



E-Newsletter: February 2014



Sarasota Florida: Sun, Warmth, and the SIP: By the time you read this, the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida will be about to occur or will have already occurred. The dates are February 7-9, 2014. We hope many of you will be able to join us there. Two of our members, Arthur Harris and Howard Rotterdam, will be giving lectures. SIP member Art Groten will be a judge and Ed Kroft, SIP President, will be an apprentice judge. The SIP will have a banquet and General Membership Meeting. Details can be found on the Society Website at http://www.israelstamps.com/whats_new.php. Expect to read about these events in the next issue of the E-Newsletter.

Sarasota Meeting SIP Events Schedule: Note Corrections:

There is some conflicting information on the timing of Society Events in Sarasota. Please note the following correct schedule:

The Society dinner is Friday evening at the Hyatt Sarasota from 6-9 pm and begins with a Shabbat service. Reservations are required: contact Howard Rotterdam at hrteach@bellsouth.net or [954-253-6806](tel:954-253-6806).

The General Membership meeting is Sunday morning from 10 am to 12 noon. All members are invited.

Two lectures by SIP members: Friday 3 pm - Arthur Harris: "Interesting Uses of Israeli Revenues"; Sunday 12 noon - Howard Rotterdam: "Forced Registration of Israel."

Upcoming Changes for *The Israel Philatelist*: Our journal, which has flourished under the talented editorship of Don Chafetz, will be changing to four issues a year at 60 pages each, rather than the current six issues a year at 40 pages each. This means no reduction in overall number of pages but a reduced cost for the Society.

Dallas is Also An Inviting Place for Holyland Philatelists: On February 17, the Israel Stamp Club of the SIP Dallas Chapter will host its "Signature Event, Part Four." This presentation, by Gil Elan, president and CEO of the Southwest Jewish Congress, and SIP past Dallas Chapter President Walter Levy, will focus on the topic of signatures on first day covers, and will feature items from Walter Levy's collection. Details are available by contacting chapter president Lawrence Goldman at 214-803-2645 or l.s.goldman@tx.rr.com

Help Us and Educate Yourself By Searching The IP Archives: As we continue to digitalize *The Israel Philatelist*, a wealth of information has become available in searchable, on-line form. We welcome your use of it for research and for self-education. When you search *The Israel Philatelist* archives, please provide feedback to editor Don Chafetz about the IP's searchable on-line database. Go to the Society's home page at www.israelstamps.com and then click on IP Archives Library. You'll then see a link labeled "Journal Search" at the top of this web page. Click on it and give it a try. Then, please provide Don with some feedback at sipeditor@gmail.com

Achievements of Note

--SIP Past President **Mike Bass** exhibited and gave a lecture at Sandical in San Diego in January on "French Postal Operations in the Holy Land 1852-1914." His award earned a vermeil medal. SIP member and IP editor **Don Chafetz** won a silver medal at the same meeting for his First All New Jersey Flight 1937 exhibit. Please see the attached Sandical Report for Mike's summary of the meeting. Also see the attached photo of Don (left) and Mike at Sandical.

--A portion of the collection of SIP member and long-time stamp collector **Lee Shedroff**, is now on display at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center in Phoenix, AZ. Titled "Signed, Sealed, Delivered: A Jewish Biography Through Stamps," these stamps were part of a donation by Lee to the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. You can read more about this most interesting story, and about Lee, at:

http://www.jewishaz.com/arts_features/arts_culture/azjhs-stamp-exhibit-gives-history-lesson/article_e1e38a88-515f-11e3-8927-0019bb30f31a.html

--Society President **Ed Kroft** was selected by a committee of leading Canadian philatelists as the winner of the Geldert Medal for the best article in The Canadian Philatelist for 2013. Ed's article was "Canada-Israel Postal History and Rates; 1948-1952." See attachment for details.

--**David Dubin** is now our SIP librarian. This is a wonderful example of how our members volunteer to take on important roles that permit the Society to function. Thank you David!

Hear ye, Hear ye – Spread the Word: We hope that Society members will speak not only to philatelic groups, but also to non-philatelic groups, to educate them about the Society, philately, and the history of Israel and the Holyland.

Don't Be Shy! Step Right Up and Volunteer: We are ALWAYS in need of volunteers. If any members would like to explore how they may volunteer to help the Society, please contact our President, Ed Kroft, at ed.kroft@blakes.com . Some examples (but there are many others), include:

--**Use your computer for more than surfing the internet and checking e-mail:** The future of our Society and of philately in general will depend on effective use of technology to extend our worldwide reach. We are in need of members to help with our website, help us make effective use of social media, and to assist with the development of web-based seminars. If interested contact our President, Ed Kroft, at ed.kroft@blakes.com

--Help the next generation: We now have a Children's Stamp Album that is designed to introduce children to the stamps of Israel. We plan to post it on our website in the near future. If any of you are interested in spreading the word to children about our hobby while teaching them about Israel, this material will be available to help you. It will also be on display in Sarasota. Contact Zach Simmons at zsimmons101@gmail.com with any questions.

--Research, write, publish, and become famous (well..maybe): We are always in need of articles for *The Israel Philatelist*. If you have some ideas about areas of interest to you, for a short or long article, please contact the IP Editor, Don Chafetz, at Sipeditor@gmail.com

Write Us! We Welcome News and Information: We'll be glad to include achievements of SIP members, announcements related to the SIP, and information about local club meetings. When informing us about upcoming events, please note that the E-Newsletter usually is sent out the first week of each month. If you are providing information after an event or meeting occurs, we welcome reports about that meeting, what was discussed, etc. Please send information to Zach Simmons at zsimmons101@gmail.com



P R E S S R E L E A S E

PR14-1 – January 2014

Geldert Medal for 2013 Awarded to Ed Kroft, QC

George Pepall, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), has announced that Ed Kroft, QC, of Vancouver, British Columbia has been awarded the Geldert Medal for 2013. The Geldert Medal is given annually for the best article or series of articles in *The Canadian Philatelist* (CP), the journal of the society.

Kroft was chosen the Geldert winner for his “Canada-Israel: Postal History and Rates: 1948-1952”, which was published in the November-December issue.

When he was informed of his success, Kroft thanked Pepall and said, “I am delighted by your email and honoured to have been selected.”

The Geldert jury, whose decision was unanimous, spoke highly of Kroft’s work. The remarks included, “I have found the postal rate and history of much interest.” Another comment said, “a nice background on the development of the Israeli postal system which is well illustrated with excellent analysis of rates and postage due.” One jury member focused on the “well organized” nature of the work.

George Pepall said, “It is important to congratulate Geldert Medal winners because they are an inspiration to others and an important voice for the hobby.” He said, “It is very encouraging to have Ed Kroft among our writers.”

Ed Kroft has a highly successful legal mind, having received many honours and having written over 60 articles and papers on taxation and corporate law subjects as well as numerous articles for the philatelic press “on Holy Land postal history”, for which he was honoured by the Society of Israel Philatelists with the Leslie Reggel Award. For his work in law, he received the Queen’s Counsel citation in 2009.

The Geldert Medal was established in 1967 by Phyllis Geldert in memory of her husband Dr. George M. “Mac” Geldert, FRPSC and RPSC president (1958-1967). Successful writers may win only once.

The Geldert Medal selection committee consists of RPSC members Michael O. Nowlan, Chair; Cimon Morin, and Kevin O’Reilly.



Information on The RPSC is available by: e-mail: <info@rpsc.org> telephone 1-888-285-4143, website <www.rpsc.org>, or RPSC National Office, P.O. 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1.

- 30 -

