

1944: Million Fees and the events surrounding them (25.09-11.11.1944)

In the autumn of 1944, as World War II was nearing its end, inflation was skyrocketing... Many were dead, countless were poor and hungry. Postal communication was drastically reduced!

In **domestic correspondence**, cards and envelopes were used, often improvised. The ability to use envelopes—without signs of tampering—indicates that domestic mail was not censored. Some initials found are likely from postal employees and probably pertain to fees, while in Thessaloniki, the Occupation practice continued, requiring the sender's information (ID Card number) to be noted.

In **international correspondence**, which resumed on November 1, only the use of plain postal cards was permitted. While a letter rate was planned, it seems letters were never allowed. The content on the cards had to be family-related and brief, with "commercial" content prohibited. Naturally, they were censored to check the nature of the content, though no censorship markings were stamped. Only handwritten notes indicating the reason for non-forwarding were occasionally found. *The surviving cards convey the worries of those corresponding: after years of communication barriers (mail suspended), they inform distant relatives of family losses, poverty, hunger, and the lack of clothing and especially footwear...*

The postal rates that took effect from **September 15** (first day of circulation for the three denominations) were:

Domestic:

Letter: 5.000.000δρχ /20g +3.000.000δρχ /20g

Letter in town: 3.000.000δρχ /20g +3.000.000δρχ /20g

Postcard: 3.000.000δρχ

Registration fee: + 5.000.000δρχ

Express fee: + 5.000.000δρχ

Airmail fee: + 1.000.000δρχ [personal conclusion]

International (Correspondence was allowed only from November 1, meaning for **just 10 days**):

Letter: 10.000.000δρχ /20g [It was planned, but envelopes were never accepted during this period]

Postcard: 6.000.000δρχ

Registration fee: + 10.000.000δρχ [It was planned, but registered cards were likely never accepted during this period]

When postal rates changed on **November 11**, due to the establishment of the New Drachma (currency reform), the exchange rate was 50,000,000,000 drachmas = 1 New Drachma. Thus, the new domestic letter postal rate (3 drachmas) was set at **30,000 times the previous day's rate** (at least, based on the nominal stamp value).

The handling of correspondence was problematic. As noted by Petros Tiberius (Volume II):

- "Until further notice, no foreign correspondence will be accepted." (17.09.1944, Enomenos Typos).
- "Due to the suspension of postal communications between Athens and the provinces, postal items will no longer be accepted. An exception is correspondence with Thessaloniki, for which the specified airmail additional fee must be paid." (20.09.1944, Enomenos Typos).

From the postcard dated November 9, (page 2), we learn:

- "Today, as mail service has just been permitted with all of Greece, except for Crete"... "As soon as the Postal Money Order Service becomes operational..."

While the Money Order service was not operational, we read in private mail for parcels being sent (possibly through other means).

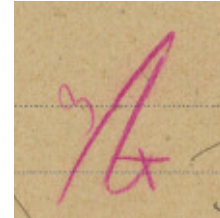
The million-denomination stamps were replaced on 11.11.1944 with the **ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΝΕΑΙ** (New Drachmas overprint) and the Historical series postal cards (of 2 drachmas & 5 drachmas) which have been re-used without overprints..

However, their use persisted in some areas not governed by the official Greek state of Athens (controlled by resistance groups and German administration). Notable examples, the **Messenia** area (where correspondence was censored by the EAM: National Liberation Front) and **Crete** (with the remaining German garrison).

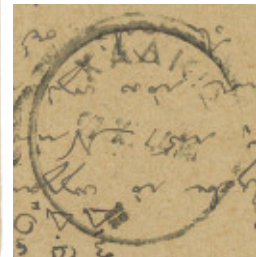
During the period of million-denomination rates, in areas administered by provisional political authorities (National Resistance), after the withdrawal of occupation forces, postage stamps from the previous period were overprinted. The surcharges ranged from 100,000 drachmas to 10,000,000 drachmas. During this time, overprinted stamps were issued in **Lefkada** (19.09), **Lesvos** (20.09), **Agriio** (07.10), and **Preveza** (17.10.1944).

Domestic Mail: Postcards

Rate: 3.000.000δρχ



Rate confirmation **3** and signature



Use of a devalued postal card (3.000δρχ) with postage stamps 2x500.000δρχ & 2.000.000δρχ affixed, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 8.X.1944** (Athens, Syntagma), sent to **ΧΑΛΚΙΣ 27.XI.44** (Chalkis), via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΞΙΣ 9.ΟΚΤ.44** (Athens). It arrived **after 50 days!**

We are all free! Glory to God!

...I am sending you this today, as mail has just been permitted with all of Greece except Crete...

...I will send them to you as soon as I receive a letter from you to confirm that mail service has been fully restored...

As soon as the Postal Money Order Service is operational, I will send you...

The departure of refugees from Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, who have sought refuge here, to return to their homes will be permitted, it is assumed, in early December.



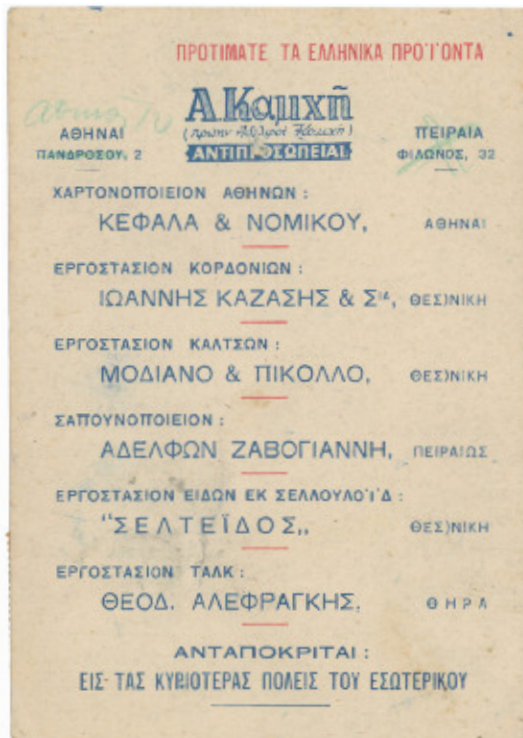
Use of a devalued postal card (2δρχ) with postage stamps 2x500.000δρχ & 2.000.000δρχ affixed, without any dispatch or arrival postmark! Unknown if it was ever forwarded....

Αθήναι τη 9 Νοεμβρίου 1944 (Athens) to **Νέα Ζίχνη (Ζηλιάχωβα)* Σερρών** (Nea Zichni / Ziliachova)

**It also notes the old name (Ottoman and Bulgarian) that had been reinstated during the Bulgarian occupation!*

Domestic Mail: Postcards

Rate: 3.000.000δρχ
 Franking: 5.000.000δρχ



Glory to God, we are saved! We returned home just the day before yesterday.

