

THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

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Palestine Blues Studies

BY PAULO RISI PAGE 180

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Education Fund Report

Since December 23, 2012 I have been the Education Fund Director. As such, I see my mission as insuring that the SIP Education Fund is self-sustaining and that there is a place to publish original manuscripts pertaining to Israel/Holy Land/Judaic philately in perpetuity.

The Education Fund derives its income primarily through the sales of SIP Education Fund originated publications and Israel Philatelic Federation listed publications. The Fund's expenses include advertisement, printing and shipping of publications, reimbursement for non-Ed Fund publications, and the current Israel Philatelist digitization project. The Ed Fund implemented in February 2012 a price increase for many publications and for shipping and handling, which overall has shrunk the net negative cash flow.

The Ed Fund is healthy but it needs to continue to grow its catalog of publications. I am proud to report that the Ed Fund, as of the end of the 2012, will add two new publications in both print and CD-ROM format: **Descent into the Abyss: The Shoah – A Philatelic Retelling** by Bruce Chadderton and **A Catalogue of Israel's Triangular Military Unit Handstamps** by S. Harris Rosenberg and Harris Wolman. The fund is also working to finalize the manuscript by Sid Morginstin and Bernard Perrin titled **2011 Catalogue of Israel Philatelic Items**, which will hopefully be available in print and CD-ROM by the end of January 2013.

For the Ed Fund to keep growing, the fund's catalog of Israel/Holy Land/Judaic publications needs to continue to expand. I am happy to consider new publications but there are several conditions that I, as Ed Fund Director, am placing on the publication process to facilitate the process:

- While the Ed Fund is happy to publish original manuscripts, new publication topics, should be forwarded to the Education Fund Director for consideration preferably in the form of a very rough draft of the manuscript. I am looking for an overview of the manuscript, drafts of several chapters, and outline of the rest of the manuscript.
- If the project is accepted, the Education Fund asks of the author(s) that it, the SIP Education Fund, has publication rights in perpetuity. This is important to insure that the individuals also have access to philatelic knowledge. I ask this of authors because this past year, the Ed Fund pulled **The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine – Vol. II** by Steichele from the its catalog. The Ed Fund ran out of copies of the publication and it does not have permission to reprint the publication from the copyright holder, Norman J. Collin who passed away before the SIP Ed Fund could arrange for the rights to continue publishing the book.
- Major editing and formatting of the manuscript will be done by the author(s) based on feedback from the Ed Fund. The Ed Fund can do minor tweaks to the manuscript to make it into publishable format but we are not capable of doing the major editing/formatting work without causing significant delay in the publication. On the other hand, author(s) who work with the Ed Fund will find quick turnaround between the receipt of the final manuscript draft and its publication. (I will be working with Vicki Galecki to develop a document to assists author(s) with this process. I am hoping to have the first version of the publication document completed by early 2013).
- Only after the manuscript is ready for publication will there be publicity, such as an **Israel Philatelist** article.
- Many of you have wonderful Israel/Holy Land/Judaic collections. In some cases, you may have written article(s) in The Israel Philatelist about a portion of your collection and/or won awards at various juried stamp shows. In other cases, you are interested in obscure topics, which are not well documented. Please consider documenting these items in a manuscript that can be published by the Ed Fund.

In conclusion, the SIP Education Fund is looking for new publications. My role as Education Fund Director is to insure that the knowledge is never lost.

Sincerely,
David Kaplin SIP Education Fund Director



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SIP Leadership

2012

OFFICERS

President
Convention Manager
Howard Rotterdam
E-mail: hrteach@bellsouth.net

1st Vice President
Edwin G. Kroft
E-mail: ed.kroft@blakes.com

2nd Vice President
Jean-Paul Danon
E-mail: president.cfpi@cfpi-asso.net

Editor
Donald A. Chafetz
E-mail: SIPeditor@gmail.com

Associate Editors
David Schonberg
Zach Simmons
Marty Zelenietz

Graphic Designer
Irv Osterer

Treasurer
Stanley H. Raffel
E-mail: stanraff1927@cs.com

Assistant Treasurer
Executive Secretary
Howard S. Chapman
E-mail: stampareme@aol.com

Immediate Past President
Michael Bass
E-mail: mbass@HY-KO.com

SIP COMMITTEES
Endowment Fund
Gregg Philipson
E-mail: gphilipson@austin.rr.com

Society Archivist
Dr. Todd Gladstone
E-mail: TMG45@aol.com

Membership
Ben Wallace
E-mail: herzl1948@hotmail.com

Research Committee
Dr. Arthur Groten
E-mail: artgroten@optonline.net

Library
Jeff Rudolph
E-mail: clctstamps@comcast.net

Slide Programs
Michael A. Bass
E-mail: mbass@HY-KO.com

Beneficiary Committee
Joseph Schwartz
E-mail: joe@abico.com

Grievance Committee
Paul Aufrichtig

Educational Fund
David Kaplin
dKaplin@israelstamps.com

Assistant to the President
Vicki Galecki
vgalecki@hy-ko.com

SIP Israeli Representative
Sharon Romano
Romano House of Stamp Sales Ltd
250 Dizengoff Street
Tel Aviv, Israel
E-mail: romano@stampcircuit.com
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Contributing Staff:
Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg
Moshe Kol-Kalman
Barry D. Hoffman

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Editor's Notes

Donald A. Chafetz

Every year the American Philatelic Society (APS) recognizes philatelic supporters with the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award. This year congratulations are in order for our own Stan Raffel who has been named by the APS as one of the 5 National Promotion/Service award winners. Stan's citation reads as follows:

"Stanley Raffel: In the 1980's Stanley served as the national Vice President and President of the Society of Israeli Philatelists (SIP). While serving as President the secretary resigned. Stan took on this responsibility which he still has 25 years later. He also serves as the long time secretary of the Baltimore Chapter of the SIP.

Stanley is a 30 year member of the Baltimore Philatelic Society and has served as President, Vice President and on the Board of Governors. He has also served in nearly every position related to BALPEX including chair of the show. In recent years he has supervised the installation, taking down, and repairing of the stamp frames. He also served on the frame committee for the Washington 2006 International Show."

The criteria for the awards is: for outstanding service and innovation to the hobby on the national level and requires at least five years of service. Each winner will be recognized with a pin and certificate at a national APS show.

o - o - o - o

I believe it is time to rethink the roll that our chapters play at our conventions. In particular, they are important in determining items that require approval by the membership. I mention this for two reasons. Since becoming editor 9 years ago, I have seen the Society news page in **The Israel Philatelist** decrease in the number of local chapters that still exist. Also, at the national convention meetings I noticed only a couple of members from chapters present.

The original idea behind having the chapters being represented at the conventions was so they could both have a say on the running of the society and vote on measures which came before the convention. With few chapter representatives present there is very little

discussion of important matters such as the future direction of the society and the expenditure of funds.

I think we need to make use of technology so we can have a more meaningful convention. There are computer programs available that easily permit users to join a meeting at a prescribed date and time. I would like to see the society set up a computer meeting for our next convention in Boxborough next May. I have ask our president Howard Rotterdam to work with Vicki Galecki to investigate the feasibility of establishing this kind of membership meeting. It will take a bit of coordination and maybe a little hand holding but we have the time if we start now. The more members who participate in running the SIP stronger it will be.

o - o - o - o

Israel is hosting a multi-national stamp show in Tel Aviv between May 26-30. The United States commissioner is Dr. James P. Mazepa. If you interested in exhibiting you can contact Dr. Mazepa at e-mail: jmazepa@comcast.net.



I am about to start indexing 60 years worth of **Israel Philatelist**. My intent is to have a representative quantity completed so we can present a demo in May at our convention.

For those collectors who note **The Israel Philatelist** date of publishing, I would like to announce there will be no issue for December 2012. I hope to be back on schedule starting with the February 2013 issue.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year. ■

Letters to the Editor

Hi Don.

In my article concerning international mail to *Palestine/Israel* (*The Israel Philatelist*, 2012, vol. #3: 114 - 117), I reported that “The S/S Kedma docked in Haifa on May 7, 1948” (www.rottentomatoes.com/m/kedma/). After studying the issue further I came across a different date.

This report states that the S/S Kedma departed Haifa to Marseille, France, on May 6th, 1948 (Shamir & Siegel, 1991, *Israel Foreign Postal Links, Vol. III*: 22-26, Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel). I have a hunch that this date is the correct one rather than the one I reported in my article.

Reading the Shamir and Siegel’s book will enlighten the reader further. For example, one will have a better understanding why the mail service from Australia to Palestine was suspended. Mail to Palestine went through Cairo, Egypt. The Egyptian authorities confiscated all mail going to Palestine. Mail that did go through was censored by the Egyptian authorities.

Lehavy Yechiel, Margate City, NJ ■

Dear Don,

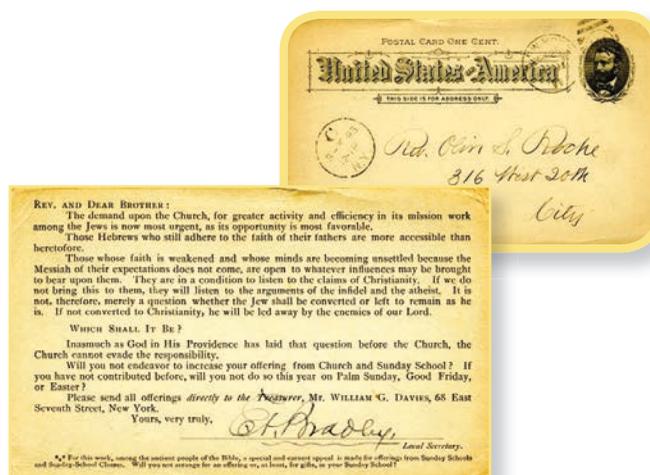
The meaning of the Aramaic/Hebrew phrase in the “Magic” article on page 136 in the August 2012 issue is not correct. Abracadabra is an abbreviation of the Christian phrase to invoke the Trinity. Many Jewish magicians avoid it for this reason. a b r c dabra aleph bet raish kuf = av ben ruach haKodesh. I leave the translation up to you.

Jacob Hiesiger, Jerusalem, Israel ■

Dear Mr. Chafetz,

Although I’m a longtime SIP member I rarely participated in the pages of *The Israel Philatelist* for the past 40+ years.

A while back I picked up the postcard in Figures 1 – 2, but have had no luck in trying to track down from whom it originated.



Figures 1 – 2

It is over 100 years old but even given the climate towards Jews at that time, it is somewhat of an abomination that such donation–solicitation cards were allowed to be passed by the post without even a second blink. The sender and addressee were both in New York City but it is curious that there is absolutely no printed or written reference whatsoever as to the name of the group who is doing the soliciting for donations.

Would it be possible to print this postcard in the IP with a “request for information” from anyone who has a similar item or knows more about these types of items and the organizations that they emanated from?

I am normally not a “Judaica” collector, as my personal collecting specialties have always been “Israel Revenues”, “Israel 1948”, and a few other Israel specialty areas. But this item really piqued my curiosity when I saw it (as well as upsetting me that such things were tolerated out in the open in those days.

Best

Leo Malz, New York City, NY ■

Snow Birds

Address changes must be sent to the treasurer at least 2 weeks prior to the issue month for **The Israel Philatelist**. The journal will not be resent or replaced if the treasurer did not receive notification of the change in advance of the effective issue. The member will be responsible for the payment of the USPS return fee, USPS postage due fee for their new address notification and the costs for resending **The Israel Philatelist**.

