ΑΝΤΩΝΙΑΔΗΣ
ΙΚΑΡΙΑ



Πρίον

Νύκτα Προσπορεύοντες
απὸ Ἀθήρας 20



N. 9

Πρίον

Νικόλα Χενάκης
Νικόλαος Ζενάκης

Εἰς Πάριον Caure

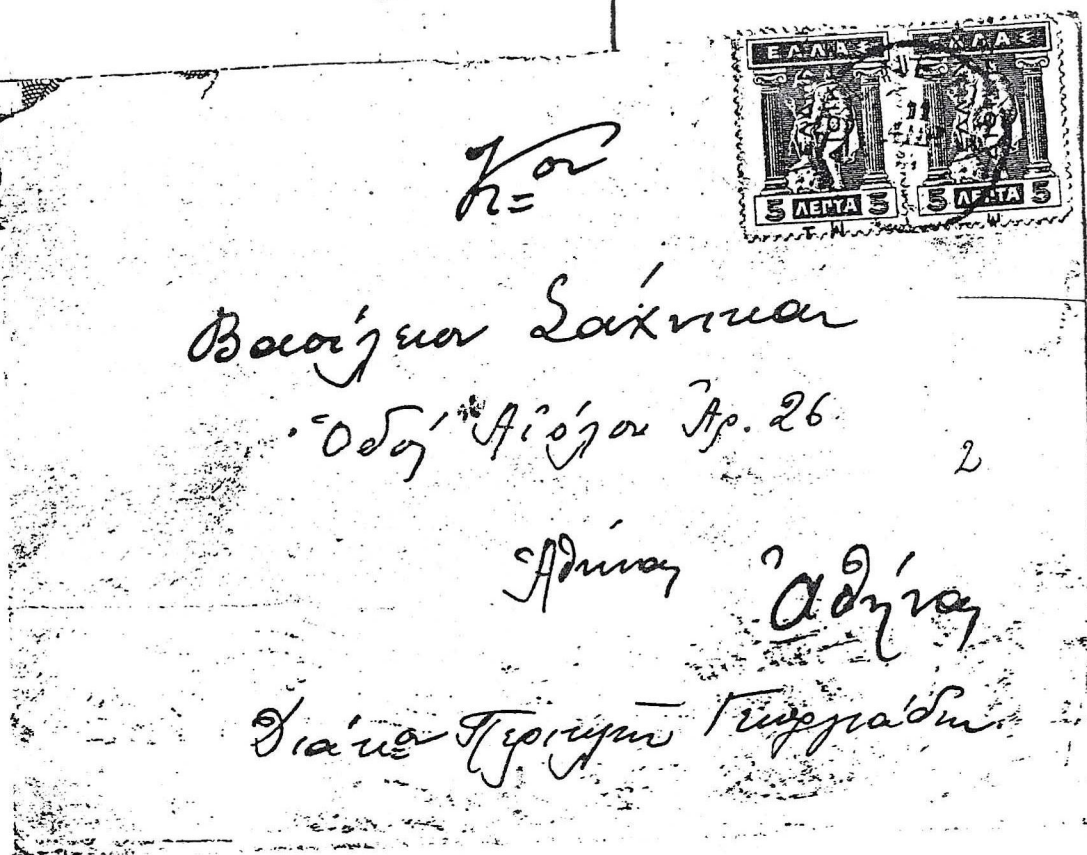
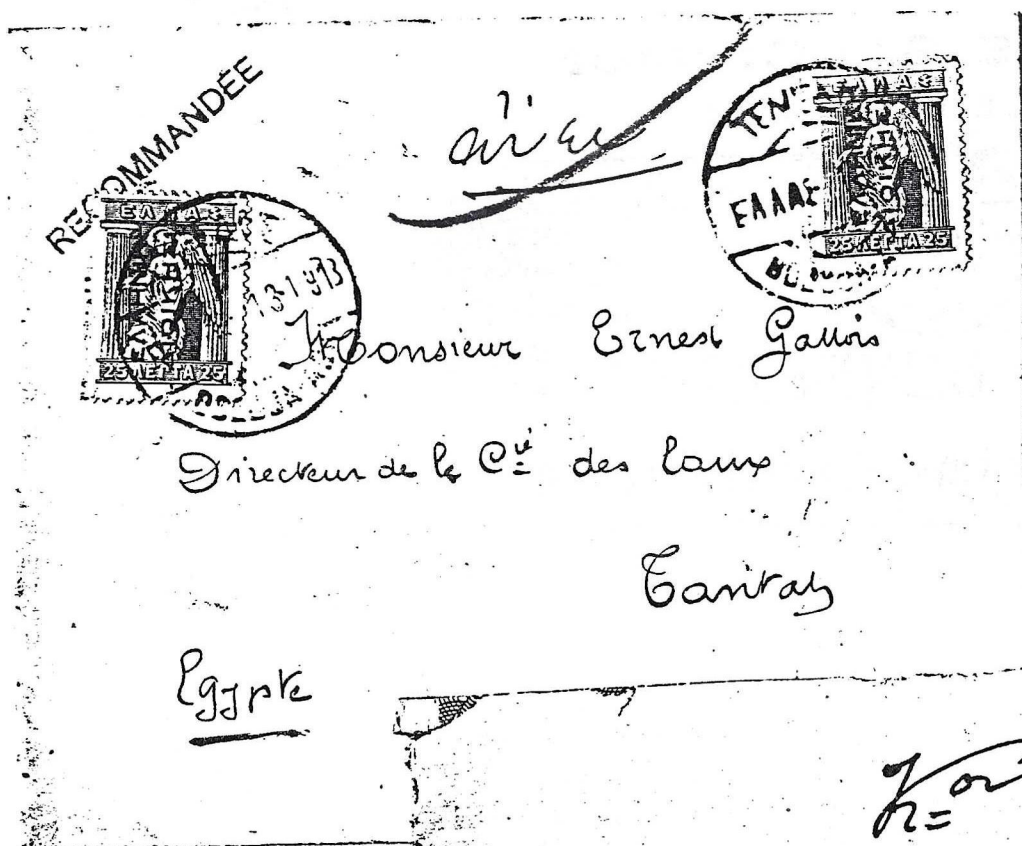
Αἰγυπτος

