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Holy Land VI Postal History 113-114

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



The trio of the earliest franked letters with stamps to Palestine
in the 1850's (page 428).

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation
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New Book

The longtime anticipated Part 2 of Volume II of the Series "The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel, 1948", has at last been published.

Like its predecessor, Part 1, it deals with the Postal History of the places in Israel which did not have a regular postal service during the war of Independence. Part 1, which dealt with Safad and Jerusalem, was published five years ago¹.

The New Book covers: Nahariya, Rishon Le Zion, The Negev Settlements, Sdom, Gush Etzion, Ben Shemen, Haifa "Messengers Mail" as well as, the Tiberias, Affula and Nahalal "Emergency Mail"

Another book in the Series, "Israel Foreign Postal Links" (Vol. III), is also available.

Apart from the New Book (II 2), the two other books of the Series are still available and a buyer of one of them (or both) will get a special discount for the New Book.

Each of the 3 books may be purchased by order through the post by a check to the Israeli Philatelic Federation addressed to POB 4523, Tel Aviv 61045 or directly to the Office of the Israeli Philatelic Federation, 2 Pinsker St. Tel Aviv

Prices are as follows (in NIS)

Vol II Part 1	200
Vol II Part 2	220 (the new book)
Vol III	100

Each of the two "old" books, if bought, awards an 20 NIS discount on the New Book. When ordering through the Post please add 10 NIS for postage.

¹ It was awarded a Gold Medal in Tel Aviv 2004 National Stamp Exhibition.

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Editorial

It is sometimes amazing how unexpected Philately can be. On the cover of our issue before last, number 109/110, a multi franked letter from Denmark to Palestine in 1860 is shown. It was thought that this letter is the earliest incoming letter to Palestine franked with stamps.

A few months later in our issue number 111/112 an incoming letter franked with stamps, sent in 1851 from England to Palestine i.e. about 9-10 years before the previous one was shown. Indeed it was thought that this one is unique.

Now two more franked letters with stamps sent from England to Palestine in 1854, from the same correspondence have emerged. Since the Editor thought that this is an unusual surprise, the front cover of this Bulletin and a short article are devoted to these three letters.

Given in the News section of the Bulletin is an extract about the new F.I.P Regulations appertaining to Postal History, which were presented in the last Philatelic Seminar in Sweden. The aim of these Regulations is to widen the scope and the definition of Postal History to include social, historical and operational aspects of the post, in addition to rates and routes. Postal ephemera would be a suitable candidate under the new Regulations and an article about the postal ephemera associated with the 1934 Middle East Trade Fair in Tel-Aviv is published in the Bulletin.

Mixed franking, in which regular stamps of two or more different countries or entities are affixed on the same cover, is an interesting and sometimes spectacular subject. In fact it could be a special subject to form a collection. Mixed franking in the Holy Land is discussed in an article that is illustrated with examples from various periods, starting with the Ottoman period, British Mandate, Transition and Doar Ivri periods.

The term Deltiology refers to the collecting of postcards. In the article: "The Use of Deltiology to Detect Postal History Forgeries" the author proves by the analysis of various types of postcards and the dates of their appearance, that a certain postcard from the Holy Land is a forgery.

The Transition period is an inexhaustible postal history research field. Articles about the Emergency Safad stamp issue and about the Hagana methods to deceive the British in the delivery of mail to Hagana commanders in Jerusalem in 1948 are described.

The year 2010 is at our door step. Unfortunately, because of the weak dollar in relation to the Shekel and the rising costs of printing and of mailing the Bulletins, we have no alternative but to raise the annual membership fees as of 2010 to: 140 shekel, 35 dollars and 30 euro. We hope that our members would understand.

With this issue requests for the payments of the 2010 membership fees are sent out. To ease payment and save banking charges it is possible to pay using PayPal.

The address is: Yanuki2001@yahoo.com The publication of the Bulletin is dependent on your dues. So please cooperate.

To Our Members And Their Families

We Wish A Happy Hanucah And

A Happy New Year

Letters to the Editor

Diamond rectangular mark – again

Following to the article "Mail contacts between Israel and the Arab countries-a summary", by Lawrence Fisher, published in HLPB bulletin number 109-110 and comments by Dr. Y. Wallach published in bulletin number 111-112, our member Deryl Kibbel sent us scans of the following two letters:



Fig. 1: The letter is from Kuwait to London where it apparently received the double diamond rectangular mark.



Fig. 2: A letter from a British service man stationed in Jordan to London, franked by a British stamp (as per regulations), canceled by a field post cancel; 10 October 58. Adjacent to the post mark the diamond rectangular mark.

The two letters are, as the ones shown in the article in HLP 109-110 and in HLP 111-112, from an Arab Middle East country to London or transit London. This however does not explain the reason for the diamond rectangular cachet, **and the riddle still persist.**

Lichtenstein-Palestine

Mike Brennen, a philatelic friend of the Editor sent the letter shown in Figure 3. The letter was sent from Lichtenstein to Bat-Yam Palestine canceled Vaduz 18.1.1940, i.e. during WWII. Consequently, it was censored and a red censor stripe was attached to it.

Mike thought that it is an interesting item because of the origin of the letter. Non philatelic letters from Lichtenstein to Palestine are not common.

The Editor thought likewise and chose to show it.



Fig. 3: Non-philatelic letter from Vaduz, Lichtenstein to Palestine 1940.

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Holy Land Forerunners – The Earliest Franked Incoming Letters.

Itamar Karpovsky, Tel Aviv

In the previous issue of the HLPB Bulletin (No. 111-112), a short note appeared on page 418, about the discovery of a franked letter sent to Jerusalem from England in MAY 1851.

This letter is now in my possession; consequently, I would like to expand the subject and to correct some of the mistakes which appeared in the aforementioned note.

Until the discovery of the letter (Fig. 1) in 2008, two other early franked letters addressed to Jerusalem existed. Both are dated 1854, and were sent from England and are from the same correspondence.



Fig. 1: 19.5.1851, the earliest recorded franked incoming letter to Palestine. Sent from Rugby England to the Lord Bishop in Jerusalem. Franked 1s. and 6d. to pay the postage for a letter not exceeding ½ ounce. Carried by British Packet via Southampton to Alexandria Egypt, then by French Paquebot to Jaffa.

The first one shown in Figure 2, is dated 1 September 1854, was considered the first incoming letter to Palestine until the letter shown in Figure 1 was discovered. It was sent from Darby, England to Jerusalem via Marseilles, transit Calais, Smyrna and Bayreuth, carried by a French Paquebot. It is franked by 2 shillings 2 pence, 1854 Queen Victoria stamp, paying the double letter rate to Palestine via Marseilles.



Fig. 2: 1.9.1854, letter from Darby England to Jerusalem franked 2s. and 2d. paying the double rate to Palestine via Marseilles. Very early franked letter to Palestine conveyed by a French paquebot.

The letter shown in Figure 3, dated 1st. November 1854, was posted at Darby England, franked 1 shilling and 3 pence, to pay the single letter rate to Palestine via Marseilles. The letter was carried by the French Paquebot ship "Lycurge", transit Smyrna and Bayreuth. Upon arrival it was cancelled with the "Jaffa" French Consular single line postmark, (the only one recorded so far with British stamps and the French "Jaffa" consular cachet).



Fig. 3: 1.11.1854, same correspondence, posted from Darby England to Jerusalem Palestine. Franked G.B. Queen Victoria 1s. 3d. to pay the single letter rate to Palestine via Marseilles. Conveyed by the French paquebot "Lycurge".

The newly discovered letter of 19 May 1851 (Fig. 1) is the earliest of the three It was sent from Rugby England, to the "Right Rev. Dr. Gobat, Lord Bishop, Jaffa-Jerusalem".

Dr. Samuel Gobat (1799-1879), was a Swiss Missionary who was nominated in 1841 by Queen Victoria as the Bishop for Jaffa and Jerusalem. The cover was disinfected against Cholera by two chisel slits, probably by the Malta Lazaret.

So far, this is not just the earliest franked incoming letter to Jerusalem but also the earliest one to the Holy Land

This discovery invalidates the discovery of the letter from Copenhagen to Jerusalem dating 1861, shown on the cover of HLPB Bulletin No. 109-110, as being the earliest franked letter to the Holy Land. Although, it is dated ten years later than the British ones, it is still the earliest known franked letter to the Holy Land from Denmark, (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4: 1861, triple weight letter from Copenhagen Denmark to Jerusalem Palestine franked 134 sk. with the Danish 1860 stamp issue. Conveyed via Marseilles and Trieste by a French paquebot.

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The Use of Deltiology to Detect Postal History Forgeries

R. Perry, U.S.A

In his novel 1984 George Orwell posited that "ignorance is bliss", however, for the collector of postal history material 'ignorance', can at times be costly.

A basic history of deltiology, the hobby of collecting postcards, can help the postal history collector to not only pin down dates of usage but more important alert him to possible forgeries and bogus items.

A prime example is the postcard shown in Figure 1. At first glance it looks like a perfect and beautiful cancel, the second Austrian Jaffa post office cancel, ST.523 (OR-302).

It is dated 14,?,1890 and cancels a Mi. #16, 20 para on 5 Kr. Austrian Levant stamp, issued in May 1888 and demonetized in June 1891, (Ferchenbouer,1990 Handbook).

