

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

The full independence of **Greece** from the Ottoman Empire was recognized with the London Protocol of 1830. The Treaty of Constantinople of 1832 defined the new land borders of the Greek state along the Ambracian-Pagasetic line. Its territory amounted to approximately 47,500 km² and its population to about 750,000 inhabitants. Having just emerged from prolonged wars, the country was almost devastated, sparsely populated, and in severe economic distress. In 1828, the Governor of Greece, Ioannis Kapodistrias, founded the "General Post Office" for the conveyance of correspondence within the country. During its early years, it primarily served the needs of the state rather than private correspondence. In the early 1850s, Greece's population had risen to approximately one million inhabitants, while its economic development remained at an early and fragile stage. During the same period, the postal services had begun to expand, and postal communication existed with almost the entire world.

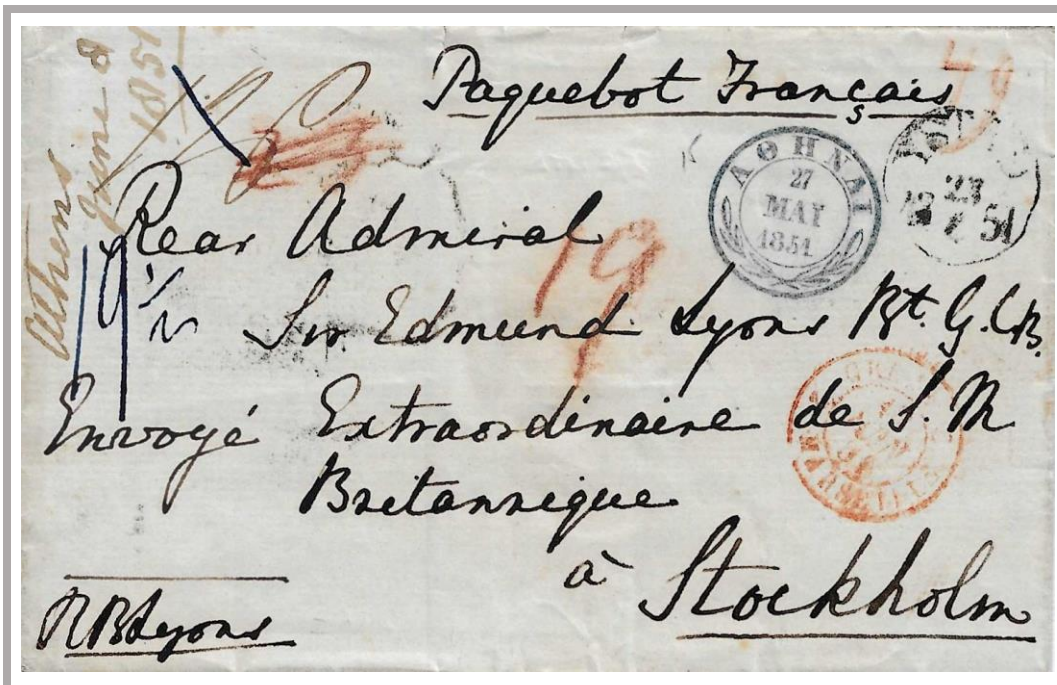
At the same time, **Sweden**-a country with an area of approximately 450,000 km² and a population of about 3.5 million-underwent significant political, social, and economic changes. Industrialization, urbanization, and major reforms reshaped the country, while migration to the United States and a flourishing cultural life reflected the challenges and opportunities of the era.

The correspondence exchanged between the two countries during this period was extremely limited. Unfortunately, very few items have survived and been identified to date, a fact that underscores their great rarity.

The exhibit presents, in chronological order, correspondence from Greece to Sweden from 1851 to 1912, the year the First Balkan Wars began, bringing about significant changes in the country's territorial and demographic expansion.

The first four pages of the exhibit present four alternative routes from the pre-stamp period (1851-1861)

1st routes: Greece via Piraeus - France - Germany - Denmark - Sweden



Diplomatic entire letter from Athens, bearing a manuscript Paquebot Français marking, sent to Sir Edmund Lyons, the British envoy in Stockholm. Dispatched from **ATHINAI 27.5/8.6.1851** via Piraeus, and carried by the French steamship "NILE", it arrived in France where it received the GRECE - MARSEILLE 13.6.1851 postmark. From there, via France and the German states, it reached Hamburg, receiving the HAMBURG 20.6.1851 postmark. In Hamburg, the letter was handed over to the Danish exchange post office, which forwarded the correspondence to Sweden, where it received the YSTAD 27.6.1851 postmark, with final destination **STOCKHOLM, Sweden**.

Postal Rate:

The sender paid:

According to the postal tariff in force for first-weight letters during the period 1842-1861

1. Greek inland postage Athens-Piraeus: 20 lepta
2. Sea transport charges to France: 29 lepta

Total: 49 lepta (red notation at upper right).

The recipient paid:

In Marseille, the French postal administration charged 19 décimes (red notation in the centre) for transit through France, the German states, and Denmark. Upon arrival in Stockholm, this amount was converted to 19½ Sk.bco (skilling banco).

