

A R

International post-GPU/UPU

Micro-exhibits of **Ottoman Empire**
Greece
Bulgaria
Balkans

I suggest reading the A R book (<http://www.rfrajola.com/dh2019/1ar.pdf>) first, for a general description of worldwide A R.

The other exhibits, mini- & micro-, are also downloadable from Richard Frajola's exhibit site, <http://www.rfrajola.com/exhibits.htm>

Higher resolution pdfs are possible but require a DVD; please contact me if interested.

Comments, suggestions, contributions welcomed.

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May 2019

AR in the Ottoman Empire

THE Ottoman Empire has its origin in the late 13th century, and it controlled a huge swath of territory by the 16–17th century. But its decline began in the mid-18th century, eventually resulting in its complete collapse after World War I, formally in 1923, with the independence of the newly formed Republic of Turkey, under Atatürk.

From the late 19th century on, there were numerous foreign offices in major cities, such as Constantinople and Smyrna. AR mail through foreign offices will be treated in the country represented rather than here (thus AR forms and covers mailed at BPO Smyrna are in the UK exhibit, not here; similarly, occupied Cilicia AR is in the French exhibit). As a result, this is a micro-exhibit. Nonetheless, there are AR forms (one pre-Vienna, one post-), and Vienna and post-Vienna AR covers.

[M, 342] shows what is probably a 1906 provisional AR covering envelope (I don't have any)—possible doubt arises from the wording, *accusé de réception*, rather than *avis*; while they are sometimes used interchangeably, the former is normally used in a different context (*J'accuse réception de votre lettre . . .* is often the first line of a formal business letter).

On the basis of the one pre-Vienna item (I have seen others), payment of the AR fee was on the form. On the basis of one form and a number of covers, post-Vienna, AR was paid on the registered cover.

Alexios Papadopoulos provided a number of helpful comments.

Ottoman Empire AR: micro-exhibit synopsis

2 *AR forms* (one pre-Vienna, the other post-Vienna). Two Vienna period *AR covers*, and six post-Vienna. No covering envelopes; they probably did not produce any AR cards. The highlight is the 1884 AR form.

Ottoman Empire international AR service

AR forms, pre-Vienna



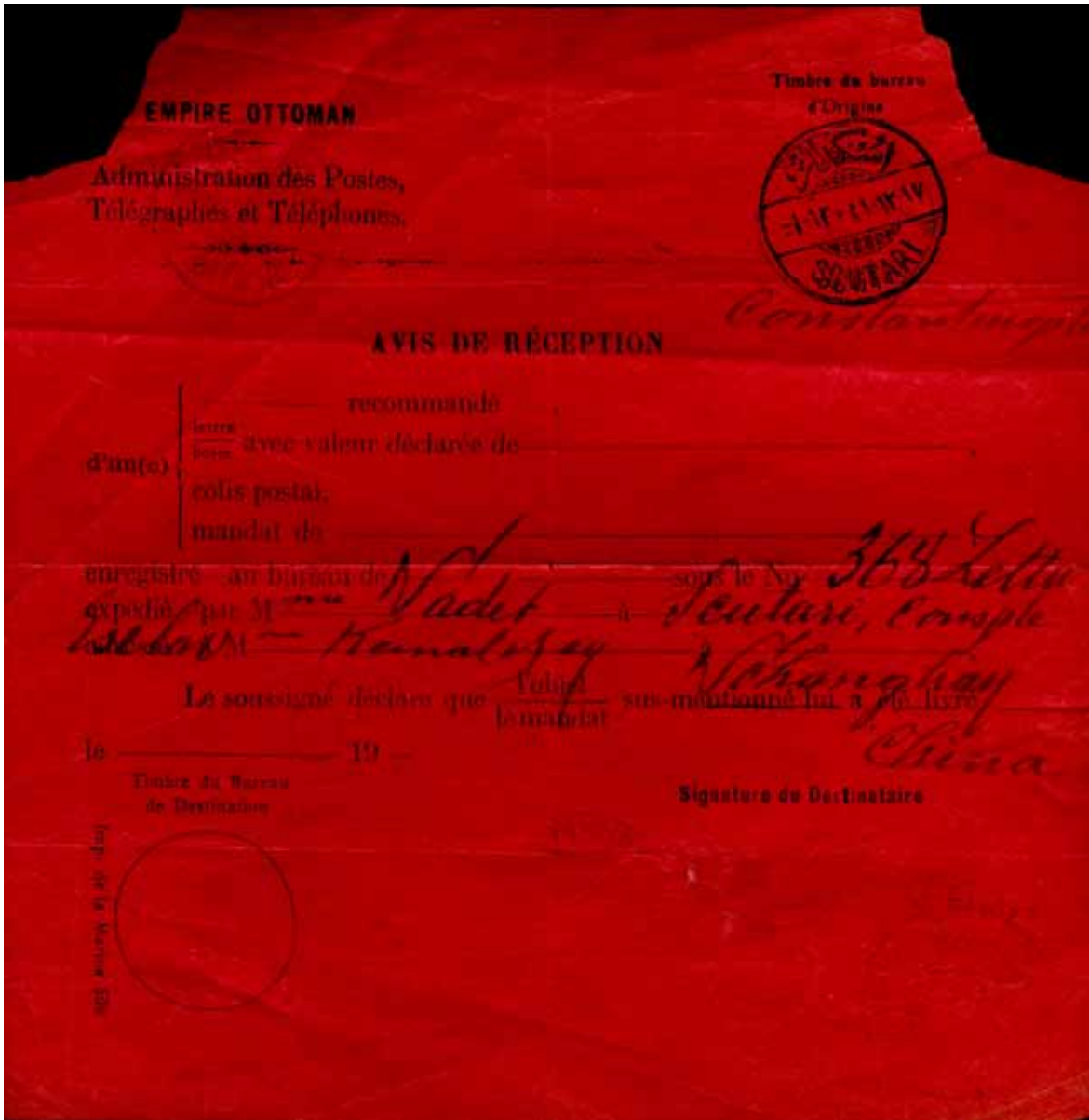
Constantinople to Venice, 1884. Nonstandard RÉCEPISSE DE RETOUR. French and Ottoman Turkish.

• 1 Piastre stamp applied, pays AR fee

• possibly returned as folded letter sheet

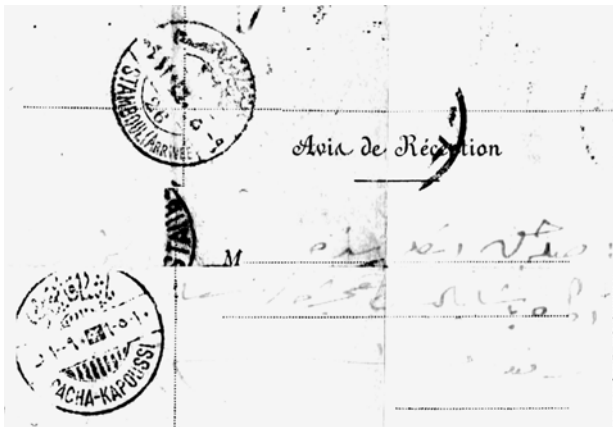


Post-Vienna



Scutari (Constantinople) to Shanghai, 19???. There is a printed 19 in the date area. Entirely in French.

- no stamp applied
- unsigned
- returned as folded letter sheet



AR covers, Vienna period



Sivas (central Turkey) via Galata (Constantinople) to Paris, forwarded to Marseille region, 1897. Standard Ottoman rectangular AR handstamp. Rated 3 Piastres, one each for UPU letter rate, registration, and AR.



Monastir (now Bitola in the Republic of Macedonia) to Domanovic (Herzegovina, Austrian Empire; under military rule), double rate 1898. Standard Ottoman rectangular AR handstamp. Rated 4 Piastres, double UPU rate.

