

## Postal Stationery of the Ottoman Empire

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The Ottoman Post Office issued its first postage stamps in 1863 followed by issuance of stamped envelopes in 1869, and postal cards in 1877. The Ottoman Empire was the last country in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to introduce postal cards. The Ottoman Post Office had been doubtful whether the public would permit such a lack of privacy in their correspondence. Postal cards were followed in 1895 by letter cards and, finally, in 1901 by wrappers for printed matter.

The development and issuance of postal stationery reflect half a century of the political and historical activity during the last half century of the Ottoman Empire. A degree of historical discussion is necessary to put the Ottoman postal stationery in perspective. The Ottoman postal stationery issues span across several historical periods from 1869 to November 16, 1922 when the last Sultan fled Istanbul aboard a British warship after the Nationalist victory under the leadership of Atatürk and the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist. Most issues bear either the tughra (tuğra as Turks write it), the symbol of the Sultan's authority, or the crescent with five-pointed star or both. The list of Sultans who reigned during the Ottoman postal stationery era includes:

- ❖ Abdül Aziz (1861-1876)
- ❖ Murat V (1876)
- ❖ Abdül Hamid II (1876-1909)
- ❖ Mehmet V [Reşat] (1909-1918)
- ❖ Mehmet VI [Vahdettin] (1918-1922)

In the second half of the nineteenth century the Ottoman Empire was large in area, but small in population, and its postal business was considerably less than that of the Western European countries. Since ninety percent of the population was illiterate and postal rates were high, the average citizen seldom used the postal system. For example, in the late 1800s the domestic letter rate was one kuruş (piastre) while a postal clerk earned less than 200 kuruş a month. In those days one kuruş was worth about 5 cents (U.S.). It should be noted that in the Ottoman currency 40 paras was equal to one kuruş (piastre in French). In general, merchants who were mostly Ottoman Greeks and Armenians, foreign businessmen and missionaries used postal stationery for their foreign correspondence. This explains the relative scarcity of internally used items written in the Arabic script used by the Turkish people.

The Ottoman postal stationery issues can be arranged according to stationery type, stamp design, and historical periods. In general, each issue stayed in use till the new postal stationery issues were released. Remainders were withdrawn from sale, demonetized, and stored in the Post Office vaults in Istanbul. We do not have any record of the number of copies printed of each postal stationery issue. However an article published in the 1930s in *Pul Meşheri*, a Turkish stamp magazine, can help us to make an educated guess. This article gives the number of demonetized copies offered for sale by the Ottoman Post Office in 1908 at an auction. However the auction was eventually canceled and demonetized issues were later used by the Post Office during the paper deficiency in World War I. This short

article in *Pul Meşheri* gives the number of 20-para postal cards of the 1892- and 1901-issue around 50,000 each and the 1905-issue around 200,000 each. The 1901 and 1905 issue one-piastre letter cards were around 40,000 each, while the 10-para local cards of the same issues numbered 23,067 and 45,134, and 20-para envelopes 88,226 and 71,453, respectively. One kuruş domestic and foreign use envelopes were 52,313 and 16,557, respectively, and the 1905-issue was 83,830. 1901 issue domestic and foreign use 5-para wrappers were 5,924 and 2,694, respectively and 10-para wrappers were 10,650 and 18,586, respectively.

Another source of information comes from the first statistical yearbook of the Ottoman Empire published in 1897. In Section 28 that outlines the postal communication data, we find tables listing the total number of postal and reply cards "*Adi ve cevaplı muhaberevarakası*" mailed annually in the Ottoman Empire from 1888 to 1896. Internally used postal cards varied from a low of 47,730 in 1892 to a high of 93,100 in 1894. Postal cards mailed to foreign destinations varied from a low of 24,813 in 1888 to a high of 64,512 in 1896. Compared to regular and registered mail (9.5 million regular and 12.8 million registered domestic mail, one million regular and 4.1 million registered foreign mail), the use of postal and reply cards was minuscule. The same reference provides the 1896 data in each of the Ottoman Esami-i Vilayet (provinces). The top five vilayets were Edirne [Adrianople] (16,278 to domestic and 13,583 to foreign destinations), Beirut (14,080 and 11,374), Aydın [which includes the major commercial city İzmir (Smyrna)] (8,731 and 3,707), Kosova (7,555 and 1,516), and Dersaadet (Istanbul) (5,089 and 28,266). From a total of 67,800 copies of the 1892-issue postal and reply cards mailed to domestic and 64,512 to foreign destinations Hicaz (today Hejaz in Saudi Arabia) was the last (29 and 14 respectively) among 22 vilayets. Hence, based on these annual numbers and the copies demonetized, we can estimate the total number of 1892-issue 20-para postal and reply cards printed as around a million. This number was obtained assuming approximately on the average 120,000 copies used each year for 8 years plus 50,000 unsold. This issue remained in circulation for eight years, had at least three printings, and was widely used throughout the Ottoman Empire.

Before starting to talk about the postal stationery issued by the Ottoman Post Office, we should note that the Pulhan catalog lists the envelopes with "P.P." seals (Port Payé in French i.e., postage paid) above a crescent at the upper right corner as forerunners of Ottoman postal stationery and the year of issue as 1862. Whatever the exact status of these envelopes was, no legitimately used copy has ever been reported. Copies are found usually on mint envelopes. Negative postal seals with a crescent at the bottom were introduced by the Ottoman Post in 1862 for various towns. Passer describes the "P.P." cancels as a franking postmark for printed matter forwarded by the Government City Post in Istanbul in 1872. In his book "*Stamps of the Steamship Companies*", Melville lists it as a hand stamp of the Turkish Admiralty Steamship Company and illustrates a copy with an address on it with no other postmark. It is not clear whether the illustrated item is an envelope or a folded letter. Based on material surfaced since then, today philatelists believe that "P.P." seals were applied at the ports mostly in Istanbul (Constantinople) on arriving mail carried by government ships [see the postal card in Figure 15 as an example]. The Ottomans



used government ships in their postal operations within the country. Generally "P.P." seals were reported on a small number of covers applied on arrival in Istanbul. The "P.P." seals on these covers were mostly applied anywhere on the cover rather than the upper right corner. These envelopes are not postal stationery but private envelopes cancelled at a port in the mail stream. The mint envelopes with a "P.P." seal at the upper right corner on the front are possibly fabrications of an enterprising philatelist of the period.

# **1- 1869- and 1870-issue stamped envelopes (also known as Düloz envelopes) during the reign of Abdül Aziz.**

Düloz envelopes printed by Mehendizian Efendi in Istanbul were issued before the Ottoman Post Office joined the UPU in 1875. These envelopes, printed on low grade paper, were used very little and used copies that survived are scarce, especially the 6-piastre envelope of the 1870 issue. The Turks had little use for these stamped envelopes because not only they were so accustomed to fold their letters and write the address on the outside, on which the adhesive stamps were affixed, but envelopes also cost a premium above postage printed on them.



Figure 1. Essay design with 1869 issue 2-piastre Düloz adhesive stamps prepared by Düloz in Paris, with printing instructions in French "The background will be orange as above".

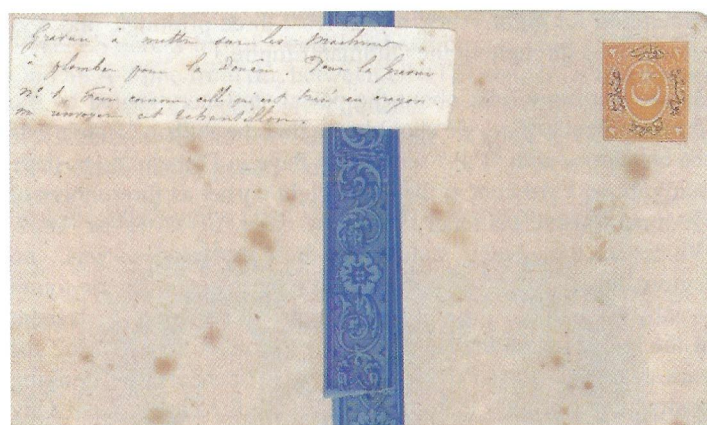


Figure 2. Essay with printers' banderole prepared by Düloz in Paris, with 2-piastre imprint with overprint of 1869 Düloz issues. It has instructions to printer in French "Engraving to be struck for the Customs. For engraving No. 1, do it the same as the pencil tracing. Return this sample to me."

The Düloz envelopes were originally planned to be printed in Paris along with the Düloz stamps. Düloz of Paris, commissioned by the Ottoman Post Office, prepared the plate

blocks of the postage stamps issued in 1865. At that time, envelope essays were prepared using the 1869-issue Düloz adhesive stamps printed in Paris imprinted at the upper right corner of envelopes made from good quality paper. Two unique preliminary envelope designs prepared with one- and two-piastre Düloz stamps exist with the printer's hand written printing instructions in French with print numbers (Figure 1). According to these numbers, Düloz planned to print 600,000 and 300,000 copies of the one- and two-piastre envelopes respectively.

