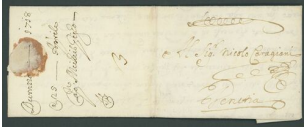


SPINK

e-Catalogue

**26015 - "The Treasure of the Eagles" Collection of
Albania - Part I**

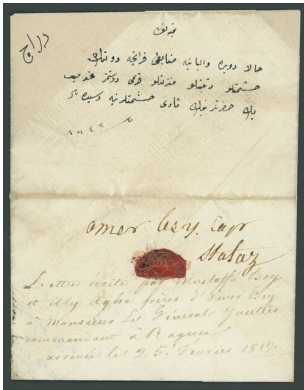
Lot 3001



(†) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1718 (April 25). Entire letter from Durrës, sent by Michel Guigou to Nicolò Caragiani (Nikolaos Karaianis, a famous Greek trader of that time) in Venice, describing pirate attacks by corsairs from Ulcinj (Dulcigno) on an English ship off the port of Durrës (Durazzo). The reverse with manuscript postal rate "18" denari and cocketed "Durazzo 1718/at 25 Aprile". Very fine and fresh. The letter contains exceptionally important contemporary eyewitness testimony, including the following translated passages: "I arrived in good health at this place on the 19th of this month, thanks be to God, not without danger because of the pirates of Ulcinj who, as you know, have committed terrible acts unheard of before (...) I encountered no mishap until the day I entered the port of Durrës, when I saw in the roadstead an English ship with its entire crew massacred by these dogs from Ulcinj (...) although I was flying my flag, the said Ulcinj pirates fired more than twenty shots and, thanks be to God, I was not taken, as the cannonballs passed over me and, I assure you, caused no damage (...) I immediately anchored the ship and sent my clerk aboard the vessel of the Ulcinj pirates to inform them that I was French, whereupon they ceased firing (...) they later came aboard my ship, where I did everything possible to avoid any affront, at the sole cost of a barrel of gunpowder and certain other inducements (...) it is impossible for any vessel to enter this gulf (...) our Ambassador in Constantinople has already been informed of what has been done to French ships, and he has dispatched one of his dragomans, Mr. Fornetti, together with an Aga of the Grand Vizier and a Chiaoux that I saw here (...) the day before yesterday they departed for Ulcinj, and we are now awaiting what the Ambassador of England will undertake, as he will surely present his representations to the Porte for what was done to his ships (...) May God bring order". An exceptionally rare and historically important letter, giving a perspective on Albanian piracy and the active presence of British and French ships in the Adriatic Sea in the early 18th century, considered the most dangerous and ferocious in the entire Mediterranean. provenance: Markus Gmähle note: The pirates of Ulcinj (Dulcigno in Italian) were corsairs operating from this city on the Adriatic coast during the 16th-18th centuries. They were skilled mariners who raided ships, traded, and occasionally captured people for ransom or slavery. Some sources suggest that the term "lupo di mare" (sea wolve) may have been inspired by these pirates. According to historical accounts, Miguel de Cervantes was once captured by corsairs from the region, an experience that influenced his writings, including "Don Quixote". These pirates were notorious for their organization and speed, and their legacy is still remembered in Ulcinj's local legends and museums. Subject to 20% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium. For more information please view Terms and Conditions for Buyers.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

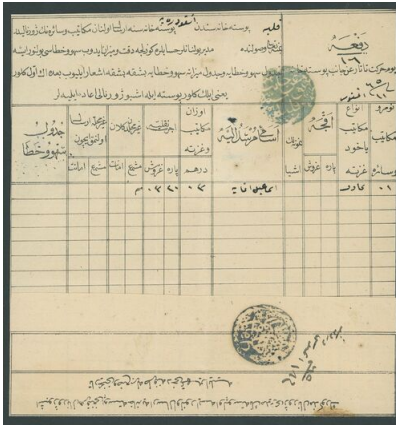
Lot 3002



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Ottoman Albania (1718-1912)Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania1812. Entire letter from Durrës (Durazzo) written by Mustafa Bey (Bushati) and Omar Bey (Vrioni) on behalf of Ali Agha, sent to Mr. Gautier, General of the Division for Albania of the French Army of Dalmatia stationed in Ragusa (Dubrovnik). The letter requested French assistance for their brother Halil Bey, who was besieged by Ottoman troops in Bosnia. The letter was dispatched from Durrës and transported on a French ship to its final destination, marked arrive le 25 Fevrier 1812. On the missive we find two Arabic negative seals of the senders. Two upper corners have been trimmed and backed with paper.The contents are historically significant, including: "Our brother Halil Bey and his troops defended our positions in Kuluyan, but he is running out of ammunition and food. He is under siege, and we are unable to reach him. The overlords of Dubran and Pologusa are much closer, and for the sake of our friendship, we ask if you can send your army within the next three or four days to rescue them safely. We beg you to act quickly. It is our earnest prayer that they be rescued". A unique piece of mail from these significant sender and addressee during the Ottoman period, further enhanced by its fascinating historical text.provenance: Markus Gmähle note: Before the opening of the first post office in Shkoder in 1849, correspondence from Ottoman Albania mainly consisted of private letters sent by local authorities operating within the respective pashaliks (provincial administrative units governed by a pasha) or by foreign noble families conducting trade or managing consulates there. In 1812, the lords of two of the main families of Ottoman Albania, seeking some autonomy from the Sublime Porte through an alliance with France, were Mustafa Bey Bushati, who governed the Pashalik of Shkoder in the north, and Omar Pasha Vrioni from Berat, whose pashalik had been annexed to the Pashalik of Janina after the defeat of Ibrahim Vrioni by Ali Pasha of Tepelene.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

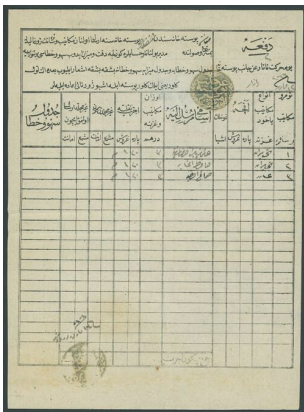
Lot 3003



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1849. Accompanying declaration ("Jurnal") No. 16 of a letter from Filibe (Plovdiv, Bulgaria) to Shkodër (Iskodra) via Skopje (Uskub), rated at 3½ piastres, bearing the Arabic negative handstamp "An-Canib Posta-i Iskodra 265" ("on behalf of the Shkodër Post Office in the year 1265 of the Hegira") in black (Coles & Walker, fig. 1), and the negative seal of Plovdiv on dispatch (Coles & Walker, fig. 16). The letter was carried over five days by mounted messengers, the so-called "Tatars." Rare provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

**Estimate
£250 to £400**

Lot 3004



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania Accompanying declaration ("Jurnal") of three letters from Monastir (Bitola, Rumelia) to Shkodër (Iskodra) via Skopje (Uskub), showing partial Arabic negative handstamp "An-Canib Posta-i Iskodra 265" ("on behalf of the Shkodër Post Office in the year 1265 of the Hegira") in black (Coles & Walker, fig. 1) and the negative seal of Monastir neatly struck (Coles & Walker, fig. 81). Rare provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

**Estimate
£250 to £400**

Lot 3005

(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1851 (April 24). Entire letter from Carlo Pooten, Bishop of Maronia and Apostolic Administrator of the Religious Mission in Antivari, Ottoman Albania, with the rare negative seal of the Mission at top left, sent to the President of the Central Council of the Charity for the Propagation of the Faith in Lyon, France. The letter was originally intended to be shipped from Cattaro (Kotor), but was unexpectedly carried inland to Karlovac (Karlstadt), likely due to a problem with sea transport; after crossing Austrian Empire territories via Lombardy-Venetia and Switzerland, it entered the Swiss Confederation at Basel for onward transmission to France, following a long and rare route. Postmarks include "P.D.", Cattaro d.s. (30.4), "über/Basel", red French entry c.d.s., and the oval "7/AED" ("Affranchie à l'Étranger jusqu'à Destination"), all on front, with backstamps in Karlstadt and Lyon. A fascinating and very rare usage. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3006

(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1854 (Oct. 2). Registered letter from Urbanus Bogdanovic, Bishop of the Diocese of Skopje, during his mission in Scutari (Shkodër), to the Central Council of the Congregation for the Promotion of the Faith in Lyon, France. The letter was transported by horse courier from Scutari to Cattaro (Kotor), then consigned to the Austrian P.O. (7.10), charged at a 43 kreuzer rate (25 + 18 on reverse), with excellent strikes of "raccom:" and "cattaro/7. otte." h.s.; it was then transported to Zara (Zadar), backstamped en route, before crossing Austrian Empire territories to follow the northbound German States route through Bavaria, where it was stamped in red "chargé" on the front to denote registration, alongside the framed "PD" and red French Valenciennes entry c.d.s., with backstamps in Paris and Lyon. Wax seal on the reverse from the French Sanitary Direction with a cross on front confirming that it was disinfected. A fascinating usage and unique following this very rare postal route, avoiding a shorter but more hazardous journey through the war-affected territories of Lombardy-Venetia and Sardinia; in addition, a rare, registered mail from this office. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £800

Lot 3007



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1859ca. Registered cover from Shkodër (Ishkoder) to Monastir (Bitola, Rumelia), with Arabic negative "An-Canib Posta-i Iskodra 265" oval h.s., showing alongside rare application in Shkoder of Arabic small negative "Taahhüt olunmustur" ("has been registered") oval. Handwritten tariff of 40 para = 1 Kurus at top left. A rare registered mail. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3008



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1859. Entire letter from a Greek trader from Shkodër (Ishkoder) to Monastir (Bitola, Rumelia), showing the Arabic negative "An-Canib Posta-i Iskodra 265" ("on behalf of Shkodër Post Office in the year 1265 of the hérgire") handstamp (Coles & Walker, fig. 1). A very fine example. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

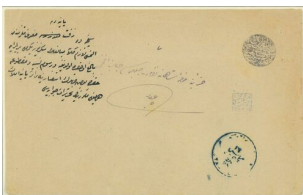
Lot 3009



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1864 (Feb. 10). Postal receipt for the payment of 100 piastres dated "29 Tesrin-i sani 1279", with superb strike of all Arabic negative "Postahane-i Iskodra 1278" circle with crescent half moon of Shköder (Iskodra), which was the second type introduced in 1862 (Coles & Walker fig. 2), into force until 1867. Probably the finest example of fewer than five covers recorded. Signed Nakri. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £2,000

Lot 3010



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Mail Originating in Ottoman Albania 1898. Official registered mail sent free of charge from Janina (then in the Vilayet of Janina in Ottoman Albania, now in Greece) to Istanbul via Valona/Vlorë (9 May 1898), carried by courier, showing an extremely rare and neat strike of the all Arabic negative seal of Janina at top right, and the very rare bilingual "Vallona" c.d.s. at lower right. The sender was Yany Padisahi Emlak Mültesariye Müdürlüğü 1303, Janina, Office of the Sultan, 1887. A very scarce mail as carried overland from Janina to Istanbul; in addition, the combination of both postmarks may be unique. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£750 to £1,000

Lot 3011

(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Related Correspondence or Incoming Mail 1804. Disinfected envelope from Venice to Naples via Chioggia, Fano, and Rome, bearing two different “Venezia” postmarks on departure and charged with 12 kreuzer, additionally showing a framed “il magistrato/di sanita' marittima/in venezia” handstamp, containing posters related to the disinfection rules to be applied to incoming goods, persons, and letters arriving from the Levant, including Ottoman Albania. These dispositions were prepared by the Health Magistrate of Venice in accordance with the information received from ships landing in the Adriatic ports after they were conquered by French troops, and they were sent to the Health Magistrate in Naples to allow the adoption of similar protective measures at the port of Naples. Taxed on destination with a high fee of 50 grani. The earliest known use of this quarantine handstamp, predating the previously reported usage from 1809 by C. Ravasini. provenance: Adriano Cattani Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3012

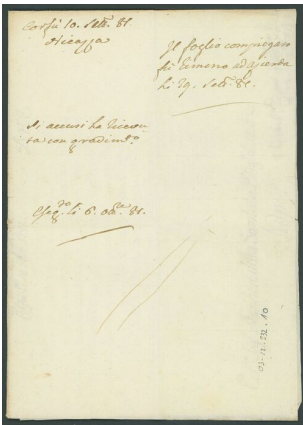
(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Related Correspondence or Incoming Mail 1818 (Nov. 22). Entire letter from the Health Magistrate of Venice to the Supreme Health Magistrate in Naples, reporting outbreaks of pestilence occurring at the port of Vlorë (Albania), including very interesting passages (English translation of the text enclosed), bearing “Venezia” postmark, arrival postal cachet of Naples in red at right, handwritten with double postage: “6” Italian lire of the Austrian Empire and “14” tornesels of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, as well as the registration number “3046”, incorrectly written “2046” at upper left. This is one of six recorded letters containing information on the spread of the plague in Ottoman Albania and the associated risk of its extension to the neighbouring Italian peninsula. provenance: Walter Andrea D'Agostino Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3013

(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Related Correspondence or Incoming Mail 1868 (Nov. 26). Cover from Trieste to Scutari (Bianchi correspondence), franked by Austria 1867 Coarse Printing 10kr. blue (irregular perforations at top left), tied by "trieste/col valore" two-line handstamp (Tchilinghirian fig. 20), charged on arrival with Turkey 1869 postage dues of 20pa. and 1pi. (Micheal 11Aa, 12Ab) applied on reverse over a transit (26.11) c.d.s. of Zara, tied by all Arabic Scutari double circle (Coles & Walker fig. 3, Tchilinghirian fig. 498). A rare mixed franking, further enhanced by the very infrequent route via Zara. Cert. Ferchanbauer, signed Enzo Diena. note: Usually, letters from the northern Adriatic ports addressed to Scutari were initially loaded onto ships that landed on the Montenegrin coast (Cattaro or Antivari), from where they were transported by land couriers to their final destination in northern Ottoman Albania. Very rare are the letters that were handled by the post office of Zadar (Zara) and then transported along the Dalmatian coast via a longer overland route. This occurred when sea transport took longer because the shipping line called at numerous eastern Adriatic ports after Zadar (Sibenik, Split, Dubrovnik, Kotor, Bar), or when the faster and more direct routes did not include a call at the harbours of Austrian Albania. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

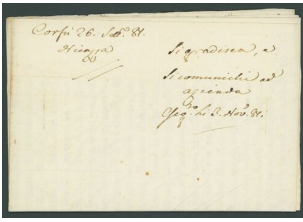
Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3014

(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Neapolitan Consular Intelligence Mail 1781 (Sept. 10). Entire letter from the Consul of the Kingdom of Naples in Corfu (Kerkyra), Mr. Demetrio Micazza, to the Supreme Health Magistrate in Naples, with evidence of disinfection by flame, reporting on the state of pestilence on the Greek island and in neighbouring territories under Venetian rule, the Kingdom of the Morea, and Turkish Albania, including "...the continuation of the perfect health status that thanking God is still characterising this Island, as well as all the neighbouring Levant under Venetian Domain, as well as all favourable relations with all Morea Reign and the whole Albania. The same for all trading...". An interesting postal history document bearing witness to the control of the plague. provenance: Walter Andrea D'Agostino. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

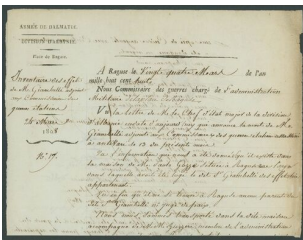
Lot 3015



(x) Ottoman Albania (1718-1912) Neapolitan Consular Intelligence Mail 1781 (Sept. 26). Entire letter, showing disinfection slits, from the Consul of the Kingdom of Naples in Corfu (Kerkyra), Mr Demetrio Micazza, to the Supreme Health Magistrate in Naples, marked on the reverse Si gradisca e si comunichi ad agenda 3. Nov. 81, reporting on the quarantine of two Venetian vessels and on the state of pestilence on the Greek island and in neighbouring territories under Venetian rule, the Kingdom of the Morea, and Turkish Albania, including "I did not forget to give attention to repeating the warnings to this Sanitary Office for the use of more exact measures in the disinfection of the letters coming from the Levant and, in truth, that necessary caution is also taken with full attention by the persons responsible for the particular supervision of the health provisions". An English translation of the letter is included. provenance: Walter Andrea D'Agostino. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3016



(x) French Albania (1806-1814) 1808 (March 24). Inventory of the military dresses of the contingent of the Division of Albania of the French Army of Dalmatia made by the Adjunct Commissioner for the Italian War, Mr. Giambelli, signed and stamped by the Commissioner for the War, Mr. Dechamples, with its corresponding handstamp, and undersigned by Ms. Anna Sorgo in Gozza and by Mr. Giò Zuzzeri Talani. An extremely rare seal of the French contingent of the Division of Albania. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £500

