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Ethiopia before 1936

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African Postal Heritage

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ETHIOPIA BEFORE 1936

Ton Dietz, Azeb Amha & Jon Abbink

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Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools: they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expression. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editors: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl) and Jan Jansen. You are welcome!

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Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Ethiopia postage stamp 1894:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/1894_4G_Ethiopia_unused_Mi5.jpg/225px-1894_4G_Ethiopia_unused_Mi5.jpg

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg

Egypt postage stamp 1914:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

About the APH paper series

The intention of the APH series is to make information about the philatelic and postal history of Africa available for fellow philatelists and for others who are interested in the political, economic, and cultural history of Africa. Most APH papers so far present an inventory of postage (and revenue) stamps of former European colonies, and the aim is to be as complete as possible for stamps as such, and with special attention for covers and other elements of postal history, which can give historical information about postal communication, and about visual information through postal media. In addition it is the intention to be as complete as possible about postmarks, which show the history of postal coverage of colonial (and post-colonial) territories. Most information comes from websites. The APH papers are 'work in progress', and additional information plus corrections are welcome and can be added in future editions. This is the last APH paper in the Leiden ASCL series: about Ethiopia before 1936!

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1 Introduction

Ethiopia has been one of the few African territories that was never colonized, with the exception of a brief Italian occupation between 1936 and 1941.

Ethiopian history: brief sketch, based on Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethiopia:

“Between 1769 and 1855, Ethiopia experienced a period of royal decline, with no powerful emperors commanding executive power or authority: the *Zemene Mesafint* or "Era of Princes", which also led to more geopolitical isolation. The emperors became figureheads, controlled by regional lords and noblemen. Emperor Tewodros II (r. 1855–1868) brought an end to the Zemene Mesafint. Ethiopia opened up to the world via Emperor Tewodros’s quest for modern technology and arms, and the relative isolationism ended. During a British mission (led by W. Cornwallis Harris, in 1841-43) a commercial treaty (alliance) had already been concluded in 1843 between the two nations, but it was not until 1855 that the regional kingdoms of northern Ethiopia (Gondar, Gojjam, Shewa) were briefly united after the power of the Emperor was restored, beginning with the reign of Tewodros II (r. 1855-1868). Upon his ascent, he began modernizing Ethiopia and recentralizing power to the Emperor. Tewodros II began a process of centralisation, consolidation, and ‘state-building’ that would be continued by succeeding emperors. This process reduced the power of regional rulers, restructured the Empire's administration, and created a professional army. These changes created the basis for establishing the effective sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Ethiopian state. Conversely, Tewodros suffered several rebellions inside his empire by northern Oromo groups, rivals in Tigray and Semien (e.g., *dejazmach* Wube Haile-Mariam*)*, an Shewa (local king Menelik II), and the constant incursion of the Ottoman Empire and Egyptian forces near the Red Sea brought the weakening of Tewodros II. He became involved in a diplomatic conflict with the British when the Foreign Office did not answer his correspondence. The British sent an expeditionary force in 1867 when Tewodros had taken British subjects hostage, and he killed himself in 1868 when besieged in his last stronghold during the Battle of Magdala.

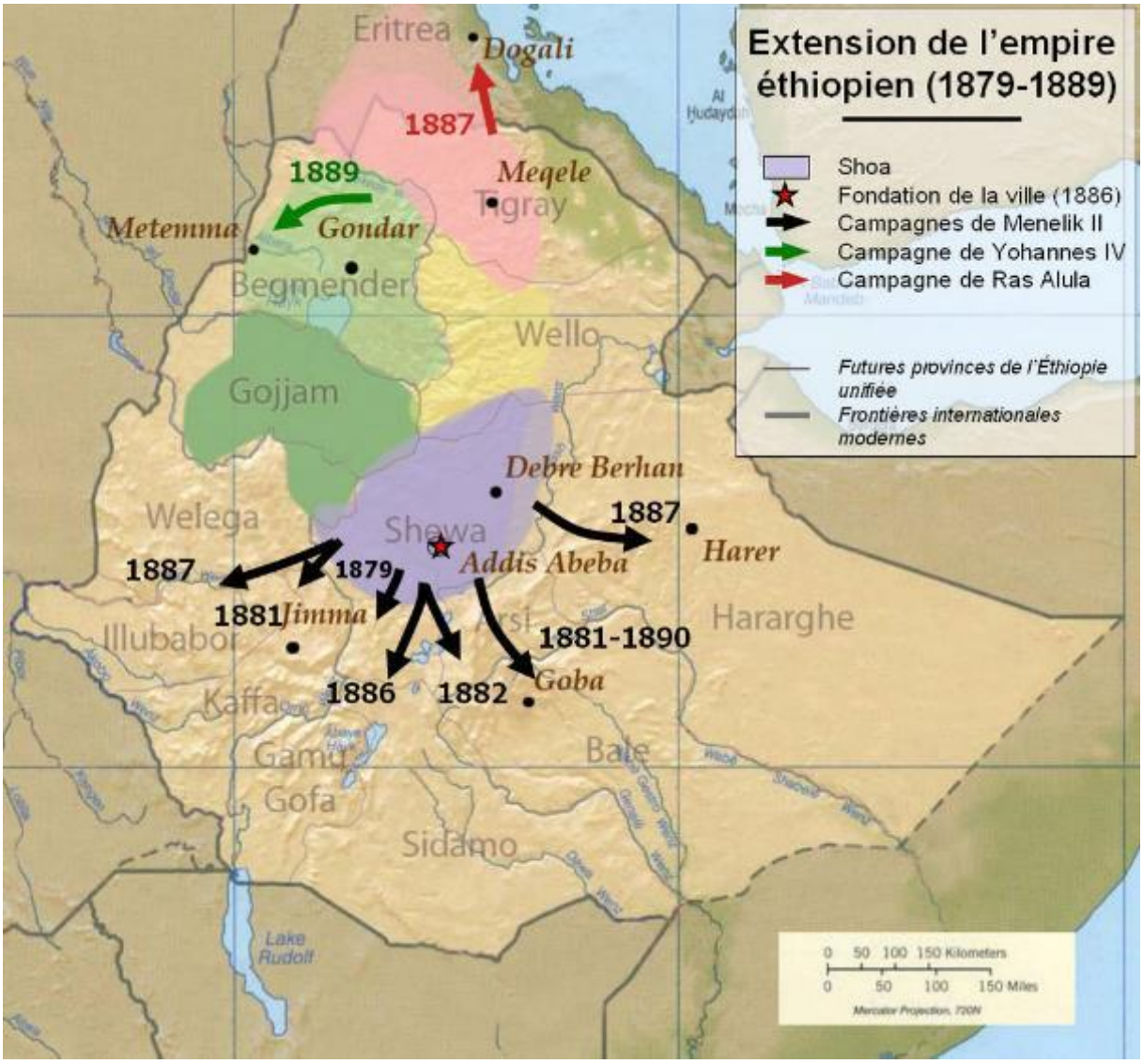
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f4/T%C3%A9wodros_II_-_2.jpg : "Emperor Tewodros II (r. 1855–1868) brought an end to the Zemene Mesafint".

After Tewodros' death, Tekle Giyorgis II was proclaimed Emperor but he was defeated in the battles of Mai Kolu (21 June 1871) and at the Assem River near Adwa (11 July 1871). The victorious Kahsai Mercha from Tigray region was subsequently declared Emperor Yohannes IV on 21 January 1872. In 1875 and 1876, Ottoman/Egyptian forces, accompanied by many European and American 'advisors', twice invaded Abyssinia but were initially defeated: once at the Battle of Gundit losing 800 men, and then in the second invasion, decisively defeated by Emperor Yohannes IV at the Battle of Gura on 7 March 1875, where the invading forces lost at least 3000 men by death or capture. At the council of Boru Meda in 1878, Yohannes, in an effort to create national unity, came out with a decree that Ethiopian Muslims must accept Christianity or be banned. Those that refused were executed on the spot. Tens of thousands were killed and more left their land and belongings to flee to Harar, Bale, Arsi, Jimma, and even to Sudan. This campaign was, however, not successful. From 1885 to 1889, Ethiopia joined the war against the Sudanese Mahdist army, allied to Britain, Turkey, and Egypt.

In 1887, Menelik II, King of Shewa, invaded the Emirate of Harar after his victory at the Battle of Chelenqo. On 10 March 1889, Yohannes IV was killed by the invading Sudanese Mahdist *Khalifah* Abdullah's forces whilst leading his army in defense at the Battle of Gallabat (also called Battle of Metemma).

Menelik II:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/37/Emperor_Menelik_II.png/800px-Emperor_Menelik_II.png

Ethiopia in roughly its current borders began under the reign of Menelik II, who was Emperor from 1889 until his death in 1913. From his base in the central province of Shewa, Menelik, trying to ward off colonial threats by preemptive action, set out to annex territories to the south, east, and west — areas inhabited by the Oromo, Sidama, Gurage, Welayta, and many other peoples. He achieved this with the help of *Ras* Gobana Dacche's Shewan Oromo militia, which occupied lands that had not been held since the Muslim leader Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi's war (early 16th century), as well as other areas that had never been under Ethiopian rule.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/8c/Menelik_campaign_map_1_3.jpg/1024px-Menelik_campaign_map_1_3.jpg

Menelik II was the son of Haile Melekot, *Negus* of Shewa, and Ejegayehu Lema Adeyamo, a palace servant. He was born at Angolala in an Oromo area and lived his first twelve years with Shewan Oromos, with whom he thus had much in common. During Menelik's reign, road construction, electricity, and education advanced, and a central taxation system was developed. Addis Ababa was built in or near the village of Finfinne; in 1889-1891 it became the new capital of the Ethiopian Empire. For his leadership, despite opposition from more traditional elements of society, Menelik II was heralded as a national hero. He had signed the Treaty of Wuchale with Italy in May 1889, by which Italy would recognize Ethiopia's sovereignty so long as Italy could control an area north of Ethiopia (now part of modern Eritrea). In return, Italy was to provide Menelik with weapons and support him as emperor. The Italians used the time between the signing of the treaty and its ratification by the Italian government to expand their territorial claims. They continued to exercise pressure on Ethiopia from their base in Eritrea. The Ethiopian imperial army warded off a first Italian attack in January 1887 at Dogali. Tensions rose during 1895, with Italians preparing for

military expansion into northern Ethiopia. This, what might be called, first Italian-Ethiopian war culminated in the Battle of Adwa on 1 March 1896, a resounding victory for the Ethiopians. Later in the year the 'Treaty of Addis Ababa' was signed, replacing the Treaty of Wuchale with conditions more favorable to Ethiopia.

2 Pre-1894 postal services

"Long an independent state in Africa, messages were originally carried by couriers called *méléktegna*s, who held the letters attached to a stick"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Most [probably all] of Ethiopia's Ethiopian Orthodox Church (EOC) clergy and some government officials could read and write Amharic, but they did not use the postal service. They traditionally engaged private messengers ("*melektegna*s") who carried the mail in a cleft stick. Since there were no post offices outside Addis Ababa, Harar and Dire Dawa until the mid-1920s, mail sent to the interior continued to be carried by the *melektegna*s even into the 1930s. Envelopes held in a cleft stick became the symbol of the Ethiopian Posts after World War II – a distinct symbol compared to the post horn many other nations adopted".

"As part of the 1867-8 invasion that culminated in the Battle of Magdala, the British established a field post office at Massawa (then a port of Ethiopia) in November 1867, using stamps of British India".
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia

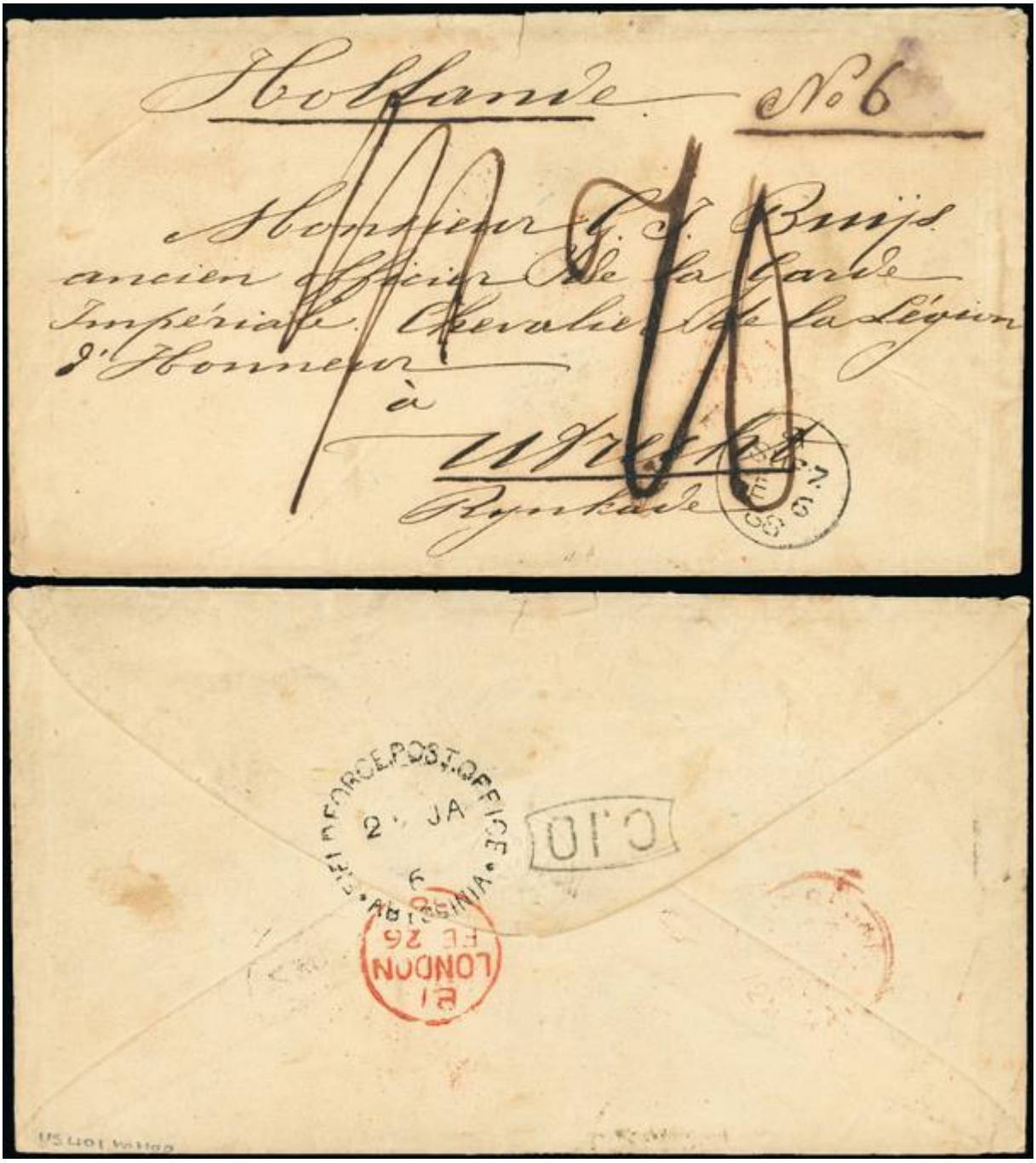
Wikipedia on this British military campaign in Ethiopia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Expedition_to_Abyssinia

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09517/S5930/1615.jpg (Stanley Gibbons - Stamps and Postal History of the World): "sed Abroad; Abyssinian Field Force. 1868 1d red Plate 220 with large part fine strike of 'FF' in diamond of bars, plus part of a London duplex marking. Offered with 1865 India 4a green

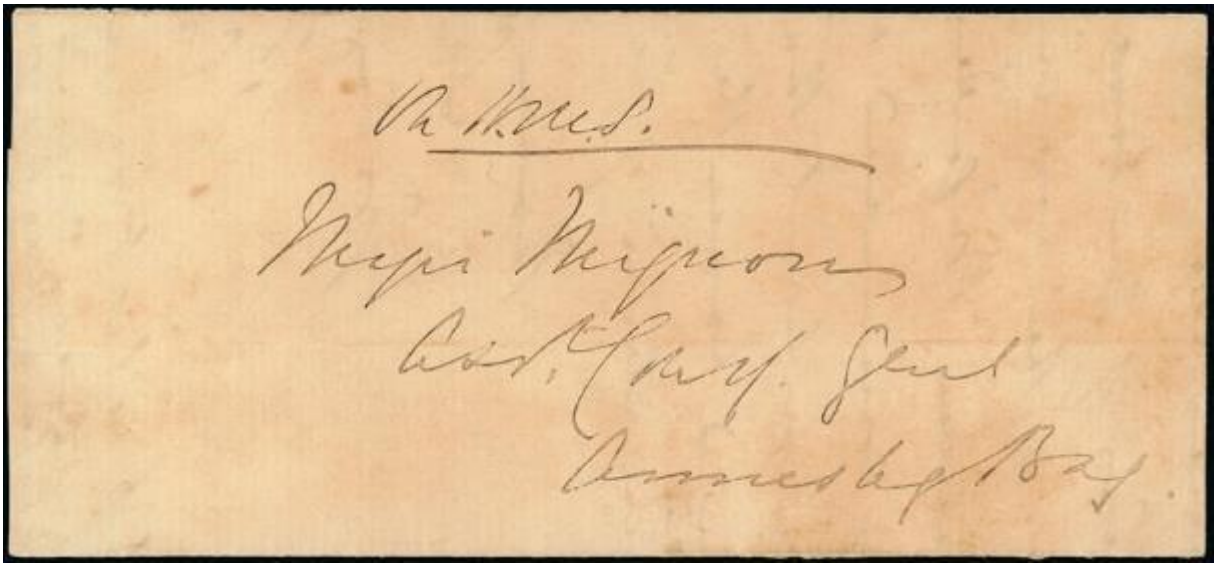
(missing lower right corner) ex Cdr. Enoch and an 1867 6a8p (slight perf damage), each also with the FF cancel, a rare trio from this largely forgotten campaign … the Force was made up of British and Indian infantry, cavalry and artillery, under Sir Robert Napier, then Commander-in-Chief, Bombay".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/266.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1867-68 Abyssinia Field Force cancellations "F.F." on Great Britain and India adhesives, selection of five, with cancels of Zulla Camp and Senafe Camp, fine".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8504.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: India 1865 8p. block of four with selvedge at right, all with boxed ''F.F.'', a few creases, otherwise fine, this being the only recorded block”.



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8508.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: 1868 (Jan.) stampless envelope addressed to a member of the Dutch Imperial Guard at Utrecht in Holland, sent by a Foreign correspondent accompanying the Expedition, showing manuscript ''1/1'' British postage and ''70'' Dutch charge, has Suez transit mark, with unframed circular ''FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE ABYSSINIA/2? JA'68'' in black, London and Dutch transit and receiving mark on the reverse, extremely rare. Fewer than ten stampless letters exist from the Expedition, this one having the earliest recorded date, suggesting that the item was sent from Senafe, the first of the Expedition's three base camps”.



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8503.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: 1867 stampless O.H.M.S. entire sent from ''Gen. Field, Advance Brigade, Abyssinian Field Force'', addressed to ''Major Migon (Commissariat Officer) at Annesley Bay'', early item”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8506.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: 1868 (Aug.) O.H.M.S. envelope to Aden roughly opened at right, with enclosed letter offering a vote of thanks to Major General E. L. Russell, Commanding at Aden, for valuable services in the Campaign from General Lord Napier and signed by Lt. Colonel Dillon, Military Secretary”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8557.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: 1868 tatty envelope from Magdala to London, endorsed ''R. Holmes/Magdala/Abyssinia'', franked by Indian 1860 8p. and 1866 4a. (2), tied by barred by ''F.F.'' with London receiving mark in red alongside, with faint Abbissiania Field Force /FF'' duplex in red on the reverse, scarce”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8507.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1867-68 Abyssinia Expedition: 1868 (Jan. 21) mourning envelope [sic] from Zula to Bangalore, bearing 1866-78 4a. tied by barred ''F.F.'', and manuscript ''21/1/68'', with unframed circular ''FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE/ABYSSINIA/3 JA 68'' in red on the reverse, also Bombay and Bangalore datestamps, very rare”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/70/7240.jpg: "Ethiopia: 1869 envelope from Bangalore and addressed to a Captain of the Madras Sappers and Miners, Field Force Abyssinia, bearing Indian 4a. tied by Bangalore duplex, on reverse has unframed circular "FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE/2 JU/68/ABYSSINIA", few imperfections, otherwise fine and scarce incoming mail".

- Also see APH 52 Eritrea

"The territory of Harar was taken by Egypt in 1875, and in the following year a post office was established; letters from there used Egyptian stamps canceled with a Maltese cross" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia

https://thumbs.worthpoint.com/zoom/images1/360/0915/03/egypt-1867-1pi-scarce-impressed-stamp_360_c3e27e552d3615708de235f748a4709b.jpg: " Egypt 1867+ 1pi A Scarce Impressed Stamp Used In Massawa In Red Sea Area".

https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EwxjjOwWgAAG_o3?format=jpg&name=small

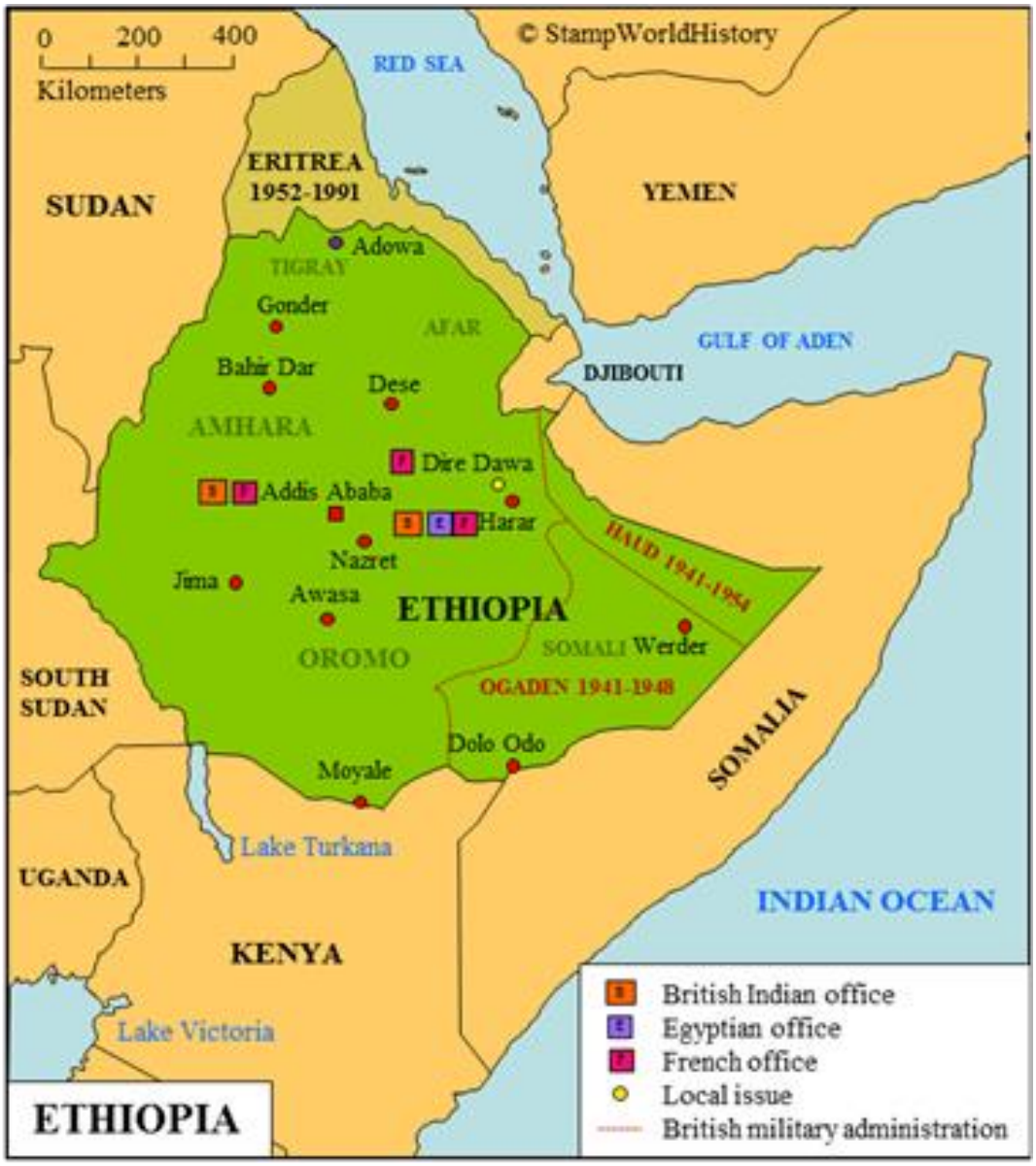
https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EwxjjXrWUAAdy_2?format=jpg&name=small

https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EwxjjDPXEAIfzg7?format=jpg&name=small : "The Egyptians occupied Massawa from 1874 to 1883, and Harar from 1875 to 1886, and had a Post Office in each place using Egyptian stamps and postmarks".

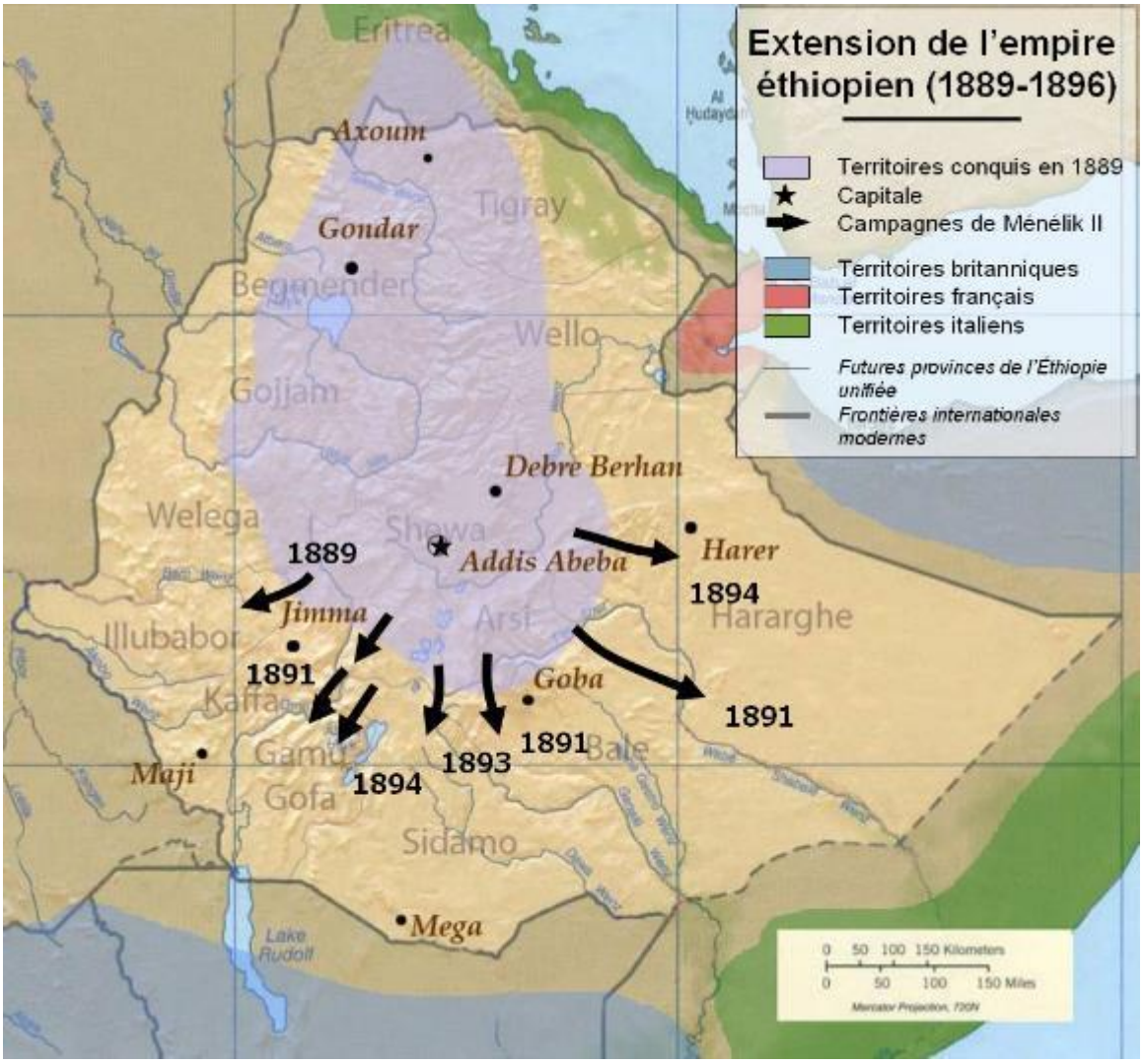
http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-sNFSLcoI7kM/VJ0xF5jrkmI/AAAAAAAAAFo/UIijI2kQ5is/s1600/Massawa%2BPostage%2Bstamp.jpg

- Also see APH 52 Eritrea

"The first post office to be opened in Ethiopia was an Egyptian office opened in Harar in 1866 – using Egyptian stamps, the office was in operation until 1880. The French opened offices in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar in 1892. The stamps initially used were the stamps of Obock and its successor the French Somali Coast….. British consular offices have existed in Addis Ababa and Harar – resources used do not indicate when these were first opened. In the British offices the stamps of British Somaliland and later British India were used".



Copied from Gerben van Gelder:
https://web.archive.org/web/20180606005831/http://www.stampworldhistory.com/stamps-issuing-entities#



https://i.pinimg.com/originals/e7/0a/85/e70a85de589a1c60e297a1ce470c5be8.jpg

3 1894: Menelik Sultan of the Nile Proofs

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP007.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "The Menelik Sultan of the Nile essays have traditionally associated with Colonel Nikolay Stepanovich Leontieff. They were believed to have been printed in St. Petersburg, Russia. Most likely, they were designed by Louis-Eugène Mouchon and printed by the Atelier de Fabrication de Timbres in Paris, France. Printed in Red, Black and Orange on thin, off-white, ungummed paper".

4 The postage series of 1894: Emperor Menelik II (1844-1913) and the Lion of Judah

"On 9 March 1894 [Emperor] Menelik II of Ethiopia awarded a concession to Swiss engineer Alfred Ilg to develop a railway including postal services. Ilg arranged for Frenchman Leon Chefneux to contract with the engraver Louis-Eugène Mouchon to design a set of seven stamps, four depicting Menelik, and three with a heraldic lion. They were printed by Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Postes in Paris, along with four values of postcards. Most of the stamps remained in Paris where the dealers Maury had the exclusive right to sell them but 135,000 sets were taken to Ethiopia. The earliest known use is 29 January 1895… These stamps were valid only for local mail and mail to Djibouti…."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia, a.o. using: ETHIOPIA--The First Issue and its Overprints on Commercial Covers: 1895-1911 by Ulf Lindahl, Ethiopian Philatelic Society, 2013, p. 1

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Cover sent by Empress Taitu to Alfred Ilg with first mail courier from Entotto (Addis Ababa) May 29, 1895. The seal of the Empress is on the cover's back", also: "Menelik's advisor on foreign affairs was Alfred Ilg, a Swiss. He travelled to Ethiopia in 1878 in response to a request for an engineer to come to Ethiopia to assist the Emperor to modernize his country. In 1893, the Emperor granted Alfred Ilg and Léon Chefneux, a Frenchman, the rights to set up a private postal service and to construct a railway and telegraph line from Djibouti to Addis Ababa. They travelled to France and engaged the French government to print a set of seven stamps engraved by the famous artist Louis-Eugène Mouchon. The four low values show Emperor Menelik in profile while the three high values depict the heraldic Conquering Lion of Judah.

Arthur Maury, the most prominent stamp dealer in Paris, obtained a commission in 1893 to sell them to collectors. Printed in 1894, the stamps were brought by Chefneux to Ethiopia in 1895 where they were used for the first time on 29 January 1895 in the ancient, walled city of Harar. In 1892, the French Capuchin Fathers at the Catholic Mission in Harar had established a mail courier between Harar and Obock – a port town opposite the future Djibouti. They were entrusted to sell the Ethiopian stamps and remained in charge of the mail that was carried by camels through the frightful desert between Harar and Djibouti. Several weeks later, after Chefneux had reached Addis Ababa, then called Entotto, a Frenchman was given the task to organize the postal couriers to Harar and to

sell the stamps. The first courier left Addis Ababa on 29 May 1895. Only one cover from this inaugural mail dispatch carried by the private Ethiopian Posts exists in private hands. It was sent by Empress Taitu to Alfred Ilg in Zurich. The Empress was replying to a letter from Ilg. He had written to let her know he was returning to Ethiopia with his Swiss wife, Fanny, née Gattiker. He beseeched the Empress to accept her, while he promised to continue to support his Ethiopian "wife" and two children".

"Initially the tasks of cancelling and forwarding letters were entrusted to the Catholic mission at Harar. After a delay occasioned by the Italian invasion of Ethiopia, Ilg hired several Swiss postal officials and they began organizing a system of postal bags carried by the railway that was being constructed at the same time. The Harar mission continued to process all mail until 1904, when a post office opened at the newly established town of Dire Dawa. In the meantime, it was discovered that Ethiopian stamps sold by an agent in France at a discount, for publicity purposes, were being shipped to Ethiopia and used on mail. To prevent this, beginning in 1901, stamps were locally overprinted in different ways each year, and were only valid for postage with the overprint".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia

Also see: http://mystampworld.com/1895-first-issue-ethiopia

as well as: http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP001.htm: "In 1894, Ethiopia ordered from the Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Postes in Paris, France, a set of seven values depicting an effigy of Menelik II: ¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 Guerche; and three values depicting the Lion of Judah: 4, 8, and 16 Guerche [= *girsh* in Amharic; name derived from an old local silver coin; see: https://colnect.com/fy/coins/coin/57151-½_Gersh_Ya_Girsh_Alad-1887~1913_-_Emperor_Menelik_II-Etioopje]. Of the ten stamps, only seven were issued: the four lower Menelik values and the three Lion of Judah values. These were issued on 27 January 1895. Menelik II and the Lion of Judah represent the tradition of the unbroken lineage of the Ethiopian Solomonic dynasty that trace its roots back to the marriage of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba".

Trials

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/271.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1895 Menelik and Lion of Judea, imperforate trial colors in green".

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1895/Imperf-Proofs/Imperf-Proof-004.jpg (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "Imperforate Proofs. Printed on thin, off-white, ungummed card stock".

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/nj8AAOSwU9xUOSO0/s-l500.jpg: “Ethiopia stamps 1894 5 PROOFstamps”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/272.jpg: “1895 Menelik and Lion of Judea, set of 10 different […] proof sheetlets of 25, all in issued colors, prepared for display at the 1900 Paris World Exhibition. Each sheetlet is on buff stock, with simulated 14 x 13 1/2 perforations and dated "1894" in the bottom margin. The 4g, 8g and 16g Menelik II designs were also utilized for the 1896 Postage Dues. A rare set of proof sheetlets”.

Specimen

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/274.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1895 Menelik and Lion of Judea, handstamped Specimen in red, complete set of seven”.

Also see: http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP004.htm

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP003.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): “Imperforated Proofs Hand Stamped Spécimen in Black; Printed on thin, off-white, ungummed card stock”.

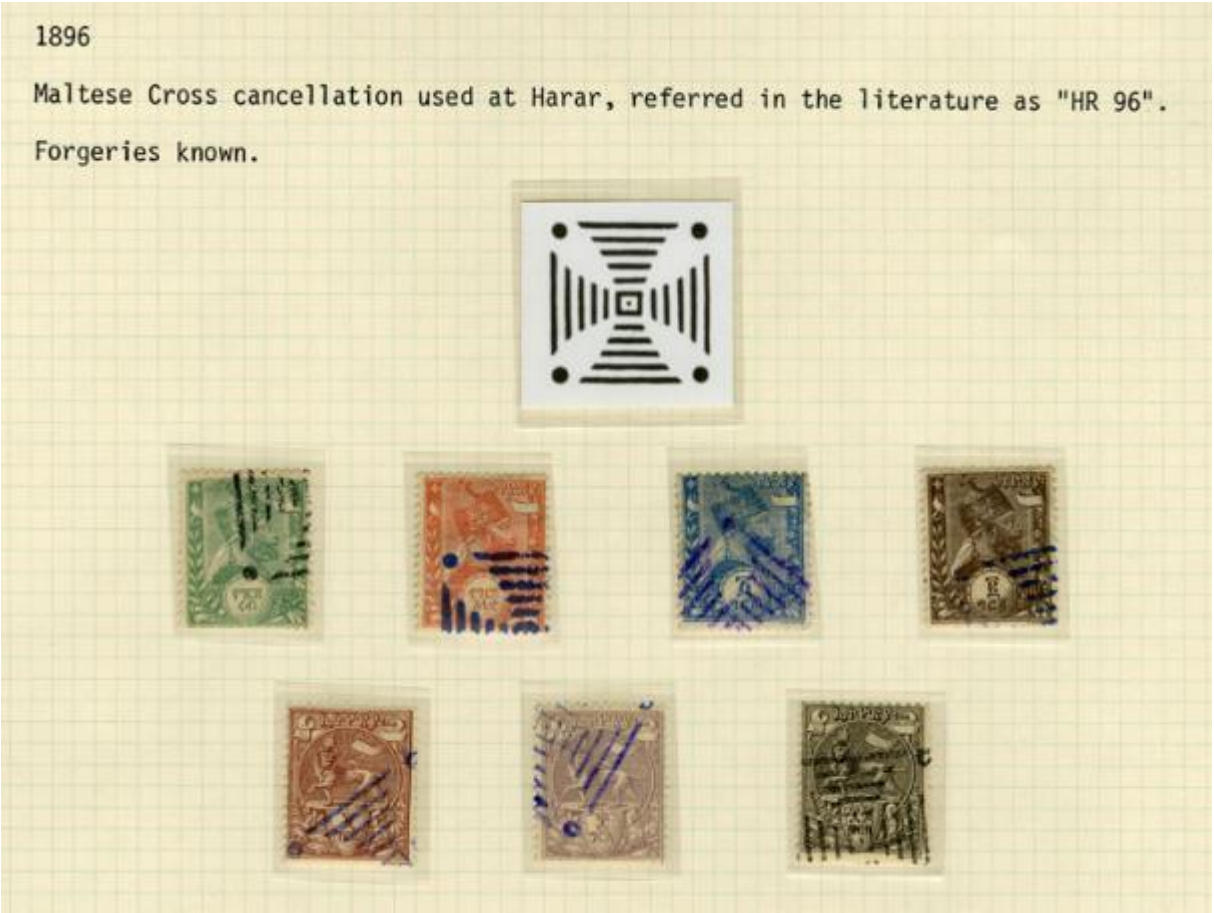
1/4G (green), 1/2G (salmon), 1G (blue), 2G(dark brown), 4G (purple brown), 8G (lilac), 16G (black)

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

Also see: https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1894-1899

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP005.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): “First Definitives Hand Stamped with the Seal of Ras Makonnen”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/273.jpg: “1895 First Issue complete 1/4g-16g, panes of 25, also additional 2g brown and 4g lilac, bottom sheet margin gutter panes of 50, plus another pane of 25 of 2g (showing "tall stamp" in bottom row), n.h., 1/2g with some gum toning, perf. separations throughout, mostly with margins, fine and undoubtedly scarce set of large multiples (catalogued as hinged singles)”.



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/275.jpg: “1895 First Issue complete 1/4g-16g, each stamp canceled with a blue Maltese Cross pmk, referred to in the literature as "HR 96"”.

First Issue on Mail Conveyed by French Couriers in 1895 and 1897

Commercial cover mailed in Harar in 1895 to an Armenian merchant in Djibouti, franked with two guerches (4*1/2).

Stamps canceled with first Harar cancelor with Ethiopian calendar date equivalent to December 4, 1895.

Less than twenty covers have been recorded from 1895.

Cover mailed in Harar on May 12, 1897 to Bonvalot, a French explorer visiting Addis Ababa, franked with 2 guerches, internal rate.

On reverse:
Arrival; Entotto, May 25, 1897
Forwarded re-addressed to Paris since Bonvalot had left Addis Ababa for Harar.
Arrival; Harar, June 5, 1897 where it was delivered to Bonvalot.

First recorded internal mail excluding four covers in Ilg and Chefneux's archives. Less than fifteen internal covers are known from before 1908.

http://mystampworld.com/1895-first-issue-ethiopia

First Issue on Mail from French P.O. in Harar and Ethiopian P.O. in Entotto

Since Ethiopia did not join U.P.U. until 1908, mail destined abroad required French colony stamps. Cote des Somalis stamps with values in Amharic were sold at the post offices in Ethiopia as of February 1897.

Cover mailed at French P.O. in Harar on June 24, 1897. Domestic and international postage: 2g plus 25 centimes. Transit: Djibouti 6/27 Ship cancel: 6/28. Arrival in Lyon; July 8, 1897.

The Ethiopian Posts was established in August 1899. It was responsible for couriers between Entotto and Harar, where the French P.O. forwarded the mail to Djibouti.

Cover mailed at Ethiopian P.O. in Entotto on Oct.14, 1899 by Gattiker, who organized Entotto's Ethiopian post office.

Transit: Oct. 24 at Ethiopian P.O. in Harar (on back with 1guerche stamp); French P.O. in Harar, Oct. 28.

Earliest known use of the French post office's new date-stamp: "Harar Postes Francaises."

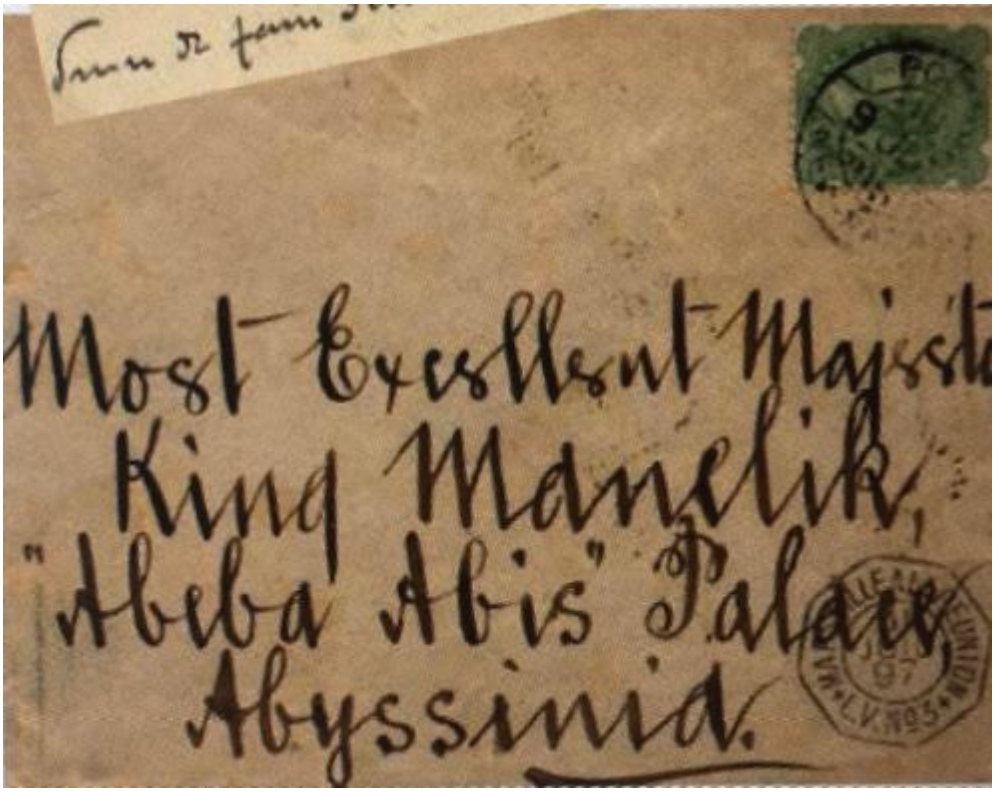
https://mystampworld.com/im/2017/01/1895U3.jpg: «Source: www.doig.net").

