



THE ISRAEL PHILATELIST

SOCIETY OF ISRAEL PHILATELISTS INC. SUMMER 2021

DEVOTED to the PHILATELY of the HOLY LAND and JUDAICA ★ VOL. LXXII NO. 3

MIKHAIL TAL A CHESS CHAMPION FOR ALL AGES



FRANK SIEWERDT
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PAGE 30



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\$9,250 Thank you for your generous support!



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Cover designed by Irv Osterer
SIP 70th Celebration delayed due to the virus
I still have a few signed anniversary
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Editor's Notes

Donald A. Chafetz



Created by **Haim Yisroel Goldberg** (1888-1941) — the most important and prolific designer of *Shanah Tova* cards in Europe. On the wall are portraits of two cultural leaders of the Jewish Enlightenment — the Yiddish writer, I. L. Peretz, is on the right; the Hebrew writer, H. N. Bialik, is on the left.

The Yiddish poem, also written by the artist reads — *Zol Gott farschriben dir atzund in bukh fun langes leben, un benchen zol er unser bund, un glick un fried uns geben. May God write your name now in the book of long life, and may He bless our union and give us success and peace.*



*Wishing all our members
good health, happiness,
peace & prosperity in 5782*

**שנה
טובה**

May everyone have a sweet and healthy New Year and
be inscribed in the Book of Life.
Card designed by Irv Orsterer

SIP Data Base

The technical part of the project of moving and expanding the Web site database of **The Israel Philatelists** has been completed. Now we need to load on the web site the journals, their covers and create the searchable index. Once the summer **Israel Philatelist** is at the printers that is my next project. I will have help from Shawn Dilles.

The work involves basically typing each issues Table of Contents into a fixed format sheet and then forward to the web company. Once all the journals are loaded and the Table of Contents index is loaded there is a short period of testing to ensure everything works correctly.

If anyone would like to help with this project, please email me at: sipeditor@gmail.com. It would be helpful to have two or three helpers. You would work on your own schedule. We need to add journals from 2016 to date and their index.

SIP Convention

Just a reminder the SIP Convention is scheduled to be held at NOJEX 2021, October 15 - 17, Hilton Meadowlands, 2

The Israel Philatelist - Summer 2021

Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford, NJ, (844) 306-9178,
Hotel Reservations Accepted, Special Rate: \$149 per night.

If you would like to exhibit contact:

GlennSpies02@gmail.com

NOJEX Prospectus and Entry Form

https://www.nojex.org/uploads/3/1/8/8/31889487/no-jex_final_prospectus_2021.pdf

It is planned to have a Zoom convention meeting and presentation. Full information will be on the SIP web site, Facebook and an email sent to all members.

It has been a long time when we have had an in person meeting so this is a good chance to renew friendships.

There will be Holy Land dealers at the show so now there is a good opportunity to add to your collection.

Hope to see many members at the show. ■

www.israelstamps.com

Letters to the Editor

TO ALL: z"l

I was just informed that Ze'ev Revitch passed in July, He was a great collector of Israel and Judaica - especially autographs. He went out of his way to get autographs not just from Jews but from nearly everyone he met.

Sid Morginstin ■

Holy Land Philately presentation

Gentlemen,

Just a word of thanks—sincere thanks—for the August 23 excellent and highly educational presentation by Ed Rosen on **Stamp Collecting in the Holy Land**. I hadn't previously known of the 1957 debacle, and now have something else to look out for to add to my collection.

I am very grateful for the excellent services of the Society, and appreciate the efforts of the officers and staff.

Again, many thanks!

Very best regards,

Mark Kellner ■

Rekindle Interest

Ed: Even though there were some “teething problems” in the beginning of your Zoom presentation, I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. I was very pleased to see that many of the stamps the items that you presented were already in my possession but I didn't understand where they fitted in.

Aronson Post Card

For example, the post cards from H. Aronson offering the “Doar Ivri” issues at bulk prices. I fished these out of my “To be researched file” and I found that I two postcards from June 1948, one with prices quoted in French Franc's and the other in Dollars, one from July 1948, one from August 1948 all with original envelopes and two original envelopes from May 1948 sealed with no contents.

Begin - End Postal Service

I also found a cover “Last day of Postal Service under British Mandate” “First Day of Jewish Postal Service.” “Interim Postal Service” also printed with the picture in blue of “Rachel's Tomb” bearing a Keren Kayemet Herzl issue **Mosden** 1.1 2mils green and black, a Keren Kayemet “Sports Symbol” issue **Mosden** 1:46 1mil blue-green, a Doar Ivri 3mils postmarked 16 May 1948, a 3mil yellow-green Rachel's Tomb **Mosden** 88.

Mystery Covers

I also have another two covers, which I have tried to research but haven't been able to find any information whatsoever.

The **first one** is stamped in the top left corner with a blue rectangle, an Israeli Flag and the words FIRST DAY (Day is

very faint) and Yom Harishon in Hebrew. The cover. bears two Doar Ivri 5mil stamps postmarked 16 May 1948. There is a large blue overprinted rectangle with a long line of people marching into a rising “Tzion” sun. At the bottom is “Yom Hatzmaut May 15th, 1948. The cover was most likely a “Private Issue” from a stamp dealer.

Final Cover

The fourth and final cover is very interesting. It is printed with two large rectangular boxes in blue. On the left side of the box, it is titled 1917 and on the right 1948. The left side contains the Balfour Declaration and the right contains the names of the 38 countries that voted in favor of the partition agreement. In between the two rectangles is a small oval picture of Herzl in red and a Doar Ivri 3mil stamp (War of the Second Temple). Bottom of the cover has printed in red in Hebrew and English 16.5.1948 FIRST DAY OF OPENING TEL-AVIV POST OFFICE. This is probably most a “Private Issue from a stamp dealer.

Reinvigorated Interests

I must tell you Ed that your presentation has reinvigorated my interest in my collection. After over a year of being stuck in my house, I have found it very hard to find the interest and “cheek” to sit in my office day after day and do much of anything with my binders and boxes of material. These few covers that I found after your presentation have rekindled the love and excitement that I had in the joy of searching for just the right cover, the hours researching and preparing exhibit pages.

Thank you, Ed

Neil Greenberg ■

Appreciate Journal, but...

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to each new issue of **The Israel Philatelist**, not only for the history of people and events depicted on Israel's, as well as other countries' stamps. I also appreciate the thematic articles that deal with classical philately such as perforation and printing varieties, timeliness of changing postal rates, usage cancellations, etc.

I appreciate your role as editor and dismiss the typographical errors that seem to crop up in almost every issue. However, in the article entitled **Ben-Gurion & Israel's Declaration of Independence**, (Spring 2021, p. 44) in the current issue, I found a number of problems, not only typographical. To begin with: Israel's Independence day is Yom Ha'atzma'ut, not 'Ga'atzroaut'. The glaring problems occur in the section "The Path to Statehood". The Peel Commission, though formed in 1936, did not issue its report suggesting the partitioning of the Palestine Mandate until 1937. It cannot be "partially" blamed for the Arab revolt of 1936-1939. In matter of fact, it was commissioned because of the Arab revolt. Next, it states, “In the increasing violence, the United

Nations Resolution 181....” Resolution 181 was not passed until 1947, a full 8 years after the Arab Revolt.

It then states: “The Arab countries proposed to query the International Court of Justice on the legality....The court rejected the Arab proposal.” This is a misreading of the Wikipedia article entitled **Israeli Declaration of Independence**, where it says: “The Arab countries (all of which had opposed the plan) proposed to query the International Court of Justice on the competence of the General Assembly to partition a country, but the resolution was rejected.” It is to be understood that a council of Arab countries rejected the proposal to petition the Court, not that the Court rejected the proposal. Also, as this statement is not footnoted, one wonders where the author of the article got his information as it is not found in any of the books about the 1948 war (such as the one by Benny Morris).

Next, it states that “the final text, which was approved in Moetzet HaAm” should read either 'in the', or 'by the' (By the way, this was after the Minhelet HaAm had approved it). Finally, it says, “David Ben-Gurion was the first person to sign, the Declaration and 37 members of the Moetzet HaAm followed”. Forgetting the misplaced comma after “sign”, in actuality there were only 25 members present, as 11 were still trapped in Jerusalem and one was abroad.

Otherwise, you are to be commended on your difficult job as editor of **The Israel Philatelist**.

Sandy Davis LM 695 ■

Book Suggestion

I just finished reading **The Lost Letter**, a novel by Jillian Castor. The ISBN is 978-0-399-18568-7.

It's about philately, forgery, Judaism, and the Holocaust. It is a page-turner and I enjoyed this book tremendously!!!

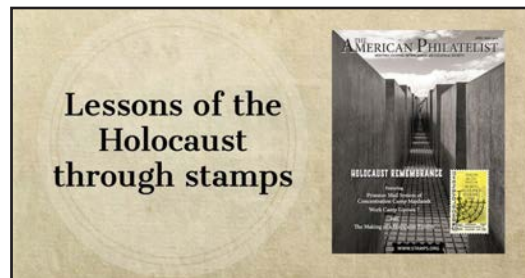
Regards,
Kenneth S. Rothschild

The following is from the book jacket

A heartbreaking, heartwarming historical novel of love and survival, inspired by real resistance workers during World War II in Austria, and the mysterious love letter that connects generations of families.

Austria, 1938. Kristoff is a young apprentice to a master Jewish engraver. When his teacher disappears during Kristallnacht, Kristoff is forced to engrave stamps for the Germans. Simultaneously, he works alongside Elena, his beloved teacher's fiery daughter, and with the Austrian resistance to send underground messages and forge papers. As he falls for Elena amid the brutal chaos of war, Kristoff must find a way to save her, and himself.

Los Angeles, 1989. Katie Nelson is going through a divorce and while cleaning out her house and life in the aftermath, she comes across the stamp collection of her father, who recently went into a nursing home and is losing his memory. When an appraiser, Benjamin, discovers an unusual World War II-era Austrian stamp placed on an old love letter as he goes through her dad's collection, Katie and Benjamin are sent on a journey together that will uncover a story of passion and tragedy spanning nine decades and continents, 'behind the just-fallen Berlin Wall. ■



Lessons Of The Holocaust Through Stamps

The American Philatelic Society has shared the true stories of the Holocaust, educating members and non-members, using the history of stamps as a backdrop. The April 2020 issue of **The American Philatelist** contains numerous articles on the Holocaust. Link to slide show issue: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/fullscreen/64234977/the-american-philatelist-april-2020>

Holocaust Survey

Six million people died during the Holocaust, yet a survey released by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany shows “worrying lack of basic Holocaust knowledge,” among adults under 40 years of age, living in the United States. (Link to survey: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/survey-finds-shocking-lack-holocaust-knowledge-among-millennials-gen-z-n1240031>.) ■

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The Mauritian Shekel

A Holocaust-Related Story

Jesse I. Spector M.D.

Amongst the genera of Holocaust literature, there are countless variations on the theme of where and how antisemitism destroyed the emotional and physical lives of innocents. We who research this area are only too familiar with the seemingly endless stories that emerge, even now, eight decades after the fact.

And then, there comes along yet another variation on the theme, one that bespeaks of the peripheral effects of the Nazi inhumanity- offshoots that would paradoxically result from the actions of the very people who were combating the Nazi insanity. For, in the vortex of the terror to European Jews, the desperation to somehow escape the maws of impending doom would loosen on the Allies frantic appeals and attempts at evading the enclosing net of capture and elimination. Politics, racism, selfishness would all rear their heads in what, years after the fact, would prove to be a most unpleasant chapter of reaction to the Jewish plight. One of these would result in the story I now relate, the plight of 1,580 Jewish refugees, who, after a harrowing 4,145 km sea escape from Nazi Europe, would be denied refuge on arrival in Palestine, and spend the next five years incarcerated on the island of Mauritius off the coast of Africa.

The Crime - Illegal Entry

Their crime- an attempt at illegal entry into Palestine. The British decided that this pathetic lot of humanity should serve as an example to other would-be escapees of what penalty to expect were they to defy English colonial law in the face of Arab pressure to deny succor to the Jews. Rather than labeling them refugees, they were considered "detainees," and as such, would lose their liberty. During World War II they would be the first and the last, refugees who would be deported from Palestine after landing there. The British would realize the futility of this action, but not until this group had paid the price.

This story unfolds as a result of my coming into possession of what for a group of numismatists is a highly desirable item, the Substitute Shekel Mauritius (Figure 1). The shekel

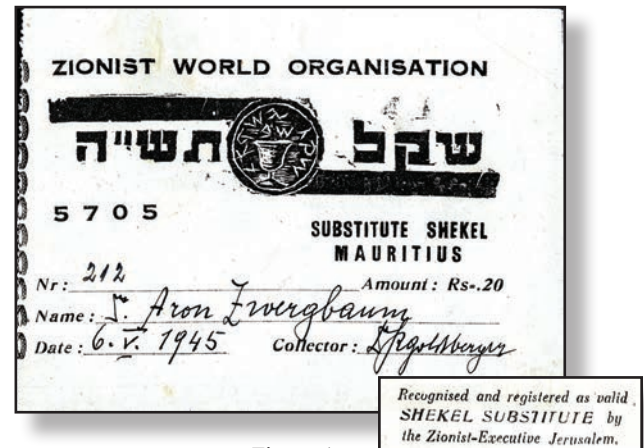


Figure 1
The Substitute Shekel Mauritius

is an ancient Hebrew form of weight used monetarily with gold and other forms of currency. Today it is resurrected as such in Israel; but, at the end of the 19th century it no longer served a monetary purpose. In 1897 its usage was assumed by the World Zionist Organization (WZO) as a membership card and as a receipt of dues payment. In November 1941, the WZO extended privileges to the Zionist Association of Mauritius to issue a Substitute **Shekel Mauritius** for a similar purpose. The motivation for the refugees in their island prison to register for membership is part of the intriguing story on which to now raise the curtain, whether you are a numismatist, philatelist or historian.

Palestine Door Closed

By 1939 sustained Nazi antisemitism had resulted in the emigration of a quarter of the German Jewish population, as well as 50% of both Austria's Jews and those of the free city of Danzig. Asylum was obtained in the United States, South America, England, Australia, China, as well as European countries not yet overrun by the Nazis. Emigration of Jews was not forbidden by the Germans until late 1941, yet those countries offering sanctuary decreased in number or became far more restrictive in granting visas as the tide of exodus increased.

The British colonial rule of Palestine had seemed a beacon for Jews following the Balfour Declaration of 1917. But Arab uprisings in the 1930s resulted in the British White Paper of

May 17, 1939, severely restricting Jewish immigration into colonial Palestine. Any number beyond the quota, despite the humanitarian exigences, required Arab consent- which the pro-Nazi Arabs refused to consider.

Transportation Problems

When on September 21, 1939, Germany declared that all remaining Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe be deported to the East within one year, the desperation of the Jews resulted in frantic escape attempts, and in many suicide cases. The fortuitous repatriation of a German colony of 110,000 people living in Bessarabia- part of the secret German-Russian pact of 1939, anticipating the Nazi attack on Poland- and with it, the annexation of Bessarabia (current Moldova) to Russia, resulted in the Germans being transported by ship westward on the Danube from the Black Sea to Vienna.

It proved profitable to then charge Jews exorbitant prices to sail on the otherwise empty ships heading back to the Black Sea to pick up more returning Germans. The Jews, many possessing visas to Latin America, might then from the Black Sea consider alternatively attempting to continue on to Palestine and entering illegally by avoiding the existing blockade. Already in the preceding year convoys from various ports had clandestinely succeeded in 17,000 Jews entering Palestine.

Such was the goal for 3,500 desperate Jews from Germany, Poland, Danzig, Czechoslovakia and Austria, despite the World Zionist Organization and its president, Chaim Weizmann opposing the action as a negative influence on Jewish-British relationships due to further Arab antagonism. Nevertheless, several thousand Jews made their way to the Danube city of Bratislava, east of Vienna, just months ahead of the deportation orders that would have otherwise transported them to death camps in Poland. This was through the efforts of Viennese Jewish financier, Berthold Storfer, actually an agent for Adolph Eichmann, as a way for the latter to rid Germany of its Jews, and, for the former to possibly profit from the arrangement.

The Journey

Yet, having arrived in Bratislava, the planned sailing to Palestine failed when the hired transport ship, Astrea, sank in a storm. The stranded Jewish refugees would subsequently endure almost nine months of agonizing uncertainty, living under horrendous conditions and constant extortion by Nazi officials, merchants, and shipping officials, while awaiting the arrival of a re-organized plan to obtain Greek-owned ships for their sailing. Finally, on September 4, 1940, four barely seaworthy ships, incredibly overloaded with 3,500 refugees, set off on the 2,700-kilometer voyage east on the Danube to the Black Sea.

The 2,700 kilometers were covered in 12 days. Crowded, yes, 1,000 onboard one of the ships designed for 300, but the refugees were now blessedly at the Black Sea port city

of Tulcea, Romania out of Nazi control. Here, 1,800 of the refugees boarded the Atlantic (**Figure 2**), an 1870 relic flying the Panamanian flag, and owned by a Greek shipping company, unaware that most would eventually arrive in Mauritius, rather than finding solace in Palestine.

