

Odessa – Constantinople – Malta

British Post Office / Constantinople / A/FE 20/67

Earliest Recorded Date

Business entire written by Messrs T.E.MAVROGORDATO & CO in ODESSA, on the 4/16 February 1867 to Sig B TAGLIAFERRO etc in MALTA via Messrs AMBROSE. P. AMAVROCORDATO in Constantinople who franked the entire with U.K. Queen Victoria 1d pl 94, and 4d pl 7 (1865 issue) stamps cancelled “C”, and sent through the BRITISH POST OFFICE / CONSTANTINOPLE/ A/FE 20/67 – (*Earliest recorded date*) arriving A/ MALTA/FE 27/67. The 5d in manuscript was the new rate per !/2 oz to Malta (4d+1d=5d) which had come into force on the 3 April 1854. (Billing p 278.)

David Macaulay in his review of handstamps of the British Post offices in the Levant in Stamp Collecting: Vol 112, No 12, p 605, states: that this handstamp Type 3, “Proof Book 22.11.66 was noted used between 7.6.67 and 7.12.86. Single ring diameter 22mm, with stops either side of .CONSTANTINOPLE. and .POST. Struck in black ink.”

The handstamp on this entire, beats the recorded one, by four months.

