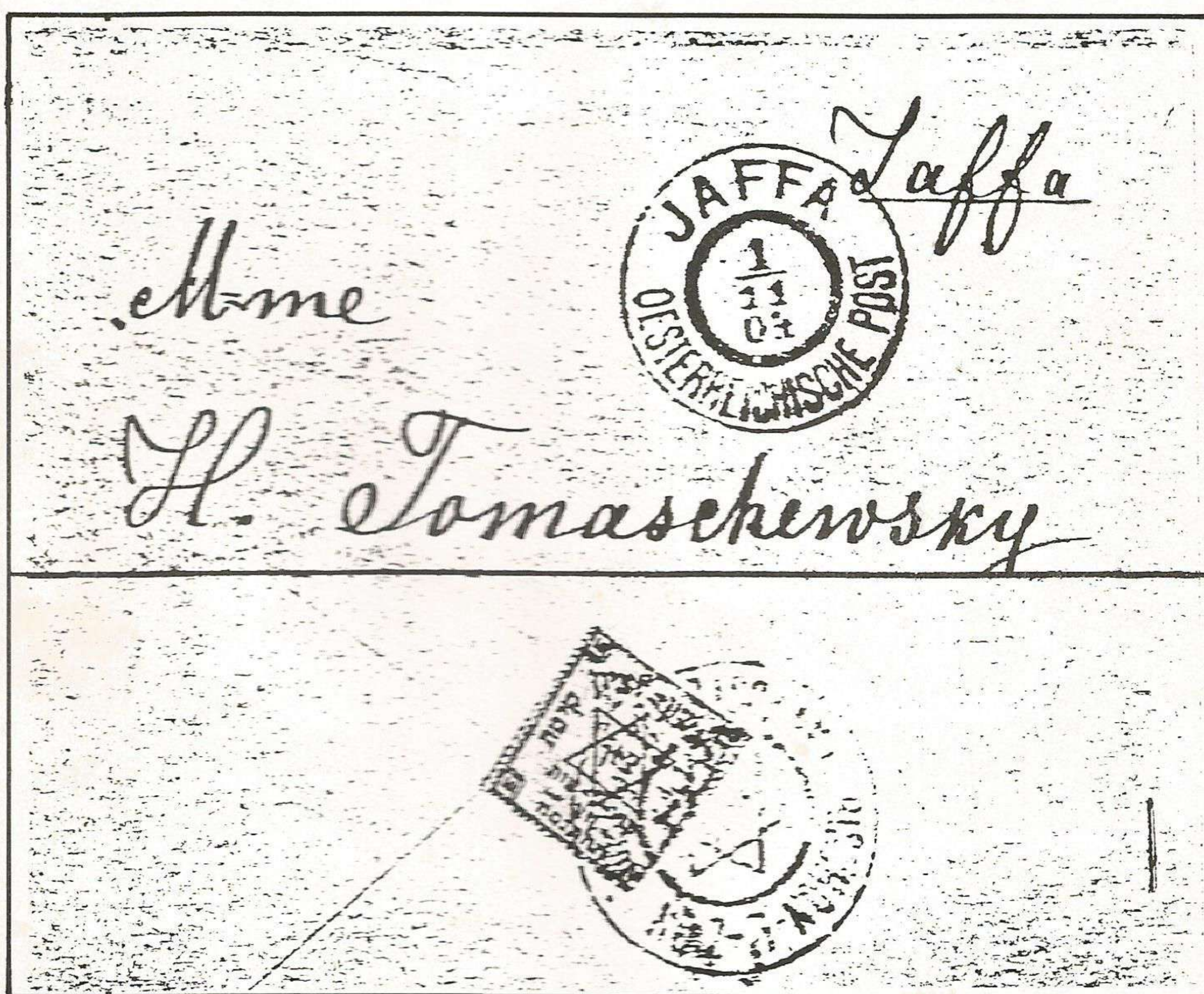


# Holy Land Postal History

12

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



"כול ראשון לציון" וחותמת סוכנות הדאר האוסטרי  
במושבה על גבה של מעטפה, שנשלחה ליפו ב-1904.  
"Rishon Le-Zion stamp" tied by the postmark  
of the Austrian postal agency of the colony  
to the back of a cover to Jaffa, 1904.

(See article on page 599)



AUTUMN 1982

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* H O L Y L A N D P O S T A L H I S T O R Y \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

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

Affiliated to the Federation of the Philatelic Societies in Israel

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Front cover illustration - courtesy H.G. Muentz.

Back cover illustration - courtesy Vienna's Postal Museum.



## EDITORIAL

## (The Proposed Postal Museum)

It has long been realized that a Postal Museum, containing items covering the Postal History and stamps of this area, is a very real necessity. Some material covering part of the areas to be represented has even been donated. Some years ago such a museum was in fact opened here in Jerusalem - there was even a special cancellation to commemorate the event - but it seems that the museum closed down or was closed after a relatively short time.

Some years ago members of the Society of Israel Philatelists began to plan a museum, mainly then in conjunction with the directorate of the Israel Museum. Plans were drawn up by an architect, agreement in principle was reached, monies collected and donations promised. Somehow or other, however, the enthusiasm died away, things were neglected, and the attitude of the Israel Museum also changed. In that period other buildings were designed and built so that today there are very small chances that such a building could be included in the mass of the various collections of the Israel Museum, mainly because of the extreme shortage of space available there.

This change in heart was discovered during the visit of the Chairman of the W.P.C., Mr. Vandervelde, during his visit here earlier this year. However, his subsequent meeting with the present Minister of Communications, Mr. Tzipori, was very positive, and indicated that for once we have a Minister of State who is positively in favour of such a Museum, and is prepared to help in founding one.

At a recent meeting of the Federation of Israel Philatelic Societies a sub-committee of three persons (Messrs. Shabtai, Shimony, and Slutzki) was appointed to study the subject. Quite apart from determining what happened in the past, that is, studying

the various plans made and correspondence exchanged, the committee was enjoined to pursue the planning of the proposed Museum. This could well be done by studying other, similar, museums in other parts of the world and then planning the conditions and requirements for our local scene. To this matter the committee would welcome any information that could be given it, concerning past discussions and correspondence. All such help will, of course, be acknowledged.

The matter of arranging the finances is not one of the objects as yet of the committee, but there is no doubt that it will become increasingly important as the group continue their work.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the proposed Museum could well include not only the generally accepted items of postal matter, that is stamps and postal history items, but also other postal items, e.g., post office boxes, documents, signs - who knows, perhaps even one of the old carriages that used to travel between the towns carrying mail....



Members are reminded that 1983 dues should be paid in January. This refers to all members, regardless of when the 1982 dues were paid, since all members are now updated to a full calendar's year. Members who received special debts' form for previous dues are requested to pay them promptly.

