

# Metal Value issue



The issue of the "Metal Value" was planned at the end of the 19th century to meet the need for transactions with foreign postal services in Gold Drachmas. Initially, these needs were met with the overprints of the Large and Small Heads of Hermes (October 2, 1900), as well as with Olympic stamps (January 1, 1901).

Stamps in Gold Drachmas were essential for transactions with the post offices of other countries, both for parcels and for money orders.

**PREPARATION:** In 1899, the Greek government ordered the set of "Metal Value", along with the Flying Hermes series (released on July 1, 1901), the new series of Postage Due Stamps (1902) and postal stationery. The task was undertaken by the firm *J.P. Segg & Co.* Due to delays and time pressures, Segg requested assistance from *Johnstonia Engraving Co.*, which also created the initial dies. Problems

continued, and ultimately, the stamps were printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. All three companies were based in London. As will be shown later, *Perkins, Bacon & Co* did not create new dies but used the same dies (with whatever differences arose from the progressive proofs); however, they inserted different digits for the values, while the vertical spacing between the stamps is greater.

**ISSUE:** Five denominations were issued: 5 lepta, 25 lepta, 50 lepta, 1 drachma, and 2 drachmas, which were released on *January 1, 1902*. They were monochrome and printed on thick white paper. The engraved method was used; however, the embossing is not as pronounced as in the later common series of 1911, known as "engraved." In terms of texture, we do not feel the embossed color that results from the recess printing plate. Unlike the stamps, all the proofs feature strong embossing. Each sheet contained 100 stamps, and the perforation is 13½.

By mistake, the 50 lepta stamp was printed in red, which is the only printing error in this issue. Not many copies are known; it is likely that only one sheet of 100 was printed/survived.

**USE:** As mentioned above, they were used for the prepayment of postal fees on parcels and international money orders. The money orders may be extremely rare because, as a rule, the forms were destroyed by the postal services of the destination countries.

In 1913, it is rumored that they were exceptionally used as postage dues. In the exhibit, there is one such properly used item; however, many are circulated in the philatelic market upon request, as well as cutouts claiming to have been used for "postage dues".



# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Die proofs with value, on thick cream paper

The value of 5 λεπτά is not known to me on this cream paper



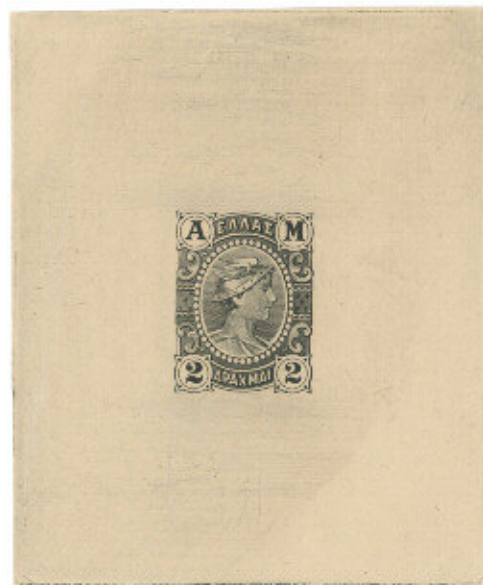
25 λεπτά



50 λεπτά



1 δραχμή



2 δραχμές



# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Plate proofs, 25 λεπτά



Thick paper,  
similar printing in gray-black color.  
In the strip of six,  
handwritten instructions from the printer.



Same thick paper,  
similar printing  
but in blue-black color.



Thin, slightly gray paper,  
printed in black.  
Watermark EX[TRA...]

# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Die proof, without value, on cream paper



Δικτυωτό χαρτί

Die proof with value, on whitish card



5 λεπτά σε χαρτόνι





# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Plate proofs of 50 λεπτά  
(thick paper with vertical watermark)



Watermark parallel to the long side of the paper:  
JOHNSTON DIE PRESS



Laid watermarked  
thick paper in grey-  
blue shade



Laid watermarked  
thick paper in  
brownish-grey shade



Sheet of 100,  
laid watermarked thick paper in grey-blue shade



# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Plate proofs, 50 λεπτά



Upper left corner block of 10, on stout vertically laid brownish grey paper, watermarked



