THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS INC. DECEMBER 2013

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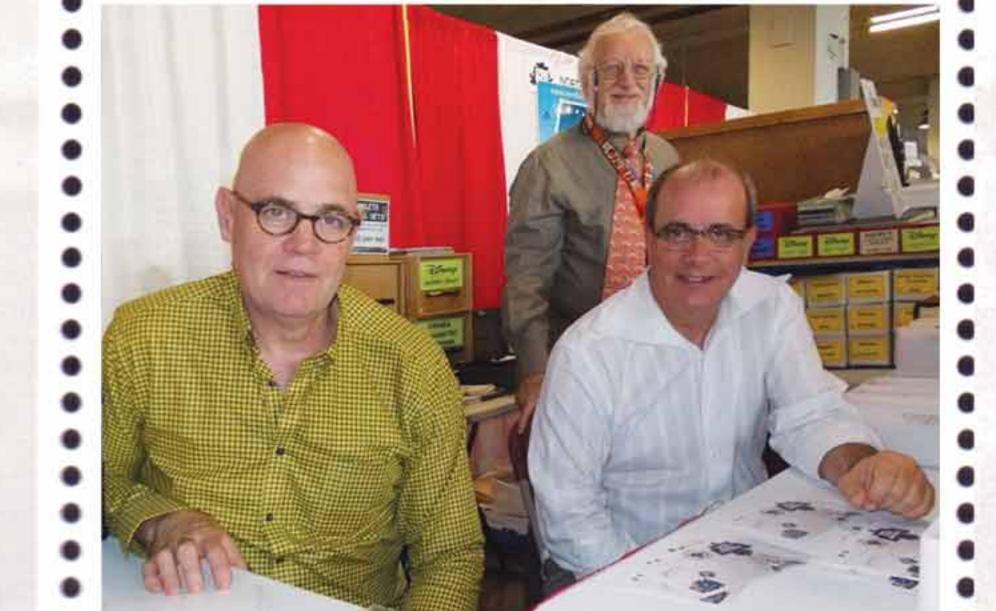






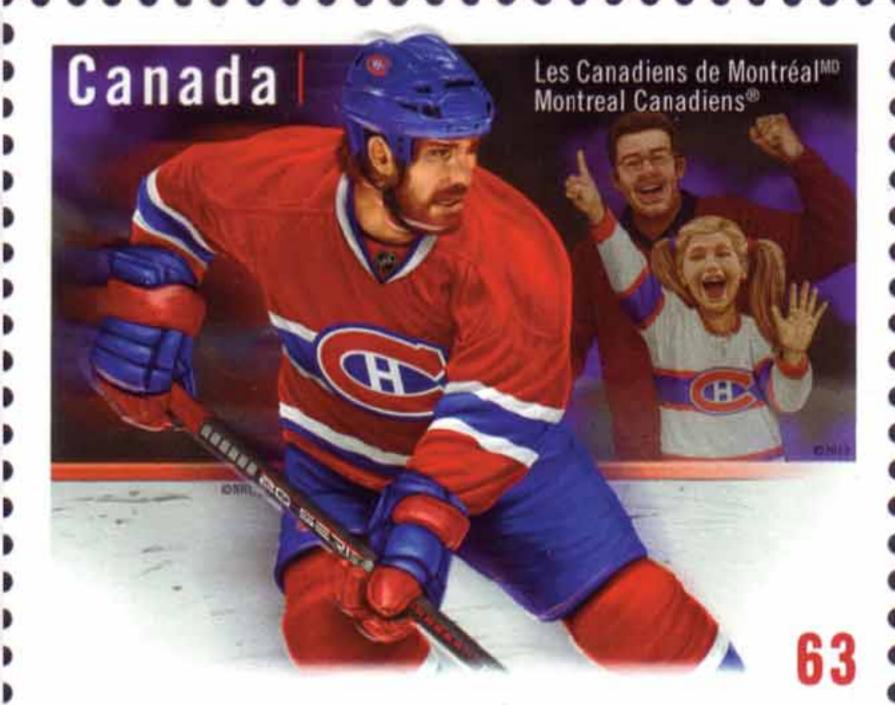
Canadian Graphic Designer

BY ISIDORE BAUM PAGE 232







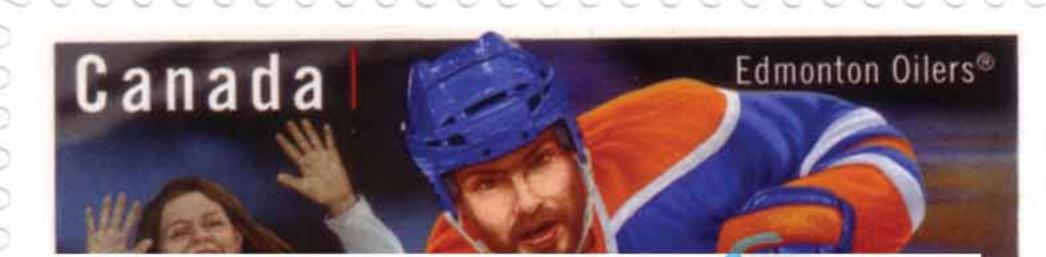




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Society of Israel Philatelists



From Generation to Generation

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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

Friday, February 7, 2014

• 3 PM Lecture: Arthur Harris

Interesting Uses Of Israeli Revenues

- 4 6 PM SIP Executive Committee Meeting for Officers, Directors and Chairs only
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Service
- 7 9 PM Society Banquet all welcome reservations required

Sunday, February 9, 2014

- 9 11 AM General Membership Meeting All members are welcome
- 11 AM Lecture: Howard Rotterdam

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2013

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The Israel Philatelist

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Editor's Notes

Donald A. Chafetz

About a year and half ago the Society undertook the Website Archive Library Project. The intent was to place all issues of **The Israel Philatelist** on the internet. Since the indexing is about half complete I think it is an appropriate time to provide a status report and ask for your financial support so we can complete the project.

The intent of the Library Project is to have all issues searchable starting with Issue #1, September 1949, and progressing to present issues. This will make it possible for researchers to quickly locate information of interest. The computer program has been written and indexing has been completed through volume 33. This covers a little over 200 individual issues of the journal. (I have been doing the indexing in between producing issues of the journal.)

As you may know, the Society started in 1949 in New York City. The first issue discussed collaboration with the Chicago IPPSA. The New York group was organized as a society with a constitution and elected officers. On the other hand, the Chicago IPPSA was a publishing venture and members were considered subscribers. The two organizations could not agree on terms and conditions, of a merge so the New York group continued as an independent society. The name of the organization was Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society of New York (IPPSON).



Figure 1

In its formative years from 1949-1952, the journal was referred to as a newsletter called the **Israel-Palestine Philatelist**. It was issued monthly from September through June. The newsletters displayed a plain typed banner of its name on the first 6 issues of Volume 1, but beginning with Volume 1, issue 7 the editorial staff tried several different banner designs. Finally by volume 2's issue 2, the staff settled on a standard design (Figure 1).

I was curious as to who were the most prolific authors for these early issues so I did a data base search. The names of the authors, the number of articles found and subject of the articles were: Paul P. Lindenberg (24 - Forerunners), Dr. H. A. Fraenkel (19 - Palestine, Israel), Max Vogel (15 - Interim Period II), Edmond Tolkowsky (13 - Forerunners, Interim Period II), Louis S. Schulman (9 - Forerunners, Palestine), and Dr. Louis A. Sarrow (8 - JNF-KKL).



Figure 2

Another data base search uncovered how many articles were written on a few specific topics. The results are: Forerunner (29), Interim Period II (16) and Holocaust (8).

I should note that ads are not included in the index because they are too time intensive and arguably of little use to a researcher. Also worth noting is that the generic cover for each issue has been replaced with a "modern, cleaner standard" cover (Figure 2).

If you want to try out the database here are the steps to follow:

- 1. Log on to the web site at: www.israelstamps.com.
- 2. In the left column click on "IP Archives Library."
- 3. When the page opens, click on "Journal Search" found at the top of the page next to the words Journal Browser.
- 4. The "Journal Search" page opens. Just select the option(s) you would like to search on.

Have fun doing your searches and let me know about your experience. ■

Have a healthy and Happy New Year

Letters to the Editor

Hello

ISRAEL REGISTERED MAIL

A recent acquisition was a 7 volume mounted collection of Israel registered mail and off cover mint labels from a very large number of towns (see Figures 1–3 as examples). During one of our 2nd Sunday of the month meetings of the 51 year young of the Berkshire Hills S.I.P. Chapter, I asked the dozen members in attendance about the location of the towns on the labels. Some of the towns were unknown to our knowledgeable members.

So, I ask the following of our broad membership—Is there a complete listing available of all towns past and present in Israel? Are any of our members collectors of registered mail?

