

Some time ago we had a discussion in the Study group of our Philatelic Society about the postal-mechanization of Greece. The question was specifically whether there are Greek stamps with, for example, a fluorescent print or fluorescent paper. The preliminary conclusion was that this is not the case with the Greek stamps. However, Greek revenues are another matter. Fluorescent markings are found both in the paper and by means of an overprint, specifically intended as a safety feature. Because some stamps have been used over a longer period of time, they can occur both without and with fluorescent markings. Or even with different types of fluorescent markings. Below I will show examples of stamps that are known to me, always with an image of the stamp under normal light and one under (long wave) UV light.

1. General revenue stamps and consular stamps

The first example is of a special paper. This occurs with both the general revenue stamps and the consular stamps. There are threads in the paper that are hard to see under normal light. Under the UV lamp, they light up very clearly.



2. The Judicial Building Fund

In the second example it appears that the Judicial buildings stamp has an extensive ornament with the name ΤΑΧΔΙΚ. (ΤΑΜΕΙΟΝ ΧΡΗΜΑΤΟΔΟΤΗΣΕΩΣ ΔΙΚΑΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΤΙΡΙΩΝ = FINANCING FUND FOR JUDICIAL BUILDINGS). I have only seen this stamp with this UV imprint.



3. Stamps for lawyers

Below two stamps for lawyers. They both have a fluorescent print: T and N (TAMEIO NOMIKON = Legal Fund). Only on the left stamp is it less clear than the right stamp. I also zoomed in on the right stamp so that the imprint is clearer.



4. Stamps for the insurance fund of lawyers working at the courts

There are also variations here. The left stamp has an extensive ornament.



5. Stamps for the insurance fund of lawyers especially for the ratification of documents

Here I show three different types of these stamps. The first has no imprint. The second a single (small) monogram T and N. The third and fourth stamp have a large monogram T and N, which is larger than the stamp, leaving only smaller pieces of it. Moreover, the letters are characterized in that they only show the outline and not the solid letters.



6. Lawyer stamps

Again a number of stamps from a lawyer fund. There are small differences between the various stamps in the normal light. Just look at the shape and size of the numbers "10", or the mutual position of the letters in the words "TAMEIO NOMIKON". For example, the T is above or next to the N. But with the UV lamp on, more differences come to light. The first stamp has no fluorescent print. The second a small monogram T and N. The third stamp has an extensive ornament supplemented with the small monogram T and N. And to make it even more colorful: stamps four and five have a large monogram T and N, so large that it fits only multiple stamps. And again there are some differences: thin lines (fourth seal) and thick lines (fifth seal).



The following stamps differ from the examples shown above in that the designation "TAMEIO NOMIKΩN" at the top of the stamp image runs from side to side. And there are also new fluorescent prints. Left alternately a row with T and a row with N. At the right stamp (the 20 dr) the small monogram T and N, but then repeated as a net over the entire stamp.



7. Social security stamps (IKA)

The social security stamps of IKA, and in particular those of the type of “worker and factory”, are known for the many varieties. Now there is another one. Okay, the left stamp is clearly printed on a different type of paper in the visible light too, a bit more yellow, a bit rougher and the perforation is bad. The right stamp is a lot better: smooth, white paper, neat perforation and this version also has an imprint “I.K.A.” that lights up under the UV lamp.



8. Pension stamps for lawyers

For a change, a few pension stamps for lawyers. The stamps look the same in normal light. The imprint becomes clear under the UV lamp. ΤΥΔΕ stands for ΤΑΜΕΙΟ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ ΔΙΚΗΓΟΡΩΝ ΕΠΑΡΧΙΩΝ (= professional health fund for lawyers).



That also continues when the euro is introduced. This time a complete stamp shows that the imprint also appears on the tab at the bottom.



9. Welfare fund for bailiffs

This fund also joins in with the fluorescent print. This time with the repeated imprint ΤΠΔΕ (ΤΑΜΕΙΟ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑΣ ΔΙΚΑΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΜΕΛΗΤΩΝ) applied at a slight angle.



10. Insurance Fund for Trade

The trade insurance fund (ΤΑΜΕΙΟΝ ΑΣΦΑΛΙΣΕΩΣ ΕΜΠΟΡΩΝ) also has stamps in the euro period. Sometimes with a fairly high nominal value. So also worth protecting with an imprint T.A.E.



11. Cigarettes

Finally, two more seals for cigarettes.