Block of 4, in cypress green color, not watermarked paper



Marginal block of 4, in cypress green color (dispersed), not watermarked paper

# i. Johnstonia Engraving Co

Plate proofs, 1 δραχμή & 2 δραχμές



Marginal block of 4,  
black printing on thin  
paper without  
watermark



Block of 4, black  
printing on thin paper  
without watermark



Block of 4, black  
printing on thick paper  
without watermark

## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

Die proof without value, on thin grey-cream paper



Deep blue



From the  
die proof of  
Johnstonia



From the  
die proof of  
Perkins, Bakon



From a  
plate proof of  
Perkins, Bakon

500%

Differences between various progressive essays



## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

Die proofs with value, on semi-transparent thin cream paper



All printed on meshed paper



200%

Phase of progressive matrix proofs  
Notice the endings at the top, bottom, and right, that were later removed.

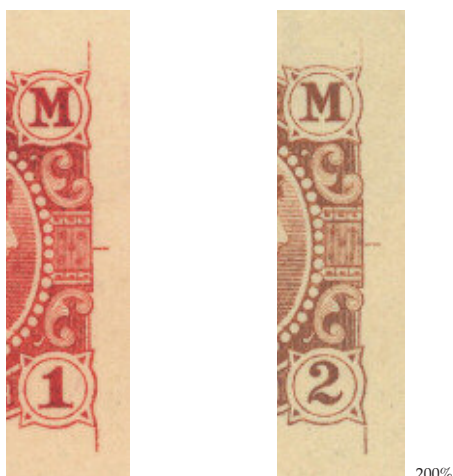


## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

Die proofs with value, on semi-transparent thin cream paper



All printed on meshed paper



Phase of progressive matrix proofs  
Notice the endings at the top, bottom, and right, that were later removed.



## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

### Die proof of 1 δραχμή for the New Year greeting card of Hellenic Posts (1901)

Die proof of the 1 δραχμή printed on the greeting card of 1901. It is worth noting that this preceded the production of the Metal Value stamps by one year.



Cut from the wishing card



500%

Significant differences between one of the progressive die proofs and the die proof used for the 1901 greeting card (on the right).



## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

### Plate proofs on cardboard

Only the plate for the 25 λεπτά value was printed on cardboard.  
Only deep blue color was used,  
while the perforating machine was also tested



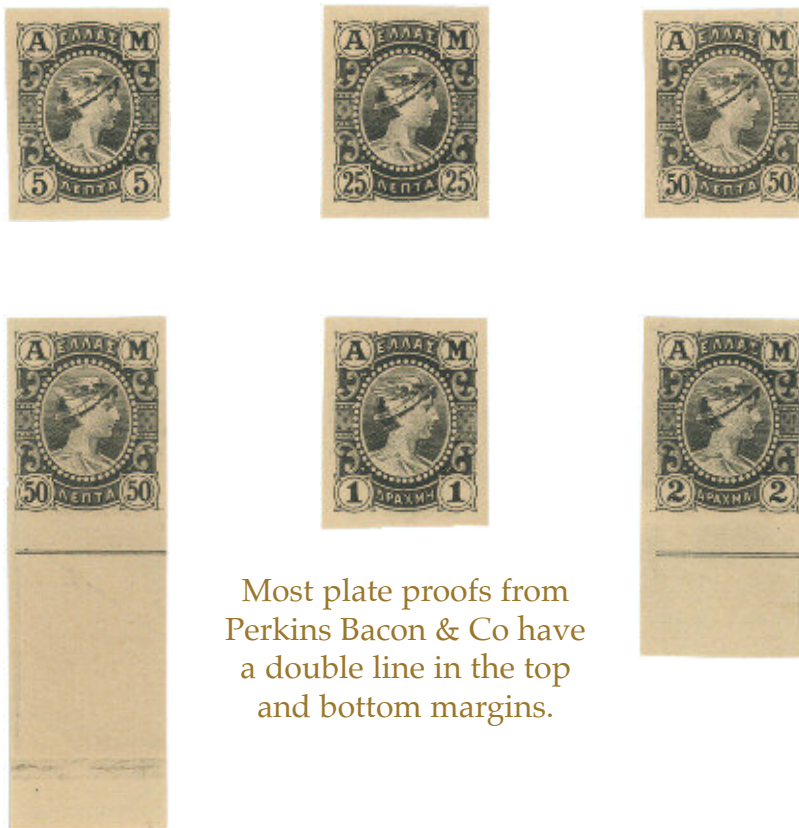
The rough inking of the plate  
resulted in varying density of the color,  
making some areas of the stamp appear lighter (gradient color)



Perforated block of four  
(gradient color)

## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

Plate proofs in black, on boof thick paper



Most plate proofs from Perkins Bacon & Co have a double line in the top and bottom margins.



