



California,

# Here We Come! SIP Convention 2012 August 17-19

Sacramento Convention Center

Sacramento, California

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 16th 2–3 p.m. – Ed Kroft Friday, August 16th 4–6 p.m. – Executive Committee Meeting Friday, August 16th 6:30 p.m. – Shabbos service 7:30 p.m. – Society Banquet

Saturday, August 17th 8-11 a.m. – Annual Society General Membership meeting Includes Continental-style breakfast service

Sunday, August 18th 10-11 a.m. - Ed Rosen - "Mail of the Shanghai Ghetto"

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#### Membership Application

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State/Province	Country:	
E-ma	uil:	
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1	2	
Signature	Recomm	ended by SIP No.

Signature: Recommended by S.I.P. No.: \_ Parent or Guarantors Signature\_\_\_ Applications submitted between January 1 and June 30 must be accompanied by a full

year's dues. Those submitted between July 1 and December 31 must be accompanied by one and a half (1-1/2) year's dues.

	USA Adult	USA Life	Canada/Mexico	All Others
Dues	\$30.00	\$470.00	\$34.00	\$43.00
1-1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Years Dues	\$45.00		\$51.00	\$64.50

Make all checks or money orders payable to "The Society of Israel Philatelist, Inc." Mail to: Hy-Ko Products, Company, 60 Meadow Lane, Northfield, OH 44067-1415 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-June 2012

Donald A. Chafetz

Associate Editors

### Editor's Notes Donald A. Chafetz

The following article appeared in the August 7, 2012 Israeli newspaper **Haaretz**; written by Mordechai I. Twersky.

In Muslim Indonesia, Les Glassman found that stamp collectors, like the postage they covet, can cross boundaries.



"It was like a family of nations, for the love of stamps," said Glassman. "Photo by Emil Salman

Les Glassman could easily have headed into a diplomatic

buzz saw last month (June) when he touched down in Jakarta, Indonesia, for an international stamp exhibition.

Here was Israel's official representative, a kippa-wearing dentist from Jerusalem, in the jowls of the world's most populous Muslim nation. Indonesia has no formal diplomatic relations with Israel, so despite having been invited as Israel's official representative to the conference, Glassman had to enter the country on his South African passport.

He would soon come face-to-face with his Egyptian and Turkish counterparts, and in a plot twist so absurd it could have been scripted, he would then find himself seated not just at the same table as, but smack next to, his counterpart from Iran.

"I didn't know how we would interact," the 52-yearold Glassman told Haaretz after returning from the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie-sponsored World Stamp Championship and Exhibition, **Bridging the World Through Stamps**. "Most Indonesians never met an Israeli before, or anyone wearing a yarmulke."

To listen to Glassman's surreal account – he and his wife ended up throwing diplomatic cares to the wind and cavorting with their Arab and Persian counterparts for the duration of the eight-day conference – is to conjure up images from the prophecy of Isaiah. As the real world's diplomatic brushfires raged on, the philatelists bonded, like wolves dwelling with lambs, in the confines of Jakarta's cavernous International Convention Center. Johannesburg and a life-long stamp collector. "It's as if all the walls were broken down." Even with his Iranian counterpart, Glassman said, fears were stripped away. "When we met on a personal level, and the interaction was wonderful," said Glassman, noting the Iranian commissioner's daughter, a vegetarian, asked him what it was like to keep kosher. "We spoke openly sometimes it was political, but in a very nice way. There were no barriers. No one was afraid to ask each other any questions."

To emphasize his point, Glassman shared several informal photos of him and the Iranian commissioner But when Haaretz requested permission to publish the photographs, the soft-spoken Glassman respectfully demurred, preferring not to ruffle any diplomatic feathers.

Glassman did provide Haaretz with a copy of the exhibition's official catalog and his identification badge —identifying him as a representative of Israel, alongside an Israeli flag. In the catalog, his stamp display panel is clearly marked "Israel."

And at the awards-granting ceremony, when Glassman rose from his chair, he was greeted warmly. "Everyone applauded," said Glassman, who also met Jewish stamp collectors from South America and Australia. A number of participants had attended a similar international exhibition in Israel in 2008 sponsored by the Federation Glassman said he also "got along very well" with the Egyptian Commissioner; with a Turkish delegate, whom he discovered was also a dentist; and with the Commissioner from Bahrain.

"It was like a family of nations, for the love of stamps," said Glassman. "Our interests were very similar, and once we saw behind what the head covering was, we just saw each other as acquaintances and new friends." Glassman distributed stamps given to him by the Israel Philatelic Federation, which regularly holds both national and international exhibitions in Israel. He was particularly struck by the reaction of the many school children in attendance. "The joy on their face when they received an envelope with a stamp from Israel is something I will never forget," he said.

Perhaps, a reporter suggested to Glassman, stamp collectors might make better diplomats. "The message of peace through stamps really does work," says Glassman, continued on page 85

"It was simply incredible," said Glassman, a native of

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### Letters to the Editor

Don

I have enclosed a copy of the front and back of a cover from the Ustredna Zidov, Slovakia (Central Jewish Organization) dated 22 VIII 41 to the American Joint

Distribution Committee in Lisbon, Spain. It shows their return address and their connection to HICEM.

Perhaps our readers would be interested in seeing these covers. Larry Nelson Mantoloking, NJ





Registered, airmail cover from Bratislava to Lisbon, Spain dated August 22, 1941.

**Ustredna Zidov** – similar to a Judenrat; committees set up by the Slovakians to facilitate deportations.

**HICEM** – Organization established in 1927 whose goal was to help European Jews emigrate. HICEM was formed with the merger of three Jewish migration associations: HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), which was based in New York; ICA (Jewish Colonization Association), which was based in Paris but registered as a British charitable society; and Emigdirect, a migration organization based in Berlin. The name HICEM is an acronym of HIAS, ICA, and Emigdirect.

Dear SIP Members,

The Ed Fund is currently working with Adam Caplan on a new publication titled **Israel Generic Sheets**.

Since the 2001 Flowers stamp, Israel has been issuing generic sheets that consist of both stamps and blank labels that can be personalized. Most of the generic stamps have had multiple printings. The author has examples of most of the different printing dates for the given stamp but there are some gaps. Adam is looking for the following examples that will be incorporated into the manuscript.

- Good Luck generic sheet with 10/21/2003 printing date
- Good Luck generic sheet with 12/1/2006 printing date
- Thank You generic sheet with 12/5/2006 printing date

The information should be e-mailed to Adam Caplan: adam.caplan@intel.com. Your assistance is appreciated in helping with this project.

David Kaplin SIP Ed Fund Director •

My friend, Harris Wolman, and I are writing a Catalogue on Israel Military Handstamps and Postmarks.

Since 1948 the Israel Army has allowed its solders to send mail home free of charge. Almost all envelopes have a triangular shape handstamp applied with unit number. It is usually in a purple ink.

We are trying to get a complete list of all the numbers and copies or actual envelopes with the numbers. There may be over 3,000 of them. We are also trying to find out which unit used which number, the nature of the unit e.g. infantry, artillery, engineers, etc.

We are not writing a history book, nor are we looking for individual names or personal information, nor do we want anything to do with any military operations.

We have identified already over 1,000 different numbers and some of the unit details. If you have any information that may help or have any of these envelopes gathering dust that you could give away or scan please let us know by responding to us at harris@hsrosenberg.com. All those who do help will be acknowledged (unless they do not want to be) in the finished publication.

Thanking you, in advance, for your help. Kind regards Harris Rosenberg

#### Dear Sir,

I'm a philatelic journalist (member of the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques) and I collect the topic "United Nations in the Middle East" (UN Missions, Forces, etc.). I'm now writing an article (in french) for a french philatelic magazine. For the article, "The United Nations in Israel and Palestine in 1947-1950", I am trying to locate the following covers :

- UN Mediator for Palestine (Folke Bernadotte, Sweden)
- UNSCOP Commission
- Palestine Commission
- First United Nations military observers (since June 1948, from Sweden Belgium, France and USA) sent home
- Commission des Nations Unies pour la Surveillance de la Trêve (sent from Jerusalem)

Can any member of your society help me locate or send me images such covers?

I would be happy to hear from any member who can help.

Best regards J.L.Emmenegger jemm@hispeed.ch •

#### Dear Editor

Having read Mr. Rotterdam's story about The Join Issues of Israel in the December 2011 issue of The Israel Philatelist, I find some differences which I would like to address.

In addition to the twin and parallel issues he addresses, I have added some miscellaneous issues. I define miscellaneous issues as stamps or cancellations issued by Israel and another country for the same topic. So far, I have found four such items.

First is Israel 724 and 724a and Egypt 1104 and 1105. Although the design and date of issue is different, both

stamps commemorate the signing of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty.

Second is Israel 1178 and Romania 3851. Both stamps have different designs but were issued on the same day. Both stamps were issued for the Israel-Romania Philatelic Exhibition, Telafia '93.

Third is a souvenir leaf issued by Israel on January 24, 2002. The theme of the souvenir leaf is the recognition of ten years of diplomatic relations between Israel and China. Although the stamps are different and have no relationship to the reason for the issue, they are cancelled on the same date with the same information.

