

CILICIA  
Mixed Franking

Tresor et Postes 606  
26 January 1920

Adana  
27 January 1920



Recommande  
Colonel Bremond  
Adana



The T.E.O. (Occupied Enemy Territory) overprints listed under Syria were also used in Cilicia during the French occupation. Shown here in mixed franking with "Cilicia" overprints to the War Ministry in Paris and Egypt.

CILICIA  
Legion Armenian

Adana  
6 August 1919



The Armenians were willing recruits to serve the French in Cilicia as well as in Palestine and Syria. Above registered cover was sent to Boston a member of the Legion and franked with T.E.O. overprints. A highly unusual usage.

**CILICIA**  
**Overprints on Revenues**

After a brief interlude during which the British occupied Cilicia from October 1919 to January 1920, the French returned and remained in charge of the territory from February 1920 until they returned the area to Turkey at the end of November 1921.

Adana  
10 April 1920

Tarsous  
24 March 1920



The first stamps issued during the second French period were Turkish revenue stamps overprinted "Occupation Militaire Francaise/Cilicia." These were issued in early 1920 and only used for a brief time, sometimes in conjunction with EEF stamps, as on the upper cover from the Armenian Union in Yozgat, Adana to Boston.

CILICIA  
O.M.F. Overprints

Adana  
26 June 1920  
March 1921



The final issue for Cilicia, also in 1920, consisted of French definitives overprinted "O.M.F. (French Military Occupation)/Cilicie" and surcharged with new denominations in piastres and paras. Above examples used to the United States.

CILICIA  
O.M.F. Overprints

Tarsous  
30 November 1920

Mersine  
13 December 1920

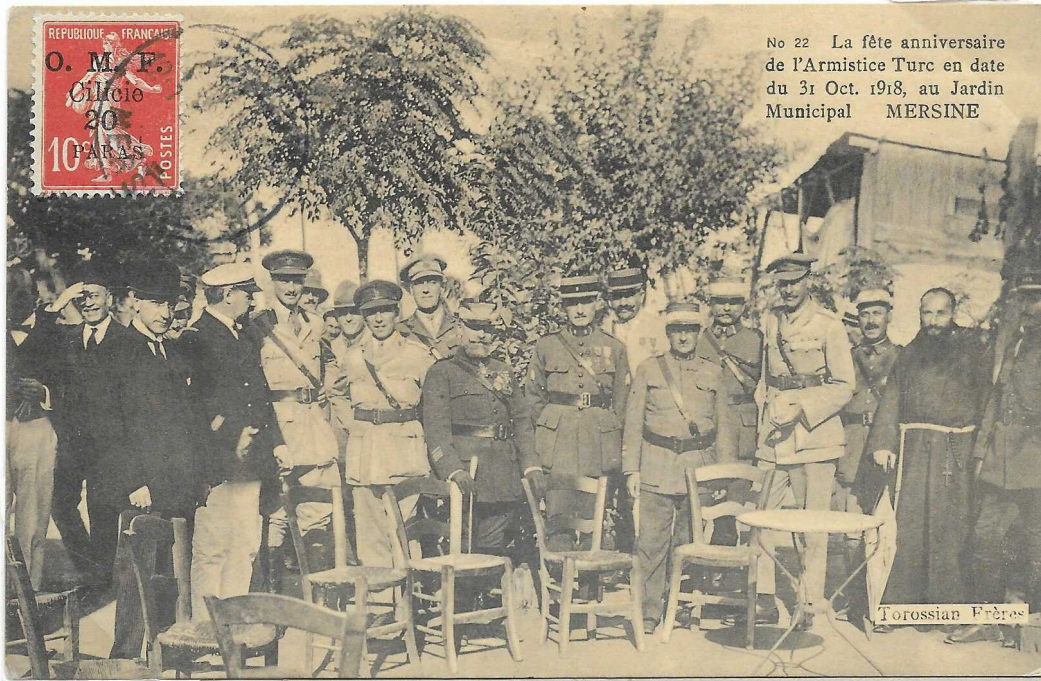


Additional examples of the O.M.F. Cilicie stamps used during the second French occupation. These covers were sent to Cyprus, an unusual destination.

CILICIA  
O.M.F. Overprints

Mersine  
22 January 1921

Tarsous  
30 November 1921



Picture postcard of Allied officers and local dignitaries celebrating the anniversary of the Turkish surrender and registered, return receipt requested cover from Tarsous to Adana. Note use of old Turkish registration and return receipt handstamps, the latter being the only example seen by exhibitor.

