THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

Journal of Israel Philatelists, Inc. February 2011 Devoted to the Philately of the Holy Land vol LXII no 1



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2010 - 2011

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This application is accepted subject to review and acceptance or rejection in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. "Notice of applications for membership is published in our bimonthly magazine, **THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST**, and consideration of applications is made thirty days after publication of the names."

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The Israel Philatelist

Journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc. A.P.S. Affiliate Unit No. 105 Charter Member W.P.C. Indexed in the Index to Jewish Periodicals ISSN 0161-0074 Published 6 times a year, bi-monthly

> Donald A. Chafetz Editor Contributing Staff: Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg Moshe Kol-Kalman Barry D. Hoffman

Display Advertising Rates and Information available from Stuart Freiman, 4 Autumn Circle Cumberland, RI 02864 E-mail: S2MAN@aol.com

Member change of address information should be sent to: Stanley H. Raffel, 3408 Ripple Road Baltimore, MD 21244-3603 Price per copy \$4.95 from Stanley H. Raffel

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Hello Don

EDITORS NOTES Donald A. Chafetz

When I was attending Jerusalem 2010, I was able to purchaseCatalogue No. 14 from the Israel Philatelic Service The hard cover 680 page book contains a color illustrated listing of all Israeli stamps through 2008. In addition there are sections covering the following areas:



- 1. Vending Machine Labels 1997–2008
- 2. Postal Services of the Besieged Negev Settlements 1948
- 3. The Transition and the Minhelet Ha'am Periods,
- January 1948–May 15, 1948
- 4. Plate Blocks 1948–2008
- 5. Postal Stationery 1948–200
- 6. Definitive Issues Reprints 1948–2008
- 7. Subject Index 1948–2008 (Hebrew only)
- 8. Designers Index 1948–2008

The text is in both English and Hebrew and the editor is Yacov Tsachor. The catalogue maybe ordered directly from:

Israel Philatelic Service 12 Sderot Yerushalyaim Tel Aviv–Yafo 68021, Israel e-mail: philserv@postil.com.

The cost is \$41.00 and includes shipping and handling to anywhere overseas. Payment can be in US \$ or Euro by check to Israel Philatelic Service or by credit card. Credit card preferable. Customers should reference *The Israel Philatelist* when ordering. • 0-0-0-0

In the last issue of *The Israel Philatelist* there was an article offering reduced membership fee in the Society of The Postal History of Eretz–Israel. There has been some confusion on how the reduced membership fee works. The folowing is a clarification note from the Societie's editor, Yehuda Kleiner, explaining the qualifications in more detail.

1. Advise the members who have requested the HLPH journal that their request has been noted. We can offer the journal and membership at the reduced fee of \$12.00 provided we receive enough membership requests.

2. After a certain period, say 3 months or so, I shall recalculate the price at which we can offer the Bulletin on the basis of the number of members who requested the bulletin and make a new price. Hopefully there would be enough so we can offer a discounted price.

In conclusion, of course if only a few members make a request I shall withdraw the offer. All requests that the editor recived have been forwarded to Yehuda. Each person has received a reply from Sid Morginstin, the Society's representative explaining the requirements for the reduced membership fee. •

The article "A Lot of Postage" on p. 219 of the December 2010 journal offers a tally at the lower left that is confusing. The total postage on the cover shown was 12,165 mils.

In November 1927, the Palestine (Mandate) Currency Board consisting of representatives of the British Crown Colonies, the Bank of England, and the Palestine Financial Secretary adopted, and in 1928 implemented, a new currency: the Palestine Pound (\pounds P), equivalent to the Pound Sterling (\pounds). The \pounds P was divided into 1,000 mils. (1,000 mils = \pounds P 1). At that time, the dollar-to-Sterling conversion was approximately \$4 = 1 \pounds . Thus, the 12,165 mils face value of the cover shown is equal to \pounds P 12.165, not \pounds P 14,400 (or \$57,600).

However, perhaps that tabulation, at lower left, of "Total 12,165 mils or 14,400 Palestine Pounds" could also be noting the total for (1) postage applied and (2) a presumptive value (for insurance) of the parcel, but this was not clear. If the latter, how often - if ever would one see a parcel of this value sent by mail ?

Fred Korr Oakland CA •

Dear Don:

I agree with Fred Korr that the tally at the lower left is confusing. Prior to editing, the text read: "The value of the 12,000 mils would be 14,400 pounds," which should have provided clear information to the reader.

Based upon the information provided by Mr. Korr, the 14,400 Palestine pounds would equate to a value of 57,600 US dollars at that time. I am appreciative of his comments.

I am not aware of transporting conditions at that time but I am sure the securities identification numbers were recorded by the sender in case of a problem. In 1941 it was not unusual for securities to be held by the owner and not by a brokerage house. If the securities were bonds, interest coupons were attached and the owner detached the coupons when due for payment.

Today's environment is different. Bonds are generally held by the brokerage firm and interest payments are credited to the owners account. We are now in a computerized age, 1941 was a different time. I wonder if anyone who has purchased a bond recently has seen it physically. As for transporting a large value of securities today, perhaps a private carrier would be used.

Questioned if any individual, today, physically holds a large amount of certificates.

Cordially, Irwin Math Princeton Junction, NJ •

Editor's note. A correction to the arrangement of the table referenced above was sent to the editor. Unfortunately, due to a computer glitch the correction was lost and not caught before publication. Thank you for setting the record straight. Dear Don,

Congratulations on being awarded the Vermeil for The Israel Philatelist at the Jerusalem 2010. Obviously, the judges could not have had the December 2010 issue of the journal for their deliberations. That issue alone deserves a Gold. Layout, font size, color reproduction, illustrations, advertising placement, and especially the use of white space, make the December 2010 issue so outstanding. It is a pleasure to view and to read. Your skill and effort are appreciated. Congratulations again!

Walter J. Levy Dallas, TX •

January-February 2011 Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 90, No. 1

Editorial by Robert Odenweller"

WARNING: To all who might receive registered mail from overseas. Inquiries by overseas senders regarding missing registered mail have discovered a disturbing problem. Since June 2009, all registered mail arriving in the United States from overseas is treated by the United States Postal Service as, ordinary mail from its original arrival at the United States exchange office and is not given the usual processing that is expected for registered mail. A postal inspector has commented that any such registered items can be considered the same as having a "Steal Me" label on them.

The applicable regulation, taken from the *United States Postal Service International Mail Manual* says:

752.13 Treatment of Registered Items

All mail registered by the country of origin must be handled in the domestic First Class Mail mailstream from the exchange office to the office of delivery. A signed delivery receipt must be obtained at the time of delivery.

The second sentence shows that simply because the recipient still has to sign a receipt on delivery does not mean that the mail was given the secure handling expected of registered mail. "Traveling in the domestic First Class Mail mailstream" means that the letter or package will be sent along with all other ordinary first class mail.

Registered mail within the United States has the same secure process as before, as does registered mail sent to overseas addresses. The danger is restricted to arriving mail. The best alternative is to use either Express Mail or Courier services.

Holyland Philately Soceity Newsletter-January 2011

The BPMA has a series of online exhibitions. Some of these are online versions of current or past exhibitions that we have had on display, either at Freeling House or at other venues. Others are purely online.

Last Post: Remembering the First World War explores the effect of the events of 1914–18 on the Post Office and its people and the contribution of postal communications to the war effort.

http://postalheritage.org.uk/exhibitions/onlineexhibitions/ remembering-the-first-world-war?slide=1. •

Good morning Don,

The December 2010 issue of *The Israel Philatelist* has just arrived. Your essay describing your trip to Israel for the 2010 Multi–national Stamp show was an artful travel log that allowed readers to feel as though they were there with you.

The "Israel–Canada 60 years of friendship" article, p. 220-223 provided an excellent review of many of the aspects of creating a joint issue. The final section, with a heading "Controversy" sadly understates the controvery. The same hateful, antisemitic letter appeared in both *Linn's Stamp News* (March 29, 2010) and the *American Philatelist* (June 2010), asserting that it was only due to the Jewish Lobby that Canada Post was, in essence "forced" to issue this stamp.

Fred Korr Oakland, CA

Editor's note: The article was shortened due to space limitations.



The American Israel Numismatic Association is a non-sectarian cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaic numismatics. AINA publishes The Shekel six times a year.

American Israel Numismatic Association (A.I.N.A.) P.O. Box 20255 Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 http://www.theshekel.org/ Dues USA/Mexico/Canada Overseas Junior (USA)

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New Illustrated

Eretz Israel Photo Essay

In February 2010 I was first shown the essay in Figure 2 by Ed Rosen, House of Zion. Ed came to Chicago on business and informed me that he had something interesting

to show me. He had the essay along with some Broadway Proofs which will be described in a later article.