Comparing the proofs on boof paper with those printed on whitish paper, we see that the former are shorter and wider. This distortion is obviously due to the quality of the papers.



## ii. Parkins, Bacon & Co

Plate proofs in black, on whitish thick paper



The specific pairs of 50 lepta and 2 drachmas do not have the double line in the margin. It may have been added in a subsequent or the final phase of production.



### iii. Errors and Varieties

Erroneous color of the 50 λεπτά



Red instead of blue

Stamps without perforation



Imperforate copies are known only for the values of 5 and 50 λεπτά



## iv. Specimen

SPECIMEN perforation, by Perkins, Bakon & Co



The perforation is found both horizontally and vertically.

Small handstamp ULTRAMAR (overseas)  
of the Portuguese Post for their colonies

ULTRAMAR 300%



# v. Postal use

1913, as postage dues



Philatelic rumors suggest that they were used in 1913 due to a shortage of the relevant stamps. I assume that the Postage Due stamps had been depleted because they were overprinted with ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ for use in the New Territories (Balkan Wars). This usage was temporary, as new revenue stamps were soon printed using the lithographic method. As always, each actual postal event was followed by philatelic samples (forgeries or canceled to order)!



2c printed matter envelope stationery (domestic rate) from **MADISON SEP.11.13**, marked **T N.Y. CENTIMES 30. S**. Upon arrival, a block of 6x5 λεπτά stamps was affixed and canceled with **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ (ΑΦΙΕΙΣ) 21.ΣΕΠ.13** (Athens, 24 days route.)

60%









# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Switzerland

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES.  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΤΑΡΟΜΕΙΑ.  
COUPON.  
ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.

Τίμησις του γραμματοσήμου  
Τίμησις του γραμματοσήμου  
Τίμησις του γραμματοσήμου  
Τίμησις του γραμματοσήμου  
Τίμησις του γραμματοσήμου

POST  
ΑΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.

Κί-join  
Συνημμένων ειδών  
Déclaration du contenu  
Δήλωση του περιεχομένου  
Déclarations en douane  
Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Αριθ.  
Adresse du destinataire  
Έπεγραφή του παραλήπτη  
Lieu de destination  
Τόπος προορισμού  
Domicile du destinataire  
Κατοικία του παραλήπτη

(paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc.  
δέμα, κύλινδρος, κούτιον, καλάθος, κ.λ.π.)

Le Suisse 100 διμιάρα  
Une paire de foulier

M. Constantin A. Christophidis  
Stadelhofenstrasse n. 7  
Zurich.

Χώρος πρὸς ἐπιπέ-  
λῃσιν συμπληρωτι-  
κῶν γραμματοσήμων.

Βόλις ἐπιβεβ. / Έπιβ. ἐπιληθ. / 386 830  
N° / Gr. / Χώρος πρὸς ἐπιπέλῃσιν ἠριθμημένου τεμαχίου χάρτου.

Αρχειώσιον / Όδ. ἀποστολῆς / Bureau d'échange Hellénique / Ἀρταλλακτήριον Ἑλληνικῶν Γραφείων.

BRINDISI 29 03

1286/2 14/0

Parcel with a pair of shoes, weighing 0,830Kg,  
from ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ 8.ΙΟΥΝ.1903 (Piraeus) to Zürich, Switzerland, via BRINDISI (PACCHI...) 29.6.03,  
CHIASSO PACCHI - POSTE ITALIANE 2.7.03, boarder station of CHIASSO STAZ DOGANA-POSTE 2.VII.03  
and DOGANA SVIZZERA - POSTA CHIASSO 2.VIII.03.

Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 5x5λ and 1δρχ. Scissored (according to the relevant Circular).

