



# THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

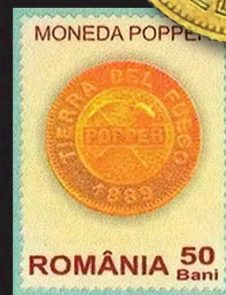
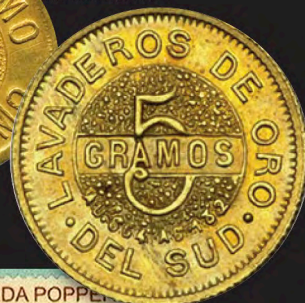
JOURNAL OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS INC. FALL 2016

DEVOTED to the PHILATELY of the HOLY LAND and JUDAICA ★ VOL. LXVII NO. 4

## Julio Popper

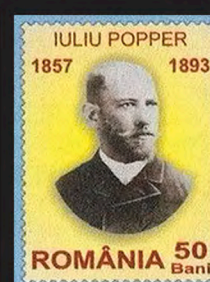
TIERRA DEL FUEGO EXPLORER

RABBI ISIDORO AIZENBERG p. 20



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From Generation to Generation

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## THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

A.P.S. Affiliate Unit No. 105

Charter Member W.P.C.

Indexed in the

Index to Jewish Periodicals

ISSN 0161-0074

Published 4 times a year

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Member change of address information  
should be sent to:

**Becky Dean**

E-mail: bdean@stamps.org

Price per copy \$4.95

The opinions of the authors expressed  
herein are not necessarily those of the  
society.

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Entered as 3rd Class Matter

Nystrom Publishing Maple Grove, MN

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

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# Editor's Notes

Donald A. Chafetz

## ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

I recently entered an on-line one frame philatelic competition. The exhibit/competition was sponsored by Richard Frajola, a stamp dealer, researcher and exhibitor. The rules were rather simple and I quote:

In an effort to promote philatelic exhibiting, I am pleased to announce a one frame (16 pages) on-line philatelic competition - Philamercury Digital Rendezvous (PDR-2016).

The deadline for exhibit submission is end of day October 1, 2016. No rules as to content, open to all, no exhibit fees and with awards by vote of fellow exhibitors. Awards to be determined. Submission guidelines here. Voting will end on October 7th and winners will be announced. In the event of tie votes, the earliest exhibit to reach the highest vote count will be the winner.

There were three awards for "Best in Show," "Best in Show, first time one frame exhibitor" and "Most Enjoyable."

I entered a new type of one frame exhibit that I call "Magazine Exhibit." Basically, I structured the exhibit the same way I lay out **The Israel Philatelist** i.e. front cover, table of contents and articles. I have five totally unrelated articles in the magazine. The exhibit had the required 16 pages with the stories being either one, two or four pages in length. I made sure each article met the standard exhibit requirements i.e.

1. Treatment and Philatelic Importance,
2. Philatelic and Related Knowledge,
3. Personal Study and Research,
4. Condition and Rarity and
5. Presentation

There were a total of 96 exhibits entered. Most were from the period prior to 1900 which I would consider the classic period. They were all of the highest quality material wise and beautifully presented. For anyone interested in creating one frame exhibits, these exhibits are well worth study for presentation styles and techniques.

The winning exhibits were:

1. Best in Show - ***The Transcontinental Pony Express: April 1860 to October 1861.***
2. Best in Show First Time Exhibitor - ***How They Carried the Mail in America, 1850 - 1870.***
3. Most Enjoyable - ***Great Britain combination Covers to Overseas Destinations 1847-56.***
4. Sponsor's Special Prize of Merit - ***The 8.4 Cent Americana Piano Coil.***

In the list of exhibits mine was number 49, entitled ***Razzle Bedazzl'd Magazine.***

If I would like to look at mine or any of the other exhibits, the web address is: <http://www.rfrajola.com/pdr2016/pdr2016.htm>. There will be another competition next year which I intend to enter.

One exhibit I would like to call to your attention is entitled ***Wake the ebay Way, How to display without really trying.*** The exhibitor states ... here is a display of Wake Island compiled entirely from eBay images and text straight from Wikipedia.

## SIP EXHIBIT SERIES

My purpose in discussing the one frame exhibits is to encourage members to read the first of a series of articles our president Ed Kroft is commencing in this issue on creating an exhibit. The article can be found on page 53.

One of the joys of stamp collecting is the ability to share the items in your collection. When there were many stamp clubs, it was easy to go to a meeting and during "show and tell" share your items. Now there are stamp shows where you can exhibit items in your collection.

The future is the Internet and philately needs to embrace it and figure out how to use it to our advantage.

I feel the Frajola competition is just the beginning. With the Internet you can have exhibits submitted from anywhere in the world. And most importantly, anyone anywhere can view that exhibit. The Internet permits collectors to share their collections not only locally, but also in a national or international show, literally around the world.

## SPECIAL ISSUE

In October 2003 I published my first issue of **The Israel Philatelists**. I had taken over as editor the month before and worked feverishly to learn the ins and outs of putting a publication together, with the hope that it would be presentable. Along the way I have managed to publish 72 issues of **The Israel Philatelists**.

It has been a truly wonderful experience since it has permitted me to meet and correspond with many wonderful collectors worldwide. I just want to take a moment to thank everyone who wrote the many articles that were published, assisted in the editing of the journal and provided much needed graphic designs

This being my thirteenth year, I can now say I am Bar Mitzvah'd.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Society of Israel Philatelists for the opportunity and the trust they placed in me by permitting me to be their editor. ■

# Letters to the Editor

## PALESTINE 500 MILS COVER



Figure 1

Postage Fee - Total weight 30 grams	
Basic postage 105 mils/5gm	105 mils
Additional weight 105 mils x 5	525 mils
Registration	15 mils
Overfranking	<u>1 mils</u>
Total fee	646 mils

Dear Donald,

After months where I found no time for stamp collecting, I read the 2016 Spring issue of **The Israel Philatelist**. I enjoyed the article from Ed Kroft about the 500 mils. Usages outside the United States are seldom seen. I will share with you and the readers an air cover with the 500 mils to Mauritius. The postage is 646 Mils. I think it is a sixfold weight level air mail cover (6 x 105) plus 15 Mils registered fee = 645 Mils (1 Mil convenience over franking). But I am not sure about the rate.

Jan Billion, Germany ■

## PALESTINE LATE FEE COVER

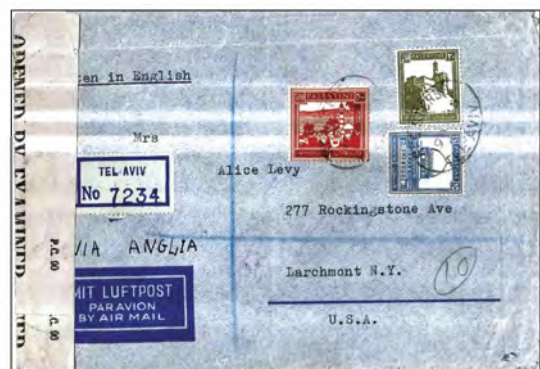


Figure 2

Postage Fee - Total weight 30 grams	
Basic postage 100 mils/5gm	100 mils
Additional weight 100 mils x 4	400 mils
Registration	15 mils
Overfranking	<u>20 mils</u>
Total fee	535 mils

*Editor's note: Dr. Leslie a. Bard discussed the late fee for registered covers in **The Israel Philatelist**, December 2001, p.208. ■*

## PALESTINE 500 MILS OVER-FRANKING

Dear Ed,

I have a comment on your article about 500 mils pictorial covers in the Spring issue of **The Israel Philatelist** (Figure 1).

In figure 6 you show a 20 mils "over-franking". I am sure the extra 20 mils is for a Late Fee.

Palestine was not issued Late Fee handstamps. The way to tell Palestine Late Fee covers is by a deliberate over-payment of 20 mils on registered covers or 2 mils for other mail. This is the only plausible explanation for an extra 20 mils stamp on a cover processed at a post office.

Late Fee covers from Palestine are scarce. Few collectors recognize them, and in the last 30 years I have found only two of them. I think you have a spectacular Late Fee cover!

Regards,

Nathan Zankel, New Brunswick, NJ ■

## DUES

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to renew your Society membership for 2017. Each of you can help in this process by paying your renewal dues now.

You can mail payment to Howard Chapman at the following address 28650 Settlers LN, Pepper Pike, OH 44124-4571 or use PayPal from our website, [www.israelstamps.com](http://www.israelstamps.com).

The more people that pay dues now, the more our Society saves by not having to send bills. Society dues are the same as last year.

We thank you for your continued support of our Society.

## PICTORIAL STAMPS 7 MILS HORIZONTALLY RIBBED

The first Pictorial set of stamps on semitransparent paper were not satisfactory due to the climate in Palestine which was humid and hot. Therefore the next printing was made on thicker paper that was also ribbed.

Mr. Norman J. Collins has written an excellent book about the printing and dispatches of the stamps from London to Palestine.

According to the documents he found the second dispatch of Pictorial stamps to Palestine, which were on thicker paper and ribbed were sent to Palestine on 5th April 1928.



Figures 3 and 4

I have found on a Picture Card a 7 mils stamp, horizontally ribbed, but canceled on 11 March 1928 (Figures 3 and 4). That means almost a whole month earlier.

In my opinion it was probably a shortage of low value stamps and therefore a quantity of these stamps were requested and sent earlier to Palestine as happened before with London II stamps. The sending earlier of small quantities of stamps of London II was documented, but not in this case with these stamps.

Dr. David Weiner, The Netherlands ■

## STAMP DESIGN ERROR

I recently came across an Israeli stamp set celebrating the Rio Olympics. One of the stamps has judo depicted on it, which I happen to have practiced and competed in for over 20 years.

Even if you're not a judo aficionado, it's easy to notice that the picture depicts one judoka throwing another with a throw called Uchi Mata (see graphic).

Unfortunately, the judoka with the ISR on his back is the one BEING THROWN! Now, if you're the artist for the Israel Post, I understand the desire to depict an athlete with the ISR shown (i.e. to show it's an Israeli athlete), but you're depicting him in the worst possible light!

Visually, Uchi Mata is probably the most spectacular throw in judo. It gets depicted quite frequently on stamps. But it's also a relatively hard throw to execute on a well-prepared opponent. If you get thrown with it, it means that you were sloppy in your fighting posture and weight distribution, and your opponent took advantage of your mistake. Trust me, I know; that's how I lost one of the most important matches of my judo career.

Ilya Ronin, San Francisco, CA ■



Figure 5



Figure 6

# Prince of Viennese Operetta

## Emmerich Kálmán

Gene Eisen, Raleigh, North Carolina

In the early part of the 20th century the operetta was one of the most popular forms of musical entertainment in Europe. Two composers, Emmerich Kálmán and Franz Lehar, were the leading composers of what was called the “Silver Age of Viennese Operetta” during the first quarter of the 20th century.



Figure 1

Our story is about Emmerich Kálmán who was born Imre Koppstein on October 24th, 1882 into a lower middle-class Jewish family in Siófok on the southern shore of Lake Balatan, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and now in Hungary.<sup>1,2</sup> Austria issued a stamp (Scott 1226) on the 100th anniversary of his birth (Figure 1).

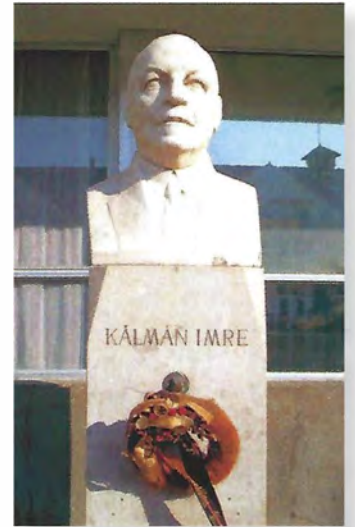


Figure 7

## EARLY DISAPPOINTMENT

Kálmán initially intended to become a concert pianist, but his ambitious plans were dashed when he was diagnosed with early-onset arthritis. Instead, he chose to study musical composition at the Academy of Music in Budapest. What was at the time a monumental disappointment, actually resulted in a fantastic treasure for the world of music. Fellow students at the Academy included Béla Bartok and Zoltán Kodály, both of whom became marvelous composers in their own right.

To help pay for his studies, Kálmán was employed as a critic for a music publication and as a lawyer's assistant. In 1908, he was awarded several prizes for music, which enabled him to visit musical centers in Europe.<sup>1,2</sup>

## MODEST BEGINNINGS

Kálmán's early symphonic poems were well received, but were not published. He also composed piano music and wrote many songs which were well received. The popularity of his humorous cabaret songs led him to pursue the musical format of operettas.<sup>1,2</sup>



Figure 2

Kálmán's first hit operetta was called *Tatárjárás* (*The Mongol Invasion*), first performed in Hungarian at the Lustspiel Theater in Budapest on February 22nd, 1908. The next year the operetta was moved to Vienna where it was performed in German. The American version of the operetta is called *The Gay Hussars*. The strong Hungarian tones of the operetta simply delighted audiences wherever it was sung. The music

critics and public began to take notice of this very talented composer. Following this first successful operetta, Kálmán composed five equally stellar operettas between 1910 and 1915.<sup>1,2</sup>

## THE PRINCE IS CROWNED

In 1914, Kálmán started composing music to a libretto by Leo Stein and Béla Jenbach. His completion of the operetta was delayed for a year due to the outbreak of World War I. The original date of the premiere in Vienna was November 13, 1915, but this was delayed until November 17 due to illness. Also, the original title was changed from *Es Lebe Die Liebe* (Long Live Love) to *Csárdás Furstin* (The Csárdás Princess).<sup>3</sup> A scene from the operetta is shown on the cachet on the Austrian first day cover of the Kalman commemorative stamp (Figure 2).

The operetta debuted in Hungary in the Kiraly Theater in Budapest in 1916. The operetta started its world-conquering journey in St. Petersburg in 1916 and was performed



Figure 5

and his expanding family fled to Paris and then, in 1940, to New York City. Figure 6 shows a photograph of the Kálmán family arriving in New York. Following his departure for America, all performances of his works were banned in Nazi-occupied Europe. In the United States, he



Figure 6

under an assortment of titles. It was performed by almost every musical theater in the world,<sup>3</sup> often enjoying runs of thousands of performances.<sup>2</sup>

On March 19, 2015, Hungary issued a stamp commemorating the centenary of the premier of the operetta, using one of its many titles, *The Gypsy Princess* (Figure 3). The stamp illustrates the cast of the 1916 production. The first day cover of the Hungarian stamp shows a scene with Ida Szentgyorgyi and Emo Kiraly (Figure 4).<sup>3</sup> Figure 5 is an attractive picture postcard with a first day postmark and includes a photo of Kálmán with part of the musical score from the operetta.

## THE LATER YEARS

In 1936, the premiere of his operetta *Josephine Csaszarno* (Empress Josephine) took place in Zürich, Switzerland because of the increasing political tension in Austria. With the Nazi occupation of Austria in 1938, Austria became a decidedly unwelcome place for Jews. Kálmán

became a successful conductor of his own works. Kálmán did very little composing after his departure from Europe.<sup>2</sup>

After World War II ended, Kálmán returned to Europe, first to Vienna, and then to Paris. A bust of Kálmán stands in a square of his home town of Siofok, Hungary (Figure 7). He

continued on page 8

was honored with the officer's cross of the French Legion of Honor in 1953. Sadly, he did not live to see the premiere of his last operetta, *The Arizona Lady*. He died in Paris on October 30, 1953. <sup>4</sup>

#### References

1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmerich\\_Kálmán](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmerich_Kálmán)
2. [http://www.britannica.com/biography/Emmerich\\_Kalman](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Emmerich_Kalman)
3. [http://www.posta.hu/stamps/new\\_stamps/imre-kalman-the-gypsy-princess](http://www.posta.hu/stamps/new_stamps/imre-kalman-the-gypsy-princess)
4. <http://melekhaz.konyvtar-siofak.hu/?p=the-biography-of-emmerich-kalman>. ■

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## The Leslie Reggel Memorial Award

**L**eslie Reggel was the founder and the first President of the Pittsburgh S.I.P. Chapter. He passed away on October 11, 1983. Shortly thereafter, the executors of his estate advised the Educational Fund that they, the executors, are authorized to establish a memorial in Leslie Reggel's name, using certain designated funds from the Reggel Estate to be invested for that purpose. The S.I.P. Educational Fund was appointed to administer The Reggel Memorial Award permanently.

The cash from the estate is invested and will continue to remain so for the foreseeable future earning sufficient interest to cover the cost of the annual award.

The "Reggel Memorial Award for Outstanding Service and Contribution to Holy Land and Israel Philately" is an annual award. The winner is selected each year by the two prior year's winners. In 2002, the Award was presented to the seventeen prior award recipients.

The first Reggel Award was presented in 1984 to Dr. Albert Friedberg. Since then, a total of 29 individuals have been presented the award

It is with great pride that we announce the honoree for 2015 to be Yacov Tsachor. It is with warm personal congratulations and best wishes for good health and further continued success in your service to our Society.

The Awards Committee ■

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Yacov Tsachor  
Author, philatelic expert,  
international judge,  
exhibitor, stamp dealer

Tel Aviv, Israel

## THE ALEXANDER MUSEUM OF POSTAL HISTORY & PHILATELY

#### Postcards from Herzl

Herzl's love for his children is demonstrated in three postcards written by Herzl to his daughter Paulina. The postcards were found in London in the 1970's in the inheritance of Joseph Weiman. Following prolonged negotiations, that lasted 10 years, the collector Zvi Alexander managed to purchase the three postcards and added them to his extensive collection. <http://alexandercollection.org> ■



# Education Fund Update

David Kaplin, [SIPEdFund@gmail.com](mailto:SIPEdFund@gmail.com)

## BOOK: ISRAEL & FORERUNNER MILITARY POSTAL STATIONARY

The publication of **Israel & Forerunner Military Postal Stationary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** by Dr. David Dubin and Lt. Col. Nancy Morrow was delayed several months because of additional edits and updates. The remastering of this monograph is extensive. It includes replacing many of the black and white images with color ones and the addition of over 20 pages of items that were undocumented in the 2002 publication. The prices of the new edition is \$18 plus shipping and handling. I am happy to report that the book has now gone to the printer and copies will be available for order fulfillment in November.

## BOOK: BALE CATALOGUE

The Ed Fund has only one copy of **Bales 2016 Israel Catalogue** remaining and does not plan to restock after this copy is sold.

## REMEMBRANCE LETTERS

Finally, the Ed Fund has been working to remaster and update Dr. Irwin Smalheiser's book **The Remembrance Letters and Commemorative Covers of the Ministry of Defense State of Israel**. Dr. Smalheiser documents Israel's unique way of honoring those men and women who have fallen in the defense of the country over the years by sending a **Remembrance Letter** since the inception of the idea in 1952 to the families of the fallen. These letters have been penned by various individuals ranging from the director of the department responsible for the letters to Prime Ministers though it is now traditional for the letter to be penned by the Defense Minister.

Dr. Smalheiser book, as originally written, documents the covers and letters including translation of the letters from inception to 1984. The Ed Fund with the assistance of Ben Wallace and Howard Chapman has documented the letters from 1985 to the present. Getting the newer letters translated has delayed the publication of the book and that part of the project has still not been completed.

In recent weeks, I have received feedback from some

individuals that there may be little or no interest in the topic. I need your feedback to determine if I should continue with the project or shelve it and in what format the book should be republished (print or digital). Please let me know either dropping a short letter (307 Iron Forge Ln, New Windsor, NY 12553) or an email your opinion to [SIPEdFund@gmail.com](mailto:SIPEdFund@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you. ■

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# The Saga of Dr. Henry Galili



Figure 1  
Dr. Henry Galili



Figure 2  
Dr. Henry Galili

Yechiel M. Leheavy, Margate, NJ

**A**s I stated in my article “Who Did It?” (**The Israel Philatelist**, Fall, 2014: 10 - 14), “philately to me is more than just filling empty spaces in my album.” To reinforce my statement I would like to share with my fellow collectors another philatelic story.

