

# THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS INC. AUGUST 2013

DEVOTED TO THE PHILATELY OF THE HOLY LAND VOL LXIV NO 4

# Collecting Millions of Postage Stamps PAGE 140



## **Ed Fund Announcements**

David Kaplin, SIP Education Fund Director

## 2011 ISRAEL PHILATELIC CATALOGUE

The Education Fund is proud to announce the publication of the **2011 Israel Philatelic Catalogue of Maximum Cards, Postal Openings, Information Folders, Bulletins, Etc.** by Sid Morginstin and Bernard Perrin. A book version costs \$25.00 (Order Item 446) and a CD-ROM format \$15.00 (Order Item 536).

The catalogue is a unique compendium of collateral Israeli philatelic items produced by the Israel Postal Administration and dealers. The items included in the catalogue are not extensively documented in more traditional stamp catalogues. The catalogue includes Maximum Cards (picture postcards that reproduce the design of stamp with a first day of issue postmark on the attached stamp), Stamp Information Folders and Bulletins, Post Office Openings and Posters.

The 2011 catalogue contains listings for philatelic items issued through 2009 and 2010 and it is an expanded update of the **Maximum Folders Catalog** by Sid Morginstin, Bernard Perrin and Stanley Raffel published by SIP Education Fund in 2009.

## FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN PALESTINE

The Ed Fund recently received a generous donation of several slightly used copies of **The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine – Vol. II** by Steichele. Thanks to this generous donation, the publication is being added back to the Ed Fund catalogue of publications (Order Item 423.

## ISRAEL GENERIC SHEETS CATALOGUE PLACES & POST OFFICES WITH BIBLICAL NAME

The Education Fund has agreed in principle to publish two new proposed works: Israel Generic Sheets Catalogue by Adam Caplan in collaboration with Howard Rotterdam and Places And Post Offices With A Biblical Name by Abraham Blum. No publication date has been set for either item.

## **I**SRAEL PHILATELIST REPRINTS

As Education Fund Director, I have periodically reviewed the Education Fund catalog price structure as it pertains to the publications and shipping and handling. During May, the price structure was reviewed and a number of changes are being implemented:

The prices on some of **The Israel Philatelist** reprints, including Items 301 (years 1949–1959), 303, 304 and 305, (years 1968–1976) have been significantly reduced to clear out excessive inventory. So if you are interested in hard bound copies of **The Israel Philatelist** from these years, this is a good time to purchase the reprints.

#### Postal FEES

The Education Fund uses a flat rate for domestic (USA) and international shipping and handling. The current charge for domestic shipping and handling is \$3.50 per item is sufficient but the international shipping and handling charge of, \$8.00 per item, is insufficient to cover our costs. The current International shipping fee via USPS start at \$6.55 for a 2 oz package and quickly climbs with heavier packages. For this reason, we will be instituting over the coming months a major change to International shipping and handling fees: International shipping and handling charges will vary by publication and will be significantly higher than the current flat rate.

#### **N**EW PUBLICATIONS

In conclusion, the SIP Education Fund is looking for new publications. Many of you have wonderful Israel/ Holy Land/Judaic collections. In some cases, you may have written article(s) in **The Israel Philatelist** about a portion of your collection and/or won awards at various juried stamp shows. In other cases, you are interested in seldom reported topics, which are not well documented. Please consider documenting these items in a manuscript that can be published by the Ed Fund. My role as Education Fund Director is to insure that the knowledge is never lost. •

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## 2014 SIP Convention

Sarasota National Stamp

**Exhibition** February 7 - 9, 2014

Sarasota Municipal Auditorium US Hwy 41, N. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL

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2013

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#### Membership Application

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Reference: an A.P.S. Num	ber or 2 Comm	ercial References)
1		2
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Parent or Guarantors Sign	ature	
Applications submitted b	etween Januar	y 1 and June 30 must be accompanied
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Dues	\$30.00	\$470.00	\$34.00	\$43.00
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Make all checks or money orders payable to "The Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc." Mail to: Hy–Ko Products, Company, 60 Meadow Lane, Northfield, OH 44067-1415

This application is accepted subject to review and acceptance or rejection in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. "Notice of applications for membership is published in our magazine, **THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST**, and consideration of applications is made thirty days after publication of the names."

## **Editor's Notes**

Donald A. Chafetz

A close scrutinizing of the advertisements in this issue will show that a number of advertisers have significantly down-sized their ads. I have no explanation for this phenomenon, but it is having a direct influence on the cash flow of the Society. On top of this, Stuart Freiman our long time Advertising Manager will be vacating his position at the end of August. We are in need of a member to step-up and fill the position.

The lost of ad revenue and the resignation of the Ad Manager is very significant. The revenue helps pay for the printing and mailing of **The Israel Philatelist**. To help recover some of the revenue, **The Israel Philatelist** starting with the October 2013 issue will start accepting non–philatelic advertisements from corporations and/or individuals. This is not a new approach since during the formative years of the society such advertisement was accepted. So I am just resurrecting a practice from the past.

Until we have a new Advertising Manager, all new ads should be sent to the editor at: e-mail: sipeditor@gmail.com.

As I have been creating the index for our computerized data base, I have been able to observe the evolution of the Society. In 1949 it was a club of collectors in the New York City area who had an interest in the stamps and covers of the new State of Israel.

At that time they published a "journal" which was a little more than a local club newsletter on what appears to have been a mimeograph machine. It carried ads from local dealers and most of the articles were about club happenings, Israel new issues and the opening of new post offices and their cancellations. There were occasionally more "meaty" articles of a page or two in length.

Over the next ten years, the club grew in membership and started to add chapters outside of the New York City area. The front cover of the journal changed a number of times during this period until 1965. At that time, the cover became the "standard cover" with the name of the organization, our logo and

issue information on the cover. This design remained constant until I became editor and started making changes. So far I have changed the front cover layout 3-4 times, but hopefully it will remain stable for the near future.

When you have some "time" you might want to go the society's web site, http://www.israelstamps.com, click on the link entitled **IP Achieves Library** and browse through some early journals. I have completed the index through volume 18, 1967.

As mentioned above, the Society is in need of financial donations so we can continue to publish **The Israel Philatelist** and continue the work on the computerization of our journal. In this light, Gregg Philipson, Chairman of the Endowment Fund, asked me include this appeal as our Jewish members celebrate the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah.

Dear Fellow SIP Members,

As we move toward the end of 2013 I am asking once again for those of you who are able to help us reach our 2013 Endowment Fund financial goal.

We have reached the 80% mark, but that is only part way to our goal. Your contribution of \$25.00 or more will go a long way to helping us achieve the long-term viability of the SIP. As I said earlier this year, we need this campaign to keep the SIP moving, from *generation to generation*. This cannot be done without your financial help and support.

Michelle and I have stepped up to the plate this year and maybe with all your help we can hit a grand slam and knock our financial goal out of the park!! We need your support and I personally encourage all of you to think about what a great organization the SIP is and the important work it performs. Send what you can now and feel good about supporting our world class organization.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,
Gregg S. Philipson
Endowment Fund Chairman

## Letters to the Editor

Received the latest journal of the SIP yesterday and, serendipitously, the South Florida Chapter of the SIP met today.

We thus had the opportunity to discuss my note on the Japanese cover to Israel that appeared in the February issue of the journal and Mr. Zelenietz's comment in the June issue.

I appreciate that Mr. Z took the time to make his comment. It opened an avenue of discussion that was another learning experience for me.

From what I learned today, several countries do cancel their mail with dates that do not conform to the Gregorian calendar. Examples include Thailand that dates their cancel from the ruling king, Korea dates theirs from the accession of the emperor and China uses a date based on the rule of Sun Yat-sen.

The glaring exception to this custom is Japan. Japan apparently uses two distinct cancels. One that they call "the English cancel" on international mail based on the Gregorian calendar and their own cancel on internal mail that dates the cancellation based on Hirohito's reign. Occasionally, the international mail does receive the wrong cancel, however, the consensus of the group is that this is indeed a 1949 cancel. The mystery continues.

Dick Herman
SIP South Florida •

#### Hello Don

I want to show you the attached scan of a cover I recently obtained on eBay. It's a cover mailed in June 1941 from New York City to Mr. A Cymerman "c/o Jewish Community of Kobe", Kobe, Japan. I didn't know there was a Jewish community in Kobe! Were they related to Jews who had escaped Europe and ended in Shanghai (and maybe Kobe as well?).

The cover has no marking on the back. There are no Japanese markings anywhere. There was no censorship (no United States civil censorship before Pearl Harbor).

The 8 cents paid the airmail rate to San Francisco; it went by "slow boat to China/Japan" after that.

The SIP editor and his readers know all, so I am sending this to you. Solving the mystery might make for an interesting short piece for your journal. Please let me know what you think.

Dr. Larry Sherman, San Diego, CA •



Dear Don

I'm reading **The Israel Philatelist** of February 2013, on page 40 Gene Zhiss writes about V mail and says the one illustrated is the only one he has seen.