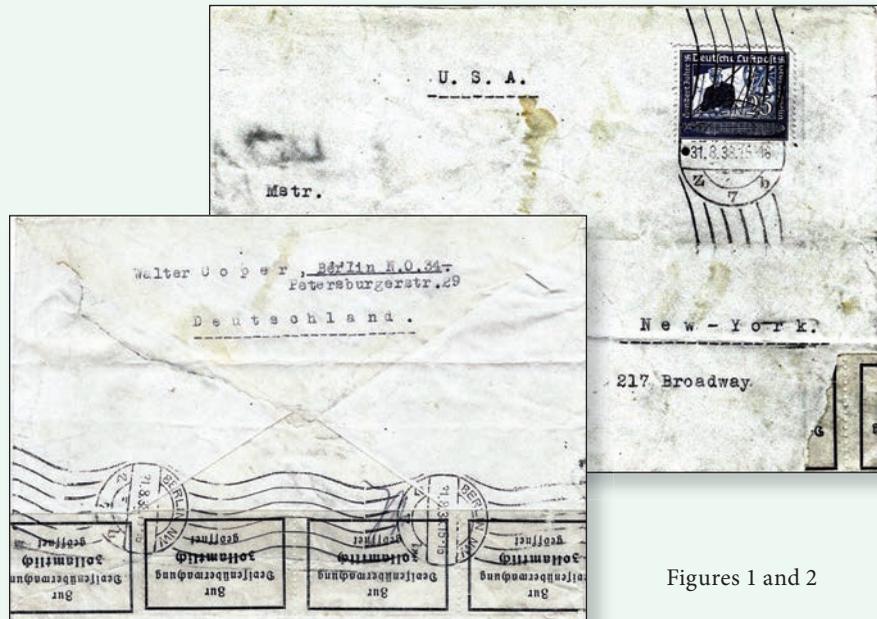
A Cry for Help

Larry Nelson, Mantoloking, NJ

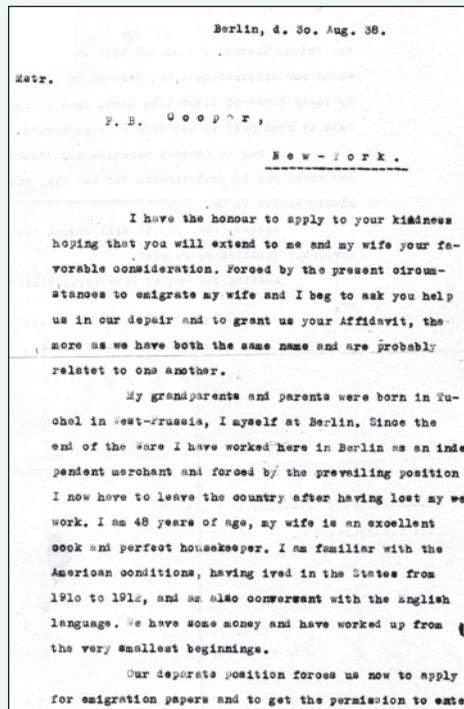


Mr. & Mrs Coper

By 1938 many of Germany's Jews were desperate to leave. In an effort to find someone to sponsor him and his wife, Walter Coper sent a letter dated August 30, 1938 to someone with the same last name who lived in New York City (Figures 1 and 2).



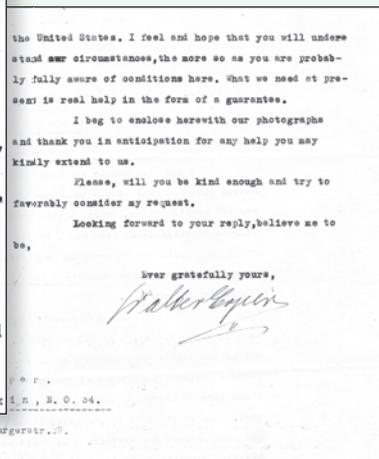
Figures 1 and 2



Figures 3 and 4

In his letter (Figures 3, 4) he pleads for help with emigration to the United States. He was careful not to say anything bad about what was happening in Germany to the Jews. He used terms like “Forced by the present circumstances to emigrate...” and “You are probably fully aware of conditions here.”

It was wise of Walter to do so because his letter was opened for purposes of currency control examination which also allowed the examiner to check what was being said in the letter (Figure 3). Walter also enclosed photographs of himself and his wife.



So how did this story end? A search of Yadvashem.org and its “Central Data Base of Shoah Victim’s Names” established that on May 19, 1944 a Walter Coper from Berlin was sent to Auschwitz, Birkenau and murdered in the camp. Although it is possible that this was a different Walter Coper also from Berlin, I suspect that the Walter Coper who wrote the letter did not survive the war. I hope I am wrong. ■

Holy Land Fakes And Forgeries

New Examples 1896 – 1938

Yacov Tsachor A.I.E.P., Zvi Aloni, Tel Aviv, Israel

As the postal history of the Holy Land continues to be in demand by many collectors, fakes and forgeries, new and old, appear on the market. Shown here are some

examples, not known to most collectors. They seem “innocent” and “genuine” even to advanced collectors due to the high level of the forgers.

THE AUSTRIAN POST FORGED PETAH TIKVA COLONY CACHET

The various Jewish Colony cachets indicated the origin of the postal item and confirmed that the fee to the Austrian Jaffa post office has been paid.

For domestic mail between colonies, the items bearing the cachet were delivered free of charge if in the same postal district.

Forgeries of the cachet, all in red ink, are usually applied to genuine mailed items. The genuine cachets are found only on mail originating from the colony (in certain cases also used as arrival mark) while the Figure 1 item originated with the Jaffa Ottoman Bank office.



Figure 1: Forged circular cachet in red on genuine Austrian Levant 10 centimes postcard entire mailed from JAFFA OESTERR. POST 8.01.06 to Dedeagatch.

THE GERMAN POST FAKED FIRST DAY JAFFA POSTMARK

The German Post Office in Jaffa was opened on 1 October 1898 on the occasion of the Kaiser's visit to the Holy Land later in the month.

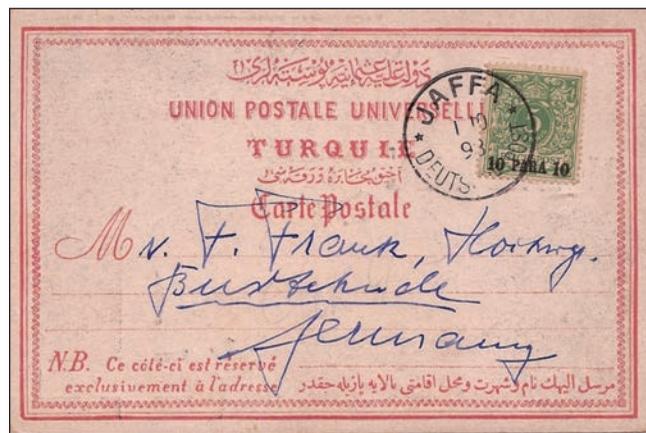


Figure 2: The original stamp was taken off the postcard and replaced by a stamp and the postmark digits were completed to look like 1.10.98 – First Day.



Figure 2a detail: Traces of an additional postmark are visible to the right and bottom of the added stamp, as well as gum remnants from another stamp. The left part of the digit "0" in the new postmark is made from the digit "6".

THE TURKISH POST

FORGED NAZARETH NEGATIVE SEAL AND POSTMARK

In 1896 Nazareth had a population of 9000. As of 1895 it was included in the UPU list.



Figure 3: 5/1896 postcard to Alexandria properly franked 20 para, 2x5 para + 10 para. Stamps tied by a forged Nazareth Negative Seal, telegraph type, Collins T1, and a forged NASRIE postmark alongside (Collins PM3). Both the seal and the postmark are of crude appearance in comparison to the genuine ones.



Figure 4: A letter with a genuine seal and NAZARETH postmark as applied by the Nazareth post office: the postmark is on the stamp and the seal alongside but away from the adhesive. This was the typical cancelling procedure at the time.

BRITISH PALESTINE

DOUBLE CIRCLE MEA SHEARIM FORGED POSTMARK

In Jerusalem, a Branch Office was opened in early 1920 in the Mea Shearim district to serve the many

religious centers in the area. The first postmarks in use were skeleton types. A double circle postmark was introduced in January 1921.



Figure 5: Shows a forgery of the double circle postmark dated 1 SP 20 tying a 1 piaster stamp to a cover locally addressed.

FORGED JNF PERFIN (JEWISH NATIONAL FUND)

Perfined stamps were used by a few institutions in Palestine during the 1920's. The JNF perfins are rarely found on original used covers.



Figure 6: Jewish National Fund stationery cover franked 2 mils for printed matter, postmarked Ramat Gan 26 FE 38 mailed to Pardess Hanna. The 2 mils stamp has been lifted off the cover, a forged perfin was made and the stamp expertly reattached creating a "Rare perfin cover."

continued on page 169

Newly Discovered

First Interim Civilian Cover

Palestine to Switerzland

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

INTRODUCTION

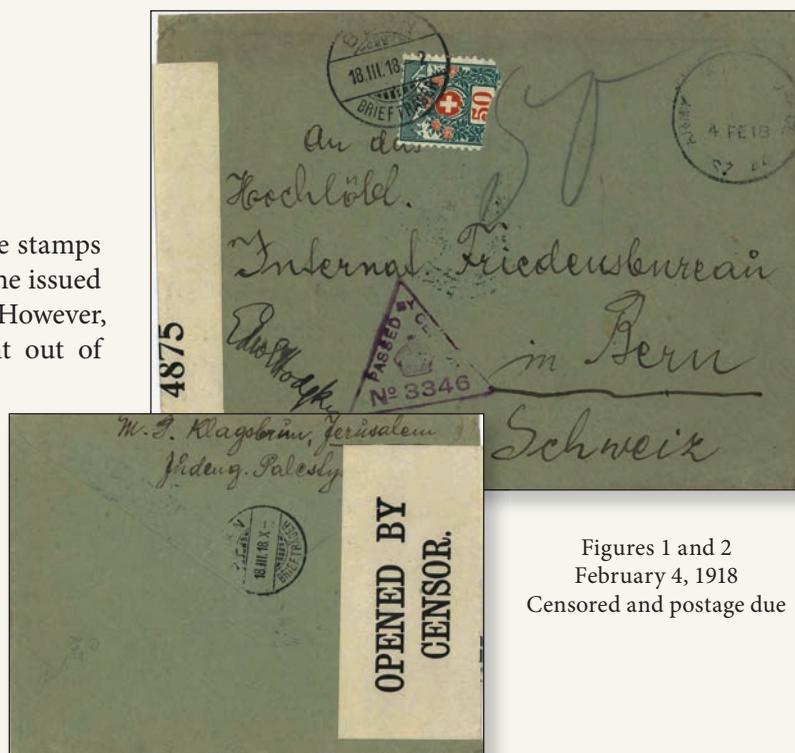
Most readers are aware that the first Palestine stamps were not issued until February 10, 1918 with the issued 1 piastre stamp paying the foreign letter rate. However, until February 10, 1918, civilian letters sent out of the country were transmitted postage free through one or more of the army post offices of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF). The time period during which EEF adhesives were not generally available throughout Palestine is known as the First Interim Period.

This topic has been well researched and reported by various authors over the years in various publications (Eddie Leibu – **Holy Land Postal History** (Volume 7); Michael Sacher – **BAPIP Bulletin** No.69; Nathan Zankel – *Doar Ivri* – **Cercle Francais Philatelique d'Israel – Revue** No. 14 and in numerous articles in **The Israel Philatelist**).

Examples of civilian mail have appeared in the **Alexander Collection**, Tel Aviv Stamps auction catalogs, House of Zion auction catalog of the **Adlerblum Collection**, Kelleher's auction catalog of the **Jericho Collection** and in various articles published in the **Holy Land Postal History** journal and **The Israel Philatelist**.

