

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

POSTAGE DUE – “TAXÉ à PERÇEVOIR”

1905

Postage for internal transportation was also charged for mail to a plantation located between Harar and Addis Ababa.

July 3, 1905

Switzerland to Aoura Malka

Franked 25c

(correct, single weight rate)

1 guerdie postage due for
inland postage paid in Harar,
August 29, 1905.



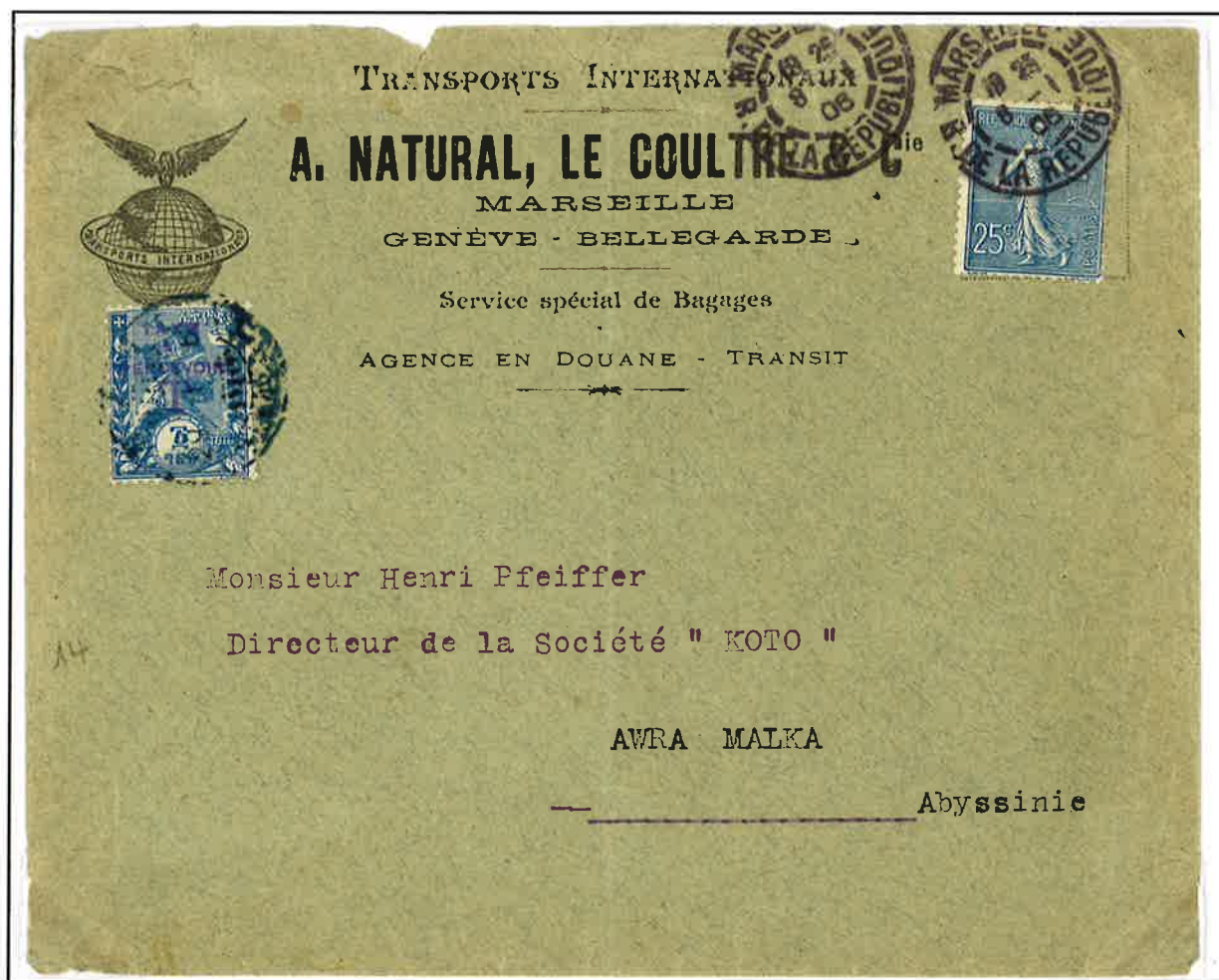
January 1, 1906

Marseille to Aoura Malka

Franked 25c

(correct, single weight rate)

1 guerdie postage due for
inland postage paid in Harar,
January 21, 1905.



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

MAIL TO DJIBOUTI—HIGH FRANKING

DECEMBER 1905

Mail to Djibouti did not need French Somali Coast stamps—Ethiopian postage sufficed. The single-weight rate was 20 centimes for the first 15 grams and 20 centimes for each additional 15 grams. Quadruple-weight covers are rare.