Attached is another Rosh Hashanah V mail I have, and maybe you can send this scan to him

Thank you Regards from Mexico David Braun



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## **BUYING & SELLING**

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## **Israel Registered Mail Today**

Genady Berman, Holon, Israel

egistered mail as known today was introduced in 1841 in Great Britain. The letter had to be enclosed within a large sheet of green paper and addressed to the Post Office where the recipient lived. The green sheet was used as a receipt and returned to the post office of origin after delivery.

Registered mail constitutes letters, packets or other postal documents considered valuable or important and in need of a chain of custody that provides more control than regular mail. The item has its postal details recorded in a register to enable its location to be tracked during each stage of the mail handling process.

## COMPUTERIZED REGISTRATION

Traditionally, registering mail was a manual process which gave rise to a great variety of distinctive hand stamps and registration labels. Many countries have even issued special postal stationery for registered mail. Today, however, the registration process is largely computerized with barcode registration labels replacing the traditional labels having only a printed serial number.

In most countries, the use of registered mail requires labels with a 13-digit reference number and a corresponding barcode. This special 13 digit number standard was designed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The first two letters of the barcode indicates the kind of registration (usually "RR") while the last 2 letters usually represent the country where the registered item was posted: e.g. RR913282511SG indicates Singapore or RR123456785IL indicates Israel.

These type of labels were first introduced in Israel in 1996 when the Postal Authority started computerizing its mail delivery services. Following a trial period various barcode labels were introduced starting in 1998 for each kind of registered mail.

## **PROCEDURE**

Generally, the regular postage is pre–paid at the normal rate and an additional charge known as a registration fee is added. In Israel nowadays, registration fee exists only for international mail. For internal mail, special registered mail fees exist.

Upon payment of the fees, the sender is given a receipt, and a uniquely numbered registration label is affixed to the letter. As the letter travels from post office to post office and through any sorting office, it has to be signed for in a ledger. This process is completed when the letter is delivered and the recipient signs for the item.

With computerization and barcode technology, much of the logging once done manually has become simpler and leads to a greater opportunity for the sender and recipient alike to access the status of their shipment via the internet. The Israel Post Authority provides tracing information for registered items on it's website.

## Types of registered mail labels

Nowadays, the following types of registered mail are offered by Israel Post to its clients:.

## INLAND & FOREIGN REGISTERED MAIL BARCODES & LABELS



Type A

Regular registered mail - The service is available for letters, postcards and printed matter up to 2 kg. in Israel and abroad. Special barcode label type A is used for this service.



Type C

Registered mail with scanned advice of delivery - The service is similar to regular advice of delivery, but has two main differences. It can be used only for inland mail and the advice of delivery is not only sent by mail to the sender, but it is also scanned and can be viewed on the Israel Post website. Special barcode label type C and advice of delivery type III are used.



Type B

Registered mail with advice of delivery -The service is available for letters, postcards and printed matter up to 2 kg. in Israel and abroad. The client can be sure that the recipient has received his shipment, as the sender will receive the original advice of delivery receipt signed by the recipient



Inland advice of delivery for scanning-Special inland letter type III advice of

delivery used with Type C registration label.



Type I

Inland advice of delivery - Special inland letter type I advice of delivery used with Type B registration label.



Type D

Military registered mail - This was specially created for the Israel Defense Forces. It is used for sending mail to civil organizations and reservists.



Type E



This service was created especially for large business clients of Israel Post. The postman can visit the recipient up to 3 times in order to deliver the mail. In addition, special advice of delivery type IV is sent to the sender after delivery. The service is available only in Israel. Postal items handled with this service are extremely rare. I have not seen even one such item.



Type F



Type \



Search The Address + Legal Delivery Label

Registered mail with legal delivery – This service was created especially for law offices. Barcode label type F is used. The postman can visit the recipient up to 3 times in order to deliver the item. Special advice of delivery type V is sent to the sender after delivery. Before the advice of delivery is sent to the sender the postman who delivered the letter officially signs it in the presence of a lawyer that the letter was really delivered to the recipient.. The advice of delivery can be used as official evidence in court. It is possible to ask the post office to search and find the address of the recipient if unknown. It is done as an additional service and a special orange label is used. Postal items of this type are extremely rare and I have not seen a single item.

## FOREIGN INCOMING REGISTERED MAIL BARCODES

Incoming registered mail from most countries is not usually marked by Israel Post except for damaged mail, mail with non–standard barcodes or registration numbers.

Unfortunately, Israel Post refused to provide me with any information regarding this service, but I do know that 2 special barcode labels exist for this service.





Type I

RR002779703XX

RR002779703XX

RR002779703XX

www.israelpost.co.m

Type II

The original item number is provided by the sending postal service. As I understand the procedure, it is used when the barcode is a standard type but damaged which prevents the barcode reader from recognizing it.

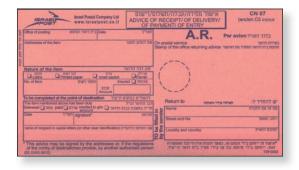
The label has a preprinted barcode ending with XX and is used when a barcode is not the standard 13 digits or when an old type registration label is present on the postal item.

# ADVICE OF DELIVERY FOR COMBINED DELIVERY POST



Type IV

# INLAND AND FOREIGN MAIL ADVICE OF DELIVERY



Type II

## INLAND RATES

Basic Registered Mail Tariffs Up To 50 Gr. (September 2012)

Service	Fee
Regular	9.50 NIS
With advice of delivery	12.3 NIS
With scanned advice of delivery	13.2 NIS
With combined delivery	19.87 NIS
Legal delivery	64.4 NIS
Search the address + Legal delivery	163.10 NIS
Advice of delivery	2.8 NIS in addition to other fees.
Scanning of the advice of delivery	0.9 NIS in addition to other fees.

## **FOREIGN RATES**

Service	Fee
Registration fee	4.6 NIS for all kinds of mail in addition to the regular shipment fees
Advice of delivery	1.6 NIS in addition to other fees
Express delivery	9.8 NIS in addition to other fees

# INLAND CERTIFICATE OF POSTING



# INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS LABEL



# A Postal History Perspective of the Holocaust

## JESSE I. SPECTOR M.D. AND EDWIN HELITZER D.M.D.

Among the hellish mechanisms the Nazis would create to abet the "Final Solution" would be the imposition on those to be liquidated the tasks leading to their own eventual demise. The Jews were initially ordered to create the censuses that would be used to exploit them of their property and to assign them to forced labor. The lists would then be used to formulate the "transports" to the death camps; and finally, would serve



to earmark those Jews assigned to assist in

Map of the German-Russian Partition of Poland on September 28, 1939

herding the "selected" onto the trains on the days of deportation.

The diabolical process would have its origins within weeks of the September 1, 1939 invasion of Poland by the Nazis. By September 28, 1939 Poland was partitioned into a western area incorporated into Germany, an eastern area incorporated into Russia as predetermined by the two countries, and a central area of self administration known as the General Government, albeit under ultimate control of the Germans (Figure 1).

## JUDENRAT - JEWISH COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Nazis created an administration known as the Judenrat (Rada Zydoweska in Polish and Jewish Council, or the Jewish Council of Elders in English) to oversee the functioning of the tasks as described above. SS General

Reinhard Heydrich issued the initial order on September 21, 1939 to establish Council of Elders consisting of prominent Jewish members of a community to be elected by the Jews, albeit tightly controlled by the Germans

## **JUDENRAT COUNCILS**



Figure 38 Warsaw Judenrat



Figure 48 Kovnow Judenrat

Hans Frank, Governor of the General Government area (Figure 2) would enlarge the scope of the Jewish Councils. His order of November 28, 1939 set up Judenrat councils in all communities within the area of the General Government. Where the Jewish population was more than 10,000 the Council was to have 24 members, and where it was less than 10,000 the Council was to have 12 members.

Figures 3 and 4 are photographs of Judenrat members from the Warsaw and Kovno Judenrat respectively. The Germans used the councils to administer the Jewish areas, to deal with German demands, and to provide police, fire and postal services. The councils would attempt to utilize their power in a positive way to aid in food, fuel and housing distribution, sanitation and transportation.

## PENALTY FOR FAILURE

Figure 28 Hans Frank



Figure 5<sup>6</sup> Execution Notice

While the Judenrat leaders were ambivalent regarding their fateful roles, failure to comply with the demands of the Nazis was met with an inexorable fate that included collective punishment, beatings, assignment of the resisting person to a death camp transport, or summary

execution. Figure 5 is an announcement of execution for unfulfilled quotas.

Figure 6 shows members of the Lvov Judenrat hanged by the Germans in 1942. Forced to implement the Nazis scheme,



Figure 68 Lov judenrat

council members were placed in the controversial and often morally untenable situation of making decisions that abetted the occupiers while creating animosity among the population, who perceived the few as making decisions that were potentially geared to protecting their own interests and families.