Mauritius Story

It is this contingent that we now follow to tell their story. The overcrowded mass of humanity was confined in a refitted cargo hold, quickly named the "Catacombs" by its inhabitants, consisting of nine-tiered wooden bunks with straw mattresses, five toilets requiring bucket removal, and without electricity or running water to drink.

The Atlantic with its pathetic cargo remained at anchor for almost four weeks while being extorted by its



Figure 2
Greek ship, Atlantic,
carrying Jewish
refugees from
Rumania to Palestine



Figure 3
Refugees saw all available wood
on the Atlantic to burn for fuel

Greek captain for money to pay for food, fuel, and bribes to make the trip in the face of preemptory British warnings that if caught in the Palestine blockade



Figure 4
The Atlantic steams into Bay of
Haifa on November 23, 1940

the crew would receive prison sentences and the ship confiscated. Eventually, a convoy of several vessels set sail for the Mediterranean, traversing the Black Sea, entering the Dardanelles, almost out of coal and food, playing hide and seek between islands from Lesbos to Crete to avoid German submarines. The refugees raised money along the way from Jewish communities for fuel, food, and bribes demanded by the captain. So outrageous were the captain's actions that eventually Haganah members on board subdued him, locking him in his cabin and taking over control of the ship.

On entering the Aegean Sea, fuel was in such short supply that the bunks and all available wood on the ship including masts were scavenged and sawed up for fuel (Figure 3) and the ship limped towards Cyprus where they were intercepted by British destroyers. Claiming, initially that they were headed for Port Said, not Haifa, the British pressed them for the truth, to which the Jewish representative of the

refugees' transportation committee answered honestly that they were headed for Haifa. On November 23, 1940, under British escort and with English sailors now onboard, the Atlantic steamed into the Bay of Haifa (**Figure 4**), almost three months and 4,200 kilometers since their departure from Nazi-occupied Europe. Hatikvah rang out joyously from the Jews on deck, but the reality of the British White Paper now confronted them.

British Plans for the Refugees

The illegal entrance of Jews into Palestine in the preceding year had reached 13,000, and threats of imprisonment and confiscation of ships failed to alter the situation. When England received information of several ships departing Central Europe via the Danube, Sir Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary of State for British Colonies, decided to intercept the ships, even doing so against international convention outside territorial waters, and to detain the refugees elsewhere as a deterrent to future similar occurrences. He intentionally excluded Winston Churchill from becoming privy to the plan, knowing that the Prime Minister was sympathetic to the Jewish plight. By the time the ships reached the Black Sea, the British had determined the refugees would be sent to the island of Mauritius for detention.



Figure 5 Sir Bede Clifford, British Governor of Mauritius

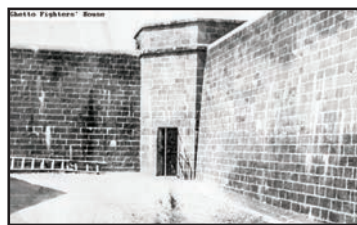


Figure 6 Jewish refugees were housed in Beau Bassin prison on Mauritius

The Governor of Mauritius, Sir Bede Clifford (Figure 5) was willing to accept 1,500, with the men and boys over age 12 being housed in the Beau Bassin prison (Figure 6) after its inmates were transferred to Port Louis, and the women and children housed in buildings adjacent to the prison behind a barbed-wire enclosure. When it became necessary to inform Churchill, he was appalled but agreed that the alternative of sending them back to Europe was a far worse proposition. Similarly, Chaim Weizmann, an opponent of illegal emigration felt that British-Zionist relations needed to take precedent over alternative means for dealing with the refugees.

The Promised Land in Sight

As the Atlantic and two other ships, the Milos and the Pacific entered Haifa harbor it was intended that the Jews were to be transferred to a more seaworthy ship, the Patria (**Figure 7**) for the passage to Mauritius. The Haganah, however, attempted to disable the ship with a bomb planted in a manner to lightly damage her, and thus require the British to

land the refugees in Palestine, where, by stalling for time, the deportation orders for Mauritius might yet be canceled. Unfortunately, during the transfer to the Patria the subsequent explosion occurred with greater force than anticipated, and the Patria capsized and sank within minutes with the loss of 202 emigrants (**Figure 8**).

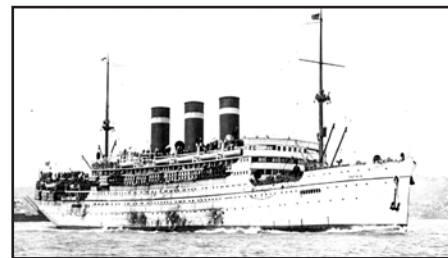


Figure 7 Refugee ship Patria



Figure 8

The residents of Haifa were horrified, and the British were compelled to land the refugees and place them in an internment camp in Atlit. An international outcry resulted, such that those aboard the Milos and the Pacific were given clemency to remain in Palestine; yet, those who had been passengers on the Atlantic were not granted the same clemency. On December 9, 1940, they were forcefully removed from Atlit, many being beaten into submission as they contested the deportation, and under military convoy were boarded onto two requisitioned Dutch steamers- one being the Johan de Witt (**Figure 9**) and set sail for Mauritius.

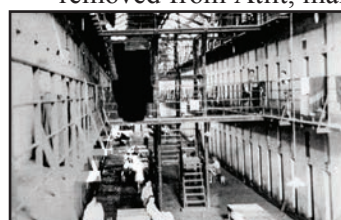


Figure 10 Cellblocks for Jewish men and boys detained in Beau Bassin prison

convoy sailing through the Indian Ocean, sighting Mauritius on the second day of Chanukah, December 26, 1940, the destination to be their home for the ensuing five years.

The Refugees

All told, 1,581, refugees, consisting of about 1,000 males, almost 600 females, and 150 of the contingents being children, would be overseen by 70 police officers. The men and boys over age twelve were confined to the prison compound, described by a refugee as "two massive cellblocks-style Sing-Sing" (**Figure 10**). There were endless rows of heavy doors and behind them were cells with two hammocks each. The men could move freely within the compound.



Figure 9

Within the enclosure, there were lawns, flower gardens, and trees making for a less hostile appearance. The men split up into groups by nationality- those from Prague and Danzig in Block A and Viennese in Block B. There were two synagogues- one Orthodox, one Reformed.

The women on the other side of the high wall lived in thirty sheds with barbed-wire fencing surrounding the compound. Two schools were within the women's camp. Initially, the men and women were segregated, so that families were separated, even the children under age 12 from fathers.

Legislation was required to permit the Governor of Mauritius to incarcerate people who had not committed any offense since the refugees had not voluntarily entered Palestine before being intercepted in international waters by the British Navy. The British therefore promulgated the European Detainees Ordinance stating that it was lawful to detain any person deported from Palestine on the ground that they had attempted to enter Palestine illegally. Additionally, it denied them the right to communicate with the outside world or to challenge the legality of their detention.

Furthermore, defining the status of these refugees would obfuscate the situation even more. They were to be treated as detainees rather than prisoners. However, there was yet further nuance made, in that they were to be considered detainees rather than internees, under the interpretation that internees were refugees from enemy countries, whereas, detainees referred to those who are deprived of liberty for penal reasons- i.e. attempted illegal entry into a country. This became the basis for the British detention of the refugees.

Locals View of Refugees

Mauritians had little concept of what a "Jew" was. The minuscule amount of antisemitism on this island of 400,000 indigenous inhabitants was essentially a result of British official bias. Newsreels left the population with the impression that refugees were the fortunate few who were escaping from Nazi atrocities perpetrated in Europe. The detention itself was not contested since the thinking was that there might be Nazi agents infiltrated among this population. Thus, the rationale for the local populace not being permitted to communicate with the refugees. A quixotic idea when one thinks of the absurdity of Nazi spies secreted on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean!

The Situation

Imagine now what has transpired to this point: an unpredictable water escape totaling 9,900 km. from embarkation in Vienna to avoid impending deportation to concentration camps in the East; repeated extortion leaving one penniless; months on overcrowded, unseaworthy, horrendously unsanitary, disease-ridden vessels with minimal food, and, but a fractional hope of entry into Palestine, quashed when in sight of the promised land, by

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a British ally; survival after a bomb-blast and sinking of a ship; and, now detained behind monumental stone walls on a minuscule island in the Indian Ocean, and separated from spouse and children on the other side of a prohibitive wall and barbed wire. And, yet, considering the outcome for Jews trapped in Europe, these were the lucky ones! ■

to be continued



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The Modern Definitive Revenue Stamps of Jordan

Avo Kaplanian



Figure 1

In 1993 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan issued a set of eleven definitive postage stamps to be used for franking mail (Figure 1). The set shows the Hadrian Triumphal Arch in the old Roman city of Jerash, about 30 kilometers north of Amman. This set is listed in **Stanley Gibbons's Catalog** under numbers 1666 thru 1674. The whole set is perforated 12 x 13 and has the Gregorian year 1992 and the Hijra year of 1413, except for the two denominations 50 and 400 fils. These two stamps have perf. 12 ½ x 13 and are dated 2003 and 1424 for the 50 fils stamp and 1997 and 1418 for the 400 fils stamp. After this first printing, there were many other printings but in different colors, different dates, and different denominations. All are listed in **Stanley Gibbons** and other philatelic catalogs.

Repurposed Stamps

Two years later (1995), the Jordan postal authorities started issuing similar designed stamps to be used for fiscal and revenue purposes. These revenue stamps had the same size as the postal issues but with a different image, viz. that of Al-Khazneh (Treasury) in the old Nabatian city of Petra.

The stamps had at the bottom the Arabic word WARIDAT (revenue) on the right and the English word REVENUE on the left. The first issue of these stamps was a set of six stamps with the 50 fils in two different shades of brown and



Figure 2

with a small and larger “50”. This set is listed as numbers 203 - 208 in the Joe Ross & Avo Kaplanian catalog titled **The Revenue Stamps of Jordan and the Occupied Territory (West Bank)**. The set was also overprinted diagonally and in red SPECIMEN (Figure 2). (Editor's note: the overprint is very difficult to see on the images).



Figure 3
Specimen example

Except for a few listings in the Ross/Kaplanian **Catalog For Revenue Issues For The Years 2000 - 2001**, there is no systematic listing of all the issued stamps between 1995 - 2020. Since I have a large quantity of the revenues in my collection, I have decided to list all the ones known to me so far. But, as there is almost no literature or any publication on this subject, I cannot claim that my list is either exhaustive or complete. I appeal to my fellow collectors of this fascinating area of philately to help with any additions, corrections, or comments they might have.

As I mentioned in the beginning, the first set of revenues consists of six stamps issued in 1995.

The set did not indicate a year date and had the values: 50 fils (small and large 50), 100f, 200f, 500f, and 1 dinar (1000 fils). In Figure 3 is a pair of the large size 50 fils revenue stamps of this first issue used as postage stamps on a cover mailed in Irbid in 1996 to Amman.

Year Date Issues

In 1999, the 100 fils orange stamp of the first issue was overprinted with the year date in Arabic numerals at the sides: left 1999 and right 1419, the Islamic Hijra year (Figure 4).

The 50 fils stamp was similarly overprinted with the year date in Arabic numerals, left 2000 and right the Hijra year 1420 (Figure 5). This stamp was printed by Post Office Foundation Press in Karachi, Pakistan.

Once again, the 100 fils stamp was overprinted with the Gregorian year date 2000 on the left and the Hijra year of 1421 on the right, both in Arabic numerals. This stamp was printed by Security Printers (Malaysia).

The same 50 fils stamp was again overprinted with the Gregorian date year 2000 and the Hijra year 1422, both in Arabic numerals.



Figure 6

In Figure 6 are two new stamps, which were issued in 2001. On the left is the Gregorian year date 2001 and on the right the Hijra year date of 1422. Only two values were prepared: 50 fils and 5 dinars. Notice that the 5 dinars stamp shows the Gregorian year date at right in English and NOT in Arabic numerals.



Figure 3

2003 Issue

In 2003 a new set of four revenues was issued. The denominations were 50f, 100f, 200f, and 1 dinar. The English year date 2003 is on the left while the Hijra year date 1424 is on the right, both in Arabic numerals (Figure 7). The Post Office Foundation Press (Security Division) in Karachi printed the four stamps.

A new set of three revenue stamps followed in 2004 having the values of 100f, 200f, and 500f. The Gregorian year date 2004 on the left while the Hijra year Arabic date 1425 on the right (Figure 8).

In 2006 a new set of four stamps with the denominations 100f, 250f, 500f, and 1 dinar was issued. The Gregorian year date on the left is 2006 in English and the Hijra year date 1427 in Arabic on the right (Figure 9). These four stamps were printed again by Pakistan Post Foundation Press (Security Division) in Karachi.

2007 Issue

The next set which was issued in 2007 consisting again of four values: 100f, another 100f with the value in English



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

only, 200f, 250f, and 500f, (Figure 10). The Gregorian year date 2007 in English is on the left while the Hijra year date 1428 in Arabic is on the right.



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

2008 Issue

In 2008 a new set of four was released. The values were 100f, 250f, 500f, and 1 dinar. The numeral denominations of the first three values were in English only while the 1 dinar stamp had the value, not in numbers but the Arabic phrase “Dinar Wahed” meaning: one dinar. The Gregorian year date is 2008 in English while the Hijra year date is 1429 in Arabic (Figure 11).

2017-2020 Issues

In 2017, a new stamp was issued with the value of 200 fils with the Gregorian year date 2017 in English. Other stamps may have been printed but I am only familiar with the 200 fils stamp. This stamp was followed by three new ones with the values of 250f, 500f, and 1 dinar, with the year Gregorian dates 2018 in English and at the left and 1439 in Arabic at the right.

A similar revenue stamp appeared in 2019 with the value of 100 fils having the Gregorian date 2019 at the left and 1440 in Arabic at the right. The last issued revenue stamps were a set of three 2020. They have the denominations of 250f, 500f, and 1 dinar. These last stamps have the Gregorian year date 2020 (left) and 1441 in Arabic (right). What is interesting about these stamps of 2018, 2019, and 2020 is a new feature, the presence of a star perforation halfway up on the two vertical sides of the perforation (Figure 12).

References

1. Ross, Joe & Kaplanian, Avo: *The Revenue Stamps of Jordan & the Occupied Territory (West Bank)*. Published by Joe Ross, Elverta, CA, U.S.A., 2004.
1. *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Part 19, Middle East*, 7th Edition. Published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London and, Ringwood. 2009. ■

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Rosh Hashana Greetings from Okinawa, September 1945

Marty Zelenietz

Most of us are familiar with the custom of sending out Shana Tayvas, greetings cards with well-wishes for the coming year, to friends and loved ones as Rosh Hashana approaches. This practice dates back to the 19th Century, the growth of public postal systems, affordable postage, and the advent of color lithographic printing. Contemporary electronic communications have undoubtedly caused a sharp decline in the traditional sending of cards by post. But there was a time when reaching out with New Year wishes meant something important.

V-mail

Figure 1 is a V-mail form marking the Jewish New Year in 1945. The United States military adopted V-mail (based on the British Airgraph system) as the main way to move letters to and from servicemen active on many fronts during World War II. Letters were written, censored, then microfilmed. The microfilm was sent back to the United States (a duplicate reel was kept behind in case of loss of the original), where it was printed, enclosed in window envelopes, and dispatched. Thousands of tons of shipping capacity required by regular letters were thus able to be allocated to carrying other materials.

Personal V-mail

The solemn and introspective nature of the High Holy Days is reflected in the V-mail my father sent from Okinawa to his future mother-in-law in 1945. The top line in Hebrew reads

“L'Shana Tova Tikatevu,”

“May we be inscribed [in the Book of Life]
for a good year.”

The central design shows what could be bivouac tents in a tropical (or at least palm treed) location. The bottom has
“Our Prayer for the New Year: May the Lord give strength unto His People; May the Lord bless His People/ With a glorious Victory and a lasting Peace.”

My Dad added the hopeful note

“May all of us be united during the coming year.”

Okinawa Assignment

Jake Zelenietz (z"l) (Figure 2), T/4, had been on Okinawa

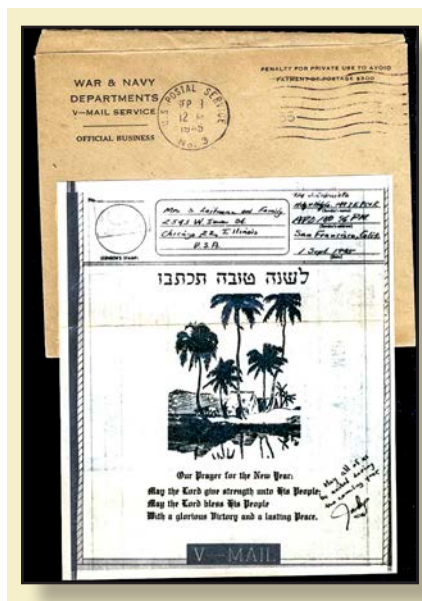


Figure 1
V-mail Rosh Hashana
Greeting from Okinawa,
1945

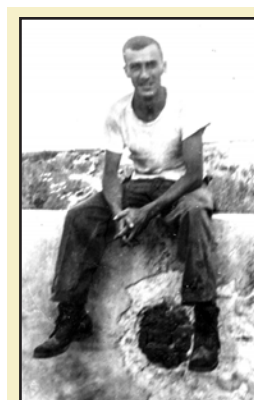


Figure 2
T/4 Jake Zelenietz on
shell-blasted wall,
Okinawa



Figure 3
Pile drivers work to complete
first berth, Naha, Okinawa

since 19 May as a member of the 1497th Engineering Port Construction and Repair Group. He had trained with the Army Specialized Training Program at the University of Maryland.