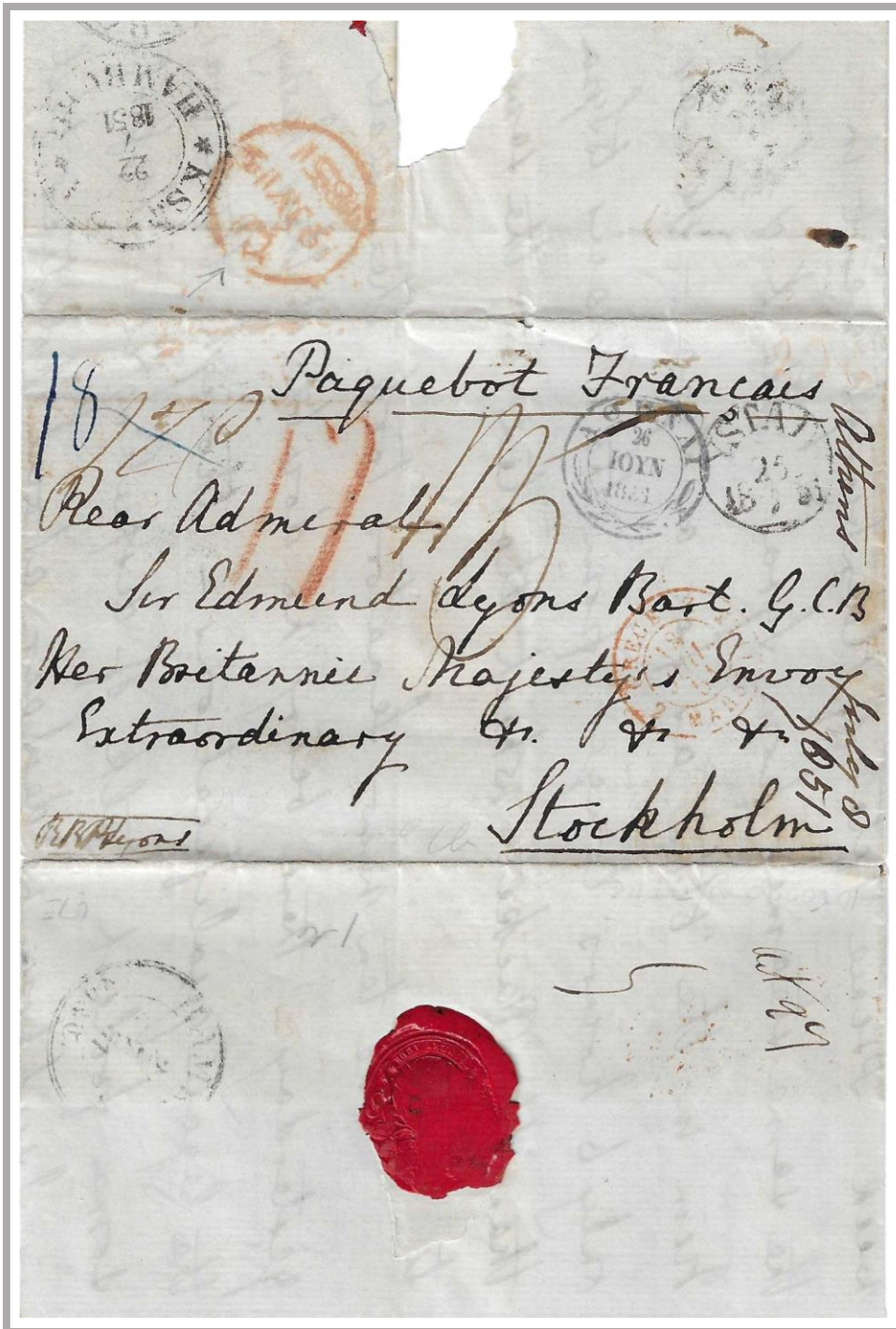
Total: 19½ Sk.bco

Greece during the period under consideration was not still using the Julian calendar but the Gregorian calendar. In order to match the former with the latter Calendar is necessary to add 12 days to the former up to 31 December 1899 and 13 days from 1 January 1900.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

The pre-stamp letters known to date from Greece to Sweden did not follow the same route

2nd routes: Greece via Piraeus - France - Great Britain - Germany - Denmark - Sweden



Entire letter posted from **ATHINAI 26.6/8.8.1851**. Dispatched from via Piraeus, and carried by the French steamship "L'Océan", it arrived in France where it received the GRECE - MARSEILLE 12.7.1851. Forwarded north through France and into Great Britain, where it received the red transit marking ISLE OF WIGHT 21.7.1851. From Southampton, the letter continued by British mail steamer to Hamburg. The most likely vessel is S/S Elbe, with S/S Weser and S/S Humber as possible alternatives. Arrival in HAMBURG 22.7. 1851, recorded by K.S.P.A.H and K.S.P.A., where it was taken over by the Royal Swedish Post Agency. By Swedish mail steamer S/S Öresund, the letter reached STAD 26.7.1851, and was then forwarded to **STOCKHOLM Sweden**.

Postal Rate for 1st weight letter:

The sender paid: The letter is fully franco, with postage paid for all segments

1. Greece: 10 lepta
2. France: 17 pence (British transit included)
3. Germany/Denmark: 3 schilling courant
4. Sweden: 18 Sk.bco (scilling banco)

Greece to Sweden 1851–1912

3rd routes: Greece via Syros - Austria - Germany – Sweden



photocopy



Official diplomatic cover (it likely contained documents because of its weight), sent from the Swedish Legation in Athens, sealed with “LEGATION DE S.M. LE ROI DE SUEDE ET DE NORVEGE EN GRECE”, posted from **ATHINAI 14/26.4.1852** and marked **ΔΙ**, indicating postage paid only within Greece, to the “Collège Royal de Commerce”, Stockholm (likely the Kungliga Handelsinstitutet, precursor to the Stockholm School of Economics) **STOCKHOLM Sweden**.

The letter forwarded to Syros and carried on the *Österreichischer Lloyd* steamer HELLAS to TRIESTE 2.5.1852 (Austria). Rated “1/8” (≈1½ loth), placing it in the third weight step. The letter continued north via the Austrian–Prussian rail network MAGREBURG-WITTENBERGE 6.5.1852, to HAMBOURG 6.5.1852 (Germany). From STRALBUND 9.5.1852 (Germany) it crossed the Baltic on the mail steamer D/S ADLER to YSTAD 10.5.1852 (Sweden) and arrived to STOCKHOLM Sweden.

Postal Rate for 3rd weight letter:

The sender paid:

We do not know the amount of the postal charges from Athens to Syros, nor who paid them (although there is an indication that they were prepaid). What is certain is that they were not paid by the recipient. It is possible that the dispatch from Athens to Syros was sent as unpaid consular correspondence, or that the fees were settled collectively at the Greek post offices after a reasonable period of time.