Alternatively, resistance by the councils was considered an even worse option by many of its members, since not only was such action not tolerated by the Nazis, but it was still hoped that cooperation might save at least some of the population as compared to the belief of the organized underground that resistance was the only alternative to total annihilation. With this as background we now present a remarkably poignant and tragic postal history exploration of The Judenrat in the General Government area of Poland.

## Postal History

## "DISAPPEARED"

We begin with a postcard (Figure 7) sent on May 26, 1940 from the Council of the Jewish Religious Community in Biala Podlaska, Lublin District, to the



Figure 7

Judenrat Council in Lublin. The postage was paid with a Polish 15 groschen stamp overprinted with a 12 groschen General Government stamp.

As Jews were frequently taken from their homes or pulled off the street and simply "disappeared", their whereabouts and condition became a matter of torment for family and friends. In this card the Council in Biala Podlaska asks if the Jew, Abram Makulski, is possibly being held in a Lublin prison. Regrettably, the victims of such seizures were simply never heard from again, and were either summarily murdered or sent to a concentration camp where the vast majority were exterminated. Of the 3 million Jews in Poland at the outbreak of war, only 350,000 would survive the Holocaust.

## DEPRIVATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

About 900,000 Poles, mainly Jews, from the area of western Poland directly annexed into the German Reich were forced to relocate into the central General Government territory. The burgeoning Jewish population was physically isolated and progressively deprived of shelter, sustenance and access to public services including schools, hospitals, social services, and even public transportation. The latter



Figure 86

situation is evident in figure 8 where the sign informs that the bus was available only to use by Germans.

A postcard (Figure 9) sent on October 9, 1940 by a member of the Jewish Council of Belz, a village near Belzec, Lublin District, to the Lublin Council is relevant to this deprivation of social services. The writer informs that a woman age about 30, living in Belz, has gone mad, and needs to be put in an asylum, and asks if it is possible for them to find a place for her in a Jewish asylum. A note in pencil on the back of the card states that there is no such asylum in Lublin. There is a lingering naïveté on the writer's part in that Jews were in any case excluded from all such facilities by this time in the occupation of Poland.



Figure 9

## **J**EWISH POLICE

It became the job of the Judenrat to establish the basic services to allow the Jewish community to function for as long as the Germans would permit. Among the tasks required by the Germans to be established was a self-serving one of having the Jews police themselves, albeit without weapons or judicial authority.

A photograph from the Lodz Ghetto (Figure 10) shows Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, chairman of the Lodz Judenrat, together with members of the Jewish ghetto police. The self-policing certainly lessened the need for the occupiers to supply manpower needed elsewhere. More regarding Mordechai Rumkowski shortly.



Figure 108

## BUREAUCRATIC NORMALCY



Figure 11

# A postcard sent on July 21, 1941 to the Jewish Council in Lublin by the Deputy Commander of the Jewish Police in Warsaw (Figure 11) is a mundane request asking for 2 Zloty (plus postage) to be forwarded so that the Finance and Administration Department of the Lublin Council could be sent by registered post the brochure that they wanted.

The seeming normalcy of these departments belies the fact that they were a window-dressing for German machinations. Note the hand-stamp "RADA ZYDOWSKA w WARSZAWIE, Kierownictwo Sluzby Porzadkowej" (The Jewish Council in Warsaw, Command Post of the Jewish Police) and also the ludicrous Polish "Victory" slogan stamp in a country brutally occupied by the victorious Nazis

## GHETTO LIFE

As in the well-known Warsaw Ghetto, Jews in other cities and towns were herded together in confined areas, routinely in numbers far exceeding any capacity for human habitation and devoid of adequate food, sanitation or health services (Figure 12).

A tragic vignette into this oft repeated scenario is this postcard (Figure 13). It was sent on May 19, 1941 from the Jewish Council in the village of Siedliszcze, near Chelm (Cholm), Lublin District, to the Council in Lublin. The writer says that the village originally had 240 Jewish families, but that the previous week 960 more Jews had been sent to Siedliszcze, and that the people were now living in the corridors and hallways of the houses. He goes on to ask the Lublin Council



Figure 128 Ghetto Street

to stop further transports and for people to be sent elsewhere. He also says that the Council has to provide accommodation for German soldiers who are being stationed in Siedliszcze.

A note on the front of the card dated July 5, 1941 states that the Lublin Council has no control over the transportation of people to Siedliszcze. Between October 15, 1942 and October 31, 1942 the entire Jewish population of Siedliszcze were placed in freight car transports to Sobibor Concentration Camp and murdered.

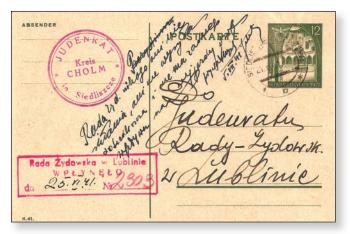


Figure 13



Figure 148

A scene tragically repeated thousands of times throughout Europe during the Holocaust, as this deportation scene from the Lodz Ghetto to the Chelmno extermination camp poignantly reminds us.

#### Bibliography and References:

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to be continued

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## Melbourne 2013

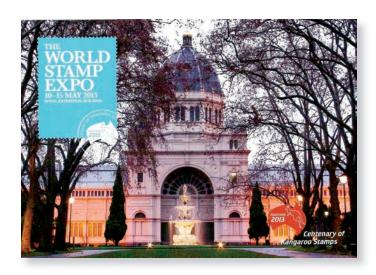


Figure 1
Royal Exhibition Building

Dr. Les Glassman, Israel Commissioner

t was a great honor and privilege to be invited as the Israel commissioner to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) World Stamp Exhibition which was held at the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, Australia (Figure 1) from May 10 - 15. The Right Honorable Lord Mayor Robert Doyle opened the exhibition. Speakers Included Tay Peng Hian, FIP President; Surajit Gongvatana, FIAP President; Ahmed Fahour Managing Director and CEO of Australia Post; Malcolm Groom, Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

## FIRST DAY CEREMONY

On the opening day there was a ceremony for the Australia and Israel joint issue (Figure 2), commemorating the **Battle of Beersheba** which took place in 1917. The capture of Beersheba allowed the British empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza and then advance into Palestine and conclude the war in Palestine.

This issue turned out to be extremely popular, with people waiting for hours in line to purchase their stamps and first day covers. The CEO and president of Israel Post, Haim Elmoznino, together with Yaron Razon, Director of Israel Philatelic Service, were present at the opening ceremony. Moti Kremener, secretary of the Israel Philatelic Federation, also attended the Exhibition (Figure 2).



First Day Cover

## Personal observations

One of the unique qualities of the World Stamp Exhibition was its inclusive nature, including

Commissioners from over 55 countries. Unfortunately Israeli judges were appointed but all 8 Israel entries were accepted accounting for 51 frames. I was fortunate that my daughter, who was



Figure 3 Shironi Glassman

an Israel military officer, had finished her 3 year army service and could accompany me (Figure 3).

## Show organization

Australia 2013 also commemorated the centenary of the iconic Kangaroo and Map stamp. This was the first definitive stamp that truly represented Australia. The show was the largest international philatelic exhibition to be held in the southern hemisphere in the last 30 years. There were 684 exhibits totalling 3,400 frames in all FIP competitive classes. It was a philatelic feast, featuring Australian Gems from the Royal Collection and archival collections in the Court Of Honor. There were 91 dealer booths including both international and local dealers and overseas postal agencies including Israel Post (Figure 4).

The Israel Philatelist - August 2013

It was estimated that over 20,000 visitors attended the show. The Daily Schedule included many interesting and diverse talks including Analytical Philately Through The Microscope, Fakes, Forgeries And Counterfeits. Moti and I attended the Postal History Traditional and Thematic critiques. The Royal Philatelic Society of London and Victoria held a joint reception at Newman College, Melbourne University. There were over 150 fellow members present.



Figure 4 Les Glassman and two Middle East philatelists at Israel Post booth

## AWARDS AND PALMARES CEREMONY

The Palmares Ceremony was a very lavish event, held in the Crown Ballroom. The jury awarded 49 Large Gold and 121 Gold Medals. The National Grand Prix was awarded to Arthur Woo (United Kingdom) for his exhibit Western Australia. The International Grand Prix was awarded to Emil Buhrmann (South Africa) for his Cape of Good Hope rectangular designs. He also received the special prize, Statue of the Fiddler on the Roof, which was donated by the Israel Philatelic Federation. The Grand Prix d' Honours was awarded to Koichi Sato (Japan) for **Tasmania**.

It was a major accomplishment for Israeli Joshua Magier to compete in The Championship Class. There were 12 outstanding exhibits competing for top honors. His exhibit Land Cultivation From The Beginning Of Agriculture To The Present Time was the only thematic exhibit! The results for the Israeli exhibitors were as follows:

 Hedy Faibel 92 points, Gold, The Red Cross Movement Everywhere For Everybody.

