

New Zealand



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 1

This, an apparently “schnorer”¹ cover, is addressed to Auckland, New Zealand, Australia. It is postmarked Jaffa, Steichele S-630, dated January 8, 1900 (Julian calendar used by the Russian Post until 1917) which corresponds to January 20 in the Gregorian calendar. It is franked with a 2 Kon adhesive paying the printed matter rate and, in compliance with postal regulations, is unsealed. It is addressed to an apparent Jewish individual as the last name is Tobias (Figure 1). On the reverse (Figure 2) is a repeat of the postmark on the front and transit postmarks: Alexandria, January 22, 1900, Suez, January 22, 1900, two fragmentary postmarks dated February 4, and the arrival postmark Auckland, New Zealand, February 26, 1900, indicating an elapsed time of 37 days.

HOSPITAL HANDSTAMP

What makes this cover particularly interesting, besides its scarcity, is the inclusion of the violet round marking (Figure 3) which reads: “Allg. 1ST. HOSPITAL- MISGAB-LADACH Jerusalem”. This indicates that the cover was sent from the Misgav Ladach hospital, one of the 11 Jewish hospitals functioning in Jerusalem. It was a maternity hospital with 75 beds. This was the fifth and largest of the Jewish hospitals in Jerusalem and was known as the Russian hospital. Each of the countries and religious denominations with a significant number of members had its own hospital.



Misgav Ladach Hospital

DR. D'ARBELLA

The hospital was managed by a Russian Jewish doctor named Israel Gregory d'Arbella. He was a war hero and one of the few Russian Jews decorated by Czar for personal gallantry. He had traveled extensively and had received seven or eight decorations from various sovereigns of Europe. He was said to have made an impressive sight when wearing his decorations, inlaid guns and a diamond hilted sword. He had a young son and daughter and his desire was to give them a Jewish education. Though not strictly observant, it is recorded that he neither



Dr. D'Arbella

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