The recipient paid:

1. Austria debited 165 Kreuzer CM (red marking) for transit to Prussia (Germany) = 143 SK.bco (skilling banco).
2. Prussia charged 18 Silber groschen = 47 SK.bco for land and sea transit, and added the Baltic Sea surcharge Seeporporto-Zuschlag of 3 SK.bco (brown marking).
3. Sweden rated the domestic leg Ystad–Stockholm at 16 SK.bco (blue marking).

Total postage charged to the addressee: **209 SK.bco** (Due to the recipient’s status, the postal fees were paid in full by the Swedish Post, that is, by the state)

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The only privately prepaid letter known so far, is addressed to Count Adolf Eugene Rosen, also known as the “father of the Swedish railways,” who was married to Euphrosyne Rizo-Rangabe of Greek origin.

4th routes: Greece via Patrai - Austria - Germany - Denmark - Sweden



Entire letter posted from **ATHINAI 18/30.11.1852** and marked **ΑΠ**, indicating postage paid only within Greece, to **STOCKHOLM Sweden**.

The letter traveled via Patras by steamship of the Austrian Lloyd “VULCANO” and arrived in TRIESTE 5.12. Then, through Austria, it passed into Germany where it received the following postmarks: LEIPZIG 8/12 I MAGDEB., BERLIN 8/12 I MINDEN and HANBOUR 8/12. In Hamburg it was delivered to the Danish Exchange Post Office, which forwarded correspondence to Sweden and Norway, and it received the postmark K.D.O.P.A. (Kongelig Dansk Ober Postamt), HAMBURG 10.12.(1852). Afterwards, via Denmark (winter route), it arrived in Sweden.

Postal Rate for 1st weight letter:

The **sender**, according to the agreements in force from 1 August 1852 with Austria and the Lloyd, paid:

1. The Greek postal fee Athens–Patras: 30 lepta
2. The fees up to Hamburg: 45 lepta.

Total: 75 lepta (red notation).

The **recipient** paid:

1. 3 Sgr (blue) Prussian Silvergroschen (3 Sgr = 8 SK.bco) for transport via Prussia.
2. 16 SK.bco (skilling banco) for transport via the winter route through Denmark to any region of Sweden.

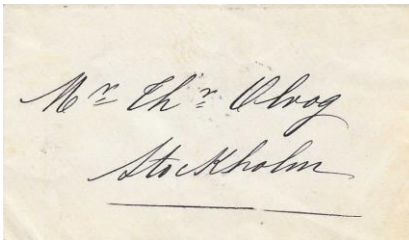
Total: 24 SK.bco (notation at upper left).

Greece to Sweden 1851–1912

It is worth noting that, to date, no correspondence bearing stamps of the Large Hermes Head series (period 1861-1888) has been identified



10 lepta Large Hermes Head postal card posted from **PATRAI 9/21.11.1888**, to **GÖTEBORG 28.11.1888** (5th itinerary) **Sweden**
Postal Rate 10L for postal card to Sweden.

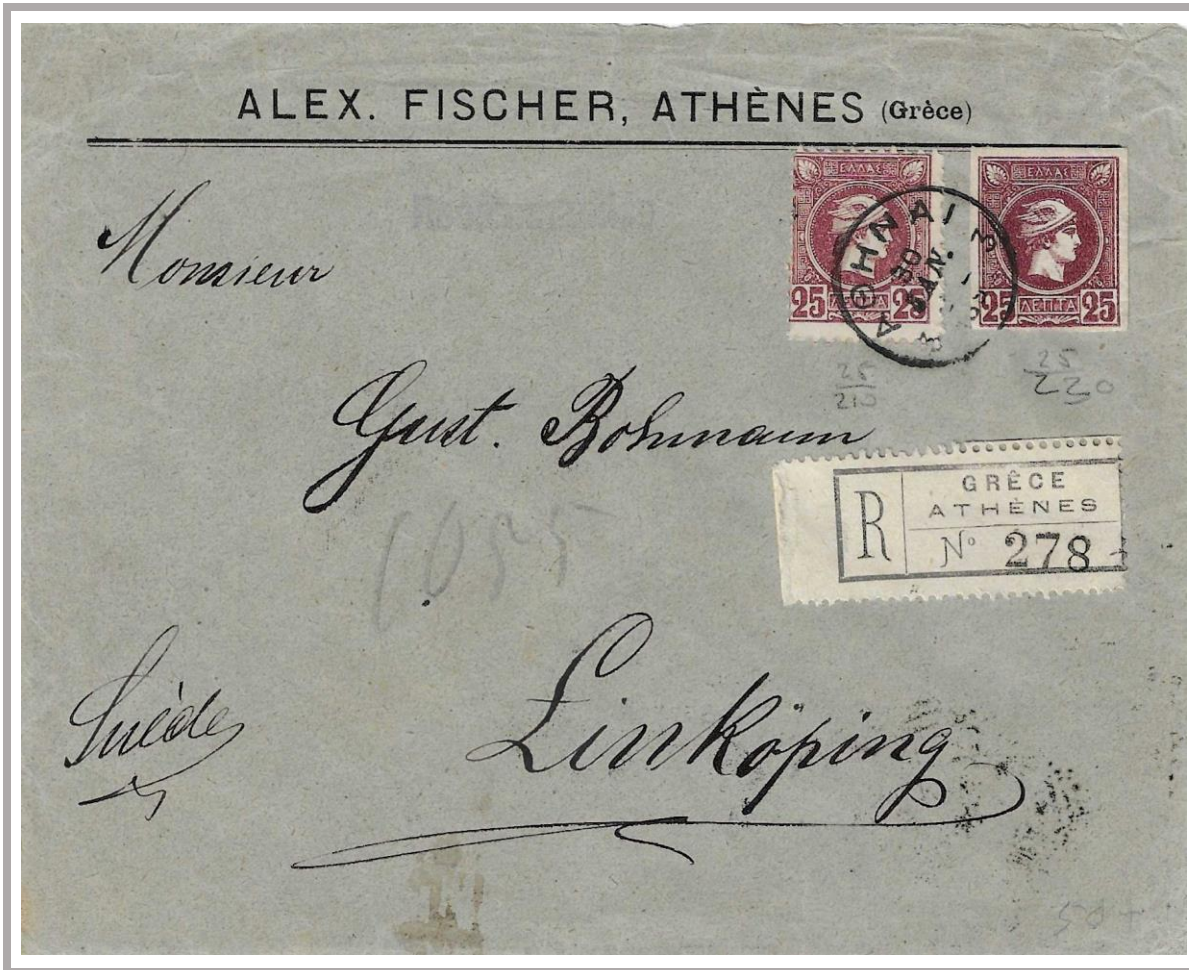


The envelope does not state the recipient's address, who, according to records of the time, was not a permanent resident of Stockholm. Nevertheless, the Swedish postal services had mechanisms (agents) for locating recipients; in this case, the addressee was probably a merchant or a sailor.