I recently purchased a Palestine stamp collection that belonged to a fellow collector, the late Edward Lovell (1901 - 1977). According to the APS membership description, Mr. Lovell (APS # 32114) collected “British Colonies and selected foreign countries.” One of his collections that I purchased was Palestine which contained correspondence with Dr. Henry Galili of Tel Aviv, Palestine. Yes, it is the same person that was the subject of my article.

## LOVELL COLLECTION

The first page of the collection starts with a statement, “Dr.. Henry Galili of Tel Aviv, Palestine... an example of a Jew that went home.” Below the statement one finds two pictures of Dr. Henry Galili (Figures 1 - 2). As a matter of fact, it seems as if Mr. Lovell dedicated his whole collection to Dr. Galili. The collection includes a large number of envelopes and two post cards (Figures 3 - 5) mailed by Dr. Galili to him.

In all probability Mr. Lovell and Dr. Galili met in Lodz, Lovell and Galili met in Lodz, Poland in the Fall of 1933. I was unable to find out what Mr. Lovell was doing in Lodz, Poland

On the other hand, as one recalls from my article, Galili had a travel agency and conducted business in Europe. It seems he listed his birthplace as Lodz, Poland and that is where both met. It is unclear under what circumstances they met, but it is clear, however, that Mr. Lovell and Dr. Galili struck a long friendship. They exchanged stamps and letters until Dr. Galili's arrest by the British in 1939.

Galili's first letter was mailed to Lovell on February 23, 1934. It was mailed from his Tel Aviv address, 62 A'chad Ha'am Street. Their correspondence continued until 1939 with Galili's last letter being mailed on April 10, 1939. There was a hiatus in the correspondence between June to August of 1937 (Figures 3 - 4). At that time Galili was on a business trip to Europe. It seems this was the time that Dr. Galili met the other "Galili". The last Galili letter to Mr. Lovell was mailed on April 10, 1939. The British, toward the end of August 1939, arrested Dr. Galili due to a mistaken identity.

## EDWARD LOVELL

Edward Lovell was born on August 24, 1901, and died on July 1, 1977. According to his obituary "he was a devoted and active member of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC". As stated above, I could not find any information about his trip to Poland. I assume that he met Dr. Galili in the fall of 1933. After Mr. Lovell returned from Poland, he received a letter from General Sir Arthur Wauchope, the British High Commissioner for Palestine (Figure 5). The letter was mailed on January 29, 1934. It seems that the spirit of modern Zionism fascinated Mr. Lovell. As one recalls, Dr. Galili was "...an example of a Jew that went home." And, throughout Lovell's collection one finds quotations from the Bible. All quotes are in relation to the Lord's promise to deliver the children of Israel from slavery to freedom and to the Promised Land.

## UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE

Among Mr. Lovell's pallbearers was the late Dr. Roy Bingham who was an active stamp collector (APS # 67311). Dr. Bingham had an outstanding thematic collection of orchids on stamps.



Figure 3

Post card mailed on September 26, 1937  
I returned only last week to my home country. I spent over 9 months in Europe, mostly in Austria and Romania.



Figure 4

On the reverse of the post card is the picture of the Jabotinski House under construction in Tel Aviv Galili was a member of the Revisionist organization "Betar" under the leadership of Jabotinski. Galili was arrested by the British towards the end of August 1939 mistakenly as a member of Etzel. Etzel was an underground organization that relied on Jabotinski ideas.



Figure 5

Postage fee: 15 mils, foreign letter rate

Slogan cancellation: Buy Jaffa oranges and grapefruits  
The ethical character of the Jewish collective was thus described by General Sir Arthur Wauchope, one of the British High Commissioners for Palestine: "The settlers live~ not to be sheltered from dangers~ but to be fearless in facing them. Hardship is their garment, and constancy their shield. Their manner of living compels them to bear and forbear. There is more gained than only material advantage. These people are free to form and live up to their own set of values. It be better to give than to receive, then perhaps more happiness comes from living for the good of the community than for self alone.

The collection stops at what seems to coincide with the arrest of Dr. H. Galili in 1939. The collection continues after a gap of five years. It contains five envelopes all mailed by British soldiers stationed in Palestine. Three letters were mailed in 1944 and the other two in 1948. The last of the five letters was mailed from Haifa, by now Israel, by a British soldier to England (Figures 6 - 7). The dates on the envelopes are clear, however, the FPO number on Figure 7 is not clear. The British Mandate in Palestine terminated on May 14, 1948. However, some British troops remain stationed in Haifa until May 18 - 19, 1948.

## EPILOGUE

On May 14, 1948, Alan Connigham, the British High Commissioner for Palestine, left Haifa. The 1st Parachute Battalion and the 1st Airborne Squadron Royal Engineers of the 6th Airborne Division remained for a while. They departed Israel on May 18 - 19, 1948. ([Wikipedia.org/6th-Airborne\\_Division\\_in\\_Palestine](http://Wikipedia.org/6th-Airborne_Division_in_Palestine)).

From this point forward there is no continuity in the collection. There are some Israel stamps ranging between 1948 and 1955. As before, the stamps are mounted on a few pages with Biblical quotations. The last stamps mounted in the collection are the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Scott, # 105 - 116). The Israel collection starts with a full page, which appears to be an Israel travel description in the early 1950. It is a typical description of a Christian Pilgrimage tour of the Holy Land.

There is no mention of a meeting between Lovell and Galili on his trip to Israel. We don't know if they met. Galili divorced his wife soon after his release from the Latrun internment camp. He moved out from his A'chad Ha'am Street, Tel Aviv address but his wife kept the residence. We just don't know what happen to him.



Figure 6  
March 24, 1948  
Field Post Office 535

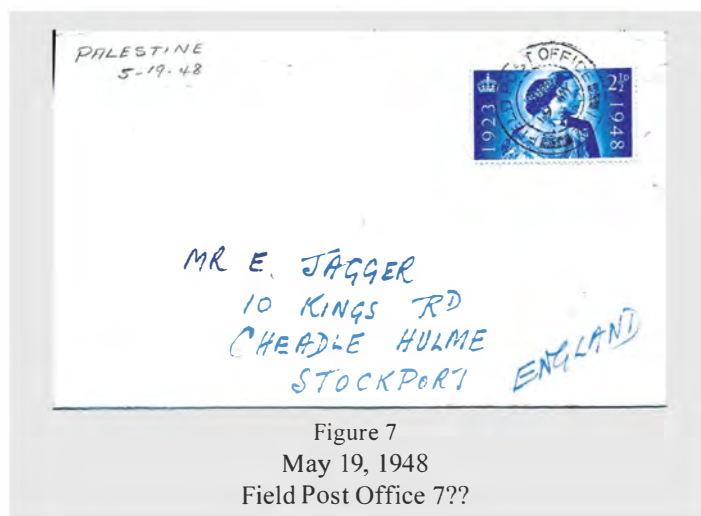


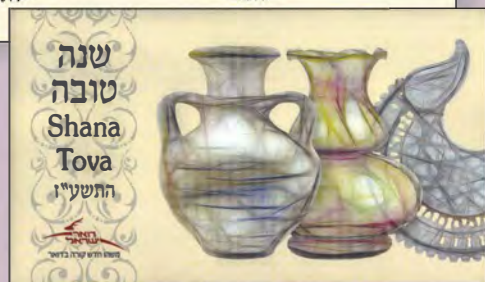
Figure 7  
May 19, 1948  
Field Post Office 7??

I wish to thank Mr. Gene Zhiss, President, Charlotte, NC Philatelic Club, for his assistance finding information about Edward Lovell. ■

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## ISRAEL POST GREETING CARD

### 2016 Festivals Stamps - Yom Kippur Poem



The poem "As the Clay in the Hand of the Potter" appears in the Ashkenazi version of the prayer book for the eve of Yom Kippur. The author is unknown. It portrays human beings as being subject to the will of God, who decides who shall live and who shall die.

This poem is recited on Yom Kippur because "Yom Kippur is the time for all to repent, individuals and the community at large. It is the climax of forgiveness and of pardon for Israel, thus every person is obligated to repent and confess on Yom Kippur" (Maimonides, Laws of Repentance 2:7).

The poet uses imagery featuring artisans using different kinds of materials; just as human beings are raw materials molded by the hand of God. They recognize their sins and their consequent punishment, yet still ask for mercy: "Look to the covenant and do not incline to your desire". In other words, God will remember the covenants made by the fathers of the Jewish nation with Him throughout the generations, and thus He shall forgive them. ■

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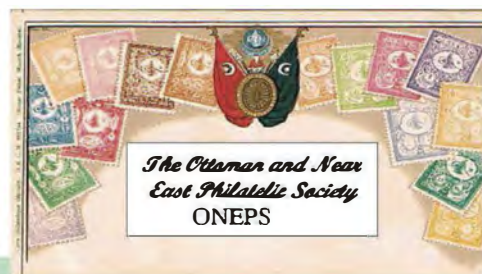


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# Chief Rabbi Moshe Kliers and the President

Jesse I. Spector MD, Edwin Helitzer DMD, Sol S. Shalit PhD

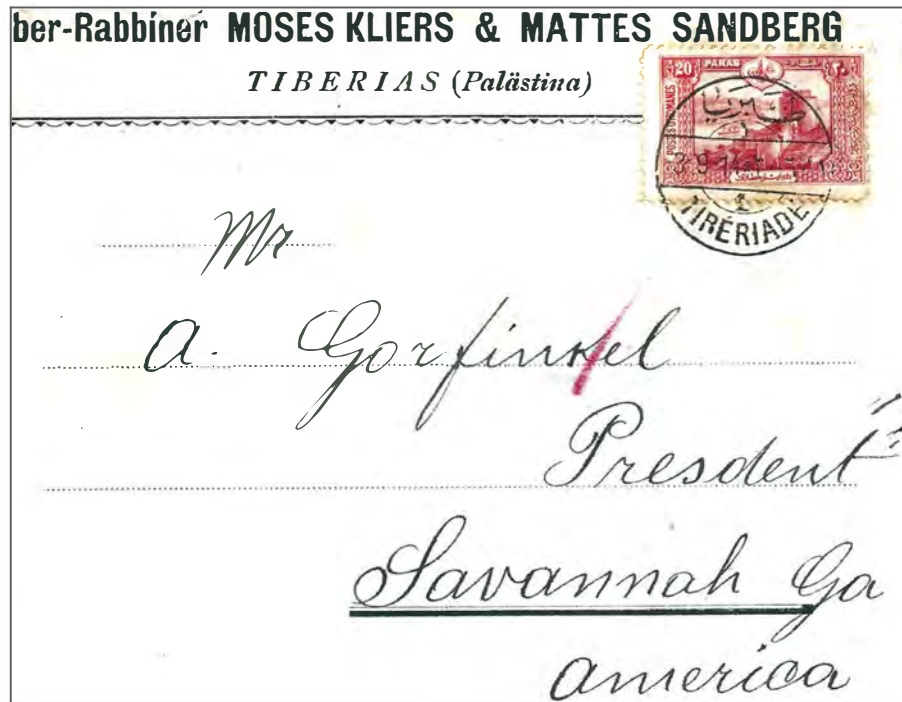


Figure 1

Letter from Rabbis Kliers and Sandberg in Tiberius, Palestine to A. Gorfinkel in Savannah, Georgia

One of the easily recognizable areas of Levant philately is the ubiquitous mailings from Yeshivas in Palestine to the United States in the first half of the twentieth century requesting contributions for support of the institution. These letters were constructed rather uniformly, imprinted with name of the Yeshiva, the rabbinical director, or both, and having a central printed address for mailing back a donation.

On the other hand, covers imprinted with just a cache of the sender's name should alert one to the possibility that a distinct communication was involved. Having come across numerous examples of the former, one might be lulled into neglecting the latter form of postal history. A cover that we recently acquired was one that "almost got away," until we paid greater attention to the addressee,



Directory listed his occupation as an insurance agent, and Vice President of The Exchange Bank. His father, Benjamin, joined his brother, Charles, in a merchandise brokerage business, while Benjamin and all the sibs, except for Abram and Sadie continued in the furniture business. Over the next two years both parents, Benjamin and Bertha, would pass away.

In 1911, Abram became President of The Exchange Bank, and was now a city alderman. He and his brothers expanded into a real estate firm, a mortgage bond company, and owners of rental property. Throughout the 1920s Abram would continue in his many business ventures, as did his brothers. Sadie would retire from the business world.

Abram J. Garfunkel passed away on February 5, 1929 at the age of 58, and rests for the ages in Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia. Eugenia, on the other hand, demonstrated great staying power, passing away in 1972, age 98.

Our curiosity regarding the nature of Abram Garfunkel's presidency proved most productive. It reiterated the impressive history of a good number of his fellow immigrants. From the first group of 42 Jews- 34 Portuguese Sephardic and 8 German Ashkenazim-who arrived in Savannah, Georgia from London on July 11, 1733, after a perilous sailing on the schooner, *William and Sarah*, the third Jewish congregation in the United States, after New York and Newport, was established. By the mid-19th century they had adopted a growing role into the economic life of the community, as well as participating comfortably in the city's civic life and leadership. Our exposition of the life of Abram Garfunkel proved to be from a similar template to that of the several waves of Jewish immigration to the United States.

## RABBU MOSHE KLIERS

Having met the recipient of our cover, we now introduce you to the senders of our cover, Rabbis Moses Kliers and Mattes Sandberg.

We suspect that the relative ubiquity of imprinted covers from Yeshivas in the Levant may have a dampening effect on one's inquisitiveness about the sender or the institution. The stories that unfold, however, when one delves into the lives of individuals is frequently well worth the effort.

Rabbi Moshe Kliers (Figure 4) fits the mold quite well. Born in Tzefas into a poor family in the mountains of the Upper Galilee in 1874 to Meir and Pesha Kliers, he was one of five sibs, four brothers and a sister. His father was employed as a gravedigger. His marital history remains confusing. He married the daughter of Rabbi Yehuda Leib Kastilnitz, one of the most important Slonim Chasidim in Tiberius. A genealogical research discovers a Dvora Kliers, listed as his "wife," but also includes an individual whose given name is redacted as being "private" followed by her being listed as his "spouse." It is possible that that he was married twice. What we do know is that in his teens he married the daughter of a prominent Talmudic scholar of the Slonim Community

in Tiberias, and moved there. Which of the two women this was is uncertain. In any case, four sons would result from this union.

At the age of 26, in a response to a request by Rabbi Schmu'el of the Slonimer community, he founded Yeshiva Ohr Torah, at the site of the grave of Rabbi Meir Baal Hanes, one of the rabbinic sages of the Mishnaic period (10-220 CE), on the southwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee just outside Tiberius. Upon the death of Rabbi Yechiel Michal Halperin, Rabbi Kliers assumed the position of Chief Rabbi of the Ashkenazi community in Tiberius.

Rabbi Kliers was a prolific writer, teacher, Jewish legal scholar and interpreter, best known for his **Sefer Torat ha-arets**, dealing with Jewish law and legislation and agricultural laws. Initially published in 1906, this definitive work has been posthumously republished on at least three occasions, including most recently in 2014. Twenty one works of Rabbi Kliers located in 29 publications remain extant in 70 library holdings.



Figure 4  
Photograph of Rabbi Moshe Kliers

From a philatelic perspective we include two letters written by Rabbi Kliers, a 1913 communication to David Simonsen in Denmark (Figure 5), and a deposition taken in 1931 (Figure 6). The letter to David Simonsen is somewhat hyperbolic, although likely heartfelt, thanking the generosity of the benefactor for a twenty dollar donation. We additionally include two further philatelic covers with variations on the sender cache from Yeshiva Ohr Torah: a 1918 cover sent to Amsterdam (Figure 7); and, a 1927 cover to Lawrence T. Berliner, an advertising agent on Nassau Street in New York City (Figure 8).

We were also able to retrieve communications from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) detailing that organization's additional financial support to rabbis in Palestine in 1916, including the pages in which rabbis Kliers and Sandberg are listed (Figures 9a, 9b). The AJJDC was founded on November 27, 1914, initially to support Jewish populations of Eastern Europe and the Near East for the duration of World War I. The organization took on a life of its own and remains active today, working in 85 countries throughout the world<sup>1</sup>.

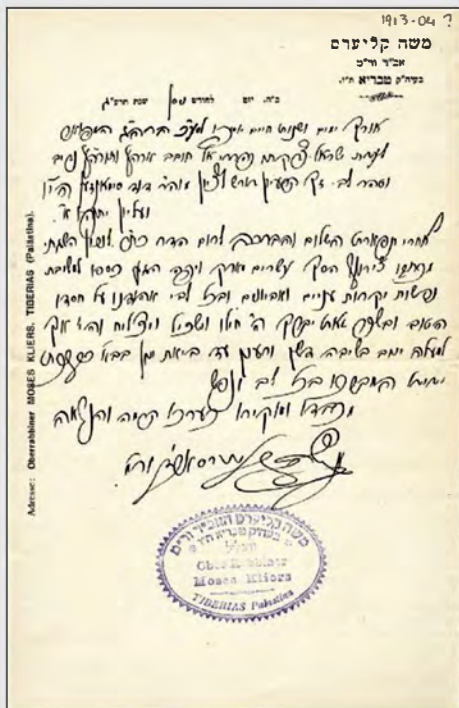


Figure 5

Letters from Rabbi Kliers to David Simonsen in Denmark, 1913



Figure 6

Deposition from Rabbi Kliers taken in 1913  
(courtesy Virtual Judaica Inc.)



Figures 7- 8

Covers with variations on sender cache from Yeshiva Ohr Torah, Tiberias, Palestine

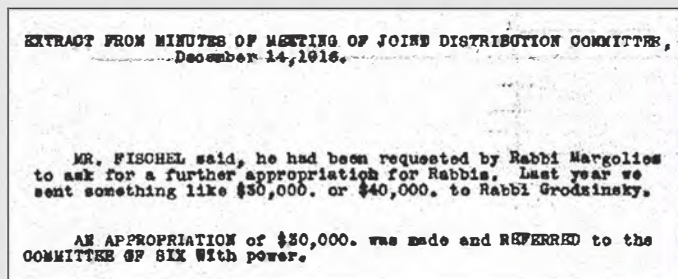


Figure 9a

JDC Minutes December 14, 1916 documenting sending \$30,000 to \$40,000 funds to Palestine

TIBERIAS.	
Rabbi Moses Kliers	\$20.00
Rabbi Mates Sandberg	12.00

Figure 9b

Donations to Rabbis Kliers and Sandberg

Communications from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

## RABBI YISAF MATTYAHU SANDBERG

We conclude with a final philatelic item, in this case related to Rabbi Yisaf Mattiyahu Sandberg, the associate of Rabbi Kliers at Yeshiva Ohr Torah.

Rabbi Sandberg was the original menahel (principal) of the Yeshiva Ohr Torah. Figure 10 is a letter written by Rabbi Sandberg in response to a request from the Aid Council for a reckoning of expenditures made attributable to the 30 Lire per month budget from the Council to the Yeshiva. The list includes amounts paid to the principal, teachers and expenditures for cleaning and repairs. Rabbi Sandberg states that cost overruns are covered by additional income received from abroad in the form of donations.

Of the little biographical information we were able to obtain, we determined that he married the daughter of Rabbi Meir Myrim Shafit (1800-1873), an eminent scholar and the rabbi of the town of Visnevo, in current Belorussia. Let us leave this as a story for another day.

## CONCLUSION

While we offer no guarantee that the next Palestine envelope with a Yeshiva or rabbinical imprint you pick out of a dealer's box or view in an auction sale will prove to be a singular find, we can assure you that some extraordinary stories are out there just waiting for the telling.

We are reminded of Russell H. Conwell, American Baptist minister, writer and founder of Temple University in Philadelphia. Conwell wrote an inspirational essay, published then in 1890 in book form, **Acres of Diamonds**, that was bought in the millions of copies, and lectured by him 6,152 times around the world, whose central idea was that opportunity and the resources to achieve all good things need not be searched for afar, but may be present in one's own community. We would modify Conwell's thoughts ever so slightly and make the same claim for our endeavors as postal historians. It's always exciting to make the acquaintance of an Abram Garfunkel and a Rabbi Moses Kliers, is it not? We believe it is, indeed.

