

# FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT

## The SAWAYA Collection (part I)



*View of Aleppo*

# Syria under Egyptian Administration

## Courriers & Forwarders



7001

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

7001

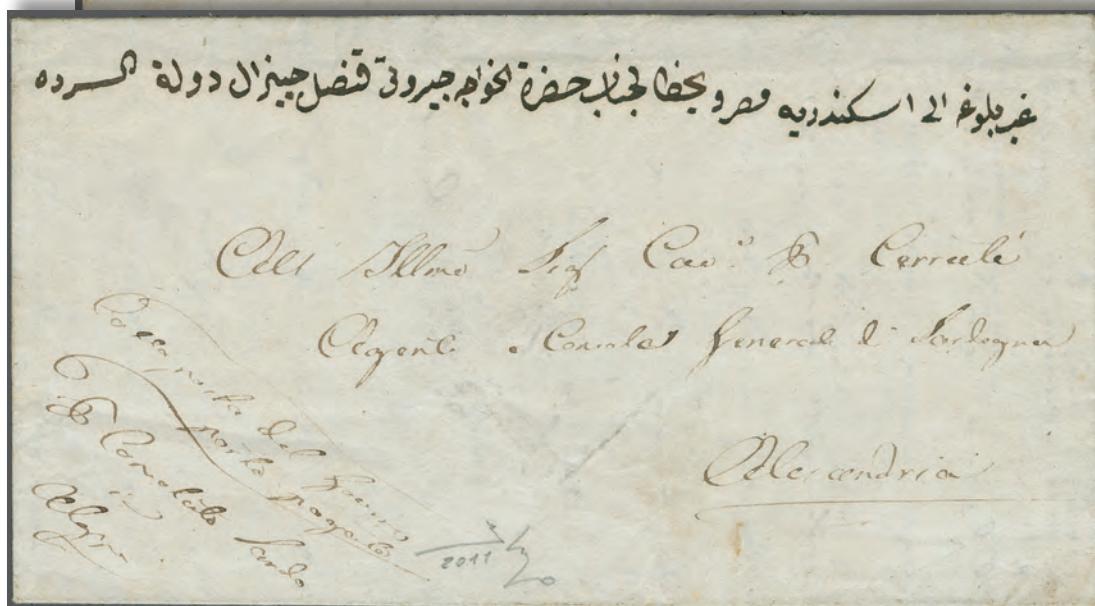
Ibrahim Pasha period, 1835 (July 2): Entire letter written in Italian from the consular agency of Tuscany in Beirut to that in Malta, a crisp seal handstamp of the Berutti consul on reverse closing the entire, transported to Livorno and disinfected, struck on reverse with two-line framed "LAZZARETTO SAN / ROCCO DI LIVORNO", closed after disinfection with indistinct "LAZZARETTO DI S. ROCCO" wax seal (both in Meyer - Disinfected Mail on page 189). Further journey to Malta, presumably by Tuscan vessel, handwritten arrival note Feb 2, 1836 inside. A most interesting entire.



200



View of Aleppo



7002

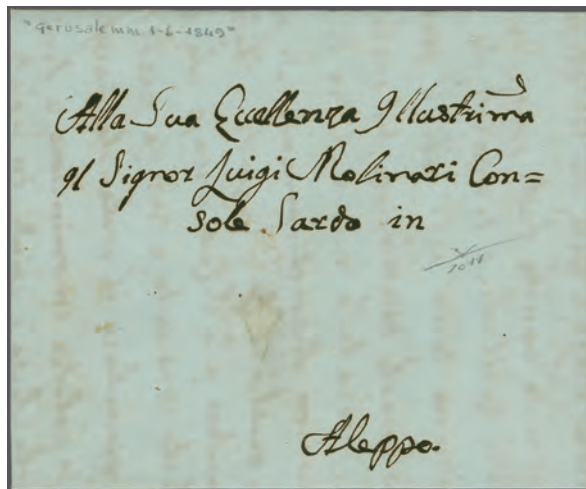
Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7002** Ibrahim Pasha period, delivered by Egyptian official post from Aleppo to Alexandria, 1840 (Sept 3): Entire letter written in Italian and addressed to the Sardinian consular agent in Alexandria. Sent by the Egyptian Governmental Post with manuscript note on obverse "Colla posta del Governo - porto pagato - il Console sardo in Aleppo" (By the Post of the Government - Postage Paid - The Sardinian Consul in Aleppo). On the reverse in Arab "POSTAGE PAID 2". Interesting text "Mi preggio confermare le mio 20. 25. dello scorso colla poste che settimanalmente parte da questa per il Cairo". One of three letters known with the postage fee paid, a real gem of Arab and Egyptian postal history.



4'000



7003



Entrance to the Citadel of Jerusalem

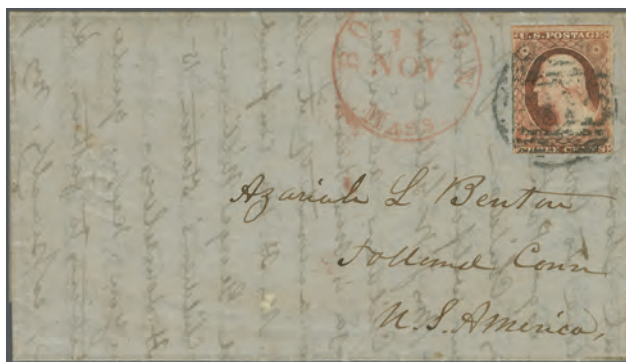
Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7003** Private courier mail from Jerusalem to Aleppo, 1846 (June 1): Entire letter written in Italian from the orthodox priest in Jerusalem to the Sardinian Consul in Aleppo. The letter authorizes the consul to inform the guardian of the monastery of San Gorgio in Aleppo of the official concession for the new church of the monastery. Fine and fresh entire.



200



7004



7005

- 7004** With forwarder from Beirut 1856 (Oct 3): Entire letter from the missionary William Benton in Bhandun, Lebanon to his brother Azariah Lathrop Benton in Tolland, Connecticut. Entrusted to a courier who transported the cover to Boston on behalf of J. M. Gordon forwarder who struck on the back his oval „FORWARDED BY / J. M. GORDON. / TREASURER / A.B.C.F.M. / BOSTON.“ handstamp in red with ABCFM being the abbreviation for the „American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission“. The cover was franked with 1855 3 c. dull red type I (Scott 11), tied by indistinct PAID handstamp in grid, „BOSTON NOV 11 1856“ cds in red alongside. A cover of great interest, presumably one of earliest covers from Lebanon with a stamp applied.
- Note: This cover is part of the correspondence to Azariah Lathrop Benton, born 1816 in Tolland and died there in 1896, sent by his brother William A. Benton. Azariah Lathrop Benton grew up with the intention of becoming a Congregational missionary. His parents were in such circumstances, however, that his more immediate duty seemed to be at home. William A. Benton, his brother, took up the work, and was a missionary in Syria for twenty-two years.*



200

- 7005** With forwarder from Beirut 1862ca: Envelope, presumably from the missionary William Benton in Beirut to his brother Azariah Lathrop Benton in Tolland, Connecticut. Entrusted to a courier who transported the cover to Boston on behalf of J. M. Gordon forwarder who struck on the back his oval „FORWARDED BY / J. M. GORDON. / TREASURER / A.B.C.F.M. / BOSTON.“ handstamp in red with ABCFM being the abbreviation for the „American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission“. The cover was franked with 1861 3 c. rose type I (Scott 25), tied by cork with "BOSTON MASS FEB 12" cds in red alongside. A fine and fresh cover.



150

# Austrian Post Offices in Syria & Lebanon

## Beirut



View of Beirut Bay



7006

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7006 Austrian DDSG P.O. in Beirut 1839 (Sept 14):** Entire letter from Beirut to the Sardinian Consul in Aleppo, struck by **extremely rare double-circle "D.D.S.G. / BAYROUTH / P.P." handstamp** in black, applied on the DDSG shipping line Smyrna - Beirut - Alexandria, internal archival note gives September 24 as date of receipt. Cert. Puschmann (2000).

*Note: The DDSG was founded in 1829 and was originally thought to provide transport and postal services on the Danube and some of its tributary rivers such as Tisza and Save. However, already in the 1830s it extended its services far beyond that river into the Black Sea and even into the Marmara and Aegean Seas. At the end of this decade postal services from Beirut and Jaffa were offered. Tranmer mentions in his treatise on the Austrian Post Offices abroad, part 8 (1976) on p. 21 that the creation of a Constantinople - Beirut - Alexandria line of the DDSG was decided in 1838 but no material is recorded. With a first journey on 1 June 1839, the vessel 'Seri Pervas' was running the line Smyrna - Chios - Cos - Rhodes - Larnaca down to Alexandretta, from August 1839 further via Beirut & Jaffa down to Alexandria. But already in July 1840 during the Egyptian - Ottoman War and finally with a severe accident of the 'Seri Pervas' the history of this line found its end. DDSG services in the Eastern Mediterranean in general have been short living, as already in 1845 all DDSG agencies outside the Danube (and Odessa as exception) were taken over by the Austrian Lloyd, the two companies were dividing 'the world of shipmail' between themselves.*

*The present cover is **one of three recorded** with a DDSG BAYROUTH handstamp, the second written two weeks later on September 23, 1839 and directed to the Sardinian Consul in Alexandria, and the last one accepted by the Beirut DDSG agency as late as July 1841, one year after closure of the DDSG Syrian coast line. All were unknown to Müller in his monograph dealing with Austrian pre-stamp mail (1960) and its two supplements, and as already mentioned also in Tranmer - Austrian Post Offices Abroad, part 8 (1976). The present BAYROUTH cover shows the **earliest postmark recorded from any postal service used in Beirut**, much earlier than any French or Russian service available.*

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1892.*



**5'000**



7007

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7007 Austrian Lloyd P.O. in Beirut 1852 (Jan):** Entire letter to Syros, Greece, slitted in for disinfection, struck by superb „AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO / BERUTTI“ handstamp (Tranmer fig. 1). Reverse with SYROS arrival cds (Jan 15, 1852), prepaid with '12' kreuzer for the Lloyd journey to Syra, cahrged upon arrival with '15' lepta noted on front in red crayon. Some file fold well away from the strike, nevertheless an unusual destination combined with the desirable strike of the first Lloyd Beirut handstamp, the 'sunburst without sun'.

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1894.*

**400**

7008

**7008 1855 (May 7):** Entire letter to the general consul of Sardinia in Alexandria, Egypt struck by perfect „AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO / BERUTTI“ handstamp (Tranmer fig. 1). One backflap missing, nevertheless one of the most attractive strikes of the first Lloyd Beirut handstamp, the 'sunburst without sun'.

*Provenance: Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1893*

**400**



View of Damascus



7009

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7009** 1857 (April 23): Ingoing cover originating from Maghera, Ireland, endorsed „Via Belgium“, and directed first to Beirut, later forwarded with the Turkish Post to Damascus, Syria, bearing Great Britain 2 d. blue and 6 d. violet (2), cancelled by indistinct ,318‘ numeral and tied additionally by Prussian „AUS ENGLAND PER AACHEN / FRANCO“ handstamp in red. Red „P.“ in oval and crossed penstrikes show full pre-payment. Reverse with MAGHERA despatch cds in blue (March 15), London transit in red as well as TRIEST transit (March 24) and “NACH ABGANG DER POST” handstamp, both in black. Upon arrival in Beirut, front struck by clear two-line „BEYRUT. / 23. APR.“ datestamp (Tranmer fig. 2) of the Austrian P.O. and given to the ‘care of Mr. Black’. The new address of the receiver Reverend Smiley Robson was noted in Arab on the cover and the adhesives, the cover given to the Turkish Post which struck its all-Arab intaglio handstamp (Coles & Walker no. 2) on it. Front shows a handwritten arrival note (April 25, 1857). The **only known combination cover of a British franking with Turkish prephilately**, fine and most unusual, signed Holcombe & Pröschold BPP, cert. Guy du Vachat BPP (2003).

*Note: In addition to the spectacular combination of British franking and Turkish prephilately, an unusual routing via Belgium and Austria which was double the rate in comparison to the French packet. This may be due to the better connections of the Austrian Lloyd to the Levant in comparison to the French Messageries maritimes. Correct franking with 1s 1d for a letter up to ¼ ounce plus 1d for a late fee. The postage of 13 pence, equal to 11 ¼ silbergroschen, included 3 silbergroschen each for British and GAPS share, 1 silbergroschen Belgian transit and 4 ¼ silbergroschen postage beyond Trieste. This weiterfranko for the Lloyd is noted at lower left.*

*Provenance: Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1041*

*DF sale (Dec 2005), lot 60037.*



5'000



7010

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7010** 1860 (Nov 4): Unpaid Entire letter to Vienna, endorsed "p Lloyd austr", struck by clear two-line „BEYRUT. / 4. NOV.“ datestamp (Tranmer fig. 2). Reverse with WIEN arrival cds (Nov 18) in red. Cover charged with 20 soldi for the Lloyd and 15 kreuzer for the third rayon within Austria, in total 35 kreuzer noted in red crayon. An appealing cover.