Small cover send as printed matter franked with 5 lepta Small Hermes Head, posted from **PIRAEUS 11/23.12.1895** to **STOCKHOLM KE 29.12.1895** Sweden.
Postal Rate 5L for printed matter to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912



Registered cover franked with 2x25 lepta Small Hermes Head (25 lepta violet stamps sold for 30 lepta copper money), with label R GRECE ATHENES No 278, posted from **ATHINAI** 30.1/11.2.1896, via AMB LECCE-FOGGIA (railway) 16.2.1896 to **LINKÖPING Sweden** **Postal Rate 60L:** 30L for 1st weight cover and 30L for registered to Sweden.

10 lepta Large Hermes Head postal card posted from **PATRAI** 13/25.8.1896, to **GÖTEBORG Sweden** **Postal Rate 10L** for postal card to Sweden.



Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

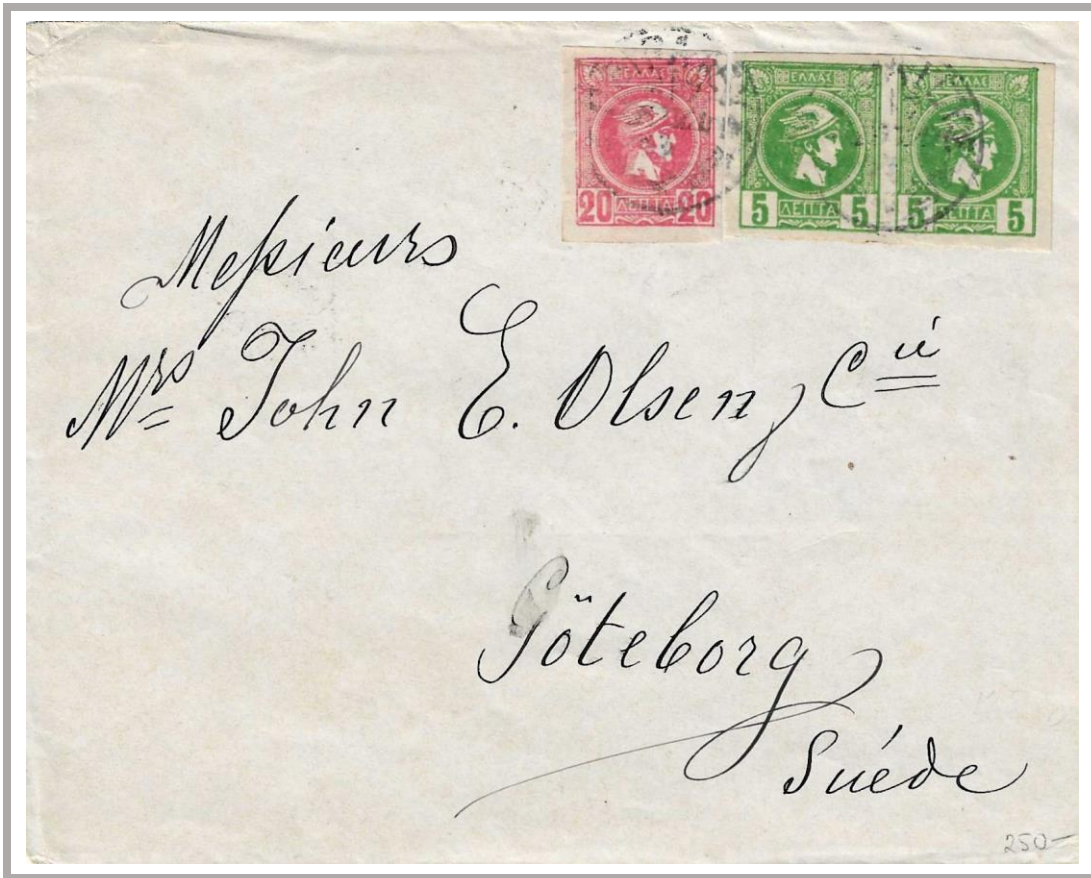


10 lepta Large Hermes Head postal card posted from **ATHINAI** 1/13.12.1897, to **GÖTEBORG** 18.12.1897 (1st itinerary) **Sweden** Postal Rate 10L for postal card to Sweden.



Covered send as printed matter franked with 10 lepta Small Hermes Head, posted from **PATRAI** 30.12.1897/11.1.1898, to **LUND** 16.1.1898 (1st itinerary) **Sweden** Postal Rate 10L for 2nd weight printed matter to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912



Cover franked with 25 lepta Small Hermes Head, posted from **ATHINAI 7/19.7.1898**, to **GÖTEBORG 24.7.1898** (1st itinerary) **Sweden** **Postal Rate 30L** for 1st weight cover to Sweden.



Athens, view of Lycabettus, Acropolis and Theseion Temple

Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Small Hermes Head, posted from **ATHINAI 3/15.11.1898**, via Germany with mari-time cancel from the ship that made the Germany-Sweden route, SAS-SNITZ -TRELLEBORG *B* 24.11.1898 to **HELSINGBORG 24.11.1898** (3rd itinerary) **Sweden**.