AR covers, post-Vienna



Hereke (near Constantinople; famous for its carpets) to Esine (Brescia, Italy), 1902. Standard Ottoman rectangular AR handstamp. Rated 3 Piastres, one each for UPU letter rate, registration, and AR.



Iraq, under Ottoman rule

Iraq was under Ottoman rule from the 17th century to 1917, when it was captured by the British. It had been under siege for at least a year, which may explain why this letter took over three months to get to its destination.



Baghdad to Bridgewood (NJ), 6 March 1916. Ms A.R. Rated 3 Piastres, one each for UPU letter rate, registration, and AR. Censored in Istanbul. Arrived in New York 23 June 1916.



AR covers



Istanbul to Berlin, 1916. Faint rectangular Turkiye AR handstamp. Rated 3,30 Piastres: 50 paras for each of registration, AR, and UPU letter rate. Ottoman censor.



Samatya (Constantinople) to Bern, 1917. Standard Ottoman AR handstamp.

Rated 2 Piastres, 20 para, apparently missing the AR fee. Ottoman censorship.



AR covers



Two covers, Smyrna to Switzerland, single and double, 1917. Top with handmade AR, bottom with standard Ottoman AR handstamp.

Top rated 3 Piastres, 30 para (AR, registration, and single UPU letter rate, each 50 p = 1 P, 10 p), bottom rated 4 P, 20 p (extra weight 30 p).

Both subject to Ottoman censorship.

Top one has Smyrna registration label, bottom one, a registration handstamp.



Greece

GREECE achieved independence from the Ottoman Empire in the late 1820s. During the Balkan Wars (1912–13), it acquired more territory. During and after the first world war, it lost almost a million people at Ottoman hands.

I know very little about Greek AR service. I haven't found any material myself prior to 1918, but 1893 and 1912 AR covers are shown in [M, 334]. In any event, Greek AR material is very difficult to find (and should be especially scarce during the 1910s).

Despite this, I managed to find three AR forms (1926–33; this is well after the date most countries had replaced forms by cards), one of which was sent by the famous Greek photographer *Nelly's*. By 1939, Greece had switched to AR cards, but these are very difficult to find. Covers (at least in the period between the wars) are more readily available, but they tend to have blurred datestamps (so it becomes difficult to determine the year). Fortunately, the rates are fairly straightforward. I also managed to find a 1935 réclamation form.

Based on the forms, cards, and covers, the AR fee was paid on the form or card, not on the registered item in the post-Vienna period.



Greek AR: micro-exhibit synopsis

ORGANIZED, as usual, by AR forms, covering envelopes, cards, and covers; all the material shown (and that I could find) is post-Vienna. In this period, stamps paying the AR fee were applied to the AR form.

AR forms Three forms 1926–33, one of which was sent by Nelly's (the reason for the apostrophe is unclear).

AR covering envelopes Two, dated 1922, 1923, both to the U S, one just a sheet of line paper glued to make an envelope.

AR cards Greece introduced AR cards much later than almost everyone else, and these are difficult to find. There is a 1939 example, and a 1955 example returned by air.

AR covers Various AR covers, 1918–39. One, from a town acquired by Greece in 1919, having an Ottoman-style UPU AR handstamp.

Réclamation A 1933 example for a registered letter mailed to the U S.

Greek international AR service

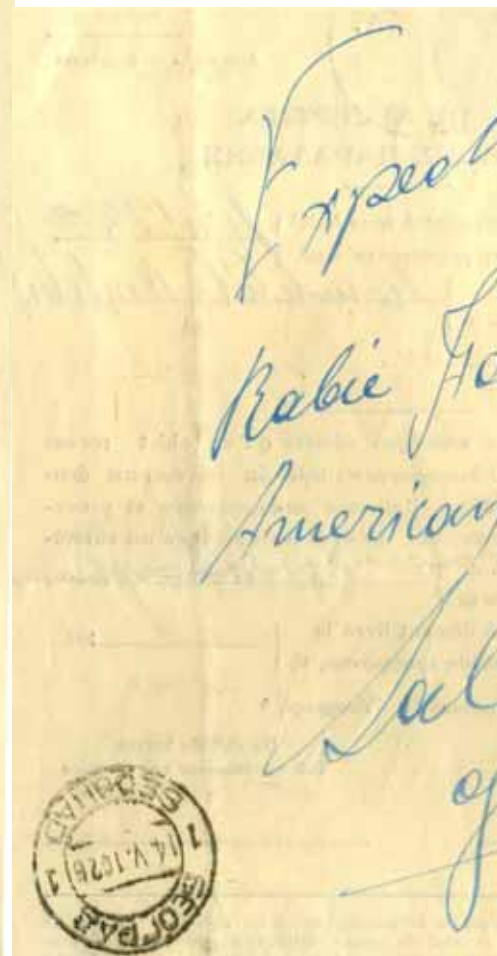
AR forms (post-Vienna)

Greece used forms to at least 1933, well beyond the 1921–22 date at which most entities switched to cards.

The form is titled "ΑΠΟΔΕΛΤΙΟ Σ ΠΑΡΑΛΑΒΗΣ" (Receipt of Delivery) and "RÉCEPTION". It includes the following elements:

- Stamps: Three red Greek postage stamps (2, 12, and 30 Drachma) and a circular postmark from Thessalonika.
- Text: "Article XII du Règlement" and "Υπ'Αρ. 42.".
- Registration: "N° 46123" handwritten in blue ink.
- Address: "et adressé à M. Μουσεχίλο Βιντσέττι" handwritten in blue ink.
- Date: "le 12-5-26" handwritten in blue ink, with "192" printed.
- Signature: "St. Velouglis" handwritten in blue ink.
- Postmark: "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ" (Athens) printed.

Below the form, there is a circular stamp from "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ" (Athens) dated "17/5/26".



Returned to Thessalonika (Salonica) from Beograd (Serbia), 1926.

- AR fee paid on form, 2,50 Drachma

- returned under cover

Greek AR form

C 6 (Recto)

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
DE GRÈCE

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)
(Συμπληρωτέον από το γραφείο καταγωγής)

Envoi recommandé (*Lettre*)
Συστημένος αντίκριμενον.
Lettre - Boite - Colis.
Επιστολή - Κυτίον - Δέμα.
Avec valeur déclarée de
μετά δηλωμένης αξίας εκ
Mandat de poste de
Ταχυδρ. επιταγή εκ
Enregistré au bureau de Poste d.....
καταχωρηθέν εν τῷ Ταχυδρ. Γραφείῳ

le sous le No. *241*
τῆ ὑπ' αὐτῆς ἀριθμ.)
Expédié par M. *Iphigénie P. Barnichas*
ἀποσταλέν ὑπό τοῦ
et adressé à M. *Alexandre Petelissianu*
καὶ διευθεύομενον πρὸς τὸν
à *Bucarest*
εἰς

1) Indiquez dans la parenthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, imprimé s.t.c.)
Σημειώσῃτε ἐν τῇ παρενθέσει τὸ εἶδος τοῦ ἀντικειμένου (ἐπιστολή, ἔκτυπον κ.λπ.)

AVIS DE REC PAYERMENT
ΑΠΟΔΕΙΞΙΣ ΠΑΡΑΛΑΒΗΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΗΣ

(A remplir par l'expéditeur)
(Συμπληρωτέον από τοῦ ἀποστολέως)

A *Alexandre Petelissianu*
avec son épouse
Budisteanu s.a.
(Lieu de destination)
(Τόπος προορισμοῦ)
Bucarest
(Rue et numéro)
(Ὁδὸς καὶ ἀριθμὸς)
N. 15 Palmar
(Service des Postes)
(Ταχυδρομικὴ ὑπηρεσία)
(Pays de destination)
(Χώρα προορισμοῦ)




Returned to Athens from Bucharest (Romania), 1933. This form strongly resembles an AR card, except that it is somewhat larger, and on paper.

