



Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.

E-Newsletter: October 2014



We're Back After a Summer Break: We hope you enjoyed the summer, and are ready to hear news about the SIP and its members.

Congratulations to our SIP Exhibitors:

The Hartford, CT APS Stamp Show on Aug 21-24 was the site of awards for SIP members. Many of our society members attended the event, which featured great exhibits, many dealers and excellent seminars on a variety of topics. Attendance showed that the hobby is very much alive.

Bob Pildes won a gold medal for his exhibit "Artists' Drawings, Essays and Proofs of the 1948 Do'ar Ivri Issue of Israel" and another gold for his single-frame exhibit "Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc." He also was the recipient of the American Philatelic Society 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence, a well-deserved award for a renowned collector.

In the category of Philatelic Society Journals and Periodicals, The Israel Philatelist was awarded a gold medal, which is a tribute to IP Editor and SIP VP **Don Chafetz**. Don spends an enormous amount of volunteer time on our Society journal, and this award is a testament to that.

SIP Past President **Michael Bass** traveled overseas to attend

PhilaKorea 2014 in August, where his exhibit “Foreign Postal Operations in the Holy Land 1852-1914” won a Large Vermeil.

Literary Achievement

SIP member **Daryl Kibble** is the author of the recently published book: The Arab-Israeli Conflict: No Service, Returned, and Captured Mail. A recent review (attached) attests to the excellence of this book.

Member Profile: Adam Caplan

I have been collecting Israel stamps since my Bar Mitzvah, when I received my first album. After completing my Tab collection, I expanded out into other items listed in the Bale catalog, including FDC's, booklets, postal stationary, and revenues. Recently, my focus has been on plate blocks, including the multiple positions and printing dates, and on the generic sheets. I have also been trying to complete my collection of special cancels of the Israel post. I have written several articles for The Israel Philatelist, and had my article on Mejujaim stamps published in the AP journal last year. I also published a blog (israelstamps.blogspot.com) on modern Israel for a while. I currently work as a program manager for future CPU's at Intel Corporation and am based in Folsom, California.

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

From the SIP President: Attached is the President's Column from the upcoming issue of The Israel Philatelist. Much of this is devoted to detailed information about the Society's **planned administrative**

re-organization. This is critical to the Society's future, and is important information with which members should familiarize themselves.

Check Out Our New Website: Thanks to enormous efforts by SIP VP and Israel Philatelist Editor Don Chafetz, and by SIP Executive Assistant Vicki Galecki, we have a modern and professional-looking website that should serve us well into the future. Note that not all the content has been filled in yet. Interested in helping? Do you have suggestions? We welcome your participation. Just contact any of the SIP officers or Board Members. Their contact information is on the website.

News About The Israel Philatelist:

There has been discussion about a name change for The Israel Philatelist. Please see President Ed Kroft's column for details.

Computer Data Base Project: SIP Editor Don Chafetz continues to index past issues of the IP and make them available and searchable on-line. When completed, this will be a tremendous resource for the entire Holyland philatelic community.

The Israel Philatelist is always looking for articles. Many of our members have areas of expertise that would be of great interest not only to others in the SIP, but to the wider philatelic community. If you have an idea for an article, or wish to submit something you have written, please contact the SIP Editor, Don Chafetz, at sipeditor@gmail.com

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

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

Be (or become!) an Exhibitor: Consider preparing a Holyland exhibit for NOJEX 2015. In addition to being the site of the next SIP Annual General Meeting, NOJEX is always a terrific show at which to exhibit Holyland material. We have many experienced exhibitors

within the SIP who can help provide ideas and guidance. Any of our Officers would be glad to connect you with such mentors. There are excellent resources available:

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

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

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

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

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

SIP Library: The library is open for use by all SIP members, who are encouraged to make use of this fantastic resource. The catalog is on the SIP website, in the “members only” section, with regulations governing the library’s use. All new SIP publications will automatically be sent to the library. All members are asked to send recommendations for new acquisitions, new policies and new ideas to librarian David Dubin (ddubin@israelstamps.com).

