

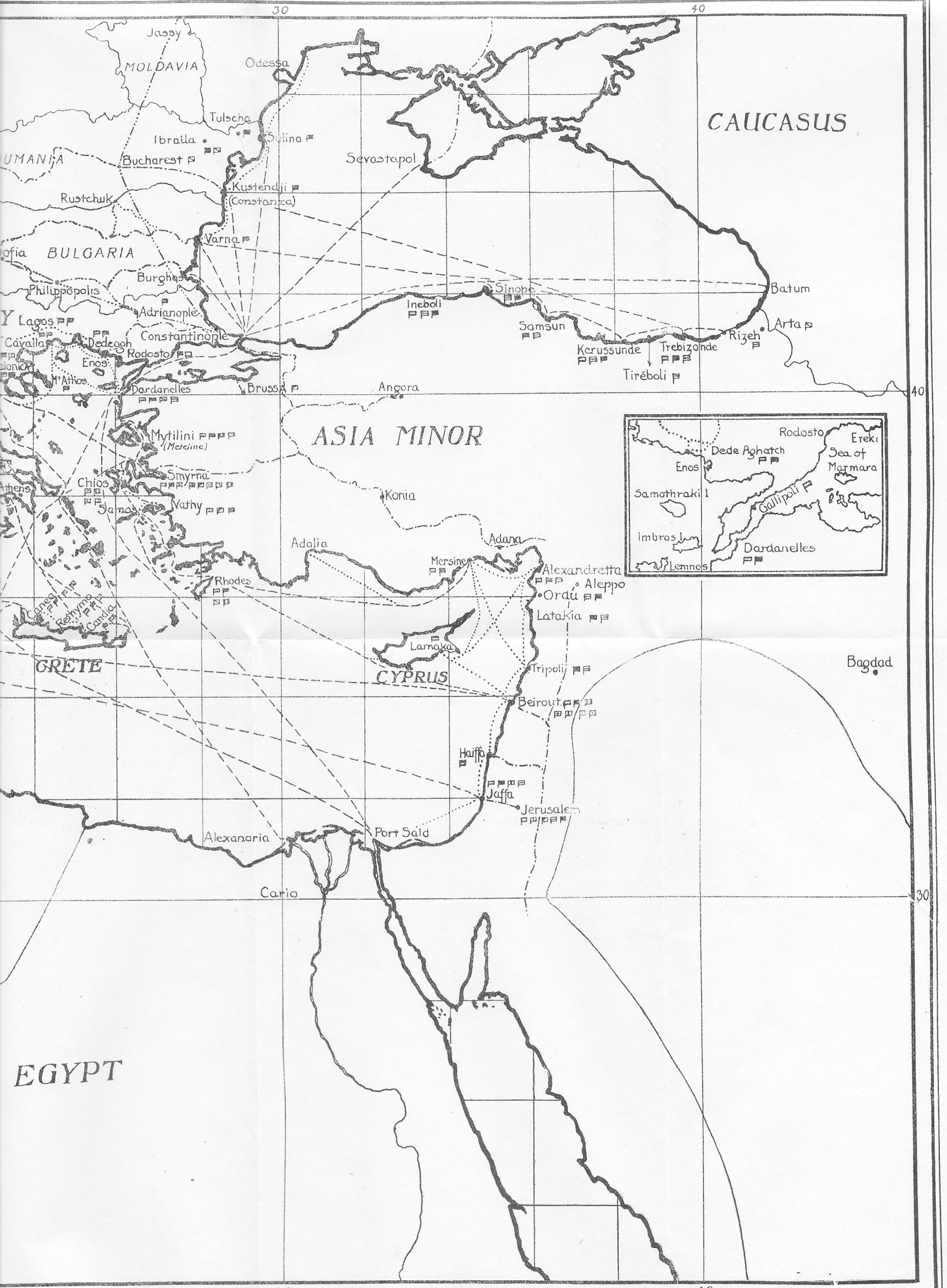
**THE STAMPS OF
THE LEVANT
POST OFFICES**

D. B. Armstrong

Copyright © James Paul Marston 2011. All rights reserved.

Published by J&H Books.

This work is fully protected by copyright. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the publisher's prior consent.

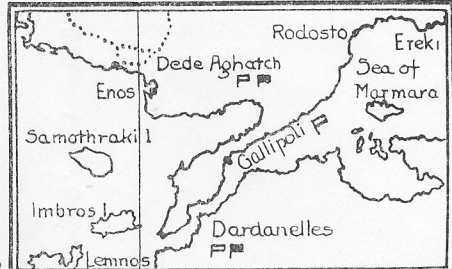


CAUCASUS

ASIA MINOR

GRECE

EGYPT





**THE
LEVANT**

MAIL ROUTES

- Railways
- - - Steamships
- Local Railways
and Steamships

Post Offices

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▣ Austrian ▣ Russian ▣ German ▣ Egyptian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▣ French ▣ British ▣ Greek ▣ Italian
---	---

- - - - - Couriers

**Stamps of the Levant
Post Offices.**

**By
D. B. Armstrong.**



ID. PHILATELY. IS. A. BOND. OF. WORLD. UNITY.

The Stamps of the Levant Post Offices

By

D. B. ARMSTRONG,

Author of Postage Stamps of the Anglo-Egyptian
Soudan; Edwardian Stamps of the British Empire;
Postage Stamps of the Nigerias; Cayman Islands,
their stamps and Post Office; Postage Stamps of
the New Hebrides Condominium; Foreign Post-
marks; etc., etc.

Editor of the Stamp Collectors' Annual.

1913.

DOCKWRA 1680

ROWLAND HILL 1840

1850

1853

SWITZERLAND

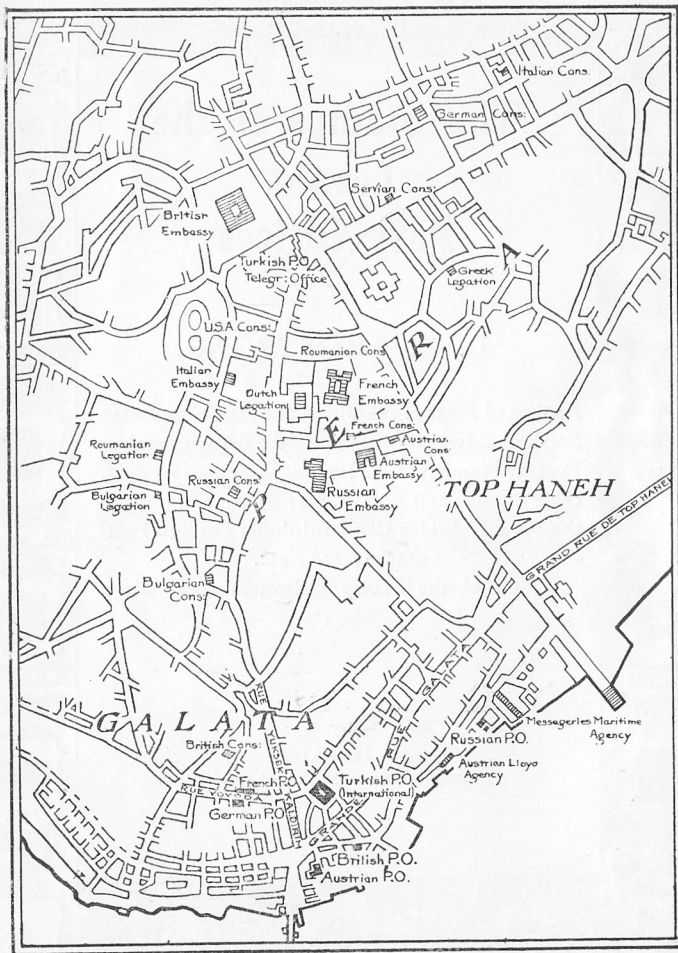
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

ART

LITERATURE

HISTORY

SCIENCE



CONSTANTINOPLE:
 Street Plan of Pera and Galata districts, showing the location of the Foreign
 Post Offices, Consulates and Embassies.

Contents.

INTRODUCTION.

CHAPTER I.

THE LEVANT POST OFFICES	-	-	10
-------------------------	---	---	----

CHAPTER II.

AUSTRIA	-	-	19
---------	---	---	----

CHAPTER III.

RUSSIA	-	-	41
--------	---	---	----

CHAPTER IV.

FRANCE	-	-	60
--------	---	---	----

CHAPTER V.

GREAT BRITAIN	-	-	70
---------------	---	---	----

CHAPTER VI.

GERMANY	-	-	90
---------	---	---	----

CHAPTER VII.

ITALY	-	-	99
-------	---	---	----

CHAPTER VIII.

ROUMANIA	-	-	112
----------	---	---	-----

CHAPTER IX.

EGYPT	-	-	115
-------	---	---	-----

CHAPTER X.

GREECE	-	-	116
--------	---	---	-----



BRITISH POST OFFICE,
Constantinople.



FRENCH POST OFFICE,
Constantinople.



THE political circumstances of their issue combined with their actual philatelic interest have rendered the "Stamps of the Levant Post Offices" one of the most attractive groups of issues available to the moderate specialist, and as such they have of late engaged the attention of a considerable number of philatelists. Much has been written at various times concerning the stamps of this or that country over-printed for use by its postal agencies in the Levant, a large proportion being in foreign languages; and the remainder, scattered through the British philatelic press of half a century, is frequently of a contradictory and unreliable nature.

In the present work, which is the first to treat of the stamps and post offices of the Levant as a whole, an attempt has been made to present in a single concise volume a complete postal and historical record of the foreign post offices in the Levant and their postal emissions, with a view to providing a practical handbook and guide for collectors who favour these popular issues. The political prominence into which the country of their origin has been brought by contemporary happenings in the near East, makes the moment opportune for the presentation of this work, which we have had in contemplation for some time past.

8 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

There are one or two innovations in this volume to which we feel justified in calling attention. In the first place the history of the Levant Post Offices here given is based entirely upon official records preserved in the library of the Foreign Office, and we are indebted to Mr. F. E. Grist for careful transcripts of those pertinent to the subject. The photographs of the head post offices of the foreign powers in Constantinople were specially taken for this book, whilst the plan of Constantinople, showing the location of these offices and the tracings of postmarks and obliterations, were likewise specially prepared by our friend Mr. G. T. Turner.

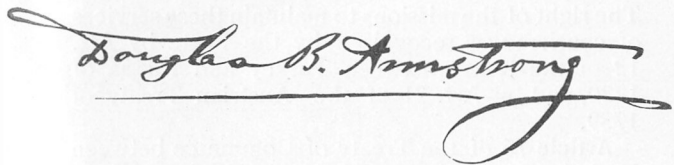
We would also point to the large reference map (inset in the book), on which Mr. Turner has indicated by means of flags the location of all foreign post offices in the Levant, together with the principal mail routes, past and present, involving an enormous amount of work, and making, we believe, an entirely novel departure in philatelic publishing. To this gentleman we are also indebted for the loan of an extensive collection of Levant stamps for purposes of comparison and research, and of some specimens for illustration. Our thanks are also due to Mr. G. R. Thompson, for the loan of a number of additional items illustrated herein.

In the preparation of the text free use has been made of the works enumerated in the Bibliography and of a volume entitled, "Corps de Droit Ottoman," by G. Young (Oxford: The Clarendon Press

INTRODUCTION.

1906), from which much valuable historical information has been derived.

Finally, it should be noted that the appellation "Levant," as applied to the foreign post offices in the Turkish Empire, and their stamps, is, strictly speaking, a misnomer, the region passing under the title of the Levant being confined to the coasts of Asia Minor and Syria, bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, whereas the so-called Levant Post Offices are distributed throughout the length and breadth of the Ottoman Empire, from Salonica to Baghdad, and from Durazzo to Jaffa. Long use has, however, caused these issues to be familiarised by the short title, and it has therefore been found convenient to follow custom in the style of this handbook.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas B. Armstrong". The signature is written in dark ink and features a prominent horizontal line that extends across the width of the name, with a decorative flourish at the end.

"Llanadern,"
Broadstairs,
January, 1913.



The Levant Post Offices.

CHAPTER I.

AS early as 1721, following the Peace of Passarowitz, a regular service of couriers was established between the Imperial Austrian Mission in Constantinople and Vienna, and between the Russian Mission and St. Petersburg, the couriers travelling to and from the borders of the state under escort of janissaries furnished by the Ottoman Government. By 1729 these official courier services had developed into regular public posts, and were freely used by the English and Dutch merchants of Constantinople. The right of the missions to maintain these services of couriers was recognised by the Porte by Art. 12 of the treaty between Turkey and Russia of 1720, and by Art. 21 of the Austrian Treaty of 1739.

Article 76 of the Treaty of Commerce between Turkey and Russia (21st June, 1783) states that :

“With a view to facilitating the commerce of the respective subjects, as well as the reciprocal correspondence, the Serene Porte engages to devise means proper to ensure the celerity and security of the post and of the couriers which come and go to the frontier of Russia, and the Imperial Court of Russia promises equally the same thing on its part.”

The “most favoured nation” clause of a similar treaty concluded with Austria in the following year stated that :

“The Government of Austria is entitled to claim for its subjects, without exception, the same privileges, advantages, and favours which are now enjoyed, or may hereafter be enjoyed by other Frankish nations, and particularly by the French, the English, the Dutch, and the Russians, or by any other still more favoured nation.”

These treaties established the right of the other powers entering into commercial treaties with the Sublime Porte, under international law, to maintain their own postal services in the Ottoman dominions, and in them the existing foreign post offices in Turkey may be said to have had their origin. Similar treaties were concluded with France in 1812, Great Britain in 1832, and Greece in 1834. Regular postal services were also established by Germany and Egypt in 1870, and by Italy in 1873 and 1908. An abortive attempt at establishing a national post office in Constantinople was made by Roumania in 1896. Venetian and Napolitan sea-posts were in operation during the eighteenth century, but had ceased to exist long before the era of the postage stamp. The other foreign services have been continued and extended down to the present day so that they enjoy a virtual monopoly of the foreign correspondence of the Ottoman Empire, causing a loss to the Turkish revenue of nearly £500,000 annually.

Although reforms in the Turkish postal service have long since removed all actual necessity for existence of these foreign post offices, they remain as an outward and visible sign of authority in

pursuance of treaty rights, each nation being unwilling to withdraw its post offices without a similar concession on the part of the others.

With the creation of the Universal Postal Union, to which Turkey was one of the original signatories, the Sublime Porte commenced to press for the abolition of the foreign post offices in Turkey "as constituting an anomaly derogatory to its sovereign rights and an anachronism without any actual cause." In September, 1874, the Ottoman representatives in London, Berlin, Paris, Rome, St. Petersburg, and Vienna presented a memorial to the several governments concerned to the effect that "after a ripe study of the question of the concentration in the hands of the Ottoman Government, of the postal service of the Empire, considered as much from the point of view of the absolute and inalienable right of the state that a situation created by necessity, then not satisfactory, of an epoque that has already passed away, and prolonged to these days by a too easy tolerance the instructions of our delegate tell him to broach, develop and sustain before the congress the question of the suppression of the foreign postal agencies in the Empire." The Berne Conference, however, declared itself incompetent to deal with this matter, and diplomatic negotiations were continued with the result that in 1881 both the Egyptian and Greek services were suspended, whilst in December, 1883, the Italian Government followed suit by closing its post offices at Constantinople, Beyrout and Smyrna; only to re-open them by force in 1908.

The other nations remaining obdurate, an effort was made by the Turkish Post Office in 1880 to enter into competition with the foreign postal agencies, and to this end the services of an English expert, Mr. F. J. Scudamore, were enlisted. Under his direction a special international post office was organized in the business quarter of Constantinople and regular postal communication with Europe was established by means of an express steamship communication with Varna (at that time the terminus of the trans-European railway), thus avoiding the use of the lines which conveyed the foreign mails to and from Marseilles and Brindisi.

On the completion in 1888 of the junction railway connecting the Ottoman system with that of Europe the Porte issued instructions to the Oriental railway not to accept the mail bags of the foreign Post Offices for transmission over its lines. In response to the representations of the ministers of the powers, however, provisional permission was granted up to September 10th, prorogued until November 10th of that year, which has since been tacitly accepted by the Sublime Porte as a *fait accompli*.

During the political disturbances in Turkey in 1895 a further attempt was made to secure the abolition of the foreign postal agencies on the grounds of the introduction of seditious matter into the Empire through their medium, and English, French and German postal officials were arrested in Constantinople, but were released in

14 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

the face of formal protests by their respective missions.

The creation of additional foreign post offices in Salonica in May 1901 on the opening of the railway connecting that port with Europe was made the occasion of a further demonstration by the Ottoman Government.

On the arrival of the train the mail bags destined for the foreign Post Offices were removed under an escort of gendarmerie to the Turkish Post Office, similar action being taken in respect of the bags awaiting despatch at the station. At the same time the Porte addressed a note to the Embassies concerned demanding the suppression of the foreign post offices, which however was returned by the Ambassadors. Meanwhile the European mails of the foreign postal agencies were conveyed to and from the frontier by special couriers. The strong representations of the Powers resulted in the removal of this embargo, and on May 16th Tewfik Pasha informed the Ambassadors that the Sultan regretted the incident and had ordered that no obstacles should be raised to the foreign post offices.

The decision of the Italian Government to reopen its postal agencies in Turkey which was communicated to the Porte early in 1908 was at first met by a direct refusal, but on diplomatic pressure being brought to bear, followed by a threatened naval demonstration by Italy, the opposition was withdrawn.

In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the Turkish and Austrian Governments whereby the five Austrian postal agencies established in Turkish towns where no other foreign post office existed were closed down on May 5th 1909.

Since the re-organization of the Ottoman postal service by Belgian officials which commenced in September 1909 negotiations for the suppression of the foreign post offices have been opened afresh, and as an alternative it has been proposed that they should be combined in a single international post office in Constantinople. Beyond the suppression of the Italian postal agencies in Turkey on the outbreak of Turco-Italian War however, no progress has been made and for the present the question of the foreign post offices in the Ottoman Empire remains in *statu quo*.

To meet the competition of the foreign post offices the Turkish Post Office issued in 1901 a special series of postage stamps for use on external correspondence which entitled the sender to a formal certificate of posting on handing in mail matter franked with these stamps over the post office counter, as a guarantee of security; whilst in 1906 a further concession was made by placing on sale at the Ottoman Post Offices the current Turkish postage stamps overprinted with a special symbol denoting the letter "B"* at a discount of 20% off face value for use on foreign correspondence to induce business houses to

*Signifying, "Béhié"—Rebate.

16 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

make use of the Turkish postal service in preference to those of the European Powers.

There are to-day in active operation in the Turkish Empire one hundred and three foreign postal agencies comprised as follows:— Austrian 37 French 24, Russian 20, German 8 British 5 and Italy 9. The head offices are situate in Galata, the commercial quarter of Constantinople with sub-offices in either Pera or Stamboul, or both and agencies in the principal trading centres of the Near East. With the exception of the Russian service which is in the hands of a steamship company these offices are under the direct control of the national postal administrations of their respective countries. They are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the transaction of all classes of postal business and anyone may make use of them irrespective of nationality although it is customary for each nation to patronise its national post office. The postal service is carried out by European officials and the mails despatched in through bags to all parts of the world, without once passing through the hands of the Turkish Postal Authorities.

Except in the case of the German Post Office there is no delivery of letters received through the foreign post offices and they have therefore to be called for by the addressees. If they are not called for within a certain time however, the post office officials will sometimes deliver them on their own initiative in hope of obtaining a gratuity for this service. The Austrian Post Office has letter boxes in the principal hotels.

Mails are received and despatched daily by all the foreign post offices in Constantinople and thence distributed to the outlying agencies. The rates of postage are uniformly 1 piastre per 20 grammes and 30 paras for each additional 20 grammes or fraction thereof for letters, 20 paras for post cards and 10 paras per 50 grammes for printed matter.





