

#20 – The Story Behind the Palestine Pictorial Issues

Society of
Israel Philatelists



www.israelstamps.com

Background on Palestine Pictorial Issues

To begin with, from the time the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces occupied Palestine, all stamps issued, starting with 1918, bore an E.E.F. inscription. Later on, when the Military Administration phased out, and the country came under Civil Administration, these E.E.F. stamps were overprinted with the 3 official languages of the country.

As early as 1923, Sir Herbert Samuel wrote a letter to the Acting High Commissioner suggesting that for new postage stamps for Palestine, they use some conventional Arabesques as in the case of Hejaz. Alternatively, the Mufti or Bezalel should make some proposals, or suggestions might be publicly invited in England.

This was referred to the Postmaster General of Palestine, who suggested that new stamps carry views of buildings and places of historical interest, such as the Tower of David, the Zion Gate, interior view of the Golden Gate, Dome of the Rock, and Tiled Ornaments. His reasoning was based on general public acceptability, and that such stamps would advertise the attractions Palestine offered tourists. Finally, he suggested that competitive designs be obtained from the Bezalel Art School and from England.

After a number of consultations, it was decided to hold an open public competition for photographs of local interest. A group of three Senior British Officers was formed as a judging committee, but the final selections were left to the High Commissioner. Prizes were offered and a great deal of interest was created. Large numbers of photographs poured in from all over the world. Of course, each community submitted pictures of special interest to themselves. Most of the photos from Moslems showed views of the Mosque of Omar, and of purely Arab cities like Nablus and Ramleh. Jewish entries consisted of the Western Wall, Rachel's Tomb, and the Mount of Olives. Christians sent in only pictures of Christian holy places.

Finally, 16 pictures were selected by the judging committee as suitable for postage stamps, and prizes were awarded accordingly. Of these, Sir Herbert Samuel chose 4 photographs which depicted: 1. The Tower of David; 2. Rachel's Tomb; 3. The Mosque of Omar; and 4. A view of Tiberias overlooking the Lake of Galilee.

Background on Palestine Pictorial Issues

This matter was then referred to the Colonial Office, which expressed its desire to postpone printing them until arrangements for new Palestinian currency were completed. The High Commissioner raised objections, and in a letter dated Nov. 11, 1924, wrote: "The current issue, introduced as a wartime measure, be it noted is in many respects unsatisfactory. The design is somewhat crude, the values are shown in two of the three official languages, and the letters E.E.F. have long since been meaningless. Furthermore, the necessity for overprinting each stamp with the words Palestine in English, Arabic and Hebrew makes the production expensive."

A correspondence exchange followed, and objections were raised that by placing the Arabic and Hebrew translation of Palestine side by side beneath the picture of the Mosque of Omar, an impression would be conveyed that the Dome of the Rock belonged equally to Jews and Moslems. This argument was refuted by the High Commissioner's reply in which he stated: "I do not consider that there is any real foundation for this objection which I am inclined to place in the same category as an editorial article that appeared some time ago in a newspaper, accusing the Palestine Post Office of engaging in Christian propaganda by including a Maltese Cross in the design of a date stamp. The date stamp in question was a standard pattern of the British Post Office. In any case, whatever objection may be raised to the Arabic and Hebrew lettering on the grounds quoted, it ceases to carry weight since the same arrangements will be adopted for all other designs."

In the meantime, the current issue of overprinted E.E.F. stamps was the cause of an unusual law case in 1925, when a certain Jamal Effendi al Husseini, described on the charge sheet as "...an Arab gentleman resident in Palestine, a citizen of the country," accused the High Commissioner's government of contravening the provisions of Article 22 of the British Mandate. The basis of the complaint was that to the Hebrew word "Palestine" in the overprint, were added the letters Alef and Yod – the initials of Eretz Yisrael. The plaintiff acted as Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Moslem-Christian Association in Palestine. The Chief Justice was of the opinion that the addition of these initials did not constitute a danger to the interests of any part of the population, but the court considered that the points raised should be examined further. However, the court allowed the case to die by dropping it. It is to be noted that when new stamps did finally appear, the Hebrew inscription still contained the letters which had been the subject of the complaint. But perhaps as a compromise, they were enclosed in brackets.

Because of the prevailing political situation in Palestine, the Colonial Office succeeded in postponing the issuance of new stamps until 1927, when the change to Palestinian currency was effected.