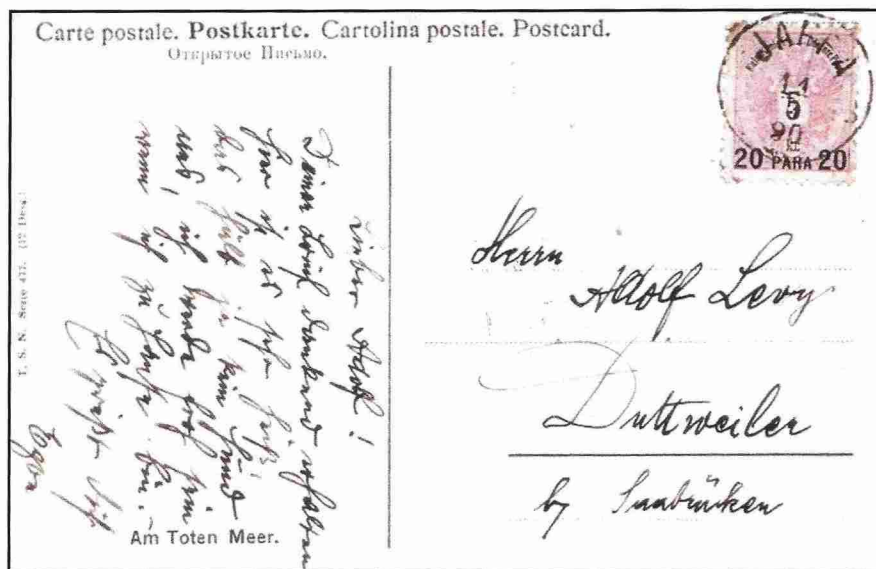
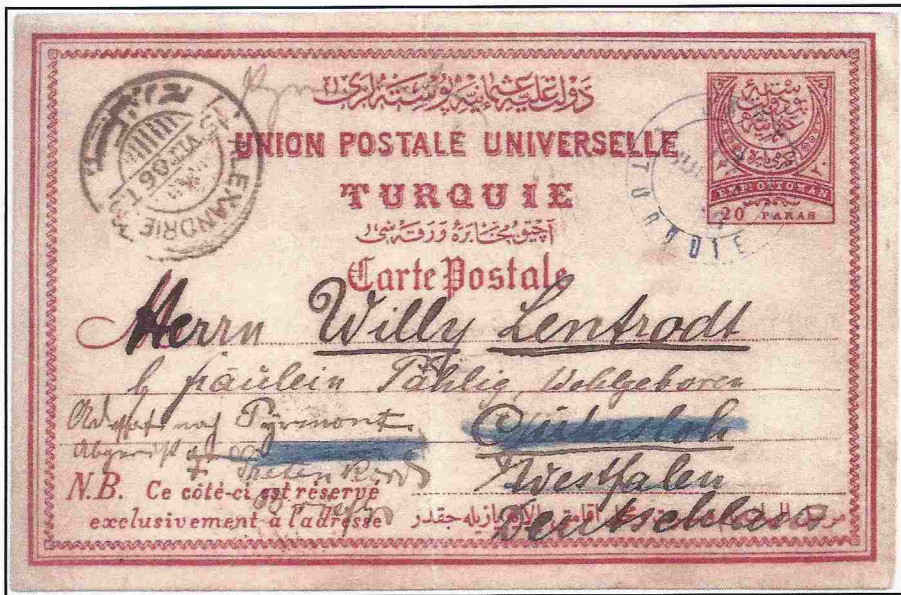


Fig 1: A 1906 divided back picture postcard franked with the 20 para on 5 Kr. Austrian Levant stamp, issued in May 1888 and demonetized in June 1891, canceled Jaffa 1890. AN ALMOST PERFECT FORGERY.

This item was recently sold for \$100.00 plus fees, in a known auction. Not a bad price for a semi-rare item in very good condition provided it is genuine.

Here is where some basic Deltiological knowledge can help.

Shown in Figure 2, is an Ottoman Empire 20 para postal card, mailed from Jaffa, to Germany via Alexandria, Austria was the first country to issue this type of card in 1873.



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The postal authorities, in each country, had an iron clad monopoly; no privately produced postcards were accepted. Then, in 1892, with the growth of tourism, the postal authorities decided to accept privately produced picture postcards.

The main characteristics of these cards were that the blank side, for writing, was replaced by a picture, a photo, a painting, in color or in black and white. The other side had no stamp and was allowed to have only lines, to write the address, (Fig.3)

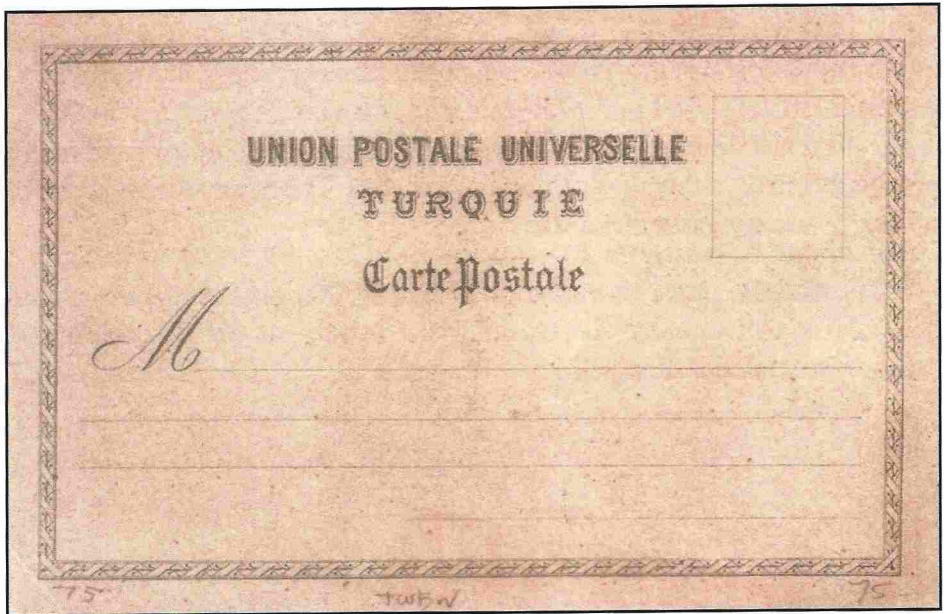


Fig. 3: a standard Undivided Back picture postcard.

These cards are known as UNDIVIDED BACK picture postcards, and the postage was half the rate of a postal card as long as the message was no more than five words, exclusive of the address and the name of the sender.

The first privately printed picture postcard appeared in 1892 and until 1897 most of them were of the "Gruss aus...." type, (Fig. 4) in either color or black and white.



Fig. 4: A typical "Gruss aus Haifa" picture postcard.

The earliest known Palestine postcard was published in 1892 by Philip Frey (Fig.5) and is known to have been mailed from Palestine in 1892.

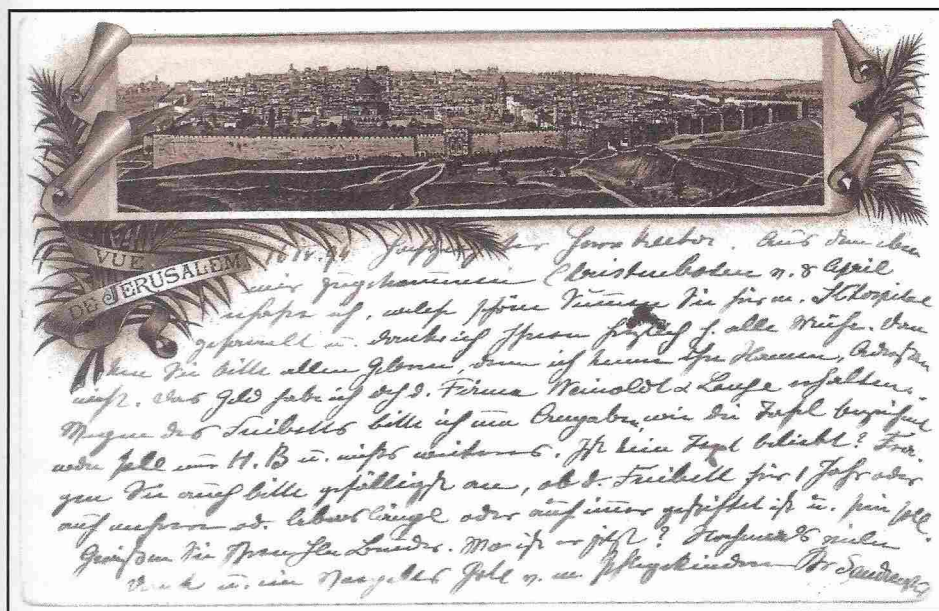


Fig. 5: The earliest 1892 Palestine postcard type.

Until 1906 the standard format of all post cards remained the same. That is a picture on one side, a "Gruss aus..." type, photo or an artistic drawing, and undivided back on the other side (Fig. 3).

By 1906 the rules changed again. The postal authorities allowed the publishers of postcards to divide the address side of the cards into two sections. One to be used to write the address and the other to write a message, this became what is known as a DIVIDED BACK card, (Figs. 6 and 7). The postage was the same, half rate if the message was less than five words



Fig. 6: A standard Divided Back postcard from Jaffa to Germany, 26.7.1910, rated 20 para. More than a 5 word message therefore, full postage rate.



Fig 7: A standard Divided Back postcard from Jaffa to Washington D.C. U.S.A, 4.5.1914, rated 10 para. less than a 5 word message therefore, half postage rate.

So why is the card in Figure 1 a fabrication?.

On close examination, we see on the left side the initials T.S.N. series 477 which indicates that the card was published by the Stroefel publishing co. of Nurnberg, Germany, and on the right side "Am Toten Meer" (the dead sea), describes the title of the picture.

In the middle we see an imprinted vertical line dividing the card into an address area and a message area, classifying it as a divided back card.

Moreover, Stroefel published this card in 1906.

What we have here is a cancel dated 1890, not known to be used later than 1896. A stamp which was demonetized in 1891, both tied to a picture postcard published in 1906.

