

ETHIOPIA : THE PRE-U.P.U. PERIOD

The exhibit begins with the Napier expedition (October 1867—June 1868) that was organized to release British people held captive by Emperor Theodore of Abyssinia. That was the first postal system organized in Ethiopia.

Postal history of Egyptian and Italian occupation of Assab and Massaua is not of interest of this study.

The first Ethiopian stamps were printed in 1894 in France, the first courier left Harrar on 31st of January 1895.

Exhibit ends in February 1909. Ethiopia entered into U.P.U. on the 1st of November 1908 when the last set of overprinted stamps of 1894 was issued and Ethiopian stamps became sufficient for franking to abroad. So I also documented the early mail and the postal rates originated in Ethiopia with Ethiopian stamps alone.

Plan: the exhibit is organized into chapters and sub-chapters (box below), chronologically according to the periods defined by Tristant in his Ethiopian postal history book as that definition seems to me yet the most logic. I associated a colour to each chapter to let easier the understanding of the development of this study.

Each chapter and sub-chapter begins with a brief introduction explaining the contents of the following sheets.

The postal history has been carefully documented illustrating postal rates and postmarks on mail from Ethiopia in the late 1800's and from the single Post Offices in the early 1900's when mail from each Post Office was franked in a different way. Parallel I tried to illustrate the different issues obtained invalidating the 1894 set with control overprints after the Universal Exposition of 1900 in Paris where a lot of sets of the 1894 issue were sold under the face value.

Inside each period it was also inserted postal material able to testify historical events, the progress of the country, the work of foreign people in Ethiopia, the mail from foreign countries.

I avoid to frequently emphasize **the grade of rarity** even if most of items for some details are very rare or unique.

But when I underline that an item is one of the xx reported, I refer to the items registered in a database I built about twenty years ago and updated until now with the help of the U.S.A. Ethiopian Philatelic Society friends, where scans and data of almost 1350 outgoing postal items originated in Ethiopia between 1895 and February 1909 are reported, that is estimated as about the 85% of survived mail.

Personal research and study: the database of the Ethiopian mail from the pre-Upu period that I created in Access and whose Excel version I put at disposition of my friend collectors for their studies, was also at the base of my personal studies that I mainly published in the Ethiopian philatelic Society's newsletter Menelik's Journal . Studying the data of items extracted from my database by opportune queries I was able to carry on several researches that led me to important discoveries that changed the early Ethiopian postal history as it was previously known.

CHAPTERS AND SUB-CHAPTERS

THE NAPIER EXPEDITION (1867-68)

THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)	The early covers with Ethiopian stamps
	The substitution of type I postmarks
	The postal rates
	Incoming mail
	The end of the Franco-Ethiopian post

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST (May 1899-December 1907)	The provisional and the regular postal services
	The new postal organization
	Mail forwarded by alternative ways and means
	Ethiopia in the 20th century - Period January 1901-September 1904
	J.A. Michel director of the Ethiopian Posts: period October 1904- October 1906
	Mail originated in the French Harrar post Office
	Mail originated outside Addis Abeba and Harrar
	J.A. Michel at Addis Abeba and the Dirre Daoua Post Office

THE ORGANIZING PERIOD (January 1908-October 1908)	- Period January-May 1908
	- Period June-October 1908

THE ADMISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO U.P.U. (November 1908-February 1909)	- The Ethiopian Imperial Post
--	-------------------------------

THE NAPIER EXPEDITION (1867-68)

In 1862 Tewodros, Emperor of Abyssinia, entrusted a letter to Captain Cameron, British Consul at Massawah, to be delivered to Queen Victory. In the letter he asked to be helped in the war against Egyptians and Turkish that invaded his territories. The Queen did not answer, so Tewodros imprisoned Consul Cameron and more English people that were in Abyssinia. Queen Victory sent a diplomat, Rassam, in order to obtain the liberation of the captives, but also Rassam was imprisoned. British could not tolerate such an insult and the war was mandatory. An expedition was organized with troops formed by Indian soldiers and English officers under the command of the General Lieutenant Sir Robert Napier. About 40.000 people composed the Expedition. Almost without opposition Napier's army arrived to Magdala, where there was Tewodros : the Emperor, not to surrender, committed suicide. Prisoners were liberated, and Magdala burnt. Then, quickly, British troops left the country.

Postal rates granted Expedition's members for mail up to 1 1/2 ounce

	<i>To England</i>		<i>To India</i>
	<i>Via Southampton</i>	<i>Via Marseilles</i>	
<i>Officer's letters (military and naval)</i>	<i>4 Annas (6 d.)</i>	<i>6 Annas 6 Pies (10 d.)</i>	<i>4 Annas</i>
<i>Since 1-4-68</i>		<i>8 Annas 8 Pies (1 Sh/1 d.)</i>	
<i>Soldier's and sailors letters</i>	<i>8 Pies (1 d.)</i>	<i>4 Annas (6 d.)</i>	<i>1 Anna</i>
<i>Civilians letters</i>	<i>6 Annas (9 d.)</i>	<i>8 Annas 8 Pies (1 Sh/1 d.)</i>	<i>6 Annas</i>

Indian and British stamps were valid for franking mail from the Expedition and when stamps were not available the addressee had to pay the postal rate without any overtax.

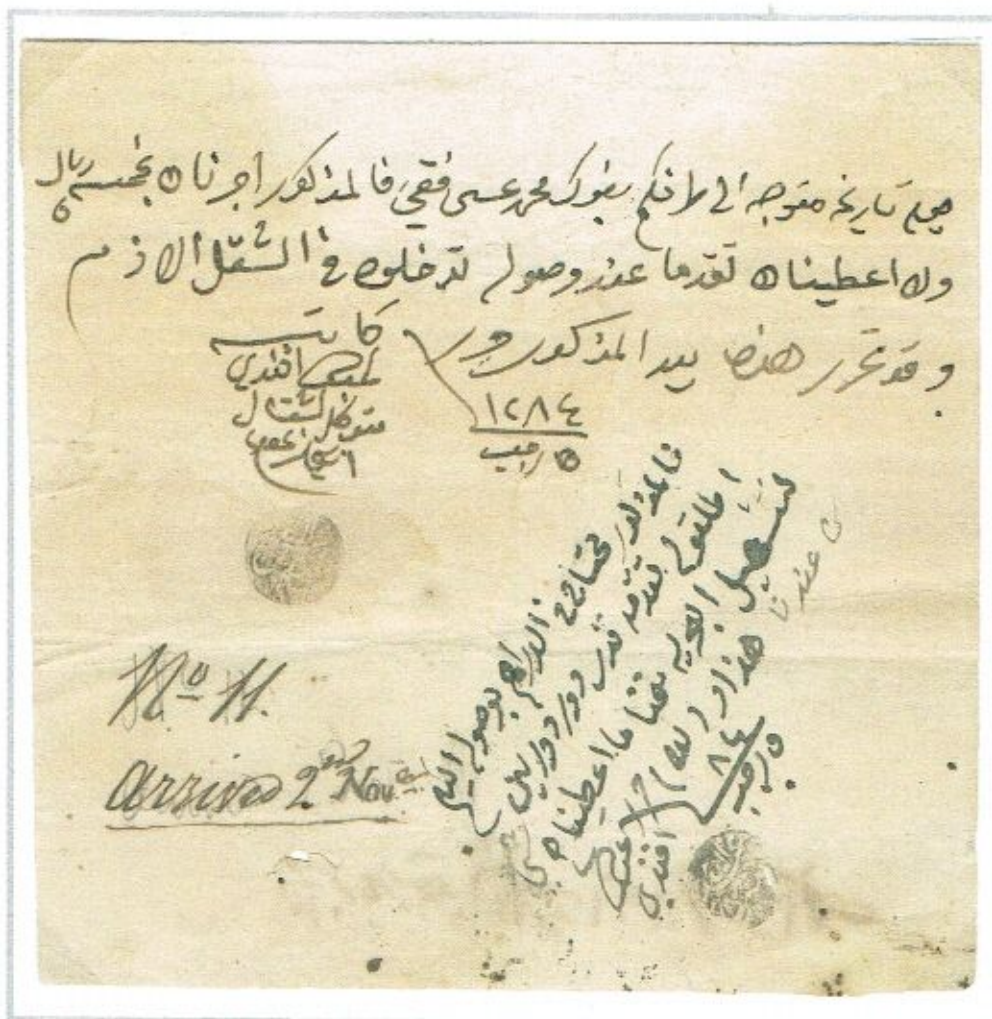
ANSLEY BAY AND THE BASE CAMP OF ZOULLA

Ansley Bay, in the Red Sea, was chosen as point of arrival of all ships and Zoulla, about 700 km. far from Magdala, as Base Camp of the army.



23rd March 1868. Letter sent by the Lieutenant Jekyll from board of the "HMS STAR" at that moment in the Ansley Bay, like noted in the vertically inscription at the left of the front side. It was addressed to England and franked at 6 Pence (postal rate for letters of officers via Southampton), canceled at arrival with numeral "28" on 28th of April 1868. The "HMS STAR" was a 4-gun wooden gun vessel of 695 tons that operated at or near the Ansley Bay.

ANSLEY BAY AND THE BASE CAMP OF ZOULLA



Address on the back of the plied contract. (Red. 70%)

2nd November 1867. Data of arrival handwritten on a contract for hiring Arab sailing vessel arrived from Hodeida. At Zoulla the Bounder Master of the Expedition had to hire vessels from Aden and Hodeida for the transport of soldiers and material.



F.F. (Field Force)



F.F.P.O.

26th January 1868. Letter from the Base Camp of Zoulla (from the text) franked with 4 Annas of British India of 1866 (postal rate for officers via Southampton). The date 26/1/68 was handwritten on the stamp by the sender to avoid its theft before it was cancelled by the "FF" (Field Force) in a diamond postmark. On the back, as usual, the circular "FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE/ABYSSINIA" (26 JA 68) in red ink as the franking is correct; it had been in black ink if the cover was underpaid.

ANNSLEY BAY AND THE BASE CAMP OF ZOULLA

Mail sent by military people from Base Camp of Zoulla and forwarded to people on board of ships anchored in the Annsley Bay.

Letter No 23
From Lieutenant Bartlett
Treasurer
Abyssinian Field Force
to the Quarter Master
Camp Zoula

Camp Zoula 10th February 1868
Sir I have the honor to request
that you will be good enough to
forward the enclosed letter to
the Commander of the Steam
Transport "India"
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
J. Bartlett Esq
Treasurer A 23

10th February 1868. Letter sent by Lieut. Bartlett, treasurer of the Abyssinian Field Force to the Quarter Master of the Expedition, Lieut. Edwin Dawes, in order to have an enclosed letter forwarded to the Commander of the Steam Transport "India".

This internal mail was delivered by private messengers, likely soldiers, and its contents demonstrates how mail was forwarded from Zoulla Camp to people on board of ships in the Annsley Bay.

ANSLEY BAY AND THE BASE CAMP OF ZOULLA

Mail from abroad arrived at the Zoulla post office that sorted it by destination



2nd April 1868. Incoming cover from Cradle (England) franked at 10 pence, postal rate for letters of officers from and to England via Marseilles until 31st March 68. It is the only postal rate modified during the Expedition: on 1st of April it arose to 1 Sh / 1 d. , 3 d. higher. So the cover, franked according the old postal rate, was taxed at 3 d. and the mark "INSUFFICIENTLY PRE-PAID" was struck on the front-side.

In this case at the Zoulla post office the cover escaped the postmark "F.F.P.O" in black ink that is lacking on the back side.



15th February 1868. Incoming cover from Bangalore via Bombay to the Expedition. The cover was franked at 4 Annas, postal rate for covers of officers to or from India, Exceptionally struck on the front side by the Zoulla post office the "F.F.P.O." mark in red ink, signal of correct franking.

ANSLEY BAY AND THE BASE CAMP OF ZOULLA



8th March 1868. Letter sent by Major Algernon Durand "Staff Officer" to his wife. The letter is franked with a stamp at 6 Annas 8 Pies postal rate for letters of officers to England via Marseilles, cancelled with postmark "FF" in a diamond. Durand's wife note: "Received April 7th 1868 Answered to Zoola..." On the back side the departure Expedition's postmark "F.F.P.O." of Zoulla dated 13 MA 68.

THE INTERNAL POSTAL SERVICE OF THE EXPEDITION

On arrival in Abyssinia the postal establishment was created and sited near the pier at Zoulla. An attempt was made to carry the packets by paid Shoho runners. However it was soon found that instead of delivering they often destroyed the letters. On the 16th January orders were issued that the packets in future should be carried by troopers of the 3rd Light Cavalry, whose horses had died or were sick, and who were mounted for the duty on mules especially selected for the service. In a second time that service was entrusted to the 10th Bengal Cavalry.



15th February 1868. Incoming cover from Bombay to the Expedition. As the cover was not franked a stamp with a boxed indication of the tax to be paid "Bearing 1 Anna" was struck on the front, postal rate for soldiers' covers from India. Exceptionally on the front side the "F.F.P.O." mark in black ink, signal of underpaid cover.

It was addressed to a soldier of the "3rd Bombay Light Cavalry" whose troopers were entrusted of the internal postal service of the Expedition. Less than five covers from India franked with the soldiers postal rate are reported.

IN MARCH TOWARDS MAGDALA

The army set out from Senafe (Headquarters of Gen. Napier) on 18th of January 1868 directed to Magdala. The march was fast as the enemy was waiting the British troops in that place and no obstacle was found along the way.

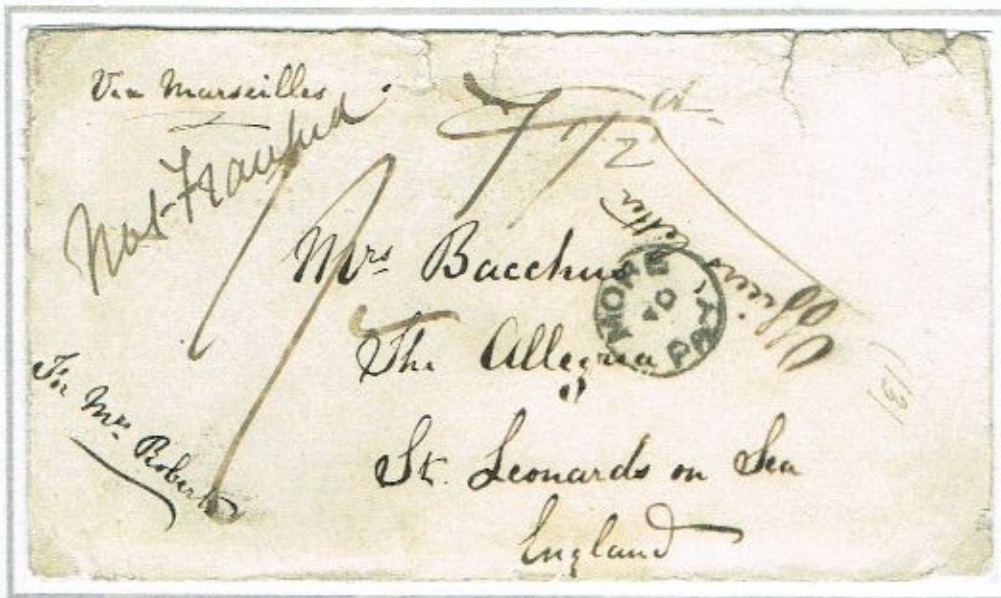
COVER FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF SIR ROBERT NAPIER FROM GONEGONDA CAMP



5th February 1868. Cover "C.H.M.S." headed "Commander in Chief's Office" to Major General Russell at Aden. On the back the "F.F.P.O." in red ink and the datestamp of arrival "ADEN STR. POINT" dated 10 FE 68.

The enclosed letter, dated February 5, was handwritten and signed by the General Napier at "Camp Gonegonda 75 miles from Zoulla", and it begins: "My dear Russell..."

IN MARCH TOWARDS MAGDALA



March 25th 1868
About 15 miles South of "Lat."



Duplex

25th March 1868. This cover arrived to London unstamped and was taxed by the circular "MORE TO PAY" and the handwritten words "Not Franked" and "1/7 1/2 d". That cover shows trace of stamps in the right upper part, over the number "(13)" and both the Duplex postmark dated "29 MA 8" and the "F.F.P.O." (dated 1 AP 8) on the back side were struck in red ink (signal of correct franking). Number "(13)" means the cover had to be franked at 13 Annas (double rate for officers via Marseilles) that perfectly matches with 1 sh. and 7 1/2 d. tax amount. This cover was correctly franked at departure and stamps were lost during the travel. In the text: "March 25th 1868 About 15 miles South of Lat" (about 75 miles from Magdala).



31st March 1868. Letter sent to England from a mobile Camp at 40 miles from Magdala (from the text). On the front there is the inscription "Officer's letter No stamp procurable" and the tax "10", the amount to be paid by the addressee, officer's rate to England via Marseille. It is the last day for that rate: since 1st of April that rate became 1 Sh | 1 d. On the backside both Duplex (dated 6 AP 8) and F.F.P.O. (dated 9 AP 8) struck in black ink, as insufficiently franked.



IN MARCH TOWARDS MAGDALA



7th April 1868. Cover sent from London to Henry Dufton, Abyssinian expedition. That cover was franked with 6 pence, postal rate for soldiers via Marseilles. The "F.F.P.O." postmark of the Expedition was struck at Zoulla. Mr. Dufton, sent with the Expedition by the British Intelligence Department, could not receive that letter as on 28th of March, not following the instruction, he went far from the troops without any escort and was killed by the Sohos. He was one of the very few British men killed during the Expedition.



9th April 1868. Letter sent to Bangalore (India) franked at 4 Annas, postal rate for officer's letter to India. On the backside both Duplex (dated 10 AP 8) and F.F.P.O. (dated 12 AP 8) struck in red, as correctly franked. The presence of the Duplex with a date always earlier of few days than that of the "F.F.P.O." only on covers sent from the front suggests the hypothesis of its use on the mobile post offices accompanying the brigades on the move. In this case its date 10th April 1868 is the day of the beginning of the decisive battle.

THE CONQUEST OF MAGDALA

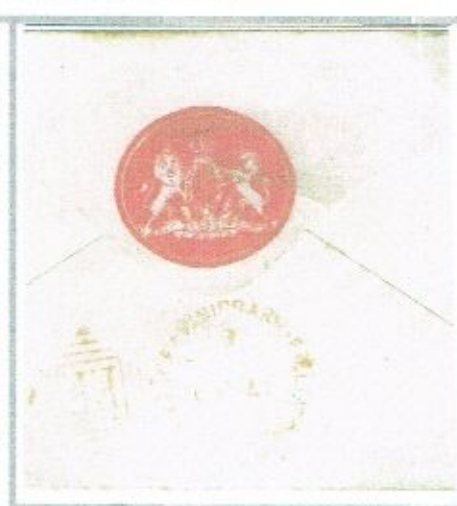
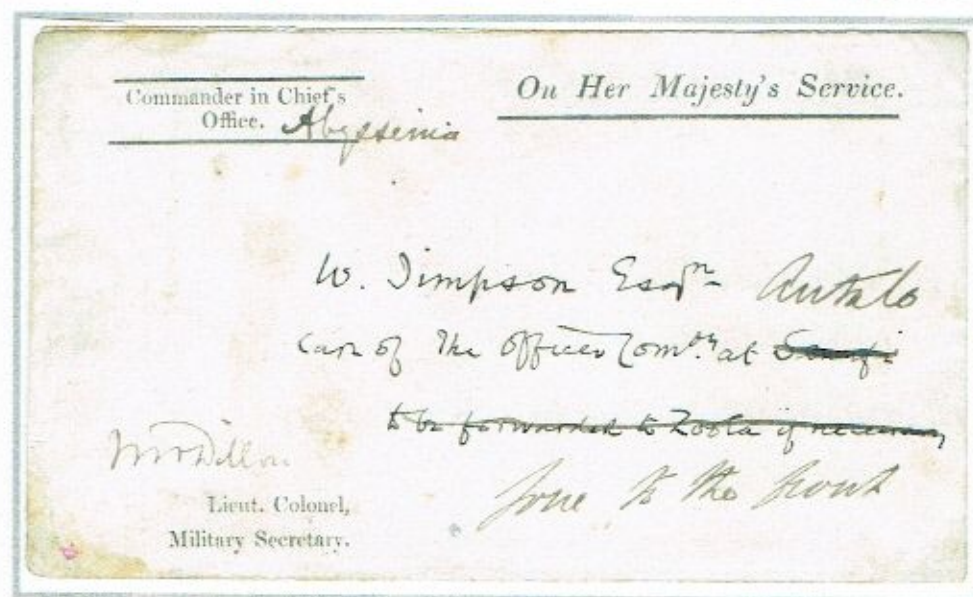
On 10th of April the British army reached Arogi, nearby Magdala where it was attacked by the troops of Tewodros. The battle ended with the massacre of Ethiopian troops: from about 5000 warriors 800 died and 1200 were wounded against 2 British soldiers killed and 18 wounded. Tewodros liberated the prisoners in order to avoid a hard punishment. On April 13th, in the morning, the English attacked Magdala that was conquered in the same afternoon. Tewodros committed suicide by shooting in the mouth with a revolver. The English burnt the town and abandoned it on 22nd April for a quick retreat.



On the back side

14th April 1868. Cover sent from Magdala to Vienna (Austria) unfranked. It was taxed at 1 sh and 1 d., postal rate for covers of Civilian to England. From London (4th May 68) it was forwarded to Vienna (7th May 68) where it was taxed at 73 Kr with blue pencil and 73 x Vienna (underlined) with brown pencil for the whole route.

That letter was sent by Count Kielmansdorff, an Austrian navy man, who was following the expedition as observer of Austrian Government like other civilians that followed the Expedition like observer of more Governments.



On the back side

17th April 1868. Cover "O.H.M.S." headed Commander in Chief Office signed by Lieut. Col. M. Dillon entrusted of the Military Secretary of the Expedition, to W. Simpson at the Senafe Camp, with the disposition to forward it, if necessary, to the Base Camp of Zoolah. Instead the letter was forwarded to the Camp of Antalo with the note: "Gone to the front".

Just on 17th April 1868 Gen. Napier ordered Magdala should be burnt to the ground: not one house escaped destruction.

CORRESPONDENCE AFTER THE END OF THE WAR

The British troops left the ruins of Magdala having reached all objectives: prisoners were free, the Emperor Tewodros dead, Magdala destroyed, the emperor's treasure captured. So there were no more to do for them in Abyssinia and the main wish was to come back home as soon as possible. On 18th of June no more British people remained in that country.



24th April 1868. Officer's cover to England via Marseilles not franked and therefore taxed at 1 Sh./1 d., new postal rate since 1st April 68. The word "Immediate" was written instead of "Via Marseilles" and "No stamps in Abyssinia" to justify the lacking of stamps on that cover. On the backside there is the "F.F.P.O." in black ink dated 24 FE 8.



25th April 1868. Cover from board of "HMS STAR" to England franked with 6 Pence of Great Britain cancelled with "B02" at Suez (6 pence postal rate for covers of Officers via Southampton).

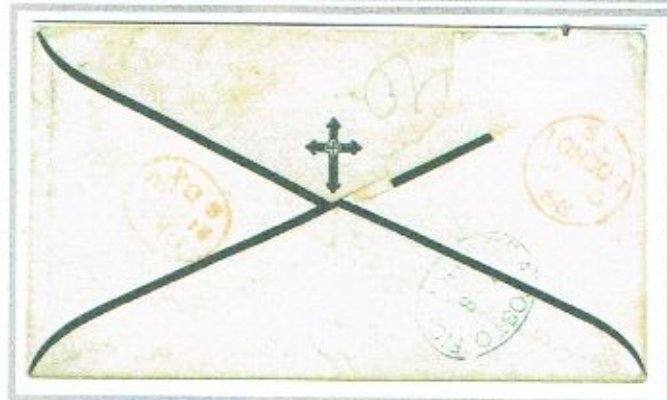
The logbook of "H.M.S. STAR" at the date of 25th April reports: "The B. M. Str. Coromandel arrived announcing the victory of the English troops in Abyssinia."

CORRESPONDENCE AFTER THE END OF THE WAR



On the back side

21st May 1868. Officer's cover from England, without the indication "via Southampton", to the Expedition franked at 6 Pence. Likely weight of that cover was over 1/2 ounce as on the backside there was struck the "F.F.P.O." postmark in black ink (signal of insufficient franking) dated "14 JU 8." According to Proud Bailly: "History of the Indian Postal Service" (vol. 1 1854-1913, page 47) that is the last known date of use of the "F.F.P.O." postmark.



