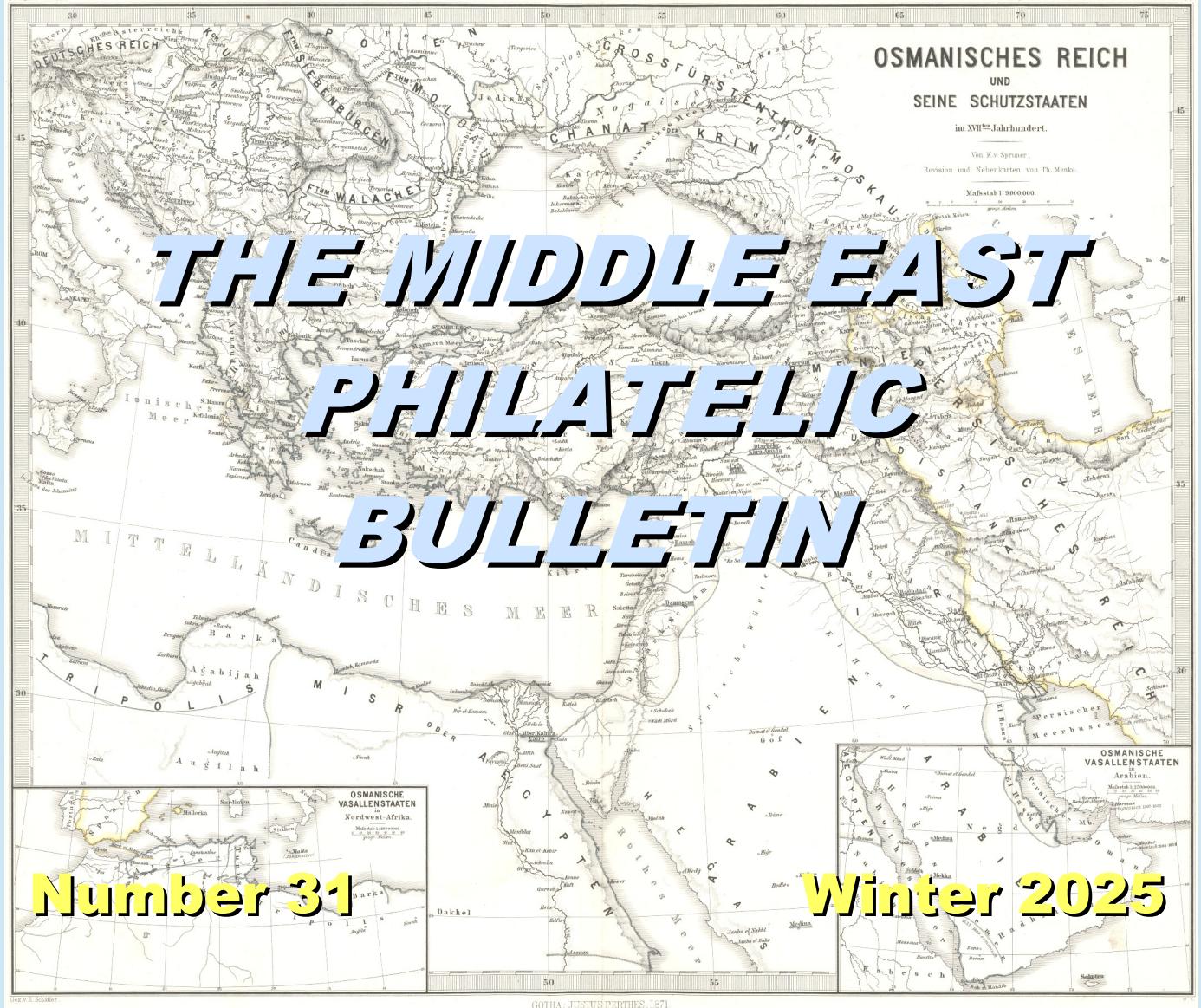


THE MIDDLE EAST PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Number 31

Winter 2025



Varieties of the DuLoz 1876 5 Piastres

Sea Post Office: An Unusual Card from P&O Bokhara in 1880

The Introduction of the International Postcard in India.

Sale of Old Ottoman Stamps Saving the Empire's Finances

The Italian Post Office in Smyrna

İstanbul Views on Ottoman Postcards: The Dolmabahçe Palace

German Military Cachets in the Ottoman Empire

Prisoner of War Camp for Ottoman Prisoners: Nowgong (India)

Jordan: Postage Stamps or Charity Labels?

Archive: Friedrich Perlberg's "Bilder aus dem Heiligen Lande"

plus Reactions, Comments, Queries, and more



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In: Spruner-Menke Hand-Atlas für die Geschichte des Mittelalters und der neueren Zeit. 3. Aufl. Gotha: Perthes 1880.

Online: <https://polona.pl/item/spruner-menke-hand-atlas-fur-die-geschichte-des-mittelalters-und-der-neueren-zeit,MTM2ODA3MDM5/519/> (licence: public domain).

Specialities of Ottoman Philately (VI)

Varieties of the Duloz 1876 5 Piastres Foreign Mail Stamp

by Hans-Dieter Gröger

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Inverted Overprint

The 5 piastres stamp with inverted overprint is very rare and is only known to exist unused. Based on the positioning within the sheet of the known stamps, a maximum of 3 sheets may have existed. The field positions in the sheet of 150 stamps are identified as 31–40 (a complete horizontal row) and field position 63 (single stamp within a row). All these are documented below.



Fig. 1: Block-of-ten (5×2) with one stamp featuring the inverted overprint (field pos. 63).



Fig. 2: Vertical pair with inverted overprint (field pos. 40).

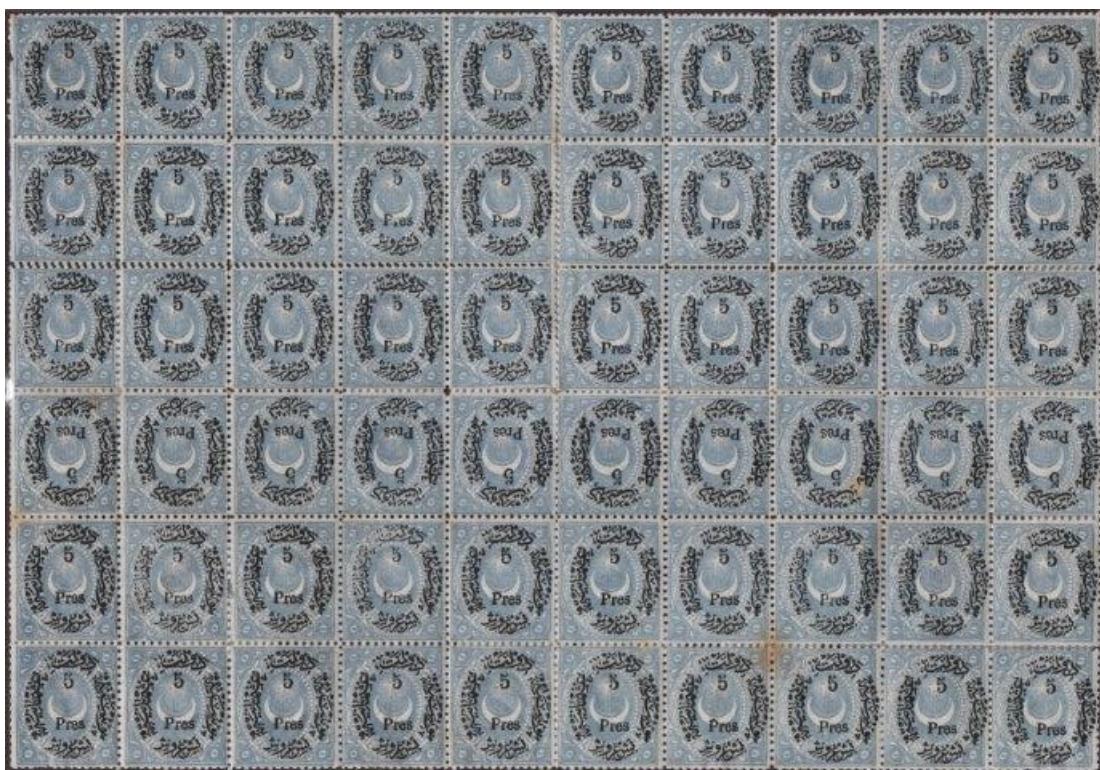


Fig. 3: Part sheet of 60 stamps featuring a complete row with inverted overprint (field pos. 31–40). Only known part sheet with a complete row of inverted overprints (ex Passer).

Part-Perforated Stamps



Fig. 4:

Part sheet of 30 stamps with the lower two rows only partly perforated. This created two varieties:

1. unperforated on two sides,
2. unperforated on one side.

An Unusual Card from P&O *Bokhara* in 1880

by Bo Andersson

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In MEPB 30 there were two articles dealing with the Aden–Bombay Sea Post Office: one by Mike Dovey, the other by myself.¹ Among the many attractive items illustrated in Mike Dovey's article I noticed the front of an Indian UPU postcard addressed to London in 1880 and shown here in *fig. 1*.

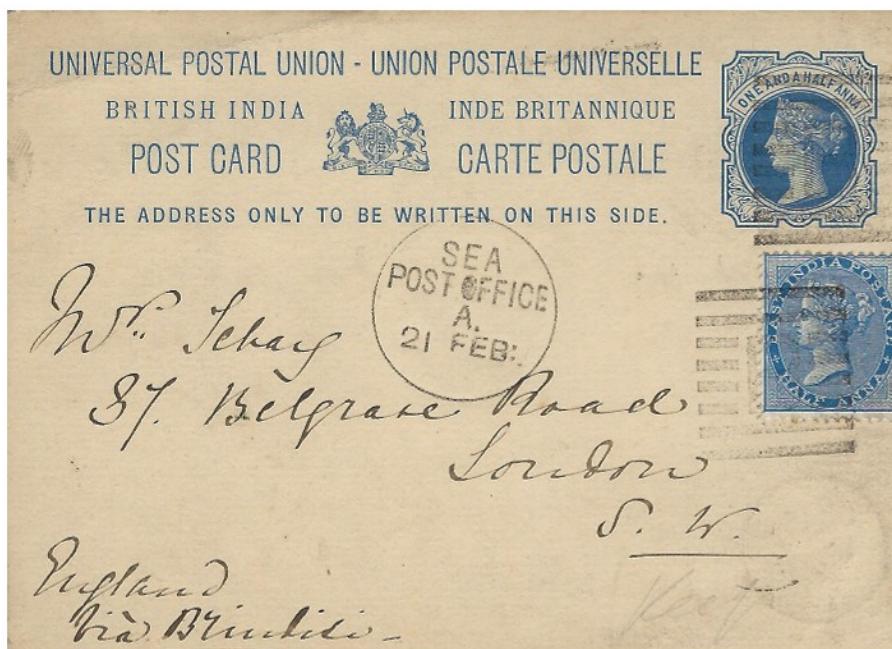


Fig. 1: Front of India 1½ Anna UPU postal stationery card uprated to 2 Annas and sent to London.

Postmarked "B" in a square of bars accompanied by "SEA POST OFFICE / A. / 21 FEB:".

Endorsed "England. / Via Brindisi." by the writer. Posted on board P&O *Bokhara*.

The steamer departed Bombay on 21.02.1880, and arrived at Suez on 4.03.1880.

Onward voyage from Alexandria on P&O *Travancore* that wrecked near Cape Otranto in the Heel of Italy.

(Collection Mike Dovey)

It is franked with an embossed postage stamp of 1½ Anna (1 Anna 6 Pies) and an additional ½ Anna postage stamp making up a total of 2 Annas, which was the then rate for foreign postcards sent via Brindisi to Great Britain and to UPU countries served via Great Britain. The two postage stamps are each tied by a single "B"-obliterator in a **square of bars**. Alongside there is a clear Sea Post Office Set A date-stamp for 21st February.

Single "B"-obliterators were used in many post offices within the Bombay Postal Circle and of course in Bombay itself. And single "B"-obliterators in the shape of "B-1" in bars and "B" in a **circle of bars** were issued to the Sea Post Office to obliterate mail posted on board during the period 1874 to 1905 (see my article in MEPB 29).

Where was the "B"-obliterator in a **square of bars** on this card applied: at a land-based post office within the Bombay Postal Circle or in the Sea Post Office?

¹ Dovey, Mike: *The Bombay–Aden Sea Post Office : a timeline*. In: MEPB, no. 30, 2025, pp. 3–13.

Andersson, Bo: *The Sea Post Office: 'Last-Minute' Mail received on Board Steamer in Suez*. In: MEPB, no. 30, 2025, pp. 14–21.

Posted on the P&O *Bokhara*

Mike kindly provided me with a scan of the back (fig. 2). The text is overwritten with wavy lines, yet the sender's writing is clear enough to read. The card was written at sea and so received in the Sea Post Office on board the P&O *Bokhara*:

We are due at Suez tonight after a delightful voyage, having left Bombay on Feb. 21st. As planned at present we spend a week in Cairo & arrive at Venice about 14th; we expect letters there which will decide our future movements. [...]

S.S. "Bokhara". March 3rd 1880.

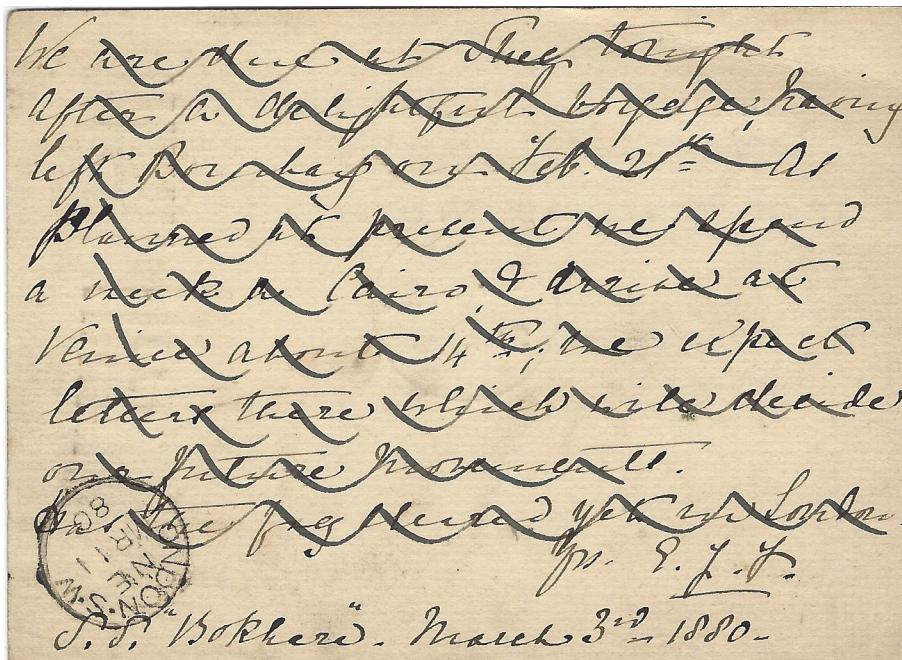


Fig. 2: The back of the card shown in fig. 1. Arrival "LONDON S.W. / NE / MR 11 / 80".

The P&O *Bokhara* had departed Bombay on 21st February 1880 and arrived at Suez on 4th March. The card is dated 3rd March and so posted shortly before the steamer reached Suez. That makes the card a rare example of the single "B"-obliterator in a **square of bars** being used in the Sea Post Office. So far, this obliterator is recorded with a very few dates in 1880 and 1881,² but no cover was illustrated. If there ever were any doubt about the use of this obliterator in the Sea Post Office, this card is a decisive proof that it actually was used also in that office. In the very end of the article, I show two more examples of the same obliterator on letters posted on other P&O steamers in 1880 (figs. 5 and 6).

Onward on the P&O *Travancore*

The onward travel of the card turned out to be very dramatic. Upon arrival at Suez, it was transited overland to Alexandria and taken on board P&O *Travancore* that set off for Brindisi on 5th March. The steamer was supposed to land the mails in Brindisi on Monday 8th March, but it never got that far. At 3 a.m. in the night between 7th and 8th March the steamer grounded in thick fog and at full speed on a flat rock at Castro Bay near Otranto, some 90 km south of Brindisi.

The object of the master was to go about a mile outside of Cape Otranto. From this point it was common practice to signal to the shore so that a telegram might be sent to Brindisi to have the train ready for the mails and passengers on the steamer's arrival.

² See Proud, 2014.

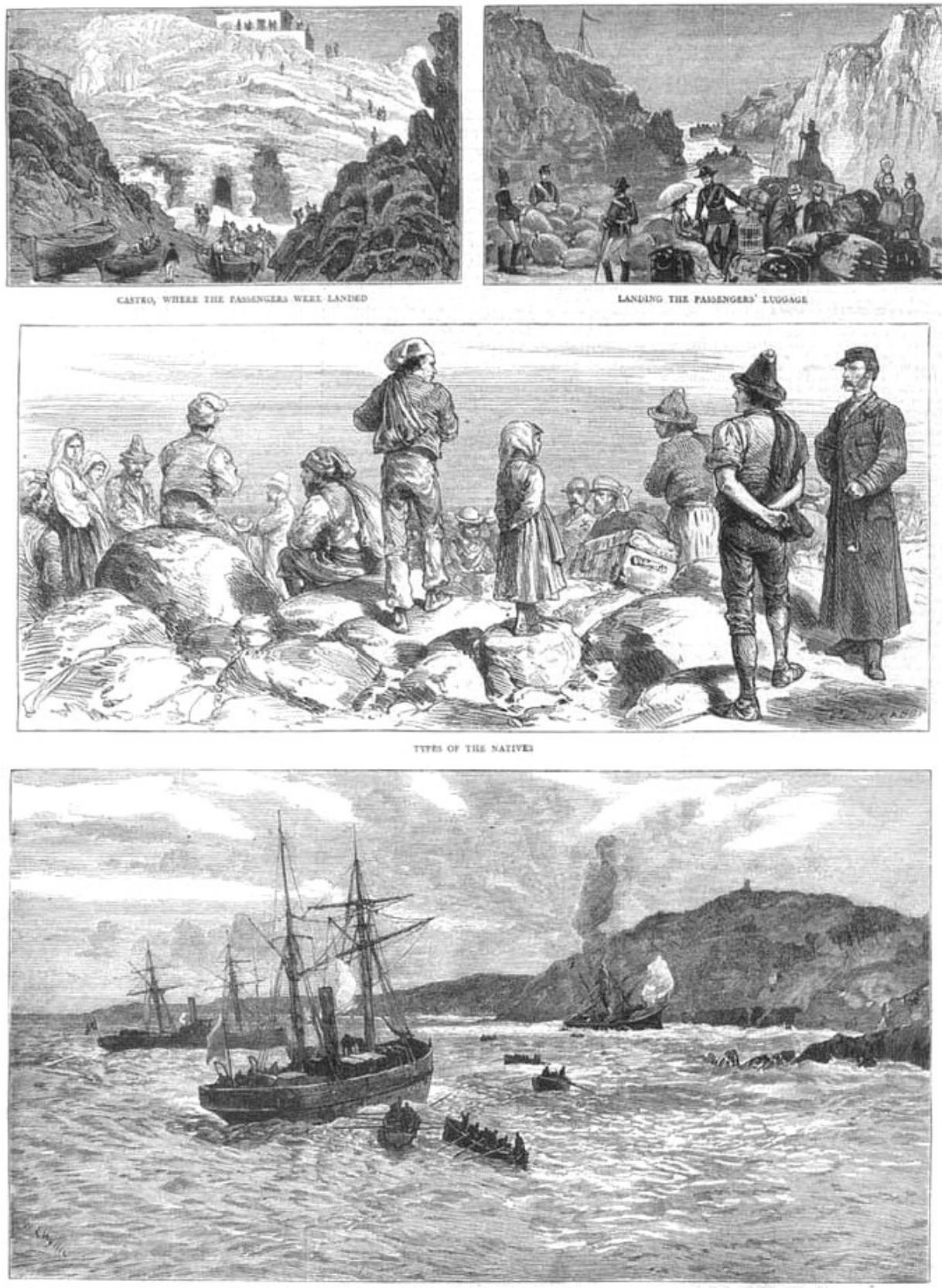


Fig. 3: "The Wreck of the P. & O. Steamer "Travancore" in Castro Bight near Otranto."³
 Captions: 1. "Castro, where the passengers were landed"; 2. "Landing the passengers' luggage";
 3. "Types of the natives"; and 4. "General view of the wreck".

³ The Graphic 20.03.1880, p. 8. Engravings by W.L. Wyllie and Godefroy Durand.
 For more details on the wreck see: Andersson & Hosselmann, 2015.

Orders were at once given to get out the boats; an hour later passengers were evacuated and brought in safety on land. 57 passengers and crew were rescued together with the mails and some of the cargo consisting chiefly of cotton. The *Travancore* mails reached London GPO early in the evening on 11th March.⁴

Nine days later THE GRAPHIC devoted a full page with four engravings to the wreck of the *Travancore* (fig. 3). In the engraving at the bottom of the page the steamer is seen lying laterally below the Santa Maria Light and close to the shore; in the foreground the Italian steamer S.S. *Bari* is picking up passenger and mail bringing them to Brindisi for onward transmission by train to London. The *Travancore* itself became a total loss.

The *Travancore* mails arrived in London only one day overdue and in fairly good condition. Fig. 4 shows a letter from the same voyage. No wreck cachet is recorded for the *Travancore* mail. There was no need for it.



Figs 4 and 4a: Wreck mail from P&O *Travancore*. India 4 Annas 6 Pies single rate letter to London.

Duplex "OUTW / BOMBAY / 21 FEB." and "B-1" in bars.

Forwarding Agent cachet "BELL, BRANDENBURG & CO. / x BOMBAY x".

Backstamped "SEA / POST OFFICE / A. / 21 FEB:" on the P&O *Bokhara*.

Arrived "LONDON E. C / 11 MR 80 / F / PAID / Z".



Acknowledgements

I thank Mike Dovey and Martin Hosselmann for sharing covers with me and Tobias Zywietz for his kind support.

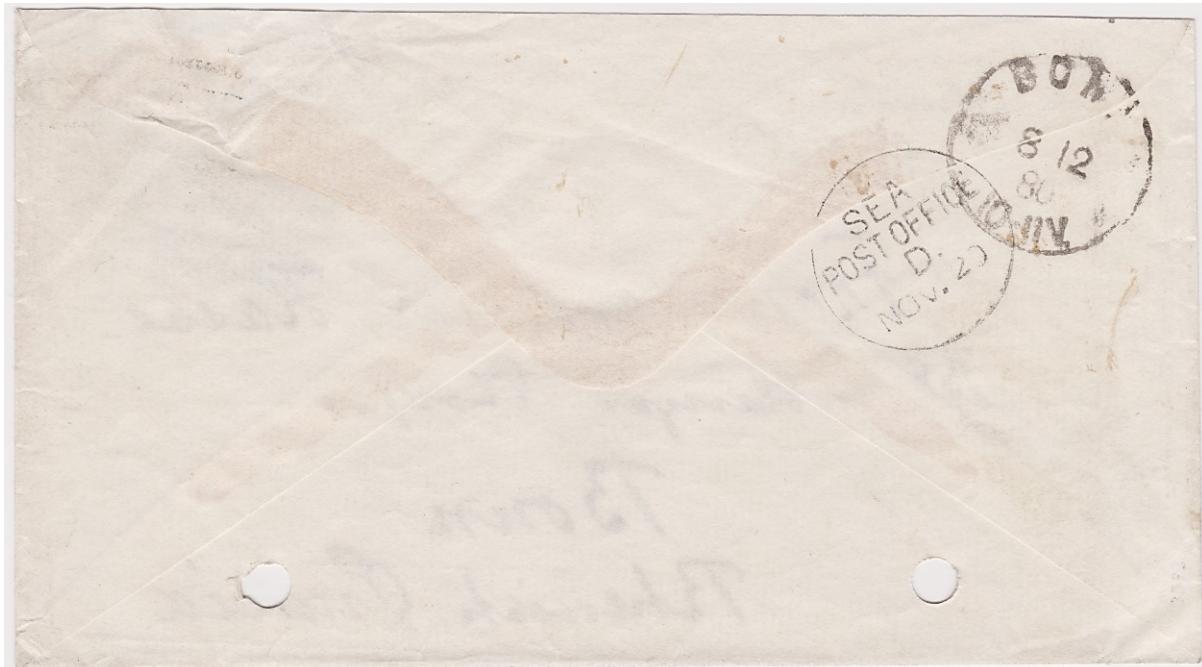
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⁴ The Graphic 20.03.1880, p. 8.

- Andersson, Bo: *The Sea Post Office*: 'Last-Minute' mail received on board steamer in Suez. In: MEPB, no. 30, 2025, pp. 14–21.
- Andersson, Bo: *The Sea Post Office* : 'Last-Minute' mail received on board steamer in Bombay. In: MEPB, no. 29, 2025, pp. 23–41.
- *SS Travancore (+1880)*. In: Wrecksite. Online: <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?196112>; and wreck report: <https://www.wrecksite.eu/docBrowser.aspx?2079?7?1>.
- The Graphic, 20.03.1880.

**Further Examples of the single “B” in a Square of Bars
on Mail posted on Board Steamer in 1880**



Figs. 5 and 5a: Passenger mail posted on P&O Surat in 1880. Cover franked 3 Annas paying 1st letter rate to Germany. Obliterated “B” in a square of bars accompanied by “SEA / POST OFFICE / D. / NOV. 20”. Arrival “BONN / 8 12 / 80 / 10-11 V.” The P&O Surat left Bombay 20.11.1880, arrived at Suez 1.12.1880.

A similar combination of dispatch stamp and “B”-obliterator is seen on a letter to Adelaide, Australia recently sold at auction (fig. 6).⁵ This letter too would have been posted at sea and received in the Sea Post Office on the P&O *Venetia* whose sorters applied a Set F date-stamp for 15th April 1880 on the back and cancelled the four Indian postage stamps with their “B”-obliterator. The steamer departed Suez on 16th April 1880 and reached Aden on 21st April 1880, where the letter was landed and transit-stamped for onward transmission.



Figs. 6 and 6a: Passenger mail posted on P&O *Venetia* in 1880.

Single weight letter paying 6 annas, India to Australia.

Postmarks: “SEA / POST OFFICE / F / APR. 15” and single “B”-obliterators in a square of bars applied in the Sea Post Office. Transit “ADEN / APR: 21”.

Received “G.P.O. ADELAIDE / S.A. / 8 / MY 16 / 80”.

The cover was landed on 21.04.1880 in Aden, thence by P&O *Bokhara* to Galle and by P&O *Tanjore* from Galle on 29.04.1880 to Adelaide, arriving there on 16.05.1880.

5 Source: Corinphila Auction 348 (2.06.2025), lot 3258. Online: <https://auction.corinphila.ch/en/lot/4-A347-3258/>.

A Note on the Introduction of the International Postcard in India

by Bo Andersson

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The Bokhara card from the end of February 1880 (see foregoing article), is a fairly early UPU card from India. **British India joined the General Postal Union on 1st July 1876** (renamed the Universal Postal Union in 1877) and **issued its first UPU International Postcard in 1879**. The value was 1½ anna. A *Postal Notice* dated 9th June 1879 and published in THE GAZETTE OF INDIA of 21st June 1879, Part II, states the following:¹

1. *It is expected that Foreign Postcards bearing stamps of the value of 1½ anna each for correspondence with Great Britain and other countries of the Universal Postal Union, as well as Inland Postcards bearing stamps of the value ¼ anna each for correspondence within the limits of British India, will be available for purchase after 1st July 1879.*
2. *The Postcards will be purchasable by the public under the same conditions as embossed envelopes, those sold by the Post Office being sold either in bundles of sixteen or single at the value of the stamps borne by them.*
3. *Particular attention is drawn to the rule printed on each Postcard to the effect that the address only is to be written on the front or stamp side of the Postcard.*
4. *Any Foreign Postcards intended for transmission via Brindisi to Great Britain, or a country served through it, must have a ½ anna adhesive postage label affixed to it near the embossed stamp, in payment of the additional postage prescribed for that route.*
5. *Inland Postcards may not be sent to foreign countries except under the ordinary conditions applicable to letters.*

A.M. Monteath

Director General of the Post Office of India

Note the wording “available for purchase after 1st July 1879”. The card below was written on 1st July and dispatched from Calcutta to a German addressee (Hotel Bellevue in Munich) on the same day. So the International Postcard in India was actually available on 1st July.



Fig. 1:

Front of a 1½ anna UPU card to Germany.

Dated by sender:

"Calcutta 1st July '79" and obliterated duplex "CALCUTTA / JUL: 1 / D" and "C" in bars. Transit-stamped "SEA / POST OFFICE / D / 4 JUL:" on P&O Travancore departing Bombay 4.07.1879.

Arrival date-stamp: "MÜNCHEN I. / 27 / JUL / 4-5 Nm".

(Coll. Martin Hosselmann)

Foreign postcards transmitted via Brindisi to Great Britain or to a UPU country served via Great Britain required an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ anna postage stamp, like the Bokhara card to London in the preceding article. The 2 annas postcard rate lasted from 1st July 1879 to 1st April 1880, when India introduced a uniform UPU rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for foreign postcards sent via Brindisi.

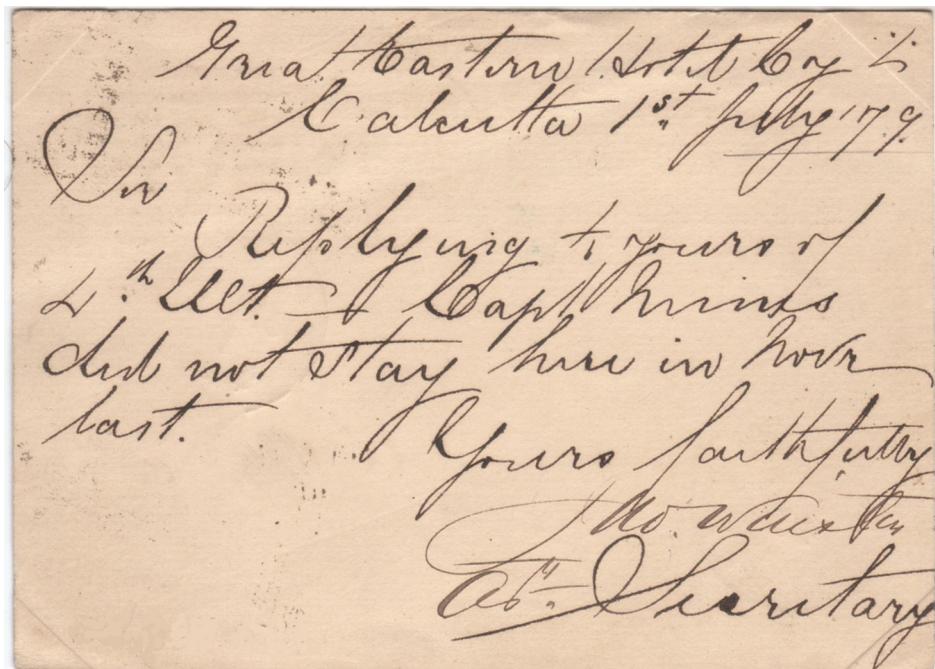


Fig. 1a:

The reverse side. Dated by sender very clearly as "Calcutta 1st July '79" and obliterated duplex "CALCUTTA / JUL: 1 / D" and "C" in bars. Transit-stamped "SEA / POST OFFICE / D / 4 JUL:" on P&O *Travancore* departing Bombay 4.07.1879. Arrival date-stamp: "MÜNCHEN I. / 27 / JUL / 4-5 Nm".

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A Bit of Social Philately

What can we learn from the sender, addressee and text of the card? The sender (whose name is barely legible), was Assistant Secretary of the Great Eastern Hotel Company in Calcutta.



Fig. 2:

The Great Eastern Hotel in Calcutta.²

² Photograph by Samuel Bourne. 1860s. Source: Wikimedia Commons, online: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Great-eastern-hotel.jpg> (public domain).

The hotel was established by D. Wilson & Co. as the Auckland Hotel in 1840, with 100 rooms and a department store on the ground floor. Calcutta was the seat of the East India Company and thus the most important city in India at that time. The hotel underwent an expansion in the 1860s under the ownership of the Great Eastern Hotel Wine and General Purveying Co., and subsequently adopted the name The Great Eastern Hotel. The government assumed control of the organisation in the 1970s and the premises was sold to an investor in 2005. Following a period of extensive renovations, the hotel reopened in 2013 under the name LaLiT Great Eastern Hotel.

Although we cannot read the guest named, the message itself reads: “did not stay here in November last”. Maybe the addressee, G. Romde, the manager of the “Bellevue Hotel” in Munich, enquired about a guest’s reputation. We will never know.

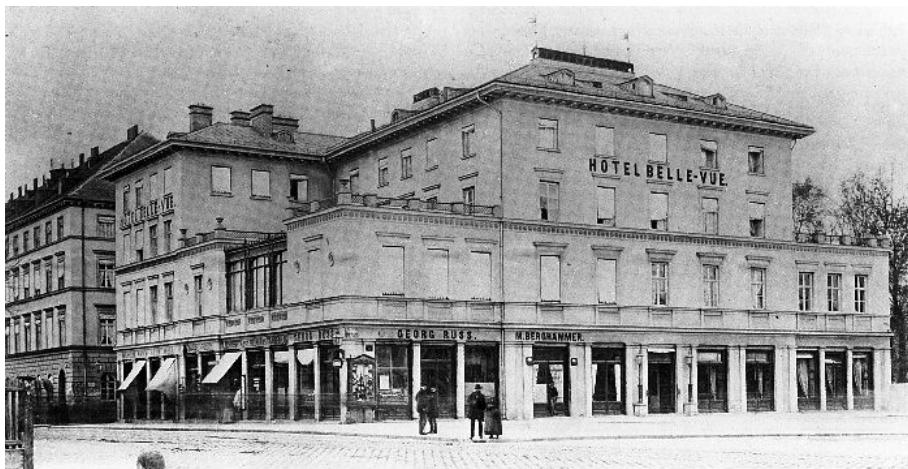


Fig. 3:

1871 photograph of "Hotel Belle-Vue."³



Fig. 4:

Picture postcard (ca. 1890–1905) of the Bellevue Hotel in Munich.⁴

The Belle-Vue Hotel was situated on Karlsplatz (“Stachus”) in the modern city centre of Munich. Originally outside the city walls near the Karlstor (Karl’s Gate), a private villa by architect Gustav Vorherr built in 1820 was rebuilt in 1866 as a hotel, the premises were greatly expanded in 1880. The 200 bed hotel was renamed Hotel Königshof after 1914 and partly damaged in WWII. The 1950s modern rebuild was demolished in 2019, making place for a complete new building, now Hotel Koenigshof.

3 Unattributed photograph, source: <https://www.neuperlach.org/blog/koenigshof/> (public domain).

4 Picture postcard by an unknown German Publisher. Source: Wikimedia Commons. Public domain. Online: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:M%C3%BCnchen_Karlsplatz_postcard_late_19th_century.jpg.

Stamps Become Money : Old Postage Stamps in the Search for Resources for the Ottoman State Treasury

by Salih Kış (edited and translated by Tobias Zywietz)

CC BY-NC 4.0¹

Ten years ago, Turkish scholar Salih Kış² published a study that sheds some light on the state's constant search for new sources of revenue, but also provides insights into how philately was viewed in this regard, as well as the rotten and ineffective state of the Ottoman bureaucracy at the highest level. Based on files and documents in various state archives (Babiali Evrak Odası, Dahiliye Nezareti Mektubi, Hatt-ı Hümayun, Şûra-yı Devlet, etc.), Kış describes the efforts to sell stocks of old, obsolete stamps and postal order forms.

Since the Postal Ministry was established under the Ministry of Trade (*Ticaret Nezareti*) during its foundation, it was subordinated to this ministry for a long time in terms of administration and then to the Ministry of Public Works (*Maliye Nezareti*). In terms of its financial duties and responsibilities within the framework of the postal organisation law, it was subordinate to the Ministry of Finance (*Maliye Nezareti*).³ Therefore, the revenues generated by the organisation from communication services were transferred to the treasury. The postal organisation continued its relations with the Ministry of Finance after it merged with the Telegraph Directorate on 23rd September 1871 when it became the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs (*Posta ve Telgraf Nezareti, PTN*).

[...]

A First Study on Old Postage Stamps

The appreciation of old postage stamps in the world was closely followed in the Ottoman Empire as in other states. In this sense, the Ottoman Empire also initiated a study on the stamps issued by the postal organisation from 1863 to 1890. Sultan Abdülhamid II ordered the appointment of an official to identify and classify the postage stamps issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph. This officer was to be tasked with the organisation and classification of the stamps printed for 27 years and kept in the vaults of the ministry.⁴

Although an officer was assigned by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, no efficient work could be carried out in this regard. Shortly afterwards, this work was left unfinished as the officer in charge died. Since the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs did not take the responsibility of this task upon itself, the stamps in the warehouses could not be sorted and arranged according to their quantity and type. During the audit of the accounts of the Ministry in 1892, the old postage stamps in the vaults came to the fore again.

1 The original Turkish text was published in 2015 as *Pul Para Oldu Osmanlı Devleti Hazinesine Kaynak Arayışında Antika Posta Pulları* in the journal Turkish Studies under the journal's open access policy, i.e. [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). This licence permits sharing, copying, reproducing, and adapting the work in any size and format except for commercial use, including remixing, transforming, and building upon the work, provided that proper attribution is given to the original work.

For publication in the journal The Levant I made a summary of the study, and this was translated into German for the journal *Türkei-Spiegel*.

2 Today Prof. Dr. Salih Kış, Selçuk Üniversitesi, Konya, <https://selcuk.edu.tr/Person/Detail/salihkis>.

3 Demir, 2005, p. 21.

4 DH.MKT, 1845/98

The stamps were brought to the agenda thanks to a corruption complaint. After a report was made that the stamps in the warehouses of the Ministry were unofficially put on the market, the Vizirate (*sadaret*) initiated an investigation into the matter. The incident was to be investigated and concluded by a commission to be formed. After the commission's investigation, the old postage stamps would be destroyed by burning in the presence of a committee with the approval of the Sultan in order to prevent any new abuse. In addition, this issue would not be delayed like the stamp issuance and classification task and would be finalised immediately.⁵ The corruption that occurred in the process initiated for the determination of old postage stamps led to the decision to destroy the valuable old stamps.



Figs. 1-3: Tuğra stamps 1862/1863.

With the order of Sultan Abdülhamid II and the decision of the investigation commission, the destruction of the old stamps kept in the cellars was approved. Nevertheless, these stamps were not destroyed.⁶ Before the decision to destroy the old stamps by burning them in the presence of the committee, especially after the investigation of the commission established for the stamp corruption, a memorandum dated 17th October 1892 regarding the old stamps was taken from the administrative council of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

In this memorandum, it was revealed that, contrary to the order issued by the Sadaret, it would not be sufficient to separate and store 500 of each type of all postage stamps issued. Because in one of the paragraphs of this memorandum, it was stated that 1,000 of each type of stamps should be kept to be reserved for the collection made by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the stamps to be given to foreign administrations and other places were taken into consideration. Therefore, it was emphasised that it would be appropriate to increase the amount of old stamps to 1,500. In the memorandum (*tezkir*) sent by the Sadaret to the post office, it was requested that the obligation to give stamps to every department, administration and applicant could not be understood and that more detailed information on this issue should be given.⁷ Thus, it was stated for the first time that old Ottoman postage stamps were collected within the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph. In addition, the expression of giving old postage stamps to local and foreign administrations and individuals who demanded them without any charge was also put forward for the first time with a memorandum of the ministry.

[...]

The Establishment of the Old Postage Stamp Commission

An official's petition revealed that the sale of old postage stamps in the Ottoman Empire could generate a significant amount of revenue for the treasury. Haçık Efendi, a clerk in the Accounting Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Hariciye Nezareti Muhasebe Kalemi*), informed the

5 DH.MKT, 1845/98

6 In the following period, during the rule of the Committee of Union and Progress, a regulation was made regarding the destruction and burning of old documents. After correspondence between state institutions on the subject, the Commission of *İslahat-ı Maliye* (Finance) was assigned by the Sadaret to draft a regulation on antique documents. In 1916, the Commission prepared a six article regulation draft "Devair-i Hükümet Evrak ve Defatirinin Müddet-i Hifzi ve Suret-i İmhası Hakkında" (Regarding the Retention Period and Method of Destruction of Government Documents and Records). BOA, İ.DUİT, no.58/69, 27.10.1916.

7 DH.MKT, 2016/21

Sadaret that enthusiasts collecting postage stamps could pay very large sums of money for them. He even gave the example that a stamp of 20 paras could be sold for 1 Ottoman lira.⁸

He stated that due to the interest of postage stamp collectors, many books, magazines and newspapers on stamps were published worldwide. He stated that the Ottoman finance could earn a significant income from the sale of old postage stamps that had been demonetised and were left to rot in warehouses. Haçık Efendi also stated that the Ottoman Postal Ministry was a well-established institution, that it had issued stamps 11 times between 1862 and his own time, and that the excess stamps that were no longer in use were kept in sealed chests in the warehouses of the Ministry, and that these became blocks by sticking to each other over time and started to decompose there.



Figs. 4-5: Duloz stamps 1865/1867.

He predicted that the treasury could obtain a revenue of 20,000 to 30,000 liras by organising and sorting these old postage stamps, which were left to rot, through a committee, and exporting and selling them to the market at intervals.⁹

The Sadaret requested information from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs about the feasibility of the issues raised in Haçık Efendi's petition. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs reported that the sale of old postage stamps through auctions had been on the agenda before Haçık Efendi's proposal, and while it was expected to generate 3,600 Ottoman Gold Pounds, the purchase was cancelled. The reason for this cancellation was that the quantity of old postage stamps was less than 100,000, there were very few stamp of 10, 20 and 40 paras, and they were cancelled and offered for sale in order to prevent their reuse in the market. In addition, the purchaser had decided not to buy the stamps since he would be entitled to a share of the entire lot and would be liable in the event of a problem.

After the auction was cancelled, the Ministry of Internal Affairs argued that the sale of more than 20 million old stamps would generate revenue for the exchequer, but that this would lead to many abuses. For this reason, the old stamps kept in warehouses were to be destroyed by burning in the presence of officials selected from among the members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance: Ziya Bey, Accountant of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Refik Bey, Deputy Chief Clerk of the Secretariat of Internal Affairs, and Hafiz Vehbi Efendi, one of the Accountants of the Antiques Commission (*Muhasebat-i Atika*) of the Ministry of Finance, were appointed for the destruction of old postage stamps by the decision of the Council of Ministers (*Meclis-i Mahsus-i Vükelâ*) and the Sultan's order.

Despite the appointment of officials and the sultan's will, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs kept delaying the destruction of old postage stamps.¹⁰ Subsequently, the council of the ministry issued a memorandum on the utilisation of these stamps and informed the relevant ministries as well as the Sadaret officials and the Sultan. With Haçık Efendi's petition, the old stamps were once again on the agenda and the opportunity to create a source of income for the finances once again emerged.

The Ottoman Ministry of Posts and Telegraph discussed the memorandum received from the Sadaret in the Council of the Ministry. Firstly, the council stated that selling old postage stamps at the value of official documents would not be the right strategy. Because the Sadaret had emphasised in its proposal that old postage stamps had to be cancelled in order to be sold as official documents.

8 Gold Pound.

9 ₢D, 1138/11.

10 ₢D, 1138/11.

If the stamps were cancelled and put up for sale, they would lose their value and would not be purchased by collectors. The Council of the Ministry emphasised that it would be in the interest of the state to approve the sale of all old stamps directly or through auctions at once without cancellation, and that if any remained, they would be destroyed by burning.¹¹ The inter-institutional correspondence regarding the direct sale, auctioning or wholesale destruction of old postage stamps did not yield any results.



Figs. 6–8: Duloz stamps 1867/1870.

Raphael Tideschi, the Director of the Stamp Branch of the General Debt Administration of the Ottoman Treasury (*Düyun-i Umumiye İdaresi Pul Şubesı Müdürii*), was instrumental in bringing the sale of Old postage stamps back to the agenda. In his petition to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Tideschi stated that his duty was to the Ottoman treasury, that a small amount of revenue should not be wasted, and that increasing the source of revenue was the main motto not only of finance officials but also of all subjects. He said that the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph had previously considered selling the postage stamps that had been withdrawn from circulation in exchange for a certain amount, but the offer was rejected.

According to Mr. Tideschi, this offer was rejected, perhaps due to the small amount of money offered, but in case of destruction, the Ottoman treasury would be deprived of this income. Therefore, in order to create a new source of income for the treasury, Mr. Tideschi offered to sell the old postage stamps on condition that he would be paid a low fee. Therefore, Raphael Tideschi asked the Ottoman authorities to appoint him as the sales manager, as the sale of more than 20 million old postage stamps at a value of 10% would generate a large amount of money for the treasury and this money would constitute an important source of income for the treasury.¹²

The Ministry of Finance referred this proposal to the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. Along with the petitions of Haçık Efendi, the Accounting Clerk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Raphael Tideschi, the Director of the Stamp Branch of the General Debt Administration, the previously drafted memorandum and the memorandum of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs were also sent to the Council of State.¹³ Thus, the final decision on the old postage stamps was left to the Council of State.¹⁴



Figs. 9–10: Duloz stamps 1876.

11 SD, 1138/11.

12 SD, 1138/11.

13 SD, 1138/11.

14 BOA, SD, no.1138/33, 14.10.1901. The documents sent by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to the Council of State (*Şûra-yı Devlet*) had not yet yielded any results. As a result of the preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the documents sent to the Council of State had been referred to the abolished Financial Affairs Commission (*Umur-ı Maliye Komisyonu*) for investigation. Therefore, the examination of the documents by the Finance Commission (*Maliye Komisyonu*), which served as a sub-unit of the Council of State, caused the process to be prolonged.

The Council of State referred the documents received from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph to the Finance Department. Firstly, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs' proposal was examined by the Department of Finance. The Ministry requested that the postage stamps, which were antiques, be sold through an auction and the proceeds of 38,000 to 40,000 liras be used for the new building needed by the institution.

Thus, it was emphasised that the new building would be constructed with the money from the sale of postage stamps without burdening the treasury. It was pointed out that if the income to be obtained was transferred to the treasury and money was added to the budget of the supervision for the construction of the building every year, the building would not be completed in 7 to 8 years.



Fig. 11: The 1892 General Post Office (Postahane-i Amire).¹⁵

In the memorandum (*mazbatada*), it was stated that the destruction of old postage stamps by burning them would not benefit the Ottoman Empire; on the contrary, the treasury would suffer losses as a significant amount of revenue would be lost. It was emphasised that if the old postage stamps, which had been withdrawn from use and were lying idle in post offices, were purchased by foreign post offices affiliated to the postal union and collectors, they would generate a significant amount of revenue for the treasury.

The mistake in the idea that the sale of stamps would lead to abuses, which had previously been brought to the agenda, were also revealed in the related memorandum. Since the colours and designs of the stamps issued each time were regulated separately, it was emphasised that the old and new stamps could not be confused with each other and that new stamps could not be sold instead of old ones due to the sale process.



Figs. 12-13: Duloz stamps 1877/1881.

It was also given as an example that Greece made a considerable amount of revenue from the sale of old 20 centimes postage stamps with 1 franc printed on them. It was reported that the funds

15 Kafkasmurat [pseud.]: *Postane-i Amire- Eminönü*. In: Wikipedia. Online: <https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:Postaneiamire.JPG> (public domain).

obtained by each state as a result of the sale of old postage stamps to collectors constituted a great source of income for the treasury. After a detailed examination of the documents received by the Finance Department of the Council of State, the issues pointed out by individuals and institutions were resolved in a memorandum dated 14th November 1902. It was stated that without knowing the amount and types of old postage stamps kept in the warehouses of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, it was impossible to know how much revenue would be generated from them.

The Council of State decided to organise a five-person commission consisting of a chairman and four members for Old postage stamps. In addition, the meetings of this commission were to be held three days a week at the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph building. Thus, all the sorting and classification procedures for old postage stamps were to be finalised within 1½ months.¹⁶ Throughout this process, the responsibility and control belonged to the Council of State, but the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the Court of Accounts (*Divan-i Muhasebat*) were to work together in the formation and functioning of the commission.¹⁷



Figs. 14–15: Empire stamps 1884.

The commission to be formed was to supervise the determination and classification of the number and types of postage stamps that were demonetised from use and kept in warehouses, their recording in a book, the determination of their sales procedures in the interest of the treasury, and their sale to stamp collectors.¹⁸ This commission was to convene under the chairmanship of one of the members of the Court of Accounts.

The members of the commission were to include one official each from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, and the General Debt Administration. The memorandum of the Council of State was sent to the President of the Court of Accounts by the Ministry of Internal Affairs on 14th April 1902. The Imperial Council (*Divan*) selected Kirkor Efendi, one of the members, as the chairman of the commission and notified the Ministry of Internal Affairs.¹⁹ The Ministry of Internal Affairs, after sending a memorandum to the relevant ministries and administrations for the commission memberships, also informed the President of the Court of Accounts about the situation.²⁰

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs notified the relevant institutions that it had appointed Corci Efendi, one of the members of the parliamentary administration, as a member of the commission to be formed for the old postage stamps. It was also decided to appoint Chief Clerk Münir Bey, also a member of the parliamentary administration, as a member of the commission, and Aziz Bey, Clerk of the Revenue Stamp branch of the Ministry, as the clerk of the commission, since the transaction with the old postage stamps concerned the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.²¹ Thus, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs appointed a total of three officials for the membership and clerkship of the commission.

While the members of the commission to be formed for postage stamps were being determined, a new arrangement was made regarding the memberships. Firstly, the Council of State had requested the appointment of an officer from the General Directorate of Debt Administration (*Düyyün-i*

16 BEO, 1880/140969.

17 DH.MKT, 501/72.

18 DH.MKT, 501/72.

19 DH.MKT, 501/72.

20 DH.MKT, 501/72.

21 DH.MKT, 501/72.

Umumiye Varidat-ı Mahsusa) for the membership of the commission. Raphael Tideschi, the Director of the Stamp Department of the General Debt Administration, was appointed as a member of this commission.²² However, Raphael Tideschi's membership was cancelled due to the fact that the old postage stamps had no connection with the General Administration of Debt.²³

The name of Aziz Bey, the clerk of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs' stamp accounting department (*Posta ve Telgraf Nezareti Muhasebe Pul Maddesi Katibi*), who had been appointed as the clerk of the commission, was proposed for this vacant membership by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.²⁴ The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs stated that Aziz Bey had been employed at the Postage Stamp Directorate since its establishment and that he was qualified in stamps and that he should be utilised. With the acceptance of the decision by the relevant institutions, Aziz Bey was elected as a member of the commission in addition to his clerkship.²⁵



Figs. 16–17: Empire stamps 1890.

Thus, due to the appointment of three officers from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to the commission membership, the decision to send a member to be selected from the Revenue Administration of the General Directorate of the Debt Administration (*Düyun-ı Umumiye Varidat-ı Mahsusa İdaresi*) was cancelled. Servet Bey's name was proposed for the commission membership from the Ministry of Finance.²⁶ Therefore, the Commission was composed of Kirkor Efendi (chairman), a member of the Court of Accounts (*Divan-ı Muhasebat*), Corci Efendi (member), Chief Clerk Münir Bey (member), Aziz Bey (member), Clerk of the stamp branch, and Servet Bey (member), a member of the Council of the Ministry of Finance.

After the formation of the working staff of the commission for old postage stamps, some problems arose in determining the meeting place. Firstly, the meeting place of the commission was specified in the Council of State decision as the Ministry of Telegraph and Post.

Later on, the Dersaâdet Post Office under the same ministry was determined as the meeting place.²⁷ However, the commission lost a lot of time in the selection of members, which caused the meeting place to change constantly. During this period, the commission did not hold a single meeting.

This time, the location of the commission in Dersaâdet Post Office was changed to Katircioğlu Han²⁸ in İstanbul. It was decided that three interconnected rooms in this *Han* would be the meeting place of the commission. Since the annual rent of the Han rooms was 100 liras and there was no appropriation for this amount, it was decided to add the rental fee as a one-off to the 1903 budget of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph.²⁹ However, the Finance Department of the Council of State reported that some rooms of the Imperial Mint Administration (*Darbhane-i Amire, Mesukat-ı*

22 BEO, 1880/140969.

23 DH.MKT, 501/72.

24 DH.MKT, 501/72.

25 DH.MKT, 501/72.

26 There is no document regarding Servet Bey's appointment as a member of the commission. Nevertheless, Servet Bey's name and seal appear as a member in a memorandum of the commission's decision on old stamps. BOA, DH.MKT, no.501/72, 19.10.1903, fol. 16.

27 DH.MKT, 501/72.

28 The Katircioğlu Han is today the Laleli Çukurçeşme Han in Laleli, İstanbul. For detailed information, see http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laleli_%C3%87ukur%C3%A7e%C5%9Fme_Han%C4%B1. It is also known as Taşhan, and Sipahiler Han.

29 DH.MKT, 501/72.

Şahane İdaresi) were allocated for the meeting place of the commission and that the necessary report was prepared.³⁰ It was also requested that the one-year lease contract for the Katırcıoğlu Han be cancelled and that the commission take office as soon as possible.

However, a meeting could not be held in the rooms of the Imperial Mint Administration (*Darbhane-i Amire*) reserved for the commission. This time, the repair and furnishing of the Lottery Department of the Imperial Mint was on the agenda for the commission. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs held a meeting with the Directorate of the Imperial Mint for the meeting place of the commission. As a result of the investigation carried out at the Lottery Department, it was possible to repair and furnish the place with very little expense and turn it into a suitable venue for the commission. Due to the value of the Old postage stamps, the allocation of other venues would have created a major security issue, which would have increased the financial burden and necessitated the hiring of a security guard. Thus, it was thought that it would be more advantageous to prefer a venue that did not require renting and hiring new personnel.



Figs. 18–19: Empire stamps 1886.

Since its establishment, five different locations were identified as meeting places for the commission, but not a single meeting was held in any of them. The meeting place of the commission on old postage stamps formed by the Council of State's Department of Finance (*Şûra-yı Devlet Maliye Dairesi*) finally decided to be the Imperial Mint's Lottery Department (*Darbhane-i Amire Piyango Dairesi*) and the situation was notified to the commission and the relevant ministries.³¹ The relevant ministries were informed by the Vizier's Chancellery (*Sadaret*) to start meetings immediately after the repair and furnishing of this venue.³²

The Workings of the Stamp Commission

The Commission started to work after the meeting place was resolved. In this process, it was not only concerned with old postage stamps, but also with the sale of postage stamps on old postcards and postal orders. The destruction of postal money orders two years after the expiry of their validity period due to lack of space caused the loss of an income that would constitute a source for the Ottoman finances. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs informed the Ministry of Internal Affairs that the stamps and forms on these remittances could be sold through auctions, as in the case of old postage stamps, after it was realised that the stamps and postal order forms were cut and collected by collectors and enthusiasts due to their antique features.³³

Ata Bey, Inspector General of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, also sent a detailed report on postal money order stamps to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In this report, the issues pointed out by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs were emphasised in detail. It was revealed that the destruction of postal remittances two years after the expiry of their use period was carried out according to Article 15 of the Regulations on Postal Remittances, but there was no provision on the destruction of documents in the relevant regulation.³⁴ In addition, the destruction of the remittances

30 Y.A.RES, 121/28.

31 Y.A.RES, 121/28.

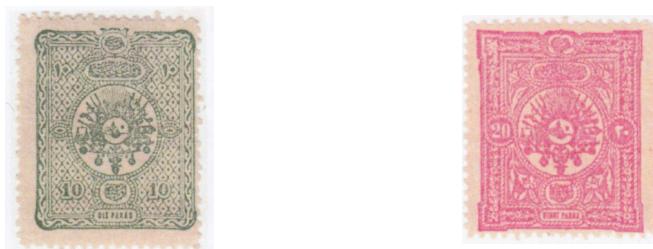
32 DH.MKT, 501/72.

33 DH.MKT, 501/72.

34 Article 15 of the Postal Money Order Regulation reads as follows: "The remittances that are not paid to the recipient (*sel-i ileyh*) within two years from the date of their issuance shall not be valid and the amount they contain shall be recorded as treasury money." BOA, DH.MKT, No.501/72, 6.06.1904, folio 12.

after two years would not allow for the investigation of problems that might arise later and the correction of errors. For this reason, it was pointed out that it would be the right decision to keep the relevant remittances for 15 years after the expiry of their validity period. In case of any difficulty in their preservation, they could be locked in one of the neighbouring hans for a fee of 50 to 60 kuruş per month, just like other official documents, until the construction of the new post office building was completed.

It was estimated that since the value of such documents would increase with the passage of time, and they would be more valuable in 15 years' time, they should be utilised at that time, and now, if the old postage stamps were arranged and classified and sold to collectors through auctions, it could bring a large income to the treasury or cover a large part of the construction costs of the new post office building. Therefore, in this report, it was proposed that postal money orders be considered in the same category as postage stamps, which had been issued for 42 years and had been withdrawn from circulation over time, and that an arrangement regarding this issue be quickly made and implemented.³⁵



Figs. 20–21: Coat-of-Arms stamps 1892.

An arrangement was made to extend the safekeeping of postal money orders from two years to 15 years. With this arrangement, 50 crates of old postal money orders were kept in a warehouse for a monthly rent of 60 kuruş in 4½ years. It became clear that the existing warehouse would not be sufficient if they were kept for 15 years like official documents, and that a qualified officer should be employed for their security and classification.³⁶ Therefore, the preservation of old postage stamps and communication documents such as postcards and postal money orders, which would cease to circulate after a while, would constitute an important resource for the treasury.

On 25th October 1903, the Sadaret also entrusted this commission with the task of converting Thessalian postage stamps into cash in order to raise funds for the construction of the Hamidiye-Hijaz Railways.³⁷ The assignment of another task to the commission before any progress was made regarding the old postage stamps caused both the process to be prolonged and the workload to increase.

With the order of Sultan Abdülhamid II dated 5th January 1903, the Sadaret had instructed the commission to take over the old postage stamps kept in the cellars of the Old Telegraph Office and to start work. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs had temporarily appointed Fazlı Bey and Tahir Bey, members of the parliament, to assist the commission in the handover ceremony. This committee had applied to the Topkapı Palace Guardian (*Topkapı Sarayı Hümayunu Muhafizi*) to receive the old postage stamps. Since the former Telegraph Office was located in Topkapı Palace, the old postage stamps were kept in the cellars of this building.

Rıza Paşa, the Guardian of the Topkapı Palace, stated that he had not received an order regarding the old postage stamps that he was responsible for protecting and that he could not deliver them to the commission without the sultan's order.³⁸ The paşa informed the commission that he could deliver the stamps immediately if the Topkapı Palace Guardian received an order on this matter.³⁹

35 DH.MKT, 501/72.

36 DH.MKT, 501/72.

37 Y.A.RES, 121/28; DH.MKT, 501/72; BEO, 2440/182961.

38 DH.MKT, 501/72.

39 BEO, 2440/182961.

When the old postage stamps were not delivered, the commission issued a report and informed the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the situation. The necessity and urgency of the transfer and delivery of the stamps by delivering the relevant decision to the Guardian of the Topkapı Palace as soon as possible was expressed.⁴⁰



Figs. 22–23: Coat-of-Arms Postage Due stamps 1892/1901.

The Imperial Guardian of the Topkapı Palace had continuously left unanswered both the letters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs regarding the delivery of the old postage stamps to the commission.⁴¹ Since Rıza Paşa, the Palace Guardian, had previously declared that he would not take any action without the sultan's order, he had not responded to the memorandums from the ministries. For this reason, the Ministry of Internal Affairs applied to the Sadaret on 23rd October 1904 and requested that a decree be issued for the delivery of the stamps, which were rotting in the cellar due to dampness and other effects, so that they could be arranged and sorted as soon as possible.⁴²

In its memorandum dated 16th January 1906, the Court of Accounts explained the value of the stamps in the cellar of the old Telegraph Office. According to this report, the old postage stamps, which were left to the control of the commission during the examination of the financial accounts of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs for the year 1902 by the Divan's examiners and kept in the vault, were worth 34,270,916 kuruş.⁴³ This was the current value of the stamps, which would increase even more if they were sold through an auction. After the value of the stamps in the vault was learnt, the issue of ensuring their security during the sorting and sale processes came to the fore. The relevant ministries applied to the Sadaret for the security of the stamps to be provided by the Royal Staff Rifle Company (*Maiyet-i Seniye Tüfekçi Bölüğü*). The Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II appointed head-gunner Tahir Paşa on 21st March 1906 to ensure the security of the old postage stamps.⁴⁴

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs informed the Sadaret⁴⁵ that although 2½ years had passed since the sultan's order to hand over the old postage stamps to the commission on 5th January 1903, no work could be carried out since no handover of the stamps had taken place yet. In the statement made by the Sadaret, it was stated that the requests of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were submitted to the Sultan and that the decision would be made as soon as possible.⁴⁶ Despite this statement, there was no development in terms of the sultan's order.

On 21st April 1906, the Ministry of Internal Affairs applied to the Sadaret again about the commission responsible for the old postage stamps taking office and receiving the stamps. The Sadaret informed the Ministry of Internal Affairs that the matter had been conveyed to the Sultan through the clerk of the Sultan's private office and that a decision would be issued as soon as possible.⁴⁷

40 DH.MKT, 501/72.

41 DH.MKT, 501/72.

42 DH.MKT, 501/72.

43 DH.MKT, 501/72.

44 DH.MKT, 501/72.

45 Y.A.RES, 131/28.

46 Y.A.RES, 131/28.

47 DH.MKT, 501/72.

Although the Ministry of Internal Affairs notified the Sadaret three times on 23rd October 1904, 17th April 1905 and 22nd March 1906 that Sultan Abdülhamid II's order was needed for the commission to receive and work with the stamps kept in Topkapı Palace, no result was obtained.⁴⁸ Correspondence between the Ottoman institutions about the delivery of the stamps continued for more than three years. In the end, the memorandum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs dated 25th April 1906 was submitted to the Sultan by the Sadaret and the decision regarding the transfer of the old postage stamps to the commission was issued on 28th April 1906 with the order of Sultan Abdülhamid II.⁴⁹



Figs. 24–25: Thessaly and Eastern Roumelia stamps 1898/1880.

After the decision on the transfer of the Old postage stamps to the commission in charge was issued on 9th June 1906, the details of the execution of this process began to become clearer. For the opening of the vault where the old postage stamps were kept and the handover ceremony, some officials other than the commission were assigned⁵⁰. These officials were to participate in the opening of the vault and the sealing of the protocol to be issued after the handover ceremony of the old postage stamps. Among these officials were Rıza Paşa, the Guardian of Topkapı Palace, Hakkı Bey, the Director of the Imperial Mint, Reşat Bey, the Accountant of the Ministry of Finance, Behiç Bey, the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Trade and Public Works (*Ebniye-i Tensik Kalemi, Ticaret ve Nafia Nezareti Ebniye-i Tensik Kalemi Müdür Muavini*) and Şekip Bey, the Director of the Ministry of Finance in the department for paper money. Mr. Behiç and Mr. Şekip were also to assist in the sorting of the stamps by the commission in the following period.

After the delivery of the old postage stamps, the Thessalian stamps to be sold for the Hamidiye-Hijaz Railways were also delivered to the commission. However, Kirkor Efendi, the chairman of the commission and a member of the Court of Accounts, informed the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs that he was unable to serve as chairman due to rheumatism. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs wrote a memorandum to the Sadaret about the appointment of one of the members or an outsider as the chairman of the commission.⁵¹

The commission and its accompanying persons received the old postage stamps kept in crates in the cellar of the old Telegraph Office after issuing a confirmation of receipt. The commission transported the old postage stamps to the Lottery Department of the Imperial Mint Administration, also located in Topkapı Palace, to be sorted and classified. After the arrangement and sorting process, 150 stamps of each type were delivered to the Guardian of Stamps (*Pul Muhafizliğine*) in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.⁵² The reason for requesting these stamps may have been the Ministry's intention to archive old stamp types or to open a museum of old postage stamps in the future.⁵³

48 DH.MKT, 501/72.

49 BEO, 2811/210758.

50 BEO, 2854/214041.

51 DH.MKT, 501/72.

52 BEO, 2900/217464.

53 Today, old postage stamps are housed in the PTT Stamp Museum, which operates in the former Emlak ve Eytam Bank building in Ulus, Ankara, which was opened in 2013 after being restored. In this museum, world stamps, Ottoman Empire stamps, Anatolian Government stamps, Republic of Turkey stamps and thematic stamps consisting of seven different themes are exhibited.

After the handover ceremony of the old postage stamps, the commission in charge of the sorting and classification of the stamps began to work in the rooms allocated to it in the Lottery Department.⁵⁴ The presence of 34,270,916 kuruş worth of old postage stamps in the 1892 accounts of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs may have prolonged the duration of the sorting and classification work.

There is no information on how many stamps were to be disposed of at the end of this work carried out by the commission and under what conditions. In addition, we do not have any precise information on the procedures and principles under which this stamp sale was carried out and how much revenue it generated for the treasury. However, we can make an illustration about the functioning of this process by considering the old postage stamps sold through auctions after the Second Constitutional Monarchy. Accordingly, it was announced in a newspaper advertisement in 1912 that old postage stamps would be sold through auctions. The auction of old postage stamps was held under the control of the Post and Telegraph Directorate of the Ministry of Finance. At the end of the auction, 385,314 kuruş revenue was obtained from the sale of old postage stamps worth 1,767,262½ kuruş. In addition, the officials who prepared the old postage stamps for the auction by arranging and sorting them were given a bonus of five per cent of the total revenue.⁵⁵ The awarding of bonuses to officials who helped to prepare old postage stamps for sale and dispose of them through auctions was also formalised by a decision of the Council of State.⁵⁶

As can be seen in the above example, old postage stamps with a total value of 1,767,262½ kuruş were auctioned in 1916 by notifying enthusiasts through newspaper advertisements. From this point of view, it is highly probable that the commission in charge of the arrangement and classification of old postage stamps also auctioned Old postage stamps with a value of 34,270,916 kuruş in accordance with the same procedures and principles. Therefore, by making an arrangement regarding the old postage stamps, which the Ottoman Empire had initially left to rot in cellars and then planned to destroy, the Ottoman State created an important source of income for the treasury from the auction sale of these available payment instruments.

Conclusion

The existing old institutions in the Ottoman state apparatus were redesigned according to the requirements of the era within the framework of modernisation. For this reason, important structural reforms were implemented in the Ottoman postal organisation in the first half of the 19th century. With the Tanzimat Edict, the postal organisation was reshaped according to European standards and transformed into the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Initially, the service of circulating official state documents between central and provincial institutions was gradually extended to the general public. However, due to the high cost of the existing communication fees, the number of private individuals communicating did not increase, which decreased the efficiency of the postal organisation. In England, postage stamps, which were put into circulation in 1840 in order to minimise the fees in postal services, started a new era in the field of communication. The Ottoman Empire started to use this means of payment in communication about a quarter century later, on 13th January 1863. Thanks to the use of postage stamps, Ottoman subjects gained the opportunity of cheaper communication.

The issuance of postage stamps is a sovereign right of states, just like the issuance of money. Postage stamps began to be valued, just like money bills, after a while after they were put into circulation around the world. Collectors began to show great interest in old postage stamps, especially those that had been demonetised. With this interest, a postage stamp catalogue and album

54 BEO, 2900/217464.

55 Hüseyin Said Bey, an official in the Documents Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Captain Mehmet Ali Efendi, an official in the Yıldız Investigation Documents Commission, received a bonus of 14,500 kuruş (five per cent) out of a total of 290,000 kuruş for their services. BOA, BEO, No.4317/323721, 14.10.1914.

56 BEO, 4301/322509.

was made in France for the first time in the world. In order to spread the interest in collecting old postage stamps to wider circles, not only newspapers and magazines about old postage stamps were published, but also national and international stamp exhibitions were held.

The Ottoman Empire took the first step towards the utilisation of old postage stamps in 1890. Although an official was assigned to uncover the old postage stamps that were withdrawn from circulation and kept in cellars, no results were obtained and the valuable stamps were left to rot. Due to the economic depression in the country, the issue of these stamps came to the agenda again in 1900. An official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who closely followed the developments in old stamp collecting in the world, shared with the government officials the information that a significant source of income would be created for the treasury if these payment instruments were sold to collectors. Upon the realisation that old postage stamps would contribute to the improvement of the current economic situation by the state, a series of studies were initiated.

As a result of these efforts, a commission was established to sort and classify old postage stamps. In the beginning, the selection of members and meeting places for the commission took a long time, which prevented the commission from working efficiently. At a time when the state was in need of even the smallest revenue, the bureaucracy's slowness was instrumental in continually postponing an opportunity that would have created an important source of money for the treasury. It took three years even to transfer the old postage stamps kept in the vaults to the commission. Nevertheless, it is necessary to look for other reasons behind the postponement of the auction sale of these means of payment, which increased in value with each passing time, at a time when they were needed and in high demand.

The commission for the sorting and classification of old postage stamps fulfilled its mission as per its remit of establishment and made these means of payment, which cost a large sum of money, ready for sale through an auction. Although there is no information on the sale of these stamps, we can assume that the auction was held. The fact that Old postage stamps were sold through auctions one by one in the following period strengthens our assumption. Therefore, the Ottoman Empire made a great effort to use all available means to improve the financial situation of the treasury and in this regard, it showed the ability to convert Old postage stamps, which were left to rot in cellars, into money. Therefore, based on the inseparable unity of communication with finance, the relationship of Ottoman old postage stamps with the state economy, especially the details of the relevance of old stamp sales to the treasury, have been revealed for the first time in this study.

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The Italian Post Office in Smyrna

by Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi¹

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The Mail in Europe and the Levant in the First Decades of the 19th Century

The events are well known: the Napoleonic era saw a radical change in the postal organisations of the *ancien régime* in Europe, with regular, simplified and much more widespread systems, with fixed costs and a range of ancillary services. While there remained some cumbrousness in the rates (which depended on both weight and distance, and were preferably paid by the addressee) the postal services of western European countries by the 19th century were truly almost universal services.

Then, towards the middle of the 19th century, there was a new revolution in European postal services: the cost of the service for users was lowered, it became independent of the distance travelled by the mail (as it had been until then) and was paid by the sender instead of, as it had been, the addressee. International traffic remained cumbersome: dispatches were only exchanged through bilateral or multilateral conventions, with different and complex rules and high costs.

This great expansion of services meant that in the 19th century the mail had a great social centrality in Europe: it shaped the habits and relationships of citizens, influenced commercial activities, changed urban spaces and gave a sense of space and time.

While all this was now consolidated in Europe, the problem still existed for the European communities in the Levant: present in the Ottoman Empire since the modern age, in the 19th century they grew larger and larger, in Constantinople, Izmir, Alexandria and many other smaller localities, dedicated to finance (the main European banks had branches at least in Constantinople, Thessaloniki and Smyrna), independent professions, trade, crafts and various occupations. A heterogeneous group, each with their own institutions, circles and meeting places, from Italy, France, Austria and various other European countries, of ancient Levantine settlement or recent arrival, who often retained personal or commercial ties with their homelands or other places in the Mediterranean. All of them were still excluded from this communications revolution while, thanks to their personal ties or commercial activities, they demanded a service for the transport of mail, men and goods as in Europe that the Sublime Porte – the Ottoman government – did not offer (the Ottoman Post Office would not be founded until 1841 as part of the Tanzimat, the westernising reforms begun in 1839, and only for land communications within its own empire, on whose reliability hardly anyone had any confidence).

The main communication services to Europe – the Austrian and the Russian – continued to be carried out in the traditional manner of the 18th century. The first dated from the early 18th century: the Habsburg Emperor Charles VI had begun to set his military and economic sights on the Balkans and the Middle East and, within this framework, Austrian couriers had begun to connect Constantinople and Vienna by a land route along the Balkan peninsula. In 1748, these connections took on an official character, with a collection point for letters in Galata, in the European quarter of Constantinople, and the opening of the service also to its merchants on the Bosphorus. It quickly became a service that was appreciated by the entire western community, so much so that it

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Translated by Tobias Zywietz.

supplanted the traditional Venetian service, until then the most reliable. At the same time, the Russian Empire had also started to organise its own more or less regular overland courier service between Constantinople and its European border; the service became regular in 1781, with a fortnightly overland route between Constantinople and the Russian border. France, on the other hand, had organised a purely maritime service to and from Marseilles.²

The increasingly pressing communication demands of the Levantine communities were met by the European powers who, after the general introduction of steam navigation, opened regular shipping lines with postal boats (*paquebot*) from their ports to Constantinople and then on to other places: in 1837 France and Austria; in 1842 Great Britain; in 1856 Russia. The consequence of the opening of these shipping lines, used to transport passengers, goods and (in ever increasing quantities) mail was the opening of European post offices in the Ottoman ports touched by shipping lines. In general, these first post offices in large cities depended on the respective national postal administrations; they were run by staff from the mother country with national rules and procedures, in appropriate premises, which could sometimes be located in the respective consulates.