- AR fee paid on form, 10 Drachma (at a time when registration was 8 Δρ)
- returned under cover

C 6 (Verso)

Le soussigné déclare que $\frac{\text{l'envoi}}{\text{le mandat}}$ mentionné d'autre part

•Ο ὑπογεγραμμένος δηλοῖ ὅτι τὸ ἀντικείμενον ἢ ἐπιταγή τὸ πρόσθεν μνημονευόμενον

A été dûment $\frac{\text{livré}}{\text{payé}}$ le 1933



Δεόντως $\frac{\text{ἐπεδόθη}}{\text{ἐπληρώθη}}$ τῇ 1933

Timbre du bureau destinataire (Signature)
Χρονοσήμαντρον τοῦ Γραφείου προορισμοῦ (ὑπογραφή)

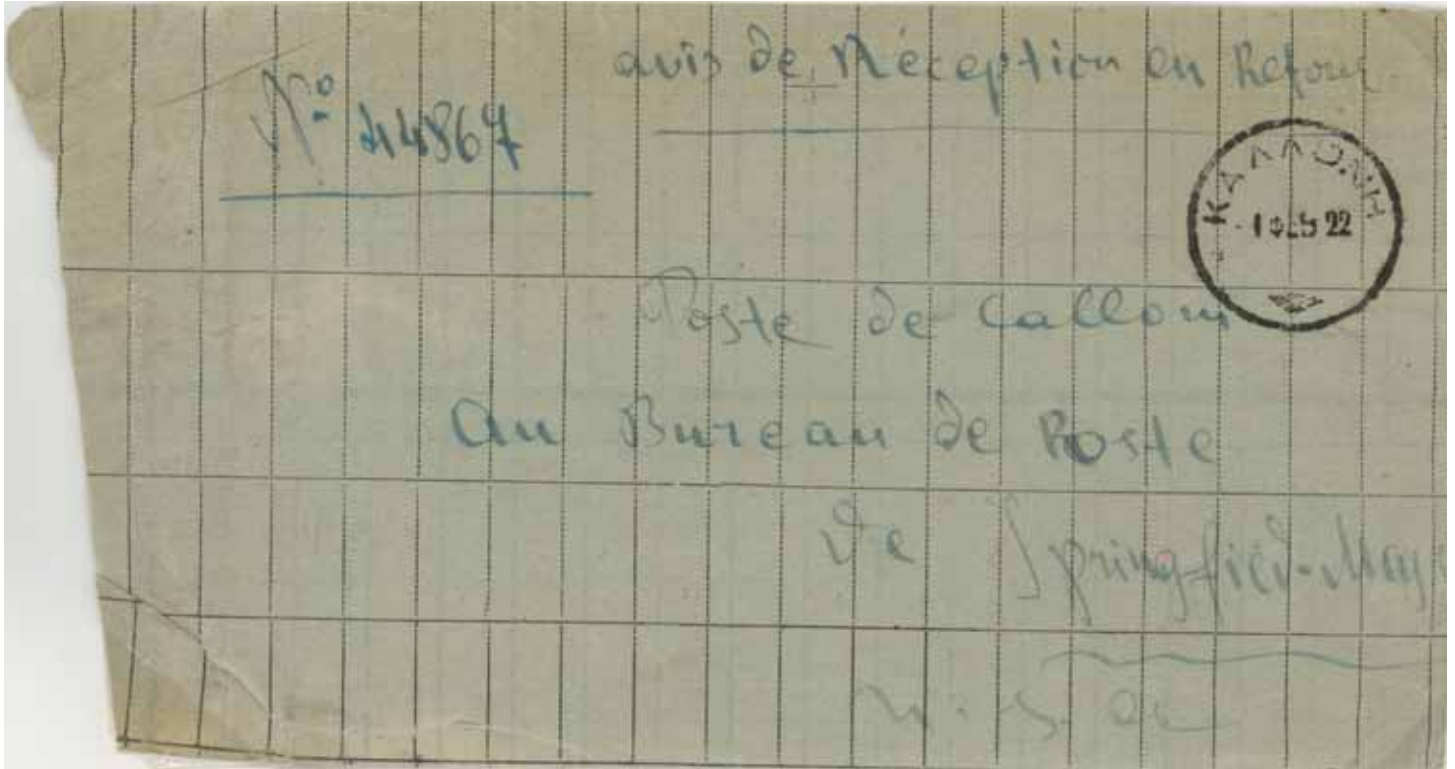
du destinataire de l'agent du bureau destinataire
τοῦ παραλήπτη τοῦ ὑπαλλήλου γραφείου προορισμοῦ

Petelissianu

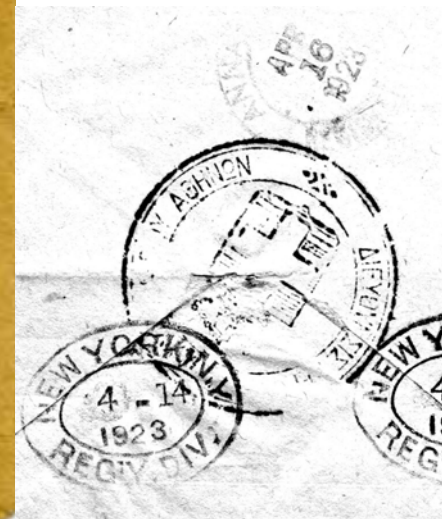
1 Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.
Ἡ ἀπόδειξις αὐτῆς ζέον νὰ ὑπογράφηται ὑπὸ τοῦ παραλήπτη, ἢ, ἂν οἱ κανονισμοὶ τῆς χώρας προορισμοῦ τὸ ὀρίζωσαν, ὑπὸ τοῦ ὑπαλλήλου τοῦ γραφείου προορισμοῦ καὶ νὰ ἐπιστρέφεται, πρῶτον ταχ μετῶν καὶ ἀπ' εὐθείας, εἰς τὸν ἀποστολέα.

Greek AR covering envelopes



Very *provisional*, Kalloni to Springfield (MA) 1922. A green lined-paper sheet has been folded and glued into an envelope. Kalloni is a small town on the island of Lesbos.



Athens to Annapolis (MD), 1923. This is not itself registered, but refers to registered item #8302.

Greek AR cards

16. 2da 31
Υποδ. 31



AVIS DE RECEP
(ἀπόδειξις παραλαβῆς)

POSTES HELLENIQUES

Envoi Recommandé, N°.....
Colis ou mandat de poste.
(Συστημένον ἀντικείμενον — δέμα ἢ ταχ. ἐπιταγή.)
Déposé le 27 Janvier 1939 au bureau de poste de.....
(Κατατεθὲν τὴν..... εἰς τὸ ταχ.....),
et Adressé à Messine
R. Kuberzab 8C^e
9 Bd. Sebastopol. Paris
à Paris 8
Pays France
(Διεύθυνσις παραλήπτου) (Ὄνομα καὶ ἀδύναμις)



Renvoyez à Messine
R. Kuberzab

Adresse.....
à Larion
Grèce

Athens to Paris, 1939. Payment of 8 Drachma AR fee.

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré le 27. 1. 39 193.....
(Ὁ ἐπογεγραμμένος βεβαιῶ ὅτι τὸ ἀντικείμενον (ἢ ἐπιταγή) δεόντως ἐπεδόθη εἰς τὸν δικαιούχον τῆ.....)