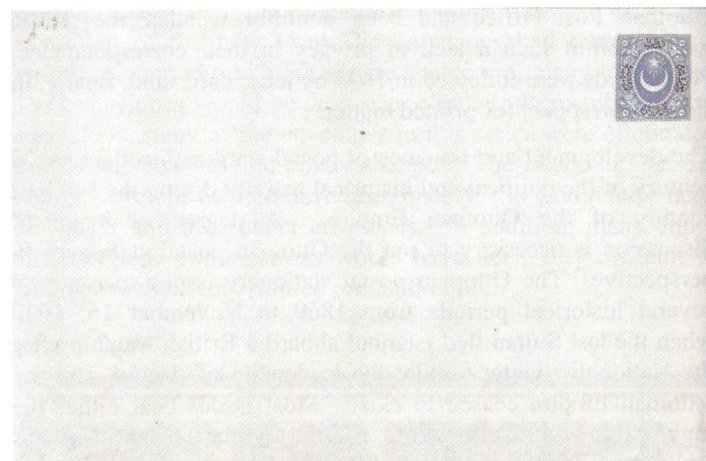


Figure 3. Essay with the 5-piastre stamp imprint with the overprint of the 1867 issue Düloz adhesive stamps prepared by Düloz in Paris. This is the rarest essay of the Düloz envelopes with only one copy reported.

However most denominations (e.g., two- and five-piastre) of the stamp imprints on the essays (Figures 2 and 3) do not correspond to the postal rates of the period and the denominations issued later (1-, 3-, 6-piastre and 60-para). Nicolaides notes in his 1912 catalog of Turkish stamps that the designs of Düloz stamps were prepared by the Ottoman Ministry of Finance. In his article, Ertem writes that Sultan Abdül Aziz sketched the designs of the Düloz stamps himself personally and sent them to the calligrapher Vahdeti Şevket Bey who was in Paris in 1864 to make "the molds for the stamps". Vahdeti Şevket Bey was also in charge of printing of the first Ottoman banknotes in Paris at that time. To support his findings, Ertem cites an article by Ebuziyya Tefvik who wrote in his own journal "Mecmua-i Ebuziyya" in 1913 about the Ottoman stamps.



Figure 4. Unique 3-piastre envelope essay prepared by Mehendizian in Istanbul. The indicium does not have the normal white ornamentation in the frames between the four stars (see enlarged inset at left) and there is no uncolored embossed control stamp of the Ministry of Finance on the envelope.



In 1869, Mehendizian Efendi of Istanbul proposed to the Ministry of Finance to have the same stamps printed in Turkey at half the price they cost in Paris. The Ministry of Finance agreed to the proposal and Dülöz envelopes were printed by Mehendizian Efendi along with the postage stamps. As a historical note, the printing house of Mehendizian Efendi later became Servichen Matbaası. Another explanation given by some students of the Turkish philately for the cancellation of the contract with Dülöz is the theft of a package of 1867-issue stamps at the Bank of Seine River (personal communication with Pınar Özand). Despite the cancellation, printers sent by Dülöz to Istanbul prepared the plates for the stamped envelopes. Die proofs, either of essays or of the issued ones, prepared in Istanbul are quite different than the ones prepared in Paris by Dülöz himself (Figure 4).

At this point it is appropriate to note that the Frenchman's name was Pierre Edelestand Stanislas Dulos not Dülöz which was a corrupted version as commonly referenced in Turkish philately. In this article we will follow the latter. Farley P. Katz notes that Dülöz was the engraver of the stamps issued by the Poitevin firm in Paris beginning in 1865. As Katz wrote in his article that Dülöz "had invented a process by which he could convert a recess-engraved die into a cliché for typographic printing, which he presumably used in preparing the plates for the "Dülöz" stamps and postal stationery essays he prepared.

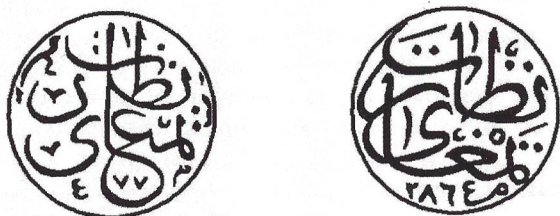


Figure 5. Embossed control stamps on the 1869 and 1870 issue envelopes with date numerals "۷۷" and "۷۸۶", respectively.

Passer notes in his book that the firm of Fratelli Chaim of Istanbul supplied the paper to the Ministry of Finance for a very long time but could not always provide paper with consistent quality. The paper was ordered in the exact amount needed, not allowing a uniform quality of stock for future reissues. This may explain the low quality paper used to print the Dülöz envelopes. The embossed seal of the Ministry of Finance "Damga-yı Nezaret" (Figure 5) was stamped directly onto the front of the folded envelopes of thin buff paper before they were shipped to the printer. The colored stamp impression was then added on the back over the flap and finally the black overprint "Posta-yı Devleti Osmaniye" (Ottoman Post Office) and denomination added. The embossed seals can be found on the right if the envelopes were incorrectly fed into the embosser. The stamp was deliberately printed on the flap which resulted in the stamp being torn if envelope was opened at the flap thus preventing their postal use again. Due to relatively primitive printing techniques available in Istanbul at that time, printing error varieties for the 1870 issue exist as some are listed by Birken in his catalog. Among recorded errors are inverted overprints, shifted overprints, extra or albino stamp imprints, missing overprints, and pre-printing fold of the flap.

The 1869 issue three-value (1-kuruş, 3-kuruş and 60-para) set has an uncolored embossed circular control stamp "Damga-yı

Nezaret" (Seal of the Ministry) with date numerals "۷۷" (77) abbreviated from 1277 equivalent to 1861, the year the embossed seal of the Ministry of Finance was made (Figure 5). A set of three stamped envelopes of 1869 is the first postal stationery issued by the Ottoman Post. Passer somehow erroneously claims that the number "77" is an error for "87" which corresponds to 1871. A copy mailed from Bahçekapısı, Istanbul to Turnu Magurele, Romania on August 12, 1870 clearly rebukes his claim (Figure 6). Used copies of 1869-issue envelopes are quite rare since they were replaced by the 1870-issue in less than a year.



Figure 6. Foreign use of the 1869 issue 1-piastre Dülöz envelope from Bahçekapısı, Istanbul, August 12, 1870 to Turnu Magurele via Varna Kustendje Black Sea Line. Transferred to Austrian Lloyd in Istanbul.

The 1870-issue four-value (one-, 3-, 6-kuruş and 60-para) set has an uncolored embossed control stamp with the date numerals "۷۸۶" (286) abbreviated from 1286 corresponding to 1870 (Figure 5). The Passer's book and 1885 Scott catalog list this set of envelopes as the first issue erroneously. Passer, referring to Belgian stamp dealer Moens, gives the date of issue as 1/13 January 1870. However others, including Higgins & Gage, Pulhan, and Michel, give the year of issue as 1871. A copy of a 3-piastre envelope recorded with a İzmir (Smyrna) postmark dated October 17, 1870 clearly proves that they had been issued in 1870.

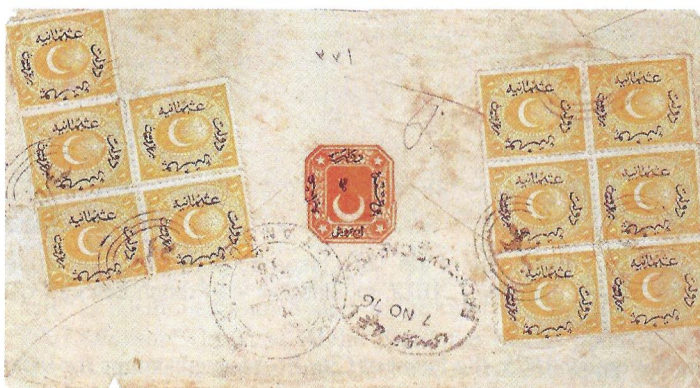


Figure 7. The 1870 issue 3-piastre Dülöz envelope mailed from Banja Luka, Bosnia to Istanbul November 18, 1876, transferred to the City Post with oval Bahçekapısı. Stamps added to cover the extra distance and weight.

Rates on the Dülöz envelopes were determined based on route hours, e.g., 1 piastre (kuruş) for local use for up to 50 route hours, 60 paras for 50-100 route hours, 3 kuruş for 100-200 route hours, and 6 kuruş for over 200 route hours for 3 dirhems



(one dirhem = 3.31 grams) weight. As noted earlier there were 40 paras in one kuruş which is 1-piastre in French. The distance unit "route hour" was the estimated distance a postal messenger could travel on foot in one hour which was about 3 - 5 miles depending on the terrain. To give an idea in terms of actual distances, Istanbul- Ankara was 87 route hours (today 454 kilometers), Istanbul-İzmir (Smyrna) 93 route hours (565 km), and Istanbul- Adana 202 route hours (939 km). One kilometer is 0.62 miles.

Düloz envelopes are generally found canceled by rectangular or round undated postmarks with town name in Turkish only. Turkish/French bilingual date marks which were first used in 1869 appear much less frequently on these envelopes (Figure 7). Düloz envelopes do not usually carry an arrival postmark since arrival postmarks were not applied in towns other than Istanbul before the Ottoman Post Office joined the UPU in 1875 and only rarely applied for some time after that.

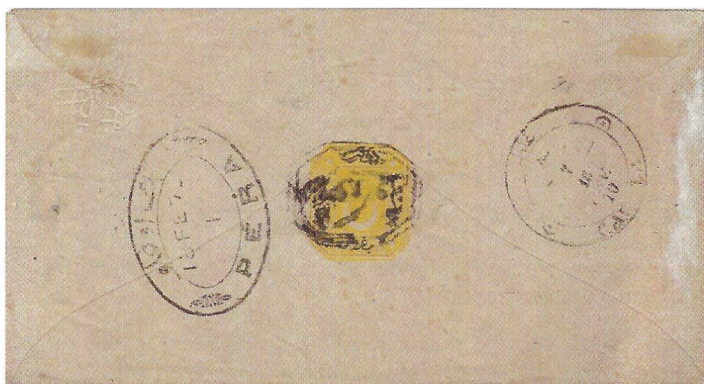


Figure 8. Local use of the 1869 issue 1-piastre envelope in Istanbul February 18, 1870 from Arnavutköy to Pera oval City Post cancel. The earliest cover recorded through the Ottoman City Post.