FIREBRACE'S BOOK

However, the most authoritative publication containing information on the subject is John Firebrace's **British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924 A Postal History** published in 1991. Chapter Nineteen indicates that postage free civilian



Figures 1 and 2
February 4, 1918
Censored and postage due

letters sent abroad are known to have been accepted by five military post offices in Palestine (F.P.O. H.M., F.P.O. D.52, A.P.O. SZ44, A.P.O. SZ 45 and A.P.O. S.Z. 8). Over 54 letters and postcards were recorded as accepted by Army Post Office SZ44 in Jerusalem. Fewer examples are noted as having been accepted at the other offices.

Firebrace recorded the offices in the order in which they first accepted civilian letters. He set out meticulously the details of the destination of letters or postcards, the number of items recorded, postal rate and explanatory notes. Specifically, he recorded details of letters and postcards which were taxed in various countries such as Egypt, Chile, Switzerland and Great Britain. The remaining civilian mail was transmitted untaxed and free of charge.

Firebrace made no pretense that his analysis was

complete and so stated in his book. However, he knew that this aspect of the 1914 – 1924 military postal history period in Palestine is more sought after than any other. Since 1991, items not recorded in the Firebrace publication have surfaced in the auction catalogues of Tsachor, Kelleher (**Jericho Collection**), Corinphila (**The Cihangir Collection**), Corinphila (**Sacher Collection**), in journal articles by Marvin Siegel (**Holy Land Postal History**) and in award winning exhibits (Jonathan Becker). In all circumstances, the authors have referred to the fact that the items were not previously recorded in Firebrace. This work therefore remains the gold standard for research, as supplemented by the recorded discoveries thereafter.

NEW DISCOVERY

I would like to supplement the pool of recorded covers with a cover I recently acquired. Firebrace records that 4 pieces were dispatched postage free from Jerusalem (A.P.O. SZ44) to Switzerland and delivered marked for postage due between December 21, 1917 and **January 22, 1918**. The postage due charged on the four pieces was respectively 20, 30, 50 and 50 centimes. The cover I acquired (Figure 1) was sent from Jerusalem to Bern, Switzerland and is dated **February 4, 1918**. The free franking was not recognized in Switzerland so 50 centimes was charged as reflected by the “50” handwritten notation and the postmark dated March 18, 1918. The cover was also censored in Great Britain as indicated by the triangular censor mark and the censor tape and suggests the name of the censor is Hodgkinson. The back of the cover (Figure 2) bears the name and address of the sender and has a Bern receiving postmark.

Firebrace did note that another cover was sent from APO SZ44 in Jerusalem to Switzerland on February 9, 1918 but it was marked for postage due in Great Britain (and not in Switzerland) on May 23, 1918 with arrival in Geneva on May 26, 1918.

In total, therefore, 7 First Interim covers to Switzerland have now been reported – 1 without postage due in December 1917 and 6 marked with postage due (5 Swiss and 1 Great Britain) ranging in postmarked dates from December 21, 1917 to February 9, 1918. ■

OVER LAND MAIL BAGHDAD - HAIFA



Figure 7: Bogus 2 line cachet on a genuine cover from Abadan to Haifa on 24 July 1940.

The Overland route was the regular route, for surface mail, from Iran to Palestine as of the end of the 1930's and there was no need for an instructional cachet to be applied. The cover was censored and Basra & Baghdad transit postmarks are on the reverse. The bogus cachet was applied later.

References:

1. **The Postmarks of Mandate Jerusalem (1917 – 1948)**, E. Glasman & M. Sacher
2. **The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840 – 1918**, A. Steichele, N. Collins & L. Dickstein, Vol. I & II.
3. **The Ottoman Posts and Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai**, Norman Collins. ■

SIP CONVENTION



MAY 3 - 5, 2013

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Use Group Code STP for show rate.

Conversos and Crypto-Jews on Stamps

Gene Eisen, Raleigh, NC

INTRODUCTION

The years from 1391 to 1497 were turbulent ones for the Jews living in the Iberian Peninsula. Events beyond their control led, in the wake of violent anti-Jewish riots in 1391 in Spain, to thousands of Jews converting to Catholicism, at least outwardly, out of fear for their lives. When the Catholic military ended Muslim rule in southern Spain in 1492,

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella declared that Jews must convert or emigrate at once, leaving behind their worldly possessions. The expelled Jews immigrated to many lands, including border country Portugal, where another forced conversion was later promulgated by royal decree in 1497.¹

DEFINITIONS

Thus was created a new glossary of terms to define the converted Jews of that era. A *Converso* is a Jew forced to convert to Catholicism in Spain or Portugal or descendants of such a person. A *Crypto-Jew* is a Converso who is secretly observing Judaism while openly practicing Catholicism. A *Marrano* is a pejorative word meaning swine, used to refer to Conversos. *New Christian* is the term applied to Conversos, in contrast to Old Christians who were presumably the “original” Catholics. The former term signified the lack of full acceptance by the established Christian community.

The term *Judaizing*, coined by the Inquisition, refers to New Christians who were accused of secretly practicing

or promoting Judaism. Those accused were interrogated, imprisoned, tortured or publicly burned to death for presumed heresy.² Active periods of the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal and their colonies were 1478–1834 and 1636–1794, respectively.

Included among Conversos and Crypto-Jews were those making outstanding contributions in science, philosophy, literature and commerce. Often, they were only one step away from the grasp of the feared Inquisitors. The contributions of a number of Crypto-Jews have been recognized on commemorative stamps.

LUIS DE SANTÁNGELD



Figure 1
Luis de Santángel
Sierra Leone, Scott 911

Scholars continue to debate whether Christopher Columbus himself was a Converso, but there is no question that he had strong connections with many Conversos. *Luis de Santángel* (1448-1498) was a Converso who was finance minister to King Ferdinand and Isabella.

Columbus had been negotiating with the Spanish crown for funds to pursue his plan to find a sea route to Asia. He had nearly accepted that Spain would not provide the backing when de Santángel intervened on behalf of Columbus, arguing to Isabella that the prospect of

converting Asia to Christianity would make the voyage worthwhile. De Santángel arranged for the majority of the financing for the voyage and even contributed much of his own funds. De Santángel's family was persecuted during the Inquisition. However, because of his service to Spain, Ferdinand issued a royal decree protecting him and his family from the Inquisition.³

Coincidentally or not, Columbus sailed to seek the route to Asia on the very day that the Jews were expelled from Spain, August 3, 1492. Columbus had as part of his crew at least one Converso, *Luis de Torres* (1453-1493), an interpreter with knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Portuguese.

Columbus hoped that de Torres' interpretive skills would be useful in Asia where they might encounter Jewish merchants. When Columbus set out to return to Spain on January 4, 1493, Luis de Torres was one of 39 men left behind on Hispaniola. Sadly, when Columbus returned to the island at the end of 1493, he found that the group had been wiped out because of internal strife and an Indian attack. The true fate of Luis de Torres remains a mystery⁴.

LUIS DE TORRES



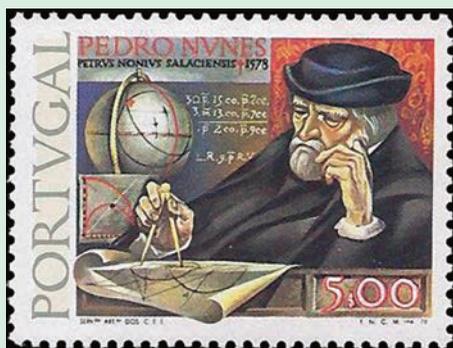
Figure 2
Luis de Torres
Sierra Leone, Scott 912

Coincidentally or not, Columbus sailed to seek the route to Asia on the very day that the Jews were expelled

from Spain, August 3, 1492. Columbus had as part of his crew at least one Converso, *Luis de Torres* (1453-1493), an interpreter with knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic and Portuguese. Columbus hoped that de Torres' interpretive skills would be useful in Asia where they might encounter Jewish merchants.

When Columbus set out to return to Spain on January 4, 1493, Luis de Torres was one of 39 men left behind on Hispaniola. Sadly, when Columbus returned to the island at the end of 1493, he found that the group had been wiped out because of internal strife and an Indian attack. The true fate of Luis de Torres remains a mystery.⁴

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE AND MEDICINE PEDRO NUNES



Figures 3, 4
Pedro Nunes
Portugal

Pedro Nunes was born in 1502 into a Converso family living in Lisbon. While it is not known whether he practiced Judaism, his grandchildren were imprisoned after being accused of doing so. He studied at the University of Salamanca, receiving degrees in medicine and cosmography and later obtaining a permanent position teaching mathematics at the University of Coimbra.

Much of Nunes's research and innovations were related to navigation, of critical importance to Portuguese

explorers. He was the first person to explain the mathematics of why a ship maintaining a steady course would not travel along an arc, the shortest distance between two points on Earth, but would instead follow a spiral path called a loxodrome. Nunes worked on many other nautical problems concerning course correction, as well as attempting to develop more accurate devices to determine a ship's position. He developed the nonius, called after his surname, to improve the astrolabe's accuracy.⁵ Portugal issued commemoratives for the 400th anniversary of Nunes's death in 1578.



Figure 5
Garcia de Orta
Portuguese India

Garcia de Orta (1501-1568), born in Elvas, Portugal was a Converso physician who studied at the University of Salamanca in Spain. His parents were Spanish Jews from Valencia who sought refuge in Portugal after the expulsion of the Spanish Jews in 1492. In Portugal they were forcibly converted to Christianity.

After studying medicine in Spain, de Orta returned to Portugal to practice medicine and teach natural philosophy at the University of Lisbon. Perhaps fearing the power of the Inquisition, and somehow evading the ban on emigration of New Christians, he traveled to Goa in 1534 as the personal physician of Viceroy Martin Alfonso de Sousa.⁶ Over a period of thirty years, de Orta studied the pharmacological and therapeutic characteristics of plants native to Asia. In Bombay, he developed a

remarkable botanical garden and in 1563, he published a detailed work **Conversations On The Simples, Drugs And Medicinal Substances Of India**. This earned him the title of Father of Pharmacognosy, the study of descriptive pharmacology.⁷ Portugal commemorated the 400th anniversary of this publication with a set of stamps.

Although de Orta was shielded from the Inquisition by Alonso de Sousa, his sister Catarina was not so fortunate. She was condemned by the Inquisition for Judaizing and burned at the stake in 1569 in Goa. Unbelievably, de Orta was accused posthumously of being a secret Jew, and his remains were exhumed and destroyed in 1580. ■



Figure 6
Portugal

to be continued

Chanukah 2012

Dr. Jay Levinson, Jerusalem, Israel

INTRODUCTION

The Chanukah stamp issued by Israel on 5 November 2012 is very different. The stamp is part of a joint issue with India commemorating twenty years of ambassadorial exchanges between the two countries. Mutual recognition was declared in 1950, but only a symbolic Israeli consular office was opened in Bombay. The joint issue was decided upon between the two countries in the spirit of twenty years of cooperation. The Israeli stamp features a Chanukah menorah that originated with the Indian Jewish community; the Indian stamp features a local theme.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of Indian Jews goes back centuries. There is reason to believe that Jews might well have been present, albeit not in large numbers, in ancient times. Professor Nathan Katz of Florida International University says it is very plausible that Jews came to Cochin following the destruction of the Second Temple. In any event there is Indian documentation showing a Jewish presence in the 9th century and a Jewish tombstone from the 12th century.

A much larger community took root much later, when Jews became part of a trading route run primarily by Iraqi co-religionists who used overland routes to bring back goods from the Orient. Thus, the Indian Jewish community had three main sources: Cochin Jews, Bene Israel (the largest Indian Jewish community), and Baghdadis.

Although the Indian Jewish community once numbered as many as 30 thousand (an inexact estimation), the vast majority has emigrated. Today only some 1000 are left in country.



