



CHAPTER #80

MEMBER

# ISRATHEME

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## From the Editor's Desk - Nahum Shereshevsky

Your Editor is very proud to tell the world that this humble publication has won a silver-bronze medal at the 1992 Cardinal Spellman Museum Literature Fair. Considering the fact that ISRATHEME is a low-budget non-professional journal, which limits us to a certain level of technical quality, I am very satisfied with that award. (Well, I know that we're doing a good job, but it's nice to see that other people share that view!) I do note, however, that judges in this country have not given ISRATHEME more than a bronze medal. ISRATHEME, of course, is not a one-man show, and I would like to thank two people without whom the journal cannot be issued: Eliezer Saraf, who prints ISRATHEME and works on the illustrations to make them as clear as possible, and Stuart Elgrod, who-proof reads my typing and saves me from embarrassing typos and mistakes in English. (Except for "From the Editor's Desk" which is written at the last moment, and the mistakes here are totally my own!) Thanks also to our regular contributors, Alan Karpas (Sports) and Eliahu Foa (meters), and to all the others who wrote articles.

## Table of Contents

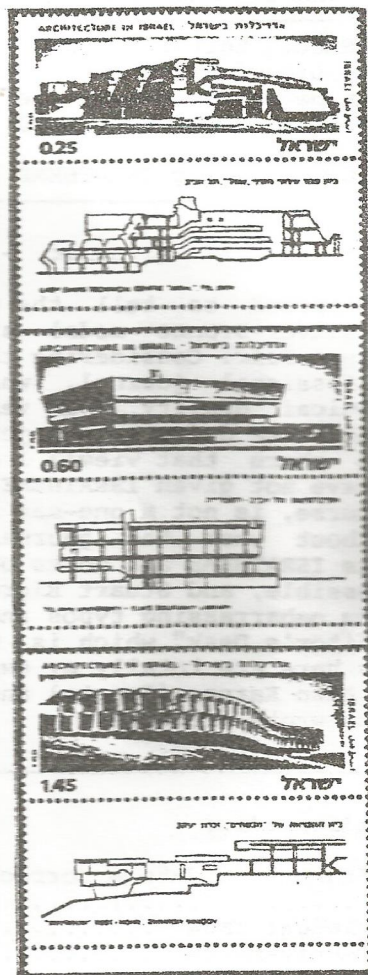
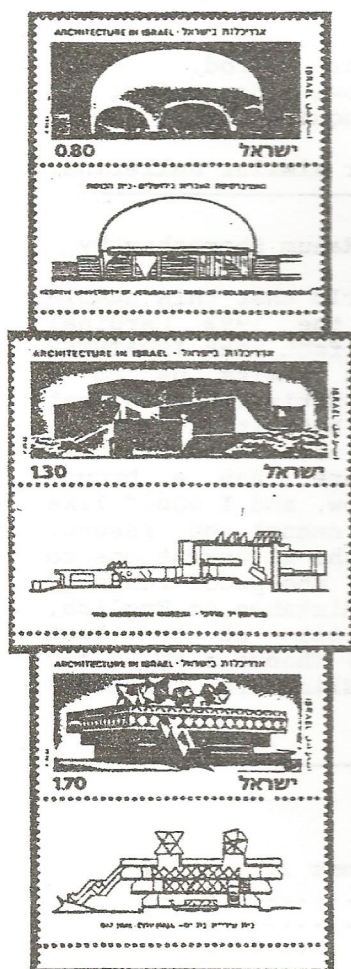
Freemasonry on Israeli Stamp - update & corrections .....	2
Contacts .....	5, 20
For Your Philatelic Knowledge: Tabs .....	6
Meter Corner: The Hebrew University .....	9
New Issues of Israel .....	11
Special Postmarks March - May 1992 .....	18

The article published in ISRATHEME #4, 1991, was written in 1989 for a French Masonic publication. Since then new stamps which are of Masonic interest have been issued, I've noted that certain additions are due, and the chapter about postmarks must be rewritten. With this article I hope to update the records to the end of 1991. The chapter numbering is that of the first article.

# 1. Freemasons on Israeli stamps.

Yellin, Prof. David (1864 - 1941)

Professor Yellin was a well known scholar, linguist and teacher. In 1889 he was one of the founders of the "Hebrew Language Committee" - an important institute in the revival of the Hebrew language and in



Professor David Yellin



The American Revolution

Architecture in Israel (1974/1975)



the Zionist movement - and from 1912 to his death he was the chairman of the committee. He was also the general manager of the Jerusalem Teachers' Training College, a professor of medieval poetry and a prolific writer.

Prof. Yellin appears on a stamp issued in 1989 (SG 1084/Sc 1028) to commemorate the centennial of the committee. (He is first on the left, wearing a fez).

Prof. Yellin was initiated in King Solomon's Quarries in Jerusalem, became a Freemason of note and in 1940 was elected and installed Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Palestine. He was still holding the office at the time of his death. A Lodge in Petah Tiqva, "David Yellin" #18, is named after him.

### Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (1756 - 1791)

Mozart was one of the greatest geniuses in the history of music, and it seems trite to attempt summing his greatness in few words. Mozart was a member of the "Charity" Lodge in Vienna (initiated 14 December 1784), and wrote quite a few pieces dedicated to his Lodge and to the Craft. The greatest Masonic influence on his work is apparent in his opera "The Magic Flute". A stamp commemorating the International Year of Mozart was issued in 1991 (see ISRATHEME #5).

## 2. Non-Freemasons after whom Lodges are named.

Herzl, Dr. Theodor

A lodge in Ra'anana named after Dr. Herzl was consecrated in June 1990 - "Theodor Herzl" #75.

