

ASIA MINOR

Postmarks: As by far the most important city in Western Anatolia, Smyrna was a political, economic and cultural center requiring a good deal of postal service. From the time of the landing of the expeditionary force until the territory was officially transferred to Greece by the terms of the Treaty of Sevres, the Turkish post office continued to function in Smyrna. However, the Greek community was increasingly concerned about entrusting its mail to that service and pressed for the right to use the Greek fieldpost office. This was not permissible, but in June 1919 the Greek authorities decided to set up a civil section in the same building but with a non-military postmark. Initially, no stamps were available so mail was accepted without payment of postage for a brief period.

Smyrni
10 July 1919
26 August 1919

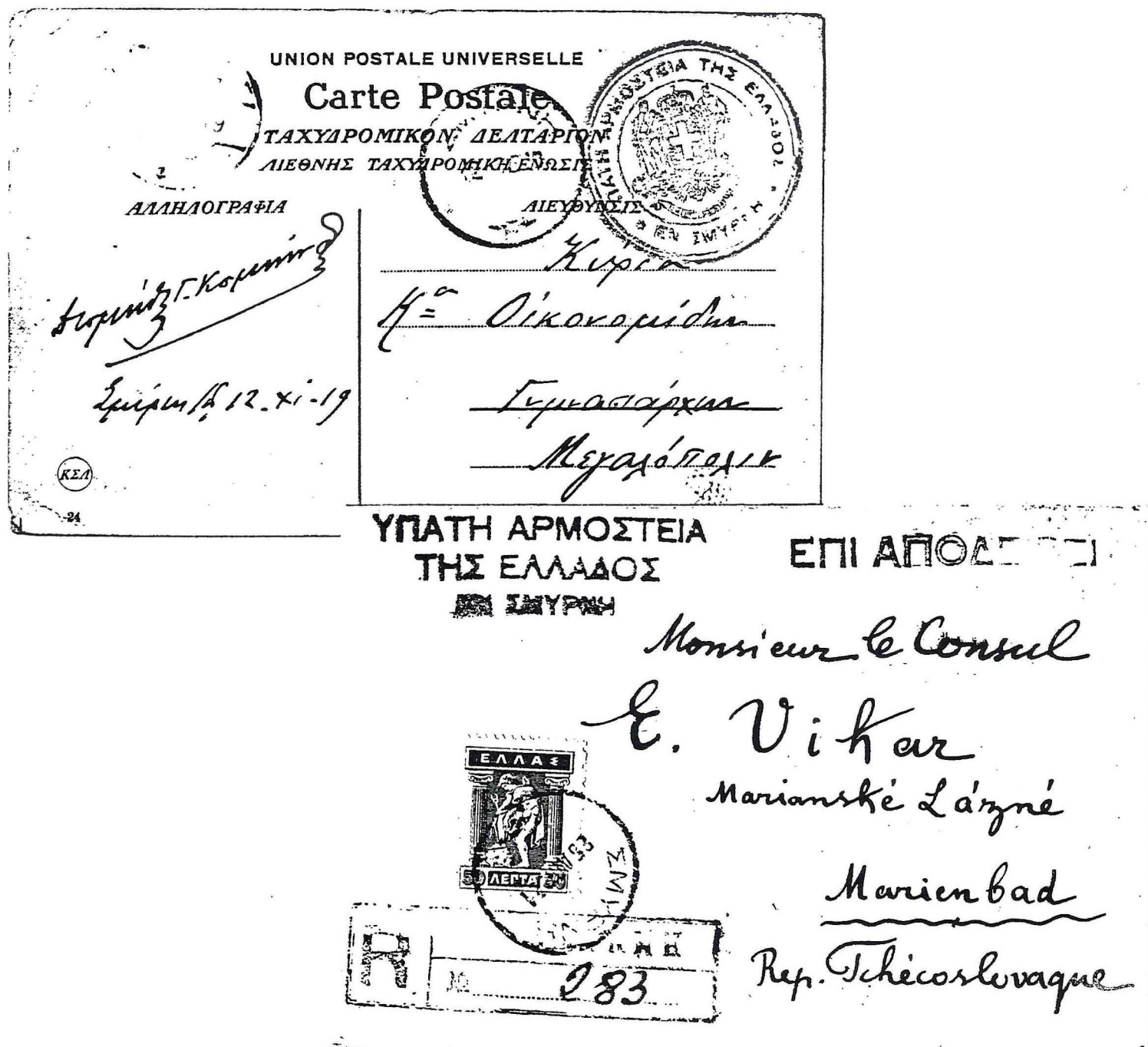


Earliest recorded date of the Smyrni civil postmark. Its application to a pair of the Balkan War commemoratives of 1912 suggests that it was obtained by a philatelist as a souvenir.

Patriotic envelope used from Smyrna to Pyrgos by a civilian during the period when postage was not charged.