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "January 29, 1895 Harar cancel. February 7, 1895 Djibouti transit. February 10, Obock transit. February 10, 1895 Marseilles Liner 4 transit. 4 Guerche + 75 Centimes franking".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/270.jpg : " ETHIOPIA, 1895 (8 May) registered cover from Djibouti, via Obock to Paris, franked with 50c Somali Coast, also Menelik adhesives canceled "Entotto" (probably prepared in France) with red French entry and arrival pmks, minor cover faults, otherwise fine Maury cover".

https://philacollect.wordpress.com/2017/03/05/ethiopia-1895-envelope-from-harar-franked-1-g-menelik/, and http://ift.tt/2lt6tHd: “Ethiopia 1895, envelope from Harar, franked 1 G. Menelik, additionally 50 C. Djibouti-issue for foreign postage, Djibouti octagonal paquebot and “La Reunion a Marseille LV N 2” cancellations, addressee cancelled, rare combination cover”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/dc9fa3d3b81cd9e66aaf79eb2599ba0addfac076.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1894: The full set of seven values to 16 g. black, used on registered cover to Arthur Maury in Paris, all tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamps (Nov 27 [1896]) in brown; "Djibouti / Postes" datestamp in blue (Dec 28) and framed 'R', with 'La Reunion a Marseille / L.U. No. 2' Paquebot adjacent. Djibouti stamp missing on reverse. These covers were prepared for Maury for the 1896 Paris Exhibition”.

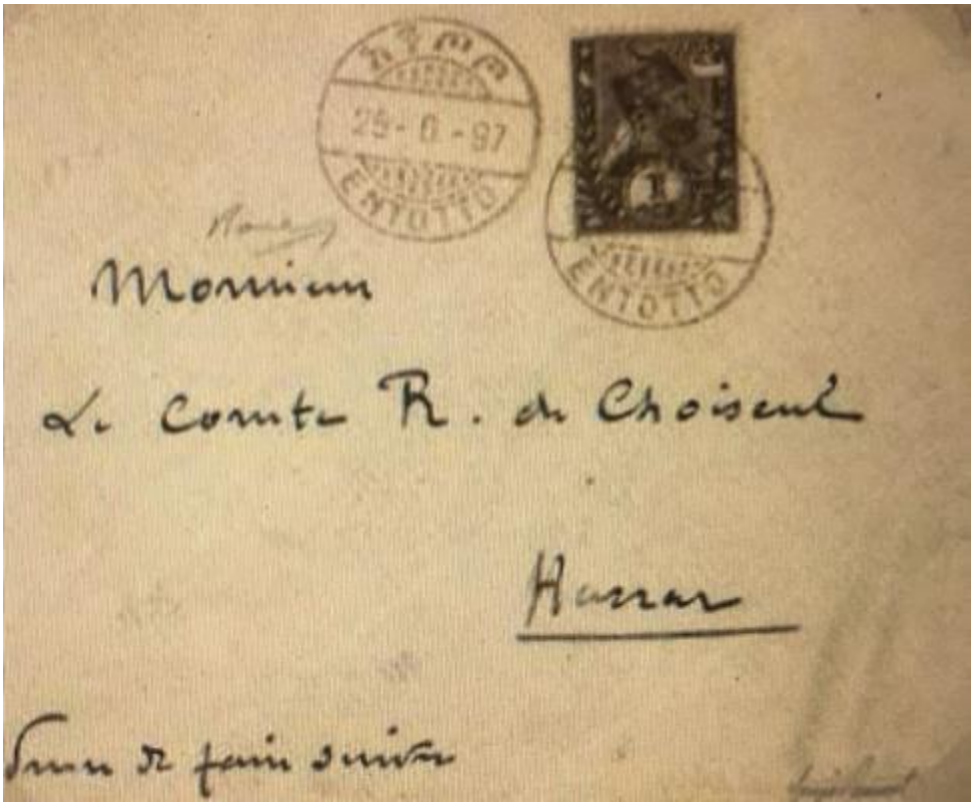


https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf. 9/6/1897

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/c67d3943327e7ded16f5f49239964fa8a416ddd9.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1897 (June 24): Cover to Constantinople franked on reverse with 1894 2 g. deep brown tied by "HARAR" datestamp in black, repeated strike on obverse;

franked on front with Somali Coast 1894 25 c. blue & rose cancelled by "Djibouti / Postes" datestamps in blue (June 27) and by French Paquebot "Ligne N / Paq. Fr. No. 10" (June 28) and carried up the Red Sea by the Steamer "Sydney". Port Said transit (July 3), Alexandria transit (July 8) and German P.O. in Constantinople arrival cds (July 13) on reverse. Cover originally opened for display and trimmed at back. Rare. Signed G. Bolaffi (1953), A. Bolaffi and A. Diena; cert. A. Diena (1968) ».

Some further background information as given by Ulf Johan Lindahl: https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "The Ethiopian stamps were only valid inside the country and paid for internal transportation since Ethiopia was not admitted to the U.P.U. until 1 November 1908. All mail addressed abroad had to be additionally franked with French colonial stamps when the mail left via Djibouti, or with stamps from India, as used in Aden, when it left via Zaila, a town on the Gulf of Aden coast near Djibouti. Over the years, selected stamps issued for Obock, Djibouti, the French Somali Coast, French Levant and Port-Said were sold and used in Ethiopia. Only recently we have been able to obtain more information about which stamps and which denominations were sold, and when they first were used on mail from Ethiopia. Research by this writer [Ulf Johan Lindahl] published recently has shed light on this aspect of French colonial philately. Only a handful of Europeans lived in Ethiopia in 1895, while travelers, hunters and explorers seeking adventure were few and far in-between in the immediate years after the Battle of Adwa [in 1896; see later]. The volume of mail was low. Only Europeans and some Indian and Middle Eastern merchants used the postal service. A portion of [probably all] Ethiopia's Orthodox Christian clergy and some government officials could read and write Amharic, but they did not use the postal service…. there were no post offices outside Addis Ababa, Harar and Dire Dawa until the mid1920s…A project by the Ethiopian Philatelic Society to record all surviving mail from 1895 to 1909 has so far (May 2019) reached a total of just over 1,250 items of outgoing mail. The total includes 50 items of internal mail. Less than 300 items have been recorded from the first seven years (1895-1901). In addition, less than 80 items of incoming mail from those 14 years have been recorded. They include only one cover from 1895 and one postal card from 1896. It is estimated that 90% of the surviving mail has been recorded in the Ethiopia Cover List".

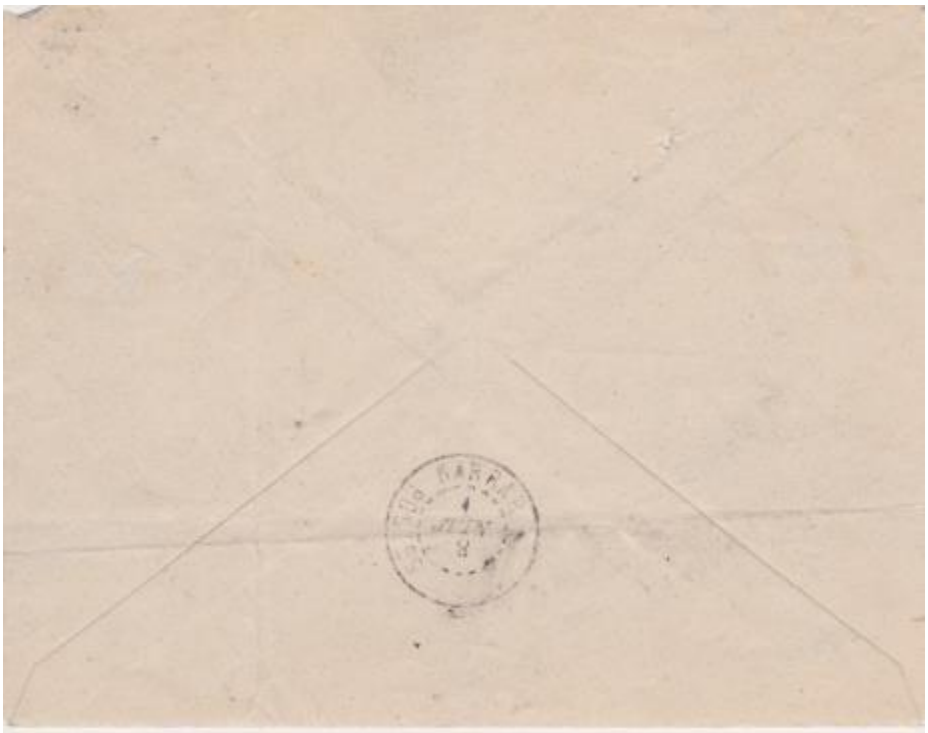


https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Internal cover from Addis Ababa (Entotto) on June 25, 1897 addressed to Harar". Also: "Two developments that became important for the struggling Ethiopian Posts occurred in 1897. The French began to supply the Catholic Mission in Harar with stamps from Djibouti that were then sold in Ethiopia. The relationship expanded and the Mission began to supply stamps to Addis Ababa. By 1907, about half of the revenue the French Somali Coast collected from selling stamps came from Ethiopia. The second important event in 1897 was the start in Djibouti of the construction of the railway linking Djibouti to Addis Ababa. Unfortunately, the construction costs became prohibitive and the link was not completed. The terminus was located on the plains below Harar which became a new town, Dire Dawa, now Ethiopia's second largest city. The railway was completed in December 1902, but it had begun to be used as soon as it reached the border to transport mail. Residents in Dire Dawa franked mail with French Somali Coast stamps and gave it to railway staff to post it in Djibouti. It was not until 1 November 1906 that a French post office was opened in Dire Dawa. The construction of the extension of the railway began in 1909 and it reached the outskirts of Addis Ababa in 1917. All mail up until the Italian occupation, in May 1936, was transported by rail to Djibouti since there was no air mail service, nor any roads [for vehicles] leading out of Ethiopia. The earliest recorded internal mail from Ethiopia is recorded from 1897. Two of the three known covers were sent by French explorers to each other while they were in Harar and in Addis Ababa [see illustration above]. We also find a few items of incoming mail, including a cover from Poona, India, to Emperor Menelik. It is possible that the sender congratulated Menelik on his victory at Adwa. Indeed the defeat of a European army in Africa had become a worldwide sensation".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8509.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1897 (Sept. 13) cover to France, franked by 1894 1g. blue (2) tied by Harar c.d.s., inland rate to Djibouti with Djibouti 25c. tied by ''DJIBOUTI'' date stamp in blue dated 18 Sept. 97 and with octagonal ''LIGNE N/PAQ. FR. No.5'', Paris receiving mark on reverse”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/276.jpg: “1895 coverfront franked with 1/4g and 1/2g Menelik First Issue adhesives, tied by "Entotto" (12.10.97) cds, sent via Djibouti, where

10c (2) and 15c stamps were added for further passage with French Paquebot ("L.V. No.4 La Reunion a Marseille") 3 Dec 97 to Levallois, France, some faults, signed Miro".



http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "May 28, 1898 Dire-Daoua cancel. June 4, 1898 Harrar receiver. Philatelic franking".

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): “June 12, 1898 Harrar cancel. June 16, 1898 Dire-Daoua cancel. Philatelic franking”.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): “October 25, 1899 Entotto cancel. November 2 1899 Harar transit. November 5, 1899 Harar French Post Office transit. November 11, 1899 Djibouti transit. November 13, 1899 La Reunion a Marseilles Liner 2 transit. November 18, 1899 Suez transit. November 19, 1899 Alexandria receiver. 4 Guerche + 25 Centimes franking”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8512.jpg: “Ethiopia: [20 VII] 1908 … 1/4g. green with Addis Ababa cancellation date 20 July 1908, unusual”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/347.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction) : “ABYSINIE : ETHIOPIE 1/4g obl. DIRE-DAOUA ABYSINIE. Rare”. 24/7/1908.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "September 20, 1908 Adis Abeba cancel. Registered letter to Djibouti. 19.5 Guerche franking".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/277.jpg: ” 1895 cover addressed to A. Michel and used in 1908 from Harar to Addis Ababa, franked with 1g Menelik, tied by "Harar Postes 10 Oct 8" ("8" inverted), with additional strike alongside, backstamped on arrival 19.X.1908 (nine days being the correct number of days that it took a courier to reach Addis Ababa), usual toning, fine and scarce internal usage”.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP009.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "October 10, 1908 Adis Abeba cancel. 14.5 Guerche + 104 Centimes franking. See Plate 77, Figure 77B. Tristant, Henri. Postal History of Ethiopia During the Reign of Menelik II, Part II, 1977. Translated and published by Huguette Gagnon".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8521.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1908 (Nov. 2) postcard depicting the Hotel des Arcades, addressed to France, franked by 1894 1/4g. green and French Somali 5c. both tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s. in blue, with a strike in violet in Ethiopian ''GABRA IGZIABHER/Chief Pharmacist to the King'' with Maltese Cross in centre. Stated to be one of only two of these cachets that are known”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/269.jpg: “1895 "the Province block" prepared by the exiled postmaster J. Michel, with the four Emperor Menelik images inscribed with names of different provinces (Shewa, Harar, Kaffa and Tigre), n.h., v.f., ex-Clinton Geisler collection”.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP002.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "Ilg Presentation Card. Alfred Ilg gave out a few of these souvenir cards at the Exposition Universelle held in Paris from 14 April 1900 to 12 November 1900. The purpose of the cards was to promote Ethiopian philately".

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP008.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): "Presentation Card with Simulated Perforations. It is thought Alfred Ilg created these cards to give out at the Exposition Universelle held in Paris from 14 April 1900 to 12 November 1900. The purpose of the cards was to promote Ethiopian philately. They are printed on heavy card stock and have simulated perforations". For the other values on similar cards: see: http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP008.htm: the seven regular values and three additional stamps (4, 8 and 16 G with Menelik instead of the Lion of Juda; see the postage due section below).

5 Postage Due: 1896

Values ¼g ½g 4g 8g in black, 1 2 16g in red

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/Lq4AAOSwxPBheQoe/s-l1600.jpg

Black overprint:

1/4G:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6f/1896_Ethiopia_Due_YvT1.jpg?20180823081027

8G:
https://www.stampcommunity.org/uploaded/rod222/20190405_J00041895A108gvioletpostagedueunissued.jpg

Red overprint:
2G: https://www.stampboards.com/images/wesley20/b0eb7bcb-62c1-48f3-a6b6-c3c65ed6d1d6_zpstq4x1c0z.jpg

16G: https://storage.googleapis.com/hipstamp/p/f1c04a20e6a2a23ce7b50c1f2ae0fe0b.jpg: " ABYSSINIA ETHIOPIA; 1894 early classic Postage Due Mint hinged 16g. value ABYSSINIA ETHIOPIA".

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/xwMAAOSwk-BiFQEf/s-l300.webp : "ETHIOPIA 1896 4g,8g,16g POSTAGE DUES MINT".

Numeral (Western)	Numeral (Amharic)	Cardinal	Ordinal
0		ዜሮ (zero)	
1	፩	አንዶ (and)	አንደኛ (andäňa)
2	፪	ሁለት (hulätt)	ሁለተኛ (hulättäňa)
3	፫	ሶስት (sost)	ሶስተኛ (sostäňa)
4	፬	አራት (aratt)	አራተኛ (arattäňa)
5	፭	አምስት (amməst)	አምስተኛ (amməstäňa)
6	፮	ስዶዶስት (səddəst)	ስድስተኛ (səddəstäňa)
7	፯	ሰባት (säbatt)	ሰባተኛ (säbattäňa)
8	፰	ስምንት (səmmənt)	ስምንተኛ (səmməntäňa)
9	፱	ዘጠኝ (zäṭäňň)	ዘጠነኛ (zäṭäňňäňa)
10	፲	አስር (assər)	አስረኛ (assəräňa)
11	፲፩	አስራ አንድ (asra and)	አስራ አንደኛ (asra andäňa)
12	፲፪	አስራ ሁለት (asra hulätt)	አስራ ሁለትኛ (asra hulättäňa)
13	፲፫	አስራ ሶስት (asra sost)	አስራ ሶስተኛ (asra sostäňa)
14	፲፬	አስራ አራት (asra aratt)	
15	፲፭	አስራ አምስት (asra amməst)	
16	፲፮	አስራ ስድስት (asra səddəst)	

https://www.stampcommunity.org/uploaded/rod222/20190405_J00071895A116gblackpostgedueunissued02.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/9t4AAOSwwN1iFQCG/s-l300.webp: “ETHIOPIA 1896 POSTAGE DUE RARE NO OVERPRINT SET MINT”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/784.jpg: “1894 Menelik I, 8g violet, die proof of the postal stationery design, on thin card, v.f.”.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1890/1895_RP008.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber): “It is thought Alfred Ilg created these cards to give out at the Exposition Universelle held in Paris from 14 April 1900 to 12 November 1900. The purpose of the cards was to promote Ethiopian philately. They are printed on heavy card stock and have simulated perforations”.

"According to Gibbons catalogue, the postage due overprint was on values ¼g ½g 4g 8g in black, 1 2 16g in red, ALL on the stamp showing the emperor, not the lion. In other words, if the catalogue is to be believed, the 4, 8 & 16g values with the head were only issued as Postage Dues. Furthermore SG then lists errors on the 4, 8 & 16g, 'Overprint omitted' which suggests that the stamp illustrated is one such". https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=67092

https://storage.googleapis.com/hipstamp/p/42b0bf1891b420a91e1d0489c8be88a3-300.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/8i0AAOSwHcdchl5K/s-l300.webp: "ETHIOPIA 1896 POSTAGE DUE 8g RARE NO OVERPRINT BLOCK MINT".

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/xDUAAOSwVVdchl3B/s-l300.webp: "ETHIOPIA 1896 POSTAGE DUE 16g RARE NO OVERPRINT BLOCK MINT".

6 The Italian invasion of 1895-1896 and their defeat at the battle of Adwa

"In 1889, the Italians signed the Treaty of Wuchale with then King Menelik of the Ethiopian Empire. The treaty ceded territories previously part of Ethiopia, namely the provinces of Bogos, Hamasien, Akele Guzai, Serae, and parts of Tigray. In return, Italy promised Menelik II, now emperor, continued rule, financial assistance and military supplies. A dispute later arose over the interpretation of the two versions of the document. The Italian-language version of the disputed Article 17 of the treaty stated that the Emperor of Ethiopia was

obliged to conduct all foreign affairs through Italian authorities, effectively making Ethiopia a protectorate of the Kingdom of Italy. The Amharic version of the article, however, stated that the Emperor could use the good offices of the Kingdom of Italy in his relations with foreign nations if he wished. However, the Italian diplomats claimed that the original Amharic text included the clause and that Menelik II knowingly signed a modified copy of the Treaty…The Italian government decided on a military solution to force Ethiopia to abide by the Italian version of the treaty. As a result, Italy and Ethiopia came into confrontation, in what was later to be known as the First Italo-Ethiopian War. In December 1894, Bahta Hagos led a rebellion against the Italians in Akele Guzai, in what was then Italian controlled Eritrea. Units of General Oreste Baratieri's army under Major Pietro Toselli [it] crushed the rebellion and killed Bahta. The Italian army then occupied the Tigrayan capital, Adwa. In January 1895, Baratieri's army went on to defeat Ras Mengesha Yohannes in the Battle of Coatit, forcing Mengesha to retreat further south….The Battle of Adwa (… Italian: battaglia di Adua, also spelled Adowa) was the climactic battle of the First Italo-Ethiopian War. The Ethiopian forces defeated the Italian invading force on Sunday 1 March 1896, near the town of Adwa. The decisive victory thwarted the campaign of the Kingdom of Italy to expand its colonial empire in the Horn of Africa". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Adwa

http://www.fabiovstamps.com/images/somali-Abessinia-ovpt-fakes.jpg Falsification

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Italian POW mail sent by the Croce Rossa Italiana from outside Harar franked with Indian stamps as used in Aden where they were cancelled. Rome arrival". Also: "Approximately 1,900 Italians were taken prisoner at the Battle of Adwa. They were marched to Addis Ababa on their feet and were held as prisoners of war. A peace treaty was signed with Italy in October 1896; it recognized Ethiopia as an independent nation and permitted repatriation of the POWs. Representatives of the Italian Red Cross came to Ethiopia and worked into mid-1897 to repatriate the POWs via Harar and Zaila, where they boarded ships bound for Eritrea and Italy".

7 Early postal stationery: 1896

Essay

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/YcAAAOSwN4JhC87A/s-l1600.jpg: “ETHIOPIA RARE 1895-96 FORMULA CARD F3 (ESSAY) UNUSED”.

https://storage.googleapis.com/hipstamp/p/2b09b642737a10a6427bb3ab6d645907.jpg (AztecCollectables): «Mint Ethiopia Postal Stationery postcard 1 Guerch) ».

https://d1stvyu4yyf2jr.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/16/pics/big/166a4add6c062be0f98319fc5c2eb91e42ddde5a.jpg (HR Harmer): "1896 ¼g, ½g, 1g Postal Card Special Printings for 1896 Paris Exposition, fresh and Very Fine, one of the two known sets".

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/pioAAOSw-8phKPSg/s-l1600.jpg: “ETHIOPIA [16 10] 1898 1/4g GREEN POSTCARD INTERNAL FROM HARAR USED”

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/DeoAAOSwnf1gybNv/s-l1600.jpg: “ETHIOPIA: Postal stationery Harar[18 10] 1898”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1115.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): “[28 7?] 1901 OBOCK 15c + 20c obl. DJIBOUTI sur entier postal d' ETHIOPIE pour L' AUTRICHE”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/26178c8d0539f236219d37dcb4e6642a8d0e053b.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1896: ½ g. salmon postal stationery card (H&G 2), used to Italy cancelled by bold bilingual "HARAR" date stamps in black (May 6, 1897), in combination with Somali Coast 1894 25 c. blue & rose (Ceres 12) cancelled "Djibouti / Postes" in blue (May 10). Treviso arrival (May 24) also on obverse of an attractive card. Cert. J-F. Brun (2017) ».

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/AikAAOSwfWBgybMU/s-l1600.jpg: « ETHIOPIA: Postal stationery Harar {13 10] 1898.

https://philacollect.wordpress.com/2017/03/08/1900-%c2%bd-g-red-postal-stationery-card-addressed-to-geneve/, and http://ift.tt/2mAObmN : “1900, ½ G. Red postal stationery card, addressed to Geneve / Switzerland, franked pair ¼ G. Menelik (Entotto cancellation), marked “Harar Poste Française” (HR4), additionally franked Djibouti 10. C. for foreign postage, sent via Djibouti to Europe with arrival marking, written and signed by H. Mill, exhibition item”.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “When Alfred Ilg returned to Ethiopia with his wife in late 1896, he brought with him postal cards printed in Paris in three denominations with a new depiction of Emperor Menelik turned right and a text that read: “Menelik II, Æthiopi æ Imp. Rex” … The postcards became popular and were used until 1906, when they were sold out. Among the three categories of preserved mail from the pre-U.P.U. period [=<1908] , the postal cards represent 26%, covers 60%, and picture postcards 14%. The Italian POWs used the postal cards to write home. Most of the preserved mail from 1896 and a good portion from 1897 are POW mail. They do include a few covers franked with Indian stamps cancelled in Aden that were used by the Italian Red Cross. Such covers are marked with a hand-stamp reading: “Croce Rossa Italiana – Spedizione per Prigioneri d’Africa” .

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/bAMAAOSwwLNhKO6K/s-l1600.jpg: “ETHIOPIA [21 12] 1896 1g BLUE POSTCARD TO GERMANY RARE USED”.

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/3iIAAOSwqzJhIRx0/s-l1600.jpg: “ETHIOPIA 1897 1g BLUE POSTCARD TO FRANCE RARE USED”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/322790471944_/1896-ETIOPIA-ETHIOPIE-ATHIOPIEN-POSTKARTE-gestempelt-in-Harar-1371897.jpg Postmark Harar, 1897.

https://philacollect.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/ethiopia-1901-1-g-stationery-card-from-harar-to-bern/, and http://ift.tt/2m1xQU9: “Ethiopia [24 10] 1901, 1 G. Stationery card, from Harar to Bern / Switzerland with arrival mark. Additionally franked with 15 C. (2) and 10 C. BISECTED Obock-issue, each cancelled with “Harar Postes Françaises” in black. A RARITY, only a few bisected mixed-usages known to Europe (Michel correspondence)”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/786.jpg: “1903 1g stationery card used from Harar (23.3) to France, sent via the French post office in Harar where 2x5c Somali Coast were added”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/164088874863_/Ethiopia-1900-stationary-card-with-10-C-from.jpg. Postmark Harar, 1919 (still in use!). Also with stamp of the French Somali Coast.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/164088875672_/Ethiopia-1898-registered-stationary-card-with-Nr-9.jpg. Postmark Harar, 1899.

8 Alfred Ilg's Independent Ethiopian Posts 1897 onwards, and competing French mail services

"The volume of mail fell sharply in 1898 for two reasons. Fewer foreign missions arrived in Ethiopia while Alfred Ilg informed the French colonial administration in Djibouti that he intended to set up an Independent Ethiopian Posts with offices in Harar and Addis Ababa. The French, intent on increasing their influence in Ethiopia since the port of Djibouti depended on trade with Ethiopia, prohibited the French Capuchin Fathers and the Frenchman in charge at the "Ethiopian Posts" in Addis Ababa from accepting mail from residents in Ethiopia unless they were French. The aim was to make Alfred Ilg's service financially less viable. The sale of Ethiopian stamps came to a halt and most residents in Addis Ababa went without a mail service for several months. Covers sent with the French couriers now appear without Ethiopian stamps but marked on departure with the same Ethiopian date-stamps as in the past. Alfred Ilg turned to his father-in-law in Zurich to recruit Swiss postal clerks to come to Ethiopia to manage his Independent Ethiopian Posts. Otto Gattiker and three Swiss clerks, Mühle, Wüllschleger, and Spitzer arrived in 1899. Sadly, Spitzer died while crossing the desert on their way to Harar. The Independent Ethiopian Posts was organized with Wüllschleger as Postmaster in Harar based in its only telephone office. Henri Mühle was placed in charge in Addis Ababa" (posthornmagazine).

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: [This link is no longer active]: "Henri Mühle, Director of the Ethiopian Posts in 1899-1903".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: left: "Ethiopian Post and Telephone office in Harar"; right: "The mail is about to leave Harar's post office for Addis Ababa carried on donkeys".

The Independent Ethiopian Posts initiated their service on 12 May 1899 with two couriers per month to Harar's telephone office. The mail was carried in bags on the backs of donkeys. The distance of 310 miles was typically completed in ten days. When the mail arrived at Harar's telephone office it

was postmarked in transit and handed over to the French Capuchin Fathers across town at the Catholic Mission. It became known as the French post office.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: " The French post office at the French Catholic Mission in Harar", also: "It had a semiautonomous relationship with the postal authority in Djibouti and began to use a canceller that read "Harar Postes Françaises" in October 1899. Mail posted at the French post office did not require Ethiopian stamps since it only paid for internal transportation".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: " First mail sent through Alfred Ilg's Independent Ethiopian Posts on May 12, 1899".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Earliest recorded use of Harar Postes Françaises canceller - October 28, 1899".

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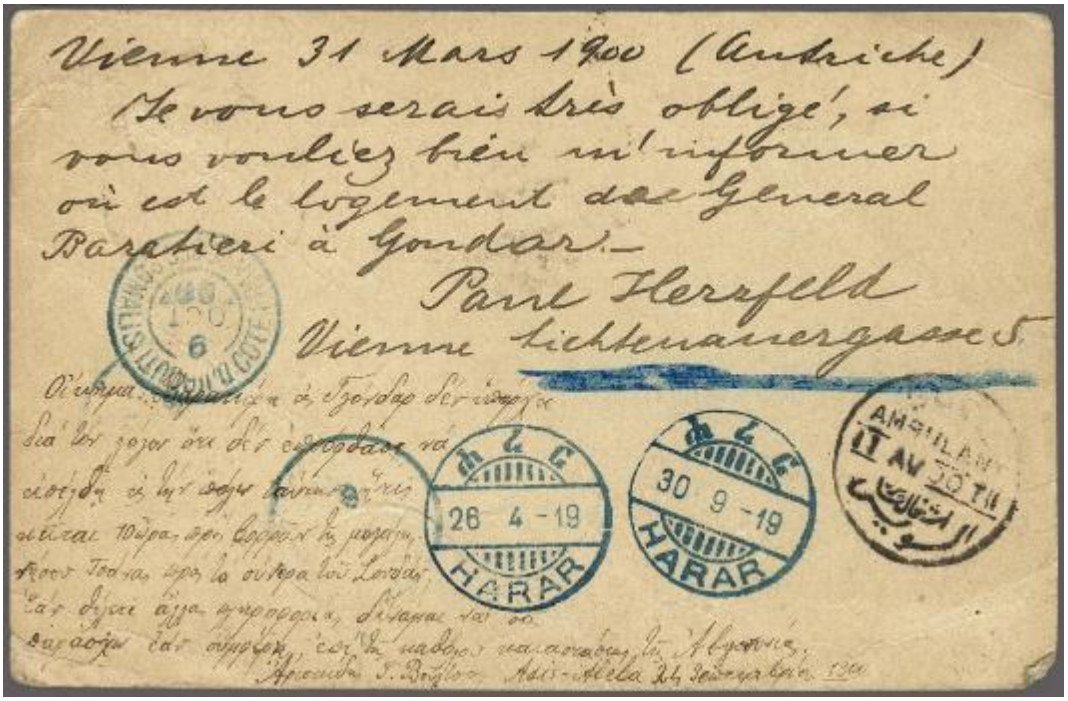


https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/ab87bd99a11ee8016c0092d8a34d8b7036e47264.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1900: Austria 5 kr. rose on buff postal stationery card mailed to Gondar, Abyssinia, with extraordinary range of cancellations prior to the card's eventual return with 'Suez / Ambulant' cds (April 11), bilingual "HARAR" in blue (April 26, May 3 and Sept 30), "ENTOTTO" in blue (May 11 and Sept 24), Djibouti (Oct 9), octagonal 'Ligne N' Paquebot date stamp (Oct 15). Rare and unusual and an extraordinary destination for Austrian Mail of this period. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

9 British mail service 1898-1908

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Ethiopia's borders had not been established at the time of the Battle of Adwa. The area ruled by Menelik consisted primarily of Shoa Province (the highlands around Addis Ababa) and land to the East that incorporated Harar. Recognizing the importance of Ethiopia, Britain and France sent diplomatic missions to the Emperor, in 1897, to establish formal relations. Several French scientific missions arrived to explore the areas to the West that bordered the White Nile territories, while Menelik sent military expeditions to the South to aggressively expand Ethiopia's empire. The British diplomatic mission left Zaila in March 1897. When it passed through Harar, some members bought pre-cancelled Ethiopian postal cards. To support the mission, the British had organized a courier service between Zaila and the mission while it was in Ethiopia. Its members used some of the postal cards to send messages and franked them with Indian stamps that were cancelled in Zaila", and "A treaty was signed with Menelik. The following year, 1898, the British established a British Agency (later Legation) in Addis Ababa. It organized its own mail couriers to Zaila, and, after 1902, to Djibouti. It accepted mail from British civilians and subjects and effectively deprived the Ethiopian Posts of revenue. This mail was franked with Indian stamps, as used in Aden, where they were cancelled. This consular mail did not use Ethiopian stamps and continued to operate into 1908. Little is known about the volume of mail the British couriers carried,

but comparative numbers of recorded mail addressed to different countries suggest it was sizable. To date, only 24 covers originating in Ethiopia and sent through the Ethiopian Posts addressed to England have been recorded. Nine of them announcing new issues or filling orders for Ethiopian stamps were sent by post office officials to Whitfield King & Co., a well-established stamp dealer in Ipswich. It has been estimated that up to 3% of the mail that passed through the Ethiopian Posts has survived. It includes 340 items to Switzerland, 251 to France, 185 to Germany, 125 to Italy, and 81 to Austria. The volume of mail addressed to England and sent through the legation was comparatively similar. However, it has not been clearly identified as having originated in Ethiopia. The Italian legation later partnered with the British and some Italians used this postal alternative. Their mail was also franked with Indian stamps..” (posthornmagazine; link is no longer active).

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “Cover addressed by J.A. Michel to England in 1907 franked with Dagmawi stamps and 50c Port-Said stamp that was cancelled at the French post office in Dire Dawa”.

Figg. 19a and 19b: Postal card franked with Indian stamps sent through Zaila and Aden. Card sent by Carlos Erlanger; a naturalist who described several new species from Ethiopia.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Postal card franked with Indian stamps sent through Zaila and Aden. Card sent by Carlos Erlanger; a naturalist who described several new species from Ethiopia".

"The British and French had continued to compete for influence in Ethiopia. It appears the British had convinced Mühle to direct the outgoing mail through Harar to Zaila, rather than Djibouti, since a large portion of the recorded mail from 1900 is franked with Indian stamps. When the newspaper in Djibouti reported on the completion of the railway in Dire Dawa in December 1902, it wrote that the company had contracted with the Posts to transport mail. The reporter opined that there was no longer any need for customers of the Ethiopian Posts to have the mail sent through Zaila since the railway reduced the delivery time by several days. The comment indirectly confirms that the British had succeeded in temporarily thwarting the French in their efforts to profit from selling stamps in Ethiopia. Mail franked with stamps from India now become rare in the record". (Posthornmagazine).

10 The series of 1901: Issues of 1894 Handstamped "Ethiopia" in Violet (1 July) and in Blue (15 October).

1/4G, 1/2G, 1G, 2G, 4G, 8G, 16G (2x)

Essays

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1901/1901_rp001.htm (with permission by Daryl Reiber); “Ethiopie Overprint Essay in Black: 15.5 X 3.5 mm. Created by First Postmaster of Addis Ababa, Henri Mühle”. Next to this “Ethiopie OP: Original Type I”, there are also: Ethiopie OP: Original Type II, Ethiopie OP: Reprint Type I, Ethiopie Reprint Type II, Ethiopie Reprint Type III, Ethiopie Reprint Type IV, Ethiopie Reprint Type V, Ethiopie Reprint Type VI, Ethiopie Fake Type I, Ethiopie Fake Type II, Ethiopie Fake Type III, Ethiopie Fake Type IV, Ethiopie Fake Type V, Fournier Type I, Fournier Type II”. Finally there was the “… Ethiopie Overprint in Blue”.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

https://i.colnect.net/f/7638/928/Menelik_II_violet_Ethiopie_overprint.jpg

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/284513936921_/Ethiopia-1901-Ethiopie-1g-with-violet-h-s-Mint.jpg

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/283680987005_/Ethiopia-1901-Ethiopie-2g-violet-h-s-MM.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/dxQAAOSwtNFdIIL6/s-l1600.jpg (Postmark Harar)

Postmarks: Adis Abeba and Harar)

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/284641933520_/Ethiopia-1901-Ethiopie-complete-set-VFU.jpg

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/284406614708_/Ethiopia-1901-Ethiopie-original-overprint-Mint.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/ikUAAOSwcbRiD1XA/s-l300.jpg

https://storage.googleapis.com/hipstamp/p/51fe97fd9a93523f98a260e13de6f6e5-300.jpg (Postmark Adis Abeba)

http://stampdata.com/files/thumbs/zj/100px-WSA-Ethiopia-Postage-1901-05.jpg-crop-110x126at422-354.jpg

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/278.jpg: “1901 handstamped in violet and in blue "Ethiopie", two complete sets, first 1/4g used”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/279.jpg: “1901 "Ethiopie" violet overprints, complete set of seven, canceled by Harar 1.10.01 cds on back of 1895 Menelik II 1g postal stationery card”. Postmark Harar.

Postmarks Harar and Adis Abeba

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “Cover to Italy franked with strip of Ethiopie overprinted stamps in February 1902”. And “the Independent Ethiopian Posts soon had an obstacle to overcome since its finances were shaky. The volume of mail remained low, although there was income from transporting packages, newspapers from abroad, and gold exported from the gold mines in Wallaga in the western part of the country. In 1900, Ethiopian stamps were sold by Arthur Maury deeply discounted at the Universal Exhibition in Paris. Some of them found their way to Ethiopia where they were used to frank mail. It deprived the Ethiopian Posts of income from selling stamps. The financial situation had become critical in mid-1901. Henri Mühle announced that the Posts would close - a decision he rescinded shortly thereafter. He had found a solution. Mühle hand-overprinted the stamps of 1895 with the word “Ethiopie” in violet. He then circulated a hand-written notice to the 41 regular customers in Addis Ababa announcing that as of 18 July 1901 only stamps with this overprint would be valid for postage. In addition to saving the Posts, it had two important consequences:

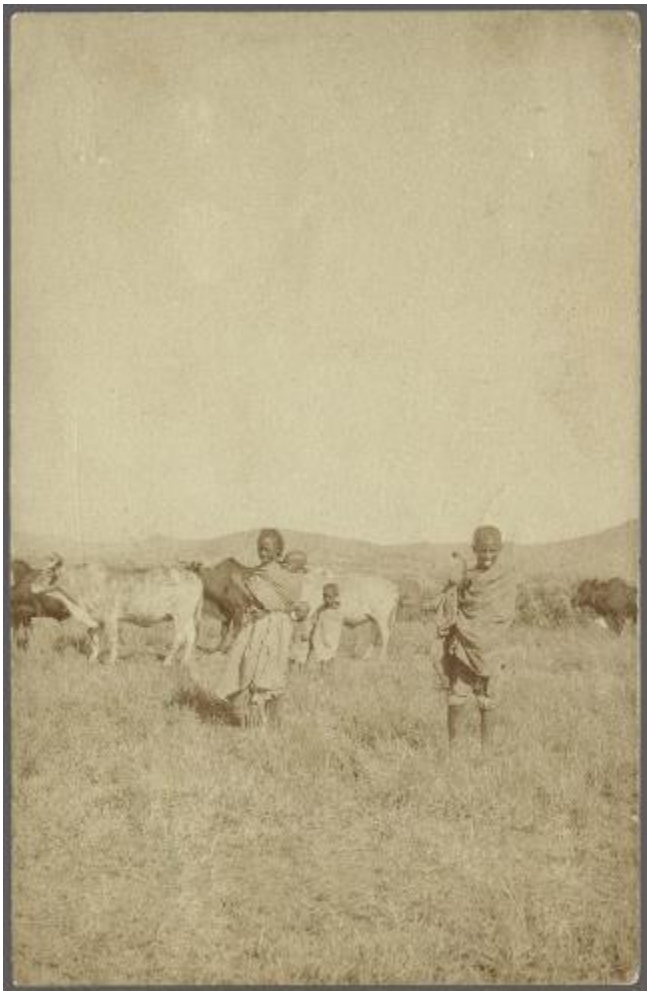
1. Since “Ethiopie” was easy to forge, the Posts initiated a policy of annually releasing a new overprint – a process that was maintained into 1908.

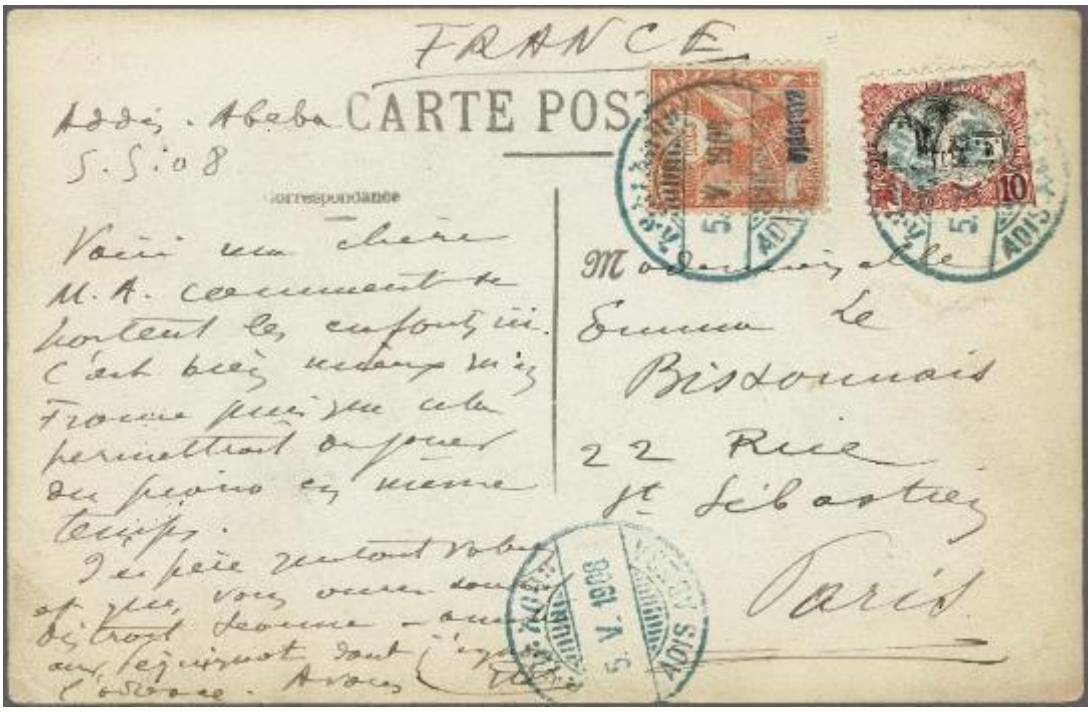
2. Collectors could not buy the overprinted stamps from Maury in Paris; dealers and collectors now had to buy them from the Ethiopian Posts. It became financially beneficial since the value of a set was 31 ¾ guerches. The 8 and 16-guerches stamps that were seldom used for postage were now sold in “collections,” mint or CTO, that included all seven values. This added revenue was important since postage for a regular letter was 2 guerches and ½ guerche for a card. Covers with complete sets

begin to appear in the philatelic record in 1901. Today, close to 10% of the recorded mail from 1895-1908 can be classified as philatelic. Since the two highest values were rarely used, covers with complete sets are often the only recorded usage of these high-value stamps". (Posthornmagazine).