Fourth is a maximum card with different stamps and different dates. The relationship is that they support the same subject matter. The stamps are from the Israel and the United States. The Israel cancel ties the issue of child health to both stamps.

The collecting of joint issues if fairly easy. The finding of items that relate to the topic of joint issues is what makes stamp collecting fun for me.

The editor gladly welcomes YOUR articles for YOUR journal.

#### continued from page 83

a father of two. "Just as a stamp knows no boundaries, when you connect with people when you have similar ideals and look at each other as individuals, it's wonderful to see that you really are part of the family of nations."



Jewish Novelist

#### Gregg Philipson, Austin, TX

Luckily his works were not destroyed at the time of Jewish mysticism. He has truly been honored from a philatelic standpoint with stamps and labels from many countries including Israel, Czechoslovakia, Nicaragua and twice by Germany's Deutsche Post.

#### INTRODUCTION

Franz Kafka was born in Prague (Bohemia) Czechoslovakia in 1883. He died in 1924 at age 40. He became one of the most influential writers of our time. Almost unknown during his lifetime, the works of Kafka have since been recognized "as symbolizing modern man's anxiety-ridden and grotesque alienation in an unintelligible, hostile, or indifferent world<sup>1</sup>."Kafka's complex mind and personality looked deep into our existence seeking to understand who we are and why we behave the way we do. He was an extreme and thought provoking brilliant man! I suspect he never dreamed of being such a philatelic celebrity!

Sadly, if you were raised Jewish in the years before World War II in Prague and elsewhere life was at best tolerable with "themes of otherness and alienation–which in many ways echoed the pogroms and foreshadowed the Holocaust. These themes were central to Kafka's writings<sup>2</sup>."

Kafka has become a worldwide literary icon. As such,

"not only is he widely regarded as one of the greatest authors of the 20th century, but his name has become a part of standard English; the adjective *Kafkaesque* is used to describe situations and people that are surreal, disorienting, and often menacing.<sup>2</sup>"

#### **JEWISH MYSTICISM**

The tradition of Talmudic discussion and debate has been for centuries an integral part of Jewish intellectual life, and this had some influence on Franz. This has been illustrated in part in the book, **Burnt Books: Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav and Franz Kafka**. The author Rodger Kamenetz, brings together the similarities of two very different and powerful Jewish men, both who made lasting impressions on all of society. Kafka was a

secular artist fascinated by Jewish mysticism, and Rabbi Nachman was a religious mystic who used storytelling to reach out to secular Jews. Both men died close to the age of forty from tuberculosis. Both invented new forms of storytelling that explores the search for meaning in an illogical, unjust world. Both gained prominence with the posthumous publication of their writing. And both left strict instructions at the end of their lives that their unpublished books be burnt.<sup>3</sup>"

#### **KAFKA'S PUBLICATIONS**

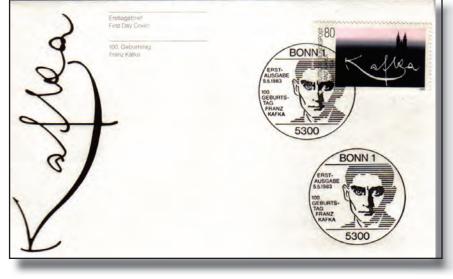
The world may have never know of the genius of Franz Kafka if it had not been for Max Brod. "Contrary to Kafka's halfhearted instruction that his unprinted manuscripts be destroyed after his death, his friend Max Brod set about publishing them and thus became the architect of his belated fame. The best known of the posthumous works are three fragmentary novels. The Trial (1925; English translation, 1937) deals with a man persecuted and put to death by the inscrutable agencies of an unfathomable court of law. The Castle (1926; English translation, 1930) describes the relentless but futile efforts of the protagonist to gain recognition from the mysterious



Israel 1998



Czechoslovakia 1969



Germany 1983

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authorities ruling (from their castle) the village where he wants to establish himself. Amerika (1927; English translation,1938), written early in Kafka's career, portrays the inconclusive struggle of a young immigrant to gain a foothold in an alien, incomprehensible country.<sup>1</sup>"

Franz's father and mother lived until 1931 and 1934, respectively, and they were buried in the same plot as Franz. His sisters did not meet so kind a fate. During World War II, Elli and Valli and their families were shipped off to the Lodz Ghetto. There is no record I

#### END OF LIFE

On June 3rd 1924, Franz Kafka died from complications of tuberculosis in Kierling, near Vienna, Austria. His remains are buried alongside his parents under a twometer obelisk in Prague's New Jewish Cemetery in Olsanske. There is no epitaph, but Milena Jesenska, his lover and Czech journalist and writer, a few days after Franz Kafka his death wrote: "He wrote the most significant works of

I need solitude for my writing; not; 'like a hermit' that wouldn't be enough like a dead man. <sup>and\_ladino/Europe</sup> but

modern German literature, which reflect the irony and prophetic vision of a man condemned to see the world with such blinding clarity that he found it unbearable and went to his death."

could find of their specific fate but most likely they were deported to a death camp or died of starvation or disease in the Ghetto.

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The Israel Philatelist-June 2012

# **Stamp Fake**

### Baruch Weiner Modien Elite Israel

am a collector of various aspects of Israel and Palestine postal history. While searching for covers on ebay regarding the area of official mail and postal rates, I found the cover in Figure 1.

The first thing I noticed after consulting the new **Bale Postal History Of Israel** (2012), is that the postal rates are not correct. The cover is an official, registered, express mail cover whose rate might be figured as follows:

a) Require only a charge of 40 mils for the express service since it is official mail (Bale page 252).

b) Or if franked as a regular letter the postal rate would be 15 mils for regular mail, 25 mils for registration and 40 mils for express service. This would be a total of 80 mils (Bale p. 15).

The cover is franked with 70 mils which caused me to examine the cover more closely.

I noted the size of the 65 mils stamp is smaller than the genuine stamp which is approximately 35 x 23 millimeters while the "forgery" is 27 x 18 millimeters (Figures 1-3).

Also, the stamp's perforations are rough almost as if they are rouletted.

The fake stamp is tied together with the 5 mil stamp to a 1950 official registered express cover. It was posted at the Tel Aviv / Knesset branch post office on 16 March 1950.

From a search in the literature, I know that this office was closed two weeks later on March 30, 1950<sup>1</sup>. The handwriting on the front and reverse (sender) are the same (Figure 4).



#### Figure 3

The main question is why would someone produce such a mixed franked cover? As the 65 mil stamp is obviously a fake, one can assume that the cover is philatelic. Was this cover produced to receive the Knesset Tel Aviv postmarks or as an official registered express cover? Or simply did the creator tie his forged stamp to a seemingly "kosher" official mail cover?

#### Reference

Nachtigal, I.N., B. Fixler, **Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post, Part 1, 1948-1990**. Philatelic Services, Tel Aviv, p. 33. ARGENTINA'S JEWISH CHESS MASTER

# Miguel Najdorf

### Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg



recall that one of the first games that my parents introduced me to as a young child was chess, or as they called it, "shach." While the most popular sport in my native Argentina was—and still is—soccer, Jewish children also had to know how to play chess, because chess, we were told, "sharpens the mind." It was also a great game to play during long summer Sabbath days.

It was only later in life, after I started my Judaica stamp collection that I learned about the many outstanding Jewish chess masters and world champions. I came across numerous articles and books written about them and about their ground breaking moves on the chess board. I also came to identify the images of Jewish chess masters such as Lasker, Steinitz, and Botvinik that have appeared on worldwide stamps. Many of their strategies and moves can even be followed today on YouTube.

### **CHESS OPENING**

All these thoughts came to mind after receiving a recently issued Argentina sheetlet with the picture of the Jewish Argentine champion chess player Miguel Najdorf seated in front of a chess board. His image is reflected as if he were in front of a mirror, strategizing his move on the right, and making the move on the left. In the background is a clock and on top a chess board. The pieces on the board are not haphazardly set. They represent the "Najdorf Variation" of the Sicilian Defense, a move that Najdorf championed and that remains one of the most popular openings among world top players. The board itself is also set against a script detailing the moves.

The sheetlet is part of a series of Argentine stamps

devoted to "Heroes of Argentine Sports," the wording appearing three times on the first day of issue cover, one of them on top of the pocket kerchief protruding from the Najdorf right image, as if it were part of the kerchief's design. The cover also has a sticker added by CEFAI, the Argentine-Israel Philatelic Association.

#### **CHESS HISTORY**

Mieczyslaw (Miguel) Najdorf, was born in Warsaw, Poland on 15 April 1910. He learned to play chess as a teen and already at the age of 26 he made his grand debut at the 1936 Munich Chess Olympics. He was part of the Polish chess team which on that occasion took home the silver medal. Najdorf himself obtained a gold medal, a prize he particularly cherished given the country and the circumstances under which he earned it.