CILICIA  
Official Mail

Tresor et Postes 606  
18 June 1920

Tresor et Postes 608  
25 January 1921

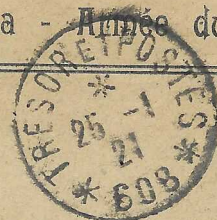
CONTROLE ADMINISTRATIF  
de Cilicie

**R** DIRECTEUR BOF  
N° 787



Monsieur Linyon  
Chef du Personnel  
Direction de la Cavalerie  
Ministère de la Guerre

Foyers de Cilicie - Base de Mersina - Armée du Levant



*Lilly*

Monsieur René Lilly

1 Rue de la Rochette

Meulan (Seine et Oise)

France

Envoi de Monsieur René Lilly Caporal. 4<sup>e</sup> Régiment  
de Chasseurs Algériens. - 9<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>e</sup>  
S. 4<sup>e</sup> R.  
Armée du Levant  
Seclau Postal  
606

Covers sent from administrative units to France from FPOs #606 and #608, both located at Mersine at the time.

CILICIA  
Official Mail

Mersine  
December 1920



The postage on the above cover is cancelled with a special marking inscribed "Interallied Control in Turkey/Coastal Trade." Sent to Constantinople where it was backstamped for receipt on 10 December 1920.



CILICIA  
Post-Transfer Official Mail

Adana  
25 August 1923

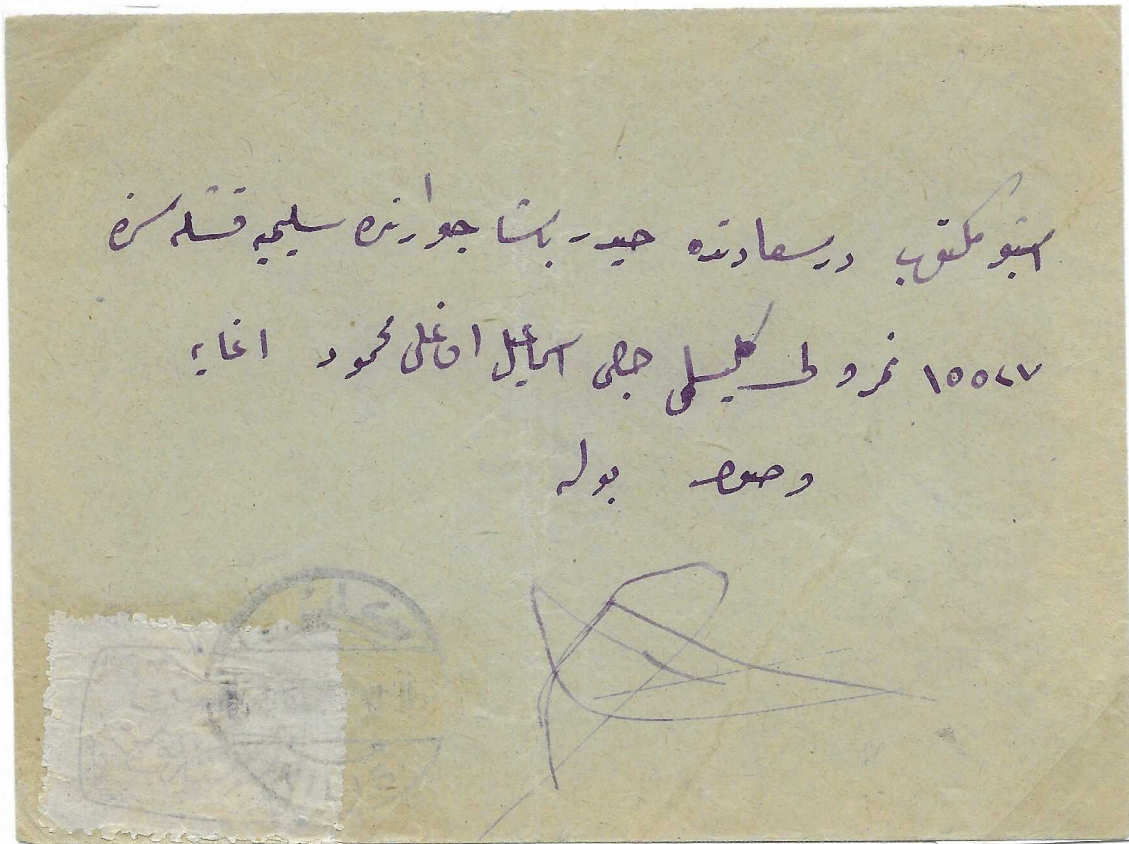


A "French Mission in Cilicia" was maintained in Adana to supervise the return of the territory to Turkey and complete administrative details left over from the French occupation. Above cover sent from a member of the mission to a French functionary in Scutari, Albania. An extraordinary destination.