Joint issue
top India stamps; bottom Israel stamps

FRIENDSHIP

As Jaideep Sarkar, the Ambassador-designate of India, explains, relations between Israel and India became possible after the Cold War ended and the People's Republic of China recognized Israel. According to Professor Katz this was part of a wider effort by India to open its economy to world trade.

Tourism is a significant economic factor in India. This year 40,000 Israelis will be visiting India. The Indians are hoping that the joint issue will encourage more Israelis to come to the country. Another visitor of importance at the issuing ceremony is Ms. Manjula Prasher, Secretary and Director General of India Post, who is negotiating increased bilateral postal cooperation.

STAMP DESIGN

The Israeli stamp is designed by Aylon Bhinjekar Samson based on a relatively modern Chanukah menorah of brass and wood that his wife purchased in Bombay. Aylon, born in India and now living in New York, posted a picture of his menorah on an Indian Community website. He was contacted by the Israel Philatelic Service for permission to use his photograph as the basis of an Israeli stamp. The answer was, "Yes, but..." He provided a better photo! ■

Karl Netter

and

Mikve Israel Agricultural School

Gal Shifron, Moshav Nir Galim, Israel

BACKGROUND

Jacob Karl Netter (Figure 1) was born in Strasbourg, France in 1826 to a rabbinic family. As a student he attended school in Strasbourg and Belfort, France. After graduation, he entered business which took him to Moscow, London and Lille, France. He was an intellectual who was interested in public affairs was a founding member of the French Alliance Israelite Universelle (AIU). In France he founded a trade school for Jewish children and helped build a home for poor craftsmen in Paris.

In 1868 he visited Palestine for the first time as a representative of AIU. Upon his return to France, he recommended to the AIU that a new agricultural institute be established in Palestine. His major contribution was the establishment of Mikve Israel Agricultural School in 1870. Netter died in 1882 and is buried in Mikve Israel. In 1970, the 100th anniversary of Mikve Israel, the Israel Postal Service issued two stamps honoring Netter and the founding of Mikve Israel (Figures 1 and 2). The Figure 2 design is a representation of the original building and school entrance.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL FOUNDING

He is considered the founding father of agricultural education in Israel. The philosophy of the school was to teach students farming techniques and how to raise livestock since many of them were city dwellers. The students would work the land and produce agricultural products from their own labor. The idea was to teach the students how to work for a living and not continue

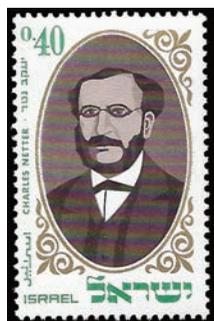


Figure 1
Carl Netter

to rely on donations from overseas. To advance his idea, he collected contributions from the Jewish philanthropist Z.D. Muktan who helped raise money from many sources. Netter was supported in his efforts by Gamel Pasha, the Turkish ambassador in Paris and other Turkish leaders. At the time the land was under Ottoman rule.

SCHOOL WINERY

In 1872-1873 the school opened a winery that was active until World War 1. It was closed between 1914 - 1920 and reopened in 1920 but closed in 1940. In 1962 the winery reopened but finally closed its doors in 1973. The winery produced brandy, cherry liquors, and wines but never sold enough to be self-sustaining.

MIKVE ISRAEL

Mikve Israel received its name from a verse in Jeremiah (Jeremiah 14: 8): "Mikve Israel" – Hope of Israel, its saviour in time of trouble, why shouldst thou be as a stranger in the land and as a wayfaring man that turns aside to tarry for a night?"

Dr. Herzl and Kaiser Wilhelm II visited the agricultural school on December 3, 1898 and planted a cypress tree during his visit, which can still be seen today.

Thousands of students, who have learned to love the land of Israel and work its soil, have graduated from Mikve Israel. One of those graduates is my uncle David Ben Joseph who was a student during the 1960's. During my visit to Israel he gave me a grand tour of Mikve Israel and introduced me to the principal of the secular part



Figure 2
Mikve Israel

of the school Ezra David. It also has a religious section.

The school has served Jews born in Israel and those who immigrated to Israel from other parts of the world in the past 133 years. When I visited my uncle in the winter of 2003, I noticed many Jewish Ethiopian students attending the mostly religious section of the school.

The school has a botanical garden that commemorates the school's students who were killed in the 1948 War of Independence. The garden has a Bengal Ficus tree that was planted in 1888. The garden was planted by Professor Warburg in the 1930's and has 1200 different plants growing. Mikve Israel also has the first well dug in Israel in 1870 and old buildings that I saw were built in 1871 – 1872.

There is also a purification plant and the school's nature reserve is in the middle of a large urban area. It also has a pecan grove, cattle, sheep, and a computerized milking center. There is a greenhouse for growing vegetables and other plants as well as a packing house, tilled fields, a tractor garage, and chickens. The school was the first to develop Israeli cattle and avocado plants.

STUDENT BODY

The students attending the school also sculpted many of the sculptures found on the school's grounds. The

school has now an enrollment of 1100 students, with 300 who live on campus. The school teaches biological sciences, ecological studies, art, graphics, drama, computer science, secretarial studies and sports. The campus has an amphitheater and auditorium for large community events.

Many of the schools' teachers lived on campus and when they retired remained at the school. The main office building was completed in 1895 and the director of the school lived there until the 1970's. The School has a synagogue that was built in the early years. Mikve Israel is located north of Holon.

ROLE IN 1948

Mikve Israel served as a base for the Haganah and had helped protect the school from the Arabs who would attack from Azor. The base was manned by students who were trained by the Hagana. The school was also used by the Hagana as a assembly point where convoys set out to try and break the siege of Jerusalem. There was an arms factory located there which manufactured the first small cannon, the Davidka, in the school smithy. The Davidka later helped liberate Jerusalem from continued Arab attacks.

References

1. **Bale Catalogue 1976**, Michael Bale.
2. **Mikve Israel-Agricultural School of Mikve Israel**, Alexander Levin printed in Israel by Laddany, 1955. ■

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BACKGROUND

With the breakup of the former Ottoman Empire after World War 1, the Emirate of Transjordan was joined to the Mandate of Palestine and assigned to British control by the then League of Nations. In the early 1920s the area of Transjordan was broken off from the Palestine Mandate to form an autonomous (British controlled) political division, nominally still under the auspices of the League of Nations.

By the late 1920s Britain was gradually relinquishing its control and in 1946 the independent Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan was established.

At the conclusion of the Israel War of Independence (1948-49), Transjordan forces had crossed the Jordan river and occupied a large area of the former Palestine territory on the west bank including East Jerusalem. This area was then officially annexed to the Kingdom.

Now that Transjordan had territory on both sides of the Jordan river, the Transjordan Parliament in 1949 changed the name of the country to Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As we will see, the name of the country went through a refining process when translated into English - this is clearly demonstrated in the official wording used on the early aerogrammes.

AEROGRAMMES

The Country produced its first (stampless) aerogramme in 1947 (Figure 1) bearing the words HASHAMITE KINGDOM OF TRANSJORDAN.

After the 1948-49 war the newly issued (still stampless) aerogrammes (Figure 2) now had the Country's title as HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF THE JORDAN. Please note the change of spelling from HASHAMITE TO HASHEMITE and the addition of the word THE.

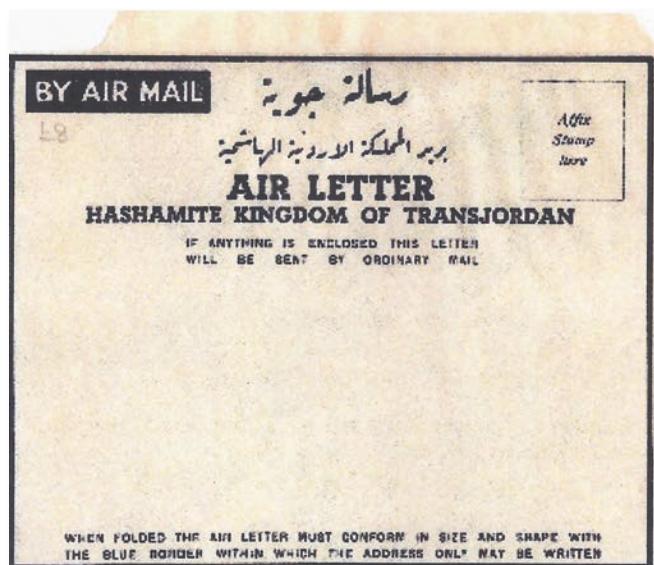


Figure 1
1947 unstamped aerogramme



Figure 2
Aerogramme issued after Israel's 1948 War of Independence.



Figure 3
The word "THE" has been dropped.

Some years later there was again a small word change with the dropping of "THE" so that the new issues (Figure 3) had the country name as HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN. Finally the Kingdom produced its first aerogram me with a printed stamp (Figure 4) and the reappearance of "THE", but now in a more prominent position - THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

Although the Kingdom of Jordan subsequently lost all its land west of the Jordan river during the 1967 Six Day War it has never relinquished its claim to the land, and consequently the name has not reverted to Transjordan.

As the Kingdom no longer issues new aerogrammes we are unlikely to see any further name change even if there were to be one!

Editor's note: Originally published in The BAPIP Bulletin, November 2010, vol.XVIII, issue 162, p. 48. ■

**HAVE YOU
PAID
YOUR DUES?**



Figure 4
The final design with word "THE" and an imprinted stamp.

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Unusual Forerunner Destination

Burkes Pass, New Zealand

Robert B. Pildes, M.D., Evanston, IL

COVER MARKINGS

Not only is this country a rare destination, so also is the local destination. This postcard, (Figure 1) bearing a 20 para Austrian adhesive for use in the Ottoman Empire, pays the correct rate for a foreign destination. It is cancelled with an Austrian Jerusalem postmark, Steichele type 547, dated March 24, 1902. Addressed to New Zealand, it bears the transit postmark of Port Said, Egypt, March 27, 1902; transit postmark Invercargill (southern port city in New Zealand (NZ) dated April 29 1902; an additional transit postmark on the reverse of Timaru NZ (another port city) dated April 30, 1902; and finally a Burkes Pass arrival postmark May 2, 1902. Thus, the travel time to NZ was approximately 36 days with an additional time of 6 days to reach Burkes Pass.



Figure 3 google map, <http://www.maplandia.com/new-zealand/canterbury/burkes-pass/>

BURKES PASS HISTORY

The address to Burkes Pass is extremely interesting from an historical point of view. First of all, the population

than 20 houses in the town. Burkes Pass is a mountain pass at the entrance to Mackenzie County in South Canterbury. It is named after Michael John Burke who discovered the passage way in 1855. The Mackenzie was a vast land known by the native Maori for its plentiful supply of available natural foods. The first hotel was built in 1861 for travelers and Burkes Pass sprung up around the hotel and became the social, business, and sporting center for Mackenzie County. A promised railway never arrived and so in 1891 the politicians decided to relocate to another town which subsequently led to its decline¹.



Figures 1 and 2

between 1890 to 1910 was only 143. This is actually more than the population today which now has less



ADDRESSEE

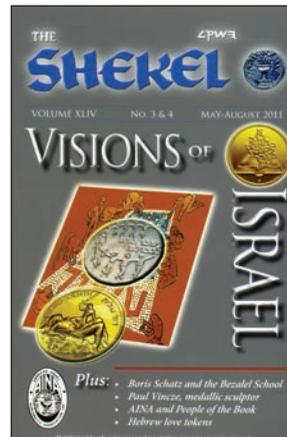
Next what adds additional interest is that it is addressed to Alexander Grant at Grays Hills. Alexander Grant was a sheep farmer, born in Scotland, who emigrated to NZ in 1860. In 1878 he married Helen Banks who was also born in Scotland and moved to Grays Hills Station

in 1886 and built a homestead there. He gradually increased the size of Grays Hills to 60,000 acres. He became one of the largest private land owners in NZ and a multimillionaire. He sold part to his son James in 1911 but retained the original run until his death in 1919. His wife lived until 1955 to the age of 101. She was a philanthropist, art collector, and founder of the AIGANTIGHE Art Museum².