Background on Palestine Pictorial Issues

These stamps were printed on a very thin semi-transparent paper. The first ones to go on sale were the 3 mil and 13 mil values, which were issued on June 1, 1927. The rest of the set went on sale August 14, 1927.

Little publicity was given to this issue, because the existence of First Day covers is still unknown. However, stamp dealers of that period stocked up on enough mint sets to more than meet current demand, so that mint copies are not too difficult to find. The real challenge is to locate used copies, because of what followed.

The Palestinian postal authorities discovered that due to the hot and dry climate, these first issued stamps curled very badly, and were very difficult to handle. Consequently, complaints were forwarded to the Crown Agents in England. This matter was resolved by having all future printings made on a thicker paper with a ribbed appearance. This ribbing was affected by machine during the drying process after the paper had been gummed, and can be seen as alternating small wavy impressions running vertically in the paper. This is also quite visible on the gummed side of mint stamps. This solved some of the curling problem. According to Hoexter, the earliest date known on this type of paper is March 1928, but a fellow collector informed me some years ago that he found a 3 mil value with a February 17th date. I now have a copy with a February 28th date. It is reasonable to assume that this value was placed on sale much earlier than any other.

Since this minor paper change did not materially alter the appearance of these stamps, no one paid much attention at the time, and consequently most of them were used postally, making the mint copies quite a bit more elusive today than used copies.

Since its usage was rather limited, the 90 mil had a relatively short life (a total of 4.5 years). It was withdrawn from sale on January 16, 1932. Also, in 1932 there were some minor postal rate changes, with the consequent issuance of a new 15 mil value, and a change of color on four of the then existing values. On June 1st, the 7 and 8 mils in the old colors were withdrawn, and issued as 7 mil violet and 8 mil red. On August 1st, the 13 mil ochre and 15 mil pale blue were issued. The 4 mil purple replaced the 4 mil pink on November 1, 1932.

NEW DISCOVERIES IN PALESTINE EXPERIMENTAL COILS

The first known coil stamp used in Palestine was the 5 mil value. Until this day, the most authoritative sources list the year of its appearance as 1936. To some extent this is true, however, quite recently I have made some startling discoveries pertaining to some experimental coils.

My story really goes back to a collection that I purchased many years ago. When I examined 2 vertical pairs of the 5 m mounted and annotated as coils, I also measured the perforations, and found these to be the regular 12.5 X 14.5. Besides, I remember saying to myself that these stamps were on ribbed paper, as I tucked them away among my duplicates. Only a few weeks ago, I was examining my collection for shades, when I referred to these stamps again. They looked somewhat different and closer examination showed that these stamps had been vertically cut out of sheets, so I said to myself, "maybe from booklets?" Then I noticed that the two pairs had actually at one time been a strip of 4. Peculiar, I thought. But now I noticed that the cuts were on both sides of the strip, and hence the stamps couldn't have come from a booklet. Critically pursuing my examination further, I looked at the gummed side and noticed that although the paper was ribbed, it was much thinner than the normal ribbed paper variety, and that the paper was almost semi-transparent. Now began the exciting part of the search.

The used 5 m pictorial stamp is by far the commonest of all Palestinian stamps, always relegated to packet material. I have them by the hundreds, and I have seen them by the tens of thousands.

For several evenings, I looked through my accumulations of this stamp, paying particular attention to older accumulations. The task was tedious, and I felt as if I were looking for a needle in a haystack. Luck was on my side. Of the small number I culled out as possibles, I found 4 used experimental coils! Two were damaged (short or pulled perfs) due to the early type vending machines. I have similar examples of the regular used 5 mil coil. One was perfect, and the fourth was an example of a paste-up! Of these, I could determine postmarks from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, proving usage in the three major cities. One shows a clear postmark date of 1 JA 33, proving use of these experimental coils beginning at least on that day. There is always the possibility of earlier usage.

NEW DISCOVERIES IN PALESTINE EXPERIMENTAL COILS

My conclusion is that a special printing of the 5 mil was requested by the Postal authorities in early 1932, on a thinner paper, reserved only for the make-up of these experimental coils. The sheets were cut and pasted up into rolls for use in vending machines, which were placed only in the large post offices for a number of years.

The regular 5 mil coil was printed by a different process, and cut from continuous rolls into rolls of 500 stamps. Many printings were made, and consequently we have many shades. A well-known variety is the inverted watermark, which appeared about 1938. Since there was no curling problem, the paper was not ribbed. A peculiarity common to all Palestinian coils is that they are perforated all around, but these differ and measure 14.5 x 14 instead of 13.5 x 14.5 for stamps in the regular sheets.