### Reference:

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3. **Rabbi Moshe Kliers (klirs) (1874-1934) - Genealogy**  
<http://www.geni.com/people/Rabbi-Moshe-Kliers/6000000010441235388>
4. Tzadikim who left in the second part of Shvat

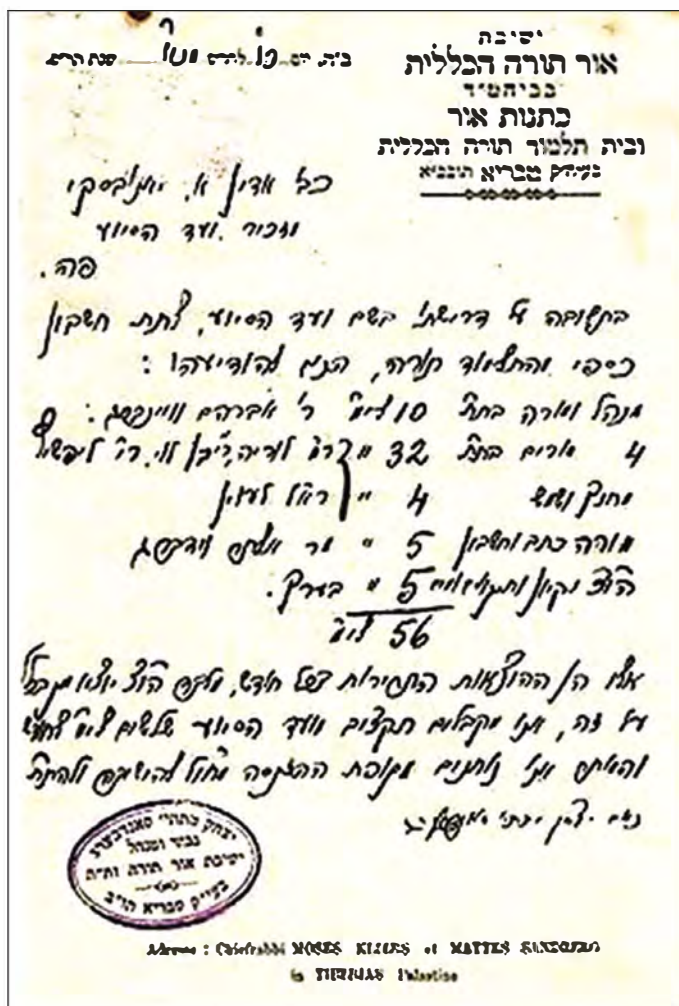


Figure 10  
Letter from Rabbi Sandberg to Aid Council  
with reckoning of expenditures made to the Yeshiva

<http://www.yeshshem.com/hilulashvat2.htm>

5. Sefer Torat ha-arets  
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6. WorldCat Identities  
<http://www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-no-43121/>
7. JDC-Archives: Moses Kliers  
[http://search.archives.jdc.org/notebook\\_ext.asp?item=178550&site=ideaalm&lang=WNG](http://search.archives.jdc.org/notebook_ext.asp?item=178550&site=ideaalm&lang=WNG)
8. Letters from Kliers, Moses to Simonsen, David  
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9. RABBI Yaakov Eskolsky  
<http://kevarim.com/rabbi-yaakov-eskolsky-escott/>
10. Russell Conwell  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russell-Conwell>
11. Slonim (Hasidic dynasty)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slonim\\_\(Hasidic\\_dynasty\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slonim_(Hasidic_dynasty)) ■

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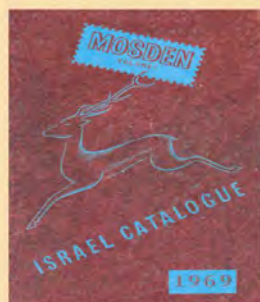
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■ **FOR SALE:** I have a collection of all the issues of The Israel Philatelist and a bound set of indexes. I would entertain all offers for the set of journals and indexes. Arthur Stein (413) 442-6447, e-mail: [owholmesa@nycap.rr.com](mailto:owholmesa@nycap.rr.com). ■

■ **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](mailto:balmussar@yahoo.com) or Baruch Weiner, 15 Chafetz Chaim Kiryat Sefer Modin Illite, 71919, Israel. ■

■ **FOR SALE:** I have back copies of the IP from the 1970's that are available for only the S/H charges. e-mail: [bernielubran@verizon.net](mailto:bernielubran@verizon.net). ■

■ **WANTED:** Der Ewig Jude exhibit ticket stub or Fritz Hippler Film Der Ewig Jude film stub, e-mail: [Chail8life@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Chail8life@sbcglobal.net). ■

■ **WANTED:** Lombardy Venetia (Austrian Post) 1863/1864, single stamps with any Holy Land postmark. Aaron Huber, Hadad 9, Petach Tikvah, 4961316, Israel, e-mail: [ashuber@gmail.com](mailto:ashuber@gmail.com). ■

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# New Discovery from Ramallah!

Jan Billion, Germany

**T**he United Nations General Assembly voted on November 29, 1947 for the partition of the British Mandate of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab states. Both the Arabs and the Jews were preparing for war against each other, seen as inevitable as soon as the British left the country. The British administration started to withdraw more and more from their daily administrative tasks. On May 14, 1948, the last British High Commissioner, Sir Allen Cunningham, left Palestine by boat. On the same day, David Ben-Gurion declared, on the basis of the UN partition resolution, the establishment of the State of Israel.

## THE INVASION

However, there was nothing to celebrate, because at the borders of the newly established state several Arab armies had massed for an attack on May 15. In a pincer movement, the Arab Legion under the command of Glubb Pasha marched on the Allenby Bridge near Jericho with plans to move towards Jerusalem. Further north, Iraqi troops occupied the triangle area between Tulkarm, Nablus and Jenin. Several thousand soldiers and volunteers from Lebanon and Syria attacked in the north. The largest force was provided by Egypt which attacked through the Negev heading north towards Jerusalem. Additionally, Egypt attacked along the Mediterranean coast through the Gaza Strip to the southern border of Israel. On 11 June 1948 the UN Security Council called the first ceasefire, The invaders gains on the Jewish state were minimal and the Arab territory in Palestine remained in Arab hands.

## POSTAL SERVICE

Egypt had prepared for the invasion and thereby had planned for administrative functions such as the Postal Service. From May 15, 1948 on, several regular stamps and an airmail stamp with an overprinted "Palestine" in both Arabic and English were issued. A bilingual postmark with a date

bridge in the middle was put into use. The Egyptians were very interested that their postal service start immediately in the occupied territories. They commandeered and used the cancelers, registration labels, and postal forms they found at the closed Mandate post offices.

Jordan, however, had not prepared any postal services. Maybe that had to do with the fact that they only controlled a relatively small area in the center of the West Bank even though King Abdallah dreamed of a large Palestinian empire that included Transjordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. The Iraqi army had functional field post offices.

On December 2, 1948, the Jordanian Post issued 17 postage stamps bearing "Palestine" in Arabic and English (Jordanian occupation of Palestine Michel No. 1-16 and A2). On October 5, 1948 a set of 12 tax stamps overprinted "Palestine" were issued (tax stamps Michel No. 1-12).

Since late May 1947, all correspondence had to be franked additionally with tax stamps paying half of the postage rate. "Before the issuance of their overprinted stamps, Jordan stamps were used without an overprint" according to the **MICHEL Overseas Catalogue Middle Eastern**.

## POSTAL DOCUMENTATION

Accurate information about when Jordan began its postal service in occupied Palestine is missing. The relevant literature says only that it should have been at the end of 1948 and – apart from the overprinted stamps – there have been no further postal items available such as cancelers or registration labels to verify the starting date of the service.

For this early period, a comprehensive two volume standard work was planned (**The Postal History of the West Bank of Jordan 1948–1967** by Dr. Josef Wallach). However, it is already over 30 years old and is based on findings by Akram Kawar who published in the late 1950s. Kawar was an Arab stamp dealer and collector in the Old City of Jerusalem. He produced many covers with postmarks from Jerusalem and post offices in the West Bank addressed to himself or directly to the customer (especially in the United States). He made covers from the first half of the 1950s as more and more post offices and postal agencies opened. Some of these post offices are only verifiable due to his pioneering work. But, in the initial phase in 1948 - 1949, he was obviously not yet active, which is one reason for the lack of information in the first few months.

## UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF DECEMBER 1948

When analyzing the available documents which I own or are in the archives for the period late 1948 and early 1949 for Jordanian occupied Palestine, it seems that we can divide the postal history into three phases:

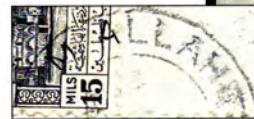
In the first phase very few post offices were opened (Jerusalem, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Nablus, Jenin). Obviously, neither Jordanian stamps nor tax stamps overprinted with "Palestine" were available at the time. Figure 1 is an airmail cover sent from Ramallah to Limassol, Cyprus. The December 1948 cancel is not readable with any degree of certainty, but most likely is December 9. On the back is a December 12 Amman transit cancel and a December 16, 1948 Limassol arrival cancel (Figure 2).

The cover is first of all a small philatelic sensation because it represents the first evidence that the double circle mandate postmark of Ramallah was actually re-used during the Jordanian occupation of Palestine. Evident is the mandate postmark with the conspicuous gap between the "M" and "A" (Figure 3) used by Mandate authorities until April 30, 1948. This spelling first occurred in 1925 when the postmaster wrote "Ram Allah" in his account.

The cover is franked with Jordanian stamps of 1 and 12 mils (2) totaling 25 mils, the Mandate period airmail rate to Cyprus. To comply with the additional 50% fee, and in the absence. In the absence of appropriate stamps or for convenience the tax was paid with a 15 mils stamp instead of 12 ½ mils. None of the stamp are overprinted "Palestine". Of



Figure 1



Figures 2, 3

interest is the return address "Christian Quarter, Jerusalem". Following Dr. Wallach's book, the Jerusalem Citadel post office in the Arab quarter of the Old Town was opened beginning December 8, 1948. For some reasons the sender didn't use this post office but went to Ramallah about 20 kilometers away.

The few existing documents from the 1st Period also beg the question why the post offices use Jordanian postage stamps without an overprint and not those with the overprint? The overprint stamps must have been available if the information in the catalogs is correct.

## MID-DECEMBER 1948 TO MID-JANUARY 1949

All six working post offices including the Jericho post office received the tax stamps overprinted “Palestine” but postage stamps without the overprint were still being used just, like the postmarks from the mandate time (single and / or double circle).

The Figure 4 cover is from an American Naval Officer who was a member of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) stationed in Nablus. It has a Jordanian 20 mils stamp (postage for international letter up to 20 g at the end of the mandate period) and a tax stamp of 10 mils overprinted “Palestine”. The stamps are canceled January 1, 1949 with the mandate single circle canceler of Nablus. The cover was censored and has the black negative seal of Iraqi military censorship. Nablus was in the Iraqi-controlled part of Palestine. There was, apparently, a collaboration where the Iraqi army controlled the outgoing Jordanian Post.



Figure 4

## FROM MID-JANUARY 1949

In the six operating post offices where the Jordanian postage stamps overprinted “Palestine” were available, they were used. In the period February–March 1949, the Jordanians also made preparations to introduce their own cancelers and registration labels. This was done, but probably not simultaneously.

The Figure 5 registered letter sent from Jerusalem to Cairo is dated March 19, 1949. It shows the Jordanian postmark 1st type for the occupied territories in Palestine (much earlier than Wallach who notes May 3, 1949). Note the continued use of the mandate registration label “Jerusalem 10” (Citadel Post office in the Arab part of the Old City of Jerusalem). It may be that replacement of the mandate postmarks and registration labels was a piecemeal procedure since both mandate items were used in parallel until 1950.



Figure 5

With the signing of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Jordan on April 3, 1949, the entire West Bank came under the control of the Jordanian administration. Both the Iraqi forces in the north and the Egyptians in the south withdrew. In the north a Jordanian post office in Qalqilya was opened. In the south the post offices in Beit Jala, Bethlehem and Hebron were taken over from the Egyptians. In late summer 1949, the Jordanian Post issued five special stamps to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union with the overprint “Palestine” (Michel-No. 17-21.). On April 24, 1950, the Occupied Territories were connected with Jordan. The stamps overprinted “Palestine”

lost their significance, but remained valid until exhausted. The obligation to pay half the postage with tax stamps ended on December 31, 1951. The author welcomes comments from the readers. ■



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# A Three Period Cover

Moshe Rimer, Israel

*Editor's note: The following article first appeared in the journal of the Thematic Association of Israel . It was provided by Dr. Wallach.*



Figure 1

Envelopes that had traveled extensively through the postal pipelines are highly sought after by collectors. One can learn the modus operandi of the clerks at the different post offices who handled the mail from the postmarks and postal markings applied and the conditions at the time.

Envelopes that were sent at a time of transition between two political systems are of special interest. Periods of change in government, currency, occupation or a natural disaster require the office holders to adapt to the new conditions, and the decisions they make usually create unique items.

## MAIL TO TULKARM

The Arab city of Tulkarm resides on the western rim of the mountains of Samaria, and its name attests to the wine industry that was once the economic basis of its residents. Following the Six Day War and Israel's control of Judea and Samaria, the local post office operated under the I.D.F (Zah"al) and the Civil Administration. This changed at the end of 1995, when the Oslo II Accords were signed and authority for managing the city was transferred to the Palestinian Authority's entities.

According to the Accords, the Civil Administration's postal services were shut down at the end of the day of work on Thursday, November 2, 1995. The postal offices were supposed to be reopened by the Palestinian Authority on Sunday, November 5, 1995, but as a result of the murder of Yizhak Rabin z"l, the Israeli Prime Minister, on Saturday night (November 4, 1995), the opening of the Palestinian Authority's post offices was postponed to Wednesday, November 8, 1995.

## EXPERIMENT PURPOSE

The envelope in Figures 1 and 2 was sent by registered mail from the Tulkarm post office on November 2, 1995, the last day the Israeli post operated there. The address that was written for the recipient was a non-existent address in Taybeh, and the address written for the sender was the address of the manager of the Jericho post office.

The envelope was sent at the initiative of the philatelist Dr. Joseph Wallach, in order to examine the Palestinian post's manner of operation. According to the accepted procedures, the post should return an undelivered registered letter to the sender (the manager of the Jericho post), and the intention was to see how long the process would take.

## WHAT HAPPENED

And so it was. The postmarks on the envelope's back and the hand written comments attest to the different stages of handling which the envelope had undergone at the different postal offices.

1. The registered letter was sent from the Tulkarm post (still under Israeli government administration) on November 2, 1995.
2. The letter was sent to the Taybeh village post office in Samaria and was received on December 4, 1995 (over a month later!). An attempt was made to deliver it to its destination, and after they gave up on locating the recipient (who doesn't actually exist), it was hand written across the front of the envelope that the recipient was unknown. The Palestinian postal clerk wrote (in Hebrew) a suggestion to search for the recipient in the City Taiyiba in the "triangle" area in Israel.
3. On December 7, 1995, the envelope arrived at the Israeli Taiyiba post office for processing. The postal clerks tried to locate the recipient, and when they failed (of course) they stamped "unknown – return to sender" upon the cover, and sent it back to the Tulkarm post.
4. The letter was returned to the Tulkarm post office

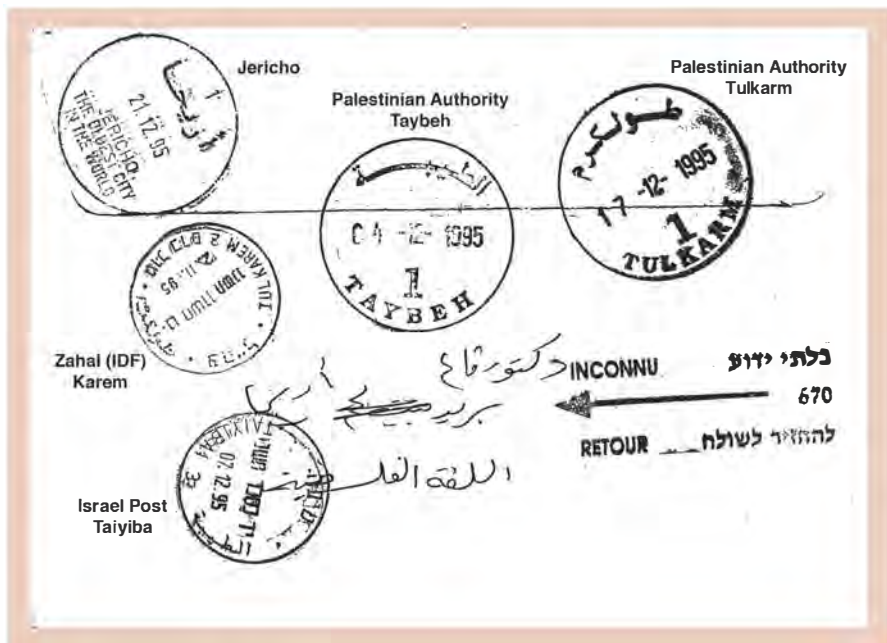


Figure 2

(Palestinian) on December 17, 1995, and was then returned to the sender's address in Jericho.

5. On the 21st of December 1995, the letter arrived at the Jericho post, the sender's address. The manager of the Jericho post then forwarded it to Dr. Joseph Wallach, as they agreed.

## POSTMARKS TELL THE STORY

The period during which the letter was sent is well portrayed by the five postmarks on the envelope's back, making an interesting mix. The letter is sent bearing the Israeli Tulkarm postal postmark, and is handled a month and a half later using the Palestinian Tulkarm postal postmark. The Palestinian Tulkarm post operated under the **Oslo II Accords**, while the Palestinian Jericho post operated under the **Oslo I Accords**. The attempt to locate the recipient in the two towns called Taybah demonstrates the close ties these two parts of the land held between them at the onset of the Palestinian Authority.

Parenthetically, we should take a moment to examine the meaning of the town name "Taybah". Across Israel there were once several settlements called "Ofra", meaning a gazelle. In Hebrew, this name is very graceful, but in Arabic, the word "Ofra" is very similar to the word "Ofrit", meaning an evil demon who harms humans. No wonder that the Arabs who resettled those deserted settlements chose to change their name and give them the opposite meaning, "Taybah", meaning "the good one".

*Moshe Rimer, formerly the editor of "Nos'on" and "Shova" Israeli Philatelic magazines, collects the subject of oysters. In the past, he presented "Mollusk and Man" and is now working on a new presentation – "To Bear more than Your Own Weight". Lately, Moshe has also engaged in mutual research with Dr. Joseph Wallach on the postal services in Judea and Samaria since 1948. His address for comments: [rimer@netvision.net.il](mailto:rimer@netvision.net.il). ■*

# Their Story

David Dorfman, z"l

*Editor's note: Through the years the SIP created a number of slide programs which were available to local clubs for use as show programs. The programs include a script and 35mm slides showing the appropriate covers and/or stamps. A number of these programs have been placed on the SIP web site ([www.israelstamps.com](http://www.israelstamps.com)) and are available to members for their viewing on their computer. Unfortunately, the images all have a orange color cast. The images are presentable but may not show the correct color. I plan to feature parts of a number of these programs in the journal to make members aware of this benefit. The following article was originally published in **The Israel Philatelist**, April 1962, vol. XIII, p. 673-685.*



Figure 1  
Rachel's tomb



Figure 2  
Mosque of Omar



Figure 3  
Tower of David



Figure 4  
Lake Tiberias



Figure 5  
The 4 stamps on piece date postmarked 28 Nov 29

To begin with, from the time the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces occupied Palestine, all stamps issued, starting with 1918, bore an E.E.F. inscription. Later on, when the Military Administration phased out, and the country came under Civil Administration, these E.E.F. stamps were overprinted with the 3 official languages of the country.