#### **MOVE TO ARGENTINA**

At the time when World War II broke out, he and several other Jewish European chess players were participating in the 1939 Eighth Chess Olympics in Buenos Aires. Najdorf decided to sit out the war in Argentina, a stay that had a tragic outcome: his family back home in Poland perished in the Shoah. In 1944 he became an Argentine citizen, and that is when he changed his name to Miguel. He went on to win the Argentine chess championship seven times, stretching from 1949 – 1975, and played for Argentina in 11 Olympiads from 1950 – 1976. Najdorf also became known as a strong blindfolded player, establishing a world record by playing 45 opponents in 23 hours 30 minutes.

Miguel Najdorf never became a full-time professional chess player. His passion for chess developed along a successful business in the insurance industry. He died in Malaga, Spain, on July 4, 1997.

#### **FURTHER READING**

There are several books that were published about Najdorf, some of them available on Amazon, and some to be read at New York's Central Public Library. Among them, **Play the Najdorf Sicilian** by James Rizzitano, **Winning with Najdorf** by Daniel King, and **Mastering the Najdorf** by Julen Arizmendi and Javier Moreno. Najdorf's daughter, Liliana, also published a volume, **Najdorf X Najdorf**, in Spanish in honor of her father.





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### Part 2

# Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period

### E. Leibu, Haifa, Israel

*Editor's note: The article originally appeared as a 5 part series in the* **Holy Land Postal History** *journal, vols. 53-59, 1993-1994. The illustrations are copies of copies and are not very sharp or clear.* 

### THE FRENCH POST OFFICE

The French post office used postage due (P.D.) stamps for the purpose of taxation of mail. No special P.D. stamps had been prepared for the use of the French offices in the Levant, and they were supplied with the same P.D. stamps used in France.

Only five items taxed in the Holy Land by the French post office have been recorded to date. Four of these were taxed in Jerusalem using P.D. stamps. The fifth was taxed in Haifa and ordinary Levant stamps were used in lieu of P.D.s.

All five items - two postcards and three covers - were mailed from the United States to the Holy Land. They were insufficiently franked with the postage paying the United States inland rate instead of the rate to a foreign country.

The study of mail taxed by the French post office is made easy by the fact that the French centime (equal to a Golden Centime) was, according to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) agreements, the international accountancy monetary unit. Thus, the amount charged in centimes by the Post Office of the country of origin



Figure 1 One cent inland postcard mailed from New York to Jerusalem, taxed with 10 centime P.D. by the French Post Office in Jerusalem on October 11, 1909.

was actually the amount collected by the French post. For the period dealt with, United States 1 cent was equal to 5 French centimes.

### THE POSTCARDS

As mentioned, two taxed postcards are recorded. One, originating in 1908, was shown by N.J. Collins<sup>1</sup>. The second post card, from 1909, is shown in Figure 1. Both cards are United States domestic stationery post cards with an imprinted 1 cent stamp. The postcard rate to other countries was at that time 2 cents. On both postcards the circular cachet "T 10 centimes" was applied in New York. The postage due charge was computed as follows: double the missing 1 cent = 2 cents = 10 centimes. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, this fee was collected by application of French P.D. stamps.

### THE COVERS

All three recorded covers were mailed in the United States with 2c franking. This was at the time the inland letter rate while the foreign destination letter rate was 5 cents. Accordingly, each of the covers was stamped in New York with the cachet "T 30 Centimes" (double deficient of 3 cents = 6 cents = 30 centimes).

The earliest of these covers was mailed in February, 1910 and arrived at the French P.O. in Jerusalem on March 14, 1910 (Figure 2). Taxed the next day, it should bear on its back six 5 centimes P.D. stamps – apparently one 5 centimes stamp is missing.

The only doubly taxed cover of the forerunner period seen so far is shown in Figure 3. This cover was mailed from New York in February, 1914. Upon arrival at the French P.O. in Jerusalem one 10 and one 20 centimes P.D. stamps were affixed on March 6. In an attempt to collect the 30 centimes, the payment was refused by the addressee, so the cover had to be returned to the sender.

This we learn of two postal cachets –both unrecorded so far for Jerusalem – a rectangular "Refuse" on the back, and a double line "retour a l'envoyeur" on the front.

A second attempt to recover the charges was made in New York as

0 - 0 - 0 - 0

Figure 3: Two cents underfranked cover (instead of 5 cents) from New York to Jerusalem, marked "T 30 centimes" by New York duplex handstamp and accordingly taxed by 10c and 20c P.D.s at the Jerusalem French P.O. in March 1914. Having been refused by the addressee, the cover was returned to the United States marked "Due 6 cents" and taxed in New York by two 3c United States Postage Dues.

Robbi Samuel Salant, Jerusalem, Zurkey in Acia ROBATE COURT F. IMEL. JUDGE Figure 2 Cover from the United States franked 2¢ (inland letter rate), taxed upon arrival in Jerusalem with six French 5 centimes P.D.'s (one stamp missing?), March 15, 1910



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evidenced by the duplex "Due 6 cents" of April 4, 1914 and the pre-cancelled pair of 3 cents American P.D. stamps affixed on the back on April 5. The manuscript notation on the front "refused New York" suggests that this second attempt to recover the charges had no greater success than the first one in Jerusalem.



Figure 4 An underfranked cover (2 cents instead of 5 cents) from the United States to "Haifa, Syria,"

taxed by the French P.O. in Haifa by 2 definitive(!) French Levant stamps in March 1914.

The third cover (Figure 4) is a 2 ce postal stationery cover mailed by a bank to Haifa on February 14, 1914. On the front it shows the duplex "T 30 centimes" and on the back a Haifa arrival postmark dated March 3. The charge of 30 centimes was indicated by 5 and 25 centimes definitive French Levant stamps. These were handstamped by the triangular "T" mark.

This extraordinary usage of definitive stamps instead of postage due stamps may be explained by a temporary shortage of the latter at Haifa. This explanation is supported by the fact that loose French P.D. stamps postmarked at Haifa are known. The shortage was not general as the Figure 3 cover was taxed by P.D. stamps in Jerusalem three days later.

In summary, the rarity of this material has to be emphasized once more. All recorded covers taxed with P.D. stamps were taxed in Jerusalem.

As mentioned by Collins, loose P.D. stamps used in Haifa and Jaffa are known, The possibility that a cover or post card taxed with P.D. stamps at those offices, although remote, does exist.

#### \* All dates in this section are according to the Julian Calendar.

### THE RUSSIAN AND GERMAN POST OFFICES

Neither the Russian nor the German Post Office used P.D. stamps during the period prior to World War I. Handstamps and manuscript marks were used by the post offices on taxed mail, and the fees were collected from the addressees in cash. The study of this mail is quite difficult, as in many cases information usually provided by the P.D. stamps and the cancellation on the stamps – date, place and even the amount charged – is absent. The extreme rarity of the material is another factor which causes difficulties in this study. So far I have recorded only seven items from both of these offices which had been taxed on delivery in the Holy Land.

### THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE\*

Four taxed post cards (no covers) have been recorded so far. One was shown by Collins<sup>2</sup> and the other three are illustrated here. All show encircled "T" handstamps which are sometimes similar, but definitely not identical. It cannot be concluded whether any of these marks belong to the offices in the Holy Land.

The earliest taxed item of the Russian Post Office dates back to 1889. It is a tatty 3 Kopecks Russian stationery postcard mailed to Jaffa (Figure 5). The correct rate was 4 Kop, so the postcard was underpaid 1 Kop . An encircled "T" handstamp is clearly visible, but it seems that no notation of the amount to be charged was made. This amount should have been double that missing amount, i.e., 2 Kop . The blue "ROPIT JAFFA" oval arrival mark



Figure 5 Russian 1889 3 Kop postcard to Jaffa bearing "T" mark and Jaffa arrival postmark on lower right corner.

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ПИСЬМО 1. Aisenstad

Figure 6 Russian 1905 3 Kop postcard to Jerusalem showing circled "T" and "ROPIT JERUSALEM" arrival postmark.

is faintly seen on the lower right corner.

Another 3 Kop postcard is shown in Figure 6. It was mailed on June 29, 1905 from Ekaterinoslav to Jerusalem by the Zionist leader M. Usishkin, just before he left for the 7th Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. This postcard is also underpaid 1 Kop, therefore an encircled "T" was applied, probably by the office of origin. Further markings are an Odessa transit mark on July 1, and "ROPIT JERUSALEM" arrival dated July 19, 1905.



Figure 7 The only Russian taxed item with clear evidence - by manuscript - of charges having been collected.

Apparently the tax – again 2 Kop – was collected in cash on delivery.

The Figure 7 postcard, mailed in September 1913, bears a 2 Kop stamp and shows clear signs of another stamp which is missing. It shows a violet "T", encircled by small stars, a handstamp and two manuscript notations.

These manuscripts prove to be most interesting. One, in red on the lower edge, reads "To collect 2 Metaliks". The other, in blue, reads "2 Metaliks received" followed by a signature. A Metalik was an Ottoman coin equal to 10 paras, so the tax was 20 paras, equal to 4 Kopecks (1 Kopeck = 5 paras). This tax suggests that the missing stamp was the reason for taxation – the postcard rate was 4 Kop and the tax of 4 Kop is twice the missing 2 Kop

Unfortunately, from the four items recorded for the Russian Office, it is not possible to conclude that any of the handstamps used were applied in the Holy Land. In all likelihood they were applied at the outgoing office as is usually the case.