In time and with the expansion of European shipping lines, other subordinate offices were also opened in less important ports or inland locations, run by auxiliary and local staff. Thus, from 1837 until the First World War, the Ottoman and southern Mediterranean territories were dotted with a network of dozens and dozens of European post offices, of greater or lesser importance, of Austria, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Romania, Sardinia and Spain. In common parlance they were called 'post offices abroad'.³

The Porte either accepted this by virtue of the regime of the 'capitulations' (i.e. the set of rules that granted special privileges to Europeans residing in the Empire's territories, in particular the application of personal law instead of territorial law),⁴ or did not care about it, considering this western service useful.

The maintenance and growth of this vast network of European post offices, which mainly interested the commercial and banking sectors (the main European banks had branches in Constantinople, Smyrna and other places, which communicated with the parent company via post) responded to technical needs for secure communications but also to direct or induced economic needs, i.e. the capture of ever larger volumes of traffic for profit and to favour national trade at the expense of others.

With time, however, the need to extend one's political influence and safeguard one's prestige, both towards the Sublime Porte and towards other powers, also became relevant: by the second half of the 19th century, these reasons now outweighed the economic ones and "our prestige, our influence" were the key words always repeated in the (numerous) diplomatic and consular correspondences concerning the offices.

All this had led to a very firm stance of the European powers towards the Sublime Porte. If at first these offices, it has been said, were viewed favourably, from the early 1860s, with the modernisation of its services, the Ottoman government sought the closure of the foreign posts in

2 For reference works on the Venetian postal service, see De Zanche, 2000; Dursteler, 2009. For the Neapolitan service: Pezzi, 2009. For Spain: Pezzi, 2012. For the Russian service and a very quick overview of all services with bibliography, see Crevato-Selvaggi, 2022, pp. 123–153.

3 The topic has not yet received much attention in historiography, and I am not aware of any comprehensive academic works on it. I refer to a brief mention in Shaw, 1997, vol. 2, pp. 229–230. I would like to refer to two of my recent works, which offer an account of the issue, represent an attempt at an initial summary and suggest the sparse bibliography available, which I will therefore not cite here: Crevato-Selvaggi: *Maison du consul ...*, 2021, pp. 135–173 and *Les postes européennes ...*, 2021, pp. 30–41. Also on the case of Russia: *Uffici postali russi nell'impero ottomano*, 2022, pp. 123–153. The most important works on the various countries, based on archival sources, were written mainly by philatelists. For Austria: Tchilinghirian & Stephen, 7 vols., 1962–1967, and Smith, 2013; for Egypt: Salam, 2019; for France: Langlois & François, 1924; for Germany: Friedemann, 1921; for Italy: Dal Negro, Serra, Zanaria, 2000; for Russia: Tchilinghirian & Stephen, 4 vols., 1957–1960.

4 There is extensive literature on the capitulation regime; a current and innovative text is Elden, 2006, pp. 283–335. See also Pedani, 1996.

order to increase its own traffic, its revenues and its control of the territory: the first application is from 1863, ignored as are the following two.⁵

The Ottoman services still had the technical difficulty of foreign exchanges, because they had no agreements with any other country. This was overcome in 1875 with the creation of the General Postal Union (the later Universal Postal Union), which made all member countries one postal territory of free exchange at an equal and modest tariff. The Ottoman Empire was a founding member and strongly demanded the closure of the foreign offices that no longer had any reason to exist. Even then technical considerations were completely subordinate to political ones: the offices remained open. All that was left for the Sublime Porte was to attempt to compete on tariffs, which was soon overturned by the harsh European reaction. The new Ottoman regime of 1908 – the Young Turks – brought up the issue again, which still ended in a deadlock.

The Postal and Telegraphic Situation in Smyrna

Within this general framework, I will in this paper, deal in particular with Smyrna and the Italian post office in the city.⁶

The city, founded by ancient Greeks, isolated on the Anatolian coast of the Aegean Sea, inside a small gulf protected by a wide promontory. In the second half of the 19th century, the city had about 200,000 inhabitants; the second largest city in the Ottoman Empire after Constantinople, it was a lively commercial, financial and cultural centre, a caravan destination, cosmopolitan, multiethnic and polyglot. About half the population was Muslim (mainly Turks), the others were Greeks – the largest and most numerous minority – Armenians, Jews and Levantine Europeans: Italians, French, British, Germans, Austrians, Russians and other nationalities.

These are the first steamship lines touching Smyrna with the dates of their start, which correspond to those of the opening of post offices in the city:

- 1837 France, government lines, then (1851) Messageries Nationales, then Messageries Impériales, then Messageries Maritimes: Marseille–Constantinople, then extended to Smyrna.
- 1838 Austria: Austrian Lloyd. Trieste–Constantinople (1837), extended to Smyrna in 1838.
- 1843 Great Britain: Peninsular & Oriental, Southampton–Constantinople (1842), prolonged to Smyrna in 1843.
- 1857 Russia: ROPiT (*POITuT*), Odessa–Constantinople, later extended to Smyrna.

At the end of the 19th century there were Ottoman; British, at the consulate; Austrian Imperial Post Office; Austrian Lloyd (separate from the former); French; Russian post offices in Smyrna. An Egyptian office had also operated between 1865 and 1881, which closed due to low traffic. There was also a post office of the Principality of Samos, i.e. the autonomous tributary state of the Ottoman Empire on the island opposite Smyrna, which exchanged mail with the island and with Austrian or French offices for further forwarding or receipt.

The city was connected daily by sea to Constantinople and other important ports in the Levant by British mail; four days a week by Austrian mail; once a week by Russian mail; weekly by the Egyptian shipping line; fortnightly by the Italian company Florio & Rubattino (from 1881 Navigazione Generale Italiana), as well as by French lines, the German lines Deutsche Levante Linie and Freytas, and a dense network of local coastal shipping lines. However, by then, most postal dispatches to Constantinople no longer travelled by sea but by rail, which connected the two centres much more quickly.

5 A large number of documents relating to the demands and complaints of the Ottomans are located in Paris: Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Turquie, Affaires postales, 1867–1877.

6 The work is based primarily on French sources (Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques) and the few Italian printed works, as well as on the extremely sparse literature available. The historical diplomatic archives of the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome contain several dossiers on these topics concerning Italy, but the great difficulties and cumbersome nature of this institution make it difficult, if not impossible, to consult them; cf. Viscone, 2007.

The other communication system in operation was the telegraphic system. In addition to the Ottoman network (more developed, in general, than the postal network), there was a strong presence in the imperial territories of the British Eastern Telegraph Company, which operated an international network with land and submarine cables. One of its main cables connected Britain with Malta, from there by sea to Zakynthos, where it continued by land to Athens and again by sea across the Aegean to Constantinople; from the island of Scio a branch line ran to Smyrna. The city was also connected by land cable that ran along the Anatolian coast of the Aegean to Rhodes, Crete and from there rejoined the international lines. The other telegraph office in the city was the Ottoman.⁷

While the various national postal administrations were in perfect agreement with each other in rejecting Ottoman requests, they were in fierce competition with each other to attract traffic, for the reasons already stated, to their own offices: an episode involving Smyrna is very illustrative in this respect.



Fig. A1: Inside the German Empire post office in Smyrna.⁸

Germany had opened its own offices in Constantinople since 1870 (still as Norddeutscher Postverein, North German Postal Confederation) but had not developed its own network in the region, because its geopolitical interests were rather directed towards Africa and the Middle East. German interest in the Ottoman world had been reawakened towards the end of the 19th century, both to counterbalance British and French influences and because of the attractive contracts for railway construction: it is in this context that the visit of Emperor Wilhelm II to Constantinople and Jerusalem in 1898, the very rapid development of the privileged relationship between Constantinople and Berlin and the opening of new offices, the first of which was in Jaffa in 1898 for the emperor's postal needs and in Jerusalem, can be explained.

Thus, on 28th February 1900, Germany opened its own post office in Smyrna, quite unexpectedly and quietly, without notifying either the local authorities or the European consuls. Contrary to usual

7 See the collection of city and empire directories published in Constantinople since 1880: *Indicateur Ottoman* (1880–1884); *Indicateur oriental* (1885–1888); *Annuaire Oriental* (1889–1914).

8 Source: Photo by "Schmidt" on p. 74 of Friedemann, 2nd ed., 1921. 482 p. Online: <https://archive.org/details/diepostwertzeich00friedem>.

practice, there had been no protest from the Ottoman side, which had led to suspicions that there had been a more or less secret understanding between the Porte and the German government. As the French consul wrote:⁹

I do not believe that the [German Government] would have timidly attempted an experiment which could have given rise to conflicts with the Turkish Administration: its influence in Constantinople is great enough for it to be able to allow itself, under less concealed conditions, an act of independence; it is to be presumed, on the contrary, that the reserve shown at the moment with regard to the nascent work has the sole object of respecting the susceptibilities of the Ottoman authority.

The consular report went on to observe that the new opening would not harm the French office any more than that.

If, therefore, the Sublime Porte had not reacted, Austria had. The Austrian office, in fact, had until then enjoyed a near-monopoly of direct mail to Central Europe and this new opening was very damaging to it, because it was estimated that it would divert about 50 per cent of the traffic; and the damage was increased by the fact that the Austrian office had recently made major investments to move to larger premises. In April 1900, therefore, Austria decided to open a branch of its city office in the business district, at the entrance to the bazaar, south of the post office area, with a clerk and a cawas (a local *employée*) to recover at least a slice of the lost traffic. This time, this provoked the reaction of the Ottoman government, which with police pickets forbade access to its citizens (nothing could, however, stoop the Europeans which were protected by the capitulations)¹⁰ as well as the immediate vehement protests of Germany – its political ally – which saw this opening as undue competition to its own office. The German consul even went so far as to complain to Kiamil Pasha, the local vali, who simply replied that he behaved in the same way.¹¹

The Italian Position

In this scenario, Italy was absent. In the Ottoman Levant, important Italian colonies existed in Constantinople, Thessaloniki and Smyrna with around 5,000 people at the end of the 19th century, dedicated to independent professions, crafts and trade. However, Italian strategic interest was mainly directed towards Tunisia, Tripolitania and Egypt, where important colonies of compatriots also resided, as well as the Horn of Africa, where it had soon manifested colonial intentions. This geopolitical trend was also reflected in the opening of post offices in those territories, which were entrusted to local consuls. From the 1860s, Italian shipping lines touched the Aegean and Bosphorus waters, but the Italian postal service did not open its own offices for economic reasons, because of political disinterest in the region and because the postal needs of the national communities had to be met by the extensive network of allied Austria, with which it had made agreements for the exchange of dispatches with Italy. Although the need for a national service was beginning to be felt, as we read for example in this testimony from Smyrna in 1903:¹²

With regard to the means of transport, the Italian Navigazione Generale has recently partly provided for the inadequacy of the postal service by implanting a monthly auxiliary service with which the needs of this trade are better met... But this is still not enough, or rather, it only satisfies for a few months, because in August, September, October and November – the busiest times – the service is even insufficient. The Italian government should seriously address this issue.

9 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Affaires consulaires, c. 42. Report from the French Consul General in Smyrna to the Ministry, 3.03.1900. A few days later, once the situation had stabilised, Germany officially announced the opening of the office, along with those in Pera, Beirut and Jerusalem.

10 It had behaved in the same way towards the post office that Italy had opened in Benghazi (Cyrenaica, today Libya) on 15.03.1901. In May 1901, the Sublime Porte accepted the Austrian establishment as part of a more general agreement with the European powers on post offices, without further interference.

11 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Affaires consulaires, c. 42. Report from the French Consul General in Smyrna to the Ministry, 1.06.1901.

12 Frangini, 1903.

In those years the situation began to change. Italy showed interest in Ottoman Albania (which was also of interest to Austria) and opened three post offices there, again entrusted to local consuls; this caused the first rifts with Austria, later also well known in political history. There was a case in Constantinople in 1906, when the Austrian post office refused to distribute the newspaper *LE COURRIER DES BALKANS*, which was printed in Rome, because it was proscribed in Austria. Member of Parliament Roberto Galli tabled a question to ask the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs what measures he intended to take to ensure that this did not happen again, and also “to know whether, in agreement with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he did not believe that the time had finally come to establish a special Italian post office in Constantinople, as all great nations have and as our interests require”. The minister agreed.¹³ This immediately attracted the attention of the French embassy, which did not fail to emphasise that “*all this is a new proof of the attention that our neighbours pay to everything that concerns their situation in the Levant.*” At that time, Italian policy was also turning its attention to the Levant, with particular reference to three cities where the Italian community was substantial: Constantinople, Thessaloniki and Smyrna.

The Italian Navy opens a Post Office in Smyrna

From the postal point of view, this was realised in February 1908, with the decision to open their own post offices in the heart of the Empire: in Constantinople (three offices, like the other powers, in Galata, Pera and Stamboul), Valona, Thessaloniki, Jerusalem and Smyrna, where the inhabitants had by then risen to almost half a million and the Italians to 7,000. The reasons were now more political and of prestige and confrontation with the other powers than real postal needs.

The Italian embassy in Constantinople informed the Sublime Porte, which did not reply; the Italian insistence was finally answered by the Ottoman ambassador in Rome directly to the foreign minister Tommaso Tittoni, stating that he could not grant authorisation because the Treaty of Berlin (1878; Italy had not participated in the congress and therefore had not signed the treaty) did not reserve this right to Italy. Italy rejected the interpretation and, in order to assert its own reasons and prestige, mobilised two naval squadrons that were to present themselves in front of Constantinople and Smyrna for a show of strength: before the squadrons even reached Ottoman waters, the Porte gave way on 20th April, also because Germany and Austria had considered Italy's requests reasonable and supported them; Italy obtained authorisation and stopped the squadrons.

This show of strength was widely reported and propagated by the national press at home¹⁴ and aroused the enthusiasm and pride of the Italian communities in the Levant, especially in Smyrna where patriotic demonstrations were continuous. With annoyance the French consul in the city wrote:¹⁵

Since the famous naval demonstration was halted en route, they [the Italians of Smyrna] have really become unbearable and all their coryphées are constantly shouting in all the cafés that no Power, not even England, would have been capable of mobilising its fleet in 24 hours as Italy was able to do very recently. If, as has been announced, the Italian squadron is soon to go to Smyrna [a crusade to the Levant to ‘show the flag’ had already been planned before this incident, author’s note], we can expect demonstrations that will be all the more noisy as spirits in the Italian colony seem literally intoxicated by the supposed success achieved by their country’s diplomacy and the consular authorities seem willing to maintain this enthusiasm [...] It would therefore seem that, for the time being, the Consul, the Authorities and the Italian colonists are inclined to be over-zealous and are only waiting for the arrival of the Wing to let

13 Camera dei Deputati, 2.04.1906, p. 7616, answered 12.04.1906, p. 8051.

14 “La Tribuna”, “L’Illustrazione Italiana” and others, as well as the entire daily press. See the major daily newspapers from 21.04.1908: *La Stampa*, for example, devoted its entire front page and half of the second page to this topic.

15 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives Diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c.

501. French Consul General in Smyrna to the Foreign Minister, 20 May 1908. The consul concluded by suggesting to his government that it should make it clear that Italy was not the only power capable of mobilising and deploying a fleet, and pointed out that if a decision were taken to send a fleet – the proposal was not accepted – it should not be inferior to the Italian fleet, so as not to undermine ‘our influence and prestige’.

their joy overflow and indulge in the most exuberant demonstrations in order to establish Italy's omnipotence. In reality, much ado is made of very little, and serious minds will certainly not be moved by this 'bluff', which is more irritating than really clever. However, although it is perhaps wise to imitate the imperturbable calm of the Turks and not to exaggerate the importance of this agitation, we should nevertheless take into account the fact that we are in the East and that the various elements living there side by side always attach some importance to manifestations of force in whatever form they occur.

It is understandable that the event was interpreted by the Italian community in Smyrna – frustrated in front of other Europeans for a role perceived as inferior – as an opportunity for social redemption and identity, for community and national pride. Even if it was ridiculed by the French embassy in Rome, which wrote in a confidential note about the enthusiasm aroused in Italy by the rapid mobilisation:¹⁶

There is a very respectable sense of patriotism in these outbursts of self-love, but it is a little excessive in that it is based, as always here, on appearances: "far figura" (keeping up appearance) is an essentially national character; and people are happy to go without a roast, as long as they can drive by car.



Fig. B1: As proof of the central significance and importance of the post office, this small map shows the location of the seven post offices in the city at the beginning of the 20th century.¹⁷

16 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, c. 501. Embassy of the French Republic to His Majesty the King of Italy, 20.06.1908.

17 Source: Brockhaus' Konversations-Lexikon. 14th ed., Leipzig: Brockhaus, 1892–1896. Map in vol. 14 opp. p.1048. Online: <https://archive.org/details/brockhauskonvers14leip/page/n1234/mode/1up>.

The Italian Post Office in Smyrna

Between May and June 1908, the planned Italian post offices were opened. For the first time, these were high-ranking offices, i.e. run by career staff from the homeland and not by consuls or local staff. The Italian post office in Smyrna was opened on 16th May 1908.¹⁸

Several post offices were operating in the city at the time. The Ottoman one was located in a large building on the quais – the waterfronts – and so was the Russian one: in the Honischer building; the French and German ones (again in the Honischer building, on the side towards the interior of the city) in the *Rue Parallèle*, i.e. the avenue parallel to the quays, separated by a series of blocks.¹⁹ The English one in the consulate in the *rue Franque*, further inland, the Austrian one a little further north, in the Ténékidhi quarter. In fact, they were all grouped together (except for the Austrian branch at the bazaar, further south) in an area of less than 500 metres between the sea and the Franco quarter, i.e. the central quarter. There was also the Austrian Lloyd office, in the building next to the Ottoman Post Office.²⁰ The Eastern Telegraph office was located on the north side of the quays.

There are no sources on the location of the Italian office other than photographs. In these two photo postcards, taken a few years apart, one can see the same view of the quays, with the same buildings. On the ground floor of the building on the right in the foreground is the agency of the Messageries Maritimes, the French shipping company that managed the sea post, as can be seen from the sign (*fig. 1*). The next postcard shows, in what are undoubtedly the same premises, evidently vacated by the Messageries, the new Italian post office, with the sign “RR. POSTE ITALIANE.” The premises can be better appreciated in *fig. 3*. Above the dark door under the balcony there is another sign with a flag, on which we can read, in the second line (the first is illegible): “Poste Russes”. On the right of the image, not framed and at the photographer’s height, was the headquarters of the Ottoman post office, which can be seen in *fig. 4*.

The director of the Italian office was *Cavaliere* O. Fossati; the employees in 1908 were Domenico Calicich, Umberto Filidei, Umberto Patierno and Enrico Tedeschi. In 1912, the controller Cav. Francesco Maggiotto was added, and the employees Calicich and Filidei were replaced by Federico Walter and Isaac Ventura. Other probable Italians – at least from their surnames – worked at the English office (E. Vedova, clerk); the French office (B. Valentini, director; clerks N. Armao, S. Valentini); and the Austrian office, where they may have come from the Italian provinces of the Empire (Trentino, Gorizia, Istria, Fiume, Dalmatia): Ferdinando de Galateo, director; Riccardo Brazzafolli, Geo. Vianello, Giuseppe Petrizza.²¹

As part of the patriotic fervour that had spread throughout the Italian community after the ‘show of strength’ and the opening of the office, there was a lapse in the consul’s style. As his French colleague reported:²²

The Consul General of Italy has just published an official notice in the “Corriere di Smirne” announcing the opening of the new Italian office and telling his constituents that it is their duty to give their business to the Italian office. There is advice and recommendations which are usefully given in the secrecy of the Cabinet but which it would be clumsy and in bad taste to publish in a sheet of paper circulating in the streets, cafés and all public places.

18 The establishment, which initially took place *de facto*, was formalised by Royal Decree Nn. 611 of 19.06.1909.

19 Incidentally, the quays (*quais*), Rue Parallèle and other streets in the city were paved with lava stones from Vesuvius.

20 Some (but not all) locations are listed in the series of the above-mentioned *Annuaire Oriental*. I would like to thank Jean-Bernard Parenti for providing me with several issues and the reproduced photo post cards. Çorapçioğlu, 2019, is also very helpful.

21 *Annuaire Oriental*, 1914.

22 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c. 501. French Consul General in Izmir to the Foreign Minister, May 1908.

In this case, one cannot help but agree with the French consul on the lapse in style of his Italian colleague. However, there is no information on the success of the office, or rather on how well it was received, especially among his compatriots.²³ It seems that, for patriotic or practical reasons, the national community did in fact move from the Austrian office to the Italian one, which was also used, at least for some mail, by other European communities.

The office, which probably provided users with a room and writing equipment, thus became, like other public places, a place of socialising for the national community, especially on 'post days', i.e. the days when the dispatch to Italy departed or arrived (mails to Constantinople went daily by mail).



Figs. 1 and 2

The two postcards mentioned above show the same view of the quays, with the same buildings. In the one above, you can see the Messageries Maritimes agency.

In the one below, in what are undoubtedly the same premises, there is now the new Italian post office, with the sign "RR. POSTE ITALIANE"

(both cards courtesy of J.B. Parenti)



The office operated, of course, according to national postal regulations and performed all mail, parcel and money services. There arose, however – and it was the most serious issue of friction with the other European powers – the question of the rates charged.

In the 1860s and 1870s, in the European countries that had opened post offices in the Levant, the rate for a letter in the first weight step (about 15 grammes) for their own national territory varied

23 Mainly thanks to the examination of correspondence that has been preserved on the collectors' market.

between 15 and 20 centimes and they applied this rate in their Levant offices; the rates for foreign mail, on the other hand, as we have seen, varied according to destinations and special agreements. The creation of the General Postal Union had resolved this issue, establishing a single international tariff of 25 centimes (except for some remote areas) which came into force in 1876.

Since then, all European post offices in the Levant had adopted the international rate of 25 centimes for exchanges with the whole world, including their own metropolitan area.²⁴ The different offices operated at the same rates and competed with each other in terms of quality, variety of services offered, and frequency of exchange of dispatches.



Fig. 3:

The Italian post office
"RR POSTE ITALIANE"
in 1910²⁵

*The image belongs to
the collections of the
Ministry's Historical
Museum of
Communication, which
I would like to thank for
providing it.*

24 The Latin Monetary Union had been in force since 1866 and the participating currencies had the same value: the Italian lira, the Greek drachma, the French, Swiss and Belgian francs, the Spanish peseta, the Austrian krone and, later, the Russian rouble. The German mark and the British pound had not joined and had a different value, but the exchange rate ratio to the currencies of the Union was almost fixed.

25 Image source: Ministero per lo Sviluppo Economico, © Mise.



Fig. 4: Post-war postcard of the quays. In the centre, the white building had been the headquarters of the Italian office; opposite, across the street perpendicular to the sea, the darker building on the ground floor had been the headquarters of the Ottoman post office, and in the foreground on the right, where a flag is flying, had been the headquarters of the Austrian Lloyd maritime and postal agency (courtesy of J.B. Parenti).

On the other hand, when the Italian office in Smyrna opened and published its rates, it was immediately realised that it had not adhered to that established tariff agreement, because it offered the domestic rate (15 cents) for Italy and the other Italian post offices abroad. This meant that a letter to Italy but also to Constantinople or Thessaloniki (Italian offices) would have cost 10 centesimi less. Since the commercial traffic between Smyrna and those places was considerable, there would certainly have been a considerable drain of customers from all the other offices to the Italian one.

Fig. 5 shows the price list published by the office, divided into two sections, for Italy and its offices abroad, for the rest of the world. Note also the equivalent in Ottoman currency, circulating in city.²⁶

This breach of the tariff "cartel" prompted immediate protests from the other consuls. The French consul wrote:²⁷

What surprises the world here is the opinion given that the domestic tariff will be applied between the Smyrna office and all offices in Italy [...] In short, Italy is treating Turkey as a conquered country, settling in as if it were at home, and while all foreign post offices and Ottoman offices themselves are required to apply the international tariff, Italy claims the right to apply its own domestic tariff in its offices in the Levant. Turkey will certainly protest, and it seems to me that it is in the interest of the Powers that maintain post offices in the Levant to support the complaint that the Porte will send to the International Bureau in Bern [UPU]. The opinion I expressed above regarding the trends in Italian policy in Turkey was recently confirmed by a statement made by the inspector sent to set up the Italian office in Smyrna. When the Director of the Austrian post office expressed surprise that the Italian administration could

26 The leaflet had been enclosed with the French consul's report. The Ottoman currency was 40 paras per piastre; its actual exchange rate was 1 piastre for 22 centesimi, i.e. 20 paras for 11 c., 30 paras for 16½ c. The 'postal' exchange rate, on the other hand, was: 1 piastre = 20 or 25 c., 30 paras = 15 c., and 20 paras = 10 c.

27 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c. 501. Consul General of France in Izmir to the Foreign Minister, 20.05.1908.

consider applying its domestic tariff in Turkey, the inspector replied with great arrogance: "What do you expect? Wherever we Italians find ourselves, we consider ourselves at home."

Despite the scandal aroused by the application of the Italian tariffs, the French ambassador in Rome suggested doing the same for the French offices in the Levant "to help our trade in the region, which decreases every day in favour of that of Italy"²⁸ His suggestion was not adopted, the European Powers remained united in their positions and continued to put pressure on Italy, which finally had to give in: on 1st January 1909 in Smyrna (and in the other offices) the international tariff came into force for all consignments.

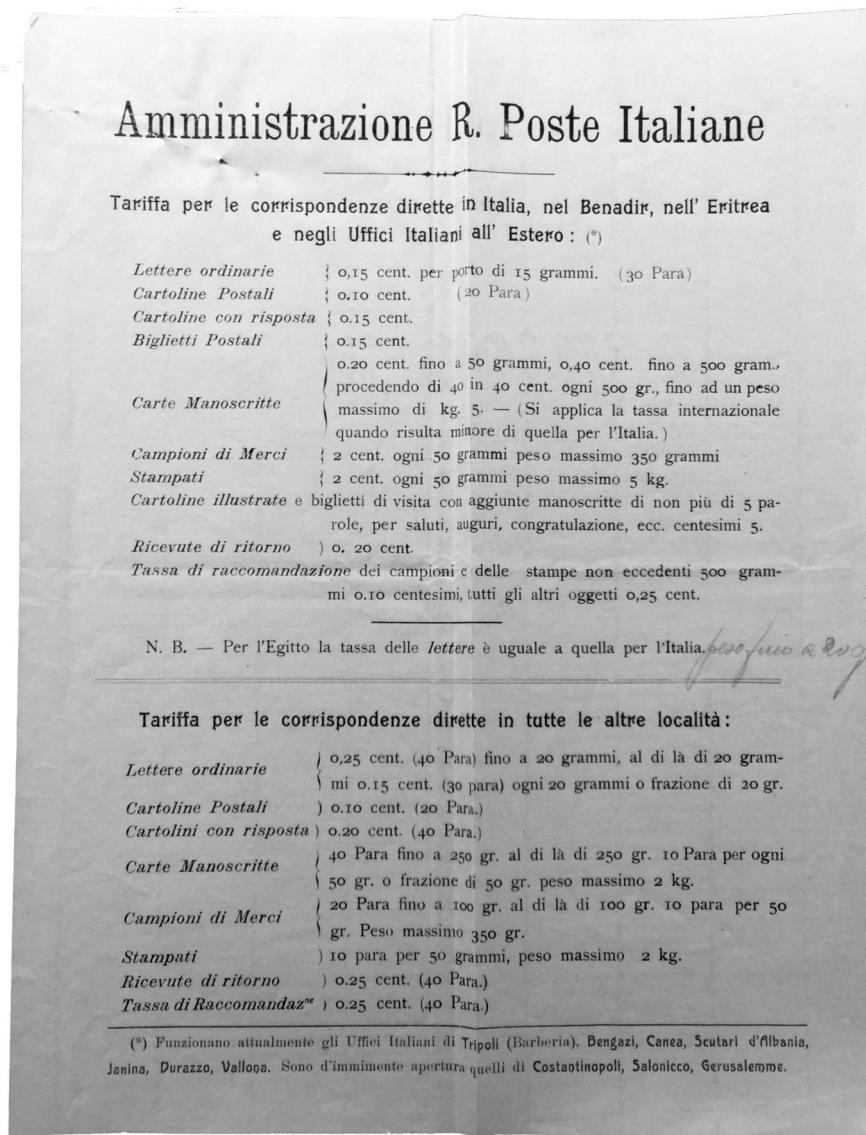


Fig. 5:

The flyer distributed by the newly opened Italian office.

For the franking of mail, the office was provided with the normal Italian postage stamps (postage stamps, postcards, etc.) for sale to the public, as well as, from February 1909, a dedicated series: i.e. eight Italian stamps and one postcard with the additional "SMIRNE" overprint and the value in local currency, i.e. 40 paras per piastre. The use of overprinting the values being distributed in offices abroad was common to all powers, dated back several years and, at first, met a technical need. The most common value was the 25 centesimi value, the rate of an ordinary letter; but as we have seen, it was usually sold in local currency piastre, the exchange value of which was 22 centesimi. It was therefore feared that large consignments of stamps would be purchased at 22 centesimi and then used at 25 centesimi at home, with damage to the treasury: the overprinting,

28 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c. 501. French Ambassador to Italy to the Foreign Secretary, 20.06.1908.

instead, would have made them unusable in Italy. Their use then continued, not so much because of this truly laughable possibility of profit, but mainly for prestige reasons and the flourishing philatelic market of the time.²⁹

The final phase before the war and the post-war epilogue

On 30th September 1911, due to the outbreak of hostilities between Italy and the Empire over the conquest of Libya, the Imperial government decided to sever postal relations with Italy and close its post offices on its territory, including the one in Smyrna. Italy entrusted its postal interests in the Empire to the German offices (relations with Austria were now cooling). The Italian community, which was deeply rooted in the city's commercial fabric, had largely remained in the city, and the Ottoman government soon realised the important role it played in the economy of the city (and other cities where there were significant communities). Therefore, on 30th November, "in the interests of the commercial transactions of Ottoman and foreign subjects", it restored postal communications with Italy through its own post offices. In May 1912, while the conflict continued and Italy had occupied the Dodecanese to force the Empire's hand, it decreed the expulsion of all Italian citizens residing in Smyrna. It was emptied of one of its historical components, which did not return completely after the Peace of Lausanne in December 1912 and had by then lost much of its role and economic capacity.³⁰

The Italian post office reopened in December 1912 and, despite the shrinking of the Italian community, from the second half of 1913 it saw an increase in traffic because some users of the French office turned to it, due to staff shortages: in fact, only the director was working there and had to take care of everything, with obvious and continuous delays.

In any case, the offices that undoubtedly had the highest volumes of traffic were the German and Austrian ones. There are no data on the volumes of mail handled, but the number of employees (including clerks, shop assistants and delivery staff) in each office is known, which is a very clear indicator: Russian and English offices: 6 people; Italian and French: 9 people; German: 10 people; Austrian: 18 people.³¹

On 30th September 1914, the Empire, having entered the European conflict, decreed the end of the capitulation regime and, consequently, of all foreign post offices.

With the armistice of 30th October 1918 and the military occupation of some areas of the Ottoman Empire by the Entente, Italian troops entered the city and the Italian Army opened its own military post office, i.e. a post office with the same technical characteristics as civilian ones, but managed by the military and reserved for them. The Smyrna office began service on 1 March and was identified by the number 171.³² It was not located in the pre-war office premises, but in those formerly occupied by the Austrian Lloyd (figs. 4, 6 and 8), before moving to the building next to the one that housed the pre-war office, next to the Poseidon café (figs. 4 and 7).³³

29 These stamps and postcards are listed separately in special philatelic catalogues. The philatelic works that best describe them and place them in context are Crevato-Selvaggi, 2006, pp. 189–193, and Filanci, 2014, pp. 119–121.

30 The expulsion of Italians from Smyrna was decided on 9.05.1912, followed by the expulsion of Italians from Constantinople on 28.05.1912. The Italian occupation of the Dodecanese resulted in a sharp increase in postal traffic at the French post office in Smyrna, as all mail from the Ottoman Empire to the occupied islands, as well as mail to mainland Greece and Crete, which had previously been transported by the German postal service, was now routed there. Reich to the occupied islands, as well as mail to mainland Greece and Crete, which had previously been transported via the German postal service, was now routed there.

Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c. 380, Memoria from the chief administrator of the French post office in Smyrna, B. Valentini, to the French consul in Smyrna, 22.01.1914.

31 Paris, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Archives diplomatiques, Unions Internationales période 1907–1944, c. 380, "Personnel comprising the foreign posts in Smyrna" 29.01.1914.

32 For security reasons, military post offices were not identified by name, but rather by conventional numbering. Crevato-Selvaggi & Macrelli, 2018/19, vol. 2, p. 320.

33 The postcard in Fig. 4 shows the darker building behind the white building, which housed the pre-war office.



Fig. 6: The first headquarters of the Italian military post office in Smyrna after the war, in the premises formerly occupied by the Austrian Lloyd maritime and postal agency.

(courtesy of J.B. Parenti)



Fig. 7: The office, with the "R.R. Poste Italiane" sign in its second location.

Given the limited presence of Italian military personnel in the city, the office mainly served civilians, although it never lost its military status. In fact, opening a military post office was the most practical way to reopen a post office for the surviving Italian community, and this – which was of little interest to the Army – was in fact opened at the request of the Foreign Ministry.

On 1st March 1919, the same day as with the Italian office, the British office also opened in the city, while the French reopened at the end of May (the three powers had each opened another one in Constantinople). Naturally, the Austrian, German and Russian ones were no longer there. On 15th May 1919, in accordance with the Mudros Armistice between the Empire and the Allies, which assigned the Smyrna area to Greece, Greek troops landed in the city and also opened their own office for the population. For consignments within the empire, the population used the Ottoman postal service, which was also present, while for despatches abroad, they relied on the foreign offices.

Meanwhile, the political and military situation was deteriorating. In August 1920, the Empire signed the Treaty of Sèvres with the Allied Powers, which provided for a drastic reduction of its territory and, in particular, the cession of Smyrna and its region to Greece. However, the Ottoman parliament never ratified the treaty, and General Mustafa Kemal, who had placed himself at the head of the nationalist troops, began a campaign of reconquest. On 9th September 1922, Turkish nationalist troops entered the city and engaged in indiscriminate massacres of the local Christian populations. On 13th September, a great fire broke out, which lasted four days, destroyed most of the Greek,

Armenian and European quarters and caused some 30,000 casualties. The survivors (Smyrna residents and Greeks from the interior who had taken refuge in the city when the Turkish troops arrived) abandoned the city, which completely changed its ethnic and cultural character.

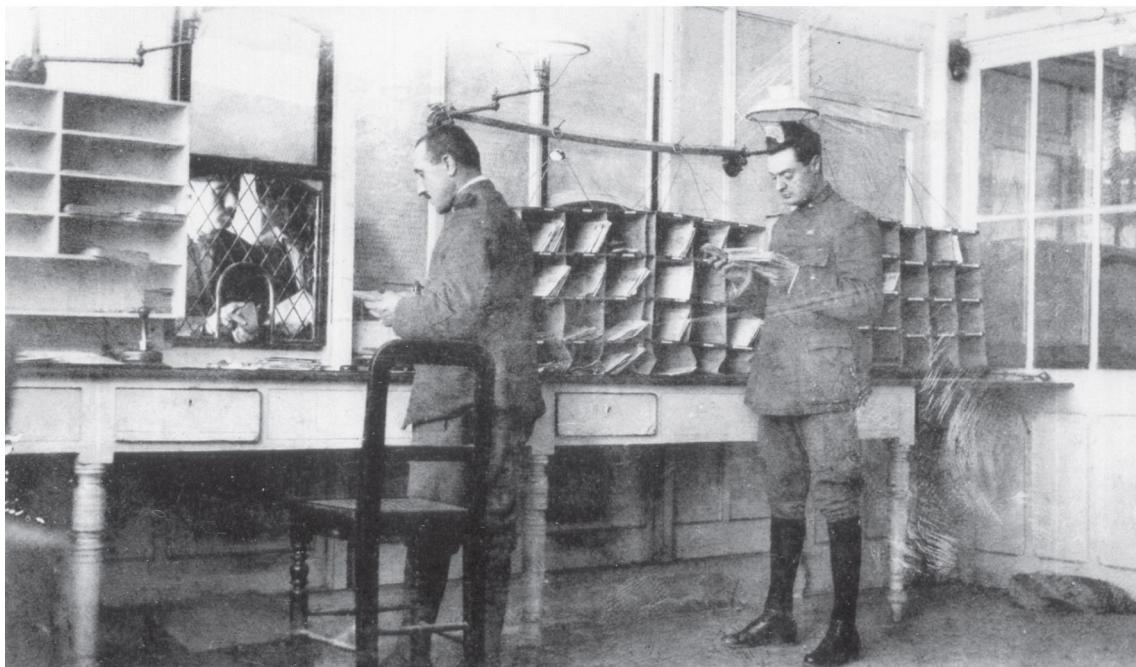


Fig. 8: The interior of the military post office in its first location.
The customer at the counter is a civilian (*private collection*).

The European post offices naturally ceased operations during the fire: After it ended, the Italian office fortunately resumed operations and then began operating more regularly from the beginning of October 1922. It remained the only European office in the city and handled all the traffic of the survivors. The French office also reopened, while the British office never reopened.

However, the situation had changed radically: the nationalist troops were victorious and the Republic of Turkey had replaced the Ottoman Empire. The new Treaty of Lausanne of 24th July 1923 cancelled the Treaty of Sèvres and confirmed the new situation. In the meantime, the two post offices, the Italian and the French, had closed on 15th June 1923: Smyrna had definitively become İzmir.³⁴

Conclusions

The European post offices in the Levant were important centres for their respective national communities and, more generally, for commercial activities in Smyrna and other markets. Created to contribute to national economies, thanks to the great favour they enjoyed among both Europeans and Ottomans, at a certain point they themselves became engines of economic growth, generating significant profits, to the extent that they became strong competitors with each other. They also played a not insignificant political role in the relations of the various powers with the Porte and among themselves, constantly striving to extend their influence but also their prestige.

Italy had not shown political interest in the area despite the presence of strong national communities in the main commercial centres (Constantinople, Thessaloniki, Smyrna). When it changed its policy, as the last of the Powers to do so, and decided to open its own post offices, it was motivated by reasons of prestige and attempts to exert influence at least equal to those of an economic nature. In any case, it attempted to increase its share of the market with a particularly reckless tariff policy, which began in Smyrna but then failed to be sustained. Even on a technical level – reliability, frequency, speed of service – it failed to erode the absolute primacy of the Austrian network

34 Bollettino del Ministero delle Poste e dei Telegrafi, 1.09.1923.

throughout the Levant. The situation described in Smyrna is representative of the entire region. On the international political front, however, there was friction with France, which by the last thirty years of the nineteenth century had won the cultural and linguistic battle in the city and was a direct competitor in European trade.

From the point of view of the Italian office's reception in the national community, in addition to reports on the events of 1908 and reports on the use of the various offices, the social role of the office in the community's consciousness remains to be investigated, as well as whether and how the Italian office had reshaped its habits. Here, the sources are scarce, if not non-existent, and can only give us a very vague picture of what, in terms of size and social centrality, between 1908 and 1914 must have been one of the main points of reference for the national community towards Italy, on a par with the Consulate and the Chamber of Commerce.

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İstanbul Views on Ottoman Postcards

Part 5: The Dolmabahçe Palace

by Hakan Yılmaz (edited by Tobias Zywietz)

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Introduction

The Dolmabahçe Palace (Dolmabahçe Sarayı) is an Ottoman Imperial palace located in Istanbul. The construction of the palace was initiated during the reign of Sultan Abdülmecid I (1839–1861), spanning from 1843 to 1856, and was situated along the Bosphorus seafront. The architectural style of the palace is categorised as neo-Baroque, alternatively referred to as Turkish Rococo. The design of the palace is attributed to Garabet Amira Balyan,¹ and the complex consists of two wings, surrounded by additional structures, including several large gates, a clock tower, and a mosque. The palace functioned as an administrative centre during the Ottoman period (1856–1887 and 1909–1922), as the residence of the President of the Turkish Republic (after 1922), and was fully opened to the public in 1952.

The Site

The Dolmabahçe Palace is located on the European shore of the Bosphorus in the Beşiktaş district. The site was originally a bay that was utilised by the Ottoman navy, which silted up in the 17th century.² An Imperial Garden (Hasbahçe, Hadayik-Hassâ) with multiple residences was constructed on the site, which covers an area of more than 100,000 m². The site is bordered to the east by the Bosphorus and by a steep drop to the west. The name of the site is reflective of this, with *dolma* signifying ‘filled’ and *bahçe* denoting ‘garden’, thus rendering Dolmabahçe as ‘the garden on filled-in land.’ The complex of small summer palaces, mansions and wooden pavilions erected during the 18th and 19th centuries was known as the Beşiktaş Waterfront Palace (Beşiktaş Sahil Sarayı).

Construction

The Sultan and his family had resided at the Topkapı Palace, but the medieval complex was lacking contemporary style, luxury and comfort when compared to the palaces of European monarchs.³ During the reign of Sultan Abdülmecid I, the Beşiktaş Waterfront Palace had also become impractical and was regarded as outdated and old-fashioned. The expansion of European cultural influence resulted in the adoption of Western standards within the Ottoman Empire, as evidenced by the Sultan’s commissioning of a new representative residence.

The demolition of the Beşiktaş Waterfront Palace was followed by the conception of a new palace, Dolmabahçe Palace, which was planned by the architect Garabet Balyan, Nigoğayos Balyan,⁴

1 Garabet (Karabet) Amira Balyan (Balean) (1800–1866), son of Krikor Amira Balyan.

2 It is said that from here Sultan Mehmed II had his ships hauled over a wooden ramp to circumvent the defences of the Golden Horn. The Ottoman naval fleet used to anchor in the bay and naval ceremonies were held here by the Kaptan-ı Derya (Admiral of the Fleet).

3 Selim III was the first Sultan to commission buildings in the Western style along the Bosphorus: a pavilion at Beşiktaş Palace (architect: Antoine-Ignace Melling). Mahmud II had two large palaces built in the gardens of Beylerbeyi and Çırağan, in addition to the Topkapı Seaside Palace (Topkapı Sahil Sarayı). The New Palace (Topkapı Palace, Saray-ı Cedide-i Âmire) was effectively abandoned as the Sultan mainly resided at Beylerbeyi, Çırağan (Ortaköy), the old Beşiktaş Palace, and the pavilions at Dolmabahçe.

4 Nigoğayos (Nikogios) Balyan (Balean) (1826–1858), son of Garabet Amira Balyan. His brother Sarkis Bey Balyan (1835–1899) was also involved.

Ohannes Serveryan,⁵ Evanis Kalfa,⁶ and William James Smith.⁷ The construction was supervised by Hacı Said Ağa (1843–1850) and Esseyid Ali Şahin Bey (1850–1856).

The construction costs amounted to approximately five million Ottoman gold lira, which at the time corresponded to about a quarter of the Ottoman state's annual tax revenue.⁸ The instrument used to raise these enormous funds was the issue of paper money and more foreign loans. This financial mismanagement placed an enormous strain on the state treasury and contributed significantly to the Ottoman Empire's bankruptcy in 1875. By 1881, a significant proportion of the revenue stream had been ceded to the control of the state's debtors in the form of the ADPO.⁹

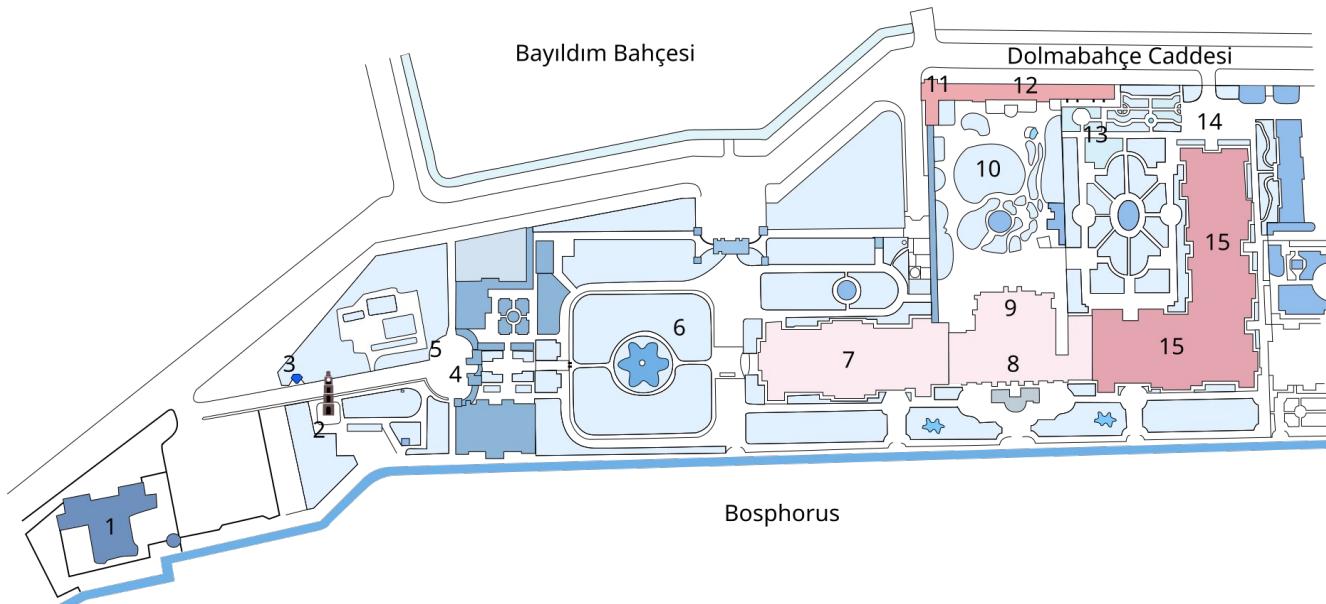


Fig. 1: Modern plan of Dolmabahçe Palace.¹⁰ 1. Mosque of the Queen Mother (Valide Sultan Camii); 2. Clock Tower (Saat Kulesi), 3. Police Station (Polis), 4. Treasury Gate (Hazine Kapısı), 5. Ticket Office (Bilet Gişesi), 6. Selamlık Garden (Selamlık Bahçesi), 7. Selamlık, 8. Hediye Eşya, 9. Muayede Salonu, 10. Garden (Bahçe), 11. Camlı Kiosk (Camlı Köşk), 12. Clock Museum (Saat Müzesi), 13. Harem Garden (Harem Bahçesi), 14. Entrance of Harem (Harem Giriş), 15. Harem.

Relocation from Topkapı Palace, Official and Public Usage

The construction of the building was completed in 1855, but due to the war with Russia, the official opening of the palace did not take place until after the Paris Treaty had been signed on 30th March 1856, contemporary reports suggest 7th June 1856. Following the completion of the Dolmabahçe Palace, the court and its officials relocated from the former Topkapı Palace. Henceforth, and continuing until the dissolution of the monarchy, Dolmabahçe Palace was to serve as the official residence of the monarch.

Despite the considerable effort expended, Sultan Abdülmecid I, who died in 1861, resided at the Dolmabahçe Palace for only the final five years of his reign. It is estimated that the annual expenses, including the wages of approximately 5,000 servants, amounted to 2 million lira.

5 Ohannes Amira Serveryan (1786-1858), brother-in-law to Garabet Amira Balyan.

6 Another member of the Balyan dynasty.

7 William James Smith, British architect (1807–1884), he constructed the new British Embassy.

8 Comparable to 35 tonnes of gold, or 2 billion US-Dollars in today's prices.

9 Administration de la Dette Publique Ottomane = Ottoman Public Debt Administration, OPDA.

10 Gryffindor [pseud.]: *Dolmabahce Palace Plan*. 21.03.2010. In: Wikimedia Commons. Online:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dolmabahce_Palace_plan.svg \(CC-BY 4.0 International\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dolmabahce_Palace_plan.svg).

The palace thus served as the residence of these Ottoman monarchs:

Sultan Abdülmecid I (1856–1861), Sultan Abdülaziz (1861–1876); Sultan Murad V (1876); Sultan Abdülhamid II (1876–1880, when he moved to Yıldız Palace);¹¹ Sultan Mehmed V (1909–1918); Sultan Mehmed VI (1918–1922); as well as the last Caliph Abdülmecid II (1922).



*Figs. 2–7: The six Sultans:
Sultan Abdülmecid I, Sultan Abdülaziz; Sultan Murad V;
Sultan Abdülhamid II; Sultan Mehmed V; and Sultan Mehmed VI.*

¹¹ When Mehmed V ascended the throne, the Dolmabahçe Palace had been neglected for thirty years and was in a state of disrepair. The building required extensive restoration, which was overseen by the chief architect Mihran Mesrobyan.

The National Assembly also met at the Palace, and offices of the Parliament were situated there.



Fig. 8: Newspaper photograph of the Sultan arriving on occasion of the opening of the National Assembly at the Dolmabahçe Palace on 1.11.1915.

Source: Newspaper (دۇنانمâ = navy) of 18.11.1915.

During the Republic era, the palace served as a presidential residence, a function that subsequently transferred to Çankaya Köşkü in Ankara in 1923. It was not until later that Mustafa Kemal made use of the palace as his residence when staying in İstanbul. Following the establishment of the new Turkish Republic on 3rd March 1924, ownership of the palace was transferred to the newly formed National Palaces Directorate (Millî Saraylar Müdürlüğü).¹²

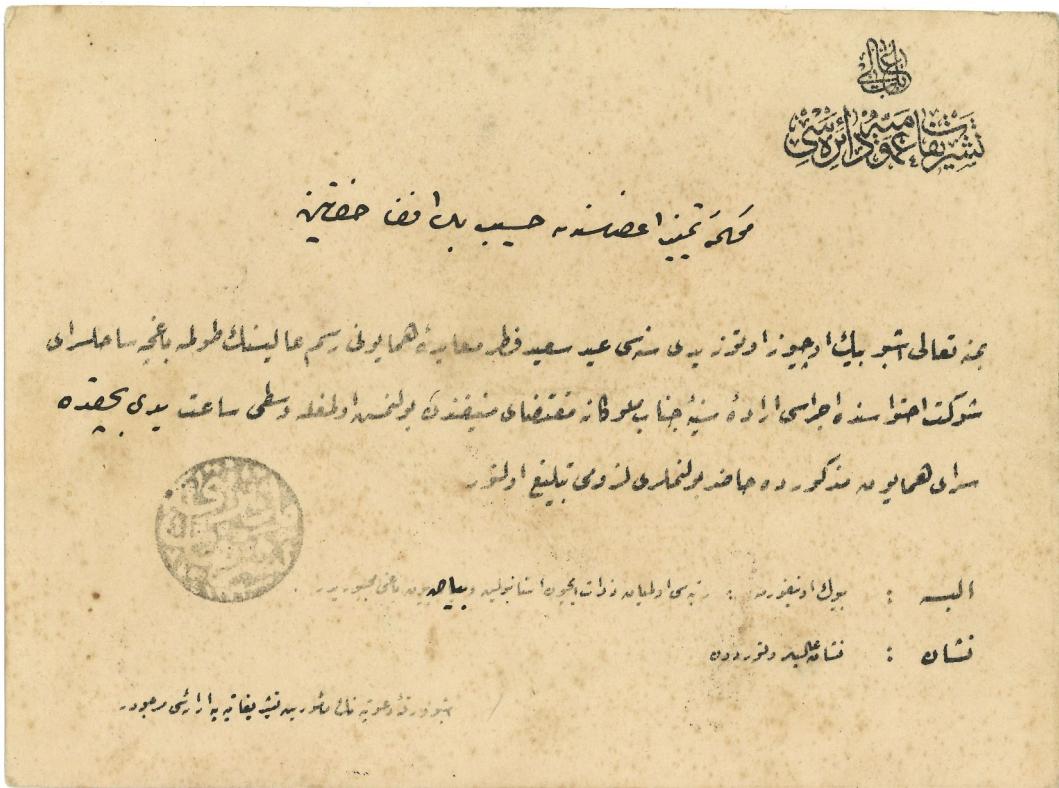
During the term of President Atatürk, a significant number of foreign dignitaries were hosted during state visits: the Shah of Iran, King Faisal of Iraq, King Abdullah of Jordan, King Amanullah of Afghanistan, King Edward VIII, President de Gaulle, King Alexander of Yugoslavia, and numerous others. The palace also played host to two significant events in the history of Turkish academia: namely, the 1st and 2nd Turkish History Congresses (Türk Tarih Kongresi, 1932 and 1937) and the 1st and 2nd Turkish Language Congresses (Türk Dili Kurultayı, 1932 and 1934).¹³

Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk) spent the last days of his medical treatment here: he died in Room 71 on 10th November 1938 and his body was laid in state in the Muayede Hall (Muayede Salonu).

The palace functioned as a presidential residence during the term of President İsmet İnönü until 1949. Following its initial opening to the public on a select number of days in 1952, the palace gradually began to welcome visitors on an expanded scale; it was opened to public permanently as a museum in 1984. The palace is managed by the Directorate of National Palaces (Millî Saraylar Daire Başkanlığı, from 2018: Millî Saraylar İdaresi Başkanlığı). It continues to be used for state visits and official occasions by the Turkish government.

12 Articles 8–10 of Law no. 431 of 3.03.1924. The same law also abolished the Caliphate.

13 Held by the Turkish Language Research Society (Türk Dili Tetkik Cemiyeti).



Figs. 9 and 10: Invitation for His Excellency Hasib Beğ (Bey) Efendi, Member of the Appeals Court by of the Sublime Porte's General Court of Ceremonies, to attend a ceremony on the "execution of the official imperial edict of the year 1337" in the Dolmabahçe Seaside Palace. Mandatory dress: Grand Uniform and Istanbul white for those without rank.



Seal: Directorate of Ceremonies 1279.



Fig. 11: Postcard commemorating the installment of the new Sultan Mehmed V. Reşad with generals Ahmed Niyazi Bey (Neazi Bey) and Enver Bey (Enver Pasha).

General Architecture

The white marble building measures 600 metres in length and covers an area of 45,000 m². The complex comprises 46 halls, 285 rooms, six *hammāms* and 68 bathrooms. It is the largest palace in Turkey. The exterior appearance, as seen from the Bosphorus, is that of a classic European two-winged complex, divided by a large central avant corps and a further two avant corps on each side.

The design incorporates a variety of elements from the Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical styles, which have been integrated with traditional Ottoman architectural features to create a novel synthesis, indicative of the increasing influence of European styles and standards on Ottoman culture and art.

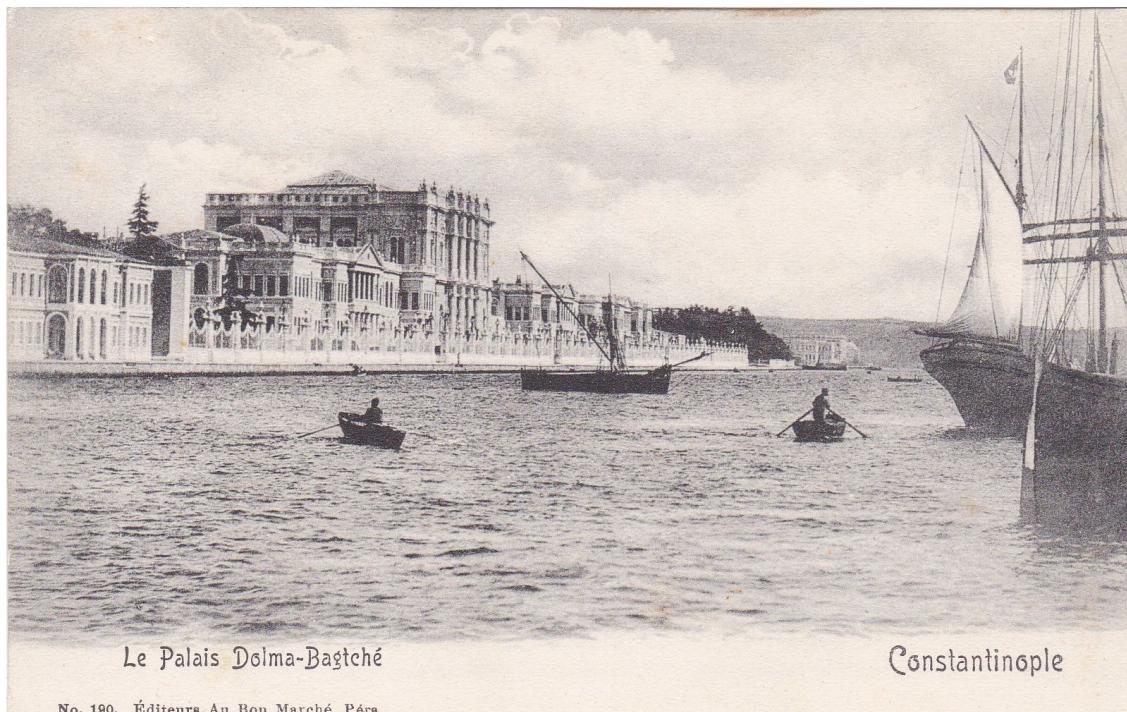


Fig. 12: "Constantinople – Le Palais Dolma-Bagtché".
Publisher: Au Bon Marché, Péra, no 190.

The interior displays a more traditional layout, strictly organised into distinct sections: the northern wing accommodates the expansive living quarters and the harem (Harem-i Hümâyûn), while the southern wing (Mabeyn-i Hümâyûn or Selamlık), houses the public representation halls. The wings are separated and connected by the 2,000 m² large reception hall (Muayede Salonu) and its 36 metre high dome and 56 columns. There are two regular floors, one attic and one basement.

The seafront façade is characterised by five monumental portals, each adorned with a crown, iron wings, and medallions that are intricately embellished with plant motifs. The terrace that overlooks the Bosphorus is separated from the shore by a substantial fence, with gates leading to the landing bridge. The ensemble is completed by the Sultan's Gate to the north, the smaller Treasury Gate to the west, the clock tower and the mosque to the south.

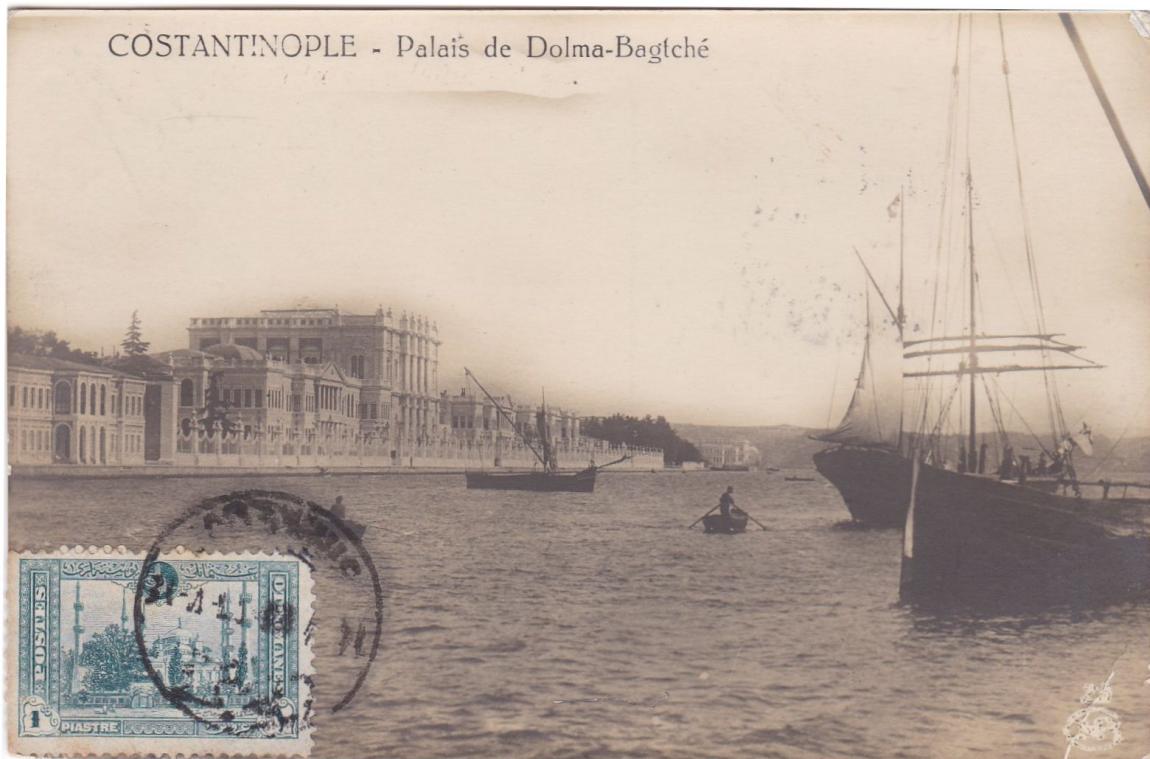


Fig. 13: "Constantinople – Palais de Dolma-Bagtché".
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 14: "Salut du Bosphore – Palais de Dolma-Bagtché".
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 15: "Salut de Constantinople – Palais de Dolma Baghtchène".
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 16: "Salut de Constantinople. Palais de Dolma Bactchê."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 96.



Fig. 17: "Constantinople. Le Palais de Dolma Bagtché."
Unknown publisher. Photographer: Andriomenos. Used in 1903.



Fig. 18: "Constantinople. Palais de Dolma-Baghtché."
Publisher: Max Fruchtermann, Constantinople. Card no. 1128.

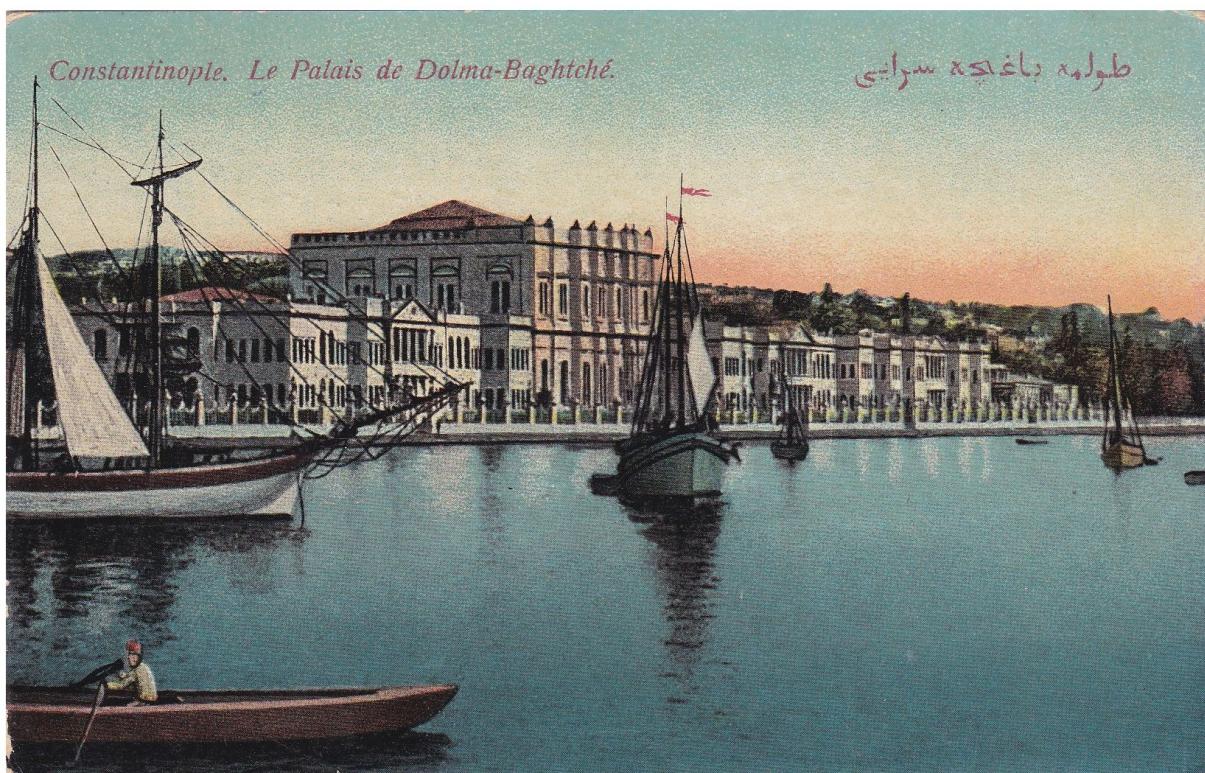


Fig. 19: "Constantinople. Le Palais de Dolma-Baghtché."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 325.



Fig. 20: "Constantinople. Palais Impérial de Dolma-Bagtché. Bosphore."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 167.



Fig. 21: "Constantinople. — Palais impérial de Dolma-Baghtché."
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 22: "Salut de Constantinople. Palais de Dolma-Bachtché." Used in 1905,
Unknown publisher. Card no. 8802 (?).

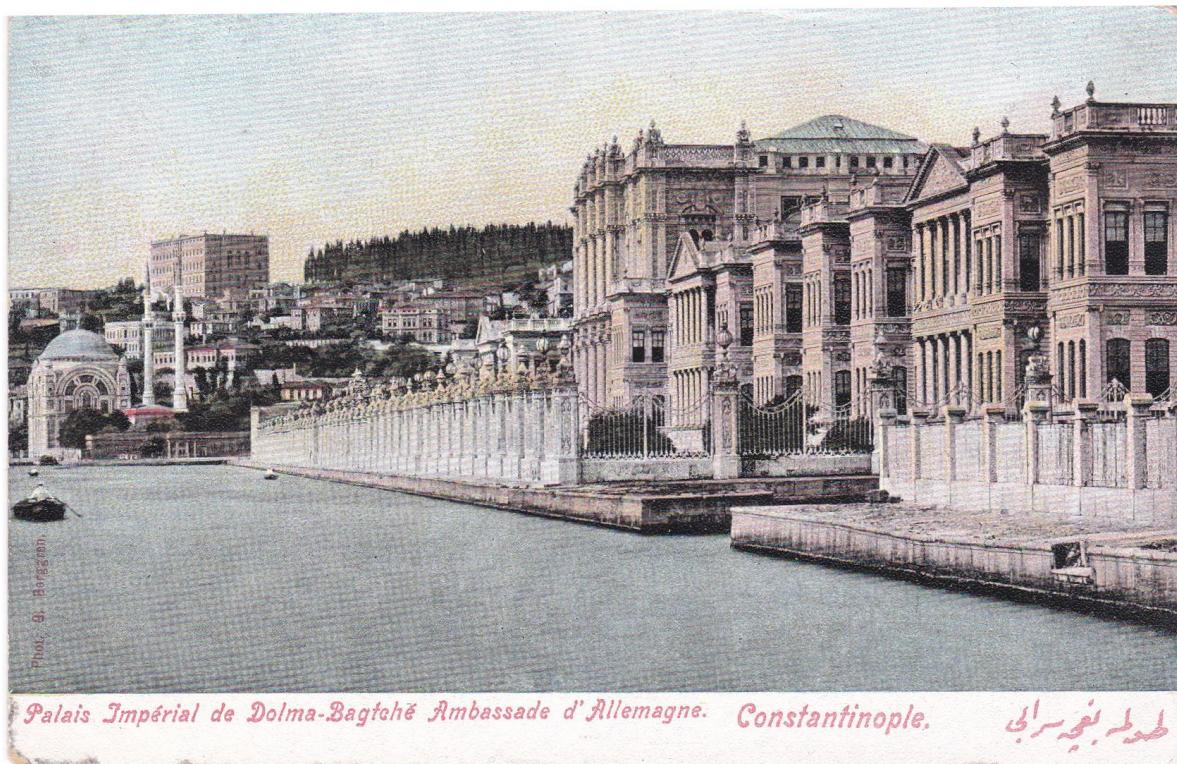


Fig. 23: "Palais Impérial de Dolma-Bagtché Ambassade d'Allemagne. Constantinople."
 (German embassy on the right)
 Unknown publisher. Photographer: B. Berggren.



Fig. 24: "Dolma Bachtché – Salut de Constantinople".
 Unknown publisher.



Fig. 25: "Souvenir du Bosphore. Palais impérial de Dolma-Baghtché."
Publisher: Max Fruchterman, Constantinople. Card no. 330.



Fig. 26: "Constantinople. Le Palais Imperial de Dolma Baghtché."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 12.

The Stamps

During the First World War, Turkey was cut off from supplies of stamps printed in London. New stamps were printed in Vienna, including a set of three stamps denominated 10 piastres, that featured the Dolmabahçe Palace. These were later re-issued with overprints.



Figs. 27–29: The three stamps issued on 15.11.1916 (İSFILA 712–714, MiNr. 477–479).

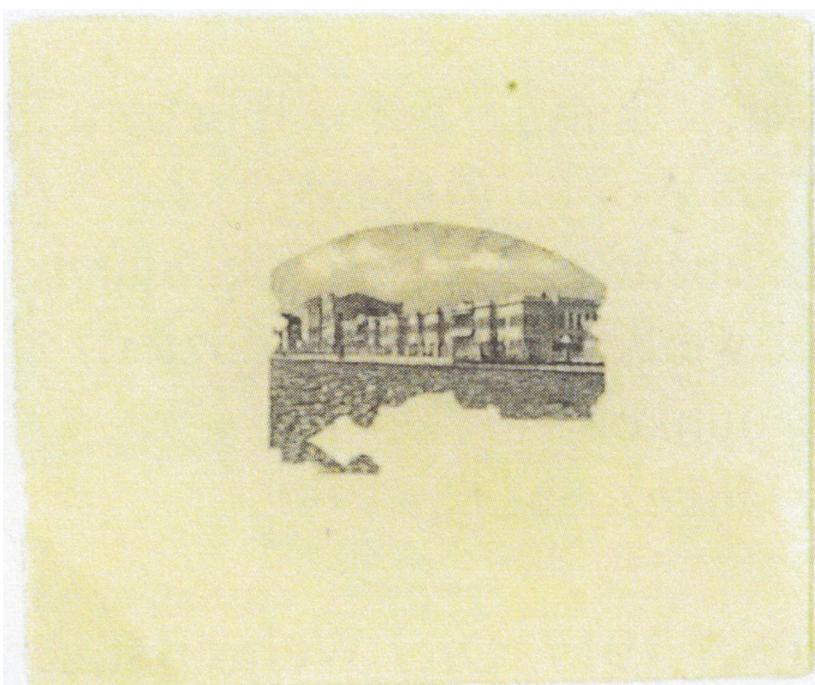


Fig. 30: Photo essay prepared by the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei in Vienna (İSFILA 712ES00). (courtesy of Necip Tokoğlu)



Fig. 31: Essay with both western and Arabic numerals (İSFILA 712ES01). (courtesy of Necip Tokoğlu)



Figs. 32 and 33:
Two 1919 overprints on
two of the 1916 10
piastres stamps featuring
the Palace.





Fig. 34: "Constantinople – Palais du Dolma – Bagtché – Bosphore".
Publisher: S. N. Nicolaïevitch.



Fig. 35: Constantinople, Vue Générale du Palais Impérial à Dolma-Bagtché, Bosphore. /
General View of the Imperial Palace, Dolma-Bagtché, Bosporus."
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 36: Constantinople – Palais Dolma Bagtché
Unknown publisher.

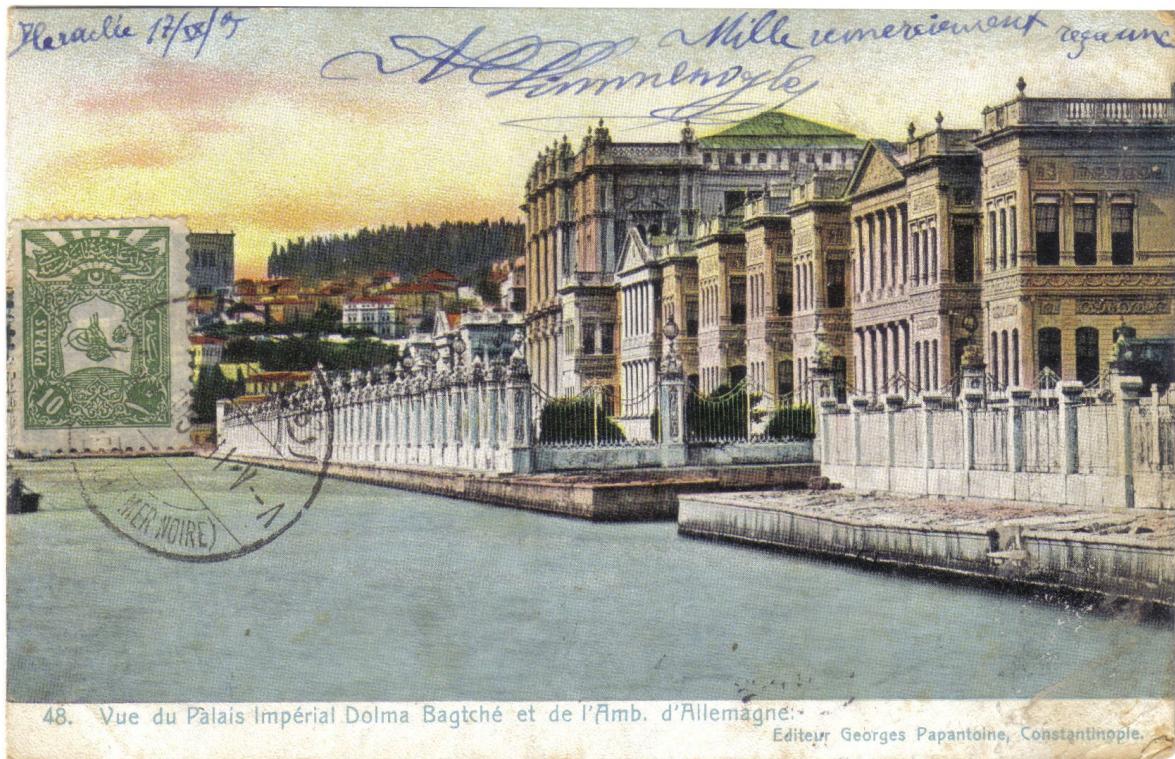


Fig. 37: Vue du Palais Impérial Dolma Bagtché et de l'Amb. d'Allemagne.
Publisher: Georges Papantone, Constantinople. Card no. 48. Used in 1905.



