

COS

Cos is one of the larger islands in the group, with 115 square miles in area and a 1912 population of 16,000. It lies between Calimno and Nisiros. Agriculture is productive, with fruit and wine being exported. The Italian cruiser *Napoli* arrived on 20 May 1912, effecting an immediate change in the government.

Poste Italiane/
Kos (Egeo)
6 July 1912
27 July 1912



The rubber date stamp was introduced when the post office was opened on 10 June 1912. At first, purple ink was used, as shown here on a fieldpost card (brought by a soldier from the campaign in Libya) and on a registered cover to Egypt franked with an unoverprinted Italian stamp.

COS
Military Mail

Poste Italiane/Kos (Egeo)
13 September 1912
5 May 1913

36471 Ed. E. Ragozino - Negozio Belle Arti - Galleria Umberto - Napoli

CARTOLINA POSTALE ITALIANA

(CARTE POSTALE D'ITALIE)

*Post 13
29-1913
Livia*

Alma

*Reinoldi' Laura
Via Mantegazza 3
Monte
(Prov. Milano)*



G. S. Franchigis

*Augusta Lig.
C. Stengelmayr
Via Lolli 66*

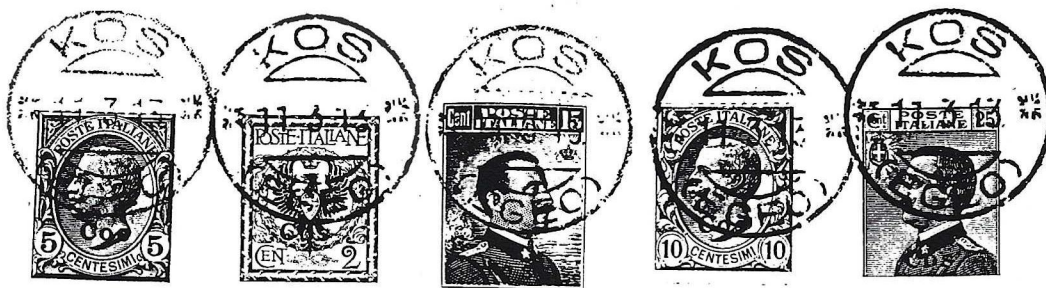


Palermo

In the fall, the post office switched to black ink for postmarking. Thereafter, the rubber cds began to deteriorate as can be seen on the 1913 cover above. Both of these items have the cachet of the "Military Radio-Telegraph Service" and were sent free of postage.

COS
Special Overprints

Kos/(Egeo)
11 March 1913
7 October 1913

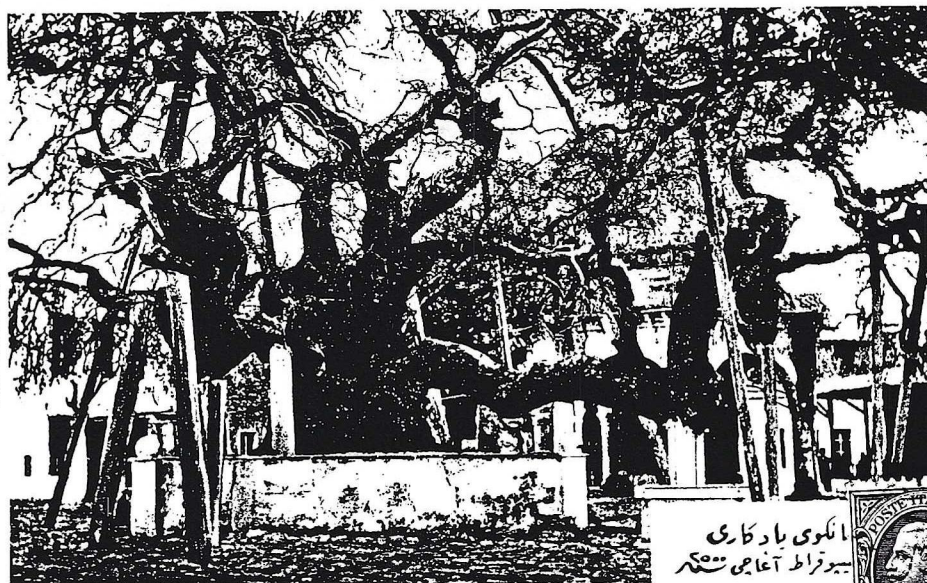


Recommandée

Monsieur Alfred B E R D O Z



MOUDON (Suisse)