QUADRUPLE WEIGHT COVER TO DJIBOUTI



December 20, 1905

Addis Ababa to Djibouti

Franked 16 x 5 centimes for a total of 80 centimes / quadruple weight.

Transit in Harar, December 31, 1905.

Arrival mark from Djibouti.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

MICHEL'S FAKE OVERPRINTS

DECEMBER 1905

The stock of stamps overprinted "Ethiopie," "Bosta," and "Melekt" was depleted in early 1905. However, the demand from collectors for old issues continued. To meet it, Michel created handstamps and made fakes that he sold as genuine. Collectors noticed that the "Ethiopie" overprint was different from the original and complained to Alfred Ilg who order Michel to stop selling them. He did not. Some of them were used in the mails.

RARE COMMERCIAL USE OF A STAMP WITH A FAKE "ETHIOPIE" OVERPRINT



December 10, 1905

[Front]

Harar to Vienna

Registered, triple weight cover (1 franc Somali Coast franking)

Ethiopian franking only 50 centimes (additional stamps could have been on the back).

2 guerches (brown) with Michel's fake "Ethiopie" overprint used commercially.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

SIXTH OVERPRINT: "MENELIK I" - VALUES IN CENTIMES

JANUARY 1, 1906

A new handstamped overprint was issued in January 1906 that read "Menelik" with values in centimes. It is likely the overprint was added to the "Numerals" stamps of 1905. The overprint exists in two sizes: 15.00 and 16.75 mm wide. They were used inter-changeably until "Menelik II" replaced this issue in July 1906.



July 1, 1906

Harar to Bern

Registered cover with philatelic franking with a complete set of "Menelik I"
Obock 50 centimes on reverse + Harar Boxed Registration mark.

"Direction des Postes et Télégraphes Ethiopiens"—Michel's private official envelope.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

"MENELIK I" - HIGH POSTAGE COVER

1906

"Menelik I" with short and long overprints used on same cover. Originally it was thought that one version was made for Harar and the other for Addis Ababa, but that was not correct; both versions were used in both towns.

REGISTERED, SIX TIMES SINGLE WEIGHT COVER



February 4, 1906

Harar to Bern

Registered, multiple weight cover (six times single weight)

Somali Coast franking composed of 1 franc (rare on cover) and 75c.

Ethiopian franking: 155 centimes (under-franked 20 centimes).

Boxed Harar registration mark.

Addressed by Jean-Adolph Michel, Director of Posts, to his brother Fritz.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

MAIL TO DJIBOUTI / HIGH FRANKING

1906

Mail to Djibouti did not require French Somali Coast franking—Ethiopian postage sufficed.

TEN TIMES SINGLE WEIGHT COVER



February 14, 1906

Harar to Djibouti

Ethiopian franking 200 centimes (ten times single weight rate).

Covers with high franking to Djibouti and abroad are rare.

Arrival in Djibouti, February 19.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Ethiopian Posts Managed by Michel

MAIL TO ENGLAND

1906

Mail addressed to England in 1895-1908 is rare since most of that mail was sent through the British Legation, which had its own diplomatic courier service for mail sent by British subjects in Ethiopia. Less than 25 covers to England have been recorded in 1895-1908; half of them were sent by one of the Ethiopian Posts' Postmasters to Whitfield King & Co., a stamp dealer in Ipswich. The Ethiopian Posts lost significant revenue from mail sent through the British Legation.



July 8, 1906

Harar to Ipswich, England

Single weight franked
25c Somali Coast
Franked 5 centimes
"Menelik I"
Under-franked 15c.

Michel, as Director of
Posts, began to exempt
himself from paying full
Ethiopian postage in 1905.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN POSTS

OCTOBER 1906

Alfred Ilg, who had organized the Independent Ethiopian Posts in 1899, left Ethiopia permanently in 1906. Emperor Menelik II expropriated the Posts and made it a government-owned Imperial Ethiopian Posts with Michel as Director, who moved from Harar to Addis Ababa in October 1906 to head up the "new" organization in the capital.



These items allowed the exhibitor to prove that the Ethiopian Posts, privately owned by Alfred Ilg, was expropriated by Menelik in 1906, and that Michel moved to Addis Ababa to become Director of the new, but unchanged, Imperial Posts.

October 12, 1906

Harar to Bern

20c Postal Card

10c Djibouti postage

Michel writes to his brother that he will be moving to Addis Ababa.



ONE OF FIVE INTERNAL COVERS FROM 1906

January 2, 1907

Harar to Addis Ababa

Franked 20c "Menelik II" on back.