Fig. 38: "Souvenir de Constantinople. Palais de Dolma Bagtché."
Publisher: Max Fruchtermann, Constantinople. Card no. 1342.

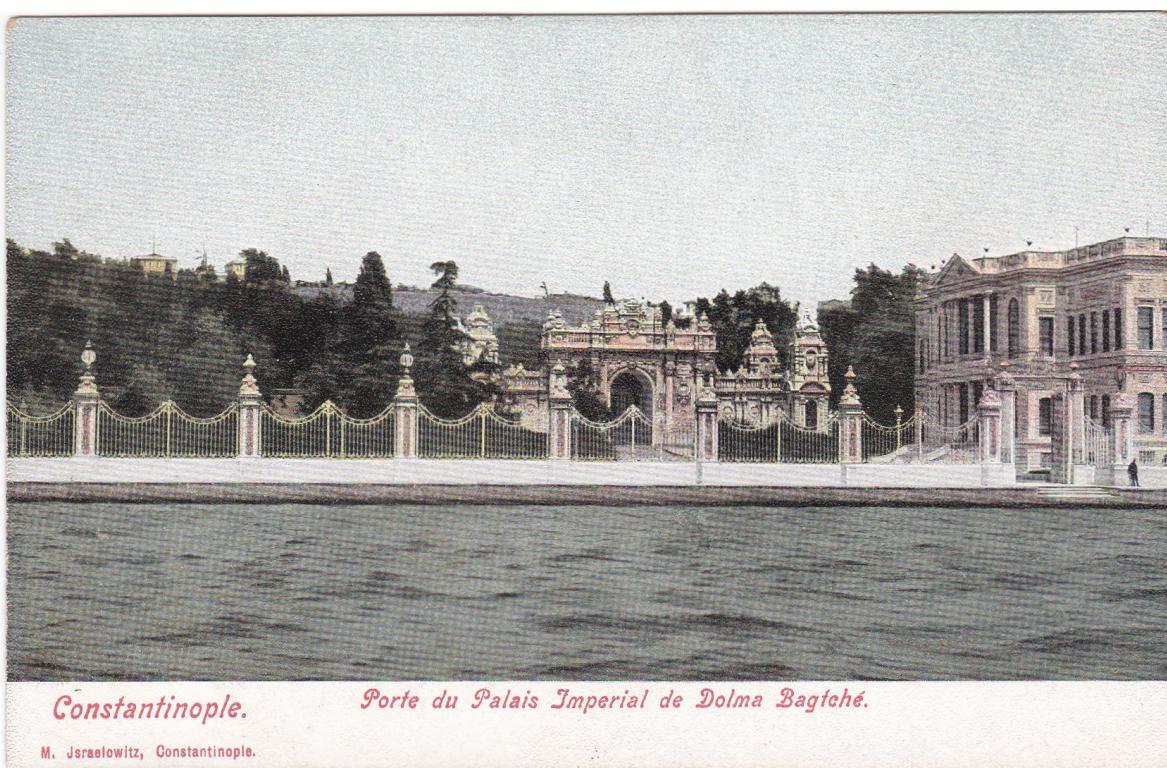


Fig. 39: "Constantinople. Porte du Palais Imperial de Dolma Bagtché."
Publisher: M. Israelowitz (MJC), Constantinople.



Fig. 40: Dolmabahçe Palace and the Bosphorus.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 41: "Constantinople. Palais de Dolma-Bagtsché au Bosphore."
Publisher: Isaac M. Ahitouv.

The Harem: Harem-i Hümâyûn

Due to the need for the harem to be completely isolated from the outside world, visitors to the palace had to enter through a narrow entrance on the southern side. The harem consists of eight interconnected apartments, each with its own bathroom. These apartments were designed to meet the needs of the Sultan's immediate entourage, including his wives, concubines, and further family members. The Harem wing (Harem-i Hümâyûn) also encompasses rooms intended for the residence and education of the Sultan's children, as well as the Sultan's personal living quarters. The Sultan permitted his wives and concubines to leave the palace only under strict supervision.

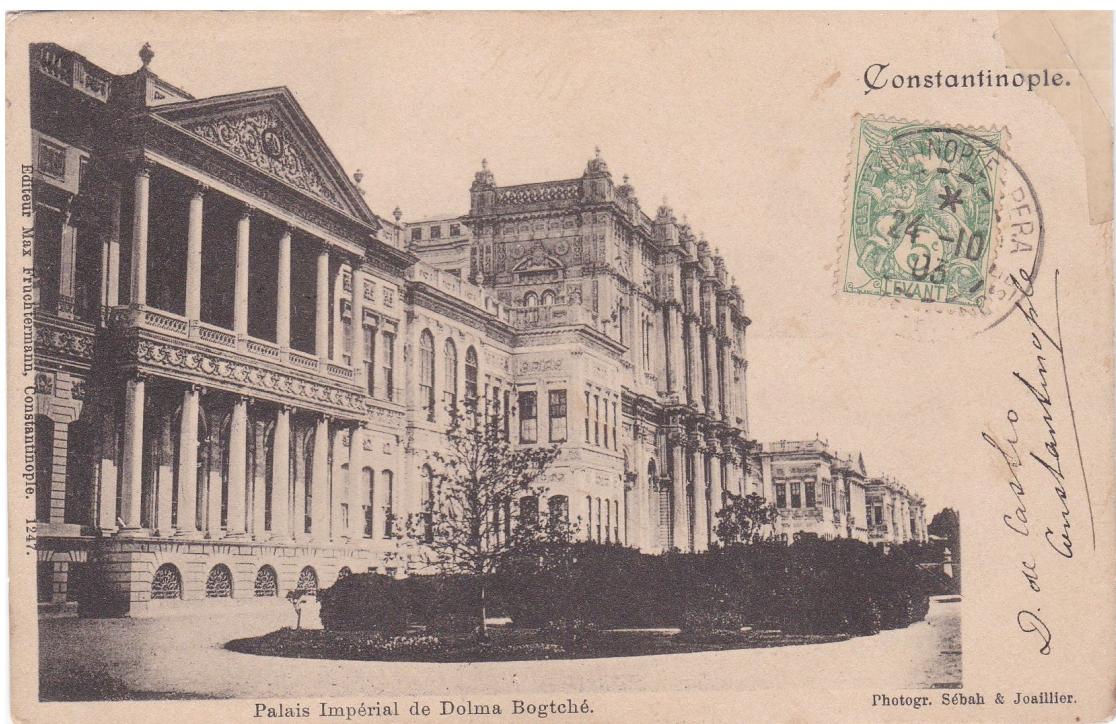


Fig. 42: "Constantinople. / Palais Impérial de Dolma Bogtché."
Publisher: Max Frunstermann, Constantinople. Card no. 1247. Photographers: Sébah & Joaillier.

The Interior

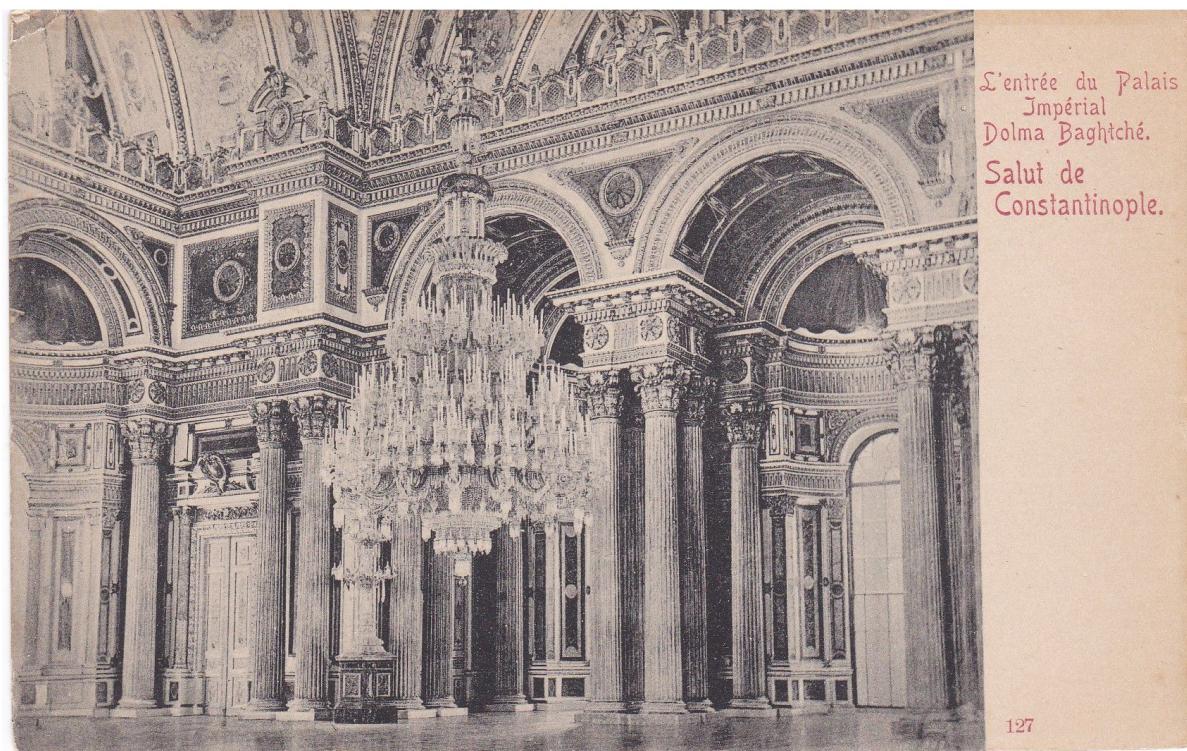
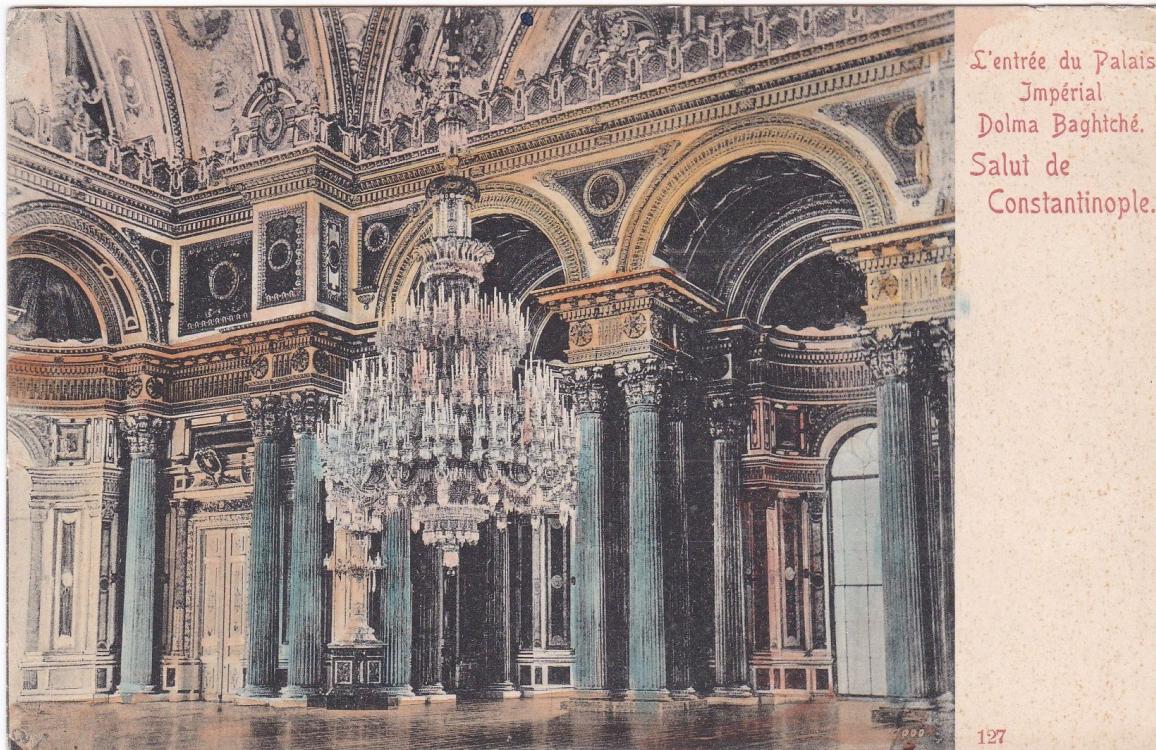
One remarkable feature is the palace's furnishings, which were state-of-the-art at the time. From the outset, the palace had gas lighting¹⁴ and water-flush toilets — technologies imported from Great Britain at a time when such amenities were unavailable in many continental European palaces. Later additions included an electrical power supply, central heating (with radiators replacing fireplaces, tile stoves, and braziers), and a lift.

While Topkapı Palace is renowned for its exquisite İznik tiles and Ottoman carvings, Dolmabahçe Palace is distinguished by its opulent gold and crystal decorations: 14 tonnes of gold were used for the palace ceilings alone, with an additional 100 kg used for gilding in the interior. The furniture is a mix of French styles (Régence, Louis XV, and Louis XVI), Viennese styles (such as Thonet) and traditional Turkish furniture and carpets.

The important rooms and halls each have their own colour scheme. All floors are covered with ornate wooden parquet in different designs. The palace contains many large silk and wool carpets and rugs, which were specially manufactured by the Hereke Imperial Factory. There are also bearskin rugs gifted by the Tsar.

¹⁴ Gas for lighting and heating was initially supplied by a gas works (Dolmabahçe Gazhanesi) adjacent to the palace stables (Dolmabahçe Sarayı Has Ahırları). Today these are the grounds of football stadium (BJK İnönü Stadyumu).

Plaster paintings (stucco) and the architectural compositions of the walls and ceiling create three-dimensional effects. Many Italian and French artists were commissioned, most notably Charles Polycarpe Séchan. The furnishings were enriched over the years with gifts from foreign statesmen and dignitaries. The interior decoration, furniture, silk carpets, curtains and other furnishings have largely survived in their original condition.



Figs. 43 and 44: "L'entrée du Palais Impérial de Dolma Baghtché. Salut de Constantinople."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 127.
Coloured and black & white versions.

Costly stones such as Marmara (proconnesian) marble, Egyptian calcite alabaster (onyx marble) and Pergamon porphyry were commonly used throughout the palace.

The Dolmabahçe Palace is home to the most extensive collection of crystal chandeliers from Bohemia, Nancy (Baccarat), and Beykoz. It is notable that the banister of the Sufera Salon, located within a grand staircase fashioned from mahogany and shaped in the form of a double horseshoe, has been crafted from crystal, as have been standing candlesticks, fireplaces, and mirrors throughout the residence. Exhibited are numerous vases and porcelains from Sèvres and Yıldız, as well as from China, Japan, and Europe: approximately 600 crystal and silver candlesticks are on display. The palace's rooms and halls are adorned with 158 clocks, each exhibiting a unique characteristic.

The Central Reception Hall (Muayede Salonu) is decorated with the largest chandelier in the world, comprising 750 light bulbs. It was once wrongly assumed to have been a gift from Queen Victoria. This huge ballroom, which features a 36 metre high dome and 56 columns, was originally heated by means of air streamed from the basement.

Over 600 oil paintings are on display including works by renowned artists such as Ivan Aivazovsky, Gustave Boulanger, Stanisław Chlebowski, Eugène Fromentin, Jean-Léon Gérôme, Karl Joseph Kuwasseg, Théophile van Rysselberghe, Sandor Alexander Svoboda, Félix Ziem and Fausto Zonaro. Amongst the Turkish notable artists are Osman Hamdi Bey, Halil Pasha, and Osman Nuri Pasha.



Fig. 45: "Constantinople. Porte du Palais Impérial de Dolma-Bagtché. /
Gate of the Imperial Palace of Dolma-Bagtché."
Unknown publisher.



The Main Entrance Hall (Medhal Salon) and Clerk's Hall (Sekreterlik Odaları)

The Dolmabahçe Palace is accessed by visitors via the Medhal Salon. The hall features a red colour scheme and is adorned by Boulle tables, a large English chandelier, Hereke fabrics and draperies.

The rooms oriented towards the Bosphorus were utilised by state officials, the Grand Vizier and ministers. In contrast, the rooms facing the land were employed by the palace administration, dignitaries (e.g. the Şeyhülislam)¹⁵ and members of the House of Representatives (Meclis-i Mebusan) and the Senate (Meclis-i Ayan).

The next chamber to the right is the Clerk's Hall (Sekreterlik Odaları) or Tiled Room, which houses a plethora of paintings, including Stefano Ussi's Surre Alayı (Surre Procession)¹⁶ which is exhibited on the left wall of this chamber. Other notable paintings in the collection include the work entitled "Fire at the Paris Municipal Theatre" by Rudolf Ernst. The French-style furniture is complemented by numerous porcelain vases.

Exterior Areas and Buildings

The palace complex consists of several ancillary and outbuildings:

- apartment of the Crown Prince (Veliahd Dairesi)
- apartment of the gentlemen-in-waiting (Musahiban Dairesi)
- servants quarters (Agavat Dairesi, Bendegan Dairesi)
- quarters for the palace guards (Baltacılar Dairesi)
- quarters of the Chief Eunuch (Kızlarağası Dairesi).
- Imperial kitchens (Matbah-i Âmire)
- Imperial stables (İstabl-ı Âmire, Has Ahırları)
- aviary (Kuşluk)
- flour mill (Un Değirmeni)
- plant nursery (Fidelik)
- greenhouse (Sera)
- Hereke carpet workshop (Hereke dökümhanesi)
- glass manufactory (Cam Fabrikası)
- foundry (Dökümhane)
- pharmacy (Ecahane)
- Dolmabahçe Clock Tower (Dolmabahçe Saat Kulesi)
- departure kiosks¹⁷
- Dolmabahçe Palace Theatre (Dolmabahçe Saray Tiyatrosu)
- boatmen quarters (Hamlacılar, Bostancı Ocağı)
- gift warehouses (Atiyye-i Senniyye Anbarları)
- pastry shop, sweet shop, bakeries
- Bayıldım Köşkleri/Bayıldım Kasrı¹⁸
- The Palace Gardens

The Gates

Two ornate gates dominate the land and the sea front, conveying a sense of importance.

The **Treasury Gate** (Hazine-i Hassa Kapısı) is located between the Imperial Treasury (Hazine-i Hassa) and the Furnishing workshop (Mefruşat Dairesi). The structure is distinguished by its round arches, barrel vaults, and iron side-wings, which provide access to the Imperial Treasury and the furnishing workshops. The decorative elements primarily comprise cartouches, girlands, pearls, egg strings and oyster shell motifs.

15 Sheikh ul-Islam, شیخ الإسلام, or Grand Mufti, the highest religious authority in the Ottoman Empire.

16 Pilgrim's caravan: The Surre Emîni had aid and gifts transported from Istanbul to Mecca and Medina, the Surre-i Hümâyûn Regiment (or caravan) was ceremoniously sent off from Istanbul.

17 Constructed later behind the Crown Prince's apartment.

18 Originally built in the 18th century and demolished in 1857 it was used for iftar dinners and weddings.

The **Sultanate Gate** (Sultanat Kapısı) is positioned inbetween two imposing walls, offering a view of the Bayıldım Garden on one side and the Hasbahçe on the other. The entrance is flanked by columns on either side, and there are two towers on the inner and outer sides.

There are several further gates surrounding the palace: Throne Gate (Koltuk Kapısı), Aviary Gate (Kuşluk Kapısı), Valide Gate (Valide Kapısı), Harem Gate (Karem Kapısı), Grand Mansion Gate (Büyük Yalı Kapısı) as well as the Gate to the Bosphorus (Boğaz Kapısı).

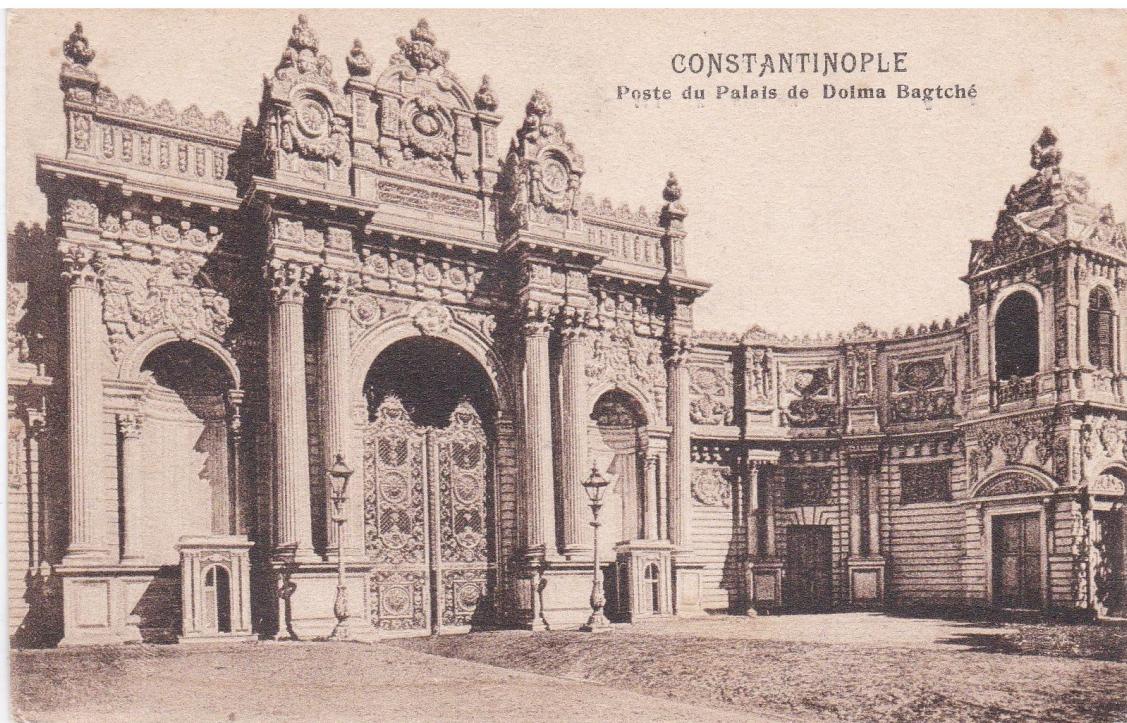


Fig. 46: "Constantinople / Poste du Palais de Dolma Bagtché"
Unknown publisher.



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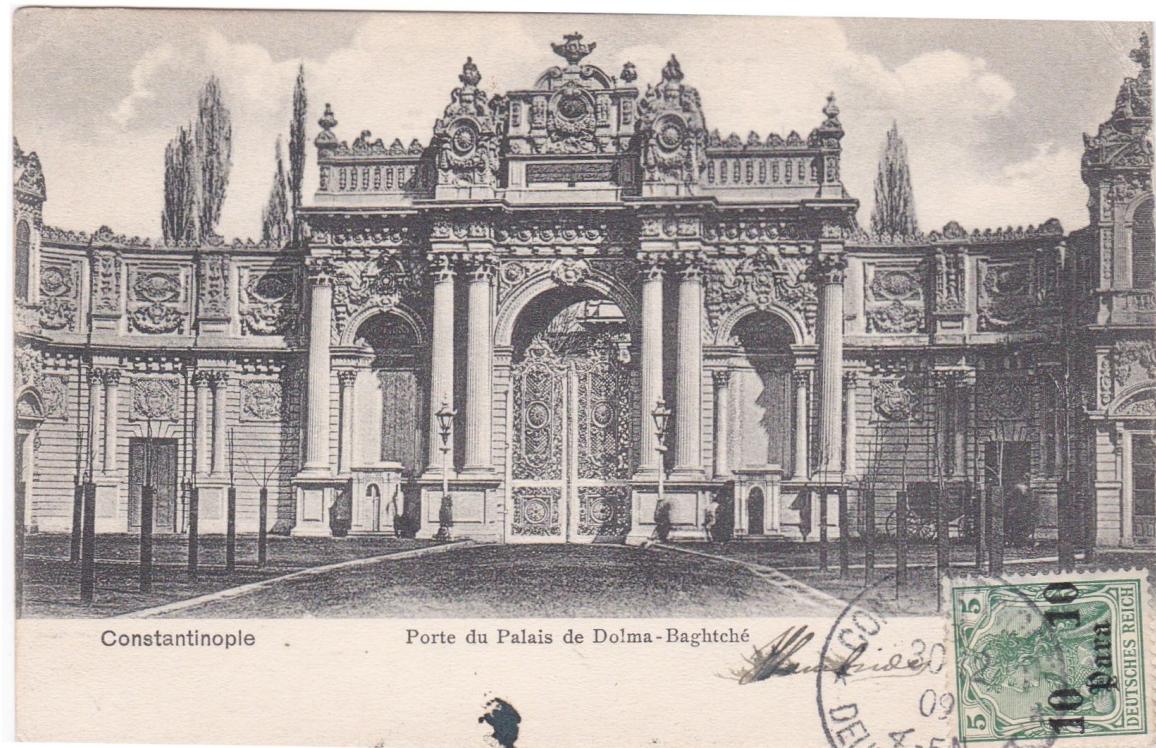


Fig. 47: "Constantinople / Porte du Palais de Dolma-Baghtché".
Publisher: Au Bon Marché. Card no. 109. Used in 1909.



Fig. 48: "Porte du Palais de Dolma Bagtché / Salut de Constantinople".
Unknown publisher. Used in 1905.

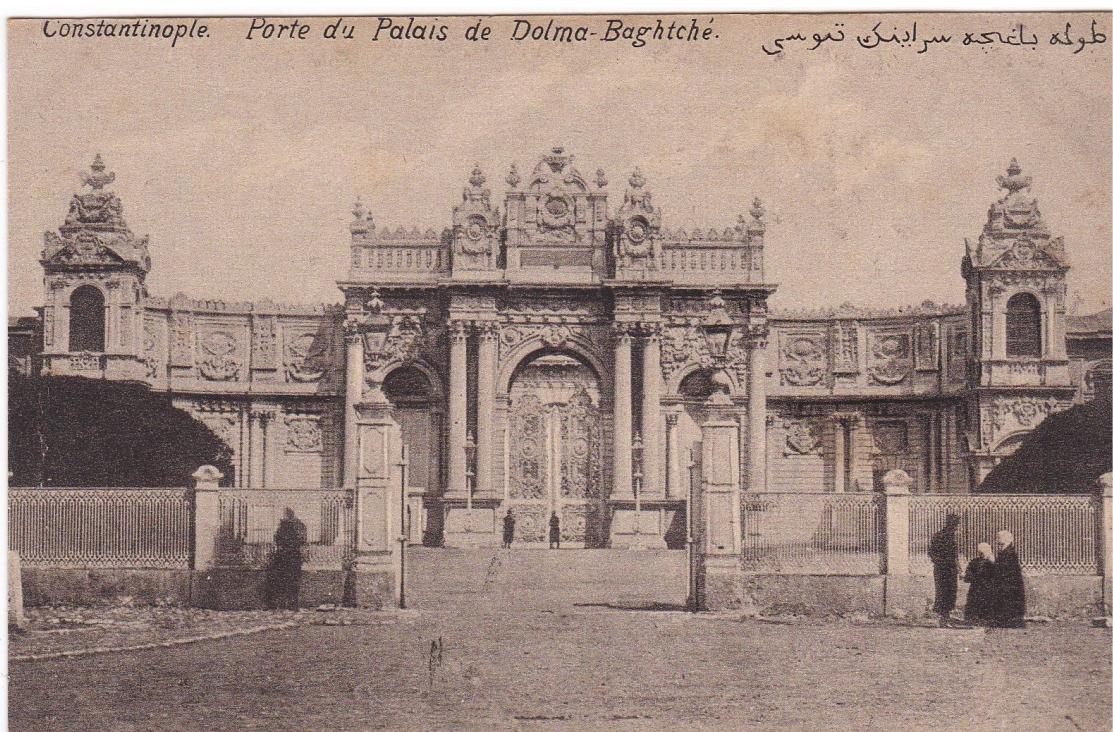


Fig. 49: "Constantinople. Porte du Palais de Dolma Bagtché."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 35.



Fig. 50: "Porte du palais Impérial à Dolma-Bagtché."
Publisher: Georges Papantoine, Constantinople. Card no. 31.

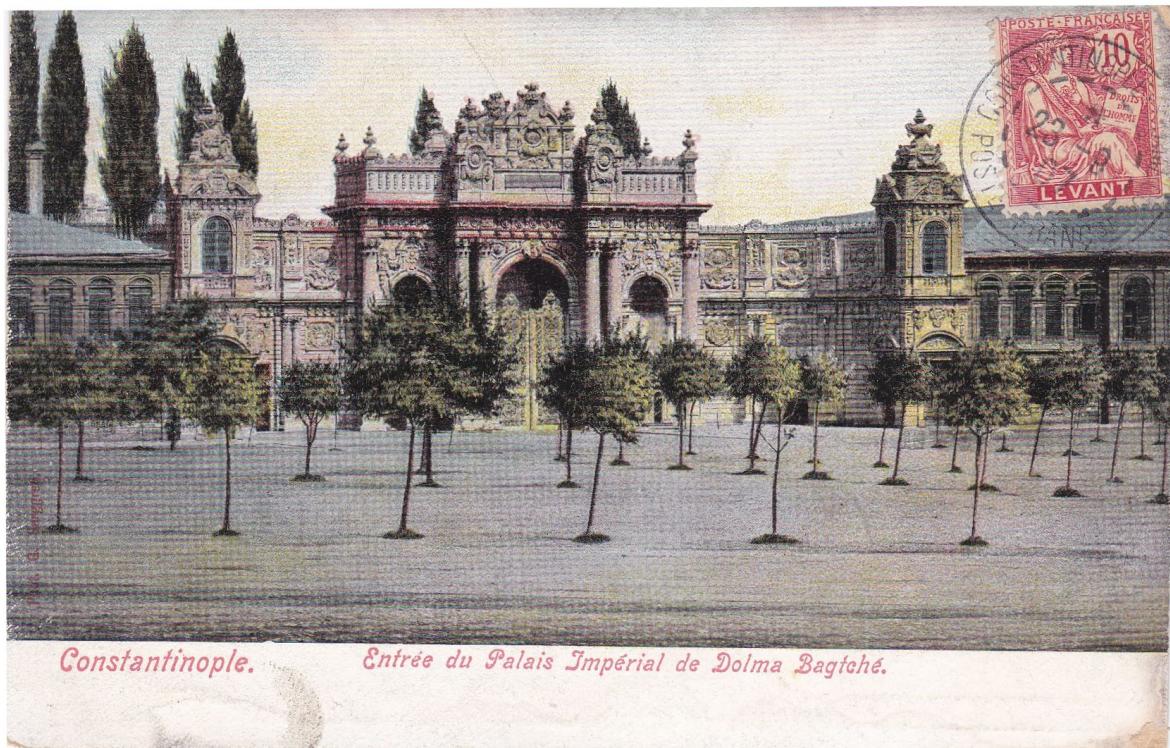


Fig. 51: "Constantinople. Entrée du Palais Impérial de Dolma Bagtché."
 Publisher: RKL. Card no. 12592. Used in 1907.



Fig. 52: "Porte du Dolma-Bagtché Serai. Constantinople".
 Publisher: Römmler & Jonas, Dresden. Card no. 15012,15. Used in 1906.

Kunstdruck-Anstalt Römmler & Jonas, founded in 1871 by Emil Römmler and Leopold Erasmus Jonas.



Fig. 53: "Constantinople / Porte du Palais de Dolma-Bagtchè."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 313.



Fig. 54: "Salut de Constantinople. / Porte de Dolma-Bagtchè."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 9542.

Glossary of Postcard Publishers

Wladimir von Sender (Veli Demir von Sender, 1885–1944) fled to Constantinople after the Russian Revolution in 1917, followed by his son Mühtedi İsmail Demir v.S. as “V. Sender”) with addresses in Kabrista Caddesi 147, later in Meşrutiyet Caddesi 116, and 155, and 241-243 (all Beyoğlu).



Max Fruchtermann (1852–1918). Born in Austria, the most famous postcard editor of the Ottoman Empire. In 1895 he printed the first Ottoman picture postcard. He had a shop on Yüksek Kaldırım no. 13. His early postcards were hand-coloured, but he began to produce colour cards in 1897 that were printed by Emil Pinkau. Later postcard series were printed by Fingerle Freudenberg in Rheydt, Germany. His grave is in Feriköy Protestant cemetery. He published 2,400 different postcards.

Moïse Israelowitz (Israilovitc) the second largest postcard editor in the Ottoman Empire. He had a shop in Hamidiye Caddesi in Eminönü. He was a Romanian Jew and published a total of 1,800 different postcards. Marks: “MJC” and “M.I.C”.



Postcartoglob: He was selling stamps, Persian carpets and postcards in an İstanbul store (address unknown). He published less than 200 different kinds of postcards.

Isaac M. Ahitouf: He had a shop on the Yüksek Kaldırım no. 27, Galata. It operated until 1940, hence there are also postcards from the first period of the Republic. He published a total of 1,000 different postcards.

Joseph Matalon & Fils resided at Haratçı Sokak 79 and Zulfarisso Sokak 13, both in Galata, publishing about 800 cards, mainly printed in Germany by Regel & Krug, and Emil Pinkau

“MB” = Moïse Barouh. He had a shop at İstiklal Caddesi 1 No. 584, Pera. He published a total of 1,000 postcards



“Au Bon Marché” (Louis Bortoli) was the first department store of the Ottoman Empire. It had a big store in İstiklal Caddesi no. 354, Pera. The building now houses the İstanbul Chamber of Commerce. They published a total of 600 postcards.

S. N. Nicolaïevitch, Librairie St. Petersburg. Bookseller at Yüksek Kaldırım no. 51, 645 and 27, Galata. Main printers were Regel & Kri, Leipzig.



E. Frédéric Rochat (1874–1958). He had a shop at Sarriî Sokak no. 38, Pera. Some of his postcards were found objectionable and were confiscated. He published a total of 1,250 different postcards between 1900 and 1925.

NELS = Edouard Nels, Founded in Brussels in 1898. His brother Paul opened a branch in Metz (then Germany) in 1902.



Jacques Ludwigsohn (Ludwigsohn Frères) had a shop in Karaköy Meydan no. 21, Galata. He published a total of 1,400 postcards.

“NPG” = Neue Photographische Gesellschaft, founded in 1894 by Arthur Schwarz in Berlin. In 1921 NPG was taken over by Mimosa.

Georges Papantoine had a shop at İstiklal Caddesi no. 679, Galata. He published 140 different postcards in 1903. 38 of these postcards have never been seen until today.

Raphael Tuck & Sons, London. Started by Raphael Tuck and his wife in Bishopsgate, London, in 1866 selling pictures and greeting cards, and publishing postcards.

Ilya Lapina was a Russian printer and publisher based in Paris (75 rue Denfert-Rochereau) before and after WW1. Used marks “IML” and “ILM”.

Antoine Zellich Fils were brothers Gregorie, Nicolas, Michel and Henri Zellich (or Zellitch), operating from various addresses in Galata. Printer: OPF in Berlin and M. Schulz, Prague.

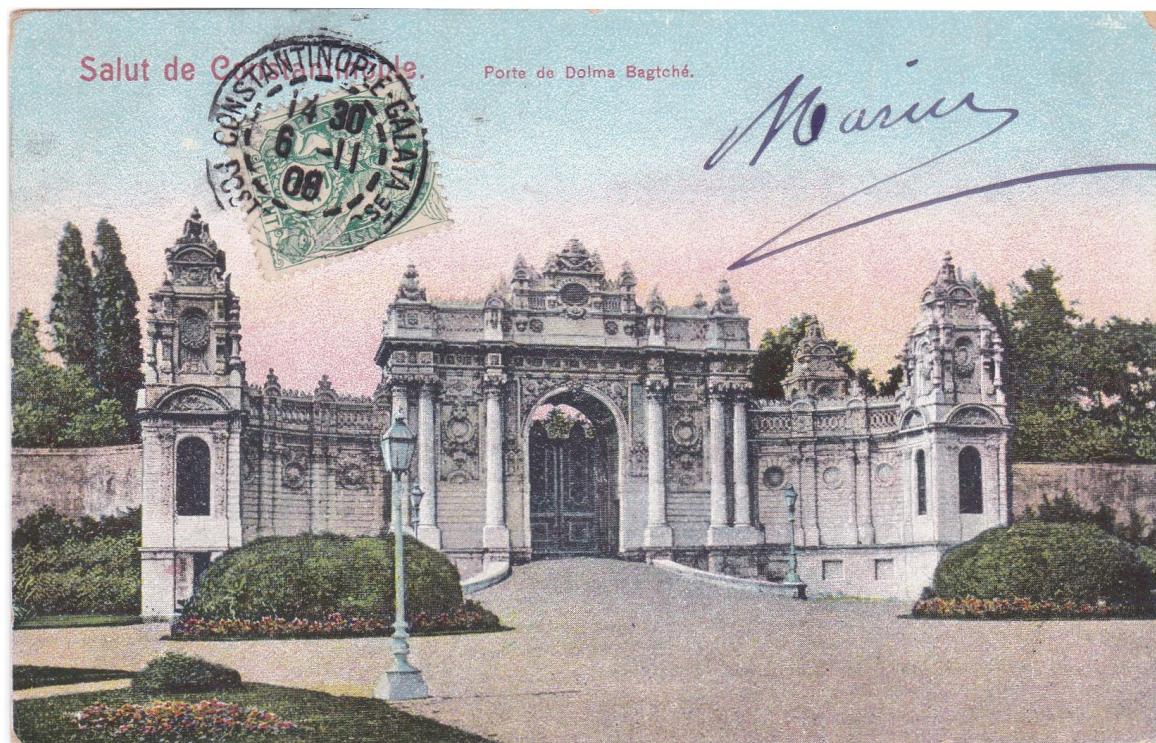


Fig. 55: "Salut de Constantinople. / Porte de Dolma-Bagtché."
Unknown publisher. Used in 1908.



Fig. 56: "Porte du Palais de Dolma-Bagtché. Constantinople."
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 57: "Porte du Palais de Dolma-Baghtché. Constantinople."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 17.



Fig. 58: "Porte du Palais de Dolma-Baghtché."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 38.

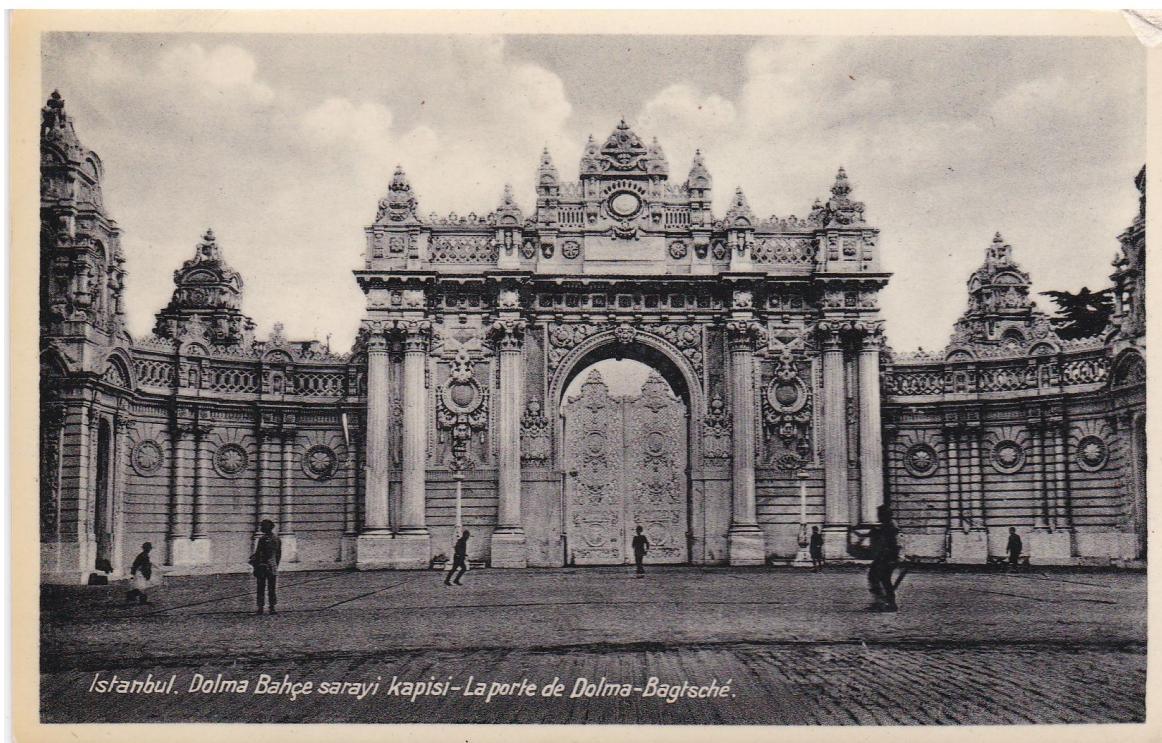


Fig. 59: "İstanbul. Dolma Bahçe sarayı kapısı – La porte de Dolma-Bagtsché."
Publisher: Isaac M Ahitouv. Repubilcan era postcard.

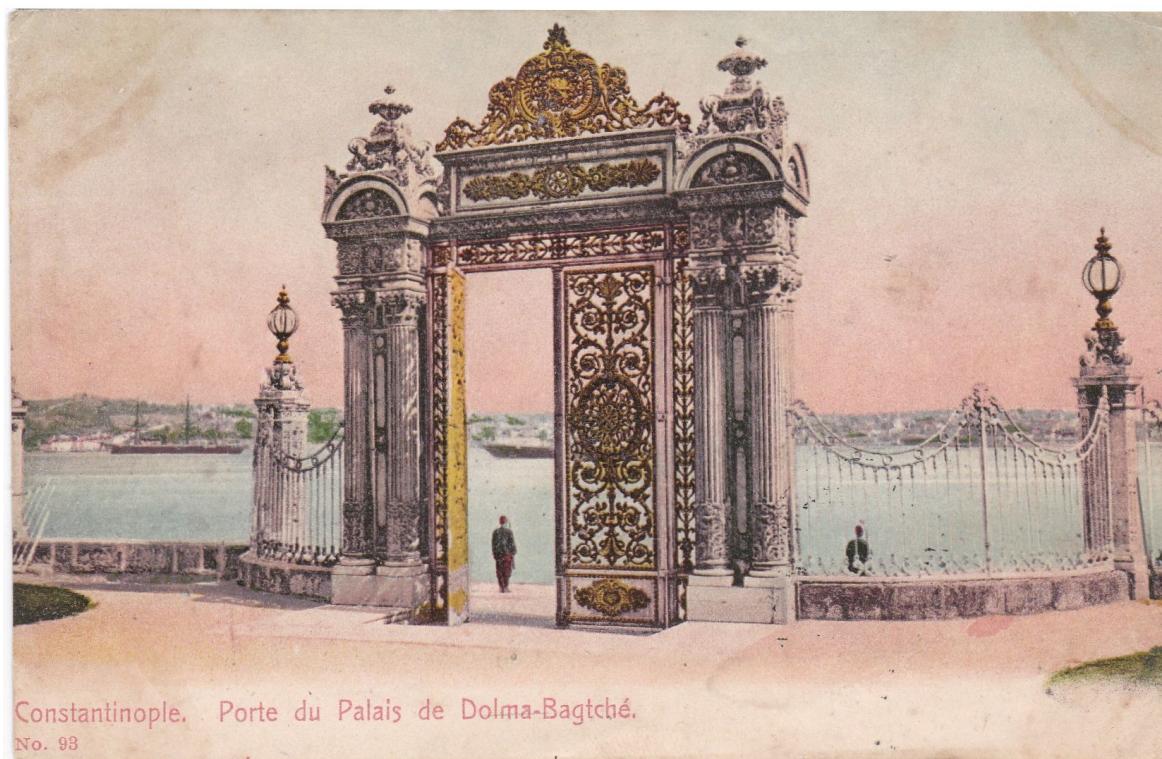


Fig. 60: "Constantinople. Porte du Palais de Dolma-Bagtché."
The Gate to the Bosphorus, Boğaz Kapısı.
Unknown publisher. Card no. 93.

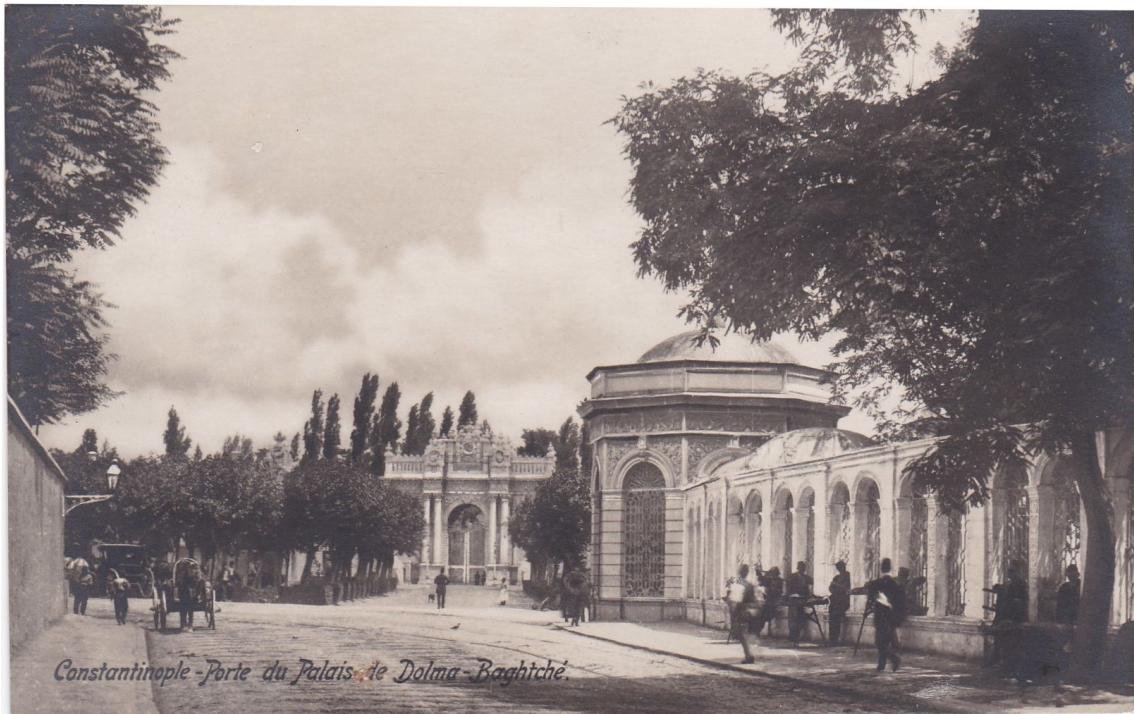


Fig. 61: "Constantinople – Porte du Palais de Dolma-Bagché."
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 62: Troops on parade at the Palace Gate.
Publisher: E.F. Rochat. Card no. 106.



Fig. 63: The Sultan on parade: "Le Sélamlik à Dolma-Bagtche."
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 169.



Fig. 64: "Salut de l'Orient. La Turquie. Les princes Impériaux."
The Imperial princes.
Unknown publisher.

The Gardens

The silting of the bay created a large long garden between the Has Gardens in Beşiktaş and Karaabalı Gardens in Kabataş. The Dolmabahçe Palace was built on the new land inbetween.

The Has Garden (Hasbahçe), situated between the Treasury Gate and the palace entrance, is also referred to as the Mabeyn or Selamlık Garden. The formal garden, with an ornamental pool at its centre, was designed in the Western style. The garden's primary architect was Achille Duchêne. The Aviary Garden (Kuşluk), located on the landward side of the Muayede Hall, surrounds the Aviary Pavilion.

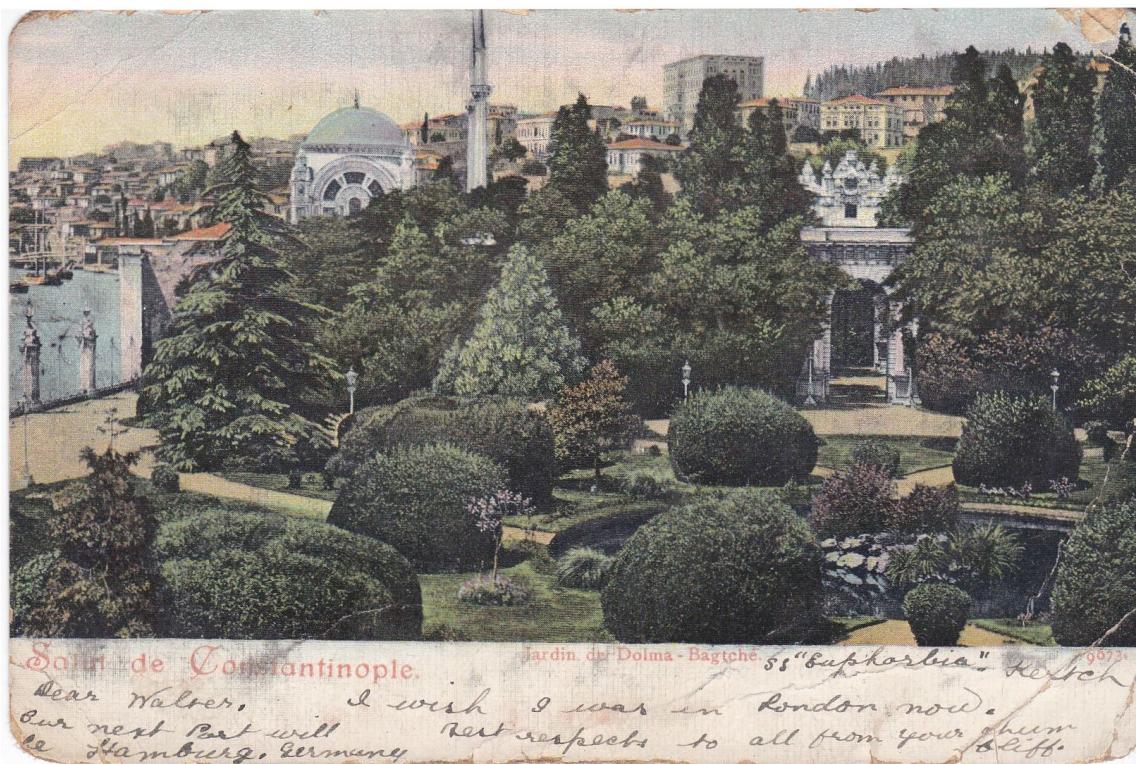


Fig. 65: "Salut de Constantinople. Jardin du Dolma-Bagtché."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 9673.

The Harem Garden, located on the landward side of the Harem wing, boasts an oval pond and meticulously arranged flower beds in geometric shapes. The seafront gardens also feature central ponds and geometric patterns and ornamental elements such as lanterns, vases and sculptures. The gardens extend across a surface area of more than 110,000 m². In opposition to the formal gardens, the grounds feature a series of English-style landscape gardens to the rear. These are complemented by the Palm Garden, the Rose Garden, the Tea Garden and the Bird Garden.

The grounds of the gardens contain several notable constructions, the Glass Pavilion (1875), the Bird House, and the Grand Fountain. The royal pavilions showcase the luxurious lifestyle of the Ottoman rulers. Scattered throughout the Gardens are historical statues and ornamental ponds. The greenhouse boasts an impressive array of exotic plants. A Panoramic Terrace is perched high above the garden.

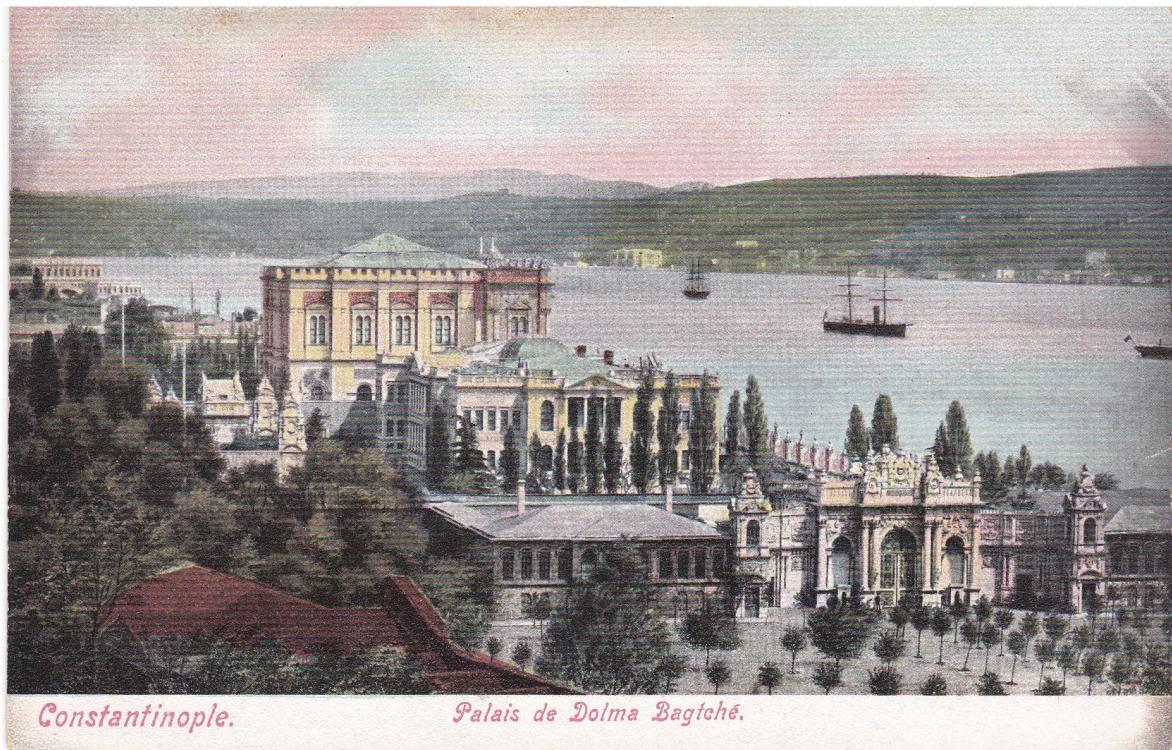


Fig. 66: "Constantinople. Palais de Dolma-Bagtché."
Unknown publisher.

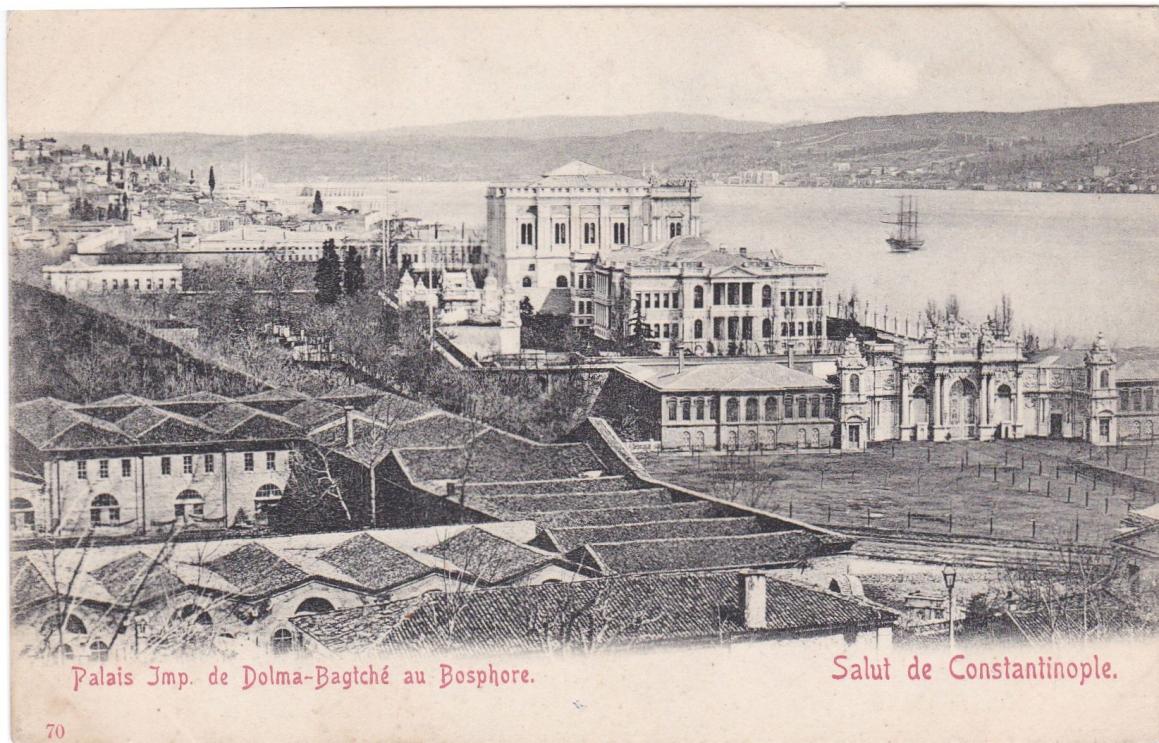
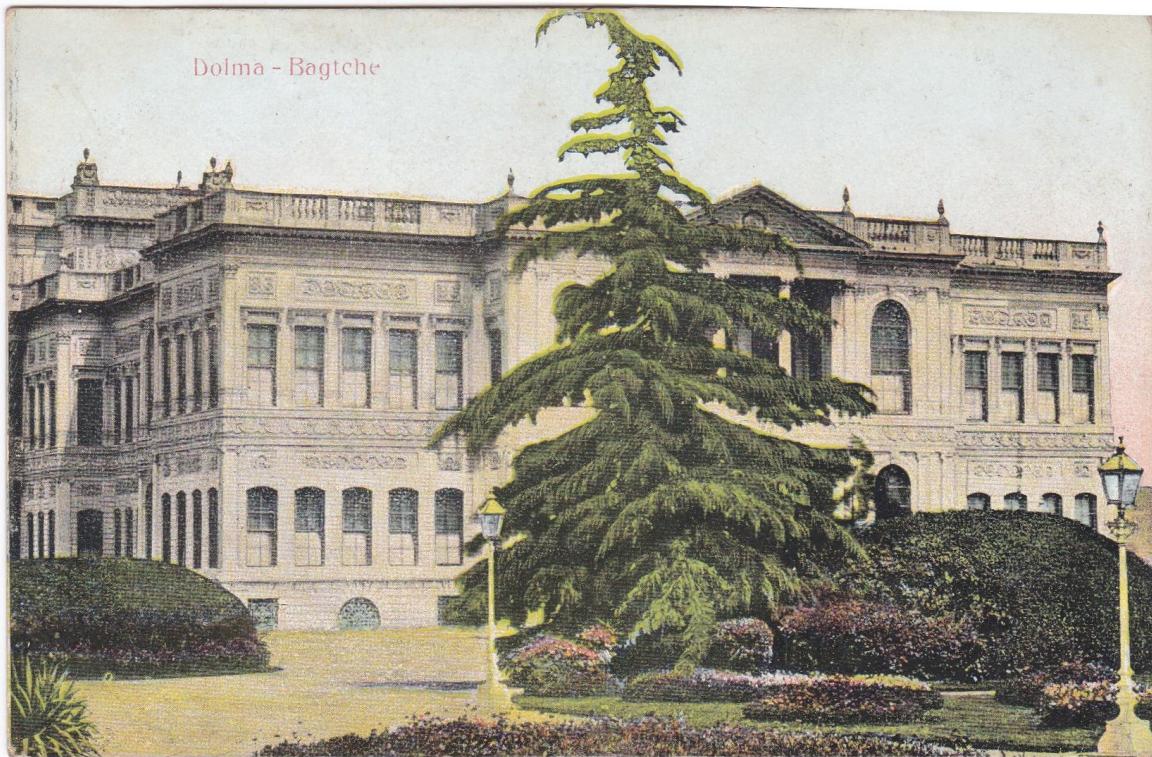


Fig. 67: "Palais Imp. de Dolma-Bagtché au Bosphore. Salut de Constantinople."
Unknown publisher. Card no. 70.



*Fig. 68: "Dolma-Bagtche" – View from the landside.
Unknown publisher.*



*Fig. 69: "Constantinople – Palais Impérial de Dolma Bagtché et Scutari."
View from the west over the palace and the Bosphorus towards Üsküdar (Scutari).
Publisher: JMF.*



Fig. 70: "Constantinople – Les Palais Impériaux au Bosphore".
 View from Üsküdar over the Bosphorus towards the Palace.
 Unknown publisher. Card no. 1722.

The Palace Mosque: Dolmabahçe Sarayı Camii

The Sultan's mother, Bezm-i Âlem Valide Sultan (1807–1853), commissioned an Imperial mosque to complement the palaces. The architectural design of the building was conceived by Garabet Balyan, with construction lasting from 1853 to 1855. In contrast to other 19th century Ottoman mosques, it is an architectural blend with rich Rococo and Baroque decorations, more resembling the palace's lavish halls than a place of worship. The mosque features a distinctive 25×25 metres square base and a two-storey royal balcony. It also features areas that have been specially designed for state officials and for the Sultan's public appearances. There is a singular dome and two minarets, each with a single balcony. The mosque's ornate marble interior is highlighted by the large windows. The red Porphyric (Somaki) pulpit (Minbar) and prayer niche (Mihrab) are adorned with intricate European patterns.

Clock Tower (Saat Kulesi)

A 27 metre high clock tower (Dolmabahçe Saat Kulesi), an outstanding example of Ottoman architecture, was erected in front of the Imperial Gate (Sultanat Kapısı), near to the mosque. The tower, designed by court architect Sarkis Balyan¹⁹ and constructed between 1890 and 1895, is widely regarded as one of the most iconic landmarks in the Dolmabahçe Palace Gardens. The clock itself was manufactured by Jean-Paul Garnier with its British face installed by the court clock master, Johann Mayer. The tower is now accessible to visitors, who are able to enjoy a panoramic view of the gardens and the Bosphorus from its summit.

19 Sarkis Bey Balyan (1835–1899), brother to Nigoğayos Balyan.



Fig. 71: "Mosqué de Dolma-Bakché".
Unknown publisher. Card no. 103.



Fig. 72: The Palace mosque.
The French text mis-describes it as "Mosquée de Uzun Keuprou", the Turkish text says Ortaköy.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 73: Republic era postcard “İstanbul, Dolmabahçe civarı” (surroundings).
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 74: “Mosquée de dolma Baghtché” viewed from the north-east.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 75: "Constantinople. Mosqué de Dolma Bagtsché".
Publisher: Moïse Israelowitz (MJC). Card no. 394.



Fig. 76: Photo-postcard from the Republic era with a view over the Bosphorus from the south-west.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 77: "Mosquée et Palais de Dolma Bagdché. Salut de Constantinople."
Publisher: Ludwigsohn Frères, Constantinople. Card no. 51176 dated 1902.



Fig. 78: The mosque and its court with the clock tower, the gate and the palace in the background.
Unknown publisher. Republic era.



Fig. 79: The mosque, its court with the clock tower, the gate and the palace in the background.
Unknown publisher. Republic era.



Fig. 80: Stamboul: Panorama de Dolma Begtché.
Antoine Zellich Fils, Constantinople. Card no. 4.

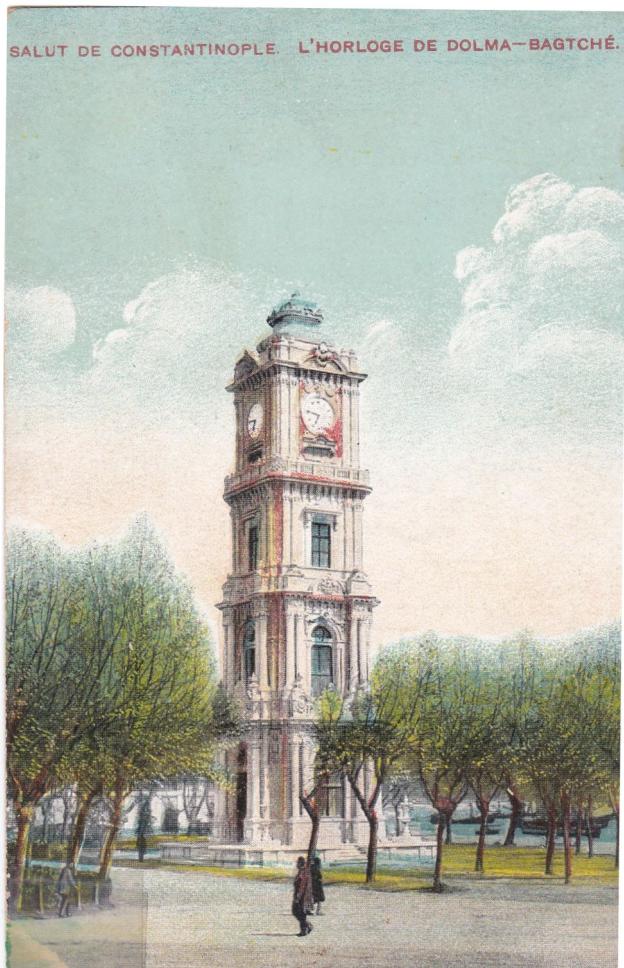


Fig. 81: "Salut des Constantinople.
L'horloge de Dolma-Bagtché."
Unknown publisher

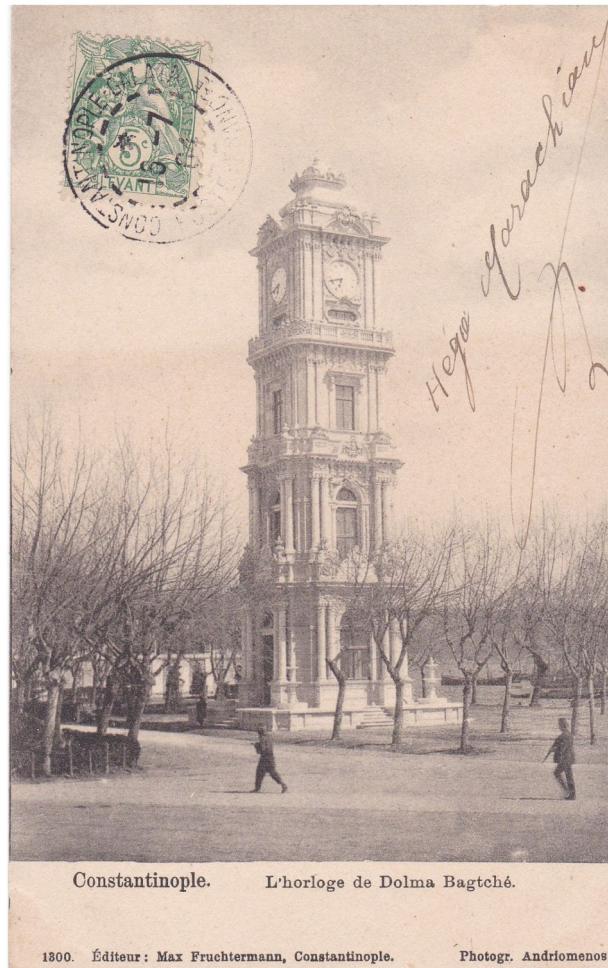
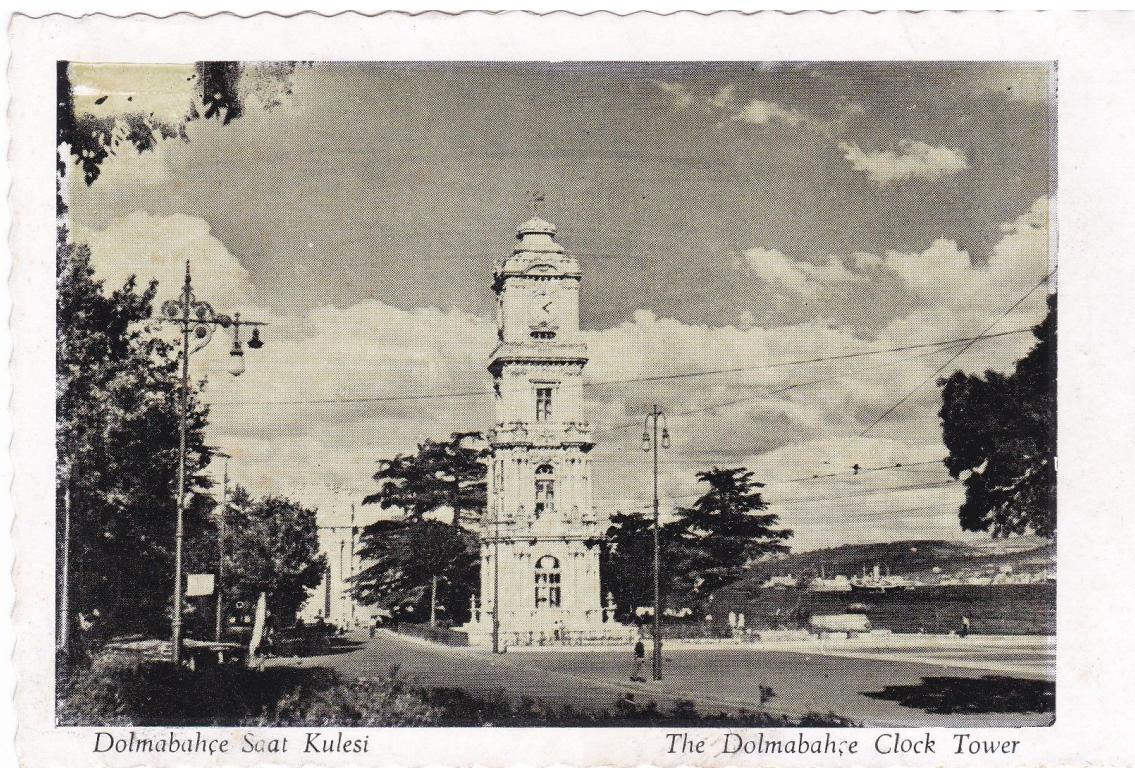


Fig. 82: "Constantinople. L'horloge de Dolma-Bagtché."
Publisher: Max Fruchtermann, Constantinople.
Card no. 1300. Photographer: Andriomenos.



Dolmabahçe Saat Kulesi

The Dolmabahçe Clock Tower

Fig. 83:
Republic era
postcard of the
clock tower:
"Dolmabahçe
Saat Kulesi /
The Dolmabahçe
Clock Tower".
Unknown
publisher.

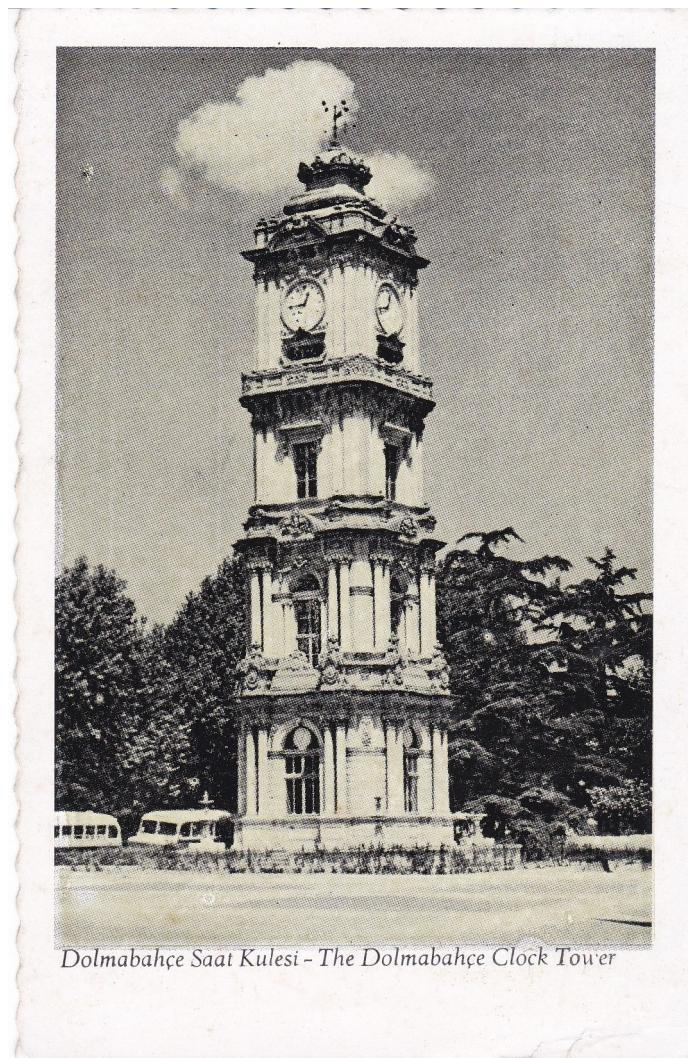


Fig. 84:

Republic era postcard of the clock tower: "Dolmabahçe Saat Kulesi – The Dolmabahçe Clock Tower".