## 6. Other stamps of Masonic interest.

### Architecture

The science and art of architecture is, naturally, of great interest to Masons, as the Order has its origins in the guilds of builders of the late middle ages. Many Israeli stamps are related to architecture, showing buildings of great beauty, many of which are also of Masonic importance. Most of these stamps, however, commemorate the organizations residing in these buildings or events that took place in them. A set of stamps showing "Architecture in Israel" appeared in 1974 (three stamps, SG 578-80/Sc 544-6) and 1975 (three more, SG 596-8/Sc 558-60). A new definitive series, the first set of which was issued 12 April 1990, also shows "Architecture in Israel". By April 1992, 5 stamps appeared in this series.

### The American Revolution

Many of the leaders of the American Revolution were Freemasons, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Such documents as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution reflect the Masonic involvement of those who wrote and signed them. A stamp commemorating the bicentennial of the revolution was issued in 1976 (SG 634/Sc 598).

## The French Revolution.

In 1789, following the example of their American brethren, the French people revolted against the King and the nobility. Many of the most prominent leaders of the revolution - that was conducted under the banner "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" - were Freemasons, and the spirit of Freemasonry gave the breath of life to the ideals of the revolution. A special commemorative souvenir sheet was issued on the occasion of the bicentennial of the revolution in 1989 (SG 1075/Sc 1027).

## The HIDA

The HIDA (see p. 12) travelled extensively. In his travel diary he tells of an incident that happened to him in Tunisia in 1754. He was asked whether Jews from Livorno (Italy) who were Freemasons should be handed over to the authorities - Tunisia was then ruled by the French and Freemasonry was in disfavour due to attack by the Catholic Church. According to the HIDA Freemasonry was contrary to the tenets of Judaism, but does not constitute sufficient reason to place Jews in mortal danger.

## Masonic elements in recent issues.

The PALMAH stamp (ISRATHEME #6) has the Sword, the Inner Guard's and the Tyler's Jewels, and the "Shiboleth" (ear of corn), connected to the Fellowcraft Degree.

In the "Expulsion of the Jews from Spain" sheet (p. 11) we find a compass (held by the engineer, in the lower-right corner), and two masons carrying a stone. Also in the sheet is Maimonades, after whom the "Rambam #54" Lodge in Tel Aviv is named.

The Jaffa - Jerusalem railway has a masonic connection - see chapter 5 of the first article.

## 7. Masonic Postmarks.

Four postmarks were dedicated to Masonic events:

### The founding of The Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

On 20 October 1953 the Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Most Worshipful Brother the Right Honourable Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, consecrated the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel and installed in office the Most Worshipful Brother Shabtay Levy as Grand Master. That memorable occasion, at which all the Lodges in Israel were at last united under the auspices of one Grand Lodge, was commemorated by a special postmark of the same date.

### Masonic Pilgrimages.

Many Brethren visit Israel every year, but on three occasions the Grand Lodge organized pilgrimages in which hundreds of Brethren participated. Each was honoured by a special commemorative postmark:

- \* The first pilgrimage was in 1959. The postmark is of 22.7.59
- \* The second pilgrimage was in 1976. The postmark is of 21.6.76.
- \* The third pilgrimage, honouring the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge was in 1978. The postmark is of 20.11.78.



All the postmarks are from Jerusalem. Next year (1993) the Grand Lodge will celebrate its 40th anniversary, the 60th anniversary of the National Grand Lodge of Palestine and the 120th anniversary of the first regular Lodge in the Holy Land, the "Royal King Solomon Mother Lodge", consecrated in 1873. A pilgrimage is being organized, and we hope to have a new Masonic postmark.



Second Pilgrimage, 1976

<- French Revolution.

## CONTACTS

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\* Mr. ARIEH SCHWARZ, 18 REMEZ St., 53242 GIVATAYIM, ISRAEL, is interested in all philatelic fields regarding Dogs and Sleds.

\* Mr. SHIMON MITCHNICK, 13 MANIA SHOCHAT St., 75241 RISHON LE-ZION, ISRAEL, is interested in Aviation - development and history.

\* Mr. BENNY HERTZANU, NEVE-NIR 4/C, 70400 NES ZIONA, ISRAEL, collects Judaica subjects and KKL/JNF overseas branches.

\* Mr. ABRAHAM BAR, 21 SMILCHENSKI St., 75233 RISHON LE-ZION, ISRAEL, is looking for Space collectors to exchange with.

\* Mr. ARIE SOBEL, P.O. Box 9173, 84191 BEER SHEVA, ISRAEL, would like to write to people who collect Atomic Reactors and related subj.

\* Mr. EFFI EPHRATH, 24 SHEVET MENASHE St., 46684 HERTZLIA, is interested in Flora, Fauna, Children's Stories, and postmarks/ postal items with an interesting story behind them.

\* Mr. YECHIEL BISKOVITZ, P.O. Box 10305, 52002 RAMAT GAN, would like to write to collectors of Mythological Animals. He also collects Newspaper, Telegraph and Parcel/Railway stamps.

(More "Contacts" on p. 20).

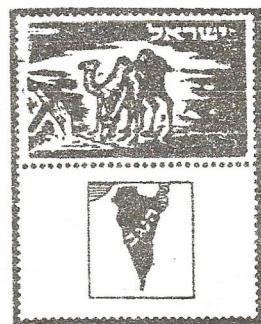
The term "tab" in Israeli stamps refers to the descriptive addition that is attached to the stamps of the sheet's lower row. Tabs are a philatelic feature that is unique to Israel. (Other countries issue stamps with tabs occasionally, but in Israel all stamps are issued with tabs).