Lot 3017



(x) French Albania (1806-1814) 1808 (March 24). Entire letter from Dobrota to Venice (14.04) via the port of Kotor ("Cattaro" in Italian), bearing the rare French "cattaro/in albania" two-line postmark from the post office of the French "Division of Albania", as the Montenegrin coast from Budva to Dubrovnik was under the control of this division. Handwritten tariff of "18" cents due for letters weighing up to ¼ ounce, sent from a place located three radiuses from the point of departure, during the third tariff period of the French Italian Kingdom postal administration (01.02.1807-30.04.1809). Only about 20 covers are recorded bearing this postmark, and this is one of the finest, further enhanced by the very early usage -to our knowledge the earliest one- during this rare tariff period. provenance: Markus Gmähle note: The letters exchanged between members of the Tripicovich family, based in the Montenegrin village of Dobrota and addressed to Venice, were taken to the post office at the nearest port of Cattaro, both in the so-called "French Albania" (former "Venetian Albania"), very close to the southern borders of Ottoman Albania, before being placed on ships and transported by sea to their final destination. During their transit, the mail usually remained in quarantine at the Lazaret of Santa Chiara in Ragusa (Dubrovnik). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

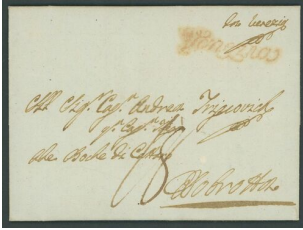
Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3018



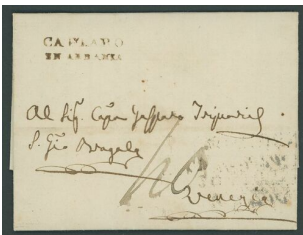
(x) French Albania (1806-1814)1809 (Feb. 2). Entire letter from Ragusa (Duvrovnik) to Venice (March 13th), sent through the postal services established by the French Army of Dalmatia ("Armee de Dalmatie") in Dubrovnik, bearing "ragusa/d.to d,albania" postmark, with a handwritten postal rate of "22" Italian centimes, the correct tariff applied in accordance with Decree No. 46 issued on 12.1.1807 for the transport of a letter weighing from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce carried within the Italian Kingdom (Department of Dalmatia) to a destination within a distance of 3 radiuses. Letter sent during the last months of the third tariff period of the French Italian Kingdom postal administration (1.2.1807-30.4.1809); in 1810, Ragusa, together with Dalmatia and Istria, will pass under the newly created French Illyrian Provinces. A rarity of the French mail abroad, with just two examples recorded, and also highly desirable for the advanced collector of the Napoleonic period in particular.provenance: Walter Andrea D'AgostinoThe Fondo D'Agostino is an important historical collection of documents and correspondence relating to contagion control from the Renaissance through the 19th century, of scholarly significance for the study of early public health systems and the historical management of infectious diseases. It was assembled and later donated by Professor Walter Andrea D'Agostino (1920-2016), a diabetologist and distinguished scholar of epidemic diseases, and is today preserved at the Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele in Milan.Before the greater part of the collection was donated, the Albanian section was acquired directly from Professor D'Agostino by the collector of "The Treasure of the Eagles", while a smaller group of material relating to other countries was dispersed at auction. The present material in this collection therefore represents a rare and significant provenance, originating from what is arguably one of the most, if not the most important general collection in the world devoted to historical documentation on public health, contagion control, and disinfection practices, also detailed in the noted book "Contagio: Sudore, Lacrime e Sangue in Tempi di Pestilenze" by W. A. D'Agostino.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3019

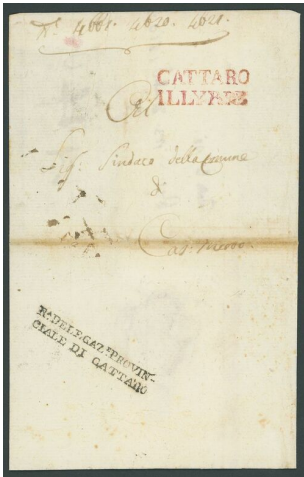
(x) French Albania (1806-1814)1809 (March 27). Incoming letter from Venice to Dobrota during the first period of French occupation of both territories, prior to their later incorporation into the Austrian Empire (as agreed at the Congress of Vienna). Handstamped with the red italic "Venezia" postmark issued by the French postal administration. Incorrectly charged "18" cents, the internal rate for a letter of less than ¼ ounce in weight sent within the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy up to a distance of 3 radiuses during the third tariff period (1.2.1807-30.4.1809).note: In fact, Dobrota did not belong to the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy but to the Province of Albania in the French Empire (the so-called French Albania); it therefore had to be treated as a foreign destination. The correct postage should consequently have been 16 cents, the rate applicable to letters of the same weight sent from the Kingdom of Italy to neighbouring foreign territories.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£100 to £200

Lot 3020

(x) French Albania (1806-1814)1809 (June). Cover sent from Dobrota to Venice through the port of Kotor (Cattaro), struck with the French "cattaro/in albania" handstamp, when Kotor was under the control of the French military contingent. Charged "40" cents of lira in manuscript for a letter weighing less than ¼ ounce sent to the Napoleonic Italian Kingdom (Adriatic Department with Venice as capital) from a non-neighbouring foreign province (Albania in the French Empire, with Cattaro as capital). Reverse erroneously marked with handwritten "16" cents, as this tariff should have been applied to mail of the same weight sent from Venice abroad, not vice versa. The letter was sent during the fourth tariff period of the postal administration of the French Italian Kingdom (1.5.1809-30.6.1811). About 20 covers are known with this postmark; in addition, this was sent during the earliest days of the fourth period, reflecting the change in postal rates following the entry into force of General Finance Decree No. 46 of the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy, approved on 27.3.1809.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3021

(x) French Albania (1806-1814) 1810 (Dec. 23). Cover from Cattaro (Kotor) to Castelnuovo (Herceg Novi), with a very fine strike of the "cattaro/illyrie" two-line postmark in red (Müller 216b=280 Points), adopted by the Albanian Division of the French Dalmatian Army (occupying the Dalmatian coast from 1807 to 1815), showing on reverse a neatly applied "R.a delegaz.e provin./ciale di cattaro" two-line handstamp (Royal Provincial Delegation of Kotor). A very rare postmark (as reported by Müller) and one of two items known with this administrative cachet from Cattaro. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3022

(x) French Albania (1806-1814) 1813 (Jan. 26). Entire letter from Paris sent by the French Minister of Worship, Félix-Julien-Jean Bigot de Préameneu, to the Bishop of the Diocese of Cattaro (Kotor), Marco Antonio Gregorina, serving in French Albania within the Illyrian Provinces, struck in transit with French "trieste/illyrie" two-line postmark in red. Containing very important information about the agreement reached by Napoleon Bonaparte and Pope Pius VII, written and signed by the Minister, including: "Mister Bishop, I am charged with announcing that yesterday at Fontainebleau a concordat has been reached between His Majesty and His Holiness for the re-establishment of the peace of the Church. For the joy that this great event will cause to the clergy and to all their faithful, whose first sentiments will be a return to prayer, you are authorised to have a Te Deum sung in the church of your Diocese". The Minister thus announced the peace between Napoleon and the Pope, and the letter was sent one day after this event. An extremely rare incoming mail from a French Minister with significant historical relevance. note: After the conquest of Italy and the Papal States, Napoleon Bonaparte had Pope Pius VII (already a prisoner of the Emperor in Savona) secretly transferred to the Castle of Fontainebleau on 20.6.1812, where he remained confined for 19 months until, under pressure, he agreed to sign a Concordat on 25.1.1813 (one day after this letter was sent). Regarding to this letter, in order to avoid passage through foreign territories, it probably followed a route entirely within French-occupied lands, i.e., from Paris to Lyon, Milan, and Trieste, before being loaded onto a ship to reach its destination at the main Montenegrin port. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3023

(x) Austrian Albania (1797-1806; 1814-1918) Budua 1844 (March 30). Entire letter from the Bishop of Shkodër (Scutari), Apostolic Mission of Pulati, to Baron de Jessé, President of the Central Council of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Lyon, France, bearing a neat strike of the oval "budua" postmark, red "TS" transit handstamp applied in the Kingdom of Sardinia, red French entry c.d.s., and French "13" décimes due h.s. on front; initially charged on reverse with manuscript "10" kr. The letter was exceptionally posted at the port of Budva (Budua) rather than via the usual route from Cattaro. Interesting contents concerning the situation of the Catholic dioceses established in Ottoman Albania. A fascinating cover with about five recorded with this postmark. provenance: Markus Gmähle note: Cattaro (Kotor) was the principal port where letters from the Catholic Missions of northern Ottoman Albania (Shkodër, Lezhë, Pulati) were normally embarked for maritime transport. In order to avoid the lengthy and often severe transport and disinfection procedures imposed on correspondence originating in Ottoman Albania, only on rare occasions were such letters dispatched from smaller Montenegrin ports, such as Budua (Budva), all considered part of the so-called "Austrian Albania". Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3024

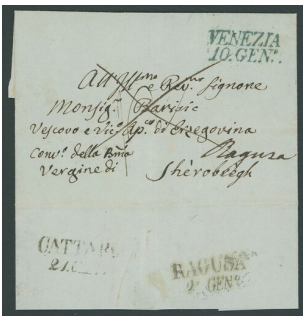
(x) Austrian Albania (1797-1806; 1814-1918) Cattaro 1833 (March 22). Incoming entire letter from Porto Rose on the north-eastern Adriatic coast to Budua (Budva) on the Montenegrin coast of "Austrian Albania", routed through the port of Cattaro (Kotor), where it was disinfected. The reverse displays the extremely rare "del. mar. sanitaria i.r. del porto di cattaro" ("Imperial Royal Maritime Health Delegation of the Port of Kotor") disinfection seal, applied on arrival (the only such disinfection seal used at this port). The contents include an exchange of information between the municipal administrations of the two ports under the Austrian Empire, regarding changes in ownership of some boats used to transport goods and passengers along the Adriatic Sea. To our knowledge, this is the only letter recorded exhibiting this disinfection seal. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3025

(x) Austrian Albania (1797-1806; 1814-1918) Cattaro 1843 (Jan. 27). Registered entire letter from the Austrian Consulate in Shkodër to the Imperial Consul of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in Venice, showing on the reverse the corresponding negative handstamp of the Consulate, with a signed notation and a manuscript red cross below indicating disinfection at the Lazaret of Castellastua, before being forwarded to the Austrian Post Office of Cattaro (Kotor), where it was struck with the Austrian "Cattaro" linear postmark, together with the "5. Feb." datestamp, "raccom." denoting registration, and the "Turquie." handstamp indicating origin from the "risky" territory of Ottoman Albania, all applied at upper right on the front. At Cattaro it was embarked on an Austrian Lloyd vessel to Trieste (13.2), arriving in Venice on 16.2, with both d.s. on the back, also showing the manuscript double rate of $12 + 6 = 18$ kreuzer, paid at the port of Cattaro for the maritime Cattaro-Trieste carriage (12 Kr.) and the inland transport Trieste-Venice (6 Kr.). The finer of two items recorded bearing this combination of postmarks, which were very harmoniously applied in this instance, making it a delightful exhibition item. note: The correspondence of the Austrian Consulate in Shkodër, after the postal charges had been prepaid by the Consulate, was entrusted to a private postal company managed by Christian traders, who transported the mail on horseback (from a stable located in the Drotcin Kale neighbourhood) to the neighbouring Lazaret of Castellastua in Montenegro (under Austrian administration). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£750 to £1,500

Lot 3026

(x) Austrian Albania (1797-1806; 1814-1918) Cattaro 1850 (Jan. 10). An unusual incoming cover from Venice to Rafo Barisic, Bishop and Apostolic Vicar of Herzegovina, at the Monastery of the Most Blessed Virgin in Shèrobregh (Siroki Brijeg, Bosnia and Herzegovina), bearing three different Austrian two-line d.s.: Venice on the front, and Cattaro (Kotor) and Ragusa (Dubrovnik) on the reverse. In Ragusa, the letter was taken in charge by the local Diocese, which governed the ecclesiastical province including Herzegovina, and was then forwarded directly to the final addressee through internal church channels. The handwritten tariff of 10 lire for inland transport within the Austrian Empire, paid on dispatch, covered the required fee to destination. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3027

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Antivari1856 (Jan. 14). Cover from the religious mission of Sappa, in the vilayet of Scutari, to the Council for the Propagation of the Catholic Faith in Lyon, France, posted at Antivari (Bar) with early use of Type 2 (Tchilinghirian & Stephen, fig. 467) "antivari" c.d.s. of the Austrian Lloyd maritime postal agency opened there in 1854. Red Sardinian "Via degli Stati Sardi" h.s. attesting direct transport by French vessel, red French entry c.d.s., and "10" due on arrival; backstamped in Triest and Lyon. Handwritten rate of "10" soldi on back -instead of the usual triple rate normally due for maritime transport by Austrian Lloyd steamers-, inland carriage through the Lombardy-Venetian Kingdom, and onward land transport along the French route to destination. One of just three letters known with the seal of the Diocese of Sappa.provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3028

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Antivari1862 (July 5). Registered envelope (upper back flap missing) from Shkodër (Scutari) to Constantinople via Bar (Antivari), where the "recom." (indicating payment of the registration fee), "franco" and "antivari" second-type c.d.s. were all applied in transit, backstamped with Austrian arrival c.d.s. Cover edge imperfections at lower left. To our knowledge, an exceedingly scarce combination of these postmarks, being unique applied in blue.provenance: Fiorenzo Zanettinote: The letters from Albanian territory addressed to the Ottoman Empire could reach their final destinations by two routes: either by sea, via Austrian Lloyd steamers calling at the Albanian ports (mainly for correspondence to Constantinople), as in this instance; or by land through Ottoman postal couriers, the so-called Tatars, following the Rumelian route. The choice of route depended primarily on the time required for transport, as the applicable tariffs were generally similar.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3029

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Antivari1867, 5kr. red, Coarse Printing, type IIa, horizontal pair, kreuzer denomination instead of soldi, used on small piece and tied by very fine "Antivari 15/4" c.d.s. in blue. A unique multiple used in Albania and an extremely rare example of a kreuzer usage in this territory, further enhanced by the postmark usage in blue. Cert. Ferchenbauer. Michel 37IA.provenance: Anton & Elisabeth JergerSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £800

Lot 3030

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Durazzo 1830 (Jan. 19). Entire letter sent between members of the Tripovich family from Durrës (Durazzo) to Trieste, charged with a reduced fee of "3" kreuzer for sea transport, rated as a local direct sea delivery, without intermediate postal transit. Reverse bearing wax seals of "i.r. lazzeretto san carlo in trieste" with double-headed eagle, applied on arrival (Meyer T. VII, Sub-Type M). A very scarce disinfected letter. provenance: Walter Andrea D'Agostino Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3031

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Durazzo 1863 (Oct. 20). Cover from Durrës to Vienna via Trieste, struck on departure with the "durazzo" second-type c.d.s., and showing at right the oval handstamp of the Greek forwarding agent Petros Kalaididapa of Durrës; backstamped at Trieste and Vienna. Rated "10/15", including 10kr. for the Albania-Trieste and 5kr. for the Trieste-Venice sea journeys, paying the Venice-Vienna overland route with 10kr. Five covers are known with the involvement of this forwarding agent. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3032

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Durazzo 1865 (Oct. 2). Cover from Durrës (Durazzo) to Trieste, correctly paying the single postage with two examples of 1863 5s. rose, each harmoniously applied on the two upper corners, tied by second-type c.d.s. on dispatch, and exceptionally by pen stroke in the lower part, backstamped on arrival. The 1863 issue is exceedingly rare used in Albania. Michel 16. provenance: "Albania" collection sold by F. Zanetti (1998) Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £2,000

Lot 3033

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Durazzo 1867 (March 7). Large registered envelope from Durres (Durazzo) addressed to the Grand Minister of State (Grand Vizier, Sadrazam) Mehmed Emin Ali Pasha (one of the most influential statesmen of the Ottoman Empire during the reform era known as the Tanzimat), franked with four examples of 1867 Coarse Printing 5s. red, vertical pair, and two singles (one torn on opening) on the reverse to pay the registration fee, tied by very fine "Durazzo" c.d.s.'s (type 2) in blue, with "recom:" straight-line at right, and Austrian c.d.s. of Constantinople on reverse. An extremely rare example of franked registered mail in Albania in this period -as a matter of fact, no examples were encountered in the 19th century in the phenomenal "Albania" collection sold by Fiorenzo Zanetti in 1998, which featured a wide section of Austrian Levant-; in addition, an exceptional case of mail addressed to an Ottoman governor using the Austrian mail via maritime routes, instead of the official Ottoman post overland. Michel 31. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,200 to £2,000

Lot 3034

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Durazzo 1872 (1 March). Cover from Durazzo (Durrës) to Corfu, franked with Austrian Levant 1867 10s. blue, tied by "durazzo" thimble c.d.s. in blue (Tchilinghirian & Stephen type 3), delivered on 26 June 1872 to the Austrian Lloyd post office in Durazzo and in use until the late 1870s. The 10s. was insufficient to cover the 20 soldri rate for a foreign destination, and it was charged on arrival with "20" lepta in blue crayon, paid with Greece "Rologakia" 20l. (Michel 106), tied by the "106" dotted lozenge on arrival. The only known cover from Albania in combination with this Greek issue, and additionally used in the first month of its circulation. Michel 4. provenance: "Cihangir" collection (illustrated in one of the few outstanding plates with enlarged images in part I), and Fiorenzo Zanetti. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£3,000 to £5,000