### THE GERMAN POST OFFICE

Only three items have been recorded that show postage due charges were collected upon delivery by the German Post in the Holy Land. All these items clearly show the charges in manuscript.

The earliest, and the only inland item, was illustrated by Collins in his article<sup>2</sup> It is a postcard mailed from Rishon LeZion via Jaffa to Jerusalem on April 4, 1906 and franked by a 10 para stamp. As the rate was 20 para, a boxed "T" – typical for the German Post – was applied and the charge of ½ piastre, double the missing 10 paras, was marked by blue crayon.

The following two postcards were mailed from Germany to the Holy Land, each only franked 5 pf instead of 10 pf.. Therefore each were taxed upon arrival and charged  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre (5 pf x 2 = 10 pf = 20 paras =  $\frac{1}{2}$  piastre).

The postcard in Figure 8 was mailed on March 12, 1908 from Konigsberg to Jaffa (to a POB) at the Austrian Post



Figure 8: Underfranked German p ost card taxed ½piastre in Jaffa, 1908.

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Figure 9: Underfranked German post card taxed ½ piastre in Jerusalem 1910.

Office!). It shows the typical German boxed "T" mark, Jaffa arrival dated March 24, 1908 and a bold "½Pi" in blue in manuscript.

The other (Figure 9) had been mailed from Berlin on July 20, 1910 to the well known physician Dr. Wallach in Jerusalem. It has an encircled "T" mark, and again is inscribed "½ P" by blue pencil. The charges on all these postcards were collected in cash upon delivery.

Acknowledgements: I would like to express my help from the late H.G. Muentz z"l for the Russian translations in Figure 6.

Reference:

- 1. N.J. Collins, HLPH #52 (1992), pp. 594-605, Figure 12.
- 2. N.J. Collins, HLPH #52, (1992 )pp. 594-605, Figs. 15 & 17.

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### Labor Camp in Slovakia

### Larry Nelson, Mantuloking, NJ

### Slovak National Uprising

After the Germans seized Czechoslovakia in 1938, they created a conquered territory called the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and a rump state allied to Germany called Slovakia. Slovakia's government was a totalitarian dictatorship led by Dr. Jozef Tiso, a Catholic priest. Tiso collaborated in the German campaign to deport two-thirds of Slovakia's 90,000 Jews to Auschwitz.

In August 1944 several groups, including the Czech govenment-in-exile and the Communist Party, called for a national revolt. Sixteen thousand members of the Slovak national army responded-as did large numbers of partisans and Jews from labor camps. In one bloody battle, a Jewish unit from the Nováky labor camp fought gallantly against the Nazis before being overrun.

The revolt was put down by the Nazis on October 27, 1944. More than 1500 Jews had participated in the uprising.

#### ~ e Holocaust Chronicle,

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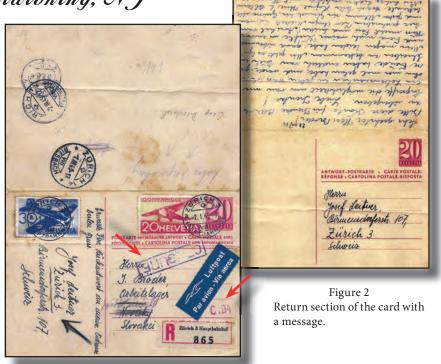


Figure 1 Switzerland registered airmail card with return card dated January 1, 1945.

I READ WITH INTEREST THE ARTICLE IN THE April 2012 of **The Israel Philatelist**, page 74 about the labor camps in Slovakia. One of the camps noted was Nováky (sic Novaky).

Figure 1 is a registered airmail card with a return card (Figure 2) still attached from Switzerland to the Arbeitslager Nováky dated January 2, 1945. The sender of the card is trying to make contact with an inmate at the Nováky camp and offers a food package and asks questions about the people.

The card arrived at the town of Nováky on February 12, 1945 but was returned with a hand written notation that the "camp was dissolved." On March 1, 1945 the card arrived back in Zurich. The card was censured in Slovika (red "C194" by the luftpost label. Slovika is a landlocked state in Central Europe. There is also a boxed blue censure hand stamp which is not listed in any of my reference material. Can anyone identify which country applied the censor mark?

As noted in the above cited article, there was a Slovak national uprising in August 1944. As result of this uprising, Nováky was liberated and a fighting unit of 205 Jewish prisoners joined the rebel forces. Reference: Encyclopedia of the Holocaust, p. 1072.



### Robert B. Pildes M.D

Chios is the fifth largest of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. It is 5 miles from Turkey and separated by the Chios Strait. This postcard, message dated April 12, 1910, was sent from the French Post Office in Jerusalem on April 25, 1910 (Steichele postmark 328) (Figure 1). It also bears on the message side a Russian arrival postmark of Chios Chios is a mountainous island 31 miles long and 18 miles at its widest part (Figure 1). Ruins have been found dating back to 2000 B.C.E. but evidence exists that it has been inhabited since the Neolithic Era. The interior contains an 11th Century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

dated May 2, 1910 equivalent to May 13, 1910 on the Georgian Calendar. It was apparently carried by a Russian ROPIT slow boat route after being picked up in Jaffa and delivered to the port of call in Chios.

The French Levant 10 para stamp pays the correct postcard rate to a foreign destination. The reverse of the postcard contains a color scene of the Jaffa harbor. (Figure 2).

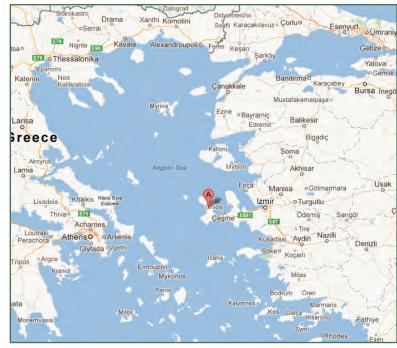


Figure 1

### HISTORY

Chios has a long complicated history. By the 11 th Century B.C.E., it was ruled as a kingdom/chiefdom. By the 7th Century B.C.E., it was part of the Greek IONIAN LEAGUE. Conquered in 546 B.C.E. by the Persians, it was liberated in 479 B.C.E. by the Athenians. During the Athenian Rule, Chios became the largest exporter of Greek wine.

TUROU UNION POSTALE UN Figure 2 French Jerusalem postmark April 25, 1910 JAFFA Figure 3 Jaffa harbor

This was then followed by the Roman period until the division of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D. For the next six centuries, it was part of the Byzantine Empire. Genoa was ceded control in 1261 and remained in power until 1566. At this time it was invaded by Ottoman troops when the Sultan thought the island could be used for Western attacks on Constantinople. Chios rejoined independent Greece after the first Balkan War (1912) when the Greeks liberated it in a brief battle. Note that the latter was 2 years after this postcard was mailed.

Thus, this postcard was mailed while the island was under Turkish control. A cover from Chios to Jaffa is pictured on page 362 of the **Hand Book Of Hol Land**  **Philately, The Foreign Post Offices In Palestine 1840-1918** by Anton Steichele revised edition vol II, Collins and Dickstein

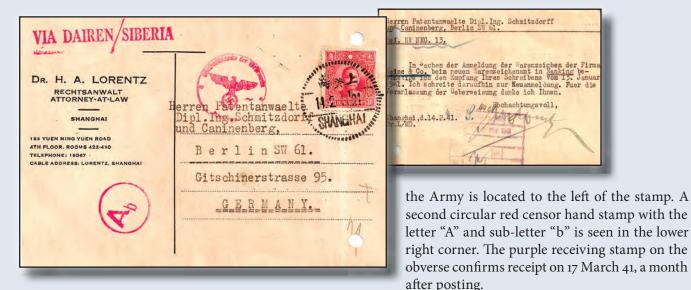
### CONCLUSION

My thanks to the dealer, Doron Waide, who found this amazing cover and gave me the opportunity to learn the historical facts of this region of the world. I am unaware of any other forerunner cover to this destination. Perhaps collectors of Greek Postal history may have covers to this destination but I doubt that they would have originated in the Holy Land.

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### **China - Germany Connection**

### Jesse Spector MD, Edwin Helitzer DMD



s a follow up to our recent article, ~ *e Shanghai Ghetto* (**The Israel Philatelist**, Vol. LXIII, no. 1, Feb. 2012), we obtained the attached card which shows the Shanghai, China to Berlin, Germany transit from the Dairen branch line of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The card was posted on 14 February 1941 and received in Berlin on 17 March 1941, three months before the 22 June 1941 German invasion of Russia cutting this mail route between the belligerents.

The card is addressed to two patent attorneys, Schmitzdorff and Caninenberg, who additionally possessed engineering degrees ((Dipl. Ing. = Diploma of Engineering). The sender, Attorney H.A. Lorentz, acknowledges a recent communication regarding registration of a new trademark for the firm Heine & Co. with the patent office in Nanking, and states that he will follow through with the registration. He thanks the attorneys for the referral.