The sheetlet in Figure 3 was issued for the September 17–23, 1957 philatelic exhibition. The Scott number is 132. **Bale Catalogue** does not show any commercial uses. The design center shows the sign of the zodiac-



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

As a matter of further interest and question, are any sheets of the small red sheet, Scott Catalogue 16, known commercially used.

I would also like to commend our new President, Ed Kroft, for his monumental work on rates which should be published in book form asap when concluded.

Robert Markovits, Berkshire Hills SIP •

Don

I just finished reading Isadore Baum's terrific hockey piece. It is impressive that the author takes the initiative to have the stamp's designers appear at his booth to give people an inexpensive way of enjoying the hobby with a Jewish angle at these well attended philatelic shows.

When designing the cover of this SIP, as "derech eretz" to Issie, I included both the booklet and sheet version stamps of his beloved Montreal Canadians.

There is one other small Jewish footnote to hockey. To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Montreal franchise, Canada Post issued a stamp and lenticular souvenir sheet - and while the Canadians can only boast of very small contingent of Jews in their history (not even a minyan!), on the Canada Post official first day cover, there is a list of all the players that have appeared from 1909-2009- which includes all-star defence man Mathieu Schneider.

Since 2009, Michael Cammalleri and Jeff Halpern have worn the blue, blanc, rouge.

Cecil Hart, who helped ink legendary Hall of Famer Howie Morenz to a Habs contract won two Stanley cups as coach of the "Flying Frenchmen." Hart's father donated the trophy annually donated to the NHL's most valuable player. Irving Grundman, general manager of the Canadians from 1978-1983 also won a Cup in 1979.

Irv Osterer, Ottawa, ON ■

Dear All,

Just a short note to advise that the Society of Israel Philately, Johannesburg was well represented at the South African Exhibition, JOMAPEX which opened today. Six of our members entered. The results achieved by the members were:

Brian Gruzd "Israel First Airmail Issue 1950" 5 frames, Large Gold, 2 special awards for Best Israel/ Holy Land and best post World War II Exhibit

Maurice Daniels "Used Definitive Printing Dates of Israel", 5 frames, Large Vermeil

Dr Julian Shamroth "Cancellation Errors and Varieties on early Stamp Issues of Rhodesia", 1 frame, Large Silver

Maurice Daniels "Aspects of the Postal Boycott to Israel", 1. frame, Silver

Les Glassman "The Bible", Silver

Bronze to Maurice Daniels for "Pre printed Pre 1840 Stampless Great Britain Issues" 1 frame

Robbert Wenger "The issued stamps of Hungary, 1871—1924", Bronze

David Wides "Revenue documents of RSA and Bophuthatwana", Certificate of Merit

In addition the Society displayed a non competitive exhibit comprising 8 frames of extracts from various member collections

Kind regards to all of you Brian Gruzd, South Africa

Hi Don

I exhibited at CHICAGOPEX 2013 in November:

Bob Pildes Holy Land Forerunners - Foreign

Administrations Gold

Thanks
Dr. Robert Pildes, Chicago, IL •

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Five years ago, an ambitious goal was set - to collect 11 million stamps to visually illustrate the enormity of the number of children, women, and men having been killed as a result of prejudice, racism, and discrimination during the Holocaust. Six million Jewish people and five million others considered to be "enemies of the State" are being honored and memorialized by each of the counted and collected stamps.

As of November 26, 2013 more than **3.3 MILLION** stamps had been donated!

Students are now working on new postage stamp collage artworks, reflecting what they've learned about the causes and effects of the Holocaust. Be a part of something **BIG** - donate your cancelled stamps!

Much more information, links to media news stories about the Project, and the stories behind the collages can be found on the **Holocaust Stamps Project** website:

http://www.foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/ student-life/frcs-holocaust-stamp-project/

or you may contact, Mrs. Jamie Droste, Student Life Advisor, jdroste@foxboroughrcs.org.



BE IN THE KNOW

Receive the SIP monthly E-Newsletter and other important information distributions.

To be included, send your e-mail address to: israelstamps@gmail.com today!

Biblical Mountains

Abraham Blum, Rishon Le Zion, Israel

It is amazing how the people of Lebanon, CT retained their heritage when they founded new settlements in New Hampshire – Lebanon, NH and West Lebanon, NH – and in New York State – Lebanon, NY and New Lebanon Center, NY. In addition, pioneers from other localities called Lebanon moved North and West and took with them the name of the place from which they had come. Thus, the founders of Lebanon, MO and Lebanon, OR came from Lebanon, TN, the founders of Lebanon, SD came from Lebanon, IN and the "Shakers" from Lebanon, NH moved to New Lebanon, NY.











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- WANTED: 1948/49 P.O.W. mail from the War of Independence in Israel. Both Jewish or Arab mail are of interest. Please send scans and prices to e-mail: balmussar@yahoo.com or Baruch Weiner, 15 Chafetz Chaim, Kiryat Sefer Modiin Illite, 71919, Israel. ■
- MAIMONIDES 850th Anniversary collection MNH stamps from Israel, Spain, Grenada, Lesotho, Dominica, Bolivia, Gambia and others. Over 40 items nicely mounted and identified by Scott numbers. Asking \$200 or best offer. Yechiel M Lehavy, (609) 822-5022, E-mail lehavyy@yahoo.come.
- BUY/TRADE: Mint, non-hinged and in good condition definitive plate blocks. Send for a list of wants/trades to e-mail: minissen@bigpond.net.au, post: Dr. Nissen, Unit 201/461 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004, Australia. ■
- SELL Holy Land Philatelist, issues 3 82 plus index, November 1954 September 1961, for sale. Contact Roger, e-mail: roger@exemail.com.au. ■
- SELL: I have a collection of all the issues of The Israel Philatelist and a bound set of indexes. I would entertain all offers for the set of journals and indexes. Arthur Stein (413) 442-6447, e-mail: owholmesa@nycap.rr.com.
- WANTED: British Mandate of Palestine: "Certified Official," Post Office cachets from Lydda, Lydda Village, Lod, Ludd, etc,local & other casual or commercial postal markings from same locations on "pieces," covers or Mandate government forms. Hank Stern, 355 Pelham Road (Apt 515), New Rochelle, NY 10805. Write first with photo-copies if available or phone 914 576 0930. ■

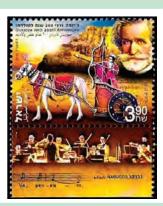
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The Israel Philatelist - December 2013

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Auto Vehicle Registration

Charles Goldfarb, Randolph, NJ

n page 175 of William Wallerstein's **1987 Specialized Catalogue of Palestine and Israel Revenues** there are 7 different stamps listed with the Treasury Seal Design. Do they actually exist or are they a misidentification of similarly designed stamps used for other purposes? Generally, it is difficult to prove a negative and even more so with Israeli revenues as there is little philatelic documentation available. So I won't be bold enough to say they don't exist but there is little to substantiate that they do. Rather, the evidence suggests that all but one of the stamps were actually used for other purposes.

First, the two stamps illustrated in Wallerstein's catalogue are both clearly בול בטחון (Bul bitachon) or Security Stamps. Second, with one exception, none of the known stamps are listed anywhere else in the catalogue. Third, the prices given are such that they wouldn't appear to be particularly rare. Fourth, I have not seen any examples in any dealer's stock, in an auction or online in the past ten years nor have any other revenue collectors that I've spoken to. All of which leads me to believe that they are misidentified.



Figure 1 Shows a license for the type of business: grocery issued in 1958. This document contains what might be either VR 1 or 4 (Green) issued by the Department of Customs and Excise. The reason for the ambiguity is that VR 1 is described as 2 I.L. Green (1963-1964) and VR 4 is 12 I.L. Green (1958). As this example shows, the date and value are handwritten, rendering the distinction moot.



Figure 2 The identical stamp in yellow and is identified as VR 2 in W'87.

Following the 1956 Sinai campaign, the Bul bitachon security stamp was attached to vehicle registrations and driver's licenses as a way to fund the cost of the war. This stamp is most likely the Apple Green VR 3.



Figure

Shows an example of the stamp as it exists and with the handwriting digitally removed so that the Hebrew can be read. The four form lines are: License no.; Name; Paid up to; and Amount.

VR 6 (5 I.L. Violet) and VR 7 (10 I.L. Violet-Brown) are most likely the אגרת רשיונות (License Fee) stamps. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that VR 6 is the same as OR 1 (5 I.L. Lilac) described on page 141. Both values were used to pay for driver's licenses in the late 1950s and early 1960s.



Figure 4
An example of 5 I.L. stamps used in 1959 and 1960 and a 10 I.L. in 1961.



Figure 5

Examples of three variations of VR 5 (Red) are shown in Figure 5. The handwriting was digitally removed in order to improve the legibility of the Hebrew text. VR 5 is the only one in this series that was used for Automobile registrations in addition to other purposes. Other variations include green text in the form portion of the stamp.