It is a masterful fabrication. CAVEAT EMPTOR.

Postal Ephemera of the 1934 Levant Fair in Tel-Aviv

Arthur H. Groten M.D., U.S.A

In the course of collecting the philately of the Levant Fairs, I acquired a considerable amount of non-philatelic ephemera. Indeed, there is considerably more non-philatelic than philatelic material. Except for an article by Marvin Siegel in HLPH 79/80 (1999), virtually nothing has been written about the ephemera. This article will show some of the items that although are not purely postal history items have a bearing on the history of the post of the Fair or serve as a background to the postal arrangements in the Fair.

The complexity and context of the Fairs cannot be fully appreciated without awareness of the associated ephemera. The philatelic elements were part and parcel of an overall design scheme to project an image of the forward-looking Yishuv to the region and the world.

The Levant Fair was an international commercial fair held in Tel Aviv from 1924 onward. Its first exhibition was held at the Zionist Club on Rothschild Boulevard. From here, it traveled to the girls' school in Neveh Tzedek, on to the Ahad Ha'am School, and finally to a plot in the city's Neveh Sha'anani quarter. In Figure 1, a publicity postmark slogan for the Exhibition (Fair) to be held in Tel Aviv April 1929, on a postcard from Jerusalem to Washington, U.S.A, is shown. This exhibition took place in the Neveh Sha'anani quarter of Tel-Aviv.



The "flying Camel" Symbol of the Fair

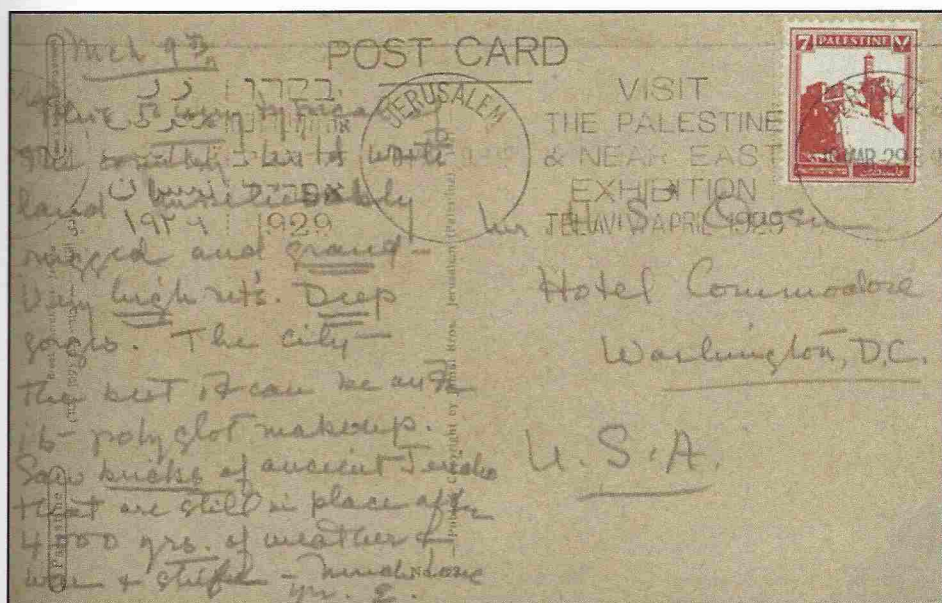


Fig.1: March 1929 postcard from Jerusalem to Washington, U.S.A with the slogan: " Visit the Palestine & Near East Exhibition Tel-Aviv April 1929".

At the end of the 1932 exhibition, which registered some 286,000 visitors, it became necessary to build a permanent home for the fair. The British Mandate authorities were enthusiastic and allocated a space on the Yarkon peninsula, then at the far end of Tel Aviv. A year later, the ceremony marking the laying of the cornerstone was held in the presence of the British high commissioner Arthur Wauchope, Tel Aviv mayor Meir Dizengoff and leaders of the Hebrew community. At the same time, the British began the groundwork for an airport in Lod, designed to serve the visitors.

The new Fair spread across ten dunams and in 1934 housed 1,225 exhibitors, including 821 foreign companies from 23 different countries.

In many respects, the Levant Fair was the closest model to the ideal of a modernist city with a palace, square, axes and a series of buildings in the international style. It was a complex that was disconnected from the city's physical needs and existed in its own right (Fig.2).



Fig. 2: The newly built Fairground in 1934.

At the inauguration ceremony, a play about the birth of the city was performed, which had been written for the occasion especially by writer and poet Emanuel Harusi, and the many guests were requested to adhere to the official dress code of the day, including a jacket.

Within a month and a half during 1934, 600,000 people visited the fair, which was deemed the fourth-largest of its kind in the world at the time. Publicity about the Fair included slogans on letters such as shown in Figure 3.



Fig. 3: 5 mil, pictorial tied by roller machine cancellation with 2 full slugs, 1 partial slug and full text in Hebrew, English & Arabic; " Visit the Levant Fair 26 Aprl-28 May 1934 Tel-Aviv" and showing the Flying Camel, the symbol of the Fair. Dated Jerusalem 29 May 34, addressed to Tel Aviv.

Beyond its architectural component, the Fair also had an important economic impact on Hebrew settlement, and was bestowed with political significance, too. Lebanon, for example, built an independent pavilion at the Fair's center; its facade was adorned by a colorful bas-relief of antiquities from Baalbek.

* * * * *

Two items of particular interest to the philatelist are: a letter (Fig. 4) and an official Post Office Notice (Fig. 5) both regarding the special 1934 Levant Fair post office. The letter was sent to the well-known British

dealer, George King, signed by G.H. Webster, the PMG of the Mandate. The Notice, which measures about 16"x 20" hung outside the Fair branch office, and naturally refers to postal matters.

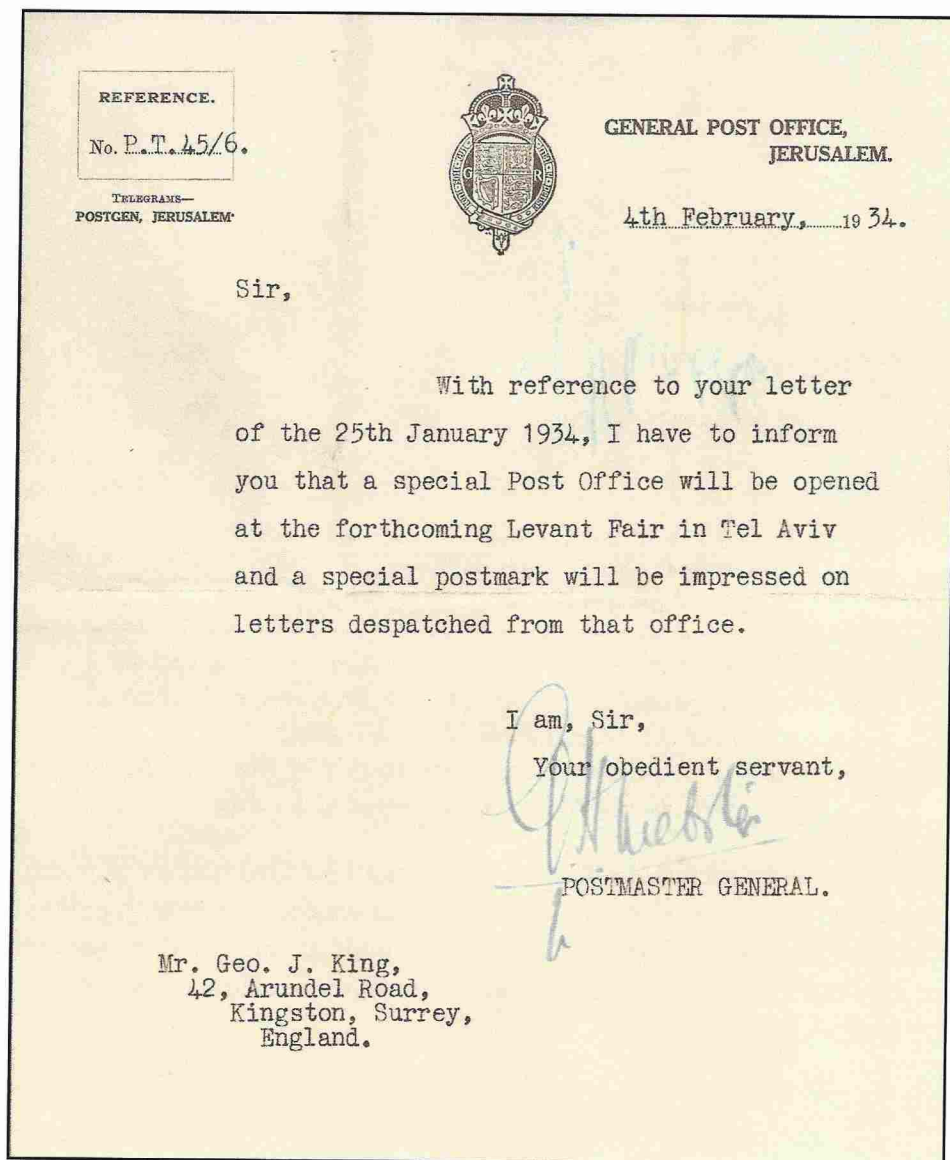


Fig. 4: The official letter from the Mandatory Post Master General about the opening of a post office at the Fair.

הודעה اعلان

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Some general comments are warranted. The vast majority of the ephemera are “official,” that is, created by the organizers or promoters to fill specific requirements in the promotional plan or Fair logistics. There were (very few) official envelope (Fig 6), some of which, reproducing several of the marvelous posters made for the Fairs. The posters themselves are outside the purview of this article. The vast majority of postcards were made for private profit



Fig. 6: Official envelope of the Fair with the "Flying Camel", the symbol of the Fairs.

