

**EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE, LONDON STUDY II
THE GREEK POST IN EGYPT**

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In an attempt to give shape to this difficult section of study II, I have compiled what I regard as a Diary of the Greek Post in Egypt and submit it for discussion, Correction and amplification by members of the Circle. In this work, which has been carried on spasmodically during the past six or seven years, I have received considerable help from three friends in particular and I wish to express my gratitude to them and publicly acknowledge my indebtedness. –N.S. Alfieris was the first to come to my assistance. with much useful information ;about postal markings, postal rates and methods of transport. Ahmed Mazloum was generosity itself and put at my disposal file whole of the valuable Greek material contained in his vast collection, many items being sent to me for inspection and study. A. B. Economides supplied me with historical data. Further assistance in the elaboration of this study will he gratefully received and acknowledged.

It will be seen that I have made no attempt to list the adhesives issued at Alexandria and have omitted a study of the collection of postage due. Information about postal rates is confused and collaboration with the postal services of other nations is almost a closed book. The constantly expanding boundaries of Greece during tile past hundred years has added to the difficulties of this study

DIARY OF THE GREEK POST IN EGYPT

1830. February 3rd. - Greek Independence recognised. (Greek affairs were in the hands of Russia until Greece owned her own Consulate at Alexandria.)

1833: - Consular Office opened at Alexandria on some date between October 1st and November 15th

1833. August 18th. - Michel Tossitza informed of his nomination as Consul General of Greece in Egypt in a letter written by s. Tricoupis, Minister of Foreign Affairs. (Julian and Gregorian Calendars showed a difference of 12 days during the XIXth. century - Greece did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar till February 16th 1923, which day then became March 1st

1833. November 21st - Appointment of Tossitza confirmed by Boghos Youssef Pasha on behalf of the Egyptian Government.

1834. - Post Office opened in the Consular Office.

1834. March 31st. - Earliest recorded Entire from Alexandria with Greek (Consular) Frank. (Type I-1) (Dimitrion):-

1835. - Earliest Circular Frank (Type I-2) (Argyropoulos).

1839. August 7th. - Earliest recorded Entire carried by the French Post from Egypt to Greece. (Byam).

1843. - Austrian Lloyd Steamship Company carried most of the mail between Egypt and the Greek mainland and the Islands.

1848. - Postal rate between Egypt and Greece for 7.5 grammes:

By Austrian Lloyd,	60 Lepta.	(12 Kreuzer)
By French Line,	30 Lepta.	
By Italian Line,	40 Lepta.	

1854. - Post Office in the Consular Office closed : the result of the Crimean War, which began on March 27th 1854.

1857. – P.O. re-opened in Consular Office Building. The Treaty which ended the Crimean War was signed at Paris in March 1856.

1858. - Greek P.O. opened at Alexandria in a building other than the Consulate : Probably at Rue de la Poste No. 21 where it was known to be in 1867 when the Director was G. Civitanidis.

1858. October 24th. - Earliest recorded example of the Double-Circle; postal marking; Alexandria misspelt and TOYPKIA below, (Type II-1), (Mazloun) Re introduced 1878 ; earliest recorded example March 5th Latest, 'November 2nd. (Byam). No example seen by the Egypt Study Circle between 1869, July 6th and 1878, March 5th. Used as obliterator on adhesives for first time on the latter date.

1858. October 24th. - Earliest recorded example of the Π.Ε.Λ postal marking, (Type IV-1), (Mazloun). Latest recorded example 1871, October 14th. (Byam). Probably discarded at the same time as Type III-1.

1861. October 1st. - Greek adhesives came into use at Alexandria.

1862. August 10th. - Earliest recorded example of Numeral obliterator, Rhombus of clots bearing «97» in centre, Type III-1. (Danson). Latest recorded example, 1871, October 14th. (Byam,). In use when adhesives were first issued in 1861. It was ordered to be discarded in 1872, but in the Mazloun collection there is a stamp of the 1876/80 issue which bears this marking.

1866. October 23rd. - Postal Rate for Austrian Lloyd, by Royal Decree, 40 Lepta for letters up to 15 grammes.

1868. - Prepayment of postage compulsory from the end of this year.

1868. August 1st. - Earliest recorded example of 40 Lepta rate : Egypt to Greece. (Mazloun).

1869. November 22nd. - Earliest example of the Double-Circle postal marking Alexandria correctly spelt and TOYPKIA below. (Type II-2). (Byam). Latest recorded example, 1876, October 25th. (Koubbeh Palace). (No covers seen da tell 1877. Was Type II-1 brought into use a second time because Type II-2 not available : ' It is stated Type II-1 and II-2 were in use concurrently but this has not been confirmed).