A more significant variation is the right most stamp shown in Figure 6, which is nearly identical to the left most shown in Figure 5, except that it was issued by the Development Ministry.

The document is a permit enabling a licensed electrician to work as an electrician in his profession. This is the license of Mr Ezra Lederer, from Haifa and states the conditions and restrictions involved. He received a license as an electrician class b'.

The other 3 stamps (and 2 on the reverse side) are identical to the middle VR 5 shown in Figure 5. The Development Ministry stamp is for the year beginning April 1, 1955. The other 5 extend the permit for an additional 5 years.

Figure 6



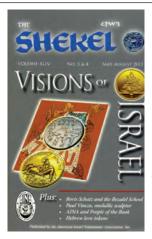
Figure 7



Figure 8

One other note, the VR 8 Green Steering Wheel Design stamp (Figure 7) also was printed in brown but is not listed in Wallerstein (Figure 8). The 250 pr. labels are for the National Council for the Prevention of Car Accident.

If any collectors have additional material or insight into the subject, I would appreciate hearing from you at chasgoldfarb@gmail.com. •



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is a non-sectarian cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaic numismatics. AINA publishes The Shekel six times a year.

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1952 Red Revenue Proof Series

Arthur Harris - Boca Raton, Florida

he discovery of the 1952 red revenue proof series was a major philatelic find. Originally, as well as now, there are claims of only one full sheet of each value in existence (Figure 1). However, this seems to be unlikely, as there have been several of the same "value" offered for sale by both auction houses and on ebay.

The series consists of 11 values: 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 75, 80, 100 and 250 prutah with values in green; an additional 5 prutah with value in blue; and one stamp with a "missing" value. Thus, a complete set of proofs consists of 13 stamps (Figure 2).

In early 2000, a very limited quantity of imperforate plate proofs were discovered. Figure 3 (courtesy Marty Cohen) shows a "test" block of 8 on ungummed paper that is signed and dated 19/12/52.

Figure 4 (courtesy Marty Cohen) shows a gutter block of four on gummed paper.

There is one problem with the red proof series that recurs. The "missing value" stamp background is virtually indistinguishable from the 20 mil of the first series (Bale 4) and the 20 prutah of the second series (Bale 20) (Figure 5).

The Tel Aviv Stamps of November 10, 2010 mail sale describes lot 890 as "1948 first revenues imperforate horizontal pair value omitted, color trial in bright red." The imperforate pair in Figure 6 is the identical one from the mail sale, but was purchased from a different vendor as "second revenue, imperforate horizontal pair missing value."

In addition to the original 13 stamps with round centers, I have been fortunate to be able to find two stamps with square centers – a 10 prutah and missing value (Figure 7). This leads me to question whether the series was printed with two different centers and if so, how many other values exist with square centers?



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4









Figure 5









Figure 7

I would like to hear from SIP members with comments and/or additional scans of other values. I can be reached by e-mail at arthurhythec@gmail.com. •



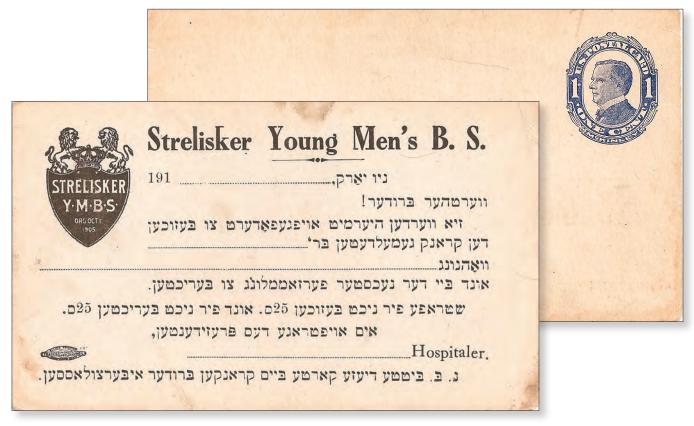


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"The Hebrew in Charity"

Jesse I. Spector M.D., Robert L. Markovits Esq., Judith Weiss CPA, Berkshire Hills SIP

A n unused, preprinted in Yiddish, Scott UX 22 postal card (Figures 1, 2) would prove to be the incentive for pursuing an investigation into a century-long history of the social aspects of Jewish institutions devoted to charitable, educational and communal social support. Let us introduce you to the Stelisker Young Men's Benevolent Society of New York and then raise the curtain on the world of Jewish mutual benefit societies, fraternal orders, and Landsmanshaftn that would dot the landscape throughout the United States.



Figures 1, 2

STRELISKER BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Our postal card (Figures 1,2) dates to the second decade of the 20th century. "B.S." in the caption "Strelisker Young Men's B.S." stands for "benevolent society." The corner cache is unmistakably Judaic– the Crown and

Lions of Judah. The card is a preprinted form letter that is enlightening, while at the same time evoking a certain degree of chutzpah:

New York191		
Honored Brother,		
You are hereby requested to visit our sick brother	_ at	and to report at the next meeting. The penalty for
not visiting is 25 cents and 25 cents for not reporting.		
At the request of the President		
Hospitaler		
P.S. Please leave this card with the sick brother.		

We begin our story with an 1893 **New York Daily Tribune** article—"Hebrew in Charity, How He Helps His Sick and Poor" (Figure 3) reflecting an irony that would make a 21st century reader quite uncomfortable:

"Whatever one may think of the Hebrew question in general, it is impossible for the student of current history not to realize that it is a vital one in New York today. This is especially true of the East Side. And now the better class of Germans is moving away, leaving the field to the Hebrews. Whatever virtues or faults the Hebrews may have they are justly proud of their care of the poor and suffering; and it is said that there is only one Hebrew pauper on Blackwell's Island and that no Hebrew was ever buried in Potter's Field."

Well now, with such sentiments one must not wonder why Jews felt compelled to help themselves.

from the New-York Daily Tribune, April 23, 1893.

THE HEBREW IN CHARITY.

HOW HE HELPS HIS SICK AND POOR.

INSTITUTIONS TO CARE FOR EVERY CLASS NEEDING AID— THE GREAT WORK OF THE UNITED HEBREW CHARITIES.

Whatever virtues or faults the Hebrews may have they are justly proud of their care of the poor and suffering. It is said that there is only one Hebrew pauper on Blackwell's Island, and that no Hebrew was ever buried in Potters Field. Some years ago the statement was made that the Hebrews of the United States expended annually nearly \$2,000,000 in charity. A proportionate expenditure for charitable purposes for the people at large would foot up \$400,000,000. The early history of the charitable work of the Hebrews in this city is told in an interesting manner by Isaac Markens, in his book, "The Hebrews in America." From this it appears that the Hebrew Benevolent Society of New York was organized in April 1822, with a fund amounting to \$200, the unexpended balance of a collection which had been obtained for the benefit of a Hebrew, a former soldier in the Revolutionary War. Two men undertook to raise money for his brother two years before that time, when he was brought to the New York City Hospital. But it was not until 1832 that the society was incorporated. In 1859 it was consolidated with the German Hebrew Benevolent Society. The following year the first Hebrew Orphan Asylum in the United States was opened, the combined funds of the two benevolent societies amounting to \$25,000. The present asylum building at Amsterdam Ave. and One-hundred-and-thirty-sixth St. cost some \$750,000. The asylum is a constituent of the United Hebrew Charities, with a capacity of 572 children. Orphans and half orphans committed there receive support, education and industrial training.

Figure 3

In researching the Strelisker Young Men's Benevolent Society, statistics from **The American Jewish Year Book**, 1919-1920¹, the **WPA Yiddish Writer's Group**

Study,1938² and the more contemporary **YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Collection**³ yield a vivid portrait of 20th century benevolent societies. In 1919, New

York City environs listed 2,302 Jewish organizations (Figure 4) of which 1196 were charitable or mutual benefit societies. Nationally, there were 2,421 Jewish philanthropic and mutual benefit associations with an overall membership of slightly over one million out of a total United States Jewish population of 3.6 million. The Strelisker Young Men's Benevolent Association is found in the Manhattan/Bronx section

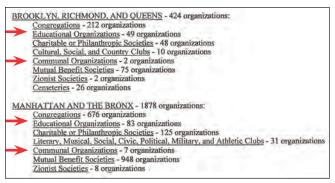


Figure 4

of societies (Figure 5) with an organization date of 1905, at which time there were 14 founding members. In 1938, membership was 150 men, of which only 2% were American born. A Strelisker Ladies Auxiliary was created in 1938 with 60 members, 20% of whom were born in the United States.