I was excited to see the essay (Figure 2) as it has only been described in small print in the *Bale Catalog* as known to exist but never illustrated. I know that the source for the essay is an Israeli who claimed to have "received the



Figure 1

extremely significant for describing the Eretz Israel Essays, I gave it to Yacov Tsachor (who was present at the exhibition) and asked for a certificate. He did issue one with the comment



"very rare."

I am very pleased to have been able to obtain this essay and to make its design available to all those interested in the Doar Ivri issue. I also sent a copy to the publisher of the *Bale Catalog*, in the hope that he will illustrate it in the next edition.

Editor's note: Pergament paper is a parchment type paper normally used to wrap food. •

Figure 2

material from a friend" who worked at the printing company that produced these items. This individual died a number of years ago.

His son, whom I have met in the past, has been offering in recent years a number of significant items related to the Doar Ivri issue, all of which, so far, have been genuine. He offered some items to me in the past and I have subsequently seen them in various auctions with genuine certificates. However, I was not able to actually obtain the essay until May 2010 at NOJEX. I was surprised to see that the essay design was mounted with the Menorah and Olive Branch essay (Figure I) as the latter has been illustrated in the *Bale Catalog*. It is hard to understand why this Menorah design alone has not been illustrated before, as it had to have been available when the former was reproduced.

Essay Technical Details

The two essays are mounted on a black cardboard piece measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ by 13 cm. The cardboard was previously covered by pergament paper (see Editor's note) on which the two photo essays are mounted. On the left is the Menorah and Olive Branch essay measuring 26 x 28 mm. It is completely printed on thick white glazed paper (Figure 1). On the right, is the Menorah essay (Figure 2) with the same dimensions as those of the Menorah and Olive Branch. However, the large Menorah is hand drawn in black and white on the same white glazed paper and is glued on to the underlying paper with the frame and value design. Unfortunately, the added Menorah design illustration does not show its boundaries very well on the reproduction.

CERTIFICATION

Immediately after obtaining this item, which I felt was

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Irene Harand

Following the end of World War I and the collapse of the Hapsburg military in October 1918, Austria faced many problems. There was spiraling inflation and a black market economy that made the basic essentials of existence unaffordable to the middle class. In this atmosphere, anti-Semitism reared its ugly head once more in Austria.

The end of inflation and the stabilization of the Austrian economy in the mid-1920's dampened but did not eliminate a deep-seated anti-Semitism. During the 1930's, as the threat of Nazism and Hitler once more fanned the flame of the "Jewish menace," there was one voice raised in opposition: that of Irene Harand.



Figure 1 Irene Harand

Irene Wedl was born into a prosperous Viennese family on September 6, 1900 (Figure 1). Her father, a manufacturer, was a Roman Catholic and her mother a Lutheran. To avoid any religious conflicts in the family, Irene and her three siblings were all raised as Catholics, but one of Irene's aunts was Jewish. In 1919 she married Frank Harand, who had served as a captain in the Austrian army during World War I. Like Irene, he was devout Catholic.

While both Harands were politically conservative, they avoided political controversies, concentrating instead on creating a pleasant life for themselves.

Irene became interested in the plight of an aged nobleman, a friend of her husband, whose poverty had recently been compounded by a deep personal disappointment. In the years of inflation, 1920–23, he had seen his fortune evaporate and now, in his extreme old age, he endured the pain of his son's refusal to assist him. Believing she might be able to help, she set out to obtain justice through the law. She consulted a number of lawyers, and even though none accomplished anything of substance, all charged her substantially. After a number of such discouraging encounters,



Figure 2 Dr. Moritz Zalman

she met with the well-known attorney, Dr. Moritz Zalman (Figure 2). He was, born November 7, 1882 in Barlad, Romania and died May 29, 1940 in the concentration camp Sachsenhausen.

Zalman showed great enthusiasm for the case. When the question of fees came up, Zalman told Harand that if she volunteered her time, energy and funds then he would provide his legal skills gratis. The instant Zalman volunteered his assistance, the thought had crossed her mind that by refusing a fee for his work, he was not "behaving in a Jewish fashion." Due to this uncharacteristic response, she realized her preconceived anti-Semitic mind set was wrong and she decided to work closely with Zalman. This launched her political career. They worked to help this one old man and created a foundation that would bring new and better ideas into Austrian public life. Their creation, the "Oestereichische Volkspartei" (Austrian People's political party) which supported the low income pensioner and the poor and condemned the increasingly virulent outbreaks of anti-Semitic propaganda and violence. But in that same year's election, they failed to gain seats in the parliament because of financial problems and a strong campaign by the Austrian Social Democrats. Zalman had once sympathized with that party before founding his own.

Rather than withdrawing from political life after the defeat, Irene became more involved due to an incident she witnessed. She saw a "troop of half-grown youngsters marching and shouting a standard Nazi slogan 'Juda verrecke' (death to the Jews)." Alarmed by the sight, Irene decided that Nazism in Austria had clearly become a dangerous phenomenon because of its powerful appeals to young people seeking a cause. For over a year, she and Zalman continued to warn about the dangers of Nazism and racial hatred, but few seemed interested in their warnings.

In September 1933 she published the first issue of *Gerechtigkeit* (Justice) newspaper dedicated to enlightening the public about the menace of Nazism. Between 1933–1938 the newspaper (partly in French and Polish) had a circulation of 28,000–30,000. In a box on the paper's first page of each issue, she proclaimed the reason for her defense of Austria's Jews: "I fight anti-Semitism because it defames our Christianity." It incurred the wrath of the illegal Nazis who disrupted her rallies and meetings and sent threatening letters.

Harand's energies were galvanized when Hitler assumed control over Germany in early 1933. In a small pamphlet entitled *So? oder So* (Either Way) she asked whether Nazism,



Figure 3 Advertising labels of Harand movement against the Nazi show *The Eternal Jew* in 1937.



Figure 4 Advertising labels of Harand movement against the Nazi show *The Eternal Jew* in1938.



Figure 5 The last series of Harand labels released a few days before the "Anschluss" in March 1938.



Figure 6 The last series of Harand labels released a few days before the "Anschluss" in March 1938.



Figure 7

The Harand organization's propaganda label on a January 1, 1938, post card from Hodonin, Czechoslovakia, to Nürnberg, Germany, honors the great German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine, whom the Nazi exhibit had attacked. It quotes Bismark and Nietzsche in praise of Heine.Formally in the collection of Ken Lawrence.



Figutr 8 The cover has the Professor-Paul-Ehrlich-vignette besides five Austrian 12 Groschen-stamps, postmarked WIEN 117 *2d* 30.XI.37. Sent to Los Angeles, California.

using anti-Semitism would be able to seize power in Austria. The main thesis of the pamphlet was that virtually all of the arguments used by anti-Semites were untruths or gross distortions.

Encouraged by her initial successes, she and Zalman founded the "Weltbewegung gegen Rassenhass und Menschennot" (Worldwide Movement against Racial Hatred and Human Misery) known as "Harand-Bewegung" (Harand-Movement). It was the antithesis to the Nazis Party and "Hitler's Movement".

She spread her message not only with the paper, but with concerts and issuance of a phonograph record. From 1933 to 1938 the "Harand Movement" had a couple of thousand members in many European countries. Irene tried to mobilize the public against the National Socialism and anti-Semitism by lectures in Europe and United States (1937).

As a sign of protest against the exhibition "Der Ewige Jude" (The Eternal Jew) in Munich, Germany in 1937, the Harand-Movement issued a set of vignettes (Figures 3–8). The series of perforated gummed labels which resembled postage stamps had no postal validity. Printed in several languages, the labels depicted great Jewish thinkers, artists, and scientists.

In 1935, she published a new book entitled *Sein Kampf* (His Struggle) which ends with a grim warning "National Socialism is the greatest menace of the century." The book attracted the attention of the Nazi censors and she was now regarded as an activist and dangerous foe of the Hitler regime. Fortunately, she and her husband were in Great Britain at the time of the Anschluss, (annexation of Austria to Nazi German) in March 1938.

They escaped to the United States, where she became one of the founders of the exiled organization "Austrian Forum" and in the 1940s the women organization of the American "Non-sectarian

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Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights." In 1941 she helped to found the "Free Austrian Movement" in London.

In 1968 she became a member of "The Righteous Among The Nations" at Yad Vashem, Israel.

She died in 1975 in New York City and her ashes were laid to rest in Vienna, Figure 9.



Figure 9

In 2008 a square in Vienna was named in her honor, Figure 10.



Figure 10 In 2008 a square in the Vienna district of Wieden was named in her honor.