AUSTRIAN POST OFFICE,
Constantinople.



RUSSIAN POST OFFICE,
Constantinople.



CHAPTER II.

IT was in the year 1748 that the Austrian Post Office in Constantinople was removed from the Embassy to a separate building and established on a regular basis with a uniform tariff for all correspondence conveyed over its courier lines, including even official dispatches, which had hitherto travelled under frank*. The service was at the same time extended to Smyrna and became bi-mensual, the journey between Vienna and Constantinople occupying 20 days, and 10 days on to Smyrna. The overland courier service was suspended during the war of 1785-91, the Austrian mail travelling by the Neapolitan sea post. Additional offices were subsequently established and the service extended throughout European and Asiatic Turkey, Egypt, Crete and the Danubian provinces.

On the establishment of the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company in 1836, this company was granted the right of levying taxes on the cost of correspondence confided to it, by arrangement with the Austrian Government, and thus enjoyed, for a time, a virtual monopoly of the postal service with the Levant. The privilege was curtailed in 1851, and seven years later was

*Letters were impressed with a large circular mark containing the Austrian Arms, and with the name of the town in two lines of sans-serif capitals CONSTANTI[NOPEL].

abolished entirely, although to this day the Austrian Lloyd Company holds the right to transmit correspondence of any nature between any port of the littoral of the Ottoman Empire served by its boats, and to maintain a Post Office in its agencies at provinces without regular Post Offices in return for an annual subsidy of Gl. 60,000. To this circumstance is due the fact that Austria possesses the greatest number of postal agencies in Turkey; the representatives of the Austrian Lloyd acting in many places as postmasters. The Austrian service is generally considered to be the most efficient of the foreign postal systems in the Orient, and for this reason many of the other foreign Post Offices send large quantities of their foreign mail through its agency, the proportion being at one time—Russia, 60 per cent., Great Britain, 40 per cent., and France, 35 per cent. The foreign mails distributed through the Austrian Post Office emanate chiefly from Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Italy, Bosnia, Roumania, and to some extent from Malta and Servia.

The administrative headquarters of the Austrian Levant postal service are located at Camondo Han 2me etage, Calata, Constantinople, and the head Post Office in the Rue Mahmoudie, Galata, with sub-offices in Pera and Stamboul, Salonica and Smyrna; consular bureaux at Jaffa and Jerusalem, and agencies in 28 other Turkish towns. Previously the ramifications of the Austrian service were even more extensive than they are to-day, as will be seen from the subjoined list of Austrian

foreign Post Offices, with dates of establishment and suppression, which is based on one published in the *Monthly Journal* and obtained from official sources by Mr. W. N. Wyeth, of New York :—

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POST OFFICES.

COUNTRY.	NAME.	ESTABLISHED.	CLOSED.
ROUMANIA	Baken	1858	1869
	Berlat	1858	1869
	Ibraila	9/1/1845	1869
	Botuschani	before 1838	1869
	Bucharest	before 1822	1869
	Crojova	1732	1857
	Czernawoda	1862	15/1/1879
	Fokschan	1858	1869
	Galatz	before 1838	1869
	Giurgewo	2/2/1855	1869
	Jassy	1785	1869
	Kustendje	1862	15/1/1879
	Piatra	?	?
	Plojesti	1858	1869
	Roman	1858	1869
Sulina	1852	15/1/1879	
Tultscha	1845	15/1/1879	
BULGARIA	Burgas	1854	1880
	Philippolis	1859	31/3/1889
	Rustchuck	9/1/1853	31/8/1884
	Sofia	1851	1880
	Varna	9/1/1845	31/8/1884
	Widdin	1868	1880
SERVIA	Belgrade	1/8/1841	30/1/1869
MONTENEGRO	Antivari	1854	1878
	Dulcigno	1879	?
GREECE	Corfu	?	?
	Volo	1854	1881
CYPRUS	Larnaca	1845	1879
EGYPT	Alexandria	1845	30/9/1888
	Port Said	1869	?

22 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

COUNTRY.	NAME.	ESTABLISHED.	CLOSED.	
TURKEY	Adrianople	before 1858	30/4/1909	
	* Alexandretta	1854	—	
	* Beirut	1845	—	
	* Caifa	1854	—	
	* Cavalle	1/2/1858	—	
	Cesme	1898	5/5/1909	
	* Constantinople	before 1748	—	
	* Dardanelles	1845	—	
	* Dedeagh	1873	—	
	* Durazzo	1854	—	
	TURKEY.	Gallipoli	1/9/1845	5/5/1909
	* Ineboli	1854	—	
	* Jaffa	1854	—	
	* Janina	1857	—	
	* Jerusalem	1852	—	
	* Kerassunde	1872	—	
	Lagos	1864	5/5/1909	
Latakia	1854	1906		
Leros	1879	1880		
* Mersina	1854	—		
* Metelino	1851	—		
* Prevesa	1854	—		
* Rhodes	before 1845	—		
Rodosto	1898	5/5/1909		
* Salonica	1788	—		
* Samsun	1/9/1845	—		
* San Giovanni di Medua	?	—		
* Santi Queranta	1870	—		
* Scio	1851	—		
* Scutari	1855	—		
Serres	before 1813	1880		
Sinope	1854	1868		
* Smyrna	before 1813	—		
Tenedos	?	1891		
* Trapezunt	1845	—		
* Tripoli	1/2/1858	—		
* Valona	1854	—		
* Vathy	1881	—		
CRETE	* Candia	1/2/1858	—	
	* Canea	before 1845	—	
	* Rethymo	1/2/1858	—	

* Offices marked with an asterisk are still in existence.

In an article entitled, "Die Levante und deren Posten," recently published, Mr. A. E. Glaswald also mentions Austrian postal agencies which at one time existed at Sarajevo and Monastir, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at Alexinac, in Servia, and Ancona, in Italy; putting the total number of Austrian foreign Post Offices then existing at about 80.

It would appear that the first adhesive postage stamps employed by the Austrian Levant Post Offices were those issued on July 1st, 1863, for use in Austrian Italy, in the embossed arms design, with values in "Soldi." They were first issued from the Austrian Post Office at Constantinople on December 1st, 1863; in the Danubian provinces on February 17th, 1864; and in the remainder of the Levant Post Offices on April 14th, 1864.



Between these dates and June 1st, 1867, they may be found with the cancellations of these foreign postal bureau, in accordance with the foregoing list, and with various private marks of the Austrian Lloyd service, and preface the special issues of the Austrian Post Offices abroad.

24 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

Concurrently with the new series of Austrian postage stamps issued on the occasion of the Coronation of the Emperor Francis Joseph as



King of Hungary, a series of identical design, but with values in soldi as before, was placed on circulation by the Austrian Foreign Post Offices in June 1st, 1867, constituting the first regular postage stamps of the Austrian Levant.

These stamps, bearing a profile portrait of the Emperor to the left, from a design by Scharf and Brendler, were surface printed by the Royal and



Plate I.



Plate II.

Imperial State Printing Works, Vienna, the electro plates being constructed from dies engraved by Messrs. Brendler & Marklowsky, of that city.

The plain white wove paper was watermarked with the single word BRIEFMARKEN in large double-lined capitals $\frac{7}{8}$ inch high, repeated across the centre of the sheet in lines about 9 inches apart, the perforation gauging 9 to $9\frac{1}{2}$, excepting in the case of the large 50 Soldi stamp, which also exists perforated 10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$, and with a compound of the two gauges. Shades of all values are found. In 1877 fresh plates were made, apparently from re-engraved dies, these later printings being readily distinguishable by the fineness and clearness of the whiskers and hair on the Emperor's



Plate I.

head as compared with the original types. A reprint of the 10 soldi value made in 1895 is printed in a dull deep shade of blue and perforated an even $10\frac{1}{2}$. The stamps were sold by the Levant Post Offices at the rate of four paras to the soldi, and it has been suggested that the inscription "Soldi" did not actually represent any particular monetary denomination, but merely indicated that they were sold according to the current exchange rate. In the Austro-Italian States, however, 100 soldi went to the florin, equal to about $1/8$ in our money.

26 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

The Austrian postage stamp series of September, 1883, with its design of the Imperial Arms, based



on the Bosnian stamps of 1879, was likewise adapted to the use of the Levant Post Offices by the insertion of values in Soldi instead of Kreuzer, and the rendering of the inscription, "Imper. Reg. Posta. Austr.," in place of "Kais Königl Oesterr Post," as expressed on the home issue. They were surface printed, as before, on plain white wove paper and perforated with single line machines gauging 9, 9½. The low values were the same as those of the preceding series, but a 20 soldi stamp took the place of the 25 soldi, and the 15 soldi denomination was omitted.



CONSTANTINOPLE.



VIENNA.

There being no stamp in this series of the equivalent value of 10 para, for which a demand

had arisen, the 3 soldi green was overprinted 10 PARA 10 locally in Constantinople and issued from the Post Office there on September 1st, 1886, to supply the deficiency. At the same time a further supply of this provisional was requisitioned from the State Printing Office at Vienna. The Constantinople and Vienna surcharges may be distinguished by the length of the overprint, which, in the case of the local surcharge, measures 16 mm., the word PARA being 2 mm. higher than the foot of the figures "10," whilst that applied in the Austrian capital measures only 15 mm., and the words and figures of the overprint are in alignment. A part of the Vienna printing of this provisional was perforated 10, 10½.



Two years later, in June, 1888, the stamps with values in soldi were permanently superseded by the same denominations of the regular Austrian issue of the same type, inscribed in Kreuzers, overprinted in black (in complete sheets of 100, ten rows of 10, with narrow margins), with new values in Turkish currency (para and piastres). Varieties of this surcharge exist with the overprint double and also inverted.

28 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

Similar overprints were applied between 1890 and 1896 as required to the new Austrian stamps



of the types first issued on September 1st, 1890, with various perforations, the figures of value in the lower corners being omitted to make room for the Turkish overprint. The same applies to the Austrian issue of 1899-1902 with values in heller and kronen.

All these issues involved three separate processes in printing, the first for the impression of the actual design, the second for the insertion of the value in kreuzers or hellers, and the third for



surcharging the new denomination in Turkish currency. From 1904 on, however, the second

printing was eliminated, the stamps with blank value tablets, as received from the press, being sur-



charged both at the top and bottom, with the value in para or piastres direct, without the intermediate overprint in Austrian currency.

The Austrian stamps of 1904-6, both with and without the protective varnish bars across the face, were likewise overprinted for use by the foreign agencies.

Finally, in July, 1908, these surcharged stamps gave place to a full series of nine values in two



permanent designs adapted from the Austrian jubilee issue of the same year, but with values in

30 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

“para” and “piastres,” both bearing modern portraits of the Emperor Francis Joseph, in



accordance with the following official notification :—

New issue of Postage Stamps for the Royal and Imperial Post Offices in Turkey and Crete.

H. Minist. Z. 24887 P.

The following new Postage Stamps for the Royal and Imperial Post Offices in Turkey and Crete will be issued on July 15th, 1908, in accordance with this announcement :—

- 10 para, deep green on *yellow*.
- 20 para, deep red on *rose*.
- 30 para, brown on *chamois*.
- 60 para, violet on *blue-green*.
- 1 piastre, dark blue on *deep blue*.
- 2 piastres, dark red on *yellow*.
- 5 piastres, brown on *grey*.
- 10 piastres, dark green on *yellow*.
- 20 piastres, dark blue on *grey*.
- 5 centimes, deep green on *yellow*.

- 10 centimes, deep red on *rose*.
 15 centimes, brown on *chamois*.
 25 centimes, dark blue on *deep blue*.
 50 centimes, dark red on *yellow*.
 1 franc, brown on *grey*.

The stamps up to the values 1 piastre and 25 centimes resemble in design and execution the internal postage stamps of 5, 10 and 25 heller, the high values from 2 piastres and 50 centimes upwards the internal postage stamps of 1 krone.

The Levant stamps of the former issue will be exchanged for the new stamps until the end of 1908.

Vienna, 24th June 1908.

On the low values, which are surface printed, the aged monarch is shown, head and shoulders, in military uniform, whilst on those of 2 piastres and upward (line engraved) he is portrayed, three quarter length, wearing the order of the Golden Fleece. The designs were the work of Professor Kolman Moser, and the dies were engraved by Ferdinand Schirnboeck, the stamps being printed as before at the State Printing Works, Vienna, the perforation gauging uniformly $12\frac{1}{2}$. The so-called variety of the 1 piastre value on white instead of bluish paper is believed to be a chemical changling.



The Austrian stamps overprinted in "Centimes" and "Francs" from 1903-04 onwards, for use by

32 THE LEVANT POST OFFICES.

the Austrian Post Offices in Crete, and the permanent series of 1908 similarly inscribed, may



also be found with the postmarks of Constantinople and the other Levant Post Offices, where they appear to have been employed in the prepayment of postage on printed matter, &c., in a similar manner to the German special issue of 1908.

A series of Postage Due stamps was provided for the use of the Austrian Post Offices in the Turkish Empire in January, 1902, by overprinting



the regular Austrian unpaid letter stamps with values in para and piastres in two lines of large

bold type. These were replaced in July, 1908, by a special Postage Due series of nine denominations,



identical with the Austrian series of the same date, but with values in Turkish currency and the word "Porto" at the top of the value tablet instead of at the foot. When first issued these stamps were printed on thick chalk-surfaced paper, but since 1909 the paper has been thinner and unsurfaced.



SUMMARY.

1863. Contemporary stamps of Austrian-Italy (July 1st, 1863) with postmarks of Austrian Foreign Post Offices. Five values. Design: Imperial Austrian Arms embossed within an oval frame of reticulate design within the word "Soldi" at the top and an embossed numeral of value in a semi-circular tablet of colour at the foot. Plain white wove paper. Perf. 14 by a harrow machine, perforating a complete sheet of 100 at each descent of the punches.

Engraved by Tantenheim, of Vienna, and printed at the Royal and Imperial State Printing Works, Vienna.

2 soldi, yellow.	10 soldi, dull blue.
3 soldi, yellow-green.	15 soldi, stone-brown.
5 soldi, dull rose.	
	bright rose.

1864. *As above, but watermarked " BRIEF-MARKEN " in large open capitals $\frac{7}{8}$ inch high, repeated at intervals of 9 inches across the sheet. Perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$.*

2 soldi, yellow (shades).	10 soldi, dull blue.
3 soldi, yellow-green.	deep blue.
blue-green.	15 soldi, pale stone brown.
5 soldi, dull rose.	deep stone brown.
	deep rose.

The above were reprinted in 1884 (perf. 13), and the 2 and 3 soldi in 1889 (perf. $10\frac{1}{2}$).

1867. *June 1st. Permanent issue for Austrian Foreign Post Offices. Seven values. Design: Profile of Emperor to right, by Scharf and Brendler. Surface printed by the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna. Dies engraved by Brendler & Marklowsky, Vienna. Thick white wove paper watermarked " BRIEFMARKEN " in the sheet. Perf. $9, 9\frac{1}{2}$. Plate. 1.*

2 soldi, orange.	25 soldi, purple brown.
	yellow.
3 soldi, pale green.	50 soldi, brown.
deep green.	<i>Variety—Perf. 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$.</i>
5 soldi, pale rose.	50 soldi, brown.
rose carmine.	<i>Variety—Perf. 9,</i>
10 soldi, pale blue.	$9\frac{1}{2} \times 10, 10\frac{1}{2}$ com-
deep blue.	<i>pound.</i>
15 soldi, bistre.	50 soldi, brown.
deep brown.	
reddish brown.	

1877. *As above, but Plate II. Whiskers and hair finer and clearer. Thin semi-transparent paper.*

2 soldi, yellow.	50 soldi, pinkish brown.
3 soldi, pale green.	<i>Varieties—</i>
5 soldi, red.	<i>Perf.</i> 10, 10½.
pale rose.	10 soldi, pale blue.
10 soldi, pale blue.	15 soldi, red brown.
deep blue.	<i>Variety—</i>
15 soldi, red-brown.	<i>Perf.</i> 9, 9½ x 10,
chocolate.	10½ <i>compound.</i>
25 soldi, grey lilac.	10 soldi, pale blue.
<i>Perf.</i> 12.	

The reprint of this stamp made in 1895 is in a dull deep shade of blue and perf. 10½ all round.

1883. *September. Permanent issue for Austrian Foreign Post Offices. Six values. Design: Imperial Austrian Arms. Inscribed, "Imper. Reg. posta Austr.," and values in soldi. Surface printed at two operations by the State Printing Works, Vienna. Value in black inserted at second printing. White wove paper, watermarked "BRIEFMARKEN" as before. Perf. 9, 9½ (single line machine).*

2 soldi, brown.	20 soldi, greenish-grey.
3 soldi, emerald green.	50 soldi, rosy mauve.
yellow-green.	<i>Variety—</i>
5 soldi, rose.	<i>Perf.</i> 10, 10½
rose-red.	5 soldi, rose-red
10 soldi, ultramarine.	
dull blue.	

1886. *September 1st. Provisional issue. One value. New denomination in Turkish currency surcharged in black in one line on stamp of September, 1883, as above.*

Surcharged at Constantinople.

Overprint 16 mm. long.

10 para on 3 soldi, green.

Surcharged at Vienna.

Overprint 15½ mm. long.

10 para on 3 soldi, green.

Variety—Perf. 10, 10½.

10 para on 3 soldi, green.

1888. *June. Permanent issue. Five values in Turkish currency overprinted in black on complete*

sheets of 100 of contemporary Austrian Issue of 1883, with values in Kreuzer. Inscribed, "Kais. Königl Oesterr Post." White wove paper, water-marked "BRIEFMARKEN," as before. Perf. 10, 10½. Printed and overprinted by the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, rose.

1 piastre on 10 Kreuzer, blue.

2 piastres on 20 Kreuzer, grey.

5 piastres on 50 Kreuzer, mauve.

Errors—double surcharge

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, rose.

5 piastres on 50 Kreuzer, mauve.

Errors—surcharge inverted.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, rose.

1890-92. *Permanent issue.* Six values of contemporary Austrian series of September 1st, 1890. Head of Emperor, with value in Kreuzers in lower corners removed. Overprinted in Turkish currency at the foot in one line in black. Surface printed and overprinted at the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna, in sheets of 100. Granite wove paper, water-marked "K. K. BRIEFMARKEN" in the sheet. Various perforations.

8 para on 2 Kreuzer, brown.

Perf. 9, 9½; 10, 10½; 12½, 13½.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

Perf. 10, 10½; 11, 12; 12½, 13½.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, carmine.

Perf. 10, 10½; 11, 12; 12½, 13½.

1 piastre on 10 Kreuzer, blue.

Perf. 10, 10½; 11, 12; 12½, 13½.

2 piastres on 20 Kreuzer, olive.

Perf. 11, 12; 12½, 13.

5 piastres on 50 Kreuzer, mauve.

Perf. 10, 10½; 11, 12.

Varieties—Perf. 10, 10½ x 11, 12, compound.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, carmine.

1 piastre on 10 Kreuzer,
Varieties—Perf. 10, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$,
compound.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, carmine.

1 piastre on 10 Kreuzer, blue.

Varieties—Perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 13.

10 para on 3 Kreuzer, green.

20 para on 5 Kreuzer, carmine.

1 piastre on 10 Kreuzer, blue.

1891. *Two values. Austrian type of same year, with numerals, on white ground, surcharged as above.*

2 piastres on 20 Kreuzer, green.

Perf. 9, $9\frac{1}{2}$; 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$; 11, 12; $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13.

5 piastres on 50 Kreuzer, mauve.

Perf. 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$; 11, 12; $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13.

1892. *Two values. Overprinted on Austrian Stamps of September, 1890. Recess printed from anaglyphically engraved plates, and typographically overprinted at the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna. Granite paper, watermarked "K. K. BRIEF-MARKEN." Perf.* 9, $9\frac{1}{2}$; 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$; 11, 12; $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$.