300



7011



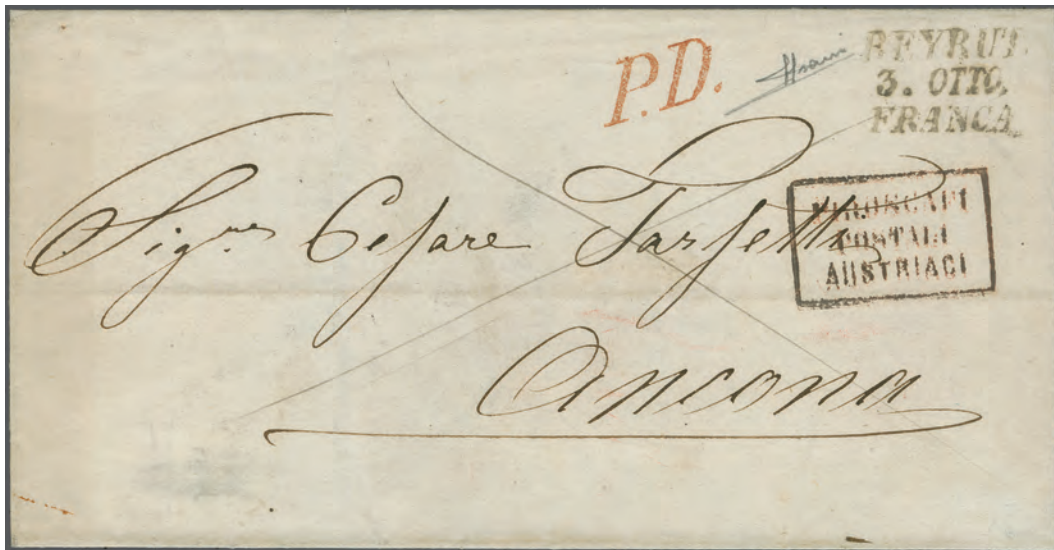
The Cathedral in Milano

- 7011** 1862 (April 19): Ingoing envelope originating from Milano, Italy to Beirut, endorsed „Via Trieste“, bearing Sardinia used in Italy 20 centesimi blue, touched at upper left and pre-use paper fold, tied by indistinct MILANO cds (April 2, 62). Upon arrival in Beirut, struck by clear two-line „BEYRUT. / 19. APR.“ datestamp (Tranmer fig. 2). Front shows handstruck '15' soldi charge for Austria and handwritten '20' soldi for the Lloyd for the residual journey.

*Note: After the 1859 War of Italian Independence and up to May 1862, the postal relationships between the new Kingdom of Italy and Austria came to a halt. Mail from either side of the frontier could only be paid by the sender to the border, the receiver had to pay the residual journey. This is also the case for this cover. The sender could pre-pay only the Italian inland rate of 20 centesimi using a Sardinian adhesive of that face. The cover was charged 15 soldi for the third Austrian rayon up to Trieste and 20 soldi for the Lloyd part of the journey, in total 35 soldi which had to be paid by the receiver.*



750



7012

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7012** 1863 (Oct 3): Letter sheet from Beirut to Ancona, Italy, struck on despatch with clear and scarce "BEYRUT. / 3 OTTO." datestamp (Tranmer fig. 2) in green with the year given in the cover. Below FRANCA and "P.D." in red showing with the pen cross full pre-payment. Upon arrival in Ancona the framed "PIROSCAFI POSTALI AUSTRIACI" handstamp in reddish black was struck on front, "ANCONA 16 OTT 63" arrival cds and distribution cachet struck on reverse. Some cover stabilization on reverse, nevertheless very fine and extremely rare, signed Sorani.

*Note: This BEYRUT datestamp came into use in 1850 and was used until 1863 when adhesives were issued.*

*Provenance: DF sale (June 2006), lot 60003.*



500



7013

- 7013** **Austrian Consular P.O. in Beirut**, Ingoing 1866 (April 9): Unpaid Envelope from Moncalieri, Sardinia to Beirut, struck on front with MONCALIERI despatch cds (March 27) and framed "PIROSCFI POSTALI ITALIANI" Shipmail handstamp, reverse with BRINDISI and ALEXANDRIEN transit cds's, all in black. From the Austrian P.O. in Alexandria the cover made its journey to Beirut, where a BERUTTI arrival cds (Tranmer fig. 3) in dark-brown was struck to the front. The receiver had to pay 32 soldi incl. 10 soldi for Italy, a calculation not explainable to the describer, the regular rate was 8 soldi for Italy and 20 soldi for the Lloyd until October 1866. Signed Raybaudi & Sorani.



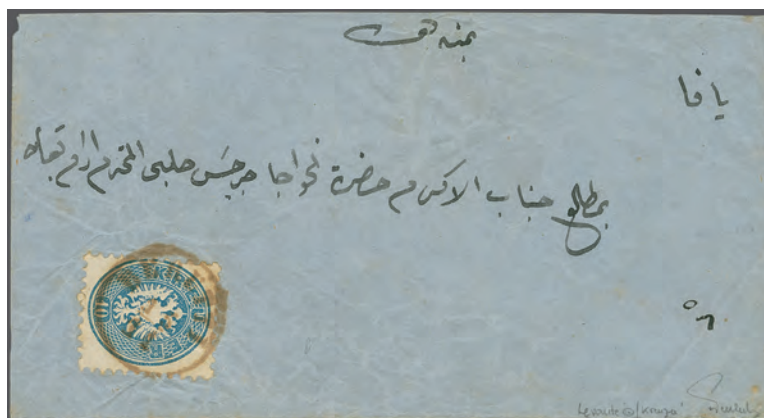
200



Bridge over the Po in Moncalieri



View over the roof tops of Beirut



7014

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7014** 1866ca: Undated Envelope to Jaffa bearing **Austrian 1864 Arms 10 kreuzer blue** perf. 9½ tied by clear "BERUTTI 15 / 11" cds (Tranmer fig. 3) in brown. The cover lightly wrinkled due to its thin paper, nevertheless a fresh cover with **astonishing and very rare usage of the 10 Kreuzer value** paying correctly the port-to-port rate.

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1895.*

Austria 33

**1'500**

7015



7016

- 7015** 1865 (Nov 11): Entire letter to Milano, Italy, bearing a three-colour franking of 1864 Arms 3 so green, 10 so blue and 15 so brown, all perf. 9½, tied by "BERUTTI 16 / 11" cds (Tranmer fig. 3) in brown, "P.D." in blue and SMIRNE transit cds of the Austrian consular P.O. alongside. Reverse with "LLOYD AGENZIA SMIRNE" and BRINDISI transit as well as MILANO arrival (Dec 2) cds's, all in black. Cover slitted for disinfection, three horizontal file fold, one through the 3 soldi adhesive, all stamps with perforation toning, nevertheless an interesting cover paying correctly the 28 soldi rate to Italy in the tariff up to October 1866 with 20 soldi for the Lloyd and 8 Soldi for Italy.

V20+ V22+  
V23**200**

- 7016** 1866ca: Entire letter to Jaffa bearing 1864 Arms 5 so. rose (2) and 10 so. blue perf 9½, three fine and fresh single example tied by „BERUTTI 7 / 3“ cds in brown (Tranmer fig. 3). The cover's reverse heavily spotted, nevertheless an appealing double port-to-port rate cover with a rare combination to pay the 20 soldi rate. Ferchenbauer combination unrecorded.

*Provenance: Corinthila sale 83 (Sept 1991), lot 5216.*

V21+ V22

**200**



7017



Dr. Anton Jerger



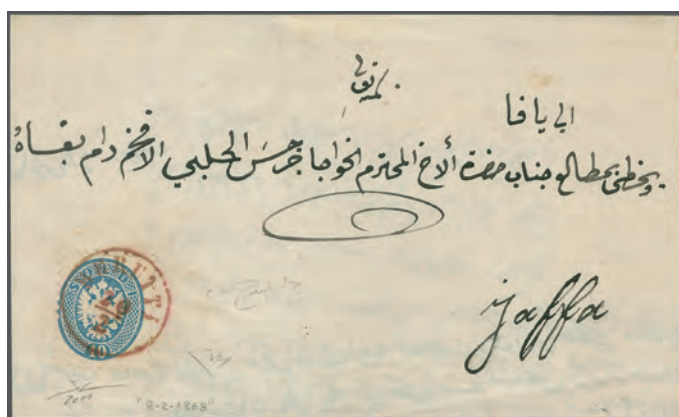
Elisabeth Jerger

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7017** 1867 (Jan 10): Entire letter from the Pollack correspondence to Vienna bearing 1864 Arms 5 so. rose perf 9½, four fresh and fine single examples, tied by „BERUTTI 10 / 1“ cds in brownish black (Tranmer fig. 3). Reverse with Wien arrival cds (Jan 24). Horizontal file fold well away from the adhesives, an appealing cover with the adhesives paying correctly the 20 soldi rate to Austria from October 1866. Signed Colla & Ferchenbauer Ferchenbauer = €2'500 for the four adhesives on cover.  
Provenance: Collection Dr. Anton & Elisabeth Jerger, Corinphila sale 140 (Nov 2004), lot 675.

V21

**750**

7018



7019

- 7018** 1868 (Feb 8): Entire letter to Jaffa bearing 1864 Arms 10 so. blue perf 9½, a fine and fresh example tied by „BERUTTI 20 / 2“ cds in red-violet (Tranmer fig. 3). A fine and fresh port-to-port cover with the adhesive cancelled in a rare red shade. Signed E. Diena & Raybaudi.
- 7019** 1868 (Nov 26): Letter sheet from Beirut to Vienna, endorsed "via Trieste", bearing a **combination franking** of 1864 Arms 5 so rose and 1867 Coarse Whiskers 10 so blue, tied by clear "BERUTTI 26 / 11" cds (Tranmer fig. 3) in brown, reverse with "WIEN 12 XII 68" arrival cds in black. An attractive combination cover. Ferchenbauer = €1'800.

V22

**300**

V21+ 4/I

**400**



7020



7021

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7020** 1869 (Dec 23): Letter sheet to Genova, bearing 1867 Coarse Whiskers 10 so. blue, three fine and fresh single examples, tied by „BERUTTI 23 / 12“ cds in black (Tranmer fig 3), "P.D." in blue adjacent, in Brindisi a framed „PIROSCAFI POSTALI AUSTRIACI“ was struck aside. Reverse with ALEXANDRIEN and BRINDISI transit as well as GENOVA arrival (Jan 9, 1870) cds's. A late presentation of the wrong 28 soldi rate, here overpaid by a further two soldi, a rare franking. Signed Colla & Ferchenbauer.

*Note: Until October 1866 a single 28 soldi rate to Italy was valid with 20 soldi for the Lloyd and 8 Soldi for Italy. However this rate was used in some offices without interruption also after in October 1866 the Lloyd part of the rate was reduced and even after a new tariff with Italy came into force in October 1867 with 10 soldi for the Lloyd and 15 soldi for Austria and Italy. The present cover is such an example where the sender had to pay 28 / 30 instead of 25 soldi.*

*Provenance: Collection Dr. Anton & Elisabeth Jerger; Corinthila sale 140 (Nov 2004), lot 680.*

4/1



400

- 7021** 1871 (Nov 6): Entire letter to Trieste, bearing 1867 Coarse Whiskers 5 so red and 10 so blue, tied by clear „BERUTTI 6 / 11“ cds (Tranmer fig. 3) in black, reverse with oval TRIEST arrival datestamp (Nov 17) in black. An fine and fresh cover from the Ralli correspondence.

3/1+ 4/1



150



7022



7023

- 7022** 1873 (Feb 24): Letter sheet to London, bearing a three-colour franking of 1867 Coarse Whiskers 3 so. green, 5 so. red, and 15 so. brown, tied by „BERUTTI 24 / 2“ cds in black (Tranmer fig 3), framed "P.D." and LONDON arrival cds, both in red alongside. An attractive franking from the correspondence of the Tabet Brothers, the weiterfranko of '8x' is noted nearly invisible below the arrival datestamp.

2/1+ 3/1+ 5/1



400

- 7023** 1873 (Dec 20): Entire letter to Genova, bearing a three-colour franking of 1867 Coarse Whiskers 3 so. green, 5 so. red, and 15 so. brown, tied by „BERUTTI 20 / 12“ cds in black (Tranmer fig 3), "P.D." alongside. Reverse with "LLOYD AGENTIE SMIRNE" and BRINDISI transit and GENOVA arrival (Jan 9, 1874) cds's. Three soldi adhesive partially glued over the cover's edge, nevertheless an appealing cover.

*Note: In 1871 the Italy rate was further reduced from 25 to 23 soldi.*

2/1+ 3/1+ 5/1



250



7024



View of Bruges

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7024** 1882 (July 27): Stationery envelope 1867 5 soldi Type IV directed to Bruges, Belgium, bearing an additional franking with pair and single of 1867 Coarse Whiskers 2 so yellow, adhesives and imprinted stamp cancelled by clear "BEIRUTH 27 / 7 82" cds (Tranmer fig. G) in black, reverse with oval ALEXANDRIEN transit cds in black and BRUGES arrival cds (Aug 8) in bluish black. An extremely rare usage of a stationery envelope to an unexpectedly rare destination, an exceptional franking for the UPU rate, overpaying it by one soldo, an attractive cover Ferchenbauer unrecorded.

*Note: The Fine whiskers 2 soldi have not been used in Beirut before September 1882.*

U2+ 1/1

**1'500**

7025



7026

- 7025** 1908 (Feb 8): Fraudulent usage of a stamp on Registered Envelope to Washington, DC, bearing on reverse single example of 1900 2 pi on 50 h grey blue, tied by "BEIRUT / OESTERREICHISCHE POST" type K cds and by "WASHINGTON DC / REGISTERED / FEB 26 08" cds in purple, another "WASHINGTON REGISTERED" cds in pink alongside. The 2 piaster adhesive clearly shows a cancellation of Beirut dated "7 July 190." which attests its fraudulent reuse, presumably by a postal clerk. Postal frauds in the Austrian office are extremely rare only two covers known.
- 7026** 1912 (Sept 30): Picture postcard to Jaipore, Rajahstan, India, bearing 1908 Franz-Joseph Anniversary issue Crete 5 centimes green, tied by "BEIRUT / OESTERR. POST" cds (Tranmer fig. M) in black, "PORT-SAID" Egyptian transit, and three British JAIPUR arrival (Oct13/14) cds's, all in black alongside. An appealing card to an unusual destination.