The official term is "descriptive tabs", and that is exactly how they originated. The first stamps of Israel, the Doar Ivri set, depicted Jewish coins from the first and second centuries. The inscriptions on the coins were in an ancient form of Hebrew letters, and the Minister of Post was concerned that people would not understand them. The idea then came up to add tabs to the bottom of the sheet that would carry a description of the stamps: what is the coin depicted and a transliteration of its inscription. The result was so pleasing that it was decided to make the tabs a regular feature on Israeli stamps.

Tab-wise (as well as in other aspects) the Doar Ivri stamps are very interesting, because each tab (there were 10 on the sheet) had its own plate, and there are minor variations between them. In the illustration, the middle tab is different from the external ones: the colon (:) at the end of the fourth line ("end of line" in Hebrew is the left!) on that tab is under the letter "shin" (ש), third from left of the third line. In the other tabs, the colon is aligned with the left margin and is under the "nun sofit" (ן). To make it more interesting, the tab plates were set at random for every printing, so there are many combinations of tabs in a row. Not surprisingly under the circumstances, during one printing the tabs of the 10 and 15 pr. values were switched! A final note - the Doar Ivri stamps were also issued as postage dues (with the overprint "Dmei Doar"), but on these sheets the tabs were left blank, a practice that was repeated in the following postage due sets (two).



Full tab



Short tab

<- DOAR IVRI tab variations



There are two kinds of tabs: those that actually reach the end of the sheet and thus have a straight edge, and those that are perforated on four sides so there is a selvedge between the tab and the sheet's edge. (The tab sides are always perforated). The latter kind is called "full tab", and the selvedge should not be removed. If it is, the tab is called "short", and in fact, the stamp is considered (and priced) as tabless. Although the end selvedge is not thematically important, if you want to exhibit a tabbed stamp that was issued with a full tab, make sure that the copy you exhibit indeed has it, for its philatelic and "condition" aspect. Full tabs were common until the mid 1960's.

While most tabs are attached to the bottom of the stamps, in some cases the tab is a "side tab", either right-hand or left, and even both. The TEVEL 89 Youth Stamp Show is an interesting example. The stamps were printed in sheetlets of 8, 4 rows of two, with 8 labels, in a checkered pattern. But only the four stamps in the left column have tabs, on their left. Note that side tabs may also have "full tabs", with selvages on the side.



Side tab - left side of sheet



Side tab - both sides of sheet

The feature that makes a tabbed stamp philatelically "better" and cost more than a non-tabbed one is, of course, the fact that only a certain percentage of the copies issued have tabs. That percentage varies. Usually stamps are printed in sheets of 15, 3x5, which means that every third stamp is tabbed. For some small format stamps it can be 10 out of 100, and for long and narrow stamps it can be 1 out of 2 (a sheet of two rows of 10). Some other proportions - 5/50, 5/20, 10/50, 20/50, 20/100 (the later two are for side tabs on both sides of the sheet), 5/25, 3/9 (for sheetlets). It should be kept in mind, however, that the proportion of tabbed to non-tabbed stamps that are issued is different from that for stamps actually sold, as the two groups are sold separately. With the exception of definitives, the tabbed rows are taken by the Philatelic Service. A certain quantity is sent to those post offices that sell "FDI material", and the rest is sent to the philatelic counters and are sold there for only one month after the day of issue. The reason for this restricted period is the high inflation that Israel had in the early 1980's. Since stamps are sold at face value, if collectors waited for a while, they could get more stamps for less money (in real values). This situation was especially profitable for overseas dealers, whose dollars could



buy more and more stamps as the Israeli currency devaluated. By limiting the period of sale for tabbed stamps, they were forced to buy them relatively soon. Inflation is much lower now, but this practice continues.

This was the "technical" side of tabs. For us thematic collectors, the tab is another place to look for our theme. What can we find on the tab? emblems and logos, Bible verses, the years of birth and death of the person who is on the stamp, a description of the object that is on the stamp, a detail, a continuation of the design (see Railway stamps, p. 17). Naturally, the tab's design is related to that of the stamp, but sometimes we can find on the tab an element that can on its own relate to our theme, while the stamp is not. For example - a feather on the tab that can relate it to birds, while the stamp is dedicated to an author.



logo



Bible verse



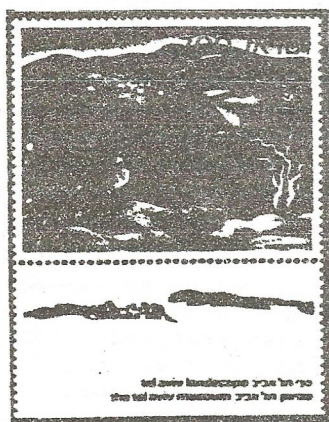
Years of living



Continuation of design



Description of subject



Detail from design



Tab relates to another theme



## THE HISTORY OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS METER POSTMARKS

The Hebrew University was built in Jerusalem in 1925. The campus was situated north-east of the centre of the city, on a hill called Mount Scopus (in Hebrew "Har ha-Zofim", Mount of the Scouts).

The University introduced the use of meter postage machines in its offices during the British Mandate period, well before the War of Independence (fig. 1).

After Independence (1948), the University campus remained in that part of Jerusalem that was under Jordanian sovereignty but constituted a territory under protection of the United Nation, which made it unaccessable to the students. New buildings were therefore built in a new campus on a hill called Givat Ram in the west side of the city. (figs. 2, 3). The University's emblem appears in the slogan of fig. 3. It consists of the flame of knowledge above the stylised Hebrew letters aleph (א) and ain (ע), the first letters of the words "Hebrew University" in Hebrew. A panoramic view of the Givat Ram campus appears in the slogan of fig. 4.

