

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece 1833 – 1835

The Administrative Framework of the Capodistrian Period. The formation of the modern Greek state was accompanied by successive efforts to establish an organized administrative structure. By the **10th Resolution of April 13, 1828**, Governor Ioannis Kapodistrias, following the decisions of the Third National Assembly at Troezen, defined the administrative boundaries of the country, dividing it into thirteen Departments (including Argolis, Achaea, Elis, Upper Messenia, etc.). With the progress of military operations in 1829, this system was extended to Central Greece through the creation of the Departments of Western and Eastern Central Greece.

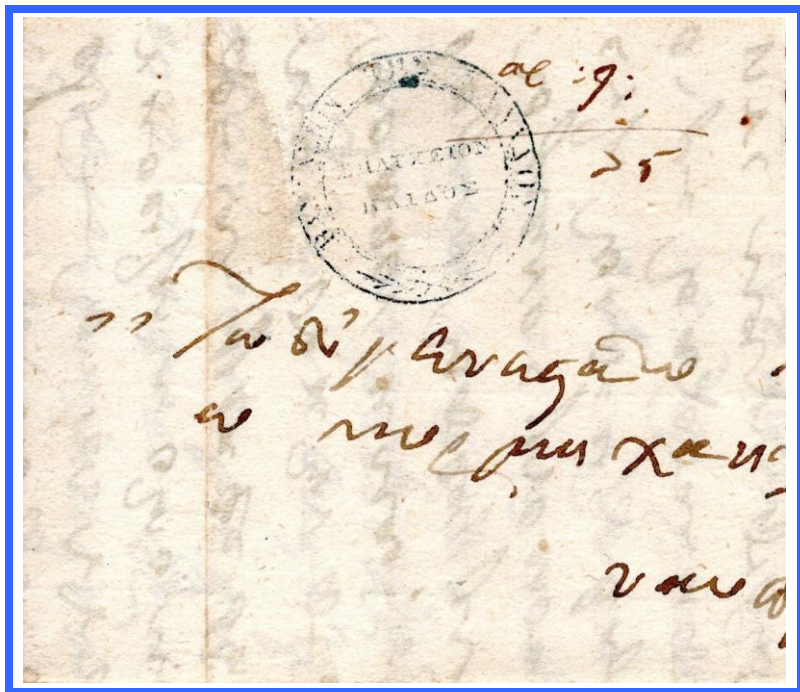
The Regency Reform (1833). The arrival of Otto of Greece marked a radical administrative reorganization. The **Decree of April 3, 1833**, “On the Division of the Kingdom and its Administration,” abolished all previous territorial divisions. The Kingdom was reorganized into **ten (10) Prefectures** and **forty-two (42) Provinces**, establishing a centralized administrative system, clearly reflected in the sealing practices of the period.

The Development of the Postal Service. Alongside administrative restructuring, Kapodistrias laid the foundations of the postal system by establishing the **General Directorate of Posts** (September 1828) and opening the first five post offices at key locations (Poros, Epidaurus, Argos, Tripolitsa, and Syros). Despite the issuance of the first Postal Regulation in 1829 and the expansion to 45 post offices during the reign of Otto, postal infrastructure remained rudimentary. Mail was predominantly official, while private correspondence remained limited.

Transitional Use of Administrative Handstamps (1833–1835). Prior to the introduction of the first philatelic postal handstamps (Types I and II) in late September 1834, postal needs were met through the use of **administrative handstamps**. Their use on folded letters is documented as early as **mid-1833**. From **1835** onwards, with the gradual adoption of postal handstamps, administrative seals were withdrawn from postal use and restricted exclusively to administrative documents.

Typology of Administrative Handstamps. Two main types of administrative handstamps are identified in this period:

- **Type I (Inscriptional):** A double-circle handstamp bearing the inscription “KINGDOM OF GREECE” around the perimeter, with the name of the administrative authority in the center.
- **Type II (Emblematic):** A single-circle handstamp featuring the royal coat of arms in the center, with the name of the issuing administrative authority around the perimeter.



**ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΗΛΙΔΟΣ**

Kingdom of Greece
Provincial Administration of Elis

Part from EL dated **Pyrgos (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΗΛΙΔΟΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Elis). Manuscript letter number “9”.

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

The exhibit presents the postal use of Administrative handstamps from the period 1833–1835, which constitute important evidence of Greek postal history. Through these items, valuable information emerges regarding the formation of the administrative geography and the operation of communication networks in the newly established Greek state.