10 piastres on 1. gulden blue.

20 piastres on 2. gulden red.

1896. *As above. Colours changed. Perf.* 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$; $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$.

10 piastres on 1. Gulden lilac.

20 piastres on 2. Gulden green.

Variety—Perf. 11, 12.

10 piastres on 1, Gulden, lilac.

1900-2 *Permanent issue. Seven values. Surcharged, as before, in Turkish currency on Austrian stamps of 1900-2, with values in heller removed from lower corners. Granite paper. Perf.* $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13. *Surface printed and overprinted in black at Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna.*

10 para on 5 heller, green.

20 para on 10 heller, rose.

1 piastre on 25 heller, ultramarine.

- 2 piastres on 50 heller, pale blue.
 5 piastres on 1 krone, rose.
 10 piastres on 2 kronen, lavender.
 20 piastres on 4 kronen, pale green.
Varieties—Perf. 10, 10½.

- 1 piastre on 25 heller, ultramarine.
 2 piastres on 50 heller, pale blue.
 5 piastres on 1 Krone, rose.
Varieties—Perf. 12½, 13½ x 10, 10½.

- 20 para on 10 heller, rose.
 5 piastres on 1 Krone, rose.
 10 piastres on 2 Kronen, lavender.
Varieties—Perf. 9½.

- 5 piastres on 1 Krone, rose
 10 piastres on 2 Kronen, lavender.
 20 piastres on 4 Kronen, pale green.
Varieties—Perf. 12½, 13½ x 9½.

- 5 piastres on 1 Krone, rose.
 10 piastres on 2 Kronen, lavender.
 20 piastres on 4 Kronen, pale green.
*Varieties—Shiny diagonal varnish bars
 across face of stamps.*

- 10 para on 5 heller, deep blue-green.
 20 para on 10 heller, rose.
 1 piastre on 25 heller, ultramarine.
 2 piastres on 50 heller, pale blue.

1904. *As above, but surcharged in Turkish
 currency at top and bottom. Varnish bars. Perf.
 12½, 13½.*

- 10 para, deep blue-green. 1 piastre, ultramarine.
 20 para, rose. 2 piastres, pale blue.

1906-7. *As above, but without varnish bars.
 Perf. 12½, 13½.*

- 10 para, deep blue-green. (1906).
 yellow-green.
 20 para, rose.
 30 para, violet.
 1 piastre, ultramarine.
 2 piastres, pale blue.
Varieties—Perf. 9½.
 10 para, deep blue-green, yellow-green.

20 para, rose.

30 para, violet.

1 piastre, ultramarine.

2 piastres, pale blue.

Varieties—Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$.

10 para, deep blue-green, yellow-green.

20 para, rose.

30 para, violet.

1 piastre, ultramarine.

Varieties—Perf. 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$.

10 para, yellow green.

20 para, rose.

1 piastre, ultramarine.

Varieties—Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, $10\frac{1}{2}$.

10 para, yellow-green,

20 para, rose.

1 piastre, ultramarine.

1908. July 15th. *Permanent issue for the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey. Designs of Austrian Jubilee series of same date by Professor Moser, adapted with values in Turkish currency. Portraits of Emperor Francis Joseph I., engraved by Ferdinand Schirnboeck and printed at the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna. Perf.* $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Surface Printed.

10 para, green on *yellow*.

20 para, vermilion on *pink*.

30 para, chocolate on *buff*.

60 para, purple on *bluish*.

1 piastre, deep blue on *greenish blue*.

deep blue on *azure*.

Recess Printed.

2 piastres, red on *yellow*.

5 piastres, deep brown on *greyish*.

10 piastres, green on *yellow*.

20 piastres, dull blue on *greyish*.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

1902. January. *Five values of contemporary Austrian Postage Due series of 1900, overprinted*

with *new values in Turkish currency in two lines in black. White wove paper. Perf. 12½, 13, and 12½, 13½ x 9½.*

- 10 para on 5 heller, green.
- 20 para on 10 heller, green.
- 1 piastre on 20 heller, green.
- 2 piastres on 40 heller, green.
- 5 piastres on 100 heller, green.

1908. *July. Nine values. Design of contemporary Austrian issue, but with values in Turkish currency. Surface printed on heavy chalk-surfaced paper at the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna.*

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ¼ piastre, yellow-green. | 5 piastres, yellow-green |
| ½ piastre, yellow-green. | 10 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 1 piastre, yellow-green. | 20 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 1½ piastres, yellow-green. | 30 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 2 piastres, yellow-green. | |

1909. (*End*). *As above, but on thin unsurfaced paper.*

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ¼ piastre, yellow-green. | 5 piastres, yellow-green. |
| ½ piastre, yellow-green. | 10 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 1 piastre, yellow-green. | 20 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 1½ piastres, yellow-green. | 30 piastres, yellow-green. |
| 2 piastres, yellow-green. | |





CHAPTER III.

A RUSSIAN Post Office was established in Constantinople about the same time as that of Austria (1748), and in 1782 was connected with St. Petersburg by a bi-monthly service of couriers travelling by way of Bucharest and Jassy. By 1799 Russian Post Offices had been established at Jassy and Bucharest, through which the Russian mail was regularly transmitted to and from the frontier Postal Bureau at Olviopol. In 1831 a regular Postal Tariff was instituted, and in 1840 the journey from the frontier to the capital took ten days, and was marked out with 41 stations.

On the outbreak of the Crimean War this over-land service had to be abandoned, but on the conclusion of peace, the re-organisation of the Russian postal service in the Levant was entrusted to the Russian Company of Navigation and Trade, founded at Odessa in 1856, and maintaining a regular service of mail steamers between the principal ports of the Black Sea and the Levant. A clause in the Company's charter provided that they should maintain the postal service with the Levant gratuitously, and accordingly the administration of the Russian Post Offices in Turkey has been in the hands of the Russian Company of Navigation and Trade down to the present day, the Post Offices being now located in its agencies in eighteen Turkish towns and ports. The Company was entitled to receive 25 per cent. of the postal charges.

To-day the head office of the Russian postal service in the Levant is in the Rue Kiritch-Capon, Galata, with sub-offices at Stamboul, and in the Rue Verwoda opposite the Turkish International Post Office, and agencies in Ineboli, Sinope, Samsoun, Tiréboli, Ordou, Kerassunde, Trebizonde, Rizeh, Dardanelles, Smyrna, Chios, Alexandrette, Lattaquie, Tripoli, Beirut, Jaffa and Mount Athos. The correspondence distributed by these offices emanates chiefly from Russia and Persia, and the service, as compared with the other foreign Post Offices, is small. Letters are only accepted for direct transmission between the various Russian Levant Post Offices, all Foreign correspondence being forwarded via., Odessa through the Imperial Russian Postal Service.

Commencing in 1862 letters conveyed by the Company's steamers were impressed with a special handstamped "frank," and on January 1st, 1864, an adhesive postage label of the face value of 6 kopecs for the prepayment of the regular Russian postal rate for printed matter conveyed by sea, under wrapper, made its appearance. This imposing stamp, $42\frac{1}{2}$ mm. square, was supplied to the Russian Company of Navigation and Trade by the Russian Government, having been typographically printed in blue on plain white wove paper at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, in blocks of four, 2 x 2. It bore in the centre the arms of Russia, with posthorns beneath, in an uncoloured circle surrounded by an engine-turned border, enclosed in a large outer circle of colour, inscribed round the circumference in Russian characters, "Dispatch under crossed band to the East, 6 Kop. per lot,"; the last word representing the unit of weight, equalling about half an ounce. Hitherto only two printings of this stamp have been

distinguished by specialists, but in a recently published article, Mons. P. Mahe differentiates a third



printing, and classifies the three as follows : first, oily ink on thin unsurfaced paper ; second, aniline ink on medium unsurfaced paper ; third (made in 1866), aniline ink on heavy glazed paper. He also lists two shades of each printing, all of which represent degrees of Prussian blue, except the last, which is described as "indigo" blue (*à reflet metallique*).

Many dangerous forgeries of this stamp exist. For explanation of the principal points of differ-



ence, readers interested are referred to a valuable article in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, xxvi., 42.

Two further stamps were issued for this service in 1865, lithographed at Odessa to the order of the Steamship Company, whose initials they bore, viz : R.O.P.i.T. (Russkoie Obshtchestwo Parschodstwa i Torgowli). In a central vignette was a crude representation of a steamship with the Russian Arms above on the one stamp and below on the other. They bore no indication of value, but were sold for 5 kopecs or 20 para for use on printed matter, and 20 kopecs or 2 piastres for letter postage, respectively. The lithographic stones were made up of 28 impressions in four rows of seven, each one drawn separately by hand, and there are therefore 28 different types of each of



these stamps. The stamps were printed in two colours on plain white wove paper, with the background in the second, and in common with the previous issue were imperforate. The 2 piastres value has been extensively forged, and both have been officially reprinted on more than one occasion.

Early in 1868 a fresh issue of these values was made in a re-drawn type printed by the same firm from stones built up from a single transfer of each design. The designs were more carefully drawn, the inscriptions, ship and arms appearing in colour upon a plain ground instead of in white on a coloured ground, as in the preceding issue. They were printed on white wove paper of varying thickness, the background being composed of a

fine horizontal network of intersecting lines. In the early printings the tablets containing the Company's initials show portions of this network, which, however, is entirely absent from the later impressions. On March 10th, 1868, both values made their appearance with the network of the background running vertically instead of horizontally, and entirely clear of the tablets containing the ship and the Russian Arms. These varieties enjoyed but a brief period of currency, giving place on May 1st, 1868 to a new permanent series of four values (1, 3, 5 and 10 kopecs) typographed at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) in a design consisting of a



large ornamental numeral of value upon a lattice ground, enclosed in an oval frame of solid colour bearing the Russian inscription "Wostochnaya Korrespondentsia" (Eastern correspondence). The paper was that used for the contemporary postal issues of the Russian Empire, horizontally laid, and with a watermark of undulating lines, but the perforation gauged $11\frac{1}{2}$ and was the work of a separate machine from that which perforated the regular Russian stamps of that epoch.

These and all subsequent postage stamps of the Russian Levant were issued under the ægis of the Imperial Government and do not constitute (as is the case with their predecessors) private issues of the Russian Company of Navigation and Trade.

All four values appeared in 1872 with the perforation of the current Russian postage stamps gauging $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$, at first on paper horizontally laid as before, but subsequently one or more printings were made on vertically laid paper.

In consequence of an amendment of the postal tariff towards the end of 1876, the 10 kopecs denomination was reduced by overprinting to the value of 8 kopecs, the surcharge being applied locally in both black and blue by means of a hand-stamp bearing a large figure "8." It was applied to the 10 kopecs stamp with the $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ perforation, the stocks of this value being called in from out-



lying offices to be surcharged with the new denomination.

A further reduction of the postal rate to 7 kopecs in 1879 led to the creation of a second provisional, the 10 kopecs stamp being again requisitioned and surcharged with a short thick figure "7", both varieties of paper being found with this overprint, which was applied at the head office in Constantinople. A second type of overprint with a tall thin figure "7" is reported to have been officially employed for a short time in overprinting these stamps, but genuine examples of this thin surcharge are extremely scarce, and the majority of stamps bearing the thin numeral are fraudulent. Both the 7 and 8 kopec provisionals, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, are considered to be forgeries.

Shortly after the issue of the provisional 7 kopecs stamp, this and also a 2 kopecs stamp was issued in June, 1879, in the type of the permanent series, together with a fresh printing of the 1 kopec in new colours. These three stamps were bi-coloured, the background being printed in the second colour, and were issued on both horizontally and vertically laid paper, with the regular perforation $14\frac{1}{2} \times 15$. They were subsequently issued in single colours on horizontally laid paper in 1884, with the addition of a 5 kopecs value, whilst in January, 1890, in consequence of the postal unit being raised from 7 to 10 kopecs, that denomination of the 1872 series was re-issued, in the same colours as before, but printed on slightly bluish paper.



Stamps of this numeral design continued in use until the summer of 1900, when the contemporary postage stamps of the Russian Empire overprinted diagonally with new values in Turkish currency replaced them for use on correspondence posted at the Russian Post Offices in Turkey and on board the Steam Navigation Company's vessels. The surcharge 4 paras on 1 kopec of this series was actually in the nature of an error, and should have been 5 paras as on the 1909-10 issues, and these 4 paras stamps were therefore sold at the Russian Post Offices in the Levant for the higher amount until the stock was exhausted. During the course

of 1903-4 the 10 paras and 1 piastre stamps were re-issued on vertically instead of horizontally laid paper, together with seven additional values overprinted on the contemporary Russian series ranging from 20 paras to 70 piastres. The Russian stamps were overprinted in complete sheets of 100 divided into four panes of twenty-five for the values up to 7 piastres, and of 40 in eight rows of five for the higher denominations, with a control number in colour consisting of the last two figures of the year of printing between two check letters, impressed on the margin of the sheet. Three values of this



series, viz., 4 and 20 paras and 1 piastre are known with the overprint inverted, but the 4 para on 1 kopec inverted is repudiated by the Russian Levant authorities.

To commemorate the Jubilee of the Russian Levant Post Offices, a series of special stamps was prepared for issue in 1907, in designs resembling those of the current Russian postage stamps, but showing, in place of the Imperial Arms, a vignette of a steamship, with the dates 1857-1907. The political situation in 1907, however, rendered the moment inauspicious for the issue of commemorative stamps, and accordingly their appearance was delayed until May, 1909, when nine

values in four separate types were placed on sale, comprising (1) small design entirely in colour, (2) ditto with ships and dates embossed in white on coloured ground, (3) large design similar to last, (4) large square stamp with embossed ships and frame.



The stamps were typographed at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, in sheets of 100 (four panes of 25) for the low values, 40 for the 1 rouble value, and 25 for the higher denominations, the values in Turkish currency being overprinted in black at a second operation. With the exception of the original printing made in 1907, the sheets bear the imprint "Kred. Tip. 1909" in



Russian characters on the bottom margin (signifying "Government Printing Office"). The paper was without watermark, but coated on the surface with intersecting varnish lines like that used for the contemporary Russian postage stamps. It is

noteworthy that the fine lines of shading on the framework of these stamps is applied *after* the printing of the body of the stamp, and not, as a groundwork, before. The perforation of the lower values gauges 14 to 14½, whilst that of the rouble denominations is 13, being the same employed for the contemporary postage stamps of Russia.

After they had been in use for six months it was decided to impose an additional overprint on these stamps in the form of the name of each of the twelve principal Russian Post Offices in the Levant by which they were issued, thus creating twelve distinct sets of the issue overprinted



“Constantinople,” “Beyrouth,” “Dardanelles,” “Jaffa,” “Jerusalem,” “Kérisunde,” “Mételen,” “Mont Athos,” “Rizeh,” “Salonica,” “Smyrna,” “Trébizonde.” The first to appear were the series for Constantinople and Jerusalem in August, 1909. They were overprinted in black Latin type in complete sheets, that employed for the three highest values being about double the size of the overprint on the kopec stamps. On the sheets of 10 piastres on 1 rouble the overprint was set up in eight rows of 5, each horizontal row being of a different type, the fifth containing an error “Constanttnople.” Another error of spelling occurs on

the 5 para on 1 k., viz. "Consnantinople" No. 11 (1st in 3rd row of top left hand). The 35 and 70 piastres overprint was set in five verticle rows of 5, an error "Constautinople" occurring in the second verticle row. On these two stamps may also be found the variety "Constantjnople." In November, 1909, appeared the sets overprinted "Mont Athos" and "Salonique." The overprint on the low values was built up from blocks of ten types, a complete sheet of 100 (low values) being overprinted at one operation. On the 5 para on 1 kopec value the tenth stamp in the second horizontal row of the lower left hand pane has the final "s" omitted from the word "Athos" in the overprint. The "Trébizonde" and "Kérasunde" series were issued on December 27th, 1909, followed by those for "Jaffa" and "Smyrna" on February 20th, 1910, and by those for "Mételin" and "Rizeh" on August 30th, 1910. The overprints on the Jaffa and Smyrna series are of a different type from the remainder, and all were made from stereos cast from type set in blocks of ten for the low values, 40 for the 1 rouble, and 25 for the higher values. There are several minor varieties of most of these overprints in the form of broken letters, etc. In the "Smyrna" overprint the initial "S" is found in two distinct types, and that for "Rizeh" with both large and small initial and final letters.

The type of the overprint on the Mount Athos series was changed on August 30th, 1910, to old Slavonic characters, and was rendered in the Russian form "S. Athon" "S" signifying "storni," the Russian for "old," ; the town being designated old in contra-distinction to a new town of the same name in the Caucasus.

On or about September 22nd, 1910, the 5 para

on 1 kopec value of both the Constantinople and Jerusalem series was issued overprinted from a new setting, in deep blue, instead of in black, and was followed by the same varieties for Jaffa, Salonique, Kérisunde, Mont Athos, Smyrna and Trébizonde. A series overprinted for the offices at "Beyrouth" and "Dardanelles" made their debut on December 9th, 1910, a sheet of the 20 para value of the latter series being found with the overprint inverted at the top of the stamp.

Finally on March 31st, 1911, the Jubilee stamps were demonetized, when the stocks on hand at the



various post offices were called in and returned to the General Post Office for destruction.

Their place was taken by stamps of the Russian issue of 1908-10 and (high values) 1902-4, overprinted diagonally with new denominations in Turkish currency, the first values having already been issued on November 15th, 1910, preceded in September of the same year by a new 20 para value surcharged on the Russian 5 kopec stamp of 1902-4. Towards the close of 1912 five new stamps were added to this series overprinted in Turkish currency on the Russian issue of the same year near the top of the stamp in a new type "medium light faced condensed Gothic." Only small numbers of these five stamps were printed, and they were replaced on January 27th,

1913, by the new pictorial issue of Russia, commemorating the Tercentenary of the Romanoff dynasty, surcharged at the foot in Turkish currency.

SUMMARY.

1863. *January. One value. For use on printed matter. Design of Russian Arms, &c., as above. Inscribed, "Despatch under Crossed Band to the East, 6 kop per lot."* *Typographed in blocks of four at the Imperial State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, in oily ink on thin unsurfaced paper, without watermark. Imperf.*

6 kopecs, pale Prussian blue.
Prussian blue.

(ii.) *Analine ink. Medium unsurfaced paper.*

6 kopecs, pale Prussian blue.
deep Prussian blue.

(iii.) 1866. *Analine ink. Thick surface coated paper.*

6 kopecs, deep Prussian blue.
indigo-blue.

1865. *Provisional issue. Two values. Design of Steamship and Russian Arms. Lithographed in two colours, at Odessa, in sheets of 28 (7 x 4) on plain white wove paper, without watermark. Imperf. Inscription and background in second colour.*

*5 kopecs, brown and blue.

20 kopecs, blue and red.

1866 (*early*). *Permanent issue. Two values. Designs, as above, redrawn. Lithographed at Odessa in two colours on plain white wove paper of varying thickness, without watermark. Imperf. Background of horizontal network in second colour.*

5 kopecs, rose and blue.

pale rose and blue.

20 kopecs, deep blue and rose.

blue and rose.

*Note the value of this stamp is frequently given as 2 kopecs, but Westoby states that they were actually sold at the Company's Offices for 5 kopecs.

1868. *March 10th. As above, but vertical network. Arms and ship on plain ground.*

- 5 kopecs, rose and blue.
 deep rose and deep blue.
20 kopecs, blue and rose.

1868. *May 1st. Permanent issue. Four values. Design: large numeral of value in oval, inscribed "Oriental Correspondence." Background in second colour (10 kopecs). Typographed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, on horizontally laid paper, with a watermark of undulating lines. Perf. 11½.*

- 1 kopec, brown.
 deep brown.
3 kopecs, deep green.
 green.
5 kopecs, indigo.
 deep blue.
10 kopecs, carmine and green.
 deep carmine and green.