Caure

Ikarias had local issues of both provisional overprints and definitives (showing the head of Penelope). These were replaced in February 1913 with the standard issue for New Greece.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Tenedos
13 January 1913
11 April 1914



There were no special postage stamps for the island of Tenedos. However, the Greek authorities temporarily used a provisional postmark made by reworking the old Ottoman cds for the town of Bozoja Ada and adding "Greece" in the middle line to denote the transfer of authority. Later, a standard Greek cds was introduced.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Kavala
27 July 1913

Drama
5 August 1913

BANQUE DE SALONIQUE
SUCCURSALE DE XANTHIE



SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE

pour favoriser le développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France

25 à 28

**BANQUE IMPÉRIALE
OTTOMANE**

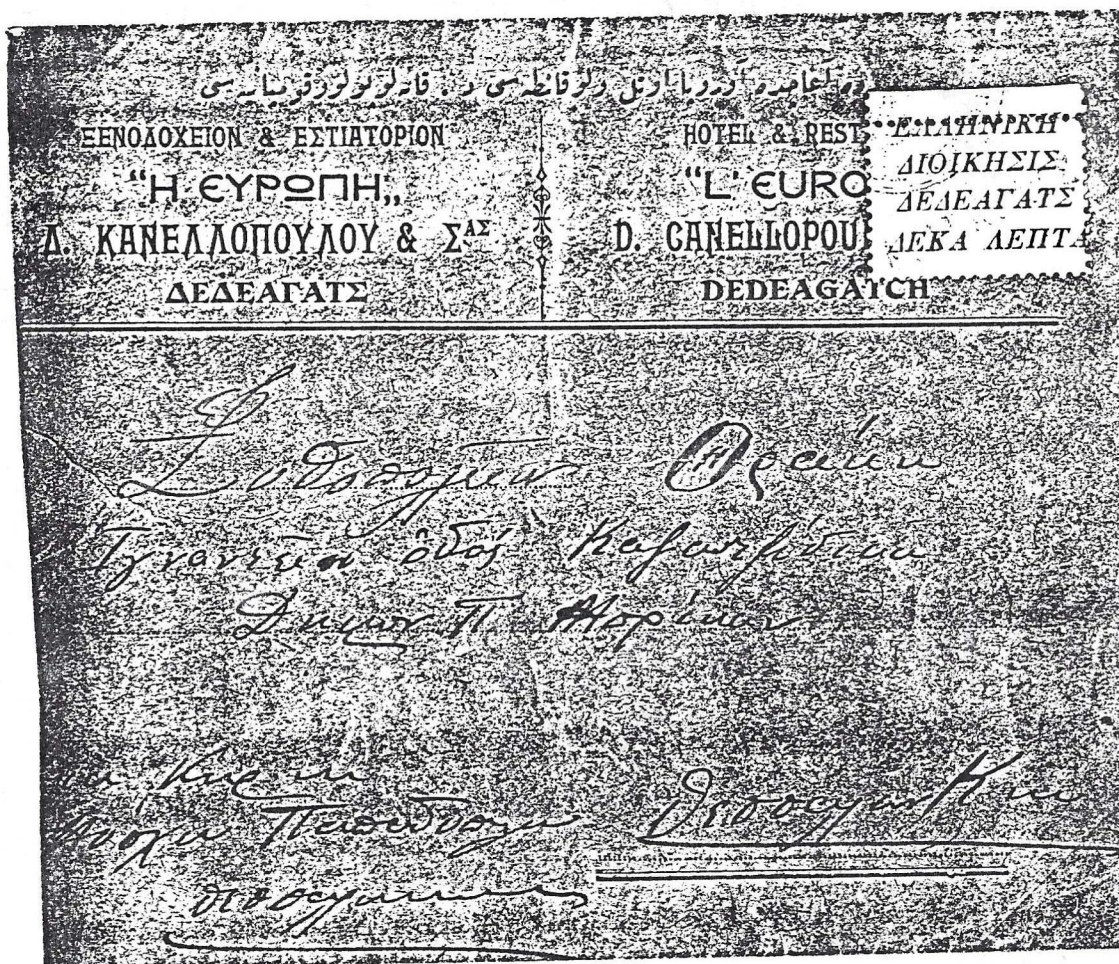


As a result of the Second Balkan War, Greece extended its eastern frontier to the lower Maritsa River, thus including the districts of Drama and Kavala. The Treaty of Bucharest also confirmed the Greek annexation of various Aegean Islands, including Thasos, Lemnos, Mytilene, Chios, Samos, Ikarias and Crete. Imbros and Tenedos were returned to Turkey.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Dedeagatch
July 1913

Gumuldjina
August 1913



In connection with the Second Balkan War, Greek forces occupied all of Western Thrace. In the confusion, provisional stamps were issued for two of the major cities. Cover above is backstamped for arrival at Salonica on 29 July 1913.

GREECE
Balkan Wars

Dedeagatch
July 1913
28 July 1913

D
BANQUE DE SALONIQUE

I. G. No. 19



Monsieur

Paul Amar

Salonique



Monsieur

Alex. Vryzopoulos

6 B^{te} Amalie

Athènes

On 24 July 1914, a new set was issued consisting of Bulgarian stamps overprinted "Greek Administration Dedeagatch" and new values in Greek currency. Upper cover with straight-line cancel is backstamped for arrival in Salonica on 29 July. Lower cover with Greek cds is backstamped in Athens on 3 August 1913.