The earliest official letterhead I have seen is the 1929 one shown in Siegel's; article nothing earlier has yet surfaced. The earliest official envelopes are from 1934. I show one used to Germany franked with a meter mark.

For the ephemera collector, postcards are proof that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Interestingly, most postcards of the Fairs are real-photo cards. This gives them much finer detail and a better sense of the place. The 1929 postcard (Fig. 7) shows the site for the Third through Fifth Fairs. Compare the size of the venue to that seen in the 1934 cards after the building of the new Fairground on the Yarkon River (Fig 2).



Fig. 7: The site for the Third through Fifth Fairs, (compare the size of the venue to that seen in the 1934 cards after the building of the new Fairground on the Yarkon River Fig. 2).



Fig.8 : Regular postage stamps were used at the fair for revenue stamps as shown in this receipt from 1932.

Following the 1932 Fair the "Flying Camel" its symbol appeared on letters of later years such as the letter from 1936 in Figure 9 below.



Fig. 9:1936, Express inland letter sent from the Fair bearing the "The Flying Camel" symbol.

The ephemera associated with the Fairs may be grouped as follows: official stationery, pamphlets etc, passes, tickets, receipts, postcards, and private company letterheads. This article presents those pieces of ephemera, that bear relation to the post and to postal matters.

Further details about additional ephemera groups are given in the monograph "The Flying Camel" by the Author, recently published by the SIP and available in both CD and print form. The Author welcomes correspondence at: P.O.Box 30, Fishkill, 12524 NY, USA or E-mail: artgroten@optonline.net.

Holy Land Mixed Franking

Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana

In philately, mixed franking is the occurrence of the stamps of more than one country on a single cover. Since nearly all countries of the world have agreed to deliver each other's mail, it is unusual to need more than the stamps of the originating country.

Before the advent of the Universal Postal Union in 1874, sending international mail was quite an adventure. It might have been necessary to affix the stamps of the destination country in addition to those of the originating one, and in the worst cases, of several other countries along the way. Sometimes the letter was held until the recipient brought stamps, these were affixed and cancelled, and the result handed to the recipient. Since this only happened during the first few decades of stamp usage, and only for the few letters that were sent great distances, few covers have survived.

Another form of mixed franking occurs in transitional periods, for instance during emergency periods, as a way to help the public use up the stamps of a defunct government, or involuntarily as a propaganda tool.

Mixed franking occurs as well, when regular stamps are used as postage due stamps. Most mixed franking during the pre U.P.U period were due to the need to pay the inland postage of the destination country, in the absence of postal agreements between the countries.

Illegitimate mixed franking occurs when a postal user adds another country's stamps to an envelope for philatelic purposes. Many countries' postal regulation require clerks to refuse to handle these, even if the correct postage of the country of origin is present, because they slow down the sorting process, but such covers can still sometimes get through the system.

Several interesting and rare franking items from the Holy Land are shown in the following pages.

MIXED FRANKING – AUSTRIAN POST IN THE HOLY LAND AND GREECE.

Addition of inland postage



Fig.1: 1864, Commercial letter from Acre posted at Haifa. Franked 20 Soldi Austrian Italy 1863 issue cancelled CAIFA 8/7, to pay the single letter rate to Greece port of entry at Syros. Upon arrival charged 20 Lepta Greek Large Hermes Stamp paying the inland postage rate to Patras. On the back of the cover: Syros 5th. July 1864 and Athens 6th. July 1864 transit and 8th. July Patars arrival postmarks.

MIXED FRANKING – AUSTRIAN POST IN THE HOLY LAND AND GREECE.

Addition of inland postage



Fig. 2: 1867, letter from Caiffa to Sira, franked 10 Soldi Austrian Italy 1867 stamp issue, to pay 10 soldi the reduced Lloyd Agenzia sea letter rate after 1866. and 20 soldi the rate Upon arrival in Greece, charged 20 Lepta (4 x 5) Greek Large Hermes Stamps paying the Greek border rate

MIXED FRANKING – OTTOMAN POST IN THE HOLY LAND AND GERMANY

Addition of postage for redirection



Fig. 3: 1890, postcard through the Ottoman post in Jerusalem, paying the correct rate of 20 para to Germany Bavaria where it was redirected, a 5 pfenning stamp was affixed and cancelled 28/10/1890 paying the German inland rate and further redirected to Firna where the arrival postmark 30/10/1890 was applied.

MIXED FRANKING – AUSTRIAN POST IN THE HOLY LAND AND ENGLAND

Addition of postage for redirection



Fig. 4: 1913 (?) registered letter from Jerusalem to England, franked with 2 piaster Austrian Levant 1908 stamp issue paying the postage rate to England, where it was redirected paying 2 penny (2x1) the British inland postage rate, with 1912 George V stamps.

MIXED FRANKING INCOMING MAIL-TRANSITION PERIOD



Fig. 5: 1920 Incoming letter to Jerusalem from Babtoma, Damascus, franked with two pictorial 2 mil on 5 para Turkish stamps and in addition 1 mil E.E.F, Egyptian Expeditionary Force (British) to complement the rate.

MIXED FRANKING INCOMING MAIL-DROP POST



Fig. 6: 1929, Zeppelin Orient Flight-Ramle Drop. Picture postcard franked by 1MK. German air mail stamp, tied by "on Board" postmark 25III 1929, and in addition with two 3 mil Palestine Mandate pictorial issue stamps, to assure delivery to Germany. Cancelled "ER Ramle" 26 March 1929.

MIXED FRANKING REGULAR STAMPS USED AS POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.



Fig. 7 : 1936, Under franked air cover from Rotterdam, Holland to Tel Aviv, pencil marked in Holland "T50" and upon arrival "T6 mil" tax paid by a pair of 3 mil Palestine Mandate pictorial definitive stamp issue, used as postage due stamps, canceled Tel-Aviv/Tel-Nordau 20 July 1936.

MIXED FRANKING TRANSITION PERIOD-LOCAL DELIVERY STAMP.

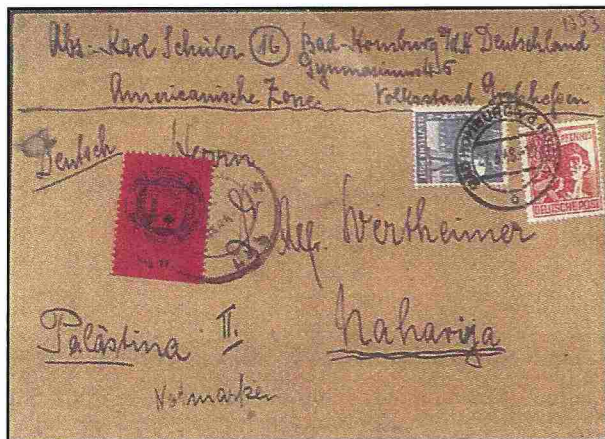


Fig. 8: 1948 March 27, surface cover from Bad Homburg, American Zone, Germany to Nahariya Palestine. Franked by two German stamps and by the local 11 mil Nahariya delivery stamp.

MIXED FRANKING TRANSITION PERIOD-MINHELET HA'AM

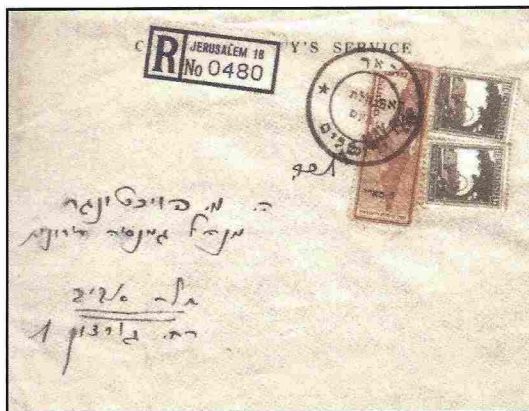


Fig. 9: 1948 13th. May, Rehavia B.P.O Jerusalem registered letter franked 25 mils mixed franking of Palestine Mandate Stamps and a Jerusalem local stamp. Minhelet Ha'am postmark. The letter is addressed to Tel-Aviv and was sent by the second convoy, June 21st. 1948.

MIXED FRANKING REGULAR STAMPS USED AS POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.



Fig. 10: Compulsory registration-2nd Period: 11/1948 cover from Washington D.C. to Tel-Aviv, opened by Customs and subject to Compulsory Registration. "Tel -Aviv 9" registry label, taxed double registry fee collected by 50 mil Doar Ivri definitive stamp tied by Tel-Aviv 29.12 1948 postmark. Doar Ivri regular stamp used as postage due stamp.

* Pictures: Itamar Karpovsky collection , Tsachor auctions catalogues, Bale book.

The Kaiser's Visit To The Holy Land. A Rare Double Rate Cover From Camp Imperial

R. Perry, U.S.A

Kaiser Wilhelm II came to the Holy Land in Oct. 1898 accompanied by a large entourage of nobles and dignitaries, who traveled with him from Haifa to Jaffa to Jerusalem and all over.

One of them was Professor Dr. Herman Josef Knackfuss, the Kaiser's favorite painter, who was the official Court Painter.

Knackfuss (1848-1915) was an Art Historian, a painter, a prolific writer, whose writings included books on Durer and Rembrandt. He was a professor of art history at the Art Academy of Cassel* in Cassel, Germany where he lived with his family.

In the Court he basically painted portraits of the nobility and thus did the same while accompanying the Kaiser in Palestine, making numerous sketches of the surroundings and people.

