

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF THE  
POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL



# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

**Official Bulletin of the Society of the Postal History  
of Eretz-Israel**

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

*The Founders: Shaul Ben Haim, Emanuel Glassman, Bernardo Grosser*

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## Editorial

In the process of selecting and editing articles for the bulletin we aim to keep the balance between the articles about the "technical" side of postal history, namely: rates, routes and means of transportation, and articles about the historical story of the post, or history through the post.

Robson Lowe, the Don of postal history, who made the first organized study of the subject in the 1970's, described postal historians as "Students of Humanity"\*. This because postal history requires research in the course of which, the collector when interpreting a cover and its postal markings comes "face to face" with the history, the personalities, the particular event, the place and the postal service involved.

F.I.P has recognized the importance of this element of postal history and in Article 3 of F.I.P Serv regulations define: Internee camp mail, Siege mail, Disaster mail and Disinfected mail as specific subjects of postal history.

On the average the balance between articles was well kept in many of our bulletins. We follow this approach in this issue. The subject of the articles: Analyzing Airmail Covers from Palestine, The rare Newspaper Mail Stamps during Ottoman rule in Jerusalem, 1912 Hadera Colony messenger mail and a Mandate Mea Shearim Jerusalem Postmark in July 1948, tends to emphasis the "technical" side of postal history (although naturally some historical elements are included), while the articles: The Postal Services to the Negev Settlements during the British Mandate, Baron Von Münchhausen's Telegram to Jerusalem, The Orientalists paint the Holy Land on picture postcards and Eretz-Israel Notebook relate history through the story of the post.

We intend to continue to preserve this balance in future issues but we urge members to express their ideas on the subject. So please write to us!

"Israel World Championship 2008" stamp exhibition to be held 14-21 May in Tel Aviv, is the most important and significant philatelic event of this year. Information about the exhibition including the list of Holy Land Postal History exhibits and exhibitors is given in the News section of this bulletin. A get together event of members and friends of our Society is planned for May 20th in the morning. The venue will be a wonderful opportunity to meet members, welcome those from abroad, discuss matters of the Society and form friendships. Details about this meeting will be provided at a later date.

This issue is the combined work of the all time editor for 27 years, Zvi Shimony and the novice editor, Yehuda Kleiner. Yehuda is grateful that Zvi will continue to be involved in the editing process. Zvi's experience, guidance and advice are very welcomed and most necessary for a long period to come.

Thank you Zvi.

Y. K.

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\* *"Introducing Postal History", Vivien J. Sussex. British Philatelic Trust in conjunction with The Postal History Society, London, 1, 1988, p5.*



# Analyzing Airmail Covers from Palestine, ( 3 Aug '33 to 30 Apr '48 )

## With Observations on Etiquettes and Markings\*

*Leslie A. Bard, M.D., Carmel, CA*

### Introduction

**Caveat:** My approach to the information found on airmail covers is derived from my focus on airmail rates, my curiosity as to why mailers chose a particular rate to pay, and how airmail covers were actually handled by the postal service. The categorization I use for understanding these covers is based on function, not lexicology. Readers interested in postal history very likely use a similar approach to categorizing their covers and related materials, but their categorization may be quite different depending on their focus, even if they also collect airmail covers. For a discussion of this topic see Jim Graue's editorial in the Airpost Journal, Aug 2005, p.313 and the Letters to the Editor in response to that editorial in the September and October issues.

For readers not familiar with Palestine philately, no airmail stamps were ever issued.

Lydda Airport cancellations were usually transit marks, not indicators of the sender's intentions or an air route that was followed.

All figures are scans modified in the computer program PhotoShop in order to accentuate the **etiquettes and markings** on the covers. When the scans are adjusted for brightness and contrast, the colors of the stamps are often not perfectly true to the originals. Some illustrations of subjects involved in the analysis of covers are included in this Introduction, and others will appear in subsequent expanded sections dealing with specific topics.

### The definition of an airmail rate is most important:

1. The total value of postage required per first weight interval, (and subsequent intervals if different).
2. To send a cover (sealed envelope, registered entire, post (al) card, letter card or printed matter).
3. All or partially by air to a specific country (rarely to a specific city).
4. Via a specific route (all owing for small changes that did not significantly affect transit times).
5. During a specific time period

Therefore, the "**primary information**" on an airmail cover consists of:

1. The addressed country.
2. The date of mailing.
3. The route apparently intended by the sender, and
4. The total airmail rate actually paid.

The **addressed country** is occasionally absent, erroneous, or ambiguous due to handwriting and/or spelling. This may lead to misdirection. The cover shown in Figure 1, paid 60 mils to Vaslui, Romania, but misdirected to Jaslo, Poland, b/s 4 May. Probable rate to Poland was 55 mils/10 gr. Rate to Romania 60 mils/10 gr. based on a Public Notice, 19 Jun 46, and this single cover.



Figure 1

The **route intended by the sender** (by air, by what carrier, and/or how far) may be expressed on the cover by:

1. An etiquette of blue and red decorations printed on the edges, Figure 2, has rather artistically placed stripes in addition to an applied airmail label. It was mailed 10 Mar 42 to Egypt at the correct rate of 15/10 mils/10 gr.
2. An "airmail" etiquette (print or label) anywhere on the face of the cover, with or without a specific route or carrier included, (Fig. 2).
3. Script endorsement of "airmail," with or without a specific route and/or carrier included.
4. A rate paid that is unmistakably for airmail to the addressed country.



Figure 2

Although "Airmail Directional Handstamps," (acronym ADH) has been suggested for a categorization of markings on airmail covers, it is important to note that ink or pencil script was often used in place of or to modify handstamps or etiquettes by mailers or by postal authorities. In addition, some handstamps were adapted to uses different from their original intent, and mailers' script endorsements were often absent or incorrect. Regardless, any one or a combination of these is generally less reliable than the **airmail rate actually paid**. This is most evident in the economy/convenience use of "airmail" envelopes for surface carriage, domestic or foreign.

The handling of covers when the rate paid was insufficient evolved over time. The UPU postage due system was used routinely before the War. The tax due was indicated by a hand-stamped or script "T" with a script notation of the deficiency in French gold "c"entimes (bearing no decipherable U.P.U. relationship to any currency's monetary value). Observed "c" values were usually between 5 and 40 and roughly correlated with the fraction of the weight interval that was deficiently paid. The postage-due was paid by the addressee with stamps in the currency of the addressed country. The cover shown in Figure 3, dating 27 August 1937, was paid with 15 mills, meeting the first weight interval for the IA rate to France, 15/10 mills/10 gr. "T"40ct, in pencil script, indicated a deficiency for the second weight interval. This cost the addressee 2 Franks and 80 Centimes.





Figure 3

The cover shown in Figure 4, dating 11 January 1939, was paid with 20 mils, 2x the all-up rate of 10 mils/10 gr., but was assessed "T40" for the 3rd weight interval. This was paid with 5<sup>D</sup> Australian. The protocol followed for these 2 covers was still officially in effect after 2 Sep. 1939, but rarely used on outgoing airmail during or after the War.



Figure 4

The airmail rate paid could consist of stamps initially placed on the cover, but insufficient for the route available or requested, plus stamps subsequently added to the cover after consultation with a postal clerk. The cover shown in Figure 5 is an unusual prewar example. Submitted to a mail clerk on 15 July 1939 with no postage, it was "T"axed "40c" (transillumination). It was brought back the next day with a 10-mil stamp covering the blue script tax marking and meeting the all-up rate of 10 mils/10 gr. to the UK. The stamp was canceled and the cover sent on its way by air. Added stamps in this context may be



Figure 5

suspected by their placements other than on the upper right corner of the cover and confirmed by one or more of the following:

1. A hand-stamp indicating "Insufficiently prepaid / for air mail" with or without the deficiency noted in script, (Fig. 6).
2. A different canceling device used on the added stamps.
3. The same canceling device used on the added stamps, but one to three days after the first attempt to mail the cover.

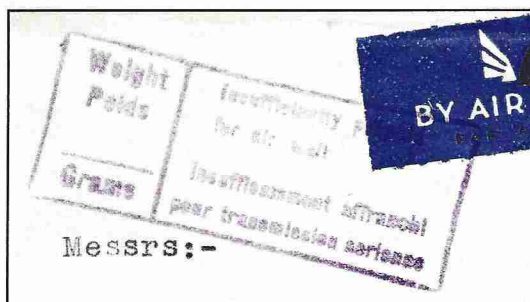


Figure 6

This was one method of handling underpaid letters during WWII and thereafter, but most people probably dropped their airmail in a letter box. The most frequent wartime alternatives were to either cancel airmail carriage altogether, limit air carriage to an intermediate exchange office on the route, or change the route.

Two phenomena make it more complicated to determine or confirm what the official rate actually was for an individual cover. Due to the frequent changes of rates and routes during WW II, people were not always up-to-date on the correct rates, and there was a tendency to pay the last rate that they recalled to their usual destination country or even to other countries with which they were familiar. I call this behavior "**perseveration**," a neurological term used for uncontrolled speech repetition related to a brain dysfunction. Applied to the payment of more or less than the correct airmail rate, it implies a reflexive way of dealing with a lack of information and/or memory. This was a frequent phenomenon during the many "Transition" periods directly due to WW II: the beginning in September 1939, the entrance of Italy in June 1940, the entrance of Japan in December 1941, and the end of the Mandate in April 1948. During these short periods, there was no airmail available for at least part of the time, and one sees perseveration over- or underpayments, depending on the circumstances.

From September 1939, airmail rates increased markedly and changed frequently, and it became customary for postal clerks to send covers with the clear intent of air carriage, but short-paid  $\leq 5$  mils, onward without further attention. An overpayment occurred when rates were generally going down, from January 1942. This phenomenon created a problem in the study of specific airmail rates based solely on observed covers. However, the discovery of documentary evidence for most airmail rates substantially reduced the uncertainty and supported the concept of perseveration.

The **total rate paid** consists of the airmail rate paid plus any other payment for ancillary services such as registration, express service, or late posting.

I use the term "**secondary information**" to mean any additions to the cover



that indicate what airmail route may have been followed; what happened to the cover on its way; and why. "Airmail Directional Hand-stamps" is a two-volume study by Ian McQueen that supplemented his previous two volumes entitled "Jusqu'a Airmail Markings" published in 1993 and 1995. All four are indispensable for anyone interested in airmail covers during the 1930's and 1940's. I divide the secondary information also into four parts:

**A. Information about how the cover was handled within Palestine:**

1. Returning the cover to the mailer as a result of:
  - a. Censorship with a PC23 label covering the address and an enclosure explaining the reason for returning the cover to the sender. The cover shown in Figure 7 was mailed on 14 February 1940, and paid with 30 mils. That met the ALA rate/10 gr. to Europe via Rome and surface to Germany (trans-illumination). The enclosure shown in Figure 8 is its explanatory enclosure.



**Figure 7**

# JERUSALEM POSTAL CENSORSHIP

This packet is returned as correspondence may not be sent to neutral countries for transmission in whole or part to Germany or enemy occupied territory except through the channels laid down in the Public Notice published on the 12th February, 1940.

**Figure 8**

b. "RETURNED TO SENDER/NO SERVICE": Shown in Figure 9 was mailed on 6 June 1940, paid 25 mils, the correct rate/10 gr. via ALA to Rome since 6 May 1940. However, Italy's threat to declare war on the Allies by deploying their navy resulted in closure of the route to Rome as early as 3 June 1940.

c. Need to add sufficient stamps to meet the airmail rate, (Fig. 5).



**Figure 9**

2. Taxation, limitation or cancellation of "airmail" from Palestine:
  - a. Assessment of tax for underpaid covers, tax to be paid by recipient in country of destination. (Figures 3 and 4).
  - b. Worded "Insufficiently prepaid..." hand-stamps usually used to limit air carriage during and after WWII, but occasionally used to cancel it altogether. Occasionally, wording was in script.
  - c. Mute boxed 6-bar hand-stamp or pencil cancellations of airmail etiquettes and/or endorsements. The cover shown in Figure 10 was paid with 25 mils to Austria 6 Aug 47. Airmail rate was 60 mil/10 gr. (21 covers & 2 documents), and surface rate was 20 mils/20 gr. Airmail etiquette cancelled with h/s as described. Sent surface. Two other airmail covers from Palestine with this h/s recorded, but h/s was used to cancel stamps in each. H/s possibly created to use on large envelopes or boxes, printed matter or samples?
  - d. Payment of the surface rate only, usually seen with the economy/convenience use of covers bearing some residual indication(s) that airmail was at one time intended.



Figure 10

3. Rerouting due to any one of the following:
  - a. Disappearance of the route, e.g., when Italy closed the Mediterranean in Jun 1940 and when Japan interrupted the trans-Pacific route in Dec 1941.
  - b. Postmaster's discretion to transport airmail the most expeditious way. The cover of 28 September 1937, shown in Figure 11, was endorsed for KLM and paid for 2x weight at the rate of 25/20 mils/10 gr. to the U.S.A. Apparently it was too late to catch the KLM take-off scheduled for 9 a.m.



from Lydda the next morning. It was rerouted via IA's "Courtier" which crashed on attempted landing in Phaleron, Bay, Greece.

