

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

1909 DEFINITIVES STAMPS

JANUARY 29, 1909

The set of stamps, ordered in France in 1908, intended to be issued when Ethiopia joined the U.P.U., did not arrive until January 1909. The three low values depict the Imperial Crest; the four high values Emperor Menelik II. The earliest recorded use is January 29, 1909 in Addis Ababa. The stamps were used into 1917, when they were overprinted three times. Ethiopia's third set of stamps was issued in 1919.



August 11, 1909

Harar to Beylongue, France

2 guerches, single weight

March 27, 1909
Harar to Cairo

Registered
4 guerches:
2g single weight
2g registration

Menelik's Journal
Vol. 13/1 January 1997:
"The 1909 Definitive
Part I" [with Floyd Heiser]

Menelik's Journal
Vol. 13/3 July 1997:
"The 1909 Definitive
Part II" [with Floyd Heiser]



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

RARE USE OF HIGH VALUE STAMPS

1909-1913

The two highest values of the 1909 Definitives, 8 and 16 guerches, were rarely used. They have been recorded on less than 20 covers in the eight years of 1909-1917. Most of those covers are philatelically franked with the full set or commercial covers that were franked excessively.

February 20, 1910
Addis Ababa to Brugg
Registered

16 guerches =
2g single weight
2g registration
12g excessive franking



March 1, 1913
Harar to Dresden
Registered

Commercial cover from German Consulate in Harar, excessively franked with a total of 73 guerches.

Menelik's Journal
Vol. 26/4 October 2010:
"More 1909 High Value
Stamp Covers"

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

A.R.— “AVIS DE RÉCEPTION” / MIXED FRANKING

1909

U.P.U. membership required the Ethiopian Posts to provide services such as proof of arrival (Avis de Réception), which was marked A.R.

ONLY RECORDED COVER WITH MIXED FRANKING AND “AVIS DE RÉCEPTION”



June 20, 1909

Dire Daoua to Versailles

Registered [R], Avis de Réception [A.R.]

Rare mixed franking 1908 (4 piastres) and 1909 (1 guerche).

The Ethiopian Posts used forms that conformed to the rules of the U.P.U. The forms were printed in Addis Ababa.

RARE INTERNAL
USE OF A.R. FORM

May 27, 1913
Harar to Dire Daoua

1/2 guerche fee
paid in Harar for
a registered A.R.
letter.

Receipt
acknowledged in
Dire Daoua on
May 30.

N° 5.— (Modèle G. de l'Union).

MINISTÈRE
des
POSTES & TÉLÉGRAPHES



EMPIRE D'ÉTHIOPIE

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Avis de réception

d'un (4) Lettre } valeur déclarée _____
recommandé e
enregistré au bureau de (2) Harar le 27 mai 1913
sous le n° 205 (3) et adressé à (suspension complète) M. S. B. Cellenge
Ministre d'Intérieur à Dire Daoua
rue et n° s'il y a lieu _____

Timbre du bureau
expéditeur



Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur :

M.

à

Picana
Jana

Le Soussigné déclare que (1) _____

{ valeur déclarée }
{ recommandé .. } à l'adresse

susmentionnée a été dûment livré le _____

Timbre du bureau
distributeur :



Signature
du destinataire :

Signature (4)
de l'agent du bureau distributeur :

Durhe

(1) Nature de l'objet (lettre, boîte, échantillon, etc.).— (2) Griffes du bureau d'origine.— (3) Date du dépôt et n° d'inscription au registre de dépôt.— (4) Dans les offices où les règlements le comportent la signature de l'agent du bureau distributeur est remplacée par celle du destinataire; l'avis est ensuite renvoyé par le premier courrier : dans le régime intérieur : sous enveloppe n° 7 comme correspondance ordinaire à l'expéditeur de l'objet qu'il concerne. Dans le régime international : sous enveloppe n° 6 recommandée d'office au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

TWO POST OFFICES IN ADDIS ABABA

1908-1913

The two post offices in Addis Ababa, the General post office near the Imperial Palace (opened in July 1908) and the post office at the market place "Arada" used different cancelors and registration marks.