- Les Glassman 91 points, Gold and special award (material), Mozambique & Mozambique Company.
- Josef Charrach 90 points, Gold, Minerals Their Origin, Exploitation & Uses.
- Izhak Barak 83 points, Vermeil The Development Of Aviation And Transportation Of Mail By Air Until 1914.
- Zohar Noy 82 points, Vermeil, The Movie Is About To Begin, Kindly Take Your Seat.
- Yohanan Mey-raz 80 points, Vermeil, Watch Yourself Very Carefully.
- Les Glassman 75 points, Large Silver, Pre-Philatelic Postal History Of Jerusalem.

Additionally, there were other exhibits based on Israeli and Judaica themes. A close friend, Michael Fock the Slovenian Commissioner, received 86 points, a large vermeil for Jerusalem 1655 - 1917 and a large Silver for his book in Slovenian Jerusalem of Gold 1655 - 1967. He has previously contributed articles to the Holy Land Postal History journal. (Figure 6).

- Martin Hariton (Venezuela), 77 points, Large Silver, Booklets Of Israel.
- Daryl Kibble, 83 points, Vermeil, Interrupted / Delayed Mail Of The Arab – Israeli Conflict.
- Stephen Shimmin (New Zealand), 77 points, Large Silver, 1948 Palestine Postal Services.

Bruce Chadderton (New Zealand) exhibited his **Descent Into The Abyss** about anti–Semitism. At the show in Johannesburg, South Africa, J**oburg 2010**, with the help of Jenny Banfield the New Zealand commissioner, members of the South Africa SIP, and the United States, the outstanding collection was published in book form and received 76 points, and a Large Silver.

It was a great pity that no Israeli or Holy Land judge was appointed.

## STAMPS ARE UNIVERSAL

Just as stamps know no boundaries since they cross oceans and seas throughout the world, the array of commissioners, judges and representatives from all over the world became like a family of nations. This was built on a common interest, the love of philately, and in their acceptance of diverse cultures, nationalities, races and religions. By interacting not only on a philatelic but personal level, genuine friendships and new acquaintances were made (Figures 4-5).



Figure 5
Surajit Gongvatana, Les, Tay Peng Hian.



Figure 6
Yossi Aron, Michael Fock, Les Glassman

Amazingly for Moti and me, our closest affiliations were with the Iranian, Egyptian, Turkish and Slovenian commissioners. E-mails and addresses were exchanged and genuine friendships were formed. We were also warmly embraced by the Melbourne Jewish community.

There were many commissioners who complained that breakfast was not included and no outings were arranged. This was in stark contrast to Israel's World Championship which was held in Tel Aviv in 2008. It was heartwarming to hear that everyone I came into conctact with fondly remembered Israel and are very excited to return in 2018.

I am indebted to the Israel Philatelic Federation for giving me the opportunity to represent Israel and for my daughter and I to attend the Australia 2013 FIP World Stamp Exhibition. It was a wonderful experience which we will always fondly remember.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND 2013**

Society of Israel Philatelists



From Generation to Generation

## King David Level

Samuel Adicoff Reynold & Betty Paris

Michael & Faye Bass Gregg Philipson

Bernard Friedman Kenneth Horner

## **Queen Esther**

Sid Morginstin with thanks to Vicki Galecki & David Kaplin

### Moses

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Dr. Nachman Brautbar
Melvin Chafetz
in honor of Don Chafetz
Howard Chapman
in honor of Mike Bass'
service to the SIP
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Stanley Raffel
Zeev Revitch
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Robert Waldman
Amy Wieting
Anonymous – 2

#### Miriam

Daniel Askin
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Chaim Bendicoff
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in memory of
Morton Eisenberg
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Rabbi Dr. Harold &
Audrey Salzman
Sidney Schaffer
Blake Sugarberg
Maxime Zalstein
Anonymous – 5

## STUDENTS LEARN HISTORY AND TOLERANCE

BY

## **Collecting Millions of Postage Stamps**

Charlotte Sheer, Foxborough, Massachusetts Retired educator Foxborough Regional Charter School Founder, Holocaust Stamps Project

In Foxborough, Massachusetts, a public charter school with more than 1200 students in kindergarten through grade 12 has taken on the gargantuan task of collecting 11 million postage stamps as the basis of their own Holocaust education initiative, the **Holocaust Stamps Project**.

In the 68 years since the Holocaust ended, details of the Nazis' horrific acts of inhumanity have been revealed in photographs, diaries, artwork, music, memoirs, and numerous other primary sources. Courageous survivors of

the atrocities have spoken publicly about their personal ordeals. Contemporary authors have woven facts about the Third Reich's incomprehensible attitudes and actions into their fiction as a way to inform readers about the unbelievably evil behaviors of those who sought to annihilate the Jewish people.

Memorials have been built to honor the eleven million men, women, and children whose lives were snuffed out in Europe during World War II. From Jerusalem, Israel to Washington, DC, to Tokyo, Japan, and many places in between, Holocaust Museums and Education Resource Centers have been established to insure that the world will "remember and never forget".

## STUDENT EDUCATION

For many years, American students learned little or nothing about the Holocaust, even within the context of studying about World War II. American history educators didn't usually discuss how the isolationist policies and restrictive immigration quotas, in the late 1930's into the 1940's in the United States, impacted the lives of tens of thousands of European Jews and

others who were being persecuted by the Third Reich. Much as the American people had been kept in the dark about the reality of the genocide which took place in Europe more than 70 years ago, students in American schools were not being taught about the results of Adolf Hitler's intolerance, prejudice, racism, and stereotyping.



Mrs. Charlotte Sheer, Tyler Thoener
Following his fifth grade year in my class, one student took it upon himself to email every one of the 50 State governors, explaining why the Holocaust Stamps Project was important to him, and asking for donations of stamps. More than two dozen government officials responded by sending thousands of stamps, and he compiled their personal letters in a notebook.





Each collage in the Holocaust Stamps Project series includes a stamp with the image of a dove as a symbol of hope for peace.

L'zachor-To Remember And To Never Forget

The Romanian "dove" stamp is grouped with stamps from other Nazi-occupied countries to form the flame in the collage.

#### Kristallnacht The Night of Broken Glass

(collage-in-progress)
A small group of high school students working on a new postage stamp collage, in January, 2013. The artwork will be completed during the new school year, 2013-2014.





Love Thy Neighbor Danish Fishing Boat

Using more than 1,000 postage stamps, students created the collage to depict how Danish fishermen smuggled more than 6,000 Jewish citizens out of their Nazi–occupied country to freedom in Sweden. The flag of Denmark is formed from red "Love" stamps, while the boat is made from the "Liberty Bell" stamps.







The collage features "Hitler" on stamps in the eyes, watching as the heart of Europe (formed by "Love" stamps) is symbolically broken. German stamps fill the background representing the place where the Holocaust began, and each of the eleven outlined human figures is filled with stamps from a country that was occupied by the Nazis during World War II. The teardrops are formed by stamps bearing images of Allied leaders Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. In the lower right, a yellow memorial candle is placed within a Star of David to recall the murder of the Six Million Jews.

The Israeli stamps included in the yellow memorial candle were donated to the Holocaust Stamps Project by the Society of Israeli Philatelists.

The Israel Philatelist - August 2013

www.israelstamps.com

Today, each of the 50 states has its own teaching standards that include specific reference to addressing Holocaust education, although there is no uniform national curriculum or course of study for teaching about the Holocaust at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The United States Holocaust Education Report may be found online at http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/education/holocaust-education-reports/unitedstates-holocaust.

Many colleges have established their own Holocaust resource centers on their campuses, with the University of Vermont being one of the most recent higher education institutions to have created its own Center for Holocaust Studies, http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs/.



L-R Rebecca Tondreau, Alexis Dupree, Katherine Lum, Julia Kearsley, Justine Brown

#### Metamorphosis Of The Pink Triangle

Student members of the Gay Straight Alliance worked for months completing their collage to honor the memories of those who were persecuted because of their homosexual lifestyles during the Holocaust. Although the upright pink triangle today is a symbol of gay pride, Hitler required all homosexual men to wear the inverted pink triangle, intending it to serve as a badge of shame. In the center of the bright pink triangle, there is a paler pink inverted triangle as a reminder of the symbol's historic significance.

fifth grade students who were reading **Number the Stars** by Lois Lowry. The historical fiction novel is set in Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1943. It exposes young readers to many disturbing examples of how any Danes who were Jewish were singled out for discriminatory treatment, although it does not provide details about the persecution and "relocation" to concentration camps that actually occurred. The recurrent themes of prejudice, disrespect, and bullying resonated at some level with every child, many of whom had experienced being on the receiving end of hurtful words or actions, while others had witnessed such behaviors.

The young readers learned of the courage it took for Danish citizens not only to form Resistance groups acting against the Nazis' efforts, but also to hide and smuggle their Jewish neighbors to freedom in Sweden. It became clear to my eleven—year—old students that the proactive choices made by Denmark's brave King Christian and his countrymen were made at great personal risk, but their decisions to act, rather than being silent bystanders, saved more than 6.000 Danish Jewish lives.

