



Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

E-Newsletter: May-June 2014



We Have Lots of Information to Share: We hope you enjoy this double issue of the E-Newsletter.

Congratulations to our SIP Exhibitors:

The Garfield-Perry Stamp Club of Northeast Ohio (<http://garfieldperry.org/wp/>) held its 124th annual stamp exhibition and bourse April 11-13 in Cleveland Ohio. Palmares were presented to the following SIP members at the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club March Party:

Michael Bass: Gold, for "French and Austrian Postal Operations in the Holy Land 1852-1914."

Robert Pildes: Gold, for "The 1948 Doar Ivri Issue of Israel." Single Frame Vermeil for "Palestine Emergency Deliveries Inc. Also the APS Medal of Excellence, 1940-1980 Material.

Howard Chapman: Vermeil, for "JNF Fund Raising Cinderellas 1901-1948."

Here Comes The Judge: On June 1 2014 the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) accredited SIP President **Ed Kroft** as a national judge. He can now judge national and regional shows in Canada. Because of a reciprocity agreement between the APS and the RPSC, he can also judge at national shows in the United States. Congratulations, Ed!

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. Also, if you have written an article about your collection or philatelic activities for a non-philatelic publication such as a community paper or newsletter, or if you have spoken about Holyland philately at a local event, please let us know so we can share the news. 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

Member Profile: Arthur Harris

My name is Arthur Harris. I specialize in Israel revenue stamps in all aspects including State of Israel, Municipalities, Zahal to name just a few categories. I have had a number of articles published in the IP. I am a retired medical transcriptionist (my own company). Currently, I am the President of the South Florida SIP chapter. I was previously active many years ago in the Long Island chapter when it was viable. I do communicate with other Israel revenue collectors around the world but would love to hear from others (arthurhythec@gmail.com).

Tell us About Yourself! The profile above is what we hope will be the first in a series of such profiles. Each month, we would like to include a paragraph featuring an SIP member, with the goal of getting to know one another better, and hopefully fostering communication amongst those of you with common collecting interests who might not otherwise know about one another. Please send an email to **Zach Simmons** (zsimmons101@gmail.com), telling a little about yourself and your philatelic interests, so that I can feature you in our newsletter. If you are a junior member, this will permit senior members to find you. If you are an experienced collector, this will put your name out there so that junior members can contact you for questions and mentorship. You will be helping the Society and the fields of philately and postal history.

From the SIP President: Attached is the President's Column from the upcoming issue of The Israel Philatelist.

From the Editor of The Israel Philatelist, Don Chafetz

(sipeditor@gmail.com):

Computer Data Base Project (our note: this pertains to indexing past issues of the IP and making them available and searchable on line): For the last couple of months the programming company has been working on fixing a search/display feature in the program. The problem has been solved and I will start indexing more issues of The Israel Philatelist. My target date is to have the journals all indexed by the fall, or by the end of the year in the worst case. The plan is to have the data base tested by the membership via the society's web site in 2015 so we will have it available for the International Stamp Show in New York City in 2016.

The Israel Philatelist: The Spring issue is at the printers and should be in the mail shortly. I will be starting on the summer issue in about 1-2 months and I am in need of articles. They can be a 1/2 page article about your favorite stamp/cover or longer article on why you collect or on some interesting research you have done. Remember, I can only print in YOUR journal the articles I receive.

Educational Fund/Computer Data Base Project: I would like to thank all members who have generously financially supported our society. Our dues and advertisements do not cover all our expenses so your donation of any size is very much appreciated. It is YOUR society, so please continue your support.

Save the Dates! Please note upcoming SIP Annual General meetings:

- 2015: NOJEX May 29-31.
- 2016: New York City in conjunction with the World Stamp Show May 28 – June 4.

Be (or become!) an Exhibitor: Consider preparing a Holyland exhibit for the NOJEX meeting in 2015. We have many experienced exhibitors within the SIP who can help provide ideas and guidance. Any of our Officers would be glad to connect you with such mentors. There are excellent resources available:

The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) is a great society and well worth joining. It has an outstanding website (<http://www.aape.org>) with exhibits and with features such as “How to Create a Philatelic Exhibit.” Those who join receive an award-winning journal.

The American Philatelic Society Manual of Philatelic Judging (<http://stamps.org/Manual-and-Scoresheets>) is a very useful resource for novice or experienced exhibitors.

Share Your Philatelic Knowledge: There are many ways to do so and to enrich the Holyland philatelic community. Consider the following:

- Write an article for The Israel Philatelist. **Editor Don Chafetz**, would love to hear from you, and can provide you with guidance and feedback: sipeditor@gmail.com
- Speak to local philatelic and non-philatelic groups about Holyland philately
- Write an article about Holyland philately and your involvement in it for a community newspaper or newsletter

SIP: It's not just about philately: The SIP wants to share its knowledge and resources with the broader non-philatelic community. We have an award-winning journal and many books that would be of interest to those wishing to learn more about the history and people of the Holyland. These materials might appeal to historians, educators, and others in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Consider discussing these resources with those you know in the academic and business communities, and with your friends and family. You never know who might be interested. The Society has formed a publicity committee, and they would be delighted to hear from you, or to have you join! Please contact **SIP President Ed Kroft** (ed.kroft@blakes.com) to offer ideas.

We still REALLY need a webmaster and someone who is savvy about social media: The Society is in the process of modernizing its website, and would benefit tremendously by having a dedicated webmaster. Also, a member who is knowledgeable about social media would provide the SIP with a great portal of entry to younger

individuals. Within our membership, there are certainly individuals with such skills. Please offer your expertise to us, and help the Society continue to evolve with the times. Contact **President Ed Kroft** at ed.kroft@blakes.com and he will be glad (actually thrilled would be a more accurate term) to speak with you.