1872. *As above. (a) Horizontally laid paper (b) vertically laid paper. Perf. 14½ x 15.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 kopec, deep brown (a).
brown (a, b). | 5 kopecs, deep blue (a).
blue (a, b). |
| 3 kopecs, deep green (a).
green (a, b). | 10 kopecs, rose, carmine
and green (a).
carmine and green (a, b). |

1876 (*end*). *Provisional issue. One value. Surcharged locally by means of a handstamp on issue of 1872, in black or blue. Vertically or horizontally laid paper. Perf. 14½ x 15.*

"8" on 10 kopecs, carmine and green.

1879. *Provisional issue. One value. Surcharged locally by means of a handstamp on issue of 1872, in black or blue. Vertically or horizontally laid paper.*

Small thick numeral.

"7" on 10 kopecs, carmine and green.

Large thin numeral. Blue surcharge.

"7" on 10 kopecs, carmine and green.

1879. *June. Permanent issue. Three values. Designs of 1868. Background in second colour. Typographed at State Printing Works, St. Petersburg. Horizontally or vertically laid paper, watermarked with wavy lines. Perf. 14½ x 15.*

1 kopec, black and yellow.
black and orange.

2 kopecs, rose.
pale rose.

7 kopecs, carmine and grey.
rose-carmine and grey.

1884-90. *Permanent issue. Five values. Design as before. Single colours (except 10 kopecs.) Horizontally laid paper, watermarked with wavy lines.*

1 kopec, deep orange. 7 kopecs, deep blue.
orange-yellow. blue.

2 kopecs, deep green. 10 kopecs, carmine and
green. green (on bluish).

5 kopecs, dull purple.
deep purple.

1900 (*Summer*). *Permanent issue. Three values. New values in Turkish currency overprinted diagonally on contemporary Russian postage stamps for use by the Levant Post Offices. Printed and overprinted in Blue (b.), Black (bk.), or Red (r.) at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, in sheets of 100 (four panes of 25). Horizontally laid paper. Perf. 14½.*

4 para on 1 kopec, orange (B., Bk.)

10 para on 2 kopecs, green (R.)

1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue (R.)

Error—Surcharge inverted.

1 piastre on 10 kopecs.

1903-4. *As above. Vertically laid paper. Dates of issue approximate only.*

10 para on 2 kopecs, green (R.), Jan., 1904.

20 para on 4 kopecs, carmine (B.), Aug., 1904.

- 1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue (*R.*), May, 1903.
 2 piastres on 20 kopecs, carmine and blue (*Bk.*),
 Oct., 1903.
 5 piastres on 50 kopecs, green and purple (*R.*),
 Jan., 1904.
 7 piastres on 70 kopecs, orange and brown (*B.*),
 Oct., 1903.
 10 piastres on 1 rouble, orange and brown (*B.*),
 Oct., 1902.
 35 piastres on 3½ roubles, grey and black (*R.*),
 Dec., 1904.
 70 piastres on 7 roubles, yellow and black (*R.*)
 Dec., 1904.

Error—Surcharge inverted.

20 para on 4 kopecs.

1909. May. Commemorative issue. Nine values. Designs similar to contemporary Russian issue with vignette of Steamship and dates 1857-1907; embossed on values above 50 kopecs. Typographed at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg, on medium greyish wove unwatermarked paper, coated on the surface with intersecting varnish lines. Overprinted at the foot with new values in Turkish currency in black. Perf. 14, 14½.

- 5 para on 1 kopec, orange.
 10 para on 2 kopecs, green.
 20 para on 4 kopecs, carmine.
 1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue.
 5 piastres on 50 kopecs, green and purple.
Large Stamps. Perf. 13.
 7 piastres on 70 kopecs, orange-yellow and chocolate.
 10 piastres on 1 rouble, reddish-orange and deep
 brown.
 35 piastres on 3 roubles 50 kopecs, sea-green and
 marone.
 70 piastres on 7 roubles. pink and myrtle.

Error—Surcharge inverted.

10 para on 2 kopecs.

1909-10. Series, as above, overprinted with name of issuing office in black. Twelve sets overprinted respectively: Constantinople, Jerusalem, Kerassunde, Salonique, Trébizonde, Mont Athos (S.

Athon), Mételin, Rizeh, Dardanelles, Smyrna, Jaffa, Beyrouth, in Latin type (excepting Jaffa and Smyrna). Overprint on high values in larger type.

- 5 para on 1 kopec, orange.
- 10 para on 2 kopecs, green.
- 20 para on 4 kopecs, carmine.
- 1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue.
- 5 piastres on 50 kopecs, green and purple.
- 7 piastres on 70 kopecs, orange-yellow and chocolate.
- 10 piastres on 1 rouble, reddish-orange and deep brown
- 35 piastres on 3 roubles 50 kopecs, sea-green and marone.
- 70 piastres on 7 roubles, pink and myrtle.
- Error—"Consnantinople" for Constantinople.*
- 5 para on 1 kopec.
- "Constantinople" for Constantinople.*
- 10 piastres on 1 rouble.
- Error—"Constautinople" for Constantinople.*
- 35 piastres on 3½ roubles.
- 70 piastres on 7 roubles.
- "Error—Constantjnople."*
- 35 piastres on 3½ roubles.
- 70 piastres on 7 roubles.
- Error—"Mont Atho" for Mont Athos.*
- 5 para on 1 kopec.
- 10 para on 2 kopecs.
- 20 para on 4 kopecs.
- 1 piastre on 10 kopecs.
- "Dardanelles" inverted at top.*
- 20 para on 4 kopecs.
- Varieties—overprinted in deep blue.*
- Constantinople, Jerusalem, Jaffa, Salonique, Kerassunde, Mont Athos, Smyrna and Trébizonde only.*
- 5 para on 1 kopec.

1910. November 15th. Permanent issue. Eight values of contemporary Russian postage stamps, 1908-10 and 1902-4 (5 kopecs), overprinted with new values in Turkish currency as before. White wove unwatermarked paper, coated on surface with intersecting varnish lines. Perf. 14, 14½. Printed and overprinted at the State Printing Works, St. Petersburg. Overprinted in blue (b.), red (r.), and indigo (i.)

- 5 para on 1 kopec, orange (*i.*)
- 10 para on 2 kopecs, green (*r.*)
- 20 para on 5 kopecs, purple, Sept., 1910.
- 20 para on 4 kopecs, carmine (*i.*)
- 1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue (*r.*)
- 5 piastres on 50 kopecs, purple and green (*b.*)
- 7 piastres on 70 kopecs, brown and orange (*b.*)
- 10 piastres on 1 rouble, brown and orange (*i.*)

1912. *October. Permanent issue. Five values of contemporary Russian postage stamps (series 1908-12), overprinted with new values in Turkish currency, horizontally at the top in black. Condensed Gothic type.*

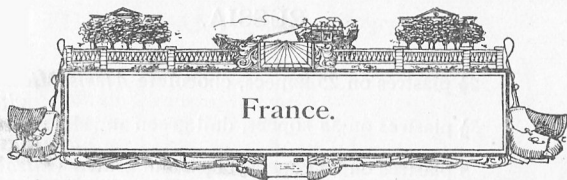
- 20 para on 5 kopecs, lilac.
- 1½ piastres on 15 kopecs, ultramarine and pale magenta.
- 2 piastres on 20 kopecs, blue and carmine.
- 2½ piastres on 26 kopecs, mauve and grey-green.
- 3½ piastres on 35 kopecs, green and purple.

1913. *January 27th. Permanent issue. Fifteen values. Pictorial Russian Postage Stamps of same year commemorating Tercentenary of the Romanoff dynasty overprinted with the values in Turkish currency in heavy black type at the foot, and diagonally in red in smaller type on 3 roubles. Low values surface printed on glazed paper, and high values recess printed and overprinted by the Office for the Printing of State Papers, St. Petersburg in sheets of 100 (low values) and 50 (roubles). No water mark. Perf. 13½. Subject of designs appended in brackets.*

- 5 para on 1 kopec, orange (*Peter the Great, after DeMoor*).
- 10 para on 2 kopecs, yellow-green (*Alexander II*).
- 15 para on 3 kopecs, rose-carmine (*Alexander III*).
- 20 para on 4 kopecs, rose (*Peter the Great, after Kneller*).
- 1 piastre on 10 kopecs, blue (*Nicholas II*).
- 1½ piastres on 15 kopecs, pale brown (*Nicholas I*).
- 2 piastres on 20 kopecs, olive green (*Alexandra I, after De'*).

- 2½ piastres on 25 kopecs, chocolate *Alexis Michaelovitch*).
- 3½ piastres on 35 kopecs, dull green and slate (*Paul I. after Wavle*).
- 5 piastres on 70 kopecs, black and brown (*Elizabeth II., after Tchemesow*).
- 7 piastres on 70 kopecs, brown and green (*Michael Theodorovitch*).
- 10 piastres on 1 rouble, deep green (*The Kremlin, Moscow*).
- 20 piastres on 2 roubles, red (*Winter Palace, St. Petersburg*).
- 30 piastres on 3 roubles, slate (*The House of the Romanoffs*).
- 50 piastres on 5 roubles, brown (*Nicholas II*).

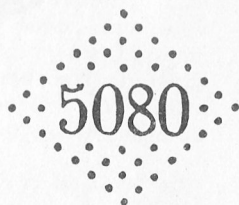




CHAPTER IV.

UNDER the most favoured nation clause of a Treaty of Commerce concluded between France and Turkey in 1812 a French Post Office was added to those of the other Foreign Powers already established in Constantinople, but was temporarily suspended on the outbreak of war between Turkey and the Allies over the independence of Greece in 1827. The French postal service in the Levant was re-established in 1835, and subsequent to the Crimean War its ramifications were considerably extended.

Between the years 1857 and 1877 the contemporary French postage stamps employed by the postal agencies in the Levant were distinguished only by the special cancellations applied



at Marseilles to letters arriving from abroad by the vessels of the Messageries Maritimes de France line who hold the Government contract for conveying the French mail to and from the Levant.

Meanwhile the French postal agencies in the Levant were being supplied with duplex postmarks similar to those used in France itself at the same period, taking the form of a serial number enclosed in a rhomboid composed of a number of small dots. Of this cancellation there were two distinct types, the figures of the second being taller and thinner. In the majority of cases both types of postmarks were employed at each office, fresh numbers being assigned to these agencies on the issue of the second type.

French Post Offices making use of these numeral cancellations were established throughout the Ottoman Empire in accordance with the following table, showing dates of establishment, and suppression and postmark numbers assigned to each office in both type of obliterations :—

TOWN,	OPENED,	CLOSED.	POSTMARK NUMBER.	
			TYPE I.	TYPE II.
* Alexandrette	before 1855	—	3766	5079
* Beyrout	before 1855	—	3706	5082
* Cavalle	1874	—	—	5150
* Constantinople	1812	—	3707	5083
* Constantinople (Stamboul)	1887	—	—	5278
* Constantinople (Galata)	1879	—	—	5243
* Dardanelles	before 1855	—	3708	5084
* Dedeagh	1874	—	—	5155
Enos	1874	1876	—	5153
Galatz	1857	1875	4008	5085
Gallipoli	before 1855	1872	3767	5086
Ibraïla	1857	1875	4009	5087
Inéboli	1857	1876	4010	5088
* Jaffa	before 1855	—	3768	5089
* Jerusalem	1900	—	—	—
* Kérassunde	1857	—	4011	5090
Kustendje	1872	1879	—	5139
* Lattakia	before 1855	—	3769	5091
* Mersina	before 1855	—	3770	5092
Mételin	before 1855	1872	3771	5093
Ordou	1867	1876	—	5097
Port Lagos	1874	1900	—	5054

Rhodes	before 1855	1887	3772	5094
Rodosto	1872	1876	—	5086
*Salonica	1857	—	4012	5095
*Samsoun	1857	—	4013	5096
Sinope	1857	1869	4014	5097
*Smyrna	before 1855	—	3709	5098
Sulina	1857	1879	4015	5099
*Trébizonde	1857	—	4016	5100
*Tripoli	before 1855	—	3773	5101
Tulscha	1857	1879	4017	5102
Varna	1857	1876	4018	5103
*Vathy	1893	—	—	—
Volo	1857	1883	4019	—

*The offices still in existence are marked with an asterisk.

Of the French Post Offices now in operation the chief is that in the Rue Verwoda, Galata, with sub-offices in the Pera and Stamboul districts



of Constantinople and in Salonica (2), Alexandria (Egypt), Smyrna, Beyrout, La Canée (Crete), and Jerusalem, the remaining 18 offices being located at the agencies of the Messageries Maritimes in the chief ports of the Levant, Tripoli and Crete, the service being maintained by the company's employees on a commission basis. The correspondence distributed through the French Levant Post Offices emanates chiefly from France and Colonies, Spain, Portugal, Greece, South America, China and Japan.

As a result of the depreciation in Turkish currency which took place in 1884 it became necessary to overprint the French postage

stamps on sale in the Levant with the denomination in Turkish money for which they were to be sold, in order to compete with the Post Offices, of Great Britain and Germany whose stamps were all surcharged with equivalent values in para and piastres. A Ministerial decree of August 5th, 1885 provided therefore that on and from the 16th of the same month the 25 centimes, 75 centimes and 1 franc stamps should be surcharged 1, 3 and 4 piastres respectively in black, and it was recommended that Turkish money should be tendered in payment to avoid loss of exchange. Hitherto the unsurcharged stamps had been sold at their full



equivalent of exchange. The 25 centimes bistre on *yellow* surcharged "1 piastre" was superseded on October 14th, 1886 by the same value printed in black on *rose*, whilst in June 1890 in consequence of the withdrawal of that denomination from the home issue the 3 piastres on 75 centimes was suppressed. In the previous year a 20 piastres on 5 francs stamp had been added to the series, whilst in place of the 3 piastres a 2 piastres value was issued in 1890 surcharged on the new 50 centimes stamps of France. Ten years later the 2 francs value was overprinted "8 piastres" for use by the Levant Post Offices. The 1 piastre on 25 centimes black on *rose* exists with the surcharge inverted.

The Offices maintained by the Messageries Maritimes at Cavalle, Dedeagh, Port Lagos and Vathy

had, prior to 1893, been supplied under a special arrangement with the ordinary unsurcharged stamps of France, then current. In that year, however, with a view to facilitating the keeping of accounts, as well as to prevent the stamps being pilfered and sold by the company's employees, these stamps were issued overprinted with the names of the four offices in red, blue or black, and in the case of the values from 25 centimes upwards new denominations in Turkish currency. The series for Cavalle, Dedeagh and Port Lagos appeared on April 1st, 1893, and that of Vathy on December 1st of the same year. In 1900 the new 8 piastres



on 2 francs value was added to the series, specially overprinted for the offices at Cavalle, Dedeagh and Vathy, the office at Port Lagos being discontinued in the same year. Two years later the status of the office at Vathy was raised, and from that date the regular issues of the French Levant were used there without distinguishing overprint.

The types of the regular French postage stamps of 1900 modified for use by the Consular Post Offices abroad were adapted to the use of the Levant offices during 1902-3, and were inscribed "Poste Francaise Levant." The denominations from 25 centimes upwards were overprinted as before

with new values in Turkish currency, and were intended for letter postage only, the unsurcharged



stamps being for use on printed matter, post cards, parcels, etc. There is an error of the "1 piastre 1" on 25 centimes surcharge, with the second "1" omitted.

Short series up to 8 piastres in the same type, with the name of the office incorporated in the design were issued about the same time for Cavalle and Dedeagh.

The first values appeared in October 1902, those of 10, 15, 20 and 30 centimes, and 1 piastre being added early in the following year.



A temporary shortage of the 1 piastre value occurring at the French Post Office, at Beyrouth, on January 17th, 1905 was met by surcharging this denomination locally in greenish black on the

15th centimes pale red, the overprint reading "1 Piastre-Beyrouth" in two lines. Only 1,000 copies of this provisional stamp were done, which were affixed to letters handed in over the counter by the Post Office officials, and were not on sale to the public in the ordinary way. It remained in use until January 28th 1905. An error "Piastte" for "piastre" occurred four times on each sheet overprinted.

SUMMARY.

1855-85. *Contemporary postage stamps of France, with postmarks of French Post Offices in the Turkish Empire, or Marseilles cancellation for "letters arrived by sea."*

Various issues and values.

1885. *August 16th. Permanent issue. Six values. Contemporary French postage stamps of 1877-1900, overprinted with new values in Turkish currency in black. Peace and commerce design. Type "b," except where otherwise stated. Printed and overprinted at the Government Printing Establishment, Paris, in sheets of 150 on medium wove unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14 x 13½.*

- 1 piastre on 25 centimes bistre on *yellow*.
- 2 piastres on 50 centimes, rose
(a., b.) 1890
- 2 " " " " carmine.
- 3 piastres on 75 centimes, carmine.
- 4 piastres on 1 franc, olive-green.
- 8 piastres on 2 francs, brown on *azure* (a.) 1900.
- 20 piastres on 5 francs, mauve, 1889.
bright mauve.

1886. *October 14th. As above. One value. New colours. Overprinted in carmine.*

- 1 piastre on 25 centimes, black on *rose*.
Variety—Vermilion overprint.
- 1 piastre on 25 centimes.
Error—Surcharge inverted.
- 1 piastre on 25 centimes,

1902. *October, and 1903 (early). Permanent issue. Fifteen values. Types of contemporary French issue of 1900, modified and inscribed "Poste Française Levant."* With and without overprint of new value in Turkish currency in black. No watermark. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Surface printed and overprinted at the Government Printing Establishment, Paris.

1 centime,	grey.	10 centimes,	carmin (1903).
2 centimes,	claret.	15 centimes,	pale-red (1903).
3 centimes,	orange-red.	20 centimes,	purple-brown
4 centimes,	brown.		(1903).
5 centimes,	green.	30 centimes,	mauve (1903).
	blue-green,	40 centimes,	red and pale
			blue,

*1 piastre on 25 centimes, blue (1903).

*2 piastres on 50 centimes, brown and lavender.

*4 piastres on 1 franc, lake and yellow-green.

8 piastres on 2 francs, deep lilac and buff.

20 piastres on 5 francs, deep blue and buff.

Error—"1 piastre" for "1 piastre 1."

1 piastre on 25 centimes.

*NOTE.—These three stamps with the surcharge in Turkish currency omitted were used during 1906-8 by the French Post Offices in Abyssinia.

1905. *January 17th to 28th. Provisional issue. One value. Overprinted locally at Beyrouth on issue of 1902-3, "1 Piastre, Beyrouth," in two lines in greenish-black.*

1 piastre on 15 centimes, pale red.

Error—"Piastte" for "Piastre."

1 piastre on 15 centimes.

SPECIAL ISSUES FOR CAVALLE, DEDEAGH, PORT LAGOS AND VATHY.