Edm. Meunier Chénod

No. 102. Arbre d'Hippocrate 2500 ans (île de Cos, Turquie)



The steel cds for Cos was introduced in December 1912 at the same time as the stamps overprinted for the island. Unlike those elsewhere, this postmark did not include the wording "Italian Posts." Examples shown are a registered cover to Switzerland and a printed matter postcard to Belgium showing a 2,500 year-old tree (Hippocrates arbor).

COS
Special Overprints

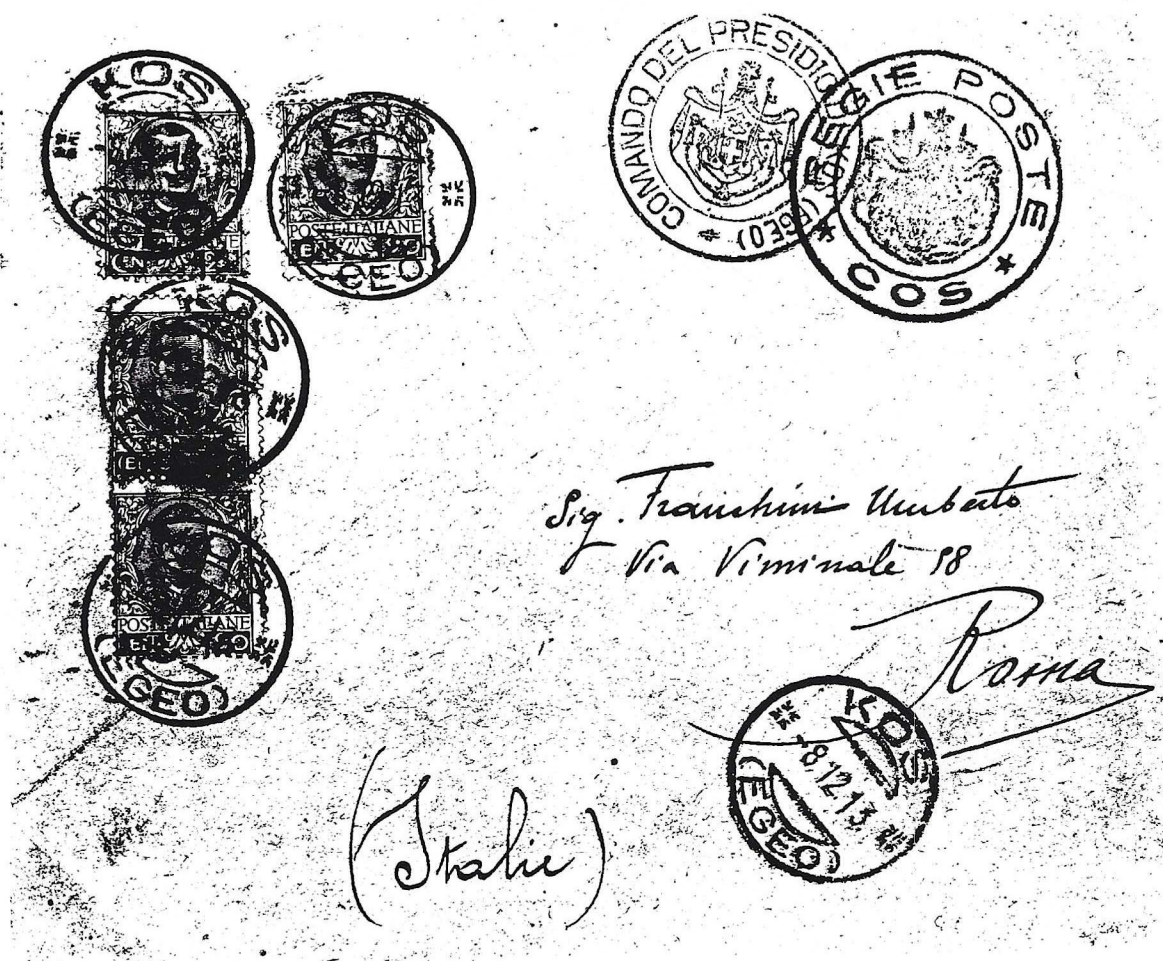
RR. Poste Italiane/Kos (Egeo)
4 July 1918