(Jewish Family A. Kamchi)



Commercial postcard franked with 5.000.000δρχ (instead of the correct rate of 3.000.000δρχ), postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ 8.ΝΟΕ.44** (Athens), sent to **Patras**.

Domestic Mail: In town letters

Rate: 3.000.000δρχ

Sender the **DEGRIGES**, Deutsch-Griechische Warenausgleichsgesellschaft G.m.b.H. (German-Greek Commodity Equalization Company, 36 Stadiou Street, Athens).

The economic drain on Greece by the Germans had another facet: the imposition of trade exchanges through bilateral clearing agreements managed by the German export company DeGriGes. Established a year after the Germans arrived in Greece, it, along with the Italian SAGIG, siphoned off Greek production in exchange for supplying Greeks with cheap and useless goods at prices set by the occupiers, to the detriment of Greek products.



60%



Commercial letter franked with 2x500.000δρχ & 2.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ 24.ΣΕΠ.44** (Athens), sent in town **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 25.ΣΕΠ.44**.

Domestic Mail: Letters

Τέλος: 5.000.000δρχ



Rate confirmation **5**
and signature

Letter with 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ 26.X.44** (Athens, Syntagma), sent to **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 29.X.44**, (Patras) via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 27.ΟΚΤ.44**.

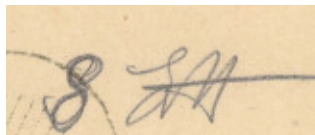
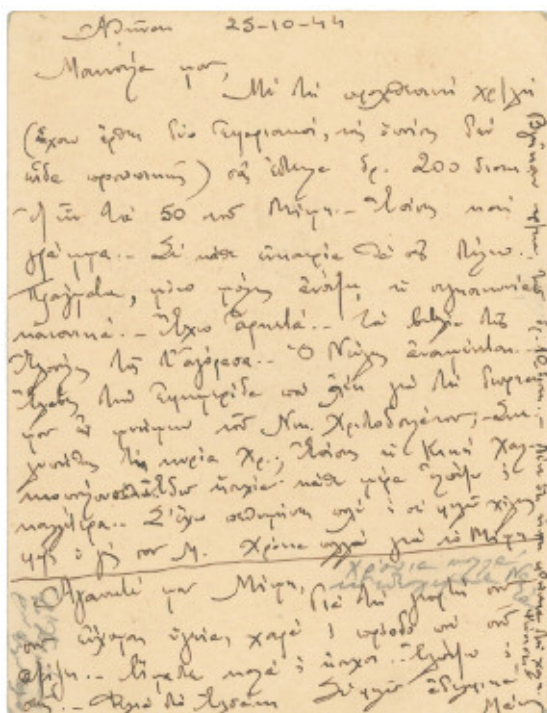


Letter franked with 5.000.000δρχ & Charity 25.000δρχ, postmark **ΝΕΑ ΙΟΝΙΑ 6.XI.44** (Nea Ionia), sent to **Παλαιοχώριον Λέσβου** (Paleochorion), via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 6.ΝΟΕ.44**, **ΜΥΤΙΛΗΝΗ ΑΦΕΙΣ 11.ΝΟΕ.44** και **ΠΛΩΜΑΡΙΟΝ 12.XI.44** (Athens, Mytilini & Plomarion).

Domestic Mail: Express postcards

Postcard rate: 3.000.000δρχ

Express fee: 5.000.000δρχ



Rate confirmation **8** and signature



the lower word removed (not mentioned)

Βρήκαν τραπεζογραμμάτια των δρ. 10 δισεκατομμυρίων. Λένε ότι είναι φθηνά στη Χαλκίδα, ψύνισε!

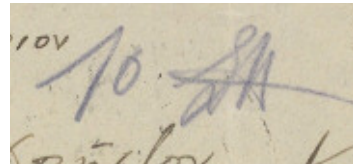
Banknotes of 10 billion drachmas were issued. They say things are cheap in Chalkida, go shopping!



Postcard with postage stamps: 2x500.000δρχ, 2.000.000δρχ and 5.000.000δρχ (3.000.000δρχ postcard rate and 5.000.000δρχ express fee), postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ 29.X.44** (Athens, Syntagma) to **Χαλκίδα**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ---- 30.ΟΚΤ.44** (lower word removed).

Domestic Mail: Express letters

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ
Express fee: 5.000.000δρχ



Rate confirmation **10**
and signature

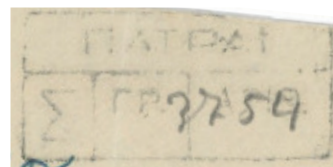
60%



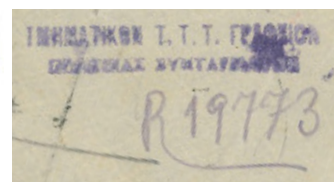
Letter with pair of 5.000.000δρχ & Charity 25.000δρχ, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ 5.XI.44** (Athens, Syntagma) to **ΒΟΛΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 8.XI.44** (Volos) via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 6.XI.44**. The handwritten notice **Επείγον** (Express), under the Charity stamp.

Domestic Mail: Registered letters

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ
 Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ



Letter with 2x5.000.000δρχ & Charity 25.000δρχ, postmark **ΠΑΤΡΑΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ** (Patras, illegible postmark) sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜ. 4.XI.44** (Athens).



80%

Letter with 5x2.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΠΛΑΤ. ΣΥΝ/ΤΟΣ 25.IX.44** (Athens, Syntagma), to **ΧΑΛΚΙΣ 27.XI.44** (Chalkis), via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 26.IX.44**. It arrived after **62 days!**

Domestic Mail: Airmail letters

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ, (Express fee: 5.000.000δρχ), Airmail fee: 1.000.000δρχ



Airmail:

Letter with 2x500.000δρχ + 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΞΟΧΑΙ 30.IX.44** (Thessaloniki, Exoches), sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΛΕΒΙΔΟΥ 8 5.X.44**, (Athens, Levidou), via **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΦΕΙΣ 2.X.44** and **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 4.X.44** (Thessaloniki & Athens).

Although there is a handwritten note "Express Airmail," it was sent by airmail without express handling.

Sender identity verification: "Δ.Τ., Αρ. 4301/26/Μαΐου/1943".



Airmail & Express letter:

Letter with 2x500.000δρχ + 2x5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 5 19.IX.44** (Thessaloniki), sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 21.IX.44** (Athens).