Signature.....
(du destinataire (τὸν παραλήπτην))

Timbre du bureau distributeur.....
Signature.....
(du destinataire (τὸν παραλήπτην))

bureau destinataire — τοῦ ταχ. ὑπαλλοῦ γραφείου προορισμοῦ.

Please return this form by airmail, as it is being sent.



AVIS DE RECEP

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine) (Νὰ συμπληρωθῆ ἀπὸ τὸ γραφεῖο ἐπιταγῆς)
Envoi recommandé (lettre.)
Συστ. ἀντικείμενον
Déposé au bureau de poste d Athènes.
κατατεθὲν εἰς τὸ ταχ. γραφεῖον
le 18 sous en
τὴν 10624 expédié par M. P. J. Drossos.
ἀπὸ ἀποσταλῆν ἀπὸ
et adressé à M. E. H. BELLARD
καὶ ἀπευθυνόμενον εἰς τὸν (18) Ohio, USA
(ἀδύναμις καὶ ἀριθμὸς. Ὄνομα καὶ ἀδύναμις)
(ἀδύναμις καὶ ἀριθμὸς. Ὄνομα καὶ ἀδύναμις)
(18) Ohio, USA
(ἀδύναμις καὶ ἀριθμὸς. Ὄνομα καὶ ἀδύναμις)



E. J. DROSSOS.
1. St. Denys Place.
ATHENS GREECE.

Athens to Cleveland, return by air, 1955. Paid 2,50 Δρ—which only represents the AR fee (in effect July 1953–April 1955), but not the return by air fee.

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré le FEB 24 1955 19.....

Signature.....
(du destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: Mr Bellard)

Signature.....
(du destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire: Mr Bellard)

(18) Ohio, USA

Greek AR covers



Athens to Paris, censored, 1918(?). Ms A R. Rated 25 lepta for each of registration and UPU letter rate (AR fee paid on the form). Overprinted stamps issued 1916, rates increased before July 1921, Greek censorship continued to at least 1922. The year in all the postmarks is unclear, but 1918 is as good as any.



Peiraeus to Leipzig, 1923–25(?). Large hs A R. Rated 2 Drachma for each of registration and UPU letter rate (AR fee paid on the form); in effect 1923–25. All postmarks have unclear year dates.

Greek AR cover



Komotini to Marseille, 16 October 1926. The large A.R. handstamp (partially covered by the registration label) is one of the standard types in use in the Ottoman Empire. Komotini had been under Ottoman control until 1913, when it was captured by Bulgaria; it became part of Greece only in 1919.

Rated 3 Drachma for each of registration and UPU letter rate (AR fee paid on the form).

Addressed to the Marquis de Crèvecœur, it bounced around Marseille and district for a while. The text, *Délais de garde expirés à représenter*, is repeated; I think this means that the time limit for keeping it has expired.



Greek AR covers



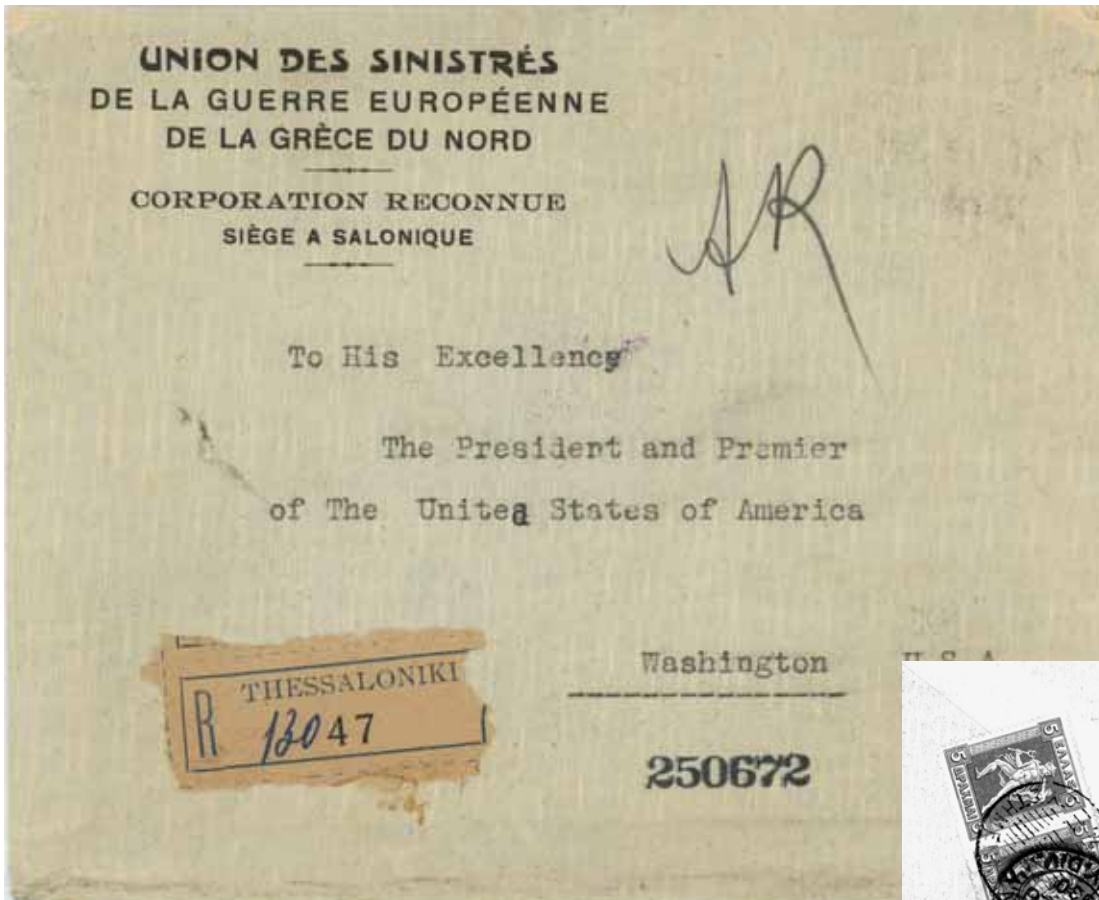
Athens to Cincinnati, triple, 1928. Boxed hs AR. Paid 12,80 Drachma, made up from 4 Δρ for each of registration and first letter rate, and 2,40 Δρ for each additional weight.



Athens to Harrison (NY), 1928. Same hs. Rated 4 Drachma for each of registration and UPU letter rate.



