

CRETE

Irakleion
18 March 1909

Hania
8 April 1909
13 October 1909

ΚΡΗΤΙΚΗ ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



Handwritten Greek text:
Εν τούτοις πρὸς τὴν ἐκτέλεσιν
τῆς ἀποστολῆς ταύτης τὰ διὰ τῆς ἀποστολῆς
ἐκτελεσθῆναι ἢ ἀποδοθῆναι, ποσὴν τὴν ἀποδοθῆναι
ταύτην καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ ἴσθι.

POSTES GRECOISES
ΚΡΗΤΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ
CARTE POSTALE
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΙΣ



Mr. Otto Dickel

R Postes Crétoises
LA CANÉE
Nº 789 1909

*München 38
Bavière*

POSTES GRECOISES
ΚΡΗΤΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ
CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΜΕΤ' ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΩΣ ΠΑΡΩΜΕΝΗΣ
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΙΣ



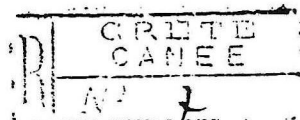
Handwritten:
Gustav Hans Müller
Agios
Gubran Lj/Breslau.

La carte ci-jointe est destinée à la réponse
to souvignéon δελτάριον προορισμένον δια
την απάντησιν

In addition to the postage stamps, Cretan postal cards were also overprinted "Hellas." Above examples show cards inscribed in Greek only and with Greek/French bilingual wording.

CRETE

Hania
10 February 1914



Monsieur



N. D. Marangoudakis

En Ville

On 1 December 1913, a single commemorative stamp depicting the raising of the Greek flag over the Fort at Suda Bay was issued for the annexation of Crete to Greece. The design of the stamp includes two dates: 1 February 1913 when Greek troops landed on Crete, and 1 May 1913 when the official unification took place. Although the stamp is inscribed "Hellas (Greece)," it was only valid for postage on Crete.

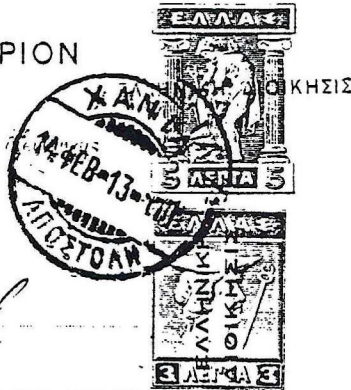
CRETE

Hania
14 February 1913
3 May 1913
25 January 1914



ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ
ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ

Επὶ τῆς πλευρᾶς ταύτης γράφεται μόνον ἡ



*Herrn Otto Bickel
Volkartstr. 36*



ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ
ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΝ

Επὶ τῆς πλευρᾶς ταύτης γράφεται μόνον ἡ διεύθυνσις



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ

*M. Otto Bickel
Volkartstrasse 36*



In addition to the stamps overprinted "Greek Administration," postal cards received the same treatment. Above are three such examples: 5 lepta with red overprint (on indicia), 5 lepta black overprint (above the address lines) and 10 lepta (similar). These were used in Crete as well as in the territories liberated during the Balkan Wars.