Many of the recruits in his class went on to the Manhattan Project developing the atomic bomb: because he was born in Poland, he couldn't receive security clearance and ended up operating a pile driver in the reconstruction of the port of Naha (Figure 3).

Okinawa was the major staging area for the impending invasion of Japan, and Naha the crucial port for the build-up. My father sent the V-mail on September 1, the day before formal surrender of the Japanese ended World War II. The enclosing envelope was postmarked stateside on 9 September. As Rosh Hashana began on the evening of 7 September in 1945, his greetings arrived a bit late. Apparently that proved no obstacle in his marriage to my mother the following June. ■

"FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE DON'T BUY GERMAN GOODS"

WWII HOLOCAUST ERA JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S. UNITED STATES BOYCOTT OF GERMAN GOODS – 1933

GREGG PHILIPSON — In early March 1933, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States (JVW) decided that they needed to take the lead in counteracting the Nazi menace in Europe and in the USA. The JVW would go on to monitor American Nazi supporters as well as pro-Nazi rallies, *German American Bund* (American Nazi Political Party) youth camps and other anti-Jewish propaganda activities in the United States. Part of the action plan was an overall boycott of German goods.

The tag line for the boycott was "*For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy German Goods*" On March 23, 1933 the JVW lead a huge protest march in New York City as a means to highlight the boycott. Organizations that participated included the *Jewish War Veterans*



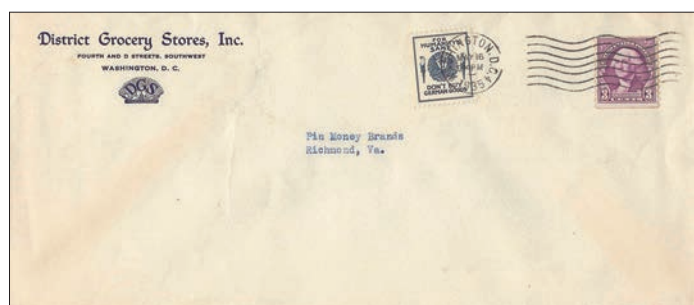
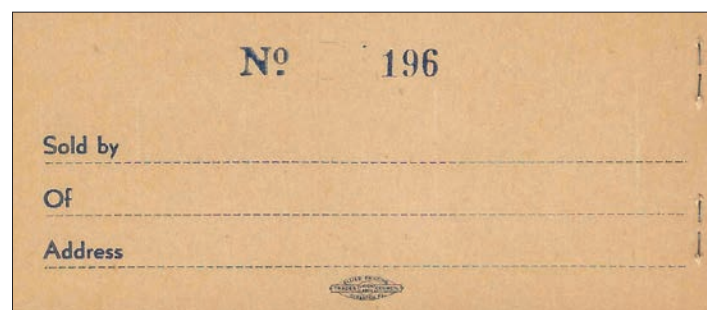
Ladies Auxiliary, the American Legion and the American Veterans of Foreign Wars. This author's research has

revealed that even employees of the *Manischewitz Company* participated in the march. Posters and pamphlets appeared all over New York and the JVW boycott labels were sold nationwide

In March 1933, Madison Square Garden in New York City hosted a rally that was one of many held in major cities across the USA. This production drew an estimated 55,000 attendees and was broadcast nationwide.



▲ September 22, 1933 cover postmarked at West New York, New Jersey — The JVW "*Boycott German Goods — For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy German Goods*" label on the back is clearly tied by a San Martin, CA September 26, 1933 receiving postmark. The cover is franked with a National Recovery Act American stamp.



▲ May 16, 1935 commercial cover postmarked Washington, D.C. and clearly tied with a JVW "*Boycott German Goods — For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy German Goods*" label. The cover is franked with a 3¢ George Washington stamp.



▲ A 2" x 4 5/8" unused booklet with stiff cardboard covers holding ten sheets of ten, each perforated and gummed stamps designed with the logo of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States flanked by a pair of flaming torches representing Liberty and with the text "*For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy German Goods*". The front cover carries the New York City address and the back has lines for the name of the seller along with serial number 196.



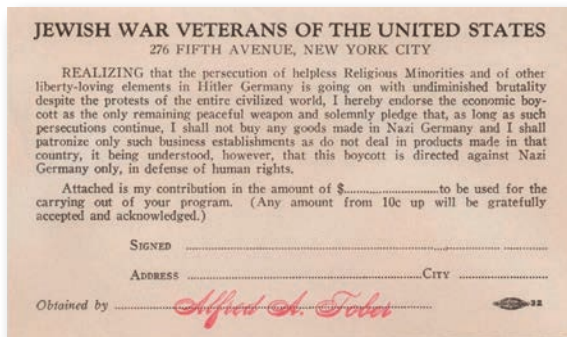
▲ 1930's Jewish War Veterans "For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy Nazi Goods" used matchbook cover is a slight variation from the "Don't Buy German Goods" themed labels.



▲ A "Jewish Peoples Committee" pin designed to highlight "Embargo Nazi Trade" circa 1930's. The back of the pin has its original "Amalgamated Lithographers of America" union made in Chicago "bug" label.



▲ This graphic poster with a large JVW logo is calling for a boycott of German industry with the same "For Humanity's Sake, Don't Buy German Goods" theme. It was issued by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and distributed between 1937 and 1939. (image from the USHMM)



▲ Large 3½" x 1½" Jewish War Veterans label on a circa 1933 cover also with a "For Humanity's Sake Don't Buy German Goods" label. The large label states that goods made in Germany or brought to America on German ships will not be accepted in U.S. ports of entry. There is a contribution request card that was inserted in the cover. The cover is not clearly franked but there are three 1929 Nathan Hale 5¢ stamps not clearly postmarked.



For more information on this subject please visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. in person or on the web. Items from the Gregg and Michelle Philipson Collection and Archive "Boycott Collection" are on display there until January 2023.

Great Israel Holy Land Exhibits

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| 3. Jerusalem Siege Revenues 1948, Color, Jeff Rudolf | 14. 1948 Interim Period, 142 Pgs, Arthur Cohen |
| 4. Palestine 2 Pia. Stamp, Steve Kaplan | 15. Holy Land Forerunners. Saroni, 300 Pgs |
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| 6. Israel First Postage Dues, 34 Pgs, Arthur Cohen | 17. WWI British Military Posts In Palestine, J. Byers |
| 7. Festival Stamps, 1948, Arthur Cohen | 18. Turkish Forerunners, Sacher, Part 1 |
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1952 Tabul Israel Exhibition

Joe Weintrob



Figure 1

Cover with Doar Ivri 5 prutah stamps with block of 4 show labels



Figure 2

1952 Show labels with National Stamp Exhibition in Hebrew and English around the label

The first National Stamp Exhibition, TABUL, was held in Tel Aviv from May 1- 6, 1949; this was not quite one year after the State was established. The Exhibition was organized by the Union of Israel Philatelists. The first souvenir sheet of Israel was issued in connection with this Exhibition (Figure 3). The TABUL sheet marked the first anniversary of the Doar Ivri Stamps and contained a block of four 10 Pruta Coin Stamps.

In connection with the exhibition there were two special cancels; one a large handstamp put into use on the first day of the Exhibition, and the second a machine cancel put into use on May 3, 1949 (Figure 4). An added attraction was the Army Post Office set up for the benefit of the members of the armed services visiting the Exhibition. This was designated A.P.O. 593. There were two cancels used by this Army Post Office. One was a single ring cancel with the legend - "Military Post Office, date, TABUL Stamp Exhibition", and the other a large double ring cancel with the legend "Independence Day, TABUL Stamp Exhibition plus the date and Military P.O."

Bulim, Ahsfan, The Israel Philatelist. 1974 vol. 25, No. 1-2, p. 30.



Figure 3

Tabul souvenir sheet



Figure 4

Tabul cancellations



spc 12 - Ordinary postal cancellation used during Tabul - Tel Aviv
 spc 13 - Military P.O. cancellation
 spc 14 - "Independence Day" Military P.O. Cancellation. ■



Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka ז"ל

JUNE 6, 1944 | 15 SIVAN 5704 ~ JUNE 27, 2021 | 17 TAMMUZ 5781

IRV OSTERER — OTTAWA On June 27, 2021, the Jewish people lost one of our *g'doleem*. Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, writer, broadcaster, and activist has passed away. Cancer took the life of a man that was affectionally known as Canada's Rabbi because of his inspiring sermons and meaningful messages during Remembrance Day ceremonies from the National War Memorial over many years.

Rabbi Bulka accomplished so much in his life. He was a prolific writer, who authored many books on a wide variety of topics including a *madrich* that is used by our clergy for life cycle events.

I knew the Rabbi for almost fifty years and worked with him on a wide variety of Synagogue and community projects and publications. My mother was his secretary for 35 years.



▲ THE LEFTY ON THE MOUND

Canada-Israel stamp on Parliament Hill. And while there, I acted as his official photographer, so that the images from these events could be shared with the community through the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* and *Shuleinu*, the synagogue publication I designed for Congregation Machzikei Hadas.

We shared a passionate interest in all aspects of Jewish baseball — and for years, he was a very reliable softball pitcher. When the four Osterer boys won the gold medal for softball at the 2017 Maccabi Games, he was the first to touch base and remind them that they started their careers in Ottawa's Jewish Men's Softball League.

He knew of my interest in philately and as Canada's Rabbi, he was always consulted by Canada Post when it came to approving artwork for stamps with a Judaic theme. He secured passes for me to see the official launch of the Holocaust commemorative and the



▲ RABBI BULKA AT THE LAUNCH OF CANADA'S HOLOCAUST STAMP IN 1995.



▲ THE BACK OF THE 2020 HANUKKAH STAMP BOOKLET, THANKING THE RABBI IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH FOR HIS ASSISTANCE WITH THE DESIGN.



I created Canada Picture Postage to celebrate his induction into the Order of Canada in 2013 and to commemorate his retirement and ascension to the position of *Rabbi Emeritus* in 2015.

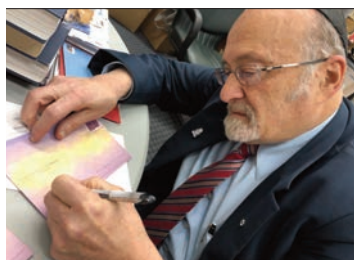
Canada issued its first Hanukkah stamps in its Picture Postage format in 2011. The Rabbi was involved with this effort from its inception and gave Steven Spazuk's designs his *hechsher*. A close friend working at Canada Post told me that everyone loved the Rabbi and his contribution to the process.

When Hanukkah issues morphed into regular postage, the Rabbi's services were once again employed to ensure the stamps represented our Festival of Lights appropriately. A close look on the back of the 2019 and 2020 official first day covers (OFDCs) and stamp booklets will show an acknowledgement of the Rabbi's services.

▲ CANADA ISRAEL STAMP LAUNCH IN 2010, AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA — WITH RABBI MENDELSON, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR MIRIAM ZIV, MINISTER JOHN BAIRD AND RABBI BULKA.



▲ RABBI BULKA RECEIVING THE ORDER OF CANADA AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL DAVID JOHNSTON, MAY 7, 2014



I asked the Rabbi to sign a number of OFDCs for philatelic friends who collect the popular Hanukkah topic. This he was more than happy to do — and I was just about to mail them, when I received an urgent call, saying that he thought he did not do an adequate job signing one of the covers. He sent a parishioner to me straight away with a fresh envelope.

I gave my *chevray* these covers and asked them to do an *Act of Kindness* in their respective communities as a token of appreciation. Acts of Kindness were *a priori* for Rabbi Bulka. He started *Kindness Week* in Ottawa — a program that now has national focus.

I will miss my friend. For someone who brought so much good stuff to the world, 77 seems far to soon to leave. But as his oldest son Shmuel said so elegantly in his eulogy — God looked down to the bullpen, and called for his lefty.

Y'hee Z'choro Baruch — may Rabbi Bulka's memory alway be a blessing to his family and to *Klal Yisrael*.



▲ THE APPOINTMENT OF RABBI BULKA AS RABBI EMERITUS AND INSTALLATION OF RABBI SCHER AS RABBI AT CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADAS IN OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

USNS General Maurice Rose

Joe Weintrob



USNS General Maurice Rose was named in honor of General Maurice Rose, Commander of the 3rd Armored Division in World War II. He was killed in the fighting around Paderborn, Germany in 1945. He earned a Purple Heart, Silver Star and Distinguished Service Medal.

U.S. Army Major General Maurice Rose died during World War II while leading the 3rd Armored Division into Germany. At the time of his death, Rose was the highest ranking Jewish officer in the U.S. Army and the highest ranking American killed by enemy fire in the European Theater.

Maurice Rose's grandfather, a Rabbi, lead one of Poland's premier centers of Jewish learning. Rose's father Samuel served as the Rabbi for a congregation in Denver, Colorado for more than 40 years.

After graduating high school in 1916, Rose lied about his age in order to enlist in the Colorado National Guard. When superiors found out about his real age six weeks later, they discharged him. Once the United States entered World War I, Rose re-enlisted, and became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 89th Infantry Division.

In the first American offensive of World War II, Rose served as chief of staff for the 2nd Armored Division in North Africa where he received his first Silver Star. Rose received a promotion to Brigadier General and took command of the 2nd Armored Division. Rose led his troops in combat across Sicily and then into France shortly after D-Day.

General Rose became the commander of the 3rd Armored Division during combat in France in August 1944. Shortly thereafter, Rose received a promotion to Major General. Under Rose's leadership, the 3rd Armored Division led an advance across northern France and Belgium. On September 12, Rose's division became the first armored unit to enter Germany and the first to breach the Siegfried Line.

Editor's note: When I graduated from the United States Military Academy my first assignment was in Europe. My new wife Betty and I had an option to either fly or go by ship to my assignment in Germany. I thought it romantic to take a honeymoon ocean cruise so we decided by ship. The ship was the USNS Rose, then a troop transport ship.

Once settled aboard the ship, we went for our first meal. As we walked along the hallway, I remarked to Betty about all the white bags stuffed in the hallways railings. When we entered the restaurant, I noted there was a chain under each chair connected to a hook on the floor.

Well, once we were out in the Atlantic Ocean I found out what the bags were used for and why the chairs were chained to the floor. After a few days, we had our sea legs and the trip become a romantic honeymoon.

During the winter of 1944-45, Rose's division helped stem the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge. They captured Cologne on March 7. On March 29, the Division made the longest one-day advance through enemy territory by any Allied division during the war, more than 100 miles, stopping just south of the German city of Paderborn.

When the 3rd Division started advancing towards Paderborn the next day, Rose took his usual place up front with his forward echelon. During the fighting a German tank got in the way of the jeep. The tank's hatch opened and a German with a machine pistol began shouting at the jeep's three occupants as they stood with raised hands in front of the tank in the fading daylight. As General Rose reached for his holster to surrender his pistol, several bursts of machine gun fire struck the General. The General's aide and driver fled the area and made it back to the U.S. lines.

When 45-year-old Rose was buried in Margraten in the Netherlands, the military placed a Star of David above his grave. After a review of his records, the Army replaced the star with a cross after finding that he had listed Protestant as his religious affiliation.

While there may be questions about Rose's religion and the symbol marking his grave, he remains the son and grandson of rabbis.

Reference

Jewish War Veterans, Volume 74. Number 2, 2020.

<https://www.jwv.org/major-general-maurice-rose-one-of-world-war-iis-greatest-combat-generals/> ■

WWI Turkish Army in Palestine

Josef Wallach

In March 1917, the British Army, under the command of General Allenby, crossed the Sinai desert and entered Palestine. After 2 futile attempts, General Allenby surprised the Turks and in October 1917 occupied Beer Sheva. The troops advanced further and in November 1917 occupied Jerusalem. In 1918 the campaign continued to the north. After 400 years, the Ottoman rule of the Middle East came to an end. ■



Figure 1
The Dead Sea Flotilla



Figure 2
Doctors in the Russian Hospital, Jerusalem



Figure 3
Marine Signal Staff near Nebi Samuel



Figure 4
German Military Transport, Jerusalem



Figure 5
Camel train carrying grain on to Jerusalem



Figure 6
Military Barracks

Palestine Small Town Postmarks

Dr. Melvin A. Richmond, z"l

Editor's note: Dr. Melvin A. Richmond passed away a few years ago. He was an optometrist from Newton, Mass. Dr. Richmond was an avid collector of Palestine stamps and covers and a long time member of the SIP. He did valuable research on the 1920 First "Palestine" Jerusalem 1 issues and created the chart illustrating how to identify the Jerusalem 1 varieties. The chart was a feature in the **Bale Palestine Catalog** for many years.