Postmarks Adis Abeba and Harar

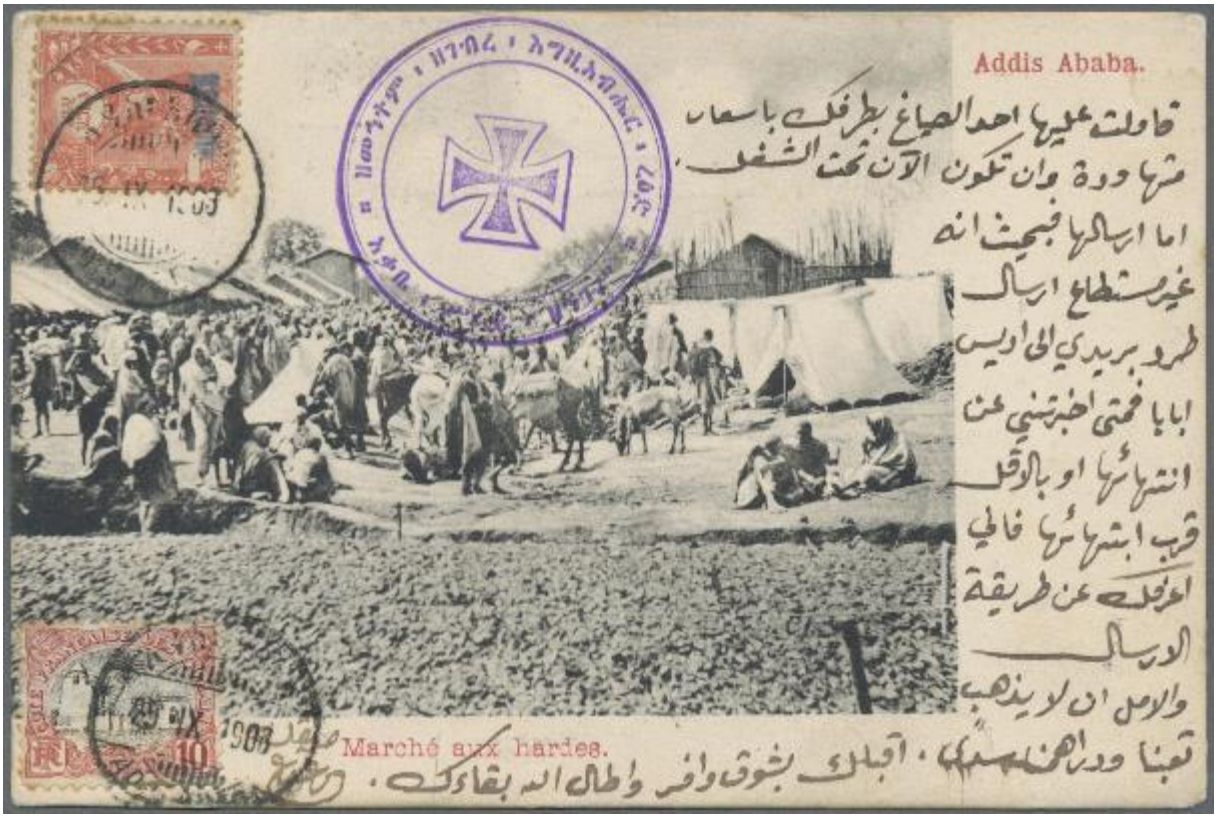
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/85b762bbd5eceb4366a350735fe005d48b596735.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1901 (July 1): 'Ethiopie' in violet on 1 g. blue in a horizontal pair, used on 1901 cover to Zurich, Switzerland cancelled by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (Nov 11), with bilingual "HARAR" datestamp of transit in blue (Nov 21) at left; in combination with Somali Coast 1894 10 c. green & lilac-brown, 15 c. green & violet and 50 c. rose & blue (Ceres 10+11+15) tied by Djibouti datestamps (Nov 29) to reverse in blue. Zurich arrival above (Dec 16). Slight trim to reverse of envelope but most attractive. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

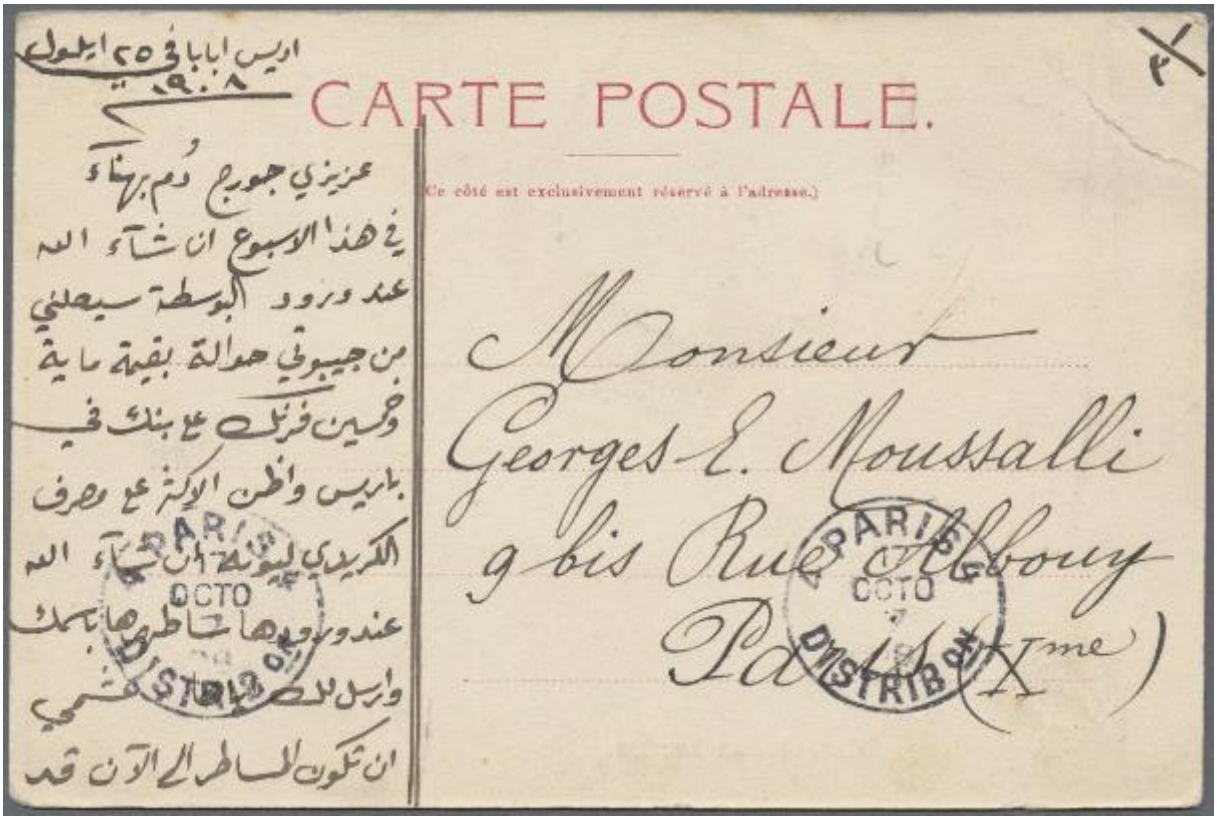




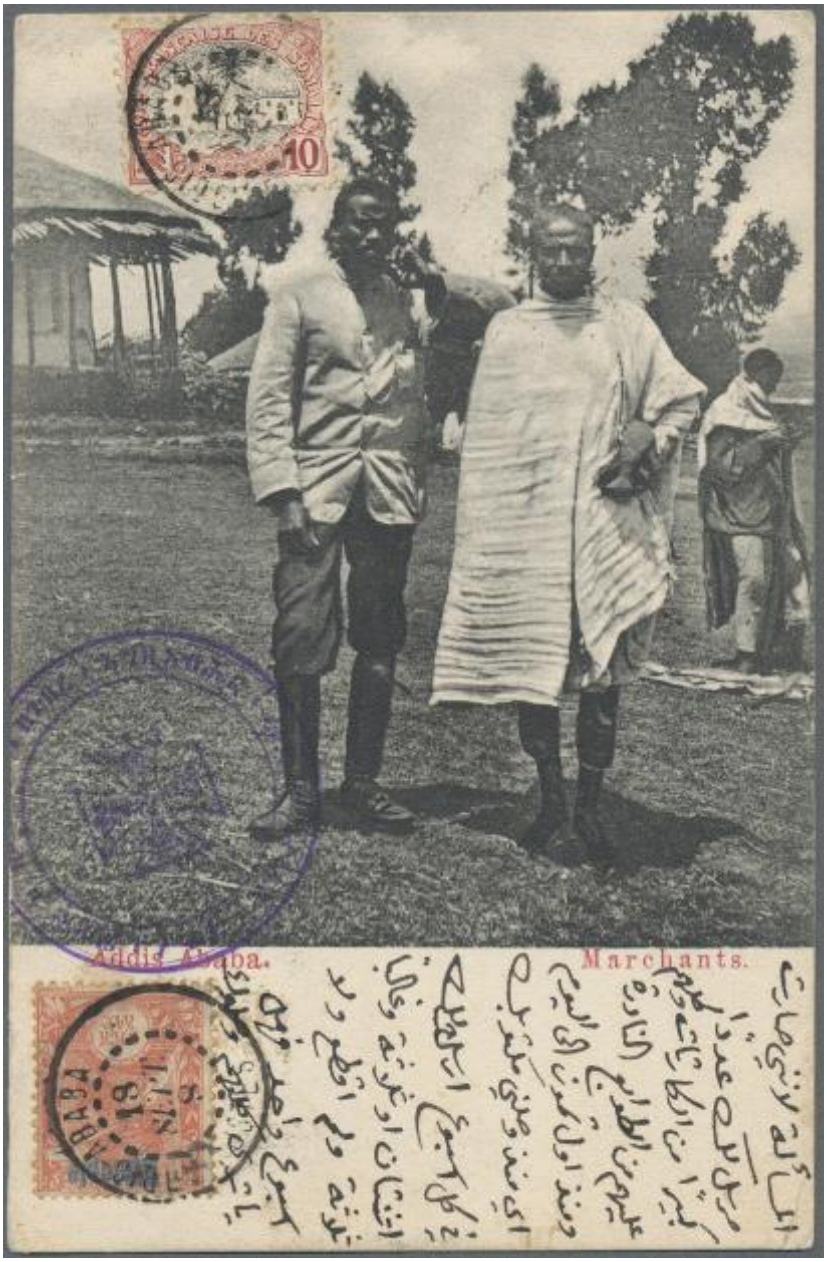
Postmark Adis Abeba

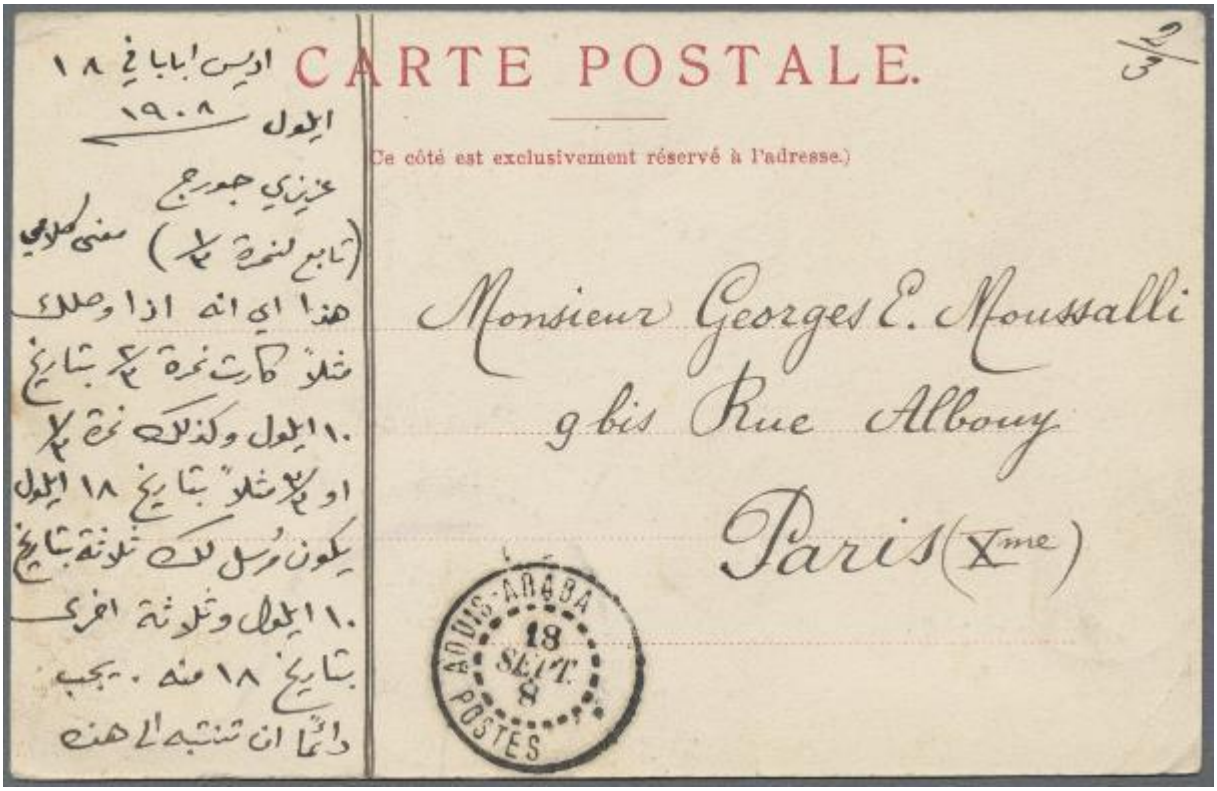
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/5697d742d1e14dc3cf1b1c293f7144989a783792.jpg (Corinphila Auction): “1901 (Oct 15): 'Ethiopie' in blue on ½ g. salmon used on postcard to Paris tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in blue (May 5, 1908), in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine similarly tied at Addis Abeba alongside in blue. Fine real photo card of Mother, children and herd of cows in sepia. Scarce - during the re-organisation of the Private Posts, these contentious stamps were re-issued. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».





https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09081/S52/11077.jpg (Christoph Gärtner 52nd Auction): « Äthiopien. 1908. Fotokarte 'Addis Ababa - Marché aux hardes' mit äthiopischer und Somaliküsten-Frankatur nach Paris. Eine Marke beschädigt/Eckbug ».


Marchants.
Addis Ababa.



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09081/S52/11075.jpg (Christoph Gärtner 52nd Auction): «Äthiopien. 1908. Fotokarte 'Addis Ababa - Marchants' mit äthiopischer und Somaliküsten-Frankatur nach Paris“.

11 Postal stationery 1901

Postmarks Adis Abeba and Harar

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/844a4908a9d3e80a1beaf34c53d8fd5f696661c4.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1901: 'Ethiopie' in violet on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 6) used to Basel, Switzerland cancelled by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (Dec 11), with bilingual "HARAR" datestamp of transit in blue (Dec 20) at right, in combination with Somali Coast 1894 10 c. green & lilac-brown (Ceres 19) cancelled on arrival in Basel (Jan 21, 1902). Corner fault to the card (written by J.A. Michel), but a rare genuine in-period usage of same".

12 1901: new developments in the Ethiopian post office

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "In 1901 a new development took place resulting in an unexpected monumental impact on the Ethiopian Posts; Wüllschleger, Harar's Postmaster, committed suicide. To replace him, Alfred Ilg recruited a Swiss, Jean-Adolph Michel, 21 years old, who arrived in Harar in October 1901, where he sent a postal card to his brother Fritz, an employee of the Swiss telegraph".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf : "Jean-Adolph Michel in 1918", and: "The post office in Addis Ababa where Henri Mühle was Director of Posts.".

Postmarks Harar

"October 24, 1901 postal card sent by Michel franked with a diagonally bisected Obock stamp".

“Michel was an enterprising person. He understood that philatelists appreciated unusual items as evidenced by his first card. When he passed through Djibouti, he had found that the Djibouti post office had encountered “shortages” of various values and had begun to use vertically divided stamps. Inspired, and on his own initiative, Michel divided stamps diagonally and sent several cards franked with them after he had arrived in Addis Ababa, where he began working under Mühle at the post office in Addis Ababa. Michel was then transferred to Harar as Postmaster at the Ethiopian post and telephone office as of March 1902. Due to shortages of small values in Djibouti, the colonial administration had decided to release stamps from its stock of Obock stamps it had held after Obock’s post office had been closed. Obock stamps of both the “warrior” and “group type” were sent to Ethiopia and began to appear on the outgoing mail in 1901. Just before Michel arrived back in Harar, we find the earliest recorded picture postcard mailed in Ethiopia.

Fig. 24a and 24b: January 14, 1902; earliest recorded picture post card sent from Ethiopia showing the train between Djibouti and Dire Dawa.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “January 14, 1902; earliest recorded picture post card sent from Ethiopia showing the train between Djibouti and Dire Dawa”, and “Written by a Belgian traveler, it was franked with bisected Obock stamps (one of only three items from Ethiopia with these vertically bisected stamps). Fittingly, the picture side shows the train that had begun to transport mail between Djibouti and the rail-head as the construction progressed”.

13 The series of 1 April 1902: Issues of 1894 "Bosta" Overprinted in Violet or Black, with Ethiopian characters

"Before Michel left for Harar, he had helped create the second hand-overprint consisting of three Amharic letters that read "Bosta" (for Post). It was struck with violet ink and was issued on 1 April 1902. Michel had found an old (and the first) printing-press brought to Ethiopia by the Frenchman, Mondon-Vidhaillet, who was a linguist and who had managed the embryonic Ethiopian Posts in Addis Ababa in 1895-1898. Ever resourceful, Michel was also likely responsible for re-issuing the Ethiopie overprint struck with blue ink, in 1902, to be sold to collectors only – an idea that carried over to "Bosta," which was re-issued in black". https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf [Link not active]

1/4G, 1/2G, 1G, 2G, 4G, 8G, 16G

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1902/1902_rp001.htm (with permission by Daryl Reiber): 1 April 1902: Bosta Overprint; Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France; Overprint".

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/2BgAAOSwNDFbXJVL/s-l400.jpg (2x)

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09391/S334/7.jpg (Georg Bühler 334th Auction).

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/282.jpg: “1902 "Bosta" (Post) overprint doubled, three different, l.h., fine-v.f., ex-Sciaky”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/133586618953_/ETHIOPIA-1902-2g-BROWN-BOSTA-POST-VIOLET-HANDSTAMP.jpg Postmark Harar.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/f382f9bc582af751e42ce14c9bde454e2e4a8bb5.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1902 (April 1): Bosta in violet on 1 g. blue, a single example on registered cover to the 'Circus Schumann' in Colmar and readdressed to Prague, tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp (April 6 [1902]) in blue, transferred with "HARAR / NPOSTES

FRANÇAISES" cds in black, reverse with Obock 1894 15 c. blue & rose (2) and 20 c. orange & brown-violet (Ceres 52+53) tied in Djibouti (April 12) in blue. Kolmar cds (April 27) and Prag arrival cds of the following day adjacent. Edge wear to envelope and faults but a scarce destination and the earliest recorded use of the 'Bosta' issue. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

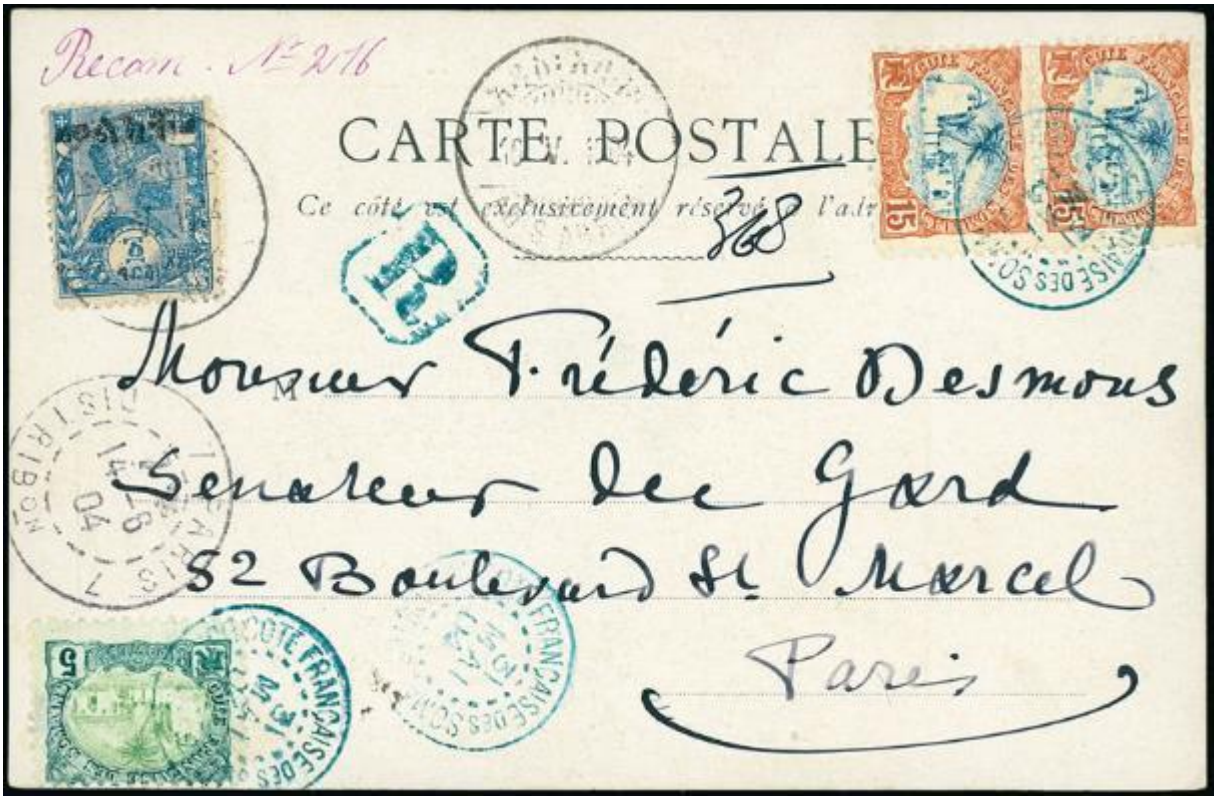
https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1705.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): “"Combination with stamps from OBOCK" : [7 6] 1902 ETHIOPIA 1/4g(x2) + 1/2g canc. HARAR + OBOCK 5c + verso SOMALI COAST 5c + 10c + OBOCK 10c + 20c canc. DJIBOUTI on envelope (fault) to SWITZERLAND. Rare combination with stamps from OBOCK. Ex. KAUPPINEN Collection”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1707.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "[6 12] 1902 ETHIOPIA 1g(x2) canc. ADIS-ABEBA + LIGNE N PAQ FR N°6 + verso SOMALI COAST 25c canc. DJIBOUTI on envelope (fault) to madame ILG (femme du conseiller de L' EMPEREUR) at ZURICH (SWITZERLAND). Scarce. J.F BRUN Certificate".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/787.jpg: “1903 cover from Harar (14.3) to France, franked with set of "Bosta" handstamps, sent via Djibouti where 15c Somali Coast was added to pay for external postage, canc. 30 March 03, fine”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/281.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1902 "Bosta" (Post) overprint, 1/4g, 1/2g and 1g Menelik adhesives, tied by Addis Ababa 6.11.1903 cds on small cover addressed to Germany”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/788.jpg: "[2 V] 1904 coverfront from Adis Abeba to Italy, franked with three stamps with "Bosta" handstamp, used in combination with stamps of British Somaliland (three, two uncancelled), sent via Djibouti where stamps of Somali Coast were added to pay for external postage".



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8520.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1904 (May 16) p.p.c. registered to France, franked by 1902 overprint in black 1g. blue, tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s., for internal postage, additionally franked by French Somali 5c. and 15c. (2) boxed ''R'' in blue and manuscript ''Recon No. 2176''. The card is addressed to Mr. Frederick Desmous, Senator for the Gard and was sent and signed by Hugues Le Roux, the explorer who sought the source of the Blue Nile. The card shows Le Roux presenting the Emperor Menelik with a map of the Blue Nile”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/280.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1902 "Bosta" (Post), three sets of seven, overprinted in violet, black and in blue, couple of usual flaws, mostly fine” [only last value given].

14 Postal Stationery with ‘Bosta’

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/c7e49b3da2fc01b54c8c247c559ee227ab1fb063.jpg (Corinphila Auction): “1902: Bosta overprint in blackish-blue on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 6a), written by H. Muhle to F. Michel in Berne, Switzerland cancelled by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" cds in black (Nov 27) with "HARAR" transit datestamp (Dec 8, 1902) in blue. Somali Coast 1902 5 c. pale green & green pair (Ceres 40) below tied by Djibouti cds (Dec 15). 'La Reunion a Marseille / LV No. 2' Paquebot in black (Dec 15) and Bern arrival (Dec 28) all on obverse. A most attractive and scarce usage“.

15 The series of 1 January 1903: Issues of 1894 Overprinted in Bluish Black with ‘Malekt’, or ‘Melekt’ overprint

“A third hand-overprint “Melekt” (“message”), struck with black ink utilizing Amharic type-font Michel had found, was issued on 15 April 1903. As with Bosta it invalidated the earlier issues. However, in practice both Ethiopie and Bosta were accepted as postage. Mühle, who had become Director of the Ethiopia Posts and had earned the praise of Alfred Ilg for his diligent work, fell ill. He died of smallpox in July 1903 and was buried in Addis Ababa. A Greek telegraphist, Aristide Voultzos, who had worked with Mühle, succeeded him in Addis Ababa. Although, Ilg was unhappy with Michel, he was appointed Director of “Postes et Télégraphes Ethiopiens” in October 1904. Travelers to Addis Ababa would pass through Harar and most of them met Michel since he was one of few Europeans living there”. https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1903/1903_rp001.htm: “Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France ».

1/4G, 1/2G, 1G, 2G, 4G, 8G, 16G

¼G, ½G: https://i.colnect.net/f/3164/950/Menelik_II_Malekt_black_overprint.jpg

1G, 4G : http://stampdata.com/stamp.php?id=39303 (from Colnect)

2G: https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/hzsAAOSwPA5hvJQJ/s-l300.jpg

8G : https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

16G: http://stampdata.com/stamp.php?id=39307 (from World Stamp Album)

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/283.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1903 "Malekt" (message), two complete sets of seven, canceled on two pieces”. Postmarks Adis Abeba.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/806e724f88840549e0c6b676376f955f9816bb54.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1903 (Jan 1): Malekt optd. in black on ¼ g. green (4) and ½ g. salmon (2) used on registered 1903 cover to Whitfield King in Ipswich, all tied by bilngual

"ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (May 11). Franked on obverse and reverse with Somali Coast 1902 5 c. pale green & green (3), 1894 orange-brown & green (5) and Obock 1894 5 c. green & brown (2) all cancelled by Djibouti cds's in blue (June 3). Octagonal 'Ligne N' Paquebot and Ipswich arrival (June 17). A most attractive correctly rated 'three country' franking".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/785.jpg: "1903 1/4g postal stationery card with Malekt overprint, registered to Germany, additionally franked with Obock 20c brown orange and then Somali Coast 5c green and 10c red, card tied by blue Harar cds, rest tied by blue "Cote Francaise de Somalis Djibouti" cds, blue "R" hs on front, Berlin arrival on reverse, corner crease, otherwise fine and colorful combination franking". Postmark Harar.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/284.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1903 "Malekt" (message) handstamps, complete set of seven, tied by Addis Ababa (incorrect date 6.IX.1902 instead of 1903) and used in combination with appropriate Somali Coast stamps, on registered philatelic cover sent via Djibouti and Harar to Germany, with Munich arrival (3 October) pmk on back, v.f.”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/285.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1903 "Malekt" 1g blue, tied by Addis Ababa (10.1.04) pmk and used in combination with appropriate Somali Coast

stamps, on registered picture postcard, sent via Harar and Djibouti to Milan, with Messina (14.2.04) arrival pmk on front of the card, fine and scarce registered card".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/287.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1903 "Malekt" 2g brown, tied by Addis Ababa (28.1.04) pmk, used in combination with appropriate Somali Coast stamps on cover sent via Harar, Djibouti and Aden to Italy, with Monterotondo arrival (19 Feb), fine cover, ex-Boksenbom".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/1c511f77d322f13a7b5842b13d851c345c7053a8.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1903 (Jan 1): Malekt 2 g. deep brown used on 1903 cover to Grosseto, Italy tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (April 15); in combination with Somali Coast 1894 10 c. green & lilac-brown and 15 c. blue & rose tied by Djibouti cds's (May 2). Reverse with "HARAR" transit in blue (April 28) and arrival cds. Some aging but scarce ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/286.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1903 "Malekt" 1g blue, tied by Addis Ababa (May 1904) pmk and used in combination with appropriate Somali Coast stamps, on registered picture postcard (Hugues Le Roux presenting Map of the Blue Nile to Emperor Menelik), sent via Harar and Djibouti to Paris, fine and attractive card (Hugues Le Roux was the stage name of Robert Charles Henri Le Roux (1860-1925), a French writer and journalist who wrote primarily about the French colonies and travel)”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1708.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "[7 V] 1904 ETHIOPIA 1g canc. ADIS-ABEBA + SOMALI COAST 10c + 25c canc. DJIBOUTI on REGISTERED card to FRANCE. Ex. KAUPPINEN Collection".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf Postmark Addis Ababa, Sept. 1904.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/a2359de20889af8cc21308abb1600634032e15d8.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1903 (Jan 1): Malekt optd. in black ½ g. salmon (surcharge variety with two dots at beginning of overprint) used on Dec 23 1905 postcard from Awara Melka to Graz, Austria, tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp in blue (Dec 31), in combination

with Somali Coast 1902 15 c. blue & yellow-brown (Ceres 42) tied by Djibouti cds (Jan 2, 1906) in black. A fine usage with card of 'Djibouti, Indigenous Village'. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

16 Postal stationery of 1903, with 'Malekt' overprint

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1704.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "[20 VII] 1903 ETHIOPIA P./Stat 1/2g + 1/4g (x2) canc. ADIS-ABEBA + SOMALI COAST 5c (x2) canc. DJIBOUTI to LYON (FRANCE). J.F BRUN Certificate [1903 issue]". Postmarks Adis Abeba and Harar.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/0582d4c3a800b259acc5b654e62e557f674b481f.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1903: Malekt in black on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 6d), used to Berlin cancelled by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (March 26), in

combination with Somali Coast 1902 5 c. pale green & green (Ceres 40) tied by Djibouti cds's (April 12). Berlin arrival (April 27) also on obverse of a scarce card used, very fine

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/164088874822_/Ethiopia-1902-registered-stationary-card-with-from-HARAR.jpg . Postmark Harar, 18 4 1903.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/3a29e7bf56d384d7ef20f2b00e043b8575f4f9c3.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1902: Bosta overprint in black on 1 g. blue postal

stationery card (H&G 6d), used to France cancelled by faint "Adis Abeba" cds (June 17, 1904) in black, in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine tied by Djibouti cds in blue (July 12). Enghien Les Bains arrival cds (July 27). A scarce card - message states "Expedition in a hopeless muddle, unable to proceed beyond place reached (Addis) and consequently returning soon, probably in bits..".”.

17 The series of 1 December 1903: Issues of 1894 Overprinted in Blue (‘Malekathe’ overprint)

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1904/1904_rp001.htm: “Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France ».

1/4G, 1/2G, 1G, 2G, 4G, 8G, 16G

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09391/S334/6.jpg (Georg Bühler 334th Auction).

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/288.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1904 "Malekathe" (message) unissued, handstamped in bluish violet, complete set of seven”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/289.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1904 "Malekathe" (message) unissued, handstamped in black, complete set of seven”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/290.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1904 "Malekathe" (message) unissued, handstamped in violet, complete set of seven”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/291.jpg: “1904 "Malekathe" (message) unissued, handstamped in blue, complete set of seven”.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/133586583226_/ETHIOPIA-1904-2g-BROWN-MALEKATHE-BLUE-HANDSTAMP-HARAR.jpg. Postmark Harar, 1904.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/844.jpg: “1906 registered cover to Hamburg, franked with the complete set of seven "Malekathe" handstamps in blue, tied by Harar 18.2.06 pmks, sent via Djibouti where Somali Coast 10c and 20c (2) were added, cancelled 20.6.06, fine and scarce cover”. Postmarks Harar.

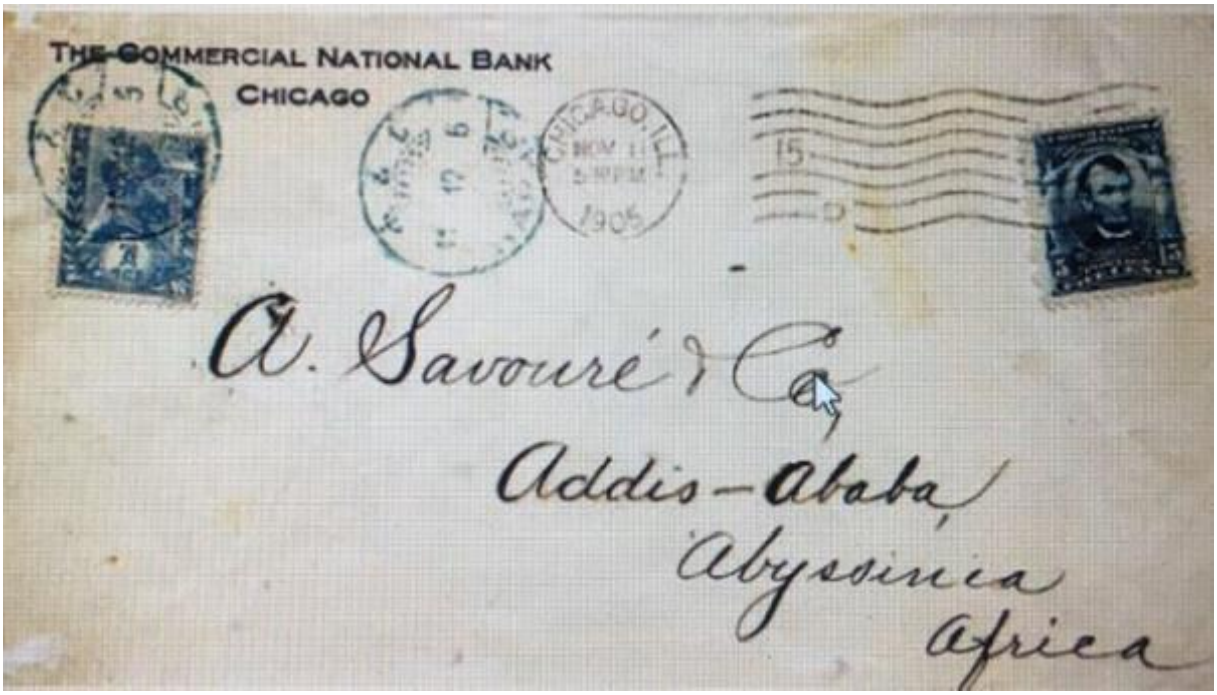
18 1903-1908: Americans in Ethiopia

“By 1903, America had become Ethiopia’s largest trading partner importing coffee and hides while exporting cheap cotton-cloth. However, there were no Americans in Ethiopia. Robert P. Skinner, America’s consul in Marseilles, was tasked by the U.S. government to lead a mission to Menelik in 1903 to negotiate a commercial treaty. The mission, which included 30 marines, met Michel and obtained important information about the route to Addis Ababa. Michel is mentioned in Skinner’s book “Abyssinia of To-day.” It also includes photos taken by Michel. A treaty was agreed with Menelik and the mission returned to the United States. After the treaty had been ratified by Congress, it had to be returned to Menelik. A Mr. Loomis in the State Department was picked to lead the second American mission. It included William H. Ellis, who had independently visited Ethiopia in 1903. While sailing to England, Loomis fell overboard and drowned. Ellis was asked to head the mission. Ellis was rich, well connected socially and a flamboyant character and a well-known Wall Street financier with offices at 23 Wall Street next to J.P. Morgan’s Bank. What few knew was that Ellis had been born a slave in Texas; he had left the small town in which he lived and set up a business and, because of his light-hued skin, was able to pass himself off as Mexican. Accepted as a white person, he was able to build his fortune. William H. Ellis had an audience with Menelik on 2 August 1904 as he related in a letter that he sent to Dudley Carter c/o Leslie Carter, America’s most famous actress on Broadway at the time. Ironically, Menelik was the largest slave-owner in Ethiopia. However, it is fitting that America’s first treaty with Ethiopia was delivered by an African-American. Unfortunately, William H. Ellis fell on hard times. He died penniless in Mexico City, where he was buried”. (Posthornmagazine)

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “William H. Ellis who delivered the first commercial treaty between the United States and Ethiopia in August 1904”.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "September 5, 1904. Cover sent by William H. Ellis reporting the delivery of the Treaty; one of 15 recorded covers addressed to the United States in 1895-1908". Postmark Adis Abeba.



https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "The only recorded incoming cover from the United States to Addis Ababa in 1895-1908 with a 1905 Ethiopian postage due paying the inland postage in Harar", as well as "...is the only recorded incoming cover from the United States to Addis Ababa in the pre-U.P.U. period. Franked with a 5c Lincoln stamp in Chicago, it received a 1-guerche postage due in Harar one month later. To date, only 15 outgoing covers addressed to the United States in 1895-1908 have been recorded".

Also: "When an American Legation was established in Addis Ababa, in 1908, it set up its own couriers to Djibouti, where the mail was transferred to the Binger, a small boat that took the mail to Aden whence it entered the U.P.U. mail-stream franked with Indian stamps. In 1911, the American Vice-Consul, Guy Love, wrote to his mother in Coshocton, Ohio, that the consular service would cease on 13 October 1911. All his mail thereafter was franked with Ethiopian stamps and was handled by the Ethiopian Posts. Guy Love suddenly died in 1913 just after he had sent a letter to his mother saying he would return home" (Posthornmagazine; link no longer active).

19 1904: Michel as director of the Independent Ethiopian Post, and series of 1 January 1905

"Appointed Director of the Ethiopian Posts in October 1904, Jean-Adolph Michel went on the offensive. He immediately created a new hand-overprint, but Ilg did not permit him to put it in circulation. A new issue had been planned for 1905. However, it did not stop Michel from selling the stamps to collectors and making more of them in the years that followed. This subordination would have consequences for the future of Ethiopia's postal history and philately.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the French gold franc and the Ethiopian silver thaler had unbalanced the ratio of 25 centimes = 1 guerche. Michel had obtained a printing set meant for children and used it to handstamp the 1895 stamps with new values: 05, 10, 20 up to 3.60 to re-denominate the stamps so that 25 centimes = 20 Ethiopian centimes, or 1 guerche. The stamps were issued 1 January 1905. Michel had imported a bicycle, possibly the first in Ethiopia, and a camera. He went to work producing the first series of picture post cards with scenes from Ethiopia: Harar and its surroundings. The cards went on sale in January 1905" (Posthornmagazine).

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Postcard produced by Michel; "Panorama of Harar" franked with an Ethiopian 10c Numerals stamp and a 10c Somali Coast stamp". Postmark Harar.

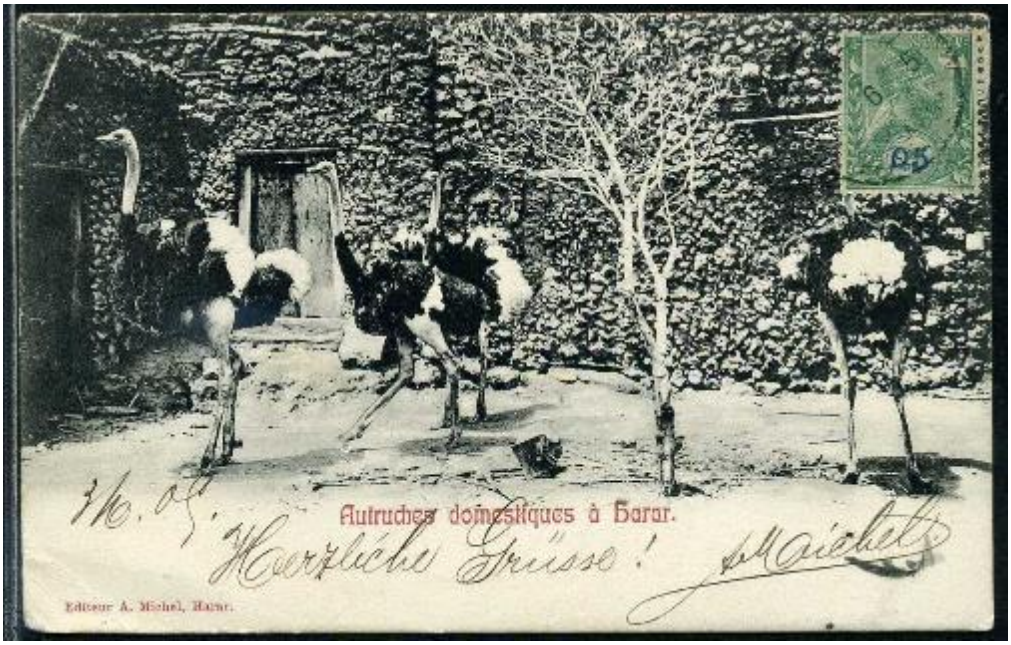
"In subsequent years he produced several other series including one with scenes from Addis Ababa. These cards are now an important visual historical record. In the first quarter of 1905, large German and Austrian missions passed through Harar and they bought many of Michel's postcards that they sent to Europe. Their interest in stamps inspired Michel to claim a shortage of small values had emerged that "forced" him to create provisionals. He added "05" to a few hundred of the retired Ethiopie, Bosta and Melekt stamps. He also bisected the ½-guerche stamp and added "5 c/m." To ensure these "Harar Provisionals" were accepted by philatelists, Michel wrote to Bolling, a French dealer, explaining the reason for the provisionals. Only the bisected stamps ended up being used in the mails. The other "Harar Provisionals" have only been recorded on mail Michel sent to his brother, who was his agent for selling stamps in Europe. Michel introduced an important change in April 1905: a requirement that the addressees of incoming mail pay inland postage. To collect these payments, Michel created postage due stamps. The 1895 stamps were hand-stamped with two versions of a large "T". Used only briefly, those issue were followed by stamps overprinted "Taxé à Percevoir. They were used into 1907. Surviving incoming mail from 1895-1909 is rare. Less than 80 items have been recorded to date. Among them are 40 covers and cards that have one or more of Michel's postage dues to indicate that the internal postage had been paid" (Posthornmagazine).

1 January 1905: Issues of 1894 Surcharged in French Currency:

05/¼(C)/G (green); 10/½(C)/G (salmon); 20/1(C)/G (blue); 40/2(C)/G (dark brown); 80/4(C)/G (purple brown); 1.60/8(Fr)/G (lilac); 3.20/16(Fr)/G (black).

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/aYwAAOSwKMhg6IAw/s-l400.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1905, New currency overprint in violet, complete set, Mint”.

https://www.kelleherauctions.com : “ETHIOPIA - 1905 violet surcharge 1.60 on 8g mauve (as SG 48A, Scott 48), SURCHARGE INVERTED, never hinged mint, expertized A. Brun”.



https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/313121717981_/%C3%84thiopien-AK-Harar-Basel-1905.jpg. 1905

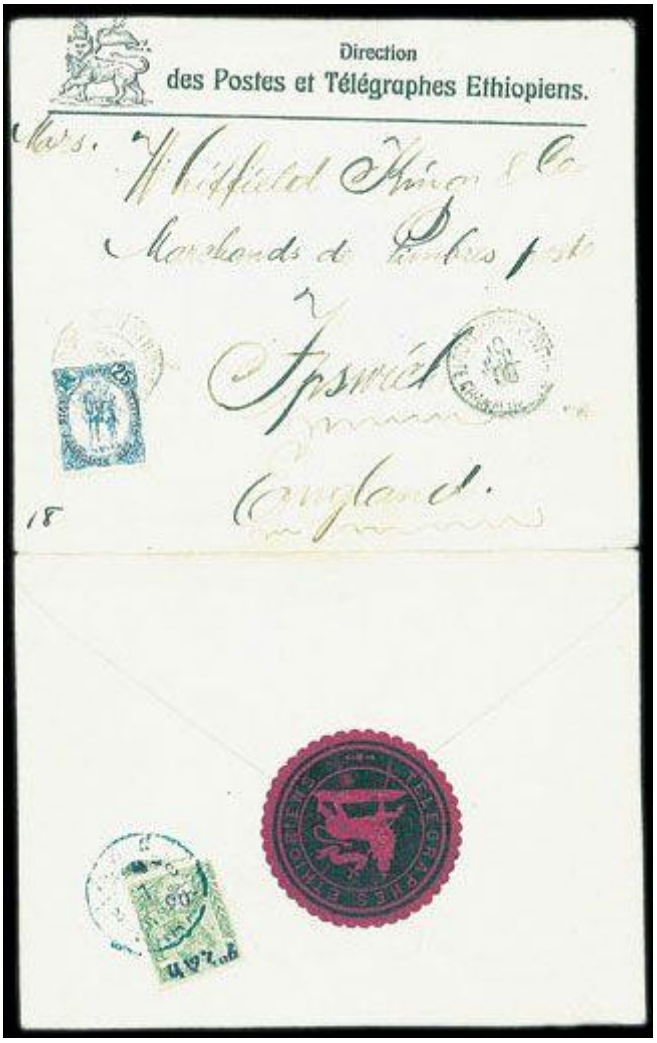
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/292.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1905 (9 Feb) picture postcard (Emperor Menelik and his court) franked with "05" on 1/4g, canceled Harar, sent via Djibouti where Somali Coast adhesive was added, addressed to Austria, with Trieste transit and Pola arrival pmks, v.f., ex-Boksenbom”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1711.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1905 ETHIOPIA 05 on 1/4g (scarce) canc. HARAR + SOMALI COAST 10c canc. DJIBOUTI on card to AUSTRIA".