Greek AR covers

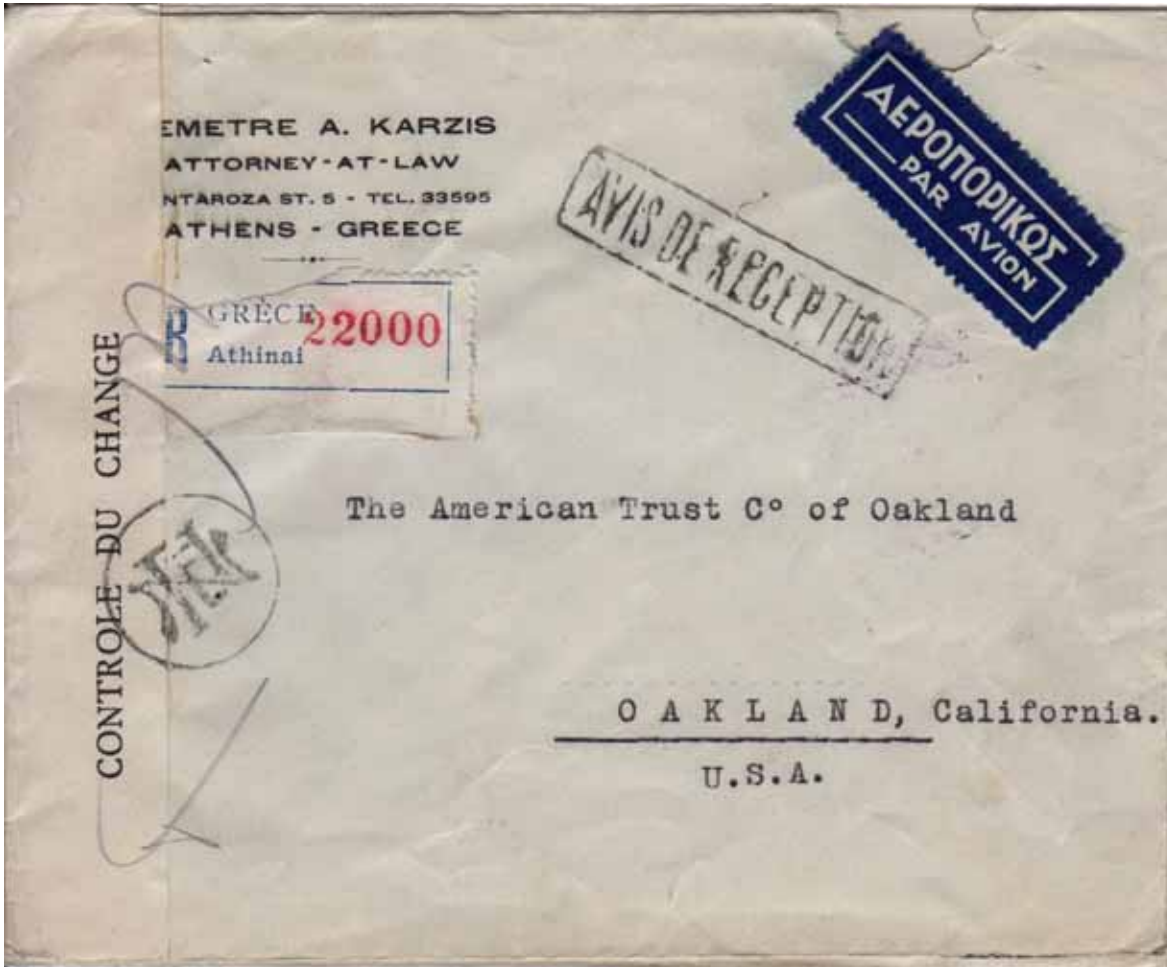


Thessaloniki (Salonica) to the President of the US, triple, 1930. Ms AR. Paid 12,80 Drachma, made up from 4 Δρ for each of registration and first letter rate, and 2,40 Δρ for each additional weight. *Sinistrés* does not mean left-handers (except if their right arm was blown off), but instead those who were seriously injured.



Athens to the Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem, 1938. Hs AR in rounded box. Rated 8 Drachma for each of registration and UPU letter rate. Greek censorship. Pure semi-postals (50 lepta each) attached at bottom. *Pronoia* literally means *care*.

Greek AR cover



Athens to Oakland (CA), 16 October 1940. Boxed rectangular AVIS DE RECEPTION handstamp. Rated 8 Drachma for each of registration and surface rate (up to 20 g), double air mail supplement at 28 Δρ per 5 g, and 1 Δρ social welfare tax (AR fee paid on the card). Greek currency control. *Explanation and images courtesy of Alexios Papadopoulos*



Réclamation

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE GRECE
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΩΝ

Νº 193 (Υπόδ. 53 δις)
16/12/35 I

RECLAMATION ΑΙΤΗΣΙΣ

Bureau de Athènes
Γραφείον

ΕΛΛΑΣ
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ
16 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1935
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ

JAN 13 1936
POST OFFICE
CRICKET, ILL.

Α remplir dans le service d'origine.
Συμπληρωτέον υπό της υπηρεσίας καταγωγής.

D'un envoi recommandé (a)
Περι ουστημένου
ou d'un envoi de valeur déclarée de (b)
ή αποστολής μετά δηλωμένης αξίας εκ
contenant (c)
περιέχοντος
déposé par M. Spizilon Sassiou rue Smyrnyss Nº 13
κατατεθέντος υπό του κ.
sous le no 4492 au bureau de Athènes 3/6/35
υπό αριθ. 4492 εκ το γραφείον
à l'adresse suivante: M^{me} Katina Dafnis
υπό την εξής διεύθυνση: Riverside California U.S.A. (d)

en faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de reception (e)

Α remplir dans le service de destination.
Συμπληρωτέον υπό του γραφείου του προορισμού.

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le June 21, 1936
Ο υπογεγραμμένος δηλώνει ότι το ανωτέρω αντικείμενο παραδόθηκε προς τον δικαιούχο την June 21, 1936

Le chef du bureau distributeur
Ο προϊστάμενος του γραφείου διανομής
For the Chief Post Office Inspector
Walter J. Follenberger

Timbre du bureau distributeur

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné est encore en instance au bureau de 19
Ο υπογεγραμμένος δηλώνει ότι το ανωτέρω αντικείμενο παραμένει ανεκδιότου εν τω γραφείον
a été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le 19
ή αποστράφη εις το γραφείον της καταγωγής τη 19
a été réexpédié le 19 à 19 (f)
ή αποστάλη περαιτέρω εις 19
n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination 19
δεν άφίκατο εις το γραφείον του προορισμού.

Le chef du bureau de destination
Ο προϊστάμενος του γραφείου προορισμού

Timbre du bureau de destination

1936
OFFICE OF CHIEF POST OFFICE INSPECTOR
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1936
OFFICE OF CHIEF POST OFFICE INSPECTOR
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(a) Lettre, échantillon, imprimé etc. } Επιστολή ή δείγμα ή έντυπον κτλ. }
(b) Lettre ou boîte.
(c) Description du contenu autant que possible.
(d) Περιγραφή του περιεχομένου κατά το δυνατόν.
(e) Cadre à remplir par l'expéditeur ou par le bureau d'origine.
(f) Σημπληρωτέον υπό του αποστολέα ή του γραφείου της καταγωγής.
(a) Biffer, le cas échéant.
(b) Διαγράφεται εν ανάγκη.
(c) Indiquer l'adresse exacte et complète.
(d) Αναγράφεται ή πλήρης και άκριβης διεύθυνση.

Athens to Riverside (CA), 16 December 1935. Fee of 12 Δρ (when the AR fee was 8 Δρ). For a letter mailed 3 June; the letter had been delivered on 21 June. At 85%.

AR in Bulgaria

BULGARIA was under Ottoman rule 1396–1878, after which it became autonomous, but not independent; the latter only happened in 1908. It guessed wrong in both world wars. It was a communist dictatorship 1945–90.

Bulgaria used a purple AR etiquette, at least during the Vienna period, and probably for a while longer. I could not find any AR forms in the Vienna period; but forms were in use until at least 1949; AR cards were introduced some time in the interval 1950–58. I found no covering envelopes. There isn't much Bulgarian AR material, but what there is, is interesting.

At least in the post-Vienna period, the AR fee was paid on the form (later, on the card), not the registered letter.

AR in Bulgaria: micro-exhibit synopsis

FOUR *AR forms* 1926–49, one of which is still attached to the registered cover. No *AR covering envelopes* One *AR card*. The highlight is an 1896 postcard sent with AR, with the message written in Ladino. There is another 1896 AR postcard, and then a 1929 AR cover.

Bulgaria AR service

AR forms

Post-Vienna period

Bulgaria continued to use AR forms (as opposed to cards) at least into the 1950s.

