

36

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# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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# C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
<i>The Re-establishment of Normal Mail Services between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv after the 1948 Siege - Y. Rimon</i>	883
<i>Foglar's Last Flight - Ch. Shamir and M. Siegel</i>	887
<i>Mandate Period Economy Labels - A.M. Hochheiser</i>	893
<i>Unusual Handling and Some Enigmas - M. Siegel</i>	900
<i>"Postal Points" in Israel - B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal</i>	909
<b>Short Notes and Discoveries</b>	
<u>The Ottoman Period</u>	
<i>The Story of the Missing Stamp - Z. Alexander</i>	913
<u>The British Mandate Period</u>	
<i>Curiosities of the Rehavia Mandate Skeleton Postmark</i>	916
<u>The Interim Period</u>	
<i>Courier Letters from Jerusalem to London - Z. Alexander</i>	917
<i>Another "Tohuwabohou" Overprint - A.M. Hochheiser</i>	922
<i>A Do'ar Ivri Stamp Cancelled with the Mandate S.C. Jerusalem Postmark - I. Karpovsky</i>	924
<i>More About "The Two-Period Dispatch and Delivery" in Besieged Jerusalem - I Karpovsky</i>	926
<u>The West Bank</u>	
<i>A Taxed Cover from Nahhalin</i>	927
<b>General News</b>	
<i>New Cancellations and Post Offices</i>	928
<i>New Experimental Postmarks</i>	929
<i>New Stamps</i>	931
<i>Book Review</i>	933
<i>Obituary: Zvi Berest</i>	933
<i>Advertisements</i>	934

*Please remember*

**1989 Membership Fee is Due in January 1989!**

*(See rates on inside Front Cover)*

\*

\*

\*



*Some of the new stamps issued recently.*

## The Re-establishment of Normal Mail Services Between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv after the 1948 Siege

*Y. Rimon, Haifa*

*It is important to postal historians to determine the date on which normal mail services are re-established after an interruption caused by a change of postal administrations or a siege. In the case of the Jerusalem 1948 siege this question has never been settled conclusively, and how the siege, in the postal sense, was effectively ended is not completely clear even today.*

*Lately, the author has seen a postcard and two documents, one in a siege newspaper and one by the Postal Administration, which shed more light on this obscure subject.*

*In the extensive research of E. Fluri on the 1948 interim period, there is no precise answer to the question of the renewal of postal service. In the discussion of courier letters, he states: "Normal postal services were restored after 25 June, 1948"; but when exactly after the 25th is not mentioned.*

*To begin with it seems that it was the intention of the postal authorities to renew the services on the 17 June, i.e. the day on which the First Convoy left for Jerusalem, and one day before it returned to Tel Aviv, carrying siege mail. This is shown by the Circular No. 3 of the Israeli Post (see Fig. 1), stating amongst other information that:*

*"Postal services from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and back will be renewed starting Thursday, 17 June 1948. Regular and registered mail and newspapers will be accepted. There is no change in the rates."*

*Probably this announcement was referring to the convoy mail delivery and not to a continuous normal service which was not established on this date.*

*A similar announcement was found by the author in a provisional stencilled newspaper issued by the Jerusalem Workers' Council (An organ of the Histadrut Labor Union) during the siege. In its 17 June issue, we find the following announcement:*

*"From today the postal service to Tel Aviv and back will be renewed. For the time being only regular and registered letters and newspapers will be accepted for delivery." This seems to agree with the announcement of the Post, suggesting that perhaps 17 June is the date we are looking for.*

*A definition of "normal postal services" is in order here. What is meant by a normal service is that a letter mailed on a certain date is delivered immediately to its destination via predetermined routes by means of transportation running regularly at frequent intervals. In this sense the two convoys carrying the mail which accumulated in Jerusalem during the siege, were singular events and cannot be considered part of a normal service. Therefore,*

מדינת ישראל

הממשלה הזמנית-משרה התחבורה

מחלקת הדאר הטלגרף והטלפון - לשכת המנהל הכללי

חוזר דאר

כרך א'

יום רביעי ס' בסיון תש"ח  
16 ביוני, 1948

מספר 3

- 2 -

חשבונות

מוזכרים בזה לכל מנהלי בתי הדאר שבזמן משלוח חשבונות המברקים בחשבון השבועי, יש לצרף את כל הקבלות, המברקים והטופסים ד.ס. 18 המתאימים,

ספרי קבלות שלא נגמרו יש להוציא מתוכם את אותן הקבלות המתיחסות לאותו חשבון וכן העתק (ד.ס. 21 - Skeleton copy) מכל מברק שמסיבה כל שהיא אין אפשרות לצרף את האוריגינל.

שרות הדאר לירושלים

החל מיום חמישי י' בסיון, תש"ח, 17 ביוני, 1948, יחודש שרות הדאר מתל אביב לירושלים וחזרה.

יתקבלו למשלוח מכתבים ועתונות רגילים ורשומים. אין שנוי בתעריף.

בולי דאר בלתי מנוקבים בקצוות

אין למכור לקהל בולי דאר שאנם מנוקבים בקצוות או בולים שיש להם חסרון כל שהוא.  
בולים כאלה יש להחזיר למנהל החשבונות הראשי בדרך הרגילה.

**Fig. 1: Part of Circular No. 3 of the  
Israeli Post of 16 June 1948.  
(Courtesy Zvi Shimony.)**

the date of 17 June cannot be regarded as the relevant renewal date according to the currently available postal material.

Some pieces of mail suggest that the first convoy and maybe even the second one also delivered postal items such as stamps and letters to Jerusalem in addition to the delivery of mail bags out of the city. Even if this is correct and the convoys delivered mail in both directions, they still cannot be regarded as normal mail service. So far all the mail which was dispatched in Jerusalem until 21 June, and can be dated by an arrival or a transit postmark, can be related to one of the two convoys. This emphasizes that there were no other official mail deliveries except for the convoys, during this period.

When, then, did the normal service begin? To answer, we must rely on examples which were mailed in Jerusalem after the second convoy left (i.e. on or after 22 June) and arrived in Tel Aviv afterward. This can narrow the date to a day or two.

The earliest such mail item known to the author was a registered letter mailed in Jerusalem on 28 June, with an arrival postmark in Tel Aviv of 1 July. But a misdirected postcard, acquired lately, shows that the date we are looking for occurred between the 23rd and 25th of June 1948. The postcard is a printed request to return borrowed books to the National Library (see Fig. 2). It was issued on 15 May 1948; because of the siege it was mailed on 23 June. The addressee was a member of Kibbutz Ma'abarot in Emek Hefer, near Nathanya, but the address was erroneously written as: "Kibbutz Ma'abarot, Tel Aviv Post". The sorting clerk apparently did not know where this Kibbutz was, and sent it by mistake to Bat Yam. There, a redirection postmark was applied on 25 June, part of the address ("Tel Aviv Post") being crossed out by red pencil and the word "Ma'abarot" underlined in red.

The misdirection enables us to ascertain that the postcard was still in Jerusalem on the 23rd of June, went through Tel Aviv and was in Bat Yam on the 25th of June 1948. We also know that it was not a courier nor a convoy mail item. This proves that at least between 23 and 25 June a normal postal service between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv was already operative. This statement sets an earlier renewal date than that previously known.

As is true with all information based on presently known examples, it may be altered if we find examples which prove an earlier date. However, until then we must regard the dates of 23-25 June as the earliest known ones in which a normal postal service already operated to and from Jerusalem.

דבר דפוס  
PRINTED MATTER

לד/3  
קדור פאמא דצטויק  
אדדבל, פאדל אדדק  
ל'פ' א. חלן

28 JUNE 1948  
JERUSALEM

25 JUNE 1948  
BAT YAM

15 MAY 1948

ירושלים, 503 ת.ד.

א. נ.

כב' מתבקש להשיב בהקדם את הספרים הרשומים מטה ששאל מבית הספרים  
הלאומי והאוניברסיטאי, ולא החזירם במועדם לפי התקנות.

בכבוד  
ה ה ה ה ה

את הספרים אפשר להחזיר  
בספרית "ישרון"  
(בית כנסת "ישרון")

5 סקריק

סעף י"ג מהתקנות לקוראים:  
המחזיק את הספר ברישון יותר מחודש נחשב להחזיר.  
ישלם 20 מא"י שבר תביעה לכל שבוע שהוא מחזיק את  
הספר למעלה מהמועד, ישלם קנס בסך 10 מא"י לכל ספר.  
מי שאינו מחזיר את הספר במסך שבועיים אחרי תביעה  
נשלחה באחריות, מפסיד את משכונו, והספר נקנה על חשבונתו.

Fig. 2: A request card from the National and University Library, dated 15 May 1948. Postmarked Jerusalem, 23 June and transit Bat Yam, 25 June, it may have been sent with the first normal mail service after the siege.

## Foglar's Last Flight

*Chaim Shamir and Marvin Siegel*

*In 1974 George Taussig (Representative of the Czechoslovakian Airlines in Israel) lifted much of the veil of secrecy that had surrounded the circumstances of the crash of the Czech Airliner OK-WDN on Flight No. 584 near Kalamata, Greece on December 21, 1948. The ill-fated Dakota's ultimate destination had been Lydda (Lod) Airport. Fred Blau, the noted Aerophilatelic Authority, reported about the philatelic aspects of this tragedy on page 330 of BAPIP, No. 110. These crash covers are amongst the rarest and most sought after pieces of our Aerophilately. This would be reason enough for us to be interested in the Kalamata tale, but the more important reason is to impress upon all the lesson that narrow national interest and not international good will is the key determinant of contemporary history.*

*To these writer's knowledge this tale (with the single exception of Siegel's Newsletter No. 71) has not been previously published in the philatelic press and as a memorial to Mr. George Taussig we respectfully and gratefully do so now.*

*Captain Vaclav Foglar was a veteran Czech pilot who had been trained and flown in the Air Forces of the Western Alliance during World War II. In February 1948, the communists had taken full control of the Czech Government and brought to an end the democratic dreams of the Masaryks and President Benes. Simultaneously, Czechoslovakia supplied Israel (for full payment) with vital military aid. The Czech pilots were not looked upon with favor by the new Communist Government but they were allowed to continue flying as there were not yet any communist-trained replacements available. These pilots began to desert almost immediately after the communist takeover\*. To prevent these desertions, the communists appointed other crew members as escorts to those that remained and their families were subject to close supervision.*

*In their flights to Israel, the airmen brought light weapons and small but vital items in their suitcases. Taussig paid the pilots in cash on behalf of the Haganah. Another constant item aboard these flights was mail.*

*Among the regular Czech fliers to Israel was Vaclav Foglar, Captain of the Dakota Aircraft with registration marks OK-WDN. He had devised an escape plan. For this he had to return to Prague on December 24 (Christmas Eve, when security would be lax) and smuggle out his family and two of his fellow pilots who would be waiting for him on the tarmac on Christmas night. The whole scheme hinged upon strict adherence to the exact schedule of leaving Rome on*

-----  
 \*Readers are referred to Siegel's article in *The Israel Philatelist*, August 1983, pp. 4073/4, for an interesting tale about one of those freedom loving aviators.

December 21, as the trip from there to Athens, Lydda (Lod) and the return trip retracing the same route back to Prague required the planned 3 days from Rome. No delays could be countenanced as there would be no way to communicate with the families to head them off without tipping the whole scheme to the Communist authorities. Taussig was a close friend of Foglar and knew of the plan but not the identities of the other two pilots. Those names were carried by Foglar to his death.

Greece, December 1948. Since liberation from Nazi Germany, Communist Partisans had attempted to overthrow the Pro-Western Royalist Government by open rebellion. The two supporters of the legitimate Greek Government were England and the United States. England also served as Greece's de facto ruler during 1948 and until the Communist rebels were finally crushed, the following year. But on December 21, 1948, fierce battles were raging all over Greece. The rebels were supplied by Yugoslav air drops (mainly at night, using flares for lighting and navigational guiding). British Intelligence commanded the Greek Air Traffic Control at both the Athens and Kalamata Airports and carefully identified each and every flight before rendering the necessary assistance for guidance and landing.

This was the background when Foglar took off from Rome in spite of horrendous weather conditions forecast and against the advice of the Italian Authorities. But he had no choice; his friends and loved ones would be waiting for him at Prague. Thus he was forced to adhere to the pre-arranged schedule in spite of the terrible atmospheric conditions raging over Greece's air lanes.

As he neared Greece, the weather forced him to deviate from the original and filed flight plan and he so informed Athens. About 40 minutes away, he thought he saw lights in the blackness. With growing frustration, he staggered through the skies of the Peloponnesus (southern Greece), blind to his whereabouts. Foglar requested help from the nearest control towers in pin pointing his position. Athens was silent. He broadcasted again and again. His SOS's were picked up as far away as London, Malta and Tangier. He didn't know that Greece controllers were remaining silent intentionally as British Intelligence believed that the Czech aircraft was intending to drop weapons to the local Communist insurgents. Kalamata Airfield was less than 60 kilometers away and could have handled the Dakota, but the British forced the Kalamata Control Staff to keep silent.

The partisans, hearing the Dakota in the skies above them, assumed that the flight was intended for them. They hurried to light flares, signalling the landing area for parachutes, on a ridge which they controlled. Foglar, who had inferred from the radio silence that his own instruments were out of order, rejoiced to see the flares believing that they outlined an air strip that he could use for an emergency landing. As he descended, a hill suddenly rose up in front of him. He could not climb in time and crashed into the slope.

Taussig rushed to Athens, chartered an American seaplane and located the

wreckage. But the partisans had already stripped everything of value including the dead people's shoes and possessions. The official inquiry stated it was a "routine" accident caused by difficult weather and diversion from a fixed route. The bodies were buried in Kalamata except for those of fourteen unfortunate Israelis who had been passengers. These were embalmed and flown back to Israel two weeks later.

Figure 3 shows the related official document from Israel's international

<u>מדינת ישראל</u>	
<u>מחלקת הדואר הטלגרף והטלפון - לשכת המנהל הכללי .</u>	
<u>ב.ל. 20/1/2</u>	
חל אביב כה' טבת תש"ט, 28.1.49	
מנהל הדואר חל אביב,	
<u>הנדון</u>	:- דאר אויר - אוירון צ' כי.
<u>בהחאס</u>	:- למכתבך דתא' 17/25 - 6765 מיום 11.1.49
פרטי המשלוחים שאבדו כתוצאה מהחאונה לאוירון הצ' כי ביום 21 בדצמבר, 1948, מפורטים בהודעה לקהל מס. 6 מ- 24 בינואר, 1949.	
2. לפי הודעה ממניסטריון הצ' כי כמעט כל הדאר אבד. רק כמות קטנה מאד של מכתבים נצלו. רשימה מיוחדת של מכתבים אלה תשלח בהקדם.	
3. לוסה בזה רשימות מהמשלוחים שאבדו.	
מנהל השירותים הבין לאומיים.	
העתק ל:- מנהל הדאר חיפה - עם רשימות מהמשלוחים שאבדו ושהיו מיועדים למשרדך.	
יכ/לס	

Fig. 3: The document sent to Tel Aviv Postmaster by the international Services Postmaster, relating to Foglar's crash (courtesy of The Israel National Archives).

services postmaster to Tel Aviv's postmaster. Paragraph 2 says: "From the information of the Czech Ministry, almost all the mail was lost. Only very few letters were recovered. A special list of these letters will be sent shortly."