The reverse of the card (Figure 2) is filled with a long message describing the writer's tour of the east including Egypt and Palestine. It is addressed to "Aleck" and signed "DG" which leads me to assume that the writer was a relative which would add additional historical interest to this fascinating item of postal history. It is most likely the only forerunner example known to Burkes Pass.

References

1. Wikipedia, **The Free Encyclopedia: Burkes Pass.**
2. **South Canterbury Museum online catalogue.** ■



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.

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B18 A - Transfer B

Paulo Risi, Brazil

Editor's note: In an article to be printed in a later issue of the Israel Philatelist, the author provides a drawing of the layout of the 4 post office size sheets (120 stamps/sheet) as they would appear in the much larger printer's sheet of 480 stamps (Figure 1 is a copy of that drawing). The individual post office sheets are labeled G, F, D, B. The lithographic plate is the one placed on the printing press and the printed sheet is the sheet as it comes off the press. Note the

printed sheet labels are a mirror image of the lithographic plate. The printed sheet is cut into sheets of 120 stamps each and sent to the post office. Each printer's sheet contains a control number in the lower left corner which changes each time a new batch of stamps are printed. The lithographic plate was used 5 times to print the first stamps known as the "Blues" due to their color. Each printing has a unique sheet control number: A18, B18 A, C18, C18 B, and D18 C.

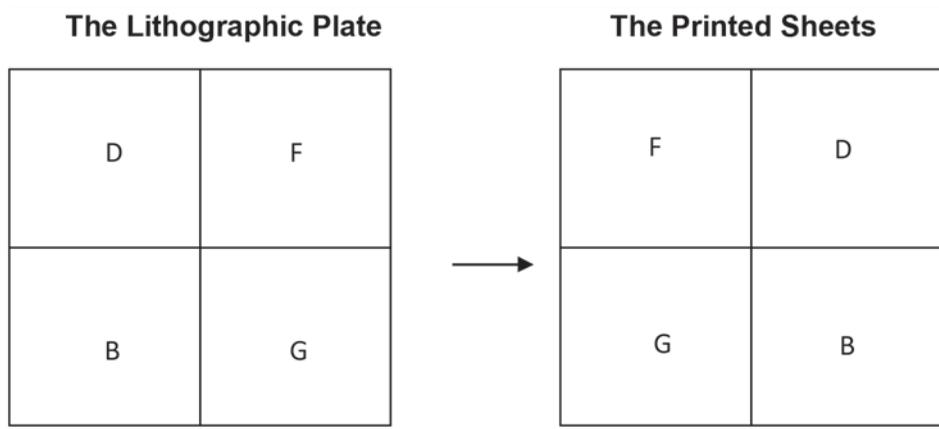


Figure 1

This article originally appeared in The BAPIP Bulletin, issue 166, volume XVIII. Special thanks are due to Mr. Z. Galibov, from London, for guidance, support and help in my studies.

Though much has been already published about the Palestine Mandate first stamp issues, there seems to be still some gaps to be filled in order to obtain a complete picture about the earliest period. It's a well-known fact that the "EEF – Blues" stamps were printed in Egypt by the lithographic process.

New studies have shown that the B, D, F and G transfers (i.e. sheets) were altogether positioned in the printing base and this fact should lead us to a conclusion that sheets from Transfers B and F were also printed for the

second issue, the overprinted 5 milliemes (Blues #2). Although very rarely seen, few stamps from Transfer F are recorded, but no specialized literature or catalogues mentions the existence of stamps from Transfer B. In my opinion, this article proves their existence and shows a beautiful and still unrecorded corner pair of stamps with the control number B18 A from Transfer B.

B18 A TRANSFER B GUIDE LINE

The image in Figure 2 shows the guide line in the bottom left-hand corner common to all Transfer B printings. In Figure 3 the left picture is from B18 A printing



Figure 2 Discovery copy of transfer plate B18 A for first printing of 5 millimes stamp.

and the right one from a C18. The measurements of the blue lines are identical. As this is a first record of this transfer plate, it would be useful if collectors would study their control blocks of the B18 A printing and report any existing items with guide dots, etc.

THE CONTROL NUMBERS

The plate control numbers were added to the design as an indication of the time of printing. The original design bears the A18 control number which was transferred four times to the printing base. This is why we have the same measurements for the A 18 control numbers on Transfers B, D, F and G.

The original lithographic plate was used again for the second issue, this time in a lighter blue color made to suit the 5 millimes black overprint. However, the A18 control number was erased and replaced by a new one, B18, which was redrawn directly on the printing sheet, one by one, without using the transfer process. This fact caused the huge difference in the design of the new control number (B18), clearly seen on each different transfer (Figures 4 and 5).

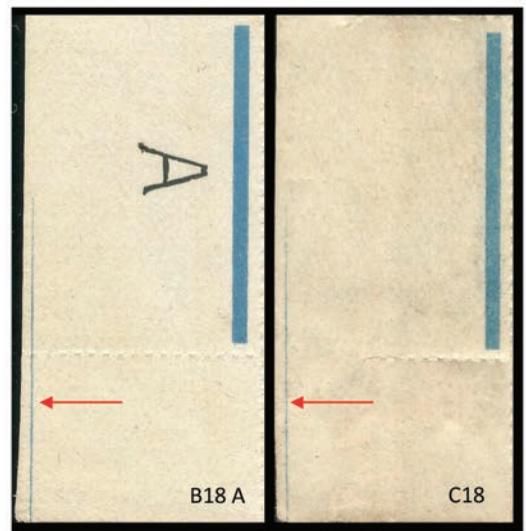


Figure 3

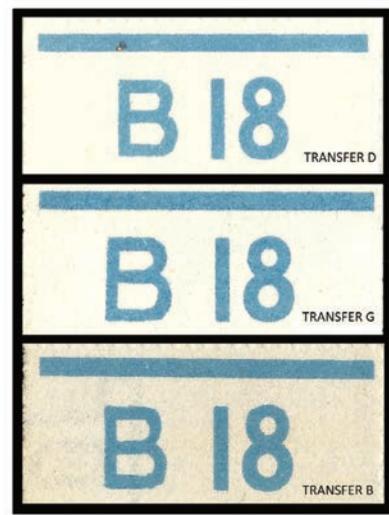


Figure 4

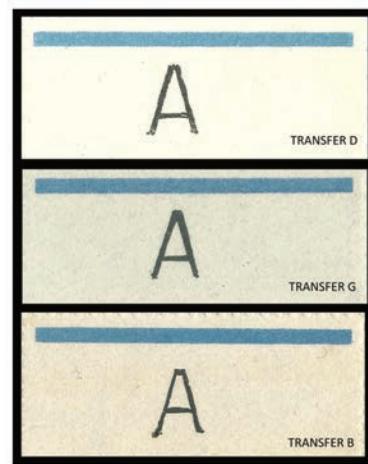


Figure 5

Although the overprint base was probably done in the same manner as described for the plate base (by transferring the design four times), the control letter A was added after the transfer process. The final art shows very different types for the A which are easily identified and can help collectors classifying the transfers. I have not seen any stamps with the marginal control number from Transfer F. The overprinting process may have presented some difficulty and probably some spoilt stamps which explains why there are so few recorded stamps from transfers B and F.

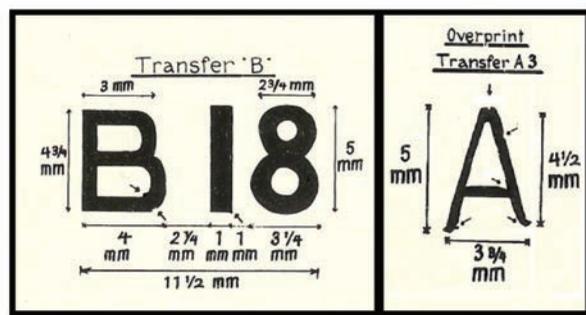


Figure 6

In order to continue Dr. Hoexter's studies, the Overprint Transfer B on the EEF second postage stamps issue will henceforth be referred to as A3 (Figure 6).

Acknowledgements: continuing thanks are due to Mr. D. Wardimon, who exerted a profound influence on my philatelic interests. ■

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Christian Daniel Abravanel, Montélimar, France

Editor's note: The article originally appeared in the French journal Doar Ivri - Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël, Revue, N° 22, Mai - Août 2011, p 20-23. Jean-Paul Danon provided the translation.



Figure 1 RAF Airgraph & envelope: Middle-East forces, 1942.

ORIGIN AND PRINCIPLE OF THE AIRGRAPH SERVICE

After the disaster of the Battle of France, Britain found herself alone. The fight was not only in the English skies, but also in the Horn of Africa against the Italians and in Ethiopia. First there was the freeing in Africa of Cyrenaica and then Libya by expelling the Italian invaders who had made the mistake of declaring war on the Allies in June 1940. At that time, Britain also strengthened her defenses in the Far East. At the beginning of 1941, there were millions of men in the armed forces with millions of letters being sent and replied to. The distances involved were such that conveyance by boat did not make sense. Given the mail volume involved normal, transport by air would tie up resources that must be kept for the country's defense.

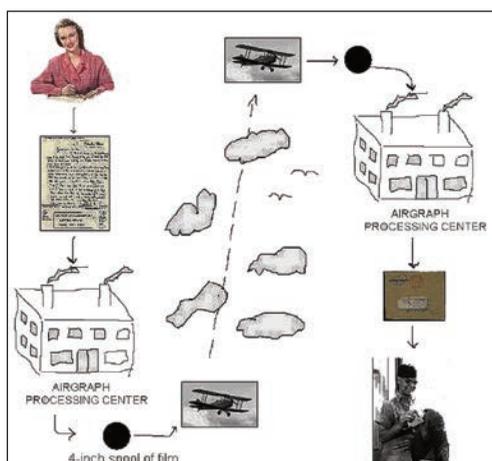


Figure 2 Diagram of Airgraph Service

KODAK SOLUTION

This could have been the end of the story had the Kodak Company not offered its expertise and provided the necessary material and human resources.

Letters written on a special form by military personnel were microfilmed on 16mm film, developed before shipment to avoid over exposure, so that only the film reels needed to be carried by military aircraft. Upon arrival in the destination country, 10 x 15 mm copies were printed and placed in an envelope for local distribution.

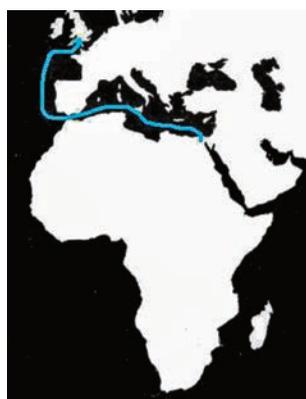


Figure 3 Airgraph service 1941



Figure 4 Airgraph service worldwide



Figure 5 Reception of mailbags containing film reels in a laboratory.



Figure 6 Film size comparison.



Figure 7. Airgraph enlargements being made from the spool of miniature film on to a continuous roll of bromide paper.



Figure 8 Inspection of a dried roll of airgraph prints for legibility.

SERVICE EXPANSION

After Japan entered the war in late 1941, the fighting was now taking place on four continents. This special mail service worked perfectly, even during the worst of times. It was even better than the normal peace time postal services, because it guaranteed a quality of service previously unknown. If the plane carrying the mail did not arrive at the destination, the shipping laboratory was able to create new film reels. The original reels were only destroyed when confirmation was received of the arrival of the plane. When a transport was shot down while flying, the copies ultimately received were marked REPRINT, and the delay explained. Accurate records of correspondence was thus obligatory (without a computer!). For the first and only time in postal history, no mail could be declared lost!

