

After the invention of the camera in the 1820's, any photograph of Ayvalık is not known until the early 1900s. Only some paintings and engravings are available. Somebody had to do this, because it is a historical heritage.

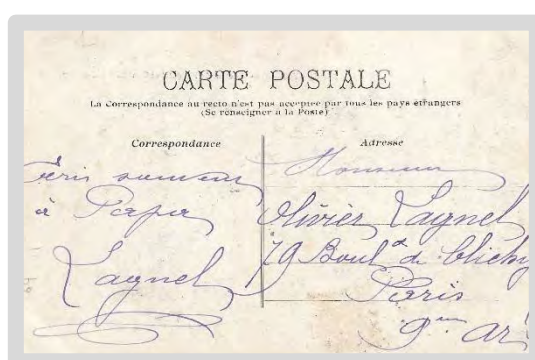
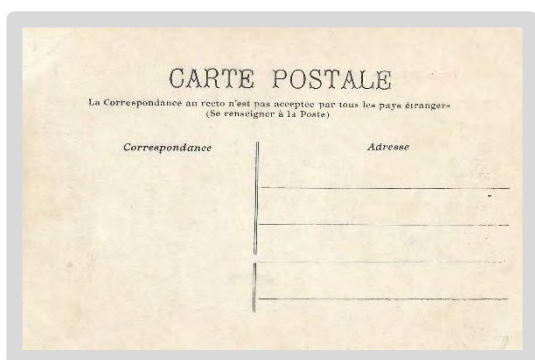
In the early 1900's, the 99% percent of population were Greek. According to the "1909 Annual of Chamber of Commerce", page 1884, there was a gentleman called "Contaxis (Jean D.)" dealing with readymade clothing industry. On the other hand, he became a postcard editor most probably in 1902 or 1903. There is no definite date of starting his new business anywhere. During my study on this subject, I noticed earliest Contaxis postcard was sent by Levant post to Paris September 11th, 1903. The latest one is June 12th, 1921, sent to Greece, with Kydonia occupation cancel. Most of the Contaxis Ayvalık themed postcards used in post between 1903 and 1910.



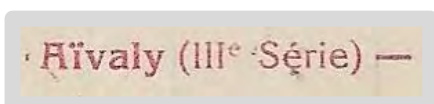
In most of the Contaxis postcards, you can see this gentleman with bowler hat, makes everybody think this gentleman is him.

The number of postcards are totally 39. One of them 2 piece foldable, 5 of them with color, 2 of them have 2 version among 5.

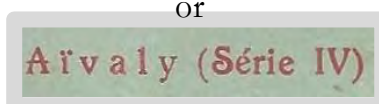
Also I noticed that there are 2 serials of postcards; 3 and 4 (Roman numeral), mentioned in front of the card, which is clearly understandable. Serial 3 consist of 6 postcard and Serial 4 consist of 9 postcards, totally 15.



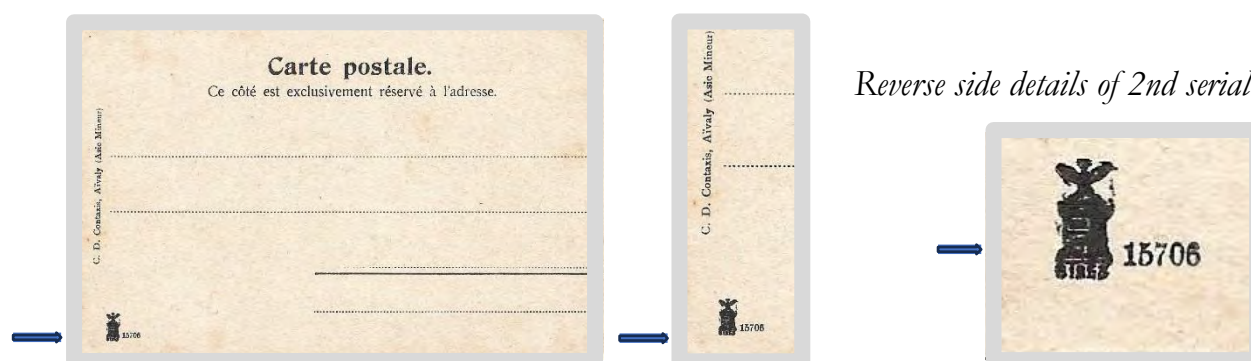
Reverse sides of 3rd and 4th serial of postcards printed completely same. Serial of postcard is mentioned at the front sides.