ARADA PO

May 22, 1911
Addis Ababa to Cairo
Registered
4 guerches, single
weight + registration,
canceled at Arada with
ADDIS-ABABA POSTES

Boxed R for Registered

GENERAL POST OFFICE

April 13, 1911
Addis Ababa to Bern

Registered
4 guerches
Mixed franking:
1 piastre (1908) +
3 guerches (1909)

Unframed R for
Registered



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

OLD HARAR CANCELOR BACK IN USE

1909-1911

The HARRAR POSTES cancelor was lost in 1909. The worn HARAR cancelor from 1896 was brought back into use and was used to the end of 1911 when a new Harar cancelor was received.



October 28, 1911

Harar to Austria

2 guerches, single weight

Stamp canceled with old and now worn HARAR cancelor from 1896.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

FIFTH POSTAGE DUE ISSUE—INCOMING SHORT-PAID MAIL

1911

The postage dues of 1908 have been recorded used on only two incoming covers to pay the tax on short-paid mail; one cover from France, the other from the Philippines in the two years and one month that these postage dues were in use.

ONE OF TWO RECORDED SHORT-PAID INCOMING COVERS WITH POSTAGE DUE PAID



January 30, 1911

Chateauroux, France to Dire Daoua

10 centimes (15 centimes short-paid)

Marked with T for postage due in Dire Daoua and 2 in purple manuscript for tax due of 2g.

2g tax paid with pair of 1g due of 1908 (double the short-paid rate) February 16 in Dire Daoua.

1g had been declared equal to 15 centimes by the U.P.U.