The only mention of the existence of the 15 mil coil is found in the Hoexter & Lachmann catalogue on page 42, which states: "In 1940, the 15 m stamp on very thin semi-transparent paper with a ribbed appearance came out (probably for the make-up of coils)."

However, the complete story on these elusive coils is yet to be discovered and documented. Some years ago, I purchased another collection of Palestine stamps and covers, which was obviously formed by someone whose interest in the stamps of Palestine dated back to the early 30's, for he had many covers from Palestine and later Israel addressed directly to him. In particular, there was a lot of correspondence from a dealer who lived in Tel Aviv, who franked his letters with interesting material, such as the 5 and 10 mil coil values, gutter pairs, and other interesting combinations. I found one cover franked with a pair of the 15 mil coil, with additional pencil markings on the lower left hand corner. But inside the cover, I found a mint pair of this unusual item. This cover is registered and postmarked 14 DE 37.

NEW DISCOVERIES IN PALESTINE EXPERIMENTAL COILS

Recently, I acquired a used pair of this stamp, and I further noticed that this particular item bears evidence of the paste-up variety. It seems that these stamps were printed on special paper in the normal sheet size, with normal perforations. These in turn, like the 5 mil experimental coil, were manually cut into strips, and then by using the sheet margins pasted into rolls for use in coil vending machines in only a few of the larger post offices. They were probably used from 1937 until mid-1941 (latest date seen is 15 JUNE 1941) on a limited basis, until new postal rates were introduced.

The 10 mil coil made its appearance in 1938, and like the 5 mil coil, is perforated 14.5 X 14. Many shades (at least 3) also exist of this value. Note: a mint pair of the 15 mil experimental coil exchanged hands from a dealer to a collector last year at a price of \$70.

Along in 1937 and during the early part of 1938, a few values were processed to make the ribbing in the paper run horizontally instead of vertically. This was done on an experimental basis to see if this process would improve the stamp handling problem at the post offices. Known values with horizontally ribbed paper are the 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 15 mil values. Again, nobody noticed any difference in these stamps at the time, so very few mint copies are known to exist. Processing was resumed in the old way of manufacture without anyone paying much attention.

The Second World War brought about certain economy measures in stamp production. Nobody knows exactly when this took place, but all new printings were made on a smooth plain very white wove paper. As far as I can determine, a cover with the earliest known date of usage for any of these bears a pair of 20 mil stamps on this white wove paper, and is clearly cancelled on June 7, 1940. Maybe earlier dates will show up someday.

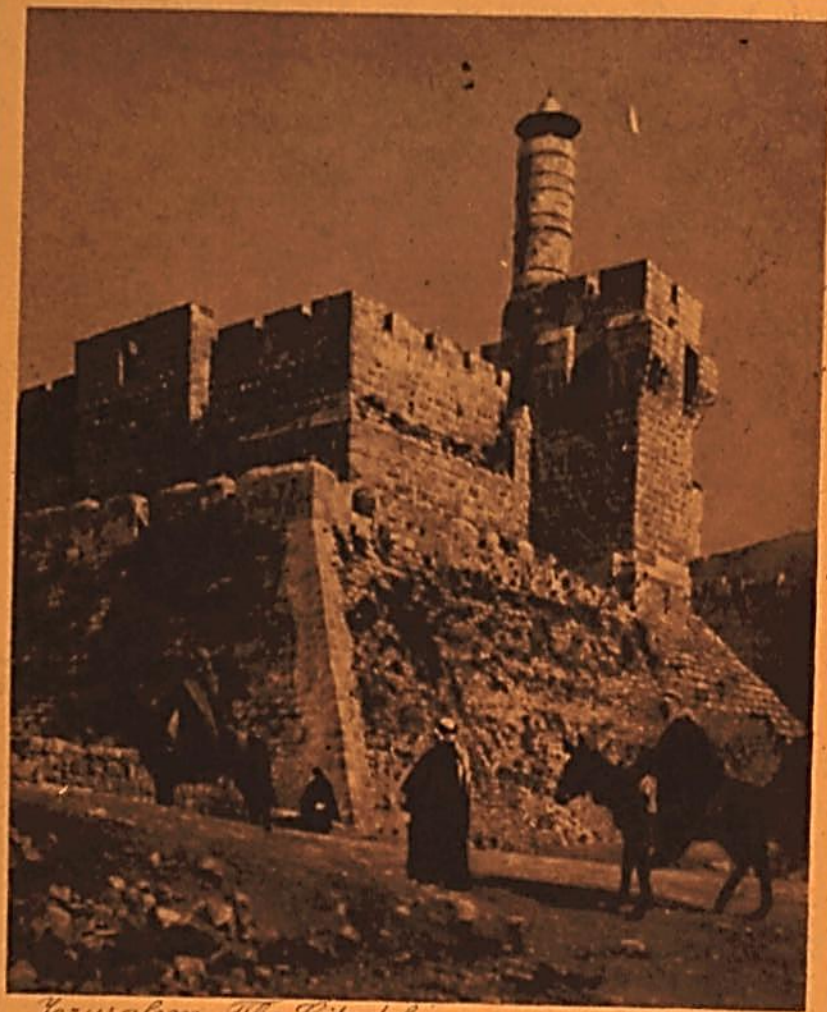
War also brings with it inflation, and new postal rates. On January 15, 1942 three new stamps appeared. These are the 250, 500 mil and 1 pound values. First Day covers of these are known to exist. Although the design looks very much like the earlier high values, there are minor differences (1 mm wider design). These were the last ever issued for Palestine under the British Mandate.