In total 2,00δρχ

The recipient was charged 60c for duties and 10c for customs processing.



# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Switzerland

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ. COUPON. ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ COLIS POSTAUX. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION. ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.

Ci-joint Συνημμένων εide } rouleaux } paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc. δέμα, κύλινδρος, κούτιον, καλάθος, κ.λ.π.

Déclaration du contenu Δήλωση του περιεχομένου } Photographies

Déclarations en douane, N° Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Ἄριθ.

Adresse du destinataire Ἐπιγραφή τοῦ παραλήπτη } M<sup>lle</sup> Lisely Weibel

Lieu de destination Τόπος προορισμοῦ } Norb/Berne/Suisse

Domicile du destinataire Κατοικία τοῦ παραλήπτη } Suisse

Poids vérifié. Βέρος ἐπιληθθέν. N° Gr. 600

Numéro du colis. Ἄριθ. τοῦ δέματος.

Acheminement. Ἰδιὸς ἀποστολῆς. ATHÈNES N° 5260

κἂν γραματοσήμων.

Tube with photos, weighing 0,600Kg,  
from ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 5 20.ΔΕΚΕΜ.06 (Athens) to Bern, Switzerland,  
via the boarder station of CHIASSO STAZ DOGANA-POSTE 13.I.07.

Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ updated with 25λ and 1δρχ.

Not scissored (not met after 1905).

In total 2,00δρχ

The recipient was charged 65c for duties and 10c for customs processing.











# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Switzerland

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ. **COUPON. ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.**

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ **COLIS POSTAUX. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ.**

**BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION. ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.**

Timbre du bureau d'origine. ΑΘΗΝΑ 1. OKT. 09

Ci-join ( Συνημμένον ) *Colis* (paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc. δέμα, κύλινδρος, κούτιον, καλάθος, κ.λ.π.)

Déclaration du contenu ( Δήλωση του περιεχομένου ) *Robe vieux*

Déclarations en douane, N° ( Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Αριθ. ) **F. D. 10cts.**

Adresse du destinataire ( Επικράτης του παραλήπτη ) *M. M. Deistard*

Objet de destination ( Τόπος προορισμού ) *vevey Suisse*

Domicile du destinataire ( Κατάστημα του παραλήπτη ) *avenue de Boursies*

Poids vérifié. Βάρος επιληθθέντος. *1100*

Numéro du colis. Αριθ. του δέματος. **ATHÈNES N° 4075**

À remplir par l'expéditeur. Συμπληρωτέον παρά τον αποστολέα.

Αποστολέας: *Κυρία Α. Καρδά*

Αριθμός: *9*

Αποστολή: *9*

Parcel with old dresses, weighing 1,100Kg,  
from ΑΘΗΝΑΙ (ΔΕΜΑΤΑ) 1.ΟΚΤ.09 (Athens), to Vevey, Switzerland,  
via DOGANA SVIZZERA - POSTA DOMODOSSOLA 28.X.08.

Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ updated with 5x25λ and 1δρχ.

Not scissored (not met after 1905).

In total 2,25δρχ

The recipient was charged only for customs processing 10c, handstamp F.D. 10cts (F.D. = Frais de Douane).

Linear FRANCO DI DACIO = Free of Duties



# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Switzerland

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΑ. COUPON. ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ. COLIS POSTAUX. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.

Ci-joint Συνημμένων ζδε } *un paquet* paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc. δέμα, κύλινδρος, κούβιον, καλάθος, κ.λ.τ.

Déclaration du contenu Δήλωση του περιεχομένου } *livre*

Déclarations en douane, N°. Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Ἄριθ. }

Adresse du destinataire Ἐπιγραφή τοῦ παραλήπτου } *M. Orell Füssli*

Lieu de destination Τόπος προορισμοῦ } *Zürich*

Domicile du destinataire Κατοικία τοῦ παραλήπτου }

Poids vérifié. Βάρος ἐπιληφθεθέν. N° 543 Gr. 1500

Numero du colis. Ἀριθ. τοῦ δέματος. CORFOU 543 1911

Acheminement. Ὅδος ἀποστολής. Bureau d'échange Hellénique. Ἀρταλλακτήριον Ἑλληνικῶν Γραφείων.