1893-1900. *Permanent issue. Eight values of contemporary French postage stamps, Peace and Commerce type overprinted with name of town in carmine (c.), blue (b.), and black (bk.), and in the case of higher denominations a new value in Turkish currency. Type b unless otherwise stated.*

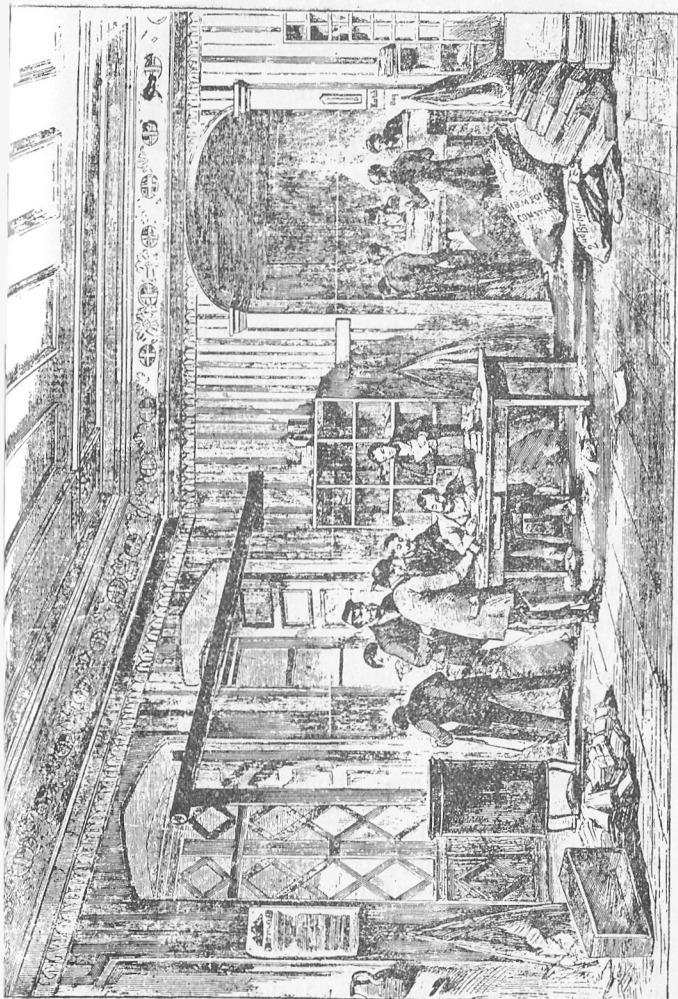
Cavalle, Dedeagh Port Lagos and Vathy.

- 5 centimes, blue-green (c.)
 yellow-green (c.) a.
 10 centimes, black on lilac (b.) a & b.
 15 centimes, blue (c.)
 1 piastre on 25 centimes, black on rose (b.)
 2 piastres on 50 centimes, rose (b.)
 pale carmine (b.)
 carmine (b.)
 4 piastres on 1 franc, olive-green (c.)
 grey-green (c.)
 1900. *Cavalle, Dedeagh and Vathy only.*
 8 piastres on 2 francs. brown on azure (bk.) a.
 1890. *Vathy only.*
 20 piastres on 5 francs, mauve (bk.)
Varieties—Vermilion overprint.
 5 centimes, blue-green.
 yellow-green.
 15 centimes, blue.
 4 piastres on 1 franc, olive-green.

1902-03. *Types of France, 1900, modified and inscribed "Poste Francaise" and name of office. "Cavalle" and "Dedeagh" only. Higher denominations surcharged with new values in Turkish currency. No watermark. Perf. 14 x 13½.*

- 5 centimes, green.
 10 centimes, carmine (1903).
 15 centimes, pale red (1903).
 1 piastre on 25 centimes, blue (1903).
 2 piastres on 50 centimes, brown and lavender.
 4 piastres on 1 franc, lake and yellow-green.
 8 piastres on 2 francs, deep lilac and buff.





Interior of British Army Post Office, Constantinople, during the Crimean War.

(From the "Illustrated London News.")



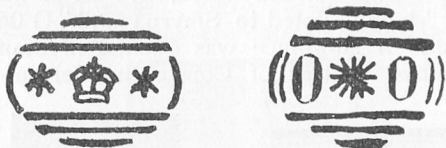
CHAPTER V.

The British postal service in Turkey was instituted as early as 1832 in virtue of the treaty of commerce concluded between the two countries in that year, but appears to have been confined to the correspondence of the Embassy. Shortly after the outbreak of the Crimean War (about November 1854), however, a branch of the Army Post Office was established in Constantinople as a sorting and forwarding station for the vast numbers of letters passing to and from the various units of the British Forces in the Crimea, as well as those of the Turkish contingent, etc. It was in charge of a head postmaster, three assistant postmasters and eight clerks, detached for special duty from the General Post Office, assisted by two native interpreters and non-commissioned officers from some of the regiments. Sub-offices were in operation in the Crimea and at Scutari.

This was the first office outside of the United Kingdom to make use of British postage stamps, which were issued there about November 1854. They comprised the 1d. red and 2d. blue of 1854-7, the 6d. and 1s. octagonal, and subsequently the 4d. Large Garter. Some sheets of the 1d. red of 1854 issued in error imperforate also found their way out to the Crimea where they were employed by the British Army Post Office. The postal rate on single letters was fixed at 3d. per $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, and the report of the Postmaster General for 1856 states that one and

a half million letters were received from the Army and Navy between April 1854 and December 31st, 1855.

Stamps used by the British Army Post Office in the Crimea may be recognised by means of the special postmarks with which they were cancelled. Two types of obliterations were employed: the first and least common showing a roughly drawn Crown between two stars within an ellipse of eight narrow bars, and the second consisting of



a star flanked on either side by a large cypher in an ellipse formed of ten bars. They remained in use until evacuation of the Crimea by the allied forces on July 12th, 1857.

In September of the same year the British Post Office in Constantinople was opened for public service, most values of the contemporary postage



stamps of Great Britain being issued for the prepayment of postal charges and cancelled with a special postmark consisting of a large initial "C," 11 mm.

in height, set in an oval formed of thirteen thin parallel bars, the capital letter being subsequently reduced in 1880 to 8 mm. high, and finally superseded in 1885 by an ordinary circular date stamp inscribed "British Post Office, Constantinople" round the circumference. Additional offices were opened by Great Britain in Smyrna in 1872 and Beyrout in 1873, and were provided with distinguishing postmarks of the duplex pattern then employed by the British Post Offices throughout the world, the serial number "F 87" being allotted to Smyrna and "G 06" to Beyrout. A sub-office was opened in Stamboul (the native quarter of Constantinople) in 1884,



making use of a large oval postmark containing the single letter "S," but was closed during the Armenian troubles in the early 'nineties, and not re-opened until February 10th, 1908. The British Post Office in Salonica was established in May, 1900, and has throughout employed an ordinary circular date stamp similar to those now used by the other British Post Offices in Turkey.

Prior to April 1st, 1885, ordinary unsurcharged British postage stamps were sold by these offices at the rate of 2½d. to the piastre. The depreciation in Turkish currency which took place in 1884, however, reduced the equivalent value of the piastre to 2d. only; thus by purchasing stamps

from the Levant Post Offices and exporting them to England it was possible for an enterprising speculator to realise a safe profit of 20 per cent. In order to circumvent this lucrative traffic it was decided to overprint the stamps with their equivalent values in Turkish money, rendering them also invalid for postage in Great Britain.

The first British stamps to be so treated were the 2½d., 5d. and 2/6 of the unified series of 1884, which were surcharged in black—"40 paras," "80 paras," and "12 piastres" respectively—in heavy sans-serif capitals 3 mm. in height



and issued on April 1st, 1885. The 2½d. and 5d. unsurcharged were first issued at Constantinople, on April 1st, 1884, and the 2/6 in July, 1883. The surcharge was applied to complete sheets of 240, except in the case of the 2/6 which was in sheets of 112 only; two panes of 56; seven rows of 8, and, according to Wright and Creeke, "the imprimatur (of the 2/6) dated 16th March 1892 is endorsed on the surcharged lower pane of an entire sheet only, and it would appear that until within the last two or three years the Turkish value was not surcharged on the upper pane, although that portion of the sheet was in ordinary use

together with the remainder of the impressions from the plate."

The first printing of the 12 piastres on 2/6 was on *bleute*, subsequent printings being on ordinary white paper.

The 40 and 80 parasvalues appeared in June, 1887, surcharged on the 2½d. and 5d. denominations of the British "Jubilee" series of the same year, followed in October 1896 by a new value, 4 piastres on 10d. For this latter denomination there does not appear to have been any specific demand, excepting as a convenient multiple of 2½d.



An error with a small "0" in 80, measuring only 2½ instead of 3mm. occurred twice on the sheets of this value surcharged on the 5d. stamp of Great Britain, on the second and eighth stamps in the fourth row in the lower pane of the sheet.

The 40 paras on 2½d. is known with a double impression of the overprint due to the sheet being accidentally left in the press for two revolutions instead of one only. Advanced specialists differentiate no fewer than four distinct types of the figure "4" in this surcharge, two or more of which occur side by side on the same sheet. The "0" is frequently out of alignment giving the appearance of a small "0" variety similar to

that of the 80 paras, but this variety is merely an optical illusion and has no real existence.

A minor variety without serif to the figure "1" in 12 is to be found on the 12 piastres on 2/6, whilst varieties arising from broken type and imperfect impressions exist on all values of this series. None of these varieties are found on the preceding issue of April 1st, 1885.

Concurrently with these surcharged stamps the ordinary current $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 1s. and 5s. of Great Britain, without overprint in Turkish currency, were on sale for the full rate of exchange at the British Post Offices in the Turkish Empire.

A temporary shortage of the 40 paras value



occurring at the British Post Office, Constantinople, on February 25th, 1893, a fresh supply was requisitioned from London by telegram, pending receipt of which arrangements were made to meet the temporary deficiency by imposing the required value in black by means of a brass hand-stamp of local manufacture upon 25 sheets (6000 copies) of the contemporary $\frac{1}{2}$ d. vermilion stamp of Great Britain, 1887, which were in stock. These provisional "40 paras" stamps were not intended to be sold to the public in the ordinary way, but were to be affixed by the postal officials to letters handed in over the Post Office counter. They continued in use until the arrival of a new printing of the regular issue on March 1st,

when all remaining on hand were sold. On the first day of its use the brass hand-stamp was damaged, and accordingly all copies surcharged after that date have the top part of the "S" broken. An error exists with the surcharge inverted. Dangerous forgeries of this provisional issue were made locally in Constantinople, and in some cases bear the initials of a Post Office Clerk as a guarantee of genuineness. For particulars of the various types see the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, Vol. 1. Reprints are also alleged to have been made after March 1st with the original hand-stamp, and the greatest discretion should be exercised in purchasing copies of this rarity. About



800 specimens were specially overprinted for distribution by the Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

The first value of the Edwardian postage stamp series of Great Britain to be overprinted for the use by the Levant Post Offices was the 2½d., which was issued, with the surcharge "40 paras," on February 6th, 1902, followed by the 80 paras" on 5d. on June 5th, and the 4 piastres on 10d. on September 6th of the same year. The 12 piastres on 2/6 was not added to the King's Head Series until August 29th, 1903. All appear to have been surcharged from the same electrotype plates as were used for the Queen's Head Stamps which they superceded, and on the early printings the

small "0" variety of the "80 paras" occurs as before. Subsequently a new overprint plate was introduced with the surcharge very slightly larger and this variety corrected. In response to representations made to H.M. Postmaster-General by a number of the leading European banks and commercial houses operating in the Levant an additional high value stamp was added to this series on August 15th, 1905 in the form of the 5s. carmine surcharged "24 piastres."

On the same day a series of ten values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. of the current King's Head British postage stamps was issued overprinted with the single



word "LEVANT" in one line heavy black sans-serif capitals for use in the prepayment of postal charges upon parcels, newspapers, printed matter, etc., posted at the British Post Offices in the Turkish Empire, superseding the ordinary unsurcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 1s. stamps previously stocked for this purpose. The probable reason for the issue of this special series of parcel post stamps was that the railway or steamship company which conveyed the British parcels post to and from Turkey received a percentage of the total face value of the stamps affixed, and owing to the fluctuation of the

Ottoman currency these charges were calculated in English money. The prevailing rates of postage on parcels are 1s. per 3lbs., 2s. per 7lbs., and 3s. per 11lbs., and the insurance fees 5d. and 7½d. respectively. On newspapers and circulars the charges are ½d., 1d., 1½d., or 2d., according to weight. These stamps continued in use until December 28th, 1909, when with the exception of the ½d., 1d., and 2d. values they were withdrawn from sale, and returned to the General Post Office, London, for destruction.

On November 11th, 1905, the 5d. stamp made its appearance with the Turkish surcharge correctly rendered as "2 piastres" instead of the



more cumbrous 80 paras formerly employed, being followed on April 19th, 1906, by the 2½d., surcharged "1 piastre."

The supply of this latter stamp available at the British Post Office, Beyrout, gave out on July 2nd, 1906, and in order to provide a sufficiency of this denomination for use on the outgoing European Mail a provisional 1 piastre stamp was created by surcharging two complete sheets (480 stamps) of the 2d. green and carmine, overprinted LEVANT, with the words "1 piastre" in black at the foot. The overprint was applied at the American Press, Beyrout, on authority of the British Vice-Consul, who also acts as Postmaster, and the surcharging was done under the supervision of the Director of

the Press, and the Manager of the Printing Department. Every precaution was taken to avoid errors, and the types was dispersed immediately the two sheets had been surcharged.

The 1 piastre on 2d. provisional has been dangerously forged by a native Syrian who caused several sheets of the 2d. Levant to be surcharged "1 Piastre" in type of the same fount at a native printing establishment in Beyrout. The forgery may be detected, however, by careful measurement of the space between the figure "1" and the "P"



of "Piastre" which in the original is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. whilst in the forgery it is a full 3 mm.

During 1907-8 the 2, 4, and 12 piastres of the current series surcharged in Turkish currency, as well as the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., and 1s. of the LEVANT series appeared printed on chalk-surfaced paper.

Although the international postal rate was reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. for the first ounce and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ounce afterwards, in October, 1907, it was not until late in the year 1909 that the equivalent values of the British postage stamps surcharged

in Turkish currency were re-adjusted in conformance with the rates. On November 16th, 1909, however, five values of the series formerly overprinted LEVANT were added to the issue surcharged in Turkish currency, viz., 30 paras on 1½d., 1 piastre 10 paras on 3d., 1 piastre 30 paras on 4d., 2 piastres 20 paras on 6d., and 5 piastres on 1s. The overprints were in black throughout, those on the two lowest values being apparently set up in a single horizontal row of twelve, from which ten electros were taken to form the overprint plate. The 1 piastre 30 para was at first surcharged on the old 4d. brown and green, but after being



current for one month only these were recalled, and on December 16th 1909 were replaced by the newly issued 4d. orange similarly surcharged. The extended expression of the Turkish values on these stamps proving somewhat inconvenient a further change was effected on January 24th, 1910, when the three middle denominations were issued with fractional surcharges as follows: $1\frac{1}{4}$ piastre on 3d., $1\frac{3}{4}$ piastre on 4d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres on 6d. in two lines.

The fractional surcharge on the 4d. orange was set up to overprint a half sheet of 120 stamps at each impression, the electrotypes being cast from a single setting of six types in a horizontal row. In the first and seventh vertical rows, the figure

"4" in the fraction is appreciably thinner and more pointed than on any of the other rows, whilst the third stamp in the seventh horizontal row has the cross-bar of the "4" broken off short.

Various of the provisional printings from the Edwardian plates made by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, and the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue were overprinted in Turkish currency for use by the British Levant Post Offices as before during 1911-13, a minor variety occur-



ring in the overprint "1 Piastre" on 2½d. with a broken top bar to the "E," slanting upwards (Nos. 90 and 114 in each pane). About April, 1912, a new overprint plate was introduced for this value, the letters being shorter and slightly thicker, and the overprint measuring only 15 x 2½ mm. as against 15½ x 3 mm. of the old type.

The ½d. and 1d. stamps with portrait of King George V in both types have been issued with the Levant overprint, but as yet none have been surcharged in Turkish currency.

SUMMARY.

1854. (November) to July 12th 1857. *Contemporary Postage Stamps of Great Britain with cancellations of Army Post Offices, in the Crimea.*

Type I. Crown and Stars.

1d. red, *imperf.*

1d. red, *wmk small crown, perf.* 16.

(Dies I. and II.)

Type II. Star and Ciphers.

1d. red, *Imperf.*

1d. red, *wmk, small crown, perf.* 16.

(Dies I. and II).

1d. red, *wmk. small crown, perf.* 14.

(Dies I. and II).

1d. red, *wmk. large crown, perf.* 14.

2d. blue, *wmk. small crown, perf.* 14.

2d. blue, *wmk. large crown, perf.* 16.

2d. blue, *wmk. large crown, perf.* 14.

6d. mauve, *octagonal.*

1s. green, *octagonal.*

4d. rose carmine, *wmk. large garter.*

1857. (September). *Contemporary Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1854-1884 with cancellations of British Post Offices in the Turkish Empire.*

(a) Constantinople.

B.P.O.

"C." 11 mm.	"C." 8 mm.	Constantinople.
1857	1880	1885

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red, *wmk. "halfpenny,"* plates 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20.

1d. rose-red, *wmk. large crown, perf.* 14.

1d. rose-red, *wmk. crown,* plates 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 78, 79, 83, 87, 89, 90, 92, 94, 95, 101, 102, 105, 106, 108, 109, 110, 113, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, 129, 130, 134, 135, 136, 138, 140, 141, 143, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 156, 157, 158, 159, 161, 162, 164, 166, 167, 170, 171, 173, 174, 176, 177, 178, 179, 181, 183, 184, 186, 189, 190, 191, 193, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 203, 204, 208, 210, 212, 214, 215, 216, 222, 224.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red, *wmk. crown,* plate I.

2d. blue, *wmk. crown,* plates 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15.

- 2½d. lilac rose, *wmk. anchor*, blue paper, plates 1, 2, 3
white paper, plates 1, 2 (2 error) 3.
wmk. orb, plates 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.
- 2½d. blue, *wmk. orb*, plates 17, 18, 19, 20.
wmk. crown, plates 21, 22, 23.
- 3d. rose, *wmk. spray*, plates 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16.
- 4d. rose, *wmk. large garter (no letters)*, plate I.
- 4d. red (shades), *wmk. garter*, plates 3, 4.
- 4d. vermilion (shades), *wmk. garter*, plates 7, 8,
 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.
- 4d. grey brown, *wmk. crown*, plate 17.
- 6d. lilac, *wmk. emblems*, plate I. (no letters), 3, 4, 5, 6.
wmk. spray, plate 6 : violet, plates 6, 8, 9.
- 6d. chestnut, *wmk. spray*, plate 11 : buff, plates 11, 12.
- 6d. grey, *wmk. spray*, plates 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.
wmk. crown, plates 17, 18.
- 6d. lilac (surcharged), *wmk. crown*, plate 18.
- 10d. red-brown, *wmk. emblems*, plate I.
 (shades) *wmk. spray*, plate I.
- 1s. green, *wmk. emblems*, plate I. (no letters), 2
 (2 "K"), 4.
wmk. spray, plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13.
- 1s. orange-brown, *wmk. spray*, plate 13.
wmk. crown, plates 13, 14.
- 2s. blue (shades), *wmk. spray*, plate I.
- 5s. rose (shades), *wmk. cross*, plates 1, 2.
wmk. anchor, blue paper, plate 4.
 white paper, plate 4.
1880. ½d. dark green, ½d. pale green, 1d. venetian red,
 2d. pale rose, 2d. deep rose.
1881. 1d. lilac, 14 dots; 1d. lilac, 16 dots.
- 1883-4. ½d. slate, 1½d. lilac, 2d. lilac, 2½d. lilac, 3d. lilac,
 4d. green, 5d. green, 6d. green, 9d. green, 1s. green.
 2/6 lilac (blue paper) 2/6 lilac (white paper).
 5s. rose (blue paper), 5s. rose (white paper).
1887. ½d. vermilion, 2d., 2½d., 5d., 1s.
1900. ½d. green.
- 1902-07. ½d. deep green, ½d. pale green, 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d.,
 4d. brown and green, 4d. orange, 5d., 6d., 9d., 10d.,
 1s.

(b) *Stamboul (Constantinople)*.

"S" B.P.O. *Constantinople*, b.

1884. 2½d. lilac.
 5d. green.

1887. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. vermilion.
 1d. lilac.
 1s. green.
- 1902-07. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep green, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pale green, 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.,
 3d. 4d. brown and green, 4d. orange, 5d., 6d., 9d.
 10d., 1s.