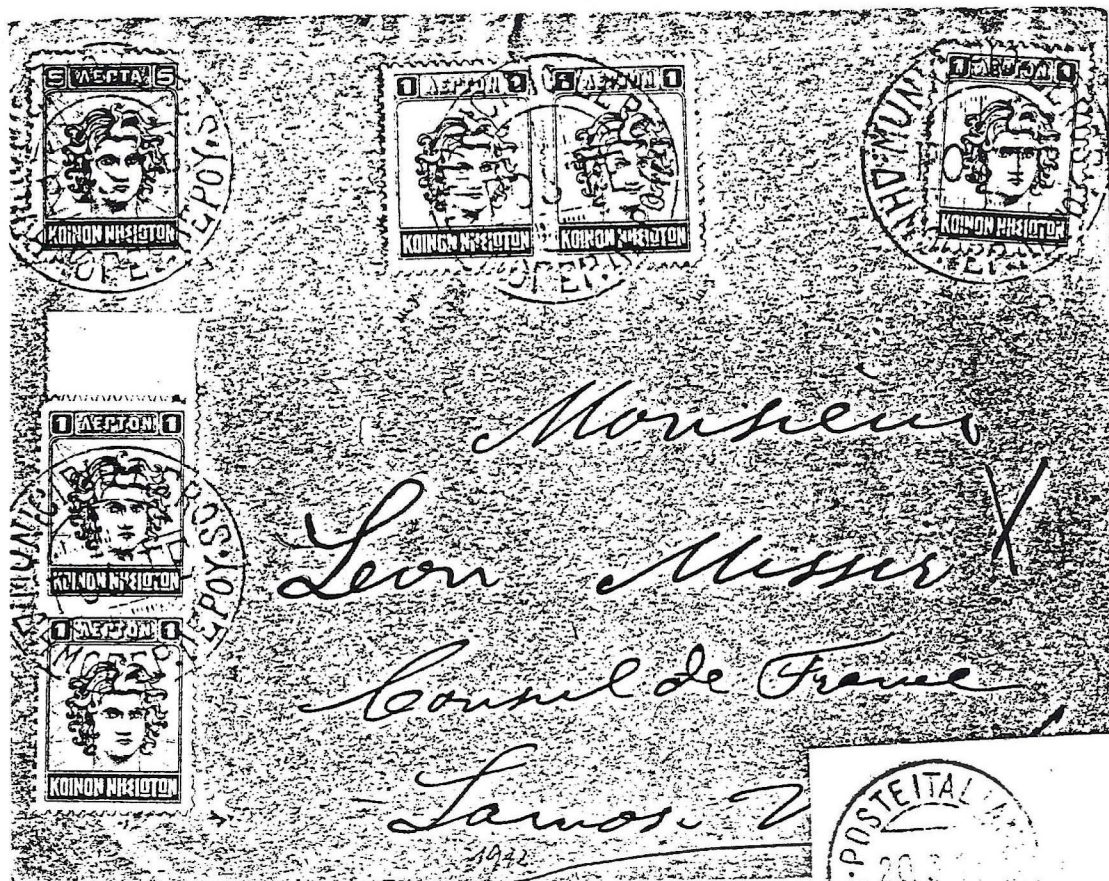
DODECANESE ISLANDS

In 1912 while the Turks were engaged in the war with Italy over Libya, the ethnic Greek inhabitants of the Dodecanese Islands declared their independence. However, the Italians soon turned their attention to the Aegean and sent forces to invade the islands, which were assigned to it under the peace treaty. Thus, the first Greek administration lasted only a very short time. (However, following the end of World War II, the Dodecanese were finally transferred from Italy to Greece on 1 April 1947.)

Leros
May 1912

Kalymno
20 March 1913

Cover with Apollo stamps and provisional Greek postmark of Leros. On reverse, receiving mark of the French post office abroad at Vathy/Samos applied on 22 May 1912.



Use of the Apollo stamps was subsequently banned by the Italian postal authorities, although sets can be found cancelled as souvenirs with Italian postmarks.



Three denominations of stamps depicting the Sun God Apollo and inscribed "Commonwealth of the Islands" were printed in a quantity of 10,000 sets. Their validity is controversial, with the Hermes catalogue stating that they were never issued. However, Vlastos prices them both mint and used, without qualification of the listing. Michel states that they were issued at Kalymnos on 21 May 1912 but used for only a few days.

BALKAN WARS

Observing the ease with which Italy had seized Libya and the Dodecanese Islands, the smaller Balkan states (Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria) joined forces to settle their grievances with the Turks. Greece declared 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 Salonica, Prevesa, Janina and Parga. An armistice was signed with Turkey on 3 December 1912 and the final terms of peace were ratified by the Treaty of London on 30 May 1913.

TELEGRAMME

تلغرافنامه

Kozana
16 October 1912

Serfidje
21 October 1912

تلغرافنامه ك اخذى ساعت و دقيقه سنك مربوط مقبوضه درج اوليى خاصة بهي و تلغراف
Est instamment prié d'indiquer sur le reçu l'heure de réception.



Kozana
Kupior
Mex. Karyiann
30 d'or Bougus

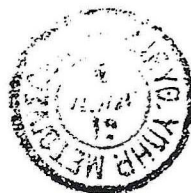


Kupior
Mex. Karyiann
30 d'or Bougus 30
Admiral

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.)

