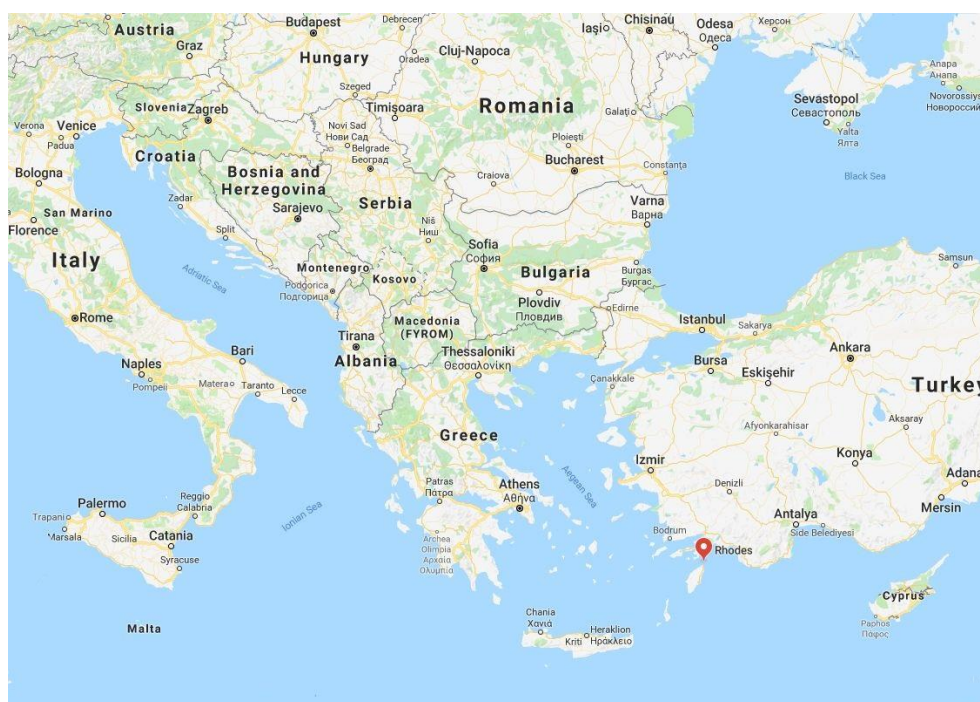# RHODES (RODI) 1912 – 1945

Rhodes (Greek: Rodi) is the largest of the Dodecanese islands of Greece. Austria opened a post-office at RHODUS (Venetian name) before 1864.

In 1912, Italy seized Rhodes from the Turks during the Italo-Turkish War (29 September 1911 - 18 October 1912). Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese Islands were assigned to Italy in the Treaty of Ouchy (18 October 1912), but only ceded officially in the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne (24 July 1923), becoming the core of their possession of the Isole Italiane dell'Egeo. Following the Italian Armistice of 8 September 1943, the German Wehrmacht succeeded in occupying the island during the Battle of Rhodes (9–11 September 1943). The German occupation contributed significantly to the British failure in the Dodecanese Campaign (8 September – 22 November 1943). On 8 May 1945, the Germans under Maj. Gen. Otto Wagener (1888-1971) surrendered Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese Islands to the British, the islands becoming a military protectorate. In 1947, Rhodes and the rest of the Dodecanese Islands were united with Greece.

From the perspective of this collection, only healthcare-relevant postage stamps issued both by the Italian government and the occupying German forces are presented here.