

THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS INC. JUNE 2013 DEVOTED TO THE PHILATELY OF THE HOLY LAND VOL LXIV NO 3



Conversos & Crypto-Jews on Stamps

GENE EISEN PAGE 100



IN THIS ISSUE

The Bombing of the Patria	86
Agrat Sherutim	94
Tel Aviv 2013	98
Richard Dimpleby	76

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).

COMING SOON

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.

ISRAEL 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 of \$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 starts 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.

NEW 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. ■

in this issue

SOCIETY

- 82 Membership Application
- 82 SIP Leadership
- 83 Editor's Notes
- 84 Letters to the Editor
- 118 President's Column
- 118 Members Awards
- 118 New Members
- 119 Chapter News



92

Forerunner

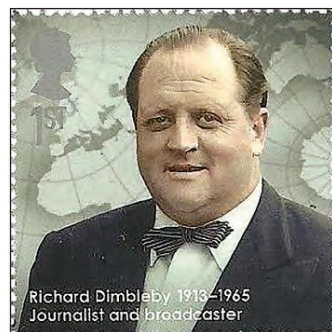
- 92 Italian Cancellation/
Egyptian Stamp
Roberto Bzostowski



86

Holocaust

- 86 The Bombing of the Patria
Robert Waldman



120

Judaica

- 100 Conversos and Crypto-Jews on Stamps
Gene Eisen
- 107 "Benjamin of Tudela"
Richard A. Barson
- 108 The Jewish Cooperative Bank of Tallinn, Estonia
William Velvel Mosko
- 120 Richard Dimpleby
Gregg Philipson



94

Israel

- 87 Frama Vending Machine
- 90 What A Much Traveled Envelope Can Tell Us
Yechiel M. Lehavy
- 94 Agrat Sherutim
Arthur Harris
- 98 Tel Aviv 2013
Michael Bass
- 104 Israel Foreign Postal Rates
Ed Kroft
- 106 Philatelic Service Building



96

Mandate

- 96 Zeppelin Cover
Roberto Brzostowski
- 110 The Printing Process
Paulo Risi, Aladdin Adwan

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

American Israel Numismatic	97
Briar Road Company	97
Classified ads	103
Doron Waide	93
Education Fund 2013	116
Inside Front Cover	
Inside Back Cover	
Back Cover	
Endowment Campaign 2013	89
House of Zion	117
Ideal Stamp Co., Inc.	88
Israel Philatelic Agency of North America	85
Mosden Trading Company	116
Negev Holyland Stamps	97
Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society	117
Regency Superior	88
Romano House of Stamps Ltd.	117
Tel Aviv Stamps	103
Website Archive Library Project	119
William M. Rosenblum	116
Rare Coins	

SIP Leadership

2013

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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

The society's convention was held May 3-5 in conjunction with the Boxborough 2013 show. The dealer bourse had a large number of dealers including Ed Rosen and Sid Morginstin. I was busy most of the weekend judging the exhibits, but did have time to visit the SIP table and meet with a few of our members which I always enjoy. Now that the Boxborough show is over, I plan to step down as judge, since I feel it is time for someone else to assume the role.

Vicki has been kind enough to provide a folder with the various committee reports. Here are some of the major points.

THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

Last year, due to my school workload and some personal issues, I was only able to provide members with five issues, i.e. no December 2013 issue. For 2013, everything is back to normal and members should receive six issues.

I would like to thank everyone who provided articles. A special thank you to my proofreaders and graphic designer: David Schonberg, Zach Simmons, Marty Zelenietz and Irv Osterer.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – HOWARD CHAPMAN

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Chapter Presidents that whenever you have a change in the President of your Chapter, including address changes, the information should be sent to Vicki Galecki at vgalecki@hy-ko.com.

All members should be sure their current e-mail address is sent to Vicki Galecki at vgalecki@hy-ko.com. Having the e-mail address of each member enhances our ability to serve our members.

ADVERTISING MANAGER – STUART FRIEMAN

We continue to get intermittent new requests from advertisers but there has been a marked decline in ad revenue in the last few years. The rate of decrease is slowing. That said the advent of the Internet and the changing nature of our hobby will require that the society make some major decisions in the next few years about how to handle its journal and outreach.

On a personal side, this will be my last report as Advertising Manager. I have been performing this function for the last 8 years (since 2006) and feel that it is time for someone new to step in and take a fresh look at the function and provide leadership moving forward. I intend to get the collections done for this year and resign my role by September 1, 2013.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN – BEN WALLACE

2012 was a slow membership year; only 12 new members joined. Almost all of the new members joined via our website and paid the additional Paypal fee to join.

WEBSITE UPDATE – VICKI GALECKI

Our Society website, www.israelstamps.com is over five years old. We went live in March of 2008. We've come a very long way in a relatively short time. The way to make the website better and charge it with a new vitality is through active usage by the members. On the site you can open a discussion or trade forum thread, communicate with other members, download a slide presentation, purchase a book with your Visa or Paypal account, renew your membership dues and even make a contribution to the Endowment Fund, check the calendar for coming events or details on Chapter meetings in your area. Of course, the calendar will only be as good as the dates and events entered. Please send your meeting, local stamp show and event information to vgalecki@israelstamps.com for inclusion in the calendar.

ENDOWMENT FUND – GREGG PHILIPSON

We are honored to welcome Gregg Philipson of Austin, Texas as our new Endowment Chair for 2013. Gregg kicked off a very successful Endowment Campaign for 2013. The Endowment Fund continues to advertise in **The Israel Philatelist**. The 2013 Endowment Fund campaign was launched with a mail campaign and a beautiful appeal letter from Gregg Philipson in the October 2012 **Israel Philatelist**. Contributors will continue to be recognized in the 2013 journals.

The primary goal of the fund is to build up the Endowment Fund so the interest income pays for the website and modernizing programs, which in turn guarantees the future of the Society. Through a generous loan from the Endowment Fund in 2012, the Web Archive Library project was able to proceed. ■

Letters to the Editor

Don

In the latest **Israel Philatelic** (April 2013) issue and in the *Israel Foreign Postal Rates* (p. 70) article there is a table of Airmail Rates. Perhaps I have misunderstood the listing but as an aerogramme collector I would have expected the Aerogramme rates to have been included. Israel issued its first aerogrammes on July 2, 1950 and the imprinted stamps (25 prutot and 50 prutot) reflected the tariff for the different international zones. The 50 prutot tariff was raised to 55 prutot on May 4, 1952 and a new uprated aerogramme was issued on that day. The next uprated aerogramme was 110 prutot issued on October 5, 1952 and again 150 prutot aerogramme on October 5, 1952 (galloping inflation!). Further changes were made to the tariffs and aerogrammes were constantly issued reflecting these changes.

Interestingly Israel was the first country in the world to use the word (and spelling) AEROGRAMME on its airletter sheets to comply with UPU regulations.

If I have misunderstood Ed Kroft's listing then cancel my letter but if there is some substance to my query then please print if suitable.

Best wishes,

Tony Goldstone ▪

Thanks Tony,

I greatly appreciate the excellent feedback and it is great to know that someone is reading the postal history articles I put together. Rates for airletter/aerogrammes or Igeret Avir (to transliterate the Hebrew) are an important part of early Israel postal history as your e-mail suggests.

In the articles I have been publishing I have made reference to published airletter rates of which I am certain. In the issue on Canada, I exhibited an example of an airletter which had been uprated from 25p to 50p I am not certain that this was the published rate in the fall of 1950. However, I am certain of the rates from February 1, 1952 forward. You correctly point out that airletters were first issued in July 1950 and were

denominated in 25p and 50p. You also point out the issuance of other denominated airletters (110p and 150p). There were also airletters denominated in 100p and 120p during the relevant periods about which I am and will continue to publish.

Your e-mail allows me to comment on an important point for readers. Airletter rates for different countries were not automatically just those shown on the denominated airletters. Letters may have required the addition of postage stamps to effect the correct rates. For example, in this June issue of **The Israel Philatelist**, you will see an airletter to Canada dated March 26, 1953. It was uprated to 55p, the specific rate to Canada regardless of the fact that the new 55p airletter had not yet been issued at that time. You refer to May 4, 1952 as the issue date for the 55p airletter- by that time the airletter rate Canada had climbed to 110p!

I am grateful for your inquiry because the airletter section in the Canada chart published in April 2013 should be amended to show the 50p rate for the period prior to February 1, 1952 and 55p for the February – March 1952 period. If you have any published tariffs for the different international zones for the pre February 1952 period I would be most grateful to receive a copy as it will help with the many articles I have been compiling for future publication.

Always happy for further feedback as it increases all of our knowledge bases and makes us more informed collectors. Thanks very much.

Best regards

Ed Kroft ▪

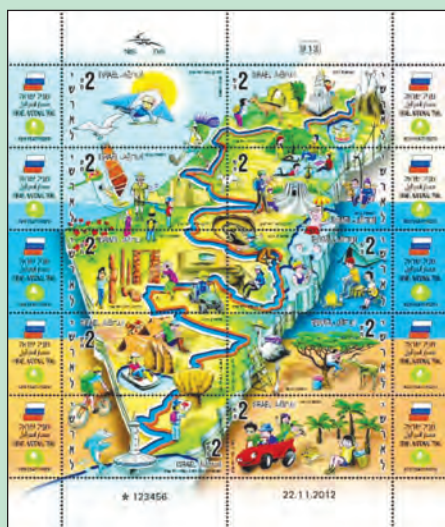
Hi Don,

The February **Israel Philatelist** arrived here yesterday. The Japan to Israel piece (p. 9) is more of a puzzle than it appears: the postmark is most likely for 1975, not 1949 – Japanese postmarks are dated by the year of reign of the sitting emperor, and “49” would indicate the 49th year of the Showa era, or Hirohito's reign. But the stamps are late 1940s issues. Hmm...

Marty Zelenietz ▪

NEWS FROM THE

ISRAEL PHILATELIC AGENCY

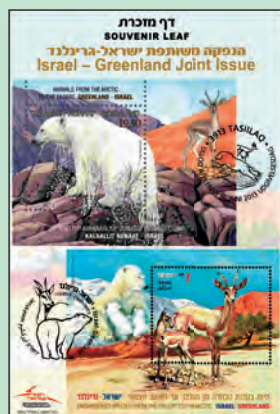


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The Bombing of the Patria

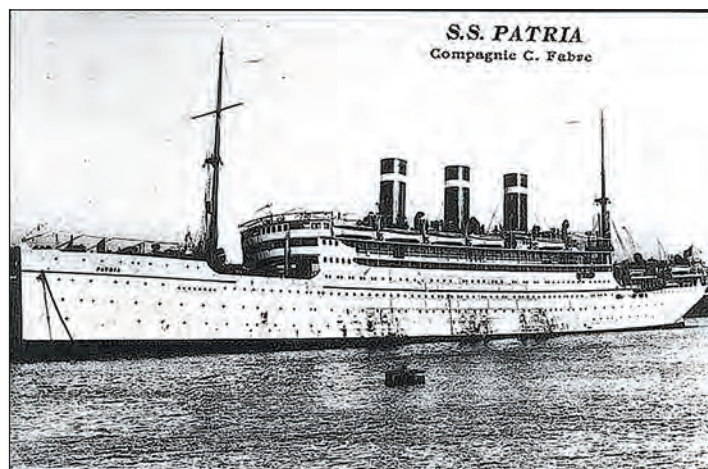
Robert Waldman, Staten Island, NY

By Kristallnacht, November 9-10, 1938, the handwriting was on the wall for the Jews of Germany. Anyone who had funds and could find a country willing to let them in was seeking to emigrate. Prior to the “final solution”, the Nazis were eager to show that no country wanted to accept large numbers of Jews. Adolf Eichmann organized the Committee for Sending Jews Overseas that chartered three ships in Romania; the Milos, the Atlantic and the Pacific. These ships were to carry Jewish refugees to Palestine without permits to enter the British Mandate.