Some forms of payment will not be accepted anymore, since they are charged very high bank charges. These are, for instance: Euro-checks written in a currency other than your own currency (e.g. Eurocheck in US \$ (instead of D.M.) in Germany), bank transfer of money to a bank in Israel in which our Society does not have an account. If you want to use this method of transfer, it should be made to our Account No. 105-784451, Jerusalem Main Branch, The First International Bank of Israel. In any case, we advise our members to consult their own bank before sending their dues.

# LETTER BOXES AND POSTAL AGENCIES IN PALESTINE DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD\*

## Part Two

by Zeev Drach

### Austrian Postal Markings

After the German Post Office introduced letter collection boxes in and around Jerusalem, the Austrian authorities followed suit and installed their own yellow coloured boxes.



○ main post office

△ 1 Markovitch's Mail

△ 2 Mahase Yehuda

△ 3 Kanitzner Hotel

\*Reprinted from CAFIP Bulletins (1979/80) - Canadian Association for Israel Philately.

In the first part of this article, where the German postal markings were discussed, we described the purpose of mail boxes and outlined the procedure of their utilization. Much the same procedure was employed by the Austrian Post, except that the trip from Jerusalem to Jaffa was more frequent and occurred up to three times daily.

Although the number of Austrian mail boxes is not known, I was able to determine the location of three boxes in Jerusalem:

- 1) located in the Mahane Yehuda quarter;
- 2) located in a quarter known then as Mazkeret Moshe, opposite today's Mea Shearim; and
- 3) located at the Kamnitzer Hotel, which no longer exists.

The main post office was situated inside the Jaffa Gate.

Mail collected from the letter boxes received, upon arrival at the post office, an "Aus Jerusalem" cachet, in addition to the normal cancellation. During its existence, the Austrian Post Office used no less than four different "Aus Jerusalem" cachets. These markings did not correspond to different mail boxes, neither did they replace one another.

#### 10. "Aus Jerusalem Österr. Post"

This rectangular cachet, with its corners rounded off, is not as scarce as the rest. It is black in colour, the entire inscription in capital letters, and "Österr. Post" is serified.



*van*

11. "Aus Jerusalem Oesterr. - Post"

A violet, rectangular cachet, with a dividing line across the middle. The entire inscription is in capital letters, but sans-serif. Note the different punctuation and spelling of the word "Oesterr".



12. "Aus Jerusalem Oesterr Post"

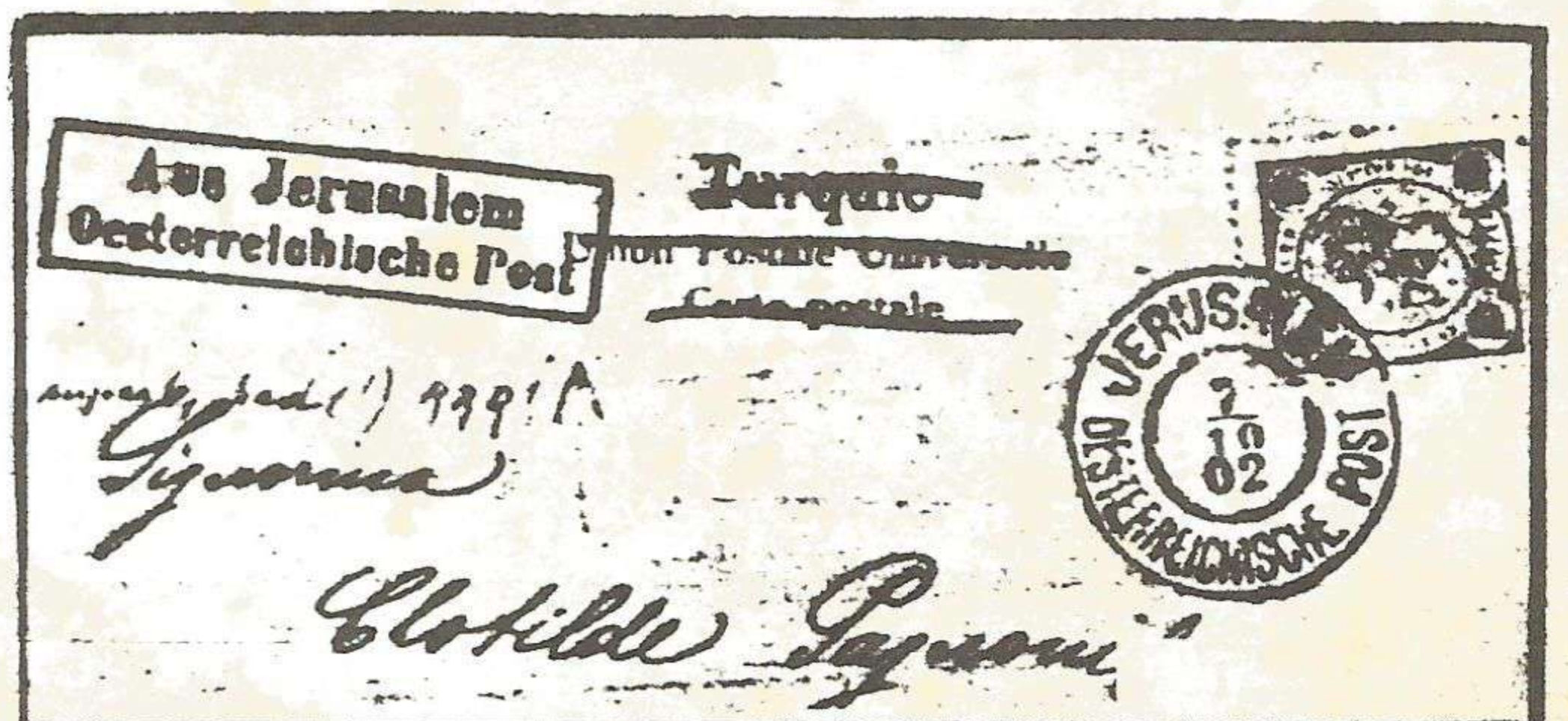
Another violet, split rectangle-type cachet, but here only the first letters are capitalized. The outer frame consists of much heavier lines. This marking is also known in grey-blue.



