

PERFIN WITH A CRETE CONNECTION from Mike Bavin.

During the administration of Crete by France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia, (1899-1908) stamps were issued for use in the British-controlled Province of Candia (now Heraklion). The first stamp, SG1, was handstruck in shades of violet with a face value of 20 parades. It is uncommon, currently valued by S.G. at £350 mint and £25 used. The second part of the Dr. Maurice R. Friend collection, sold by Robson Lowe in Zurich on 23rd November 1982, contained an extraordinary cover. It was franked with no fewer than six of the above-mentioned stamps, each perforated 28 (10,12) and cancelled by the TEMENOS Union Jack in violet. The cover was addressed to Lewis Hall Esq. and had an unidentified Regimental insignia on the flap. The perfin 28 is mentioned nowhere else in the catalogue. Lot no.370, valuation Swiss francs 4500, makes this one of the most valuable perfin covers in existence. The origin of the perfin, and details of other rare covers would be appreciated.

(Ed:- if anyone has any comments for Mike about these two items I will be pleased to pass them along.)

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