Figure 4 is a registered cover sent from Bucharest on December 19, 1948 to

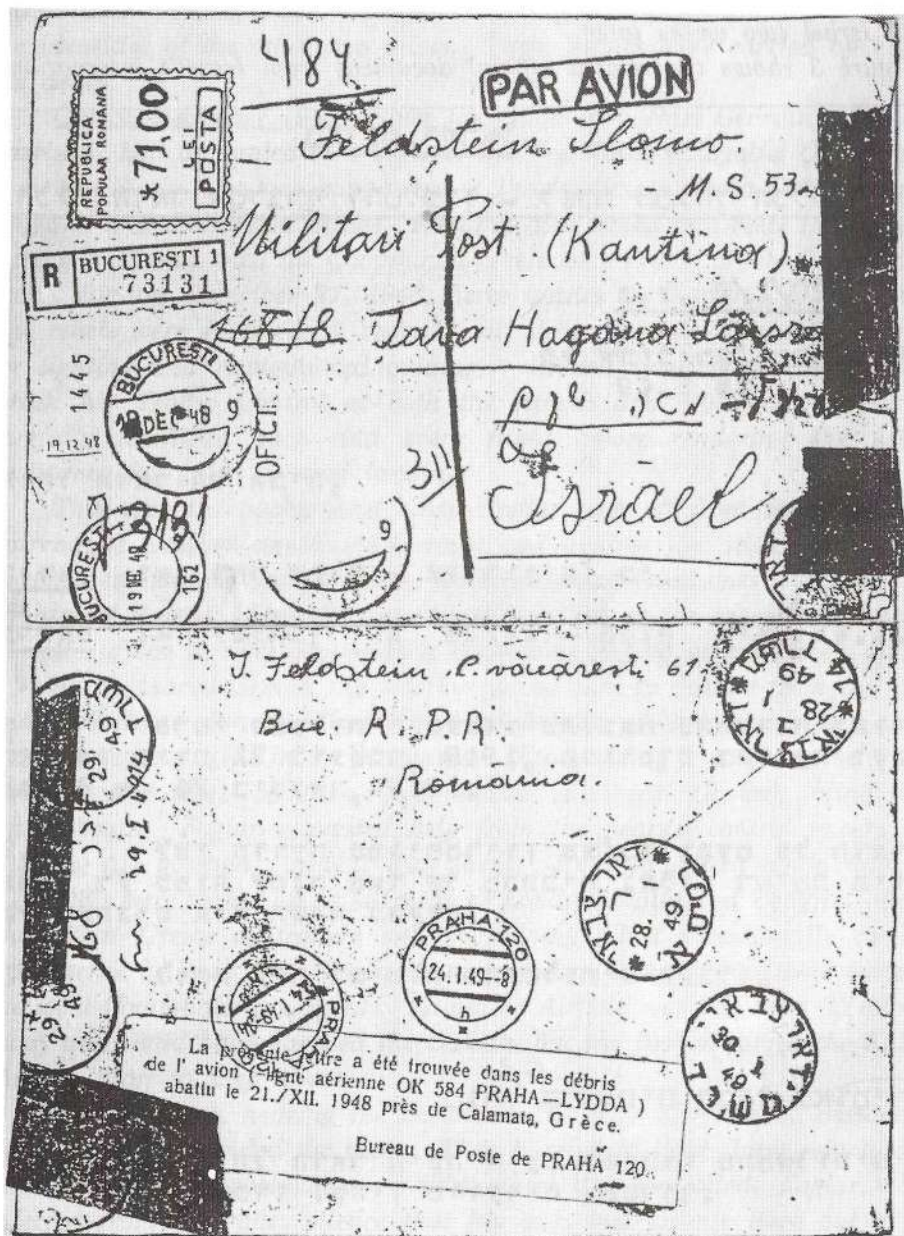


Fig. 4: A registered cover from Bucharest, Romania to a military address in Israel, rescued from Foglar's crash.

Feldstein Slomo, Military Post 168/8 (canteen), I.D.F. This cover was one of the very few recovered from the ill-fated Czech aircraft. It was returned to Prague, where a label in French was added to the back of the cover. This label translates: "This letter was found among the debris of the airplane (Airline OK 584 Prague-Lydd) that crashed on December 21, 1948 in Kalamata, Greece. Prague Postal Bureau No. 120".

The cover was postmarked twice with the hand cancel of this post office on January 24, 1949 and sent to Israel where the civilian postal service passed it to the military postal service. They tried to find the addressee but he had left that unit. The letter bears on the back and front the postmarks of Misrad 14 dated 28 and 29 of January, 1949. Added to the back of the cover is a



Fig. 5: The back of a registered cover from Braila, Romania to Haifa, rescued from the crash.

handwritten remark: "Has left unit 168, 29.1.1949" and signature. On the front of the cover the unit No. 168/8 was crossed out and then added by hand: "Has gone to the Military Canteen Headquarters" and No. "311". 311 was the military mail postal number of the Military Canteen Headquarters (Shekem). Another military cancel can be seen in the back of the cover, dated 28.1.49, belonging to another Misrad (most probably Misrad 3, since unit 311's mail was handled by Misrad 3). Only then was the letter finally delivered. Another postmark that this cover bears on the back is that of Registered Mail from Basis Alef dated 28.1.49<sup>3</sup>. Also added by hand on top of brown pieces of glued paper re-closing the envelope are the words: "It Was Received Torn".

Figure 5 shows another of the crash covers (only the back), registered from Braila (Romania) to Haifa with arrival postmarks of Tel Aviv and Haifa of 27.1.1949.

Literature:

- (1) George Taussig, "Highlights in Israel's Aviation History".
- (2) The Israel Defense Forces magazine BEMAHANE, September 14, 1974.
- (3) Spiegel and Kanner: "The Military Postal Services during the War of Independence".

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## Mandate Period Economy Labels

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi, N.J.

During the entire period of British control over Palestine, including both the military and civil administrations, authorities emphasized the need for economy in government operation. There are many examples of this in instructions to agencies in the government publications, as well as in general usage.

By far the most important of these economy measures was the effort to reduce the need for envelopes to be sent through the mail. In the main, this was accomplished by the use of an "economy label". The simplest and most plentiful of these was a gummed label  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3$  inches reading "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" (Fig. 6). These are known in a multitude of different colors, making it possible to have used up any available supply of colored paper which might otherwise have to be discarded. This also was an economy measure in action.



Figure 6

These "economy labels" could be used in two ways. (a) Letters (Fig. 7) or notices could be folded and a label applied to seal them without having to use an envelope at all (Fig. 8). The address to be mailed to would have been placed on the label. (b) The "economy label" could be applied over the address of a previously used envelope or in some cases, the address side on the front was crossed out and the label was placed on the back of the cover (Fig. 9).

I have seen "economy labels" applied as many as five different times onto the same envelope. Some "economy labels" were printed with the name of the

SE/16/8

THE GOVERNMENT FARM  
A C R E

23rd November, 1945.

Agricultural  
Officer,  
Tel-Aviv.Subject :- Vegetable seeds available  
at the Government Farm,  
Acre.

The following is the balance of  
seed available for sale at Acre on the  
22nd November, 1945, and can be supplied on  
application subject to same being unsold.

	Quantity	Price p. kg.
Beans Bountiful	800 kg.	LP. --.320
Spinach Juliana	55 "	--.600
Silverbeet	65 "	--.500
Tomato Marmande	90 "	4.---
Tomato Best of all	110 "	4.---
Peas Dun	180 "	--.080
Peas Yorkshire Hero	450 "	--.180
Peas Local	50 "	--.100
Cauliflower six weeks	150 "	12.---
Cauliflower Gloria	20 "	10.---
Beetroot Crimson Globe	100 "	--.450
Carrots Nantes	100 "	3.---
Cabbage Golden Acre	45 "	4.---

*W. H. T.*  
Actg. M A N A G E R .

Copy to:- Controller of Agric.  
Production, Jerusalem.

S.K. *acknowledged*

16. kg. Beans Bountiful  
Spinach Juliana  
Silverbeet  
Peas Dun  
Peas Yorkshire Hero

38/6  
29.11.45  
12784

Figure 7

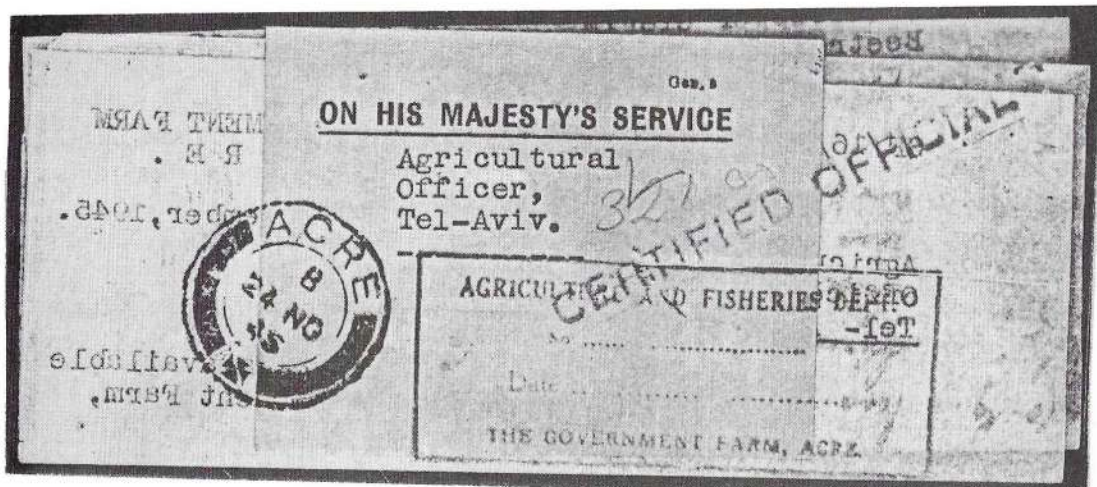


Figure 8



Figure 9

government agency (Fig. 9). The economy use was taken over by the State of Israel (Fig. 10). The economy motive was even used by the general public as well. Fig. 11 shows an "economy label" imprinted for a commercial firm, "SPINNEY'S LIMITED, HAIFA". Note that even this label was used by another firm, "FULWORTH LTD.", by crossing out SPINNEY'S and adding its own handstamp.

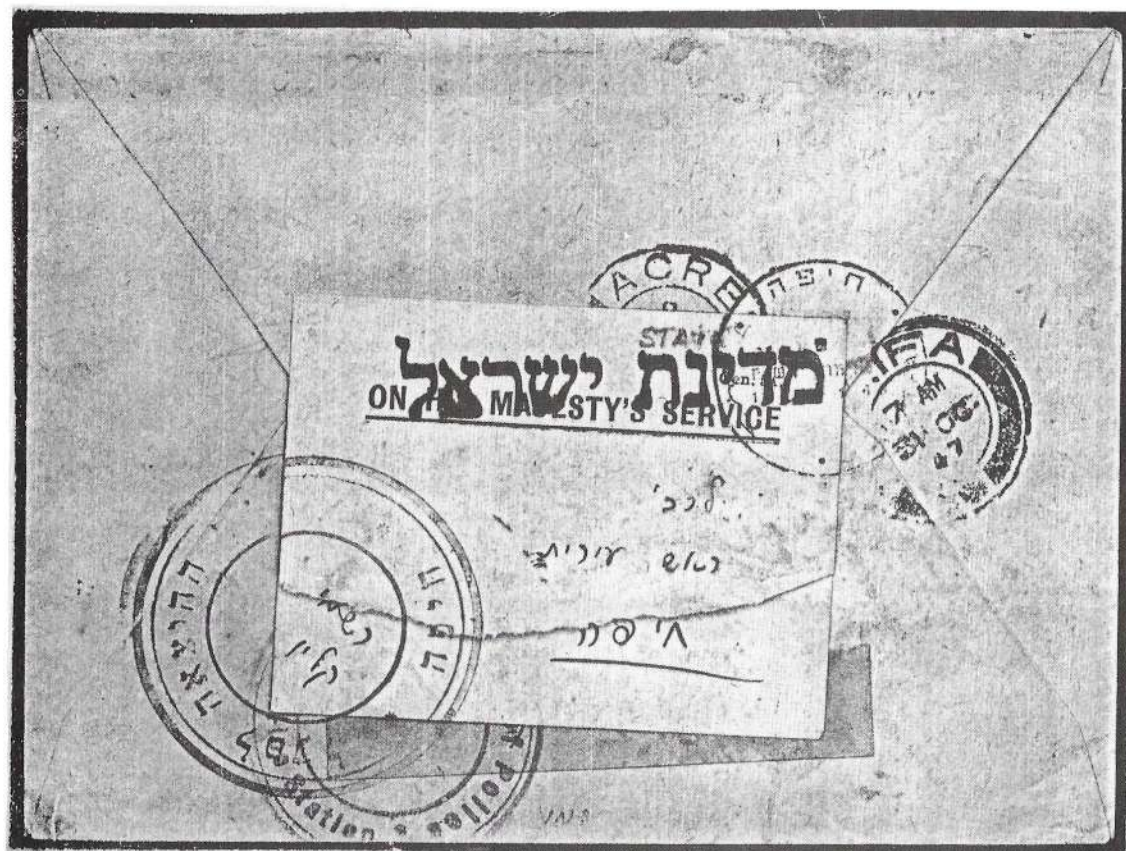


Figure 10

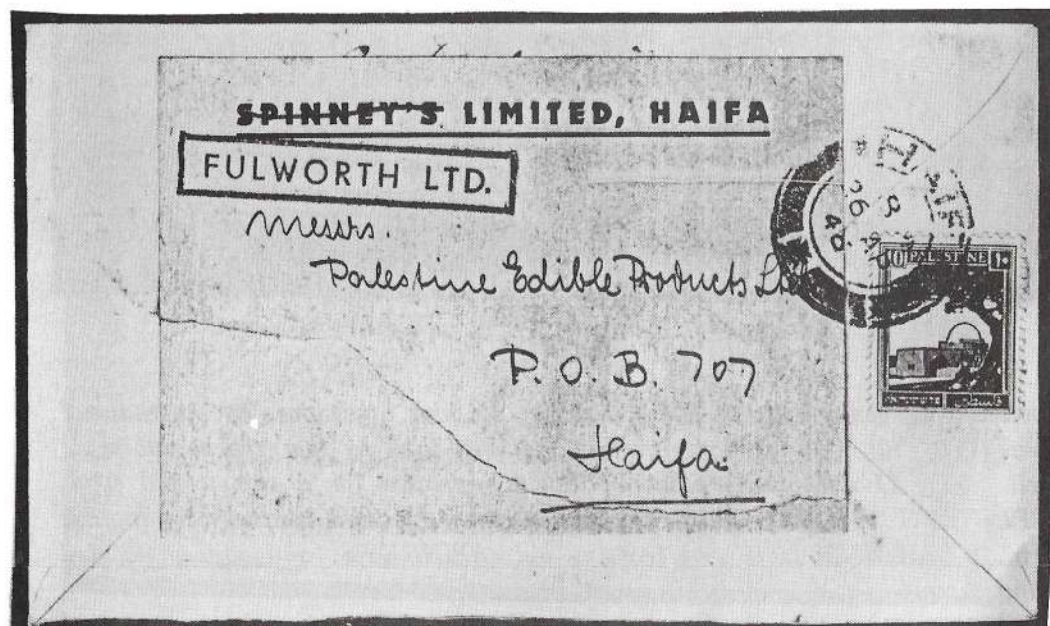
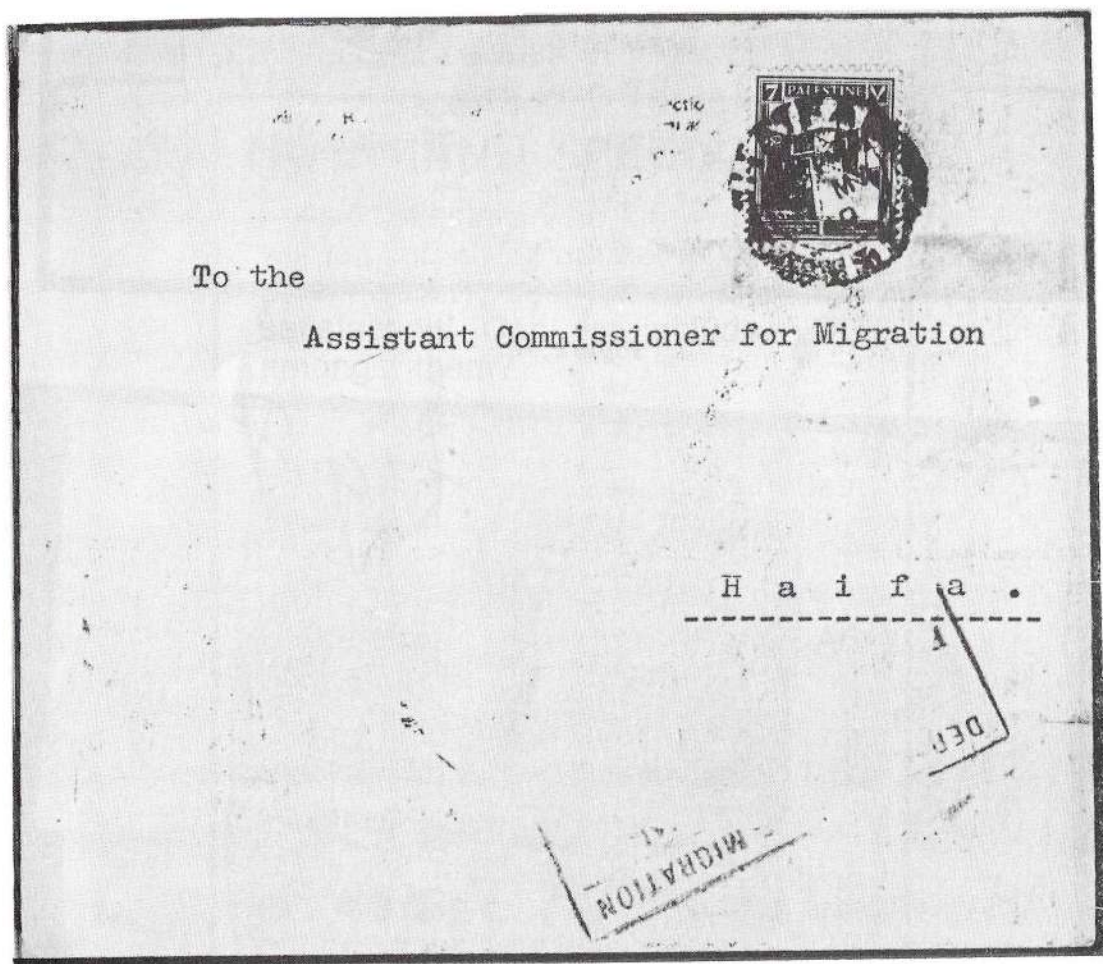