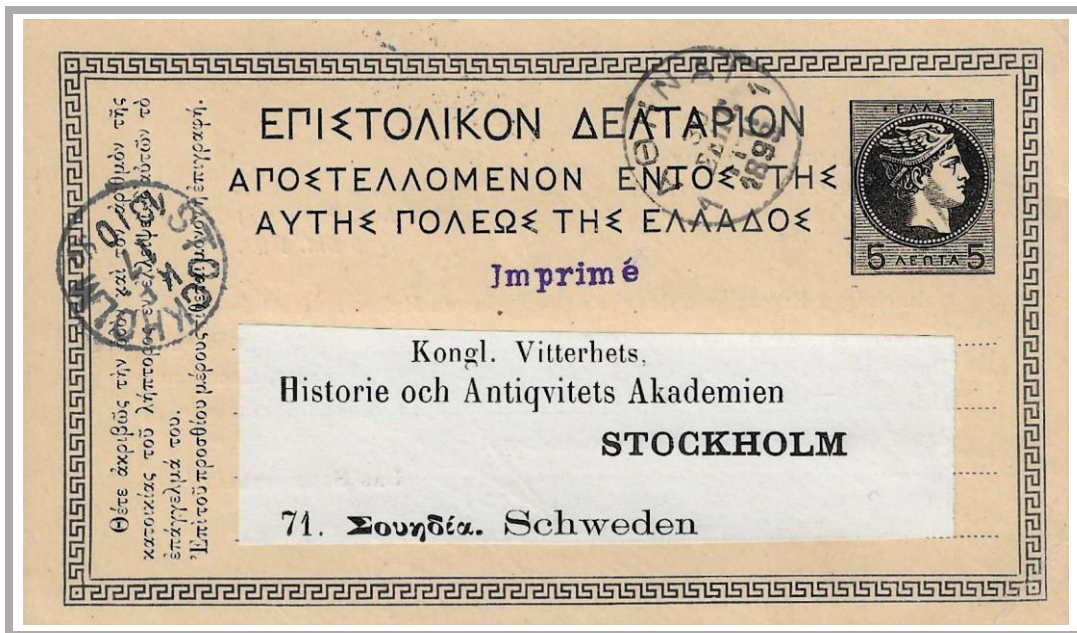
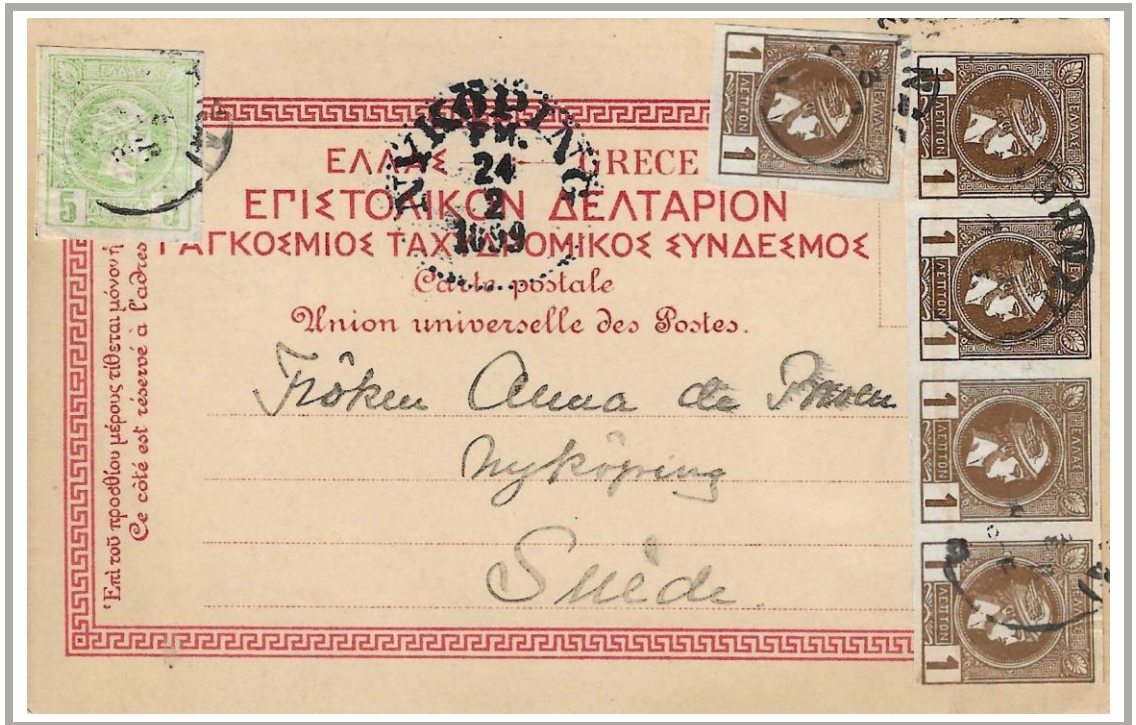
Postal Rate 10L for card postal to Sweden.



ΕΛΛΑΣ - GRÈCE
 ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ
 ΠΡΟΣΩΡΙΝΟΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ
 Carte postale
 Union universelle des Postes
 Mlle B. Microp Moller
 Suede
 Helsingborg

Greece to Sweden 1851–1912

Picture card postal
franked with 10 lepta
Small Hermes Head
posted from **ATHINAI**
3/15.2.1899,
to **NYKÖPING**
24.2.1899 Sweden
Postal Rate 10L for
card postal to Sweden.



5 lepta Large Hermes Head postal card with private line cancel "Imprime" (but the postal cards could not be sent as printed matter), posted from **ATHINAI 30.9/12.10.1899**, to **STOCKHOLM 18.10.1899** Sweden
Normal Postal Rate 10L for postal card to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

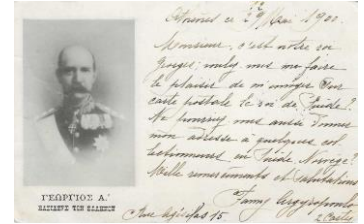


Registered 20 lepta Large Hermes Head postal envelope issued for domestic use, franked with 1 lepto + 7x2 lepta + 5x5 lepta + 25 lepta (25 lepta violet stamps sold for 30 lepta copper money) Small Hermes Head Athens printing, with label R GRECE ATHENES No 231, posted from **ATHINAI 14/26.12.1899** to **MALMO 2.1.1900 Sweden**.
Postal Rate 90L for postal envelope send to Sweden.



