

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair 1934-1942

On 28 April 1925, at a time when the "Exhibition Concept" was widespread in Europe, the MP Nikolaos Germanos submitted to the then Ministry of National Economy his innovative proposal for the establishment of an

International Trade Fair, the first in Greece. He asked for the official endorsement to implement his vision, he achieved it, and was immediately regarded as the "mastermind" of the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF).

The first exhibition was held from 3-17 October 1926. The original premises were located in the southern part of the Areos Field and covered an area of 37 acres. It remained there until it was moved to a new site in 1940, where it is still located today. The years passed and we arrived at the 9th exhibition, which took place from 9-30 September 1934. Then something of philatelic interest took place.



The opening of the 9th Thessaloniki International Fair, 9 September 1934

On 22 September 1934, a special 20lepta (cents) stamp was put into circulation in Thessaloniki for the benefit of the TIF, which was compulsory in addition to the normal rate on all letters, postcards and parcels sent from Thessaloniki to the interior of Greece. This stamp was issued by special Law No. 6195/2.7.34 published in the No. 210 (issue A') / 5.7.1934 of the Government Gazette.

Based on the above law, the 20lepta was printed at the «K.A. Kontogoni Lithographic Printing House» in Athens using the lithographic method in a total of 20,000,000 copies in sheets of 50 and 200 stamps. It bears a representation of St Demetrius, patron of the city of Thessaloniki, on horseback and wielding his spear. The stamp was printed with reddish-brown ink on white or pale yellow paper and has an 11½ perforation.

This special stamp was produced at the expense of the Thessaloniki Fair Committee and delivered to the stamp manager of the Thessaloniki Post Office, who supplied it to all the Post Offices of Thessaloniki. The revenue from its sale was handed over to the relevant International Exhibition Committee.

Postal items coming from the Post Offices of Thessaloniki, which did not bear, in addition to the regular postal rates, the additional 20-lepta special charge for the TIF, were considered insufficiently prepaid and the recipient was obliged to pay twice the missing additional charge, which was collected by means of postage due stamps.



Cover with the special 20-cent stamp for the TIF with First Day of Issue cancellations and a commemorative stamp of the 9th TIF.

This exhibit demonstrates the special issue as well as the use of the special stamp for the Thessaloniki International Fair from September 1934 to the end of 1942.

Bibliography

- Hellenic Philatelic Society, «The stamp of the Thessaloniki International Fair», *Philotelia* 117/1934.
- Hellenic Philatelic Society, «Overprint of the stamp of the Thessaloniki International Fair», *Philotelia* 212-213/1942.