Handwritten "Επίγειν Αεροπορικώς" (Express/Airmail), markings **ΕΠΕΙΓΟΝ & ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ / PAR AVION**.

Sender identity verification: Handwritten "Declaration for the above company, Γεώργιος Μεντζέλος".

Domestic Mail: Registered airmail letters

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ,
Express fee: 5.000.000δρχ, Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ,
Airmail fee: 1.000.000δρχ



70%



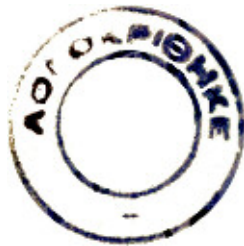
Airmail, registered & express letter:

Registered letter with 2x500.000δρχ + 3x5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 25.IX.44** (Thessaloniki), to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΝΕΑ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΙΑ 11.X.1944** (Athens, Nea Philadelphia), via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ POSTE AERIENNE 28.IX.44**. Markings **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ Σ...**, **ΕΠΕΙΓΟΝ** and **ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ / PAR AVION**. Although it arrived in Athens in 4 days, it took 14 days to be delivered to the final destination..

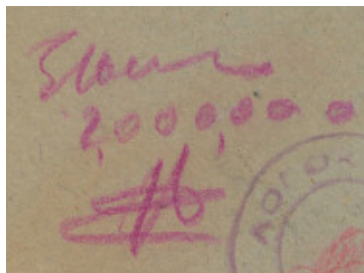
The stamps of the Thessaloniki International Fair were affixed to cover the logo on the printed envelope.

Domestic Mail: Handwritten fees

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ,
2nd weight tier: +2.000.000δρχ,
Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ.



Battle of Kalamata: On September 9, 1944, a battle took place between ELAS and the Security Battalions, which collaborated with sections of the Greek Gendarmerie. It ended with the victory of ELAS, leading to the liberation of Kalamata. In the EAM-controlled city, EAM censorship was imposed.



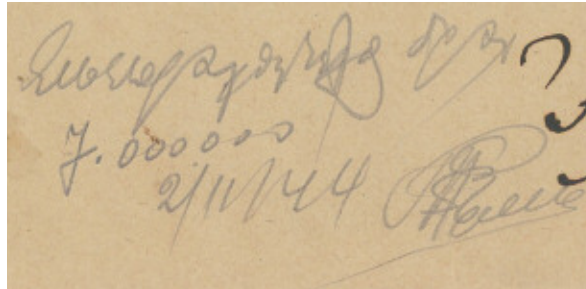
Censored registered letter of the second weight tier. The 2.000.000δρχ were collected cash:

Registered letter 2x5.000.000δρχ, handstamp **ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 6.XI.44** (Kalamata), to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜ. 19.XI.44** (Athens). The extra fee of 2.000.000δρχ for the 2nd weight tier was paid cash and marked by hand with purple pencil **Επιπλέον 2.000.000** (Additionally) & signature of the postal employee. Obviously, the 500,000 drachmas and 2,000,000 drachmas stamp values were depleted.

It was censored, with a purple **ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΘΗΚΕ** (censored), with reader's signature

Domestic Mail: Handwritten fees

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ,
2nd weight tier: +2.000.000δρχ,
Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ.

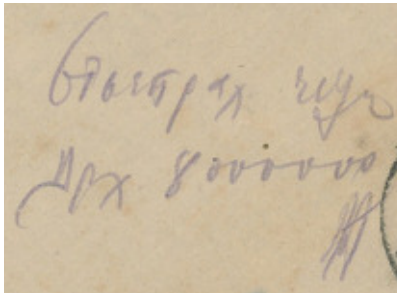


Censored registered letter of the second weight tier. The 7.000.000δρχ were collected cash:

Registered letter with handwritten **Γραμμ. 27** (2nd weight tier, 27gr) and **Εισεπράχθησαν δραχ 7.000.000 2/11/44** (7.000.000 collected cash) with postal employee's signature + Charity 25.000δρχ, postmark **ΑΓΙΟΣ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΣ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ 2.X.44** (Agios Nikolaos, Crete, with month **X** instead of **XI**) sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜ. 22.XI.44** (Athens) It arrived after **17 days**.

Domestic Mail: Handwritten fees

In town letter: 3.000.000δρχ,
Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ.



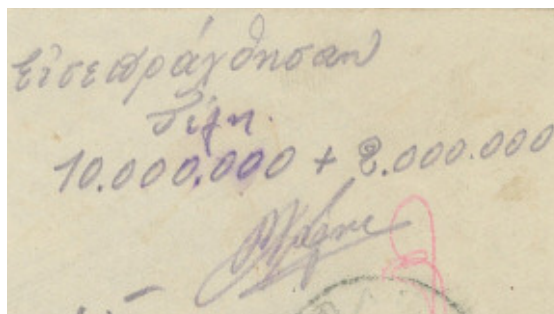
Registered in town letter. The 8.000.000δρχ were collected cash:

Registered in town letter with handwritten **Εισεπράχ. τέλη Δρχ 8.000.000** (collected in cash) with postal employee's signature, postmark **ΒΟΛΟΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 17.IX.44** (Volos, **3rd day** of the new rates)