Another advantage of this service was to ensure mail delivery by air along the entire length of the route. This resulted in a quicker delivery since it took between four and five weeks for a paper letter to travel between England and the Middle East. An Airgraph was transported from start to finish in about three weeks.

AMERICAN SERVICE

Beginning in January 1942, the Americans took the idea for use on their soldier's mail resulting in high morale among their troops on all fronts. Where possible the British and the Americans pooled their efforts and resources to ensure continuity of service. The service provided by the United States was called V-Mail, V being the first letter of Victory.

Security, time saving, economy of means meant that the service was quickly opened to staff other than military personnel on active service (or OAS). In particular, merchant marine crews and members of the civilian and military police. It was finally extended to the entire civilian population.

AIRGRAPHS USED BY PALESTINE CIVILIANS

The rate for the first Airgraphs to Palestine was 8 pence for civilians, and was reduced to 3 pence in 1943. From Palestine, the initial rate was 40 mils for civilians. This rate was then reduced to 15 mils for "ordinary" items. The service was free to military personnel on active duty. As is customary in Anglo-Saxon countries decorated forms were issued for the Christmas and New Year holidays in 1943 and 1944. The special rate for these was 20 mils.

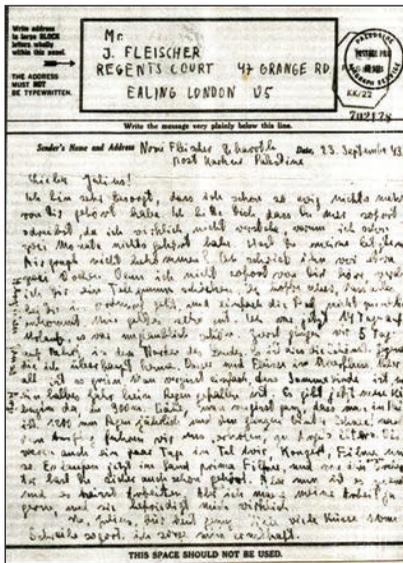


Figure 9
1943 Civil Service airgraph with censor handstamp.

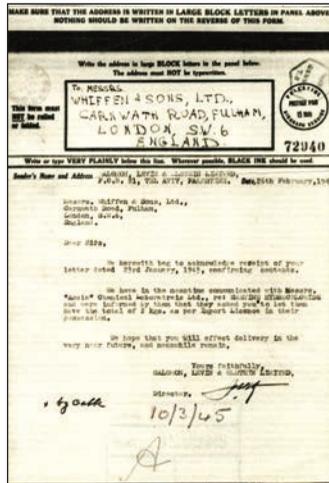


Figure 10
1945 Civilian airgraph



Figure 11
1944 airgraph for the New Year showing ornate border with grapes, fruits, foliage, bells and different New Year wishes on 4 sides – in English, Arabic and Hebrew.

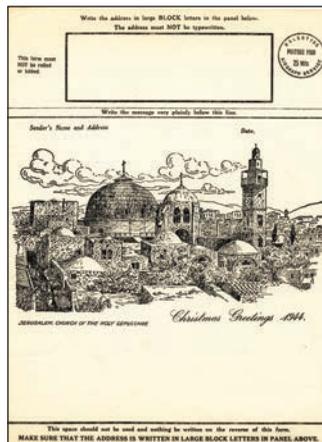


Figure 12
1944 Illustrated Christmas greeting, showing Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Figure 13
1943 Jewish military New Year greeting from Captain Michael Caplan to his family in Scotland. Note the Hebrew "Yom Kippur" is incorrectly spelled.

It is precisely the fee for the service which differentiates the forms intended for civilians from those for military or similar use. The fee was paid on purchasing the form, which categorizes them as postal stationery. It is reinforced by a preprinted circular stamp of 28 mm diameter reading "Palestine Airgraph Service" along the rim and "POSTAGE PAID 40 Mils."



PALESTINE TYPE FORMS

To differentiate the forms for the use of civilian personnel, the Merchant Navy and the Palestinian Police forms were charged a reduced fee and had the initials M N (Merchant Navy) in the top left or P P (Palestinian police) in the top right corner instead of the circular stamp.



The reverse side of the civilian sheets contained a set of instructions and recommendations for proper use. The later forms did not have these instructions.

There were fourteen types of forms for use by civilians and five types for use of the Merchant Navy and the police. This forms the basis of a collection of Airgraphs originating from PALESTINE.

In contrast, for the mail to PALESTINE, it is worth studying envelopes containing correspondence from abroad, as illustrated below. Ten types of envelopes were used successively between 1941 and 1945. Due to wartime economy (rather than for environmental reasons), their return was requested after receiving the contents so that they could be used.

The Airgraph service ended on 31 July 1945 as hostilities came to an end on all fronts, West and East. All types of users and all destinations considered, more than 350 million messages were involved. For almost five years, Airgraphs often took the place of ordinary mail between the territories under Allied administration. They permitted optimization of transport while maintaining the morale of the people during the war. During this long period only business correspondence sent with attachments (e.g. photographs) or letters not exceeding the basic weight continued to circulate via the normal mail service. ■

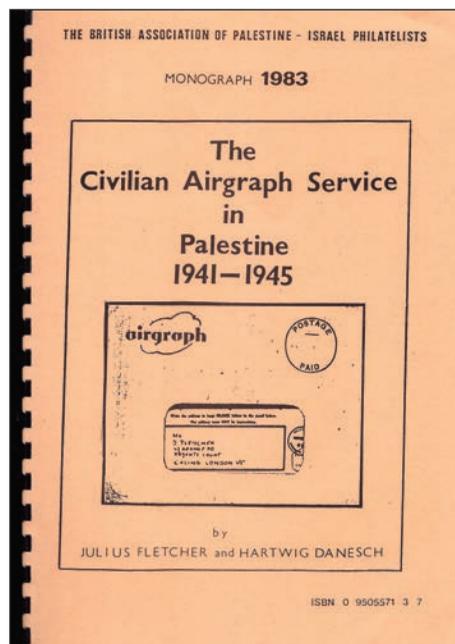


Figure 14

The reader who wishes to learn more about this subject can find a wealth of information in this booklet in English which is available on the internet. It aided greatly in my research on airgraphs.



Figure 15c

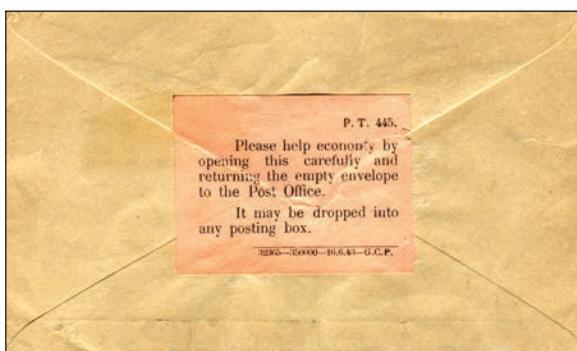


Figure 15d

Figure 15 All documents from my own collection: an original form which cost 15 mil in 1944 (Figure 15a), a letter dated 26 January 1944 (Figure 15b) and finally an envelope recycled in 1943 (Figures 15c, d). This set is presented in approximately the correct scale for each document. It is easy to understand why it was required to write the address / recipient information in big capital letters for easy reading.

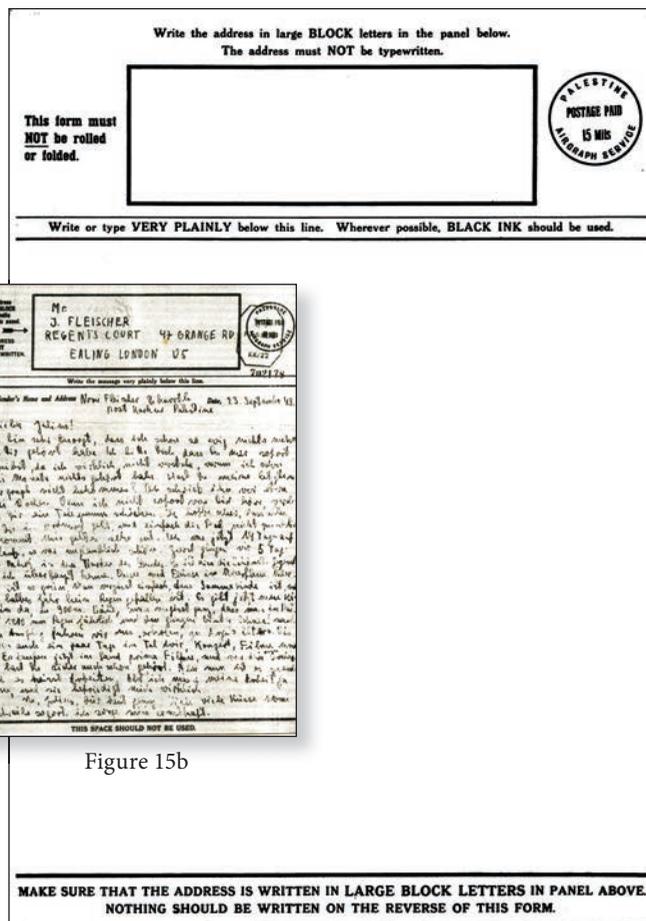


Figure 15b

Figure 15a

NEWS FROM THE

ISRAEL PHILATELIC AGENCY



Arad – 50 years



Israel Customs



Hebrew Reali School



Gerbera – Transvaal Daisy

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.

Society of Israel Philatelists Endowment Fund 2013 News

לְדוֹר וָדוֹר

L'dor va'dor

From Generation to Generation

I could not think of a more appropriate saying for this year's **SIP Endowment Fund Campaign**. Preserving our Jewish heritage through philately is one of the most important parts of our collecting and collections. Our stamps, covers and other philatelic material tell the story and preserve the history of the Jewish people from the very beginning. Our collections tell of our triumphs in the pursuit of education, liberty, justice and the overall betterment of mankind. Our collections describe the advancements the Jewish people have made in medicine the arts, education for the betterment of all people. Our collections describe the victories, the defeats and the tragedies that have befallen our people.

What a fabulous story we have to tell. By contributing to the **SIP Endowment Fund** we are able to insure that the story will continue to be told and that it will be shared from "generation to generation" .

As a philatelic society, besides educating, sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas, we have an obligation to protect our philatelic investments. We have all invested countless hours in researching, locating, purchasing, organizing exhibiting and writing about our collections. We certainly have our financial interests to protect as well. Insuring the long term viability of the SIP via the **SIP Endowment Fund** will go a long way to help us achieve this goal. We want to make certain that our hobby is one that carries on from "generation to generation" .

I thank you for your past contributions. If you currently support the **Endowment Fund** I ask that if you are able to consider giving a little extra this year to help us achieve our goal. If you have not supported the **SIP Endowment Fund** in the past I am asking for your support this year. It is an important part of the SIP and one that we can all feel good about supporting. Please know that your **SIP Endowment Fund** contribution is a 100% tax deductible contribution.

Our goal for the **2013 Endowment Fund** campaign is **\$12,000** . My wife Michelle and I would like to lead the charge in this year's campaign. We are contributing to the fund at the "King David" level to demonstrate our commitment. We invite you to join us in our quest to achieve our campaign goal! The flyer you received in the mail outlines the various donation levels you may want to consider. Please review it to learn more about the SIP and various giving opportunities.

On a final note I would like to close with what I think is an appropriate quote. "**No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave.**" -Calvin Coolidge

Thank you for your support and I hope this year brings you much nachas in your collecting endeavors!