As early as 1923, Sir Herbert Samuel wrote a letter to the Acting High Commissioner suggesting that the new postage stamps for Palestine, use some conventional Arabesques as in the case of Hejaz. Alternatively, the Mufti or Bezalel Academy should make some proposals or suggestions that might be publicly shown in England.

This was referred to the Postmaster General of Palestine, who suggested that new stamps carry views of buildings and places of historical interest, such as the **Tower of David**, the **Zion Gate**,

interior view of the **Golden Gate, Dome of the Rock** and **Tiled Ornaments**. His reasoning was based on general public acceptability, and that such stamps would advertise the attractions Palestine offered tourists. Finally, he suggested that competitive designs be obtained from the Bezalel Art School and from England.

## PUBLIC COMPETITION

After a number of consultations, it was decided to hold an open public competition for photographs of local interest. A group of three Senior British Officers were selected as a judging committee, but the final selections were left to the High Commissioner. Prizes were offered and a great deal of interest was created.

A large numbers of photographs poured in from all over the world. Of course, each community submitted pictures of special interest to themselves. Most of the photos from Moslems showed views of the Mosque of Omar, and of purely Arab cities like Nablus and Ramleh. Jewish entries consisted of the Western Wall, Rachel's Tomb, and the Mount of Olives. Christians sent in only pictures of Christian holy places.

Finally, 16 pictures were selected by the judging committee as suitable for postage stamps, and prizes were awarded accordingly. Of these, Sir Herbert Samuel chose 4 photographs which depicted:

1. The Tower Of David (Figures 3 and 7),
2. Rachel's Tomb (Figures 1 and 5),
3. The Mosque Of Omar (Figures 2 and 6) and,
4. A View Of Tiberias overlooking the Lake of Galilee (Figure 4 and 8).

## COLONIAL OFFICE

This matter was then referred to the Colonial Office, which expressed its desire to postpone printing them until arrangements for new Palestinian currency were completed. The High Commissioner raised objections, and in a letter dated November 11, 1924, wrote:

The current issue, introduced as a wartime measure, be it noted is in many respects unsatisfactory. The design is somewhat crude, the values are shown in two of the three official languages, and the letters E.E.F. have long since been meaningless. Furthermore, the necessity for overprinting each stamp with the words Palestine in English, Arabic and Hebrew makes the production expensive.

A correspondence exchange followed, and objections were raised that by placing the Arabic and Hebrew translation of Palestine side by side beneath the picture of the Mosque of Omar, an impression would be conveyed that the Dome of the Rock belonged equally to Jews and Moslems. This argument was refuted by the High Commissioner's reply in which he stated:



Figure 5  
Picture post card - Rachel's tomb



Figure 6  
Picture post card - Mosque of Omar



Figure 7  
Picture post card - Tower of David



Figure 8  
Picture post card - Lake Tiberias

I do not consider that there is any real foundation for this objection which I am inclined to place in the same category as an editorial article that appeared some time ago in a newspaper, accusing the Palestine Post Office of engaging in Christian propaganda by including a Maltese Cross in the design of a date stamp. The date stamp in question was a standard pattern of the British Post Office. In any case, whatever objection may be raised to the Arabic and Hebrew lettering on the grounds quoted, it ceases to carry weight since the same arrangements will be adopted for all other designs.

## LAW CASE

In the meantime, the current issue of overprinted E.E.F. stamps was the cause of an unusual law case in 1925, when a certain Jamal Effendi al Hussein, described on the charge sheet as "...an Arab gentleman resident in Palestine, a citizen of the country," accused the High Commissioner's government of contravening the provisions of Article 22 of the British Mandate.

The basis of the complaint was that to the Hebrew word "Palestine" in the overprint, were added the letters Alef and Yod – the initials of Eretz Yisrael. The plaintiff acted as Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Moslem-Christian Association in Palestine. The Chief Justice was of the opinion that the addition of these initials did not constitute a danger to the interests of any part of the population, but the court considered that the points raised should be examined further. However, the court allowed the case to die by dropping it. It is to be noted that when the new stamps did finally appear, the Hebrew inscription still contained the letters which had been the subject of the complaint. But perhaps as a compromise, they were enclosed in brackets.

## STAMP ISSUE PROBLEMS

Because of the prevailing political situation in Palestine, the Colonial Office succeeded in postponing the issuance of new stamps until 1927, when the change to Palestinian currency was effected.

These stamps were printed on a very thin semi-transparent paper. The first ones to go on sale were the 3 mils and 13 mils values, which were issued on June 1, 1927. The rest of the set went on sale on August 14, 1927.

Little publicity was given to this issue because the creation of First Day covers was still unknown. However, stamp dealers of that period stocked up on enough mint sets to more than meet current demand, so that mint copies are not too difficult to find. The real challenge is to locate used copies because of what followed.

The Palestinian postal authorities discovered that due to the hot and dry climate, these first issued stamps curled very badly, and were very difficult to handle. Consequently,

complaints were forwarded to the Crown Agents in England. This matter was resolved by having all future printings made on a thicker paper with a ribbed appearance.

This ribbing was created by machine during the drying process after the paper had been gummed and can be seen as alternating small wavy impressions running vertically in the paper. This is also quite visible on the gummed side of mint stamps. This solved some of the curling problem. According to Dr. Werner Hoexter (researcher and stamp dealer), the earliest date known on this type of paper is March 1928, but a fellow collector informed me some years ago that he found a 3 mils value with a February 17th date. I now have a copy with a February 28th date. It is reasonable to assume that this value was placed on sale much earlier than any other.

Since this minor paper change did not materially alter the appearance of these stamps, no one paid much attention at the time, and consequently most of them were used postally, making the mint copies quite a bit more elusive today than used copies.

## ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Since its usage was rather limited, the 90 mils had a relatively short life (a total of 4.5 years). It was withdrawn from sale on January 16, 1932. Also, in 1932 there were some minor postal rate changes, with the consequent issuance of a new 15 mils value, and a change of color on four of the then existing values. On June 1st, the 7 and 8 mils in the old colors were withdrawn, and issued as 7 mils violet and 8 mils red. On August 1st, the 13 mils ocher and 15 mils pale blue were issued. The 4 mils purple replaced the 4 mils pink on November 1, 1932.

The first known coil stamp used in Palestine was the 5 mils value. Until this day, the most authoritative sources list the year of its appearance as 1936. To some extent this is true, however, quite recently I have made some startling discoveries pertaining to some experimental coils.

To read the rest of the story go to the SIP web site ([www.israelstamp.com](http://www.israelstamp.com)), under members only, slide shows. Scroll down to story number 20, "Story Behind the Palestine Pictorials". ■

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# Julio Popper

## TIERRA DEL FUEGO EXPLORER

Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg, NY



*This conclusion discusses Popper's relevance to Judaica collectors and offers fascinating insight into why the explorer became the target of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories so many years after his death.*

Part 1, Summer 2016, p. 8

### POPPER'S STAMPS



Soon after the coin appeared, Popper issued a stamp, and that is why he is of particular interest to Judaica stamp collectors. The most comprehensive article on this stamp was written by Walter B. L. Bose, "La estampilla de Tierra del Fuego" (The Tierra del Fuego Stamp), published in the *Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica*.<sup>1</sup> The stamp's image is similar to the one on the coin: printed in the center is a capital "P" for "Popper" over a sun above a miner's pick and hammer, and diagonally across the stamp, in large bold letters, Tierra del Fuego. Since Popper himself never revealed the meaning of the "P" some authors speculate that the same letter may have stood for "Patagonia" or "Páramo," the name of his main settlement and headquarters. On the upper left corner of the stamp a five pointed star and diagonally opposite an envelope pictured from its back. On the four angles the number 10 and on the outside frame TEN CENTS GOLD LOCAL. The stamps were printed in sheets of one hundred, all serrated, while the exterior margin carried the printer's name. The color of the stamps was pink carmine, although many of them in today's market are dull red. The stamp was designed by the Austrian lithographer Rodolfo Soucup and printed by the Buenos Aires firm of Juan H. Kidd & Co., the same establishment that also printed the postal stamps of Argentina at the time. It is impossible to determine the day when the stamp was issued. Bose estimates that it must have been at the beginning of 1891. They seemingly were used only during that year, for as Bose indicates, "all the cancelled [Popper] stamps that we saw are from April to August 1891." Contrary to the many accusations made against Popper for wanting to usurp the exclusivity of the Argentine



postal system by using his own stamp, he claimed throughout that his stamp wasn't an Argentine state stamp but only "a mark of control," a "local" stamp. In the absence of government postal services at the time and in the territory under his administration, the "Popper's stamps" were used to pay for the horseback messenger delivering a letter from one Popper-owned settlement to the other. Thus, the cancellation on the Popper stamps refer to "Colonia Popper," "San Sebastián," "El Páramo" and "Carmen Sylva."

When Bose published his article, he claimed that just about a dozen Popper-stamped letters were known to exist, and only some with the cancellations used in the settlements. One thing seems evident: with the minting of a coin and the issuing of a stamp, Popper, the young entrepreneur, was not reticent to push forward with his ambitions. Stamps, after all —

"are as much, if not more, of a prerequisite for nationhood than any tired old monuments... no more significant emblem of the modern culture of nationalism exist than postage stamps."<sup>2</sup>

Those Argentine authorities that accused Popper of usurping national authority weren't off the mark. The stamp is listed in *Stanley Gibbons Stamps of the World 2015*, Volume 6, 388.

Popper's stamp venture also inspired a story writer. In 1964, the Czech Frantisek Langer published *Filatelistické povídky*, translated into German two years later under the title *Ein Koffer aus Übersee: Merkwürdige Geschichten eines Briefmarkensammlers*, (A Suitcase from Overseas:

Strange Stories about Stamp Collectors). The novel is about the escapades of none other than Julio Popper! The story begins in Prague, where a Czech philatelist asks Popper, on the verge of fleeing Europe for a new life in Tierra del Fuego, to send back some Fuegian stamps. Popper did and Langer wrote:

“Popper grew; he founded colony after colony! New postmarks appeared on the envelopes of his letters. Colony San Sebastian, Colony El Paramo... I do see, in my mind, the pioneer Popper, the Napoleon or at least Cecil Rhodes of Tierra del Fuego sitting somewhere in a cabin next to the fire...”<sup>3</sup>

Langer’s narrative was not accurate when it came to facts regarding Popper’s biography. His was a story based on Popper’s life that took significant liberties. A number of philatelic articles written about Popper in the course of the years were also inaccurate. Even the latest Matz & Cheminau’s book, call Naphtali Popper a rabbi<sup>4</sup> which he was not. I surmise that that was due to the fact that the various authors did not have access to original sources printed in Spanish: Popper’s multiple articles in Argentine newspapers, as well as Lewin’s and Canclini’s documented books.

## NOTES AND ARTICLES ABOUT POPPER’S STAMP

*The Holy Land Philatelist*<sup>5</sup>, included a brief note by Tiberio Porges K. from Santiago, Chile, entitled “Julius Popper ‘The King of Fireland,’” yet another title given to the Romanian adventurer. Porges claimed that Popper “was considered as the ‘King’ of his territory,” although no evidence exists about this fact, and that Popper had the stamps printed:

“for there must have been an acute need for an organized postal service from the colony to the far-away post-offices of Chile and the Argentine.”

Some years later, the same author published an expanded version of his article in the *Judaica Post*,<sup>6</sup> where no new facts were added.

From Paris Jean Kohn published his “Julius Popper—King of Tierra del Fuego” (translated from the French by Maurice A. Burnston) in the *Judaica Philatelic Journal*<sup>7</sup>. The article begins by telling that Julius Popper was a “poor Jew” that came from Prague, that he had found gold in the “Land of Fire,” and that several months later he returned to Prague. These are only some of several facts that the author writes about Popper that fall more readily into the category of fantasy-story-telling, inspired by Frantisek Langer.

Kohn’s article concludes by making reference to yet another article about Popper written by Dr. S. Dagoni, but without giving the source as to where or when it was printed. Dagoni called Julio (Iuliu) Popper Kolia Papper, who “proclaimed himself ruler of Patagonia,” as did Ronald L. Eisenberg in his *The Jewish World in Stamps*<sup>8</sup>. Neither of these facts are accurate.

Yet additional factual distortions about Popper appeared in the journal *Aki Yerushalayim*,<sup>9</sup> devoted to Ladino culture and entirely printed in that language. In a featured column entitled “El filatelista sefaradi” (*The Sephardi Philatelist*), Mordehay Arbelle claimed that Popper’s mother was from Turkey, a fact not mentioned in any other Popper biography, thus ostensibly establishing Popper’s Sephardi connection.

Arbelle also writes that Popper visited the Caucasus, that he proclaimed himself “president” of Tierra del Fuego, that Argentina decided to affirm its sovereignty sending its navy and taking Popper as a war prisoner, that he defended himself before his captors in “djudeo-espanyol,” that is Ladino, and that he died in prison at the age of 36 before he could be tried. None of these “facts” were corroborated by any other Popper biographers.

In the May 20, 1993 edition of *Linn’s Stamp News*, a reader asks about the Popper stamp that he had bought on a trip to New Zealand. The unnamed responder writes that —

“The most thorough treatment of these stamps of which we are aware is in *The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World—Part 2: Australia-Europe-South America* by S. Ringstrom and H. E. Tester.”

No additional information is added, except to mistakenly state that Popper died “at the age of 55” when in reality he died at 36. The same responder also refers to Eric Francis Hurt and Leon Norman Williams’ 1950 *Handbook of the Private Local Posts*, Volume 6 of Billig’s Specialized Catalogues. I could not check these books as they are not available online and the libraries that own them are too far away from where I live.

Curiously, short of a month later, *Linn’s* published yet another article about Popper’s stamp by L. N. Williams without making any reference to the previous note of just a few weeks earlier. In this article, Williams mentions that in addition to being listed in Gibbon’s, the Popper stamp is also listed under “Feuerland” under Argentina in Michel’s South American catalog.

Additional speculations about Popper death were also made by John Henry Richter’s *Judaica on Postage Stamps*,

and by Isaac Borodinsky in *Judaica in Philately an Annotated List* <sup>10</sup>, where both state that he committed suicide. No such fact was ever confirmed by either the Buenos Aires medical examiner or the local press reports. The burial record of the La Recoleta cemetery provided by Dr. Carlos Francavilla, head of the cemetery's history department, lists Popper's burial date and the plot, section 19, plank 23. Irving Osterer called my attention to Claude Wainstain's *Judéopostale*, a monumental work of Judaica philately, a work of unparalleled artistic beauty. In one page devoted to Popper, the author states that Popper was accused of being an English spy. But, again, I have found no corroborating evidence of this fact. <sup>11</sup>

Finally, Dan Galili, published a short note "Julius Popper A Philatelic Update," in the *Judaica Philatelic Journal* <sup>12</sup>, where he lists a number of Romanian commemorative cancellations in Popper's honor, most of which are included with this article.



## POPPER THE JEW

After reading much of what Popper himself wrote, it is clear that from the moment he left his native Bucharest in his late teens, he never revealed by word of mouth or in any of his many published articles and notes, (in Argentine newspapers, most of them collected at the end of Lewin's book) that not only was he Jewish, but that he was born and raised in a traditional, practicing Jewish

and Zionist home. His younger brother Max did join one of the oldest Buenos Aires congregations upon his arrival to Argentina: the Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina, popularly known as the Templo de Libertad. There is actually a congregational record of when Max joined this community. Did his brother Julio know of his brother's affiliation? Did he mind? Did he reprimand Max for making their background so openly known, since he—Julio—so zealously guarded these facts till the very end of his life? We will probably never know.

Boleslao Lewin pointedly asked "Why didn't Popper reveal his Jewish background?" <sup>13</sup> Can it possibly be because he realized that by doing so he wouldn't have been able to pursue the kind of enterprises that built his legacy? Anti-Semitism in his time was very much alive in his native Romania, widespread in Europe where he studied, and in Argentina where he built his gold extraction establishment. In a time before Google and the internet, when so much information about anyone and anywhere is so readily available with the aid of a keyboard, it was possible to hide one's identity. But it is still surprising that having rubbed shoulders with the Catholic and Masonic patrician elite of Buenos Aires, Popper was able to keep his background under wrap. No one of his contemporaries ever mentioned his Jewish background. But everyone who ever wrote about him, always referred to this fact.

Lewin, also burdened by the stereotypical image of the Jew "who only knows how to be a merchant or a professional, and consequently an undesired immigrant," is also intent to show how Popper, in spite of having hidden his identity, was "different, an intrepid explorer, a daring adventurer, and aggressive military commander, a feudal boss." <sup>14</sup>

On June 6, 1893, 36-year-old Julio Popper was found dead by one of his friends in his downtown Buenos Aires apartment. He was lying semi-dressed next to his open bed. An autopsy revealed that he was stricken by a heart failure <sup>15</sup>. His remains were deposited in the family vault of his good friend Alfonso Ayerza located in the Christian "La Recoleta" Buenos Aires cemetery where Argentina's elite (including Eva Perón, "Evita") is buried. In the course of his eulogy, Popper's good friend Lucio V. López, stated that "Julio had the framework of the heroes that propel the fantastic narratives of Jules Verne... he was a legendary character." Popper had resided in Argentina seven years and only about two in Tierra del Fuego. The press published obituaries but no mention of his religious faith was made, a fact that was usually included in such

announcements. Julio Popper died penniless. His mother in Bucharest received a condolence note from the Argentine Geographical Institute where he had presented the extensive lectures about his explorations, and some of his personal effects.<sup>16</sup>

But Popper's death and burial remain, for unknown reasons to me and in spite of my rather thorough research, a subject of speculation: some claim that he was murdered; others say that his remains are not in the Ayerza vault. *Cape Horn*,<sup>17</sup> a 2014 cartoon book by the writer Christian Perrissin and the artist Enea Riboldi, claims that Popper was poisoned. But, one may say, this is only a cartoon! So far no one has come forward to question why these speculations were made to begin with and no one has come up with any evidence to show that he is not in the original vault where he was laid to rest.



## AFTER POPPER

Julio Popper was a pioneer for his time. Braun Menendez called him a “dictator” and Canclini “the Quixote of Fueguian Gold.” The very latest book about Popper just published in Argentina (2016) by David Guevara: *Julio Popper, el alquimista de El Páramo*, nicknamed him as an “alchemist.” He was probably a bit of all of the above but more than anything else, a pioneering explorer of Patagonia as Lewin defined him<sup>18</sup>. Popper's enterprise still remains a rather unique chapter in Jewish history. This is the story of a Jewishly educated man from a practicing Jewish-Zionist home, alone, in his thirties, very far away

from his family and surroundings at a time of rampant anti-Semitism and restrictions against Jews in his native Romania, who transformed himself into a daring entrepreneur, invented gold-extracting machinery, dressed in army-like uniforms, rode horses and shut rifles, ordered around lieutenants and workers, proudly looked around at the lands under his sole administration, minted his own gold coins, and issued his own stamp! All this he accomplished in the 36 years of his life!

His plans took off in an isolated, remote land, without means of communication, and where the average temperature is five degrees centigrade. If to this day Tierra del Fuego is seen as “the end of the world” it certainly was in Popper's days. In the small, fittingly called “Museo del fin del mundo” (The Museum at the end of the World) in Ushuaia which I visited together with my wife, one can see several panels and photos illustrating Popper's enterprises, and an exemplar of his stamp. Nothing remains of “El Páramo.” “Northern Tierra del Fuego, where Popper had been ‘dictator’, settled down to sheep raising under the domination of the Braun Menéndez family.”<sup>19</sup> That land became an immense sheep, the “Estancia Cullen” housing as many as 140, 000 sheep. How the property was passed on following Popper's death remains unanswered.