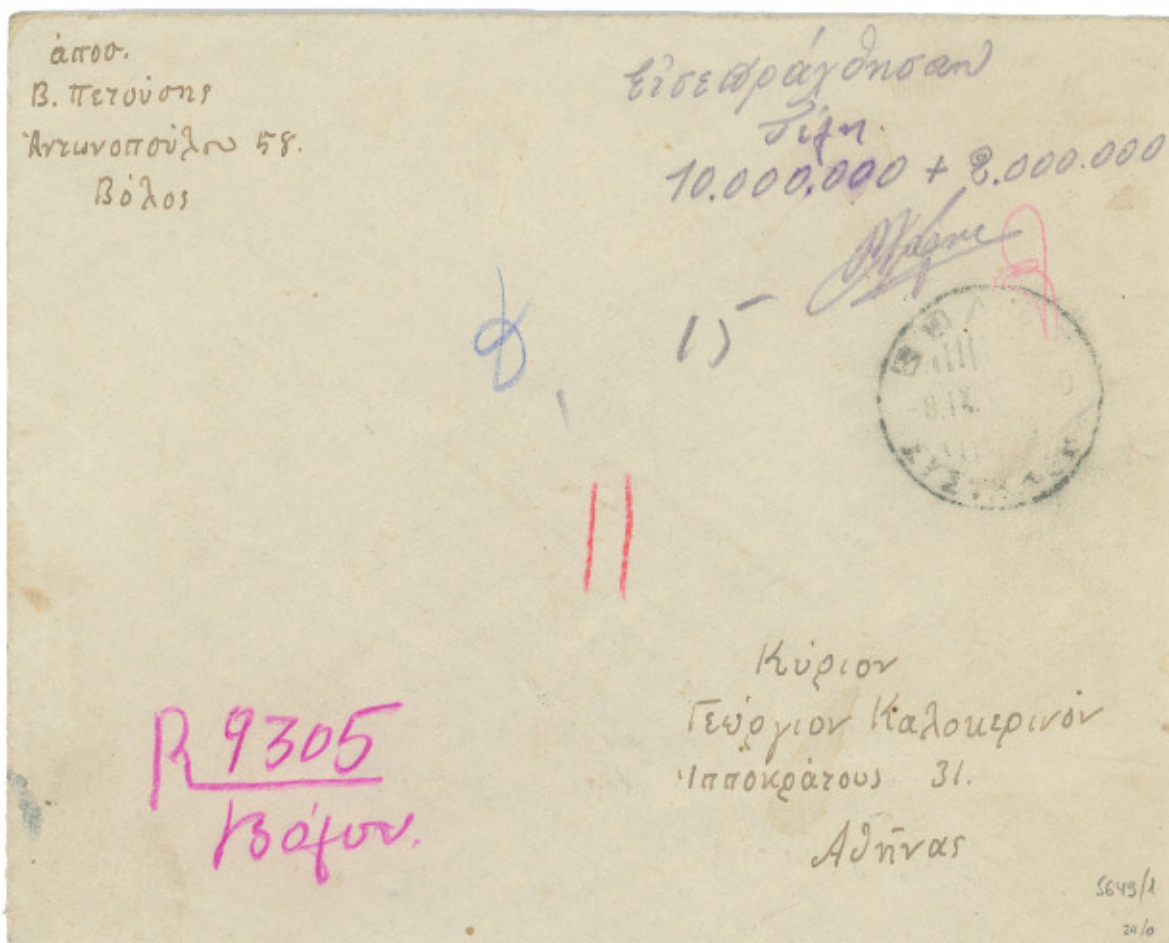
Domestic Mail: Handwritten fees

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ,
Fifth weight tier + 4x2.000.000δρχ,
Registration fee: 5.000.000δρχ.

Comparing the two letters from Volos (pages 13 and 14),
we conclude that an average of 17 registered letters were submitted daily at the Volos Post Office.



Εισεπράχθησαν
Τέλη
10.000.000 + 8.000.000
Μήνας



ἀποσ.
Β. Πετούσης
Αγκυροπούλου 58.
Βόλος

Εισεπράχθησαν
Τέλη
10.000.000 + 8.000.000
Μήνας

15

Κύριον
Γεώργιον Καλοπερινόν
Παποκράτους 31.
Αθήνας

Α 9305
Βόλον.

5643/2
20/0

Registered letter of 5th weight tier. The 18.000.000 were collected cash:

5th weight tier registered letter with handwritten **Εισεπράχθησαν Τέλη 10.000.000 + 8.000.000** (collected in cash) with postal employee's signature, postmark **ΒΟΛΟΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 8.IX.44** (Volos), sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ ΣΥΣΤΗΜ. 18.XI.44** (Athens). It arrived after **11 days**.

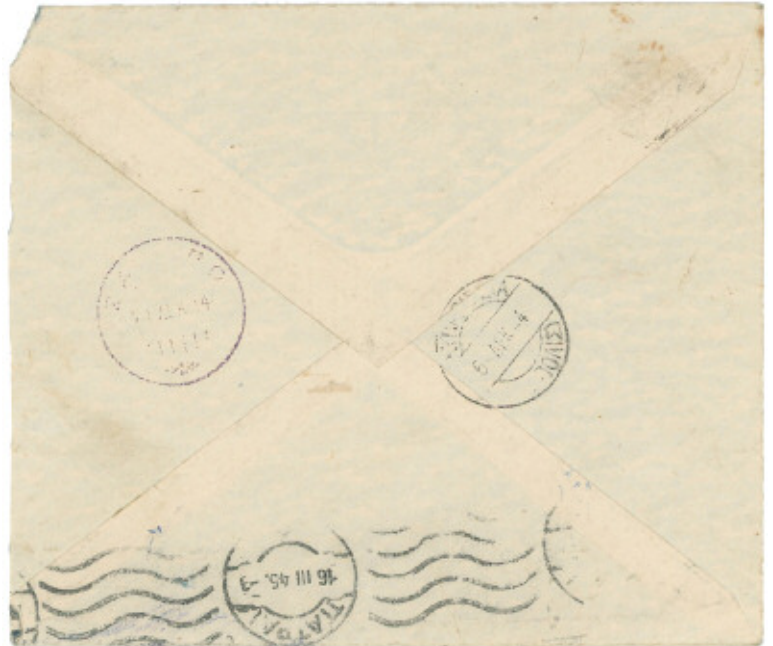
Use after its validity period (>10.11.1944)

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ.



Battle of Kalamata: On September 9, 1944, a battle took place between ELAS and the Security Battalions, which collaborated with sections of the Greek Gendarmerie. It ended with the victory of ELAS, leading to the liberation of Kalamata.

In the EAM-controlled city, EAM censorship was imposed. Having no contact with the Athens government, the post offices in Messenia did not receive the new ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΝΕΑΙ (New Drachma) postage stamps. The use of million-denomination stamps continued, with the same rates.



66,6%



Letter with 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙ 13.ΝΟΕ.44** (Kalamata), sent to **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ 16.ΙΙΙ.45** (Patras) via **ΚΥΠΑΡΙΣΣΙΑ (... ΠΟΛΙΣ) 6.ΔΕΚ.44** (Kyparissia) and **ΖΑΧΑΡΩ 21.ΔΕΚ.44** (Zacharo). It arrived after **124 days!!!**

Use after its validity period (Febr. 1945)

Letter rate: 5.000.000δρχ.

Crete was fully liberated in May 1945. A few thousand German "armed prisoners" remained in Chania Prefecture. Heraklion was liberated in October 1944.

However, postal communications and the uninterrupted operation of Post Offices were not immediately restored...



Letter with 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΝ 6.ΦΕΒ.45** (Heraklion), sent to **ΚΗΦΙΣΣΙΑ 16.ΦΕΒ.45** (Kiphissia)!!!

Mail to Abroad: Egypt

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

Postal rates for international mail were immediately set with the issuance of the three new denominations. However, international mail service was suspended and only resumed on November 1. Citizens were informed a few days prior about the resumption of international routes and that only non-illustrated postcards with family-oriented content would be accepted. Postcards with commercial content would be returned.