13. "Aus Jerusalem Oesterreichische Post"

Mr. F.W. Pollack (THLP No. 1 (1954), p.21),

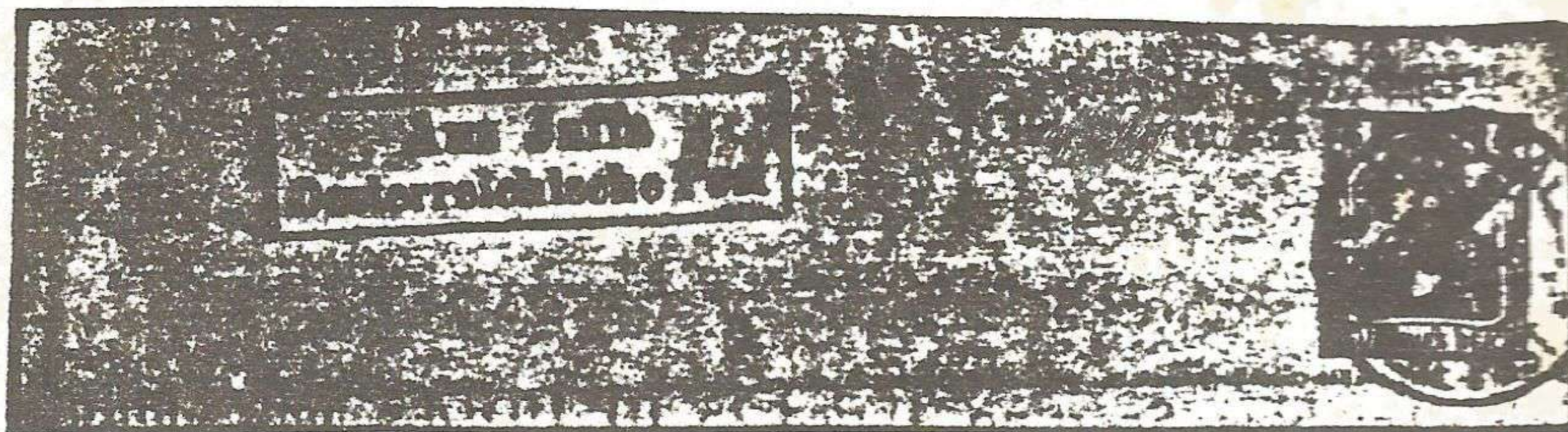
describes this cachet as black in colour. However, I have seen this cachet also in red, and in black with red highlights, evidence of previous use of red ink.



Bold, lower case letters are used in this mark and no short form is used for the word "Oesterreichische".

#### 14. "Aus Jaffa Oesterreichische Post"

Unlike its Jerusalem counterpart, there exist only one type of "Aus Jaffa" handstamp. The one I have seen is red, and similar in design to the "Aus Jerusalem" described in §13.



#### 15. "Nazareth"

This violet, hand-set obliterator is very rare, especially on a complete cover. Very little is known about it except that it appears in conjunction with the Austrian Caifa cancellation.

The stamps, most likely, were "overprinted" in Nazareth, in what could have been an Austrian sub-agency of some sort. The overprint also included the date of dispatch, which appears over or under the name of the town. Since the closest Austrian post office was in Haifa, it was there that the mail was carried to, and received the proper obliteration. The dates shown on the figure above would support this theory, since the Nazareth obliteration is dated April 11, 1907, and the Caifa cancellation is of April 12, 1907.



Whether this strange handstamp is of private origin, or with some sort of official status is an enigma.

#### 16. "NAZARETH"

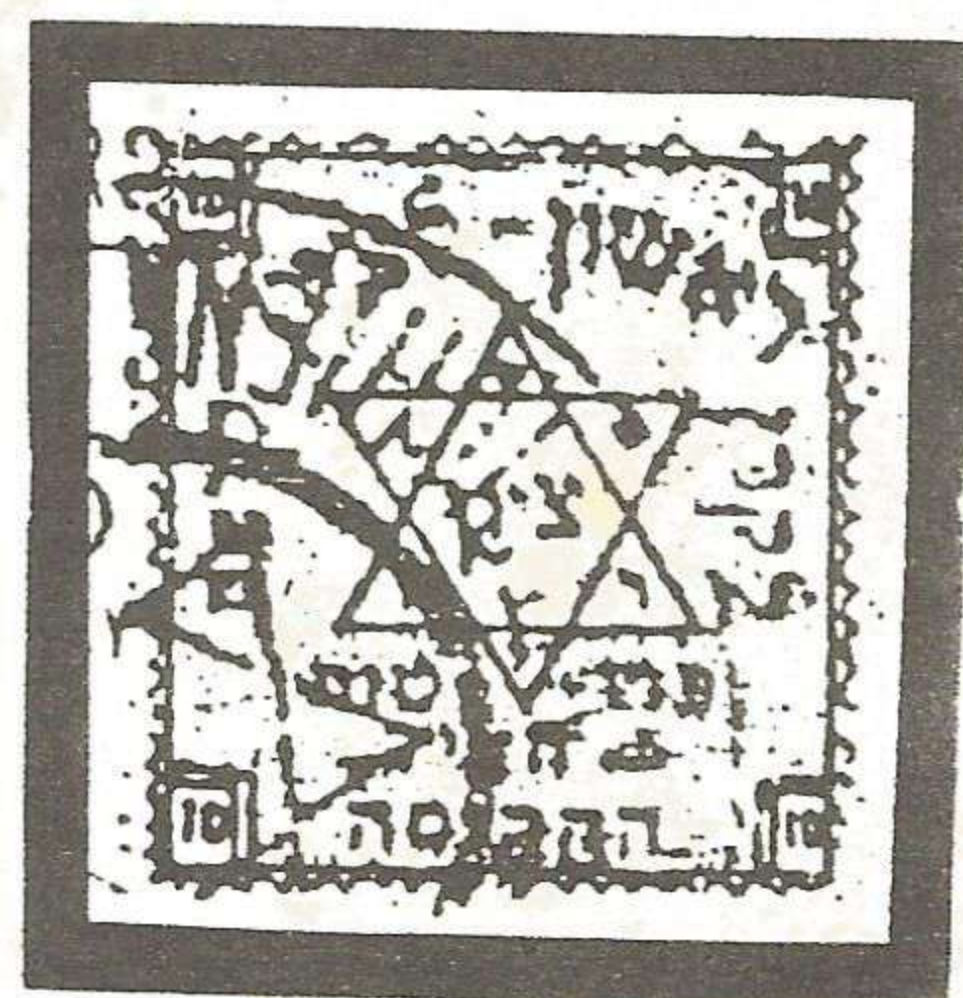
A second type of the Nazareth obliterator, this time in capital letters, is shown here on a pair of mint stamps. This is further indication that it was applied in Nazareth; no other town had of course any reason to overprint the stamps thus. The accompanying date, in this case, is February 24, 1908.



### 17. Rishon LeZion Stamp

For a certain period, the Austrian administration consented to deliver inland mail free of charge, providing that the Jewish population would use the Austrian Post for all overseas mail. This is why we sometimes find inland mail without any stamps whatsoever. At a later date the Austrian Post went even one step further and sold J.N.F. labels over the counter! These labels, purchased by whoever desired them, were to be affixed to the letter, and the Austrian Post Office forwarded the revenue to the J.N.F.! No other stamps were necessary. However, such letters are extremely rare!