Lot 3035

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)DurazzoKreuzer Used In Durazzo1873 (7 March). Cover from Durazzo (Durrës) to Trieste, franked with 1867 10 kreuzer, instead of the required soldi currency, as one of the exceptional cases in which this went unnoticed by postal clerks, very cleanly tied by the "durazzo" thimble c.d.s. in blue (Tchilinghirian & Stephen type 3), backstamped on arrival (13.3). Among the very few covers bearing the usage of kreuzer stamps in Albania, about five recorded, this is unique with this cancellation. Signed F. Zanetti and Y. Nakri. Michel 4.provenance: "Cihangir" collection and Fiorenzo ZanettiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£2,000 to £3,000

Lot 3036

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Janina1865 (Jan. 31). Envelope from Janina to Vienna, bearing 1864 5s. rose, pair and single, cleanly tied by very fine strikes of "janina" c.d.s.'s, backstamped in Trieste (7.2) and Vienna on 9 February, thus showing the efficient service provided by the Austrian Lloyd, transporting a letter over such a long distance in only nine days. A very rare franking paying a double rate. Michel 21.provenance: "Oscar" collection and Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3037

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Prevesa1869 (Sept. 9). Entire letter from Preveza (then in the Vilayet of Janina in Ottoman Albania, now in Greece) to Kerkyra (Corfu, Greece), franked with 1867 10s. blue, tied by "prevesa" second-type c.d.s., with alongside "P.P." marking on departure, taxed on delivery with "20" blue crayon paid with Greece 20l. (the due tariff was 20 soldi for the foreign destination). A very fine example of this combination cover, with fewer than ten known, and this displaying clean and very good strikes. Signed Holcombe. Michel 5.provenance: "Cihangir" collection and Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3038

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Prevesa1880 (Dec. 12). Part of letter from Preveza (Ottoman Albania) to Kerkyra (Corfu, Greece), bearing 1867 10s. Blue, cleanly tied by "prevesa" c.d.s. (Tchilinghirian & Stephen type IV). Very fine and scarce. Michel 4.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£120 to £180

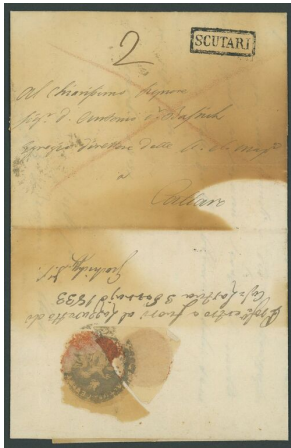
Lot 3039



(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Prevesa 1893 (Feb 22). Cover from Prevesa (Ottoman Albania) to Zara (Dalmatia, then Austrian Empire), franked by Austrian Levant 1890-92 1pi. on 10kr. grey-ultramarine, tied by superb "prevesa" c.d.s. (Tchilinghrian & Stephen type 2). A delightful cover. Michel 23. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3040



(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914) Scutari d'Albania The Unique Letter Bearing the Austrian Castellastua Seal and One of Two Bearing the First Austrian Postmark of Scutari 1832 (Dec. 30). Entire letter from the Consular Post Office of Shkodër (Scutari) to Mr. Antonio Tripcovich in Kotor (Cattaro), exhibiting a splendid strike of the framed Austrian "scutari" from this Austrian office opened in Ottoman Albania in 1820, rated at "2" kreuzer for the inland Castellastua-Cattaro carriage, both part of the "Austrian Albania" territory, with a red pencil cross also on obverse denoting payment of the due tariff. The reverse shows a wax seal and a negative "Ces. Rec. Consolato Austriaco in Castellastua" oval handstamp of the Austrian Consular Office in Castellastua (Lastva), located within the lazaret established in this small village near the border with Ottoman Albania, where the letter was disinfected on 3.1.1833, as indicated by a signed manuscript notation below the seals, with clear signs of iron tongs used for health fumigation. The earlier and finer of only two known examples of this Austrian Scutari postmark, and the only letter recorded showing the seal of the Austrian Consular Office opened in Castellastua; an important rarity of the Austrian Levant and of the postal history of Albania. provenance: Fritz Puschmann. This letter was mentioned for the first time by Löwy (see page 295 of the book "Documenti Sanitari / Bolli e suggelli di disinfezione nel passato" of C. Ravasini in 1958); also illustrated in the "The Postal History of Shkodër" handbook by J.L. Kelion. It was reported on page 90 of the "Disinfected Mail" handbook by K.F. Meyer. note: The Austrian Lloyd Journal of 24.1.1843 mentioned: "The Postal Institute of the Imperial-Royal Vice Consulate of Scutari began its services in 1820 and established its postal service with the Imperial-Royal Post Office of Cattaro and the Imperial-Royal Consulate of Scutari". In 1823, according to Major Andreas Patera, a courier service on foot from Shkodër to Kotor (Cattaro), without intermediate stops, was approved. It was financed by merchants conducting business in the north of Ottoman Albania and operated under the protection of the Imperial-Royal Vice Consul in Scutari, covering the route twice a month. The framed handstamp exhibited in this lot was supplied to postmark the letters carried by this courier service. Note on letter disinfection: The process of sanitary disinfection involved perforating the letter and exposing it to sulphur fumes in order to neutralise any possible infectious agents. According to Professor Kaiser, quoting the retired director of the quarantine station, a 90 year old sea captain, the equipment was used as follows: the letter was picked up with tongs and placed in a press fitted on the lower plate with a series of sharp knives. By pressing down the lever, the upper plate punched holes through the paper. The letters, again handled with tongs, were then placed in the wire drum of the fumigation box, which was inserted into the large opening of the hearth. Sulphur fumes were produced below by burning a mixture of sulphur, saltpetre, and wheat bran. During fumigation, the wire drum was rotated to ensure full exposure of the letters to sulphur dioxide fumes. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£6,000 to £10,000

Lot 3041

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)ValonaThe Unique Example of the Lloyd Postmark of Valona1855 (March 3). Entire letter from Trieste (Triest) to Shkodër (Scutari) via Vlorë (Valona), correctly paying the Austrian inland rate of "10" kreuzer (blue crayon) to the Austrian Levant, struck with dispatch c.d.s. at top, exhibiting a very fine strike of the sunburst oval "agenzia del lloyd austriaco/valona" postmark, being unrecorded in any catalogue, although Tchilinghirian and Stephen note that the Vlorë Agency would have received a cancel of this standard Type "P" in 1854. The only example recorded of this Lloyd agency usage, a significant rarity of the Austrian Levant. Signed Nakri.note: In 1854, the Austrian Lloyd inaugurated its "Albanian Line", including the first maritime postal establishments to operate in Ottoman Albania. The first postmarks supplied to the Maritime Agencies acting as post offices were the oval handstamps of Durrës (Durazzo) and Vlorë (Valona).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£7,500 to £15,000

Lot 3042

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Valona1860 (May 8). Cover from Vlorë (Valona) to Vienna via Trieste, postmarked with "valona" second-type c.d.s. and "franco" straight-line h.s., confirming full prepayment at dispatch of the red "10" kr. tariff in red crayon for inland transport within the Austrian Empire. A very fine example from this post office, which was used more rarely than those of Durazzo and Antivari, as it was not well connected.provenance: Achille RivoltaSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3043

(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Valona1865ca. (Nov. 10). Large part of registered cover front from Vlorë (Valona) to Durres (Durazzo), bearing 1864 10s. blue tied by "valona" type 2 c.d.s., with part of "recom:" straight line for registered mail at right. Additionally, a fragment with the same value tied by the same cancellation. A very probably unique example of registered mail with the 1863 or 1864 issues carried inland in Albania. Michel 22.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3044



(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Valona1867, 1s. yellow, Coarse Printing, strip of four, outstandingly fresh tied to piece by "valona" c.d.s. Two vertical creases of little significance for this unique multiple used in Albania. Cert. Ferchenbauer. Michel 1I. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3045



(x) Austrian Levant (1820-1914)Incoming Mail1870 (Jan. 25). An interesting envelope from the Italian Consul in Ragusa (Dubrovnik, Austrian possession after the Peace of Vienna in 1866) to Scutari (Shkodër), franked by Austria 1860 10kr. tied by Ragusa c.d.s. (Tchilinghirian type 2), without arrival postmark or Turkish franking, as it was handled as a diplomatic mail directly delivered to the consulate. Addressed to Louis-Gabriel-Gaudéric Aubaret (1825-1894), French Consul-General at Scutari from 1868, a naval officer, linguist, diplomat, administrator, and business leader with over 40 years of experience in military, political, and commercial roles in the region; in the 1880s, he became a prominent figure in Constantinople, serving as President of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration and leading the syndicate that completed the railroad used by the Orient Express. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3046



(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1869 (July 20). Cover from Pest to Scutari, bearing Austria 1867 Coarse Printing 5kr. red, pair and single, paying 5kr. for the overland rate and 10kr. for the coastal maritime carriage, tied by "Pest Dél Ötán" c.d.s.'s, with application in Scutari of Turkey 1869 1pi. yellow, cancelled by a superb strike of "scutari d'albanie" (29.7) small thimble c.d.s. in blue. Small gum stains impinging on the Turkish franking and not detracting. An extremely rare cover from this origin featuring a mixed Austrian-Ottoman franking. provenance: Anton & Elisabeth Jerger and Richard Wittenberg Note: During the 19th century, the usual route for the transport of mail between the Kosovan territory of Ottoman Albania and Pest, capital of the Hungarian part of the Austrian Empire, was a north-south overland route crossing the disinfection station of Semlin, located along the sanitary cordon on the border with Serbia. More rarely, as in this case, and when particularly important letters required a safer route handled by more reliable postal agents, the communication was carried via the land-sea-land connection Pest-Vienna-Trieste-Antivari-Scutari-Prizren. Letters arriving at the Austrian Consulate of Scutari (Shkoder) and destined for other locations within the Ottoman Empire were subject to the payment of an additional postal tariff for transport by Turkish couriers to the final destination. Starting from mid-1869 and for less than two years, the Austrian Consulate in Scutari replaced the Ottoman Post Office by applying Duloz stamps to the letters in accordance with the Ottoman tariff required for inland transport, cancelling them with a small "thimble" date postmark and delivering the mail to the Turkish couriers for conveyance to the final destination. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3047

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (Feb. 8). Cover from Venice to Shkodër (Scutari), endorsed "Via Trieste-Col Valore Austriaco di Antivari", franked by Italy 1866 60c. (Sassone T21), tied by "196" dotted lozenge with matching dispatch c.d.s. and adjacent "P.P.", oval d.s. of Trieste (9.2) on reverse, blue "scutari d'albanie" small thimble (19.2) c.d.s. on obverse, together with Turkey postage-due 1869 1pi. (Michel 12Aa) at lower left, paying the inland Ottoman Antivari-Scutari carriage by horse courier, tied by "Iskodra/81" double circle in Arabic for delivery. One of the finest examples available of this desirable mixed franking through Scutari. Signed Enzo Diena. provenance: Achille Rivolta note: Until the end of September 1870, letters sent from Venice or Trieste were generally collected by the addressee at the Austrian Consulate in Scutari, an important trading centre of northern Ottoman Albania. To avoid conflicts with the Ottoman Postal Administration, the Consulate required payment of the Turkish inland rate from Antivari (the nearest Ottoman landing port) to Scutari, amounting to 1 piastre. The Consulate then applied a stamp on the envelope (usually a postage due stamp for this rate) and cancelled either the letter or the Turkish stamp with a small "thimble" date postmark, confirming payment before forwarding it to the Ottoman Post Office, which completed delivery after applying its own double-circle postal seal. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3048

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (March 4). Cover from Venice to Shkodër (Scutari), endorsed "Via Trieste-Col Valore Austriaco di Antivari", bearing Italy 1866 60c. (Sassone T21), tied by "196" dotted cancel with corresponding Venice c.d.s. at left, Austrian "scutari d'albanie" small thimble c.d.s. in blue on March 11, and Turkey postage-due 1869 1pi. (Michel 12Aa) at lower left, used to cover the Antivari-Scutari inland carriage by horse courier, tied by "Iskodra/81" double circle in Arabic in blue. Struck in transit in Trieste on the reverse. A rare mixed franking including Italian, Austrian and ottoman administrations. Signed F. Zanetti. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3049

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (June 21). Entire letter from Shkoder (Scutari) to Venice, franked with Turkey postage due 1869 1pi. (Michel 12Bb), tied by "Iskodra/81" double-circle c.d.s. in blue on dispatch, paying the horse courier service from Scutari to Antivari. "P.D." at top, showing superb "scutarie d'albanie" small thimble c.d.s. in blue. Further franked for the Antivari-Venice route with Austrian Levant 1867 Coarse Printing 5s. red and 10s. blue vertical pair (irregular perforations at right), tied by Antivari c.d.s. in dark brown, backstamped on back. Vertical crease through the Turkish stamp and creased lower right corner barely detract, and the recipient's surname has been crossed out. Fewer than five covers are recorded with this Austrian franking in combination with any Turkish franking. Cert. Ferchenbauer, signed Colla. Michel 3I, 4I. provenance: Michael Sacher and Anton & Elisabeth Jerger Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3050

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (Aug. 25). Entire letter from Skopje, Macedonia, to Scutari, bearing pair and single of Turkey 1868 20pa. green (Michel 14A), tied by all Arabic "Uskup 81" double circle (Coles & Walker type 4) in blue on dispatch, showing above a very fine "scutari d'albanie" small thimble c.d.s. in blue (Tchilinghirian type 1). Some edge imperfections to cover and ageing along perforations. A rare incoming letter paying only Ottoman postage; as in this case, despite entering the Austrian P.O., the entire carriage of the mail was handled by Ottoman postal couriers. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3051

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (Aug. 31). Cover from Scutari to Venice, franked by two examples of Turkey 1868 20pa. green (Michel 14A), tied by very fine small "scutari d'albanie" thimble c.d.s. in blue, paying the Ottoman courier service by horse from Scutari to Antivari, where the Austrian type 2 c.d.s. was struck at right. Taxed with 35 kreuzer in blue crayon including 25kr. for the Antivari-Trieste sea route and 10kr. for the Trieste-Venice portion of the journey. Trieste and Venice backstamps. Part of the addressee's panel cut off. A very scarce mail without application of the Austrian franking. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3052

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (Oct. 25). Cover from Scutari to Venice, franked for the Scutari-Antivari courier horse-ride route with 1870 1p. yellow (Michel 15B), tied by the all-Arabic "Iskodra/81" double circle (Coles & Walker fig. 3), showing at right two pairs (one stamp with irregular perforations at base) and one single of 1867 Coarse Printing 5s. red, tied by "antivari" (26.10) c.d.s.'s (Tchilinghirian type 2), paying 10s. for the maritime transport to a "Küstenland" port and the 15s. single rate to Italy (in force from 1867), "P.D." at top. The reverse with Trieste (31.10) and Venice (1.11) c.d.s.'s. A spectacular franking of which four examples are known, this being particularly appealing with clear postmark strikes. note: From October 1870, the small "thimble" c.d.s. of Scutari ceased to be used. The postal procedures were as follows: since 1867, and to avoid conflict with the Ottoman authorities, letters from Scutari had to be franked with Turkish stamps to cover inland transport. These stamps were applied by the Austrian P.O., after which the mail was handed over to the Ottoman posts, where the Turkish postmark was applied on the franking before delivery to the Turkish couriers on horseback. Austrian Levant stamps were applied in Scutari at the Austrian P.O. to cover overseas postage and remained uncanceled until arrival at the Austrian homologous office in Antivari, where the Austrian Levant franking was cancelled with the Antivari c.d.s., and the "P.D." marking was struck before the mail was loaded onto an Austrian Lloyd ship calling at Antivari. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£3,000 to £5,000

Lot 3053

(x) Austrian Levant & Ottoman Postal Interaction in Albania (1869-1870) 1870 (Nov. 26). Cover to Venice, sent stampless to an Italian destination without the required Ottoman franking, and therefore without the application of Austrian stamps to avoid any potential conflict with the Ottoman administration. Bearing Antivari c.d.s. at left and charged on arrival with 70 centesimi, paid with postage due 1869 10c. and 1870 60c., tied by "Venezia-Arrivo" (29.11) d.s. A very rare mixed franking and a very scarce example of correspondence from Antivari charged on arrival. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

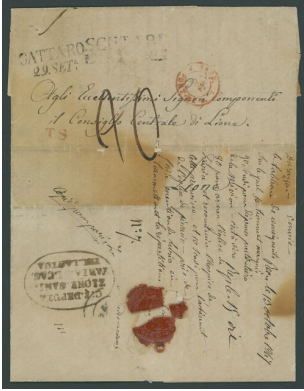
Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3054