Long live the Great and Free Greece, and long live the Greek Dodecanese.

Glory to God, we are all alive: We have won Victory, and now, with the power of God and the will of our National Government, we hope to secure, through the law, Freedom, Justice, and Security.

Use of a devalued postal card (2δρχ) with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postmark **ΠΑΛΑΙΟΝ ΦΑΛΗΡΟΝ 30.ΟΚΤ.44** (Paleon Phaleron), to **Βενχιά, Αίγυπτος**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 3.ΝΟΕ.44** (Athens). It received bag arrival number **9304** at British censorship and a bilingual **Postal Censor** marking.



Use of a devalued postal card (3.000δρχ) with 3x2.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΛΕΒΙΔΟΥ 8 2.ΧΙ.44** (Athens) to **Αλεξάνδρεια, Αίγυπτος**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 3.ΝΟΕ.44** (Athens). It received bag arrival number **9304** at British censorship and a bilingual **Postal Censor** marking.

Mail to Abroad: USA

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ



I hope you got our first detailed letter which we sent you some days ago. Here we enjoy our freedom since 3 weeks, we had really suffered enough all these 3½ years...

Could you be so kind and send us the newest fashion magazines?

Postcard with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ, postmark ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ 1.XI.44 (Syntagma Square, Athens) to **Rhodes island, ΗΠΑ**. It received bag arrival number **9310** at British censorship in Egypt and was censored in USA, with markings **U.S. CENSORSHIP / EXAMINED** and **6340**.

With the help of God and our great allies, the Americans and the British, today I am sending you the first message of our sweet homeland's freedom.

After four years of destruction by the barbarian conquerors, we are free, and we live -and will continue to live- to seek justice alongside our brave allies.



the lower word removed
(not mentioned)



Postcard franked with 3x2.000.000δρχ, postmark ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 31.X.44 (Syntagma Square), sent to **Manchester, ΗΠΑ**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ---- 31.ΟΚΤ.44** (lower word removed). It received bag arrival number **9321** at British censorship in Egypt and was censored in USA, with markings **U.S. CENSORSHIP / EXAMINED** and **6183**.

Mail to Abroad: England

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ



After a slavery of four years and the horrible consequences therefrom, my family and me, with the help of God, we are in life and we enjoy our liberty.

Postcard with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ) 3.ΝΟΕΜ.44** (Patras) sent to **LIVERPOOL 5.ΔΕ.44, England**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 5.ΝΟΕΜ.44**. Without passing through the British censorship service in Egypt (sack numbering series 9000), it was censored in England with a red octagonal **PASSED P.227**. The recipient had departed, and it was returned to **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 23.ΙΟΥΝ.45** (Patras).

Thanks to our great allies we are at last liberated...

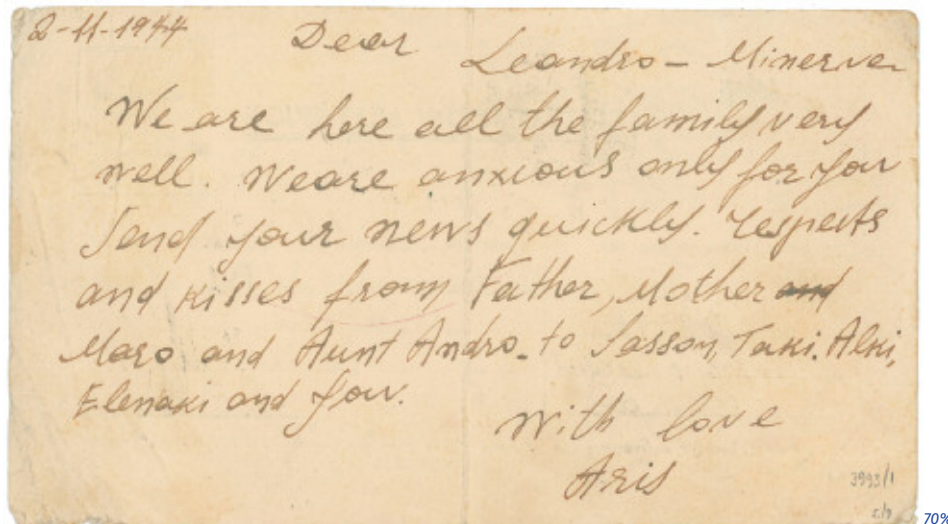
It is not possible to explain to you by a post-card what we suffered for the last four years, but you can imagine. As soon as you will be able please send me some money.



Use of a devalued postal card (5δρχ) with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΔΕΜΑΤΑ 4.ΝΟΕ.44** (Athens), sent to **Stamford, England**. Without passing through the British censorship service in Egypt (sack numbering series 9000), it was censored in England with a red octagonal **PASSED T134**.

Mail to Abroad: Colombia

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

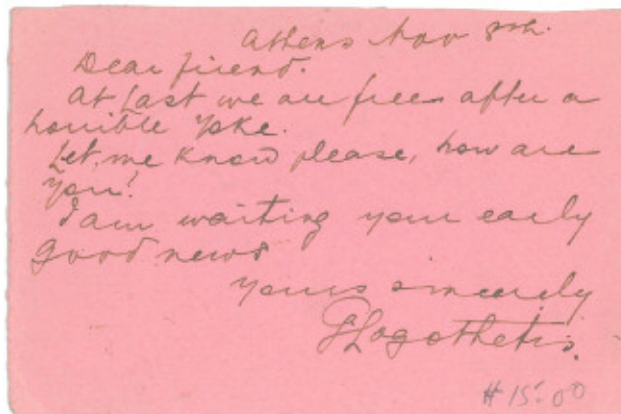


Postcard with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΙΕΥΣ 9.ΝΟΕΜ.44** (Piraeus), sent to **Medellin, Colombia**. Without passing through the British censorship service in Egypt (sack numbering series 9000), it was censored in USA, with marking **U.S. CENSORSHIP / EXAMINED** and handwritten **7165**.

Private issue of postcard with Metaxas' slogan (1939-1940).