Figure 11

Fig. 12 shows an envelope mailed to the Assistant Commissioner for Migration in Haifa. Fig. 13 shows the same envelope with the top turned down and an "economy label" affixed covering the original address. This "economy label" was preprinted in the most elaborate fashion. This label obviously was distributed to all city agencies of the Department of Migration for sending back mail to the main office in Jerusalem. Here the preprinted address has been crossed out so that the label could be addressed to the original sender of the letter. Note the printer's legend: GPP.192-300,000-11-1-36-24/S. This indicates that three hundred thousand of the labels were printed by the



**Figure 12**

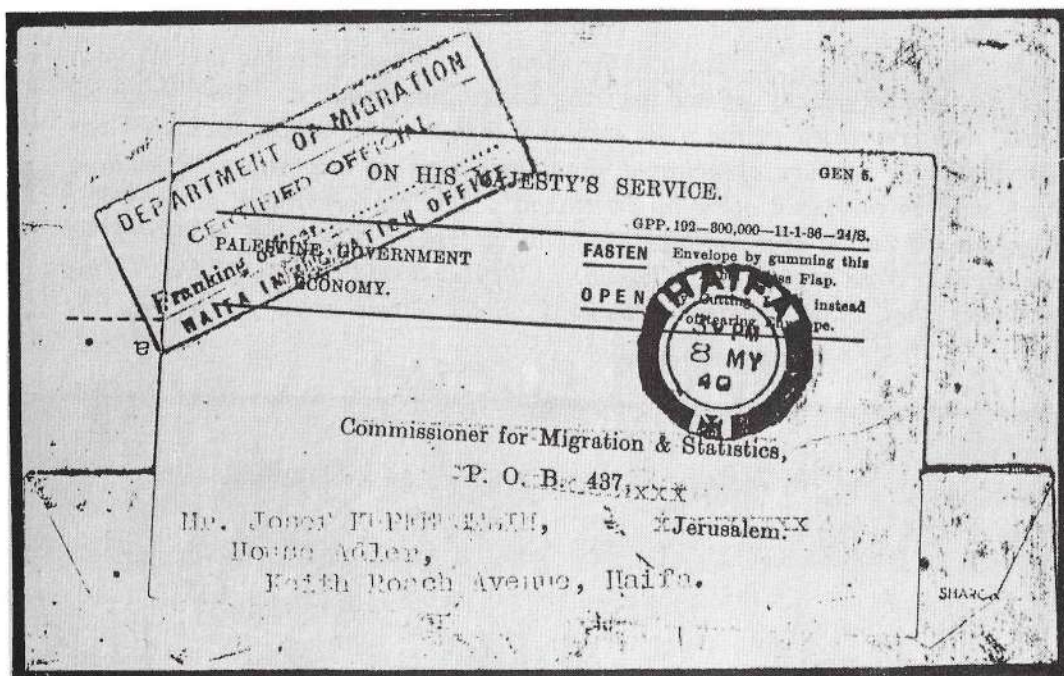


Figure 13

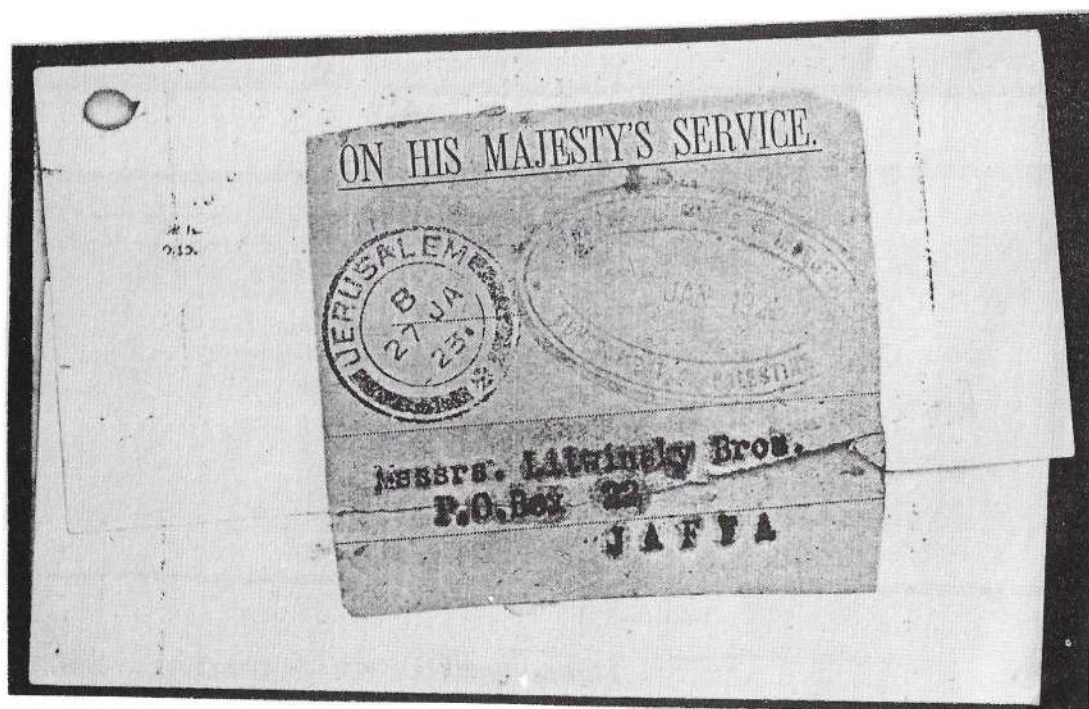


Figure 14

Goldberg Printing Press in this one printing alone. All 'economy' instructions are included in this printing:

- (1) **PALESTINE GOVERNMENT ECONOMY.**
- (2) **FASTEN** Envelope by gumming this label across flap.
- (3) **OPEN** By cutting label instead of tearing envelope.

What is of interest as well is the fact that most of the economy labeled envelopes are found during the World War II period and for the few years just prior to it. Earlier use is much more difficult to find. The folded letter of Fig. 14 shows a cancellation of 27 January 1923. Can anyone report an earlier usage?

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## Unusual Handling and Some Enigmas

Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan

As a professional philatelist specializing in Holyland and Judaic Postal History, this writer encounters a certain number of covers that are worthy of inclusion in this journal, either because of the postal handling they illustrate or because of some puzzle they present. Below are discussed several such items that recently passed through our hands, in chronological order:

(A) Two covers were posted from Jerusalem to the United States via the Austrian Post, the first on 29 July 1880 to Moulton, Iowa (Fig. 15) and the



**Fig. 15: 1880 Jerusalem cover to U.S., sent unfranked and taxed 'T' via Austrian post.**

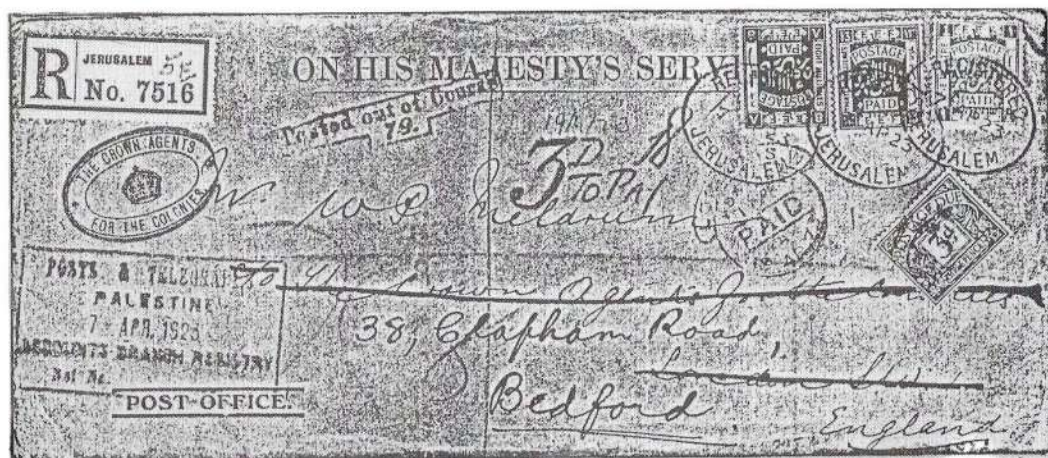
second on 26 December 1883 to West Virginia (Fig. 16). The sender was the same. This could not be verified by return address as neither item had one. Instead, consultation with an expert graphologist verified my original feeling that the handwriting on both was identical. The earlier piece shows the following postmarks: Alexandria (1/Aug/80), Naples (8/Aug/80), New York (20/Aug/80) and Moulton itself (24/Aug/80) - a total of only 27 days by ship and land transport! The later item shows Constantinople (12/Jan/84), London



**Fig. 16: 1883 Jerusalem cover to U.S., sent unfranked via Austrian Post, similarly to the previous cover.**

(16/Jan/84), and New York (28/Jan/84). One of the covers contained its original contents consisting of a printed note regarding Freemasonry and a souvenir olive tree leaf. Perhaps the most interesting feature about this pair of covers is that they were posted, accepted and forwarded by the Austrian Post without franking but with the identical tax mark. On both, in New York City, U.S., Postage Dues totaling 10 were applied and apparently collected from the addressee. Now, more than 100 years later, this same principle is still generally applied - that of forwarding, nationally or internationally, underfranked or unfranked mail with the tax to be collected from the receiver with the financial gain accruing to the country of arrival and not dispatch.

(B) One of the most impressive looking covers lately seen by this author is the Registered OHMS envelope posted from Jerusalem on 7 April 1923, from the Accounts Branch Registry of the Palestine Posts and Telegraph as per the handstamp Glassman-Sacher #M23 (Fig. 17). The cover was addressed to a Mr. Meldrum, c/o The Crown Agents for the Colonies. However the Crown Agents did not accept the item although they received it as per their red oval handstamp. Instead, they readdressed the envelope and mailed it in some fashion without bringing it back to a Post Office. When the Post received it, the handstamp 'Posted out of Course' was applied and the cover taxed to defray the charge for forwarding a registered cover to a new address. This is similar to Forced or



**Fig. 17: OHMS cover to England, taxed for forwarding a registered letter to a new address.**

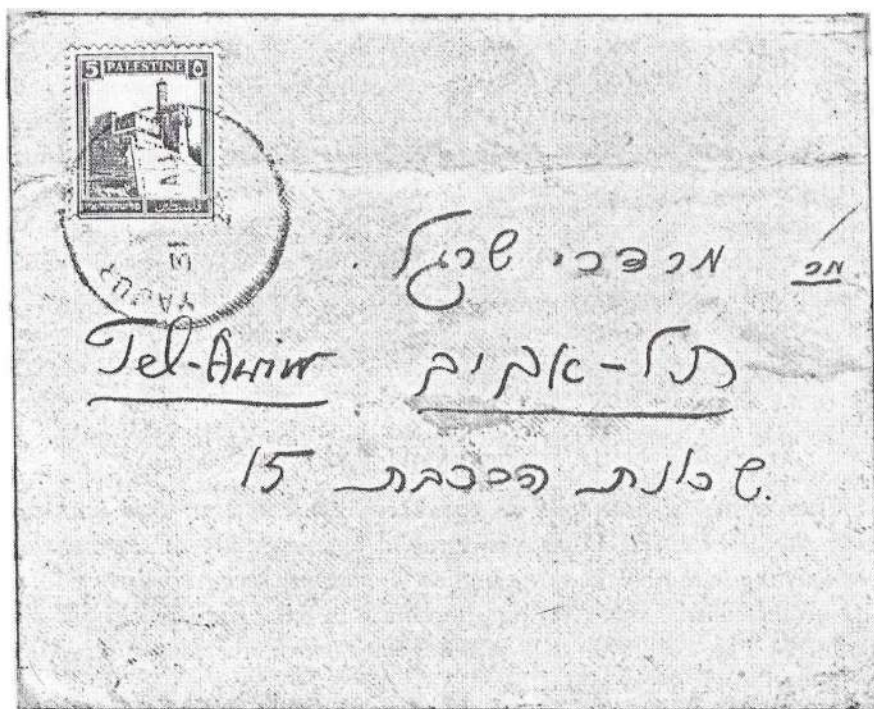
*Compulsory Registration.* The 3d tax was collected as per the light red LONDON PAID handstamp on its face. It is important to note that the red line crossing out the original address passes under the 3d Tax stamp, indicating that the cover was not taxed because of improper postage; if underfranking had been detected the Postage Due stamp would certainly have been applied before its delivery to the original addressee. The cover's registry label is Glassman-Sacher Type #RG but with a heavy leftward shift of the word 'Jerusalem' and with '5E' penciled to the right of the printed 'Jerusalem'. It is surmised that '5E' is probably the Registry suffix of the sender's branch of the Palestine Posts and Telegraphs. Other postmarks include Registered London (18 April 1923), as per the original address - London SW1 (19 April 1923) and the branch office after forwarding (20 April 1923).

However, all of the above is preamble to the important mystery here: its total franking of 31 milliemes consisting of S.G. #s 78, 79 & 80. The fee for registry at the time was 13 milliemes and the postage was 13 milliemes for the initial 20 grams, then 7 milliemes for each additional 20 grams. Thus its franking should have been either  $13+13+7=33$  milliemes or  $13+13=26$  milliemes. From whence was derived the 31 milliemes applied? Yet, as noted above, it was not taxed because of underfranking indicating that the franking was either too much or correct. If it was correct, as it should have been, since the sender was a branch of the Post itself who certainly should have known the rates, how can one verify 31 milliemes as being correct? On the other hand, it is hard to believe that this is an example of overfranking knowing the Palestine Post's proven reputation for parsimony. The tax mark itself is a neatly penciled one stating 3d TO PAY with an '18' at its top right. This '18' probably refers to

the amount of postage (31 milliemes total less 13 milliemes for the registry fee).

