

## Post Office Strike of 1920

*The participation of Portugal in the First World War (1914-1918) and the effort that it demanded to the country, led to disastrous internal consequences. The shortage of essential goods, the speculation, the hoarding, and the rationing put the people in the path of hunger. At these troubled times, and following other strikes, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1920 a strike of the civil services begins, and included the paralysation of the workers from the telegraphs and post offices. These, divided among themselves, bearing alone government pressure and without the support of the people, started to go back to work especially after the day 20<sup>th</sup>, when the government threatened with dismissal if they didn't start to work within four days. Everywhere, private entities and citizens supported the effort of the military and civil authorities, helping them to deal with the mail. County administrations, army regiments and "Guarda Republicana" took over the telegraph-post offices and had to deal with the service. Outside things were more difficult because the complicated transport network and exchange bags had huge cuts, lying in a complete caos.*



*A siege and confrontation by the National Republican Guard, at the Botanical Garden, where striking personnel, were gathered.*

### *Plan:*

*This study shows the different types of postmarks used by private entities, police, military and civil authorities during the post office strike of 1920.*

<i>Pages 2 to 4</i>	-	<i>Private entities</i>
<i>Pages 5 to 9</i>	-	<i>Police and Military authorities</i>
<i>Pages 10 to 16</i>	-	<i>Civil authorities</i>

### *Bibliografy:*

*Vieira, Armando (1992) - Catálogo do Salão Filatélico Ceres do IPP.*

## Confederação Patronal

With the establishment of the Republic, labour movements occurred, and led patronage to feel the need to unite to face them. In the early days, this union was not felt, but the increasing intensity of the labour movement, led them to organise themselves actively, forming after the 1st World War, the so called "Confederação Patronal". The confederation made its own investigations warning the members about the strikes that would trigger, so that the actions were taken accordingly. This association had strong support, especially in Lisbon. On September 8, 1922 its leader, Sérgio Príncipe was assassinated.



Type I



Letter sent from Lisbon to Liverpool, franked with two 4c. Ceres stamp, obliterated with "Confederação Patronal" postmark (type III), with alongside "Confederação Patronal" postmark (type I).



4c. Ceres stamp on piece



Horizontal pair of 4c. Ceres stamp



Vertical pair of 2c. Ceres stamp on piece



Type I  
(Black)



Letter sent from Viana do Castelo (21.3.1920) to Lisbon, franked with 4c. Ceres stamp. Arriving postmark "Confederação Patronal".



Type II



4c. Ceres stamp



Type III



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



1c. Ceres stamp



1c. Ceres stamp

TOTTA  
Perfin



Type IV



2c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



1c. Ceres stamp



5c. Ceres stamp



Letter sent from Beja to Lisbon, franked with 4c. Ceres stamp.

COMANDO MILITAR



MOURA



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp

GUARDA NACIONAL REPUBLICANA  
BATALHÃO Nº

1ª Companhia

COMMISSARIADO DA POLICIA CIVIL DE  
**FARO**

N.º \_\_\_\_\_



Letter sent from Faro to Lisbon, franked with horizontal pair of 2c. Ceres stamp. Arriving postmark "Confederação Patronal" (type I) in black.

GUARDA NACIONAL REPUBLICANA  
  
 BATALHÃO Nº 2 - 2.ª COMPA  
 Secção de Caldas da Rainha



3 1/2c. Ceres stamp



1c. Ceres stamp

REQUARTELAMENTO Nº 11  
 1.º Batalhão

*Aveiro's Post Office was occupied by a military force, commanded by Lieutenant of Infantry Armando Larcher from Infantry 24.*



2c. Ceres stationery written on the 20th March 1920 and sent from Aveiro to Vila Nova de Gaia.