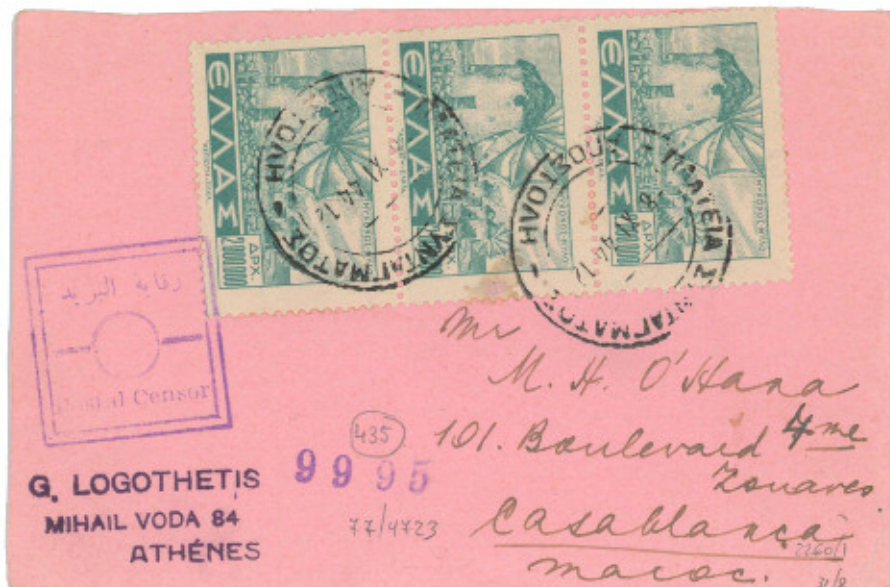
Mail to Abroad: Morocco

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ



70%

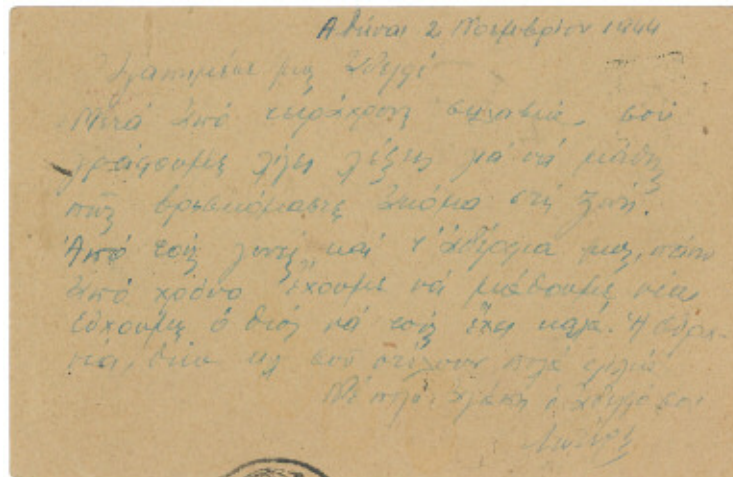
At last we are free after a horrible yoke



Postcard franked with 3x2.000.000δρχ, postmark **ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 8.XI.44** (Syntagma Square, Athens), sent to **Casablanca, Morocco**. It received bag arrival number **9995** at British censorship in Egypt and bilingual **Postal Censor**.

Mail to Abroad: Belgian Congo

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ



70%

After four years of slavery, we are writing a few words to let you know that we are still alive.



Use of a devalued postal card (7δρχ/2δρχ) with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postcard **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΜΠΕΛΟΚΗΠΟΙ 3.XI.44** (Athens, Ambelokipoi), sent to **Albertville, Belgian Congo**. It received bag arrival number **9480** at British censorship in Egypt and bilingual **Postal Censor**.

Mail to Abroad: South Africa

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

Ράηρον - 1 Νοεμβρίου 1944
Πορναγασημίνε μου δέε Εύδύμικ
Λού βέρνω ιορηά φηγάμια καδίε και η
αγασηη μου μαμιά μωομωιά, γιαμιά,
ισαωωοιά, οι δέιοι και οι δέιεε.
Εωιθουμώ ιορηά να βε γηωρίωε. ελίηνω φηγιά
και βλό δέιο μου χριεβόροπο και εε εγούε
Εγώ μαγαμωεα και έρχω μόνωε μου
Είμαι άπειρωώε 15 μηηών.
Με ιορηά φηγάμια
ο άμυφίοε εαε Εύάγγελοε Α. Καγαμωόηεε

70%



Use of a devalued postal card (3000δρχ) with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postmark **ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ 9.ΝΟΕΜ.44** (Piraeus, from Phaleron), sent to **Johannesburg, South Africa**. It received bag arrival number **9480** at British censorship in Egypt.

Mail to Abroad: returned / irregular

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

Επιστρέφεται, ανδικανονικών
(Returned, irregular)

Dear Sirs Athens 8 November 1944
With the first opportunity of correspondence I take the honour to address to you and the members of the Air Mail Society of Australia my kind regards. Australian and New Zealanders between our Allies came first in aid of our country, and fought bravely side by side with us on the hills and plains of Greece. So we feel the most fervent friendship for them. Now, when Greece is again free from Nazi's dark slavery, I should be proud if I find correspondents interested in air mail-covers of Greece, first flight, censored envelopes and all the Air Mail sets of Greece with valuable errors of full guarantee. Also I dispose a great stock of all issues of Greece, Creta, Turkey, Hedjaz, Egypt, Soudan etc. in packets single or sets, mint and used. I am interested in British Colonies, Pacific Islands of preference, pictorial mint mals on Yvert 1944 basis (Lates Scot or Gibbons not yet received) or my price-list in connection to your terms. Prompt reply and full satisfaction guaranteed! Hoping that my offer will receive your full attention. I remain Very truly yours
A. Drakakis

70%

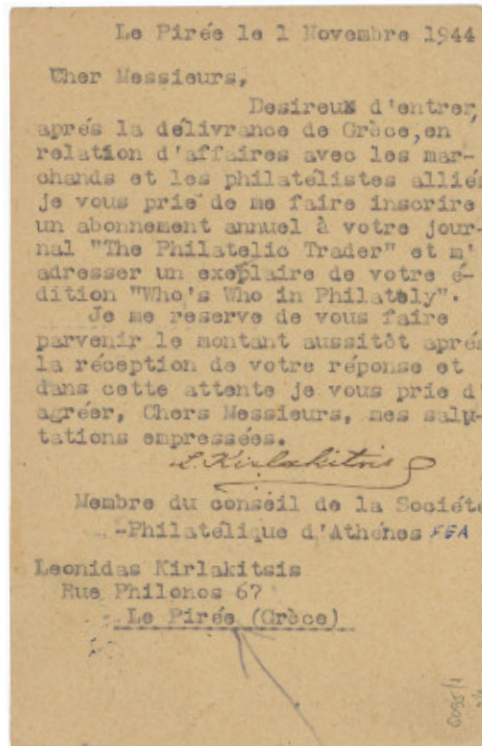


Use of a devalued postal card (3000δρχ) with 3x2.000.000δρχ postage stamps affixed, postmark **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΛΕΒΙΔΟΥ 8.ΧΙ.44** (Athens, Levidou), addressed to **Victoria, Australia**. Returned to sender **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΛΕΒΙΔΟΥ 18.ΧΙ.44** (Athens, Levidou), via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΕΙΣ 17.ΧΙ.44** (Athens). Handwritten informational notice **Επιστρέφεται, ανδικανονικών** (Returned, irregular). The text was classified as commercial because it refers to stamps (philatelist Alexandros Drakakis).