RAHEL'S TOMB, NEAR BETHLEHEM

קבר רחל אמנו, ליד בית-לחם.

לשנת ה'תרמ"ח





Jerusalem, The Citadel

J. Bonot. Hälter

es ist einfach schön hier. Dieren Sommer war es ardent
 lido heiß es hat mir aber gar nicht's geschadet, im Ge-
 genteil. Jetzt ist es so wie bei uns im Frühjahr u.
 es riecht gar nicht nach Weib nahken aus. Jetzt soll
 bald die Regenzeit kommen, worauf ich auch me-
 riger freude. Das habe so eine feine Stelle, so schön
 hätte ich's im Deutschland mit Wärmere Zonen nun
 die Gute für die Erkennung u. kann man auch nach was
 haben u. viele Gerste. Grüne u. diese Stadt.



JÉRUSALEM. Mosquée d'Omar.
JERUSALEM. Mosque of Omar.

GERUSALEMME. Moschea d'Omar.
JERUSALEM. Omar-Moschee.



Tiberias - Taken from the sea of Galilee

5

FRIEDRICH KUEBLER

JERUSALEM P. O. B. 170

(PALESTINE)

Registered:-

Messrs.

J. Zossenheim & Partners

R JERUSALEM
No. 5381

44 York place

Leeds.-

England



JAFFA
R No.2402



REGISTERED
JUL 27 1917
PALESTINE

Scott C. Bland Esq.,

Albina, Mansfield Road

Parkstone,

Dorset

England

From G. Atallah
Jaffa



H. C. Luke By C.M.G. etc

Colonial Secretary's Office

Freetown Sierra Leone



PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue

Designed by Mr. F. Taylor
Typographed by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
Wmk. Multiple Crown & Script CA

Dates of issue:
3 and 13 mil - June 1, 1927

Thin Semi-Transparent Paper
Perf. 13½x14½



Perf. 14.





Messrs.

J. ZOSSENHEIM & PARTNERS,

PLACE,

LEEDS.

Cover postmarked 6 MY 28.
6 & 8 mil values - thin paper.
3 & 7 mil values - vert. ribbed paper.

**ENGLAND.
ANGLETERRE.**

R JERUSALEM
No. 4427

R JERUSALEM
No. 9138



Messrs.

57



J. ZOSSENHEIM & PARTNERS,

44, YORK PLACE,

LEEDS.

Cover postmarked 19 OCT 28.

10 mil value - thin paper.

3, 6 & 8 mil values - vert. ribbed paper.

14
BANCO DI ROMA

GERUSALEMME (Palestina)

Mod. 1 (Palestina)

R JERUSALEM 2
No. 787

RACC.



Please return if not delivered within 5 days

Messieurs

Zassenheim & Partners
44 York Place.

Cover postmarked 17 JA 29.
4 mil - thin paper.
8 mil - vert. ribbed paper.

Leeds (England)

BANCO DI ROMA
GERUSALEMME (Palestina)

Mod. I: 41 (Palestina)

R JERUSALEM 2
No. 2420



return if not delivered within 5 Days

Messieurs

*J. Zassenheim & Partners
44 York Place*

Cover postmarked 9 JY 29.