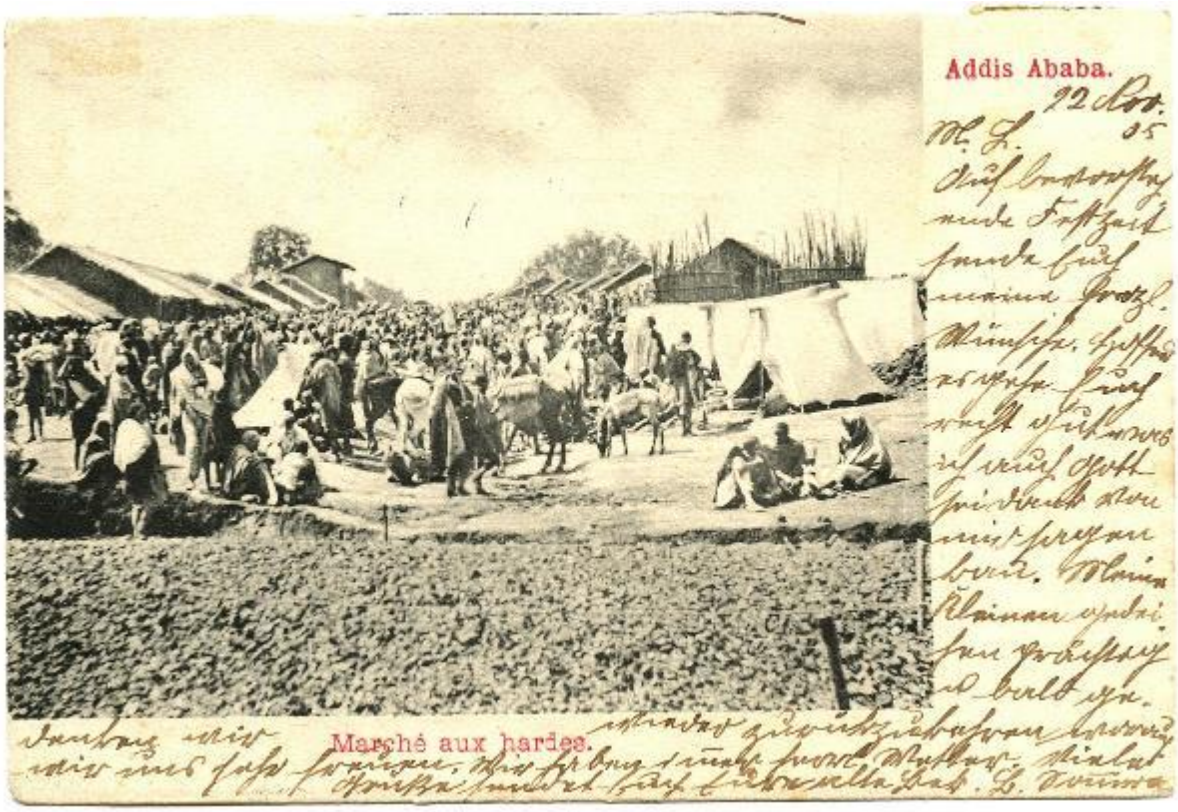
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/9cd498c369e15b0628268c062dd0bcdc1ab8a556.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905 (Jan 1): '05' in violet on ¼ g. green, a single example mailed underpaid by Postmaster J.A. Michel in Harar (cachet at right), to the Palace at Monaco tied by bilingual "HARAR" date-stamp in blue (Dec 24, 1905), in combination with Somali Coast 1903 25 c. black & blue (Ceres 60) tied by Djibouti cds (Dec 26). Reverse with Monaco arrival date-stamps (Jan 7, 1906). File fold but believed to be the earliest and only letter torn Monaco recorded in the classic period of 1894-1910. Cert. APS (2010) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/76e9f41a7d5a5ec600e4a42a8d31ee925e528779.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905 (Jan 1): '05' in blue on ¼ g. green tied to 1905 postcard (Ostriches) to Fiume by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp in black (Feb 16), in combination with Somali Coast 1902 10 c. orange-red & carmine (Ceres 41) tied by Djibouti cds (Feb 17) in blue. Scarce issue on card or cover ».

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1706.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1905 ETHIOPIA 05 on 1/4g (scarce) canc. HARAR + SOMALI COAST 5c (x2) + 25c canc. DJIBOUTI on REGISTERED card (rare photo) to AUSTRIA . Rare REGISTERED Boxed cachet HARAR (ETHIOPIE) in violet. Probably ETHIOPIA 20c missing. J.F BRUN Certificate. Ex. KAUPPINEN Collection".



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/845.jpg: “1906 cover (opened for display) headed "Direction des Postes et Telegraphes Ethiopiens" and addressed to England, franked with 5c surcharge, tied by Harar 8.7.06 pmk, sent via Djibouti, where Somali Coast 25c was added for further passage to Ipswich, "Telegraphes Ethiopiens" seal on back of the cover, fine”.



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1709.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1905 ETHIOPIA 10 on 1/2g (fault) + SOMALI COAST 1c (x2) + 4c (x2) on card to SWITZERLAND. RPS Certificate".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/293.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1905 (21 Oct) cover franked with "10" on 1/2g red, sent from Harar, via Djibouti where 25c Somali Coast was added for further transmission to Beirut, "Reunion a Marseille" ship pmk alongside, Port Said transit and Beirut arrival pmks on back, some toning, otherwise fine cover, with 2002 APS certificate”. Postmark Harar.

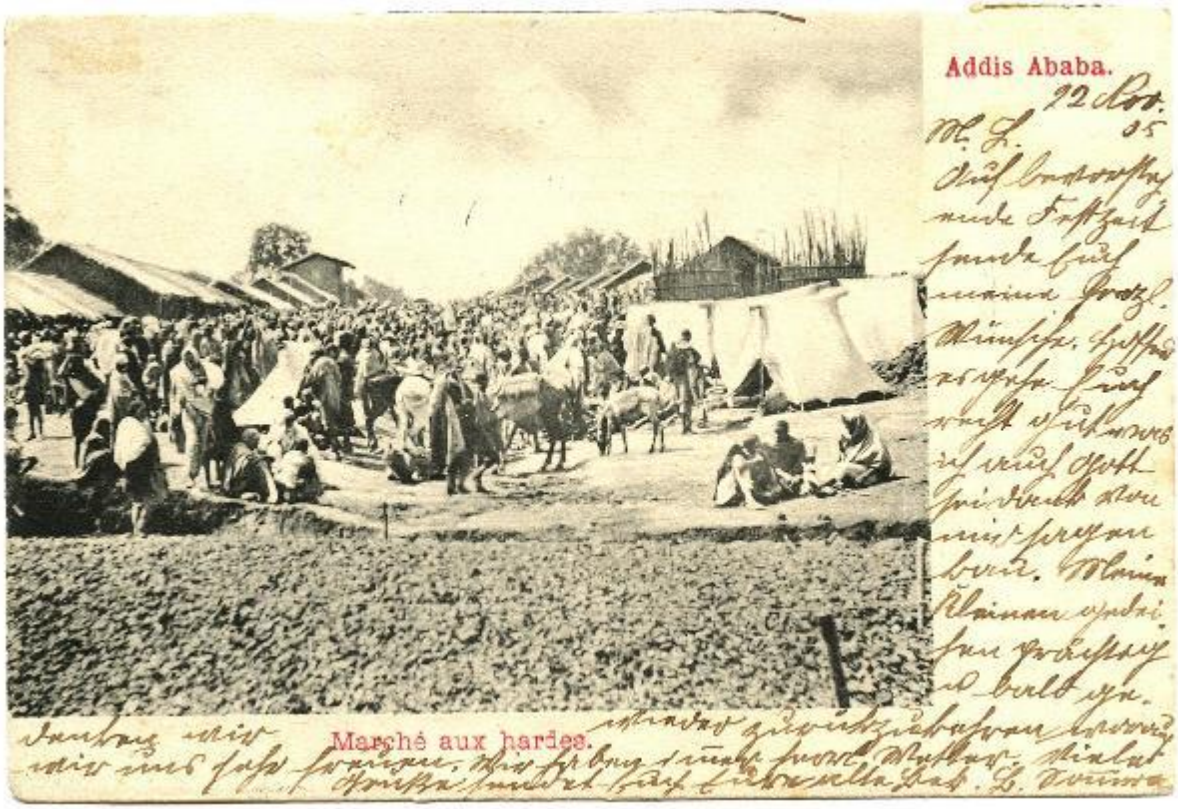
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/294.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1905 (15 Jan) picture postcard (Kagnasmatch Guenami, vice-governor of Harar) franked with "10" on 1/2g, canceled Harar, sent via Djibouti where 10c Somali Coast adhesive was added, addressed to Germany, with Berlin (29 Jan) arrival pmk”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/a1874fafa3583213f1fdbf42c1e5083b1b09f26b.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905 (Jan 1): '40' in blue on 2 g. deep brown, a single example used on 1905 double weight cover to Rostock, Germany tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" cds in black (March 19) with bilingual "HARAR" transit below (April 6) in blue. Somali Coast 1903 50 c. black & green tied by Djibouti cds in blue with faint 'La Reunion a Marseille' at left. Rostock arrival on reverse. Overall soiling and opening fault at left but a scarce stamp on correctly rate cover. Cert. APS (2010) ». Also postmark Adis Abeba.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/846.jpg: « 1907 registered cover to Turkey, franked with 40c surcharge, tied by Addis Abeba 25.4.07 pmk, with "Dire Daoua, Abissinie 6.5.07" dispatch pmk below, sent via Port Said, where French Levant 50c was added on back and forwarded via French mail to Constantinople, where it arrived on 26.5.07, wax seals removed from back, fine and very rare combination usage”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1710.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1905 ETHIOPIA 05 + 10 + 20 +40g + SOMALI COAST 50c on REGISTERED cover to SWITZERLAND". Postmarks Dire Daoua and Harar.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/76e9f41a7d5a5ec600e4a42a8d31ee925e528779.jpg (Corinphila auction): “1905 (Jan 1): '05' in blue on ¼ g. green tied to 1905 postcard (Ostriches) to Fiume by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp in black (Feb 16), in combination with Somali Coast 1902 10 c. orange-red & carmine (Ceres 41) tied by Djibouti cds (Feb 17) in blue. Scarce issue on card or cover ».



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1709.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): “1905 ETHIOPIA 10 on 1/2g (fault) + SOMALI COAST 1c (x2) + 4c (x2) on card to SWITZERLAND”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/80818d2cae6a4181f7bb05834f9579533b91e567.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1905 (Jan 1): '10' on ½ g. salmon, a single example

used on 1905 cover to P.A. Szantó of the Austro-Hungarian Expedition, cancelled by bilingual "HARAR" datestamps in blue (Oct 17), with Somali Coast 1903 25 c. black & blue (Ceres 60) alongside cancelled on arrival in Djibouti (Oct 22) in black.”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/1e6378867f81fcc4533d23f75ed28867d44b8a48.jpg (Corinphila auction): «1905 (Jan 1): '05' on ¼ g. green, '10' on ½ g. salmon, '20' on 1 g. blue and '40' in blue on 2 g. deep brown, on double weight registered cover to USA, all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (Sept 17) with "HARAR" cds of transit in blue (Oct 1). Somali Coast 1903 15 c. black & yellow-brown, 20 c. black & violet and 40 c. black & orange (Ceres 58+59+61) all tied by Djibouti cds`s (Oct 3). Boston arrival on reverse (Oct 24). Curiously, mail to the USA in the period 1896-1905 is surprisingly uncommon”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/a02ed582193c9eb044b36e43e543d27244582add.jpg (Corinphila Auction) : « 1905 (Jan 1): '20' on 1 g. blue, a single example used on 1906 cover from Harar to Awara Melka Plantation, tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp (Jan 1) in blue with information strike at right. File folds well away from the adhesive, a rare internal usage. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

https://thumbs.worthpoint.com/zoom/images1/1/0518/09/ethiopia-1905-lion-overprint-150_1_a04abc0c2017432497d191cc61e62d20.jpg: ETHIOPIA: 1905 LION OVERPRINT: V. RARE: ONLY 150 PRODUCED BY MICHEL DIR. OF POST ».

20 Postage Due, 1905: two types, T with a foot and T without a foot

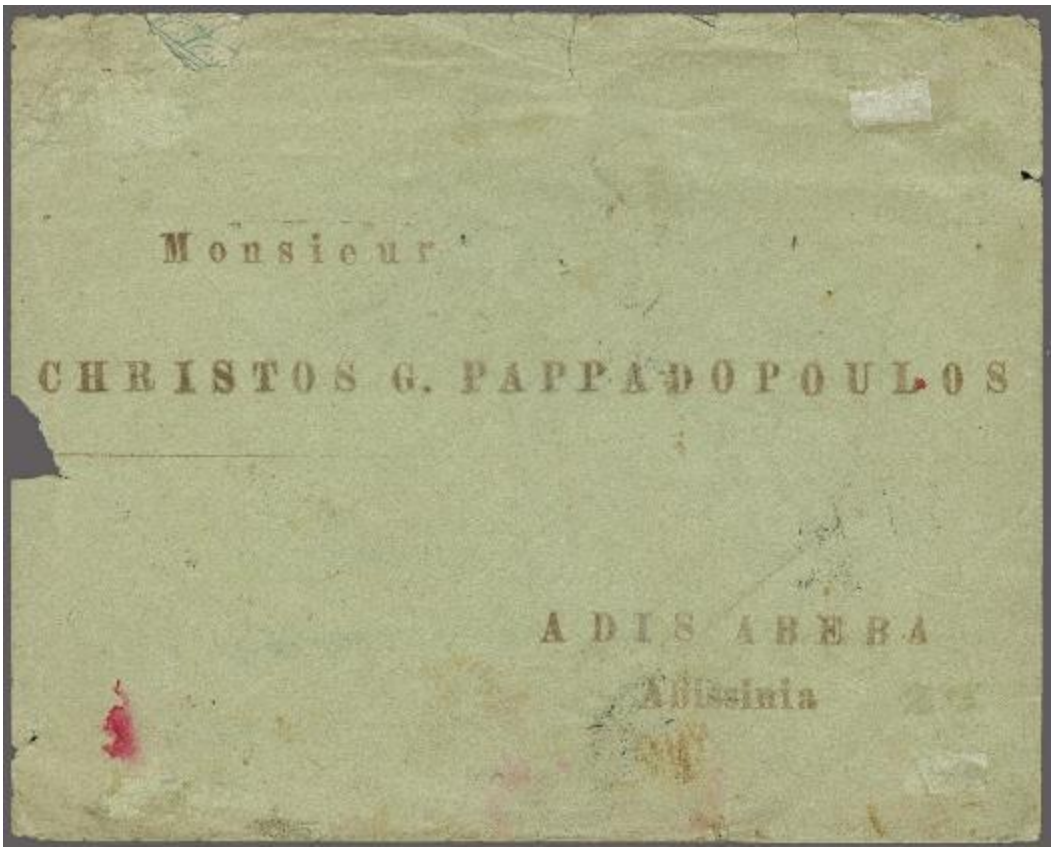
https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/ethiopia-1905-handstamp-overprints-2064194572: "Ethiopia 1905 Handstamp T Overprints Type b in blue Scott #J15-J19 Fine Mint Hinged. Original gum with hinge remnants". (T with foot)

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/Pg0AAOSwYEtgJvI0/s-l300.jpg (T with foot)

https://www.delcampe.net/static/img_large/auction/001/260/984/398_002.jpg?v=1 (T without foot)

https://www.delcampe.net/static/img_large/auction/001/260/984/398_003.jpg?v=1 (T with foot)

https://i.colnect.net/f/3143/863/Lion_from_Juda_As_Keffel_and_T_in_triangle.jpg (T with foot)



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/7d73b82d0505649a63302960699b053ca7e9e7f9.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1905: Postage Due 'T' (Type II) in violet on ½ g. salmon horizontal pair tied to reverse of underpaid 1905 in-coming cover to Addis Abeba from Jerusalem by "HARAR" datestamp (Sept 5) in greenish blue; Turkey 20 pa. carmine pair above tied by bilingual JERUSALEM cds with Port Said, Suez, Aden and Djibouti transits alongside. Envelope with imperfections but an exceptionally rare usage of the Postage Dues (only recorded used in Harar) with less than 10 covers bearing this issue known. Signed Holcombe. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016). Note: Illustrated in the Sciaky handbook on page 90”. (T without foot)

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/32c04eb7b003bb7014ba280b41e3feedcf5b2586.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1905: Great Britain 1 d. red stationery envelope up-rated for UPU rate to Addis Abeba with 1902 perfinned 1½ d. deep lilac & green tied by London machine cancellation (April 28). Cover struck on reverse with "Aden" transit cds (May 7) and Djibouti cds in blue (May 16). The envelope was then charged (not taxed) for internal transmission with April 1905 Postage Due "T" (Type II) in violet on 1894 1 g. blue tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp (May 16). Some edge wear to envelope but a rarity of Ethiopian philately. Cert. RPSL (2016). Note 1: Contrary to Michel's listing, this issue has been recorded used from April 28th 1905. The stamps were only used in Harar. Note 2: The RPSL state the Postage Due is 'a philatelic contrivance'. If this is so,

who paid for the transmission from Djibouti, Somali Coast to Addis Abeba, Ethiopia given that Ethiopia had yet to join the UPU?”. (T without foot).

21 The series of 24 January 1905: Previous Issued Stamps Surcharged

05/¼(C)/G (green) on 1901 (violet), on 1901 (blue), on 1902, on 1903 (bluish black), and on 1903 (blue); 10/½(C)/G (salmon) on 1902.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

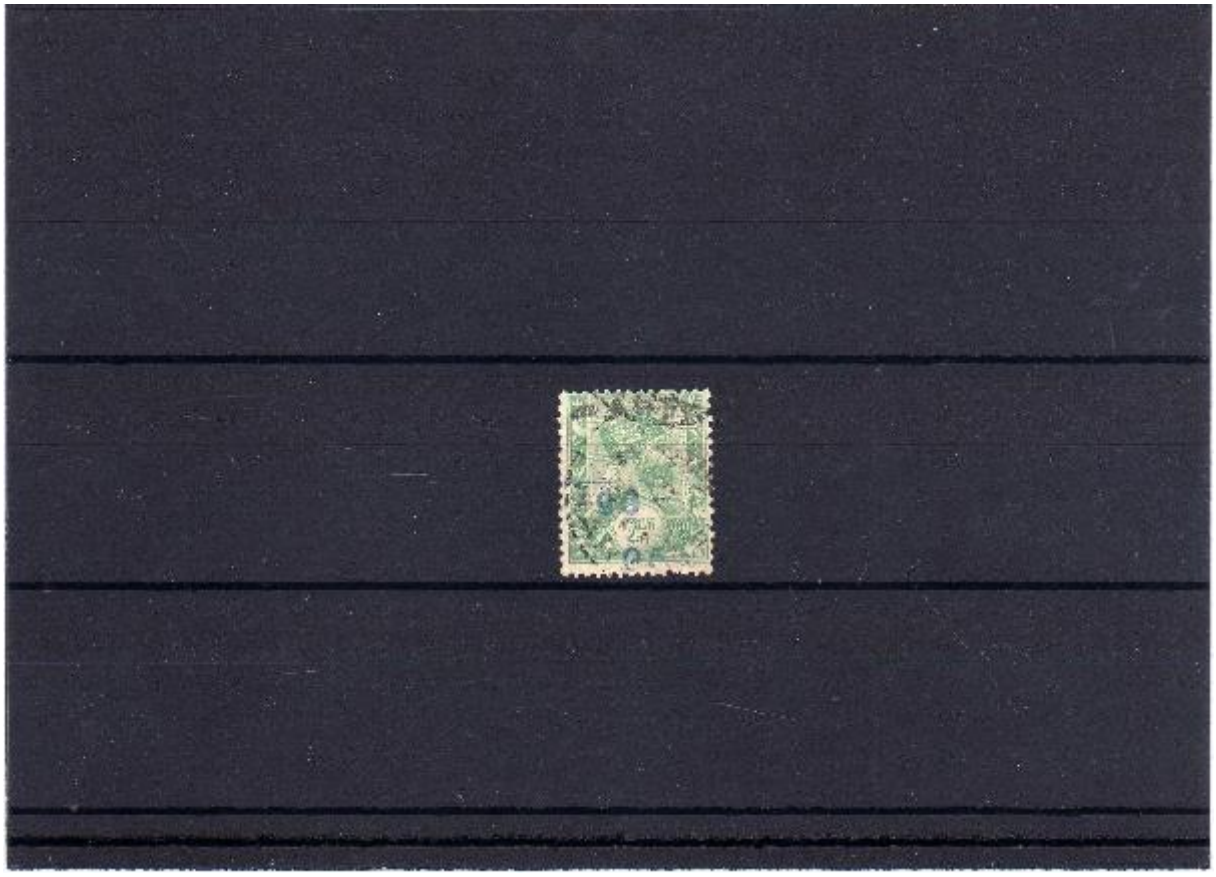
https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/255025823967_/ETHIOPIA-1905-Mi-8-III-MH-Harar-provisional.jpg: “ETIOPIA 1905, mi. 8 III */MH, (HARAR provvisoria "con variant!!! EXP. A. Michel”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/255068372668_/ETHIOPIE-1905-Mi-8-III-K-MH-Harar.jpg: “Ethiopie 1905, mi. 8 III K */MH, "Harar" PROVVISORIA con invertito Bosta!!!”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4443.jpg: „ 05 C. a. 1/4 G. grün, Harar-Provisorium einmal normal (Auflage ohnehin nur 450 Ex.), sowie nochmals (übl. Zhg.) mit kopfstehender Wertangabe (sehr selten!)“ (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction)“ [Bosta overprint]

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4444.jpg: „05 C. a. 1/4 G. grün, Harar-Provisorium, Malekt-Aufdruck, Normalmarke sowie mit kopfstehender Wertziffer ungebraucht, diese sehr selten, da nur wenige bekannt!“ (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction)“. [Malekt overprint]

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09391/S334/12.jpg (Georg Bühler 334th Auction): “Kopfstehd. Wertaufdruck und 8III mit doppeltem schwarzen Metallhandstpl.”. [Bosta overprint]



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09391/S334/14.jpg (Georg Bühler 334th Auctio): „Doppeldruck des Wertaufdr.“ [Malekt overprint].

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/295.jpg: „ETHIOPIA, 1905 Harar Provisional surcharges, three different, one with paper adhesions on back, fine”. [Ethiopie, Bosta and Malekt overprints].

22 January 1905: other surcharges, and bisected

And 5+5/¼ c/m/G (salmon) on 1894 and 5+5/½ c/m/G (green) on 1902. The last two stamps also bisected.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/284546259477_/Ethiopia-1905-Harar-Provisional-5c-m-on-1-2g-red.jpg: “Harar provisional…for bisect use”

bisected: https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/298.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1905 5c/m on 1/2g red, undivided block of four, canceled Harar 22.9.05”.

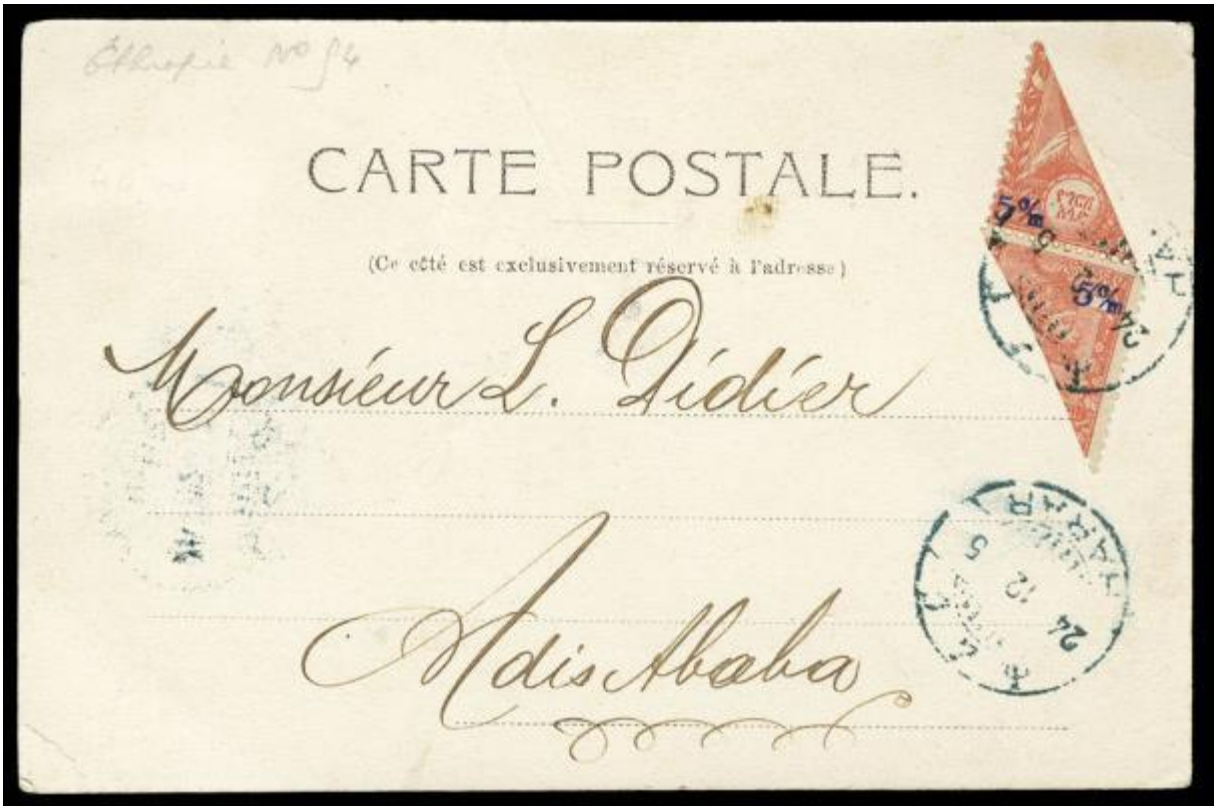
Chef abyssin en tenue de guerre.
L. B.
Bitte baldigst
her échange Weisser Hahn
wie gehabt. Mercí Brieffolg
Adolf.
Editeur A. Mielke, Harze.

CARTE POSTALE.
(Ce côté est exclusivement réservé à l'adresse.)
MAI 05
Herr F. Michel
téléphone
Berne
Suisse
BERN
24.III.05.X

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/a96b045c158bf7206da1e0447ada346beee758ce.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905 (Jan 24): Diagonally bisected '5 c/m' in violet on ½ g. salmon used on 1905 postcard to Berne, Switzerland tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp in black (March 9), in combination with Somali Coast 1902 10 c. orange-red & carmine (Ceres 41) tied by Djibouti cds (March 10) in blue, Aden cds and Bern arrival (March 24) all on obverse of a fine card written by J.A. Michel. Rare. Cert. J-F-. Brun (2017) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/8fe0a97161722566e5a47f59ee27a649002ac928.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905 (Jan 24): '05' on Bosta ¼ g. green and diagonally bisected '5 c/m' in violet on ½ g. salmon used on 1905 cover to Dire-Daoua, each tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamps (Dec 13) in blue. No arrival on reverse as the Dire-Daoua Post Office had yet to open. Roughly opened at left but a rare usage of these two provisionals. Cert. APS (2010) ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/296.jpg: „ETHIOPIA, 1905 5c/m on 1/2g red diagonal half, canceled Harar 23.3.05 on unaddressed picture postcard". Interestingly, the elephant depicted here seems to be a Indian (Asian) elephant - more easily handled and used for transport or 'tourism' than an African elephant.

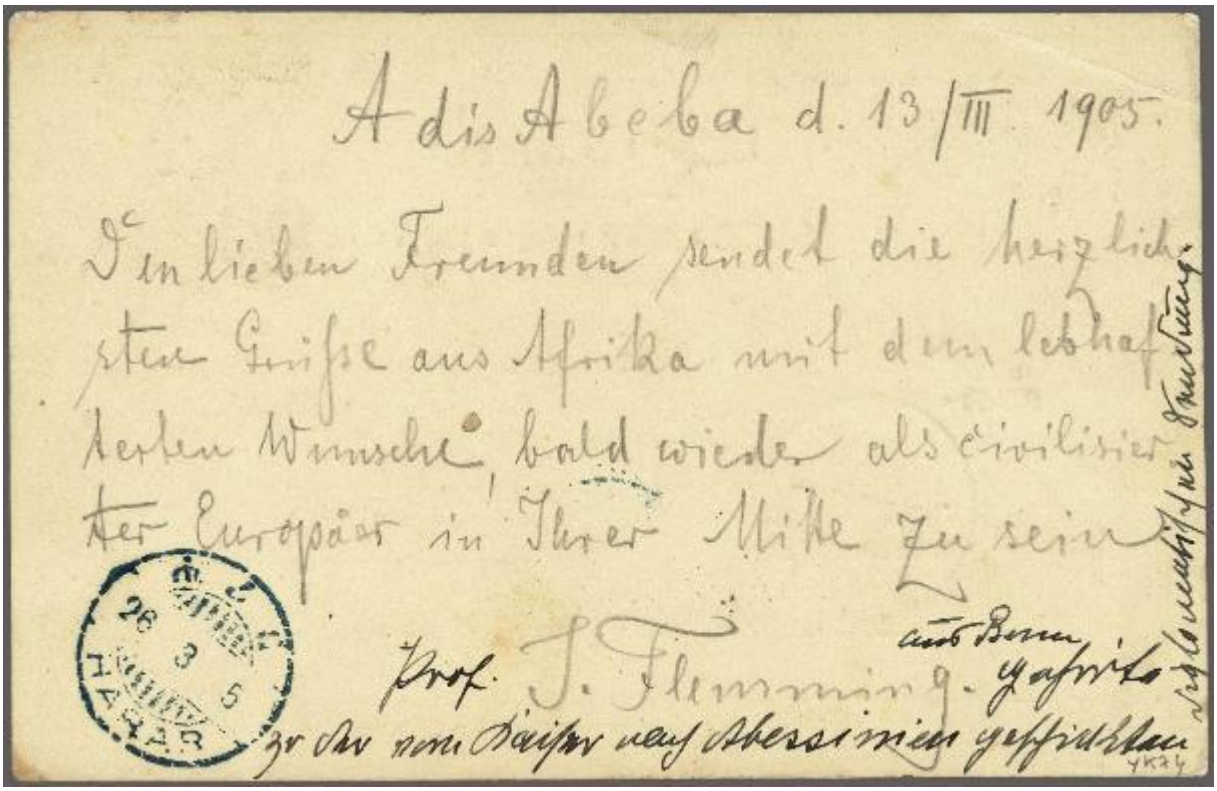


https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/297.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1905 5c/m on 1/2g red, pair of diagonal bisects, canceled Harar 24.12.05 on picture postcard, conveying New Year greetings from A. Michel to L. Didier, a French clerk at the post office in Addis Ababa, v.f., scarce internal card with provisional franking, ex-Clinton Geisler”.

23 Postal stationery of 1905

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/a0601a549ef0c3fb141137b84d78e353cad6da06.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905: '5 c/m' in violet on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 7c) , sent registered from Addis Abeba with pair of 1905 '20' on 1 g. blue pair to Vienna, in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine and 25 c. black & blue (Ceres 57+60) tied by Djibouti cds's (March 30) in blue. Framed 'R' and Vienna arrival (April 14) all on obverse of a fine and very scarce card”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/7d76f210539d31497615ad87865873ed5115e63e.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1905: '10' in violet on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 7c) used with 1903 malekt ½ g. salmon to Berne, Switzerland tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (May 24), "HARAR" transit in black (June 1); in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) tied by Djibouti cds in blue (June 5), Bern arrival cds, all on obverse. A rare card in used condition and very fine ».



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/f0b6f7057044321b21a5f5c87f5c3000be29d319.jpg (Corinphila Auction): “1905: '20' in violet on 1 g. blue postal stationery card (H&G 7d) used to Bonn, tied by weak bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (March 15), "HARAR" transit in blue (March 26) on reverse; in combination with Somali Coast 1903 15 c. black & yellow-brown (Ceres 58) tied by Djibouti cds in blue (March 28), French Paquebot 'La Reunion a Marseille' in black and Bonn arrival cds, all on obverse. A rare card in used condition and very fine”.

24 The series of March 1905: Series of 1905: Surcharged "5 centimes"

5/16C/G (black) on 1902 (Bosta) and on 1903 (Malekt)

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/255025826837_/ETHIOPIA-1905-Mi-17-I-MH-Harar-provisional.jpg: „ETHIOPIA 1905, Mi. 17 I */MH, "Harar provisional”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/193440230865_/ETHIOPIA-1905-HARAR-LOCAL-ISSUE-Mi-17I-MLH.jpg: “ETIOPIA 1905, HARAR emissione locale, mi 17I”.

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/255068372183_/ETHIOPIE-1905-Mi-17-I-MH-Harar-provisional.jpg: “Ethiopie 1905, mi. 17 I */MH, "Harar" PROVVISORIA incl. VARIANTE di colore della OV”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4450.jpg: “50 C. a. 16 G., sog. "Harar-Provisorium" mit schrägem Handstempel in beiden Typen je ungebraucht” (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction).

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/299.jpg: „1905 5 centimes provisional surcharge inverted on 16g Lion, with violet "Bosta"”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/300.jpg: “1905 5 centimes provisional surcharge on 16g Lion, with black "Malekt" handstamp”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/301.jpg: “1905 5 centimes provisional surcharge on 16g Lion, with black "Malekt" handstamp, block of four, slightly dried gum, fine and rare multiple”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201301/255.jpg: “1904-6 handstamps and surcharges, five stamps (four diff.) incl. "Malekathe" in violet on 1/2g red, also 5c (blue) on 16c black, "Bosta" in black, plus surcharged "20" on 1/2g green and 2x "05" on 1/2g green, all tied by blue Harar 1907 pmks, little toning, part of backflap missing, fine”. Postmark Harar.

25 The series of 1 January 1906 : 1905 series Handstamped in Violet - Overprint 15 x 3½mm ("Small Minelik")

"At the end of 1905, Michel's activities included hunting and collecting wild animals that he kept in his courtyard and likely tried to export to Europe. Actually, Michel sent a cover to the famous German lion-tamer, Mr. Seeth, who performed across Europe with lions Emperor Menelik had given to him in 1898 when he visited Ethiopia! Two new hand-overprinted issues were released in 1906. The first was created with the "Numerals" of 1905 hand-overprinted "Menelik" in Amharic. Since few Numerals remained, these stamps were sold out in mid-1906 when a second issue with a different hand-overprint that also reads "Menelik" was released." https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf [Link no longer active..]

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1906/1906_rp001.htm: "Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Overprint - Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France".

05/¼(C)/G (green); 10/½(C)/G (salmon); 20/1(C)/G (blue); 40/2(C)/G (dark brown); 80/4(C)/G (purple brown); 1.60/8(Fr)/G (lilac); 3.20/16(Fr)/G (black).

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4446.jpg: "05 C. a. 1/4 G. grün, Harar-Provisorium mit Malekathe-Aufdruck gestempelt, Auflage nur 367 Ex" (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction).

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4448.jpg: “10 C. a. 1/2 G. lachsrot, Handstempel auf "Bosta"-Aufdruck, ungebrauchtes Harar-Provisorium“ (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction).

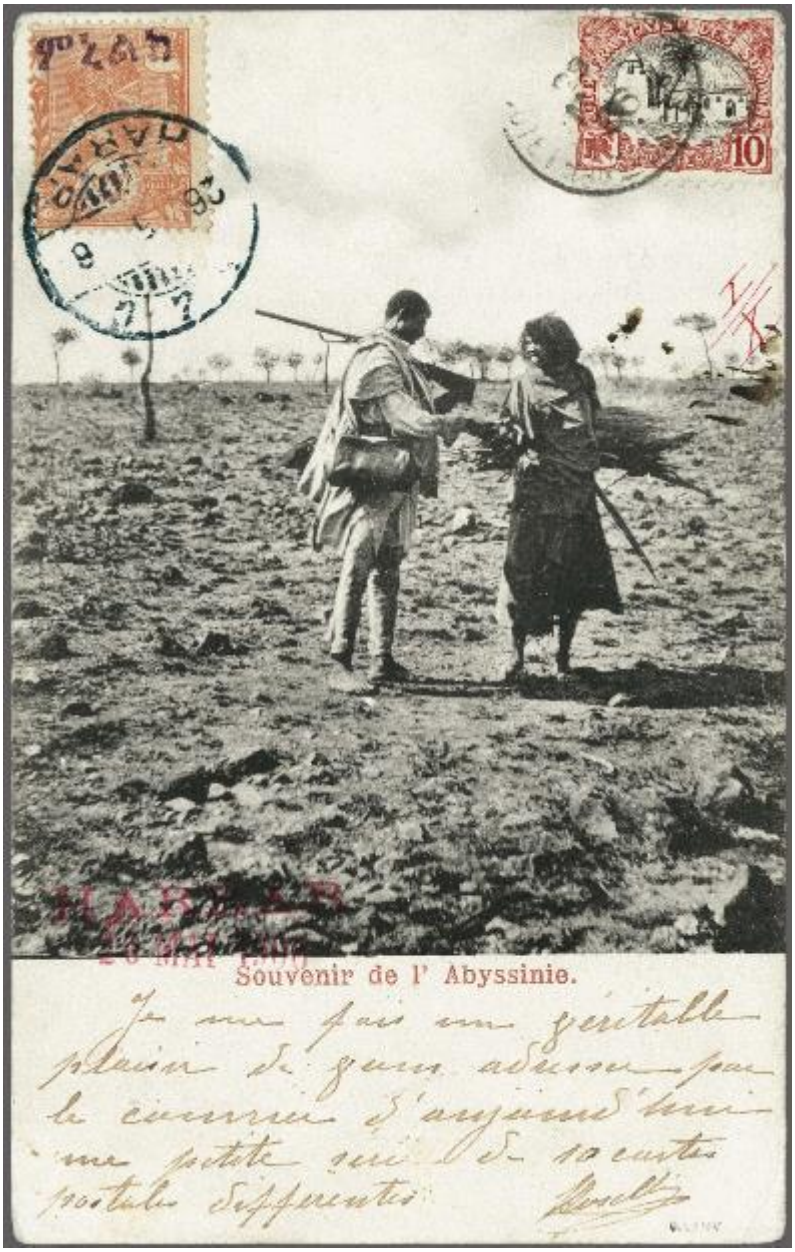
https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09209/S206/4447.jpg: „10 C. a. 1/2 G. lachsrot, Handstempel auf "Bosta"-Aufdruck, gestempeltes Harar-Provisorium“ (Rauhut & Kruschel GmbH - 206th Auction).

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/3d89f577cec237a96c141e7b8fa1f90e58734129.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (Jan 1): Small Minelik in violet on 05' on ¼ g. green (2, on reverse), Small Minelik '20' on 1 g. blue, 1903 Malekt in black on 1 gr. blue (2) all used on 1906 registered cover to Porrentruy, Switzerland tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in black (June 6), in combination with Somali Coast 1902 75 c. orange & brown-lilac (Ceres 49) tied by Djibouti cds (June 19) in black. Reverse with Porrentruy arrival (June 30). The envelope with slight trim at top but rare and most attractive".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/cfbd53e888af7302fe6b612c806a7d08ee4a5ef3.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (Jan 1): Small Minilik '05' on ¼ g. green pair, '10' on ½ g. salmon (2) and single '20' on 1 gr. blue, all used on 1906 registered cover to Hamburg tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamps in blue (Feb 18), with Somali Coast 1903 50 c. black & green (Ceres 62) tied by Djibouti cds (Feb 20). Reverse with framed 'Recommandé / HARAR (Ethiopie)' registration cachet in violet and Hamburg arrival cds (March 3). Philatelic but scarce ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/302.jpg: «ETHIOPIA, 1906 "Menelik" overprints 10c on 1/2g and 20c on 1g, tied by Harar (1.1.1906) First Day of Issue pmks on cover sent via Djibouti, with appropriate Somali Coast adhesives added, with corresponding "La Reunion a Marseille" ship pmk alongside, registered to Germany, with "special entry via Mulhouse" label at bottom, arrival pmk on back, fine cover, ex-Boksenbom". Postmark Harar.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/303.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1906 (25 Feb) cover (reduced at left) franked with "20" on 1g blue, sent from Harar, via Djibouti where 25c Somali Coast was added for further transmission to Beirut, additional Harar departure and Beirut arrival pmks on back, filing folds away from the stamps, fine cover, with 2002 APS certificate”.


10
Souvenir de l' Abyssinie.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/0e04ae0f2214ba1758e8511bb3a2ca320691a666.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (Jan 1): Small Minelik in violet on '10' on ½ g. salmon used on 1906 postcard to Antioch, Syria, tied to viewside by bilingual "HARAR" datestamp in blue (May 26), in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) tied by Djibouti cds (May 29) in black. Reverse with "Alexandrette" Austrian Post Office arrival datestamp (June 19). A rare stamp on card or letter to an unusual destination. Cert. J-F. Brun (2017) ». The postcard likely depicts an Ethiopian soldier buying firewood from a local female supplier.

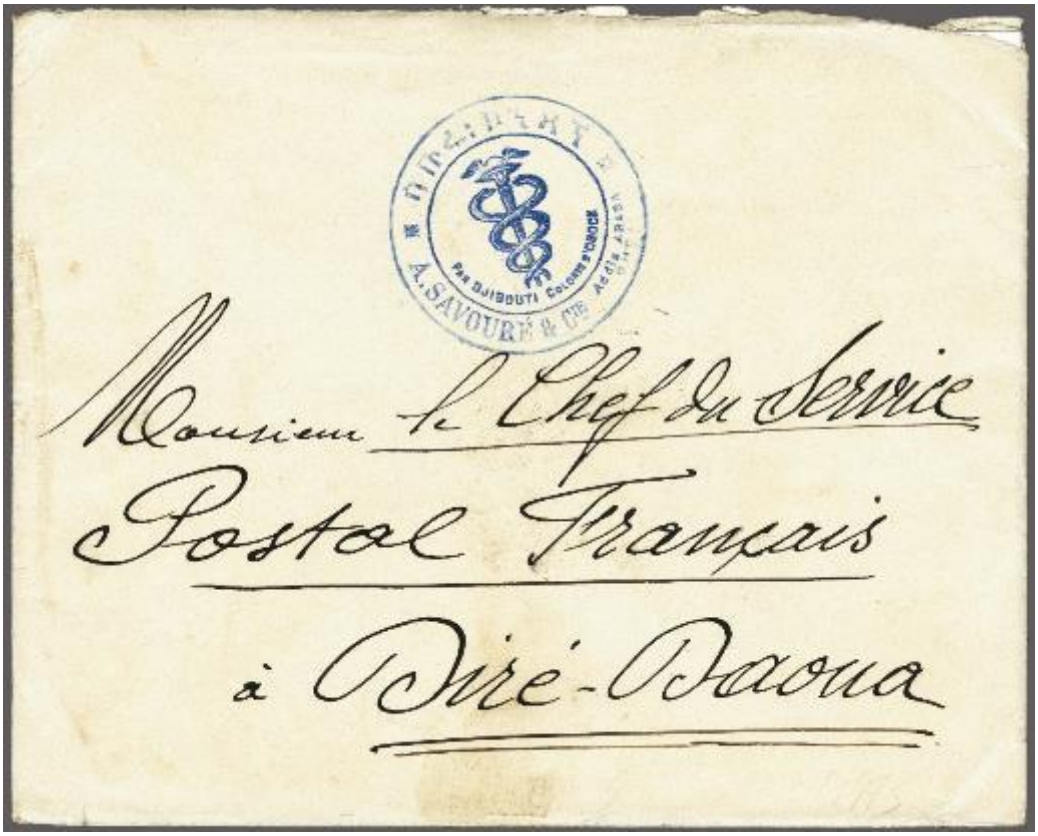
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/c7263418fc481d0f660f463a2b4c736eff771c36.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (Jan 1): Small Minilik '20' on 1 g. blue and '80' on 4 g. lilac-brown used on triple rate registered 1906 cover to Berne, Switzerland tied by "HARAR" datestamps in blue (March 18) with two strikes of the (J.AS. Michel) registration cachet in violet; in combination with Somali Coast 1894 40 c. blue & yellow, 1902 5 c. pale green & green, 10 c. red-orange & carmine and 1903 4 c. black & carmine in a strip of five, 25 c. black & blue (Ceres 14+40+41+55+60) tied by Djibouti cds's in black (March 20). Bern arrival on reverse (March 30). A fine and most attractive cover".

26 The series of 1 July 1906: 1894 series Surcharged & Handstamped in Black or Dark Violet - Overprint 16 x 4½mm ("Large Minelik")

05/¼(C)/G (green); 10/½(C)/G (salmon); 20/1(C)/G (blue); 40/2(C)/G (dark brown); 80/4(C)/G (purple brown); 1.60/8(Fr)/G (lilac); 3.20/16(Fr)/G (black).