It is well known that inconsistency was rather widespread regarding the frankings required on OHMS covers. Many differences are known with respect to registry, express, external destinations, overweight, etc., fees. There are even some examples of Palestine OHMS covers that were taxed by the Palestine Post itself. For further notes concerning this matter, see the introduction to Sacher's monograph on Departmental Markings. Either something has been missed here or we are unaware of some rate that can prove the 31 milliemes. It also should be noted that had the letter been posted to an inland destination, no franking at all would have been required. However, since it was sent abroad, both the registry and postage fees had to be paid. The response of our readership is respectfully requested to assist in solving this puzzle. We found this cover to be a most unusual one as the English Post had taxed a cover from its own Mandate's Postal Administration!

(C) For the Postal Historian, there are few thrills greater than finding an unlisted or unreported postmark. The stamp on the cover sent on 31 August 1934 to Tel Aviv (backstamped 2 September 1934) is cancelled with a postmark believed to be previously unreported (Fig. 18). It is a single circle YAJUR NESHER, 30mm diameter, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  mm letter height and without index. Dorfman in



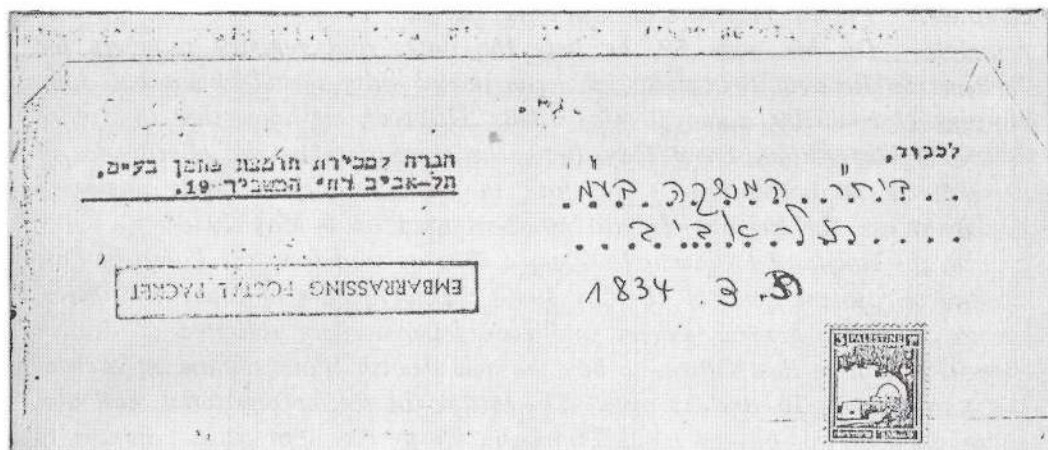
**Fig. 18:** 1934 cover with an unlisted "Yajur Nesher" s.c. postmark.

his "Palestine Postmarks", page 105, left space for such a mark and his table on page 104 notes that a Type III "may or may not exist". This writer does not believe that this note is original to Dorfman as my teacher of blessed memory, Philip Kanner, had mentioned just such a probability some 15 years ago. However, the postmark found entirely conforms to Dorfman's specifications for a type III postmark as per his page 12. On his page 103, can be found an illustration of a postmark dated 27 December 1941 which he states is a bogus. However, a bogus is a postmark that never existed as a genuine item. The postmark illustrated appears to be identical to the one described above although its diameter cannot be verified, since he does not furnish this dimension for his not-to-scale illustration. Thus, this writer believes Dorfman to be quite incorrect as his "bogus" strike is really a fake mark made after the device had been withdrawn from service but left intact in the postal stores.

(D) "Embarrassing Postal Packet" is one of the most misunderstood terms encountered in Mandate Postal History. The 1948 Palestine Postal Guide defined these as "packets of such a form or so made up for transmission by the post as to be likely to embarrass the officers of the Post Office in dealing with the packet in the post." These were "...prohibited from transmission by post". However, 'embarrass' is a word with several meanings and instead of the usual one of 'to make ill-at-ease, self conscious, or uncomfortable', the Palestine Post used the less common definition of "to hamper or complicate". Thus items difficult to handle such as: of sizes too large or small, franked or addressed in an inconvenient location, of a color likely to strain the eyes, having a 'trap', etc., received this designation and were not transmitted. "Trap" in turn was defined as having an opening large enough to entrap small letters or postcards.

The cover shown (Fig. 19) is a fine example of one with such a 'trap' and so was accordingly deemed 'embarrassing' as per the boxed handstamp applied by the Post. It was possible for it to entrap postal items inside either its bottom or top pocket as created by its folds. The back of the letter served as its cover (with address) and the piece itself is a 1947 bill from a chemical agency. It was not postmarked and apparently returned to its sender.

(E) This writer co-authored an article in Issue #31 of this publication, concerning the 1948 PEDI Flights to Israel. On page 544 of the article, the statement was made that #958 is the highest known number recorded to date of a 1st PEDI Flight cover. However, our next item is from the same flight and is numbered 1044 (Fig. 20). This now becomes the highest recorded number to date of that historic and important flight.



**Fig. 19: 1947 "EMBARRASSING POSTAL PACKET" because of 'traps' created by letter folds.**



**Fig. 20: 1st PEDI flight cover #1044 - highest known number of that flight.**

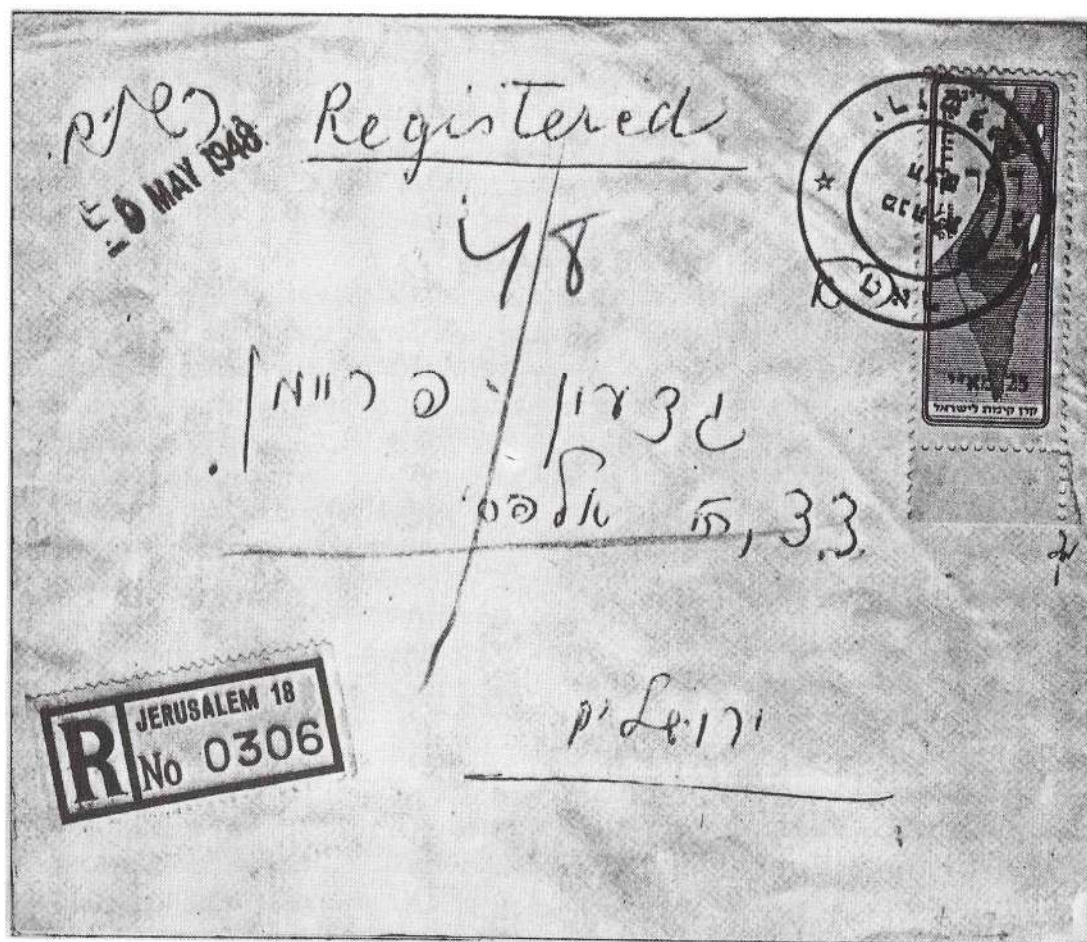
(F) Mr. Ernst Fluri of blessed memory did much to systematize the study of the 1948 Transition Period. His book, "The Minhelet Ha'Am Period", published by the WPC in 1973, has served and will continue to serve as our most reliable reference to this ever-growing-in-popularity period. However, it is impossible for any reference, no matter how excellent, to be perfect, errorless and

complete. Fluri's magnificent work is not an exception to this general principle. On his page 59, he lists the dates and registry numbers for Jerusalem's Rehavia Branch Office. His initial entry is #0004 without date. His second is #0109, dated 10 May 1948. However, we know that this office commenced operations on 9 May 1948, the same date as the appearance of Jerusalem's 1st Local Issue. Therefore, the obvious question to be answered is, "What are the Registered Mail numbers used on 9 May 1948"?

In the *Holyland Philatelist* #37, page 822, we read from the *Palestine Post* (today's *Jerusalem Post*) of 10 May 1948: "Long queues of souvenir-hunters, stamp collectors, general joiners and even letter writers collected at Jewish Jerusalem's three Post Offices to buy the new Jewish State stamps...of each of the 3 values - 5, 10, and 25 mils. The last is the fee for registered mail and about 80% of the buyers moved immediately to the appropriate counter to register their letters". Thus, this issue sold quickly and the next day saw the introduction of its successor, the second local Jerusalem Issue. Our literature cites a production of 15,000 to 20,000 of the 25 mil Jerusalem I value (HLP #1, page 14; 1987 *Bale Catalogue of Israel Postal Stamps*, page 17, etc.). Thus, hundreds if not thousands of the 25 mil value were used to produce registered First Day Covers of 9 May 1948, and the same amount of hundreds, if not thousands, of registry labels would have been required. Shown in Figure 21 is a May 9th cover with a registry label #0306; the Registry Label coils being composed of 1,000 labels, at least eight hundred and three covers were registered between the time of the illustrated cover to Fluri's first dated #0109 on 10 May 1948. This figure seems plausible and is probably low. Readers are requested to forward the registry numbers of their "Jerusalem 18" covers dated 9 or 10 May 1948 (linear date handstamps were used to note dispatch dates as per the cover shown).

(G) Trilingual postmarks were introduced at Jerusalem's Main Post Office as early as 4 July 1948 (see, e.g. HLP# #17/18, page 970, etc.). But Branch Offices had to wait for their new devices until sometime in August. During this waiting period, Mandate devices were supposed to have been reintroduced at the Branch Offices to be used until the new devices arrived. This procedure was followed on our next cover (s. Front Cover, courtesy I. Karpovsky), which left the Mahane Yehuda Branch Office on 30 July with a d.c. Mandate postmark. It was addressed to Kibbutz Qiryat Anavim, which maintained a post box at the Mea Shearim Branch Office, where it arrived in due course, 2 August, (single circle backstamp) after passing through the Main Post Office on 1 August. At that stop it received a trilingual transit postmark of device #3.

However, next we show a registered cover (Fig. 22) cancelled with the deformed Minhelet Ha'Am postmark of the same Mahane Yehuda Branch Office, with a linear date of 6 August 1948! The cover is addressed to Jerusalem and



**Fig. 21: Registered F.D.C. from Rehavia Branch Office,  
9 May 1948, with R-label No. 306.**

has a trilingual #3 backstamp dated 8 August 1948. Why was the Minhelet Ha'Am device reintroduced? Was this a freak; possibly due to something as simple as the non-arrival of the proper date slug, or did it become a general procedure until the trilingual device finally arrived and was put into service? Readers are requested to check their holdings and to forward information regarding July and August dates of usage of the Interim, Mandate and Trilingual devices of all of the Jerusalem Branch Offices.

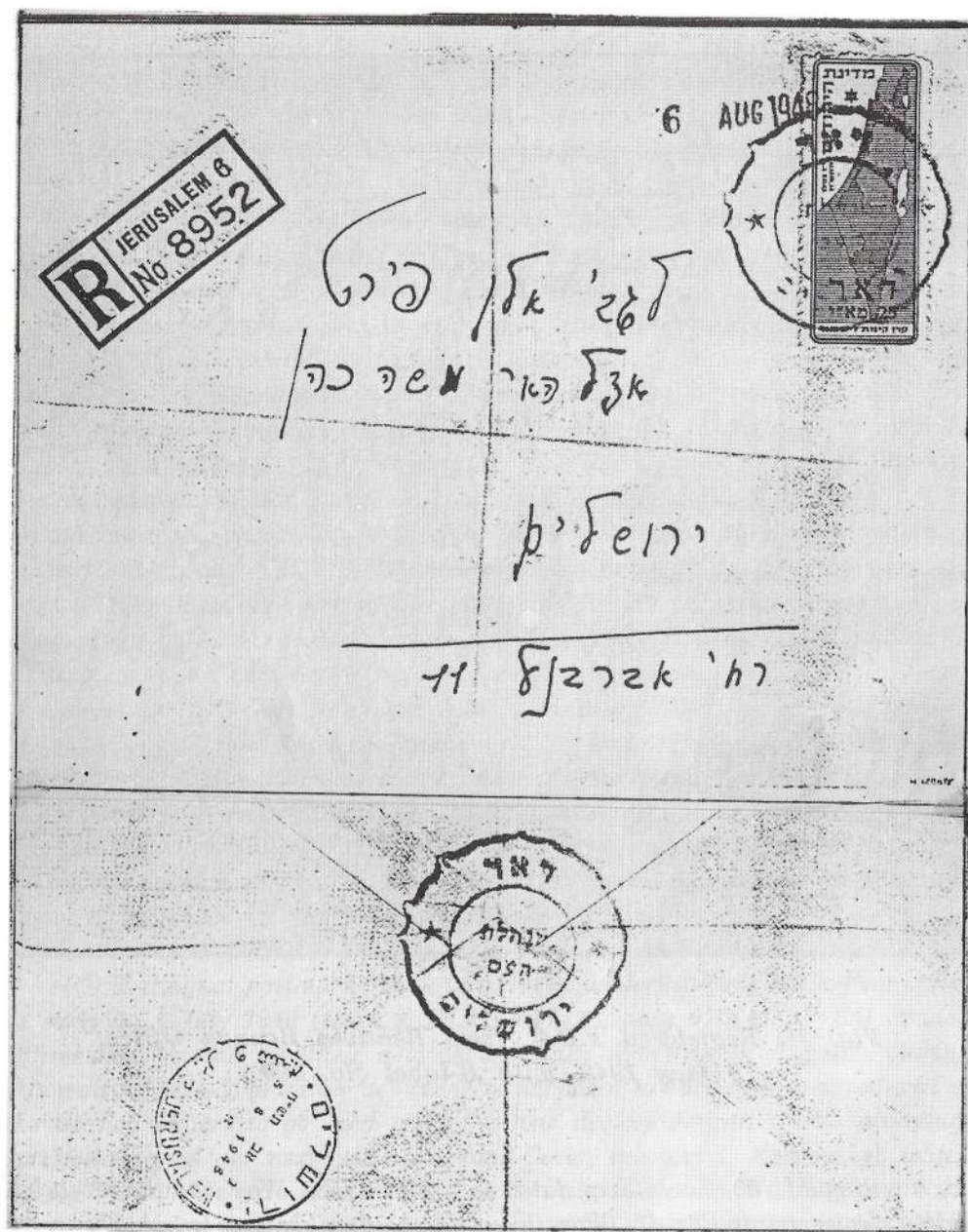


Fig. 22: 6 August cover with Minhelet Ha'Am dispatch postmark of Mahne Yehuda.

