

A Postal Card from Smyrna with Perfin!

by Wolf Dinslage. Reprinted from *The Austria Bulletin*, Vol. 40, No. 3, p. 21.

I have been collecting all aspects of the postal history of the city of SMYRNA, the city second only to Constantinople in the "Osmanien Empire" for more than twenty years. Over the course of time, beside the Turkish postal system, there have been nine other postal authorities with offices in this city. My collection contains postal documents which cover the period 1963 through September 9, 1922, when the Turkish Revolutionary Army conquered the city.

In the past year I obtained a postal stationery card (*Michel P 28*) sent from Smyrna to Leipzig, dated May 31, 1913, where the imprinted stamp has a perforation (perfin) "G.S." meaning "Geo. Stameny".



In all my correspondence with collectors of Austrian Levant no one has ever seen a perfin on an Austrian postal stationery item before. I have written to the Austrian postal document center in Vienna and received from Dr. Christine Kainz, photocopies of all the laws and arrangements dealing with perfins since 1886 along with *Austrian Bulletin* volume 38 Numbers 1 and 2.