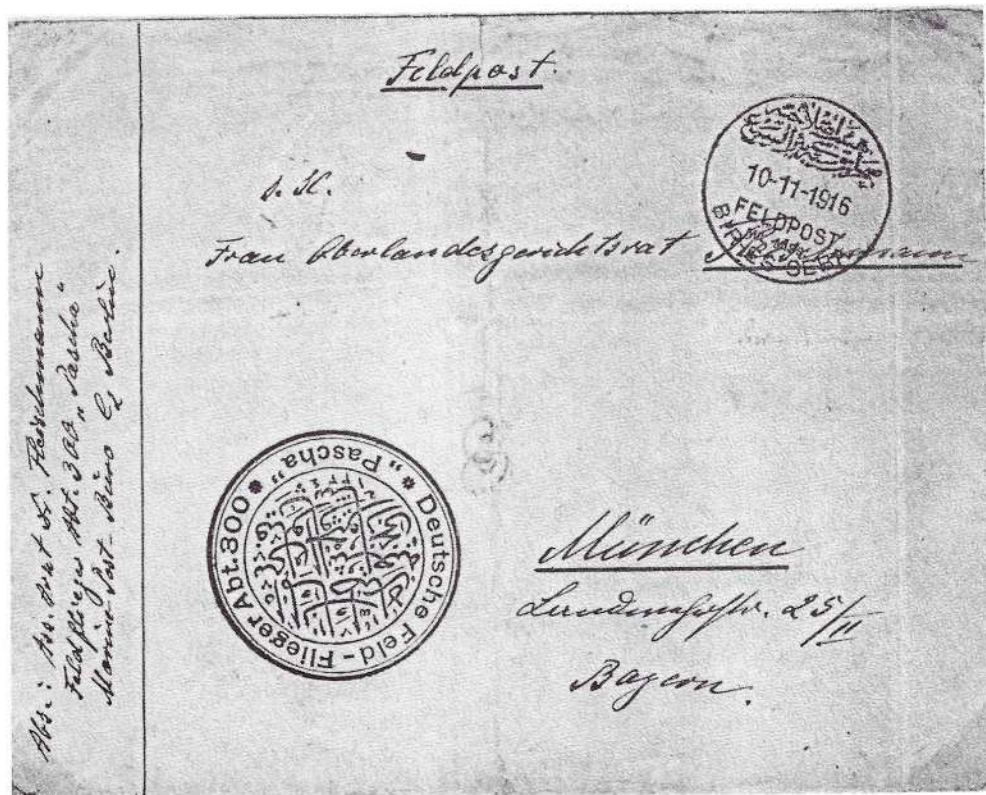


Holy Land Postal History

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



מעטפה מ"יחידת טיס-שדה 300 - פשה" הגרמנית הנספחת לצבא התורכי במלחמת העולם הראשונה, באמצעות "דואר שדה באר שבע" של חיל המשלוח הגרמני

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<i>The Origins of the Doar: A Traditional Talmudic Dissertation</i>	
- J. Aron	942
<i>Another "Interim" Period</i> - A.M. Hochheiser	946
<i>Early Postal History of Mandate Jerusalem</i> - M. Siegel	950
<i>The Onset of the 1948 Siege in the Negev and its Effect on the Postal Services</i> - Y. Rimon	954
<i>The Green R-labels of the Official Post of Israel (Doar Rishmi)</i>	
- K. Salten	958
 Short Notes and Discoveries	
<u>The Ottoman Period</u>	
<i>Some more Illustrations of WWI Mail from the German Field</i>	
-Flying unit "Pascha 300" - F.F. Blau	973
<u>The British Mandate Period</u>	
<i>P.T. Forms: The Largest and the Smallest</i> - A.M. Hochheiser	974
<i>Another Jewish Brigade Cachet</i> - M. Siegel	976
<i>Some Comments on "A World War II British Forces Issue"</i>	
-F.F. Blau	977
<u>The Interim Period</u>	
<i>Yet another "Tohuwabohu" Overprint</i> - J.D. Schwartz	978
<i>A Puzzling Rc-directed Cover from the Interim Period</i>	
-H.L. Rosedale	979
<i>The Postmarks at the Jerusalem Mahane Yehuda Branch Office at the End of the Interim Period</i> - I. Karpovsky	980
<i>A "Mountain" Variety on Jerusalem Stamp</i> - Z. Shimony	983
<i>An Interesting Date Error in the Tel Aviv Postmark of the Armoured Car Service</i> - Z. Aloni	984
<u>The State of Israel</u>	
<i>Modern but Rare</i> - M. Siegel	986
<i>The Opening Date of Ma'ale Adummim Post Office</i> - M. Sender	988
 General News	
<i>New Cancellations and Post Offices</i>	990
<i>New Stamps</i>	992
Anton Steichele - A Memorial	993
<i>Holy Land Auctions' Realizations</i>	993
<i>Advertisements</i>	994

The Origins of the Doar: A Traditional Talmudic Dissertation

J. Aron, Australia

Chapter Five of my book *Forerunners to the Forerunners*¹ includes a brief comment regarding the existence of arrangements for the transfer of correspondence in Talmudic times. As a preface to this paper a few explanatory notes are in order in regard to sources which are not normally the province of the postal historian. The Babylonian Talmud is a massive piece of literature compiled in the Jewish settlements of the Tigris/Euphrates valley during the Third to the Fifth Centuries of the Common Era. It is largely comprised of records of a series of legal and ethical discussions of the principles and practises of the Jewish religion. Much information as to the social and commercial realities of the era can be gleaned from those discussions.

The clearest reference to "postal" arrangements is the Talmudic extract shown in Figure 1, the relevant parts of which are translated as follows:

(A) "...Our Rabbis taught: A man must not hire his utensils to a Gentile on the eve of Sabbath; [but] on Wednesday or Thursday it is permitted.⁸ Similarly, letters may not be sent by a Gentile on the eve of Sabbath, [but] on Wednesday or Thursday it is permitted. It was related of R. Jose the priest -- others say, of R. Jose the Pious -- that his handwriting was never found in a Gentile's hand.⁹

(B) Our Rabbis taught: Letters may not be sent by Gentiles on the eve of Sabbath unless a fee is stipulated.¹ Beth Shammai maintain: There must be time to reach his [the addressee's] house [before the Sabbath];² while Beth Hillel rule: There must be time to reach the house nearest the [city] wall.³ But has he not stipulated?⁴ -- Said R. Shesheth, This is its meaning: And if he did not stipulate, Beth Shammai maintain: There must be time to reach his [the addressee's] house; while Beth Hillel rule: to reach the house nearest the [city] wall. But you said in the first clause that one must not send [at all]?⁵ -- There is no difficulty: in the one case a 'Bei Doar' is permanently located in the town,⁶ in the other case a 'Bei Doar' is not permanently located in the town.⁷

(A) (8) Though he will use it on the Sabbath. (9) He never sent a letter by a Gentile lest he might take it to its destination on Sabbath. This was a measure of ultra stringency.

(B) (1) Once the fee is stipulated the Gentile works for himself, to earn it, and not for the Jew. (2) Otherwise it is forbidden even if the fee was already stipulated. (3) If the addressee lives in a different town; cf. p.18b, n. 9. (4) In which case the first Tanna i.e., Beth Hillel, rules that it may be carried on the Sabbath itself. (5) Other edd. more plausibly, but it was taught that they must not be sent [at all]? The reference is then to the preceding Baraita, not this one, for this one distinctly states that if the fee was arranged it is permitted; v. marg. gloss, cur. edd. (6) Of the addressee. Then letters may be sent, even if the fee was not stipulated, providing that the messenger can reach the post office or the nearest house in that town before the Sabbath. (7) Rashi: then one must not send if the fee was not stipulated, as he may go searching for him on the Sabbath.

I believe that this passage also has the added significance of serving as the origin of the use of the word 'Doar' in modern Hebrew usage as meaning post, although its semantic origin is a word used in the context of the Persian legal system. Interpretation of that word and the phrase 'Bei(t) Doar' in subsequent Jewish legal literature is enlightening in regard to the development of postal systems during the last 1500 years.

The extract dealt with in this paper belongs to the Tractate 'Sabbath' (page 19a, shown in Fig. 1). Among the legal principles of the Sabbath laws are certain prohibitions on travel from one town to another, and the transfer of items from one domain to another. Whilst the principles of Sabbath observance are clearly considered as mandatory on Jews alone, with certain limited exceptions a Jew is not permitted to deliberately engage a Non Jew to carry out activities which he himself is prohibited from doing. However, under certain circumstances, benefit may be gained in the event that a Non Jew carries out an otherwise prohibited action in the course of his own activities for his own benefit. Such benefit could include receipt of a fee in the course of his employment.

The Talmudic passage provides no elucidation of the phrase 'Bei Doar'. However, comparison with the use of the word 'Doar' elsewhere in the Talmud reveals the above mentioned fact that it apparently refers to the legal authority of the town - a sort of administrative court centre ('Davar') and/or its personnel, which was part of the Persian legal system. On this basis, Rashi - the famous Eleventh Century French commentator on the Talmud - notes the meaning of Doar as "Shilton Ha'ir", i.e. Governor or government of the city, to whom it is customary to send letters.

Rashi does not specify as to whether letters sent to the 'Shilton' are of an administrative nature or for ordinary civilian purposes. However Alphasi, an older contemporary who prepared an abridged annotated version of the Talmud, provided a clear definition of Doar. His interpretation is that of the classic forwarding agent: "A known person to whom all writings are delivered, and who for a fee, sends all letters to their specified destinations". Maimonides (Sabbath Laws, Chapter Six) also refers to "a known person who gathers letters and sends them to each country with his messengers".

One can only speculate as to whether the differing interpretations are the product of the differing circumstances of the writers. Rashi lived in the Rhine valley area during the Crusader period when trade patterns were interrupted, and communications - especially those not under formal Government protection - disrupted accordingly. Alphasi's reference to a general forwarding agent reflects the commonplace feature of contemporary Spanish mercantile world. Maimonides was of course well versed with the Egyptian administrative court system including its established modes of transfer of communications.

Incidentally, before leaving this passage it is also worthwhile noting that the implication of the piety attributed to Rabbi Jose is that he was clearly an exceptional person. The use of Gentile carriers for the transmission of letters, probably in the context of local administrative arrangements connected to ruling Government bodies and officials, was a contemporary social norm of the Talmudic era.

Because of the somewhat lengthy and convoluted nature of Talmudic writings, generations of subsequent legal scholars attempted to rearrange the principles of the Talmud in a more orderly and easily readable fashion. The earliest basic well-known work of this nature is that of Maimonides, to which reference has already been made. However the best known and most commonly referred to of these works is the *Shulkhan Arukh* - Code of Jewish Law - compiled in Safed in the sixteenth century, and subsequently printed as a composite of the teaching of Rabbi Joseph Caro (Safed, presenting the Oriental Sephardic mode of Jewish practise) and Rabbi Moses Isserles (Cracow, presenting the Ashkenasic European mode of Jewish practise). The above mentioned Talmudic passage forms the basis of Chapter 247 of the first section of the *Shulkhan Arukh* (*Orach Hayyim*), and Caro's reference to *Bei Doar* is elucidated by Isserles with the forwarding agent reference cited above.

Of particular interest in this instance, however, is the Seventeenth Century Polish commentary, known as the *Turei Zahav* (*Taz*). After referring to both of the above mentioned interpretations of *Doar*, he concludes: "And it seems that this is what we now call Post Master (sic) that is customarily found in big places (i.e. cities) especially in the States of the Czar, who stands on watch at appropriate times to receive written documents and to send them to whom they belong."

With this gloss by the *Taz*, we have completed the route of the applicability of the term '*Doar*' from the legal administration of the Persians to the Sixteenth Century forerunners of today's posts. The word '*Doar*' was clearly esconced in the Hebrew language as referring to Post. Despite the Persian origin of the word '*Doar*', use of the term *Doar Ivri* to describe the first modern Israeli postal system, was a logical consequence.

Another "Interim" Period

A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi, NJ

All serious students of Holy Land postal history are acquainted with the two "Interim" periods involved in Palestine philately. The term "Interim" is used in philately to describe a period of necessary improvisation by an authority before it has had time to provide its own postal materials. In this sense, it is synonymous with the terms "transitional" and "provisional" which are often found in the literature in referring to such periods. Actually, the time frame can vary for different aspects of postal service, that must be considered: (1) stamps and stationery, (2) cancellations, (3) related postal materials. While the beginnings of these "Interim" periods are common knowledge, determining the termination of the various aspects of postal service in the "Interim" is quite difficult in some cases.

The "First Interim" period began with the invasion of Southern Palestine by General Allenby's British Army on January 9, 1917. This involved the need by the Military authorities to set up a postal administration to try to provide all of the aspects of postal service noted above.

The "Second Interim" began in March 1948 with the British leaving postal facilities in Palestine and the temporary Jewish authorities taking over the responsibilities until the fledgling State of Israel could put a full postal service into operation.

Readers are referred to the literature for extensive articles on both of these "Interim" periods.

What is not generally known is that another lesser understood "Interim" period actually existed. The League of Nations mandated control of Palestine to Great Britain to commence on July 1, 1920. The new Civil Administration took over control from the prior Military Administration on that date with Sir Herbert Samuel as the first British High Commissioner.

An understanding of the nature of the postal aspects of this "Interim" period which ensued when the Civil Administration took over from the Military Administration, requires an examination of the three aspects of the postal service mentioned above. Let us examine each aspect separately.

(1) Stamps and stationery. Under the Military Administration, the unoverprinted typo series of the E.E.F. was used (S.G. 5-15). To conform with the League of Nations Mandate requiring that the name 'PALESTINE' be indicated officially in three languages, this series of stamps was overprinted trilingually in Arabic, English and Hebrew (S.G. 16-26). This overprinted set was released on September 1, 1920. Between July 1 and August 31, 1920, the unoverprinted typo series was still in use. This represents "Interim" usage and letters cancelled during this two month period are very scarce. They should be considered as valuable "Interim" items.

There were no items of stationery in use for the general public on July 1, 1920. Only the British Forces Issues of Registered Envelopes were in use, but these could only be used by military personnel. The first 'formular' issue of registered envelopes without imprinted stamps for use by the general public was not released until some time in 1921.

(2) Cancellations. Previous to July 1, 1920, all Military Administration cancellations contained a city name with the letters OET, OETA, or OETA-EEF (Fig. 2). As of July 1, 1920, these occupation identifying letters were



Fig. 2: Cancellations used during the Military Administration.

removed from the cancelling devices for use by the Civil Administration (Fig. 3).

One example only is known of a Military Administration cancelling device in use after July 1, 1920 (Fig. 4). This cannot truly be described as "Interim" usage. One must remember that each office had a number of these cancelling devices on hand and they may not have all been

corrected at the same time to eliminate the Military Administration designation. Moreover, this is only found on telegram forms or telegram envelopes from the Jaffa office. This was the main telegraph office and it was in a different building from the post office. Here the failure to remove the 'OETA' immediately from one of the datestamps may have gone unnoticed more readily.