The number of meter postage machines used in the offices of the University increased rapidly with its expansion and the addition of new buildings.

The new hospital of the Hebrew University - the Hadassa Medical School - was built on a hill south-west of Jerusalem above the village of Ein Karem, an historical site dating from the beginning of the Christian Era. Fig. 5 shows the first meter stamp of the Faculty of Medicine. A panoramic view of the Medical School appears in two more recent meter postmarks (figs. 10, 11).

The University's Faculty of Agriculture was founded in 1943 in Rehovot, then a small town 50 km. west of Jerusalem, an important agricultural centre of citrus growing. One of the Faculty's meter postmarks is reproduced in fig. 6. The entire slogan, emblem and inscriptions, is in a frame. Fig. 9 shows another slogan, where only the emblem, smaller, is in a frame.

The Hebrew University celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation in 1965 and a commemorative slogan was used in the meter machines of the institution (fig. 7). The jubilee year in 1975 was also commemorated by special slogans (figs. 8). For the 60th anniversary, 1985, a new slogan was introduced, showing panoramic views of the old Mount Scopus campus (which was re-opened after the Six Day's War) on top and the new Givat Ram campus at the bottom of the frame.

(Illustrations are on following page, in chronological order).

האוניברסיטה העברית

HEBREW UNIVERSITY



1



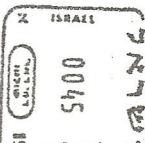
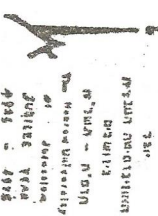
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האוניברסיטה העברית

Jerusalem



2



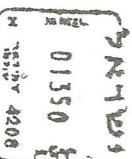
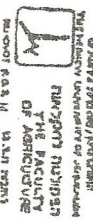
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האוניברסיטה העברית

Jerusalem



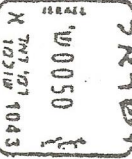
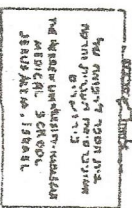
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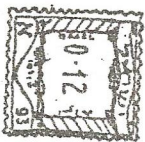
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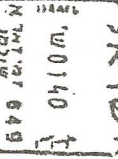
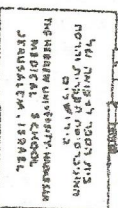
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האוניברסיטה העברית

Jerusalem



5



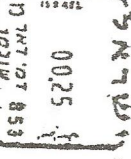
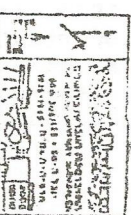
11

האוניברסיטה העברית

Jerusalem



6



12

10



## NEW ISSUES OF ISRAEL

26.4.92

500 YEARS SINCE THE EXPULSION OF THE JEWS FROM SPAIN  
80a, NIS 1.10, 1.40 in a souvenir sheet.

While the world commemorates 1992 as the year of the discovery of America, for the Jewish world it also marks the quincenary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. A banishment decree signed on March 31, 1492 in Granda by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, monarchs of the newly-united Kingdoms of Aragon and Castille, put an end to 1500 years of Jewish life in Spain. Under Roman, Moslem and Christian rule in turn, Spanish Jewish culture flourished: Hebrew grammar and poetry, philosophy, science. But pressure from the Church that started in the 13th century grew into waves of persecution against the Jews, and the Inquisition that was established toward the end of the 15th century led to the expulsion act in 1492. More than 200,000 Jews left Spain, taking with them their knowledge and talent. It is commonly believed today that the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and from Portugal in 1496 was one of the main reasons that these two countries lagged behind the rest of Western Europe in their development until this century. The Jews that originated from Spain are also called "Sephardi" (from "Sepharad", the Hebrew name of Spain) while Jews from Eastern and Central Europe are called "Ashkenasi" (from "Ashkenas", an old Hebrew name for Germany).

On the three stamps of the sheet are parts of the map drawn by the Jewish cartographer Abraham Cresques, symbolizing the wandering of the Jews from Spain after the expulsion. Shown are, from left: the Iberian peninsula; southern Italy and Greece; the Holy Land and the eastern Mediterranean. Partly on the stamps and partly on the sheet are drawings depicting some of the occupations of the Spanish Jews, from left: a writer-philosopher; a doctor; an engineer;

The Order of Expulsion appears on the upper-left part of the sheet, and on the right part is the statue of the Maimonides, the philosopher and scientist who was the most famous of Spanish Jews. The statue is in Cordoba. On the background of the sheet is the Santa Maria La Blanca Synagogue, which was turned into a church after the expulsion. On the sides of the sheet are the national flag colours of Israel (blue-white, right) and Spain (red-yellow, left), which represent the current good relationships between the two countries. The wording "500 years since the expulsion of the Jews from Spain" appears above the stamps, in four languages: Hebrew, Spanish, English, and Ladino written in "Rashi" Hebrew letters. (Ladino is a language used by Sephardi Jews and it is a mixture of Spanish and Hebrew. Yiddish is a mixture of German and Hebrew which is used by Ashkenasi Jews).

The FDI postmark (#8 on p. 19) shows part of a decorated window of the Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue in Toledo, Spain.

MEMORIAL DAY 1992 85 ag.

This year's Memorial Day stamp is dedicated to the Frontier Guard.