### **PHILATELIC FACTS**

The card is posted with a 1940 series, perforation 14, 30 cent Dr. Sun Yat-sen stamp and cancelled with a circle date stamp of Shanghai on 14 Feb 41. A single-line red imprint in the upper left corner confirms transit on the Trans-Siberian route from Dairen through Siberia to Europe. A circular red censor hand stamp with eagle and swastika from the Supreme Commander of

### **CITY HISTORY**

Dairen is a major city and seaport in the south of Liaoning province in Northeast China, on a peninsula facing the Yellow Sea to the east and the Bohai Sea to the south and west. It has a significant history of being exploited by foreign powers because of its strategic maritime location. Russia leased the peninsula in 1898 and laid out a modern city which they named Dalny. They then built a branch rail road line connecting Dalny to the 5000 mile Trans-Siberian line, making the city their primary port in Asia.

Japan occupied the city after defeating Russia in the 1905 conflict, and renamed the city, Dairen. The city subsequently returned to Russian control when the Soviets liberated the city in the waning days of World War II. The Russians magnanimously returned the city to the Chinese without any compensation in 1950, at which time the Chinese renamed the city Dalian, its official name to the present time. The city is currently a financial and industrial hub and major international shipping center.

The Shanghai-Siberian connection is truly a study area gift that keeps on giving. We hope that your readers will enjoy the seemingly endless China-Germany history to be derived from these marvelous philatelic pieces.

### THE ASSASSINATION STAMP

RABBI SAM FISHMAN, JERICHO, NY

n May 26, 1926, a middle-aged man was strolling on Avenue St. Michele, in Paris, holding a small photograph in his hand. He kept looking at the photograph and at the passers-by as though he was searching for someone. Suddenly he grew excited, looked at the picture, went up to one of the passers-by and asked, "Are you Petlyura?" When the other answered that he was, the man drew out a revolver, fired at Petlyura and killed him.

The killer was Shalom (Samuel) Schwarzbard (1886-1938) (Figure 1); the assassinated man was Simon Petlyura (1879-1926), who had ruled Ukraine during a brief period of anarchy and independence after World War I.

### BACKGROUND

During the war Shalom Schwarzbard, a Yiddish poet who fled Russia after the revolutionary uprising of 1905, served in the French Foreign Legion. In 1917 he returned to Russia to fight in Ukraine against the Cossack followers of Petlyura. There, in the winter of 1919, he witnessed pogroms of unprecedented ferocity. Fifteen of his own relatives were among the 50,000 Jews massacred.

### THE ASSASSINATION

Schwarzbard went back to Paris in 1920 and took up his old occupation, clock making. Petlyura went into exile in Paris in 1921. One day Schwarzbard read in the newspaper that Petlyura was living in Paris. The thought that the man responsible for the murder of so many of his fellow Jews was living comfortably in Paris gave him no rest. Schwarzbard had never seen Petlyura, but in an encyclopedia he found Petlyura's portrait on a stamp, and that was the picture he took with him in the hope of meeting the murderer on the street (Figure 2).

Luck was with him. He met Petlyura and took revenge, then stood by until the police arrived. Schwarzbard's trial was an historic one (Figure 3). At that time the term genocide had not been coined and the principles governing the Nuremberg Trials had not been



Figure 1 Shalom (Samuel)Schwarzbard



Figure 2 Simon Petlyura



Figure 3 Schwarzbard's trial

established. In 1927, after a dramatic trial in which the Jewish tragedy in the Ukraine was amply documented, the jury acquitted him. In this historic episode, a tiny postage stamp played a great part.

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### QUESTION TO THE READERS

### BRITISH MILITARY MAIL

### BARUCH WEINER, MODIEN ELITE

In Figure 1 is a British Mandate period cover I recently bought. There are a number of interesting aspects to the cover and a couple of mysterious points that I hope some readers can shed some light on.

The cover was sent to the Jewish Agency in Tel Aviv and has on the back a standard Tel Aviv arrival postmark for the time period (Figure 2) and is dated 10 Ju 40.

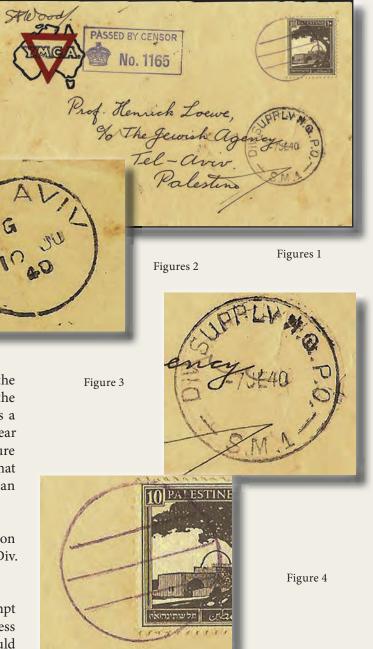
There is a YMCA logo in the upper left corner. The YMCA is an organization for young Christian men and has its building in Jerusalem across from the King David Hotel.

But it probably was not sent by the YMCA; rather the cover was given by them to the army for usage by the soldiers. This is supported by the fact that there is a military postmark, military censor marking and unclear signature above the YMCA logo. It is likely the signature is of the sender since the handwriting is similar to that in the address. This might indicate the sender was an officer.

There is also a British military postmark (Figure 3) on the front tied to part of the address. Where was the Div. Supply H.Q. P.O. located?

Since the sender was in the military, it should be exempt from postage unless it was sent as registered or express mail. If these services were requested, then there would be a charge for the registration and/or express service. Since there are no indications the letter was sent with either service, this begs the question why is there a stamp on the cover?

On the front is a censor cachet (Passed by Censor No. 1165). But, the most curious aspect the cover is the postmark which ties the 10 mil stamp to the cover



(Figure 4). It is a single circle with 3 horizontal lines but has no lettering inside – no date, no city of posting – unlike a normal postmark. It also shows no signs of being a "regular" postmark that has been worn down since there are no markings or smudges where the "normal" information would be located and would not have such clearly defined lines. So my last questions are can anyone shed some light on this strange postmark and explain why a stamp was placed on this letter?

#### Addressee

The cover was sent to Professor Henrich Loewe who was born in Wanzleben, Germany in 1869. He received his college education in Berlin at the *Hochschule fuer Wissenschaft des Judent* and the Berlin University, where he studied history and oriental languages. In addition to his extensive journalistic activities in the 1890s and 1900s, Loewe laid the foundations for various Zionist bodies and associations. He was an early writer of modern Palestine literature.

Loewe was one of the founders of Zionism in Germany and a reporter at the time for Fin De Siecle (French for "end of the century".) The term sometimes encompasses both the closing and beginning of an era, as it was felt to be a period of degeneration, but at the same time a period of hope for a new beginning.

In 1895 he made his first visit to Palestine and was a representative from Palestine to the 1st Zionist Congress

meeting in Basel, Switzerland in 1897. In 1899 he became a librarian at the University of Berlin. Between 1902-1908 he was the first editor of a Zionist paper in Germany.



At the 7th Zionist Congress in Basel in 1905, a committee for the establishment of a Jewish national library in Jerusalem was

Professor Loewe

set up on Loewe's initiation. Henceforth he remained the driving force in the endeavor to establish the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) in Jerusalem. He was in charge of collecting books for the library and was regarded as a candidate for the post of director of the JNUL. However this post was eventually given to Hugo Bergmann, who also replaced Loewe in collecting books for the library.

In 1932 he and his family made Aliyah to Palestine where became the director of the Tel Aviv library "Shar Tzion" a position he held until 1948. He passed away in the summer of 1951.

Reference:

The Central Zionist Archives, List of files of the papers of Heinrih Loewe 1869 - 1951, http://www.zionistarchives.org.il/ZA/.

### César Milstein (1927-2002)

#### Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine

César Milstein was born in the city of Bahía Blanca, Argentina, in 1927. His parents were Russian Jewish immigrants who escaped pogroms and anti-Semitism, settling in Argentina. In 1952, he received his B.S. degree from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), majoring in chemistry.

After a few years doing research at the Institute of Biological Chemistry in the School of Medicine of the UBA, he obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1957. In that same year he began his research work at the National Institute of Microbiology "Dr. Malbrán."

After obtaining a fellowship in 1958 from the British Council, César Milstein became a member of the Department of Biochemistry at Cambridge University in England, where he also obtained a Ph.D. in 1960.

Together with Dr. George Kohler, Milstein published the results of his research in 1975, a project that led to his being awarded the Nobel Prize.

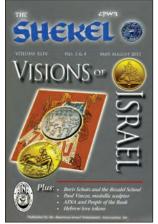
In 1982 he was appointed as Chief of the Department of Molecular Biology, and a year later as Director of the Department of the Chemistry of Proteins and Nucleic Acids at the Medical Research Council.



Argentina's César Milstein

In 1984, Milstein shared the Nobel Prize with the Dane Niels Jerne and the German Georges Kohler for their research of the inmunology system and its development, and with Dr. Kohler in the technology of production of monoclonal antibodies.