2g tax = 30 centimes

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

INCOMING AND INCOMING & RETURNED MAIL

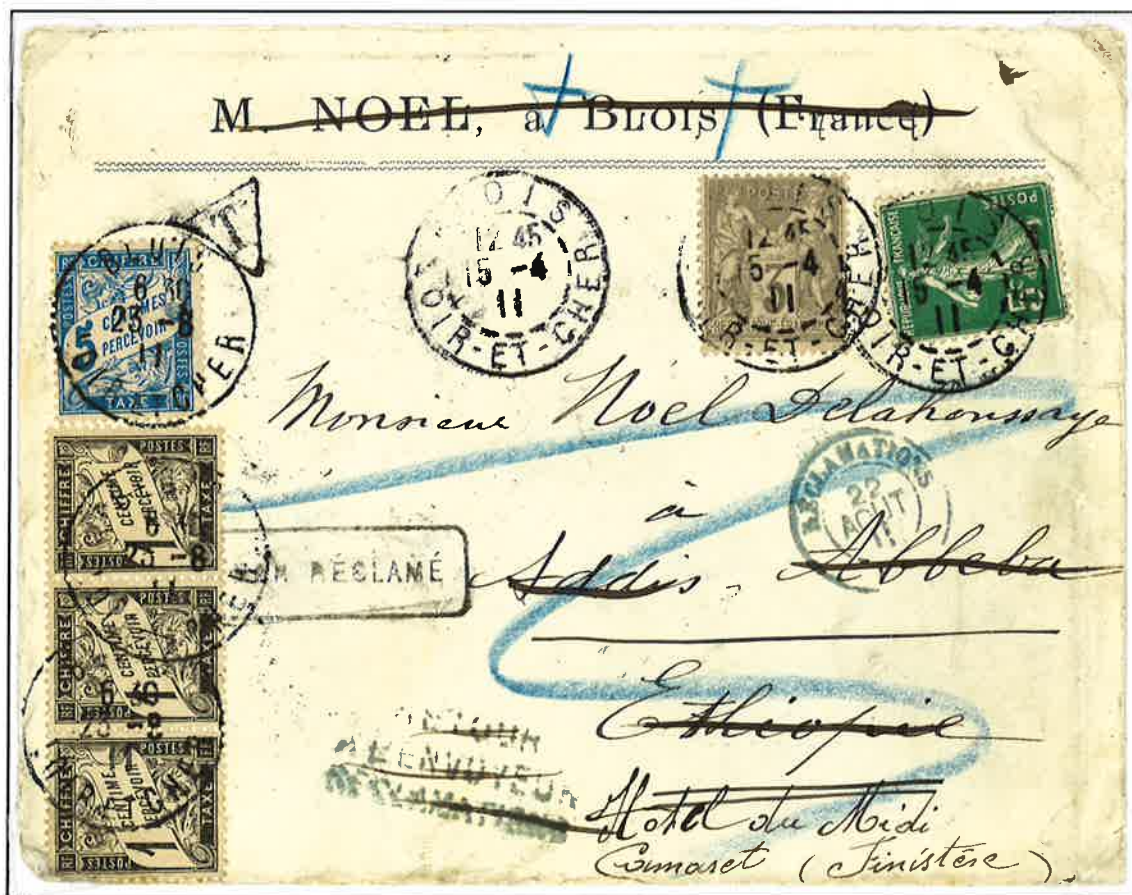
1911

Preserved incoming mail in the immediate years after Ethiopia joined the U.P.U. is scarce even though the volume of outgoing and incoming mail increased significantly after 1908.

August 30, 1911
French PO in
Constantinople to Harar

10 centimes Levant

Arrival in Harar:
September 14



UNDELIVERED AND RETURNED

April 15, 1911
Blois to Addis Ababa

Marked undelivered
"NON RÉCLAMÉ" and
"RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR"
Return to sender.

The cover was returned and
redirected to Camaret.

Franked 8 centimes:
short-paid 17 centimes.
Taxed 34 centimes, double
the short-paid amount
(8c on front + 26c on back)
canceled in Camaret where
the cover had been
forwarded.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

MAIL FROM OUTSIDE ADDIS ABABA, HARAR & DIRE DAOUA

1909-1913

There were no post offices outside Addis Ababa, Harar, and Dire Daoua until 1924. Mail from other places is therefore rare in the 1910s and scarce even in the 1930s. Unless marked, this mail cannot be identified since it was carried by private couriers to Addis Ababa, Harar, or Dire Daoua, where it was mailed.

MAIL FROM ADAMI TULLU SOUTH OF ADDIS ABABA



May 22, 1910

Adami Tullu to Addis Ababa by private courier

Addis Ababa to Basel by post canceled in Addis Ababa June 4

Franked 1/2 guerche international post card rate.

The sender, Mr. Goetz, was a German who started an ostrich farm in Adami Tullu. Its ruins on the hill of Adami Tullu are still visible from the road going to Ethiopia's lake district in the south.

Photo of Emperor Menelik II.

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

DIRE DAOUA PROVISIONAL—COMMERCIAL USE

OCTOBER 1, 1911

The Postmaster in Dire Daoua handstamped the 1895 issue "AFF EXCEP FAUTE TIMB" and added values in manuscript, claiming a shortage of stamps necessitated this provisional issue, used only on October 1-5 in 1911 in Dire Daoua. There was no shortage; the issue was created for the sole purpose of selling it to collectors for personal profit. Covers with the set of seven stamps were created, addressed to Harar or Dire Daoua and canceled with DIRE-DAOUA POSTES, a cancelor that had never been used or with a HARRAR POSTES cancelor, also never used, to indicate arrival. To promote the issue and to have it listed in catalogues, a railway employee assisted by sending registered covers to dealers franked with the 4 guerches value. The letters explained the reason for the issue and the covers demonstrated that the stamps were used in the mails. Only two of these covers to dealers are known to have survived.