Figure 9. Foreign use of the 1870 issue 60-para Düloz envelope from Tarsus, January 7, 1872, to Glasgow via French Levant Post Office in Mersin.

In November 1875, the Istanbul City Post issued stamps for local mail service with "Şehir" (City) overprint in a circle of dots. These stamps were also used on the formula cards issued in 1875 for the City Post. Although "Şehir" overprints are seen used on stamps and later on the 1881 issue postal cards, Passer believes that overprints on 1-piastre envelopes are products of Corpi and Glavany, stamp dealers in Istanbul at that time. Since Corpi and Glavany were the local contacts of the Belgian stamp dealer Moens, these "Şehir" overprinted envelopes were given recognition later in some catalogs such as Ascher, Michel and

Birken. These envelopes with "Şehir" overprints are always found on mint copies in different colors (blue, black, violet, and red). However a unique copy of the 1870-issue 1-piastre envelope with a faint red "Şehir" overprint used properly in Istanbul within its period exists. However we should note that proper use of one-piastre local rate envelopes, even without a "Şehir" overprint in the City is rare (Figure 8).



Figure 10. Foreign use of the 1870 issue 6-piastre Düloz envelope from Yenisehir(now Larissa in Greece) via Istanbul May 16, 1872 to Braila (Romania). Yenisehir to Braila 310 route hours.

Düloz envelopes mailed to foreign destinations are very rare. Since Turkey joined the UPU in 1875 and the Second UPU Congress required the name of the country in French and the value of stamp in western style numbers be printed in an upper corner, an imprinted stamp printed on the flap entirely in Turkish generally was not accepted by the post offices of the UPU countries. Copies of one-piastre envelopes mailed to Turnu Magurele, Romania and to London, a 60-para envelope to Glasgow, and a 6-piastre envelope to Braila, Romania are the only copies of Düloz envelopes recorded so far mailed to foreign destinations (Figures 6, 9, and 10).

## 2- Postal and reply cards of 1877-1891 also known as Ampir issues of Abdül Hamid II.

The word "ampir" is an adaptation of the French word "Emp[ire]" which appears on the stamp design as "EMP: OTTOMAN". Following the trial use of 1875 and 1876 issue formula cards, 20-para postal and reply cards were issued in 1877 with a stamp design illustrating a crescent.

The design and printing plate of the first card were prepared in the Constantinople Mint which also produced the 1876 issue adhesive stamps with the same design. Card design is similar to the 1875-issue formula card. The Turkish inscription at the top reads "Postaneyi Amirenin açık muhabere varakası" (Open correspondence card of the General Post Office). The first issue was printed by the printing department of the Dette Publique Ottomane (Duyunu Umumiye) i.e., the international administration for liquidation of the Ottoman public debt, from a single typographic plate on 142 x 106 mm (approximately) sheets. As the author's personal research documented, all cards including regular issues, trial proofs, and trial color card proofs printed by the same printing base have identical basic plate-flaws such as a broken letter in the stamp imprint, a dot to the left of "20", broken lines in frame lines, etc. Progressive plate-



flaws such as the "R" of PARAS broken and a dot to left of the right numeral "۲" (2) occurred during the printing. After printing, excess paper around the design was trimmed away manually, thus minor variations in size and centering occurred.

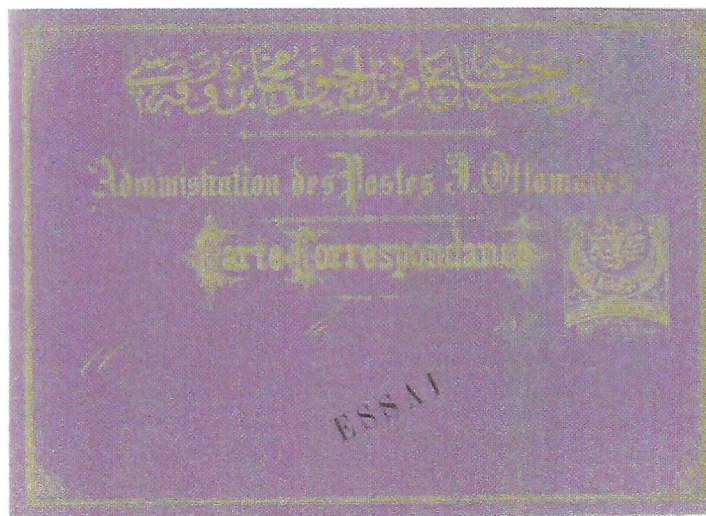


Figure 11. The violet essay of the January 1877 issue first postal card has gilded printing.

The stamp imprint, frame and inscriptions were all printed in lilac. Due to lack of quality control at the Duyunu Umumiye printing department, many shades of lilac, which varied from grey-lilac to violet and card stock of various texture varieties of buff and white paper resulted. The cards were printed on thick hand-made wove paper with the exception of trial proofs which were printed on thinner paper with a very light shade of ink. Under light, the paper shows a cloudy appearance of small irregular blocks and tiny thinned spots. Duyunu Umumiye, which started its printing operation in 1875, also printed the 1876-issue Düloz stamps. A rare set of essays of the 1877-issue postal card printed on six different color card stocks (violet, yellow, green, pink, gray, and purple with gold imprint) (Figure 11), a trial print, and proofs of the first postal card are known to exist.

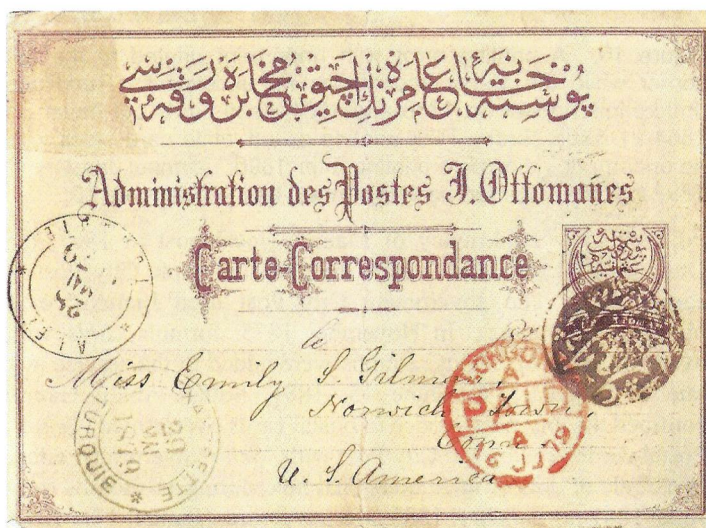


Figure 12. The 1877 issue first postal card mailed from Maraş with undated negative seal, message dated May 20, 1879, via Alep May 28, Alexandretta May 29, London June 16, and New York June 29 to Norwich, Connecticut.

The first postal card of 1877 was sold in Istanbul only, the capital of the Empire. Copies used from other cities are very rare. The only other place these cards were sold is Beşik Bay where the Ottoman Postal Administration opened a temporary post office to service the British fleet from July to September 1877 during the Russian-Ottoman War of 1877. The copies mailed from other cities were carried by their senders, who were generally Christian missionaries, from Istanbul to other places for personal use (Figure 12). The writing paper in small towns, where residents were mostly illiterate, was expensive and not readily available. These postal cards provided missionaries with a cheap alternative.

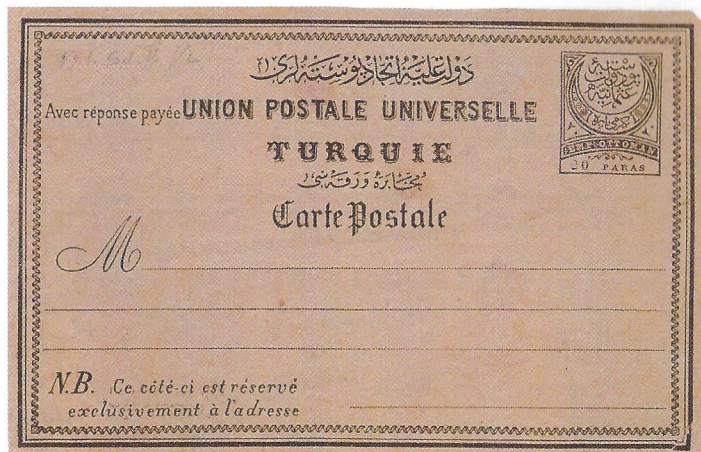


Figure 13. Unique violet essay of the May 1880 issue postal card on thin paper stock with no underprint.

Ampir design was used in four different issues (1877, 1880, 1881 and 1884), each with a different card stock, and the last issue was reprinted a number of times from 1884 to 1891. The second issue of May 1880 has an inscription at the top "*Devlet-i Aliye - İttihad Postaları*" (Sublime Empire - Postal Union) which is different than that of the first issue. The fourth line in Turkish reads "*Muhabere varakası*" (Correspondence card). The 1880-issue also has a unique set of essays printed on very thin paper stock in three different colors (lilac, yellow, and cream) which were originally in the Passer collection (Figure 13). The printing of the 1884-issue has an altered inscription at the top "*Devleti Aliye-i Osmaniye Postaları - İttihad Postaları*" (The Post of the Sublime Ottoman Empire - Postal Union) and a Turkish script was added under the lower address line "This side for address only." The color tone of the stamp imprint and paper texture of the 1884-issue varied significantly from one printing to another over a period of 7 years. All printings of the 1884-issue show two types of settings with different positions of the 4th line in Turkish. In Type I, the first letter in Turkish script from the right "açık" is positioned immediately to the right and top of the letter "l" of "Postale". In Type II, the first letter begins about 1 mm more to the right, so the three dots under the 2nd letter "ç" are directly on top of the letter "l" of "Postale".