Reference:

- 1. BookRags Biography, *Encyclopedia of World Biography Irene Harand*, http://www.bookrags.com/biography/irene-harand/.
- 2. Answers.com Reference Answers, file:///2011%20SIP%20 Feb/2011%20Feb%20Baer%20Jude/2011%20Feb%20Baer%20 Irene%20Harand:%20Biography%20from%20Answers.com.html.
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■ WANTED: Zahal Revenues 250 fils small frame plate block, Israel Radio stamps in gutter pairs and gutter blocks. ⁽¹⁾mail: rjcohen885@optonline.net.■

Part 3

Doar Ivri Gems



Group 138, corner marginal control clock, horizontally imperforated between the stamps. Three blocks recorded.

Editor's note: Part 1 was in the August 2010 issue and Part 2 in the October 2010 issue.



Registered express cover cancelled by 2 full clear Haifa postmarks, dated 20-6-1948 and backstamped. Only recorded block horizontal imperforated between the stamps known on cover. Signed Tsachor. \bullet

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Rabbi Arye Leib Frumkin

1845–1916

Rabbi Arye Leib Frumkin was born in Kelme (Russia/Lithuania) in 1845 the youngest child of Rabbi Shmuel Kelmer. When he was eighteen, he married Sheina, the daughter of Aharon Hodes and moved

to Pickeln. The local rabbi was confined to his sick bed so he took on many of the rabbinical duties. He delighted the local community with brilliant sermons and Talmudic discourses. In 1866 his father felt that his end was near so he made his second and final pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Father and son kept in touch with letters which are preserved in the archives of the National Library in Jerusalem.

EARLY LIFE

After his father's death, Arye felt an urgent desire to visit his father's grave. In order not to have to take charity to finance his trip, he worked for two years in Odessa as a bookkeeper. While there he made the acquaintance of many future Zionist leaders including U.L. Pinsker and M. L. Lilienblum. In 1871 he was able to make his trip to Jerusalem where he stayed with Rabbi Zev Asia Levinson, the Ashkenazi community's doctor. He was able to visit many of the holy places and was moved by the desolation of the graves on the Mount of Olives. While in Jerusalem he was encouraged to research the history of the great Jerusalem Rabbis and began writing his monumental work, "Toldot Chachmei Yerushalayim." After over a year in Jerusalem he returned home.

In 1874 he published in Vilna the first part of his book "Toldot Chachamei Yerushalayim." He travelled throughout Russia and Poland publicizing the book. Unfortunately, he suffered considerable traveling expenses and was even arrested in Warsaw when he was found to be carrying a Turkish passport. He finally returned to his family in Pikeln and opened a small Yeshiva.

TROUBLING TIMES

He soon was appointed Rabbi in Alexot across the River Nieman from Kovna. While there, he was treated with great respect and earned a fine reputation. During this time he wrote "Ahavat Yisrael" a treatise on saintly behavior. His peaceful times did not last long due to family illness and the 1882 anti Jewish riots in Russia. The latter very much troubled him and he was one of the few to support emigration to Palestine rather than the United States. To advance this idea, he embarked upon a propaganda mission amongst the Jews of Germany. While in Berlin he made contact with a wealthy orthodox Jew, Emil Lachman, and succeeded in convincing him to invest large sums of money in the revival of Jewish life in Palestine.

PALESTINE PERIOD

In 1883 Rabbi Frumkin took it upon himself to travel to Palestine to purchase land on Lachman's behalf and arranged for its cultivation. In return Lachman agreed to support the Yeshiva that Rabbi Frumkin would establish. After investigating several possible sites he finally joined with the settlers of Petach Tikva. However a serious attack of malaria forced him to return home to Lithuania but with the idea of returning.

On the eve of Pesach 1884 he resigned his position as Alexot's Rabbi. Declining offers of other positions and his friends' pleas, he embarked for Palestine with his wife and four of his children. The sea voyage was treacherous but they finally landed safely in Jaffa on the eve of Rosh Hashana.



Rochlin Catalog #1709 1979 Rabbi Arye Leib Frumkin 1 shekel blue, tan, redish brown



Rochlin Catalog #1710 1979 Rabbi Arye Leib Frumkin Surcharge 1/10 shekel in black

The family rented a home in Yehudia and he walked many miles daily to work the land in Petach Tikva. To ease the daily travel he learned to ride a horse, but decided eventually that the only practical solution was to build a house in Petach Tikva. His determination blazed the way and he was slowly joined by others. As a result the settlement began to flourish.

While he toiled in the new settlement he was aware that trouble was never far away. The costs of maintaining the new orchards and vineyards till they became profitable caused a rift between Frumkin and his German benefactor Lachman. Because of false evidence presented by an Arab, people were led to believe that Rabbi Frumkin was responsible for the death of two Arabs during the excavation of a well. Frumkin was forced to live in hiding in Jerusalem for six months.

LONDON/PETACH TIKVA

In 1894 Rabbi Frumkin travelled to London, with the help of his brotherin-law. He started to learn the tailoring trade while attempting to hide the fact that he was a Rabbi. But soon he was once more teaching and delivering Talmudic discourses. When his wife and family joined him, they opened a well known kosher wine shop L. Frumkin.

In 1911 he left London and his business to return with his wife, Sheina, to Palestine. He spent some time in Jerusalem and then

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returned to Petach Tikva where he now devoted his time to many communal and charitable endeavors. He died in Petach Tikva in 1916. Although his dying wish was to be buried in Jerusalem, this proved to be impossible and he was laid to rest in Petach Tikva. His wife continued to live in Petach Tikva until she died there in 1929.

References:

- 1. Jewish Virtual Library, http://www. jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/ Frumkin.html.
- 2. The Framkin Family Website, http://www. framkin.org.il/.
- Aryeh Leib Frumkin-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Aryeh-leib-Frumkin.
- Rabbi Arye Leib Frumkin, http://www. frumkin.org.il/page11.htm
- 5. The Frumkins, http://www.frumkin.org.il/ pagel5.htm
- 6. Handbook of the Issues of the Jewish National Fund, Sidney Rochlin, Jewish National Fund, New York, NY 1996.



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Robert B. Pildes M.D. , Evanston, IL Rare Russian Forerunner

New Zealand



Figure 3

This, an apparently "schnorer"¹ cover, is addressed to Auckland, New Zealand, Australia. It is postmarked Jaffa, Steichele S-630, dated January 8, 1900 (Julian calendar used by the Russian Post until 1917) which corresponds to January 20 in the Gregorian calendar. It is franked with a 2 Kon adhesive paying the printed matter rate and, in compliance with postal regulations, is unsealed. It is addressed to an apparent Jewish individual as the last name is Tobias (Figure 1). On the reverse (Figure 2) is a repeat of the postmark on the front and transit postmarks: Alexandria, January 22, 1900, Suez, January 22, 1900, two fragmentary postmarks dated February 4, and the arrival postmark Auckland, New Zealand, February 26, 1900, indicating an elapsed time of 37 days.

HOSPITAL HANDSTAMP

What makes this cover particularly interesting, besides its scarcity, is the inclusion of the violet round marking (Figure 3) which reads: "Allg. 1ST. HOSPITAL- MISGAB-LADACH Jerusalem". This indicates that the cover was sent from the

Misgav Ladach hospital, one of the 11 Jewish hospitals functioning in Jerusalem. It was a maternity hospital with 75 beds. This was the fifth and largest of the Jewish hospitals in Jerusalem and was known as the Russian hospital. Each of the countries and religious denominations with a significant number of members had its own hospital.



Misgav Ladach Hospital

DR. D'ARBELLA

The hospital was managed by a Russian Jewish doctor named Israel Gregory d'Arbella. He was a war hero and one of the few Russian Jews decorated by Czar for personal gallantry. He had traveled extensively and had received seven or eight decorations from various sovereigns of Europe. He was said to have made an impressive sight when wearing his decorations, inlaid guns and a diamond hilted sword. He had a young son and daughter and his desire was to give them a Jewish education. Though not strictly observant, it is recorded that he neither



Dr. D'Arbella

continued on page 13

The Israel Philatelist–February 2011

Ed Fund Director

We would like to welcome David Kaplin, current member and past president of Cleveland Chapter of the SIP, to the Executive

board as our new Educational Fund Director. David is also the current secretary and newsletter officer for the chapter.

Please contact David for more information on ordering books from the Education Fund. David will also have responsibility for reviewing and adding more books and monographs into our Education Fund offerings. If you or someone you know is considering publishing a book or monograph on a facet of Holy Land philately, please contact David. David and his wife Gail live in Mayfield Heights, Ohio – a suburb of Cleveland.

Contact Information: dkaplin@israelstamps.com 1167 Bonnie Lane Mayfield Hts., OH 44124 440-835-7664 •

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continued from page 12 smoked on the Sabbath nor ate non kosher foods.

Thus, this cover has been the source for a very interesting history of 19th century Jewish Jerusalem. The author wishes to acknowledge Doron Waide who informed him of the significance of the Misgav Ladach marking and made available details related to the hospital. He informed me that he remembers this hospital building from his childhood in Jerusalem.

