Sandical Report

What could be better than visiting beautiful San Diego in January, exhibiting at Sandical and visiting our esteemed editor, Don Chafetz? Last month, I had the pleasure of exhibiting "French Postal Operations in the Holy Land 1852-1914" and giving a lecture on the same subject at the Sandical exhibition. The France and Colonies Society held their annual convention there, and I decided to exhibit the French section of my larger foreign post in the Holy Land collection in support of our friends in the France and Colonies group. Since I've known their president, Mr. Ken Nilsestuen for many years, it was fun to join into the group of French collectors as the resident Holy Land participant. They were kind enough to want a lecture on our genre of collecting, which provided me a chance to share a little knowledge of Holy Land philately, and spread the good word about our Society.

My exhibit traced the evolution of formal French postal services in the Holy Land during the Ottoman era until cessation of the capitulation agreements caused by the outbreak of World War I. The 3 frame exhibit told the story of how postal rates evolved during the pre-UPU (1852-1876) and UPU (1876-1914) periods, given the currency fluctuations and foreign competition effects. France operated commercial shipping lines throughout the Mediterranean and it was only natural that the Christian nation install a post office in the major port of Jaffa (1852), Jerusalem (1852) and Caiffa (1906) to service the communication needs of French clergy, pilgrims, businessmen and diplomats living or visiting the Holy Land. The exhibit earned a vermeil medal.

Don Chafetz was also an exhibitor and won a silver medal for his First All New Jersey Flight 1937 exhibit. His display tells the wonderful story of how the post office used special airmail cachets to promote the service and bring attention to the US Post Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bass