

Armenians lived in Crimea since middle ages. Earliest historiographical references to presence of Armenians in Crimea date back to the VIII century when Crimea was under control of Byzantine Empire and some Armenian troops were stationed there. During the next two centuries Armenians from other parts of Armenian Highlands arrived and settled in Crimea.

The next wave of Armenian settlers fleeing destructive Seljuk attacks arrived during the XI and XII centuries. They settled in Kaffa (modern Feodosia), Solhat, Karasubazar (modern Belgorodsk), and Ermeni Bazar (modern Armyansk). Throughout the XIII and XIV centuries more Armenians arrived to Crimea escaping hardship from wars and foreign invasions, and as the Armenian population grew substantially, some Western sources began to call the region Armenia maritima (Armenian coast – ed.) and the Sea of Azov Lacus armeniacus (Armenian lake – ed.). In the XVIII century Armenians were the second largest ethnic group in Crimea after Crimean Tatars.



The town of Armyansk was founded in the beginning of the XVIII century Armenians and Greeks that arrived from the nearby city of Or Qapi (modern Perekop). The original name of the town was Ermeni Bazar (Armenian Market in Tatar language), and the town was renamed Armyansk in 1921. About 22,000 people live in Armyansk, but the majority of Armenians in Crimea currently live in Feodosia.

Crimea was annexed by the Russian Empire in April of 1783 and the rule of Russian Empire ended by the 1917 Revolution.