The stamp honoring César Milstein features his portrait, the Nobel Prize medal in Physiology/Medicine, a graphic symbol of the monoclonal antibody and a section of the Nobel Prize diploma. •



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The Role of Jewish Physicists

in the

# Manhattan Project

### Gene Eisen, Raleigh, NC

#### BACKGROUND

The 1920s and 1930s may be thought of as the golden age of scientific discovery in quantum and nuclear physics. Germany was then recognized as the world center of physics research, and many aspiring physicists from other countries studied in the laboratories of such great researchers as Max Born (1882-1970) and James Franck (1882-1968) (Figure 1) at the University of Gottingen.

The era also witnessed the rise and eventual establishment of the Nazi regime in Germany in 1933. The Nazi government soon passed edicts dismissing all university faculty and civil servants who were of Jewish ancestry, including converts to Christianity. In 1938, Austria was occupied by Nazi Germany, and in 1939 World War II began when Germany invaded Poland followed by Britain and France declaring war on Germany. Many physicists, both Jewish and non-Jewish, from Germany, Italy and Nazi-occupied countries in Europe sought refuge in the United States and Great Britain.

### **NUCLEAR RESEARCH**

Meanwhile, research in nuclear physics proceeded at an accelerated pace in Germany, the United States and Britain. In 1938, two German scientists Otto Hahn (1879-1968)(Figure 2) and Fritz Strassman, published results concerning the bombarding of uranium with neutrons. Lise Meitner (1878-1968) (Figure 3), an Austrian Jew who collaborated with Hahn and had fled to Sweden, and her nephew, Otto Frisch, correctly interpreted this experiment as a demonstration of nuclear fission. In February 1940, Frisch and a German Jewish physicist Rudolph Peierls, working in Britain, showed theoretically that Hahn's work on nuclear fission could be the basis for developing a powerful nuclear weapon. In 1944, Hahn received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery



Figure 1 Germany 1982 Janes Franck & Max Born

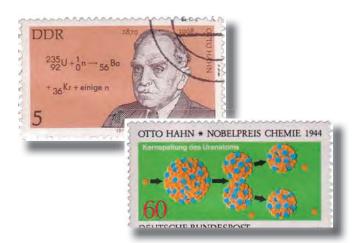


Figure 2 German Democratic Republic 1994 Otto Hahn Hahn's diagram of the splitting of the uranium nucleus

Figure 3 Austria 1978 Lise Meitner





Figure 4 Germany 2001 Werner Heisenberg

of nuclear fission. Some historians believe that Meitner and Strassman should have shared the prize with Hahn.

#### **GERMAN DEVELOPMENT**

As nuclear physics research continued, it became apparent to many physicists that nuclear weapons were feasible in the foreseeable future. Although many physicists had left Germany, Italy, and Germanoccupied countries in the 1930s, Germany still had a covey of top-flight nuclear physicists, including Werner Heisenberg (1901-1976) (Figure 4), the 1932 Physics Nobel Prize recipient, who might be recruited to lead the development of nuclear weapons.

#### **R**OOSEVELT LETTER



Figure 5a United States 1982 Franklin Delano Roosevelt

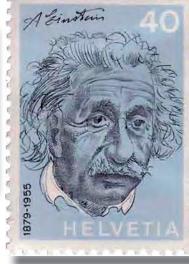


Figure 5b Switzerland 1972 Albert Einstein

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Figure 5c Hungary 1998 Leo Szilard



Figure 5d Hungary 2008 Edward Teller

The British government, under Winston Churchill's leadership, had initiated nuclear weapons research in1940. In August 1939, Leo Szilard (1898-1964) (Figure 5c), Eugene Wigner and Edward Teller (1908-2003) (Figure 5d), Hungarian Jewish nuclear physicists, persuaded Albert Einstein (1879-1955) (Figure 5b) to sign a letter penned by Szilard and addressed to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, (1882-1945) (Figure 5a) which warned of Germany's potential nuclear weapons threat. They initially thought to ask Charles Lindbergh to deliver the letter until they learned of a speech Lindbergh had recently delivered, which promoted isolationism and contained subtle anti-Semitic remarks (Cassidy, 2005). The letter was eventually delivered to Roosevelt in October 1939 (Isaacson, 2008).

### UNITED STATES RESEARCH

Niels Bohr (1885-1962) (Figure 6), the renowned Danish physicist, who had left Denmark because it was threatened by a German invasion, came to the United States with news of Meitner and Frisch's interpretation of Hahn and Strassman's report. This probably helped speed nuclear physics research on fission, which was already underway. On January 25, 1939, a Columbia University team conducted the first successful nuclear fission experiment in the United States. Under the direction of the Italian physicist, Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) (Figure 7), the first nuclear reactor (Chicago Pile-I) was completed, and on December 2 1942, Fermi directed the first self-sustained nuclear chain-reaction under the Stagg Football Stadium at the University of Chicago. Fermi's wife was Jewish, and he was opposed to the racist regime in Italy, which led to his decision to immigrate to the United States. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1938 and is regarded by many as one of the top scientists of the 20th century.

#### **MANHATTAN PROJECT**

The predecessor of the Manhattan Project (code name S-1 Project) was directed by Arthur Compton. In August of 1942, Col. James Marshall formed a successor project aimed at consolidating all atomic bomb development under the "Manhattan Engineering District" (MED), commonly identified as "The Manhattan Project." Col. Leslie Groves was appointed as its military director. On October 15, 1942, Groves named J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967) (Figure 8), a brilliant professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley, as scientific director.

The Manhattan Project involved more than thirty research locations with four major sites. Oppenheimer's home base was established on November 16, 1942 at Los Alamos, NM, which became the central laboratory for weapons research and design. The other major locations were the plutonium-production facility at Hanford, WA, the uranium-enrichment facility at Oak Ridge, TN; and the Metallurgical Laboratory (Met Lab) at the University of Chicago, IL Oppenheimer proved to be an effective leader and research director of MET.

### **KEY SCIENTISTS**

Table 1 lists 24 key scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project (Figures 1, 5, 6, 7, 8). The list is not meant to be all inclusive. The scientific power of the researchers amassed is evidenced by twelve Nobel laureates in physics, five of whom had received the prize prior to WW II. Eight of the twelve were Jewish, and six of the eight were refugees from Europe. Fourteen of the scientists left Europe because of the Nazi-Fascist regimes, and twelve of these were of Jewish ancestry. Much of the theoretical physics underlying the development of the atom bomb at MED could be attributed to people who worked at the University of Gottingen in Germany in quantum mechanics under the tutelage of Max Born (Figure 1).



Figure 6 Denmark 1963 Niels Bohr



Figure 7 Italy 1967 Enrico Fermi



Figure 8 Belgium 2001 Robert Oppenheimer

Oppenheimer and Weisskopf received their PhDs under Born and Fermi, Teller and Wigner were his research assistants. Franck and von Neumann also worked at Gottingen. Although Born and his family had converted to Lutheranism, he was dismissed from his position because of his Jewish ancestry. Born obtained a position in Britain, but he chose not to do nuclear weapons research, although he is quoted as saying, "It might be the only way out"<sup>3</sup>.

#### Атоміс Вомвя

The first tested atomic bomb was a plutonium bomb successfully detonated at the "Trinity" site in Los Alamos on July 16, 1945. On July 26, 1945, a communique was issued to Japan demanding unconditional surrender. "The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction," the ultimatum declared, but without elaboration of the consequences<sup>10</sup>. Japan refused to surrender.

Despite two documents, the Szilard petition signed by 68 scientists and the Franck report, both urging restraint in the use of nuclear weapons, President Harry Truman decided to use the atomic bomb in order to save the lives of many American soldiers. On August 6, 1945, the Enola Gay B-29 bomber dropped the uranium bomb called "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. Japan still refused to surrender, prompting the launching of the plutonium bomb nicknamed "Fat Man" on Nagasaki. On August 9. World War II was over.

Clearly, the contribution of physicists of Jewish background to nuclear physics and the development of the bomb is unprecedented in the history of science. As the scientific director of the Manhattan Project, Oppenheimer is often identified as "Father of the Atomic Bomb." Edward Teller's subsequent efforts led to the development of the hydrogen bomb, giving him the title of "Father of the Hydrogen Bomb."

In one of the ironies of history, Edward Teller testified in an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) hearing in 1954 that Oppenheimer was a loyal American, but he would not recommend him to receive continued security clearance The AEC voted to deny Oppenheimer clearance. The surrealistic painting by the Icelandic artist, Gudmundur Gudmundsson, known as "Erro," was an attempt to describe the atmosphere at the hearing (Figure 9). The painting is eloquently described by John Henry Richter (1970): ...we see Dr. Oppenheimer, seated on a bucket of hot coals, being questioned by a not altogether humanlooking figure, and being watched from afar by three miniscule portraits of the three board members... Far off to the left of the viewer stands a little man in a white coat (Edward Teller), manipulating what looks like an instrument monitoring the internal organs of a patient.

