

PERFINNED BRITISH LEVANT OVERPRINTED STAMPS

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Further to my article in the Bulletin 352; I have recently acquired two interesting additions to my collection of British Levant perfin. The first is a new discovery, the 'G.S.' perfin (G4465.01) of the George Stameny Company of Smyrna on a '1 PIASTRE' KGV surcharge with a SMYRNA cancellation dated 14 November 1913 as illustrated below. This perfin was previously recorded on Greek, Italian, Austrian and Turkish stamps used in Smyrna.



Correspondence with new Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Steere revealed that he possesses an un-overprinted 2d orange die I with the same 'G.S.' perfin and part REGISTERED SMYRNA oval cancel which unfortunately does not reveal the year of usage, which is most likely to be during the post WWI period when the Smyrna post office was re-opened using un-overprinted stamps. This is the first example I have seen of an un-overprinted stamp perfinned for use in British Levant.



The second addition was a great disappointment as I thought I had found an example of the 'CL' perfin on the Queen Victoria '12 PIASTRES' surcharge. In fact this is an apparently genuine CL perfin of the Credit Lyonnais Bank on the Queen Victoria 2/6d lilac stamp with the scarce Cannon Street Station (C.S. / 2) Continental Night Mail duplexes which has had a bogus '12 PIASTRES' overprint applied, presumably in the hope of augmenting the value of a rather poor example of this stamp. A genuine specimen version of the surcharge is shown on the left for comparison.



Lastly I include an illustration of a superb Continental Night Mail cover from the collection of my GB Overprint Society colleague Alexios Papadopoulos. This Credit Lyonnais cover is franked with the QV Jubilee ½d, 2½d and 6d definitives, all with a ‘CL’ perfin and cancelled with the Cannon Street Station (C.S. / 2) Continental Night Mail duplexes dated 8 June 1892. This pays a total of 9d comprising 5d for the double weight (20-40 grams) and 4d late fee for the Continental Night Mail service from Cannon Street Station. It is interesting to note that the 6d has a different perfin die to the other stamps, with the ‘C’ noticeably shorter than the ‘L’.

