

EOB Perfin - Smyrna Usage Reported

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In the March 1990 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* (p. 64) I reported finding Turkish perfin E1, the "EOB" perfin of Establishments Orsadi Bank used on an Austrian stamp issued for offices in the Turkish Empire. At that time, Harvey G. Tilles' catalog *Perfins of the Middle East* reported that this Turkish perfin was known only on stamps of Turkey and France. That usage was Oesterreishische (Austrian) Post, Constantinople in February, 1907.

Since 1990, the Perfins Club has published John J. Nussbickel's *Austria Perfins*, 1991 with supplements issued in 1992 and 1993. John Nussbickel lists this perfin as Le-7 (EOB - Establishment Drosdi Bank in Constantinople). My most recent find of the EOB perfin is also on a postcard using an Austrian stamp overprinted for use in the Levant. The card, shown on page 134, was postmarked by Austrian authorities in Smyrna on 28 January, 1905.

A photocopy of the card was submitted to John J. Nussbickel, Editor of the Austria Catalog, who commented that:

o First of all, I made a mistake the name is "Orsadi" not "Drosdi." Next is the town name, being banks have branches in many cities, Constantinople and Smyrna are both correct. My copy canceled in 1909 is from Constantinople. In a survey I made several years ago which was published in *The Perfins Bulletin*, I noted that there were 21 copies of this perfin on Austrian Levant stamps reported. I imagine Dr. Tilles report in *Perfins of the Middle East* was made much earlier than the late Ing. V Maxa's catalog on Austrian Perfins as this catalog shows this perfin on Austrian stamps.

o Looking at the cancellations on the illustrated card, the postal service was excellent in 1905. It took only six days, often when I write to my son and daughter-in-law in Lake Geneva, WI, it takes longer than that.

Based on Mr. Nussbickel's comments, members may wish to annotated their copies of the Austria catalog.