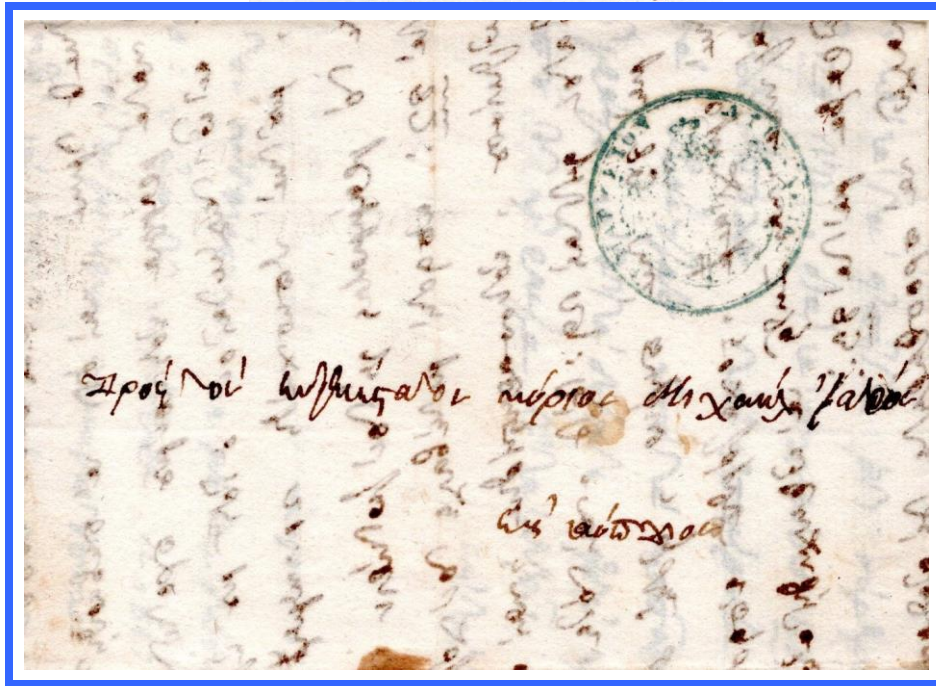
Bibliography / Selected Sources

- Giannis Ntais, “*Insights into Administrative Handstamps and the Seals of the General Post Office, 1821–1901*”, Athens, 2010
- General State Archives of Greece, Vlachogiannis Collection and Ministry of the Interior, 1833–1850

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

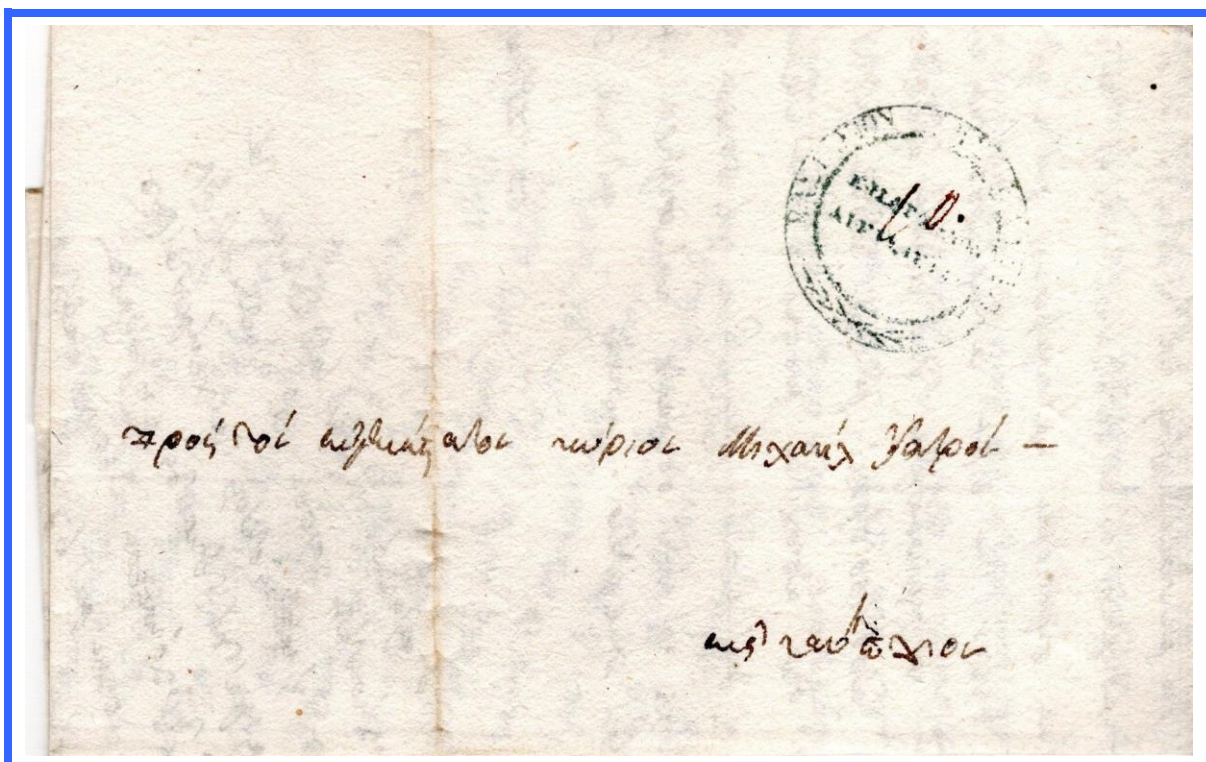
ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΓΙΑΛΙΑΣ Provincial Administration of Aigialeia

26: 1066^τ 1834: Βοστίτσα



EL dated **Aegion 26.10.1834** (Vostitsa) to Nafplion 29.10.1834.
Handstamped with green cs **ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΓΙΑΛΙΑΣ**
(Provincial Administration of Aigialeia)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΓΙΑΛΙΑΣ Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Aigialeia



EL dated **Aegion 22.8.1834** to Nafplion 25.8.1834. Handstamped with green cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΓΙΑΛΙΑΣ**. (Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Aigialeia)
10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Arcadia



EL dated **Tripolis (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with black cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Arcadia).

