

#97 JEWISH PERSONALITIES ON POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD

The Judaica philatelist usually starts his collection with those stamps which carry portraits of Jews. There are quite a few on these stamps, more than 100 at present. Collections of these stamps will mirror the many contributions of Jews to Western civilization. Tonight you will see a small cross-section of this field of Judaica collecting. I am going to introduce you to 28 Jewish personalities: some of who will be familiar to you, but the majority I am certain will be completely unknown to you as Jews. I shall of course be able to give only a thumbnail sketch of each. These people range from the unknown to the very familiar.

- Slide 1: MAIMONIDES, religious philosopher and thinker, physician and codifier of the 12th century, was born in Cordova, Spain in 1135. He is of course best known for his book, "Guide for the Perplexed." We see him here on a Spanish stamp of the 1967 Famous Wen Series. He died in Fostat, Egypt, in 1204.
- Slide 2: FERDINAND LASSALLE (1825-1864), a German Jew, who was an outstanding lawyer, philosopher and a socialist leader. He was instrumental in the formation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and a strong believer in universal and equal suffrage.
- Slide 3: Here we have SAMUEL GOMPERS (1850-1924) on a U.S. stamp. He was born in England but came to the U.S. as a young boy. He was the founder and first President, for 38 years, of the American Federation of Labor.
- Slide 4: GENERAL SIR JOHN MONASH (1865-1931). He was a civil engineer specializing in railways, bridges and water supply. During the First World War he served with the Australian Army and became the commander of all Australian forces in the Allied army. After the war he served as Chairman of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. Today, Monash University is in suburban Melbourne and in Israel a kibbutz bears his name.
- Slide 5: MAX REINHARDT (1873-1943) Theatrical producer and director of motion pictures. He was the founder and developer of the Salzburg Festivals. Forced to flee Germany in the 1930's, he came to America.
- Slide 6: RENE BLUM shown here was the brother of Leon Blum, first Jewish Premier of France. Rene Blum was the founder of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Director of Monte Carlo Opera Ballet. He was interned at Roallieu in 1941 and died in Auschwitz in 1942.
- Slide 7: WALTER RATHENAU was the Foreign Minister of the short-lived Weimer Republic following World War I. Ultra-nationalistic and anti-Semitic groups (forerunners of the Nazis) who tried to undermine what they referred to as the "Jewish Republic" used Rathenau as the focus of their attacks. This resulted in his murder on June 14, 1922.
- Slide 8: Another political figure was GEORGE MANDEL who was Clemenceau's administrative assistant. After the First World War, Mandel won a seat in the French Parliament. He ultimately served as Minister of the Interior. He opposed the collaborationist

government of Petain, and was for continuing to fight Germans from Africa. He was arrested, jailed and ultimately killed by Vichyist Militiamen in 1944.

Slide 9: We have also men of medicine in this group and Dr. WALDEMAR HAFFKINE (1860-1930) is an outstanding example. Born in Russia, he studied in Switzerland and France. While at the Pasteur Institute he developed a new vaccine against cholera. When a cholera epidemic broke out in India he was persuaded to go there and help. A few years later he developed a vaccine against a Bubonic Plague epidemic. In Bombay there is the Haffkine Institute of Plague Research. This stamp was issued in 1964.

Slide 10: Another physician was FERNAND WIDAL (1862-1929), Professor of Pathology at the University of Paris. He was the developer of the Widal Test for Typhoid Fever. The Armies used this test during World War I and all over the world after the war.

Slide 11: Top: ELISA RACHEL FELIX was known in the theater as Rachel. She was considered the queen of the French stage of her day in tragic roles. She is shown here in the role of Phedre from the Greek tragedy.

Top Right: FERDINAND LAUB (1832-1875) was a child prodigy with the violin. He served as Concertmaster of the Weimer Orchestra and the Royal Orchestra of Berlin. He taught for a time at the Moscow Conservatory.