5, 6, 7 & 8 mil values - all vert. ribbed.

Leeds (England)

R JERUSALEM
No.3702

Messrs.

J. ZOSSENHEIM & PARTNERS,

44, YORK PLACE,

Cover postmarked 26 OC 29.

3, 4, 6 & 7 mil values - all vert. ribbed.

Note: 6 mil is the scarce gray-green shade.

ENGLAND.

ANGLETERRE.

LEEDS.



R JERUSALEM
No. 2629



Messrs.

583

J. ZOSSENHEIM & PARTNERS,

44, YORK PLACE,

LEEDS.

Registered
ENGLAND.

Cover postmarked 7 JA 32.

4, 7 & 13 mil values (obs. colors) - vert. ribbed.

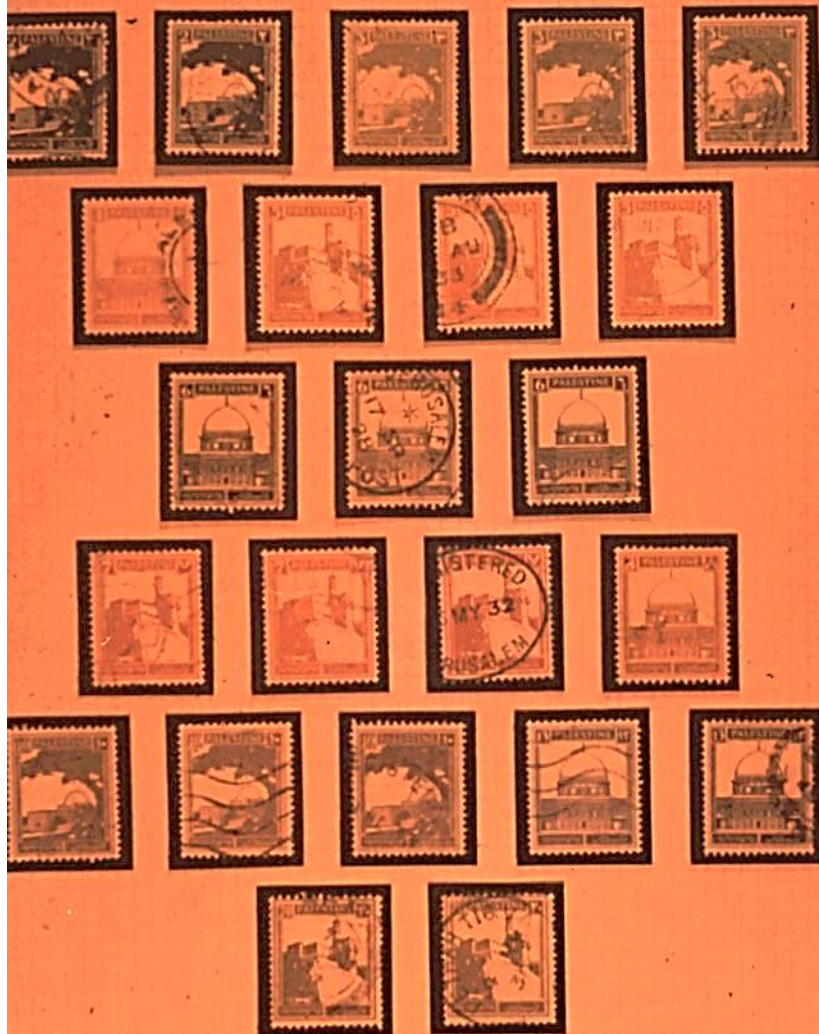
PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue

Vertically Ribbed Paper

The earliest date known with this paper is March 1928.

Wmk. Multiple Crown & Script CA. Perf. 13½x14½





PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue
Vertically Ribbed Paper

Wmk. Multiple Crown & Script CA

Perf. 14.



Change of Colors and New Value

Dates of Issue:

7 and 8 mil - June 1, 1932

13 and 15 mil - August 1, 1932

4 mil - November 1, 1932

Wmk. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 13½x14½



BANK DER TEMPELGESELLSCHAFT
(Bank of the Temple Society) Ltd.
JAFFA, P.O.B. 24. 30 JUN 32 3PM
(PALESTINE)



The
International Banking Directory

New - York . USA.