(x) French Levant (1841-1847) The Unique "PP" - "SCUTARI EN ALBANIE" Letter 1841 (May 15). Entire letter from Shkodër to the captain Andrea Tripovich in Dobrota, displaying a superb strike of the French Consular "scutari en albanie" postmark, with "P.P." handstamp above, indicating "port payé" and full payment of the tariff on dispatch. The letter was disinfected at the French Consulate in Scutari, without passing through the Lazaret of Castellastua. Small wormhole through the "B" of the postmark, of no significance for the best available strike. The finest of only three recorded letters bearing the French postmark of Scutari, further enhanced by the only known example showing the "P.P." handstamp from this office, and additionally sent from Ottoman Albania to French Albania, crossing this small border between Eastern and Western civilizations; a significant rarity of the French post offices abroad. It was dispatched in the month this two-line postmark was introduced. provenance: "Cihangir" collection (illustrated in one of the few outstanding colour plates of the catalogue -part II- of this immense collection), and Karl Friedrich note: The French Consular Office was a key diplomatic post established in the early 19th century, often recorded as being active by the 1820s, with the aim of strengthening French diplomatic and commercial ties in Northern Albania. Following the model of the first Austrian Consular Post Office, in May 1841 the French Consular Office in Shkodër prepared and introduced this postmark to handstamp letters originating from this town in northern Ottoman Albania, mainly addressed to France, although in this case it represents an exceptional instance of its use to a destination within Ottoman Albania. This item was illustrated on page 21 of *The Postal History of Shkoder* by John Kellion (catalogue value: £15,000), where it is erroneously stated that two examples bearing the "P.P." postmark are known, as the present example is in fact unique. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£7,500 to £10,000

Lot 3055

(x) French Levant (1841-1847) 1847 (May 26). Entire letter from Shkodër (Scutari) to the Central Council of the Congregation for the Promotion of the Faith in Lyon, France, showing the French "scutari/en albanie" two-line handstamp. Disinfected in transit at the Lazaret of Castellastua with the handwritten notation "Espurgato entro e fuori li 27.9.47" and the oval "c.e.deputa/zione.sani./taria.di.cas./tel.lastua" marking on the reverse. Austrian transit "cattaro/29.sete." from Kotor, Sardinian "TS" ("Tassa Semplice") transit, French entry c.d.s. also in red, and manuscript French "20" tax also on front. Charged at 40 soldi, representing the quadruple rate for land transport from Ottoman Albania to the first Austrian disinfection in "Austrian Albania", then maritime transport from Kotor to Venice, and further land transport through the Lombardy-Venetia Kingdom and the Sardinian States. One of only three recorded covers bearing the "Scutari en Albanie" postmark. Cert. Pushmann and Velickovic. provenance: "Cihangir" collection and Fritz Puschmann note: Letters from Ottoman Albania addressed to Lyon mainly crossed Lombardy-Venetia first and then the Sardinian Kingdom before reaching the French customs post at Pont de Beauvoisin; this must be one of the earliest examples to complete this unusual journey. Illustrated by Kellion in his handbook on Shkodër. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£3,000 to £5,000

Lot 3056

(x) Italian Levant (1901-1914) Durazzo-Durres. 1914 (Jan. 28). Registered express commercial envelope from Durres (Durazzo) to Rome, franked by Durazzo 20pa. on 10c. rose, 1pi. on 25c. blue and 2pi. on 50c. violet, in combination with Italian Levant Express 1pi. on 25c. rose, tied by "Durazzo/Uff° Postale Italiano" square c.d.s.'s, with Naples transit and receiving d.s. on back. Envelope with some creasing and slight foxing along some perforations, of little significance. One of the earliest mails after the ICC (International Commission of Control) and a very rare registered express mail. Sassone 2, 4, 5; (Espressi) 1. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £350

Lot 3057



(x) Italian Levant (1901-1914)Durazzo-Durres. 1914, three registered covers bearing different frankings including the 10pa., 20pa., 30pa. and 1pi. values of teh Durazzo P.O., showing registration marking or label, and two types of cancellation. Destinations comprise Austria (redirected to Germany), Rome (signed Sorani) and Egypt (signed Enzo Diena). A rare trio of commercial registered mails. Sassone 1-4.provenance: "Cihangir" collectionSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3058



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)The Modiano Unissued Stamps1912, 5c., 10c., 25c., 50c. and 1fr., complete set of five values, perforation 12½, unused without gum on thin paper. The 5c. with some toned spots otherwise fine. A very rare set in perforated condition. Cert. Raybaudi.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £350

Lot 3059



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)The Modiano Unissued Stamps1912, 25c. and 50c. imperforate, each in complete sheet of 50 with marginal imprints "50 x cent. 25 " frs. 12.50" and "50 x cent. 50 = frs. 25-", unused without gum. A very difficult duo.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3060



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)The Modiano Unissued Stamps1912, 5c., 10c., 25c. and 1fr. on unmailed envelope addressed to La Spezia, Italy, with each stamp tied by "vlonë / 9-12-19 2 / shqipënië" c.d.s., with the "1" in "1912" missing. The earliest recorded genuine usage of the first postmark of independent Albania, representing the only known example of its use in 1912, as well as one of just two known covers bearing these stamps (the other was not used in 1912). Cert. Enzo Diena.note: Only a few examples of the Modiano stamps were illegally circulated in Albania during the first months of the Vlorë Government and after the outbreak of the First World War. Although it is not known when the first postmarks of independent Albania were supplied, it is possible that, at the end of 1912, the first Vlorë c.d.s. was ordered in Trieste, when the Modiano stamps were produced, and that both stamps and cancellations were subsequently supplied to Vlorë. This is plausible considering that on 21.11.1912 Ismail Qemal departed from Trieste to Albania, where he proclaimed the country's independence a few days later, on 28.11.1912. It was previously assumed that the postmarks arrived in Albania in April, one month before the first issue; however, the stamp project in 1912 required the simultaneous use of postmarks, making their production necessary at an earlier stage. This cover, therefore, supports the hypothesis that they were already in use in December 1912, when the Modiano stamps were delivered.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £1,500

Lot 3061



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)The Modiano Unissued Stamps1912, group of 16 unused stamps, including a complete set from 5c. to 1fr. (three of which with Raybaudi certificates), together with duplicates of the 5c., 50c. and 1fr. values, as well as two marginal blocks of four of the 25c. and 1fr. An interesting assembly of these very rarely seen stamps.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3062



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) First Issue 1913 (May 27). Large inter Post and Telegraph stampless cover from Qukës to Fier, bearing an unclear strike of the c.d.s. of Qukës, overstruck by another poorly applied c.d.s. of Elbasan (28.6) over one month later, showing alongside c.d.s.'s of Peqin in violet (25.6), Lushje in blue (8.7) and Fier in violet (13.7). An extremely rare mail from this period showing five different postmarks and without franking, probably sent at a time when the first handstamp issue was not yet available in Qukës in May. Cert. Holcombe. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3063



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) First Issue 1913 (June 13). (1pi.) black handstamp cut to shape with ample, even outer margins, applied to a commercial envelope from Qukës to Peqin, tied by the corresponding c.d.s. on dispatch, with Elbasan transit and Peqin (14.6) arrival c.d.s. at right, all struck in violet. A very scarce usage of this handstamp cut out and used in the first issue, even more remarkable on commercial cover. Michel 1. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3064



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) First Issue 1913 (June 24). (1pi.) black handstamp on envelope from Peqin to Fier, cancelled by Peqin c.d.s. in violet, with additional strikes of Lushje c.d.s. in blue and Fier (25.6) c.d.s. in purple alongside. A couple of archive folds do not detract from this very fresh and very scarce non-philatelic early usage from a locality with an estimated population of only 2,000-3,000 inhabitants in 1913. Michel 1. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3065

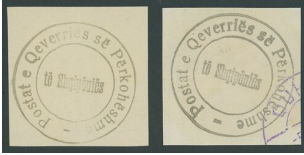
(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) First Issue 1913 (June 28). Registered cover from Durrës (Durazzo) to Naples, pre-franked with (1pi.) black handstamp at top left, cancelled by Durrës c.d.s. in violet on 28.6.1913, before being consigned to the Italian post office in Durrës and additionally franked at right with 1909 2pi. on 40c., tied by "Durazzo/Ufficio Postale Italiano" c.d.s. applied over six months later on 8.1.1914, repeated below, with registration marking in the centre, and arrival c.d.s. on the reverse two days later. The only example known of a first issue handstamp on envelope sent through an Italian P.O. Cert. Enzo Diena. Michel 1.note: In order to avoid penalties on mail addressed abroad and franked with Albanian stamps of the first two issues that were not yet recognised internationally, one of the foreign postal offices operating in Albania at the time (Italy, Austria or Turkey) could be used to forward the correspondence abroad. In this case, given the time gap between the Albanian postmark and that of the Italian office, the letter may initially have been franked with the handstamp of the first issue, but it was decided not to send it immediately and to dispatch it months later by consigning it directly to the Italian post office, unless the Albanian office, unable or unwilling to handle foreign mail, retained the letter for such a long period of time before passing it to the Italian P.O. in the same city. The certificate does not clarify this point either, stating (translated into English): "...forwarded to Naples by the Durazzo post office". Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £800

Lot 3066

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (June 16). Cover with blue embossing of the Lloyd in Trieste with emblem with a crowned anchor (on reverse), sent from Vlorë via Trieste to Lindau, Germany, franked with Turkey 1909-11 20pa. rose and 1pi. ultramarine (Michel 161II & 162II), both tied by Vlonë first-type c.d.s. on departure in blue, repeated at left. A very rare cover bearing Ottoman stamps used by the new postal administration of the Provisional Government of Vlorë, which were already recognised by foreign postal administrations, used to avoid taxation on arrival during the period when the first two issues of Albania were still unknown or not yet recognised abroad. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3067

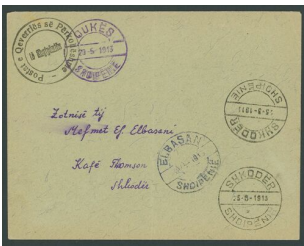
(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913, (1pi.) black, cut square, two examples, including one unused without gum, the other with even impression and cleanly cancelled in lower right corner by Qukës c.d.s in violet, with a Mikulski certificate (1996). A very fine duo. Michel 2A; €950. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3068

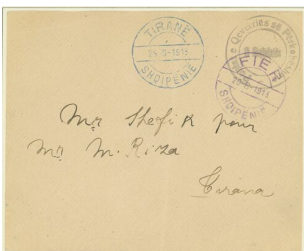
(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913, (1pi.) black, cut to shape, one well margined unused example without gum and one used on piece, the latter showing a very neat and strong impression, touched on two small places, on large piece tied by violet Vlonë c.d.s. (28 August) and part Fier c.d.s. at left. A very fine duo. Michel 2A; €950. provenance: Robert Ballauri Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3069

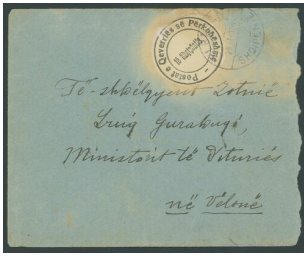
(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (May 20). (1pi.) black, handstamped on envelope from Qukës to Shkodër, cancelled by violet Qukës c.d.s. dated 20 May, ten days before the official date of issue of June 1st, with transit c.d.s. of Elbasan and arrival c.d.s. of Shkodër dated May 25. One of the few covers recorded prior to the official date of issue. Cert. O. Graf. Michel 2. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3070

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (June 20). (1pi.) black handstamp on envelope from Fier to Tirana, cancelled by Fier c.d.s. in violet, with blue Tirana (25.6) c.d.s. at left; as well as one (1pi.) handstamp in purple, cut to shape on piece tied by violet Durrës (8.9) c.d.s. A difficult duo including two different colours of this value. Michel 2, 2A. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3071

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (July 29). (1pi.) black, cut to shape, slightly touched at top, on envelope (rough opening at right) from Elbasan addressed to the prominent figure of the Albanian National Awakening, Luigi Gurakuqi, at the Ministry of the Interior, tied by Elbasan c.d.s., with arrival c.d.s. on reverse applied 19 days later. Some ageing around the stamp. A very rare usage on non-philatelic mail, showing a very fine impression. Michel 2A. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3072

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (Oct. 28). (1pi.) black, sewing-machine perforation, used on envelope to Elbasan, tied by Qukës c.d.s in violet, with receiving (28.10) c.d.s. on back. Apparently non travelled, but a scarce used stamp. Michel 2B; €800 off cover. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3073

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Second Issue 1913 (Aug. 26). (1pi.) black, pair from the lower left corner of the sheet, with misplaced impression at left partly overstruck on the example at right, correctly paying the rate of a registered envelope from Qukës to Elbasan, tied on dispatch by violet c.d.s. (26.8.1913), receiving the c.d.s. on receipt on back for the same day. At most three examples are known of the largest multiple on cover; in addition, this represents the earliest recorded date for the sewing-machine stamps. Michel 2B. note: The sources vary considerably in their comments on the sewing-machine stamps. Unlike most examples of the second issue, which were impressed on envelopes, the handstamp was applied to sheets of white paper with sewing-machine perforations. These are generally thought to have been issued in October 1913, with between 700 and 800 examples in sheets of 45, when the overprinted stamps of the third issue were running out and the stamps of later issues had not yet arrived. Nevertheless, examples of the sewing-machine issue have been found cancelled in September 1913, and, exceptionally, even in August in this case. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3074



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 2pa. olive, red overprint inverted, which was uniformly applied, almost unmounted mint with original gum, usual centring, excellent perforations, deserving a premium in its valuation. A rare double variety. Michel 3 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3075



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 2pa. olive, horizontal tête-bêche pair with oily blue, instead of black, overprint, inverted at left, showing cancellations confined to the lower corners. Minor toning in the centre margin just mentioned for accuracy. Very scarce. Michel 3 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3076



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 2pa. olive, blue overprint variety instead of black, oily applied, block of four lightly cancelled by indistinct blue c.d.s.'s, quite well centred. Minor toning on a few perforations, not detracting from this extremely rare used multiple. Michel 3 (var); €3,400+.provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3077



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 5pa. ochre-yellow, red overprint inverted, well centred for this stamp, unmounted mint with original gum. A very fine and rare double variety. Michel 4 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3078



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 10pa. emerald, red overprint inverted, an outstanding example unmounted mint with original gum and very well centred. Highly desirable for this very scarce double variety, preserved in the choice condition sought by Lef Nosi. Michel 5 (var). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3079



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 10pa. emerald, an outstanding example featuring three overprint errors: inverted, double and in red instead of black in an intense shade, with full perforations, additionally displaying the overprint slightly misplaced to top left, very lightly mounted with original gum. The triple varieties are extremely rare and highly desirable, being unique or with two or three examples recorded. Cert. Holcombe. Michel 5 (var). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3080



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 10pa. emerald, pair with each example displaying the overprint sideways, the two arranged face to face. Excellent impression of the overprint, very lightly tied to piece by an indistinct c.d.s., and with good centring. A couple of short perforations at lower left, as usually encountered and not detracting. An extremely rare variety in multiple; as a single, the sideways overprint variety would already be remarkably scarcer than the inverted overprint. Michel 5 (var). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3081



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 20pa. rose, with inverted overprint and additionally in red instead of black, well centred for this issue, lightly mounted with original gum. One corner perforation missing; irregular perforations are characteristic of this issue. A double variety of considerable scarcity. Signed Dr. Peters. Michel 6x (var). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3082

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 20pa. rose, pair with inverted overprint at right and in blue-violet variety, very well centred stamps, very lightly mounted with original gum; few irregular perforations as often found and not detracting. This tête-bêche variety is outstandingly scarcer in mint condition than in used stamps. Signed Brun. Michel 6x (var). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3083

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 20pa. rose, refulgent shade, block of four with o.g., showing the upper pair lightly mounted, with the lower pair being unmounted, usual centring. Two barely toned perforations at left not detracting. Multiples larger than pairs are very scarcely found in this issue. Michel 6x; €1,400+ (for hinged condition). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3084

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 20pa. rose, horizontal block of ten, generally very good perforations for this stamp, very fresh displaying some overprint varieties, unmounted mint with original gum. Large multiples of this issue are extremely scarce, and this is the largest recorded unused multiple for this value. Signed Calves. Michel 6x. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£700 to £1,200

Lot 3085

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 20pa. rose, three small pieces: one with two single examples, including one with inverted black overprint (the example without the variety with one short perforation, of no importance); the other two showing a horizontal tête-bêche pair, one overprinted in blue, the other in violet, instead of black and inverted at right, the former with intact perforations, well centred and very fresh, the other with some barely noticeable toning confined to few perforations. A rare trio. Michel 6 (var). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £800

Lot 3086



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 20pa. rose, two horizontal tête-bêche pairs, exhibiting the overprint in refulgent red and carmine-red, with the inverted position at left, both tied to piece, with the former featuring an outstandingly good centring. A very fine and rare duo. Michel 6 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3087