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

Προβλεπόμενα 2, 1834



EL dated **Tripolis 2.8.1834** to Nafplion 3.8.1834. Handstamped with black cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Arcadia).

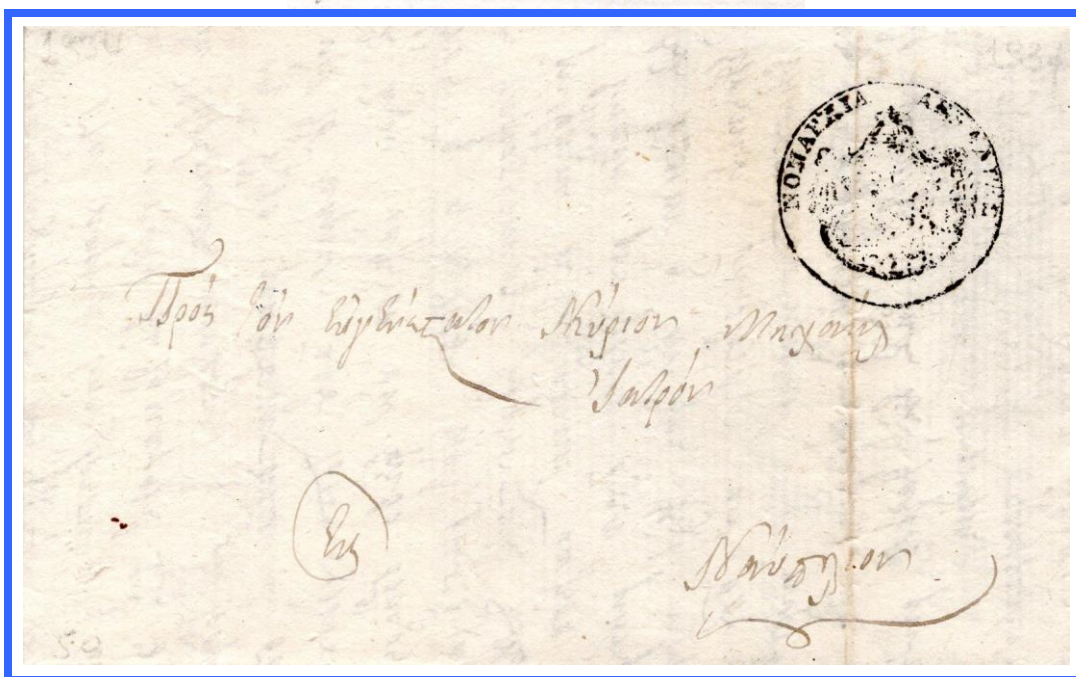
5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

NOMAPXIA APKADIAS

Prefecture of Arcadia



Τripolis 12. 11. 1834



EL dated **Tripolis 12.11.1834** to Nafplion 13.11.1834. Handstamped with black cs **NOMAPXIA APKADIAS** (Prefecture of Arcadia).

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΟΝ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ

Customs Office of Arcadia

The Customs Office of Arcadia was located in Astros Kynourias (present-day Paralio Astros) and was associated with the salt warehouse, which had already been “officially” established there on April 19, 1833. The Customs Office of Astros also had jurisdiction over two sub-customs offices, those of Agios Andreas and Leonidio.



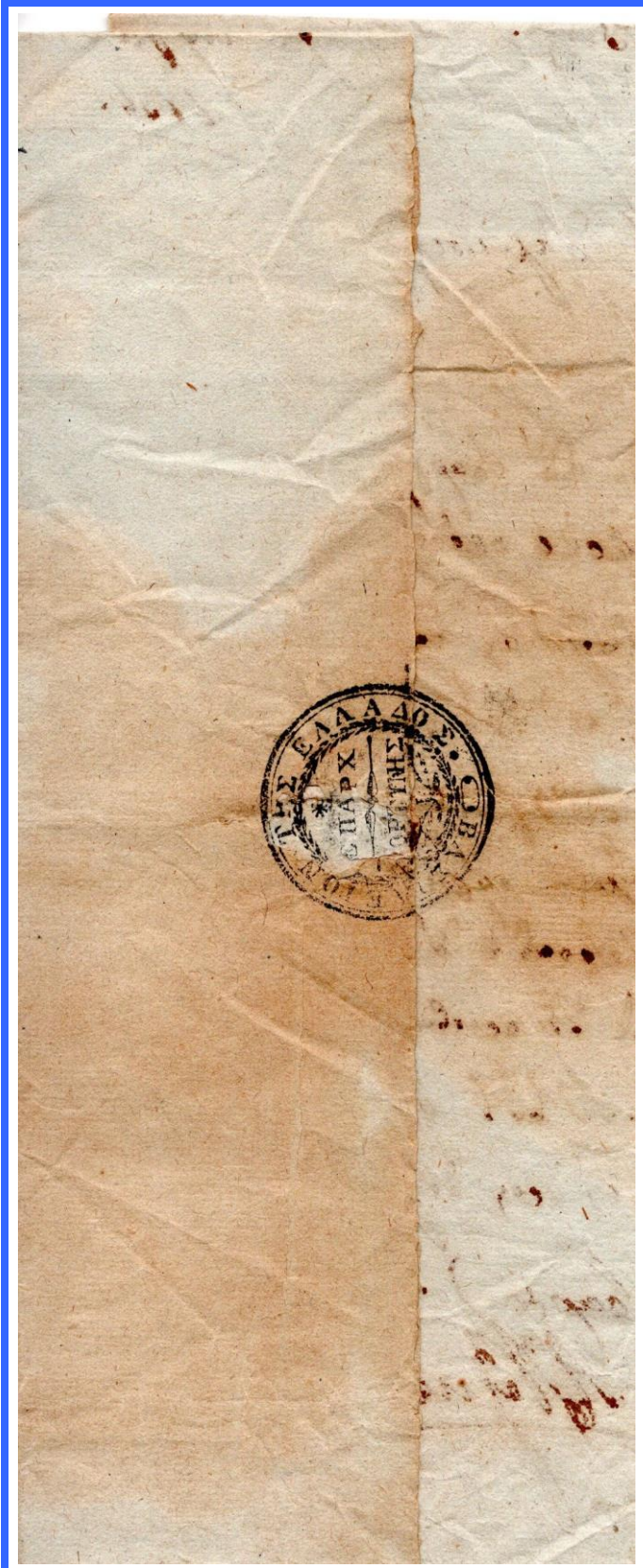
Part from EL dated **Astros Kynourias (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs **ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΟΝ ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑΣ** (Customs Office of Arcadia).