During printings of the Ampir issues, individual printing dies were taken apart and rearranged from time to time before new printings were made; plates were kept together by corner clamps. Although the reply cards of the Ampir issues printed in tête-bêche pairs, the postal cards were printed in regular pattern as evidenced by a unique surviving pair of the 1881 issue postal card (Figure 14). Since this is the only known multiple of these



postal cards, we do not have any information regarding how many clichés the printing plate held.



Figure 14. The only reported surviving pair of 1881 issue Ampir postal cards showing regular printing pattern.

Early printings of the 1884-issue have a carmine stamp imprint with a yellowish underprint. Issues printed after 1890 have a pink stamp imprint with no underprint. The underground print, like the design, was printed from typographic plates, and consists of words "Posta-yı Devleti Osmaniye" (Ottoman Post Office) in five lines, above a curved band, below which is the Turkish year "Sene-i 1291" (1875). Words and numerals are written in the normal way in the right half of the design; but in the left half are reversed as in a mirror image. Two halves intertwined in the center give an appearance of a design.

It should be noted that although the stamp imprints of all Ampir issues look identical, there are very significant variations between the first issue of 1877 and others in inscriptions and card designs including frame lines and dotted lines for the address and card stock used. Although the 1880-issue was printed on white card stock, the 1881-issue was on cream or buff card stocks. Both 1880 and 1881 issues had black stamp imprints, frame and inscriptions while the 1884-issue was printed with different tones of red ink over a period of 7 years (Figures 15 and 16). Furthermore, the constant plate flaws found in the first issue of 1877 are not seen in later issues. It is apparent that new printing plates were made for the 1880 and later issues. Although the first issue did not have a reply card, 1880 and later issues had 20+20 para reply cards. It had been noted in the George H. Watson's Post Card and Letter Card

catalogue that reply cards were separated and sold individually by the Post Office as single cards. The use of the response half of the reply cards to foreign countries certainly confirms this practice.



Figure 15. The 1884 issue postal card mailed in Samsun January 30, 1891 by ship mail with no cancellation, negative cancel "P.P." applied at the port in Istanbul in transit, Berlin February 3. Only recorded use of a P.P. cancel on a postal stationery item.

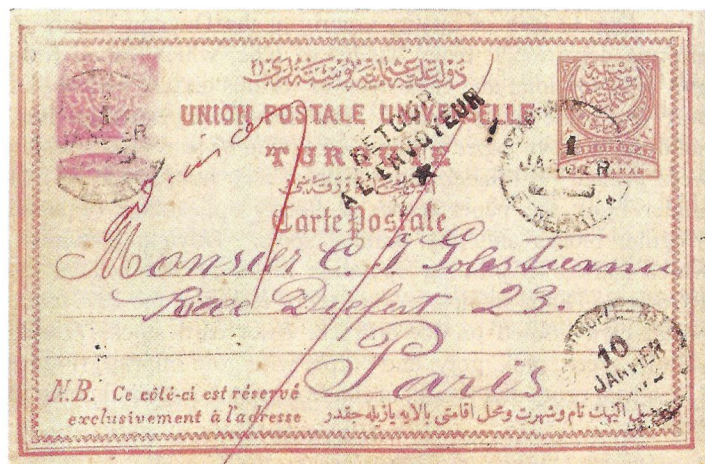


Figure 16. A printing error with underprint printed at the left corner while the stamp imprint has no underprint. Red/Rose underprints appear on 1880 and 1881 issue cards but never on 1884-91 issue cards. Pink printing on off white card stock with no underprint indicates a printing after 1890. Istanbul January 1, 1892 to Paris, returned back to sender, Istanbul January 10.

Following the bankruptcy of Liannos' local post in 1867, the Ottoman Post Office took over the Constantinople City Post in early 1870. The government City Post used Liannos' oval bilingual postmarks. In November 1875, formula cards with overprinted "Şehir" (City) stamps were added to the service at a rate of 20-para. On June 15, 1881, Sultan Abdül Hamid confined the city post service to postal cards overprinted "Şehir". Postal cards used by the City Post with "Şehir" overprints, either in a circle of dots or in an octagonal box, during 18 months from June 1881 to January 1883 are very rare (Figure 17). After January 13, 1883, the City Post used regular postal cards without the "Şehir" overprints. Ampir issues used by the Constantinople (Istanbul) City Post are rare examples of a challenging and popular part of Ottoman philately. Furthermore, many rare



postmarks and negative seals from obscure places of the Ottoman Empire are found on the 1881 and 1884 issues that were widely distributed in the Ottoman post offices.



Figure 17. The 1881 issue postal card used by the Istanbul City Post with circular "Şehir" overprint. Mailed with an undated octagonal Beykoz postmark to Galata, arrival April 16, 1882 on reverse.

### 3- Postal, reply and letter cards of 1892-1897 with coat of arms and Tughra of Abdül Hamid II also known as Armalı Ampir (ampir with arms) issues

These issues were widely distributed in the post offices throughout the Empire. They were printed by the printing department of the Dette Publique Ottomane. This issue had a new stamp design with a Turkish coat of arms with the tughra of Sultan Abdül Hamid placed at the center (Figure 18). 20-para postal and reply cards were printed in various shades of rose which varied from pale to dark. Initially, they were printed on off-white card stock. Due to lack of quality control, various shades of rose and various texture varieties of paper resulted. In 1893, they were reprinted on buff or yellowish card stock and reprinted again in 1898 on greenish-gray card stock. Most catalogs including Michel, Pulhan and Birken give the year of the buff printing as 1896. However, there are quite a few buff copies used as early as 1893.



Figure 18. The 1892 issue postal card with the negative seal of Pirepol (now in Kosova), message dated September 29, 1898 to Dresden October 9. Second printing in 1893, rose on rough cream card stock Type II setting.

Since the same printing plates of the 1884-91 issue cards were used to print the frame and inscriptions of this issue too, all three printings show the same two types of settings with different positions of the 4th line in Turkish as of the 1884-91 issues.



Figure 19. The 1895 issue letter card from Ereğli, Konya message dated May 29, 1899 via Galata, Istanbul June 10 to Weimar, Germany June 13 arrival.

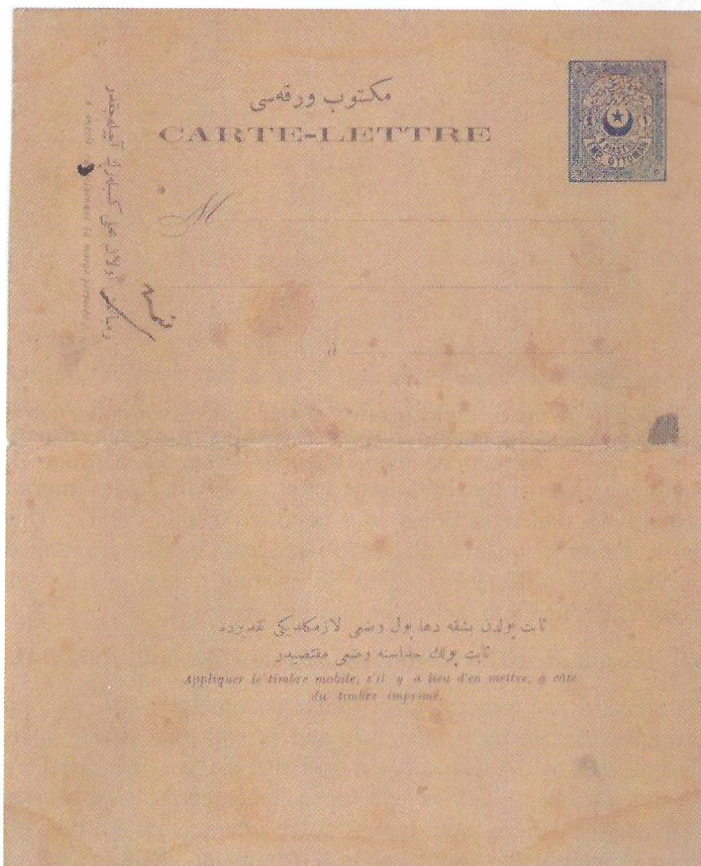


Figure 20. Essay of the 1895 issue letter card. Only recorded copy.

The Ottoman Post issued the first letter card in 1895 with an identical stamp imprint and a single line perforation (136 x 84 mm). The letter cards had the one-kuruş current single letter rate denomination (Figure 19). This letter card has an error in some copies in the side notation "ouvrir" misspelled "ouvri". A unique essay of the first letter card exists with a stamp design quite different than the one issued (Figure 20). Two years later, another letter card with the same stamp imprint was issued with



a larger setting of type and in slightly larger format (140 x 88 mm) on buff card with a different single line perforation. Some copies of the 1897-issue letter cards had a printing error, the first French word on the back misspelled “*Appliqner*” instead of correct word “*Appliquer*”.