## "Postal Points" in Israel

*B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal*

*The Israeli Postal Authority serves the public in cities, villages, collective and cooperative settlements by means of post offices, postal branch offices and postal agencies of different kinds. Smaller localities are served by the "Mobile Post". Each locality in which people permanently live, receives the services of postmen and messengers, and can avail themselves of Post Office Boxes, etc.*

*With the development of the country, the Postal Authority realized there was need to expand its network in order to include sites of interest that are visited by tourists and others. Thus there would be a possibility to offer minimum postal services to the increasing number of visitors and tourists at those sites.*

*In this way the idea of "Postal Points" was born, which were to be put up in places where no permanent settlement existed. Postal Points were put up at historical sites and also places like the tree-planting centers of the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet Le-Yisrael), at museums, national parks and similar localities. At some of these points, stamps and postal stationery were sold. Mail posted at these points was usually cancelled with a special cancellation, bearing the name of the place and an appropriate graphic representation or a drawing.*

*No registered mail is handled at Postal Points, nor do they operate at fixed hours, and there is no regular service, which may sometimes cause delays in delivery. Postal Points are usually operated by the owners of kiosks or restaurants at those sites. They collect the postal items and transfer them to the nearest post offices to be processed there.*

*The first of these Postal Points was opened at "Mizpe Biryya" on May 9, 1960, and the last one at "Rafiah Terminal" on November 1, 1983.*

*The Postal Points "Mishkan Loomanut En Harod" and "Mezada" which bear the cancellation dates 1959, were originally meant to be postal agencies, and therefore they also dealt with registered mail and their cancellation showed the "Running Stag" symbol on the opening day. These agencies were later closed down and reopened as Postal Points. Cancellations were not changed, and no "Running Stag" symbol was used. Another Postal Point, opened on July 15, 1970 at "Geshen Allenby" was eventually elevated to Post Office on November 2, 1976.*

*Altogether 37 Postal Points were opened during the period 1960-1983. Some of them were closed down while others continue operating occasionally. Only a few points are still operated and they may also close down, thereby ending a fine chapter of Israeli postal history.*

*Following is the list of all the postal points, with the drawings which*

appear, when applicable, in their postmarks (9 of the postmarks are without drawings). The postmarks are illustrated in Figure 23, with the same respective numbers as listed.

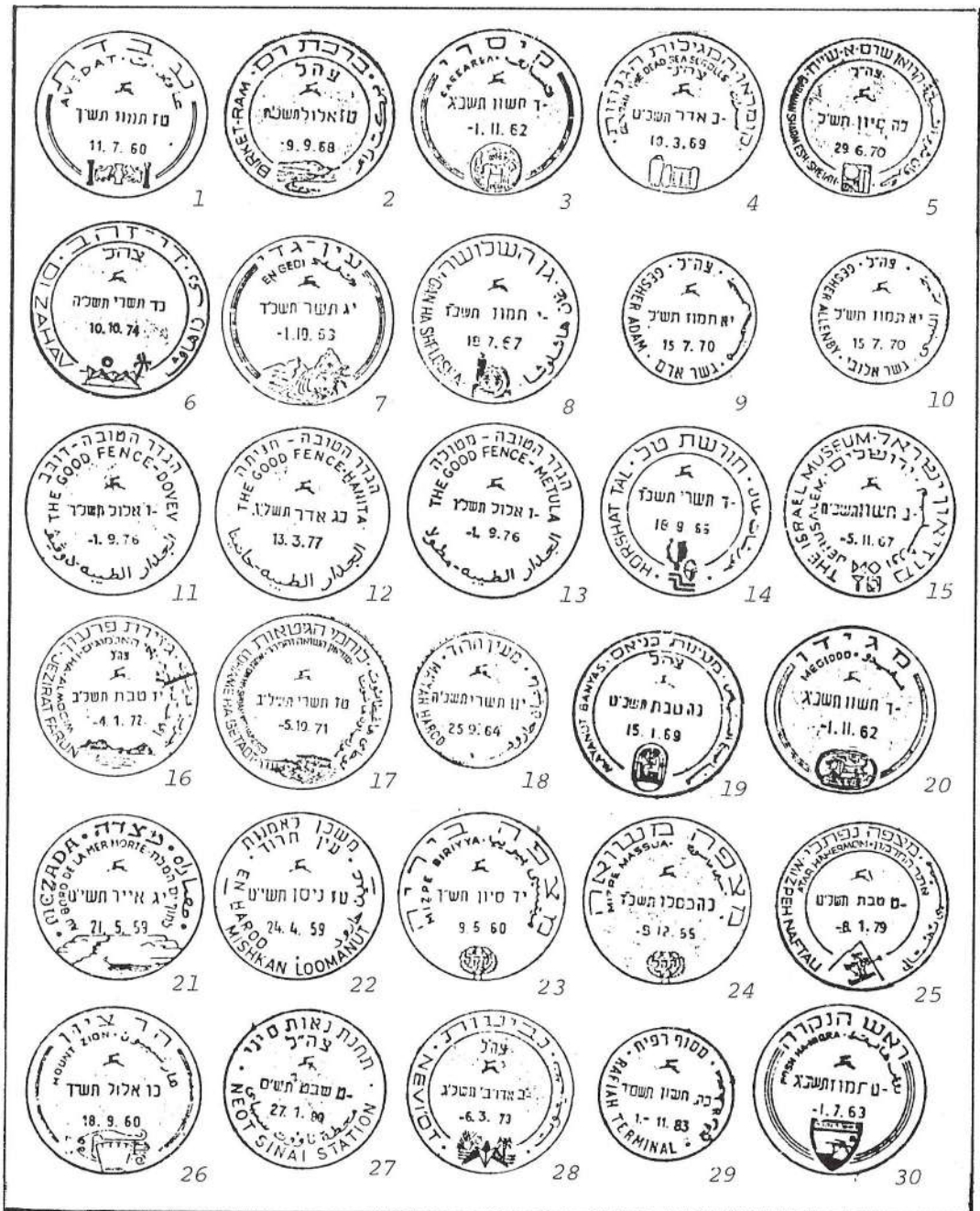
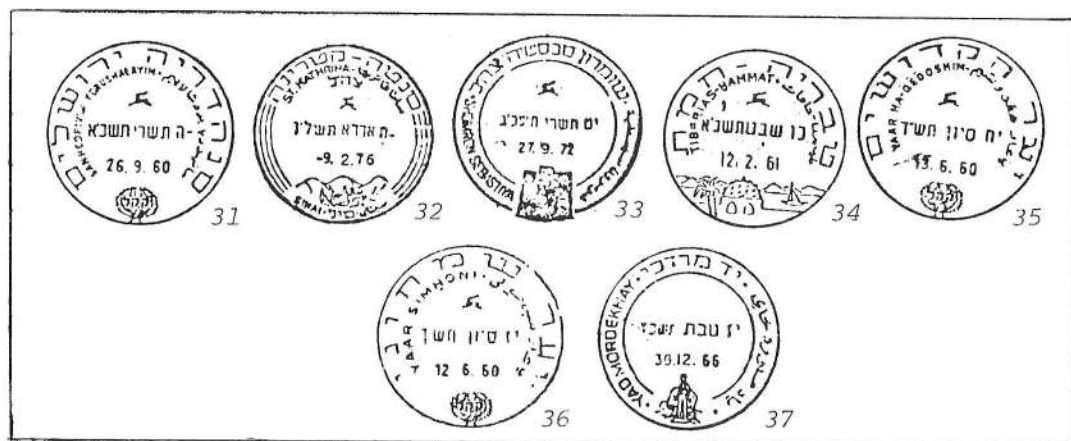


Fig. 23: The postmarks of the Postal Points in Israel.



**Fig. 23 (continued): The postmarks of the Postal Points in Israel.**

- 1) Avedat; ancient Nabataean symbol.
- 2) Birket-Ram; Golan mountains and Birket-Ram lake.
- 3) Caesarea; ancient Roman symbol.
- 4) Cumran; Dead Sea scrolls.
- 5) Carawan Sharm-esh-Sheikh; emblem of "Sharm-esh-Sheikh caravan".
- 6) Di Zahav; a symbolic drawing of Di Zahav oasis.
- 7) En Gedi; mountains near En Gedi.
- 8) Gan Ha-Shelosha; emblem of "Gan Ha-Shelosha".
- 9) Gesher Adam.
- 10) Gesher Allenby.
- 11) The Good Fence - Dovev.
- 12) The Good Fence - Hanita.
- 13) The Good Fence - Metula.
- 14) Horshat Tal; emblem of "Horshat Tal".
- 15) The Israel Museum; emblem of "Israel Museum".
- 16) Jezirat Farun; Farun Island ("The Coral Island") off Elat.
- 17) Lohame Ha-Getaot; Lohame Ha-Getaot museum.
- 18) Mayan Harod.
- 19) Mayanot Banyas; emblem of "Banyas Springs".
- 20) Megiddo; ancient Jewish seal.
- 21) Mezada; the rock of Masada.
- 22) Mishkan Loomanut En Harod.
- 23) Mizpe Biriyya; Jewish National Fund forest.
- 24) Mizpe Massua; Jewish National Fund forest.
- 25) Mizpe Naftali; skiing area at Mt. Hermon.
- 26) Mount Zion; crown and harp of King David.
- 27) Neot Sinai Station.

- 28) Neviot; palm-tree, tent and sun.
- 29) Rafian Terminal.
- 30) Rosh Ha-Niqra; emblem of "Sulam Tsor" district.
- 31) Sanhedriyya; Jewish National Fund forest.
- 32) St. Kathrina; St. Cathrina monastery in Sinai.
- 33) Shomron Sebasthya; a symbolic drawing of Sebastiya antiquities.
- 34) Tiberias-Hammat; Lake Kinereth and hot springs building.
- 35) Yaar Ha-Qedoshim; Jewish National Fund forest.
- 36) Yaar Simhoni; Jewish National Fund forest.
- 37) Yad Mordekhay; sculpture of Mordekhay Anilewitz and war damaged water tower.

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## \* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES \*

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Ottoman Period

#### *The Story of the Missing Stamp* (Z. Alexander, London)

About two years ago a Lebanese friend brought a postcard which he had bought in a postcard shop in Cardiff. The message on the postcard, shown in Figure 24, is extremely important as it says: "...The postcard is stamped by

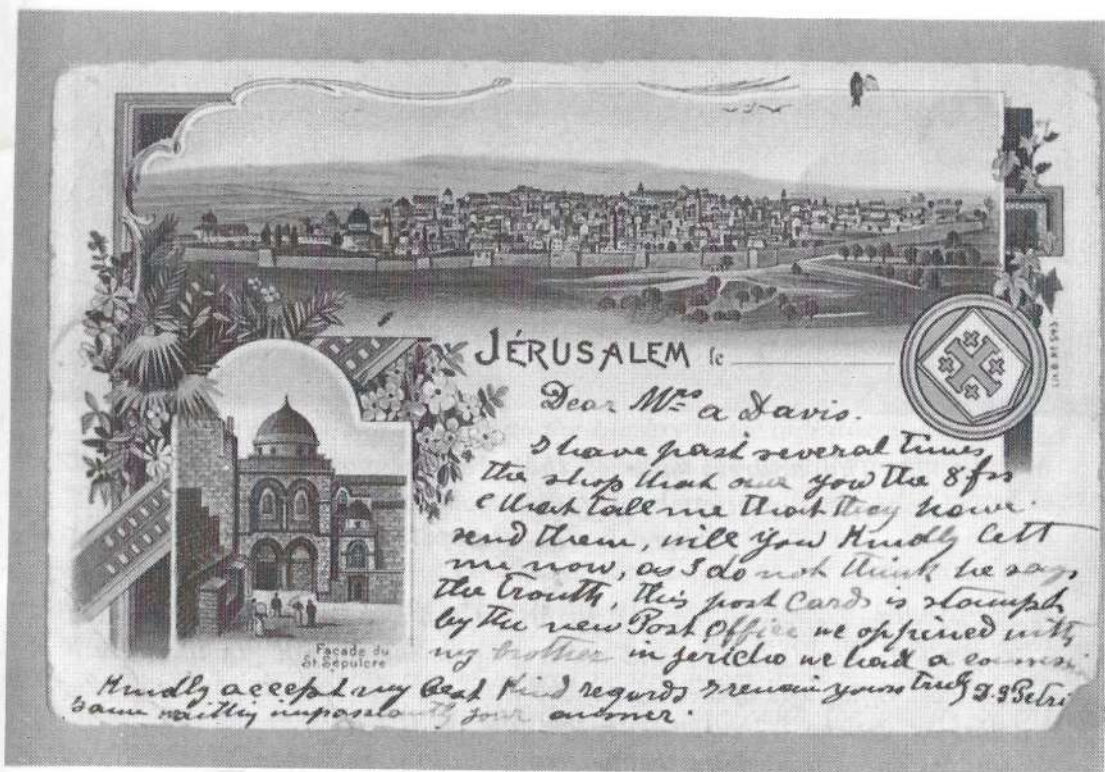


Fig. 24: A postcard from Jericho, in which the writer states that he was given a concession to open a "Post Office" there.

the new Post Office we opened with my brother in Jericho, we had a concession..." The front of this postcard (Fig. 25) has an oval postmark (the stamp was removed) of this new Agency. This is probably the first time that we can deduce an explanation of the rare oval postmarks in the Ottoman Empire.



**Fig. 25:** The address side of the previous postcard with an oval part postmark of the Jericho postal agency - where is the stamp??

They may all be temporary initial postmarks, when a new office is opened, and is staffed by a concessionaire and not a government official. In this case a regular Post Office was opened in Jericho three months later as the dated d.c. postmark of Jericho is known with the date of 31.1.1901.

Alas, as one can see from the address side of the postcard, the stamp was steamed off (Figure 26 shows a similar stamp), and only both sides of the oval

**Fig. 26:** The oval postmark "Jericho Palestine" on a Turkish stamp.





best of her recollection nobody in her family collected stamps and we would not find any satisfaction there.

We then decided to publish an article in a local magazine, one which is saved by the reader and not discarded after reading. Jack succeeded in having the story published in *Somerset & Avon Life*, which is a beautiful illustrated local magazine. He embellished the story describing the big party in Bristol, before the departure of the Davies's for the Cook's Grand Tour, and also described the exhausting and dusty donkey trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, where Mrs. Davies met the obliging Mr. Petri, the soon to become the first Postmaster of the oldest city in the world, Jericho. We also offered a reward of a hundred pounds to the finder of the missing stamp and Jack found a contact in the Television station in Bristol who included a short news item about the missing stamp.

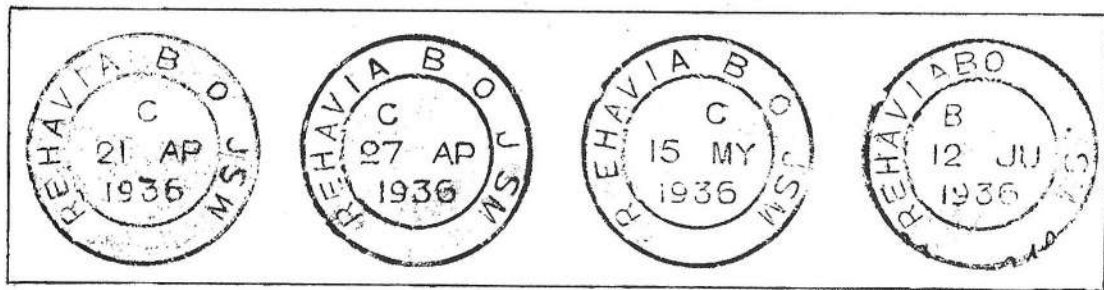
Nothing happened as a result of this article, and also a similar article in *STAMPS*, which Jack published almost a year ago. I did not give up. I went to Cardiff two months ago, found the shop where the postcard was originally purchased and discovered that it was originally bought from a postcard dealer in Christmas Steps in Bristol. I wrote to the new owners of the shop, who happened to be Stamp Auctioneers - Empire Stamps, but no luck so far.

Can any of our readers help?

## The British Mandate Period

### ***Curiosities of the Rehavia Mandate Skeleton Postmark***

Our member Y. Reinhold has sent us some interesting examples of variations in the skeleton postmark used when the Rehavia Post Office opened in 1936 (Fig. 28). They were struck as arrival marks on covers from Germany.



**Fig. 28: Several variations of the Rehavia Mandate skeleton postmark.**

As is known, the letters in a skeleton instrument are entered individually and then secured by means of a restraining unit. Thus the possibility of variations do exist, and are known. Here we have four, including one which shows an inverted 'M' in 'JSM'. This leads one to suspect that the second example shown in the Glassman-Sacher book on this period in the Postal History of Jerusalem (Type J18) is such an aberration too; the fact is that it is far rarer than the more regular one.