Greek High Commission in Smyrna

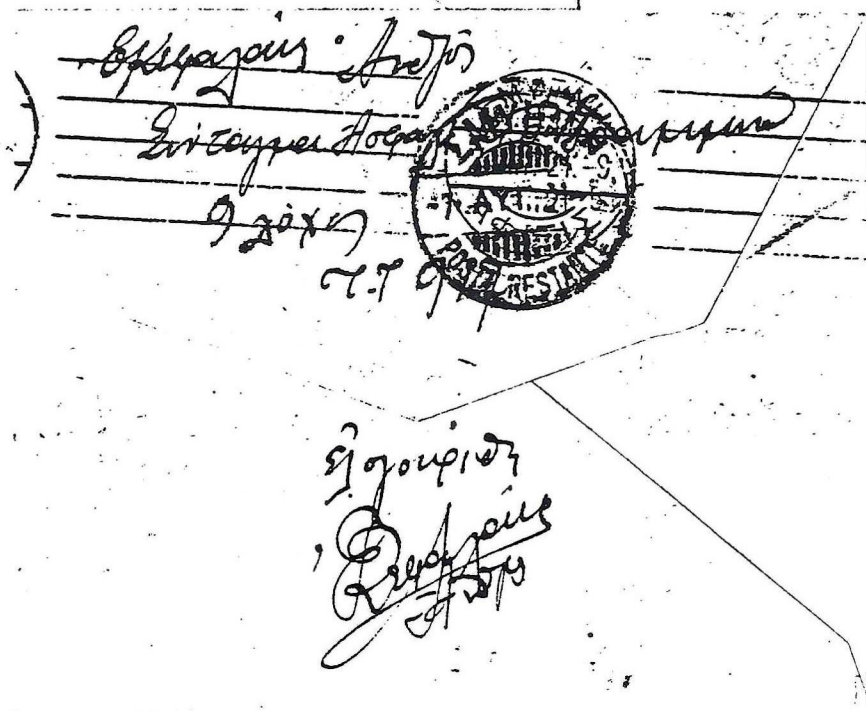
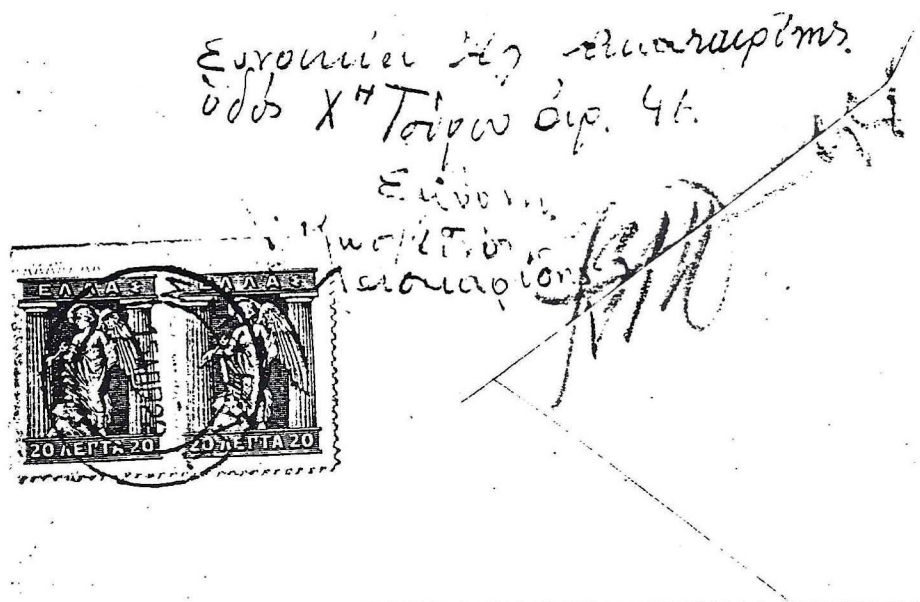


The principal administrative body for the occupied territories in Asia Minor was the Greek High Commission in Smyrna. Above examples of mail from this office have circular cachet with Greek arms in the center and a three-line version used on a registered cover to Czechoslovakia.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrni
15 April 1922

Smyrni/Poste Restante
7 August 1921



A second general postmark, a double-circle device, was used in Smyrna in the 1920-1922 period. A specially inscribed postmark was used for mail addressed to General Delivery.