Of the J.N.F. labels used, one was especially made for the Rishon LeZion post office. That "stamp" is similar in design to the very early so called "J.N.F. Zion Labels". It is blue in colour, a Star of David in the middle, with the word "Zion" in its centre. It has a marked value "10" in all four corners, the word "Prutot"



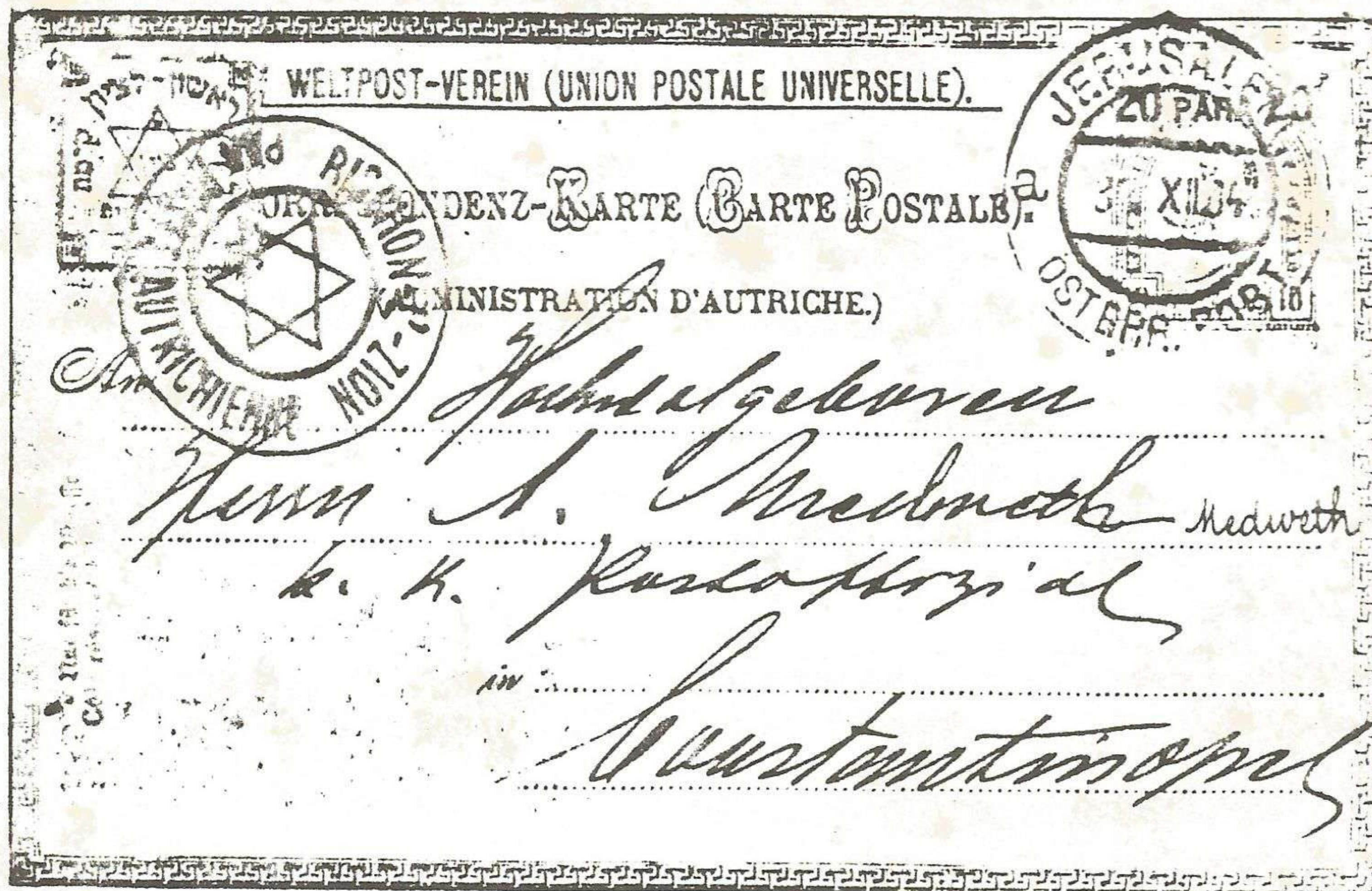
under the Star of David and Rishon LeZion above it. In addition it bears the inscription: "Half the revenue to the National Fund". Simulated perforations are printed on the stamp.

These labels (Kaplove No. 4) were issued in 1903 by the Head Office in Vienna, but are found on Rishon LeZion mail dated 31st December 1904 only! The only known examples are on postcards, and always in addition to properly cancelled Austrian stamps.

### 18. "Rischoon - L' - Zion Par Poste Autrichienne"

Some of the Rishon mail has a special double ring undated postmark, with a Star of David in the centre. This postmark usually appears on mail in addition to the regular Austrian cancellation.

The Holy Land Philatelist offers the following reservation related to this subject: "Whether the Rishon le Zion sub-agency of the Austrian Post was actually an official establishment is not certain yet". Be that as it may, such agency did operate, undoubtedly with the knowledge of the Austrian administration, and most likely with their approval.



### 19. Hebrew Rishon Postmark

A second type of a special postmark in use at the Rishon post is even rarer than the first. The double ring cancellation is in Hebrew only and it reads: "Austrian Post: Rishon LeZion".



### 20. "Richon Le Sion Par Poste Autrich"

A third, more elaborate type of a Rishon postmark is also known. It is a triple circle undated cancellation. In the inner circle, but not centered, is a "double line" Star of David with the Hebrew word "Zion" in the centre, and Rishon LeZion underneath it, in Hebrew as well. Note the different



spelling of Richon Le Sion compared to the previous type No. 18.

In the above illustration, taken from *The Holy Land Philatelist*, note a second, small, Zion Label in addition to the Herzl label. This however, is not the Rishon label.

## 21. "Rishon Le Sion"

A fourth type of the Rishon cancellation is illustrated here. This is the only example I have seen, and it is being used here as a receiving postmark. Again, it is a triple circle with a Star of David in the centre, but no mention of the Austrian Post Office!