## The Interim Period

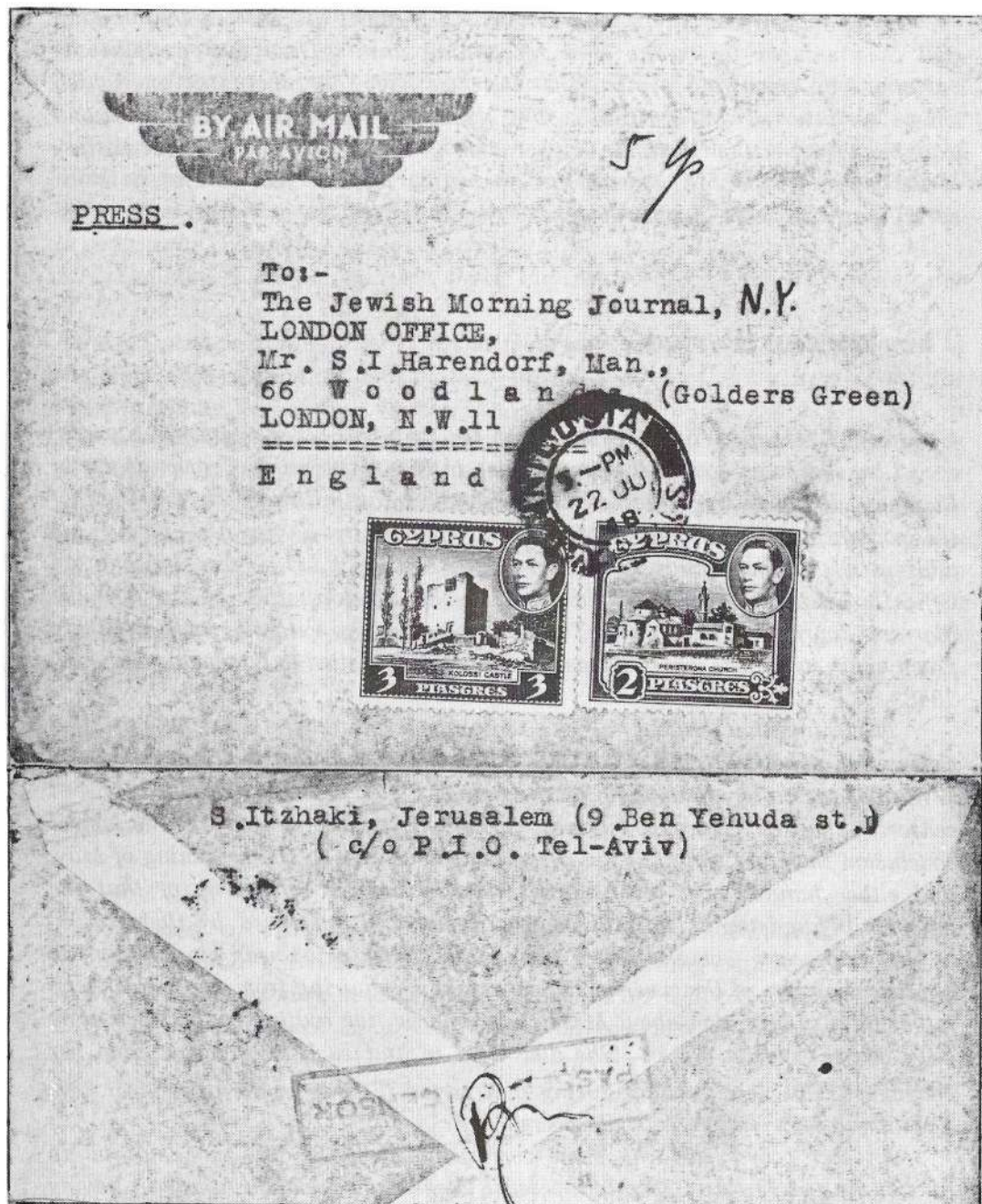
### **Courier Letters from Jerusalem to London** (Zvi Alexander, London)

Last summer I bought the cover shown in Figure 29 from a Cypriot dealer in London. It obviously contained a Press report (as indicated on the front of the cover) from the siege of Jerusalem written by S. Itzhaki, giving his address as 9 Ben Yehuda Str., Jerusalem, care of P.I.O. (Press Information Office?), Tel Aviv. It was addressed to the London office of the "Jewish Morning Journal" of New York. The cover was flown to Tel Aviv, and from there flown again to Cyprus where it was franked and airmailed to London on June 22, 1948.

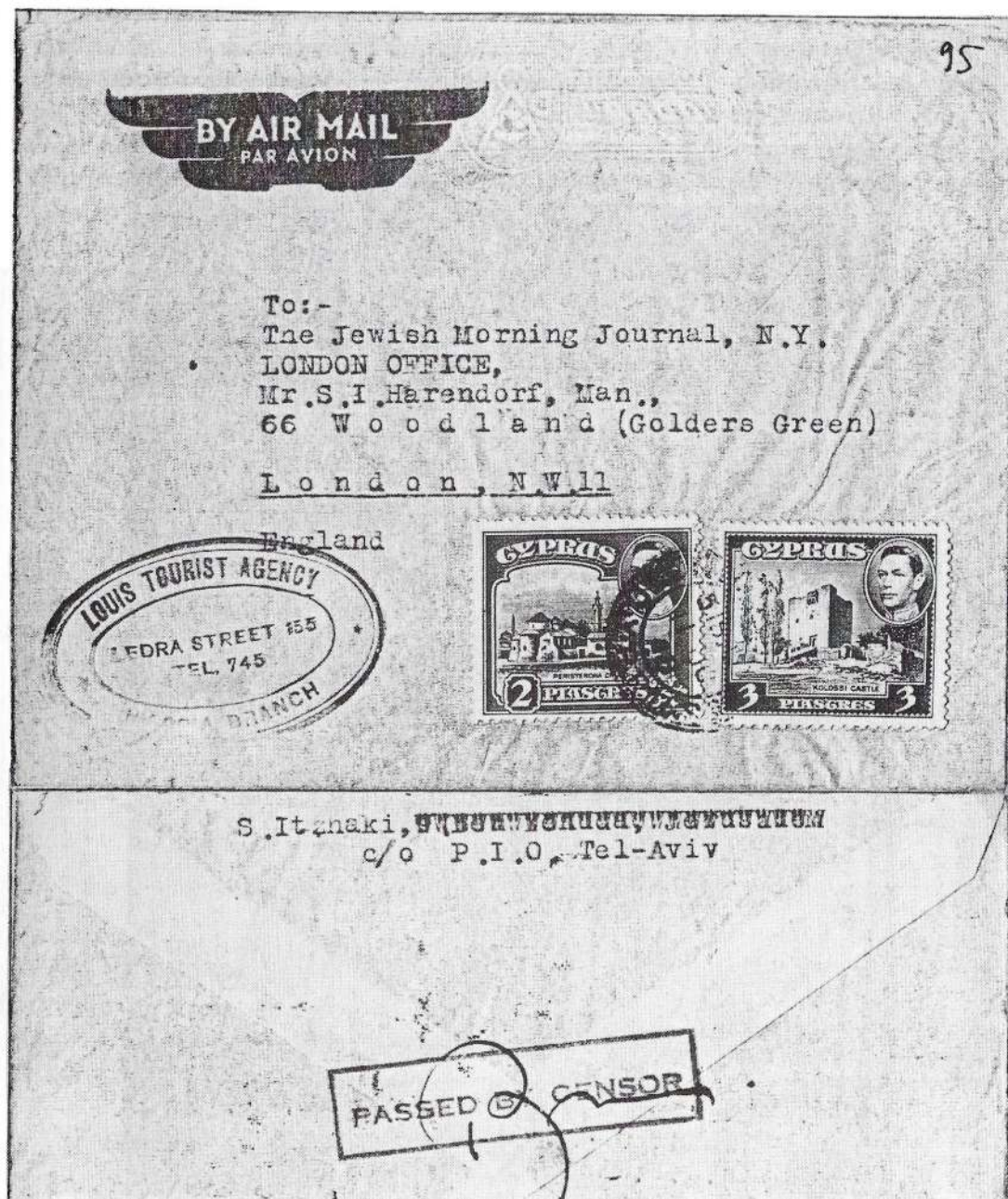
The thing that baffled me the most about this cover was the initialled censorship cachet *PASSED BY CENSOR* which is Gladstone<sup>1</sup> No. 9, used during WW2 and thereafter up to 1948, by the British C.I.D. in Jerusalem, usually seen censoring mail of the Irgun detainees in the Gilgil camp in Kenya. The logical conclusion therefore was that the despatch was written in the beginning of May, and either handed over to the British authorities for censorship or that the censorship handstamp fell into Jewish hands and was used by them.

A newspaper woman, one of the editors of "Ma'ariv", was kind enough to publish a picture of the cover in her newspaper, enquiring from any reader who might have information about Mr. Itzhaki and or the routing of this Jerusalem siege cover, to write to her. She also tried to find such information from her colleagues who were working during that period in 1948 in the newspaper. No additional information was discovered.

Another cover from the same correspondence (Fig. 30), came up in an auction, in the North of England, several weeks ago. I was fortunate in buying it. This cover, which was again flown to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem, was probably forwarded through Peltours Tel Aviv to Cyprus and mailed from there by the Louis Tourist Agency on 11.6.1948, eleven days earlier than the cover shown in Figure 29. The cover does not carry the word 'PRESS', although it most certainly contained a press despatch from the siege period in Jerusalem. Again, it carries the British C.I.D. censorship cachet, endorsed by the same handwriting. The sender's address in Jerusalem is crossed out.



*Fig. 29: A courier letter from Jerusalem to London via Nicosia, 22 June 1948. Handstamped on back "Passed by Censor".*



*Fig. 30: A courier letter of the same correspondence (like Fig. 29), but sent from Nicosia on 11 June and struck also with the "Louis Tourist Agency" cachet.*

Three more covers from the Itzhaki correspondence were found recently by my collector friend, Martin Davis. Two of them are very similar to Figures 29 and 30, respectively. The third one, shown in Figure 31, carries the

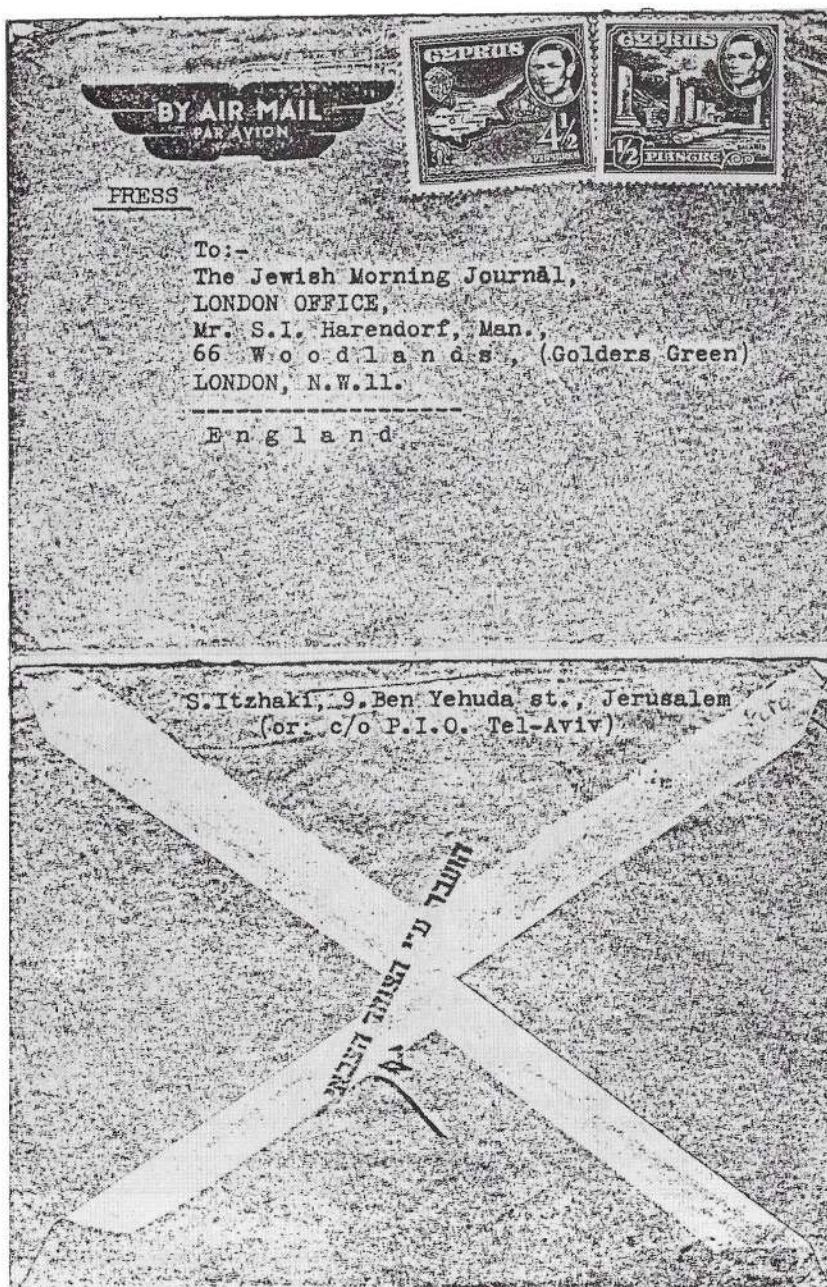
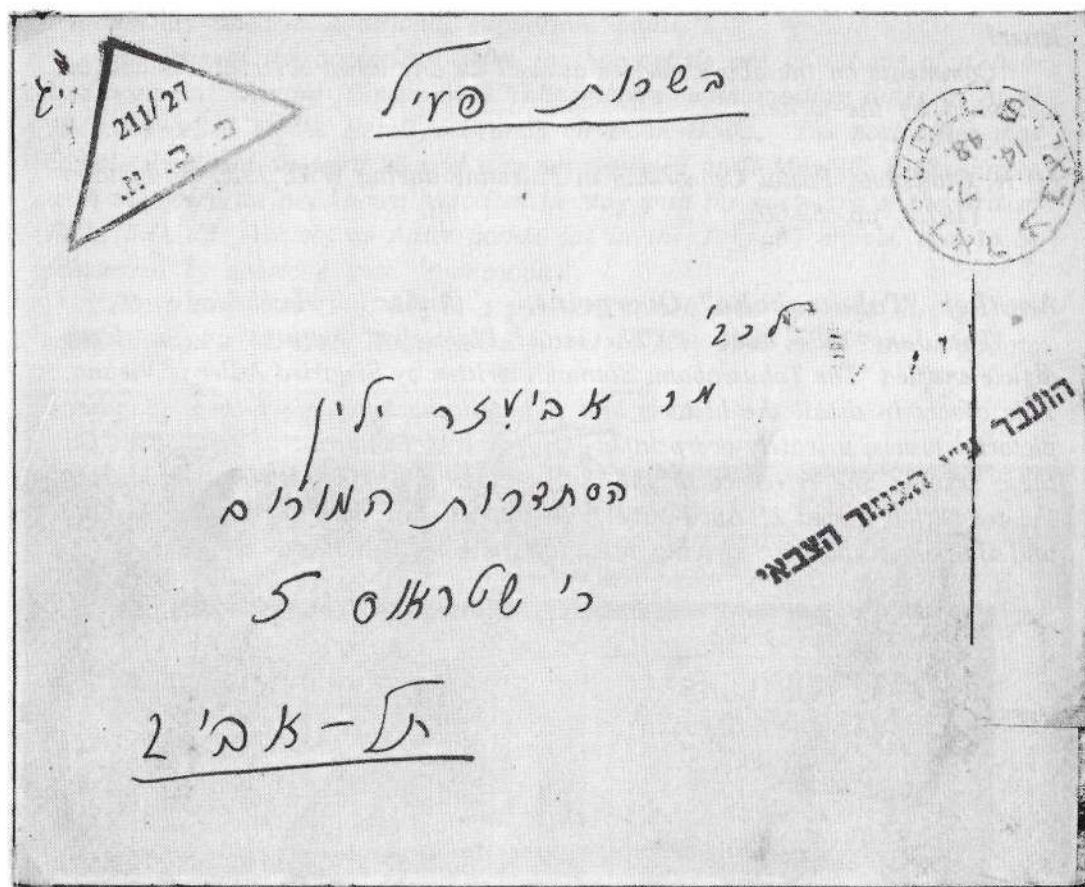


Fig. 31: Another similar courier letter, but with Hebrew censor handstamp "Passed by the Military Censor".

unrecorded censorship cachet: "Passed by the Military Censor" (in Hebrew). As this cachet is known on another military cover from Jerusalem, dated 14.7.48 (Fig. 32), it may indicate that this all Hebrew censorship cachet replaced the all English "Passed by Censor" cachet, which may have been captured by the Hagana forces and used by them. The unfortunate thing obviously is that the Cyprus stamps were not cancelled, but I believe that this letter was mailed at a later date than the four other letters.