BALKAN WARS

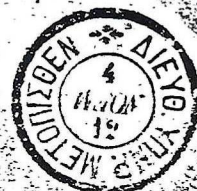
Reserve Field Post Office
4 November 1912
4 November 1912
1 December 1912



Αθήνα

Ευρωπαϊκή

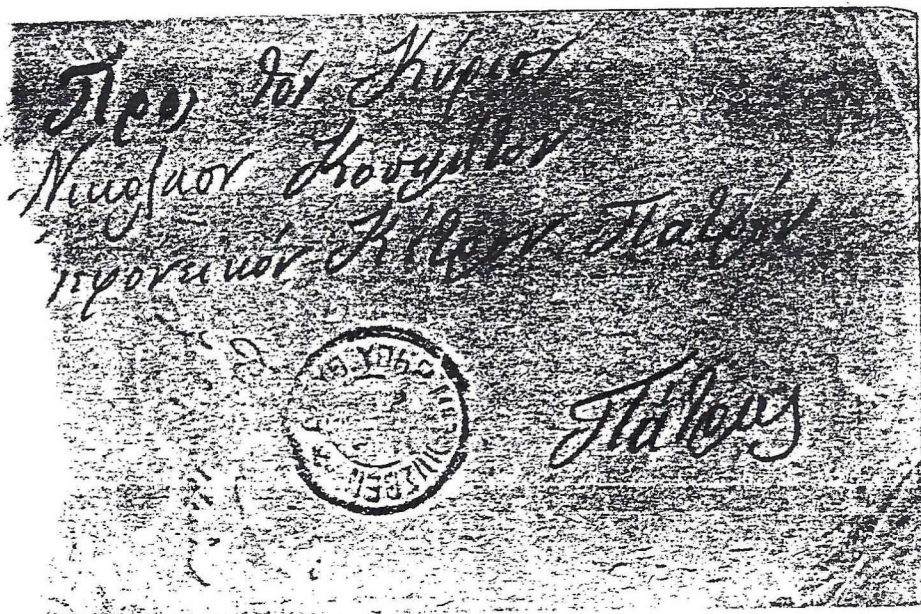
Κ



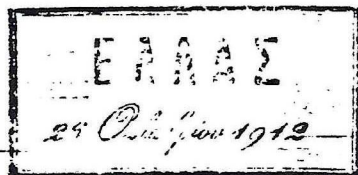
Κίπια

Φ. Μ. Μ. Μ. Μ.

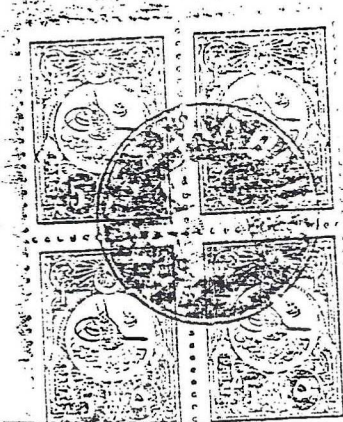
Λεγ. Μ. Μ. Μ. Μ.



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.



Κύριον
Μυστρίν Αποστολίδου



Κύριον

Μ. Χαρακίου
Διευθυντή
Εν Αθήναις



Κύριον
Μ. Χαρακίου
Διευθυντή
Εν Αθήναις

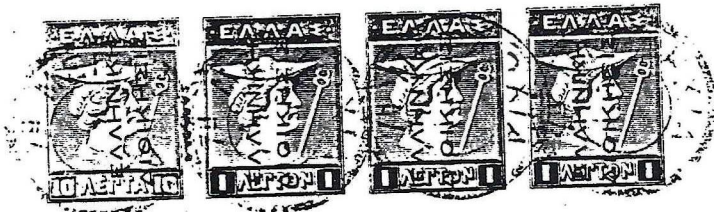
Δια τον Ε.Υ. Γραμμή.

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.

BALKAN WARS

7th Division

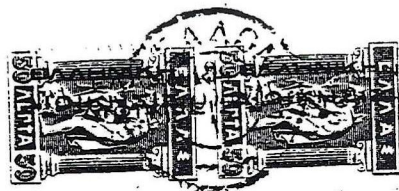
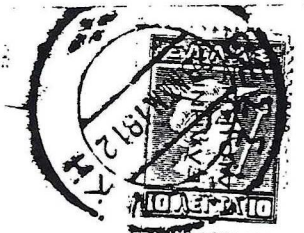
Thessaloniki
28 November 1912
19 June 1913



for Kiggor.