Fig. 85:

Republic era photo postcard just entitled "Dolmabahçe" with a general view of the clock tower and the palace from the south.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 86: Republic era photo postcard entitled "Ist. Dolmabahçe civarı" (surroundings) with a general view of the clock tower and the palace from the south.
Unknown publisher.



Fig. 87: Multiple franking of a money order with eight of the 10 piastres stamps of 1916.

Cachets of German Army Troops and the German Imperial Navy in the Ottoman Empire and Caucasus during World War I

Part 2: Pioneer Units

by Horst Borlinghaus, Arno Schmolke, and Walter Stegmüller¹

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When one thinks of the activities of pioneers, the construction and destruction of bridges during advance and retreat comes to mind first. However, the First World War consisted mainly of gruelling trench warfare and the pioneers' focus shifted to directly supporting the infantry in the trenches. Hence a brief summary of the pioneers' tasks:

Bridge construction was carried out by the bridge trains. They were provided with pontoons and beams for the base structure and beams and planks for the superstructure. In trench warfare, the infantry was supported by mine launchers of various calibres (see the light 7.58 cm mine launcher in the illustration on the Sinai Peninsula, *fig. 1*).

The searchlight units² were used for apron lighting, and high-voltage formations were used to generate electricity. These were used to power the barbed wire obstacles, pump out flooded trench systems, supply searchlight and intelligence units, etc. Flamethrowers were available for close combat. There were two engineer regiments for gas warfare.

German Troops in Turkey: Pioneers

Pioneer Company 205	Corps Bridge Train 63
Pioneer Section 701	Corps Bridge Train 64
Mine Thrower Section 350	German Pioneer Command Gallipoli
Mine Thrower Section 351	German Pioneer Command Constantinople
Mine Thrower Section 352	German Engineer Command
Mine Thrower Squad 701	Pioneer Replacement Section Pasha II
Mine Thrower Squad 702	Pioneer and Close Combat Equipment Depot
Mine Thrower Squad 702	(near Aleppo) for Pasha II
Ammunition Column for Mine Throwers	Pioneer Pool Army Group F
Pioneer Training Command Maltepe	Pioneer transit Pool Rajak
Engineer Construction Command	Mine Thrower Battalion 1
Water Supply Section Syria	Pioneer staff officer (Jıldırı̄m)

Contrary to what is stated in some publications, the Bohrsonder-Kommandos (special drilling sections) were assigned to the railway formations (tunnel construction, Baghdad Railway) or to the rear formations (Bohrsonder-Kommando 1 and 2). These will be dealt with in later parts in the relevant context.

In some cases, the designations for the pioneer units may also refer to Turkish units with German embedded personnel. This is particularly the case when German units were redeployed and the equipment, including some rank soldiers, was taken over by the Turkish army.

1 First published in Rundbrief <Arge Deutsche Feldpost 1914/18>, no. 220, 2021, pp. 49–55.
Translated by Tobias Zywietz.

2 Anti-aircraft searchlights belonged to the air force (Flak-Scheinwerfer der Luftwaffe).

The cancellations shown below are not only letter cancellations, but also form cancellations and private cancellations. However, the latter were also tolerated as letter cancellations. The designations on the letter cancellations do not always correspond to the budgeted (official) names.



Fig. 1: Pioneers of Minenwerfer-Abteilung 351 (Mine Thrower Section 351) in front of their 7.58 cm light mine thrower in the desert of the Sinai Peninsula. The operator crew consisted of 5 to 6 men. The thrower was loaded via the muzzle, the range was 1050 m, the projectile rate was 6 shots per minute, the projectile weight was 4.6 kg and was effective through fragments.³

Adresse _____ Constantinopel
 Deutsches Pion. Kdo. d. Marine Postbüro
 Berlin C. II.

Fig. 2: Formular cachet: Deutsches Pion.-Kdo. d. Marine Postbüro Berlin C. II.
 (Deutsches Pionier-Kommando durch Marine Postbüro Berlin C. II. = German Pioneer Command
 via Navy Post Office Berlin C. II.)

San. Unteroffz. P. Weiss
 Minenwerfertrupp 702
 Deutsche Feldpost 663.

Fig. 3: Private cachet.

³ Courtesy of Dedecke Familienchronik.

Minenwerfer (Mine Throwers)

Minenwerfer-Abteilung 350, 351 and 352 (Mine Thrower Section 350, 351, 352)

These three sections were set up in mid-1916 at the Jüterbog military training area under the code name "Pascha".



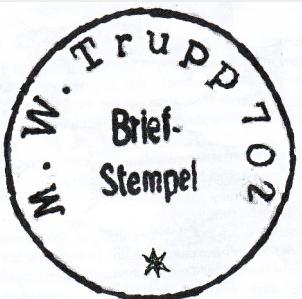
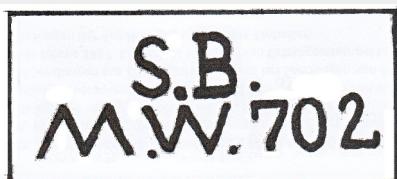
Fig. 4: Minenwerferschule (Mine Thrower School) and location of the Minenwerfer Ersatz-Bataillon 1 (Mine Thrower Replacement Battalion 1) at Markendorf, Jüterbog military training area. Location of the Mine Thrower Sections 305, 351 and 352.



As early as June 1916 the units were transferred to Palestine to take part in the Suez Canal campaign. As this operation ended in a retreat with heavy losses, there was no longer any need for the presence of the mine throwers and they were transported to the Macedonian front in December 1916. On 4th January the units were renamed Gebirgs-Minenwerfer Komp. 176 G (Mountain Mine Thrower Company 176 G). In the Prilep area, it was integrated into the front on the Greek border as part of Army Group Below. In late summer 1918, it was transported to the Caucasus and thus back into the area of the Militärmision.

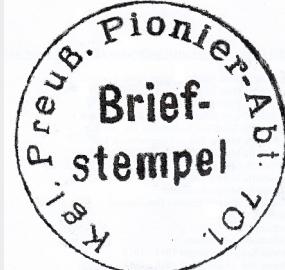
**Asienkorps Pascha-II-Verbände – Pioniere (Asia Corps Pasha II Units – Pioneers)
Minenwerfer Trupps 701, 702, 703 (Mine Thrower Squads 701, 702, 703)**

The Mine Thrower Squads 701, 702, and 703 were part of the three infantry battalions 701, 702, and 703.⁴

Unit	Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
Minen - Werfer - Trupp 701 (Mine Thrower Squad 701)		a) 17.07.1917 b) from Autumn 1917 to end-of-war.
		a) 17.07.1917 b) from Autumn 1917 to end-of-war.
Minen - Werfer - Trupp 702 (Mine Thrower Squad 702)	M. W. Trupp 702 (Mine Thrower Squad 702)	
	San. Unteroffz. P. Weiss Minenwerfertrupp 702 Deutsche Feldpost 663. Privatstempel des San. Unteroffz. P. Weiss, Minenwerfertrupp 702 (Private cachet of Medical non-commissioned officer P. Weiss, Mine Thrower Squad 702)	
		a) 17.07.1917 from Autumn 1917 to end-of-war.
M. W. Trupp 703 (Mine Thrower Squad 703)		

⁴ Wartime organisation, i.e. not temporarily subordinate.

2. Asienkorps Pascha II-Verbände – Pioniere (2nd Asia Corps Pasha II Units – Pioneers)
Pionier-Abteilung 701 (Pioneer Section 701)

Unit	Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
 KGL. PREUSS. PIONIER-ABTEILUNG 701 (Royal Prussian Pioneer Section 701)	 Kgl. Preuß. Pionier-Abt. 701 (Royal Prussian Pioneer Section 701)	a) 17.07.1917 b) from Autumn 1917 to end-of-war
Mun Kraftw. Kol. für Minenwerfer (Ammunition Lorry Column for Mine Throwers)		

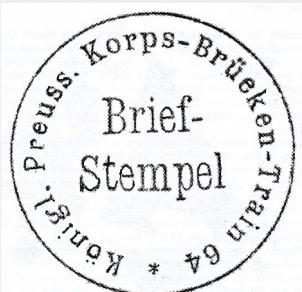
Pionier-Ersatz-Abteilung Pascha II Pioneer Replacement Section Pasha II)

Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
 Pionier-Ers.-Abteilung Deutsche Feldpost 663 (Pioneer Replacement Section German Field Post 663)	a) 19.10.1917 b) from Autumn 1917 to end-of-war

Asienkorps (Verstärkung Pascha-II-Verbände) – Pioniere
(Asia Corps: Reinforcement Pasha II Units) – Pioneers

Unit	Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
 Pionier-Komp. 205 (Pioneer Company 205)	 Königl. Preuss. Pionier-Kompagnie No. 205	a) 12.05.1915 b) from Spring 1918 to end-of-war

3. Other Pioneer Units in Turkey
Korpsbrücken-Train 63, 64
(Corps Bridge Train 63, 64)

Unit	Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
Kgl. Preuss. Korps-Brücken-Train 63 (Royal Prussian Corps Bridge Train 63)		<p>a) 15.01.1916 b) from July 1916</p> <p>Transferred to Turkey 17.10.1916</p>
	<p>Korps-Brücken-Train 64</p> <p>Korps-Brücken-Train 64 (Corps Bridge Train 64)</p>	<p>a) 15.01.1916 b) from July 1916 to end-of-war</p>
Kgl. Preuss. Korps-Brücken-Train 64 (Royal Prussian Corps Bridge Train 64)		

Deutsches Pionier-Kommando
(German Pioneer Command)⁵

Unit	Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
		<p>a) –</p> <p>b) June 1916 to October 1916 in Baghdad, from November 1916 in Aleppo.</p>
DEUTSCHES PIONIER KOMMANDO (German Pioneer Command)		

⁵ Presumably not a budgeted unit.

**Deutsches Pionier-Kommando durch Marine Postbüro Berlin C. II.
(German Pioneer Command via Naval Post Office Berlin C. II)**

Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
<p>Adresse _____ Constantinopel Deutsches Pion. Kdo. d. Marine Postbüro Berlin C. II.</p>	a) – b) 1917 in Constantinople
<p>Adresse _____ Constantinopel / Deutsches Pion. Kdo. d. Marine Postbüro Berlin C. II. (German Pioneer Command via Naval Post Office Berlin C. II)</p>	

**Türkisch-Deutscher-Pionier Durchgangs-Park Derindie
(Turkish-German Pioneer Transit Park Derindie)⁶**

Unit	a) Formation b) in Turkey
	a) – b) --

Sources and Literature

- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe A (Stäbe)* Nr. 251, issued 4.09.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe B (Truppen)* Nr. 253, issued 18.09.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe A (Stäbe)* Nr. 259, issued 30.10.1918
- *Feldpostübersicht Ausgabe B (Truppen)* Nr. 254, issued 30.10.1918
- 253. *Verzeichnis der nicht beim Feldheer befindlichen Stäbe und Truppen*, 18.09.1918 (as of 17.09.1918)
- *Übersicht über die Behörden und Truppen in der Kriegsformation*. Reichsdruckerei, Berlin 1918
- *Der Weltkampf um Ehre und Recht. Band 6: Die Organisation der Kriegsführung, 1. Teil*. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1921, pp. 174–196.

Appeal

This series of articles can only be successful if there are supporters. I am sure that some collections contain hitherto unknown cancellations from Turkey.

My problem is that some of my cancellations are not in a condition to be reproduced. Hence the request for usable copies of the cancellations not shown here.

A scan to nezual@t-online.de is requested.

Corrections are also welcome.

⁶ Presumably not a budgeted unit.

The Postal History of Kuwait : a Chronological Record

Part 1: Up to 1919

collated and edited by Dr. Mashael Abdulaziz Alhajeri

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With hind-sight and increased knowledge, it is only very easy to see their mistakes; but if it had not been for their foundations, nothing further could ever have been written.

Neil Donaldson, The Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia and the Gulf

Preface

These are my own notes about Kuwait postal history, painstakingly compiled over the span of more than 20 years. It is an attempt to provide a basis for a systematic study of the area, through tracking its development in chronological order. While making no claim to be the final word on the topic; it is – though – a humble plea for order and consistency, and will, hopefully, advance the recorded information on Kuwait for postal historians. Whereas information on certain issues is drawn from dispersed sources, a single authoritative source will be cited, whenever possible. It should be emphasised that the following observations are far from exhaustive. Any corrections, refinements, or additions are welcome, for they form an essential part of the cumulative and progressive nature of scholarly inquiry.

Editorial Method

Format

This is a reference book. It comes in a format that is specially designed for the reader to find the piece of information he needs swiftly.

Cancellation Types

This work adopts Neil Donaldson's numbering of cancellation types.¹ However, as Donaldson's book was issued in 1973, his numbering system terminates with Type 42. Types 43 onward are those presented by T. E. Jones in his ARABIAN GULF POSTAL HISTORY QUARTERLY.² Indeed, Donaldson himself spoke of an "inevitable change of type numbers"³!

Bold Type Face and Highlights

Key events with significant effect on the Kuwait postal systems are highlighted throughout this work.

Transliteration

There are significant inconsistencies in the transliteration of post office names. I have adopted the closest transliteration to post office names as pronounced in Arabic.

Cancellation Measures

Measurement of circular date stamps was conducted with the aid of the Bridger & Kay Cancellation Gauge.

1 Donaldson, 1975.

2 Jones, 2002 (part 3).

3 Donaldson, 1975, p. 8.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

- A: Anna
- AGPHQ: Arabian Gulf States Postal History Quarterly
- BPA: British Postal Agency
- CA: Crown Agents
- D: Dinar
- EKU: Earliest Known Usage
- F: Fils
- Fig.: Figure
- FPO: Field Post Office
- G V: King George the Fifth
- G VI: King George the Sixth
- GB: Great Britain
- GSM: Gibbon's Stamp Monthly
- IPA: Indian Postal Administration
- LKU: Latest Known Usage
- M/S: Manuscript
- MTD: Military Telegraph Department
- MEF: Mesopotamian Expeditionary Forces
- NP: Naye Paise
- PA: Postal Agency
- PO: Post Office
- QE II: Queen Elizabeth II
- R: Rupee
- Reg.: Registered/Registration
- T: Type
- WW I: World War 1
- WW II: World War 2
- Recorded: reported to philatelic press (either in the current work or other works).

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Until 1919

15.07.1775 First recorded postal dispatch from Kuwait, being a letter from Moore, Latouche and Abraham, the East India Company (EIC) agents in Bushire, to the Court of Directors in London.⁴

1862 The British India Steam Navigation Co Ltd steamers started a regular mail contract up the Arabian Gulf, which, in turn, led to the opening of the first post offices at Bushire and Muscat on 1/5/1964.

August 1904 After the 1899 treaty that granted Britain substantial control of **Kuwait's** foreign affairs, the first, somewhat limited, postal service, via Bushire (Persia), commenced with the appointment of a Political Agent to Kuwait (Colonel Knox).⁵ Mail was run from the British political agent's office, where unoverprinted Indian postage stamps were used. Mail was sent to and received from the Bushire Post Office.
(Attempts to establish a postal agency in 1904 were deferred pending the ratification of an Anglo-Turkish Convention concerning Kuwait's borders, which did not take place due to the outbreak of WW I in 1914).⁶

Bushire was the residence of the British resident, and Consul-General for the Persian Gulf, under whom come all the Political Agents for the other coast towns.



Fig. 1: The former Political Agency building.

1908 A room in the British Consulate in Kuwait was set aside to receive and dispatch ordinary mail, but no cancellers were used. Mail was taken to Fao, a stop of the Bombay-Karachi Sea Post Office and cancelled on board. Examples are scarce.⁷
Other reports mention this date as 1904.⁸

1909 Reports mention that a red mail box existed outside the British Consulate in Kuwait.⁹

1913 Earliest recorded cover demonstrating that the official Post Office for Kuwait was Bushire (from Bushire, incoming mail was distributed to addresses at the Political Agency Office in Kuwait).¹⁰

4 Dastur, 1982, p. 25.

5 SG British Commonwealth 1993, vol. 2, p. 35.

6 Parsons, 2001, p. 19.

7 Parsons, 2001, p. 19.

8 2015-1915. اصدار مجموعة مائة عام على افتتاح مكتب البريد في الكويت. In: Al-Posta, no. 35, 2015, p. 48.

9 Maghni, Khalid al-Abd al-: أول أختام بريدية استخدمت في مكتب بريد الكويت. In: Al-Posta, no. 11, 2009, p. 14.

10 Clarke, 1999, p. 94.

1914–1918 (WW I) A telegraph line was erected between Kuwait and Basra (it still stood until about 1950).¹¹ The line was initially erected for military use only. It was not until 1919 that the telegraph service was made available for the public, when telegraph cancels came into use.¹²

21.01.1915 **A regular Indian PO was opened** (as a sub-office of Basra). Mail was operated from the ground floor corner office with the window on the right (see *fig. 1*).¹³

Contemporary Indian stamps were used without overprint until 1923.

Stamps seen postally used from Kuwait before 1923 are usually ½a, 1a, 1r, or 5rs values, with the occasional Official issue. Much more common are values to 15rs, both postage and Official, used telegraphically.¹⁴

21.01.1915¹⁵ “**KOWEIT**” cancellers were used (although one is reported to have been seen with a 1914 date).¹⁶

(Further Research is due here.)



January 1915 EKU of **Donaldson T 1** canceller.¹⁷

(Further Research is due here.)

1915 For a short time, the boxed cachet (Type 14) was used on registered mail.¹⁸



5.05.1915 EKU of canceller **Donaldson T 1**, used on a KGV India postal stationery card.¹⁹

Donaldson reports the EKU to be 30.06.1915. This, then, is a much earlier usage.



1916 Lt. Col. R.E.A. Hamilton²⁰ became the Political Agent (he remained in office until 1918).²¹

January 1917 EKU of **T 2** canceller (probably intended as a Delivery backstamp).²²

11 Donaldson, 1968, p. 6.

12 Donaldson, 1975.

13 Stanford, 2008.

14 SG British Commonwealth 1993, vol. 2, p. 35.

15 Kiddle, 1996, p. 2.

16 Donaldson, 1968, p. 6.

17 Donaldson, 1968, p. 6.

18 Donaldson, 1975, p. 234.

19 Author's own collection.

20 Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Edward Archibald Udny-Hamilton, 11th Lord Belhaven and Stenton, CIE, DL (1871–1950).

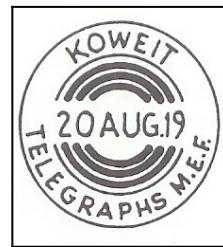
21 Kiddle, 1996, p. 3.

22 Donaldson, 1968, p. 6.

1918 Termination of office for Lt Col REA Hamilton as the Political Agent (he was appointed in 1916).²³

1919 A telegraphic cancellation (T 3) inscribed 'KOWEIT TELEGRAPHHS M.E.F' is known only in 1919 cancelling thirty-two 2 annas Indian stamps on the reverse of an application for registration of the telegraphic address of one Abdul Rehman Sarija. ("M.E.F" on this cancellation stood for "Mesopotamian Expeditionary Forces")

During 1914-1918 (WW II), a telegraph line was erected between Kuwait and Basra (it still stood until about 1950).²⁴ The line was initially erected for military use only. It was not until 1919 that the telegraph service was made available for the public, when telegraph cancels came into use.²⁵



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23 Kiddle, 1996, p. 3.

24 Donaldson, 1968, p. 6.

25 Donaldson, 1975.

Transjordan: The “Long” Stamps of 1925 Celebrating 100 Years of this Iconic Issue

by Norayr Agopian

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This issue was printed from the plates of the current Palestine stamps, the plates having been cleaned. The overprint was also done by Waterlow & Sons in London. The overprint was set up in a horizontal strip of 12 which was repeated to make a plate of 120.

The Palestine stamps (issued 1.08.1922) are known as "London II": Palestine SG & Bale: 71–89, MiNr. 37–51. The same base stamps were later overprinted for Transjordan (issued 1.11.1925): Transjordan SG 143–157, MiNr. 104–118.

All values 1 millièmes to 2 piastres were printed from plates of 240 stamps divided into two panes of 120 each: 10 horizontal rows of 12 stamps each.

The four high values 5 p to 20 p were printed from duplicate plates of 120 stamps each in two vertical sheets of that number with plain gutters of the same size as those of the lower values 1 m to 2 p. The four high values in question have catalogue numbers Palestine Bale 82, 82a, 83, 84,¹ Dorfmann 82t, 82at, 83t, 84t, MiNr. 48C–51C (1.08.1922) and Transjordan SG 154–157, MiNr 115–118 (1.11.1925), respectively.

All values exist perforated 14×14, but only 3 of the high values (9 p, 10 p, and 20 p) are known with perforation 15×14.



Fig. 1: A vertical se-tenant pair from the left margin, the top stamp is 25 mm long and bottom one is 24 mm.



Fig. 2: All the 'long' stamps: 5 p, 9 p, 10 p, and 20 p.

Normal vs. Long

The normal size of all stamps 5 p to 20 p is 20×24 mm, with perforation numbering 13 and 16 complete holes, respectively. They were perforated by a vertical comb machine of 14 gauge, i.e. 14×14). All stamps in the sixth horizontal row of the upper pane (pos. 61–72) and the fifth horizontal row of the lower pane (pos. 169–180) measure 25 mm in height. These are the "Long Stamps".

The perforating machine was set for sheets of 240 stamps in two vertical panes of 120 each with gutters longer than the stamps themselves, the rows of pins (needles) perforating those gutters

¹ No distinguishing sub-number.

vertically having 17 holes instead of 16 holes (18 teeth instead of 17 teeth).

The double-pane sheets of the four high values were cut in halves before being perforated and the upper sheet of 120 stamps was so placed in the perforating machine that the rows of pins (needles) intended for the gutters came above and below the sixth horizontal row producing 25 mm 'long' stamps. When the lower sheet was perforated it was dropped one row so making 'long' stamps of 25 mm also in the fifth horizontal row.

The 'long' stamps only exist perforated 14×14 of the four high values. These varieties exist for both Palestine and Transjordan.

These 'long' stamps are rare since only two rows with a total of 24 stamps can exist for every sheet of 240 stamps. Najjar lists the number of sheets printed as: 5 p – 156 sheets, 9 p – 145 sheets, 10 p – 145 sheets, and 20 p – 151½ sheets.²

The same variety can also be found on the Postage Due 5p stamp (SG D164, MiNr. P16).³ They also exist on the same stamps with "SPECIMEN" overprint and are thus very rare.



Fig. 3: The four high values as 'long' stamps with the (particularly) rare "SPECIMEN" overprint.

Some Other Varieties of the 1925 Series



Figs. 4 and 5:

The 1925 overprints on the 5 m stamp (SG 147/147a) with the interesting variety of the Arabic ° (5) at top right on both shades broken to form a "C". Unlisted in catalogues.



Figs. 6 to 8:

The 2 p stamp in both shades, olive and olive green (SG 153 and 153a). SG153a is rare in mint condition.



2 Cf. p. 94 in: Najjar, Abed H.: *The Stamps of Jordan 1920-1965*. 1998.

3 The Postage Due overprint of the 5 p stamp does exist in perf. 15×14 (SG D164a), however as a later 1926 issue.

The Prisoner of War Camp for Ottoman Prisoners in Nowgong (India)

by Robert Gray

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Ottoman prisoners of war were held in eight camps in India. The general locations of these excluding the two small work camps in the Southern Shan area are shown in Fig. 1. The postal history of the camps in Burma has been recently summarized.²

The International Committee of the Red Cross did not inspect Nowgong.³ No record of an inspection by the Swiss consulate could be found in the Swiss or Indian national archives. Switzerland was the diplomatic intermediary for the Ottoman Empire after the US entered the war in April 1917. A Nowgong cover was previously recorded.⁴



Fig. 1:

Sketch map showing general locations of the prisoner of war camps in India holding Ottoman prisoners.

As the camp at Sumerpur began to reach capacity, the camps at Bellary and Nowgong were authorised in April 1916 with the understanding that Bellary would be opened as soon as practical and Nowgong was to be opened when needed.⁵ These two camps were authorised to have a capacity of four to five thousand prisoners, however, there is no data to support such high prisoners of numbers there.

Nowgong was an Army cantonment (permanent military station) of about 7,000 inhabitants in less than 6s square miles. The associated camp likely operated between 1917–1920 holding Ottoman prisoners from Mesopotamia and later about 50 Austrians captured in Turkmenistan. It was a

1 Updated version of an article entitled *Nowgong Prisoners of War Camp in WWI India*, originally published in 2022.

2 Gray, 2025.

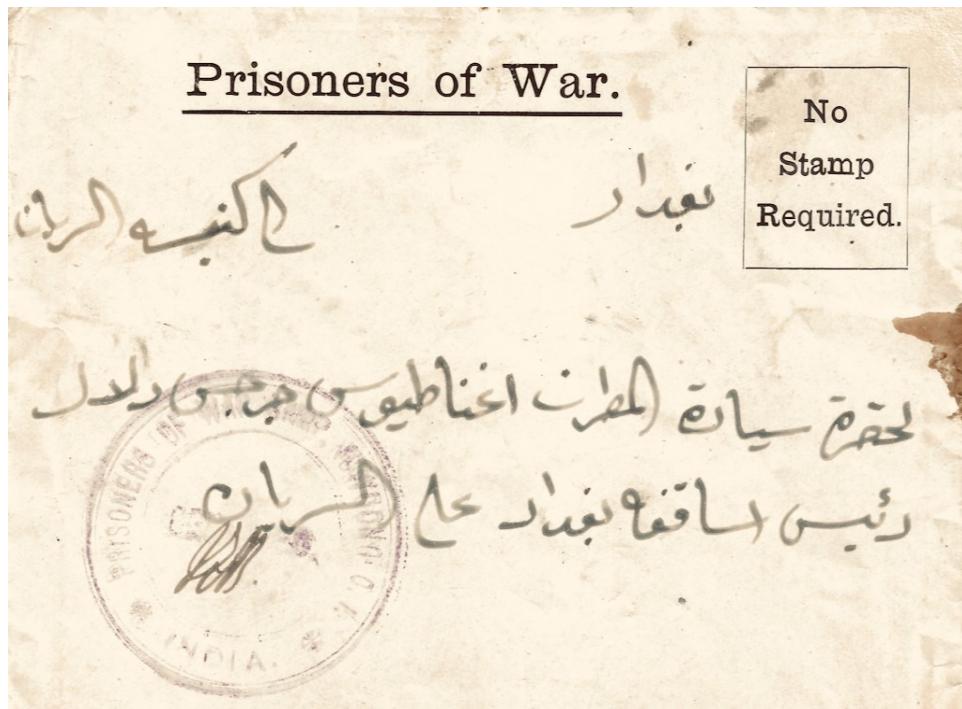
3 *Rapports de MM. F. Thormeyer, ... sur leurs visites aux camps de prisonniers de guerre ottomans ..., 1917*

4 Gray, 2022.

5 *Proposal to open a camp at Bellary and Nowgong for Turkish prisoners of War. 1916-06.*

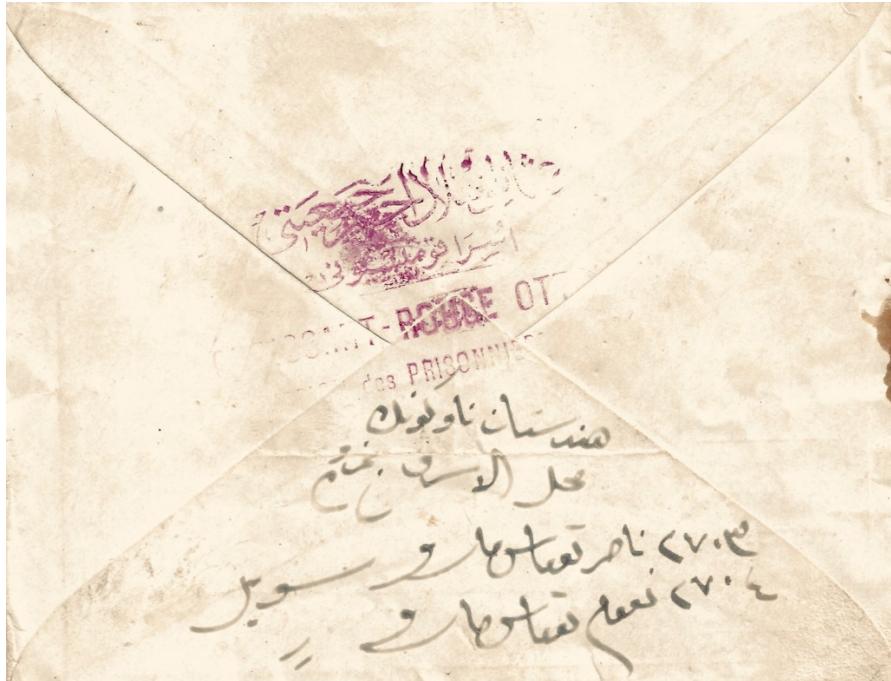
relatively isolated place with the nearest rail station was 18 miles. The location of the camp relative to the village is not known.

The Indian archives and other sources reveal little regarding this camp. There was a Turkish interpreter,⁶ and the guards in 1918 were the Sikh's Garrison Company at Nowgong commanded by Acting Captain (Lt.) R.D. Thompson.⁷ Postal history leaves a small trace with only two known covers. Based on a FIVRR.com translation, the cover shown in *fig. 2* is addressed to "His Excellency Bishop Ignatius George Dallal Archbishop of the Syriac Church Baghdad.⁸ He was ordained in 1912 and left for Mosul in 1926. The address on the verso suggests that the sender was likely a Syriac Christian from Mesopotamia.



The cover itself is a standard British India prisoner of war envelope with a camp's censor hand-stamp and no postal cancellations. The verso bears a Red Crescent hand-stamp suggesting that Baghdad was still in Ottoman hands when the letter was sent. Baghdad fell to the British on 11 March 1917. Presumably after that date mail to Baghdad would have been sent under existing British India mail routes.

Figs. 2 and 2a:
Front and verso of an undated Nowgong cover showing the camp hand-stamp and unidentified initials.
Collection R. Gray.



6 Enquiry regarding the bona fides of Mr. B Dervishian, ...

7 The London Gazette, 7.03.1919, p. 3158.

8 Archbishop Athanase Georges Dallal.

An enlarged and photo-enhanced image of the camp hand-stamp is shown as *fig. 2b*. The hand-stamp is in violet ink and reads “PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP / NOWGONG C.I. / INDIA”. The “C.I.” is perhaps Central India.

The hand-stamp is a double ring design like those found in the camps holding Ottoman prisoners with the text between the two rings. The outer diameter is 40 mm, and the inner diameter is 27 mm. The letters are 3 mm in height. The envelope is 120×95 mm.



Fig. 2b:

Enlarged and enhanced image of the Nowgong hand-stamp from the cover in *fig. 2*.

The second cover (*fig. 3*) was addressed in English to Paris, France. It also bears a Red Crescent hand-stamp, Nowgong camp hand-stamp, with manuscript initials, and postal marks indicating a route from the camp to Istanbul, to the Geneva ICRC.

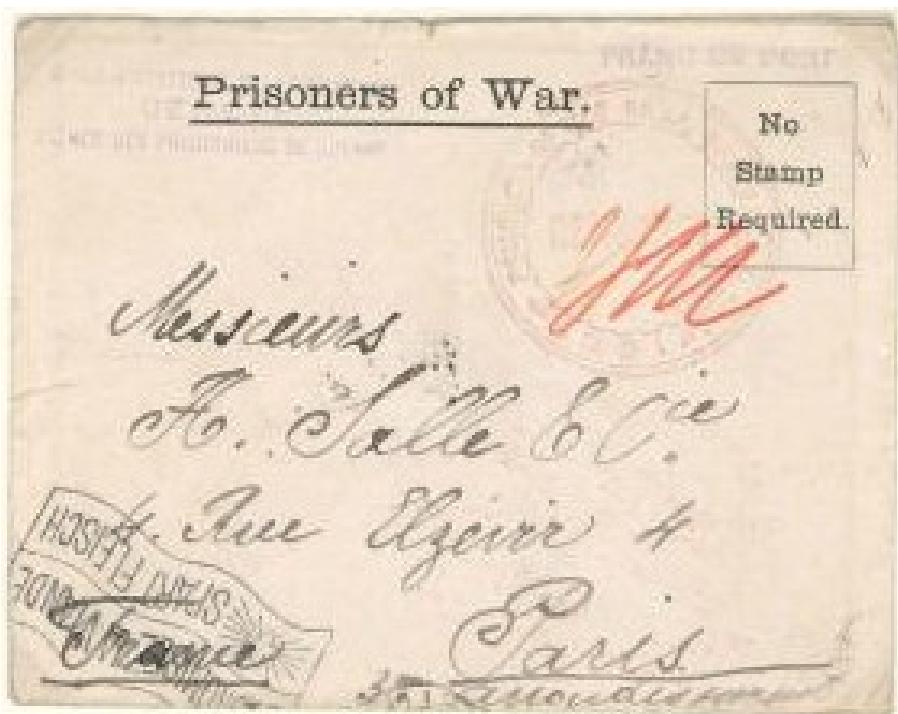


Fig. 3:

Front of Nowgong Prisoners of War cover to Paris.

Original caption: “World war I Prisoner of War in Nowgong, Central India. Large camp cachet on face. Postmark Istanbul and Turkish Red Crescent cachet on back. On face Geneva Int. Red Cross cachet.

Route: Camp to Istanbul to Geneva to Lisbon to Paris.”

Source: FPHS (scan J. Thiessen)

Fig. 4 was posted by John Thiessen on the Forces Postal History Society web site but no longer appears. The sender is “J. Tsiminides Medical Officer 2718 Prisoners of War Camp, Nowgong, Central India.” It is not known if prisoner numbers were assigned consecutively as in Ahmednagar or whether this prisoner was transferred from Sumerpur and kept his previous camp number.

It should not be interpreted as the camp holding 2700 plus prisoners. The “Stambul” cancellation on the verso appears as “29. JAN 19” suggesting the delivery of the letter was delayed.

The paucity of all Ottoman prisoners of war mail from India is best understood from the perspective of the Red Crescent Archives in Ankara. Most of Ottoman P.O.W. mail was never delivered because of the chaos from the war in Turkey.

The Red Crescent Archives in Ankara have stated that they have 30,000 Ottoman P.O.W. letters in their possession.⁹ There was no mention if the covers were there as well. The author has tried a couple of times unsuccessfully to contact them to determine what if anything they might have on Nowgong.

The archives will only work with individuals who come to the archive and can speak Turkish. Furthermore, a survey of Middle East archives in Turkey recorded that a large project to translate Ottoman documents into modern Turkish will likely keep the archives in flux for the next 10-20 years. The Red Crescent archives are not included in that report.¹⁰

To pursue this subject further, the author would appreciate scans of any Nowgong prisoners of war related cover or other information. Anyone able to access the Ankara archives should request information on Nowgong and the other Indian camps and lastly, if any of the readers are competent translators of the cover, would they please advise as to the script being used and its meaning in English. Please forward any information in this regard to the editor at mep-bulletin@zobbel.de.

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- *Archbishop Athanase Cyrille Georges Dallal*. Online: <https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/bdallal.html>.
- *Turkish Red Crescent to deliver letters written 100 years ago by prisoners of war*. In: Hürriyet. Online: <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/photo-turkish-red-crescent-to-deliver-letters-written-100-years-ago-by-prisoners-of-war-139063>.
- Byrne, Kian: *A survey of Middle East archives*. In: Wilson Center. 3.04.2020. Online: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/survey-middle-east-archives>.

9 Turkish Red Crescent to deliver letters written 100 years ago by prisoners of war.

10 Byrne, 2020.



Fig. 3a: The reverse side.

Jordan: Postage Stamps or Charity Labels?

by Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP)

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Frankings affixed to letters in addition to the required postage have become known on covers from Jordan from 1983 to 1989. These are MiNr. 1248 and 1249 (Solidarity with Palestine, 1983), MiNr. 1327 and 1328 (Restoration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, 1985) and MiNr. 1415 and 1416 (Palestine Aid, 1989). Of the respective series only the denominations of 5 and 10 fils are known in this way.

On five of the six covers (*figs. 2–6*), the stamps mentioned were affixed in addition to the required postage. Only on the cover in *fig. 1* are two different additional stamps affixed, with the 5 fils value supplementing the required postage, while the 10 fils value was affixed in addition. All six covers are bank and commercial letters.

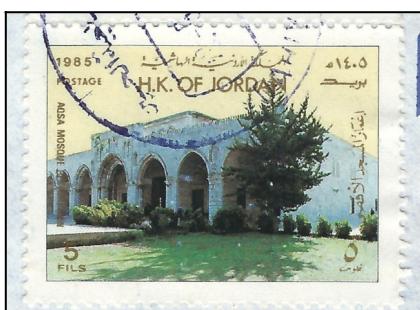
As the stamps mentioned were used on two covers in addition to the value of the franking meter, the question arises as to whether these are charity labels in favour of the Palestine refugees? Otherwise the additional postage would make no sense because of the franking meter. The question also arises as to how the accounts were settled and which organisations were the recipients.



Figs. 1b & 1c:

MiNr. 1248 & 1249

Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem
Solidarity with Palestine 1983



Figs. 4a & 4b:

MiNr. 1327 & 1328

Restauration of Al-Aqsa-
Mosque, 1985



Figs. 6a & 6b:

MiNr. 1415 & 1416

Palästine Aid, 1989



Fig. 1: Cover sent from Jebel Amman P.O. (date unknown) to Albertslund, Denmark.

Franked 125 f incl. MiNr. 1248,
Additional 10 f stamp (MiNr. 1249)

Fig. 1a: Sender is the Japanese Embassy.

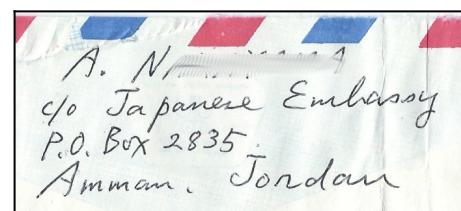


Fig. 2: Cover sent by the Tunisian Embassy from Dahiyat al-Hussein, 30.11.1983, to Albertslund, Denmark. Franking: 125 f plus an additional 10 f (MiNr. 1249).



Fig. 3: Registered letter from Amman City-2 (8.12.1983) via Amman 30 (8.12.1983) to Turku, Finland.
Franking by franking meter: 325 f, additional 10 (MiNr. 1249).



Fig. 4: Cover from Dahiyat al-Hussein, 5.10.1986 to Frankfurt, Germany.
Franking: 150 f with two additional 5 f stamp = 10 f (MiNr. 1327).
Sender is a member of the "Jordan German Forestry Project."



Fig. 5: Cover sent from Amman City Centre 20 on 20.11.1985 to Frankfurt, Germany.
Franking: 125 f with an additional stamp of 10 f (MiNr. 1328).



Fig. 6: Registered cover from Amman 6.06.1989 via Amman City Centre R24 (6.06.1989) and Amman Central Post Office to Bologna, Italy, 19.06.1989.

Franked with 400 f (franking meter)
plus an addition 10 f stamp (MiNr. 1416).

Sender: Arab Land Bank, Amman,
Addressee: Credito Italiano, Bologna.



The UNRWA Organisation Revisited

by Avo Kaplanian

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In the latest number of the Middle East Philatelic Bulletin, Jean-Louis Emmenegger published an article titled “UNRWA : Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949.”¹ In that very interesting article, the author gave us a slight overview over the establishment of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency For Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in 1949 and its history and its different activities since then until now in aiding the Palestinian refugees in the different camps in countries in the Middle East such as Jordan, the Israeli occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, etc. The article was illustrated with many covers of the vast correspondence of the UNRWA and its different branches.

As a collector of the stamps and postal history of Jordan and Mandate Palestine including all aspects of the UNRWA organisation and its many branches of civil activities such as schooling, vocational training, medical care, food distribution, sports, etc. I checked my own collection and found many more interesting items that would add more information regarding the many UNRWA activities in helping the Palestinian refugees. Such items include covers, postmarks, cachets, hand-stamps, etc. which I believe will complement what was shown in Mr. Emmenegger’s article.

Here follow illustrations of the philatelic and non-philatelic items I described above.



Fig. 1: A registered letter sent from Ramallah on 13.11.1962 addressed to the general director of operations of the UNRWA office in Amman. The double rectangular cachet (dated “15 NOV 1962”) on the front reads: “Received No. / CENTRAL REGISTRY / U.N.R.W.A. AMMAN”.

¹ Emmenegger, Jean-Louis: *UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949*. In: MEPB, no. 30, 2025, pp. 102–110.

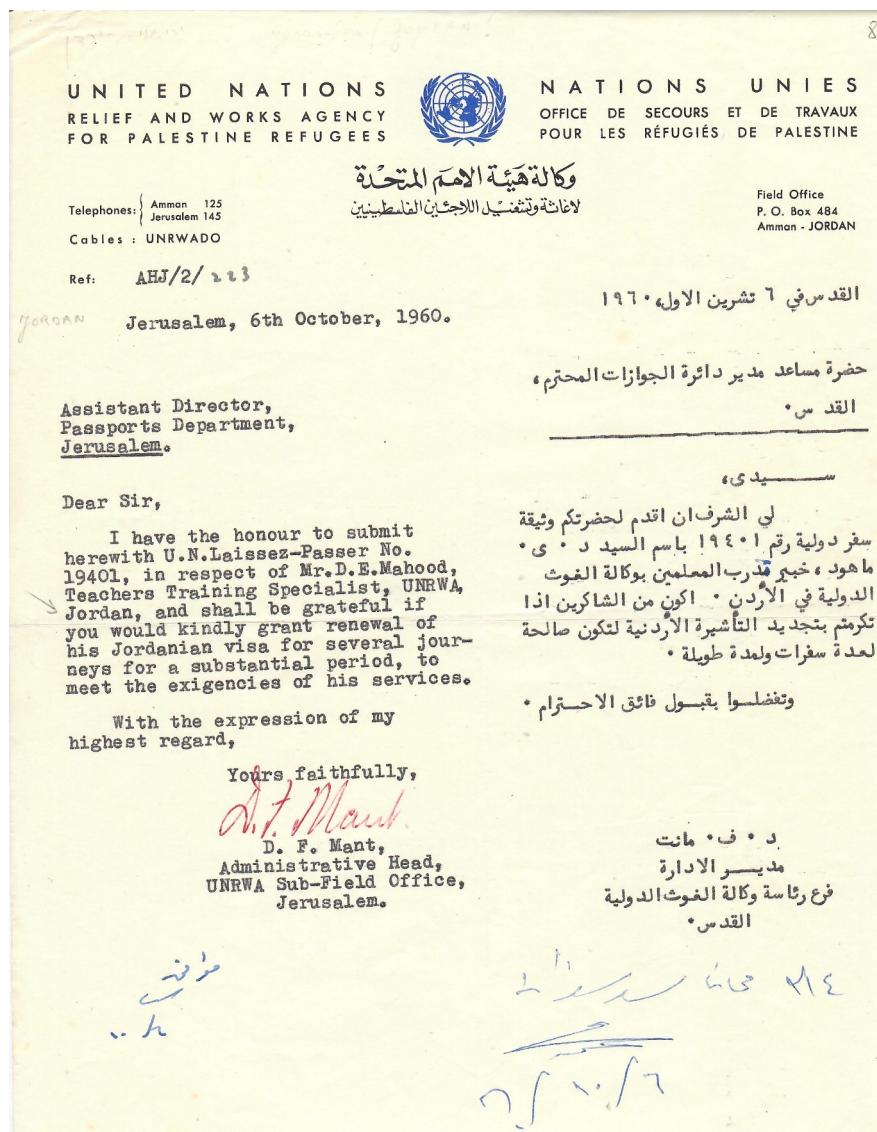


Fig. 2:

A bilingual UNRWA visa renewal request to the Passport Department in Jerusalem for a teacher's training specialist, dated 6.10.1960.



Fig. 3: "UNRWA For Palestine Refugees / in the Near East" hand-stamp on a check from Barclays Bank with 10 mills Egyptian revenue stamp overprinted "PALESTINE" tied by bank hand-stamp, dated Gaza, 16.02.1955. Two additional hand-stamps reading "WASTE" and "BARCLAYS BANK D.C.O. / PAID / 22 MAR 1955 / IN CASH".

UNRWA FORM No. 06.1.202.1 Annex (As to Personnel Directive No. A/5)			Distribution Index	
U. N. R. W. A. LEAVE APPLICATION			Personnel File	
			Staff Member	
1	Name	Mr. Hamdi Abu Rayya	EOD	
	Title	Senior Clerk	Employee Number 1663	
	Location	Finance - Division	Post Number	
2	I request leave of absence as noted below :			
	TYPE OF LEAVE REQUESTED	WORKING DAYS	PERIOD OF ABSENCE from _____ to _____	
	Annual Leave under S.R.105.1 XXX	24	24.8.1970 to 24.9.1970	
	Advanced Annual Leave under S.R.105.1			
	Special Leave under S.R.105.2	with full pay		This space for use of Personnel Office Balance upto: 30.9.70 = 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 24 = 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
		with part pay		
		without pay		
Total number of working days	24			
I can be contacted during my absence at this address :	Amman - Jordan - Jabal El Taj. c/o Mr. Mah'd Abu Rayya <i>H. A. Rayya</i> (Signature of Staff Member)			
Date : 25.7.1970	Recommendation of immediate supervisor : <i>George Mistkawi</i> = Title D/FFO			
Date : 25.7.1970	Recommendation of principal supervisor : <i>Robert C. Murray</i> = Title A/FAW			
4	At the end of the month in which the above requested leave period expires, the accrued annual leave of the Staff Member will be 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ working days.		Checked by <i>J. Simri</i>	
Decision of Approving Officer, including all modifications to the leave requested in Section 2.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved Remarks : <i>M. S. Ghuff</i>				
Date 27.7.70 Signature M. S. Ghuff Title Field Personnel Officer				

Fig. 4:

An UNRWA request in English for an application for leave of absence for a senior clerk, dated 27.07.1970.



Fig. 5: A cover of the UNRWA office in Cairo, Egypt mailed on 19.02.1957 from the Gaza Strip under Israeli occupation, addressed to the Israeli Cooperative Wholesale Society Ltd. in Tel Aviv.

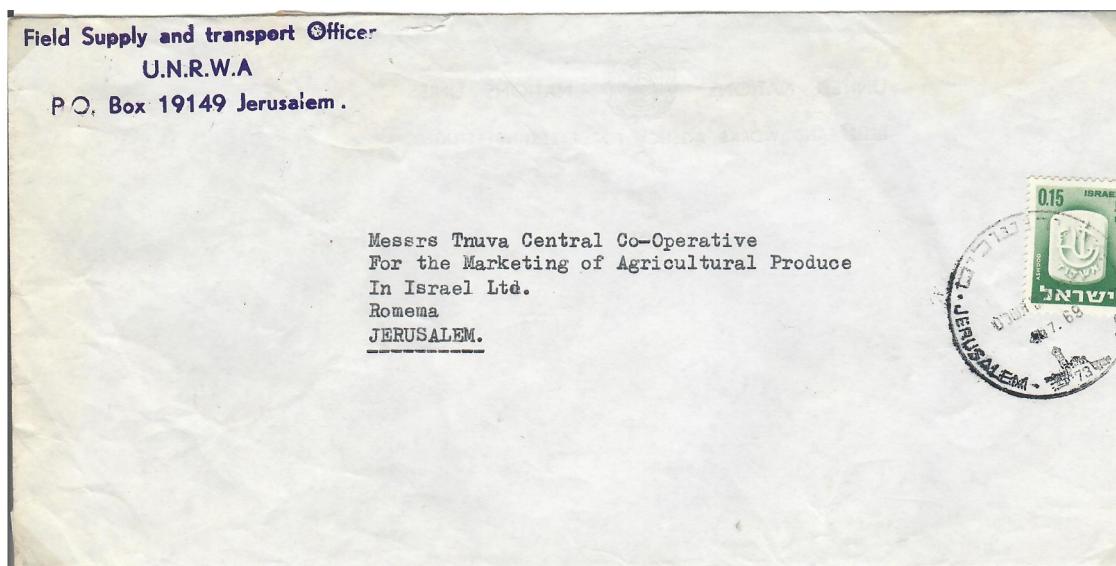


Fig. 6: A local letter mailed by the "Field Supply and transport Officer / U.N.R.W.A." in Jerusalem, addressed to "Messrs Tnuva Central Co-operative". The Jerusalem cancellation postmark is dated July 1969.



Fig. 7: A local cover of the Middle East Airlines Company SA mailed in Jerusalem to the UNRWA organisation on the 24.07.1957.



Fig. 8: A confidential public invitation to submit lower bids for public works. The boxed text in Arabic reads “Confidential bid / to be opened only by the special committee / bid No. 41 / 7056 / Specifications: beach sand / latest date of bid: 12 October / Monday 24/7/1967. Bidder’s name: Mahmoud Adwan in Rafah, Gaza.



Fig. 9:

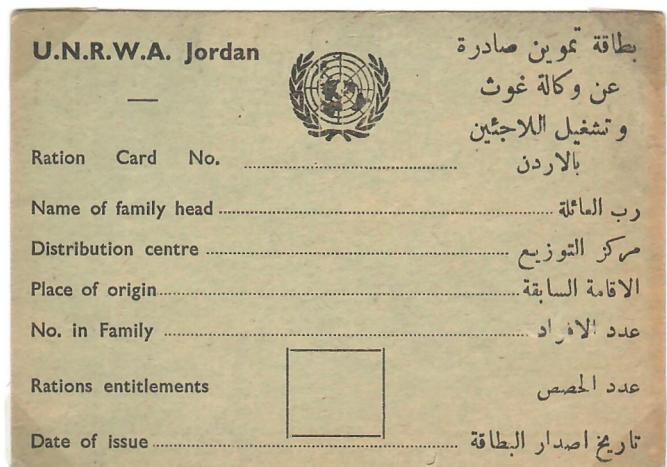
A set of seven stamps issued by Bhutan, perforated and imperforate, with the overprint "UNHCR / UNRWA / 1971".



Fig. 10:

An UNRWA bilingual ration card for food replenishment to Palestinian refugees.

The back side shows the distribution dates Aug. 1954 through July 1956 in 24 small rectangular boxes.



Aug. 54	Sept. 54	Oct. 54	Nov. 54
٥٤ آب	٥٤ أيلول	٥٤ تشرين أول	٥٤ تشرين ثانٍ
Dec. 54	Jan. 55	Feb. 55	March 55
٥٤ كانون أول	٥٥ كانون ثانٍ	٥٥ شباط	٥٥ آذار
April 55	May 55	June 55	July 55
٥٥ نيسان	٥٥ أيار	٥٥ حزيران	٥٥ تموز
Aug. 55	Sept. 55	Oct. 55	Nov. 55
٥٥ آب	٥٥ أيلول	٥٥ تشرين أول	٥٥ تشرين ثانٍ
Dec. 55	Jan. 56	Feb. 56	March 56
٥٦ كانون أول	٥٦ كانون ثانٍ	٥٦ شباط	٥٦ آذار
April 56	May 56	June 56	July 56
٥٦ نيسان	٥٦ أيار	٥٦ حزيران	٥٦ تموز

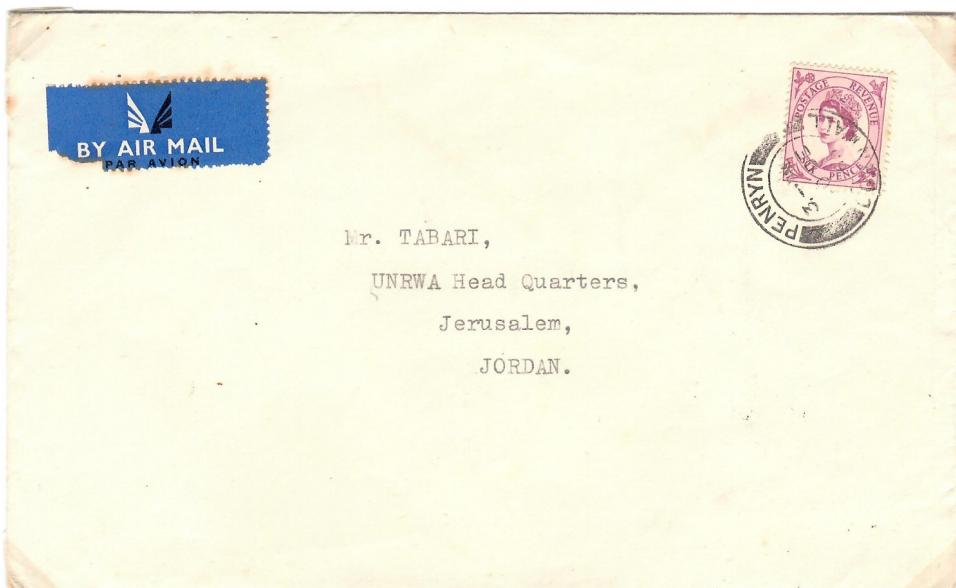


Fig. 11:

A British air mail cover mailed in Penryn (Cornwall) to the UNRWA Head Quarters in Jerusalem, Jordan (via Amman), dated 3.12.1966.



Fig. 12: A small permission allowing Mr. Avedis Kindelian to empty out all registered letters of the P.O. Box No. 40.38. On the back side Mr. Kindelian in Arabic with a signature. The permit carries three Jordanian revenue stamps for a total of 45 mils with the cancellation of Jerusalem, 19.06.1951. On the lower right there's the interesting cachet in red with the text "CENTRAL LABORATORY / U.N.R.W.A. / JERUSALEM".



Fig. 13: A United Nations air mail cover mailed by the UN Vienna Branch on the 3.05.1990 to Blandford Forum (Dorset, UK). Next to the circular machine cancellation there's the slogan "UNWRA / 1950 – 1990 / SERVING PALESTINE / REFUGEES".



Fig. 14: A printed matter cover mailed by the UNWRA Beyrouth office on 10.08.1959 to Banbury, England.

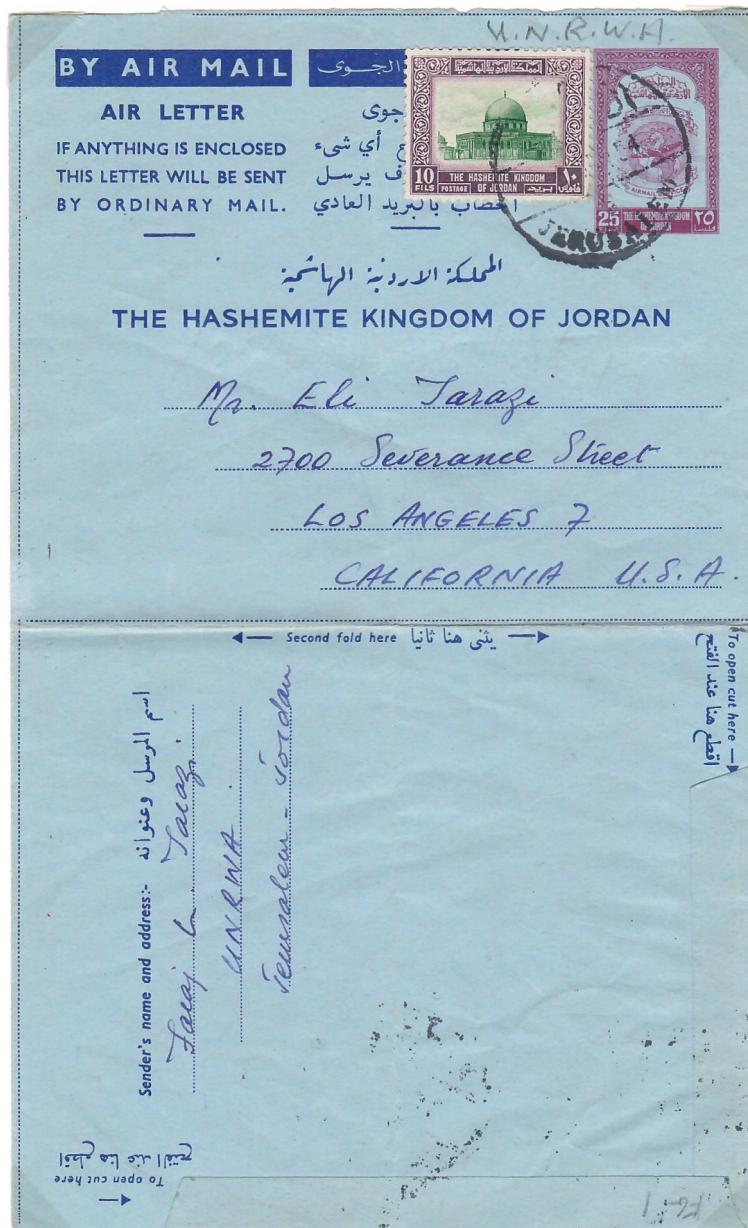


Fig. 15:

A Jordanian air letter mailed in Jerusalem on 17.06.1954. The 25 fils indicium was upgraded by a 10 fils stamp. The sender is a Mr. Eli Tarazi of the UNRWA headquarters in Jerusalem.



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES



Fig. 17: Egyptian censored cover mailed by UNRWA in Gaza, dated May 1950, to Bethlehem, franked by two "PALESTINE" overprinted Egyptian stamps for a total of 25 mills.

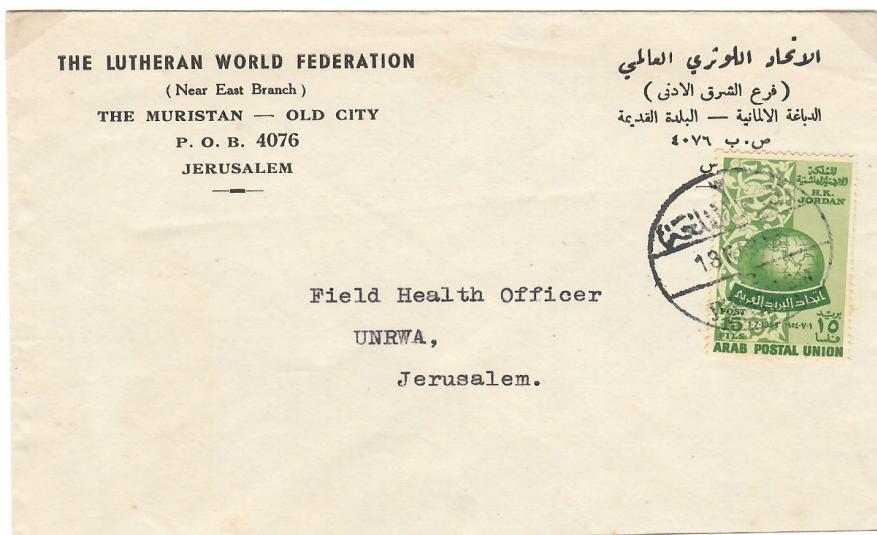


Fig 18:

Cover mailed by the Lutheran World Federation in the Old City of Jerusalem under Jordanian rule. The cover is addressed to the "Field Health Officer / UNRWA / Jerusalem."

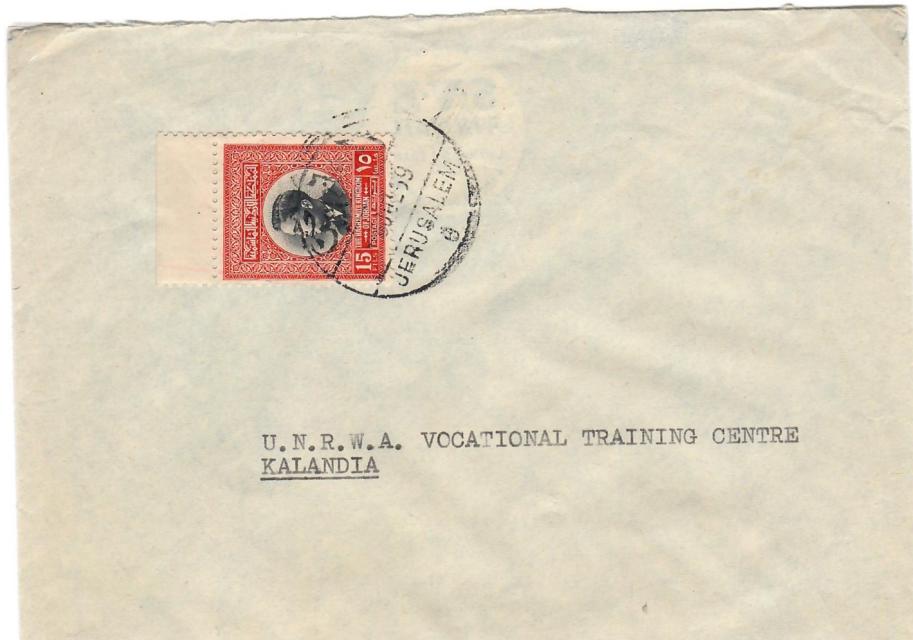


Fig. 19:

A local cover mailed in Jerusalem on 7.07.1959 to the UNRWA Vocational Training Centre in Kalandia (between Jerusalem and Ramallah in the occupied West Bank), where a big vocational centre was located.

Reactions, Comments, Queries

This section gathers reactions, comments, criticism, and queries sent in by readers in response to articles published in MEPB, or in general.

Search Request: Turkish Trees Stamps from 1994 "Natural Monuments"

(Dr. Rolf Spieß)

Dr. Rolf Spieß writes:

I am looking for the maximum card of the stamp Turkey MiNr. 3036 (7.500 L) from 30.11.1994 for my thematic exhibit „Famous Trees“. The FDC shows a broadleaf tree on the left. I would also like to identify the other trees depicted, if possible.



Fig. 1: Official FDC for the "Natural Monuments" issue, 30.11.1994.

Editor: With the help of the PTT's issue monograph (see fig. 4), I was able to identify the specific tree depicted on the 12,500 lira stamp as a cypress from Özbek (Urla). I could not identify the location of but not the other two images on the FDC.

The monograph says:

Scientists called a variety of the trees as the "Monumental trees" because of they are older, bigger and wider in size than the others of available. Monumental trees are very important and valued from the point of science, culture and aesthetics. They contribute extraordinary and charming beauty of the natural environment at their geographic area and in culture.

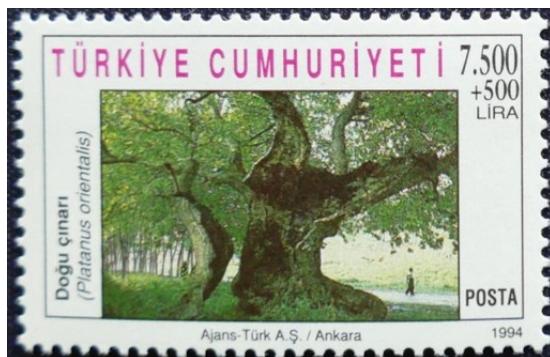
There are too many monumental trees in Turkey. They are the green monuments of the nature and the studies on the matter of researching and saving this kind of trees are being continued.

The picture on the stamp valued TL 7500+500.- TL. is belonging to a plane-tree (platanus orientalis) that is 600 years old and in 3 meters diameter.

The picture on the stamp valued TL 12.500+1000.- TL. is belonging to the cypress (cupressus sempervirens) at the Üzbek Village, Urfa/İzmir of which is 950 years old, in 2 meters diameter, 17 meters surroundings and 27 meters height.

The stamp series (MiNr. 3036/3037, İSFİLA 3430/3431) is described as "Doğal Anıtlar – Natural Monuments." The inscriptions on the stamps are:

- 7,500 + 500 Lira: Doğu çınarı (*Platanus Orientalis*)
- 12,500 + 1,000 Lira: Servi (*Cupressus Semperflorens*)



An internet search can at least rule out the famous plane tree from Inkaya (Bursa)! Can any reader help unearthing the maximumcard of any further information?

PTT İŞLETME GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ
POSTA VE TELGRAF DAİRESİ BAŞKANLIĞI
PUL ŞUBESİ
06101 ANKARA - TÜRKİYE

1994
DOĞAL ANITLAR KONULU EK DEĞERLİ ANMA SERİSİ
COMMEMORATIVE SET WITH SURCHARGE OF NATURAL MONUMENTS
WOHLTATIGKEITS-SONDERAUSGABE FÜR DENKMALBAUME



Değerler	: 7500+500, 12.500+1000 Lira	Values	: 7500+500, 12.500+1000 Lira
Çıkış Tarihi	: 30.11.1994	Date of Issue	: 30.11.1994
Tirağı	: 300.000	Quantity	: 300.000
Pulun Boyutu	: 41x26, 26x41 mm.	Size	: 41x26, 26x41 mm.
Tabakadaki Pul Sayısı	: 100	Stamps on a Sheet	: 100
Baskı Yöntemi	: Ofset	Printing Process	: Offset
Basımı	: Ajans - Türk Matbaası	Printing House	: Ajans - Türk Matbaası
Son Satış Tarihi	: 31.12.1995	Last Date of Sale	: 31.12.1995
Orjinal	: Slayt	Original	: Slayt

Bilim adamları, bir ağaç türünün var olan diğer örneklere oranla yaş, büyülüük ve görünümden çok daha geniş boyutlara ulaşmış olanlarına "anıt ağaç" adını veriyorlar.

Anıt ağaçlar, bilimsel, kültürel ve estetik açıdan çok önemli ve değerlendirilirler. Bulundukları coğrafya ve kültüre olaganüstü güzellik katarlar.

"Doğanın yeşil heykelleri" "anıt ağaçlar" açısından çok zengin olan ülkemizde bu tür ağaçları teşhît ve koruma çalışmaları sürdürülmektedir.

- 7500+500 TL değerli pulda; yaşı 600 ve gövde çapı 3 m. olan "Doğu Çınarı" (*platanus orientalis*) görüntülenmektedir.

- 12.500+1000 TL değerli pulda; İzmir-Urla Özbeğ Köyünde bulunan yaşı 950 - gövde çapı 2 m. - taç çapı 17 m. - boyu 27 m. olan servi (*cupressus semperflorens L.*) görüntülenmektedir.

Scientists called a variety of the trees as the "Monumental trees" because of they are older, bigger and wider in size than the others of available.

Monumental trees are very important and valued from the point of science, culture and aesthetics. They contribute extraordinary and charming beauty of the natural environment at their geographic area and in culture.

There are too many monumental trees in Turkey. They are the green monuments of the nature and the studies on the matter of researching and saving this kind of trees are being continued.

The picture on the stamp valued TL 7500+500.-TL. is belonging to a plane-tree (*platanus orientalis*) that is 600 years old and in 3 meters diameter.

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Die Bäume, die im Vergleich ihre Artgenossen älter, im Volumen grösser und höher gewachsen sind, werden von Wissenschaftlern als "Denkmalbäume" ernannt.

Die Denkmalbäume sind aus wissenschaftlichen, kulturellen und esthetischen Sicht sehr wichtige Schätze, und tragen zur Schönheit der Umgebung bei.

In der Türkei, wo diese grüne Denkmäler reichlich vorhanden sind, werden Denkmalbäume festgestellt und in Schutz genommen.

Auf dem 7500 + 500.-TL. Wert eine morgenländische platane (*platanus orientalis*) deren Alter 600 Jahre und Stammdurchmesser 3 m. ist abgebildet.

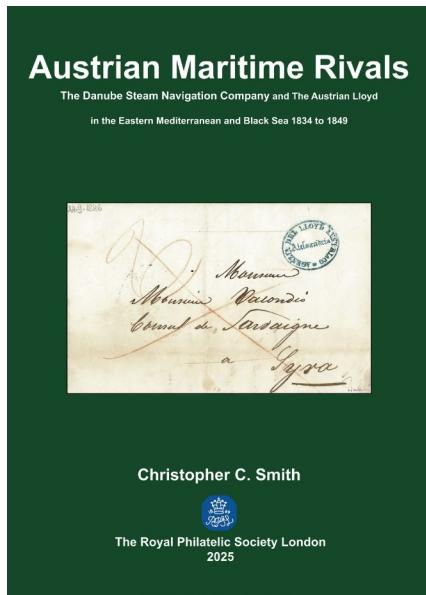
Auf dem 12.500 + 1000.-TL. Wert eine Zypresse (*cupressus semperflorens L.*) aus Izmir - Urla, deren Alter 950 Jahre, Stammdurchmesser 2 m. Kronen durchmesser 17 m. und Höhe 27 m. ist abgebildet.

YAZIŞMALAR İÇİN ADRES :
ADDRESS OF CORRESPONDENCE :
POSTANSCHRIFT :
PTT FİLATELİ SERVİSİ
P.K. 900 ULUS
06045 - ANKARA / TURKEY

Figs. 4 and 4a: PTT monograph for the stamps of 30.11.1994: "Doğal Anıtlar - Natural Monuments" (MiNr. 3036/3037, İSFİLA 3430/3431. Inscriptions on the stamps: 7,500+500 Lira: Doğu çınarı (*Platanus Orientalis*); 12,500+1,000 Lira: Servi (*Cupressus Semperflorens*)

MEPB 22: Austrian Steam Navigation 1834-1845 (Study of the Austrian Post Offices Abroad) (Christopher C. Smith, pp. 123–124)

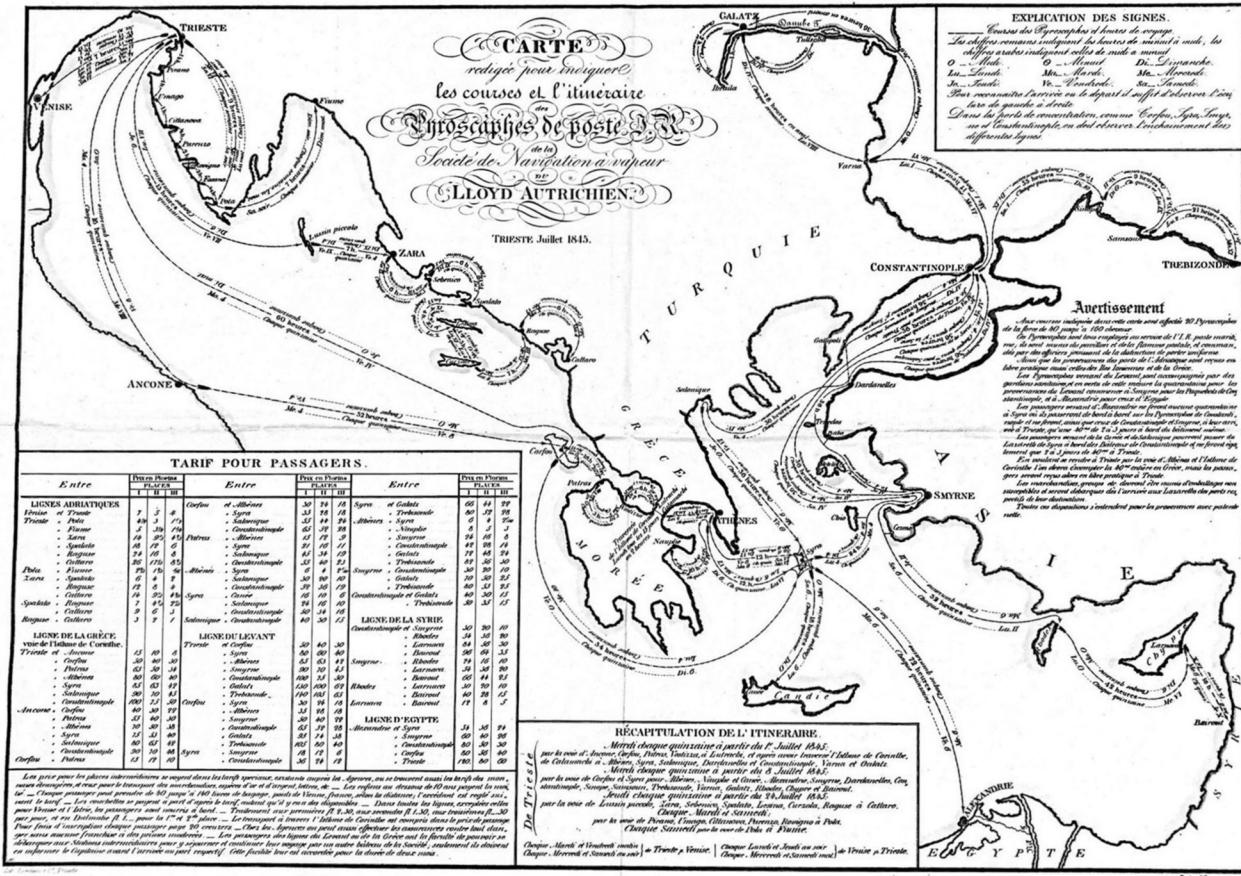
Christopher C Smith (watermarkstamp@gmail.com) writes:



As I was reading the most recent issue of THE MIDDLE EAST PHILATELIC BULLETIN, I decided it would be good to notify you about a book that I have just completed: "Austrian Maritime Rivals The Danube Steam Navigation Company and the Austrian Lloyd in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea 1834 to 1849."