(3) We find the greatest "Interim" use among the post office forms of the period. The need for clerical services was immediate and with "Interim" use there was no immediate necessity for new forms. Shown here (Figs. 5, 6) are a number of such Military Administration forms used on an "Interim" basis, which were subsequently replaced by Civil Administration forms.



Fig. 3: A Civil Administration cancellation, the O.E.T. having been removed.

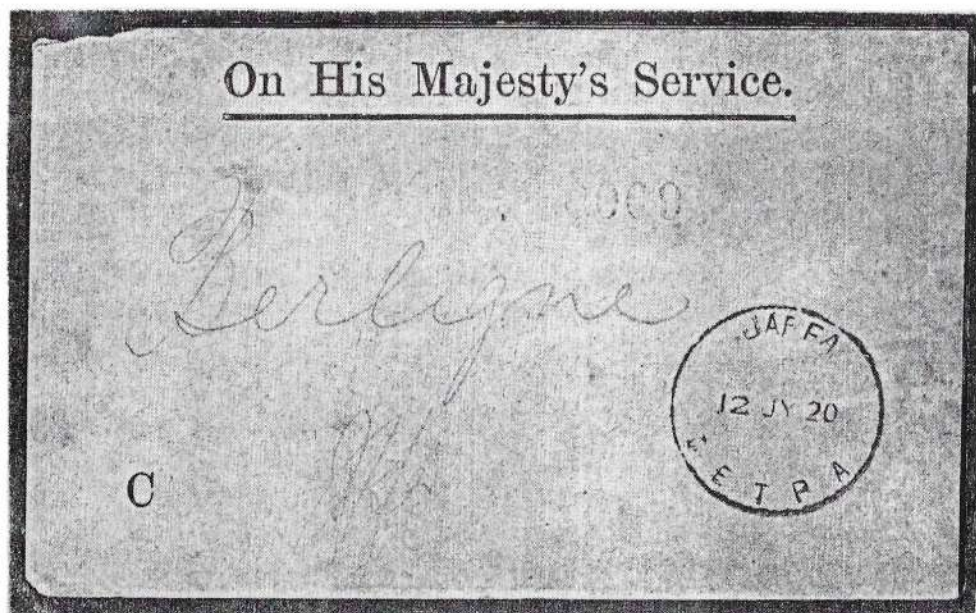


Fig. 4: A Military Administration cancel used after July 1, 1920, the date on which the Civil Administration took over.

نمرة ٤٥ O.E.T.P.A. No. 45.

O.E.T. POSTAL ADMINISTRATION PALESTINE

إدارة بريد بلاد المدوخلية في فلسطين

RECEIVED from Dr. Hugo Bergmann for the University Library

the sum of 36 Piastres, being rent for a private

غروش عن اجرة صندوق مكاتب خصوصي

letter box No. 125 for the period from 1-1-23

لدة تبدي من

to 31-12-23 at the Post Office Hebron

لمدة هومن مي

Date 25/12/23 التاريخ

Signature [Signature]

إلى

عند

الامضاء

التوقيع

JERUSALEM

Fig. 5: A Military Administration form used on an "Interim" basis by the Civil Administration.

O.E.T.P.A. O.E.T.P.A. No. 17

ادارة البريد INLAND PARCELS POST.
 في بلاد العدو المحتلة طرود بوستة داخلية
 הנחלת בתי הדואר מישלוח חבילות בתוך הארץ
 של שטח האויב הנכבש

Certificate of posting of an Inland Parcel.

שهادة ارسال طرد داخلي
 תעודה למסירת חבילה המיועדת להשלח לתוך הארץ

Postage } P.T. 16 Mills. 16
 Paid } אלג'ה הבוסטה المدفوعة
 דמי המשלוח נר"מ מילים

Address B. Foultschinsky & Co
 Cinema Coliseum العنوان
 מ ע

Accepting Officer's signature
 امضاء الفايض المستر
 החימת הפקיד המקבל

O.E.T.P.A. No. 14.

O.E.T.P.A., FOREIGN PARCEL POST.
 ادارة بريد بلاد العدو المحتلة طرود بوستة اجنبية
 הנחלת בתי הדואר בשטח האויב הנכבש
 CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A PARCEL.
 شهادة ارسال طرد بوستة תעודה לשמולח חבילות לחו"ל

Postage Paid 17 P.T. Mills. No. of Parcel 256
 אלג'ה المدفوعة غروش
 דמי המושלוח בסך גרו"מ מילים שולחו מספר החבילה

Address The Sunn Boal
 II New Wien Austria
 العنوان
 המען

Accepting Officers Signature :
 امضاء الفايض المستر
 החימתו של הפקיד המקבל

Sender's Name and Address :
 اسم المرسل وعنوانه
 שם השולח ומענו
 Marton Friedman
 Jerusalem
 Palestine

3780

Fig. 6: Certificates of parcel posting of the Military Administration used on an "Interim" basis by the Civil Administration.

Early Postal History of Mandate Jerusalem

Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan

(A) **APO SZ 2:** The cover shown in Figure 7 was used in January, 1919, once and possibly twice. Before discussing its philatelic importance, the



Fig. 7: 1919 re-used cover with a postmark APO SZ 2, used then in Jerusalem.

uncertainty about its origins will be explained. It is an OHMS cover last addressed to a Mrs. Shihib in Jerusalem, bearing a violet oval handstamp MILITARY GOVERNOR, JERUSALEM dated 18 January 1919 (previously unknown to us), an APO SZ2, 17 January postmark and the handwritten MIL. GOV. JERUSALEM. These last two were "blue-lined", possibly indicating intended negation during a re-usage. It should be noted that the APO's date is earlier than the date in the Military Governor's handstamp. However, the cover is without any sign or indication or address label that had been removed, but it was sealed with a label reading "PLEASE USE THIS ENVELOPE AGAIN". The cover's probable scenario was that it was initially posted to Jerusalem's Military Governor via APO SZ 2. That Office then reused it to Mrs. Shahib after handstamping it with the violet oval marking. Thus, all indications are that the cover's origin is entirely from Jerusalem. This APO SZ 2 usage is as per Sacher's "Army & Field Post Offices of Egypt and the EEF, 1914/20" (p. 8). There, he listed APO SZ 2 as being used in Jerusalem from September 1918 until 10 April 1919. Our cover thus nicely falls in the middle of Sacher's parameters and should be added to those specified in

without a return address and it was turned over to Jerusalem's Returned Letter Office (R.L.O.), where the skeleton postmark Glassman & Sacher #H4 was applied on 27 April 1920. This rare marking precedes the previously earliest known date of 12 May 1920 by some 15 days!

(C) Unusual Franking: Our third Jerusalem cover, shown in Figure 9, was mailed to the US from Jerusalem, 8 November 1920. Its return address is of

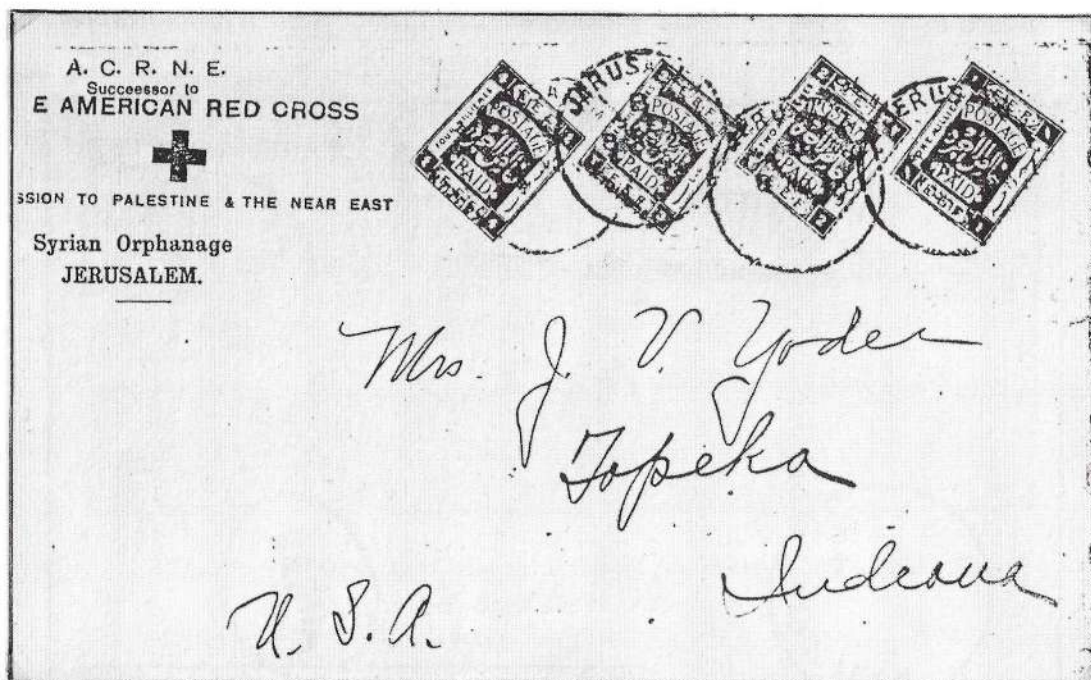


Fig. 9: A 1920 cover to USA from Jerusalem, three of the stamps being with overprint varieties.

the Near East Branch of the American Red Cross, apparently then headquartered in the Syrian Orphanage. Its main interest lies not with postal history but with philately. The postal fee had been 10 milliemes since 1 August 1920 for a Jerusalem letter to the US. The franking of the 4 Jerusalem I stamps (S.G. #16/18,27) totals this amount exactly. Of the 4 stamps used, 3 possess significant overprint varieties as follows: (1) The 2 mil is Beta 72, with the "PalesPine" Variety; (2) The 3 mil is Delta 57, with the "Apostrophe" Variety; (3) The 4 mil is with a "B-like" Variety, found in Type 5 of the 2nd Setting. The 1 millieme stamp is First Setting Type 14, while the others are all Second Setting types as follows: 2 mil - Type 12, 3 mil - Type 9 and 4 mil - Type 5.

On page 617 of HLP#12, this writer emphasized that the franking used on a Jerusalem cover posted on the same date as this cover validated relative catalog valuations for the Jerusalem I Issue. This cover's 1 mil stamp is 1st Setting although S.G. #30 was to be introduced only a few weeks later (27 December 1920). Thus the life of 1 mil 2nd Setting stamps was to be a short one indeed. We have always believed it to be an undercatalogued stamp. The 2 mil stamp used was perforated 14 x 14, indicating that the supply of **both** settings of S.G. #20 had already been exhausted. Thus #20's relatively high catalog value is justified. The 3 mil stamp is from the 2nd Setting, much cheaper than its 1st Setting counterpart, as the supply of the latter had already been exhausted. The 4 mil stamps are relatively cheap (and plentiful) in either setting.

When this cover was first shown to the writer, its owner had not realized that all of the above listed varieties were present. Needless to say, he was most delighted to learn of their presence. Of course, the obvious lesson here is to check all covers for plate or overprint varieties.

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The Onset of the 1948 Siege in the Negev and its Effect on the Postal Services

Y. Rimón, Haifa

It is a common fallacy amongst collectors of the 1948 transition period, to assume that the Negev was already under complete siege in May and at the beginning of June. This fallacy has led to many misinterpretations of courier letters, and to the wrong conclusion that these were flown siege letters. In the case of Adler and Alexander¹, it has even led to a conflict dealing with the question as to where the letter was franked, inviting readers' opinion. The purpose of this article is to set right the historical flow of events which affects our understanding of the mail items under consideration.

The study of the subject in many books on the operations during the War of Independence can be summarized as follows: At the termination of the British Mandate the main coastal road to the Negev passed through many Arab villages, towns and especially through the town of Gaza. The Arabs started harassing Jewish transportation on it by mining, as early as March 1948 (Ref. (2), p. 90 ff). This transportation in the coastal and on the main inner road was stopped by the use of electrically detonated mines that enabled the Arabs to discriminate between their own vehicles and the Jewish ones. 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 to all intents and purposes under siege (Ref. (2), p. 157 ff.). But this situation, still at the time of the British Mandate, changed with the establishment of the Jewish settlement of Brur Hayil near the hostile Arab village of Breir on 20 April, and later by the occupation of the villages Breir, Kaukab and Huleikat, by the Haganah on 12 May. This enabled the improvisation of an alternate dirt road between Negba and Nir-Am, on which Jewish convoys travelled down to the Negev and back. Thus, transportation to the Negev existed although with increasing difficulty, in late April, May and the beginning of June, except for a few short intervals. Therefore, we cannot consider the Negev as being besieged during this period.

This situation lasted throughout the entire period of the fierce battles with the invading Egyptian Army. However, on the morning of 11 June, (the day of the first Cease-Fire) the Egyptians siezed the full line from Majdal on the coast to Hebron in the mountains and thus effected a complete land siege of the Negev (Ref. (1), p. 257 and (2), p. 6). They refused passage even to civilian transportation under U.N. 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 YOAV", in which Beer Sheva was conquered and the Negev liberated.