The postmark on this picture postcard sent to The Netherlands is a second metal type with the addition of "RR. Italian Posts" at the top of the dial. Issued in 1914, it was used until the mid-1920s.

COS
Unoverprinted Italian Stamps

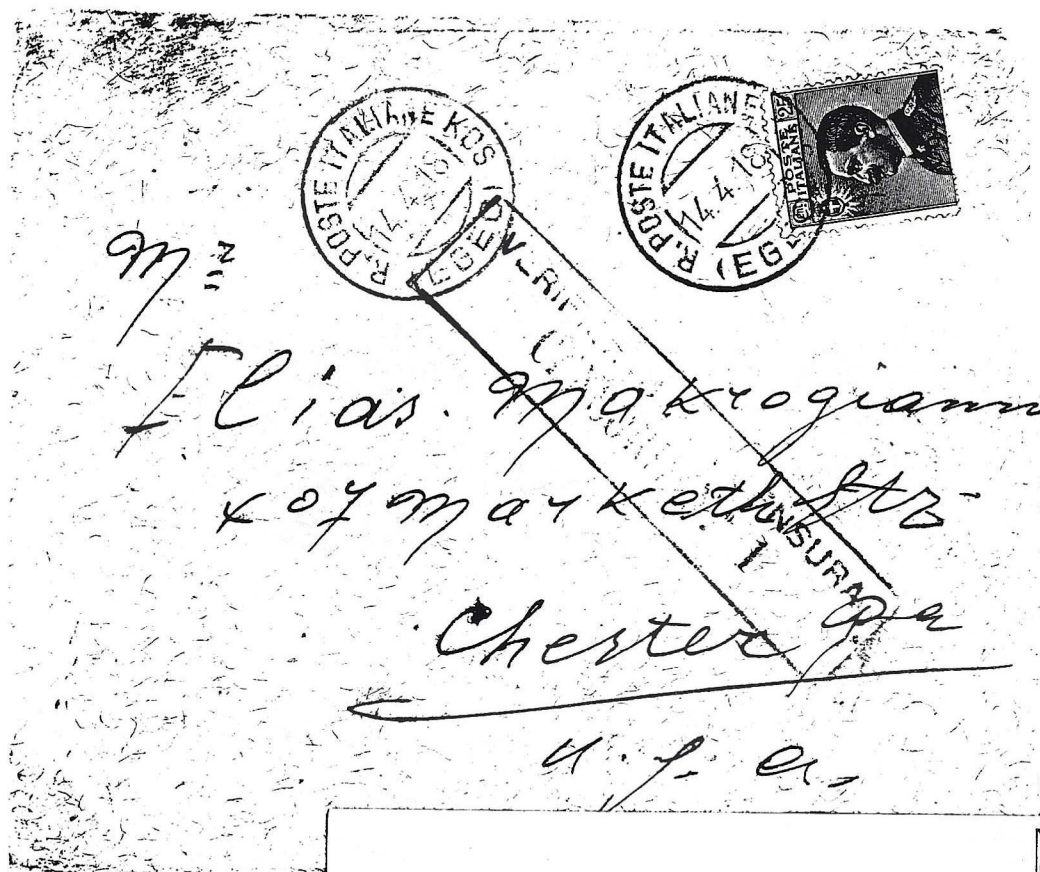
Kos/(Egeo)
8 December 1913



The use of Italian stamps at this date is very unusual, and franking with this particular surcharged issue is even more so. Cachets of the "Headquarters for the Presidio of Cos" and the "Royal Posts/Cos" were applied.