ASIA MINOR

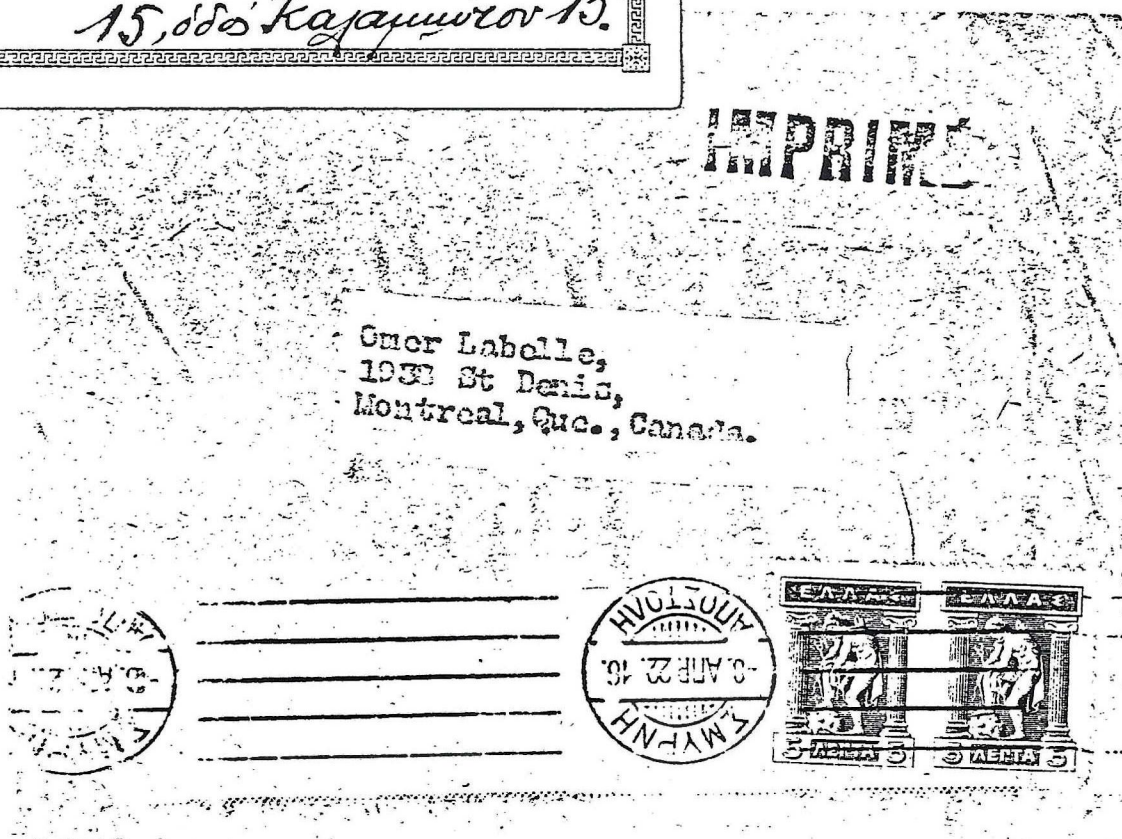
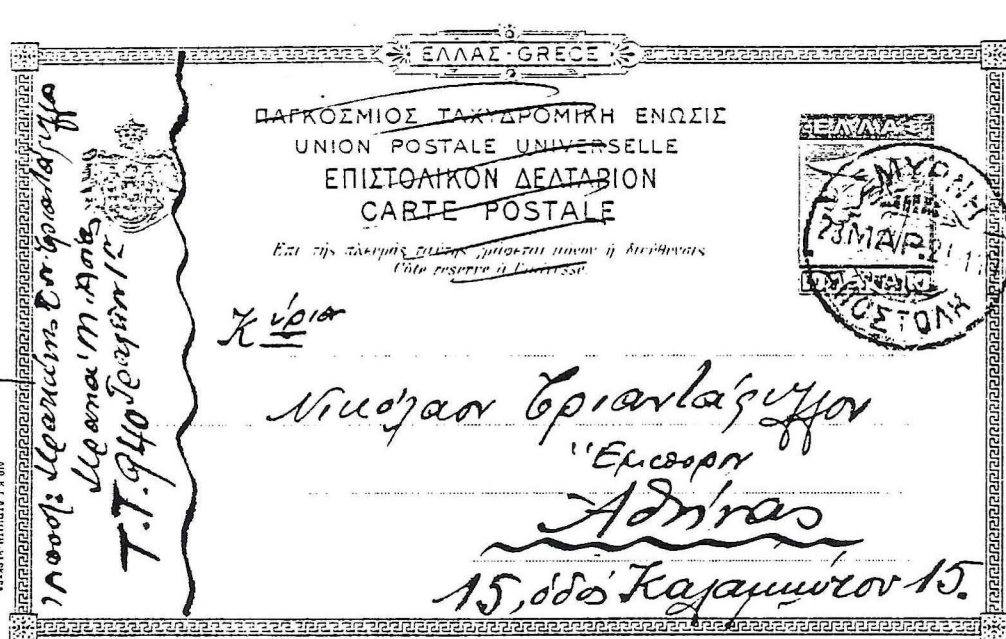
Smyrna/Afixis
22 February 1921
4 October 1921