**Fig. 32: An Israel Army Post cover of July 1948 with the same (as Fig. 31) Hebrew Military Censor mark.**

Another interesting fact is that the four letters were dispatched from Cyprus on two days only, namely the 11th and 22nd of June. They must have left Jerusalem on different flights as newspaper dispatches were most probably sent as soon as censored. This may therefore indicate that the connection between Peltours Tel Aviv and the Louis Tourist Agency in Cyprus occurred at weekly or

longer intervals (?). It would be interesting to collate all the known courier letters dispatched through Cyprus to establish the frequency of these shipments.

The following queries still exist:

1. Were all covers despatched by the same routing?
2. Is P.I.O. Tel Aviv, the forwarding address given by Mr. Itzhaki, Press Information Office or is it Palestine Information Office?
3. Why did Mr. Itzhaki cross out his Jerusalem address on the first 11.6.48 letter?

Comments on the above queries as well as any other observations will be welcomed by the writer.

-----  
 (1) N. Gladstone, *Postal Censorship in Palestine during WW2 1939-45*, London (1975), pp. 59-60.

### **Another "Tohuwabohu" Overprint.** (Arthur M. Hochheiser)

The June 1987 issue of "The Israel Philatelist" features an in-depth article entitled "The Tohuwabohu Stamps", written by Siegfried Adler of Vienna. This covers in detail the historic and philatelic background of these Mandate pictorial issues, privately overprinted "Government Tohuwabohu" (Fig. 33). On these stamps, the reference of the overprint is to the unsettled state during the transition period of April-May 1948 in Palestine with the British leaving and Jewish authorities striving to maintain some semblance of order.



**Fig. 33: The well-known "Government Tohuwabohu" overprints on two Mandate stamps.**

'Tohuwabohu', two joined words, derives from the Hebrew, meaning "void and without order". It is a quotation from Genesis 1:2 referring to the condition of the primeval world. This clarifies the intent of the fabricator of the overprint "Government Tohuwabohu".

I quote the author's conclusion: "The 'Government Tohuwabohu' overprints belong to one of the rarest philatelic areas and are barely known in the chapters of Holy Land philately. It is not surprising that their official usage is not unequivocally provable. Further search and findings will undoubtedly unearth additional supportive details".

All four of the overprints listed in that article are variations of a two-line overprint reading "Government Tohuwabohu" with mailing dates in April 1948, cancelled at the Herzliya Branch Office in Haifa. The post office was completely closed on April 25 and was not reopened until May 16, 1948. Pieces with the overprint are known cancelled in May with the postmark of the British Field P.O. 731, which, as Adler points out in the June '87 article, had to be fabricated by someone with "connections".

Illustrated here (Fig. 34) is a postcard which was not sent through the mail. It has a Mandate Haifa cancel dated 15 May 1948 on a 5 mil Mandate



**Fig. 34: A trilingual unreported overprint  
"Palestine Chaos Government"  
on a Mandate stamp, tied to a postcard by "Haifa,  
15 May 1948" postmark. (Enlarged stamp on the left).**

pictorial stamp. The 5 pruta Doar Ivri stamp is cancelled 16 May 1948 by the State of Israel Haifa Obliterator. This is obviously a philatelic contrivance, made more evident by the fact that it didn't go through the mail.

There are two interesting philatelic features. What is of primary interest is the fact that the Mandate stamp has been overprinted trilingually with a device which has not been reported before. The trilingual overprint was an effort to make use of the earlier two-line "Government Tohuwabohu" overprint but here simulating the issues overprinted prior to the release of the pictorial stamps. The order of the languages has been changed with the English and Arabic reversed at the top while the Hebrew remains at the bottom. Each language reads "Palestine Chaos Government" in two lines in each respective language.

There is an incidental error in the Arabic printing. The word for 'chaos' in Arabic is 'fawda'. The word here reads 'kawda' (s. arrow), which is not an Arabic word. The Arabic letter 'F' is ف, with one dot over the lower character. The Arabic 'K' has two dots over the same lower character. It is easy to understand how the piece of type for the letter 'K' ended up in the compartment which contained the letters 'F' in the tray for this alphabet. Obviously, this went unnoticed in assembling the Arabic type to create the overprint from this font.

The second matter of interest is the cancellation "15 May 1948". This date was the Day of Independence, a Saturday and the normal postal services were not available for mailing letters on that day. Evidently, someone with "connections" was able to have the date changed on the Mandate Haifa obliterator to May 15 as a favor and that individual also succeeded in having the two cancels, Mandate and State of Israel, applied at the same time.

The Palestine Study Group of the Central Jersey Chapter of the Society of Israel Philatelists has never seen another Haifa Mandate cancellation of 15 May 1948. Others may exist but they would be exceedingly rare. The fabrication of this card thus succeeded in contributing two philatelic "improbabilities".

### **A Do'ar Ivri Stamp Cancelled with the Mandate S.C.**

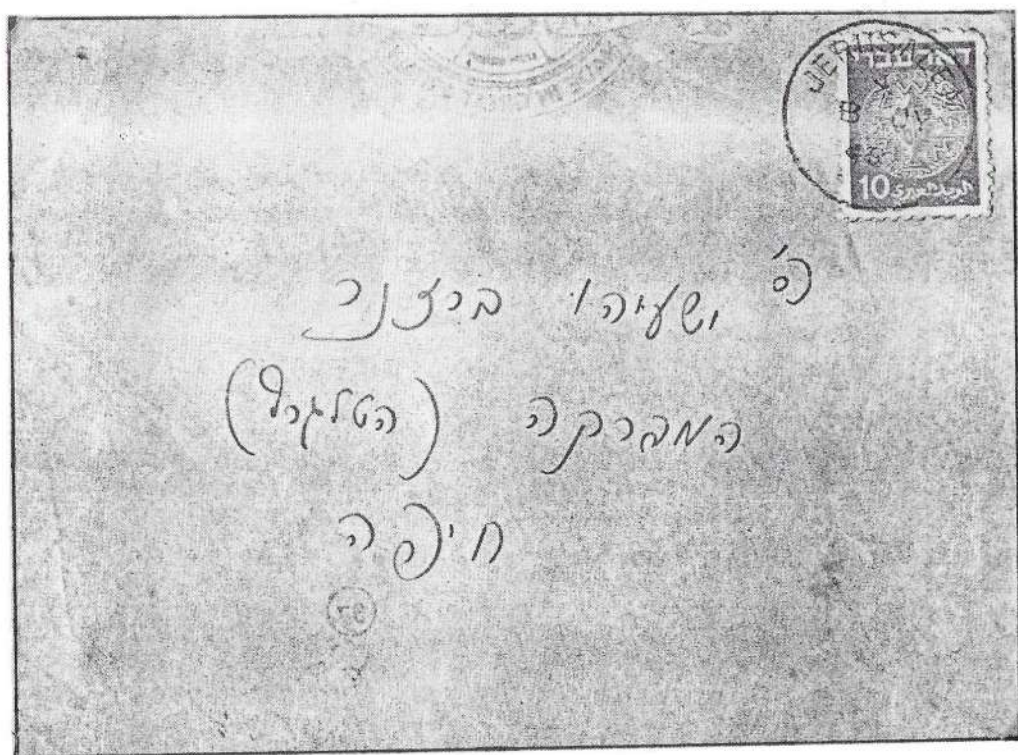
#### **Jerusalem Postmark.** (I. Karpovsky, Herzliya)

The usage of Mandate postmarks after the establishment of the State is well known. In Jerusalem, the major usage of the single circle type was for the cancellation of incoming cables, from about mid-June to the beginning of October<sup>1</sup>.

However, some examples of the use of this instrument on letters have been published, especially in this Bulletin<sup>2</sup> but very few of these are as yet known, dating from early May. Some examples of the use of branch Post Office Mandate postmarks (Mahane Yehuda and Mea Shearim) are also known, of the period end July - beginning August, and here too very few have come to light (s. Front Cover).

In the latter case it is known that these particular instruments were used to 'bridge' the period between the ending of the use of the temporary Minhelet Ha'Am type and the new trilingual one which had not yet been received<sup>3</sup>.

Lately a further example of the single circle postmark has come to light, of a much later date than the earlier s.c. examples. This new example was sent from the Main Post Office on July 8th, cancelling a Doar Ivri postage stamp (Fig. 35). The letter was sent to Haifa, to an employee of the Post Office there. The sender is unknown since the flap is missing. However, added on the back are the words "I love you" in writing which is feminine and matches that on the front. She probably worked in the telegraph department and must have short-circuited the usual channels, using the telegraph instrument to cancel her letter. Thus a rare postal history item was formed.



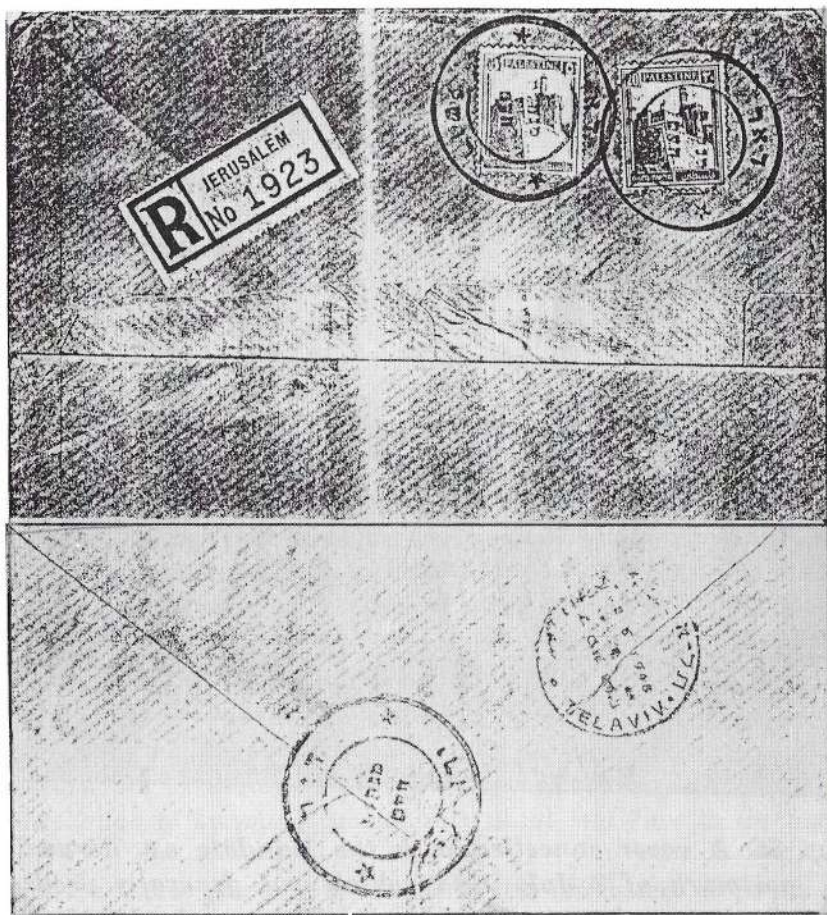
**Fig. 35: A cover cancelled with the Mandate s.c. Jerusalem postmark of 8 July 1948, which was generally used only on telegrams in this period.**

- 
- (1) I. Karpovsky, HLP# #17/18 (1984), p.898.
  - (2) Y. Rimon, HLP# #33-34 (1988), p. 746.
  - (3) E. Glassman, *Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948*, London (1978), p.52.

**More About the "Two-period Dispatch and Delivery" in Besieged Jerusalem.** (I. Karpovsky, Hertzliya)

Yeri Rimon's article in Issue 33-34 of this Bulletin on the temporary 'Main' Post Office at the time of the termination of the British Mandate helped me understand a rather unusual letter I own.

The letter, shown in Fig. 36, is stamped with two Mandate stamps and bears a registered label of the Main Post Office. The number of the label is much higher than those appearing on letters sent after June 21st, when the Main Post Office was opened for normal use. The stamps are cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'Am postmark used after May 9th. On the back of the envelope is the Tel Aviv arrival of June 21, i.e., the letter was sent with the Second Convoy after the siege.



**Fig. 36:** A letter from besieged Jerusalem, believed to have been sent from the temporary 'Main' Post Office in 'Bevingrad'. It was later cancelled in one of Jerusalem B.P.O.'s and sent with the Second Convoy to Tel Aviv.

*The explanation for the cancellation of this letter follows from the theory given in Rimón's article. This letter was brought for dispatch to the temporary 'Main' Post Office, then next to the usual one, at some time in the second half of April, where the Mandate postage stamps and the registration label were affixed. But the letter was not cancelled nor sent since there was no way of sending it at that time. When this temporary office closed down and the accumulated mail was transferred to the Jewish sector it was cancelled and included in the bag destined to be sent with the Mail Convoy. The fresh condition of the cancellation proves that it was cancelled as soon as the new Minhelet Ha'Am rubber instruments were received on the 9 May, 1948.*

## **The West Bank**

### ***A Taxed Cover from Nahhalin.***

*Authentic commercial taxed covers from the West Bank, during the Jordanian Administration, are quite rare. A few examples exist where "T" marked covers were delivered to their West Bank destinations without collecting the requested tax, but taxed and postage due collected covers, like the one illustrated on the Back Cover, are indeed rare.*

*The cover was sent from Bou Saada, Algeria, in February, 1966 to a small village, Nahhalin near Beth Lehem. Due to insufficient postage it was marked in manuscript "T=018" and a Jordanian 20 Fils stamp of the 1954 definitive issue attached as a tax and postmarked in Beth Lehem.*

*What makes this cover even more interesting is the added rectangular postmark of the tiny Nahhalin Postal Agency. Such rectangular postmarks of the West Bank, which were used in many small village Postal Agencies in the sixties, are very rarely found on commercial covers, let alone on a taxed cover from abroad.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## \*        G E N E R A L        N E W S        \*

\* \* \* \* \*

***New Cancellations and Post offices****(Compiled by B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal)****A. Special Cancellations***

- 26.08.88: "World Postage Stamps Exhibition PRAGA '88", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 04.09.88: "FIP 57th Congress PRAGA '88", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 07.09.88: "The setting up of the Ports & Railways Authority", Yerushalayim.  
 19.09.88: "75th Anniversary of the Hebrew Realy School", Haifa.  
 19.09.88: "Israel's philatelists greet OLYMPHILEX '88", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 28.09.88: "Jewishness in action - Religious services week", Yerushalayim.  
 28.09.88: "Seharaneh - traditional festival of Jews from Kurdistan",  
 Ashqelon.  
 10.10.88: "Engineers Chamber, Scientific and Software Engineering Society,  
 Foundation Assembly", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 16.10.88: "Bnai Zion Medical Center", Haifa.  
 17.10.88: "The Henry Ronson ORT School", Ashqelon.  
 20.10.88: "1938-1988 -50- Commercial & Industrial Club", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 31.10.88: "ICCC '88, 9th International Conference on Computer  
 Communication", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 01.11.88: "Abta 1988 Jerusalem, Israel. English Travel Agents Association",  
 Yerushalayim.  
 09.11.88: "50 years after Kristallnacht", Yerushalayim.  
 09.11.88: "Bet Ha-Gdudim", Avihayil.  
 09.11.88: Special cancellation showing Moshe Dayan's signature, coinciding  
 with the issue of the Dayan stamp, Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 17.11.88: "Vending machine postage labels, first day of issue", Tel Aviv-  
 Yafo. See note in paragraph "New Stamps".  
 04.12.88: "Feast of Hanuka, Israel Stamp Week", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

***B. Definitive Cancellations***

- 01.09.88 "Qiryat Motzkin 6 6187", new Francotype machine in Qiryat Motzkin.  
 (18.9.88): "Tel Aviv-Yafo paye 2", a new "Paid" machine cancellation in Tel  
 Aviv-Yafo. The introduction of this cancellation was not published in the  
 Post Office "Notices to the Public" and its First Day is not yet known to  
 us. The date given here is just an incidental one, for which an example  
 was found.