* * * * *

While in Palestine, Knackfuss mailed a letter to his wife in Cassel, the front and the back are pictured in (Fig.1 and Fig.2). The letter was overweight requiring double the postage of a regular letter, presumably because it held more than just a letter, probably a sketch of the Kaiser's overnight camp near Caesarea , as indicated by the hand written note on the back of the cover.

The cover (Fig.1), was mailed from the Camp Imperial Ottoman post office, which was in operation, in Jerusalem, only during the Kaiser's visit to Jerusalem from Oct. 29, to Nov.4, 1898. It has two very clear Camp Imperial cancels (ST.29/01, OR-104), tying four 20 para Turkish stamps, double the postal rate for a regular letter.

The letter was addressed to his wife Mrs. Knackfuss in Cassel*, Germany. The backside (Fig.2), shows a clear arrival cancel in Cassel* dated Nov.16, 1898 which places the mailing date from Jerusalem between Oct.30 and Nov.4.

Double franked Camp Imperial letters (not postcards) are rare, the more so when actually posted during the visit of the Keiser to Palestine, from his Camp

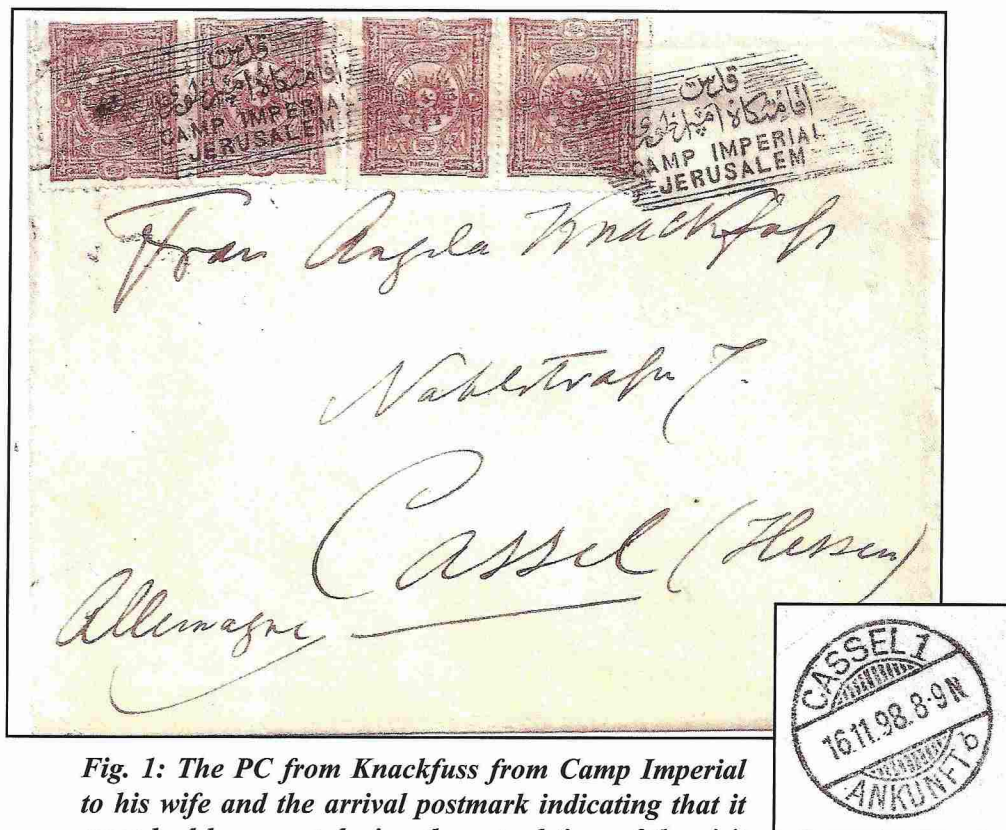


Fig. 1: The PC from Knackfuss from Camp Imperial to his wife and the arrival postmark indicating that it must had been sent during the actual time of the visit of the Kieser to the Holy Land.

* The spelling of Kassel with a "K" instead with a "C" was introduced in 1926.

Clandestine Hagana mail – Jerusalem 1948

Ehud Jungwirth & Zvi Aloni, Israel

The practice of using clandestine addresses and Forwarding Agents to collect and receive mail to be posted or distributed elsewhere is well known and documented in Postal History from pre-philatelic days until today. It usually occurred when there were no available regular mail services and an intermediary agent was needed. The agent would collect and forward the mail to a place from which it was possible to post. A well known case is "P.O.Box 506 Lisbon" that was used during WWII by Thomas Cook to send to and to receive mail from occupied Europe. Palestinians also used some addresses to communicate with Arab countries after June 1967.

In all those cases, it is the address which tells the story.

During the War of Independence, several voluntary civilian organizations were established, whose aim was to take care of the soldiers' needs. One of the essential needs was mail connection with the families during the war. These organizations arranged the collection of mail from soldiers serving in postal inaccessible places and found the ways to deliver it.

While it was common knowledge that there was no regular mail service to and from besieged Jerusalem, rumors made it known that sending mail to the forwarding addresses would finally reach its destination. All of these letters were flown by the Army from and to Jerusalem. The very few covers which survived tell the story of these organizations which tried to keep the mail connections functional with the soldiers at the front. There were two such organizations that we know about which were active during the Jerusalem siege; "Sa'ad-the Yeshuve Committee for soldiers welfare, Hadar House, Petach Tiqva Rd. Tel Aviv" referred by collectors as "room 305, Beit Hadar" and "Central Station, 2nd floor, room No 5".

A different story emanates from few covers which were mailed to soldiers in the Hagana "Etzioni Brigade" serving in Jerusalem area that were addressed to certain locations in Jerusalem. Despite being an underground "illegal" organization, the Hagana was preparing to become

the armed force of the future state. However, being an underground illegal organization with very limited mail services, letters had to be addressed in such a way as not to give away any military secrets to the British, and through them, to the Arabs.

The method of sending mail to soldiers of "Moriyah" and "Michmash" Hagana Battalions in Jerusalem was very simple. The letters destined for Haganah soldiers serving in Jerusalem sent from out of town were addressed to the civilian addresses of their commanding officers who were Jerusalem residents, however on the cover appeared the name of the soldier and the code name of his unit. This procedure probably started when the "Etzioni Brigade" was formed, at the end of 1947, and was in charge of the Jerusalem area. Unfortunately, we do not have Mandate covers to those addresses, (it is up to you, the readers to try to look for such). The covers shown here (Figs. 1&2), reached Jerusalem only after the siege was lifted, in the middle of June.

Ehud Jungwirth, the Co-Author of the article was at the time a soldier in the "Moriya Battalion", who collected such letters from these private addresses to be distributed to the Battalion soldiers.

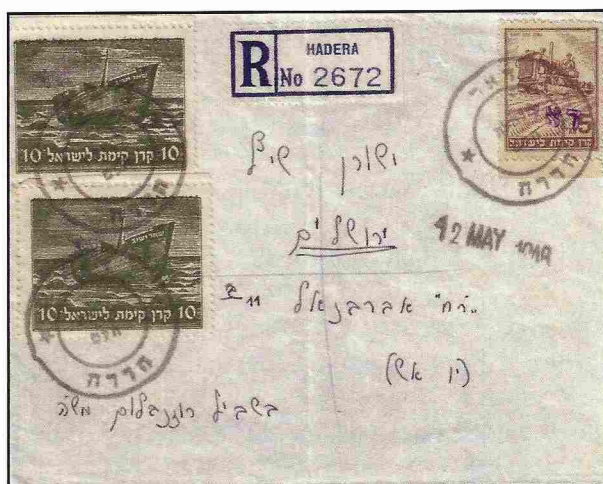


Fig. 1: Cover from Hadera sent during Minhelet Ha'am, 12 May 1948, addressed to Hagana soldier in Jerusalem, Rosenblum Mosh, mailed to the private civilian address of the commanding officer Yeshurun Shiff, in brackets (Yo'ash) the code name of "C. Company".

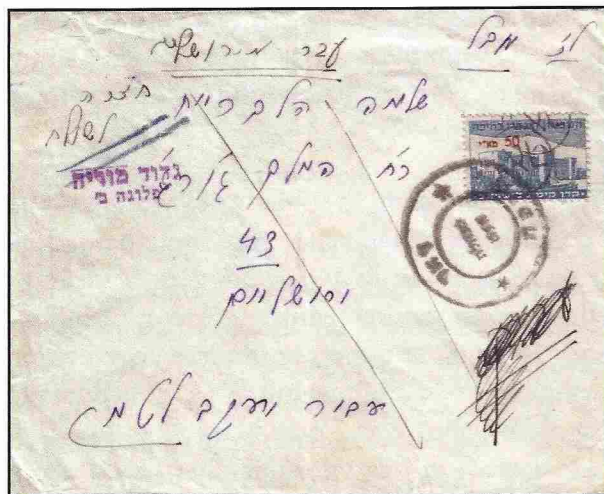


Fig. 2: Cover from Haifa sent during Minhelet Ha'am addressed to Hagana soldier in Jerusalem, Jacob Latman, mailed to the private address of the commanding officer HaimHalbrich. The soldier already left Jerusalem, and the letter was returned to the sender with "Moriyah Battalion-Company B" cachet, and a notation "return to the sender". The cover also bears the crossed-out remark "Arik" i.e. Deserter.

The following information about the acting persons and code names involved will clarify matters:

Yeshurun Shiff - was the Commanding Officer of the "Michmash Battalion" of the Haganah, stationed in the Jerusalem area.

Yo'ash - was the code name of the "C" Company of that battalion.

Haim Halbreich - was the Commanding Officer of a Company in "Moriyah Battalion" of the Haganah, stationed in the Jerusalem area.

Yuval - was the code name of the "D" Company of that battalion.