BRITISH POSITION

Of course, the Nazis knew of the British White Paper of 1939 that limited Jewish immigration to 15,000 per year and the unofficial policy of not even allowing that number to enter Eretz Israel. There were about 3,600 refugees on these ships. In September 1940, the ships departed from Tulcea, Romania and they arrived separately in Haifa Harbor beginning on November 19, 1940. British warships escorted them as they entered Palestinian waters. The British had decided not to allow the refugees off the ships but, instead, to intern them on the island of Mauritius. The Pacific arrived first followed by the Milos a few days later. Jewish refugees from these ships were transferred to a larger ship, the Patria, to make the trip to Mauritius. The Patria was a liner designed to carry no more than 805 passengers, including crew, but the British had the ship reclassified as a troop transport so that they could put 1,800 people on board.

On November 24th, the Atlantic arrived in Haifa. Jewish groups were desperately looking for a way to keep the refugees in Palestine. The Haganah decided to disable the ship so that it could not leave port. A small bomb was smuggled aboard in a worker's lunch bag. The



bomb was detonated on November 25, 1940 causing a large hole in the ship. The Patria sank in about 15 minutes. How such a small bomb could have caused so much damage is best explained by the ship being in very poor condition. There were about 1,770 people on board at the time of the explosion. About 270 were killed and about 172 injured. International pressure was exerted upon the British and they allowed the survivors of the Patria to remain in Eretz Israel. The remaining refugees were interned on the island of Mauritius for the remainder of the war.

DR. KOPFSTEIN

One of my most important covers, which I purchased at auction, is from the Jewish Agency for Palestine and is addressed to Dr. Felix Kopfstein on board S.S. "Patria" in Haifa's harbor (Figure 1). Dr. Kopfstein was born on May 3, 1886 and was a noted lawyer, jurist and also a German Jew. The anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws ended his career as a judge. Unfortunately, Dr. Kopfstein did not survive the Holocaust. According to Jewgen, he died on December 14, 1940.

PATRIA COVER

It is franked with Palestine Pictorial 2 and 5 mils stamps. The stamps are postmarked "HAIFA 16 DE 40" and "JERUSALEM 28 DE 40". On the left front side of the cover there is a British censor label reading "PC 22. OPENED BY CENSOR. 71/7133," Stich type B104G.

On the back, there is a purple censor handstamp "PALESTINE OPENED AND PASSED BY CENSOR. No. H4," Stich type B104B. Since the Patria had sunk, the letter could not be delivered and the address is crossed out. The following notes are found on the front of the cover (Figure 1):

- Written in Hebrew the word "German"
- A pencil notation "vernu" (reason)
- "left" and "return to sender"
- The cover is handstamped twice in purple, "UNDELIVERED FOR THE REASON STATED ON THE COVER"

On the back (Figure 2), is a purple rectangular box with the reason stated for non-delivery "left". There is also a faint purple handstamp "RETURN TO" with an arrow pointing to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

Do any of our readers have a cover addressed to the Patria in Haifa's harbor?

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Figure 1



Figure 2

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History

What a Much Traveled Envelope Can Tell Us

Yechiel M. Leheavy, Margate City, NJ

BACKGROUND

In the run up to the War of Independence, in February 1948, the Palmach battalions were organized into three brigades: Yiftach, Harel and the Negev (later IDF brigades number 10, 11 and 12 respectively). All three brigades suffered a large number of casualties during the war.

I served in the Negev Brigade which was created in February 1948 and was composed of four groups: (1) individual Palmach members, (2) Palmach Reserve members, (3) Hachsharoth Zionist youth movements and (4). members from the various Negev settlements. We and others were part of the Zionist youth movement were preparing to establish new kibbutz settlements (Hachsharoth).

The Yiftach Brigade was created, more or less, at the same time as the Negev Brigade and was located in the Galilee and the Jezreal Valley. The Yiftach Brigade was composed almost solely of Hachsharoth and young adult children of kibbutz members from the Galilee and the Jezrael Valley. The Yiftach Brigade was co-ed and had almost an equal numbers of men and women.

By the end of the war almost one third of the Palmach members were killed. This fact affected the moral of the Yiftach Brigade the most since it was a coed brigade. One should recall that the Hachsharoth were the nuclei for establishing new settlements and the loss of a large number of men affected them greatly.

At the end of July 1948, after the bloody battles in the Galilee and Latrun areas, the Yiftach Brigade was stationed in Sarafend, nowadays Tzrifin, and was due for a reorganization. Following the May 1948 establishment of the Women's Corps Chen, the female soldiers of the Yiftach Brigade were formed into their own unit. New recruits were assigned to the brigade and the platoons were restructured. However, this time the restructured platoons were not based as previously on the Hachsharoth. The fact that the women were separated from the men demoralized the Hachsharoth. Hence, the deputy commander of the Palmach, Uri Brenner, found it necessary on August 12, 1948, to give the Yiftach Brigade troops a pep talk.

With the reorganization completed on August 30, 1948, the Yiftach Brigade was ordered to relieve the Palmach Negev Brigade, which had been effectively besieged by the Egyptian Army since June 14. The relief was for a much needed reorganization since we had suffered great losses. We were receiving new recruits and our battalions were being reorganized. The Yiftach Brigade had just gone through its own reorganization because they had also suffered great losses. The Harel Brigade had similarly suffered a large number of casualties. Therefore, The Yiftach Brigade



Figure 1
Palmach Insignia

had to infiltrate the besieged Negev in order to relieve the Negev Brigade which then went north to Be'er Ya'akov for reorganization.

WOMEN'S CORPS, CHEN

With the newly established Women's Corps, Chen, many of the female soldiers of the Yiftach Brigade remained in Sarafend. There they were trained for non-combat positions such as ambulance drivers, medics, office clerks, radio operators, etc. Towards the beginning of October 1948, the Negev Brigade completed its reorganization.

Between the 15th and the 22nd of October 1948, Israel launched the Offensive Yoav Operation. It was carried out by the Palmach Negev and Yiftach Brigades with the aid of the Givati Brigade, IDF Brigade number 5. The aim of the operation was to open the roads to the besieged Negev. Once accomplished, the female soldiers of the Yiftach Brigade rejoined the men. Among the returning women was Mazal Cohen, the subject of the much traveled envelope which I have in my collection

MAZAL COHEN AND HER COVER

Mazal Cohen was a member of the HaChoshlim hachshara whose home base during this time was in Ben Shemen. The HaChoshlim hachshara was composed of three age levels: the seniors who were already members of the Palmach while the other two levels were 11th and 12th year high school students.

At the start of the War the 12th graders were mobilized and joined their fellow Palmach hachshara members, HaChoshlim. The 11th graders remained in Ben Shemen to guard the settlement and did not join the Palmach HaChoshlim platoon. One of these 11th graders was Ruth Lovetzki who mailed a letter to her friend Mazal Cohen who was suppose to be in Sarafend.¹

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Now comes the story of the much traveled envelope. The letter (Figures 1 and 2) was mailed on December 1, 1948 from (1) KBA 784 Ben Shemen, to KBA 407 Sarafend. The letter arrived on (2) December 2, 1948.

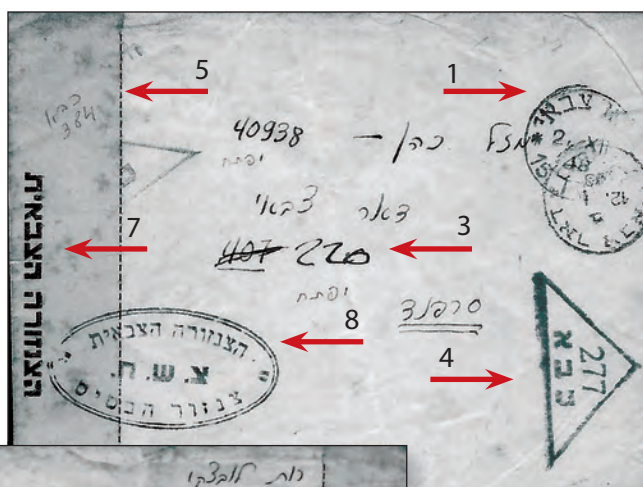
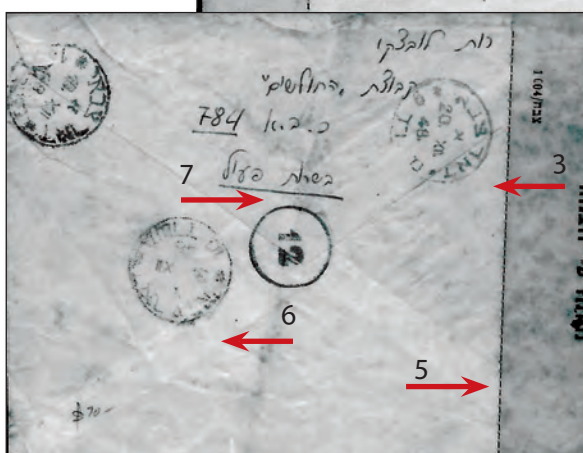


Figure 2
Cover Front



The numbers
correspondance to
the numbers in the
text below.

Figure 3
Cover Back

However, Mazal was already in the Negev since she had joined her Palmach unit. Therefore, the letter was forwarded from (3) APO 15 to KBA 220, the 3rd Battalion of the Yiftach Brigade. The letter arrived on December 3, 1948 but Mazal could not be located. Hence, the letter was forwarded again. This time it was sent to (4) KBA 277, APO 10, the Yiftach Brigade Headquarters that was located at that time in Kibbutz Ruchama. Still, she could not be located; therefore, on (5) December 18, 1948 the letter was sent from APO 10 to APO 9 KBA 384, the rear base of the Yiftach Brigade located in Sarafend. The letter arrived on (6) December 20, 1948 and was opened by the (7) military censor. The oval censor (8) reads at the top Hatsenzurah Hatsva'it (Military Censorship) and in the middle the initials stand for Tsenzor Shin Cheit (Censor Haifa Service) and the bottom Tsenzor Habsis (Base Censor)³. I suppose it was opened in order to try to help locate Mazal.