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine, with inverted overprint and further in violet instead of black, strongly applied, very fresh and unmounted mint with original gum. A very fine example of this rare double variety. Michel 7 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3088



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine, a remarkable horizontal block of six, being remarkably unmounted mint with original gum. Small tone spot in the lower left margin and a few barely noticeable toned perforations, mentioned only for accuracy. A very desirable and extremely rare multiple, larger than a block of four. Michel 7; €1,800+ (for hinged condition).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3089



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine, red overprint inverted, a superb example with well centred design and overprint, clean perforations which are very rarely found, very lightly cancelled leaving the design very clear. In the excellent condition chosen by Lef Nosi for a desirable double variety. Cert. O. Graf. Michel 7 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3090

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine, horizontal tête-bêche pair overprinted in dark carmine and displaying the inverted position at left, very well centred stamps and excellent impression of the overprint, tied to piece by c.d.s. A magnificent example of this variety. Michel 7 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3091

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (Aug. 23). Cover from Fier to Istanbul via Vlora (24.8) (transit on reverse), bearing 1913 1pi. ultramarine for the correct 1 piastre tariff, tied by Fier c.d.s. in purple. Taxed on arrival with framed bilingual "T" marking, as the Albanian stamp was not acknowledged as valid by the Ottoman postal administration. Some overall ageing, still quite fresh and rare non-philatelically inspired cover with an unusual cancellation. Michel 7.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3092

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (Sept. 14). Cover from Vlorë to Smyrna, Turkey, franked on reverse with 1913 1pi. blue, strong impression of the overprint, tied by violet "Vlonë" second-type c.d.s on dispatch, delivered through the Italian P.O. on receipt with "Smirne/Ufficio Italiano" c.d.s. at left. A rare and very fine commercial mail. Michel 7.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3093

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (Oct. 24). Envelope from Vlorë to the district of Üsküdar in Constantinople, correctly franked with 1913 1pi. ultramarine with inverted overprint and additionally in dark carmine or reddish-brown instead of black, tied by violet dispatch c.d.s., showing on the reverse the c.d.s. of the Italian P.O. at Constantinople, bilingual c.d.s.'s of Scutari (Üsküdar) and Galata in the same city, and roller d.s. of Constantinople, all struck on 30.10. Some minor tone spots, and a vertical archival fold far from the adhesive, not detracting from this rarity. This is an item of particular significance as it shows a double variety on a cover that was not franked for philatelic purposes, but with postage required for commercial correspondence that was actually sent; it is the only known postal-history example with this double variety. Signed A. Dena. Michel 7 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3094



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (Dec. 6). Registered mourning envelope from Tirana addressed to Amelia Baroness von Godin (a German researcher, writer, and cultural activist connected with Albania, closely linked to figures and events of 1912-14), delivered via the Austrian Consulate in Durrës, franked by 1913 1pi. ultramarine, single and strip of three, lightly tied by violet c.d.s.'s on dispatch. A couple of archive folds do not affect the franking and the overall appearance. To our knowledge, a unique franking, including a very rare used multiple, paying the triple registered rate and on non-philatelically inspired mail. Michel 7. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3095



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (Oct. 28). Registered envelope from Vlorë to Copenhagen, Denmark, bearing 1913 1pi. ultramarine with overprint in red instead of black, in combination with Fourth Issue 1gr. black (black eagle), each tied by the "Vlonë" second-type c.d.s., repeated below, with a hand-designed framed registration marking at top left. The reverse with arrival (2.11) c.d.s. A very scarce mixed franking correctly paying the registered rate. Michel 7 (var), 20. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3096



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, an unusual group of four unmounted mint pairs including the values of 5pa. ochre, 10pa. emerald, 20pa. rose and 1pi. ultramarine (cert. Raybaudi), a very fine and desirable group in this excellent, never hinged condition. Michel 4, 5, 6, 7; €+3,020 (for hinged stamps). provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

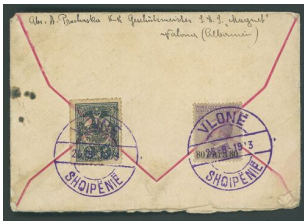
Estimate
£400 to £600

Lot 3097

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 2pi. black-blue, red overprint inverted, good centring and strong overprint in refulgent colour, mint with large part original gum. Very fine and very difficult double variety for this value. Michel 8 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate

£300 to £500

Lot 3098

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (Aug. 25). Cover to Hussowitz (Husovice, then Austria) sent by a Geschützmeister (Chief Gunner) aboard the Austro-Hungarian gunboat SMS "Magnet" in Vlorë, franked at double rate on reverse with 1913 2pi. black-blue and Italian Levant 1908 80pa. on 50c. (Sassone 2), each tied by bold strikes of "Vlonë" type 2 c.d.s. in violet. A very rare example of a mixed franking with Italian Levant. Michel 8.note: The SMS "Magnet" was stationed at Vlorë in 1913 as part of the international naval presence following the Balkan Wars, tasked with monitoring the Albanian coastline, supervising the Serbian withdrawal, and supporting the newly established Albanian government against potential encroachments by neighbouring states. During this period, naval personnel occasionally sent correspondence also through the Austrian or Italian post offices operating in Albania. In this case, the sender may have applied an Italian Levant stamp to ensure that the letter would be accepted abroad at the same rate as the Albanian postage (80 para or 2 piastres), in case the Albanian stamp was not recognised at the destination, as had occurred with the country's first two issues.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate

£500 to £800

Lot 3099

(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (June 18). Envelope from Vlorë (Valona) to Klagenfurt, Austria, bearing a 1913 20pa. rose vertical pair and two singles of 2pi. black-blue, tied by "Vlonë" dispatch c.d.s.'s (type 1) in blue. Carried at the 5 piastres quintuple rate, justified by the unusually large size of the cover. A unique franking on commercial mail. Michel 6, 8.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate

£350 to £500

Lot 3100



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 2 1/2 dark sepia, overprinted in blue instead of black, slightly oily, very lightly mounted with original gum. Rough perforations as usual. Signed Raybaudi. Very scarce. Michel 9 (var); €1,530. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3101



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 2 1/2 pi. dark sepia, showing a double variety with the overprint inverted and in blue instead of black, lightly cancelled by an indistinct black c.d.s., clearly displaying the error. Very fine and extremely scarce. Signed Dr. Peters. Michel 9 (var). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3102



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (July 26). Registered cover with acknowledgement of receipt from Valona (Vlonë) addressed to Charles Halla, Consul of Austria-Hungary in Monastir, correctly paying the 3 piastres tariff for this service and destination with 20pa. rose and 2 1/2 pi. dark sepia, each tied by dispatch c.d.s.'s in blue with traces of black ink, "A.R." marking in centre, Saloniki transit on reverse. A very rare combination of these two stamps on cover. Signed Sorani. Michel 6, 9. provenance: Markus Gmähle note: Charles (Karel) Halla represented Austria-Hungary in northern Albania at a time of political turmoil following Albanian independence, when the region was contested by Serbian, Greek, Montenegrin, and Austro-Hungarian interests. His diplomatic role connected him directly with the administration and monitoring of the region during these conflicts, making correspondence addressed to him from Albania historically significant. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3103



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pi. brick-red, excellent margins due to the magnificent centring, clear overprint, lightly cancelled leaving the design quite clean and displaying very good perforations for this stamp. Only 241 stamps were issued, and this is one of the finest available examples. Michel 11; €4,800.provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£700 to £1,000

Lot 3104



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 25pi. dark green, crisp impression and vivid colour, good centring for this issue and very well perforated, attractive impression of the overprint, cancelled by Vrone c.d.s. Discoloration in margin, resulting from soaking in an envelope; of natural origin and not detracting. One of the five rarest stamps of Albanian philately, of which just 35 examples were issued. Cert. O. Graf. Michel A11; €10,000.provenance: Robert BallauriSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£3,000 to £5,000

Lot 3105



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. emerald with "Beyiye" overprint, inverted eagle overprint well centred horizontally, unmounted mint with patchy original gum. Some irregular perforations at base as frequently encountered. Very rare. Michel A12 (var).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3106



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913 (July 15). Part of cover from Vlorë to Constantinople, bearing on reverse 1913 "Beyiye" overprinted 10pa. emerald in horizontal pair, oily overprint, tied by first-type c.d.s.'s of Vlorë in violet, showing part of Galata and Constantinople postmarks alongside. Some gum spots at top not detracting. An extremely rare commercial usage. Signed A. Diena. Michel A12.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3107



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 20 pa. rose with "Beyiye" overprint, inverted eagle overprint and in blue instead of black, good perforations and usual centring, unmounted mint with original gum. A very rare and desirable double variety on "Beyiye" overprinted stamps. Michel 13 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3108



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. dark ultramarine with "Beyiye" overprint and in an infrequent shade, displaying the eagle overprint applied in blue instead of black, better perforations than usual and quite well centred, very lightly mounted with original gum. An attractive example of this very difficult variety. Cert. Raybaudi. Michel 14 (var); €3,060.provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3109



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine with "Beyiye" overprint, inverted eagle overprint and additionally in violet instead of black displaying a strong impression, outstandingly centred and possessing well-preserved perforations (rare to find them in this quality in the third issue), remarkably preserved unmounted mint with original gum. An extremely rare and desirable double variety on this rare "Beyiye" overprinted stamp, with two or three examples recorded. Michel 14 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3110



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. ultramarine with red "Beyiye" overprint, outstandingly well centered, as is also the case with the double-eagle overprint, tied to piece by indistinct c.d.s. Only 250 stamps were issued, and this is one of the finest available examples. Signed Raybaudi. Michel 14; €1,700.provenance: Kol GjinajSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £500

Lot 3111



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 1pi. black on rose, centred to top, cancelled by black postmark of Vlorë. Fine and a very rare value with only 345 examples issued. Cert. O Graf. Michel 15; €2,600.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£350 to £600

Lot 3112



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose, overprinted in blue instead of black, with far above-average centring and good perforations, very lightly mounted with original gum. Very fine and rare. Michel 16 (var); €2,040.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3113



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20 pa. rose, inverted overprint in red instead of black, a difficult and very unusual double variety in a very fine example unmounted mint with original gum. Michel 16 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£350 to £700

Lot 3114



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20 pa. rose, inverted surcharge and overprint in red instead of black, both displaying strong impressions, well centred in unmounted mint condition with original gum. A very rare and appealing double variety, including a most unusual error in the Turkey stamp prior to the Albanian overprint. Michel 16 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3115



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose, inverted surcharge and inverted overprint, very fresh unmounted mint with original gum. An appealing and very rare combination of these two varieties, including the remarkable error in the previously surcharged Turkey stamp. Michel 16 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3116



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose, inverted surcharge, additionally showing the inverted overprint and in red instead of black, unmounted mint with original gum. Some rough perforations as usual, minor surface rubbing at bottom and negligible foxing along few perforations, of little significance for this rarity fully preserving its gum. An extremely rare triple variety. Michel 16 (var).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £1,500

Lot 3117



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose, an extraordinary example featuring a very scarce "10" double and inverted surcharge, further combined with an inverted eagle overprint, very lightly mounted with original gum. The relatively light impression of the overprint allows the surcharge variety to be clearly displayed. Minor gum spots confined to the perforations at right, and a few irregular perforations as often encountered, of no significance for this rarity. An extremely rare triple variety for this stamp, probably unique. Michel 16 (var). provenance: Minister Lef Nosi Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £2,500

Lot 3118



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose, a fine example with good perforations, cancelled with violet c.d.s. of Vlorë (Vlorë). Michel 16; €1,200. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3119



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (Sept. 7). "Përlindja e Shqipërisë" newspaper, "The Renaissance of Albania", a nationalist political newspaper and essentially the official gazette of the Albanian provisional government, sent from Vlorë to Naples, franked with the 1913 10 pa. on 20 pa. rose, showing a light impression of the surcharge and overprint, tied by a neat "Vlonë" c.d.s. in violet. Very few such newspapers are recorded with this scarce stamp, paying a rare 10 para rate, which was only valid for one month; highly desirable. Michel 16. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3120



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third Issue1913, 10pa. on 20pa. rose with "Beyiye" overprint, inverted surcharge, usual centring, with the double-eagle overprint applied in a relatively light black ink, allowing the also black surcharge to be clearly visible, mint very lightly mounted with original gum. Signed Raybaudi. Very fine, the only example recorded of this exceptional variety. Cert. Raybaudi (with his embossed seal "Grande Rarità" -great rarity-). Michel 17 (var).provenance: Robert BallauriSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£2,500 to £4,000

Lot 3121



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third IssueAn Uncatalogued Great Rarity and Gem of Albania - Only Four Known Examples1913, 10pa. green (Turkey, 1901 inland mail, Michel 87), overprinted with the black double eagle, mint with large part original gum, exquisitely centred, with a light and very clear impression and good perforations for this issue. A couple of light creases are of no significance whatsoever for this great rarity. Only four examples of this stamp are recorded, of which two bear the regular black overprint, including one on cover, and two show varieties, namely the overprint in red and the same overprint inverted (the latter two offered as the following two lots in this sale). This is one of the three rarest issued stamps of Albania. The double-eagle overprint on this 1901 stamp has not been published to date and consequently has not yet been entered in the catalogues. This is the first time that this stamp and its varieties are offered on the public market. Cert. Otto Graf (2026).provenance: Minister Lef Nosi note: This stamp is not listed in any standard catalogue and requires an explanation. When the new state of Albania established its postal service in May 1913, un-overprinted Turkish stamps were initially used alongside handstamped envelopes. However, the circulation of large numbers of Turkish stamps threatened one of the few sources of revenue for the newly formed Albanian state. To address this, the authorities decided to recall the remaining Turkish stamps from post offices and apply the double eagle handstamp overprint to create distinctly Albanian issues. Most overprinted stamps were from the contemporary Mohamed V issue, with some from the older Abdul Hamid II issue, and exceptionally from an earlier issue, such as the 1901 issue in this case. While Ottoman regulations recognized only the Mohamed V stamps as valid postage, this had no bearing on the Albanian postal authorities, who used the overprinting process to establish their own stamps. These 1901 examples are great rarities, and it is recorded that the Albanian Minister of Posts, Lef Nosi, acquired few for his personal collection. We trust that the appearance of this stamp on the market through this auction will lead to its inclusion in the catalogues with the significance it deserves.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£10,000 to £20,000

Lot 3122



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third IssueA Unique Variety Among the Four Known Examples1913, 10pa. green (Turkey, 1901 inland mail, Michel 87), impressive variety displaying the overprint in red, unmounted with original gum, well centred with good perforations for this notorious gem, showing a balanced and clear impression of the overprint and an overall remarkable freshness. According to the certificate, "a few tiny foxing spots are mentioned for completeness' sake", entirely negligible and in no way detracting from this unique piece. Of the four recorded examples of this stamp -one of the three rarest values of Albanian philately-, this is the only example known with the overprint in red in the normal upright position. Unlisted in the catalogues either as a regular stamp or as a variety, and offered here for the first time on the public market. A sensational discovery. Cert. Otto Graf (2026).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£12,500 to £25,000

Lot 3123



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914)Third IssueThe Only Recorded Inverted Overprint Among the Four Known Examples of This Stamp1913, 10pa. green (Turkey, 1901 inland mail, Michel 87), the spectacular double variety featuring the overprint in red and inverted. Mint with large part original gum, ideally centred both for the stamp design and the overprint, with well-preserved perforations. Very fresh, with a bold and clean strike of the overprint. The certificate states: "a tiny crease on the right side of the stamp is mentioned for completeness' sake", which in our opinion is entirely insignificant, especially given the immense importance of this piece. This is the only recorded example exhibiting the overprint inverted of this, the third rarest stamp of Albanian philately, with only four examples known and unlisted in catalogues. This auction offers the opportunity to acquire this gem on the public market for the very first time since its discovery. Cert. Otto Graf (2026).provenance: Minister Lef NosiSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£15,000 to £30,000