Envoi Metodi Vasilief, Lige n° 31 Sofia.
(Luce — Recto)

<p>УПРАВЛЕНИЕ НА ПОЩИТЪ ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES</p> <p>отъ <i>Sofia</i></p> <p>Препоръчанъ предметъ (<i>letv</i>) Envoi recommandé</p> <p>Колетъ Collis</p> <p>Писмо — кутия — колетъ Lettre — Boîte — Collis</p> <p>Съ обявена стойност на <i>3000 dinara</i> Avec valeur déclarée de</p> <p>Пощенски записъ на Mandat de poste de</p> <p>издаденъ въ пощ. писалище enregistré au bureau de poste de</p> <p>на _____ подъ № _____ le _____ sous le № _____</p> <p>Изпратенъ отъ Г. <i>Metodi Vasiloff</i> Expédié par M.</p> <p>и адресиранъ до Г. <i>Kali Velovitch</i> et adressé à M.</p> <p>въ <i>Dibra - Serbia</i></p> <p>*) Сведенията на лицевата страна трѣбва да се попълнятъ отъ изпращающето писалище. Le recto est à remplir par l'Officé d'origine.</p> <p>*) Видъ на предмета (писмо, печатно произв. и т. н.). Nature de le envoi (lettre, imprimé etc.).</p>	<p>ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА ДОСТАВЯНЕ AVIS DE RÉCEPTION</p> <p>ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА ЗАПЛАЩАНЕ AVIS DE PAYERMENT</p> <p>До <i>Kali Vellovitch</i></p> <p><i>Dibra - Serbia</i> (Мѣстоназначеніе) (Lieu de destination)</p> <p>Пощенска служба Service des postes (Страната на мѣстоназначеніето) (Pays de destination)</p> <p>*) За попълване отъ изпращача. A remplir par l'expéditeur.</p>
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Стереот. — 1143—1945

Returned to Sofia from Debar (then in Serbia, now an Albanian-speaking city in the Republic of North Macedonia), 1926. In Albanian, it was known as (big) Dibra, which is what the sender wrote. Form strongly resembles contemporary AR cards.

- 6 Leva AR fee paid in stamps (overprinted 3 ЛЕВА)
- form printed 1925
- returned as folded letter sheet (?)

(Опако — Verso)

Долуподписания заявявамъ, че означения предметъ на другата страна е билъ редовно доставенъ

на *9/IX* 1926

Le sossigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dément livré le _____ 1926

Каблаво на получилоето писалище
Timbre de bureau de destinataire

Подписъ *)
на получателя: на чиновника на получающето писалище:
Signature
du destinataire: de l'agent du bureau destinataire:

Kali Velovitch

*) Това известие трѣбва да бъде подписано отъ получателя или ако законоположенията на страната на мѣстоназначеніето позволяватъ, отъ чиновника на получающето писалище и повърнато съ първа поща направо на изпращача.
Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Опако - Verso Форма № 85,

Управление на пощата въ *Bulgarie*
Administration des Postes de *Bulgarie*

ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА ПОЛУЧАВАНЕ - AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

на едно писмо съ обявена стойност
d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de _____

на един препоръчан предмет *Мемо*)
d'un objet recommandé)

записанъ въ писалището
enregistré au bureau

въ *Munich* на *7-IX 1931* подъ № *245*)
le *7-IX 1931* sous le *245*)

и пратено отъ Г *D. Demireff*
expédié par M _____

и адресирани за Г *Elizabetta Demireva*
et adressé à M _____

(пълна адресъ) *санд. мед. дент. Карлота 49/Г е*
adresse complète *gultekah*

Долуподписания заявява *че ценното писмо*
Le soussigné déclare *qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée*

че препоръчения предметъ
qu'un objet recommandé

на гореозначениятъ адресъ
à l'adresse susmentionnée

и произходящъ отъ _____ е редовно доставенъ на _____ 192____
et provenant de _____ a été dûment livré le _____

Клеймо на получаването писалище
Timbre du bureau distributeur

на получателя:
du destinataire:

Н. Д. Демирев

1) Видъ на пратката (писмо, образецъ и пр.)
Nature de l'objet (lettre, échantillon, imprimé, etc.)

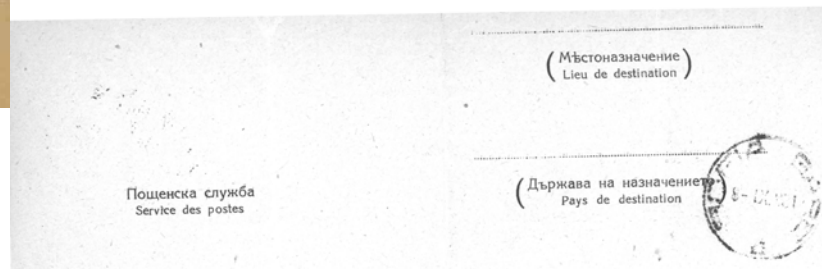
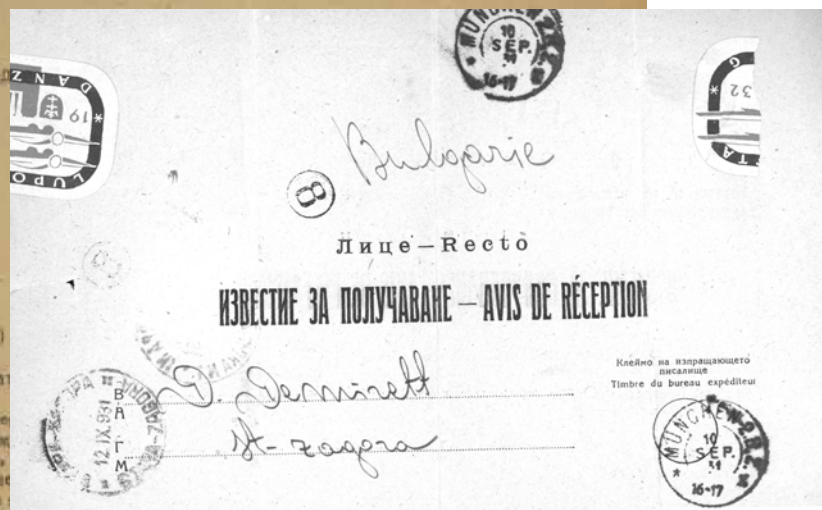
2) Писалището на мястопроизходениятъ, дат писалище,
Bureau d'origine, date de dépôt à ce bureau, № d'ordre

3) Забелжка. Това известие трябва да бъде нищитъ на държавата на назначеното допустить, отъ после се повърща съ първа поща направо на означеното място.

Nota. Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou l'agent du bureau distributeur, et renvoyé ensuite par la première occasion.

Returned to Stara-Zagora from Munich, 1931 (86%).

- 6 ЛЕВА AR fee paid with stamp
- form printed 1925
- returned as folded letter sheet



C.
(Лице — Recto)

<p style="text-align: center;">УПРАВЛЕНИЕ НА ПОШИТЪ ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES</p> <p>отъ <i>Rousschou</i></p> <p>а <i>Bulgaria</i></p> <p>Препоръчанъ предметъ (.....) Envoi recommandé</p> <p>Колетъ Colis</p> <p>Писмо — кутия — колетъ Lettre — Boite — Colis</p> <p>обявена стойност на Avec valeur déclarée de</p> <p>Пощенски записъ на Mandat de poste de</p> <p>издаденъ въ пош. писалище enregistré au bureau de poste de</p> <p>на <i>115 933</i> под № <i>26</i> le sous le N°</p> <p>изпратенъ отъ Г. Expédié par M. <i>G. Theodoroff</i></p> <p>въ <i>Direction Générale</i></p> <p>1) Сведенията на лицевата страна трябва да се попълнятъ отъ изпращащото писалище. Le recto est à remplir par l'Office d'origine.</p> <p>2) Видъ на предмета (писмо, печатно проваз. и т. н.). Nature de le envoi (lettre, imprimé etc.).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА ДОСТАВЯНЕ AVIS DE RÉCEPTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА ЗАПЛАЩАНЕ AVIS DE PAYEMENT</p> <p>Клеймо на парче.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>До <i>Atalho</i></p> <p><i>Bucarest</i> <i>Roumania</i></p> <p>Пощенска служба Service des postes</p> <p>1) За попълване отъ изпращача. A remplir par l'expéditeur.</p>
---	--

Степ. 2404—1931

Returned to Roussé (Русе) from Bucharest (Romania), 1933.