Aus dem Griechisch - türkischen Kriege!
CARTE POSTALE

Viel Glück



Monsieur

Alex. G. Argyropoulos

B^d Amélie, 6

Athènes

Herrn

Prof. Dr. Neumann

Hygieinische Inst. f. d.

Giesen (Deutschland)

On 6 November 1912, the postal authorities provided a set of stamps overprinted with the wording "Greek Administration" for use in "New Greece" (Macedonia, Epirus and the liberated Aegean Islands).

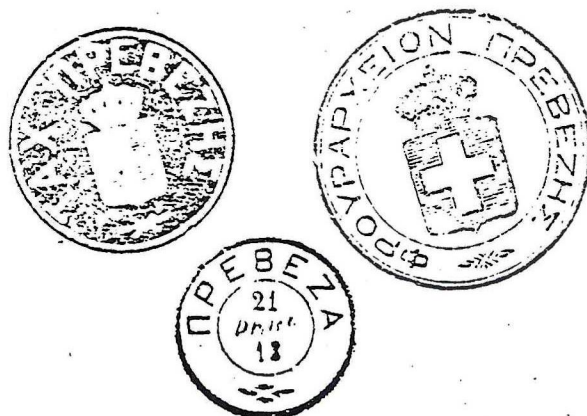
Stamps on upper cover considered to be an early usage as cancelled with undated marking of the "7th Division." Card from Salonica to Germany, dated only a month after liberation of the city and endorsed "from the Greek-Turkish War," was sent by Chief Surgeon of a Red Cross ambulant unit.

BALKAN WARS

Preveza
21 February 1913

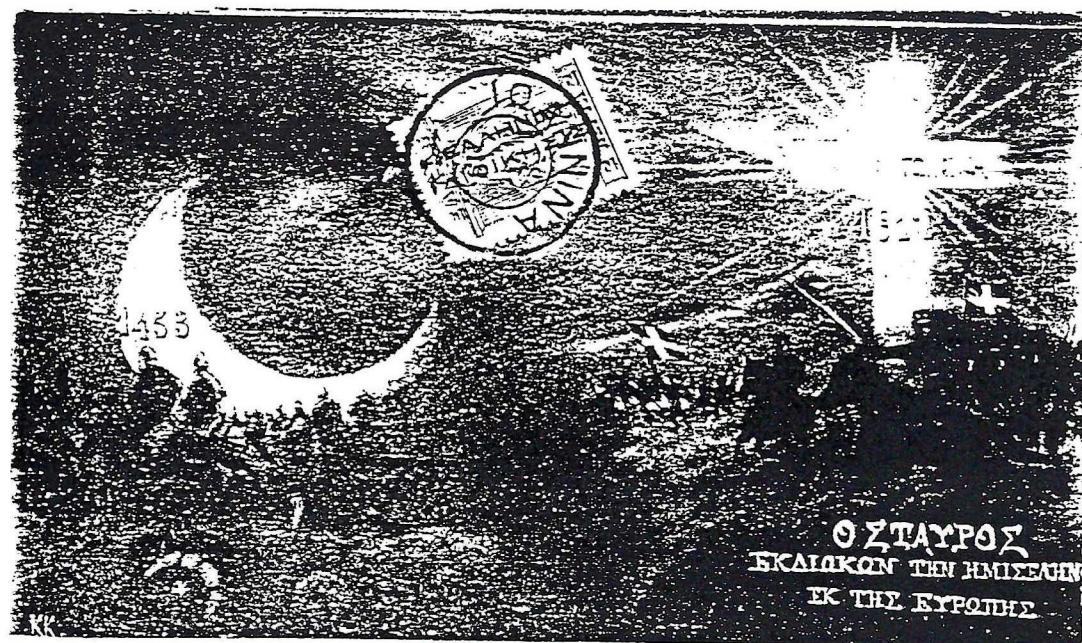
Philippias
2 February 1913

Janina
28 February 1913



Δ.Ε.Φ.