Who was strelisker

So you might ask, with all these associations, who was the Strelisker, for whom this New York society honored him by assuming his name? Strelisker is not that uncommon a name, including the 19th century poet S.D. Strelisker, Enlightenment historian Mordechai Strelisker, and Rumanian composer and cantor also named Mordechai Strelisker. But, the one we believe fits our bill is Rabbi Uri ben Pinchas Strelisker (1757-1826), descended from a distinguished Strelisker rabbinical line. His facial expressions gave him the name, the "Seraph from Strelisk" (ha-Seraf being a heavenly being). A Hassidic master and mystic, he prayed with excitement and fervor. Most of his Hassidim were poor, and he responded to the question of why this was so, with the answer that they did not pray for wealth, rather they prayed to avoid the fiery furnace than to become wealthy.

The emergence of the Strelisker Young Men's Benevolent Society and its kindred associations resulted from a collision of economic and cultural factors in the first three decades of the 20th century. Peak membership occurred before the existence of

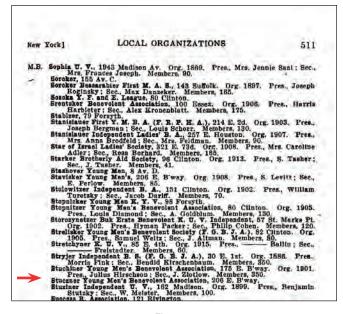


Figure 5

a welfare state, when the majority of working men and their families lived on the verge of financial insolvency. Chronic risks included loss of salary resulting from layoffs and illness, retirement or death of a breadwinner. With traditional Jewish family size frequently numbering seven to ten children and but one income-producing male, "piecework" in the home (Figure 6) was frequently required to add a pittance to the mode of subsistence.



Figure 6

The onerous realities of the time included 60% of male wage earners making less than the poverty level, endemic sporadic nature of work, and 65% of breadwinners dying with no savings whatsoever. Pension programs were few in number and niggardly in value. Public provision for the poor was anemic and degrading. Death of a breadwinner was often unaccompanied by life insurance since companies frequently refused to underwrite minorities. Little

wonder that workers turned to mutual benefit societies for protection.

The oldest Jewish benefit society in the United States was the Hebrew Benevolent Society of New York (Figure 7) established in 1822 by the still extant B'nai Jeshurun synagogue. This society and the thousands that followed combined burial and funeral arrangements with sick benefits and financial assistance to widows and children.

A second type of mutual aid society was the Jewish fraternal order, which combined financial aid with Masonic-type rituals (Figure 8). Fraternal lodges offered an identity and sense of kinship to those transitioning from small-town agrarian ways to city industrial life, thereby softening the effect of entering a world of greater isolation.



Figure 8

A third group of mutual benefit societies were tight-knit Landsmanshaftn societies (Figure 9) combining the role of self benefit organization with a strong commitment to relatives and friends still in Europe (5). In the 1880's, this wave of Eastern European Jews sought to attain the same social and economic goals as the earlier German arrivals. A hallmark of the Landsmanshaftn was a strong commitment to financing the immigration of their kin to the United States, literally, one person at a time.

CONCLUSION

We conclude our story with a vignette into the acculturation that eventually enveloped the Jewish community in the United States. From humble beginnings of the Strelisker Young Men's Benevolent Society and its counterparts, we witness metamorphosis into more prestigious fraternal orders, and subsequent formation of Jewish country

OLDEST BENEFIT SOCIETY

HEBREW MUTUAL WAS ORGAN-IZED JULY 2, 1826.

When Its Formation Was Conceived There Were Only 200 Jewish Families in the City of New York

Figure 7



Figure 9

clubs. "Lodgniks" were superseded by the financially successful "clubniks." While older organizations such as the Strelisker Society were predicated on economic exigencies, the development of an arguably successful welfare state, together with a tradition for Jewish education and achievement had made the Strelisker anachronistic. Nevertheless, we remain indebted to their achievements, without which our culture may not have flourished. Amazing isn't it, an unused postal card that shakes the cobwebs and reminds us to say thank you? Yes, thank you Steliskers very much.

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continued on page 19

Martin Lynes

It is with great deep sadness that I write about the loss of a very dear friend and a partner, Martin Lynes, who passed away on 3rd November 2013, aged 75.

We were together for many years, mainly at Philatex, as 'the retired couple'. We travelled together to various stamp fairs in Europe and the United States, and consulted with each other about items, quality, prices and the world of stamps in general.

Martin had a vast knowledge of so many subjects in philately, especially in Holy Land, World Military Mail, Prisoners of War and other similar topics. But that just scratched the surface of his knowledge. When Martin sold you a cover, you also received all the information about it, enough that it was almost exhibition ready. It is no wonder that traders queued to buy Martin's "knowledge with a cover." He loved to explain to the collectors about their purchases and about their own

philatelic material. We will all miss him in our Philatelic world.

I knew Martin for a few decades and, during that time, we built up our friendship. When in London for a fair or exhibition, he stayed at my 'hotel' as my guest. He would relax with his love for books, music and sport and, as an avid fan of Rugby, gradually turned me into a spectator of Rugby, too.

I am sure that most members of The Holyland Society and The Forces Postal History Society will remember Martin as a friendly, honest and gentle man. And on behalf of all of you I will convey our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to his wife, Wendy, and his children and grandchildren on their bereavement.

Martin we miss you. But we will not forget you. Ze'ev Galibov.

continued from page 18

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Issie Baum, Laval, Quebec, Canada

In the last few years, Canada Post has issued over 25 stamps, souvenir sheets, booklets, entires, First Day Covers etc. that either relate to Jewish subjects or otherwise have a Judaica content, or have been designed by prominent Jewish graphic artists residing in Canada. Among the issues are 60 years of Canada-Israel friendship, a joint issue with Israel and Jewish designers; the Vancouver Olympic stamps by a Jewish designer - the Olympic medal itself was designed by a Canadian-Israeli, (see **The Israel Philatelist**, Vol XLI No. 3); a building by Moshe Safdie, an Israeli architect; a photograph by Gabor Szilasi, Hungarian born photographer; Raoul Wallenberg's 100th birthday; the music band RUSH, whose founder and lead singer is Jewish; the recently released Superman stamps. Superman was created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, making Superman a definite member of the Tribe and many, many more.

HOCKEY DESIGNER

But on September 3, 2013, another Canadian Israeli designer entered the pantheon of Jewish stamp designers with an array of items rarely if ever seen before in our hobby. It is an issue that will resonate with almost every hockey crazy Canadian who turns on his TV to watch Hockey Night in Canada. Avi Dunkelman, Haifa born, with his partner Joseph Gault, in one fell swoop conceived and designed a series of hockey stamps honoring the 7 Canadian hockey teams in the National Hockey League (Figures 1, 2).

Their prolific output includes 7 different stamps issued in 7 different booklets, 2 souvenir sheets each with 7 different stamps, 7 different coil strips, 8 different First Day Covers, and 7 different postal entires. Their names appear on each one of their creations. Furthermore, the author learned directly from Avi that he designed

the Glenn Gould stamp in the 2000 Canada Millennium series. Avi along with Joe designed the Lunar New Year of the Snake stamp for Canada in 2013. Talk about entering the select group of Jewish stamp designers with a splash!! I believe it is the first time in our hobby that so many different philatelic products were produced at one time relating to one individual - in this case a Jewish designer.

PRODUCTION PROCESS

The production process for the Hockey Series was not an overnight effort. Work started in November 2012, and the entire project was finished by late July 2013. The challenges faced by Avi and Joe were many: how would the finished design look at stamp size, would the images be recognizable, considering they always work

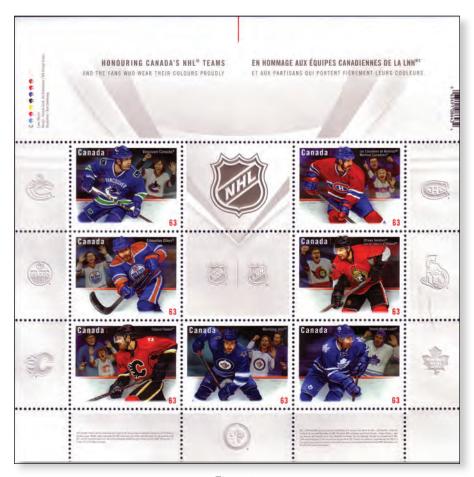


Figure 1 Canadian stamps designed by Avi Dunkelman and Joseph Gault featuring the seven Canadian hockey teams in the National Hockey League.



 $\label{eq:Figure 2} Figure~2$ Avi Dunkelman and two of the hockey stamps he and his partner designed on a first day cover

at 5 times the print stamp size, and how would the team colors reproduce in offset printing? Additionally, they had to adjust the body positions of the players several times and pay attention to details by testing the images at actual size.

Avi says "We also monitored the color outcome during printing tests on numerous occasions. We had to adjust the colors on our digital files in order to match the official color specs that were provided by the NHL. It is always a challenge to calibrate your computer screen with the printer's proof and the final offset printing outcome. Color adjustments are always required during this process."

