

RFI: Ottoman Postal Bonds (Posta Bonoları) (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 Tanrıkut'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 Tanrıkut's book, but also states that these bonds have so far only been found cut in half.

Fig. 1: Half bond (yarım bono)

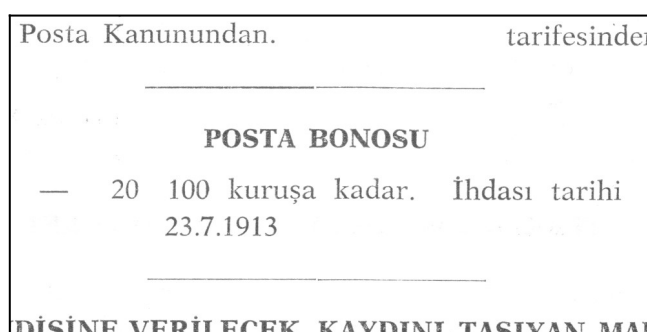
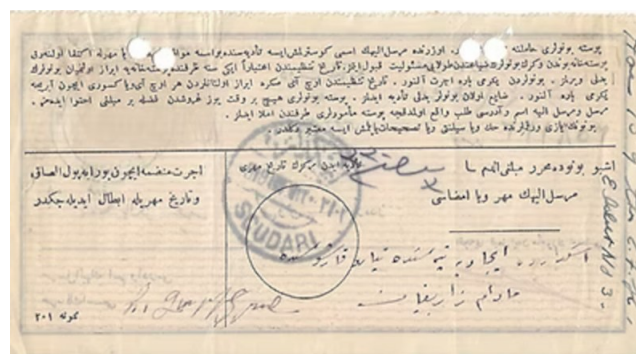


Fig. 2:

POSTAL BONDS

— 20 Up to 100 kuruş. Date of introduction: 23.07.1913.

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: Tanrıkut, Asaf: *Türkiye posta ve telgraf ve telefon tarihi ve teşkilât ve mevzuatı*. Ankara: 1984. A PDF of Tanrıkut'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 yatıran 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 belirlenememiştir.

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.

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.