Manuscript letter number “14”.

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΟΡΤΥΝΗΣ
Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Gortynia
ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΟΡΤΥΝΗΣ - Just one item known, so far



photocopy

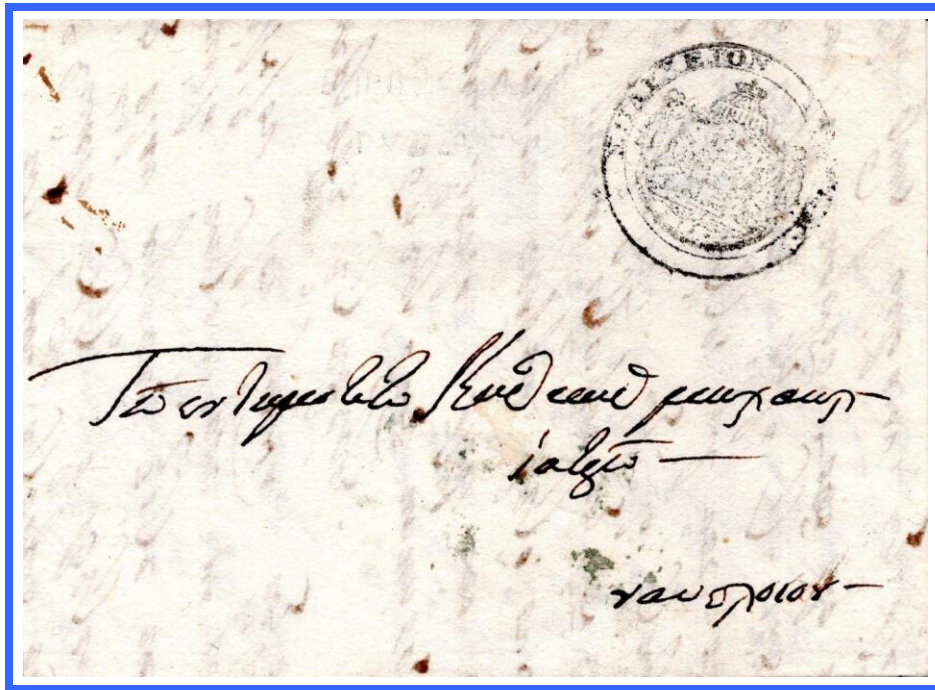


photocopy

EL dated **Gortynia 26.7.1834** to Council of Elders
of the town Stemnitsa 27.7.1834.
Handstamped with black cs
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΟΡΤΥΝΗΣ
(Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration
of Gortynia)

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΥΘΕΙΟΥ Provincial Administration of Gytheio



Part from EL dated **Gytheion .10.1834** to Nafplion 19.10.1834.
Handstamped with black cs **ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΥΘΕΙΟΥ**
(The Provincial Administration of Gytheio)

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΤΟ ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΥΘΕΙΟΥ Kingdom of Greece - The Provincial Administration of Gytheio