Two other such covers have been reported, one with "KLM" lettered in ink(x3) and another with "KLM" printed on it.



Figure 11

**B. Information about what happened to the cover along the way:**

1. Cancellation of air service from an intermediate exchange office according to a "jusqu'a" or an "Insufficiently prepaid..." marking applied in Palestine.
2. Cancellation of air service at an intermediate exchange office.
- a. When the airmail rate was paid only to that office, e.g., Karachi, Leipzig, Brindisi, Marseille, London, New York. Shown in Figure 12 is a Letter Card for internal use that was adapted for airmail. Paid 15 mils for the airmail letter rate, it was sent 9 Aug 1933 to Germany via Brindisi (b/s 13 Aug) and surface. This large boxed-cross cancellation was used at Brindisi for a very short time.

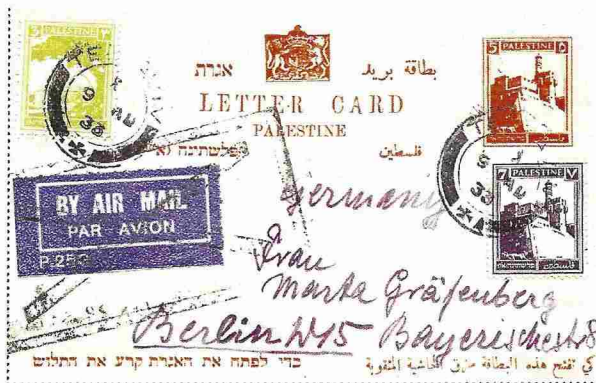


Figure 12

b. At the discretion of the postmaster according to the availability of air capacity, if waiting for an available flight might take longer than sending the cover by surface. The cover shown in Figure 13 was mailed 4 October 1944, 14 days after the reopening of the air-throughout route to the U.S.A. It was paid at the correct rate of 130 mils/ 10 gr., but air carriage was canceled for it and other early covers on this route, presumably due to limited availability of aircraft space that was needed for the war effort.



Figure 13

3. Affirmation of air service from an intermediate exchange office according to an “**au dela**” applied at the point of original mailing. “au dela” = au delà de = French for “over,” but philatelically used in the sense of “from beyond.” McQueen (1993, op. Cit.) defined them as “...markings of origin, placed upon covers to show that airmail treatment is to be given to a particular letter, not immediately, but from beyond...a certain place.” None have been described as used on airmail from Palestine, but the cover shown in Figure 14 is an example of its use on a cover to Palestine. It was mailed in Chicago June 15, 1939, to Palestine by air to New York; surface across the North Atlantic; and finally air “From Europe,” following the au dela hand-stamped on the cover in Chicago.

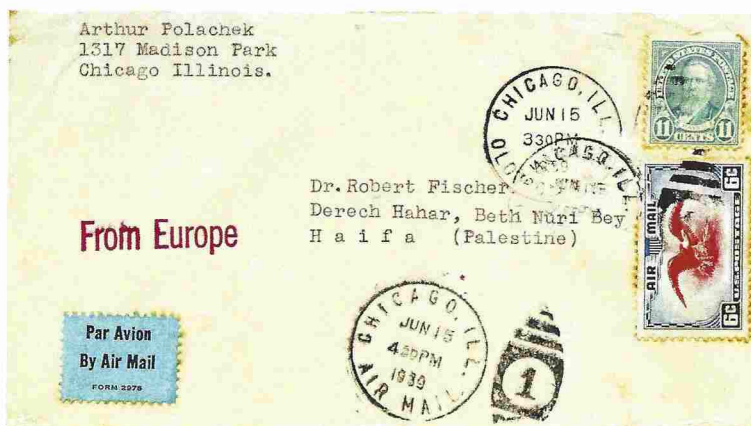


Figure 14

4. Affirmation or denial of air service from an intermediate exchange office by an O.A.T. (Onward Air Transmission) hand-stamp or an air canceling hand-stamp or roller. During the period 1944 to 1945, the occupied countries of Western Europe were being liberated and airmail was slowly returning to Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland at a rate of 40 mils/10 gr. via the UK, then surface. London postal authorities decided how to handle such mail as airplane capacity became available. That explains the covers shown in Figures 15 and 16, mailed 1 October 1945 and 17 October 1945. Both were paid the same, but the London exchange office sent the first by surface to Belgium and the second by air.



Figure 15





Figure 16

C. Information about how the cover was handled at the **first and subsequent exchange offices in the destination country.**

1. The first exchange office marking in the destination country may be a cancellation that reveals the date that is used to calculate the transit time. The city name, or other markings identified with the city, may confirm or indicate a change in the intended route. The cover shown in Figure 17 was mailed 26 June 1945 and paid 125 mils/10 gr. for the airmail route to New York via the UK. However, it was back-stamped 14 Jul in Miami, FL, the exchange office that processed airmail entering the U.S.A. from the airmail route via W. Africa (100 mils/5 gr.). The transit time of 18 days does not distinguish between the two routes. This might be another example of postmasters' discretion based on which route had available space for airmail at that time. It might also be a sorting error, since there are covers that were paid for the route via W. Africa and were sent via the U.K. The cover shown in Figure 18 was mailed 25 March 1942 and paid 105 mils/5 gr. for the route via W. Africa until 31 March 1942. The O.A.T. marking indicates it was processed in London. The same two possibilities noted for the handling of Figure 17 might explain this cover. It could have been placed on a military airplane carrying military mail to the

U.K. via the Mediterranean, or it might have been erroneously placed in a mailbag to be sent via air to Durban and surface to the U.K. The cover shown in Figure 19 is an almost identical cover, mailed 26 March 1942, possibly in the same mailbag. However, it has a London air cancellation more likely to be seen on airmail sent via Durban.



Figure 17



Figure 18



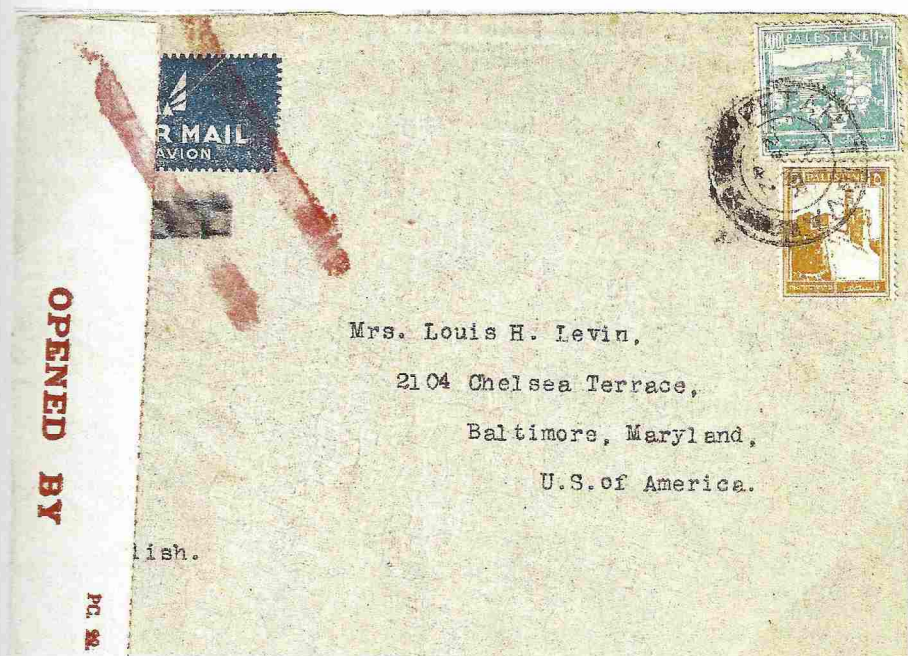


Figure 19

2. Markings and sealing tapes associated with censorship or airplane crashes may confirm routes taken or document alterations to the intended route, (Figure 11).

The reader must keep in mind that, regardless of the rate paid, the intended carrier and/or route requested were never guaranteed. Postmasters always had the discretion to change either or both to facilitate the efficient handling of the mails.

**Auxiliary information:** Avis de Reception, return of the cover from the country of destination or forwarding it to the addressee, customs duty due or paid, poste restanté duty due or paid, taxes paid for original underpayment, or misrouting within the addressed country. All are of interest, but they do not reflect on the essentials of payment for air service and whether the sender got what was paid for.

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\* This article is practically a reprint of an article published in the previous Bulletin (No. 105-106), but here includes the covers which could not be illustrated there.



## The Postal Services to the Negev Settlements during the British Mandate.

*Zvi Aloni*

### Introduction

The Negev – today 60% of the area of the State of Israel before 1967, and 80% of the area allocated to the "State of Israel" in the UN Partition Plan of November, 1947 - was a weak link in the defense program during the War of Independence. The Jewish settlements were small and sparse, spreading over a vast area, with less than 900 settlers occupying 25 settlements.

The Negev was considered during the Mandate Period to be a typical desert area inhabited by nomadic tribes, the Bedouins, with a small urban center – Beer Sheva. Nevertheless, in previous historical periods, large parts of the Negev had been settled, as impressive remains of small towns, agricultural farms and small fortresses still stand as evidence.

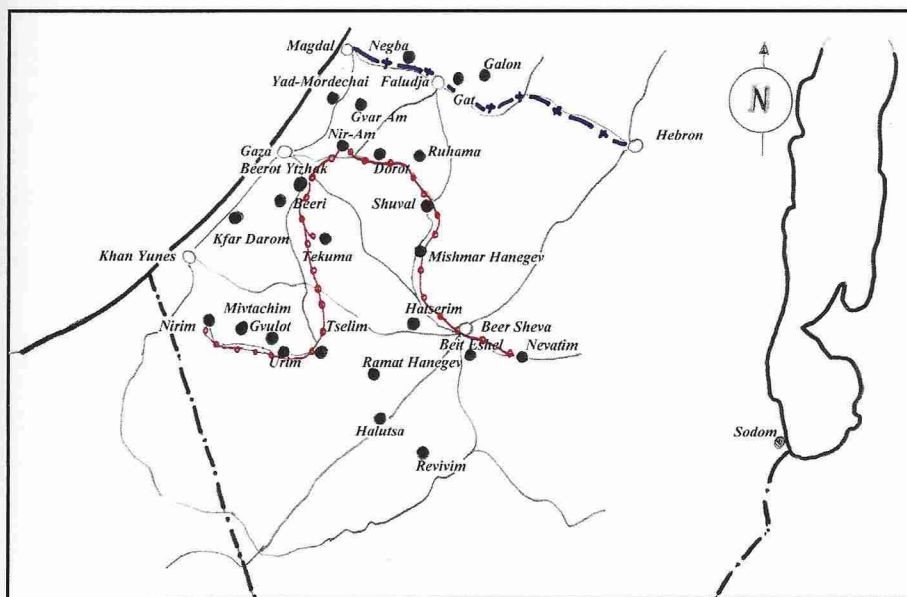
The borders of the Negev are the existing international borders in the west and the east, which end at the Gulf of Eilat. For this work, we define the northern border as the road leading from Migdal-Ashkelon to Kiryat Gat - Beit Gubrin and then on to Hebron (marked on the map in Fig. 21). Arab villages and towns along this road constituted the southernmost permanent inhabited area in Palestine until 1941.

The southernmost Jewish settlement, settled in 1939, was Kibbutz Negba, north of the Iraq Sueidan Junction (today the Givati Junction) on the Migdal - Hebron road. Permanent Jewish settlement of the Negev began in December 1941, when kibbutz Dorot was founded. Efforts to settle the Negev continued over the years and on 6 October 1946 (Yom Kippur) 11 settlements were founded in a single operation in disregard of the British Mandate authorities. (See table of dates in Fig. 23). By 1948, 26 settlements had been established in this region.



**Fig. 20: Nirim, one of the 11 settlements in the Negev, which were settled on Yom Kippur, 6 October 1946.**

At the termination of the British Mandate the main coastal road to the Negev passed through many Arab villages, towns and through the town of Gaza. The Arabs began harassing Jewish transportation on this road by mining it, as early as January, 1948. This transportation on the coastal and on the main inner roads was blocked by the use of electrically detonated mines that enabled the Arabs to discriminate between their own vehicles and those of the Jews. Thus, for one week at the end of March and two weeks in mid-April, there was no road transportation to the Jewish-controlled sector of the Negev, and the area was practically under siege. However, this situation, with the British Mandate still in force, changed with the establishment of the Jewish settlement Brur Ha'il near the hostile Arab village of Breir on 20 April, and later by the occupation of the villages Breir, Kaukab and Huleikat, by the Hagana on 12 May. This enabled the improvisation of an alternate dirt road between Negba and Niram, on which Jewish convoys traveled down to the Negev and back. Thus, transportation to the Negev existed, although with increasing difficulty, during late April, May and the beginning of June, except for a few short intervals. Therefore, we cannot consider the Negev as being completely besieged during this period.