Reference

- 1. schnorrer (Yiddish): a beggar, a scrounger who takes advantage of the generosity of others; letter requesting a charity donation.
- 2. Wikipedia File: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f6/ Misgav_Ladach_1915.jpg.
- 3. Misgav Ladach hospital was established in 1854 in the Old City of Jerusalem, funded by the French Rothschild family. The hospital, founded to enable the Jews to be independent of Christian missionary hospitals, served the city's Jewish population in this location until the Israeli War of Independence in 1948, when the Jordanian army destroyed the Jewish Quarter. The hospital reopened in Katamon in West Jerusalem, where it operated for 40 years as a maternity hospital. After moving into new premises on Hizkiyahu Hamelech Street, the non-profit Sephardi organization that owned it went bankrupt. The building was purchased by Kupat Holim Meuhedet, renovated and reopened in 2005, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misgav_Ladach\
- A. The D'Arbela Saga: some African reflections, Professor Krishna Somers, Adler Museum Bulletin, vol. 33, no. 2, December 2007, p.17-32, http://web.wits.ac.za/NR/rdonlyres/6413E9C7-EBEE-437D-B0CD-EF4CC8DA67C7/0/BulletinDecember2007.pdf. •

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Abraham Cresques

JEWISH CARTOGRAPHER - CATALAN ATLAS OF 1375

Abraham Cresques (died 1387) was a Jewish cartographer from Palma de Mallorca, Spain who, in collaboration with his son Jehuda Cresques, compiled the Catalan Atlas of 1375.

Abraham dedicated his life to the making of maps, and to the construction of clocks, compasses, and other kinds of maritime instruments, until 1375, when he and his son received an assignment from Prince John of Aragon (later to be John I of Aragon) to



Abraham Cresques

make a full series of nautical charts which represented the "East and the West, and everything that, from the Strait (of Gibraltar) leads to the West". For this job, Abraham and Jehuda would be paid 150 Aragonese Golden Florins, and 60 Mallorcan Pounds, respectively; as it is stated in 14th century documents from the Prince himself and his father Peter IV of Aragon. The purpose Prince John had in mind for the charts was to give these to his cousin Charles, later to be Charles VI, King of France, as a present. In that year 1375 Abraham and Jehuda drew the six charts of the Catalan Atlas at their house in the Jewish quarter of Palma de Mallorca.





The Catalan Atlas (1375) is the most important Catalan map of the medieval period. It was produced by the Majorcan cartographic school and is attributed to Cresques Abraham. It has been in the royal library of France (now the Bibliothèque Nationale de France) since the time of Charles V. The Catalan Atlas originally consisted of 6 vellum leaves folded down the middle, painted in various colors including gold and silver. The leaves are now cut in half. Each half-leaf is mounted on one side of five wooden panels. The first half of the first leaf and the second half of the last leaf are mounted on the inner boards of a brown leather binding. Each measures approximately 65 x 50cm. The overall size is therefore 65×300 cm.

The first two leaves contain texts in Catalan language covering cosmography, astronomy, and astrology. These texts are accompanied by illustrations. The texts and illustration emphasize the Earth's spherical shape and the state of the known world. They also provide information to sailors on tides and how to tell time at night.

The four remaining leaves make up the actual map, which is divided into two principal parts. The map shows illustrations of many cities, whose political allegiances are symbolized by a flag. Christian cities are marked with a cross, other cities with a dome. Wavy blue vertical lines are used to symbolize oceans.



The first two leaves, forming the oriental portion of the Catalan Atlas, illustrate numerous religious references as well as a synthesis of medieval "mappae mundi" (Jerusalem located close to the centre) and the travel literature of the time, notably Marco Polo's Book of Marvels and the Travels and Voyage of Sir John Mandeville. Many Indian and Chinese cities can be identified. The explanatory texts report customs described by Marco Polo and catalogue local economic resources, real or supposed.

Spain 1974 Stamp Catalan Atlas image Official FDC 26 January 1974 - "50th Anniversary of the Conseil de Géograpie" with the Catalan Atlas image cache which is the same as on the stamp.

Place names of important ports are transcribed in red, while others are indicated in black.

Unlike many other nautical charts, the Catalan Atlas is read with the north at the bottom. As a result of this the maps are oriented from left to right, from the Far East to the Atlantic.



Israel 1992 Souvenir sheet with Catalan Atlas images/

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Help

I was sent a photocopy of this cover and asked if I could provide the owner with any information on the rates, routes and markings. I have no World War II reference material so I am asking the membership for assistance. I have listed the information I can see on the cover's front. If you have information, please e-mail the editor at sipeditor@gmail.com.•

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- 1. Perth, West Australia, 21 July 1941
- 2. Australian machine slogan cancel War Savings Certificates
- 3. Field Post Office 20 11 Aug 41
- 4. Damas R.P. cancel, date not readable
- 5. Passed by censor Unit 281
- 6. Passed by censor #3076
- 7. Passed by censor #3191
- 8. Passed by censor #3295
- 9. Passed by censor #3482
- Multi handstamp: Aus Army Base Post Office Jerusalem 10 Sep 41



Addressed to Ray Paxtan, % Australian Soldier Club, Jerusalem, Palestine Stamps

Stamps Australian: 1 shilling, 6 pence Syria: .10 piasters and .20 piasters Palestine: 2 mils •

"Israeli" Booklet Varieties

The "Israeli" booklet was issued on April 28, 2008. In a surprisingly short two years it has supplied collectors with a large amount of material for both collecting and researching. Some collectors believed that since every additional booklet issue can be easily distinguished by the number of menorahs on the back of the booklet covers the issue would be easy to collect. But it turned out that even in this supposedly easy issue varieties can be found.

Below are shown booklet covers of the seven different issues and two of the varieties that I have found. I am interested in hearing from other collectors of this issue.•



1st Issue - no menorahs on the back cover Varieties: - A - light blue text and logo B - dark green text and logo.



3rd Issue - three menorahs on back cover.



5th Issue - five menorahs on back cover.



7th Issue - seven menorahs on back cover.



2nd Issue - two menorahs on back cover.



4th Issue - four menorahs on back cover.



4th Issue - Arabic inscription of the name of the country "Israel" missing on the lower right corner stamp in some booklets.



6th Issue - six menorahs on back cover.



Richard Logan, Ottawa, ON Memorial Day In Israel YOM HAZIKARON

Since Memorial Day 1952, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers of Defense have signed and sent personal letters to bereaved families of the State of Israel's fallen soldiers whose sacrifice enabled Israel's existence. It is a unique and sensitive tradition that came into being following the War of Independence. Yom Hazikaron begins at sundown on May 9, 2011.

The first Memorial Day stamp was issued in 1966. It featured a monument to the liberator of Lower Galilee and honored the fallen Israel Defense Soldiers. Starting in 1983, a First Day Cover and Memorial Day stamp have been included with the letter. Israel's premier

artists consider it an honor to take part in designing the covers and stamps for this commemorative day.



Figure 1 1966 Memorial Day

STAMPS' DESIGN

The graphic design of the Memorial Day stamps since 1966 has been expressed over the years symbolically and through monuments. For instance, the focus of the 2009 design features a Memorial Day pin which has also been presented to bereaved families in recent years (Figure 2). The pin was produced by the Soldiers' Commemoration Unit within the Ministry of Defense and integrates the symbols of the State of Israel and those of the representative organizations – Yad La Banim and the Israel Defense Forces' Widows and Orphans Organizationwith a black ribbon imprinted with the word "Yizkor"- in memoriam.

MEMORIAL DAY ORIGINS

It was Rabbi Shlomo Goren who put Memorial Day in place when he served as the first head of the Military Rabbinate of the Israel Defense Forces (Figure 3). He subsequently served as the third Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel from 1973 to 1983. He explained how it came about in a 1974 speech he gave:

"The merit of doing this fell in my lot. We first thought of setting Memorial Day on Lag BaOmer, the day that historically symbolizes the Bar Kochba War and that which is still celebrated by Jewish children as the day of Jewish strength. In this way, we thought that we could combine the heroism of our early ancestors with that of our own children in this generation. But doubts crept in. Would we not cause harm to the general significance, shrouded in mystery as it is, of that historic day?

One of the Fast Days or during the Three Weeks, in which we remember the destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temples, was then proposed. But we could not accept the fact that the Memorial Day for the fallen soldiers would be solely a day of mourning. It was felt that this day must be more than that. We must remember, we must grieve but not only that – it must (also) be a day of majesty and vision.