Parcel with books, weighing 1,500Kg,  
 from **ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ-ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΟΝ 11.ΣΕΠ.11** (Corfu), to Zürich Switzerland,  
 via **DOGANA SVIZZERA - POSTA CHIASSO 28.IX.11**.  
 Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 50λ and 10c.  
 Not scissored (not met after 1905).  
 In total 2,25δρχ  
 The recipient was charged only for customs processing 10c.  
 Two-lines **ESENTE DI DACIO / ZOLLFREI** = Free of Duties



# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to France



100%

Sender: *Stefanos Strait*, Greek jurist, banker, and politician, President of the National Bank of Greece (ETE) and Minister of Finance.



POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ. COUPON. ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ COLIS POSTAUX. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ.

BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.

Ci-joint Συνημμένων εἶδε } *à 1 paquet* (paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc. { δέμα, κύλινδρος, κούτιον, καλάθον, κ.τ.λ.)

Déclaration du contenu Δήλωση του περιεχομένου } *de confiance*

Déclarations en douane, N°. Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, ἄριθ.

Adresse du destinataire Ἐπιγραφή του παραλήπτη } *M. Adam Christakis*

Lieu de destination Τόπος προορισμοῦ } *Paris*

Domicile du destinataire Κατοικία του παραλήπτη } *15 rue St. Georges 199*

Poids vérifié. Βάρος ἐπιληθθέντος. N° 4500

Numéro du colis. Ἄριθ. του δέματος. ATHÈNES N° 2313

Acheminement. Ὅδός ἀποστολής. GARE DE BERCY - DOUANE 18 JUIN 1908

Αθήνησιν

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ 25 ΛΕΠΤΑ 50 ΛΕΠΤΑ 50 ΛΕΠΤΑ 50 ΛΕΠΤΑ

Parcel with jam, weighing 4,500Kg,  
from ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 5 29.ΜΑΙΟΣ.1908 (Athens) to Paris, France, via MODANE P.L.M. 16.JUIN.08 TR3882  
(branch of the railway line Paris-Lyon-Marseille and a customs checkpoint for parcels near the Italian border)  
and GARE DE BERCY - DOUANE 18.JUIN.1908.

Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 2x25λ and 2x50λ.

Not scissored (not met after 1905).

In total 2,25δρχ

The recipient was charged with 20c







# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Germany



70%

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES. ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ. **COUPON. ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.**

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ **BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION. ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.** COLIS POSTAUX. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ.

Timbre de bureau d'origine

Nom, prénom et domicile de l'expéditeur. Όνομα, επώνυμο και κατοικία του αποστολέα.

Α συμπληρωτέον κατά του αποστολέα.

Α συμπληρωτέον κατά του παραλήπτη.

Α συμπληρωτέον κατά του γραφέως της αποστολής.

Ci-joint Συνημμένων εδδ } (paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc. δέμα, κύλιτρος, κουτί, καλάθος, κ.λ.π.)

Déclaration du contenu Δήλωση του περιεχομένου } *Nulla*

Déclarations en douane, N°. Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Αριθ. } *938*

Adresse du destinataire Έπιγραφή του παραλήπτη } *M. R. Comelopoulos*

Lieu de destination Τόπος προορισμού } *officier de la M. R. Hellenique*

Domicile du destinataire Κατοικία του παραλήπτη } *Friedrichstrass 24 A (Allemagne) Stettin*

Poids véritable Βάρος επιληθθέν. N° Gr. N° N° Gr.

Νύστρο του colis. Αριθ. του δέματος. Acheminement. Τρόπος αποστολής.

Χάρος προς έπιβιβασμένον χάρτου.

ATHÈNES N° 1203

Parcel weighing 1,200Kg,  
 from ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 5 26.ΜΑΡΤ.1906 (Athens) to STETTIN 26.4.06, Germany,  
 via TRIEST STADT 21.4.6, ODERBERG 1 BOGUMIN 24.4.06 (today Czechia: Bohumín), BRESLAU 2 AUSLAND 24.4.06  
 and handstamp of the Main Treasury Office K.P.R. HAUPT STEUER AMT. 1 STETTIN.

Parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 25λ, 50λ and 1δρχ.