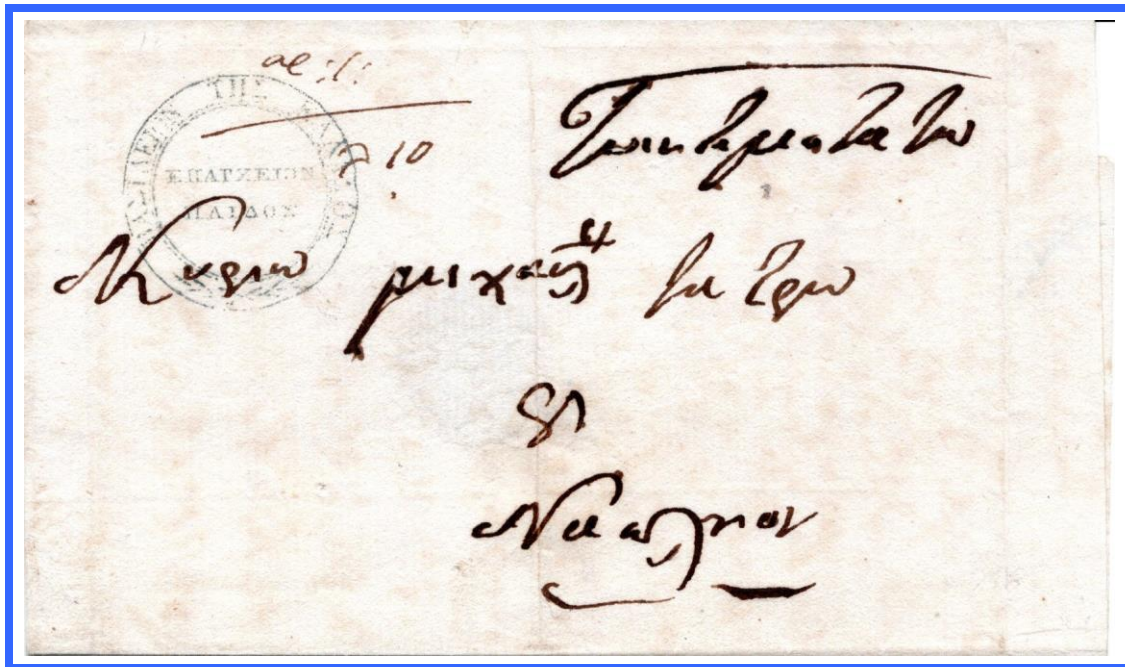


Part from EL dated **Gytheion (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with black cs
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΤΟ ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΓΥΘΕΙΟΥ
(Kingdom of Greece - The Provincial Administration of Gytheio).
Manuscript letter number "5".
10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΗΛΙΔΟΣ

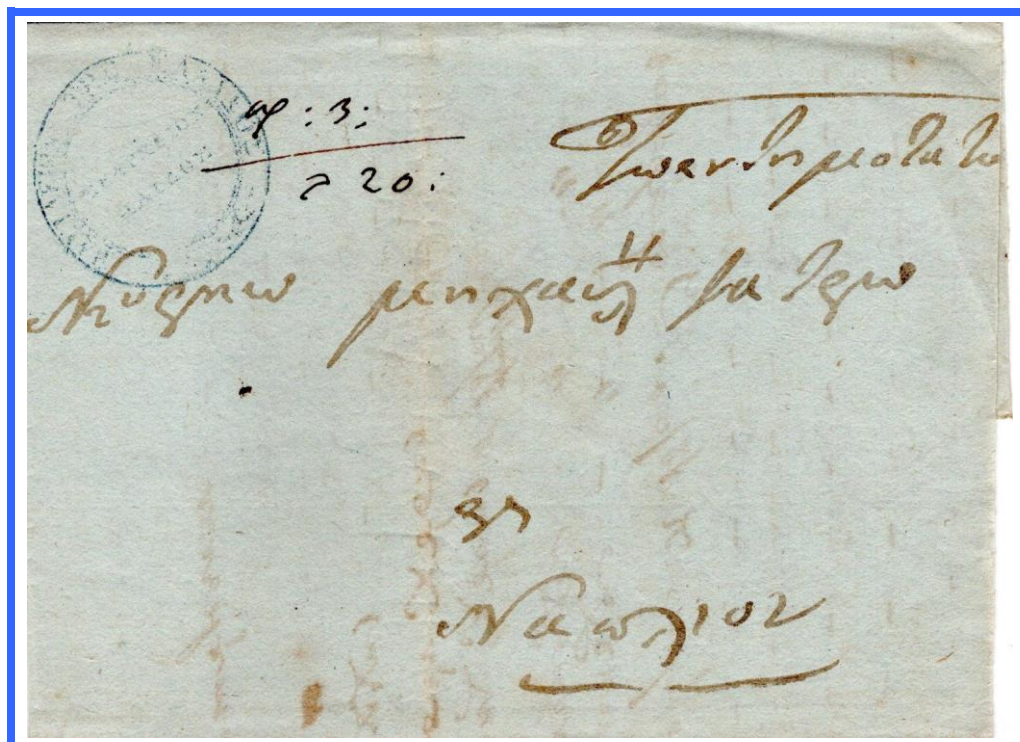
Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Elis



Part from EL dated **Pyrgos (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΗΛΙΔΟΣ
(Kingdom of Greece – Provincial Administration of Elis).

Manuscript letter number “1”.

10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.



Part from EL dated **Pyrgos (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs
ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΗΛΙΔΟΣ
(Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Elis).

Manuscript letter number “3”.

20 lepta prepaid triple rate for EL up to 10 drams any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧ(ΕΙΟΝ) ΔΗΜΟΓ(ΕΡΟΝΤΙΑ) ΚΑΛΑΜ(ΩΝ)
Kingdom of Greece - Council of Elders of Kalamata District



Part from EL dated **Kalamata (1834)** to Nafplion.
Handstamped with green cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ -
ΕΠΑΡΧ(ΕΙΟΝ) ΔΗΜΟΓ(ΕΡΟΝΤΙΑ) ΚΑΛΑΜ(ΩΝ)**
(Kingdom of Greece - Council of Elders of Kalamata District)
Manuscript letter number "1".