(c) *Smyrna.*

"F 87"

"Smyrna."

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red, plates 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.
 1d. rose-red, *wmk. crown*, plates 134, 137, 138, 140,
 142, 143, 145, 146, 148, 150, 151, 152, 153, 156,
 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 169, 171,
 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 183, 184, 185,
 187, 193, 196, 204, 210.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red. *wmk. crown*, plates 1, 3.
 2d. blue, *wmk. large crown, perf.* 16.
 2d. blue, *wmk. crown*, plates 13, 14, 15.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac-rose. *wmk. anchor, blue paper*, plate 1.
white paper, plates 1, 2, 3, error of lettering,
 plate 2.
wmk. orb. Plates 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,
 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue, *wmk. orb.* Plates 17, 18, 19, 20.
wmk. crown, plates 21, 22, 23.
- 3d. rose, *wmk. spray* plates 5, 7, 9, 10, 14.
 4d. vermilion, *wmk. garter*, plates, 12, 13, 14, 15.
 4d. sage-green " " plates, 15, 16.
 4d. grey-brown " " plate, 17.
wmk. crown, plates, 17, 18.
- 6d. buff, *wmk. spray*, plates 11, 12.
 chestnut " " plate 11.
- 6d. grey " " plates 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
wmk. crown, plates 17, 18.
- 6d. purple (*surcharged*), plate 18.
 9d. straw, *wmk. spray*, plate 4.
- 10d. red-brown (*shades*), *wmk. spray*, plate 1.
 1s. green, *wmk. spray*, plates 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.
 1s. orange-brown, *wmk. spray*, plate 13.
 5s. rose, *white cross*, plate 2.
1880. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dark green, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pale green, 1d. venetian red,
 2d. deep rose, 2d. pale rose, 5d. indigo.
1881. 1d. lilac, 16 dots.
1884. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. slate, 2d. lilac, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac, 4d. green, 5d. green,
 1s. green,

1887. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d., 1s.

1900. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s.

1902. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d., 1s.

(d) *Beyrout*.

“ G 06.” *Beyrout, B.P.O.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red, plates 12, 13, 14, 19, 20.

1d. rose-red, *wmk. crown*, plates 107, 118, 145, 155,
157, 162, 177, 179, 180, 184, 185, 195, 213.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose-red, *wmk. crown*, plate 3.

2d. blue, *wmk. crown*, plates 13, 14, 15.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac rose, *wmk. anchor, blue paper*, plate 1.

white paper, plates 1, 2, 3.

error, plate 2.

wmk. orb., plates 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,
12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue, *wmk. orb.*, plates 17, 18, 19, 20.

3d. rose, *wmk. spray*, plate 19.

wmk. crown, plates 21, 22, 23.

4d. vermilion, *wmk. garter*, plates 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

4d. sage-green „ „ plate 15.

4d. grey-brown „ „ plate 17.

wmk. crown, plates 17, 18.

6d. buff, plates 11, 12 ; chestnut, plate 11.

6d. grey, *wmk. spray*, plates 12, 13, 14, 15,

10d. red-brown (*shades*), plate 1.

1s. green, *wmk. spray*, plates 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13.

1s. orange-brown, *wmk. crown*, plates 13, 14.

2s. blue (*shades*), plate 1.

5s. rose, plate 1.

1880. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dark green, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, 1d. venetian red

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d. venetian red, 2d. deep rose, 2d. pale rose
5d. slate.

1881. 1d. lilac, 14 dots : 1d. lilac, 16 dots.

1884. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. slate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac, 2d. lilac, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. lilac, 5d. green.

1887. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 5d., 6d., 1s.

1900. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1s.

1902. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5d., 10d., 1s.

(e) *Salonica*.

1900. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.

1902. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep green, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. pale green, 1d. scarlet.

Note. — These check lists of British Postage Stamps with Levant Postmarks are taken from an article on British Stamps used abroad” by I. J. Bernstein and Chas. Nissen in the *British Philatelist*, vol. III.

1885. (*April 1st*). *Permanent issue for B.P.O. in Turkish Empire. Three values. Contemporary Postage Stamps of Great Britain (series 1884) overprinted with new values in Turkish currency in heavy sans-serif type in black. Engraved, surface printed and overprinted by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., in London, on medium white wove paper, wmk. Imperial crown. Perf. 14.*

40 paras on 2½d. lilac.
80 paras on 5d. green.
12 piastres on 2/6 lilac.

Variety—Blued paper.
12 piastres on 2/6.

1887-96. *Permanent issue. Three values. Surcharged as before on Jubilee issue of Great Britain (1887). Dates of issue appended in brackets.*

40 paras on 2½d. purple on blue (*June, 1887*).
80 paras on 5d. purple and blue (*June, 1887*).
4 piastres on 10d. purple and carmine (*October 10th*),
1896.

Variety—Double surcharge.

40 paras on 2½d.

Variety—Small "0" in 80.

80 paras on 5d.

1893. *February 25th. Provisional issue. One value. Surcharged locally in black by means of a brass hand-stamp on Jubilee issue of Great Britain (1887). Surcharge measures 16½ × 3mm.*

40 paras on ½d. vermilion. (6,000).

Error - surcharge inverted.

40 paras on ½d.

**Note.*—The variety with the double impression of the surcharge is believed to be one of the reprints made with the original hand-stamp.

1902-5. *Permanent issue. Five values. Surcharged as before on contemporary Postage Stamps, of Great Britain (series 1902), with head of King Edward VII. engraved, printed and overprinted by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., in London, on medium white wove paper. Wmkd. Imperial Crown. Perf. 14. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.*

- 40 paras on 2½d. ultramarine (*February 6th, 1902*).
 80 paras on 5d. lilac and ultramarine (*June 5th, 1902*).
 4 piastres on 10d. purple and scarlet (*Sept. 6th, 1902*).
 12 piastres on 2/6 lilac (*August 29th, 1903*).
 24 piastres on 5/- carmine (*August 15th, 1905*).

Variety—Small "0" in 80.

80 paras on 5d.

1905-6. *Permanent issue. Two values. Overprint changed. Otherwise as before. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.*

1 piastre on 2½d. blue (*April (19th, 1906)*).

2 piastres on 5d. lilac and ultra marine (*Nov. 11th, '05*).

1906. (*July 2nd*). *Provisional issue. One value. Issued at Beyrout. Surcharged in black on Parcel Post Stamps of 1905 at the American Press.*

1 piastre on 2d. green and carmine, (480).

1907-8. *Permanent issue. Three values. Chalk-surfaced paper. Surcharged as before. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.*

2 piastres on 5d. lilac and ultramarine (*January, 1908*)
 dull purple and blue.

4 piastres on 10d. purple and carmine (*August 20th, 1907*).

12 piastres on 2/6 lilac (*January 1908*).
 deep purple.

1909. (*November 16th*). *Permanent issue. Five values. Surcharged in Turkish currency in black on stamps formerly overprinted LEVANT. Chalk-surfaced paper.*

30 paras on 1½d. purple and green.

1 piastre 10 paras on 3d. purple on yellow.

1 piastre 30 paras on 4d. brown and green.

2 piastres 20 paras on 6d. purple.

5 piastres on 1s. green and carmine.

1909. (*December 16th*). *One value. Surcharged as above on issue of 1907. Unsurfaced paper.*

1 piastre 30 paras on 4d. orange-brown.

1910. (*January 24th*). *Permanent issue. Three values. Fractional surcharge in Turkish currency in black. Otherwise as before. Chalk-surfaced paper except 1¼ Pi).*

1¼ piastre on 3d. purple on yellow.

1¾ piastre on 4d. orange.

2½ piastres on 6d. purple.

Variety Thin "4" in fraction.

1¾ piastre on 4d.

1911-13. *Permanent issue. Six Values. Surcharged as before in black by the Board of Inland Revenue on stamps printed from Edwardian plates by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, and the Stamping Department of the Board of Inland Revenue. Unsurfaced paper. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.*

Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf. 14.

30 paras on 1½d. purple and green (August 22th, 1911).

1 piastre on 2½d. blue (July 20th, 1911).

2 piastres on 5d. purple and blue (May 13th, 1912).

4 piastres on 10d. purple and scarlett (June 26th, 1912).

5 piastres on 1s. green and carmine (1913).

12 piastres on 2/6 dull purple (February 3rd, 1912).

As above. Perf. 14 × 15.

1 piastre on 2½d. blue.

Variety—Type II. surcharge shorter and thicker.

1 piastre on 2½d. blue.

Parcels Post Stamps.

1905. (August 15th). *Permanent issue. Ten values of contemporary British Postage Stamps, series 1902. Head of King Edward VII. Overprinted LEVANT in one line of heavy sans-serif capitals in black in varying positions on the stamps. Engraved, printed and overprinted by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in London on medium white wove paper, wmkd. Imperial Crown. Perf. 14. Unsurfaced paper.*

½d. pale yellow-green.

3d. purple on yellow.

1d. scarlett.

4d. green and brown.

1½d. purple and green.

5d. lilac and ultramarine.

2d. green and scarlett.

6d. purple.

2½d. ultramarine.

1s. scarlett and green.

Control numbers :— ½d., D5, F6, G7, H8, J10.

1d., D5, E6, G7, H8, J10.

1908. *Permanent issue. Two values. Chalk-surfaced paper. Overprinted LEVANT as before.*

Dates of issue appended in parentheses.

1½d. lilac and green (*March 6th, 1908*).

1s. scarlet and green (*March 6th, 1908*).

1912. (*February 14th*). *One value. Printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, and overprinted LEVANT in black by the Board of Inland Revenue. Unsurfaced paper. Control No. A11.*

½d. pale green.

1911-12. *Permanent issue. Two values. Contemporary British Postage Stamps (series 1911). Head of King George V. Engraved by the Royal Mint, surface printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, and overprinted in black by the Board of Inland Revenue. Medium white wove unsurfaced paper. Wmk. Imperial Crown. Perf. 15 × 14. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.*

½d. green, die I (*September 12th, 1911*).

½d. green, die II (*March 21st, 1912*).

1d. rose-red, die I (*January 1st, 1912*).

1d. scarlet, die II (*February 24th, 1912*).

Control numbers :— ½d. A11, B11, B12.

1d. A11, B11, B12.





CHAPTER VI.

The establishment of the postal agencies of the North German Confederation in the German Mission, Constantinople, on March 1st, 1870, was one of the earliest indications of political activity on the part of Germany in the Near East. In 1875 the German Post Office was removed to a separate building in the Galata quarter, and subsequently an agency was established in Stamboul. Not until the pilgrimage of the Emperor William II to Palestine were further agencies established by the German P.O. in the Levant. On October 1st, 1898, however, a German post office was opened at Jaffa (the port of Jerusalem), followed on March 1st, 1900, by offices in Jerusalem, Smyrna, Beyrout, and in the Pera district of Constantinople, bringing the total number of German postal agencies in the Ottoman Empire up to seven.

The correspondence handled by the German Post Offices comes chiefly from Germany and Colonies, Belgium, Holland, Norway and Sweden, Denmark, and North America.

For the first two years of its existence the contemporary postage stamps of the North German Confederation (1869) were employed by the German Post Office in Constantinople distinguished only by means of their cancellations, giving place in 1879 to the regular issues of the German Empire. These continued in use without overprint until early in 1884, when in consequence

of the discovery that owing to the difference in the rate of exchange large quantities of German postage stamps were being purchased at a discount in Constantinople, and used as remittances to Germany, it was decided to overprint the equivalent values for which they were sold upon the faces of the stamps, thus rendering them invalid for postage in Germany itself. For a time also this practice had the advantage of attracting native custom, until the other foreign post offices followed suit in 1885.

The first issue of overprinted stamps consisted of the denominations 5, 10, 20, 25, and 50 pfennige of the 1880 series of the German Empire, surcharged in black at the foot, "10 Para," "20 Para," "1 Piaster," "1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Piaster," and "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Piaster," respectively. There is an error of the "1 Piaster" value with the surcharge in indigo instead of black, and two types of the "1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Piaster" overprint with a space of 1 and 2mm, between the fraction and the "P" of "Piaster." A second type of the "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Piaster" is also found with the figures heavier and more open, and the word "Piaster" more condensed. In an article by Mr. W. Ward on the "Adhesive Stamps used in the Levant," I find a statement that these types represent two separate printings made in Berlin and Constantinople respectively, but I am not in a position to vouch for its accuracy. Official reprints of this issue have been made, and there are also some dangerous forgeries in existence which may be recognised by slight differences in the shape of the figures and letters and by the ink, which in the originals is shiny jet black and in the forgeries dull grey black.

Varieties of the 10 and 20 Para and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Piaster values of this series with the words "Para" and

“Piaster” inverted, are in the Berlin Postal Museum and are believed to be official reprints.

On October 1st 1889, these stamps were superseded by the same values of the German issue of that date similarly surcharged, except as regards the $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ Piasters, on which the overprint was in two lines, instead of one as in the case of the other values.

Concurrently with these surcharged stamps the 2 mark denomination of 1875-82 was in use without overprint. It was not sold, however, over the post office counter in the ordinary course, but it was affixed to letters or parcels by the postal officials themselves, thus precluding its use for monetary remittances.

The Germania issue of 1900, inscribed “Reich-post” 5 pfennige to 5 marks, was likewise surcharged for the use of the Levant Post Offices, where it was issued on or about October 20th, 1900. The overprints were of a similar type to those of the previous issue except that the inscription “Para” or “Piaster” was slightly raised above the level of the figures of value, and the surcharge “15 Piaster” on 3 marks was applied vertically on either side of the stamps in red, instead of horizontally in black as on the remaining denominations of the series, which contained a number of additional values, *viz.*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ Piaster on 25 pfg., 2 Piasters 40 pfg., 4, 5, 10, 15 and 25 Piasters. This latter stamp was not added to the series until the early part of 1901. It is found in both types of the 5 marks with the wide and narrow “5.”

Early in 1903 new overprint plates were brought into use for the 10 and 20 Para, 1, 5, and 25 Piasters values cast from a new fount of type, showing several slight differences, the most

pronounced being the addition of a broad serif at the top of the A in "Piaster." The 10 Piasters on 2 marks was included in the series with the new type of overprint late in 1905.

The German home series of 1902 with inscriptions altered to "Deutsches Reich," was first issued to the Levant Post Offices in October, 1905, the overprint in common with those of the other German Foreign Post Offices at the same period, being this time applied in the national Gothic instead of Roman type as in the case of the former issues. A small supply of all values of the Deutsches Reich series was overprinted in error in the old Roman type, but was withheld from issue. Sets of these unissued stamps have come on to the market and are occasionally offered at high prices.

The series of 1900 inscribed "Reichpost" and overprinted in Roman type, remained valid for postage up to the end of 1905, and could be exchanged for the new issue until March, 1906, when it was demonetized.

During the course of 1906-7 all values of the "Deutsches Reich" series, with the exception of the 15 Piaster on 3 marks were issued, printed on the new watermarked paper, with the Lozenges device adopted for the postage stamps of Germany and her Colonies in the previous year. This value was added in March, 1913.

Lastly, in August, 1908, a supplementary series of five values destined primarily for use on printed matter, samples, and commercial papers was introduced, surcharged diagonally in units of a Franc in black Roman type.

These stamps can also be used for letter postage, in which case, however, a letter of 20 grammes costs 25 centimes, equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., as against 2d. if

an ordinary 1 piaster stamp is employed.

The stamps surcharged in Turkish currency are sold at the rate of 5 piasters to the mark—equal to about 10d., but in Berlin where they are also on sale in common with all other issues of the German Colonies and Foreign Post Offices they are only obtainable at their full face value in German currency.

All issues of the German Levant Post Offices have been printed and overprinted at the Imperial Printing Works, Berlin, the low values in sheets of 100, ten rows of ten. Serial numbers in various colours are impressed on the margins of the sheets, which have marginal lines, and decorations similar to those of the stamps of Great Britain.

SUMMARY.

1870. *March 1st. Contemporary postage stamps of the North German Confederation (series 1869) with postmark of the German Consular Post Office in Constantinople.*

Various values.

1872-84. *Contemporary postage stamps of the German Empire of the same date with postmark of German Consular Post Office in Constantinople.*

Various values.

1884. *January 25th. Permanent issue for Levant Post Offices. Five values contemporary postage stamps of German Empire (series 1875-79) design of Imperial Arms. Surcharged at the foot with equivalent denominations in Turkish currency in shiny black ink, surface printed and overprinted at Imperial Printing Works, Berlin on medium white wove paper without wmk. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$.*

10 para on 5 pfennige, mauve.

20 „ on 10 „ rose.

1 piaster on 20 „ ultramarine.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ „ on 25 „ red-brown.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ piaster on 50 pfennige, grey-green,
myrtle-green.

The surcharge on this stamp is in dead black, instead of glossy black ink.

Variety—Indigo surcharge.

1 piastre on 20 pfg.

Type II.

Varieties—Space of 2mm. between "P" and fraction.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ piaster on 25 pfg.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ " on 50 pfg.

1889. October 1st. *Permanent issue. Five values of series of German Empire (same date) surcharged in Turkish currency as before in two lines on $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ piastres, and one on remaining values, in black.*

10 para on 5 pfennige, yellow-green,
blue-green.

1 piaster on 20 pfennige, ultramarine.

dull-blue.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ piaster on 25 " orange-yellow.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ " on 50 " brown lake.

chocolate.

1900. October 20th. *Permanent issue. Twelve values of "Germania series" of German Empire of same year inscribed "Reichpost" surcharged as before for use of Levant Post Offices horizontally at the foot in black with words "para" or "piastre" raised above the level of the figures of value (excepting 3 marks surcharged twice vertically in red.) Low values surface printed, and mark values recess printed, and overprinted at the Imperial German Printing Works, Berlin on medium white wove paper without wmk. Perf. 14.*

10 para on 5 pfennige, green.

20 " on 10 " carmine.

1 piaster on 20 " ultramarine.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ " on 25 " black and orange on yellow.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ " on 30 " black and orange on buff.

2 piastres on 40 pfennige, black and carmine.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ " on 50 " black and lilac on buff.

4 " on 80 " black and carmine on rose.

5 " on 1 mark, carmine.

- 10 piastres on 2 marks, blue.
 15 " on 3 marks, violet-black (*vertical surcharge in red*).
 25 " on 5 marks lake and black (1901).
Variety—Corners redrawn.
 25 piaster on 5 marks.
Varieties—Type II. Broad serif to A in "Piaster" (1903).
 10 para on 5 pfg., green.
 20 " on 10 " carmine.
 1 piastre on 20 pfg., ultramarine.
 5 piaster on 1 mark dull lake.
 10 " on 2 marks, blue (1905).
 25 " on 5 " lake and black.

1905. October 1st. *Permanent issue. Twelve values. German Empire series of 1902 inscribed "Deutsches Reich" surcharged with new values in Turkish currency as before in black Gothic type (red on the 3 marks).*

- 10 para on 5 pfennige green.
 20 " on 10 " carmine.
 1 piaster on 20 " ultramarine.
 1¼ " on 25 " black and orange on *yellow*.
 1½ " on 30 " black and orange on *buff*.
 2 " on 40 " black and carmine.
 2½ " on 50 " black and purple on *buff*.
 4 " on 80 " black and carmine on *rose*.
 8 " on 1 mark, carmine.
 10 " on 2 marks blue.
 15 " on 3 " violet-black.
 25 " on 5 lake and black.

1906-13. *Permanent issue. Eleven values as above. Approximate dates of issue appended in parentheses. Wmkd. Lozenges. Perf. 14.*

- 10 para on 5 pfg., green (*April, 1906*).
 20 " on 10 " carmine (*March, 1907*).
 1 piaster on 20 pfg., ultramarine (*September, 1906*).
 1¼ " on 25 " black and orange on *yellow*.
(February, 1907).
 1½ " on 30 " black and orange on *buff*.
(February, 1906).
 2 " on 40 " black and carmine (*Jan., 1906*).
 2½ " on 50 " black and purple on *buff*.
(June, 1906).