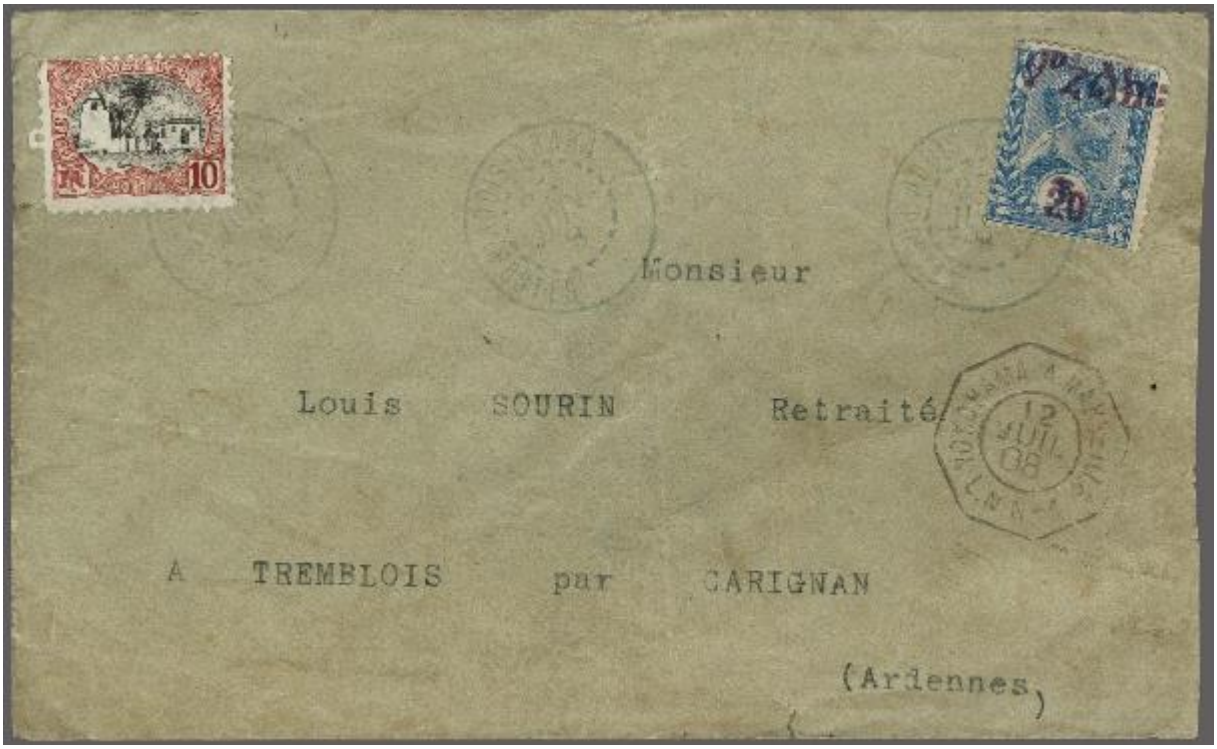
https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/0f24b014955df2bd69bfdf3255ea27afaa0e8eea.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (July 1): Large Minilik in red-violet on '10' on ½ g. salmon, four examples used on 1906 cover to Grandson, Switzerland all tied by bilingual "HARAR" datestamps in blue (Dec 16); in combination with 1903 Somali Coast 5 c. black & green (3) and 10 c. black & carmine (3) tied by dotted ""DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" cds's in black (Dec 16). Reverse with Grandson arrival (Jan 7, 1907). A fine and rare cover".



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/eeafaefa0d16f0183496cadfd985d0c20849f8a3.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1906 (July 1): Large Minelik '10' on ½ g. salmon, three pairs used as seals on reverse of 1907 triple rate envelope from A. Savouré (blue cachet on obverse)

to the French Post Office in Dirre-Daoua, all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps (Jan 17) in black. Stained from attempts to gum the flap but a scarce issue on letter. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/d336dca4e512f053e1c24bcbcb9734e3cefea689.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1906 (July 1): Large Minilik '20' on 1 g. blue, a used example on 1908 cover to France in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) all tied by "ADDIS-ABABA / POSTES" cds in blue (June 25) with information strike at left alongside. Octagonal "YOKOHAMA A MARSEILLE / L.N. No. 1" Paquebot

below (July 12). Reverse with Djibouti cds and Carignan arrival (July 26). Small envelope imperfections but scarce. Cert. J-F. Brun (2009) ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/304.jpg: « ETHIOPIA, 1906 (15 Jan [should be: July; it is the 'large minelik']) registered cover franked with 80c on 4g lilac brown, canceled Dire-Dawa in blue, sent via the French post office, where 50c Levant was added and canceled "Dirre-Daoua Abyssinie 18.4.07", addressed to Djibouti, fine and rare cover, signed Roumet, ex-Clinton Geisler".

27 Postage due 1906

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/194504393444_/ETHIOPIA-1907-POSTAGE-DUE-Mi-15-20-7-STAMPS.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/--kAAOSwdO5g8Yt5/s-l300.webp: "ETHIOPIA 1907 1/4g,1/2g,4g POSTAGE DUES VIOLET HANDSTAMP MINT".

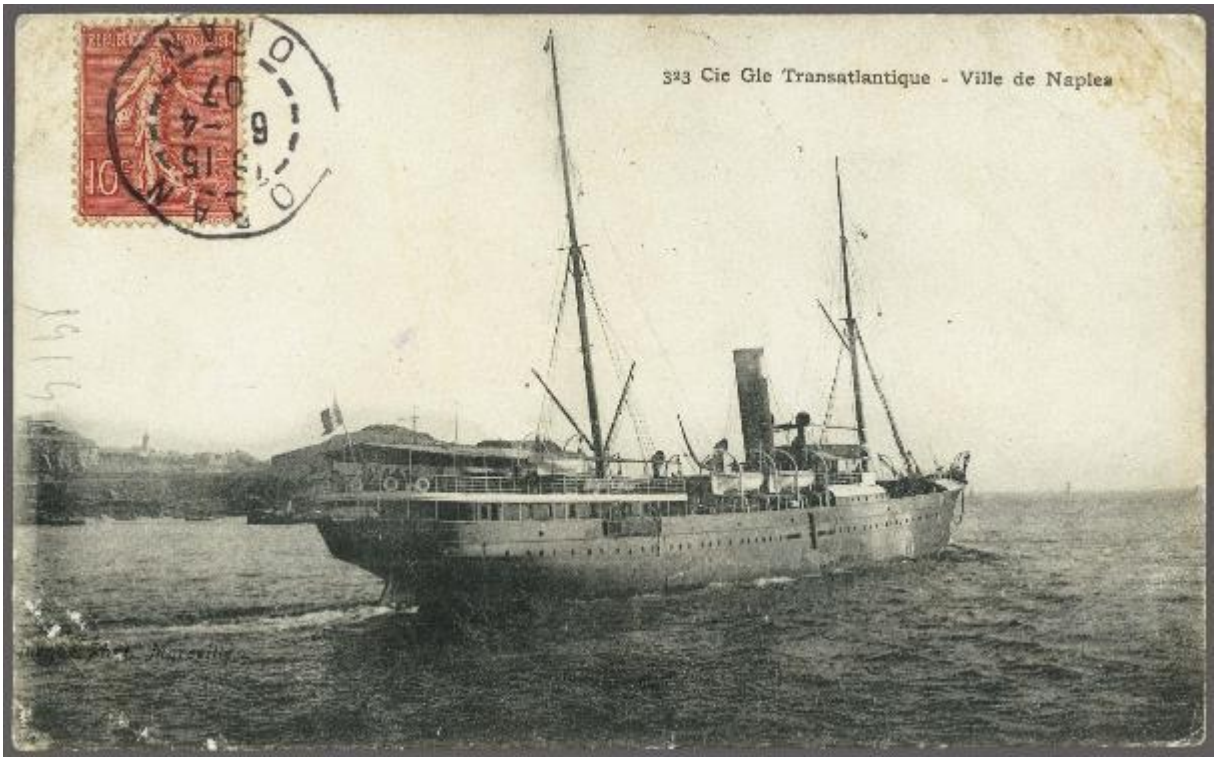
https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/SBsAAOSw5chgvpk5/s-l1600.jpg

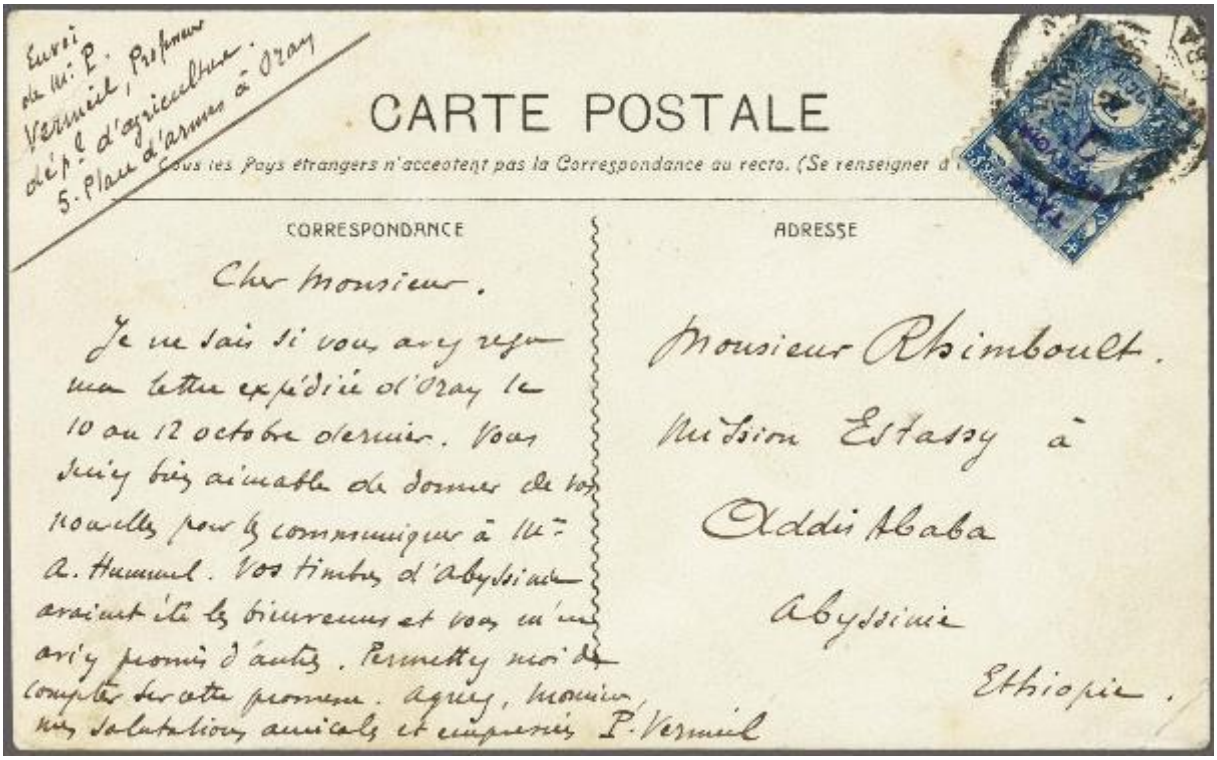
https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/fiAAAOSwpMFh1FVZ/s-l300.webp

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/D24AAOSw60th1FSg/s-l300.webp: " ETHIOPIA 1906 1/2g RED POSTAGE DUE VIOLET HANDSTAMP USED". Postmark Harar.

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/iOcAAOSw9FViHQtO/s-l300.webp: "Ethiopia 1905 Postage Due Taxe & Percevoir Overprint Block MNH. Scott J22".

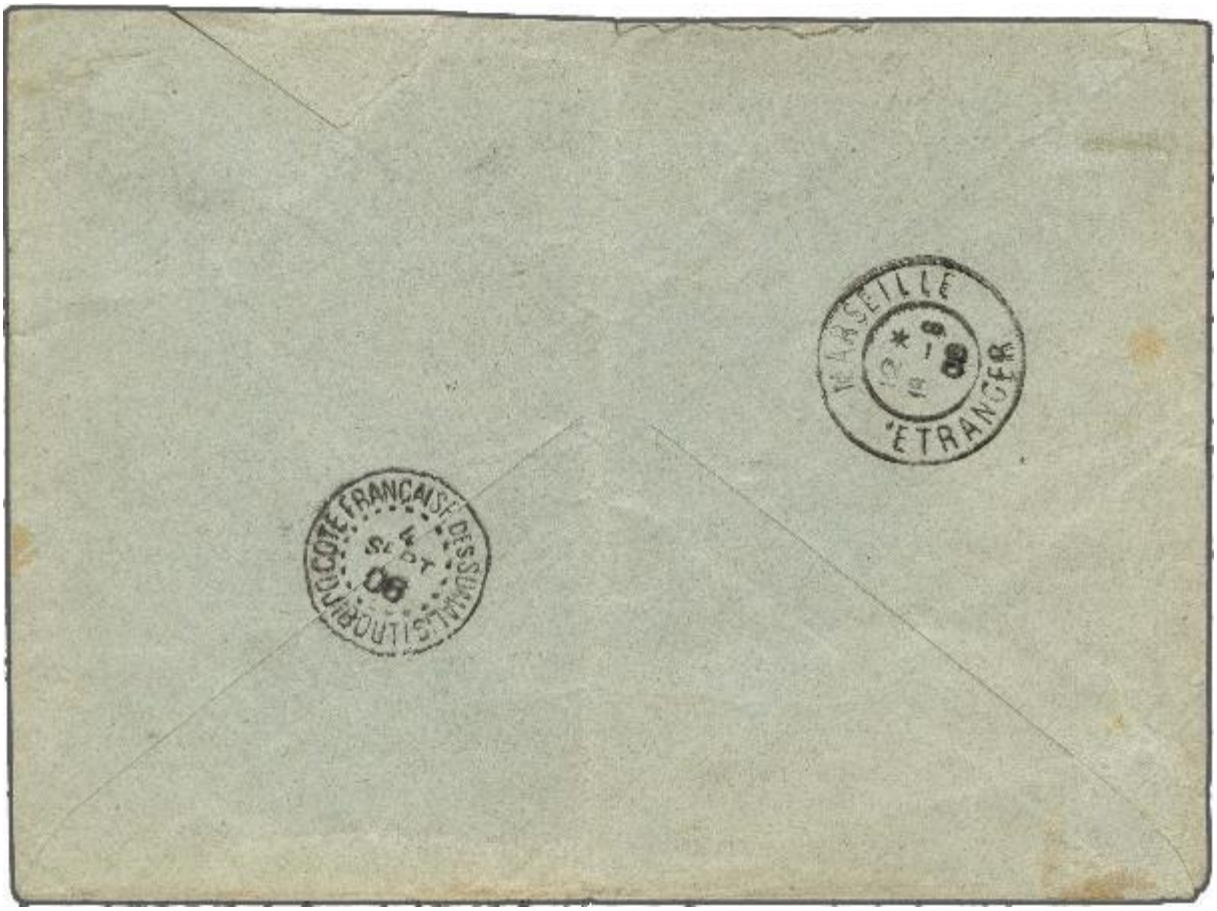
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/2a714bb2ffd5d94dc15cb3a23fdc04e4e891391e.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1906 (April 28): Postage Due 'Taxe à Percevoir' 1 g. blue, tied to reverse of underpaid cover from Bavaria to Harar, readdressed to Addis Abeba by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp (March 4. 1906) in black - paying the rate for the readdressing and Ethiopia was yet to join the UPU. Correctly rated on despatch with Bavaria 10 pfg. carmine in a vertical pair (Jan 29), with 'Suez / Ambulant' transit cds (Feb 12) and Djibouti cds alongside. An extremely rare Postage Due on letter and most unusual. Cert. J-F. Brun (2010) ».



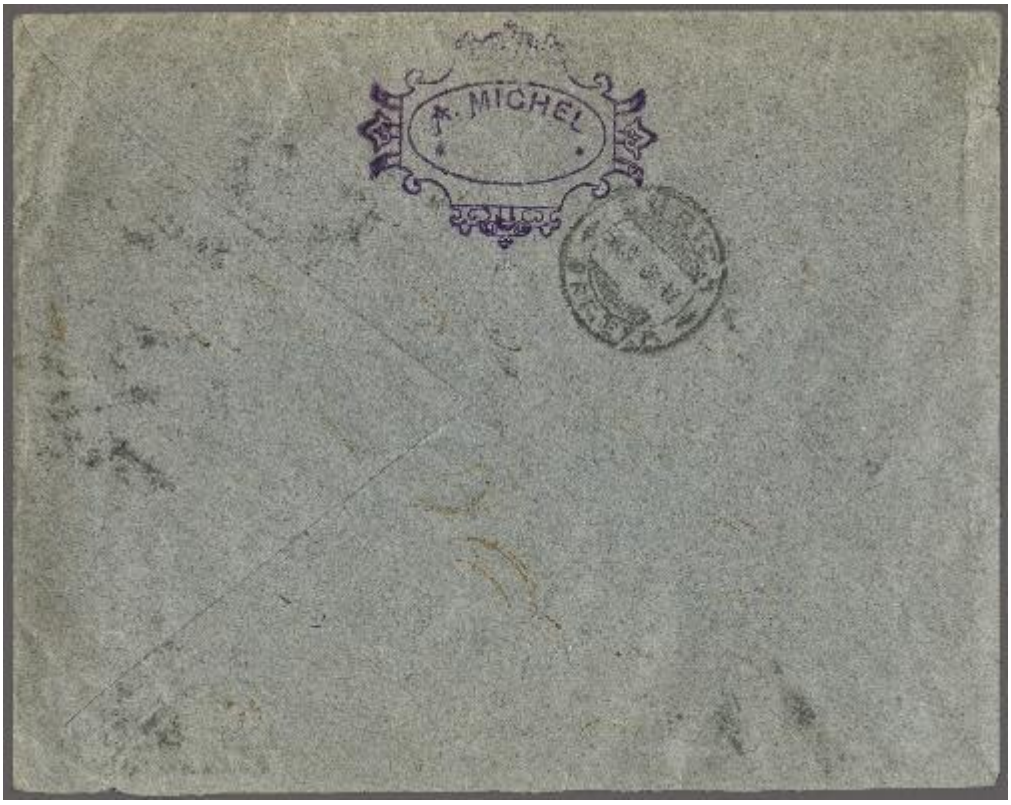


https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/75fa88c0d7f4c214ea69d41b23d4831bf8b86d36.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1906 (April 28): Postage Due 'Taxe à Percevoir' 1 g. blue tied by "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp (May 1) in black to incoming 1907 postcard mailed from Oran, Algeria franked by Sower 10 c. rose (April 6) on viewside. A very scarce stamp used on card or letter. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

KOTO
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME D'EXPLOITATIONS
AGRICOLES & COMMERCIALES
GRANDSON
Sautation Koto
Harrar Malko
Abyssinie


MARSEILLE
ÉTRANGER
COTE FRANÇAISE DES SOMALIS
DJIBOUTI

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/f8289073401a38e00a8762146159a8b5f9ebffd6.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1906 (April 28): Postage Due 'Taxe à Percevoir' 1 g. blue, tied to 1906 incoming cover to Awara Melka Plantation by "Harar" datestamps in blue, stained, paying the internal charge on letter from Grandson, Switzerland bearing Standing Helvetia 25 c. blue (Aug 18). Reverse with Marseille and Djibouti transit cds (Sept 4). File fold away from the adhesives but a very scarce usage of the Postage Due on an unusual cover".



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/576987db1e93f2a744ff849f9835e2797cf5b15b.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1908: Multi-franked registered cover to Zurich, three weeks before joining UPU, bearing Ethiopia 1905 '20' in red-violet on 1 g. blue, 1907 '2' in violet on 2 g. deep brown, scarce 'Taxe à Percevoir' Postage Due 1 g. blue, used with Somali Coast 1903 1 c., 4 c., 10 c. and 20 c.; Obock 1894 15 c. blue & rose and Port Said 25 c. blue all canceleled by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps (Oct 9). A few imperfections but a scarce usage sent whilst they still could! with J.A. Michel cachet on reverse. Cert. APS (2002)". On https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/_auction/results.asp?auction=201706&country=ETHIOPIA it reads: "1907 2g on 2g ("Dagmawi") and other surcharges, including "Taxe a Percevoir" postage due stamp, used in 1908 (Oct 9) on registered cover (prepared by J.A. Michel) used in combination with Obock, Somali Coast and Port Said adhesives, sent from Addis Ababa to Zurich, with arrival pmk (24 October), minor faults, otherwise fine, with 2002 APS certificate. The mixture of stamps is explained by the fact that this cover was sent during the reorganization period in 1908, when the French took over and just before Ethiopia joined the UPU on 1st November, 1908. At this time, the post office was sold out of regular stamps and Mr. Michel used his own stock, including old French Colonial adhesives and Postage Dues, which were all valid for postage. Both Ethiopian and French franking appear correct for a registered cover".

Also see:

The Postage Dues of April and September 1905

The three high values of the first set (4, 8 and 16 guerches) were also printed with Menelik's effigy in 1894 but were not issued. In 1896, the seven values with Menelik were converted to postage dues with a typographed overprint which read "Askefil" (let him pay). These postage dues were never issued or used in Ethiopia.

In April 1905, Michel decided recipients of incoming mail should pay domestic postage. He prepared two hand-stamps carved as a "T," with and without a foot, from wood taken from his barometer. The use of the postage dues without a foot is known on very few covers while the postage dues with a foot have been recorded on only two philatelic covers used as postage.

The provisional postage dues were replaced in September 1905 with an issue Michel prepared in violet and blue. These postage dues were thought to have been used only in Harar, but the Exhibitor has demonstrated they were also used in Addis Ababa after Michel moved there in October 1906 to head up Menelik's Imperial Posts in 1907.

Dire-Daoua was a town built in 1902 at the terminus of the railway from Djibouti.

The French opened a post office in Dire-Daoua Nov. 1, 1906. It became the third Ethiopian town to have a post office.

Cover mailed in Djibouti, April 16, 1905 to a plantation owner outside Dire-Daoua. Postage due paid with four 1/4-g provisionals canceled April 23 in Harar.
First recorded use of the Postage Dues Provisionals

https://www.doigsden.com/1905pdU8.jpg: " 1905 Postage Due Issue. Page prepared by Ulf Lindahl".

28 French postal services in Ethiopia, and the reorganization of the Ethiopian Postal services, 1906-1908

"The French opened a post office in Dire Dawa on 1 November 1906 to serve the growing community of Frenchmen and other Europeans connected to the railway project and the

trade it generated. This post office was opened without permission from the Emperor. To avoid political complications, the French decided that this Abyssinian post office should be subordinate to the French post office in Port-Said, Egypt. It was supplied with stamps from French Levant that were passed on and sold in Harar and in Addis Ababa since the sale of French Somali Coast stamps ceased. The French Levant stamps were soon sold out. The re-supply in February 1907 consisted of stamps from Port-Said. They were also sold in Harar and in Addis Ababa and used to frank mail addressed abroad. Since Djibouti's sales of stamps to Ethiopia had been considerable, its administration protested. By the middle of 1907, the sale of French Levant and Port-Said stamps was stopped. Djibouti resumed selling its stamps in Ethiopia… In mid-1907, the French decided they would allow their consular couriers to carry mail from the public. A handful of covers have been preserved from late 1907 and early 1908 franked with French colony stamps that were cancelled with a mute Maltese Cross canceller or a circular Consular Addis Ababa postmark without a date". (Posthornmagazine).

https://ww.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "December 1907 cover sent with the French legation's courier franked with a 25c Somali Coast stamp cancelled with the Maltese Cross in Addis Ababa". (The link is no longer active).

"In 1906, stamps were issued for specific use in the Ethiopian offices – stamps of France inscribed 'Levant'. This issue was used only for a short time – in 1907 the offices in Ethiopia went back to the use of stamps from the French Somali Coast. International mail from Ethiopia was routed primarily through these French offices until 1908, when Ethiopia joined the UPU. The French offices closed in 1908".
https://web.archive.org/web/20180606005831/http://www.stampworldhistory.com/stamps-issuing-entities#

Stampboard (https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=89116) notes:

“In Scott, under French Offices in Turkey (Levant), there is a note that:

"nos. 29, 32-33 were used during the early part of 1907 in the French Offices at Harar and Diredawa, Ethiopia. Djibouti and Port Said stamps were also used."

1908 was when Ethiopia joined the UPU. Before then, they needed stamps from one of the coastal colonies (Mostly Djibouti, but also British Somaliland and maybe Eritrea) for mail headed to the outside world.

Maury lists these stamps under Levant but describes them as "1906-08 - Emission spéciale des bureaux d'Ethiopie". My translation of the blurb:

Special issue from the offices in Ethiopia. These stamps were issued without surcharge by the three French offices in Ethiopia (The piastre was not valid). They were used in very small quantities until 1908. During the course of that year, these stamps were sold in the philatelic market. Collectors would send them to Ethiopia to be favor-canceled (ils reçurent des oblitérations de complaisance). The period of genuine cancels did not go beyond June 1908. Values for used stamps and on cover are for cancels on stamps that were actually used. The stamps have Maury numbers 25-27, and Y and T numbers 24-27.

I recently found an example, postmarked Harar but date illegible:

https://www.stampboards.com/images/misci/i2g8UHf.jpg

All have "Levant" in the banner. There is a 25c blue of the Mouchon type (Rights of Man), the 50c Merson type pictured above, and a 1F Merson”.

And there is a response, which includes: “…a foreign French post office opened in Addis Ababa towards the end of 1904, there was one office in Harar from 1899 to presumably 1904 and one in Dirre-Dawa in November 1906. Until 1904 all mail leaving Djibouti to Ethiopia used stamps from Obock, Somali Coast, French Levant (1c, 2c, and 10c (1902 release)), even Port Saïd (5c, 10c (1902 release)). All cancelled from Djibouti”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/c754263af0e452831c4db40cf672f4fee2c391d3.jpg (Corinphila auction): « 1906 (July 1): Large Minilik '40' on 2 g. deep brown used on 1907 double rate cover to Manchester, tied by "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp (April 26) in black. Cover flap torn on opening but reverse bears 1906 French Levant Merson 50 c. brown & grey (Ceres 25), tied by dotted "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" datestamp (May 5) to Manchester (May 18). Faults with

part of flap missing but very rare - just 5 covers are recorded bearing the Levant 50 c. value. Cert. J-F. Brun (2010) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/ad8d6cb822ecd387347accf1264d7f1ef790f287.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1906 (July 1): Large Minilik in violet on '10' on ½ g. salmon, a defective example used on 1906 postcard to Elberfeld, Germany tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (Dec 26), in combination with French Levant 10 c. rose (Ceres 14) tied by "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" cds (Jan 2, 1907) in black (date slug error). A rare combination and the fault not too glaring. Cert. J-F. Brun (2010) ». The postcard above shows the 'road' to the village of

Jaldessa ('Guildessa'), near Harar. It seems that the postmaster mentioned above, Jean Adolph Michel, also commissioned/produced many photographs that were used for (commercial) postcards.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/3a77cc4c1fcc49530258c59f23d7a8d4b5b98159.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1907 (Nov 15): Registered cover to Djibouti franked by French Levant Blanc 1 c. grey (2), 2 c. claret and Port Said 5 c. green with Merson 1 fr. rose & yellow-green, all tied by dotted "DIRRE-DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" datestamps (Nov

15) in black, with Djibouti cds on reverse (Nov 18). Philatelic but the 1 fr. Port Said is a rarity on letter from Dirre-Daoua and during the inter-regnum period just seven covers are reported from Dire Daoua".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/2e49ea888f9af8054c069190569d2a7f0ee126b7.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « French Legation at Addis Abeba 1907: Registered cover from Addis Abeba to Zurich franked at the French Legation by Somali Coast 1903 75 c. black & bistre (Ceres 63) paying the registered double rate, tied by large circular "LEGATION DE FRANCE / RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE / ADDIS-ABBEBA" handstamp with framed 'R' adjacent in black. Reverse with unclear French Paquebot and Zurich arrival (Jan 7, 1908). Envelope with two file holes and closed corner tear at right, of no great significance as this is the sole registered usage from the

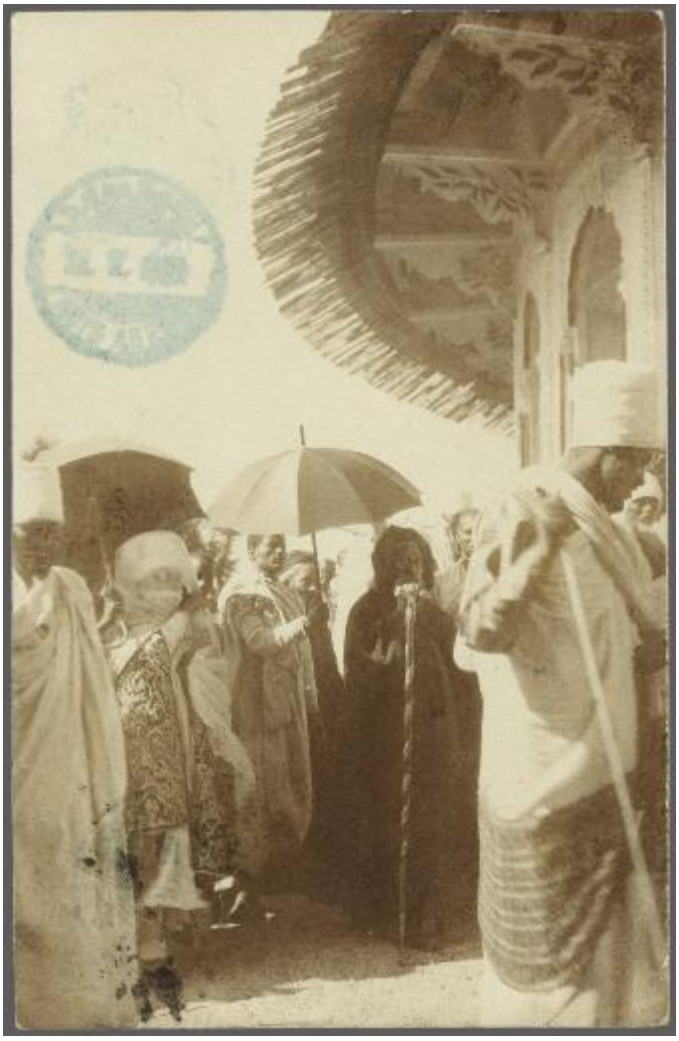
Legation, with only three covers (all used in November and December 1907 after the bankruptcy of the Ethiopian Posts) in total recorded. Unique. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/8db6061ab9adbc7bbce3beae67680d76d6912e19.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «French Legation at Addis / Harar 1908 (Jan 5): Registered cover at triple rate to Graz, Austria franked by Somali Coast 1902 25 c. pale blue & blue, four examples (Ceres 44) tied with two bold strikes of the "Harar Maltese Cross" handstamp with framed 'R' at left in black. Reverse with return address of the French Consulate in Addis Ababa,

manuscript date of sending, Dijon cds (Feb 1) and Graz arrival cds (Feb 3). A few small imperfections to envelope but a famous and rare cover - the sole recorded usage of this cancel on a registered cover. Unique. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/f3e6955230e180c6ec629e46bec3801f3209e211.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «Reorganisation of the Posts 1894: ½ g. salmon, a vertical used on 1908 cover to France in combination with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) tied by "HARRAR / POSTES" datestamps in blue (July 11), with information strike alongside. Djibouti transit and arrival on reverse. A very scarce usage of the first issue during the re-organisation of the Posts period prior to joining the UPU later in the year. Cert. J-F. Brun (2017) ».

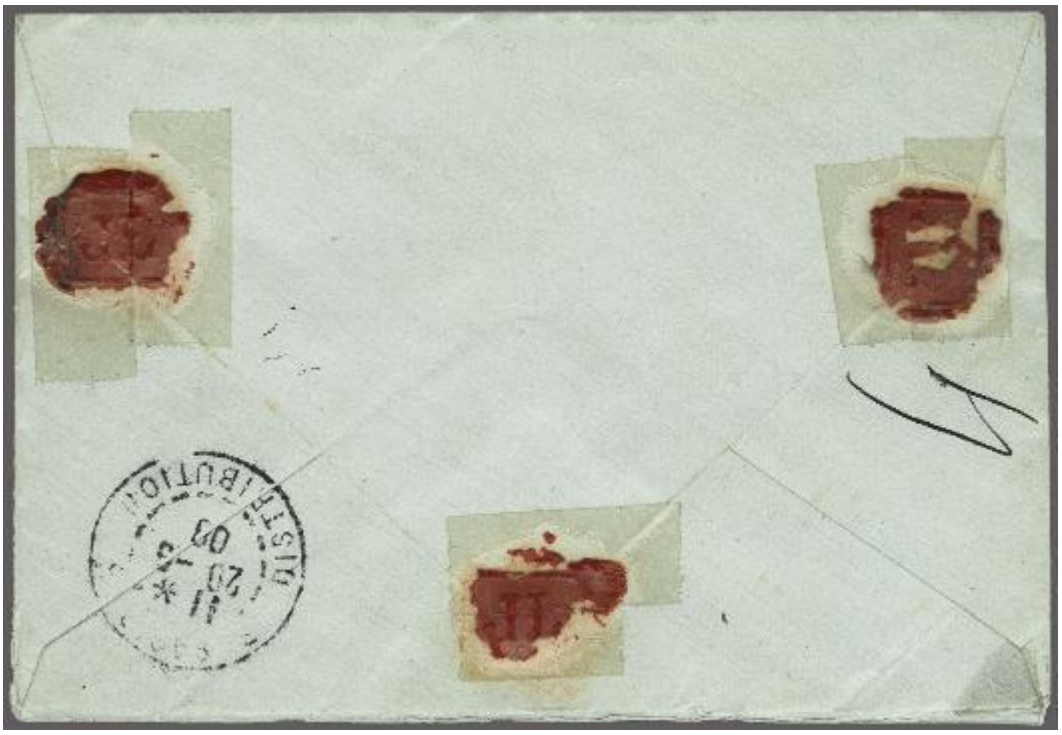
https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/248bd73b017ab296ab5f19750672cf60d7a64248.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1901 (Oct 15): 'Ethiopie' on ¼ g. green and 1905 '05' in purple on ¼ g. green used on postcard (real photo of the 'Coptic School' in Addis Ababa) to France with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in blue-green (May 22). Voiron arrival at left (June 14). Superb and scarce ».



CARTE POSTALE
22. V. 1908
ADIS ABEBA
Correspondance
Adresse
10
Mademoiselle
Eugenie
32 Avenue
Félicie Chollet
Charenton
Seine
FRANCE.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/8e61996a0410121fba02529f4f3ce2ff066219af.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1906 (July 1): Large Minelik '10' on ½ g. salmon, single example used on 1908 postcard to France with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in blue-green (May 22). Superb and scarce. Note: Illustrated in the Sciaky handbook on page 106". The photo on the postcard figures the then head or Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, *Abune* Matewos, and his entourage.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/d16dbf41e0cb43d5f1643762a99a35e7dd4558db.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1908: 'Chemin de Fer Abyssinie / Mission Ozil' envelope to Djibouti franked by Somali Coast 1903 5 c. black & green in a vertical pair (Ceres 56) tied by dotted "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" datestamp (April 15) with information strike alongside. Djibouti arrival cds on reverse (April 16). Cover tears and inclusion at base but a scarce usage".



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/037d0ce3340935e2f94db92aa96a1a04f7928194.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1908: Registered cover to

Paris franked by Somali Coast 1903 50 c. black & green, sheet marginal (Ceres 62) tied by dotted "DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" datestamp (June 7) with information strike alongside. Paris arrival cds on reverse (August 20). Superb and very scarce. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016). ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/9b9fcb87542a4a45a194bd7401a94663e60a50ce.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « Reorganisation of the Posts 1894: First Issue ¼ g. green (2), ½ g. salmon, 1 g. blue and 2 g. deep brown used on 1908 registered cover to Amsterdam, in combination with Somali Coast 1903 75 c. black & bistre (Ceres 63), all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps in blue (July 16) with unframed 'R' at left. Amsterdam arrival on obverse (Aug 2) and readdressed to Arnhem. A scarce late usage during re-organisation period to an unusual destination. Cert. J-F. Brun (2017) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/d0d63489afdbe585162460f026447de74ce6fbab.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «Reorganisation of the Posts 1894: First Issue ¼ g. green (2), used on 1908 postcard to Burgos, Spain with Somali Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine (Ceres 57) all tied by "HARRAR / POSTES" datestamps (Aug 22) in blue with information strike at left. Slight stain at base but a scarce usage and destination".

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1712.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1906 SOMALI COAST 25c canc. DJIBOUTI + HARAR POSTE FRANCAISE (scarce) on envelope from HARAR (superb commercial cachet on reverse) to GERMANY".

29 End of 1906: Imperial Ethiopian Posts, and Series of 1 July 1907: series of 1894 Surcharged & Overprinted: "Dagmawi".

"Alfred Ilg had fallen out of favor with the Emperor and left Ethiopia permanently in 1906; he transited through Harar on his way home. Michel was placed in charge of the Ethiopian Posts. In October, at the request of the Emperor, he went to Addis Ababa thinking he would stay a few months. However, around year-end Menelik expropriated Alfred Ilg's private Posts and re-branded it as Imperial Ethiopian Posts with Michel as its Director. Michel remained in Addis Ababa", and: "In mid-1907, Michel issued a new hand-overprinted set that reads "Dagmawi" (the "second") referring to Menelik II. A new set of postage due stamps was also issued, but they have not been recorded used for that purpose. However, a few have been found used as postage on outgoing mail in 1908. Michel's management of the Imperial Ethiopian Posts deteriorated in 1907. Cut off from most of the modern world the residents in Addis Ababa (and Michel) were able to see the first automobile arrive in December 1907 driven from Djibouti by an Englishman and his engineer. Interested in all things modern, it took only a few days before the Emperor drove the car! The first airplane did not arrive until 1929.". https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf [Link no longer works]

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1907/1907_rp001.htm: « Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon ; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France ».

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/WJMAAOSwxqthbrzd/s-l1600.jpg : “ETHIOPIA 1907, Mi #26, ERROR: INVERTED OPT”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/305.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1907 "Dagmawi" (Menelik II)..”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/306.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1907 "Dagmawi" (Menelik II), complete set of seven, canceled Addis Ababa 20.VII.07 on piece”.

VI Private Ethiopian posts in 1895-1907; Need of Ethiopian overprints

Need of Ethiopian overprints; J.A. Michel's illegal activities; Milikit overprint November 1904 and use of Minilik type 1 before the date of issue

Michel prepared in November 1904 a new overprint **Milikit** but he never got it authorized by Alfred Ilg. It was sold to philatelist even if it was an illegal issue. One travelled commercial item has been reported. In December he used in his correspondence Minilik type 1 overprinted stamp two weeks before the date of issue

Unauthorized **Milikt** overprint on untravelled picture postcard. Cancelled for order Addis Ababa (AA3) 8.9.1908.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1714.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "Unauthorized MILIKT overprint canc. ADDIS-ABABA (french type) on untravelled card".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/8e43968f45b7d4027691fe8f077c9054339d8fb5.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1907 (July 1): Dagmawi '*¼*' in violet on ¼ g. green, a vertical pair used on 1907 postcard (Place Menelik) to Belgium, tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps (Nov 10) in deep blue; in combination with Somali Coast 1903 5 c. black & green (2) tied by Djibouti cds in black (Dec 2) with Brussels arrival alongside (Dec 16). A scarce issue on cover or card. Signed Holcombe ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/b8a813694440dde15616ebbccd61fb3dbbd43f09.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1907 (July 1) Dagmawi '*1*' in violet on 1 g. blue, a used example on 1907 cover to Germany tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps (Aug 19) in black; reverse with rare usage of Port Said 25 c, blue, tied by dotted ""DIRRE DAOUA / ABYSSINIE" cds in black (Aug 28) with Djibouti transit alongside. Some wrinkles but a fine and rare cover ».

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09255/S23/420.jpg (Auction Galleries Hamburg): « 1907, cover, slightly reduced at top, franked by very rare mixed franking of French Levant Blanc type 5 c. blue-green (Yvert 13) and vertical pair of French Port Said (Egypt) 10 c. deep rose Mouchon type (Yvert 25). Tied by dotted "DIRRE DAOUA 24.03.07 / ABYSSINIE " cds of the French post office to Dresden / Germany. Reverse with "DJIBOUTI 25 MARS 07 / COTE FRANse DES SOMALIS" transit cds and arrival "Dresden 6.4.07". ACCORDING TO THE ROBERTO SCIAKY CENSUS THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN COMMERCIAL MAIL MIXED FRANKING BETWEEN FRENCH LEVANT AND PORT SAÏD STAMPS USED IN DIRRE DAOUA (Dire Dawa). A SPECTACULAR ETHIOPIA RARITY ».

30 1908: The Reorganization of the Imperial Ethiopian Posts, with French support, and preparations for joining the U.P.U.

“The French convinced the Emperor to let them re-organize his Posts and prepare it for entry into the U.P.U. The Postmaster in Djibouti, Roque, was brought to Addis Ababa in 1908. In February he received Michel’s stock of stamps; 65,567 in total. Since it was difficult for collectors to obtain stamps from mail that had been sent from Ethiopia, and it was difficult to buy them from Ethiopia, forgers went to work. One of them was Michel. In late 1905, he re-produced the Ethiopie overprint with a different handstamp and sold them to dealers. They quickly saw the difference and alerted Alfred Ilg. He demanded Michel stop selling them, but he did not. Fournier also produced excellent “facsimiles” to which he added his own overprints imitating those of all issues released in 1901-1908. Many other forgeries were produced in Europe, and in the 1970s in Addis Ababa a Greek stamp-dealer went to work making fakes. Roque was practical and effective in his approach. He ordered a new set of stamps to be printed in Paris. After it arrived it was issued on 29 January 1909 following Ethiopia’s admission to the U.P.U. (Universal Postal Union) on 1 November 1908. He also recruited six French postal clerks. They arrived in Ethiopia in May and began their tasks on 1 June 1908 in Addis Ababa, and in Harar, where the French post office had been closed. The Dire Dawa post office became an Ethiopian post office. A new General Post Office was opened in Addis Ababa, inaugurated by the Emperor in August 1908, shortly after a second post office had been opened in Addis Ababa’s

central market. There were now four post office in Ethiopia. It remained that way into the mid-1920s when *Ras* Tafari, future Emperor Haile Selassie, embarked on an expansion of the postal system, which resulted in post offices being opened in small towns across Ethiopia. Surviving mail from most of those post offices is rare; only 2 or 3 covers have been recorded from some of them. After Michel had handed over his stock of stamps, the old issues were declared valid for postage.." https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf (link no longer active).

31 Series of 1908: stamp from the 1894 series and stamp from the 1902 series Surcharged & Overprinted

"Ethiopie and the issues that followed therefore began to appear on the mail that continued to be carried by donkeys to the train at Dire Dawa. However, it appears that a shortage of low values developed or was about to be felt. A reported 7,500 of the ½-guerche stamps were released from the government stock and hand-stamped "1 Piastre" with a scroll below. Issued on 15 August 1908, they had been sold out or withdrawn by early October since they are no longer found on later mail. The enterprising Michel, no longer employed by the Posts, created an imitation that he began to sell. Its overprint was blue rather than greenish-blue. It became clear that the new stamps would not arrive from Paris in time for Ethiopia's admission to the U.P.U. Stamps of all seven values were released from the government stock and overprinted with a printing press in values from ¼ piastre up to 16 piastres matching the underlying values in guerches. The stamps were issued on 1 November 1908, the day Ethiopia became a member of the U.P.U. The sale of French colony stamps ceased; Ethiopian stamps were now valid for postage to all U.P.U. member countries. The use of this issue was short-lived since the new stamps were issued on 29 January 1909. The Ethiopian Posts prospered in the decades that followed, managed by French clerks and a growing staff of Ethiopians. ".

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf [Link no longer functional].

1 Piastre on ½ red

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/309.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1908 1pi on 1/2g red, horizontal pair, left stamp "1" omitted, also single with surcharge inverted".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/308.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1908 1pi on 1/2g red, surcharge inverted, h.r., also double / both inverted used”. Postmark Adis Abeba.