**C militar  
da ETP  
Aveiro**

*Type I*

*Comando Militar da Estação  
Telégrafo-Postal de Aveiro*

# C militar da E T P Aveiro

Type II

Comando Militar da Estação  
Telégrafo-Postal de Aveiro



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



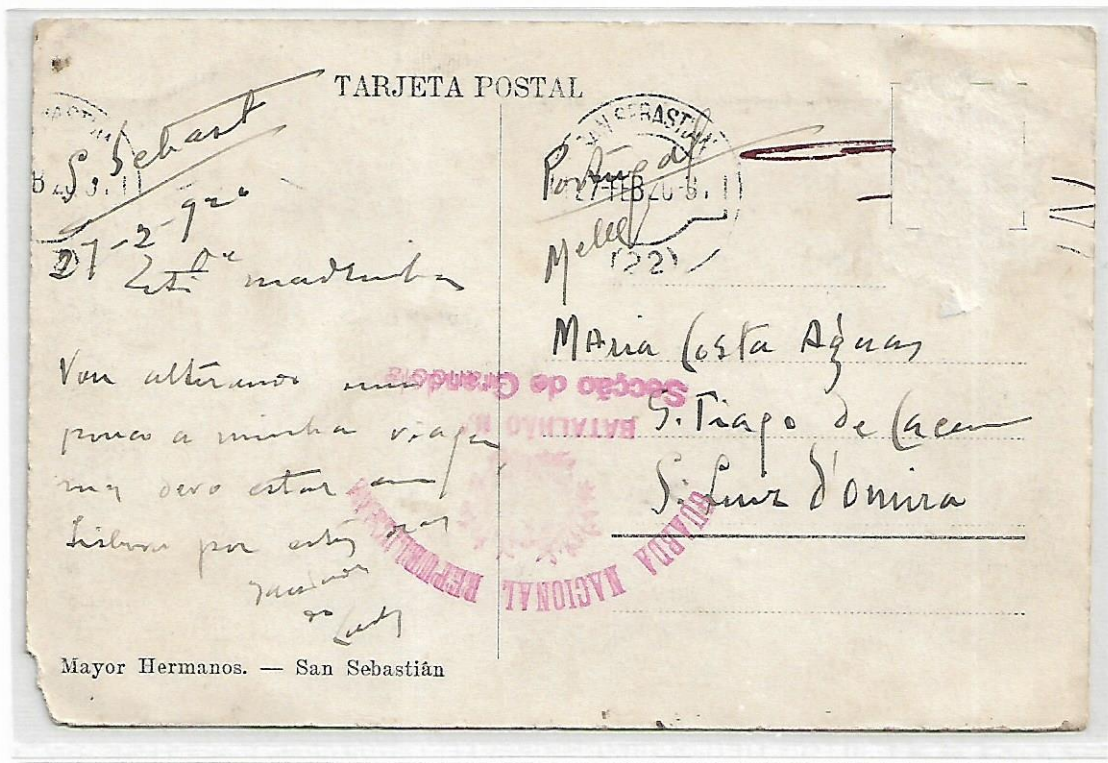
2c. Ceres stationery written on the 16th March 1920  
and sent from Aveiro to Espinho (20.3.1920).



DISTRITO  
DE  
RECRUTAMENTO  
N.º 35



2c. Ceres stationery written on the 22th March 1920 and sent from Santa Combadão to Vila Nova de Gaia.



Postcard written on the 27th February 1920 and sent from San Sebastian (Spain) to S. Tiago do Cacem.





1/2c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



4c. Ceres stamp



10c. Ceres stamp



Letter sent from Viana do Castelo to Paredes de Coura, franked on the reverse with 4c. Ceres stamp.

« 9-III-20 »

« Dear Cousin »

« ... I have just received your letter of 29th of last month, that arrived well nothing else suffered except for the delay... Nevertheless I am worried because I have no news, but with God willing nothing bad will happen. Hopefully everything will normalise for the sake of the Country and all of us. I am wrtting this letter randomly ... let us see if you will get it....»



ADMINISTRAÇÃO DO CONCELHO  
DE  
**PENICHE**



Horizontal pair of 4c. Ceres stamp on piece



2c. Ceres stationery sent from Castelo Branco to Oporto with transit in Belmonte (10.3.1920).