20 lepta prepaid triple rate for envelope up to 10 drams any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece



ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΙΝΑΙΘΗΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Provincial
Administration of Kinaithis (Kalavryta)



2 October 1834

**Earliest recorded date of use of
the Type II seal with laurel
wreath, known to date**

Part from EL dated **Kinaitha (1834)** to
Nafplion 2.10.1834. Handstamped
with green cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ
ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΙΝΑΙΘΗΣ**
(Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Admin-
istration of Kinaithis)

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one
page letter any distance.

ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΙΝΑΙΘΗΣ

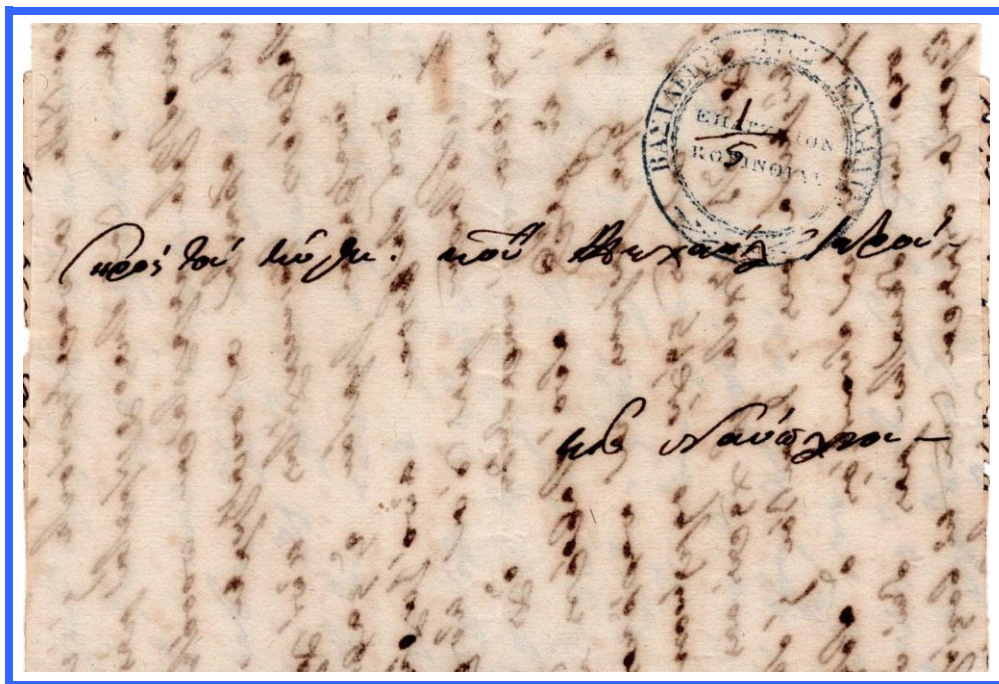
Provincial Administration of
Kinaithis (Kalavryta)



Part from EL dated **Kinaitha (1834)** to
Nafplion 5.12.1834. Handstamped with
green cs **ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΙΝΑΙΘΗΣ**
(Provincial Administration of Kinaithis)
5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page
letter any distance.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΥ

Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Korinthos



Part from EL dated **Korinthos (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΥ

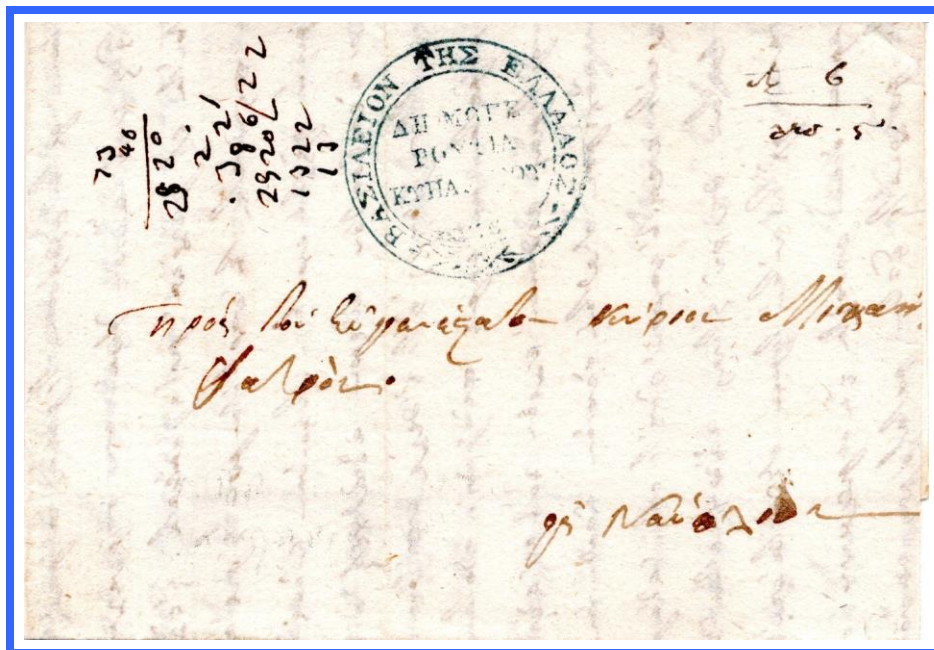
(Kingdom of Greece - Provincial Administration of Korinthos)

Manuscript letter number "1".