**Fig. 21: Map of the Negev and the settlements, with markings of the water pipe lines, (marked in red color) and the Egyptian army line along the Migdal-Hebron road, (marked in blue color).**

This situation lasted throughout the entire period of fierce battles with the invading Egyptian Army. However, on the morning of 11 June, (the day of the First Cease-Fire) the Egyptians captured the entire line from Majdal on the coast to Hebron in the mountains and thus effected a complete land siege of the Negev. They refused passage even to civilian transportation under UN supervision, contrary to the cease-fire agreements. Therefore, we can consider the date of the First Cease-Fire as the onset of the full-blown land siege on the Negev. This complete land siege lasted until 20 October, when the road to the Negev was re-opened in Operation "Yo'av", when Beer Sheva was conquered and the Negev liberated.

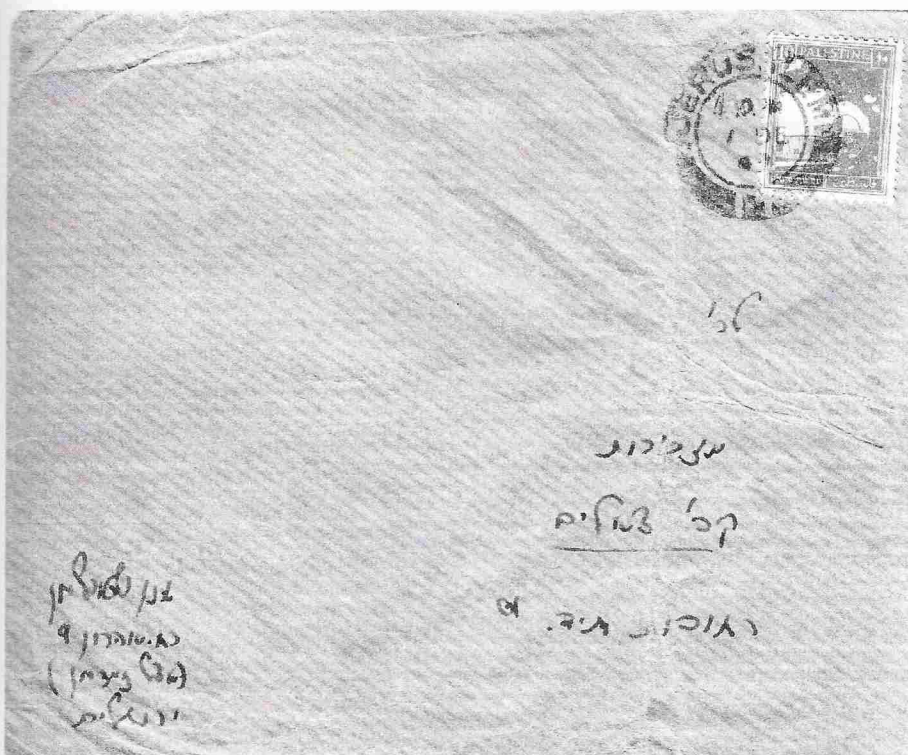
**The postal services during the last few years of the British Mandate (1941 - 1947).**

From 22 December 1941, the day kibbutz Dorot was founded, until the UN Partition Resolution on 29 November 1947, 25 settlements had been founded in the Negev (apart from Brur Hail, founded in April 1948). The government postal department made no attempt to provide these settlements with any kind of postal services. Therefore, they had to arrange some kind of "postal system" by themselves.

At that time, when there were not enough sites and locations in the country that could be prepared for the many pioneer groups who wanted to establish new settlements throughout Palestine, pioneer camps were built in nearly all the Moshavot (farm villages) - e.g., Hadera, Netanya, Rehovot, among others. There, the pioneers prepared themselves for their new home. When they were notified that a new site for their settlement was available, a small advance group was sent there in order to erect the infrastructure of the new village. Then, slowly, depending on the conditions and progress that had been achieved, the rest of the group, including families with children and elders, would transfer to the new site. This process took up to two years and sometimes even longer.

At first, mail was received at the base camp of the group in the Moshavot. (Fig. 22). From there it was sent, probably once a week, with the supply truck to the new site in the Negev. With the growth of the settlement, deliveries became more frequent. In many cases, mail was transferred by courier, by members of the community, or by chance visitors who dropped the mail at the nearest post office.





**Fig. 22: Letter sent from Jerusalem, 7 December 1946 to the secretariat of Kibbutz Zeelim, P.O.Box 61, Rehovot.**

Since supplies were bought mainly in Tel Aviv, the logical decision was made, to concentrate most of the mail arrangements there, and the settlement representatives rented post office boxes at the post office on Allenby Road. All of the known post office boxes are listed in the table in Fig. 23. Numbers in brackets refer to the notes after the table.

From the table we learn that during the six-year period, 17 settlements rented post office boxes at the Allenby Road post office in Tel Aviv. Seven other communities received their mail through four POBs of older settlements. Some of the settlement representatives in the towns collected their mail directly from the POBs; to others, the mail was sent from the veteran settlement after its arrival there.

Name of settlement	Foundation date	P.O.Box in use 1941-1948	
DOROT	11.12.41	T.A.	454
GVARAM	28.08.42	T.A.	5093
NIRAM	21.01.43	T.A.	2040*
BEEROT YITZHAK	28.01.43	T.A.	342,2721
		Gaza	18
GVULOT	12.05.43	T.A.	468*
		P. T.	131
REVIVIM	28.07.43	T.A.	2312
		RLZ	25
BEIT ESHEL	05.10.43	T.A.	560*
		B. S	1
YAD MORDECHAI	05.12.43	T.A.	1511
RUCHAMA	19.03.44	T.A.	972*
BEERI	06.10.46	T.A.	323
HATZERIM	06.10.46	T.A.	2743, 560 (4)
		B. S	10
KFAR DAROM	06.10.46	T.A.	5033
MISHMAR HANEDEV	06.10.46	T.A.	2643
		T.A.	972(1)
NEVATIM	06.10.46	T.A.	560(4)
NIRIM	06.10.46	T.A.	1314
		T.A.	468(2)
SHUVAL	06.10.46	T.A.	972(1)
		Netania	26
TEKUMA	06.10.46	T.A.	956
URIM	06.10.46	T.A.	468(2)
		RA	9
CHAZALE (ALUMIM)	07.02.47	T.A.	2040(3)
MIVTACHIM	07.02.47		
ZEELIM	07.02.47	T.A.	2040(3)
		Rehovot	61
SAAD	30.06.47	T.A.	2560
		Hertzlia	4
GEVIM	28.08.47	T.A.	2040(3)
		T.A.	2596
HALUTZA	19.11.47	T.A.	2040 (3)
		Hertzlia	22
RAMAT HANEDEV	19.11.47	T.A.	2040 (3)
BRUR HA'IL	18.04.48	RA	K. Hasne

\*Host POBs: B.S-Beer Sheva, RA-Raanana, RLZ- Rishon Le Zion, T.A.-Tel Aviv

**Fig.23: Table listing the settlements, the foundation dates and the POBs used.**

**The settlements which received mail via post office boxes of other settlements were:**

1. Shuval and Mishmar Hanegev via Ruchama POB 972, Mishmar Hanegev later used its own POB – 2643, but Shuval continued to get its mail via Ruchama's POB until the end of the war.
2. Nirim and Urim, via Gvulot POB 468, Nirim later used their own POB, 1314. Urim had another POB, No. 9, in Raanana.
3. Zeelim, Halutza, Gevim, Chazale (Alumim) and Ramat Hanegev, via Niram POB 2040. Some of these settlements hired their own POB until the end of the war.
4. Nevatim and Hazerim, via Beit Eshel POB 560. It is not known if Nevatim had its own POB.

Settlements near Arab towns with functioning post offices, opened POBs there in addition to those in Tel Aviv:

1. Beerot Yitzhak - Gaza POB 18
2. Beit Eshel - Beer Sheva POB 1
3. Hazerim - Beer Sheva POB 10

Some of the settlements used POBs of the old Moshavot (villages) where their pioneer camp was situated before they settled in the Negev and used them even after all the camp members were transferred to the new site:

1. Revivim - Rishon LeZion POB 25
2. Urim - Raanana POB 9
3. Zeelim – Rehovot POB 61
4. Brur Chail – Raanana, kibbutz Hasneh
5. Halutza – Hertzlia POB 22
6. Shuval – Netanya POB 26
7. Gvulot – Petach Tiqva POB 131

Naturally, the settlements used their POBs during the War of Independence and later on, because these were their known addresses and they were unwilling to change them frequently. Even when they received army post numbers, as explained later, they still kept them. The use of most of the POBs was abolished only after the introduction of the Mobile Post by the State of Israel postal authorities.

Some typical covers, which demonstrate these postal services, are described below, Figures 24 - 28 showing incoming mail and Figures 29 - 30, outgoing mail.

**Incoming mail**

The earliest recorded date of mail sent to the Negev via a Tel Aviv POB is a letter sent on 5 April 1943 from Egypt by a Czech soldier to a member of Kibbutz Dorot, POB 454, Tel Aviv (Fig. 24). Kibbutz Dorot was the first settlement to open a post office box at the Allenby Road Post Office in Tel Aviv. It was probably rented at the end of 1942 or at the beginning of 1943.



Figure 25 shows a registered postcard sent from Russia on 31.5.1946 to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva. It received a transit postmark at Rehovoth on 18.8.1946 and Gaza's on 19.8.1946.



Fig 24: The earliest recorded date of mail sent to the Negev via Tel Aviv post office box from Egypt 5.4.43, to Dorot, via POB 454, Tel Aviv.



Fig.25: Registered postcard sent from Russia on 31.5.46 to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva.

The next letter, sent to Beit Eshel, (Fig..26) is very interesting. It is a registered letter sent from Tel Aviv to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva. The addressee, Yehuda Kreid, a member of the Beit Eshel community, had been sent to a preparation group (Hachshara) at Ein Hashofet near Haifa. When a member of Beit Eshel took the letter from the box at the Beer Sheva post office, it was returned to the postal clerk for re-posting. The letter was forwarded to the northern settlement, where Yehuda Kreid was living temporarily. From the many postmarks on the reverse we learn that the post, both to and from Beer Sheva, was transferred through the Gaza Post Office. Most of the covers and postcards sent to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva, examined by us bear the transit postmark of Gaza, except for one postcard, probably sent from Jerusalem (the postmark is not clear) with a transit postmark of Bethlehem.



**Fig. 26: Registered express letter to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva  
26 January 1945. As the addressee had left, the letter was redirected.  
It shows that all mail to and from Beer Sheva was transferred  
through the Gaza post office.**

Also of special interest is another cover to Beit Eshel, shown in Figure 27. This letter is a vivid evidence of those stormy days in the country. It was sent from Ramat Gan to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva at the end of August 1945, four months after the end of World War II. In those days, all the underground movements, the Hagana, Palmach, Etzel and Lechi, were very active in their fight against the British Administration.

This letter, for unknown reasons, aroused the suspicions of the British postal authorities. It was sent from Ramat Gan northwards, to an army camp near Haifa, and then to Beer Sheva. Checking of an inland letter by civil or military censors after the war, was very unusual.



**Fig. 27: A letter sent from Ramat Gan to Beit Eshel, POB 1, Beer Sheva at the end of August 1945. The letter was checked by the chief army censor.**

An example of mail to a young settlement is shown in Figure 28.. The letter was sent from Tel Aviv in July 1947 to "Kv. Mezudath Borochov" (Mishmar Hanegav), Tel Aviv, POB 972.

"Mezudath Borochov Group" was founded in 1938 and their preparation camp was set up in Kfar Sava. Eight years later, on October 6, 1946 they settled at Bir Mansur, northwest of Beer Sheva, not far from Kibbutz Shuval. The new kibbutz was called Mishmar Hanegav. Both kibbutzim were helped in the early stages by the veteran settlements, Dorot and Ruchama, and from the start, they collected their mail through the Ruchama POB 972, Tel Aviv. Kibbutz Shuval also collected its mail until the end of the War of Independence through the Ruchama POB, but Mishmar Hanegav rented its own POB in Tel Aviv - No. 2643.