Figure 3 Left to right: Joseph Gault, Issie Baum and Avi Dunkelman. Photo by Mike Walsh, **Canadian Stamp News**.

The conceptual and the design development were done through pencil sketches first and then illustrations and/or photographic collage. When the Canada Post Committee and the NHL approved the concept, they commissioned an Illustrator to implement their concept and began with the production phase. They submitted two concepts each for the coil and the commemorative stamps, and explored several other concepts during the design development and narrowed them down to their best two concepts.

"Our biggest thrill as stamp designers" Avi says, "is to witness how all the pieces come together at the end, especially during the production phase. Realizing that there is actually so much you can visually express in one square inch, to me is nothing short of amazing!"

BACKGROUND

Avi was born and raised in Haifa, to Holocaust survivor parents who immigrated to Israel from Germany in January 1948. As a child, he started collecting stamps from around the world and begun developing an interest in graphic design. He attended a special art and design high school in Haifa where he studied graphic design. In the 1970's he served in the Israeli military and when he finished his service he then realized that his passion and commitment to graphic

design were still there. He decided to pursue a career as a graphic designer.

After working as an apprentice in Tel Aviv for a year he moved to Canada in 1977, where he attended the

Ontario College of Art & Design in Toronto. Upon his graduation in 1980, he worked for Gottschalk+Ash Int'l, one of the top design firms in North America. Avi later pursued his studies in Basel, Switzerland where he received his degree Advanced Studies in Graphic Design and later graduated from the prestigious Allgemeine Gewerbeschule (Basel School of Design). He studied under the leadership and influence of world-renowned designers

and educators who he admits all played a major role in his developmental approach to design and design education.

In Switzerland, he worked at the Gottschalk+Ash Int'l, Zurich office, where he designed several large projects for major Swiss corporations. During his study there, he also worked on a bilingual thesis project which was designed to visually integrate the Hebrew and Latin alphabets and was featured as a 12 page article in TM / Swiss International Journal in 1986. During his design career, he has received several design awards in Canada and the United States for poster designs and branding projects.

DESIGN FIRM

Upon his return to Toronto, he continued to work for Gottschalk+Ash prior to founding his own design firm based in Toronto in 1986. His firm created a wide variety of projects for Canadian and international clients, among them: Alfred Sung, Bell Canada, Canada Trust, Canada Post Corporation, KPMG, CGM in Chicago, 6 Sense in Orlando Florida, Deloite Touche and Eldor Consulting in Tel Aviv just to name a few. He has over 30 years of experience balancing business and teaching.

In October 2010 Avi formed a collaborative partnership



Figure 5 Pucks with the logo of the 7 Canadian hockey clubs..

with Joseph Gault under the MIX Design Group brand. Since 1987 he has taught graphic design, communications, typography, and information design at Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD). In 2001 he became an Associate Professor and a permanent faculty member. Avi has lectured at the Faculty of

Landscape and Architecture at the University of Toronto. His efforts have certainly paid off, earning him a place in Canada's Postal History by having his name on more Canadian stamps than any other Canadian graphic designer.

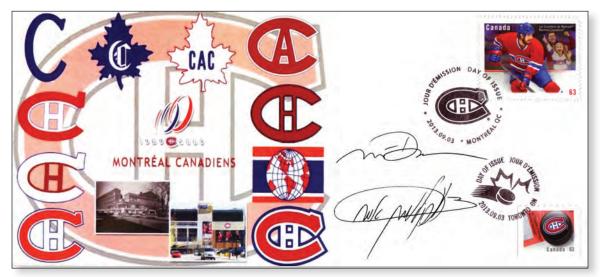


Figure 6 First day cover signed by Avi Dunkelman in English and Hebrew.

Identifing Markings On Mail

Randy Fadem, San Diego, CA

GENERATION AGO, collecting covers bearing the markings of the Jewish Legion was a respected niche area in Palestine Philately. F. W. Pollack, editor of the **Holy Land Philatelist** gave article space to the history and legends of the Legion. He also promoted items available in postal auctions, which he sponsored. Time effaces all things and this area has passed from view. With the recent relocation of the San Diego Philatelic Library and the culling of excess material from the Israel holdings, these gems have come to light again.

LEGION BACKGROUND

Of especial interest are the lands of origin of the men who joined the Jewish Legion and the wide variety of mail, which they generated. Jabotinsky's call for volunteers for an all–Jewish fighting force evoked an enormous response spanning four continents.

The units that did see service in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt were largely composed of men from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Argentine and Brazil, as well as a near company–strength unit of Turkish Jews released from a POW facility in Egypt. Enormous numbers from other nations volunteered: 1600 from Salonika, over 2000 from Italy, and a deputation from the mountain Jews of Dagestan in the Caucasus.

Even though the Legion was dissolved in 1919, intact units were reassigned to other military formations and continued in service till 1920. Several units guarded various mail trains.

LEGION COVERS

The cover in Figure 1 is from the January 2008 issue of Israel philatelic magazine the **Shovel** (p. 13) and includes two of the three known distinguishing



Figure 1

features for the Legion: the Menorah inscribed "Kadima" (Forward) along its base and the handstamp in English capitals: "The Jewish Legion." The sender, N. J. Teitelbaum, identifies his unit as the 39th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, one of the three battalions to which Legionnaires were assigned by the British Army.

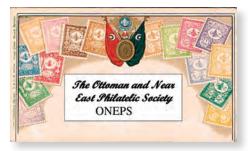
Two other interesting features to note. It is addressed in French for delivery by the Swiss authorities while the destination is inscribed in English for the convenience of the postal authorities in Palestine. The recipient was

an arm of the International Red Cross, which carried the burden of amassing and dispensing information on the missing in action during the Great War, World War I.

The Figure 2 cover is from the Michael Bass collection and displays the Menorah insignia. It bears the rare R.M.S.I.E.F. cancellation of Railroad Mail Service Indian Expeditionary Forces. There is an OAS (On Active Service written by the cancel so it went postage free to the United States.

This last item is found in the Holy Land Philatelist (p. 1245) and is a picture post card with a map of Palestine on the reverse. (Editor's note: The card could not be copied to picture here.) The obverse contains an imprinted insignia with Hebrew inscription in bold lettering meaning "Headquarters of the Hebrew Command"; the three Jewish battalions of the Royal Fusiliers had adopted this insignia. On the card the spelling of Palastine is quite unique, with what seems like an umlaut over the second "a" in "Palästai(e)n. References:

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Figure 2



Figure 3

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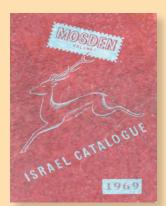
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Arthur Szyk

AND THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

William Velvel Moskoff, Lake Forest College, IL

N 1940, TWO JEWISH MEN CAME TO THE UNITED STATES FROM GEOGRAPHICALLY different places for two very different reasons. The first man was 25 year old Hillel Kook (1915-2001), a member of a prominent Jewish Palestinian family who was sent by the Irgun, a paramilitary group in Palestine, to the United States to accomplish two things: the first was to mobilize support for the organization and, secondly, to raise funds for a Jewish army. In the United States, he operated under the pseudonym of Peter Bergson.

The second person, Arthur Szyk (1894-1951), a native of Poland who moved to England in 1937, was forty-six years old when he entered the United States. He had been drawing caricatures of Hitler since 1933 and was asked by the British government and the Polish government-in-exile to go to America and use his art to gather popular support against the Nazis. The paths of the two men would eventually intersect when Bergson and others formed the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe in late July 1943 and Szyk became actively involved in the organization. They would subsequently make common cause on behalf of the millions of refugees whose lives were daily threatened by the Nazi's "Final Solution."

SZYK "BOOKLET"

The focus of this article is on the cinderella labels that Szyk designed and the Emergency Committee issued in 1944. After he arrived in the United States, Szyk became the editorial cartoonist for **The New York Post** and joined Bergson in his efforts on behalf of Palestine and European Jews. He was a member of the

Executive Board of the Emergency Committee and lent his considerable artistic talents to furthering the cause of awakening the American conscience to what was happening to the Jews of Europe.²

In 1943, Bergson's Emergency Committee engaged Szyk to create a series of designs on behalf of a "Save



AN LIVES SAVE HUMAN LIVES SAVE HU

Figures 2, 3, 4 From Gregg Philipson collection



About Arthur Szyk

Arthur Szyk's hope for his people is revealed in his creed: "Im Eshkachach Yerushalayim Tishkach Yemini." (If I forget thee, oh Ierusalem, may my right hand forget her cunning.)

AN LIVES

A native of Poland, Arthur Szyk has seen the unspeakable horrors of two wars. The Nazis make him the hated subject of their radio broadcasts and other propaganda.