Help Us Compile a Holyland Philately Internet Guide: How do you keep current on Holyland philately and find new educational material? In this ever-more-connected, virtual, and digitalized world, it is no longer only a matter of going to the local stamp shop, or to Gimbel's stamp department, or to the meeting of your local stamp club, or to the library. The Internet features an enormous variety of philatelic educational material. Please email **Zach Simmons** (zsimmons101@gmail.com) the sources you find to be most helpful for you. We'll use them to develop a guide for our members.

Children's Stamp Program Needs Stamps: As you may recall, we have developed a Children's Stamp Album. Our goal is to distribute this along with some Israel stamps to interested children. Now we just need the stamps. Do you have extra ones? If so, please contact **Zach Simmons** (zsimmons101@gmail.com)

Read About Holyland Philately: The SIP has a large number of wonderful publications available for purchase thru the Educational Fund, ranging from classic material on Palestine and Forerunners to recent publications on the Holocaust, Hate Mail, and Triangular Military Handstamps. See what's available by looking at the back pages of each issue of The Israel Philatelist, or on-line at the SIP website: www.israelstamps.com/Bookstore

SIP Library: The library is open for use by all SIP members, who are encouraged to make use of this fantastic resource. The catalog is on the SIP website, along with regulations governing the library's use. All new SIP publications will automatically be sent to the library. The new librarian, **David Dubin** (ddubin@israelstamps.com) is trying to complete our collections of periodicals (including BAPIP, HLPH and the IP). With help from the membership, we also hope to assemble a collection of important auction catalogs. Look in The Israel Philatelist for occasional requests for donations of items. All members are asked to send recommendations for new acquisitions, new policies

and new ideas to David.

Dr. Wallach's Website: Last month, we highlighted the website of longtime SIP member **Dr. Josef Wallach**. Within that website, he has recently opened a section titled "The Establishment of the Palestine Authority Post." This is a terrific resource. The Newsletter inadvertently contained the wrong e-mail address. Although a correction was subsequently sent, here it is again, so that those who have not accessed this site can take full advantage of it: www.josefwallach.com Dr. Wallach encourages members to provide him with feedback.

Keep us Updated (electronically, that is!): Please make sure we have your most current e-mail address. This allows us to continue to send you this Newsletter and other important updates about the Society. It also will ensure that you have access the electronic version of The Israel Philatelist. This will be particularly important in 2015, when paper copies of the IP will no longer be distributed as part of the standard yearly membership dues. Don't risk losing access to our award-winning journal!

See you in September: Summer is traditionally a slow season for our hobby. There are few shows, and many collectors enjoy the outdoors. This will be the last issue of the E-Newsletter until the September issue. Have a great summer!

Dr. Zach Simmons, editor
Zsimmons101@gmail.com

IP President's Column

Spring has finally arrived. I hope that you enjoyed the recent holidays and found time to enjoy your stamp collecting. I am grateful for the emails and phone calls that I receive from members regarding our hobby and about possible involvement or contributions to the SIP. Please keep them coming.

Exhibiting- It is Lots of Fun

I would like to encourage some of you to try to do an exhibit in 2014 or 2015. Exhibiting can be beneficial and fun for a number of reasons. You become more knowledgeable about the subject matter. Other collectors get to see what you collect and then can and do share information they have about your topic. You get to see what you are missing which you might not realize. Finally, you help spread the word about Holy Land philately by exhibiting. My congratulations go out to a number of our members who just exhibited in Cleveland. Please let me know about other successes so we can trumpet your achievements in our monthly newsletter.

Social Media and Publicity- **the SIP needs Your Help**

The Society can use your help in other ways. It is always looking for new members. This has been a constant theme since 1948 and will remain so. Please reach out to friends and relatives to try to interest them. Some of you despair and claim it is not possible or not worth doing. You would be surprised how many collectors are unaffiliated. A common refrain I hear is that "my kids are not interested in collecting stamps." We all need assistance in this regard. We need to show and demonstrate to the community at-large what philately is about and how it has relevance in the 21st century. Speeches at synagogues, articles in Jewish newspapers and other publications about topics involving Judaica and postal history will assist. If half of the members of the Society did one thing to promote the Society, we would have more collectors and more members. Many people are retiring from jobs. They may have time and money to enjoy our hobby. Appeal to them!

I have been doing some of these activities and they are beginning to bear fruit. Inaction will not expand our base. I have appealed to you for a while for a volunteer to assist with Social Media. We must continue to get our message out! I renew that appeal to you! Your grand kids are tech savvy. If they don't want to collect stamps, they can show their love to you and us by helping the SIP set up a Facebook page, to start a twitter feed or to help us with ideas about how the younger generation gets the word out about

things that interest them. Recent revolutions around the world have been greatly assisted by social media. The American Philatelic Society uses Social Media to try to get messages out. The SIP needs to also get there. Many of you belong to synagogues and other non-profit organizations. What are they doing?

I have struck a committee within the SIP to deal with publicity with a number of volunteers. If you can help, please contact me.

Society Benefits

Everyone likes to get value for their money. You get that being a member of the SIP. A fantastic journal, access to our website and the digitization of knowledge, books about Holy Land philately, and a network of people who share common interests, I encourage you to enjoy them.

The Rest of 2014

There will be stamp shows around the world which I hope you can attend. May you use the internet or local stamp club gatherings to find new treasures for your stamp collection. May you write a short article for the IP or some other philatelic or non-philatelic publication. May you just show someone a page or item out of your collection which in turn will ignite your pride and display your knowledge about what you collect. But most of all, may you have healthy and joyous times to enjoy all of this. Until the next issue...

Best wishes. Ed.