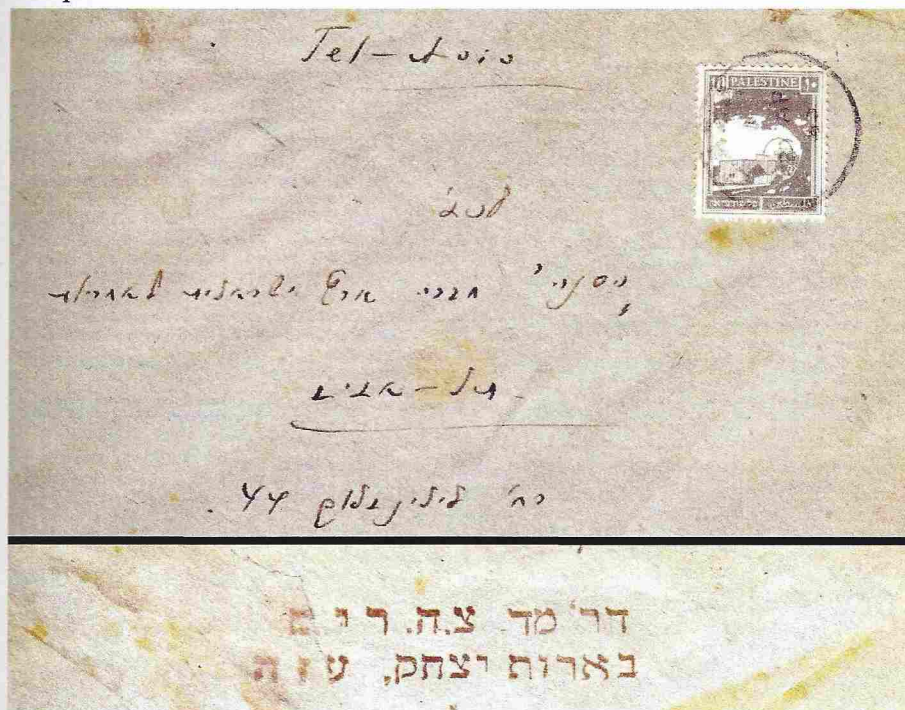


**Fig. 28: Letter sent on 30 August 1947, to "Kv. Mezudath Borochov" (Mishmar Hanegav), Tel Aviv, POB 972 - an example of a new settlement receiving its mail through the POB of a veteran settlement (Ruchama).**



## Outgoing mail

Outgoing mail from the settlements was collected in a box at the entrance to the dining room or by the secretary of the kibbutz. The drivers of the supply trucks or the settlement's representative took the mail for dispatch to the Tel Aviv or other post offices. Members of Beit Eshel, Hatzetim and Beerot Itzhak, when they went to the post offices in Beer Sheva or Gaza to collect their mail from their POBs, took the mail for dispatch there. Frequently, members or visitors, who left for places with post offices, would dispatch mail. This method of dispatching mail was used regularly, even during the War of Independence.



**Fig. 29: The earliest recorded date of a letter sent from the Negev. It was sent from Gaza Post Office on 20.4.45 by the physician of Kibbutz Beerot Yitzhak.**

The earliest recorded letter sent from a settlement in the Negev is shown in Figure 29. It was sent by the doctor of Beerot Yitzhak, Dr. Med. H. Reiss, to Tel Aviv, from the Gaza Post Office, on April 20, 1945.

Two other letters show dispatches from Beer Sheva and Tel Aviv: Figure 30 shows a letter sent from Beit Eshel to Tel Aviv through the Beer Sheva Post Office, cancelled Beer Sheva, 2 December 46 and on the back a transit postmark of Gaza. Figure 31 shows a letter from Kibbutz Dorot P.O.Box 454 Tel Aviv, posted at Tel Aviv Post Office.



Fig. 30: Letter sent from Beit Eshel via Beer Sheva Post Office on 2 December, 1946.

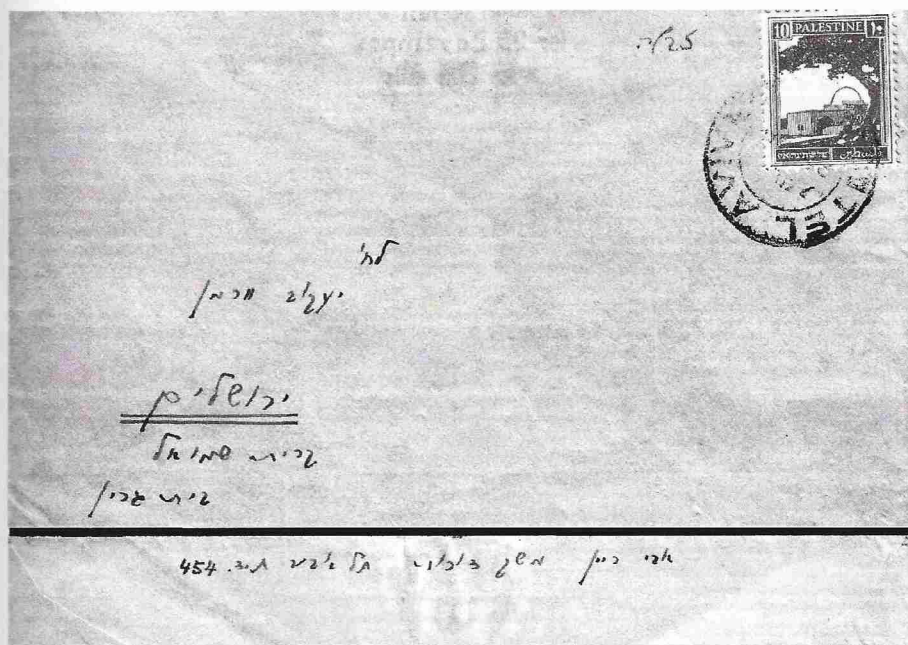


Fig. 31: Letter sent from Kibbutz Dorot, via a Tel Aviv post office to Jerusalem.



## **From the UN Partition Resolution until the End of the British Mandate. (29 November 1947 – 15 May 1948)**

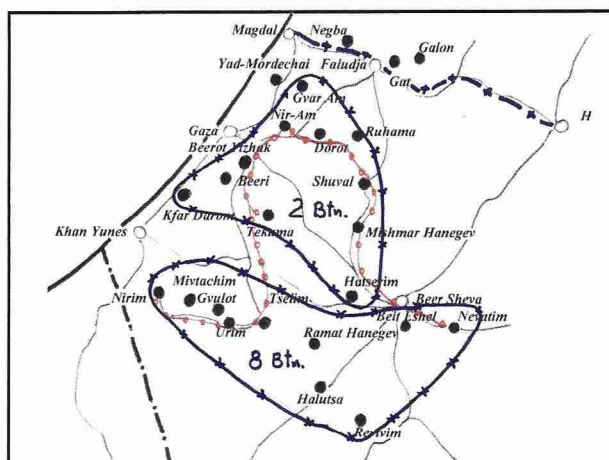
On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions, for the Partition Plan, dividing Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. The Palestinian Arabs and the neighboring Arab countries rejected the decision. One could say that the following day marked the beginning of the War of Independence.

The Arabs in the Negev area had two essential goals: to destroy the water pipelines to the settlements in the southern Negev, and to cut off the roads in the whole Negev area. By these actions, they hoped that the Jewish inhabitants would abandon the Negev.



**Fig. 32: The water pipeline in the Negev that was subject to sabotage actions by the Arabs. The project began in the beginning of 1947 and was completed in 1948, with two main pipelines laid, (see map of Fig. 21).**

From the very beginning, in December 1947, many Palmach soldiers and kibbutz members were killed by Arabs. It was immediately decided to organize the transfer of supplies and equipment to the Negev by convoy only.



**Fig. 33: A map of the Negev, showing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's northern area of responsibility and the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion's southern area of responsibility.**

The responsibility of defending and maintaining the whole Negev area was first assumed by the Second Palmach Battalion, when its headquarters was in camp 'Mekorot' near Niram. In March, 1948 the Eighth Battalion was established with headquarters in Gvulot. From then on, the Second Battalion was responsible for the northern part, and the Eighth Battalion - for the southern part of the Negev. In March 1948, the Negev Brigade was established, based on the two battalions that existed then (Fig. 33). In May, the brigade received two new battalions - the Seventh and the Ninth.



**Fig. 34: Securing the pipeline.**

The convoys to the Negev were organized at the end of December 1947, setting out daily from Beer Tuvia. At first, the Palmach escorts were unprotected but after a very short time, the vehicles were armored and, at the very least, armored cars escorted the convoys. They were attacked on the main roads by

ambushes, barriers and bombs in the Arab villages, on occasion with the help of British forces. All of the convoys had to reach headquarters near Niram, from which point the vehicles left for the settlements in the northern area. Then a second small convoy was organized which left for Gvulot and from there to the southern settlements.

The transfer of the convoys cost many lives. By the end of March, the Arabs succeeded in completely cutting off passage to the Negev via the two main roads. It was decided to prepare a dirt road east of Huleikat and Burier. A new settlement, Brur Chayil, was established on 18 April 1948, to defend this important road. Convoys continued to reach the Negev.

Just prior to the expected invasion of the Egyptian Army on 15 May, the interior region of the Negev was occupied. In the Southern Negev, the occupation was complete except for the Beit Eshel-Nevatim area of Beer Sheva, and the settlement Kfar Darom on the Gaza-Rafa road.

A day after the declaration of the Independence, on May 14 1948, the Egyptian army invaded with very large forces along two main lines: on the west, along the sea shore from El Arish and Gaza, to Majdal; and on the east, from Auja el Hafir to Beer Sheva and then to Hebron. In anticipation of the attack, all children and many of the women were evacuated to the center of the country. The process of absorbing the Negev settlements into the army system was complete.

The Egyptian army, on its northward approach, met with stubborn resistance when it attacked Nirim, Kfar Darom, Yad Mordechai, Negba and Beerot Yizhak. Only Yad Mordechai and Nitzanim were conquered after stubborn resistance. Kfar Darom was evacuated, unconquered, after a brave defense. The Egyptian army then continued to advance toward Tel Aviv. However, after the battle of Ashdod, the Egyptian HQ decided, in view of the heavy resistance put up by the Negev and Givati Brigades, to change direction and to advance eastward, along the Majdal-Faluja-Hebron road and thus connect with the eastern army. The Negev Brigade in the South and the Givati Brigade in the North with their small forces failed to halt this advance.

From the beginning of the first cease-fire on 11 June, the Negev was totally cut off from the rest of the new State. From then on, only small units managed to infiltrate through the Egyptian lines during the night.





**Fig. 35: "Piper" flying over the Negev.**

The following report was written in December 1990 by Colonel (Ret.) Eli Eyal who was the second commander of the Negev Squadron, after Ezer Weizman.

## **The transfer of mail items to the Negev settlements by airplanes of the "Air Service"**

### ***First Stage***

*From December 1947, the flights of "SENEGEV" (Negev Flights) began. Their aim was to bring to the Negev settlements, mail items, and newspapers, medical and other light supplies that could be dropped from airplanes. Meanwhile reconnaissance flights continued along the connecting roads from the north to the Negev and between the settlements, along the two water pipelines from the Niram/Gvaram area to all the southern settlements. From 20 December, 1947, at least 21 flights made it through.*

*Mail to be sent was brought to the Tel Aviv airfield from the Negev Settlements Central Office in Tel Aviv. The mail included all the different postal items (except for parcels), army mail for the Negev Headquarters, and civil and private mail for the members of the settlements and for the soldiers.*

*From the beginning of January 1948, five different reconnaissance flight routes were flown, thus not each settlement was visited daily (See typical flight report in Appendix 1).*

## ***Second Stage***

*From the beginning of February, it was possible to land on the Niram airfield, close to the Negev HQ. From 10 February, the airplanes remained overnight at Niram and returned to Tel Aviv after they had accomplished their mission on their second day in the Negev. All of the aircraft that landed in Niram took on even more packages from there to drop over the settlements.*

*The Negev Squadron was established in February and its base was in Niram. The flights to Tel Aviv became less frequent and were now flown by the Tel Aviv Squadron. Negev Squadron planes dropped packages, which were brought by the convoys or by the planes of the Tel Aviv Squadron, over the settlements. The person responsible for the arrangement of the planeloads was a member of Kibbutz Beeri, nicknamed 'Mendush'.*

## ***Third stage***

*During March, more landing strips were prepared next to many other settlements in the Negev. This facilitated the transport of heavier loads, as well as people, to the settlements. For the first time it was possible to receive mail for dispatch from the Negev.*

## ***Fourth stage***

*During the "Yo'av" and "Horev" operations, an airplane was sent daily as a 'Mail Airplane' to the Negev settlements. This was operated by the Tel Aviv Squadron or the Negev Squadron from Dorot or Beer Sheva airstrips".*

From this report, it seems that from the first days of the War of Independence, the sending of mail to the Negev settlements was quite organized, and from the end of March, mail could also be sent out of the Negev.

Not all the mail was sent by air, at least not in the first month of the war. The supply trucks of the settlements made their way to and from Tel Aviv, of course, as part of the convoys. Most of the mail was still transported by road until later in the month, when postal items were sent via the light airplanes of the Negev or Tel Aviv Squadrons. It happened often, from April onwards, that for different reasons, especially during military operations, that the flights to the settlements did not take place.

Until 11 June, there was Jewish road transportation to the Negev, and this enabled private courier mail to be carried to and from Tel Aviv to the Negev settlements, which kept post office boxes there. Thus, the major part of the small amount of civilian mail of this period is courier letters mailed in Tel Aviv. The Army Post, from its inception on 22 May, was deeply involved in the delivery of civilian mail from the Negev, but not with the volume of mail and organization which were characteristic of "Misrad 10" during the next period. No full-proof distinction between air and surface, Army and civilian mail can be made.

A general remark on the nature of the Negev courier covers must be made. Most of these letters were carried part of the way, outside the postal system. In most cases, they do not enable us to make definite statements about the mail. As they were mailed without an origin postmark, we do not know the exact dispatch date and the route by which they reached the post office. The sender's address is of utmost importance but unfortunately, it is not as reliable as an official postmark. What we can make is an intelligent guess as to how they reached the addressee. However, there is always a possibility that the real events were different from those conjectured, but this most probably cannot be ascertained.