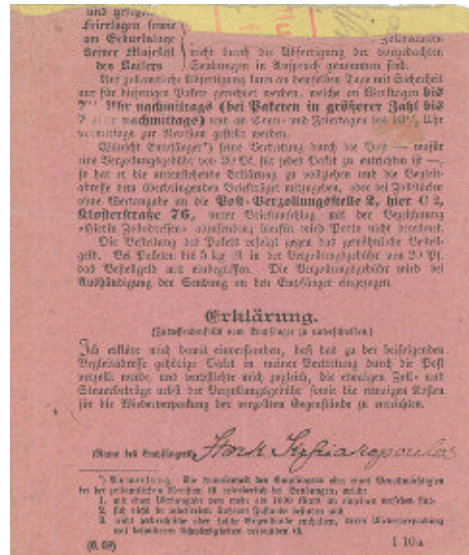
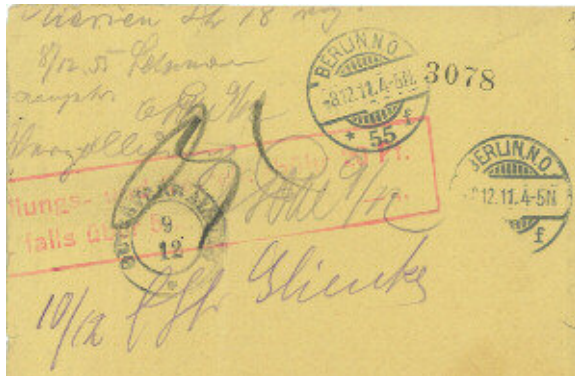
Not scissored (not met after 1905).

In total 2,50δρχ.