According to the Palmach Members Archives, Mazal Cohen was born in 1928 and joined the Palmach in 1946. She was a member of the HaChoshlim hachshara. Her hachshara platoon was assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the Yiftach Brigade. She was in the Negev from

the end of October and through most of November, 1948. Her father became very ill and since she was the oldest child in her family, she had to leave her army duties to take care of her younger brothers and sisters. Therefore, in late November, 1948, Mazal was released from the IDF and her father passed away on December 20, 1948, the same day the letter arrived at APO 9.²

EPILOGUE

Mazal Cohen never rejoined her hachshara and remained home taking care of her family. She never received the letter that Ruth mailed her and I was unable to locate Ruth Lovetzki. All I know is that she lives in Kiryat Uno, Israel.

On November 9, 1948, the Palmach was disbanded as an independent military unit and integrated into the IDF. In the fall of 1949, the IDF disbanded the Palmach Hachsharoth from active duty. They in turn established 36 new settlements, mostly kibbutzim. Members of the Yiftach Brigade Hachsharoth established 13 new kibbutzim. On September 8, 1949, the HaChoshlim hachshara, the one that Mazal Cohen and Ruth Lovetzki were members of, established Kibbutz Erez, located on the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. In later years the famous border crossing of Erez was built not far from the kibbutz.

Glossary

Palmach: The elite fighting force of the Haganah. The Palmach had three brigades, Yiftach, Harel and the Negev; Brigades number 10, 11, and 12 respectively.

Haganah: The underground organization of the Jewish Community in Palestine prior to the establishment of the State of Israel.

Hachshara - plural Hachsharoth: Nuclei of Zionist youth movements in preparation for establishment of new settlements. During the War of Independence all the Hachsharoth were members of the Palmach.

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O - O - O - O

Italian Cancellation/Egyptian Stamp

Roberto Brzostowski, Argentina



When General Allenby occupied Palestine in 1917, the English army was accompanied by soldiers of India, Italy, Australia and other countries.

Pictured here is a postcard from an Italian soldier with a 5 mils Egyptian stamp canceled by a Type C "privilege handstamp," "DISTACCAMENTO ITALIANO DI PALESTINA COMANDO" (Italian Army – Palestine Command).

Pictured on the postcard is the Arch Ecce Homo in Old City of Jerusalem.

Card courtesy of CEFAI magazine. ■



Same view as the post card taken in Jerusalem in 2010 by the editor.

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REVENUE STAMPS OF ISRAEL

Agrat Sherutim (service fee)

Arthur Harris, Boca Raton, FL

There is not much written information about Israel's service fee category of revenue stamps. What little has been printed has appeared in **Wallerstein Catalogues** of 1980 and 1987 as well as a simply listing of known values in the **2006 Bale Catalogue**.

There are many design similarities between the agrat sherutim (Figure 1 service fee stamps) and the mas heshbonot (Figure 2 accounting tax stamps) in use between 1949 and 1959 and the subsequent agrah series of the 1960s into the late 1980s (Figure 3).

The shared characteristics are in their design of vertical strips of 10 with the stamp design on the right and a counter foil (tab) on the left. All three contain the title of the government office, the value and the control number. When used, the stamp portion is affixed to the document, certificate or receipt and the tab portion with the same control number was applied to the government/agency copy.

The "treasury" design is identical – with the menorah emblem of the State of Israel in the upper right with "haotzar" (treasury) printed below it and "chotemet" (seal or cachet) printed on the lower right (Figures 4 – 12). This same design was also used in many of the Zahal (IDF) agrah series for use in administered areas, such as the West Bank, Gaza & Sinai.

Both of the previously noted reference sources list 11 known values. Wallerstein, in addition, lists several color variations. I have not been able to obtain all varieties (Figures 4 – 12). I have, however, found that there must have been at least three different printings that have different fonts, different stylized numerals and currency units.

The stamps were utilized by different government



Figure 1

Agrat sherutim (service fee) used between the years 1949-1959. Used by the government to legalize documents. (Wallerstein Catalogue OS 7.)



Figure 2

Mas heshbonot (accounting tax) were used between 1949-1959 and purchased at the post office for use to legalize bills of sale. (Wallerstein Catalogue AA14)



Figure 3

Agrah (official or state) tax stamp for the Health Ministry were issued in 1962 (Bale Catalogue SR.REV27)

1949 TREASURY SERVICE FEE ISSUE #1



Figure 4
Wallerstein Catalogue OS6

TREASURY SERVICE TAX ISSUE #2



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

TREASURY SERVICE TAX ISSUE #3



Figure 10



Figure 11 new discovery



Figure 12

agencies to legalize documents such as vaccination forms (Figure 13), an official statement – an extract of details from the Population Registry – for purposes of obtaining German restitution sums (Figure 14) and a reply to a request, filed in the Immigration & Population Offices, to trace an address of a family member (Figure 15).

I would like to hear if other SIP members have additional colors or values and other service fee document usages, as these have been difficult to come by. Scans would be appreciated. My e-mail address is arthurhythec@gmail.com. ■

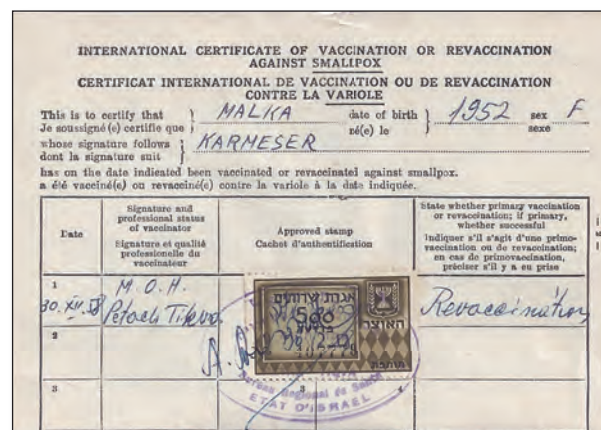


Figure 13

Page from a vaccination booklet

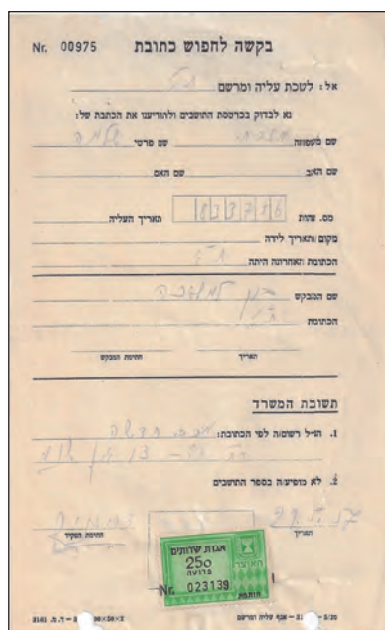


Figure 15

Official reply (from Immigration & Population Offices- to an enquiry as to an address of a person).

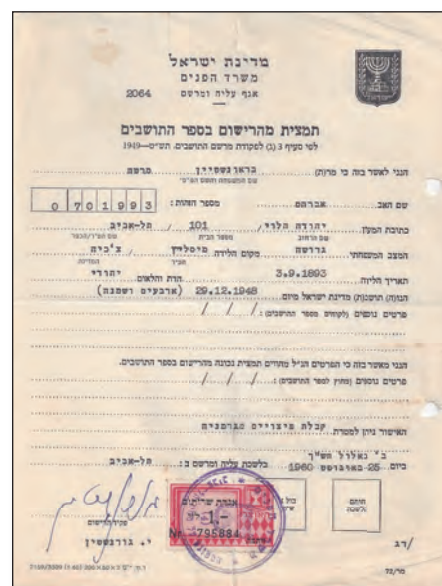


Figure 14

Extract of details from Population Registry

0 - 0 - 0 - 0

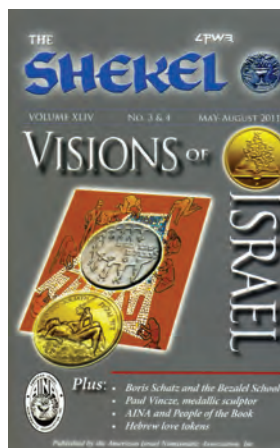
Zeppelin Cover

Roberto Brzostowski, Argentina

Pictured is a cover sent from Jerusalem through Haifa, London, Berlin to Buenos Aires. It is a registered cover mailed on May 27, 1933 and sent on the second Zeppelin flight to Argentina (green cachet).

The Palestine stamps are tied by Jerusalem oval cancels dated May 27 and on the reverse a Haifa May 28, 1933 cancel. In London Great Britain 6d King George V pair canceled July 2. The cover was forwarded to Berlin where it received the red flight cachet and then carried to Buenos Aires. Cover courtesy of CEFAI magazine. ■





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Tel Aviv 2013

Multi-National Stamp Exhibition

Michael Bass, Chargin Falls, OH

Every 2-3 years Israel hosts a Multi-National Stamp Exhibition. On May 26-29, in honor of Israel's 65th anniversary, Israel's exhibition was held in Tel Aviv with the participation of Israel, United States, Russia, Singapore

and Cyprus philatelists. The United States brought over 70 frames, with four SIP members exhibiting Forerunners, Interim Period and Airmail material: Dr. Henry Nogid, Dr. Bob Pildes, Dan Blau and Mike Bass.



Judging

Yacov Tsachor, Eddie Leibu, Moti Kremener

Israel is a unique place to participate in a stamp show because the level of exhibits is "Best in Class," particularly related to Holy Land and Israel philately. The span of exhibits ranged from Antiquity Period Mail to Modern Israel, and the quality of material, research and presentation was outstanding. I was fortunate to exhibit my Forerunner collection and attend the exhibition along with my wife and daughter. Spending a week in Israel is a unique experience unto itself, along with three days of looking at great philately and networking with leading collectors from all over the world.

I reconnected with dear friends from the United Kingdom, France, Turkey, Israel and South Africa. Our conversations spanned topics like postal rates and routes, to the finesse points of exhibit layouts and thematics.

A spirit of cooperation and sharing permeated amongst the attendees dedicated to Holy Land and Israel philately in finding better ways of cultivating interested collectors.

Discussions between Jean-Paul Danon, Yehuda Kleiner, Moti Kremener, Brian Gruzd and others were encouraging because everyone desires to find leaders, joint projects and solutions to growing Holy Land and Israel philately. Ideas circulated about a joint journal with multi-languages (including the Argentinians) along with creating a Young Leadership Council of emerging philatelists under 60 who can shape the future of the hobby. Individuals from all continents are being identified to form a group to develop a visionary plan on how the genre of Holy Land philately needs to evolve in this 21st Century. You can imagine the esprit de corps that existed during these conversations while sitting outside under shade trees and sipping cappuccinos at the convention center. Take this as a shout out to the members of our SIP who may be interested in participating in this council as a call to e-mail me at mbass@israelstamps.com.