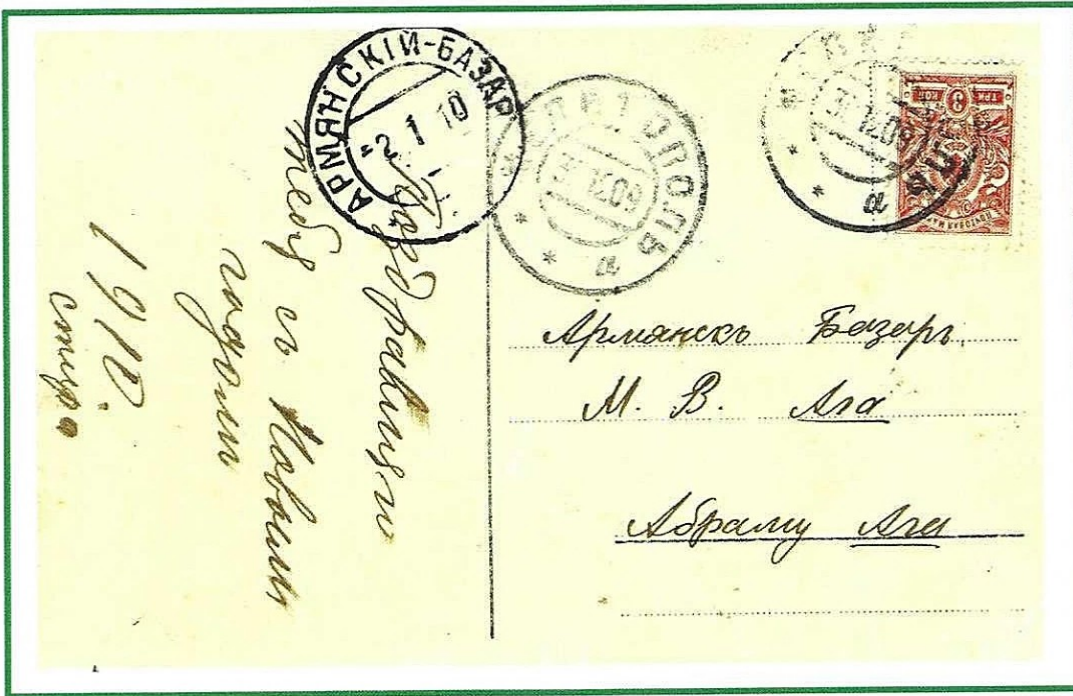
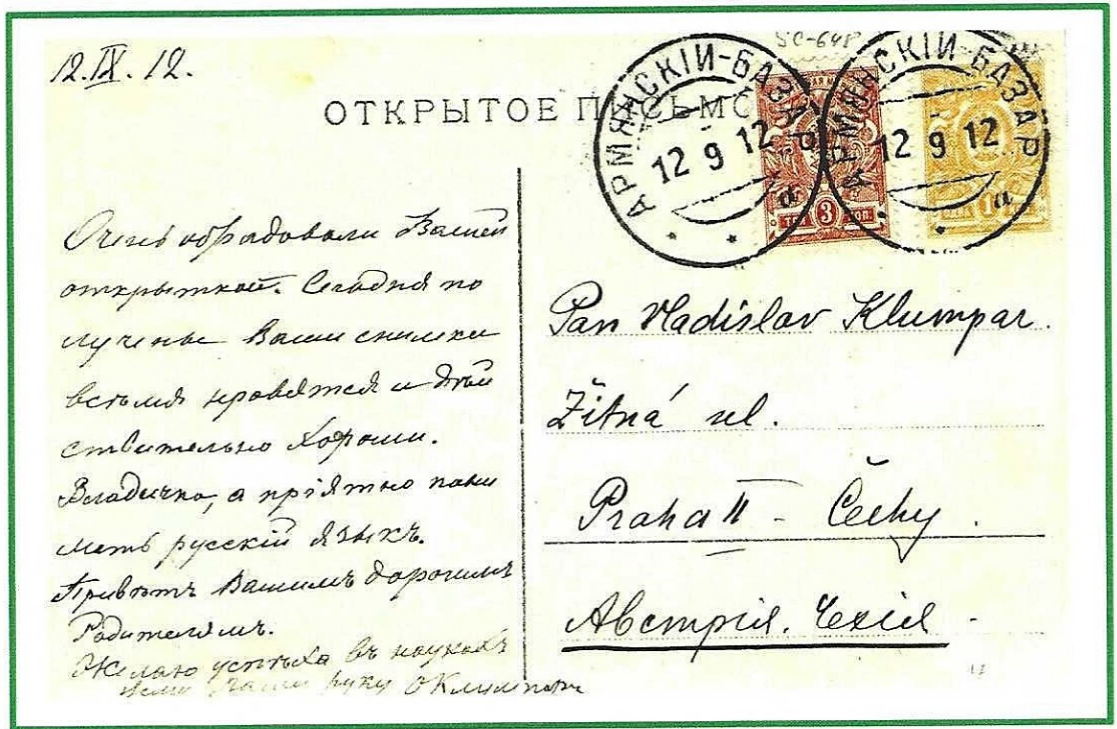
After changing hands several times during the Russian Civil War, Crimea became a part of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (RSFSR) from 1921 until 1954 and then it was transferred to the Ukrainian SSR in 1954 (by Khrushchev – ed.).

Russian Federation annexed Crimea once more in March of 2014. In December of 1844 when Crimea was a part of the Russian Empire the Armyanskiy Bazar post office was established by postal authorities of the Russian Empire. Under that name the post office functioned until 1921 when the town was renamed, and the Armyansk post office in the town is still active.

I have two postcards in my collection with postmarks of Armyanskiy Bazar. The first one was sent on September 9, 1912 from Armyanskiy Bazar to Prague. The second one was mailed from Melitopol to Armyanskiy Bazar on December 30, 1909 and has an arrival circular date stamp of Armyanskiy Bazar with January 1, 1910 date in the dial. The second postcard was addressed to Abram Aga who I assume was an Armenian. I also recently obtained a USSR envelope mailed in 1988 to Armyansk with a circular date stamp of that post office. (Depicted above)

Armyanskij Bazar

Mailed from
Armyanskiy Bazar
to Prague on
September 12,
1912



Mailed from
Melitopole to
Armyanskiy Bazar
on December 30 .
1909



Coat of Arms of Armyansk

The Soviet monument of a T - 34 in the city commemorates the liberation from Nazi occupation