5 lepta Large Hermes Head postal card issued for in town used, with additional 5 lepta Small Hermes Head Athens printing, posted from **ATHINAI 1/14.3.1900**, via **STOCKHOLM 3.TUR. 19.3.1900** to **STOCKHOLM K1 19.3.1900 Sweden**.
Postal Rate 10L for postal card send to Sweden.

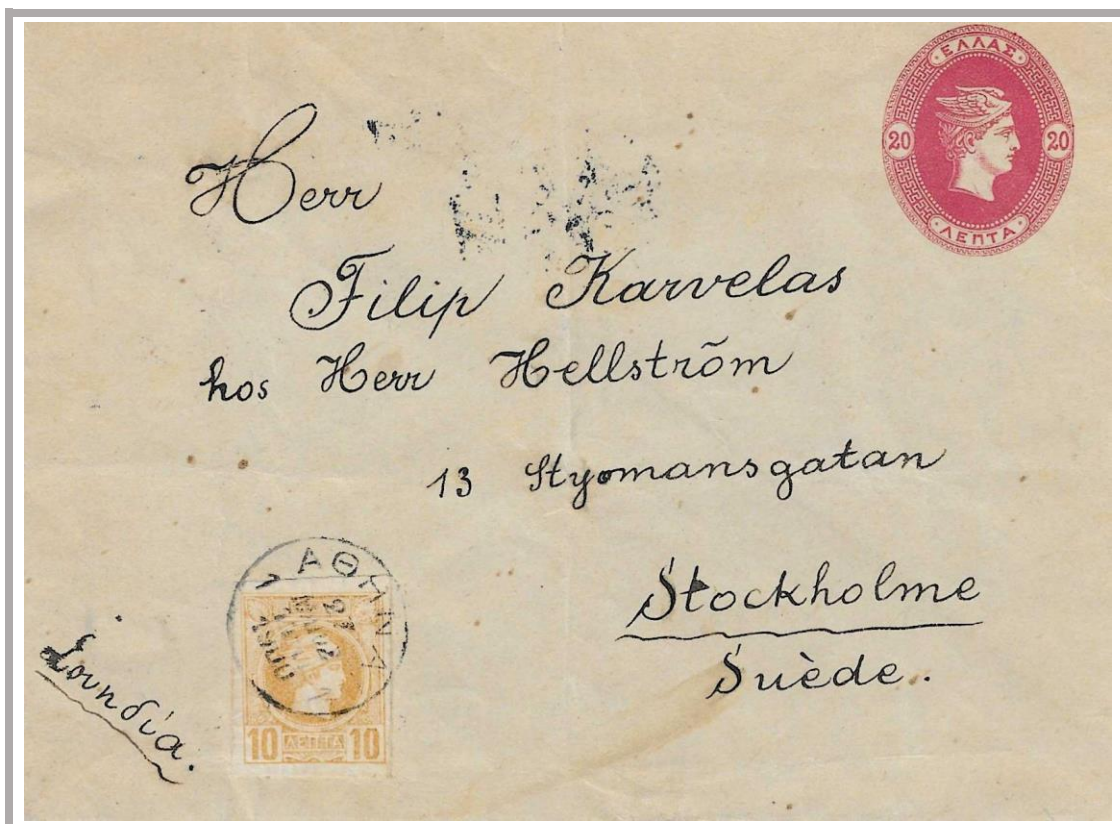
Greece to Sweden 1851-1912



George I - King of the Greeks

Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Small Hermes Head, posted from **ATHINAI 15/28.5.1900**, via Germany with maritime cancel from the ship that made the Germany-Sweden route, SAS-SNITZ-TRELLEBORG *B* 3.6.1900 to **SUNDSVALL 6.6.1900 Sweden**. **Postal Rate 10L** for card postal to Sweden.

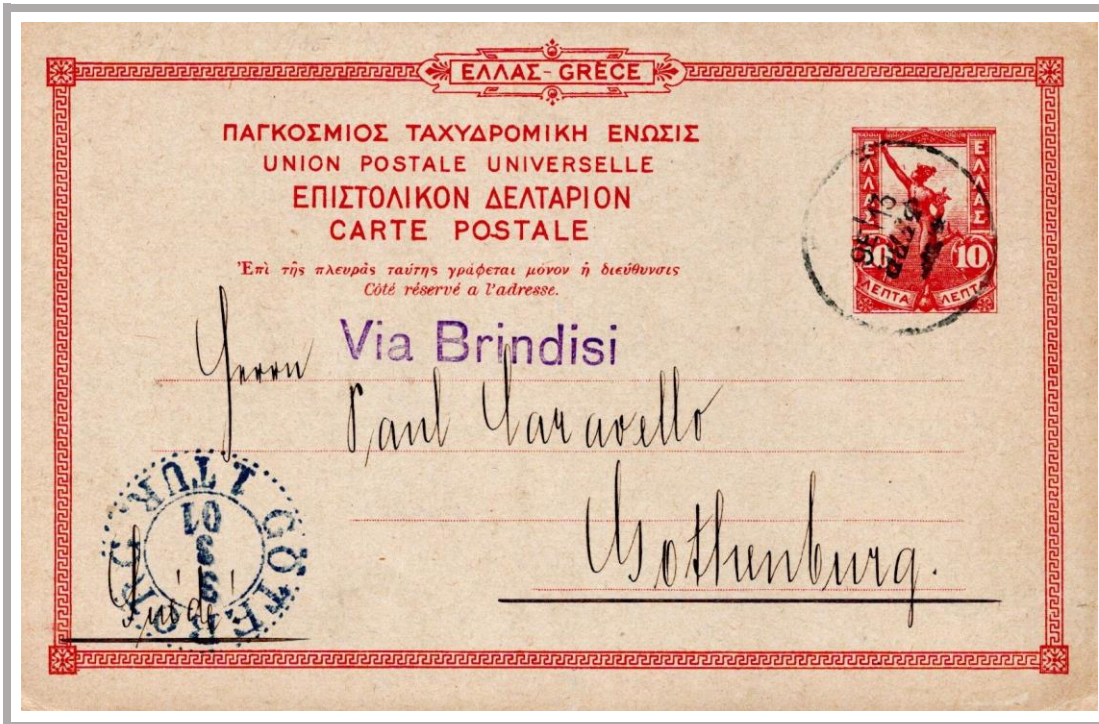
The recipient of the letter is Filippos Karvelas (Athens 1877-1952), a distinguished Greek gymnast. He studied on a scholarship for one year in Sweden and was the one who introduced and taught Swedish gymnastics in Greece, in contrast to the German system that had prevailed until then. For this reason, he is considered the “father of Swedish Gymnastics in Greece.”