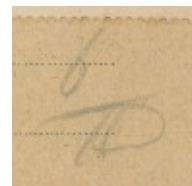
Mail to Abroad: returned as commercial

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

*Επιστρέφεται ως εμπορικών.
Γίνονται δεκτά μόνον δελτάρια βραχύλοχα
οικογενειακού περιεχομένου*



*Returned as commercial.
Only brief postcards
with family-oriented content are accepted.*



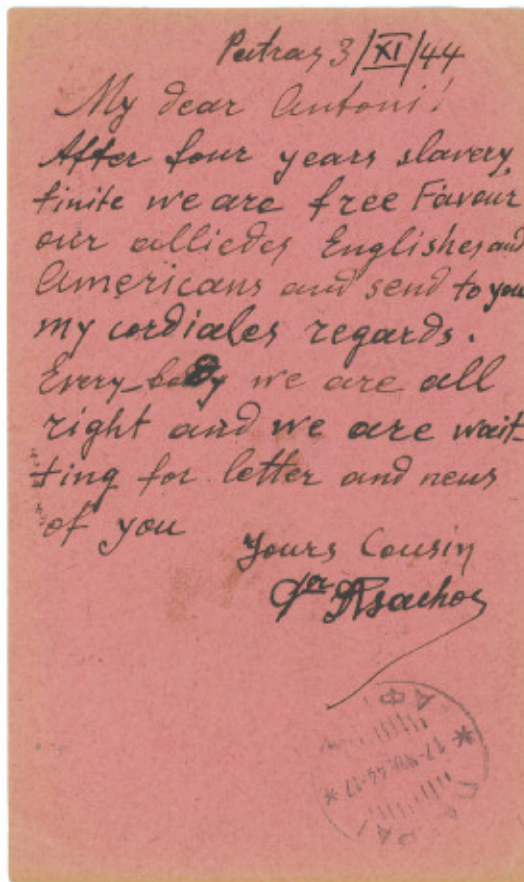
Rate confirmation 6
and signature



Use of a devalued postal card (75δρχ, uprated with 25δρχ) with 2x500.000δρχ & 5.000.000δρχ affixed, postmark ΠΛΑΤΕΙΑ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 1.ΧΙ.44 (Syndagma Square, Athens), addressed to **London, England**. Returned to sender. Handwritten informational notice **Επιστρέφεται, ως εμπορικών...** (Returned as commercial. Only brief postcards with family-oriented content are accepted) The text was classified as commercial because the sender requests to subscribe annually to The Philatelist Leonidas Kirlakitsis).

Mail to Abroad: returned as illustrated

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ



After four years slavery finite we are free Favour our allides Englishes and Americans

Επιστρέφεται
 Γίνονται δεκτά
 μη εικονογραφημένα

Returned
 Only non-illustrated
 postcards are accepted

70%



Illustrated (free of charge, military) postcard with 2x5.000.000δρχ (overfranked by 4.000.000δρχ), postmark **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ (ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ) 4.ΝΟΕΜ.44** (Patras), addressed to **New York (USA)**. Returned to sender **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ ΑΦΙΕΙΣ 17.ΝΟΕΜ.44** (Patras). Handwritten informational notice **Επιστρέφεται, Γίνονται δεκτά μη εικονογραφημένα** (Returned. Only non-illustrated postcards are accepted).

Mail to Abroad: returned as illustrated

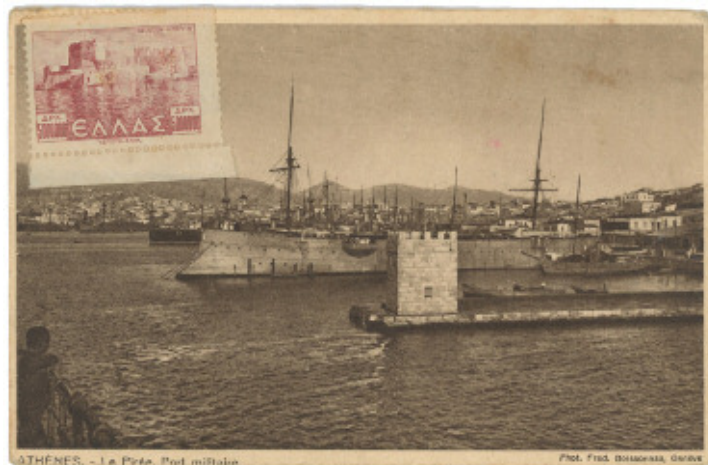
Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

Δεν έγινε δεκτό εις
το Ταχυδρομείον ως
εικονογραφημένον

*It was not accepted at the
Post Office as illustrated.*

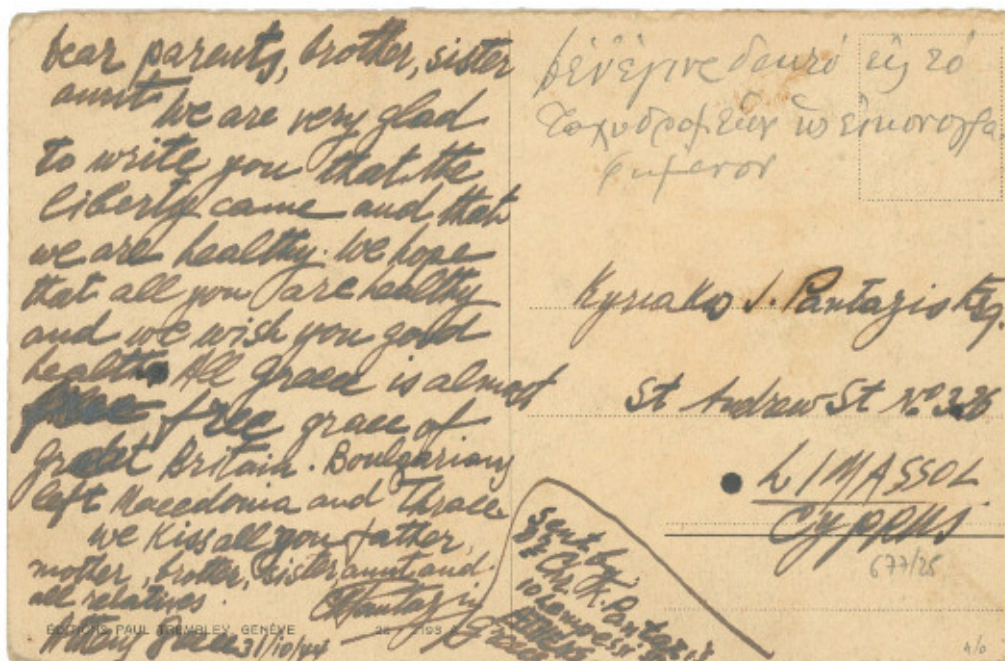
*We are very glad to write you that the liberty came and that
we are healthy...*

