

Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc.



SIP EDUCATIONAL FUND

The Education Fund was pleased to add to the Bookstore catalogue: Salo Aizenberg's "Hatemail", which is published by the Jewish Publication Society; Harold Ribalow's "The History of Israel's Postage Stamps (Stamps from 1948 to 1956)"; and the first in hopefully a long series, "Sarasota 2014", which documents the Israel/Palestine/Holyland/Judaic exhibits at the 2014 SIP National Exhibit. Also, "Tabs of Israel" by Rozman was updated to include color illustrations. Finally, The Israel Philatelists reprints were brought up to date with the publication of three volumes encompassing The Israel Philatelists issued between 2007 and 2012.

Upcoming books include "NOJEX 2015," which documents exhibits at the 2015 SIP National Convention, and the IP reprints encompassing issues published between 2013 and 2014. Don Chafetz is currently working on documenting B'nai B'rith Youth Organization First Day Covers, which were issued under the auspices of Dr. David Firestone between 1979 and 2005. Dr. Firestone has agreed to assist with the project.

In 2014, the Ed Fund received 84 mail and digital (via Bookstore webpage on the society website) orders, which is down 2 from the 2013 bonanza year. Total sales for 2014 were \$2,838.05, which is down 26% from 2013. In addition, the Ed Fund received \$41.40 and \$200.00 in commission for sales of Israel Philatelic Federation publications and Brian Gruz'd's sales of Bruce Chadderton's book "Descent into the Abyss" in South Africa, respectively, in 2014 while the Ed Fund received \$60.00 in donations, excluding donations made to the 2014 and 2015 SIP. The major driver was the Ed Fund financing of the new SIP Web Site and shifting from Hy-Ko printing to small order printers. Changes in the shipping charges have reduced the losses incurred with US and International shipping of publications.

For the year to date, the Ed Fund has 26 purchases where 3 were for items carried by Israel Philatelic Federation. Nineteen of the 26 sales were generated through the online bookstore. To make the online bookstore experience more user friendly, I am planning the following modifications: (1) bookstore searchable by key word, SKU number, and author, (2) add USPS module that will calculate postage based on order weight, which should reduce the overcharge caused by the normal system, and (3) enable Life Members to get their 20% discount per order using the website. Currently holding on project until Digitalization Project is complete.

The Digitalization Project expenses are slowly winding down though it continues to expend Ed Fund resources even without the Endowment Fund loans. Though not needed now, I may request in the future request a final loan from the Endowment fund to stabilize the Ed Fund financials.

Book projects on the horizon include the following:

- **NOJEX2015** Have permission from all 12 of the Israel/Holy Land/Judaica exhibitors to publish all 15 exhibits. Because the number of exhibits, NOJEX 2015 will be over 1000 pages broken up into a two-volume set. At this time, I have received 2 exhibits and they have been incorporated into the book.

- I am working with Bob Pildes to turn his “Artists’ Drawings, Essays, and Proofs of the 1948 Doar Ivri Issue of Israel and their Usage,” which traces the development of the Doar Ivri from the initial Yehuda and Eretz Israel essays, into a publication. I am targeting the completion of the first draft to have back to him by NOJEX. The text, at this time, is based on his presentation to the Collectors Club earlier this year and I am hoping that he will further elaborate on the document.
- Don Chafetz is working “Bnai B’rith FDCs” At this time, I don’t know the status of the project but we have agreement from David Firestone to reproduce all of the covers he produced. He will supply us with reproductions of missing issues.
- Also, David Dubin will be writing a supplement to “Military Postal Stationery”. I intend to merge the supplement with the current publication to create a 2nd Edition.

The SIP Ed Fund has been financing the SIP Digitization project, which was spearheaded by Mike Bass, past SIP President.

In conclusion, the Ed Fund is forever looking to expand its offering by reaching out to Israel/Palestine/Holy Land/Judaica philatelic collectors. The goal is to preserve philatelic knowledge for posterity. Please consider documenting your interests/area expertise and allowing the Ed Fund to publish the manuscript.

Respectively submitted,

David Kaplin, Director
Education Fund