**GOVERNO CIVIL**  
DE  
**CASTELLO BRANCO**

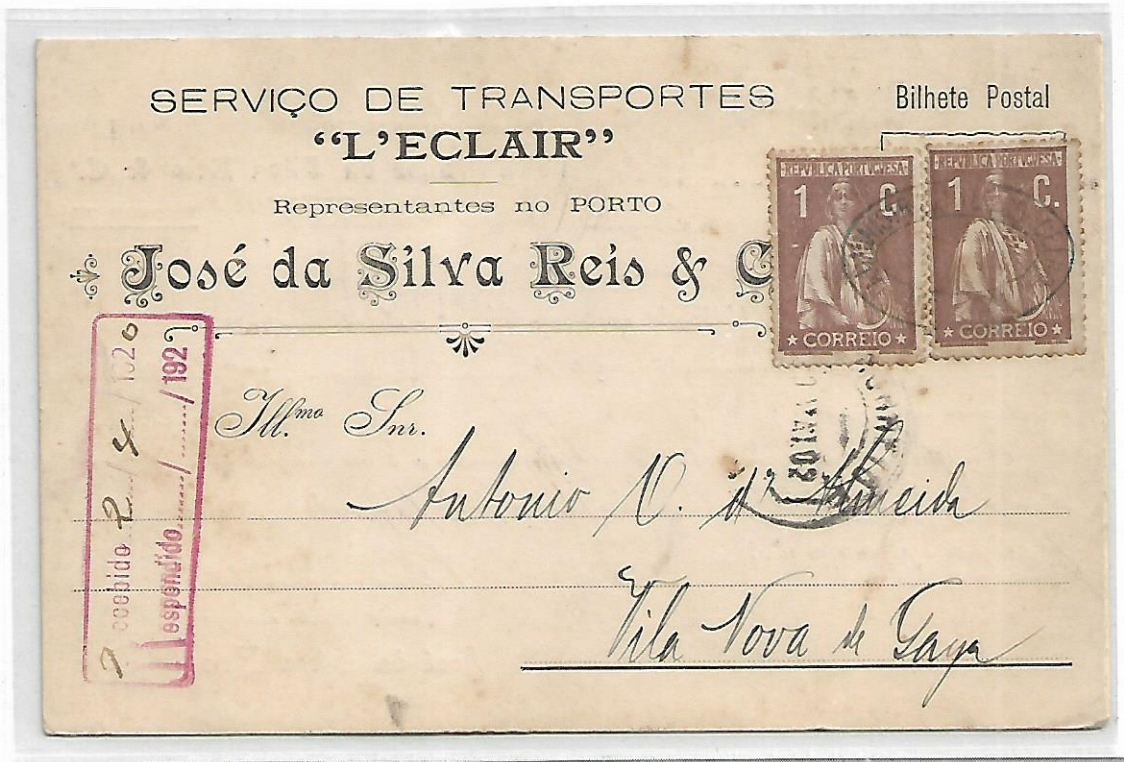


4c. Ceres stamp



2c. Ceres stationery sent from Pernes (4.3.1920) to Oporto with transit in Santarém (9.3.1920).

Serviço Especial de Corres —  
pondencia. Santarem 9. 3. 920



Postcard sent from Oporto to V. N. Gaia, franked with two 1c. Ceres stamp.

Newspaper "Diário do Minho", 5 March 1920

«... yesterday, in Oporto, around 11:30 p.m., in the equipment room, got in about 40 employees, that erupted in cheers for strike and in the middle of outcry various acts of sabotage were done in the telegraphic apparatus removing handles, screws, etc.

When this was known a group of 40 civil guards armed, under the command of the commissioner, has occupied the building preventing anyone from getting in or out...»

«... soon after arrived there 30 militaries from "Guarda Nacional Republicana", under the command of Alferes Carmona, to whom the occupation of the Post Office building was assigned...»,

22/3/0  
A C Ourique



Letter sent from Ourique (22.3.1920) to Lisbon, franked with 4c. Ceres stamp, obliterated with dated postmark "22/3/0 A C Ourique". Arriving postmark "Confederação Patronal".



4c. Ceres stamp



Coimbra's Academy had an important role during the postal strike trying to reduce the effects. In fact, the students supported the effort of the military and civil authorities by helping processing the Mail. The students were appointed to go in the "Ambulâncias Postais" which, at the time, used to transport a large amount of the Mail, to replace the staff on strike.



2c. Ceres stationery sent from Coimbra (8.3.1920) to Felgueiras, that in this awkward period did an unusual stopover in Régua as can be seen by the postmark "Administração do Concelho de Pezo da Régua"

« Coimbra, 8-III-920 »

Dear mother

« ... I don't know if this postcard will get through. A few days ago I wrote a letter that didn't arrive because of the strike.

In Coimbra's Post Office it is us and "Guarda Republicana" that do all the work.

In the telegraph is the military engineering who is doing the working. I am doing the job of the head of distribution of the Post Office and I also have been distributing mail in the streets. All the work done by the postmen is done by us, here in town and to the suburbs the students go on a horse or in a motorbike... ».



Coimbra students working in "Ambulância da Beira Alta II" (Guarda railway station).



Letter sent to Felgueiras, on 17 March 1920, by the above student, franked with 4c. Ceres stamp.

« Beira Alta, 17-III-920 »

Dear mother

«... At the moment I am working for the Post Office in "Ambulâncias da Beira Alta". I am on my way to Guarda, Vilar Formoso and Spain. Tomorrow I will go back to Coimbra and...»

«... we are four students doing the job, that, by the way, is quite a bit due to disorganisation. Who is in charge is the Military Engineering from Coimbra ...»

«... recently I have received a letter dated from 3<sup>rd</sup> of March ...»