COS
Special Overprints

R. Poste Italiane Kos/(Egeo)
14 April 1918
1 February 1919



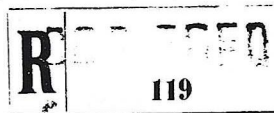
A third type of steel postmark was used on the cover to Pennsylvania and picture postcard sent to France. It was introduced in 1916 and used until the late 1920s. The card has the cachet in red of the Headquarters of the Bersaglieri Detachment on Cos.

COS
Unoverprinted Italian Stamp

RR. Poste Italiane/Kos (Egeo)
5 November 1925

Joseph Menasché & Fils
COS (Mer Egée)

Hern



A. Westen

Stanz- und Emaillewerke



Rassomandée

Celje
(Jugoslavien)

A very late use of the second steel cancel of Cos on a cover franked with a regular Italian adhesive and sent to Celje, Jugoslavia. Backstamped for receipt on 13 November 1925.

*Al Gentilissimo Sign
Signor E. Francesconi*

Piazza F. Durante #28

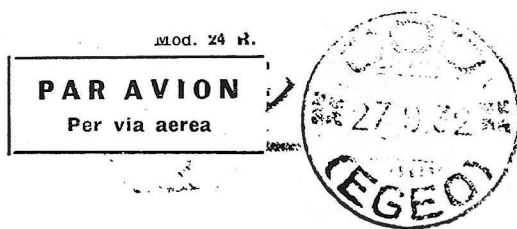


Milano (139)

Later cancels provided to Cos included one inscribed "Post Telegraph Office/Coo" with the spelling of the island being the Italianized version. It was used from 1926 until the late 1930s and is rated as scarce on stamps of Italy.

COS
Unoverprinted Italian Airmail Stamp
General Aegean Islands Commemorative
General Aegean Islands Stamp

Coo/Egeo
27 September 1932
8 January 1941



Car. Mario Porta
Segretario di Legazione
Mim G)



R. GINNASIO DI COO

751 (2-40)



Verificato per censura



a Michele Lionello
L. Cerano

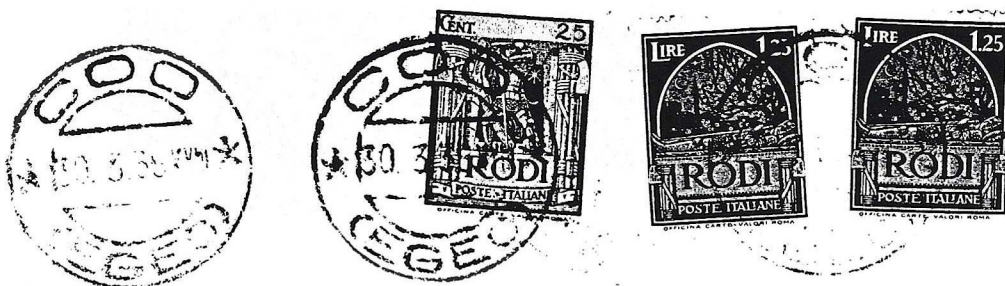
(Salerno)

Cava di Lirio

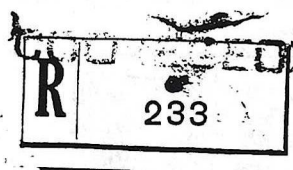
Still later, a new cancel was inscribed simply "Coo/Egeo" and used from 1929 until the 1940s. Note unusual mixed franking of Italian airmail stamp and overprinted Dante commemorative on upper cover.