We realized, therefore, that we could not assign this day to any existing holiday. But the first Independence Day was rapidly approaching and so we did what we did – without announcing it formally and without setting any specific format for the day. I went to Voice of Israel studios on the day before Independence Day and read aloud the Chief of Staff's Daily Military Order (including an announcement of remembering the fallen soldiers), which



Figure 2 2009 Memorial Day



Figure 3 Rabbi Shlomo Goren

he wrote, according to my request. And so I became the narrator and the one who set Memorial Day on what became its date."

Memorial Day is marked each year on the 4th of the Hebrew month of Iyar or in proximity to that date and is always marked one day before Independence Day *(see Editor's note 1)*. Both holidays may be observed one and two days earlier (the 3rd and 4th or the 2nd and 3rd of Iyar) if the 5th happens to occur on a Friday or Saturday, the Shabbat. Similarly, both days are moved one day later if Yom HaZikaron would fall on Sunday.

CEREMONY

Memorial Day begins at sundown and ends at sundown the following day. Its events open at 20:00 hours with a one minute air raid siren that is heard across Israel. Everyone stops everything-including driving-and stand in silence, commemorating the fallen and showing respect (Figure 4). A national ceremony is then held at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The ceremony is attended by the President and the Chief of Staff. Other gatherings and services are held throughout Israel (Figure 5).

The following day, a two minute siren is sounded across Israel at 11:00 hours, followed by memorial services held in all military cemeteries. The main service is held at the military cemetery on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem.

The services include the lowering of the State's flag to half mast; a special "Yizkor" prayer; a speech by a public figure; an "El Maleh Rachamim" prayer sung by a military cantor; the laying of a wreath; and a gun salute (*see Editor's note 2*).

The media broadcasts the names of all Israel's fallen soldiers and terrorist victims on Israel's public television channel during the two days, one after the other, for four to five seconds each. In addition, a national service at Mt. Herzl is held at 1300 hours in memory of victims of terrorist acts.

A torch lighting ceremony at Mt. Herzl is the closing event of the Memorial Day and the opening ceremony for Independence Day.

The Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers Whose Place of Burial is Unknown is the 7^{th} of Adar – the day of birth and death of Moses (*see Editor's note 3*). A plot was dedicated in their memory at the military cemetery on Mt. Herzl and the names of all these soldiers are engraved on a wall built in their honor.

The number of soldiers and security personnel who have fallen since November 29, 1947, when the United Nations accepted the partition thus mandating the creation of a Jewish State is 22684 soldiers killed in the line of duty and 3971 civilian terror victims.

FLOWER SYMBOL

It is interesting to note that in Israel, the Red Everlasting plant is the symbol for Memorial Day and has the same symbolism as the red poppy in the British Commonwealth (Figure 6). It is known as "Blood of the Maccabees." Its name is derived from a legend saying that in every spot one grows, a drop of blood has been spilled on the earth. This is where its significance in the Yom HaZikaron ceremonies comes from, to remind people that much blood has been spilled to allow them to live in the land of Israel (Figure 7). Editor's notes:



Figure 4 A moment of silence during memorial day for the fatal casualties of Israel's wars (*Source Wikipedia*).



Figure 5 IDF soldiers participatin in Yom HaZikaron (*Source Wikipedia*).





Figure 6 Red Everlasting flower (Helichrysum sanguineum) (Source http://www.flowersinisrael.com/ elichrysumsanguineum_page.htm).

Figure 7 1954 Independence Day Features Yehiam kibbutz and the Red Everlasting flower.



Figure 8 1979-First Day Cover Ministry of Defense Souvenir Envelope Memorial Day stamp for Fallen Soldiers.



Figure 9 Letter to bereaved family, signed by Ezer Weizman as Defense Minister.

Editor's notes:

- 1. Iyar is a spring month of 29 days and usually falls in April or May on the Gregorian calendar.
- 2. El Maleh Rachamim is a prayer recited for the ascension of the souls of the dead at memorial services in synagogues- in yizkor services on festivals, and during a funeral. El Maleh Rachamim begins with- which is G-d, full of mercy....
- 3. Adar is a winter month of 29 days and usually falls in February-March on the Gregorian Calendar. In a leap year, a second Adar month, Adar Bet, is added.

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Hungary

Journey of Lee Leschner

From the Frying Pan into the Fire

BACKGROUND

By late 1939 the Jews in Nazi Germany were desperate to leave there were few options left at that point. However, several Jewish organizations organized "illegal" ships that would sail from Eastern Europe and try and land in Palestine.

On September 3, 1940 four riverboats left Vienna and sailed down the Danube with over 3600 Jewish refugees. When they reached the Black Sea area, the refugees were transferred to three ships obtained by the Mossad. These were the *Atlantic* (1771 refugees), the *Pacific* (1000 refugees) and the *Milo* (880 refugees). These ships ailed from the Romanian ports of Tulcea and Sulina between October 7 and October 18, 1940 for Haifa.

The British were not very keen on these "illegal" refugee ships going to Palestine and all three of them were intercepted off the Palestine coast and were taken to Haifa. There the British transferred many of the "illegal" Jewish refugees to the *Patria* and announced that they would be sent to Mauritius until the war was over, with a chance of being allowed back into Palestine. Just as the *Patria* was about to sail, there was large explosion, which quickly sank the ship and 254 Jewish refugees died. The Haganah had set the bomb to try and disable the ship so it could not sail. They used too much explosive, thus the loss of life. Despite a cry of outrage from around the world, the British shipped many of the survivors on the Dutch ships (the *New Zealand* and the *Van de Witt*) to Mauritius and they arrived on Christmas 1940.

KENYA LETTER

It is against this background that Lee Leschner found himself in Mauritius. Figure 1, dated 23 July 1944 is a cover sent to him from a friend who worked as a government official in Kenya. This cover was censored in both Kenya and Mauritius. We are fortunate to have the contents of the letter sent to Lee, which has been translated by Ralph Harpuder z"l. The letter, Figure 2, out lines a sad story of lost relatives in Europe. "I have no contact with my people. Willy, in case he is till alive, is in Berlin; from Anna the last message was she was taken to Theresienstadt...!

Dear Leo,

Through the grapevine, I discovered that you were asking for my address. I thought Mr. Gross had given it to you long time ago, Also, a letter addressed close to the place sent will not get lost. Kenya's population is far too small for this to happen...

Nobody told me here whether you were able there to acquire a profession and hope that you can let me know regarding this matter real soon. I have no contact with my people. Willy, in case he is still alive, is in Berlin; from Anna, the last message was she was taken to Theresienstadt.

With my wife's sister, we had occasionally contact through the Red Cross; however this communication was already a long time



interrupted. Whatever happened to Hans, Donath, Dora, etc? I don't know, perhaps you know a little more.

As for us, we can say that we are healthy and relatively content considering the situation. The kids are doing well and are both already attending high school.

I was a Farmer, however I could not get along with my partner, thus I quit, and afterwards became manager of the farm. Currently I am a temporary government official. Again, I am working in my old profession as a mechanical technician at the Post Office workshop.

Even though I am well compensated for my work, and whereas Elly is able to work, we live primitively in a hotel, while both children are attending Boarding School, hence, the money we earn immediately is spent again. Like we say, one has to thank G-d daily for being remote from all the collapse and destruction.

This is the most important thing. We are living here in Nairobi, and feel very much withdrawn from everything except for attending an afternoon cinema once in a while. We used to enjoy the country side where one can live surrounded by nature, this, the only real thing that Kenya, this beautiful country, has to offer.

Best regards from Elly, and let us hear from you

Figure 2 Kenya Letter

MAURITIUS LETTER

On December 20, 1944 Leo replied to his friend (the cover is missing). His reply has also been translated by Mr. Harpuder

z"l and is shown in Figure 3. It, too, tells a story of missing relatives. But he also describes in some detail the day-to-day living condition in the camp, including his room. "My cell consisted of a bed frame including a small table and several crates converted to makeshift furniture. My pride of acquiring my own furnishings consisted of a petroleum lamp, a porcelain tea cup and a small wall mirror."

He also briefly describes his escape from Nazi occupied territory. "During the first half of December 1939 I left for Prague on a Palestine Transport and was hoping to arrive during the change of the year. Instead I arrived on Christmas 1940 in Mauritius. Meanwhile I was a few months in Bratislava, a few months on ? ships and a few days behind barbed wire in Palestine."

In all likelihood Leo was on one of the 4 riverboats that went down the Danube to the Romanian coast and then transferred to one of the 3 ships that sailed to Haifa. He was there probably sent to the Atlit detainee camp until put on one of the Dutch ships, which sailed for Mauritius on December 18, 1940. After the war the British did allow most of the Mauritius Jews to go to Palestine. Perhaps Leo was among them?

I would like to hear from anyone who can provide more information about this subject.