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΔΗΜΟΓΕΡΟΝΤΙΑ ΚΥΠΑΡΙΣΣΟΥ

Kingdom of Greece - Council of Elders of of Kyparissia



Part from EL dated **Kyparissia (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with green cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΔΗΜΟΓΕΡΟΝΤΙΑ ΚΥΠΑΡΙΣΣΟΥ** (Kingdom of Greece - Council of Elders of of Kyparissia)

Manuscript letter number "6".

5 lepta prepaid single rate for one page letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Laconia



Part from EL dated **Mystras (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with black cs

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ

(Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Laconia)

Manuscript letter number "4".

10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.

ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ

Prefecture of Laconia



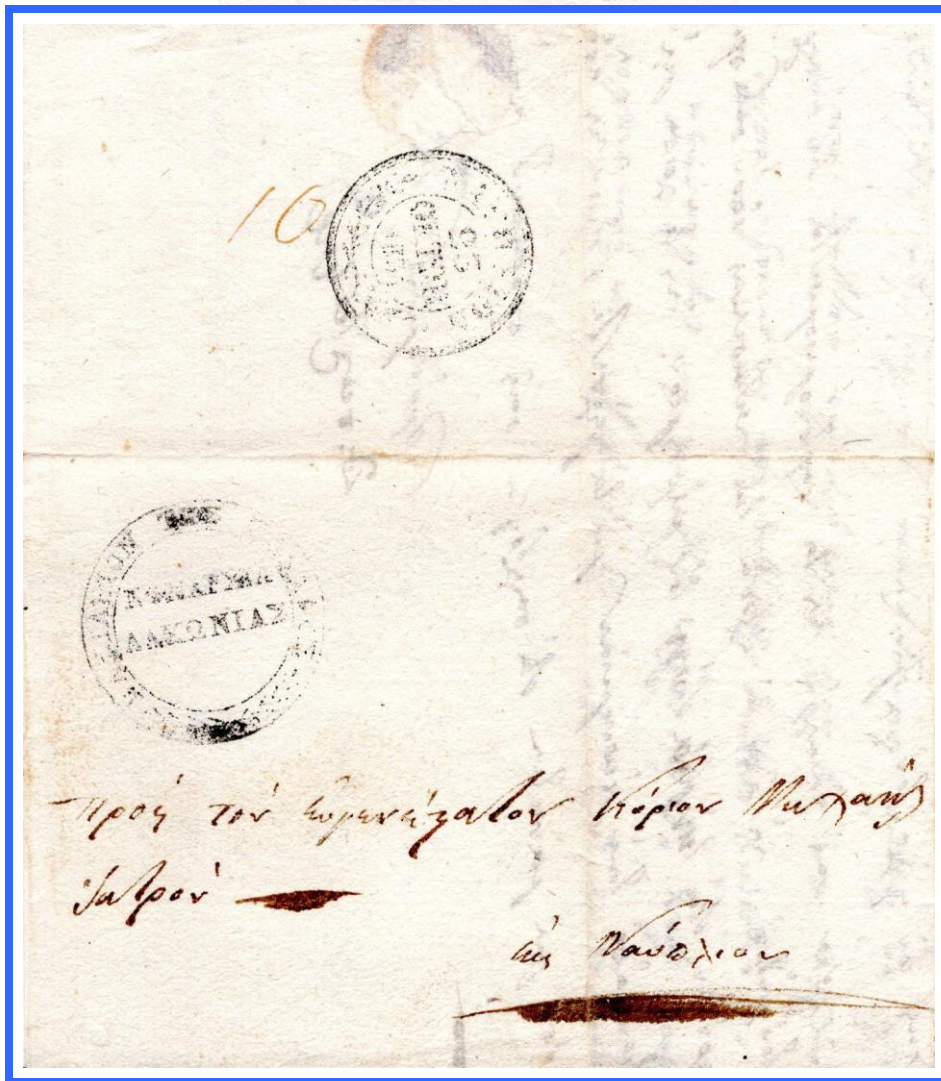
Part from EL dated **Mystras (1834)** to Nafplion 6.11.1834.

Handstamped with black cs **ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ** (Prefecture of Laconia).

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Laconia

in Mystras 20.10.1834



EL dated **Mystras 20.10.1834** to Nafplion 23.10.1834.

Handstamped with black cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΝΟΜΑΡΧΙΑ ΛΑΚΩΝΙΑΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Prefecture of Laconia)
10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣ(ΙΣ) ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜ(ΕΙΟΥ) ΣΥΡΑΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Syros Postal Address

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣ. ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜ. ΣΥΡΑΣ - Earliest known use to date