ONE OF TWO COVERS WITH DIRE DAOUA PROVISIONAL USED COMMERCIALY



October 1, 1911, Dire Daoua to Paris (arrival October 13 on back)

4 guerches (2g single weight + 2g registration)

Addressed by L. Sery, a railway employee, on behalf of Joseph Guillet, the Postmaster who created the Dire Daoua Provisionals for personal profit.

Menelik's Journal Vol. 10/3 July 1994: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals—How to Detect a Sophisticated Fake"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 10/4 October 1994: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals: A Genuine Cover to Paris"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 11/1 January 1995: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals: The Madagascar Connection"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 11/2 April 1995: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals: An Examination of Genuine Covers"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 11/3 July 1995: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals: Another Cover to France, Oddities and Varieties"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 11/4 October 1995: "Dire Daoua Provisionals: Why Type II is a Fake"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 12/1 January 1996: "The Daoua Provisionals Survey"

Menelik's Journal Vol. 12/2 April 1996: "The Dire Daoua Provisionals: Final"

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

DIRE DAOUA PROVISIONALS—PHILATELIC COVERS

OCTOBER 1-5, 1911

Covers with the Dire Daoua Provisionals have been considered rare. However, over 100 covers franked with the set and over 100 sets of the stamps have been recorded. When seen against the approximately 1,100 covers that are recorded from 1895-1908, the Dire Daoua Provisionals are not rare. The Postmaster also sold incomplete sets to locals who affixed them to self-addressed covers and post cards that were canceled to order.

October 3, 1911

Dire Daoua to Harar

"Returned to Sender"

One of the covers manufactured by Postmaster Guillet who sold them to collectors for personal profit. The cover did not travel to Harar nor was it properly registered.



October 4, 1911

Post card self-addressed by Marchand, a railway employee, and franked with a 1/2g of the Dire Daoua Provisionals. Not travelled. One of three recorded post cards.



Menelik's Journal

Vol. 22/2 April 2006:

"The Dire Daoua Provisionals: Fakes Without Pen Marked Values"

Menelik's Journal

Vol. 27/4 October 2011:

"The 100th Anniversary of the Dire Daoua Provisionals"

Menelik's Journal

Vol. 30/1 January 2014

"A Second Travelled Dire Daoua Provisionals Cover"

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

AMERICAN LEGATION MAIL FROM ADDIS ABABA

1909-1913

America established diplomatic contacts with Emperor Menelik II in 1903 but it was not until August 1906 that an American diplomat was briefly posted to Addis Ababa. One of the two first permanent diplomats was Mr. Guy Love from Ohio. He became Vice-Consul in December 1908 and then head of the Legation into 1913 when he died and the Legation was closed.

From its inception, the American Legation had its own mail couriers to Djibouti, where the mail bag was sent to Aden. The mail was franked with Indian stamps in Ethiopia that were canceled in Aden.

In a letter dated September 26, 1911, Mr. Love wrote that the Legation's mail couriers would be terminated as of October 13, 1911 and that the Legation would start to use the Ethiopian Posts, which it did.

Guy Love fell ill and died in Addis Ababa on January 7, 1913—the first American known to have died in Ethiopia. He is buried in Coshocton.