In effect then, the Postal History of the Negev is divided into two distinct periods:

(A) Before the Cease-Fire of 11 June. In this period Jewish transportation to the Negev existed, enabling private courier mail to be carried to and from Tel Aviv to the Negev settlements which kept their post office boxes. Thus, the major part of the scarce civilian mail of this period is courier letters mailed in Tel Aviv (see Fig. 10). The Army Post,

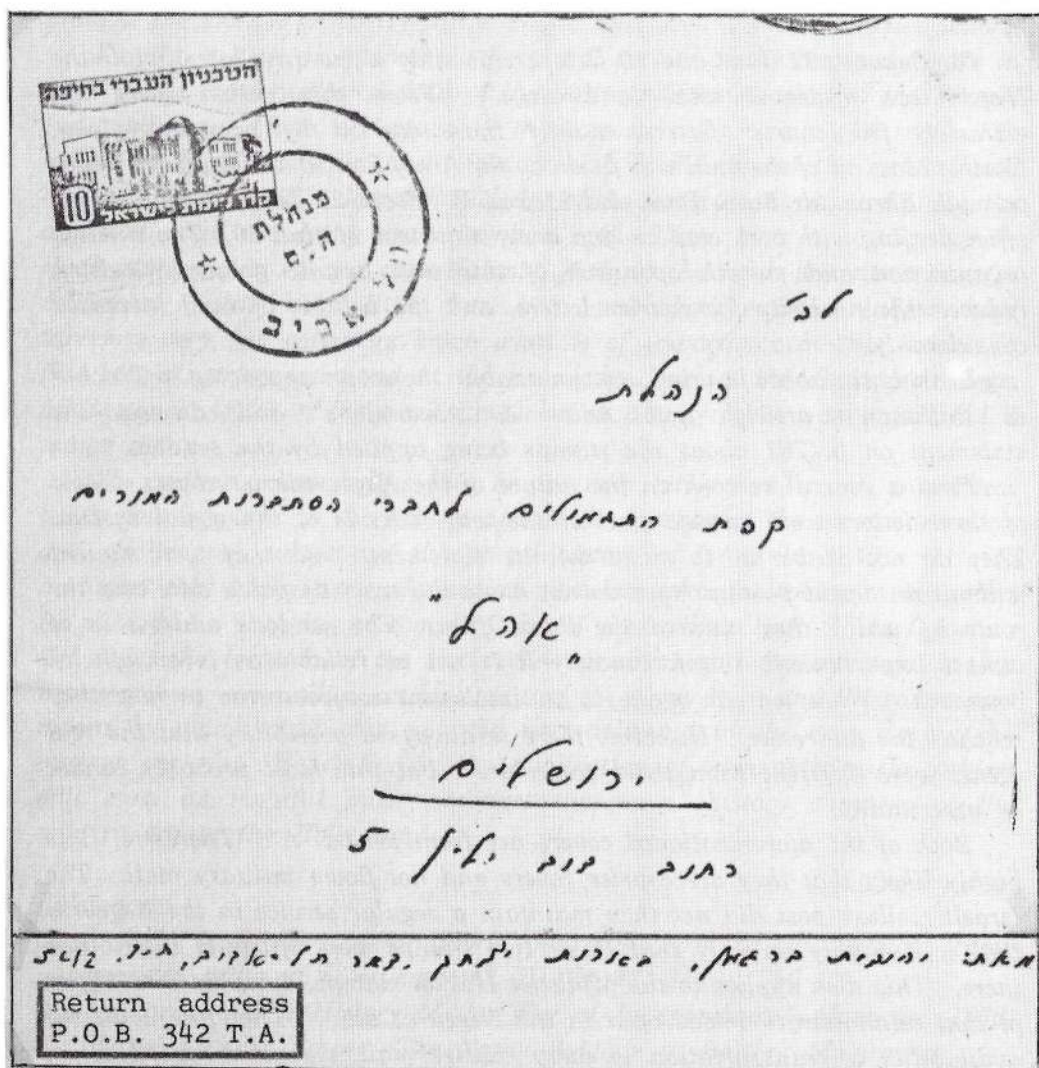


Fig. 10: Courier letter to Jerusalem from Be'erot Yizhak in the isolated Western Negev, mailed in T.A. between 5-14 May, 1948.

Return address: Tel Aviv P.O.B. 342.

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" in the next period. Base "Aleph" and Misrad 3, which were in charge of the Negev mail, probably handled mainly surface mail during this period. No foolproof distinction between air and surface Army Post mail can be made. There were no civilian Israeli mail services in the Negev from the end of the British Mandate until the conquest of Beer Sheva.

(B) Between 11 June and 20 October (possibly a few days later) while the Negev was under a total land siege.* From this period there are extremely few courier letters, mainly those carried by personnel flying North. Most all of the mail was flown by the Army Post to and from the Negev through Ekron Air Force Base and Misrad 9. From 28 June, the main post office dealing with both civilian and army mail was Misrad 10. The efficient organization and smooth operation of this unit despite great difficulties, reduced the necessity for courier letters, and the volume of mail increased considerably.

Bearing the above in mind, we can analyze the covers appearing in Tsachor & Rothman's article⁴ and Adler & Alexander's¹ and discuss the statement on p. 761 about the stamps being applied by the senders.

First a general remark on the nature of the Negev courier covers. Most of these letters were carried part of the way, outside of the postal system. They do not enable us to make definite statements. As they were mailed without an origin postmark we do not know the exact despatch 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 is an official postmark. What we can make is an intelligent conjecture 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.

Both of the aforementioned covers are from period "A". Therefore, it is highly likely that they are courier covers and not flown military mail. The Israeli civilian post did not then maintain a regular service in the Negev so that it is highly unlikely that Do'ar 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 must regard all of the covers originating in the Negev and franked by these stamps as courier covers franked and mailed in Tel Aviv, unless overwhelming evidence exists to the contrary.

* In one place, Sedom, the siege lasted until 25 November.

With regard to the A.P.O. dateless Base "Aleph" postmark appearing on them, it is very highly likely that the courier was in fact a soldier who intended to mail the letters in the civilian mail. Not having the opportunity to do so, he dropped them at the Army Post and these were subsequently cancelled by an army postmark, contrary to regulations.

This explanation, which holds also for all the letters franked by Minhelet Ha'Am stamps (as in Fig. 10), must be regarded as the most probable one. However, there is also the extremely remote possibility that someone brought the stamps privately to the Negev and used them on courier letters.

Finally, a general comment: the postal service of the besieged Negev in 1948 is the most neglected field of the postal history relating to the War of Independence. There are probably three reasons for this neglect: (i) The subject is highly complex and requires both knowledge of the general and military history, and a deeper knowledge of the Army Post operations with the distribution of the Army units involved. (ii) There were no emergency or local stamps, nor special cancellations, making the topic less attractive for collectors. (iii) Very little has been published on the subject and therefore very few collectors know what is of importance in this field. In this respect, today we stand at the knowledge level of the Jerusalem Siege, for instance, of 20 or 30 years ago, when a convoy cover was considered a major rarity.

The author acknowledges that he too only lately has become interested, being now involved in the subject and finding it one of the most interesting and challenging subjects of the postal history of Israel in 1948. It is to be hoped that such basic information as exists amongst collectors will soon be published, covering a complete list of forwarding Post Office Boxes in Tel Aviv; the location of the various Army units and the interrelationship between them, the civilian settlements and the Army Post; and the routes and means by which mail was collected and delivered in the area during the various periods. Hopefully, by the publication of such articles the subject will earn its rightful place amongst the postal history chapters of the modern era of the Holy Land.

References:

- (1) S. Adler & Z. Alexander: "More about 1948 Army Postal Services from besieged units and settlements", HLPB #33-34 (p. 756 ff.).
- (2) N. Lorch: "The History of the War of Independence", Massada, 1958.
- (3) "Israel Defense Force: The Negev Brigade in Battle"; Ma'arachot, Publishing House of the I.D.F. (undated).
- (4) Y. Tsachor & S. Rothman, HLPB #28 (p.423).

The Green R-labels of the Official Post of Israel (Do'ar Rishmi)

Klaus Salten, W. Germany

Preface

This article originally was planned as a supplement to the article on the same subject published in the German "Handbook of Israel Philately". Knowing that a great many Israel philatelists are not acquainted with German, the following article is a translation of that one.

It should be mentioned that the quality of the reproductions of full covers in this article is sometimes very bad. The reason for this is the usage of yellowish-brown envelopes by the Israeli official departments. This colour produces bad dark reproductions by a copy machine. In some cases coloured copies should be preferred instead of black and white, but this evidently is an illusion because of the price.

Short Summary of the Handbook Article

The Israeli post issued on January 4th, 1966, special labels for registrated letters of official departments. Their status of being real stamps is no longer doubted because two very important reasons for it are evident:

- 1. They are sold to Za'hal for the price of the registration service for letters.*
- 2. They ought to be cancelled by a date postmark (though they are often not, in daily practice).*

These two orders have been published in an official decree of the postmaster Mr. A. Renan, dated September 3, 1966 and numbered 43/66. It has been published in English in BAPIP Bulletin #53.

You will find remarkable differences between these official R-labels and "normal" ones. The official labels are of green colour whereas the normal are blue; the official labels bear the Hebrew inscription "Doar Rishmi" (Official Post) and the number "200" which is important for charging to account. Normal R-labels miss these two.

No catalogue known to me beside that of BOREK (Germany) lists these official R-labels. Therefore I will give the numbering list of this catalogue here. The catalogue Nos. 1 to 4 are devoted to the official stamps of the so called "Do'ar Ivri" issue (coins) with Hebrew overprint "bul sherut". They are not dealt with in this article.

While cat. No. 5 is for a blank label, from No. 6 upward the locality is imprinted in Hebrew and English (Latin transcription):

Borek		Borek		Borek	
No.	Place	No.	Place	No.	Place
5	(blank)	15	Hadera	25	Petah Tiqva
6	Jerusalem	16	Herzliah	26	Ramat Gan
7	Tel Aviv	17	Holon	27	Ramleh
8	Haifa	18	Kfar Sava	28	Rehovot
9	Akko	19	Kfar Yona	29	Tiberias
10	Ashdod	20	Kiryat Malahi	30	Tirat Carmel
11	Ashqelon	21	Nahariya	31	Yavneh
12	Beer Sheva	22	Netanya	32	Yokne'am
13	Bet Dagan	23	Nazareth	33	Zefat
14	Elat	24	Nazerath Illit		

New Size

During the Seventies (FD is unknown till now), some of the green labels were issued in a new, smaller size (s. Fig. 11):

Older size of frame: 38 x 21 mm

New size of frame: 38 x 18 mm

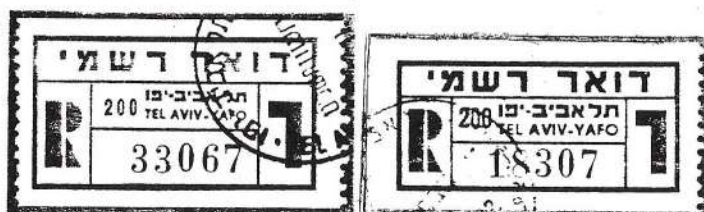


Fig. 11: Comparison of size: Nos. 7 and 36.

The perforations remained the same as before (about 10.5:10.75) and even so is inadequate. They were sold in coils of 100.

The listing of these smaller labels is as follows (again according to BOREK 1984):

34 (blank); 35 Jerusalem; 36 Tel Aviv; 37 Haifa.

The letters of the locality's name - the Hebrew as well as the Latin - are about 0.5 mm higher in the new type than in the larger one (1.5 : 1.0).

The Roulette Labels

There are green R-labels with roulette instead of perforations (Fig. 12). This type is known only on cat. Nos. 5 (blank), 6 (Jerusalem), and 7 (Tel Aviv). The roulette is green coloured as is the label itself. Rouletted examples are scarcer than perforated ones.

The cat. Nos. must be differentiated as follows:

- 5 Blank, perforated; 5I Blank, rouletted;
- 6 Jerusalem, perforated; 6I Jerusalem, rouletted;
- 7 T.A., perforated; 7I T.A. rouletted.

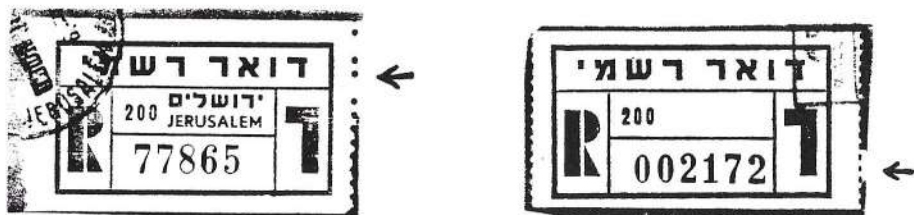


Fig. 12: Comparison - perforated vs. rouletted.

There is even a slight variation of the rouletted type known to me only of cat. No. 5. In this variety, the coloured line of the roulette is obviously thicker than the usual one, measuring about 0.9 mm. Therefore the coloured line is easily visible in this case (Fig. 13). This variation obtains the cat. No. 5II.

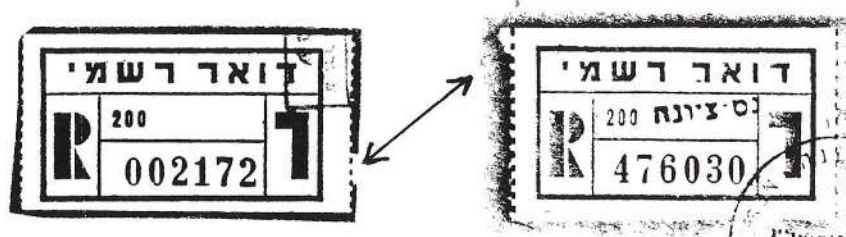


Fig. 13: Comparison - No. 5I and 5II.

Variations of Colour

Three variations of the green colour are known in some cat. Nos. It cannot be excluded that there will appear such variations in further Nos. On the one hand there is a lighter type of yellowish-green (olive) and on the other we have a darker type of bluish-green (turquoise). There is no

significant difference of frequency between these types. The third colour variety is dark green but obviously missing the bluish tone of type y. For the cat. listing I propose:

- x (behind cat. No.) = yellowish-green,
 y (behind cat. No.) = bluish-green,
 z (behind cat. No.) = dark green.

A black and white reproduction is unable to show the difference of colours clear enough.

The Paper

We have to distinguish two different sorts of paper. One is light creamy and occurs mostly with the light olive print, but not in all. The other is pure white. These types of paper should be characterized by the letters:

- A = light creamy paper,
 B = pure white paper.

Even this difference of paper cannot be made visible by a reproduction. You must find it out by careful comparison of your own.

Plate Errors

Though the green R-labels are rather simple, some plate errors have come to light (Fig. 14):

No. 7a - T.A., perforated. Under the lower frame line there are three little dots, exactly 15, 17, and 31 mm from the left border line.

No. 8a - Haifa. A larger dot directly above the lower frame line, 9.5 mm from the left border line.

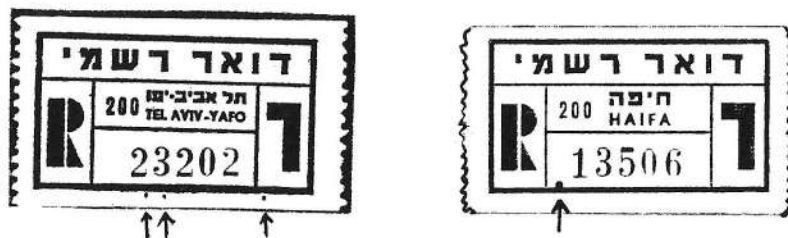


Fig. 14: Plate errors - Nos. 7a and 8a.

Other Errors

There exist also some other errors of these R-labels. Here is one example from Nazareth, which consists of two errors in one: (1) Error of perforation. The perf. is shifted 14 mm to the left, into the field of the

label. Thus the label itself, in effect, remained imperf. (2) Error of print. The so called "numerator" - the number which counts and registers the letters - is shifted 6 mm to the right. Thus the last cipher of it is placed into the field of the Hebrew letter "resh".

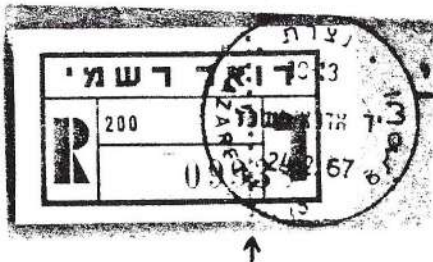


Fig. 15: A "Nazareth" label with errors.

The Cancellation

Cancellation of the green R-labels occurs in different ways:

- (1) Very often the label is not cancelled at all (contrary to regulations).