The book is about the history of mail communications during the advent of Austrian steamship activities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It is essentially a book about the maritime history of the period from 1830 to about 1850 and the use of steam navigation to transport commercial, personal, and diplomatic correspondence. It focuses on the development of the two Austrian steam navigation companies (the Austrian Lloyd and the maritime lines of the D.D.S.G.) that were among the first companies to operate in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea.

The book includes the analysis of a number of postal history specimens. My research was conducted at national libraries and archives in the UK (London, Birmingham, and Greenwich), France (Paris and Marseille), Germany (Munich and Regensburg), and Italy (Rome and Trieste). It was a pleasure to write the book and I am emailing in case the book is perhaps of interest to you or others.



Smith, Christopher C.: *Austrian maritime rivals : the Danube Steam Navigation Company and the Austrian Lloyd in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea 1834 to 1849*. – London: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 2025. – 368 p. : ill. ; 30 cm (pbk.) – ISBN 978-1-913015-33-6 : £65.

Orders: <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/language/en-US/Home/Publications/Books/Austrian-Maritime-Rivals>



The Royal Philatelic Society London

Austrian Maritime Rivals

**The Danube Steam Navigation Company and the Austrian Lloyd
in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea 1834 to 1849**

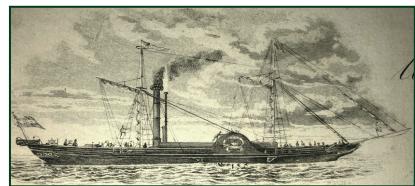
by Christopher C. Smith

A new publication from the RPSL

The latest book to be published by The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) details the history and postal history of these two Austrian steamship companies operating in the eastern Mediterranean Sea over a period of fifteen years. It follows the rivalry of the two companies amid important historical events of the period and provides detailed information on the rates, routes and individual voyages of the steamships. The author has made extensive use of primary sources and in doing so has been able to both correct errors in the existing literature and present much new information for postal historians.

The first chapter focuses on the Austrian Lloyd's Egypt line and the five known postal uses of the handstamp of that company used in Alexandria. The Danube Steam Navigation Company (DDSG) briefly ran its own line to Egypt, and this is the subject of the second chapter.

There follow two chapters containing detailed information on the DDSG's history and operations in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean, including extensive tables documenting the individual voyages. The research contained in these chapters comprises essential data for the final chapter which is built around the analysis of 13 selected letters carried on the maritime lines of the DDSG.



About the author

Christopher Smith has been a philatelist and postal historian for nearly six decades. His collecting interests include Austrian offices abroad, the consular post offices of Egypt, the Bordeaux issue of France, local posts of Sweden and Denmark, and classic United States.



Further information

This 345-page hardback was published in November 2025 and costs £58 for members of the RPSL and £65 for non-members. It can be ordered through the RPSL website (www.rpsl.org.uk).

ISBN 978-1-913015-33-6.

**The Royal Philatelic Society London
15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW**

Austrian Maritime Rivals

**The Danube Steam Navigation Company and The Austrian Lloyd
in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea 1834 to 1849**

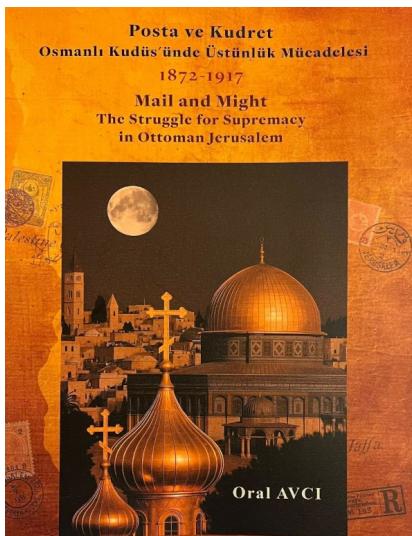


Christopher C. Smith



The Royal Philatelic Society London
2025

New Books: *Mail and Might: The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem (1872–1917)* by Oral Avci



Editor: The book explores the political rivalry and foreign presence in late Ottoman Jerusalem through the lens of postal history – with stamps, letters, and rare archival documents. It also examines in detail the role and influence of foreign postal administrations operating in the city.

The promotional text reads:

*Postal history has long been treated primarily as a specialized branch of philately, often confined to the classification of stamps, cancellations, and routes. *Mail & Might: The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem (1872–1917)* by Oral Avci challenges this limitation by repositioning postal systems as central instruments of imperial power, diplomacy, and sovereignty in the late Ottoman Levant. The volume demonstrates that postal material—stamps, postmarks, covers, tariffs, and routes—*

constitutes a critical historical source through which the geopolitical rivalries of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries can be examined with precision.

Focusing on Jerusalem as a focal point of imperial competition, the study situates postal services within the broader context of Ottoman administrative reform, foreign intervention, and international rivalry. Rather than approaching foreign post offices merely as technical or commercial enterprises, the work interprets them as manifestations of state ambition and ideological projection. In doing so, it moves beyond earlier literature that largely emphasized cataloguing and chronology, offering instead a structural and interpretive framework that integrates postal history with political, diplomatic, and social analysis.

The volume is organized into six thematically coherent chapters. The opening chapter provides a concise overview of the Levant, outlining Jerusalem's geographic position, demographic composition, and religious significance. Subsequent chapters examine the Ottoman administrative system and the development of the Ottoman Postal Administration in Jerusalem, including the establishment of post offices, the regulation of routes and tariffs, and the role of semi-private operators such as Santelli & Micciarelli within the iltizam system.

The core analytical contribution of the work lies in its detailed examination of foreign postal services—Austrian, Russian, French, German, and Italian—first across the Levant and then specifically in Jerusalem. These services are analyzed not in isolation but as components of broader imperial strategies. The study explores France's politique catholique, Austria's pragmatic balance of cooperation and competition, Russia's so-called "Greek Project," Germany's Drang nach Osten culminating in Kaiser Wilhelm II's 1898 visit, and Italy's late and often constrained attempts to maintain a postal presence in the region. Through this comparative approach, Jerusalem emerges as a contested postal landscape where sovereignty was negotiated daily through tariffs, cancellations, and institutional presence.

The final chapter, from which the book takes its title, synthesizes these themes by demonstrating how postal policy functioned as an extension of imperial power. Particular attention is given to the Ottoman administration's late efforts to reassert control, including the establishment of post offices in the Jewish Quarter and Mea Shearim, strategic tariff policies, and the eventual closure of foreign post offices on the eve of the First World War. These developments are presented not as administrative footnotes but as deliberate political acts aimed at restoring imperial authority.

*This volume represents Avci's second major contribution to the field of postal history. His earlier work, *The Postal History of Ottoman Iraq During the British Occupation (1914–1923)*, has received five international awards at world philatelic exhibitions, establishing his scholarly reputation in the analysis of postal systems within imperial and wartime contexts. *Mail & Might* extends this research geographically and conceptually from Mesopotamia to the Levant, while maintaining the same methodological emphasis on primary postal material as historical evidence.*

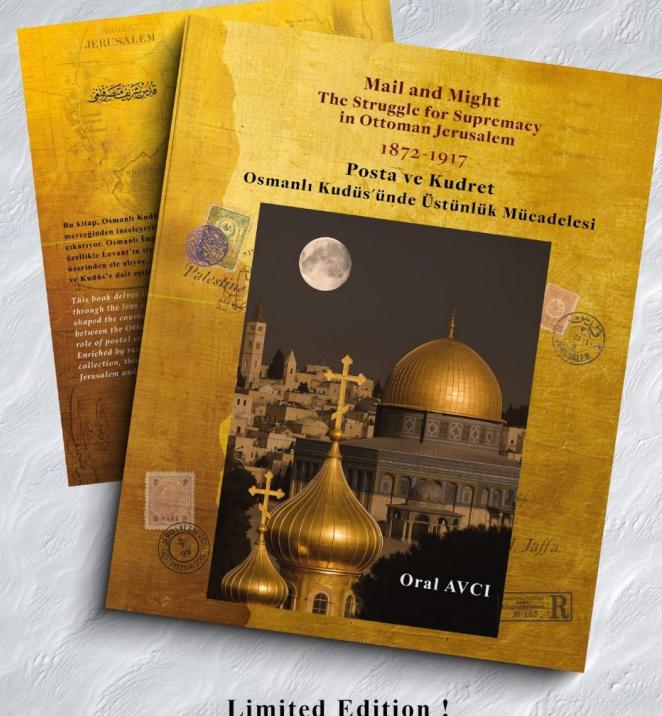
The study is supported by extensive visual and documentary evidence, including a large corpus of stamps, covers, maps, rare archival documents, photographs, and contemporary postcards. This material is employed analytically rather than illustratively, reinforcing the argument that postal artifacts constitute primary historical sources. The book is issued as a hardcover scholarly publication: the volume comprises 470 pages and contains 393 figures and illustrations, supported by maps and rare documentary.

"Mail & Might" will be published by Post Horn Journal, Milano (Italy), further underscoring its placement within an established international forum for advanced philatelic and postal-historical research. With its interdisciplinary scope, the work addresses not only philatelists but also historians of the Ottoman Empire, international relations, and communication networks. By demonstrating how postal systems mediated power, identity, and sovereignty in a highly contested region, the book contributes to a growing body of scholarship that recognizes postal history as an essential lens for understanding the political and cultural dynamics of the modern Middle East.

Avci, Oral: *Mail and Might : The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem (1872–1917)*. Milan: Posthorn Magazine, 2025. 472 p. English and Turkish.

Price: TBD. Infos: oavci60@gmail.com.

This is yet another excellent work by
Oral AVCI



Mail & Might The Struggle for Supremacy in Ottoman Jerusalem 1872 - 1917

This book recounts how Jerusalem became a battleground for major powers during the late Ottoman period.

This struggle, shaped through foreign postal services, sheds light on the deep historical roots of the current Levant issue.

Using postage stamps, covers, maps, photographs and archival documents, the book reveals the socio-economy, trade and diplomatic relations of the period, examining the strategic importance of Jerusalem and the rivalry between empires in these lands from a very different perspective.



RFI: Ottoman Postal Bonds (Posta Bonolari) (Mehmet Akan)

Mehmet Akan writes:

The first information we know about Postal Bonds, which are a type of material known to Postal History collectors, is from Tanrikut's 1984 book, which states that the postal bonds tariff is 20 paras up to 100 kuruş (fig. 2).¹ The information in the book by Erkan² was also taken from Tanrikut's book, but also states that these bonds have so far only been found cut in half.

Fig. 1: Half bond (yarım bono)

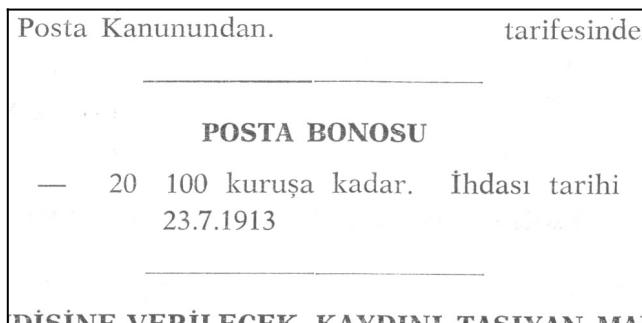
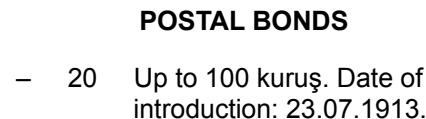


Fig. 2:



In my twenties, I started collecting Eastern Anatolian Postal History, and I had half-bonds or stamps from small fragments. I thought that complete bonds would turn up eventually. When I asked the very knowledgeable and important philatelist Vedat Koçak if he had seen the complete forms, he said that due to their usage, the post office cuts the form in half when paying out and gives half to the customer who brings it in for collecting the funds. The one complete form (in poor condition with punch-holes) he had given to Murat Hazinedaroğlu. Murat gifted it to me in 2017. Later, I saw complete forms four or five times at international auctions.



Figs. 3 and 3a: Full Bond (tam bono): Beyrouth to Üsküdar.

In Niyazi Önder's handwritten and typewritten notes there is a transcript on p. 1145, which I can share here for the first time:³

- 1 Page 404 in: Tanrikut, Asaf: *Türkiye posta ve telgraf ve telefon tarihi ve teşkilât ve mevzuatı*. Ankara: 1984. A PDF of Tanrikut's two-volume book (807 pages) is available from the editor for a small fee.
- 2 Page 133 in: Esmer, Erkan: *The Ottoman Empire. A Study of Postal Rates, Routes, Delivery Times and Effects of Historic Events*. Boomer, 1996, 190 S.
- 3 Vol. II/6, 1913–1920, pp. 1136–1387.

23 Temmuz 1913 (10 Temmuz 1329) (Çarşamba)

Posta Bonosunun Düzenlenmesi:

Bu yöntem, ülkenin her yerine para gönderilebilmesini sağlamak amacıyla oluşturulmuş olup, posta merkezi bulunan herhangi bir yerdeki herhangi bir kişiye 20 para ücret karşılığında 100 kuruşa kadar para gönderilmesine veya herhangi bir postaneye yatırılan paranın yatırılan tarafından başka bir postaneden alınmasına olanak tanır.

Koşullar şu şekilde özetlenebilir:

1. Bir posta bonosunun değeri en fazla 100 kuruş olabilir, ancak aynı kişiye birden fazla bono düzenlenebilir.
2. Posta bonosunu elinde bulunduran herkes, parasını herhangi bir postaneden geri alabilir.
3. Posta bonolarına gönderici ve alıcının adının yazılması zorunlu değildir. İstenirse yazılabilir veya yazılmaz.
4. Posta bonolarının ödenmesi sırasında kimlik ibrazına gerek yoktur.
5. Posta çekleri taşıyıcıya ödenir. Ancak çekte alıcı varsa, ödeme alıcıya yapılır. Kaybolan çekler ödenmez.
6. Gönderici, çeki posta yoluyla göndermekle yükümlü değildir.
7. Çekin düzenlenme tarihi ile ibraz tarihi arasında üç ay veya daha fazla zaman geçmişse, her üç ay için 20 para ücret alınır.

*Bu işlemin ne zaman durdurulduğu
belirlenmemiştir.'*

The latest use of these promissory notes, which began in July 1913, was probably in July 1914. This service stopped when the Ottoman Empire entered World War I.

23 July 1913 (10 Temmuz 1329) (Wednesday)

Issuance of Postal Bonds:

This method was created to enable money to be sent to all parts of the country, and it allows money up to 100 kuruş to be sent to any person in any place where there is a post office for a fee of 20 paras, or it allows money deposited at any post office to be collected by the depositor at another post office.

The conditions can be summarised as follows:

1. A postal bond can have a maximum value of 100 kuruş, but multiple bonds can be issued to the same person.
2. Anyone holding a postal bond can redeem their money at any post office.
3. Writing the names of the sender and recipient on postal bonds is not mandatory. They may or may not be written upon request.
4. Identification is not required when paying for postal bonds.
5. Postal bonds are made payable to the carrier. However, if a recipient is listed on the check, payment is made to the recipient. Lost checks are not paid.
6. The sender is not obligated to send the bonds by mail.
7. If three months or more have passed between the cheque's issue date and its presentation date, a fee of 20 paras is charged for each three months.

*It has not been determined when
this process was stopped.*



Saudi Arabian Postal History from the Röllig Family – A Mystery? (Peter Moorer)

Peter Moorer writes:

In March and April, I bought several covers from Saudi Arabia. The same person sent all the covers: Klaus Röllig. He worked as an engineer for the “Philip Holzmann AG”. They were sent to his relatives Dieter, Hans and Birgit. Another was sent to Ursula, but I did not buy it. The cover to Ursula was a plain uninteresting cover and I did not bid on it.

King Kalid Covers with wrong Date

The first two covers are addressed to Hans Röllig. Both covers are franked with MiNr. 623I (Scott 728a). This stamp has the incorrect date with the last two characters in the second and third row identical (fig. 1). The 20 h and 80 h stamps with the incorrect date were issued on 3rd March 1977. The stamps were withdrawn after a few days. The corrected issue was put on sale on 14th (Scott) or 18th August 1977 (Michel).

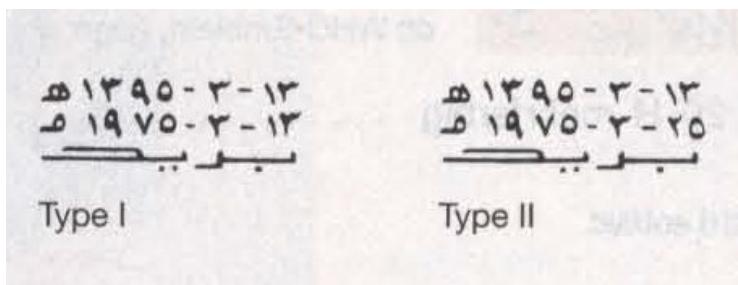


Fig. 1:

The correct and the incorrect date.

The first cover (fig. 2) was mailed on 5th May to Hans. It is franked with a total of 105 h. This is slightly over the postal rate. It combines the old (piastres) with the new (halal) currency. It was mailed almost two months after the stamps had been put on sale and certainly after the stamps had been withdrawn from sale. The second cover (fig. 3) was mailed on the 29th of September or about 6 months after the stamps were withdrawn from sale. It is franked with 100 halal which probably was the correct rate.



Figs. 2 and 3: Cover with incorrect date cancelled on 5.05.1977 (left), and 29.09.1977 (right).

The question is why did Klaus used these incorrect stamps so long after the stamps had been withdrawn from circulation? Did he happen to buy part of a sheet to be used as normal postage or did he have a philatelic motive? Members of the Arabian Philatelic Association (APA) do not recall him to have been a member (some have been a member since the 60s). Does anyone know if Klaus or any of his relatives were stamp collectors?

Covers with (private) Latin and Arabic Cachets

The next two of three covers sent to Dieter (fig. 4) and Hans (fig. 5) by Klaus, these have an auxiliary cancellation “West Germany” in Latin and Arabic writing. The cancellations are very similar and suggest the same canceller was used in all three cases.

I questioned the members of the (now) Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI), but no-one knew if the Saudi Postal Service ever used these cachets. The general consensus was they never used these, but might have been a private or company initiative.

After my presentation at Zoom meeting of APAI on 12th April 2025 Martin Lovegrove showed another cover, but with an auxiliary marking “France” in Latin and Arabic writing (fig. 5). My presentation triggered Martin Lovegrove to search his collection for other auxiliary markings. In July 2025, he showed similar markings for France and the United Kingdom/Great Britain.¹

Most members at the Zoom meeting are convinced all of these marking are private in origin, but it remains unclear why they were applied. Although their private origins seem to be acceptable, no clear evidence has been provided that none were ever issued by the Saudi Arabian Postal Service.

It would be of interest to know if the auxiliary markings on the letters from Klaus Röllig were placed by him or someone else, maybe from the Philip Holzmann AG. It would also be nice to trace the whereabouts of any of these auxiliary markings. *Can any MEPB reader provide us with any kind of information on the origins of, reasons for or whereabouts of the auxiliary cancellation.*



Figs. 4 and 5: Cover with “West Germany” cachet: from Klaus to Dieter (left); and from Klaus to Hans (right).



Fig 6:

Cover with cachet “France” in Latin and Arabic.
(Martin Lovegrove Collection)

¹ Lovegrove, Marti: *Country destination cachets & more*. In: APAI Online Meeting 5.07.2025. Online: http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/index_html_files>ShowTell_20250705.pdf.

Arab Postal Union Reply Coupons: UAR Egypt 30m – A New Discovery
(Wolfgang Leimenstoll)

Wolfgang Leimenstoll writes:

I was shown this Arab Postal Union Reply Coupon in *fig. 1* by my fellow IRC collector Hubert Le François who couldn't read the country name. Can you help?

*Editor: It is an Arab Postal Union reply coupon.¹ Between 1958 to 1961 there was the confederation of Egypt and Syria under the name United Arab Republic (الجمهورية العربية المتحدة = *al-Ǧumhūriyya al-‘arabiyya al-muttaḥida*). Egypt continued to use the designation United Arab Republic/République Arabe Unie for many years after 1961 and such coupons were issued well into the 1970s. From 1972 “République Arabe d’Égypte” and later just “Misr” was used instead.*

The coupon is denominated 30 Millièmes, i.e. definitely issued in Egypt as Syria used Piastres, not Millièmes. The rate also points towards the early 1970s rather than the 1960s.

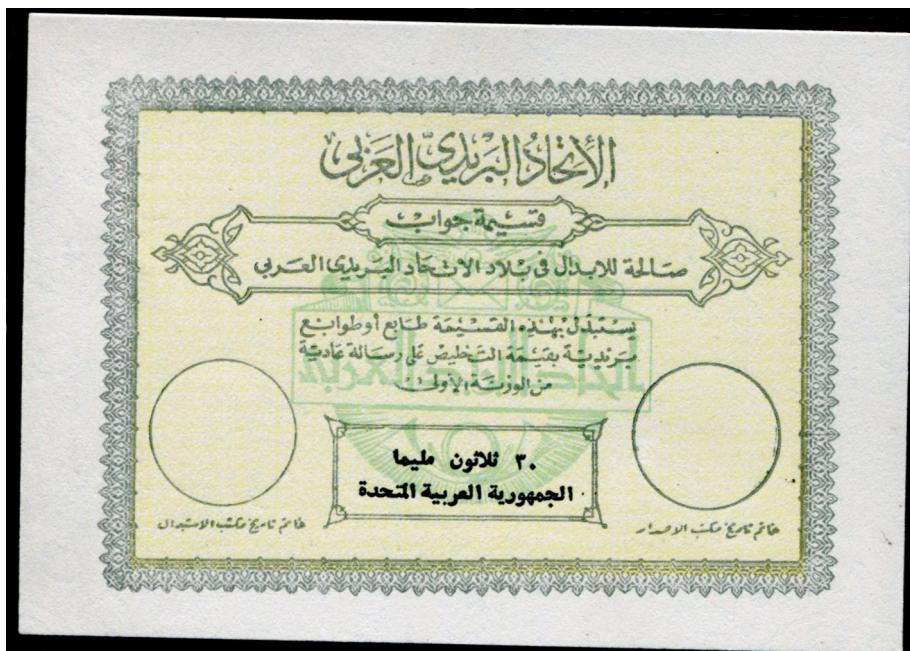


Fig. 1:

APU Reply Coupon
Unknown date.

30 m

United Arab Republic (Egypt)

(courtesy of
Hubert Le François)



Fig. 2: A 50m IRC issued in 1961 designated “République Arabe Unie (Égypte)”.

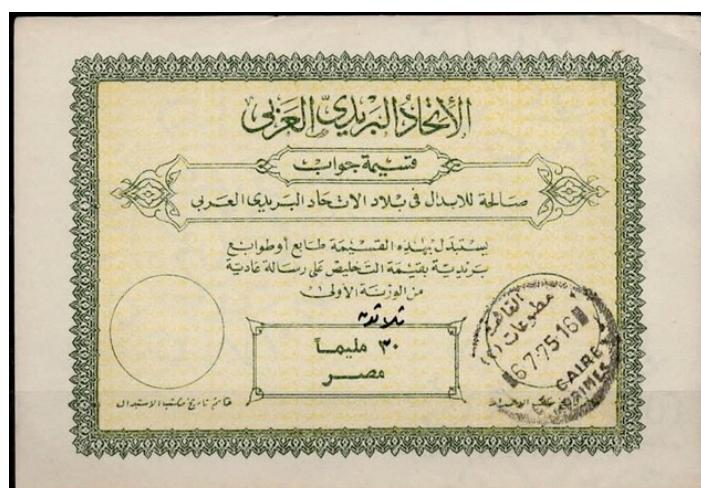


Fig. 3: An 30m APU reply coupon sold in 1975 designated “Misr”.

1 See: Hálfdan Helgason: *Reply coupons of the Arab Postal Union*. In: MEPB, no. 9, 2018, pp. 82–93.

E.E.F. Stamps Usage in Cilicia: New Discovery “KARS (ADANA)” ?
(Barry Katz)

Barry Katz writes:

The attached scan is from a small lot I recently acquired (fig. 1 below). “ADANA” (Cilicia) is clearly visible in small print, but I’m unable to identify the larger inscription on the postmark which could contain the letters KABS or KARS. I may have missed something, but I did not see any place names in your list¹ that match this combination. Can you help?

Editor: I can clearly identify this as cancel as “KARS (ADANA)” with a “23|9|19” date. This Ottoman postmark has been registered in catalogues such as Birken (see fig. 2 to the right),² but does not appear on lists of postmarks in Cilicia known on E.E.F. stamps. So maybe this is a new discovery?

Today the city is called Kadirli.



Kars Zulkadirije

(Kadirli)

قارص ذو القدرية



Kars posta şubesi 1310
BAY 1 ** (1894)



Kars posta şubesi
A/P 1 RRR (1908)
= BAY 1 ?



BAY 2 80F (1922)
C/W IV 78 9P (1922–24)
A/P 2 R (1913–24)



A/P 3 R (1924–299)

Large parts of the Ottoman Empire were conquered and occupied between 1917 and the armistice of Kudros on 30.10.1918. British (Egyptian Expeditionary Forces, E.E.F.) and French forces occupied Palestine, then Syria and finally reached Cilicia.

Initially E.E.F. stamps were used. Eventually they were replaced by specific occupation stamps issued by British and French administrations. Though sale of E.E.F. stamps stopped consequently, they remained valid for some time. Invalidation was decreed for all these territories for 1.05.1922.

Cilicia has a complicated history of occupation and reoccupation by various forces. The French initially produced local overprints (“T.E.O. Cilicie” on Turkish stamps), but withdrew them on 23.05.1919. Until new stamps were provided after the reoccupation (overprint “O.M.F. Cilicie” on French stamps) E.E.F. stamps were used.

1 Referring to Zywietsz, Tobias: *Postal use of EEF stamps outside Palestine*. In: A Short Introduction To The Philately Of Palestine. Online: https://www.zobbel.de/stamp/pal_21e.htm.

2 Birken, Andreas: *Die Poststempel = The postmarks*. Hamburg: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, 2021. CD-ROM. (Handbuch der Türkischen Philatelie ; 6 : Abteilung I: Osmanisches Reich ; 4)

Digital Resources on Saudi Arabian Forgeries and Stamps (Martin Lovegrove)

Martin Lovegrove¹ writes:

Following the publication by the Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI) of part 1 of the “**The Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries**” last year, work on part 2 is continuing:

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/forgerymanual.html>

Further resources on the APAI website:

- A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934–1964: A Philatelic Study – Thomas P. Wood
- The 'Maurice Jacob' Collection of Saudi Arabia – Spink auction 21112 13.05.2012
- The Postal Markings of Hejaz, Nejd, Hejaz & Nejd and Saudi Arabia – by Kenneth D. Knight
- DGA Handbook (2025) – development version 2
- DGA Identification Guide

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/resources.html>



Wadi Hanifa Dam



GOSP



Convair 340

Digital Collections in the Museum of Philately

Editor: The Museum of Philately was created on the initiative of the Feldmann auction house and can be compared to the book series published by the Global Philatelic Network (Heinrich Köhler, etc.), but online! <https://www.museumofphilately.com/collections>

Some of the exhibits also relate to our 'region', so here is a selection.

- EGYPT: Airmails and Postage Due (Joseph Chalhoub) 366 pp.
- EGYPT: Foreign Post Offices (Joseph Chalhoub) 282 pp.
- EGYPT: Fourth Issue, Pictorial Issues and Crown Overprints (Joseph Chalhoub) 320 pp.
- EGYPT: King Farouk (Joseph Chalhoub) 334 pp.
- EGYPT: King Fouad I (Joseph Chalhoub) 230 pp.
- EGYPT: MARITIME MAIL ROUTES, 19th Century (Hany Salam RDP FRPSL) 128 pp.
- EGYPT: Officials and Booklets (Joseph Chalhoub) 379 pp.
- EGYPT: Palestine, French Consular Post Offices, Express Mail, British Forces and Army Post (Joseph Chalhoub) 409 pp.
- EGYPT: Post Offices Abroad 1871 to 1895 (Joseph Chalhoub) 144 pp.
- EGYPT: Postal Stationary (Joseph Chalhoub) 338 pp.
- EGYPT: Revenue Stamps (Joseph Chalhoub) 332 pp.
- EGYPT: The Early Postal History (Joseph Chalhoub) 325 pp.
- EGYPT: The First Commemorative Stamps (1895) & The First Issue (1895) and the Monarchy Period (1925-1952) (Joseph Chalhoub) 314 pp.
- EGYPT: The Postal Service in the Suez Canal Zone 1838 to 1880 (Samir Amin Fikry FRPSL)
- OMAN: Muscat The Development of the Indian Post Office in Eastern Arabia 1864-1948 (Thomas Johansen) 123 pp.
- PERSIA: Rebellions, Occupations & Interventions (Khosrow "Joe" Youssefi) 123 pp.

1 Contact form at: <http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APAI/contact.html> or via weatherings@aol.com.

- PERSIA: Classic Persia The Lions issue (Khosrow "Joe" Youssefi) 128 pp.
- PERSIA: Persia The Classic Lions Period to 1879 (Joseph D. Hackmey RDP, FRPSL) 130 pp.
- PERSIA: India used in Persia Postal Relations until 1923 (1930) (Bjorn Sohrne) 145 pp.
- PERSIA: Postmaster Provisional Issue of Persia 1902 (Khosrow "Joe" Youssefi) 81 pp.
- TURKEY: The Duloz Issues 1865 to 1887 (Max Plantinga) 191 pp.

Ottoman Postal History Research Association = Osmanlı Posta Tarihi Araştırma Derneği (Oral Avcı)

Oral Avcı writes:

We are happy to inform you that we have officially submitted our application to the Directorate of Civil Society Organizations under the Istanbul Governorship to establish the Ottoman Postal History Research Association. For nearly two years, we have been working with the vision of uniting our research efforts on Ottoman postal history under the framework of an independent, scholarly association.

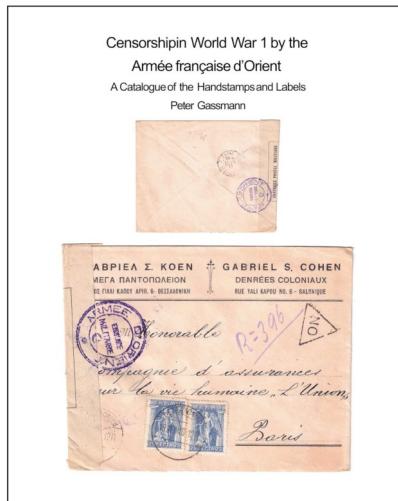
Our aim is to conduct our future endeavours in a more institutional and professional capacity: collaborating with distinguished academics from universities, seasoned philatelists, collectors, and all enthusiasts of Ottoman history, postal heritage, and related fields.

Given the expansive geographic scope of the Ottoman Empire, we recognise that the history of Ottoman postal services resonates beyond present-day national borders. Thus, we are eager to connect with scholars and philatelists from across the globe who share our passion for this rich historical domain.

The founding members of the association are: Turhan Turgut, Bülent Papuçuoğlu, Mehmet Günyeli, Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun, Prof. Dr. Ebubekir Ceylan, Tuncay Uzun, Gökhun Yılmaz, Oral Avcı, Levent Akbulut, and Ömer Lütfi Küçükosman.

We hope this marks a meaningful step for both our academic community and the broader appreciation of Ottoman postal history. Keep up to date with our upcoming activities on our official website: <https://www.osmanlipostatarihi.org/>.

**New Books: Censorship in World War 1 by the Armée française d'Orient
by Peter Gassmann**



Editor: This is a new monograph by Peter Gassmann, which identifies, lists and illustrates the various types of censorship cachets and labels used by the French Army in the Aegean during World War 1. The scope includes military and civilian mail, as similar types of devices were used in certain cases for both civil and military censorship.

Gassmann, Peter: Censorship in World War 1 by the Armée française d'Orient : a catalogue of the handstamps and labels.

Chichester: Stuart Rossiter Trust, 2025. 70 p., A4

ISBN: 978-1-908710-18-5 ; £10.00 plus shipping:

<https://www.rossittertrust.com/product/censorship-in-world-war-1-by-the-armee-francaise-dorient/>

MEPB 21: Existence of Postmark Usunca Owa in Bulgaria (Usundsha Ova, Uzundja-ova, Uzundzhovo) (Tobias Zywietz, pp. 120–122)

Tobias Zywietz writes:

In MEPB 21 I gathered information on the supposed existence of a postmark for the annual trade fair held during September in this small (now Bulgarian) village of Usunca Owa (Usundsha Ova, Uzundja-ova, Uzundzhovo)¹ during the 19th Century.

The village lies just east of the town of Hassköy (Hasköy, Haskovo, Chassköi, Хасково), which is documented with a post office from 1865. I made a tentative assumption that (at least during the trade fair) there was some postal provision by the Ottoman state post, e.g. by moving the Hassköy post office to the fair's ground.

I have now found a reference that may support this theory: Asaf Tanrikut² reports the measures deployed in the 1286 (1869) reorganisation of the Post Office, including a list of staff and salaries, and here we find the name of the Hassköy post office as "Hasköy Uzuncaabad":

FİLİBE PAZARCIĞI	1	2	3	4
Müdüür	1		800	800
Çavuş	2		700	700
Müsul. M.	1		166	166
HASKÖY UZUNCAABAD				
Müdüür	1		800	800
Memur	1		400	400
Çavuş	2		700	700
Musul. M.	1		166	166

Fig. 1:

Schedule of post offices, staff and salaries (1869).³

The columns stand for:

1 = number of staff; 2 = savings;

3 = Previously allocated

4 = new allocation

müdüür = postmaster/director; *memur* =

officer/employée, *çavuş* = sub-officer;

musul-i muharrerat = seasonal correspondence

Is there any evidence of the Hassköy postmark used from 1865 to 1876 during the fair (i.e. each September), pointing to the special circumstances of the trade fair?

Turkish Philatelic Academy: Online Exhibits

Editor: There is new content with interesting material on the website of the Turkish Philatelic Academy: current articles are now published in the new section 'Akademi Arşiv' (Academy Archive). There you will find a new study by Mehmet Akan on the few known facts about postal orders (1913) and a study by Selçuk Akar and Ozan Kuntay on PTT stamp advertising brochures from 1930 onwards:

<https://www.filateliakademisi.net/en/akademi-arsiv>

Another addition is a page presenting a large number of exhibits:

<https://www.filateliakademisi.net/en/sergilenmis-koleksiyonlar>

The first edition of the journal Pul Meşheri (nos. 1–14) have been digitised:

<https://www.filateliakademisi.net/en/akademi-arsiv/dergiler-pul-mesheri>

1 Uzundja is also the name of the nearby river; Uzunca Ova is said to mean "long meadow".

2 Cf. p. 248 in Tanrikut, Asaf: *Türkiye posta ve telgraf ve telefon tarihi ve teşkilât ve mevzuatı*. 2 vols., 807 p. Ankara: Efem Matbaacılık, 1968 & 1984.

3 Souce: Tarnrikut, 1984, p. 248. Note: 1 çavuş = 350 p.

New Books: *Osmanli Dönemi Manzarali posta pullarinin Tasviri* [Description of stamps with motifs from the Ottoman period] by Nurgül Aktaş



Editor: Nurgül Aktaş recently published her book “Osmanli Dönemi Manzarali Posta Pullarinin Tasviri” [Description of stamps with motifs from the Ottoman period].

The Colourful Story of the Ottoman Post Office Explored in Depth for the First Time! Is a stamp merely a small piece of paper? Or is it a silent witness to empires, trade routes, revolutions, and urban legends? In this book, you will witness an astonishing journey of stamps, spanning from the first Ottoman stamps printed in 1863 to the early years of the Republic.

This work, which recounts the adventure of stamps in the Ottoman Empire, is a reference source that not only philatelists but also history buffs, art lovers and collectors will find indispensable... Unique images unearthed from archives.

Postage rates, printing techniques and design secrets from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic. Colourful stories ranging from London and Vienna prints to legendary commemorative stamps.

Prepared through years of research by Nurgül Aktaş, this book is not just a stamp collection; it is a gateway to the diplomatic, artistic and communication adventures of empires. This work, which carries historical, aesthetic and collection value on every page, offers a unique collection book for stamp enthusiasts and a compelling journey of discovery for curious readers.

Turn the pages now to feel the secrets of the past in your hands.

*Aktaş, Nurgül: *Osmanli Dönemi Manzarali posta pullarinin Tasviri*. Manas Yayıncılık, 2025. 262 pp. ISBN: 9786259731643, approx. 20 €.*

ONEPS AGM 2025 & Expertising Service

Editor: The American Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society held its annual general meeting on 4.10.2025. Two new members have joined the board: George Brown (editor) and Ibrahim Ahmed (webmaster).

Income and expenses are roughly US-\$ 3,000 each; total assets increased to US-\$ 6,600. There are 18 new members (14 online, 4 print), 1 resignation and 1 death, in effect membership increased from 100 to 116 (32 online-only).

It was proposed to invest more promoting ONEPS at exhibitions and trade shows. The costs for printing and shipping The Levant also increased, and proposals for cost savings were discussed.¹ It was agreed to set the membership fees at \$20 for online-only members and \$38 for regular (print) members. ONEPS will be represented at Boston 202 where members have the opportunity to exhibit in a frame one or more pages for \$50 per page.

A long discussion ensued about the planned expertising service. Several members are willing to participate. Shipping and insurance of items, as well as possible customs duties, pose a problem. Gus Riachi agreed to chair the expert committee. Detailed plans are being worked out.

¹ The printing of the 16 page journal The Levant apparently costs more than the 44 page Türkei-Spiegel, even taking into account the higher print-run.

FCIW Al-Barid AGM 2025

Editor: The Filatelistische Contactgroep van de Islamitische Wereld (FCIW) Al-Barid held its AGM on 27th September. The study group has 30 members. Plans for the topical Al-Barid journal:

- 93: *Postal Routes in the Middle East (published in autumn 2025)*
- 94: *Iraq (2026)*
- 95: *Postal Routes in the Middle East, part 2 (2026)*
- 96: *Agriculture and Fishing (spring 2027)*
- 97: *Airmail routes (autumn 2027)*
- 98: *Water (2028)*

Research Request: Trieste Stamp Project (Roman Bukovansky)

Roman Bukovansky (Arge Österreich) writes:

As many of you have already seen, an exceptionally extensive collection of Trieste stamps, which has been carefully built up over many years, was recently offered for sale through ArGe Österreich. This collection provides an excellent basis for creating a Trieste postmark catalogue, which our colleague Hans-Jörg Kolbeck would like to supplement and complete up to around 1918.

He already has a number of Trieste postmarks for the years 1866/1867 to 1918. However, he is certain that there are numerous other items in your collections that have not yet been recorded. Hence his heartfelt request to all colleagues:

Please support this postmark catalogue project by providing scans of your Trieste postmarks from the period 1866/1867–1918. To ensure that the catalogue is as complete and scientifically accurate as possible, it would be particularly helpful if you could also provide the stamp data (date of the respective cancellation), especially if there are several cancellations of the same stamp type. This will make it possible to narrow down the periods of use of the individual stamps more precisely. Of course, all colleagues who contribute material will be mentioned by name in the subsequent catalogue. Please send your scans to the following email address:

argeost@mail.de

Mr. Hans-Jörg Kolbeck (one of our auditors) is very grateful for any form of support and hopes that, with this appeal, we can make a valuable contribution to the philatelic documentation of Trieste's postal history.

We would also be grateful if you could pass on this appeal to colleagues who are not members of ArGe Österreich but who may nevertheless be able to contribute to the postal history of Trieste.

International Postal History Library & James Van der Linden Postal History Research Centre

Editor: The International Postal History Library Foundation and James Van der Linden Postal History Research Centre are happy to announce that they are online:

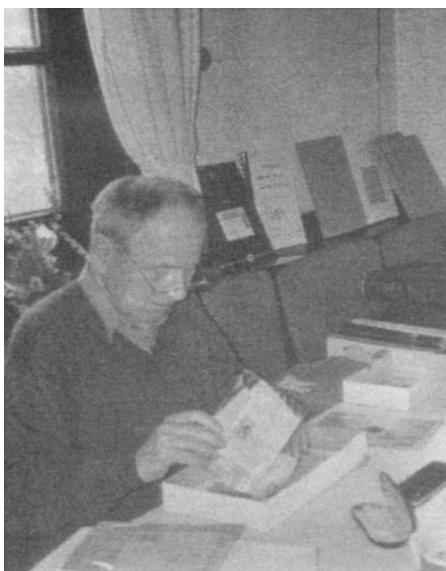
<https://iphlpPostalHistory.com>

The library and research centre currently contains approximately 2,800 specialised works on postal history worldwide. These include studies, handouts, collections, specialised auction catalogues, postal conventions, service notes, and more. The library's scope ranges from Aden to Zanzibar and just about every area in between. As an active library and research centre, new information is added almost weekly. Twenty postal history magazines, to which the library is a regular subscriber, are also available.

Hans-Dieter Gröger on his 90th Birthday (Otto Graf)

Otto Graf writes:¹

On 7.12.2025 long-standing AROS member Hans-Dieter Gröger celebrated his 90th birthday. We are delighted to join the large crowd of well-wishers.



Hans-Dieter Gröger joined AROS in 1992. At that point, he already had a long career as a philatelist behind him. Like most of us, he had started collecting German stamps as a schoolboy. But he quickly broadened his interests, which initially focused on German Inflation in the 1920s. He is a long-standing member of the *INFLA Berlin* and is well known to the luminaries in this field (such as Bechtold, Zenker and Wiegand).

When Mr. Gröger realised in the 1990s that this field had been exhausted for him – partly due to the scarcity of top-quality material – and no longer presented him with any challenges, he decided to turn his attention to a new area of collecting. He chose Turkey. As an engineer, he had, of course, researched his reasons thoroughly: there was still enough Turkey material on the market, as several large Turkish collections were coming onto the market one after the other around

that time. There was also a wealth of good literature available and lively research was taking place. So what could be more obvious than to specialise in Turkey?

AROS was thus able to gain a collector who specialised in Duloz, the coat of arms edition and Empire. Hans-Dieter Gröger also maintained an intensive dialogue and exchange with Max Plantinga, Kühut Alanyalı and Hubert Gerzabek, to name but few.

This paved the way for interesting discussions at the AROS annual meetings in Kirchheim. I always fondly remember our encounters in Kirchheim, when Gröger explained his collection to me. He described his collections in great detail. Today, we also benefit from this wealth of knowledge in the *TÜRKEI-SPIEGEL*, whose title has been adorned with items from his collection on several occasions.

We congratulate him warmly on his 90th birthday and wish him good luck and good health, and continued enjoyment of philately. *Nice mutlu yıllara doğum günün kutlu olsun!*

First Lebanese Philatelic Exhibition (Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati)

Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati writes:²

Three years ago, when Billy Karam submitted the application for the Lebanese Association of Philately (LAP) to join FEPA, he could not have imagined such public success, media coverage and active participation by the most important public and political authorities in Lebanon.

Perhaps it was the date chosen, 22 November, Lebanon's Independence Day in 1943; or perhaps it was the location, the Sofitel le Gabriel, coincidentally located on Rue de l'Indépendance, in the city centre; or perhaps it was the 500 metres of available space (the entire second floor), which accommodated the collections and 20 dealer tables, along with the Lebanese Post Office, which had issued a miniature sheet commemorating the event.

1 Translated from *Türkei-Spiegel* 155.

2 FEPA Newsletter, no. 126, 1.12.2025. Online: <https://mailchi.mp/71906f606097/fepa-newsletter-1-december-2025>

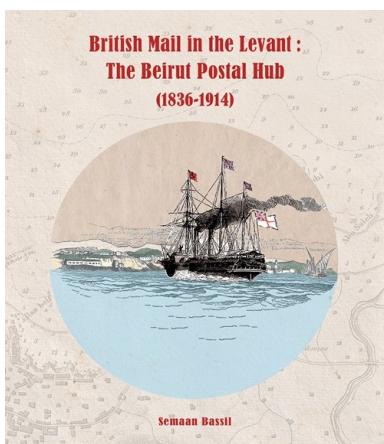
Among the authorities present were the Governor of Beirut, Mr Marwan Abboud; the Minister of Telecommunications, Mr Charles Hajj; the Minister of Tourism, Ms Laura Khazen Lahoud; the Minister of Information, Mr Paul Morcos; and former Prime Minister, Mr Tammam Salam, son of one of the founders of the state in 1943.

On Saturday, 22 November, at the Grand Opening, officiated by Fadi Nicolas Barcha, the first speaker that addressed the audience was Billy Karam, LAP President, who welcomed the guests. He was followed by Benoit Gervais, CEO of the Yvert & Tellier Catalogue; Claudio Ernesto Mario Manzati, FEPA Director, who read the message from Bill Headley, FEPA President; and Charles Hajj, Minister of Telecommunications.

The exhibition, comprising 27 collections in 45 frames, continued on Sunday, 23 June, again with a large turnout and great satisfaction among dealers across Lebanon. Thanks in part to the great vitality of President Billy Karam, the organisational skills demonstrated by the LAP team will enable Lebanon to aspire to its next event right away, taking a further leap forward by organising a competitive exhibition under the auspices of FEPA. I was honoured to have had the opportunity and pleasure to participate in this wonderful event and to enjoy Lebanese hospitality.

**New Books: British Mail in the Levant – The Beirut Postal Hub (1836–1914)
by Semaan Bassil**

Semaan Bassil writes:



The new book by Semaan Bassil, *British Mail in the Levant: The Beirut Postal Hub (1836–1914)*, dives into intensive research on British postal history in the region. Using primary and secondary sources extensively, it contextualises and analyses postal artefacts while offering rich, detail-oriented historical information, focusing on the influence of geopolitics and the positioning of Beirut for British postal communication over 75 years.

It starts in 1836 with the conveyance of British mail to and from India by the British Admiralty via Beirut, then recounts the British packet agency in that city, handing mail for Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia from 1840. It goes on to describe how the General Post Office in London strategically decided to subcontract different liners in 1872 to speed communication with Beirut, before converting its packet agency in 1873 into a post office, in parallel with the erosion of Britain's world economic preeminence. It ends with the start of the First World War in 1914, when all foreign post offices closed.

Woven throughout the book are numerous examples of pre- and post-UPU analysed British mail and, notably, the study dedicates a full chapter to listing and analysing British mixed-franked postage mail used only in Beirut (1873–1876) for expediting overseas mail via Alexandria. The publication ends with a list of postage stamps used at the British Post Office in Beirut, of which several are unrecorded in any publication, including catalogues.

The 292-page book can be obtained through the author at bassil.semaan@gmail.com or through info@cedarstamps.com. It is priced at 75 USD, excluding shipping. The net proceeds will be donated to CHANCE (Children Against Cancer).

Research Tools: Online Catalogue of the American Philatelic Research Library

Editor: The American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) is home to one of the world's most extensive and readily accessible collections of philatelic literature. The library's collection extends across an extensive four miles of shelving, housing an impressive array of materials. These include more than 23,000 book titles and 5,700 journal titles, along with a wide variety of catalogues, government documents, auction catalogues, price lists, stamp show programmes and palmarès, philatelic exhibits (photocopies or scans), CD- and DVD-ROMs, and research and archival collections.

The catalogue is now accessible at from several entry points: <https://stamps.org/services/library> and <https://catalog.stamplibrary.org/final/portal.aspx>. The collection of digitised items (over 12,000 entries) can be found at <https://digital.stamplibrary.org/digital/>.

Board Elections: Federation of Turkish Philatelic Societies

Editor: The Federation of Turkish Philatelic Societies' current Board of Directors was unanimously re-elected for the 2025–2027 term during the election held on 22 November 2025.

Serving on the new Board are Ziya Ağaoğulları, President; Arman Arikhan, General Secretary; Murat Hazinedaroğlu, Vice President; Edip Ağaoğulları, Vice President; Cengiz Ülkerdoğan, Treasurer; Mehmet Akan, Coordinator; and Atadan Tunaci, Muzaffer Arda, Nihat Çimrin, Yamaç Erhan, Murat Çelebi, Can Dengey, and Serdar Yazgan, Members.



Friedrich Perlberg's Bilder aus dem Heiligen Lande

documented by Tobias Zywietz

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This article is part of a series on the philatelic (and otherwise) travails of Julius Bolthausen, a tour operator specialising in Middle East and Holy Land travels before and after World War I. Bolthausen used prints and post cards of German painter Friedrich Perlberg to publicise his operations. Most were printed by Munich publishers and printing house C. Andelfinger & Co.

Friedrich Perlberg was born in Nuremberg in 1848 and died in Munich in 1921. Art encyclopaedias describe him as a German landscape and architectural painter with his principal place of work in Munich. After travelling in Egypt, Perlberg followed in the Emperor's entourage to Palestine in 1898, but is better known for his motifs from Spain and Italy.

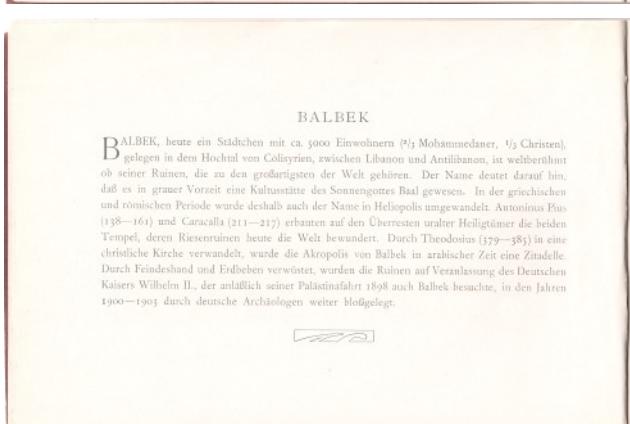
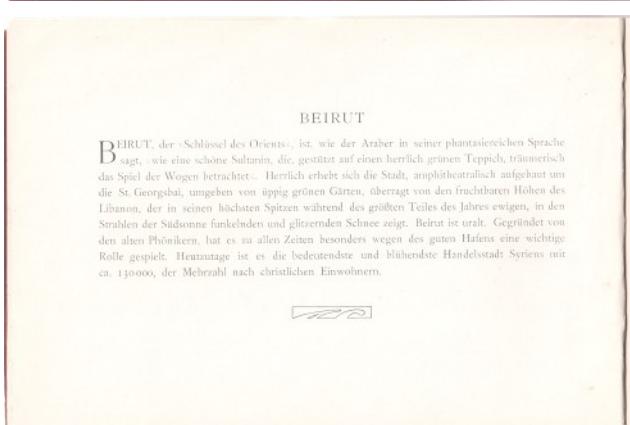
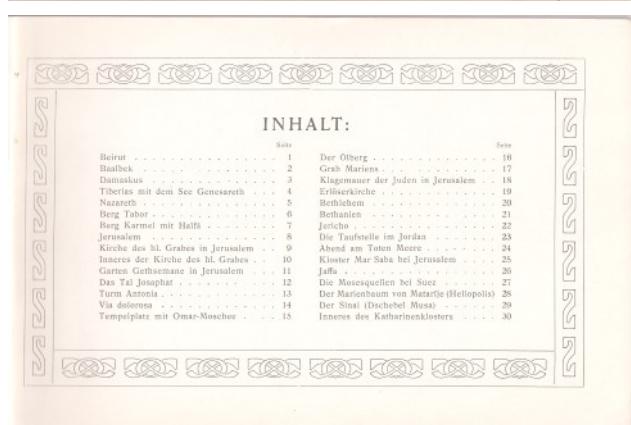
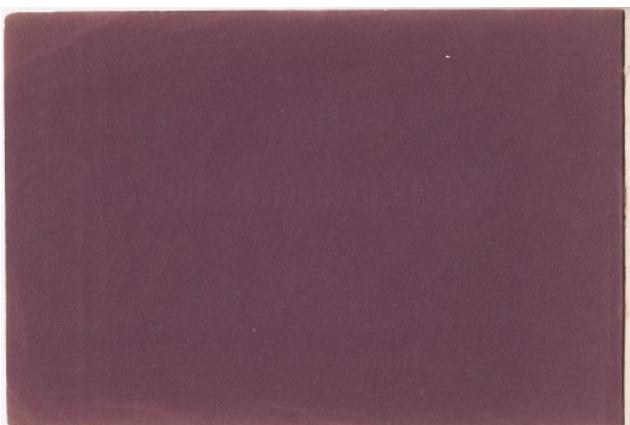
Perlberg's Palestine watercolours were published, apart from several series with many *individual* post cards, in three albums:

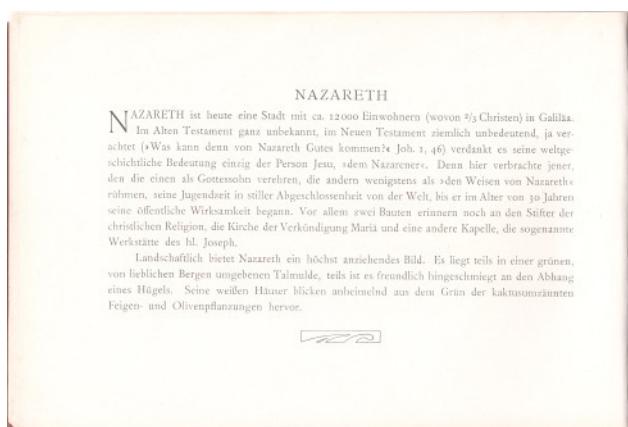
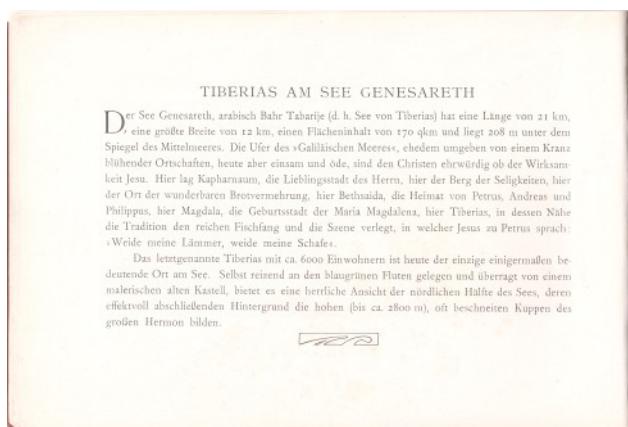
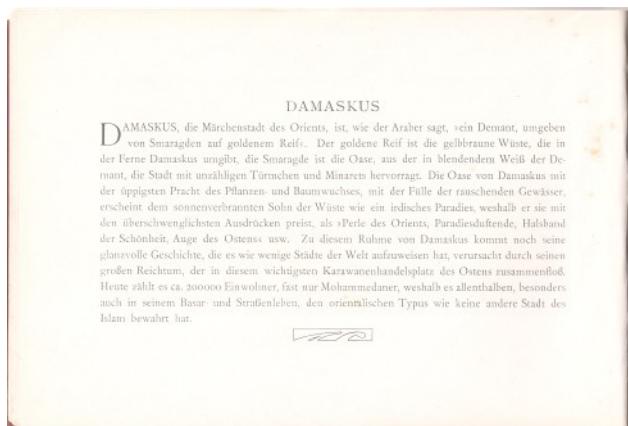
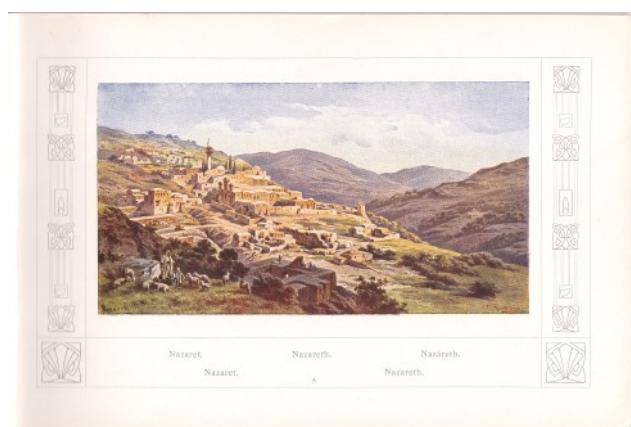
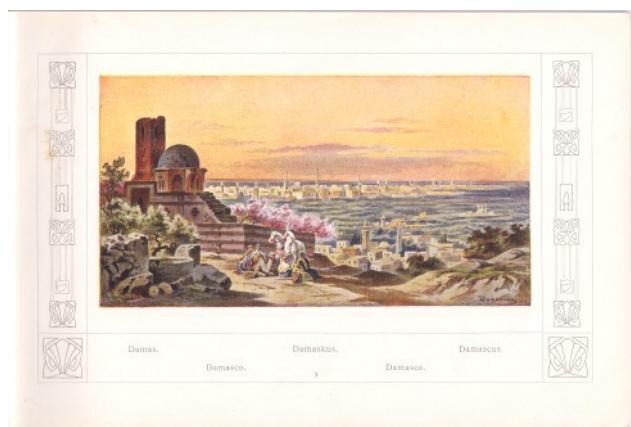
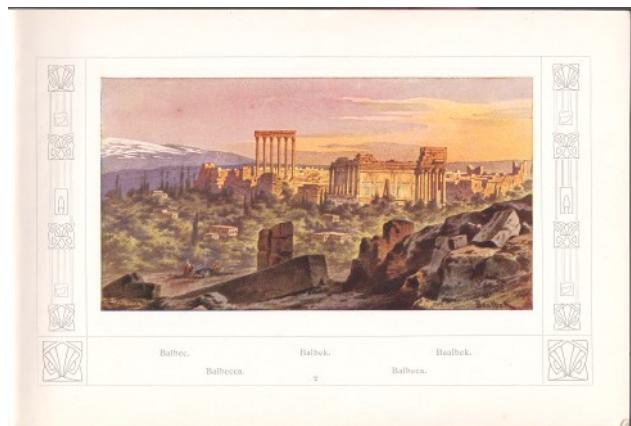
- *Palæstina-Album :10 Aquarell-Ansichten von F. Perlberg* (undated): 10 paintings, 190×125 mm. Two editions (prints). Captions are in German, English, and French.¹
- *Bilder aus dem Heiligen Lande* (1900?): 30 paintings, 210×138 mm. English edition as *Scenes of the Holy Land*.
- *Das Heilige Land in Wort und Bild* (1909, Große Ausgabe): 48 paintings, 210×138 mm. French edition as *Dans la terre sainte : 48 aquarelles avec texte explicatif*. 2nd German ed. (1924).

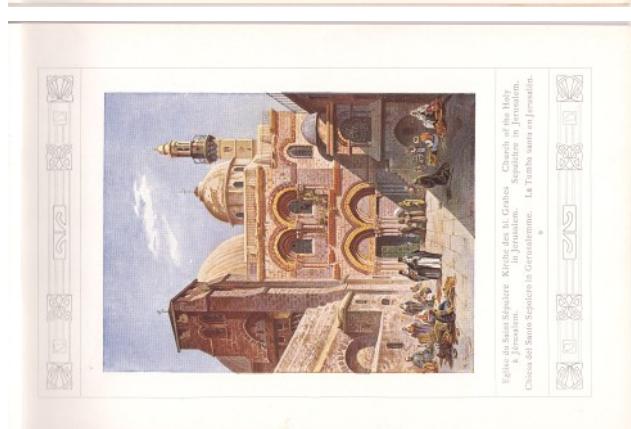
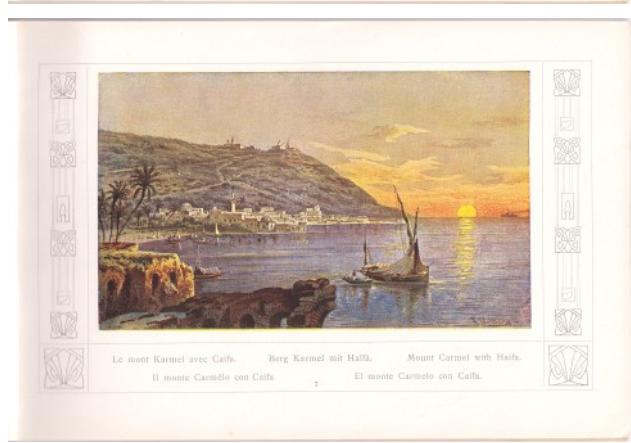
I was able to purchase copies of the second edition of "Palæstina-Album" and of the 30 painting version of "Bilder aus dem Heiligen Lande" recently, and will document the latter's contents here.



1 Documented in MEPB 13.

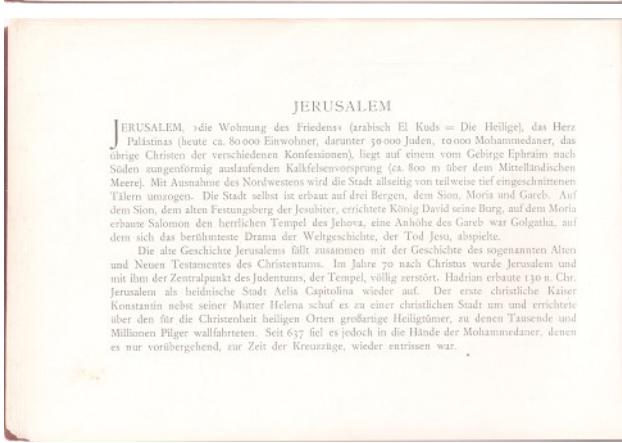






DER KARMEL, ein Gebirgszug an der Grenze des alten Galiläa und Samaria, ist von alter historischer Bedeutung. Am bekanntesten ist er als Opferstätte des Propheten Elias, der hier die Priester des Baal besiegte. Anachoreten der ersten christlichen Jahrhunderte führten später in den Höhlen des Berges ihr aszantisches Leben. Im 12. Jahrhundert fand hier der Orden der Karmeliten seine Gründung, woran heute noch das Karmeliterkloster am nordwestlichen, gegen das Meer abfallenden Ende des Höhenzuges erinnert.

Unterhalb des Klosterhügels, an der Südwestecke der halbmondförmigen Bucht von Akka, liegt die Stadt Haifa mit ca. 15000 meist christlichen Einwohnern, ein in alter Zeit unbekleideter Ort, der erst in neuester Zeit als Handelshafen zu einiger Wichtigkeit gelangt.

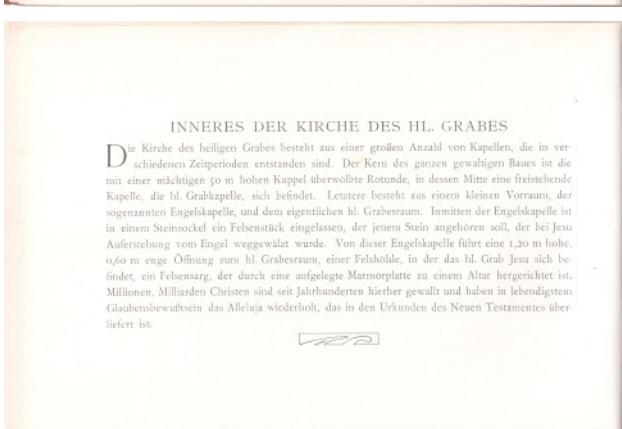


JERUSALEM, die Wohnung des Friedens (arabisch El Kuds = Die Heilige), das Herz Palästinas (heute ca. 80000 Einwohner, darunter 30000 Juden, 10000 Mohammedaner, das übrige Christen der verschiedenen Konfessionen), liegt auf einem vom Gebirge Ephraim nach Süden zungenförmig auslaufenden Kalkfelsenvorsprung (ca. 800 m über dem Mittelmeerspiegel). Mit Ausnahme des Nordwestens wird die Stadt allseitig von teilweise tief eingeschnittenen Tälern umzogen. Die Stadt selbst ist erbaut auf drei Bergen, dem Sion, Moria und Gareb. Auf dem Sion, dem alten Festungsberg der Jebusiter, errichtete König David seine Burg, auf dem Moria erbaute Salomon den herrlichen Tempel des Jehova, eine Anhöhe des Gareb war Golgatha, auf dem sich das berühmteste Drama der Weltgeschichte, der Tod Jesu, abspielte.

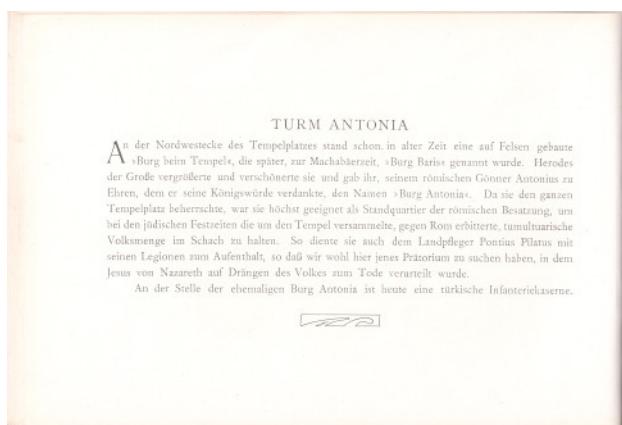
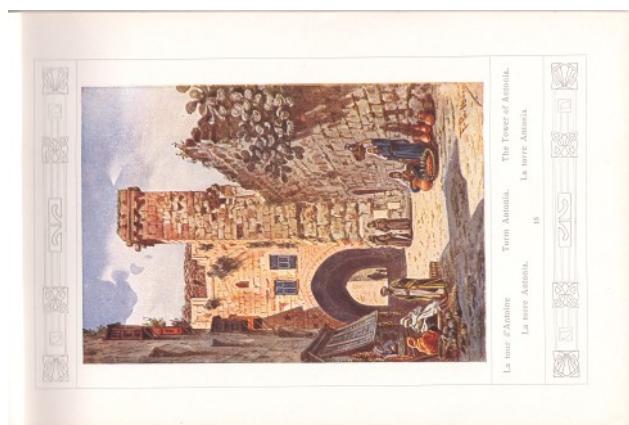
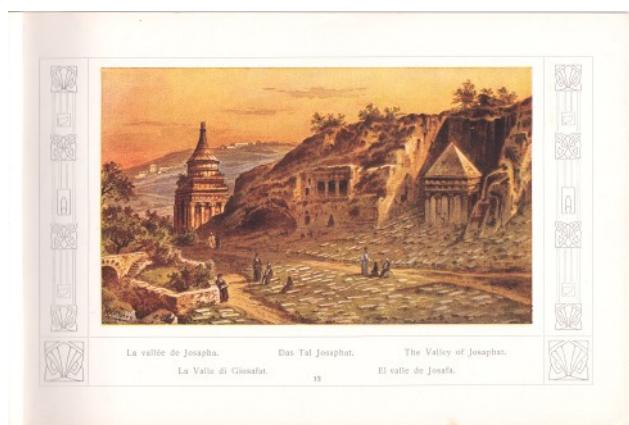
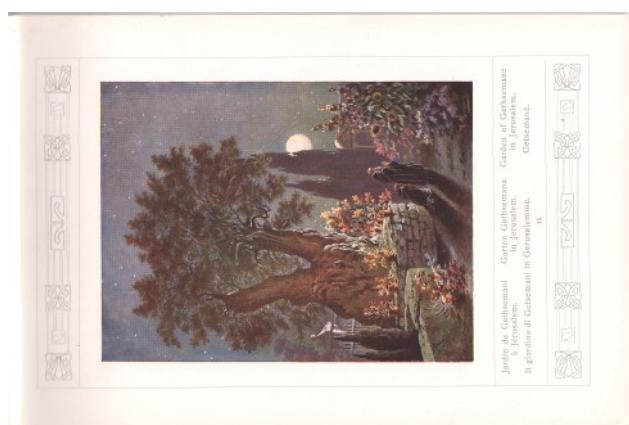
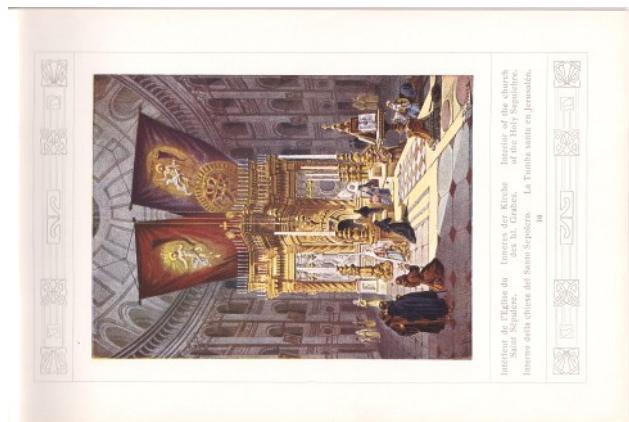
Die alte Geschichte Jerusalems füllt zusammen mit der Geschichte des sogenannten Alten und Neuen Testaments des Christentums. Im Jahre 70 nach Christus wurde Jerusalem und mit ihm der Zentralpunkt des Judentums, der Tempel, völlig zerstört. Hadrian erbaute 130 n. Chr. Jerusalem als heidnische Stadt Aelia Capitolina wieder auf. Der erste christliche Kaiser Konstantin nebst seiner Mutter Helena schuf es zu einer christlichen Stadt um und errichtete über den für die Christenheit heiligsten Orten großartige Heiligtümer, zu denen Tausende und Millionen Pilger wallfahrteten. Seit 637 fiel es jedoch in die Hände der Mohammedaner, denen es nur vorübergehend, zur Zeit der Kreuzzüge, wieder entrissen war.