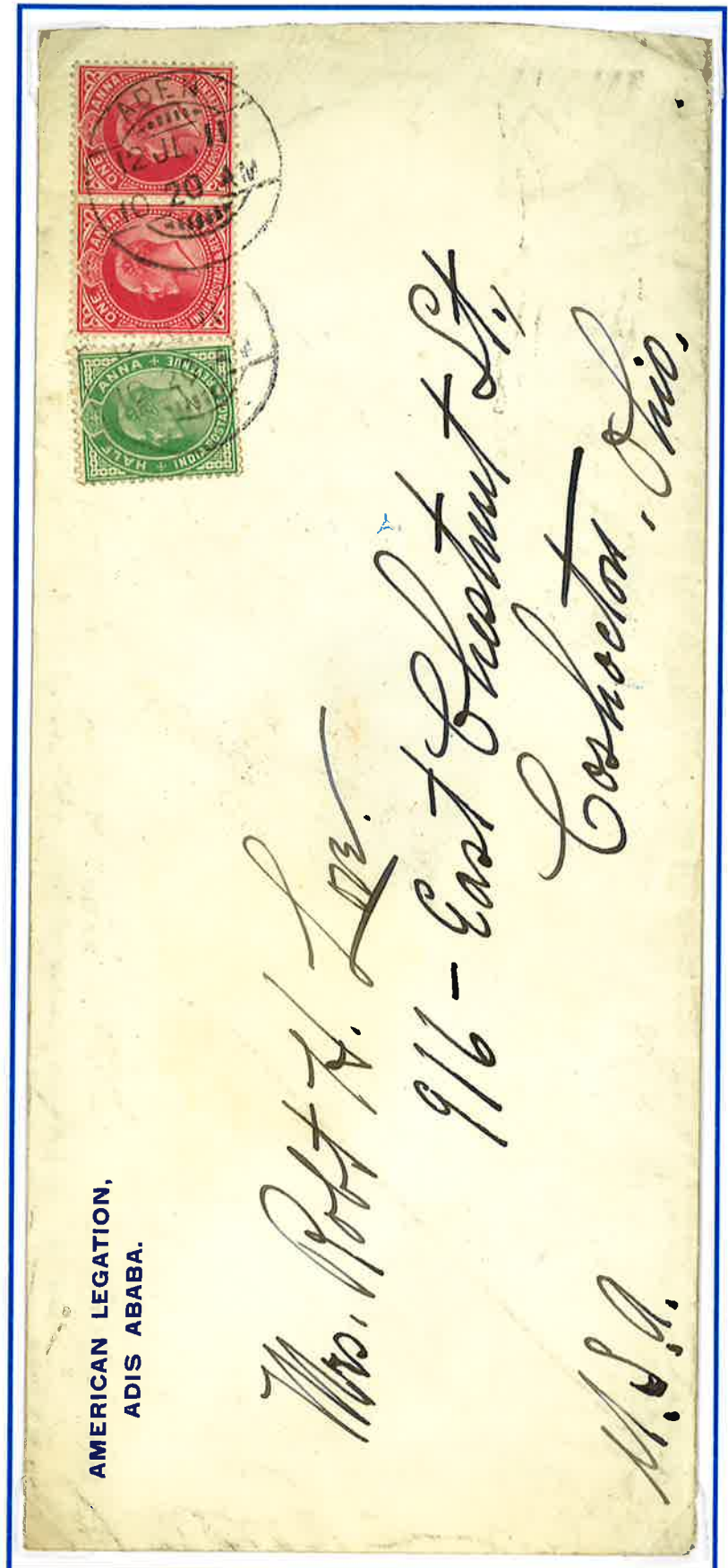
ONE OF EIGHT RECORDED AMERICAN LEGATION COVERS FRANKED WITH INDIAN STAMPS IN ADDIS ABABA

Enclosed letter dated June 27, 1911
Aden, July 12, 1911
Addis Ababa to Coshocton, Ohio, USA

Addis Ababa to Djibouti with American Legation courier, then to Aden where the cover entered the U.P.U. mail stream and the Indian stamps affixed in Addis Ababa were canceled.
Arrival mark on back: Coshocton, August 1

Franking: 2 1/2 Anna, single weight.

American Legation wax seal on the back.



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

NEW CANCELORS

JANUARY 1912

New cancelors arrived in Ethiopia in December 1911. The new "Addis Abbeba Arada" cancelor has been recorded used in the last days of December 1911, while those for the General Post Office in Addis Ababa, and those for Harar and Dire Daoua are recorded used initially in January 1912.