- 7 ЛЕВА AR (fee increased during 1932—33)
- form printed 1931
- returned as folded letter sheet (?)

Долуподписания заявявамъ, че означения предметъ на другата страна е били ре. но доставенъ заплата

на 19

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré le
le mandat payé

Клеймо на получающето писалище
Bureau du bureau destinataire

Подпись 1)
на получателя: на чиновника на получающето писалище.
Signature de l'agent du bureau destinataire:




12/1 1933. factor. M. B.

1) Това известие трябва да бъде подписано отъ получателя или ако законоположенията на страната на мястоназначението позволяватъ, отъ чиновника на получающето писалище и повърнато съ първа поща направо на изпращача.
Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Stamped by Hotel Stanescu, and signed by postman (factor).

AR form still attached to cover

Only a faint pencilled AR marking on the cover



Varna to Des Moines (IA), 1949. As there are no return to sender markings, the registered letter was delivered without removing the AR form. Rated: 20 lev AR fee, on the form; 20 ЛВ registration, 20 ЛВ surface (per 20 g), and double 35 ЛВ airmail to US (per 5 g). Ms 10r (10 g) indicates weight.

AR card

Bulgaria finally switched to AR cards, sometime in (1949–58).

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE BULG.
ПОЩЕНСКА АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ В БЪЛГА

Formule C-5

SERVICE DES POSTES
ПОЩЕНСКА СЛУЖБА

PO ВЪЗДУХА
PAR AVION

№ BULGARIE
PAR AVION LV 1

Reception
получаване

AVIS DE
ИЗВЕСТИЕ ЗА
Paiement
заплащане

Бехтерев Асен Асенов
(Nom ou raison sociale — Име и презиме)

ул. Иван Вазов 40-Б
София Болгария
(Rue et numéro — Улица и номер)
(Localité — Местоположение) (Pays — Страна)

Timbre du bureau renvoyant l'avis
Клеймо на станцията изпращаща известието

Stamp: R. 151515 SOFIA

(*) Si le présent avis doit être renvoyé par avion, le revêtir de la mention très apparente „Renvoi par avion“ et de l'étiquette „Par avion“.
Ако известието следва да се върне по въздушен път, да се отбележи по ясен начин „Renvoi par avion“ и етикет „Par avion“.

(*) Biffer ce qui ne convient pas.
Измачкото за се зачеркне.

(*) A remplir par l'expéditeur, qui indiquera son adresse pour le renvoi du présent avis, da se попълни от изпращача, като означаи адреса си.

6450,56-70,000 ДИ-Форм. и рег. Стр. 1580-ТД-1958

Returned from Moscow to Sofia, *by air*, 1959. 1 lev AR fee, no additional charge for return by airmail. Card printed 1958.

(A remplir par le bureau d'origine)
(Да се попълни от станцията на подданието)

(*) Envoi recommandé (*).....
Изпращача платва

(*) Lettre — Писмо } avec valeur déclarée de
Boite — кутия } с обявена стойност на
Colis — кулет }

(*) Mandat de poste de
Пощенски запис на
délivré au bureau de poste de
Подан в пощенска станция

Le 28/1 1959 au No
на 59 пог.

Adresse de l'expéditeur
Адрес на изпращача

Бехтерев Асен Асенов
ул. Иван Вазов 40-Б
София Болгария
(Localité — Местоположение) (Pays — Страна)

Адресе на получателя
Адрес на получателя

Леонов Леонид Леонидович
Новоостановская г. 14 кв. 89
Москва СССР
(Lieu de destination) (Pays de destination)
(Местоназначение) (Страна на местоназначението)

Le soussigné déclare que
Подписаният декларирам, че

l'envoi (*) mentionné ci-contre
не нанася тук означена
вредна
a été émis (*) livré — оставена
e valablement paye — платена

Signature (*) du destinataire
Подпис на получателя

de l'agent du Bureau destinataire
на служителя на станцията
назначението

Timbre du bureau de destination
Клеймо на станцията
назначението

(*) Biffer ce qui ne convient pas.
(*) Indiquer dans la paranthèse la nature de l'envoi (lettre, carte postale, imprimé etc.), s'il y a lieu.
(*) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou par une personne autorisée en vertu des règlements du Pays de destination, ou, si ces règlements le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

AR covers

Vienna period

Bulgaria used an attractive violet AR etiquette. The message on this card is in Ladino, and what little of it is understood, refers to a wedding.



Postcard, Karnobat to Cairo, returned to sender, 1896. Rated 10 Stotinski international postcard rate, and 25 CTOT for each of registration and AR.

Mailed from Karnobat 29 April; carried on the Bourgas-Sofia travelling post office (RPO), then on another RPO, Sofia–Harmanli (now in Bulgaria, but then in the Ottoman Empire), 12 May (Bulgaria used the Julian calendar, and did not switch to Gregorian until 1916). Received in Cairo 21 May; red octagonal **BUREAU DES REBUTS/EGYPTE** handstamp applied 5 July. Blurred NON-RECLAMÉ handstamp, undated but signed, likely applied at the same time as the Cairo datestamp of 31 July. The final datestamp is that of Karnobat on reverse, 2 August. Also a red ms Cyrillic *Karnobat*.

The message is written in *Osmanlika* (Ottoman Turkish script), but the language is **Ladino** (Spanish-based language of the descendants of exiled Spanish Jewry). Only a few phrases of the message have been translated.

Another postcard



Postcard, Bourgas to Vienna, returned to sender, 15 February 1896 (Julian). Rated 10 Stotinski international postcard rate, and 25 CTOT for each of registration and AR.

Mailed from Bourgas (the district containing Karnobat!), arrived in Vienna 3 February (Gregorian), and promptly returned to sender (arrived back in Bourgas, 22 February), with the comments applied in Vienna, (address) *n'existe pas* (doesn't exist) and *Retour*.

The card, intended for domestic use, commemorates the conversion of crown prince Boris (later Boris III) from Catholicism to Eastern Orthodoxy, 2 February 1896, to appeal to Russia (none of his other offspring were converted).

AR cover, post-Vienna



Karnobat (again) to Silivri (near Istanbul), 1929. Ms AR. Rated 6 leva for each of registration and UPU letter rates; AR fee paid on form. Forwarded to Kourfali (a different spelling of Kurfalli, in Silivri distict). I have not been able to locate Kazaci.



AR in the Balkans

FOR the purposes of this mini-exhibit (and it is quite mini-), we are treating only Balkan states during their periods of independence (or autonomy). Thus, regions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that eventually became part of a Balkan state are considered in the Austrian section. As quickly become evident, material is sparse.

- **SERBIA** Portions of Serbia were under Ottoman rule, off and on, until 1826, when it became largely autonomous; by 1867, it was independent. It was conquered by the Central Powers in 1915, but was liberated in 1918. In 1918, it annexed Montenegro, and later in the year, it formed the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (SHS).

In 1929, the country's name was changed to Yugoslavia. In 1941, it was invaded by the Axis powers, and divided among them, with a small portion being run as a German puppet state. Eventually, the communist partisans under Tito took over in a bloodbath. After Tito died, Yugoslavia disintegrated, and the story becomes too byzantine to give here.

