

Turkish Red Cross Association helped Turkish Cypriots in their communication with foreign countries especially with Turkey. The letters collected in Nicosia Post Office and handed over to Red Crescent Office in Nicosia. These letters were then transferred to Ankara by the Red Crescent and where they were stamped and distributed to the addresses of destination in Turkey.



A sample envelope for "6.1.64 Ayyıldız-Star and crescent- cancellation with a fixed date"



A sample envelope for an "undated Ayyıldız cancellation"



A sample envelope for the correspondence between Cyprus and Turkey by care of the "Turkish Red Crescent Association"

There was an agreement, for normalising the postal services, reached in the year 1966 between the Turkish Cypriot Governing Body and the Greek Cypriot Administration. Greek Cypriots permitted Turkish Cypriots to have one post office in each town, namely, Nicosia, Famagusta and Lefka, with the condition that only stamps and cancellation of the Republic of Cyprus be used. The Greek Cypriots accepted that Turkish Cypriots can have Post office agencies in the towns of Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos. the Republic of Cyprus stamps were used until the year 1970. Letters sent between the Turkish quarters of the island, carried the social aid stamps and the stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. The letters sent outside of the island until 20th July 1974 carried the stamps of the Republic of Cyprus. After 27 July 1974 the use of the Republic of Cyprus stamps were abandoned.

Turkish Cypriot Stamps

Turkish Cypriot stamps are among the country stamps which are sought after by the philatelists in the whole world. Popularity of the Turkish Cypriot stamps is rising because of their beautiful designs, limited series print, thematic subjects, and their historical past coinciding with the British Colonial period.



The first Turkish Cypriot stamp printed on 8th of April 1970, named "Social Aid". It is said that these series of stamps were expressly named "Social Welfare" aiming at avoiding prevention the Greek Cypriots, but they were used both as revenue stamps and as stamps for postal services among the Turkish regions. It was issued with the name "Assembly of the Turkish Community".



Turkish Cypriot stamps which were issued on the 29th of October 1973 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey. They were issued with the name the "Turkish Cypriot Administration". This is the first series accepted as the real postage stamp.



A First Day Cover which subject of Historic Works

An envelope with the First Day cancellation for the stamp series issued for the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic on the 29th of October 1973. Just after the the peace operation of the 20th July 1974, the first post office branch was opened in Kyrenia and Turkish Cypriots started to communicate with foreign countries by the means of post. First Day Cover for the stamp series issued on the 3rd of March 1975, to commemorate the 13th of February 1975 announcement of the Turkish Federal State of Cyprus. First Day Cover for the stamp series issued on the 7th of December 1983, to commemorate the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus announced on the 15th of November 1983.

Stamps, besides their usage for postal services, are also used with the aim of presenting a country to the whole World. Turkish Cypriot stamps, which have as thema: the natural beauty, examples of flora and fauna, famous people, important events and anniversaries, have been printed since 1975, each year following the plans prepared one year ahead.

Philately

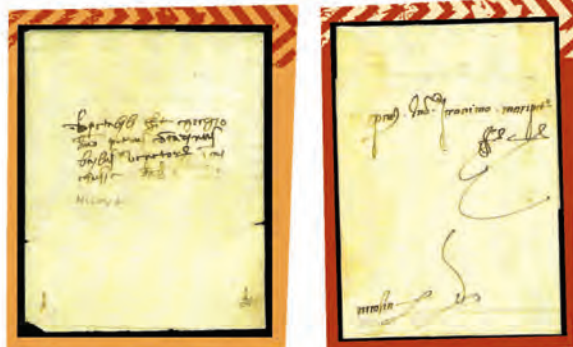


North Cyprus



Pre Philatelic Period

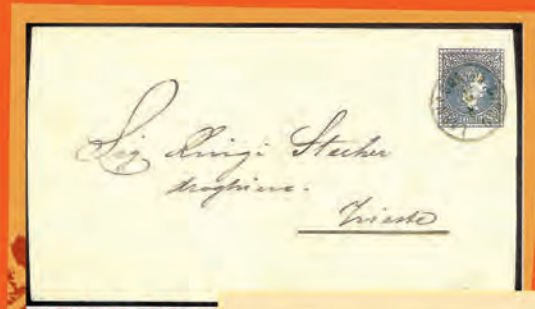
The first letter known in Cyprus was a commercial letter written in Italian and dated 17.6.1353, which was sent from Gazimagusa (Famagusta) to Istanbul (Constantinople). This date corresponds to the Lusignan Period in Cyprus. It was Venetians that set up postal organisation on the Island. In those days the written letters were folded like an envelope and stamped with a wax seal. In addition, captains of the vessels transporting letters were placing their own signs and signatures on the letters that they were carrying.



Philatelic Period

The Period Of Austrian Postal Services

Austrian Lloyd which was a maritime company set up a postal agency in Larnaca in 1837 and started providing postal services. In the beginning stamps were not used on this period's letters, which were only sealed. In following years both stamp and seal were used together.



The Period Of Ottoman Postal Services

Ottomans set up a post office in Lefkosa in 1871. This post office was closed at the same time as the handing-over of the rule of Cyprus to British in 1878.



The Period Of British Postal Services

When taking over the rule of Cyprus, the British set up a post office for postal services in Larnaca on 27/7/1878. British stamps were used during about 2 years in Cyprus as there weren't yet any Cypriot stamps. Later, the word CYPRUS was overprinted on British stamps, this continued for over a year. The first series of Cypriot stamps were printed on 1/7/1881. The last series of stamps printed by the British for Cyprus were put on sale on 1/8/1955 and they were used till 15/8/1960 when Republic of Cyprus was established.



Republic Of Cyprus

On 16th of August 1960 a republic based on partnership by Turks and Greeks was established in Cyprus. But when Turks opposed the Greek Cypriot efforts to have Cyprus united with Greece, armed clashes resulted bringing an end to the Republic of Cyprus. Turks were dismissed from the organs of the Republic. Greeks Cypriots started applying postal service embargoes on Turks. Turks were prevented from exercising freedom of communication which is a basic human right.

Turkish Cypriot Postal Services

Turkish Cypriot Postal Services were established on 6/1/1964 a short while after the armed clashes between the two Cypriot communities. In those years Turkish Cypriots were living in all the residential areas, small and large, of the island. Greek Cypriots were ceasing whatever letters they could find, that were destined to Turkish Cypriots, and were preventing the arrival of these to their destinations. In those years at first "dated" later "undated" "Ayyıldız" - Star and crescent-cancellation were used. As a result of continued prevention by Greeks Cypriots, the use of the "Ayyıldız" seal was brought to an end by September 1964.



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