

THE OLYMPIC ISSUES OF GREECE

1896

Athens Post Office sectors' postmarks



In 1895, the Athens Post Office introduces new obliterating postmarks with the "ΑΘΗΝΑΙ" inscription franked by a pair of identical single-digit arabic numerals (1-9). Although these postmarks continue to be used even later than the first half of the following decade, their use on the first Olympics stamps has created an additional field of interest for the Olympics collectors. The existence of the numbers on the postmarks is most probably attributed to the nine different Athens p.o. sectors, each having been assigned to carry out a specific task, as listed below.

- Sector 1: Regular and registered mail
- Sector 2: Printed matter
- Sector 3: International registered mail
- Sector 4: Domestic registered mail
- Sector 5: Regular transit mail
- Sector 6: Registered transit mail
- Sector 7: Parcel post
- Sector 8: Domestic postal money orders
- Sector 9: International postal money orders

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used stamps

errors



2 L pair (one stamp without engraver's name) and 1 L imperf. Small Hermes on fragment, canc. "ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ * 10 ΔΕΚΕΜ'".
without year

without day



without month



without year



without year and month

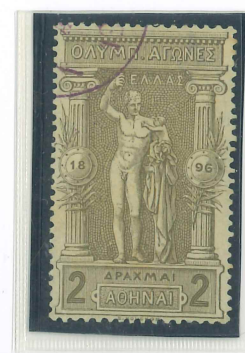


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Used stamps

Colour cancellations (blue and purple)



Constantinople (Turkish city)

Less than 500 person villages
(ΚΑΡΒΑΣΑΡΑΣ, ΝΕΜΕΑ,...)



Very rare cancellation – sub office
(ΥΠΟΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΙΣ)



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Railway cancellations

Railway-postmark on olympic issue's stamps

1. ATHENS – TRIPOLIS



2. TRIPOLIS – ATHENS 1 L. four single



3. PYRGOS – PATRAS 2 L. in pair



4. SYROS - DEMATA



5. PATRAS – PYRGOS



6. PATRAS – ATHENS



7. ASPANAGA with "Σ.Μ.Ε."



PS card printed 5 L. Large
Hermes with additional
franking 2x2 L. + 1 L.
Olympics 1896, from
Mourla, canc. railway
PATRAS-ATHENS
8.IAN.1896. to Athens