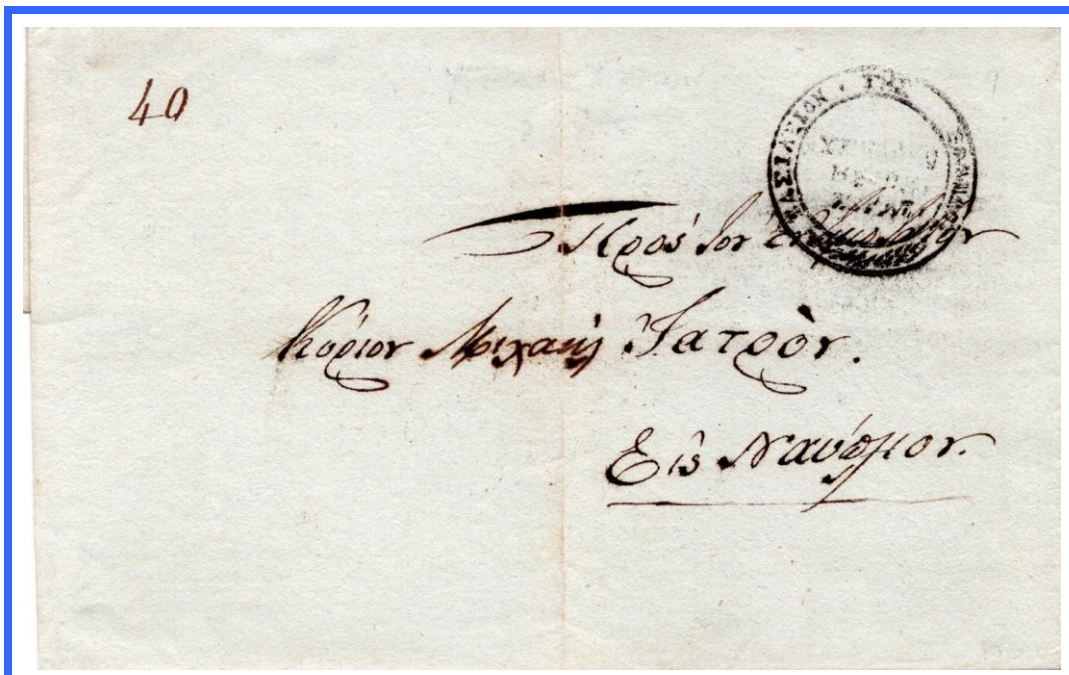


Part from EL dated **Syros 27.6.1834** to Nafplion 2.7.1834. Handstamped with black cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣ(ΙΣ) ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜ(ΕΙΟΥ) ΣΥΡΑΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Syros Postal Address)

10 lepta prepaid double rate for two pages letter any distance.

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΥΓΕΙΟΝΟΜΕΙΟΝ ΣΥΡΑΣ

Kingdom of Greece - Sanitary Office of Syros



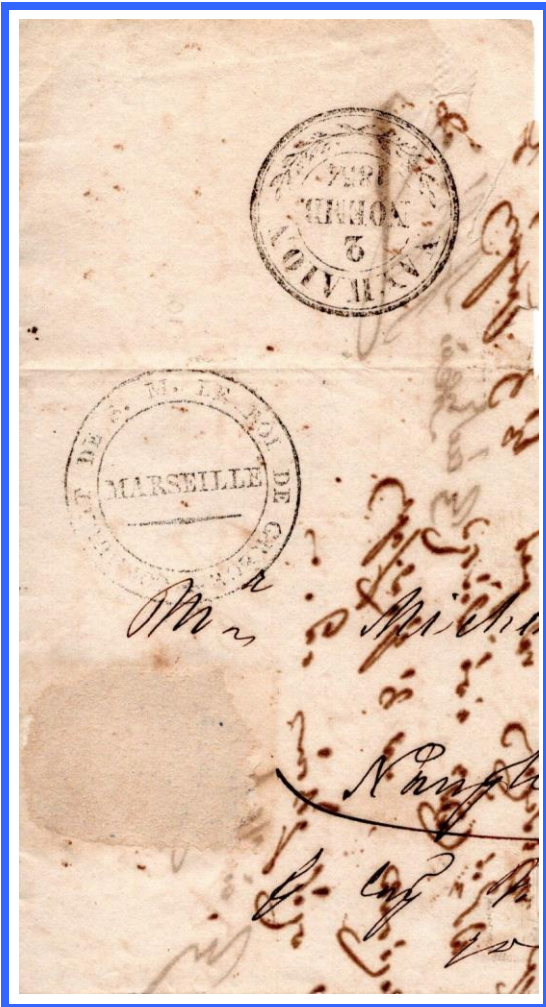
Part from EL dated **Syros (1834)** to Nafplion. Handstamped with black cs **ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ - ΥΓΕΙΟΝΟΜΕΙΟΝ ΣΥΡΑΣ** (Kingdom of Greece - Sanitary Office of Syros)
Manuscript letter number "38".

40 lepta prepaid quadruple rate for envelope from 10 to 25 drams any distance.

The Postal Use of Administrative Handstamps in Greece

CONSULAT DE S.M. LE ROI DE GRECE MARSEILLE

Consulate of H.M. the King of Greece, Marseille



Part from EL dated **Marseille 21.10.1834** to Nafplion 2.11.1834. Handstamped with black cs **CONSULAT DE S.M. LE ROI DE GRECE MARSEILLE** (Consulate of H.M. the King of Greece, Marseille).

Part from EL dated **Marseille (1834)** to Nafplion.

Handstamped with black cs **CONSULAT DE S.M. LE ROI DE GRECE MARSEILLE** (Consulate of H.M. the King of Greece, Marseille).

112 lepta prepaid double rate from France to Greece.

The handwritten notation “10” at the upper left indicates that the letter was of double weight. The basic postal rate for the first weight step was 80 lepta. The rate for double weight was the basic rate plus $2/5$ of the basic rate. That is, $80 + 2/5 \times 80 = 112$ lepta (1 drachma and 12 lepta, or “1/12” as noted at the upper right).