4 piaster	on 80 pfg., black and carmine on rose	(<i>March, 1906</i>).
5	„ on 1 mark, carmine	(<i>February, 1907</i>).
10	„ on 2 marks, blue	(<i>June, 1906</i>).
15	„ on 3 marks, violet black	(<i>March, 1913</i>).
25	„ on 5 marks, lake and black	(<i>January, 1906</i>).

1908. *August. Stamps for Printed Matter, etc. Permanent issue. Five values. Surcharged diagonally with new values in "Centimes" in black. Inscribed "Deutsches Reich." Wmk. Lozenges. Perf. 14.*

5 centimes	on 5 pfg., green.
10	„ on 10 „ carmine.
25	„ on 20 „ ultramarine.
50	„ on 40 „ black and carmine.
100	„ on 80 „ black and carmine on rose.



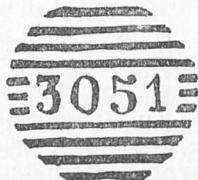




CHAPTER VIII.

. Many years prior to the establishment of the Italian Kingdom the Republics of Venice and Naples maintained their own postal services with Turkey, which were continued down to the end of the 18th century.

In 1873 Italian Postal Agencies were established in Constantinople, Smyrna and Beyrout, at first making use of the ordinary current postage stamps of the Kingdom of Italy distinguished only by the duplex postmarks consisting of a serial number in an oval formed of parallel lines together with a small circle containing the town name and date.



It having been found in practice, however, that the fluctuation of the exchange rate provided opportunities for speculation at the expense of the Italian revenue, these agencies together with all other Italian Post Offices abroad were supplied on January 1st, 1874, with a series of nine particular postage stamps in the designs of the contemporary Italian home series of 1863-65-67, but with certain modifications of the spandrel ornaments imprinted on the face with the word "Estero" (Foreign) in a semi circle in small black Roman capitals. The colours of the 10 and 20 centimes

underwent a change in January, 1879, and during 1881-3 the Italian Stamps, of 1879 made their appearance similarly modified and overprinted for use by the Italian Post Offices abroad.

Towards the end of December, 1883, in response to the representations of the Sublime Porte, the Italian Post Offices in Turkey were provisionally suppressed.



In the interests of the considerable Italian element in that region three agencies of the Italian Post Office were established in the Vilayet of Albania during 1901-2 at the following centres : Scutari (November 1st, 1901), Durazzo (June, 25th 1902), and Janina (August 16th, 1902). Italian stamps of the series of July 1st, 1901, were employed in Albania without overprint until September 1st, 1902 when the 5, 20 and 25 centesimi values appeared overprinted with the word ALBANIA, and new values in " Para " at the foot in black. Owing to objections raised by the Turkish Government these three values were re-issued in December 1902 surcharged with the local values only, and the name ALBANIA omitted. For some reason or reasons unknown it was decided some years later to reinstate the overprint ALBANIA so far as the office at Janina was concerned and thus to maintain in

issue two separate series of stamps, the one surcharged with the local value only for use at Scutari and Durazzo, and the other with the additional overprint of the word ALBANIA for the agency at Janina. Accordingly on May 20th, 1907 the 5 centesimi postage stamp of Italy 1906 was issued with the surcharge "10 Para" both with and without the addition of the ALBANIA, and was followed on November 1st, 1906, by the 10 centimes value of 1906, and 50 centimes of 1901 similarly overprinted. A curious variety of the "20 Para" on 10 centimes stamp of this issue has been shown to me by Mr. G. T. Turner having an uninked impression of the word ALBANIA showing through on the back.

At the request of the Italian trading community in the Levant, the Italian Minister, at Constantinople notified the Porte in March, 1908, that it was the intention of his Government to re-establish the national Post Offices at Constantinople and Smyrna, and to create additional agencies at Jerusalem, Salonica and Valona. The Porte replied refusing to permit the opening of these offices, but on further diplomatic representations being made, backed by the threat of a naval demonstration in support of Italy's claims under the "most favoured nation clause" of her treaties with Turkey, the Ottoman Government withdrew its opposition. Italian postal agencies were accordingly opened at Valona, on May 5th, Salonica, on May 26th, Jerusalem and Constantinople (Galata-Pera-Stamboul), on June 1st, 1908.

The first postage stamps, issued for use by the Italian Post Offices in Turkey were the 5 centimes and 10 centimes of Italy 1906, surcharged 10 and 20 para respectively, which had been in use in

Albania since 1907, together with the 25 centimes and 50 centimes of the same issue surcharged 40 and 80 para. Of the 10, 20 and 40 para values respectively 100,000 copies were surcharged, and of the 80 para, 35,000 only. This supply proved inadequate to the requirements of three offices, and these at Smyrna and Salonica and subsequently Jerusalem made use for a time of Italian stamps of the then current issue without overprint.

The Italian Post Offices, in Constantinople, when first opened were supplied with a stock of the current postage stamps of the Italian Kingdom for provisional use pending the preparation of a special series by the Government Printing Office, Turin. These were overprinted locally by order of the Italian Director of Posts with new values in Turkish Currency at the office of *The Levant Herald*. Unfortunately this issue got into the hands of speculators with the result that the first printing comprising 1,000 copies each of the 10 para on 5 centimes, and 20 para on 10 centimes, 500 of the 30 para on 15 centimes, 1 piastre on 25 centimes and 2 piastres on 50 centimes, 100 of the 4 piastres on 1 lira and 50 of the 20 piastres on 5 lira, was bought up immediately they were issued. A second printing of all values had therefore to be made at once, which consisted of the following quantities :—

10 para on 5c. 19,800.	2 piastres on 50c. 3,000.
20 para on 10c. 16,000.	4 piastres on 1l. 400.
30 para on 15c. 20,000.	20 piastres on 5l. 200.
1 piastre on 25c. 16,000.	

The type used differed from that of the first printing, and there were in addition a number of varieties of more or less doubtful authenticity.

In August, 1908, another printing of the 30 para value representing the rate on single letters to Italy became necessary, one thousand sheets of the 15 centime slate being surcharged locally in sans-serif type in red.

During August and September, 1908, three further printings of the two highest values, 4 and 20 piastres, were made, each differing slightly as regards the type employed. There are errors of the 20 piastres value in existence with double surcharge and surcharged on the 1 instead of 5 lira, but it seems probable that they were created expressly for collectors and are not genuine errors. The surcharges were set up in blocks of twenty, and in the second printing five stamps on each sheet (Nos. 16, 36, 56, 76 and 96), have the centre cross bar omitted from the "E" of "Piastre." These printings comprised in all 10,000 copies of the 4 piastres and 5,000 of the 20 piastres.



A supply of the 30 para on 15 centimes slate overprinted in violet at the Government Printing Office, Turin, was received and issued first to the offices in Albania and later from May onward to those at Constantinople.

At length in February, 1909, a full series of seven denominations overprinted with the name of the towns in addition to the Turkish value was issued to all the Italian Post Offices in Turkey and Albania as follows: Constantinople, Durazzo,

Jerusalem, Janina, Salonica, Scutari, Smyrna and Valona. This series comprised the 5, 10, and 15 centesimi values of 1906, 25 and 50 centimes of 1908, and 1 and 5 lira of 1901 overprinted as above at the Officina Governativa delle Carte-Valori, Turin.

The Italian Express Letter Stamps both Inland and Foreign have been overprinted LEVANTE-1 PIASTRA 1 and 60 para respectively for use by these offices, the former in September, 1908, and the latter in 1910.

On the outbreak of the Turco-Italian War of 1911-12 an official notification was issued by the Italian Postal Authorities to the effect that

“In consequence of political events the Italian Post Offices established in Turkey have been closed. All services with these offices are therefore temporarily suspended.”



Following the conclusion of peace between the two nations these offices were re-opened for the transaction of postal business on December 1st, 1912, stamps identical with those of the 1909 series being simultaneously brought into use.

Ægean Islands.

Several small islands of the Ægean Archipelago occupied by Italy during the war over Tripoli were retained under Italian control by the

terms of the treaty of peace. Under the military government the ordinary current Italian Postage Stamps were employed, cancelled with a postmark incised *POSTA MILITARE*, whilst that used by the Civil Post Offices bore the words *POSTE ITALIANE* together with the name of the island, followed by the word (*Egeo*).

On the conclusion of peace, the 25c. and 50c. postage stamps of Italy, 1906, were issued provisionally overprinted "EGEO" in black sans-serif capitals in the printing press of the Commissariate Department of the army of occupation, there being two printings. Both values exist with the overprint inverted (one sheet of 100 of each), and there is also a variety with a damaged "G" reading "ECEO." A total of only 5,000 copies of the 25c. and 2,000 of the 50c. was overprinted, and they appear to have been used exclusively in Rhodes in the prepayment of foreign postage. By the end of October the supply was exhausted and a return was made to uncharged Italian stamps as in the other islands.



In December, 1912, a series of seven values of the current Italian postage stamp series was issued to the post offices in the *Ægean*, overprinted at the Government Printing Works, Turin, with the name of each island in capitals and lower case

type, in black (violet on 15c.), there being in all thirteen series.

SUMMARY.

1873. *Contemporary Italian Postage Stamps with postmarks of postal agencies in Turkey.*

Various values.

1874. *January 1st. Permanent issue for Italian Post Offices abroad. Nine values. Types of Italy 1863-7 with modifications of corner ornaments and details omitted. Overprinted "Estero" in small Roman capitals in semi-circle in black. Engraved, surfaced printed and overprinted by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., in London, on medium white wove paper, wmkd. a Crown. Perf. 14.*

1	centesimi, olive green.	20	centesimi, blue.
	pale olive green.	30	" brown.
2	" brown.		chocolate.
	light brown.	40	" rose.
5	" greenish grey.	60	" lilac.
10	" orange buff.	2	lira, scarlet.

Error—Overprint inverted.

1 centesimi.

Errors—Overprint omitted.

1 centesimi.

2 centesimi.

Varieties—Corners not altered.

5, 10, 30 centesimi.

Variety—Two square dots in right bottom corner.

1 centesimi.

Variety—Three square dots in right top corner.

1 centesimi.

1879. *January. Permanent issue. Two values. Colours changed. Otherwise as above. Printed at Italian Government Printing Office, Turin.*

10 centesimi, blue. 20 centesimi, orange yellow.

1881-3. *Permanent issue as before. Six values. Modified Italian types of 1879. Overprinted "Estero" in black Roman capitals in a semicircle. Head of*

King Humbert I. Printed and overprinted by the Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Medium white wove paper, watermarked a Crown. Perf. 14.

Dates of issue appended in parentheses.

5	centesimi, green.	(February, 1882)
10	„ rose.	(April, 1883)
20	„ orange-yellow.	(March, 1881)
25	„ blue.	(April, 1881)
50	„ purple.	(May, 1881)
2	lira, scarlet*	

1901-2. *Contemporary Italian postage stamps with cancellations of post offices in Albania.*

Various values.

1902. *September 1st. Permanent issue for Italian post offices in Albania. Three values of regular Italian series July, 1901, overprinted in black with the word "ALBANIA" and a new value in "Para" horizontally in two lines at the foot. Head of King Victor Emmanuel III. Engraved, printed and overprinted at the Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Medium white wove paper, wmkd Crown. Perf. 14.*

10 para on 5c. green.	35 para on 20c. orange.
40 „ on 25c. blue.	

1902. *December. Permanent issue. Three values as above. Overprinted with local value only. Name omitted for use at Janina, otherwise as before.*

10 para on 5c. green.
35 „ on 20c. orange.
40 „ on 25c. blue.

Variety - Surcharged across middle of stamp.

40 para on 25c.

1907. *Permanent issue. Three values of Italian series 1901 and 1906. Surcharged as before (a) with new values in Turkish currency, and word ALBANIA in black; (b) with name omitted for use at Janina only, at the foot in black. Engraved, printed and*

* Westoby has a note to the effect that this stamp was never brought into use.

over printed at Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Dates of issue appended in parentheses.

- (a) with word ALBANIA in overprint.
 10 para on 5c green. (May, 30th)
 20 „ on 10c rose. (November, 1st)
 80 „ on 50c. mauve. (November, 1st)
- (b) name omitted, for use at Janina
 10 para on 5c. green. (May, 30th)
 20 „ on 10c. rose. (November, 1st)
 80 „ on 50c. mauve. (November, 1st)

Variety—Uninked impression of word ALBANIA.

20 para on 10c. rose.

1908. May and June. Provisional issue for Italian postal agencies in Turkey. Five values of Italian home issue 1906-8. Overprinted at the foot with new values in Turkish currency in black. Engraved, printed and overprinted at Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Numbers printed appended in parentheses.

10 para on 5c green (100,000) 40 para on 25c. blue (100,000)
 20 „ on 10c. rose (100,000) 80 „ on 50c mauve (25,000)

1908. May and June. Contemporary Italian postage stamps without overprint used provisionally by post offices at Salonica, Smyrna, and Jerusalem. Cancelled with postmarks of those towns.

Various values.

1908. June 1st. Provisional issue for Constantinople only. Seven values of contemporary Italian postage stamps (series 1901, 1906, 1907, 1908) surcharged locally at the offices of the "Levant Herald" with new values in Para and Piastres in black. Numbers printed appended.

10 para on 5c. green (1906) 20,800
 20 „ on 10c. rose (1906) 17,000
 30 „ on 15c. slate (1906) 20,500
 1 piastra on 25c. blue (1907) 16,500
 2 piastre on 50c. mauve (1908) 3,500
 4 „ on 1 lira brown and green (1901) 10,100
 20 „ on 5 lira rose and blue (1901) 5,050
 1st Printing (all values). Word PARA in heavy

capitals without accent over final "A." Numerals before word *only*. Wide figure "4."

2nd Printing (all values). "Para" in thinner capitals but "Piastra" and "Piastre" heavier than before. Narrow "4."

3rd Printing (4 and 20 piastre only). Surcharged slightly lower on stamp. Open "4," tail of "2" in 20 curled up.

4th Printing (4 and 20 piastre only). Thinner figures raised slightly above word "Piastre." Closed "4," horizontal bottom stroke to "2."

5th Printing (4 to 20 piastre only). Wider "4," T of Piastre with heavy cross-bar. Different spacing between numerals and words.

Error : "30 PA" for 30*PARA.

30 para on 15c.

Error : *Triple surcharge.*

30 para on 15c.

Variety : *Surcharged PIASTRA only.*

1 Piastra on 25c.

Variety : "1 PISPTRA" for 1 PIASTRA.

1 Piastra on 25c.

Variety : "1 PIPSTRA" for 1 PIASTRA.

1 Piastra on 25c.

Variety : *Numeral with pointed head thus "1."*

1 Piastra on 25c.

Variety : *Space of 5 mm. instead of 2 mm. between figure and word.*

2 Piastre on 50c. mauve.

Error : *Surcharged "20 Piastre" with cypher scratched out.*

2 Piastre on 50c.

1908. August 7th. *Provisional issue for Constantinople only. One value. Surcharged locally in red sans-serif type on Italian stamp of 1906. Number printed appended in parentheses.*

30 para on 15c. slate (100,000).

1909. January. *Provisional issue for all Italian Post Offices in Turkey. One value. Overprinted in Turkish currency on Italian stamp of 1906 in violet, at Turin.*

30 para on 15c. slate

1909. February. *Permanent issue for Italian post offices in Turkish Empire. Seven values Italian*

postage stamps (series 1901, 1906 and 1907) overprinted in black at the foot (violet on 15c.) with new values in Turkish currency and name of eight offices as follows: Costantinopoli, Durazzo, Gerusalemme, Janina, Salonico, Scutari di Albania, Smirne, Valona, in capitals and lower case type on the low values and sans-serif capitals on the 4 and 20 Piastra. Engraved, printed and overprinted at the Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Medium white wove paper. Wmk. Crown. Perf. 14.

10 para on 5c. green. 20 „ on 10c. rose.

30 „ on 15c. slate, (violet surcharge).

1 Piastra on 25c. blue. 2 Piastra on 50c. mauve.

4 „ on 1 lira brown and green.

20 „ on 5 lira rose and blue.

The above stamps were temporarily withdrawn from use in October 1911 and re-issued in December, 1912.

Express Letter Stamps.

1908. September. Italian Inland Express Letter stamp of 1903 overprinted "LEVANTE—1 PIASTRA 1" in two lines in black for use by the Italian post offices in the Turkish Empire. Engraved, printed and overprinted at Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Medium white wove paper. Wmk. Crown, (twice sideways). Perf. 14.

25c. rose

1910. November (?) Italian Foreign Express Letter stamp of 1908 surcharged "LEVANTE—60 Para 60" in two lines in black for use by the Italian P. O. in the Turkish Empire.

60 para on 30c. blue and rose.

Ægean Islands.

1912. Contemporary Italian postage stamps (series 1901, 1906, 1908) with cancellations of civil and military post offices established in islands of the Ægean Archipelago.

Various values.

1912. *September 10th. Provisional issue for island of Rhodes. Two values. Italian series 1907-8 overprinted "EGEO" locally in black sans serif capitals. Numbers printed appended in parentheses. 25 centesimi blue (5,000). 25c. blue 50c. mauve. 50 " mauve (2,000). Variety "ECEO" for EGEO. Errors—Overprint inverted. 25c. blue 50c. mauve.*

1912. *December. Permanent issue for Italian Ægean Islands. Seven values overprinted at the foot in black (violet on 15c.) with the names of each island in capitals or capitals and lower case. Overprinted CALIMNO, CASO, COS, KARKI, LEROS, LIPSO, NISIROS, PATMOS, PISCOPI, RODI, SCARPANTO, SIMI and STAMPALIA on Italian series of 1901, 1906-8. Engraved, printed and overprinted at the Italian Government Printing Works, Turin. Medium white wove paper. Wmk. Crown. Perf. 14.*

2 centesimi orange- brown.	15 centesimi grey.
5 " green.	25 " blue.
10 " rose.	40 " brown.
50 centesimi mauve.	



Roumania.

CHAPTER VIII.

An abortive attempt at establishing a national postal agency in Constantinople, in connection with the mail steamship service between the Golden Horn and Constanza, was made by the Roumanian Government in the early part of 1896. The Porte, however declined to recognise the authority of Roumania to open a post office in the capital, but on March 15th, 1896, a postal agency was opened on board a vessel of the Roumanian Steamship Company, moored alongside one of the quays of Constantinople.

Special postage stamps for franking correspondence conveyed by this service were created by surcharging three values of the contemporary Roumanian issue with new values in Turkish currency, applied with a handstamp by the agent of the steamship company under authority of the Roumanian Minister of Posts.

The surcharge was at first applied in black, but there was a second printing in violet.

The stamps comprised the 5, 10, 20 bani values of the Roumanian issue of 1893-6 surcharged "10 PARAS 10" "20 PARAS 20" and "1 PIASTRE 1" respectively, the total numbers of each printing being as follows:—

	BLACK SURCHARGE	VIOLET SURCHARGE
10 paras on 5 b.	750	3,300
20 „ on 10 b.	6,300	7,200
1 piastre on 25 b.	3,900	3,000

A fourth value, 50 bani orange, of the same series was employed without surcharge on board the Roumanian mail steamers,

A circular postmark was employed in cancelling these stamps, inscribed round the inside of the circle POSTA ROMANA-COSPOLI with the date in the centre, and in addition outside the upper part of the circumference a native inscription reading ROMANIA VAPURLARINA MAKSUSS DAR (signifying "Available by Roumanian Steamships Only").