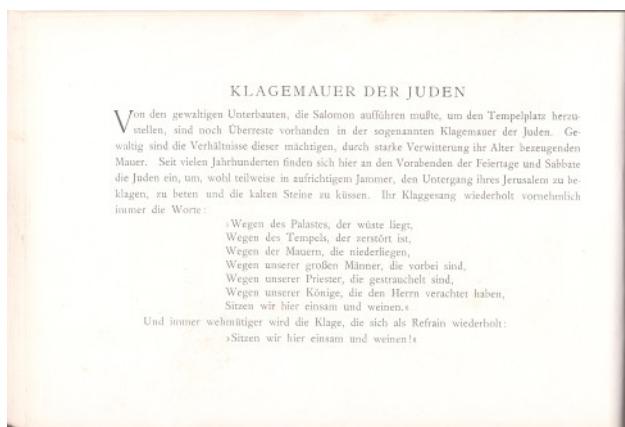
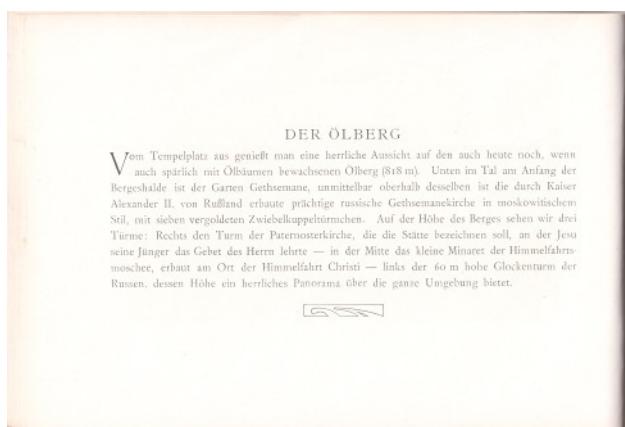
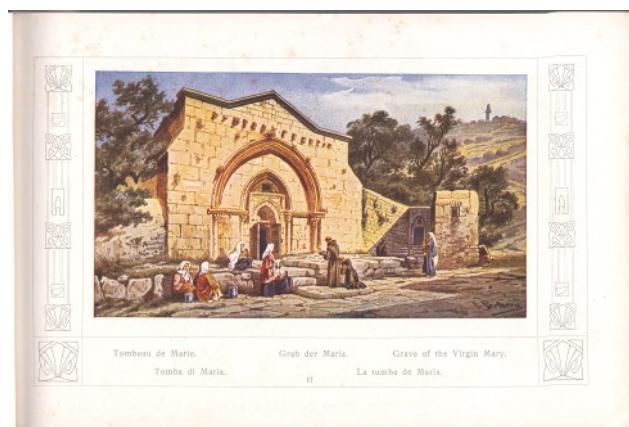
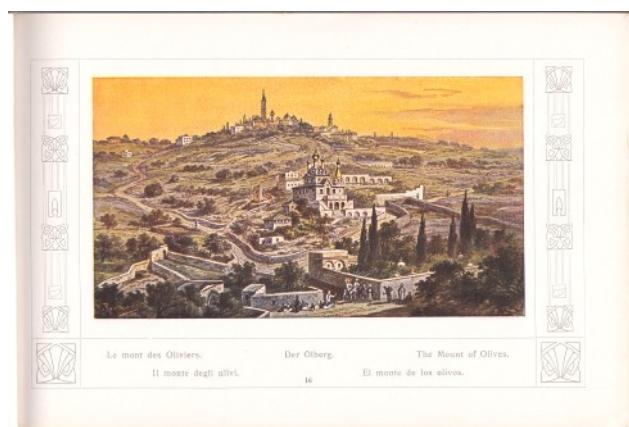
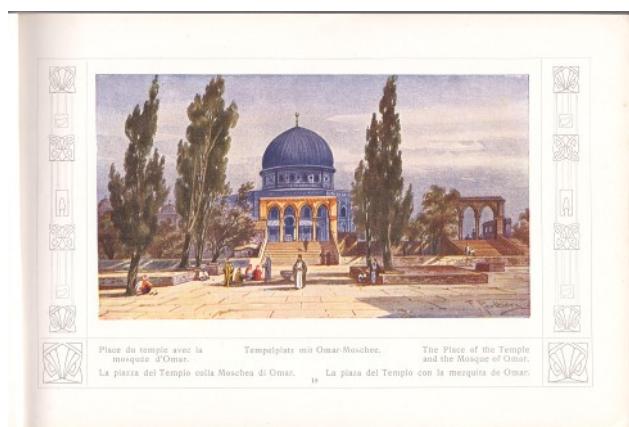
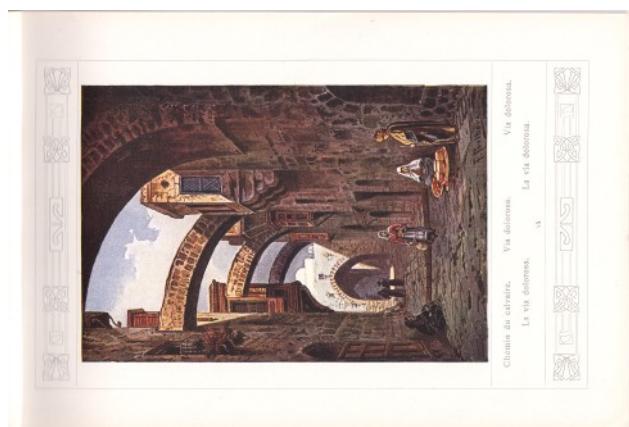


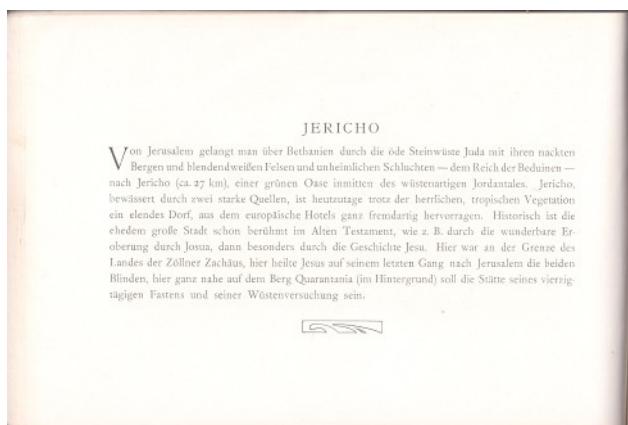
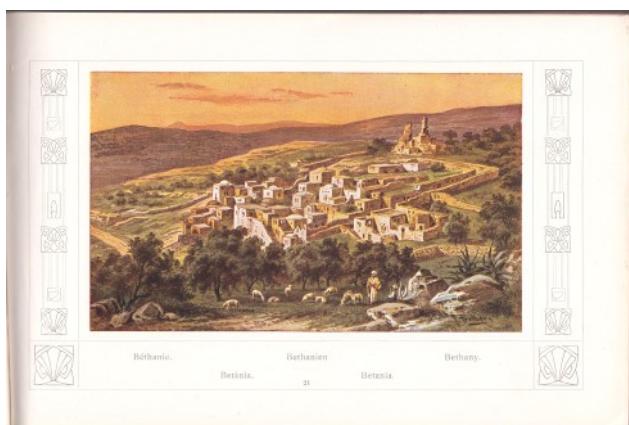
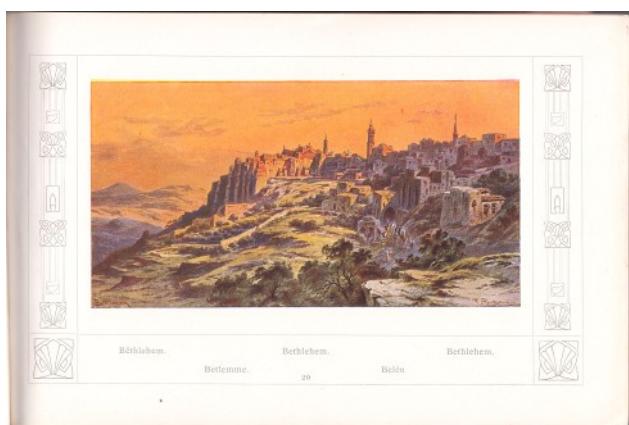
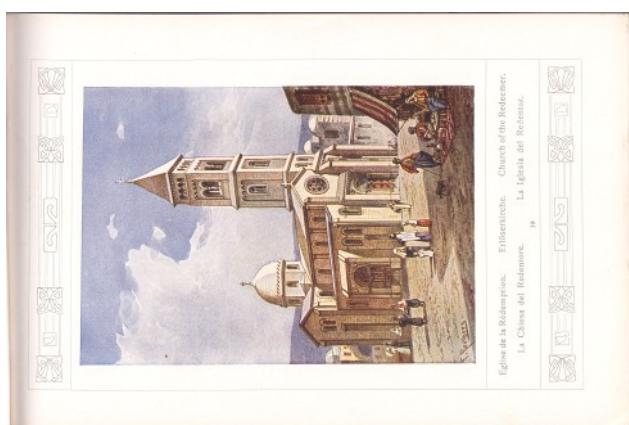
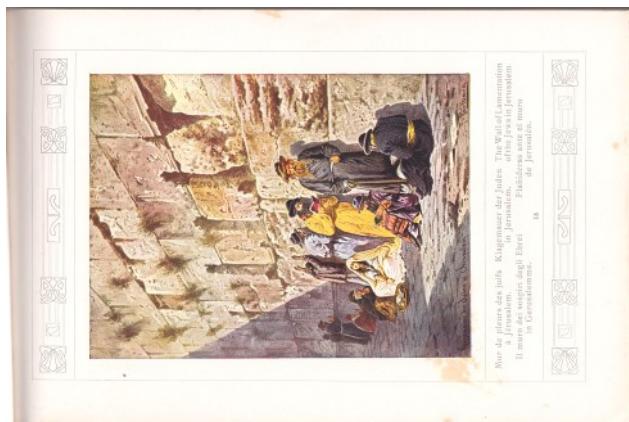
Der römische Kaiser Hadrian ließ an der Stelle, die die Christen als Todestätte Jesu verehrten, einen Tempel der Venus erbauen. Kaiserin Helene, die Mutter des Kaisers Konstantin, wandelte diesen in ein christliches Heiligtum um und zog zugleich das in nächster Nähe liegende Grab Jesu in ihren Bau ein, so daß die beiden heiligsten Stätten der Christenheit, Golgatha und Jesu Grab, in einem Gotteshaus vereinigt waren. Dieser uralt Bau erlitt nun im Lauf der Ereignisse der folgenden Jahrhunderte oftmalige Zerstörungen und Umgestaltungen, bis zur Zeit der Kreuzfahrer ein neuer großer Dom entstand, dessen wesentliche Formen bis zur heutigen Zeit erhalten sind.

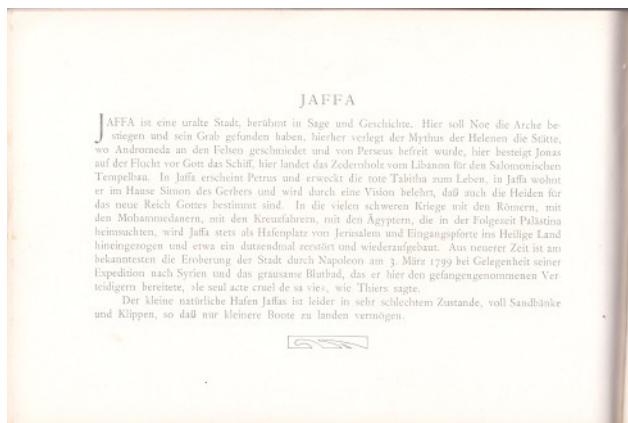
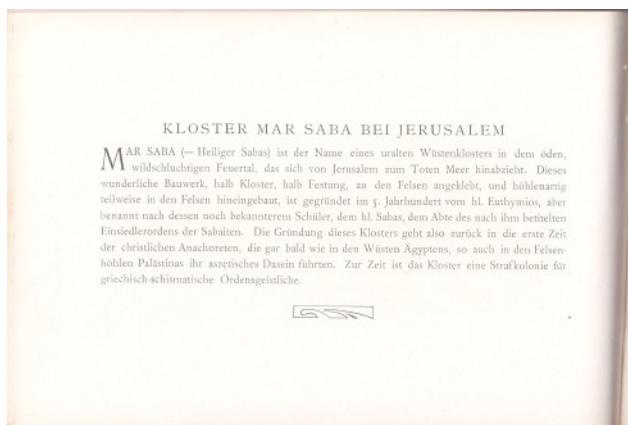
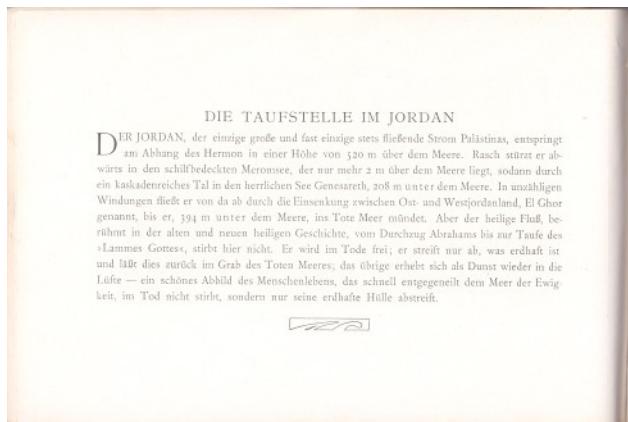
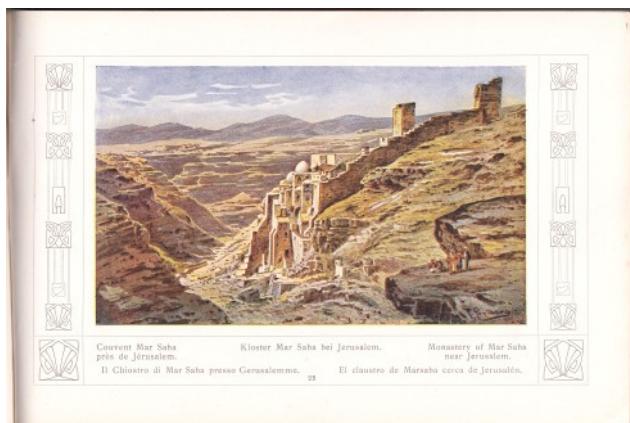
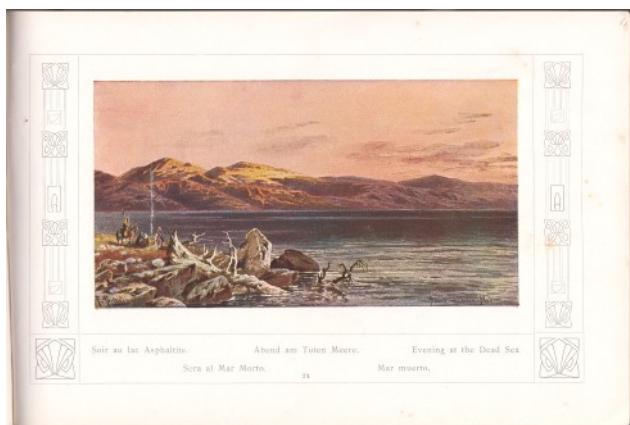
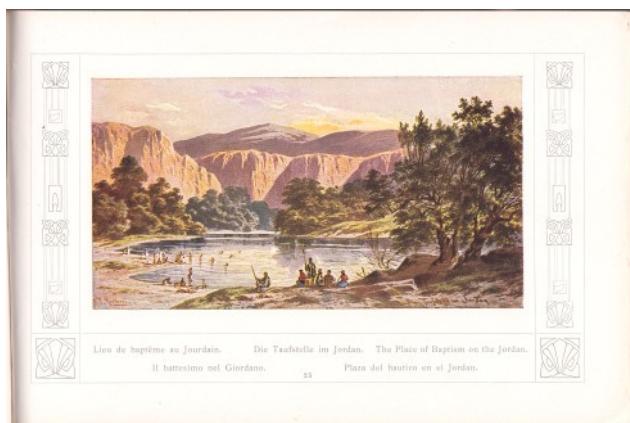
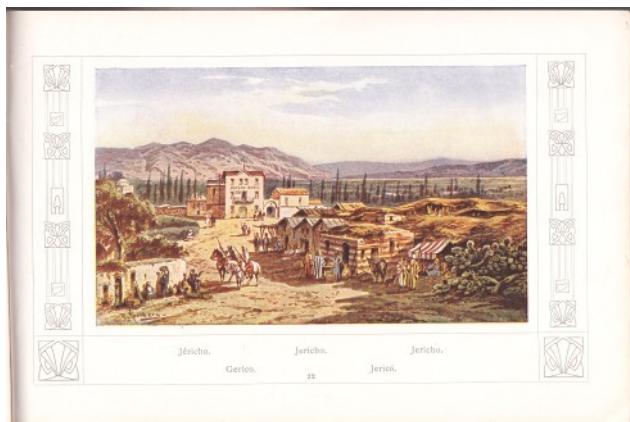


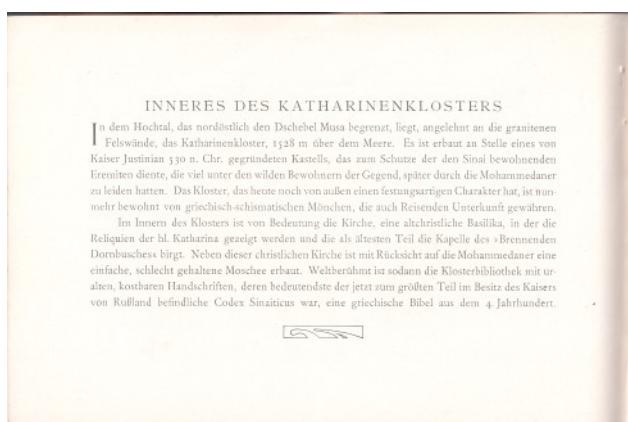
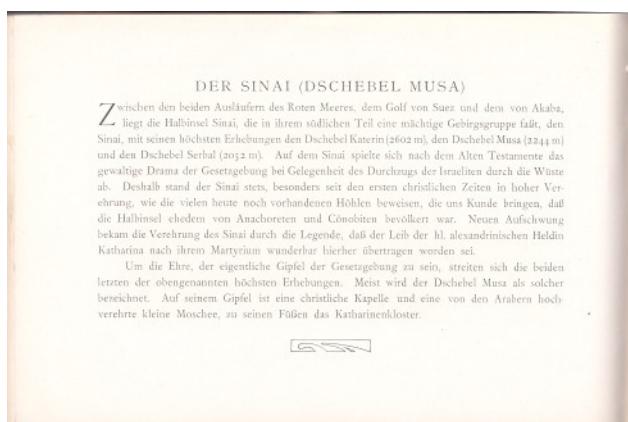
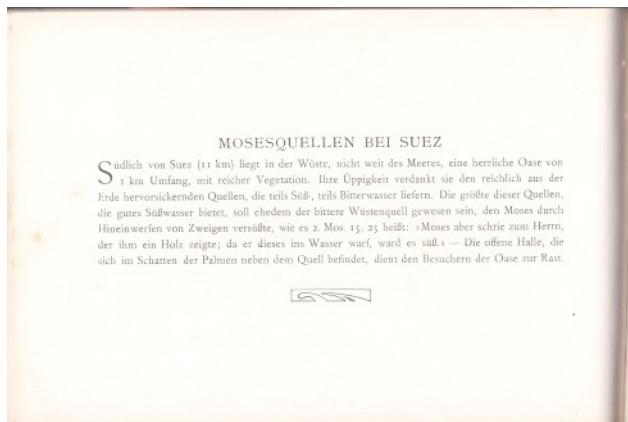
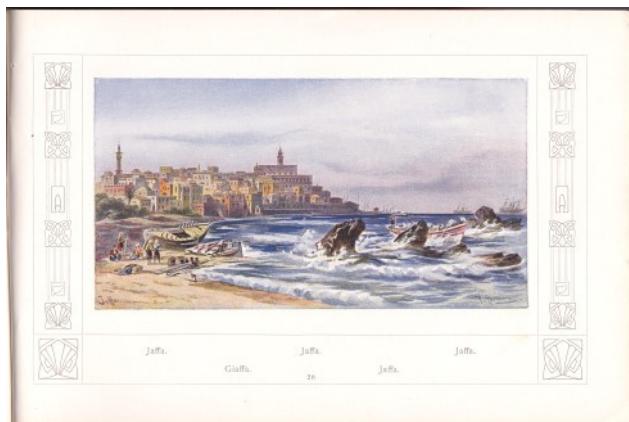
Die Kirche des heiligen Grabes besteht aus einer großen Anzahl von Kapellen, die in verschiedenen Zeiperioden entstanden sind. Der Kern des ganzen gewaltigen Baues ist die mit einer mächtigen 50 m hohen Kuppel überwölbt Rotunde, in dessen Mitte eine freistehende Kapelle, die hl. Grabkapelle, sich befindet. Letztere besteht aus einem kleinen Vorraum, der sogenannten Engelskapelle, und dem eigentlichen hl. Grabraum. Im Inneren der Engelskapelle ist in einem Steinsockel ein Felsenstück eingelassen, der jenem Stein angehören soll, der bei Jesu Auferstehung vom Engel weggewälzt wurde. Von dieser Engelskapelle führt eine 1,20 m hohe, 0,60 m enge Öffnung zum hl. Grabraum, einer Felshöhle, in der das hl. Grab Jesu sich befindet, ein Felsenriegel, der durch eine aufgelegte Marmorplatte zu einem Altar hergerichtet ist. Millionen Christen sind seit Jahrhunderten hierher gewandt und haben in lebendigstem Glaubensbewußtsein das Alleluja wiederholt, das in den Urkunden des Neuen Testaments überliefert ist.

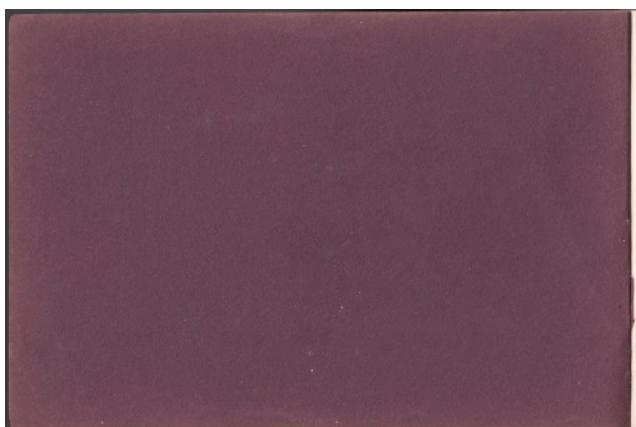
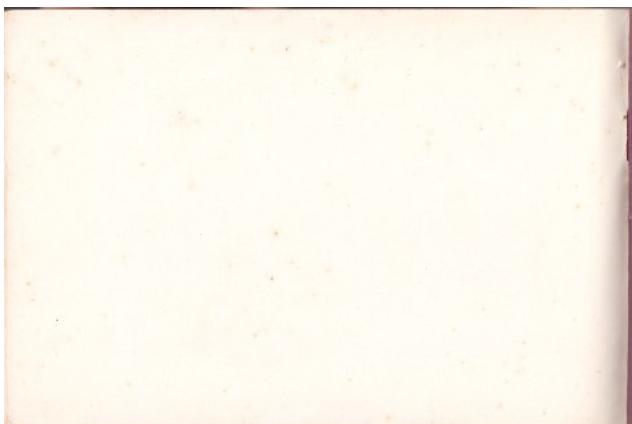
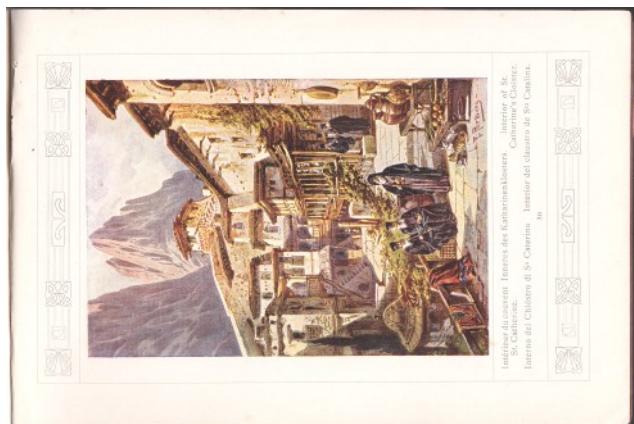












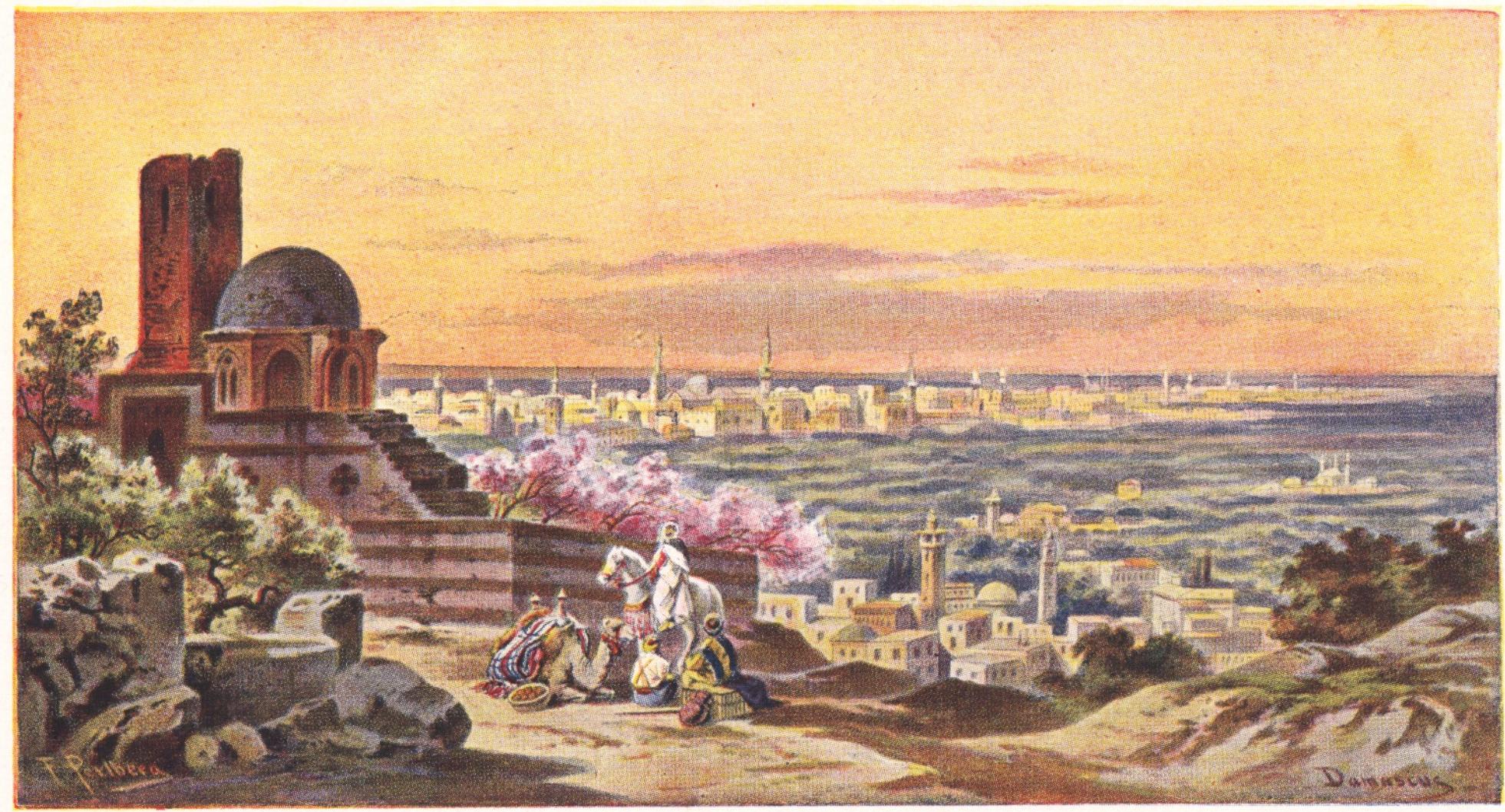
A Perlberg post card, printed by C. Andelfinger & Co. Munich.
This motif forms not part of the 10 or the 30 works selections published in 1909.



1. Beirut. Beirut. Beirut.



2. Balbec. Balbek. Baalbek. Belbecca.



3. Damas. Damaskus. Damascus.



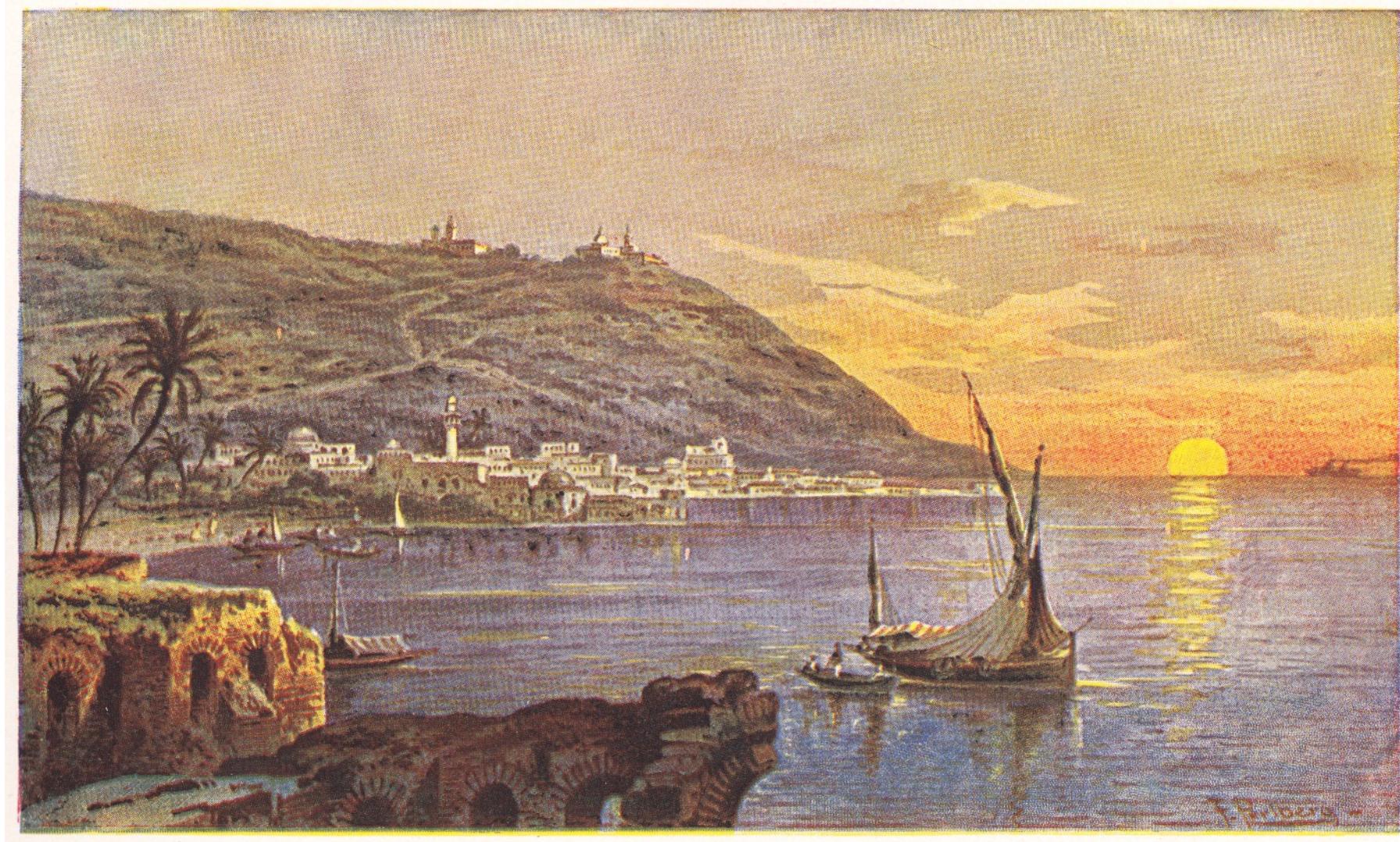
4. Tibère et le lac de Genezareth. Tiberias mit dem See Genezareth. Tiberias with the lake of Genezaret.



5. Nazaret. Nazareth. Nazáreth.



6. Le mont Tabor. Berg Tabor. Mount Tabor.



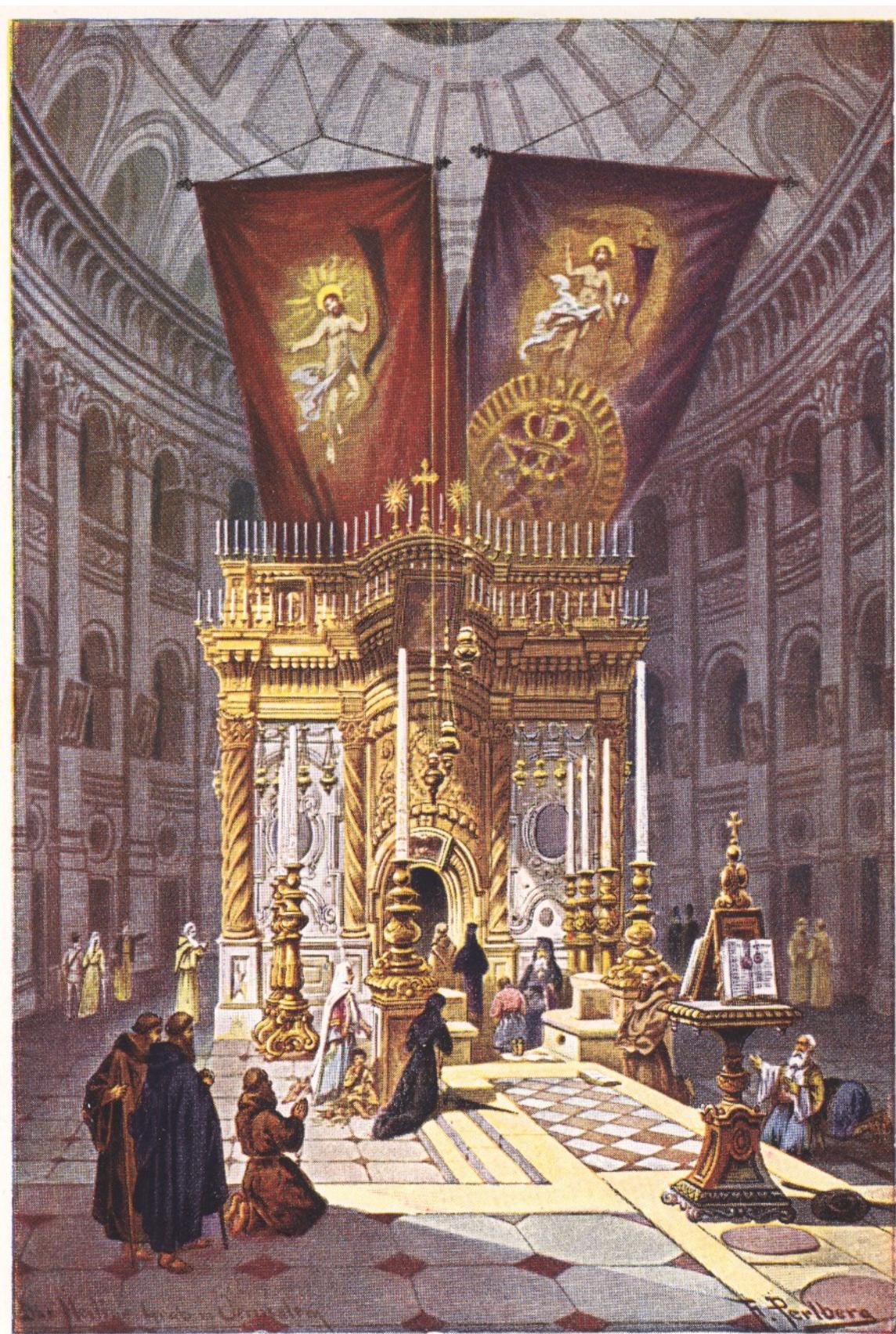
7. Le mont Karmel avec Haifa. Berg Karmel mit Haifa. Mount Carmel with Haifa.



8. Jérusalem. Jerusalem. Jerusalem.



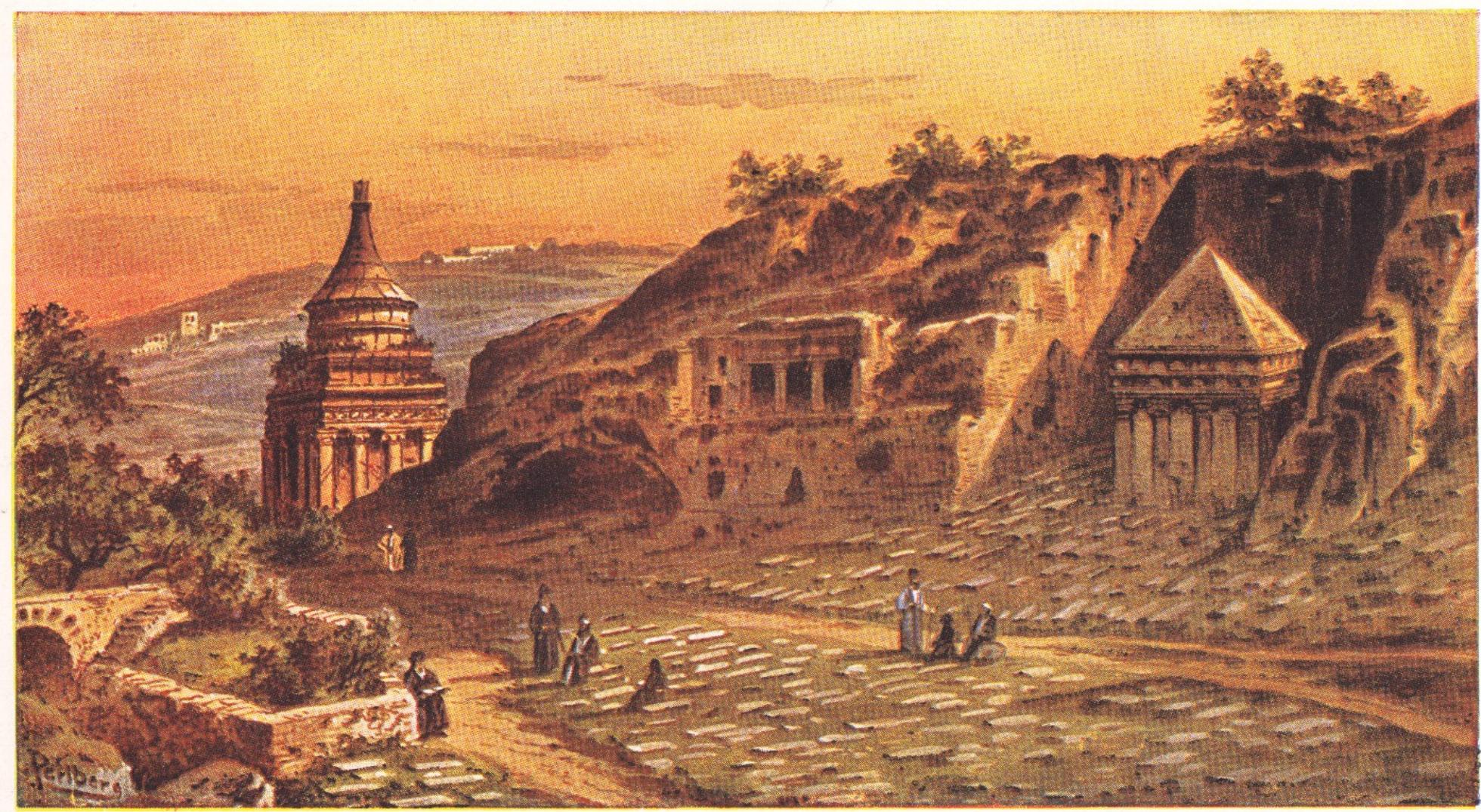
9. Eglise de Saint Sépulcre à Jérusalem. Kirche des hl. Grabes in Jerusalem. Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.



10. Intérieure de l'Eglise de Saint Sépulcre. Inneres der Kirches des hl. Grabes in Jerusalem. Interiour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



11. Jardin de Gethsemani à Jérusalem. Garten Gethsemane in Jerusalem. Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem.



12. La vallée de Josepah. Das Tal Josephaht. The valley of Josephaht.



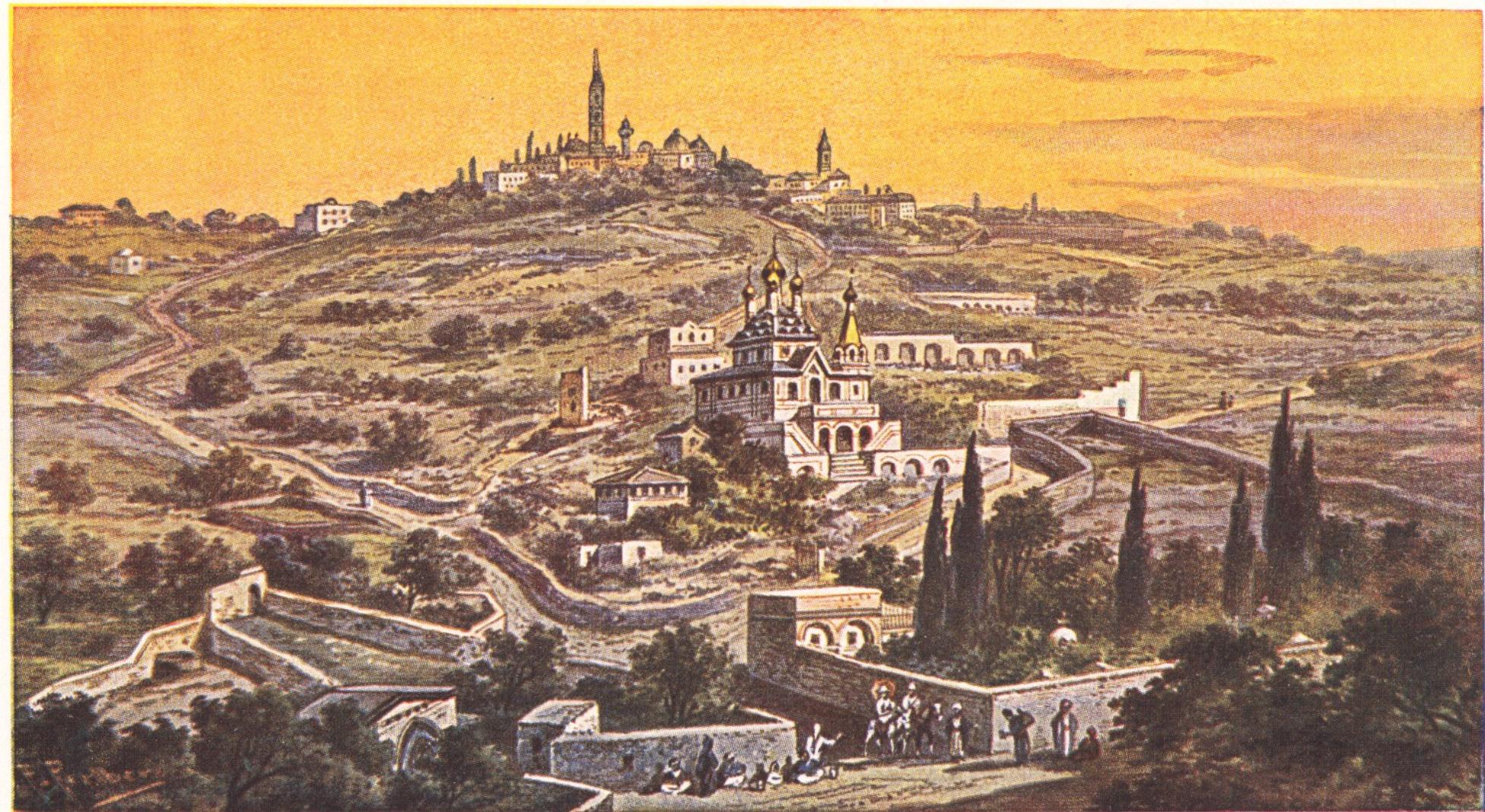
13. La tour d'antoine. Turm Antonia. The Tower of Antonia.



14. Chemin du calvaire. Via dolorosa. Via dolorosa.



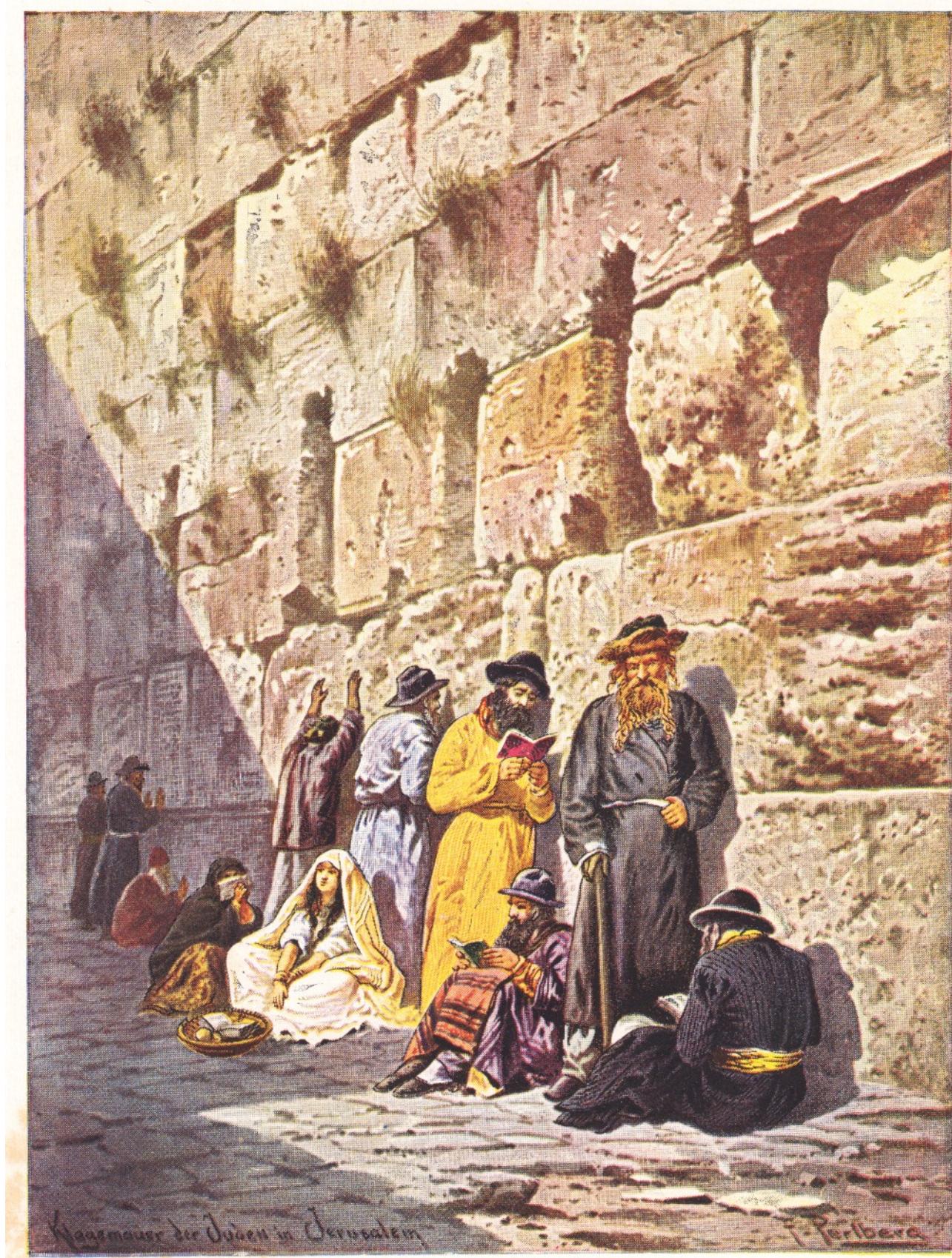
15. Place du Temple ave la mosquée d'Omar. Tempelplatz mit Omar-Moschee. The Place of the Temple and the Mosque of Omar.



16. Le mont des Oliviers. Der Ölberg. The Mount of Olives.



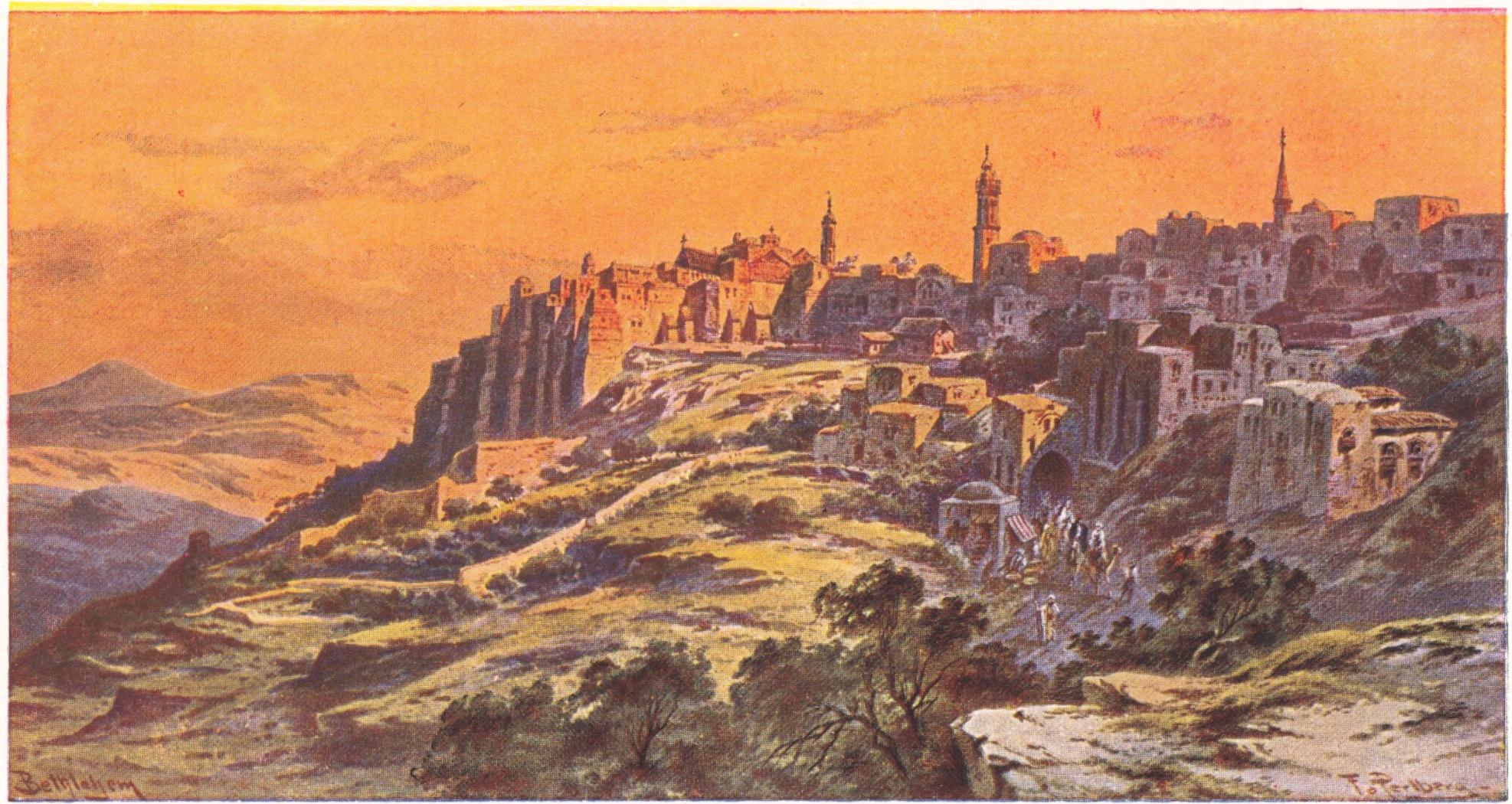
17. Tombeau des Marie. Grab der Maria. Grave of the Virgin Mary.



18. Mur de pleurs des juifs à Jérusalem. Klagemauer der Juden in Jerusalem.
The Wall of Lamentation of the Jews of Jerusalem.



19. Eglise de la Rédemption. Erlöserkirche. Church of the Redeemer.



20. Béthlehem. Bethlehem. Bethlehem.



21. Béthanie. Bethaniwn. Bethany.



22. Jéricho. Jericho. Jericho.



23. Lieu de baptême auf Jourdain. The place of baptism on the Jordan. Die Taufstelle am Jordan.



24. Soir au lac Asphaltite. Abend am Toten Meer. Evening at the Dead Sea.



25. Couvent Mar Saba près de Jérusalem. Kloster Mar Saba bei Jerusalem. Monastery of Mar Saba bei Jerusalem.



26. Jaffa. Jaffa. Jaffa.



27. Les sources de la Moïse près de Suez. Die Mosesquellen bei Suez. The Moses Springs near Suez.



28. L'arbre de Marie de Matarîje (Héliopolis). Der Marienbaum von Matarîje (Heliopolis). The Mary Tree from Heliopolis.



29. Le mont Sinaï (Dschebel Mousa). The Sinai (Dschebel Musa). Mount Sinai.



30. Intérieure du couvent St. Catherine. Inneres des Katharinenklosters. Interior of St. Catherine's Cloister.

Explanatory Notes² by Prof. J. Schmitzberger³

1. BEIRUT

BEIRUT, der »Schlüssel des Orients« ist, wie der Araber in seiner phantasiereichen Sprache sagt, »wie eine schöne Sultanin, die, gestutzt auf einen herrlich grünen Teppich, träumerisch das Spiel der Wogen betrachtet«. Herrlich erhebt sich die Stadt, amphitheatralisch aufgebaut um die St. Georgsbai, umgeben von üppig grünen Garten, überragt von den fruchtbaren Höhen des Libanon, der in seinen höchsten Spitzen während des größten Teiles des Jahres ewigen, in den Strahlen der Südsonne funkeln und glitzernden Schnee zeigt. Beirut ist uralt. Gegründet von den alten Phonikern, hat es zu allen Zeiten besonders wegen des guten Hafens eine wichtige Rolle gespielt. Heutzutage ist es die bedeutendste und blühendste Handelsstadt Syriens mit ca. 130 000, der Mehrzahl nach christlichen Einwohnern.

2. BALBEK

BALBEK, heute ein Städtchen mit ca. 5000 Einwohnern ($\frac{2}{3}$ Mohammedaner, $\frac{1}{3}$ Christen), gelegen in dem Hochtal von Cölisyrien, zwischen Libanon und Antilibanon, ist weltberühmt ob seiner Ruinen, die zu den großartigsten der Welt gehören. Der Name deutet darauf hin, das es in grauer Vorzeit eine Kultsstätte des Sonnengottes Baal gewesen. In der griechischen und römischen Periode wurde deshalb auch der Name in Heliopolis umgewandelt. Antoninus Pius (138—161) und Caracalla (211—217) erbauten auf den Überresten uralter Heiligtümer die beiden Tempel, deren Riesenruinen heute die Welt bewundert. Durch Theodosius (379—385) in eine christliche Kirche verwandelt, wurde die Akropolis von Balbek in arabischer Zeit eine Zitadelle. Durch Feindeshand und Erdbeben verwüstet, wurden die Ruinen auf Veranlassung des Deutschen Kaisers Wilhelm II., der anlässlich seiner Palästinafahrt 1898 auch Balbek besuchte, in den Jahren 1900—1903 durch deutsche Archäologen weiter blosgelegt.

3. DAMASKUS

DAMASKUS, die Märchenstadt des Orients, ist, wie der Araber sagt, »ein Demant, umgeben von Smaragden auf goldenem Reif«. Der goldene Reif ist die gelbbraune Wüste, die in der Ferne Damaskus umgibt, die Smaragde ist die Oase, aus der in blendendem Weis der Demant, die Stadt mit unzähligen Tuümchen und Minarets hervorragt. Die Oase von Damaskus mit der üppigsten Pracht des Pflanzen- und Baumwuchses, mit der Fülle der rauschenden Gewässer, erscheint dem sonnenverbrannten Sohn der Wüste wie ein irdisches Paradies, weshalb er sie mit denuberschwenglichsten Ausdrucken preist, als »Perle des Orients, Paradiesduftende, Halsband der Schönheit, Auge des Ostens« usw. Zu diesem Ruhme von Damaskus kommt noch seine glanzvolle Geschichte, die es wie wenige Städte der Welt aufzuweisen hat, verursacht durch seinen großen Reichtum, der in diesem wichtigsten Karawanenhandelsplatz des Ostens zusammenfloß. Heute zahlt es ca. 200 000 Einwohner, fast nur Mohammedaner, weshalb es allenthalben, besonders auch in seinem Basar- und Straßenleben, den orientalischen Typus wie keine andere Stadt des Islam bewahrt hat.

4. TIBERIAS AM SEE GENESARETH

Der See Genesareth, arabisch Bahr Tabarije (d. h. See von Tiberias) hat eine Länge von 21 km, eine größte Breite von 12 km, einen Flächeninhalt von 170 qkm und liegt 208 m unter dem Spiegel des Mittelmeeres. Die Ufer des »Galiläischen Meeres«, ehedem umgeben von einem Kranz blühender Ortschaften, heute aber einsam und öde, sind den Christen ehrwürdig ob der Wirksamkeit Jesu. Hier lag Kapharnaum, die Lieblingsstadt des Herrn, hier der Berg der Seligkeiten, hier der Ort der wunderbaren Brotvermehrung, hier Bethsaida, die Heimat von Petrus, Andreas und Philippus, hier Magdala, die Geburtsstadt der Maria Magdalena, hier Tiberias, in dessen Nähe die Tradition den reichen Fischfang und die Szene verlegt, in welcher Jesus zu Petrus sprach: »Weide meine Lammer, weide meine Schafe«.

Das letztgenannte Tiberias mit ca. 6000 Einwohnern ist heute der einzige einigermaßen bedeutende Ort am See. Selbst reizend an den blaugrünen Fluten gelegen und überragt von einem malerischen alten Kastell, bietet es eine herrliche Ansicht der nördlichen Hälfte des Sees, deren effektvoll abschließenden Hintergrund die hohen (bis ca. 2800 m), oft beschneiten Kuppen des großen Hermon bilden.

5. NAZARETH

NAZARETH ist heute eine Stadt mit ca. 12 000 Einwohnern (wovon $\frac{2}{3}$ Christen) in Galiläa. Im Alten Testament ganz unbekannt, im Neuen Testament ziemlich unbedeutend, ja verachtet (»Was kann denn von Nazareth Gutes kommen?« Joh. 1, 46) verdankt es seine weltgeschichtliche Bedeutung einzig der Person Jesu, »dem Nazarener«. Denn hier verbrachte jener, den die einen als Gottessohn verehren, die andern wenigstens als »den Weisen von Nazareth« rühmen, seine Jugendzeit in stiller Abgeschlossenheit von der Welt, bis er im Alter von 30 Jahren seine öffentliche Wirksamkeit begann. Vor allem zwei Bauten erinnern noch an den Stifter der christlichen Religion, die Kirche der Verkündigung Maria und eine andere Kapelle, die sogenannte Werkstatt des hl. Joseph.

Landschaftlich bietet Nazareth ein höchst anziehendes Bild. Es liegt teils in einer grünen, von lieblichen Bergen

2 These are on the even pages (left) facing the illustration of on the uneven pages (right).

3 Not the painter Josef Schmitzberger (1851–1936), but a German grammar school teacher, Gymnasialprofessor Joseph Schmitzberger, Luitpoldgymnasium, Munich.

umgebenen Talmulde, teils ist es freundlich hingeschmiegt an den Abhang eines Hügels. Seine weisen Häuser blicken anheimelnd aus dem Grün der kaktusumzäunten Feigen- und Olivenpflanzungen hervor.

6. DER BERG TABOR

DER BERG TABOR (602 m über dem Mittelländischen Meere) ist durch seine massive Form, durch seine reiche Vegetation und durch seine großartige Fernsicht der berühmteste Berg nicht bloß Galiläas, sondern von ganz Palästina. Noch größer aber ist sein Ruhm als Berg der wunderbaren Verkündigung Jesu, wovon Zeugnis geben gewaltige Ruinen von christlichen Heiligtümern aus alter Zeit und zwei christliche klösterliche Niederlassungen, die heute noch dem Besucher freundliche Aufnahme gewähren. Geschichtlich war der Tabor stets als strategischer Punkt bedeutend, wie heute noch die Überreste von Verteidigungswerken aus allen Zeiten beweisen, welche das Plateau des Tabor bedecken. Ganz besondere historische Bedeutung hat auch die Ebene Jezreel oder Esdrelon, die dem Tabor nach Südwesten vorgelagert ist. Sie ist das große Schlachtfeld von Palästina: Hier siegt z. B. Gedeon gegen die Midianiten, David gegen die Amalekiter, hier fiel Saul im Kampfe gegen die Philister, hier kämpften später die Juden Heldenkämpfe gegen die Könige von Syrien und Ägypten und die Feldherren der Römer, hier starben Martyrer des Glaubens zur Zeit der Kämpfe der Kreuzfahrerzeit und hier schlug am 16. April 1799 der Große Napoleon auf seiner syrischen Expedition ein weit überlegenes türkisches Heer in der berühmten »Bataille du Mont Thabor«.

7. BERG KARMEL MIT HAIFA

DER KARMEL, ein Gebirgszug an der Grenze des alten Galiläa und Samaria, ist von alter historischer Bedeutung. Am bekanntesten ist er als Opferstätte des Propheten Elias, der hier die Priester des Baal besiegte. Anachoreten der ersten christlichen Jahrhunderte führten später in den Höhlen des Berges ihr aszetisches Leben. Im 12. Jahrhundert fand hier der Orden der »Karmeliter« seine Gründung, woran heute noch das Karmeliterkloster am nordwestlichen, gegen das Meer abfallenden Ende des Höhenzuges erinnert.

Unterhalb des Klosterhügels, an der Südwestecke der halbmondförmigen Bucht von Akka, liegt die Stadt Haifa mit ca. 13 000 meist christlichen Einwohnern, ein in alter Zeit unbedeutender Ort, der erst in neuester Zeit als Handelshafen zu einiger Wichtigkeit gelangt ist.

8. JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, »die Wohnung des Friedens« (arabisch El Kuds = Die Heilige), das Herz Palästinas (heute ca. 80 000 Einwohner, darunter 50 000 Juden, 10 000 Mohammedaner, das übrige Christen der verschiedenen Konfessionen), liegt auf einem vom Gebirge Ephraim nach Süden zungenförmig auslaufenden Kalkfelsenvorsprung (ca. 800 m über dem Mittelländischen Meere). Mit Ausnahme des Nordwestens wird die Stadt allseitig von teilweise tief eingeschnittenen Tälern umzogen. Die Stadt selbst ist erbaut auf drei Bergen, dem Sion, Moria und Gareb. Auf dem Sion, dem alten Festungsberg der Jesubiter, errichtete König David seine Burg, auf dem Moria erbaute Salomon den herrlichen Tempel des Jehova, eine Anhöhe des Gareb war Golgatha, auf dem sich das berühmteste Drama der Weltgeschichte, der Tod Jesu, abspielte.

Die alte Geschichte Jerusalems fällt zusammen mit der Geschichte des sogenannten Alten und Neuen Testamentes des Christentums. Im Jahre 70 nach Christus wurde Jerusalem und mit ihm der Zentralpunkt des Judentums, der Tempel, völlig zerstört. Hadrian erbaute 130 n. Chr. Jerusalem als heidnische Stadt Aelia Capitolina wieder auf. Der erste christliche Kaiser Konstantin nebst seiner Mutter Helena schuf es zu einer christlichen Stadt um und errichtete über den für die Christenheit heiligen Orten großartige Heiligtümer, zu denen Tausende und Millionen Pilger wallfahrteten. Seit 637 fiel es jedoch in die Hände der Mohammedaner, denen es nur vorübergehend, zur Zeit der Kreuzzüge, wieder entrissen war.

9. KIRCHE DES HL. GRABES IN JERUSALEM.

Der römische Kaiser Hadrian ließ an der Stätte, die die Christen als Todesstätte Jesu verehrten, einen Tempel der Venus erbauen. Kaiserin Helene, die Mutter des Kaisers Konstantin, wandelte diesen in ein christliches Heiligtum um und zog zugleich das in nächster Nähe liegende Grab Jesu in ihren Bau ein, so daß die beiden heiligsten Stätten der Christenheit, Golgatha und Jesu Grab, in einem Gotteshaus vereinigt waren. Dieser uralte Bau erlitt nun im Lauf der Ereignisse der folgenden Jahrhunderte oftmalige Zerstörungen und Umgestaltungen, bis zur Zeit der Kreuzfahrer ein neuer großer Dom entstand, dessen wesentliche Formen bis zur heutigen Zeit erhalten sind.

10. INNERES DER KIRCHE DES HL. GRABES

Die Kirche des heiligen Grabes besteht aus einer großen Anzahl von Kapellen, die in verschiedenen Zeitperioden entstanden sind. Der Kern des ganzen gewaltigen Baues ist die mit einer mächtigen 50 m hohen Kuppel überwölbte Rotunde, in dessen Mitte eine freistehende Kapelle, die hl. Grabkapelle, sich befindet. Letztere besteht aus einem kleinen Vorräum, der sogenannten Engelskapelle, und dem eigentlichen hl. Grabesraum. Inmitten der Engelskapelle ist in einem Steinsockel ein Felsenstück eingelassen, der jenem Stein angehören soll, der bei Jesu Auferstehung vom Engel weggewälzt wurde. Von dieser Engelskapelle führt eine 1,20 m hohe, 0,60 m enge Öffnung zum hl. Grabesraum, einer Felshöhle, in der das hl. Grab Jesu sich befindet, ein Felsensarg, der durch eine aufgelegte Marmorplatte zu einem Altar hergerichtet ist. Millionen, Milliarden Christen sind seit Jahrhunderten hierher gewallt und haben in lebendigstem Glaubensbewußtsein das Alleluja wiederholt, das in den Urkunden des Neuen Testamentes überliefert ist.

11. GARTEN GETHSEMANE BEI JERUSALEM

Außerhalb der Stadt Jerusalem am Abhang des Ölberges ist der Garten Gethsemane, bekannt als Ort des Beginnes der Passion Jesu. Heiliger Fleiß der frommen Franziskanermönche, die Eigentümer der ehrwürdigen Stätte sind, hat herrliche Blumen hier gezogen. Besonders sinnreich sind die Passionsblumen und die wie Blutströpfchen ausschenden roten Immortellen, die der Araber deshalb auch Dam el Messiech = Messiasblut nennt. Freundlich umranken diese Blüten die acht uralten Ölähume, die, wenn sie auch nicht selbst die Tage Jesu geschaut, doch wahrscheinlich aus den Wurzeln derer hervorgesproßt sind, unter deren Schatten der »Menschensohn« gewandelt und gebetet und gelitten hat.

12. DAS TAL JOSAPHAT

Die Stadt Jerusalem ist vom Ölberg durch ein ödes, baumloses, schuttbedecktes Tal getrennt, genannt Tal Josaphat, oder nach dem ehemals hier durchfließenden, nunmehr versiegten Bach, Kidrontal. Auf Grund einer Schriftstelle (Joel 3, 2) glauben Juden und Mohammedaner, es werde hier die Stätte des Jüngsten Gerichtes sein. Deshalb haben auch die Juden auf der rechten Olbergseite und die Mohammedaner auf der Stadtseite ihre Friedhöfe angelegt, wie überhaupt dieses Tal eine uralte Begräbnisstätte ist. Aus den einfachen neueren Denkmälern ragen drei sonderbare alte Bauten hervor, das sogenannte Grab Absolons, das Jakobusgrab und die Pyramide des Zacharias. Diese drei Grabdenkmale stammen jedenfalls aus vorchristlicher Zeit, wer aber einst in denselben zur Ruhe gebettet war, ob besonders die drei Männer, nach welcher sie heute benannt werden, ist unbestimmt.

13. TURM ANTONIA

An der Nordwestecke des Tempelplatzes stand schon, in alter Zeit eine auf Felsen gebaute »Burg beim Tempel«, die später, zur Machabäerzeit, »Burg Baris« genannt wurde. Herodes der Große vergrößerte und verschönerte sie und gab ihr, seinem römischen Gönner Antonius zu Ehren, dem er seine Königswürde verdankte, den Namen »Burg Antonia«. Da sie den ganzen Tempelplatz beherrschte, war sie höchst geeignet als Standquartier der römischen Besatzung, um bei den jüdischen Festzeiten die um den Tempel versammelte, gegen Rom erbitterte, tumultuarische Volksmenge im Schach zu halten. So diente sie auch dem Landpfleger Pontius Pilatus mit seinen Legionen zum Aufenthalt, so daß wir wohl hier jenes Prätorium zu suchen haben, in dem Jesus von Nazareth auf Drängen des Volkes zum Tode verurteilt wurde.

An der Stelle der ehemaligen Burg Antonia ist heute eine türkische Infanteriekaserne.

14. VIA DOLOROSA

Bei der Burg Antonia, dem Richthause des Pilatus, begann Jesus von Nazareth, das Kreuzholz auf dem Rücken, den Weg zur Richtstätte, den Schmerzensweg. Die Straße führt zuerst abwärts den Abhang des Moria, auf dem das Prätorium ja gelegen, dann aufwärts den »Kalvarienberg«. Diesen letzteren aufwärtssteigenden Weg benennt man speziell noch heute Via dolorosa, arabisch Tarik el alam, Schmerzensweg, eine enge, holperige, schmutzige, ab und zu mit Bogen überwölbte Gasse.

15. TEMPELPLATZ MIT OMARMOSCHEE

Auf dem Moria erbaute Davids großer Sohn, der Friedenskönig Salomon, dem Herrn den Tempel, ein Gotteshaus von fabelhafter Pracht, nachdem er durch mächtige Substruktionen ebenes Terrain, den Tempelplatz, geschaffen. Auf den Trümmern dieses von den Chaldäern zerstörten Heiligtumes baute Nehemias nach der babylonischen Gefangenschaft den zweiten Tempel, den später König Herodes der Große erweiterte und prachtvoll umgestaltete. Dieses durch die Gegenwart Jesu geheiligte Haus des Jehova ging im Jahre 70 durch Titus völlig unter, »so daß kein Stein auf dem andern blieb«. Kaiser Hadrian entweihte die hl. Stätte durch Errichtung eines Jupitertempels. Kaiser Julian, der Apostat, versuchte, dem prophetischen Worte Jesu zum Trotz, vergeblich den Wiederaufbau des Judentempels. Heute steht auf dem alten Tempelplatz, jetzt Haram esch Scherif = geheiligter Bezirk (ca. 500 m lang und 300 m breit), die Omarmoschee, arabisch Kubbet es Sachra = Felsenkuppel, ein achteckiger mächtiger Bau von 35 m Durchmesser mit riesiger Kuppel. Sie ist wahrscheinlich ein Werk des Kaisers Justinian. Seit der Zeit des Einfalles der Mohammedaner dient sie als Moschee. Nur während der Kreuzzüge herrschte wieder vorübergehend hier der christliche Kultus. Vier Tore führen aus den vier Himmelsrichtungen in das mit Marmor, prachtvollen Mosaiken und Gold märchenhaft ausgestattete Innere. Unterhalb der Kuppel ist ein gewaltiger Fels (17 m lang, 13 m breit), der Ort, auf dem einst im Alten Bunde der Opferaltar gestanden.

16. DER ÖLBERG

Vom Tempelplatz aus genießt man eine herrliche Aussicht auf den auch heute noch, wenn auch spärlich mit Ölähumen bewachsenen Ölberg (818 m). Unten im Tal am Anfang der Bergeshalde ist der Garten Gethsemane, unmittelbar oberhalb desselben ist die durch Kaiser Alexander II. von Rußland erbaute prächtige russische Gethsemanekirche in moskowitischem Stil, mit sieben vergoldeten Zwiebelkuppeltürmchen. Auf der Höhe des Berges sehen wir drei Türme: Rechts den Turm der Paternosterkirche, die die Stätte bezeichnen soll, an der Jesu seine Jünger das Gebet des Herrn lehrte — in der Mitte das kleine Minaret der Himmelfahrtsmoschee, erbaut am Ort der Himmelfahrt Christi — links der 60 m hohe Glockenturm der Russen, dessen Höhe ein herrliches Panorama über die ganze Umgebung bietet.

17. DAS GRAB MARIENS

Ganz nahe dem Garten Gethsemane befindet sich ein Bauwerk, ähnlich dem Portal einer gotischen Kirche. Es ist der

Eingang in das Grab Mariens. Das Grab selbst, in dem nach alter Tradition die Jünger die Mutter Jesu begruben, liegt tief unterhalb in einer Felsenkapelle. Wie schon die äußere Architektur zeigt, stammt die jetzige Form des Bauwerkes aus der Kreuzfahrerzeit: Melisendis, die Gemahlin des vierten Königs von Jerusalem, errichtete es an der Stelle, wo schon in den ersten christlichen Jahrhunderten eine Kirche stand, die im Lauf der Zeiten und Ereignisse wiederholt zerstört und wiederholt neuerbaut wurde.

18. KLAGEMAUER DER JUDEN

Von den gewaltigen Unterbauten, die Salomon aufführen mußte, um den Tempelplatz herzustellen, sind noch Überreste vorhanden in der sogenannten Klagemauer der Juden. Gewaltig sind die Verhältnisse dieser mächtigen, durch starke Verwitterung ihr Alter bezeugenden Mauer. Seit vielen Jahrhunderten finden sich hier an den Vorabenden der Feiertage und Sabbate die Juden ein, um, wohl teilweise in aufrichtigem Jammer, den Untergang ihres Jerusalem zu beklagen, zu beten und die kalten Steine zu küssen. Ihr Klaggesang wiederholt vornehmlich immer die Worte:

»Wegen des Palastes, der wüste liegt,
Wegen des Tempels, der zerstört ist,
Wegen der Mauern, die niederliegen,
Wegen unserer großen Männer, die vorbei sind,
Wegen unserer Priester, die gestrauchelt sind,
Wegen unserer Könige, die den Herrn verachtet haben,
Sitzen wir hier einsam und weinen.«

Und immer wehmütiger wird die Klage, die sich als Refrain wiederholt:

»Sitzen wir hier einsam und weinen!«

19. ERLÖSERKIRCHE

Als im Jahre 1869 der Kronprinz Friedrich von Preußen (der spätere Kaiser Friedrich) Jerusalem besuchte, schenkte ihm der türkische Sultan Abdul-Aziz das Ruinenfeld der alten, aus dem 12. Jahrhundert stammenden Kirche und des Klosters Sancta Maria maior in nächster Nähe der heiligen Grabeskirche. Die Kirche wurde im alten frühgotischen Stil (nach außen Rundbogen, nach innen Spitzbogen) und nach den alten Plänen rekonstruiert und am 31. Oktober 1898, bei Gelegenheit der Anwesenheit des Deutschen Kaisers Wilhelm II., dem protestantischen Kult übergeben unter dem Namen Deutsch-protestantische »Erlöserkirche«.

20. BETHLEHEM

Wer von Jerusalem auf der Straße gegen Süden geht, dem erschließt sich nach nicht ganz zweistündigem Marsch ein reizendes Bild: die Weihnachtsstadt Bethlehem. Auf zwei Hügeln ist es aufgebaut inmitten lieblicher Vegetation, unvergleichlich anziehender als das stolze, kalte Jerusalem.

Bethlehem, ca. 800 m über dem Meere, also etwas höher als Jerusalem gelegen, ist heute bedeutend größer als zur Zeit Christi. Nach der Volkszählung von 1905 hat die Stadt 10 000 beinahe nur christliche Einwohner, deren größere Hälfte Katholiken sind. Die Bethlehemiten zeichnen sich durch schönen Typus und Zuvorkommenheit aus. Gerühmt wird auch ihre Sittenreinheit, besonders bei den Frauen und Mädchen. Der Hauptanziehungspunkt ist die Geburtskirche aus der Zeit der hl. Helena, die als Krypta die Geburtsgrotte Jesu birgt.