#### **McCarthy Era**

In many ways, Oppenheimer was a victim of the McCarthy era of the 1950s. He also had made many political enemies in his time. More than anything, these factors, in addition to petty jealousies, led to the hearings that cost Oppenheimer his security clearance. In 1963 Oppenheimer received the prestigious Fermi Award, an award Teller had received the previous year. It would only be appropriate for the United States to issue stamps to commemorate these two great scientists who contributed so much to the supremacy of the United States in nuclear energy research. References

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Participant	Background (1)	Country (2)	Nobel Prize (3)
Hans Bethe	ЈМ	Germany	1967
Felix Bloch	J	Germany	1952
David Bohm	J	USA	
James Chadwick	G	Britain	1935
Arthur Compton	G	USA	1927
Enrico Fermi	G	Italy	1938
Richard Feynman	J	USA	1965
James Franck	J	Germany	1925
Otto Frisch	J	Germany	
Klaus Fuchs	G	Germany	
Ernest Lawrence	G	USA	
Robert Marshak	J	USA	
John von Neumann	J	Hungary	
J. Robert Oppenheimer	J	USA	
Rudolf Peierls	J	Germany	
Isador Rabi	J	USA	1944
Emilio Segre	J	Italy	1959
Robert Serber	J	USA	
Leo Szilard	J	Hungary	
Edward Teller	J	Hungary	
Harold Urey	G	USA	1934
Victor Weisskopf	J	Austria	
Eugene Wigner	J	Hungary	1963

Table 1. Some of the key physicists who worked<br/>on the Manhattan Project

1. J =Jewish

JM = Jewish Mother and non-Jewish father G = Gentile

- 2. Country of birth
- 3. Nobel Prize in Physics

### Society of Israel Philatelists Endowment Fund 2012 News

Listed below are Hall of Famers for 2012. As no official Endowment Campaign was launched in 2012, these folks are especially dear to us and appreciated by us for their unsolicited contributions to the Endowment Fund. Their commitment to supporting the SIP and investing in the future of Holy Land philately is admirable and praiseworthy.

### KING DAVID Level

Michael & Faye Bass

### Reynold & Bette Paris

#### MIRIAM Level

Key Bank

Gene Eisen

Dr. Stanley Brown

Yechiel Lehavy

Seymour Nussenbaum

Dr. Marshall Train

Donald A. Chafetz

Dallas Chapter of the SIP

### Berkshire Hills Chapter

As they celebrated the Chapter's 50th Anniversary

with original members

### Rabbi Harold Salzman George Frankel

We would again like to acknowledge the following chapters and societies who invested in the SIP during 2011: As they closed their chapters, these groups honored us with Special Society Gifts:

### Israel Plate Block Society Baltimore SIP Chapter Philadelphia SIP Chapter

### **MOSES** Level

Leland Abbey Sydney Bash Brian Gruzd Gregg & Michelle Philipson

### Gifts in 2011

Gregg & Michelle Philipson in memory of Mr. Jack Schwartz

> Dallas Chapter in memory of Manny Marx

Dick and Betty Barson in memory of Sam Jaffe

Gregg & Michelle Philipson in honor of Dick & Betty Barson From The End Of April Through June 1948 International Mail To

# Palestine/Israel

Yechiel M. Lehavy Margate City, NJ

he postal history of the unsettled interim period which existed between the end of April through June 1948 is a fascinating subject. Recently two volumes on the subject has been published by the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel – **The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel, 1948**. Both volumes deal with emergency local and private

services. However, I think, there is another phase that needs more research – the international mail service during this unsettled transition period. Below I'll discuss the suspension and resumption of air mail service during this period.

### 

### Example Cover

I have a registered envelope mailed from New York, to Palestine. The hand stamps on the back indicate it was mailed on April 23, 1948. As indicated by the back stamps, the envelope was returned to the sender on May 18, 1948. It has a rubber stamp in black in stating "Service Suspended -- Return to Sender" (Figure 1). The envelope caused me to look into the situation concerning international mail to Palestine/Israel at that time.

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations passed Resolution number 181. The resolution called for the partition of Palestine to replace the British Mandate with independent Arab and Jewish States. During the volatility of late 1947 and 1948, British postal services deteriorated. At the beginning of 1948 the British Mandate authorities could no longer maintain full postal services and initial plans to transfer the postal administration to the United Nations failed. On February 2, 1948, the Universal

Postal Union (U.P.U.) was officially told that postal services would cease by May 15, 1948. The P.T.T.P. Post Master General announced on April 13, 1948 (Figure 2) a plan to close all services in steps beginning April 15, 1948 <sup>3</sup>. In many instances this plan could not be followed and postal agencies and offices had to close at earlier dates. Nearly all British postal operations closed during April or even earlier. The Dead Sea post office closed on December 23, 1947 1. Other offices were closed by the end of April. The last offices open for business were located in Haifa and Tel Aviv and closed May 5, 1948. The Interim mail period-Minhelet Ha'am (Jewish Peoples Administration) started operating on May 2, 1948 3.

A. INC

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### UNREST

On January 30, 1948, Arab workers at the Haifa Refineries attacked their Jewish co-workers. The result was 39 dead and 49 injured Jewish workers.

The Lydia airport- Lod - closed April 25, 1948 and on that date all air mail service was terminated. Until its closure, the British police protected the air port. The Zippora unit of the Givati Brigade was formed in order to prevent a repeat massacre of Jewish workers as had occurred at the Haifa Refineries<sup>4</sup>. About 30 Haganah fighters infiltrated the air port as maintenance workers to protect the Jewish worksers and to prevent a massacre. The Lydia airport had some 200 Jewish and about 300 Arab workers.

Once the airport closed the Haganah forces protecting it withdrew as well. On April 27, two days after closure, Arabs looted and burned the custom house of the airport. The JTA's Jewish News Archives reported on April 28, 1948, that all mail service to Palestine was suspended<sup>5</sup>. On May 5, 1948, the British Post Office Department announced that all ship mail services to Palestine would cease. The Canberra Times of Australia reported on May 12, 1948 that mail services to Palestine was suspended<sup>8</sup>. The reason given was that conditions in that country were unsettled. "Australia officials had failed in attempts to get a quantity of mail held in Egypt"<sup>6</sup>.

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Suspension of Post Office Services	s .	(i) International Telephone Trunk Colls: -			
		Latest date for outgoing calls.	Sin May.		
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Final date for delivery.	30th April:	Figure 2 Philatelic por	rtion of		
v) Registered Latiers.					
Final data for posting.	20th April:	Public Notice No. 53 of	1948 <sup>13</sup>		
Final date for delivory.	30th April.				
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### SHIP MAIL

My registered airmail envelope was mailed from New York to Hadar, Palestine on April 23, 1948. This was two days prior to the closure of Lydia - Lod airport. The envelope was returned to its sender on May 18, 1948, with a rubber stamp indicating that service to Palestine was suspended. I have seen a few similar items offered for sale by different auction houses. One such item was a registered envelope mailed from Lugano, Switzerland, on April 20, 1948, to Tel Aviv. It was returned with a suspension service postal marking on May 8, 1948. Two more envelopes, one mailed on April 13 from London to Haifa, and the second on April 16 from Sweden to Tel Aviv, both addressed to Palestine. These two envelopes were returned to their senders with the suspension of services mark on them.

As noted above from May 2, 1948, all internal mail service was operated by Minhelet Ha'am – Jewish People's Administration – and the period is known as the Interim Period. It started operating three days before the official closure of the British Postal Administration. Jewish National Fund (JNF) stamps were overprinted Doar and used for domestic postage. Israel declared its independence May 14, 1948. The last day of the interim mail period was when the Israel Post Service was established. The over printed JNF stamps were tolerated until May 22, 1948. Incoming and outgoing sea mail and air mail was not available between late April and early May, 1948.

It seems that the sole overseas mail connection with the State of Israel was via the ZIM Line ship S/S Kedma. For example, a post card was mailed from Schwabach, Germany to Bat Yam, Palestine and carried on the Kedma. On its way, the card was cancelled in Marseille, France on April 23, 1948. The

S/S Kedma docked in Haifa on May 7 and the card reached its final destination as shown by a Bat Yam, Minhelet Ha'am cancel on the front of the card.

On May 14, S/S Kedma sailed to Europe. Among the cargo the ship carried was some mail. One letter<sup>2</sup> was addressed to Vienna, Austria and franked with the correct sea



Figure 3 Minhelet Ha'am Ramat Gan stamp of the kind used to pay postage to Vienna, Austria<sup>13</sup>.

postage rate of 20 mils. The cover has two JNF Ramat Gan 10 mils stamps (Figure 3), and has a Minhelet Ha'am, Haifa cancel. The franking with JNF labels was contrary to postal regulations since it had neither British Mandate or Israeli stamps. Nevertheless, it reached its destination.

### AIR MAIL SERVICE

As noted above, all air mail services to Palestine were terminated with the closing of the Lydia – Lod airport. This occurred on April 25, 1948. Upon the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, all efforts were made by officials to resume air mail services as soon as possible. Two airports, Haifa and Tel Aviv, were operating on a small scale. Between May 26 and August 3, 1948, only five flights were flown to Europe<sup>9</sup>.