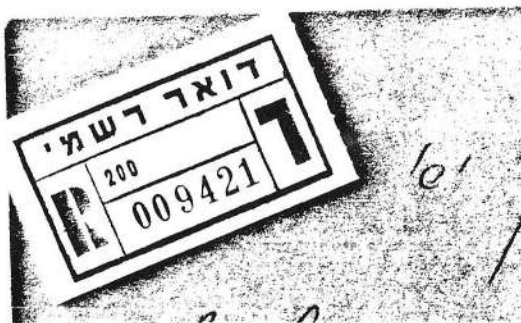


Fig. 16: Uncancelled R-label on cover.

- (2) Sometimes the labels are cancelled by hand (ball pen).



Fig. 17: Label cancelled by a ball pen.

(3) Most frequent is the cancellation by a normal dated postmark.



Fig. 18: Cancellation by dated postmark.

(4) Scarcer is the cancellation by an additional official cachet.



Fig. 19: Cancellation by official cachet.

(5) Now and then you will find even a meter cancellation (in red). In this case the "postmark" mostly bears the announcement of value as "00.00", or any value which is erased by white correcting fluid.

The reproduction in Figure 20 gives a poor impression, because it does not show the red colour of the meter cancellation.



Fig. 20: Cancellation by meter machine.

The Place of Origin

The origin of the green R-labels is determinable in different ways.

- (1) *The origin is best recognized if the name of the locality is imprinted on it. This always occurs in Hebrew and English and is seen on cat. Nos. 6 to 33 and 35 to 37.*
- (2) *The name of locality may be written by hand (ball pen), unfortunately usually in Hebrew only.*



Fig. 21: Handwritten name of place, "Kfar Barukh".

- (3) *A special kind of handwritten marking is the abbreviation. The names of well-known big cities which consist of two words are sometimes shortened, e.g. B"S (Beer Sheva), P"T (Petah Tiqa).*



Fig. 22: Beer Sheva shortened as B"S.

- (4) *Scarcer are labels on which the locality is marked by a little violet rubber stamp (Hebrew only).*



Fig. 23: Rubber stamp of Nes Ziyona.

- (5) In most cases the origin of blank labels is verified by a normal date postmark. It should touch the label partially but sometimes it is situated beside it, now and then even further away.



Fig. 24: Correct cancellation of label.



Fig. 25: Nahalal cover; postmark extremely far from label.

- (6) In some cases the date postmark is even found on the back of the envelope. This method of recognizing the origin is rather uncertain because there may be found postmarks of arrival and/or transition alongside, too.

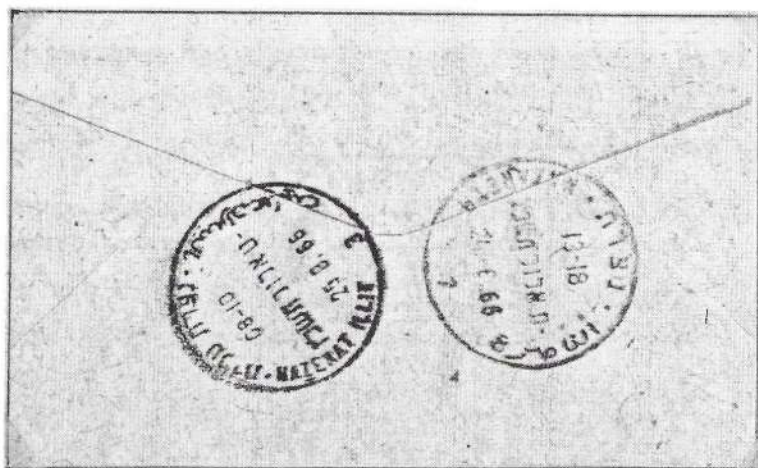


Fig. 26: Cancellation of Nazareth and Nazerath Illit on back of official R-letter.

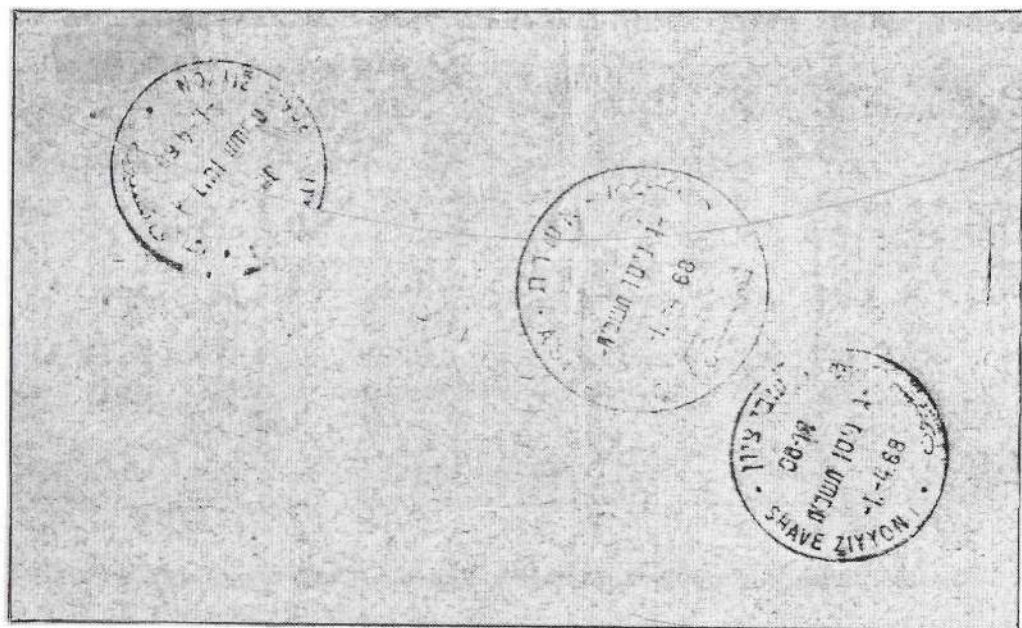


Fig. 27: Cancellation of Mobile Post "Asherat" and twice "Shave Zion" on back of R-letter.

- (7) Quite a different kind of recognition of the origin of the R-labels is by those additional cancels in violet (Departmental cachets). They are often used and may be round, oval, or rectangular (Hebrew only).



Fig. 28: Various shaped cachets of Jerusalem, Haifa and Beer Sheva.

- (8) If one finds a meter cancellation on the cover, the name of the locality may be determined by it.

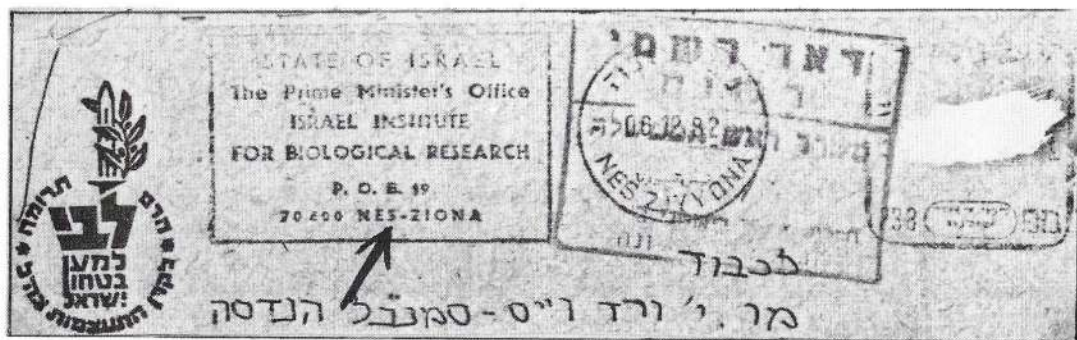


Fig. 29: Meter cancellation of Nez Ziyona together with a Departmental cachet.

- (9) The last possibility of finding the name of the locality is the marks of the sender or advertisements which are sometimes imprinted on the envelope.

Last but not least, it should be mentioned that there is still another possibility to prove the payment of additional postage than that of affixing normal stamps. Sometimes the additional postage is provided by a meter cancellation in red (Fig. 31).

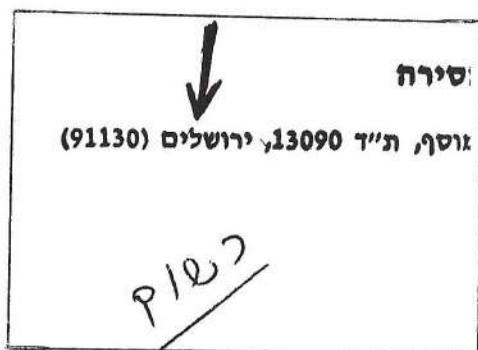


Fig. 30: Name of town imprinted on the cover (by sender).



Fig. 31: Meter cancellation with additional amount.

Special Kinds of Utilization of the Green R-labels

This section will show various possibilities of use of the green R-labels.

(a) Strange employment

Evidently the Israeli offices sometimes use green labels with imprinted name of a strange city (perhaps because of lack of blank labels?).

In the case shown in Figure 33, the Hebrew name of the town Tel Aviv-Yafo



Fig. 32: Jerusalem label used in Bet Shemesh.



Fig. 33: T.A. label used in Bene Beraq.

is ruled out by ball pen whereas the English one is overprinted by a violet rubber stamp of Bene Beraq (in Hebrew). It must be pointed out that the rubber stamp even gives a new number ("500" instead of "200").

(b) Usage on documents

The green R-labels are directly used by offices on several documents. I have not been able to find out whether the labels are used in these cases as

Fig. 34: Open R-letter requesting payment by the National Insurance, with green R-label.

stamps or as "tax coupons". If they were used as stamps it would mean that the documents were sent open and open to all. This seems rather improbable.

Postal Stationery of "Do'ar Rishmi"

Some offices make usage of postal stationery with imprinted green "R-labels". Generally the printed models are as large as "normal" R-labels, and they are never cancelled by a postmark, probably because it is impossible to use them again. Their composition is often different from the normal labels.

(a) Postal stationery of the IPS

Best known are the envelopes of the "Israeli Philatelic Service" (IPS). They bear an imprinted R-label consisting of a rectangle of 110 x 45 mm (Fig. 35). In the lower field, right of the letter "R", the numerator which is normally found here is missing. Instead there is a white sticker extending over the whole field, with a typewritten address on it, including a number.



Fig. 35: A cover of the IPS with printed "R-label".

(b) Postal stationery of Zahal (IDF)

Zahal uses another type of postal stationery with imprinted green R-labels (Fig. 36). The size of the "label" is 58 x 33 mm. It is remarkable that contrary to all other labels, in this case the Hebrew vowel "vav" (meaning "o") is left out in the word "DO'AR". The middle field is separated into a small row bearing the Hebrew word "ZAHAL" and the number "300" (instead of a place name and the No. "200", as usual). The covers have an additional green triangle which is reserved for the well-known triangular Zahal postmark.

There are two different types of lettering of the labels, known to me. One type has more cornered, straight and thicker letters while the other one consists of more rounded, bigger but thinner letters (s. Fig. 36). There are also two variations of colour, the same as with the other green labels: dark green and light olive.

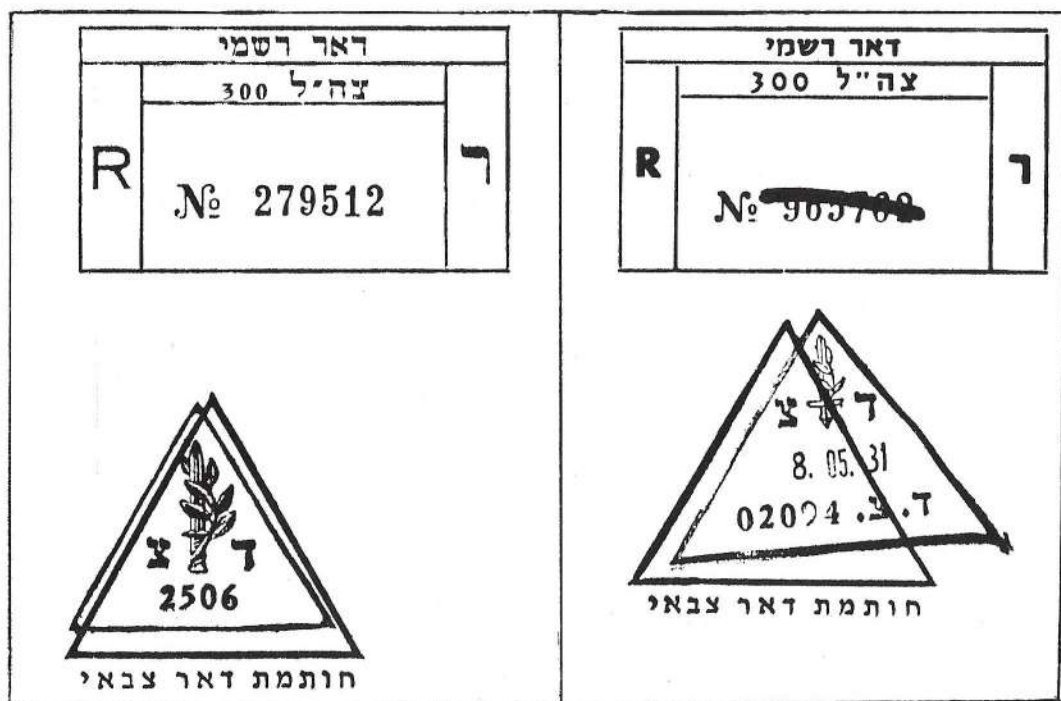


Fig. 36: Comparison of two types of lettering in Zahal R-labels.

(c) Other postal stationery

Several other offices, especially of T. A., use such envelopes with imprinted R-labels. Sometimes they are even in dark blue instead of green! Their size is 47 x 28 mm. It is notable that their lower frame line is always missing (Fig. 37).



Fig. 37: T.A. cover with imprinted official R-label (also imprinted in Hebrew "with AR").

From Haifa we know of a cover with imprinted R-label that shows two more irregularities (Fig. 38). The city's name is only printed in Hebrew and the number is "202" instead of "200".



Fig. 38: Imprinted Haifa "R-label" with No. 202!

Request for Information

Dear readers, additional information, corrections and specimens (either originals or photocopies) are very welcome. Please write to: Klaus Salten, Koelner Str. 81a, D-5353 Mechernich-Kommern, West Germany.

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* **SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES** *

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The Ottoman Period

Some more Illustrations of WWI Mail from the German Field Flying Unit "Pascha 300" (F.F. Blau, Chicago)

It is alleged that only 6 copies of the cachet "Pascha 300" Type A* are known, originating from Palestine. I do have 4 of them, but I am not sure that the number 6 is correct; I learned this from Ahrens, many years ago.