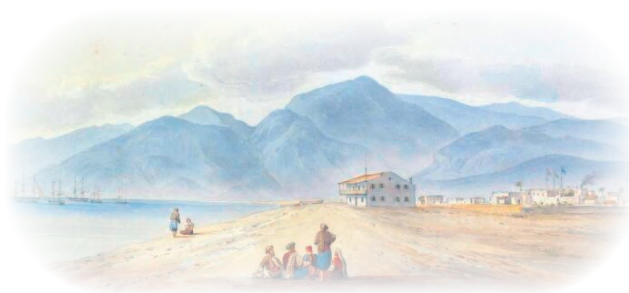
35

**250**

Crete 17

**100**

## Alexandretta



View of the Gulf of Alexandretta



7027

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7027** 1857/58ca: Undated envelope from Alexandretta to Count Liechtenstein in Vienna, struck on despatch with decent **extremely scarce "ALEXANDRETTE 2 / 12" single circle datestamp** (Müller & Tranmer unrecorded) in black, reverse with "WIEN 26 DEC." arrival cds in red. Charged upon arrival with '12' kreuzer for the Lloyd journey and '9' kreuzer for the Austrian inland rate noted in red crayon. One of only two covers with this elusive cancellation from the same correspondence. An amazing and obviously very major item for the most advanced collections of the Austrian Levant, cert. Franz Hochleutner (2003).

Provenance: DF sale (June 2006), lot 60003.

**4'000**

7028

**7028** 1904 (March 22): Picture postcard depicting an Alep motif directed to Berlin, bearing at right Turkey 10 pa. green tied by "SEVKILHABIL (ALEP) 19 3 904" bilingual despatch cds, at left in transit Austrian Levant 1903 10 pa. slate green, tied by "ALEXANDRETTE 22 / 3 04" cds (Tranmer fig. 3), Berlin distribution cds (April 27) alongside. An interesting combination franking.

Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1996.

43

**300**

## Aleppo



View of Aleppo



7029

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7029** 1856 (March 6): Entire letter from Alexandretta to Aleppo, internally dated "6 Marzo 56", struck with clear and **very rare bilingual Arabic "L + A / An Djanibi Postai Nemce Haleb 1855"** (Lloyd Austriaco from the Austrian Post in Aleppo 1855) handstamp (Müller 2024a = 1'400 points / Tranmer fig. 1) in bluish black. Cover with minute file folds of no importance, an appealing entire with this rare handstamp, cert. Ferchenbauer (2000).

*Note 1: This is the only bilingual Austrian Levant postmark - a rarity only in use from 1855/56. Ing. Edwin Müller (1960) knew only two items with this cancellation in black, a number not changed until 1976, when Keith Tranmer published his study on this subject. He stated that this handstamp was used only as an arrival mark, however outgoing covers are known to the describer, all struck in 1855/56 in blue or blackish blue and all being part of the same Dahlah correspondence, showing that this postmark clearly functioned as a temporary arrival and despatch postmark. An updated census of the known material can be found hereunder.*

*Note 2: Census of the bilingual Arabic "L + A / An Djanibi Postai Nemce Haleb 1855" (Lloyd Austriaco from the Austrian Post in Aleppo 1855) handstamp:*

*Ingoing to Aleppo, 6 covers:*

*Outgoing to London from Dahlah correspondence, sent via Trieste or intended to be sent via Trieste to London, 7 covers:*

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale (May 2000), lot 1929.*

**2'000**



7030

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7030** Ingoing 1857 (Jan 24): Entire letter from Alexandretta to Sig. Marcopoli in Aleppo, struck upon arrival with clear rare "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO / ALEPPPO" sunburst handstamp (Müller 2024b = 750 points / Tranmer fig. 2) in bluish black. Vertical file fold through the clearly struck and rare handstamp.



200



7031

Omer Pasha

- 7031** 1857c (June 19): Envelope from 'Theodor Lattas K.K. Oberleutnant im Erzherzog. Leopold 53. Infanterieregiment' in Verona **via Aleppo to Omer Pasha in Baghdad**, struck in transit with clear rare "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO / ALEPPPO" sunburst handstamp (Müller 2024b = 750 points / Tranmer fig. 2) in blue, handwritten "Aleppo 19 Giugno / l'Agente N. Nau" forwarder note (unknown to Rowe) alongside. One sideflap missing, nevertheless a most interesting cover via the Lloyd P.O. in Aleppo on its way via the desert to Baghdad.

*Note: The addressee Omer Pasha (1806-1871) was an Ottoman field marshal and governor. Born as Mihajlo Lattas, an ethnic Serb and Orthodox Christian in Janja Gora, at the time part of the Croatian Military Frontier of the Austrian Empire. Like his father, he initially served as an Austrian soldier. In 1823 he fled to Ottoman Bosnia and converted to Islam; he then joined the Ottoman army, where he quickly rose through the ranks. He was a commander in the Crimean War of 1853-1856, where he defeated the Russians at Silistra, regaining Bucharest and occupying the Danubian Principalities. He also won notable victories at Oltenița, Eupatoria and participated in the Siege of Sevastopol. As a commander Omer Pasha was noted especially for his excellent strategic skills. In 1857-59 he was Governor of Baghdad. The sender Theodor Lattas was presumably a relative of Omer Pasha who stayed in Austria and made his career in the army on that side of the border.*

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinphila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 1930.*



1'000

# Austrian Shipmail



7032



View of the Port of Beirut

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7032** Ingoing to Trieste from Beirut 1873 (May 5): Letter sheet to Gera, Germany, endorsed "Par Autrichien!", bearing 1867 Coarse Whiskers 15 so brown, cover despatched directly at the vessel, the adhesive cancelled by pen cross, transit "LLOYD AGENZIE SMIRNE 10 / 5" transit cds on reverse, upon arrival in Trieste the stamp was tied by decent three-line "LETTERE ARRIVATE / COL VAPORE / DAL LEVANTE" (Tchilinghirian fig. 99), oval TRIEST datestamp (May 15) alongside.

5/1

**300**

7033

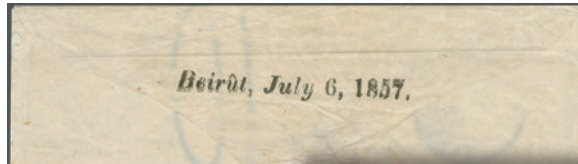
- 7033** Ingoing to Constantinople from Beirut 1873 (July 31): Letter sheet to Gera, Germany, endorsed "pr Autrichien", bearing 1867 Coarse Whiskers 15 so brown, cover despatched directly at the vessel, "ALEXANDRIEN 4 / 8" transit cds on reverse, upon arrival in Constantinople the stamp was tied by fine oval "COL VAPORE DA / BERUTTI" handstamp (Tchilinghirian fig. 103), framed GERA arrival datestamp (23 8 73) on reverse. The adhesive has at one time probably been removed and put back causing some disturbance behind on the cover, nevertheless very rare. Cert. Puschmann (2001). Provenance: Corinthila sale (May 2001), lot 2674.

5/1

**1'500**

# French Post Offices in Syria & Lebanon

## Beirut



View of the Port of Smyrna



7034

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7034** French Postal Services in Lebanon 1857 (June 22): Unpaid envelope with full content from US missionary in Constantinople with French services to the US consulate in Beirut, struck in transit by "SMYRNE TURQUIE" cds, upon arrival on reverse by "Beirut, July 6, 1857" datestamp of the US consulate. The cover was taxed upon arrival with '10' décimes. Very rare US consular datestamp, only four covers known, all from 1857, signed Nakri.  
*Provenance: Christoph Gärtner sale 26 (Oct 2013), lot 2652B.*

**500**

7035



View of Lyon

- 7035** 1858 (Jan 22): Triple rate Entire letter to Lyon, bearing a **four-colour franking** of Napoléon imperforated 10 c. bistre, 20 c. blue, 40 c. orange and 80 c. carmine, four fresh and fine example with good margins and vivid colours, tied upon despatch by indistinct Petits chiffres '3706' numeral, the 20 c. & 80 c. in addition in transit by clear Petits Chiffres '1869' numeral of Marseille, "BEYROUTH SYRIE" despatch cds, clear framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" in red and framed PD in black alongside, reverse with MARSEILLE transit and LYON arrival (Feb 4) cds's in black. France 13A+ 14A+ 16+ 17A  
Receiver's name skillfully restored, a most attractive cover and a great rarity, certs. Scheller (2008), Brun (2010).

**2'500**



7036



View of the Port of Beirut

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7036** 1858 (Oct 4): Letter sheet posted at the vessel in Beirut and directed to Lyon, dated inside, bearing Napoléon imperforated 20 c. blue, a fresh and fine example with fair to good margins, tied in transit by bold Petits Chiffres '1869' numeral of Marseille, clear framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" in red alongside, reverse with MARSEILLE transit and LYON arrival (Oct 16) cds in black. Interesting cover paid at the French inland rate, taxed at double the single letter rate of 50 c. minus the 20 c. already paid, charged therefore with '8' décimes.

France 14A

**150**

7037



View of Tolland

- 7037** 1866 (March 6): Double rate Envelope to Tolland, Connecticut, bearing Napoléon perforated 20 c. blue, two single examples, a pair and a strip of three as well as a pair of 40 c. orange, nearly all glued over the envelope's edge, tied by indistinct Gros chiffres '5082' numeral, "BEYROUTH SYRIE" despatch cds and framed "AFFRANCHISSEMENT / INSUFFISANT" in black alongside, reverse with "NEW YORK / Am PKT APR 2" transit cds in black. The rate to the USA was lowered on January 1, 1866 to 120 centimes, the present cover therefore underpaid by 20 centimes, According to the postal convention, the entire franking was voided and the letter treated as unpaid upon arrival in New York. The manuscript '74/60' denotes postage due as 60 c. in silver coin or 74 c. in paper currency. The manuscript '42' shows a debit of 42 cents by France to the USA. The additional USA adhesive 1861 3 c. dull red, affixed in Beirut, served no purpose, nevertheless an attractive and scarce oddity.

*Note: This cover is part of the correspondence to Azariah Lathrop Benton, born 1816 in Tolland and died there in 1896, presumably sent by his brother William A. Benton. Azariah Lathrop Benton grew up with the intention of becoming a Congregational missionary. His parents were in such circumstances, however, that his more immediate duty seemed to be at home. William A. Benton, his brother, took up the work, and was a missionary in Syria for twenty-two years. The envelopes from this correspondence were always made in a thin fragile paper, sent either paid or unpaid with French postal services and were always bearing a useless US adhesive.*

France 22+

23

**250**



Preparing the balloon for departure



Sir Alfred Biliotti (1833-1915)  
British consular official  
and amateur archaeologist



7038

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

**7038→** **Ballon monté passing the French and Austrian P.O.'s of Beirut on its way to Rhodes, 1870** (Nov 1): Entire letter imprinted "PAR BALLON MONTÉ", bearing Napoléon laureated 40 c. orange, slightly oxidised, tied by indistinct Étoile '2' of Paris, matching "PARIS / R. St. LAZARE" despatch cds and framed PD, all in black alongside. The cover made its journey with the balloon no. 22 - 'Le Fulton' to Cossé-d'Anjou, Dept. Maine-et-Loire. Reverse with transit cds's of MARSEILLE (Nov 5), "ALEXANDRIE EGYPTÉ" (Nov 12), and "BEYROUTH SYRIE" (Nov 1.). From the French Post office in Beirut it was transferred to the Austrian one and struck on front by corresponding "BERUTTI 21 / 11" cds (Tranmer fig 3). The final part from Beirut to Rhodes was organized by the Austrian Lloyd services, the receiver had to pay '15' soldi noted in blue crayon. A fascinating combination of the first Airmail of the world with a modified French Shipmail service in the Eastern Mediterranean and the replacement by an Austrian Lloyd vessel, there are only two Ballon monté covers known with this esoteric destination. Signed Calves Maury = € 450 + 6'000 (destination Turkey) or 35'000 (destination Syria).

*Note: Due to the Franco-Prussian War the French shipmail services on the line X between Marseille - Smyrna - Rhodes - Beirut - Alexandria had been completely stopped following an order of Oct 15, 1870. With a new order from Nov 12, 1870 from the government in Tours the Shipmail service between Alexandria and Smyrna was re-established at a low frequency with a first vessel, the Clyde leaving Alexandria on December 5, 1872, see Salles part II on page 242-243. As this was too late, this cover was given to the Austrian services running the Syrian line from Beirut to Rhodes.*

*Provenance: Collection Roger-Louis Loeuillet.*

France 31



10'000



7039

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7039** 1872 (Sept 24): Shipmail envelope from Beirut to Lyon, bearing Napoléon laureated 30 c. brown (2), Napoléon perforated 5 c. green on blue, and 1872 Cérés 15 c. bistre, a fresh and fine three-issue franking, tied by clear Anchor lozenge in black, octagonal "BEYROUT / PAQ, FR. X No 5" datestamp in black, framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" in red and framed PD in black alongside, reverse with LYON arrival (Oct 11) cds in black. A most attractive French shipmail cover, the rare combination franking paying correctly the 80 centimes rate of July 1871 from the Levant to France, signed Brun, certs. Holcombe (1991), Brun (2000).