185 Madison Avenue .

Cover postmarked 30 JUN 32.
7 m purple & 8 m red - both issued June 1, 1932.

RABBINICAL OFFICE

PETHAH-TIKVAH (Palestine).

P. O. B. 36.

לשכת הרבנות

פתח-תקוה א"י

ת. ד. 36

R PETHAH TIQVA
No. 632

Mrs. J. H. Miller Faggen

1837 North 33 St.

Philadelphia, Pa.

U. S. A.



Cover postmarked 1 SP 32.
13 m ochre & 15 m blue - both issued August 1, 1932.



Mr. Herman Rudenstein

U.S.A.

3235 W. Page Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

W. E. Egbert, Esq.

601 East Thirteenth Str.

Chester, Pennsylvania

U. S. A.



coil stamp

43 Van
in exchange
4/11/17

over



Dr

W. E. Egbert,

601 East 13th Street,

R TEL AVIV 11
No 0306

Chester (Penna)

U.S.A.
~~~~~



Mr. G. Heilborn  
House Kornfeld  
Haifa - Achiza.

Gr =

**R** TEL AVIV  
No 1119



W. C. Egbert,

601, East Thirteenth St.,

Chester.

(Pennsylvania)

U. S. A.

ב. י. א. ר. י. ת.  
REGISTERED  
Cris  
per letter  
9/10/57  
12/14/57

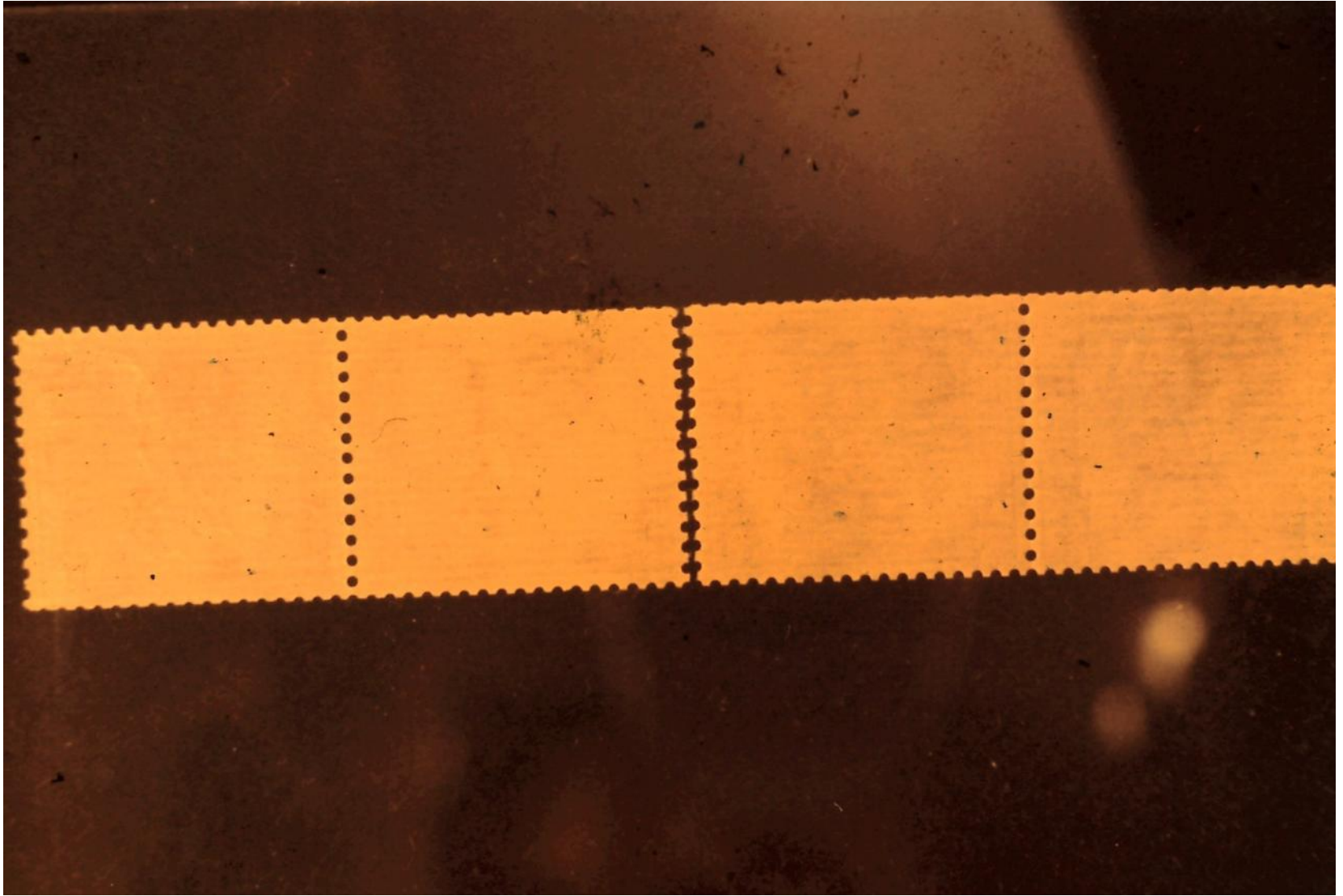




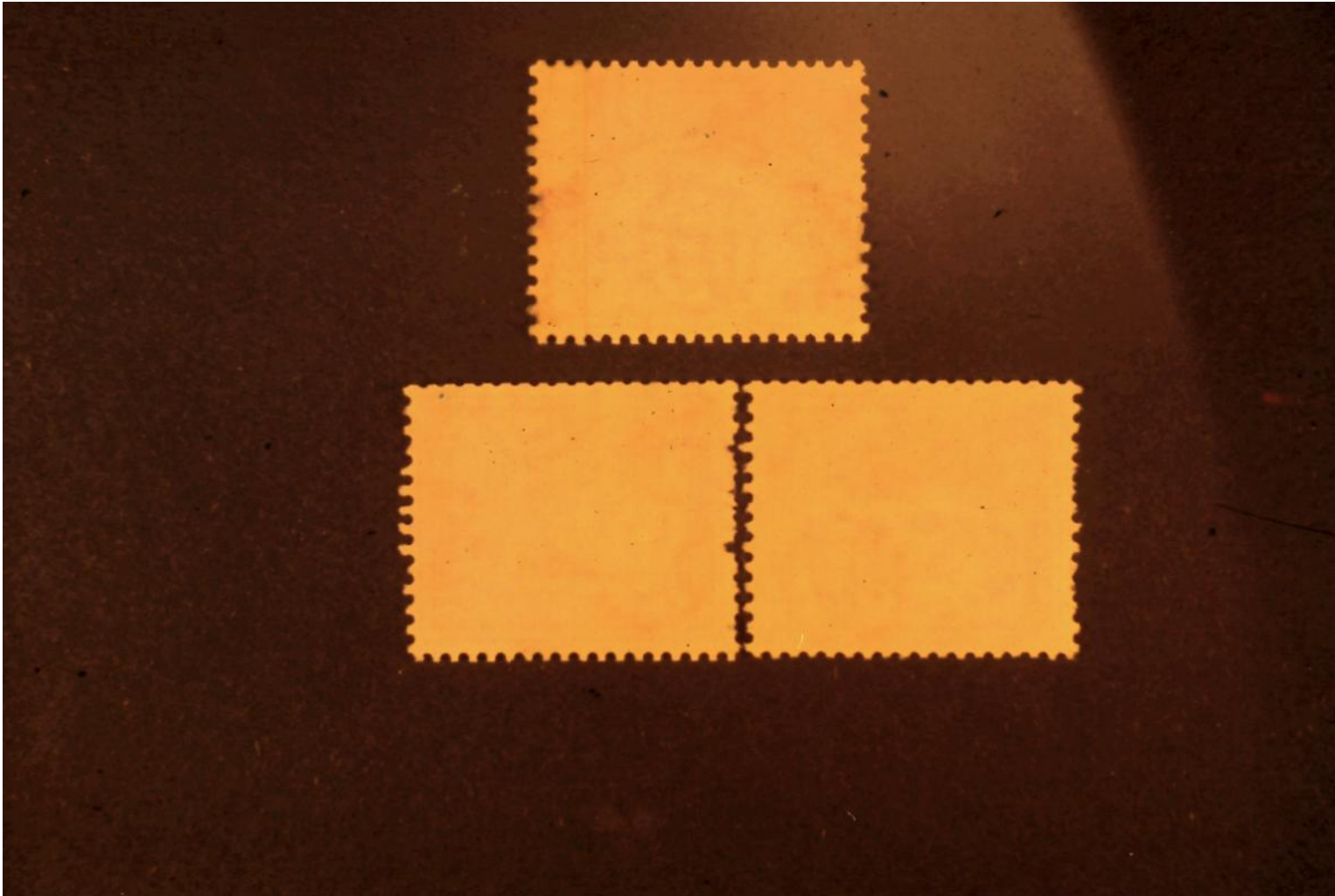












# PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue

The Coils

The 5 mil coil appeared in 1936, and the 10 mil coil in 1938. These stamps were issued in rolls of 500, and are on plain white wove paper.

10k. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 14½x14



*Int. W. H. K.*

Horizontally Ribbed Paper

1937

10k. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 13½x14½





3 m on horizontally ribbed paper.



Mr.

Harvey Popky

256 Hazle Str.

WilkesBore Pa.

---