- 04.10.88: "Beer Sheva 21", for the new postal agency (type A) in Emeq Sara, Beer Sheva industrial area. The pmk was previously used at the Postal Agency at 9 Bialik St., now closed.
- 06.11.88: "Qiriat Bialik 11" and "Qiriat Bialik 13", additional postmarks in Qiriat Bialik Post Office.
- 06.11.88: "Qiriat Yam 6", additional postmark in Qiriat Yam Post Office.
- 06.11.88: "Tiberias 14", additional postmark in Tiberias P.O.
- 06.11.88: "Tirat Karmel 4", additional postmark in Tirat Karmel P.O..
- 06.11.88: "Kefar Hasidim 3", additional postmark in Kefar Hasidim P.O..
- 27.11.88: "Haifa VIII", new machine cancellation at the Sorting Office, Haifa.
- 27.11.88: "Haifa 3 Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in the Sorting Office, Haifa.
- 27.11.88: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 10" and "Tel Aviv-Yafo 11", new machine cancellations in the Sorting Office, Tel Aviv.

#### Error Correction

In the note "Changes in Some Tel Aviv-Yafo Postmarks" of the previous Issue, the following error should be corrected: the date for the renewed postmarks Nos. 123, 124 should be 12.2.88 and not 1.2.88.

Also it should be noted that the reported dates are those in which the new instruments were given to Tel Aviv Postmaster. Their actual first day of use could probably be on a later date.

#### **New Experimental Postmarks** (B. Fixler & I. Nachtigal)

##### (A) Moveable dates handstamps.

In July and August of this year the Postal Authority distributed, to fourteen different localities in the country, some one hundred postal instruments with a new type of postmark, larger than the previous type. These instruments have moveable dates in one line, and not in two as before.

In each of the new postmarks there is the identifying number - as with all other postmarks - identical to the number of the regular postmark. Since the new type is an experimental one, most branches did not stop using the regular types so that examples of their concurrent use are known.

As we have said, these instruments were introduced for experimental purposes so that we do not have the full details whether all of the instruments have been used, or on which date each instrument was introduced.

These are the localities at which the experimental postmarks have been introduced, and their identifying numbers:

Afula: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Akko: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.  
Bene Beraq: 1, 2, 5, 16. Givatayim: 6, 7. Haifa: 4, 6, 18, 19, 21, 22,  
 23, 24, 41, 46, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 63. Holon: 5, 8. Lod: 1. Netanya:

1, 14. Qiryat Ono: 1, 2. Ramat Gan: 1, 2, 30, 31. Rishon LeZiyyon: 1, 2, 3, 5. Yavne: 2. Yerushalayim: 1, 11, 14, 17, 33, 56, 57, 59. Tel Aviv-Yafo: 27, 28, 33, 35, 36, 47, 51, 66, 68, 74, 75, 77, 83, 85, 95, 101, 107, 122, 123, 124, 134, 136, 137, 142, 151, 155, 156, 176, 204, 213, 214, 220, 221, 222, 268.

In Figure 38 we show an example of one new experimental postmark from each of the places listed above.

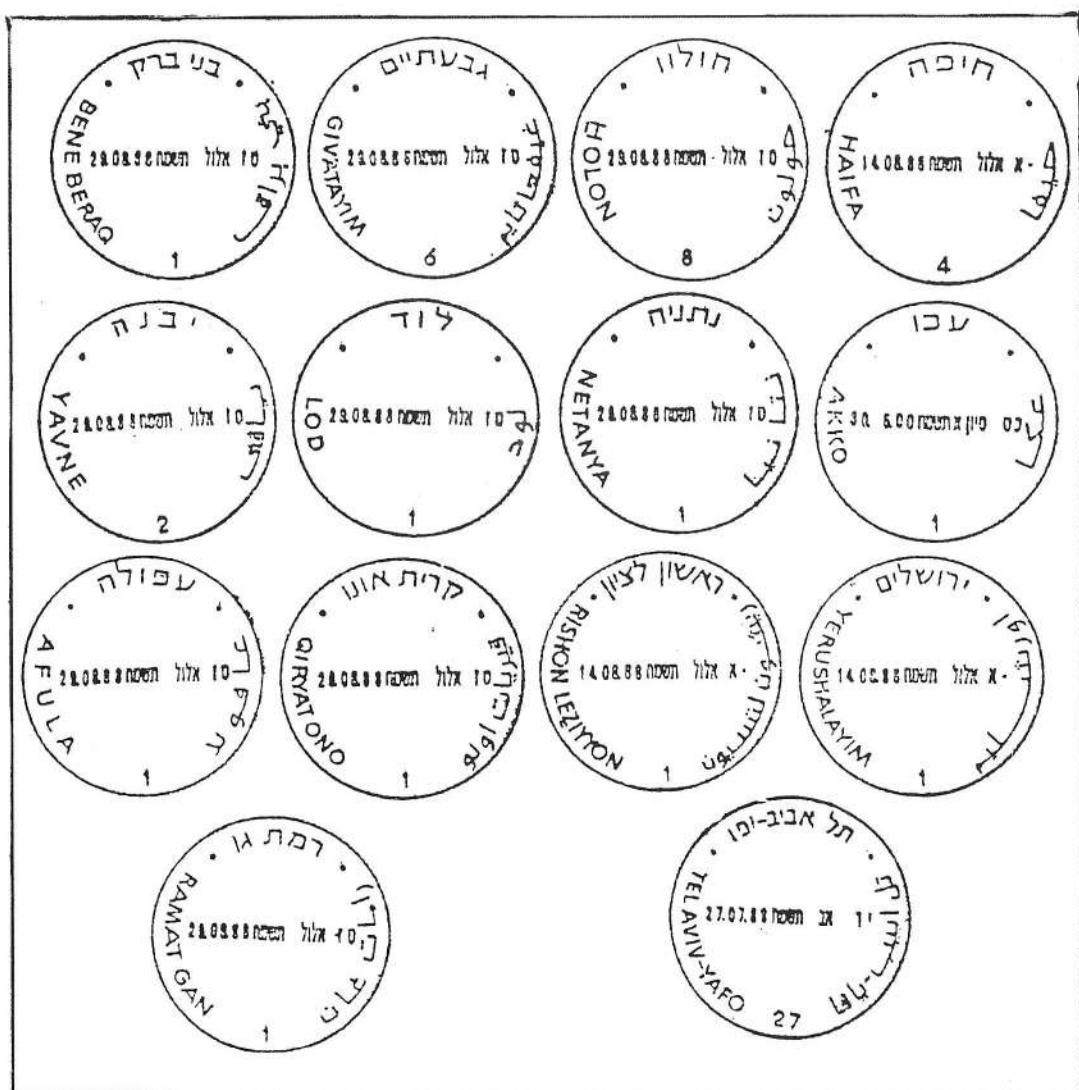


Fig. 38: Examples of the new experimental postmarks with the revolving one-line dater.

We hope to be able to supply fuller details in the next Bulletin.

**(B) Unusual machine cancellation in Tel Aviv.**

On September 7, we came across an envelope sent from Tel Aviv, which carried an example of a new type of machine cancellation. In the place of the regular date we see the following figures: -8.-8.09-6 (i.e. a total of ten slugs) in the middle. In place of the name of the town, in three languages, we have a wide round circle filling about two thirds of the postmark. In the bottom third we have a wider black horizontal line (s. Fig. 39).

We have no further details, nor do we know, at least in the meantime, where this postmark is being used, and whether this is simply an experimental postmark.



**Fig. 39: An unreported experimental(?) type of machine cancellation, recently found on some envelopes.**

**On the right - A full reconstruction of the circular portion.**

### **New Stamps**

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

01.09.88: Havivah Reik (40 Ag.); Enzo Hayyim Sereni (NIS 1.65); New Year Festival (35, 60, 70 Ag.).

09.11.88: 50 Years after "Kristallnacht" (80 Ag.); The Jewish Legion (NIS 2); Moshe Dayan (40 Ag.).

17.11.88: Automatic coin operated machine printed stamps (called "Vending Machine Postage Labels" by the Post Office) were introduced for the first time in Israel. The machine, of the Swiss firm FRAMA, are situated at three post offices (two in Tel Aviv and one in Ramat Gan) and can sell stamps of values 5 Ag. to NIS 15.- at steps of 5 Ag. The stamps are all of the same design, except for the value, as shown in Fig. 40 on the standard F.D.C. sold by the Philatelic Services.

The machine can be operated by coins of 5 Ag., 10 Ag. and NIS 1.- and any combination of stamps, consistent with the amount inserted, can be requested. Change is given only as another stamp, of the value of the residual amount.

As the stamps are printed by the machine "on the spot", their colours are apt to be of various shades - red and carmine tones have already been noticed.

At this stage, the venture is experimental and if successful, more machines will be installed at various places in the country.

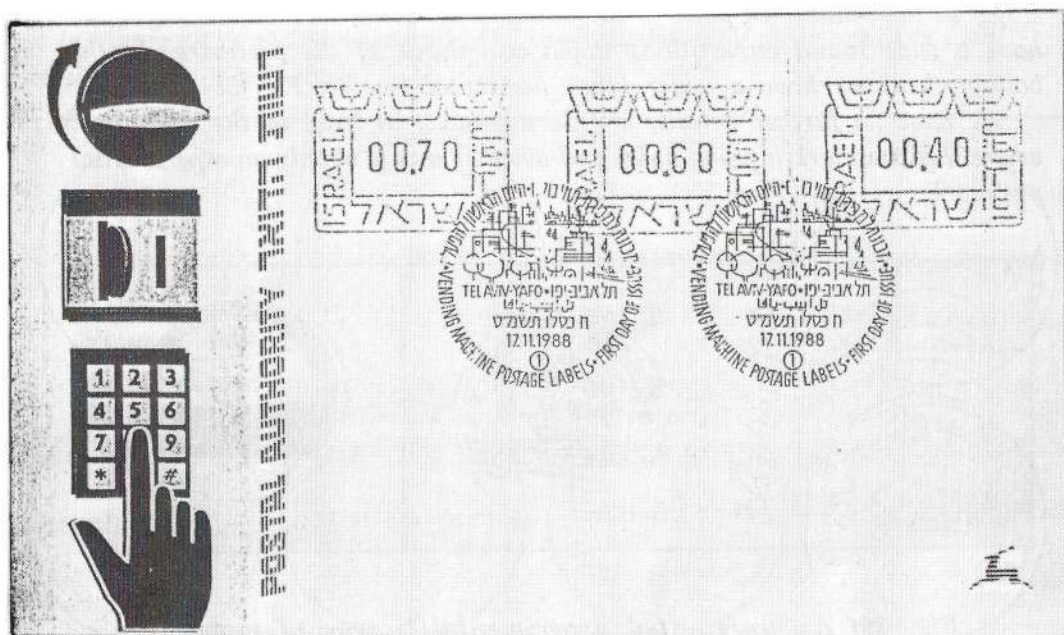


Fig. 40: The official F.D.C. of the newly introduced "Vending Machine Postage Labels".

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## Book Review

### ***A Postcard View of Jewish Life*** by David Pearlman.

(A softcover, 24 pages handbook, available from the author, 36 Asmunds Hill, London NW11 6ET, UK for £5 net or \$10 abroad, incl. airmail).

Postcards, especially picture postcards, as part of the postal communication system, always had some appeal amongst philatelists.

The renaissance, witnessed lately in the collection of Judaica and Holy Land postcards, is partly due to people like David Pearlman, a pioneer in this field. He is a foremost authority in the subject and in recent years has published 27 issues of a magazine "Postcards of Palestine", which is held in high esteem among postcard collectors. With this new handbook, he ventures into the subject of Judaica.

It is not an easy task to publish a catalogue in any postcard theme, but with Judaica postcards it is even more difficult; the immense quantities of cards and the many sub-subjects make it a formidable task. There have lately been published in France two lavishly colored books (by G. Silvain) on this subject, which though adding a lot to our knowledge cannot be considered catalogues.

We also cannot consider the present publication a catalogue, in the sense that it does not list **all** existing material, but only divides it into categories and main publishers. Suffice it to consider the sections about Zionism and Palestine, which occupy only one page in this handbook while they have spanned 27 issues of the specialized magazine mentioned above.

Nevertheless, this handbook serves a very useful purpose, enabling collectors of this complex subject to properly organize their collection in a logical and subject oriented order, and to get a rough idea of the postcards' value. However, the matter of evaluation should be taken cautiously because of the generality and the compactness of the work. The introduction, which summarizes briefly the development of postcards in general and Judaica postcards in particular, is very clear and gives a good overview of the subject. The glossary of Hebrew and Yiddish terms may prove handy to collectors unfamiliar with these terms.

In general, in a multiplex field like this and with so little literature available, such an addition by a knowledgeable author is very welcome.

(Yeri Rimon)

## O b i t u a r y

### Z V I      B E R E S T

On Monday, October 24th we lost our member and fellow philatelist Zvi Berest who passed away after a sudden heart attack. We have lost a dear friend, an enthusiastic philatelist and a keen researcher for many years of Postal History in his chosen field.

Zvi joined the British Army during World War II, serving in the Engineering Corps, and after that served for many years in the Israeli Army. For a long time he was very active in the British Legion, keeping in touch with many friends and acquaintances throughout the world.

Always ready to volunteer and help, these qualities showed particularly in his chosen fields of interest. He was happy to share his discoveries with his fellow philatelists; his knowledge was acquired through hard work and much effort. His special fields of interest were Military Mail in Eretz-Israel, particularly the period during and after World War II, and of the United Nations Forces in the Middle East where he became known as one of the leading specialists in this particular subject.

In these fields Zvi carried out much original and important studies, publishing a tremendous amount of hitherto unknown information. To gather this he corresponded with a large number of world wide sources. He published numerous articles, both in Israel and overseas; our own Bulletin carried several of his studies.

Zvi was, for many years, an active member of the Tel Aviv Philatelic Society. There, as elsewhere, he volunteered for club service, and was highly esteemed by his friends and fellow collectors.

Zvi was a very pleasant man of an easy disposition and a loyal friend who will be sadly missed by all of us. May his memory live on.

(Zvi Shimony)

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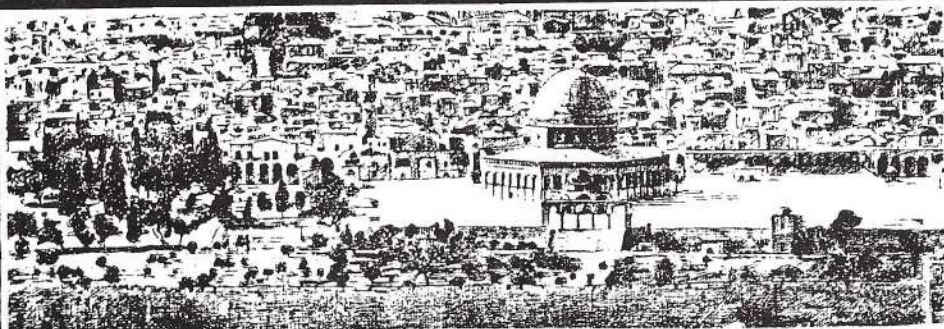
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Taxed cover from Algeria to Nahhalin, near Beth Lehem, from the Jordanian  
 Administration period, with the rare rectangular postmark of Nahhalin.  
 (See note on page 927 )

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סתיו תשמ"ט