AIR LETTER DELIV VIA AIR MAIL Ribboutz Kessaria PAR AVION

Figure 4 Example of P.E.D.I. cover. From the collection of Marty Zelenietz

Mail was mainly flown out but some mail was also brought into the country. The first known air mail arrived on June 2, 1948. A few leading non-profit organizations such as the Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Incorporated (P.E.D.I. – under the auspices of the Jewish Agency) were formed to provide special air mail service to Israel<sup>10</sup>.

The agency described the arrangement as an interim service to be available until normal postal routes to Israel were established. The fee for this service was 25 cents in addition to the regular United States air mail charges of 25 cents. The mail was cancelled by P.E.D.I. in New York(Figure 4). It was the first time in the history of the United States Postal Administration that a special private body



Figure 5 The Singapore Free Press notice regarding mail resumption service to Palestine<sup>11</sup>

was authorized to collect and cancel United States stamps<sup>9</sup>. The mail was collected in New York and sent as freight to Rome, Italy. In Rome it entered the postal mail stream and was carried to Israel via Czechoslovakian Airlines (CSA) to Haifa and forwarded to Tel Aviv where it was processed on June 3, 1948.

### NORMAL MAIL ROUTES

Slowly normal postal routes to Israel resumed. Austria - Israel air service resumed on June 25, 1948<sup>6</sup>. On June 29, the United States Post Office Department announced the opening of air mail services to Israel with postage rates fixed at 25 cents<sup>7</sup>. One of the latest postal administrations that resumed mail services to Israel was Singapore. On September 14, 1948, the Postmaster General of Singapore announced that mail can be transmitted by air mail to certain places in Palestine. Of course the announcemnt meant Israel. The announcement in Figure 5 has a list of 15 post offices to be serviced. Among them is Kfar Vitkin which had a population of about 1000 in 1947. One wonders what was the criteria in selecting these 15 post offices in Palestine/ Israel.

### DATE SUMMARY

To sum up, here are some major dates of interest:.

- Lod airport opened for business and flights resumed on November 24, 1948.
- On June 3, 1948 mail arrived in Israel flown by C.S.A. from Europe.<sup>11</sup>
- Israel became a member of the U.P.U. on December 24. 1948 and was admitted to the United Nations on May 11, 1949.

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### SIP NEWS President's Column



Dear Fellow Philatelists:

I've been a member of the SIP since 1969 when I was 10 years old. The past 43 years of collecting Israel and Holy Land stamps has gone too quickly. Over the years, I've attended hundreds of local meetings, dozens of SIP conventions

around the country and exhibited at the local, national and international levels. Part of my journey has been associated with many friends, volunteers, exhibitors, and mentors who have made my hobby a pure delight.

Being an active member of any organization is a commitment to responsibility, loyalty and consideration for the particular cause. Philately and the SIP is one of those "what you give is what you get" opportunities. I have been privileged to be your President over these last six years and benefitted through the experience. My goals were to help bring the Society into this 21st century by modernizing and globalizing our position as the preeminent Holy Land and Israel philatelic group. Our focus was to keep the Society of Israel Philatelists both relevant and sustainable for the future. It takes resources of volunteers and money to ensure that the Society of Israel Philatelists will be here for future collectors. No one individual can take credit for the Society's success, and our organization is still made up of wonderful volunteers who share a similar vision. Much progress has been made over these six years and there's still plenty of good work ahead for new visionaries. The life of our Society may still be in its infancy because the era of "snail mail" is passing and collectors of genuine history will seek out and study formal postal operations from the 19th and 20th centuries. Thus, we all understand the role Israel and the Holy Land have played in the world's communication systems so the intellectual properties of our Society will be a viable playground for future collectors to visit.

This is my final message as your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Society in a leadership capacity. I have to express my deepest gratitude to my assistant, Mrs. Vicki Galecki, for her exceptional dedication in making sure every detail of our Society was

attended to. My dear friend and mentor, Don Chafetz, is an individual who I salute as representing every good thing the Society stands for. Other teammates who have helped me along these years include Howard Chapman, Stan Raffel, Bob Pildes, Paul Aufrichtig, Nate Zankel, Irwin Math, Howard Rotterdam, Art Groten, Ed Rosen, Sid Morginstin, Jean-Paul Danon, Brian Gruzd, Ed Kroft, Jonathan Becker, Ben Wallace, Art Newman, David and Gail Kaplin, Dick Herman, Alan Doberman, Dick and Betty Barson, Jack Heller, Ron Katz, Fritz Nussbaum, Barry Hoffman, Stuart Freiman, Todd Gladstone, Jeff Rudolph, the late David Simmons, the late Arnie Paddock, Walter Levy, Joe Weintrob, Gregg Philipson, the Romano family, Sharon Bailey, Yaacov Tsachor, Captain Yaakov Shabtai, Josef Wallach, Gary Theodore, Eddie Leibu, Marty Cohen, just to name a few. If I left someone off this list, it's unintentional so I thank

continued on page 119

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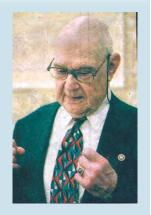
#### SIP News

#### Berkshire Hills Founding Member Honored by Rotary Club

Article from Berkshire Eagle Newspaper

Rabbi Harold Salzmann is honored for his 57 years in the Rotary Club as he nears his 90th birthday.

The rabbi emeritus of Temple Anshe Amunim is the longest sitting active member of the Pittsfield Rotary Club. Being the only member of the clergy currently in the club has given him one ongoing responsibility. 'I've probably given more invocations than anybody in the history [of Rotary] because I've been here so long,' he said. The rabbi has been a member for 57 years.



#### AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

CAPETOWN A. Katzef JOHANNESBURG Brian Gruzd

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.

> **ST. LOUIS** Alan Barasch

CHERRY HILL Ronald Zukin

#### AFFILIATED STUDY GROUPS

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

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP Irwin Math

HOLOCAUST STUDY GROUP Dr. Justin R. Gordon

C.A.S.P.I.P. STUDY CIRCLE A. Katz

#### **BERKSHIRE HILLS** Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann

Program: Show and Tell 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

Program: Passover Holiday Chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 8 p.m. at the Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ.•

#### CHICAGOLAND IPPSA

Program: Forerunner Foreign Destinations presented by Bob Pildes Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of the month (except 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 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

Lawrence Goldman Program: Lawrence Goldman All About the SIP Chapter meets 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm at the Conference Room, Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven Road, Dallas. TX •

#### DETROIT-OAK PARK

Ken Torby 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. •

#### continued from page 118

each of you for acting as great teammates.

Lastly, I would like to make a special "shout out" to my wife Faye for supporting me and my hobby over the years. I look forward to collecting Israel and Holy Land philately for another 43 years and being a member of this truly wonderful Society of Israel Philatelists.

Very truly yours, Mike Bass VANCOUVER, BC CANADA Ed Kroft

**GREATER HARTFORD** 

Jeffrey Rudolph

MARVIN SIEGEL CHAPTER

Alan Doberman

0

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# Munich Olympics ~° ("

#### Moshe Kol-Kalman, Kibbutz Lahav, Israel

Sually the Olympic Games is something to enjoy, but on September 5, 1972 the games held in Munich, Germany became marred with blood with the murder of two and the kidnapping of nine Israeli sportsmen. This carnage ended with the massacre of the hostages on September 9, a mere 25 years since the last Jewish blood was spilt on German soil.



Figure 1

In memory of these men, the K.K.L. issued a number of stamps. First was a set of 3 stamps overprinted in red and black. The stamps used for this purpose were the 1951- 3rd Maccabiah issue (Figure 1). The overprint is in Hebrew and in English and reads "In Memory of the Israeli Sportsmen Massacred in Munich." In between the two texts is the Olympic emblem and the year 1972.

In 1973 a single stamp 0.25 ag stamp was issued. At the top, written in hebrew "Le Zeher Yud Alef Hallalei Olympiada," "In memory of the 11 in the Olympics," followed by a listing of all 11 sportsmen's names (Figure 2). On the tab is a design of a flame in the form of Yud Alef and under that is the emblem of the Olympics. A souvenir sheet with the same stamp but with a value of 0.50 was issue along with pictures of those murdered (Figure 3).







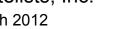
Figure 3 The names are from right to left on the sheetlet

Name	Age	Position
David Berger	28	Weightlifter
Yossef Gutfreund	40	Wrestling Referee
Moshe Weinberg	33	Wrestling
Eliezer Halfin	24	Wrestler
Mark Slavin	18	Wrestler
Zeev Friedman	28	Weightlifter
Yossef Romano	32	Weightlifter
Kehat Shorr	53	Shooting Coach
Andre Spitzer	27	Fencing Coach
Amitzur Shapira	40	Track Coach
Yacov Springer	51	Weightlifting Judge

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The Israel Philatelist-June 2012

### Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc. Publication Listing March 2012





						LOIG DE		
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