Yaakov Shabtai and Eli Weber



Jean-Paul Danon, Eli Weber, President,
Israel Philatelic Federation and
Moti Kremener



Left to right: Zvi Aloni, Brian Gruz
Dr. Josef Wallach, Yehuda Kleiner



Youth Exhibit – Gold Winner
with Eli Weber, Moti Kremener

In regards to the exhibits, here's a taste of some exhibits which were on view:

- British Army Post Offices SZ Postmarks 1915 – 1920 – Military & Civilian Mail (Zeev Galibov)
- Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1850 – 1914 (Itmar Karpovskii)
- Forerunners of the Holy Land (Dr. Robert Pildes)
- Israel 1948: Doar Ivri (Jean-Paul Danon)
- Israel First Airmail Issue 1950 (Brian Gruz)
- Israel Post Office Taxing Practices 1948 – 1972 (Yaakov Shabtai)
- Overland Mail via the Syro–Iraqi Desert (Shaula Alexander)
- Pre-Philatelic Postal History of Jerusalem (Les Glassman)
- The Airmail History of the Holy Land (Dan Blau)
- The Four Siege Cities of 1948 – Richon LeZion, Safad, Nahariya, Jerusalem (Dr. Henry Nogid)



In regards to visiting Israel, the experience is always special. My family explored Tel Aviv thoroughly and my wife and daughter left many shekels in the shops and restaurants. It's a city that pulsates 24/7 and seems filled with nothing but 21 year olds. The beat of the city was exciting and electrifying. There are more cranes erecting tall buildings than this writer has ever seen in a city. The beaches were packed with surfers and sunbathers, while the joggers, bikers and walkers were everywhere. The weather was blue skies and comfortable. Visitors felt safe to walk around and experience Israel. We spent a day in Jerusalem which is a "must," doing Segway tours and prayers at the Western Wall. If you haven't figured out the motive for sharing this experience, it's to urge you to attend the next stamp exhibition in Israel! ■

PART 2

Conversos and Crypto-Jews on Stamps

Gene Eisen, Raleigh, NC

Editor's note: Continued from *The Israel Philatelist*, October 2012, pp. 170-172.

TWO CONVERSO PHILOSOPHERS



Juan Luis Vives (1492/3?-1540) and Michel Eyquem de Montaigne (1533-1592) were prominent humanist philosophers of the 16th century (Figure 7-8). Vives was born in Valencia to a Converso family. As a child, he saw many family members including his father, grandmother and great grandfather executed by the Inquisitors as Judaizers. His mother was acquitted of the charge, but she died of the plague when he was just 15. Vives left Spain after his mother's death and moved to Paris to study at the University there. He was appointed professor of humanities at the University of Leuven and also lectured at Oxford. He was a prolific writer on many topics including philosophy, psychology, morals, social policy and education. Ahead of his time, he devoted a work to the education of women. Unfortunately, he died when he was only 48.⁹

Figure 7

Spain, Oct. 29, 1992, 500th anniversary of the birth of Juan Luis Vives. Scott 2685



Figure 8

France, Oct. 25, 1943. Portrait of Montaigne in one of six stamps honoring famous Frenchmen of the 16th century, Scott B161.

Monaco, April 28, 1980, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Montaigne's *Les Essais*, Scott 1230.

Montaigne was born in the Aquitaine region of France to a wealthy family. His maternal grandfather was from a Converso family. Montaigne's importance in literature rests with his creation of the essay as the medium of expression for his thoughts on many topics. Like his parents, he was raised as a Catholic, but he was guided by a then unusual sense of tolerance and friendliness towards Jews. Assumingly, he was aware of members of his mother's Converso family who were burned at the stake. He was among the few writers of his time to protest the use of torture to extract confessions from suspected criminals and heretics alike. Montaigne died at 59 in Bordeaux.¹⁰

CONVERSOS' CONTRIBUTION TO LITERATURES



Figure 9

Spain, April 29, 1998. Celebrating the 500th anniversary of publication of *La Celestina* by Fernando de Rojas, by depicting a character from the drama, Scott 2937.

Three Conversos of literary fame have been honored on stamps. Fernando de Rojas (1465/73?-1541) was a Spanish dramatist and lawyer. He was born in Toledo, but scholars are uncertain about whether he was from a Converso family or he himself converted to Catholicism. Rojas graduated in law from the University of Salamanca about 1498. While a student, he began writing his only surviving work entitled *La Celestina*, published in 1499 (Figure 9, variously described as a drama, a dramatic poem, a dialogue novel and a novel-drama, describing a love affair with a lot of bawdy and comic detail before a tragic ending.¹¹ Rojas married into a Converso family. His father-in-law was accused of being a Crypto-Jew by the Inquisition, but eventually the charge was dropped.¹¹



Figure 10

Spain, June 15, 1948. Issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Mateo Alemán, Scott 755.

Mateo Alemán was born in Seville in 1547 to a Converso family (Figure 10). He graduated from the University of Seville in 1564 and then went on to study medicine at the Universities of Alcalá de Henares and Salamanca. Alemán was constantly in financial difficulty, serving time in prison for debts at one point. At various times he was employed as an auditor and judge. In 1599, he published the first part of *Guzmán de Alfarache*, a picaresque novel, which was highly popular and was translated into many languages. Alemán's experience with criminals while serving as a judge in the quicksilver mines is evident in the novel. The book's title is the name of the main character, predestined to be a delinquent, having grown up in a cruel environment. In 1608, Alemán immigrated to America where he went into the printing business. In 1609, he published *Ortografía Castellana*, in which he proposed a method to reform Spanish spelling. Alemán died in Mexico in about 1615.¹²



Figure 11

Portugal, June 7, 2010. Illustration of a scene from António José da Silva's play *Guerros do Alecrim e Manjerona*, Scott 3228.

António José da Silva, known as *The Jew* (*O Judeu*), was born in Rio de Janeiro. The da Silva family members were successful Conversos who secretly remained loyal to Judaism. His father was a prominent poet and lawyer who, until his death, managed to maintain the appearance of a faithful Catholic. His mother was imprisoned in 1713 on a charge of practicing Judaism, to which she confessed after being tortured. The family immigrated to Portugal where da Silva attended law school at the University of Coimbra. In 1726, da Silva and his mother were arrested for Judaizing. After being tortured, he repented his "sin" of practicing Judaism and was released. His mother remained in prison for three years before being released. Although still practicing law, da Silva turned more to writing. Between 1733 and 1738, he wrote eight successful comic opera plays, all performed by marionettes (Figure 11). He was also a lyric poet. In 1737, the now popular playwright, his wife and his mother were arrested by the Inquisition. The women were later released, but Judaizing charges were pressed against da Silva. In Oct. 1739, da Silva was garroted and burnt at an auto-da-fé. As had often occurred, the Inquisition tragically had destroyed another brilliant Jewish mind.^{13, 14}

THE PORTUGUESE DREYFUS



Figure 12
Portrait of Captain Artur Carlos de Barros Basto.

Artur Carlos de Barros Basto was born in 1887 in Amarante, Portugal. His father was a New Christian whose ancestors had converted to Christianity during the Inquisition, the alternative being expulsion from Portugal. Barros Basto was an energetic individual who chose a career in the army, rising to the rank of captain. He was a hero of the 1910 Portuguese revolution. In World War I, he served with distinction with the British, receiving medals for valor¹⁵ (Figure 12).

Barros Basto founded the Portuguese Boy Scout movement in 1912¹⁶ (Figure 13). As a young man, he was intrigued by his Jewish ancestry, revealed to him by his paternal grandfather. Barros Basto began a movement in the 1930's to introduce Conversos in several Portuguese towns to traditional Judaism. He received financial support from several Jewish organizations, part of which was used to construct a synagogue in Porto.

The movement faced several obstacles. First, the Jewish community in Lisbon was divided on the idea of accepting Conversos. Second, the Crypto-Jews had a powerful psychological fear that once exposed as Jews, they would be subjected to severe discrimination. But it was the response of the Catholic Church and the government dictatorship under Salazar that ultimately destroyed the movement.

Barros Basto was accused of unfounded allegations of being anti-Catholic and a pervert. In 1937, the Portuguese army, acting on anonymous accusations, stripped him of his captaincy. Although none of the charges was ever proven, he was never formally acquitted. Sadly, he died a broken man in 1961 with the complete failure of his campaign to revive Judaism among the Conversos of Portugal. Like Dreyfus, Captain Barros Basto was finally cleared of all charges on February 29, 2012 by the National Assembly of Portugal.¹⁷



Figure 13
Portugal, June 11, 1962. Issued for the 50th anniversary of the Portuguese Boy Scouts founded by Artur Carlos de Barros Basto (not named on stamps) and the 18th World Congress of Boy Scouts, Scott 885-890.

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Israel Foreign Postal Rates

May 16, 1948 to January 31, 1954

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS ARTICLE IS PART 2 OF THE SERIES ON POSTAL RATES TO CANADA 1952-1954. OVERALL, IT IS THE THIRD 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.

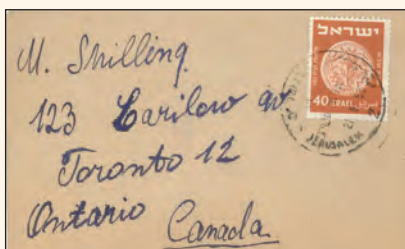
1952 MAIL

AIRMAIL PRINTED MATTER,
SINGLE WEIGHT - 220 P



Posted in Tel Aviv-Yafo on May 6, 1952 with arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia.

SURFACE PRINTED MATTER - 40 P



Postmarked August 21, 1952 in Jerusalem. Rate 15 p till March 31, 1952, after that changed to 40 p.

AIR MAIL DOUBLE WEIGHT,
REGISTERED - 500 P



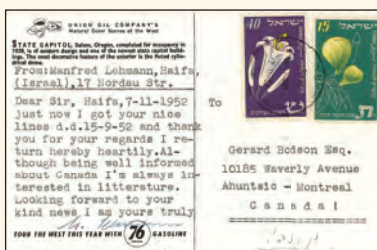
Postmarked August 7, 1952 in Jerusalem. Transit New York with arrival in Winnipeg, Manitoba on August 13, 1952. Letter rate 440 p (2 x 220 p), registration fee 60 p.

AIRMAIL LETTER REGISTERED,
EXPRESS - 450 P



Postmarked in Ramat Gan on December 14, 1952 with a arrival in Toronto, Ontario on December 19, 1952. Letter rate 220 p, registration fee 60 p, express fee 95 p, total 375 p. Over franking 75 p.

SURFACE POST CARD - 55 P



Postmarked November 11, 1952 in Haifa with arrival in Montreal, Quebec.

PARCEL CARD, REGISTERED - 2130 P



Postmarked and registered in Jerusalem on August 6, 1952. Delivered to Hamilton, Ontario. Parcel weight 1½ kilos, registration fee 60 p.

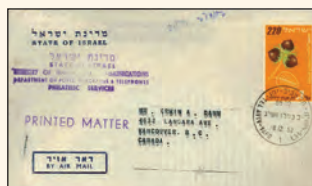
1952 MAIL

**AIRMAIL LETTER TRIPLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED,
EXPRESS - 815 P**



Postmarked on August 26, 1952 in Tel Aviv. Arrival in Montreal August 30, 1952. Letter rate 660 (3 x 220 p), registration fee 60 p, express fee 95 p. Sent on the letterhead of the Israeli government from the Israel Police Force HQ.