The Frontier Guard was formed in 1950 as a branch of the Army, but in 1951 it was transferred to the Police. Because of the war situation between Israel and its neighbours, the responsibility for

the borders is primarily placed on the Army, while the Frontier Guard has many duties of internal policing and maintaining law and order. The Guard has remained military in character, and, being police, its members could operate in areas where the Army could not act. Since 1964 the Army has been sending recruits to the Guard to do their conscript service.

Throughout the years the Guard was entrusted with many duties, among them patrolling rural areas and protecting them from Arab infiltrators; keeping order in the Territories and the Arab areas of Jerusalem, and in Southern Lebanon during the Lebanon war; guarding ports, airports and other strategic sites; dispersing demonstrations; anti-terrorist fighting; assisting in searches for escaping criminals and missing persons.

The Frontier Guard is famous in that many of its men are from non-Jewish minority groups - Druze, Bedouins, Circassians.

The stamp shows the Frontier Guard memorial, off the Nahalal-Eiron Road, in the North of Israel. On the tab is the IDF emblem, and a deep-green rectangle, the Guard's colour. The IDF postmark (#5 on p. 19) depicts the Frontier Guard's emblem. The postmark was used in Lod, where the Guard's headquarters are located.

The Frontier Guard was the subject of a 1977 stamp honouring the Israel Police (Sc 644/SG 679).

**RABBI HAYYIM JOSEPH DAVID AZULAI - HIDA (1724-1806) 85 ag.**

The HIDA was born in Jerusalem, and from an early age he showed himself to have outstanding intellectual abilities, and was recognized as one of the most eminent Torah scholars of his time. At a young age he was a head of a yeshiva, a religious academy. When he was 30 he was appointed a rabbinical emissary and travelled overseas to raise funds for his community among the Jews of the Diaspora. His journeys brought him to Italy, Germany, Holland, England, France, Turkey, Egypt, and Tunisia.

The HIDA wrote 160 books on a variety of Jewish subjects. In his travels he sought out old books to study, and was the first Jewish scholar to examine the Hebrew manuscripts in the libraries of Italy and France.

The HIDA settled in Livorno, Italy, in 1778, and died there in 1806. In 1960 his remains were re-interred in Jerusalem.

The FDI postmark (#6 on p. 19) was used in Bat Yam, a twin town of Livorno. It shows the HIDA's signature.

**RABBI JOSEPH HAYYIM BEN ELIJAH (1834-1909) NIS 1.20**

Rabbi Joseph Hayyim was one of the great spiritual leaders of the Baghdad Jewish community in recent generations and made his mark on cultural and spiritual life. Like his father and grandfather, he was the leader of the Rabbis of Babylon (Iraq), from the age of 26.

Rabbi Hayyim's most famous book, on Jewish law, was called Ben Ish Hai ("Son of a Living Man") and was so popular that its author became known by the book's name.

The FDI postmark (#9 on P. 19) shows the Babylonian Jewry Museum in Or Yehuda.



For many years scholars (and Judaica collectors) are divided on the question of Columbus' Jewishness. Some are of the opinion that he was a Marrano (a Jew that was forced to convert to Catholicism), but today most scholars reject this theory.

What is not disputed is that Columbus used in his voyages navigational aids such as instruments, charts and scientific publications made by Jewish astronomers and cartographers. On the background of the stamp and the tab is a page from the "Almanach Perpetuum", compiled by the Jewish astronomer Abraham Zacut, a translated copy of which was carried by Columbus on his voyages. On the left part of the tab is an astrolabe. The ship on the stamp is a suggested reconstructed model of Columbus's ship from the National Maritime Museum, Haifa, as there is no direct evidence of its appearance.

The FDI postmark (#7 on p. 19) shows the Maritime Museum in Haifa and its emblem.

#### ARCHITECTURE IN ISRAEL (definitive series) NIS 1.60 Yohanan Ratner

Yohanan (Eugen) Ratner was born in 1891 in Odessa. During World War I he was an officer in the Russian Army and after the war he studied architecture in Germany. He came to Palestine in 1923, and combined his work as an architect with being a member of the Hagana underground's high command. Ratner is credited with the "Stockade and Tower" settlement method, used 1936-1945, which was based on erecting a settlement surrounded by a wooden stockade and tower overnight. The "Stockade and Tower" settlements were commemorated on two 1963 stamps (SG 255-6, Sc 235-6). With the establishment of the IDF in 1948 Ratner was among the founders of the Scince Corp, and later became the military attache in Moscow with the rank of brigadier-general. In 1951 he left the army and was appointed Professor of the Architecture Faculty at the Technion in Haifa.

The stamp shows the National Institutions Building, built between 1928 and 1932 in Jerusalem. It houses the offices of several Zionist organizations. On the stamp is a line drawing of part of the building. On the tab is an overall photograph of the building and the corner of King George V & Keren Kayemet streets. The photograph was taken many years ago. The FDI postmark (#10 on P. 19) shows the ground plans of the National Institutions Building.

2.6.92

#### ANEMONE NVI Pre-Stamped Envelope

The stamp indicium has a design similar to that of the Anemone NVI stamp issued 18.2.92, see ISRATHEME #6 p.14. There are no other illustrations on the PSE.

NVI PSE stamp indicium -->



## RABBI HAYYIM BENATAR (1696-1743) NIS 1.30

Rabbi Hayim Benatar was born in Sale, Morrocco, and his genius was recognized at an early age. He was one of the few rabbis to whom the people gave the title "The Holy One", and he was also known as "Or Ha-Hayim ("Light of Life"), the name of his famous book.