Not even a street in Tierra del Fuego was named after Popper. Only in the city of Río Grande, on the northern coast of the big island, a paltry street was named after him. Neither was an Argentine postal stamp ever issued to honor him. Only his native Romania did so for it valued Popper as a pioneering scientist, its native Magellan, a 19th century adventurer that contributed his knowledge and culture to the betterment of the lands he visited and worked in. In 1986, Romania issued a set of three stamps honoring Polar explorers. One of them included Popper (*Scott 4281*) against the background of the horse-shoe shaped land formation of Tierra del Fuego, and next to him a carmine-colored image of the “Popper stamp.” On the 130th anniversary of his birth a special cancellation honored his memory. The lower left corner of the cachet showed a drawing of Popper's contraption to separate the gold from the sand and water. Another special 1993 cancellation honored Romanian Polar explorers and one of them included Popper's portrait, and the outline of a map of Tierra del Fuego. In 2007, on the 150th anniversary of Popper's birth, Romania again offered a special cancellation with his portrait and, in addition, issued four stamped envelopes of the same value. In two of the envelopes, the “stamps” are images of



Popper and on one of them a detailed map of Tierra del Fuego, the line dividing the border of the island between Argentina and Chile, and some of Popper's settlements underlined in red. A third envelope reproduced twice Popper's stamp and some of the cancellations with the names of the settlements he founded. The fourth envelope features Popper's gold coin and, once again, his gold distilling machine. (also see part one for illustrations of some of these covers)

### PALESTINE or ARGENTINA



By 1891, Popper was employing several hundred people in his settlements. Persistently he tried to add land under his control. But “what propelled Popper to want to expand his land ownership to such an extent? Why, like many other immigrants didn't he choose to live in a city and chose rather the risky life of an explorer and adventurer?” asks Lewin<sup>20</sup>. It was not Popper's ambition to strike it rich, but rather his youthful ambition and personal glory, a touch of megalomania perhaps, that pushed him and his grandiose plans, Lewin suggests.

But is it just an extraordinary coincidence that only six months after Popper formulated his 1891 land expansion request to the Argentine government, that the French steamship “Pampa” reached the port of Buenos Aires and on board were 817 Jews who had fled the Czarist pogroms? They became known as the “pampistas” who settled in the province of Entre Ríos colonies funded by the Baron Maurice de Hirsch. The “Pampa” was preceded three years earlier—just as Popper was making his way to Tierra del Fuego—with the arrival of the “Wesser,” carrying on board 800 Jews who became the founders of the agricultural colony of Moises Ville. Popper was in Argentina during those very same years. As someone

who published many articles in the main Argentine newspapers, may we not question the possibility that Popper also read about these fellow Jews escaping from Russian pogroms? Did Popper come across Julián Martel's *La Bolsa*, one of the classic works of anti-Semitic literature published in 1890, and still sold in some Buenos Aires bookstores? Did it cross his mind that the very sparsely inhabited Tierra del Fuego could serve as a possible refuge land for Russian Jews? May this be the reason that he wanted to exponentially expand the ownership of land? He already had land, a small army, his own minted gold coins, his own postal stamps, all managed with military precision.



There is no indication of such thoughts in Popper's writings. But in 1896, only three years after Popper's death, Herzl published *Der Judenstaat* (A Jewish State). In the very first chapter, in his determined goal to find a solution to “The Jewish Question” he asked:

“Shall we choose Palestine or Argentina. We shall take what is given to us, and by what is selected by Jewish public opinion.”<sup>21</sup>

Zionist-territorialists were convinced that the only answer to the “Jewish Question” was a land of their own. They came to consider Uganda, Angola, Madagascar, Tasmania, and Suriname.<sup>22</sup> Why not Patagonia? No wonder then, that in Julio Mann's imagination Popper is described writing to Herzl, and that anti-Semites like Federico Rivera Carles considered Popper an underground agent whose real intent was creating a Jewish state in the south of Argentina.



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Picture from reference 4

## The Postal History of the Concentration Camp

# Lublin-Majdanek

The book's author, Janusz Mozdzan, describes the postal history of Lublin-Majdanek Concentration Camp in occupied Poland. This concentration camp, commonly known by the name Majdanek, was on one hand a "normal concentration camp" similar to the other 24 under the command of the SS. On the other hand, Majdanek was quite different: it was an annihilation camp for Jews, a concentration camp for political prisoners, a prisoner-of-war camp for Soviet soldiers, a penalty camp for members of "collective liability" and a transit camp for the compulsory transfer of the Polish population.

### PRISONER TYPES

Mozdzan tells the story about Majdanek through the letters of its inmates. Among the prisoners are German physician Otto Hett, Polish prisoners Prince Krzysztof Radziwiłł and Adam Panasiewicz, the Norwegian inmate Erling Bauck. The daily work in the post office (Kommando Poststelle) is shown by numerous SS documents and the memoirs of Adam Panasiewicz and Erling Bauck. These "experienced" prisoners, brought to Majdanek from other concentration camps were determined by the SS to work on the construction of the camp. They were permitted to write letters from Majdanek to their families; some of their letters are reproduced in this book.

Other inmates like Polish farmers, Soviet prisoners, political prisoners and Jews had no rights to keep in contact with their relatives, at least until the autumn of 1943. After lengthy negotiations between German camp authorities and Polish welfare organizations (Polish Red Cross and Polish Social Welfare Committee), permission was given to most of the prisoners to write notes. At the end of September 1943 some hundred postcards – printed by the Polish Red Cross – were



sent from Majdanek to their families. A few months later Majdanek was liberated. For Jews, this camp was the site of extermination – they had no rights to write letters at all, with some exceptions. Only a few letters by Jews are known from Majdanek – two are shown in the book.

### THE CAMP

The Majdanek concentration camp was the largest facility of the Nazi terrorism system in Lublin. It was the largest one, but not the only one. In December 1939, the SS constructed a forced labor camp for Jews in the center of Lublin, at Lipowa Street 7. The prison of the Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei) and the Security Service (Sicherheitsdienst) within the Castle of Lublin held some 40,000 inmates. The overwhelming majority were political prisoners.

The Lublin ghetto, established on March 24, 1941 and liquidated at the beginning of November 1942, was the place of death for nearly all of the 37,034 Jews of Lublin.

This number was the result of a 1939 census by the German authorities. Letter, shown in the book are documents of men and women who suffered and died under the Nazi regime.

## COMMUNITY OF COLLECTORS

A complete chapter is dedicated to the great community of collectors of letters from the Majdanek Concentration Camp. The known documents, e.g., the numerous packet confirmation cards, are listed chronologically. Additionally, previously unknown new forms are presented. The relevant literature cited in the book included: contemporary sources, the latest results of researches by the State Museum at Majdanek (carried out by Mozdzan when doing his research for the book) and all known literature about the postal service of the camp. Many documents from Polish and German archives are reproduced in the supplement.

## ORDER DETAILS

The 208 page book is hardcover with more than 100 illustrations, is written bilingually in German and Polish and contains a 4 page summary in English. It has been published by Poststempelgilde e.V., Germany.

The book costs Euro 30,00 plus Euro 7,00 for shipping worldwide. It can be ordered by mail from Mr. Joachim Naumann, Grabbeweg 36a, 59494 Soest, Germany or by email: [info@poststempelgilde.de](mailto:info@poststempelgilde.de). It can also be ordered from the author: [janusz@mozdzan.de](mailto:janusz@mozdzan.de). For payments, please contact Poststempelgilde or the author. ■

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Moshe Kol Kalman, Kibbutz Lahav, Israel  
Jewish National Fund Labels

# THE SCROLL OF FIRE - Megilat Ha'esh

The Scroll of Fire is one of the most beautiful sculptures in Israel, it is located in what is the single largest memorial to the Holocaust in the world, the Martyrs Forest, It tells the story of the rebirth of the nation from the Holocaust up to the Six Day War.

The forest is comprised of six million trees, truly a living memorial. Four and a half million pine trees represent the adults who perished in the Holocaust while one million and one half cypress trees account for the children who perished.

Dedicated in 1971 by B'nai B'irth, the Scroll of Fire is the work of Warsaw born Nathan Rappoport. The scroll on the right focuses on the Holocaust and its survivors, while the scroll on the left deals with the struggle to establish a new homeland. On the right pillar one can see Jews being marched off to the concentration camps.

The survivors are seen leaving the camps, now with their eyes raised in hope. A small boat represents the thousands who came to Israel in the pre-State days during the clandestine immigration era. In the scroll on the left the symbols the wandering Jew, a walking stick and a sack are left behind since the wandering is over and the Jew has reached his homeland; a pregnant woman depicts the next-generation that will be born in freedom.

The 1972 sheet is 4x5 with tabs under the bottom row. Selvage inscription 2\*2. Sheets occur with and without selvage in inscription.



Rochlin	1615	0.15	Black and carmine
Rochlin	1616	0.25	Black and red
Rochlin	1617	0.50	Black and yellow brown
Rochlin	1618	1.00	Black and deep magenta

Finally the reunification of Jerusalem is depicted by a menorah carried by a group of soldiers.

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# The 1918 Sinking of the Kingstonian

Joel H. Weiner, Ph.D., Edmonton, Canada



Figure 1  
Kingstonian

Some years ago I was visiting the bourse of a major national stamp show looking for Palestine postal history. A British dealer showed me a rather tatty British military Field Post Office envelope from the Palestine front in World War I and asked if I had heard of the Kingstonian? Indicating that I had never heard of the Kingstonian he went on to tell me about the Palestine mail salvaged from a ship bound for Europe from Alexandria, Egypt that had been torpedoed twice in the Mediterranean in April 1918. I bought the cover and decided to find out more about this disaster mail.

Upon returning home I looked up what was known about the Kingstonian in John Firebrace's **British Empire Campaigns and Occupations Near East, 1914-1924, a Postal History** p.433-435<sup>2</sup>. This got me started and what followed was a multi-year search in auction catalogues, on the Internet and in communication with postal history dealers and collectors for information and mail associated with this disaster. This is what I learned about the sinking of the Kingstonian, one of the most intriguing, complex and controversial aspects of World War I Palestine postal history.

## THE SINKING

The *Kingstonian* (Figure 1<sup>7</sup>) was a 467-foot long, 6564 tons, steamer built in 1901 by Hawthorne Leslie & Co., Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K., for the West Indian trade of the Leyland Line owned by Fredrick Leyland & Co., Liverpool, UK.

She left Alexandria, Egypt on April 4, 1918 bound for Marseille, France carrying approximately two weeks commercial and military mail, additional cargo and forty troops. She was attacked and damaged by a torpedo from a German submarine (UB-68) off Sardinia on April 11 with the loss of one sailor. She was towed into Carloforte Bay, San Pietro Island, in southwest Sardinia for salvage.

On 28 April the HMS *Dalkeith* arrived to commence salvage operations, and that afternoon secured alongside with the rescue tug *Moose*. On 29 April, a torpedo was launched by another submarine, UB-48 which passed under the tug to explode under the boiler room of the *Kingstonian* and blowing a hole in the hull of the *Dalkeith*. The salvage ship flooded rapidly and sank in two minutes; the *Kingstonian* broke in two... Nine men, most of them locally employed Greeks, were killed on-board the *Dalkeith*, one man died on the *Kingstonian*. Two civilians were killed in Carloforte when stray shells landed in the town.

A report by Lieutenant A.A. Atkins Royal Navy<sup>1,5</sup> contains an in depth description of the torpedo attacks

## MAIL CONTROVERSY

A relatively large amount of salvaged mail dated between mid-March and early April 1918 emanating from Egypt and the Palestine front has survived. However, there is considerable controversy concerning the source of all the salvaged mail. Experts are still divided as to whether all the mail could have come from this one disaster<sup>3</sup>.

According to Firebrace Royal Navy records indicate that four British ships were sunk in the Mediterranean in April 1918<sup>2</sup>. These were the *Airdale*, the *Sunik*, the *Warwickshire* and the *Kingstonian*. Two of these ships, the *Airdale* and the *Sunik* did not carry mail.

The *Warwickshire*, was attacked on April 10 but was able to get to Bizerta on the Tunisian coast. She carried mail from the Burma, Ceylon and India area as well as cargo and 200 passengers and was very unlikely to have had any Egypt/Palestine mail. I have not been able to find any salvaged mail associated with the *Warwickshire* in catalogues or on the Internet (but see the discussion of Figure 13). This suggests that all the salvaged Egypt/Palestine mail came from the *Kingstonian*.

Are there any covers that provide additional hints that the mail came from the *Kingstonian*? While there is no definitive proof, the *Kingstonian* was built for trade with the British

West Indies (BWI) and only the Leyland Co. had a contract to carry mail to BWI. An April 1918 salvaged cover was received in Kingston, Jamaica on June 18. This most likely originated from a soldier in the British West Indies Regiment that was serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The cover had a three-line cachet "Observed to be/IN BAD CONDITION/ G.P.O. Jamaica". This cover is in a private collection and the link to BWI provides support that the Egypt/Palestine salvaged mail came from the *Kingstonian*<sup>2</sup>.

The fact that there was a large quantity of mail on the *Kingstonian* when she left Alexandria is highlighted by a British Post Office Circular of April 23, 1918 which states

Considerable delay may be expected in the arrivals of the Mails which left Egypt on the 4th of April containing about a fortnight's correspondence from Egypt and the Palestine front; and possibly some of the Mails have been lost<sup>3</sup>.

## THE CACHETS

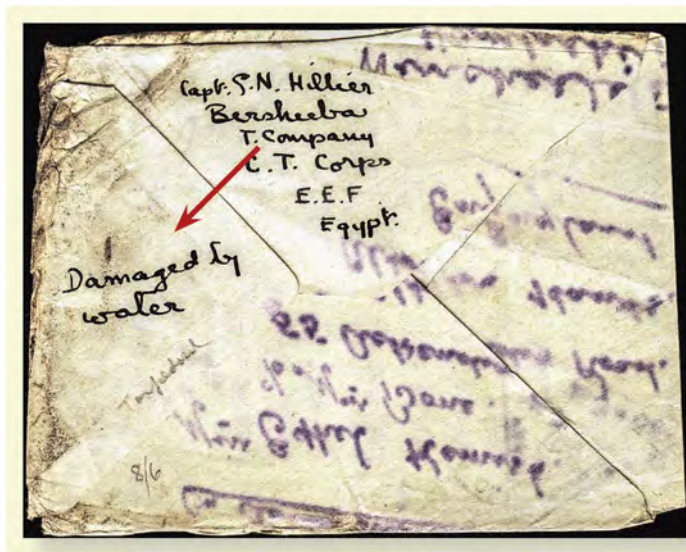


Figure 2

Back of a censored cover from Army Post Office SZ 23 at Beersheba mailed March 26 with the manuscript notation.

Certainly the most interesting aspect of the postal history associated with the *Kingstonian* disaster is the very large number of cachets that appear on salvaged mail. There are more different cachets on this mail than any other disaster until the Imperial Airways Flying Boat disasters of the late 1930's<sup>2,3</sup>.

Firebrace has cataloged fourteen Marine Casualty Cachets (MCH) used during World War I on salvaged mail<sup>2</sup>. Of these, twelve are known on mail salvaged from the *Kingstonian*; ten are hand struck (a rubber stamp), one is typewritten and one is a mimeographed label.

Hoggarth and Gwynn in their study of Maritime Disaster Mail<sup>3</sup> have identified ten cachets, two of which differ from any identified by Firebrace. In my research I have found an additional hand struck cachet. As argued by Hoggarth and

Gwynn<sup>3</sup>, it is hard to believe that so many cachets were used for one disaster yet all the evidence points to this conclusion.

1. British - Several different disaster cachets were used on mail to Britain,
2. French - Naufrage (French-shipwreck) handstamps were applied to French mail that was transferred to Marseille from Sardinia.
3. Italian - A Naufragio (Italian-shipwreck) handstamp was applied to Italian mail that was removed in Sardinia

In addition, clearly water-damaged mail from Palestine and Egypt, in the correct time period, is known with only a manuscript “damaged by water” notation. Figure 2 is the back of a censored cover from Army Post Office SZ 23 at Beersheba mailed March 26 with the manuscript notation. A washed out triangular censor mark and the FPO cancel are on the front.

## AMBULANCE COVER & NOTE CARDS

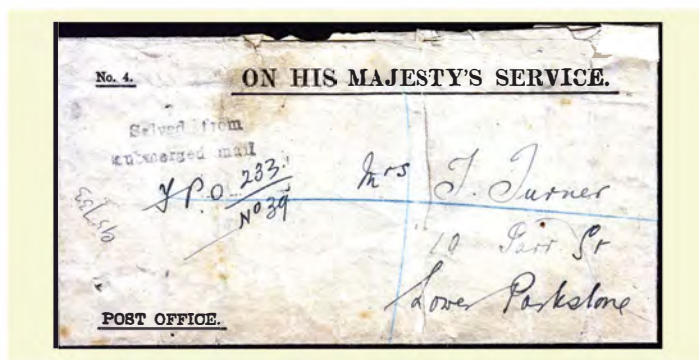


Figure 3  
Ambulance cover

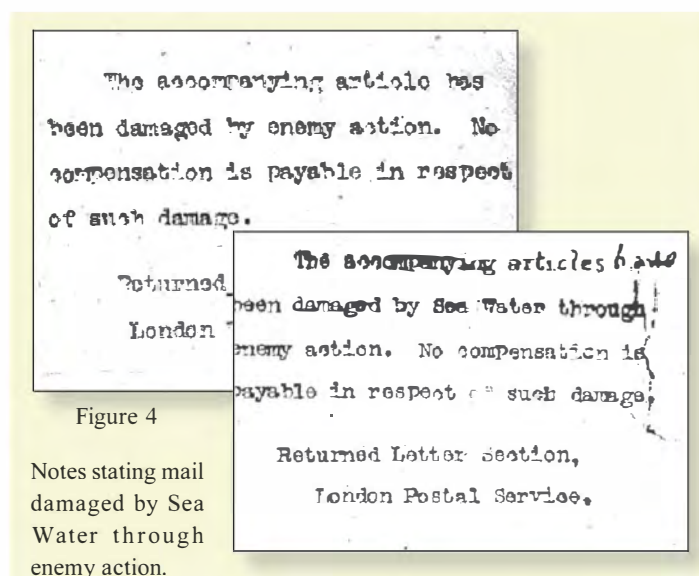


Figure 4

Notes stating mail damaged by Sea Water through enemy action.

Covers are also known lacking any notation. It is possible that these unmarked envelopes were included in an “ambulance cover” with other mail that shows a cachet (Figures 3,4). An ambulance cover is an envelope used by postal authorities to send a damaged piece of mail to the recipient where the original envelope could not be forwarded on its own.

## BRITISH CACHETS

By far the most common cachets are Firebrace MCH2 and MCH3.



Figure 5  
MCH2

MCH2 (Figure 5) has the text **DAMAGED BY IMMERSION/IN WATER**. It is on an “On Active Service” pre-printed honor envelope (self censored envelope) mailed to England on March 31 from FPO GM1 (General Head Quarters) located near Bir Salem.

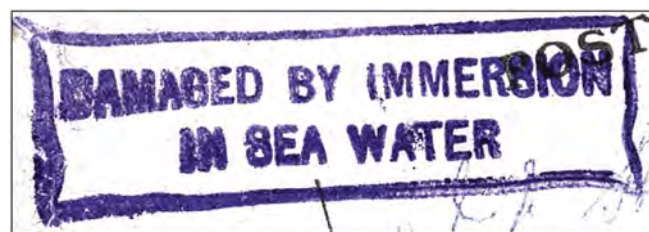


Figure 6  
MCH3

MCH3 differs slightly with the text “DAMAGED BY IMMERSION/IN SEA WATER”. Figure 6 is on a pre-printed Field Service Postcard mailed to London from FPO 181 that was in Jericho on March 21. FPO 181 was used by the 181st London Brigade, 60th Division, XX Corps of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF).

These “DAMAGED BY IMMERSION” cachets are found on both commercial and military mail from numerous Army or Field Post Offices in Palestine<sup>2</sup> and are often seen in maritime disaster mail auctions, Holy Land auctions and on-line auction sites, sometimes correctly linked to the Kingstonian (with high value estimates), and sometimes not (with low value estimates). Knowing that all mail from Palestine and Egypt between March 18 and April 3, 1918 was on the Kingstonian can readily help in the search.