Most rare are copies with this cachet which were mailed and delivered within Palestine. Two such are illustrated here (Figs. 39,40). One is

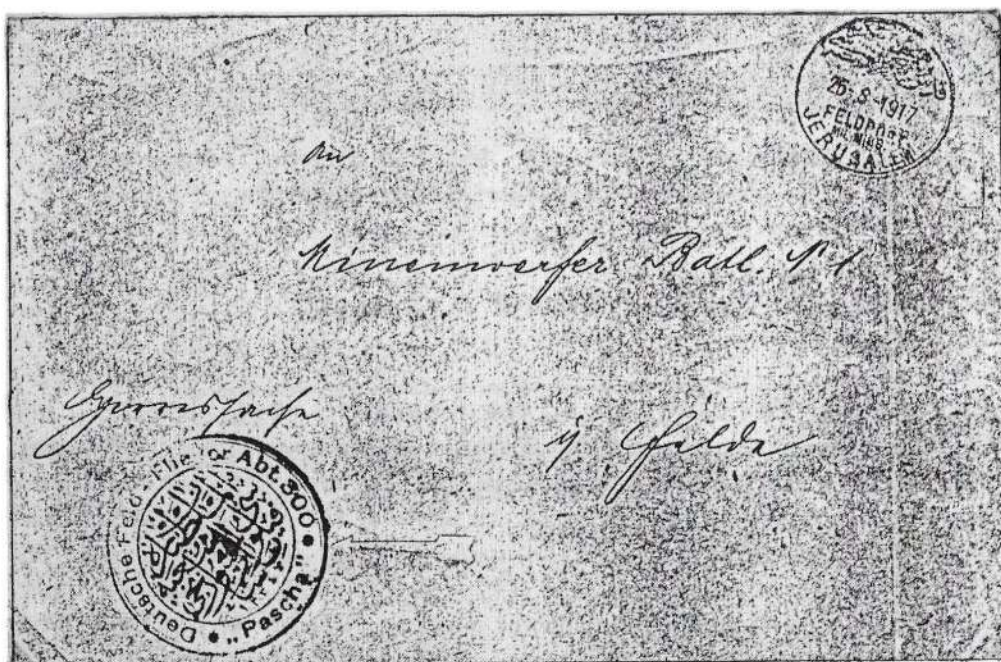


Fig. 39: A cover mailed by the German field flying corps 300 "Pascha" to the Mine Sweeper Battalion Nr. 1, "Im Felde".

addressed "Im Felde" (on the battle front - could be only in Palestine) and the other is addressed to Jaffa. Another letter, shown on the Front Cover, is addressed to Munich, originating on the earliest date known from "Beer Es Seba" (Beer Sheva).

* See articles in HLP# #32 (p.677) and #35 (p.856).

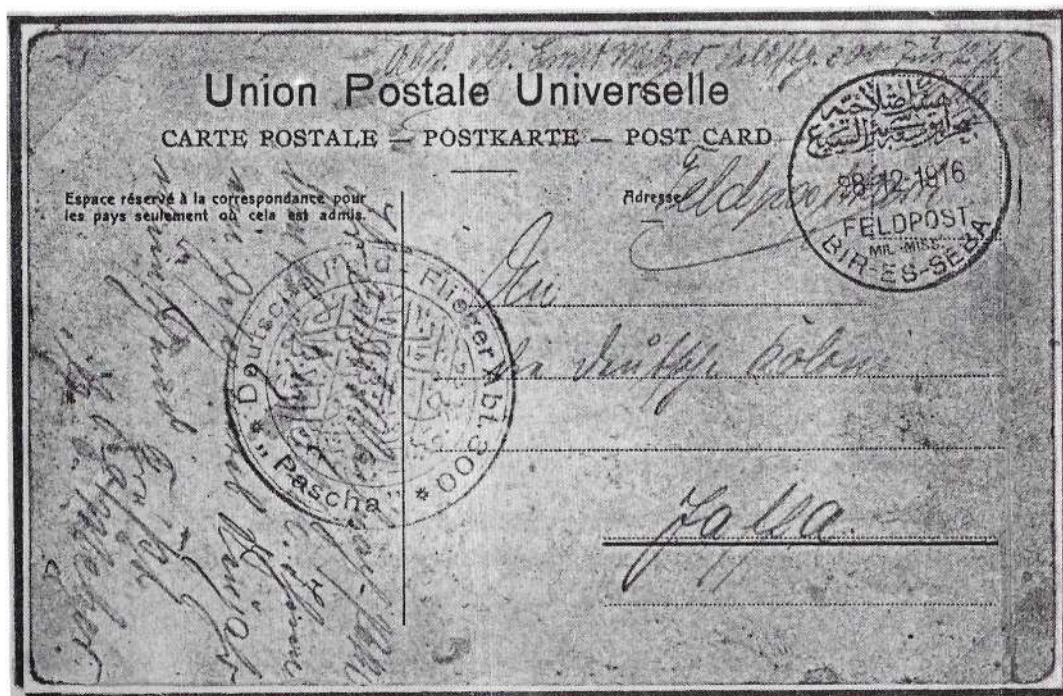


Fig. 40: "Deutsche Feld-Flieger Abt. 300 Pascha" cachet on a postcard from Beer Sheva to Jaffa.

The British Mandate Period

P.T. Forms: The Largest and the Smallest (A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi)

During the entire period of the British Civil Administration in Palestine from July 1, 1920 until the end of the Mandate in May 1948, the authorities issued many forms required to serve the needs of the postal service. These forms were identified by a P.T. number. P.T. stands for Posts (&) Telegraphs. The numbers ran from P.T. 1 to P.T. 1007. However, there are gaps since many numbers were not put into use, intended for any additional service that would have been required of the postal administration.

There are many interesting philatelic features among these forms, some of which have been previously reported. However, a true curio is one of non-philatelic interest - the largest and the smallest of these forms.

The "largest": P.T. 714 (Fig. 41) - a 'NOTICE' of the hours for business at designated post offices for various postal transactions. Here the post office is one opened especially for a Levant Fair. This form is $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ feet (37.5 x 45 cms). This is about four times the size of this journal.

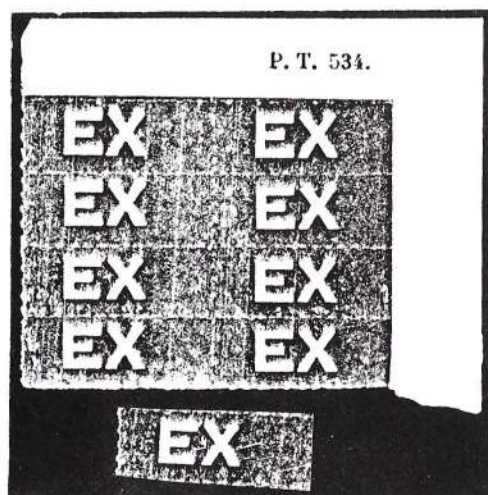


Fig. 42: The smallest P.T. Form of Palestine Mandate - a single unit of P.T. 534 (and a corner block of 8).

Another Jewish Brigade Cachet (Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan)

It was because of the excellent service rendered by Palestine's Jewish soldiers that on 19 September 1944, the British Government announced that "they had decided to accede to the request of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, that a Jewish Brigade Group should be formed to take part in active operations". The Postal and other History of this renowned unit was

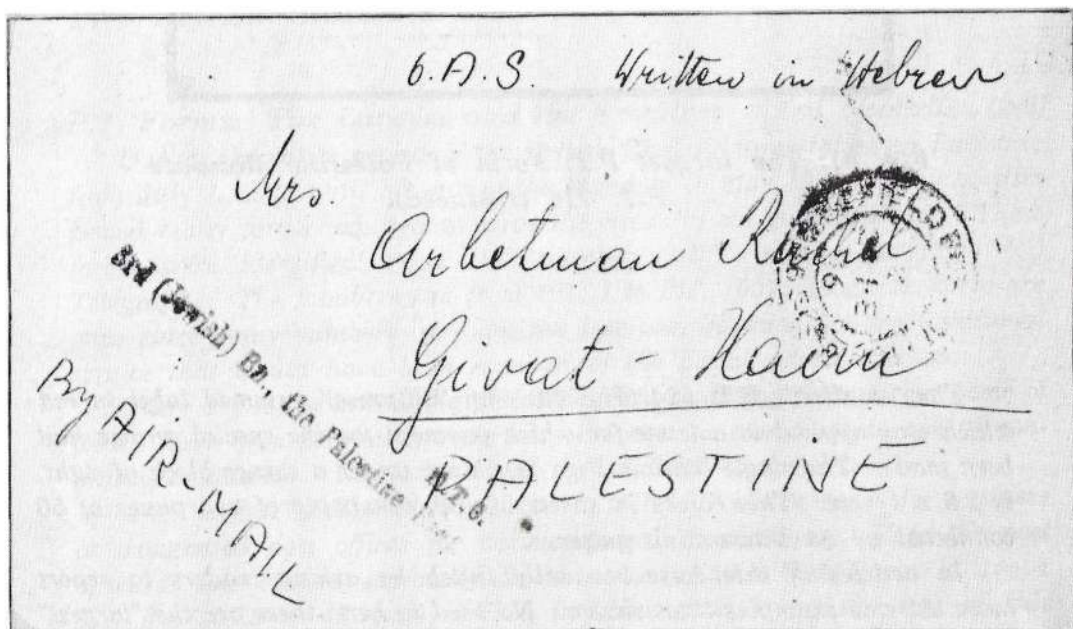


Fig. 43: 1946 Cover from the Jewish Brigade, with the cachet "M.T.O. 3rd (Jewish) Bn., the Palestine Regt."

chronicled in a most excellent manner in the March, 1955 Issue of *The Holyland Philatelist* (pp. 145-147). This article included illustrations of the postal cachets of the Brigade as then known. Since then a few additional cachets have been reported. Recently, in a Tel Aviv auction, the cover shown in Figure 43 caught the eye of this writer, as its two line cachet (M.T.O. 3rd (Jewish) Bn., The Palestine Regt.) had not been previously reported to our knowledge. What do the initials M.T.O. stand for? Perhaps "Mobile Transport Office"? Readers are requested to speculate upon or to answer this query.

Some Comments on "A World War II British Forces Issue"

(F.F. Blau, Chicago)

I would like to comment on Hochheiser's notes, published in *HLP* #32 (p. 681) and #35 (p. 861).

First I possess three copies of the "Registered" entire BF2-1b, 1 used by a soldier in the Jewish Brigade and 2 used by soldiers in the Polish Army in Palestine.

Concerning the cover (Fig. 37) of the second note: It is definitely not civilian mail. The civil population of Palestine had to use Palestine stamps and furthermore they could not use a British Field Post Office. FPO 164 was in Jerusalem at that time, operating there from September 1940 to June 1941, and then transferred to Cyprus. The return address indicates clearly "Area Headquarters", probably overlooked by the censor. On the other side, Italy was not at war at that time, and censorship was not as strong as in later days.

There is no excessive postage on this entire. It has the correct, privileged (reduced) air mail rate for military personnel. Maybe the airmail label fell off, but I am convinced that this letter was flown.

One more observation. I presume that the reproduction on page 683 was reduced; it measures 146 mm across, whereas all the pieces I know of are 151 mm.*

*Ed. note: The illustration was indeed reduced, as many other figures in the *Bulletins*. For technical reasons, regretfully, we cannot usually indicate the reduction rates in many of our illustrations.

The Interim Period

Yet Another "TOHUWABOHU" Overprint

(J.D. Schwartz, Sacramento, Cal.)

The June 1987 article in the *Israel Philatelist*, by Siegfried Adler, about the "TOHUWABOHU" overprints on the Pictorial Issue stamps of the Palestine Mandate initially stated that there were four types of overprints. This was followed by an article in the December 1988 *Israel Philatelist* with still another type (s. also HLP# #36, p. 922). The premise was that handset type was used to overprint these stamps.

Fig. 44 shows an interesting cover from my collection with still another

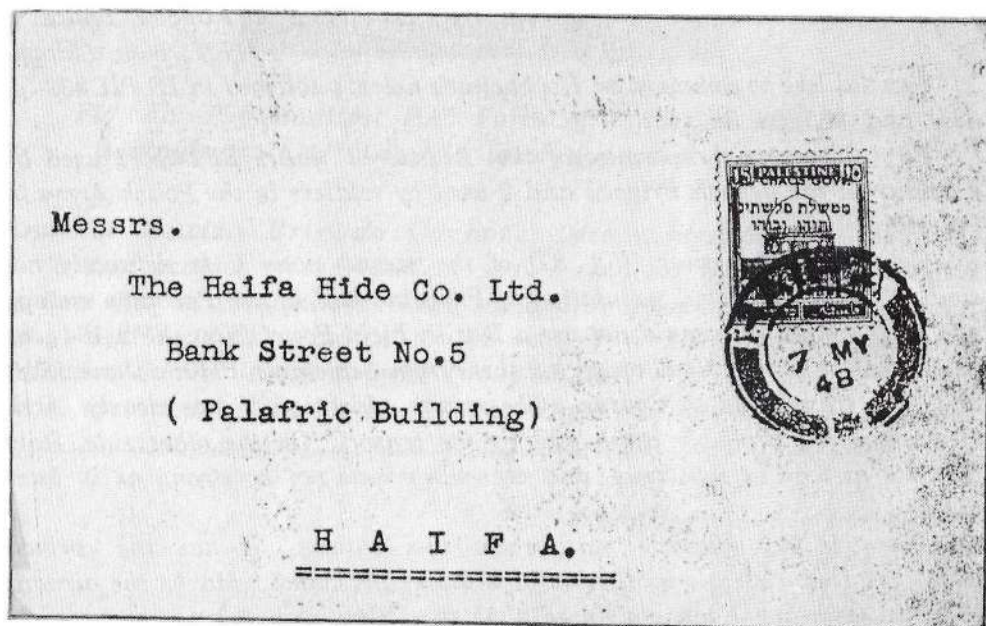


Fig. 44: Another unreported "Pal. Chaos Govt." overprint; on 15 mil Pictorial, cancelled "Haifa, 7 MY 48".

type of overprint - PAL. CHAOS GOVT. in English and in Hebrew. It should be further noted that there is a return address on this cover, P.O.B. 1525 Haifa, and that the 15 mil Pictorial stamp is postmarked Haifa - 7 MY 48. The Adler article states that the values of the Pictorial Issue that were overprinted were: 2, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 50 mils.

This cover now adds new parameters to the study:

(1) Yet another overprint type - this perhaps can be explained by the existing number of pieces of type in the printer's font. As he ran out of letters he created new overprints with the existing type still available.

(2) *The use of a return address - perhaps one of our readers can furnish further information on the owner of P.O.B. 1525 Haifa.*

(3) *The addressee - The Haifa Hide Co. Ltd. Is this a correct company address? Perhaps the address of a philatelist?*

(4) *The use of the Haifa Mandate cancellation of the main Post Office on 7 MY 48! There is no indication that this cover was carried through the mails - the backflap was not sealed and it still retains full original gum.*

(5) *The addition of the 15 mil value of the Pictorial Issue to the known series of overprinted values.*

Siegfried Adler concludes that the GOVERNMENT TOHUWABOHU overprints belong to one of the rarest philatelic areas in Holy Land philately. I am more inclined to agree with N. Gladstone where he states in the September, 1970 issue of B.A.P.I.P.: "as an added warning to collectors of Palestine and Israel material, the writer of this article firmly believes that the GOVERNMENT TOHUWABOHU overprints on the stamps of the Palestine Mandate should be put in a 'dubious' category".

My own reaction as an exhibitor and juror would be with N. Gladstone and if I were to exhibit this cover, it would be in an extensive showing of the Pictorial Issue with a writeup pointing out the many unanswered questions posed by it.