After suffering misfortune in his native Morrocco, Rabbi Hayim decided to settle in the Land of Israel. His journey was beset by extreme hardship until he reached Livorno, Italy, where he spent some time before going on to Jerusalem. Though he died less than a year after he came to Jerusalem, he became a popular legend. Rabbi Hayim wrote many books on many Jewish aspects.

The stamp shows the title page of "Or Ha-Hayim" book, and the FDI postmark shows the "Or Ha-Hayim" Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

## RABBI SHALOM SHARABI (1720-1777) NIS 3

Rabbi Shalom Sharabi was born in Sana, Yemen, and was one of the greatest exponents of the Kabbalah in recent generations. The Kabbalah - the corpus of Jewish mysticism - deals with the mysteries of the world in an attempt to understand the ways of the Creator through hints that are found in His various names, delving into the spiritual worlds, to understand terrestrial happenings. The most famous book associated with Kabbalah is the Zohar, and a kabbalist should also be familiar with the writings of the "Ari" - Rabbi Issac Luria of Sefad. Rabbi Luria was commemorated on a stamp in 1972, the 400th anniversary of his death (SG 532/Sc 494). But Rabbi Shalom Sharabi's great work, "Nehar Shalom" ("River of Peace), an annotated prayer book, also became an indispensable book for kabbalists.

As a young man he decided to leave Yemen and go to Palestine. His journey took him to Aden, Bombay, Baghdad and Damascus before arriving in Jerusalem, where he eventually became the head of Jerusalem kabbalists and head of the Bet-El Yeshiva.

The stamp shows an illustration of the Bet-El Yeshiva from the last century, and the FDI postmark shows a sketch of the Yeshiva as it looks today.

## 100 YEARS JAFFA - JERUSALEM RAILWAY LINE 85 ag, NIS 1, 1.30, 1.60, bklt

The idea of a railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem was first suggested in 1882, but it was inaugurated only in 1892, four years after the grant of the concession by the Ottoman Sultan. The financing came from a group of French investors, and the first locomotives and cars were American made, purchased from the De Leseps company after their failure in digging the Panama Canal. The railway was 87 km. long with a narrow gauge of 100 cm.

Before Independence, the railway network in this country developed as a result of a coincidental combination of strategic, religious and military motives. During the First World War, both the Turks and the British built all sorts of railway lines to help their forces. All of them were dismantled by the British after they took control of the country, and they introduced the standard gauge of 143.5 cm. During the British Mandate period the Palestine railway network was connected to those of the neighbouring countries - in the east, near the Lake of Galilee it linked to the Hejaz Railway (Damascus to Saudi



Arabia, built 1905), and the coastal line was a part of the Istanbul-Haifa-Cairo line, completed in 1943. All these connections were cut off in 1948.

In that year Israel Railways was established, and in 1988 it was combined with the sea ports in the Ports and Railway Authority. The armistice agreement with Jordan in March 1949 enabled the resumption of service to Jerusalem, as part of the line that was held by Jordan was transferred to Israel. (In fact, before 1967, in some places the tracks were just a few metres from the border!).

At present, the railway lines operating in Israel are 526 km long, and the total track length is about 700 km. Running on them are 55 diesel locomotives, 73 passenger cars and about 1400 freight carts of all types, which carried in 1991 2.9 million passengers and 7.7 million tonnes of freight. There are plans to complete the line to Eilat, and to develop suburban railway systems in the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas.

Previous appearances of trains on Israeli stamps include: a Mandate engine on the background of the 1966 Stamp Day 0.40 IL stamp (SG 350/Sc 331); Inauguration of Dimona-Oron Railway in the Negev, 1970 (train and camel, SG 441/Sc 411); Railway in the Holy Land set and souvenir sheet, 1977 (SG 685-MS689/Sc 674-677a).

Each of the four stamps (including the tabs) is divided into four parts, described from left to right, with engines on top and bottom. 85 ag.: a passenger train climbing the bends of the Soreq river on the way to Jerusalem; a diesel-electric locomotive of the type in service on the line today; greasing the wheels of a steam engine; part of a drawing of the "Baldwin" engine (made in USA, 1918); top: a modern American engine (3000 hp); bottom: an English steam engine (no. 70414), built in 1942 and put out of service in 1958.

NIS 1: a railroad layout map in Lod station; an electric signaling board in Tel Aviv Central Station; a mechanical signaling with semaphore arms in Lod station; a junction in Lod station; top: a steam engine (4-6-0), built in Scotland, 1935; bottom: one of the first engines to operate on the line (2-6-0);

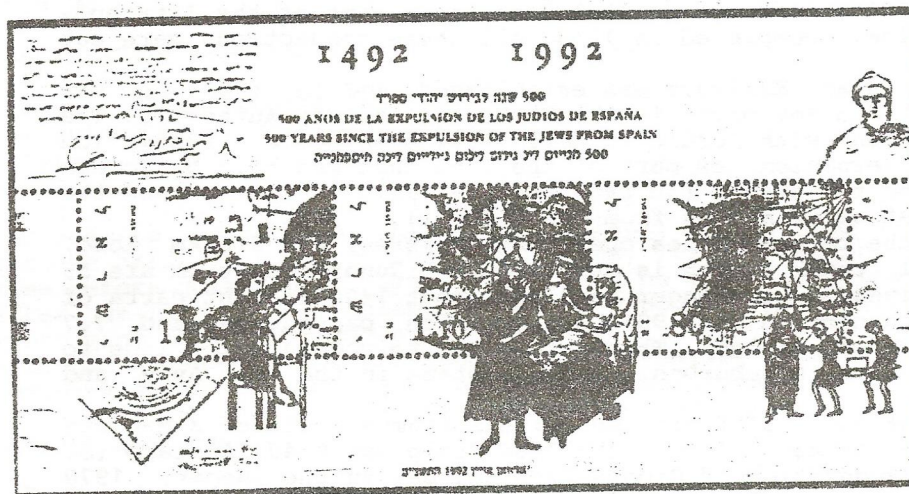
NIS 1.30: the interior of a passenger car; a renovated passenger car; a Mandate-period ticket for the Jaffa-Jerusalem line; part of the passenger timetable in English (1926, appears in Hebrew on the booklet cover); top: a modern diesel locomotive (2000 hp); below: a steam engine (0-6-0) and passenger cars that were built in England at the turn of the century.