MCH4 An additional variant “DAMAGED BY IMMERSION/IN SEA WATER – I.S.” is similar to MCH3 but differs by the addition of the abbreviation I.S. (Inland Section). I have not seen this cachet.

The other seven cachets seen on British mail are very scarce to rare. Figure 7 shows cachet which has several constant letters missing,

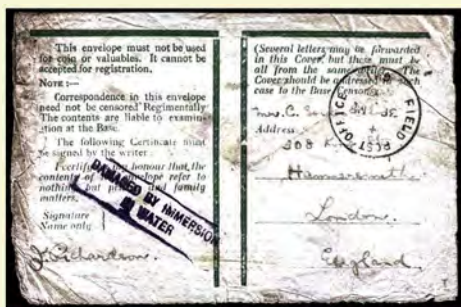


Figure 5

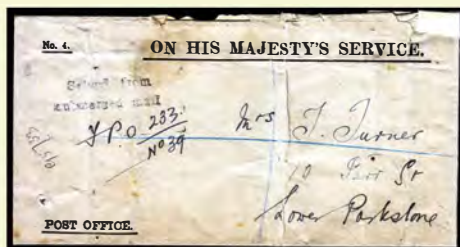


Figure 10



Figure 15



Figure 6



Figure 11



Figure 16



Figure 7

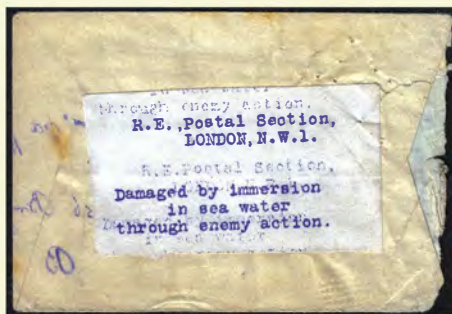


Figure 12



Figure 17



Figure 8



Figure 13



Figure 18



Figure 9



Figure 14



Figure 19



Figure 7  
MCH5

**MCH5** “DAMAGED B S A WAT R” struck in violet on an honor envelope from APO SZ 6 located in Egypt on March 28.

Two types of **SALVED LETTER** cachets can be distinguished based on the size of the font used for the text.



Figure 8  
MCH6

**MCH6** Figure 8 is on an “On Active Service” cover to Arbroath, Scotland dated March 27. There is a partially washed out octagonal censor handstamp but unfortunately the FPO number is illegible. This is the larger font 5 x 66mm.



Figure 9  
MCH7

**MCH7** Figure 9 shows an “On Active Service” cover to Edinburgh, Scotland sent March 21 from FPO 156 located at Gaza. FPO 156 was used by the 156th Scottish Rifles Brigade, 52nd Division, XX Corps of the EEF. This is cachet MCH7 and has the smaller font of 3 x 51mm. This cachet is known with both violet and black ink.

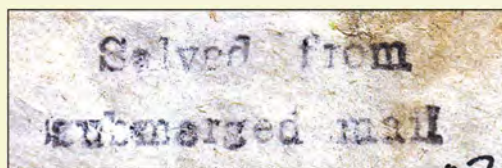


Figure 10  
MCH10

**MCH10** Firebrace identified a typewritten cachet MCH10 “Salved from/Submerged mail”. The cover in Figure 10 has this typewritten notation on an OHMS envelope used to forward salvaged mail to Parkstone, Dorset, UK. after sorting in London on May 9, 1918.

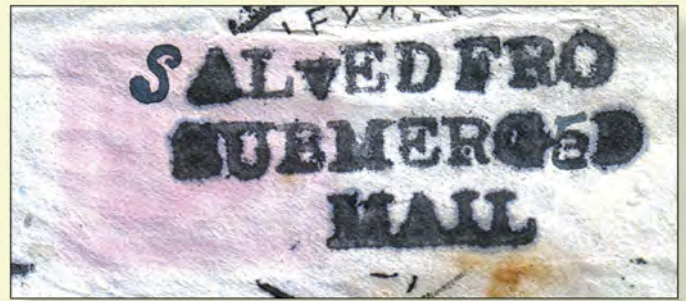


Figure 11  
Unlisted in Firebrace

Additionally, a very different cachet with the same text “SALVEDFROM/SUBMERGED/Mail” was reported by Hoggarth and Gwynn<sup>3</sup>, but not by Firebrace. Figure 11 shows this cachet on a commercial registered letter mailed on March 30 from Alexandria, Egypt to Leeds, UK. The cachet is struck where stamps have floated off although interestingly, the registration label remained attached. An Egyptian censor marking of four wavy lines is at left.

While all of the above cachets are found on the front of the salvaged envelope, two additional types are known.

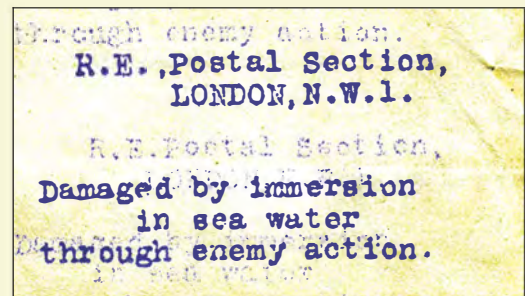


Figure 12  
MCH13

**MCH13** One is a typewritten cachet “R.E. Postal Section/ LONDON, N.W.1./Damaged by immersion/in sea water/ through enemy action” listed as MCH13 (Figure 12) applied as a mimeographed sealing label to the back of an “On Active Service” envelope sent by a soldier in the 163rd Norfolk and Suffolk Brigade, 54th Division, XXI Corps of the EEF on March 25 from FPO 163 located near Jaffa. A violet triangular censor mark was on the front.

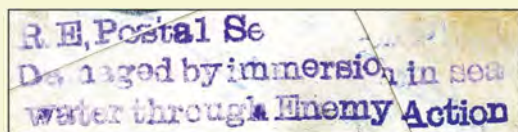


Figure 13  
MCH14

**MCH14** A very large cachet struck on the back in violet “R.E. Postal Sect. L'don N.W.1/Damaged by immersion in sea /water through Enemy Action” type MCH14 is shown in Figure 13.

Firebrace reports this cachet on covers from FPO 231 and FPO 6Y located on the Palestine front. The only example I have seen is on the back of a cover mailed from Dunganur, India on February 25, 1918 with a Bombay transit. Perhaps this cover was off-loaded in Alexandria for onward transport to England.

The addressee side has been washed out and cannot be read. Although this cover may have come from the Kingstonian it is possible that it was salvaged from the Warwickshire although I have not seen other examples of salvaged mail from the Warwickshire.

## FRENCH AND ITALIAN CACHETS

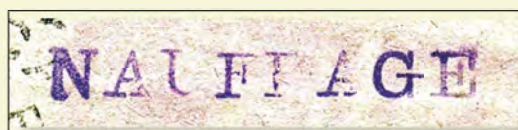


Figure 14  
MCH8

**MCH8** Mail to France was transferred from Sardinia to Marseille and received one of several French cachets. Although all French covers are scarce, most common are covers with the cachet MCH8 “NAUFRAGE”, French for shipwreck. Figure 14 is a commercial letter from Cairo, Egypt to Berne, Switzerland sent on March 18. This handstamp has serified letters. There is also an EEF PASSED/CENSOR/12 cachet on the front.



Figure 15  
Unlisted in Firebrace

A cover from Alexandria to Marseille sent on March 28 but the font is non-serified typeface. This was reported by Hoggarth and Gwynn<sup>3</sup> but not Firebrace<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 16  
MCH12 (variant)

**MCH12** Figure 16 shows the French cachet MCH12 “BATEAU NAUFRAGE MARSEILLE” applied to a mourning cover sent March 28 from Port Taufiq, Egypt to France.

Mourning covers are black edged letters used in many countries in the late 19th and early 20th century as harbingers of death and messengers of grief<sup>7</sup>. There is a Port Said transit cancel and the envelope was re-sealed with a French Post Office sealing strip. Bateau Naufrage translates as boat shipwreck and Marseilles indicates the city where the cachet was applied.



Figure 17  
MCH12 (varinat)

**MCH12** A variant of this cachet “BATEAU NAUFRAGES MARSEILLE” is similar to MCH12 but has a superscript “S” after naufrage.

Figure 17 is a registered cover from Alexandria sent on March 12 to Lyon, France. There is an Egyptian censor mark of four wavy lines. The Egyptian stamps floated off but were recovered and attached to the back with French Post Office sealing tape. This indicates the care taken by the French postal authorities to salvage the mail as completely as possible. This cachet apparently exists with misspelling of BATAEU<sup>3</sup> but I have not seen an example.



Figure 18  
MCH11

**MCH11** Finally a rare cachet inscribed “ACCIDENT DE SERVICE” is shown in Figure 18 applied to a cover from Alexandria, Egypt to Paris, France sent on March 19.

Again, there is an Egyptian censor mark of four wavy lines. Interestingly, Firebrace never saw examples of either MCH11 or MCH12 and reported them based on information from the Major A.E. Hopkins collection<sup>4</sup>.



Figure 19  
MCH9

**MCH9** Only a single cachet MCH9 “NAUFRAGIO” is known on mail to Italy. Figure 19 shows a cover from Alexandria, Egypt to Palermo, Italy sent March 18. There is an Egyptian censor mark of four wavy lines.

## SEALING STRIPS



Figure 20

As much of the mail was damaged and found open, many letters were repaired and re-sealed with either British or French sealing strips (Figure 20). If the stamps could be recovered, they were attached with the sealing tape to the back of the envelope.

## INSERT CARDS

Mail that was forwarded by the British Post Office in an ambulance envelope had a small card inserted. Hoggarth and Gwynn<sup>3</sup> have described four slightly different variants of this card associated with Kingstonian mail. These are extremely rare as very few have survived.

Two examples, Hoggarth and Gwynn Type 12 and 12c, are shown in Figure 4 and were associated with the covers in Figures 3 and 12, respectively. Type 12c has manuscript “articles added” and indicates that more than one salvaged cover was enclosed in the ambulance cover.

## CONCLUSION

Collecting Kingstonian mail can offer many challenges. An obvious challenge is to search for the different cachets as there are probably unreported cachets still to be discovered.

Cachets MCH2 and MCH3 are known on mail from many EEF units in Palestine, for example, MCH3 has been found on mail from 32 different Army and Field Post Offices<sup>2</sup>, however other cachets are known on mail from only one or two Post Offices. Trying to find cachets on different

APO and FPO mail would be quite a challenge. Finding destinations outside of the British Isles, France or Italy would be a real challenge. In addition as some of the cachets were composed of loose type, variations are sure to turn up, especially of the French cachet MCH12.

I hope you can see that this single maritime disaster in World War I offers a rich variety of Palestine postal history material to search out. More discoveries are yet to be made, nearly one hundred years after the Kingstonian was torpedoed. I would like to hear from any collectors with information to add to this story.

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5. <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?/topic/75901-hms-dalkeith/>
6. <http://www.mscc.ms/>
7. <http://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?96561> ■

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## Snow Birds

Address changes must be sent to sent to our Administrative Assistant, Becky Dean at [bdean@stamps.org](mailto:bdean@stamps.org), at least 2 weeks prior to the Fall or Winter issue of **The Israel Philatelist**. The journal will not be resent or replaced if Becky Dean, Administrative Assistant, did not receive notification of the change in advance of the effective issue.

The member will be responsible for the payment of the USPS return fee, USPS postage due fee for their new address notification and the costs for resending **The Israel Philatelist**.

# Rosh HaShana Travel Picture

Irv Osterer, Ottawa, Canada



Israel Elbaum's Rosh HaShana ship card

## LEAVING EUROPE

**J**ochuvet Pinkusowitz (Evelyn Stanislawski in Canada) was in her late teens when she and her family miraculously found passage on the M.S. Batory sailing out of Gdansk, Poland to Halifax in 1936. My mother-in-law (Evelyn) passed away in 2015 and while going through her effects, my wife and I discovered a box of old pictures — including this photo card from her first cousin, ISRAEL ELBAUM.

On the back of the image is written in Polish...

*Na wieczna pamiatke ofiaruje  
swoja podobizne dla Kuzynki*

(roughly translated)

**Israel Elbaum gives his cousin Jochuvet Pinkusowitz  
this photo so that she will always remember him.**

## PHOTO CARDS

Rosh HaShana sepia toned photo cards like this one were popular and available from commercial photographers in Jewish centers. For a fee, people could have their portrait taken and reproduced on a 3.5 x 2.75 inch contact print alongside what appears to be a stock photo of a fictional ocean liner leaving port. In keeping with the High Holiday motif, on the bough of the ship is surprinted

in Yiddish,

*Dee Ge-Oolah Sheef*, or

in English,

**“the Ship of Redemption”.**

Under the *L'shana Tova Teekatayvoo* Hebrew banner, **“Happy New Year”** is written in Polish.

These precursors to today's commercial Shana Tova cards, were often mailed as keepsakes to family and friends that had emigrated to the Americas.

## THE REST OF THE STORY

Srul Elbaum survived the Holocaust and remained in Poland after the war. He moved to Israel in the late 1950's and lived with his wife and daughter in Neve Yaakov, then a poor and now a hip and trendy and very wealthy part of Tel Aviv.

My mother-in-law Evelyn z”l was a wonderful, kind and generous woman, and would have been very proud and pleased to share this amazing image with our Society.

Wishing the entire Israel Philatelist *chevray* only the very best of all things in 5777.

\* many thanks to Elzbieta Mirecka-Depa for her help with the Polish translation. ■

# More Information on Miss Newton

Avo Kaplanian, Landsmeer, The Netherlands



Figure 1

## PREVIOUS ARTICLES

In the Summer 2016 issue of **The Israel Philatelist** Vol. 63, No. 3, Mr. Gene Zhisss of Charlotte, NC raised the question in "Letters to the Editor" on page 4 of *Who Is Miss Newton?* This question was raised as a reaction to Mr. Nathan Zankel's article *An Unusual Returned Cover* which was published on page 13 of Winter 2016, Volume 63, No. 1 mentioning "the well-known Miss Newton".

## NEWTON, STAMP DEALER

Our esteemed editor Don Chafetz answered Mr. Zhiss's question by quoting three paragraphs from Wikipedia the life and activities of Miss Frances E. Newton. However, neither Don Chafetz nor Wikipedia mentioned the fact, and this is really very important for all Mandate Palestine philatelists, that she was a stamp dealer and a keen collector who ran a small shop from her home on Mount Carmel in Haifa in the Twenties. She was more or less specialized in the Waterlow issues/printing of both Palestine and Jordan.

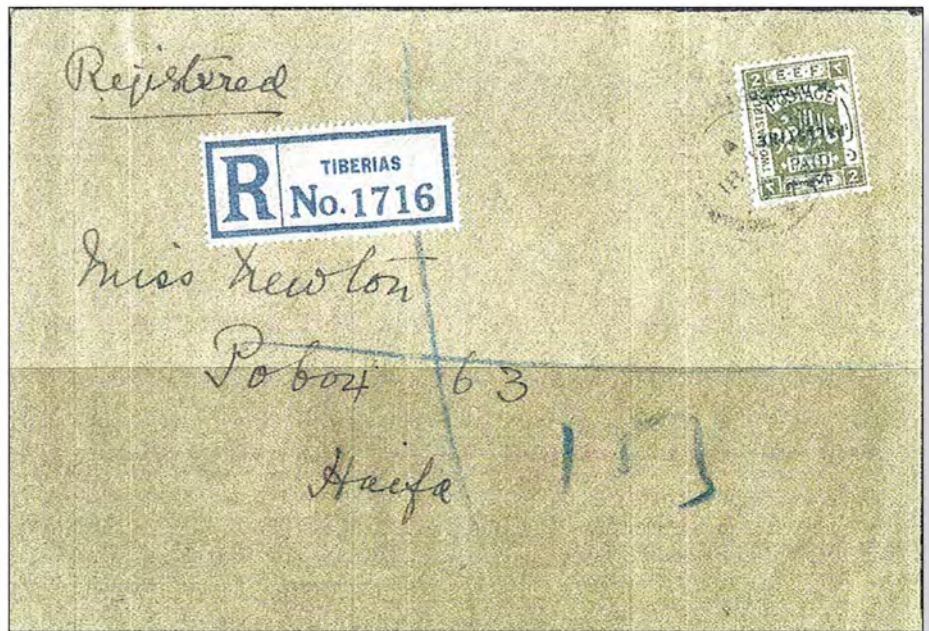


Figure 2

## PALESTINE COVERS PREPARED

In fact she was the one who prepared the handful registered covers of the London II issue with stamps having overprint varieties. There are no other covers know with stamps with such varieties. In figure 1, we see the first of these covers with the 1 millieme, Plate B stamp with a double overprint (Bale # 71c). In figure 2, we see the cover with the 2 piastres, Plate A stamp with the inverted overprint (Bale # 81a).



Figure 3

## JORDAN COVERS PREPARED

Both covers were mailed in Tiberias on the 18th of March 1928 and both were addressed, probably by herself, to her at her address: P.O. Box 63 in Haifa. The 2010 edition of the Bale Palestine Specialized Catalogue lists these covers at the price of \$2500.00 and \$3500.00 respectively. Had it not been for Miss Newton, we would never have had the chance to see these two important varieties on cover, in spite of the fact that technically speaking, these covers were “philatelically” produced.

In figures 3 and 4 we see two other philatelic covers. This time from Jordan. Both covers were franked with a variety of values of the Waterlow set with the Arabic “East of Jordan” overprint (S.G. 143 – 157).

Both covers are handstamped with the registration cachet of Amman and are canceled with the Amman c.d.s. of 27 March 1926 (date in Arabic). The two covers were addressed in Arabic to Miss Newton, P.O. Box 63, Mount Carmel, Haifa.



Figure 4

Figure 3 shows the cover franked with five stamps totaling 9 piastres and 2 milliemes and having a transcript registration No. 1107.

Figure 4 shows the next cover franked with six stamps totaling 20 piastres and 7 milliemes and having a transcript registration No. 1015. What makes this second cover more interesting is the presence of the very rare LONG 9 piastres stamp, 25 mm instead of the normal 24 mm high.

Here again, these covers are obviously philatelic, but they indeed show the keen interest of Miss Newton in the Waterlow issues of both Mandate Palestine and Jordan and her unique taste for their unusual and uncommon varieties. ■

# Philatelic Product Review

# Wydly.com

Zachary Simmons, M.D., Hershey, PA

**T**he philatelic marketplace has evolved considerably over the past couple of decades. Stamp dealers are closing their doors, many mail-order stamp dealers are retiring, and larger ones are purchasing many small auction houses. Although stamp shows offer wonderful venues for viewing and buying a variety of items, most philatelists have limited travel budgets and time. More and more stamp business is being done on-line. It is in this evolving world of stamp collecting that **Wydly** was developed.

## WHAT IS WYDLY?

Wydly is advertised as a search engine for collectibles. It searches in multiple languages, and so should increase the number of items the user can identify when doing a search. Specifically,

- Wydly translates a search inquiry into different languages
- Searches a variety of on-line marketplaces in those languages
- Identifies those items that meet the specified search criteria
- Displays them in the language in which they are posted on the web
- Translates them into the native language of the user

This process should permit the user to find an item for which they are looking, but which is listed in a language the user does not speak. Through this process, the collector should become aware of items that would be “invisible” to them if the search were conducted only in that person’s native language.

## THE FOUNDER AND TESTER

Ilya Ronin describes himself as a stamp collector, software engineer, and entrepreneur. His motivation for developing this search engine was that he was able to find a stamp he was seeking but only by translating his search into other languages. As a collector of Holy Land stamps and postal history, and as someone who frequently searches eBay for new items and speaks only English, I was intrigued by the idea of this type of search engine. For example, might there

be items for which I have been looking, but are owned by a Spanish-speaking or Russian-speaking collector who has posted them only in Spanish or Russian on an on-line marketplace? With the aid of Credits that permit full use of all the search engine’s functions, I plunged in.