21. BETHANIEN

Eine Stunde östlich von Jerusalem, am Abhang eines Vorhügels des Ölberges liegt still und versteckt, von üppigen Fruchtbäumen umgeben, das alte Bethanien, heute von den Arabern Elasarije = Ort des Lazarus genannt. Dieser Name erinnert uns an die Geschichte Bethaniens in den hl. Büchern, an Jesu Aufenthalt im Haus des Lazarus und dessen Totenerweckung. Man kann es dem Herrn nachfühlen, warum er so gerne aus dem Getriebe der Stadt auf die stille Höhe Bethaniens flüchtete, welche selbst in reichem Grünschmuck prangend, schon an der Ruhe und Einsamkeit der Wüste teilnimmt, wo ferne vom Haß der Pharisäer Marias und Marthas und des Lazarus reine Liebe seiner wartete. Die turmartige Ruine am höchsten Punkt des Ortes nennt man — ob mit Recht, ist sehr fraglich — »das Haus des Lazarus« und in der Nähe eine unterirdische Grabkammer das »Grab des Lazarus«.

22. JERICHO

Von Jerusalem gelangt man über Bethanien durch die öde Steinwüste Juda mit ihren nackten Bergen und blendend weißen Felsen und unheimlichen Schluchten — dem Reich der Beduinen — nach Jericho (ca. 27 km), einer grünen Oase inmitten des wüstenartigen Jordantales. Jericho, bewässert durch zwei starke Quellen, ist heutzutage trotz der herrlichen, tropischen Vegetation ein elendes Dorf, aus dem europäische Hotels ganz fremdartig hervorragen. Historisch ist die ehedem große Stadt schon berühmt im Alten Testament, wie z. B. durch die wunderbare Eroberung durch Josua, dann besonders durch die Geschichte Jesu. Hier war an der Grenze des Landes der Zöllner Zachäus, hier heilte Jesus auf seinem letzten Gang nach Jerusalem die beiden Blinden, hier ganz nahe auf dem Berg Quarantania (im Hintergrund) soll die Stätte seines vierzigjährigen Fastens und seiner Wüstenversuchung sein.

23. DIE TAUFSTELLE IM JORDAN

DER JORDAN, der einzige große und fast einzige stets fließende Strom Palästinas, entspringt am Abhang des Hermon in einer Höhe von 520 m über dem Meere. Rasch stürzt er abwärts in den schilfbedeckten Meromsee, der nur mehr 2 m über dem Meere liegt, sodann durch ein kaskadenreiches Tal in den herrlichen See Genesareth, 208 m unter dem Meere. In unzähligen Windungen fließt er von da ab durch die Einsenkung zwischen Ost- und Westjordanland, El Ghor genannt, bis er, 394 m unter dem Meere, ins Tote Meer mündet. Aber der heilige Fluß, berühmt in der alten und neuen heiligen Geschichte, vom Durchzug Abrahams bis zur Taufe des »Lammes Gottes«, stirbt hier nicht. Er wird im Tode frei; er streift nur ab, was erdhaft ist und läßt dies zurück im Grab des Toten Meeres; das übrige erhebt sich als Dunst wieder in die Lüfte — ein schönes Abbild des Menschenlebens, das schnell entgegneilt dem Meer der Ewigkeit, im Tod nicht stirbt, sondern nur seine erdachte Hülle abstreift.

24. ABEND AM TOTEN MEERE

Das Tote Meer (arabisch Bahr Lut = Lotsee), 56 km lang und 4½—16 km breit, hat einen Flächeninhalt von beinahe 1000 qkm. Der Spiegel des »Salzsees«, ca. 1200 m tiefer als Jerusalem, 394 m unter dem Mittelmeere, ist die tiefste Einsenkung der ganzen Erdoberfläche. Seine Tiefe ist durchschnittlich 300 m. Das stark bittere Wasser hat 28% Chemikalien, 23% Salze, dazu noch 5% Brom- und Chlorgehalt. Dieser Gehalt an schweren Stoffen verleiht dem Wasser ein spezifisches Gewicht von 1,17, so daß der menschliche Körper darin nicht untergeht. Wegen der Tieflage hat das Meer auch keinen Abfluß. Da nun trotz des zuströmenden Jordans und mehrerer Bäche das Niveau ziemlich gleich bleibt, so folgt, daß durch die tropische Hitze das täglich einfließende Wasser, ca. 6000 Millionen Liter, verdunstet. Der erste Anblick des Toten Meeres ist nicht so unheimlich, da es dem Auge wohl tut, nach längerer Fahrt durch die öde Wüste einen in der Sonne glänzenden Seespiegel zu sehen. Allmählich aber bei näherem Betrachten, besonders gegen Abend, fühlt man die Unheimlichkeit des Ortes. Schwer und schwer mutig liegen die bleifarbenen Wasser in ihrem toten Bette. Kein Leben birgt dieser Todesschoß, alles ist erstorben, es ist das Tote Meer. Unheimlich sind des Abends besonders auch die Ufer, wenn das vom Jordan hergeschwemmte und vom Meere ans Ufer geworfene Baumgeäst, von weißer Salzkruste umzogen, wie leichenhaftes Gebein erscheint.

25. KLOSTER MAR SABA BEI JERUSALEM

MAR SABA (= Heiliger Sabas) ist der Name eines uralten Wüstenklosters in dem öden, wildschluchtigen Feuertal, das sich von Jerusalem zum Toten Meer hinabzieht. Dieses wunderliche Bauwerk, halb Kloster, halb Festung, an den Felsen angeklebt, und höhlenartig teilweise in den Felsen hineingebaut, ist gegründet im 5. Jahrhundert vom hl. Euthymios, aber benannt nach dessen noch bekannterem Schüler, dem hl. Sabas, dem Abte des nach ihm betitelten Einsiedlerordens der Sabaiten. Die Gründung dieses Klosters geht also zurück in die erste Zeit der christlichen Anachoreten, die gar bald wie in den Wüsten Ägyptens, so auch in den Felsenhöhlen Palästinas ihr aszetisches Dasein führten. Zur Zeit ist das Kloster eine Strafkolonie für griechisch-schismatische Ordensgeistliche.

26. JAFFA

JAFFA ist eine uralte Stadt, berühmt in Sage und Geschichte. Hier soll Noe die Arche bestiegen und sein Grab gefunden haben, hierher verlegt der Mythos der Helenen die Stätte, wo Andromeda an den Felsen geschmiedet und von Perseus befreit wurde, hier besteigt Jonas auf der Flucht vor Gott das Schiff, hier landet das Zedernholz vom Libanon für den Salomonischen Tempelbau. In Jaffa erscheint Petrus und erweckt die tote Tabitha zum Leben, in Jaffa wohnt er im Hause Simon des Gerbers und wird durch eine Vision belehrt, daß auch die Heiden für das neue Reich Gottes bestimmt sind. In die vielen schweren Kriege mit den Römern, mit den Mohammedanern, mit den Kreuzfahrern, mit den Ägyptern, die in der Folgezeit Palästina heimsuchten, wird Jaffa stets als Hafenplatz von Jerusalem und Eingangspforte ins Heilige Land hineingezogen und etwa ein dutzendmal zerstört und wieder aufgebaut. Aus neuerer Zeit ist am bekanntesten die Eroberung der Stadt durch Napoleon am 3. März 1799 bei Gelegenheit seiner Expedition nach Syrien und das grausame Blutbad, das er hier den gefangengenommenen Verteidigern bereitete, »le seul acte cruel de sa vie«, wie Thiers sagte.

Der kleine natürliche Hafen Jaffas ist leider in sehr schlechtem Zustande, voll Sandbänke und Klippen, so daß nur kleinere Boote zu landen vermögen.

27. MOSESQUELLEN BEI SUEZ

Südlich von Suez (11 km) liegt in der Wüste, nicht weit des Meeres, eine herrliche Oase von 1 km Umfang, mit reicher Vegetation. Ihre Üppigkeit verdankt sie den reichlich aus der Erde hervorsickernden Quellen, die teils Süß-, teils Bitterwasser liefern. Die größte dieser Quellen, die gutes Süßwasser bietet, soll ehedem der bittere Wüstenquell gewesen sein, den Moses durch Hineinwerfen von Zweigen versüßte, wie es 2. Mos. 15, 25 heißt: »Moses aber schrie zum Herrn, der ihm ein Holz zeigte; da er dieses ins Wasser warf, ward es süß.« — Die offene Halle, die sich im Schatten der Palmen neben dem Quell befindet, dient den Besuchern der Oase zur Rast.

28. DER MARIENBAUM VON MATARIJE (HELIOPOLIS)

Ungefähr zwei Stunden nordöstlich von Kairo ragt einsam und melancholisch ein uralter Obelisk ins Blaue — es ist der geringe Überrest einer uralten Stadt, der altägyptischen Priesterstadt On, in griechischer Zeit Heliopolis genannt. Dem dort verehrten Sonnengotte Ra war der berühmte Tempel »Haus des Ra« erbaut, vor dem ca. 2000 vor Christus zwei

Obelisen von ca. 21 m Höhe erbaut wurden, von denen dieser eine noch bis heute steht — der älteste aller noch erhaltenen ägyptischen Obelisen.

In der Nähe des Obelisen ist ein unbedeutendes Dorf mit Namen Matarije, das berühmt ist wegen einer uralten Sykomore, dem sogenannten »Marienbaum«. Die Legende berichtet, daß die hl. Familie während ihres Exils in Ägypten hier gerastet haben soll.

29. DER SINAI (DSCHEBEL MUSA)

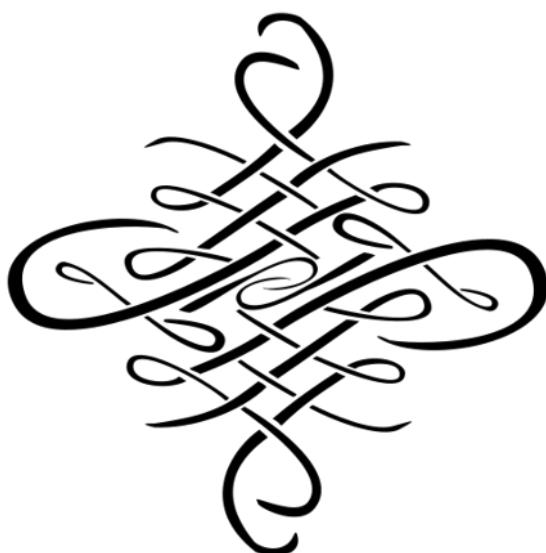
Zwischen den beiden Ausläufern des Roten Meeres, dem Golf von Suez und dem von Akaba, liegt die Halbinsel Sinai, die in ihrem südlichen Teil eine mächtige Gebirgsgruppe faßt, den Sinai, mit seinen höchsten Erhebungen den Dschebel Katerin (2602 m), den Dschebel Musa (2244 m) und den Dschebel Serbal (2052 m). Auf dem Sinai spielte sich nach dem Alten Testamente das gewaltige Drama der Gesetzgebung bei Gelegenheit des Durchzugs der Israeliten durch die Wüste ab. Deshalb stand der Sinai stets, besonders seit den ersten christlichen Zeiten in hoher Verehrung, wie die vielen heute noch vorhandenen Höhlen beweisen, die uns Kunde bringen, daß die Halbinsel ehedem von Anachoreten und Cönobiten bevölkert war. Neuen Aufschwung bekam die Verehrung des Sinai durch die Legende, daß der Leib der hl. alexandrinischen Helden Katharina nach ihrem Martyrium wunderbar hierher übertragen worden sei.

Um die Ehre, der eigentliche Gipfel der Gesetzgebung zu sein, streiten sich die beiden letzten der obengenannten höchsten Erhebungen. Meist wird der Dschebel Musa als solcher bezeichnet. Auf seinem Gipfel ist eine christliche Kapelle und eine von den Arabern hochverehrte kleine Moschee, zu seinen Füßen das Katharinenkloster.

30. INNERES DES KATHARINENKLOSTERS

In dem Hochtal, das nordöstlich den Dschebel Musa begrenzt, liegt, angelehnt an die granitenen Felswände, das Katharinenkloster, 1528 m über dem Meere. Es ist erbaut an Stelle eines von Kaiser Justinian 530 n. Chr. gegründeten Kastells, das zum Schutze der den Sinai bewohnenden Eremiten diente, die viel unter den wilden Bewohnern der Gegend, später durch die Mohammedaner zu leiden hatten. Das Kloster, das heute noch von außen einen festungsartigen Charakter hat, ist nunmehr bewohnt von griechisch-schismatischen Mönchen, die auch Reisenden Unterkunft gewähren.

Im Innern des Klosters ist von Bedeutung die Kirche, eine altchristliche Basilika, in der die Reliquien der hl. Katharina gezeigt werden und die als ältesten Teil die Kapelle des »Brennenden Dornbusches« birgt. Neben dieser christlichen Kirche ist mit Rücksicht auf die Mohammedaner eine einfache, schlecht gehaltene Moschee erbaut. Weltberühmt ist sodann die Klosterbibliothek mit uralten, kostbaren Handschriften, deren bedeutendste der jetzt zum größten Teil im Besitz des Kaisers von Rußland befindliche Codex Sinaiticus war, eine griechische Bibel aus dem 4. Jahrhundert.



Recent Philatelic Journals

by Tobias Zywietz

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*A selection of articles related to Middle East Philately from recent philatelic journals.
Please enquire with each society for its conditions of supply.*

The Levant Vol. 12, No. 6 – September 2024

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society

English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.00

Mehmet Akan's article (first published in *Türk Pulculuğu*, no. 33, 2008) about Aero Espresso Italiana flights in Turkey is reprinted (96–101).

Marc Milzman looks at the saga of Fethi Bey & Nuri Bey: "Undelivered Airmail – 1914" (94, 102–104).

Ed Kroft researched Ottoman mail service for inhabitants of Jewish agricultural settlements in the Hoy Land, 1882–1914 (105–117).

The ONEPS president reports the board elections: Adel Kanaan, President; Akhitem al-Manaseer, Vice-President; Allan Smith, Secretary; Will Kearney, Treasurer Richard Rose, Journal Editor; Marisa Galitz, Webmaster; Robert Stucell, Past President (94).

The Levant Vol. 13, No. 1 – January 2025

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society

English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.00

Richard Rose presents a photo of the Air Martyrs' Column in Istanbul, provided by Uzay Togay (1).

Richard Rose and Elia Anz studied the early Revenue stamps of Jordan (2–8).

Michael Sharnoff has his article "The Hashemite regime : a postal history of nation-building" reprinted [sadly with extremely poor quality images] (9–18).

This issue's "Watch your step" column focuses on forgeries of the Free French Syria (SG 1a) (18).

Jack Kifedjian presents postal history items related to the Near East Relief charity organisation (19–20).

Adel Kanaan (President), Marisa Galitz (Webmaster) and Richard Rose (Editor) report (1).

The Levant Vol. 13, No. 2 – May 2025

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society

English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.00

Robert Gray researched Ottoman Prisoners of War held in Burma during WWI (23–29).

The editor presents a 1921 philatelic cover from İstanbul to H.E. Harris, Boston (29).

Abdulnasir Hilal Naji notes the ALA Littoria S.S. flight service in Iraq during 1939–1941 (30–34).

Tobias Zywietz unearthed a academic study on the sale of old stamps to generate income for the bankrupt Ottoman state (35–38).

Denis Doren looks at the short-lived British military postal history of Long Island [Chustann/Uzun Ada] in the Gulf of Smyrna, including the labels "GRI LONG ISLAND" (39–40). – *IMHO a hoax (ed.)*

Editor Richard Rose reports on exhibition awards, MEPB, and backissues (21). Obituary for Robert Wade Stucell (22). Arabian Philatelic Association International (APAI) (40).



The Levant Vol. 13, No. 3 – Sept. 2025

Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society

English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.00

The editor shows a 1957 photograph by Ara Güler of a dancing deckhand on a wooden taka vessel at dawn in the Golden Horn (41).

Gus Riachi looks at Jordan postage due stamps for use in Palestine (42–48).

George Brown shows a 1913 Beirut postcard depicting typhoid sufferers (48).

Gary Theodore & Richard Rose revisit Palestine Mandate court fee stamps (49–53).

Yavuz Çorapçioğlu revisits "Emergency postage for Long Island," i.e. IMHO the hoax labels "GRI LONG ISLAND" supposedly issued by British troops on Chustann/Uzun Ada (Gulf of Smyrna) (54–55).

Richard Rose researched Palestine Aid on Lebanon revenues (1948–49): "finding a missing overprint" (55–56).

Türkei-Spiegel 151 – 1/2025*Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei*

German, A4, colour, €7.50

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi's "The Wing of Islam" gives a summary about the history of the Postal Service in Egypt and Syria in the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Mamluk periods (part 3) (5–10).

Volker Fredebold shows the Baghdad provisionals on cover (11–12).

Jens Warnecke researched Passer's 5 types of MiNr. 638 = ISFILA 898 (overpr. on soldiers in trenches) (13–20).

Mehmet Akan researched the 'Payas Post' and the Postkrieg about Hatay in 1938/1939 (part 2) (21–29).

Tobias Zywietz reviews "Otto Liman von Sanders" (Rolf-Detlev Neß) and "The Ottoman Empire and early Republic Post ... in the Vilayet Trabzon" (Kemal Giray) and offers digitised versions (PDFs) of Passer's "The Stamps of Turkey" and Tanrikut's "Türkiye posta ve telgraf ve telefon tarihi ve teşkilât ve mevzuatı" (31–32)

RFI: German troops and field post in Turkey WWI (32).

New books and the announcement for "Postal Rates Turkey 1920–1950" (Mehmet Akan) (34).

Richard Rose corrects an error for the date of issue of Iraq 1942 10 fils carmine (MiNr. 105/SG 216) (35).

The editor shows an 1898 picture postcard of Constantinople (44).

Jens Warnecke reports on the 2024 AGM (36–40).

Türkei-Spiegel 152 – 2/2025*Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei*

German, A4, colour, €7.50

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi's "The Wing of Islam" gives a summary about the history of the Postal Service in Egypt and Syria in the Umayyad, Abbasid, and Mamluk periods (concluding part 4) (5–10).

Volker Fredebold presents a newspaper wrapper with the rare "Sublime Porte Ma'lumat-ı Şâhânesi Bâb-ı Âli Posta Şubesi" (10).

Ibrahim Heckmann studied the life and legacy of Mevlana Rûmî "The Prophet of Love" (11–18).

Hubert Gerzabek sent in a series of letters from a British officers in Bulgaria during the Crimean war (1854), annotated by Tobias Zywietz (19–24).

Jens Warnecke gives an update on his research into the overprints MiNr. 638 (İSFILA 898) (26–28).

Parviz Sahandi and Wolfgang Leimenstoll look at the late introduction of IRS in Persia in 1926 (29–30).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke poses the question whether some stamps were in fact used as charity labels (31–34).

Tobias Zywietz reviews the book by Alan Mellaart: "Ottoman Empire Postal History of Greece" (35).

Martin Bohnstedt adds a new Jordanian hotel post cancel (36).

New Turkey issues: Yüreğimde Filistin = Palestine in my heart (2024) (44).

New members, AROS 40th anniversary plans, new books (37–39).

**Türkei-Spiegel 153 – 3/2025***Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei*

German, A4, colour, €7.50

The editor reprints an 1877 report of the Egyptian postal system (5–8).

Hans-Dieter Gröger shows the earliest Turkish stationery to India and returned (9).

Jens Warnecke: Lack of stamps in WWI? (10–11).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): Kalei Sultanié 6 on cover: unique piece from 1917 (11).

The editor summarises the article by Salih Kış on how stamps saved the Turkish finances (part 1) (12–14).

Wilfried Korber: Rare Meter Marks of Turkey: SATAS, (1969) (15).

Jan Sangers: The Mail Route from Persia to Dutch East India in 1932 (16–22).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke (AIJP): Differentiation of overprints of the Jordan Occupation of Palestine (Abdullah definitives) (23–26).

Jean-Louis Emmenegger (AIJP): UNRWA – Refugee Aid in Palestine since 1949 (27–35).

Q&A: Validity of Turkish stamps in old Lira currency (38); Current tariffs of the Turkish post (38), short notes (39); New books (39–40).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke: QSL card of King Hussein (44).

Invitation for the autumn meeting and AGM (36–37). New members (38).

**Türkei-Spiegel 154 – 4/2025***Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei*

German, A4, colour, €7.50

Hans-Dieter Gröger shows tête-bêche pairs of the 1891 2 piastres stamp (8–10).

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi presents part 1 of his article about the Italian post office in Smyrna (11–16).

The editor summarises the article by Salih Kış on how stamps saved the Turkish finances (II) (17–18).

Jens Warnecke is curious why the 50 Years Post Office stamp was overprinted in 1916 (19).

Ibrahim Th. Heckmann presents a thematic study about the poet and philosopher Mehmet Âkif Ersoy (20–25).

Wilfried Korber reports a SATAS „Rotary“ meter mark from İstanbul (1964) (26–27).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke presents Egyptian Pyramids definitives used on a 1903 postcard to Brazil as a (rare) gutter pair (27).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke studies the late use of Jordan's Palestine overprints after the annexation (28–39).

The back cover shows 2010 Gaza stamps (44).

Obituaries for M. Küçük Alanyali (5–7) by the board and Necip Tokoglu (6–7).



Türkei-Spiegel 155 – 1/2026

[Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei](#)
German, A4, colour, €7.50

Hans-Dieter Gröger looks at the remnant guide lines of the overprint cliché of the 1870/72 2 piastres Duloz stamp (6–7).

The editor summarises the article by Salih Kış on how stamps saved the Turkish finances (part 3) (8–10).

Jens Warnecke asks whether there was really a lack of stamps as cause for overprints (11–13).

Hans-Dieter Gröger shows a 'commination francking (Italy /Turkey) on an 1870 cover from Venice to Scutari (Shkodra, İşkodra) (14).

Otto Graf dissects a 1906 parcel card (value 300 Liras) from Sivas nach İstanbul (15–19).

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi presents part 2 of his article about the Italian post office in Smyrna (20–26).

Bernd-Dieter Buscke reports the new discovery of a 2003 Jordan „P.P“ cachet (27).

Jens Warnecke corrects a catalogue number (TS154) (34).

AGM report (28–30); Hans-Dieter Gröger: 90th birthday (32); obituary Jürgen Endemann, obituary Wolfgang Lütge (5); new members.

The Quarterly Circular 291 (Vol. 25, No. 8) – December 2024

[The Egypt Study Circle](#)
English, A4, colour, –

Paul Grigg dissects forged covers of the Sudan campaign (175–179).

Pierre Louis Grech reports on the Muzzi medal once lost

and found (180–181).

Ken Sanford continues his series on Imperial Airways crash mail with an Egyptian connection in part 2 [Courtier, G-ADVC, 1.10.1937; Cygnus, G-ADUZ, 5.12.1937; Aurora, VT-AEG, 15.01.1938, Cordelia, G-AEUD, 23.01.1938; Corio, VH-ABD, Coöee, VH-ABF, 16.07.1938; Electra, G-AFYU, 21.12.1939; Hannibal, G-AAGX, 1.03.1940] (182–185).

David Ogden looks in his beginner's column "The Eye of Horus" at The Suez Canal and the Suez Canal Company stamps] (186).

Scott Van Horn presents at UAR stamps of the 1964 New York World's Fair (187–190).

Michael Knaubert queries whether there was a regular sea postal service to El Tor (Sinai) (190–191).

Sami Sadek answers 'Why I collect Egypt' (192).

David Ogden reports from his philatelic visit to Alexandria (170–173). Obituary for Dr. Ibrahim Shoukry (174). Changes to the meetings schedule (174). Invitation for the 2024 MacArthur Award (iii).

The Quarterly Circular 292 (Vol. 25, No. 9) – March 2025

[The Egypt Study Circle](#)
English, A4, colour, –

David Ogden's beginner's column "The Eye of Horus" focuses on the Palestine overprints (194).

Ramez Atiya researched for his exhibit the proofs and dies of the second issue (196–200).

Michael Knaubert looks at a postcard and describes its connection with the hunt for Emin Bey (201–205).

David Ogden starts a series "Stamps That Tell A Story" with an article on Talaat Harb and Banque Misr (206).

Pierre Louis Grech reprises the information on the postmarks of the French post offices in Egypt from his out-of-print book (207–213).

Richard Wheatley tells the story of Samuel Shepheard's retirement to England (214–215).

Ronny v. Pellecom explains why he collects Egypt' (216). *Obituary for Dr. Ibrahim Shoukry (195). The editor laments the lacklustre provision of articles in "Half a century of deaf ears" (205).*

The Quarterly Circular 293 (Vol. 25, No. 10) – June 2025

[The Egypt Study Circle](#)
English, A4, colour, –

David Ogden's beginner column "The eye of Horus" looks at British Forces in Egypt (226).

Robert C. Porter reports on the 1872 20 paras lithographs (227–230).

Ronny van Pellecom and Alain Stragier continue their research with the Fayoum Light Railway Company (232–240).

David Ogden looks at stamp about Sa'ad Zaghloul Pasha (iii).

Changes to the ECS: QCs are no longer printed; ESC accounts 2023/2024; Countdown to the Study Circle's transition; AGM 10.05.2025 [164 members] (217–222).

Pierre Louis Grech lifts the mystery of page in QC

volume 1 (231); Mike Murphy report on “Why I collect Egypt” (iv).

The Quarterly Circular 294 (Vol. 25, No. 11) – September 2025

The Egypt Study Circle

English, A4, colour, –

Richard Wheatley reviews the book by Alain Stragier & Ronny van Pellecom “Fayoum Postal History 1879–1914” (243)

Hany Salam and Mike Murphy review separately Joseph H. Chalhoub’s catalogue “The Nile Post” (244–245). Scott Van Horn reports on printing tests and experiments (246–250).

David Ogden looks at stamps on the Philatelic Society of Egypt (251).

Alain Stragier and Ronny van Pellecom research the postal history of Siwa oasis (252–259).

Adam Hafez reports on the mail from the wreck of the Atlantique 1918 (260–261).

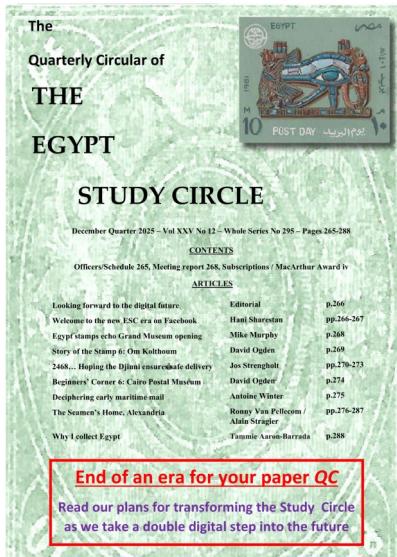
David Ogden’s beginner column “The eye of Horus” looks at the Posta Europea (262).

Pierre Louis Grech and the Editor discuss a 1930 insured letter to Algeria (via France and Italy) (263–264).

John Davis resolved a postmark mystery: “griglia Pontificia at Ancona (264–265).

Sami Sadek found a variant of the Alexandria single-transit TPO cancel (iii)

Obituary: Sue E. Claridge (243); John Davis: Why I collect Egypt (iv).



The Quarterly Circular 295 (Vol. 25, No. 12) – December 2025

The Egypt Study Circle

English, A4, colour, –

The stamps celebrating the opening of the Grand Museum are presented (268).

David Ogden reports on the stamps for the singer Om Kolthoum/Umm Kulthum (269).

Jos Strengholt translated his article “2468 ... hoping the Djinni insures safe delivery” on *b’duh* (270–273).

David Ogden’s beginner column “The eye of Horus”

looks at the Postal Museum of Egypt (274). Antoine Winter deciphers early maritime mail (275). Ronny van Pellecom and Alain Stragier researched the Seamen’s Home in Alexandria harbour (276–287). *Editorials look at “the digital future” and at the ESC’s Facebook page. From 2026 QC no longer will be printed. Articles are first to be gathered on the website and collated into digital QCs every three months (266–267). Report of meeting at Stampex 25.10.2025 (267). Tammie Aaron-Barrada answers “Why I collect Egypt” (288).*

L’Orient Philatélique 164 – June 2024

Facebook: L’Orient Philatélique

English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Vladimir Kachan reports on sericulture (silk production) in Africa: history reflected in philately (9–19).

Kareem Darwaza shows material on the tobacco manufacturer Theodoro Vafiadis & Co (21–23).

Yasser Omar shows a page from his exhibit on King Fouad first portrait series [Harrison Specimen, Specimen, Colonias] (24).

Report on youth philately: ‘future philatelists’ (3–6).

L’Orient Philatélique 165 – May 2024

Facebook: L’Orient Philatélique

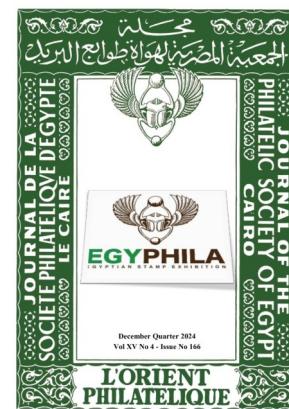
English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

Mohamad Omar looks at the Al-Bazid Al-Hadith stamps (15th Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition) (3–4).

Vahe Varjabedian reports on Joss & Löwenstein perfins on a Egyptian postal stationery card (6).

Hani Salam looks at the first Biziidi Khuna 8181 “Khalas Al-Ujra” (AGENZIA DEI PIROSCAFI A VAPORE EGIZIANI/CONSTANTINOPOLI) (7).

Ali Abdelmegeid researched Egyptian revenue-stamped papers 1843–1930 (9–24).



L’Orient Philatélique 166 – Decemb. 2024

Facebook: L’Orient Philatélique

English, partly Arabic, ca. B5, colour, –

K. Darwaza looks at the Grande Fabrique S. Stein (3–6).

Mohamad Omar shows commemorative stamps: International Cotton Conference (21).

Guide Stamp Exhibitions from the Egyptian Philatelic

Society (22–24).

Mohamad Omar reports from EGYPHILA (8–19).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 9 – February 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld

Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Jos Strengholt reports on spells on mail items: “May the Djinn be with you” [beduh 8462] (3–7).

Theo Kester shows a 1904 item from Bandar Linga (Iran) (9–11).

Theo Kester reviews “The Impact of Political Events ...” by Dr. Fariborz Goodarzi (11–14).

Jan van Zellem reports on new issues regarding the Gaza conflict (14–16).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 10 – April 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld

Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Jos Strengholt continues a piece about mystical numbers [bduh 2468] (3–9).

Hans Elzelingen shows a cover from Mekka to Stockholm (1956) and one from Djedda via Egypt to Paramaribo (Suriname) (1943) (11–12).

The editor translated the Annual Report of the Egyptian Post for 1877 (as reported by Tobias Zywietsz) into Dutch (13–15).

Jan van Zellem reports on new issues concerning the Gaza conflict (15–16).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 11 – September 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld

Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Jan van Zellem: Another look at spells on mail (B'duh): “The genie out of the bottle” (12–13),

The editor translated the Annual Report of the Egyptian Post for 1877 (as reported by Tobias Zywietsz) into Dutch (part 2). (13–15).

Folkert Bruining reports a question on Afghani postmarks (16).

Jan van Zellem tells the 50 year story of FCIW (1–12).



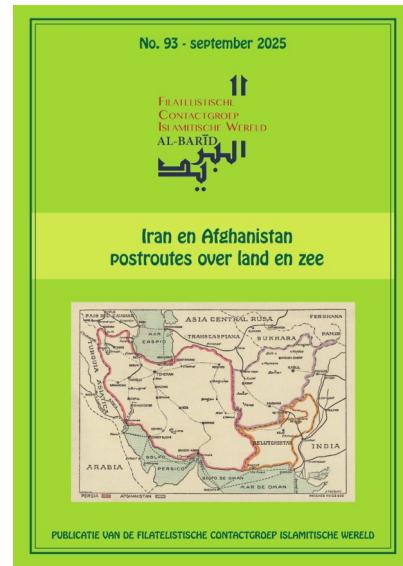
Nummer 12

Winter 2025

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Uitgave van de 'Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld' ©



Al Barid 93 – October 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld

Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Theo Kester writes a foreword for this special issue on postal routes to and from Iran and Afghanistan by land and sea (4–5).

Theo Kester researched the postal routes of Iran to Europe via Russia, 1895–1914 (6–19).

Jan Sangers expands his piece about the route taken between Iran and Indonesia in the 1930s [transl. reprint from MEPB] (20–24).

Folkert Bruining & Theo Kester researched the land route between Iran and British India (25–37).

Folkert Bruining presents his research into the postal routes between Afghanistan and India (38–47).

Theo Kester & Folkert Bruining look at postal routes to and from Iran via the Persian Gulf (48–54).

Al Barid Nieuwsbrief 12 – November 2025

Filatelistische Contactgroep Islamitische Wereld

Dutch, A4, colour, PDF only, –

Theo Kester reports on Corona/Covid stamps of Iran and Palestine (3–5).

Folkert Bruining shows a rarity: the Ottoman cancel of Kassos on cover (6–7).

Jan van Zellem studies the stamps of Morocco (8–14).

Avo Kaplanian shows a 1951 cover by Arthur Flaz, stamp dealer in Jerusalem (15).

Theo Kester shows a 1912 letter from Arak [Sultanabad] with “C” (control) cachet (16–18).

Hans van Elzelingen shows a 1961 Pakistani cover to the USA and a 1947 Egyptian letter from Port Said to Batavia (18–20).

Theo Kester studies (local) charity tax issues of Iran, 1918–1921 (21–26).

Jos Strengholt looks at Egypt's various flags (27–30).

Jan van Zellem reports on 150 jaar TPO in Egypt with a letter damaged by water: “Naufragio” 1918 (31–32).

The Dhow Special Edition 8 – Nov. 2024

*Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour; –*

Mike Pettifor & Neil Williams publish their study as special issue 8 of *The Dhow*: “**Military Censorship of Mail in Aden & Wartime Routes during World War Two**”. It spans 92 pages: Allied forces in Aden in WWI (3), GHQ Middle East field censorship regulation 1940 (4–5), RAF censorship (6–31), Army censorship in Aden (32–38), Naval censorship (39–48), Forces postal facilities (49–70), Free French forces (71), US forces in Aden (72–74), Wartime postal service (75–86).

The Dhow 99 (Vol. 26, No. 1) – March 2025

*Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour; –*

Neil Williams shows a 1966 Aden covered demonstrating the impact of the introduction of Federation Dinars on postal rates (1).

Jerome Hart shows a 1831 Aden cover sent via the ‘Southampton Service’ (3).

Neil Williams continues his series on Aden airmail rates with October 1951 to March 1953 (4–7).

Germain Mentgen reports on air crashes on the ALA Littoria Empire line Rome-Asmara-Addis Ababa (8–10).

Andrew Gondocz looks at items from Sanaa 1968 and from Hadibo (Socotra) 1995 (11).

Michael Cox and Brian Livingstone present more Somaliland Protectorate’s unadopted George VI pictorial definitives (12–15).

Malcolm Lacey shows a postcard of P&O’s RMS Canton, 1952 (16).

Index to volume 25 of The Dhow (nos. 95–98) (15–16).

The Dhow 100 (Vol. 26, No. 2) – June 2025

*Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour; –*

The editor Neil Williams celebrates 100 issues of the journal by reprinting some of the best articles of the last 25 years (1–2).

Ed Druce reports on reply-paid postal stationery used in Aden [The Dhow 1 (2000)] ([1–5]).

Jerome Hart researched covers of Eastern Telegraph Co. stations at Aden [The Dhow 17 & 18 (2004)] ([6–12]).

Tony Cochrane shows mail of “Mission Aden” 1933/1934 [The Dhow 24 (2005)] ([13–14]).

Brian Allcock looks at “A ship on a stamp” [The Dhow 26 (2006)] ([15–17]).

Gary Brown researched the World Health Organisation issue of 1966 [The Dhow 28 (2007)] ([18–24]).

Cliff Gregory reports on the Somaliland Field Force 1st and 3rd expedition [The Dhow 44 (2010)] ([25–27]).

Alastair Kennedy looks at forces air mail concession rates 1945–1960 in British Somaliland and Somalia [The Dhow 48 (2012)] ([28–30]).

The editor shows some covers of The Dhow special issues (31–32).



The Dhow 101 (Vol. 26, No. 3) – Sept. 2025

*Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour; –*

Germain Mentgen shows a registered cover 1938 from Borama (Somaliland) with new registration label (type R8) (1).

Sue Hopson follows-up Mike Pettifor’s article on HM ships in the Indian Ocean in the 1880s (3).

Malcolm Lacey shows a W. H. Smith printed matter wrapper to Aden 1895 (3).

Germain Mentgen researched the boxed rectangular “Base Censor” mark and sealing tape Army form W.3424 used in Somaliland Protectorate (4–8).

Neil Williams looks at airmails (first out & return flights) on the new air service from Nairobi, 1944 (9–12).

Tony Cochrane presents an 1870 letter from Bombay to Mauritius via Aden (13).

Jerome Hart shows a 1921 insured cover from Prim via Aden to Britain (14).

Michael Cox contributes a 1960 cover from Hargeisa (Somali Republic) to Ethiopia (15).

Jamie Smith gives in a fourth part of his series further insight into the Goan UPU archive looking at the 1950s ‘States’ Definitives (16).



The Dhow

Aden & Somaliland Study Group Journal

Volume 26: Number 4

December 2025

Whole number 102



For this year's December issue – the interior of a topical greetings card from 1947. For its accompanying envelope etc., see page 3 (Neil Williams)

The Dhow 102 (Vol. 26, No. 4) – Dec. 2025

*Aden & Somaliland Study Group
English, ca. A4, colour; –*

Neil Williams presents a 1947 Christmas and New Year greetings from the Postmaster General of Aden & of Somaliland Protectorate (1,3).

Sue Hopson shows a 1895 postcard from the Seychelles to China & Japan via Aden (4).

Germain Mentgen researched the times of Josef Menges in Somaliland Protectorate (5–7).

Jamie Smith presents Aden transit mail: QV and ED7 India & East Africa postal stationery (8–10).

Roger Badman shows a 1963 Aden Paquebot philatelic cover (10).

Germain Mentgen researched the first flight regular airmail service ALA Littoria from Gold Coast and Nigeria (11.10.1937) via Khartoum, Djibouti, Berbera, and to Aden (11–12).

Thomas Johansen reports 1943 US mail from Salalah to Eritrea via Aden (13).

Neil Williams looks at “On Postal Service” collective envelopes (14–16).

Random Notes 101 – November 2023

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.

English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

In Random Notes #101 Martin Lovegrove assembled short notes on a number of topics: Line cancel “PAR AVION 1948”; Sample sheet of the second watermark paper produced by Wiggins Teape; Iban Saud University, 15h, plate variety ‘deformed 5’ on pos. 104; Al Barid Al Mumtaz rates booklet; 1992 Al Barid Al Mumtaz with meter cancel (Rahwah-1); Status of Saudi new issues; Water damage to stamps due to the Angeloglu fire and 1971 flooding at the Saudi ministry; Mixed franking of postage and revenue stamps; 1960 Arab League imperforate with gutter block of 4; 10h Khafji with forged Hejaz overprint; Survey of Egypt series, ½q and 1q overprint on 20p with plate error at “ش”; Bourgiba visit 1965; 8p colour trial; 1q Arms: double prints with forged large *mustahiq* overprint; Questionable perforation variety; Signature of stamp designer Ibrahim Al-Turki; 10q 1923 overprint forgeries; Bourguiba visit with missing silver colour; Marginal marking: cross with “TOP”; Double perforation; Transjordan: four-line postage due (inverted) on 1½ q; Transjordan: questionable 1924 official stamp (SG O117). (3–10, 12, 14, 18, 32, 38).

James Kearney presents cover with Hejaz 8/10ths Piastres (11–12) and Kearney looks at early Hejaz & Nejd airmail usage (13).

Martin Lovegrove presents ‘Rocket’ essays (15–17).

Martin Kuriger researched Saudi *Avis de Réception* (1, 19–22).

Martin Lovegrove presents the 1973 ‘Tourist’ booklets (23–28) and reports on a forged cover (29–31).

Martin Lovegrove present the 6th part of regional postmarks of Saudi Arabia (33–36).

Martin Lovegrove presents some omitted items from his list of historic Scott catalogue number changes in RN 96 (37–38).

Martin Lovegrove reports from past auctions: Saudi airletter; ½pi + P.D. ½pi, 4 imperf se-tenant pairs in violet, slightly different design of issued stamp on large ungummed sheetlet; 5g orange block of 8; Saudi occupation 1934: two covers Hodeida–Aden & Hodeida–Aden–Egypt (39–41).

Suggestion to rename the journal to “Arabian Philatelic Journal” (3); *APAI website* (44)

Random Notes 102 – December 2024

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.

English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

In Random Notes #102 Martin Lovegrove assembled short notes on a number of topics: Editorial; Kenneth David Knight [obituary]; Saudi new issues at WADP; 1/4q medical aid double impression 1960; 2003 cover with new barcorde reg label; Saudi reg label on incoming mail and label for unregistered mail;

Validity of postage stamps for franking [referencing MEPB 25 and 26]; Overprint varieties on the Transjordan overprint on the 1/2q; Forgery of the Transjordan overprint on the 2q stamp; Triple overprint on the 1/2q stamp; New discovery of the Hejaz Railway Air overprint on the 5q stamp; Wrong franking label on a 2016 cover; Forgeries of Al Saudia overprint (3–9, 46).

Martin Lovegrove looks at the ‘missing dots’ of the 1968 Jeddah to Dammam Highway issue (10–12).

Martin Lovegrove researched the 1949 Air Mail Stamps (13–26).

Thomas P. Wood’s notes on the first airmails are reprinted from “A Study of Saudi Arabia Stamps 1934–1964” (27–46).

Publication notice for “Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries : Part 1 ; Postage and Revenue Stamps (2025)” (37).

The editors shows as page from Willie A. King’s Hejaz collection: forgeries of Ottoman cancels from Jeddah, Makkah and Medina (47–50).



October 2025 NUMBER 103

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From the Auctions - Martin Lovegrove	24



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Random Notes 103 – December 2025

Arabian Philatelic Association Int.

English, ca. A4, colour, digital only, gratis

In Random Notes #103 Martin Lovegrove assembled short notes on a number of topics: Spelling error on 2013 “King Abdullah bin Abdelaziz Prize for Translation”; Change in value indicator: SR to SAR; Caliphate postage due stamps; Lufthansa flights LH 632 and 633, 1976; Jeddah SM10L 1980; 2025 Kaaba double print; 2024 Al-Sadu stamp with two diff. Perforations; 1928 1 q surcharge on 20 pa Turkish pictorial: two version of ش; Paquebot “RR Poste / R. Cannoniera / Maggiore Toselli” Al Khafji definitive (SG 1167a) with double print orange; Forgey manual part 1 published; 1960 Inauguration of the Arab League Centre errors and opening invitation card; linear barcode labels errors; University definitives FDCs; Caliphate overprint error ‘missing reh’ on 1 q; Mixed used of Hejaz-Nejd and Saudi revenues; Second Nejd handstamp: shin error; Martin Kuriger [obituary] (3–18).

Martin Lovegrove researched to slogan hand-stamps

“Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Humanity” (19–23, 1). Martin Lovegrove compiled some interesting auctions results: Harmer 1999, SG Balwin 2025: Willi King collection (24–26).

Al-Zajel No. 2 – الزاجل – March 2020

Emirates Philatelic Association

Arabic and English, ca. A4, colour, –

Al Quds: Capital of Palestine ([65], [1]).

Ismaïl Amer-El-Khedoud: The second Emirati figure to appear on the Emirates stamp (64–61, 2–5).

Ismaïl Amer-El-Khedoud looks at Palestine on the Emirates stamp (60–57, 8–12).

Loay abd Ulrazzak Alalbani report on the Arab joint issue of 2019: – القدس – Al Quds (56–52, 13–17).

Khalid Ali Al Omaira shows slogan postmarks for the Palestinian cause (51, 6–7).

A. Zohir Mordjani reports on Laidi Tayeb (50–47, 18–19). Fodhil Diguer writes about the origin and importance of philately (47–43, 20–24).

Reports on EPA activities: Sharjah International Book Fair 2009; Makassar National Stamp Exhibition 2019; Sharjah Stamp Exhibition 2019; 48th National Day celebrations, UAE embassy in New Delhi; Umm Al Quwain exhibition for rare heritage; Solidarity with the Chinese people; Future activities; EPAEX 2020 Stamp Exhibition Dubai (42–38, 25–29).

Amer Alzarouni shows UAE new issues (37–35, 30–32).

Reports on Emirates Post activities (34, 33).

Reports on post offices news (34, 33).

Endless support for the Arab cause: 1969 Abu Dhabi charity labels ([2]).

Al-Zajel No. 3 – الزاجل – March 2020

Emirates Philatelic Association

Arabic and English, ca. A4, colour, –

Khalid Al-Omaira looks at the British postal administration of Abu Dhabi (1963/66) (63–71, [73], [b], 2–10).

Abdulla Khoory presents errors and varieties of the Sheikh Shakhbut's overprint issue (60–62, 11–13).

Ismaïl Amer El-Khedoud portrays Sheikh Shakhbut (1889–1905) (14–17).

Terry Jones reflects on Arabian Gulf post offices (56–59, 18–21).

Khaled Abdul Mughni looks at “post and health guidance : Kuwait case” (50–55, 22–27).

Khaled Al-M'amri reports on “The first biological war in history ... Corona revives it” (28–30).

Fodhil Diguer writes on “Philately: from passion and experience to specialization and investment” (I) (36–39).

Ismaïl Amer El-Khedoud looks at Al-Jahai Hall “From the fortress of Hakka to the symbol of Dawat” (40–41).



Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin 218 December 2023

Iran Philatelic Study Circle

English, A4, colour, –

Werner Lade researched the compulsory surcharge stamps for telegrams as of 1950 (4670–4676).

Behruz Nassre looks for the earliest date of use of for

1902 Rosette overprints prior 25.03.1902 (4677).

Martin Kuriger presents the second part of his research into registration hand stamps (4678–4691).

Behruz Nassre present a new IPSC book: “The Impact of Political Events on the Postal History of Persia in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries” (vol. 1) by Dr Fariborz Goodarzi (4692).

IPSC news and meeting report (4669).

اینجمن مطالعات تمبر شناسی ایران

Iran Philatelic Study Circle
Bulletin No. 220
March 2025



CONTENTS:

4705	IPSC news
4706	Insured Covers – Online Meeting January 2025
4711	The Genesis of the First Iranian Stamps: New Discoveries, by Mehrdad Sadri

NEXT MEETINGS

The next online meeting will be held on Friday, 4th April 2025 (16 Farvardin 1404) at 17:00 GMT (09:00 PDT, 19:30 IR) on the subject of ‘Used Picture Postcards of the Qajar Era – Insured Covers’. Details of the meeting will be published on the website.

Iran Philatelic Study Circle will be held at Hall 9 of the National Exhibition Centre Birmingham from Wednesday 1th to Sunday 11th May 2025 and the Society hopes to have a stand there. We also hope to hold an informal meeting on either the Friday or Saturday. See the advert for the exhibition on the back page.

The January 2025 online meeting was on the subject of Insured Covers and a selection of the items shown can be found on the next pages. The whole meeting can be viewed online in the members' section of the IPSC website.

Articles for the Bulletin are urgently needed!
No matter how long or short, please send to: rohajack@aol.com

4705

Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin 219 October 2024

Iran Philatelic Study Circle

English, A4, colour, –

The Zoom meeting on 13.09.2024 centered on the Mozaffar-eddin Shah Portrait issue (4693–4697).

Martin Kuriger queries about parcel receipts (4698).

Martin Kuriger researches the story of NORPERFORCE (4699–4701).

The second volume of the book “The Impact of Political Events” of Fariborz Goodarzi is announced (4703).

IPSC News, subscriptions, fourth annual IPSC exhibition, 21–28.12.2024 (4493, 4697), EuroPhilEx Birmingham 2025 (4703).

Iran Philatelic Study Circle Bulletin 220 March 2025

Iran Philatelic Study Circle

English, A4, colour, –

The online meeting in January 2025 centered on insured covers (4706–4710).

Mehrdad Sadri researched “The genesis of the first Iranian stamps : new discoveries” [see MEPB 30]

(4711–4723).

IPSC news, meetings, EuroPhilex (4705).

Doar Ivri 62 – September/December 2024 (Selection)

Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël

French, A4, colour, –

Yacov Tsachor writes on Doar Ivri forgeries (5–7).

Jean-Paul Danon reports on stamps with the Israeli flag (8–11).

Ed Kroft tallies the Israeli international postage rates for 1948–1953 (12–19).

Fran Adams presents the second part of his study on UNSCOP (20–25).

Edward Rosen shows a letter sent from Berlin to Haifa on 3.09.1939, just after the declaration of war ([32]).

Doar Ivri 63 – January 2025 (Selection)

Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël

French, A4, colour, –

Bernard Boccaro writes on postal relation with Great Britain in 1948 (8–9).

Ed Kroft continues his series on Israel postage rates 1948–1953 focussing of special services (10–17, 3).

Pierre Saussus looks at “Palestine before the Mandate” (18–22).

Jean-Paul Danon admires the 1952 Menorah stamps (23).

Jean-Paul Danon presents an item of the ‘Menorah Club’ ([32]).



Doar Ivri 64 – May 2025 (Selection)

Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël

French, A4, colour, –

The editor shows a 1958 Returned letter Jerusalem–St. Pierre & Miquelon (3).

Christian-Daniel Abravanel looks at curiosities: Indochina to France via Lydda (5).

Jean-Bernard Parenti researched the postal and fiscal uses of the 7 Mils Pictorial (8–13).

Ed Kroft continues his series on rare destinations (14–21).

Bernard Boccaro looks at incoming mail: Switzerland–Palestine to Switzerland–Israel (22–27).

Doar Ivri 65 – September 2025 (Selection)

Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël

French, A4, colour, –

The editor shows a postcard depicting Allenby on its entrance to Jerusalem, 11.12.1917 (3).

Bernard Boccaro presents a letter from the British stationed in Erythrea to Palestine (5).

Ed Kroft continues his series on rare destinations (14–21).

Michael Bass reports on the fights on the Sinai and at Gaza in 1917 (22–27).

Fran Adams presents the third part of the study on the United Nations in Palestine (28–32).

Balkanfila Yearbook 2025 (Selection)

Balkanfila Working Group

English, A4, colour, –

Svetislav D. Jelić and Vladimir Milić write on the first Serbian stamps of 1866 ([6–14]).

Mehmet Akan shows the ‘philatelic face’ of the 10th anniversary of the Turkish Republic ([15–25]).

M. Levent Acar researched the war orphans tax stamps (Evlad-ı Şüheda) ([33–49]).

Emmanuel Georgoudakis looks at foreign post offices in Ottoman Empire ([50–66]).

George Thomareis reports on the foreign post offices in Thessaloniki ([67–76]).

Mehmet Edip AĞAOĞULLARI researched the occupation of Edirne ([77–83]).

Alexios Papadopoulos looks at the routes & rates of the British post office in Smyrna ([84–89]).

Emre Utku researched the optional use of additional domestic airmail service in Turkish foreign airmails ([115–122]).

Serdar Yazgan research the editor Jean D. Contaxis: ‘the Eye of Ayvalik’ ([150–160]).

Erdal Tanil looks at B. Kohn and the promotion of professions in the Ottoman Empire on postcards ([161–169]).

Hakan Akcaoğlu researched the multilingual trade cards and non-muslims in the Ottoman economy ([170–184]).

Hakan Yılmaz reports on the first shopping centre of the Ottoman Empire: Orosdi Back – Ömer Effendi Store ([185–197]).

The Israel Philatelist – Spring 2025 (Vol. 75, No. 3 and Vol. 76, No. 1) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-\$ 6.95

The editor presents a 1943 parcel to the US, franked 12,715 mils (3).

Ed Kroft researched the Ottoman mail service for inhabitants of Jewish agricultural settlements in the Holy Land from 1882 to 1918 (4–13).

Joel Slutski starts a series on Palestine Mandate rates & routes (1927–1948) with local mail rates (14–18).

Lawrence Fisher looks at pro-Palestinian slogans (19) and stamps (23).

David S. Ball reports on the “PEDI” courier service during WWII (20–22).

Arthur Harris shows ministry-specific Israeli revenue stamps (25–27) and Israeli traffic safety revenue stamps in a third part (28–30).
 Ed Kroft presents further Holyland gems (31–32).
 Edward Rosen looks at early newspapers (36–38).



The Israel Philatelist – Summer 2025 (Vol. 76, No. 2) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-\$ 6.95

Edward Rosen presents Israel items from the Jan Bart collection (3–5).
 Hadi Orr researched the history of postcard publishers Eliahu Brothers (I) (18–27).
 Ed Kroft continues his guide to internet use for Holy land philatelists (28–30).
 Joel Slutski presents the thr part of his series in Palestine

rates & routes (1927–1948) with further surface mail items sent abroad (31–39).

Arthur Harris reacts on Israel 'shana tova' envelopes – private stationery with 'yashir lamisrad' indicia (54–57).

Arthur Harris reports on the usage of 1948 Israel Postage Due stamps for Revenue purposes (58–60).

The Ed Kroft hands over the editorship to Steven Friedenthal. [the new edito rpromptly created a simpler by clearer layout for his first edition, some hickups will surely be resolved as Steven finds his ways (1).

Obituary: Raphael Livant (2). Les Glassman reports on Israel exhibits at EuroPhilEx (49–51).

The Israel Philatelist – Fall 2025

(Vol. 76, No. 3) (Selection)

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

English, ca. A4 (letter), colour, US-\$ 6.95

Yacov Cohen starts a series on the Zeppelin in the Holy Land, part 1 centres on the 1929 journey [transl. reprint from Shovel 113, 2019] (2–14).

Itzak Barak reports on the First air crash in the Holy Land [Fethi & Sadik, 1914] ; [transl. reprint from Noson 114] (15–18).S

Howard S. Chapman presents a 1941 wartime airmail cover from Los Angeles to Haifa via Pacific (19–20).

Edward Rosen researched airmail services to Palestine during the transition period March to August 1948 (21–32).

Arthur Harris: Arava ["Picolet" private stationery (33–37). Arthur Harris looks at Israel's commercial aviation stamps (fiscals) (38–40).

Ed Kroft presents a further "Holy Land G": the 5 Mils 'all-up' postcard rate within the British Empire (41–42).



**Please come forward with your articles, comments, research, or images!
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H – Gratis-Anzeige 25/203

The Bombay – Aden Sea Post Office



by

Mike Dovey & Peter Bottrill

The Bombay – Aden Sea Post Office

Timetables & Statistics for the Sailings



by

Mike Dovey

The BOMBAY-ADEN SEA POST OFFICE book is the fullest and ultimate bringing together of all known information on the subject and will never be beaten by anyone now or in the future. Priced at £35.50 it is a bargain.

The BOMBAY-ADEN SEAPOST OFFICE TIMETABLES again is the bringing together of all known information on the subject and is a must for anyone sitting with a postcard and an SPO date – the ship and sailing dates can be found easily and is a bargain at only £12.50

Bought together they would be £48 but for readers of this journal the two books can be bought for only £44 plus postage to anywhere in the world.

For details of this offer please contact by email: mikedovey@btinternet.com

This is an offer not to be missed

Private Gratis-Anzeige 03/001

World War One Indian Army Field Post Offices

For research purposes, collector is interested in exchanging scans and information on the WWI Indian Army Field Post Offices in what is today Lebanon, Syria and Cilicia.

Replies to:

Bob Gray

robertgray@me.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/006

Palestinian Authority Revenue Stamps

Wanted:

Palestinian Authority revenue stamps

Israeli Military revenue stamps

MNH as well as on document

Replies to:

Arthur Harris

arthurhythec@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/003

For Sale: Extensive Egypt Collection

Extensive used collection from the first overprints to early 1970s. It can be purchased either in its entirety at a fraction of Scott or in parts as listed here (stamps are organized according to Zaheri catalogue, shipping from USA extra):

1. Covers & Postal stationery
2. 1866 surcharges w/diff watermark orientations
3. 1867 Sphinx / 4. 1872-9 Sphinx
5. 1879-1926 / 6. PORT FUAD opts
7. 1927-1970s. / 8. Express issues
- 9 Postage Dues / 10. Officials
11. Military incl British / 12. Port Said
13. Alexandria / 14 Palestine (Mandate)
15. Errors, varieties and Interposts

Please contact for details

Jeff Siddiqui

jeffsiddiqui@msn.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/010

Palestine Mandate: Censor Permits

Certain institutions and companies were permitted to send correspondence, particularly bulk mail and circulars, free of censorship. The correspondence had to bear a special hand-stamp certifying the nature of the correspondence and bearing the permit number. I am trying to collate a definitive list of permits and see what was attributed to each censor office. I am also looking for the applicable rules and regulations which dealt with this and any other supporting information.

Contact:

Martin Davies

kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/003

Exchange: Lebanon, Syria and Jordan

I want to trade Canada for Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. I need most stamps after 2000.

I am interested in stamps, souvenir sheets, revenues, Postal Stationery, locals and Cinderellas. Do not collect FDC and covers.

Welcome mint or used stamps.

Offers to:

Richard Barnes

rtbarnes@shaw.ca

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/002

Syria and Lebanon Revenue Stamps and Documents

I mainly collect Syrian Revenue Stamps and documents, postcards and envelopes. I have a nice collection of extra materials of the aforementioned fields.

I live in the Netherlands and would like to meet new people to share my passion with them and exchange revenues and documents.

Replies to:

Maen Neama

asure71@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 02/003

Wanted: Ottoman Postal History

To buy or exchange Ottoman postal history (no Foreign Offices) with a bias toward material from the Middle Eastern area, e.g. Lebanon, Syria, Jordan etc. However, all areas are welcome.

Replies to:

Robert Stuchell

rstuchell@msn.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/004

Palestine Mandate 1918–1927

To complete and illustrate my article series on official postal announcements I'm looking for covers, cards, forms and images thereof, showing:

- rare usage of stamps
- postal rates, unusual franking
- rare destinations
- postal forms, telegram forms

Replies to:

Tobias Zywietz

zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/004

Holy Land Cancels on Austrian Stamps

Collector seeking to purchase the following Holy Land-related material with postmarks from Jerusalem (Gerusalemme), Jaffa, or Haifa (Caifa):

Lombardy-Venetia stamps from 1863 or 1864, perf. 14 or perf. 9 (Michel: 14–23)

Austrian Levant 20 Para on 10 Heller with varnish bars (Michel: 40)

Austrian Crete 25 Cent (Michel: 3)

Replies to:

Aaron Huber (APS member)

ashuber@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/009

Wanted: German to English Translator for Philatelic Literature

I am seeking someone who can translate selected chapters of Eva Zehenter's book on WWI military postal history of Austro-Hungarian troops in Turkey: "Stempelhandbuch der k.u.k Truppen in der Türkei." Must be familiar with military postal history terminology. I can supply the material as a pdf document. Will pay reasonable fee.

Replies to:

Zachary Simmons

zsimmons101@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/005

Palestine World War I

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of issues of

The Palestine News

This was the weekly military newspaper of EEF and OETA(S), published in Cairo in 1918/1919.

Replies to:

Tobias Zywietz

zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/009

1956 Suez Canal Crisis & United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Looking for interesting covers of this period and UN Peacekeeping Operations such as UNEF I and UNIKOM as well as operations on the African continent.

Can offer much likewise material as well.

Please contact:

Marc Parren

marcparren@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/002

Wanted: Perfins

Perfins (stamps and covers) of the Middle East, Levant, Turkey and Egypt.

Offers to:

Rainer von Scharpen
Tucholskyweg 5, 55127 Mainz, Germany
rainervonscharpen@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 29/003

Wanted: Switzerland to Palestine

To improve my collection on Palestine, I'm looking for letters sent from Switzerland to Palestine from 1800 to 1960 (also early Israel).

Please send scans to:

J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland
jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 29/001

The postal History of Banks

Collecting and buying covers on the postal history of banks: covers, letters and other relevant documents or information.

If you have relevant items or knowledge, please contact me.

Offers to: Phil
redndblack1841@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 31/001

Joe Ross "Revenue Stamps of Iraq"

I'm looking to obtain a copy of the 3rd edition (2002) and/or the 4th edition (2004) of "The Revenue Stamps of Iraq" by Joe Ross and John Powell.

Offers to: Peter Leever
p.leever@kpnmail.nl

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/006

Research into Ladino Correspondence

For an archival database, I'm looking for correspondence (letters and post cards) from/to the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans 1850–1913 (Serbia, Roumania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria) written in a script that looks like Arabic or Hebrew but is actually the Jewish script "Soletreó". It encodes an old Spanish called Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) spoken by Sephardic Jews. Don't worry about a correct identification: I'll do that.

Please send scans/photocopies to
D. Sheby (hosp@voicenet.com)

Gratis-Anzeige 29/002

Reference Manual of Saudi Arabian Forgeries – Part 1: Postage & Revenue Stamps

Published under the editorship of Martin Lovegrove, this book is now available as a **free download**:

<http://www.the-weatherings.co.uk/APA1/forgerymanual.html>

134 pages (1.18GB) with many high-quality illustrations for closer study. A must for Saudi Arabia, Hejaz and Transjordan collectors

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/005

Qatar Postal History

Collector looking for unique Postal History items such as covers, letters, rare overprints and surcharges.

Offers to:

Adil Al-Husseini, P.O. Box 695, Doha, Qatar
ezgert@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 03/009

Jordan Postal Rates 1948–1967

Information on all Jordan postal rates during the Palestine annexation period (1948–67) is requested. I am trying to compile my own list as I cannot find any tables in the literature.

Replies to:

Paul Phillips
paulxlpe@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 11/002

Ottoman Transdesert Mail Overland Mail Baghdad–Haifa Iraq Railway Stamps 1928–1942

Advanced research collector and exhibitor is interested in exchange of information, philatelic and historical material, photos, etc. related to the mentioned areas as well as purchase of interesting items missing in my collections.

Additional information can be found on my award winning websites:

<http://fuchs-online.com/overlandmail>
<http://fuchs-online.com/iraq>

Replies to:

Rainer Fuchs
rainer@fuchs-online.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/008

International Reply Coupons

I collect International Reply Coupons (IRC) worldwide, 1907 until today. I am always interested to buy both single items and entire IRC collections and lots of whatever size.

A good stock of duplicates (only IRCs) is available for trade and exchange. Please contact me with whatever questions or suggestions you would like to make.

If you are a country collector and interested in information about IRC of your country please also don't hesitate to contact me!

Replies to:

Wolfgang Leimenstoll
wolfgang.leimenstoll@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/008

Wanted: Jordan Postal Cards and pre-1949 Airmail

I'm looking for pre-1949 Airmail covers, both inwards and outwards; used 1956 12 Mils Postal Cards; other postally used Postal Cards and Souvenir Cards.

Offers to:

Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513,
 Bundaberg West, Qld. 4670, Australia.
bernardbeston@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/009

Iran International Reply Coupons

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of International Reply Coupons of Iran (Persia)

Information on all Iran IRCs during 1925–2002 with the date of change of values is requested.

Replies to:

Parviz Sahandi
parviz.sahandi@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 02/004

United Nations in the Middle East

I offer commercially used (really mailed) covers from UN observation missions and military forces for sale:

UNTSO, UNEF I and II, UNDOF, UNIFIL, etc.

Can be sorted out by contingents nationalities.

I'm looking for early UN missions 1947–1950 in Israel and Palestine, such as:

UNTSOP, UN-Mediator Mission, UNSCOP, etc.

Replies to:

J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland

jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/012

Wants: Sharjah, Yemen, Oman

Sharjah	Scott O1-9, NH or used (S.G. O101-09)
Yemen	Scott 597, 607, 615, 632, 633, 634, 635, C145 (S.G. 74, 82, 94, 112, 126, 127, 128, 129)
Oman	Yemen (combined), any, used Scott 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, any, used (S.G.: same numbers)

Buy or trade.

Offers to:

Burl Henry

henrysatshamrock@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 26/001

Wanted: Jordan 1993–2023

Any issues of 1993 to 2023: Hadrian's Monument or Petra Definitives and Revenues. Especially proofs, blocks and multiples or unusual usage.

Offers to:

Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513,
Bundaberg West, Qld. 4670, Australia.

bernardbeston@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/008

For Sale: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia stamps, singles and sets, mint and used.

Please contact:

Marwan Nusair

+1-513-289-6337

hejaz@tccincinnati.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/002

Exchange: Ottoman Stamps

Interested in Ottoman Empire stamps, to purchase or exchange for stamps from another Middle Eastern country.

Please email:

howardjkogan68@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/001

Wanted: Israel Postal Orders

Looking for prutot, lirot, shekel and new shekel values. Will purchase individual or multiple orders through PayPal, Zelle or credit card.

Replies to:

Arthur Harris

arthurhythec@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 30/001

McDonald: Revenues of Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey

I'm looking to purchase a copy of

"Revenues of Ottoman Empire and Republic of Turkey" by William T. McDonald. Preferably the 2nd edition but I would also be interested in the 1st edition. Delivery to Canada.

Please email J Morton at

juderaven1@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/006

Jordan and Palestine Revenue Stamps and Reply Coupons

Wanted:

Revenue Stamps of Jordan

Revenue Stamps of the Palestinian Authority

International Reply Coupons (IRCs)
of Jordan and Palestine

Offers to:

Avo Kaplanian, Noordeinde 82,
1121 AG Landsmeer, Netherlands

avo1945@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 15/003

"Holy Land Postal History"

I offer a complete run of the journal "Holy Land Postal History" (1979–2017) to anyone willing to collect it from me in Teaneck, New Jersey.

Contact:

Mark Sommer

735 Elm Avenue, Apartment #3D
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666, USA

brocean@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/003

U.K.-based Collector always interested in buying Egypt for his Collection

I am particularly interested in revenues, Cinderellas, perfins, telegrams, officially sealed labels, Interpostal Seals, Suez Canal Company, stamp dealer's mail, franking meters, Great Bitter Lake Association, Postal Concession, postal stationery, printed illustrated envelopes and anything unusual, but I also buy mainstream subjects.

From single items to whole collections, please let me make you an offer.

Please contact Jon Aitchison:

+44 (0) 1279 870488

britishlocals@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 15/002

Wanted: "Dear Doctor" and related drug advertising postcards

Many pharmaceutical companies (Abbott Labs, Biomarine, and Squibb, etc) used postcards sent from exotic locations to promote their products.

These are commonly called "Dear Doctor" postcards since many start with that salutation. Abbott postcards were mailed between 1956–1968 using 182 different cards found to date to 34 countries and in 10 languages. On my website

<http://www.deardoctorpostcards.com/>

I have documented over 10,000 such items. There are many more discoveries to be made. Let me know what you have!

Please contact Tom Fortunato

stamptmf@frontiernet.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/004

Wanted: Egypt Postal Bulletin 1904

I'm looking for the **1904** volume of the Egyptian Postal Administration's official gazette, the Bulletin Postal Égyptien

Please contact Mike Murphy:

egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 28/005

Wanted: Survey of Egypt 1930s Maps of Egyptian Cities

I'm looking for 1:10,000 scale maps of Egyptian cities published in the 1930s by the Survey of Egypt.

I am also missing the **Assiout area map** at 1:100,000 scale.

Please contact Mike Murphy:

egyptstudycircle@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 25/002

Wanted: Philatelic Friends

Wanted Penfriends from whole world who collect Stamps, Coins and Currency Notes.

Please contact:

C. Abraham Jos

abrahamjohanncheeran@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 25/004

Wanted: BALE Palestine Catalogue 2010 BALE Holyland Catalogue 2008

Send offers to:

J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland

jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 10/001

Covers: Iraq-USA / USA-Iraq

I'm looking for interesting covers of Iraq to USA as well as USA to Iraq for the period 1939 to 1945.

Send images (jpeg) with your asking price or ask for my at-market offer.

Replies to:

K. David Steidley, Ph.D.

David@Steidley.com

H - Gratis-Anzeige 02/008

Ottoman Cancellations Software

Ottoman Cancellations software for identifying, cross-referencing, cataloguing and documenting Ottoman Cancellations and fragments thereof.

Please ask for free demo version (Windows), user manual, and conditions of sale from:

George Stasinopoulos

stassin@cs.ntua.gr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/010

Persia & Yemen Postal History

Collector of Postal History of Persia (before 1930) and of Yemen (before 1945) wishes to purchase interesting items.

Replies to:

Bjorn Sohrne

bjornsvensohrne@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 04/002

Holy Land Stamps and Literature

I seek high quality and high value Holy Land stamps and postal history as well as Literature (eg. The Holyland Philatelist, BAPIP Bulletins, and monographs).

Please contact:

mailto:rnasch@fairmanage.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/005

Wanted: Greek Rural Post

I am looking for documents from the Greek rural post from 1911 until now and also from the for-runners "Dimotika Tachydromeia." I would also be very happy about a philatelic exchange!

Please contact:

Benedikt Eberhardt

BEberhardt@beberhardt.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/003

I am interested in adding to my list of articles at

A Philatelic Bibliography for Yemen and the Arab Gulf States

The list is very heavy on American and English sources, and lighter on other sources. I would appreciate additions to the list.

Please contact:

Andrew Gondocz

andrew_gondocz@yahoo.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/003

Wanted: Palestine World War I

Wanted for collection are examples on cover of the following Army Post Office cancels:

APO SZ52 used 1918

APO SZ53 used 1918

APO SZ54 used 1918

APO SZ55 used 1918/19

Unusual WW1 covers from Palestine

Offers to:

Joel Weiner

jweiner@ualberta.ca

H - Gratis-Anzeige 27/001

Jordan & Palestine Postal History



Specialized items and retired Collections

Available for sale now and limited to stock on hand!

Postmarks, Proof strikes, Stamps, Covers and First Day Covers.

Watch me on Ebay:

<https://www.ebay.com/usr/philapal>

Write to:

Kamal A. Kawar, 34 Sage Crest Loop,

Weaverville, NC 28787, U.S.A

services@kamsys.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 14/005

Wanted: Palestine Covers (Jordanian Occupation)

I am looking for covers sent from Palestine franked with Jordanian stamps overprinted "PALESTINE"

Send offers (with scans please) to:

J. L. Emmenegger, Switzerland

jl.emmenegger@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/002

Judaica (Not Israel)

I am Interested in Judaica-themed stamps from all over the world (not from Israel).

I have many to sell, or ideally exchange with fellow collectors.

Also interested in countries that have issued anti-Israel themed stamps too.

Please contact Gary at

judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/003

Jerusalem Postal History

Collector looking to buy or exchange covers, postcards, and postal forms with Jerusalem postmarks from the Turkish and British Mandate posts, including TPOs and military mail.

Replies to:

Haim Malka

Hmalka22@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/005

Wanted: Smyrna Postal History

Entire letters to and from Smyrna dated before 1800.

Replies to:

Gene Ekonomi

gekonomi@tecfen.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/002

Transjordan: Help Required

I am researching the Transjordan overprints on Hejaz stamps and there are two issues in particular causing me trouble. These are:

- the 1924 official stamp (Scott O1, SG O117)
- the 1923 ½ qirsh surcharge on 1½ qirsh typograph overprint (Scott 91a, SG 111)

I am after scans and information. Please contact me first so that we can discuss the finer details.

Please contact: Martin Lovegrove –
weatherings@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/003

Middle East Stamps: Varieties & Errors

I'm Interested in buying rare mint Middle East / Arabian stamps, imperforates, errors, varieties, proofs, essays, and colour trials.

My speciality is Egypt: the classical & Royal period, proofs and essays (1866–1962).

The other countries I collect are: Aden, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, and Yemen, also Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Offers to:

Adel Al-Sarraf
asarraf11@hotmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/005

Moorer's Interactive Philatelic Index

I want to add more references to my bibliographic project:

If you have (list of) articles or books, I would like to hear from you.

Did you write a book on Middle Eastern philately, send me the bibliographic information and I will add it.

If you are a philatelic society and want to safeguard your journal for eternity contact me. We can place your journals in the open access Zotero Philatelic Repository for future collectors.

Please contact me:
 Peter Moorer
petermoorer1960@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/013

Turkish Occupation of Thessaly

Collector is interested in any postal history material related to the Turkish occupation of Thessaly 1897–1898. Exchange of information is also highly welcome.

Offers to:
 Otto Graf
otto@skanderbeg.net

Private Gratis-Anzeige 27/002

Holy Land Turkish & Foreign POs: Registered Mail & Rarities

As a specialist collector of Holy Land material I am always interested in acquiring scarcer items of both Turkish offices and foreign post offices.

I am currently particularly interesting in acquiring **registered mail** and if you have surplus items please would you send me scan copies together with the price being sought. Please note I am only interested in nice clean covers with good strikes.

I hope to hear from you:
 Martin Davies
kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/001

Anti-Israeli Picture Postcards

I am interested in anti-Israel/Zionist contemporary picture postcards.

Replies to:
 Lawrence Fisher
gymtrainer@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/004

Red Crescent Thematics Ottoman Empire and Turkey

I am looking for material concerning the theme "Red Crescent" in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. I am especially looking for covers or cards (maybe FDC) with the cancellation from the **Red Crescent Exhibition Istanbul 1959**.