17th June 1868. Mourning cover from Brecon to Capt. H. Burlton franked at 6 Pence, postal rate for officer's covers via Southampton and Suez. Transit postmark at London (on the back side) dated 18 June 68. As the Expedition had already left Abyssinia that cover from Suez was sent back to England (transit postmark at London (on the front side) dated 2nd July 68. From London that cover was forwarded to Bombay (blue sea postmark on the back side dated 8 July 68.

That letter was forwarded without furthermore franking owing to the Treasury's decree of 22 October 1860 that declared free from franking to abroad the forwarding of letters of officers On His Majesty Service.

THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

THE EARLY COVERS WITH ETHIOPIAN STAMPS

During 1893 Menelik II, Emperor of Ethiopia, granted Leon Chefneux and Alfred Ilg the concession of the organization and management of the Ethiopian Postal Service. In Ethiopia since 1892 existed a private postal service carried on by French under the responsibility of Mr Mondon Vidaillet at Addis Abeba and Mgr. Taurin at the Capuchin Father's Mission at Harrar, created to convey by diplomatic pouch correspondences of French people and a few other persons leaving in Ethiopia. Chefneux made an agreement to use that pre-existent postal service to send from Ethiopia mail franked with Ethiopian stamps, valid only inside, as Ethiopia had not yet entered the U.P.U., to which it had to be added at Djibouti stamps of that French colony to pay the international service. Two Ethiopian natives were entrusted to sell Ethiopian stamps at Addis Abeba and Harrar. On January 26th 1895 Chefneux arrived to Harrar by "méharis" with a good escort, carrying postage stamps and postal material ordered in France

THE FIRST COURIER

For Léon Chefneux it was very important to give the maximum of publicity to Ethiopian stamps as the sale of them to European collectors was vital for the survival of the Ethiopian Posts as very few people in Ethiopia was able to write and to send mail. Several covers to European addressee were prepared in a hurry with the Ethiopian stamps.

HR1 on the front

Month 5

Day 21



Year 87

European 29-1-1895

HR1 on the back

Month 5

Day 23



Year 87

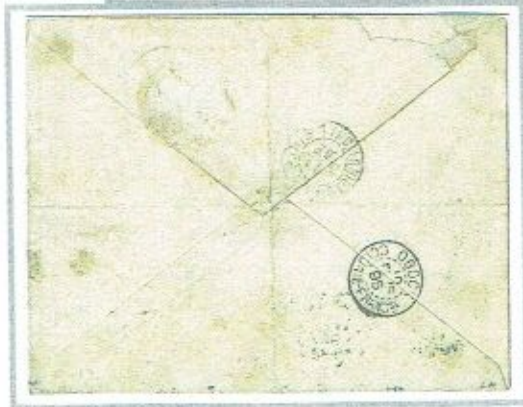
European 31-1-1895



31st January 1895. Registered cover forwarded by the first courier franked with the whole 1895 set more 1/4 guerche for a total of 32 guerches : philatelic franking like for all covers of that courier. Stamps are cancelled with the bilingual "HARRAR" postmark type 1. The date of departure of the Amharic figures of the postmark on the back side, according to the Ethiopian calendar, corresponds to European 31 January 1895, the one on the front side to 29 January. Menelik Journal vol. 34, No. 2 April-June 2018 "The early covers with Ethiopian stamps"

THE FIRST COURIER

Only five covers from the first courier are known. All of them have the same transit date at Djibouti, 3 February 1895, the same sea postmark of the steamship AVA and four of them are addressed to Paris. Few days later, on 4th of February 1895, a second courier was forwarded, formed by covers with the same characteristics of the ones of the first courier: some stamps are canceled with the Harar type 1 Amharic postmark yet dated in Amharic 29th February 1895. That covers arrived at Djibouti on 7 February 1895, before the ones of the first courier were forwarded, so in time to complete the travel together.



Back side reduced 50%

Ethiopian postage: 1 guerche (2x1/4 g. + 1/2)g.

Departure postmark : HARRAR type 1 (Payne HR2)

International postage: 50 c. Somali Coast

Canceled Djibouti 3rd February 1895

Obock 10th February 1895

Steamship "AVA" of line V "LA REUNION A MARSEILLE"

Delivered at Paris 21st February 1895

31st January 1895. Registered cover forwarded by the first courier franked with 1 guerche. Postal rate were not yet established, so it is a fanciful franking. Cover and Ethiopian stamps are cancelled with the bilingual "HARRAR" postmark type 1, whose Amharic date, according to the Ethiopian calendar, corresponds to European 31 January 1895. Somali Coast stamps were added at the Djibouti post office. As the Djibouti harbor was not yet active, mail to Europe was carried from Djibouti to Obock to be entrusted to a steamship.

Menelik Journal vol. 34, No. 2 April-June 2018 "The early covers with Ethiopian stamps"

MAIL FROM 1895

Tristant wrote that Menelik himself fixed the Ethiopian postal rates:

Letters domestic and abroad up to 15 grams: 2 guerches more 2 guerches for each additional 15 grams.

Letters to Djibouti treated as domestic mail: no Somali Coast franking was required.

Letters addressed abroad : 25 cents, more 25 cents for next weight units; 25 cents for registration.



Entotto type I

Addis Abeba to Zurich
Ethiopian postage: 2 g.

Departure postmark :
Entotto type I 21 July 1895

International postage: 50 c.
Somali Coast + Reg. mark
Djibouti 17 August

Obock 21 August
Modane a Paris 3 September
Arrival: Zurich 4 September

Harar to Constantinople

Ethiopian postage: 2 g.
(1 g. + 2 x 1/2 g.)

Departure postmark : Harar type 1 20 July 1895

International postage: 50 c.
Somali Coast (25 c. postal rate + 25 c. registration)
Djibouti 27 July

S/S Yangtse line V
La Reunion à Marseille
8 August

Alexandrie (Egypt)
13 August

Arrival: Galata
18th August



THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

THE WAR AGAINST ITALY (1895-1896)

For Italians the proclamation of Eritrea Colony was only the first step, the true objective was the conquest of Ethiopia and in the following five years, with local operations they occupied Adigrat, Macallè and Adua, with the annexation of Tigré to the Colony. That caused the reaction of Menelik who made the "negarit" of the war in Addis Ababa beaten in all the centers of his immense empire.

On 11th of October 1895, at the head of about 100,000 men, he marched towards the borders of Eritrea, while General Baratieri moved his headquarters to Adigrat where a fort was built.

Italians suffered a series of defeats, up to the decisive battle: on 1 March in Adua the Italian troops suffered a definitive defeat, leaving about 5,000 soldiers killed in the field, while 2000 were taken prisoners. On 26th of October 1896 the peace treaty of Addis Abeba was signed by Menelik and Italians.

MENELIK II AT WAR



22nd December 1895. Double weight cover sent to Paris franked at 8 g. (4 g. double weight unit and 4g. Overfranking) and with 50 cents (double weight unit) added and canceled at Djibouti on 1st of January). Sea postmark of S/S "Djemnah" of line V "La Reunion à Marseille". It was addressed to Leon Chefneux, advisor of the Emperor Menelik whose coat of arms, Amharic "ገጽ" under the Imperial crown, is printed in golden characters on the back side. The address is in the handwriting of Mondon Vidaillet, postmaster in Addis Abeba. The Harrar type 1 postmark canceling stamp means that the Emperor with his court was at the front and not in the Capital. Likely the letter was carried to Harrar by a messenger.



ADIGRAT, THE ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS

Adigrat was occupied in January 1895 and became the basis of all military operations in the countryside. Major Toselli built a fort in a strategic position.

On April 14 1895 a postal group was activated and elevated to a second-class office on 28 January 1896.



Adigrat to Forlì (Italy)

*Italian Kingdom postcard
at 10 cents*

*Departure postmark :
ADIGRAT :: ERITREA
Type 1 dated 15 GEN 96*

*Arrival:
FORLÌ 31-01-96*

INCOMING COVER TO ADIGRAT CAMP

Turin to Adigrat Camp

*Italian Kingdom postage:
10 cents*

*Departure postmark :
TORINO 1-2-96*

*Arrival: MASSAUA
15 2 96*

*Mark on backside:
"NON CHIESTA"
(NOT CLAIMED)*

*It means that the addressee
was dead or kept prisoner.*



LOCAL COVER FROM CASSALA TO ADAGA' AMUS



Letter addressed to a military at Adagà Amus, a small country near-by Adigrat, territory temporary occupied by Italians and theatre of the war.

Cassala (Cheren) to Adagà Amus
12-2-1896

Franked with a 5 cents stamp of Colonia Eritrea (5 cents internal postal rate for letter per 15 grams) canceled with the scarce "CASSALA CHEREN"

Transit Cheren 21-2-96

On the back the mark "NON CHIESTA" (NOT CLAIMED): the addressee, a military, was dead or kept prisoner.

From the letter sent from the Fort of Adi Ugri by an Italian military to his relatives the day after the battle of Adua:

"...We had suffered a defeat. It seems that the whole army corps is in full retreat after it was beaten nearby Adua. We yet don't know the extent of our losses, but they are not slight. It seems that also the ones of the enemy are heavy. We have not yet details, but it seems that the retreat and relative chase would take place towards Saganeiti and Coatit..."

In the following days Menelik with his troops came back towards the Scioa putting an end to the war.

Adi Ugri to Turin (Italy)

2-3-1896 the day after the battle of Adua.

Canceled "ADI UGRI / ASMARA"

Arrival: 18-3-96

On the front and on the back the mark of the "COMMAND OF THE 1° BATTALION INFANTRY AFRICA / ERITREA COLONY"

THE GREAT VICTORY OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY AT ADUA



THE MAIL OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR

During the battle of Adua about 2.000 Italians were captured and then interned at Addis Abeba. They were supplied with the material necessary to write to their relatives but only with Ethiopian stamps valid to pay the postage to Djibouti as French colony's stamps were not yet available in the Ethiopian post offices. An Italian ministerial disposition established that mail from Ethiopia was free from taxation, so mail was taxed at Djibouti with a T in a triangle mark but postage dues were not applied at the arrival.

Early P.O.W. cover canceled from June 1896

Addis Abeba to Cornaredo (Italy)

Ethiopian stamp: 2 g.

Departure postmark :

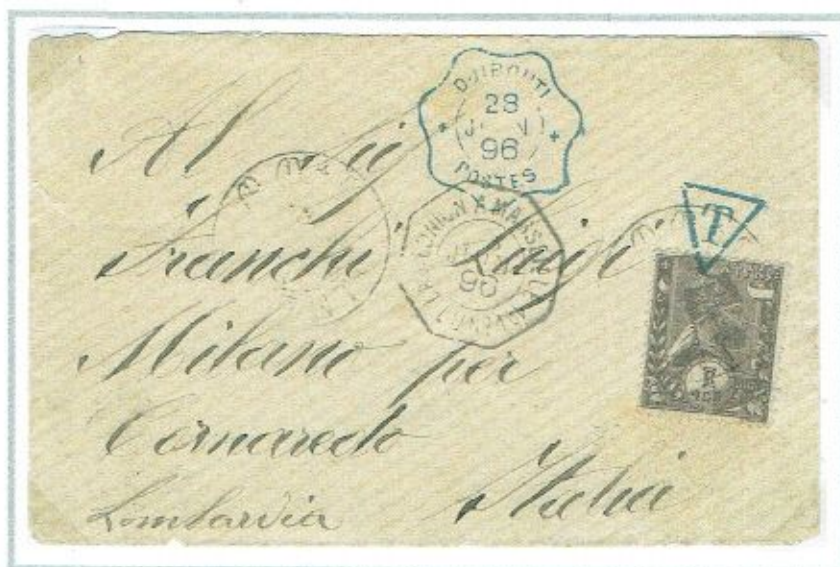
ENTOTTO TYPE 1 about 15-6-96

Taxed at Djibouti 28-6-96

S/S: "PEI-HO" Line U

"La Reunion a Marseilles" 28-6-96

Arrival: 10-7-96



A later ministerial disposition established that on 23rd of January the effects of the previous disposition will finish, and underpaid mail from Ethiopia had to be taxed.

Late P.O.W. cover canceled with the Maltese Cross and taxed at the arrival

Addis Abeba to Livorno (Italy)

Ethiopian postcard: 1/2 g.

Departure postmark :

Maltese Cross

Date from the text 7-1-97

Transit Harar 18-1-97

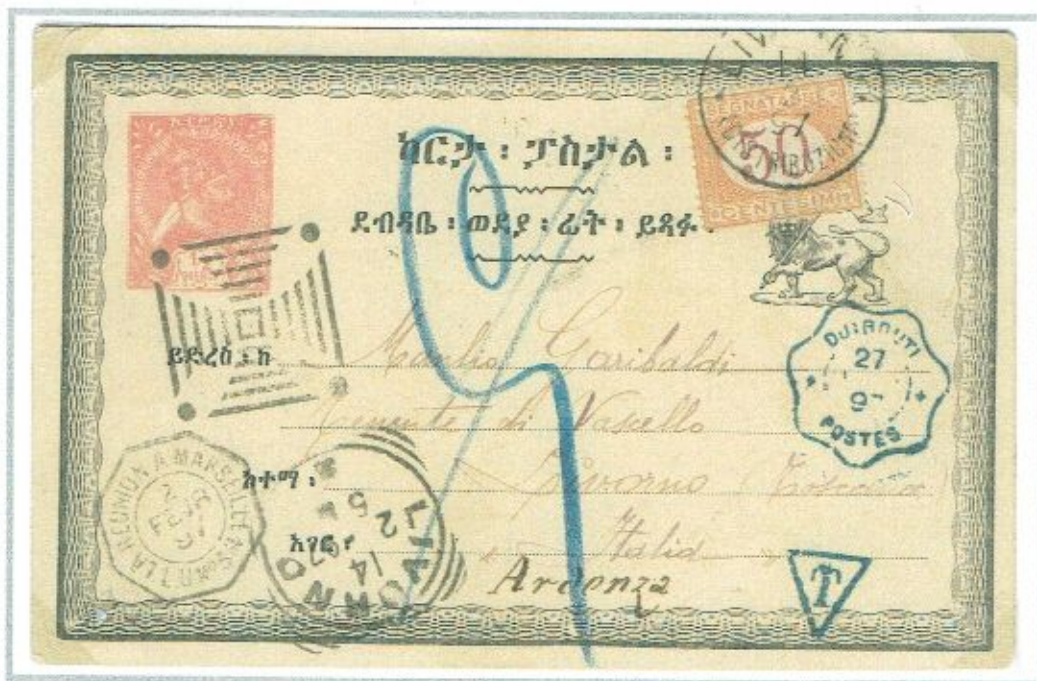
Taxed at Djibouti 27-1-97

S/S: "AMAZONE" Line U

"La Reunion a Marseilles"

2-2-97

Arrival: Livorno (Italy)



That postcard was taxed according to the second ministerial decree as arrived at destination after the 23rd of January 1897. That is the unique reported item having that important characteristics contemporary:

- *P.O.W. mail*
- *Canceled with the Maltese Cross*
- *Taxed with postage due at the arrival*

THE MAIL OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR

On 6th of October 1896 a special convention was also signed where the restitution of prisoners of war was programmed to go to the British route to Zeila. The Italian Red Cross organized a special expedition to help Italian prisoners and established a center at Zeila to welcome them. They were later embarked on Italian ships to Massawah and to Italy.

Also mail of that period accompanying prisoners went to the British route to Zeila where it received the special cachet "CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA, Spedizione dei prigionieri d'Africa".

P.O.W. cover forwarded by the Italian Red Cross via Zeila and Aden



Addis Abeba to Cornaredo (Italy)

Ethiopian postage: 2 g.

Departure postmark:

ENTOTTO type 1

About 1st January 1897

S/S: "CANNONIERA ANDREA PROVANA"

*British postage: 2 and 1/2 pence canceled at Aden
on 3rd February 1897*

Arrival:

BOLOGNA (Italy) 13 February 1897



On the back side



On the front side

Very few covers of prisoners of war with the Red Cross cachet franked with India stamp are reported. This is one from two known covers franked also with an Ethiopian stamp as coming from Addis Abeba.

This is the last known use of the "ENTOTTO" type 1 postmark.

Menelik Journal Vol. 30 N. 3 Page 6-8 "Italian POW mail taxed in 1896-1897"

THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

THE SUBSTITUTION OF TYPE 1 POSTMARKS.

The "HARAR" and "ENTOTTO" postmarks of type 1 soon demonstrate their fragility. In particular the imprint of the "ENTOTTO" became very faint and the mechanism of the Amharic date in the centre broke during 1895 and since that moment we find that imprint without the Amharic date.

New postmarks with date in European characters were ordered in Switzerland. In August 1896 an "ANKOBER" type 1 postmark, usually used for philatelic purpose, was used to cancel mail of, at least, two couriers: the cause for which the "ENTOTTO" TYPE 1 postmark was not available is not known.

In the second half of 1896 the new "HARAR" type 2 postmark arrived and was used at Harrar, but there is no trace of the "ENTOTTO" type 2 postmark at Addis Abeba where "ENTOTTO" type 1 in very bad conditions was yet used until the end of 1896.

Since the beginning of 1897 mail of some couriers was forwarded not cancelled or cancelled with the Maltese Cross, a dumb postmark.

The "ENTOTTO" TYPE 2 was available at Addis Abeba since April 1897, even if it is known on previous philatelic covers likely prepared in Paris by the Maury's stamps house and forwarded from Djibouti.

ANKOBER TYPE I



ANKOBER Type 1

*Addis Abeba to Paris
Redirected to Lille*

Ethiopian postage: 2 g.

*Departure postmark:
Ankober type 1*

*Added at Djibouti:
50 cents Somali Coast
Cancelled 4-9-1896*

Modane à Paris: 19-9-96

Arrival Paris: 20-9-96

Departure Paris: 21-9-96

Arrival Lille: 21-9-96

August 1896. The use of the "ANKOBER" Type 1 postmark is reported with very faint imprints on four covers from two different couriers from Addis Abeba in July-August 1896. Likely, for unknown reasons, the "ENTOTTO" type 1 postmark was not available at the Addis Abeba post Office in that months.

THE "HARAR" AND "ENTOTTO" POSTMARKS OF SECOND TYPE

THE EARLY REPORTED COVER CANCELLED WITH "HARAR" TYPE II



28th October 1896. Cover from Harar to Switzerland franked at 2g. and 25 Cents of Somali Coast
That postmark (Payne HR3) had a long life as it was used up to the end of 1911.



THE EARLY REPORTED COVER CANCELLED WITH "ENTOTTO" TYPE

This is one of several reported twin philatelic covers addressed to Mr. Maury, stamps dealer, in Paris.

In agreement with Leon Chefneux and Alfred Hld he promoted the sale of Ethiopian stamps in Europe.

Likely that covers were prepared in Paris, brought to Djibouti and sent from there, misusing the Entotto type 2 postmark waited at Addis Abeba where it arrived in April 1897.



THE ADDIS ABEBA POST OFFICE WITHOUT ANY DATED POSTMARK

POSTCARD FORWARDED NOT CANCELED



From the text: 7-2-97

Ethiopia postage:

Postcard 1 g.

Transit Marker: 18-2-97

Added at Djibouti:

35 Cent. Somali Coast

as registered

Cancelled 22-2-97

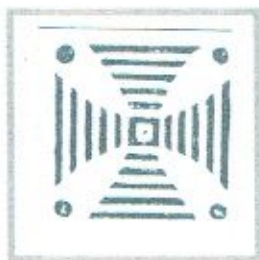
Departure Djibouti:

6-3-97

Arrival Zurich: 19-3-97

From Fanny Hg

Mail survived from two of nine couriers forwarded in January-March is formed only by postcards that could not be re-used. Likely no covers were present in that couriers.



Addis Ababa to Zurich
about: 24-2-97

Ethiopia Postage: 2g.

Somali Coast postage:

50 Cent. Somali Coast

as registered

Transit Kavarar: 8-3-97

Cancelled in transit

at Djibouti 13-3-97

S/S Ava line V "La reunion à Marseille" 15-3-97

Arrival Zurich: 26-3-97

COVER CANCELED WITH THE MALTESE CROSS



Survived mail from three of nine couriers forwarded in January-March is formed by postcards and covers; as the stamps could be re-used that whole couriers were canceled.

Six items canceled with the Maltese Cross are reported from that period.

THE "HARRAR" AND "ENTOTTO" POSTMARKS OF SECOND TYPE

THE ADDIS ABEBA POST OFFICE WITHOUT ANY DATED POSTMARK

POSTCARD FORWARDED NOT CANCELED TO BE CANCELED AT HARRAR



From the text:

Addis Abeba to Cairo 17-3-97

*Ethiopia postage: Postcard 1 g.
cancelled in transit at*

Harrar: 28-3-97

*Somali Coast stamp 25 Cents,
owing to the lacking the 10 cents
at the Addis Abeba post office,
canceled in transit at Djibouti
01-04-97*

Transit Suez 7-4-97

Arrival Cairo: 8-4-97

Mail of the two latest couriers forwarded not canceled in March 1897 was formed by both postcards and covers. The Harrar Post Office cancelled all items with its HR3 postmark.

INCOMING COVER WITH A NOTE ON THE BACK SIDE

*Djibouti to Addis Abeba :
8-3-97*

*Somali Coast postage:
35 Cent. Somali Coast
postal rate to Ethiopia*

*Transit Harrar: 12-3-97
14-3-97*

*Arrival Addis Abeba:
26-3-97*

*Note of a clerk of the Ad-
dis Abeba Post Office :
"Reçu le 25 Mars au soir
at Adis Abeba"
("Received on 25 March in
the evening at Addis Abe-
ba") on the back side.*



THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

THE POSTAL RATES

Postal rates during that period did not change, but the postal organization changed in a detail: since February 1897 both the Post Offices were supplied with Somali Coast stamps and both covers and postcards were forwarded with that stamps not canceled at the departure but in transit at Djibouti.

In the first supply in February 1897 only stamps at 25 Cents, 50 Cents and 75 Cents were present, denominations sufficient for postage of covers but the lacking of the 10 cent. denomination did not allow a correct combination for the postal rates of postcard (10 cents), registered postcards (35 cents) and printed matter (5 cents). So for some months, before the second supply of stamps, that mail was overfranked.

Somali Coast postage was mandatory for mail to abroad while the lacking of Ethiopian stamps did not cause the taxation of mail.

Domestic and to Djibouti postal rate: 2 guerches

According to an agreement with the French authorities, the Ethiopian franking was sufficient for mail to Djibouti



Harar to Djibouti

Departure :

1st March 1897.

Ethiopian franking: 2 g.

On the contrary, the French authorities of Somali Coast fixed the postal rate from Djibouti to Ethiopia at 35 Cents. See the incoming cover from Djibouti to Addis Abeba showed in the previous chapter.

THE POSTAL RATES ABROAD

Postcard postal rate: 1 g. Ethiopian Postcard and 10 Cents Somali Coast stamp



Harar to Genève
Departure :1-4-1897.

Ethiopian franking:
Postcard 1 g.

Somali Coast franking:
25 Cents canceled Djibouti
5-4-97

Arrival Genève: 18-4-97

Early period when Post Offices were supplied with the stamps for franking of covers: 25 Cents, 50 cents, 75 cents



From text: written at Oromos on 2-11-97

Addis Ababa to Genève
Entotto type 2 postmark
Departure :5-12-1897.

Ethiopian franking:
Postcard 1 g.

Somali Coast franking:
10 Cents canceled Djibouti
11-12-97

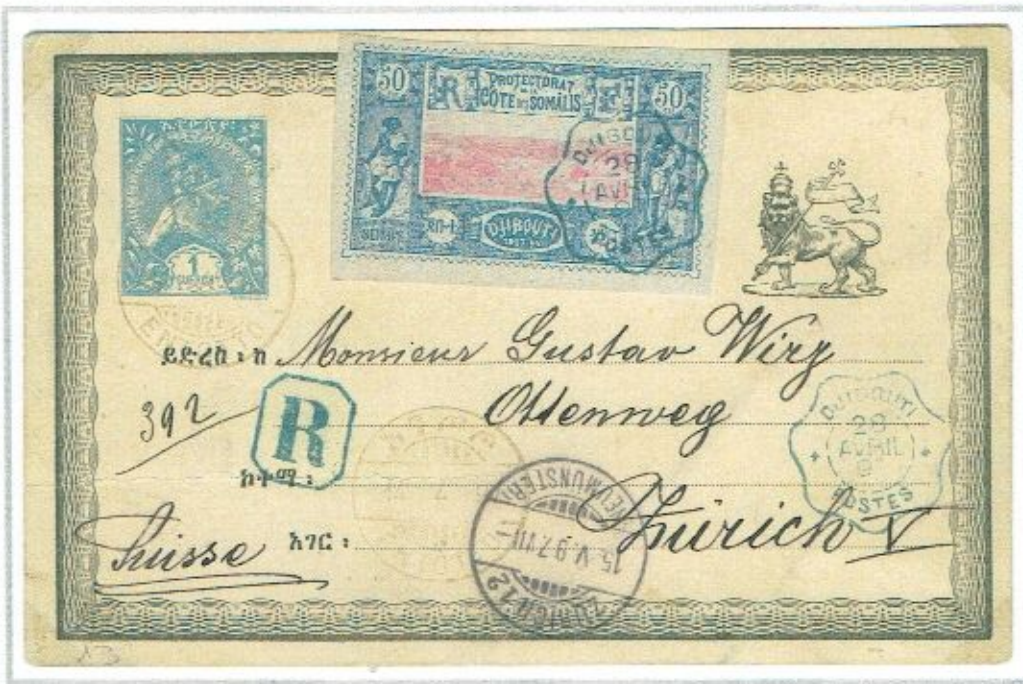
Sea postmark: S/S YANG-TSE line V "La reunion à Marseille" 13-1-98

Arrival Genève: 24-1-98

Period after Post Offices were supplied also with 10 c. stamps.