## WHY STAMPS?

Stamps provide a snapshot of, and opportunities to appreciate, our world's diverse community — its places, people, historical events, plants, and animals, cultures, and values. Powerful symbolism can be drawn from the act of discarding cancelled stamps. They immediately lose their monetary face value upon cancellation, becoming "worthless" as postage. Similarly, Hitler was responsible for systematically "throwing away" 11 million lives which he determined would be of no value in his planned "perfect" Aryan society.

Since its modest beginnings in 2009, one of the goals of the Holocaust Stamps Project has been to engage the young people in using thousands of the donated stamps as an art medium to represent their newly acquired knowledge and understanding about the people, places, events, and results of the Holocaust. The idea for creating postage stamp collage art was inspired by the colorful stamp collage pieces completed decades ago by Rhode Island brothers, Harry and Joseph Jagolinzer, with which I was familiar. Dozens of the Jagolinzers' works are archived at the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History (http://www.spellman.org/) in Weston, Massachusetts.

## A PROJECT IS BORN

The Holocaust Stamps Project at Foxborough Regional Charter School began as an enrichment activity for my

Following their discussions about the novel, the children created artwork, prose, and poetry to express their understanding of the historical events and the social interactions during World War II as they were portrayed in **Number the Stars**. Later, in grade 8 they would read **Anne Frank's Diary**, and in 10th grade Elie Weisel's **Night**, in connection with their world history study of the horrific details of the period that has become known as the Holocaust.

However it soon became apparent that they didn't want to wait "that long" to learn more about the millions of people that did not survive the regime of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. So I proposed an enrichment project idea for those who were interested in participating. Inspired by the success of Whitwell (Tennessee) Middle School's Paperclips Project (http://www.whitwellmiddleschool.

Project (http://www.whitwellmiddleschool. org/?PageName=bc&n=69258), I suggested to my fifth grade students that together we might be able to lead a school wide collection of cancelled postage stamps, with the ultimate goal of honoring each of the 11 million lives lost in the Holocaust – one stamp at a time.

### STAMP COLLAGES

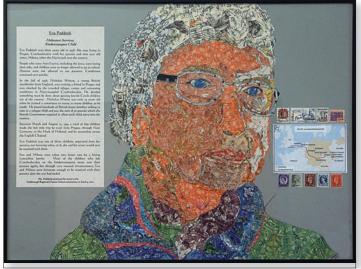
Eight Holocaust Stamps Project collages, each measuring 18 by 24 inches, had been completed as of June, 2013, with three more in-progress pieces expected to be finished early in the 2013–14 school year. The series of artworks will eventually total 18 pieces because the number 18 has special significance in the Jewish culture. The Hebrew spelling of the word for "18" is also translated to mean "life".

Together, this unique collection of student postage stamp collage art will serve as a fitting tribute to the 11,000,000 lives of people murdered in the Holocaust simply because they were gay, learning disabled, mentally disabled, of diverse ethnic backgrounds such as gypsies, or Jewish. Also among the millions killed were Jehovah's Witnesses, as well as those who were caught as members of Resistance groups, and those who were suspected of hiding, helping, or keeping safe, any people who were targeted by the Nazis.

## Project growth

In the four years since the Holocaust Stamps Project began, more than 2.9 million stamps have been donated by individuals, synagogues and church groups, civic organizations, schools, stamp clubs, and numerous others in 26 states, three Canadian provinces, and the United Kingdom.

What began as a fifth grade class activity in 2009–2010, when the children succeeded in collecting a total of 26,000 stamps, has grown into a school wide Community Service Learning project which is led by middle school and high school students. It is actively supported by a growing army of volunteers within and outside of the school campus. As a result of their work on the Holocaust Stamps Project many participants have developed a personal interest in the hobby of philately!



Eva Paddock
Kindertransport Survivor Of The Holocaust

I completed the portrait of Kinderstransport survivor, Eva Paddock, during the year following her visit to the school, an event attended by more than 300 people from the community. Her story of survival is chronicled in the panel on the left, while a map of the kinderstransport train route is shown on the right, flanked by stamps from Czechoslovakia and Great Britain to represent the countries from which, and to, which the children were rescued.

## THE FUTURE

Long term plans for the Holocaust Stamps Project are for a public venue to be secured in which the eleven million donated stamps can be viewed as part of a custom designed display, and the eighteen original postage stamp collage art pieces will be permanently exhibited. The collection will serve as an educational resource for those who wish to learn about, and reflect on, the Holocaust and its impact on the world.

The Foxborough Regional Charter School's Holocaust Stamps Project website (http://foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/student-life/frcs-holocaust-stamp-project/) includes photos and detailed information about the collages, as well as links to newspaper articles about the Project, stories about the contributions of volunteers, a special article about one FRCS student's family connection to the Holocaust, and recommended readings for deepening a child's or adult's knowledge of the Holocaust.

Literally millions of stamps are still needed for the Holocaust Stamps Project to continue moving towards reaching its goal. Every single stamp is appreciated, as each one honors the memory of a child, man, or woman who was lost in the Holocaust.

If you wish to participate in this important Holocaust education initiative, you may send stamps donations or financial support to:

Holocaust Stamps Project
Foxborough Regional Charter School
131 Central Street
Foxboro, MA 02035

For more information, please contact:

FRCS Holocaust Stamps Project facilitator, Ms. Jamie Droste, Student Life Advisor, jdroste@foxboroughrcs.org.

The Foxborough Regional Charter School seeks to provide students an outstanding academic program which prepares students for college in a challenging and stimulating learning environment that instills positive ethical, moral and civic values and prepares students to serve their communities as leaders and exemplary citizens... (Excerpted from FRCS Vision Statement).

0-0-0-0

## Part 3

# Conversos and Crypto-Jews on Stamps

Gene Eisen, Raleigh, NC

Editor's note: continued from **The Israel Philatelist**, June 2013 pp. 100–102.



Andrés Laguna (1499-1559)

Andrés Laguna (1499-1559) was born in Segovia, Spain to a Converso family. He studied botany and the pharmacology of drugs and herbs at the University of Salamanca in Spain. Afterwards, he received his medical degree in France.

Laguna traveled extensively and lived in many countries in Europe. He developed a large botanical garden of medicinal plants in Aranjuez, Spain. Laguna translated Dioscorides' **Materia Medica** in 1553, personally verifying all the prescriptions and adding his own observations and experiences as a botanist and pharmacologist.

Laguna's remains are interred at the Church of San Miguel in Segovia.<sup>1</sup> His portrait is on a Spanish stamp issued on April 6, 1967, Scott 1464.

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andres\_Laguna.

## Jewish Brigade

Moshe Kol Kalman, Kibbutz Lahav, Israel

## BACKGROUND OF FORMATION

The Jewish Infantry Brigade Group was a military formation of the British Army that served in Europe during World War II. More than 30,000 Palestinian Jews volunteered to serve in the British Armed Forces. The Brigade and its predecessors the Palestine Regiment and the three infantry companies that formed it were composed primarily of Middle Eastern Jews. Many were refugees displaced from countries that had been occupied or controlled by the Axis powers in Europe and Ethiopia.

The President of the World Zionist Organization, Chaim Weizmann (later to be the first President of Israel), offered the British government full cooperation of the Jewish community in the British Mandate of Palestine. They tried to negotiate the establishment of an identifiably Jewish fighting unit (under a Jewish flag) within the British Army. This request was rejected, but still many Palestinian Jews joined the British Army, some in Jewish companies. Fifteen Palestinian Jewish battalions were incorporated into the British Army in September 1940 and fought in Greece in 1941.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BRIGADE

On August 6, 1942 three Palestinian Jewish battalions and one Palestinian Arab battalion were formed. On July 3, 1944 the British government consented to the establishment of a Jewish Brigade with hand-picked Jewish and non–Jewish senior officers. On September 20, 1944 an official communique from the War Office announced the formation of the Jewish Brigade Group of the British Army. The Zionist flag was its official standard. More than 5,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine were organized into three infantry battalions of the Palestine Regiment and several supporting units.

Four hundred volunteers from the Brigade fought in Libya in the Battle of Bir-el Harmat. Under the command of Brigadier Ernest Benjamin, the Brigade



Figure 1
1945 Rochlin no. 918 Jewish Brigade Issue
The Brigade was formed by the British after several years of prompting
by the Zionist Executive during World War II. The Brigade came into
existence in August 1944 and saw action in Italy.

JNF – KKL label has a face value of 10.



Figure 2
1955 Rochlin no. 1487 Jewish Brigade Issue
Issued by Vaad HaArtzi
Commemorates the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish
Brigade.
JNF – KKL label has a face value of 50.

fought against the Germans in Italy from March 1945 until the end of the war in May 1945. Afterwards it was stationed in Tarvisio near the border triangle of Italy, Yugoslavia and Austria. There it played a key role in the Berihah (escape) efforts to help Jews escape Europe for Palestine, a role many of its members would continue after the Brigade was disbanded.