Please offer with picture and price to:

Jens Warnecke

jens.warnecke@web.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/008

Middle East Stamps & Covers

I'm looking for MNH stamps of the Middle East, also recent issues Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria.

Commercially used covers from Syria from 2011 onwards.

Also used/sent covers from Trucial States, Yemen, and Aden.

I can offer MNH and some used Middle East.

Please contact:

Ralf Kollmann

ralf.kollmann@gmx.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/003

For Sale: Ottoman Empire & Turkey, Cilicia (French Occupation) Stamps, Covers, Postcards



Please contact: Hakan Yilmaz
hakanmotel61@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/006

Russian Postal History (pre 1917)

I offer postal history of Russia until 1917: Receipts, registered covers, covers with seals (including Zemstvo).

Please write to:

Andrey Musikhin

am2277@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/005

Buying FDCs

WWII Victory: 1. Iran, 2. Lebanon stamps, 3. Lebanon m/s

UPU 1949-1950: 1. Iran, 2. Lebanon m/s, 3. "PALESTINE" on Jordan, 4. Syria s/s

Please write with details to:

Jeff Siddiqui

jeffsiddiqui@msn.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 24/007

Wanted: Iran/Persia Stamps and Postal History

I am interested in buying Iranian/Persian stamps, covers and other philatelic items.

Please write to:
Masoud Valafar
mvalafar84@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/004

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/004

Wanted: Ottoman Empire – Hungary

We are looking for mail from the Ottoman Empire to Hungary or vice versa for the period 1900 to 1920.

Please send colour scans of your offers to:
Ute & Elmar Dorr
utedorr@web.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/002

For Sale: UAE Complete Collection 1971–2016

United Arab Emirates Complete Collection from 1971–2016 including all issued booklets in mint condition.

Please contact:
Syed A. Ahmed
abraralki@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 18/006

Wanted: Palestine Blues No. 1

I need help to finish a thematic collection: I am looking for a stamp from the "Blues" (Bale 1) with clear dated postmark:

16th February 1918

Offers with scans to:
mmf@comxnet.dk

Private Gratis-Anzeige 23/102

Meter Markings

I'm looking for meter markings on cover for these countries:

Abu Dhabi (Pitney Bowes "Automax" multivalue) – **Bahrain** (Neopost limited value)
Palestinian Authority (Francotyp Cc multivalue) – **Dubai** (Pitney Bowes "Automax" multivalue)
Qatar (Pitney Bowes-GB "Automax" multivalue) – **Iraq** (Universal "Multi-Value")



Offers to: Bernard.Lachat, bernard.lachat@bluewin.ch

Private Gratis-Anzeige 05/003

1992 Israel–China First Flight Cover Wanted



I am looking to purchase a First Flight cover Tel Aviv–Beijing of 3.09.1992. I have other covers from this event, but am looking for this specific cachet as pictured.

Apparently less than 100 registered covers exist.

Offers to: Mark Sommer, brocean@aol.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/007

French-made Meter Markings



For research study I look for mail from all countries (except France) franked by franking machines like those used in French post offices. They can often be identified by the indication of time in the imprint.



Offers to: Luc Guillard, lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/003

Wanted: Mint Saudi & GCC Stamps

Serious collector interested in buying mint Saudi Arabia and GCC nations stamps for my Collection. I am also interested in revenues, telegrams, officially sealed labels, franking meters, postal stationery, printed illustrated envelopes related to Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco).

Please contact:
Syed A. Ahmed
abraralki@gmail.com

H - Gratis-Anzeige 04/003

The BAPIP Bulletin 1952–2016

The complete archive of the BAPIP Bulletin, the journal of the **Holyland Philatelic Society**, has been digitised.

Available are entire issues or individual articles from 1952–2016.

Visit:
www.zobbel.de/stamp/lit_09.htm

H - Gratis-Anzeige 02/007



The Lebanese Philatelic Association (LAP) encourages and promotes philately and postal history collecting in Lebanon. It represents Lebanon in the world body of philately, co-operates with Arab and International Philatelic Associations and clubs. It holds symposia and exhibitions and provides a committee of experts for Lebanese stamps and postal history.

The association's journal *LAP Magazine* is published every four months.

www.lapsite.org

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/004

Wanted: Arabian Gulf Postal History

I'm looking for Arabian Gulf postal history for research or purchase.

India used in the Gulf: Muscat, Guadur, Persia, Iraq, Bahrain & Kuwait

British Gulf: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi & Muscat

Independent postal administrations: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, UAE & Oman

Please contact:
Thomas Johansen at
arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/011

Wanted: Syrian Postage Rates 1982-1987

I'm looking for postage rates in force in Syria from 1982 to 1987, domestic and international rates, airmail surcharges, etc. Partial information or ways to obtain information welcome.

Contact:
Luc Guillard
lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 07/001

Palestine Articles by Major J. J. Darlow

For research purposes I'm looking for originals, photocopies, or scans of philatelic articles on Palestine by Major J. J. Darlow published in the 1920s and 1930s, especially two pieces published in 1922 in Harris Publications' journal *The Philatelic Magazine* (nos. 170 and 171).

Replies to:
Tobias Zywietsz
zobbel@zobbel.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/001

For Sale: Israel Stamps and Postal History

My specialised Israel/Palestine collection is for sale. I am willing to break it down to sell it in pieces. I have uploaded scans of most of the collection to Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1as0sVI9XEBfND1CCouuFO710A6eSwox?usp=sharing>

For further details contact Adam Caplan
adam.caplan@intel.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/005

Postal Wars "Postkrieg"

Collector of worldwide postal war/Postkrieg and "disputed political propaganda" on mail is selling his double covers with postal war countermeasures and covers with meter marks and entires on history.

Ask for selling list by email:
Jan Heijs
heijsmo@xs4all.nl

What is postal war? See www.postalwar.info

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/001

Turkey to Persia Postal History

I'm looking for early Ottoman covers, 1850s to 1870s, sent from Ottoman POs via Bayazid to Persia, and material related to the "Northern Route" between Turkey and Persia.

Replies to:

Bjorn Sohrne

bjornsvensohrne@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/004

Palestine Mandate: Postage Due Rates & Charges

I need help in relation to exchange rates used to calculate Palestine Mandate period postage due rates and charges. If you can help me please make contact:

Martin Davies

kuitman@btinternet.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/003

Wanted: Sudan Revenues

Social Insurance stamps – Revenues issued since the 2019 revolution – Civil war victims – Police Fund – Directly embossed – Field Telegraph (not Army Telegraphs)

Please contact David Sher

sh25ngc3603@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/005

Wanted: Palestine Mandate Small Towns

Collector of Small Town postmarks looking for postal history material from or to Small Towns.

Please send offers (with scans please) to:

Oren Gazenfeld

oren@gazenfeld.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 20/006

Jerusalem Postcards and Documents

Private collector is always interested in postcards and documents from Jerusalem. Please make your offer to:

Peter B. Feuser

feuser-weyrich@t-online.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 19/001

WANTED: Royalist Yemen Postal Stationery Cards

I am looking for the 1½ b. green "Radio" cards, "Darul Asfahani" printing, ca. 1970, Types I and II (not the Harrison printing). Thanks if you can help!

Replies to:

Andreas Svrakov

asvrakov2008@live.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 17/007

French-made Meter Markings

For research study I look for mail from all countries (except France) franked by franking machines like those used in French post offices. They can often be identified by the indication of time in the imprint.



Offers to: Luc Guillard, lucguillard@wanadoo.fr

Private Gratis-Anzeige 23/001

Early Postal History: England and Italy

Collector of early postal history 1400–1750 of Italy and England, is interested in buying good quality material of the subject.

Offers only with Scans please! Payment by PayPal or bank transfer.

Please contact me by email to:

Yehuda Kleiner
yehudak73@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/007

Qatar Postal History

Looking for Qatar Postal History items.

Covers of the 1950s – 1960s.

Stamps with errors such as inverted & misaligned overprints (no colour trials please).

Replies to:

Adil Al Husseini, PO Box 695, Doha

State of Qatar

ezgert@yahoo.com – APS # 121752 (since 1982)



H – Gratis-Anzeige 27/201

The Pretoria Philatelic Society est. 1898



Join our ZOOM meetings!

We host meetings every second Thursday.

The first meeting as a guide will have a theme or a letter and anyone can participate for about 10 minutes each to give everyone a chance to present. The second meeting is where a guest speaker will share their expertise with us for about 45 minutes which leaves time for a Q&A session.

You can email me if you would like to receive the meeting invites: adelbulpitt@gmail.com

And where is your Ad?

Just write to the editor to register your name and e-mail address, and you will be entitled to place an ad of your own in the next issue of MEPB!

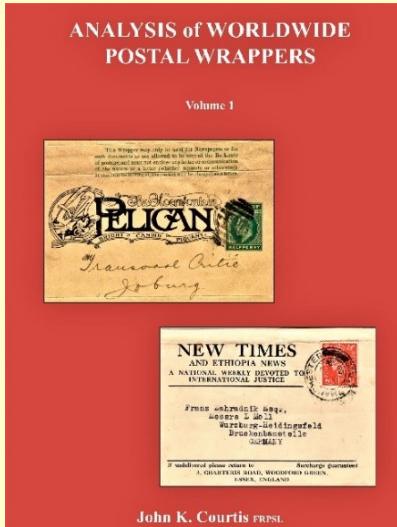
mep-bulletin@zobbel.de

H – Gratis-Anzeige 19/201

Analysis of Worldwide Postal Wrappers

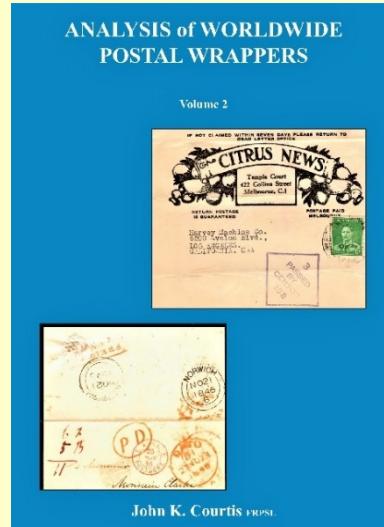
Attributes of Postal Stationery, Postal History and Social Philately

by Dr. John K. Courtis FRPSL

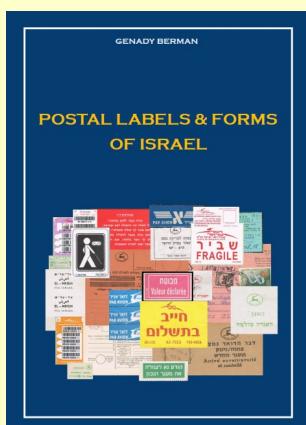


Volume 1: 1 Nature and Role of a Wrapper; 2 Book & Newspaper Posts; 3 Attributes of a Wrapper; 4 Indicia; 5 Perfinned Wrappers; 6 Overprinted Specimen Wrappers; 7 Text Instructions; 8 Watermarked Paper; 9 Uncut Multiples; 10 Registered Wrappers; 11 Postage Due Wrappers; 12 Wrappers by Air Mail; 13 Postmarks on Wrappers; 14 Uprated Wrappers; 15 Destination Countries of Wrappers; 16 Routes to Africa, Asia & Australasia; 17 Routes to Europe, Americas & Caribbean

Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, 33 Chapters, 930 pages: £50 plus postage
Orders: Claire Scott at the Postal History Society: claire@historystore.ltd.uk



Volume 2: 18 Auxiliary Markings; 19 Merchant Marks; 20 Embossed-to-Order; 21 Overprinting on GB Wrappers; 22 Overprinted – Worldwide Survey; 23 Labels, Cinderellas and Seals; 24 Censor & Consular handstamps; 25 Side Collections; 26 Private Postal Wrappers; 27 Country Census of Pr. Wrappers; 28 Mourning Wrappers; 29 Official Wrappers; 30 Parcel Wrappers; 31 Analytical Techniques; 32 Clustering; 33 Market Characteristics.



H – Gratis-Anzeige 10/007

Israel Postal Labels and Forms Catalogue

Extensive listings of forms and labels: Registration, Official Registration, Air Mail, Express, AR, Insurance, COD, Parcels, Non-Delivery, Customs, and many more.

Book, 2017, 84 pages. ISBN: 978-965-572-473-8. US-\$ 40 plus p&p.
Large Vermeil Medal at World Stamp Championship 2018.

Enquiries to:

Genady Berman

bermangenady@gmail.com

Private Gratis-Anzeige 22/004

For Sale: PNA Christmas Sheets 1999 (type II)

I am selling complete sets of 5 sheets Palestinian Authority Christmas 1999 issue in mint condition.

Sheet type II, which was sold for postal use only:

Michel 126, 128, 130, 132, 134 / SG PA 147, 149, 151, 153, 155 / Scott 108a to 112a

Each sheet of type II has 10 identical stamps, ie. no silver stamp in the upper row as is with the sheets of type I, which were printed for the philatelic market only. Mint sheets of type II are extremely rare.



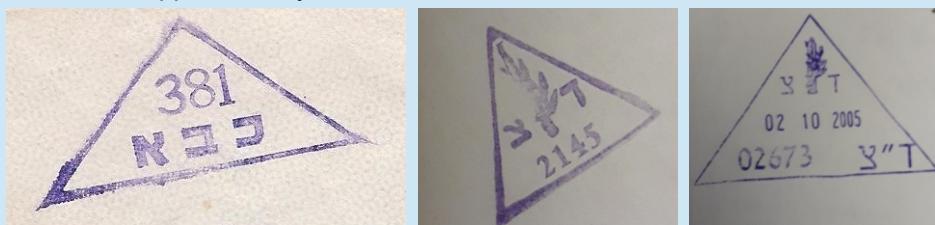
Special offer for readers of MEPB: one set of the 5 sheets 45 € + postage for registered mail.

Please contact Thomas Schubert at thschubi@outlook.de

Private Gratis-Anzeige 12/001

Wanted: Israel's Triangular Military Unit Handstamps

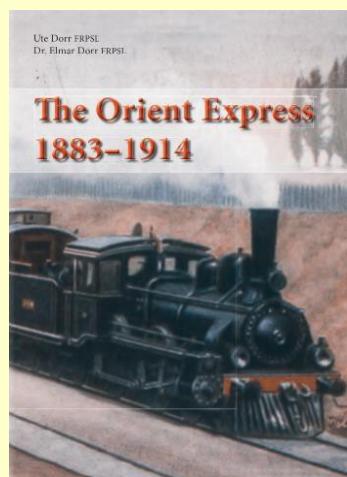
There are 3 styles of triangular handstamps used on military mail in Israel. The first style lowest numbers were used from 1948 to about 1960. I am trying to collect all of these and am still missing a few numbers. The mid period ran from approximately 1960 to 1980.



I have almost a complete run of these numbers but am still looking for a few of them including 1014, 1021, 1032, 1035, 1043, 1048, 1049, 1060, 1091, 1094 and 1098 and a few others. The most recent zero series style started about 1980 and is still in use. Zero series numbers I am looking for include 01433, 01455, 01526, 01636, 01833 to 01860, 02129 and 03350.

I am trying to collect all the numbers and I estimate that there are over 5000 issued across the 3 styles. I am also looking for your lists of numbers to check against my database. All correspondence and offers to trade material welcome.

Please contact A. Harris via stamps@gmx.co.uk



H - Gratis-Anzeige 14/007

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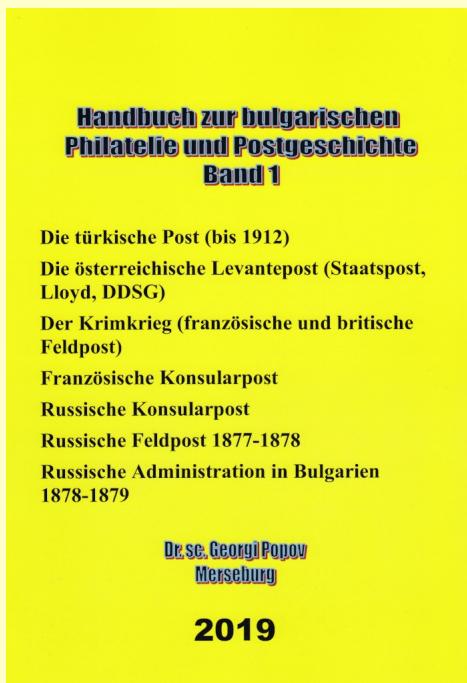
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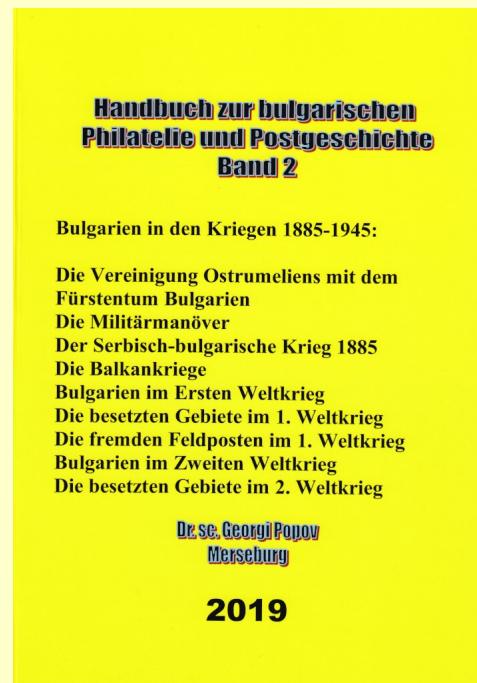
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Handbook of Bulgarian Philately and Postal History by Dr. sc. Georgi Popov



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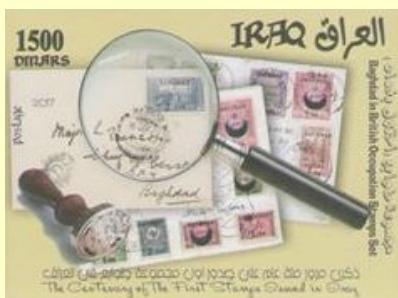
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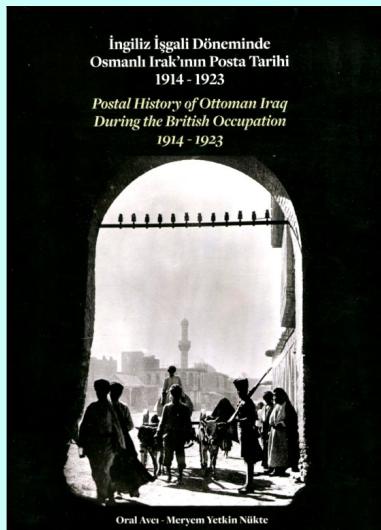
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 - Gratis-Anzeige 25/202

Postal History of Ottoman Iraq During the British Occupation 1914–1923 by Oral Avcı and Meryem Yetkin Nükte



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The book tells the fascinating story of Iraq's emergence by focusing on the mysteries embedded in the postal stamps and other documents from the early 20th century. It offers a fresh perspective on Iraq's early 20th-century history by closely addressing such questions.

Kerkük Vakfi, 2021
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Enquiries to Oral Avcı: oavci60@gmail.com

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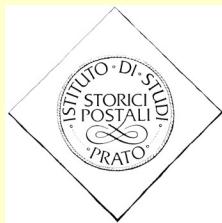
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 - Gratis-Anzeige 10/201



The Institute of Postal Historical Studies "Aldo Cecchi" Prato, Tuscany, Italy

When you study postal history, you investigate on organized communication, particularly focusing on material aspects. This is a new, productive approach connecting different subjects, such as social history and history of culture, epistolography, history of management and of entrepreneurship, paleography, diplomatics, economic history, historical geography, history of journalism and of commerce, collecting.

Since 1982, in Prato, **Istituto di Studi Storici Postali "Aldo Cecchi"** has been an international reference centre for those concerned. The Institute is aimed at building, improving and sharing knowledge of the postal-historical subjects through publications, courses, workshops, exhibitions, and other cultural events.

One of the highlights of the Institute is his role as a **specialized library**, collecting guidebooks and old postal maps as well as modern philatelic editions. The library includes more than 13,000 items (volumes and booklets). Over time, the library has become a proper documentation centre on organized postal communication. The library is divided into special sections: the periodicals section contains almost 2,000 titles. The special collection of commercial philatelic publications (auction catalogues, fixed-price offers, promotional material, traders' price lists) numbers 15,000 items.

Last but not least, the Institute also holds an archival fond which is extraordinarily important for the history of Italian postal communications: the archive of the **"Direzione Superiore della Posta Militare"** (High office for Military Mail), containing some 400,000 original documents about its activity during the 20th century.

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Istituto di Studi Storici Postali "Aldo Cecchi", Via Ser Lapo Mazzei 37, 59100 Prato, Italy

 - Gratis-Anzeige 01/006

OMAN STUDIES CENTRE for Documentation and Research on Oman and the Arabian Gulf

The Oman Studies Centre is pooling resources on Oman and the Gulf to support research on Oman and to provide advisory services. In addition to the Oman Library with books, maps, and documents, the information pool includes special collections such as a philatelic collection and a numismatic collection. For our philatelic collection we buy stamps, postal history, stationery, and documents in the following areas:

- India used in Muscat and Gwadar
- Pakistan used in Muscat and Gwadar
- British Post Office in Muscat
- Muscat & Oman, Sultanate of Oman
- "rebel stamps" State of Oman and Dhufar

We currently also buy early postcards of Oman (pre-1970) and Muscat quarter Anna varieties to complete collections that will result in the publishing of specialised catalogues in these two fields.

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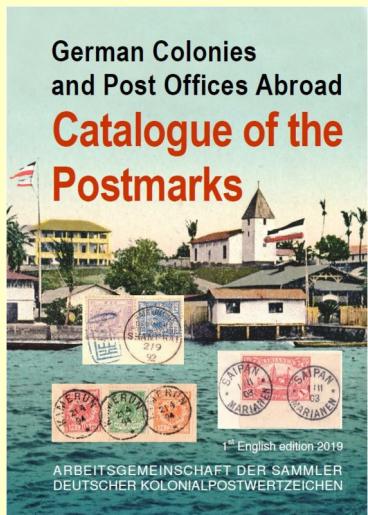
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H – Gratis-Anzeige 21/201

German Colonies Study Group

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler Deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen e.V. was founded in 1928 and is the oldest still existing study group in the German philatelic federation BDPh, and with some 400 members also one of the largest specialist societies.



It publishes every year two issues of its journal "Berichte für Kolonialbriefmarkensammler" and two newsletters.

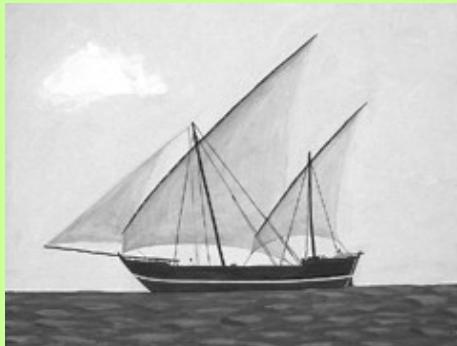
The latest edition of the society's postmark catalogue, "German Colonies and Post Offices Abroad – Catalogue of the Postmarks" (in English) is available at 39 € (plus p&p).

Information on the collecting areas and publications can be found at:

www.kolonialmarken.de

Contacts: Tilman Nössig – geschaeftsfuehrer@kolonialmarken.de

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The Aden & Somaliland Study Group

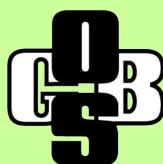
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Gratis-Anzeige 12/201



The GB Overprints Society

The GBOS promotes the collection and study of overprints on British stamps and postal stationery and their usage, from the first overprints for use outside the United Kingdom issued in Cyprus in 1880 right through the "British Levant" issues to the final use of overprints when the British postal agency at Muscat closed in 1966.

The GBOS range of interests also includes revenues and postal orders overprinted for use abroad as well as the British departmental overprints.

Collectors at all levels are always welcome, whether experienced researchers or beginners.

We have an informative and lavishly illustrated website and publish a quarterly journal "The Overprinter", available in paper form or electronically. We have also published books on overprinted British postal stationery for use in many countries, including the Middle East and the Gulf.

For more information visit the website at <http://www.gbos.org.uk> or write to the GBOS Secretary, 118 Maldon Road, Tiptree, Colchester CO5 0PA, UK

H - Gratis-Anzeige 16/001

The Revenue Stamps of the Palestinian Authority

The Revenue Stamps of the
Palestinian Authority



Compiled and Edited By

Arthur Harris

The monograph documents Palestinian revenue stamps and related issues. Listed and shown are 18 sets of revenue stamps issued by the Palestinian Authority or its government departments, both West Bank and Gaza. Several documents illustrate the stamps' usage

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1868 (Aug 5) mourning envelope from Ismailia to France, reverse with oval blue "CANAL MARITIME / DE SUEZ" cachet, franked with Suez Canal Company 20, cancelled by pen cross and blue lozenge of dots, paying the Suez Canal Co. postage to Suez, and franked in combination with France 1862 40c tied by pen cross and "5015" numeral of Suez, paying the rate to France, with Suez despatch adjacent, carried by the "Said" to Marseille and put aboard the Marseille-Lyon T.P.O. where it was disembarked at Avignon, undelivered and redirected to Marseille, where it was again undelivered and seemingly placed in a box for returned letters, with ms "Trouvée à la boîte" (found in the box) written across the stamps, when eventually the sender's note on reverse was spotted (in case the recipient had already left to Réunion) and re-forwarded 9 days later to Réunion, with stamps cancelled in pen to show that they weren't valid and "PD" erased, no arrival but with "6" décimes charge hs denoting double to 30c rate to pay; one of only 21 recorded covers/fronts with the Suez Canal Co. issues, with this being a **unique combination cover and the only usage of the Suez Canal Co. stamp on a complete cover sent abroad**, a highly important postal history rarity for the Egypt or Private Ship Letter stamp connoisseur.

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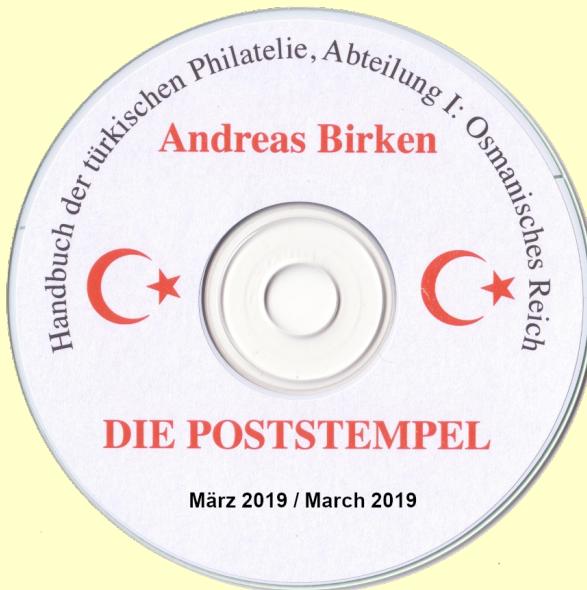
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Dr. Andreas Birken †

Handbook of Turkish Philately – Part I: Ottoman Empire

Vol. 4: The Ottoman Postmarks

“Die Poststempel / The Postmarks” by the late Dr. Andreas Birken is a bilingual (German and English) catalogue of Ottoman postmarks, including both postal and censor markings.



In 1999 Turkey philatelists held their 4th World Meeting at London. The member societies OPAL, AROS, and TOPS (now ONEPS) launched the Ottoman Postmark Project to continue the work of pioneer philatelists like Orhan Brandt, Saïk Ceylân, John H. Coles, Howard E. Walker, and Hilmi Bayındır, with the aim of producing a data-base collecting and comparing all available and new information.

In 2002 Dr. Andreas Birken took on the task of bringing the project to a form usable to all interested collectors. The result is a periodically updated eBook, consisting of PDF-files, one for each vilayet, over 2000 pages in total, presenting all the known postmarks.

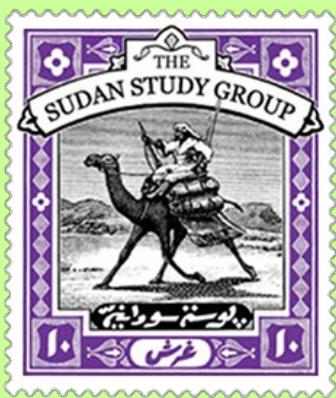
After the death of Dr. Birken AROS is now able to offer the postmark catalogue of the Ottoman Empire in the latest available version of March 2019:

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Aim of the Sudan Study Group

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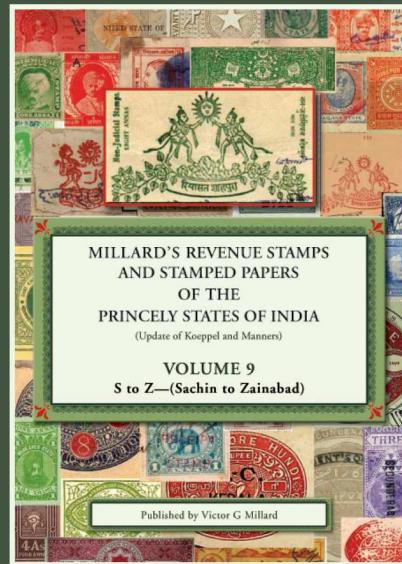
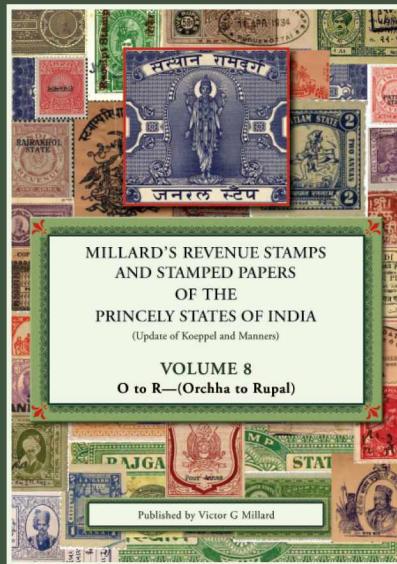
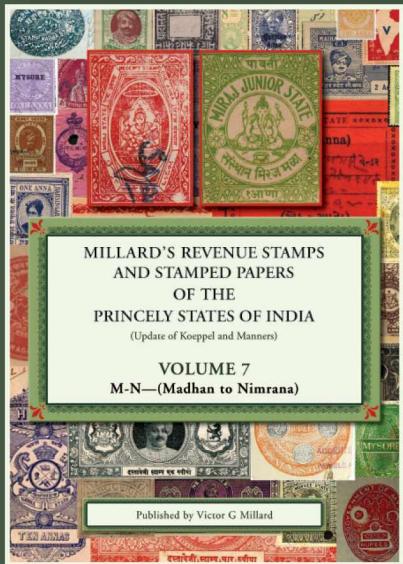
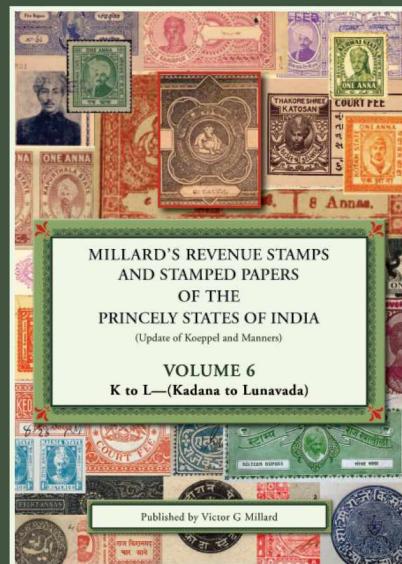
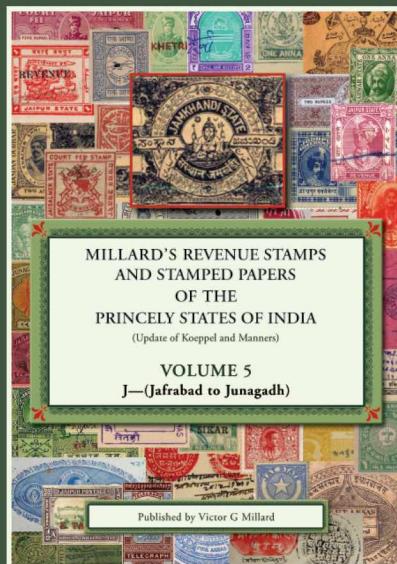
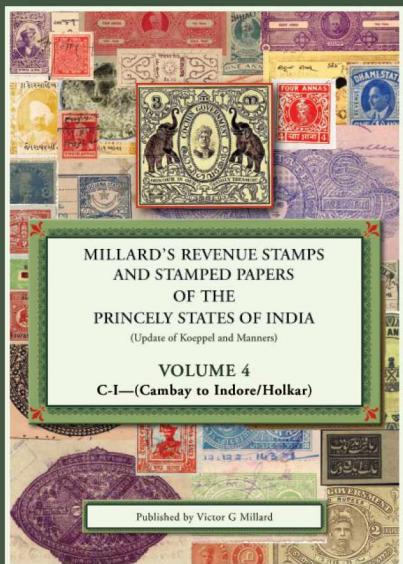
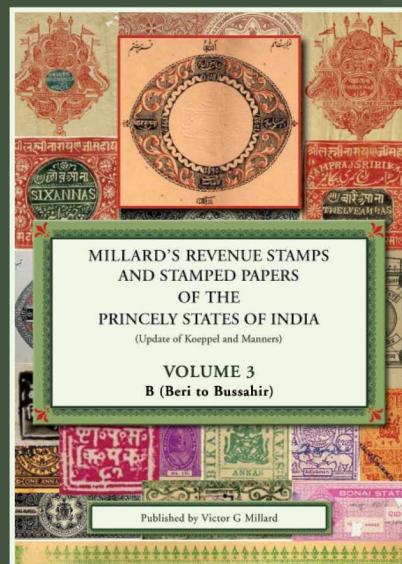
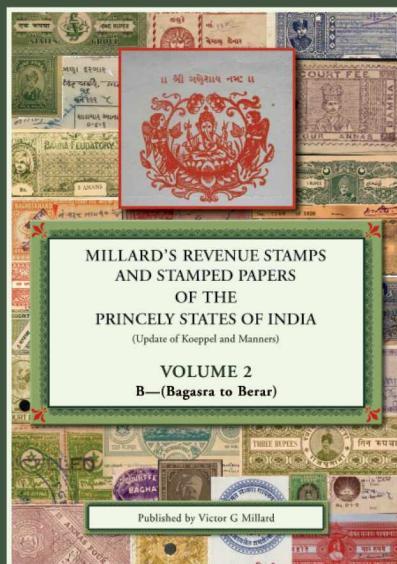
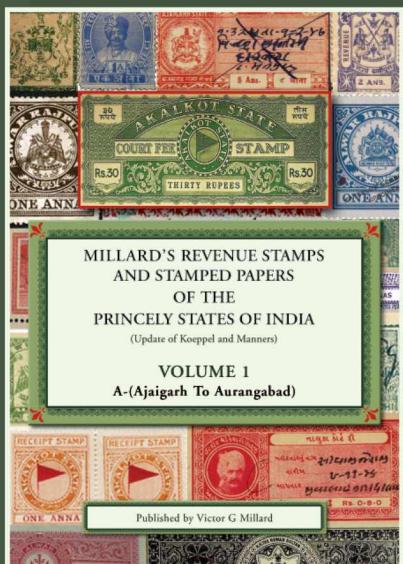
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1932 to 1956



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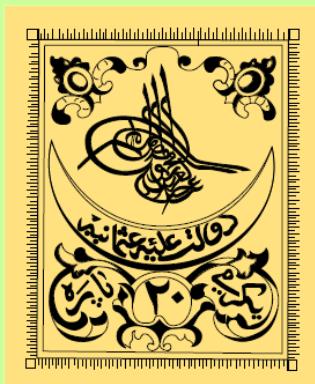
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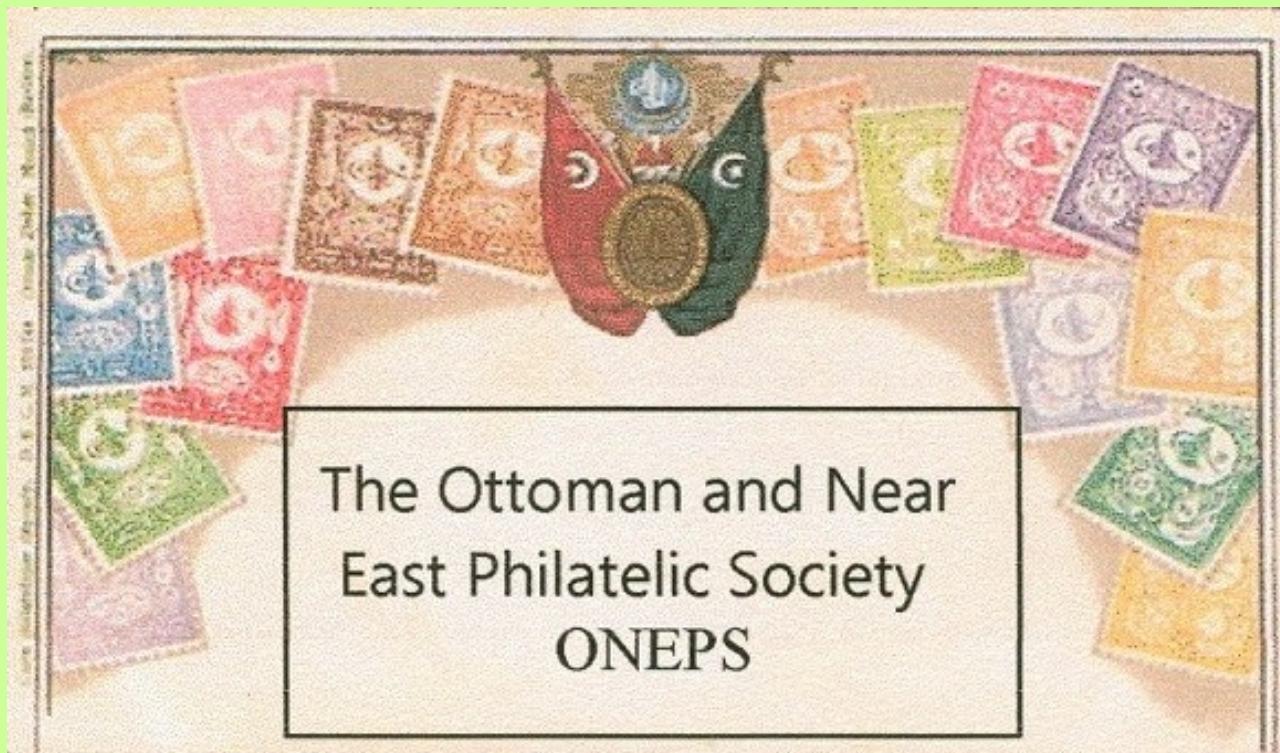


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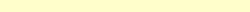
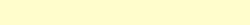
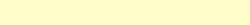
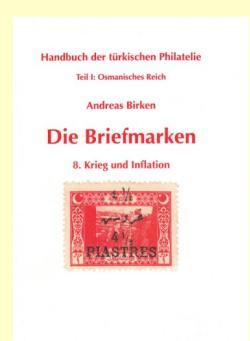
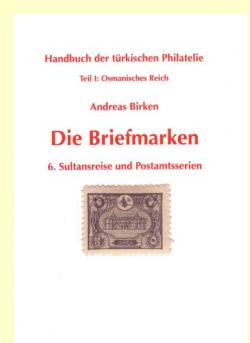
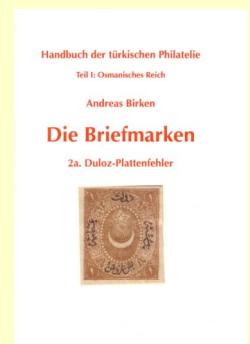
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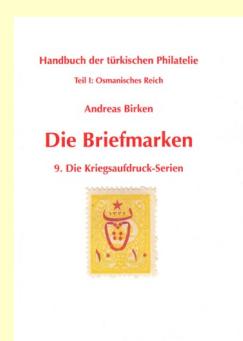
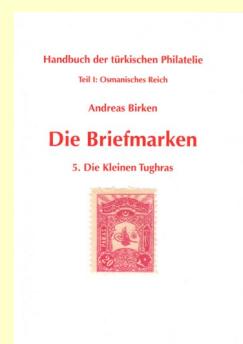
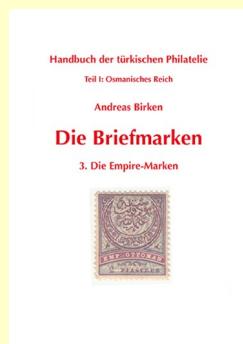
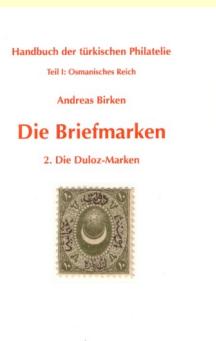
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Editorial

by Tobias Zywietz (mep-bulletin@zobbel.de)
 Publisher & Editor, The Middle East Philatelic Bulletin

Personal Note

At the end of June 2025, my computer broke down and had to be repaired. Since then I am able to work again, for some period I did not have full access to all my data, in particular emails. If you have written to me and never heard back please write to me again.

In this Issue ...

As nobody reads these editorials, I will spare you any more of my musings. Only a few key words: It is getting harder to gather interesting articles of a high quality. So I have to appeal for more people to come forward with their ideas.

I will give all the assistance needed to create an article, but there needs to be a core idea and some material: stamps, covers, documents. Nothing comes from nothing...!

Contributions

I will consider any article of quality for potential inclusion: be it a large article with original research, a small piece looking at a particular aspect, a concise description of an interesting cover, or a long-forgotten piece of research rediscovered. It can be original writing, or material already published. I will help, advise, and guide. Translation into English can be arranged, and all steps and processes are closely coordinated with the author.

Articles should be submitted as plain text (TXT), rich text (RTF), LibreOffice/OpenOffice (ODT), MS Word (DOC, DOCX) or Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Images can be JPEG/JPG- or PNG- or TIFF-files in 300dpi (better: 600dpi) resolution. Ideally stamp should be on black background, covers on white background. Always leave some margin in case there's a need of rotating or other treatment.

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Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank all contributors and all those aiding and encouraging me in the creation of this journal. The list would be too long to print here, so I mention just one non-philatelist, who, as native speaker, helped me with proofreading and gave advice on style of writing, namely *Colin Booth*. Several organisations and persons gave me general permission to reprint articles from their journals and archives. One person I have especially to thank is the late *Barry D. Hoffman*, copyright owner of F.W. Pollack's THE HOLY LAND PHILATELIST. *Many thanks to all!*

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Issue 28 (December 2024):	1,628	137/month
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Future Articles and Research Projects

This is a selection of topics and articles I am working on, together with many authors, to include in future issues of MEPB. If you have information, illustrations, articles, opinions, about any of these subjects, please let me know!

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- German Military Cachets in the Ottoman Empire
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- Archive: 25 Years German Post Office in Constantinople
- Caravan Route Basra-Aleppo (Caruthers)
- The Jordanian Postal Museum

- Middle East ATMs
- Postal routes to Afghanistan
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- The 1840 Ottoman Post Inaugural Public Announcements (14.10.1840 and 1.11.1840).
- The 1863 Inaugural Public Announcements for Postage Stamps
- Palestine Revenues Revisited
- Book Review: Kartpostal Editörler (Yilmaz)
- Book Review: Illustrated Postmarks of Iran
- The "Er Ramle" Zeppelin covers of 1931
- Iran: Postal Correspondence (Judiciary) II
- Haydar Pasha
- 25 Years of the German PO in Constantinople
- Caravan Route Basra–Aleppo
- The French Military Mission in the Hejaz
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- The RAF Postal Service in Sharjah
- Overland Mail Surcharges of Iraq, 1923–1929
- Overland Mail Route Instruction Labels
- Court Fee Stamps of Palestine Mandate
- Habbaniya Provisionals – Revisited
- Book Review: Anglo-Egyptian & French Colonial Censorship in WWII
- Archive: Mail Communications and the Indian Post Offices in the Persian Gulf
- Archive: The Telegraphs of the Persian Gulf
- Lebanon 'Palestine Aid' covers
- RAF Emergency Air Mail 1919: Aerial EEF
- The Iraq/Kuwait Postal War
- Posta Bey' iye Şubes (Péra Palace Hotel)
- Jordan Stamps & Banknotes, Jordan Half-Dinar Banknote
- Telegraph Codes: Mosse, Liebèr, Bentley, & al.
- **Kuwait Paquebot Mail Service (abandoned)**
- Revenue stamp usage: Durazzo 1907, Trieste 1865, Candia 1890
- Early Postcards of Muscat
- Service Automobile Palestine–Syria
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- Ottoman Field PO 46
- Ottoman Field PO 72/77
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- Taxed in Constantinople 1866
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- Ottoman Fiscal Stamp Law 1893
- Lebanon Underprints
- Book Review: The Postal History of Paiforce
- Ali Noussret Pulhan Pricelist 1928
- Palestine Mandate Entire Variety (PR13)
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Rechtsgrundlage für die vorübergehende Speicherung der Daten ist Art. 6 Abs. 1 DSGVO.

3. Zweck der Datenverarbeitung

Die Mailing-Liste dient dem Zweck, dem Nutzer Informationen zu Inhalten und Erscheinen der Zeitschrift zu übermitteln.

4. Dauer der Speicherung

Der Nutzer kann jederzeit die Mailing-Liste verlassen. Die Daten werden umgehend gelöscht.

5. Widerspruchs- und Beseitigungsmöglichkeit

Die Erfassung der Daten zur Bereitstellung der Mailing-Liste ist für den Betrieb der Mailing-Liste zwingend erforderlich. Es besteht folglich seitens des Nutzers keine Widerspruchsmöglichkeit.

Der Nutzer kann aber jederzeit der Speicherung widersprechen und damit die Mailing-Liste verlassen.

IV. E-Mail-Kontakt

1. Beschreibung und Umfang der Datenverarbeitung

Auf meiner Webseite ist eine Kontaktaufnahme über die bereitgestellte E-Mail-Adresse möglich. In diesem Fall werden die mit der E-Mail übermittelten personenbezogenen Daten des Nutzers gespeichert. Es erfolgt in diesem Zusammenhang keine Weitergabe der Daten an Dritte. Die Daten werden ausschließlich für die Verarbeitung der Konversation verwendet.

V. Rechte der betroffenen Person

Werden personenbezogene Daten von Ihnen verarbeitet, sind Sie Betroffener i.S.d. DSGVO und es stehen Ihnen folgende Rechte gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen zu:

1. Auskunftsrecht

Sie können von dem Verantwortlichen eine Bestätigung darüber verlangen, ob personenbezogene Daten, die Sie betreffen, von mir verarbeitet werden. Liegt eine solche Verarbeitung vor, können Sie von dem Verantwortlichen über folgende Informationen Auskunft verlangen:

- (1) die Zwecke, zu denen die personenbezogenen Daten verarbeitet werden;
- (2) die Kategorien von personenbezogenen Daten, welche verarbeitet werden;
- (3) die Empfänger bzw. die Kategorien von Empfängern, gegenüber denen die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten offengelegt wurden oder noch offengelegt werden;
- (4) die geplante Dauer der Speicherung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten oder, falls konkrete Angaben hierzu nicht möglich sind, Kriterien für die Festlegung der Speicherdauer;
- (5) das Bestehen eines Rechts auf Berichtigung oder Löschung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten, eines Rechts auf Einschränkung der Verarbeitung durch den Verantwortlichen oder eines Widerspruchsrechts gegen diese Verarbeitung;
- (6) das Bestehen eines Beschwerderechts bei einer Aufsichtsbehörde;
- (7) alle verfügbaren Informationen über die Herkunft der Daten, wenn die personenbezogenen Daten nicht bei der betroffenen Person erhoben werden;
- (8) das Bestehen einer automatisierten Entscheidungsfindung einschließlich Profiling gemäß Art. 22 Abs. 1 und 4 DSGVO und – zumindest in diesen Fällen – aussagekräftige Informationen über die involvierte Logik sowie die Tragweite und die angestrebten Auswirkungen einer derartigen Verarbeitung für die betroffene Person.

Ihnen steht das Recht zu, Auskunft darüber zu verlangen, ob die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten in ein Drittland oder an eine internationale Organisation übermittelt werden. In diesem Zusammenhang können Sie verlangen, über die geeigneten Garantien gem. Art. 46 DSGVO im Zusammenhang mit der Übermittlung unterrichtet zu werden.

Dieses Auskunftsrecht kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

2. Recht auf Berichtigung

Sie haben ein Recht auf Berichtigung und/oder Vervollständigung gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen, sofern die verarbeiteten personenbezogenen Daten, die Sie betreffen, unrichtig oder unvollständig sind. Der Verantwortliche hat die Berichtigung unverzüglich vorzunehmen

Ihr Recht auf Berichtigung kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

3. Recht auf Einschränkung der Verarbeitung

Unter den folgenden Voraussetzungen können Sie die Einschränkung der Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten verlangen:

- (1) wenn Sie die Richtigkeit der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen für eine Dauer bestreiten, die es dem Verantwortlichen ermöglicht, die Richtigkeit der personenbezogenen Daten zu überprüfen;
- (2) die Verarbeitung unrechtmäßig ist und Sie die Löschung der personenbezogenen Daten ablehnen und stattdessen die Einschränkung der Nutzung der personenbezogenen Daten verlangen;
- (3) der Verantwortliche die personenbezogenen Daten für die Zwecke der Verarbeitung nicht länger benötigt, Sie diese jedoch zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen benötigen, oder
- (4) wenn Sie Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung gemäß Art. 21 Abs. 1 DSGVO eingelegt haben und noch nicht feststeht, ob die berechtigten Gründe des Verantwortlichen gegenüber Ihren Gründen überwiegen. Wurde die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten eingeschränkt, dürfen diese Daten – von ihrer Speicherung abgesehen – nur mit Ihrer Einwilligung oder zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen oder zum Schutz der Rechte einer anderen natürlichen oder juristischen Person oder aus Gründen eines wichtigen öffentlichen Interesses der Union oder eines Mitgliedstaats verarbeitet werden.

Wurde die Einschränkung der Verarbeitung nach den o.g. Voraussetzungen eingeschränkt, werden Sie von dem Verantwortlichen unterrichtet bevor die Einschränkung aufgehoben wird.

Ihr Recht auf Einschränkung der Verarbeitung kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

4. Recht auf Löschung

a) Löschungspflicht

Sie können von dem Verantwortlichen verlangen, dass die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten unverzüglich gelöscht werden, und der Verantwortliche ist verpflichtet, diese Daten unverzüglich zu löschen, sofern einer der folgenden Gründe zutrifft:

- (1) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten sind für die Zwecke, für die sie erhoben oder auf sonstige Weise verarbeitet wurden, nicht mehr notwendig.
- (2) Sie widerrufen Ihre Einwilligung, auf die sich die Verarbeitung gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. a oder Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. a DSGVO stützte, und es fehlt an einer anderweitigen Rechtsgrundlage für die Verarbeitung.
- (3) Sie legen gem. Art. 21 Abs. 1 DSGVO Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung ein und es liegen keine vorrangigen berechtigten Gründe für die Verarbeitung vor, oder Sie legen gem. Art. 21 Abs. 2 DSGVO Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung ein.
- (4) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten wurden

unrechtmäßig verarbeitet.

(5) Die Löschung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten ist zur Erfüllung einer rechtlichen Verpflichtung nach dem Unionsrecht oder dem Recht der Mitgliedstaaten erforderlich, dem der Verantwortliche unterliegt.

(6) Die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten wurden in Bezug auf angebotene Dienste der Informationsgesellschaft gemäß Art. 8 Abs. 1 DSGVO erhoben.

b) Information an Dritte

Hat der Verantwortliche die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten öffentlich gemacht und ist er gem. Art. 17 Abs. 1 DSGVO zu deren Löschung verpflichtet, so trifft er unter Berücksichtigung der verfügbaren Technologie und der Implementierungskosten angemessene Maßnahmen, auch technischer Art, um für die Datenverarbeitung Verantwortliche, die die personenbezogenen Daten verarbeiten, darüber zu informieren, dass Sie als betroffene Person von ihnen die Löschung aller Links zu diesen personenbezogenen Daten oder von Kopien oder Replikationen dieser personenbezogenen Daten verlangt haben.

c) Ausnahmen

Das Recht auf Löschung besteht nicht, soweit die Verarbeitung erforderlich ist

(1) zur Ausübung des Rechts auf freie Meinungsäußerung und Information;

(2) zur Erfüllung einer rechtlichen Verpflichtung, die die Verarbeitung nach dem Recht der Union oder der Mitgliedstaaten, dem der Verantwortliche unterliegt, erfordert, oder zur Wahrnehmung einer Aufgabe, die im öffentlichen Interesse liegt oder in Ausübung öffentlicher Gewalt erfolgt, die dem Verantwortlichen übertragen wurde;

(3) aus Gründen des öffentlichen Interesses im Bereich der öffentlichen Gesundheit gemäß Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. h und i sowie Art. 9 Abs. 3 DSGVO

(4) für im öffentlichen Interesse liegende Archivzwecke, wissenschaftliche oder historische Forschungszwecke oder für statistische Zwecke gem. Art. 89 Abs. 1 DSGVO, soweit das unter Abschnitt a) genannte Recht voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Ziele dieser Verarbeitung unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt, oder

(5) zur Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen.

5. Recht auf Unterrichtung

Haben Sie das Recht auf Berichtigung, Löschung oder Einschränkung der Verarbeitung gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen geltend gemacht, ist dieser verpflichtet, allen Empfängern, denen die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten offengelegt wurden, diese Berichtigung oder Löschung der Daten oder Einschränkung der Verarbeitung mitzuteilen, es sei denn, dies erweist sich als unmöglich oder ist mit einem unverhältnismäßigen Aufwand verbunden. Ihnen steht gegenüber dem Verantwortlichen das Recht zu, über diese Empfänger unterrichtet zu werden.

6. Recht auf Datenübertragbarkeit

Sie haben das Recht, die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten, die Sie dem Verantwortlichen bereitgestellt haben, in einem strukturierten, gängigen und maschinenlesbaren Format zu erhalten. Außerdem haben Sie das Recht diese Daten einem anderen Verantwortlichen ohne Behinderung durch den Verantwortlichen, dem die personenbezogenen Daten bereitgestellt wurden, zu übermitteln, sofern

(1) die Verarbeitung auf einer Einwilligung gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. a DSGVO oder Art. 9 Abs. 2 lit. a DSGVO oder auf einem Vertrag gem. Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. b DSGVO beruht und

(2) die Verarbeitung mithilfe automatisierter Verfahren erfolgt.

In Ausübung dieses Rechts haben Sie ferner das Recht, zu erwirken, dass die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten direkt von einem Verantwortlichen einem anderen Verantwortlichen übermittelt werden, soweit dies technisch machbar ist. Freiheiten und Rechte anderer Personen dürfen hierdurch nicht beeinträchtigt werden.

Das Recht auf Datenübertragbarkeit gilt nicht für eine Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten, die für die Wahrneh-

mung einer Aufgabe erforderlich ist, die im öffentlichen Interesse liegt oder in Ausübung öffentlicher Gewalt erfolgt, die dem Verantwortlichen übertragen wurde.

7. Widerspruchsrecht

Sie haben das Recht, aus Gründen, die sich aus ihrer besonderen Situation ergeben, jederzeit gegen die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten, die aufgrund von Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. e oder f DSGVO erfolgt, Widerspruch einzulegen; dies gilt auch für ein auf diese Bestimmungen gestütztes Profiling.

Der Verantwortliche verarbeitet die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten nicht mehr, es sei denn, er kann zwingende schutzwürdige Gründe für die Verarbeitung nachweisen, die Ihre Interessen, Rechte und Freiheiten überwiegen, oder die Verarbeitung dient der Geltendmachung, Ausübung oder Verteidigung von Rechtsansprüchen.

Werden die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten verarbeitet, um Direktwerbung zu betreiben, haben Sie das Recht, jederzeit Widerspruch gegen die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten zum Zwecke derartiger Werbung einzulegen; dies gilt auch für das Profiling, soweit es mit solcher Direktwerbung in Verbindung steht.

Widersprechen Sie der Verarbeitung für Zwecke der Direktwerbung, so werden die Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten nicht mehr für diese Zwecke verarbeitet.

Sie haben die Möglichkeit, im Zusammenhang mit der Nutzung von Diensten der Informationsgesellschaft – unabhängig von der Richtlinie 2002/58/EG – Ihr Widerspruchsrecht mittels automatisierter Verfahren auszuüben, bei denen technische Spezifikationen verwendet werden.

Bei Datenverarbeitung zu wissenschaftlichen, historischen oder statistischen Forschungszwecken:

Sie haben auch das Recht, aus Gründen, die sich aus Ihrer besonderen Situation ergeben, bei der Verarbeitung Sie betreffender personenbezogener Daten, die zu wissenschaftlichen oder historischen Forschungszwecken oder zu statistischen Zwecken gem. Art. 89 Abs. 1 DSGVO erfolgt, dieser zu widersprechen.

Ihr Widerspruchsrecht kann insoweit beschränkt werden, als es voraussichtlich die Verwirklichung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke unmöglich macht oder ernsthaft beeinträchtigt und die Beschränkung für die Erfüllung der Forschungs- oder Statistikzwecke notwendig ist.

8. Recht auf Widerruf der datenschutzrechtlichen Einwilligungserklärung

Sie haben das Recht, Ihre datenschutzrechtliche Einwilligungserklärung jederzeit zu widerrufen. Durch den Widerruf der Einwilligung wird die Rechtmäßigkeit der aufgrund der Einwilligung bis zum Widerruf erfolgten Verarbeitung nicht berührt.

9. Recht auf Beschwerde bei einer Aufsichtsbehörde

Unbeschadet eines anderweitigen verwaltungsrechtlichen oder gerichtlichen Rechtsbehelfs steht Ihnen das Recht auf Beschwerde bei einer Aufsichtsbehörde, insbesondere in dem Mitgliedstaat ihres Aufenthaltsorts, ihres Arbeitsplatzes oder des Orts des mutmaßlichen Verstoßes, zu, wenn Sie der Ansicht sind, dass die Verarbeitung der Sie betreffenden personenbezogenen Daten gegen die DSGVO verstößt.

Die Aufsichtsbehörde, bei der die Beschwerde eingereicht wurde, unterrichtet den Beschwerdeführer über den Stand und die Ergebnisse der Beschwerde einschließlich der Möglichkeit eines gerichtlichen Rechtsbehelfs nach Art. 78 DSGVO.

Data Protection Policy

This is a non-binding translation into English. The only legally binding text is the German "Datenschutzerklärung" above.

All references are to the German text of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR, German: Datenschutz-Grundverordnung, DSGVO).

Data protection is of particular importance to me. Use of my electronic journal pages is possible without any indication of personal data.

The processing of personal data, such as the name and e-mail address of a person, is always carried out in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and in accordance with the country-specific data protection regulations applicable to me. By means of this data protection declaration I would like to inform the public about the type, scope and purpose of the personal data collected, used and processed by me. Furthermore, data subjects will be informed of their rights by means of this data protection declaration.

As data controller, I have implemented numerous technical and organisational measures to ensure the utmost protection of the personal data processed via this website. Nevertheless, Internet-based data transmissions, like e-mail, may in principle contain security risks, so that absolute protection cannot be guaranteed. For this reason, every person concerned is free to transmit personal data to me also in alternative ways.

I. Name and address of the person responsible

The person responsible in the sense of the General Data Protection Regulation and other national data protection laws of EU member states as well as other data protection regulations is:

Tobias Zywietz
Hauptstr. 10
75245 Neulingen
Germany
Phone: +49-(0)7237-44 39 03
E-mail: mep-bulletin@zobbel.de
Website: www.zobbel.de

II. General information about data processing

1. Scope of processing of personal data

In general, I only process personal data of users if this is necessary to provide information by way of a mailing-list. The further processing of personal data only takes place with the user's consent.

2. Legal basis for the processing of personal data

Insofar as I obtain the consent of the data subject for the processing of personal data, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a EU General Data Protection Regulation serves as the legal basis for the processing of personal data.

In the processing of personal data required for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b DSGVO serves as the legal basis. This also applies to processing operations that are necessary to carry out pre-contractual measures.

As far as the processing of personal data is necessary for the fulfilment of a legal obligation, which is subject to me, Art. 6 Abs. 1 lit. c DSGVO serves as legal basis.

In the event that the vital interests of the data subject or another natural person require the processing of personal data, Article 6(1)(d) DSGVO serves as the legal basis.

If processing is necessary to safeguard a legitimate interest of mine or of a third party and if the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject do not outweigh the former interest, Art. 6 para. 1 lit. f DSGVO serves as the legal basis for processing.

3. Deletion time of data and storage

The personal data of the person concerned will be deleted or blocked as soon as the purpose of storage ceases to apply.

Furthermore, data may be stored if this has been provided for by the European or national legislators' regulations, laws or other provisions to which the person responsible is subject. The data will also be blocked or deleted if a storage period prescribed by the aforementioned standards expires, unless there is a need for further storage of the data for the conclusion or fulfilment of a contract.

III. Mailing-List

Every user is free to subscribe for free to my mailing list via e-mail. This does not create any obligations for the user.

1. Description and scope of data processing

The following data is collected:

1. surname and first name of the user
2. e-mail address of the user

2. Legal basis for data processing

The legal basis for the temporary storage of data is Art. 6 para. 1 DSGVO.

3. Purpose of data processing

The purpose of the mailing list is to provide the user with information about the contents and appearance of the journal.

4. Storage duration

The user can leave the mailing list at any time. The data will be deleted immediately.

5. Possibility of objection and elimination

The collection of data for the provision of the mailing list is absolutely necessary for the operation of the mailing list. Consequently, there is no possibility of objection on the part of the user. The user can, however, object to the storage at any time and thus leave the mailing list.

IV. E-Mail contact

1. Description and scope of data processing

You can contact me via the e-mail address provided on my website. In this case, the user's personal data transmitted by e-mail will be stored. In this context, the data will not be passed on to third parties. The data is used exclusively for processing the conversation.

V. Rights of the person concerned

If your personal data is processed, you are affected within the meaning of the DSGVO and you have the following rights vis-à-vis the person responsible:

1. The right to information

You can ask the person in charge to confirm whether personal data concerning you will be processed by me. If such processing is available, you can request the following information from the person responsible:

- (1) the purposes for which the personal data are processed;
- (2) the categories of personal data processed;
- (3) the recipients or categories of recipients to whom the personal data concerning you have been or are still being disclosed;
- (4) the planned duration of the storage of the personal data concerning you or, if specific information on this is not possible, criteria for determining the storage period;
- (5) the existence of a right to rectification or deletion of personal data concerning you, a right to limitation of processing by the controller or a right to object to such processing;
- (6) the existence of a right of appeal to a supervisory authority;
- (7) any available information on the origin of the data if the personal data are not collected from the data subject;
- (8) the existence of automated decision-making including profiling in accordance with Art. 22 para. 1 and 4 DSGVO and – at least in these cases – meaningful information on the logic involved and the scope and intended effects of such processing for the data subject.

You have the right to request information as to whether the

personal data concerning you is transferred to a third country or to an international organisation. In this context, you may request to be informed of the appropriate guarantees pursuant to Art. 46 DSGVO in connection with the transmission. This right to information may be limited to the extent that it is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the realisation of research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of research or statistical purposes.

2. The right of correction

You have a right of rectification and/or completion vis-à-vis the data controller if the personal data processed concerning you are incorrect or incomplete. The person responsible shall make the correction without delay.

Your right to correction may be limited to the extent that it is likely to render impossible or seriously prejudicial the achievement of the research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of the research or statistical purposes.

3. Right to limitation of processing

Under the following conditions, you may request that the processing of personal data concerning you be restricted:

(1) if you dispute the accuracy of the personal data concerning you for a period that enables the data controller to verify the accuracy of the personal data;
 (2) the processing is unlawful and you refuse to delete the personal data and instead request the restriction of the use of the personal data;
 (3) the data controller no longer needs the personal data for the purposes of the processing, but you do need them to assert, exercise or defend legal claims, or (4) if you have filed an objection to the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 1 DSGVO and it has not yet been determined whether the legitimate reasons of the person responsible outweigh your reasons. If the processing of personal data concerning you has been restricted, such data may only be processed - apart from being stored - with your consent or for the purpose of asserting, exercising or defending rights or protecting the rights of another natural or legal person or on grounds of an important public interest of the Union or a Member State.

If the processing restriction has been limited according to the above conditions, you will be informed by the person responsible before the restriction is lifted.

Your right to limitation of processing may be limited to the extent that it is likely to render impossible or seriously prejudicial the achievement of research or statistical purposes and the restriction is necessary for the fulfilment of research or statistical purposes.

4. The right of deletion

a) Duty of deletion

You may request the data controller to delete the personal data relating to you immediately, and the data controller is obliged to delete this data immediately, if one of the following reasons applies:

- (1) The personal data concerning you are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were collected or otherwise processed.
- (2) You revoke your consent, on which the processing was based pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a or Art. 9 para. 2 lit. a DSGVO, and there is no other legal basis for the processing.
- (3) You file an objection against the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 1 DSGVO and there are no overriding legitimate reasons for the processing, or you file an objection against the processing pursuant to Art. 21 para. 2 DSGVO.
- (4) The personal data concerning you have been processed unlawfully.
- (5) The deletion of personal data relating to you is necessary to fulfil a legal obligation under Union law or the law of the Member States to which the data controller is subject.
- (6) The personal data concerning you were collected in relation to information society services offered pursuant to Art. 8 para. 1 DSGVO.

b) Information to third parties

If the data controller has made the personal data concerning you public and is obliged to delete it pursuant to Art. 17 para. 1 DSGVO, he shall take appropriate measures, including technical measures, taking into account the available technology and the implementation costs, to inform data processors who process the personal data that you as the data subject have requested the deletion of all links to this personal data or of copies or replications of this personal data.

c) Exceptions

The right to cancellation does not exist if the processing is necessary

- (1) to exercise freedom of expression and information;
- (2) to fulfil a legal obligation required for processing under the law of the Union or of the Member States to which the controller is subject, or to perform a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority conferred on the controller
- (3) for reasons of public interest in the field of public health pursuant to Art. 9 para. 2 lit. h and i and Art. 9 para. 3 DSGVO;
- (4) for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes pursuant to Art. 89 para. 1 DSGVO, insofar as the law referred to under a) is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the attainment of the objectives of such processing, or
- (5) to assert, exercise or defend legal claims.

5. Right to information

If you have exercised your right to have the data controller correct, delete or limit the processing, he/she is obliged to inform all recipients to whom the personal data concerning you have been disclosed of this correction or deletion of the data or restriction on processing, unless this proves impossible or involves a disproportionate effort. Recipients have the right vis-à-vis the person responsible to be informed about these recipients.

6. Right to data transferability

You have the right to receive the personal data concerning you that you have provided to the person responsible in a structured, common and machine-readable format. In addition, you have the right to transmit this data to another person in charge without obstruction by the person in charge to whom the personal data was provided, provided

- (1) processing is based on consent pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a DSGVO or Art. 9 para. 2 lit. a DSGVO or on a contract pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b DSGVO and

- (2) processing is carried out by means of automated methods

In exercising this right, you also have the right to request that the personal data concerning you be transferred directly from one data controller to another data controller, insofar as this is technically feasible. The freedoms and rights of other persons must not be affected by this.

The right to transferability shall not apply to the processing of personal data necessary for the performance of a task in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority conferred on the controller.

7. Right of objection

You have the right to object at any time, for reasons arising from your particular situation, to the processing of personal data concerning you under Article 6(1)(e) or (f) of the DSGVO; this also applies to profiling based on these provisions.

The data controller no longer processes the personal data concerning you, unless he can prove compelling reasons worthy of protection for the processing, which outweigh your interests, rights and freedoms, or the processing serves to assert, exercise or defend legal claims.

If the personal data concerning you are processed for direct marketing purposes, you have the right to object at any time to the processing of the personal data concerning you for the purpose of such advertising; this also applies to profiling, insofar as it is associated with such direct marketing.

If you object to the processing for direct marketing purposes, the personal data concerning you will no longer be processed for

these purposes.

You have the possibility to exercise your right of objection in connection with the use of Information Society services by means of automated procedures using technical specifications, notwithstanding Directive 2002/58/EC.

For data processing for scientific, historical or statistical research purposes:

You also have the right to object to the processing of personal data concerning you for scientific or historical research purposes or for statistical purposes pursuant to Art. 89 para. 1 DSGVO for reasons arising from your particular situation.

Your right of objection may be limited to the extent that it is likely to make it impossible or seriously impair the realisation of the research or statistical purposes and the limitation is necessary for the fulfilment of the research or statistical purposes.

8. Right to revoke the declaration of consent

You have the right to revoke your data protection declaration of consent at any time. The revocation of consent shall not affect the legality of the processing carried out on the basis of the consent until revocation.

9. Right of appeal to a supervisory authority

Without prejudice to any other administrative or judicial remedy, you have the right of appeal to a supervisory authority, in particular in the EU member state where you reside, work or suspect the infringement, if you believe that the processing of personal data concerning you is contrary to the DSGVO.

The supervisory authority to which the complaint has been submitted shall inform the complainant of the status and results of the complaint, including the possibility of a judicial remedy under Article 78 DSGVO.



**Please come forward with your articles,
research notes, queries, and images!
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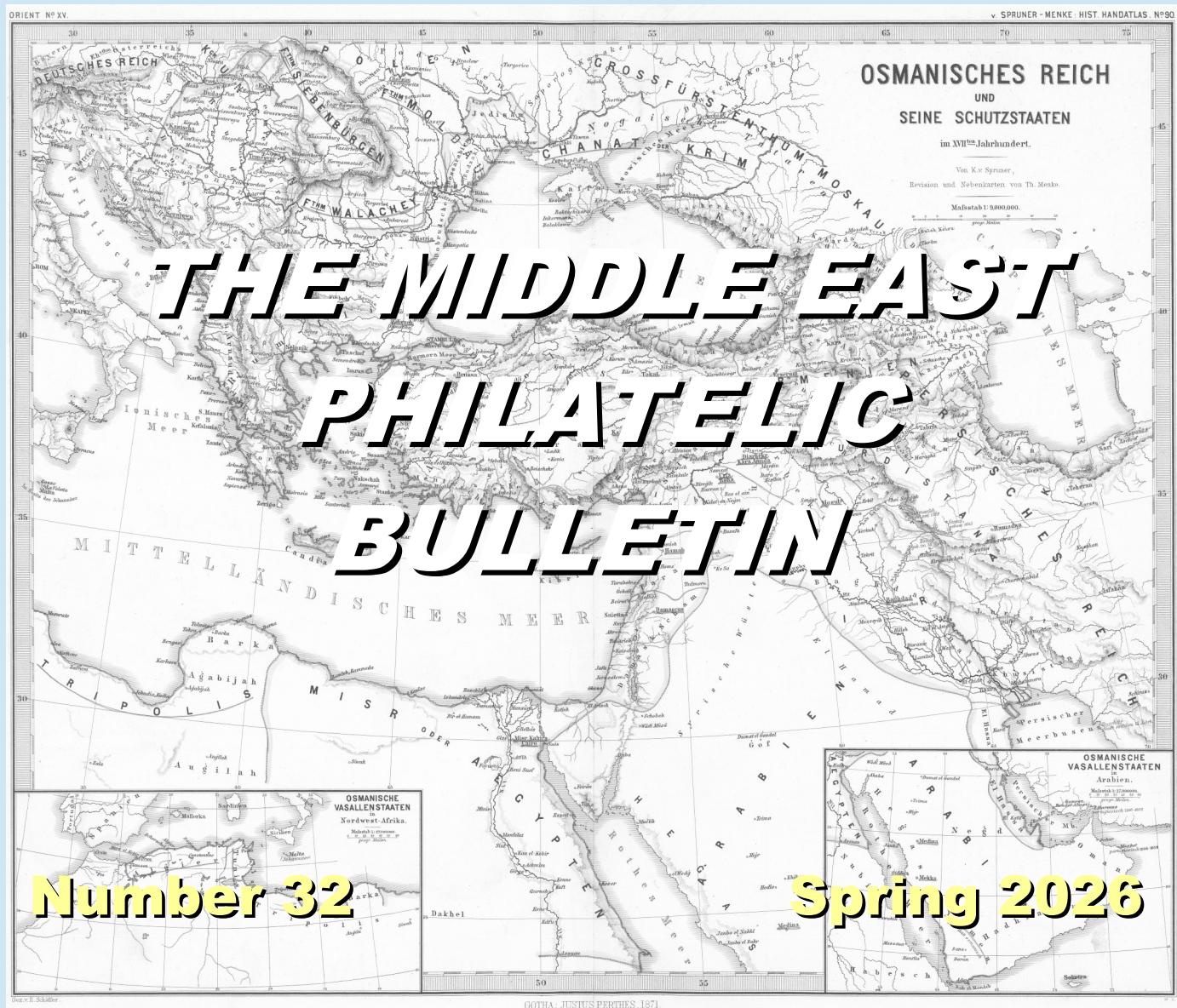
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