20 lepta Large Hermes Head postal envelope issued for domestic use, franked with 10 lepta Small Hermes Head Athens printing, posted from **ATHINAI 27.5/9.6.1900** to **STOCKHOLM KE 14.6.1900 Sweden**.

Postal Rate 30L for postal envelope send to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912



Patras, 13/26. Feb 1901.

10 lepta Flying Merkur postal card posted from **PATRAI 13/26.2.1901**, Via Brindisi (Italy) to **GÖTEBORG 3.3.1901** (1st itinerary) **Sweden** **Postal Rate 10L** for postal card to Sweden.



Greek soldiers

Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Flying Merkur, posted from **PIRAEUS 3/16.12.1905**, to **DJURSHOLM 21.12.1905** **Sweden**. **Postal Rate 10L** for card postal to Sweden.



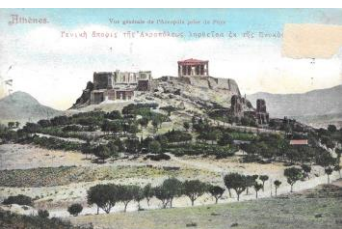
Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

The Olympic Games of 1906, also known as the Olympic Games 1906, were held in Athens from April 22 to May 2, 1906 (calendar which Greece was using at that time). These Games were organized in between the official Olympiads and, although they are not recognized today as official by the IOC, they were considered highly important at the time and contributed to the strengthening of the Olympic movement. On March 25, a commemorative series of postage stamps was issued for these Games.



Athens, Hadrian's Gate

Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Olympic Games, with special Vignettes for Olympic Games, posted from **ATHINAI 13/26.4.1906** to **MALMÖ 2.5.1906 Sweden**.
Postal Rate 10L for card postal to Sweden.

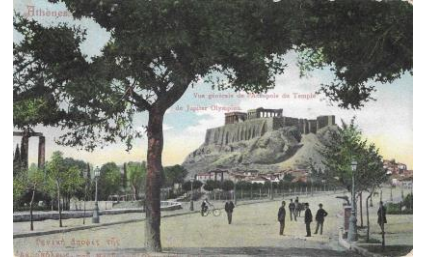


Athens, General view of the Acropolis, taken from the Pnyx



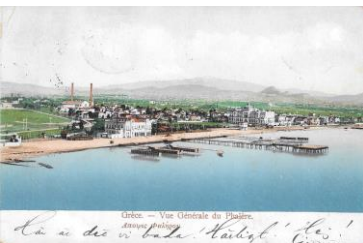
Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Olympic Games, posted from **ATHINAI 16/29.4.1906** to **STOCKHOLM 5.5.1906** (2nd itinerary) **Sweden**.
Postal Rate 10L for card postal to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912



Athens, view of the Acropolis

Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Olympic Games issue 1906, posted from **ATHINAI 18.4/1.5.1906**, to **STOCKHOLM SÖDER 19.5.1906** (1st itinerary) **Sweden**. **Postal Rate 10L** for card postal to Sweden.



Athens, Faliron Beach
"we swim here..."



Picture card postal franked with 10 lepta Olympic Games issue 1906, posted from **FALIRON 11/24.7.1906**, to **ÖREBRO Sweden**. **Postal Rate 10L** for card postal to Sweden.

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

Of particular interest is the transport of postal parcels from Greece to Sweden

Routes: Greece - Austria - Germany - Sweden

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES.
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ.


**COUPON.
ΑΠΟΚΟΜΜΑ.**

Τιμή re du bureau d'origine.

Νομ. πρόν. et domic. de l'expéditeur.
Όνομα, επώνυμο και κατοικία του αποστολέως.

À remplir par l'expéditeur.
Συμπληρωτέον παρά του αποστολέως.

POSTES HELLÉNIQUES
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΑ



**BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION.
ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ.**

COLIS POSTAL.
ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΕΙΟΝ
ΔΕΜΑΤΙΔΙΟΝ

Αποστολή με 25 λεπτά

Ci-joint } *1 paquet* { paquet, rouleau, boîte, panier, etc.
Συνημμένον ξέδε } *1 πακέτο* { δέμα, κύλινδρος, κυτίον, καλάθος, κ.λ.π.

Déclaration du contenu } *livres imprimés*
Δήλωση του περιεχομένου

Déclarations en douane, N° }
Τελωνειακά διασαφήσεις, Αριθ.

Adresse du destinataire } *M. Herrn Prof. Dr. Lars Wide*
Επιγραφή του παραλήπτου

Lieu de destination } *Uppsala*
Τόπος προορισμού

Domicile du destinataire } *Universität*
Κατοικία του παραλήπτου

Poids vérifié.
Βάρος επαληθευθέν.

N° *3100* Gr.

N° Gr.

N° Gr.

Συμπληρωτέον παρά του αποστολέως.

Numéro du colis.
Αριθ. του δεματίδιου.

15

Χρόνος προς επικόλλησιν
επισημειωμένου πέμαχταίου
χρόνου.

Acheminement.
Μόδος αποστολής.

15

ATHENES
1,939
1910

À remplir par l'expéditeur.
Συμπληρωτέον παρά του αποστολέως.