Addressed to Michel as Director of Posts in Addis Ababa.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

SEVENTH OVERPRINT: "MENELIK II" - VALUES IN CENTIMES

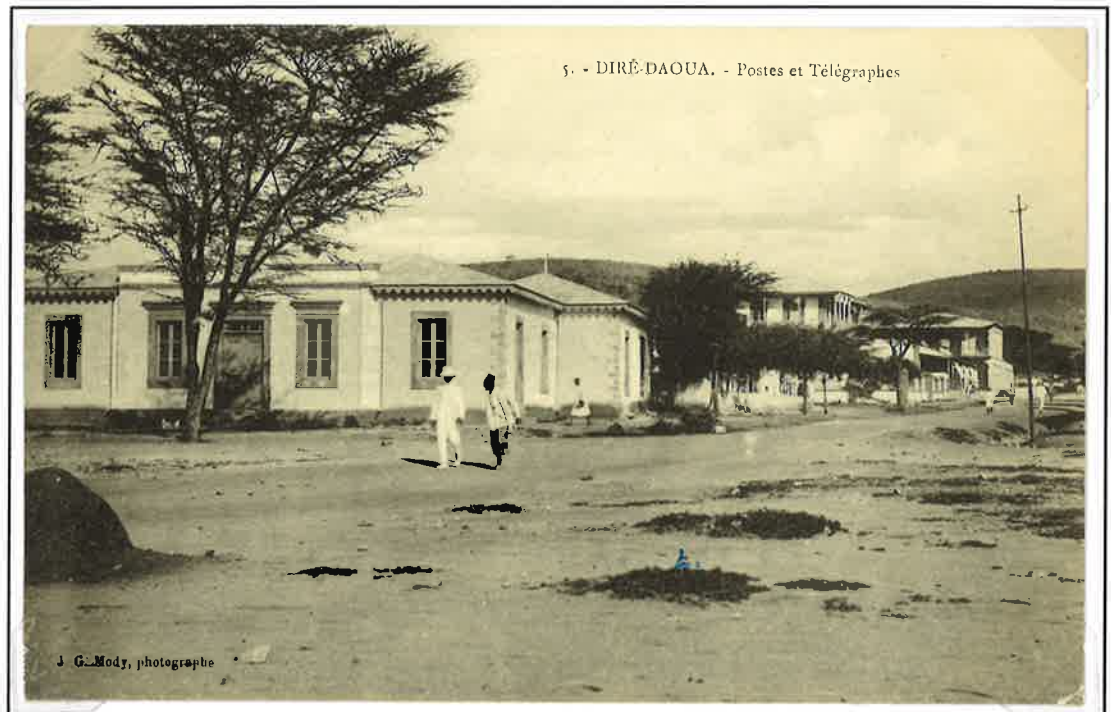
JULY 1, 1906

The "Menelik I" issue was replaced by "Menelik II" on July 1, 1906; also a handstamped overprint but a distinct handstamp had been created for each of the seven stamps with values in centimes.

DIRE DAOUA POST OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1, 1906

The French opened a post office in Dire Daoua on November 1, 1906, subordinated to the post office in Port-Said, Egypt into mid-1907 to avoid political problems with Ethiopia. It received a cancelor "DIRRE-DAOUA * ABYSSINIE" that was used through 1912. Dire Daoua was supplied with stamps from French Levant and Port-Said. The French colony stamps were now canceled in Dire Daoua instead of Djibouti.



December 12, 1906

Addis Ababa to Trieste, Austria

Registered

Franked 180 centimes

"Menelik II"

Philatelic Ethiopian franking

50c Djibouti

Single weight + registration

Transit through the recently
opened Dire Daoua Post Office
December 23, 1906.

Somali Coast stamp canceled in
Dire Daoua.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

FRENCH LEVANT & PORT-SAID STAMPS

NOVEMBER 1, 1906 / MARCH 1907

The opening of the French PO in Dire Daoua on November 1, 1906, ended the sale of Djibouti stamps to the Ethiopian Posts. Dire Daoua was supplied with French Levant stamps that were then supplied to the Ethiopian post offices in Harar and Addis Ababa. The Levant stamps ran out. A resupply followed in March 1907, but with Port-Said stamps, followed by a resupply of French Levant stamps. The Djibouti PO, having lost income from stamp sales, but still sorting and transporting the mail, objected. In mid-1907, Dire Daoua was placed under Djibouti's control and its stamps were again sold to the Ethiopian Posts. However, French Levant and Port-Said stamps were used on occasion into 1908.



April 25, 1907

Addis Ababa to Constantinople

Registered

40 centimes "Menelik II"

Single weight + registration

50c Levant on back

canceled Dire Daoua, May 9

R (registered) applied in Dire Daoua.