My dear Hanns

I received your kind correspondence with the missing date sometime ago, and am therefore glad that our contact has been established. The apparent long delay for a reply is not the reason for the way I feel; it was only affected by the mentality of today's way of life, especially the conditions that we were living under for the last number of years. In spite that the time appears to be at a stand still, the days and months pass by very fast even though no changes occur. The climate and brick walls transform the body and mind to deterioration.

From your correspondence, it is at least good to know that all of you are healthy and that you are doing relatively well. It was no surprise to me when I heard that you gave up your farming while returning to your old job. I was more surprised over your first decision to even become a farmer. With all the difficulties we are faced today, it is nevertheless the main thing to live halfway independent, and to be able to work. We all live with hope for an ideal situation that we can all survive on a small island that is far away from the terrible things that are happening in the world today. Our survival, however, does not make us happy or content in spite of our gratitude for the protection against fate. We live a conservative life both from within and overtly. But also conservatives fall victim esp. in the tropics when they are not properly maintained for a length of time.

It is very sad that you do not hear from your relatives; I am also in the same boat. My mother according to the last news was since February, 1942 in an old age home in Breunn. Nothing further was known. Hopefully did the old lady under normal circumstances close her eyes in peace while passing away. Knowing this would give me at least some peace of mind. My sister, Trude is since 1942 with her husband in Theresienstadt. Most probably they were meeting there together with your sister. From all the other



relatives or acquaintances, I found, although only from a few Theresienstadt lists that I was able to look at, no one else. The older of the two daughters of Trude is with the family in England, and the younger one is with her husband in Palestine. My sister, Lotte, is with her second husband also in Palestine. My brotherin-law is over there a medical doctor; Lotte works as a tailor, and appears that they are both doing pretty good. I am in contact with them, and hope to land there myself one day. About my former immigration together with my suffering, I only want to give you some memorable dates: During the first half of December, 1939 I left for Prague on a Palestine Transport, and was hoping to arrive during the change of the year. Instead I arrived on Christmas 1940 in Mauritius.

Meanwhile I was a few months in Bratislava, a few months on ships and a few days behind barbed wire in Palestine. There is still a lot talked and written about our deportation from Palestine, but at the present, our return trip is still unclear. Hence, it is exactly four years that I sit here and observe behind stone walls and fences waiting for a better time. It will now be the sixth Christmas that I spent away; years that cannot come back at my age. The only thing I succeeded in during my travel years was that I was able to maintain my health. I belong to the few here that were not yet hospitalized Therefore during all this time I was able to sustain myself without any outside help.

At first I began producing toys and after its liquidation, about two years later, I began producing brushes. With all that money I made I was able to supplement my daily meals, clothe that I could afford.

continued on page 24

Argentine Israeli Philatelic Association Commemorates

AMIA Tragedy

Thousands of people gathered on July 18, 2007 in front of the rebuilt AMIA (acronym of Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina) building in Buenos Aires to commemorate the terrorist bombing that took 85 lives and destroyed the headquarters of Argentina's Jews.

(See my article on the AMIA in *The Israel Philatelist*, August 2005). The massive gathering on

this cold winter morning brought together not only the relatives of the victims and the leaders of the community, but also the president of Argentina, Nestor Kirschner, and his wife, Senator Cristina Fernández de Kirschner, a presidential candidate, and most of the nation's presidential cabinet. For the first time ever, the commemoration was broadcasted simultaneously life throughout Argentina by all the major TV channels. AMIA's president, Luis Grynwald, forcefully called on the Argentine government to boost its efforts in the pursuit of those responsible for the bombing.

To commemorate the event, CEFAI, the Argentine Israel Philatelic Association, issued a cachet envelope using the stamp honoring the Congregación de

Libertad synagogue (see my article on this stamp in *The Israel Philatelist* February 2006). The Argentine Postal Authority authorized the special cancellation: "13th anniversary of the bombing of the AMIA. City of Buenos Aires. AMIA, Argentine Jewish Community, 18 July 2007."

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continued from page 23

For a short time, I withdrew from my work, partly voluntarily, and part because I was forced by the prevailing conditions. I use the time to improve a little my linguistic ability which is very hard for me, the climate paralysis ones memory and ability to comprehend. The common trades practiced here are based on a primitive basis, so that not much from the knowledge gained from it can later be of help.

I am now trying from that period to start preparing by connecting with different business opportunities from all different directions. Whether something will result from it remains to be seen. The only thing that is clear so far is the postage fees.

What kind of plans do you have in this direction? Do you also wish to remain as close to the equator or look again toward the northern hemisphere? For me, the tropics are not only because of the climate but probably also from this type of our current stay, highly disagreeable. This you will most probably believe when I tell you that our camp is situated in an old prison with part of us in brick shelters, with another part living in metal barracks on an embankment.

My cell consisted of a bed frame including a small table and several crates converted to makeshift furniture. My pride of acquiring my own furnishings consisted of a petroleum lamp, a porcelain tea cup, and a small wall mirror. Once in a while the opportunity arises to leave the walls for a few hours to buy a few necessities. The things one observes once outside cannot be considered uninteresting; many

people of different color, furnishings, and colors. An imported mixture of Europeans was seen from the West and East, mainly looking very primitive.

My next surrounding was a metal bowl symphony, which much resembled the background of the people. This last realization made me in a densely populated area------. Now you can imagine that my confidence in building and starting again a new business in a strange surrounding with nothing at hand is not very great. This also makes me among other things very nervous. Away from here a new world is developing in a fantastic manner near all the destruction from the war, and here one becomes, unknown to the world, a wreck. Now you can imagine how I feel inside and how my mood is affected from all this. Physically speaking, I was able to maintain my health relatively well.

Now I hope that my comprehensive report to you in spite of the delay is again made good, and that you, dear Hanns now also report to me a few things about your future plans. Perhaps you may also have an idea for me. What does Kenya have to offer? Today I seem to take slowly after my Uncle Fritz when I was a bachelor.

I am now waiting for your prompt news and send my heartiest regards to your dear wife, your dear children and to you.



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Birding Israel Illustrated exclusively with Israeli stamps



Eran, Uri, Marty by Marty Zelenietz Dartmouth, NS, Canada.

had a day to recover from my northern adventure, so I wandered over to the tiny Jerusalem Bird Observatory, built on a former rubbish dump in the shadow of the Knesset. Not much bird activity there, but I was able to purchase a nifty Hoopoe t-shirt. Public balloting had recently conferred the title of "Israel's Official Bird" on this delightfully bizzare creature. At the time, no Israeli stamp had ever featured the bird. This was remedied in January of 2010 (see Figure 24).

AND WE'RE OFF...

Now fully recharged, Eran and I were off again, this time to the Negev. Anticipating the intense midday heat, he picked me up at 3:30 AM, and we drove off into a light fog. We pulled off at a truck stop in the pre-dawn dark. Waiting for us was my philatelic friend Uri, laden with sandwiches and snacks to support our day of birding. I took real pleasure in finally meeting him. Despite his protestations, his English was much better than my Hebrew. Packing ourselves and our gear into Eran's car, we headed south into the Negev (Figure 25).

Traveling with birders is not your "normal" trip. True, you are "going" somewhere, but you are in no rush to get there. Something moving on the horizon? Stop the car and haul out the binoculars. Think a bird should be here? Fine—we can wait. What's that down by the transmission tower? Let's go find out. We continued our leisurely drive south and west on roads getting narrower and bumpier. We sought birds Eran thought should be there. And sure enough, there they were. We had a superior view of three McQueen's Bustards (Figure 26) strolling parallel to the road. And there was a Mourning Wheatear (Figure 27). And more....

Looming on our right was a stark structure: bare concrete walls, festooned with razor wire, rising high above the desert floor. Eran explained that it was a prison for Palestinians convicted of terrorism. He pulled up to the guard post and explained what three people would be doing with binoculars in the area. The guard, looking faintly amused, waved us on.

As we approached the border with Egypt, some 50 or more kilometers south of Gaza, we heard the rumble of thunder in the air. Thunder with clear skies? Artillery practice, Eran explained.

SEWAGE LAGOONS

Around 7:30, we arrived at our destination: the sewage lagoons of Netsana. Here, in the middle of the desert, were ponds teeming with bird life: grebes, sandpipers, storks, and ducks, including Eurasian Teals (Figure 28). An incredible jumble of birds congregated around the only source of open water in the region. A dozen Black Stilts took umbrage with our presence when we got out of the car to stretch our legs and have a look.

Fearful that their noise would scare away our true "prey", Eran told us we had to get back in. So we sat and baked as the sun beat down on the dark green sedan, waiting. Time slowed in the heat, but Eran assured us that our patience would be rewarded. And then, as predicted, there was a flutter of wings by the fence. A solitary bird cautiously made its way down the sandy bank, and started to drink. Others joined it. Over the next half an hour or so, I forgot the heat as I witnessed four different species of sandgrouse come in from their desert roosts for their daily drink. With all four birds on my "target list", I'd hit the jackpot.