COS
Rodi Definitives
Unoverprinted Italian Stamps

Coo/Egeo
30 March 1937
12 October 1942



W. Lenoxon Portocalis
235. W. Washington St
West. Chester Pa



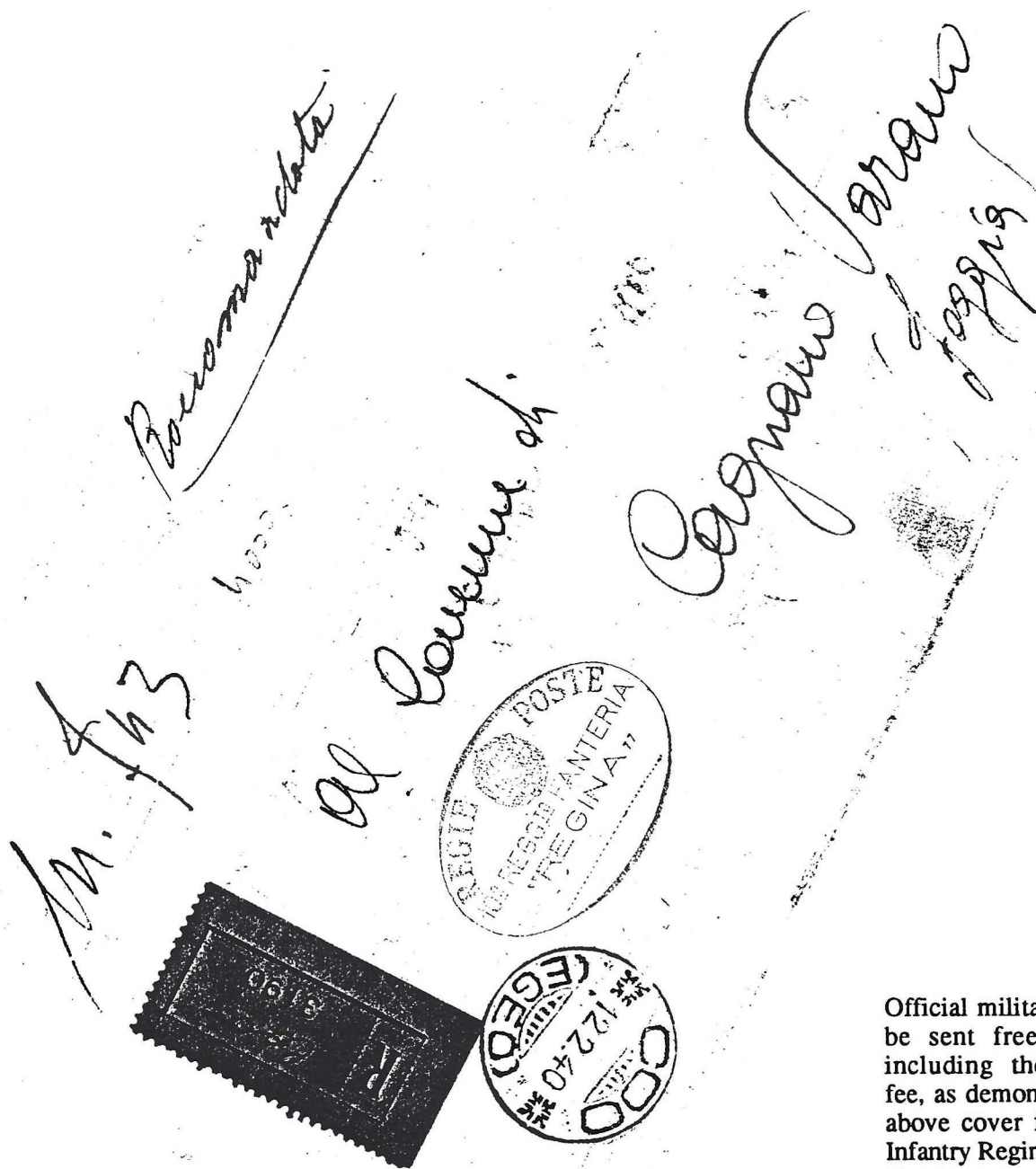
Giorgio Casdagli

~~Athena~~ **Coo** ~~Amaranti~~
~~Diopoli~~ ~~12~~
~~12.10.42~~ ~~1942~~ ~~1943~~

The final two cancels used during the Italian period were both inscribed "Coo/Egeo." The first version was plain in the segments above and below the date, while the later one had vertical bars there and the letters were large and rounded to fit the curved space. The former was introduced in 1929 and used into the 1940s; the latter is the scarcest marking of Cos, used only in 1942 and 1943.