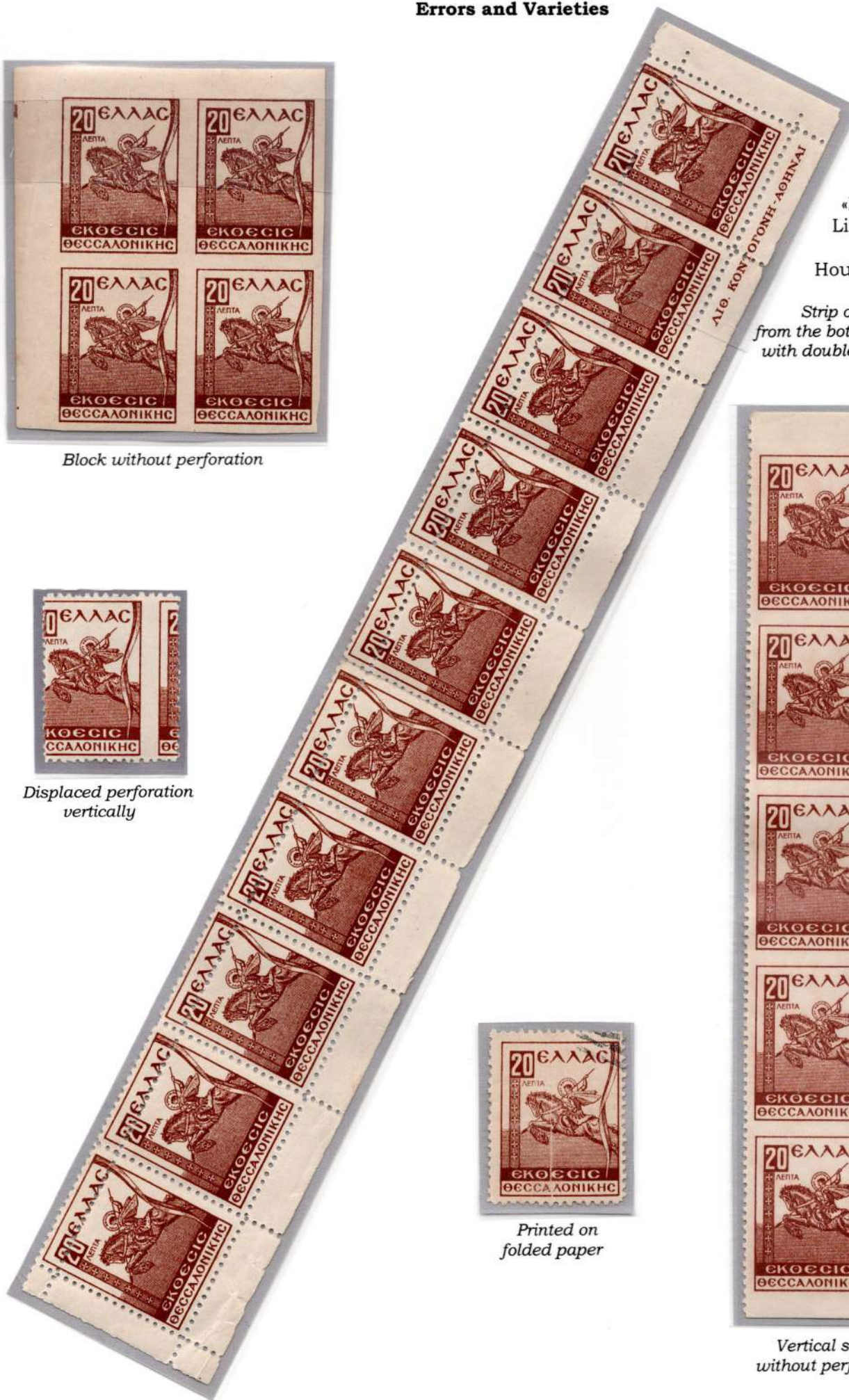
Errors and Varieties



Block without perforation



Displaced perforation vertically



«Kontogoni»
Lithographic
Printing
House, Athens

Strip of 10 stamps
from the bottom of sheet
with double perforation



Printed on
folded paper



Vertical strip of 10 stamps
without perforation horizontally

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

Errors and Varieties



Perforation variety due to paper fold



Partial decalque on back side



Blocks without vertical perforation on the left and center



Commemorative Postal Card for XI International Thessaloniki Fair (6-27/09/1936) issued by T & M.

The 20 lepta Thessaloniki International Fair Fund stamp was issued on 22/09/1934.

Commemorative Cancellation of **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΕΚΘΕΣΙΣ 1 X 38** "International Thessaloniki Fair" from the Temporary Post Office, active at the Fair location from 11/09 until 2/10/1938.



photocopy

Registered cover from "American Consular Service, Salonica Greece", with 13 Drs postage stamps, 10 Lepta Anti-Tuberculosis Fund & 20 Lepta TIF Fund, posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΥΕΘΜΕΝΑ 3.1.1935** to "The American Consul General, Athens" **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΕΥΕΘΜΕΝΑ 4.1.1935**.
Postal Rates 13.30 Drs: 9 Drs for 4th weight letter (61-80 gr), 4 Drs for registered, 10 L for A-T & **20 Lepta for TIF**.

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Picture postcard "Thessaloniki, White Tower" with 2 Drs postage stamps & 20 Lepta TIF Fund, posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 15.9.1935** to **Piraeus**.
Postal Rates 2.20 Drs: 2 Drs for postcard & **20 L for TIF**.