Similar special postmarks inscribed "Smyrna/Arrival" were used on inbound mail. Again, the initial version was a handstamp, when the volume of mail built up, a canceling machine was utilized.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrna/Apostoli
23 March 1921
8 April 1922

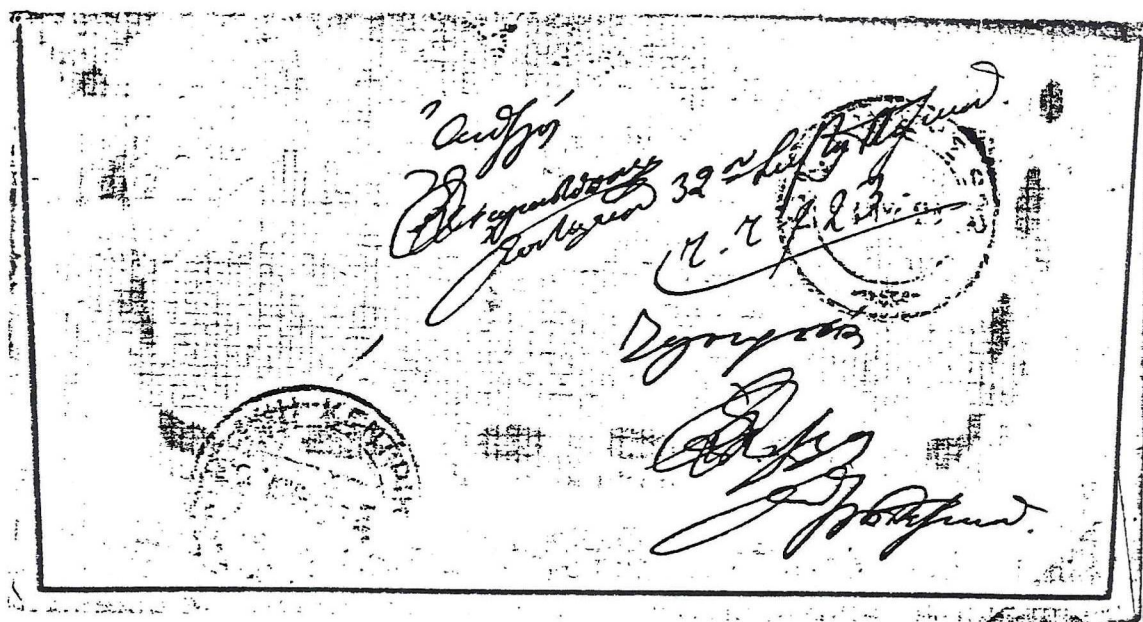
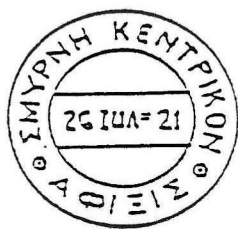


A special postmark inscribed "Smyrna/Departure" was often used on outbound mail. The initial version was a handstamp, but the volume of mail became large enough to justify the installation of a canceling machine. An example of the latter is shown on an envelope addressed to Canada containing printed matter.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrna Kentrikon/Afixis
26 July 1921

Smyrna/Parartima 1
5 April 1921



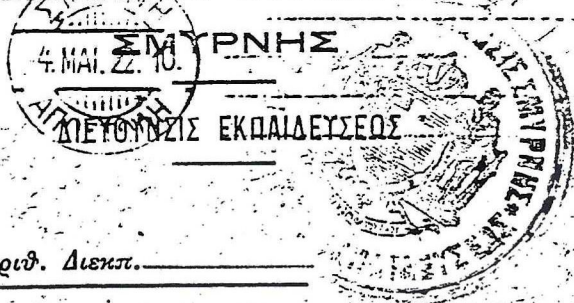
Two of the Smyrna postmarks were used in specific offices. The upper example was a postmark used on inbound mail at the central P.O. It is inscribed "Smyrna Central/Arrival." A second special postmark was used at "Branch 1" but the specific location of this branch office is not shown in the literature.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrni/Episima
4 May 1922

Smyrni - Katepigon
6 December 1920

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ



Αριθ. Διευκ.

Προς

Το Βήμα των Ε. Ε. Διοκ.
ὁδὸς Ἑλαιοῦ

Smyrna had a special cancel that was inscribed as "official" for use on mail from government agencies. This example used on a cover front from the Dep't. of Education.

Urgent

162

KATEPEIGON

✓ Sister

George B. George

12

Athens

Lorian Bank Ltd.



There was no special cancellation used for Special Delivery mail but a large rectangular box with the word "Urgent" was applied. Including the stamps on the reverse, this cover paid 60 lepta for this service.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrna/Tilegrafiki Diekperaios
2 July 1922

THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LTD.

SMYRNA STATION.
ΤΗΛΕΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΣΜΥΡΝΗΣ

(Greek Received Form.)

