



Figure 6 Russian 1905 3 Kop postcard to Jerusalem showing circled “T” and “ROPIT JERUSALEM” arrival postmark.

is faintly seen on the lower right corner.

Another 3 Kop postcard is shown in Figure 6. It was mailed on June 29, 1905 from Ekaterinoslav to Jerusalem by the Zionist leader M. Usishkin, just before he left for the 7th Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. This postcard is also underpaid 1 Kop, therefore an encircled “T” was applied, probably by the office of origin. Further markings are an Odessa transit mark on July 1, and “ROPIT JERUSALEM” arrival dated July 19, 1905.



Figure 7 The only Russian taxed item with clear evidence – by manuscript – of charges having been collected.

Apparently the tax – again 2 Kop – was collected in cash on delivery.

The Figure 7 postcard, mailed in September 1913, bears a 2 Kop stamp and shows clear signs of another stamp which is missing. It shows a violet “T”, encircled by small stars, a handstamp and two manuscript notations.

These manuscripts prove to be most interesting. One, in red on the lower edge, reads “To collect 2 Metaliks”. The other, in blue, reads “2 Metaliks received” followed

by a signature. A Metalik was an Ottoman coin equal to 10 paras, so the tax was 20 paras, equal to 4 Kopecks (1 Kopeck = 5 paras). This tax suggests that the missing stamp was the reason for taxation – the postcard rate was 4 Kop and the tax of 4 Kop is twice the missing 2 Kop

Unfortunately, from the four items recorded for the Russian Office, it is not possible to conclude that any of the handstamps used were applied in the Holy Land. In all likelihood they were applied at the outgoing office as is usually the case.

THE GERMAN POST OFFICE

Only three items have been recorded that show postage due charges were collected upon delivery by the German Post in the Holy Land. All these items clearly show the charges in manuscript.

The earliest, and the only inland item, was illustrated by Collins in his article² It is a postcard mailed from Rishon LeZion via Jaffa to Jerusalem on April 4, 1906 and franked by a 10 para stamp. As the rate was 20 para, a boxed “T” – typical for the German Post – was applied and the charge of ½ piastre, double the missing 10 paras, was marked by blue crayon.

The following two postcards were mailed from Germany to the Holy Land, each only franked 5 pf instead of 10 pf.. Therefore each were taxed upon arrival and charged ½ piastre (5 pf x 2 = 10 pf = 20 paras = ½ piastre).

The postcard in Figure 8 was mailed on March 12, 1908 from Konigsberg to Jaffa (to a POB) at the Austrian Post

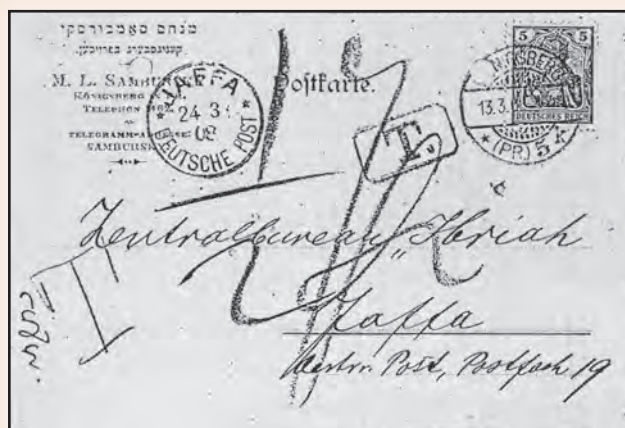


Figure 8: Underfranked German post card taxed ½piastre in Jaffa, 1908.

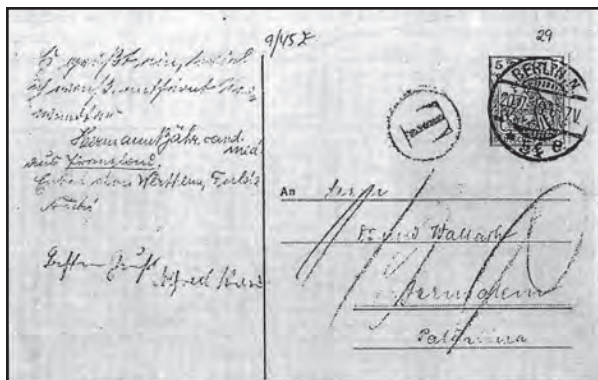


Figure 9: Underfranked German post card taxed ½ piastre in Jerusalem 1910.

Office!). It shows the typical German boxed “T” mark, Jaffa arrival dated March 24, 1908 and a bold “½Pi” in blue in manuscript.

The other (Figure 9) had been mailed from Berlin on July 20, 1910 to the well known physician Dr. Wallach in Jerusalem. It has an encircled “T” mark, and again is inscribed “½ P” by blue pencil. The charges on all these postcards were collected in cash upon delivery.

Acknowledgements: I would like to express my help from the late H.G. Muentz z”l for the Russian translations in Figure 6.

Reference:

1. N.J. Collins, HLP# #52 (1992), pp. 594-605, Figure 12.
2. N.J. Collins, HLP# #52, (1992) pp. 594-605, Figs. 15 & 17. ■

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