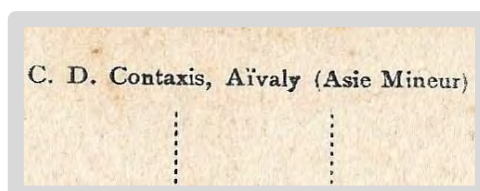
or



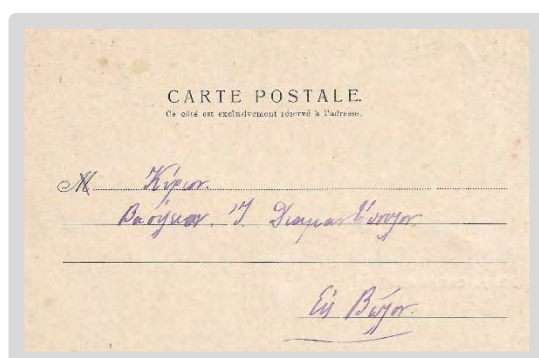
10 postcards of rest 24 has a small sign and numbers given by the printing house from 15701 to 15710 at the reverse sides. This is the 2nd serial according to my classification.



*This statement printed at the
reverse side only at the 2nd serial
postcards as the others on the
front side.*



The final part of Contaxis postcards contains 14, there is no any clue or evidence, so this is another and classified as 1st series of the Contaxis postcards. So, I can say; there are 4 serial of Contaxis 39 postcards themed Ayvalık and surrounding environment.



Headings are different style for the 1st and 2nd serials while 3rd and 4th serials are same style.

At the following pages, Contaxis postcards are displayed according to the subjects and related places of Ayvalık. Serial numbers are mentioned also.

Additionally, at the last page, “Kydonia – Aivaly” heading versions 4 Athens printed postcards are shown, similar to Contaxis style but editor is unknown yet.



2

Two postcards of Ayvalık with general view and port.



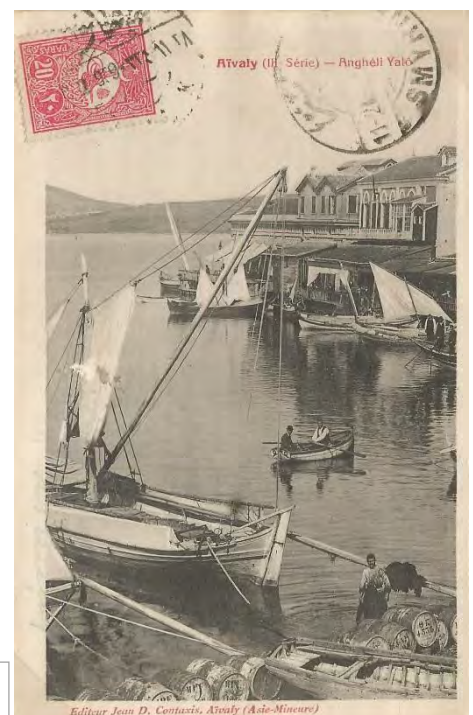
1



1



3



3

3 views from the port of Ayvalık and Angheli Yalo (Angel Sea). The view of Cafe Kanelo is one of the famous building of Ayvalık with it's stunning architecture.



2

Front door of Kydonia Academy which started education in 1803.



3

Kydonia Academy postcard.



2

Back Street of the dock with cafes and restaurants.