499

Date }
Ημέρα }

19

Local No.	Stn. from	Time. H. M.	Clerk's Name.	Handed Govt.
14	AS	2/30	BRASSILAKIS -2 JUL 22	

TELEGRAM From }
ΤΗΛΕΓΡΑΦΗΜΑ Ex }

Athens

No. } Words } 14 Date } Time } 10/502 REMARKS }
'Αριθ. } Λέξεις } Ημέρα } Ωρα } Παρατηρήσεις }

To }
Προς }
Smyrna
Smyrna

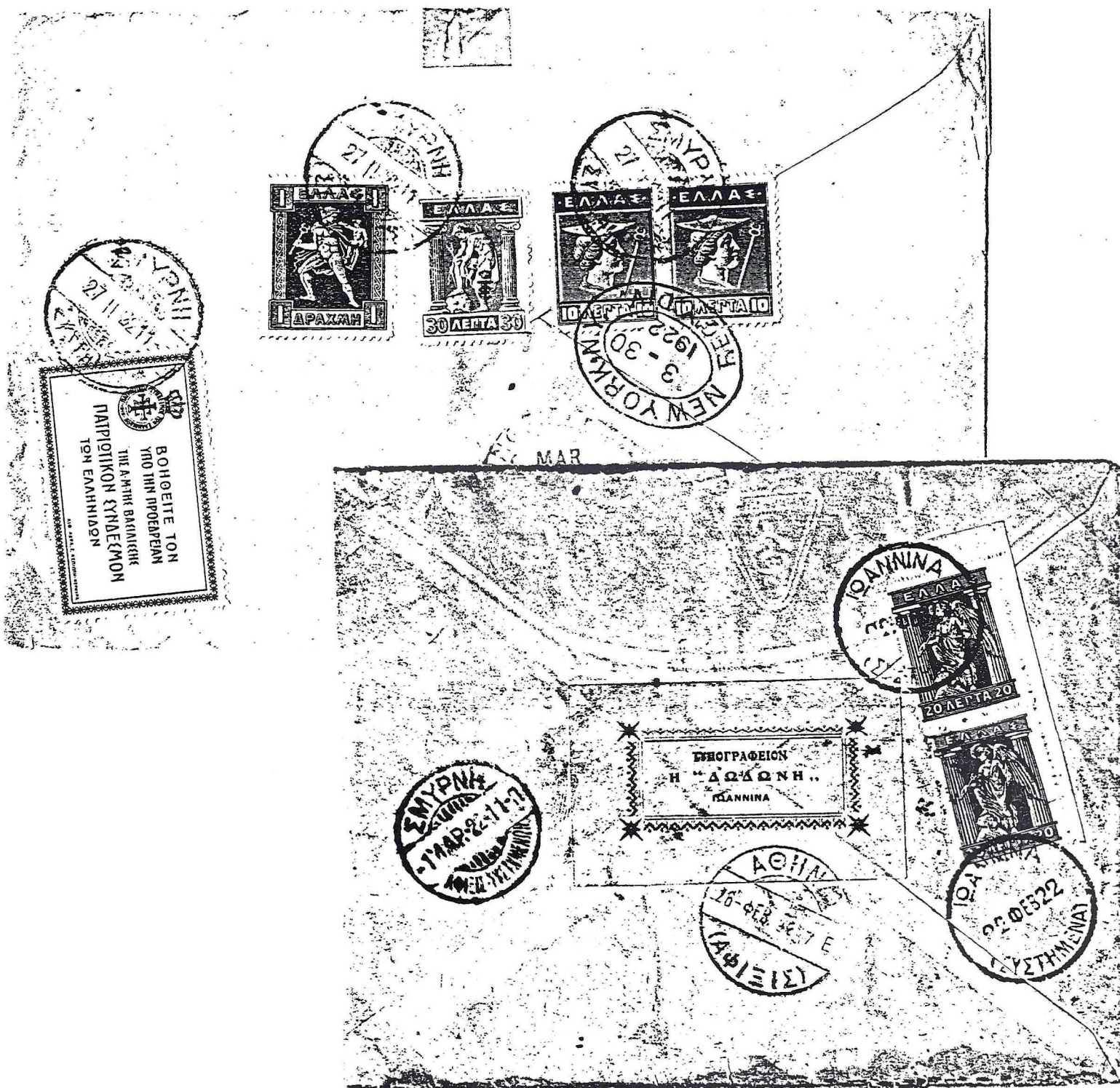


A specially inscribed postmark reading "Smyrna/Telegraph Expediting" was used on telegraph messages. Examples are very elusive as most of the forms were only kept on file for a brief period and then destroyed.

ASIA MINOR

Smyrni/Systemena
27 February 1922

Smyrni/Afixis Systimenon
1 March 1922

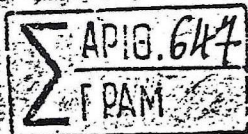


Specially designated postmarks were provided for outbound registered mail and receipt of inbound registered items. Examples of both types are shown.