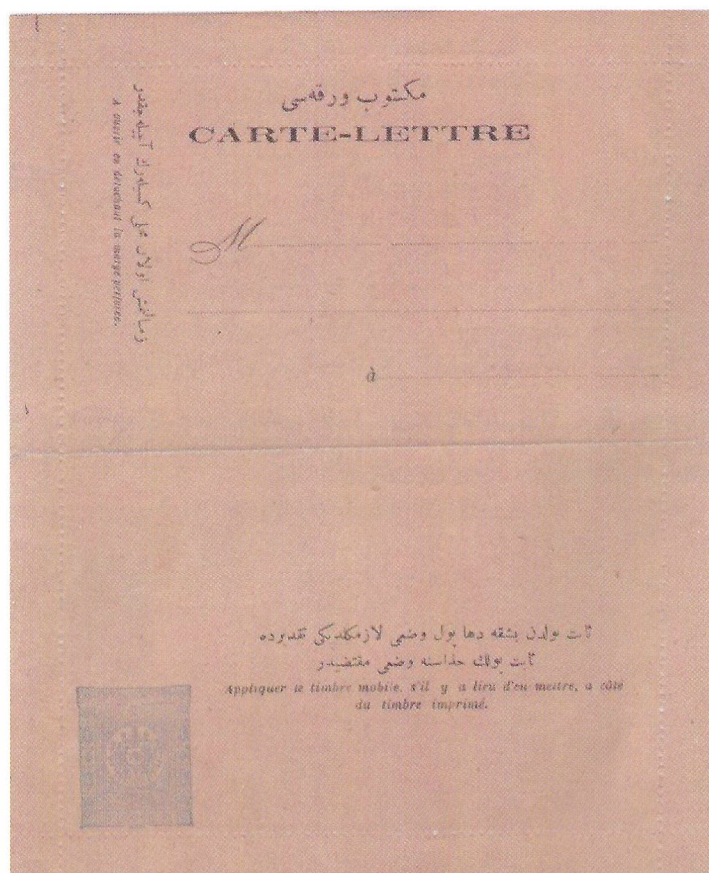


Figure 21. A major printing error of the 1895 issue letter card. Stamp imprinted on the back panel. Only recorded copy.

A unique error of the 1895-issue letter card with stamp imprint printed on the back panel was reported (Figure 21). This particular error confirms that 1895 issue letter cards were printed by using two different typographic printing plates, one for the stamp imprint and the other for inscriptions.

#### 4- Issues of 1901-1907 during the reign of Abdül Hamid II.

Postal cards of this era have richly decorated fronts. Stamp designs differ in local, domestic and foreign rate issues. The design was by M. Demirciyan and the die was engraved by Nazmi Efendi. Stamped envelopes, letter cards, wrappers as well as postal cards were issued. Like previous issues, they all were printed at the Dette Publique Ottomane. Due to lack of quality control at the printing department the Dette Publique Ottomane, various shades of ink and various varieties of paper resulted. This issue included the first local rate 10-para postal card. These local rate postal cards, that were also included in future issues, were almost exclusively used by the Istanbul City Post. Very few copies are known used in cities other than Istanbul such as Medschel, Salonique, and Niğde (Figure 22). The postal stationery set issued on March 14, 1901 included the first wrappers of by the Ottoman Post Office and also the stamped envelopes issued 31 years after the Düloz envelopes. Each stationery type was issued with different stamp designs for

domestic and foreign use. The ones designated for foreign use were printed with stamp designs in French and Turkish while domestic ones were in Turkish only (Figures 23 and 24). However both sets were used indiscriminately for both purposes.

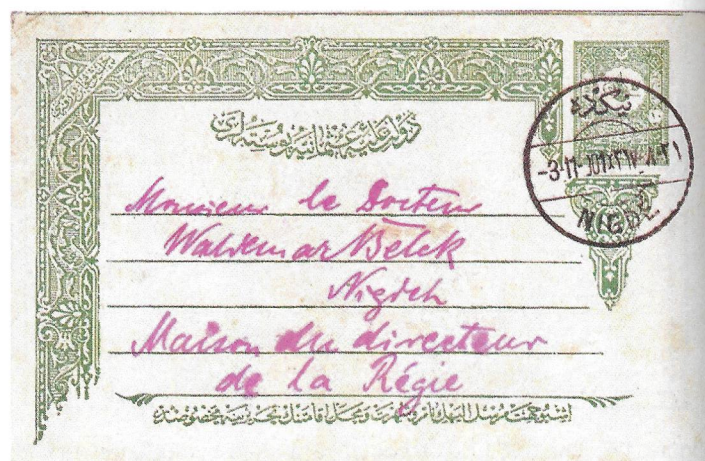


Figure 22. The 1901 issue local rate 10 para postal card used in Niğde, November 3, 1901.

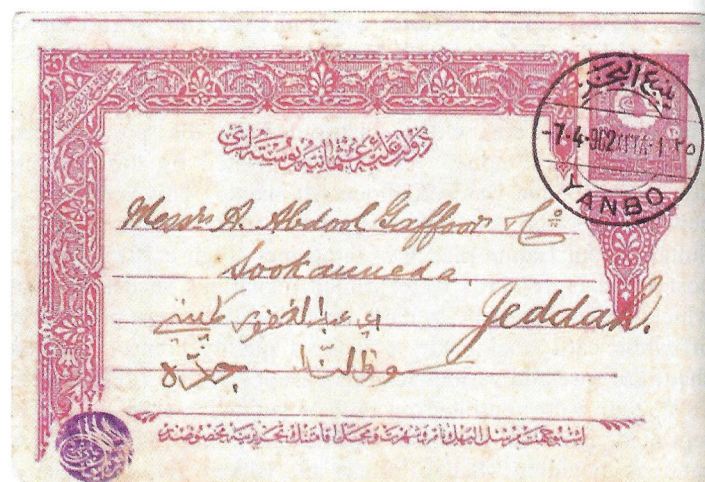


Figure 23. The 1901 issue 20-para domestic mail postal card mailed from Yanbo (now in Saudi Arabia) April 7, 1902 to Jeddah.



Figure 24. The 1901 issue 20-para foreign mail postal card mailed from Kale. iSultaniye (Dardanelles) September 17, 1902 to Basel, arrival September 22.



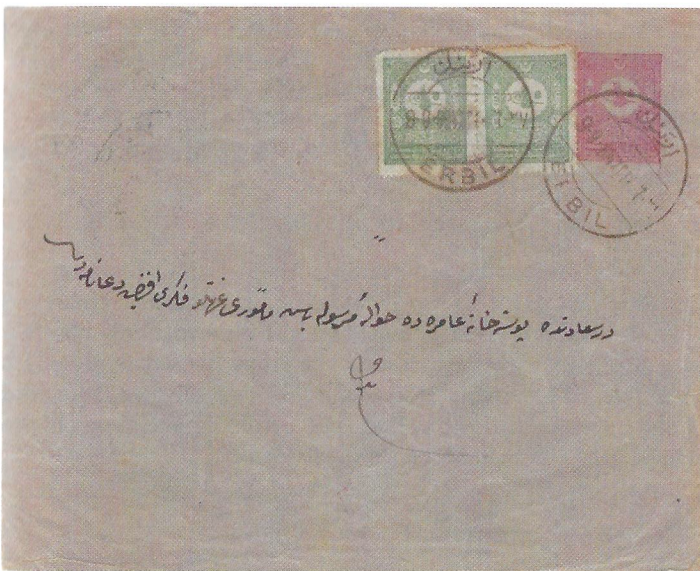


Figure 25. The 1901 issue 20-para envelope for domestic littoral delivery, mailed in Erbil (now in Iraq) September 9, 1904 to Istanbul, arrival September 25. Up rated to one piastre for inland letter rate.



Figure 26. The 1902 issue 1-piastre envelope for foreign mail. Thin pinkish yellow granite paper. Pointed tip on flap. Pera, Istanbul July 27, 1905 to Karlsbad, Germany July 30, arrival on reverse. Used copies are very rare.

1901-issue envelopes have two types of cuts. In knife 1, the side flaps' cutting is 35-38 mm, having their top edges curved. In knife 2, the side flaps' cutting is 45-48 mm, with the top edges wavy. The 1901-issue had not only one-piastre single letter rate envelopes but also envelopes for the 20-para domestic littoral mail (Figure 25) and 20-para foreign printed mail. The envelopes of the 1901-issue were reissued in 1902 in a smaller size with different flap cuts. One-piastre 1902-issue envelopes were printed on pinkish yellow granite paper with pointed flap and on salmon wove paper with a rounded tip on the flap (Figure 26).

As noted earlier the 1901-issue included the 5- and 10-para wrappers for both domestic and foreign mailing with proper stamp imprints (Figure 27). In 1902, the Ottoman Post Office issued a two-value set of wrappers with the stamp imprints as

those of the envelopes issued the same year. The denominations of 20-para and one-piastre were much higher than those of wrappers issued previously. The reason for issuing these high value wrappers remains unknown. Although Passer notes "increased rates of postage", there are none in the postal records. If the rates of 1901 were still in effect, then these higher denominations would correspond to newspaper/printed matter rates for 50-100 and 150-200 grams weight respectively. It is highly possible that these wrappers were printed and released accidentally by using the same dies used to print the 1902-envelopes.



Figure 27. The 1901 issue 5 para newspaper/printed matter rate up to 30 grams for foreign mail. Registered use with a one-piastre stamp from Baalbek (now in Lebanon) July 27, 1902 to Grunewald, Germany August 8 arrival on reverse.



Figure 28. The 1902 issue 20-para wrapper mailed at Galata, Istanbul with an undated postmark to Bern, arrival October 1 on reverse.