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

Write Us! We Welcome News and Information: We'll be glad to include achievements of SIP members, announcements related to the SIP, and information about local club meetings. Also, if you have written an article about your collection or philatelic activities for a non-philatelic publication such as a community paper or newsletter, or if you have spoken about Holyland philately at a local event, please let us know so we can share the news. When informing us about upcoming events, please note that the E-Newsletter usually is sent out the first week of each month. If you are providing information after an event or meeting occurs, we welcome reports about that meeting, what was discussed, etc. Please send information to **Zach Simmons** at zsimmons101@gmail.com

Dr. Zach Simmons, editor
Zsimmons101@gmail.com



“Shana Tova” everyone. I hope this year bring good health and happiness to you and your loved ones. May you also find time to enjoy your stamp collecting and philatelic pursuits.

VISIT REPORT TO APS

In my last President's Column, I advised that Vicki is going to step down as the Executive and Administrative Assistant for the Society. As a result, we have been in a dialogue with Ken Martin of the American Philatelic Society (APS) to reach an arrangement to headquarter the Society at the APS and to use administrative assistance found there. Here is the text of their report:

“On September 11-12, Howard Chapman, Vicki Galecki and Michael Bass traveled to Bellefonte, PA to visit with Mr. Ken Martin, Executive Director of the APS for the purpose of discussing the hiring of a part-time (up to 20 average hours per week) Administrator that will work for the SIP but be employed through the APS and housed inside their headquarters. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with Ken for several hours over the two days to explore this initiative, and found Ken very open and easy to work with.

The APS views the SIP as an “Affiliate” and likes the idea of helping us sustain and grow utilizing their resources. The main reason for the investigation is because our current Administrator, Vicki Galecki, won't be able to serve in this role beginning January 1, 2015 and we're proactive in finding a suitable replacement to insure the Society's business is being cared for. We traveled to the APS at the direction of our President, Mr. Ed Kroft and Editor Don Chafetz, and were in contact with them before and during our visit. Ken Martin has authority to talk on behalf of the APS, though this matter must be approved by their Board. This memo is a recap and outline of the Needs of our Society, the Discussion Points with the APS, and the Next Steps we propose both organizations proceed to take.

SIP NEEDS

It has become clear to all SIP Executives and Committee Chairmen that to sustain the ongoing operations of the SIP, we need to maintain continuity through different leadership changes. It's not a mystery that all organizations, including the SIP, are struggling to find volunteers to lead and handle the day to day matters of running our philatelic society. By having an Administrator position, which Vicki has filled for 8+ years, proved the crucial need of having a responsible individual available to handle running a great deal of the day-to-day functions of the SIP. The SIP is a mini-business, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit with almost 1,000 members. The needs of our membership are widespread, and daily.

The requests for all kinds of information, Ed Fund publications, new member support, dues renewals, conventions, website, endowment, bookkeeping, President support, and correspondence are daily activities. We've been fortunate to have the services of Vicki, but our leadership understands we have to move ahead and put a more permanent individual in place to keep the continuity of excellent support for the next decade. Our Steering Committee is investigating options, and the leading direction is to hire a part-time Administrator associated with the APS to handle our affairs.

The premise behind working with the APS is:

1. Have our Administrator close to the hub of philately and all that goes on within our hobby;
2. Take advantage of the many resources the APS has, including technology, contacts, fulfillment, convention, marketing, and expertise;
3. The opportunity to be a pioneering Affiliate within the APS and spark a new position for Affiliate support (which should give us the opportunity to coop the cost down); and,
4. No matter who leads the SIP, there will be a secure location to house our operations, Ed Fund, Library and other assets in a protected manner.

Our alternative is to hire an Administrator somewhere else and go forward independently, or continue to seek voluntary support. We can run the risk of managing the Administrator elsewhere and supporting this individual

with technology and other needs on our own, or pretend that we can elicit volunteers who may or may not be able to serve reliably. Or, we can try a direction that has the chance of keeping our Society viable and protect our intellectual assets and the value of our collections. This is our Society's cross-road moment.