Partly published in "The Holy Land Philatelist" June/July 1959, 56/57 page 1178.

Short Notes And Discoveries

Safad 1948 – Local Emergency Issue, A New Discovery

Itamar Karpovsky, Tel Aviv

The Safad 1948 Local Emergency Stamp was issued under difficult conditions during the war of Independence, when the town was besieged by Arab irregulars and villagers from the surrounding area. The stamp was also issued in haste, nevertheless only few printing errors and flows have occurred during its production.

The errors which were found, were mainly perforation errors, or to be more accurate, missing of perforations on one side of the stamp. Franked letters with such stamps are extremely rare. An example is shown in Figure 1.

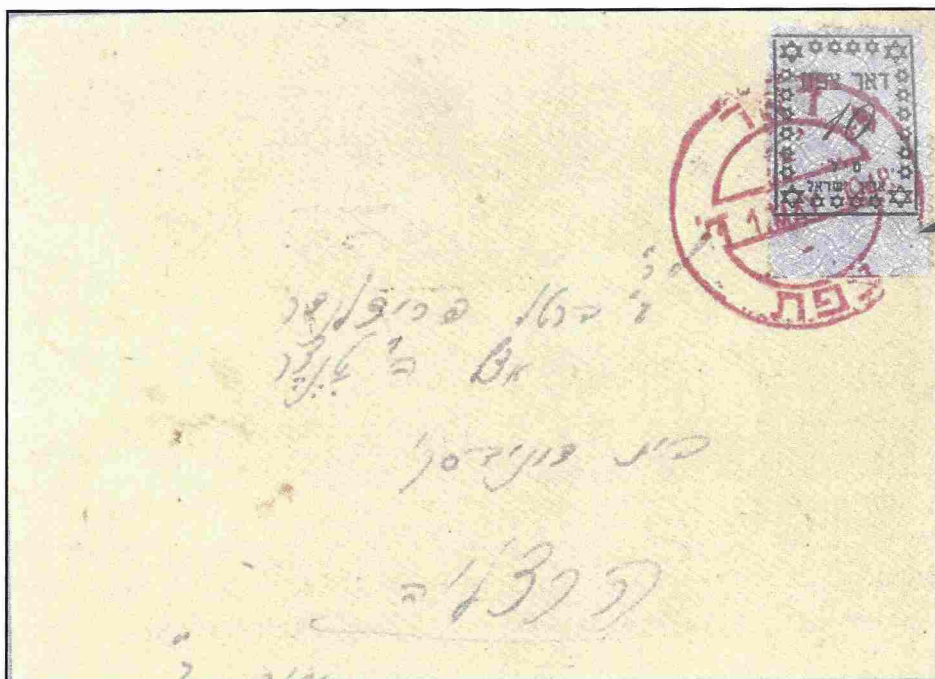


Fig. 1: Letter sent from Safad on 11 May 1948 to Hertzeliya, franked with the 1948 Safad stamp of the second setting type 6, imperforated at the lower margin.

In the research book "Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services during the Transition Period" published by our Society in 2004, the Authors claimed that to the best of their knowledge no completely imperforate Safad stamp, franking a letter has been recorded. Recently, such a letter franked **with a completely imperforated Safad stamp** has been discovered, as shown in Figure 2.



Fig. 2: Letter sent from Safad on 14 May 1948 to Tel-Aviv franked with the IMPERFORATED 1948 Safad stamp of the first setting type 3. The only recorded imperforate Safad stamp on a mailed cover sent from Safad.

The letter was sent from Safad to Tel-Aviv on the 14th. of May 1948, (the last day of the Safad local stamp was sold at the post counter). The sender is Mr. Meir Meiberg, the commander of the "Haganah" forces in the besieged city. As can be seen the letter is franked with a fully imperforated local stamp of the first setting type-3 and is tied to the cover by the local carmine Safad emergency postmark, type-B, of the same day.

The shape of the stamp, the name of the sender (holding the position of the "Haganah" commander in the city), and the fact that a stamp of the first setting, franked the relatively late letter of 14th. May, most probably indicate, that the stamp is a "cut-out" from some proof sheetlet.

An example of a unique proof sheetlet comprising of a block of six completely imperforated stamps in Tete-Bêche arrangement is shown in Figures 3&4. This block is printed on the original envelope paper, first setting types 1+2+3. It was struck by two strikes of three stamps having an horizontal shift between the two rows. The plate arrangement was rejected as it was not suitable for separation of single stamps by postal employees.

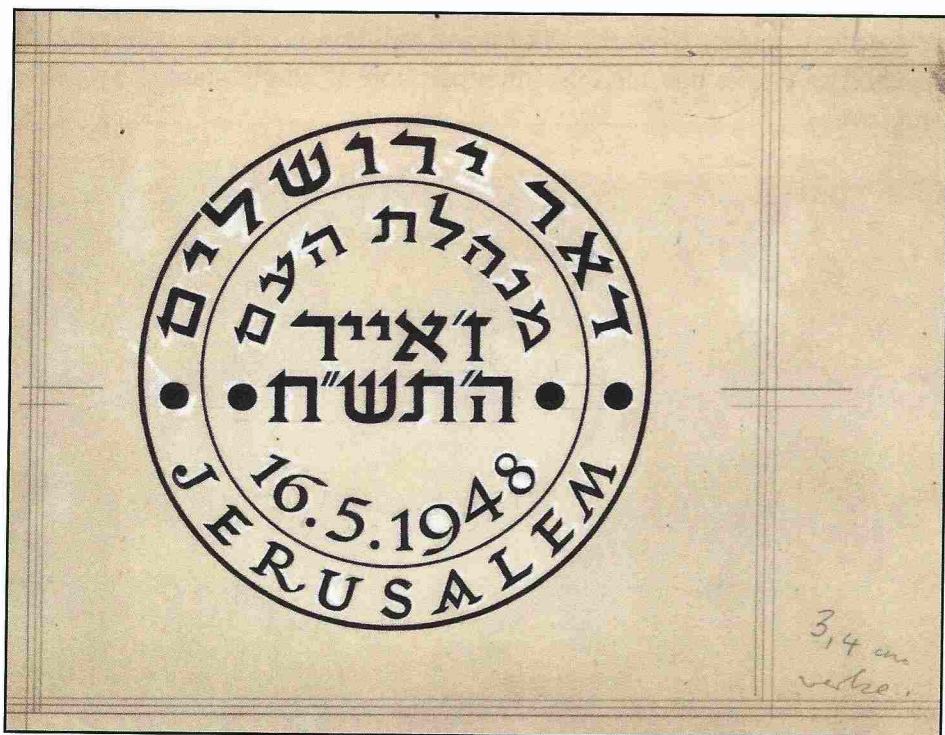


Figs. 3: The Tete-Bêche proof block of six fully imperforated 1948 Safad stamps. Strong offset on reverse. This block is the only one recorded. No doubt the letter is a major important discovery and a top rarity item of Safad 1948 postal history

Reference: Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period, by Zvi Shimony, Yeremiyahu Rimon, Itamar Karpovsky, published by the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel, 2004.

Original Drawing Of The 1948 Commemorative Postmark

In the last "Romano" stamp auction the following item appeared:



1948 The provisional government of Israel Commemorative pmk - original art work 'Minhelet Ha'am Doar Jerusalem 16.5.1948' (Ba. B-5). In black ink on yellowish card 20x15.5cm. design diameter 10.6cm. marked at bottom right 3.4cm - the actual size of this postmark, and an unidentified signature (artist unknown), framed by penciled lines, VF. certificate by Tsachor.

It would be interesting to know where such a significant item was hidden for 60 years.

Philatelic NEWS

Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana

About the new F.I.P Regulations for international Competitive Postal History.

A joint seminar on Postal History and Thematic Philately, by the F.I.P (Federation International de Philatelie) and the Swedish Philatelic Federation, took place in Malmo Sweden, between the 21st. and the 23rd. of August 2009.

One of the presentations was by Mr. Kurt Kimmel, RDP who is the Chairman of the F.I.P Commission for Postal History. He presented the purposes of the new F.I.P regulations for competitive international Postal History. The new regulations widen the scope of Postal History and are more liberal in the definition of Postal History. The summary of the presentation is given below.

Postal History was introduced as a new FIP class as late as in 1979. The regulations were very strict that caused some jurors to believe that only "rates and routes" is postal history. Marcophily, historical and regional exhibits were awarded lower rewards because they did not satisfy "the rates and routes" expectations. Mr. Kimmel meant that we had ended up in the extreme and that it was the wrong way to go.

Since 1998 there had been a request to include "Social philately" in the Postal History Class. Social Philately is very popular in Australia and New Zealand. It is obvious that these exhibits would contain more non-philatelic material than other areas in Postal History. Although it was allowed in the previous regulations, it was diluted with the stupid restriction "if absolutely necessary", which led to the mistaken believe that the inclusion of nonphilatelic material was not necessary or even forbidden. With the introduction of the new sub-class "Historic, Social and Special Studies" the non-philatelic material has to be related to the shown philatelic items and should not overwhelm the philatelic material. There is neither percentage nor a minimum or maximum amount of non-philatelic material in order to avoid jurors to have to count the percentage.

Postal History should be exhibited in such a way that it will neither degenerate into an unpleasant cheque book competition nor become a pure academic discipline. Therefore, there should not be a filling the pages with stories and text that nobody reads.

The flow of the story and the description of the shown material have to be concise and easy to understand. A clear plan and a well structured treatment would certainly achieve this.

* * * * *

First Annual Seminar (Eretz Israel postal history) in memory of The Late Zvi Alexander and Inauguration of the permanent exhibit of the Alexander Collection.