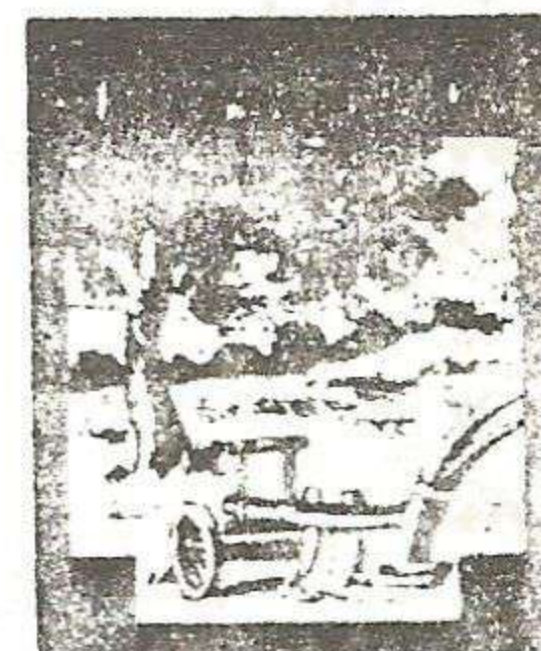
## 22. The Petah Tikva Stamp

Much the same story is true for this colony as well. Petah Tikva, the "Mother of Jewish Settlements", also claims the honour of having issued the first Hebrew postage stamps in Palestine!

Until 1908, Petah Tikva had no post office at all. Letters to the town went as far as Jaffa and then by courier to Petah Tikva. In 1909 an agreement was reached with the Austrian Post Office on the following terms: The Local Council would issue local stamps of 14 para each. Affixing these stamps was to be obligatory on all inland mail sent from Petah Tikva, and the Austrian Post Office undertook to deliver such letters free of additional postage, providing all foreign correspondence would bear Austrian stamps at full rate in addition to the "Hebrew Stamp".

However, the Ottoman district officer was unhappy with this arrangement, and in 1910 this arrangement and the use of the stamps were forbidden.

The stamp, depicting an orange tree and a plough, is green and light-orange with a dark-brown frame.



NDM

### 23. "Petach Tikvah"

To go with its stamp, the Petah Tikva Council also prepared a lovely red triple circle cancellation, with a bilingual inscription. In addition, a prominent Star of David with the Hebrew word "Zion" was incorporated in the centre of the postmark.



### 24. "Petah Tikvah · Per Oesterr Post"

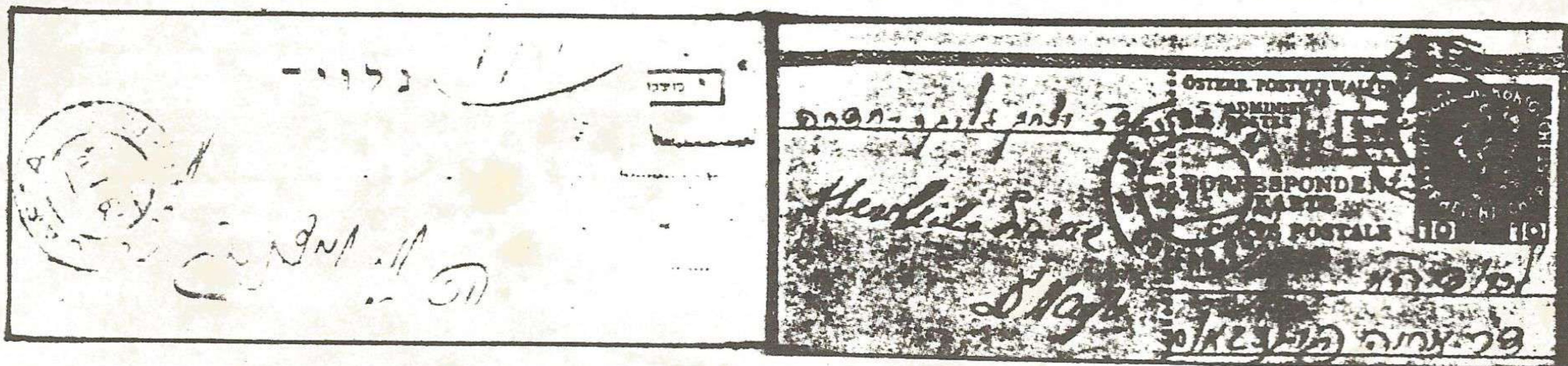
As evident from the following illustration the Petah Tikva "post office" operated even before 1909, when its stamp made its debut. Furthermore, Petah Tikva even had its own special cancellation! This second type (rarer than No.23) is a double ring bilingual postmark in which the Star of David is as large as the smaller circle. Reference is also made here to the Austrian Post Office, unlike the first type.



This letter from 1908 was mailed from Petah Tikva to Jerusalem via Jaffa, and displays the postmarks of all three locations.

### 25. Hadera "Stamp"

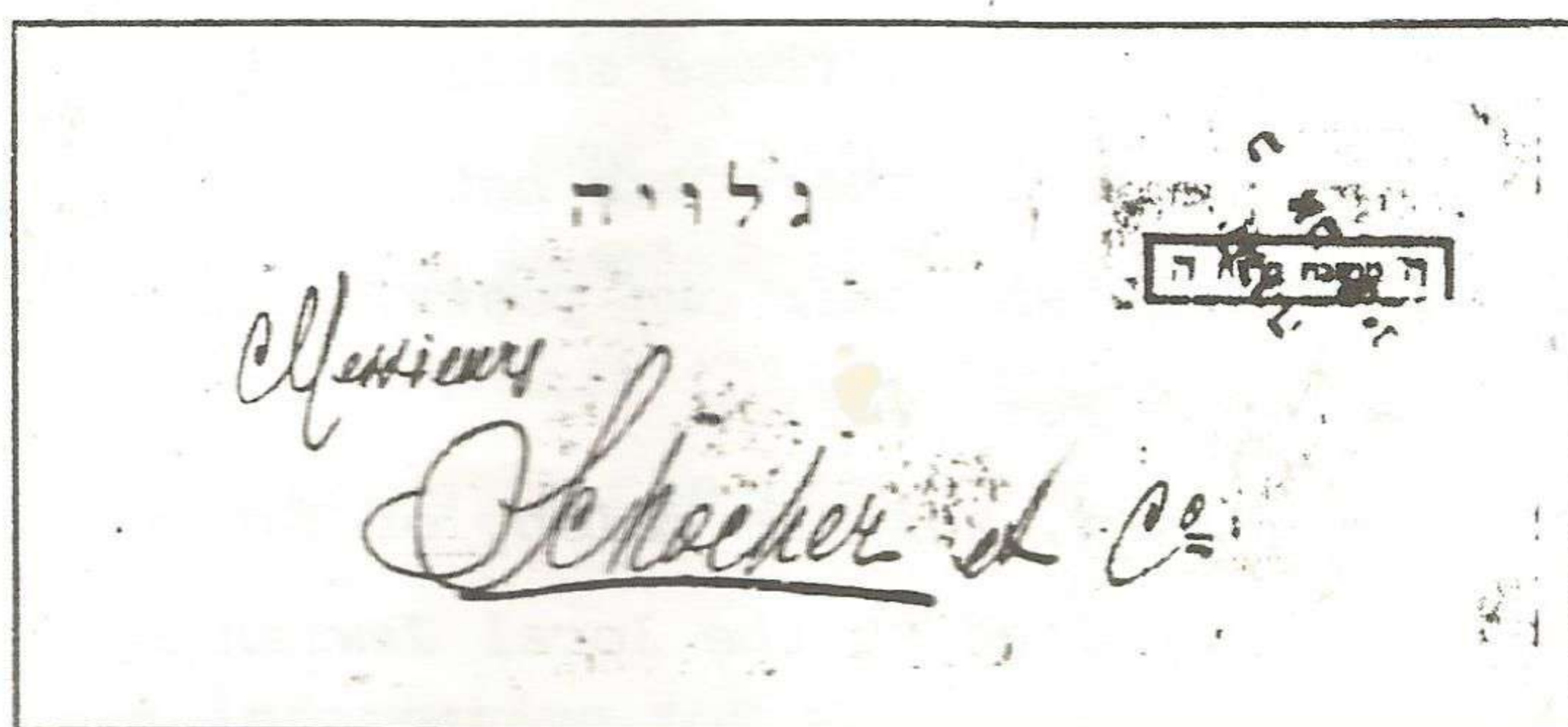
A messenger from this colony made trips twice weekly, delivering local mail to Jaffa. From there the mail would be forwarded to its final destination. Even though for a short period no postal fee was required for inland mail, unofficially a small fee was paid to the messenger. This may have been one reason behind the creation of Hadera "stamp". This label, purchased for 5 paras, is known to appear either as the sole franking, or in combination with the regular Austrian stamp, as shown in the following illustrations.