Express cover with 15 Drs postage stamps, 50 L for Social Welfare Fund & 20L for TIF Fund, posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 13.8.1937** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΑΦΙΞΙΣ 14.8.37**.
Postal Rates 15.70 Drs: 5 Drs for 2nd weight letter (21-40 gr), 10 Drs for express, 50 L for Social Welfare Fund & **20 L for TIF**.

ΙΟΝΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ LIMITED
 Η ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΙ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΩΝ
 ΕΤΟΣ ΙΔΡΥΣΕΩΣ 1839

ΕΔΡΑ ΕΝ ΛΟΝΔΙΝΩΙ 25/31 MOORGATE LONDON E.C. 2

ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟΝ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ ΕΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΙ:
ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΑ ΕΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΣ:
 Ὀδὸς Δράκου 17 (Βεΐκου), ὁδ. Ἰπποκράτους ἀρ. 204,
 ὁδὸς Ἁγ. Μελετίου 85, ὁδὸς Πάριδος 83 (Χαροκόπου)

ΥΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ ΕΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΙ:
 ΕΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΕΙ, ΑΜΑΡΟΥΣΙΩΙ, ΑΡΓΕΙ, ΒΟΛΩΙ
 ΔΡΑΜΑΙ, ΖΑΚΥΝΘΩΙ, ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΩΙ, ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΙ
 ΚΑΒΑΛΛΑΙ, ΚΑΛΑΜΑΙΣ, ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΙ, ΚΕΦΑΛΛΗΝΙΑΙ
 ΛΕΒΙΔΙΩΙ, ΛΗΜΝΩΙ, ΜΕΓΑΡΟΙΣ, ΜΙΤΥΛΗΝΗΙ, ΝΑΥ-
 ΠΛΙΩΙ, ΝΑΟΥΣΗΙ, ΞΑΝΘΗΙ, ΠΑΤΡΑΙΣ, ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΙ,
 ΣΠΑΡΤΗΙ, ΤΡΙΠΟΛΕΙ, ΧΑΝΙΟΙΣ, ΧΙΩΙ

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ ΕΝ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΩΙ: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑ
 ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΑ ΕΝ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΩΙ:
 ΒΕΝΗΑ, ΒΕΝΙ-ΣΥΕΦ, ΔΑΜΑΝΗΟΥΡ
 ΦΑΥΟΥΜ, ΚΑΦΡ-ΕΛ-ΖΑΥΑΤ, ΜΑΛΛΑΒΙ, ΜΑΝΣΟΥΡΑΙ
 ΜΕΗΑΛΛΑ-ΚΕΒΙΡ, ΤΑΝΤΑΗ

ΥΠΟΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑΤΑ ΕΝ ΚΥΠΡΩΙ: ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΙ
 ΠΡΑΚΤΟΡΕΙΑ ΕΝ ΚΥΠΡΩΙ:
 ΕΝ ΛΑΡΝΑΚΙ, ΛΕΜΗΣΣΩΙ, ΑΜΜΟΧΩΣΤΩΙ, ΠΑΦΩΙ

ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΤΑΙ ΕΙΣ ΤΑΣ ΚΥΡΙΩΤΕΡΑΣ ΠΟΛΕΙΣ
 ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΟΥ

**ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΝ
 ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ**

Κον
 Αδωνις Χ. Καρνα
 Της Αδωνις Χ. Καρνα
 Αδωνις

Commercial postcard with 2 Drs postage stamps & 20 Lepta TIF Fund (with displaced perforation), posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ 6.11.1936** to Athens. **Postal Rates 2.20 Drs:** 2 Drs for postcard & **20 Lepta** for TIF.

M. ALGAVA
 48, RUE EGNATIA
 THESSALONIKI
 (GRÈCE)

ΒΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ
 Σ 33576

Συγγιαν
 Γεωργιος Καβλοραμης
 Ορλοφρονομος
 Τραπεζων
 (Κορινθου)

Registered cover with 7 Drs postage stamps, 50 L for Social Welfare Fund & 20 L for TIF Fund, posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 12.9.1940**, via **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΕΥΣ ΚΙΝ 1Α 13.9.1940** (railway cancel) to **ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 16.9.1940** **Postal Rates 7.70 Drs:** 3 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 4 Drs for registered, 50 L for Social Welfare Fund & **20 Lepta** for TIF.