- **MONTENEGRO** Under Ottoman rule until the late 17th century; then Montenegro was a theocracy until it became a (secular) principality (that is, ruled by a prince) in 1852. In 1905, it became a kingdom. In 1918, it became part of SHS (see Serbia), which later became Yugoslavia. After Yugoslavia fell apart, Montenegro eventually regained its independence.

Montenegro is the most interesting of the Balkans' countries in terms of postal history, because it issued lots of AR stamps. Almost all were remaindered, and examples properly used are extremely rare.

- **ALBANIA** From the mid-fifteenth century to 1912, it was under Ottoman rule. It was independent 1912–39, the captured by Italy, and subsequently made a Nazi protectorate. After the war, communist autocrat Enver Hoxha took over. In 1991, it became independent again.

- **SHS & YUGOSLAVIA** See the preceding paragraphs.

There really isn't much AR material around. (See also Austria for Bosnia and Croatia)

AR in Bulgaria: micro-exhibit synopsis

ONE *AR form* (Serbia, 1901). No *AR covering envelopes* One *AR card*. The highlight is a 1900 Montenegren *AR cover* with an AR stamp. There are also covers from SHS and Albania; these are followed by a 1939 postcard from Yugoslavia, sent with AR by an American traitor (Douglas Chandler), and a later cover with an AR etiquette.

Balkans' AR service

AR forms

Serbia

(№ 102.)

Кр. срп. поштанска управа Admin. des Postes de Serbie

Жиг намењујуће поштыће поште.
Timbre du bureau d'échange expéditeur.

ПОВРАТНИ РЕЦЕПИС
AVIS DE RÉCÉPTION

Долгоподписани примио сам испратио од поште.
Moi soussigné, je déclare avoir reçu du bureau de
Wien

једно препоручено поштыће под адресом
un envoi recommandé sous N à l'adresse de

Име } *Nikolaus Bigaschewitz*
Le nom }

Стан } *Wien*
Résidence }





Предато под поште } *Kragujevac*
Mis à la poste }

Од } *Nikolaus Bigaschewitz*
Par }

22/9 189*1*

Nota — Cet avis, signé par le destinataire, devrait être renvoyé au bureau d'échange expéditeur. Dans le cas où l'envoi recommandé n'aurait pas été livré, l'avis devrait être néanmoins renvoyé, on y constatant la cause de non-livraison.

Овај рецептен треба прикључити на поштыће.
- Cet avis devrait être signé par la personne qui reçoit l'envoi.



Returned to Kragouevatz (Kragujevac) from Vienna, 1901. One of the very few forms to indicate what to do in case the registered item cannot be delivered.

• 25 Para AR fee on the form

• form printed 1925

• returned as folded letter sheet (?)

AR covers

Montenegro, post-Vienna, with AR stamp



Cetinje to Gotha (Germany), 1900. Rated 10 Soldi for each of registration and AR, and triple UPU at 10 S for the first weight plus 5 S each additional.

Although Montenegro issued a plethora of AR stamps (for sale to philatelists), very few are seen properly used. The letters **A R** appear in the upper corners of the stamp.

Addressed to the publishers of the *Almanach de Gotha* (the snob-book for royalty), whose offices were deservedly destroyed by the Russians in World War II.



Kotor (now in Montenegro) to Edmonton (AB), 1923. Red crayon AR Rated 2 Dinar for each of registration and AR, and UPU letter rate 3 D. Via London and Winnipeg.

Albania



Tirana to Istanbul, triple, 1923. Both with boxed A.R. handstamp; both rated 105 Qindarks, made up from registration, AR, and first weight letter rate, at 25 Q each, plus two additional weights at 15 Q each.

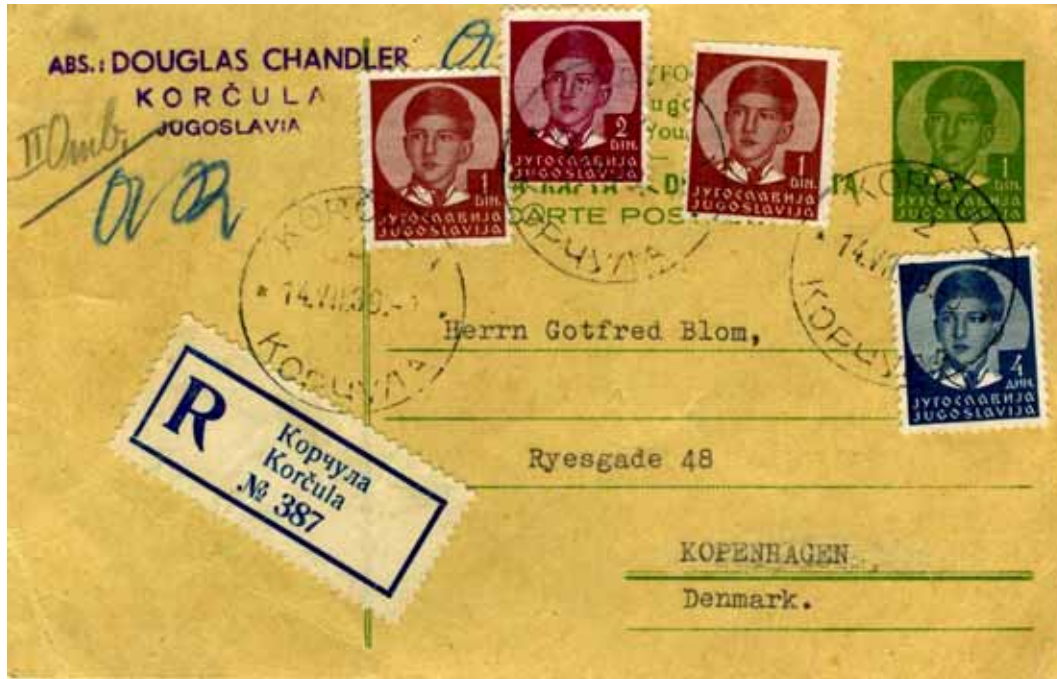


The red datestamp is an Istanbul receiver.



Postcard, Yugoslavia

Sent by an American traitor



Korčula, 14 July, 1939

Dear Herr Blom: In ~~May~~ I wrote you a letter and enclosed about six of my Leica negatives from which you wished to have enlargements made. Inasmuch as I have not heard from you since, I fear that my letter has never reached you. I am suffering every day annoyance through the the inefficiency of the post here. Many letters and even telegrams fail to reach their destination. I have made repeated complaint but what is the result..... Balkan shoulders shrugged, Balkan indifference expressed. The air and the sea here are the most satisfactory items of the ensemble. I do not register that letter to you, so have no redress. But out of curiosity I would like to know if you received it. I have to go up to Munich next week to bring Laurette down for her vacation. Shall shorten the time by using plane both ways. We are living much in the water; the sun is hot, but we have almost always a brisk breeze in Korčula. Best regards to your family..... Sincerely, *D. Chandler*
Douglas Chandler.

Postcard, Korčula (Croatia) to Copenhagen, 14 July 1939. Ms AR. Rated 4 Dinars registration, 3 D AR, and 2 D UPU postcard.

Douglas Chandler (1889–1976?) was an American journalist glorifying the Nazis before and during the war (known as *America's Lord Haw Haw*). He was convicted of treason in 1947 and sentenced to life imprisonment; in 1963, he was released on condition that he renounce his citizenship and leave the U.S. Laurette (referred to in the message) was one of his daughters, and he is known to have vacationed at Korčula in this period.

AR etiquette, Yugoslavia



Sarajevo to Highland Park (MI), airmail, 1950. Etiquettes **AR** & **Express** (special delivery). Rated 41 Dinars: 7 D registration, 5.5 D AR, and 5 D surface, leaving 23.5 D for supplemental airmail and special delivery. Stamps overprinted **FNR**.