ASIA MINOR

Registered Mail
3 September 1920
20 January 1921

BANQUE NATIONALE DE GRÈCE — SMYRNE



Κόπος

*Πεντακλήρου Ανωτάτου
Λογιστηρίου Εθνικού Ταμείου*

Α. Πρίνας

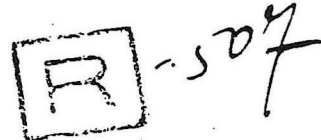
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
of Smyrna Greece
33 Rue Echelle Anglaise

M^r Carl Ljunggren

Västergatan 25

Malmö

(Sweden)



The earliest registration markings were simple devices. For internal mail a box marking was used showing a Greek "S" (for Systimena) and a space for the number and weight (if relevant) to be entered by hand. For international mail there was simply a boxed "R."

ASIA MINOR

Registered Mail
21 July 1921
30 December 1921

LES FILS DE C. VEROPOULO

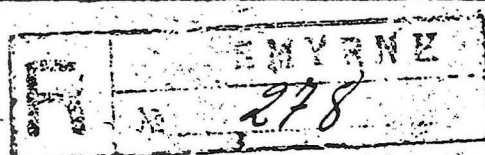
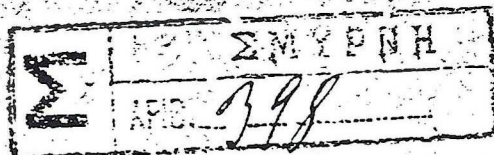
SMYRNE

Kupious

BAMBOYPH

KATZHZABHAN

12512
MYTHANNH



Al' Honorable
Compagnie d'Assurances
sur la vie

Crecham
Mounbame
d'Galate
Compte



The later versions of registration markings were long boxed rectangles. For internal mail the letter was "S" and Smyrne was spelled in Greek. For international mail the letter was "R" and Smyrne was spelled in French.

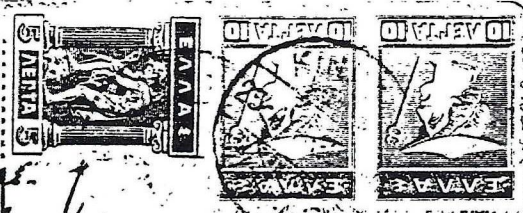
ASIA MINOR
Traveling Post Offices

Kinton/Smyrni-Axarion
25 August 1922

Kinton/Smyrni-Ahmetli
26 May 1922

Επίσημα 25 Αυγούστου 1922

Αγαπητοί μου
Σας έγραφα ελαφρώς
νωρ. Ήμουν, με άνωμαλη
ήταν να μείνω εδώ μέχρι να
γουν τις επιστολές καραβι
σμος. Ημουν γράφει για
δύο έρωτες. Ο θείος σου
και φίλος σου

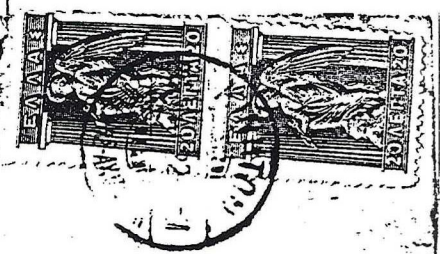


Κύριον
Ιωάννη Παπαμιχά
Οδός Ταγίας-Γαμβέλλας
Εις Βόλον



Editeurs: Lehnert & Landrock

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
FOR THE EXCAVATION OF SARDIS.
C/O THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.
SMYRNA



Mrs William B. Stover
To ~~Druxat & Co~~ 32 Beneger St
Philadelphia Chestnut Hill
Pennsylvania Phila.
Etats. Unis d'Amérique Pa