COS
Military Mail

Coo/(Egeo)
12 February 1940



Official military mail could be sent free of postage, including the registration fee, as demonstrated by the above cover from the 10th Infantry Regiment on Cos to Foggia.

COS
Antimakia Branch Office

RR. Poste Italiane/Antimakia (Kos Egeo)
16 November 1919

Antimachia/(Coo)
14 March 1930



2/1/4

Mr.



John. J. Jikas

2006 So. California

Chicago Ill.

U. S. America

Antimakia was an important agricultural center and road junction. As a result, a branch post office was soon opened to serve customers there. The first special postmark was used from March 1914 until the late 1920s. A second version was used from the late 1920s into the 1940s. Both are listed as "RRR" in Tchilinghirian, with only one cover recorded of the former.

KARKI

Karki is one of the less important of the islands, with an area of 11 square miles and a 1912 population of only 1,750 persons. When the warship *Duca di Genova* arrived on 8 May 1912, the Turkish garrison consisting of one non-com and 13 soldiers surrendered.

Poste Italiane Halki (Egeo)

Poste Italiane/Karki (Egeo)
2 September 1912

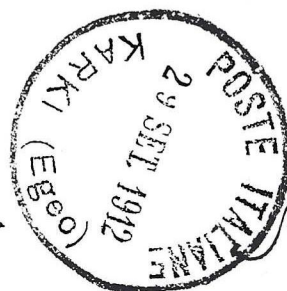


D. FANOURAKIS - HALKI (ARCHIPEL -)

26202 Proprietà E. Maggioracos (H)
E. Μαγγιόρακος - Χαλκή

Kyprios

Βγασιον η Lyfobeyr



Layor (Bad)

Amos - Vathi

The post office reportedly opened on 20 July 1912, but the rubber cds did not arrive until 1 August. In the interim, a bilingual Italian/Greek cachet was used as a cancellation. Tchilinghirian reported no examples of actual mail during the appropriate period, so the picture postcard to Cigliano shown above should be considered as an extraordinary usage.

KARKI
"EGEO" Overprint

Poste Italiane/Karki (Egeo)
23 October 1912

RECOMMANDEE.



Monsieur Ernest P. Gallois.

Compagnie des Eaux.

Tantah.

Egypte.

The use of the general overprints for the Aegean Islands are rarely seen other than from Rhodes. Thus, this example of properly paid postage for a registered letter to Egypt (on which a 20% discount was given from face value) can be considered quite unusual.

KARKI
Special Overprints

Poste Italiane/Kalki (Egeo)
22 December 1913



a S. E. Sanna principe di Scalea
S. Segretario di Stato - Ministero affari Esteri
Roma

The steel cds was introduced on Karkik in March 1913 and was in exclusive use until the middle 1920s. With very little commercial mail generated on the island, examples of this marking are nearly always philatelically-inspired.

LEROS

This island is relatively small, being 21 square miles in area, and having a population of around 7,500 in 1912. It is located near Calimno, from which it is separated by a narrow channel only one mile in width. Italy took over the island on 12 May 1912, the same day as nearby Calimno. Leros attracted a substantial tourist trade and had an excellent harbor, which the Italians later developed into a naval base.

Leros Municipality



The first postmark used was a locally-produced undated, bilingual one inscribed "Municipality of Leros" in Italian and Greek. It was used to cancel mail between mid-May and late June 1912. Only a very few covers are known to have survived from this period, including the registered one shown here.