THE POSTAL RATES ABROAD

Registered postcard rate: 1 g. Ethiopian Postcard and 35 C. Somali Coast stamps



Addis Ababa to Zurich
Entotto type 2 postmark
Departure :14-4-1897.

Ethiopian franking:
Postcard 1 g.

Somali Coast franking:
50 Cents (25 c. Registration)
canceled Djibouti 28-4-97

Transit Harar 22-4-97

Arrival Zurich: 15-5-97

Early period when Post Offices were supplied with the stamps for the franking of covers: 25 Cents, 50 cents, 75 cents



Addis Ababa to St. Gallen
Entotto type 2 postmark
Departure :12-10-1897.

Ethiopian franking:
Postcard 1 g.

Somali Coast franking:
35 cents (25 c. Registration)
canceled Djibouti 26-11-97

Transit Harar: 20-11-97

Departure Djibouti 3-12-97

Sea postmark: faint

Arrival St. Gallen: 15-12-97

Period after Post Offices were supplied also with 10 c. stamps.

THE POSTAL RATES ABROAD

Registered cover postal rate: 2 g. Ethiopian stamp and 25 C. Somali Coast stamp more 25 C. for each next weight unit per 15 gr. and 25 c. for Registration.

Registered double weight unit cover



*Addis Abeba to Zurich
Entotto type 2 postmark
Departure :25-7-1897.*

*Ethiopian franking:
Postcard 16 g.(12 g. overfranked)*

*Somali Coast franking:
75 cents(25 c. Registration)
canceled Djibouti 12-8-97*

*Arrival Harrar: 5-8-97
Departure Harrar: 8-8-97*

*Departure Djibouti 13-8-97
Transit Lyon : 25-8-97*

Arrival Zurich: 25-8-97

On the back side (red. 70%)

Handwriting and wax seal of Alfred Hg

THE POSTAL RATES ABROAD

Cover postal rate: 2 g. Ethiopian stamp and 25 C. Somali Coast stamp more 25 C. for each next weight unit per 15 gr.

Cover first weight unit



Haraar to Paris

Haraar type 2 postmark

Departure :15-3-1898.

Ethiopian franking: 2 g.

Somaliali Coast franking:

25 cents canceled Djibouti

19-3-98

Departure Djibouti 31-3-98

S/S "NATAL" Line N

"Yokohama à Marseille"

Arrival Paris: 12-4-98

Printed matter postal rate: 1/4 g. Ethiopian stamp and 5 C. Somali Coast for each 50 grams.

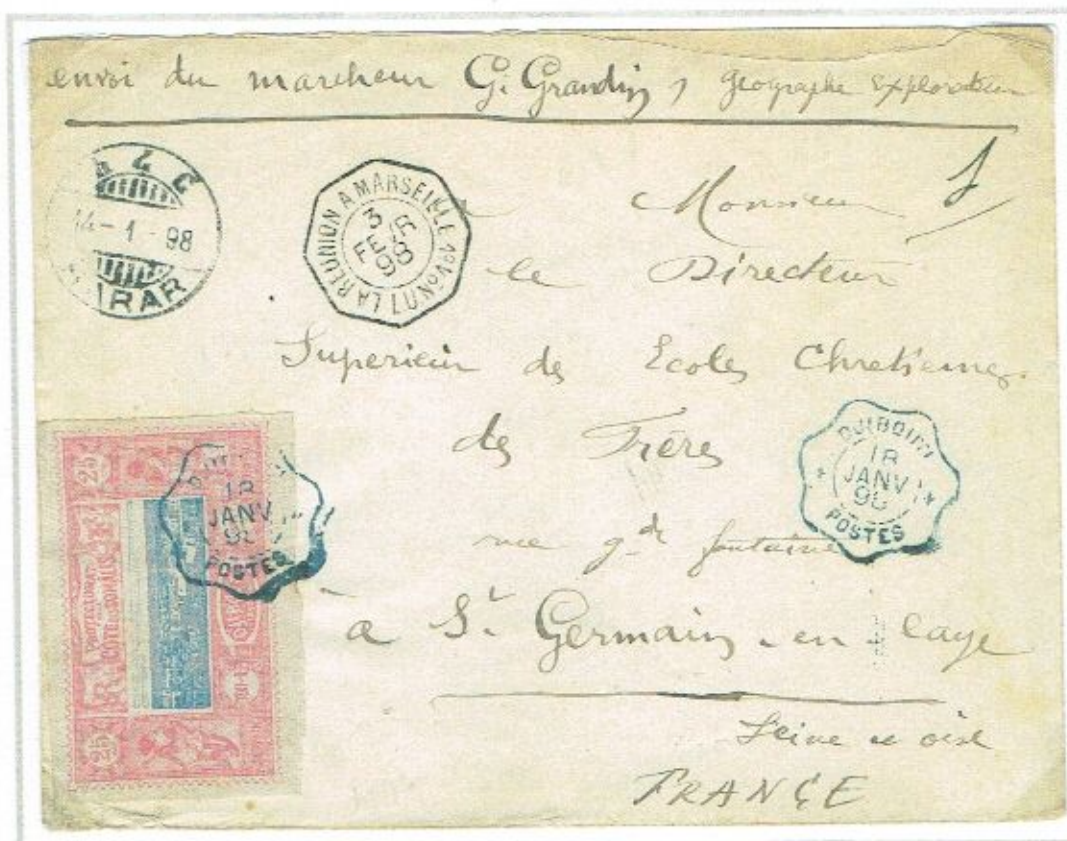


14 May 1897. Wrapper forwarded from Haraar to Belluno (Italy) by an Italian Prisoner of War on his way for coming back home. Ethiopian franking at 1 guerche means a weight between 150 and 200 grams. Somali Coast 25 c. was the minimum the sender could use as, at that date, the denomination at 10 cents was not yet available in the Ethiopian Post Offices.

Wrappers from the early period are very rare, besides that one was forwarded by an Italian Prisoner of War.

THE POSTAL RATES ABROAD

Cover first weight unit sent lacking Ethiopian stamp



Harrar to
St. Germain en Laye (France)
Harrar type 2 postmark
Departure :14-1-1898.

Ethiopian franking lacking
Somali Coast franking:
25 cents canceled Djibouti
18-1-98

Departure Djibouti 2-6-98

S/S "IRAOUADDY" Line U
"La reunion à Marseille"
3-2-98

Arrival St. Germain en Laye
(France) 15-2-98

Cover that likely arrived from the interior by private means as the sender was an explorer, it was accepted and forwarded without Ethiopian stamps. It arrived to destination without any taxation as Ethiopian stamps were not mandatory.

Postcard sent by Funny Ilg lacking Somali Coast stamp



Addis Ababa to Zurich
Entotto type 2 postmark
Departure: 12-6-98, last
known date in violet ink

Ethiopian Franking:
Postcard 1 g.

Somali Coast stamp lacking
Departure Djibouti: 27-6-98
S/S DJEMNAH Line U
La Reunion a Marseille
Arrival at Zurich: 14-7-98

Postcard forwarded from Addis Ababa to Zurich by Funny Ilg. This postcard at 1 g. was lacking the Somali Coast stamp at 10 c. that was mandatory, so it was taxed at Djibouti with the mark "T" in a triangle. Then the due mark was obliterated by blue pencil as good gesture to Alfred Ilg (Director of Posts), Funny Ilg husband.

THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

INCOMING MAIL

Mail could reach Ethiopia by two different routes, like outgoing mail:

The French route, for mail addressed to "Poste restante" (General delivery) in Djibouti where a known resident in that town, with a power of attorney left by the addressee in advance, picked up the mail and readdressed it to Ethiopia after having added 35 cents of Somali Coast stamps per portion of 15 grams.

The British route, for mail transported by British steamships that arrived to Zaila via Aden. Mail from Zaila were transported to Harrar by couriers of Consular type or caravans. That route was much slower then the French one.

Incoming cover, double weight unit, from France via Djibouti



Paris to Djibouti

Forwarded to Ethiopia

Departure :

9-5-97.

French franking: 50 cents

Somali Coast franking:

70 Cents

Canceled 21-5-97

No arrival postmark



Cover addressed to Prince Henry D'Orleans, explorer, photographer and naturalist, who together count Leontieff went all over Ethiopia and met with Menelik. From the address we deduce that the agent of "Messageries Maritimes" in Djibouti had the power of attorney to pick up the mail of the Prince and to forward it to Ethiopia after adding 70 Cents of Somali Coast stamps on the cover.

Red. 70%

INCOMING MAIL

Incoming cover from Austria via Djibouti



Wien to Djibouti

Forwarded to Ethiopia

Departure :

7-3-98.

Austrian franking:

10 Kreuzer

Transit Aden: 21-3-98

Somali Coast franking:

35 Cents

Canceled 5-4-98

Transit Aden: 21-3-98

Arrival postmark:

Harar type 2 10-4-98

From the address we deduce that Ing. Zop in Djibouti had the power of attorney to pick up the mail of Mr. Gustave Kammerer and to forward it to Harar after adding 35 Cents of Somali Coast stamps on the cover.

INCOMING MAIL

Incoming stationery for visit card from Obock via Djibouti



Cent. 5 was the postal rate for visit card cover to Ethiopia. Mail from Somali Coast had to be franked according with postal rate to Ethiopia, but, of course, was directly forwarded to that country.

Obock to Entotto

Departure :17-12-98.

Somali Coast franking:

Postal stationery at 5 Cents

No arrival postmark.

Incoming cover from Tunis via Zaila



Tunis to Addis Abeba

Departure 8/9/97

Tunisian franking: 25 c.

Transit Alexandria:26-9-97

Transit Suez: 27-9-97

No arrival postmark

Cover forwarded by a British steamship through the British route, via Alexandria, Suez, Aden and Zaila to be transported via Harrar to Addis Abeba likely by Consular Service.

THE FRANCO ETHIOPIAN POST (1895-March 1899)

THE END OF THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN POST

At the half of 1898 A. Ilg and L. Chefneux decided that was time to create an autonomous domestic postal service between Addis Abeba and Harrar to be joint to the pre-existing French postal service between Harar and Djibouti. The French authorities, informed about that project, were very annoyed but they could not refuse. They tried to create as many problems as possible and knowing that Ethiopian postal service was not yet ready, stopped collecting mail except for French residents and for few very important persons like Menelik and Ilg family. So all other people was not able to communicate with abroad unless using private means. Survived mail from that period is unknown to me after March 1899.

Registered cover to Kajana (Finland)



The few known mail from July 1898 into March 1899 has some peculiar characteristics:

Very few covers show the Ethiopian franking: likely the Ethiopian clerks were not more present in the post offices and only few mail was entrusted with Ethiopian stamps applied.

Departure postmark was struck only on the cover if not franked with Ethiopian stamps.

Entotto type 2 was used in blue ink (only five covers forwarded from Addis Abeba are known in that period).

Survived Ethiopian postcards are unknown: they were not sold in the post Offices .

Addis Abeba to Kajana (Finland)

(very rare destination)

Departure : 2-8-98

Ethiopian franking: 3/4 g.

Canceled Entotto type 2 in blue ink.

*Somali Coast franking: 50 cents
as Registered*

Canceled Djibouti 18-8-98

Departure Djibouti: 19-8-98

S/S OCEANIE Line N

"Yokohama à Marseille" 19-8-98

Faint arrival postmark

THE END OF THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN POST

Four weight units cover to France



Front side reduced 70%

Harar to Chalon sur Saône
(France)

Ethiopian postage: lacking

Departure postmark : Harar type 2
28-11-98

International postage: 100 c. Somali Coast Canceled Djibouti 5-12-98

Four weight units postal rate.

Arrival Djibouti 2-12-98

Steamship "DJEMNAH" of line U
"La Reunion à Marseille" 5-12-98

Delivered at Chalon sur Saône
(France) 17-12-98

THE END OF THE FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN POST

Registered cover from Harrar franked with Ethiopian stamp by the sender.



Harrar to Baden Baden (Germany)

Ethiopian postage 4 g. (2 g. overfranking)

Departure postmark: Harrar type 2

2-1-99

International postage:

Somali Coast : 50 c. as Registered

Canceled Djibouti 6-1-99

Departure Djibouti 14-1-99

S/S PEI-HO Line V

"La Reunion à Marseille" 14-1-99

Arrival Baden Baden 21-1-99

Cover from Addis Abeba sent by Funny Ilg



The remarkable delay between the date of the Entotto postmark (25-2-99) and the arrival Djibouti postmark (1-4-99) of 35 days, is due to the fact that Ilg's couriers were delayed on purpose.



Reduced 70%

Addis Abeba to Zurich.

No Ethiopian stamps

Entotto type 2 in blue ink 25-2-99.

Somali Coast postage: 25 Cents

Canceled 1-4-99

Somali Coast departure: 12-4-99

S/S "OXUS" Line V

"La Reunion à Marseille"

Arrival Zurich 24-4-99

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

(May 1899-December 1907)

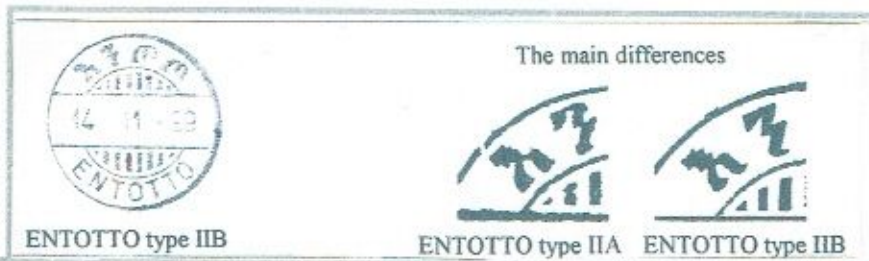
THE PROVISIONAL AND THE REGULAR POSTAL SERVICES

Owing to the boycott of French, A. Ilg and L. Chefneux tried in some way to solve the problem of people who could not communicate with abroad as their mail was not accepted by the French postal offices. They created a provisional Postal Service with a new Post Office at Addis Abeba, supplied with a new Entotto postmark (ENTOTTO type II B), stamps and postal material kept from the Government reserve. Mail was carried by the employees of the telephone offices from the Addis Abeba to the Harrar Post Office. In the meanwhile they prepared the regular Postal Service that was ready three months after.

The provisional postal services

The employees of the telephone offices of Addis Abeba, Baltschi, Toshoba, Laga-Hardine, Courri, Derrou, Kolloubi carried mail from their station to the next one and the last one to the Harrar French post office with the reward of 1 Thaler and a half each one. Couriers leaved Addis Abeba each 12th and 25th day of each month, and the 10th and 25th day of each month from Harar.

The taxes for letters were: 1 guerche from Addis Abeba to Harrar)
2 guerches from Addis Abeba to Djibouti) by 15 grams
1 guerche from Harrar to Addis Abeba)



Addis Abeba to London
Redirected to Bad Homburg
(Germany)

Ethiopian franking: 1g postcard
The uprated 1/4 g. is superfluous.
Canceled Entotto type II B Black
ink 12-5-99.

Somali Coast franking: 10 cents
Canceled Djibouti 31-5-99

Transit: Harar type II (French
Post Office) 25-5-99

S/S IRAOUADDY Line U
"La Reunion à Marseille" 2-6-99

Arrival London 22-6-99

Arrival Bad Homburg 23-6-99

*As that provisional services lasted three months, six couriers were organized.
This is the only survived item from the first courier of 12 May 1899 known to me.
Only three items from the six couriers are known: very few mail had to be carried.
The text on the back side announces the reprise of a regular Postal Service.*

THE PROVISIONAL POSTAL SERVICES



This is the only survived item from the fifth provisional courier of 12 July 1899 known to me. To be noted the delay since the forwarding from Addis Abeba to the arrival at Zurich: about 44 days while previously it lasted about one month!

Addis Abeba to Zurich

Ethiopian franking: 2g

Canceled Entotto type II B

Black ink 12-7-99.

Somali Coast franking: 25 cents

Canceled Djibouti 11-8-99

Transit: Harar type II (French Post Office) 31-7-99

Djibouti departure 15-8-99

S/S DJEMNAH Line V

"La Reunion à Marseille"

13-8-99

Arrival Zurich 25-8-99

THE REGULAR POSTAL SERVICES

On 12th August 1899 a regular Ethiopian Postal Service between Addis Abeba and Harrar began. At Harrar, around the 20th of August, Father Césaire of the Catholic Mission handed over the stock of stamps and postal material to Wüllschleger, first Ethiopian Postmaster in that town where he opened the Ethiopian Post Office on 22nd August 1899, date of arrival of the first courier from Addis Abeba. Between Addis Abeba and Harrar eight relay stations for the changes of mules were established and four more were added in the following months.

From the first Ethiopian regular courier



*Addis Abeba to Ambourg
(Germany)*

*Ethiopian franking: 1g postcard
Canceled Entotto type II B
Black ink 12-8-99.*

*Somali Coast franking: 10 cents
Canceled Djibouti 31-5-99*

Transit: Harar type II 3-9-99

Arrival Hamburg 20-9-99

From the second Ethiopian regular courier

Addis Abeba to Zurich

*Ethiopian franking: 1g postcard
Canceled Entotto type II B
Black ink 25-8-99.*

*Somali Coast franking: 10 cents
Canceled Djibouti 10-9-99*

Transit: Harar type II 3-9-99

*S/S NATAL Line V
"La Reunion à Marseille"
15-9-99*

Arrival Zurich 25-9-99



THE REGULAR POSTAL SERVICES



From the fourth Ethiopian regular courier- Domestic postal rate cover

Addis Abeba to Harar

Ethiopian franking: 2g

Canceled Entotto type II B

Black ink 24-9-99.

No arrival postmark

Domestic covers from the 1800's are quite scarce: less than ten items reported since 1895 into 1900.



From the fifth Ethiopian regular courier:
Registered double weight unit cover
Franco-colonial rate (introduced in 1899)

French Postage 55 Cents:

15 cents Coast Somali stamp per two weight unit of 15 gr. for letters addressed to France and colonies and 25 Cents for Registration.



Early reported use of
"HARAR

POSTES FRANÇAISES"

Addis Abeba to Lyon (France)

Ethiopian franking: 8g (4g overfranking)

Canceled Entotto type II B black ink 14-10-99.

Somali Coast: 55 cents canceled Djibouti 7-11-99

Transit: Harar Eth. P.O. Harar type II 14-10-99

Transit: Harar Fr. P.O. Harar P.F. 28-10-99

S/S LAOS Line N "Yokohama à Marseille" 15-11-99

Arrival Lyon 22-11-99

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

(May 1899-December 1907)

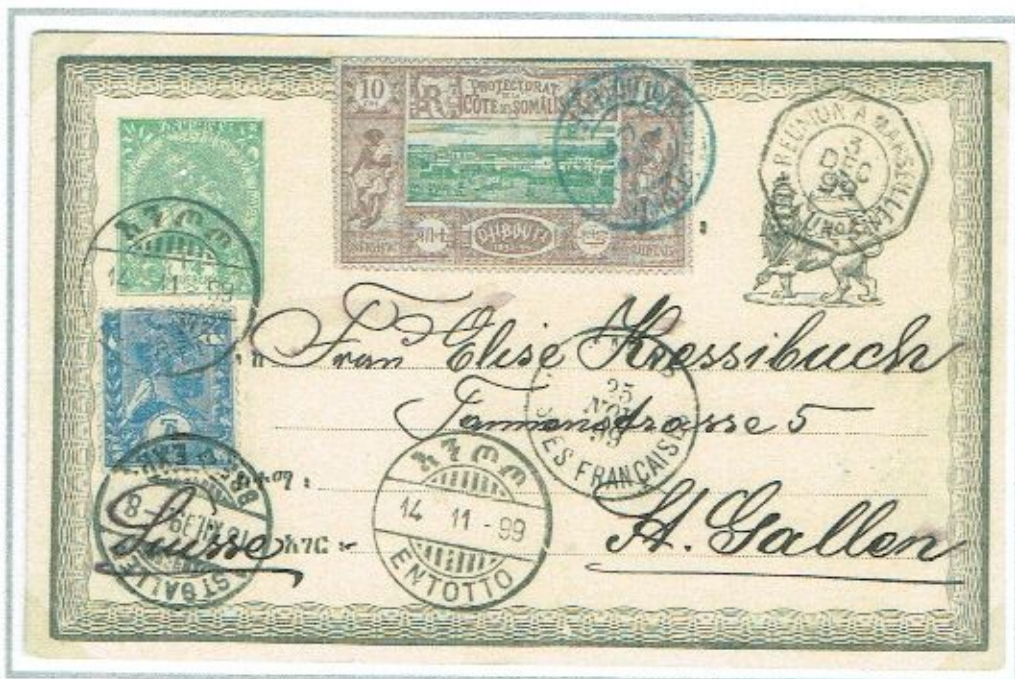
THE NEW POSTAL ORGANIZATION

After the French Harrar Post Office, managed by the Capuchin fathers of Harrar, was supplied with the new "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark (Payne HR4) and postal material in substitution of that handed over to the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office, two Postal Services and three Post Offices were active in Ethiopia: the Ethiopian Post Offices at Addis Abeba and Harrar for the **Ethiopian Post** and the French Post Office by the Capuchin Fathers at Harrar for the **French Post**.

THE ETHIOPIAN POST

The **Ethiopian Post** operated in **Addis Abeba** collecting and delivering mail and organizing its transport mule back to the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office.

The **Ethiopian Post** operated in **Harrar** collecting mail and forwarding it, together with that received from Addis Abeba, to the French Harrar post office. Besides it received incoming mail and domestic mail addressed to the Capital from the French Harrar Post Office and forwarded it to the Addis Abeba Post Office, together with domestic mail collected, organizing the voyage mule back.



Addis Abeba to St. Gallen

Ethiopian franking:

1/4g postcard uprated 1 g.

Canceled Entotto type II B

Black ink 14-11-99.

Somali Coast franking: 10 cents

Canceled Djibouti 1-12-99

Transit: Harrar Eth. P.O.

Harrar type II 21-11-99 blue ink

Transit: Harrar Fr. P.O. black ink

Harrar type II 25-11-99

S/S NATAL Line U 3-12-99

"La Reunion à Marseille"

Arrival St. Gallen 15-12-99

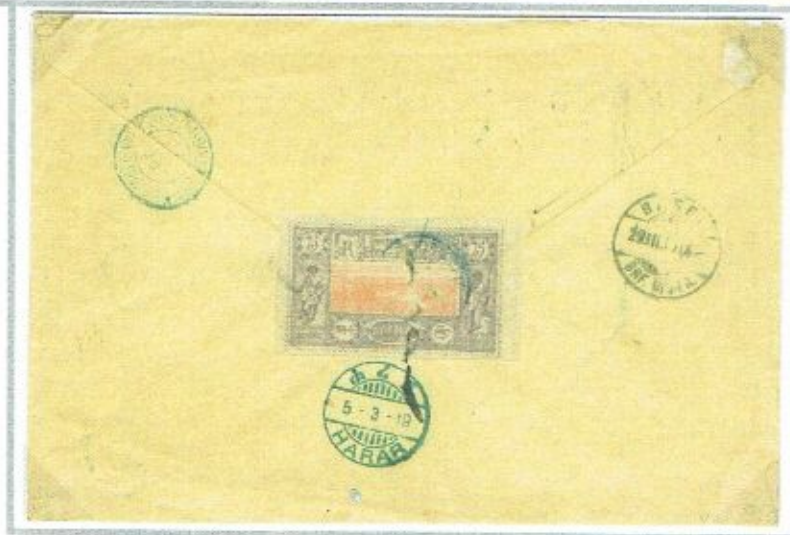


On the back side

THE NEW POSTAL ORGANIZATION

THE ETHIOPIAN POST

The address of this letter was written by Henry Muhle, who had been appointed "Chief of Service of Ethiopian Posts" by Alfred Ilg when, at the end of 1899, he left Ethiopia for a sojourn in Europe.