A Puzzling Redirected Cover from the Interim Period

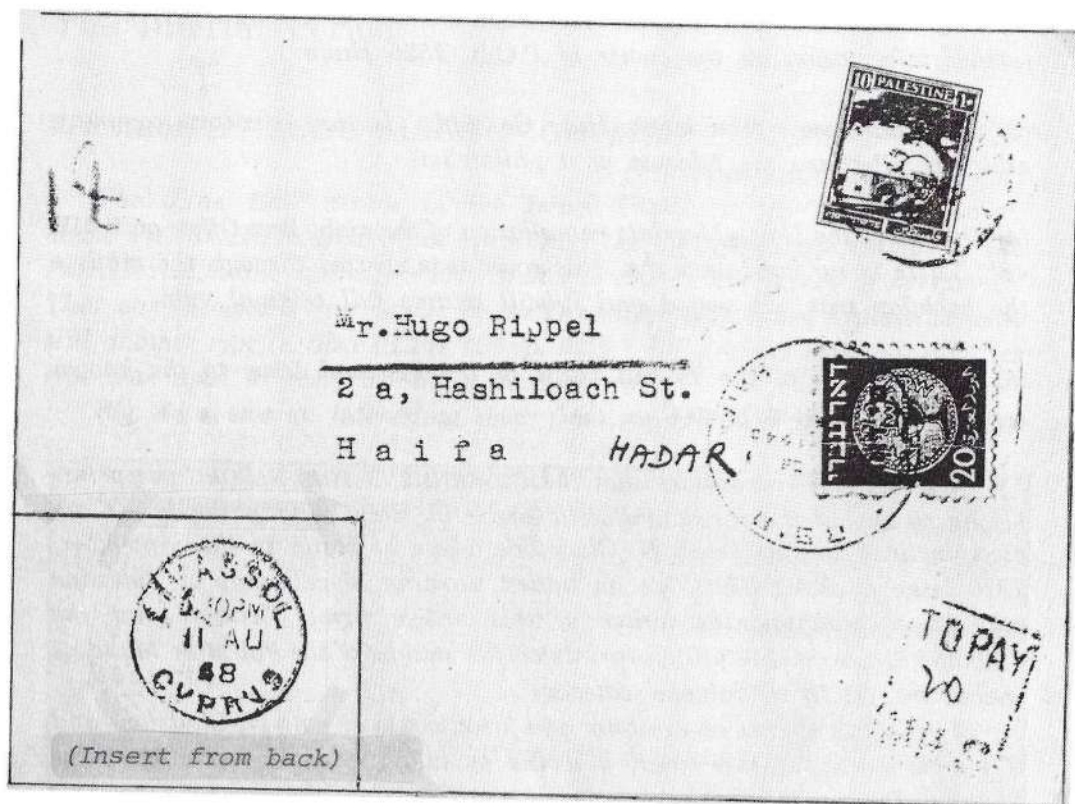
(H.L. Rosedale, New York)

Figure 45 shows a very interesting cover reflecting the transition period in the establishment of the State of Israel.

The cover was mailed from Tel Aviv, directed to Haifa. The 10 mils Palestine mandate stamp bears a May 5, 1948 single circle Tel Aviv cancel. Apparently, upon the attempt to deliver it, it was believed that the addressee was in Cyprus as indicated by the cancel on the reverse side of the envelope*. The addressee's name is underlined in red. The figure 18 appears in the same red crayon at the upper left. The word Hadar has been added in ink to the Haifa designation. The violet box "to pay" has the figure 20 added in pencil.

The reverse of the commercial cover shows the Limassol cancel of August 11, 1948. However, the addressee was not there and the envelope was returned to Haifa again where a violet "to pay 20 mils" marking was placed on the

* Ed. Note: It seems more reasonable that the cover was erroneously misrouted to Cyprus.



**Fig. 45: A two period re-directed cover of the Interim Period -
Tel Aviv to Haifa "via" Cyprus.**

lower right hand corner of the envelope and a First Postage Due 20 pruta stamp was affixed and cancelled on August 15, 1948 in Haifa. I must assume that the Israel postal authority refused to recognize the Mandate stamp as is not uncommon on mailings after May 16. What is unusual about this cover is that because of the transition period the Palestine Mandate stamp when cancelled was valid for use, but was not recognized when re-presented.

**The Postmarks at the Jerusalem Mahane Yehuda Branch Office
at the End of the Interim Period (I. Karpovsky, Hertzliya)**

In the article in Bulletin 36 of the HLPB, under the title of "Unusual handling..." the author relates in section G to a registered letter sent from Mahane Yehuda ('Jerusalem 6'), shown on page 908, and asks "Why was the Minhelet Ha'am device reintroduced? Was this a freak?". In my opinion this was neither reintroduced nor a freak: my view is that the deformed Mahane Yehuda instrument was certainly not taken out of use before mid-August.

Mahane Yehuda used two Minhelet Ha'am instruments, and by mid-July 1948 one of these was weak and completely defective (see Fig. 46). This



Fig. 46: The 'Defective' Mahane Yehuda postmark in a very deformed state, a short time before its withdrawal.

particular instrument was placed in storage at the end of the month and the Mandate instrument introduced in its place (shown on the Front Cover of the same issue). But the other instrument, also deformed but apparently stronger, remained in use until both instruments were replaced by the trilingual Israeli type in the middle of August. Here we have the parallel use of two different handstamps, one of the Mandate and one of the Minhelet Ha'am administration.

As was stated in Glassman's "The Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948", we do not know the exact date when the trilingual instruments were placed in use. This was probably about the second week in August. The earliest known registered letter from a Branch Office with the trilingual postmark is from Rehavia (which received its instrument 'Jerusalem 9' at the same time as Mahane Yehuda) dated August 11th (see Fig. 47). This is a commercial letter

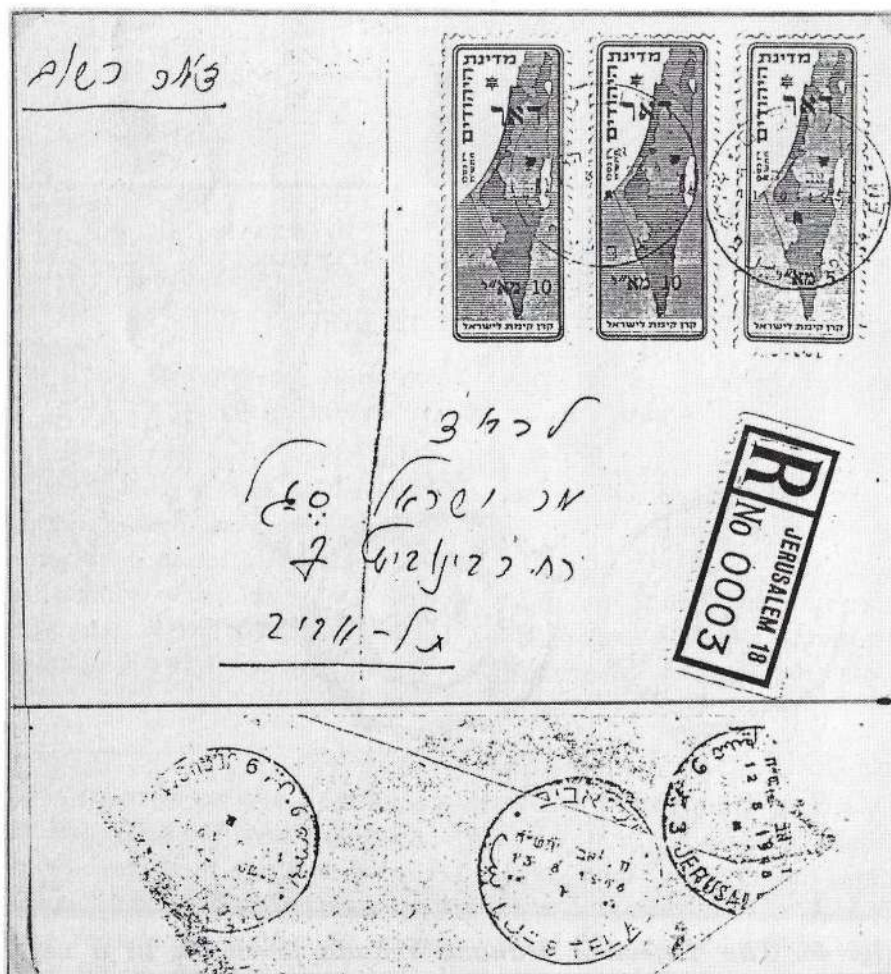


Fig. 47: The earliest known date of a BPO trilingual cancellation in Jerusalem: 'Jerusalem 9', used in Rehavia on 11 August, 1948.

sent to Tel Aviv, and has the Jerusalem local stamps on the face; the arrival cancellation is from the 13th.

Any reader with similar examples is asked to communicate with the writer.

A "Mountain" Variety on Jerusalem Stamps (Z. Shimony, Jerusalem)

The "Lake" Variety, a lake-like white spot north of Eilat, is a well known constant variety appearing on all values of the Minhelet Ha'am Jerusalem stamps. A much rarer variety, a larger coloured spot, south of the Dead Sea, which may be nicknamed the "Mountain" Variety, is shown here (Fig. 48) on a 5m stamp of the Jerusalem 2nd issue. The spot is brown, like the stamp's colour, and is certainly not a constant variety, but it is known in at least several sheets and appears always in the same sheet position as the "Lake" variety.

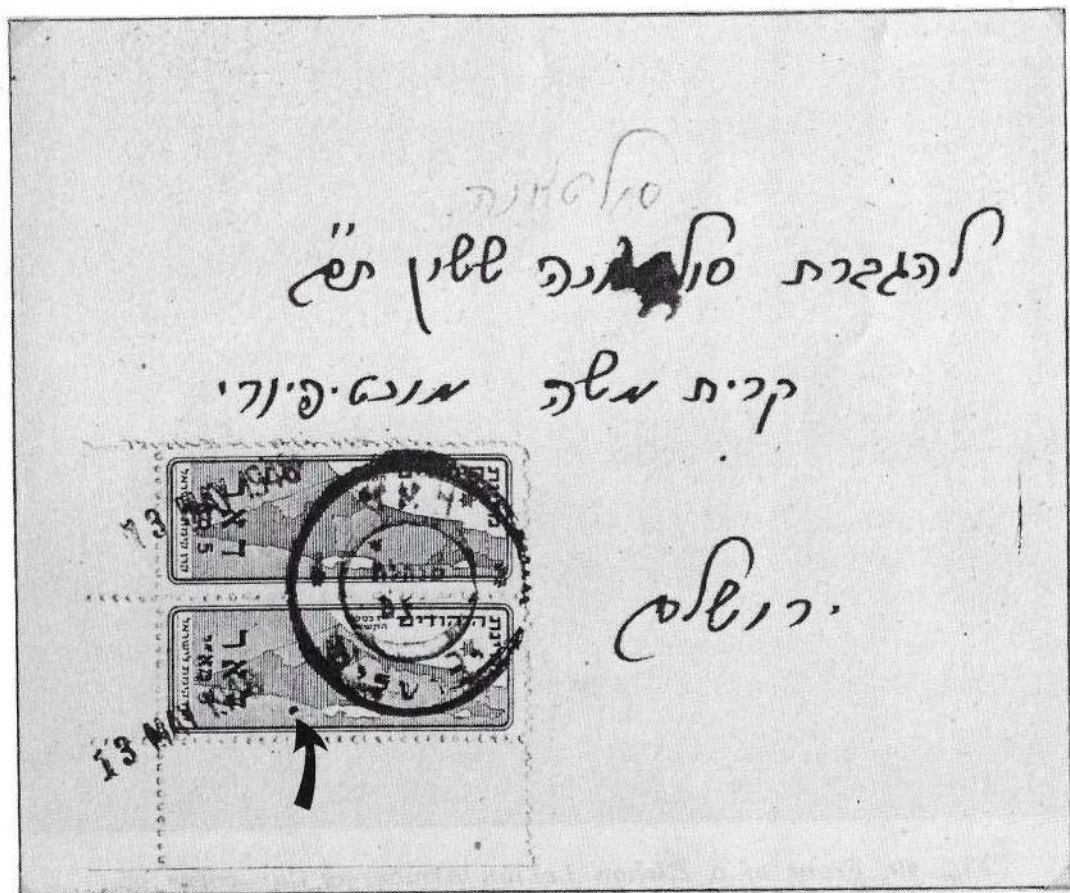


Fig. 48: A non-constant variety, a "mountain"-like spot, on a 5 m stamp of Jerusalem 2nd Issue.

It would be interesting to gather some statistics of the frequency of this variety. Has someone noticed it on a different value (and in a different colour)?

An Interesting Date Error in the Tel Aviv Postmark of the Armoured Car Service (Zvi Aloni, Ra'anana)

I recently bought several covers which travelled between Rishon LeZion and Tel Aviv by armoured car in April, 1948. Two of these covers were cancelled with the Rishon postmark dated the 28th April, where the '8' was very unclear (Fig. 49).

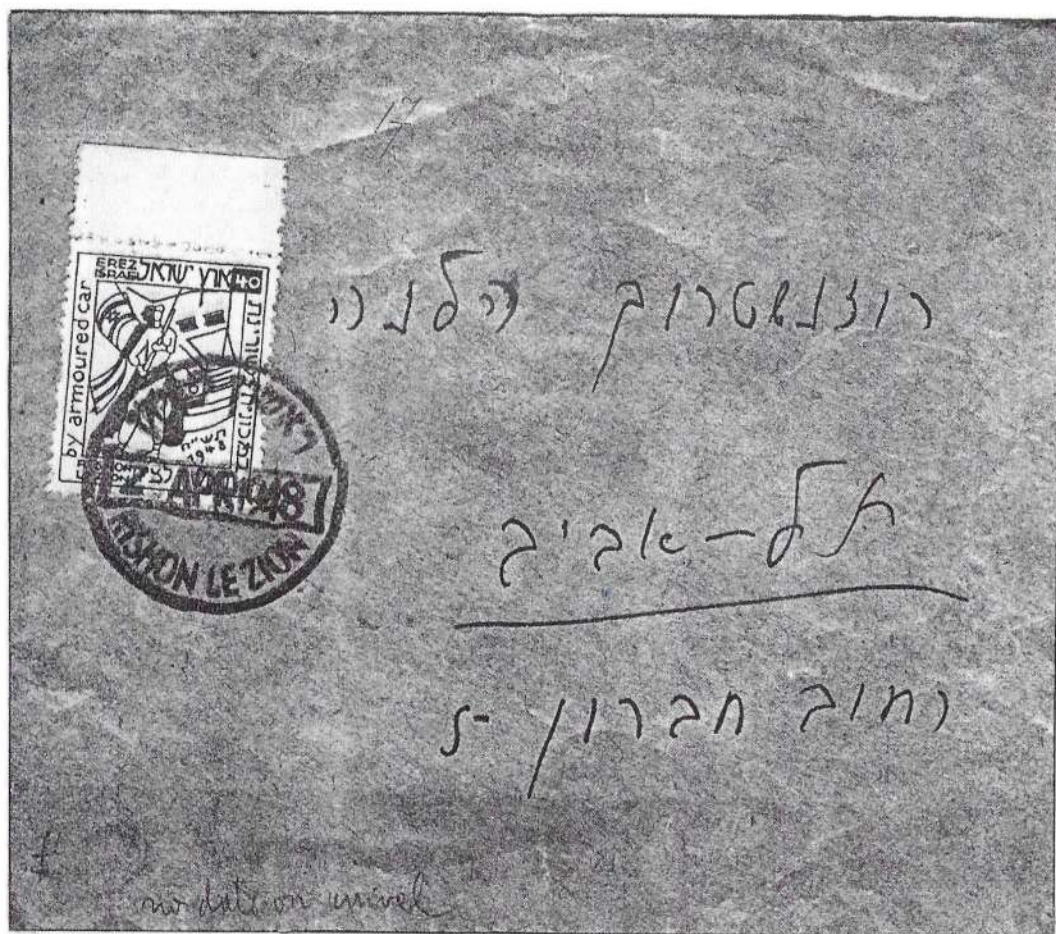


Fig. 49: Front of a Rishon LeZion Armoured Car cover of 28 April, in which the '8' of the day is almost invisible.