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1908/Piastres014.jpg ´Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France ; 1 Piastre on 1/2 Guerche.

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1908/Piastres016.jpg: « 1 Piastre on 1/2 Guerche: 1 Piastre Omitted »

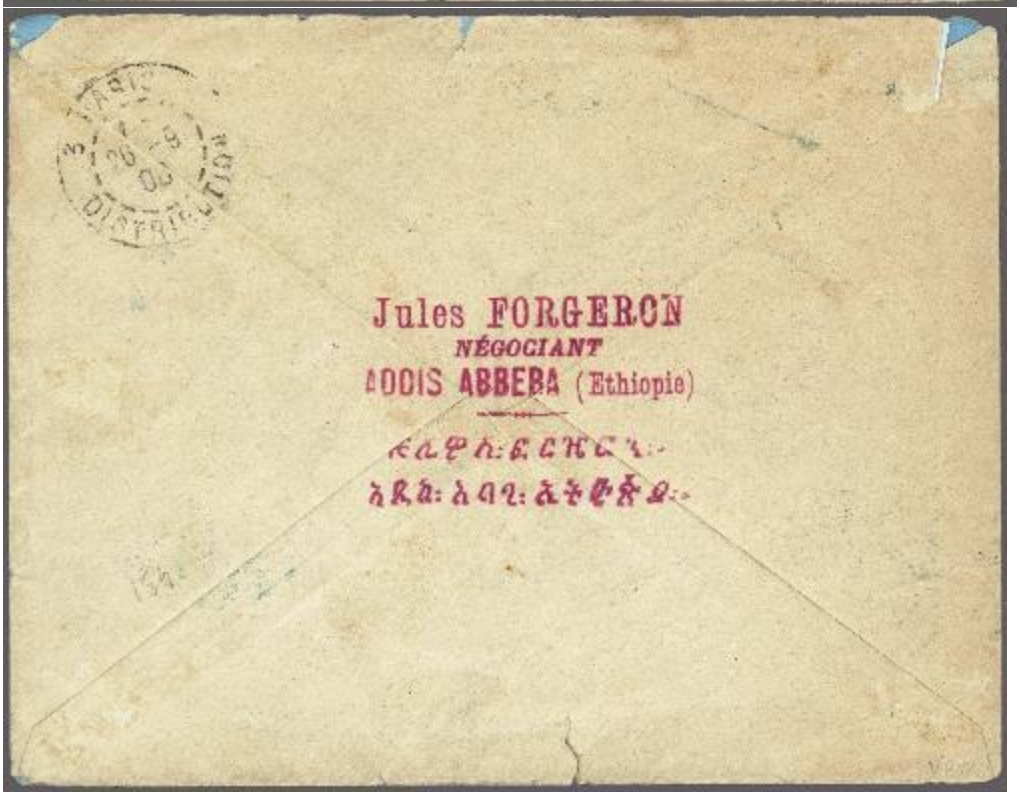
http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1908/Piastres013.jpg: « 1 Piastre on 1/2 Guerche: Inverted OP ».

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1908/Piastres012.jpg: «1 Piastre + Malekth on 1/2 Guerche ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/310.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1908 1 Piastre surcharge in greenish blue on "Malekt" 1/2g red, l.h., well centered, with handstamped guarantee mark on back, v.f. This is Ethiopia's rarest non-variety postage stamp, only a handful of genuine examples recorded”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/311.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1908 1 Piastre surcharge in greenish blue on "Malekt" 1/2g red, canceled to order, l.h., fine example of this provisional surcharge”.



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/09638a70efbd44a2b19011345de7f14328e99bee.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1908: Scroll 1 pi. on ½ g. salmon and July 1906 40 c. in violet on 2 g. deewp brown, corner fault, used onm registered 1908 cover to Paris with Somali

Coast 1903 10 c. black & carmine and 1902 25 c. pale blue & blue all tied by "ADDIS-ABABA / POSTES" datestamps (Aug 28) in blue. Paris arrival cds (Sept 26) on reverse. The envelope with wear and edge faults but a rare usage of the Scroll issue on letter. Cert. P. Holcombe (1997) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/77007f2691b4addebeaf1feca25c49a3f8deea7c.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «Reorganisation of the Posts 1908: Cover sent registered to "Sa Majesté Ménélik II, Empereur & Roi des Rois d'Ethiopie", franked by 1894 ¼ g. green and 1 g. blue, 1903 Malekt ½ g. salmon, 1907 ¼ in violet on ¼ g. green, 1908 Scroll 1 pi. on ½ g. salmon, all tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps (Oct 5) in black with 'R' above. Opening tears at top and back flap missing but a remarkable cover. Cert. J-F. Brun (2016) ».

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/f66013daed3b6127becd1e5ccba6534b9a19e8a9.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «Reorganisation of the Posts 1908: Scroll 1 piastre on ½ g. salmon, a used example on locally mailed 1908 cover mailed addressed to J.A. Michel tied by "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (Oct 23). A scarce stamp on letter ».

32 Series of 1 November 1908: Issue of 1894 Surcharged with Piastre values

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 piastres

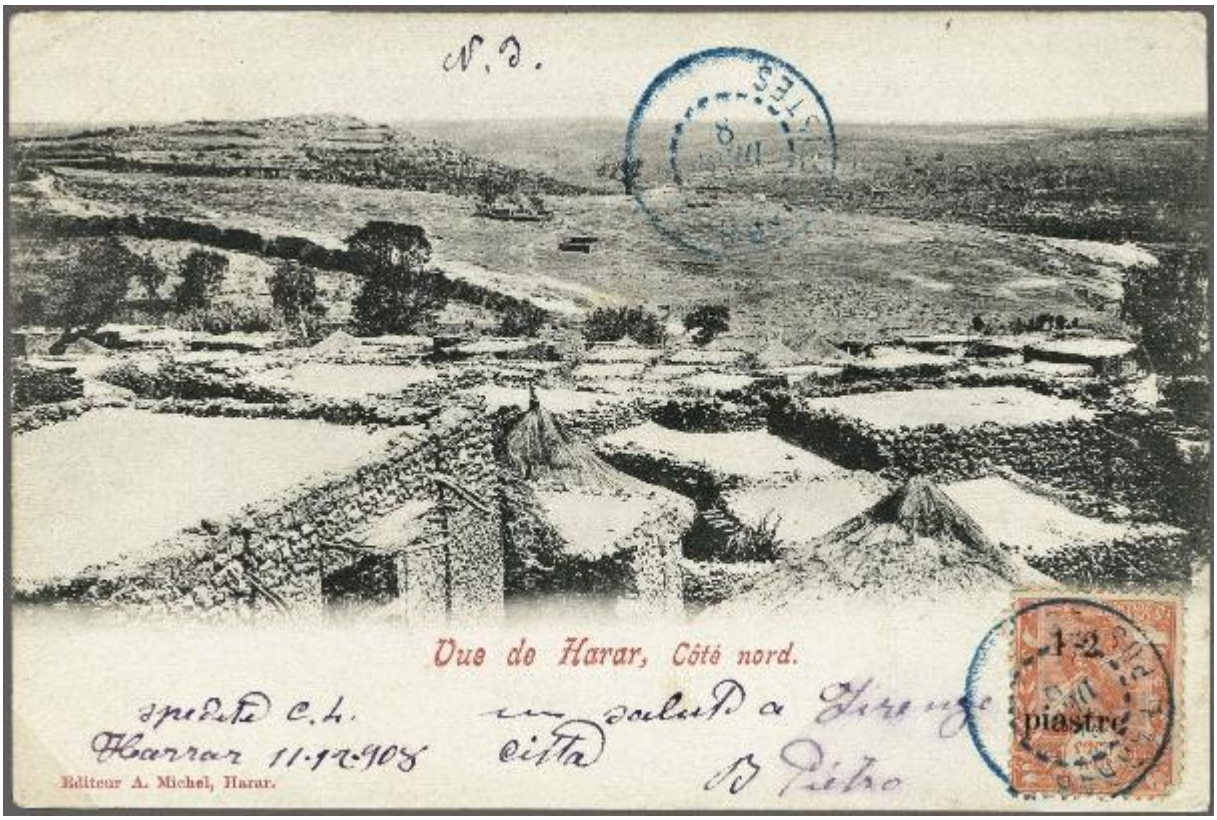
https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2

https://sandafayre.blob.core.windows.net/stock/4689171-0.jpg?v=63784154574310: "ETHIOPIA - 1908 ½p on ½g red (as SG 134, Scott 81) with OVERPRINT DOUBLE, ONE INVERTED - a block of sixteen (4 x 4), fine unused (without gum)".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/312.jpg : "ETHIOPIA, 1908 (1 Nov) surcharges, complete set of seven, used in 1910 on registered cover from Addis Ababa to Paris, with arrival pmk, fine". Postmark Adis Abeba.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/313.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1908 8pi on 8g violet, single franking on registered cover from Dire-Dawa (24.2.09) to Paris, minor cover wear, scarce multiple rate usage (2pi rate to abroad, 4 piastre four additional weight unit, 2 piastre registration)".

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09391/S334/15.jpg (Georg Bühler 334th Auction): “Und 19IIK, 24IIK(seitenverkehrt) sowie 22II mit Aufdruck vom 1.7.1907 alle ungebraucht“.



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/430f464ac1097117dd061d050089c96fa009576d.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1 November 1908: Entry into UPU 1908 (Nov 1): ½ piastre on ½ g. salmon, used on viewside of 1908 postcard to Firenze, Italy tied by "HARRAR / POSTES" datestamp in blue (Dec 12) with information strike above. Reverse with octagonal 'La Reunion a Marseille / L.V. No.1' in black (Dec 15). An early post-UPU usage".

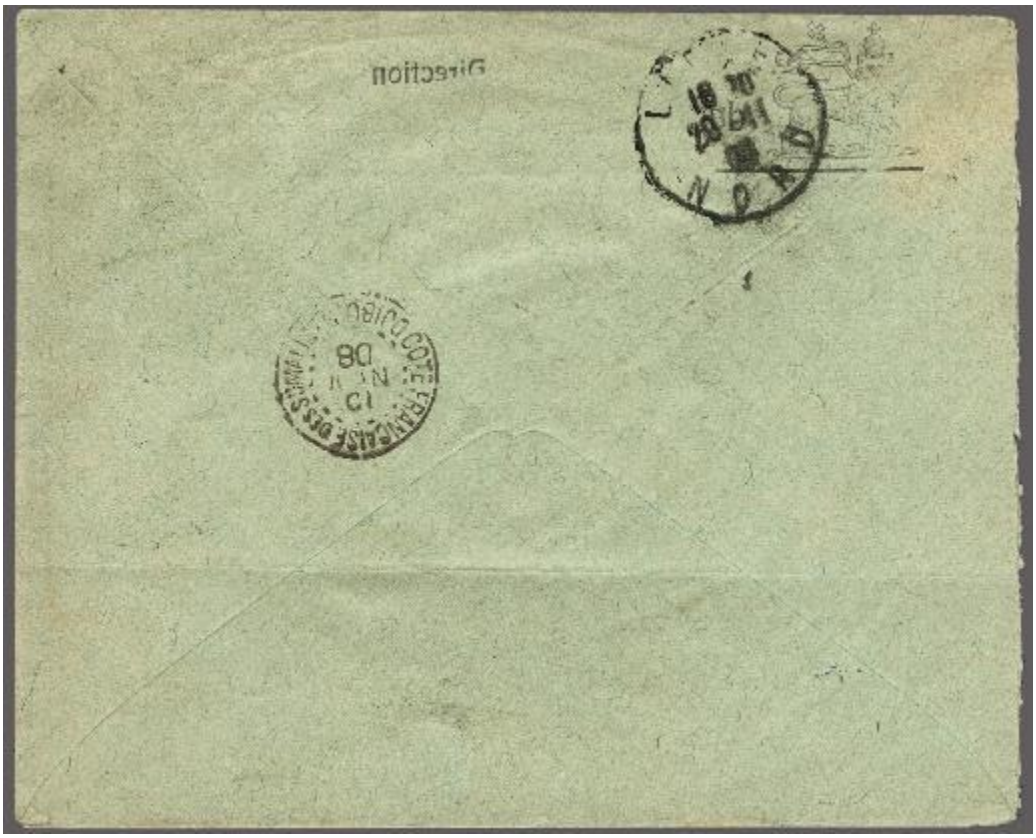
http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8514.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1910 (Jan. 22) envelope, registered to Switzerland, franked by 1908 U.P.U. 1/2pi. on 1/2g. red pair, 1pi. on 1g. and 2pi. 2g. tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's, boxed ''R'', with Colombier receiving mark on reverse”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09562/S1/3309.jpg: "Cover Story – Webshop): "1910 registered cover to Colmbier, Switzerland franked 1907 surcharges ½pi. on ½g. Red vertical [air, 1pi. on 1g. Blue and 2pi on 2g brown tied Addis Adaba Postes cds, framed 'R' registration handstamp with manuscript number alongside, arrival backstamp. The Addis cancel showing inverted reversed year slug".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/495a7ae8a14effa4aa8bd5976ac2c329be17fe48.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1908 (Nov 1): ¼ pi. on ¼ g. green horizontal pair, ½ pi. on ½ g. salmon, 1 pi. on 1 g. blue and 2 pi. on 2 g. brown all used on 1909 registered cover to France, correctly franked at 4 pi. rate (postage 2 pi. + registration 2 pi.), tied by "Addis Ababa" datestamps

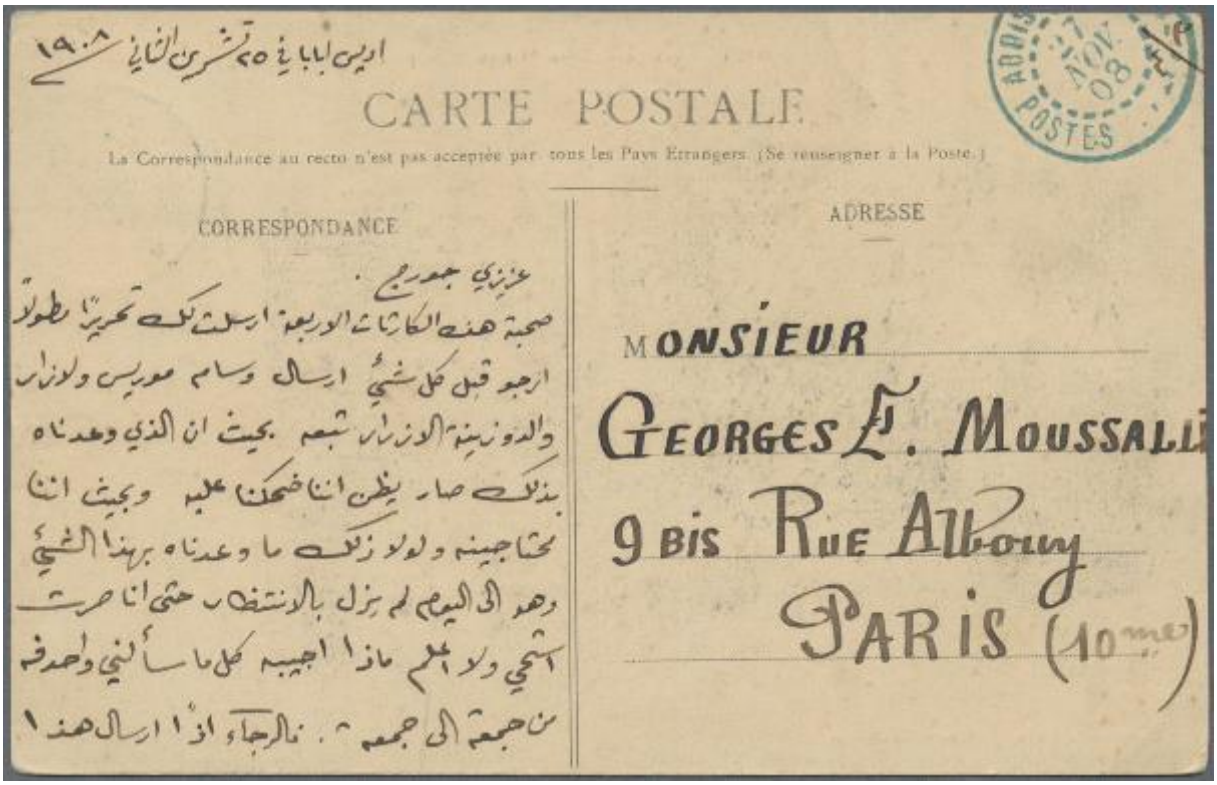
(Jan 7) in blue. Reverse with large black and red wafer seal of the 'Telegraphes Ethiopiens' and Lyon arrival cds (Jan 29)".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/134878f329020ae6288004bc1adf610daba7e607.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1908 (Nov 1): 1 pi. on 1 g. blue and 4 pi. on 4 g. lilac-brown used on 1911 registered cover to Zurich tied by bilingual "ADIS ABEBA" datestamp in black (Feb 6) with information strike and 'R' alongside. Zurich arrival on reverse (March 3) ».

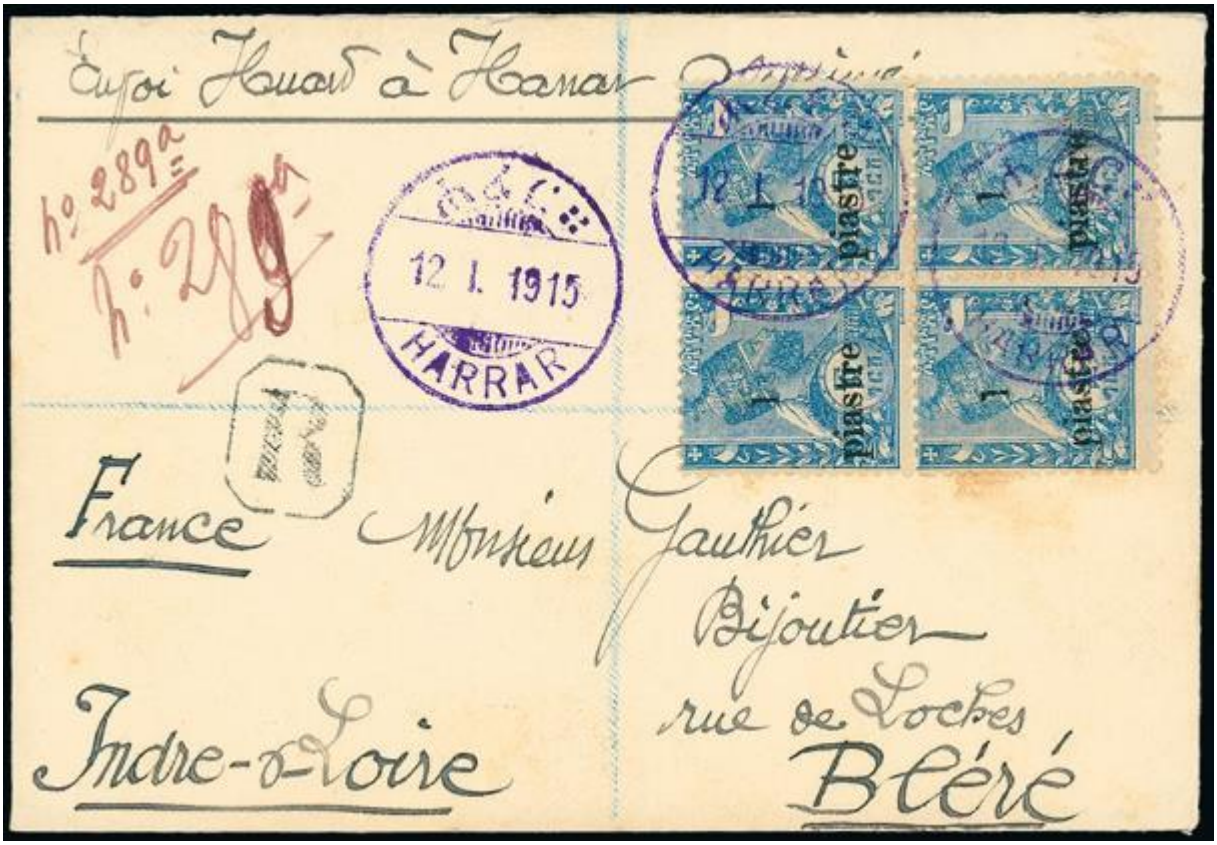


https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/fcdbd17b592e96693850906f2efcf8df9ba55f05.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1 November 1908: Entry into UPU 1908: Printed cover from J. Guillet, 'Direction des Postes et Télégraphes Ethiopiens' at Harar, mailed to France bearing 1

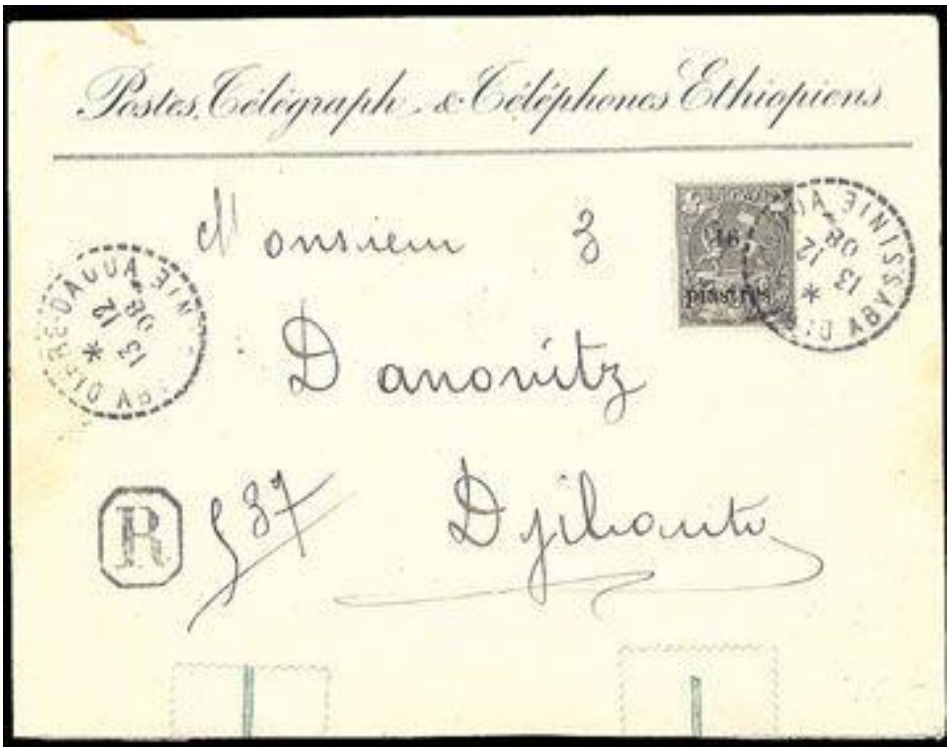
Nov 1908 '2 Piastre' on 2 g. deep brown tied by "HARRAR / POSTES" datestamp in blue (Nov 7) with information strike below. Djibouti cds of transit (Nov 10) and Lille arrival on reverse. File fold away from adhesive, a remarkable early usage of the stamp in first week of issue. Cert. J-F-. Brun (2016) ».



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09081/S52/11078.jpg (Christoph Gärtner 52nd Auction): « Äthiopien. 1908. Fotokarte 'Djibouti - Vue générale du Plateau de Serpent' mit äthiopischer Frankatur nach Paris ». Postmark Addis Abeba.



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8510.jpg: « Ethiopia: 1915 envelope, registered to France, franked by 1908 U.P.U. 1pi. on 1g. blue block of four, tied by Harrar c.d.s's in purple, manuscript registration ''No. 289a'' in red ink, boxed ''R''”.



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200609/789.jpg: “1908 registered cover to Djibouti franked with single 16pi surcharge, cancelled 13.12.08, fine”. Postmark Dirre Daoua.

33 1908: Italian post office in Ethiopia

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: [Link is no longer functional] "Colonia Eritrea card with rare cancellation "Macalle (Etiopia)" as used by the Royal Italian Commercial Agency in November 1908 after Ethiopia had joined the U.P.U.", and "The Italians continued to be interested in Ethiopia and had received permission to set up Royal Italian Commercial Agencies in a few towns across Ethiopia. Their purpose was to explore commercial possibilities that could advance Eritrea's interests. Activated in 1908 in Adwa, Macalle, Dessie and a few other locations, the Italian staff made arrangements for their own mail couriers to Eritrea. Their mail was franked with Colonia Eritrea stamps that were cancelled in Adi Ugri or Adi Caie, in Eritrea, on the border to Ethiopia. The agencies were supplied with date-stamps that included the town name and "Etiopia" in Italian. A few items have been recorded from Dessie and Macalle postmarked with these cancellers. They were seldom used to avoid the political complications of Italians operating a mail service in independent Ethiopia with Italian cancellers that read "Etiopia" just as Ethiopia was joining the U.P.U.!".

34 Postage due 1908-1912

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/stamp/598405-Menelik_II_As_Keffel_and_T_in_triangle-Postage_due_stamps-Ethiopia

35 The series of 27 March 1909: Coat of Arms and Emperor Menelik

"In 1908, Ethiopia joined the UPU and the postal services were, from then, run by the government. In the four decades until the Italian annexation, Ethiopia has issued only a relatively small number of definitives – stamps of exclusive designs printed mostly in Paris. The small number of definitives is compensated by a large number of overprints issued for a variety of reasons. A local issue appeared at Dire Dawa due to a shortage of stamps. Available stamps from the 1894 issue were overprinted using hand stamps and were given a new denomination in hand writing".

Gerben van Gelder:
https://web.archive.org/web/20180606005831/http://www.stampworldhistory.com/stamps-issuing-entities#

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1909/1909_rp001.htm: "delivered to Ethiopia on 22 January 1909 to Mr. J. Cardot, the Director of the Ethiopian Posts. Designer: Stamp - Emile Dete ; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres, Paris, France ; 28 January 1909: Earliest known cancel on a single stamp, 29 January 1909 is earliest known use of stamps on cover ».

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 Guerches

Die Proofs

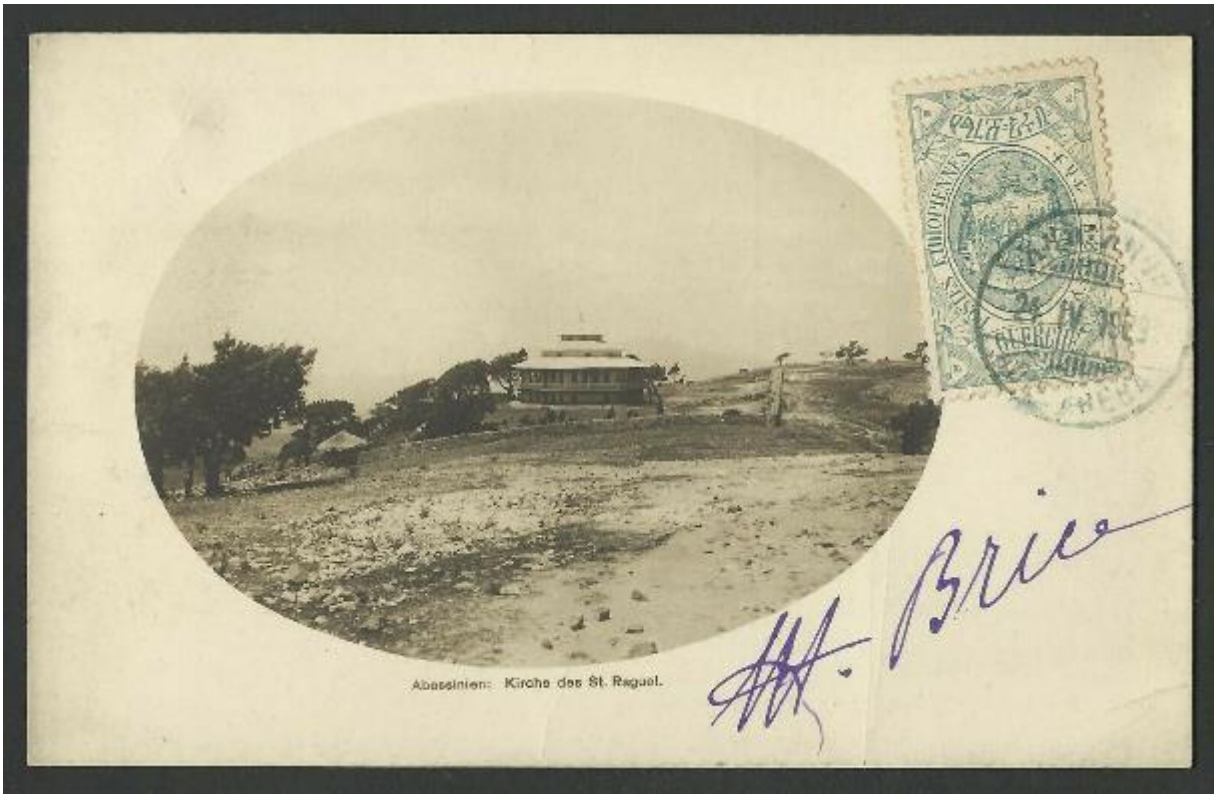
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/314.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1909 Menelik II Pictorials, three different master die proofs, accepted designs with black surround, value tablets blank, signed by Pierre Munier (engraver), v.f., rare".

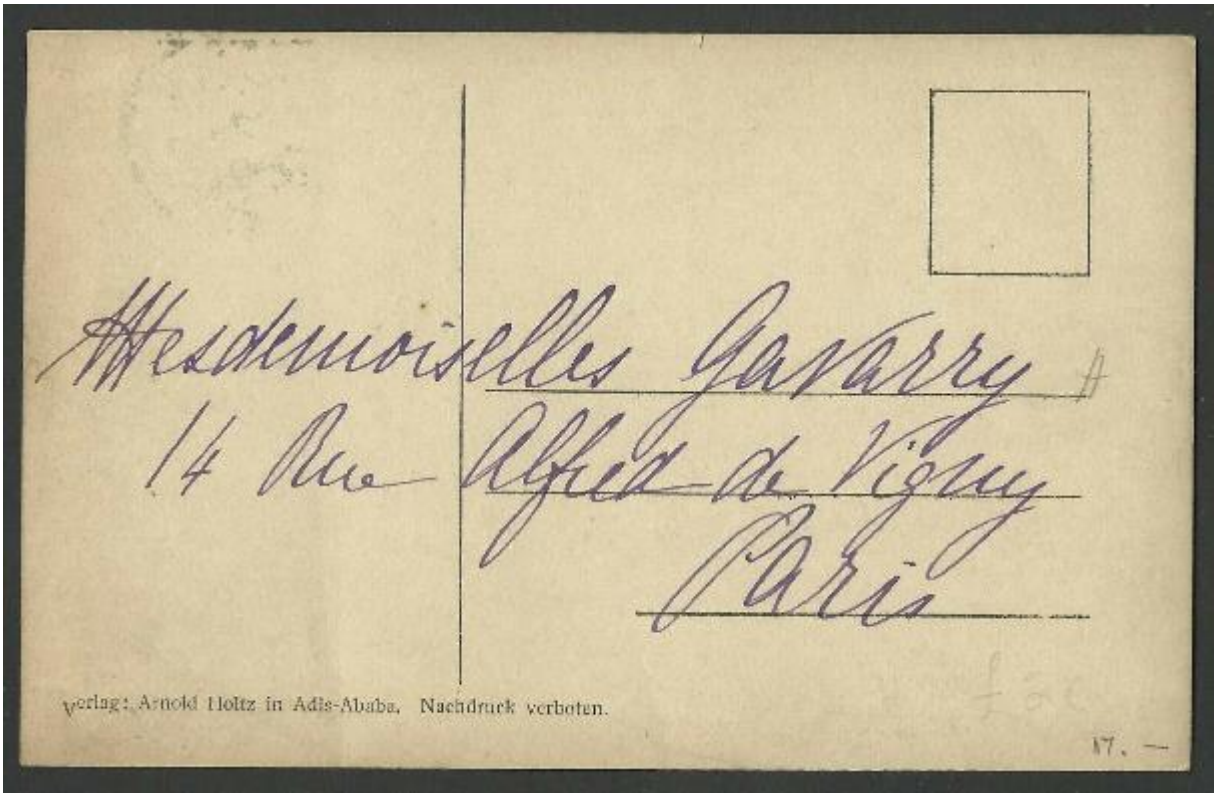
Color essays

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/315.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1909 Menelik II Pictorials, selection of 78 different imperforate trial color die essays, King Solomon's Throne (29), Menelik in Native Costume (25) and Menelik in Royal Dress (24), all different colors, v.f. This is by far the largest holding of these attractive essays (some illustrated on front of Sciaky's handbook)”.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1909/1909_rp001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

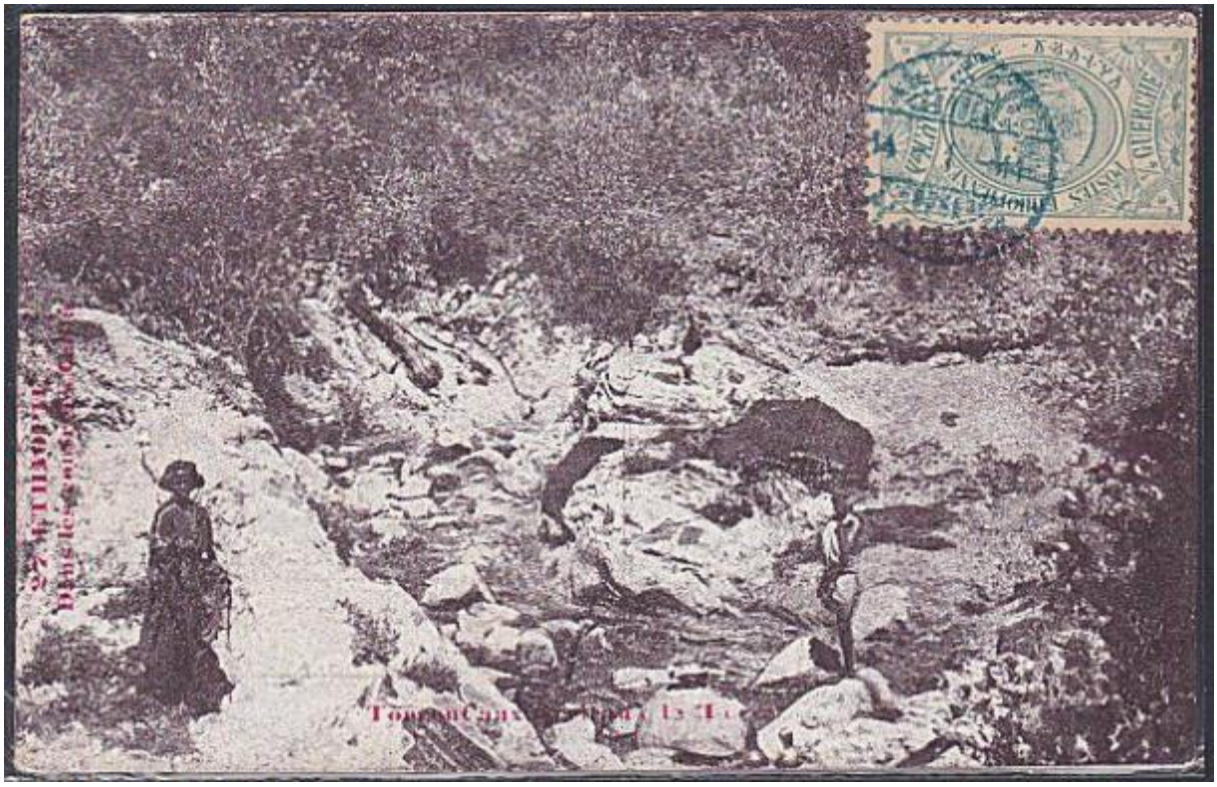
https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1900-1909?page=2





https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/JLkAAOSw-mFhp2xZ/s-l1600.jpg : "ETHIOPIA [24 IV] 1909 RARE PRIVATELY PRODUCED PICTURE POSTCARD TO PARIS USED". Postmark Adis Abeba.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201301/256.jpg: “1910 (30 Mar) charge cover, endorsed "valeur déclarée" (40 francs), sent from Addis-Abeba to France, with Dirre-Daoua Abyssinia cds, some toning, otherwise fine”.



https://www.picclickimg.com/d/w1600/pict/202567266042_/ETHIOPIA-1911-postcard-1-4g-with-HARAR-cds.jpg: [Link not functional] "ETIOPIA 1911 cartolina - 1/4g con HARAR CD in blu".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8513.jpg: "Ethiopia: 1909 (Nov. 21) envelope to England, franked by 1909 1g. pair, tied by dotted circular ''DIRRE DAOUA'' datestamp, triangular ''T'' mark and British ''11/2/F.B. due mark, a few cover faults".

https://www.delcampe.net/static/img_large/auction/001/125/377/764_001.jpg?v=1

https://pictures.philasearch.com/A09196/E16860/1686038703.jpg (73rd Badische Briefmarken GmbH Auction): „1909, 1/2 G karminrosa, unregelmässige Zähne, K1 "DEBRE DAOUA 14-3 10", auf farbige AK (Markenmotive Äthiopien), Alters- Beförderungsspuren, Ak "MONS MR 28 10"".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/316.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1909 1/2g rose (12), used on back of registered cover from Addis Ababa (19.III.10), via Port Said to Italy, with transit and Milan arrival pmks, fine and scarce high franking cover”.

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “An early cover franked with stamps from the 1909 issue addressed to Cairo”.

https://pictures.philasearch.com/A09196/E16860/1686038704.jpg (73rd Badische Briefmarken GmbH Auction): “ 1909, 1/2 (Randklebung, Zahnschürfungen) und 2 G Wappen/Kaiser, unregelmässige Zähne, DB "ADIS ABEBA 21.X.1911", R-AK (SMS Rheinland), Alters-Beförderungsspuren, Ak "LEIPZIG 11.11.11"”.

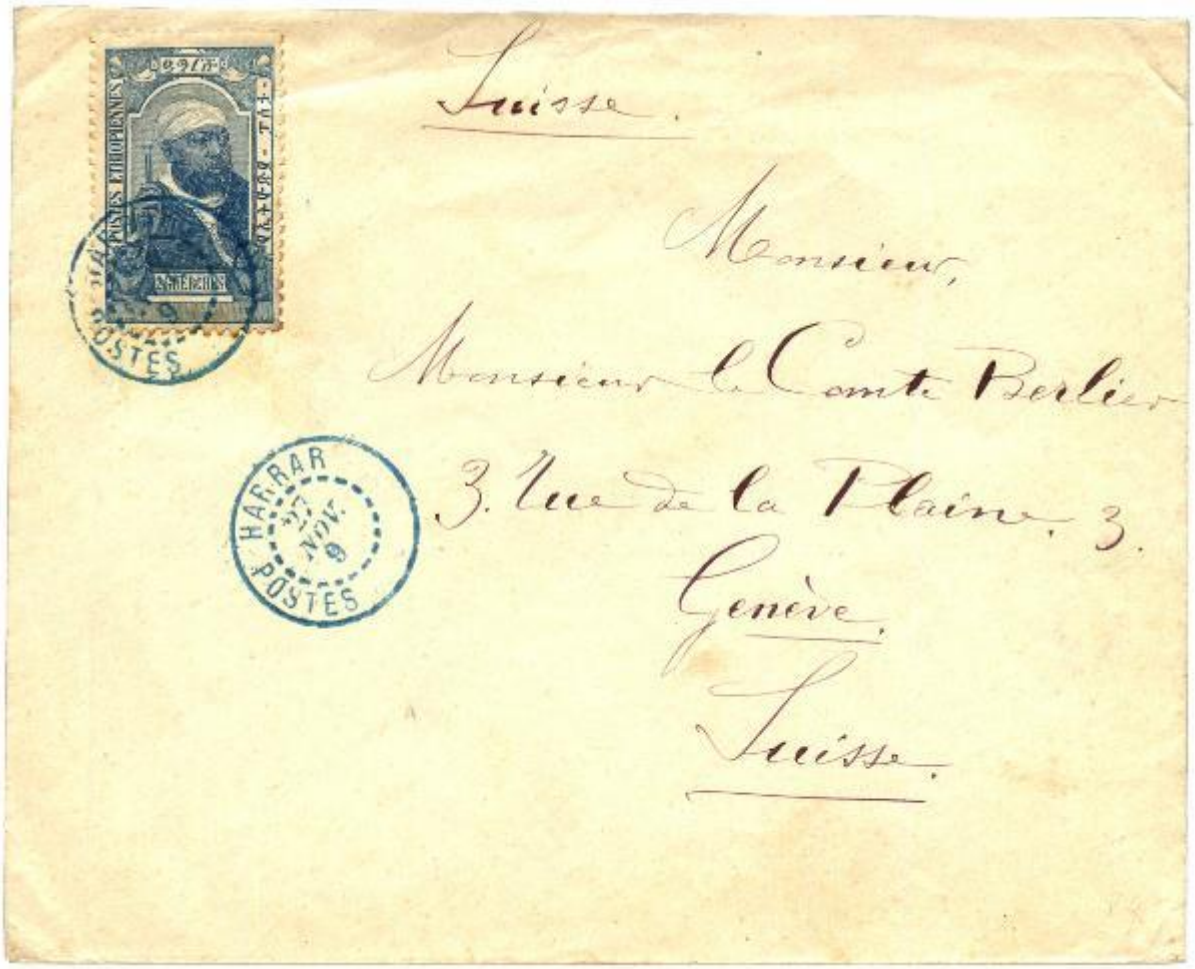
https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: “A rare internal cover sent by an Ethiopian addressed in Amharic and franked with 1909 stamps in 1915”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/34377548d8efbe3a586873a68ce9495a751d97ef.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1909: 4 g. green & rose, a used example on registered cover to Panama Canal Zone, tied by "ADDIS-ABABA / POSTES" in black (Feb 11), thence via New York (March 11) with fine strikes of scarce "PEDRO MIGUEL C.Z. / REGISTERED" arrivals in blue (March 20 and 21) and readdressed to Culebra. A rare destination ».

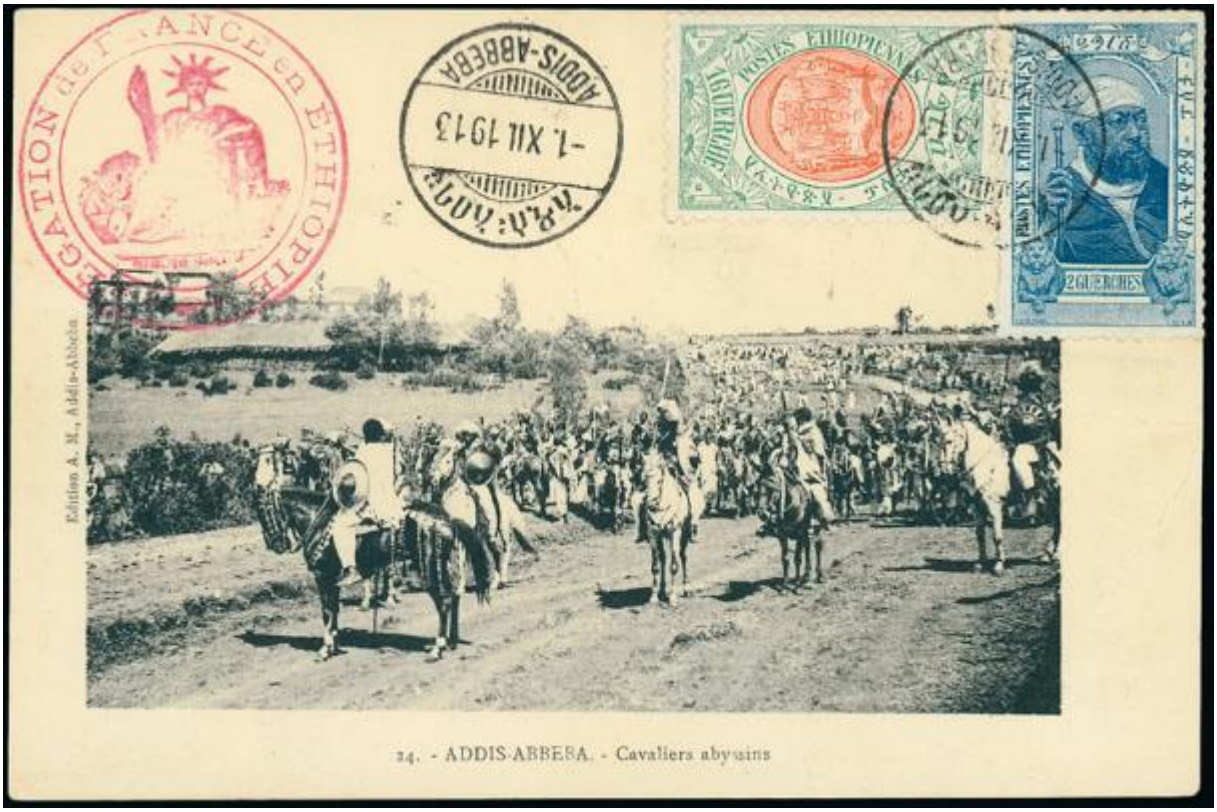
https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09330/S5015/6012.jpg (Michael Rogers Online - Auction 5015) :
« 1910, Registy Label (FX-NY1a), on cover from Ethiopia via New York to Canal Zone, franked with Ethiopia 4g pictorial and tied by two strikes of Addis-Ababa c.d.s. of 22 Oct, backstamped New York (Nov 22 & 23), and Cristobal C.Z. (Dec 1), a very scarce registered cover from Ethiopia to and unusual destination, the Canal Zone; a little edge wear on stamp and cover, otherwise appealing".