**AIRMAIL PRINTED MATTER
SINGLE WEIGHT - 220 P**



Postmarked in Tel Aviv-Yafo on December 8, 1952 with arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia.

AIR LETTER - 55 P



Postmarked on March 26, 1952 in Naharia. Sent from a nearby kibbutz to Toronto, Ontario.

AIRMAIL POSTCARD - 110 P



Postmarked in Kiryat Bialik on July 31, 1952. Addressed to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's capital city.

**AIRMAIL PRINTED MATTER,
4 X WEIGHT - 330 P**



Postmarked in Tel Aviv-Yafo in early April 1952. Printed matter rate for short 2 month period ending March 31 was 80 p. The rate increased to 220 p on April 1. The grace period at the beginning of April permitted the use of the old rate of 80 p (4 x 80 p=320 p), with 10 p of convenience overfranking.

1953 MAIL

LETTER, SHORT PAID, REGISTERED

5 X WEIGHT - 1160 P



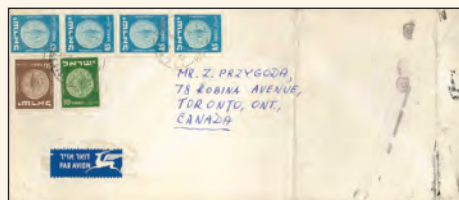
Postmarked April 3, 1953 in Tel Aviv. Arrival in Toronto on April 9, 1953. Letter rate (5 x 220 p), registration fee 60 p. Should be 1160 p. One stamp (110 p) appears to be missing.

Postmarked in Tel Aviv on March 18, 1953. Registered in Tel Aviv with arrival in Montreal, Quebec. The customs declaration pinned to the card indicates that the parcel contained a Passover tray. The left corner of the card has a rectangle which shows that the parcel was inspected by the postal customs inspectors in Tel Aviv.

PARCEL CARD- 5920 P



**AIRMAIL LETTER, NEW DOUBLE
WEIGHT RATE - 400 P**



Postmarked in Kfar Sava on July 17, 1953. Letter rate changed on July 1 to 200 p.

**PRINTED MATTER SURFACE, REGISTERED
DOUBLE WEIGHT - 130 P**



Postmarked at Haifa on February 6, 1953 with arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia on February 22, 1953. Printed matter rate was 40 p for first 50 gr and then 20 p for each subsequent 50 gr. Handwritten notation "registered" but there is no registration label and it does not appear that one has fallen off. If there was a registration charge in Haifa of 60 p and no forced registration in Canada (though no charge appears to have been levied), then it seems that the parcel weighed 125 gr with the printed matter rate as 70 p.

to be continued

SURFACE LETTER SINGLE WEIGHT - 95 P



Postmarked in Tel Aviv on May 24, 1953 and sent to Toronto, Ontario.

1954 MAIL

**AIRMAIL SINGLE WEIGHT,
REGISTERED - 300 P**



Postmarked in Tel Aviv on January 19, 1954 with the letter rate of 200 p and the registration fee of 80 p with 20 p of convenience over franking. The sender may have forgotten or been unaware that the letter rate had declined from 220 p to 200 p on July 1, 1953. ■

Philatelic Service Building



The building housing the Philatelic Service office at 12 Sderot Yerushalayim, Jaffa.

This building, erected in 1934, was designed by the architect Harrison.

Its ground floor is a branch post office and its upper floors have housed the Philatelic Service since 1957. ■

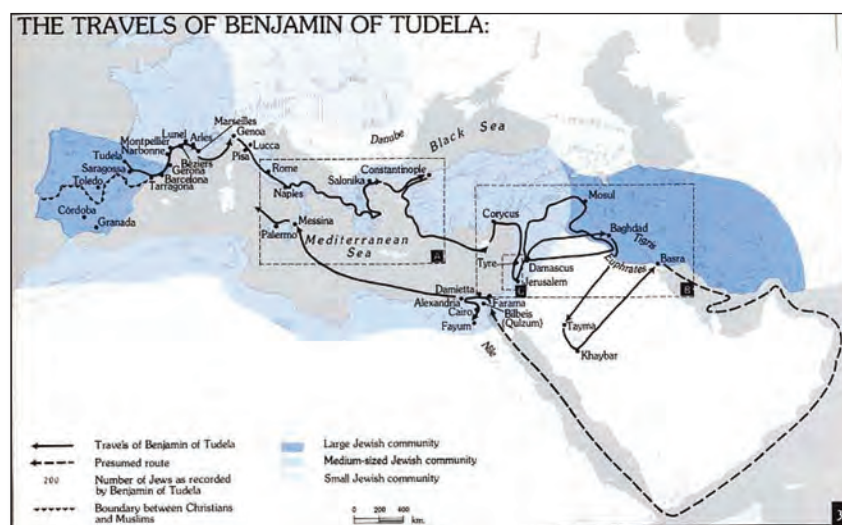
Benjamin of Tudela

Richard A. Barson, Cleveland, OH

Little is known of Benjamin. He appears to have been a rabbi from Tudela in Navarre, Spain born son of Jonah around 1121. He returned to Castile in Navarre in 1173 and published an account of his travels in Hebrew. The work was translated into Latin and other languages and became one of the most important descriptive works of the twelfth century.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Benjamin began his journey from Saragossa, around the year 1160 and over the course of thirteen years visited over 300 cities in a wide range of places including Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia and Persia. In his travel diary he describes the conditions of the Jewish population in each of the areas he visits. In addition to his description of Jewish living conditions, Benjamin also reported on the politics, commerce, and geography of the different countries visited.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Benjamin_of_Tudela_route.jpg



*Editor's note: The following information is from **The Holy Land Philatelist**, vol. 73/74, December 1960 - January 1961, p. 1481.*

In Honour of Benjamin of Tudela a special committee in Spain came out with poster stamps (seals), printed in two colors (8 seals per sheet in tête-bêche pairs), in honour of Benjamin of Tudela.

The seals bear the imprint "VIII Centenario de Benjamin de Tudela 1160 – 1960." Postcards and folders showing the same contemporary painting of Benjamin de Tudela which also appears on the seal, were also issued. The folders repeat the painting's Hebrew and Latin inscription reading in English: "Benjamin, Jew, born in Tudela, Kingdom of Navarra, travelled in the whole world during the years 1160 –1173."

Anyone with more information about the labels, please let the editor know: e-mail: sipeditor@gmail.com.

The Jewish Cooperative Bank of Tallinn, Estonia

William Velvel Moskoff, Lake Forest College, IL

BACKGROUND

The Jewish population of Estonia has always been small, both in absolute terms as well as relative to the much larger Jewish populations of the other two Baltic countries, Latvia and Lithuania. In 1934, there were only 4,381 Jews living in Estonia, less than one-half of one percent of the entire Estonian population, while the Jewish population was 95,600 in Latvia and 155,000 in Lithuania in 1933¹. Half of Estonia's Jews lived in the capital, Tallinn, previously called Reval². But Estonia was remarkable in that in 1925 it became the only Eastern European country to honor the Minority Treaties fashioned after World War I and granted its minorities rights under the treaties³. In Estonia, this included Jews as well as Germans, Swedes and Russians⁴. One consequence of the treaty was that three Jewish cooperative banks were established in Tallinn, Tartu, and Narva, with a total of 625 members as of 1935⁵ (Figure 1).

THE BANK

The cover in Figure 2 is a business envelope of the Tallinn Jewish Cooperative Bank, postmarked in Tallinn, November 7, 1923. The logo in the middle of the envelope contains several Yiddish words surrounding a Star of David, which translate as the "Reval Jewish Cooperative Bank." In the upper right, the same name appears in German, but in the upper left, in Estonian, it is named the "Tallinn Jewish Cooperative Bank." The bank had been established in August 1922 with a membership of 223; membership required an entry fee of 300 Estonian marks (EM) or \$.82. By December, the bank had total deposits of 4,700,000 EM, or just under \$13,000⁶.



Figure 1

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Estonia.html>

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

To promote post-war reconstruction for the nation's Jewish community, the bank in Tallinn, like the other two Jewish cooperative banks in Estonia, made application to the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in New York for financial assistance. The JDC was a Jewish organization established in 1914 which, after World War I, provided food, medical assistance, and financial and logistical support for programs designed to improve the shattered economies of Eastern Europe.

In 1920, a JDC committee was created under the leadership of Abram Pumpiansky whose principal task was to coordinate supplies to the Estonian Jewish population. In August 1920, soon after the committee began operations, it sent condensed milk



Figure 2

and soap to Tallinn via Copenhagen. It should be noted that oil shipments to the Jews of the country were accompanied by a letter from an orthodox rabbi attesting to oil's adherence to the laws of kashrut⁷.

BANK LOAN

The Tallinn bank requested a loan of 3 million EM (about \$8,300) from the JDC. Additionally, H. Joseph Hyman, the JDC's Director for Latvia and Lithuania proposed that another 600,000 EM (about \$1,650) be deposited with the Tallinn Jewish Bank to be used solely to provide credits for the inhabitants of Narva, a city about 120 miles due east of Tallinn with about 60 Jewish families. The bank wanted to promote recovery for the city, the hardest hit of Estonia's largest cities as a result of the war.

But a JDC assessment of the justification for these loans, carried out by Harry Viteles, who at one time had directed the field work of the European Reconstruction Department of the Joint Distribution Committee, took a dim view of this proposal. His opinion was that while certain parts of Estonia had been affected by the war, the country had been significantly less impacted than either Latvia or Lithuania. Furthermore, he said, the very small number of Jews in the country did not warrant the level of loans that Hyman had requested and he suggested considerably smaller appropriations than were requested⁸.

The Jewish cooperative banks survived the Great Depression of the 1930s, but when the Soviet Union swallowed up the Baltic Republics in July 1940 and Estonia became part of the USSR, everything changed. Among the major transformations in the country, the Estonian Parliament, an obedient client of the Soviet Union, nationalized the banks on July 23, 1940 and the Tallinn Jewish Cooperative Bank was no more⁹.