He also collected Palestine small town cancellations and corresponded with David Dorfman z"l, author of the

definitive 1985 catalog **Palestine Mandate Postmarks**. The covers shown are from Dr. Richmond's collection. All the post offices had a number of different cancellations over the years. The number before the scarcity letter rating indicates the specific cancellation illustrated. Over a number of future issues, we will continue to highlight examples from Dr. Richmond's extensive collection. The examples are on a CD made available to me by Barry Hoffman. Parts 1 and 2 appeared in the August 2012, October 2012, part 3 Winter 2015, part 4 Spring 2015, part 5 Summer 2020 and part 6 Winter 2021 issues of **The Israel Philatelist**. ■

example cancel



Isdud #1

Backstamped: El Majdal #6 15 Sp 47
Jerusalem Registered Oval 14 Sp 47
Jerusalem Single Circle 17 Sp 47
Jerusalem R.L.O.. #H6 19 Sp 47

ISDUD

This Moslem Arab village was in the southern part of the Coastal Plain, north of Gaza, and straddling the Gaza-Lydda railroad tracks. This was the ancient biblical site of Ashdod. A class C postal agency was opened on June 21, 1947.

The 1922 census was 2,066. In 1931 it was 3,140. Isdud was occupied by Egyptian troops in 1948, and was demolished during the battles that took place.

example cancel



Jerich #1

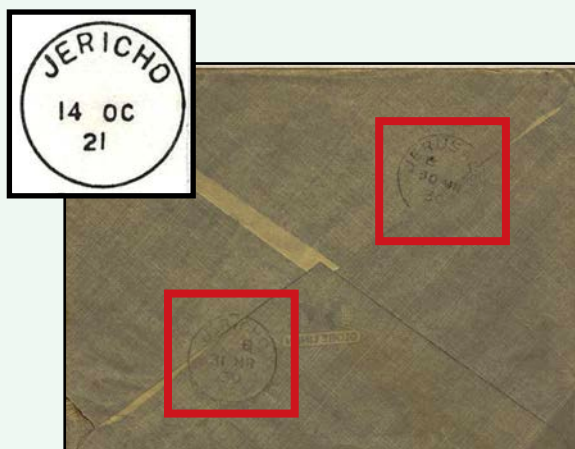
16 My22 (index'-PM')

JERICHO

This ancient village is located near the northern tip of the Dead Sea. There was no Post Office here prior to late 1922 or early 1923. There was however, a public telephone office run by the postal service. Since cancellations were issued there may have been a skeleton device in use. If ever found, these marks would be on telephone forms only. Any strikes found on cover prior to late 1922 must be considered a favor cancellation.

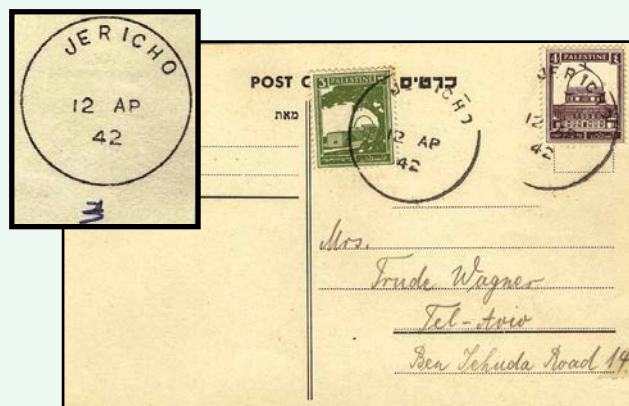
On January 1, 1924 the Postal Agency was raised to status of a Post Office. Due to Arab disturbances it was closed from September 21, 1938 to January 31, 1940, when it opened as a Postal Agency. On August 5, 1945 it was again raised to status of Post Office. Jericho's importance grew with the development of the Dead Sea Potash Works and the founding of the Kallia Hotel. In 1934 the population was 1,000; in 1937 about 2,000; and in 1946 3,000. ■

example cancel



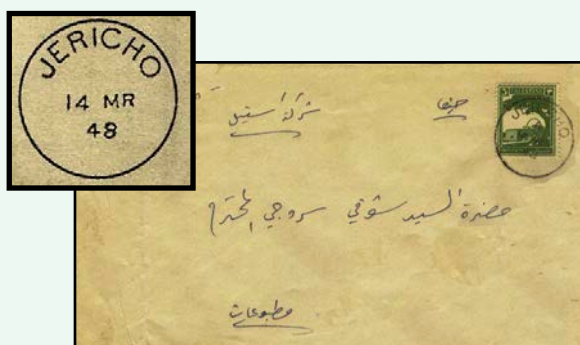
Jericho #2
Mailed: Tel Aviv 30 MR 30 (Krag G2)
Arrival 31 MR 30 (index 'B')
U.K. to Palestine 3 pence

example cancel



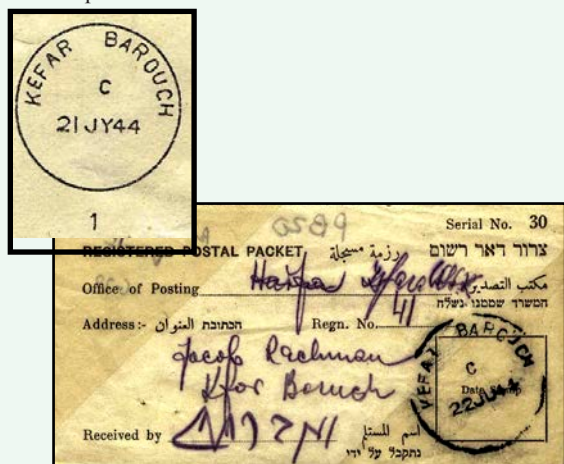
Jericho #3
Mailed: Jericho April 12, 1942 (no index)
To: Tel Avi

example cancel



Jericho #5
Mailed: Jericho March 14, 1948 (index 'A')

example cancel



Kefar Barouch
Registered package receipt
dated 22 Ju 44 (index 'C')

KEFAR BAROUC

Located in the western Jezreel Valley southeast of Haifa, near Nahalal, Kefar Barouch was founded by settlers from Kurdistan, Iraq, Romania, Poland, Germany, and the Caucasus. The land belonged to the JNF and the settlement was named in honor of Baruch Kahane, a Romanian Jew who made a large donation for the establishment of the settlement. A class C postal agency opened on April 2, 1944. The agency was issued a type III cancellation, but it was only used as a dateless strike on a reporting document. In 1927 there were only 78 settlers. The 1931 census was 135 and the 1947 census was 260. ■

Prague's Central Office for Jewish Emigration

Larry Nelson

Background

The **Zentralstelle fur Judische Auswanderung** (Central Office for Jewish Emigration), hereinafter “Zentralstelle,” was established on August 26, 1938, in Vienna and was headed by Adolf Eichmann. In July 1939 a Zentralstelle, also operated by the Gestapo, was established in Prague. It was run by Hans Gunther but controlled by Adolf Eichmann. The Prague Zentralstelle was responsible for the expulsion of the Jews in Bohemia and Moravia to the Theresienstadt Ghetto¹.

Starting in March 1943, the Gestapo in Prague required all Jews of mixed marriages and those of partial Jewish descent to report to the Gestapo office to be assigned to forced labor². In that regard, the Gestapo established a forced labor camp at the former sports field of the Jewish Hagibor Organization. All mail sent to or from Hagibor was sent to a Gestapo office located at Prague XI, Schweringasse³. By the surrender of Germany in May 1945, most, if not all, of the Jews in Hagibor had been sent to Theresienstadt.

History

The package card dated July 26, 1942 (Figure 1) was sent from the Brunn Administrative Office of the Emigration Fund to the Prague Management

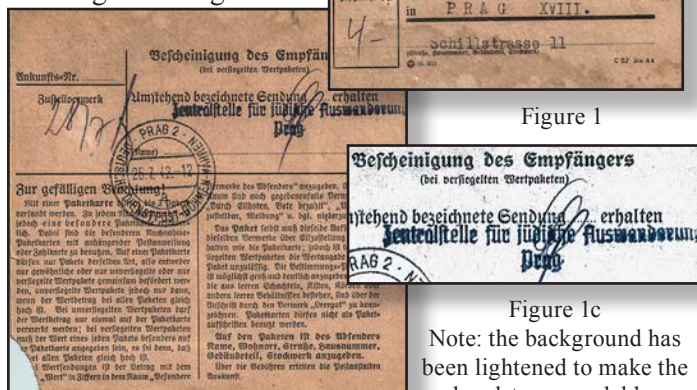


Figure 1b

of the Emigration Fund, which was part of the Zentralstelle in Prague as shown by the receiving hand stamp on the back.

The card shown in Figure 2 was written on January 30, 1945,



Figure 2

Figure 2z
Post card notice side

in Pilsen (located 90 km west of Prague); however, it was mailed in Prague on February 1, 1945. It was sent to Frau Schleissner in Pilsen and thanked her for a package and card. Note that each word in the message is numbered. The return address is Franz Schleissner, Prague XI, Schweringasse. The front of the card has a black handstamp which reads “Antwort nur/auf postkarten in Deutschen sprache.” (Answer only on a postcard in the German language). On the back is a red “Zensiert” (censored) handstamp.

Postcard Q&A

This card raises several questions. Why was the card written to someone in Pilsen but posted in Prague? Why was each word numbered and the card censored? Why was the recipient instructed to only reply with a postcard written in German?

The key to answering these questions is the card’s return address. As noted above, Prague XI, Schweringasse was

Continued on page 25

The Rabbi of Buchenwald

The Life and Times of Herschel Schacter

Gregg Philipson

Rabbi Schacter was assigned to the Third Army's VIII Corps during the Second World War, which entered Buchenwald, near Weimar, on April 11, 1945. Buchenwald was the first and the largest of the Nazis' concentration camps in Germany. Going from one barracks to the next, he declared in Yiddish, "Sholom Alecheim Yidden, ihr zint frei" (Hello Jews, you are free). He officiated at the first Friday night service after liberation and conducted a seder for the survivors. He established a hevra kadisha (burial society) and acquired a plot of land for a Jewish cemetery, organized a list of Jews in the camp and others who came through, set up a mail service and a package program.

He convinced the colonel in charge of civilian affairs that the Jews deserved special consideration and received permission for a group of young people from the camp to set up a kibbutz to prepare them for life in Palestine. With supplies provided by Schacter and another Orthodox chaplain, Rabbi Robert Marcus, "Kibbutz Buchenwald" thrived.



Kibbutz Buchenwald

On June 3, 1945, a group of Jewish survivors left the recently liberated Buchenwald concentration camp for a farm near the German town of Eggendorf. There they established an agricultural-training community they called Kibbutz Buchenwald, which was meant to prepare them for eventual immigration to Palestine.

With the help of two U.S. army chaplains, Rabbis Herschel Schacter and Robert Marcus, they were given the use of an abandoned German farm in Eggendorf.

A short time later, as this part of Germany was transferred to Soviet control, it was decided to move the training farm deeper into the American zone, to Geringshof, outside Fulda, where there had been a Zionist hakhshara (training) farm before the war. Schacter and Marcus were instrumental in acquiring clothing, food, tools and eventually immigration to Palestine. ■

<https://www.jewishpress.com/sections/books/book-reviews/the-rabbi-of-buchenwald-the-life-and-times-of-herschel-schacter/2021/06/29/>

Continued from page 25

the "undercover" address used by the Gestapo for mail sent to or from inmates from the Hagibor forced labor camp. Based on the above, I believe that Franz was probably sent to Pilsen as part of the forced labor camp activities being conducted at Hagibor. While there he wrote the card to a relative thanking her for the package. The card was then sent to Prague where the camp officials censored it and mailed it. The "Zensiert" handstamp was not used very often. "In a few cases, mainly in the correspondence from the year 1945, the censorship stamp "Zensiert" was placed on the text side of the postcard."⁴

I have seen other examples of postcards sent from Hagibor, which also had each word "numbered." I suspect that this was done to facilitate the censorship process, which had a 30-word limit for the messages. The requirement to reply in German on a postcard was a camp rule.

Post War Activities

A search of the Yad Vashem Victim's Database indicates

that Franz Schleisser survived as his name is listed in the "Jewish Survivors in Theresienstadt compiled 10 May 1945 book ⁵.

After the war, the Hagibor camp was used as an internment camp. It was also used by Stalin's NKVD and as a camp for Germans awaiting deportation to Germany. Finally, it held Czechs with German spouses and Nazi collaborators awaiting trial.

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3. <https://digital.kenyon.edu/bulmash/1470/>.
4. Benes, Frantisek & Tosnerova, Patricia, "Mail Service in the Ghetto Terezin 1941-1945" (1945), p. 110.
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The Military Agrah Revenue Stamps – The WBB Series

Arthur Harris, Benjamin Wallace

This series of West Bank health stamps is being written in two parts due to the large number of stamps. The values in Part One are denominated in Shekels; Part Two has 17 values denominated in New Shekels due to the 1986 change in currency. Part Two will appear in our next article.

Issued on April 1, 1983, using the standard Agrah format, “Kamat Pnim” (Interior Headquarters) is printed above Agrah in Hebrew as well as in Arabic below the Hebrew.

Wallerstein points out that in 1985 several values were reprinted with maroon highlighting the black printing. These values include the 100sh, 200sh, 300sh, 500sh, 1000sh, 2000sh and 5000sh. In addition, the 200sh that is unlisted, was probably an error of omission but interestingly there have been no reported copies with the tab attached.

Due to errors in Wallerstein’s numbering system, the WBB catalog listings are not presented. ■



Figure 1
5sh pale gold



Figure 2
10sh silver



Figure 3
14sh pale brown



Figure 4
24sh yellow



Figure 5
40sh lake



Figure 6
50sh green



Figure 7
55sh green



Figure 8
75sh pale orange



Figure 9
100sh pale rose



Figure 10
125sh violet



Figure 11
200sh yellow brown



Figure 12
250sh bistre



Figure 13
300sh pale olive-green



Figure 14
500sh brown



Figure 15
1000sh plum



Figure 16
2000sh cerise



Figure 17
2500sh green



Figure 18
3000sh brown



Figure 19
5000sh dark green

0 - 0 - 0 - 0

German Harmonica Stamp

Christoph Wendland

Small but mighty! Hardly any other musical instrument fits this description as well as the harmonica: it has a wide range and can be used in almost all musical styles. It is handy and robust and is therefore very suitable for playing when traveling or on the road. The mouth organ, as the instrument used to be called, is also inexpensive and easy to learn and therefore widespread - in fact, it is considered the most widely built musical instrument in the world. And this despite the fact that its invention probably dates back only 200 years.

The first harmonica virtuoso Lawrence Cecil ("Larry") Adler and artists such as the Rolling Stones and the Beatles made the instrument popular in the 20th century. In 1965, the US astronaut Walter Marty Schirra Jr. performed the well-known "Jingle Bells" on a miniature version that he had secretly smuggled aboard the Gemini 6 spacecraft, making the harmonica the first musical instrument to be played in space, along with the bells that accompanied him.

Editor's note: The text is an English translation of German Post Office notice when the stamp was released. ■



Lawrence Cecil Adler (February 10, 1914[1] – August 6, 2001) was an American harmonica player. Known for playing major works, he played compositions by George Gershwin, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Malcolm Arnold, Darius Milhaud and Arthur Benjamin. During his later career, he collaborated with Sting, Elton John, Kate Bush and Cerys Matthews.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Adler#Early_life

A Family Postcard From Troubled Times

Victor Manta

Introduction

In this World War II postal history article, I present the wanderings of a postcard written and sent by my father 80 years ago, card currently found in my family's archives. The article is intended for people interested in the postal history of a territory called **Northern Bukovina**, which passed during the Second World War from Romania to the USSR (following a Soviet ultimatum), then from the USSR to Romania since June 22, 1941, and then back to the USSR after the end of hostilities. Now Northern Bukovina is part of the Republic of Ukraine¹.

The Postcard From USSR



Figure 1
USSR postcard to Romania

Let's start by showing this postcard.

It is an ordinary Soviet postcard, with a printed stamp of 20 kopecks and a perforated 10 kopecks stamp. The total franking being 30 kopecks.

The two stamps are canceled "20 6 41", (June 20, 1941). On the cancel, one can clearly read the locality where the card was canceled, Hertsa (Pluckemin Cantonment)



Figure 2
The two postage stamps and their cancellation.

and, less clearly Chernovtsy (Черновцы), both written with Cyrillic characters. The Hertsa district was in the Hertsa region.

It should be noted, and it is important for the following, that this postcard came into the possession of the Soviet postal service just two days before the launch of the attack by German - Romanian troops on the territory of the USSR (June 22, 1941).

Family Connection

The destination address written in Latin characters (including the name of the destination country), is that of my aunt in Bucharest, Surica (Sally) Leibovici. Using Google Maps, I found the building on 4 Apolodor Street. It looks rather dilapidated, but I guess it looked better in 1941.



Figure 3
Coat of arms of the USSR

For the sender's address, my father used my maternal grandmother's Chernivtsi address. The address is written in Latin characters, which I suppose should have facilitated the sending of a Romania answer.

Soviet Symbol

This banal Soviet postcard draws attention to the printed coat of arms of the USSR, representing typical Marxist symbols for communist parties, or socialist states (Figure 3). Note the sickle and the hammer "occupy" not only the surface of the Soviet Union but that of the entire globe.

The rising sun at the bottom and the inscription in Russian below the sun calls for "**Proletarians Of All Countries**

Unite” and on the bundles with the same text, written in different languages, that surround the crown of wheat ears.