## Outgoing mail

The Israel civilian post then, as the British Mandate post before, did not maintain regular service in the Negev, so it is highly unlikely that Doar Ivri stamps were officially distributed there. This also applies to the Minhelet Ha'am stamps, since no post office of that administration was open in the Negev at all. Therefore, with the availability of transportation to carry courier mail, we have to regard all of the covers originating in the Negev and franked by these stamps as courier covers probably franked and mailed in Tel Aviv.

This all happened despite the good intentions of the Israel civilian postal authorities to open a post office at Niram on 18 May 1948, as published in the "Davar" newspaper on 17 May together with a small article about Doar Ivri stamps:

"בהסכם עם הנהלת הדאר בתל-אביב יובטח מיום 18 במאי קשר סדיר והעברת חבילות בין ישובי הנגב ושאר חלקי הארץ. על המכתבים ועל החבילות יש לכתוב אח: שם המקבל, שם הישוב, ולהוסיף את המלה: נ ג ב .

על ישובי הנגב להצטייד בבולי דאר, ולהעביר את הדאר שלהם למשרד הדאר הזמני בניר-עם.

בשבוע הראשון לפעולת השירות, בטרם יספיקו המשרדים להצטייד בבולים, יודבקו בולים במשרד הדאר הזמני בניר-עם (הישובים יחויבו בחשבון). על החבילות יש להדביק בולים בהתאם למשקלן, בסכומים כדלקמן:

עד	1 ק"ג	20 מיל
מ -	1 עד 3 ק"ג	40 מיל
מ -	3 עד 5 ק"ג	60 מיל



Translated into English it reads:

*"Mail to the Negev.*

*By agreement with the administration of the Tel Aviv Post Office, regular communication and delivery of parcels is assured, as from 18 May, between the Negev settlements and the other parts of the country. The following should appear on letters and on parcels: name of the recipient, name of the settlement, and the word NEGEV.*

*The Negev settlements are to acquire stamps and bring their mail to the temporary post office at Niram.*

*During the first week of this service, before the settlements are able to procure stamps, the stamps will be affixed at the temporary PO of Niram (the settlements' accounts will be charged).*

*Parcels should be franked with stamps according to their weight in the following amounts:*

*Up to 1 kg.-20 mils*

*Between 1 and 3 kg.-40 mils*

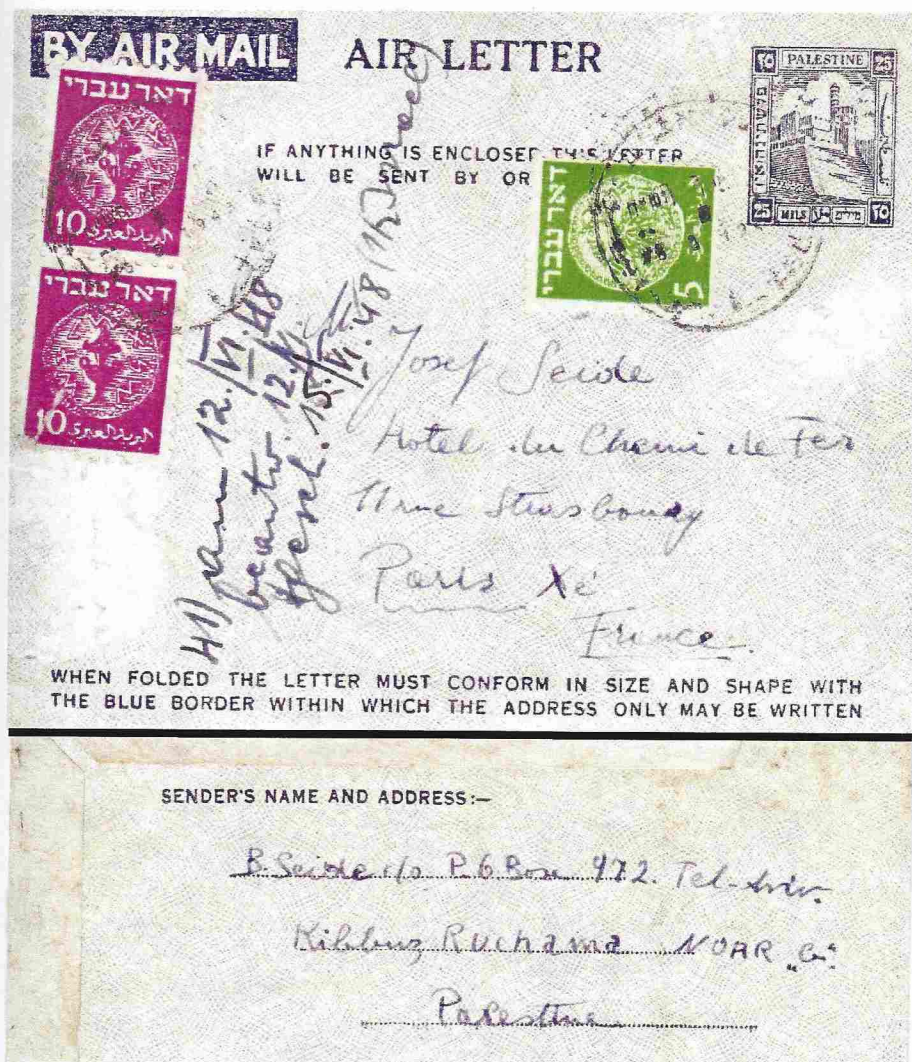
*Between 3 and 5 kg.-60 mils"*

Fig. 36 shows a letter sent by a member of Beit Eshel - east of Beer Sheva - to Kfar Vitkin, dispatched from Tel Aviv Post Office on 23 March 1948. This letter reached Tel Aviv via a courier, who came there in a convoy or by air. One of the first airstrips was built in Beit Eshel.

Fig. 37 shows a Mandate 25 mils air-letter sheet written by a civilian on 9 May 1948 (date of message in the text) sender's address, "B. Seide - c/o POB 972, Tel Aviv, Kibbutz Ruchama, Noar "G" Palestine". When the letter was written, the postage of the air letter was still valid and no special treatment was needed. The letter was brought to Tel Aviv by courier, probably a member of kibbutz Ruchama, after 16 May 1948. Doar Ivri stamps were added (35 mils, one stamp missing) and the letter was mailed on 25 May 1948 from Tel Aviv to Paris. The letter left with the first flight of Air France to Paris on 10 June 1948, recipient notation on front; "received 12 VI 48", "answered 12 VI 48".



**Fig. 36: Letter sent from Beit Eshel to Kfar Vitkin, posted in Tel Aviv 23 March 1948.**



**Fig. 37: Letter sent from Ruchama to Paris, posted in Tel Aviv, 25 May 1948.**

Fig. 38 shows a letter sent from Kibbutz Niram, return address POBox 5093 Tel Aviv to a POBox in Haifa. The letter was posted in Rishon Le Zion on 23 May 1948, and since the letter was franked with a 10 mil Mandate stamp, no longer valid for postage as of 16 May, it was marked "to pay 20 mils" and was taxed upon arrival in Haifa, on 26 May, by a 20 mil Doar Ivri stamp marked with the Haifa provisional "T". The letter reached Rishon Le Zion probably by a courier, who came there on a convoy from the Negev.





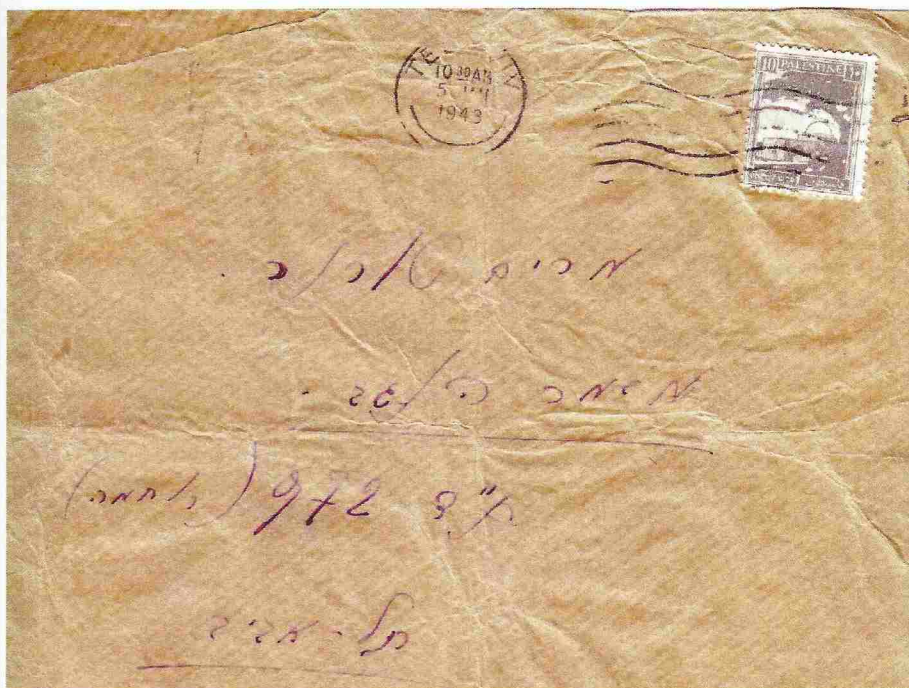
**Fig. 38: Letter sent from Kibbutz Niram, return address POB 5093 Tel Aviv dispatched from Rishon Le Zion, 23 May 1948.**

### **Incoming mail**

The incoming mail was generally collected from the POBoxes by the settlement representative in Tel Aviv and was taken to the Negev by any route available at the time - by planes of "Sherut Avir", supply trucks, shipment to the kibbutzim or sporadic courier. All the incoming mail to the Negev that we know of bears POBox number in Tel Aviv or other city, and the part of the journey from the post office to the Negev settlement was made outside the postal system during this period, and as such is subject to conjecture.

The letter in Fig. 39 was sent from Tel Aviv on 5 January 1948 to Kibbutz Mishmar Hanegv, using the POBox of Kibbutz Ruchama, 972 Tel Aviv. The letter was brought to the Negev probably by a supply convoy from the north, as travel to the Negev at this time was only by convoy.





**Fig. 39: Letter sent from Tel Aviv, dated 5 January 1948, to Kibbutz Mishmar Hanegev POBox 972 (Ruchama) Tel Aviv.**

## Epilogue

In this chapter, we discussed and viewed the postal history of the civilian settlements in the Negev, during the British Mandate period. We have to keep in mind that in addition to the civilian settlements and settlers, many soldiers fighting the daily battles against the Arabs and the Egyptian army, were interwoven in the life of the region, in army camps close to the settlements, or in remote posts in the desert.

The civilian settlements in the Negev used the army postal system between June 1948 and February 1949, and then used again the P.O.Box's in Tel Aviv, but this section of postal history is a topic to deal with in other articles.



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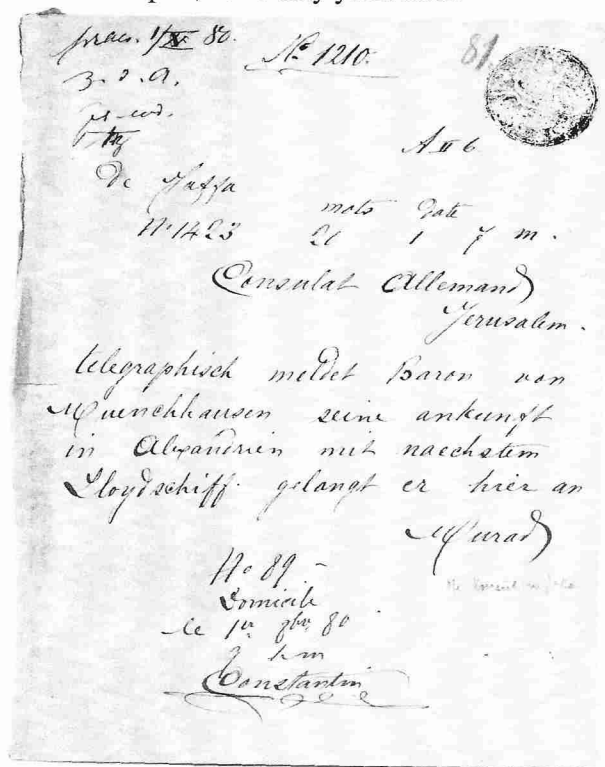
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## Baron von Münchhausen's Telegram to Jerusalem

*Y. Kleiner, Raanana*

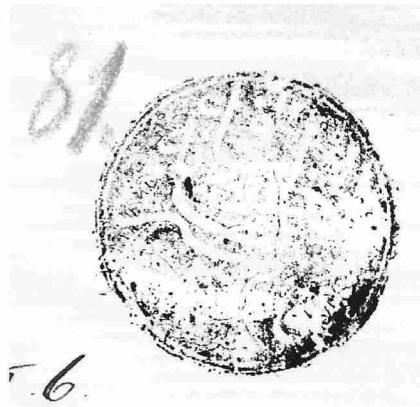
The tales of Baron Von Münchhausen amused me as a child. I never thought that he would reappear in a telegram in my Holy Land collection of the negative seals of the Ottoman Empire, some fifty years later.