## THE WYDLY WEBSITE

The home page (<https://wydly.com>) is clean and simple (Figure 1). In the upper right corner the user can sign up for an account (labeled 1), log in (labeled 2) or select their native language (labeled 3) (Figure 2). Registered users can use their account settings to default to their chosen language each time they log on.

After logging in, the user is taken to the main search page (Figure 3). Here, they are asked to type in what they are looking for and to choose a category. Of course, this was “Stamps” in my case, but there are more than 30 categories, ranging from Antiques through Dolls and Bears, Musical Instruments, Pottery and Glass, and ending with Video Games and Consoles, just to name a few.

When the user clicks on “search”, the application produces a pictorial array of items with brief descriptions in the language in which they are posted on the web (Figure 4). The items in the search can be sorted in a number of ways:

- Best Match
- Time (ending soonest or newly listed)
- Price (highest first, lowest first)
- Bids (most bids first, least bids first)



Figure 1  
Wydly home page

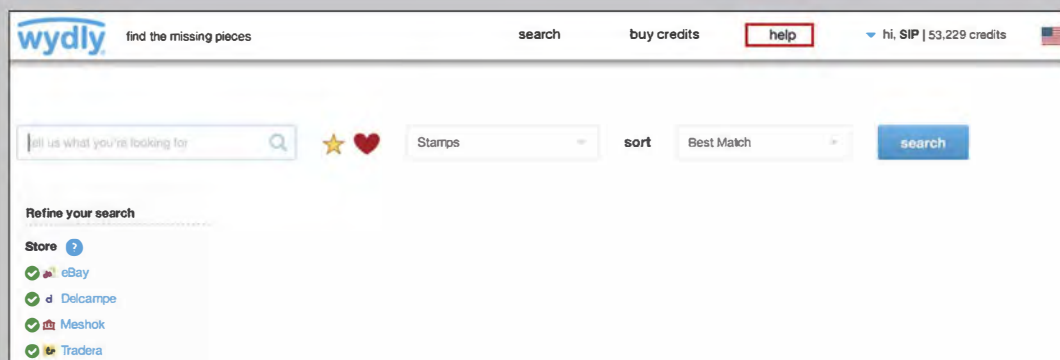


Figure 3  
Main search page after you login

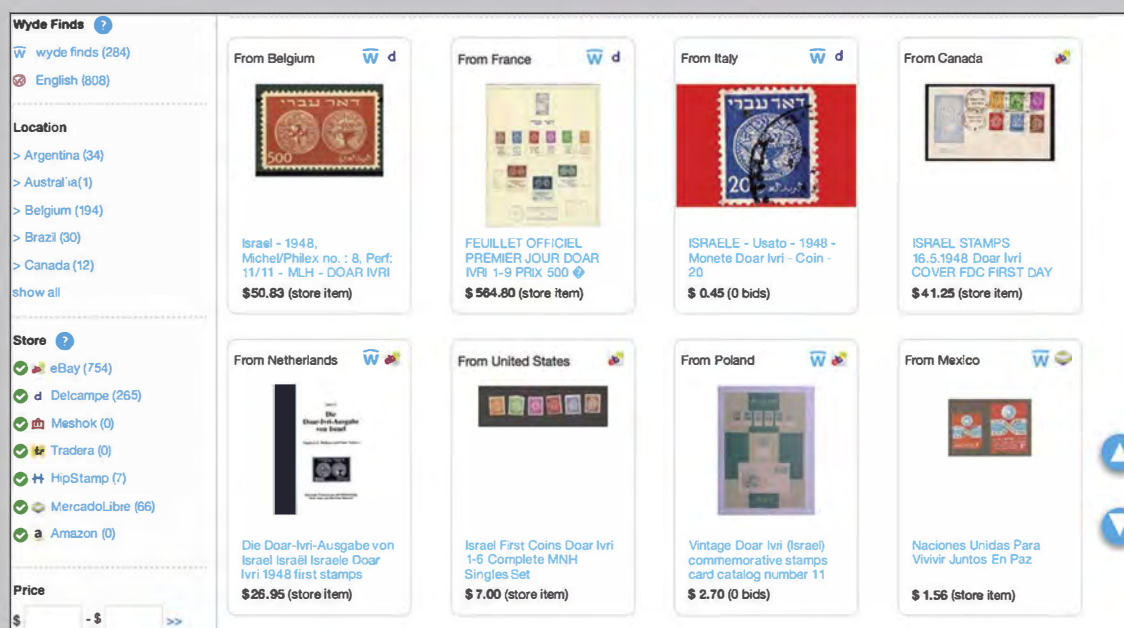


Figure 4  
Example of search results

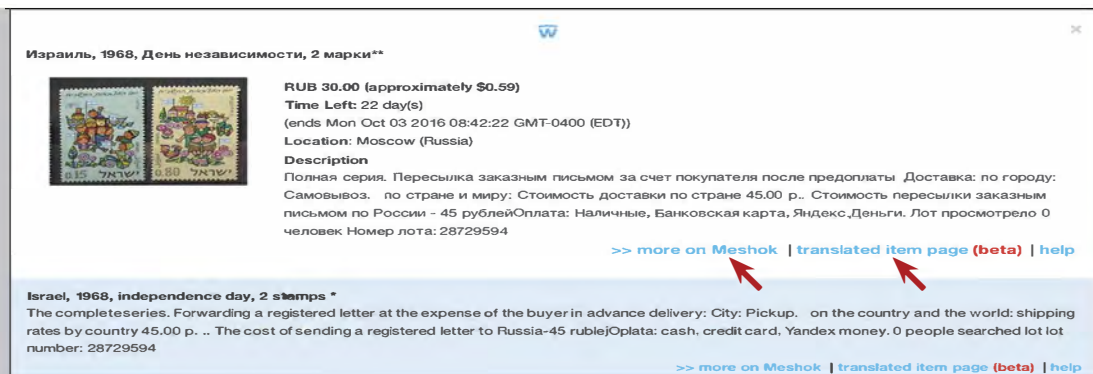


Figure 5

Detained bilingual search results are obtained by clicking on one of the search results shown in Figure 4.

Hovering over the image of any search result produces a translation into English. (Note the search found stamps in Belgium, France, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, United States, Poland and Mexico).

Clicking on the item leads to a more detailed bilingual (language of initial listing and language chosen by the user) description (Figure 5). The user then has the option of clicking on a link (“more on Meshok,” for example, as in Figure 5) to be taken to the website in its original language, or clicking on “translated item page” to be taken to a version of that website which is translated into the user’s native language by Google Translate. Shown is the usual information such as the description of the item, name of the seller, information on the seller, terms of sale, and instructions on how to order.

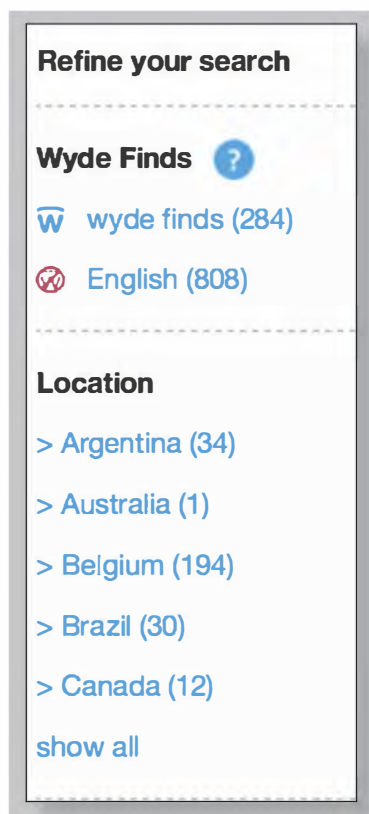


Figure 6

Some details of a search

As shown in Figure 6, the results page indicates “wyde finds” (search results in other languages) and “English,” and the number of each. It displays the number of finds by locations (countries) of the sellers and by the on-line marketplaces in which the items were found. Current on-line marketplaces that are searched are

- eBay
- Delcampe
- Meshok (Russia, in Russian)
- Tradera (Sweden, in Swedish)
- HipStamp
- MercadoLibre (Central and South America Spanish and Portuguese)
- and Amazon

Keep in mind that items on eBay and other on-line stores with which most of

us are familiar may be described in a language other than English, and these would be identified by Wydly whereas a search only in English, through eBay itself, might not find such items.

## FILTER A SEARCH

The search can be refined, or filtered, in a number of ways. The user can choose only **wyde finds** (those posted in a foreign language and translated by Wydly into the user’s native language) or **only English** (in my case). Other filters that narrow down the number of search finds include the ability to choose

- A specific country
- A particular on-line store or marketplace
- A price range
- A format (auction vs. store item)
- “More precise” vs. “less precise” search

Searches can be saved, thus allowing registered users to conduct the same search repeatedly over time, in the hope of identifying new listings not previously available.

## HELP

After you login, there is a **useful help icon** on the search page (Figure 3). Clicking on that leads to a page with “How to” items and FAQs (frequently asked questions). How to items are

- “Getting started with Wydly”
- “Search for things”
- “Use credits”
- “Buy the things you find”
- “Manage your account”
- “Tradera buyer’s guide”
- “MercadoLibre buyer’s guide”

FAQs contains discussions of

- “About Wydly”
- “Searching and Buying”
- “All about Credits”
- “Account Management”

There is also a “contact us” section for specific questions.

## COST INFORMATION

The section “Getting started with Wydly” provides an excellent overview. “Using credits” and the FAQs section “All about Credits” provide concise but clear explanation of costs. The cost to the user for Wydly is the cost of buying translation credits, prices for which appear on the website. For every character translated from a foreign language into the user’s language, one credit is deducted from the user’s account (Figure 7).

Note that users may sign up for an account for free access and use the Wydly search engine without purchasing any credits, but then the results are not translated back into English. SIP members may sign up for an account with the SIP promotional code: **isphil**. This will give them 40,000 translation credits to try out the product. After these run out, users can pay for more credits or simply use Wydly for free, but without the benefit of translation.

## MY EXPERIENCE

Once I had familiarized myself with these features of Wydly, I did some searching. Note that your test results will be different than mine since the items for sale vary from day to day.

When I entered “**Doar Ivri**” using the “**more flexible**” search mode, there were 1,080 search results (273 wyde translations and 807 English finds), consisting of 726 eBay, 264 Delcampe, 32 bidStart, and 58 MercadoLibre. The English Language findings (eBay, Delcampe) were generally appropriate. The MercadoLibre findings, which are listed in Spanish and Portuguese, were more wide-ranging: Some were very appropriate. Others seemed unrelated to the search term, such as a United Nations Living Together in Peace stamp, a Canadian \$1 stamp, and a \$20 US Horse Carousel stamp.

Entering “**Palestine Mandate**” as the search term in the “**more flexible**” search mode led to 422 results (63 wyde translations and 359 English finds) divided between 332 eBay, 35 Delcampe, 1 HipStamp, and 54 MercadoLibre. Again, the English language findings were generally appropriate. The translated websites were a mixture, containing some very appropriate Mandate postal items, but there were some surprises such as an Argentinian stamp with the translation (Portuguese to English) of “Mandate of Transmission Armchair,” several Hong Kong Mandate stamps, and a stamp from Argentina translated from Spanish to English as “Presidential Mandate Stamp.”

In an effort to narrow down the search and make it more relevant, I used the “**more precise**” filter. Performing a search for “**Doar ivri high values**” using the “**more precise**” filter resulted in 17 results that were generally appropriate for the search, compared to 59 more wide-ranging ones with the “**more flexible**” filter. A search of

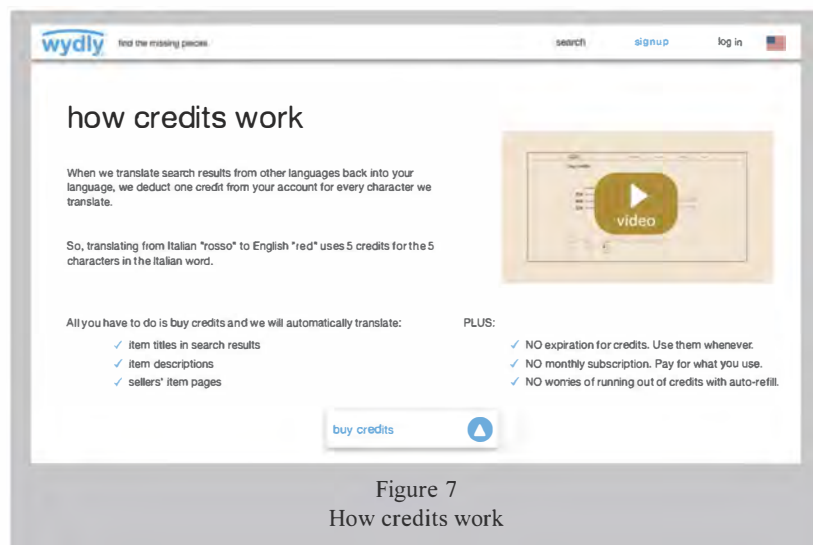


Figure 7  
How credits work

“**Israel Independence Day**” produced 527 “more precise” results, compared to 699 “more flexible” ones. For very general terms such as “**Israel Statehood**,” the difference was 1,910 “flexible” results vs. 57 “precise” results.

In general, the “**more precise**” filter produced far better matches than the “**more flexible**” one. As with any search engine, the search results are not perfect matches. I asked Ilya Ronin about the large number of poor matches when using the “**more flexible**” filter, and he provided more details. “Wydly relies on the search mechanisms of individual marketplaces. For example, when you search for “Israel” in “Stamps” on Wydly, we pass that query along to the marketplaces and get their results. However, we’ve noticed that some of the foreign marketplaces had looser search criteria and returned to us too many “off-topic” results....For the **precise mode**, the results from these marketplaces are filtered down to those items that have all of the search words in the title. For the **flexible mode**, we show you whatever results they send us, without any filtering....If your query is more than a couple of words long, I would suggest using the “precise” mode.”

I asked whether there might be ways of narrowing a search other than the “**more flexible**” and “**more precise**” choices. For example, some search engines permit terms to be separated by “and” or by commas to make a search more specific or broad. Mr. Ronin explained that it is far more complex than I anticipated. “Because we rely on the searching capabilities of many different marketplaces, we do not yet have a way of searching them all in a uniform fashion. Different marketplaces have different search semantics for building your searches, so for the time being, we provide the **least common denominator** of search, without the additional specifics that each marketplace has. We do have plans to enhance our searches by incorporating philately-specific translations (e.g. a “cover” in a philatelic search should be translated to something like “letter” or “envelope”, and not to “roof” or “pot cover”).

The quality of the translation into English by Google Translate was spotty and at times awkward. Some

translations were excellent. Others were awkward but usually could be understood by the user with some creative thinking, such as “France free (establishments French of the Indian) stamp printed during the second war world by the Government of Charles of Gaulle in the exile.” Others were humorous but not useful, such as “Philately: I’ll go as publishing classified material.”

The website openly acknowledges that this translation is a “beta” version. I found that the translation usually gave the user a general idea of the product and information on how to buy it. Mr. Ronin acknowledged that he was working to improve the translation of the foreign-language listings and to improve search accuracy by “applying philately-specific domain expertise to the generic machine translations.”

## PURCHASES

Let’s say the user has found an item for which they have been searching, and they now wish to purchase it. This can be a bit daunting in some of the foreign-language stores. Wydly uses **Google Translate** to translate the foreign-language marketplace sites into English. However, as noted above, a translated set of words is not necessarily the equivalent of a clear set of instructions, as in this example: “Shopping in more than \$ 1500. Total amount, and does not exceed the weight 150 GR, no charge if the shipping is for stored for payment to bank/transfer.”

Mr. Ronin notes that Wydly is developing an automated solution that should be available free to users in the near

future. In the meantime, there are Buyers Guides (under the Wydly Help section) for Tradera and MercadoLibre, and Wydly also offers a service for a fee to registered users whereby they can buy items through a purchasing specialist.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Overall, I found Wydly to be a useful additional tool in my stamp collector armamentarium. For a very modest cost, it widens any search, and thus offers the opportunity to find items in a worldwide marketplace that may have otherwise gone undiscovered.

It is certainly not perfect. Results of searches, even in the “more precise” mode, are less specific than many of us are accustomed to when using conventional English-only search engines, and translations are of variable quality. However, as with many technologically-based aides, this one is evolving, and the shortcomings are being addressed by the developer.

SIP members may obtain free credits to try Wydly out, as described above. I’d recommend giving it a try and judging for yourself whether it serves your needs.

**\*Disclosure:** The author gratefully acknowledges the free use of Wydly provided by Ilya Ronin, the company’s founder, for the express purpose of this review. Mr. Ronin also kindly responded to a number of questions posed by this writer, but he did not have any input into writing, editing, or publishing this review ■



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# NEGEV HOLYLAND STAMPS

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# Exhibiting Holy Land Philately

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

## INTRODUCTION

To maintain and expand the popularity of our hobby and the pursuit of Holy Land philately, we must exhibit our material in some fashion. We all have collections of which we are proud. These collections have:

- Covers
- Stamps
- Labels
- Postcards
- First Day Covers
- Illustrated covers
- Revenues
- Non-philatelic ephemera such as:
  - pictures
  - newspaper clippings
  - train schedules
  - photographs

Some collectors write articles about items in their collections. Some people join stamp clubs and proudly show pages or individual items to interested onlookers. Others embark on creating an “exhibit” and enter the exhibit in a stamp show at the local, regional, national or international level.

This is the first of a series of articles about exhibiting Holy Land material. The SIP Educational Fund has published books containing copies of the exhibits shown at National shows held in **Sarasota(SNSE)** in 2014 and in **Secaucus, New Jersey (at NOJEX)** in 2015. I was honored to serve as a member of the jury at both exhibitions. The exhibitors are to be commended for their industry, skill and research and for making valuable contributions to Holy Land philately. The SIP Educational Fund will eventually publish a book/CD of the Holy Land exhibits shown at the International level in New York in May 2016.

## PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE

I decided to write this series of articles with a view to encouraging members to join the ranks of Holy Land exhibitors, whether they create one page, one frame of 16 pages or many frames. The next SIP convention is in Chicago in November 2017. My hope is that we will have many new Holy Land related exhibits.

There is also another reason for my endeavor. As of January 1, 2017, there will be revised rules for judges and exhibitors. These new rules can be found on the website of the American Philatelic Society (<http://stamps.org/A-Hobby-for-Everyone>)

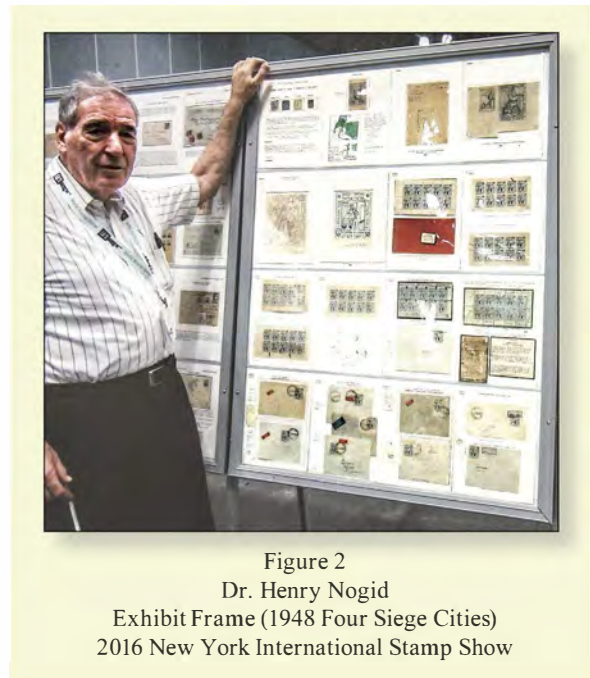


Figure 2  
Dr. Henry Nogid  
Exhibit Frame (1948 Four Siege Cities)  
2016 New York International Stamp Show

and are found in the 7th edition of the Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting (<http://stamps.org/Manual-and-Scoresheets>). Given the publication of the revised manual, it is timely for experienced exhibitors to review the new rules and for novices to learn them.