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

On rare occasions, the 20 Lepta stamp for TIF Fund was used by senders as a regular stamp, which was not acceptable to the Post Office, which did not consider it as a valid postal rate.



Postal Stationery with 40 Lepta printed stamps, 1 Dr postage stamps and 4x20 Lepta for TIF Fund (instead of only 20 L), posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 25.11.1934** with cancel ΕΙ-ΣΠΡΑΚΤΕΟΝ ΤΕΛΟΣ (Postage Due) to **ΠΑΤΡΑΙ**.
Postal Rates 2.20 Drs: 2 Drs for Postal Stationery and **20 Lepta for TIF**.

The postal rate for PS was 2 Drs (and 20 L for TIF Fund). The sender had to add 1.60 Dr. He affixed a 1 Dr stamp and 60 Lepta for TIF Fund (instead of regular 60 Lepta stamps) to the PS stamp, which the Post Office did not accept and imposed an additional fee equal to double the value of the missing rate.

In some cases more than one - that was obligatory - 20 Lepta for TIF Fund was placed on the mail.



Registered cover with 7 Dr postage stamps, 60 Lepta for Social Welfare Fund (instead of only 50 Lepta) & 2x20 Lepta for TIF Fund (instead of only 20 Lepta), posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 21.2.1940** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ Α-ΦΙΕΙΣ 22.2.40**

Postal Rates 7.70 Drs: 3 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 4 Drs for registered, 50 L for Social Welfare & **20 Lepta for TIF**.

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair



Registered airmail cover with 17 Dr postage stamps 2 Dr airmail stamps, 2 Dr Postage Due stamps & 20 L for TIF Fund posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΕΥΣΤΗΜΕΝΑ 1.2.1942 to ΑΘΗΝΑΙ**

The Postman tried to deliver the letter to the recipient's address, but this was not possible. The Postman put a handwritten "absent - notice" & his signature, and the letter was returned to the Athens Post Office, where it remained until the addressee collected it from there. As it was now considered as Poste Restante, it received the applied postage of 2 Dr with Post Due stamps (effective 1.1/14.5.42) which was paid by the addressee on receipt.

Postal Rates 19,20 (normal rate) + 2,00 Drs (for post restant): 7 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 10 Drs for registered, 2 Drs for airmail, **20 Lepta for TIF** and 2 Drs for Poste Restante.

On very rare occasions we find that 20 Lepta for TIF Fund was used by Post Offices other than those in Thessaloniki, which although was not prohibited, it was unnecessary and was not counted in the postage.



Postal Stationery with 2 Drs printed stamps, 10L postage stamps (it was not compulsory & is not counted in postage), 10L for Social Welfare Fund and 20 Lepta for TIF Fund (it was not compulsory & is not counted in postage), posted from **ΙΩ-ΑΝΝΙΝΑ 15.5.1937**, via **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 16.5.37** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ ΜΑΚΡΥ-ΓΙΑΝΝΗ 17.5.1937**.

Postal Rates 2.10 Drs: 2 Drs for Postal Stationery and 10 Lepta for Social Welfare Fund.

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

On 1 September 1942, due to currency devaluation and a change in Postal Rates, the special 20 lepta stamp in favour of the Thessaloniki International Exhibition was overprinted with a green overprint and a new value of "Dr.1" and put into circulation.

The overprint and circulation was carried out by special Law No. 1813/12.9.42 published in issue No. 249 (issue A) / 1.10.42 of the Government Gazette.

Its use was the same as that of the original 20lepta stamp in 1934.

On 31 December 1942 we had an implicit abolition of the additional fee in favour of the Thessaloniki International Exhibition.