What attracted my attention here was the Tel Aviv arrival cancellation on one of the covers' back, which had no figures for the date, but two

horizontal dashes (see Fig. 50). The other cover, of the same date, has the figures '28' included (see Fig. 51). Otherwise, it has the same deformations and characteristics of the former postmark shown.

The explanation for this unusual example could be that the first cover was routinely cancelled on arrival in Tel Aviv and only afterwards was it noticed that there were no date figures. Subsequent letters must have been cancelled with the corrected postmark.

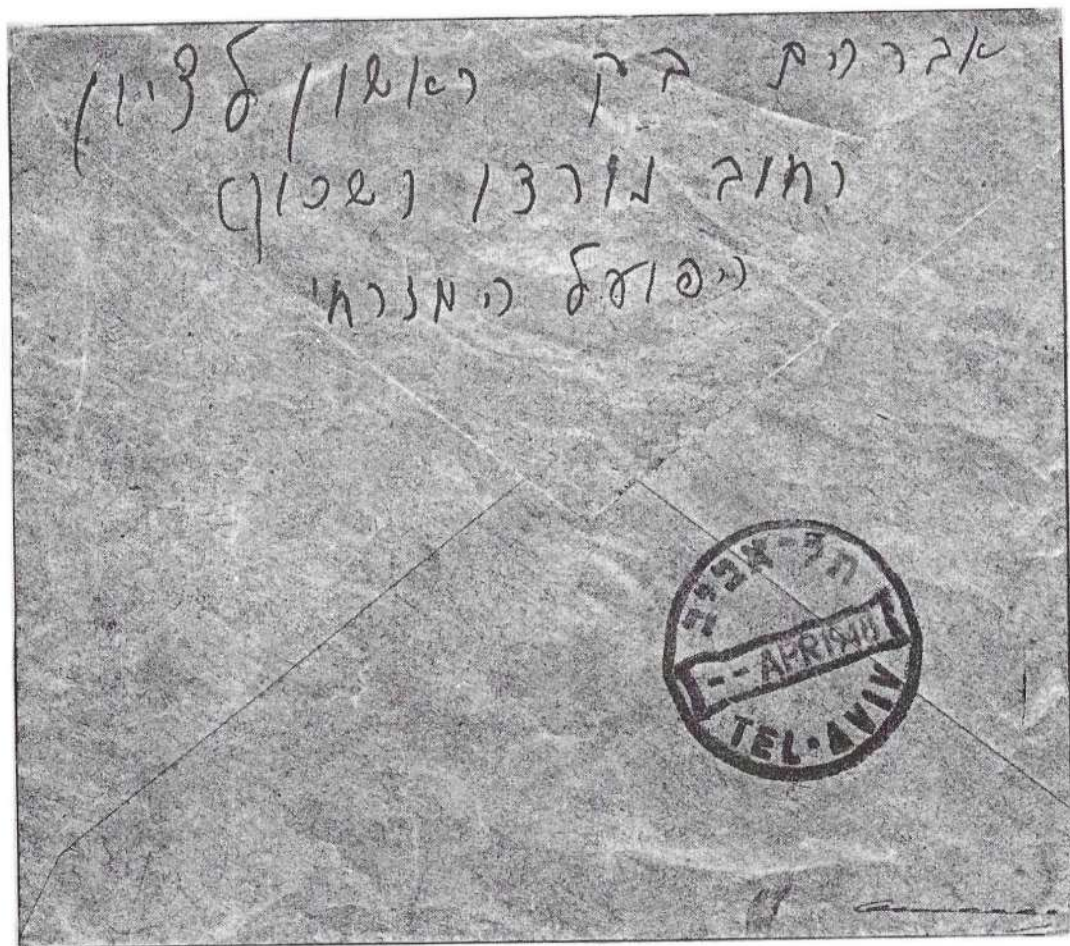


Fig. 50: Back of the previous cover, showing the Tel Aviv arrival postmark with two dashes instead of the day.

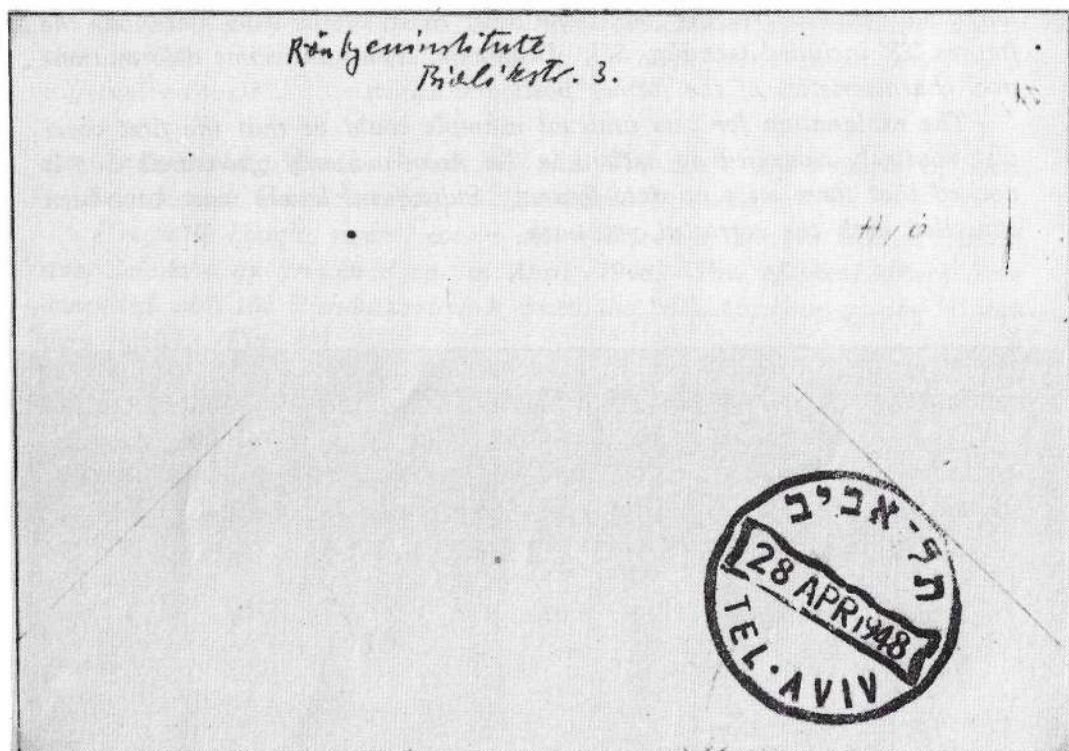


Fig. 51: Back of the other cover, sent from Rishon on the same date, with a correct arrival postmark of 28 April.

The State of Israel

Modern but Rare (M. Siegel, Ramat Gan)

Currently, there is an unfortunate tendency on the part of many of our experienced collectors to downgrade and to minimize the rarity and importance of post 1948 Israel Postal History. Yet certain covers do exist that can rightly be called major rarities although these are less than forty years old and their origins are modern Israel. Into this category of contemporary rarities would fall: (a) certain Do'ar Ivri items with unusual perforations, papers, frankings or routings; (b) a few FDCs, especially early fully tabbed items (e.g. Scott C1/6, #25, etc.); (c) certain taxed covers. It is the last category that this writer finds most relevant to the present discussion, since it includes covers dated as late as 1960, thus **modern Israel** by any standard!

Among the rarest and most desirable of Israel's taxed covers are those taxed with a *mix* of stamps from different issues. Known are cover(s) taxed with the following combinations: (a) 1st & 2nd Postage Dues (Scott J 1/5 & J 6/11), (b) 2nd & 3rd Postage Dues (Scott J 6/11 & J12/20), (c) 3rd Postage Dues & various Definitive stamps and (d) 3rd Postage Dues & Commemorative Stamp(s).

The cover illustrated in Figure 52 was posted in Omaha, Nebraska, 13 February 1957 by airmail to a well-known Tel Aviv stamp dealer. It was properly franked with 25 cents American postage, the airmail rate then applicable. In Tel Aviv, it was opened by the censor who found money inside (handwritten MEZUMAN, or "cash", atop the sealing label) and then **forced registered** the cover to insure that said funds would be legally converted. The fee for registration at the time was 150 pruta. For this tax, 2 stamps from different sets were applied, Scott J 19 & the commemorative #135! Why this was done cannot now be determined with certainty as Scott J 17, a 50 pruta Postage Due stamp, should have been as available as was the J 19 that had been applied. Both J 17 & J 19 are stamps from Israel's 3rd Postage Due Set that were not withdrawn until 5 January 1960, almost three years later than the cover itself.

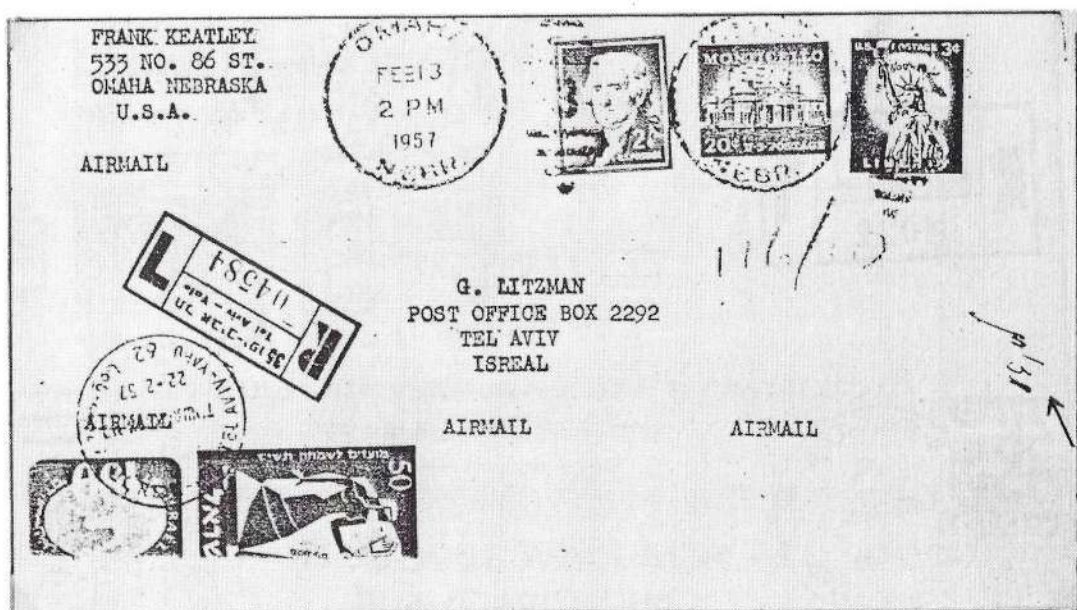


Fig. 52: 1957 forced registered cover from USA, with a mixed franking tax.

We are aware of the existence of approximately 20 covers with various *mixed* frankings of any of the four types enumerated above. However, this is the only one we have encountered belonging to category (d) - certainly modern yet rare!

The Opening Date of Ma'ale Adummim Post Office

(M. Sender, Herzliya)

The post office of Ma'ale Adummim was formally opened on January 23, 1983 (see Fig. 53). In fact, the post office was operating in the settlement before at the same building. Mail and other postal services were given by Mobile Post (Do'ar Na) Biqat Yeriho to the postal agency, but not to the public itself, who got their postal services from the agency.

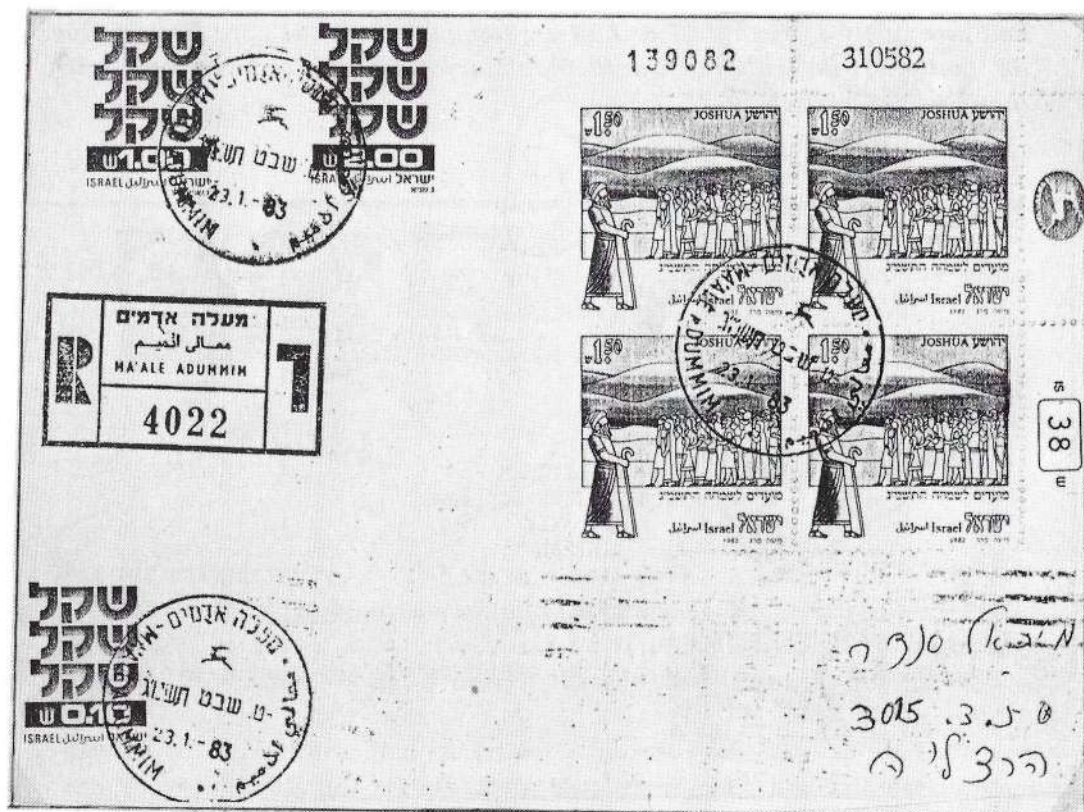


Fig. 53: A registered cover with the formal Opening Day postmarks of Ma'ale Adummim, (23.1.83).