1872. - Postal rate between Egypt and Greece by Khedivial Mail, 40 Lepta

.May 22nd. - Earliest recorded example of Double-Circle marking; Alexandria correctly spelt, Tourkia replaced by «97», (Type II-3). (Byam). Latest recorded example 1881. December 19th. (Dimitrion). Certainly in use until P.O. closed.

1873. .May 22nd. - Earliest example of Δ.Ε.Π. postal marking, (Type IV-2). (J. Boulad). Latest recorded example, 1873, August 23rd. (Byam).

1875. March - Postage Due adhesives first issued.

1875. July 1st. - From the date the U.P.U. commenced to function until the P.O. at Alexandria was closed, the postal rate for ordinary letters was 30 Lepta. Greece signed the Convention, as an original member, in 1874

1880, October 7th. - Earliest recorded example of Registered marking, CHARGE, (Type IV-4). (Byam). Latest recorded example, 1881, August 8th. (G.A. Dimitrion) (Types IV-3 and IV-5 not seen by the Egypt Study Circle England.)

1881. December 31st. - Greek P.O. closed in company with other Greek in Turkey.



BOGHOS YOUSSEF PASHA

Minister of Foreign Affairs
1768 – 144

(Tigrane Pasha Collection from «Revue d’Egypte» 1895)



MIKHALI TOSSIZA

Greek Consul General, Alexandria

GRREK POST OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA
POSTAL MARKINGS

TYPE I. SEAL FRANKS.

- Type 1-1. Double oval : 44x37 mm. and 32X26 mm.
1-2. Circular in outline. 33 mm. in diameter, with Greek coat of arms in centre

(These two Franks were illustrated in Hurt's Illustrated Philatelic Record, No. 1., the inscription they bear appear to be «Greek Consular Office in Egypt».)

TYPE II. DATED CIRCULAR MARKINGS.

- Type II-1. Double circle. Alexandria misspelt. Tourkia below.
II-2. Double circle. Alexandria correctly spelt. Tourkia below
II-3. Double circle. Tourkia, replaced by 97.

TYPE III. N NUMERAL OBLITERATORS.

- Type III-1, Rhombus of clots bearing the numerals 97 in centre.

TYPE IV. POSTAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION.

- TypeI V-1. XXXX = PAID TO PORT (of country of destination).
IV-2. A.E.H. = PAID.
IV-3. Registered marking

ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΟΝ

 = (SYSTEMENON)
IV-4. CHARGE = Registered marking.
IV-5. Insufficiently paid

ΠΛΗΡ ΑΝΕΠΑΡΚΗΣ

(= PLIROMI ANEPARKIS) (Payment Insufficient)

POSTAL RATES.

In 1848. – 7.5 grammes by Austrian Lloyd 60 Lepta (or 12 Kreuzer).
by French Lute 30 Lepta.
by Italian Line 40 Lepta.

1866. October 23rd. -- A Royal Decree established the following rates by the Austrian Lloyd; Greece to Alexandria :

Letters of 15 grammes	40 Lepta.
Samples up to 15 grammes	15 Lepta.
Printed matter up to 30 grammes	5 Lepta.

From 1872 by Khedivial Mail 40 Lepta for 15 grammes.

1875. July 1st. - From establishment of U.P.U. 30 Lepta for ordinary letters and 60 Lepta for registered letters. Newspaper rate, 2 Lepto for each journal - till P.O. at Alexandria closed.

E.S.C. Record suggests : Alexandria to Greece 80 Lepta for ordinary letters till April 1868.

Fourteen letters bearing stamps before this date are recorded, nine franked 8(1 Lepta, whether stamps were applied at point of departure or at destination, and five were franked with more than 80 Lepta. (1D. 10L. to 1D 90L.) : none of these letters shows evidence of registration.

Earliest recorded 40 Lepta rate 1st August 1868.

Earliest recorded 30 Lepta rate 24th July 1875 but this rate nearly certainly came into force on 1st July 1875.

Combined franking seen confirms 20 Lepta as internal rate for single letters from June 1871.

Registered letter of 7 October 1880 suggests franking 30 L. plus 30 Lepta for registration and 20 Lepta for internal Greek postage.

Mumford's letter dated 6th Nov. 1869 carried by Austrian Lloyd from Port Said to Syros bears 20 Lepta adhesive for internal postage and 61) Lepta paid for Austrian charges, Egypt to Syros,