~

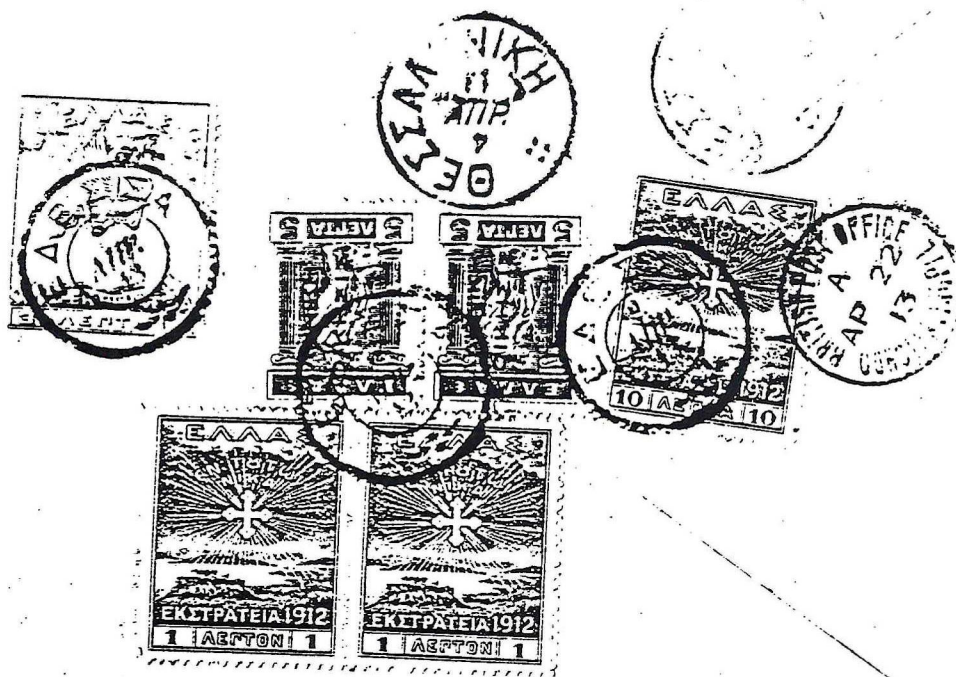


As the political situation stabilized, new steel circular datestamps were introduced with the name of the towns in Greek lettering. Examples are from the liberated area of Southern Epirus. Cover from Philippias has adjacent cds reading "Military Service Epirus" reflecting its status as the temporary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

BALKAN WARS

Edessa
2 April 1913

Yenitsa
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.

BALKAN WARS

Chios
28 May 1913
15 June 1913
17 June 1914

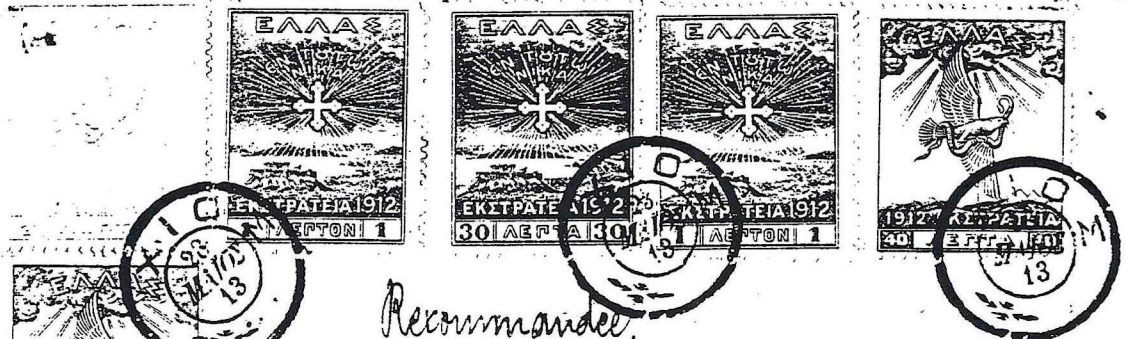
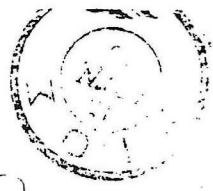
*Y'ai vendus les bons 102.224. 15. 26
et vous aurez envoyé leur contre-valeur
quand on m'a appris que
vous ne teniez plus rien avec la
Grèce pour vos bons hollois et par
ceci pleurer au gouvernement.*

*Je vous prie de me faire savoir
si cela est correct et si vous voulez
à acheter les bons de la Grèce.*

*Chios
(Gygi)*



Hesperus



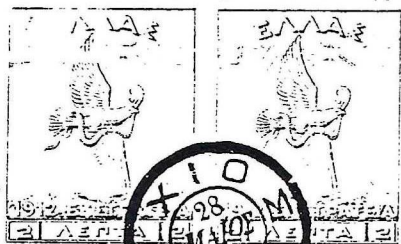
Recommandée.