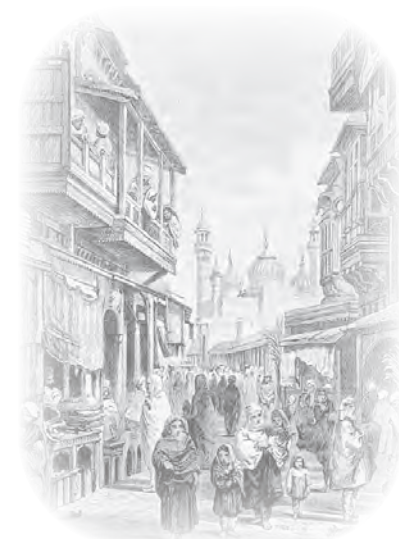
*Provenance: Corinthila sale 83 (Sept 1991), lot 4948*

*Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2966.*

France 30+  
35+ 39

**500**

7040



A street in Beirut

- 7040** French & Russian Post Office in Beirut 1874 (Dec 30): Envelope to Aleppo, bearing Russian Levant 1868 10 kop. carmine & green perf. 11½ tied by indistinct '783' numeral (Tchilinghirian fig. 216), transferred to the French post office, where franked with Siège 40 c. orange (Yv 38), minor imperfections, tied by Gros Chiffres '5082' numeral in black, "BEYROUT SYRIE" datestamp in black and framed PD in red alongside. Some toning and slightly shortened at right, nevertheless an **exceptional two-country combination cover**, signed A. Dena, cert. BPA (1961), Buchsbayew (2024).

*Provenance: Collecton Pavlovsk, Corinthila sale 92 (March 1996), lot 4914.*

11 + France  
38

**1'000**

## Aleppo



7041

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7041** 1846 (April 28): Entire letter from Aleppo via Beirut to Grandcamp nearby Bernay, Dept Eure, forwarded to Paris, manuscript "Alep, 28 avril 1846" on obverse (Pothion = 36 points), "BEYROUTH SYRIE 6 MAI 46" cds alongside. The cover slitted and purified, "PURIFIE LAZARETH / MARSEILLE" handstamp on reverse as well as BROGLIE and "BERNAY-DE-L'EURE" transit and PARIS arrival (May 25) cds's. **A unique cover from Aleppo with a most interesting text, a major item for an advanced Syria collection.**

*Note: This is the only cover known transported by the French post office in Aleppo before 1855, when the "POSTE FRANÇAISE / D'ALEP" handstamp was introduced.*

*Reference: Displayed in Pothion - Marques Postales et Oblitérations Bureaux Français à l'Etranger 1561-1948 on page 9.*

*Provenance: Roumet sale 455 (Feb 1999), lot 2587.*

**1'000**

7042

- 7042** 1859 (June 15): Ingoing Entire letter with the Ropit from Smyrna to Alexandretta, then to the French P.O. in Aleppo, struck on despatch by indistinct framed "COMPAGNIE RUSSE SMYRNE" handstamp in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 146), upon arrival with two line "POSTE FRANÇAISE / D'ALEP" handstamp in blue. An interesting and exceptional combination cover with these two handstamps from the Russian and French services in the Levant.

*Provenance: Collection Cengiz Arsman, DF sale (May 2005), lot 20225.*

**1'000**



7043

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7043** 1862 (Oct 25): Ingoing Entire letter from Görlitz, Prussia via Triest, Beirut & Alexandretta to the French P.O. in Aleppo, endorsed first "Voie de Marseilles" but crossed out, struck on despatch by framed GOERLITZ datestamp in black (Oct 25), reverse with transit TRIESTE, obverse with transit cds's "BEYRUT 15 NOV" of the Austrian and "BEYROUTH SYRIE 29 NOV 62" of the French P.O., reverse with "ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE 1 DEC 62" cogwheel transit cds, all in block, upon arrival two line "POSTE FRANÇAISE / D'ALEP" handstamp in blue. Ink bite and heavy cover's wear and tear due to the pelure paper, nevertheless an interesting combination of Prussian, Austrian, Lloyd, and French services.

*Note: The original weight of the entire was noted to be 1 1/10 loth, ie. in the second weight rate, the reverse shows '40' soldi general pre-1866 Levant rate. The cover was obviously paid until the Austrian P.O. in Beirut. The receiver had to pay '20' déccimes.*



200



7044

- 7044** 1865 (Nov): Quadruple rate Letter sheet from Aleppo via Alexandretta to Marseille, opened up for display, bearing on reverse in **total 20 examples of Napoléon perforated 10 c. bistre in multiples and singles**, the adhesives tied by Gros chiffres '5079' numeral of Alexandretta, a matching "ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE 13 NOV 65" cogwheel cds struck on obverse. The adhesives tied in addition by framed PD and "SMYRNE TURQUIE" transit cds (Nov 17), both in black. Front struck upon despatch with two line "POSTE FRANÇAISE / D'ALEP" handstamp in blue and framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" handstamp in red. As to be expected from a franking of that size, minor imperfections occurred, nevertheless a most exceptional way to pay the 200 c. rate for a quadruple cover. Signed Calves.

*Note: The fourth rate was also noted in blue crayon on the front. Because of this it is not understandable to the describer why the cover was taxed with '40' décimes in handwriting, being the port du rate for an unpaid or underpaid fourth weight rate cover in the 1857 tariff. Did the postal officer not realize that the franking and the PD handstamp is on reverse? There is in addition a handwritten note "affranchi pli" on the front whose meaning stays unclear.*

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2882.*

France 21



900

## Alexandretta



7045

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7045** 1852 (July 22): Entire letter from Alexandrette to Paris, dated inside, struck by crisp cursive handstamp "Alexandrette" in black (Pothion = 28 points), "SMYRNE TURQUIE" transit cds (7 Aout 52) alongside, reverse PARIS arrival cds (Aug 18) in red. During its journey the cover was slitted and treated with vinegar. Taxed upon arrival with '10' décimes.

*Note: An extremely early entire, the bureau de distribution of Alexandretta was opened in August 1852 following Pothion.*



300



7046

- 7046** 1868 (May 15): Quadruple rate Shipmail Entire letter to Marseille, bearing a combination franking of Napoléon perforated 40 c. orange and Napoléon laureated 20 c. blue, three singles and pair 30 c. brown, in overall fine condition, two adhesives with corner faults, tied by decent Anchor lozenges, octogonal "ALEXANDRETTE / P. FR. X No" datestamp, framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" in red and framed "P.D." handstamp alongside. Reverse with MARSEILLE arrival (March 25) cds in black. A tottery but exceptional cover paying correctly four times the 40 centimes rate from the Levant to France.

France 23+  
29+ 30

1'000



7047

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7047** Outgoing to Aleppo 1869 (June 28): Letter sheet from Marseille via Alexandretta to Aleppo, bearing five single examples of Napoléon laureated 80 c. rose, tied by Gros chiffres '2240' numeral of Marseille, matching MARSEILLE cds alongside. Reverse bears Turkey Dulos due 5 pi. brown, pair & two singles and definitive 10 pa. red lilac, tied upon arrival in Aleppo by triple-framed ALEP despatch handstamp. The reverse shows also "SMYRNER TURQUIE" and "ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE" transit cds's. One Napoléon adhesive with corner fault, nevertheless an extraordinary franking for a cover of the 10th weight rate, a **combination cover** for a most advanced collection of the Aleppo postal connections.

*Provenance: Collection Max Plantinga, Christoph Gärtner sale 19 (Aug 2011), lot 10344.*

France 32

**1'000**

7048

- 7048** 1871 (July 23): Shipmail Letter sheet to Marseille, bearing a pair Bordeaux 40 c. orange, a fresh and fine multiple with good to large margins in a deep vibrant shade, tied by decent Anchor lozenges in black, the left stamo in addition by framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" handstamp in red, octagonal "ALEXANDRETTE / P. FR. X No 4" datestamp and framed PD handstamp alongside. Reverse with MARSEILLE arrival (Aug 3) cds in black. An exceptional cover, the franking paying correctly 80 centimes rate from the Levant to France, valid after July 1871.

France 48

**1'000**



7049

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7049** Ingoing from Aleppo 1871 (Aug 23): Letter sheet from Aleppo via Alexandretta to Marseille, bearing Bordeaux 80 c. rose, a fresh and fine example, tied by Gros chiffres '5079' numeral of Alexandretta, a matching "ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE" cogwheel cds, framed PD in black, and framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" handstamp in red alongside. Reverse bears Turkey Dulos 1 pi. yellow (def.) and 20 pa. green, tied by crisp triple-framed Arabic HALEP despatch handstamp with bilingual ALEP despatch (Aug 22), "BEYROUTH SYRIE" transit, and MARSEILLE arrival (Sept 4) cds's. A rare use of the Bordeaux issue on this **combination cover**.

France 49

**750**

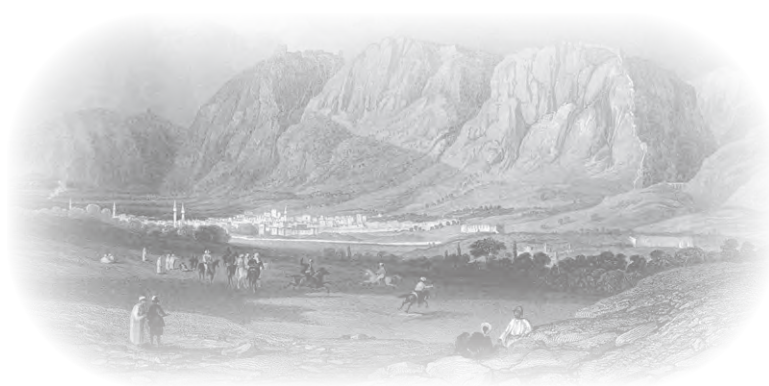
7050

- 7050** 1871 (Oct 4): Lettersheet to Marseille bearing Napoléon laureated, two horizontal pairs of 30 c. brown in combination franking with Siège 10 c. bistre in a horizontal strip of four, the adhesives cancelled / tied by '5079' numeral of Alexandretta, matching cogwheel „ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE“ cds as well as framed PD in black and „PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE“ in red alongside. Reverse with BEYROUTH transit and MARSEILLE arrival (Oct 17) cds's. Exceptional combination franking to pay the double Levant rate.

France 30+

36

**750**



View of Antioch



7051

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

**7051** Outgoing to Antioch 1881 (April 19): Envelope from Townsend Harbour, Massachusetts, USA via London, Paris, Beirut & Alexandretta to Antioch / Antakya, Hatay, endorsed "Via Alexandretta", opened up for display, bearing USA Jackson 2 c. vermillion & Washington 3 c. green (Scott Specialized 183+184), cancelled by targets, the 2 c. adhesive in addition by "TOWNSEND HARBOR MASS." cds. Reverse bears Turkey Dullos 1 pi. yellow & 20 pa. green, tied upon arrival in Antioch by rare intaglio all-Arabic seal handstamp (Coles & Walker no. 22). BOSTON, LONDON, "PARIS ETRANGER", ambulant "PARIS A MODANE", "BEYROUTH SYRIE" and "ALEXANDRETTE SYRIE" (May 17) transit cds's on front and reverse. It may be that the cover was forwarded to a new address and bears therefore the Turkish franking as other parts of this correspondence come without it. A fresh and fine **country combination cover** to a rarely seen destination. Cert. Sismondo (2006)

Provenance: Collection Henry C. Gibson, Eugene Klein, Philadelphia, 1944

Corinthila sale 99 (June 1997), lot 9935

Feldman sale (June 2006), lot 60074.



7'500

## Lattakia



View of the Port of Lattakia



7052

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

7052

1871 (May 21): Entire letter via Smyrna to Marseille, bearing an extremely fresh and fine example of Bordeaux 40 c. orange, tied in transit by Gros chiffres '5098' numeral of Smyrna, "LATAQUIE SYRIE" cogwheel despatch cds in black, framed PD in black as well as framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANÉE" in red alongside. Reverse with "SMYRNE TURQUIE" transit and MARSEILLE arrival (June 9) cds's, all in black. Paper fault in the bilingual address tablet, skillfully repaired, nevertheless a most attractive entire and rare usage of the Bordeaux issue in the Levant.

France 48



1'000

## Tripoli of Syria



7053

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7053** 1852 (Sept 5): Unpaid Entire letter from Tripoli to London, dated inside, struck by clear cursive handstamp of "Tripoli / de Syrie" in black (Pothion = 32 points). Reverse with "BEYROUT SYRIE" (Sept 17) transit cds in black and LONDON arrival cds in red. A rare cursive handstamp with Great Britain being a very rare destination.

*Note: The post office in Tripoli was opened in September 1852 following Pothion.*



750



7054

- 7054** 1863 (Jan 9): Entire letter to Constantinople, first despatched at the Russian post office and struck by framed "COMPAGNIE RUSSE TRIPOLI" handstamp in black (Tchilinghirian unrecorded) and small intaglio "P.P.". Thereafter the cover was transferred to the French P.O. in Tripoli, a mixed franking of Napoléon imperforated 10 c. bistre and Napoléon perforated 40 c. orange with separation by scissor cuts was added over the Russian handstamp and tied by part strike of Gros Chiffres '5101' numeral. A matching "TRIPOLI SYRIE" cogwheel cds (Jan 9) and framed "P.D." handstamp were struck alongside, both in black. Reverse with "CONSTANTINOPLE TURQUIE" arrival cds (Jan 24) in black. Horizontal file fold through both adhesives and some paper imperfections in the address label, nevertheless a most interesting and rare mixed country combination cover.