The label itself is of the most basic design: Horizontal rectangle in shape, it is printed in black with "Moshava Hadera" in Hebrew (Hadera Colony) enclosed in a simple frame. There are two different labels known. One is on greyish-green paper with the letter "ה" in each end which probably means 5 paras (see illustration in the next paragraph), and the other is on pink paper with the letter "י" , possibly meaning 10 paras and therefore used bisected.

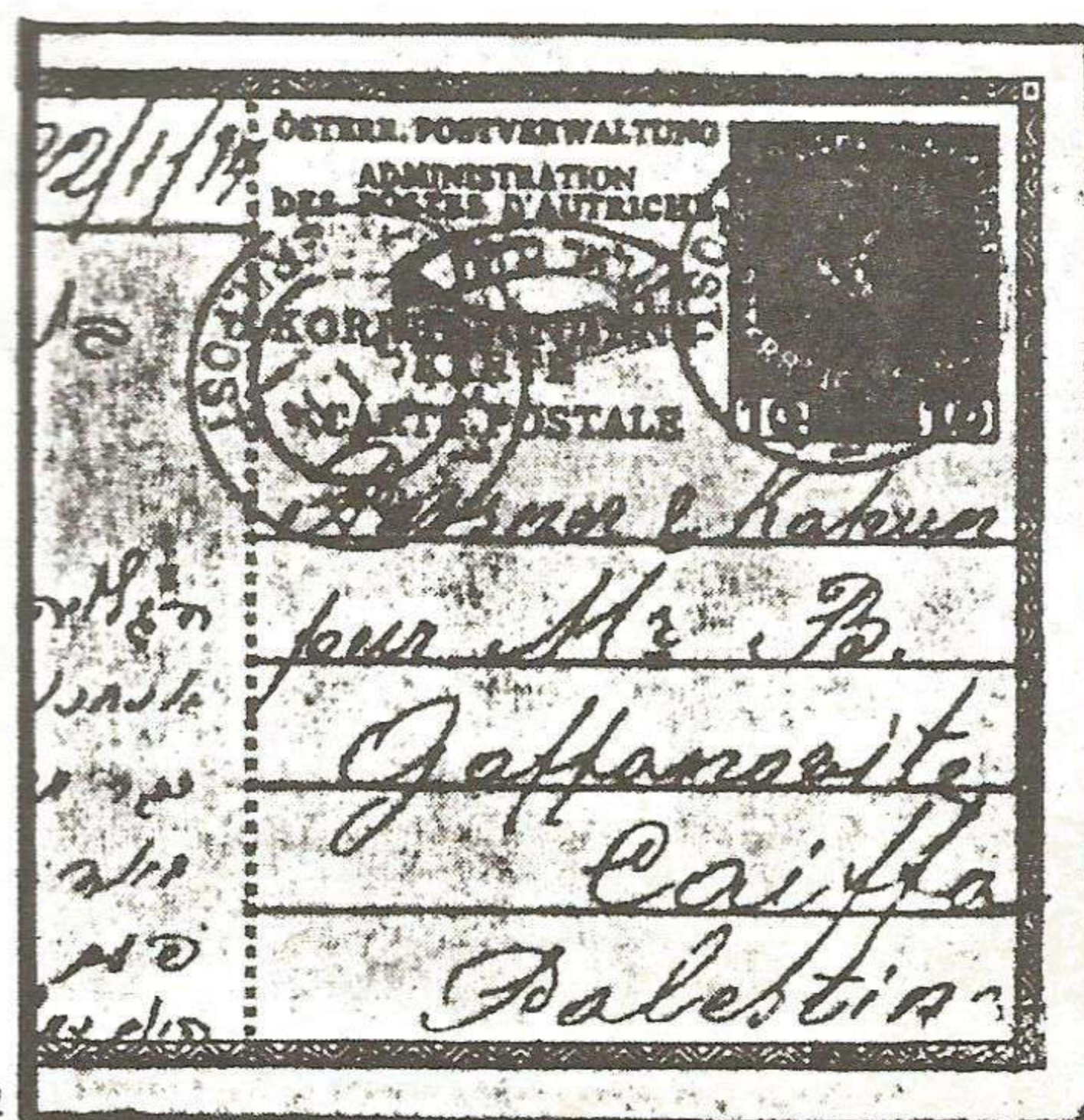
#### 26. Hadera Cachet

Even rarer than the stamps is the violet cachet sometimes used for cancelling the "stamp". The cachet is in bold Hebrew letters, showing the name Hadera with the Hebrew date underneath.



#### 27. "Poste Catra"

Catra was the Arabic name for the Jewish Colony in Gedera, a small settlement south of Rehovot. With similar postal arrangements to Hadera, the messenger of the settlement made only one trip a week to the Austrian Post Office at Jaffa. The extremely rare cachet employed by the postal agency at Gedera is a double elliptic frame with Post Gedera (in Hebrew) printed on top and Poste Catra on the bottom.