The service remained in operation and the surcharged Roumanian stamps continued to be sold until May 25th, 1896, on which date a detachment of Turkish police boarded the Roumanian mail steamer lying in port at Constantinople, and seized the whole of the mails bearing the special postage stamps as being illegally franked to defraud the Ottoman post office. This action is said to have been taken at the instigation of the Austrian government who resented the competition of the Roumanian post. Diplomatic negotiations followed, but the Roumanian postal service in the Levant was not resumed.

Summary.

1896. *March 15th—May 25th. Permanent issue for Roumanian Levant post offices. Employed on mail steamers plying between Constantinople and Constanza. Three values. Roumanian postage stamps of 1895-6 surcharged at the foot with new values in black or violet by means of a handstamp by the agent of the*

Roumanian Steamship Co. in Constantinople. Stamps surface printed at the Government Printing Works, Bucharest. Wove paper watermarked with initials "P.R." Perf. 13½. Numbers printed appended in parentheses.

(a) Black Surcharge.

10 Paras on 5 bani, blue (750)

20 „ on 10 bani, pale green (6,300)

1 Piastre on 25 bani, bright mauve (3,900)

Variety—Perf. 13½ and 11½ compound.

20 paras on 10 bani

Variety Second figure omitted from surcharge, thus "1 PIASTRE"

1 piastre on 25 bani

Variety Double impression of first figure "1."

1 piastre on 25 bani

Variety—Double impression of second figure "1."

1 piastre on 25 bani

(b) Violet Surcharge.

10 Paras on 5 bani, blue (3,300)

20 „ on 10 bani, pale green (7,200)

1 Piastre on 25 bani, bright mauve (3,000)

Varieties—Perf. 11½.

10 Paras on 5 bani

1 Piastre on 25 bani

Variety—Perf. 13½ and 11½ compound.

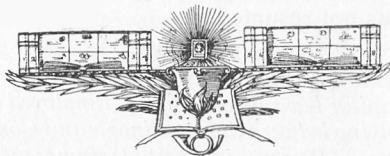
10 Paras on 5 bani

Error : Surcharge inverted at top.

1 Piastre on 25 bani

Variety—"DIASTRE" for PIASTRE.

1 Piastre on 25 bani





CHAPTER IX.

About the middle of the last century Egyptian post offices making use of the current postage stamps of that country were in existence in several Turkish towns, though few particulars of their operations are available.

The first of these offices appears to have been established in Constantinople in the year 1866, and others at Beyrout, Chios, Jaffa, Mersina, Metelino, Salonica, Smyrna, Tripoli and Volo. Dardenelles and Gallipoli in 1870. The stamps used by these offices were chiefly those of the third issue of Egypt, all values up to five piastres being found with the postmarks of the Egyptian Consular post offices in Turkey, without other distinguishing feature.

These postmarks consisted of small single lined circles inscribed round the circumference, "V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE—CONSTANOPOLI, SMIRNE, METELINO, SALONICOPOLIS, etc, with the date in the centre in three lines, and, in some instances a control number "T.1," etc.

The Egyptian post offices in Turkey were merged in those of Great Britain on August 1st, 1881, when the postal service of the former nation was abandoned.

SUMMARY.

1866-70. *Contemporary postage stamps of Egypt with cancellations of postal agencies in Turkey.*

Various issues and values.



CHAPTER X.

Postal agencies in charge of the Greek Consuls were established in 1834 at Constantinople and Smyrna, as well as at other Mediterranean parts outside the dominions of the Sultan of Turkey, and subsequently at Salonica and Dardanelles in 1835 ; Arta and Janina in 1852 ; Prevesa in 1853 ; Bucharest, Ibraila and Jassy in 1857 ; Galatz and Larissa in January, 1860. Offices were also in existence at Volo and at Candia, Canea and Retimo, Crete.

The Greek post office in Constantinople was removed from the Consulate in 1849 and established in a separate building. It was temporarily closed during the Crimean War, but re-opened in December, 1855. In 1857 the Greek post office in Smyrna was also detached from the Consulate.

Letters emanating from these agencies were at first impressed with a large circular frank, similiar to those in use in France about the same period, but from October 13th, 1861, when postage stamps were first issued in Greece, until the suppression of the Greek post offices in Turkey on April 25th, 1881, the contemporary stamps of Greece of the Mercury Head type 1861-79 were in regular use by these foreign post offices without distinguishing overprint, and those so employed may be recognised only by means of their cancellations.

The postmarks used were of the duplex pattern, having been manufactured in France concurrently with the postage stamps themselves. Consequently they resemble those of France at the same period.

They comprised two separate obliterations – the one bearing a serial number enclosed in a rhomboid formed of small dots, and the other a small circle with concentric lines, containing the date in the centre, and the Greek word TOYPKIA (Turkey) at the foot



According to Mr. Nicholaides, the rhomboid obliterator was normally applied to the stamp itself, whilst the circular date stamp was impressed on the envelope beside it. But in the case of unpaid letters ordinary postage stamps to the required value were affixed and cancelled with the date stamp, thus effectively distinguishing between the two classes of correspondence.

The following is a list of the Greek post offices in Turkey with their respective numbers :

Arta, 105	Larissa, 103
Bucharest, ?	Metelin, 137
Canea, <i>Crete</i> , 162	Prevesa, ?
Constantinople, 95	Rethymno, <i>Crete</i> , 163
Galatz, ?	Salonica, 98
Heraclion, <i>Crete</i> , 164	Samos, 128
Ibraila, ?	Smyrna, 96
Janina, 99	Sulina, 133
Jassy, ?	Volo, 135

Towards the end of 1912 a number of special issues for postage stamps were made by the Greek Government for use in the former Turkish provinces and islands occupied by the Hellenic forces during the Balkan War of 1912-13. From the outset special letter cards bearing a Greek imprint signifying "Army Service-Postage free" were supplied to the soldiers of the Greek Army and were cancelled with the official seal of the commander-in-chief of the army in Epirus. Ordinary soldiers' letters also passed through the post without stamps, bearing the postmark of the Greek headquarters. Official postcards were likewise issued to the naval forces and obliterated with the distinctive postmarks of the vessels on which they were posted.

In the wake of the Greek army followed a regular post office staff, detached for special duty from the postal administration at Athens, by whom a public postal service was installed along the lines of communication as the troops advanced into Turkish territory. At first ordinary Greek postage stamps (series 1911) were employed by these post offices, recognisable only by means of their cancellations.

On the occupation of Salonika on October 26th, 1912, the Greek postal officials were installed in the former Ottoman post office, regular postal communication with Greece being established by the warships of the Hellenic fleet.

Pending receipt of a series of provisional postage stamps overprinted with a Greek inscription signifying "Hellenic administration" they sold a small quantity of Turkish postage stamps found in stock which were cancelled with a circular dated postmark inscribed with the name of the town in Greek characters round the upper part of the

circumference. In addition to this letters were impressed with the official seal of the Hellenic postal administration containing the national arms, in black ; official correspondence passed free as before under frank, with the postmark of the army headquarters.



A few of the ordinary current postage stamps of Greece were also used in payment of postal charges at the Greek post office in Salonica during the first few days of its existence, whilst at the same time letters bearing the special stamps of the postal agencies of Great Britain, Russia, France and Austria were accepted for conveyance by the Greek post office without extra fee and were stamped with the post office seal above referred to,

On November 6th, 1912, appeared the full series of current Greek postage stamps from 1 lepton to 25 drachma overprinted vertically with the words "Hellenica Dioikasis" in two lines of Greek capitals in black for use in the occupied provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, Epirus, Thrace and also in Crete, where by an ordinance of November 4th, 1912, the national postage stamps had ceased to circulate; and in the islands of the Ægean Sea seized by the Greek fleet.



The first printing of these stamps, the numbers of which were small, was distinguished by the presence of two errors in the overprint with the first "I" omitted from the word DIOIKASIS occurring on the fourth stamp in the fifth row, No. 54 on the sheet; and the second with the same letter absent from the word ELLANIKA on the ninth stamp in the first row of each sheet of 100.

In the second setting of the overprint there is a variety with a dot between the D and the first "I" of DIOIKASIS also found on the 54th stamp on the sheet, whilst the error ELLANKA again occurs, but on the seventh instead of the ninth stamp on the sheet.

A third setting had these errors corrected, but on the second stamp in the second row the initial letter of the word DIOIKASIS was a Greek "L"

instead of a D. This third setting was used for the stamps overprinted in red, instead of in black, and in heavier type which were issued about December, 1912.

The first varieties appear to have occurred through letters having dropped down whilst the printers were preparing the overprint formes for the press, and as soon as they were observed they were corrected. Other missing letter varieties occur but are not constant in their positions on the sheets. On many sheets also the overprint is misplaced.

The 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 25 lepta values exist with the black overprint inverted, and the 2 lepta with the overprint both double and inverted.

Early in 1913 they commenced to print the current Greek postage stamps of the denominations 1, 5, 10 and 25 lepta by lithography instead of from line engraved plates, on thick white glazed paper, the 10 lepta being overprinted as before in black and the 5 and 25 lepta in red for use in the occupied provinces.

Owing to the enormous demand for the 20 lepta value, that denomination of the old 1901 (Hermes) series was pressed into the service and overprinted ELLANIKA DIOIKASIS in black.

The values of the 1911 series overprinted in red up to the moment of writing are--1, 2, 3, 5, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lepta and 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25, drachma. All the current postage-due stamps of Greece (excepting the 25 lepta) have likewise been overprinted with the same inscription, first in black from the second setting, and subsequently in red from the third setting, and also from a fourth in which occurs the the error ELLANKA in the position of the first printing, and the variety with the dot.

Only very limited numbers of each value were overprinted in black, as will be seen from the sub-joined table giving the official numbers overprinted in each colour :—

<i>Value.</i>	<i>Postage Due Stamps.</i>	
	<i>Black overprint.</i>	<i>Red overprint.</i>
1 lepton	25,000	25,000
2 lepta	50,000	50,000
3 "	50,000	—
5 "	5,000	15,000
10 "	30,000	—
20 "	5,000	25,000
30 "	1,000	29,000
40 "	1,000	29,000
50 "	1,000	19,000
1 drachma	500	4,500
2 "	100	The values 2, 3, 900 5 drachma in 900 black have the 900 overprint inverted.
3 "	100	
5 "	100	

A special issue was made for the island of Lemnos captured by the Greek fleet early in the war, in accordance with a Royal Decree of November 3rd, 1912, all values of the current Greek postage



stamp series being overprinted with the name of the island in one line of Greek capitals, at first in black and subsequently in red as in the case of the general issue. There is an error in the overprint

with the initial letter of LEMNOS a Greek D instead of L, and also with A for D. Minor varieties exist with a round instead of a narrow "O" and with various letters missing from the overprint.

The 5 and 25 lepta lithographed have also been overprinted for use in Lemnos, and the 20 lepta Greek postage stamp of 1901 is likewise found with Lemnos overprint in black.

When the Greek naval forces occupied the island of Mitylene they overprinted the stock of Turkish stamps found in the post office to the value of 200 livres with the legend "Hellenic administration of Mitylene" in Greek characters and also improvised four provisional values viz :—25 lepta on 2 paras and 50 lepta on 20 paras (overprints reading up) and 1 drachma on 20 paras and 2 drachma on 1 piastre (overprints reading down). The 25 lepta and 1 drachma denominations exist with the Greek value inverted and there are in addition varieties with an inverted "N." These overprinted Turkish stamps was superseded by the regular Greek stamps of the general issue overprinted "Hellenic Administration."

A series of national postage stamps issued in Samos bearing the head of Mercury lithographed in Athens was re-issued under the Greek administration in new shades and with the addition of a 1 drachma value, overprinted with the single word "Hellas" (Greece) in heavy black Greek capitals. A somewhat similiar series adorned with the head of Hera and emanating from the Free State of Icaria was withdrawn under the Greek occupation and replaced by the general issue overprinted "Hellenic Administration."

At the time of going to press a permanent issue for the war area has appeared in an allegorical design showing an eagle with a serpent in its beak poised above Mount Olympus taken from a bas-relief on the west front of the Parthenon at Athens by the sculptor Phidias. The stamps are inscribed "Expedition 1912," but their issue was delayed owing to the staff of the printing works being depleted by conscription for war service.

Summary.

1861-81. *Contemporary postage stamps of Greece (Mercury Head type), 1861-79, with cancellations of Greek post offices in Turkey.*

Various values.

1912. *Contemporary Greek postage stamps (series 1911) with cancellations of field post offices and of Greek post office at Salonica from October 26th to November 6th.*

Various values.

1912. *Nov. 6th. Provisional issue for occupied Turkish provinces. Greek postage stamps of 1911 overprinted "Hellanica Dioikasis" vertically in two lines of small Greek capitals in black. Recess-printed and overprinted by Messrs. Aspiotis Frères, Corfu, in sheets of 100 (10×10). Zig-zag roulettes.*

1 lepton, green	40 lepta, steel blue
2 lepta, rose	50 ,, purple
3 ,, scarlet	1 drachma, ultramarine
5 ,, green	2 drachmae, vermilion
10 ,, carmine	3 ,, rose
20 ,, lilac	5 ,, blue
25 ,, ultramarine	10 ,, deep blue
30 ,, carmine	25 drachmae, deep blue (1,000)

Lithographed on glazed paper.

1 lepton, green	10 lepta, carmine
5 lepta, green	25 lepta, ultramarine

Series 1901 (Hermes). Overprinted as above.

20 lepta, purple

Errors—Overprint inverted.

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 dr. and 5, 10, 25 lep. (*litho*).

Error—Overprint double.

1, 2, 40, 50 lepta, 1, 5 lep. (*litho*), 10 dr. (*one inverted*), 2 lep. (*both inverted*).

Error—"E" omitted from "Hellanica."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25, 30, 50 lepta, 1, 5, 10, 25 lep. (*litho*) (*normal and inverted*).

Error—Final "S" missing from "Dioikasis."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25, 30, 50 lep., 1 dr.

Error—First "L" omitted from "Hellanica."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10 lepta

Error—"I" omitted from "Hellanica."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25 dr. and 25 lep. (*litho*).

Ditto inverted 2, 25 lep., ditto double overprint, 2 lep.

Error—First "I" omitted from "Dioikasis."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 dr.

Variety—Dot between "D" and "I" in "Dioikasis."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 lep., 25 dr.

Variety—"L" for "D" in "Dioikasis."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 lep., 1 dr. 2 drachmae 5, 10 and 25 lep. (*litho*) 20 lep. (1901)

Ditto inverted 2 drachma

Variety—Stamps without overprint, se-tenant with normal.

2, 3, 50 lep., 1, 5, 10 lep (*litho*), 5, 10, 20 lep. (*litho*) (*inverted*).

RED OR CARMINE OVERPRINT—HEAVIER TYPE on Greek stamps of 1911 as above.

1 lepton, green	50 lepta purple
2 lepta, rose (c)	1 drachma, ultramarine
3 " scarlet (c)	2 drachmae vermilion
5 " green	3 " rose
20 " lilac	5 " blue
25 " ultramarine (c)	10 " deep blue
30 " carmine (c)	25 " deep blue
40 " steel blue	

Lithographed on glazed paper.

1 lepton, green (c)	10 lepta, rose (c)
5 lepta green	25 ,, ultramarine

Error—"I" omitted from "Hellenica."

1, 5, 20, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 dr., and 5 and 25 lep. (litho).

Variety—Dot between "D" and "I" in Dioikasis.

1, 5, 20, 40, 50 lep., 25 dr. 5 and 25 lep., (litho)

Postage Due Stamps.

1912. December. Postage due stamps of Greece (1912) overprinted "Hellenica Dioikasis" as above in black. Perf. 13½. Numbers printed appended in parentheses.

1 lepton, brown	(25,000)	40 lepta sepia	(1,000)
2 lepta, grey	(50,000)	50 ,, brown lake	(1,000)
3 ,, orange	(50,000)	1 drachma, black	(500)
5 ,, green	(5,000)	2 drachmae, bronze	(100)
10 ,, carmine	(30,000)	3 ,, silver	(100)
20 ,, mauve	(5,000)	5 ,, gold	(100)
30 ,, deep purple	(1,000)		

The overprint in the three highest values is inverted.

Error—"I" omitted from "Hellenica."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 lepta

Variety—Dot between D and I in Dioikasis.

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 lepta

OVERPRINTED IN RED OR CARMINE.

1 lepton, brown	40 lepta, brown
2 lepta, grey (r. & c.)	50 ,, lake brown
3 ,, orange (c)	1 drachma black (r. & c.)
5 ,, green (r. & c.)	2 drachmae bronze (r. & c.)
10 ,, carmine (c.)	3 ,, silver (r. & c.)
20 ,, mauve	5 ,, gold (r. & c.)
30 ,, violet	

Error—"I" omitted from "Hellenica."

1, 2, 3, 20, 30, 40, 50 lepta

Variety—Dot between D and I in Dioikasis.

2, 20, 40 lepta

Issues for Ægean Islands.

(I) Lemnos.

1912. Nov. 3rd. Contemporary Greek postage stamps (series 1911) overprinted "LEMNOS" in Greek capitals, horizontally in black. Printed and overprinted by Messrs. G. Aspiotis Frères, Corfu. Zig-zag roulettes. Numbers printed appended in parentheses.

1 lepton, green	(20,000)	1 drachma, ultramarine	
2 lepta, rose	(20,000)		(5,000)
3 " scarlet	(20,000)	2 drachmae, vermilion	
5 " green	(20,000)		(2,000)
10 " carmine	(20,000)	3 " rose	(2,000)
20 " lilac	(20,000)	5 " blue	(2,000)
25 " ultramarine		10 " deep blue	
30 " carmine	(20,000)		(1,000)
40 " steel blue	(20,000)	25 " deep blue	
50 " purple	(20,000)		(1,000)

Lithographed on glazed paper.

1, 5, 10. lepta.

Series 1901 overprinted as above.

20 lepta, mauve

Error—Greek D for L in Lemnos.

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1 and 3 dr.,
1, 5, 10 lep., (litho)

Error—A for L in Lemnos.

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 5, 10 dr.
and 10 lep. (double)

Error—Overprint inverted.

1, 2, 20, 25, 30 lep., and 20 lepta (1901)

Error—Double overprint.

2, 3, 10, 20 lep., 5 dr., 1 and 5 lepta (litho)

Variety—Round instead of narrow "O."

1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 lep., 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 25 dr.

Variety—"MN" omitted from Lemnos.

10 lepta

Variety—"N" omitted from Lemnos.

1 lepta

OVERPRINTED IN RED OR CARMINE (c).

2 lepta,	rose (c.)	1 drachma,	ultramarine
3	„ scarlet (c.)	2 drachmae,	vermilion (c.)
20	„ lilac (c.)	3	„ rose
30	„ carmine (c.)	5	„ blue (r. & c.)
40	„ steel blue	10	„ deep blue
50	„ purple	25	„ „

Lithographed on glazed paper.

1 lepta, 10 lepta (c), 5 lepta, 25 lepta.

Double Overprint.

1, 30 lepta (c).

Inverted Overprint.

30 lepta (c)

Error—D for L in Lemnos.

All Values.

(II) Mitylene.

1912. *Turkish postage stamps overprinted in the island, vertically with inscription "Hellenic Administration of Mitylene" in small Greek characters and in some cases a new value in Greek currency, reading down or up.*

2 paras,	olive	2 piastres,	slate
5	„ yellow buff	2½	„ purple
10	„ green	5	„ brown
20	„ rose carmine	10	„ dull orange
1 piastre,	blue	25 lepta on 2 paras	
	1 piastre (unpaid)	black on rose.	
	50 lepta on 20 paras		
1 dr. on 20 paras		2 dr. on 1 piastre.	

Stamps surcharged with Turkish "B" for Foreign postage. Greek overprint reading down or up.

10 paras,	green
20	„ rose carmine
1 piastre	blue
2 piastres	slate

Varieties—Inverted "N" and inverted "I" reading down or up.

On all values.