For those of you who are not familiar with exhibiting, I suggest that you visit a local, regional or national show where you can view the exhibits in the frames and see how exhibiting is done. If you are unable to do so, I suggest that you look at the website of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) <http://www.aape.org>. This society has published a new book by Steven Zwillinger's entitled **The Path To Gold: 175 Proven Stamp Exhibiting Tips** (<http://www.aape.org>). The AAPE website has many examples of exhibits which you can view.

## WHAT IS A PHILATELIC EXHIBITION?

Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic\\_exhibition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic_exhibition)) states that:

“philatelic exhibition” is an exhibition of stamps and postal history where stamp collectors (philatelists) compete for medals. The displays are shown in plastic frames, and the exhibition is normally accompanied by stamp dealer bourses and post office stands where stamps and other philatelic items may be purchased.



Figure 1  
Dr. Robert Pildes, Ed Kroft, Dr. Henry Nogid  
At the frames  
2016 New York International Stamp Show

#### TURKISH POST

#### AIOUN CARA (LOCAL POST)

Rishon was located at the site of the Old Arab Village of AIOUN CARA. The post office operated from September, 1903 until November 14, 1917



Rishon to Alexandria. Postmarked January 7, 1904

#### POSTCARD

20 para rate

◀ Violet postmark



Earliest reported usage of postmark



Rishon to Constantinople. Postmarked December 30, 1906. Arrival January 9, 1907 (e)

#### PRINTED MATTER

10 para rate

◀ Black postmark

#### ROSH HASHANAH THE JEWISH *SPIRITUAL* NEW YEAR



Rosh Hashanah occurs on the first and second days of Tishri. In Hebrew, the name means, literally, "head of the year" or "first of the year." Rosh Hashanah is commonly known as the Jewish New Year. This name is somewhat deceptive, because there is little similarity between Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days of the year, and the American midnight drinking bash and daytime football game.

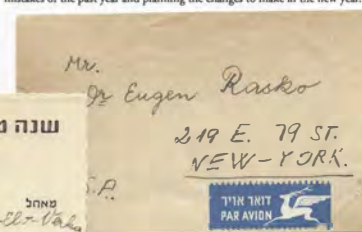
The Jewish New Year is a time to begin introspection, looking back at the mistakes of the past year and planning the changes to make in the new year.

#### Greeting from Jerusalem

verbal greeting  
Leshanah tovah tikatevu  
May you be inscribed for a happy year



or a written greeting



picked up by a postman  
and sent on its way by plane...

...but some people prefer to communicate directly with G-d by inserting a message into the Wailing Wall.



Figure 4  
Topical Exhibit page  
Collection Donald A. Chafetz

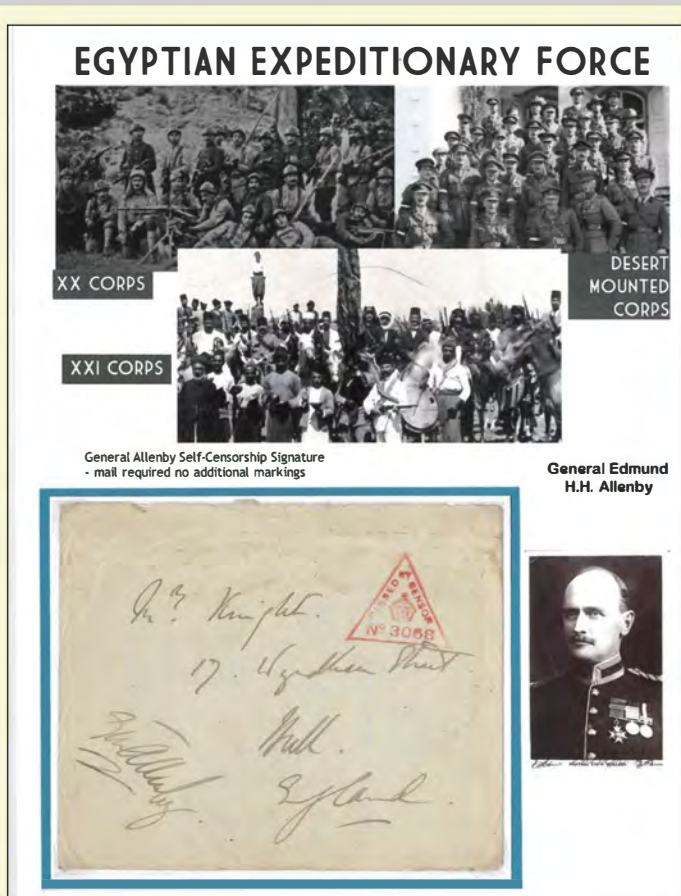


Figure 5  
World War I Exhibit page  
Collection Michael Bass



Figure 6  
British Mandate Exhibit page  
Collection Donald A. Chafetz

Many philatelic exhibitions are regular events, held annually or at some other frequency and they are important events in the philatelic calendar.“

Figures 1-2 show pictures of exhibits in New York at the World Stamp Show in 2016.

## PHILATELIC EXHIBIT VS A COLLECTION

Collectors have philatelic accumulations. They are groupings of philatelic materials by country, theme or year. The collectors strive for completeness, which might include varieties of stamps, errors, postmarks, covers, booklets, maximum cards and labels.

However, an exhibit is expected to tell a story that intends to inform the viewer. The exhibit will have:

- A clear statement of **purpose**,
- A clear **outline** of the subject of the exhibit,
- Its **scope** and
- A clear, succinct **description** of items in the exhibit.

The exhibitor will select the most suitable and highest available quality material to help continuity and understanding of the exhibit's focus.

## Sound Easy? Sound Like Fun?

It is a lot of fun to put together an exhibit, to choose a topic with a defined scope, to assemble suitable material to tell the story and then to research, mount material and write up the story on pages. However, this activity can be challenging and time consuming, depending on your topic and the available philatelic material to tell your story. It can be an ongoing pursuit that will keep you engaged for years.

For example, one of my exhibits is about the postal history of **Rishon Le Zion** (Rishon), currently Israel's fourth largest city. The *scope* of the exhibit is 1882-1948. It has been a labor of love and a work in progress for almost 20 years! I constantly find new material or new information and think about how I can integrate both into the story I am telling. Figure 3 is a page from the exhibit which deals with the Turkish Post Office in Rishon in the early 20th century.

## EXHIBIT FOCUS

Putting together an exhibit can bring discipline and a fresh focus to a collection. You look for different material to help you tell your story. In my Rishon exhibit, I try to relate the story of postal operations within a certain time period. The focus is on how the mail got to and from Rishon.

To fulfill the purpose of the exhibit, I may be looking for certain postmarks or mail carried by the Rishon post office between 1882-1948. I am not looking to accumulate any kind of Rishon material as I might as a collector. I need specific material to show the viewer what progressively happened in Rishon between 1882 and 1948.

## HOLY LAND PHILATELIC STORIES

There are so many stories and they are all so interesting. All you need to do is just glance at the SIP books of exhibits shown at Sarasota or NOJEX mentioned earlier.

For example, a “*traditional*” exhibit tells the story of a particular stamp issue and how it was designed, produced and used. My dear friend, Bob Pildes, is an extraordinary philatelist. His exhibit of the 1948 Doar Ivri issue tells the viewer all about the creation and production of the first stamps of Israel and shows their different types of usages between 1948-1950. Other collectors have assembled traditional exhibits dealing with other issues of Israel or the stamps of Palestine.

What if this kind of material does not excite you? There is always postal history which involves:

- The study of rates, routes and/or markings,
- Means of transport to a post office or group of post offices,
- Uses and
- Other aspects of the historical development of postal services.

When exhibiting, you would generally illustrate part or all of these elements within the framework of a geographic area or rate period(s). Earlier I mentioned my Rishon postal history exhibit. However, there are many other postal history topics with a defined scope. To name a few:

- World War I military/postal operations in the Holy Land,
- World War II military or civilian mail in Palestine, and
- 1948 postal history of Jerusalem or
- “Siege cities” like Safed or Nahariya. (Figure 2)

Shown are pages from the outstanding exhibits of Michael Bass (Figure 5 - World War I) and Don Chafetz (Figure 6 - British Mandate Printed Matter Usage).

What if you don't like history? Maybe topical, thematic or display exhibiting is for you. Many of you collect Judaica. You collect stamps or covers relating to topics with a Jewish theme or connection. For example, the following topics are composed of a variety of philatelic items, the design of which illustrates a specific topic or subject:

- Jewish athletes,
- Jewish actors/actresses,
- Jewish welfare organizations (for example, ajdc),
- Synagogues,
- Famous rabbis, or
- Jewish festivals.

If you choose to present a topical exhibit, you would show as many philatelic items as possible with the image of the particular subject or group of subjects as the focus of your exhibit.

There are many other types of exhibits that deal with subject matter such as revenues or first day covers. Display exhibiting involves the use of a variety of philatelic and non-philatelic material. More on this in future articles.

## How Do You GET STARTED?

I hope what I have written so far has inspired you to consider exhibiting. What is then keeping you (and others from) creating an exhibit? I understand that some of you do not want to make it publicly known that you are collecting scarce material for security reasons. Yet, for many others, stamp collecting is not an investment which warrants the protection of privacy because of security fears. So why then do all collectors not exhibit?

David Piercey is an award winning exhibitor and philatelic scholar. He is the head of philatelic judging for the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. David has been writing a series of excellent articles entitled *Let's Talk Exhibiting* for the **Canadian Philatelist**, the outstanding journal of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. These articles can be found on that Society's website <http://www.rpsc.org/exhibiting.htm>.

David wrote an excellent article entitled *I Think I Would Like To Exhibit, But I Don't Know How To Start* (<http://www.rpsc.org/exhibiting/Exhibiting-SO15.pdf>). He makes the point that, based on some statistical sampling, perhaps only 6 percent of collectors exhibit. His conversations with collectors reveal that they have shied away from exhibiting because they are fearful of rules, they believe that their material is not good enough to exhibit, they are apprehensive about computers and software programs, they collect material other than stamps and they just don't know where to start.

## How Did I GET STARTED?

Each of these fears can be overcome. You just have to take the plunge. I started years ago and I have never regretted it. My first exhibit at a regional show was entitled *Haganah Mail*, which showed mail from a defined period in Palestine 1948. I learned so much from doing it and learned even more about exhibiting with the benefit of the judges' comments. Since then, I went on to create/develop other exhibits. I met many new friends, learned a great deal of history, geography and philately, and look forward to learning more and examining and reviewing the exhibits of others. Overall, through exhibiting and other interests, I came to embrace my hobby with a great deal of passion and enthusiasm.

I have always found that judges and colleagues in the exhibiting world have been most willing to offer constructive suggestions about my work and that of others. I gladly return that kindness many times over now that I am a national

judge. I thank judges such as Nate Zankel, Art Groten, Joe Schwartz (z"l), Don Chafetz, Yacov Tsachor, Captain Yacov Shabtai(z"l), Yoel Slutski, Joel Weiner and Eddie Leibu who offered me and others excellent guidance and tips about Holy Land exhibiting over the years. Many other judges without Holy Land expertise taught me how to better tell my story because they, more than others with Holy Land expertise, needed me to very clearly define and relate my story. I am grateful for having had their invaluable insights. As you can see, the exhibiting world is a community which, in my experience, welcomes the involvement of others.

May I suggest that you think of some topics about which you are passionate and might consider telling a story. Gather the relevant material you have in support of telling that story. I applaud you in advance for doing so.

David Piercey best articulates what I tried to say earlier in the article:

Some may not know where to start. That is, there are differences between an "accumulation", a "collection" and an "exhibit". It takes an enormous amount of intention and effort to form an exhibit; i.e., on deciding what to purchase or include, on what aspect of the story to talk about, and on researching the philately of your topic. Not all of us may be cut out to move beyond an accumulating or collecting stage into a stage of careful organization and description. Even moving beyond the idea of creating an album page to creating an exhibit page takes some significant rethinking about what needs to be shown and discussed on each page. Yet nothing helps focus the collecting mind so well as having to decide what material becomes necessary to seek out in order to more fully develop the storyline of an exhibit!

I hope you join our exhibiting ranks. ■

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## 2013 ROMANIAN STAMPS

# Tablets of the Law

Roberto Brzostowski, Argentina



The Great Synagogue in Bucharest, Romania was raised in 1845 by the Polish-Jewish community. It was repaired in 1865, redesigned in 1903 and 1909, repainted in Rococo style in 1936 by Gershon Horowitz, then it was restored again in 1945, as it had been devastated by the extreme right Legionaries. It nowadays hosts an exhibition entitled The Memorial of Jewish Martyrs "Chief Rabbi Dr. Mozes Rosen". During the late 1980s, just like many churches in the area, this synagogue was virtually surrounded by concrete buildings, so as to hide it from public sight.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Synagogue\\_\(Bucharest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Synagogue_(Bucharest)),

The Israel Philatelist - Fall 2016



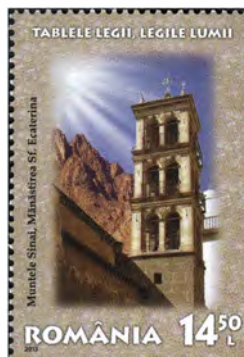
The stamp reproduces the image of a drawing made after Moses' statue, a work of the great sculptor Michelangelo Buonarroti.



A image belonging to the ornamental elements of the Mogosoia Bridge Synagogue in Bucharest.



The image of an Ark (the Great Synagogue in Bucharest) is reproduced on the stamp. (The photo was taken by Eduard Kupferberg.)



The image of Saint Catherine's Monastery, Sinai desert.

# SIP NEWS

## President's column



Hi everyone

The Fall is upon us and it is time to get back to working on our collections! Maybe you also will have the time to contribute a short article to our publication!

### EXHIBITING HOLY LAND

In this issue of **The Israel Philatelist**, I have commenced a series on exhibiting. My intention is to add to the growing numbers of collectors who are interested in this aspect of the hobby. The Society is always looking for new exhibitors on any topic. We have members in the Society who can answer your questions or assist.

### ELECTIONS FOR SOCIETY EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In November, 2017, we will elect a new Executive and Board of Directors. Some individuals have stepped up and are interested in running for some of the positions. However, we still need more candidates. Please consider putting your name forward. We will publish the names of candidates early in 2017 and will close nominations later in the year.

### VOLUNTEERS

Since my last column, I have heard from some of who are willing to volunteer to do work for the Society. Thank you. We need more of you!!

### MEMBERSHIP

Our society is the largest holy land philatelic organization in the world. We need to attract new members and ask everyone in the society to do his or her part during the year to try to bring in at least one new member. New York netted us 27 new members. That is so encouraging.

### FUNDRAISING

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the fund raising campaign for 2016. Please continue to keep our society in mind if you wish to make a charitable donation.

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in our Society provides access to the award-winning journal, **The Israel Philatelist**, and discounts to acquire many books from our Educational Fund chaired by David Kaplin. Watch for various new forthcoming monographs. Our slide shows and library books are available to be lent. Check out the website. The Society also has a



### New Philatelic Issues

Stamp Name	Value
Casualties of War and Terror Appreciation Day	2.30 NIS
Parables of the Sages	
The Fox in the Vineyard	4.10 NIS
The Lion and the Heron	4.10 NIS
The Reed and the Cedar	4.10 NIS
Seasons in Israel - Winter	4.10 NIS
- Spring	4.10 NIS
- Summer	4.10 NIS
- Autumn	4.10 NIS
Festivals 2016 - Yom Kippur Poem	
3 stamps in the series	
As the clay in the hand of THE POTTER	2.30 NIS
As the glass in the hand of THE GLAZIER	7.40 NIS
As the silver in the hand of THE SILVERSMITH	8.30 NIS
King Solomon's Ships (Souvenir Sheet)	5.00 NIS
Seasons in Israel - Autumn	4.10 NIS
Tourism in Jerusalem	
5 stamps in the series	
Ramparts Promenade	2.40 NIS
Jaffa Road	2.40 NIS
Via Dolorosa	2.40 NIS
First Train Station	2.40 NIS
Jerusalem Biblical Zoo	2.40 NIS

worldwide network of members who are very knowledgeable about Holy Land and Judaica philately. Contact us if you are looking for information when doing research. Perhaps we will be able to direct you as needed.

Wishing you all a joyous, sweet healthy and prosperous New Year!

All the best,  
Regards Ed ■

BERKSHIRE HILLS  
Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann

Program: **Philatelic Program**  
Chapter meets November 13 at  
Markovits Stamp House 1 Shamrock  
St., Stockbridge, MA, at 10:30 am. ■

BROOKLYN SIP CHAPTER  
First Sunday every month  
9:00-11:00 a.m.  
435 Neptune Ave.,  
Room 2b,  
Brighton Beach area, Brooklyn

CENTRAL, NJ  
Gary Theodore

Program: **Philatelic Program**  
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 Bob Pildes, 1319 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, IL. ■

CLEVELAND  
Howard Chapman

The chapter meets the first Wednesday evening of each month (except August, January and February) at a member's house at 7:30 p.m. Call 1-440-735-6140 for details. ■

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

SOUTH FLORIDA  
Howard Rotterdam

Program: Bring a recent acquisition  
Chapter meets the second Monday  
of each month at 1 p.m. at Temple  
Sinai, 2475 West Atlantic Avenue,  
Delray Beach, Florida 33445.  
Beginners to advanced are  
welcomed. ■

## AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

JOHANNESBURG  
Brian Gruzdl

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

## AFFILIATED STUDY GROUP

J.N.F. STUDY CIRCLE  
Howard S. Chapman ■

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP  
Irwin Math ■

## NEW MEMBERS

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

10593	Nelson	Charles E	Moosup	CT
10678	Jude	Columbus	Fayetteville	NC
10679	Sanchez	Jesus Garcia	Salamanca	Spain
10680	Kaplan	Alexander	Naples	FL
10580	Renato Risi	Paulo	Niteroi - Rj	Brazil
10604	Drehmann	Alexander	Duisburg	Germany
8570	Schlesinger	Raphael	Madison	WI
10681	Westwood	Stephen	Eaton Socon	UK
5792	Meyers	Marcia	Middletown	CT

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309	IP Reprints 30-31 Feb 1979 - Dec 1980	\$36.00	\$4.75	\$32.00		
310	IP Reprints 32-33 Feb 1981 - Dec 1982	\$36.00	\$4.75	\$34.00		
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316	IP Reprints 44-45 Feb 1993 - Dec 1994	\$36.00	\$4.75	\$30.00		
317	IP Reprints 46-47 Feb 1995 - Dec 1996	\$36.00	\$4.75	\$30.00		
318	IP Reprints 48-49 Feb 1997 - Dec 1998	\$36.00	\$4.75	\$30.00		
319	IP Reprints 50-51 Feb 1999 - Dec 2000	\$36.00	\$4.25	\$30.00		
320	IP Reprints 52-53 Feb 2001 - Dec 2002	\$36.00	\$4.25	\$30.00		
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325	IP Reprints 62-63 Feb 2011 - Dec 2012	\$50.00	\$4.25	\$33.00		
326	IP Reprints 64-65 Feb 2013 - Fall 2014 <b>NEW</b>	\$60.00	\$4.85	\$41.00		
<b>400</b>	<b>BOOKS</b>				<b>\$</b>	
401	Palestine Mandate Postmarks 2nd Edition - Dorfman <b>NEW</b>	\$18.00	\$3.50	\$17.00		
402	Tabs of Israel - Rozman <b>Full Color</b>	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$11.00		
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414	Palestine Mandate Stamp Catalog 2001 - Dorfman	\$50.00	\$3.50	\$21.50		
415	Study of Israel's Dateless Cancellations - Chafetz	\$9.00	\$3.50	\$19.50		
416	Postal Stationery of Israel - Morginstin	\$8.00	\$3.50	\$17.00		
417	Israel & Forerunner Military Postal Stationery, 2nd Ed. -Dubin & Morrow <b>NEW</b>	\$18.00	\$3.50	\$17.00		
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