*Provenance: Collection Cengiz Arsman, DF sale (May 2005), lot 20239.*

France 13B+

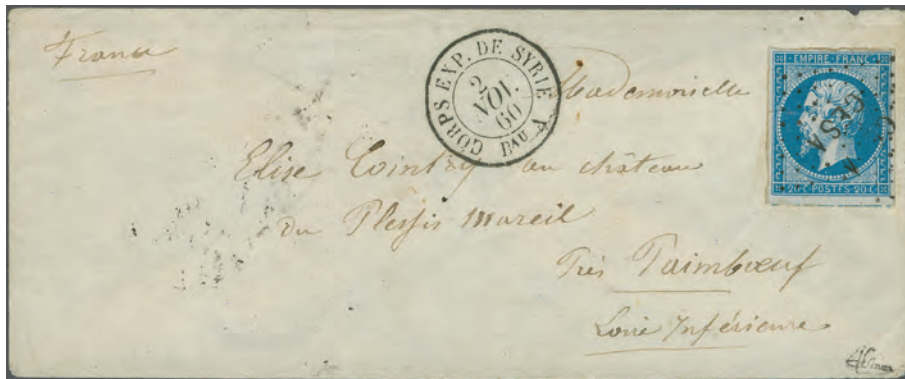
23



1'500

# 1860/61, French Syrian Expedition

The 1860 civil conflict in Mount Lebanon and Damascus, also known as the 1860 Syrian Civil War or the 1860 Christian–Druze war, was a civil conflict in Mount Lebanon during Ottoman rule in 1860–1861 fought mainly between the local Druze and Christians. Following decisive Druze victories and massacres against the Christians, the conflict spilled over into other parts of Ottoman Syria, particularly Damascus, where thousands of Christian residents were killed by Muslim and Druze militiamen. The fighting precipitated a French-led international military intervention (ex Wikipedia).



7055

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

**7055** 1860 (Nov 2): Envelope to Château du Plessis Mareil nearby Paimboeuf, Loire-Inférieure, bearing Napoléon imperforated 20 c. blue (Yv 14A), tied by two strikes of "CESA" in dots, corresponding "CORPS EXP. DE SYRIE Bau A" cds alongside, reverse with two French ambulants, PARIS transit and PAIMBOEUF arrival (Nov 15) cds's, all in black. A fine and fresh cover showing the military concession rate, signed Calves.

Provenance: Corinthila sale 99 (June 1997), lot 9965.

**750**

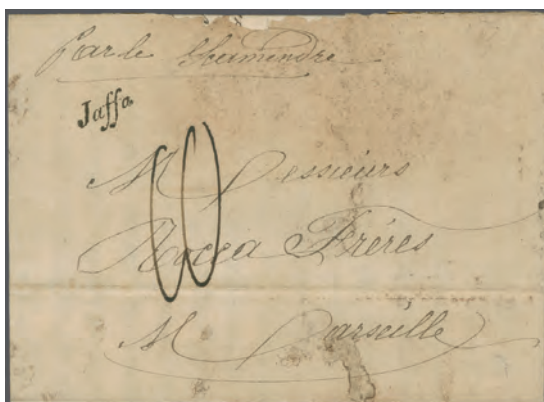
7056

**7056** 1861 (June 7): Unpaid Envelope with full content from Beirut via Marseille to Toulon, Var, internally dated "l'Imperial, rade de Beyrouth 7 Juin 1861", struck by "ESCAD. DE LA MÉDITée / Marseille" cds and handstruck '30' décimes taxation, reverse with TOULON-SUR-MER arrival (June 18) cds in black. The vessel 'Imperial' was built in 1856 and equipped with 90 canons. Marine Fieldpost was directly transferred to Marseille without passing a Fieldpost office. A fine and fresh cover showing the military concession rate, a rare item, signed Brun.

**300**

# French Post Offices in the Holy Land

## Jaffa



7057



7058

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7057** 1854 (Oct 19): Entire letter from Jaffa to Marseille, dated inside, endorsed "Par le Scamandre", struck by superb cursive handstamp of "Jaffa" in black (Pothion = 32 points / Livnat no 1), reverse with "ALEXANDRIE EGYPTÉ" transit and MARSEILLE arrival cds's (Oct 30) in black. Part of back and tiny piece at the top of the front are missing due to the effects of humidity, nevertheless a perfect strike of the elusive handstamp in use between 1852-1854. Taxed upon arrival with '10' décimes.  
Provenance: Collection Schüssler

Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2175.



400

- 7058** 1872 (Sept 23): Letter sheet from Jaffa to Marseille, bearing Napoléon laureated 80 c. rose, minor perf. toning, tied by Gros chiffres '5089' numeral of Jaffa in brownish red, clear "JAFFA SYRIE" cogwheel cds in the same shade, framed "P.P.", and "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" handstamp in red alongside, reverse with "BEYROUTH SYRIE" transit and MARSEILLE arrival cds's (Oct 11) in black. The brownish red shade of the cancellation ink was in use only for a few days.  
Provenance: Collection David Franco, David Feldman sale (Dec 2017), lot 30151.

France 32



500



7059



View of Jaffa

- 7059** 1896 (Feb 24): Double rate Registered Envelope from Jaffa to Nice, bearing a Sage 5 c. green, 10 c. black on lilac (4), and 15 c. blue (2), each adhesive tied by clear "JAFFA SYRIE" cds, rectangular framed "R" handstamp in black (Steichele 319) alongside, reverse with "PORT-SAID EGYPTÉ" transit and NICE arrival (March 4) cds's. Jaffa used from 1876 only this rectangular registration mark, a handstamp which was abandoned in France in 1873, opinion Brun (2000), cert. Nakri (2000).  
Provenance: Collection Schüssler

Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2181.

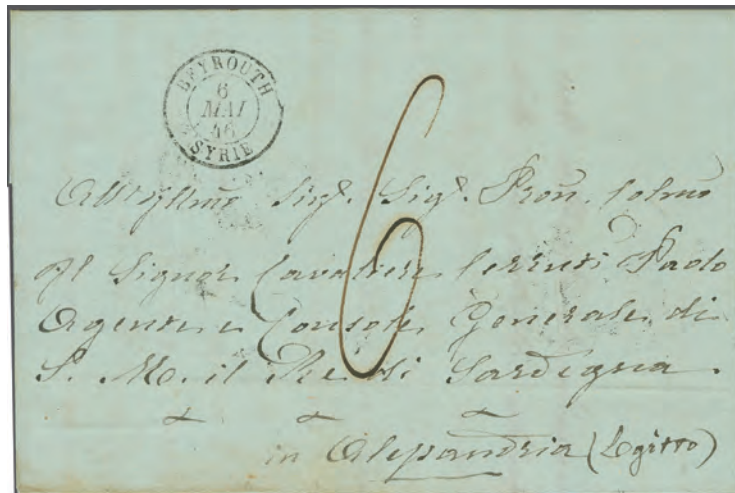
France 75+

89+ 101



300

## Jerusalem



7060

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7060** French Post Office in Beirut & the postal connections to Jerusalem 1846 (April 26): Unpaid Entire letter from the Sardinian consulate of Palestina in Jerusalem and directed to the Sardinian consulate in Alexandria, Egypt, the seal closed with the consular cachet in green blue. Front struck in transit by crisp "BEYROUTH SYRIE 6 MAI 46" cds, reverse with "ALEXANDRIE EGYPT" arrival (May 9) large Pothion type A cds of the French P.O., both in black. The entire taxed with '6' décimes, slitted for disinfection, a superb item of exceptional freshness, an early usage from the office opened the year before.

*Note: In August 1845 a bureau de distribution was opened in Beirut. From November of that year, mail from Jerusalem was brought to Beirut, from where it was sent to the west. This connection run from Jerusalem via Ramleh, Jaffa, Caiffa, Acre, Sour, and Saïda to Beirut, this private postal service was organized by Mrs. Santelli & Micciarelli from Beirut. In 1852, the newly opened French P.O. in Jaffa became the gateway from Jerusalem to Western Europe and the Levant.*



500



7061

- 7061** 1853 (Dec 29): Entire letter from Jerusalem via Jaffa to the secretary of the 'Conseil de la propagation de la Foi' in Lyon, struck by linear "Jerusalem. 14. Mai 1855" datestamp with capital letters with day inserted by hand in blue green (Steicheler fig 324 / Livnat no 5), and cursive handstamp "Jaffa" in black (Pothion = 32 points / Livnat no 1) in black, framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANÉE" handstamp in red alongside, reverse with "ALEXANDRIE EGYPT" and MARSEILLE transit as well as LYON arrival (Jan 13, 54) cds's, all in black. During its journey the cover was slitted for disinfection, taxed upon arrival with handstruck '10' décimes. Horizontal file fold well away from the postmarks, nevertheless very fine and rare.

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2287.*



2'500



Dome on the Rock in Jerusalem



7062

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

- 7062** 1857 (Sept): Entire letter from Jerusalem via Jaffa to Marseille, struck by linear handstamp "Jerusalem. .. Sept 1857" in small letters in blue green (Steichele fig 323 / Livnat no 3), decent "JAFFA SYRIE 17 SEPT 57" cogwheel cds in black alongside, reverse with "ALEXANDRIE EGYPTTE" transit and MARSEILLE arrival cds's (Sept 28) in black. Taxed upon arrival with '10' décimes, a rare entire, cert. Muentz (1981).

*Provenance: David Feldman sale (Nov 2004), lot 20181.*



400



7063

- 7063** 1865 (Feb 24): Unpaid Entire letter via Jaffa to Algiers / Alger, struck on front by decent **Jerusalem Cross / Croix potencée de Jérusalem** in blue (Steichele no 325 / Pothion = 35 points), "JAFFA SYRIE" cogwheel cds in black, and French "PAQ. ANGL. MARSEILLE" entry cds in red. On reverse "ALEXANDRIE EGYPTTE" transit and "ALGER ALGERIE" arrival (Feb 9) cds's. Entire with some wear and tear, despatched to an unexpectedly rare destination from Jerusalem.



300



7064

- 7064** 1872ca: Piece bearing 1872 Cérès 80 c. rose, tied by clear Gros chiffres '5089' numeral of Jaffa, distinct **Jerusalem Cross / Croix potencée de Jérusalem** in blue green (Steichele no 325 / Pothion = 35 points) and framed PD in red alongside. A most appealing item.

*Provenance: Cherrystone sale (May 2002), lot 1553.*

France 57



250



7065



View of Arch Street in Philadelphia

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

7065

1873 (March 24): Envelope via Jaffa to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, struck by **Jerusalem Cross / Croix potencée de Jérusalem** in green blue (Steichle no 325 / Pothion = 35 points), "JAFFA SYRIE" cogwheel transit cds and oval "FR / 2F40C" accountancy mark, both in black alongside. Reverse with "BEYROUTH SYRIE", PARIS and LONDON transit in black, blue, and red, respectively. Tax marks in blue crayon partly erased, otherwise in very good condition. A rare destination, Livnat knows only four other pre-GPU covers with a Jerusalem cross to the United States. Cert. Muentz (1981).



1'500



7066

7066

1876 (Oct 13): Cover front via Jaffa to Marseille, bearing Cérès 30 c. brown, tied by superb "JAFFA SYRIE" cogwheel cds in black, an information strike, superb **Jerusalem Cross / Croix potencée de Jérusalem** in blue (Steichle no 325 / Pothion = 35 points), and French "PAG. ANG: V. BRIND. A MOD." entry (June 21) cds in red (wrong month, slug inserted inverted) alongside. As usual for this correspondence, the receiver's name was cut out of the address tablet and replaced, nevertheless a balanced part cover full of visual appeal. Correct 30 c. rate abroad in the first year of the General Postal Union. Provenance: Cherrystone sale (May 2002), lot 1552.

France 56



500



View of London



7067

Yvert

Start price  
in CHF

**7067** 1877 (Dec 7): Envelope of the British Consulate in Jerusalem via Jaffa to London, bearing Sage 30 c. brown type I, tied by "JAFFA SYRIE" cds of the new bureau de distribution in black and **Jerusalem Cross / Croix potencée de Jérusalem** in blue (Steicheler no 325 / Pothion = 35 points) alongside. On reverse "ALEXANDRIE EGYPT" transit (Dec 11) cds. Minor edge wear, nevertheless a fine and fresh cover, correct 30 c. rate to an unexpectedly rare destination, signed Brun, cert. Nakri (2002).

France 69

**2'000**

# Russian Post Offices in Syria & Lebanon

## Beirut



View of Mersina



7068

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

7068

Ingoing 1866 (July 8): Entire letter from Mersina to Beirut, struck on despatch by "PORT MERSINA" cds (Tchilinghirian fig 797), bearing fine and fresh **vertical pair 1865 10 pa. brown & blue** from pos. 7 & 14, tied upon arrival by rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut, matching "PORT BEIRUT" cds (June 28) in black (Tchilinghirian fig. 813) on reverse. A spectacular and extremely fine item, one of the most important covers from the Russian Levant with only three covers bearing a pair of this adhesive. Cert. Mikulski (1998).

*Note: The discrepancy of dates is attributed to the differences between the Gregorian and Julian calendars.*

*Provenance: Collection Agathon Fabergé with his handwritten notes on front, Harmer's sale (Jan 1940), lot 75*

*Stock Edwin Müller*

*Caspary collection, H. R. Harmer New York, Sale 13 (March 1958), lot 276*

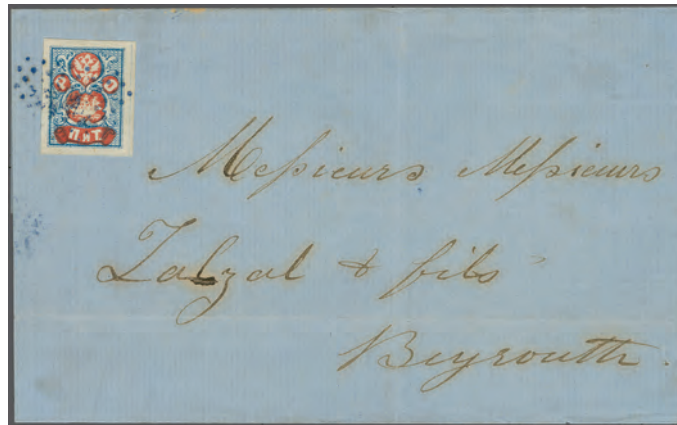
*Oleg Fabergé collection, Corinthila sale 105 (September 1998), lot 8689*

*DF sale (May 2004), lot 30281.*

Ropit 1



10'000



7069

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7069** Ingoing 1865ca: Lettersheet to Beirut, bearing fine and fresh marginal 1865 2 pia. blue & red with large even margins, tied upon arrival by rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut in blue, matching indistinct "PORT BEIRUT / June 15" cds without year slug in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 217) on reverse. A fine and fresh cover.