Both Entotto type II and Harrar type II postmarks were lacking of the combination "00" in the year of the date so it was set at "19" that does not mean "1919" but "1900".

*Addis Ababa to Basle
Ethiopian franking at 6 g.
for 3 weight units postal rate
canceled 24-2-1900*

Harrar Et. P.O. 5-3-1900

Harrar Fr. P.O. 10-3-1900

*Somali Coast franking:
75 cents on the backside
(postal rate 25 c. x 3 weight units)
canceled Djibouti (faint date)*

*S/S YANGTSE Line V
"La Reunion à Marseille"
faint date*

Arrival Basle 29-3-1900

THE NEW POSTAL ORGANIZATION

THE ETHIOPIAN POST



Addis Ababa to Paris

Ethiopian franking 2 g.

Canceled Entotto type II B

10-3-1900

Harrar Eth. P.O. 20-3-1900

Harrar Fr. P.O. 24-3-1900

Somali Coast franking: 15 cents

Franco colonial rate

Canceled Djibouti 29-3-1900

Departure Djibouti 13-4-1900

S/S TONKIN Line N

"Yokohama à Marseille"

30-3-1900

THE FRENCH POST

The French Post Office operated in Harrar collecting most of mail of that town, delivering all mail received from Djibouti addressed to people resident, and forwarding mail addressed to people of the Capital to the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office. Mail collected was franked with Somali Coast stamps, sometimes cancelled with its "HARRAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark (Payne HR4), sometimes that postmark was struck alongside and stamps were cancelled at Djibouti, or that postmark is lacking and mail can't be distinguished from that posted at Djibouti if the origin can't be deduced from the text.



Harrar to Paris

The 1/4 g. of the postcard
superfluous.

Harrar Fr. P.O. 31-3-1900

Somali Coast franking: 60 cents

(10 cent. postal rate 25 c.

Registration. 25 c. overfranking)

Canceled Djibouti 5-4-1900

Departure Djibouti 13-4-1900

S/S OXUS Line V

"La Reunion à Marseille"

13-4-1900

Arrival Paris 25-4-1900

Early reported item forwarded from the Harrar French P. O. Squared R of Registration in black ink against blue ink if struck at Djibouti and lacking of the HR3 postmark are the signals that this postcard was sent from the French P.O.

Postcard from an explorer at Lake Zuai, taxed as French postage was lacking.

Lake Zuai to Reidt (Germany)

15-11-00 handwritten in the text

1/2 g. postcard canceled ENTOTTO

Type 2B 29-11-00

Taxed at Djibouti (T in a triangle)

owing to lacking French stamp 7-1-01

Sea postmark S/S NATAL Line U

La Reunion à Marseille 8-1-01

Arrival 14-1-01



THE INCOMING MAIL

Mail coming from the Djibouti Post Office was delivered to the French Harrar Post Office to be distributed to the Harrar's inhabitants or to be forwarded to the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office if addressed to inhabitants of the Capital. The Harrar Ethiopian Post Office forwarded it to the Addis Abeba Post Office that collected a tax for the internal service, homologous to that represented by Ethiopian franking of correspondences forwarded between Addis Abeba and Harrar for mail addressed to foreign countries. But no tax stamps were applied.

Assouan to Harrar

25-1-1900

Franking at 2 Piastres
(postal rate for double weight
units letter to abroad)

Transit Suez 26-1-00

Sea postmark S/S YANG-
TSE Line V Marseilles à La
Reunion 1-2-00

Arrival 15-2-00

This cover shows on the back side the HR3 postmark of the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office and the words: "Please let follow". It means that the addressee was at Addis Abeba and the Ethiopian Post Office was entrusted of the delivery of that cover.

Letter from abroad



THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

(May 1899-December 1907)

MAIL FORWARDED BY ALTERNATIVE WAYS AND MEANS

Owing to different causes, among them the fact that mail at Harrar passed through two post offices and that, for political aims the advancing of the railway line was not used in a suitable way to transport mail, people was not satisfied of the postal service through the French route, and about year 1900 most of mail from Harrar was forwarded by British route, trough Zaila and Aden.

Besides other foreign people, like Russians preferred to use their Consular services to send mail to Djibouti to be forwarded from there to destination by the international postal service (U.P.U.).

MAIL FORWARDED BY BRITISH ROUTE



REGISTERED LETTER TO ABROAD WITH NO- TIFY OF RECEIPT

Harrar to Marseille

? September 99

India stamps: 6 1/2 Annas

2 1/2 Annas foreign rate

2 Annas Registration

*2 Annas Notify of receipt
canceled by "B" inside 8 hori-
zontal bars dumb postmark.*

Transit: Zaila 2-10-99

Zaila registration postmark

Advise of receipt: AR in a circle

Transit: Aden 8-10-99

T.P.O. "Modane à Paris"

20-10-99 in red ink

Arrival: Marseille 21-10-99



*Mail was forwarded from Harrar to Zaila by
Consular Services or entrusted to caravans.*

*Zaila was a sub-post office of the Aden post
office depending by the Bombay post office,
so Indian stamps and postmarks were used.*

*From Zaila mail was forwarded to Aden by
bing, a local battle, and then it was transport-
ed towards destination by British steamships.*

Red. 70%

MAIL FORWARDED BY BRITISH ROUTE

Postcard posted at the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office to be forwarded by British route



Harrar to Hamburg
10-4-1900

Ethiopian stamp:
1/2 g. postcard
Canceled 10-4-1900

India stamps:
2 1/2 Annas foreign rate
canceled by "B" inside 8 horizontal bars dumb postmark.

Transit: Zaila 14-4-1900

Transit: Aden 22-4-1900

Arrival: Hambourg (Germany)
5-5-1900

Most of mail from Harrar to abroad in the year 1900 was forwarded via British route owing to the slowness of the French route.

Cover posted at the Addis Abeba Post Office to be forwarded by British route



Addis Abeba to Rheinhessen
Germany 11-9-1900

India stamps:
2 1/2 Annas foreign rate
Transit Harrar 22-9-1900

Transit: Zaila 19-9-1900
Zaila registration postmark

Transit: Aden 7-10-1900

Arrival: Nieder Ingelheim
7-10-1900

Mail forwarded from the Addis Abeba Post Office through the British route is very scarce. Less than five items from Addis Abeba with Ethiopian and Indian franking are reported.

MAIL FORWARDED BY BRITISH ROUTE

Cover from Harrar forwarded by Consular Post via British route to England

Mail entrusted to the British Consulate of Harrar was forwarded by Consular Post to Zeila where it was franked with East India stamps and canceled by the barred circular "B".



*Harrar to Southsea
(England) ??-3-1903*

*India stamp added at Zeila
1 Anna (Imperial rate)
canceled with the dumb
postmark "B" in a circle of
8 bars.*

23-3-1903

Transit Aden 28-3-1903

Imperial rate was applied on mail to England and other countries of the British Empire.

Handwritten at the top: "By Consular Post from Harrar to Zeila"

Postcard forwarded from Addis Abeba by British route

On 1st June 1903 Berbera became the Main Post Office of the British Somaliland and Zeila a sub-post office. They were supplied with Indian stamps overprinted "BRITISH SOMALILAND". Mail originated in Ethiopia, addressed to Europe was transported from Zeila to Berbera, to Aden by "Binger", a local ship, and to Europe by British mail-boats.



*Addis Abeba to Berlin 19-11-04
(handwritten in the text)*

*1 g. Melekt postcard not forwarded
through Ethiopian Posts.*

*British Somaliland franking at 1 An-
na canceled with the dumb "B" in a
circle of bars stamp. (Zeila) 5-12-04*

Transit Berbera 8-12-04

*Owing to the length of this voyage (35
days) this way was abandoned. This
it is the latest courier recorded via
Zeila Berbera Aden.*

MAIL FORWARDED BY CONSULAR SERVICE

Cover carried to Djibouti by the Russian Consular Service



Addis Abeba to St. Petersburg
 Russia ??-2-1900

Somali Coast franking: 50 cents
 Canceled 17-2-1900

T.P.O. "Modane à Paris"
 2-3-1900

Arrival: St Petersburg
 22-2-1900 (Julian calendar)

As Russian authorities distrusted the Ethiopian Postal Service, this cover, sent by doctor Nicolas Broutrine of the Russian Mission at Addis Abeba, was forwarded to Djibouti by the Russian Consular Service. Dates of Russian postmarks are according to the Julian calendar, 13 days earlier if compared to dates according to the Gregorian calendar.

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

ETHIOPIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY Period January 1901-September 1904

The projects that Menelik had entrusted to Alfred Ilg and Leon Chefneux in 1893, at the beginning of the new century were far to be completed:

The Ethiopian Posts had made an important step with the creation of a domestic autonomous postal service, but the true Menelik's objective was the admission of Ethiopia into U.P.U., result that was far to be obtained.

The railway line had to link Djibouti to Harrar and Addis Abeba, but at the beginning of 1901 it had only reached Adélé (km.132).

The telegraph line between Harrar and Addis Abeba reached Baltchi at the end of October 1899, when, owing to the insufficiency of material construction, works could not be completed. In the 1900 the situation did not change: no delivery of wire reached Ethiopia. So, waiting for the completion of the line, telegrams were transmitted from Addis Abeba to Harrar by telephone.

The last months of validity of the stamps of 1894 issue

During the Universal Exposition of 1900 in Paris the set of 7 stamps of 1894 issue, valid for franking Ethiopian mail, was sold to promote Ethiopian philately, at Fr. 1,50 while the face value of stamps was Fr. 4,50.

In April 1901 the quotation of Maury's catalogue for the whole set was Fr. 2, less than half of the official value. It was easy for some foreigners to gain money importing into Ethiopia stamps sold in Europe. The result was that, even if mail forwarded from Ethiopia was increasing, the sale of stamps diminished.



ADIS ABEBA type

Addis Abeba to Budapest 11-2-01
1/2 g. postcard uprated 1/2g.
Stamp (1g. postal rate for postcard to abroad).

Pre-canceled 25-1-1901 "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1 (Payne AA1)

Transit Eth. Harrar P.O. 20-2-1

Somali Coast franking at 10 c.
(international postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled at Djibouti 26-2-01

Arrival 1-3-01

A new postmark for the Addis Abeba Post Office



Postcard pre-canceled 25-1-01 one of the earliest dates known of that canceler that replaced the "ENTOTTO" type 2 B postmark, whose use is not reported after the year 1900.

The last months of validity of the stamps of 1894 issue

Henry Muhle, the "Chief of Service of Ethiopian Posts", had to paralyze the results of the importation of Ethiopian stamps bought in Europe under the face value.

He decided to invalidate the stamps of 1894 issue with an overprint to be changed at least once a year to avoid the creation of fake stamps.



Latest reported cover franked with stamps of 1894 issue before the "Ethiopie" issue. Cover forwarded by H. Muhle.

Addis Ababa to Basle

Ethiopian franking at 4 g.

for double weight units postal rate

canceled 11-6-1901

Harrar Et. P.O. 21-6-1901

Somali Coast franking:

50 cents on the backside

(postal rate 25 c. x 2 weight units)

canceled Djibouti 2-7-1901

S/S YANGTSE Line U "La Reunion à Marseille" 3-7-1901

Arrival Basle 16-7-1901.

Letter franco-colonial rate to France



Addis Ababa to Limoges

25-12-1901

Ethiopian franking 2x 19
overprinted "Ethiopie" can-
celed "Addis Ababa" type 1

Harar type 2 blue 3-1-02.

French franking 15c. Obiect
(1894 Warriors) (15c
Franco-Colonial rate) can-
celed 15-1-02.

Arrival 2-2-02

Postcard to abroad

Addis Ababa to Berne 7-2-02

1 g. postcard overprinted "Ethiopie"
canceled "ADIS ABABA" type 1

Transit Harar type 2 in blue dated
14-2-02.

Somali Coast franking 2 x 10 c. bi-
sected canceled 18-2-02.

Arrival 8-3-02

Postcard sent by J.A. Michel ar-
rived to Ethiopia in October 1901. He
worked few months at the Addis
Ababa Post Office and, in March
1902, was sent to Harar as Post-
master of that Post Office.



Sale of stamps for philatelic use

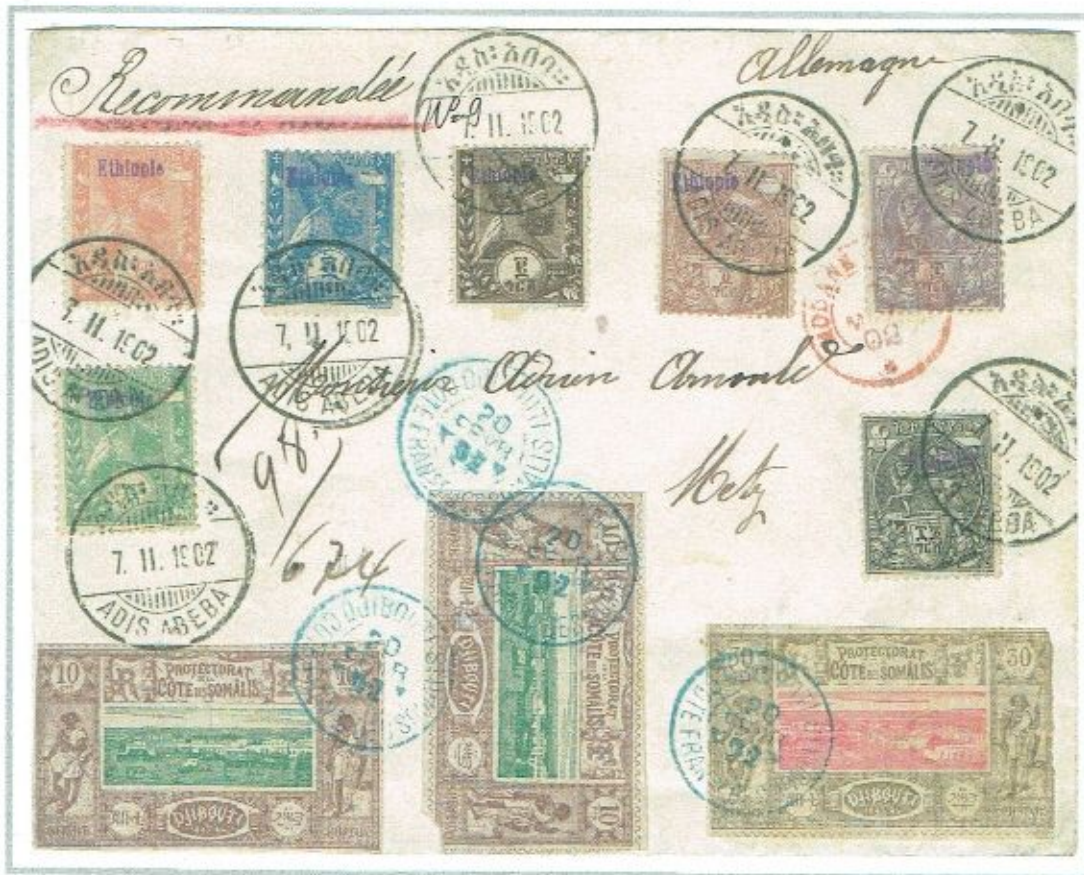
On 18th of July, when H. Muhle issued the "Ethiopie" set, he also sent a "Memorandum" to all users of the Posts in Addis Abeba to give the dispositions how to have overprinted or changed against overprinted stamps the ones invalidated whose origin could be demonstrated. In that document all names of Posts' users were cited: 41 persons! As at Harrar the numbers of users were even smaller and likely most of them used to go to the French post office or send mail by British means, Ethiopian Postal Service was obliged to get money by the sale of stamps for philatelic use. So in the offices they were selling strips of paper with the whole set of stamps attached, mint or canceled to order, ready to be sold, the so called "collections". We also find trace of the philatelic use of stamps by the surviving philatelic covers and the ones addressed to well known philatelic houses.

COLLECTION



Collection of the whole "Ethiopie" set overprinted in blue ink. The stamps in blue ink were overprinted later the ones in violet color, with the original "Ethiopie" deteriorated handstamp, for philatelic use. The remainders of that stamps will be used in 1908 when all old stamps were revalidated for franking mail. It was canceled with "ADDIS ABABA" Type 1 postmark dated 5.1.1902

Registered cover with the whole "Ethiopie" set in violet ink



Addis Abeba to Metz 7-2-02

Ethiopian franking: whole set overprinted "Ethiopie" canceled "ADIS ABABA" type 1

Transit "HARAR" type 2 in blue dated 14-2-02.

Somali Coast franking 50 c. (international postal rate for registered letter) canceled Djibouti 20-2-02.

Arrival 8-3-02

Cover with the whole set of "Ethiopie" stamps forwarded by a merchant in Addis Abeba to a German dealer.

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

ETHIOPIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY Period January 1901-September 1904

Control overprint:

በስጥ፡፡

Validity period: 1-4-1902 to 14-4-1903

The translation from Amharic is "BOSTA" for "POSTA"

While the Addis Abeba Post Office, thanks to the overprinting of stamps and postcards with the "Ethiopie" handstamp, had improved its sales, at Harrar the Ethiopian Post Office had fallen in a deep crisis: Wüllschleger, the postmaster, had committed suicide and had to be substituted. The French Post Office distributed mail received from Djibouti to Harrar's inhabitants and collected mail to be forwarded to Djibouti: people found that way more convenient as saved money (no Ethiopian stamps on mail) and time (3/4 days of stay of mail in the two post offices). Besides the British Legation collected most of mail to be forwarded via Zeila as people was not satisfied of the French service, too slow as it was not yet used the railway line, that was advancing towards Dirré Daoua, for transporting mail. J.A. Michel, a young clerk coming from Switzerland who had passed some months at the Addis Abeba Post Office, was entrusted to the management of the Harrar Post Office as Postmaster. He arrived at Harrar at the beginning of April 1902, just when the new "BOSTA" set was issued by H. Mule at Addis Abeba.

J.A. Michel worked in some directions to give a better service and to improve sale of stamps:

He made an agreement with "Compagnie Imperial des Chemin de Fer Ethiopiens" to forward mail directly to the Djibouti Post Office in sealed bags to let Ethiopian service more fast .

He established lower postal rates for mail to abroad to let Ethiopian Harrar Post Office more competitive.

He improved the sale of stamps to European philatelic houses .

Registered postcard to abroad from Addis Abeba

Addis Abeba to Berne 16-4-1902
Registered postcard at 1 g. overprinted "Bosta", postal rate to abroad.

Transit Eth. Harrar P.O. 27-4-2

Transit Fr. Harrar P.O. 28-4-2

Somali Coast franking at 35 c.
canceled at Djibouti 2-5-02

Arrival 15-5-1902



Early use of a postcard overprinted with "Bosta" handstamp.

ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

When in the 1899 A.Ilg announced to Chefneux the new service about the taxes did not write anything about the taxes for letters from Harrar to Djibouti nor about postcards and ,of course about picture post cards that had not yet been introduced into Ethiopia: so it was necessary to study survived mail to have a complete list of postal rates of that period.

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Addis Abeba to Harrar and vice versa	1g.	1/2g	1/2g.	—
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti into 12/02	1g.	1g.	1/2g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti after 12/02	1/2g.	1g./1/4g.	1/4g.	—

Postcard to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to St. Gallen
(Switzerland) 26-4-1902.

Postcard at 1 g. overprinted
"Bosta", postal rate to abroad.

Transit Harrar Eth. P.O. 7-5-02

Somali Coast franking at 15 c
(5c. Overfranking) canceled at
Djibouti 12-5-02

Sea postmark S/S DJEMNAH
line V La Reunion à Marseille
14-5-02

Arrival 26-5-1902

15c. used instead of 10 cents as
low values were lacking at the
Addis Abeba Post Office.

Postcard to abroad from Harrar



Harrar to Berne 10-9-1902

Postcard at 1 g. overprinted
"Bosta" postal rate to abroad.

Transit Eth. P.O. Harrar 3-9-02

Somali Coast franking at 10 c can-
celed at Djibouti 13-9-02

Sea postmark S/S IRAOUADDY
line V La Reunion à Marseille 13-
9-02

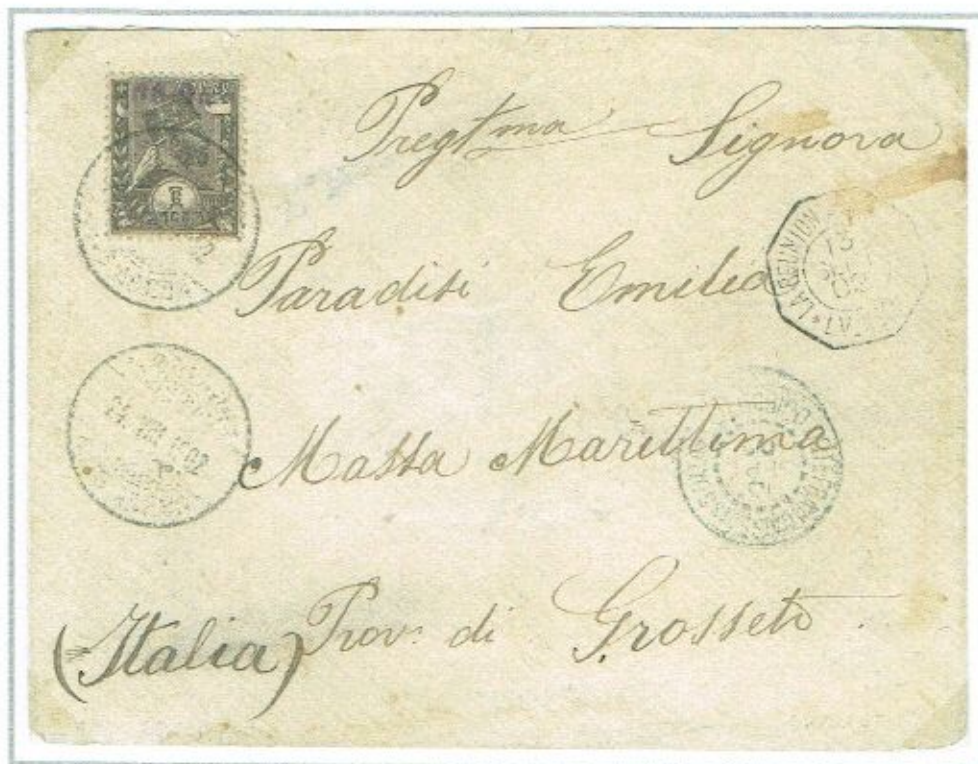
Arrival 26-9-1902

Early registered use in Ethiopia of
1902 Somali Coast stamps.

ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	registration
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti until 07/02	1g.	1g.	1/2g.	—

Letter to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to Grosseto (Italy)
24-8-1902.

Franking at 2 g. overprinted
"Bosta", postal rate from Addis
Abeba to abroad.

Somali Coast franking at 25 c.
(Obach 1894 stamp on the back)
canceled at Djibouti 13-9-02

Sea postmark S/S IRAOUADDY
line V La Reunion à Marseille
13-9-02

Arrival 25-9-1902

Letter to abroad from Harrar



Harrar to Berne 15-5-1902

Ethiopian franking at 1 g.
overprinted "Bosta" postal
rate for letter to Djibouti.

Somali Coast franking at 25 c.
canceled at Djibouti 21-5-02

Sea postmark S/S INDUS line
N "Yokohama à Marseille"
23-5-02

Arrival 2-6-1902

ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

Addis Abeba to Djibouti
Harrar to Djibouti after 10/02

Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	registration
2g.	1g.	1g.	—
1/2g.	1g./1/4g.	1/4g.	—

Registered letter to abroad from Addis Abeba

Addis Abeba to Paris
14-6-1902.

Franking at 2 g. overprinted "Bosta", postal rate from Addis Abeba to Djibouti.

Transit Eth. P.O. Harrar 26-6-02

Somali Coast franking at 40 c. (Obock 1894 stamp), 15 c. Franco-colonial rate, 25 c. for registration, canceled at Djibouti 8-7-02

Sea postmark S/S YANGTSE line V La Reunion à Marseille 15-7-02

Arrival 28-7-1902

Registered letter to abroad from Harrar

Harrar to Berne
12-4-1903

Ethiopian franking at 1/2 g. overprinted "Bosta" postal rate for letter to Djibouti.

Somali Coast franking at 50 c. canceled at Djibouti 14-4-03

Arrival 29-4-1903

Last reported use of stamps overprinted "Bosta" in the period of validity that ended on 14th April 1903.



ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti until 7/02	1g.	1g.	1/2g.	—

Picture postcard to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to Basle
(Switzerland) 27-10-1902.

franking at 1 g. (1894 issue)
postal rate for picture post-
card to Djibouti from Addis
Abeba.

Somali Coast franking at 10 c
canceled at Djibouti 14-11-02

Arrival 29-11-1902

The sender, H. Muhle Director
of Ethiopian Posts, had no
problem, of course, to use a not
overprinted stamp for franking
that postcard.

Picture postcard to abroad from Harrar



Harrar to Berne
(Switzerland)
12-7-1902

Franking at 1/2 g.
(overprinted "Bosta") postal
rate for picture postcard from
Harrar to Djibouti.

Somali Coast franking at 10 c
canceled at Djibouti 18-7-02

Arrival 30-7-1902

ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Harrar to Djibouti after 10/02	1/2g.	1g./1/4g.	1/4g.	—
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—

Picture postcard to abroad from Harrar



Harrar to Geneva
(Switzerland) 9-12-1902.

Franking at 1/4 g. (Overprinted
Bosta) postal rate for picture
postcard to Djibouti from Har-
rar after October 1902.

Somali Coast franking at 10c.
canceled at Djibouti 15-12-02

Sea postmark of S/S
"YANGTSE" Line "V" La
Reunion à Marseilles 15-12-02.

Registered letter 3 weight units to abroad from Addis Abeba

Addis Abeba to Ipswich
(England) 7-9-1902

Franking at 6 g.
(overprinted "Bosta")
postal rate for letter 3
weight units from Addis
Abeba to Djibouti.

Somali Coast franking at
100 c. on the back side (75
c. for 3 weight units, 25 c.
for registration) canceled
at Djibouti 26-9-1902.

Arrival 13-10-1902 (on
the back side).



ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
2g.	1g.	1g.	—

Addis Abeba to Djibouti

Registered 2 weight units letter to abroad from Addis Abeba



Reduced 70%

Addis Abeba to Geneva (Switzerland)
6-11-1902.

Franking at 4 g. (overprinted "Bosta" in blue ink) postal rate for letter 2 weight units from Addis Abeba to Djibouti.

Transit Harar 16-11-1902

Somali Coast franking at 75 c. (50 c. for 2 weight units, 25 c. for registration) canceled at Djibouti 23-11-1902.

Arrival 6-12-1902.

Only two covers franked with stamps overprinted "Bosta" in blue ink are reported.

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

ETHIOPIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY Period January 1901-September 1904

Control overprint:

መልክት

Validity period: 15-4-1903 to 31-12-1904

The translation from Amharic is "MELEKT" for "MESSAGE"

Third and last set overprinted by Henry Muhle who died in the first days of July 1903. A. Ilg had the problem of his replacing: neither J.A. Michel, the Harrar postmaster, nor the Greek A. Voulzoz who managed the Addis Abeba Post Office convinced him, so he did not appoint the new Director of Posts for more then one year.

Letter from Addis Abeba to Constantinople



Addis Abeba to Constantinople 5-6-1904

Letter franked at 2 g. overprinted "Melekt", Ethiopian postal rate to Djibouti from Addis Abeba.

Transit Eth. Harrar P.O. 28-6-4

Somali Coast franking at 35 c. canceled at Djibouti 30-6-04

Transit Port Said 8-7-04

Arrival 18-7-1904

Constantinople (Turkey) scarce destination



ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

During the period of validity of "Melekt" overprint Ethiopian postal rates were the same as during the period of validity of "Bosta" overprint, with only a difference: at Harrar also the 1/4 g. postcard, even if not uprated, was valid for franking to Djibouti.

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Addis Abeba to Harrar and vice versa	1g.	1/2g	1/2g.	—
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti	1/2g.	1g./1/4g.	1/4g.	—

Postcard to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to Wiesbaden (Germany) 6-6-1903.

Postcard at 1 g. *not overprinted*, postal rate to Djibouti.

Transit Harrar Eth. P.O. 17-6-03

Somali Coast franking at 20 c (40c. bisected) canceled at Djibouti 29-6-03.

Arrival 20-6-1903.

French authorities never authorized the 40 c. bisected, so that postcard was taxed at Djibouti with the mark T in a triangle.

Postcard to abroad from Harrar

Harrar to Berne 6-12-1903

Postcard at 1/4 g. overprinted "Melekt" postal rate to Djibouti.

Departure postmark 10-12-03.

Somali Coast franking at 10 c. (1902 issue) canceled at Djibouti 12-12-03 *with the crowned circular postmark.*

Sea postmark S/S OXUS line V La Reunion à Marseille 12-12-03

Arrival 26-12-1903

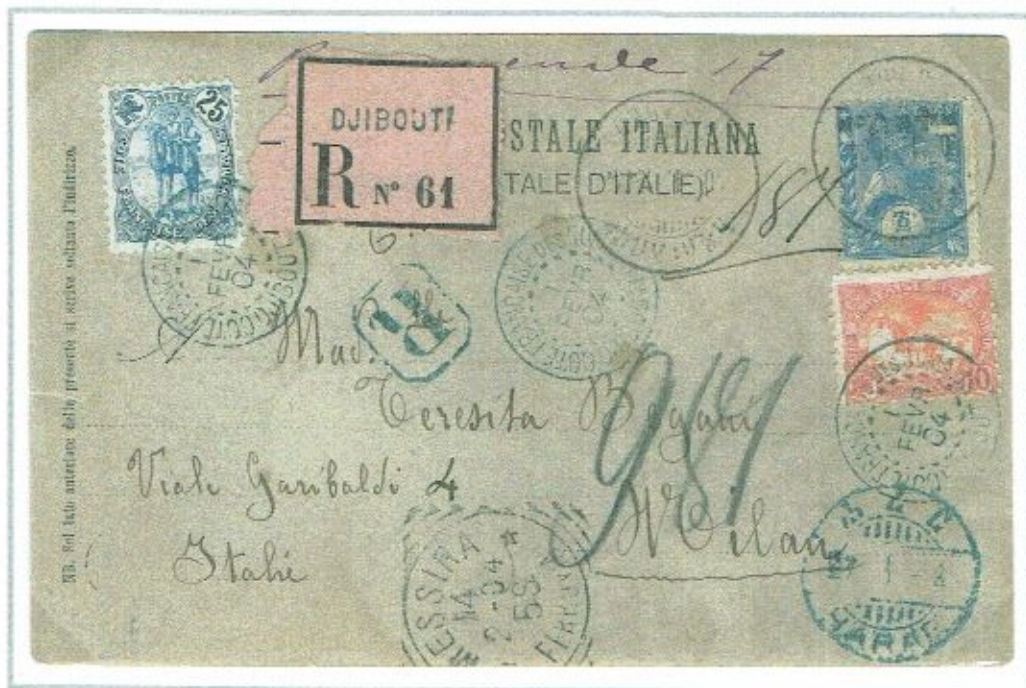
Unique reported Ethiopian item showing the crowned circular Djibouti postmark.



ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Addis Abeba to Harrar and vice versa	1g.	1/2g	1/2g.	—
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—
Harrar to Djibouti	1/2g.	1g./1/4g.	1/4g.	—

Registered picture postcard to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to Milano (Italy)
20-1-1904.

Ethiopian franking at 1 g.
(overprinted "Melekt"), postal
rate to Djibouti.

Transit Harrar Eth. P.C. 27-1-04

Somali Coast franking at 35 c
(1902 issue) canceled at Djibouti
1-2-04.

Transit Messina 14-2-1904.

The pink registration label, used
for a short time in Djibouti, is
scarce on mail from Ethiopia.

Registered postcard to abroad from Harrar



Harrar to Berne 30-8-1903

Postcard at 1/4 g. overprinted
"Melekt" uprated with a 1/2 g.
stamp overprinted "Melekt"

Somali Coast franking at 35 c.
(10 c. international rate for Pict.
Postcard and 25 cents for registra-
tion), canceled at Djibouti 1-9-03.

Faint sea postmark.

Arrival 14-9-1903

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

ETHIOPIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY Period January 1901-September 1904

The French Harrar Post Office, the incoming mail, the telegraph lines, the railway line.

THE FRENCH HARRAR POST OFFICE:

postal rates and use of the "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark.

FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter by 15 grams
25 c.

Picture postcard
10c.

Printed matter
5c.

Registration
25c.

Two weight units letter to Hungary



HARAR
POSTES FRANÇAISES

Postmark

Payne HR4

At the departure the "HARAR
POSTES FRANÇAISES" post-
mark was struck on the front
side and the stamps were can-
celed in transit at Djibouti.



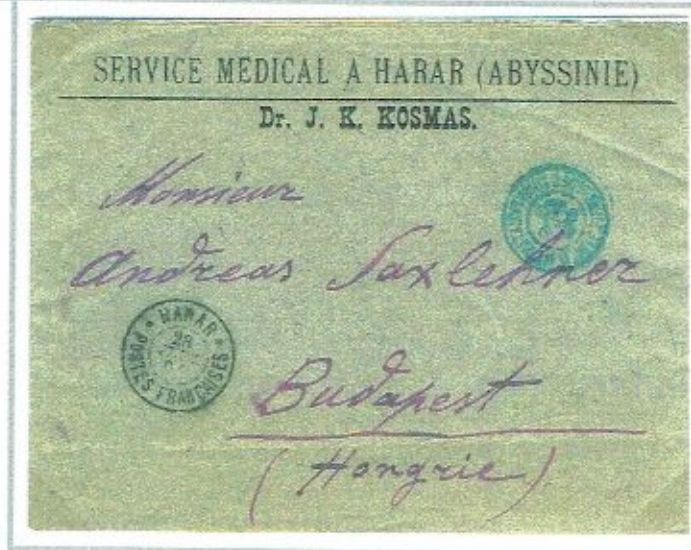
Harrar to Budapest 28-2-1901

HR4 struck on the front side

Franking at 50 c. (2 x 10 c. + 30 c. Djibouti
1894 issue) canceled Djibouti 9-3-01

Sea postmark S/S NATAL Line V La Reu-
nion à Marseilles 16-3-01

Arrival 28-3-1901



ETHIOPIAN POSTAL RATES

	Letter by 15 gr	Postcard	Pict. Postcard	Registration
Addis Abeba to Djibouti	2g.	1g.	1g.	—

Letter to abroad from Addis Abeba



Addis Abeba to Zurich
25-9-1903.

Ethiopian franking at 2 g.
(overprinted "Melekt"), postal
rate from Addis Abeba to Dji-
bouti.

Transit Harar Eth. P.O.
10-10-03 (on the back side)

Somali Coast international
franking at 25 c (1902 issue)
canceled at Djibouti 13-10-03.

Sea postmark S/S IRAOUADDI
Line V La Reunion à Marseilles
15-10-03

Arrival 27-10-03.

Two weight units letter to abroad from Addis Abeba

Addis Abeba to Grosseto
(Italy) 29-8-1903

Ethiopian franking 4 g.
(overprinted "Melekt"), postal
rate to Djibouti for two weight
units letter.

Somali Coast franking at 50 c.
(10c. Djibouti 1889 issue and
Obach 40 c. Warriors 1894 is-
sue) canceled at Djibouti
22-9-03.

Transit Aden ??-9-03

Arrival 5-10-1903 (on the back
side)



THE FRENCH HARRAR POST OFFICE:
postal rates and use of the "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark.

FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter by 15 grams	Postcard	Printed matter	Registration
25 c.	10c.	5c.	25c.

Mail to Djibouti from the Ethiopian Post Offices needed no French franking owing to an agreement between Ethiopian and French authorities, mail forwarded from the French Harrar Post Office needed French postage only, according to the postal rates to abroad.

Letter to Djibouti

At the departure the "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark was struck on the front side and used to cancel the stamps on the back side.



Harrar to Djibouti 29-6-1902

HR4 struck on the front side

Franking at 25 c. (5 x 5 centimes on 40c. Djibouti 1894 issue) canceled HR4 29-06-1902

Arrival 1-7-1902



THE FRENCH HARRAR POST OFFICE:
postal rates and use of the "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" postmark.

FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter by 15 grams
25 c.

Postcard
10c.

Printed matter
5c.

Registration
25c.

Letter to abroad

Harrar to Milano
6-10-1903

*Franking at 25 c. (postal
rate for letter to abroad)
canceled in transit at Dji-
bouti 9-10-03*

*Sea postmark S/S TON-
KIN Line N Yokohama à
Marseille 11-10-03*

Arrival 21-10-03

*At the departure the
" HARAR
POSTES FRANCAISES"
postmark was struck
alongside and not used
to cancel the stamp.*



Harrar to Bogotà (Colombia)
17-10-1903 handwritten in the text.
HR4 missed.

*franking at 10 c. (2 x 5 c. 1901
issue) canceled Djibouti 20-10-03*

*The 1 g. Ethiopian stationery post-
card was used as a normal post-
card.*

*More postcards reported, for-
warded from Harrar in the same
days testify that the sender was
really in Harrar.*



THE INCOMING MAIL

Eleven weight units cover from Djibouti

Djibouti to Harar. 14-3-1901

Postage 2 Fr. 75c. (11 x 25 cents, postal rate for 11 weight units letter to abroad from Djibouti).

Addressed to Mr. Guignony Agent of the Ethiopian Railway Company to be forwarded to Mr. Hugues Le Roux.

Mr Guignony wrote : "Received on 19th March 1901 and delivered on the same day to the Ethiopian post. Best wishes Guignony" and changed the addressee: "Mr. Hugues Le Roux Adiss Abeba". On the back side transit HARAR postmark of type 2 19-3-01. Arrival at Addis Abeba 5-4-1901.

Postal stationery at 1 Piastre from Egypt to Addis Abeba



THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES

The telegraph line between Harrar and Addis Abeba reached Baltchi at the end of October 1899, when, owing to the insufficiency of material construction works could not be completed. In the 1900 the situation did not change: no delivery of wire reached Ethiopia.

So, waiting the line to be completed, telegrams remained transmitted by telephone from Addis Abeba to Harrar..

In 1903 that situation had not yet been solved: one line was functioning at irregular intervals only, because it was constantly interrupted, and it will have to be remade almost entirely.

1902 Registered Telegram envelope

Harrar type 2 blue dated 4-12-02.

Telegram envelope sent by Michel to Ilg to Djibouti, redirected to Zurich



Postcard from Burrà (Scioa) from a worker at the Italian telegraph line



In the meanwhile Italians built a telegraph line linking Asmara and Addis Abeba opened on 21st April 1904 to the international service deserving Abyssinian stations of Adua, Macalle, Uofla, Marto Burrumeta, Uorro, Ailu, Ankober and Addis Abeba.

Burrà (Scioa) to Pavia (Italy)

20-11-03 (handwritten)

Forwarded via Asmara-Aden

Postage 1 Anna cancelled Aden

20-12-03.

Return address on the back side:

"Assigned to works installation telegraphic line. Via Asmara Eritrea."

THE RAILWAY LINE AND THE NEW TOWN DIRRE' DAOUA

With the progress of the railway line part of the mail's travel, previously camel-back, was entrusted to the Railway Company, greatly shortening the delivering time. Adis Harrar (then named Dirré Daoua) was established as a supply depot and shop to support the railway line construction. At the end of 1902 the railway line reached the terminus of Dirré Daoua.

Letter from Laga Harre, provisional terminus of the railway line.

Letter forwarded from Laga Harre (handwritten in the letter), country in the neighbourhood of Dirré Daoua. The inaugural voyage of the train, from Djibouti to Dirré Daoua took place on 24th December 1902. This letter cancelled at Djibouti on 27th December 1902 likely travelled by the first return voyage Dirré Daoua-Djibouti.

Laga Harre to Pistoia (Italy)
16-12-1902 handwritten in the text.

No Ethiopian franking

Franking at 25 c. Obok 1892 issue (postal rate for letter to abroad) canceled in transit at Djibouti 27-12-02

Sea postmark S/S INDUS Line N Yokohama à Marseilles 2-1-03

Arrival 13-1-03



Picture postcard from Dire-Daoua (km. 310 far from Djibouti)

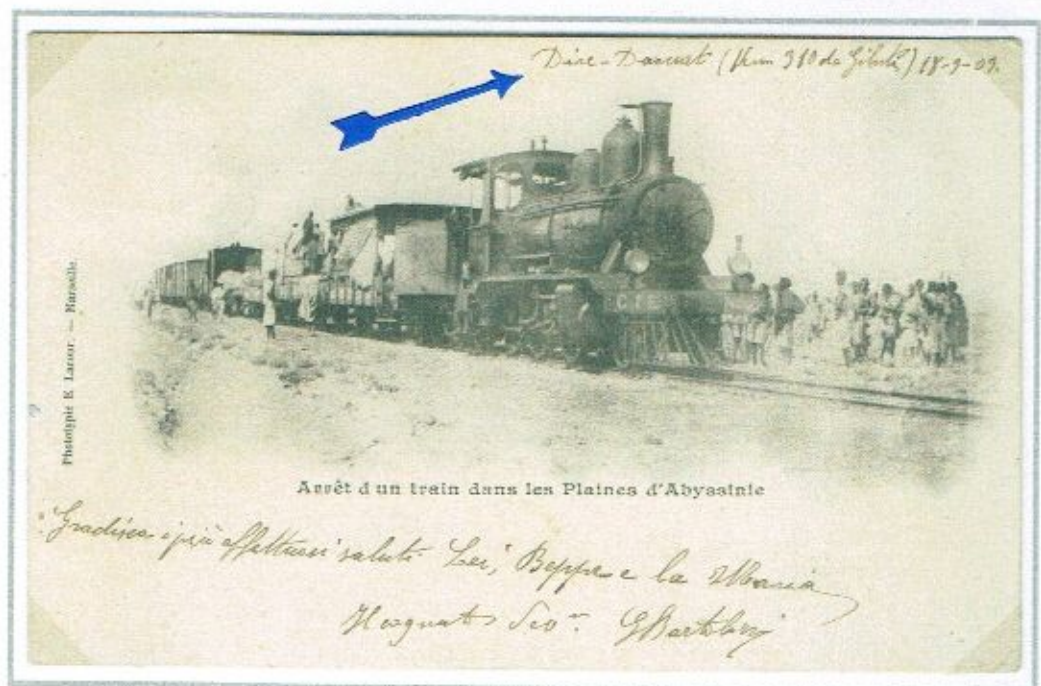


In the back side

Dire Daoua to Pistoia (Italy)
18-3-1903 handwritten in the text.

No Ethiopian franking.

Franking at 10 c. 1902 issue) canceled Djibouti 22-3-1903



THE POSTAL SERVICE AT DIRRE' DAOUA BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE FRENCH POST OFFICE

Soon Dirré Daoua became an important trade center lacking the Post Office until 1st November 1906. Therefore during about four years mail addressed to inhabitants of Dirré Daoua arriving by train from Djibouti was distributed by good care of the Chief of Station, and mail collected at Dirré Daoua addressed to abroad, with French franking alone, was put into bags addressed to the Djibouti Post Office and transported by train together with the correspondences coming from Harrar and Addis Abeba. **Mail from Dirré Daoua can be recognized from that forwarded from Djibouti only from the text.**



Dirré Daoua to Pistoia (Italy)

9-7-1903 handwritten in the text.

No Ethiopian franking

*Franking at 25 c. Obach 1894 issue
(postal rate for letter to abroad) can-
celed in transit at Djibouti 11-7-03.*

*Sea postmark S/S OXUS Line V La
Reunion à Marseilles 14-7-03.*



In the back side

THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

J.A. Michel Director of Ethiopian Posts - Period October 1904-October 1906

Alfred Ilg did not find a convincing solution to the problem of the substitution of Henry Muhle, so after more than one year since his death, having to choose between the Greek A. Voulzos, clerk at Addis Abeba and J.A. Michel, he appointed the Harar's postmaster Director of Ethiopian Posts since 1st October 1904.

Michel decided to remain at Harar whose Post Office became the Main Ethiopian Post Office, where decisions were taken and new sets of stamps were issued.

Michel's management was very unfair: he issued a lot of overprinted stamps and postage dues, and even A. Ilg prohibited him to sell or use some set of stamps he had produced, he did not follow Ilg's orders.

That attitude led to the end of the of the private Ethiopian Posts and in late 1906 Michel was called by Menelik to take service in Addis Abeba in order to prepare the birth of the Ethiopian Imperial Posts with the management of a French staff.

J.A. MICHEL BEGINS HIS MANAGEMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN POSTS

Appointed Director of Ethiopian Posts, Telegraph and Telephone since 1st October 1904, Michel immediately decided some measures that can be verified in the survived mail.

The old agreement with the Somali Coast authorities to consider the Ethiopian domestic postage at 2 g. valid for mail to Djibouti was not more respected by the Djibouti Post Office that taxed mail from Ethiopia not franked with the stamps of that colony.

Since October 1904 letters to Djibouti (and to abroad) had to be franked with 1 g. per 15 gr. for domestic postage from Addis Abeba to Harar and with 25 cents per 15 gr. of French colony stamps from Harar to Djibouti (and to abroad). Of course incoming mail from Djibouti was taxed at Harar at 1 g. per 15 gr. for the internal service.

መልክት
ብሔር

The 1 g. stamp is overprinted both with the Bosta Essay and with the Melekt handstamp.

*Addis Abeba to Djibouti
26-10-04*

1g. stamp with double overprint (1g. postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1 (Payne AA1)

Somali Coast franking at 25 c. (new postal rate for letter to Djibouti) canceled at the arrival 7-11-04

New postal rate for letter to Djibouti from Addis Abeba



THE FRANCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

J.A. Michel Director of Ethiopian Posts - Period October 1904-October 1906

J.A. Michel, Director of Ethiopian Posts and Telegraphs, during 1905 introduced several changes that had an impact into the Ethiopian postal history: on 1st of January, with the agreement of A. Ilg, he issued a new set overprinting the 1894 set with centimes and Francs values with figures of European numbers:

05 on 1/4 g. , 10 on 1/2 g. , 20 on 1 g. , 40 on 2 g. , 80 on 4 g. , 1,60 on 8 g. , 3,20 on 16 g.

In March 1905 he declared a shortness of low values, asked A. Voultsos a supply of remainders of previous overprinted stamps and created the so called "Harrar provisionals" adding the value in centimes of Francs.

In April 1905 he created the first postage due set overprinting the 1894 with a T and few months later with the handstamp **Taxe à Percevoir T**

Besides he introduced the payment of a fee for the Registration of mail for the domestic service between Addis Abeba and Harrar.

In January 1906 he issued two sets overprinting the Numeral set with the Amharic handstamp **ሞኒልክ** and a tween handstamp made with smaller Amharic characters **ሞኒልክ** whose meaning is Menelik .

In September 1906 he issued a new set overprinting the 1894 set with the handstamp **ሞኒልክ**
05

THE ETHIOPIAN HARRAR POST OFFICE

In that period the French colony franking was mandatory for mail to Djibouti, but this postcard, as correspondence between two Directors of posts, was free of postage.

Harrar to Djibouti
2-11-04

Postcard at 1 g. overprinted
Meleki canceled "HARAR"
Type 2



The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office - The "Numeral" issue

Since early in January we find mail originated in that Post Office franked with the new "Numerals" stamps as that set was issued there. Postal rates for mail from Harrar did not change.

Picture postcard to Zanzibar, very scarce destination, franked with Numeral "05" on 1/4 g.



Harrar to Zanzibar

22-1-05

Postcard at 05 c. on 1/4 g. canceled "HARAR" Type 2

Somali Coast franking at 10 cent (1902 issue) canceled Djibouti 25-1-05

Transit Aden 6-2-05

Arrival 14-2-05

Letter to Marseilles franked with Numeral "10" on 1/4 g. taxed as lacking French colony postage.

Owing to shortness of blue ink in some periods of 1905 black ink was used at the Ethiopian Harrar post Office: so we find mail canceled with black or blue-black ink.

Harrar to Marseilles

17-8-05

Letter franked at 10 cents on 1/2 g. canceled "HARAR" Type 2 in black ink.

No French colony franking

Taxed at Djibouti with T in a triangle.

Postage due at 50 cents (25 cents postal rate x 2) applied at the arrival at Marseilles.

3-9-05



The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office - The "Provisionals of Harrar" issue

Michel created the "Provisionals of Harrar" to solve the problem of lacking low values (mainly 1/4 g. or 5 cents). Many students of Ethiopian Postal History think it was only a way to create new stamps.

Registered picture postcard to Switzerland franked with "Provisional" 5c/m on 1/2 g. bisected



5c/m
on 1/2 g bisected

Harrar to Berne
19-3-05

Postcard at 5 c/m. on 1/2 g.
bisected diagonally canceled
"HARAR" Type 2

Somali Coast franking at: 35
cents (10 c. postal rate to
abroad, 25 c. for registration)
canceled Djibouti 23-3-05

Arrival 5-4-05

This cover shows no Registration fee. That detail confirms that the Ethiopian Registration was a domestic registration to be added to the French one valid from Harrar to destination.