DISCUSSION POINTS

We discussed our needs with Ken, and his feedback was quite positive. He already met with the APS Board and got approvals to proceed forward. We outlined the variety of needs, and discussed how the APS can help. Initially, they will advertise and gather candidates for us to interview and select. Ken showed us the space within the APS that is available to host our Administrator (overlooking a beautiful park) once a hire is made.

APS will set up the computers and SIP files. The APS will provide a dedicated address, dedicated phone extension (free long distance service), technical support, i.e., the use of their server, office systems and computer backups, including Go-To-Meeting, and employment oversight. Ken won't interfere with our management of the Administrator, but will act as our liaison within the APS and help us. A 2-3 year agreement was discussed, and a preliminary proposal is being drafted, which Howard Chapman will coordinate, pending the approval of our Board to proceed.

We discussed how other Affiliates function, and Ken shared numerous examples of other Societies and their structures. A number of Societies have paid Administrators or Directors, but may need to switch to a coop position due to financial difficulties. Smaller Affiliates have limited resources, but may desire or need limited Administrator support.

We discussed the SIP pioneering a new Affiliate Administrator position, with the ultimate aim of:

1. Reducing our costs by offsetting the burden with other societies also utilizing the position and the position going from part-time to full-time;
2. Helping the APS develop an Affiliate Sustainability Program to support other societies' need to maintain their operations; and,
3. Provide a means for other societies to buy Administrator services from us as needed. There's an opportunity for the SIP to get in on the ground floor of this initiative and benefit operationally and economically in the long term.

NEXT STEPS

Everyone outlined a Phasing process, going slow and steady, in transitioning our Administrative functions from Vicki to a new hire:

Phase I (Deadline: 3/31/15)

- Get SIP and APS Board approvals to proceed;
- Sign an Administrative Services Agreement between the SIP and APS (Howard and Ed);
- Interview and Hire an Administrative Assistant (Vicki and Mike);
- Train the new Administrator (Vicki and Mike);
- Implement a communication link between the new Administrator and our President (Ed).

Phase II (2nd half 2015)

- Continue developing the Administrator's duties and responsibilities;
- Market the Administrator service to other APS Affiliates to help share the cost;
- Move the SIP's Ed Fund bookstore to the APS Fulfillment Center;
- Work on finding Donations and Grants to help fund the Affiliate Initiative.

Phase III

- Develop the Administrator into a full-time position;
- Improve the Society's technologies, i.e. Website, E-Library, On-line Membership, marketing, remote meeting capabilities, etc.;
- Expand the quality of the SIP's services and products to its members.

CONCLUSION

The SIP needs to figure out how to keep supporting our members' needs and offering the myriad of products (Israel Philatelist, publishing books) and services (Convention planning, Education, Membership, Accounting and Banking, Estate). We're at a critical juncture in putting a long-term plan in place to position our Society for the next decade and beyond. Our leadership sees the need for a paid Administrative position because volunteerism is lagging, and the needs of our Society are real. As we migrate to eliminate printing the Israel Philatelist and distribute it via the internet, the goal is to use any savings to fund the Administrator position.

Over time, it will be imperative that we work to get other Affiliates to use the service and help reduce our costs

even further. Our investment in the E-Library software and the Society website may provide new revenue sources by licensing our technologies to other Affiliates that need to digitize their journals or need web services. Every move we're making now is an attempt to insure the Society of Israel Philatelists is a relevant philatelic organization going forward in this 21st Century.

Very truly yours,
Mike Bass"

JOURNAL NAME CHANGE

It has been suggested that the time has come to change the name of our journal after 55 years. Many members collect not just Israel stamps or postal history but Judaica-related topics and stamps, Holocaust material, and postal history of the forerunner, pre-forerunner British Mandate periods. These collecting interests reflected in part by articles submitted to **The Israel Philatelist** journal suggest that the title of our journal may be too narrow and may cause prospective members to refrain from joining our Society because of a narrow focus. **THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF OUR SOCIETY.** The decision to change the name of our journal is a membership decision which will be the subject of a vote via our web site and at our annual general meeting at NOJEX in New Jersey at the end of May, 2015. Our esteemed editor, Don Chafetz, will be writing further about possible names to replace the current name.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We continue to ask our members for help. Please contact me if you wish to do so. With Vicki's departure, we will need more members to assist- whether it is at NOJEX in May 2015, at the 2016 New York International Show or with processing membership applications from new members.

SIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-

OCTOBER 19 MEETING

Our executive convenes at least quarterly to discuss matters our next meeting will occur in mid-October. I have asked the individuals listed below to lead discussions on specific topics:

- Mike Bass, Vicki Galecki- APS
- Sam Adicoff- Consolidation of Financial Accounts
- Don Chafetz- Digitization
- Vicki Galecki- Website
- Jesse Spector- Publicity
- Howard Rotterdam- NOJEX preparations
- Don Chafetz- Name Change for IP
- Other Matters

THANK YOU

My thanks to all of you for continuing your membership in our Society. Please encourage others to join. My thanks to the volunteers who support the efforts of the Society and to the stamp dealers who work with the Society to serve the needs of our members. ■

Kibble, Daryl. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict: No Service, Returned and Captured Mail*. Available from publisher: www.vividpublishing.com.au/darylkibble/, 384pp, hardbound, AUD \$112. + postage. 2014. ISBN 9781925086584.

Reviewed by: Gene Fricks (Editor, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, New York)

Daryl Kibble has written a fascinating account to sort out a very chaotic and confused era. When Great Britain terminated its mandate over Palestine, they took with them many of the government services including the posts. With the termination came the declaration of the State of Israel, military attacks from surrounding Arab states, and embargos on the transfer of mail to Israel.

The author organized his presentation of this early time period based upon the postal markings of the sending countries. This framework accounts for both the large volume mailers such as the United States and Great Britain as well as the one-of-a-kind such as Malaya. Egypt became the holding point for much of the mail during the embargo and Syria continued to process the mail, sending on to Jordan to figure out how to deliver it. The first chapter contains a very useful table listing dates of suspension and resumption of services from about every member of the UPU as well as images of primary sources retrieved from postal archives around the world.

The second chapter renders the story of the embargo from the perspective of the Arab states, a boycott that lasted from 1948 until the 1980s (or to the present for a few such as Lebanon) with varying levels of commitment. At least for the early years the embargo saw extensive use of censorship; the various tapes and markings used in Egypt form a subtheme of their own in the book as well as being the first time publication of such tapes and markings in the philatelic literature.

A boycott usually engenders a response and Israel was no exception in this regard. The author documents 34 types of postal markings used by the Israeli administration to return undeliverable mail to senders (only five had been identified in previous research). These instruction markings are found as rubber handstamps as well as mimeographed labels.

The “captured mail” aspect of the title refers to events related to the 1956 Suez action, with Israeli, British and French forces engaged to reopen the canal after Egyptian nationalization. This affected particularly hard the postal activities in the Gaza strip. More mail became “captured” during the Six-Day war in 1967 and produced an extensive postal history that Kibble explores in some depth, again for the first time in the philatelic literature in this detail.

Mail recovered from crashes has its own interest level. When associated with any of the acts of terrorism of the last half-century, the artifacts become poignant examples. By their nature, most of these examples are not common.

The author concludes with surveys of postal operations and source materials for the Palestinian Authority and HAMAS, as well as what he calls "Other Conflicts & Incidents," such as the Yom Kippur war and the 1991 Gulf War. Kibble maintains the high standard of scholarship.

The book does not include an index in the traditional sense. This is because finding the relevant areas of interest in the publication are easily achieved through a comprehensive Table of Contents. The author also gives us an extensive bibliography. The presentation of the material in part resembles that of a postal history exhibit. Finding one's way about the subject will take a bit of experience for the non-postal history reader, but the learning curve is not steep. The publication is of course targeted to the philatelic postal history community.

Production qualities for the book are outstanding. Quality high-density paper shows off the huge number of illustrations to great advantage and the binding will last for many years of use. The work is produced by a "print on demand" system.

Recommended.