The First Annual Seminar (Eretz Israel postal history) in memory of The Late Zvi Alexander and the Inauguration of the permanent exhibit of the Alexander Collection took place on 29th. November 2009, at The Eretz Israel Museum In Tel-Aviv.

About 70 people assembled for the Seminar and the Ceremony including members of the Alexander family, many friends from the various venues of Zvi's life, starting with school days, followed by friends from the "Palmach" period, the Israeli Army, Governmental Oil Exploration Company, and by those who knew him during his activities as the owner of oil exploration companies. Present, of course, were many philatelists who enjoyed the company, the resourcefulness and the philatelic knowledge of Zvi during his life time.

Greetings were given by Dr. Tamari, Chairman of the Museum Board, by Mr. Yaron Razon, Director, Israeli Philatelic Service and by Dr. Shaula Alexander Yemini Zvi's Daughter. The speakers emphasized the importance of the collection to the Museum and its contribution to the promotion of philately, as well as, to the awareness about the connection of postal history with the history of the land.

They hoped that such a seminar would not be a one off occasion but would take place every year.



Fig. 1: A view to the Permanent Exhibit Room.

Dr. Shaula Alexander Yemini touched the personal points of her father's philatelic activities. Firstly, telling how he accidentally came to collecting. It was the result of an "after duty" discussion that he had with a fellow Army officer, who was a collector, while they were trying to hitchhike, from their camp in the north of Israel.

This followed by fascinating stories about his adventurous "hunting expeditions" after historic philatelic items. I knew Zvi and when listening to his daughter, I thought how well she presented her father's passion and love for his collection that stemmed from his love for Israel and for the history of the land.



Fig. 2: Dr. Shaula Alexander Yemini, telling about her father's philatelic activities.

Then Zvi Aloni the Curator of the Collection discussed Milestones in the postal history of the Holy Land by the presentation of unique and rare items of the collection. He emphasized particularly those letters, which were connected with the early Zionists settlements in Palestine, which Zvi Alexander specifically cherished. Letters/cards from the Bilueem movement settlers in Gedera, others from Hadera, Yavnieal, a card by Herzl to his wife Pauline when he prepared himself for the Zionist Congress. Naturally, other historical periods were covered as well, by highlights of important items from the Ottoman period; such as a letter sent in 1870's from the German Consulate in Jerusalem to the German Consulate in Jaffa, franked with Turkish stamps, canceled by the very rare box (square) ottoman Jerusalem postmark. A highlight from the Austrian foreign post office in Jaffa namely a registered letter to Singapore in 1903, rare letters from the German, Russian and French post offices in Palestine. WW1, Turkish, German Austrian and British field post letters, the British Mandate, letters associated with the illegal immigration period, the War of

Independence and the transition period. A fine comprehensive philatelic and historic presentation of the collection.



Fig. 2: An example of the arrangement of the Exhibit.

Professor Moti Golani from the Haifa University gave a talk about "The British, The United Nations, Jews and Arabs in a quadrangular encounter of faulty assessments during the last days of the British Mandate 1945-1948." He said that after the Second World War, England was in a serious economic situation and the internal balance of social and political power shifted to the Labour party and to the working classes. There was no longer a point to maintain the Empire. Affairs at the home country took priority, and with the unrest in many of the Colonies/Mandates, the Labor British Government decided as early as the end of 1945 to leave India, Palestine and other colonies/Mandates in Africa.

Palestine was specifically problematic, because of the permanent disagreement about the future of the country between the Arabs and the Jews, also certain disagreements with the Americans interests in the Middle caused by the "Cold War" with Russia.

The evening ended by a short inauguration ceremony of the collection when Mrs. Alexander Rachel, his daughter Shaula, and his grandchildren, cut the blue silken ribbon, which was attached to the entrance of the room in which the collection is housed and by this the permanent Zvi Alexander exhibit room was declared "open".



Fig. 3: The ceremonial cutting of the inauguration ribbon. In the center Mrs. Rachel Alexander, at right Dr. Shaula Alexander Yemini, at left Mr. Asher Yadlin, former Minister of Education, and Zvi's grandchildren. In the background Dr. Tamari, Chairman of the Museum Board.

The audience was then requested to view the collection.

For many of the guests who looked at the exhibits, it was their first opportunity to view unique items, which have seldom been exhibited before.

Thanks to Zvi Aloni, the curator of the Alexander Collection who successfully arranged the exhibits to reflect their historical significance, it was also an educational visit for many of us.

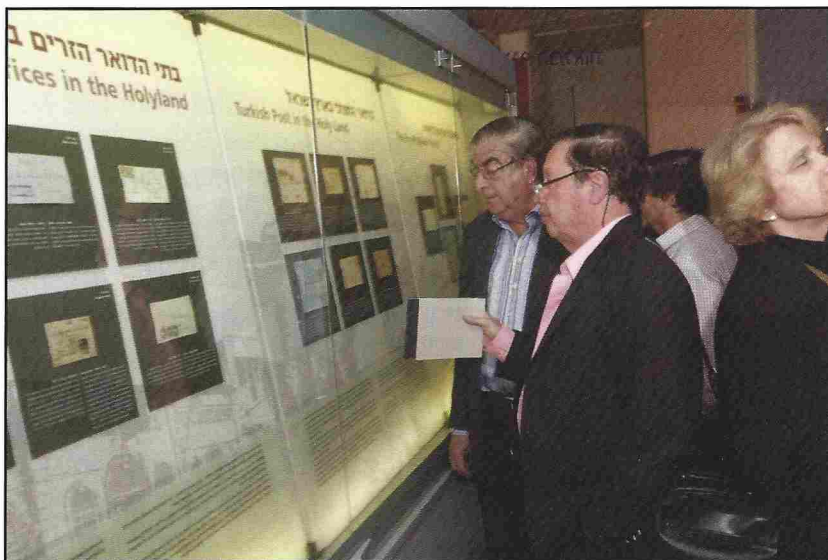


Fig. 4: Your Editor and the collector, philatelic reporter, Dr. Haim Galon admiring the Exhibit.

It was an interesting and enjoyable evening, well befitting of the occasion.

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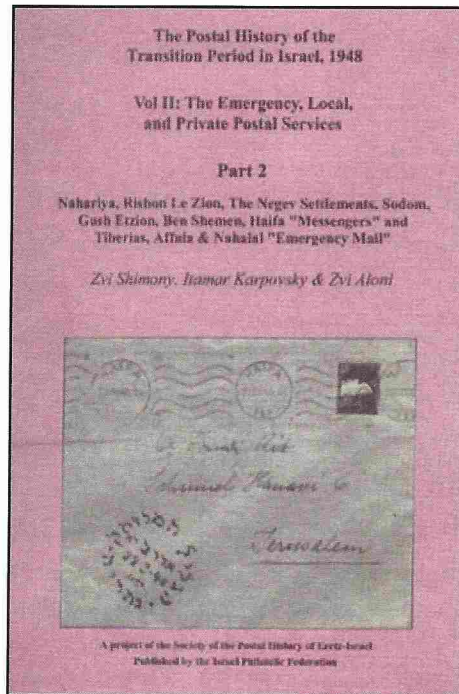
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New Book Reviews

***The Postal history of the Transition Period in Israel 1948 Vol. II: The
Emergency, Local, and Private Postal Services, Part2
By Zvi Shimony Itamar Karpovsky & Zvi Aloni***

Book Review by D. Chafez, U.S.A



Introduction

Holy Land collectors are very lucky because we have a wealth of scholarly books, monographs and journals published on all our areas of interest. In my opinion one of the most challenging and interesting areas is the period starting with the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947 partitioning Palestine into two states, Jewish and Arab.

This transition period saw the British Mandate end, the Minhelet Ha'am transition government begins and the creation of the State of Israel. The change was neither smooth nor easy because the British

closed post offices prior to the official termination date of May 14, 1948 and the Arabs began to cut the roads and ambushed convoys to various Jewish settlements, towns and cities. As a result, there were a number of communities that were isolated and besieged. To survive, they had to develop their own means for mail delivery.

This mail story has been somewhat told in various journal articles published over the years. But now for the first time, collectors can find the comprehensive story of this tumultuous postal period in two wonderful volumes.

In 2004, our Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel, an affiliate of the Israel Philatelic Federation, published the first part of the story, entitled: "Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period". This 440 page book dealt in great detail with the isolation and seige of Jerusalem and Safad.

To complete the story, Part 2 has just been published. The full color 291 page book is entitled: "Nahariya, Rishon Le Zion, The Negev Settlements, Sodom, Gush Etzion, Ben Shemen, Haifa Messengers and Tiberias, Affula & Nahalal Emergency Mail." As you can see by the title, it covers a large area in great depth.

The chapters discussing the various communities include a detailed history of the situation, illustrations of stamps and postmarks created and used as well as covers that were sent to or from the communities with or without stamps and/ or postmarks. In many cases, the covers are most elusive and require knowledge of the events of the time, location of people and military units and in some cases a knowledge of Hebrew.

What follows is a very brief summary of each situation.

Nahariya

Nahariya was a small Jewish community located on the Mediterranean shore of the Western Galilee, about 40 km north of Haifa. The U.N. partition plan of November 29, 1947 found the community and the rest of the settlements in the Western Galilee outside the borders of the proposed

Jewish state. The settlements were surrounded by hostile Arab villagers who were unwilling to accept the partition plan and began to harass Jewish traffic along the roads. As a result, Nahariya became isolated and resorted to the use of boats to deliver the mail to and from Haifa.