[Reduced 90%]

RARE USE OF STAMP WITH DEFECTIVE OVERPRINT

January 16, 1907

Addis Ababa to Germany

Franked 10c "Menelik II"
10c Levant canceled in transit
Dire Daoua, January 27.



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

LEVANT & PORT-SAID STAMPS / LEVANT POSTAL CARD

1907

It is unclear which values of Levant and Port-Said stamps were sent to Ethiopia. The 5, 10, 25, and 50 centimes were used regularly, but lower and higher values were supplied although not recorded used except on philatelic covers. Levant postal cards at 10 centimes were supplied but saw very little use.



November 11, 1907
Dire Daoua to Djibouti
Philatelic cover with philatelic franking.



ONE OF TWO RECORDED
LEVANT POSTAL CARDS
USED IN ETHIOPIA

June 29, 1907
Dire Daoua to Zurich
Redirected to Kreuzlingen

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

POSTAGE DUES USED IN ADDIS ABABA - MAY 1907

The "Taxé à Percevoir" postage dues of 1905 were used in Harar into October 1906 and in Addis Ababa after Michel had moved there in October 1906.

ONLY RECORDED USE OF HIGH VALUE POSTAGE DUES

April 12, 1907

Manchester to Addis Ababa

29 1/2 d U.K. postage

High value postage dues used in lieu of low values due to a shortage of low values, each 16g = 2g for total inland postage of 28 guerches.

Menelik's Journal

Vol. 28/4 October 2012:

"A Rare 1907 Postage Due Cover"

[Reduced 50%]



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

EIGHTH OVERPRINT: "DAGMAWI" JUNE 21, 1907

Stamps with "Dagmawi"
("second" = Menelik II)
were issued June 21, 1907
in Addis Ababa; the first
issue by the Imperial
Ethiopian Posts.

It was thought that the
Ethiopian Posts had closed in
July 1907 and that the
"Dagmawi" stamps were
used for only a few weeks.
Exhibitor's research found
that incorrect; the Ethiopian
Posts was open through
1907.

November 18, 1907
Addis Ababa to Ipswich

Philatelic Ethiopian franking
50c Port-Said for single
weight + registration



Menelik's Journal
Vol. 17/3 July 2011:
"The Dagmawi Overprint:
Genuine or Fake?"

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

"DAGMAWI"

1908

Commercial use of "Dagmawi" continued after 1907 during the French reorganization of the Ethiopian Posts in February-October, 1908 that led up to Ethiopia's U.P.U. membership on November 1, 1908.



February 28, 1908
Addis Ababa to Berne

Early mail during the reorganization
2 x 1/2g "Dagmawi"
10 Centimes

Adis Abeba PM now struck with blue or greenish ink.



June 12, 1908
Addis Ababa to Geneva
Redirected

2 x 1/4g "Dagmawi"
10c Port-Said

Addis Ababa Postes PM

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

INCOMING MAIL VIA ERITREA

1907

The Ethiopian Posts did not provide services outside the Addis Ababa—Harar—Dire Daoua route until the late 1920s. However, the Italians had built a telegraph line from Addis Ababa to Asmara, in Eritrea, in 1904. It had stations along the way manned by Italian technicians who organized their own mail couriers to Eritrea. Outgoing mail has not been recorded. One incoming cover is recorded sent from Aden via Eritrea to Quoram in Northern Ethiopia.

ONLY RECORDED INCOMING COVER VIA ERITREA IN THE PRE U.P.U. PERIOD



December 15, 1907

Aden to Quoram in Ethiopia via Massawa and Asmara in Eritrea.

Registered

4 1/2 Anna Indian Postage (2 1/2 Anna, single weight + 2 Anna registration).

Transit: Asmara, December 21, 1907.



[Reduced 70%]

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

Imperial Ethiopian Posts

MALTESE CROSS / FRENCH LEGATION IN ADDIS ABABA

SEPTEMBER 1907-JANUARY 1908

As the Ethiopian Posts deteriorated in late 1907, the French Legation in Addis Ababa reopened its consular mail service to the public. The Maltese Cross, last used the first quarter of 1897 by the Legation, was used again for a few months to cancel the mail at the Legation. Ethiopian stamps were not needed since this mail bypassed the Ethiopian Posts.

ONE OF FIVE COVERS RECORDED FROM 1907-08 WITH MALTESE CROSS



November 1907, Addis Ababa to Bacos near Alexandria, Egypt

25 centimes (1902 issue), single weight

Transit Djibouti December 13, Alexandria, December 20

Arrival: Bacos, December 20



[Reduced 70%]