## **DISBANDMENT**

In July 1945, the Brigade moved to Belgium and the Netherlands and was disbanded in the summer of 1946. Out of the 30,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine who served in the British Army during World War II, many subsequently became key participants in the new State of Israel's Israel Defense Force.

## **Israel Foreign Postal Rates**

May 16, 1948 to January 31,1954

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

This article outlines the foreign surface and air postal rates from Israel to France from May 16, 1948 until January 31, 1954. To perform this work, I have drawn upon material in my own collection and upon limited primary and secondary sources of information. Many thanks to Yacov Tsachor for assistance. The errors and omissions are my own.

The tables for the years under review found in this article reflect the surface and air mail rates for letters, postcards and where applicable, printed matter and air letters. The tables also outline the relevant surcharges for express and registration services when available. This article contains examples of mail reflecting the correct rates and, in some cases, mail with charges for postage due applied in the destination country. The postage stamps used on mail changed over the relevant periods under review based on issue date,

removal from sale and the amounts charged for the varying rates based on level of service.

For example, mail to France became more costly in 1953–1954 and the Hebrew University (100 p), 1950 Airmail (100 p), Bilu (110 p) and Independence Day (110 p) stamps were used on single weight airmail letters. Higher value postage stamps such as the Road to Jerusalem (250 p), Birds (250 p), Negev (500 p), Menorah (1000 p) and Jaffa (1000 p) were used on parcels or heavier mail.

The examples set out in this article illustrate the usage of the varying rates. Usually postal authorities gave about 5–7 calendar days grace to users to adapt to new rates, though this was not always observed. Sometimes, more time was given and at other times, postage due was levied.

## A. SURFACE RATES TO FRANCE

Surface mail service with France resumed on June 7, 1948. Rates shown below reflected prevailing surface postal rates in Israel. In 1949, currency changed from mils to prutot(p).

From	То	Letter	Letter	Post	Printed	Printed	Registration Fee	Express Fee
		Rate	extra	Card	Matter	Matter		
		20 gr	each		50 gr	each		
			20 gr			50 gr extra		
						each 50 gr		
Jun 7, 1948	Feb. 28, 1949	20 mils	13 mils	13 mils	5 mils	5 mils	15 mils to September 30, then 25 mils	No service until June 7, 1948 then 40 mils
Mar 1, 1949	Jan 31, 1952	30 p	15 p	15 p	10 p	5 p	25 p	40 p
Feb 1, 1952	Mar 31, 1952	35 p	20 p	20 p	15 p	10 p	40 p	60 p
April 1, 1952	Jun 30, 1953	95 p	55 p	55 p	40 p	20 p	60 p	95 p
July 1, 1953	Jan 31, 1954	95 p	55 p	55 p	40 p	20 p	80 p	150 p

#### B. Airmail Rates to France

Airmail service began on June 11, 1948 and the rates reflected below were those used in Israel. Currency changed from mils to prutot (p) during 1949.

First Flight: The history of the first flight service between Israel and France was well documented by Chaim Shamir in the **Shovel** publication of the Israel **Philatelic Society** (March 2009, Number 76, pp. 15-17). Mail collected in Tel Aviv and destined for France was to be brought daily to Haifa for transport to France.

Mail collected in Haifa itself and bound for France was sealed and was then to be brought to the airfields for transport to France. The first flight left Haifa for France (Paris and Marseilles) on June 11, 1948. However, the mail from Tel Aviv did not reach Haifa for the first flight on June 11 because the motor transport carrying the mail broke down en route to Haifa. As a result, the Tel Aviv mail was returned to Tel Aviv and was flown out on June 16, 1948. The first flight notations on Haifa and Tel Aviv mail differed slightly in both size and type of script. On July 5, 1948, the route changed such that Paris and Nice, rather than Marseilles, were on the route.

## B. AIRMAIL RATES TO FRANCE

From	То	Letter Rate 10 gr	Letter extra each 10 pr	Post Card	Printed Matter 1st 25 gr	Printed Matter extra	Reg. Fee	Express Fee	Air Letter
Jun 11, 1948	Oct 31, 1948	35 mils	35 mils	20 mils	no reduced rate	N/A	15 mils until Sept 30 then 25 mils	40 mils	N/A
Nov 1, 1948	Oct 15, 1948	35 mils	35 mils	20 mils	No reduced rate	N/A	25 mils	40 mils	N/A
Oct 16, 1949	Jan 31, 1952	40 p	40 p	20 p	No reduced rate	N/A	25 p	40 p	as of July, 1950 25 p
Feb 1, 1952	Mar 31, 1952	45 p	45 p	25 p	40 p	40 p	40 p	60 p	30 p
Apr 1, 1952	Jun 30,1953	110 p	100 p	55 p	90 p	90 p	60 p	95 p	55 p
Jul 4, 1953	Jan 31, 1954	110 p	110 p	95 p	70 p	70 p	80 p	150 p	55 p

#### **E**DITOR'S NOTE

This article is part 1 of a series on postal rates to France 1948-1954. Overall, it is the fourth in the series where each article outlines the foreign surface and air postal rates from Israel to a particular country from May 16, 1948 until January 31, 1954.

#### 1948 MAIL

## AIR MAIL LETTER SINGLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED - 50 P



Postmarked Haifa June 10 1948. First Flight to France with arrival marking in Paris on June 14, 1948. Registration fee 15 p and letter rate 35 p.

## AIRMAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 40 P



Postmarked Tel Aviv June 14, 1948. First flight to France, addressed to Mr. Roger in Marseilles, a famous undercover address. 5 p convenience over franking.

## AIR MAIL LETTER DOUBLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED - 85 P



Postmarked June 24, 1948 and addressed to the Jewish Agency with arrival in Paris on July 2, 1948. Registration fee 15 p and letter rate  $(2 \times 35 \text{ p})$ .

## AIR MAIL LETTER, TRIPLE WEIGHT - 105 P



Qiryat Motzkin Mandate postmark dated June 25, 1948 and addressed to the Jewish Agency in Paris.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, TRIPLE WEIGHT - 105 P



Postmarked Tel Aviv June 30, 1948. Letter rate = 3 x 35 p.

#### AIR MAIL SINGLE WEIGHT - 35 P



Hadera Mandate postmark cancel dated July 5 1948 addressed to German DP camp, There were no postal relations with Germany (until September 1948) so addressed to the Jewish Agency in Paris. Redirected on July 15 1948 and postage fee paid by 18 fr French stamp.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 40 P



Postmarked Natanya September 27 1948. 5 p convenience over franking.

## AIR MAIL LETTER SINGLE WEIGHT - 60 P



Postmarked October 12, 1948 to Paris, letter rate 35 p and registration fee 25 p.

## SURFACE LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 20 P



Postmarked Jerusalem October 27, 1948, addressed to Paris. Israel white censor label.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 40 P



5 p convenience over franking. Stamps tied by the Jerusalem suburb of Beit Hakerem, trilingual postmark without date slug,

On July 14 and the morning of July 15 Jerusalem and Beit Hakerem did not have their metal date slugs. Jerusalem Post Office used a rubber slug on July 14 and the morning of July 15. In the afternoon of July 15, the metal slugs arrived as demonstrated in the Jerusalem 1 cancel. Beit Hakerem is not known with a rubber date cancel- but a no date postmark. The cover was mailed either on July 14 or 15 before noon.

Arrived on August 27, 1948 in Paris and then returned to sender as the addressee left without leaving a forwarding address.

## AIR MAIL LETTER SINGLE WEIGHT - 35 P



Postmarked Jerusalem November 16, 1948, censored, with arrival in Paris on November 29, 1948.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT REGISTERED - 60 P



Postmarked December 23, 1948 - addressed to Greece and redirected to Paris with arrival on January 10, 1949. Israel white censor label. Letter rate 35 p and registration fee 25 p.

## 1949 MAIL

## AIR MAIL LETTER DOUBLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED - 95 P



Postmarked Jerusalem February 23, 1949, arrival Paris on March 3, 1949, registration 25 p and letter rate 70 p (2 x 35 p).

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 35 P



Postmarked Haifa February 24, 1949. Unclear why does the legend say that postage is insufficient for airmail transmission unless it was too heavy but then why not marked for postage due? May have been then sent by surface mail with rate 20 p at that time.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 35 P



Postmarked June 6, 1949 but no postmarked on 20 p stamp.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED - 60 P



Postmarked at Ahuzat Samuel (Haifa) on April 26, 1949 with arrival in Paris on April 29, 1949. Registration 25 p and letter rate 35 p.

## AIR MAIL DOUBLE WEIGHT, PRINTED MATTER - 70 P



Postmarked Alonim April 7, 1949. No special rate for printed matter.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, FIVE TIMES WEIGHT - 185 P



Postmarked on July 12, 1949. Airmail letter rate ( $5 \times 35$ ) with 10 p over franking or four times weight ( $4 \times 35$ ) with express rate (40 p) and 5 p over franking. Censored in Tel Aviv.