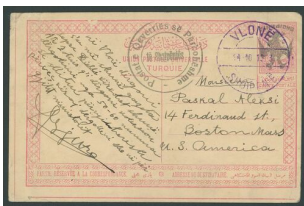
Lot 3124



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue The Most Important Item of Albanian Philately 1913, 2pi. deep rose, postage due, from the Third Issue of June 1913 by the Provisional Government of Vlorë, showing a well-centred overprint impression, with good perforations and above-average centring for the Ottoman stamp, affixed to piece and tied by Vlorë c.d.s. Only two examples of this stamp were issued, as confirmed by No. 21 of the Official Gazette of Vlorë "Perlindja e Shqipëniës" ("Birth of Albania"), dated 28 March 1914, the first newspaper of the newly independent state, published by Dhimitër Beratti. This is the only intact example in existence of this stamp, widely regarded as the most important item of Albanian philately. Far superior in quality to the only other recorded example, which has a corner cut off. Illustrated here for the first time in any auction or dealer's retail catalogue and offered in all its splendour to the market for the first time. One of the rarest issued stamps in the world. This stamp is absent from the remarkable collection of the 1913 double-headed eagle overprinted stamps preserved in the British Library, as well as from the collection of King Charles III of the United Kingdom. Certs. O. Graf. provenance: Minister Lef Nosi and Robert Ballauri. After being cancelled, this example entered the collection of Lefter (Lef) Nosi (1877-1946), the first Minister of Post and Telegraph of Albania and one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, present at the Assembly of Vlorë in 1912, which established the modern Albanian state. Lef Nosi also owned the other existing example (incomplete) of this stamp, as part of his private collection, and both were later inherited by members of his family. One of the heirs, Rudolf Nosi, interviewed by the Albania expert John S. Phipps, initially showed Mr. Phipps the defective example with the cut in the lower left corner and explained that his uncle Lefter (Lef) had cut the corner in order to create a specimen to present the Third Issue, preserving the other intact example - offered here - as the definitive stamp. However, as no official evidence supports such an intention to deliberately alter the integrity of the stamp, doubts remain as to its alleged use as a proof for the incomplete example. Robert Ballauri (1925-2006), one of the most significant collectors of Albania of all time, directly acquired the intact example from the Nosi family. note: It was removed decades ago from the Yvert & Tellier catalogue, as it had never been placed on the philatelic market and its whereabouts were unknown. Its reappearance in the present sale, confirming its existence, should justify its inclusion in the philatelic catalogues. It was mentioned in the most important works on Albanian philately: "The Stamps and Posts of Albania and Epirus 1878-1945" by John S. Phipps, "Stamps and Postal History of Albania" by Thimi Nika, as well as in the recent article "From Albania a World Rarity Shown to the Public for the First Time" by Giuseppe Razza, published in the magazine "Post Horn" in 2025. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£75,000 to £100,000

Lot 3125



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (Oct. 14). Third Issue 20pa. rose stationery postcard with inverted overprint, sent from Vlorë to Boston, United States, addressed to Paskal Aleks (1885 - 1966) who was among the founders of the "Vatra" federation in the United States, journalist and Albanian patriot, who immigrated to the United States in 1904 and became involved in the patriotic movement. Showing "Postat e Qeverrisë së Përkohshme të Shqipëniës" control mark in centre and cancelled by purple "Vlonë" c.d.s. on departure. An extremely rare inverted overprint and additionally addressed to a significant patriot in the history of Albania. note: The Vatra federation of Pan-Albania was a key force in Albanian diplomacy and national mobilization from exile, particularly during the critical years 1912-1920. It played a crucial role by lobbying internationally, funding national efforts, and acting as an informal diplomatic representative of Albania during its most fragile early years. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £2,000

Lot 3126



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913 (Aug. 18). Official cover from Skrapar addressed to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Valona (Vlorë), bearing a partial negative Arabic seal at top right and two strikes of the Skrapar c.d.s. on the obverse, all in red, with the receiving (24.8) c.d.s. on the reverse. A very rare stampless official mail from this mountainous region, where the population was widely dispersed across villages. provenance: "Cihangir" collection and Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3127



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Third Issue 1913, assembly comprising 27 unused (no gum to full original gum) stamps, with some duplication, mostly featuring varieties including overprints in blue, violet and red-brown, as well as examples showing ink-heavy or oily impressions of the overprint. A fine and interesting lot with a high catalogue value in excess of Michel €16,500. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,500 to £3,000

Lot 3128



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Later Issues 1914 (April 14). Postcard datelined in Albania, sent on board the ship "Prinz Hohenlohe" to Wilferdingen, Germany, bearing 1913 2q. (3) and 1914 10pa. on 5q., tied by the Austrian Lloyd "Korfu-Triest 41" c.d.s. A very rare cancellation on Albanian franking. Michel 29, 42. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3129



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Later Issues 1914 (March 10). Registered cover from Valona (Vlorë) to Cologne, Germany, paying the foreign double rate for registered mail with 5q. green, 10q. rose pair, overprinted "7 Mars" (first issue of the Prince de Wied administration of Independent Albania), with German registration label at top right and arrival (13.3) on reverse. A very scarce issue on cover, of even greater significance on non-philatelically inspired mail. Signed G. Bühler. Michel 36, 37, 38. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3130



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Later Issues 1914 (July 25). Registered cover from Shkodër to Munich, Germany, correctly franked with 1913 25q. blue (minor imperfection at top right) in combination with 1914 1g. on 25q. of the first issue of Albanian Principality stamps, issued by the Interim Administration of the International Control Commission before the arrival of Prince Wilhelm of Wied, each tied by Shkodër c.d.s., backstamped (30.7) on arrival. An extremely rare mixed franking of the final issue of the Vlorë Provisional Government and the first issue of the Interim Administration of the International Control Commission. Michel 32, 44. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3131



(x) First Independent Albania (1912-1914) Later Issues 1914 (April-May). 1914 surcharged issue, trio of items sent shortly after the arrival in Albania of Prince de Wied, including one spectacular cover to Naples bearing on reverse a vertical block of ten of 5pa. on 2q. paying the double rate, registered cover to Bern with three examples of 1g. on 25q., and postcard to Rome correctly franked with 10pa. on 5q., but erroneously taxed on arrival with Italian postage due of 10c. A very scarce group. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3132



(x) Central Albania (First Regime, 1913-1914) 1913, assembly comprising 14 overprinted Turkish stamps used and unused, including different types of overprints, with several cancelled by "Vëlorë/Vallona" c.d.s. from the Vlorë telegraph office, as well as part of telegram dispatch receipt and one cover to Trieste with 5pa. (2) examples for the printed matter rate when there was a shortage of values in Durres. A rare and appealing lot. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3133



(x) Albanian Occupation of Dibër (1913) The Most Important Item 1913 (Sept. 23 or 24). Cover from Dibër to Peqin, probably dispatched on the 23rd or 24th, franked by "DIBER" overprinted stamps of the Albanian occupation, including 10pa. blue-green (2) and 20pa. rose, both representing all Albanian stamps issued for this territory, tied by "diber/shqipenie/1913" single circle, the primitive undated cancellation provisionally produced for the occupation, showing transit c.d.s. of Elbasan at left. Some minor creases not affecting the franking. The most spectacular of the only three letters known with Albanian overprinted stamps from this occupation, and the most important item of this territory. Cert. Holcombe and signed by Prendusi with his characteristic "Z. Prëndushi/Scutari" circle at top left and his small framed "ZP" marking below the franking. Michel 1, 2. provenance: Kolë Gjinaj (nephew of Prince Bibë Doda, one of the founders of Albania). Illustrated in article published by Markus W. E. Peters and the late Kolë Gjinaj in "The Skanderbeg" (1999). Note on postal features: It is considered that the few letters handled by the Albanian Dibër P.O. may have been dispatched on the same date, immediately after the territory was taken, since during that very difficult time the postal agent may have decided to make only one journey along a very risky route due to the Serbian presence. During that period, it was obviously not possible to have a canceller with a movable date manufactured, as such cancellers were generally produced outside Albania. Note on the historical events: After the declaration of Albanian independence at the end of 1912, the region fell into confusion as several foreign powers sought to assert control: the Greeks in the south, the Montenegrins in the north, the Serbians in the north and along the central coast, and the Italians and Austrians along the coast. Dibër (now in North Macedonia), then an Albanian-majority town - in fact, the Albanian national hero Gjergj Kastrioti "Skanderbeg" (1405-1468) came from the district of Dibër-, had belonged to the Ottoman sanjak of Monastir until the Ambassadors' Conference in London in May 1913 formally annexed it to Serbia. In practice, however, Serbia found it difficult to maintain effective control over the district. Hostilities began on 13.8.1913 and intensified in mid-September, culminating on 21 September with the killing of 48 Albanian notables by the Serbian army. On 23 September, Albanian insurgents expelled the Serbian troops from Dibër in a bloody battle and raised the national flag, re-establishing what they considered the original ethnic boundary, keeping control until approximately 10 October. Following the occupation of Dibër, Albanian forces advanced towards Ohrid together with a Bulgarian band. Within a few days, they captured the towns of Gostivar, Struga, and Ohrid, expelling the Serbian troops. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£2,500 to £5,000

Lot 3134



(x) Control Commission of Korçë (1914)1914 (March 19). Cover from Korçë to Tirana, handstamped with 10pa. violet and red and 25pa. violet and red, cancelled by Korçë c.d.s. with Tirana (21.3) c.d.s. in blue at lower left. The reverse with Starove (22.3) and Elbasan (25.3) c.d.s. Very fine and clearly visible impressions. Only 25 covers are estimated to have survived. Michel 1a, 2a. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3135



(x) Control Commission of Korçë (1914)1914 (March 19). Cover from Korçë to Thessaloniki, bearing four examples (two applied on reverse) of 25pa. violet and red, each cancelled by Korçë c.d.s., with receiving c.d.s. on reverse. Vertical archive fold not detracting from the overall appearance. An extremely rare multiple franking. Signed Raybaudi. Michel 2a; €800. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £700

Lot 3136



(x) Control Commission of Korçë (1914)1914 (March 19). Two covers from Korçë to Elbasan, handstamped with 10pa. violet and red and 25pa. violet and red, each bearing one of the two values with inverted denomination, cancelled by c.d.s. on dispatch, showing Starovë and Elbasan backstamps. An extremely rare duo featuring this variety on both values; fewer than ten covers are recorded bearing an inverted denomination. Signed Raybaudi. Michel 1a, 1a (var), 2a, 2a (var). provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£500 to £1,000

Lot 3137



(x) Northern Epirus First Greek Occupation (1912-1914)1913 (April 16). Greece 1912 5l. green postal stationery card from Ioannina to Baden, Germany, upfranked to meet the foreign rate with Greece 1912 "Campaign" 5l. green, issued to replace previous issues for the occupied territories, tied by dispatch c.d.s.'s. A rare usage of this mixed franking in the Epirus territory. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3138



(x) Northern Epirus First Greek Occupation (1912-1914) 1913 (Sept. 16). Cover from Tepelenion (Tepelenë) to New Bedford, USA via Sarandë, franked with First Issue 5l. green in a vertical strip of four, tied by "tepelenion" c.d.s. Taxed on arrival with 2c. postage due (corresponding to 10l.). The reverse with "Agiou Saranta" (20.9) and arrival (7.10) c.d.s. Some foxing not detracting. An extremely rare usage of these stamps in Tepelenë, which, together with Sarandë and Gjirokastër, were the last three towns occupied by Greek forces in 1913, as they lay along the border with territories controlled by Albanian forces under Ismail Qemal. Signed Enzo Diena. Michel 191. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3139



(x) Northern Epirus First Greek Occupation (1912-1914) 1913 (Dec. 14). Greece 1912 10l. red postal stationery card addressed from Delvinë to Leghorn, Italy, cancelled by "delvinakion" on dispatch and "agioi saranta" (Sarandë) transit c.d.s.'s, with receiving c.d.s.'s in centre. A rare usage of postal stationery from Delvinë, following a hazardous route by sea to a distant destination during a difficult historical period for foreign communications, marked by regional conflicts and the involvement of the Great Powers. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3140



(x) Northern Epirus Greek Autonomous Government (1914) Argyrokaströ - Gjirokastër 1914 (March 6). Registered cover with return receipt from Argyrokaströ (Gjirokastër) to Athens, franked with 5l. on 10pa. emerald and pair of 20l. on 1pi. blue, all tied by "argyrokastron" c.d.s., displaying arrival (24.3) on reverse. A scarce franking, correctly paying the double-weight registered rate. Michel 1, 3, 4. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3141

(x) Northern Epirus Greek Autonomous Government (1914) Chimarra - Himarë 1914 (25 Feb.). Registered envelope (reduced at top) from Sarandë (Santi Quaranta) to Antwerp, Belgium, initially posted under the Provisional Government of Northern Epirus and duly franked with two examples of the 1914 25l. blue and red, issued for Himarë on 10 February, tied by Greek "Agiou Saranta" c.d.s. As this government had not obtained international recognition, the stamps were not considered valid abroad, and the cover was therefore additionally franked with a 1908 50c. of the Austrian Post Office in Crete (Michel 21) upon entering the Austrian post office in Sarandë, tied by "Santi Quaranta / Österr. Post" c.d.s. on 1 April (subtype 5c), paying the foreign rate accepted by international postal authorities. Arrival (6.4) postmark on reverse. This is the only recorded cover bearing a mixed franking of Chimarra with the Austrian Post Office, of great visual impact and fascination for exhibition. Certs. A. Diena and Holcombe. Michel 4. provenance: G. S. Russell. (A British philatelist active around the turn of the 20th century and a member of the R.P.S.L. His collection contained a number of early philatelic items, some of which have subsequently appeared in major European auctions. The provenance is of interest as an early specialist reference collection). note: Following the proclamation of autonomy on 20.2.1914, Sarandë, the only suitable harbour in Northern Epirus for maritime mail and commercial traffic, was blockaded by a Greek fleet from 22 February (Julian calendar) or 7 March (Gregorian calendar), until 19 March/1st April, when the Greek evacuation was to be completed. Outward mail was forwarded by sea through the Austrian Lloyd service, as no roads were suitable for vehicles and inland transport relied mainly on pack animals and bicycles in flat areas. Austrian stamps sold at Sarandë were the only ones recognised by the international postal system for overseas correspondence. In this case, the Austrian franking was cancelled on the very day the blockade ended. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£5,000 to £10,000

Lot 3142

(x) Northern Epirus Second Greek Occupation (1914-1916) General Issues 1915 (Dec. 19). Cover from Korytsa (Korçë) to Boston, U.S.A., displaying a rare use of the foreign tariff for a transatlantic destination, paid with overprinted 1914 25l. blue, tied by "korytsa" c.d.s., 34 mm diameter. Backstamped on receipt on 7.2.1916, 40 days after dispatch due to the difficulties of communication during WWI. Michel 23. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£100 to £150

Lot 3143



(x) Northern Epirus Second Greek Occupation (1914-1916) General Issues 1916 (July 31). Cover (front missing, reverse preserved) from Argyrokastro (Gjirokastër) to the United States and subsequently returned to Northern Epirus, franked on the reverse with a pair, a strip of three and a strip of five of the 1915 5l. green, correctly paying the single registered foreign rate or a double foreign rate, and Red Cross vignette. The franking is tied by "argyrokastron" c.d.s.'s on dispatch, in addition variably tied by Patras (6.8) c.d.s., Italian censorship marking of Bologna, oval d.s. of New York (18.9), American indistinct transit (10.9) in violet, Patras (20.10) and Ioannina (4.1.1917) c.d.s.'s on its journey back to Northern Epirus in 1917. An extraordinary mail item which was travelling for over five months, displaying a wide range of cancellations. Michel 32. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £200

Lot 3144



(x) Northern Epirus Second Greek Occupation (1914-1916) Moschopolis - Voskopojë 1914 (Oct. 23). Registered cover to Leipzig, Germany, franked by two examples of 1914 25l. in contrasting shades, tied by two violet circular cachets in Greek with double-headed eagle inside and reading "post of the epirus campaign" & "autonomous epirus - taking of moschopolis 24-6/914", and "moschopolis" c.d.s in black, manuscript registration number at top "R N° 383". Korytsa (Korçë) transit and arrival c.d.s.'s on reverse. In addition, the mint set of 15 values from 1l. to 25dr. plus the two overprinted 5l. & 25l. A very rare cover. provenance: Markus Gmählenote: On the eve of the World War I, Albanian forces were no longer in control of Koritsa and Moschopolis, as these areas had been taken over by Epirote bands, which formally recognized the authority of the Autonomous Government of Epirus, but their true objective was to incorporate the region into Greece. According to a 2001 article in "The Skanderbeg" by its editor, a group of covers (dispatches 23-24.10) have a transit mark from Korytsa (16 km from Moschopolis) dated September rather than October. The postal agent there appears to have been uncertain about continuing to accept such mail, yet seemingly altered the cancellation to give the false impression that it had been processed during the Epirote administration, changing October to September. The correspondence was then sent on to Thessaloniki for international dispatch. In 1924, during an investigation into the clandestine handling of this mail, a postal clerk from that office admitted to having gone against regulations, claiming he had acted out of patriotic motives to inform the world that Moschopolis was under Greek control. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £500

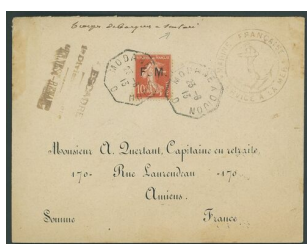
Lot 3145



(x) Montenegrin Occupation of Shkodër (1913) 1913 (March 31, Julian calendar). Serbia 5pa. stationery postcard (Michel P-66) from Krusevac to Shëngjin, cancelled by c.d.s. on dispatch, returned to the sender after application of Cyrillic-Latin "sc. Jovan meduanski/st. jean de medova" c.d.s., lightly struck in centre on 5th March (Julian Calendar, or 18th in the Gregorian calendar). Despite the light strike of the postmark, a very important piece, being the earliest recorded of this office, from which no more than three items are recorded, the rarest of the Montenegrin occupation. Cert. Dimitrijevic.note: Shëngjin (San Giovanni di Medua or Sveti Jovan Meduanski) was occupied by Montenegrin forces on 17.11.1912, before the advent of the Provisional Government of Vlorë, until 14.5.1913. A postal office was opened in an unknown date. Extremely few mail is known and therefore it was assumed that this office was not working before 18.3.1913 (Julian calendar), as evidenced by one existing registered cover. Nevertheless, this lot demonstrates that the post office was working at least from 5.3.1913, about two months before the occupation ended.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3146