LAST LEG OF BIRDING

From Nestana we headed east to Sde Boker, final resting place of David Ben Gurion (Figure 29). We found a few species, including Tristram's Grackle (Figure 30), as we birded the grounds of this desert oasis, but our search for raptors in the sky over Avdat proved fruitless. Refreshed with ice cream and cold drinks, we got back into the car and departed for our final destination of the day: Lake Yehoram, in the Arava (Figure 31). A number of birds make the artificial lake their home, including the familiar Mallard (Figure 32). Eran set up his scope and scanned the reeds lining the shore. He was hoping to find a real "prize", a bird long thought extirpated in Israel. And there, on the far shore, were two Purple Swamphens (seen in the tab on the 2007 Hula Nature Reserve issue, Figure 33). For Eran, as a biologist, the sighting of this breeding pair was the highlight of the day: the bird had returned to Israel.

HEADING TO JERUSALEM

We dropped Uri off at his car on our way back to Jerusalem. Ascending the hills towards the "City of Gold," we scanned

AND WE'RE OFF...



Figure 24 Hoopoe



Figure 25 The Negev



Figure 26 McQueen's Bustard



Figure 27 Mourning Wheatear

SEWAGE LAGOONS



Figure 28 Eurasian Teal

LAST LEG OF BIRDING



Figure 29 Sde Boker



Figure 30 Tristram's Grachle



Figure 31 The Arava



Figure 32 Mallard



Figure 33 Purple Swamphens

every power pole, searching in vain for Rooks. Eran and I parted company around 4:30–a "short" day of birding, but a rewarding one. My list numbers had grown: 25 more species for the trip, 19 of them totally new to me. I had returned to a part of Israel often not seen by tourists (and many Israelis!): crumbling roads, ramshackle buildings, vast open spaces. It was more in tune with the Israel I had known in my youth. I was, as they say, a happy camper.

Having had my opportunity for unfettered birding, I was able to play the normal tourist for the next week or so. I did manage to sneak in a few new species when we went to the Dead Sea and Arad. Since returning home, I have added many of those species to my stamp collection of birds I've seen.

AND THE NEXT TIME...

I eagerly anticipate the chance to return to Israel. Perhaps I'll head down to Eilat, for a few desert specialties like the Sinai Rosefinch (Figure 34) and the shore and sea birds that frequent Israel's southern port. Maybe I'll revisit the fish ponds at Ma'agan Michael, where egrets and herons can't resist the "free lunch".

Yacov Tsachor – A.I.E.P., Tel Aviv, Israel

There is a bird observatory near Latrun, where old Russian radar tracks migrating birds for the IDF. I wonder if I know someone who can get me in? The birds await.



Collectors Beware

In the past year a very dangerous and misleading phenomenon has occurred.

Israel's early Philatelic items, mainly from 1948/52, are being offered on the market *with photo copies* of

what is meant to be my certificates of authenticity. The items are, in most of the cases, *Complete Forgeries*.

They depict "original" artwork, printed Essays, Proofs and issued items. The Xerox or scan certificate is

a copy of a one issued for a genuine item.

The forger has fabricated a new similar certificate (or one quite similar, but minor differences can always be detected). The "photo" certificate attached to the artwork, essay, proof or issued item is intended to make the forgery "Kosher." Collectors are advised to purchase such items <u>only</u> with the *original certificate*.

In no way should a collector accept excuses such as: "I forgot the original which is in the vault," "the previous owner lost it," etc. The original certificate is on the official paper of the A.I.E.P. – International Assocication of Philatelic Experts. It is yellowish, vertically ribbed (fibers) on 1 side. A photo (generally in color) of the expertized item *is glued to the form and tied*_by 2 of my original signatures in Blue ink and my handstamps. The signatures also appear alongside the base of the text (Figure 1).

These forgeries are also being offered by leading auction houses in Europe and the United States. •



Figure 1 Example genuine certificate.

NEWS FROM THE ISRAEL PHILATELIC AGENCY



Butterfly sheet



Carmel Training Center



Ethiopian Aliyah



My Own Israel Post Visitor Center



Ephraim Katzir



Memorial Day 2011

To purchase these items contact a local dealer or write to:

Israel Philatelic Agency of North America, Dept. 1P-11 460 West 34 Street, New York, NY 10001-2320 Call Toll Free 1-800-607-2799

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Israel Philatelist–February 2011

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Ambassador Philip C. Habib

Philip Charles Habib was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 25, 1920, graduating with a degree in forestry from the University of Idaho in 1942. After serving in the army during World War II, he joined the Foreign Service in 1949 and earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California

at Berkeley in 1952.

Habib's first assignments were in Canada, New Zealand and Trinidad. In 1965, he was appointed political counselor in Saigon just as the Vietnam War was escalating. He later became Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. From 1971 to 1974, he served as ambassador to South Korea, and from 1976 to 1978 was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the highest career position in the Foreign Service.

Habib retired from the Foreign Service in 1980. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan called Habib out of retirement to serve as his special envoy to the Middle East at a time of growing tension between Israel and the PLO in southern Lebanon.

When hostilities erupted into war engulfing Israel, Syria and Palestinian terrorists, Habib engaged in shuttle diplomacy and won the respect of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin as he helped negotiate a truce. In 1982, He was



awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Habib deserves mention here because of his outspoken conviction that "the United States should support Israel. It's a long-standing commitment, a commitment that goes through every administration since Truman, that we support the existence and security of Israel. Now, how, to what extent, on what terms at any given moment, those are subjects for discussion, debate, and reformulation. But the basic commitment is maintained." •

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JORBUG 2010

October 27 - 31, 2010

The five-day Johannesburg 2010 International Stamp Exhibition, held at the Sandton Convention Centre last November hosted collectors and exhibitors from 30 countries around the world. Participants exhibited their collection competitively in various classes - ranging from stamps placed in country groups, to postal material, to airmails, to thematic subjects and to revenue stamps - to name just a few categories. There were an estimated 1,500 frames of competitive displays in the hall. With each frame holding 16 pages, this translates into some 24,000 album pages on view to the public.

Subjects covered by the stamps and displays were wide and varied, catering to all tastes and quirks.

There was a large display of stamps covering the Holocaust with swastikas featuring prominently - which interestingly was put together by a non-Jew. Another covered the Ottoman Empire with many also on southern Africa.

A fair number of Jewish stamp collectors applied for, and received acceptance to exhibit and be judged, with several receiving gold rosettes for their exhibits. The organizers also accepted all Israeli entrants- despite the fact that they were already over-subscribed.

Frank Friedman had a thematic display on the subject of diamonds, which won a Large Vermeil award. Brian Gruzd received a Vermeil award for his 1950 Airmails of Israel.



Les Glassman

South African born Les Glassman who now lives in Israel, was the Israel commissioner for the Israeli Philatelic Federation. He brought with him seven different collections of stamps from Israelis all around the world who wished to enter the exhibition.

The logistics of submitting and dealing with all the entry forms, the paperwork which had to be forwarded to potential exhibitors, the difficulties of travelling with and getting the stamps through customs and then, on arrival in Johannesburg, for them to be set up and displayed in the best possible way in Convention Centre, was a mammoth task in itself.

Glassman said the Israel Philatelic Federation (IPF) was

very supportive of its members and encouraged them to participate and submit their collections. Back home they encouraged Israeli youth to join in their activities and to start their own stamp collections.

Glassman who himself specializes in first stamps from Mozambique, many of which are early post, pre-philatelic and the only ones existing in the world, received a Gold Award as well as a Special Prize for his collection - which also included some forgeries.

Another Vermeil award winner was Selwyn Uria, who has been collection stamps for some 35 years. He has been the chairman of the Society of Israeli Philatelists, SIP, three times. He, together with Brain Gruzd and Morris Daniels who has written



Ann and Selwyn Uria

the society's newsletter for some 20 years, are the longest serving members of the SIP.

The organization meets at Waverley Shul on the first Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for those joining in 2011.



Yad Award Best Holy Land Exhibits

Editor's note: The information for this article was taken from the *SA The Jewish Report*, 12 November 2010, p. 6, story and pictures by Rita Lewis.

THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST WEBSITE ARCHIVE LIBRARY PROJECT





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YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE SIP

SIP NEWS President's Column



Dear Fellow Philatelists,

For those of us in the cold weather states, we are starting to imagine spring and how we can get out of our offices to enjoy some fresh air. I always wrestle with how to remain a philatelist once Cleveland's spring/summer season hits, as it's more difficult to sit inside mounting covers or affixing stamps into albums. I would encourage you to write a

"Letter to the Editor" sharing some of your warm weather philatelic activities with the rest of us.

