

The Exchange Control in Thessaloniki 1936-1940 and 1948-1951

The «Exchange Control» for the incoming and outgoing mail to Greece can be considered as a routine business for the post office. It was implemented for the first time during the 1st World War as a «financial control». An indication of exchange control application by the «Bank Syndicate» is also known between 1921 and 1922, but was not used in Thessaloniki.

Thessaloniki is the second most important city of Greece. It is built in the inlet of Thermaikos Gulf, in the North-Western part of the Aegean Sea.

On Thessaloniki from early 1931 until August 1936, before the official exchange control began in 20 August 1936, the post offices had been making sporadic checks at registered mail sent abroad.

Official exchange control was applied from Committee of the National Currency Protection to all mail (incoming and outgoing) during the 1936 to 1940 but from 1948 to 1951 only to outgoing mail. One important difference of the exchange control period of 1936-1940 with the one of 1948-1951 is that during the latter period the control was not used as a censorship.

In 1947, unofficially and selectively, foreign exchange control was resumed from the post office only to outgoing registered mail.

Between 1952 and the end of 1958 only the dispatched towards abroad mail was checked if it contained exchange from Bank of Greece and not from Committee of the National Currency Protection.



Airmail cover posted from **THESSALONIKI 6.8.1940**, via Athens to South Bend Indiana USA. The cover in the central post office of Thessaloniki controlled and was cancelled with cachet **ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΟΥ ΝΟΜΙΣΜΑΤΟΣ - ΘΕΣ/ΝΙΚΗ** (Committee of the National Currency Protection - Thessaloniki)

The exhibit includes in five frames the «Exchange Control» in Thessaloniki from 1932 to 1958

Pages 2-6	:	1st	period 1931-1936
Pages 7-60	:	2nd	period 1936-1940
Pages 61-62	:	3rd	period 1947
Pages 63-75	:	4th	period 1948-1951
Pages 76-80	:	5th	period 1952-1958

Bibliography

- Hellenic Philatelic Society, «The Exchange Control in Greece 1936-40», *Philotelia* 536/1989 – 547/1991.
- Al. Galinos, «The Exchange Control in Greece 1948-1951», *Collectio* 4/1991 & 5/1992.
- G. Rhensius, «Devisenkontrolle in Griechenland 1936 bis 1940 und 1948 bis 1951», *Berlin* 2006.