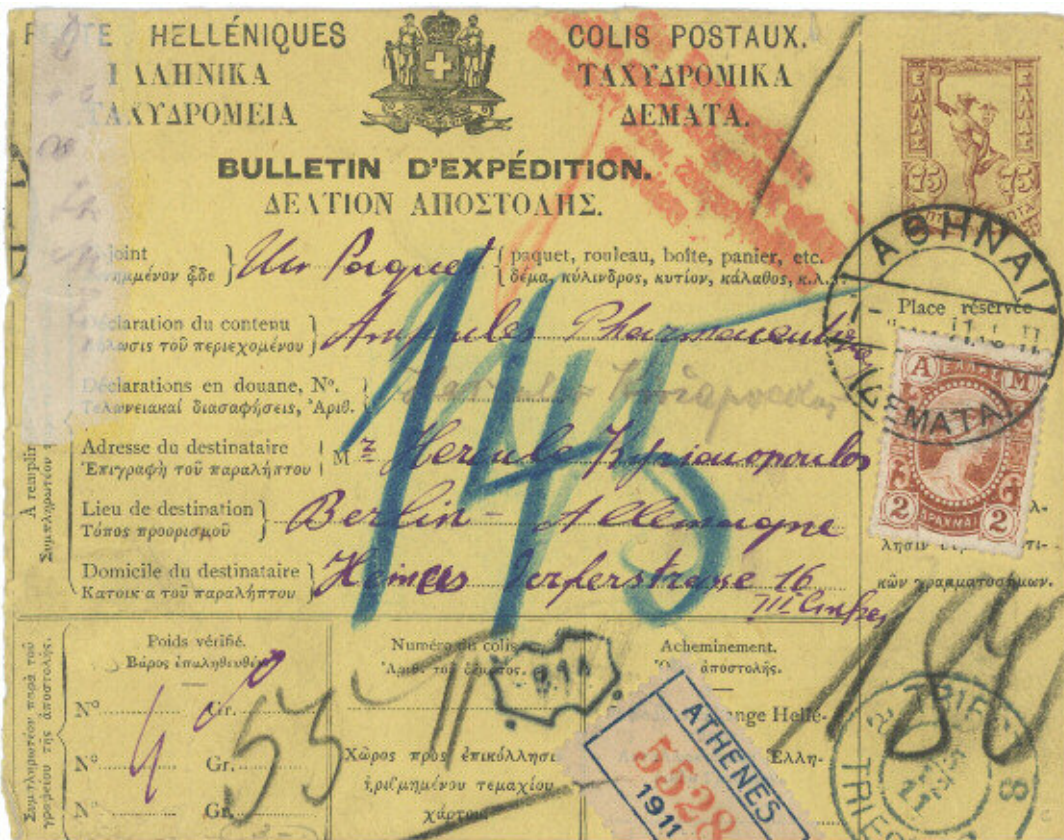


# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Germany



60%

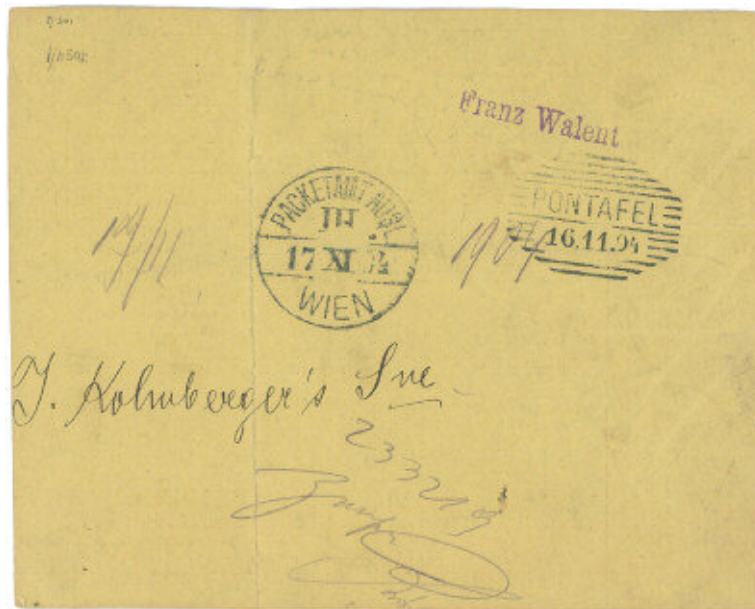


Parcel with pharmaceutical ampoules, weighing 400Kg,  
 from ΑΘΗΝΑΙ (ΔΕΜΑΤΑ) 7.NOE.11 (Athens) to BERLIN N.D. 8.12.11, Germany,  
 via TRIEST 8 TRIESTE 5.12.11,  
 Fragment of parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 2δρχ.  
 Not scissored (not met after 1905).  
 In total 2,75δρχ.



# v. Postal use

## Parcel post form to Austria



70%

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ  
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ

COLIS POSTAUX.  
ΕΛΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΑ  
ΠΑΚΕΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΣΤΟΙΒΕΜΑΤΑ.

**BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION.**  
**ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.**

A remplir par l'expéditeur.  
Συμπληρώνεται παρά τοῦ ἀποστολέου.

Ci-joint  
Συνημμένον εἶδε } 2 Sacki (paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc.  
δέμα, κύλινδρος, κουτί, καλάθι, κ.λ.π.)

Déclaration du contenu  
Δήλωση τοῦ περιεχομένου } Vallouka

Déclarations en douane, N°  
Τελωνειακά διασφίσεις, Ἀριθ. } 98

Adresse du destinataire  
Ἐπιγραφή τοῦ παραλήπτη } J. Kolmberger's Snc

Lieu de destination  
Τόπος προορισμοῦ } Wien IV

Domicile du destinataire  
Κατοικία τοῦ παραλήπτη } Wohllebergasse 17

Poids vérifié.  
Βάρος ἐπιβεβαιωθέν.

N° 618 Gr. 5000  
N° 619 Gr. 5000  
N° Cr.

Acheminement.  
Ὁδὸς ἀποστολῆς.

d'échange Helle-  
nique  
ἐκτὸς τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ  
ἢ Γραφείου

Colis Postaux  
618  
PATRAS

Colis Postaux  
619  
PATRAS

ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 27.ΟΚΤ.1904

BRINDISI 11.ΙΙ.04

PONTAFEL 16.11.04

Wien III 17.XI.04

Two sacks, weighing 5,000Kg each,  
from ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 27.ΟΚΤ.1904 (Patras), to PACKETAMT AUSL. WIEN III 17.XI.04, Austria,  
via BRINDISI (PACCHI) 11.ΙΙ.04 and CONTAFEL 16.11.04.

Fragment of parcel post form (stationery) 75λ uprated with 25λ, 1δρχ και 2δρχ.  
Cut with a cutter (according to the relevant Circular).

In total 4,000δρχ.