This year, I'm starting to think about my porch, beach and summer reading lists. I just acquired a full set of our *The Israel Philatelist's* from the Ed Fund, took them out of the shipping box and neatly assembled them on my bookshelf. From 1948 through 2006, the full encyclopedia of *The Israel Philatelist's* is broken up into 24 books. Volumes 28 through 57 are provided in easy to handle, spiral-bound formats.

I picked up the volume that spanned 1967–1968 because I was interested in reading about the Six-Day War and what was occurring, philatelically, during that Era. I was transported back to that period through articles written contemporaneously by wonderful philatelic writers. They talked about the success of the Israeli military, the APO units, Red Cross mail, philatelic souvenirs when Moshe Dayan entered Jerusalem, and more. I was flipping through the volume and really enjoying the study of Israeli history tethered to philately.

This got me thinking about what I'd like to do this summer and I said, "Why not pick a handful of topics and use our *The Israel Philatelist* encyclopedia to fill up the idle hours during the dog days of summer?" The Ed Fund reprints are so easy to pack in a suitcase, carry on a plane or lay open on one's lap while dangling feet in a pool. I took a red pen and started making notes and highlighting things that are important to me right on the pages. I know this is a wonderful way for me to keep my philatelic interests moving forward. You see, when the trees start turning autumnlike, then I know my summer research will be put to good use and I'll start working on mounting covers for my next year's exhibit.

On a separate topic, I'd like to report that your Society has embarked on digitizing our 60+ years of *The Israel Philatelist's* and working with a professional computer group to install our wonderful encyclopedia of Holy Land philately into our website. This may be one of the most monumental tasks that our Society has undertaken in many years because it will preserve our intellectual property for future collectors, and make Holy Land philately available to collectors worldwide. Ultimately, our goal is to attract new members via the web and use our www.israelstamps. com site as *THE* place for Israel and Holy Land philately.



New Philatelic Issues

Stamp Name	Value
Butterflies of Israel	
Swallowtail	
Red Admiral	
Caper White	
Plain tiger	
Common blue	
Tawny Silver-line	
Aliyah of Ethiopian Jewry	2.50 NIS
Mount Carmel Training Center 50t Anniversary	5.00 NIS
Memorial Day 2011	1.70 NIS
President Ephraim Katzir	9.00 NIS
Tourism - Visit Israel	
The Sea of Galilee	4.20 NIS
Jerusalem	6.00 NIS
Eilat	6.10 NIS

New Members

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

10558	Abraham Blum	Israel
10559	Stephen Dolgin	San Leandro, CA
10560	Alan Stern	Needham, MA
10561	Sim Gesundheit	Minnetonka, MN

substantive progress on converting over 100+ slide shows to a digital format that can be viewed online or projected using PowerPoint.

These are the 2011 major initiatives and I'm confident that we'll be able to achieve these goals by year-end. These projects have been some of our greatest dreams for the Society towards modernizing the services the SIP provides to collectors of Israel and Holy Land philately. I hope you view our actions as "building a new wing" onto the SIP building and will see fit to support our efforts by visiting our website and making a contribution to the Endowment Fund via Paypal, so future collectors will be able to enjoy the same pleasures which you benefit from.

I thank you for your continued support and please start planning to come to the SIP convention at BALPEX in Baltimore, Maryland this Labor Day weekend. Make your reservations early as the room space is limited.

Very truly yours, Michael Bass •

SIP NEWS

BERKSHIRE HILLS Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann 24 Ann Drive Pittsfield, MA 01201

🖆 mail: RabbiHarold@aol.com

Program: Interesting Jewish Periodicals of the 19th Century Chapter meets the last Sunday of the month at Markovits Stamp House 3 Shamrock St., Stockbridge, MA, at 10:30 am. ■

CENTRAL, NJ Gary Theodore PO Box 3025 Long Branch, NJ 07740 Program: Early Postal History of Israely 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 Robert B. Pildes, M.D. 1319 Ridge Ave. Evanston, IL 60201-4131 Program: Israel Airmail Stamps by Bob Pildes Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of the month (except August and December) at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, IL at 7:15 p.m. For more information write Sam Fireman, PO Box 59106, Chicago, IL 60659.

CLEVELAND Howard S. Chapman 25250 Rockside Road Bedford Heights, OH 44146 The chapter meets the first Wednesday evening of each month (except July and August) at Temple Tifereth Israel, Beachwood Branch at 7:30 p.m. ■

DALLAS Dr. Arnold Paddock 3952 Candlenut Dallas, TX 75244 mail: etrogreen@hotmail.com

Program: Jewish Personalities on Stamps From Around the World Chapter meets 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm at the Conference Room, Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven Road, Dallas.

DENVER Mark Vanier 44 S. Adams Denver, CO 80209 Chapter meets 4th Wednesday at Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver at 7:30 pm. ■

DETROIT-OAK PARK Ken Torby 27655 Lasher Rd., #112 Southfield, MI 48034 Program:

• Holocaust Part 2 Chapter meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Oak Park Community Center, 13600 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park at 7:30 p.m. Philatelic bourse, trading, new issues, interesting program. Everyone welcome. Contact Nathan Peiss, 24610 Seneca, Oak Park, MI 48237 (248) 548-1888 for information.

> GREATER HARTFORD Jeffrey Rudolph 124 Fuller Drive West Hartford, CT 06117 ■

MARVIN SIEGELCHAPTER Alan Doberman PO Box 239 Pomona, NY 10970 © mail: alandobey@yahoo.com

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 PO Box 5502 Redwood City, CA 94063 ■

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON Jonathan Becker

🖆 mail:Jbecker@nwastma.com

Wherever you place yourself in Israel-Holyland-Judaica philately, an SIP Chapter can further your pleasure and knowledge. ■

> SOUTH FLORIDA Howard Rotterdam 3601 N 47 Avenue Hollywood, FL 33021

🖆 mail: hrteach@bellsouth.net

Program: Jerusalem Revenues by Marty Cohen Chapter meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Anshei Emuna Congregation Synagogue, 16189 Jog Road, Delray Beach, Florida. ■

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JOHANNESBURG Brian Gruzd PO Box 37153 Birnam Park 2015 South Aftrica 1 mail: gzgz@iafrica.com

Programs:

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

> MINNESOTA Dr. Eugene S. Young 5317-84th Avenue North Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

> > **PITTSBURGH** C. Daniel Askin 5702 Beacon Street Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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ⓓ mail: : ronzukin@gmail.com ■

ISRAEL POSTAL BOXES



Postal Cards & Envelopes

TURKISH PERIOD MAIL FROM THE HOLY LAND



Austrian Post Office Post card sent from Jerusalem October 14, 1880. 1. German 10 pfenning red postal stationary card sent to Hamburg.

- Canceled by Austrian Jaffa three line dated circular cancel in black.
- 3. Hamburg circular receipt cancel dated October 27.
- 4, Hamburg-Hohenfelde receipt datestamp.



Austrian Post Office - French Maritime 1894 cover to Dordogne, France

- 1. Gerusalemme registered label.
- 2. Franked by two Austrian1p on 10k blue stamps.
- 3. Tied by Jerusalem/Gerusalemme cancel.
- 4. Routed via Egypt to French paqueboat, octagonal Ligne N PAQ:FR. No3 cancel.
- 5. On reverse, Dordogne arrival cancel.



German Post Office Cover sent to Hanover, Germany 1. Jaffa August 28, 1900 cancel.

2. Franked with two pairs of 10 para on 5 pfenning stamps.



Russian Post Office 1902 picture post card of Gethsemane Gardens Sent to Paris, France

- 1. Franked by a pair of 2k green stamps with 10 para red overprint.
- 2. Tied by ROPIT/Jerusalem cancel in violet.
- 3. Repeated ROPIT strike.
- 4. Black Alexandria, Egypt transit cancel.

Editor's note:Images reprinted by permission of CEFAI. The article appeared in CEFAI,August/September 2010, No. 56, cover and page 12.

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS, INC.



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202	IP Index 24-41 Oct 1972 - Dec 1990	\$10.00	\$	410	Safad - Ben David	\$5.00	\$
203	IP Index 42-50 Feb 1991 - Dec 1999	\$10.00	\$	411	Doar Ivri Issue of Israel - Rothman & Tsachor	\$9.00	\$
300	IP REPRINTS			412	The Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices- Kuchaarski	\$8.00	\$
301	IP Reprints 1-10 Sep 1949 - Jun 1959	\$20.00	\$	413	Greeting Telegrams of the JNF - Ladany	\$6.00	\$
302	IP Reprints 11-16 Sep 1959 - Jun 1965	\$15.00	\$	414	Palestine Mandate Stamp Catalog 2001 - Dorfman	\$43.00	\$
303	IP Reprints 20-22 Oct 1968 - Aug 1971	\$15.00	\$	415	Study of Israel's Dateless Cancellations - Chafetz	\$9.00	\$
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