## SOUTHERN ANATOLIA

There were two special cases of provisional issues for cities that were regarded then as being in Syria but today are in the southern part of Asiatic Turkey. The first was a single stamp issued in Kilis in February 1921. The second was a set of overprinted Turkish stamps used in Aintab in July 1921.

Kilis  
February 1921



Kilis was considered to be a part of Syria following World War I. In 1921, a large influx of Armenian refugees crossed the border to escape Turkish persecution. When their needs depleted the stamp supply, a provisional was created with a handstamp reading (in Arabic) "Kilis Posta Pulu." Although these had no stated denomination, they were sold for 1 piastre each. Commercial use of these stamps is highly elusive; the above example is backstamped in transit in Aleppo on 18 February and for receipt in Galata on 1 March 1921. (Note that in a border adjustment, Kilis was returned to Turkey in 1923.)

SOUTHERN ANATOLIA  
Aintab Provisional Issue

Aintab  
23 July 1921  
13 August 1921



There was a significant uprising in the town of Aintab (today called Gaziantep in Turkey) in 1921. French troops were called in and took control after dispersing the rebels. Stamps were not available, so a small quantity of Turkish definitives were overprinted "O.M.F./Syrie" in black or red during July 1921, with a new value of 1 or 2 piastres being added. This issue was only valid until 27 August 1921, so that covers are very elusive.

## SYRIA - GREATER LEBANON

Although the stamps with the "O.M.F. Syrie" overprints were used throughout both Syria and Lebanon, in 1923 the French authorities decided to include both names in the inscription. At the same time, the "O.M.F." was dropped to recognize that the area was now under French mandate, no longer military occupation. Stamps with the new inscription were issued in October 1923.



Damas  
9 October 1923



Registered cover sent from Damascus to Missouri. It was franked with four of the new "Syrie - Grand Liban" overprints and one of the old "Syrie" versions. Note the use of a new French-Arabic postmark for Damascus.