Endnotes

1. "Jewish Population of Eastern Europe in 1933: Population Data by Country," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.
2. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/vjw/Estonia.html>. Reval was the name of the capital between the 13th century, when it was imposed by the Teutonic knights, and 1917, after which it was renamed Tallinn.
3. The treaties placed an obligation on all the newly created or expanded states in Europe and the Middle East – mostly Eastern Europe – to honor the fundamental rights of all its citizens, most especially protecting the rights of minorities within the country.
4. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/ejud>
5. Ibid.
6. The Joint Distribution Committee employed an exchange rate of 363 Estonian Marks to the U.S. dollar. Financial instability in the early twenties led to a monetary reform and the introduction of a new currency, the "kroon" or gold crown as of June 20, 1924. It was given the same value as the Scandinavian gold crown. See Alvin Conrad **Eichholz, The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**, Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928, p. 17.
7. Letter to Abram Pumpiansky from Abraham Schepper, Chairman of the JDC Purchasing Committee, August 18, 1920. Archives of the Joint Distribution Committee, http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR1921/000.
8. Archives of the Joint Distribution Committee, http://search.archives.jdc.org/multimedia/Documents/NY_AR2132.000.
9. Personal correspondence with Mark Rybak, creator of the Estonian Jewish Museum in Tallinn. Isaac Landman, editor, **The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia**, vol. 4, New York, 1941, p. 172. For the record the Jewish cooperative banks in Tartu and Narva were "liquidated" rather than being nationalized. •

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ENDOWMENT FUND**

THE PRINTING PROCESS

Paulo Risi, Brazil and Aladdin Adwan

Special thanks are due to Mr. Z. Galibov, from London, for his guidance, support and help.

*This article was originally printed in **The BAPIP**, volume XVIII, Number 166, November 2012, pp. 150-159.*

Most of the philatelic references did not discuss the actual printing process of the Palestine Blues and the most accepted the hypothesis that the different transfers were printed in pairs, either horizontally or vertically¹. The following study presents enough evidence to show that the four transfers of the Blues (B, D, F, and G) were printed simultaneously on a large paper sheet as shown in Figure 1, forming four panes of 120 stamps. These panes were then cut into four Post Office sheets before distribution to the army post offices in Palestine.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most fascinating aspects of philately is the never-ending stream of mysteries, discoveries and new findings that add depth and meaning to its core. As a field of research, the stamps of Palestine, although extensively studied, still present many unsolved issues and interesting topics of discussion for the enthusiastic philatelist.

The following article presents our study and findings on the actual printing process of the stamps at the Survey of Egypt's Production Department and provides a fresh way of looking at the Palestine Blues.

THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF EGYPT

The Survey Department of Egypt at Giza – Cairo was established in 1898 to produce topographical maps of Egyptian lands and to create books of ownership of agricultural lands for taxation purposes. The Survey Department was equipped with state-of-the-art photography and printing facilities. They were

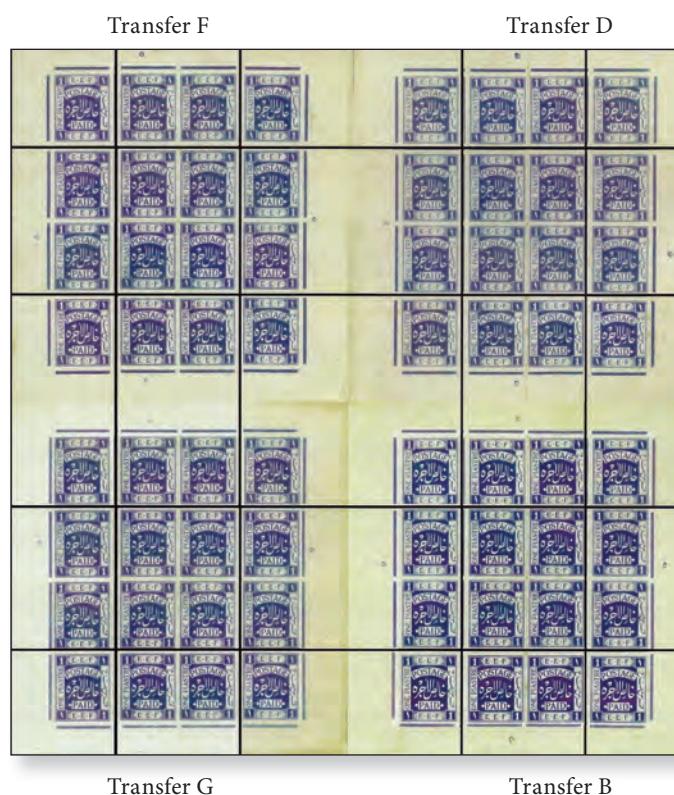


Figure 1

asked, on occasion, to produce postage stamps and banknotes². The first postage stamps produced by the Survey Department were the 1916–1917 lithographed issues of Hejaz³.

In December, 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces (E.E.F.) approached them to produce the first stamps of Palestine. The Survey Department agreed to undertake the printing under certain conditions:

- the stamp issues should be confined to a single denomination
- the paper should be supplied to them for this temporary purpose⁴.

THE PAPER

The paper used to print the Blues was produced by William Joynson & Sons Paper Mills, St Mary Cray, Kent, who had the exclusive contract to furnish all the Royal Cypher watermark paper to the British Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The paper was delivered to Somerset House in reams of 500 sheets in the size of 22 ¾ x 22 ½ inches and then dispatched to Egypt⁵. These sheets are reported as Mill Sheets or Double Sheets. The first reams were sent to Cairo with no gum and were used in the production and printing of the 1 PIASTRE, sheet A18 and the 5 MILLIEMES sheet B18 A stamps. Further supplies were sent already gummed for the production of the C18, C18 B and D18 C printings.

THE ROYAL CYPHER WATERMARK

The dandy roll and bits were furnished by the Commissioners for watermarking the paper⁵. The Simple Royal Cypher watermark paper was originally furnished for the printing of low values of the British George V definitive stamps from 1912 to 1923. The paper used for producing Palestine stamps had the “Simple Royal Cypher - Type III” watermark in a column, and was in use for other British stamps during the years 1917–1921⁶ (Figure 2).



Figure 2
Simple
Royal Cypher

In addition to the Royal Cypher design, each Mill Sheet incorporated a number of other features in the watermark. The word POSTAGE appears in the margins and also in the center of the Mill Sheet, dividing it into two vertical panes. William Joynson’s paper was

furnished with A1, A2, B1, B2 watermark molds. The A1 and B2 molds are recorded on Palestine sheets⁷.

THE GUM

Ungummed paper was used for the A18 and B18 A printings of the Blues. Further supplies of Mill Sheets were sent already gummed. An interesting attribute is related to the gumming of the paper supplied by Somerset House to Egypt. For easier handling, the gum did not cover the sheets completely; no gum was applied in the bottom part of each Mill Sheet.

THE PRINTING PROCESS

The Blues were printed using the lithography process. One of the basic principles in lithographic printing is that the original design can be multiplied by transferring the image either to a lithographic stone or metal plate. A perfect copy can never be obtained in reproducing an original by the transferring process, and every time a transfer is made, flaws occur and the results are of philatelic interest.

It was believed that seven transfers were used for the printing of the stamps and the transfers were named with letters A to G. Further studies proved that only four lithographic transfers of 120 stamps each were used. These transfers were B, D, F, and G (Figure 3). The understanding was that these transfers were printed side by side in two (horizontal or vertical rows/ columns⁸.

The Lithographic Plate

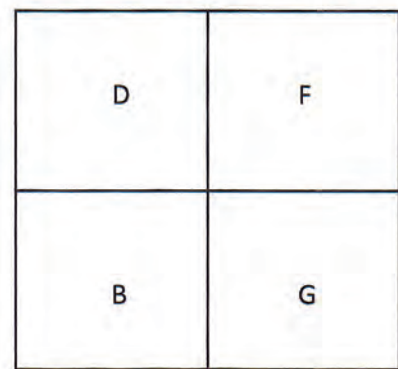


Figure 3

According to the studies presented in this article, the four transfers were positioned on the same printing base, forming four panes of 120 stamps each, that is 480 stamps printed in total at the same time on a big Mill Sheet of 22 ¾ x 22 ½ inches (57.80 cm x 57.15 cm), furnished by Somerset House. After the printing was completed, the panes were cut into Post Office sheets of 120 stamps for distribution among the Army Post Offices.

THE STUDY OF THE POSITIONS OF THE TRANSFERS

The careful study of the four corners of each transfer was the most important key to identify the correct positions of the different transfers relative to each other on the printing sheet. The missing crown variety that occurred on sheets from later issues (Bale Catalogue numbers 3 and 4) and the gum characteristic of the Mill Sheets provided definitive proof. The study is presented here in three parts:

1. The Study of the Blue Guidelines
2. The Study of the Gum
3. The Study of the Watermark

The conclusions are drawn at the end of the study with some notes by the authors.

1. THE STUDY OF THE BLUE GUIDELINES

Thin blue lines in the same shade as the stamp can sometimes be detected in the margins of corner blocks of the Blues sheets. These lines were supposed to be used as guides for the guillotine cuts for creating the Post Offices Sheets of 120 stamps. Unintended shifts occurred during some cuts, or even during the printing process, leaving these lines to appear in the corner margins of the sheets. We can clearly see different lines for the different transfers. Figure 4 – 13 show all Blue Guidelines found.

Sheets printed from transfers D & B show only one corner with the blue guidelines.

Figures 4 – 5

Transfer D Guideline D1



Figure 4

Specimen A18 printing

Upper left hand corner of the sheet.

Transfer B Guideline B

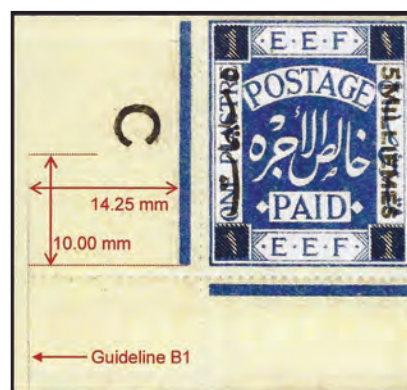


Figure 5

D18 C printing

Bottom left hand corner of the sheet.

Sheets printed from Transfers F and G show only two corners with the blue guidelines.

Figures 6 – 9

Transfer F Guideline F1

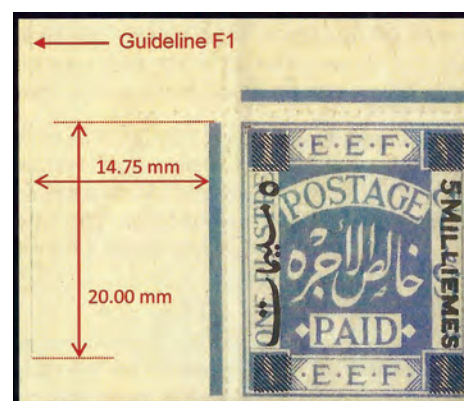


Figure 6

D18 C printing

Upper left hand corner of the sheet.

Transfer F Guideline F2

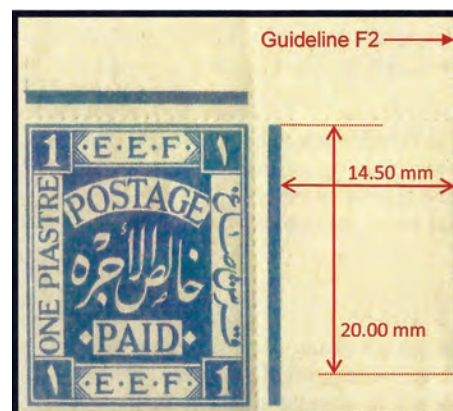


Figure 7

C18 printing

Upper right hand corner of the sheet.