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/759898071a03fbeaeef80e454b9b7f42ef962996.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1 November 1908: Entry into UPU [see: https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/About-UPU/Member-Countries?csid=-1&cid=115] ;

1907 (July 1): Dagmawi '*¼*' in violet on ¼ g. green, a used example on postcard of Market at Adda, mailed from Harar by the P.O. Official Sourin to France, tied by "HARRAR / POSTES" datestamp (July 7) in blue; together with 1911 faulty cover to Cairo with 1907 4 pi. on 4 g. lilac-rose pair and 1909 4 g. rose & green sent registered from "ADIS ABEBA" (April 5). Pre UPU issues being used up are relatively scarce"".



https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09220/S121/1713.jpg (Lugdunum 121st Auction): "1909 2g canc. French cds HARRAR POSTES on envelope to SWITZERLAND".



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8550.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1913 (Dec. 1) picture postcard of Ethiopian Cavalry written from the ''Legation de France en Ethiopie'' and registered to France, with double ring cachet, franked by 1909 1g. and 4g., tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s., scarce”.

36 Series of 1 October 1911, The Dire Daoua Provisionals: 1894 series Surcharged & Overprinted "AFF EXCEP FAUTE TIMB"

“The last use of the 1895 stamps occurred in October 1911 when the French Postmaster in Dire Dawa, Joseph Guillet, decided to issue provisionals falsely claiming that a delivery of 1909 stamps from Addis Ababa had been delayed and that he had run out of stamps. The seven values of the 1895 issue were hand-overprinted “AFF. EXCEP. FAUTE TIMB” (Exceptional Franking – Lacking Stamps), mimicking similar issues that had appeared in Madagascar where Guillet had previously worked as a Postmaster. Guillet prepared covers with complete sets addressed locally or to Harar. The stamps were cancelled with a date-stamp that was not in use at the time. Covers addressed to Harar were stamped with a Harar canceller he had taken with him when he was transferred from Harar to Dire Dawa in 1909. To ensure he could sell these untraveled “Dire Daoua Provisionals” to dealers in Europe, Guillet had a friend send registered letters franked with the 4-guerches value to dealers explaining the situation. The stamps were listed in catalogues; as a result Guillet’s sales took off. These stamps have long been considered rare, but research by this writer [Ulf Johan Lindahl] has recorded around 100 sets and 100 sets on covers. However, only two of the covers to Europe that traveled in the mails have been recorded”.https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1911/rp_1911001.htm :

: «Overprint: AFFranchissment EXCEPtionnel FAUTE TIMBres = Special Franking Lacking Stamps ».

« Designer: Stamp - Eugene Muchon; Overprint - J. Guillet; Printer: Atelier de Fabrication des Timbers, Paris, France; Overprint: J. Guillet, Dire-Daoua Post Master ».

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 G.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1910-1919

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/317.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1911 Dire Dawa Provisionals, complete set of seven, n.h., fine-v.f., rare, only 20 or so mint sets recorded, ex-Clinton Geisler (YT 93-99)”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8556.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1911 (Oct. 1) Provisional issue for Diredawa, in unmounted mint blocks of four from the left of the pane with plate number ''4'', all signed in pencil on gum by Guillet (Postmaster at the time), extremely rare and possibly the only blocks of four surviving. (28) Ex Sundberg”.

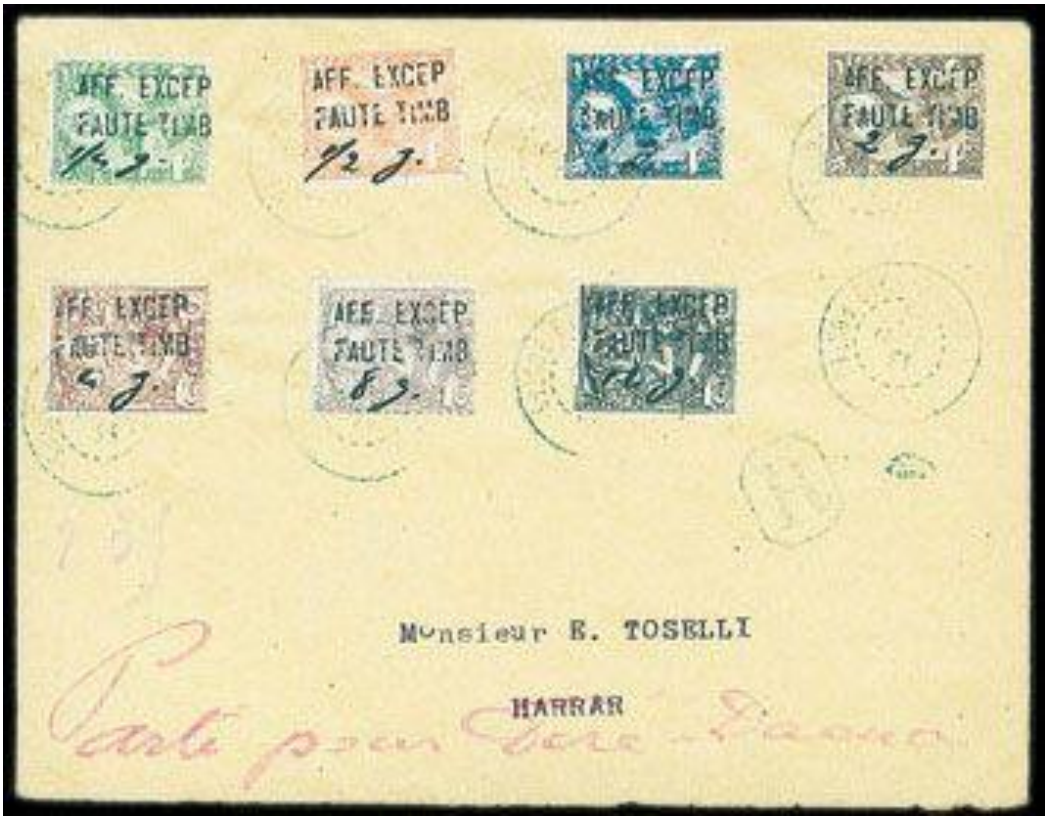
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/318.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1911 Dire Dawa Provisionals, complete set of seven, tied by 3 October, 11 (year-date inverted) cds on pieces, fine”.

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/29a4c1ddfbcac7a08aac43cb30cb70b118e8ed2e.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1911 (Oct 1): Dire-Daoua Provisionals, the set of seven values complete, used on philatelic cover to Harar cancelled by "DIRE-DAOUA / POSTES" datestamps in blue (2 Oct) on second day of issue. Reverse with "HARRAR / POSTES" arrival cds (Oct 3) in black. A scarce set in genuine condition".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/319.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1911 Dire Dawa Provisionals, complete set of seven, tied by 3 October, 11 (year-date inverted) cds on locally addressed cover, filing fold away from the stamps, fine-v.f.".

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09566/S38/3546.jpg (La Postale Philatélie 38th Auction) : «N°93/99, Série complète obl càd de DIRE-DAOUA du 5 oct 1911 sur lettre. SUP. R. (certificat) Qualité: Oblitéré ».

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/848.jpg: «1911 Dire Dawa provisionals, cplt set of seven used on cover to Harar, fine-v.f.”. Postmarks Dirre Daoua.



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/847.jpg: « 1911 Dire Dawa provisionals, cplt set of seven used on cover to Harar, fine-v.f.”. Postmarks Dirre Daoua.

37 1912/13: Harar Local Issue postage due

https://www.picclickimg.com/d/l400/pict/353760339064_/ETHIOPIA-1912-POSTAGE-DUE-Mi-29-35-7-STAMPS.jpg

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/uuMAAOSwxDlh1E75/s-l300.webp

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/k5QAAOSw5Plh1E-K/s-l300.webp

https://i.ebayimg.com/thumbs/images/g/mCkAAOSweXViILkt/s-l300.webp: "ETHIOPIA 1912-13 1/2g ROSE POSTAGE DUE USED". Postmark Harar Addia Abeba.

38 The series of 30 March 1917: Coronation of Zewditu – Series of 1909 Overprinted

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1917/rp1917_001.htm :

Tafari Overprint
TAFARI 4 YEKATIT 1909
Tafari 11 February 1917
OP in Violet

Zauditu Overprint
ZAWDITU 4 YEKATIT 1909
Zauditu 11 February 1917
OP in Black

"Designer: Stamps - Victor Marec; Printer: Stamps - Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres, Paris, France; Handstamp - Local Post Office".

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 G.

Specimen

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/320.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1917 Coronation Issue, overprinted "Specimen", complete set, unused, fine-v.f., one of only three sets in private hands, ex-Sciaky”.

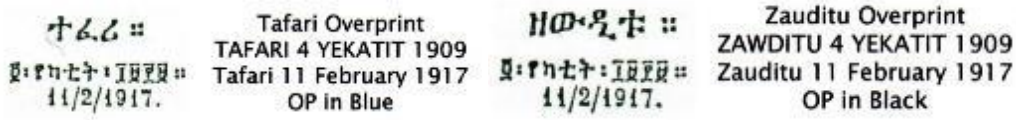
https://cdn.philasearch.com/A00044/E02482/0248200263.jpg (184th Dresdner Briefmarken Auction): “Krönungs-Ausgabe 1917 kplt., ungebraucht“.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1910-1919

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/322.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1917 Coronation Issue, blocks of four, canceled to order by Dire-Dawa pmks, fine-v.f.”.

39 The series of 5 April 1917 - September 1917: Coronation of Zewditu – 1909 series Overprinted with a different overprint

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1917/rp1917_002.htm:



“Designer: Stamps - Victor Marec; Printer: Stamps - Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres, Paris, France; Overprint - A. Desvages Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”.

¼, ½, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 G.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1910-1919

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/327.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1917 2g blue, overprinted in red (error) "Tafari" instead of "Zauditu" (only 2,250 were printed before the mistake was discovered), complete sheet of 25, with margins all around, n.h., faint peripheral toning in

margin only, fine-v.f., ex-Sciaky collection. A rarity, this being the only sheet to survive intact (catalogued as hinged singles)".

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/324.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1917 Coronation of Empress Zauditu, double and inverted overprints, complete sets of nine (including black overprint variety), l.h. or n.h., fine-v.f."[only two illustrations].

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/326.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1917 (28 Sep) registered cover from Addis Ababa to San Jose, Costa Rica, franked with 1g and 4g overprints, with 10 December arrival pmk in Costa Rica on back, fine cover to an uncommon destination".

40 The series of 28 May 1917: two stamps of earlier series Handstamp Surcharged

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1917/rp1917_003.htm : “Designer: Stamps - Victor Marec; Printer: Stamps - Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres, Paris, France; Handstamp - Local Post Office”.

¼ /8G, ½ /8g, 1/16G, 2/16G.

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1910-1919

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/328.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1917 surcharges inverted, set of four blocks of four, l.h. or n.h., fine-v.f.”.

41 1918: Stampless cover to Great Britain

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/15/3266.jpg: "Ethiopia: 1918 (Nov. 24) stampless cover to England with Dire-Daoua bilingual c.d.s., inverted "T" in triangle, Amharic symbol in circle, authorising signature of L. Athill at left and superb British Consulate, Harrar red wax seal on reverse with Port Said Dec. 21 transit alongside".

42 The series of June 1919: Animals and Rulers (Local Motifs)

https://www.posthornmagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Ulf20191026.pdf: "Michel returned to Europe in 1909, where he married. Emperor Menelik became increasingly frail and died in December 1913. He was succeeded by his 16-year old grandson, *Lidj* Iyasu. There were no changes in the postal system nor were any stamps issued to mark the change in power. Alfred Ilg lived in Zurich and died in 1916. Michel returned to Ethiopia with his wife in 1912 and began working for a rubber plantation. He became friends with *Lidj* Iyasu and named one of his children after him.

Lidj Iyasu appointed Michel as an Advisor to the State shortly before *Ras* Tafari and Zauditu, Menelik's daughter, deposed him in October 1916. *Ras* Tafari was made Regent in 1917 and Zauditu crowned Empress – an event that was commemorated with three different overprinted issues using the 1909 stamps. *Ras* Tafari had been educated by the French Capuchin Fathers in Harar and knew Michel. When *Ras* Tafari became Regent in 1917, he commissioned Michel, or Michel convinced *Ras* Tafari, to issue a new set of stamps. The process began in early 1917. The French in charge of the Posts thought they would be printed in Paris. However, Michel, working with his brother Fritz in Bern, and an Ethiopian friend, Zamanuel, who was appointed as Minister of the Posts, secretly arranged to have the stamps printed in Switzerland. They were based on rough sketches by Michel depicting animals and on photos of *Ras* Tafari and Empress Zauditu taken at the coronation. Due to unknown complications, Michel had to front the payment for the stamps. To ensure repayment, he

arranged a contract with Zamanuel that gave him 10% of the new stamps for Michel to sell in Europe and the right to reprint them after ten years. He also received six of the old cancellers and the hand-stamps he had used when he was Director of the Ethiopian Posts.

With World War I over, Michel returned to Europe in 1919 and settled in Nice. The new stamps, dubbed the "Animals & Rulers" were issued in June 1919. They were used with various surcharges into 1928 when Ethiopia's fourth set of stamps was issued, now printed in France. The 1 and 2-guerches values of the "Animals & Rulers" depict *Ras* Tafari, who was crowned King in 1928 and Emperor in 1930 when he took the enthronement name Haile Selassie. Haile Selassie returned to Ethiopia in 1941 after the British, with forces from Kenya and South Africa, had liberated the country from the occupying Italians. Haile Selassie was included on most stamps of the 1940s onwards to the 1970s and appeared on a large definitive set in 1973 before he was overthrown by a military junta in 1974. He also appeared on numerous stamps issued by many other countries.

Michel arranged to re-print the "Animals & Rulers" in 1931 and sold them as genuine through Bela Sekula. The stamps were difficult to distinguish as reprints since they had been printed using the same type of paper and inks. Michel was contacted by a Swedish philatelist, Ivan Adler, in the 1950s. Adler compiled the first specialized handbook of Ethiopia's early stamps. Unfortunately, he relied on Michel, who made up facts as he went along. Michel also produced many faked covers using the cancellers and hand-stamps he had obtained in 1918. He became the chief faker of Ethiopian postal history. Jean-Adolph Michel died in 1967, outlived by Emperor Haile Selassie. It was only in the early 1980s the extent of Michel's production was revealed. Fortunately, he was sloppy and his fake covers are easy to detect. Menelik's historic victory at Adwa, in 1896, laid the foundation for Ethiopia's postal history to forge its own unique path. As mentioned earlier, postal progress was energized by a small group of individuals in which Jean-Adolph Michel, the young 21-year old from Switzerland, emerged as the key player". (Posthornmagazine; link no longer active).

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm : „Designer: Walter Plattner; Printer: Busag AG, Berne, Switzerland; 4 guerches withdrawn shortly after issue; 2 Thalers never issued for postal use".

1/8, ¼ , ½, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12G

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10 $

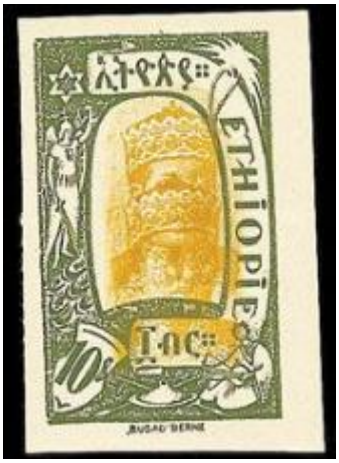
http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

The series depicting both (wild) animals and rulers was initially met with some surprise and ridicule among part of the Ethiopian public, as the stamp series seemingly equated royal rulers and wild animals.

The church seen in the seventh stamp is the St. Giorgis Church in Addis Ababa (Giorgis being Ethiopia's patron saint), the building of which started after the Battle of Adwa in 1896 and completed in 1911. The church housed the 'tabot' (the symbolic copy of the 'Ark of the Covenant' tablet), which had been carried on the battlefield. The last three stamps depict Queen Taytu, spouse of Emperor Menilik II.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/851.jpg: "1919 Issue, inverted centers, cplt set, l.h. or n.h., v.f., rare". [Rare because the picture of the elephant is upside down]

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/857.jpg: “1919 10g green, imperf. block of six, center omitted, frame double, one inverted in middle vertical pair, n.h., v.f”.



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/858.jpg: “1919 10g green & bister, imperf. single, center double, n.h., v.f.”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/850.jpg: “1919 Issue, imperforate singles, cplt set, l.h. or n.h., v.f., rare”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/852.jpg: “1919 2g ultramarine & brown, imperf. horiz. pair, right stamp showing a shift of vignette, n.h., v.f.”.

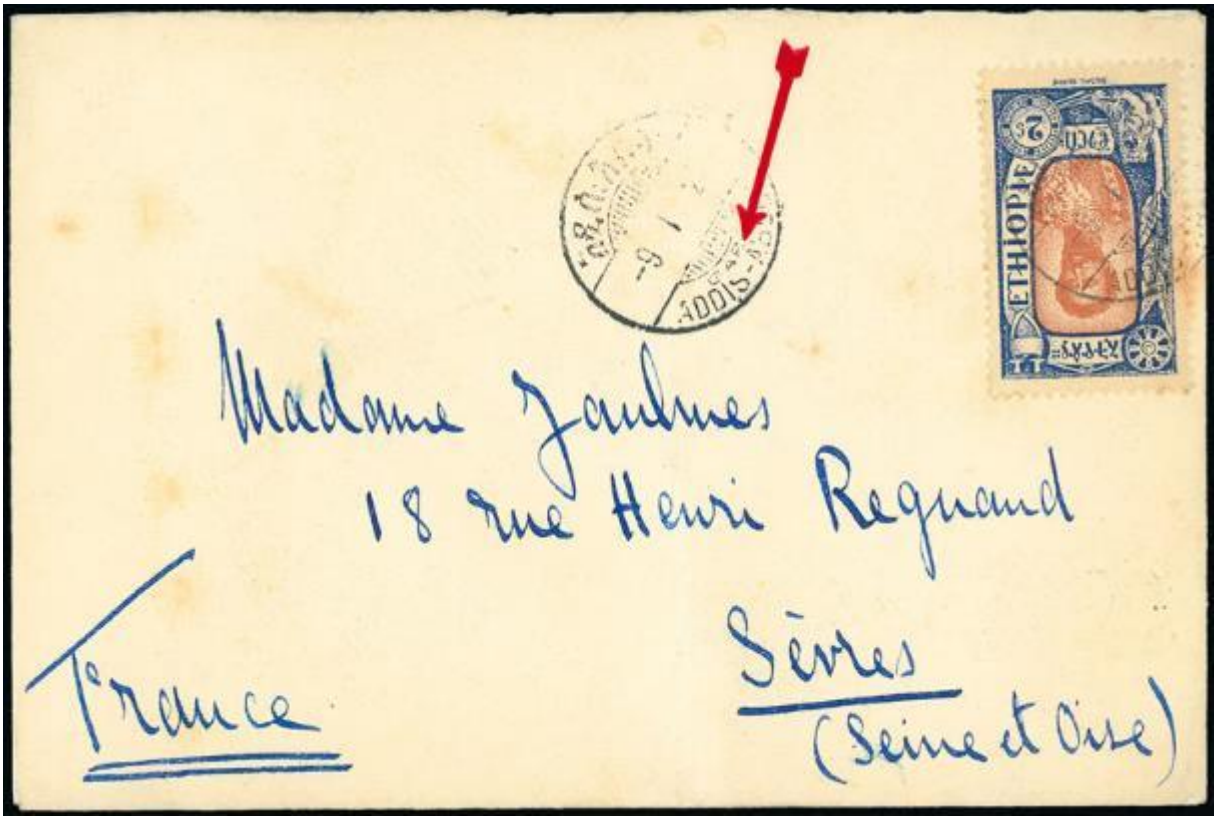
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/853.jpg: “1919 3t brown and green, imperf. vert. pair, center omitted from the top stamp, n.h., v.f., rare”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/854.jpg: “1919 4t brown, imperf. single, double frame, one inverted, center omitted, v.f., rare”

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/855.jpg: “1919 4t brown, imperf. block of 12, top three stamps center omitted, n.h., v.f., rare”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/856.jpg: “1919 4t brown, imperf. strip of three, center omitted at right, partly missing in the middle, n.h., v.f., rare”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09241/E00135/0013503862.jpg (228th Karl Pfankuch & Co Auction): „ R-Brief mit bunter Mischfrankatur 1/8 - 2 G und blauem R-Zettel "HARRAR" 1925 nach Lübben, Kuvert kl. Mängel. Dekorativ und selten”.



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8516.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1927 (Jan. 9) envelope to France, franked by 1919 2g. tied by ''GARE/ADDIS ABABA'' datestamp with another strike alongside”.

43 Overprint of October 1919

4G/4$

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09212/E02079/0207900793.jpg (72nd Hadersbeck Auction - Complete auction): “1927, 29.XI., 4 G. a. 4 Dollar, St. "ADDIS ABBEBA" auf gesiegeltem R-Brief nach Württemberg, Siegel durchschlagend”.

44 The series of 18 April 1921 – 20 February 1922: Issue of 1919 Surcharged

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1921/1921_rp001.htm: “Designer: Walter Plattner; Printer: Stamps-Busag AG, Berne, Switzerland; Overprints-A. Desvages Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”.

½ / 1/8G, 1 / ¼ G (2 end dots and 4 end dots), 2 / 1G, 2 ½ / ½ G, 4 / 2G

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

45 Surcharges of 25 October 1925 – 4 October 1926

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm : "Designer: Walter Plattner; Printer: Stamps-Busag AG, Berne, Switzerland; Overprints-A. Desvages Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia".

25 October 1925: 1 / 6G

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929

29 October 1925: 1 / 12G

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

12 May 1926: 1 G / 3$

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

13 June 1926: 1G / 10$

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

22 September 1926: ½ G / 1$. Two types: upwards and downwards

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

4 October 1926: ½ G / 5$

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1919/rp1919_001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929 Postmark Addis Abeba.

46 Other surcharges of 1926-1927

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1926/1926_rp001.htm, and http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1927/1927_rp001.htm, and : “Designer: Walter Plattner; Printer: Stamps-Busag AG, Berne, Switzerland; Overprints-A. Desvages Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”.

1G / 12G bar as value obliteration

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1926/1926_rp001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber)

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/331.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1925 1g on 12g lilac & gray, block of four, canceled to order, upper right stamp variety (missing the middle Amharic character), v.f., rare multiple, Postmark Addis Abeba.

½ G / 8G (two types); 1G / 6G (two types); 1G / 3$ (two types), with rosette as value obliteration

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1927/1927_rp001.htm (with permission from Daryl Reiber).

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/337.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1927 1g on 12g, surcharge inverted, block of four, l.h., v.f.”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/336.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1927 1g on 12g, double surcharge, one inverted, showing three partial rosettes, due to shifted surcharges, also horizontal pair, double surcharge, all v.f.”.

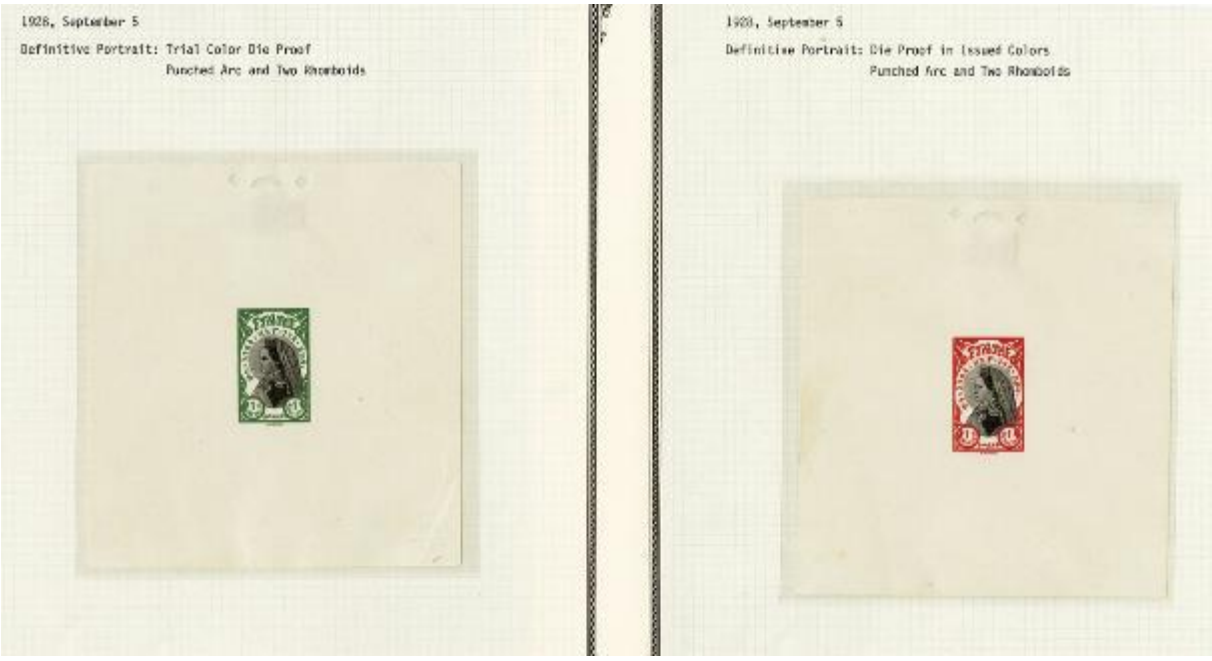
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/329.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1925 (16 May) registered cover (opened for display) used in 1928 from Addis Ababa to Egypt, attractively franked with five different surcharges, including two with double and inverted varieties, correct 4g franking, with Alexandria arrival pmk".

47 The series of 1 (or 5?) September 1928: Emperor Ras Tafari, and Empress Zeoditu

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1928/1928_rp003.htm: "Designer: Adapted from Photographs; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France ».

1/8M, ¼ M, ½ M, 1M, 2M, 4M, 8M, 1 Th, 2Th, and 3 Thalers

Proofs/Designs



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/333.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1928 Definitives, Princess Zauditu (12) and Ras Tafari (15), selection of 27 different printer's trial color proofs, each with punched arc and two rhomboids at top, occasional wrinkles, mostly v.f. A splendid group of proofs, ex-Boksenbom”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/15/3256.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1928 1m. colour trial épreuve de luxe (110 x 122mm) in unissued blue-green and olive-brown with ink numbers at lower right”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/334.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1928 Definitives, ten different designs on two presentation deluxe sheets dated 1925 and 1927, fresh and v.f.".

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/341.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1928 pair and four singles, each with center displaced to top or bottom, some creases, mostly fine-v.f.”.

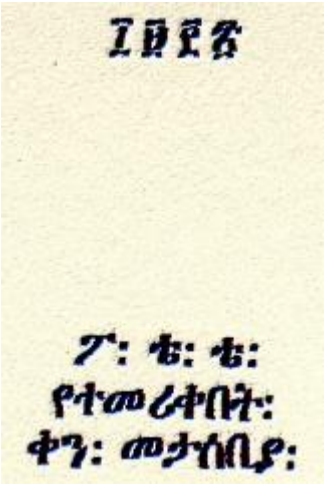
https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/339.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1928 1/2m and 2m, two of each, used on registered cover from Addis Ababa (8.8.29) to Czechoslovakia, bearing the registration label "Kaffa", handstamped "Addis Ababa", Bank of Abyssinia wax seal and transit pmks of Port Said and Port Taufiq, along with Prague arrival on back, fine. As evidenced by the label, a post

office in Kaffa was planned, but never opened. This is stated to be only known example with the Kaffa registry label".

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09621/S14/2099.jpg (Filatelia Mazzini Milano 14th Catalogue - Stamps and postal History): "STORIA POSTALE - Estero - Raccomandata da Harrar (etichetta color rosso bilingue) affrancata fronte e retro con 4 francobolli di ugual valore di Etiopia (1 mek). La lettera giunge a Livorno in data 15.10.1929: al retro bolli arabi di Alessandria e Porto Said".

48 1 September 1928: Same series overprinted: Opening of the General Post Office in Addis Ababa

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1928/1928_rp002.htm :



“Designer: Adapted from Photographs; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - Leon de Robilliard Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”.

1/8M, ¼ M, ½ M, 1M, 2M, 4M, 8M, 1 Th, 2Th, and 3 Thalers

]

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/342.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1928 Post Office Inauguration, six complete sets, each mounted in green, red and salmon presentation folders (mostly different), canceled First Day of Issue Addis Ababa 1 September, 1928, fine-v.f., scarce group".

49 The series of 7 October 1928: Coronation of Ras Tafari

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1928/1928_rp04.htm: "7 October 1928 - Proclamation of Negus Tafari Overprint; Designer: Adapted from Photographs; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - Leon de Robilliard Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Most illustrations, also of many varieties: permission Daryl Reiber.

1/8M, 2M (two types), 8M, 2Th.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/343.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1928 Coronation, two sets of five, trial handstamps in violet and another in red, also single 1/4m overprinted in red, fine-v.f.”.

Violet overprint; normal position

Violet overprint: Crown position

Variety : violet overprint : double, and sideways double

Violet overprint: Face position

Variety: violet overprint, sideways

Variety: violet overprint, inverted

Variety: purple overprint, double, and inverted, as well as inverted double

Variety: violet overprint, normal and inverted

Variety: violet overprint overspanning two stamps, and double

Variety: one stamp normal, one inverted

Red overprint: normal position

Red overprint: crown position

Red overprint: face position

Variety: red overprint, face position, double, double inverted, and normal+inverted

Variety: red overprint, sideways, crown on right, and crown on left

Idem, crown on left, double

Variety: red overprint, inverted

Variety: red overprint, two stamps, one missing

Variety: red overprint, one stamp normal, one inverted

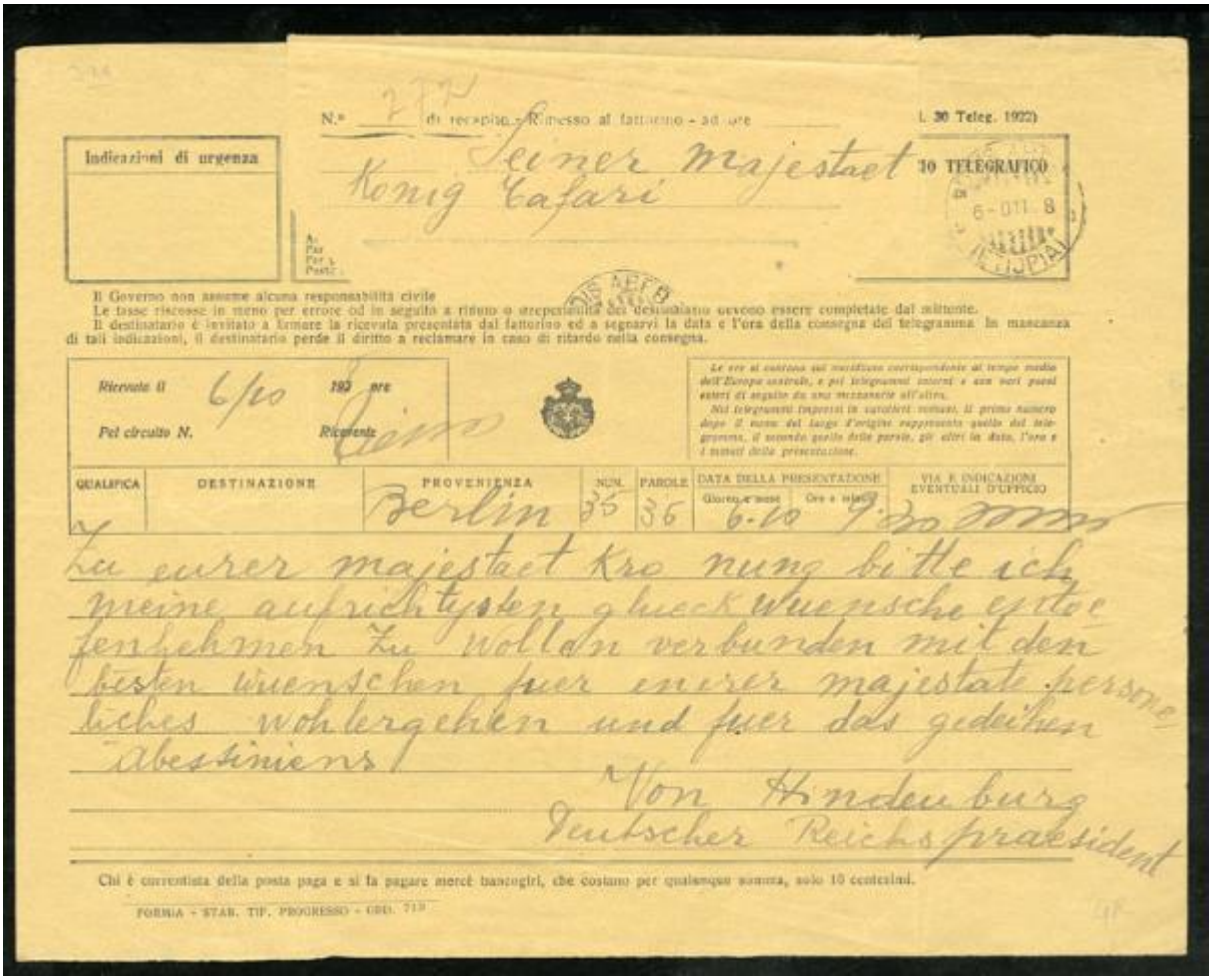
Blue overprint: normal position

1/8M : https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1920-1929

Black overprint, normal position

Black overprint: crown position, and variety: double

Black overprint: face position, and Variety: Black overprint inverted



N.° 7 di recapito - Rimesso al fattorino - ad ore

L. 30 Teleg. 1922)

Indicazioni di urgenza

Seiner Majestaet
König Tafari

10 TELEGRAFICO

6-OTT. 8

Il Governo non assume alcuna responsabilità civile
Le tasse riscosse in meno per errore od in seguito a rinvio o irreperibilità del destinatario devono essere completate dal mittente.
Il destinatario è invitato a firmare la ricevuta presentata dal fattorino ed a segnarvi la data e l'ora della consegna del telegramma. In mancanza di tali indicazioni, il destinatario perde il diritto a reclamare in caso di ritardo nella consegna.

Ricevuto il 6/10 1928 ore

Pel circuito N. Ricevente

QUALIFICA	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUM.	PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE	VIA E INDICAZIONI EVENTUALI D'UFFICIO
		Berlin	35	36	6.10 9.30	

Zu eurer majestaet Kro nung bitte ich meine aufrichtysten gluck wuensche entge fenzunehmen zu wollen verbunden mit den besten wuenschen fuer eurer majestaet persoe liches wohlergehen und fuer das gedeihen Abessiniens!

Von Hindenburg
Deutscher Reichspraesident

Chi è correntista della posta paga e si fa pagare mercè banconiri, che costano per qualunque somma, solo 10 centesimi.

FORMIA - STAB. TIP. PROGRESSO - GRD. 719

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/340.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1928 Telegram to H.M. King Tafari, sent on 6th October, 1928 by Paul von Hindenburg, president of the German Reich, congratulating his majesty on his coronation, signed Von Hindenburg, with arrival pmk Addis Ababa 6 October, 1928. An appealing, historical item". (Incorrect: the message does not mention a coronation. Emperor Haile Sellasie was only officially coronated on 2 November 1930. This congratulatory message by P. von Hindenburg was sent on the occasion of *Ras* Teferi being named 'King' (*nigus)* on the next day, 7 October 1928, by the (nominal) monarch Empress Zewditu, after an internal power struggle. *Ras* Teferi then became the effective but still uncrowned ruler of Ethiopia.)

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1928/1928_Negus_Covers/Negus_001a.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Internal Mail. 7 October 1928 Addis Ababa cancel. 2 1/8 Mehaleks franking. Back dated First Day philatelic cover“. (Addressed to one Mr. Tegegne Atnafu, in Gore, southern Ethiopia)

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1928/1928_Negus_Covers/Negus_002a.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Internal Mail. 7 October 1928 Addis Ababa cancel. 110 5/8 Mehaleks franking. 8 October 1928 Dire Daoua receiver. Back dated First Day philatelic cover. Likely did not travel“. (The addressee, Mr. Adrien Zervos, was a notable Greek trader and later author of a monumental documentary book on Ethiopia, *L'Empire d'Éthiopie*, published in 1936).

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1928/1928_Negus_Covers/Negus_005a.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Registered Mail to Switzerland. 13 October Addis Ababa cancel. 4 Mehaleks franking pays the expected Rate (2 M surface mail + 2M registration) to Switzerland. 27 October 1928 Geneveve Dist. Letter receiver".

Monsieur PHILIBOSSIAN
City Hall Station
P. O. Box, 720
NEW-YORK
(U. S. A.)
ADDIS-ABEBA R. P.
R № 837

NEW YORK, N.Y. REGIV. DIV.
4 -26 1929
NEW YORK, N.Y. REG. DIV.
4 -26 1929
NEW YORK, N.Y. CH. STA. REG.
4 -27 1929

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1928/1928_Negus_Covers/Negus_006a.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Registered Mail + 4 Extra Weight Units to United States. 22 March 1929 Addis Ababa cancel. 8 Mehaleks franking pays the expected Rate (2 M surface mail + 4M for 4 extra weight units + 2 M registration) to the United States. 26 April 1929 New York NY Reg'y Div. transit. 27 March 1929 New York NY C.H. Sta. receiver.". [also see http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1928/1928_rp06.htm for a few other covers].

50 16 August 1929: Airmail overprints

1/8M, ¼ M, ½ M, 1M, 2M, 4M, 8M, 1 Th, 2Th, and 3 Thalers

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1930-1939

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09621/S14/2098.jpg (Filatelia Mazzini Milano 14th Catalogue - Stamps and postal History): "STORIA POSTALE - Estero - Raccomandata da Addis Abeba gare, etichetta in color rosso bilingue, affrancata sul fronte con 4 francobolli soprastampati, la lettera è diretta a New York, timbri di arrivo al retro". Postmark Addis Ababa.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8518.jpg: "Ethiopia: Airmails…".

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/46/EthiopiaFirstFlightCover1929.jpg?1649273405012: “A first flight cover of Ethiopia, 1929”.

51 The series of 3 April 1930 Proclamation of King Tafari as King Haile Selassie: Hailé

Essay

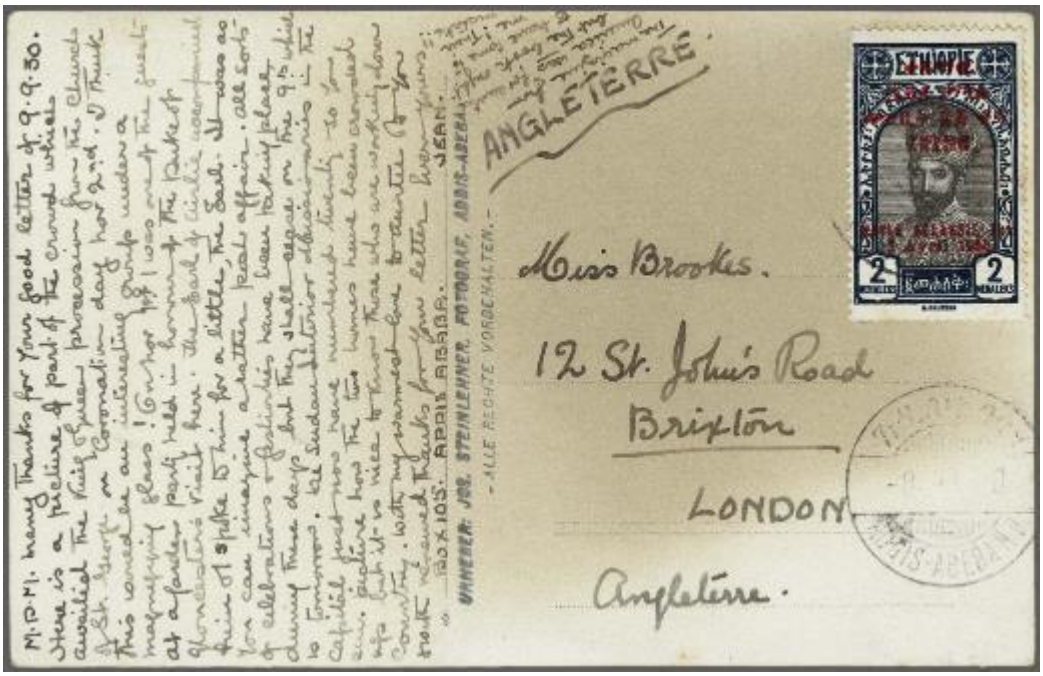
http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_05.htm: “3 April 1930 - The Proclamation Issue – Essay; Not officially Issued, Some Known Used on Cover; Designer: Adapted from Photographs; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - Leon de Robilliard Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia” (permission Daryl Reiber).

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Stamps/1930%20014.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Post Card Flown on Graf Zeppelin".

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Stamps/1930%20016.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „Covers Sent to Cataloguer Yvert & Tellier“. Postmark Addis Abbeba / Addis Abeba.

Official series: 1/8M, ¼ M, ½ M, 1M, 2M, 4M, 8M, 1 Th, 2Th, and 3 Thalers: two types

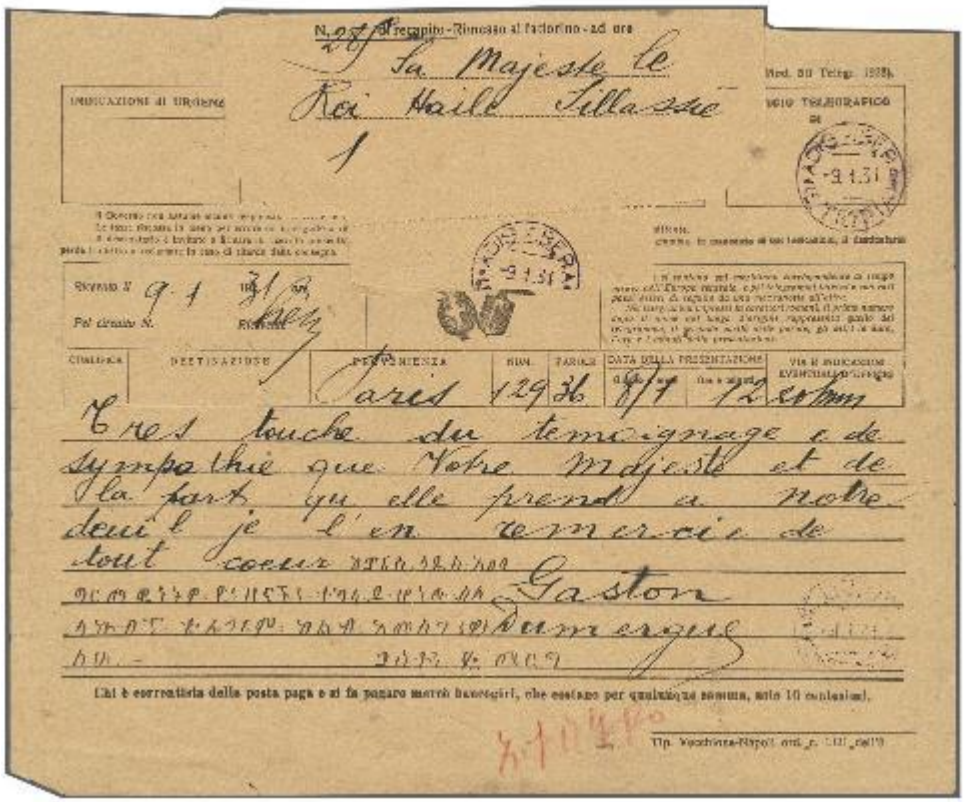
ETHIOPIE
HAYLE SELASSIE 1er
3 Avril 1930
2 MENALEKS
4 MENALEKS
8 MENALEKS
1 THALER
2 THALERS
3 THALERS



https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/bc35b1180b8cbefb80178535e0da8745761b7775.jpg (Corinphila Auction): « 1930: Coronation of Haile Selassie 2 m. black & blue (Hayle), used on postcard from Addis Abeba, showing the procession of the Coronation; to London, the card with a full account of the ceremony in English "Here is a picture of part of the crowd which awaited the King & Queen procession from the Church of St. George on Coronation Day Nov 2...On Nov 1st I was one of the guests at a garden party held in honour of the Duke of Gloucester's visit here. The Earl of Airlie accompanied him...We interior Sudan Missionaries just now have numbered twenty so you can picture how the two homes have been crowded.....". Most unusual and interesting card ».