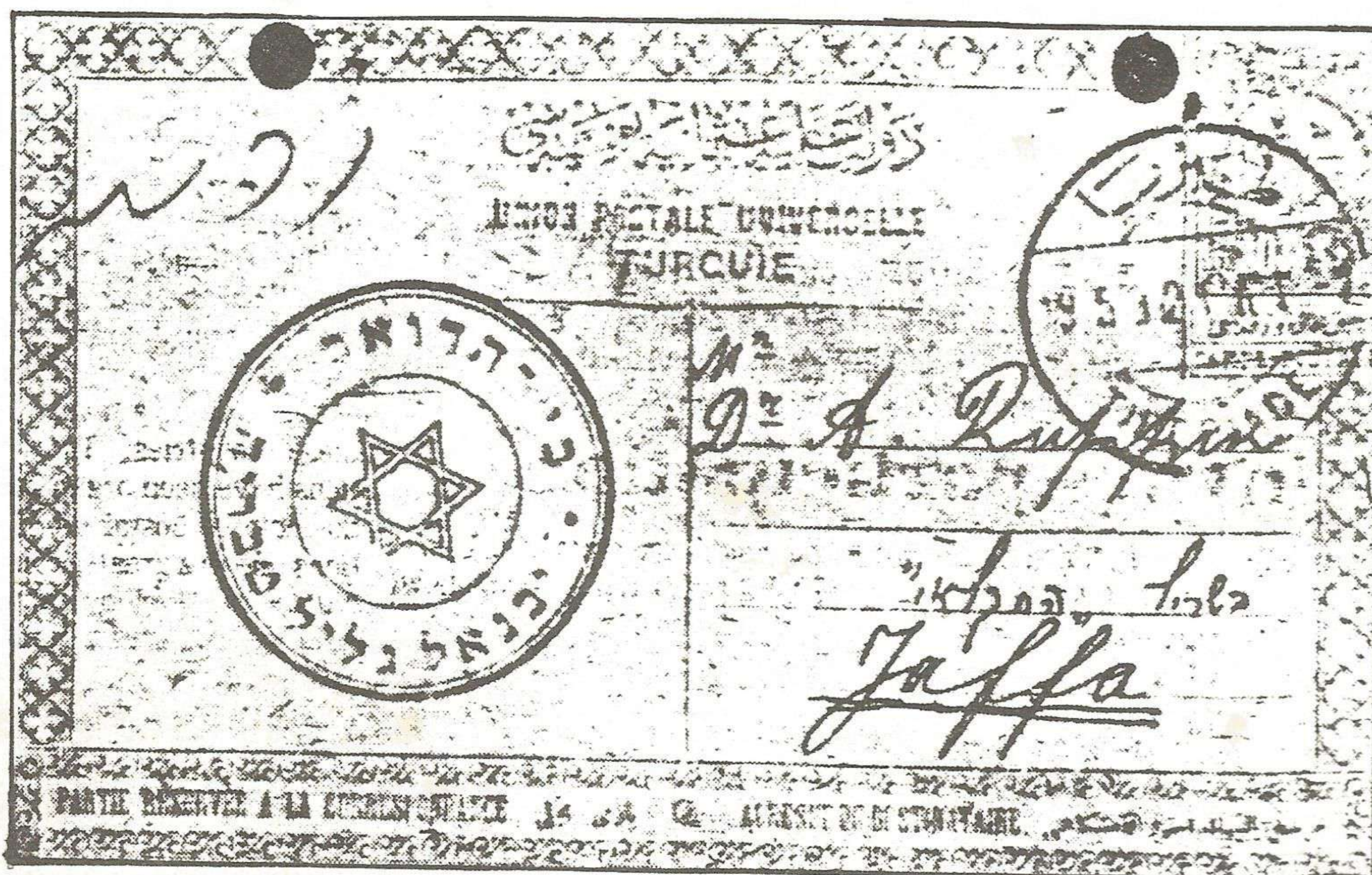
According to *The Holy Land Philatelist*, Davis Trietsch, in his book *Palestine Handbuch*, Berlin 1910, does mention that postal agencies operated in the colonies of Zichron Yaacov and Kastinie but to date I have not seen any distinctive markings that would identify mail of these colonies.

### Turkish Postal Markings

#### 28. Yavneel

The Turkish government maintained at least one post office in thirty-three different towns! Although the service was not as efficient as the one maintained by the "foreign" post offices, there is absolutely no doubt that the scope of operation of the Turkish Post Office was much more ambitious. All settlements of significant size were served by an official post office, and these settlements included many Jewish colonies. As a result, there was not really a great need for Jewish colonies to establish their own postal agencies within the framework of the Turkish Post Office.

One exception however, was the colony of Yavneel in lower Galilee. A cachet was applied by the local Jewish agent of the Turkish Post to mail going out of the colony, and it is the only visible evidence that the mail originated from Yavneel. The mail was



then apparently forwarded to Tiberias for proper cancellation and further distribution. The Yavneel cachet is very rare and is illustrated here on a postcard. This photograph was submitted by the S.I.P. and appeared in Linn's Stamp News, May 14, 1979. This unique postal marking consists of a triple circle with a large Star of David prominently displayed in its centre and the Hebrew inscription in the outer ring: "Post House. Yavneel Galilee Tveria".

### Summary and Conclusion

This part brings to conclusion my article on postal markings applied to mail originating from letter boxes and postal agencies that operated in Palestine at the time of the Ottoman period.

Far from being an expert on the subject of forerunners, writing a series of articles about the highly specialized field of Letter Boxes and Postal Agencies was a very ambitious undertaking for a philatelist of my modest knowledge. In spite of some comments to the contrary, I maintain that this is a subject on which too little has been written, making it the private domain of a few knowledgeable individuals.

Part of the information for my article was taken from Pollack's famous "The Holy Land Philatelist". In one instance I have consulted "The Postal History of the British Army in World War I" by Alistair Kennedy and George Crabb. The rest was based on assumptions and conjecture that withstood the test of the many covers I had examined. Consequently, I have described 28 items - 3 stamps and 25 postal markings or cachets - which represent the sum total of all such markings known to me. If there exists a publication dealing with this subject matter to any great depth, it is not readily available to the average collector, myself included. My effort certainly does not fill the gap I pointed to, but hopefully it is a beginning.

Quite a few members requested that some sort of guidelines be provided in order to enable collectors to determine the market value of the various philatelic items listed in this series. It is very

difficult to establish a true market value for items which are not often seen, and which change hands on a very sporadic basis. Usually offered in auctions, these items are both rare and very expensive. In fact, some are so rare that even an experienced auctioneer finds it difficult to establish a start bid. The result is a "hit and miss" proposition whereby an unsold item keeps reappearing in subsequent auctions, each time marked lower for a starting bid, until its eventual sale. Some may say that an item is worth what you can get for it. But that is a cynical answer because these highly sought after items do have an inherent value that fluctuates between acceptable limits. To expect to buy an item much below that limit is unrealistic, and to pay much more would be unadvisable.