Errors and Varieties



*Pair, one without surcharge
Decalque*



*Cover with the special 1 Dr/20 Lepta stamp for the TIF
with First Day of Issue*



*«Kontogoni» Lithographic Printing House, Athens
White and yellowish paper*



Without dot after «ΔΡ»



Double surcharge



*Diagonal surcharge
only at first stamp*

Errors and Varieties



Pair with imperfect perforation in the middle



Without surcharge on face



Pair with displaced perforation in the middle



Vertical displaced perforation



Pair without horizontal upper perforation



Pair with one stamp Decalque

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair



photocopy



Airmail cover with 23 Drs postage stamp, 2 Drs airmail stamps & 1 Dr for TIF Fund posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 8.9.1942** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ**.
Postal Rates 28 Drs: 25 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 2 Drs for airmail & **1 Dr for TIF**

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair



Express Postal Envelopes with printed 30 Drs, additional with 25 Drs postage stamps, 2 Drs postage (instead of airmail stamps) & 1 Dr for TIF Fund posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 27.10.1942** send airmail to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ 28.10.1942**.
Postal Rates 58 Drs: 30 Drs for pre-paid Postal Envelopes, 25 Drs for Express, 2 Drs for airmail, & **1 Dr for TIF.**



Registered cover with 100 Drs postage stamps & 1 Dr for TIF Fund, posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΕΘΜΕΝΑ 21.11.1942** to **ΛΑΡΙΣΣΑ ΣΥΕΘΜΕΝΑ 24.11.1942**.

Postal Rates 101 Drs: 50 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 50 Drs for registered & **1 Dr for TIF.**

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

On 31 December 1942 we had an implicit abolition of the additional fee in favour of the Thessaloniki International Exhibition. The cover below is posted on the last day of use of the additional fee for the TIF.



photocopy



Postal Envelopes with printed 30 Drs, additional with 30 Drs postage stamp, 2 Drs airmail stamps, 10 Drs Anti-Tuberculosis Fund & 1 Dr for TIF Fund posted from **THESSALONIKI 31.12.1942** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ**.

Postal Rates 73 Drs: 60 Drs for pre-paid Postal Envelopes, 2 Drs for airmail, 10 Drs for A-T Fund & **1 Dr for TIF**.

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

On very rare occasions, we find regularly mailed items up to the end of 1943, with the additional fee for the Thessaloniki International Fair affixed. The circulation of this stamp had stopped at the end of 1942, but also due to the devaluation of the currency it no longer had any value and of course was not counted in the postage.



photocopy



Airmail cover with 500 Drs postage stamp, 100 Drs airmail stamps, 30 Drs Anti-Tuberculosis Fund & 2 Dr for TIF Fund (it was not in circulation and not counted in the postage), posted from **ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 5 11.12.1943** to **ΑΘΗΝΑΙ**.

Postal Rates 630 Drs: 500 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr), 100 Drs for airmail (up to 15 gr) & 30 Drs for A-T Fund.

The Special Stamp issue for the Thessaloniki International Fair

The additional fee for the Thessaloniki International Exhibition was only compulsory for domestic mail from Thessaloniki. Very rarely is it found on regular postal items to foreign countries.



Postal Stationery with 2 Drs printed stamps, 1,50 Drs postage stamps, 20L (instead of only 10L) for Social Welfare Fund and 20 Lepta for TIF Fund (it was not compulsory & is not counted in postage), posted from **THESSALONIKI 6.3.1937** with Thessaloniki Exchange Control cancel **ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ** to Beograd **Yugoslavia**.

Postal Rates 3,60 Drs: 3,50 Drs for Postal Stationery (preferential postal rates to Yugoslavia, Romania & Turkey) and 10 Lepta for Social Welfare Fund.



Airmail cover with 50 Drs postage stamps, 9 Drs airmail stamps & 1 Dr for TIF Fund (it was not compulsory and is not counted in postage) posted from **THESSALONIKI 2.10.1942** via "Vienna Censorship Office" to **Germany**.

Postal Rates 59 Drs: 50 Drs for 1st weight letter (up to 20 gr) & 9 Drs for airmail to Germany.