Bottom: GABRIEL LIPPMAN (1845-1921) was the winner of the 1908 Nobel Prize for Physics. He was born in Luxembourg but studied and lived his life in France. Lippman's outstanding contribution was the invention of the process of color photography in 1891.

Slide 12: On this 1967 Souvenir sheet we see one stamp with a zeppelin on it and the name DAVID SCHWARZ. Schwarz was the actual inventor of the rigid airship with the aluminum frame to support the gasbags. He died after the first successful flight and his widow sold the right to Count Zeppelin whose name is popularly associated as the inventor of this type of airship. Schwarz's portrait appears on an earlier Hungarian issue of inventors.

Slide 13: I don't think ALBERT EINSTEIN needs any introduction. Here we see stamps in his honor issued by Israel, Paraguay and the United States.

Slide 14: The 1964 Ghana issue for UNESCO contains his portrait. Poland also issued a stamp in his honor as part of a series of Great Scientists.

Slide 15: Rabbi Leo Baeck was chief Rabbi of the Berlin Jewish Community, President of the German Rabbinical Association and head of the Union of German Jews. He refused to leave Germany as long as there were any Jews remaining there. He ultimately was sent to the Theresienstadt Camp. He survived the war and died in 1956.

Slide 16: Top: Here we have J. USSYSKIN, a forerunner of today's astronauts. He was killed in a balloon accident after setting an altitude record of 22,000 feet.

Middle: MOISE SOLOMONOVICH URITSKY was a member of the Bolshevik party. He held the post of Chairman of the Leningrad Extraordinary Commission and at the time of his death was Chief of the Leningrad Secret Police.

Bottom: GENERAL LEV DOVATOR was a Major General in command of Cossack Cavalry Division. He won awards such as the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of Lenin. He was named a Hero of the Soviet Union. He died at the front as the result of enemy action.

Slide 17: HENRY WIENIAWSKI was a noted violin virtuoso of the 19th century. He toured Europe at the age of 15 and later toured the U.S. in company with Anton Rubinstein. Stamps were issued 1952 and 1956 on the occasions of the 2nd and 3rd International Violin Competitions. He lived from 1835 till 1880.

Slide 18: Still another musician was LEO WEINER (1885-1960) He was a teacher at the Budapest Music Conservatory and enjoyed the world wide reputations as classical composer.

Slide 19: EMMANUEL LASKER (1868-1941) was a philosopher and mathematician. He was the world chess champion from 1894 until 1921. In addition to this stamp his name can be found on two Cuban issues dealing with chess.

Slide 20: JACQUES BINGEN (1908-1944) was very active in the French Resistance during World War Two. He and two others were responsible for the coordination of the resistance groups inside occupied France. When tracked down by the Germans he committed suicide rather than be captured. He was a decorated posthumously with the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre.

Slide 21: GENERAL IONA YAKIR (1896-1937) was a commander of Red Cavalry during the Russian Civil War. He held a number of important military posts. In the purges of 1937 he was executed along with other officers on the order of Stalin.

Slide 22: DR. LUDWIG ZAMMENHOF (1859-1917) an ophthalmologist is not known for his medical contributions but for his creation of Esperanto, which was to be an international language. He felt that in order to have universal peace and understanding a universal language was necessary. His portrait is found on the stamps of many countries. Also there are numerous Esperanto issues.

Slide 23: Top: Here we see BERTHA PAPPENHEIM a social worker devoting her energies to women's problems and those of orphans (1859-1936).

Bottom: KARL GOLDMARK (1830-1915) was the son of a cantor. He was a top ranking composer. His musical works took many forms: operas, symphonies, concertos chamber works and even an overture.

Slide 24: (not included) ZALMAN SHAZAR, Israel's 3rd president, was honored on a stamp of Uruguay. The stamp marks his state visit in 1966. The elaborate special cancel contains the Coat of Arms and Flag of Israel. As part of this same visit Brazil also issued a stamp with Shazar on it.