(x) International Military Contingent in Shkodër 1913 (June 23). Cover from Shkodër (Scutari) to Amiens, endorsed at top "Troupes débarquées à Scutari" (troops landed at Scutari), from a member of a temporary French naval landing detachment in Shkodër from the French cruiser "Ernest Renan", showing at right cachet with anchor 'marine française/service a la mer' and 'escadre/1re Division Légère/"ernest renan"' handstamp at left, franked with "F.M." ("Franchise Militaire") overprinted "Semeuse" 10c., transported in a closed bag to Modane in France, where the franking was tied by c.d.s. of Modane to Dijon T.P.O., backstamped on arrival. To our knowledge, the only cover known of the French naval detachment in Shkodër, with six additional covers so far known from the later and longer period of control by French land troops.note: In May-June 1913, international forces occupied Shkodër after the withdrawal of the Montenegrins. French naval forces arrived provisionally in June and were replaced on 7 August by a land contingent of 203 men (out of a total of 1,802 international troops). We presume that the small naval detachment may have consisted of around 100 men and remained in Shkodër for only about two months (in contrast to the one-year presence of the land contingent).Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3147



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Muslim Insurgent Administration of Vlorë (1914) 1914 (Oct. 31). Registered cover from Vlorë to Vienna, correctly franked with upper sheet-margin pair of 50q. blue and ultramarine, tied by bilingual "Valona" c.d.s. in violet, showing at right Italian registration label without handstamp, probably applied at the Italian P.O. in Vlorë, from where this mail was forwarded. Some creasing and peripheral faults are of no importance for this rarity. One of the very few surviving genuinely travelled covers of this local issue. Michel 10. provenance: Robert Ballaurinote: In September 1914, following the collapse of central authority in Albania after the outbreak of the First World War and the withdrawal of Prince Wilhelm of Wied, local Albanian authorities attempted to establish an autonomous local administration in Vlorë, largely led by Muslim notables, resulting in a short-lived provisional government that lasted until the Italian occupation of the town in December. On 15.10.1914, the local issue was created by overprinting Albanian stamps with a double-circle bilingual handstamp in Turkish and French and two types of similar rubber circular datestamps were locally produced. The few items that actually travelled through the mails were accepted for onward transmission via the Italian Post Office in Vlorë, which provided the only reliable channel for external dispatch. A small number of clearly philatelic covers (mostly addressed to Perikles Zissis) are known, primarily from the first day of issue (15.10), but also from subsequent dates; very few later items, paying the correct rate, appear to represent genuinely commercial or non-philatelic correspondence. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£700 to £1,200

Lot 3148

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Provisional Administrative Council of Berat (1914-1915) 1915, Provisional "Prefecture of Berat-Administrative Council" negative seal on bistre paper, used on piece and tied by "zyra e postes/berat" double circle surrounding a double-face eagle, showing "berat" straight-line handstamp adjacent. Fewer than ten examples of this stamp are known, on or off cover. One of the rarest stamps of Albania, completely underestimated in catalogues. Michel 1; €2,000. provenance: Max Herberz note: Between the rebel takeover on 12 July 1914 and the second Serbian occupation in summer 1915, Berat was in a state of political fragmentation following the collapse of Prince William of Wied's authority. Control shifted between local insurgent forces, and the city at times fell within the sphere of influence of Essad Pasha Toptani. The circumstances of issue of this provisional stamp are not entirely clear. It appears that, following a brief administrative vacuum, local notables unsuccessfully sought Italian protection from Vlorë and were subsequently advised to accept Essad Pasha's authority, which was then acknowledged in practice. A locally constituted commission administered the town for a short period, during which the stamp was issued; approximately 150 examples are believed to have been produced. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £3,000

Lot 3149

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Provisional Administrative Council of Berat (1914-1915) 1915, Provisional "Prefecture of Berat-Administrative Council" negative seal on bistre paper, used on the reverse of an envelope, probably posted in June, addressed to Vlorë, tied by "berat" straight-line handstamp (produced contemporaneously for this provisional issue) and showing alongside "zyra e postes/berat" double-circle handstamp surrounding a double-headed eagle. One of just four covers recorded, this being among the finest; considered one of the great rarities of Albania. All recorded covers were addressed to the same destination, Vlorë. Cert. A. Diena, signed Giulio and Alberto Bolaffi. Michel 1. provenance: Robert Ballauri note: The mail was forwarded with the involvement of the Italian postal services based in Vlorë. According to Alberto Diena in his certificate, and based on the testimony of a colonel who was in Berat, only about 100 covers were dispatched. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£5,000 to £10,000

Lot 3150



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Local Issue of Shkodër (1915) 1915 (March 20). Registered cover to Como, Italy, bearing 1915 5pa. on 2q., 10pa. on 5q., 20pa. on 10q., 1gr. on 25q. and 2gr. on 50q., all with red overprint, tied by Scutari c.d.s.'s, sent the day after the official issue of these stamps; backstamped on receipt. Additionally, two pieces, one showing a 20pa. on 10q. used on the first day of issue, the other with 5pa. on 2q. (double overprint variety, featuring a shifted "5 PARA" overprint and a black overprint for the "19 March" commemorative inscription). Michel 1a, 1b, 2-5; €730 (off cover). provenance: Kol Gjinaj (Nephew of Prince Bibë Dodë Pasha, who was at the time Chairman of the City Administrative Council that approved Sadik Tirana's proposal, the director of the Post Office of Shkodër, to issue this stamp series) .Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £200

Lot 3151



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Local Issue of Shkodër (1915) 1915 (April 27). Cover from Obot to Shkodër, sent stampless as the dispatch office (located 15 km from Shkodër) had no stamps available in April, showing the very scarce Obot c.d.s. at left and taxed with "T" marking at right, bearing postage due 25 q. applied on arrival on unfranked printed matter, tied by bilingual "shkodër-shqypëni/scutari-albanie" c.d.s. Vertical crease, clear of the franking. A very scarce non-philatelic cover. Michel 2. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3152



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Central Albania (Second Regime, 1914-1916) 1915 (April 9). Cover from Durrës to Vienna, bearing 2nd Issue 40 pa. with the red ink overprint variety, applied using Essad Pasha's signet ring, tied by bilingual "durazzo" c.d.s., correctly franked for the foreign rate but nevertheless taxed on arrival, apparently due to the franking not being recognised, with Austrian postage due 1h. (overlapping the edge) and 4h. on arrival cancelled by Vienna c.d.s. Very few covers are recorded with this combination franking. Michel 14. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3153

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920)Central Albania (Second Regime, 1914-1916)1919 (April 29). Cover from Durres to Hinterbrühl, Austria, correctly franked with pair of 2nd Issue 20pa. red, tied by bilingual "durazzo" c.d.s. on departure (type produced for this local administration), with arrival (19.5) c.d.s. at left. Some gum spots around the stamps as usually found with this issue. A rare and appealing usage. Michel 18.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3154

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920)Austrian Post Offices1917 (June 12). Cover from Durres to Vienna, franked with Austrian fiscal stamp for Albania 4h. rose in pair, tied by "K.u.K. Etappenpostamt/b/Durazzo (Durz)" c.d.s., showing "K.u.K. Feldbahnkompagnie 9" military unit marking in violet at left. A very rare usage of these fiscal stamps on mail.provenance: "Cihangir" collectionSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3155

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920)Italian Post OfficesBerat. 1918 (Dec. 18). Postcard to Rome, correctly franked with "Leoni" 10c., tied by superb "poste italiane/berat (albania)" c.d.s., repeated adjacent, with a very unusual "poste italiane/berat (albania)" two-line handstamp at left. One of the finest usages from this very rare office, which was in operation from October 1918 to May 1920. Signed Sorani.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3156

(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920)Italian Post OfficesDelvino-Delvinë. 1917 (Sept. 22). Registered cover to the Red Cross in Geneva, bearing a pair of "Leoni" 25c., tied by "poste italiane/delvino" c.d.s.'s, repeated alongside, with registration label and the corresponding two-line handstamp on departure, Italian censor markings and labels on the sides. Transit of Taranto and arrival on back. A very scarce registered usage.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3157



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Italian Post Offices Premeti-Përmet. 1917 (Aug. 17). Postcard to Catania in Sicily, redirected to Premeno on Lake Maggiore, Piedmont, franked with "Leoni" 5c. (lower left corner defective), tied by superb "poste italiane/premeti" c.d.s., additionally neatly struck adjacent, with Valona censorship marking alongside. One of the finest cancellation usages among the few recorded from this office. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3158



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Italian Post Offices San Giovanni di Medua-Shëngjin. 1915 (March 11). Cover to Genoa franked by Italian P.O. in Durazzo 30pa. on 15c. from the 1909-11 issue, tied by "Piroscrafo Postale Italiano/Adriatico" c.d.s, with additional strike at left, showing at top neat "ufficio telegrafico italiano/s. giovanni di medua/albania-" three-line handstamp, and arrival on reverse. Only two or three items are recorded with this telegraphic postmark. Sassone 3. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3159



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Italian Post Offices Valona-Vlorë. 1920 (May 24). Registered cover from a "Negoziante" (merchant) in Valona sent to Vienna, correctly paying the rate with "Leoni" 10c. (5), tied by "rr. poste italiane/valona" c.d.s.'s, with registration label and "valona/ufficio postale italiano" two-line handstamp, transit of Brindisi (27.5) on reverse. Registered mail form this office is extremely rare. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3160



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Italian Post Offices Various Offices. 1915-22, group of eight covers and cards from the offices of Argirocastro, Santi Quaranta and Valona, including one with the rare "Valona Scalo" c.d.s., a mixed franking Italy-Italian P.O. in Valona, and a military postcard bearing "Comando Zona Argirocastro-Berat/Ufficio Commissariato" handstamp. All except one appear to be non-philatelic items. A very interesting and rare group originating from the Gmähle collection. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £600

Lot 3161



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Military Missions 1916 (Feb. 8). Postcard to Paris, exhibiting a neat "escadrille d'albanie/le capitaine commandant" double-circle cachet in blue, denoting free-of-charge military carriage. Dated one day after the escadrille arrived in Corfu and began at that time its reconnaissance flights over Albania. A very scarce usage, and probably the finest known from this naval aviation unit. provenance: Markus Gmählenote: The Escadrille d'Albanie was a French naval aviation group with Greece, Albania and the Adriatic Sea as its mission area. It conducted maritime reconnaissance, anti-submarine patrols, convoy protection, and surveillance, supporting Allied operations in the Balkans. Equipped with Maurice Farman MF XI bis aircraft, the unit arrived at the Potamos airfield in Corfu on 7.2.1916. Shortly after, patrols and reconnaissance missions were subsequently organized along the Albanian coast. The unit later participated in the Monastir offensive. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £500

Lot 3162



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Occupation of Korçë (1916-1920) 1916, 10c. on 2l. red, 10c. on 2l. rose, 25c. on 3l. red, 25c. on 25l. ultramarine and 25c. on 50l. grey-lilac, the complete set of five on pieces, each tied by "korytza/albanie" c.d.s. on 26 and 27 December 1916, the first and second days of issue. Two additional examples off piece of the 10c. on 2l. red and 25c. on 25l. ultramarine are additionally included, with the same cancellation. An extremely rare complete set including the 25c. on 50l., as only 16 or at most 33 examples of this value were issued. Michel I-V; €6,350. provenance: Robert Ballaurinote: There are some conflicting accounts regarding the number of 25c. on 50l. stamps issued, the scarcest value and a key factor in determining the number of complete sets. According to the testimony of a French officer then stationed in Korçë, as reported by Robert Ballauri (erroneously cited as General Frottie), "it appears that only 16 examples were made of the 50 lepta converted to 25c." (including one for the brother-in-law of Col. Descoins, who proclaimed the Autonomous Albanian Republic of Korçë), thus implying that only 16 complete sets could have been issued. This view, published by Robert Ballauri, is supported by an earlier study by Georges Brunel in the 1920s. John S. Phipps, citing Brunel, additionally mentions an information from Mr. Fassari in Korçë, who reported 25 complete sets for French officers and Albanian officials, plus 8 complete and 12 incomplete sets sold to the public, suggesting a total range of 16 to 33 complete sets. In our opinion, the figure of 16 given by Robert Ballauri is the most reliable. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £2,000

Lot 3163



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Occupation of Korçë (1916-1920) 1917 (Jan. 26). Commercial envelope from Thessaloniki to Koritsa (Korçë), showing the dispatch c.d.s. but sent stampless, consequently taxed on arrival with "T" marking and the corresponding franking of 25l. on 3l. red, tied by "korytsa/albanie" (2.2) c.d.s., paying a foreign rate. Envelope with some creasing not effecting the adhesive, still quite fresh. To our knowledge, no more than five covers bearing this issue are recorded, and this is the only known example showing any value used as postage due on incoming mail. One of the top rarities of the local issues of Korçë. Michel III. provenance: Robert Ballaurinote: This issue was provisionally produced in response to local demand for an operative postal service. It was in use for a short period from 26.12.1916 until February 1917, and approximately 1,000 examples of the 25c. on 3l. were produced. The French military postal service was involved in handling foreign mail, covering the route between Korçë and Thessaloniki. (This item was incorrectly described as doubtful in an article by an Albanian philatelist, who argued that the date of the Thessaloniki postmark was earlier than that of Korçë, mistakenly assuming that the cover originated in Korçë rather than Thessaloniki.) Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£2,000 to £3,000

Lot 3164



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Occupation of Korçë (1916-1920) 1920 (Dec. 15). Postcard depicting the village of Pisoderi, sent from Korçë to Bilisht, franked on the picture side, where the addressee was also indicated, with 3rd Issue 5c. green and black in combination with 4th Fiscal Issue 10c., both tied by Korytsa c.d.s. An extremely rare mixed franking, overpaid by 5c due to shortage of postage stamps, resulting in the use of fiscal stamps as provisional substitute for postage. Michel 14. provenance: Robert Ballaurinote: The origin of the fourth fiscal issue is unknown. This is a special issue, as it was produced with five different handstamps, one for each denomination, each applied in a different colour. It was issued one month prior to the official union with the government of Tirana, and it saw very limited use due to its short period of validity (26.4-11.8.1920) for the taxation in Korçë County. Its use later on mail is extremely rare in the absence of postage stamps (when these fiscal stamps were no longer valid for tax purposes). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £500

Lot 3165



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Occupation of Korçë (1916-1920) 1918 (April 1st). Registered cover to Copenhagen with bilingual printed heading of the Direction of the Post in Koritsa in Albanian and French, correctly franked for the 50c foreign registration rate with 1918 25c. blue and black and "Qarku i Korçës" overprinted 25c. on 5c. green and black, each tied by "korytsa/albanie" c.d.s., showing registration marking at top, Albanian "Poste Albanaise - Censure" and French censorship labels (the former on reverse), London (26.4) and arrival (18.5) d.s. on back. One of the very few genuine covers bearing the very rare "Qarku i Korçës" overprinted value, further enhanced by its usage in this extremely rare mixed issue franking. Michel 16, 18. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£1,000 to £2,000

Lot 3166



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) French Occupation of Korçë (1916-1920) Fiscal stamps, group of nine from the "Qarku i Korçë A" (red-violet eagle overprint) third issue, including singles of 10c., 20c. (without eagle overprint variety), 50c. (lower left corner repaired), and 1fr., and a fragment bearing 1fr. (2) and 5fr. (3) tied by fiscal cachet. Initially, from 17 March to 11 April 1918, the stamps of the "Albanian Self-government" and "Republic of Albania" issues were used with the red-violet eagle overprint. An extremely rare group. provenance: Robert Ballauri Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £400