Figure 4
The German censorship office applied the cancel
on arrival in Bucharest (Romania)

German Postal Censorship Stamp

The red “cancel” is, of course, the most interesting element of this postcard. You can see it enlarged to the left of the image in Figure 4.

At first I was surprised by the mention of the city of Berlin in the “cancel.” This made me think that this postcard could have passed through the capital of the Third Reich but this quickly turned out to be wrong. Here is what we learn from the excellent reference 3. (my translation from German):

“Verification centers” (Prüfstellen)

It was planned to set up two verification centers - one in Berlin and a second in Königsberg. Other offices were later added only in the occupied territories. Those censorship agencies were called “Auslandsbriefpoststellen” (ABP).

The verification centers were military offices abroad. They kept the names of the initial centers in Germany, which is why Berlin appears on the censorship “cancel” in Bucovina. It was occupied by both German and Romanian troops.

Note: Reference 3 allows us to easily translate the German censorship cancel:

- “*Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Berlin*” appears in the clockwise direction, translation: Berlin Office for the Verification of Letters Abroad
- Counterclockwise “*Briefstempel*”, translation: Letter Cancel.

From the fact that this postcard continued its journey to its destination, we can know that it successfully passed the censorship of the German censorship office.

Postal card’s arrival, Romania capital Bucharest

In Figure 4 we see something almost incredible, but true, namely the Bucharest arrival cancel (18) of our addressee.

The cancel clearly shows the date “29Sep.41.15”, at 3 pm Scrawled is the name of the city. So, the postcard was on its East to West trip for 102 days (or 3 months and 10 days) during war conditions. The distance between Hertsa and Bucharest is about 550 Km (340 miles).

During this time, the German-Romanian troops were making their rapid advance in the opposite direction. They arrived near Moscow, where they later were defeated and pushed back.

My parents took refuge, traveling on foot and in a very crowded freight train. In addition they were bombed on the road, from the Chernivtsi region to Uzbek SSR, at a distance over 4,000 km (about 2,500 miles).



Figure 5
Romanian censor



Figure 6
Bucharest arrival cancel

My grandmother, whose address was used on the postcard by my father, arrived in the ghetto “reserved” by the new Romanian administration for the Jews of Chernivtsi. They wore the obligatory yellow six corner star.

On the postcard, the “**CENZURAT = CENSORED**” cancel of the Romanian military administration appears very clearly on the left side. There is also a stamp Bucharest (9), dated 30, but the rest I was not able to decipher.

The Rest of the Story

I came into possession of my aunt Sally’s post card many years after my family received it in Bucharest. Her correspondence with my father (her brother) was renewed only after the end of the war.

I remember occasionally adding a few personal lines to my father’s letters to his sister. They started with the words, written in Romanian, but in Cyrillic characters: “Dear Aunt Sally, I have not written to you in a long time, but I promise I’ll write to you more often.” I was about ten years old at the time and I was in Northern Bukovina, USSR. It seems like an eternity has passed since then.

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By Frank Siewerdt and Gene Eisen

A CHESS CHAMPION for all AGES

Mikhail Tal

WIKIPEDIA PHOTO



Notwithstanding Bobby Fischer's flamboyant style and Garry Kasparov's great charisma over the board, one can make a strong case for choosing Mikhail Nekhemyevich Tal as the most colorful world chess champion ever. His personal life was as complex and troubled as was the lethality of his skill on the chess board. Tal was world champion for only

one year, from May of 1960 to May of 1961, having lost the title back to Mikhail Botvinnik on a rematch clause that existed at the time. His attacking skills have been matched by few in the history of chess. Naturally, with the advent of strong chess engines, some of his fierce attacks were ultimately refuted and proved to be unsound. However, the complexity of Tal's play still baffles modern players. His games are loved, studied, and respected by chess enthusiasts. His name is still synonymous with an attacking chess style.

Tal was born in Riga, in Soviet Latvia, on November 9, 1936 and was educated as a journalist. But his heart was with chess and he was able to have a long and very successful career. He was a feared attacking player that liked to take his games into uncharted territory, forcing his opponents to think on their feet. He consistently created unbelievably complex problems that required on-the-spot creative solutions from his adversaries. Tal's efforts were often successful and his reputation and effectiveness as a chess player grew rapidly. Tal did not play only the chess board but focused on the player across the board from him. In his own words:

"Speaking in the language of mathematics, in chess I love most of all the instant when the cathetus of the triangle is longer than the hypotenuse!"

Tal loved tactics, the short-term move sequences designed to gain a tangible advantage over the board, typically by capturing an opponent's piece or by trading one of your pieces for a more valuable piece of your opponent. But Tal also had a deep understanding of positional play, the long-term, strategic approach to the game, which emphasizes controlling space on the board without any immediate gain in material, with the intention of constraining the possibilities of your opponent. It was this combination of skills that made Tal so dangerous and effective at chess. Without this dual mastery of the finest details of the game his ascent to the throne would have been impossible.

Game 6 against Mikhail Botvinnik in their 1960 world championship match is probably one of the best examples of the deep traps that Tal set for his opponents. Tal had the black pieces and after his 20th move, where he just captured a pawn with his black bishop that is on the light-colored square, he forced Botvinnik to move one of his rooks to the corner of the chess board (*see diagram below*).



At this point, Botvinnik threatens to "fork" Tal's knight and bishop by pushing one of his pawns one square forward. Instead of retreating one of his pieces, Tal puts his knight *en prise* in the f4 square. He later admitted that the move was mostly intuitive, and that he did not have a concrete follow-up in mind. The move just *felt* right for Tal, and the forthcoming positional features were extremely favorable to the black pieces. The ensuing move sequence proved Tal right, despite the best efforts of the reigning world champion. When the 41st move was reached, Botvinnik sealed his move but the game was never resumed, since the overnight analysis showed that Tal's position on the board would lead to a win no matter what continuation was played. Botvinnik, himself Jewish and the *primus inter pares* (first among equals) of Soviet chess had never felt so much pressure, being down two wins after only six games had been played. Tal went on to conquer the chess Olympus on the 21st of 24 scheduled games. He was the 8th world chess champion, the youngest one at that time at age 23, until that achievement was topped by Kasparov in 1985.

Three years earlier, Tal had earned his grandmaster title after winning his first Soviet Chess Championship at the tender age of 20. He won this championship (organized from 1920 to 1991, arguably the toughest chess tournaments ever held) outright 3 times, shared the title with another grandmaster 3 times, and had one second-place finish and three third place results, a superb record that was only topped by Botvinnik himself. For the reader's reference Kasparov, who dominated world chess for about 20 years starting in 1985, never won the Soviet championship outright, having at best shared first place twice with another player. Between October of 1973 and October of 1974 Tal remained unbeaten for 95 games (46 wins and 49 draws), a phenomenal accomplishment considering that the very strong opposition and the highly competitive tournaments that he entered during that stretch.

His phenomenal playing record was compiled despite serious and recurring health problems. Tal was born with ectrodactyly in his right hand (*he purposefully hid this hand during play and there are few photographs where his condition was apparent*), and his recurring kidney disease, associated with poor lifestyle decisions (chain smoking and heavy drinking) led to a challenging existence, with frequent periods under medical care in hospitals. One can only imagine how much more Tal could have accomplished if his choices away from the chessboard had been sounder. He died in 1992 at the age of 55, having left a legacy to chess that is still respected at the highest levels of the game.



TAL'S GRAVESITE in Jaunie ebreju Kapi Cemetery in Riga, Latvia

Jewish Chess Champions

Besides Tal, there have been six other world chess champions that were ethnically Jewish — Wilhelm Steinitz, Emanuel Lasker, Mikhail Botvinnik, Bobby Fischer, Garry Kasparov, and Alexander Khalifman. This roster makes up for exactly one-half of the first 14 men to hold that title. After Khalifman, politics strongly interfered with the world championship cycle, but a quick survey on the International Chess Federation (FIDE) website produced just under 100 men and women that hold the title of Grandmaster, the highest lifetime title in the game of chess. This list includes the Hungarian Judit Polgár (b.1976), the highest-ever rated women in the world, which at one time ranked number 8 in the world, in the men's FIDE listing!

MIKHAIL TAL Postage Stamps

Postage stamps commemorating Tal's chess accomplishments were issued by several countries. The most extensive issue is a 2011 Guinea-Bissau two-set souvenir sheet featuring 1960-61 World Chess Champion Mikhail Tal (Figures 1-2). The four stamps on the first souvenir sheet (Figure 1) are top left: Mikhail Tal vs. Mikhail Botvinnik; top right, Mikhail Tal at an older age; bottom left, Mikhail Tal at a younger age; bottom right, Mikhail Tal vs. Bobby Fischer. The second souvenir sheet features Tal in several poses and a sculpture (Figure 2).



FIGURE 1 — GUINEA-BISSAU SOUVENIR SHEET



FIGURE 2 — GUINEA-BISSAU IMPERFORATE SOUVENIR SHEET

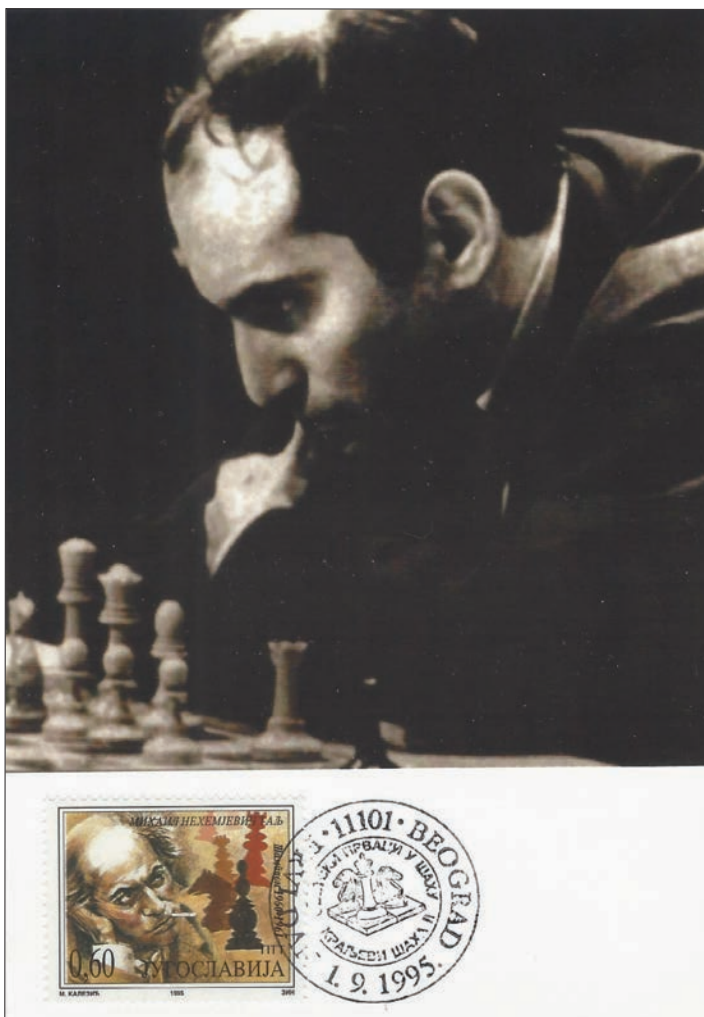


FIGURE 3 – YUGOSLAVIAN MAXIMUM CARD

On September 1, 1995 Yugoslavia issued a stamp honoring Tal, in one of a set of stamps featuring chess champion, Scott 2289h. The stamp is shown here on a first-day post card with a photo of Tal (Figure 3).



FIGURE 4 – CAMBODIA



FIGURE 5 – BENIN

Figure 4 shows a portrait of Tal on a Cambodian stamp, Scott 1554, issued on September 10, 1996. The Republic of Benin issued a set of stamps on March 29, 1999 featuring world chess champions, which included an illustration of Tal on Scott 1134 (Figure 5).

Latvia, Togo, Mozambique and Tchad issued stamps honoring chess champions in the last two decades that include Tal.



FIGURE 6 –LATVIA 2001 detail from the souvenir sheet



FIGURE 7 – TOGO 2010 – Tal is included on a perforated stamp as well as this imperforate souvenir sheet (detail) dedicated to grandmaster Vasily Smyslov.



FIGURE 8 – MOZAMBIQUE from the 2011 souvenir sheet



FIGURE 9 – TCHAD 2015

Collectively, these stamps of Mikhail Tal provide a tribute to a great world chess champion.

References:

- Cafferty, B. Tal's 100 best games, 1961-1973. New York Pittman, 245p. another
- Cafferty, B., and Taimanov, M. (1998) The Soviet championships. London: Cadogan, 222p.
- Landau, S. Checkmate!: The love story of Mikhail Tal and Sally Landau. Lexington, Elk and Ruby Publishing, 223p.
- Radić, A. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzvAR2N39P8&t=43s> (Analysis of the Botvinnik-Tal match game 6)
- Tal, M. (1970) Tal-Botvinnik 1960, revised 4th edition. Milford: Russel Enterprises, 213p.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Tal
- <http://ratings.fide.com>

Part 1

Some Uncommon Destinations For Mail Sent From Palestine: During British Occupation December 1917 - May 1948

Ed Kroft QC FRPSC

Editor's note: Ed Kroft gave a Zoom presentation on Uncommon Destinations for various groups in 2021. The next issues of **The Israel Philatelist** will present some of the covers from the Zoom meeting.

Scope of this Presentation

This is an enjoyable area to collect because of "the challenge factor," the related postal history, and the geographical and philatelic knowledge obtained

The key driver is the destination to which the mail was sent. Covers shown were sent by surface (land, water) or air. Cover rates will be explained as part of the presentation.

Palestine Status

Palestine during the period under review was under the military and civil administration of the British (Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Occupied Enemy Territory Administration, League of Nations Mandate, Postal relations therefore were between the United Kingdom and the postal authorities administering the postal systems in these "uncommon" destinations. All sovereign states were Universal Postal Union members at the time the mail shown was sent

Criteria for Inclusion as "Uncommon"

The "uncommon" destinations may have been sovereign states or colonies, protectorates, territories or possessions of sovereign states. The word "uncommon" was chosen carefully. The words not chosen were exotic, rare, scarce, unique, unusual or weird.

A destination is considered "uncommon" because of various factors such as geographic location and size of the population. An "Uncommon" Cover is one to which mail was seldom sent from Palestine by either surface mail or airmail at some points during the relevant period.

Some "Common" Destinations Not Shown

USA, Some European countries, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt

References and Acknowledgment:

1. House of Zion Catalogs- Les Bard Collection (Auctions 91 and 94)
2. Tel Aviv Stamps Catalogs
3. Bale Mandate Catalog 2010
4. Wikipedia and other maps
5. My own collection and material in the collections of others
6. Thanks to Ed Rosen, Yacov Tsachor, Mike Bass, Joel Slutski and others
7. This presentation is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Les Bard z"l whose research and articles advanced our knowledge so very much.