Arthur Szyk is neither a recluse nor a sheltered artist. He is in the thick of the eternal fight for principles and ideals. His talent has carried the meaning of this war to the large masses, inflaming them with his own zeal and passion. It can truly be said that his pen is as mighty as the sword.

His caricatures of Hitler, Goebbels, Goering and other Nazi-Fascists have appeared in the New York Post, the News-paper PM, Colliers, Life, Esquire, Time, Liberty, The Answer, The JWV Veteran and other publications.

The USO, recognizing his genius, arranged and exhibited his war satires at the Military Academy in West Point, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, at Mitchell Field and Fort Dix. Also, there have been 'one man' exhibits at Knoedlers and the Siligmann Galleries in New York and at Whytes in Washngton, D. C.

The London Literary Times Supplement has written of Arthur Szyk's illuminated edition of the Haggaddah which he completely designed. "It is worthy to be placed among the mass beautiful of books that the hand of man has produced." The American press has been unanimous in its praise for his emarkable talent as an artist of originality, understanding and distinction. Miniatures of his thirty-eight episodes of the American Revolutionary War are at President Roosevelt's Hyde Park Museum, a gift of the Polish Government in 1934.

Arthur Szyk fought in the last war, and his son is now an officer with the Fighting French. Enamored of Palestine, he sent there many years ago, when it was under Turkish domination, and served as a Shomer in Metulash, Rosh Pinah

Approved by the National Poster Stamp Society, Certificate No. 170

Human Lives" campaign.³ The five designs depicted Jewish families and were issued in revised format in 1944 as a series of poster labels. Figure 1 shows two of these strips, one brown and the other purple. Each pane of ten stamps measured 8 x 3 ¾ inches. These stamps were placed in a booklet of 100 stamps—ten strips each with ten stamps. The front cover of the booklet bore two titles—"They Must Not Die" and under it, "Save Human Lives" (Figure 2).

Each booklet had ten pages, with five different scenarios done in four colors, one for each page—brown, black, blue and orange. The front cover showed two children and the inside rear cover contained images of President Roosevelt, Wendell Wilkie, the liberal Republican and internationalist who lost the 1940 election to Roosevelt, and John Pehle, the executive director of the War Refugee Board (WRB).

The latter dates the production of the booklets more precisely because the WRB did not come into existence until January 22, 1944.⁴ The booklet measured 8 5/8 x 3 7/8 inches. There was also a coupon (Figure 3) that people could clip to make a contribution; it was attached to a brief biography of Szyk (Figure 4).

Pathos and strength

The purpose of the labels was clearly to portray a combination of pathos and strength in Jews. On the far left in Figure 1 and to the right in Figure 5 is a soldier holding aloft his rifle and yelling out a triumphal scream. In his other arm he is holding a dying old Jew and in the foreground there is a Jewish couple looking with great sadness at what appears to be either a dead or dying baby. This drawing was originally completed in 1942 and was entitled **The Fighting Jew of Palestine**. It was published originally as an assertive political statement with the caption, "We shall no longer witness with pity alone..."⁵.

The second and fourth frames are mirror images of each other, two waifs wearing armbands with a Star of David. The middle panel is an elderly rabbi holding the Torah scroll, a saddened older woman and child to his right. The right most fifth panel shows a modern Moses, his arms enveloping a soldier and a worker with a large wrench.

BOOKLET SALES

240

These labels were obviously designed for maximum emotional impact. They were made available for sale at whatever a buyer was willing to offer for a booklet. Additional booklets were \$1 apiece. An added incentive to buy the stamps came in the form of an offer by the Emergency Committee to sell four 8 x 10 inch black and white prints for only \$5 to those who bought a booklet of stamps⁶. At these prices, it is clear that raising money was not the primary purpose of issuing the stamps.

The strips bear a union label and the first address of Emergency Committee at 1 E. 44th Street in New York City. The front cover of the booklet stated that: "By using these poster stamps you are creating public interest in the humanitarian life-saving effort of the Emergency Committee." People were asked to affix the stamps on "your own personal and business stationery and packages and in any other ways that may suggest themselves to you."











Figure 5

LABELS PREVIOUS USES

Szyk's drawings were often copies of earlier wartime work. For example, one of his best-known drawings, the soldier with his rifle in the air holding an old Jew in his arms, first appeared in a full-page ad in the December 7, 1942 **New York Times**. It was also used in other venues, for example, in an article about Szyk published in 1943 and in another article about raising a Jewish army⁷.

The drawing of the two Jewish children with the Star of David on their arms appeared as a publicity poster on behalf of a program called the Show of Shows sponsored by the Emergency Committee that took place on March 13, 1944 in New York City's Madison Square Garden⁸.

Additionally, in 1944, Szyk designed a single-color design of a strong-looking man breaking his shackles, an older man leaning on him and a child watching him (Figure 6). There is a Star of David on the left and part of a swastika on the right, almost as if it is symbolically exiting the picture. This label, which



Figure 6

bears no union label, was printed by Herman Jaffe and shows the Emergency Committee's new address at 24 West 45th Street in the New York City. It should also be noted that both the Julian calendar date of 1944 and the Hebrew calendar date of 5705 are printed on the label.

Four freedoms

A quite special quartet of stamps was designed by Szyk based on the famous Four Freedoms speech delivered by President Roosevelt on January 6, 1941, eleven months before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States entered the war. (Figure 7). In what was actually Roosevelt's State of the Union address before a joint session of the Congress, the President listed four freedoms that all people should enjoy: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

The speech laid the groundwork for the nation's break



Figure 7

with its long-standing posture of non-interventionism and described how the United States could assist its allies⁹. Although the stamps were issued in 1944, Szyk had executed the designs three years earlier.

The labels themselves are quite different than the other Emergency Committee labels he drew, in that these have a heraldic sensibility. In this case, the medieval shield is the American stars and stripes. The Four Freedoms stamps were used to create a smaller booklet to sell to the public. On the back cover were pictures of President Roosevelt and New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey.

CONTINUING ACTIVITY

Although Szyk did not design any other stamps during the war, he remained extremely active in the campaign for Israel statehood that followed the close of the war. He wrote a moving kaddish for a man named Abrasha Stavsky, who perished on the Altalena in a conflict between the newly formed Israel Defense Forces and the Irgun¹⁰.

When Menachem Begin came to New York for his first visit not long after Israel's statehood, Szyk was on the dais for the elaborate \$50 a plate dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on November 23, 1948. He was also active after the war in the American League for a Free Palestine, another organization created by Peter Bergson that was working for Menachem Begin's Irgun Zvai Leumi group, but was nominally headed by United States Senator Guy Gillette of Iowa¹¹.

It may be said that Arthur Szyk fought steadfastly and resolutely for the Jewish people in World War II not with a gun, but with the skills of a highly talented artist.

References

- Among other things, the Irgun smuggled about 20,000
 European Jews into Palestine during the period 1937 1940.
 The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies,
 http://wymaninstitute.org/special/bergsonexhibit/about.
 php. Accessed Feb. 8, 2013.
- 2. Wyman and Medoff, p. 240

- I greatly benefitted from a conversation on February 27, 2013 with Irvin Ungar, Curator of the **Arthur Szyk Society** in Burlingame, California; www.szyk.or/stamp, accessed Feb. 21, 2013
- 4. Baumol, p. 167.
- **5.** "Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews," **Palestinian Statehood Comm. Papers**, Reel 1.
- 6. The prints were those of the rabbi with the Torah scroll, the two young waifs, the Jew with a rifle aloft, and the modern Moses.
- 7. Nathan George Horwitt, "Arthur Szyk, Champion of His People," **The Answer**, vol. 1, no. 5, July 5, 1943; Oswald Garrison Villard, "Hollow Arguments," **The Answer**, vol. 1, no. 2, May 1943, p. 14.
- 8. Palestinian Statehood Committee Papers, Reel 4.
- 9. "Franklin D. Roosevelt 'Four Freedoms' Speech January 6, 1941," youtube.com.
- 10. Palestinian Statehood Committee Papers, Reel 10.
- 11. Letter of June 20, 1946, Palestinian Statehood Comm. Papers, Reel 2. •



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Mystery Solved

Daryl Kibble, Australia





Starys is put on back side maniwa notel BERNARD PRICE, Osaka, Japan VIA AIR MAIL - VIA NEW YORK Mr. Joseph Rubinstein, Tel-Aviv.

Figure 2

The question raised in **The Israel Philatelist** (February 2013, page 9) by Dick Herman, regarding how a letter from Japan to Israel with a date of 6 February 1949 could have occurred, has an easy explanation (Figures 1,2). The date he has relied upon and referred to in his article, of 28 February 1949, is the date for which the postal agreement was in place for Israel to commence to send mail to Japan (not vice versa). This date is taken from the Hebrew postal circulars issued by Israel. Japan however could have had an earlier date in which its citizens could send mail to Israel (but unless we know someone with command of the Japanese language, we can never research it).