Ropit 2

**750**

7070

- 7070** 1866ca: Irregular block of five adhesives of the 1866 2 pi. blue & rose, large even margins all round, lightly cancelled rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut, in blue. Minute marginal corner fold at top right, nevertheless a spectacular multiple of this issue. Signed A. Diena; cert. Mikulski (1993).

*Provenance: Corinthila sale 87 (October 1993), lot 6206*

*Heinrich Köhler sale 297 (Jan 1998), lot 957.*

Ropit 4/1

**400**

7071

- 7071** 1867 (July 29): Ingoing Entire letter from Tripoli directed to Beirut, sent privately and posted on arrival bearing ROPiT 1866 2 pi. blue & rose, tied by rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut and matching „PORT BEIRUT“ (July 29, month inverted) cds (Tchilinghirian figs 216 & 217), both in blue, the datestamp struck in addition on reverse. An appealing cover from the well-known Bustros & Neveux correspondence. Opinion Holcombe (1996).

Ropit 4/1

**1'000**



View of the Port of Mersina



7072

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

7072

Ingoing 1868 (March 23): Entire letter from Mersina to Beirut, struck on despatch by "PORT MERSINA" cds (Tchilinghirian fig 797) at base of cover below the adhesives. Upon arrival two fine and fresh vertical strips of four 1866 10 pa. rose & blue were added to front and reverse of the entire, tied by rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut, matching "PORT BEIRUT" cds (Tchilinghirian fig. 813) on reverse, all in blue. A spectacular and fine item, the two multiples except for one stamp with large margins, the cancellations of extraordinary quality, a **cover for a most advanced collection of the Russian Levant**. Certs. A. Diena (1964), G. Bolaffi (1965), Buchsabayew (2024).

Provenance: Burrus collection, Robson Lowe Ltd (May 1964), lot 214  
DF sale (Dec 2017), lot 70110.

Ropit 3/1



7'500



7073

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7073** 1879: Thin '7' of Beirut surcharge in black on 1872 10 kop. carmine & green, an unused single example with original gum and hinge remnants.

*Note: In 1876 Beirut sold the 10 kopeck adhesives at the new rate of 8 kop, while the thin '7' kopeck surcharge in 1879 was attributed to Beirut, see Tchilinghirian & Stephens, part 2 on p. 156.*

*Provenance: DF sale (May 2004), lot 30247.*

11/IIa

\*

**150**

7074



View of the Hotel D'Orient in Beirut

**7074** 1893 (March 24): Envelope from Beirut to Elberfeld, Germany, bearing 1890 10 kop. red & green perf. 14 1/4 : 14 3/4, tied by extremely early usage of small straight-date "R.O.P.i.T. / BEIRUT" datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig 220) in violet, reverse with ODESSA transit and ELBERFELD arrival (April 22) cds's, both in black. Presumably a first usage if this datestamp.

19C

**500**

7075

**7075** 1909 (Dec 12): Beirut picture postcard to Soln near München, bearing 1909 ROPiT Anniversary 5 para on 1 k. (2) and 10 para on 2 kop., tied by light "R.O.P.i.T. / BEIRUT" datestamp with missing inner circle (Tchilinghirian unrecorded, similar to fig 221) in black, "SOLLN 2 (VILLENKOLONIE)" arrival (Jan 3, 1910) cds alongside. The first item recorded with this datestamp.

30+ 31

**1'000**

## Alexandretta



View of Alexandretta



7076

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7076** 1860: Registered Entire letter from Alexandretta to Beirut, struck by extremely rare framed „COMPAGNIE RUSSE / ALEXANDRETTE” datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig 196) with an unclear date (27 / 15), a small framed "ASSe" registration handstamp (Tchilinghirian unrecorded) alongside, both strikes in blue. Manuscript notation 'K 15' of the pre-payment on top of obverse. One of two items known with this datestamp, this being the better one, fine and attractive, a choice piece for a ROPiT collection, cert. Buchsbayew (2024).

*Note: The datestamp does not give the month but instead the Julian and Gregorian calendar dates of '15' and '27'. This is also seen on the other item with this datestamp from 1860, a cover front ex Cihangir, Corinthila 2000, lot 542. The year 1860 was the year of the French military intervention in Syria to stop the massacre of the catholic Maronites. Wishing to remain neutral in this conflict, the merchant community came to rely heavily on the Russian mail service.*

*Provenance: Oscar collection, DF sale 122 (Nov 1999), lot 20133.*



4'000



7077

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7077** Ingoing 1864 (Feb 5): Letter sheet from Constantinople to Aleppo, endorsed "via Alexandrette", bearing two fine and fresh single Russia Imperial Arms 1858 10 kop. brown & blue perf. 12½, tied by "KONSTANTINOPOL 5 FEB. 1864" cds in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 3), very scarce transit "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA FEB 13" cds in blue (modified Tchilinghirian fig. 198) with exchanged month and day slug and mute year slug alongside. The reverse shows a further Constantinople despatch strike. A very attractive cover showing the Port-to-Port rate to an unusual destination with the inland part of the journey within Syria presumably carried by courier and paid by the addressee. Cert. Holcombe (1990).

*Note: Despatched at the Russian Consular Post Office in Constantinople, where Russian Imperial stamps were used from November 1862 until they were replaced by the 'Ship & Eagle' adhesives of the ROPiT in 1865.*

*Provenance: Corinthila sale 83 (September 1991), lot 4682*

*Provera collection, Corinthila sale 271 (June 2021), lot 6652.*

Russia 5

**1'500**

7078



7079

- 7078** 1864 (March 12): Letter sheet from Alexandretta to Aleppo, internally dated "22 Marzo 1864" (gregorian), struck on reverse by clear "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA" cds with year slug blanked in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 800) with sender's cachet on front. Interesting with clear strike.

*Provenance: Collection Liphschutz*

*Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 544.*

**150**

- 7079** 1864 (April 7): Entire letter from Beirut with forwarder Giuseppe Parodi to Alexandretta, then to Aleppo, struck on reverse by "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA" cds (March 28, julian) of the ROPiT post office (Tchilinghirian fig 800) in blue. Cover taxed with '1' piastre for the journey from Alexandretta to Aleppo. *Reference: This strike is the template for figure 800 in Tchilinghirian & Stephens, vol 6 on page 536.*

*Provenance: Collection Kohane*

*Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 543.*

**150**



7080

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

7080

1865 (May 7): Entire letter from Alexandria via Alexandretta to Aleppo, endorsed "Vapori Russo", internally dated "12 Maggio 1865" (gregorian), struck in transit on reverse by clear "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA" cds with year slug omitted in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 799) with sender's cachet on front. Fine and most attractive.  
Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 545.



150



7081



Julius Steindler

7081

1868 (July 3): Entire letter from Constantinople via Alexandretta to Aleppo bearing 2 pi. deep blue and rose with large even margins all round, tied by bold "ROPIT / CONSTANTINOP. AGENT" datestamp (3/VII) well struck in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 8) with sender's cachet adjacent. Reverse with "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA" cds of transit (July 10) in greenish-blue (Tchilinghirian fig 799). An exquisite and extremely rare entire in the foremost quality. Cert. Holcombe (1990).  
Provenance: Julius Steindler collection, RL, Basel, 14 March 1972, lot 449  
Corinthila sale 83, Sept 1991, lot 4684  
Gregory Frantz collection Corinthila sale 261 (Jan 2021), lot 6194.

Ropit 6



1'500



7082

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7082** 1869 (March 27): Lettersheet from Aleppo via Alexandretta to Genova, bearing on reverse Turkey 1869 20 pa. green (torn when opened) & 1 pi. yellow, tied by triple framed Arabic HALEP handstamp in blue paying the journey to Alexandretta. In addition in transit a "PORT ALEKSANDRETTA" cds was struck alongside. On front, as strip of five and a single example of Russian Levant 1868 1 kop. brown perf. 11½ (3 adhesives with file folds) were tied by lightest rhomboid numeral '783' of Beirut in blue, a similarly indistinct arrival cds in blue was struck on reverse. Item refolded for presentation purposes, nevertheless a scarce combination cover, certificate Holcombe (1995).  
Provenance: DF sale (May 2004), lot 30266.

2



1'000



A relay station in Russia



7083



- 7083** 1874 (Nov 30): Envelope from Alexandretta to Tver, Russia, redirected to Romanovskaya, opened up for display, bearing Russian Levant 1872 3 kop. green and 5 kop. blue (2, one corner fault), all on horizontally laid paper, tied by clear ALEKSANDRETTA cds with year slug (Tchilinghirian fig 801) in blue, an information strike alongside. On front and reverse a plethora of transit datestamps from ODESSA, MOSCOW, TVER and finally prephilatelic horse carriage station "ROMANOVSKAYA TVER" datestamp (Dec 25). Appealing, the franking paying 3 kop. for the Levant and 10 kop. for Russia.

Provenance: Collection Mikulski

Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 552.

7x+8x



500



7084



7086

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7084** 1877 (March 10): Entire letter to Chios struck by framed PP (Tchilinghirian unrecorded) and manuscript "Payé". A fine cover.

**150**

7085

- 7085** 1878 (June 19): Large-sized envelope from Constantinople to the Persian consulate in Alexandretta, bearing Russian Levant 1876 10 kop. carmine & green surcharged '8' kop. in black, pair and single example, tied by "KONSTANTIN" despatch cds in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 12), ALEKSANDRETA cds (Tchilinghirian fig 200) in the same shade alongside.

*Note: A rare multiple usage of this surcharged adhesive, issued in Constantinople. Most other Levant offices sold the 10 kopeck adhesives at the new rates of 8 kop. from 1876 or 7 kop. from 1879, respectively.*

*Provenance: DF sale (May 2004), lot 30240.*

10a

**2'000**

- 7086** 1880 (March 2): Envelope from Alexandretta to Aleppo, bearing Russian Levant 1872 5 kop. blue on horizontally laid paper and 1879 1 kop. black on orange on vertically laid paper, tied by light ALEKSANDRETA cds (Tchilinghirian fig 200) in violet, an information strike alongside. On reverse Turkey Duloz 1 pi. yellow and Due 2 pi. brown misperforated at foot paying the journey to Aleppo, tied by all Latin "ALEP TURQUIE" cds in black. A fine combination cover.

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 555.*

8x+ 12y

**500**

## Lattakia



7087



View of the Port of Lattakia

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7087** 1862 (April 16): Entire letter from Lattakia to Beirut, internally dated "16 April 1862", struck by rare framed „COMPAGNIE RUSSE / LATTAQUIE” datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig 803) in blue with framed “P.P.” in the same shade (Tchilinghirian fig 804) alongside. A fine and attractive entire.

*Note: The text of the letter giving 1862 as year of despatch supports Tchilinghirian's view that the 'year dates' in this Lattakia handstamps are very arbitrary after 1861.*

*Provenance: Collection Cengiz Arsman, DF sale (May 2005), lot 20227.*

**1'500**

7088

- 7088** 1865 (May 15): Letter sheet from Lattakia to Beirut bearing 2 pi. blue and rose with good to large margins, tied by fair "RUS. OBSHC. PAR i TOR. / LATAKIICK. AGENTSTVO" agency seal handstamp (Tchilinghirian fig. 805), framed pre-stamp era "COMPAGNIE RUSSE / LATTAQUIE" despatch datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig 206) alongside, both in blue. Fine and rare combination of postmarks. Signed A. Diena & Mavrogordato.

*Provenance: Collection Liphschutz;*

*Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 131 (May 2000), lot 564  
DF sale (May 2004), lot 30345.*

Ropit 4/I

**1'500**



View of Latakia



Agathon Fabergé



7089

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

7089

1886 (July 11): Entire letter from Lattakia via Alexandretta to Aleppo, bearing 1884 7 kop. blue (rounded corner), tied by light strike of LATAKIA datestamp in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 209), sender's cachet alongside, showing on reverse oval "R.O.P.i.T. / AG. ALEKSANDRETTA" transit datestamp (July 12) in green (Tchilinghirian fig. 202) and all Latin "ALEP TURQUIE" arrival cds (July 25, georgian). A **presumably unique cover** as Tchilinghirian did reconstruct this cancellation from part strikes on single stamps. Cert. Mikulski (2000).

*Provenance:* Collection Agathon Fabergé

Adolf Glaettili bought at WIPA 1933

Collection Cihangir, Corinphila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 558.

18A



3'000

## Tripoli of Syria



View of Tripoli



7090



Agathon Fabergé

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7090** 1869 (Jan 30): Part cover from Tripoli to Mersina, bearing on reverse a horizontal strip of four adhesives of the 1866 10 pa. rose & blue, cancelled by mute diamond of dots with TRIPOLI cds in black (Tchilinghirian fig. 211) on front. Two stamps at left touched at top, nevertheless an appealing item from this rare office.

*Provenance: Agathon Fabergé collection, Harmer's sale (Jan 1940), lot 157  
Gordon Torrey collection; Corinthila sale 99 (June 1997), lot 8995.*

Ropit 3/1

(☒)

**1'000**



View of the Port of Tripoli



7091

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7091** Ingoing 1884 (April 22): Envelope from Constantinople to Tripoli, bearing on front and reverse 1884 7 kop. blue perf. 14½:15, on front in addition 1866 1 kop. black on yellow, all on horizontally laid paper, tied by oval "P.O.P.i.T. / KONSTANTINOPOL 2 APR 84" datestamp in black (Tchilinghirian fig. 16), showing on reverse a despatch strike of the same datestamp from April 14 and at arrival a clear strike of the **extremely rare** "R.O.P.i.T. / AGENT. TRIPOLI / 22 APR 84" datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig. 213/809), in black too. One of only two covers recorded, the other described in Tchilinghirian also from the Liphschutz collection and directed from Alexandria to Beirut in September 1884, nevertheless even as receiver a very rare mark. Cert. Buchsbayew (2024).