**Fig. 40: The Telegram "...Baron Von Münchhausen  
seine ankunft in Alexandrien..."**

The telegram (Fig. 40) dating 1/x/(18)80, was sent from the German Vice Consulate in Jaffa to the German General Consulate in Jerusalem. Translated from German it says, that: "By telegraph the Baron Von Münchhausen advises his arrival in Alexandria by the next Llyod (Austrian) ship thus he arrives here" Signed Murad.

Upon arrival at the Ottoman post office in Jerusalem the telegram was stamped with the Jerusalem post office negative telegraph seal (Fig. 41), "TELEGRAF VE POSTA HANNI QDS 282" i.e; Telegraph and Post Office Jerusalem 282 (1866)\*, Collins #T3 in his book "The Ottoman Posts and Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai".



**Fig. 41: "Telegraf Ve Posta  
Hanni Qds 282".**

As Postal History reflects history, I became curious about three points:

1. Who was this Baron Von Münchausen who advises his arrival in Alexandria the German Vice Consulate in Jaffa?
2. Who was Murad, the signatory and writer of the telegram? Murad is a Turkish, Armenian, Arab name. How come that he writes perfect German?
3. Who was Münchausen, the story teller? A legendary figure in my mind until I purchased this telegram!?

According to the history book about the Foreign Delegations in the Holy Land during the Ottoman period, Prussia opened its consulate in Jerusalem in 1842, and in 1864 a Vice Consulate was opened in Jaffa. It became the Consulate of the Federation of the Northern German States in 1868, and the General Consulate of the German Reich in 1871. THANKMAR VON MÜNCHAUSEN (1835-1909), was a member of the Münchausen aristocratic family, a professional diplomat who served in the German Foreign Service. He specialized in the political affairs of the Ottoman Empire and served in the German Embassy in Istanbul. In January 1876 he was appointed German General Consul in Jerusalem, where he served until the end of 1881, when he was nominated German Consul in Kiev Russia. Thus the aforementioned telegram refers to him very well.

The foreign consulates in the Holy Land employed local civilians who had affiliations and who knew the receptive language and the habits of the nationality of the relevant consulate. A common position for those persons was the position of *Dragomen*. Dragomen in Turkish means translator, but in fact had a wider interpretation, that of representation before the Ottoman ruling institutions. A Dragoman would also instruct the foreign consulate staff about

the culture, the language and the "way of the land", of the country in which they served.

Dragoman Murad is mentioned in many of the files of the German Consulates, which are kept in the Israel State Archive in Jerusalem\*\*.

From these files we learn that his first name was "Spiridion", after the famous Saint of the Greek Eastern church. So he was a Christian. He was paid quarterly and he mastered at least four languages: Arabic, Turkish, German and French. He might have been from a family that used to serve in foreign consulates, as the American Navy Engineer W.F. Lynch writes in his book, "Expedition to the river Jordan and the Dead Sea" 1847, when visiting Jaffa: "Our work accomplished, we went to the country house of Mr. Murad, our (American) worthy consular representative, who had kindly put it at our disposal." This could have been the father of "our" Murad. It seems that serving in foreign consulates was a tradition in their family. Specific reference to "our" Murad is made in the map of Jaffa, drawn in 1878 by the German cartographer T. Sandel, in which, "The house of the German Vice Consul Murad is shown near the harbor."

To complete the story I searched the Internet to find out who was Münchhausen, the story teller? Hironimus Carl Fredrich Münchhausen was born to a noble family in 1720, in Bodenvarder, Hannover Germany. He was an adventurer, participated in military campaigns against the Turks and served also in the Russian army of the Czar. He kept an open house and enjoyed telling fantastic stories about his adventures to his friends. However, he owes his worldwide reputation and fame to one of his guests, Rudolf Eric Raspe. Raspe, a geologist by profession, was given precious stones in custody, which he embezzled. When found out he fled to England where he published the Münchhausen stories to earn a living.

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\* 282 according to the Moslem calendar. To convert to the common one, 584 should be added then it becomes 1866. The early negative Ottoman post seals were dated by the date of their introduction.

\*\* The collection of files of the German consulates in Palestine covering the years 1842-1939, found its way to the Israel State Archive by chance. In October 1955, a suspicious police officer stopped a truck carrying "waste paper" enroute from Jerusalem to Nazareth. The driver declared that he bought the files from a monastery in Jerusalem and that he intended to sell the waste paper to a cardboard manufacturer in Nazareth. The police sent several of the files to experts and when the true nature of these was discovered the files were bought from the driver and transferred to the State Archive in Jerusalem.



## The Orientalists Paint the Holy Land on Picture Postcards (1880 - 1935)

*Yoel Amir*

For two thousand years believers of all denominations, Christians and Jews, visualized the Holy Land as sacred, divine and illuminated, but never set foot in the country. Travel books were one way to get acquainted with reality, but these included, up to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, only black and white illustrations next to text.

The invention of photography added another dimension to the visual representation of the Holy Land, but photos were in black and white and, alas, showed the ugly face of the country – desolation, ruins, poverty and garbage. The niche of presenting the celestial Holy Land in color was soon filled in by the Orientalist painters, part of a larger group of artists and writers enchanted with the charms of the Orient.

Orientalism can be traced to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Orientalist painting is not an artistic movement but rather a group name given to the work of art by artists of many countries and different schools, including expressionists. The Orientalists painted themes related to the Orient including historic events, individual characters, landscape and street scenes. The spirit of the Orient and the glaring sun were expressed figuratively by folklore, style and costumes and by use of warm colors.

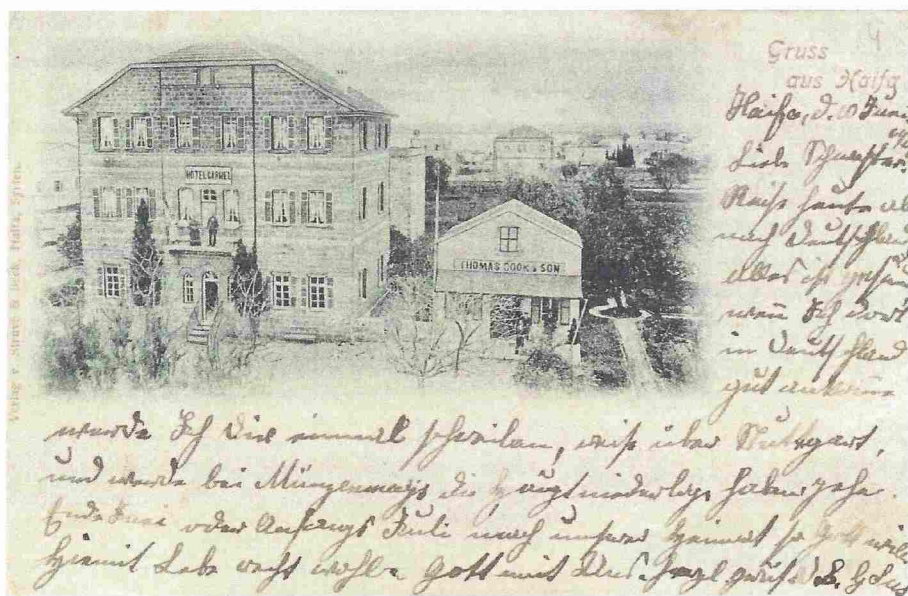
Orientalist painters used the improved travel conditions in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to visit and paint in Turkey, the Levant, Palestine, Egypt and North Africa. Their paintings, though popular, reached the public mostly through exhibitions and museums, (Fig. 42).



Fig. 42: David Roberts, Ancient Jaffa (1839).

The breakthrough in visual communication of the Holy Land happened with the arrival of the postcard, invented in the U.S. in 1861. Within thirty years postcards turned into the most popular communication means in service of the greater countries. The advantage of the postcard was its ability to convey a written text or picture worldwide at a small fee for private or commercial purposes. In the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century millions of postcards were mailed and delivered, another proof of mankind's need to communicate. We can safely conclude-the postcard was the E-mail of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The postcard was initially limited to a short text, but soon publishers understood that "one picture replaces thousand words" and the writing space was dedicated to a visual medium a photograph, painting or illustration. Picture postcards turned into a popular item, especially for tourists (Fig. 43).



**Fig. 43: Picture Postcard "Gruss Aus Haifa" published by Struve & Beck, Haifa (ca. 1895).**

Printers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century used several methods for printing black-and-white pictures. Color printing was a new and unknown technology, mastered by few German and Swiss printers. The better printing method was Photochrom and the lesser coarse screen Offset. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century black-and-white photography was a well mastered professional method. Color photography was practical only in the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Color printing of sites and scenes relied on black-and-white negatives that were subsequently hand "colored" during the plate making process. No wonder that publishers preferred using paintings as the master for printing color postcards.



Famous Orientalist painters visited the Holy Land as part of an artistic and spiritual quest. The bright sun, the color of the barren earth, the blue skies and exotic oriental surroundings intermixed with the Bible and the New Testament stories excited the Englishman Roberts (1796 - 1864) and the German Bauernfeind (1848 – 1904), who created their best paintings here. Others traveled to Palestine as pilgrims or as reporters to cover important events such as the visit of Emperor Wilhelm II in October 1898. These Orientalists were glad to cover their expenses by painting scenes for picture postcards. Thus we find hundreds of Orientalist paintings printed on postcards from the eighties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the thirties of the next century. The Picture Postcards shown below were published by: E. Nister, Nuremberg (Fig. 44), Scripture Gift Mission, London (Fig. 45), KJM, Germany (Fig. 46) and Sinai, Tel-Aviv (Fig. 47).



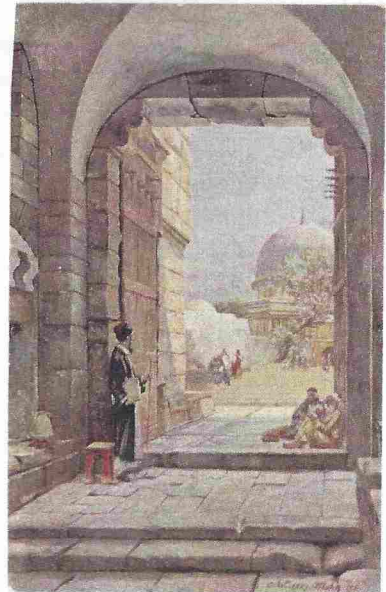
**Fig. 44: PPC. The Gardens of Jaffa Palestine – G. Bauefeind. (ca. 1898).**



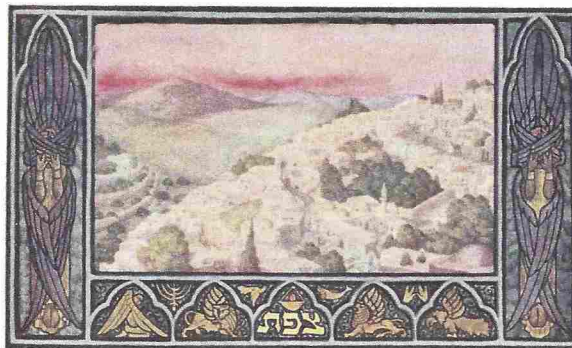


JAFFA: OR, "FISH GATE."

**Fig. 45: PPC. A. Harper.**  
Jaffa Gate (1890).



**Fig. 46: PPC. C. Wuttke.**  
Temple Gate (1911).



**Fig. 47: PPC Zefat- Z. Raban (1930).**

Picture postcards were color printed at the time in batches of 300 to 1000 copies. Thus we can safely conclude that Holy Land images – artistic, imaginary and colorful – reached hundreds of thousand of believers over the entire world by way of postal communication through such picture postcards.

#### **References:**

- Y. Ben - Arie, 'Painting the Holy Land in the Nineteenth Century' Yad Ben-Zvi, 1997.  
 W. Turner Berry, 'The Picture Postcard' the British Printer, July 1958.  
 Yoel Amir, 'The German Orientalists Paint Jerusalem and the Holy Land on Picture Postcards. (1880 - 1920) ' Exhibition in the Dweck Gallery in Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Jerusalem, March 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 \* **Short Notes and Discoveries** \*  
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## The Ottoman Period

### New Discovery – 1912 Hadera Colony Messenger Label

*J. Harpowsky*

The Jewish Colony of Hadera that was established in 1891 had an agreement with the Austrian Post in Palestine, which allowed the free dispatch of mail between the Jewish Colonies. However, mail sent abroad from the Colonies was subject to postage fees.

The postal connection between the Colony of Hadera and the Austrian Post office in Jaffa was on a bi-weekly basis. To account for the charges of the messengers local fee stamps were used. Two such stamps were issued by the Hadera Colony. A 10 para stamp for letters and a 5 para one for postcards. The stamps were in fact labels on which the inscription "Moshava Hadera" (Hadera Colony) was printed. The value was designated by a letter from the Hebrew Alphabet. A rectangular frame consisting of 30 asterisks or solid straight lines encased the inscription.