*All Greece is almost free grace of Great Britain. Bulgarians
left Macedonia and Thrace.*



ATHENES. - La Pirée. Port militaire

PHOT. FRÉS. BOURGONNE, GENÈVE 70%



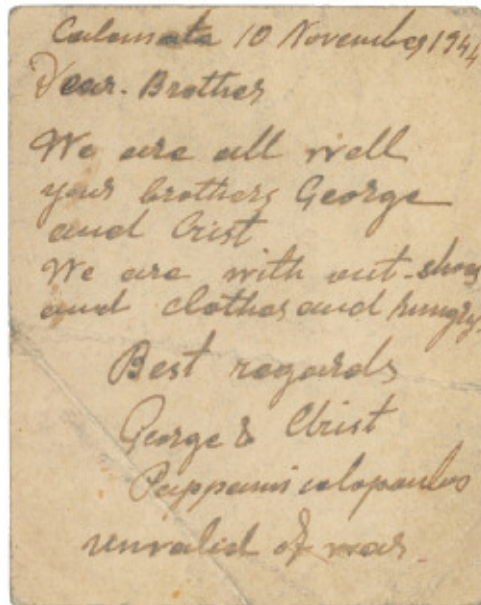
Picture postcard franked with 5.000.000δρχ (underfranked by 1.000.000δρχ). Without any postmark. Handwritten **Δεν έγινε δεκτό εις το Ταχυδρομείον ως εικονογραφημένον** (It was not accepted at the Post Office as illustrated).

Use after its validity period (>10.11.1944)

Postcards rate: 6.000.000δρχ

Battle of Kalamata: On September 9, 1944, a battle took place between ELAS and the Security Battalions, which collaborated with sections of the Greek Gendarmerie. It ended with the victory of ELAS, leading to the liberation of Kalamata.

The EAM-controlled city of Kalamata had no contact with the Athens government. The post offices in Messenia did not receive the new ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΝΕΑΙ (New Drachma) postage stamps. The use of million-denomination stamps continued, with the same rates.



We are all well...

*We are with-out shoes
and clothes and hungry...*

Invalid of war

70%



Postcard with 2.000.000 & 5.000.000δρχ (overfranked by 1.000.000δρχ), postmark **ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑ 11.ΝΟΕ.44** (First Day for the issue ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ ΝΕΑΙ: New Drachmas) addressed to **Atlanta, USA**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΙΞΙΣ 19.ΝΟΕ.44** (Athens) Without passing through the British censorship service in Egypt (sack numbering series 9000), it was censored in USA, with marking **U.S. CENSORSHIP / EXAMINED** and **69004**.

National Resistance: Lesvos

Domestic letter rate: 200.000δρχ

Lesvos was an EAM-controlled island.

Four postage stamps were surcharged **ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΗ ΛΕΣΒΟΣ** (Free Lesvos), 100.000δρχ, 200.000δρχ & 400.000δρχ. During their period of use, the rates from the previous period (<September 15, 1944) were applied.



70%



Letter of philatelic inspiration, franked with 200.000δρχ/1000δρχ and Charity 5x5000δρχ, postmark **ΠΕΤΡΑ 20.ΣΕΠ.44** (Petra, First Day of Issue), sent to **ΜΥΤΙΑΝΝΗ ΑΦΕΙΣ 21.ΣΕΠ.44** (Mytilini). Censorship marking **ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΜΥΤΙΑΝΝΗΣ** (Censorship of Mytilini) and reader's **Α.10** in violet.

National Resistance: Lesvos

Letter to abroad rate: 500.000δρχ

Lesvos was an EAM-controlled island.

Four postage stamps were surcharged **ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΗ ΛΕΣΒΟΣ** (Free Lesvos), 100.000δρχ, 200.000δρχ & 400.000δρχ. During their period of use, the rates from the previous period (<September 15, 1944) were applied.



70%



Properly posted letter, franked with 100.000δρχ/200δρχ & 2x200.000δρχ/100δρχ stamps, postmark **MYTILINI 5.X.44** (Mytilini) sent to **CAIRO 3, Egypt**. Marked with **Λ** (censorship reader of Mytilini). Posted **Μέσω Ελληνικού Προξενείου Σμύρνης** (via the Hellenic Consulate of Smyrna). It received bag arrival number **8700** at British censorship in Egypt and bilingual **Postal Censor**.

National Resistance: Lefkada

Inland letter rate: 200.000δρχ

Weight tiers: 100.000δρχ/20gr

EDES had occupied Lefkada, and the Political Administration decided to issue stamps of 5,000,000δρχ, adapting to the new postal rates of the Athens government.

Three postage stamps were surcharged with the value of 5.000.000δρχ (on 5.000δρχ, 15.000δρχ and 25.000δρχ). The surcharges stamps were added on the regular rates from the previous period.



60%



Properly posted letter of the Bank of Athens, with 20 postage stamps of 25.000δρχ (4th weight tier letter rate) + 5x5000δρχ Charity, together with the 5.000.000δρχ/25.000δρχ of ΕΔΕΣ. Postmark **ΛΕΥΚΑΣ 19.ΣΕΠ.44** (Lefkas), sent to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΙΕΙΣ 27.ΣΕΠ.44** (Athens). Locally censored (censorship sealing tapes **ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ**). First Day of Issue of the EDES postage stamp.

National Resistance: Trichonis (Agrinion)

Inland letter rate: 200.000δρχ



Properly posted letter of the Bank of Athens, with 8 postage stamos of 25.000δρχ (200.000δρχ) + 25000δρχ Charity, postmark **ΜΕΣΟΛΟΓΓΙΟΝ 6.ΣΕΠ.44** (Mesolonghion), sent to **ΠΡΕΒΕΖΑ 10.ΧΙΙ.44** (Preveza). Censored locally (a fragment of a German document was used as sealing tape), with handwritten **Ελογκριθη** (Censored) and handstamp **ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗ ΤΡΙΧΩΝΙΑΣ - ΑΡΧΗΓΕΙΟΝ [?] ΠΟΛΙΤΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ** (Administration of Trichonia, Headquarters of Militia). It arrived after **97 days!**