

Collecting Forerunner Mail From the Holy Land to Uncommon Destinations- A Complex Endeavour

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1. Overview

This article is original in scope and deals with material of considerable interest to collectors interested in Ottoman, Austrian, Russian, Italian, French, German and Holy Land postal history. The article outlines how to logically and knowledgably collect mail sent from the Holy Land to “uncommon destinations” from the commencement of the UPU period to late 1918.

2. Treatment

This article clearly states and achieves its objectives in a logical and comprehensive manner. The title matches the content. There is an opening (containing a purpose statement), substantive content and a conclusion. The article shows clear and colourful illustrations of many gems of Holy Land philately, with all material comprehensively studied and researched.

3. Significance, Originality, Research and Knowledge

An article with this content has never been written and its assembly of highly unusual subject matter created a significant challenge for the author. Considerable research was required to document rates, routes and markings. Discoveries of previously unreported material from various colonies or territories are now well-documented. Knowledge of relevant

languages and history was also required to identify and properly describe the rare material.

The analysis in the article is clear and provides the reader with an organized methodology. Various exhibits, books or catalogues might contain the odd example of such material but none analyze or collate the materials in this area as this article does. Therefore, the article has lasting value as a guide for both beginners and experienced collectors who wish to both expand their collecting or exhibiting knowledge and to view material rarely seen or exhibited.

The author has given a number of lengthy webinars showing many examples of material to “uncommon destinations” during the relevant period under review. Therefore, this article, (even though 20+pages), is but a synoptic account of his extensive research and knowledge in this area.

4. Technical

This article was organized so that it could easily be followed with the benefit of titles and subtitles to show the progression of the narrative. Various headings are used to show the regions being covered. The narrative and descriptions use an appropriate print size and font so as not to distract the reader from the material being shown. There is no bibliography because of the unique assembly of materials and because of the absence of any comparable comprehensive works.