Unfortunately, to date very few items of this unique post that operated during 1912 to 1914 are known. Recently I discovered a 10 centimes Austrian (Levant) stationery card, sent from Hadera Colony to Germany. The card is cancelled Jaffa 3.12.1912 and franked in addition to the Austrian postage with a 5 para Hadera Colony messenger stamp (Fig. 48). Upon arrival the receiving post office stamped the card by a square postmark dated 17.12.1912, which also covers part of the local stamp. This is the earliest known mail sent abroad from Hadera Colony, and the only one with an "arrival" mark recorded so far.



Fig. 48: The unique postcard with the "מושבה חדרה" Stamp.

## An Eretz-Israel Notebook

*J. Shimony*

A section in the Hebrew newspaper Hamelitz, published in the first half of the 20th Century in Europe, has naturally been prolific with news from Palestine (Eretz-Israel). Hence it had a constant corner headed "פנקס ארץ ישראל" (An Eretz-Israel Notebook) dealing with news from "Israel", quite frequently interesting and important, relating to the Post in that region and period.

Part of the section in the June 11, 1903 issue is shown as (Fig. 49).

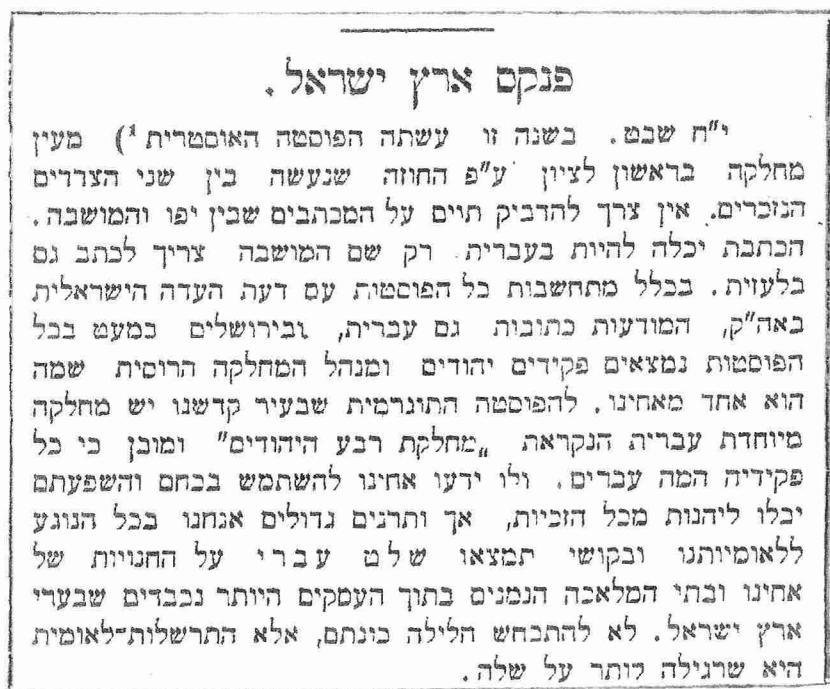


Fig. 49: Copy of the notice in the "Hamelitz" newspaper.

A free translation is given as follows, taking into consideration that the Hebrew of yonder differed from that of today's\*:

"In this year the Austrian Post made in Rishon LeZion a kind of department according to the Contract between the two mentioned sides: It is not requested to fix labels on letters between Jaffa and the Colony. The address may be in Hebrew, only the Colony name must be written also in foreign language. In general all the Postot take into consideration the opinion of the Israeli community in the Holy Land, the public notices are written also in Hebrew and in Jerusalem almost in all the Postot there are Jewish clerks and the Postmaster of the Russian department there is one of our kin. To the Togramic Posta here in our sacred city there is a special department called "the Jewish Quarter



Department" and surely all its clerks are Jewish. If our brothers knew how to use their power and influence they could enjoy all the rights, but we are much lenient in any matter related to our nationality and one can hardly find an Hebrew sign on the shops and factories of our brothers who are counted amongst the most honorable businesses of Israel's towns. Not to disavow, God forbid, is their intent, but a National-negligence which is accustomed to give up what is hers!"

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 \* For instance, the words "post" or "post offices" did not exist, but "posta" and "postot" (plural of post office) were used.

## ROMANO HOUSE OF STAMPS Ltd.



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## The Kaiser in Jerusalem: A Fourth Faux Cover

*Ralph Perry*

The article "The Kaiser in Jerusalem: Some Faux Philately" (HLPB bulletin 105-106) illustrated three almost identical philatelic Kaiser commemorative R covers, with Turkish Jerusalem cancels without R numbers, no transit or arrival marks and way overfranked. All were philatelic creations.

In May 2007 a fourth cover (Fig. 50) surfaced. Again it was almost identical to the other three covers. Basically it was like Figure 31 in bulletin 105-106, the one with the correct German spelling. It has the same seven stamps totaling 8 piastre and 40 para, all placed in the same location on the cover, an R cachet without an R number, a blank back, the same Jerusalem (Collins PM7) cancel, without a year and no transit or arrival markings.

The major difference is that here the Jerusalem cancel was applied only 4 times, whereas in Figure 31 it was applied 6 times, once on Dec.5, and 5 times on Oct.31. On the other two covers it was applied 5 times. Furthermore, while the hand writing and the address are identical the first name of the addressee is different.

It should be noted that this cover was offered by a major German auction house, with an estimate start price of two thousand (2000) Euros. It did not sell.



**Fig. 50: Overfranked commemorative cover. Unnumbered R cachet, no transit or arrival cancels.**

## The Rare Newspaper Mail Stamp

*J. Harpowsky*

One of the most interesting and important aspects of Postal History in the Holy Land during the Ottoman period, is the "Newspaper Post" and its rates. The importance is due to two reasons. Firstly, such material is scarce since newspapers are generally thrown away after being read. Secondly, the low special newspaper rates which are much lower than those of regular letters, and even lower than those of printed-matter items. To date very few samples of this "Newspaper Post" exist.

Shown on the front cover is the Jewish Weekly Newspaper "HABAZELETH", dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 1874, published by Israel Dov Frumkin. The newspaper is franked by the 2 Soldi Austrian Levant stamp, paying the low newspaper rate. The stamp is canceled by the Austrian circular "GERUSALEMME" postmark of the same date. Only two such items from the Austrian Post in The Holy Land are recorded.

Shown in Figure 51, is the same newspaper sent 25 years later, but this time by the Turkish Post. The newspaper is dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1899, sent from Jerusalem to Safed, in the northern part of Palestine. The newspaper is franked by a 5 para overprinted Turkish stamp, paying the low newspaper rate. This rate was the lowest on the rate scale, the next one being the 10 para rate for printed matter mail. The stamp is canceled with the "JERUSALEM" bilingual Turkish postmark (Collins PM 7), of the same date. The addressee was Joseph Hirsch Geiger of Safed, who was the grandfather of Dov Geiger, who became the Postmaster of Safed in 1948.



Fig. 51: The low 5 para newspaper rate of the Turkish post in Jerusalem.



The newspaper dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 1901 shown in Figure 52, was sent from the OLD CITY, franked with the newspaper rate of 5 para by an overprinted Turkish stamp. The stamp is canceled by the postmark "QUART ISRAELITE" (Steichele 33/02, Collins PM 3) of the branch post office in the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem.

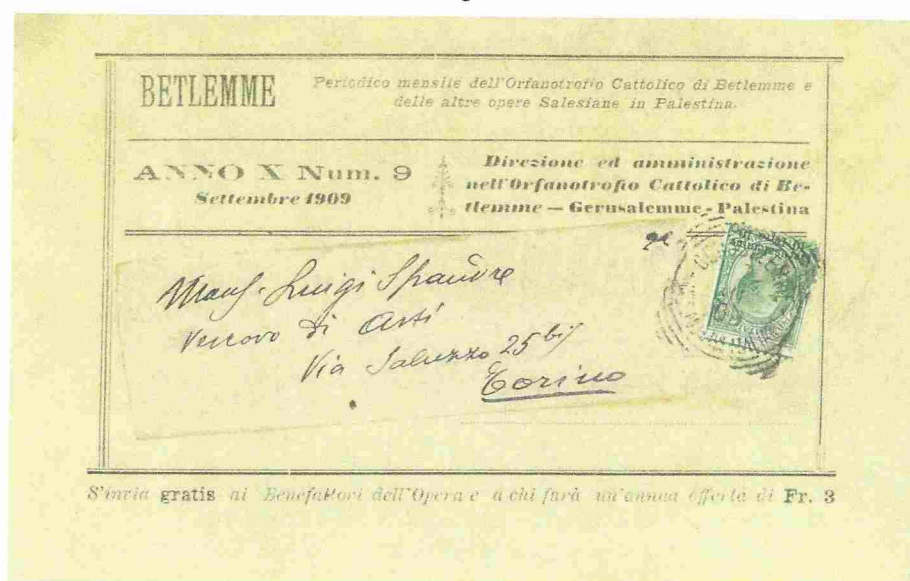


**Fig. 52:** Newspaper sent from the Jewish Quarter in the Old City, apparently bearing the earliest date of the "Quart Isralite" postmark of the Turkish Post.

Both Steichele and Collins note the 11.2.1901 as the first date of use of this postmark. However the 'Habazeleth' newspaper shown in Figure 53 appeared on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1901, 28 days earlier. According to the Internet site of The National University Library the dates on which the 'Habazeleth' newspaper appeared during January 1901 were: 7, 14, 25. This could mean that the newspaper was posted between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1901 and that the postmark canceling the stamp on the newspaper is of the earliest date known so far at least 21 days before the date mentioned by Steichele and by Collins. This assumption is however, non conclusive as it could have happened that the original recipient of the newspaper has sent it to a third party at a later date. A definite conclusion could perhaps be reached from relevant information from the Turkish PTT Records. Those are not available to the author of the article or to the editor.

In addition this copy of the "Habazeleth" is the only one known so far that was dispatched from the Jewish Quarter of the Old City in Jerusalem.

The newspaper shown in Figure 53 is the monthly "BETLEMME", dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 1909. The newspaper was sent from Jerusalem to Torino Italy. It is franked with a 10 para Italian Levant 1909 issue stamp, paying the single printed matter rate to Italy. The stamp is cancelled with the "GERUSALEMME UFF. POSTALE ITALIANO" postmark. This is one of the two such newspapers recorded so far that were posted through the Italian Post Office in Palestine.



**Fig. 53: One of the two known newspapers sent through the Italian Post Office in Jerusalem.**

## The Transition Period

### A Mandate Mea Shearim Jerusalem Postmark in July 1948

*Yaacov Tsachor*

he Mandate postmarks in Jerusalem branch post offices were not officially reintroduced into service from May 16 as were those in most of the Israeli small localities. These Mandate postmarks were mostly used as daters on telegrams and on very rare occasions as arrival postmarks.

The cover shown in Figure 54 is a commercial registered cover,\* mailed during the Minhelet Ha'am period from Qiryat Motzkin to Jerusalem, properly franked 25 miles Minhelet Ha'am stamps, tied by the postmarks in black and repeated on the back of the cover. The cover is addressed to the "Hebrew University department of Botany".

As Jerusalem was besieged, the cover was held until the end of June, when mail delivery to Jerusalem was possible. Upon arrival it received the Mandate type postmark MEA SHEARIM / JERUSALEM 1 JY 48 (G & S #J6) on the back (Fig. 55). It should be noted that the University offices were in Prophets Street in the vicinity of the Mea Shearim Quarter.

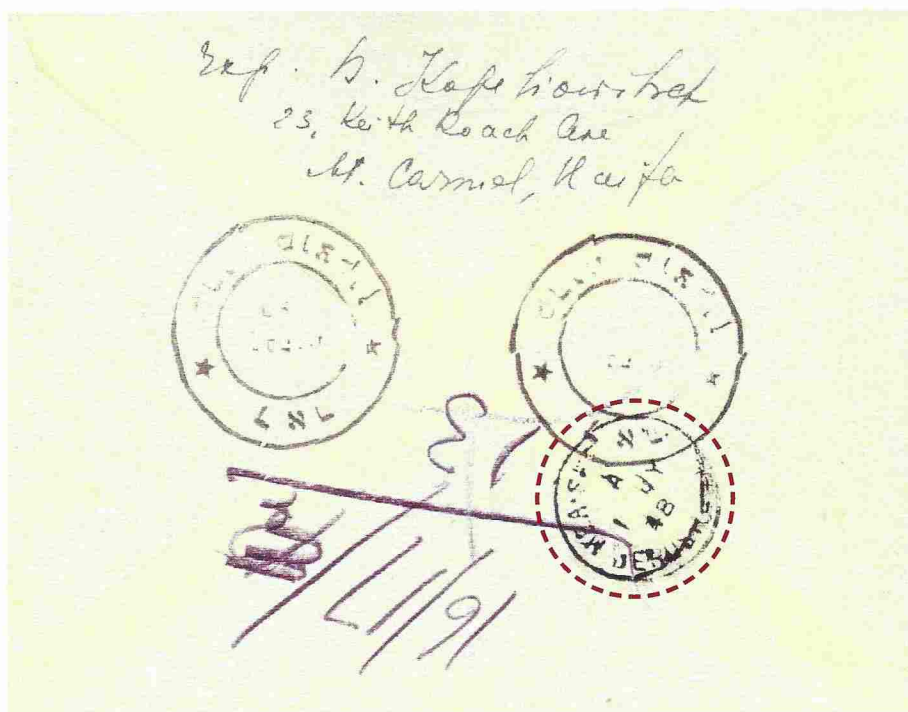
Until now, only two commercial items have been reported with this postmark: a local registered cover with an arrival postmark 2 AU 48 and a postal receipt dated 28 JY 48.\*\*

This is currently the third item and the only reported incoming mail with a Mandate arrival postmark in Jerusalem.