3



4

At the left, Palio Bakhtse (Old Garden) from the 3rd serial. At the right, bell tower of hospital and orthodox cemetery.

Ayvalık Grek Hospital and
Phalire road.
(Today, there is a marina)



2 Front door of Ayvalık Grek Hospital.



4



2

The inner courtyard of Grek Hospital.



4

2 Greks from Ayvalık, Stefanis and Thodoris.



Ayvalık Sefa villas.

1

Aziz Nicholas
neighbourhood, on
the way to Sefa.



4

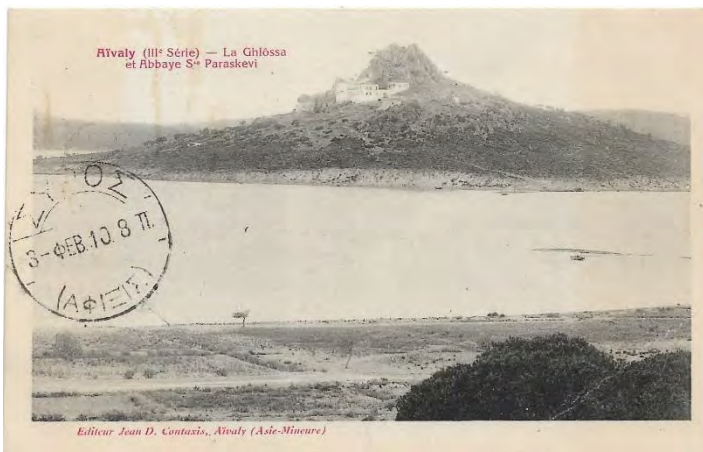


Saint Constantine chapel
and grove.



Ayvalık Saint Constantin Chapel.

2



3 Ayvalık La Ghlossa and Saint Paraskevi
Monastery.

At the right, Saint Vendredi Monastery.



2



3 Ayvalık Saint Nicolas Monastery, 3rd serial and reprinted colored copy during the same period, as a 4th serial. (The monastery building was in the Çamlık Square.)



4



2

Ayvalık Saint Nicolas Monastery.



1 Ayvalık, Gümüslü, Nikolaides Cokkinis mill, olive oil factory and distillation factory.



1 Ayvalık, tanneries. (Early 1900's, there were 32 tanneries in Ayvalık)



1

Ayvalık, Cunda Island and town.



4

Ayvalık Cunda Island and town.



2

Ayvalık Saint Jean Monastery.

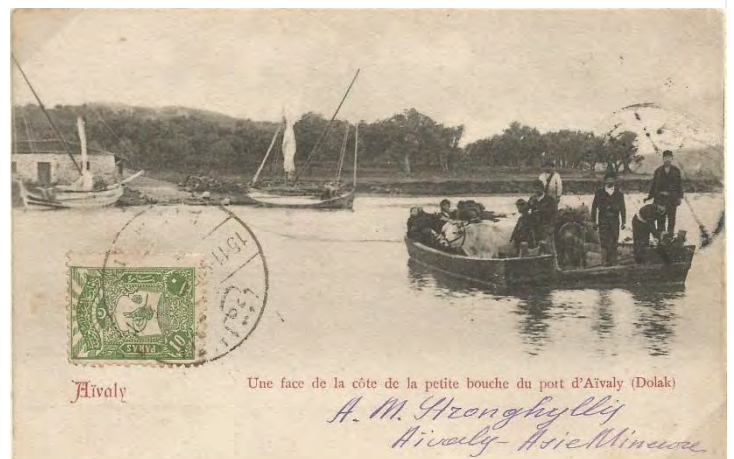
Ayvalık, Mosconissi (Cunda) Island,
Saint Dhimitri -ta- Selina Monastery.

1



1

Two postcards, two view of Dolap strait.



2



1

Ayvalık, Armudova (Gömeç)-Hacıatanas Trikopli Farm.