Take for instance the postal agreement between Israel and the United States. Israel commenced sending mail to Israel on 19 May 1948 (surface) and 9 June 1948 (air). However, the United States did not start sending either surface or air mail to Israel until it commenced those services on 26 June 1948 (see attached postal circular, which is supported by postal history). Indeed the emergency PEDI serviced filled this void for American citizens wanting to send mail to Israel, as we know. So the dates out of, and into a country, can be different country by country. Sometimes they will be similar, sometimes not.

The dates provided in the **Holyland Postal History** article published in the 1980s, which Dick has relied upon, only cover "half" the story so to speak. Unfortunately, this was never explained by the authors of the article (who perhaps also were not aware that this could be so). While we probably will never know the answer for Japan, the fact that the

sender addressed the letter "via New York" would suggest that at the time of sending Japan did not have the ability to link directly with Israel, but had to route through the United States (who as mentioned previously, commenced postal relations with Israel nearly eight months earlier).

ORDERS OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

LIMITED MAIL SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL

ORDER No. 37822; DATED JUNE 26, 1948.

Effective at once ordinary (unregistered) letters and post cards only (surface and air) will be accepted for the State of Israel. Letters may weigh up to 4 pounds 6 ounces, but may not contain merchandise.

The postage rates will be as follows:

SURFACE MAILS

Letters .- 5 cents for the first ounce and 3 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof,

Post cards. -3 cents.

ATR MATE:

Letters.-25 cents per half ounce.

Air letter sheets .- 10 cents each.

The following are the principal post offices and postal agencies in the State of Israel:

POST OFFICES

Bnei Brag Binyamina Givat Aylm Hadera Hertseliya Holon Jerusalem

Karkur Kfar Ata Kfar Saba Kfar Vitkin Kinneret Metula Nahalal Nahariya

Nathanya

Ein Hashofet

Nes Tsiona Pardess Hanna Petab-Tiqva Quiryat Hayim Quirvat Motzkin Raanana Ramat Avim

Ramat Gan

Rehovot

Rishon-Le-Tsion Rosh Pina Safad Tel Aviv Tel Mond Tiberias Yajur-Nesher Zichron-Yaakov

POSTAL AGENCIES

Afikim Alonim Ahuzat Herbert Samuel Ashkot-Yancov Ayelet Hashabar Bat Gallm Bat Yam Beer Tuviva Beit Alpha

Beit Hakerem

Ben Shemen

Ein Harod

Even Yehuda Gedera Gevat Givat Brenner

Givat Hayim Heftsi Bah Kfar Bahadrag Kfar Baruch Kfar Hassidim Kfar Shmaryahu Kfar Sirkin

Kfar Tabor Kfar Yedidya Kfar Yehoshua Kfar Yona Kiryat Anavim

Maabarot Maoz-Hayim Marhaviya Meir-Shefeyah Meshek Yajur Migdal

Mishmar Haemek

Mizra Naan Nahlat Yehuda Ramat Hakovesh Ramat Hasharon Sde-Yaaqov Ske-Nahum Tirat Tsvl Yayneel

Yokneam

For the present arrangements have not been completed for the extension of mail service to the parts of Palestine under Arab control.

A Study In Philatelic Nomenclature:

Shnorrer Mail

Yechiel M. Lehavy, Margate, NJ

I have a few commercial envelopes mailed from the United States to Palestine. Some of the envelopes were mailed prior to World War I while others were mailed right after the war. Since I have several duplicates I submitted some of them to be sold in an auction. The auctioneer lumped all the envelopes into one unit lot and described the lot as "shnorrer mail." I knew the meaning of the word shnorrer; however, I never heard it applied to a philatelic item and I was puzzled. I guess some SIP members would be puzzled as well. Therefore, an article presenting the etymology of the term and how it is applicable to philately would be a welcome educational enlightenment for the membership.

ORIGINS

As far as I know shnorrer is a derogatory term always applied to a kind of beggar. Hence, I wanted to know how and why it was adopted in philately.

Historically, the term is a Middle Ages German slang word - Schnurrer meaning a beggar who played an instrument in order to collect money. The term was adopted by Yiddish speakers and it means "a person who goes shnorreren, to go begging." In American Yiddish slang, it is "a person who lives off the charity of others; a professional beggar." It is a person who always is successful in getting money from others as though it was his right¹. So what is the relationship between shnorrer mail and the Yiddish derogatory term?

BACKGROUND TO CHARITY GIVING

Jewish charity is called Tzedakah. It is alms giving which is a fundamental part of the Jewish way of life. The obligation to give Tzedakah is based on Biblical commands. It is an act of justice and righteousness to give alms to those in need (Leviticus: 25, 35-38 and Deuteronomy: 15,7-11). In addition to giving to the

needy, the Bible also commands to give offerings and support to the Holy Temple and its servants, the Levis (Deuteronomy: 14, 22-27). This action plays a big role in the Jewish way of life until the present day.

This is not a document of the history of Tzedakah and the support given by the Jewish Diaspora but shows how the derogatory term shnorrer was given to the practice of raising money for the Jewish community living in Palestine. The term shnorrer was used by Ashkenazi Jews living mainly in Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, some history is required to understand the phenomenon of sending offerings to the Land of Israel.

BIBLICAL ORIGINS

The first evidence we have of this act of charity comes from the 6th century BCE (Before the Common Era). After the destruction of the first Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in 581 BCE many of the Jews, mainly the nobility, were exiled to Babylon. Some Jews escaped the conquest of Jerusalem and fled to Egypt. This is the time when the Jewish Diaspora - the Exile - came to be.

In the year 538 BCE King Cyrus of Persia issued a

proclamation (Figure 1). The proclamation is considered to be a kind of a human rights declaration which calls for the repatriation of all the displaced persons to return

to their respective homes and restore their destroyed temples. The Cyrus Proclamation included the Jews of Babylonia. It is recorded in the Bible (Ezra: 1, 1-11 and 2 Chronicles: 30, 22 - 23). Many of



Figure 1 Copy of King Cyrus of Persia cuneiform cylinder with the famous Proclamation

the exiled Babylonian Jews took advantage of the declaration and returned to the Land of Israel under the leadership of Ezra and later also Nehemiah (Figure 2). The returnees joined the poorest of Judah who were not exiled. The exiled Jews who chose to remain in Babylonia financially supported the rebuilding of the



Figure 2
Operation "Ezra and Hehemia" – airlift that flew over 100,000 Iraqi Jews to Israel

2nd Temple. The rebuilt Temple functioned and became the center of Judaism until its destruction by the Romans in the year CE 70 (Common Era). The Romans also changed the name of the country to Palestine in the year CE 135.

Jews lived in Palestine throughout its history, an unbroken chain of presence in the land. And, throughout history, the Jewish Diaspora supported the religious institutions in Palestine. They were practicing the command of giving Tzedakah

New communities established

Most Jews living in Palestine until the 15th century were those who never left the country. After the Arab conquest of the area in the 7th century, they became Musta'arabs, Arabic speaking Jews. They were present, and identified as such, until the rise of Zionism. The Musta'arab Jews were joined by the Sephardic Jews that went to Palestine after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.

From 1700 onward, Yiddish speaking Ashkenazim Jews started emigrating to Palestine. The first immigration

wave was led by Rabbi Judah the Chassid. It consisted of him and his disciples with their families totaling about 1200 people. It was soon followed by more Jews coming from Hungry, Moravia and Poland. This Ashkenazi immigration consisted mainly of Jews who came to establish Yeshivoth - houses of learning and to study the Torah. It was a family migration whose sole purpose was to establish new religious centers identified with the country of their origin and financially supported by those communities.

As mentioned above, the practice of raising funds for the "Land of Israel" was already present in ancient times. It continued during the Mishnah and Talmud times, and in various forms it exists to this day. It is the notion that Jews in Israel represent all Jewish people and their presence in the country constitutes the beginning of the redemption. Therefore, Diaspora Jews were obligated to care for their needs. Funds raised were intended primarily for the students who devoted their lives to prayer and the study of Torah. But, in fact, it constituted the livelihood of the entire communities.

SHNORRER ORIGINS

The term shnorrer, applied to mail, is a Yiddish term. Therefore, one has to look at the growth of the Ashkenazim population in Palestine for its origins. By 1816 there was a big concentration of Ashkenazi Jews living in Jerusalem. With this growth, there was a need for funds to support this increase. Hence, the Ashkenazi community organized a system for collecting funds based on the communities from where they came. They sent emissaries - shlichim - to Europe and later to the United States to collect money. These emissaries were called shnorrers by the Europe Yiddish speakers. The money collected was divided into three parts. One part went for the needy, another for student scholars and the last part went to support public institutions.