In fact, one instrument had the name of Ma'ale Adummim prior to the formal "Date of Opening" of the branch. This cancellation belonged to the Postal Bank ("Bank Hado'ar) which operated in the branch. Figure 54 shows clearly the date of January 18, 1988, the name (Postal Agency Ma'ale Adummim in Hebrew) and the number (196990) of the agency.

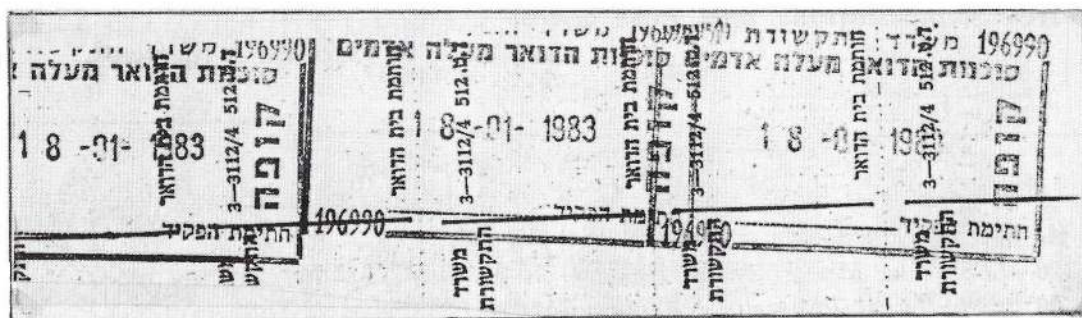


Fig. 54: A postal bank form with the rectangular cashier cachet of 'Ma'ale Adummim Postal Agency', 18.1.83!

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New Cancellations and Post offices*(Compiled by B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal)****A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 55)***

- 26.07.88: *"The Mediterranean Festival, 26-30 July", Ashdod*.*
- 06.12.88: *"Israel Philatelists' Jubilee Conference", Tel Aviv-Yafo.*
- 22.12.88: *"Agricultural Achievements in Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.***
- 22.12.88: *A pictorial postmark with archeologic theme, Yerushalayim.***
- 24.12.88: *"Christmas-Noel", Nazareth.*
- 24.12.88: *"Christmas-Noel", Bet Lehem.*
- 09.01.89: *"The great traditional festival in Netivot", Netivot.*
- 19.02.89: *"First meeting of the Air Force Association", Tel Aviv-Yafo.*
- 12.03.89: *"950 Years Rashi", Yerushalayim.***
- 12.03.89: *"Tourism at the 4 seas", Tel Aviv-Yafo.***
- 12.03.89: *"Rabbi Maimon", Yerushalayim.***
- 12.03.89: *"The XXI European Symposium on Calcified Tissues, Israel Society", Yerushalayim.*
- 15.03.89: *"International Consumer Rights Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo. This postmark was seen also in violet.*
- 15.03.89: *"Consumer Rights Day, Israel Consumer Council", Yerushalayim.*
- 16.03.89: *"40th anniversary of the liberation of Elat."**
- 20.03.89: *"1989 Haifa Sailing Week", Haifa.*
- 21.03.89: *"Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity with Israel", Yerushalayim.*
- 23.03.89: *"1989 Dead Sea Festival, -400M", (Doar Na) Yam Ha-Melah.*

* These postmarks were not announced in any of the "Public Notices".

** These postmarks were used as special postmarks for the F.D. of Issue of the corresponding new stamp issues.



Fig. 55: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 01.01.89: "Migdal Ha-Emeq 4", additional postmark in Migdal Ha-Emeq post office.
- 01.01.89: "Um El Fahem 3", additional postmark in Um El Fahem post office.
- 01.01.89: "Qiryat Tiv'on 6", additional postmark in Qiryat Tivon post office.
- 08.01.89: "Neve Deqalim", for the postal agency, grade C, opened in Neve Deqalim.
- 15.01.89: "Zichron Yaacov 615 ט", new Francotype machine in Zichron Yaacov.
- 15.01.89: "Nazerat Illit 10", additional postmark in Nazerat Illit post office.
- 01.02.89: "Nahariyya 619 ט", new Francotype machine in Nahariyya.
- 19.02.89: "Qiryat Yam 7" and "Qiryat Yam 8", additional postmarks in Qiryat Yam post office.
- 19.02.89: "Kefar Hasidim Paye א", a handstamp "Paid" in Kefar Hasidim post office.
- 01.03.89: "Elat 2 Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Elat post office.
- 01.03.89: "Gan Yavne Paye א", a handstamp "Paid" in Gan Yavne.
- 01.03.89: "Beer Sheva 5", new machine cancellation in Beer Sheva post office.
- 01.03.89: "Rehovot 1", new machine cancellation in Rehovot post office.

New Stamps

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 22.12.88: Agricultural achievements in Israel (Ag. 50, 60, 90); Archeology in Jerusalem, 7th definitive series (Ag. 40, 60).
- 12.03.89: Tourism in Israel - Views of the four seas (Ag. 40, 60, 70, NIS 1.70); Rabbi Judah L. Maimon (NIS 1.70); Rashi - Rabbi Solomon Ben Issac of Troyes (NIS 4.-).



ANTON STEICHELE - A Memorial

It is with a very deep sense of loss that we learnt, recently, that our friend and co-philatelist Anton Steichele had passed away rather suddenly in his home town of Cassel, West Germany. He was only 44 years old.

Anton Steichele, operating from his home, built up a superb collection of the Forerunners of the Holy Land and at the same time established himself as one of the leading experts in this field. The fruits of his very extensive researches were two major publications: the first was on the Turkish Postmarks, which brought up to date the knowledge first published by F. W. Pollack. It has now become the standard work on the subject. Issued initially in German through the German Israel Philatelic Society, in their quarterly magazine, it was subsequently published as a book, in which form it is most widely known.

His second work, which he managed to complete, was on the Foreign Posts. Of this only parts have been published in German, in the magazine; financial problems have so far apparently prevented the appearance of the remaining sections. The English translation of this work is being carried out in England and in the United States where, we understand, the SIP will publish it. This, too, will be a considerable advance on the somewhat limited listing until now available in Pollack's well-known work.

Anton Steichele corresponded with almost every known collector in his field. He also managed to visit Israel several years ago, meeting philatelists and friends. All were deeply impressed with his knowledge and eagerness to help. He, too, like Michael Sacher, was one who believed that the extension of philatelic knowledge was only possible by the free exchange of information.

(E. Glassman)

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(Compiled by Edi Leib)

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Siegel's Holyland Philatelics, Nov. 1, 1988 (No buyer's commission)

- * German Post: Reply postcard with "Aus Sarona" cachet to Germany - \$ 455
- * Italian Post: 10c Italian postcard overprinted "20 para Gerusalemme", unused - \$ 56
- * 1922, Waterlow printing, 2p inverted overprint - \$ 318
- * Ditto, 9 p. perf. 14, 25 mm high, used - \$ 580
- * "Nahalal" (Dorfman D6) on cover to Safed - \$ 67
- * 1948, local Jerusalem 3rd printing, 5m, on printed matter with rosette postmark - \$ 86

Capital Stamps, Nov. 8-9, 1988

- * French Post, 1873, "Jerusalem Cross" on cover with 5c and 3x25c "Ceres" stamps cancelled "5089". Jaffa "Pearl ring" alongside (faults) - \$1400
- * 1948, Courier cover from Jerusalem with local stamp, mailed in Tel Aviv, taxed 20m in Petah Tikva on June 28 - \$ 700
- * 1948, Do'ar Ivri 15m perf. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$, mint tab - \$ 495
- * 1948, Ex Camp 69 (Cyprus), mailed in April from Famagusta, returned as "Service suspended", brought to and remailed in Tel Aviv - \$ 800
- * 1948, 1st Postage Due, mint tab set - \$1200

MATSA Auctions, Nov. 22, 1988

- * 1948, registered cover from Poland with Affula Minhelet Ha'am arrival postmark - \$1300

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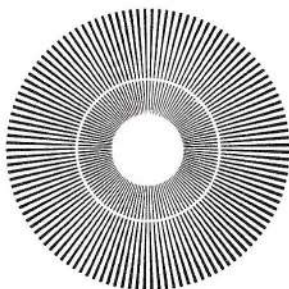
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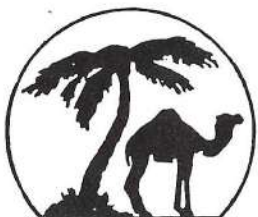
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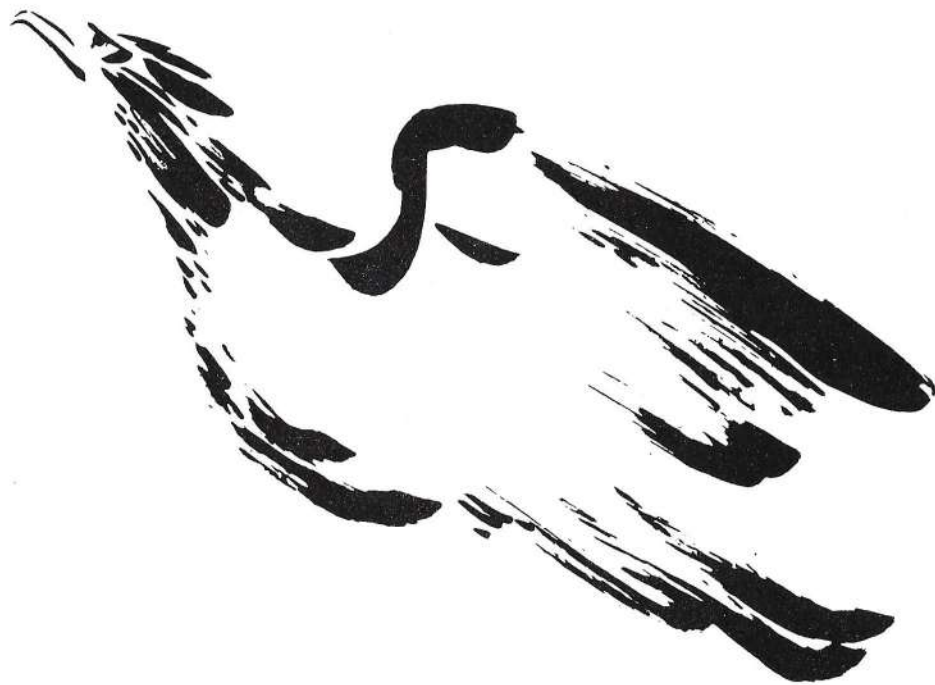
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מופלא, ומתוך הלהבות קמה לתחיה
פניקס חדשה, סמל אגדי להתחדשות
מתמדת ולעוצמה.

הפניקס הישראלי, חברת ביטוח איתנה,
דינמית, בעלת מעוף והתחדשות מתמדת
כאותה צפור מופלאה.

הפניקס הישראלי-אין זו אגדה.

הפניקס הישראלי
חברת ביטוח טובה



תולדות הדאר של ארץ ישראל

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות הדאר של ארץ ישראל
עמותה מסונפת להתאחדות בולאי ישראל

ועד העמותה

יו"ר - ד"ר צ. שמעוני

סגנים - ב. גרוסר, ה. מינץ

מזכיר - צ. אלוני

גזבר - מ. סוגדק

עורכים - צ. שמעוני וע. גלסמן

ד"ר א. ליבו, י. צחור, ד"ר י. רמון, י. שבתאי

ועדת בקורת ובוררות: מ. מרקו, א. קרפובסקי, גב' א. שפירא

מערכת הבטאון: ע. גלסמן, מ. זיגל, א. ליבו, י. רמון, צ. שמעוני

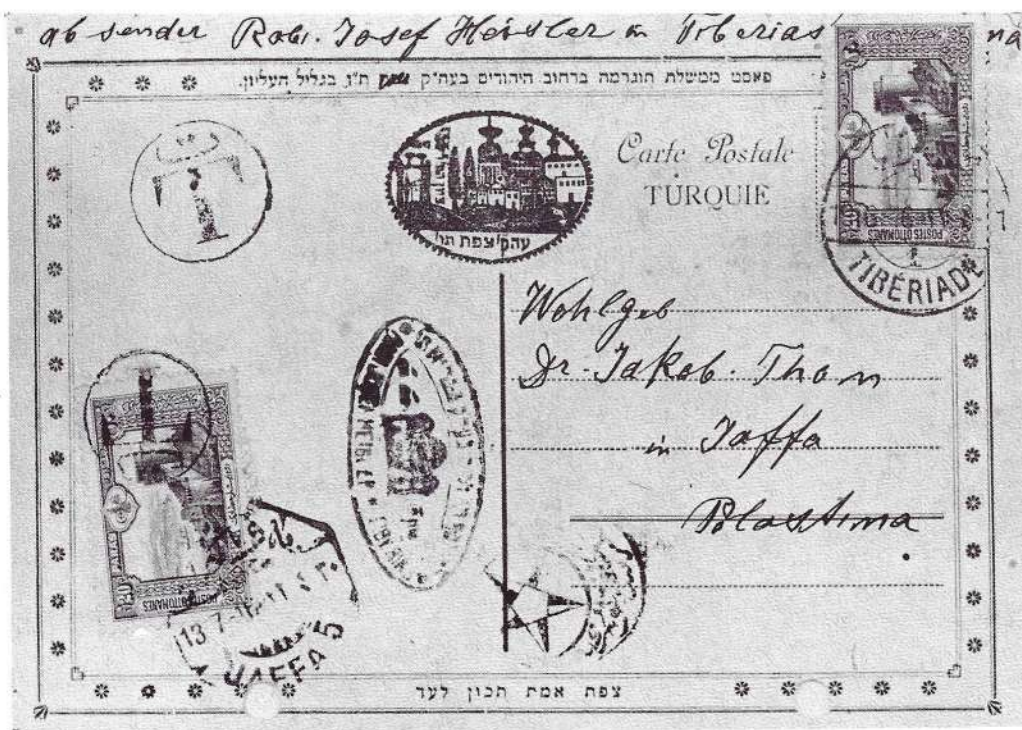
* * *

דמי חבר לשנה: \$15 לפי השער היציג ביום התשלום.

כל התכתבות יש להפנות לכתובת: ת.ד. 10175 ירושלים 91101

II תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל 37-38

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות
הדאר של ארץ-ישראל



גלויה צפתית שנשלחה ב-1916, מהדואר התורכי בטבריה,
עם סימן "T" ובול נוסף כקנס, שהודבק והוחתם ביפו

A Samed postcard, sent in 1916 from the Turkish post office in Tiberias,
handstamped "T" and taxed with another 20 pa. stamp

חורף | אביב תשמ"ט