Fig.54: Qiryat Motzkin Minhelet Ha'am registered cover.





**Fig. 55: Arrival Mandate type postmark, on the above cover,  
MEA SHEARIM / JERUSALEM 1 JY 48.  
The only recorded incoming mail with such  
arrival mark during the transition period.**

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\* Dr. Henry Nogid collection.

\*\* "Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period", Shimony, Rimon and Karpovsky (p.275/9)

# PHILATELIC NEWS

## New Special Cancellations

This section is reprinted here courtesy of "Shovel", Israel Philatelic Federation Magazine. The Hebrew notes under the slogans give: The date of use, the type, which is generally either a First Day (of a new stamp) or a commemorative special postmark (of something) the subject, and the place of use. Most of this information appears also in English in the postmark itself.

 <p>5.6.2007 חותמת אירוע יריד הבולים יוני 2007</p>	 <p>29.5.2007 חותמת אירוע 50 שנה לכדורסל בליגת העל</p>	 <p>22.5.2007 חותמת אירוע יובל 75 שנה לגבעת חיים מאוחד</p>	 <p>16.5.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה 40 שנה לאיחוד ירושלים</p>
 <p>20.6.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה ארגוני ההתנדבות</p>	 <p>20.6.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה אתרי מורשת עולמית</p>	 <p>19.6.2007 חותמת אירוע ברכות בולאי ישראל לתערוכת סט פטרסבורג</p>	 <p>5.6.2007 חותמת אירוע 40 שנה למלחמת ששת הימים</p>
 <p>28.6.2007 חותמת אירוע 70 שנה לאכסניות הנער</p>	 <p>20.6.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה תווית דוארמט אשדוד</p>	 <p>20.6.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה מחול בישראל</p>	 <p>20.6.2007 חותמת יום ההופעה שירותי בתי הסוהר</p>



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
מועדים התשס"ח



7.8.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים אוגוסט 2007



15.7.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
שלושים שנה לקצין



3.7.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים יולי 2007



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
"הבול שלי" כחול לבן



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
המבורחים למילואים



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
מחוזות יהדות מרוקו  
לבית המלוכה



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
השומר



9.9.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
חמכת בית התאחדות  
הקבלנים והבונים



5.9.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
התפלת מים בישראל



4.9.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
ספטמבר 2007



27.8.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
100 שנה לתל אביב



2.11.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
90 שנה להצהרת בלפור



1.11.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
אות הוקרה למחוז הדרומי  
משטרת ישראל



2.10.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
אוקטובר 2007



9.9.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
יובל 50 לבית הספר  
האמריקאי הבינלאומי





5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
יום הבולאות  
בתי קולנוע בארץ ישראל



4.12.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
דצמבר 2007



6.11.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
נובמבר 2007



5.11.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
צמחי תבלין ומרפא



5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
מחנות אנושיות במשפחה



5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
הרב יצחק כדורי



5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
תיבת נח



5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
שמורת החולה



24.12.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
חג המולד  
נצרת



24.12.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
חג המולד  
ירושלים



11.12.2007  
חותמת אירוע  
הכנס ה-21 של  
בולאי ישראל



5.12.2007  
חותמת יום ההופעה  
תווית דוארמט  
חג המולד



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
עקיבא אריה ויס



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
יום הזיכרון  
הבין-לאומי לשואה



1.1.2008

חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
ינואר 2008



27.12.2007

חותמת אירוע  
יובל למעלות



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
שבעים למקורות



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
אתר מורשת עולמית



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
הגרלת המגרשים  
לאחזות בית



27.1.2008

חותמת יום ההופעה  
ישראל רוקח



6.3.2008

חותמת אירוע  
יום הגלאוקומה העולמי



8.2.2008

חותמת אירוע  
גביע דייוויס  
ישראל-שבדיה



5.2.2008

חותמת אירוע  
ידיד הבולים  
פברואר 2008



2.2.2008

חותמת אירוע  
גביע פדרציה  
ישראל-רוסיה

## New Stamps and Stationery

The following stamps were issued during the period

June 2007 – January 2008:

**20.6.07:** Unesco World Heritage Sites in Israel series: 3 stamps: Masada 5.80, Acre 3.30, Tel Aviv 5.80 NIS.

Dances in Israel series: 4 stamps- Modern Dance, Classical Ballet, Folk Dance, Ethnic Dance, 2.20 NIS each. Volunteer Organizations, 1.50 NIS. Israel Prison Service, 2.50 NIS.

**13.8.07:** Festivals 2007, Women in the Bible - Esther, 2.20 NIS.

**27.8.07:** Festivals 2007 Women in The Bible - Miriam, 2.40, Jael, 1.50 NIS.

Israel s' Reserve Force – Israels' Elite (fighting units), 7.30 NIS.

Tel-Aviv Centennial, Dizengoff Circle Souvenir Sheet, 15.00 NIS.

"My Own Stamp"- blue and white definitive stamp, 1.50 NIS.

"Hashomer"-(Jewish para military settlements guard units), 3.30 NIS.

Moroccan Jewry Salute the Royal Family. Rabbi Chalom Messas (Chief Rabbi of Morocco and Jerusalem), 7.30 NIS.

**5.11.07:** Medical Herbs and Spices: Wild Thyne, 2.25, Bay Leaves, 1.55 NIS.

**5.12.07:** Cinemas in Eretz Israel series: Tel-Aviv cinemas Eden, 4.50, Mograbi 4.60 NIS, both issued for 2007 Philately Day. Gesture of Family Love series: Little Brother-A Lot of Love, 2.25, To Mom With Love, 1.55, Fun With Dad, 3.55 NIS. Hula (Lake) Nature Reserve: 3 stamps at 2.25 NIS each. Noah's Arc souvenir Sheetlet, of inlaid perforated 6 stamps at 2.25 each. Sheetlet 16.00 NIS.

**27.1.08:** Tel-Aviv Centennial series: Israel Rokach, Mayor of Tel-Aviv, 2.25 NIS. "Ahuzat-Bayit" Land Lottery, 4.50 NIS 1 Akiva Arie Weiss, 8.15 NIS.

Unesco Heritage Sites in Israel series: The Incense Route, 3.40 NIS. The Biblical Tels, 3 stamps-Hazor, Megido, Beer-Sheva, 2.25 NIS each.

"Mekorot"-Israels' National Water System Company, 70 years commemoration stamp. 5.80 NIS.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 2.25 NIS.

## New Postal Stationery\*

January 2008: Two envelopes "Post 24 hours", much the same as issued before (January 2007). The same dimensions, flowers stamp imprints and the duty.

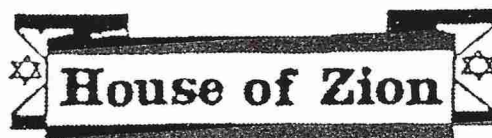
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\*Exact date of issue, first date, etc. ambiguous.





Fig. 56: Noah's Arc souvenir Sheetlet



Israel, Palestine

Judaica

Interim Period

Forerunners, Synagogue Postcards

Gaza & West Bank

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## World Championship Israel 2008 Stamp Exhibition

The WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ISRAEL 2008 STAMP EXHIBITION Under F.I.P patronage will be held in Tel Aviv, from Wednesday, May 14 through Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The exhibition is organized by the Israel Philatelic Federation in cooperation with the Israel Post Ltd, and its Philatelic Service. Over 70 countries will participate with a variety of 2,500 exhibition frames of the world's finest philatelic collections.

12 philatelic competition classes will be included: World Stamp Championship, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematical Philately, Maximaphilia, Revenue, Youth, Single Frame and Literature.

The exhibition will be located in the Israel Trade Fairs and Convention Center in Rokach Blvd, north Tel-Aviv. The new and modern exhibition center includes: 6,000 sq.m of exhibition space, state-of-the-art lectures and conference halls, a reception lobby, information desk, coffee shop and restaurant. The exhibition will host various seminars and professional meetings of philatelic organizations and societies. The Israel Philatelic Federation will organize guided tours to help visitors enjoy their stay at the show. The Israel Philatelic Service will issue a variety of special philatelic items for the exhibition.

The special feature of the World Championship Stamp Exhibition is in the Champion class that replaces the Champion of Champions class of the regular F.I.P exhibition. It is held every four years (modeled after the frequency of the Olympic Games), there is no Grand Prix for the Champion, as in regular F.I.P exhibitions, but three highest recognition awards: World Champion of Philately and first and second deputies.

## Holy Land Postal History Exhibits

The list of Holy Land postal history exhibits to be shown in the exhibition is as follows:

### CHAMPION CLASS

Exhibit Title	Exhibitor	Country
British Palestine	Hackmey Joseph	Great Britain
Holy Land Forerunners Postal Services up to 1918	Karpovsky Itamar	Israel

## POSTAL HISTORY CLASS

Exhibit Title	Exhibitor	Country
Air Mail History of the Holyland	D. Blau	U.S.A
Between 3 Postal Authorities, Rates, Stamps and Postal Marking In Use	Z. Aloni	Israel
Commercial Airmail Rates from Palestine to the Americas 3.8.33- 30.4.48	L. Bard	U.S.A
Conquest and British Military Administration of Palestine and Greater Syria	J. Becker	U.S.A
Haifa - A Profile of the Posts	Y. Rimon	Israel
Holyland 1459-1918	B. Adlerblum	U.S.A
Holyland Postal Services 1707-1917	M. Bass	U.S.A
Holyland Printed Matter 1889 - May 14, 1948	D. Chafetz	U.S.A
Israel 1948 Transition Period	R. Pildes	U.S.A
Overland Mail Via the Syro-Iraqi Great Desert	Z. Alexander	Israel
Palestine: British Civil Administration and Mandate	J. Becker	U.S.A
Postal Communications of the Jewish "Yishuv" of Eretz Israel (Palestine) 1939-1948	S. Shabtai	Israel
Postal History and Usages of the Early Commemorative Stamps of Israel 1948-	S. Rothman	U.S.A
Rishon le Zion - From Settlement to City	E. Kroft	Canada
The German Post in Holy Land	J. Falk	Germany
The Siege Cities of 1948, Rishon Le Zion, Safad, Nahariya & Jerusalem	H. Nogid	U.S.A
The use of the American Presidential Series on Mail to the Holy Land	S. Rothman	U.S.A
Turkish Post in the Holy Land 1841-1918 Routes, Rates and Postmarks	Z. Alexander	Israel
1948 Palestine Minhelet Ha'AM Postal Services	S. Stephan	New Zealand

As can be seen from the list, many diverse subjects of Holy Land postal history exhibits of high standard will be shown. Thus, the exhibition is a challenge for the competitors and a wonderful opportunity for collectors to see rare collections and a motivation for their own collecting activities.



## New Books

### **Ottoman Post in Palestine: Volume Two.**

On the first day of the BALKANFILA XIV ISTANBUL 2007 stamp exhibition, held between 28th October and 3rd November, the second volume of the **Ottoman Post in Palestine** was launched.

The book is based on the Zvi Alexander Collection and is in fact the third in the series. The first about the Field Post Offices published in 2000, the next one, the Jerusalem Volume (as volume 1), published in 2004 and the current one published by The Economic and Social History Foundation of Turkey, 2007, edited by Kemal Giray.

The book contains the Civilian Postal History of the rest of Palestine (other than the Jerusalem area), as well as the towns of East Jordan and the Hejaz Railway, that are considered part of Ottoman Palestine Postal History. The book is bi-lingual, Turkish and English, 171pp, full color, card cover.

The launch ceremony was attended by: Ibrahim Sahin, Undersecretary Ministry of Transport, Osman Tural, Chairman of the Board of PPT, Zvi Alexander and his daughter Shaula Yemini Alexander and the Editor of the book.

The book can be obtained directly from the publisher's website-[www.tarihvakfi.org.tr](http://www.tarihvakfi.org.tr) or from Vera\_Trinder-vtrinder@aol.com and from the editor [kemalgiray@gmail.com](mailto:kemalgiray@gmail.com).

A review of the book will appear in our next issue.

*Courtesy OPAL Journal.*

### **The Orientalists Postcards of the Holy Land 1880 – 1935.**

A 128 page color album with the same title, edited by Yoel Amir will be published by the Alexander Museum of Postal History and Philately, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel -Aviv.

The album is scheduled to appear at the beginning of May 2008, and would be available at the Israel Champion International Stamp Exhibition (14th – 21st May), in Tel Aviv. An exhibition on the subject is planned to open on July 1st at the Alexander Museum.

An article about this subject by Yoel Amir appears in this issue.

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VI

107-108

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