Postcard to Berne franked with the Provisional "5 Centimes" on 16 g. overprinted "BOSTA"

5
centimes

on 16 g. "BOSTA"



Harrar to Bern
2-4-05

franked at "5 centimes" on 16 g.
canceled "HARAR" Type 2 in
black ink.

French Somali Coast franking
at 10 cents (1903 issue) 6-4-05

S/S IRAOUADDY Line V La
Reunion à Marseilles 14-4-05

Arrival 26-4-05

Use of Provisional "5 Centimes" on 16 g. overprinted "Bosta" on traveled mail is very scarce

Letter from Harrar to Djibouti franked with the "Provisional" "05" on 1/4 g. overprinted "BOSTA"

ሰከጣ።

05



The Ethiopian postage of this letter is formed both with the Provisional 05 on 1/4 g. overprinted "Bosta" and with 1/4 g. of non-issued (or faked) overprinted "Ethiopie" stamp by J.A. Michel.

Harrar to Djibouti 16-7-1905

Ethiopian franking at 10 c. (05 on 1/4 overprinted Bosta and 1/4g "Ethiopie" Michel's handstamp) postal rate for letter from Harrar to abroad canceled "HARAR" Type 2 in blue ink. 16-7-05

French Somali Coast franking at 25 cents (1902/3 issues) international postal rate for letter from Harrar to abroad canceled 18-7-05

Arrival 18-7-05

The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office - The introduction of the postage Due stamps

Michel issued his first postage due set in April 1905 carving a "T" for the French word "Taxe" on a piece of wood to which his barometer previously was fixed and hand-stamped the 1894 set with it. Ethiopia was not yet member of U.P.U. , so its Post Offices did not collected taxes for insufficiently pre-paid mail, that was reserved to the French Post Office. Ethiopian Due stamps were mainly used as inland postage stamps for the transport of foreign mail from Harrar to Addis Abeba. They were applied and cancelled at Harrar and their amount paid by the addressee at Addis Abeba. Mail of Harrar's inhabitants was delivered by the French post office. Less then five items entrusted to the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office to be delivered by the "Poste Restante" service (General delivery) are known: Postage Dues were used to pay that service.

T on 1894 set



The only incoming wrapper to Ethiopia known and the highest reported franking of this issue whose validity lasted about four months. Only few covers franked with this issue are known

Wien to Harrar 7-4-1905

Wrapper of 3 Heller uprated with 27 Heller for a total of Austrian franking at 30 Heller

Ethiopian taxation at 5 g. (2 x 2 g. + 1 g. overprinted with "T" hand-stamp) postal rate for Printed Matter 5 weight units per 40 gr. (up to 160-200 grams) canceled with "HARAR" type 2 in blue ink. 4-5-05.

Arrival 4-5-05

The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office - The introduction of the Postage Due stamps



TAXE
à
PERCEVOIR
T

on 1894 stamps

Budapest to Harrar
17-2-1906

Hungarian postage at 25
Filler (postal rate for let-
ter from Hungary to
abroad).

Transit at Djibouti 7-3-05

Ethiopian taxation at 1 g.
(1 g. 1894 overprinted with
"TAXE A PERCEVOIR
T" handstamp) fee for
"General delivery" service
at Harrar for letter per 15
grams canceled with
"Harrar" type 2 12-3-06.

The set of "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" Postage Due was issued by Michel in August 1905.

The indication of "Poste Ethiopienne" in the address explains why this cover was entrusted to the Ethiopian Posts to be delivered to an addressee in Harrar.

The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office - The 1906 overprint MENELIK I type II

ጾጋሐክ

MENELIK I type II (mm. 15x3,5)
on "Numerals" issue

Harrar to Alexandrette (Syria)
26-5-1906

Ethiopian Postage at 1/4 g.
("05" Numeral overprinted
Menelik I type II, domestic rate
for postcard to abroad).

French colony postage at 10 c.
(1903 issue) canceled Djibouti
29-5-06

Arrival 19-6-06



Use of "05" c. stamp overprinted Menelik I type II on a postcard to Syria (scarce destination).

The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

	Domestic	To Djibouti and abroad	Registration
Picture postcard	10c.(1/2g.)	10c.(1/2g.)+10c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.
Postcard	10c.(1/2g.)	20c.(1g.)+10c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.

Registered picture postcard to Marseilles



Addis Abeba to Marseilles
14-7-05

Ethiopian franking 40c. (10 c. domestic postal rate, 20 c. for registration, 10 c. over-franked) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

Somali Coast franking at 35 cents (1903 issue) (10 c. international postal rate, 25 c. for registration) canceled Djibouti 22-7-05

Arrival 13-8-05

5 c/m on 1 guerche Stationery Postcard to Bern

The 5 c/m on 1 g. Postcard can be considered as a "Provisional Harrar Postcard", sold only in the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office. This one was sold pre-canceled at Harrar on 20-3-05, brought to Addis Abeba and sent on 17-5-1908 from the Capital.

Addis Abeba to Bern 17-5-05

Postcard overprinted 5 c/m on 1 g. uprated with 1/4g. "Bosta" and 1/2g. "Melekt" (total 1 g., domestic postal rate) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

Transit Harrar 25-5-05

French Somali Coast franking at 15 cents (1903 issue) (10 c. international postal rate, 5c. over-franked) 29-3-05

S/S OXSUS Line U La Reunion à Marseilles 27-5-05



The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

	Domestic	To Djibouti and abroad	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)+25c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.

Letter to abroad with domestic postage at 20 c. (4x "05" c. "Numeral")



Addis Abeba to Milano 26-8-05

franked at 20 c. (4x "05" c.)
(domestic postal rate for letter)
canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

Transit Harrar 6-8-05

French Somali Coast franking at 25
cents) (25 c. international postal
rate) 6-8-05



Letter to Djibouti with do-
mestic postage at 20 cent.
"Numeral".

Letter to Djibouti was con-
sidered like letter to abroad.

Addis Abeba to Djibouti
26-3-05

Ethiopian franking with 20c.
"Numeral" on 1 g. (20 c. domes-
tic postal rate for letter) canceled
"ADIS ABEBA" Type 1

Transit Harrar 6-4-05

Somali Coast franking at 25
cents (1903 issue) (25 c. interna-
tional postal rate for letter) can-
celed Djibouti 7-4-05

Arrival 7-4-05

The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

	Domestic	To Djibouti and abroad	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)+25c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.

Letter to Austria franked with 1 guerche overprinted "BOSTA" owing to the cited shorting of low value



Addis Abeba to Vienna
28-3-05

Ethiopian franking with 1 g. overprinted "Bosta" (1 g. domestic postal rate for letter) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1

Transit Harar 25-4-05

Somali Coast franking at 25 cents (1903 issue) (25 c. international postal rate for letter) canceled Djibouti 30-4-05

S/S OXUS Line V La Reunion à Marseilles 4-5-05

Transit Trieste 15-5-05

Arrival 15-5-05

Registered double weight units letter to Austria

Addis Abeba to Wien
18-9-05

franked at 60 c. "Numeral" (40 c. domestic double weight units postal rate, 20 c. Registration) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

French Somali Coast franking at 75 cents (1903 issue) (50 c. international postal rate for letter, 25c. Registration)
24-9-05

Transit Marseilles 6-10-05



The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

Domestic

To Djibouti and abroad

Registration

Printed Matter

5c.(1/4g.)+5c.

Envelop for visit card

10c.(1/4g.)+10c.

Picture postcard with only the signature (printed matter postal rate) to Switzerland



Picture postcard written in the handwriting of the Alfred Ilg's son.

**Addis Abeba to Switzerland
??-12-05**

*Ethiopian franking with 0.5 c.
Numeral on 1/4 g. (5c. domestic postal rate for printed matter) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1*

Somali Coast franking at 5 cents (1903 issue) (5 c. international postal rate for printed matter) canceled Djibouti 12-12-05

Envelope for visit card to Switzerland

**Addis Abeba to Zurich
17-12-05**

franked at 10 c. (2 x "05" c. Numeral on the back-side, domestic postal rate for visit card) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

French Somali Coast franking at 10 cents (1903 issue) (10 c. international postal rate for visit card) canceled Djibouti 19-12-05



Less than five envelopes for visit card are reported.

Reduced 70%

The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates for incoming mail to Addis Abeba :

	Internal service	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)
Picture postcards	10c.(1/2 g.)	20c.(1g.) (not reported)

Mail from abroad to Addis Abeba, coming from the Djibouti Post Office was delivered to the Harrar Post Office where Michel applied and canceled the Postage Dues he had issued, to pay the fee for the internal service between Harrar and Addis Abeba. The Capital's Post Office delivered the mail and collected the amount of the Postage Dues by the addressees.

Three weight units incoming letter from Djibouti to Addis Abeba taxed with T Postage Dues stamps



Djibouti to Addis Abeba 27-4-1905

Somali Coast franking at 75 cents (1903 issue) (3 x 25 c. international postal rate for letter three weight units) canceled Djibouti 9-3-06

Ethiopian Dues 3 g. T on a strip of three 1894 stamps at 1 g. canceled Harrar 2-5-05.

The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates for incoming mail to Addis Abeba :

	Internal service	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)
Picture postcards	10c.(1/2 g.)	20c.(1g.) (not reported)

Incoming letter from Port Said to Addis Abeba taxed with a "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" Postage Due stamp



Port Said to Addis Abeba
25-12-1905.

Port Said franking at 50 cents (2 x 25 c. international postal rate for letter two weight units) canceled Port Said

Djibouti transit 3-1-06

Ethiopian Due 1 g "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" on 1894 stamp at 1 g (domestic postal rate for letter) canceled Harar 8-1-1906.

Incoming picture postcard from France to Addis Abeba taxed with a 1/2g. "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" Postage Due stamp.

Riom Puy de Dome (France) to Addis Abeba 15-12-1905

French franking at 10 cents (international postal rate for picture postcard)

Ethiopian Due "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" on 1894 stamp at 1/2 g. (domestic postal rate for picture postcard) canceled Harar 8-1-06.



The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

	Domestic	To Djibouti and abroad	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)+25c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.

At the beginning of 1906 Michel issued new sets overprinting the "NUMERAL" set with two Amharic "MENELIK" handstamps, different only in the wideness of characters, inducing collectors to buy both sets.

MENELIK I type I **ጊጌልክ**
16,75 x 4,5 mm.

MENELIK I type II **ጊጌልክ**
15 x 3,5 mm.

Registered twelve weight units letter to abroad - Ethiopian postage formed by MENELIK I Type I stamp



Addis Abeba to Wien 26-2-1906

This is the reported commercial cover with the highest franking in the pre-U.P.U. period: 2 Fr. 60 c. of Ethiopian stamps, domestic postal rate, and 3 Fr. 25 cents of Somali Coast stamps, for international postal rate, to pay the Postage for this Registered twelve weight units cover.

Ethiopian franking at 2 Fr. 60c. (Menelik I Type 1 issue) (12 x 20c. = 2 Fr. 40 c. domestic postal rate for letter up to 12 x 15 = 180 gr. and 20 cents for Registration) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.

Somali Coast franking at 3 Fr. 25 cents (1902-03 issue) (12 x 25 c. international postal rate for letter up to 12x15 = 180 gr. and 25 c. for Registration) canceled Djibouti 9-3-06

Arrival 24-3-1906

The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

	Domestic	To Djibouti and abroad	Registration
Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	20c.(1g.)	20c.(1g.)+25c.	20c.(1g.)+25c.

At the beginning of September 1906 Michel issued his last set of stamp in Harrar, overprinting the 1904 set with at top the Amharic "MENELIK" handstamp with four dots (Amharic full stop) at the end, and the value in Centimes at bottom.

MENELIK II

ጊደክ።

05

Registered four weight units letter to abroad - Ethiopian postage formed by MENELIK II stamps



Addis Abeba to Berlin 12-9-1905.

*Ethiopian franking at 1 Fr. (20 c. Menelik II issue + 80c. Numerals issue)
80 c. domestic postal rate for letter up to 4 x 15 = 60 gr. and 20 cents for
Registration) canceled "ADIS ABEBA" Type 1.*

*Somali Coast franking at 1 Fr. 25 cents (1903 issue)(1 Fr. international
postal rate for letter up to 4x15 = 60 gr. and 25 c. for Registration)
canceled Djibouti 25-9-06*

Arrival 6-10-1906

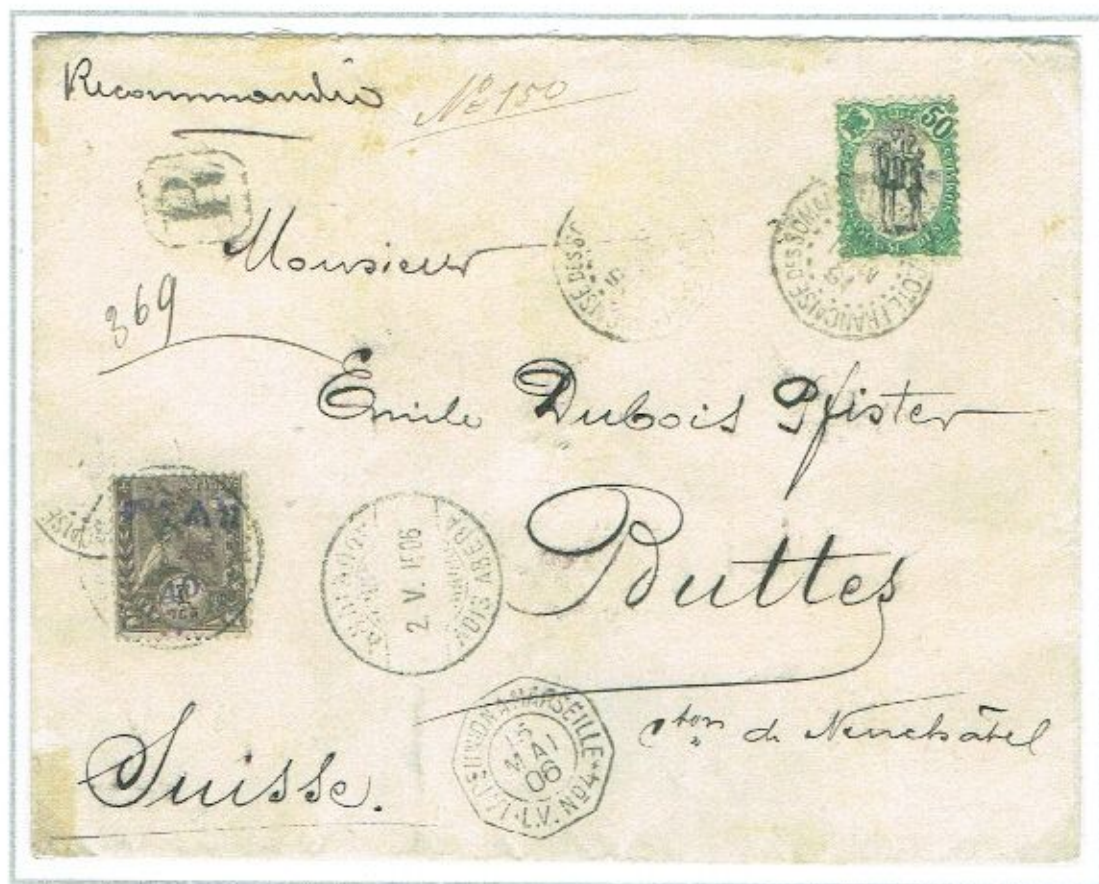
The Addis Abeba Post Office - The innovations introduced by J.A.Michel

New postal rates from Addis Abeba :

Letter per fraction of 15 gr.	Domestic 20c.(1g.)	To Djibouti and abroad 20c.(1g.)+25c.	Registration 20c.(1g.)+25c.
-------------------------------	-----------------------	--	--------------------------------

Registered letter to England

Ethiopian postage formed by a Menelik I type I stamp.



Addis Abeba to Buttes (Switzerland) 2-5-1906.

Ethiopian franking at 40c. Menelik I type I (20 c. domestic postal rate for letter and 20c. for Registration).

Somali Coast franking at 50 c. 1903 issue (25 c. international postal rate for letter 25 c. for Registration) canceled Djibouti 15-5-06.

Sea postmark S/S IRAOUADDY Line V La Reunion a Marseille 15-5-06

Arrival 26-5-1906.



The back-side red. 50%

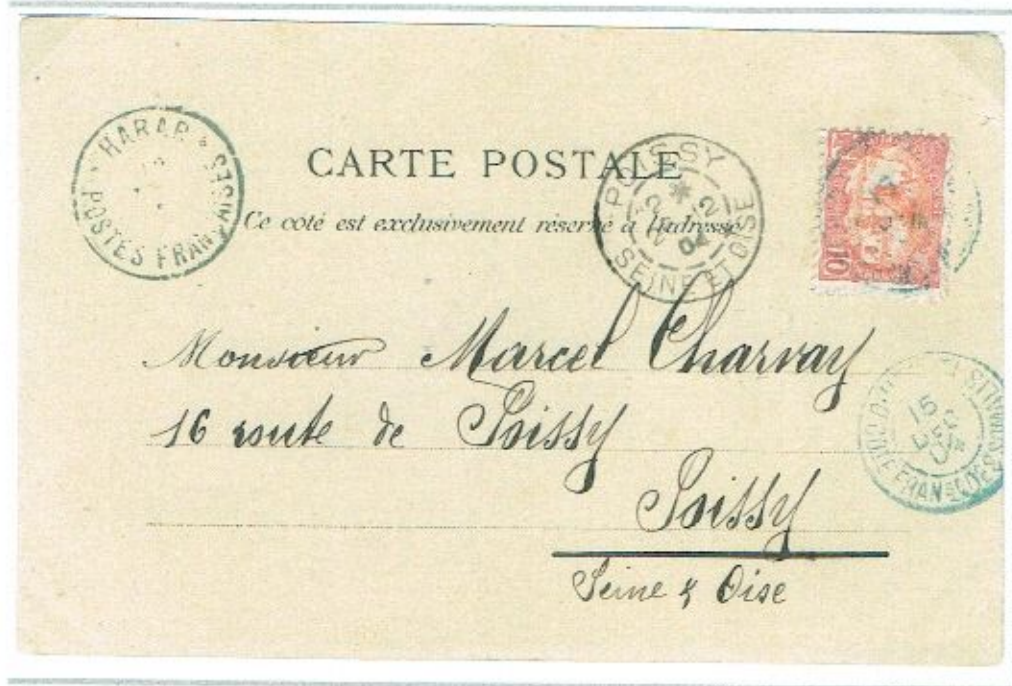
THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

Mail originated in the French Harrar Post Office - Period October 1904-October 1906

FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter per 15 grams 25 c.	Picture Postcard 10 c.	Postcard 10 c.	Printed matter 5 c.	Registration 25 c.
------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

Picture postcard forwarded from Harrar



Harrar to Poissy (France)

13-12-1904

Canceled alongside "HARAR POSTES FRANCAISES".

Somali Coast franking at 10 cen (1902 issue) canceled Djibouti

15-12-04

Arrival 26-12-04

Ethiopian stationery postcard used as postal card from Harrar

Harrar to Aix-les-Bains (France)

Postcard at 1/4 g. Melekt (not considered as franking) canceled alongside "HARAR POSTES FRANCAISES".

Somali Coast franking at 10 c. (1903 issue) (postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled Djibouti 28-2-05.



FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter per 15 grams
25 c.

Picture Postcard
10 c.

Postcard
10 c.

Printed matter
5 c.

Registration
25 c.



Printed matter to abroad

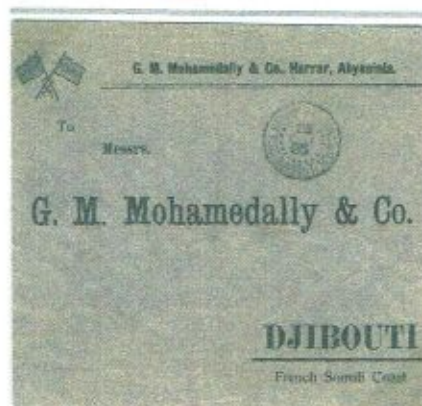
Harar to Toulouse
(France) 31-8-1905

Alongside on the cover
"HARAR POSTES
FRANCAISES" post-
mark.

Somali Coast franking at
5 cents (1902 issue) can-
celed Djibouti 2-9-05

Sea postmark S/S OX-
SUS Line U La Reunion
a Marseille 2-9-05

Letter double weight unit to
Djibouti



Harar to Djibouti 22-10-1905
Somali Coast franking at 50 c.
(1c.+12x2c.+25c. issue
1902/1903) postal rate for letter
double weight unit to Djibouti can-
celed "HARAR POSTES FRAN-
CAISES".
Arrival 25-10-1905



FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter per 15 grams	Picture Postcard	Postcard	Printed matter	Registration
25 c.	10 c.	10 c.	5. c.	25 c.

Letter to abroad



*Harar to Selongey (France)
11-12-1905*

*Alongside on the cover "HARAR
POSTES FRANCAISES" postmark.*

*Somali Coast franking at 25 cents (1902
issue) canceled Djibouti 12-12-06*

*Sea postmark S/S NATAL Line V La
Reunion a Marseille 14-12-05*

Arrival 26-12-05

Registered letter sheet to abroad

Harar to Mirabel (France)

11-2-1906

*Somali Coast franking at 50 c.
(40c.+15c. 1903 issue) 25 c. postal
rate for letter to abroad and 25 c.
for registration canceled "HARAR
POSTES FRANCAISES".*

Arrival 24-2-1906



FRENCH POSTAL RATES

Letter per 15 grams
25 c.

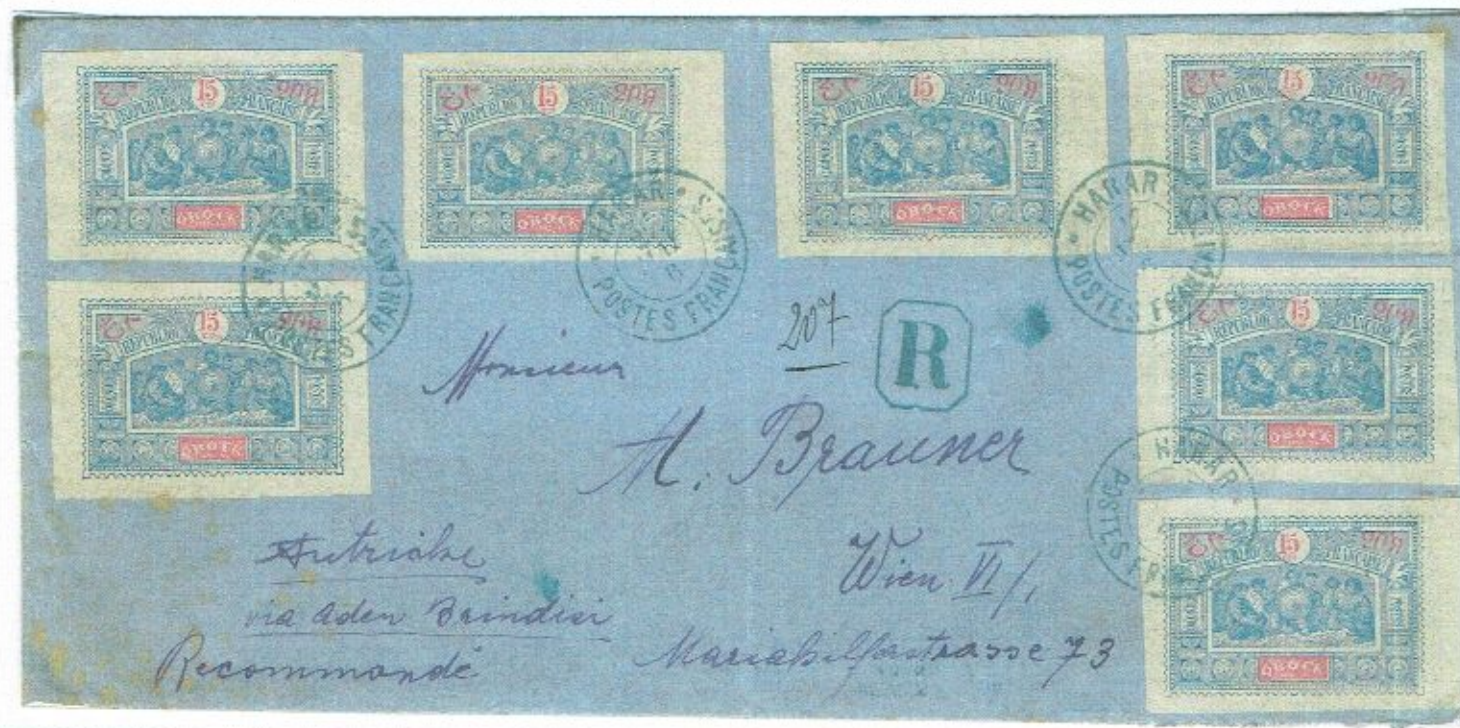
Picture Postcard
10 c.