U. S. America

Cover postmarked 20 MY 37.

5 m. on horizontally ribbed paper.

*C. Q. M. S. W. F. Roberts,  
Vittoria Barrac  
Sarafand.*





Very Rev. Fr. Wenceslaus Kozycski, O.F.M.,  
Minister Provincial,  
3140 - Meramec Street,  
St. Louis 18,  
Missouri,  
U. S. A.

Cover postmarked 28 NO 44.

6 m on horizontally ribbed paper - deep green shade.  
8 m on vertically ribbed paper.

Rec'd Nov 4<sup>46</sup>



Very Rev. Fr. Wenceslaus Krzycki, O. F. M.,  
Minister Provincial,  
3140 Meramec St.,  
St. Louis 18,

Cover postmarked 3 SP 46

6 m green on horizontally ribbed paper (late usage).

8 m on vert. ribbed paper.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSÉLLE  
PALESTINE

POST CARD



CARTE POSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

רק הכתובת תכתב בצד זה      يكتب العنوان فقط على هذه الجهة



Mr. S. WOLFFENSTEIN  
15/16. BLEIBTREU ST  
BERLIN - CHARL. 2



Sender:  
NECHUSHTAN Ltd.  
P.O. B. 131  
HAIFA

GERMANY

8 mil postal stationery card - postmarked 22 JY 38.

7 m on horizontally ribbed paper.

in German

Herrn Carlo Cucco

Via XX Settembre 18

BIELLA / ITALIEN

*Italy.*



OPENED BY  
CENSOR.

PC 22

Cover postmarked 10 MY 40.

8 mil on horizontally ribbed paper.  
7 mil on vertically ribbed paper.

PASSED BY CENSOR  
No. 1619  
AIR MAIL

*Written in English*

*Mrs. H. Mc Namara  
10 Turners Square  
Shoreditch  
London*



Field Post Office cover - postmarked 4 JU 40.

Upper 10 mil. and 5 mil - vertically ribbed paper.  
Lower 10 mil - horizontally ribbed paper.

P.O.B. 5010 ת.ד. 5010  