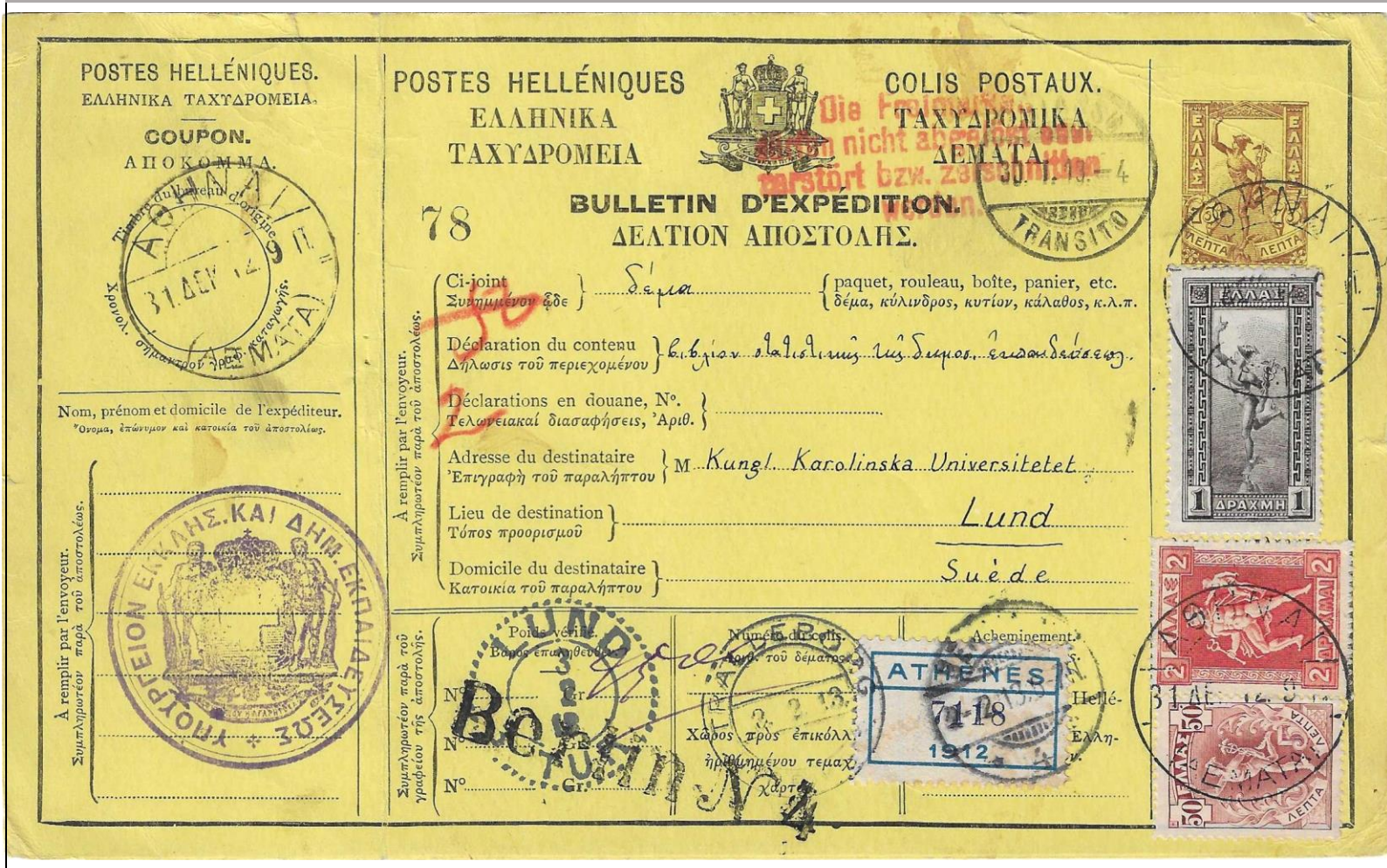
BIBLIOTHEK DE
S. DEUTSCHE
SCH. INSTITUT
ATHEN

Parcel Postal Card for sending books as printed matter from "Biblioteket vid Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen" (Library of the German Archaeological Institute Athens) to "Prof. Dr. Lars Wide, Uppsala Universitet", with printed 75 lepta Flying Mercury issue 1901, franked with 25 lepta and 3x1 drachmas Metal Value issue, posted from **ATHINAI PARCELS 23.4/6.5.1910** via TRIESTE 8 15.5.1910 (Austria), HAMBURG 20.5.1910 (Germany), MALMÖ *PAK.UTR*S* 1 21.5.1910 to **UPSALA Sweden**.
Postal Rate 4 Drs for parcel 3.1 Kg to Sweden. (Special reduced rate for printed books, in accordance with UPU guidelines, sent as printed matter).

Greece to Sweden 1851-1912

Parcel Postal Card mailed from Athens on December 31, 1912, the last day of the year

Routes: Greece - Italy - Switzerland - Germany - Sweden



Parcel Postal Card for sending books from "Ministry of Ecclesiastical and Public Education - Greece" to "Kungliga Karolinska Universitetet, Lund", with printed 75 lepta Flying Mercury issue 1901, franked with 50 lepta and 1 drachmas Flying Mercury issue & 2 drachmas Engraved issue, posted from **ATHINAI PARCELS 31.12.1912/13.1.1913**, via BRINDISI (Italy), CHIASSO TRANSITO 30.1.1913 (It is located in Switzerland, near the border with Italy, and was a postal hub for parcel transportation), KAIS. DEUTSCHES B.P.A.19 Kartierungsstelle BASEL 31.1.1913 (Switzerland), BERLIN 4 2.2.1913, Berlin N 4 (Germany), with 4-line red German customs and post office cancel "Die Freimachung darf nicht abgelöst, geändert oder zerstört bzw. zerschnitten werden" (The release must not be removed, altered, destroyed, or cut - proof that the parcel was prepaid from Greece), TRALLERORG 3.2.1913 to **LUND 3.2.1912 Sweden**.
Postal Rate 4.25 Drs for parcel 1-2 Kg to Sweden.