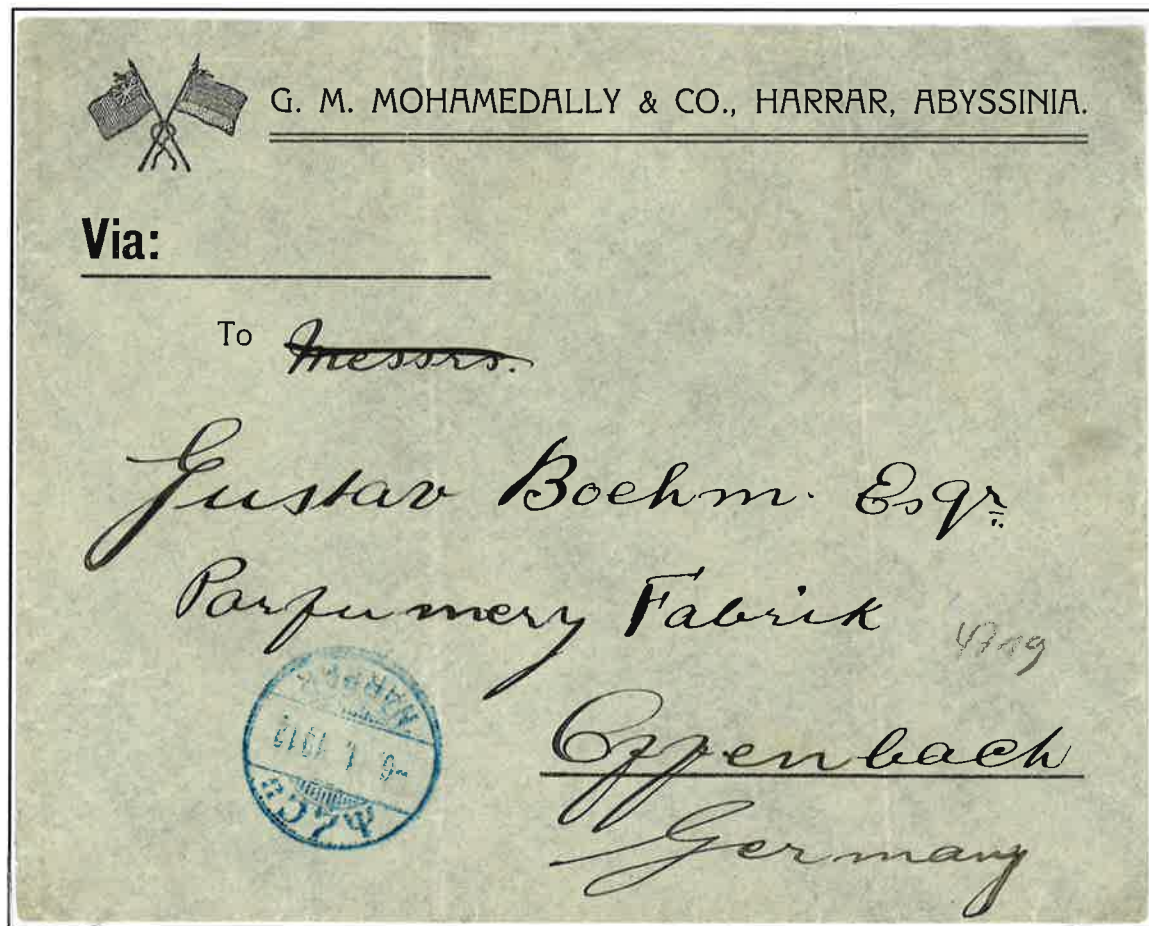


EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF NEW ARADA PM

December 23, 1911
Addis Ababa to Germany
1g (4x 1/4g)
1/2g excessive franking.