NIS 1.60: a frontal drawing of the Jerusalem station; a covered platform at Lod station; the Jaffa railway station at the beginning of the century; Bar-Giora station; top: one of the 10 articulated railcar-sets which are due to arrive in Israel in 1992 (1584 hp); below: one of the 11 railcar-sets built in Germany in 1950's (1000 hp), which was taken out of service in the late '70's.

The FDI postmark shows an illustration of the Jaffa railway station in 1892.

The booklet has one pane which consists of the four stamps (without tabs), surrounded by a grey margin. The 85 ag and NIS 1 stamps are in one row which is *tete-beche* to the row of the NIS 1.30 & 1.60. The outer cover shows the cover of a 1926 time table of the Palestine Railways. (One side in English, one in Hebrew). The inner cover shows the timetable itself, of the Jaffa-Jerusalem line. Each side shows another direction of the line, both in Hebrew. The trip, by the way, took three hours. Today it takes about half that time (a trip by car or bus takes 45 minutes, traffic jams excluded).

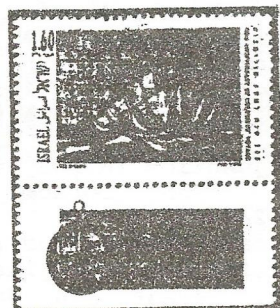




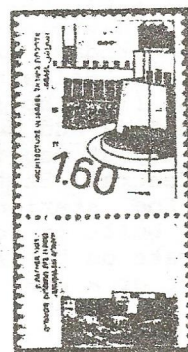
## 500 Years Since the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain.



1992 Memorial Day



Columbus' Voyage



Architecture



Rabbi Joseph Ben Elijah



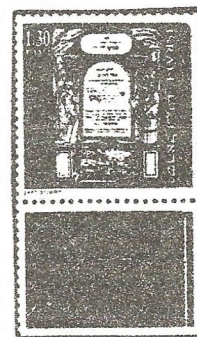
The HIDA



Rabbi Sharabi

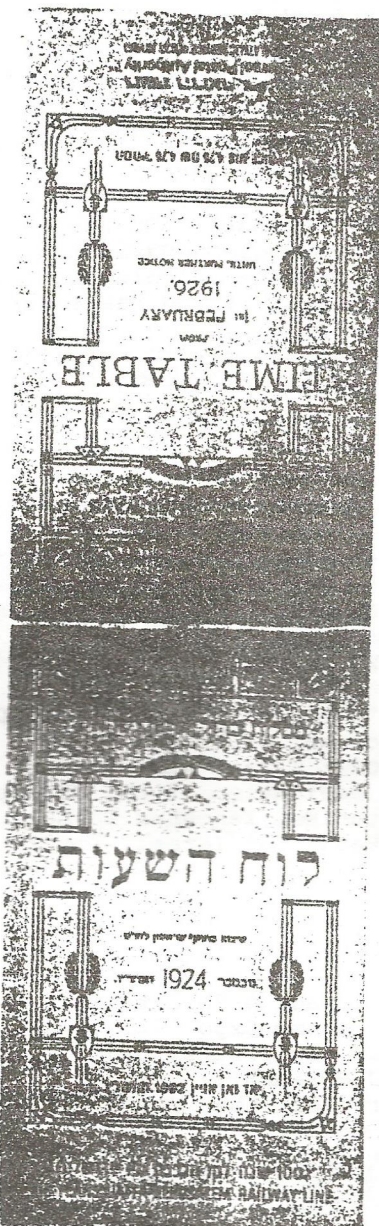
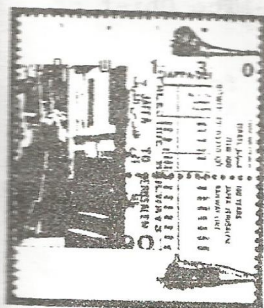
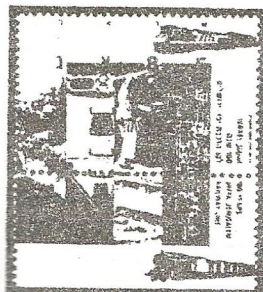


FDI Postmarks



Rabbi Benatar





booklet outer cover

שנת הולדת	שנת פטירה	שם	מקום קבורה
1810	1880	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1817	1917	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1864	1936	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1867	1947	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1870	1957	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1876	1956	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1873	1953	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1882	1952	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1893	1906	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1916	1911	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1929	1924	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1949	1948	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1920	1925	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1849	1944	יוסף	בית המנוחות
1913	1905	יוסף	בית המנוחות

[illegible]

booklet inner cover



Note: '\*' denotes a postmark used for FDC of stamps.