An article published in Pul Meşheri in the 1930s gives the number of copies demonetized of 20-para and 1-kuruş wrappers offered for sale by the Ottoman Post Office at an auction in 1908 as 17,173 and 18,331 respectively. Although a relatively large number of copies were printed, very few used copies are known to exist due to a lack of any need, especially with the availability of 1901-issue wrappers in the post offices for commonly used printed matter rates. Postally used copies of these mystery wrappers especially with an arrival postmark confirming genuine postal use rather than a favor cancel are very scarce (Figure 28).



Figure 29. The 1905 issue local rate 10 para postal card from Samatya January 8, 1906 to Pera, local use in Istanbul. The shift in cutting shows the tête-bêche printing pattern of 1901. issue postal cards. Green on dark buff card stock.

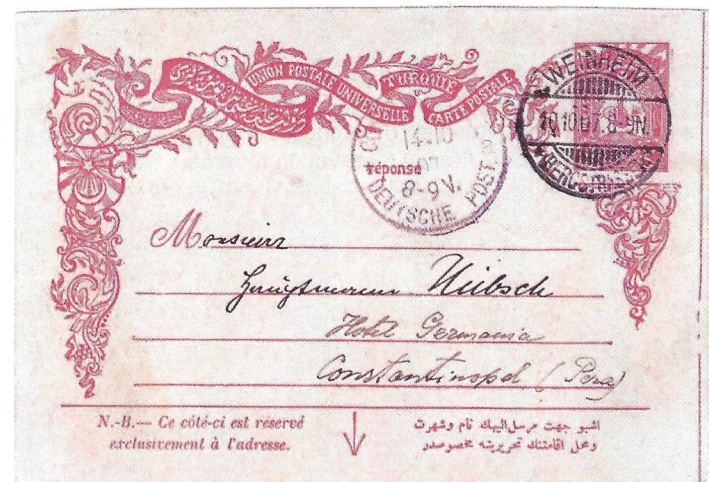


Figure 30. Reply half of the 1905 issue 20-para reply card returned from Weinheim, Germany October 10, 1907 to Pera, Istanbul, German Post Office in Istanbul arrival October 14. Red on pink card stock.

A new set of postage stamps, postal and reply cards, envelopes, and letter cards were issued on September 1, 1905 with a new stamp design which is known as "Şuali" (with rays). The stamp design on the postage stamps, in addition to the Abdül Hamid's tughra, includes a small star and crescent from which rays radiate. However the stamp imprints on the postal stationery issues do not show rays radiating from the tughra. A miscut copy of the 10-para postal card shows that this issue was printed by tête-bêche printing pattern (Figure 29). It should be noted that

copies of the reply halves of the 1905 issue 20-para reply cards returned from a foreign country are very scarce (Figure 30). The envelopes of the 1905 issue that were issued on low quality paper were reissued in 1906/1907 on better quality white paper in much smaller quantities. Used copies of these envelope reissues are rare.

### 3- Star and Crescent issues of 1908 -1910.

The 1908-issue is the last issue of Abdül Hamid II's reign. It includes postal cards, reply cards, letter cards and envelopes (Figure 31). This issue remained on sale for a year only before it was replaced by the Reşat issue. The properly used copies of the local rate 10-para reply card (Figure 32) and 20-para letter card (Figure 33) are difficult to find, and are among the most elusive items of the Ottoman postal stationery issues.



Figure 31. The 1908 issue 1-piastre stamped envelope mailed at Janina (now in Albania) May 16, 1908 to Wurzburg May 26. Corners cut off as it contained printed matter paid by the 10-para stamp, while the 1-piastre stamp imprint paid the registration fee.

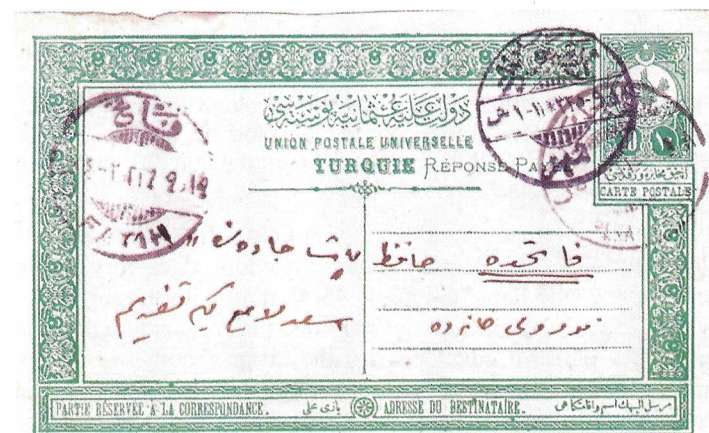


Figure 32. Message half of the 1908 issue 10+10 para reply card. Local use in Istanbul, November 18, 1909 from Pera Cadde Kebir to Fatih November 19 arrival via Dersaadet Şehir. Proper use of 10 para reply cards is rare due to its short life in circulation. Salmon card stock.

The Ottoman Army forced Sultan Abdül Hamid to abdicate in favor of Reşat on April 27, 1909. The dies of the 1908 issue



were used to print the postal issues for the new Sultan with the same stamp design identical to the 1908-issue but with Reşat's tughra. In making the alteration to the central part of the stamp design, the lower curve of the crescent was damaged, resulting in an open space at the bottom of the circle.

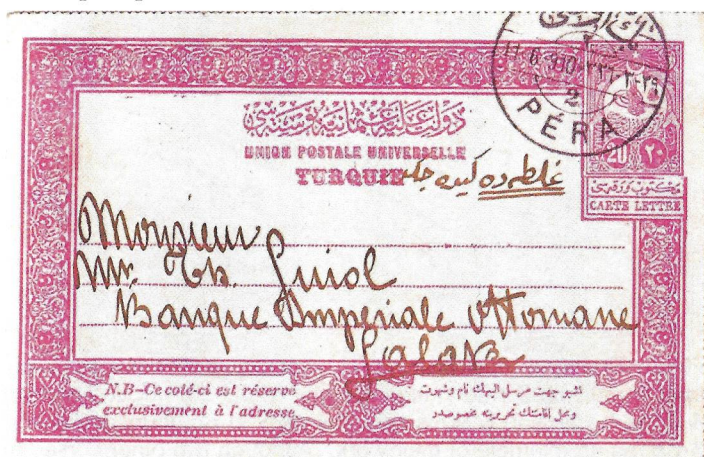


Figure 33. The 1908 issue 20-para letter card used locally in Istanbul from Pera June 11, 1910 to Galata. Within the city the local letter rate was half the regular rate of one piastre.



Figure 34. The 1909 issue 1-piastre letter card mailed at Galata, Istanbul March 27, 1912 to Berlin.



Figure 35. The 1909 issue 20-para stamped envelope used locally in Istanbul on March 11, 1913 from Galata to Pera, on

reverse Pera arrival and Istanbul City Post postmarks. Within the City the letter rate was half the regular rate of one piastre.

In addition to adhesive stamps, a small quantity of postal stationery was also printed. Postally used copies of 10-para reply cards, 20-para (so far only one copy recorded) and one-piastre letter cards (Figure 34) and envelopes (printed on commercially available envelopes with a colorless embossing on the side flap reading "Faik Efendi") are rare (Figure 35).



Figure 36. The 1910 issue 20-para domestic mail postal card, the first printing in 1910, red on pink card. From Salt (now in Jordan) July 1, 1911 to Fagamusta, Cyprus. July 18 arrival on reverse.



Figure 37. The 1910 issue 20-para postal card, the second printing in 1911, light pink on buff-ocher card stock. Zamarin (Caiffa) December 10, 1913 in combination with the Hebrew straight line cachet of Jewish Colony Zichron Yaacov. Zamarin was the Arabic name for Zichron Yaacov (now in Israel). Very few Jewish Colony cachets appear on mail posted at the Turkish Post.

In 1910, 10- and 20-para postal cards were issued with a new frame design on pink or salmon card stock (Figure 36). A second printing on buff card stock was released in 1911 (Figure 37).

#### 6- March 14, 1913 issue with a stamp design illustrating the new Post Office building

The new Post Office in Istanbul was opened on July 23, 1909 after six years of construction. The building constructed by Architect Vedat Bey at the cost of one hundred thousand gold liras is the most important example of the Ottoman revival style



architecture with Ottoman forms and motifs such as pointed arches, ornate tile decorations, and domes over towers. On March 14, 1913, a set of stamps and postal stationery with a stamp imprint showing the new Post Office were issued to commemorate the new building.



Figure 38. The 1913 issue 20-para postal card mailed at Merzifon June 4, 1916 via Istanbul June 16 to a Turkish POW in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. Odessa box censor.



Figure 39. The 1913 issue 20-para letter card from Dersaadet (Istanbul) June 21, 1913 to Zonguldak. Both cities on the coast, and thus correct littoral rate use. Proper rate use of this letter card is exceptionally rare.

The postal stationery issue included 10- and 20-para postal and reply cards, 20-para and one-piastre envelopes and letter cards. It stayed on sale for less than a year and was demonetized when the 1914-issue was released on January 14, 1914 although some copies used later years were recorded (Figure 38). These issues were printed by typography by the printing department of the Dette Publique Ottomane. Although used copies of postal cards and envelopes can be found, copies of letter cards used properly are very rare. So far only one properly used copy of the 20-para littoral rate letter card had been recorded (Figure 39).