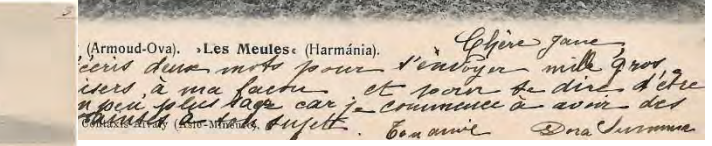


Ayvalık, Armudova (Gömeç).



1

Ayvalık, view of Macaronia Farm.



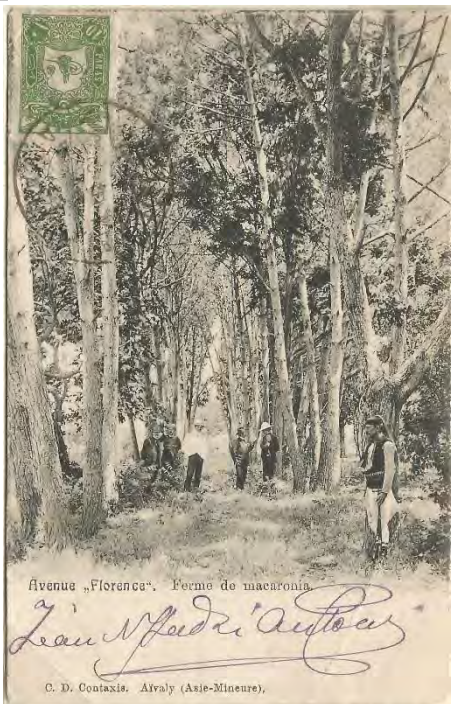
Ayvalık, view of Macaronia Farm.

1



1

Ayvalık, view of olive trees in Macaronia Farm.



1

Ayvalık, view of Macaronia Farm.



1

Ayvalık, Macaronia Farm, Spyridon grove



The view of Ayvalık and Sefa.
(Ziya Ağaoğulları collection)

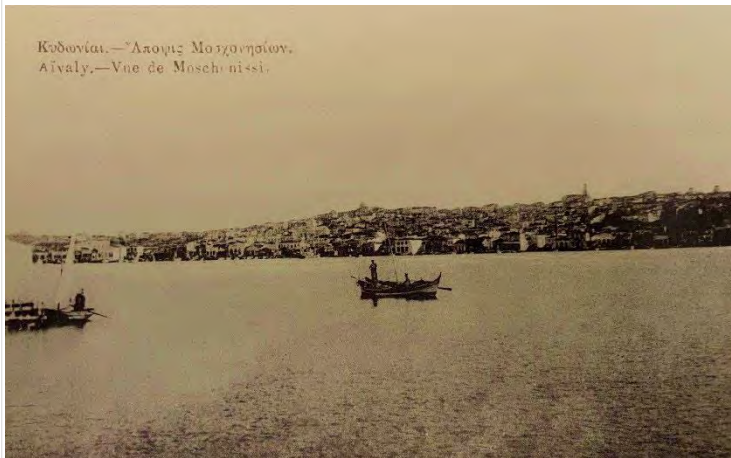


The view of Ayvalık Port and Sefa, 2 pieces folded postcard (reduced by 2/3)
(Salim Kaptan collection)

Following 5 postcards are similar to Contaxis style but the editör is unknown and probably those were printed in Greece and launched during the occupation period.



General view of Ayvalık



General view of Mosconissi (Cunda)



Saint Nicholas neighbourhood
(Seems to be the same photo of Contaxis postcard, page 6, top of the page, serial 4)



This narrow road was connection between Ayvalık and Lale Island. It was called Peratariya first, than Duba. The photo is from early 19th century. (Lale Island is a small one between Ayvalık and Cunda Island)



Saint Paraskevi Monastery.
(Seems to be the same photo of Contaxis postcard, page 6, bottom of the page, serial 2)

P.S;

Any information or material regarding editor Jean D. Contaxis or my hometown Ayvalık will be appreciated.

Please contact me: serdaryzgn@gmail.com