Figure 1 Middle East

Aden (British Crown Colony- south Yemen)

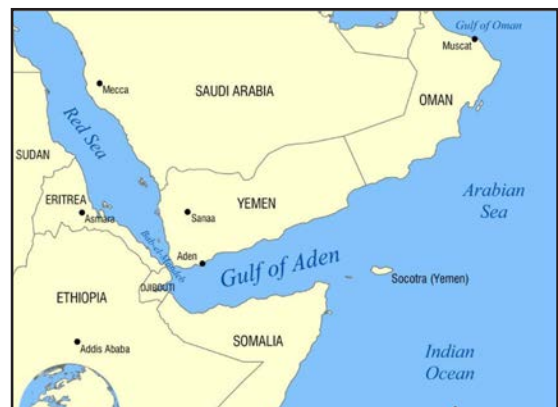


Figure 2 Aden- Yemen



Figure 3
Aden (British Crown Colony - south Yemen)

Air Cover to Aden Camp from Er Ramle- All Empire 10m/10g rate with 2m & 8m tied by "ER Ramle /23 No/ 38" (struck twice), Port Said Traffic 26 No 39 transit & Aden Camp 1 Dec 38 received b/s's (8 days transit - via Air to Egypt, surface to Aden)

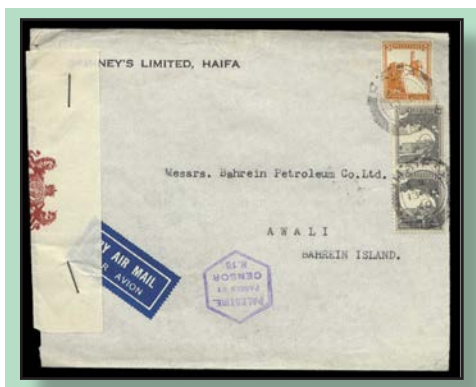


Figure 4
Bahrain (UK Protectorate)

Censored air cover Haifa to Bahrain (Bahrain) Island KLM 25mm/20m per 10gr. Rate to Bahrain & Iran with 4m, 2x 10m tied by "HAIFA/ 13 JA/40" cds (struck twice), violet Palestine censor marking, red on white British censor tape wrapped around the cover and stapled (twice) at left. Sent via Baghdad, Jan 18 transit, Bahrain Jan 21(faint) receiving backstamps

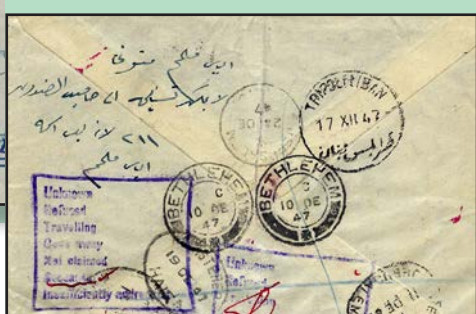


Figure 5
Iraq (Mesopotamia - UK Administration)

24 NOV 23, AJAMI B.O. Jaffa pc originally marked "Overland Mail Printed Matter" crossed out and sent airmail, franked 33m: 8m post card rate +25m air mail fee, BAGHDAD 12 DEC 23 arrival postmark on face, KANTARA-HAIFA TPO SOUTH 4 DE 23 transit on back. An early example of the RAF's "Transdesert Air Service" to Iraq



Figure 6
Lebanon (Sovereign State)
35 mils - registered surface mail,
Bethlehem to Tripoli, December 10/47



transit Jerusalem, Arrival December 17/47,
Returned December 24 /47



Figure 7
Saudi Arabia (Sovereign State)

Returned double weight registered entire sent by air to Mecca (Forwarded to Djeddah) from Er Ramle. 25m/10g rate to Arabia (2x25m plus 15m registration =65m) with 50m tied on 15m Registered Entire "ER Ramle /27 DE 47"

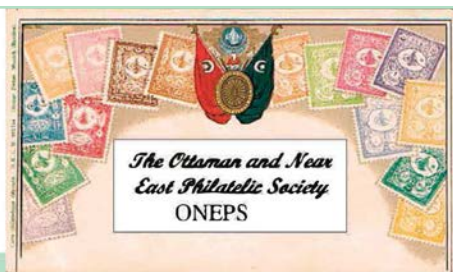


Figure 8
35 mils registered surface mail from
Haifa to Papeete.
Postmarked April 27/47



Transit New York and San Francisco (May 30/47). 13 mils registration plus 20 mils letter rate (per 20 gr.) plus 2 mils convenience overfranking

to be continued

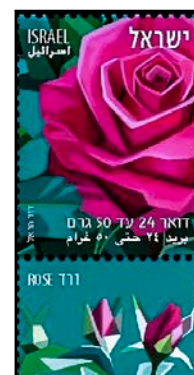


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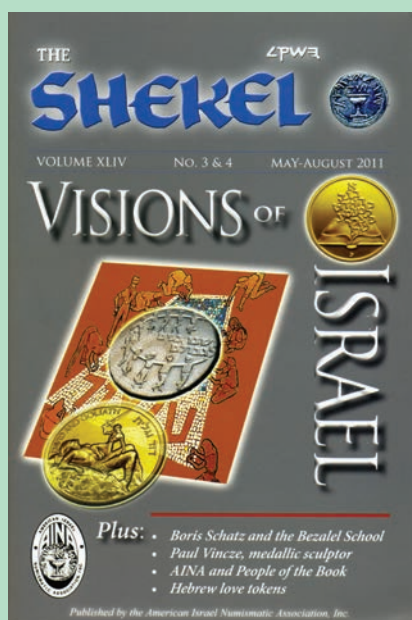


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Forerunners of the Holy Land

Robert Pildes, M.D.

Part 6

Editor's note: This is a continuation of selected exhibit pages from his gold medal exhibit. I want to thank Dr. Pildes for permitting me to publish his exhibit pages. Note white space on pages has been sometimes eliminated to maximize the size

of a cover and write-up. Previous articles: Part 1, Spring 2020, Part 2 Summer 2020, Part 3 Fall 2020, Part 4 Winter 2021, Part 5 Spring 2021. ■

TURKISH ADMINISTRATION

Domestic Registered Letter
Plus 1 pi Insurance ?

JAFFA

January 1, 1896

Registration Mark (C RC 1) is the **SIXTH EXAMPLE** known-five per Collins



Reduced (70%)

769

Registered No. 3691 (manuscript) mark inscribed "287" = 1287 (Turkish Civil Calendar = 1871)

Addressed to Hadji Effendi, on ? street of Bukhara, House No.3, Istanbul

Postage: 1 pi domestic letter + 1 pi registration + 1 pi insurance? No.769

Reverse : see above; note no receiving mark Istanbul

TURKISH ADMINISTRATION

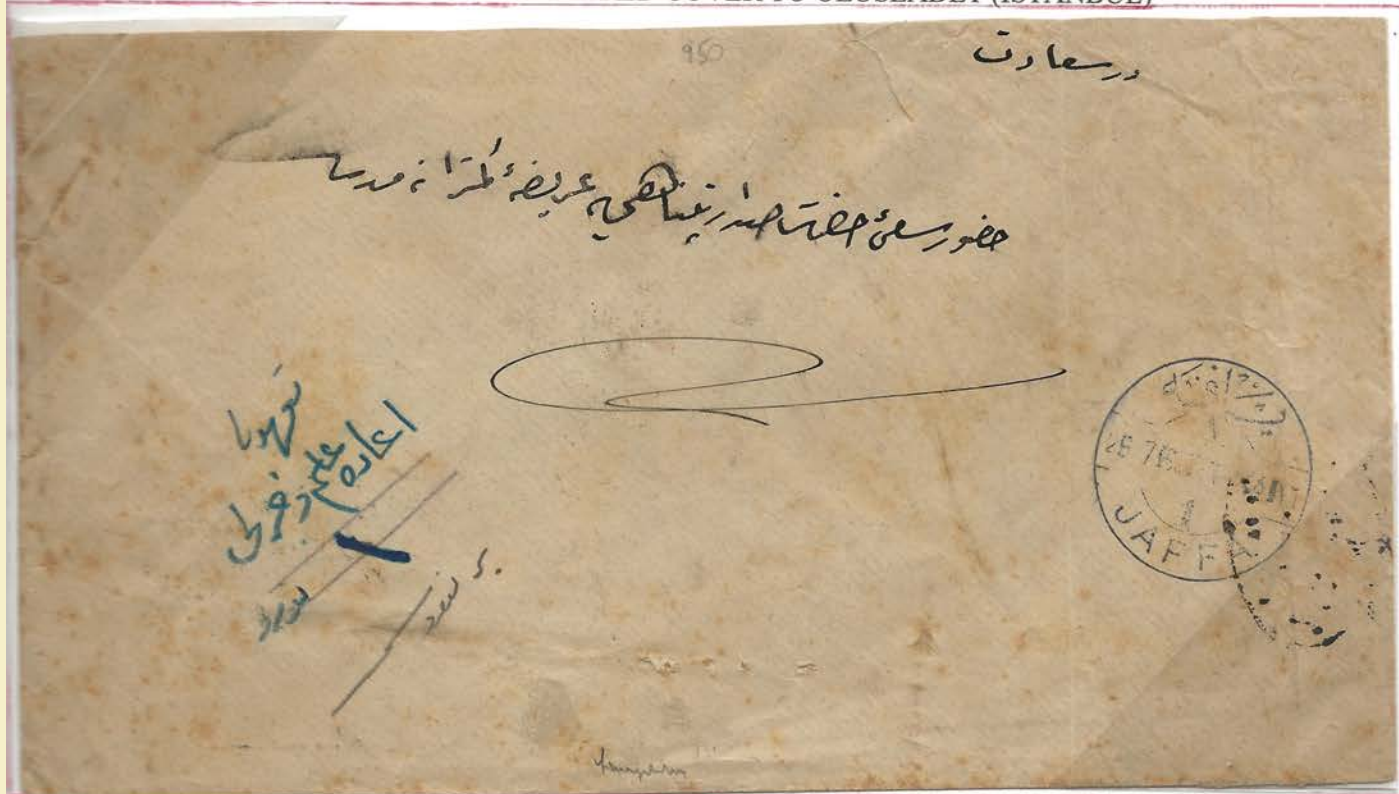
**Registered Domestic Letter 2 pi
+ war tax 20 pa**

JAFFA

July 25, 1907



HAND WRITTEN REGISTERED COVER TO OEUSEADET (ISTANBUL)



Jaffa (S 22/11; C PM 14); reverse transit Yenidjami with Arabic date

S

TURKISH ADMINISTRATION

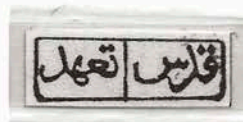
Domestic Registered Letter 2 pi, 20 pa
+ extra weight

JERUSALEM

DEC. 28, 1910



S 28/13
C PM 16



CRC3

ONLY LOWER PART REGISTRATION MARK USED-5 RECORDED



Upper part registration mark eliminated at beginning of 1900's due to Pan Islamic views

Registration mark: KUDUS-TAAHHUTLU "JERUSALEM REGISTERED"; below- 4273 manuscript Arabic

Postmarks: Jerusalem Dec 28, 1910; reverse: arrival Istanbul 26.10.1326=Jan.1911

Rate: letter 40 pa + registration 40 pa + extra weight 20 pa =100 pa =2pi 20 pa

S

TURKISH ADMINISTRATION

**Domestic Registered Letter 2 p1
+war tax 20 pa**

NAZARETH

April 1917-1918

SCARCE REGISTERED LETTER TO HAIFA



Very Scarce Nazareth all Arabic postmark—NOT LISTED in Steichele or Collins

Registration cachet (S 41/09; C RC 3)- only known used 1917-1918

Collins states this cachet recorded on only THREE covers

Receiving postmark Haifa illegible

70 Years of the Draining of Lake Hula

Moshe Kallmann



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 3a



Figure 3b

Lake Project

In 1951 the swamp draining operation was begun. It was carried out by the KKL-JNF and completed by 1958. It was achieved by two main engineering operations: the deepening and widening of the Jordan River downstream and the creation of two new peripheral canals diverting the Jordan at the north end of the valley. The drying out of the swamp caused the extinction of the unique lake.

Though perceived at the time as a great national achievement for Israel, with the advent of the modern environmental movement, it became evident that the transformation of the swamp into agricultural land involved significant trade-offs and had effects on the ecosystem. These effects were not perceived at the time. The major concerns had been the reduction of malaria-bearing mosquitoes and improving farm productivity.

Underground Fires

The soil had been stripped of natural foliage and was blown away by the valley's strong winds. The drained swamp peat ignited spontaneously causing underground fires that were difficult to extinguish. Eventually, part of the valley was transformed back into a wetland habitat.

The whole swampy area that was the marshes of Hula Lake was once thickly overgrown with papyrus.

In 1963 on a small 3.5 square kilometer area in the southwest corner of the valley was recreated a papyrus swampland.

It was set aside as the country's first Natural Reserve. Some 24,000 hectares of the northern Hula Valley including the nature reserve have been recognized as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International. The area supports many species of birds, either as breeding residents, winter visitors, or passage migratory.

KKL-JNF Labels

In 1941 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of KKL-Keren Kayemeth le'Israel, the KKL issued a label with the map of Palestine on it (Figure 1). If one looks closely, you will see at the top of the map a little dot, that was once Lake (Swamp) Hula.

In 1946 the KKL issued a set of stamps highlighting the Survey of the Lake (Figure 2). In the same year the KKL issued a second label set in different colors with a "DOAR" (Mail) overprint (Figure 3). An interesting fact is that the very same labels (Figures 2 & 3) were issued in a form of a sheetlet of 10 stamps each (Figures 3a & 3b). More interesting is the fact that the label in Figure 3a has a double perforation on the left and at the bottom is a sheetlet number with an asterisk.

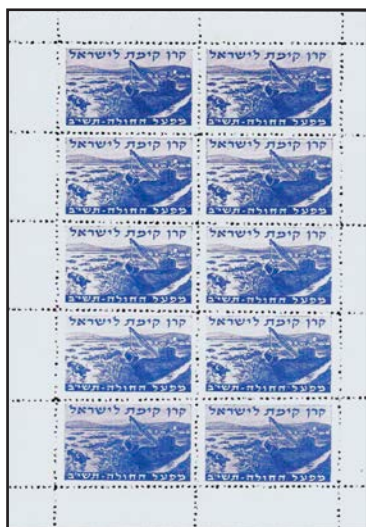


Figure 4



Figure 4a



Figure 5a



Figure 5

For the first time in 1952 a set of stamps was issued marking the beginning of the drainage of Lake (Swamp) Hula. The label has no denomination but is perforated (Figure 4). Two sheetlets were issued at the same time - one perforated and one imperforated (Figures 4 & 5). I presume that a single stamp from each sheetlet has been cut out and sold separately (4a and 5a).

In 1954 was issued another set of stamps showing about half the drainage completed (Figure 6). The project was completed in 1958. ■



Figure 6

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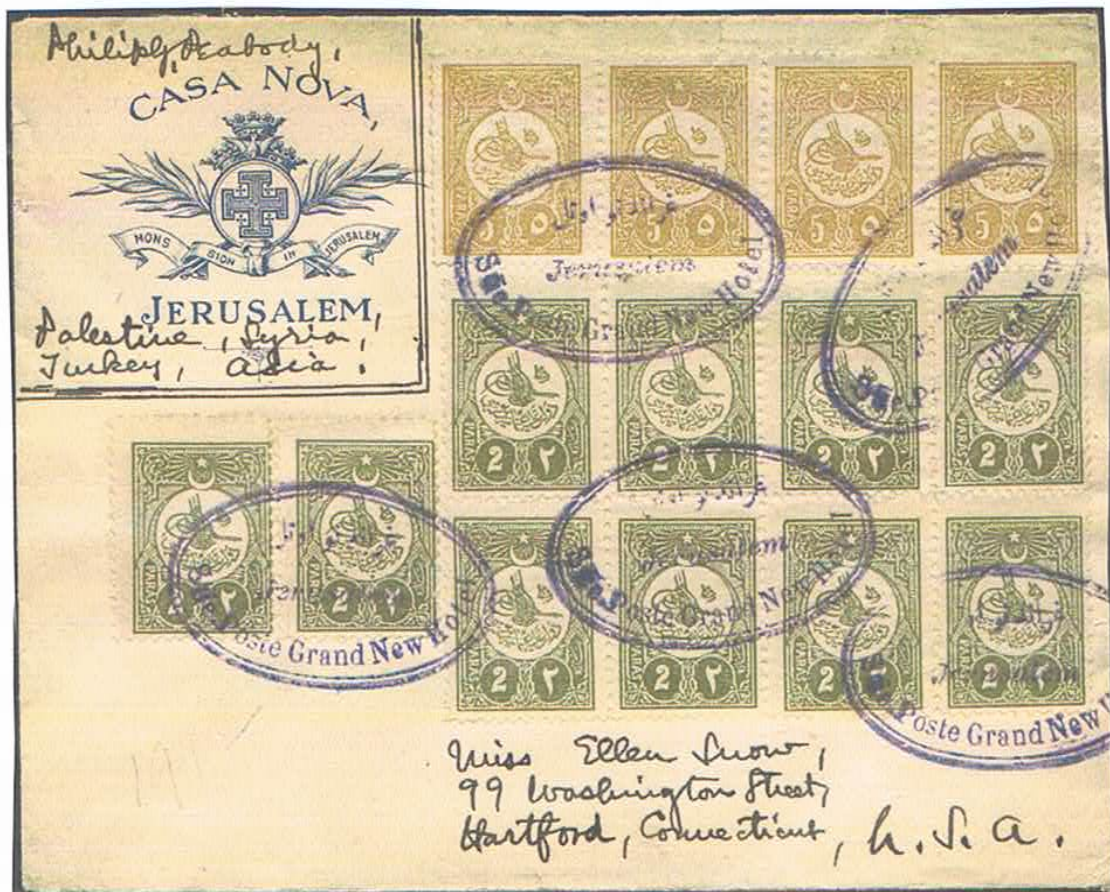
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Editor's note. On August 22, 2021 Ed Rosen's Zoom presentation traced the development of stamp collecting in the Holyland. The presentation included many unique, interesting and rare items. Below is a selection of several of the items discussed. The Fall issue of **The Israel Philatelist** will present some additional covers. We hope to make available on the SIP web site all Zoom presentations. We will send out note when they are available.

Stamp Collecting in the Holy Land...

Ottoman Empire to 1975 Israel



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Due to difficult living conditions, very few people had the time or resources to collect stamps in during this time. Phillip Peabody, an American missionary and stamp collector, wrote home frequently, using numerous low value Turkish stamps on his mail, and had his family save them for him. This 1914 cover was found about ten years ago when his correspondence came on the philatelic market. The cancels are the rare "Grand New Hotel" cancels, up until now, only seen on two other covers

Stamp Collecting in the Holy Land...

Ottoman Empire to 1975 Israel



OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Turkish "Stamps" Picture Postcard (and scene of Jerusalem) written April, 1914 to Reims France, with 6pa + 4pa stamps tied to card by Jerusalem octagonal black cancel. Card also shows Crest and Flags of the Ottoman Empire.

Stamp Collecting in the Holy Land...