Postcard
10 c.

Printed matter
5 c.

Registration
25 c.

Registered treble weight unit letter to abroad



Harar to Wien (Austria) 27-5-1906

Somali Coast franking at 105 c. (7x15 c. Obck 1894 Warriors) 75c. Treble weight unit, 25c. Registration and 5 c. overfranking, canceled "HARAR POSTES FRANCAISES".

Arrival 9-6-1906

Declared value letter to abroad



Harar to Paris
18-3-1906

Alongside on the cover "HARAR POSTES FRANCAISES" postmark.

Somali Coast franking at 60 cents (25c. postal rate for letter per 15 gr., 25 c. registration 10c. tax for the maritime transport) canceled Djibouti 20-3-06

Sea postmark S/S TOURANE
Line N Yokohama a Marseille
24-3-06

Arrival 5-4-1906



THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

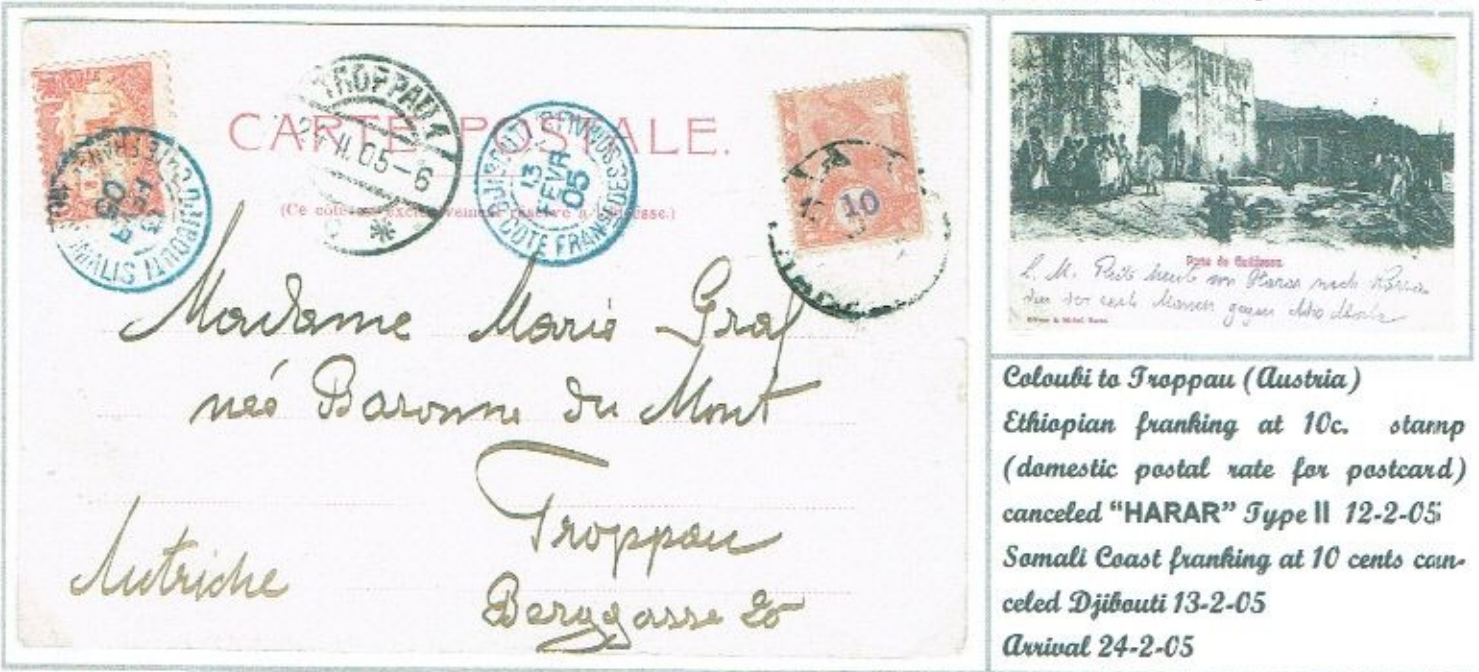
Mail originated outside Addis Abeba and Harrar - Period October 1904-October 1906

The few Europeans in the concessions and the explorers crossing the country forwarded their mail to the existing Post Offices by private means, or, if they were at the proximity of relays, on the mail route between Addis Abeba and Harrar, they deposited it in that relays, with postage stamps sometimes marked to allow the identification to prevent their theft. Inhabitants of the new town Diré Daoua, terminus of the railway yet without a Post Office, and the small towns along the railway line handed over their mail to agents of the "Company" for its forwarding to Djibouti.

Mail deposited in the relays along the mail route between Addis Abeba and Harrar

That mail, that had to be franked according to the postal rates of mail originated in Addis Abeba, was picked up in transit by the courier transporting mail between the Capital and Harrar.

Postcard forwarded in route from Harrar to Karsa (in the text) likely deposited in the relay of Couloubi.



Postcard marked "DERU" to avoid its theft. The relays were sited on the mail route, for the change of mules used for transporting mail. Deru is cited in the text like country of departure of that postcard.

Deru to Troppau (Austria)

Postcard at 20 c. (postal rate for postcard to abroad from interior)
canceled "HARAR" Type 2 26-2-05
Somali Coast franking at 10 c.
(French postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled 28-2-05.

Arrival 17-3-05



MAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE ADDIS ABEBA AND HARRAR

AOUARA MALKA

Aouara Malka was a country located about 60 Km. far from Awash on the mail route from Addis Abeba to Harrar. At Aouara Malka there was a relay where mail was deposited and a plantation granted in concession by Menelik to Armand Savouré, a small-arms trader who supplied the Emperor. The plantation was managed by the Swiss house "Koto".

Postcard from Aouara Malka to Switzerland



Both the postcard and the 10 cents Numeral are marked "Aouara Malka" in order to prevent theft.

Aouara Malka to Berne

4-5-1905 from the text.

Postcard at 10 cents pre-cancelled Harrar 20-3-05 uprated with 10 c canceled in transit "HARRAR" type I 14-5-05 (20 c. domestic postal rate for postcard outside Harrar).

Somali Coast franking at 15 c. 1905 issue (10 c. international postal rate for postcard to abroad, 5 cents over franked) canceled Djibouti 16-5-05.

Arrival 30-5-05

Domestic letter from Harrar to Aouara Malka



Harrar to Aouara Malka

18-9-1905.

Ethiopian franking at 20 c. Numeral issue (20 c. domestic postal rate for letter per 15 gr.) canceled HARRAR type II.

Only three Domestic letters to Aouara Malka are reported.

AOUARA MALKA

Registered incoming letter from Switzerland



On the back-side Reduced 80%

This Registered letter demonstrates that incoming covers were taxed both for the domestic service and for the internal Registration.

Bern (Switzerland) to Aouara Malka 9-2-1906.

Swiss franking at 75 cents (50 cents postal rate for letter double weight unit to abroad, 25 cents for Registration)

Transit postmark Marseilles 10-2-06

Transit postmark Djibouti 21-2-06

Sea postmark S/S OXSUS Line U Marseilles a La Reunion 10-2-06

Ethiopian postage due "TAXE à PERCEVOIR T" at 3 g. (2g. domestic postal rate for letter double weight unit and 1 g. for Registration) canceled HARAR type II 27-2-06.

MAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE ADDIS ABEBA AND HARRAR

Mail forwarded from towns along the railway line

Couriers were left at the stations where an Agent of the "Company" was entrusted to bring them to Djibouti. There mail, franked with French postage alone, was delivered to the Post Office to be forwarded to its destination by the International Postal Service.

Picture postcard to Italy from Andobed



Andobed to Pistoia (Italy)

9-11-1905.

Somali Coast franking at 10 c. 1903 issue (10 c. international postal rate for picture postcard) canceled Djibouti 14-11-05

Sea postmark S/S OXSUS Line V "La Reunion a Marseille" 14-11-05

Andobed was a small town near Adagalla that was reached by the railway line in November 1901.

Picture postcard to Italy from Daouanlé



Daouanlé to Pistoia (Italy)

22-10-1906.

Somali Coast franking at 10 c. 1903 issue (10 c. international postal rate for picture postcard) canceled Djibouti 23-10-06

Arrival 2-11-06 handwritten on the back side

At Daouanlé there was the first railway station within the Ethiopian boundaries

MAIL ORIGINATED OUTSIDE ADDIS ABEBA AND HARRAR

THE GOLD MINES OF WALLAGA

Wallaga is the most important region for the extraction of Ethiopian gold. It is sited in the western part of Ethiopia at the borders on Sudan. In 1897 French mining research in that region began and its result led to a concession granted by Menelik to A. Ilg. When French left, owing to financial difficulties, the Italian Engineer Ribor took the direction of works of a new company created by Italians and Belgians. Some other Italians worked at the mines such as Servadei, the sender of that items.

Postcard to Italy forwarded by a worker at the mines



Return address of that postcard:
A Servadei, Italian Consulate Asten
to Gold Mines Neggio Abyssinia

Addis Abeba to Milano 15-3-1905
Postcard at 1 g. overprinted "Melekt"
Canceled "ADDIS ABEBA" type I.

Transit Harar 26-3-05

Somali Coast franking at 10 c. 1903
issue (international postal rate for
postcard to abroad) canceled Djibouti
29-3-05.

Sea postmark S/S OXUS Line U La
Reunion a Marseilles 3-4-05

Arrival 16-4-05

COVER HEADED:
"MINES D'OR DU WALLAGA"
(Gold mines of Wallaga)
forwarded by A. Servadei

Addis Abeba to Milano
13-9-1905.

Ethiopian franking at 40 c.
Numeral issue (40 c. domestic
postal rate for letter double
weight unit) canceled ADDIS
ABEBA type I.

Somali Coast franking at 50 c.
1903 issue (international
postal rate for letter double
weight unit) canceled 24-9-05.

Arrival 6-10-05



THE FRENCH POST AND THE ETHIOPIAN POST

(May 1899-December 1907)

J.A. MICHEL AT ADDIS ABEBA AND THE DIRRE DAOUA POST OFFICE

The relationship between A. Ilg and the Emperor Menelik, owing the influence of the French, deteriorated and Ilg with his family left Ethiopia definitively in March 1906. The Emperor later asked J.A. Michel to move to Addis Abeba: the Director of the Ethiopia Ethiopian Posts and Telegraphs left Harrar on 15 October 1906 and reached Addis Abeba where he worked in the Ethiopian Post Office as an employee under the direction of the Ethiopian Lidj Bayane.

Harrar had lost its role of second Ethiopian town since December 1902 when Dirré Daoua became the terminus of the railway line and an important trade center. On 1st November 1906 a French post office was opened at Dirré Daoua. This two facts deeply changed the postal organization in Ethiopia:

THE NEW POSTAL ORGANIZATION: THE DIRRE DAOUA FRENCH POST OFFICE

The Dirré Daoua French Post Office assumed a central role in the new Postal Service of Ethiopia, of course with the agreement of the Emperor. It belonged to the Port Said Post Office by which it received the stamps valid for the international postage, and distributed them to all Post Offices operating in Ethiopia: the Ethiopian Addis Abeba and Harrar Post Offices and the French Harrar Post Office.

It received incoming mail transported by train from Djibouti, distributed the correspondences of Dirré Daoua inhabitants, sorted and formed different bags containing:

The pouch and correspondences for the "Legation de France" in Addis Abeba.

Mail of private individuals of Addis Abeba to be forwarded to the Ethiopian Post Office of the Capital.

Mail of private individual of Harrar to be forwarded to the French Harrar Post Office. It received the mail collected by all Post Offices, canceled French stamps, sorted and forwarded it to Djibouti together with the Pouch received from the French Legation of Addis Abeba and mail collected at Dirré Daoua.

Harrar to Paris 27-10-06.

Ethiopian Franking :

5c. Menelik 2 (domestic postal rate for postcard to abroad from Harrar) canceled "HARRAR" type II.

Levant franking 10c. (international postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled "DIRRE DAOUA/ ABYSSINIE" 28-10-06.

Notwithstanding the official opening of the Dirré Daoua Post Office was fixed on 1st November 1906, that postcard demonstrates the activity of the new Post Office began some days earlier. It was sent

from the Ethiopian Harrar post Office on 27 of October already franked with a Levant stamp, previously received from the Dirré Daoua Post Office that canceled it in transit with the "DIRRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE" postmark dated 28-10-06, three days before the official opening of that Post Office!



THE DIRRE DAOUA FRENCH POST OFFICE

The Dirré Daoua Post Office was supplied by the Port Said Post Office at first with Levant stamps and postal material, included a circular dotted datestamp with the inscription "DIRRE DAOUA/ABYSSINIE". The Dirré Daoua Post Office supplied all Post Offices in Ethiopia with Levant stamps, so that at beginning of 1907 had to ask a new supply of stamps. This time it received stamps bearing the Post Said legend. As mail from Dirré Daoua went on transiting through Djibouti, the Governor of the French Somali Coast obtained by the Minister of Colonies to reverse the situation and the supply of stamps in the last months of the year was made by the Djibouti Office with Somali Coast stamps.

POSTAL RATES

POSTCARD TO ABROAD



DIRRE DAOUA/ABYSSINIE

Dirré Daoua to Marseille 30-1-07

*Franking 10 c. Somali Coast
(10 c. postal rate for postcard to
abroad), canceled*

"DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE"

*As the Dirré Daoua Post Office was
selling Levant stamps only, the send-
er applied a Somali Coast stamp
bought elsewhere.*

LETTER TO DJIBOUTI

*Dirré Daoua to Djibouti
24-3-07*

*Franked 25c Port Said
(25c. postal rate for letter to
Djibouti)*

*canceled
"DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE"*

Arrival 27-6-07



THE DIRRE DAOUA FRENCH POST OFFICE

POSTAL RATES

REGISTERED COVER TO ABROAD

Dirré Daoua to Berlin

10-10-07

Franked 50c Port Said)

25c. postal rate for letter to abroad +
25c. Registration

canceled "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE"

Arrival 2-11-07

Only reported use of a 50c. Port Said
stamp on commercial cover.



STATIONERY POSTAL CARD TO ABROAD

Dirré Daoua to Paris

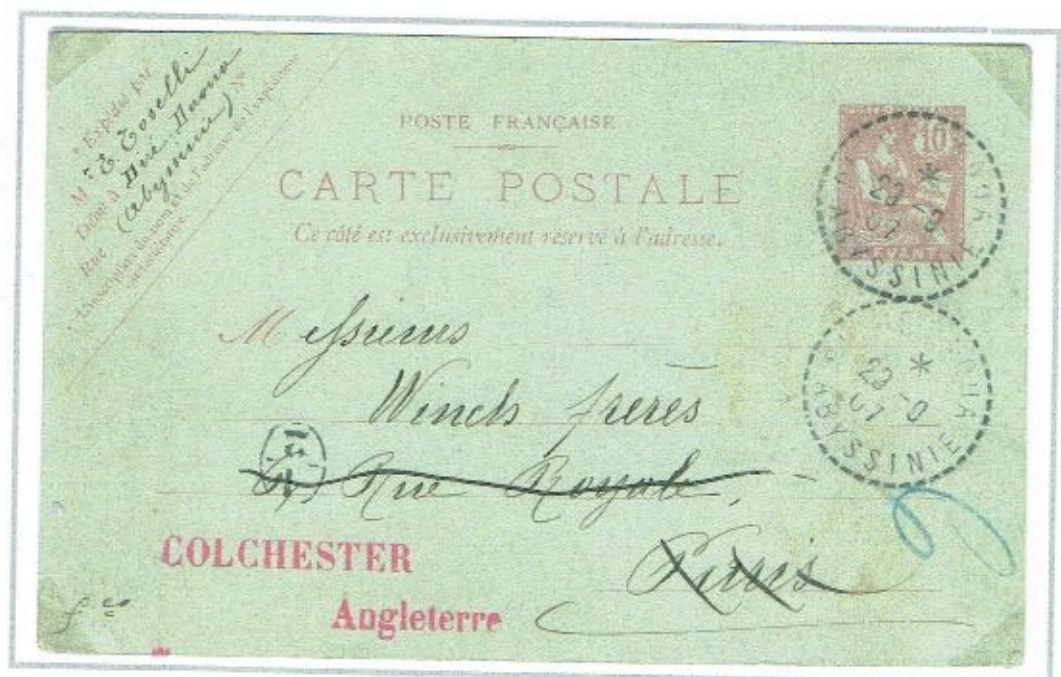
23-9-07

Stationery postal card at 10 cents
(postal rate for postcard to
abroad)

canceled "DIRRE DAOUA / AB-
YSSINIE"

Arrival at Paris: "1/2" in an
oval, postman mark, "cachet du
facteur".

Redirected to COLCHESTER
(England)



One of two reported Levant stationery postal card used in Ethiopia

THE DIRRE DAOUA FRENCH POST OFFICE

INCOMING MAIL

Paris to Dirre Daoua

24-5-07

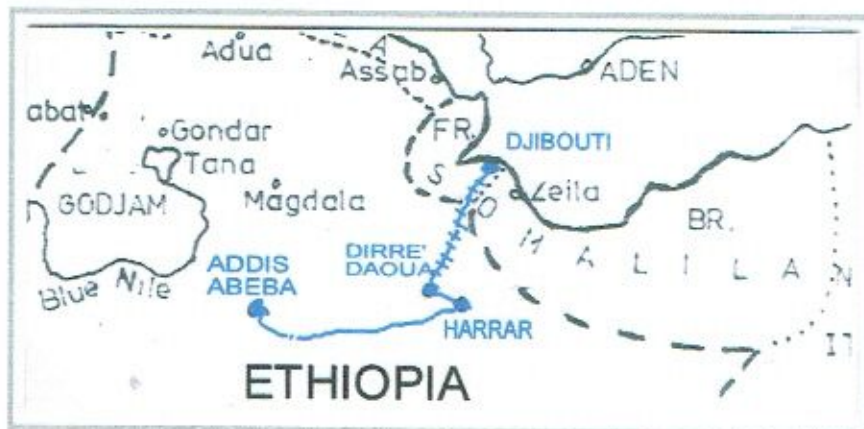
Franked 100c. (75c. postal rate for letter 3 weight units to abroad + 25c. Registration) canceled at Paris

*Sea postmark SS
"NATAL" line V 31-5-07*

Incoming mail addressed to Dirré Daoua was free from the taxation for internal postage that the Ethiopian Post Office of the Capital yet charged.



THE NEW ROUTE OF THE POST IN ETHIOPIA



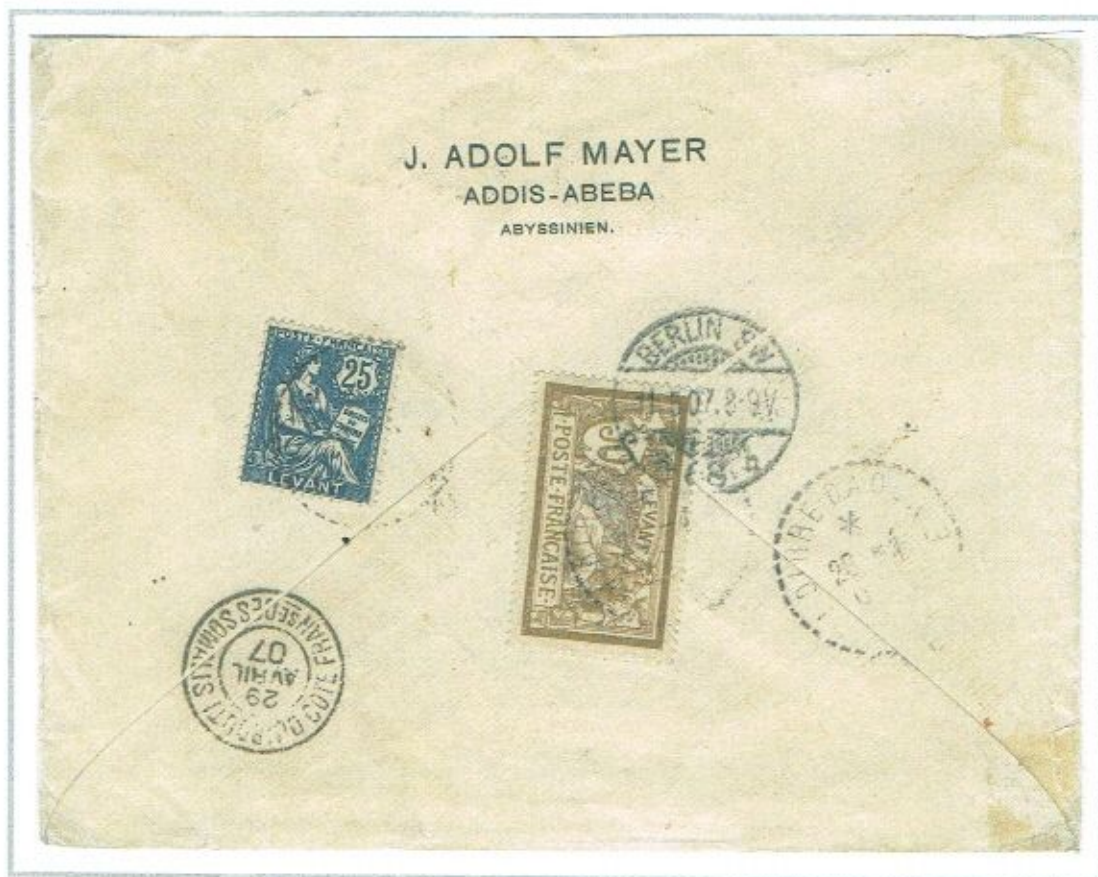
Incoming mail reached Dirre Daoua from Djibouti by train and vice-versa the same for outgoing mail. The forwarding of mail to Harrar, and beyond to Addis Abeba was entrusted to a French employee, who had also to collect bags of mail from the various Post Offices and from the French Legation and carry them to Dirré Daoua.

THE ADDIS ABEBA ETHIOPIAN POST OFFICE

FIRST SUPPLY WITH LEVANT STAMPS

Levant stamps at 25c. , 50 c. e 1 Fr. were used only in Ethiopia

Letter three weight units to Germany



Addis Abeba to Berlin

17-4-1907

Ethiopian franking 60 c.

Menelik 2 canceled

(domestic postal rate for 3 weight units letter)

French franking 75c Levant

(75c. postal rate for letter 3 weight units to abroad) canceled

"DIRRE DAOUA /ABYSSINIE"

28-4-07

Transit Djibouti 29-4-07

Arrival 11-5-07



Reduced 70%

THE ADDIS ABEBA ETHIOPIAN POST OFFICE

LATER SUPPLY WITH PORT SAID STAMPS

ዳግማዊ

The meaning of the overprint
"DAGMAWI" is "The Second"
referred to Menelik 2nd

Addis Abeba to Djibouti
15-9-1907

Ethiopian franking 1 g.
Dagmawi (domestic postal
rate for letter) canceled
"ADIS ABEBA" Tipe 1

French franking 25c Port
Said

(25c. postal rate for letter to
abroad) canceled "DIRRE
DAOUA /ABYSSINIE"
29-9-07

Arrival 30-3-07

Redirected to Harrar

Transit Dirré Daoua

Letter to Djibouti redirected to Harrar



Postal card to Hannover (Germany)



Addis Abeba to Hannover
2-11-1907

Ethiopian franking 1/2 g.
Dagmawi (domestic postal
rate for postal card) canceled
"ADIS ABEBA" Tipe 1

French franking 10c Port Said
(10c. postal rate for postcard
to abroad) canceled

"DIRRE DAOUA /ABYSSINIE"
11-9-07

Arrival 27-9-07



Addis Ababa to Herfurt
23-9-1907

Ethiopian franking 2 g.
Dagmawi (1g. domestic
postal rate for letter 1g.
Domestic Registration)
canceled "ADIS ABEBA"
Tipe 1

French franking 50c Port
Said
(25c. postal rate for letter
to abroad+ 25 c. for Regis-
tration) canceled "DIRRE
DAOUA /ABYSSINIE"
2-10-07
Arrival 15-10-07

On the back
Reduced 70%



LAST SUPPLY OF 1907 WITH SOMALI COAST STAMPS



POSTAL CARD TO ALGERIA

Addis Ababa to Hannover
2-11-1907

Ethiopian franking 1 1/2 g.
Dagmawi (domestic postal rate
for postal card) canceled
"ADIS ABEBA" Tipe 1

French franking 10c Port Said
(10c. postal rate for postcard to
abroad) canceled
"DIRRE DAOUA /ABYSSINIE"
11-9-07

Arrival 27-9-07

THE ADDIS ABEBA ETHIOPIAN POST OFFICE

INCOMING MAIL

Since its opening on 1st November 1906, the Dirre' Daoua Post Office sorted mail and forwarded correspondences addressed to Addis Abeba inhabitants in sealed bags. So due stamps for domestic postage were not more applied and canceled at Harrar but at the arrival at the Addis Abeba Post Office.