Wishing you all much happiness,
Gregg Philipson Endowment Fund Chair



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LINDNER

PART 2

Palestine Small Town Postmarks

Dr. Mel Richmond

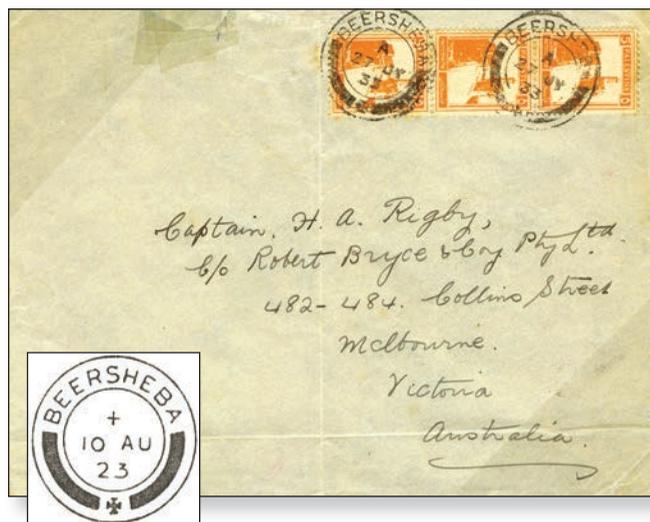
*Editor's note: Dr. Mel Richmond passed away about 3 years ago. He was an optometrist from Newton, Mass. Dr. Richmond was an avid collector of Palestine stamps and covers and a long time member of the SIP. He did valuable research on the 1948 Interim Period Jerusalem 1 issues and created the chart illustrating how to identify the Jerusalem 1 varieties. The chart was a feature in the **Bale Palestine Catalog** for many years.*

*He also collected Palestine small town cancellations and corresponded with David Dorfman z"l, author of the definitive 1985 catalog **Palestine Mandate Postmarks**. The covers shown are from Dr. Richmond's collection. Information on the scarcity rating is based on Dorfman's catalog with "A" being common, "I" being rare and "V.R." being very rare. All the post offices had a number of different cancellations over the years. The number before the scarcity letter rating indicates the specific cancellation illustrated. Over a number of future issues, we will highlight examples from Dr. Richmond's extensive collection. The examples on CD were made available to me by Barry Hoffman.*

Beit Vegan 3D – Dorfman listing example, earliest date of use 21 JA 37



Bat Yam 4D – Originally named Beit Vegan, this town was founded in 1926 just south of Jaffa. On January 5, 1938 the name was changed to Bat Yam. On reverse is arrival postmark of Tel Aviv 12 Oct 1938



Beersheba 4D – Transit postmark on reverse, Haifa 28 JY 1933

Beer Tuvvia 1F – Latest known use, Tel Aviv backstamp
1 DE 38



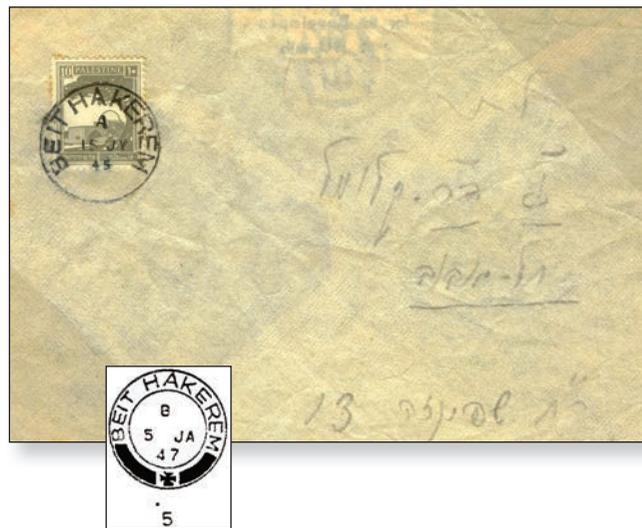
BeitHakerem 4



BeitHakerem 5



BeitHakerem 6



Beit Hashitta 2D



Sid Morginstin has a cd available of the Mel Richmond cancellation collection for sale at \$25.00 (cash/check postpaid) to United States address (\$30.00 cash/check non-US). Send requests to Sid Morginstine, PO Box 8101, Trenton, NJ 08650.

to be continued

Israel Foreign Postal Rates

May 16, 1948 to January 31, 1954

Ed Kroft, Vancouver, Canada

INTRODUCTION

This article is the first in a series. Each article outlines the foreign surface and air postal rates from Israel to a particular country from May 16, 1948 until January 31, 1954. The articles build on the work I published in 2006 in **The Israel Philatelist**. Determining the postal rates for the 1948 – 1952 periods can be challenging, given the limited published information and few reported

examples of mail sent to certain countries. To perform this work, I have drawn upon material in my own collection, that of other collectors and limited primary and secondary sources of information. I am most grateful to Yacov Tsachor, the noted Holy Land philatelic expert for his assistance. The errors and omissions are my own.

TO THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Surface Rates

From	To	Letter Rate (20 gr)	Letter (Extra each 20 gr)	PC	Print Matter (50 gr)	Printed Matter (Extra each 50 gr)	Registration Fee	Express Fee
May 16, 1948	February 28, 1949	20 mils	13 mils	13 mils	5 mils	5 mils	15 mils to Oct 1, 1948 then 25 mils	40 mils
March 1, 1949	January 31, 1952	30 mils	15 mils	15 mils	10 mils	5 mils	25 mils	40 mils
In 1949 currency changed from mils to prutot (p)								
Feb. 1, 1952	March 31, 1952	35p	20p	20p	15p	10p	40p	60p
April 1, 1952	June 30, 1953	95p	55p	55p	40p	20p	60p	95p
July 1, 1953	January 31, 1954	95p	55p	55p	40p	20p	80p	150p

Airmail Rates

From	To	Letter Rate (10 gr)	Letter (Extra each 20 gr)	Post Card	Print Matter (25 gr)	Printed Matter (Extra each 50 gr)	Registration Fee	Express Fee	Air Letter
May 16, 1948	Sept 22, 1948	no service mandate rate 40 mils	no service	no service mandate rate 20 mils	No special rate	No service	no service 15 mils in country	no service 40 mils in country	no rate
Sept 23, 1948	October 31, 1948	85 mils	85 mils	45 mils	no special rate	n/a	no service 15 mils until Sept 30 then 25 mils in country	no service 40 mils in country	no rate
Nov 1, 1948	July 11, 1949	80 mils	80 mils	40 mils	no special rate	n/a	25 mils service began on March 2, 1949	40 mils	no rate
In 1949 currency changed from mils to prutot (p)									
July 12, 1949	December 31, 1950	50p	50p	25p	55p as of July 14, 1949	55p	25p	40p	no rate
January 1, 1951	January 31, 1952	75p	75p	40p	80p	80p	25p	40p	no rate
Feb 1, 1952	March 31, 1952	85p	85p	45p	50p	50p	40p	60p	55p
April 1, 1952	June 30, 1953	220p	220p	110p	140p	140p	60p	95p	110p
July 1, 1953	January 31, 1954	200p	200p	100p	130p	130p	80p	150p	100p

TABLE EXPLANATION

The tables for the years under review reflect the surface and air mail rates for letters, postcards and where applicable, printed matter and air letters. The tables also outline the relevant surcharges for express and registration services when available. This article contains examples of mail reflecting the correct rates and, in some cases, mail with charges for postage due applied in the destination country.

The postage stamps used on mail changed over the relevant periods under review based on issue date, removal from sale and the amounts charged for the varying rates based on level of service. For example, mail to South Africa became more costly in 1952 – 1954 and the Road to Jerusalem (250 p) and Negev (500 p) stamps were used on single weight airmail letters or printed matter rather than on parcels or heavier mail.

1948 MAIL

SURFACE MAIL OR NOT SENT



Letter postmarked July 12, 1948 at Tel Aviv with 40 mils. Hebrew notation indicates letter required additional 45 mils. The 85 mils rate not effective for single weight air letters until Sept. 23, 1948. The letter may never have left Tel Aviv or may have been sent as surface mail as rate was 20 mils. The Mandate Period air mail letter rate was 40 mils.

AIR MAIL LETTER – EXCESS FRANKING



Letter postmarked September 27, 1948 at Tel Aviv. The 92 mils franking exceeded the 85 mils air mail letter rate which became effective on September 23, 1948.

1949 – 1950 MAIL

AIR MAIL LETTER – 1 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter postmarked March 31, 1949 at Tel Aviv, 105 mils. Rate for single weight letter, 80 mils, (new) and registration fee of 25 mils.

SURFACE MAIL



Letter postmarked at Tirat Tsvi on September 17, 1948, 20 mils was letter surface rate.

AIR MAIL LETTER – POSTAGE DUE



Airmail letter postmarked on December 8, 1948 at Affula. Underfranked by 10 mils (80 mil rate), resulting in the levy of postage due on arrival in Johannesburg of 20 gold centimes or 2d. Handwritten notation "unknown."

AIR MAIL LETTER – MILITARY MAIL



Single weight air mail cover postmarked November 11, 1948 at Haifa rate of 80 mils. Sent by a soldier via Base APO "B" and Haifa main post office. Contrary to Army regulations regarding correspondence of military personnel, there is no KABA unit triangle, no APO postmark or military return address. The APO Base B backstamp on the cover dated November 9, 1948 occurred because of a directive requesting backstamps on all mail passing through the base post offices between November 7 – 20, 1948.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 2 X WEIGHT



Airmail letter postmarked on January 12, 1949 at Tel Aviv. The 160 mils paid the double weight (80 mils x 2) .

AIR MAIL LETTER – 2 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED, CENSOR TRIANGLE



Airmail letter postmarked October 25, 1949 at Hadera . The 125 prutot postage paid for the registration fee(25) and the new double weight letter rate(50 x 2) which began on July 12, 1949.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 3 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED, CENSORED LABEL



Airmail letter postmarked May 15, 1949 at Rehovot, 265 mils. Calculations: registration fee, 25 mils and triple weight, 3 x 80 mils.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 13 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED, CENSORED LABEL



Airmail letter registered August 26, 1949 at Rehovot 1065 prutot. Calculations: registration fee, 25 mils, letter rate 80 prutot x 13, total = 1040 prutot.

AIR PARCEL WRAPPER – 34 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Registered air mail parcel wrapper mailed 2.6.1949, Tel Aviv to Brakspan, South Africa. Weight of approximately 340 grams, mix franking 80 mils basic air letter rate + 33 x 80 mils for each additional 10 grams + 25 mils registration fee = 2745 mils.

1951 MAIL

SURFACE LETTER – 2 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Surface rate letter postmarked at Tel Aviv October 7, 1951. Double weight cover, 30 prutot + 15 prutot, plus registration, 25 prutot = 70 prutot.

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER – 2 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Registered airmail letter posted July 11, 1951 at Tel Aviv. The 185 prutot of postage paid the registration fee (25) and the 2 x printed matter rate of 80 prutot (160).

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER – 5 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Registered airmail letter postmarked July 24, 1951 at Tel Aviv. The postage of 425 prutot paid the registration fee, 25 prutot, and 5 x revised printed matter rate of 80 prutot = 400 prutot.

AIR MAIL LETTER – SINGLE WEIGHT, EXPRESS



Air mail letter postmarked on May 12, 1951 at Tel Aviv Yafo, 115 prutot. The postage paid the express fee, 40 prutot, and the new single weight letter rate, 75 prutot.

AIR MAIL LETTER – SINGLE WEIGHT, REGISTERED, EXPRESS



Registered express airmail letter dated April 16, 1951. The 140 prutot of postage paid the registration fee (25), express fee (40) and the single weight letter rate of 75 prutot.

1952 MAIL

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER – 2 X WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Printed matter mail postmarked in Tel Aviv August 29, 1952. Printed matter rate 2 x 140 prutot plus registration fee of 60 prutot = 340 prutot.