## AIR MAIL LETTER SINGLE WEIGHT, EXPRESS - 40 P



Postmarked Tel Aviv September 12, 1949 with arrival in Strasbourg on September 15, 1949. Express rate 40 p and letter rate 35 p.

## AIR MAIL LETTER, SINGLE WEIGHT - 40 P



Postmarked Jerusalem on November 30, 1949. Airmail letter rate as of October 16, 1949 became 40 p not 35 p. •

to be continued

## AIR MAIL LETTER, DOUBLE WEIGHT - 70 P



Postmarked Rishon le Zion September 12, 1949.

## AIR MAIL LETTER TRIPLE WEIGHT, SHORT PAID - 35 P



Postmarked Tel Aviv September 12, 1949 with arrival in Strasbourg on September 30, 1949. Airmail letter rate was normally 105 p (3 x 35) – postage due 58 f (written in pencil T58 marking).

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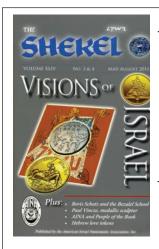




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## 1948 POW Mail

Baruch Weiner, Modien Elite, Israel

As I was going through my 1948 prisoner of war (P.O.W.) covers, I found many covers and letters that readers might find interesting. In particular, I found a couple of items sent to and from Uriel Popik. He was born Uriel Popik but later became known as Uriel Ofek and became famous for his children's books written in Hebrew.

### URIFI OFFK - PRISONER OF WAR

He was born in Tel Aviv, grew up in Giv'atayim and studied in Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium. He served as a medic in the Palmach Brigades between 1944–1948 and took part in the War of Independence. While serving in the Gush Etzion area he was captured and held in Jordanian captivity for about nine months.

In Figures 1-2 is an interesting postcard sent to Uriel by his mother while he was a POW. It is a note informing

him that for his birthday he received (Natan) Alterman's (book of) poems. The post card has both Israeli and Arab censor cachets and a Red Cross cachet.

The censor markings on the Figures 3-4 envelope sent to his father include a scarce Amman Red Cross cachet, a Red Cross cachet and a scarce circular Hebrew cachet: the Liaison Unit to the

International Red Cross cachet. The Israeli markings on both items are noticeably different.



POST-CARD

בתטיסידאר

Figures 1, 2
Hebrew circular handstamp: Today,
AK'A is a part of the Army that relates
to the personnel dept: abbreviation for
Agaf (Dept) Koach-Adam (personnel)but it may not have been this in 1948
and it might refer to something else.

## URIEL OFEK - CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

After being freed, he edited the children's newspaper **Davar L'iladim** (children's supplement of Davar)

for many years and laid the foundation for the **Bibliography of Jewish Children**'s **Literature**.

Many of his books are based on experiences from his childhood and youth in the Borochov neighborhood in Giv'atayim. In his works there are descriptions of landscapes, events



August 2013

and characters from the period preceding the establishment of the State of Israel. Among his publications are the **Slick of Aldema**, **Battles in Wadi Musrara**, and the **Seven Mills along the Yarkon River**.

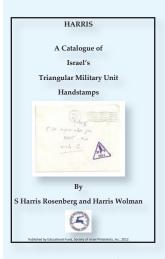
He had a doctoral degree in children's literature from the University of Toronto. His widow, Bina Ofek, and two daughters, Atara Ofek and Amira Hachamowitz, are writers and editors of children' books. Uriel Ofek died in 1987 at the age of 61.

## URIEL OFEK - BATTLE OF GUSH ETZION

On May 12, the commander of Kfar Etzion requested from the Central Command in Jerusalem permission to evacuate the kibbutz, but was told to stay. Later in the day, the Arabs captured the Russian Orthodox monastery, which the Haganah used as a perimeter fortress for the Kfar Etzion area, killing twenty-four of its thirty-two defenders.

On May 13, a massive attack involving parts of two Arab Legion infantry companies, light artillery and local irregular support commenced an attack from four directions. The kibbutz fell on May 14 and the Arab forces massacred the entire population of soldiers and civilians except for three men and one woman. The total number killed during the final assault and the subsequent massacre was 157.

#### **New Ed Fund Publication**



The catalogue outlines the history of this particular type postmark used Israel's armed forces. Consolidating previous works KBA (Land Security Forces) postmarks, this publication then portrays the evolution of the triangular handstamp to recent times. Includes

color illustrations of the types of cover used as well as a list of military unit numbers, verified by the authors. Book is \$20.00 or the book on CD i \$16.00 + \$3.50 shipping & handling. Number of pages: 50.

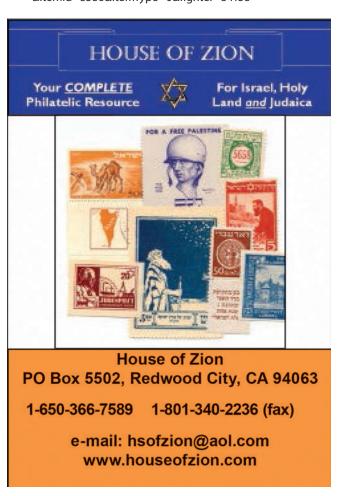


Figure 5

The following day, May 15, the day Israel's independence (which had been declared on May 14) came into force on the termination of the British Mandate, the three other kibbutzim, Ein Tzurim, Massu'ot Yitzhak and Revadim, surrendered. This resulted in the capture of 320 prisoners by the Arab Legion, some of whom were held in Jordan for up to a year before being released. Ofek was one of these POWs, and was released after 9 months.

#### References

- 1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uriel\_Ofek
- 2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kfar\_Etzion
- 3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gush\_Etzion
- 4. http://info.palmach.org.il/show\_item.asp?levelld=42863 &itemId=8586&itemType=0&fighter=84158 •



## High Priest's Breastplate

Josef Charrach, Metar, Israel

## BACKGROUND

The Israeli Postal Service (IPS) gave me the privilege and honor to be the scientific advisor to the major stamp issue for the year 2012. The issue is based on the Book of



The tab showing the High Priest's Breast Plate

Exodus: chapter 28. My research on the identification of the gemstones was first published in Philagems International (PI 63, 1998). This identification was the basis of the illustrations used for this issue. A guiding principle of the design was accuracy to the written word of the Bible.

The stamp designer, David Ben-Hador, used photographs of the cut minerals as the basis of the illustration. A major point of discussion with the IPS was the shape of the minerals to be displayed – whether to be oblong as in many modern illustrations or to be ellipsoid. As a geologist, I had to take a stance by informing them that in those days, with the tools available, it was impossible to cleave straight lines of silica minerals, as they fracture conchoidally. A further point, regarded the setting of the gemstones is that discoveries from the ancient tombs in Egypt were the basis of the design, where the stones were simply inset in gold.

## BREASTPI ATE DESCRIPTION

The English transliterations of names in the text and on the stamps are the way that the Hebrew is pronounced. The Book of Exodus chapter 28 describes how to prepare the High Priest's holy garments, including the most magnificent of all, the Breastplate, "Choshen".

"And thou shalt make a breastplate of judgment, the work of the skilful workman; like the work of the ephod thou shalt make it: of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and

fine twined linen, shalt thou make it. Four-square it shall be and double: a span shall be the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof. And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, four rows of stones: a row of carnelian, topaz, and smaragd shall be the first row; and the second row a carbuncle, a sapphire, and an emerald; and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper; they shall be enclosed in gold in their settings. And the stones shall be according



Levi Bareget - Emerald (Light Green)



Shimon Pitdah – Topaz (Green - Yellow)



Reuven Odem - Carnelian (Red)

Israel. The High Priest's breastplate symbolized the unity of the people of Israel before G-D as well as the importance of the position of the High Priest and the sanctity of the function, as he stood before G-D.



Zevulun Yahalom - Quartz (White)



Issachar Sapir - Lazurite (Dark Blue)





Yehuda Nofekh – Turquoise (Green - Blue)



Dan Leshem - Zircon (Red - yellow)

"And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart when he goeth in unto the holy place for a memorial before the Lord continually. And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD; and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually." [Exodus 28, 29-30].



Naftali Ahlamah - Amethyst (Red Wine)



Gad Shevo - Agate (Black, brown, white)







Asher Tarshish - Aguamarine (Olive Green)

Reuven: Carnelian is a variety of the silica mineral, chalcedony, colored by impurities of iron oxide. The possible location of mineral deposit was Iran.



Binyamin Yashpeh - Jasper (Multicolored)



Yosef Shoham - Onyx (Black)

to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names; like the engravings of a signet, everyone according to his name, they shall be for the twelve tribes." [Exodus 28, 15-21]

**Shimon**: Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminium and fluorine with trace element impurities giving its color. The possible location of mineral deposits was Gebel Savrah, Upper Egypt, or Cleopatra Mine, Red Sea.