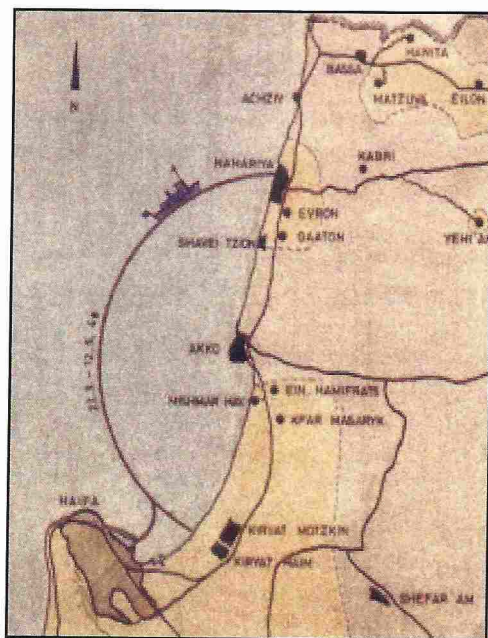


Fig.1: A map of Western Galilee and the connection of Nahariya – Haifa by sea.

Rishon Le Zion

The isolated community of Rishon Le Zion found another solution . Rishon is located 15 km southeast of the center of Tel Aviv not far from the Tel Aviv – Jerusalem road. Immediately following the U.N. Partition resolution, the Arabs in the region were unwilling to accept the decision and began to attack the Jewish road transportation.

Initially, the mail was carried in special steel-plated buses and trucks, but this proved to be too dangerous so an armored car was used as pictured on the stamp, (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: 7 April 1948, the "Armored Car" mail service cover from Rishon to Tel Aviv.

The philatelic stories of the Negev Settlements, Isolated Sodom and Besieged Gush Etzion and Ben Shemen are somewhat different that of Nahariya and Rishon.

Negev Settlements

The Negev Settlements were sparsely populated and spread over a wide area of the Negev desert. The settlements were attacked by the Egyptian army which was advancing on two fronts towards Tel Aviv along the coastal road and inland towards Jerusalem in the mountains.

On June 11, 1948 the Egyptians captured the entire line from Migdal on the coast to Hebron in the mountains thus effectively completing a land siege of the Negev.

In order to provide supplies, manpower and mail service to the settlements an Air Service was instigated. Since no special stamps or

postmarks were created, mail to and from the settlements during this period can only be identified by the few postal markings applied, personal recollection of the people involved and assumptions.

Eventually the military forces were involved and thus its postal service. This section includes tables listing all the various post office box numbers used by the different settlements in Tel Aviv and the military postal markings.

Sodom

Sodom is located at the southern end of the Dead Sea, and was mostly neglected by the Israeli Army General Headquarters because of the pressures of the war for survival on other vital fronts. Except for daily flights of supplies and the evacuation of non-combatant personnel, military action did not take place in the Sodom region. The harsh terrain in Sodom and the physical disconnect from the rest of the country made it necessary to send the outgoing mail by airplanes of the Air Service. The chapter illustrates a very small number of Sodom covers with military post office cancellations.

“Gush” Etzion

Gush Etzion was block of four settlements in a small region of the Judean Mountains about 20 km south of Jerusalem on the Jerusalem–Bethlehem–Hebron road. Beginning in December 1947, the “Gush” was the first Jewish region in Palestine to be placed under Arab siege. Regular contact by land was almost impossible and beginning on January 15, 1948, the supplies to the “Gush” were mainly by airdrops from light airplanes.

The “Gush” fought with much courage for about half a year, but after the intervention of the Jordanian army, the battle was lost. On May 14, 1948 the “Gush” finally surrendered. The chapter shows a number of covers sent to and from the “Gush” as well as some POW letters sent by survivors who were taken prisoner by the Jordanians.

Ben Shemen

Ben Shemen was a Jewish enclave in a hostile Arab area. It was a few kilometers northeast of the Arab towns of Ramle and Lydda and the Arab village of Beit Naballa. Because of its location, Ben Shemen was immediately cut off from the rest of the country when the U.N. partition of Palestine was announced.

During the siege Ben Shemen received supplies and mail by sporadic convoys and beginning in mid April by air. In May, refugees from Ben Shemen were transferred to a Ben Shemen camp "B" near Kfar Vitkin and a postal agency was opened. The Arab siege of the Lydda- Ramle sector was broken in July 1948. The chapter includes a number of covers sent to camp "B," a personally delivered letter, and military flown courier covers.

Haifa Messengers

The Messenger Service in Haifa is a slightly different story then that of the other communities. Since December 1947, there were many hostile incidents in Haifa which had a considerable Arab population. The Arabs who were favored by the British administration were scattered between the Jewish quarters.

The Arabs disturbed the Jewish population by trying to prevent regular communication between the quarters and by obstructing the daily commercial activity.

This difficult situation prompted a group of four men, at the end of January 1948, to organize a "Cooperative Delivery Group." It was named "The Messengers" and its purpose was to improve the postal communication for the Jewish population in the town. The group published circular outlining details of the service and produced stamps and handstamps to "cancel" the mail. Letter postal rates, based on zones, were either 15 or 20 mils. The service also provided parcel and registration service.

The Messengers were in existence between February 1 and May 10, 1948. It is estimated that the delivery service carried some 35,000 letters and parcels, Figure 3.

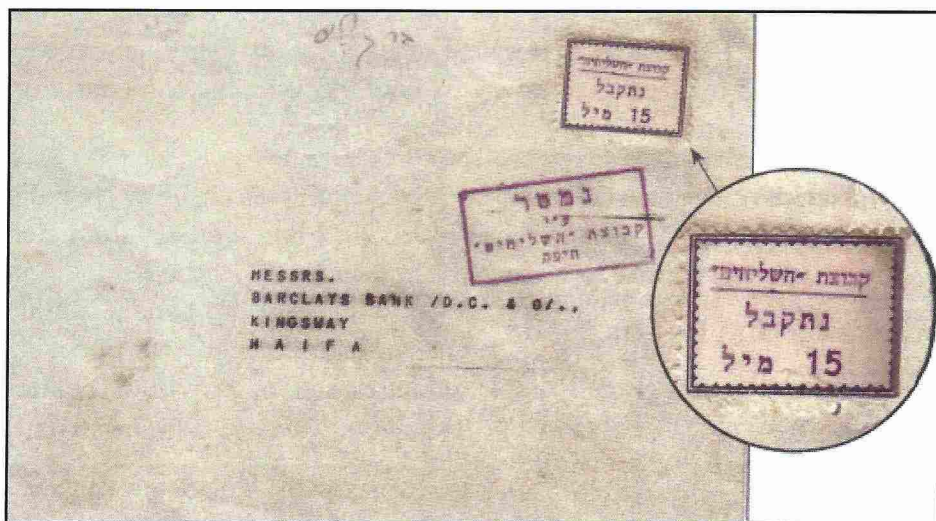


Fig. 3: A letter delivered by "The Messengers" in the same rate zone, franked 15mils, label with perpendicular corners and saw-like internal frame.

Tiberias, Affula and Nahalal

The final chapter deals with the "Emergency Mail" of Tiberias, Affula and Nahalal. This is probably the most contentious section since the "emergency" was not as great as the in the other communities. Tiberias is located on the Sea of Galilee while Affula and Nahalal are located in the Jezreal Valley. The three communities are in the northern section of Israel and relatively close to each other.

Tiberias experienced some fighting during mid-April but was soon liberated by the Palmach forces. The three communities post offices were fully operational by May 3, 1948. The idea of an "Emergency Mail" was conceived by the three Postmasters during the second half of April. They decided to continue to operate the post offices under the title of provisional local "Emergency Mail" although the action was unauthorized

and unofficial. The "Emergency" seems to have lasted from the last week of April until May 3–4.

The chapter concludes with the following statement and warning:

...the "Emergency Mail" services of Tiberias, Affula and Nahalal were not a necessity as in Safad, Jerusalem or Nahariya, but an unauthorized, unofficial, private enterprise initiated by the respective postmasters.

And the following caution:

...warning must be issued concerning "mint" stamps of the "Emergency Mail".... Most of the overprints on these Mandate stamps are fabrications made after the time in order to defraud collectors.

Conclusion

The book concludes with a Supplement to volume 1 in which several unrecorded items are shown. This is followed by a listing of Abbreviations and Acronyms, an Index and a color illustrated Catalogue of the Local Stamps during the Transition Period – 1948. The final table in the book is a Hebrew versus General Calendar March – July 1948.

The two volume set is highly recommended to anyone interested in the postal history of this very exciting historical period.

Visit The Alexander Museum of Postal History and
Philately at The Eretz Israel Museum in
Tel- Aviv.

On display are unique letters, stamps
and documents.

"The Doar Ivri issue - Printing and setting handbook"
By Capt. Yaacov Shabtai

Book Review by Eddie Leib, Kiryat Bialik.

This is a very well written and profusely illustrated, 160 pages, hard cover handbook, in which the most recent knowledge on all the printings of Israel's "classic" issue –the Doar Ivri issue, is presented.

The author sets the scene with detailed explanations of the composition of the plate block and tab row assemblies. Then in the main section of the book the printings of each value are described in detail, based on the control block composition and the tab row type settings. The different perforations, the variety of papers and the colors shades are also dealt with in the context of the printings.

The author, who collects Doar Ivri for 35 years, has meticulously surveyed every possible source of information. Many original new findings, the result of years of research are shown and discussed. **The result is an authoritative handbook.**

It is regrettable that the popular Bale numbering system could not be used due to lack of agreement with the publisher of the Bale catalogue. On the other hand, much consideration had been given to the layout of the book which is user friendly & practical, making information easy to access.

This important work is an absolute necessity for any Doar Ivri collector, and a nice addition to any philatelic bookshelf.

The book is available from the author at 7 Mavo Arie St., Ramat-Gan, 52453, Israel.

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