Ottoman Empire to 1975 Israel

PALESTINE MANDATE 1918-1948



Picture Postcard "25 YEARS PALESTINIAN POSTAGE STAMPS
1918-1943, February 10th



You could have a photo
taken with your picture
superimposed in Palestine stamp

PALESTINE MANDATE 1918-1948



1943 Palestine Cover addressed to Port Said, censored with Label "LOVE OF STAMPS—TEL AVIV", from Ernest Taussig, chairman Tel Aviv Philatelic Society



Tel Aviv Philatelic Society
handstamp on back of cover

to be continued




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Stamp Collecting in the HolyLand



**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 22,
2021
1:00 PM EST
BY ED ROSEN**



**A PHILATELIC SURVEY of the
HISTORY of RAILROADS
in the HOLYLAND
from the OTTOMANS to TODAY**

by Steven Berkowitz
**OCTOBER 24, 2021
1:00 PM EST**



**POSTAL OPERATIONS
OF THE JEWISH COLONIES
IN PALESTINE
1870-1920 PART 2**

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
1:00 PM EST**

BY ED KROFT FRPSC

Ed will continue his discussion of the postal history of over 40 settlements established during this period. He will use postcards, covers, maps, photographs and other historical documents in his presentation about such places as *Mikveh Israel*, *Rishon Le Zion*, *Petach Tikvah*, *Zichron Yaakov*, *Gedera*, *Hadera*, *Degania*, *Rosh Pina*, *Nes Ziona* and *Kinneret*.

Ed is writing a lengthy book on this subject which the Society of Israel Philatelists hopes to publish in 2021.

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Thank YOU for your generous support!

The 2021 Fundraising Campaign kicked off in December, 2020. Contributions acknowledged here received through February 14, 2021. Sincerest thanks go out to our wonderful members for your kind support. All monetary contributions are fully tax-deductible. For more information, please contact the Endowment Fund Director, Michael Bass at mbass7446@gmail.com or (440) 708-1785.

Negev Holyland Stamps

The next **NEGEV HOLYLAND** sale is tentatively set for **December 2021**. This will be a small sale – about 300 lots. Lots starting prices under \$50 will be in the LOW-PRICE section. In this section, the lots are sold AS IS and there is no buyer's commission.

Please get the lots to me by **mid-September**. This will give me plenty of time to process the material.

One Hundredth Sale

Looking ahead, the One Hundredth **NEGEV HOLYLAND SALE** will be sometimes in 2022. This will be a very special sale.

Current plans (subject to change) are for all or mostly new material – few if any repeated lots. The minimum start will be \$100. The entire catalogue will be in color. There may even be a special low commission (vendor and buyer). The catalogue will be mailed to all clients. [Currently, it is mailed only to those who request a hard copy. Others are directed to the web site.]

Please consider this as an opportunity to sell better material. Please contact me with details of the material you desire to sell. See contact Sid Morginstin, e-mail: leadstamp@verizon.net. ■

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Members are requested to inform the Grievance Committee within 30 days if they knew of any reason why the following applicants should not be admitted to membership as provided by the Society By-Laws.

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The Riddle Of World War II Covers From The Collection Of Charles H. Jordan

Martin Šmok

Charles H. Jordan, the executive vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JOINT, AJDC), the leading global Jewish humanitarian and relief organization, was found dead in the Vltava River in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on August 20th, 1967. Since that moment, his death has remained shrouded in mystery.



Figure 1 Charles H. Jordan
Photo from the archive of the author,
courtesy of Paul Kaplan.

Philately Background

Among the United Nations staff, members of the American and World Councils of Voluntary Agencies, and the various migration and refugee institutions, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Charles Jordan was known as the Father of the Refugees. Besides his work on behalf of the refugees, Jordan was also an avid philatelist. In the years since his death, it was often hinted that his personal meetings with people he called stamp collectors in countries behind the Iron Curtain and in the Arab world may have served a wholly different purpose, namely rescue through ransom activities on behalf of Jews living in hostile territories. Even during his last day, Jordan was supposed to be meeting a “stamp collector” in Prague. Unfortunately, his personal stamp collection was sold by his widow. Thus the material that may have offered hints and clues was scattered among philatelists all over



Figure 2
Mr and Mrs Jordan
UN Refugee Year Stamps
Photo from the archive of the
author, courtesy of Gert Nemela.

the world. This article is an appeal for help to those who may own specific philatelic material originating from the personal collection of Charles Jordan.

Speculations about his death aside, there is one major riddle in the life of Charles Jordan that extant stamp covers may help to solve. Yet to understand the riddle, one has to look at the life story of Charles Jordan and the connections he had to Prague.

Jordan A. Refugee

In the summer of 1933, the future Father of the Refugees was himself a refugee. After a sudden escape from Germany, Charles Jordan and his wife Eli, born Nemela, settled in Prague, Czechoslovakia, supported by the local refugee committee. Their plan was to move to Poland, to join Jordan's mother and sister, who enjoyed a comfortable and intellectual life there, revolving around the Odeon recording studios in Warsaw and the Patria hotel in Krynica. But then there was a change of mind. Charles Jordan eventually asked for the issuance of a US passport, despite being a German citizen. He was entitled to one, having been born in Philadelphia. Instead of moving in with his mother and sister whom he loved, he decided to join his father in America whom he hardly knew. They had met only once or twice, before World War I in Berlin, when Charles was just a child. After Charles left Czechoslovakia, his wife Eli Jordan remained in Prague until May of 1934. She joined her husband in New York, arriving on a Czechoslovak refugee passport.

Career as Refugee Worker

Once in the United States, Charles Jordan became interested in refugee matters. After brief studies in Philadelphia and at the Columbia School of Social Work, his positions included:

- secretary of the Central Committee for the Resettlement of Foreign Physicians



Figure 3
Mr and Mrs Jordan
Berlin or Karpacz
pre-1933. Photo from
the archive of the
author, courtesy of Gert
Nemela

- soon promoted to Director, Central Intake at the National Refugee Service.
- later named Director of Joint Relief Committee, Asociacion Nacional Conjunta Para Auxilio a Refugiados y Emigrantes, a branch of the AJDC assisting all Jewish refugees arriving in Cuba and the Caribbean.

US Military Service & Afterwards

Following the US entry into World War II, Jordan was eventually drafted into the Navy and served his term. After the war, his successful career with AJDC brought him to Shanghai, Paris, Geneva, Jerusalem, and many other places. The stamp cover riddle I am trying to get an answer to is linked to the wartime period.

Did he, after his American arrival, correspond with his mother and sister? Did he attempt to save them? While I have seen fascinating covers capturing his attempts to communicate with his wife's family or distant relatives in Europe, there seems to be no trace of any exchanges between Jordan, at the time rescuing thousands of European Jewish refugees, and the two women he loved the most.

Family's Fate

According to a radio program recorded in his memory in 1967, there probably were some covers in existence then. The script notes discuss "an envelope from his beloved mother and sister, with return address Torplatz 6, in the ghetto". The women soon moved from that Warsaw address. For a while, they ran a ghetto coffeehouse called Tawerna Cyganska (Gypsy Tavern), which was a venue featuring Jordan's brother-in-law, the famous violinist and orchestra arranger Arkadi Flato. His mother Herta Hirschberg, sister Ilse Flato and the brother-in-law Arkadi were all murdered in their Warsaw ghetto room during a German killing spree in 1943.

Philately Covers

Has any reader seen postal covers with the above family names? Chances are there were both official and unofficial letters, as the practice of the Warsaw ghetto included sending letters to the United States via third countries. Why would knowledge of the existence of such letters be important for the life story of Charles Jordan? Because in the summer of 1967, he returned to the place where he made the decision not to move to Poland, opting for the United States instead, starting the career that made him the Father of the Refugees. A decision that also meant he never saw his mother or sister again, saving strangers instead.

Another aspect that makes pre-World War II and World War II period covers to Charles Jordan so interesting is the censorship markings. Jordan was no ordinary person. Probably since his appointment at the National Refugee Service and definitely after he was nominated Director of Joint Relief Committee in Cuba, the United States



Figure 4
Lisbon to Cuba Larry Nelson collection.

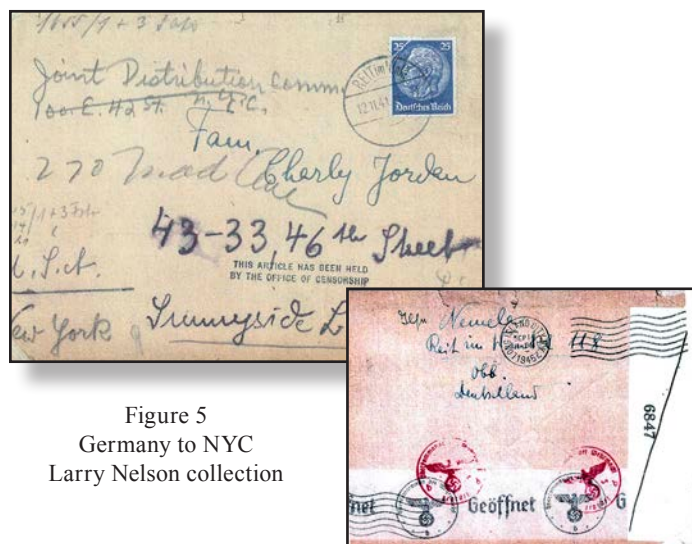


Figure 5
Germany to NYC
Larry Nelson collection

authorities suspecting him of being a Nazi spy, adhering to the widespread view of the time that the refugees from Hitler were German spies. The preserved fragments of official documentation capture the fact that the US authorities were reading Jordan's correspondence.

A fascinating cover from the collection of Larry Nelson, was already featured in the June 2010 issue of **The Israel Philatelist**. It was mailed on November 12, 1941, from Reit im Winkl, Germany to his wife Eli in Sunnyside, Long Island. It was censored by the Germans in Berlin and by the Americans in New York City. It was then held by the Office of Censorship until it was released in September 1945. Since the Jordans were no longer at their 1941 address, it was forwarded to the AJDC. Maybe there was other family correspondence that shared a similar fate, we just do not know.

"Anti-Zionist Campaign"

The slanderous claims about the Jewish refugees being agents of the Nazis were later recycled by the Soviet propaganda unleashed against AJDC within the "anti-Zionist campaign" of 1952-53. It only fits the image of the Father of the Refugees

that at the height of the hunt for “Zionists” and amidst the staged show trials, Charles Jordan chose to personally run the humanitarian effort of AJDC assisting the needy Jews of Hungary, only to be suspected by the US authorities again, this time of being a Communist spy.

I have seen a few covers sent to Jordan from behind the Iron Curtain, by his personal secretary Anna Tauber in Budapest - and there is a heroic story of personal bravery there. Yet the main appeal I wanted to communicate with this article is for information about any covers from the period of 1933 - 1943 that may carry the names of

- Charles or Charly Jordan,
- Elizabeth or Eli Jordan,
- Herta Hirschberg,
- Ilse Flato and/or
- Arkadi Flato.

For they may help me better understand the great man and a hero of Israel whose life I have been researching for almost 20 years, a man whose amazing life shall be of interest to philatelists too.



Figure 6

Mr and Mrs Jordan in Israel

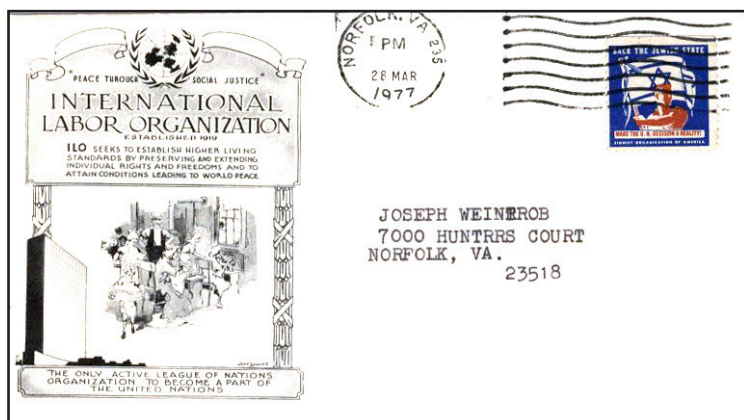
Photo from the archive of the author, courtesy of Theodore Feder

I would be very grateful for any information. With best regards from Prague,

Martin Šmok, smok.martin@gmail.com ■

Zionist Organization Of America

Joe Weintrob



Stamp label issued in February 1948 depicts a young man carrying the flag of the new State of Israel. Inscribed on the top of the stamp is “BACK THE JEWISH STATE” And at the bottom “MAKE THE U.N. DECISION A Realty”.

The cover went thru the mails with the label accepted as valid postage. ■



100th Anniversary of a “Temporary” Organization

Jesse I. Spector M.D.

In November, 2014, the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) celebrated having served humanitarian needs of millions of both Jews and non-Jews in 85 countries for a full century. Not a bad track record for an organization hastily responding to an urgent telegram from the US Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau, to American philanthropist, Jacob Schiff, asking for \$50,000 to stave off starvation for the 59,000 Jews in the Ottoman Palestine.

My postal history interest with this “stop-gap” plan that morphed into a monumental program of “**Rescue, Relief, Renewal and Public Policy Making**” had its origins with our previous report of a World War I era mailing to a representative of the JDC working in Siberia after the Russian Revolution¹. It would be rekindled with the acquisition of a World War II era cover from the “Tracing Office” of the American Joint Distribution Committee mailed to Palestine in the aftermath of the Holocaust. The postings, a quarter century apart, and the amazing permutations resulting from Morgenthau and Schiff’s fledgling efforts, are the stuff of history that I now gladly bring once again to the light of day.

Siberia Cover

Figure 1 shows a large, well-worn registered envelope sent from New York City to Robert Rosenbluth, care of the Joint Distribution Committee in Vladivostok, Siberia shortly after World War I.

Postmarked in New York City on October 11, 1920, the upper left hand corner includes a handwritten notation of sea passage via *S.S. Aquitania*, and a boxed purple hand stamp below the address indicates Seattle-Victoria seaplane mail.

The cover’s reverse (Figure 2) includes receiving markings in Yokohama, Japan on November 20, 1920 and Vladivostok, Russia on December 5, 1920. The two-month transit accorded by the cover’s markings would have required an 8-10-day, 5,600-mile transit via the Panama Canal for *Aquitania*’s cruising speed of 24 knots/hour; followed by William E. Boeing and Eddie Hubbard’s seaplane mail on one of the early flights of Foreign Air Mail Route 2, to Victoria, British Columbia, service on this route having just been inaugurated on October 15, 1920. Figure 3 shows the men with their

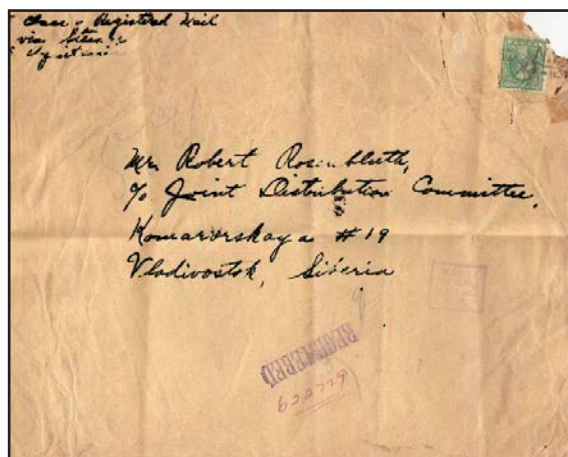


Figure 1
Registered envelope, New York to American Joint Distribution Committee in Vladivostok, Russia via air and sea routes, posted October 11, 1920

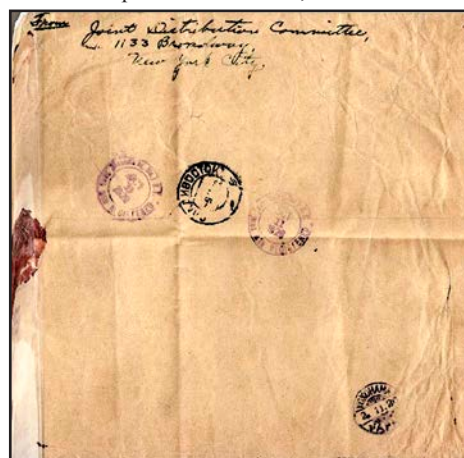


Figure 2
Reverse of Figure 1, showing receiving markings in Yokohama, Japan, and arrival in Vladivostok, Russia, December 5, 1920

Boeing C-7-seaplane at Lake Union on the first flight of a Canadian route Vancouver to Seattle on March 3, 1919, the first international airmail route in North America.

Postal Service

Figure 3
William E. Boeing and Eddie Hubbard and their Boeing C-7 seaplane on first flight of Canadian route Vancouver to Seattle, March 3, 1919



Fee

There may have originally been four stamps on the cover, one partially covered on the upper right corner by a one cent stamp, and two additional stamps to the left of the one cent stamp. I speculate a total postage of 31 cents to cover:

- Registration fee of 10 cents U.S. currency (50 centimes for service outside Europe)
- Indemnity fee of \$9.65 (U.S.)

United States mail to Russia would have crossed the Pacific from Victoria to Japan and across the Sea of Japan to Vladivostok. With the rates and routing an adventure itself, I will shortly introduce you to the recipient of the mailing, Robert Rosenbluth, whose story would earn him the unenviable title of “**The American Dreyfus**” according to *The New York Times* a few years hence; but, first let us raise the curtain on a cover sent from the American Joint Distribution Committee to Benno Gross in post-war Palestine just prior to the creation of the State of Israel.