INCOMING COVER FROM EGYPT



Cairo to Addis Abeba
19-2-1907

Egyptian franking 1 Piastre
(postal rate for letter to abroad)

Transit Djibouti 1-3-07

Ethiopian Due stamp: 1 g. "Taxe à
Percevoir T" canceled at the arrival
"ADIS ABEBA" Type 1 15-3-07.

INCOMING POSTCARD FROM EGYPT



Cairo to Addis Abeba
11-3-1907

Egyptian franking: 5 Millimes
(postal rate for postcard to
abroad)

Transit Suez 12-3-1907

Ethiopian Due stamp: 1/2 g. "Taxe
à Percevoir T" canceled at the arri-
valat Addis Abeba.

THE FRENCH LEGATION OF ADDIS ABEBA

Owing to the inefficiency of the Ethiopian Posts, in the second half of 1907 Addis Abeba inhabitants, when possible, used alternative ways of forwarding mail. French Legation collected and forwarded mail of French people and some selected persons. As it was an emergency service the Legation was obliged to use as canceler an administrative circular stamp with inside the words "LEGATION DE FRANCE/ADDIS-ABBEBA" around the edge and "RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE" in the center, and the dumb Maltese Cross that had remained in the Legation since the time when there was the Addis Abeba Post Office.



Addis Abeba to Versailles

August 1907

Somali Coast franking
25 c. (postal rate for
letter to abroad) can-
celed with the Maltese
Cross

Transit Djibouti 2-9-07

Arrival: 16-9-07

4 covers and two post-
cards canceled with the
Maltese Cross in 1907-
1908 are recorded



Addis Abeba to Djibouti
December 1907

Somali Coast stamp canceled
with the "LEGATION DE
FRANCE" ADDIS ABBEBA"
Arrival 23-12-07

3 covers recorded canceled
with this postmark



THE ETHIOPIAN HARRAR POST OFFICE

After the railway line reached Dirré Daoua in December 1902, that town became an important trade country and Harrar lost its role of second Ethiopian town. When J.A. Michel left Harrar the activity of the Ethiopian Post Office was very reduced so that only few survived items from that period are recorded: about ten post-cards, two domestic covers to the Capital, one parcel's piece and three covers from Awara Malka whose stamps were canceled in transit.

Postcard to Marseilles franked with a remainder of a previous Somali Coast stamps supply.

Harrar to Marseilles 15-1-07

Ethiopian franking 5 c. Menelik 2

Domestic postal rate for postcard from Harrar canceled "HARRAR" Type 2

Somali Coast franking 10 c.

(international postal rate for postcard to abroad) canceled "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" 20-1-07



Postcard to Marseilles franked with a Levant stamp from a new supply.

Harrar to Marseilles

20-2-07

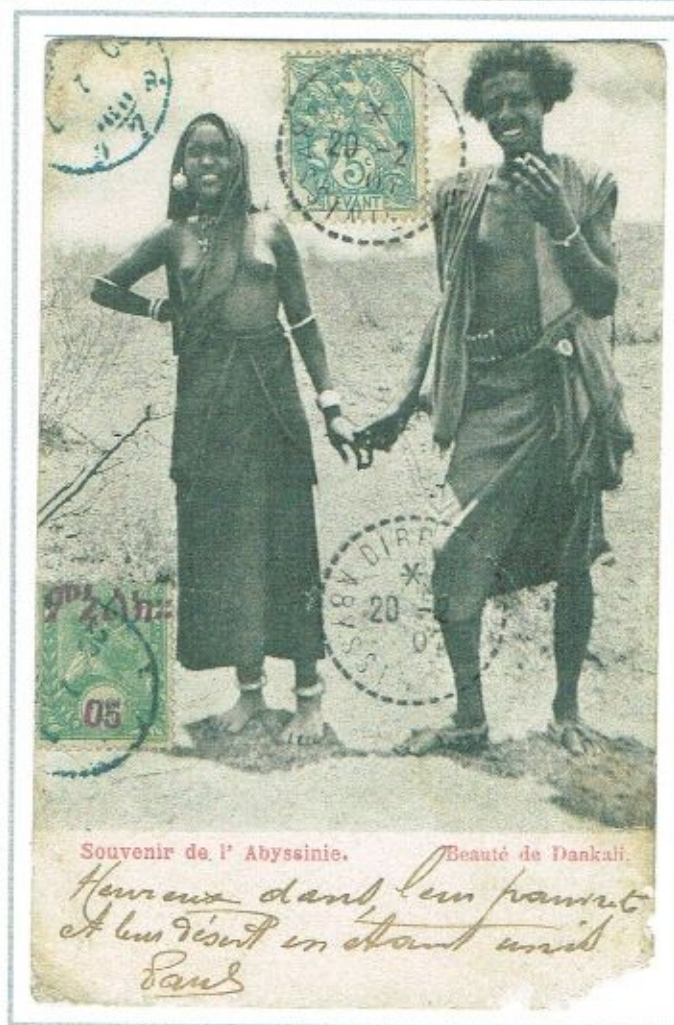
Ethiopian franking 5 c. Menelik 2

Domestic postal rate for postcard from Harrar canceled "HARRAR" Type 2

French franking 5c. Levant

(10 c. international postal rate for postcard to abroad, 5c. underfranking, but not taxed by the Dirré Daoua Post Office) canceled "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" 20-2-07

No mail from the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office franked with Port Said stamps is reported. Likely no more supply was needed.



THE ETHIOPIAN HARRAR POST OFFICE

Three reported covers from Awara Malka, whose stamps were canceled in transit at the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office, demonstrate that mail forwarded from the places along the route between Addis Abeba and Harrar needed that the Ethiopian Harrar Post Office would cancel the Ethiopian stamps.

Cover from the Koto plantation of Awara Malka with Ethiopian stamps canceled in transit at the Harrar Post Office.



Awara Malka to Grandson (Switzerland)

Ethiopian franking 20 c. Menelik I type I

*(Domestic postal rate for postcard from Awara Malka) cancelled in transit at Harrar with
"HARAR" type 2 2-12-06*

French franking 25 c. Somali Coast stamps

*(International postal rate for letter to abroad) canceled "DIRRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE"
2-12-06*

Arrival 18-12-06

THE FRENCH HARRAR POST OFFICE

Letter to London franked with a Levant stamp

Harrar to London

24-4-07

*French franking 25 c. Levant
(25 c. Postal rate for letter
to abroad) not canceled at
departure.*

*"HARAR POSTES FRAN-
ÇAISES" struck alongside*

*Canceled in transit "DIRRE
DAQUA-ABYSSINIE"*

1-5-07



Newspaper wrapper from Harrar to London franked with a Somali Coast stamp



Harrar to London 27-7-07

French franking 5c. Somali Coast

(5 c. postal rate for printed matter to abroad")

-Canceled "HARAR POSTES FRANÇAISES"

Transit at Djibouti 30-7-07

Faint arrival postmark

*Less than five newspaper wrappers recorded in the
Pre-U.P.U. period.*

THE ORGANIZING PERIOD

(January 1908–October 1908)

According to an agreement between Menelik and the French authorities, the Imperial Ethiopian Posts had to be reorganized with the help of a French staff. During February 1908 J.A. Michel handed over all remainders of stamps and postal material to Mr. Roque who had taken in charge of the Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones service, in name of the Ethiopian Government on 27th of January. Between 1st of January and 13th of February no mail originated in the Ethiopian and French post offices is reported while mail from Addis Abeba French Legation and British Legation is known.

Mr. Roque had to equip a post office in Addis Abeba, to organize mail couriers between Addis Abeba, Harrar and Diré Daoua. Then he had to find new French postmasters and clerks for each post office. On 1st of June, the new postal system started, even if with some limitations to be quickly overcome. He introduced new postmarks to be used together with the old ones and new postal rates that consisted of Ethiopian and Somali Coast stamps, yet mandatory as Ethiopia had not yet joined the U.P.U.

PERIOD JANUARY–MAY 1908

MAIL FORWARDED FROM THE FRENCH AND BRITISH LEGATIONS IN EARLY 1908

In early 1908 the Legations' Services substituted the Post Offices in forwarding mail as they were inactive as occupied to hand over stamps and postal material to French authorities.



Early 1908. The correspondence made by several postcards between the same sender and addressee in 1907 from all post offices in Ethiopia, owing to the stop of that offices, was completed with few postcards forwarded from the French Legation of Addis Abeba.

This postcard to Marseille was franked with a 10 cents Somali Coast stamp of 1903 issue canceled with the Maltese Cross postmark. As usual in that period this postcard don't show the arrival postmark.

Less than ten items franked with Somali Coast stamps canceled with the Maltese Cross dumb postmark are known.

PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1908

MAIL FORWARDED FROM THE ADDIS ABEBA POST OFFICE

The activity of the Addis Abeba post office started at the half of February using the old Adis Abeba type 1 postmark and both stamps of the 1894 issue not handstamped and all remainders of all handstamped issues, included postage due stamps, for franking mail. In March two new postmarks of French origin were introduced with inside a dotted circle containing the date and the external inscription "ADDIS-ABABA POSTES". The word "FRANCAISES", present in origin, had been eliminated. Both Ethiopian and French stamps were canceled with the same postmark.



ADDIS-ABABA POSTES
type II

Addis Abeba to Djibouti
"ADDIS-ABABA POSTES"
Type II (Payne AA3B) post-
mark 13-3-08
Ethiopian franking 2g.
(Dagmawi issue)
French franking 15 c. Somali
Coast (1903 issue)

Arrival Djibouti 28-3-08



ADDIS-ABABA POSTES
type I

Addis Abeba to Wien
"ADDIS-ABABA POSTES"
Type I (Payne AA3A)
postmark 13-3-08

Ethiopian franking 40 c.
Numeral on the back side.

Somali Coast franking 50 c.
(1902 issue) as registered.

Arrival Wien 12-4-08

The earliest known date for both postmarks

PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1908

MAIL FORWARDED FROM THE DIRE DAOUA POST OFFICE

The Dirè Daoua Post Office was placed provisionally under control of the Djibouti Post Office. Like previously mail was franked exclusively with French Colony's stamps canceled with the "DIRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE" postmark.



Dirè Daoua to Djibouti

Somali Coast franking:

50c. (1903 issue)

(25c. Postal rate

+ 25c. Registration) canceled

"DIRE DAOUA- ABYSSINIE"

11-3-08



Dirè Daoua to Berlin

Somali Coast franking:

10 c. (1903 issue) canceled

"DIRE DAOUA- ABYSSINIE"

29-3-08

PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1908

MAIL FORWARDED FROM THE ETHIOPIAN HARRAR POST OFFICE

The Ethiopian Harrar Post Office was active but, like in the previous period since Michel left that town, very few mail from that post office is reported. Like previously, mail was franked both with French Colonies stamps canceled at Dire Daoua and Ethiopian stamps canceled with the "HARAR" type II postmark.



Harrar to Paris

Ethiopian Franking:

1 guerche (2 x 1/2g (1894)

10 c. Numeral) canceled

"HARRAR" type 2 18-4-98

Somali Coast franking:

50c. (1903 issue)

(25c. Postal rate

+ 25c. Registration) canceled

"DIRE DAOUA- ABYSSINIE"

29-4-08

Arrival postmark 15-5-08



MAIL FORWARDED BY
CONSULAR SERVICES

Addis Abeba to London

Departure:

25-4-08 Handwritten

Aden franking:

India 1 Anna canceled

"ADEN" 15-5-08

Arrival postmark: 18-5-08



On the front side the return address: "c/o Italian Consulate Aden"

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW ETHIOPIAN POSTAL SERVICE MANAGED BY A FRENCH STAFF

On 1st of June Mgr. Jarosseau handed over the remainder of stamps and the postal material in his hands to the new Harrar postmaster Mr. Guillet: since that moment only one Postal Office was active in Harrar. So since first of June the new postal organization was active in Addis Abeba (postmaster Mr. Sourin), Harrar (postmaster Mr. Guillet) and Dirré Daoua (postmaster Mr. Cardot). Since that moment the three offices were obliged to frank their correspondences TO ABROAD with Ethiopian stamps associated with French stamps, according to the postal rates previously established by Mr. Roque.



Harrar to Bruxelles

Departure: 13-6-08

Ethiopian Franking: lacking

Somali Coast franking:

25c. (1903 issue) Postal rate abroad

Canceled:

"Harrar * POSTES FRANÇAISES"

Arrival postmark 27-6-08

LAST USE OF THE "HARRAR POSTES FRANÇAISES" POSTMARK

Stamps and postal material sent from Addis Abeba reached Harrar and Dirré Daoua late in June. So the two Post Offices were obliged to forward some mail franked with only French franking canceled with a postmark at disposition.



Harrar to Addis Abeba

Departure: 27-6-08

Ethiopian franking:

1 g (1894 issue) canceled

"HARRAR" Type II

Arrival : 10-7-08

The "HARRAR" type II postmark in use since October 1896 looks very deteriorated in 1908.

POSTAL RATES

	Letter per fraction of 15 grams	Post Card	Registration	Samples and Printed matter x 50 grams.
Domestic	1 g.	1/2 g.	2 g.	1/2 g. (minimum 1 g.)
Djibouti	2 g.	1/2 g.	2 g.	1/2 g. (minimum 1 g.)
Foreign	1 g. + 25c.	1/2 g + 25 c.	2 g. + 25 c.	1/2 g. + 5 c. (minimum 1 g. + 10c.)
Franco colonial	1 g. + 10c.		2 g. + 25 c.	



DOMESTIC COVER

Dire Daaoua to Harar

Departure: 13-9-08

"DIRRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE"

Ethiopian franking 1 g. (1894) (Domestic postal rate)

Arrival Harar 13-9-08



REGISTERED DOMESTIC COVER

Addis Abeba to Harar 28-8-08

"ADIS-ABEBA" Type I

Ethiopian franking 3 g. (60c. "MENELIK II")

(1 g. Domestic postal rate 2g. for Registration)

No arrival postmark

PERIOD JUNE-OCTOBER 1908

POSTAL RATES - **LETTER TO DJIBOUTI**

THE MUTILATED "HARRAR POSTES" POSTMARKS

In June 1908 the Harrar Post Office was supplied with new stamps and postal material, included the postmarks "HARRAR POSTES" type I and type II, lightly different owing to the position of some characters upon the dashes. The same for the Diré Daoua Post Office, but the Diré Daoua Post Office went on using the old "DIRRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE" postmark.



"HARRAR POSTES"
Type II

Harrar to Djibouti

Departure: 1-8-08

*Ethiopian franking: 2 g.
(Postal rate to Djibouti)*

Postage Due stamp

"Taxe à Percevoir T"

*Canceled: "HARRAR
POSTES" Type II*

Arrival 6-8-08



**LETTER TO DJIBOUTI
INSUFFICIENTLY
FRANKED**

Diré Daoua to Djibouti

Departure: 2-9-08

Ethiopian franking:

*1 Piastre (lacking 1 Piastre or 1
g.) canceled:*

"DIRE DAOUA ABYSSINIE"

*Taxed with 20 cents stamp
Obek (Warriors)*

Arrival 4-9-08

PERIOD JUNE-OCTOBER 1908

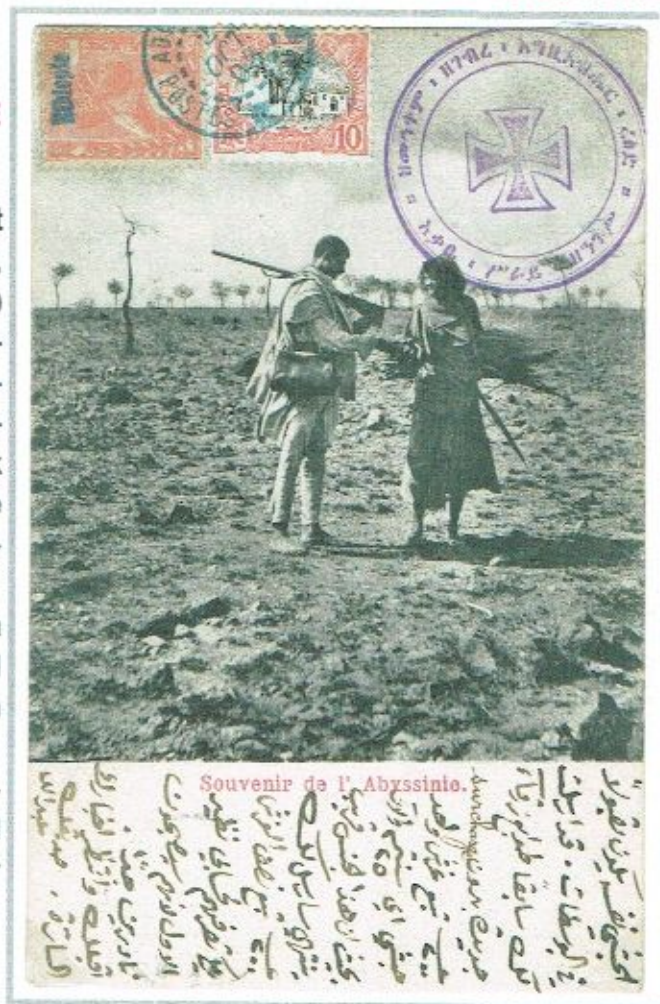
POSTAL RATES - POST CARD TO ABROAD

ADDIS ABEBA: THE NEW ARADA AUXILIARY OFFICE AND THE MAIN POST OFFICE

On 20th of July 1908 a new Post Office was created at Arada, "Place du Marché" (Market Place) by Mr. Roque. Mr. Maure was entrusted to manage it. It was supplied with stamps and postal material, included the postmark "ADDIS-ABABA POSTES" type II, previously in use at the Addis Abeba Post Office.

Mail originated from the Arada Post Office can be recognized only by that postmark since 20th July 1908.

The Addis Abeba Post Office became the Main Post Office and was inaugurated by the Emperor on 1st August 1908.



Addis Abeba (Arada) to Paris

Ethiopian Franking:

1/2 g. overprinted "Ethiopie" in blue ink

Somali Coast franking:

10c. (1903 issue)

Postal rate to abroad

Both canceled

"ADDIS-ABABA POSTES"

Type II 2-10-08

Arrival postmark 23-10-08

Violet seal of Guebre Egziabhier Raad, personal physician of Menelik.

REGISTERED POST CARD TO ABROAD



Addis Abeba to Reims 16-10-1908

Ethiopian Franking: 2 1/2 g.

Somali Coast franking: 35c. (1903)

canceled "ADIS-ABABA" Type I

Arrival postmark 23-10-08



Back side: the Addis Abeba Main Post Office, postcard sent by Mr. Sourin, the postmaster, to his wife.

POSTAL RATES - FRANCO COLONIAL LETTER



Harrar to Condeissiat
(France)

Departure: 5-9-08

Ethiopian franking: 1 Piastre

Fr. Somali Coast franking:

10 c. (1903 issue)

Both canceled: "HARRAR
POSTES" Type I

Transit Djibouti 8-9-08

Arrival 20-9-08

Redirected to Paris

Arrival 21-9-08

REGISTERED FRANCO COLONIAL LETTER (Double weight unit)



Harrar to Condeissiat
(France)

Departure: 29-8-08

Ethiopian franking:

4 g. (1894 issue)

(2g. for 2 weight units, 2 g.
for internal Registration)

Fr. Somali Coast franking

45 c. (1902 issue)

(20 c. for 2 weight units

25 c. for external Regist.)

All canceled:

"HARRAR POSTES
Type II

Arrival: 13-9-08

Redirected to Paris

THE ADMISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO U.P.U.

THE ETHIOPIAN IMPERIAL POST (From November 1908 into February 1909)

Ethiopia was admitted to U.P.U. on 1st November 1908. Ethiopian stamps became valid for mail to abroad. Since the new set of stamps printed according to the U.P.U. rules did not arrive in time the old 1894 set was once more overprinted in Latin characters, as requested by U.P.U. regulations. Piastre was the current denomination for guerche, and 1 Piastre corresponded to 1 guerche.

As the new definitive set of stamps arrived in late February 1909, up to that date the provisional Piastre issue, also called "U.P.U. issue" was the only possible franking in Ethiopia. We can consider that months as the period of the entering of Ethiopia into U.P.U. New postal rates were introduced, the most common:

2 Piastres (or guerches) for letter to abroad up to 20 grams, 1 Piastre per additional 20 grams

1/2 Piastre for postcard to abroad

1 Piastre for domestic and to Djibouti letter up to 20 grams, 1 Piastre per additional 20 grams

2 Piastre for Registration

POSTAL RATES - LETTER TO ABROAD



Harrar to Paris

Franking: 2 Piastres

Canceled "HARRAR POSTES" type I 7-11-08

Transit Djibouti 10-11-08

No arrival postmark

7th November 1908, earliest known date of postmarks on covers forwarded from Ethiopia with Ethiopian franking alone, after the entering of Ethiopia into U.P.U.

This cover was forwarded by J. Guillet, the Harrar postmaster.

THE ETHIOPIAN IMPERIAL POST (From November 1908 into February 1909)

POSTAL RATES

DOMESTIC LETTER



Harar to Addis Ababa

Franking: 1 Piastres

Canceled "HARRAR

POSTES" type I

26-12-08

Arrival postmark 3-1-09

REGISTERED LETTER TO ABROAD



Harar to Genève

Franking: 4 Piastres

(2 Piastres postal rate +

2 Piastres Registration)

Canceled "HARRAR

POSTES" type II

14-11-08

Arrival 4-12-08

THE ETHIOPIAN IMPERIAL POST (From November 1908 into February 1909)

POSTAL RATES

POST CARD TO ABROAD



Harar to Marseille

Franking: 1/2 Piastre

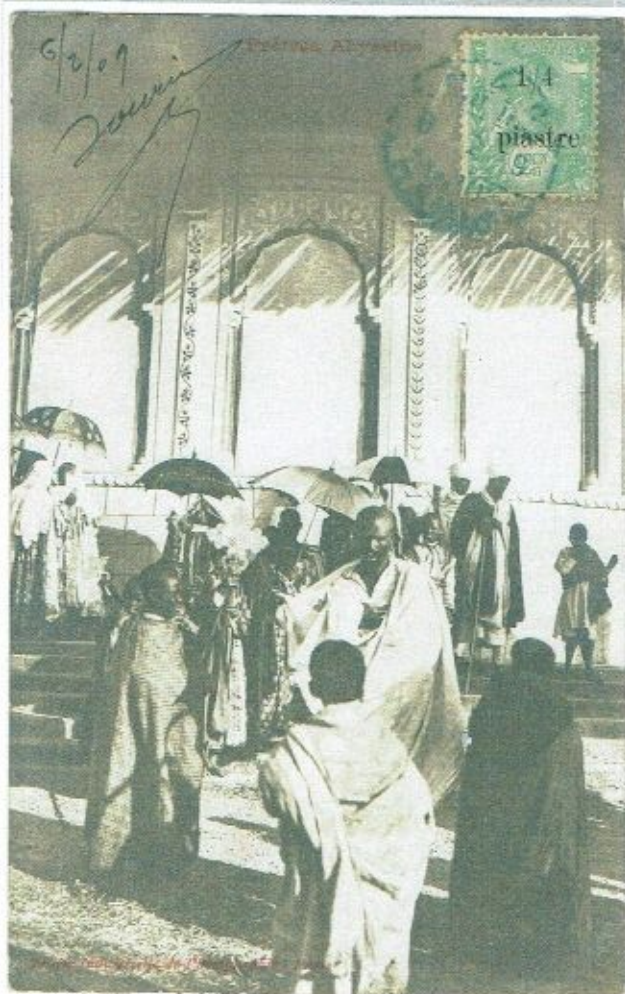
canceled

"HARRAR POSTES" Type II

16-12-08

No arrival postmark

POST CARD WITHOUT TEXT TO ABROAD



INCOMING COVER FROM JERUSALEM



Jerusalem/ Deutsche Post to Addis Abeba

Franking 5 centimes on 5 Pf. GPO/Turkey

Transit Djibouti 1-1-09 Arrival 9-1-09

Harar to Reims 16-10-1908

Franking: 1/4 Piastre.

canceled "HARRAR" Type II

No arrival postmark

Postcard sent by Mr. Sourin, the Addis Abeba postmaster, to his wife with only date and signature on the front side.