#### 7- 1914-issue during the reign of Reşat.

Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. of London obtained a contract from the Turkish government to print the 1914-issue stamps and postal stationery but subcontracted the printing of postal stationery to Harrison & Sons. Harrison & Sons printed specimen trial color proofs of some items of this set in reversed colors, i.e., normal 10-para green was printed in red, 20-para red

was printed in blue, and one-piastre blue was printed in green.

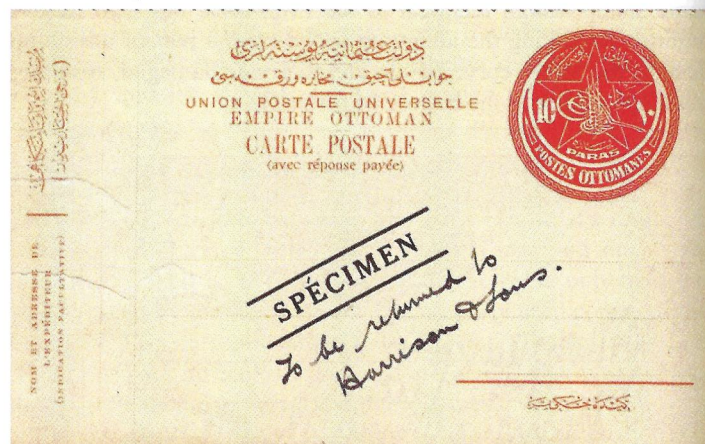


Figure 40. 1914 issue specimen trial color proof of 10 para reply card in red with a note in manuscript: "To be returned to Harrison & Sons." Harrison & Sons sent this copy to Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. as an example of their work. Although two other copies of specimen trial color proofs were recorded, this is the discovery copy with the printer's manuscript notes.

A recently discovered unique copy of the specimen trial color proof of 10-para reply card in red sent by Harrison & Sons to Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. as an example of their work with a note in manuscript "To be returned to Harrison & Sons." identify Harrison & Sons as the actual printer of this issue (Figure 40).



Figure 41. 1914 issue envelope essay on unwatermarked paper with 10 para stamp imprint of local rate cards in red. Only copy reported.

This issue released on January 14, 1914 was widely used during the World War I throughout the Ottoman Empire including the field post offices. It is printed on paper watermarked "Posta, Telgraf ve Telefon Nezareti" (Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone) placed in the shape of a crescent. The embossed round stamp imprint designed by calligrapher Mehmet Bey includes a crescent and the tughra of Reşat superimposed on a five-pointed star. As noted by the Michel postal stationery catalog a unique envelope essay on unwatermarked paper with the 10-para stamp imprint of local rate cards in red (rather than the issued color of green) exists (Figure 41.)

Unique archival copies of Harrison & Sons' essay and progressive master die proofs of this issue also exist (Figure 42). Specimen copies of each postal stationery type were produced



for distribution to the UPU countries. This issue includes every type of postal stationery including the reply cards (Figure 43), envelopes (Figure 44), registration envelopes printed on linen-lined paper in three different sizes and letter cards with reply letter cards attached inside (Figure 45). Used copies of the largest size registration envelopes (Figure 46, next page) and properly used response letter cards are among the challenges of this issue.



Figure 42. Essay and Progressive master die proofs of the 1914 issue postal stationery cut down and affixed to sunken cards.



Figure 43. Reply half of the 1914 issue 10+10 para reply card locally used in Istanbul from St. Sophie (Ayasofya) to Galata September 23, 1914. Same day Galata and Istanbul city postmarks at upper left and postman's hand stamp "24" small cancel.



Figure 44. The 1914 issue 1-piastre stamped envelope mailed at Jerusalem March 10, 1915 via Bayreuth March 20 and New York April 19 to Pittsburgh April 20 arrival (on reverse) with two 20

para adhesives to cover the registration fee. According to Collins six covers from Jerusalem with this type of registration label are recorded.



Figure 45. Reply letter card of the 1914 issue 20+20 letter card mailed at Izmir, June 4, 1914 to Eyüp Sultan, Istanbul June 5 arrival on reverse. Both cities are seaboard towns, correct littoral rate.

#### 8- 1915 “۱۳۳۱” (1331) surcharge on previously demonetized envelopes

The stocks of the Bradbury issue soon ran low. Due to a cut-off of supply from Great Britain and the paper deficiency during World War I, the Ottoman Post overprinted previously demonetized stamped envelopes (with the exception of 1869/1870 Düloz and 1908 and 1909 issue envelopes which were all sold out) with a red (on 1-kuruş envelopes) or black (on 20-para envelopes) crescent and a six-pointed star, but later changed to a five-pointed star (Figure 47). Both printings have the Moslem year “۱۳۳۱” (1331) in the crescent corresponding to 1915. The six-pointed star offended strict Moslems, who associated it with the Star of David; so a five-pointed star was substituted. The overprints were printed by Arşak Garoyan by typography.



Figure 47. 1913 issue envelope overprinted “۱۳۳۱” in 1915. Mailed with the only recorded copy of Kırkağaç negative postal seal, November 4, 1918 to Istanbul, arrival November 6.





Figure 46. The 1914 issue 1-piastre large size (292 x 152 mm) registration envelope mailed at Galata, Istanbul April 21, 1914 to Leipzig April 27. Rate: 5½ piastres for 125 grams (one piastre for 20 grams plus 30 paras for each additional 20 grams) plus one piastre for registration.



Figure 48. Proof of the 1877-issue card used as a formula card at Bandırma February 19, 1917 with negative Bandırma Levazım Idare Heyeti Riyaseti (Ordnance Administration) censor to Istanbul, arrival February 23. Adhesive stamps for 20-para postcard rate plus 10-para for war orphans charity tax.

Also previously demonetized postal cards were used as formula cards by covering the original stamp imprint with current adhesive stamps. The fronts and backs of letter cards were also used the same way. Due to severe shortage of paper, the post office even sold proofs of the 1877 issue postal card to public as formular cards to be mailed with affixed postage stamps (Figure 48). During this period, a number of blank formula cards without a stamp imprint were also sold at the post offices. The

Ottoman Post Office was not able to print new postal stationery issues during the war due to the paper shortage.

#### 9- 1916-issue postal cards with Leander's tower in stamp design.

This war issue, the last set of postal stationery issued by the Ottoman Post Office, was printed by Staatsdruckerel in Vienna. It had 10 and 20-para issues for local and domestic/foreign mail, respectively. The embossed stamp design printed on white card stock shows the Leander's tower in Istanbul (Figure 49).



Figure 49. The 1916 issue 20-para postal card, off white card stock. Mailed at Istanbul April 15, 1918 to Brussels. The current foreign postcard rate was 30-para according to the rate schedule of July 14, 1916. The difference was paid by using a 10-para



Red Crescent charity stamp although the charity stamps were not valid to pay postage. Only three postal cards with charity stamps were recorded.

All catalogs list the date of issue as 1917. However, a number of copies used as early as August 1916 are reported. Since both the domestic and foreign post card rates were raised to one kuruş on February 6, 1919, these postal cards were used with added adhesive stamps after that date. It should be noted at this point that the domestic postcard rate remained the same, i.e., 20-para for 44 years from July 1875 to February 1919 when it doubled. It doubled again to 2 piastres on February 1920 and finally went up to 3 piastres April 1, 1921 and did not change again till the Ottoman Empire ceased to exist on November 16, 1922. The 1916-issue postal cards are the only postal card issues that went through all the postcard rate changes the Ottoman Post Office put in effect in its entire history of 82 years.



Figure 50. The 1916 issue 20-para postal card, buff card stock. Mailed at the German Field Post Office mute cancel of German infantry battalion 703 in Heron, Palestine November 3, 1917 to Üsküp. 10 para adhesive stamp added for war orphans' tax.

Copies of an essay of 20-para card printed by typography on buff card stock with a "T9" at the lower right corner and missing "gideceği yer" (destination) in Turkish below the address line exists. Interestingly, there are a few copies printed on buff card stock with the embossed stamp imprint. A used copy of buff card at the German military post in Heron, Palestine was reported (Figure 50).

It should be noted that starting on July 8, 1915, all postal stationery used during the war carries one or more charity stamps in aid of the war orphans, a postal tax known as "Evladı şuheda vergisi." The tax applied on postal cards and envelopes was 10 paras and 20 paras on registered mail. Sometimes regular postage stamps were used to pay for the postal tax. As noted by Passer, foreign merchants residing in Turkey complained to the UPU about this postal tax, which was not applied in other UPU member countries. As a result of this complaint, it was exempted on foreign correspondence, and applied on domestic mail only. This caused all foreign rates and fees except the postcard rate to be raised 10 paras on January 1, 1918. War orphans' postal tax was terminated on February 19, 1919 under the Allied occupation of Istanbul. The 1916 issue postal cards were used at the Turkish, Austrian, and German military field post offices during World War I (Figure 51) and later in the Nationalist controlled areas of Turkey till 1922.



Figure 51. The 1916 issue 10 para card with two 10 para stamps added to cover 20-para postcard rate and 10-para charity tax. FPO 59 May 13, 1917 to Fatih, Istanbul May 31, message by the postmaster of the "20<sup>th</sup> Army Corps Headquarters Command" (blue seal at lower right) on the Gaza-Tel al Sheria front in early May 1917. According to Collins five copies of FPO 59 seal were recorded.



Figure 52. The 1916 issue 20-para postal card used as parcel post form to mail a 20-kg parcel at Germencik February 10, 1918 to Izmir February 12. Since, Germencik and Izmir are separated by one branch of a railroad, the rate 4 piastres for the first 5 kg + 1 kuruş per each additional kg + receipt 1 kuruş = 20-para card + a 20-para + 19 1-kuruş stamps covered 20 kuruş rate.

