

INDEX TO OPAL JOURNALS

The type of publication used by OPAL to communicate with its members has changed over the years. Up to the end of 1976 no distinction was made between information about the internal affairs of the association, such as membership lists and auctions, and information, or requests for it, about the members' philatelic and postal history interests. All was combined in what began by being described as a newsletter and later was dignified by being called the journal. Individual issues were numbered through from No 1. For a time beginning in 1959 issues were grouped in numbered volumes, but this was discontinued in 1981. As from issue No 142 (November 1976), the journal, at least in principle, ceased to contain internal business, leaving it to be publicised in a separate series of newsletters. This index does not cover these post-1976 newsletters and omits references in earlier newsletters and journals to material which after 1976 would have been put in the separate newsletters.

In addition to the regular journal issues, the index covers three special journal issues published jointly with the Tughra Times and fourteen supplements. The references to the special journals and to the supplements are preceded respectively by the letters OTT or S as the case may be.

The index gives for each reference two numbers, the first of which is the issue serial number and the second of which is the page number. The most compelling reason for including page numbers is that there are many instances of the same topic cropping up at more than one place in a particular issue. Unfortunately there are several issues which have no printed page numbers and for which the index compiler has had to devise them. Similarly, the supplements issued without serial numbers have had to be given numbers at this stage to facilitate their identification.

The chronology at the end of this preface is intended to give the index-user an idea of the date at which the journals appeared. The corresponding information about the joint issues and supplements is not available to the compiler.

Most of the contents of the journals has a geographical context. The index is therefore mainly arranged alphabetically by the country headings familiar to users of stamp catalogues. Below this level, an arrangement in alphabetical order is not practicable. Instead, for countries with a large number of entries, sub-divisions based on philatelic themes have been used in the hope that this will reduce the amount of searching required. The few entries that have no geographical context are placed at the front of the index.

Turkey has been split between the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic. The Ankara issues have been treated as if the republic was already in being when they were made.

The compiler has tried to bring all references to the same subject into the same entry. This has made it impracticable to carry forward the titles of articles and names of their authors from the previously published index. Unfamiliarity with many parts of the field covered may have led to failure to realise the connection when the same subject is referred to by different names by different authors, especially those who did not give such points of reference as dates and catalogue numbers.

Many early articles will have been made redundant by later improved or consolidating articles or by the publication of a book, but the compiler has been unable to do any pruning of redundant material. In the case of Ottoman postmarks, however, the compiler has relied on the publication of Coles and Walker's volumes having made it unnecessary to index separately the references to particular places, though all the very many references to the subject have been

indexed under that general sub-heading under “Ottoman Empire”. Also, entries relating to Ottoman postmarks have been made under succession states where the journal’s emphasis was on the postmarks of that state, but these will not include references to general listings of Ottoman postmarks.

Consistency in the use of place-names has not been achieved. Presumably users of the index will be familiar with the usually found alternatives.

August 1998

J. S. Phipps

After the excellent and immense amount of work done by John Phipps in compiling this index up to 1998, I have had the relatively easy task of updating it to 2008.

December 2008

Michael Fulford

CHRONOLOGY

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COMPILER'S NOTE: It would have added

enormously to the length of this index if the cancellations described in these references had been indexed under the localities they belong to, especially if all the alternative place-names were included. It seems in any case likely that all the references that were published in the OPAL journal before the completion of Part IV of Coles and Walker (published 1995) will have been made redundant by being taken account of in that work and the addenda to the other parts that were published with it. Index entries have, however, been made for articles in which postmark identification was incidental to a wider theme and for articles dealing with the cancellations of a particular territory or military campaign. For these see under the territory in question or under OTTOMAN EMPIRE Military as the case may be.

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