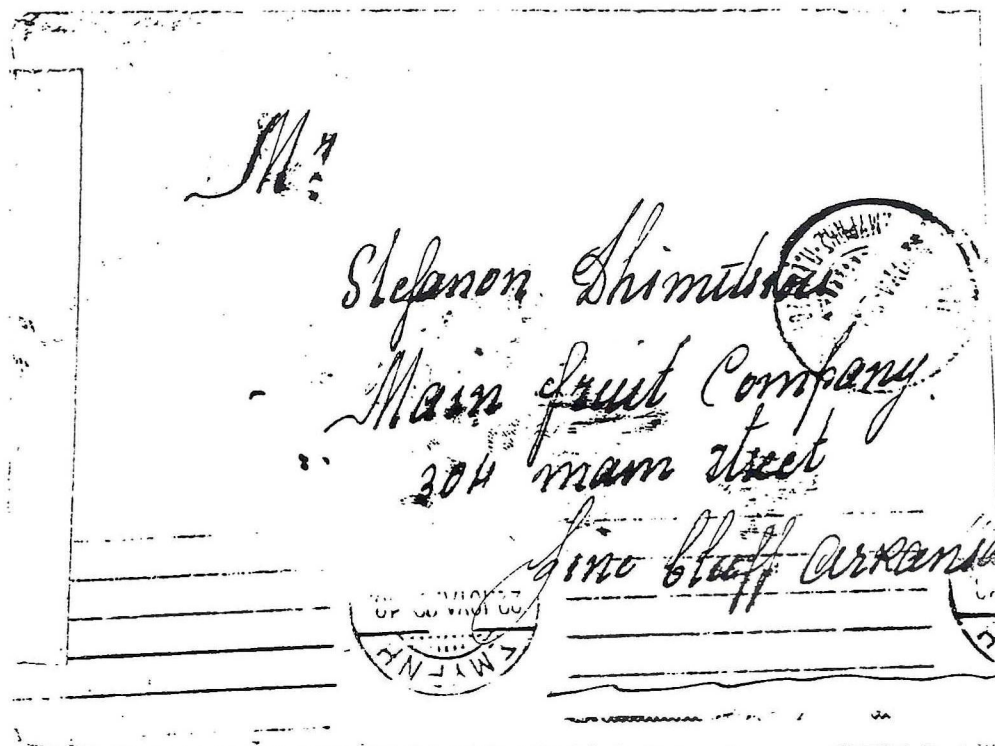


The Greek authorities established TPO service on four different railway lines operating out of Smyrna. Examples of the postmarks used on these routes are very uncommon, especially on covers or cards.

ASIA MINOR
Traveling Post Offices

Kinton/Smyrni-Odemişion
11 January 1922

Kinton/Smyrni-P. Efesos
22 July 1922

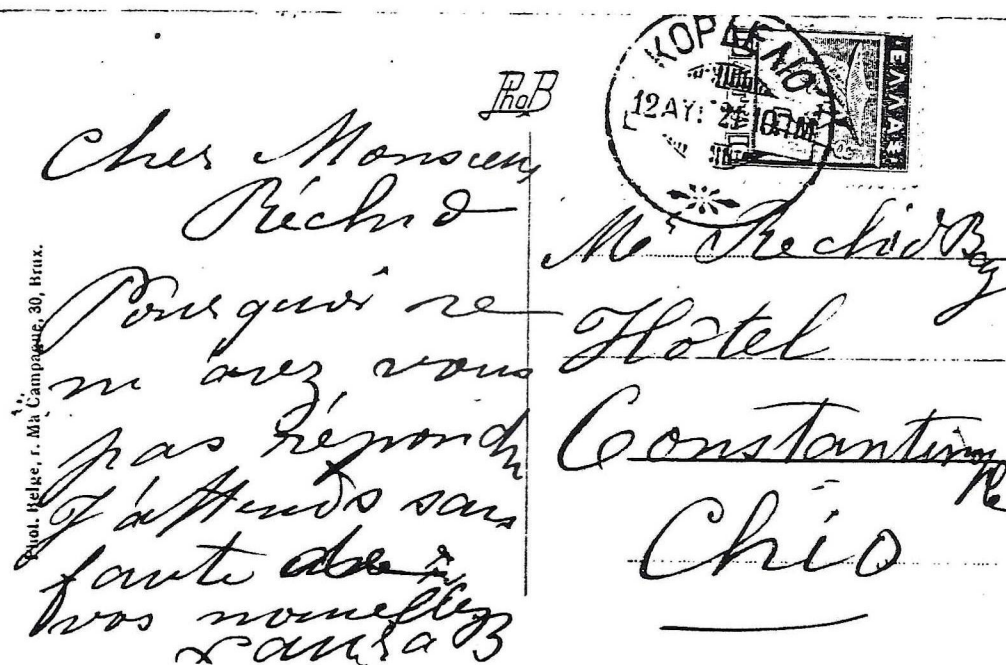


Examples are shown above of the other two TPO postmarks. The railway running to Old Ephesus was originally built to carry tourists to the ancient ruins.

ASIA MINOR

Postmarks: Besides Smyrna, regular Greek postmarks were issued to 41 towns in Western Anatolia. With just four minor exceptions, all of these were within the boundaries established by the Treaty of Sevres, which lands were regarded as Greek de jure. A few provisional postmarks were used in the territories to the east occupied later, and these will be shown separately. Towns are listed chronologically by the date of entry by Greek troops. Unfortunately, postal records giving dates for post office openings did not survive the retreat and evacuation.