Lot 3167



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Local Issue of Elbasan (1919) 1919 (May 14). Official cover from Tirana to Elbasan, with "drejtoria e financavet të prefekturës/në tiranë" in blue, from the Directorate of Finance of the Prefecture of Tirana, and "Zyra e Postës/Tiranë" (Tirana Post Office) brown cachets at base, the latter indicating postal involvement at dispatch, with manuscript endorsement denoting a payment of 20 centimes, and violet "zyra e telegrafëvet/elbasan" c.d.s. at top on receipt. Addressed to Francesco Consoli, appointed by the Italians as a counsellor to the Durrës Government in postal matters. Nine covers are recorded with this Directorate cachet, seven of which are dated May 1919, and four of which include these two handstamps and the c.d.s., as well as the signature of "Hallulli" and dispatch receipt No. 56 (which may refer to the same shipment). provenance: "Cihangir" collection and Markus Gmählenote: Postage stamps became available in the territory of the Durrës Government only on 5.6.1919. On 6.1. 1919, the Minister of Finance ordered the regional finance offices to require cash payment of 20 centimes for letters weighing up to 20 grams, refusing those unpaid. This appears to have been a fiscal measure for an empty treasury rather than a postal charge. At that time, Albania was fragmented: the central part of the country was occupied by the Italians, who closely supervised the government they had allowed to be established in Durrës in December 1918. The government exercised effective control only over the districts of Durrës, Krujë, Lezhë, Tiranë, Elbasan, Peqin and Lushnjë, and part of the Fier district. The ministers responsible for finance and posts were Fejzi Alizoti and Mustafa Kruja respectively; Lef Nosi, who had been Minister of Posts in 1912-13, was also involved in an advisory capacity. Captain Francesco Consoli was appointed by the Italians as a counsellor to the Durrës Government in postal matters; 25 years after the shipment of these covers, Consoli published an article in "Italia Filatelica" in 1944 drawing attention to such letters, stating that he had come across covers relating to his period of service in Albania in 1919, without specifying to whom they were addressed. He described the procedure -requiring visits first to the finance office and then to the post office- but made no mention of any tax being payable. Mr. Ballauri suggests that Consoli may have refrained from revealing his possession during the Fascist regime for fear of disciplinary action for abuse of his official position, but felt secure enough at the end of the war to bring them to the collectors' market. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£800 to £1,400

Lot 3168



(x) Wartime Transitional Period (1914-1920) Local Issue of Elbasan (1919) 1919, (1 gr.) red stationery envelope with handstamp of the Elbasan Financial Office and double-headed eagle in black, very well preserved in unused condition. Only about 500 were issued, of which few have survived complete, with about ten recorded, as the area of the seals was often cut out. Michel 1; €3,800. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£600 to £1,000

Lot 3169



(x) State Consolidation Period (1920-1925) 1921-1922. Two covers, one from Peshkope to Tirana featuring a rare single rate domestic franking with 1920-22 2q., second overprint, in strip of five, tied by the rare dispatch c.d.s.; the other, bearing single 25q., first overprint, was directed from Përmet to Salzburg, Austria. A rare duo. Michel 76II, 79I. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £350

Lot 3170



(x) State Consolidation Period (1920-1925) 1923 (Nov. 13). Registered cover from Libohove to Clinton, U.S.A., franked by 1922 50q., tied by Libohove c.d.s. in blue repeated at left, and Jergucat c.d.s. in transit in the same colour below. Transit of Gjirokastër (14.11) on reverse, together with various U.S. d.s. and an indistinct (Italian) c.d.s. Envelope torn on the reverse and slightly creased, still quite fresh and an extremely rare cover bearing the highest value of the Sixth Issue of Independent Albania, with scarce cancellations. (Libohovë at that time likely had fewer than 150 inhabitants, and Jergucat a few hundred). Michel 87. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3171



(x) State Consolidation Period (1920-1925) 1922-1925, Landscape issues, non-overprinted and overprinted, a choice group of six items showing five different frankings, including one rare acknowledgement of receipt/advice of payment, one uprated stationery card to Switzerland, and other covers to foreign destinations, including the United States (3) and Australia. Very fine and scarce. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £600

Lot 3172



(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928) 1925 (May 31). Registered commercial cover from Shkodër to Vienna, franked on back by vertical block of ten of 1915 5q., showing thin "R" of "Republika" at lower left, tied by dispatch c.d.s.'s. A very scarce multiple on cover. Michel 120. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £200

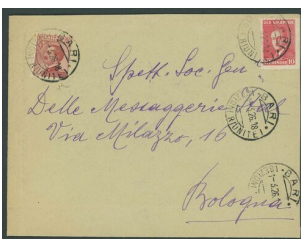
Lot 3173



(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928) 1925 (Sept. 20). Insured commercial cover for 1,450 gold francs, weighing 56 grams, from Tirana to Trieste, Italy, franked at 295 qindar with 1925 10q. pair, vertical strip of three and two singles, and 25q., one single, vertical strips of three and five, tied by dispatch c.d.s.'s. The reverse with bari ferrovia (22.9) c.d.s. Vertical fold not detracting from this spectacular and unique franking. Michel 121, 122. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3174



(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928) 1926 (March 1st). Cover from Durrës to Bologna, Italy, franked with 1925 10q. perf. 13½, paying the rate from Tirana to Durrës, additionally franked with Italian 60c. to cover the Durrës-Bari maritime line carriage and domestic postage within Italy, each tied in Bari by "Bari/(Sezioni Riunite)" c.d.s., repeated alongside, backstamped on receipt. A very scarce mixed franking. Michel 136A. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3175

(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928)1926 (Nov. 2). Registered 10q. postal stationery envelope from Tirana to Vienna, uprated on the reverse to cover the 50q. registered foreign rate with a marginal strip of four of 1925 10q., perf. 13½, all tied by dispatch c.d.s.'s. A very scarce usage of registered stationery. Michel 136A.provenance: Markus GmähleSubject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £300

Lot 3176

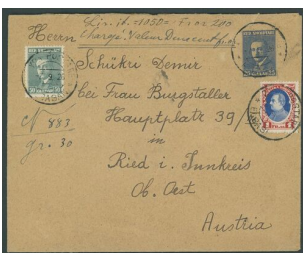
(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928)1926 (Jan. 26). 10q. stationery envelope to Shkodër, redirected to Tirana, tied by very fine blue c.d.s of Bilisht, with Korçë (27.1), Shkodër (2.2) and Tirana (2.2) backstamps. A rare cancellation from a locality with about 1,500 inhabitants.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £200

Lot 3177

(x) Albanian Republic (1925-1928)1927, Second Anniversary of President Zogu, the high values in unmounted half sheets of 50, the 1fr. from the upper part, the 3fr. and 5fr. from the lower half with marginal Greek imprint at base, also including a block of four of the 5fr. Very fine and scarce. Michel 158A, 160A, 161A; €1,015+.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £200

Lot 3178

(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939)1929 (Sept. 7). Insured 25q. stationery envelope for Italian Lire 1,050 or 200 gold francs, from Elbasan to Ried im Innkreis (Austria), uprated with 1925 Zogu 50q. and 1fr., each tied by "Zyra Postare/Elbasan" c.d.s., with Italian Brindisi, Udine and Tarvisio transits on back. A rare usage of insured stationery. Michel 139A, 140A.Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

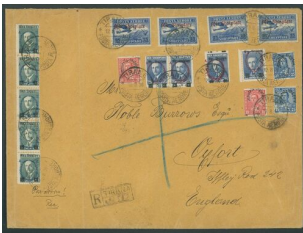
Lot 3179



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939)1929 (Dec. 26). Insured envelope for 260 francs, sent from Kolonjë to Grimmenstein, franked on reverse with 1fr. 50q. by three 1928 50q., each tied by Kolonjë c.d.s., showing between the stamps a very rare usage in this period of an Ottoman negative oval postmark in violet denoting registration; Brindisi (4.1.30), Udine (5.1) and arrival (7.1) c.d.s.'s alongside. Additional strike of the dispatch c.d.s. on obverse. A very rare usage of the Ottoman registration postmark in this rural and mountainous area. Michel 191. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3180



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939)1930 (Aug. 12). Large commercial registered airmail cover from Tirana to England, franked with 1928 10q. (2) and 25q. (2, one damaged), 1929 1q. on 50q. vertical strip of four and 5q. on 25q. (4, including one pair with misplaced overprint, leaving the "25" denomination clearly visible), and 1929 airmail 25q. (4, one with a small tear at the top) overprinted in red, all tied by "tirane/posta aere" airmail c.d.s.'s. The reverse displaying Vlorë and Brindisi (12.8) c.d.s.'s. Vertical fold not impinging on the franking. An exceptional airmail cover featuring a franking comprising three different issues. Michel 191, 193, 199, 200, 212. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£400 to £600

Lot 3181

(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939)1930, Definitive Issue, 1q. to 5fr., complete set of 11 values in very fine full sheets of 100 unmounted mint original gum with surrounding margins and four-figure control number on one of the sides. Very rare. Michel 217-227; €2,500+. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£300 to £600

**IMAGE
PENDING**

SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

Lot 3182



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939) 1930, King Zogu I Airmail Issue, 5q. to 3fr., complete set of seven in imperforate plate proofs in full sheets of 100, the 5q. to 50q. values with "Registrato/Il Capo della Sezione Staccata" control marking in violet and signature, applied on upper margin and between panes of 50. As far as we know only two sets of 100 were printed. Michel 228-234. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£2,500 to £4,000

Lot 3183



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939) 1933 (May 1st). 1st Südamerikafahrt, registered cover from Vlonë to Recife, Brazil, with the corresponding Zeppelin cachet, franked by 1930 5q., 15q., 25q. Airmail 5q., 15q., 20q. (2) and 50q. Friedrichshafen c.d.s. (May 6th). Italian transits and arrival on back. Very fine and scarce. Michel 219, 221, 222, 228-231. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

Lot 3184



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939) 1933 (June 1st). 2nd Südamerikafahrt, registered cover from Vlonë to Recife, Brazil, with corresponding cachet in green and bearing 1930 15q., Airmail 5q., 20q. (2) and 50q. (6, one defective) and, on the reverse, 1930 50q., alongside with various transits. Very fine and scarce. Michel 221, 228, 230, 231. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £250

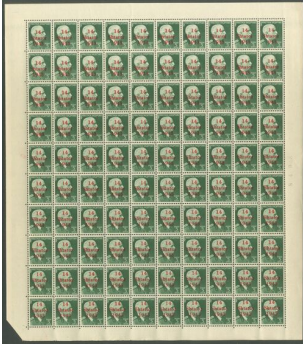
Lot 3185



(x) Kingdom of Albania (1928-1939) 1938 (May 14). Commercial cover from Zerqan to Dübendorf, Switzerland, bearing 1930 25q., tied by "zerqan/A" c.d.s., with an additional and equally neat strike at left, with transit of Tirana on reverse. c.d.s. Fewer than five covers recorded with this cancellation, from a small rural village with a population of probably about 1,500 inhabitants. Michel 222. provenance: Markus Gmähle Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£250 to £400

Lot 3186



(x) German Occupation (1943-1944) The Unique Complete Set in Full Sheets with the "1943" Errors 1943, 1q. on 3q., complete set of 14 values, comprising the first ten in full sheets of 100 each and the last four in two sheets of 50 each unmounted mint original gum, including numerous overprint varieties and notable errors, ranging from four to seventeen per sheet. Among these are several spectacular date varieties, such as "1948", "1643" or "1944" instead of "1943". The only set of full sheets available featuring these errors, of particular importance due to the large number of varieties and the circumstances surrounding its discovery (see note below). Michel 1-14; (€48,000+ as a very rough indication of the minimum value, without taking into account the numerous varieties listed in the Michel catalogue, each valued at hundreds of euros, and the uniqueness of this lot). provenance: Robert Ballauri note: The overprinting of this issue was carried out under urgent conditions at the "Kristo Luarasi" Printing House in Tirana, within a period of just 20 days. The overprints were applied by hand across different plates (two for the qindar denominations and one for the franc denominations), and consequently no sheets exist in which two identical overprints can be found. Two to three days after its release on 23.10.1944, sales were suddenly suspended by order of the General Directorate of the Tirana Post Office (according to the philatelist Osman Saraçi, who was working at the General Post Office at the time and refers to this in his memoirs), after errors (possibly intentional) in the "1943" date were detected by the postal clerk Aldo Çoba. Postal staff then spent several days removing the affected stamps, creating gaps or empty positions in the sheets. Sales resumed once this process had been completed. According to most published sources, 23,000 sets of 14 values were printed. However, other accounts differ, notably that of Angelo Cristofolletti, who was directly involved in production at the "Kristo Luarasi" Printing House in Tirana and is therefore considered the most reliable witness. He states that only 18,000 sets were produced, and adds that of which approximately 2,000 sets were damaged either during separation from the sheets or during the correction period, once the errors had been identified. According to the version reported by Robert Ballauri in his 2001 article in "Koleksionisti", Cristofolletti further states that 11,000 sets were included in sheets containing a very small number of stamps showing the "1943" error. Of these, sheets corresponding to 6,000 sets were subsequently corrected in the relevant positions (approximately 60 sheets per value), leaving an estimated 5,000 complete sets that escaped correction, including a very small number still exhibiting "1943" errors. All these factors explain the exceptional rarity and significance of the unique set of complete sheets containing the "1943" errors. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£10,000 to £20,000

Lot 3187

(x) German Occupation (1943-1944)1943 (Oct. 23). Registered commercial envelope from a law firm from Tirana to Elbasan, correctly paying the 25q.+25q. domestic registered rate with 2q., 3q. single and block of four, 5q. pair and 25q. blue, all tied by "B" c.d.s. of Tirana on the first day of issue, with receiving c.d.s. on back (22.10.1943, 9am) possibly not updated since that morning. Some tone spots not affecting the franking. The internally circulated, genuinely travelled mail from this period is very rare. Michel 2, 3, 4, 7. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£200 to £400

Lot 3188

(x) German Occupation (1943-1944)1944, Aid for the Victims of the Air Raids, 5q. + 5q. to 3fr. + 1.50fr., complete set of seven values in full sheets of 50, possessing unmounted mint original gum, with the corresponding surrounding margins. Minor expected splits otherwise a very rare and spectacular set in this format. Michel 15-21; €5,000+. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£700 to £1,200

Lot 3189

(x) Partisan Liberation of Berat (1943)Berat. 1943, 25q. on 15q. red, overprinted with five-pointed star within the silhouette of a double-headed eagle, unmounted mint with original gum. Very rare and fine, this being the first overprint type used of Berat. provenance: Robert Ballauri This lot was illustrated in an article by Robert Ballauri in the "Koleksionisti" magazine (issue 2/98). Note: Martin Erler, a Luftwaffe officer attached to the German command in Albania, based on his firsthand experience in the field, stated in a 1949 article published in the magazine "Globus" that stamps (including this value) were found in small quantities when the Germans took Berat; he further noted that they appeared shortly thereafter on the collectors' market at prices ranging from 400 to 1,500 gold francs each (exorbitant prices for the time). Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£150 to £300

Lot 3190



(g) Partisan Liberation of Berat (1943) Berat. 1943, 1q. slate, 1q. on 2q. olive, 2q. olive, 3q. brown (sheet margin at left), and 5q. green, the complete set of five values, showing the second overprint applied in Berat, in red, featuring a framed five-pointed star and the initials "VF-LP" for "Death to Fascism-Freedom for the People", unmounted mint with original gum. One of only five complete sets recorded, of which one was donated by Robert Ballauri to Giulio Andreotti, the well-known Italian politician -also a philatelist- who served seven times as Prime Minister of Italy. provenance: Robert Ballauri note: In 1954, General of the Resistance Gjin Marku, who commanded partisan forces near Berat, explained how the Berat postage stamps were produced and confirmed that they were used only briefly. He further noted that the person who conceived them (whose name he did not know) was an Albanian who had pursued university studies in Italy and had returned to his country to fight against fascism. Subject to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium. For more information please view Terms and Conditions for Buyers.

Estimate
£700 to £1,200

Lot 3191



(x) Partisan Liberation of Berat (1943) 1943, 2q. olive, marginal pair, and single 5q. green, overprinted in red with a five-pointed star and the "VF-LP" initials, the three tied by "berat" straight-line postmark and correctly paying the local 9 qindar rate on an envelope from the Partisan Command in Berat to Vasil Gallani, Notary Public of Berat. Only two covers and one notarial act (sent in newspaper format) are known bearing this issue; these three items represent the only genuine postal-history examples of mail franked with Partisan stamps in Albania, and the three were addressed to the Notary Vasil Gallani. provenance: Robert Ballauri note: The two covers and the notarial act sent through the post were discovered in the personal archive of Notary Vasil Gallani after his death (as far as we know, he was not a philatelist). None bear a dated postmark, as the only device available then was the straight-line handstamp produced in Berat in 1915 for the local issue under the regime of Essad Pasha; this postmark continued to be used provisionally after the war in 1946. The partisan issues of Berat must have been in use for a very short, though undetermined, period (as confirmed by the Luftwaffe officer Martin Erler), beginning some time after they took control of Berat on 11.9.1943 and lasting until the end of October or mid-November 1943; -the city enjoyed temporary freedom in this first period of Liberation as a city-state, which is a unique case in Albania during the war-. This item was discussed by Robert Ballauri and Martin Erler, both of whom reached the conclusion that it is a genuine piece; it was also published in a bilingual article by Robert Ballauri in issue 2/98 of "Koleksionisti". Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

Estimate
£3,000 to £5,000

Lot 3192



(x) People's Republic of Albania (1946-1976) 1945, Overprinted 1fr.sh. on 30q. to 5fr.sh. on 2fr., the highest four values of the first set of the Republic, including various sheets and few large blocks unmounted mint original gum. High catalogue value. Michel 364-367. Subject to 5% tax on Hammer Price in addition to 20% VAT on Buyer's Premium.

**Estimate
£500 to £800**
