# JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

**ESSAYS, PROOFS AND THE EARLY ISSUES** 

BY: HOWARD S. CHAPMAN

The Jewish National Fund ('JNF") was established at the 5th Zionist congress in Basel, Switzerland in 1901 after a very passionate speech for its creation by Theodore Herzl. The fund was to be the property of all the Jewish people and was originally established to purchase land throughout Palestine. Shortly after the establishment of the JNF, the first stamp of the JNF was issued as a source of fund raising.

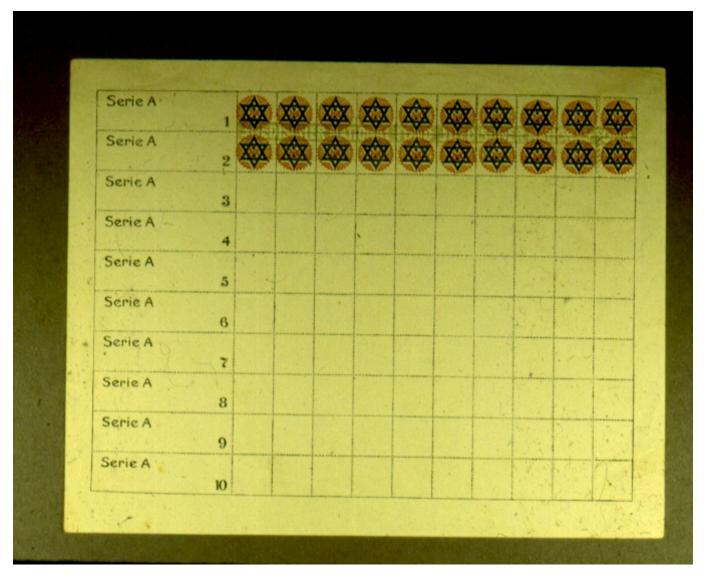
The following slides present examples of the essays, proofs, color trials and usages of the stamp issues of the JNF. While the stamps of the JNF were issued mostly in Palestine and then Israel, other countries such as the United States, Germany, Poland, Russia, Canada, etc issued many. Like any fund raising label, these stamps were issued to tell a story as well as raise money.

The stamps depict the history of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. The process of printing and approving of JNF stamps were similar to that used by the government printer for the stamps of any country. There was selection of the topic or design to be depicted and then essays, proofs and color trials.

- •ESSAY THIS IS A DESIGN WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND DONE IN THE FORM OF A STAMP BUT WAS NOT ACCEPTED TO BE ISSUED.
- •PROOF THIS IS A TRIAL PRINTING MADE FROM A FINISHED PLATE TO DETECT ANY FLAWS IN THE PLATE.
- •COLOR TRIALS THESE ARE PRINTINGS MADE IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COLORS OF A STAMP THAT IS TO BE ISSUED. THE ACTUAL COLOR THAT IS TO BE USED IS SELECTED FROM THESE.

While many stamps of the JNF remain readily available today, such as the early Zion stamp, most of the early issues, the essays and usages of JNF stamps on mail are extremely difficult and rare to find.





**1901 Zion Issue** – Essay of the first stamp of the JNF.







