EARLY USE OF NEW HARRAR PM

January 8, 1912
Harar to Germany
2 guerches
single weight on back



ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

SIXTH POSTAGE DUE ISSUE

DECEMBER 1912

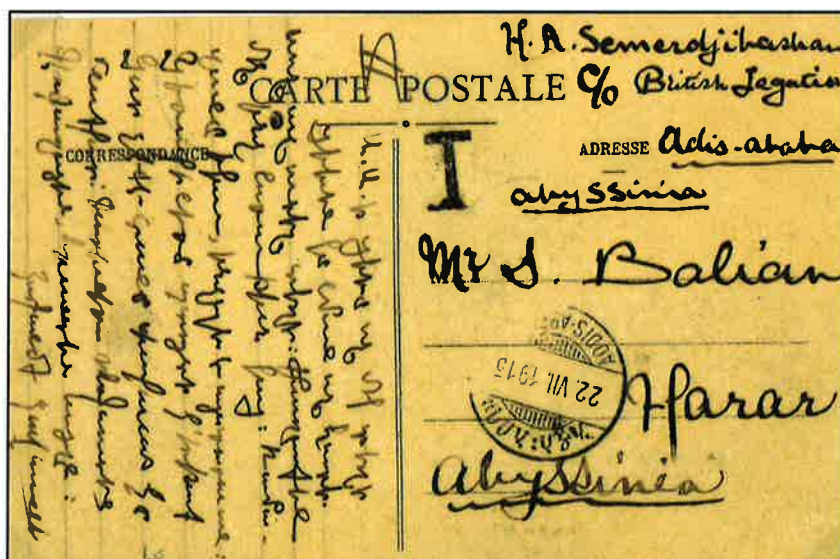
A portion of the 1909 Definitives stamps was made into postage dues in December 1912 using the handstamp that had been used to create the postage dues of 1908. Although the 1912 postage dues were used into 1917 and large quantities were sold to collectors, sometimes affixed to post cards, only one item has been recorded from 1912-1917 with the 1912 dues were used for their proper purpose to pay the tax on short-paid mail.

ONLY RECORDED USE OF THE 1912 POSTAGE DUES PAYING SHORT-PAID MAIL



July 22, 1915, Addis Ababa to Harar, Internal post card.

One of several post cards by the sender to the same addressee, but this card was not franked. It was marked T to indicate that tax was due and postage due of 2 guerches was paid in Harar on July 29, four days after the card arrived on July 25.



[Reduced 70%]

ETHIOPIA 1895-1913

1909 Issue and Legation Mail

OFFICIAL MAIL BY TAFARI—FUTURE EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I

1909-1913

There were no changes in the postal services, routes, rates, or post marks in 1913, the year Emperor Menelik II died on December 13, 1913 after several years of paralysis. Menelik had named his nephew, Lij Iyasu, as successor. Iyasu was deposed in a coup in September 1916 when Ras Tafari was named Regent. Tafari was crowned King in 1928 and he became Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1930. In 1912, Tafari's title was Dedjasmach (a military title below Ras) and he was in charge of Harar, where he had grown up and been educated by the French Catholic missionaries who had managed the French PO in Harar when he was a child. There were no changes in the postal services during the reign of Lij Iyasu. The first postal change under Ras Tafari's rule was a handstamped overprint on the 1909 Definitives proclaiming Tafari as Regent issued in February 1917. Postal rates were changed in the 1920s and mail was transported from Addis Ababa by rail as of 1917 when the construction of the railway from Dire Daoua to Addis Ababa had reached the capital. A new set of stamps was issued in 1919. Haile Selassie became one of Africa's most famous leaders.

ONLY RECORDED OFFICIAL MAIL FROM 1895-1913 WITHOUT POSTAGE EARLIEST RECORDED MAIL SENT BY TAFARI—FUTURE EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE I



August 3, 1912, Harar to Dire Daoua

Internal Official Mail that did not require postage.

"off" for "officiel" in upper right corner in lieu of postage.

Left upper corner: "Exp Dedj. Tafari" - Sender Dedj. Tafari.

Arrival: Dire Daoua, August 4 on back / Tafari's wax seal on back.