

Costantinople "C" or circular postmark as in type 1,10 and 19

Stamboul "S" as type 10 or circular postmark type 18

Smyrna "F 87" or circular postmark as in type 8,16 or 18

The "S" cancellation for STAMBUL was in use from 1885 to 1891 and the "STAMBOUL" mark from 1892 to 1896, when the Office was closed, and from its reopening in 1908 to 1914. The "COSTANTINOPLE S" hand stamp was normally used as a back stamp, but can be found cancelling stamps in the period 1885 to 1892.

The Turkish piastre was devalued in 1884, making it possible to buy British stamps in Turkey and ship them to England for a speculative profit. To stop this practice it was decided to overprint stamps in Turkish currency. The overprinted stamps were first issued in August 1885.

Stamps overprinted "LEVANT" were for use on parcels, newspapers and printed matter. The face values were left in sterling to simplify accounting with the steamship and rail companies.

SMYRNE (Post War)

When the Smyrna post office was reopened on 1 March 1919 existing stocks of surcharged or overprinted issues were utilized until they were exhausted in mid-1920. These stamps were supplemented and finally replaced in mid-1920 with ordinary stamps of Great Britain. Smyrne was recaptured from the Greeks by Turkish government in September 1922. The British post office was burned down on 9 September 1922 during the Great Fire in Smyrne

Following the occupation of Costantinople by Allied forces a British Military Post Office was opened for civilian use on 4 February 1919.

"FIELD POST OFFICE H 12" (4 February 1919 to March 1919)

"ARMY POST OFFICE Y" (March 1919 to July 1919)

"ARMY POST OFFICE S.X.3" (April 1919 to July 1919)

BRITISH A.P.O. COSTANTINOPLE (July 1919 to September 1920)

The Office reverted to civilian control in July 1920.

Circular postmarks used civilian and military Levant post offices.



Smyrna



Costantinople



Military

LIST OF STAMPS USED BY THE BRITISH POST OFFICES

1883-1884 Queen Victoria issues



1887-1889 Queen Victoria issues



1902-1905 King Edward VII issues



1902-1905 King Edward VII issues



1906 King Edward VII issues with new currencies



1908 King Edward VII issues



1911 King Edward VII issue



1911 King George V issues



1911 King George V issues



Due to the abolishment of the capitulations post offices closed in autumn 1914 and reopened in autumn 1919

1921 King George V issues



1921 King George V issues



1916 King George V issues used for army use in salonica



the 9 pence black is missing



military postmark