1952 MAIL

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER – 4 x WEIGHT



A newspaper wrapper postmarked at Tel Aviv on April 6, 1952. The 560 prutot paid the 4 x 140 prutot new printed matter rate.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 3 x WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter postmarked at Tel Aviv October 28, 1952. The 720 prutot paid 3 x 220 prutot, new letter rate, plus the new registration fee, 60 prutot.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 4 x WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter postmarked Tel Aviv. March 7, 1952. Postage: letter 4 x 85 = 340 prutot; (valid only 2 months) registration fee: 40 prutot (new) = 380 prutot.

1953 MAIL

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER – 1 x WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter postmarked Lod Airport November 19, 1953. The 210 prutot postage paid the new printed matter rate of 130 prutot plus the registration fee, 80 prutot.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 3 x WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter posted at Tel Aviv February 19, 1953. Postage 3 x 220 prutot, 660 prutot, plus 60 prutot registration fee = 720 prutot.

AIR MAIL LETTER – 3 x WEIGHT, REGISTERED



Airmail letter postmarked Tel Aviv November 24, 1953. The 680 prutot paid 3 x the letter rate of 200 prutot = 600 prutot, and the new registration fee = 80 prutot.

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■ **ISRAEL COVERS:** 100 for \$60 postpaid to USA addresses. These will be mostly commercial but may include FDC and philatelic covers. Negev Holyland, PO Box 8101, Trenton, NJ 08650 ■

■ **WANTED:** First New Year tabbed commercial covers, rates, origins, destinations. Please send scans, prices to email: jeanpaul.danon@free.fr or Jean-Paul Danon, 157 Avenue de Malakoff, 75116, Paris, France. ■

■ **BUY/TRADE:** Mint, non-hinged and in good condition definitive plate blocks. Send for a list of wants/trades to email: minissen@bigpond.net.au, post: Dr. Nissen, Unit 201/461 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004, Australia. ■

■ **JEWISH MUSEUM:** The Jewish Museum in Portland, Maine is starting a Judaica library with emphasis on the Holocaust and invites book and memorabilia donations on all subjects of Jewish interest. Donations are a 501(c)3. organization so you can get a tax deduction. Contact Barry D. Hoffman, 291 Spurwink Ave., Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107, (617) 584-5555 or email: pakistan@tiac.net. Contact Barry before shipping. ■

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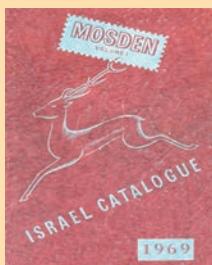
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A list of stamps issued for the Jewish Holidays is available from Briar Road Company, P.O. Box 4565 Manchester, NH 03108. All stamps are available mint or used, in blocks or strips as well as on First Day of Issue covers.

Lists of stamps in each topic are available from **BRIAR ROAD COMPANY P.O. Box 4565 Manchester, NH 03108**. The stamps are available mint or used, in blocks or strips, or on First Day of Issue covers. E-mail: Brstamps@aol.com.

President's Column



Yesterday, I received an e-mail from our editor, Don Chafetz, requesting copy for this column. I thought about several topics ranging from the need for more articles for the Journal (we need them, without them there will be fewer issues), the need for contributions to our various

funds (we need them to provide a secure financial base for the future of the society), the need for more volunteers to assist with various functions to keep the society functioning, the need for more exhibits at society and local shows (we need them, they publicize our collecting interests), etc. I thought a lot about the multitudes of needs that the society has.

Today, I received an e-mail forwarded by Vicki Galecki, which essentially shows us, as a society, how we can meet someone else's need. In April we will be having our annual meeting in Foxborough, Massachusetts. The Foxborough Regional Charter School has been involved for the past few years in a project that is of unique interest to us as stamp collectors in general and as collectors of Israel and Judaica, in particular. In order to impress upon her students the magnitude of the Holocaust, Charlotte Sheer, a 5th grade teacher at the school suggested that the class attempt to collect 11.5 million objects to signify the 11.5 million innocent victims of the Nazi oppression who died. The class decided to attempt to collect 11.5 million cancelled stamps, one to commemorate each victim. Since then the whole school has become involved. As they state on their website <http://www.foxboroughrcs.org/students-families/student-life/frcs-holocaust-stamp-project/> :

Each stamp that is collected symbolizes one wasted life, "thrown away" as having no value, much the same way as an envelope bearing a cancelled postage stamp is tossed in the trash.

They use some of the stamps to make murals related to the Holocaust. After 3 ½ years they are about 1/5 of the way to their goal. So if you have a box of used stamps lying around that you have been saving, waiting for a



New Philatelic Issues

Stamp Value	Name	
Gerberas (Definitive Stamp)	.20, .30, .40, .50, 4. 1.00NIS	
Water-The Source of Live		3.00NIS
Festivals of Light		2.00 NIS
Arad - 50 years		2.00 NIS
Israel Customs		9.50 NIS
Energy Resources in Israel		4.20 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.

10581	Kenneth Whitham	Israel
10582	Wayne F. Maiers	Dubuque, IA

MEMBER AWARDS

Filatelic Fiesta Robert B. Pildes M.D
San Jose, California Noveber 9-11-2012
Forerunners of the Holyland ---Vermeil

ChicagoPex Robert B. Pildes M.D
November 16, 2012
1948 Doar Ivri Issue of Israel---Gold

good opportunity to put them to use, send them to the school.

Holocaust Stamp Project
Foxborough Regional Charter School
131 Central Street, Foxboro, MA 02035

Very truly yours
Howard Rotterdam ■

BERKSHIRE HILLS

Rabbi Harold I. Salzman

Program: Show and Tell
Chapter meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at Markovits Stamp House 1 Shamrock St., Stockbridge, MA, at 10:30 am. •

CENTRAL, NJ

Gary Theodore

Program: Israel's New Issues
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: The History of Zionism
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. •

GREATER HARFORD

Jeffrey Rudolph

MARVIN SIEGEL CHAPTER

Alan Doberman

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. •

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ST. LOUIS

Alan Barasch

CHERRY HILL

Ronald Zukin

Dear friends:

CEFAI won a Vermeil medal in Mainz (Germany), it was the only Argentine magazine that won.

CEFAI also won a Large Vermeil in the international regional that took place in Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Personally I won in Rio Grande a silver medal.

I wish you a very happy new year 2013.

Kindest regards

Roberto Brzostowski

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Moshe Kol Kalman, Kibbutz Lahav, Israel

HOLIDAY DATE

Tu Bishvat is a minor Jewish holiday usually celebrated in late January or early February. It marks the “New Year of the Trees” (Arbor Day). This year it is celebrated on January 26, 2013. The name Tu Bishvat is derived from the Hebrew date of the holiday which occurs on the 15th day of Shevat. The holiday generally falls on the second full moon before Passover, or in a leap year the third full moon before Passover. It is considered one of the four new years in the Jewish calendar.

Customs include planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts, especially figs, dates and raisins. In Israel the flowering of the almond tree which grows wild around the country, coincides with Tu Bishvat.

HOLIDAY TRADITION

Tu Bishvat is used as the cut-off date in the Hebrew calendar for calculating the age of a fruit-bearing tree, Orlah refers to as biblical prohibition off eating the fruit of trees produced during the first three years after they are planted. Orlach remains to this day in essentially the same form it had in Biblical times and uses Tu Bshvat in the same way. In the Orthodox Judaism this practice is still observed today as part of the Jewish law.

In the Middle Ages, Tu Bishavt was celebrated with a feast of fruits in keeping with the Mishnaic description of the holiday as a “New Year.” The main idea was that eating ten specific fruits and drinking four cups of wine in a specific order while reciting the appropriate blessing would bring human beings and the world closer to spiritual perfection.

In Israel the kabbalistic Tu Bishvat seder has been revived and is now celebrated by many Jews, religious and secular, with a special haggadot (plural of hagadah) written for this purpose. In the Chassidic community some Jews pickle or candy the etrog ((citron) from



Rochlin 1812
1983 issue



Rochlin 1895a
1989 issue

JNF–KKL Tu Bishvat Issue
Child picking a flower

Sukkot and eat it on Tu Bishvat, some pray that they will be worthy of a beautiful etrog on the following Sukkot.

NEW TRADITION

On Tu Bishvat in 1890, Rabbi Zeev Yavitz one of the founders of the Mizrachi movement, took his students to plant trees in the agricultural colony of Zichron Yaakov, this custom was adopted in 1908 by the Jewish Teachers Union and later by the KKL–JNF

Over a million Israelis now take part in the Keren Kayemeth Le Israel tree planting activities organized every year on Tu Bishvat. In keeping with the idea the revival of nature symbolized by the budding of the almond tree, many of Israel’s institutions have chosen this day for their inauguration. The corner stone laying for Jerusalem’s Hebrew University took place on Tu Bishvat in 1918, the Haifa Technion in 1925 and the Knesset in 1949.

On kibbutz’s Tu Bishvat is celebrated as an agricultural holiday. ■

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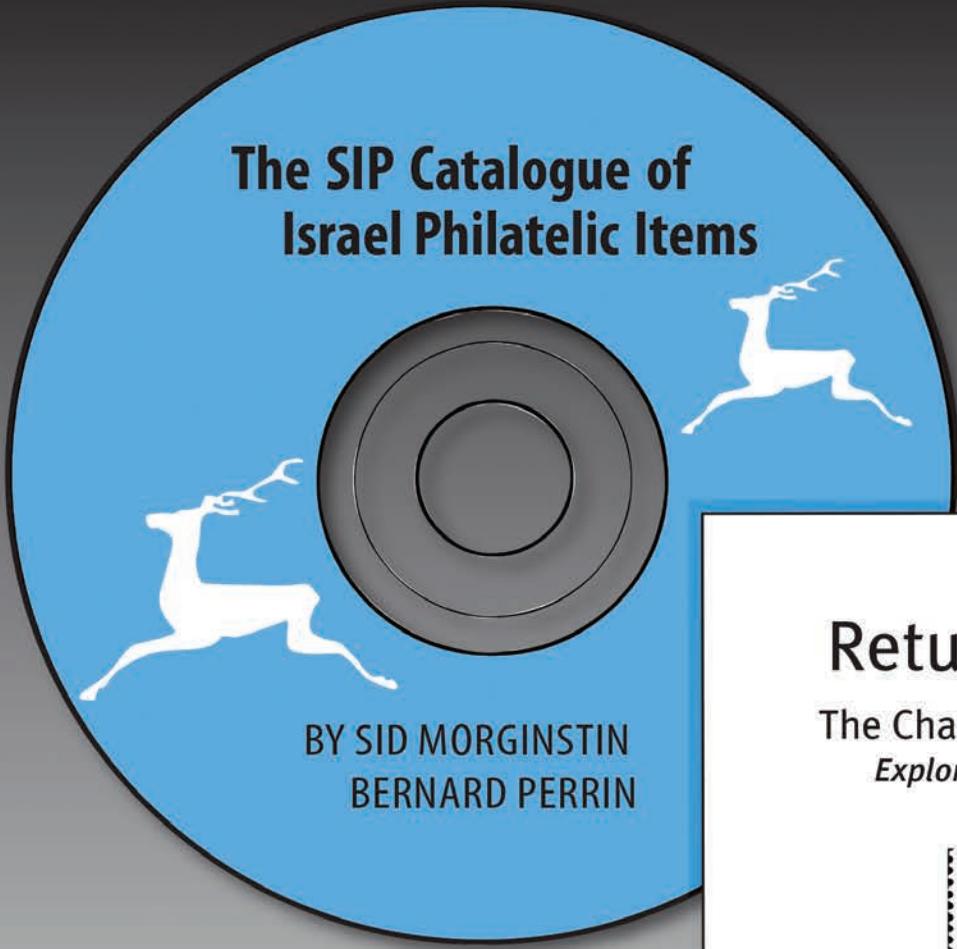
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Society of Israel Philatelists
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