Provenance: Collection Liphschutz;

Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 386.

18x+ 33Aa

**2'000**



7092

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7092** 1902 (Feb 14): Stationery letter card 10 kop. carmine & green, sent from Tripoli to Berlin-Charlottenburg, the printed stamp cancelled by "P.O.P.i.T. / TIREBOLI" datestamp in violet (Tchilinghirian fig. 214), an information strike alongside, reverse with two transit cds's of Constantinople and CHARLOTTENBURG arrival (March 17, 1902) cds, all in black. A most appealing cover.



200



7093

- 7093** 1913 (Feb 14): Envelope to Patras bearing 1913 Romanov 5 pa. on 1 kop., 15 pa. on 3 kop., and 20 pa. on 4 kop., tied by "P.O.P.i.T. / TIREBOLI" cross-type cds in black (Tchilinghirian fig. 215), reverse with ALEXANDRIA transit and PATRAS arrival (Feb 23) cds's. Attractive cover, correctly franked at 1 piastre.

Reference: Displayed and discussed in Cedar catalogue, page 92.

Provenance: Collection Adler; Siegel sale 455 (Aug 1974), lot 954

Collection Cihangir; Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 587.

61+ 63+ 64



250

## Aleppo

The existence of a Russian post at Aleppo remained unsuspected for a long time. Most letters were transported by the Turkish post from Aleppo to Alexandretta, where they were transferred to the foreign postal services. Vice versa, incoming mail was charged and Turkish postage due was added. However, Tchilinghirian (1958) described in the collection of Franz See an ingoing stampless cover from the Marcopoli correspondence which was struck in Aleppo by a two-line "POSTE-RUSSE / d'ALEP". In the 1960 supplement of their work, Tchilinghirian & Stephen noted two additional covers with this cancellation, the present stampless item from the same correspondence ex Liphschutz and another one from Smyrna ex collection Matuhin, franked with 5 kop Levant adhesive. These covers establish that some sort of a Russian post was functioning in Aleppo. In between a fourth cover was found, all ingoing to Aleppo on the two dates of January 22 and January 28, 1869. Interestingly, this cancellation looks were similar to the French "POSTE FRANCAISE / d'ALEP" and may have been manufactured by the same craftsman. All four covers show a taxation of '1' (piastre) in red crayon.



View of Aleppo



7094

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7094** Ingoing 1869 (Jan 28): Entire letter from Alexandretta to Aleppo, sent unpaid and struck upon arrival by extremely rare two-line "POSTE-RUSSE / d'ALEP" in greenish blue (Tchilinghirian fig 205). **One of four covers known to date, this strike being the first one described of this elusive cancellation.** Reference: Described in detail in Tchilinghirian "Stamps of the Russian Empire used abroad", part VI on pp. 536-537 (1957). This strike is the template for its first description in Tchilinghirian part 2 on page 151.

Provenance: Collection Franz See

Collection Pavlovsk, Corinthila sale 92 (March 1996), lot 4899

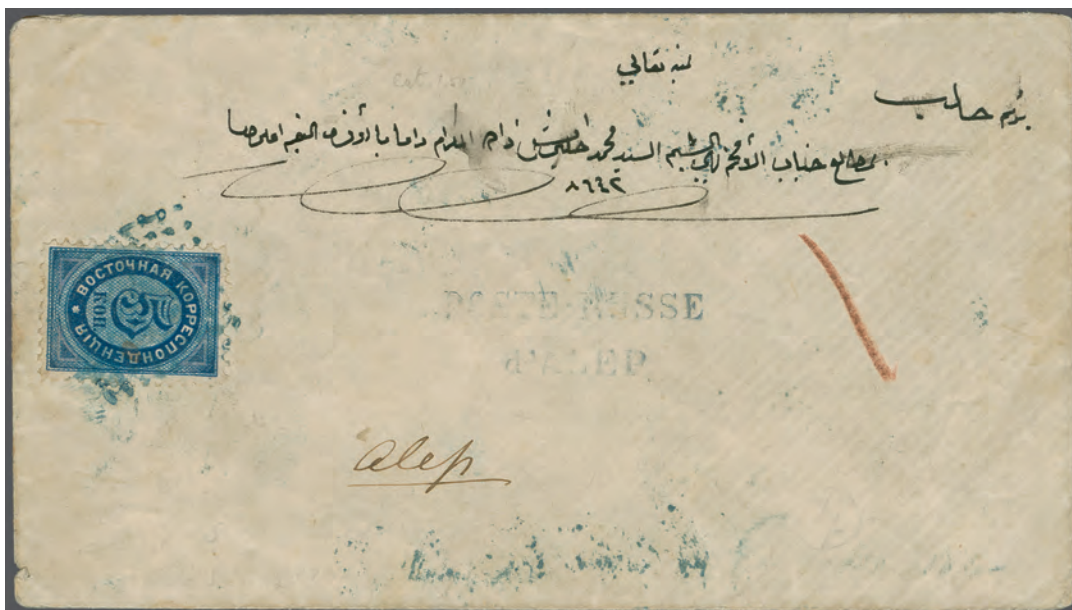
DF sale (May 2004), lot 30267.



**4'000**



View of Constantinople



7095

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7095** Ingoing 1869 (Jan 22): Entire letter from Constantinople via Alexandretta to Aleppo, bearing Russian Levant 1868 5 kop. deep blue perf. 15½, tied by mute retta cancellation in blue, reverse with KONSTANTINOPOL despatch (Tchilinghirian fig 3) and "PORT ALEXANDRETTE" transit cds's (Tchilinghirian fig 799), both in blue. Upon arrival in Aleppo struck by extremely rare two-line "POSTE-RUSSE / d'ALEP" (Tchilinghirian fig 205). Some foxing, nevertheless a most interesting cover, **one of only four covers known to date, one of only two of them in combination of the elusive handstamp with a Russian Levant franking.** Cert. Buchsbayew (2014).

Reference: Described in detail in Tchilinghirian "Stamps of the Russian Empire used abroad", part VI on pp. 536-537 (1957).

4

**3'000**

# Russian Post Offices in the Holy Land

## Jaffa



7096



View of the Port of Jaffa

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7096** 1865: ROPiT 10 pa. brown & blue, marginal vertical strip of four from positions 6-13-20-27, showing blue departure and arrival cds's of "PORT JAFFA" and "PORT CHIOS", Jaffa repeated three times, Chios twice, fresh and superb item, only 2 other loose stamps with Port Jaffa cancels are known for this issue. A great Levant and Holy Land rarity, cert. Mikulski (1991).

*Provenance: Cherrystone sale (Oct 2010), lot 1438.*

Ropit 1

**1'500**

7097



7098

- 7097** 1870ca: Undated cover front from Jaffa to Beirut, showing very fine strike of rare framed "JAFFA / P. P." in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 234).

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 592  
DF sale (May 2004), lot 30331.*

(✉)

**300**

- 7098** 1913 (June 17): Envelope to Alexandria, bearing 1913 Romanov Tricentenary 5 para on 1 k. (an irregular block of 7, a single, and a pair) and 15 para on 3 kop. (horizontal block of four), tied by light straight-date "R.O.P.I.T. / YAFFA" cds (Tchilinghirian fig 244) in violet, reverse with ALEXANDRIA arrival (26 VI 13) cds in black. Impressive Holy Land item, signed Nakri.

61+ 63

✉

**500**

## Acre



View of Acre



7099



Agathon Fabergé

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7099** 1871 (Oct 2): The famous cover from Acre to Beirut franked at Ship rate of 6 kopeks with pair of 1868 3 kop. green, perf. 11½, cancelled by the **unique framed floral handstamp of Acre** in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 224) with Nicola Datodi sender's cachet below and reverse with over-inked "PORT BEIRUT" datestamp in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 217). Slight file fold crossing the adhesives but not detracting at all from the marvellous appearance. A tremendous rarity for the connoisseur of both Russian and Levant Postal History. Cert. Sorani (1985).

*Reference: This cover is mentioned and discussed on page 161 of Tchilinghirian & Stephen.*

*Provenance: Fabergé collection, Harmer's London (Jan 1940), lot 251*

*E. Tolkowsky collection; Corinthila sale 173 (April 2004), lot 806.*

3

**10'000**

# Russian Post Offices in Egypt

## Alexandria



*A street view of Alexandria*



7100

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7100** 1861 (Nov 12): Entire letter from Alexandria to Constantinople, written 22 Nov 1861, struck by extremely rare three-line „COMPAGNIE RUSSE / ALEXANDRIE d'Egypte / 24 / 12 Novembre 1861" datestamp (unrecorded in Tchilinghirian) with sender's cachet at left and large „P.P." (Tchilinghirian fig. 253) all in blue alongside. One of two covers recorded with this cancellation, **one of the top pieces of the early postal history of Egypt or ROPiT**, here the earliest usage, fine and most attractive, signed Sorani; cert. Buchsbayew (2024).

*Note: When the Russian P.O. was opened in 1860 no (Imperial) stamps were supplied. This earliest handstamp confirmed the Russian carrier from Alexandria. It had a local design differing from the framed 'COMPAGNIE RUSSE' handstamps in other Russian offices.*

*Provenance: Pavlovsk collection, Corinthila sale 92 (March 1996), lot 4922*

*Oscar collection, DF sale (Nov 1999), lot 20138*

*DF sale (May 2004), lot 30274.*



**5'000**



7101

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

- 7101** 1863: 6 kopeks indigo, a superb used example cancelled by three strikes of the dotted '785' numeral handstamp in blue. Exceptional and extremely rare, one of just two, perhaps three examples recorded thus.

*Provenance: Peter A. S. Smith collection, Corinthila sale 198 (May 2015), lot 5089.*

1

**750**

View of the Port of Alexandria



7102



7103

- 7102** Ingoing 1866 (Feb 11): Entire letter to Alexandretta, bearing fine and fresh horizontal pair of 1865 2 pi. blue & red, tied upon arrival by fair "PORT ALEXANDRIA" cds in blue (Tchilinghirian fig 256), information strike alongside, reverse "PORT ALEXANDRETTA" transit cds in blue (Tchilinghirian fig. 799). **A most attractive double rate cover.** Signed Calves; cert. BPA (2002).

Ropit 4/1

**1'500**

- 7103** 1867 (April 24): Entire letter from Alexandria to Beirut bearing 2 pi. blue and rose with good to large margins, tied by light "PORT ALEKSANDRIYA" datestamp (Tchilinghirian fig 256), in addition upon arrival by bold rhomboid '783' numeral of Beirut, both in blue, a despatch information strike alongside. An interesting double cancellation presumably due to the light Alexandria obliteration. Cert. Mikulski (1999).

Ropit 4/1

**1'200**



View of Cleopatra's Needle in Alexandria



7104

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7104** Ingoing 1870 (Dec 23): Entire letter from Lattakia to Alexandria, opened up for display, bearing 1868 1 kop. brown and 5 kop. blue, perf. 11½, tied by indistinct rhomboid numeral in blue, both crossed by neat filing crease, LATAKIA despatch cds (Tchilinghirian fig. 208) in blue alongside. On reverse a **very rare** "ALEKSANDRIISKOE AGENTSTVO ROPIT 25 XII 1870" large sized arrival cds with inverted year slug (Tchilinghirian fig. 838) in blue. An attractive cover with an impressive provenance, cert. Mikulski (2000).

*Reference: This strike is the template for figure 838 in Tchilinghirian & Stephens on page 549.*

*Provenance: Collection W.C. Hinde, Robson Lowe, London (15-17 Oct 1957). lot 109*

*Collection Adler; Siegel sale 455 (Aug 1974), lot 952*

*Collection Pavlovsk, Corinthia sale 92 (March 1996), lot 4925*

*Collection Cihangir, Corinthia sale 121 (May 2000), lot 628.*

2+ 4



**3'000**



## Port Said



View of Port Said



7107

Michel

Start price  
in CHF

**7107** Ingoing 1868 (Oct 27): Entire letter ex Mavroidi correspondence from Alexandria to Port Said, endorsed "*Par Vapeur Russe*", struck on reverse by "PORT ALEKSANDRIYA" despatch cds (Tchilinghirian fig 256), front with „P.P.“ of Alexandria (Tchilinghirian fig 253) and "PORT-SAID" arrival cds (Tchilinghirian fig 261) arrival cds of the next day, all in blue. A rare entire opened up for presentation, a most interesting usage to the post office in Port Said, signed Sorani.

*Note: Port Said is the Mediterranean entrance to the Suez Canal, inaugurated in 1869. A Russian PO was opened there in 1867 and Port Said became a regular port of call for several Russian shipping lines. The Russian PO's in Alexandria and Port Said were closed on 1 October 1875.*

*Provenance: Collection Pavlovsk, Corinthila sale 92 (March 1996), lot 4931*

*Collection Dr. W. Byam, Robson Lowe, London, (24-25 Oct 1961), lot 158.*



**2'000**

# Italian Post Office in Alexandria



*View of Pompey's Pillar with Alexandria in the background*



7108

Sassone

Start price  
in CHF

- 7108** Italian Post Offices in Alexandria 1863 (Oct 19): Mourning envelope to Firenze bearing Sardinia 1861/63 pair 10 c. bistre-yellow and 40 c. rose-vermillion (Sassone Sardinia 14E+16F), fresh adhesives with vivid colour, overall fair to large margins and very well embossed (right 10 c. touched at base), tied by framed "PIROSCAFT POSTALI ITALIANI" handstamp, light "ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO 19 OTT 63 POSTE ITALIANE" cds without hour indication alongside, all in blue (Zanaria & colleagues 0,60 = €13'500). Reverse with ANCONA transit and indistinct FIRENZE arrival cds's. Vertical file fold well away from the adhesives, otherwise a most appealing and desirable item showing the 60 c. rate.