With the development of the postal services the Ashkenazi institutions started and developed a direct mailing system which replaced the role of the emissaries. Mail was sent to Europe and the United States (Figures 3–6). At one time all the Ashkenazi institutions unified and had one collection office (Figure 7). However, it did not last long as the institutions started mailing their own letters. One of the most organized institution pre World War I was the Hungarian Jewish Charity, Kolel Hungarian (Figure 8).

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SHNORRER MAIL EXAMPLES

The shnorrer mail consists of envelopes mailed from Jerusalem to Jewish communities abroad and returned to the Jerusalem institutions. Some covers were mailed prior to World War I and the others right after the war.



Figure 3 Cover mailed by Samuel Salant using a privately printed Austrian envelope and sent to Germany.



Figure 5Mailed after World War I as a joint mailing from the Talmud Torah and Bicur-Cholim Hospital and addressed to England.



Figure 7 Shnorrer cover sent before World War I via the Russian Post Office.

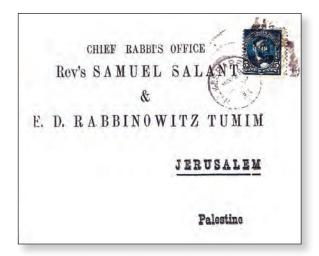


Figure 4 An envelope mailed to Jerusalem, Palestine, after World War I and addressed to Samuel Salant



Figure 6 Sent from the United States to the United Charity Institute of Jerusalem, Bicur Cholem Hospital. Each of the returned envelopes had the sum of money donated written on them. It is obvious that the envelopes contained money and was a response to an institute raising money via the mail.



Figure 8 Pre World War I sent by the Hungarian Jewish Charity, Kolel Hungarian via the Turkish Post Office.

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Fund raising solicitations continue until the present day. The traditional religious institutions continue sending their shnorrer mail from Israel. In addition to this traditional mail, we are getting nowadays more requests for funds from non-profit Jewish organizations. The solicitation are from The Federation of Jewish Agencies, Hadassah, Magen David Adom (the Israeli Red Cross), JNF (Jewish National Fund) to name a few. These solicitations are arriving by mail either before the Jewish High Holidays or at the end of the year for tax purposes. Is this shnorrer mail or is it the results of well organized fund effort? Can we distinguish between the two?

1. Google, The Free Dictionary, http://www.thefreedictionary.com/schnorrer. ullet



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Holy Land Gems

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

High Value Doar Ivri Usage On Early 1948 Airmail To The United States



Wax seal applied by Appraiser's Department Port of New York

Package sent from Tel Aviv to New York City, September 6, 1948 - Arrival October 5, 1948

Air mail postage Registration fee Express surcharge Total postage 12 x 65 mils = 780 mils 15 mils <u>40 mil</u> 835 mils

Upon arrival in the United States it was checked by Customs and a fee of 20 cents charged. The "small packet" fee was paid by the two postage due stamps.



EEF Occupation

On His Majesty's Service Official Mail Free Military Mail Dispatch Rider Letter Service Army Private Courier (DRLS)

Town Major of Rishon Jaffa to Rishon, May 9, 1918 Dispatch from

Handstamp Army Signals 9.v.18 Army Signals 10.V.18 Handstamp

> Letter describes pro-Turkish sentiment in Beit Dejjan

c/o Town Major, RICHON.



Reference your letter of the 6/5/18, YUSEF BETSHAWISH is now in prison here. I know the man to be a liar and bad character and he concocted the story of arms at BEIT DEJJAN in order to get several people who are his enemies there into trouble.

There are no doubt arms still in BEIT DEJJAN, but no faith can be put in the statements of YUSEF BETSHAWISH.

I have had an agent watching BEIT DEJJAN for some time, and I do not think that there is any Secret organisation there although most of the inhabitants are undoubtedly pro-Turk.

Captain DRAY is shortly expected to return to RAMLEH as Intelligence Officer. When he arrives you will be matiraly notified, and will then take orders from him and send your reports to him.

JAFFA. 9/5/18. Political Intelligence Officer.

Lieut.

The Israel Philatelist

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Dick and Betty Barson in memory of Dr. Arnie Paddock,

late Dallas Chapter President

SIP NEWS President's column



THANK YOU!

Over the last few weeks since taking office, I have been so pleased and touched to receive calls or e-mails from members asking how they could assist our Society. That's right- OUR SOCIETY. WE all can do

something- Show people how proud you are to be collectors of Holy Land material and members of our Society. Show your friends some of your collection. Consider writing for the Israel Philatelist- YOUR journal. Please donate whatever you can to YOUR Society funds. Try a small exhibit or talk at a local stamp show or club. Attend the Society convention in Sarasota in early February if you are able. Please keep your e-mails and communications coming- the Society needs your feedback, ideas, criticisms and your passion.

NEWSLETTER AND E-MAIL

Our monthly newsletter spearheaded by Zach Simmons can keep you informed about Society happenings- but the Society can only tell you our members about what we know or learn from you!

We want to praise our members and tell everyone about talks or events they can attend. We want to learn about or admire the exhibits which our members have assembled. Please send me a note, call or write to me by e-mail or by post! The Society wants your e-mail addresses so you can receive our newsletter and you can take advantage of our Website and its research capabilities! Sadly the Society also wants to hear about members who are ill or who have passed away. Many of our members want and need to strengthen the community in our Society by sharing information about our members with our members. We all become better collectors if we share information, experience and passion about what we love to collect. It is hard to find people with like interests.

RESEARCH, BOOKS AND KNOWLEDGE

The late fall and winter are ideal times to pay attention to our collections. If you have questions about research, consider contacting one of the Holy Land dealers or consider contacting a member of the Society's

New Members

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.

10597	Charlotte Sheer	Foxboro, MA
10598	Gunnar Zetterman	Sweden

Research Committee. Perhaps you need to borrow a book from the Society's library? Do you wish to buy one of many books from the Educational Fund? There is a sale! Hurry! Can you really pass up a bargain?

WEBSITE

I am still looking for people who can volunteer to assist us in upgrading our website. If your children, grand kids or nephews or nieces can ably help please let me know.

GRANT OR ENDOWMENT FUNDING

I am also hoping that one or more of you are aware of organizations which provide funding for various projects by way of grant or endowment. Perhaps the Society can apply to such organizations to obtain funding for some of Society projects.

VOTE **-**AGM 2014

In the last edition of the journal there was a card to complete regarding the annual general meeting to be held at Sarasota in early February and your desire to receive a paper or electronic copy of the journal in future. Perhaps you missed seeing the card. If so please retrieve it and vote! There is still time!

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Hope to hear from you soon. Perhaps I will see you at a stamp show, a club meeting or our convention in 2014.

Good health to all of you and keep well. Happy 201, Ed ■

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

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: Save Your Stamps Presenter: Roundtable Discussion 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

Ben Wallace

The 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

Meets alternatively at the Young Israel Ohav Zedek Synagogue, 6015 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY and The New City Jewish Center, Old School House Road, New City, NY. Discussions, philatelic program each month. Everyone welcome.

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Ed Rosen

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Jonathan Becker

Wherever you place yourself in Israel, Holy Land, Judaica philately, an SIP Chapter can further your pleasure and knowledge.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Howard Rotterdam

Program: Show & Tell

Sarasota Show

Chapter meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 2475 West Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida 33445. •

TORONTO/CAFIP Sheldon Sonenberg

VANCOUVER, BC CANADA

Ed Kroft

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Friday, February 7, 2014

• 3 PM Society Lecture: Arthur Harris

Interesting Uses Of Israeli Revenues

• 4 – 6 PM SIP Executive Committee Meeting for Officers, Directors and Chairs only

• 6:30 PM Shabbat Service

• 7 – 9 PM Society Banquet – all welcome

reservations required (price TBA)

Sunday, February 9, 2014

• 9 - 11 AM General Membership Meeting

All members are welcome

• 11 AM Society Lecture: Howard Rotterdam

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	IP Reprints 38-39 Feb 1987 - Dec 1988	\$36.00	\$3.50	\$32.00	
313	And the Art of the second of t	\$36.00	\$3.50	\$30.00	
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319	IP Reprints 50-51 Feb 1999 - Dec 2000	\$36.00	\$3.50	\$30.00	
320	IP Reprints 52-53 Feb 2001 - Dec 2002	\$36,00	\$3.50	\$30.00	
321	IP Reprints 54- 55 Feb 2003 - Dec 2004	\$36.00	\$3.50	\$30.00	
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417	Israel & Forerunner Military Postal Stationery - Dubin & Morrow	\$10.00	\$3.50	\$14.50	
	History of Israel Through Her Stamps - Stadtler	\$6.00	\$3.50	\$19.50	
418					
	A History of Jewish Arts & Crafts - Courlander	\$25.00	\$3.50	\$21.50	

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