Palestine Cover



Figure 4

Envelope addressed to Benno Gross in Haifa, Palestine posted through US Army Postal Service on June 10th in 1946 or 1947 from the Tracing Office of the American Joint Distribution Committee via New York

Figure 4 is a cover addressed to Mr. (Herrn) Benno Gross in Haifa, posted through the US Army Postal Service from APO 742 - the legal division of the U.S. military government in Germany.

The 5-cent international postage was paid with two John Adams (Scott 842) rotary press coil Prexie 2-cent stamps, and a 1-cent Four Freedom 1943 (Scott 908) rotary press stamp. In the lower left-hand corner is sender information: the Tracing Office of the American Joint Distribution Committee via the New York Postmaster. The duplex cancellation indicates posting on June 10th, without a year date; although, the existence of the Tracing Office of the JDC from 1945-1947 and the fact that the Haifa address is to Palestine indicates a mailing prior to May 15, 1948 when the State of Israel came into existence. I suspect that the June mailing was in 1946 or the latest 1947.

Joint Distribution Committee

With the philatelic facts in place let me first acquaint you with the Joint Distribution Committee. Note that the mailing to Russia failed to include the words “American” or “Jewish” - not an oversight, rather an intentional deletion lest Soviet animosity bite the hand that was trying to offer aid.

The Western Union cable dated August 31, 1914 from Ambassador Morgenthau to New York philanthropist Jacob Schiff was urgent and explicit:

**PALESTINIAN JEWS FACING TERRIBLE
CRISIS ... BELLIGERENT COUNTRIES
STOPPING THEIR ASSISTANCE ... SERIOUS
DESTRUCTION THREATENS THRIVING
COLONIES ... FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
NEEDED.**

Let me remind the reader that the amount requested to be raised by the American Jewish community is the current equivalent of about \$1.25 million dollars. Within the month representatives of 40 Jewish organizations raised the funds through what was considered an ad hoc temporary coordination of relief work for the beleaguered Jews of the Levant.

The unexpected immense scale of the World War quickly became apparent to the religious and secular organizations making up the Jewish relief effort, resulting in the founding of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC) on November 27, 1914. The initial plan was to support the Jewish populations of Eastern Europe and the Near East for the duration of hostilities.

Compounding the negative impact of the war on the civilian population was the onset of the Bolshevik Revolution and the breakup of the defeated Ottoman and Austro Hungarian Empires at the conclusion of World War I. The adverse effect of these circumstances on the large Jewish populations within these geographical theaters of conflict guaranteed that the AJDC would have its hands full and would be anything but a temporary institution.

In the long-run, between 1914 and 1929, the AJDC raised \$79 million from American Jewry to support the most basic needs for survival of displaced and distressed Jews, while at the same time expanding its role to include immigration support, educational commitments and credit lending in order to help sustain a functional Jewish culture.

The ultimate taxing of AJDC activities would come with the terror of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust

The rise of the Nazis in the 1930's and the subsequent progressively repressive measures brought to bear on

German Jews and Jews in occupied Europe would bring out every creative instinct within the organization. The result was assisting 190,000 Jews to leave Germany during the decade and 80,000 reaching the safety of non-European countries. AJDC funded resettlement in such diverse places as the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, China, and with great clandestine effort Palestine as well.

World War II Effort

During World War II \$400 million was raised for refugee aid, and after the war the immense task of caring for thousands of surviving refugees. This work would occupy the AJDC in a monumental effort to rehabilitate and reintegrate the remnants of a shattered people into the post-war world. This would require support and financial assistance for those confined by the Allies to displaced persons camps, where, except for basic food and medical care, little more was available other than continued incarceration. Immigration, education, clothing, and cultural amenities were necessary at the most basic levels. Imagine Jewish children without surviving parents, and who had never been to school. Caring for their needs was just one example of the task at hand. AJDC would eventually assist 440,000 Jews in reaching Palestine and, after May 15, 1948, the newly created State of Israel.

Current AJDC Activities

I conclude our discussion of the AJDC by bringing the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee into the contemporary world. The 1980's and 1990's saw the AJDC involved in Diaspora work including the immigration of millions of Soviet Jews, as well as thousands of Jews from Ethiopia and then from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The task grew even more formidable when the AJDC expanded its programs into non sectarian rescue missions wherever global disasters threatened the lives of humanity. These have included the Rwanda and Kosovo refugee crises, the 1999 earthquake in Turkey, the 2004 South Asia tsunami, 2008 Pakistan earthquake, and the list goes on.

The AJDC mandate now includes **"Rescue, Relief and Renewal"** with projects as diverse as their involvement in humanitarian presences in scores of countries over the entire globe- a far cry from its ad hoc birthing in 1914, indeed. And in its peripatetic endeavors it has added yet another for the future: with the cooperation of the Israeli government as a direct partner, the AJDC has moved into the arena of maintaining Israeli social and financial strengths through public sector management, volunteerism and think tanks. Let us now catch our breath and conclude with meeting the receivers of our two postal history mailings.

Who Was Robert Rosenbluth

Postal history is fascinating from two quite distinct aspects: the intricacies of the philatelic details of the mailings including rates, routing, rarity of postage, place of origin

and receipt, etc.; and, the history behind the message being sent whether an organization, a time frame in history or the individuals involved in the missive.

The cover sent to Robert Rosenbluth in Vladivostok certainly combines a good deal of both philatelic interest and a particularly impressive "history behind the headlines."

Rosenbluth was born in New York City in 1887 and graduated from Yale University in 1907 with a degree in forestry. He pursued distinguished careers in fields outside forestry as well, including government research with the Institute for Public Service, military duty during World I, international relief work in the years following the Great War, and a subsequent 50-year service with state welfare agencies in New York and Illinois.

As a representative of the AJDC in Russia in 1919 he assisted in obtaining statistics on wheat production for the American Relief Administration. The AJDC was one of the groups serving to distribute food during the Russian famine of the post war era related to the ongoing civil war between Bolsheviks ("Reds") and "Whites." Note that the words "American" and "Jewish" were intentionally deleted in the address on the cover, since the Reds were distrustful of the United States and were anti-Semitic to boot.

The "Dreyfus" Type Incident

In this brief overview on Rosenbluth I would be remiss, if I did not step back a bit in time to add an amazing caveat to his story that occurred prior to his service with the AJDC in Russia. The incident, resulted on his return to the United States in his being under a cloud of suspicion related to a most troubling and widely publicized injustice that almost derailed his life.

Returning to the United States after suffering war wounds late in the conflict, Bob was stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, where on October 25, 1918 he was one of three men on the pistol range when one of them, a Major Alexander Cronkite, was killed with a bullet from his own gun. Rosenbluth was arrested and accused in the death of a fellow military officer. An Army Board of Inquiry ruled the death of Major Cronkite as accidental and self inflicted. Thus, Robert Rosenbluth was apparently vindicated. Nevertheless, the victim's father, an A.E.F. General in Europe at the time, disagreed, and ordered a Department of Justice investigation. The outcome of this second investigation corroborated the findings of the original Board of Inquiry, and the original verdict was upheld. Surly that should have put things to rest, but not so.

Henry Ford, notoriously anti-Semitic, refused to let go despite the verdict, and revisited Major Cronkite's death in his Dearborn, Michigan newspaper **The Independent**. Based on Rosenbluth's work in Russia, Ford accused him of being a "Bolshevist Jewish agitator" among other slanders.

Newspapers across the country picked up Ford's coverage, pressured the Justice Department, who then reopened the case in 1921. They extracted a confession from the other soldier at the scene, a Sergeant Roland Pothier, who initially implicated Rosenbluth in the murder; yet, at the subsequent trial Pothier's confession was found to be entirely fallacious, and Rosenbluth was found not guilty.

Rosenbluth petitioned for his own exoneration, with extensive testimony as to his activities and actions at the time of the shooting clearly demonstrating his innocence, and the government dropped its case. The New York Times labeled him an "American Dreyfus," analogous to the anti-Semitic injustice perpetrated on Captain Richard Dreyfus in France in the 1890s. With admirable equanimity, Rosenbluth in future years expressed no bitterness over the ordeal. He would continue in public service work until the time of his death in 1975.

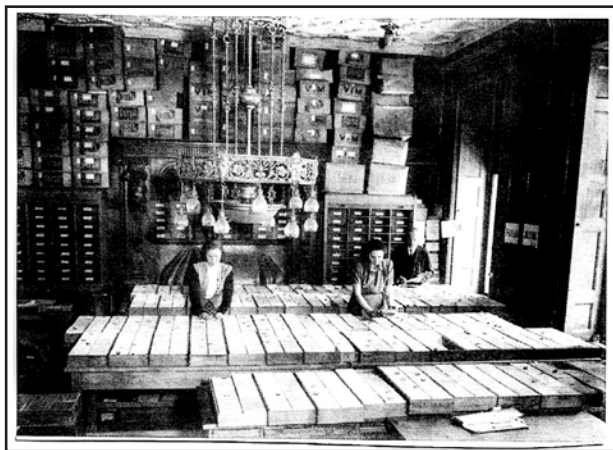


Figure 5

Tracing Office of the American Joint Distribution Commission for Holocaust survivors of World War II

A quarter century after the Rosenbluth Mailing we again met up with Joint Distribution Committee in one of its seemingly endless permutations, this time from the Tracing Section aiding in locating refugee survivors of the Holocaust (Figure 5).

The AJDC was one of a number of agencies carrying out the task of what was most movingly described as the "List of the Living" reported for over two years in the New York weekly newspaper, the *Aujbau*, a subject we previously published in this journal².

Benno Gross, the recipient of the second cover, will regrettably remain unknown, but not for want of trying. Direct communication with Israel by email and telephone regarding what I perceived might be promising prospects, in the final analysis proved blind alleys. I did, however, meet some very nice folks along the way, and thank Benno Gross in absentia for bringing to light the continued role of the AJDC after World War II, thus giving encouragement to bring this article to light.

Conclusion

With now more than 100 years since the founding of this "temporary" iconic organization, I leave you with two photos that in many ways epitomizes the meaning of the AJDC to millions of those in need (Figures 6a, 6b). And let us also close with a brief philatelic collage reminding us of the worldwide activities of the AJDC over time (Figures 7a-7c). Truly a noble, and, most assuredly, an enduring institution.

American Joint Distribution Committee Aid To Those In Need



Figure 6a



Figure 6b

Worldwide Intervention By The American Joint Distribution Committee As Seen Philatellically



Figure 7a



Figure 7b



Figure 7c

References:

1. Spector, II, Markovits, RL, *Addressee an American Dreyfus*. *Postal History Journal*, 2011, 150: pp. 10-13.
2. Spector, II, Markovits, RL, *The First Sign of Life- A Rothchild in the Shanghai Ghetto*. *The Israel Philatelist* 2014,65, No.1: pp. 48-51.

■

Member's Awards



Abraham Accords Philatelic Exhibition

Tri National Virtual Stamp Exhibition

Israel - UAE- United States
June 15 - June 30, 2021

Web site to view exhibits

<https://aape2021.com/welcome/>

Member's Awards

WESTPEX 2021

San Francisco
July 30 - August 1, 2021

Ed Rosen

Vermeil

"BIROBIJEAN, Jewish
Autonomous Oblast" 1 frame

Great American Stamp Show 2021

Chicago, IL
August 12 - 15, 2021

Dr. Bob Pildes

Large Gold

APS Medal of Excellence

Artist's Drawings, Essays, Proofs &
Associated Material of the
1948 Doar Ivri Issue, Israel

Sid Morginstin

Large Silver

Lundy Island - 1929 to Recent

The Israel Philatelist

Large Silver

Dr. Robert Pildes

Court of Honor

Artist Drawings, Essays, Proofs and
Associated Material of 1048 Doar
Ivri Issue of Israel

Howard Chapman

Vermeil

JNF Fund Raising Cinderellas 1901-1948

Les Glassman

Gold

Mozambique & Mozambique Company

Shaula Alexander

Large Gold

Turkish Post in the Holy Land 1841-1918

Zvi Aloni

Vermeil

Crash and Interrupted Flight Covers

Michael Bass

Gold

Foreign Postal Operations in the Holy
Land 1852-1914

Donald Chafetz

Vermeil

Palestine Printed Matter 2nd
UPU Period to May 15th 1948

Fran Adams

Vermeil

The United Nations and Palestine
1947-1951

Moti Kremener

Large Gold

Postal Services in Beyrouth, Lebanon
Until 1918

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SIP President's column



Howard Chapman

Summer is ending quickly. I only wish the COVID Pandemic would end as fast.

In-person stamp shows are starting up again. As I write this column, the APS, **Great American Stamp Show** is taking place this week (August 12-15).

The most important upcoming show for all of our Society members is **NOJEX 2021**. This show is scheduled for **October 15 - 17, 2021**, at the **Hilton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey**. Please plan to attend. The Society of Israel Philatelists will be one of the featured Societies at this Show. You will be extremely pleased with the dealer bourse, exhibits, presentations, and camaraderie of spending time with other Society members.

Years ago (1980's), when I was first elected President of this great Society, the SIP was operated entirely by volunteers. More recently, our members seem to be too busy to volunteer. The SIP did hire a part-time Administrative Assistant based at the APS Headquarters. Sarah has resigned her position with the SIP and APS. We are looking to replace Sarah with a new part-time person in Bellefonte, Pa. In the meantime, your Society needs you.

If you are someone who enjoys social media, i.e., **Facebook**, **Twitter**, etc., maybe you would like to volunteer to operate the SIP presence on Social media. You can put up information on Holidays, events, social occurrences, using stamps and covers to add to the interest. Open discussions, answer questions (our Officers will help). All this is to achieve the end goal of increasing our membership.

Our Society is still looking for a **Treasurer**. We must have an accountant who is willing to volunteer.

Does any member reading this column have knowledge in **applying for private grants**? A grant would greatly

help the Society achieve its educational goals. Like any non-profit group, it takes money to operate our business. Dues alone, do not cover the cost of printing and mailing **The Israel Philatelist**. The website and on line searchable database of **The Israel Philatelist** are major assets, that add substantially to the Society's annual budget.

If all of our members would persuade one friend to join our Society, this would greatly enhance our financial condition.

I hope that all of you are fully enjoying your collecting experience and have joined one of our monthly Zoom presentations. They are a wonderful opportunity to learn.

Philatelically Yours,
Howard S. Chapman

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Festival 2022 - Ecclesiastes



Tab: The Sun Rises And The Sun Sets



Tab: All Streams Flow Into The Sea



Tab: One Generation Goes Another Comes

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Ed Fund Update (Summer 2021)

David Kaplan

In 2020, The SIP Education Fund published **The Revenue Stamps of the Palestinian Authority** by Arthur Harris and **The Doar Ivri First Issue of Israel: Postal and Commercial Usages of the Three High-Value Stamps** by Ed Kroft. With the permission of Shai Shabtai and his brother, the Education Fund has republished their father's definitive work **The Doar Ivri Issue-Printings & Settings Handbook**. Thank you to the authors and family for allowing the SIP Education Fund to publish their works.

Also, SIP Education Fund asks for your continued assistance to update: **The Revenue Stamps of the Palestinian Authority** by Arthur Harris and **Rochlin's Handbook of the Issues of the Jewish National Fund**. I hope that collectors in these respective areas of interest will forward images and descriptions of the undocumented items to the SIP Education Fund (SIPedFund@gmail.com), so that these items can be incorporated into future editions of the respective books.

With respect to **Rochlin's Handbook of the Issues of the Jewish National Fund**, the Ed Fund has recently updated the Shai section with the assistance of Chaim Bendicoff and the updated edition is now available.

The Education Fund receives over the course of a year both monetary and philatelic donations. The monetary donations are acknowledged in **The Israel Philatelist** while philatelic donations are not. I would like to rectify this oversight. The following individuals donated philatelic items to the SIP Education Fund in 2020:

Vinson Friedman	Nathan Jacobson
Douglas Weigler	Deborah Dobin
Mark Edelstein	Russell Winter
Daniel Askin	

Thank you for your support of SIP Education Fund programs



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zoom presentation: October 24, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 pm est

A Philatelic Survey of the History of Railroads in the Holy Land from Ottoman to Today



Join Steve Berkowitz for a philatelic survey of the development of the first railway in the Holy Land, from the 1892 opening of a narrow gauge line to the long delayed opening of the high speed Tel Aviv-Jerusalem line. Steve

will use stamps (Israeli and others), covers, postcards, maps, and rare photographs as we climb from the coastal plain through the Judean Hills to Jerusalem. ■

Register at:

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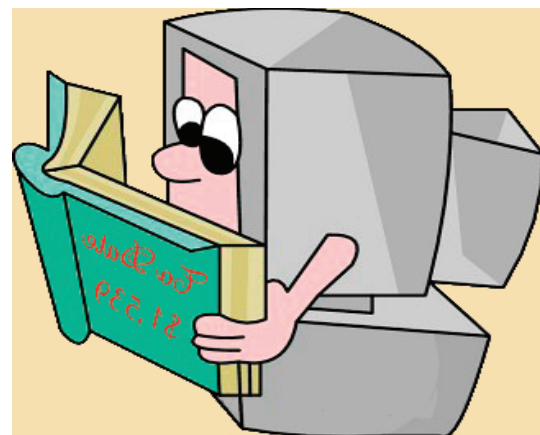
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