

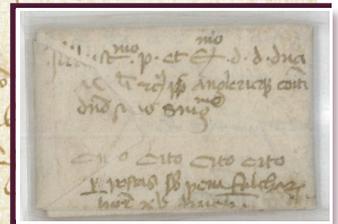
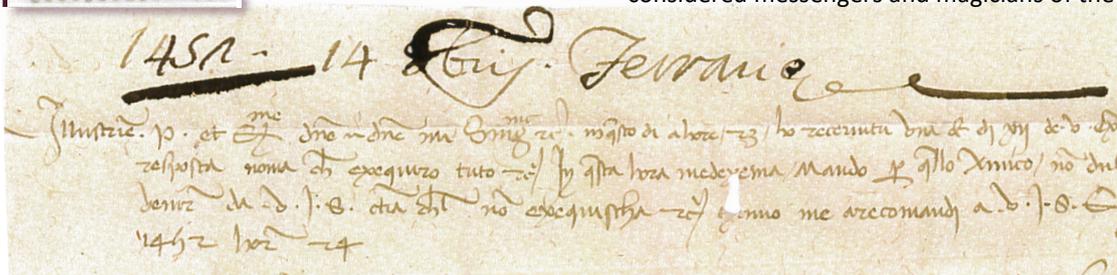
On the one hand he was the patron god of traffic, travelers, merchants and shepherds, but on the other hand he was also the god of thieves: Toth, Hermes, Mercury.



Greece 1861  
Paris printing, printing proof by Barre, without gum as usual



It started in ancient Egypt, the Ibis-headed Toth transforms into Hermes in Greek mythology, which in turn transforms into the Roman Mercury. They have one thing in common: they are considered messengers and magicians of the spirit.



Hermes is featured, here on this 1901 Greek wrapper, with the caduceus symbolizing the speedy delivery of messages.

With the Greek god Hermes, the magic of the spirit is often associated with theft, which is why messengers sometimes have their messages - especially in times of war - folded and sewn into their clothing, as here in this letter of October 14, 1452 from Ferrara to Milan. The letter is addressed to Prince Galeazo Sforza and is marked "cito cito cito cito per postas per pena furcas hore X 15 Mediolani" (= quickly, quickly ... under threat of the gallows, October 15th, signed Mediolani).



An important attribute of Mercury is the winged helmet. Newspaper stamp Austria 1908/10, printed on the gummed side, with a paper fold. Newspaper stamp value imprint on private wrapper in unusual green color.



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