Monsieur

A. Auberson

Secrétaire de la Direction Générale des Télégraphes

*Σ ΑΡΙΘ. 597
ΓΡΑΜ.*



*Berne.
Suisse*

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.

BALKAN WARS

Ikaria
September 1912
15 December 1912



Παπιορ
Hylar Anonimous
and 'Abiray 20'

Admiral

The first Greek usage on Ikaria consisted of unoverprinted Turkish stamps cancelled with a Greek cachet inscribed "Free State of Ikaria." Example of cover shown above sent to Samos, where it was backstamped for receipt at the Austrian post office abroad at Vathy on 30 September 1912. There was also a set of provisional overprints reading "Greek Administration" used briefly at the end of the year.

BALKAN WARS

Ikaria

11 January 1913

25 January 1913

Σ ΑΡΙΘ. 42
ΓΡΑΜ.

257



Herrn

Otto Bickel

München 19



Nº 9

Αρ. Τηλεγρ.

Nicola Xenakis

Νικόλαος Ξενάκης

Εἰς Τηλεγρ.

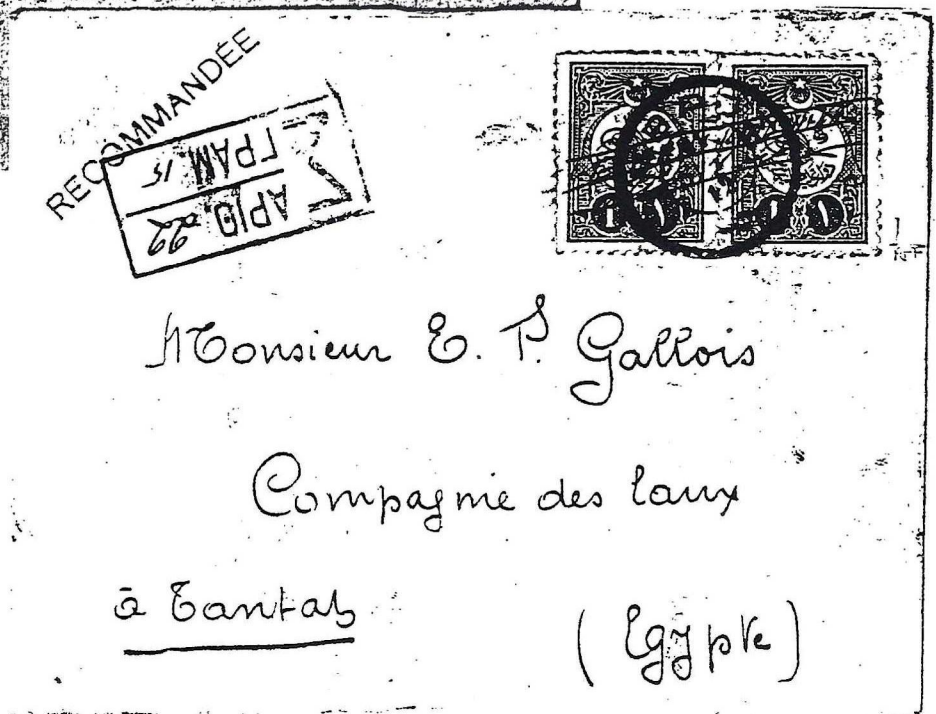
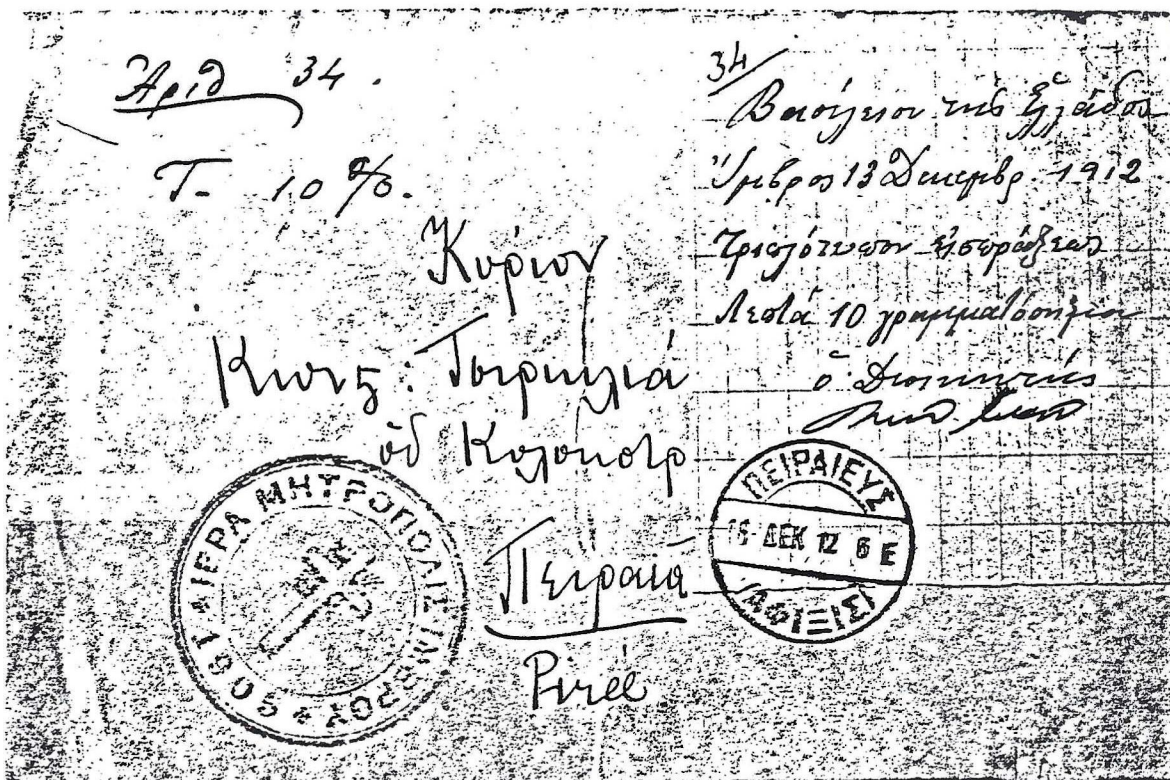
Αἰγυπτος.