14E+ 16F



**2'000**

# Egyptian Consular Post Offices in the Levant



View of Beirut



7109

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

**7109 Egyptian Consular Post Office abroad in Beirut**, Ingoing 1870 (Oct 28): Letter sheet from Adana, Turkey to Beirut, bearing Egypt 1867 Penasson 1 pi. rose-red, some perf. imperfections, tied by two strikes of retta mute obliterator in blue. Reverse on arrival struck with all-Arab **intaglio 'Posta Masria Bairout' seal handstamp** in black of the Egyptian post office. Scotch remnants, letter sheet splitted along the edges, fixed by hinges, despite these faults an item of extreme importance. Cert. B.P.A. (2002).

*Note: The Latakia Office was open from July 1870 until February 1872.*

*Reference: Smith states that the consular office negative seals '.. are amongst the rarest postmarks of the consular offices ..' and he confirms that he knows only of one cover with this seal handstamp from Bairout.*

*Provenance: Collection Cihangir, Corinthila sale 121 (May 2000), lot 2581  
David Feldman sale (May 2001), lot 30468.*

14



**3'000**



A street in Alexandretta



7110

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

**7110** **Egyptian Consular Post Office abroad in Alexandretta** 1871 (Nov 8): Letter sheet from Alexandretta to Beirut, bearing Egypt 1867 1 pi. rose-red, tied by "V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE ALESSANDRETTE" cds (Smith scarcity factor = 175) with information strike alongside. Reverse with crisp "V. R. POSTE EGIZIANE BAIROUT" arrival cds (Nov 10). Minor toning on the cover, some on the perforation, nevertheless a rare and fine Shipmail cover, **only four such recorded**. Signed Sorani.

*Note: The Alexandretta Office was open from July 1870 until February 1872.*

*Provenance: Collection Emile Antonini, David Feldman sale (April 1983), lot 32291  
Rarities of Egypt collection, David Feldman sale (Dec 2006), lot 30048.*

14

**4'000**

# British Post Office in Beirut



7111

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

- 7111** 1874 (Jan 1): Envelope from Beirut to Charlton Kings nearby Cheltenham, England, bearing Great Britain 1867 10 d. red brown pl 1 in a deep shade, a wing marginal example with imprint at top, tied by bold strike of 'G06' obliterator with clear "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds adjacent in black. CHELTENHAM arrival cds on reverse (Jan 19). Rare and choice cover, cert. BPA (2001).

Z24

**500**

7112

- 7112** 1875 (Oct 4): Unpaid Envelope from Beirut to the Jewish Community in Paris with the address given in Hebrew, Arab, and English, the envelope struck by "BRITISH POST OFFICE BEYROUT", thence transferred to the French P.O. where struck the following day by "BEYROUT SYRIE" cds, reverse with "PARIS ETRANGER" arrival (Oct 23) in blue. Taxed with manuscript '10' décimes as France was not yet member of the GPU. Roughly opened at right, vertical file fold just mentioned for accuracy, an appealing cover.

**100**

7113

- 7113** 1876 (Feb 3): Envelope from Beirut to Calcutta, British India, endorsed "Voie Suez & Bombay", bearing Great Britain 1876 2½d. rosy mauve pl. 1, two vertical pairs forming a block of four, cancelled together by two strikes of 'G06' obliterator with clear "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds adjacent in black. Reverse with British ALEXANDRIA cds (Feb 6) and thence via Suez carried on the "Bangalore" with 'Sea Post Office / D' datestamp in black (Feb 11). Cover abrasions but a **very scarce usage prior to the adherence of India to the GPU in July 1876.**

Provenance: Collection André Bollen, Köhler sale (Feb 1983), lot 285  
Collection Dubois, Corinthila sale 267 (June 2021), lot 4262.

Z6

**500**



Beirut Harbour



7114

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

- 7114** 1874 (Sept 10): **Combination cover from Beirut to Marseille** bearing Great Britain 1858/69 2 d. blue pl. 14 tied by 'G06' obliterator with "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds in black alongside (Sept 10) paying single rate to Alexandria. In addition, France Siège 1870 40 c. orange in a vertical pair was added, tied by Gros Chiffres '5080' numeral in black with "ALEXANDRIE / EGYPT" datestamp in black (Sept 11). Struck alongside with framed "PAQUEBOTS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE" and PD, both in red. Reverse with MARSEILLE arrival cds (Sept 21). A beautiful combination cover in the finest quality.

*Note: A British postal agency was opened in Beirut on 20 March 1873 and the 'G06' obliterator used there. Combination frankings with French or Italian adhesives occur as mail to France or Italy, respectively went via the British packet to Alexandria and then by either French or Italian packets to Europe. One has to assume that the French adhesives had been added to the letter already in Beirut. In his 2000 census, Alexander Kaczmarczyk noted 32 covers with combination frankings of Great Britain and France between September 1873 and October 1876.*

*Provenance: Christies, London (May 1995), lot 2016*

*Collection Dubois, Corinthila sale 267 (June 2021), lot 426*

Z4 + Yvert  
38

**3'500**



7115

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

7115

1874 (Dec 3): **Combination letter sheet from Beirut to Lyon** bearing Great Britain 1858/69 2 d. blue pl. 14 tied by 'G06' obliterator with "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds in black alongside (Dec 3) paying single rate to Alexandria. In addition, France Cérès 1872 80 c. rose in a horizontal pair was added, tied by Gros Chiffres '5080' numeral in black. "ALEXANDRIE / EGYPT" datestamp in black (Dec 7) and framed "PD" in red adjacent. Reverse with "MARSEILLE - LYON SPECIAL" transit and LYON arrival cds's. A attractive combination cover.

*Provenance: Collection Grant Glasco, Robson Lowe Auction (Nov. 1969), lot 1232  
Collection Windsor, H.R. Harmer's, New York (Nov 1983), lot 838.*

Z4+ Yvert  
57

2'000



7116

7116

1874 (Dec 1): **Combination part cover from Beirut to Milano**, bearing Great Britain 1858/69 2 d. blue pl. 14 tied by 'G06' obliterator with "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds in black alongside (March 5) paying single rate to Alexandria. In addition, Italian ESTERO 1874 40 centesimi rosa (Sassone 7) was added, tied by '234' grill numeral in black of the Alexandria post office. Struck alongside with "ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO / POSTE ITALIANE 9 MAR 74" cds. Reverse lower backflap missing with MILANO arrival (March 14) cds. An appealing combination cover, certs. E. Diena (1994), Colla (2009).

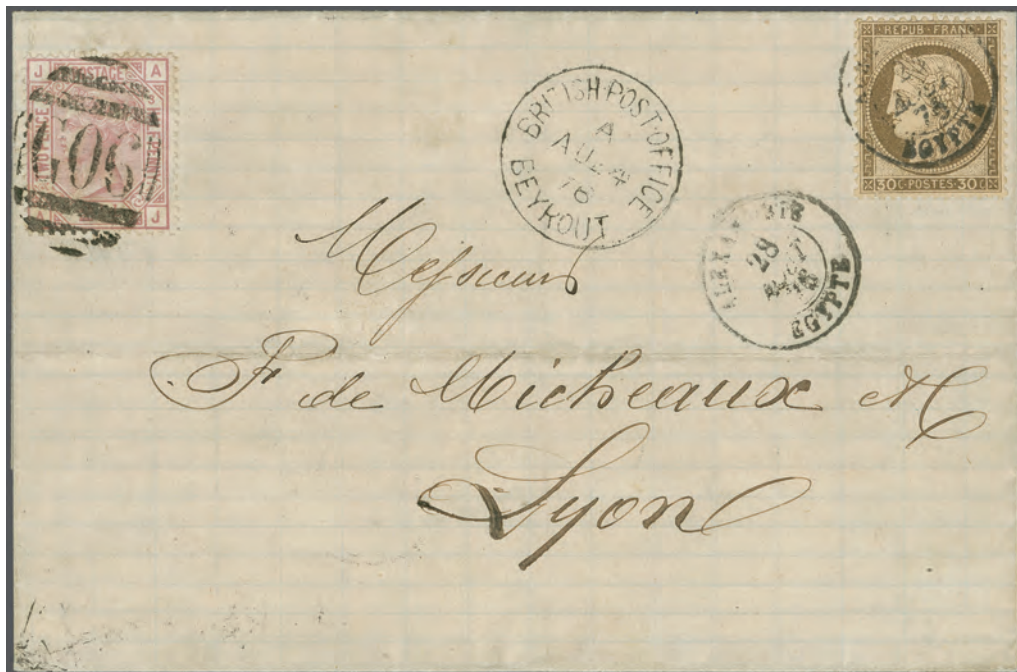
*Reference: Displayed and discussed in Zanaria & coworkers - Catalogo storico-postale dei francobolli in uso negli uffici postali italiani all'estero 1852-1890 on page 274.*

Z4+  
Sassone 7

2'000



A street in Beirut



7117

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

- 7117** 1876 (Aug 24): **Combination letter sheet from Beirut to Lyon bearing** Great Britain 1876/79 2½ d. rosy mauve pl. 3 tied by 'G06' obliterator with "BRITISH POST OFFICE / BEYROUT" cds in black alongside (Aug 24) paying the single GPU rate to Alexandria. In addition, France Cérès 1872 30 c. brown was added, tied by "ALEXANDRIE / EGYPT" datestamp in black (Aug 28). Reverse with British ALEXANDRIA, "MARSEILLE - LYON SPECIAL" transit and indistinct LYON arrival cds's. An attractive combination cover **after the foundation of the General Postal Union**, cert. PF (1997).

*Note: After the foundation of the GPU in July 1875, the British vessel rate from Beirut to Alexandria was increased from 2 d. to the new 2½ d. GPU rate, while the French part stayed at the pre-GPU rate of 80 centimes. After France joined the GPU in January 1876 the GPU rates of 2½ d. and 30 c., respectively had to be paid for both parts of the Beirut - Alexandria - France journey although it is not clear why this was necessary at all as all involved postal administrations had been members of the General Postal Union.*

*Provenance: Robert Siegel sale 768 (June 1995), lot 1526.*

Z6 + Yvert  
56**2'000**



7118



7119

		Gibbons		Start price in CHF
7118	1906 Beyrouth Provisional 1 pi. on 2 d., a fresh and fine example with full unmounted og. A rare stamp with a print run of just 480, signed A. Diena, opinion E. Diean (1986); cert. Sismondo (1999) Gi = £ 700.	15	**	300
7119	1906 (July 3): 1906 Beyrouth Provisional 1 pi. on 2 d., tied by oval "REGISTERED / BEYROUT" registration datestamp to piece. A rare stamp with a print run of just 480. Signed Calves Gi = £ 700+.	15	△	300



7120



7121

- 7120 1906 (July 3): **Envelope from Beirut to Alexandria, bearing 1906 Beyrouth Provisional 1 pi. on 2 d.**, tied by oval "REGISTERED / BEYROUT" registration datestamp, circular datestamp alongside. Reverse with bilingual ALEXANDRIE arrival (July 5) cds. A fine and fresh cover with this rare stamp, one of the few not sent registered in spite of the wrong cancellation. Cert. Sismondo (1999) Gi = £ 2'100 on cover.

*Note: Under the authority of the British Vice-consul at Beirut, who was also the Postmaster, two sheets totalling 480 stamps of the 2 d. value overprinted LEVANT (SG L4) were provisionally surcharged '1 Piastre'. The surcharging was done at The American Press under the supervision of Mr. Fryer, who was an American and a director of The Press, and an Englishman named Glockler who was the manager of the printing department.*

*Provenance: Heinrich Köhler sale 174 (Oct 1963), lot 897.*

- 7121 1906 (July 3): **Registered Envelope from Beirut to New York, bearing 1906 Beyrouth Provisional 1 pi. on 2 d.** in combination with 2 d. grey green & carmine without surcharge, each tied by oval "REGISTERED / BEYROUT" registration datestamp, oval "R - FEE PAID" handstamp alongside. Reverse with hooded "REISTERED LONDON" transit datestamp in black and oval "NEW YORK N.Y. / REGISTRATION" arrival datestamp in pink. Several UNCLAIMED and "Dead Letter Office" handstamps and labels, the cover was obviously opened and re-sealed, but the sender could not be found and the cover went into the files. Left adhesive slightly creased, the right one stained on perforation, still a desirable usage of this elusive provisional stamp. Cert. B.P.A. (1976) Gi = £ 2'100+ on cover.

*Provenance: David Feldman sale (April 2006), lot 30678.*

15 ✉ 750

15 + L4 ✉ 750

# 1918, Aleppo Provisional Issue



A street in Aleppo



7122

Gibbons

Start price  
in CHF

- 7122** 1918 (Nov 4): Cover from Aleppo to Beirut, bearing **Aleppo Provisional Issue** Type 1, the handstamped Arab Seal indicating that „The prescribed fee has been paid“, struck on gummed paper, cut out and used as adhesive, tied by bold HALEP 2 Nov 4 cds, alongside Arabic military censor handstamp of Aleppo, reverse with DAMAS (Nov 24) partial "(BRITISH FIE)LD POST OFFICE (SZ 62)" and "ARMY POST OFFICE SZ 29" (Dec 11, these both at Damascus), routed via Port Said where it received both "PASSED BY CENSOR No. 10" and "PASSED CENSOR 6" British censorship handstamps. Central vertical file fold well away from the elusive adhesive, **Kaczmarczyk & Unwin** record only four covers bearing this stamp, they had been in use only on Nov 4 & 5, 1918, the first stamp of Syria.

Provenance: Christoph Gärtner sale 17 (March 2011), lot 4835.



10'000



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