At the end of World War I, in October 1918, as the Ottoman Empire surrendered, some post offices running out of postal forms and not receiving new shipments from Istanbul, due to the economic upheavals of the war, used the 1916 issue postal cards by arranging the back of the cards as parcel post or money order forms (Figure 52).

### 10- Previous issues used during the post-WWI Allied occupation of Turkey.

When the Ottoman Empire surrendered in October 1918 at the end of World War I, the Allied forces occupied Istanbul and parts of Turkey and took over the Ottoman Post Office. They operated first military and then later civilian post offices. Ottoman postal stationery was mailed from the post offices of the Allied countries generally with their adhesive stamps affixed to pay the postage. Items mailed from military post offices without an added adhesive were also reported. Items mailed at the British, French, Italian, and especially at the Greek Army Post Offices are scarce usages



of the Ottoman postal stationery (Figure 53).



Figure 53. 1913 issue envelope overprinted "١٣٢١" in 1915 mailed at the Greek Army Post Office T. T. 924 in Izmir September 7, 1919 via Athens field post center September 13 (on reverse) to Kepkypa AΦIEIE September 15 (on reverse). No additional Greek stamps were affixed. Use of Ottoman postal stationery at Greek military post offices is quite rare.



Figure 54. The 1916 issue 20-para postal card mailed by an Armenian mother at Divriği, Sivas on March 15, 1922 via Samsun to her son in the US. Samsun military censor mark. Uprated by a mix of Ottoman and Nationalist government postage stamps to 4 kuruş, shortpaid by ½ kuruş according to January 23, 1922 foreign mail rate schedule of the Assembly. Use of Ottoman postal cards at the Nationalist post offices to foreign destinations is rare with three copies recorded.

After the occupation of Turkey by the Allies, Nationalist forces started a resistance under the leadership of Atatürk. All Ottoman postal issues available anywhere in the Nationalist controlled areas were always accepted as proper postage. Nationalists also converted Ottoman fiscal stamps for postage with a surcharge. These were used on Ottoman postal cards to cover the current domestic post card rate (Figure 54). The usages of bisects of overprinted fiscals on Ottoman postal stationery mailed at the Nationalist controlled post offices are especially interesting and attractive pieces. The use of bisected stamps had been authorized by the National Government at Ankara and they were used in Anatolia only.



Figure 55. The 1914 issue 20-para stamped envelope mailed at Istanbul on November 16, 1922, last day of the Ottoman Empire. Additional adhesives, two 3-piastre and two half-piastre, to cover the current foreign letter rate of 7½ piastres.

The use of Ottoman postal stationery can be concluded with an item mailed in Istanbul on the last day of the Ottoman Empire, November 16, 1922, the last full day of the last of the Ottoman Sultans in Istanbul (Figure 55). Vahdetin fled on the British warship HMS Malaya early the next morning and six centuries of Ottoman sovereignty had come to an end and a new era started.

**Conclusions:** As noted earlier, collecting Ottoman postal stationery offers many challenges to postal stationery specialists. Especially difficult are unique archival material of some issues such as die proofs of the Düloz envelopes and 1914-issues, essays of the 1895-issue letter cards and 1880-issue postal cards. Also equally challenging are copies of the Düloz envelopes mailed to foreign destinations and copies of the 1877-issue first postal card and local rate 10-para postal cards mailed from cities other than Istanbul. Copies of the 1881-issue postal cards used by the Constantinople (Istanbul) City Post with the "Şehir" overprint are also quite elusive to find. Copies of reply halves of reply cards mailed back from foreign countries and proper use of domestic 20-para littoral rate letter cards are especially difficult to find.

Among the collectors and exhibitors of Ottoman postal history, rare cancels are more popular than any other area of Ottoman philately. Since the Ampir and Armalı Ampir issue postal cards were widely distributed throughout the Ottoman Empire before its dissolution at the end of the First World War, many rare postmarks and seals, highly prized by the Ottoman collectors, from remote post offices in the lost territories of the Empire are found on these issues.

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(Continued on Page 87)



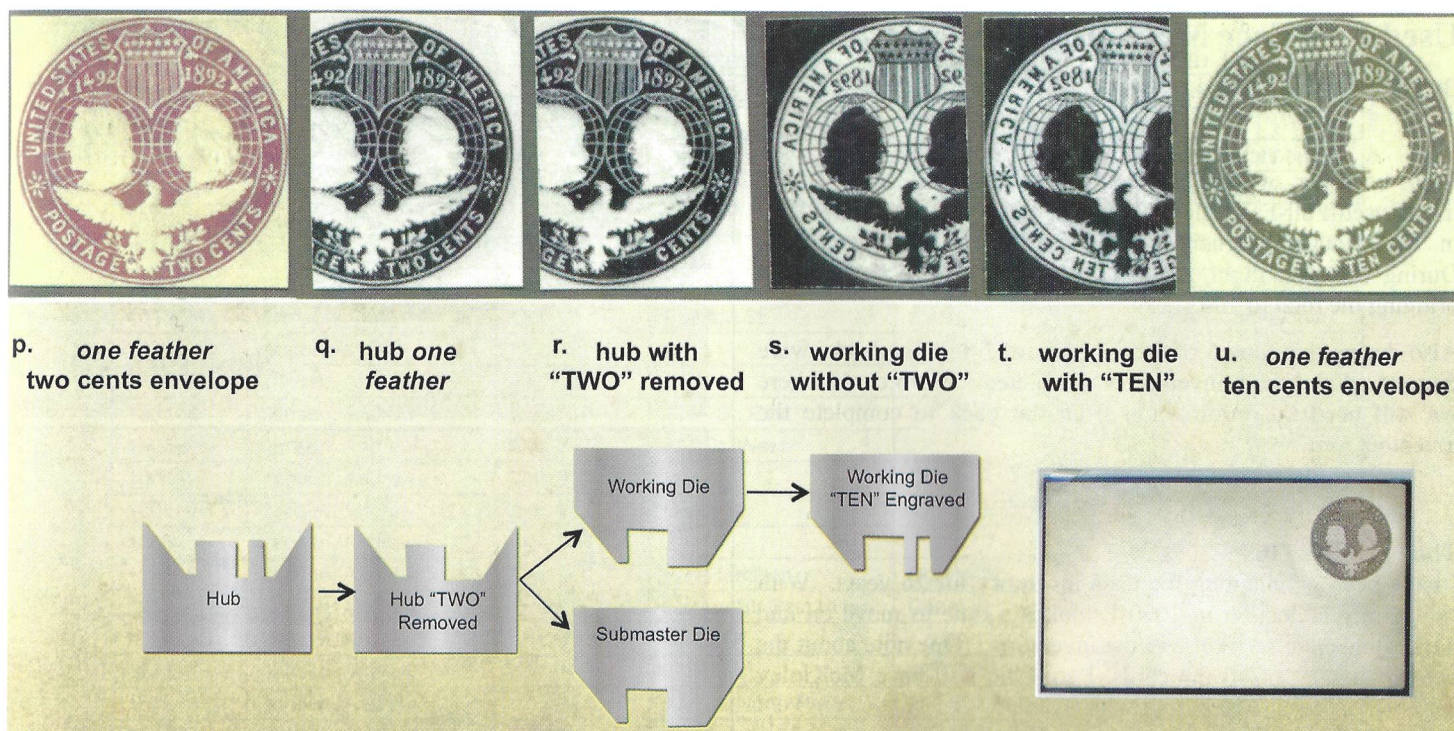


Figure 9.

The two cents envelope with the blunt right wing is the first envelope issued. By removing the "two cents" from the hub and engraving the working die "one cent" a one cent envelope with a blunt wing was produced. By modifying the blunt right wing "one cent" hub to a pointed wing tip a second one cent envelope with a right pointed wing was produced. By removing the "one cent" from the pointed wing hub and engraving the working die "five cents" the five cents envelope with pointed wing was produced. By further modifying the blunt wing hub a "two feathers" and by further modification a "one feather" two cents envelopes were produced. The "one feather" two cents envelope produced a one cent envelope with one feather by modifying the hub by removing the "two cents" and engraving the working die "one cent" (Fig.8). Similarly the ten cents envelope with one feather was produced from the two cents envelope with one feather by removing the "two" from the hub and engraving the working die with a "ten" (Fig. 9).

In summary of the 107 million envelopes 90% were two cents with blunt, two and one feather right wings. 8% of the envelopes were of the one cent denomination with blunted, one feather and pointed right wing. 0.7% were of the five cents denomination with pointed right wing. 0.2% were of the ten cents denomination with one feather.

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#### USA 2012 Card New Issues (Continued from page 83)

"Forever", the USPS designation for items allowed indefinite use at current First Class rates. The Pixar Films and Landscapes cards contain additional copyright wording and/or some additional explanatory text. All cards contain the USPS copyright notice and the year date 2012. Sailboats cards also indicate recycled paper and (except S641C) the C2C logo. All Picture Postal Card issues have matching indicia artwork (minus value, occasionally with extra text and/or graphics) reproduced on the reverse side, enlarged or cropped to fill the entire space. The front of each booklet cover opens to reveal the picture side of the cards. Booklets are wrapped in non-archival shrink-wrap plastic which collectors should consider discarding. USPS first day Digital Color Postmarks (DCP) were available for Pixar Films issue. USPS offered two different cancel sets of 10 cards: a traditional single city, and another set with related cancel images from each card's locale.