## CHOSHEN

The "Choshen" was a small garment embellished with gemstones and one of the eight garments worn by the High Priest as he served G-D. Each jewel was inscribed with one of the names of the 12 tribes of **Levi**: Emerald is a variety of the mineral beryl, a beryllium aluminium silicate, colored green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. The possible location of mineral deposit was Gebel Savrah, Upper Egypt Kusir Mine, Red Sea.

**Yehuda**: Turquoise is an opaque green – blue mineral

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that is a hydrous phosphate of copper and aluminium. The possible location of mineral deposit was near Um Bogma, Sinai.

**Issachar**: Lazurite is a feldspathoid mineral and a member of the sodalite group, with sulphate, sulphur and chlorine. Sapphires were not known in the Middle East at the time. The possible location of mineral deposit was Sare-Sang deposits, Badkhshan, Afghanistan.

**Zevulun**: Quartz is the second most abundant mineral in the Earth's continental crust and is composed of silicon and oxygen. Diamond was not known in ancient times. The possible location of mineral deposits was Upper Egypt or Sinai.

**Dan**: Zircon is a zirconium silicate mineral and its color comes from trace element impurities. The possible location of mineral deposit was Upper Egypt.

**Gad**: Agate is a microcrystalline variety of silica, chiefly chalcedony, characterized by its fine grain size and brightness of color. The possible location of mineral deposit was Red Sea Coast.

**Naftali**: Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz, silicon dioxide, containing iron impurities, which give it its color. The possible location of mineral deposit was Nubian Desert.

**Asher**: Aquamarine is a blue-green variety of the mineral beryl, a beryllium aluminium silicate. Iron impurities give it its color. The possible location of mineral deposit was Upper Egypt.

**Yosef**: Onyx is a banded variety of chalcedony, which is a microcrystalline form of silica. The possible location of mineral deposit was Nubian Desert.

### GEM STONES

The biblical description states that the breastplate was to be made up of four rows of three engraved gems each embedded upon it and each jewel set in gold.

According to Biblical commentaries the Choshen and the Urim and Thummim (literally, lithe Lights and the Perfections") were used to ascertain the Divine Will regarding questions of national importance.

Throughout generations numerous attempts have

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been made to identify the gemstones. Researchers have mainly relied upon the color of the minerals mentioned in the Talmudic literature. According to the Midrash Rabba (Numbers, 24:14), the colors of each mineral were the same as those of



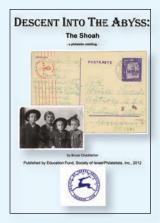
First day cancellation

the flags of each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The translations from the original Hebrew are very varied and were influenced by the culture and gems known at that time. Modern Hebrew interpretations for some of the stones are inaccurate, for example, yahalom - diamond, describes a mineral not known in biblical times. Therefore, further sources of evidence were required to aid in the identification of the minerals. The discovery of precious stones in the royal tombs of Tutankhamun in Egypt, and those in Ur, Mesopotamia, shed light on the known gems from this period. Additional information was gained from the ancient mines in the Middle East and North Africa and from the study of the trade routes of the time.

The stones were simply cut and polished, many "En Cabochon", ellipsoid, as they could not be cut with parallel lines due to their crystal structure. They were set in gold on the breastplate. •

#### **New Ed Fund Publication**



educational book, using philatelic material as illustrations. chronicles the erosion of Jewish civil rights under Nazi rule in Europe. It traces the fate of European Jews between 1933 - 1945 when the governance of the short-lived Third Reich put in place

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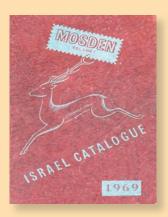
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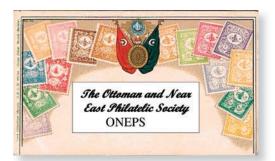












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## **SIP NEWS**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



In past columns I've alluded to the need to revise our constitution and by laws to reflect the reality of our society in the 21st century.

A small committee has been formed headed by past presidents,

Howard Chapman and Ed Kroft. They have prepared a draft and while there are still a few details to be worked out, I hope that by September we can post the revised constitution on our web site.

The major change will be in the structure of our governing body from a reliance on chapters to a focus on a Board of Directors and to move to one vote per member and away from two votes per chapter.

Other new happenings include our Vice President Zachary Simmons putting together a kit for young collectors that includes an album and stamps. We'll roll this out at our Sarasota meeting in February.

Thanks to our editor, Don Chafetz, we have 18 volumes of **The Israel Philatelist** indexed and available for online searching. As volumes are completely indexed, they will be placed on-line and available to members via our website: www.israelstamps.com.

If you have ideas or suggestions on ways you can help our society grow, let me know. We are always in need of volunteers so if you have the time and would like to give something back to the society, please let me know. We can always use financial contributions to the Ed Fund and the Computer Indexing special project as mentioned above.

And most importantly, please patronize our advertisers. Their ads help ease the financial burden of producing **The Israel Philatelist**. They support us and we should support them.

In the **New York Times**, on July 31, 2013 was a marvelous Opinion Page piece by Ramona Ausubel entitled "Adventures with Post Offices" in which she discusses the joys of receiving mail and packages.



## **New Philatelic Issues**

## **N**EW **M**EMBERS

Members are requested to inform the Grievance Committee within 30 days if they know of any reason why the following applicants should not be admitted to membership as provided by the Society By-Laws.

10594	Rodney Nissen	Australia
10595	Jan R. Blok	Netherlands
10596	Robert A. Levinson	Azusa, CA

The column and the comments posted as a reaction to it, many by philatelists, is well worth reading and I recommend it.

I would like to wish all of our members a happy and healthy new year to our Jewish members.

L'shana tova

Howard

Please E-mail me at: hrteach@icloud.com. •

## SIP NEWS

#### BERKSHIRE HILLS

Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann

Program: Stamp Show Philatelic Adventures Presented by Dr. Kolodnys Chapter meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at Markovits

Stamp House 1 Shamrock St., Stockbridge, MA, at 10:30 am. •

#### CENTRAL, NJ

Gary Theodore

Program: Miliary Mails Chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 8 p.m. at the Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ. •

#### CHICAGOLAND IPPSA

Program: Forerunner Foreign Destinations

Presented by Bob Pildes Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of the month (except November to March) at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, IL at 7:15 p.m. For more information write Sam Fireman, 7250 N. Western Ave. Apt #297, Chicago, IL 60645-1843. •

#### CLEVELAND

Howard S. Chapman

chapter meets the first Wednesday evening of each month (except July and August) at Temple Tifereth Israel, Beachwood Branch at 7:30 p.m. •

#### DALLAS

Lawrence Goldman Program: The Philately of Israel Presented Multimedia Presentation Chapter meets 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northhaven Road, Dallas. TX. •

#### DETROIT-OAK PARK

Ken Torby

Program:

• Holocaust Part 2

Chapter meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Oak Park Community Center, 13600 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park at 7:30 p.m. Philatelic bourse, trading, new issues, interesting program. Everyone welcome. Contact Nathan Peiss, 24610 Seneca, Oak Park, MI 48237 (248) 548-1888 for information. •

## **GREATER HARTFORD**

Jeffrey Rudolph

#### MARVIN SIEGEL CHAPTER

Alan Doberman

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Program: Ship's Mail

by Mark Issacs

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• Dec 1 - Latkes and Schnapps Chapter meets 1st Monday of every month in the Board Room of the Waverly Synagogue at 7:30 p.m.

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late Dallas Chapter President



## **A Postal Puzzle**

Howard Rotterdam, Hollywood, FL



At first glance, Figure 1 shows an ordinary cover mailed from Great Britain to Israel with a machine cancel dated December 12, 1951. Closer examination raises some interesting questions.

The slightly oversized cover (suggesting a greeting card enclosure) is franked with a 3 pence stamp which is 3 pence short of the 6 pence airmail letter rate but there are no postage due marking. The British Postal Service had three options (1) return the cover to the sender but impossible since there is no return address, (2) forward the cover as surface mail but not possible since the Israeli Tel Aviv-Yafo arrival postmark is dated 12/13/51 (3) forward it by airmail and mark it postage due, but there are no postage marking on the front or back of the cover.

In Israel, 40 prutot in regular stamps were affixed, the receiving address crossed out and a forwarding address in the Tel Aviv suburb of Zahala indicated. The question now becomes:

1. Are the two 20 pr stamps representative of a postage due fee (which is highly unusual, but 40 pr would be the approximate postage due); or

2. Did the original addressee forward the letter and apply postage which is unlikely as 40 pr represents no letter rate or combination of rates and the letter would have been forwarded without charge.

I am in a conundrum as an avid collector of postage due covers. I would like to think this is a postage due letter. Do any members have thoughts regarding the use/purpose of the Israeli postage stamps. Please e-mail me at: hrteach@bellsouth.net. •

0-0-0-0



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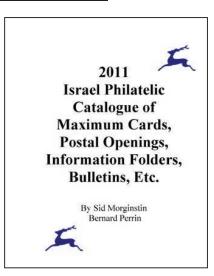
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