

## CYPRUS POSTMARKS

Cyprus postmark postal history from 1878 (British rule) up to 1960 (Cyprus Republic period) is of the more attractive for the philatelists. The graduating evolve of the postal system lead to very interesting postal cancellations. Many factors interfered in the developing of the islands postal history:

- a. The geographical position of the island, placed in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on the cross point of the three continents; Europe, Asia and Africa.
- b. The very long British rule period from 1878 up to 1960.
- c. The fact that Cyprus is an island and the correspondence was transferred abroad either by:
  1. Aeroplanes establishing air flight connections.
  2. Ships establishing the "SEA POST OFFICE" service.
- d. The structure of the established inlands postal system by towns / geographical postal areas and village post offices:
  1. The travelling post office service.
  2. The circular post service.
  3. The railway post offices.
  4. The cancellation of loose letter mail or any other non - cancelled items and correspondence brought in by rural mail messengers.
  5. The rural post offices.
- e. The types of postmarks used during different reign periods:
  1. Oval numeral and other postmarks initially despatched from England.
  2. Manuscript cancellations over stamped or not with postmarks.
  3. The village named postmarks known as "RURAL".
  4. The monastery and forest station postmarks.
  5. The highway and diligence station postmarks
  6. The specific type of postmarks for certain postal usage.

A limited number of postal cancellations and postmarks are classified in rarity scale as scarce (difficult to find), very scarce (few examples known), rare (very few examples recorded) and very rare (unrecorded or unique known examples) in relation with the postal activity of certain postal offices and the survived examples.

Postmarks may be presented individually as an autonomous postal history collection, or they may be presented as part of traditional stamp collections enriching and upgrading them. The collection intends to display and provide relative information on interesting postmarks of Cyprus. Relative information is based on W.T.F Castle (CYPRUS 1353-1986 POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAGE STAMPS 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION), Edward B Proud 1998 edition (THE POSTAL HISTORY OF CYPRUS), Ken Lewis 1999 edition (THE RURAL POST OF CYPRUS 1886-1998), auction catalogues and the knowledge earned by the years of searching studying and collecting. The collection is presented in sections as follows:

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