SYRIA - GREATER LEBANON  
Airmail Overprints

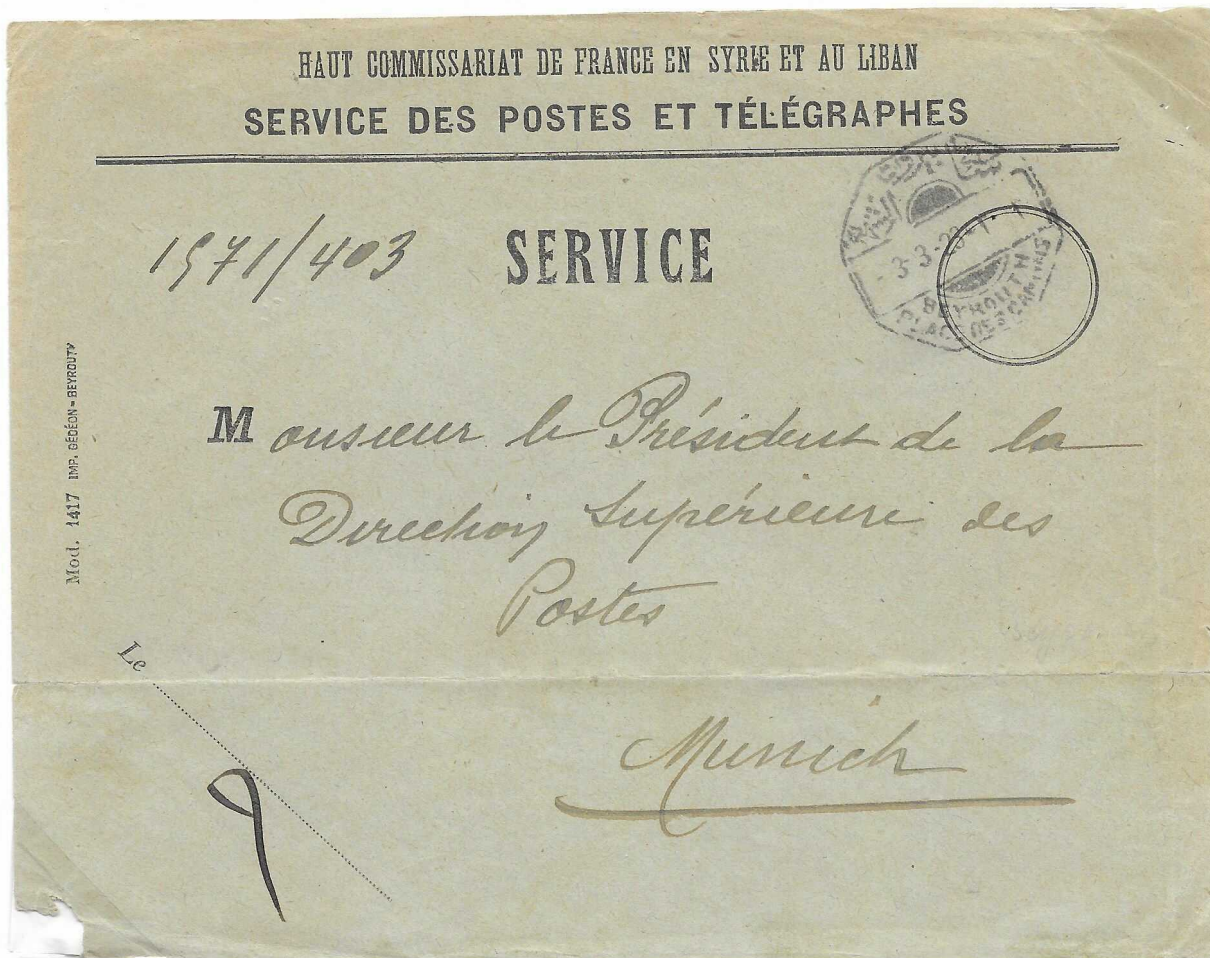
Damas  
2 December 1923



In addition to the "Syrie - Grand Liban" overprints for ordinary mail, 2,130 sets of four airmails were issued on 23 November 1923. Because of a subsequent political decision, these stamps were taken off sale less than two months later, so they are usually seen on non-flown locally-addressed covers as shown above.

SYRIA - GREATER LEBANON  
Official Mail

Beyrouth/Place des Camouns  
3 March 1923



This cover shows official usage from the Post & Telegraph Service of the French High Commission in Syria and Lebanon to the Postmaster in Munich, Germany. A very unusual usage.

SYRIA - GREATER LEBANON  
Mixed Franking

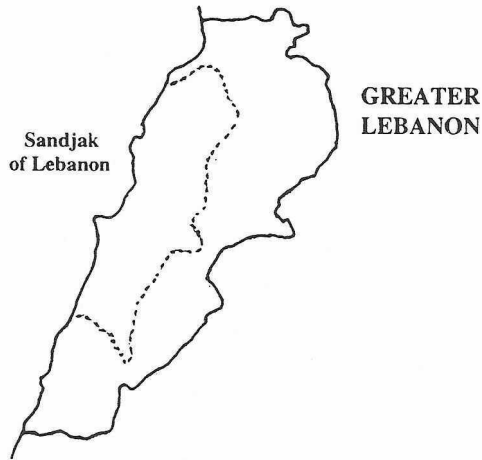
Damas  
10 January 1924



This cover shows mixed franking of the "Syrie - Grand Liban" overprints with a stamp of the subsequent set for Syria proper. Sent from the Italian General Consulate in Damascus to Florence.

# GREATER LEBANON

In January 1924, the French authorities decided to separate the Lebanese and Syrian mandates. Stamps issued for the former were initially inscribed "Grand Liban (Greater Lebanon)." This was because the French had expanded the original Ottoman sandjak (district) located between Beirut and Mount Lebanon, and largely populated by Maronite Christians, to include the Muslim districts of Sidon, Tripoli and the Bekaa Valley. (They were careful to preserve a Christian majority in the country -- although this was subsequently overcome by a higher Muslim birthrate and greater Christian emigration.)



Beyrouth  
13 October 1924



The new overprints inscribed "Grand Liban" on French definitives were issued on 21 January 1924. This cover from Beirut to Hungary is franked with a pair of the overprints. Note the use of a new French-Arabic postmark for Beirut.