1. 25.3.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Israel's Philatelists Greetings to CANADA 92 Youth Exhibition.
2. 2.4.92 RAANANA: Raanana 70th Anniversary.
3. 7.4.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: "Yerid Hamizrah" [Orient Fair] 60th Anniv.
4. 19.4.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: "BULNOA" - Stamp Exhibition on Cinema, Tel Aviv Cinemateque.
- \*5. 26.4.92 LOD: Memorial Day - Frontier Guard.
- \*6. 26.4.92 BAT YAM: Rabbi Hayim Joseph David Azulai (HIDA).
- \*7. 26.4.92 HAIFA: 500th Anniversary of Columbus' Voyage.
- \*8. 26.4.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): 500 Years Since the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain.
- \*9. 26.4.92 OR YEHUDA: Rabbi Joseph Hayyim Ben Elijah.
- \*10. 26.4.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Architecture in Israel.
11. 29.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: 50 Years Since the Captivity of the Yishuv [Jewish Community] Volunteers During World War II
12. 30.4.92 LOHAME HAGETAOT: Heroes & Martyrs Day - 50 Years Since the Janusz Korczak Murder.
13. 3.5.92 ASHDOD: KKL/JNF 90th Anniversary Exhibition and Ashdod 35th Anniversary
14. 3.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: 50th Anniversary of the Association for the Soldiers.
15. 4.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Greetings to GRANADA 92 and FIP 61st Congress
16. 5.5.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Israel Postal Authority - 5 Years
17. 6.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: "With Compliments from IDF" - The Chief of Staff's Gifts for War Orphans 1992.
18. 7.5.92 BEN GURION AIRPORT: Israel Air Show.
19. 10.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Dedication of the CBI Center for Environmental Studies, Yehushua Gardens, Tel Aviv. ("Council for Beautiful Israel" logo)
20. 10.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Meeting of Pionki Survivors - 50 Years.
21. 11.5.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Israel National Day, International Exposition, Sevilla 1992.
22. 18.5.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): KKL/JNF 90th Anniversary World Gathering.
23. 22.5.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Israel's Philatelists Greet World Columbian Stamp Expo '92.
24. 28.5.92 CAESAREA: ROTARY District 2490 32rd District Conference.
25. 31.5.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" - 25th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem.







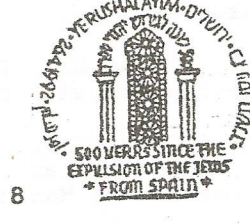
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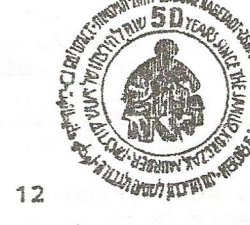
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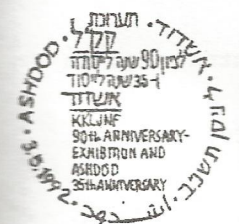
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## CONTACTS

- \* Mr. ZOHAR NOY, P.O. Box 62029, 61620 TEL AVIV, Israel, would like to correspond with collectors of Cinema.
- \* Mr. LUCIAN MILLIS, P.O. Box 183, 42101 NETANIA, ISRAEL, is looking for exchange partners in Australia, New Zealand and Austria who are interested in Maximum Cards, Postcards, Judaica.
- \* Mr. DOV TARGATSCH, 51/13 SHACHAL St., 93721 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, is a bird collector and is looking for correspondents world-wide.
- \* Mr. AIBY BRAKHA, HAPARDES 6A, 44258 KFAR SABA, ISRAEL, collects ROTARY, Kennedy, Folk-Dance, Computers, Heart, Dentistry.
- \* Mr. DAN FISCHER, 4 STRUCK St., 64042 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, is interested in Flowers in philately, and also the U.N. 1951-1980.
- \* Mr. MOSS FAIRMONT, P.O. Box 6729, 47166 RAMAT HASHARON, ISRAEL, collects UN Service and Military covers, UN Convention postmarks, and Service Mail world-wide.
- \* Mr. ELI EYAL, P.O. Box 1055, 88108 EILAT, ISRAEL, is interested in Energy, Ports, Computers.
- \* Mr. JORAM R. LUBIANKER, 40 HANAMAL St., 63506 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, wants to correspond with Chess collectors.
- \* Mr. ELI MUALEM, 101/49 BAR-YOHAI St., 93345 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, collects Pre-history, Primates, and Tropical Diseases. He offers Israeli stamps of all themes for material is the above themes.
- \* Dr. J. KOVETZ, 125 KATZENELSON Str., 53273 GIVATAYIM, ISRAEL, wants to exchange stamps of the following themes: Agriculture (all aspects), FAO, Petroleum, Maps, National Flags.
- \* Mr. JEHOSHUA MOSCOVICI, LEVANON 95, 69345 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, is interested in political personalities on stamps. He writes also in Russian and Romanian.
- \* Mr. AMATZIA KATZ, P.O. Box 2074, 76120 REHOVOT, ISRAEL, is a music collector and would like to exchange with other Music collectors.
- \* Dr. M. R. Gottlieb, 19 YEHUDA HANASSI St., 46448 HERZLIYYA, ISRAEL, is interested in Parrots, Horses, Dogs, Cats, Corals, Hands on stamps. He can writes also in Italian and Spanish.
- \* Dr. Dov Gavish, Dept. of Geography, The Hebrew University, 91905 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, collects Maps on stamp.
- \* Mr. NIR WINETROB, P.O. Box 229, 44284 ARIEL, ISRAEL, would like to correspond about Archaeology, Ancient Manuscripts, and Evidences of Jewish Life in the Diaspora, with people from Spain, England, Italy, Greece, India, Japan, South America.
- Mr. ERNEST SHCWARTZ, 12 HASHOSHANIM Str., 49450 PETAH TIQVA, ISRAEL, is interested in Computers and Mathematics.