Transfer G1 Guideline G1

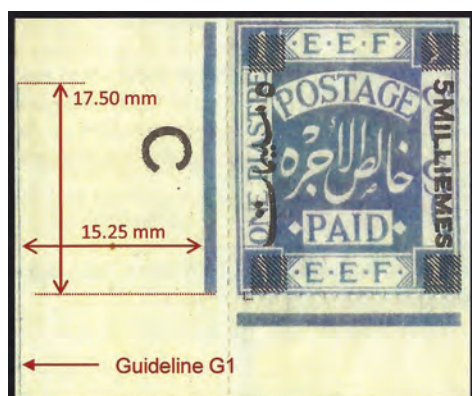


Figure 8
D18 C printing
Bottom left hand corner of the sheet.

Transfer G2 Guideline G2

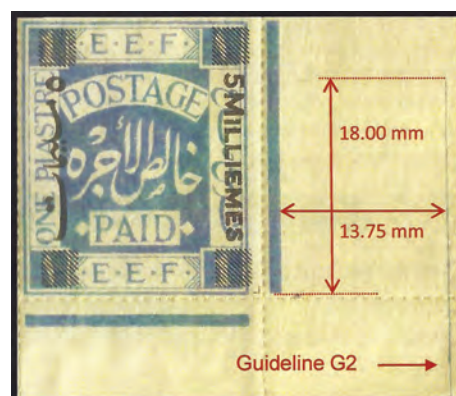


Figure 9
D18 C printing
Bottom right hand corner of the sheet.

Transfer F & D – The Connection

Sometimes both guidelines described F2 and D1 appear together in the same marginal corner of the sheet. Clearly this means that these transfers were positioned side by side in the printing sheet, with transfer F on the left side and D on the right side (Figures 10 – 11).

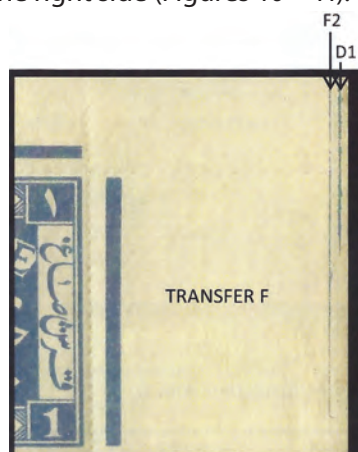


Figure 10 C18 printing

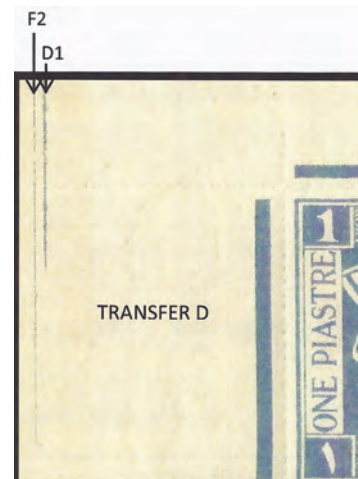


Figure 11 C18 printing

Transfer G & B – The Connection

Sometimes both guidelines described as G2 and B1 can be found together on Transfers G and B. This shows that Transfers G and B were positioned side by side with Transfer G on the left side and B on the right side (Figures 12– 13).



Figure 12 D18 C printing

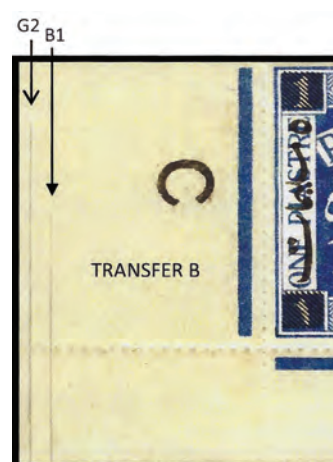


Figure 13 D18 C printing

2. THE STUDY OF THE GUM

There is an interesting attribute related to the gumming of the paper supplied by the Somerset House and used to print the gummed Blues. The gum did not cover the bottom of the Mill Sheets completely. This characteristic only appears on transfers G and B printings which indicates that they were positioned at the bottom of the printing sheet (Figure 14).

Transfers F and D sheets do not show the same characteristic, but rather are completely gummed. This indicates that they were positioned in the upper half of the Mill Sheet. Figure 15 shows the margin of the sheet from transfer F and also the Missing Crown variety.

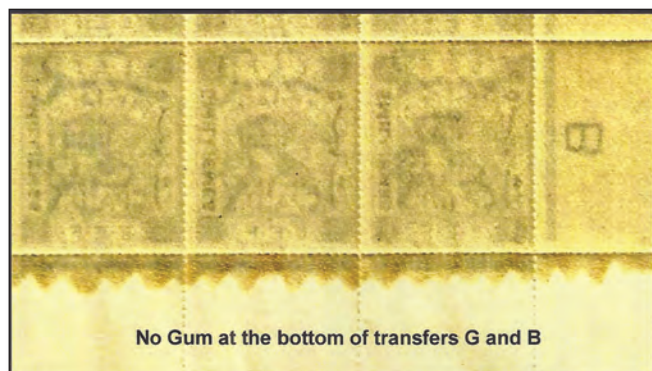


Figure 14
C18 B printing Transfer B
positions 109-111

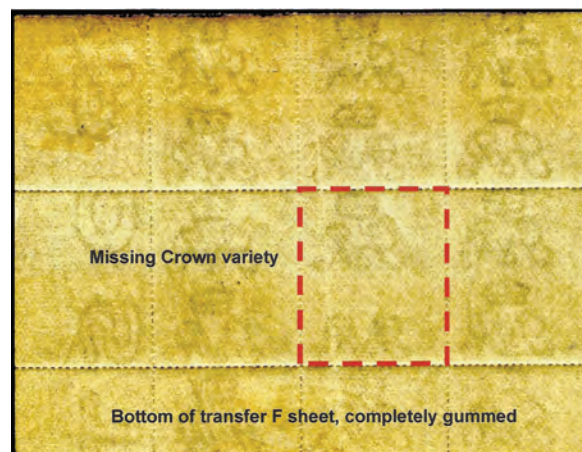


Figure 15
D18 C printing Transfer F
Missing crown variety, position 119

3. THE STUDY OF THE WATERMARK

During the paper production, a broken bit on the dandy roll caused the watermark error known as the Missing Crown variety (Figure 16) on some sheets furnished for the printing of the gummed issues. This variety occurs in the left panes near the middle of the Mill Sheet by the 11th vertical column and 5th horizontal rows of stamps. It is important to note that only sheets from transfers F and G have the Missing Crown variety.

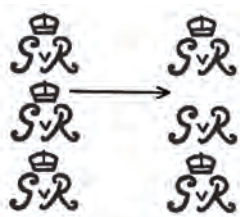


Figure 16
Missing Crown variety

This fact confirms that transfers F and G were printed vertically on the same side of the Mill sheet. Figure 17 shows the different attributes of the Mill Sheets after the printing.

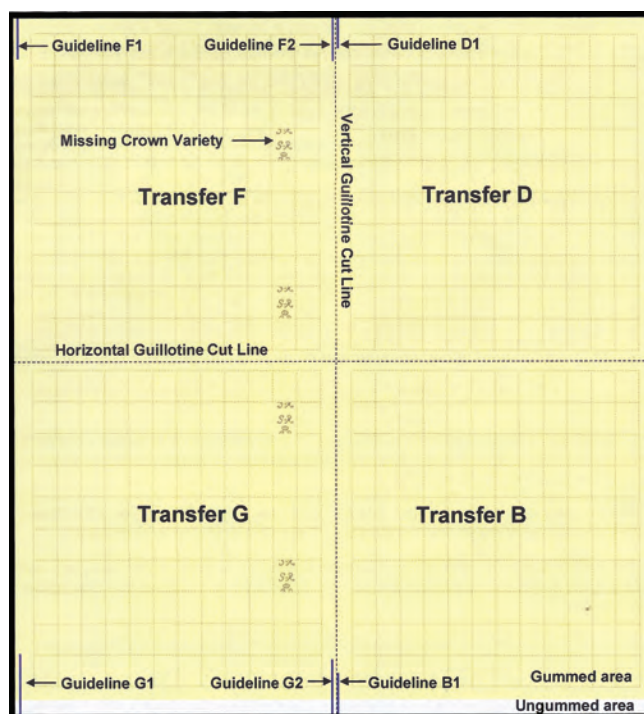


Figure 17
Mill Sheet with transfer plates, gummed/ungummed areas
and missing crown variety indicated.

CONCLUSIONS

The four Blues transfer sheets (B, D, F, and G) were printed simultaneously on one sheet of 480 stamps (Figures 1 and 18). They were then cut into 4 Post Office sheets of 120 stamps before distribution to the Army Post Offices. This is supported by three important and related points:

1. **Guidelines:** Transfers F and D were printed side by side on the upper part of the Mill Sheet with transfer F on the left and transfer D on the right.

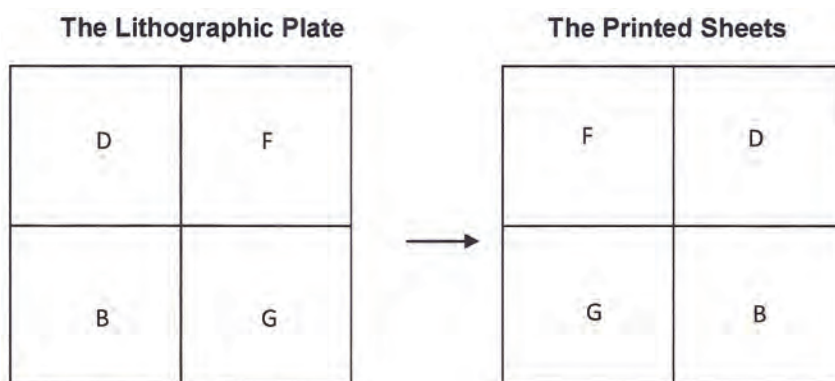


Figure 18

The lithographic plate setting and the final printed sheets in the correct configuration.

A quantity of full and partial sheets and references were consulted before we arrived at our conclusions. They all confirmed our premises and the outcomes presented in this study. Some direct implications which may be derived from this study include the following:

1. Four transfer sheets were used in the A18, B18 A, C18, C18 B, and D18 C printings of the Blues
2. An equal number of sheets from Transfers B, D, F and G were printed for each issue

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to extend their thanks to Dr. Avo Kaplanian, Mr. D. Wardimon, Mr. David R. Beech (FRPSL), Mr. Christopher Harman, and Mr. Leslie Wilkinson for sharing their knowledge and information on different topics related to philately and to Palestine Mandate stamps.

Sheets Examined

Transfer B: 4 Sheets and 12 part sheets or corner blocks

Transfer D: 2 Sheets and 10 part sheets or corner blocks

Transfer F: 5 Sheets and 8 part sheets or corner blocks

Transfer G: 3 Sheets and 8 part sheets or corner blocks

1. Dorfman, D. "The Stamps of Palestine" **The Holyland Philatelist**, no 52/53, Feb/Mar, 1959, pp. 1118-1121.

Transfers G and B were printed side by side on the lower part of the Mill Sheet with transfer G on the left and transfer B on the right side.

