

## PERFINS ON CYPRUS QUEEN VICTORIA REVENUES

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Following the establishment of British administration of Cyprus on 12 July 1878, a series of the GB un-appropriated Die stamps was overprinted 'CYPRUS' to be used for revenue purposes. From early 1879 these revenue stamps used by the administration at Larnaca and other centres were cancelled with perfins (Figure 1). Subsequently the Cyprus Queen Victoria tri-lingual revenue stamps issued in 1882 and denominated in Turkish Piastres were also cancelled with the same perfins. (Figure 2)



8d Lilac/Carmine  
"LA" - Larnaca



1/- Green/Black  
"P" - Paphos



1/- Green/Black  
"LI" - Limassol



1d Lilac/Black  
"K" - Kyrenia

*Figure 1*  
*The Cyprus Un-appropriated Die stamps with perfins*



1 Piastre  
"LI" - Limassol



2 Piastres  
"LI" - Limassol



1 Piastre  
"N" - Nicosia



2 Piastres  
"F" - Famagusta

*Figure 2*  
*The Cyprus Queen Victoria tri-lingual revenue stamps with perfins*

Examples of these perfin are scarce and they are rarely found on dated documents. the latest recorded date of use of one of these perfin being 25 August 1885. As Larnaca was the main administrative centre, the “LA” perfin is the most frequently encountered, the others being quite scarce. In my opinion the perfin of Kyrenia and Paphos are very scarce and that with the “T” perfin of Trodos is rare, with only two examples having been recorded.

It appears that these revenue stamps with the “LA” perfin were postally used from Larnaca on postal packets. Figure 3 illustrates the 8d and 1s values with the code 942 barred oval of Larnaca cancelling them. Figure 4 illustrates a cover showing the standard practice of cancelling the stamps with a barred oval and placing the date stamp alongside.

*The Un-appropriated Die issue with “LA” perfin of Larnaca postally used with code 942 barred oval cancel of Larnaca*

#### The Pence Values



8d Lilac/Carmine

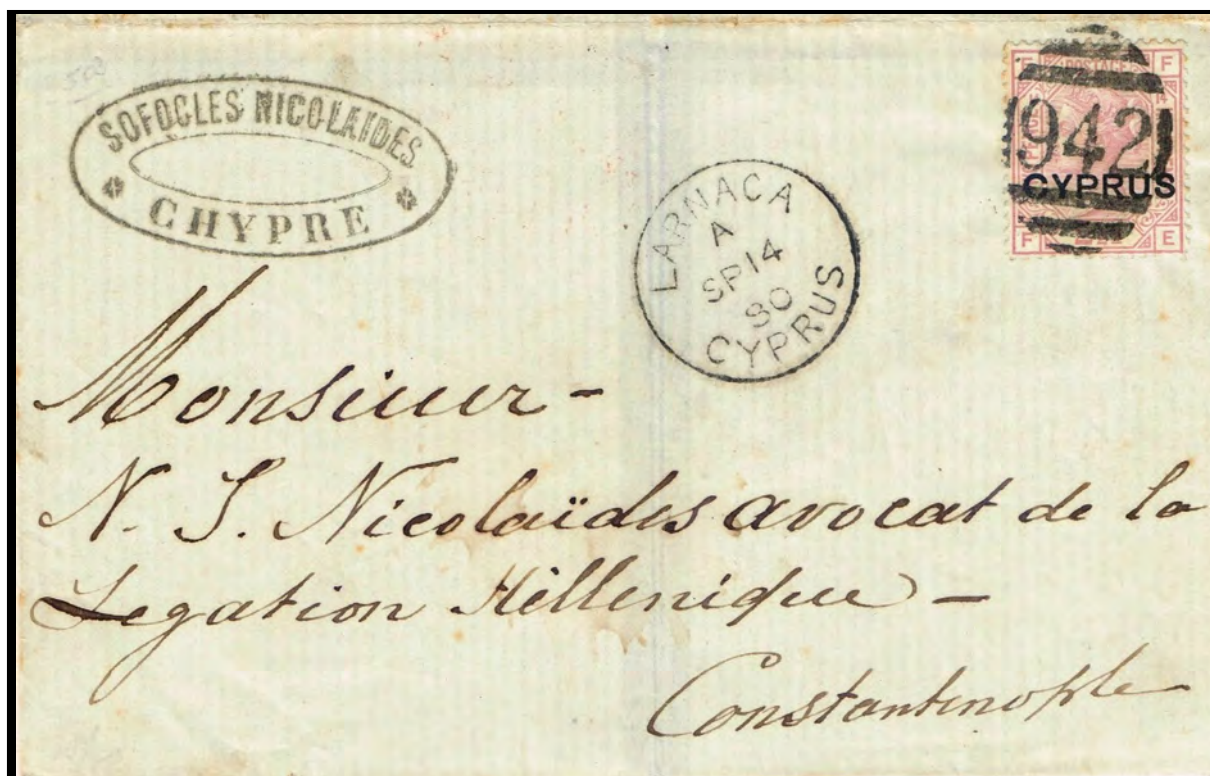
#### The Shilling Values with watermark script watermark



1/- Green/Black

*Figure 3*

*Used examples of perfin cancelled with 942 code of Larnaca*



*Figure 4*  
*Cover with 942 code barred oval of Larnaca cancel*

Lastly shown below in figure 5 is a mint strip of four of the 1d un-appropriated die with the Larnaca “LA” perfin. This strip is particularly interesting as the random strikes on the four stamps clearly shows that this was a single headed die machine. Looking back at the Famagusta “F” perfin in figure 2, the multiple strikes again show a single headed die.



*Figure 5*  
*Mint strip of four 1d Lilac/Black with “LA” Larnaca perfin*

### Bibliography

Cyprus Revenue Stamps 1872-1997 by Christopher J. Podger FRPSL,  
Bourne Press, 1997