JERUSALEM ירושלים  
Palestine ארץ-ישראל



Mrs. Jennie H. Miller Faggen,  
1837 No. 33rd Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

U. S. America.

Cover postmarked 20 OCT 38.

15 mil on horizontally ribbed paper.



# PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue

Very White Wove Paper

Earliest date known is June 19, 1940.

Mk. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 13½x14½



C.147/21/4.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

ENGLISH.



The Consul of the U.S.A.,

MONTREAL,

CANADA.

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| <b>R</b> | TEL AVIV |
|          | No 0081  |

4 JUL 1940

Certified Official

REGISTRAR  
JUL 7 1940

NEW YORK  
JUL 4 1940  
REVENUE NATIONAL SERVICE  
POSTAL BRANCH  
JUL 5 1940  
JUN 1940  
MINAL BRANCH

NEW YORK  
JUL 7 1940  
REGISTRAR

*J. J. ...*  
C.I.D.

REGISTRAR  
JUL 7 1940

# PALESTINE

The Pictorial Issue

Very White Wove Paper

Mk. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 14



New Values, January 15, 1942

Typographed by Messrs. Thomas de la Rue & Co., London.

Mk. Mult. Crown & Script CA

Perf. 14



K.L.M.



R JERUSALEM 20  
No 0722



66135

685

9066f

Fran.



A. Doessler

~~Wevergracht 446~~

~~Amsterdam~~

Holland

33 Brookdale avenue  
New Rochelle NY

From  
M. H. H. in London

Palatine



*Registered*

Written in English

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

**R** JERUSALEM  
No 7927

The American News Company

131 Varick Street,  
New York 13, N.Y.



F

R  
2