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09212/E02079/0207900794.jpg (72nd Hadersbeck Auction - Complete auction): “1931, 27.V., 1 M. a. 2 M., waag. 3er-Streifen, St. "ADDIS-ABEBA" auf Brief in die USA”.

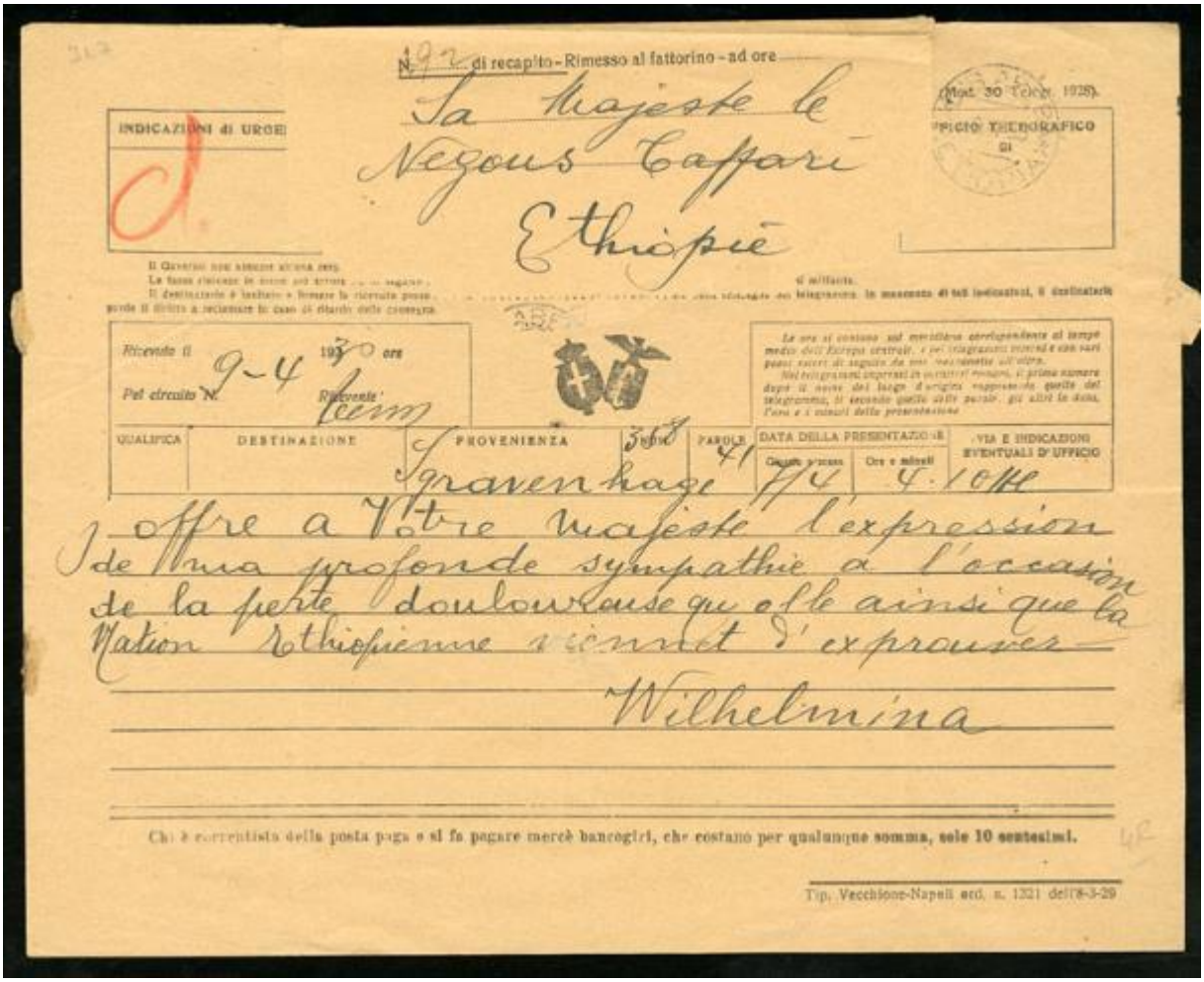
https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09666/S1/5118.jpg (CompuStamp - Webshop): “Ethiopia 1930 Dire-Daoua Corner Envelope Sent to Coburg, Germany Bearing 2m & Pair ½m Adhesives Scott 194, 192 Tied by Messy Cancels)”.



French President Gaston Doumergue

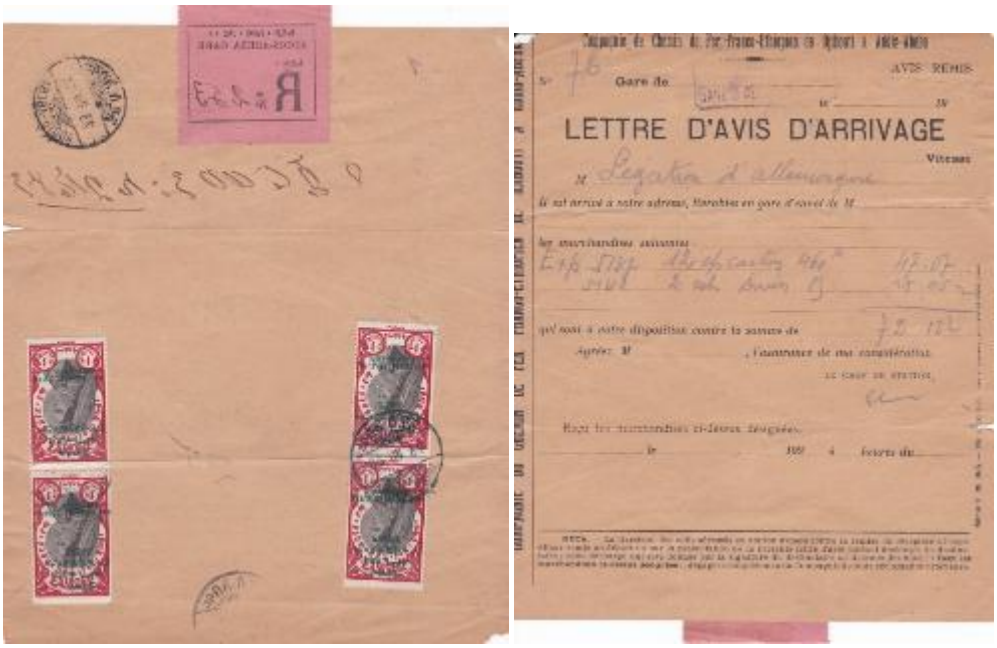
Haile Selassie Emperor of Ethiopia

https://d2xqn5t7wr4wg1.cloudfront.net/modules/auctions/21/pics/big/3ffc96ec83982ff4fd170e3cc18b1451f91b8bc0.jpg (Corinphila Auction): «1931: Telegram from the French President, Gaston Doumergue (1863-1937) to the Emperor Haile Selassie, bilingually inscribed from Paris sent on January 8 and arriving in Addis Abeba with Italian "ADIS ABEBA" datestamps of receipt (Jan 9) in violet, thanking the Emperor for his good wishes. Rare ».



https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/344.jpg: “ETHIOPIA, 1930 Telegram to "La Majeste le Negous Taffari", sent on 9th April, 1930 by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, expressing profound sympathy on the passing of Empress Zauditu, signed Wilhelmina, with arrival pmk Addis Ababa. An appealing, historical item”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8515.jpg: “Ethiopia: 1930 (Dec. 13) large envelope, registered to Holland, franked by 1930 Coronation 1m. (3), 2m. and 4m., cancelled by Addis Ababa datestamps, ''ADDIS-ABEBA GARE'' pink registration label, received December 31 and redirected by ''Express'' service to Nijmegen and a Dutch 10c. adhesive and red ''EXPRESS'' label”.



http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_01/1930_07_23_AA5B_Addis_Addis_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „July 23, 1930 Addis Ababa (AA5B) cancel.

Local Registered Mail: 4M franking over pays the expected rate of 3 3/4M =3/4M for internal rate + 3M registration fee. Addis Ababa Gare registration label".

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_01/1930_08_30_AA

11A_Addis_Schweinfurt_back.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „July 30, 1930 Addis Ababa R.P. (AA11A) cancel. External Mail: 3M franking pays the expected rate of 3M = 3M first weight unit".

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_03/1931_01_23_AA6A_Dayton_OH_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „January 23, 1931 Addis Ababa Gare (AA6A) cancel. External Surface Mail: 3M franking pays the expected rate of 3M = 3M first weight unit".

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_01/1930_08_18_DD5A_Lisle_de_Jarndinin_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „August 18, 1930 Dire Daoua (DD5A) cancel. External Postcard Mail: 1 1/2M franking pays the expected rate of 1 1/2M = 1 1/2M postcard rate". On http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_07.htm there are many other examples of interesting covers. (A young Ethiopian girl of the Orthodox Christian faith is depicted)

52 2 November 1930: Coronation provisionals

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_003.htm: "Designer: Adapted from Photographs; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - The Post Office".

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_003.htm (permission Daryl Reiber).

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Haile%20_OP_Covers/1930_12_12_AA8A_Loerrach_%20Back.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „December 12, 1930 Addis Ababa R.P. (AA8A) cancel. External Post Card Surface Mail: 1 1/2M franking likely under pay the correct rate = 2M first weight unit. Hailé OP on 1/2M stamp". Postmark Addis Abeba Gare.

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_03/1931_02_08_DD5A_Dire_Daoua_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „February 8, 1931 Dire Daoua (DD5A) cancel. Internal Mail: 12.25M franking under pays the expected rate of 12.5M = 1 1/2M first weight unit + 8M for eight extra weight units (1M X 8 extra weight units) + 3M registration fee. Harrar registration label“.

53 The series of 2 November 1930: Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_004.htm : “Designer: Stephan Papazian; Printer: Institut de Gravure, Paris, France ».

1, 2, 4, 8G, 1, 3, 5 Th.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1930/rp_1930_004.htm (permission Daryl Reiber)

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/860.jpg: “1930 Coronation, imperforate, six diff. horizontal pairs, complete as issued, l.h. or n.h., 4g creased, others v.f., signed Bileski (YT 181/87)”.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/345.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1930 Coronation of Haile Selassie, special presentation sheet on white carton, seven values in issued colors, endorsed to Minister Renkin, signed by the postmaster, fine".

ALOIS KIRCHLECHNER
DIRÉ-DAOUA
(ABYSSINIE)
ETHIOPIE
DIRÉ-DAOUA
R
Herrn
Oberinspektor E. Jung
Mödling bei Wien
Maria Theresiagasse 28
Autriche
Europe

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_03/1931_02_09_DD5A_Modling_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „February 9, 1931 Dire Daoua (DD5A) cancel. February 21, 1930 Prot Taufiq transit. February 22, 1931 Port Said transit. External Registered Mail: 9 1/2M franking over pays the expected rate of 9M = 3M first weight unit + 2M for one extra weight unit (2M X 1 extra weight units) + 4M registration fee. Dire Daoua registration label“.

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1930/1930_Hayle_OP_Covers_02/1930-11-12_AA6A_Dresden_Front.jpg (permission Daryl Reiber): „November 12, 1930 Addis Ababa Gare (AA6A) cancel. December 1, 1930 unidentified transit. December 1, 1930 Dresden, Weisser Hirsch receiver. Registered External Surface Mail: 7 1/2M franking pays the expected rate of 7 1/2M = 3 M first weight unit + 1 1/2M for one extra weight nit + 3M registration fee, Addis Ababa R.P. registration label“.

54 The series of 25 March 1931: Surcharges

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1931/rp_1931_001.htm: “Designer: Stephan Papazian; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - Leon de Robilliard Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia”.

Regular series: 1/8 / 1, 1/8 /2, 1/8 / 4, ¼ / 1, ¼ / 2, ¼ / 4, ½ / 1, ½ / 2, ½ / 4 (two types), ½ Th /3M, 1/ 2M

Essay in blue, and essay in double overprint red and blue

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1931/rp_1931_001.htm (permission Daryl Reiber).

https://upload.forumfree.net/i/ff12998226/1936_Etiopia_A2Bis.jpg: “Il vecchio Impero d'Etiopia, fino al 1936 governato dal Negus e dalla regina Taitù, aveva un servizio postale molto limitato, il 99% della popolazione era analfabeta, era gestito per via aerea dai francesi sulla linea Addis Abeba - Dire Doaua - Gibuti + via mare e riguardava solo la posta commerciale, dei Ministeri e i collegamenti con le Ambasciate all'estero. Sono state recuperate tre lettere non viaggiate, probabilmente abbandonate nella fuga dopo la resa, 2 rimaste nel campo trampolino di Dire Doaua con relativo annullo (Doaua in francese, Daua in italiano) e una con un bellissimo annullo di Addis Abeba sempre in francese e in amarico”. Postmark Dire Daoua.

(Translation: “The old Ethiopian Empire, until 1936 governed by the *Negus* [emperor Menilik II] and Queen Taitu, had a very limited postal service, with 99% of the population being illiterate, managed by air by the French on the line Addis Ababa - Dire Dawa – Djibouti and by sea, and only concerned commercial and Ministerial mail and connections with embassies abroad. Three unsent letters were recovered, probably abandoned in the escape after the surrender, two remained in the Dire Doaua springboard camp, with relative cancellation (Doaua in French, Daua in Italian) and one with a beautiful Addis Ababa cancellation, also in French and in Amharic.”). (The website can no longer be found).

https://upload.forumfree.net/i/ff12998226/1936_Etiopia_A2Bis.jpg. Postmark Dire Daoua.

55 The series of 17 June 1931: Airmail

1, 2, 4, 8G, 1, 2, 3 Th.

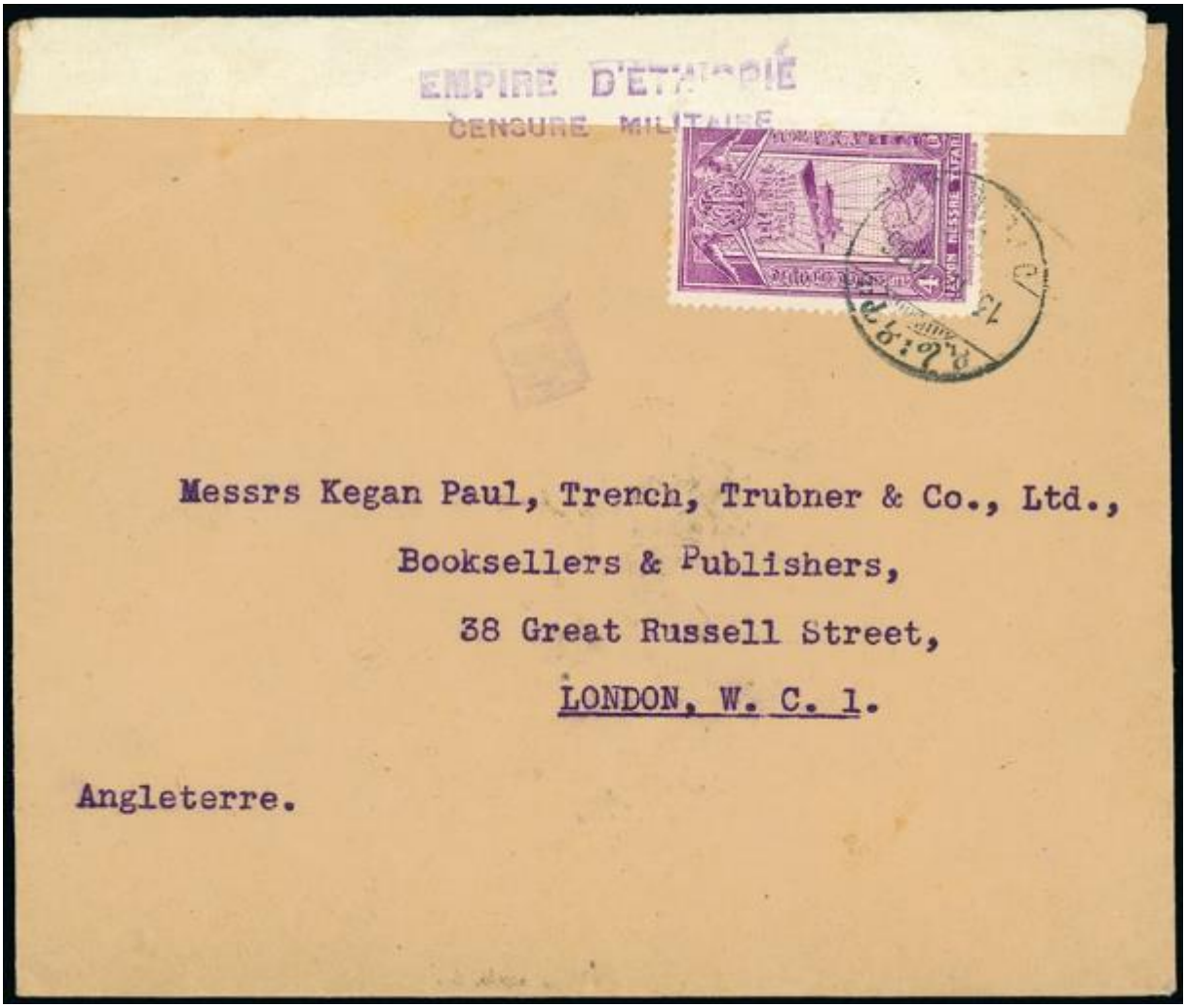
https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1930-1939

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09238/S160/954a.jpg (Filatelia Llach).

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/864.jpg: „1931 Issue, … 4g .., imperforate, … . with sheet margin, h.r., v.f., rare… “.

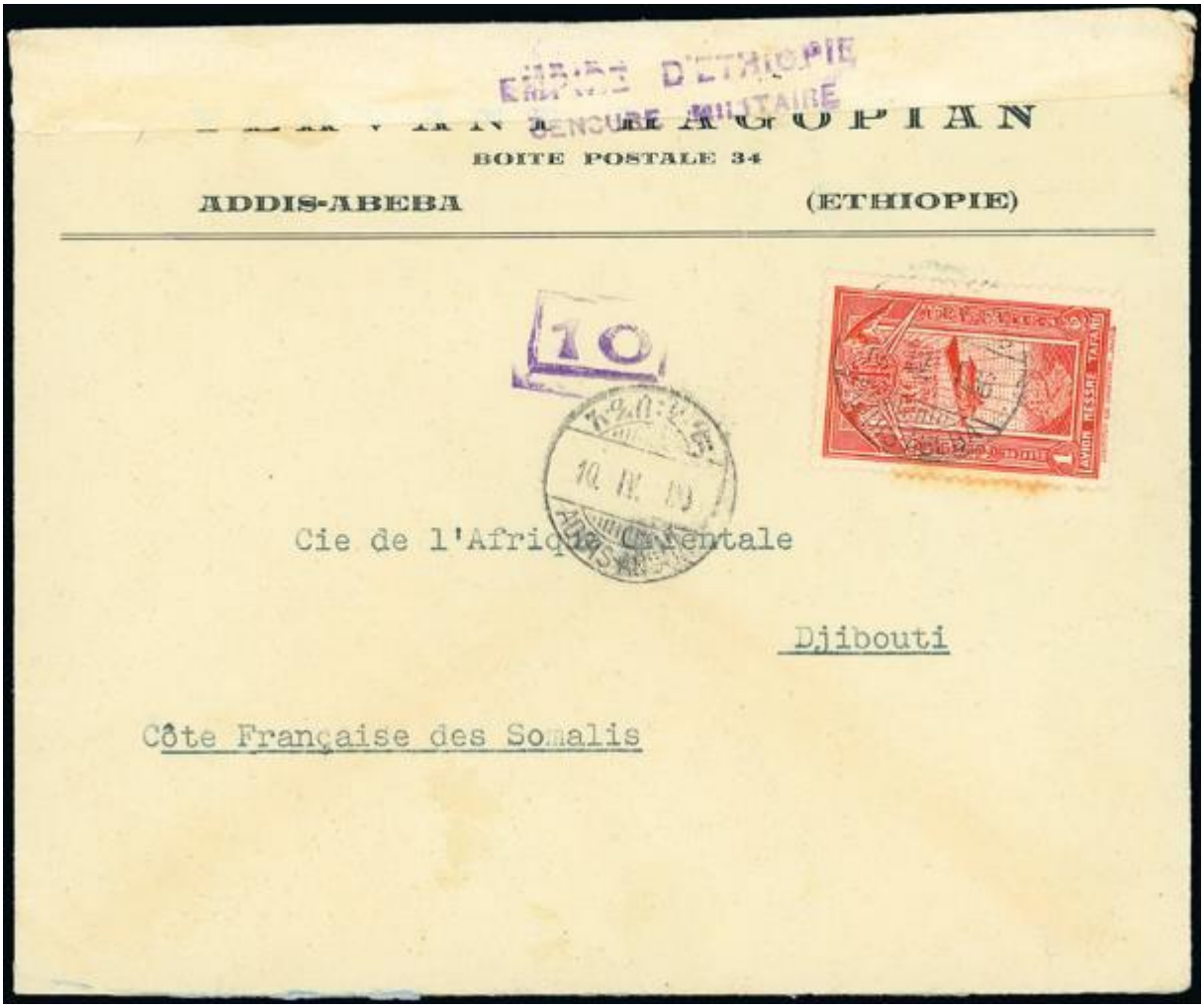
http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8532.jpg: „Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 17) envelope, registered to Switzerland, franked by 1931 Air 1g., 4g. (3) tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's with pink censor label, handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', and boxed ''3'' on reverse, there must have been a problem getting out of Ethiopia before the occupation and received in Switzerland eleven months later, fine”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8525.jpg: "Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 28) envelope, registered to Djibouti, 1931 Air 4g. pair tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s., unopened by censor with small boxed ''1'' censor mark, fine.".



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8529.jpg: “Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 31) envelope to England, franked by 1931 Air 4g. tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's white censor tape with handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', fine”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8533.jpg: “Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Mar. 17) envelope to Djibouti, franked by 1931 Air 1g. (2), tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's with white censor label handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', showing no censor number, unusual on this type of mail, fine”.



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8534.jpg: “Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Apr. 10) envelope to Djibouti, franked by 1931 Air 1g. tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s. with white censor label handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'' and boxed ''10'', fine”.

56 The series of July 1931: Royal Family

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1931/rp_1931_002.htm : “Designer: Stephan Papazian; Printer: Institut de Gravure, Paris, France ».

1/8G, ¼ G, ½ G, 1G, 2G, 4G, 8G, 1 Th, 3Th, and 5 Thalers

Proofs

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans201706/346.jpg: "ETHIOPIA, 1931 Empress Menen, large die proof in black, value tablets blank, also Statue of Menelik II, signed artist die proof on heavy card, fine-v.f.". The stamp on the right is the first one showing Empress Menen, the wife of Haile Sellassie, likely part of a series issued together with the coronation stamps, below.

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1931/rp_1931_002.htm (permission Daryl Reiber). The above series was issued to mark the coronation of Emperor Haile Sellassie in November 1930. The first stamp shows *Ras* Mekonnen Wolde-Mikael (1852-1906), the father of Emperor Haile Sellassie and a trusted ally and advisor of Emperor Menilik II. The second stamp in the top row shows the bridge across the Awash River. The reasons to depict it on a stamp are unknown, but probably because it was the first 'modern' iron bridge, constructed in 1890 by Emperor Menilik II's Swiss advisor Alfred Ilg. The iron bridge replaced an earlier wooden one but it was not strong enough for heavy and constant traffic and was seasonally closed for much of the year. It was destroyed in 1941 in the Italo-Ethiopian war by the Italians during their retreat.

https://www.cherrystoneauctions.com/auctionscans200603/861.jpg: “1931 Issue, imperforate, seven diff. sheet corner margin singles, l.h. or n.h., v.f., signed Bileski”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09515/S183/4768.jpg (CÉRÈS PHILATELIE): «ETHIOPIE 186a, 187a, 200a, 202a, PA 12a et 13a, NON DENTELES de 1931, TB ».

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09020/E00232/0023200010.jpg (10th classicphil GmbH Auction): “1931, 1/4 G. olive brown, IMPERF vertical pair, LPOG never hinged, two tiny toning points otherwise very fine and scarce item”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09081/S52/4335.jpg (Christoph Gärtner 52nd Auction): “1931, Definitives ¼g. olive-brown, imperforate marginal block of 15 from the lower left corner of the sheet, mint never hinged (toning spots), signed. Yvert 200a (15), … Rare imperf. stamp, especially as a multiple!”.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09212/E02079/0207900795.jpg (72nd Hadersbeck Auction - Complete auction): “1931, 15.X., 5 Werte Freimarken und 1 M. Flugpost, St. "ADDIS-ABEBA" auf Brief nach Zürich/Schweiz“.

https://cdn.philasearch.com/A09567/S1/63230FOG_SP.jpg (Vaccari Shop): "Etiopia - 3 buste (2 raccomandate) da Addis Abeba a Bologna del 1932/1933 con affr. varie - buona qualità".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8526.jpg: "Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1935 (Dec. 6) envelope, registered to Djibouti, franked by 1931 Air 2g. blue (5) tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's with small boxed ''5'' censor mark, with pink censor tape handstamped ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', fine".

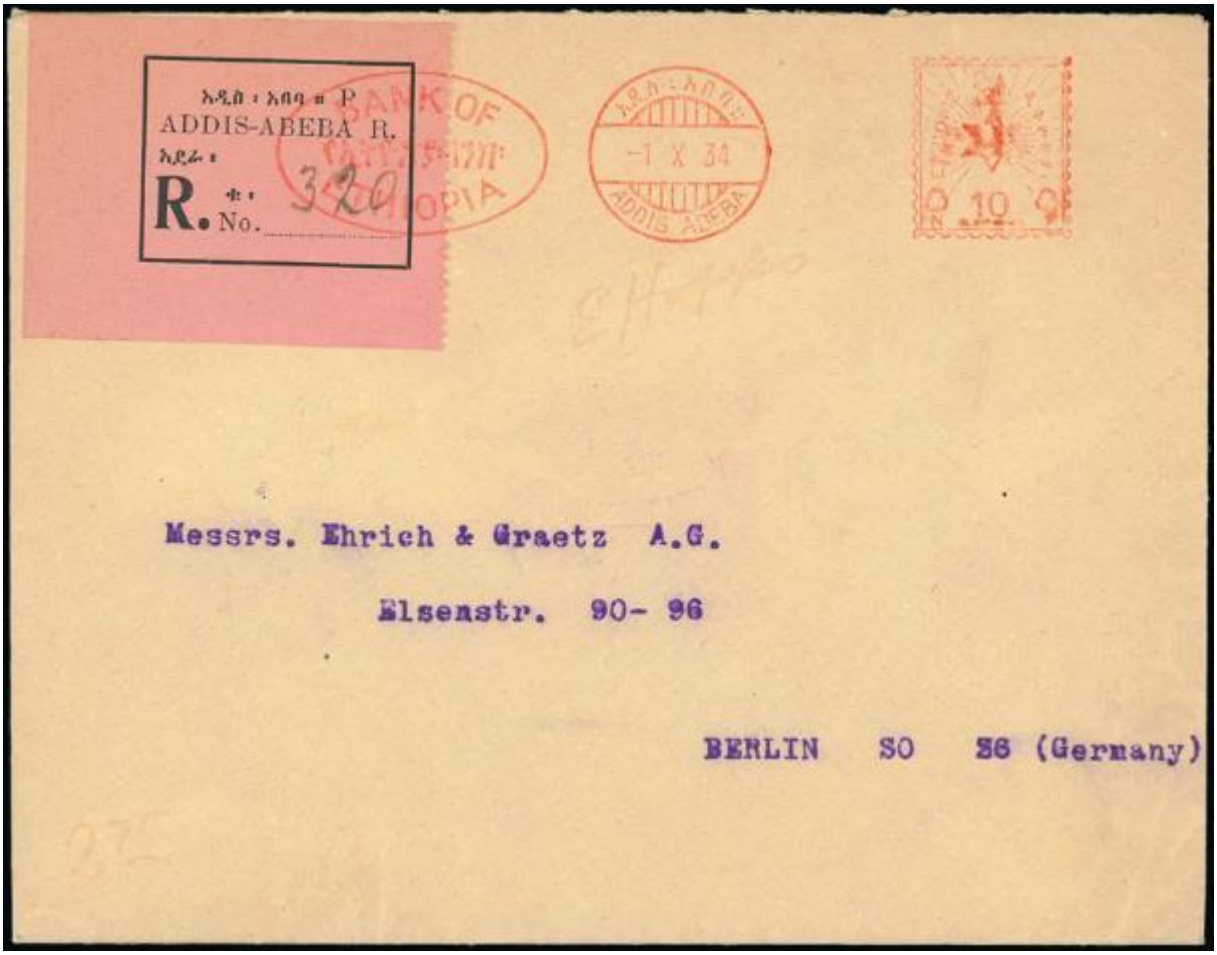
http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8530.jpg: "Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 3) envelope, to Djibouti, franked by 1931 2g. tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s. with boxed ''1'', unopened by censor but with handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'' on reverse, fine".

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8527.jpg: “Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 31) envelope, registered to Djibouti, franked by 1931 Air 4g. blue (2) and 2g., tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's unopened by censor but with handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', fine”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8528.jpg: “Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 31) envelope, registered to Djibouti, franked by 1931 Air 4g. blue (2) and 2g., tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s's unopened by censor but with handstamp ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', and boxed ''1'', fine”.

http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8531.jpg: "Ethiopia: Italian Occupation: Censored Mail: 1936 (Jan. 6) envelope to Djibouti, franked by 1931 1g. (on reverse), tied by Addis Ababa c.d.s. with pink censor label handstamped ''EMPIRE D'ETHIOPIE/CENSURE MILITAIRE'', fine".

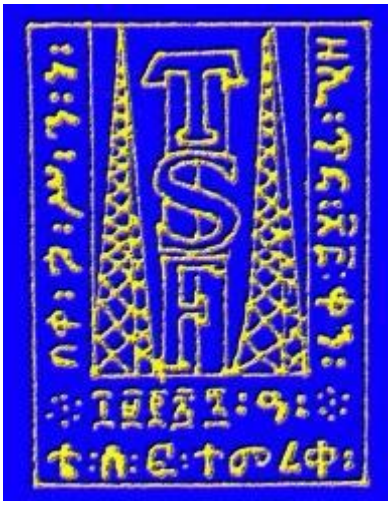
57 Meter Mail Bank of Ethiopia, 1934



http://www.grosvenorauctions.com/dyn_pages/stamp_images/109/8551.jpg: "Ethiopia: Meter Mail: 1934 (Oct. 1) envelope, registered to Germany, bearing 10g. meter mark (only used by the Bank of Ethiopia), fine and scarce".

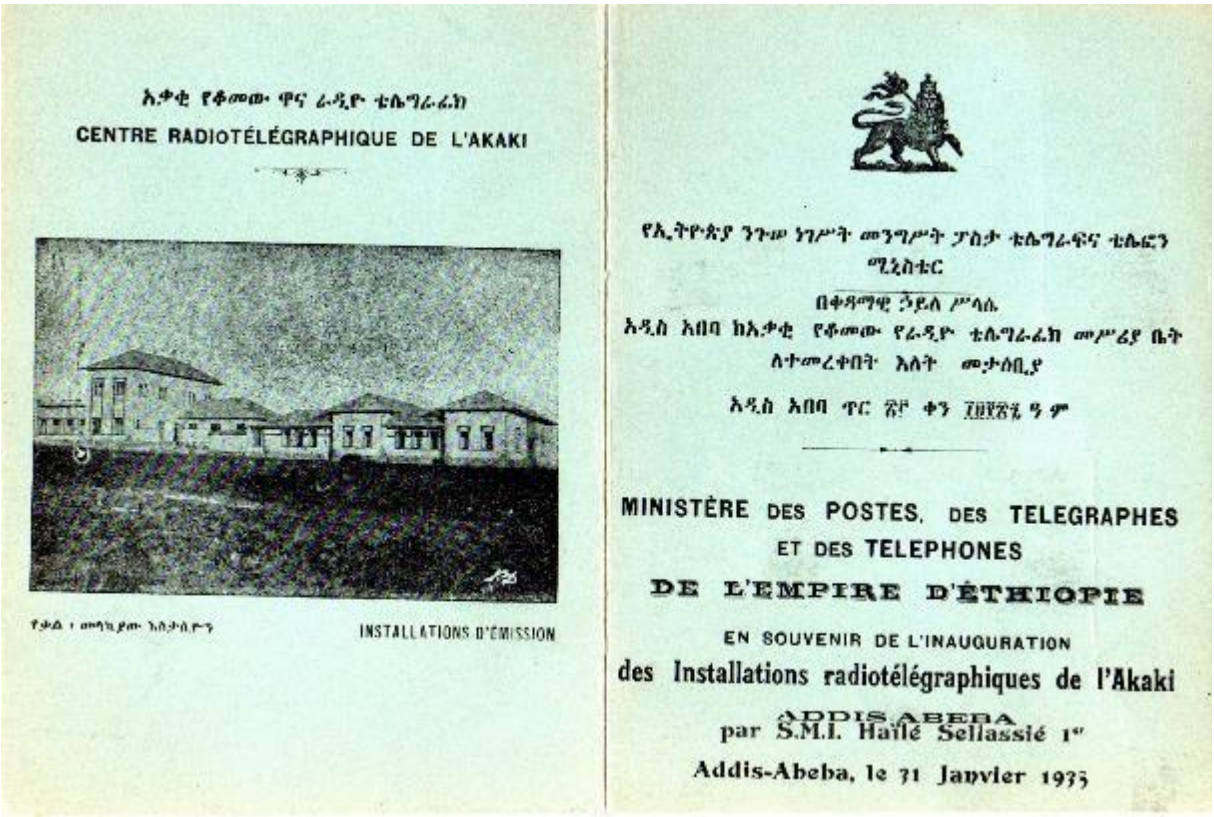
58 1935: The Akaki overprints

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1935/rp_1935_01.htm



: "March 1936 - The Akaki Radio Station Overprints; Believed to be Limited to the Number of Officials Attending the Inauguration Ceremony; Designer: Stephan Papazian; Printer: Stamps

- Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint – Unknown ; Printing Process: Recess; Overprint - Rubber Hand Stamp. This hand stamp was prepared for the 31 January 1935 commemoration of the inauguration of Ethiopia's first radio station. The Akaki Radio Station was located in the hills just outside of Addis Ababa. The hand stamp was applied to individual stamps that had been affixed to either a cover or a special presentation folder containing all 10 stamps. Covers bearing such stamps are not known to have traveled. The overprint translates : "By Ha(ilé) Se(lassié) Ki(ng of) Ki(ngs) of E(thiopia) 31 January 1935, T. S. F. Inauguration." Télégraphie san fil is French for telegraph without wire or, radio telegraph".



http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1935/1935%20002.jpg: "Presentation Folder – Outside" (permission Daryl Reiber).

http://postage-due.com/images/Regular%20Postage%20Images/1935/1935%20003.jpg: "Presentation Folder – Inside" (permission Daryl Reiber).

59 The series of January 1936: Surcharges

http://postage-due.com/Regular%20Postage/1936/rp_1936_001.htm : "Designer: Stephan Papazian; Printer: Stamps - Institut de Gravure, Paris, France; Overprint - Leon de Robilliard Printing Press, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Printing Process: Recess; Overprint - Rubber Hand Stamp".

1c/ 1/8 G, 2c / ¼ G, 3c / ½G , 5c / 1G, 10c / 2G: for illustrations see the postage due website.

60 The series 25 February 1936: Red Cross

1+1G, 2+2G, 4+4G, 8+8G, 1+1Th. For illustrations see: https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Ethiopia/Postage%20stamps/1930-1939?year=1936&user=136009

Also a red cross series had been prepared but this has never been officially issued. In 1936 Ethiopia was invaded and defeated by the Italian army and became part of Italian East Africa until 1942.

61 Postmarks illustrated in this APH

The numbers refer to the sections in this paper

Addis Abeba / Adis Abeba / Addis Abbeba / Addis Ababa: 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, 39, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 53, 55, 56, 57; Addis Abeba Gare: 51, 52, 56

Dire Daoua / Dirre Daoua: 4, 9, 19, 26, 28, 29, 32, 35, 36, 38, 41, 51, 52, 53, 54

Entotto: 4, 7, 8

Harar/Harrar: 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35, 37, 42, 47, 52

Macalle: 33

Massawa: 3

62 A Note on Sources

A lot of Ethiopian stamps can be found on the internet, and for this APH paper we only used these internet-derived illustrations. These sources have been found and used between 2020 and 2024, but many have afterwards become unavailable. However, we will give these sources, despite their current unavailability.

Auctions:

Auction Galleries Hamburg, Badische Briefmarken Auction, Cérès Philatélie, Cherrystone, Christoph Gärtner, Classicphil, Corinphila, Dresdner Briefmarken Auction, Filatelia Llach, Filatelia Mazzini Milano, Georg Bühler, Grosvenor, Hadersbeck, H.R. Harmer, Karl Pfankuch & Co, Kelleher, La Postale Philatélie, Lugdunum, Michael Rodgers, Philasearch, Rauhut & Kruschel, Sandafayre, Stanley Gibbons.

Other sources:

Blogspot (4.bp), Colnect, Compustamp, Delcampe, Doigsden, Ebay, Forumfree, Hipstamp, Mystampworld, Philacollect, Picclicking, Pin, Postage Due (Daryl Reiber), Posthornmagazine, Stampboards, Stampcommunity, Stampdata, Stampworld, Twimg, Webarchive Gerben van Gelder, Vaccari, Worthpoint, Wikipedia/Wikimedia

In ‘Notities van de Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie’ Ton Dietz recently published: ‘De Klassieke filatelie van Ethiopië: papieren en digitale kennis’ (Nr 68, spring 2024: 4-18; ‘The classical philately of Ethiopia: knowledge on paper and on websites’, and he mentioned these sources:

Adler, Ivan & Erik Sundberg, 1961. Handbook of the postage stamps of the Empire of Ethiopia and her postal system. In Two Parts. Stockholm: David Proberg Printer.

Tristant, Henri, 1968. Les relations postales de l'Éthiopie avant 1908 et la poste franco-éthiopienne. Paris: Académie de Philatélie (110 pp).

Tristant, Henri, 1977 (1995). Postal History of Ethiopia During the Reign of Menelik II, Part II, 1977 (oorspr. in het Frans). Translated and published by Huguette Gagnon in the USA (private printing Blaine Wa): 1995.

Peyrachon, J.J., 1996. La poste en Ethiopie: 1894-1908. Cercle lyonnais d'études philatéliques et marcophiles. No 112 Supplément, Octobre 1996 (88 pp).

Arnold, Yvan en collaboration avec J. Husson, 1997. Abyssinie-Ethiopie. Recueil de cartes-postales anciennes. Edition N.2 (Septembre 1997). Chez l'éditeur.

Sciaky, Roberto, 1999. Ethiopia 1867-1936. History, stamps and postal history. Vignola: Vaccari, History thorugh documents 7 (221 pp). [KNBF Bibliotheek Houten AF 16 1].

Sciaky, Roberto, 2000. Somali Coast franking on mail from Ethiopia 1899-1908. The London Philatelist, Vol 109, N.1274, page 95, April 2000.

Sciaky, Roberto, 2001. Ethiopia. 1867-1936. History, Stamps and Postal History. Addendum. Vignola: Vaccari (78 pp) [KNBF Bibliotheek Houten AF 16 1-S].

Sciaky, Roberto, 2002. Ethiopia: Tewodros to Menelik: Postal History from the Napier Expedition to the Independent Imperial Post, 1867-1908. Vignola: Vaccari, History through documents 11 [KNBF Bibliotheek Houten AF 16-8].

Migliavacca, Giorgio, 2011. An Introduction to the Stamps of Ethiopia , St. Thomas: Virginstamps.com (48 pp).

Lindahl, Ulf, 2022. The Development of the Ethiopian Posts 1894-1909. The Exhibit. (https://www.amazon.nl/-/en/Ulf-J-Lindahl/dp/B0BNZCS141).

Internet sources:

On Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Philatelic Society has a website www.ethiopianphilatelicsociety.weebly.com, where exhibits of Ethiopian postal history can be seen. The Society has a searchable memory stick with all issues of its quarterly newsletter, Menelik's Journal, published since 1985, available for purchase. More information can be found in "Ethiopia 1867-1936 History, Stamps and Postal History" a richly illustrated book by Roberto Sciaky, published by Vaccari in 1999. Ulf J. Lindahl is President of Ethiopian Philatelic Society. Secretary-Treasurer/webmaster Floyd Heiser: fbheiser@comcast.net.

The Ethiopian Philatelic Society website also recommends the following websites (among others): Ken Doig's (http://doigsden.com/EthiHome.html), Espen Solheim (https://www.here-and-there.no/ stamps/), and Daryl Reiber (http://www.postage-due.com; with lots of thanks!).

Ulf Lindahl's recent study on all known postal items from the period 1895-1913 can also be found there: https://ethiopianphilatelicsociety.weebly.com/exhibitsstudies .html (as

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ethiopianphilatelicsociety.weebly.com/uploads/5/7/9/7/57979693/synopsis.pdf (Synopsis Ethiopia 1895-1913).

Roberto Sciaky's literature suggestions on the Italian website https://www.aicpm.net/ (at Forum: Biblioteca). Much of this beauty can be admired via this website: https://digital.stamplibrary.org/digital/collection/p17047coll3/search/searchterm/Menelik.

The Jürgen Zahn collection can also be seen on the internet, including detailed information about the forgeries in the period 1895-1908. This is an auction at Schwanke https://www.yumpu.com/de/document/read/21257396/sammlung-athiopien-the-juergen-zahn-collection-of-schwanke .

There is also an exhibition collection by Ulf Lindahl online from 2008 (Westpex): Ethiopia: the First Issue and its Overprints on Commercial Covers, 1895-1911: http://www.exponet.info/exhibit.php?exhibit_ID=744&lng=EN . The KNBF library in Houten has an undated copy of a publication 'Ethiopia. The First Issue and its Overprints 1895-1911' without author's indication, but probably also by this former chairman of the Ethiopian Philatelic Society Ulf Lindahl [KNBF Bibliotheek Houten AF 16-10].

An exhibition by Ulf Lindahl: Rarities from Ethiopia can be seen on a website of the British Association of British Philatelic Societies (https://www.abps.org.uk/competitions/rarities-from-ethiopia/).

Also see: Posthorn Magazine of International Postal History: www.posthornmagazine.com .

About the authors

Ton Dietz is a retired professor and he was director of the African Studies Centre Leiden between 2010 and 2017. He initiated these APH papers (together with Jan Jansen he worked as the editor of this series). Azeb Amha is researcher at the African Studies Centre Leiden and a specialist in Ethiopian linguistics. Jon Abbink is a retired professor at the African Studies Centre Leiden, specialized in Ethiopian political history.