2. **Watermark:** The missing crown watermark only appears on transfers F and G, supporting the assumption that transfers F and G are vertically on the same side of the Mill Sheet.
3. **Missing Gum:** The missing gum only appears on transfers G and B sheets, supporting the assumption that transfers G and B were printed on the bottom of the Mill Sheet.

These implications raise a number of questions and the authors are currently researching some of the issues and will be very thankful for any information that may further their research.

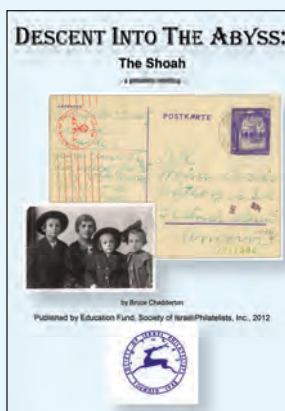
The authors can be contacted at aladdin_adwan@hotmail.com and paulorenatorisi@hotmail.com.

Reference

2. Dr. Hoexter, W. **Handbook of Holy Land Philately** Haifa Israel, 1969, p. 4
3. Department of the Survey of Egypt (currently Egyptian Survey Authority) website: <http://www.esa.gov.eg/>.
4. Beech, David R. "Hejaz: The First Postage Stamps of 1916 and T E Lawrence" **The London Philatelist**, volume 114, November 2005, pp.323-327.
5. Lawrence, T. E. "Short Note on the Design and Issue of Postage Stamps Prepared by the Survey of Egypt for His Highness Hussein Emir and Sherif of Mekka and King of Hejaz- Al Qahira 1918".
6. Hewlett, M. R. "Notes on E.E.F. Stamps!" **The BAPIP Bulletin**, no 88, 1977, pp. 20-22.

continued from page 117

New Ed Fund Publication



An 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 political, and eventually logistical, apparatus to execute what has become known as the Holocaust. \$25.00 + \$3.50 shipping and handling. Number of pages: 129.



The catalogue outlines the history of this particular type of postmark used by Israel's armed forces. Consolidating previous works on 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. \$12.50 + \$3.50 shipping & handling. Number of pages: 50.

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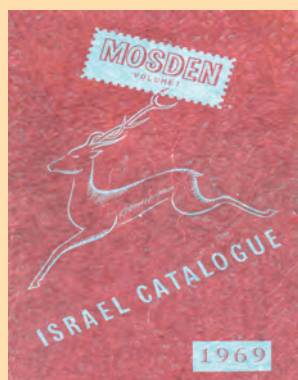
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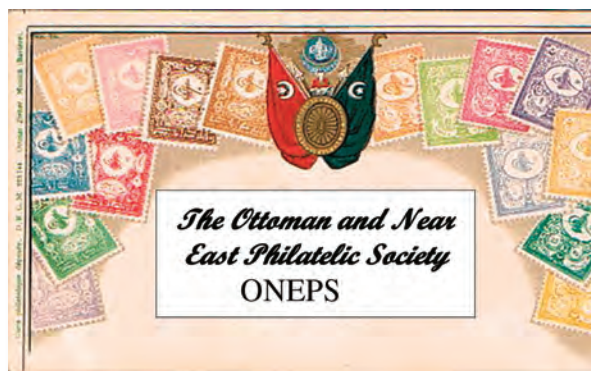
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Website: www.rosenblumcoins.com

continued from page 115

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ONEPS promotes the collection and study of postage & revenue stamps, stationary and postal history of the Ottoman Empire, the Republic of Turkey, and Ottoman successor states, including the Near and Middle East, Egypt, Arabia, & the Balkans.

Our journal, **The Levant**, is published 3 times a year, and an index to all articles posted on our website: www.oneps.net.

Membership in the society opens the door to a philatelic community with a wide range of interests, including dozens of countries, philatelic and political history, postal administration, stamp authentication and forgeries, picture post cards and postal ephemera.

You may join by submitting an application, available from the Secretary or downloaded from our website www.oneps.org. Dues are \$20 in USA, Canada, Mexico; £17 in the UK; €20 or \$25 all other countries. For further information, contact our Secretary, Mr. Rolfe Smith at xbow2@aol.com or by post to 705 SE Sandia Drive, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34983 USA.

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LINDNER

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



My column this month has good news and bad news. First the good. The Boxborough SIP meeting was interesting. In addition to a full floor of fascinating exhibits there was a large bourse of dealers, many of whom had Israel material.

I personally found 6 or 7 pieces to add to my collection. We had two presentations, one by Ed Kroft on **Postal Rates** and another by myself on **Postage Due Mail**.

Our Executive Board and House of Delegates meeting decided on several issues. The most important of which was a decision to form a committee to rewrite our constitution to better reflect the realities of our organization in the 21st century. We plan to move from a House of Delegates structure to a one member one vote concept.

Thanks need to be given to the following members who are stepping down from office. Jeff Rudolph and Stuart Frieman have long served as our Librarian and Advertising Manager. They leave with our great gratitude for their service. Jean-Paul Damon will step down as vice-president and has graciously agreed to serve as our international liaison. Jean-Paul serves as president of our sister organization the **French Society of Israel Collectors**.

Appreciation goes to the following members who have agreed to serve in new capacities. Zach Simmons will be a new vice president. Sam Adikoff will be our new comptroller. Hank Stern and Alan Doberman will be putting together our public relations effort. I'm grateful to the others who have volunteered to become more involved.

Special thanks go to Don Chafetz, our **The Israel Philatelist** editor who served on the Judges Panel. Again, thanks go to Vicki Galecki and Stan Rafael who spent many hours manning our booth.

Now for the bad news. Attendance at the show was sparse. While there was a turnout of New England members, few attended from outside of the region. I'm hopeful that our next convention in Sarasota,

NEW MEMBERS

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

10592	Barry Scott	Kingston, RI
10593	Charles Nelson	Moosup, CT

MEMBERS AWARDS

Philatelic Show 2013, Boxborough MA

Michael Bass	Civilian Mail During the British Occupation of Palestine 1917 - 1948 Vermeil AAPE Medal of Honor SIP Medal 1
Howard S. Chapman	Jewish National Fund Silver SIP President's Award
Jean-Paul Danon	On the Wrong Track Vermeil SIP Medal 2
Howard Rotterdam	Postage Due Usages of Israel 1948 - 1960 Silver SIP Medal 3

Tel Aviv, Israel 2013

Dr. Robert Pildes	Forerunners of the Holyland International Large Vermeil
-------------------	--

Florida will have more attendees. Florida in February should be some inducement. Also disappointing was that we had only 4 Holy Land exhibits. I'm hoping for significantly more at Sarasota. To be blunt, continuing poor participation at our annual meeting might cause us to rethink our long-standing policy of annual meetings. Your thoughts on this are appreciated. Please e-mail me at hrteach@bellsouth.net.

Have a great Summer,
Howard ■

BERKSHIRE HILLS

Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann

Program: "NURIS - Erste Tschechoslovakische Kolonie in Palastina" Presented by Helitzer-Salzmann

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: Military 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 August and December) at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, IL at 7:15 p.m. For more information write Sam Fireman, PO Box 59106, Chicago, IL 60659. ▪

CLEVELAND

Howard S. Chapman

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: Cries for Help

Presented by Fred Strauss

Chapter meets 3rd Monday, 7:00

pm at the Conference Room,

Jewish Community Center, 7900

Northaven 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. ▪

SAN FRANCISCO**BAY AREA**

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: Ship's Mail

by Mark Issacs

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

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Sheldon Sonenberg

VANCOUVER, BC CANADA

Ed Kroft

Exciting collecting for collectors of Israel, Holy Land, Judaica from beginners to advanced. ▪

AFFILIATED CHAPTERS**CAPETOWN**

A. Katzev

JOHANNESBURG

Brian Gruz

Programs:

- Dec 1 - Latkes and Schnapps

Chapter meets 1st Monday of every month in the Board Room of the Waverly Synagogue at 7:30 pm.

ST. LOUIS

Alan Barasch

CHERRY HILL

Ronald Zukin

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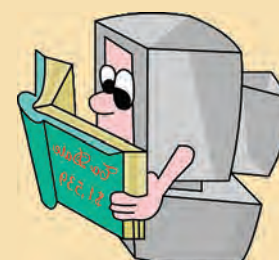
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Gregg & Michelle Philipson

Blake Sugarberg

Robert Waldman

Anonymous - 1

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Dick and Betty Barson in memory of

Dr. Arnie Paddock,

late Dallas Chapter President

BRITISH LIBERATION OF BERGEN-BELSEN

Richard Dimbleby

WAR CORRESPONDENT

Gregg Philipson, Austin, TX

There is a new British stamp honoring Richard Dimbleby. He was the 1st war correspondent to enter Bergen-Belsen death camp with the British troops.

I have attached a bit of his story below but you can hear the actual broadcast from 1945 with the link below. The stamp is part of a group of 10 that honor "Great Britons"!

Richard Dimbleby describes the scenes of almost unimaginable horror that greeted him as he toured Belsen concentration camp shortly after its liberation by the British in April 1945.

Bergen-Belsen began as a prisoner of war camp and was used for Jewish inmates from 1943 onwards. It is estimated that 70,000 people died there. Richard Dimbleby was the first broadcaster to enter the camp and, overcome, broke down several times while making his report. The BBC initially refused to play the report, as they could not believe the scenes he had



Richard Dimbleby

described, and it was only broadcast after Dimbleby threatened to resign.

When British and Canadian troops finally entered they found thousands of unburied bodies and (including the satellite camps) at least 53,000 inmates most acutely sick and starving. The scenes that greeted British troops were described by the BBC's Richard Dimbleby, who accompanied them:

"...Here over an acre of ground lay dead and dying people. You could not see which was which.... The living lay with their heads against the corpses and around them moved the awful, ghostly procession of emaciated, aimless people, with nothing to do and with no hope of life, unable to move out of your way, unable to look at the terrible sights around them... Babies had been born here, tiny wizened things that could not live.... A mother, driven mad, screamed at a British sentry to give her milk for her child, and thrust the tiny mite into his arms, then ran off, crying terribly. He opened the bundle and found the baby had been dead for days. This day at Belsen was the most horrible of my life." Hear the actual recording

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/holocaust/5115.shtml> ■



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HARRIS

**A Catalogue of
Israel's
Triangular Military Unit
Handstamps**



By

S Harris Rosenberg and Harris Wolman



Published by Educational Fund, Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., 2012

Now Available from the SIP!

A Catalogue of Israel's Triangular Military Unit Handstamps outlines the history of this particular type of postmark used by Israel's armed forces. Consolidating previous works on 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.

Using philatelic material as illustrations, *Descent Into The Abyss – the Shoah* 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 political, and eventually logistical, apparatus to execute what has become known as the Holocaust.

DESCENT INTO THE ABYSS:

The Shoah

- a philatelic retelling -



by Bruce Chadderton

Published by Education Fund, Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., 2012



CONTACT

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