Cause

A set of Ikaria definitives (showing the head of Penelope) was made available at the beginning of 1913. In turn, these were replaced in February 1913 with the standard issue for New Greece.

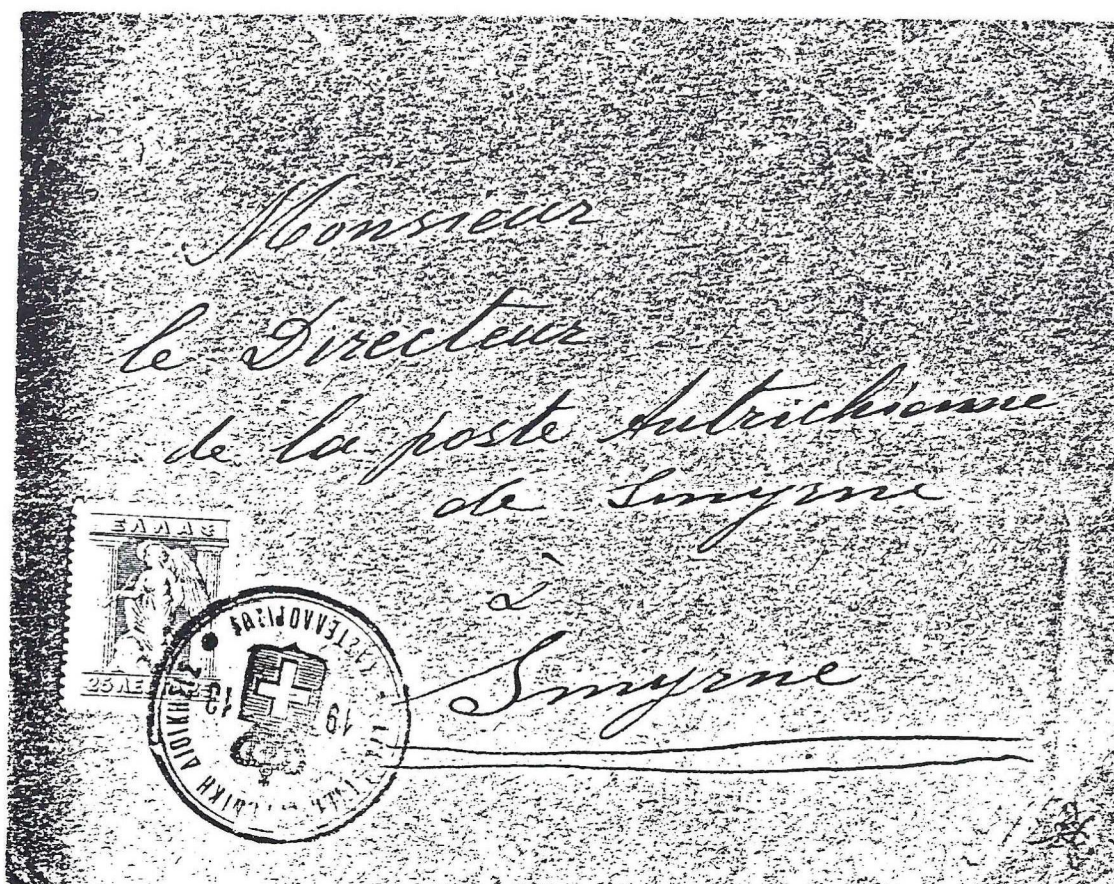
BALKAN WARS

Imbros
13 December 1912
21 December 1912



This island, located very close to the Gallipoli Peninsula, was occupied temporarily by Greek forces during the first Balkan War. Initially, letters were mailed with an explanation that there were no stamps available. Above example addressed to Piraeus, where the receiving postmark indicates it was delivered three days later. Second example shows Turkish stamps with manuscript "Greek Administration" on registered cover, which sufficed to provide appropriate recognition of the new political situation.

1. Maylas
2/12



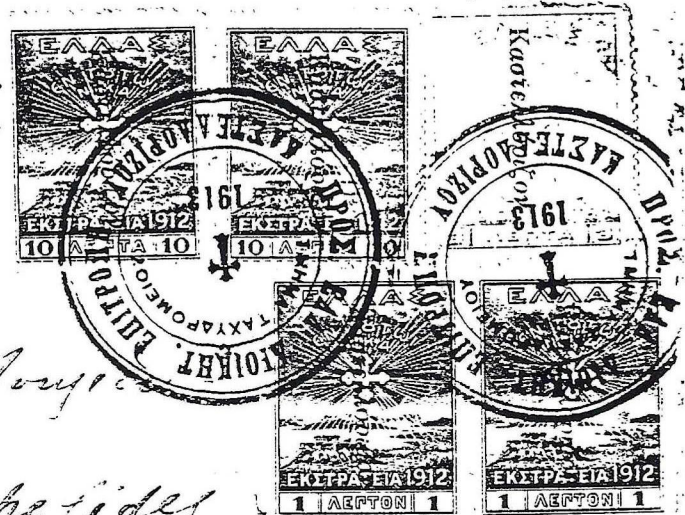
The island of Kastellorizo was located off the southern coast of Turkey but had an ethnic Greek population. For the initial postal service, Turkish stamps were used and cancelled with a special negative cachet. Shortly thereafter, Greek stamps were introduced and a new cachet applied as a cancel. Unlike the other islands, Kastellorizo was restored to Turkey following the Second Balkan War.

BALKAN WARS

Kastellorizo
July 1913
September 1913



ΑΡΧΗΓΕΙΟΝ
ΚΑΣΤΕΛΛΟΡΙΖΟΥ
ΕΛΛΑΣ



Order Nicholas
Old Alexander N. Xeropoulos

110 William Street.

Post
1/2 of 1913

The first local issue was prepared by the Greek authorities on Kastellorizo in mid-1913 with the name of the island overprinted on New Greece definitives.