Kordelio
12 August 1921



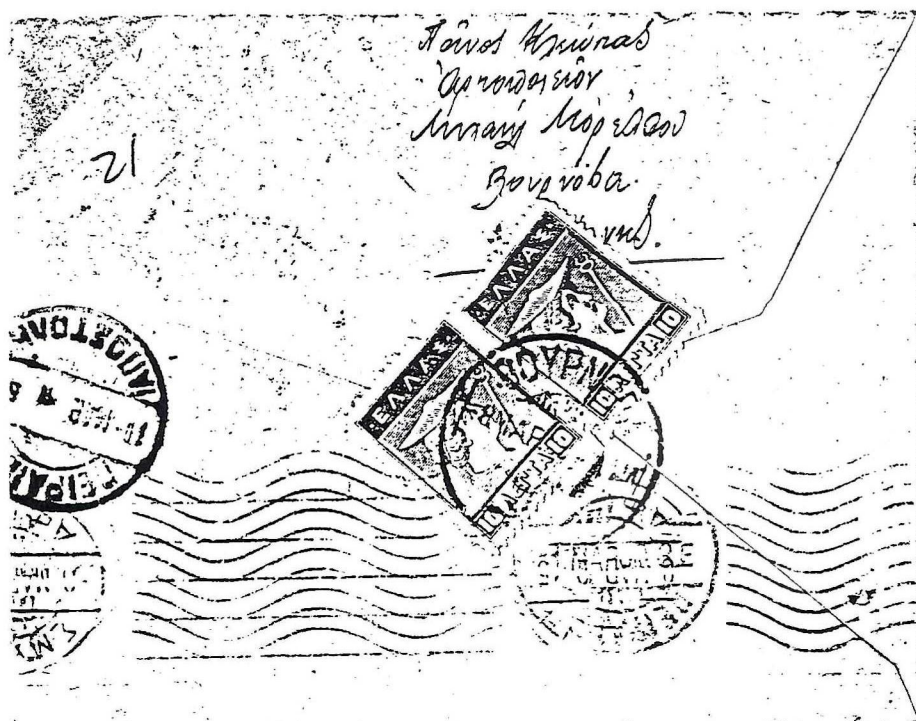
Kordelio (Karsivaca in Turkish) is located on Smyrna Bay, a little to the north and west of the central city. It is recorded as being in Greek hands from 2 May 1919 to 28 August 1922.

ASIA MINOR

Voutza
10 July 1922

Vournova
8 March 1922

Α. Γ. Διδύκειον
Ευδοκίμου οἴκου. Τ. Ν.
Λιδέρη
Α. Πύλας

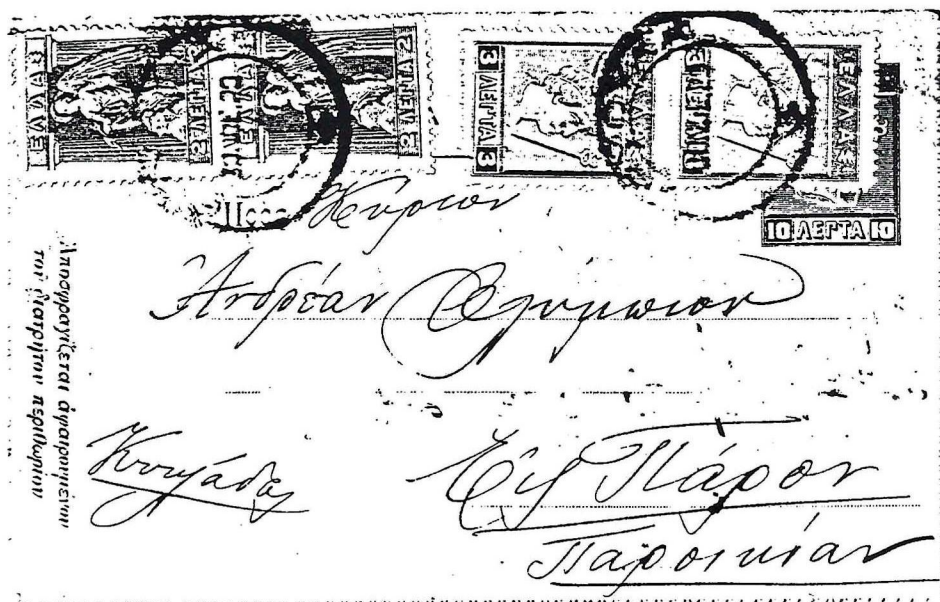


These two towns are located about 5 miles southeast and northeast, respectively, from Smyrna. Today their Turkish names are Buca and Bornova. The Greek forces were in control of both locations from 3 May 1919 to 27 August 1922.

ASIA MINOR

Sevdikioi
12 April 1922

Vriulla
30 November 1920
18 February 1921



Sevdikioi is located about 10 miles southwest of Smyrna. Today its Turkish name is Gazimur. Vriulla (today Urla) is 20 miles west of Smyrna. Greek forces occupied both locations on 4 May 1919, evacuating Sevdikioi on 27 August and Vriulla on 30 August 1922. The latter used two different postmarks as shown.