Provided in the table below are estimated values for the various items. Although they are not given in a form of "high-low" limits, they are representative of averages of prices realised in many auctions. Included in the table are also the colours of the cachets and the period that they were in use. The latter, however, are inconclusive. With all this data condensed in one table it can be useful for quick reference.

#### Notes for the table

- (a) \$350 for Registered. Black is rarer.
- (b) \$800 for registered.
- (c) Rarer than No. 4.
- (d) Rarer than "Sarona"!
- (e) Black is rarer.
- (f) Price is for stamp on "piece".
- (g) Price is for overprinted stamps off cover.
- (h) Price is for stamp on cover, cancelled with No. 18.
- (i) Rarer than No. 18.
- (j) Known only as arrival cancellation.
- (k) Price is for mint stamp.
- (l) Violet is rarer.
- (m) Price is for half label on cover.

TABLE OF THE POSTMARKS, CACHETS AND STAMPS OF THE POSTAL AGENCIES  
IN PALESTINE DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

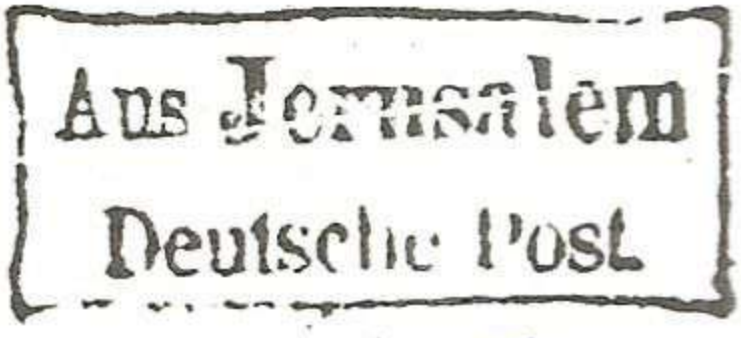
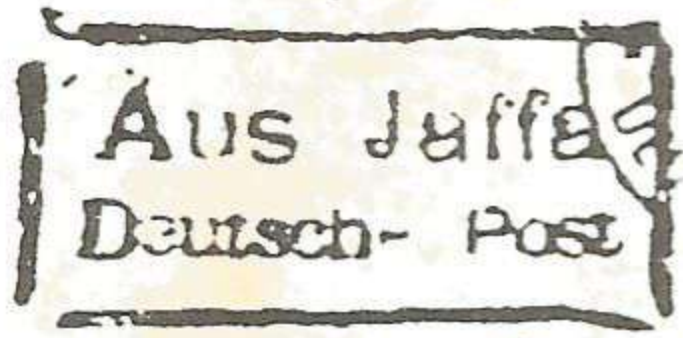


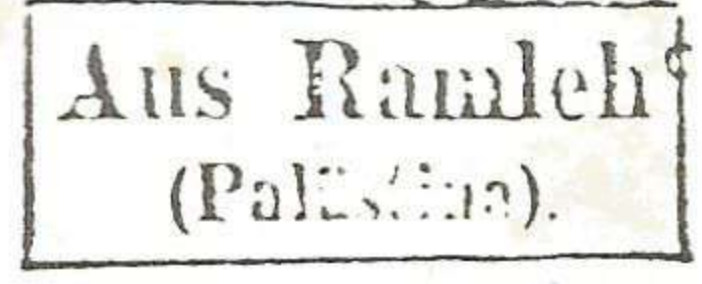



No.	Illustration	Inscription	Period	Colour in use	Est. Value \$ U.S.
1 <sup>(a)</sup>		Aus Jerusalem Deutsche Post	1902- 1911	violet black	\$200
2 <sup>(b)</sup>		Aus Jaffa Deutsche Post	1908	red black	\$500
3		AUS JAFFA	1912	violet	\$550
4		Aus Ramleh (Palästina)	1903- 1912	violet	\$350
5 <sup>(c)</sup>		Aus Ramleh (Palästina)	1904- 1906	violet	\$350
6		Aus Emmaus (El Kubebe)	1909	violet	\$1200
7		Aus Sarona bei Jaffa (Deutsche Post)	1910	violet	\$600
8 <sup>(d)</sup>		TEMPEL-KOLONIE HAMIDUE WILHELMA DEUTSCHE POST JAFFA	1906- 1909	violet	\$500

TABLE OF THE POSTMARKS, CACHETS AND STAMPS OF THE POSTAL AGENCIES  
IN PALESTINE DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD (continued)

No.	Illustration	Inscription	Est. Period Value Colour in Use \$ U.S.	
9		RISCHON-LE-ZION BEI JAFFA PALAESTINA DURCH DEUTSCHE POST	violet 1906- 1914	\$500
10		AUS JERUSALEM ÖESTERR. POST.	black March 1908- July 1913	\$150
11		AUS JERUSALEM ÖESTERR. POST.	violet May 1904- Oct. 1905	\$300
12		Aus Jerusalem Oesterr Post	violet Nov. 1904- Feb. 1906	\$300
13 <sup>(e)</sup>		Aus Jerusalem Oesterreichische Post	red 1902 black	\$350
14		Aus Jaffa Oesterreichische Post	red 1912	\$350
15 <sup>(f)</sup>		Nazareth 11.4.07	violet 1905- 1908	\$200

TABLE OF THE POSTMARKS, CACHETS AND STAMPS OF THE POSTAL AGENCIES  
IN PALESTINE DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD (continued)







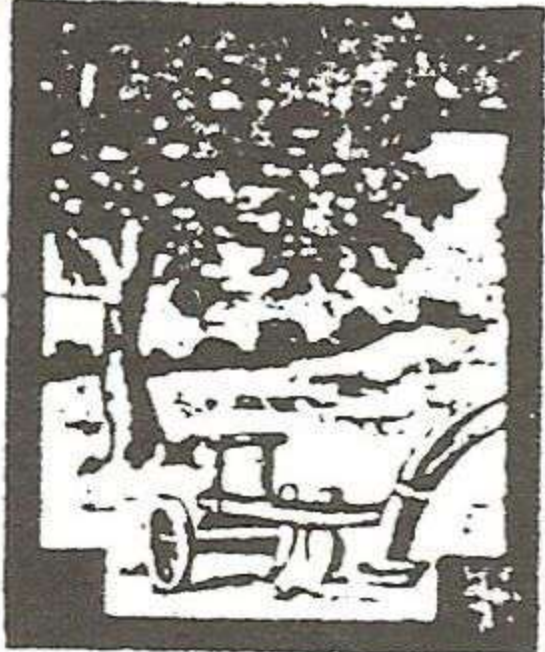
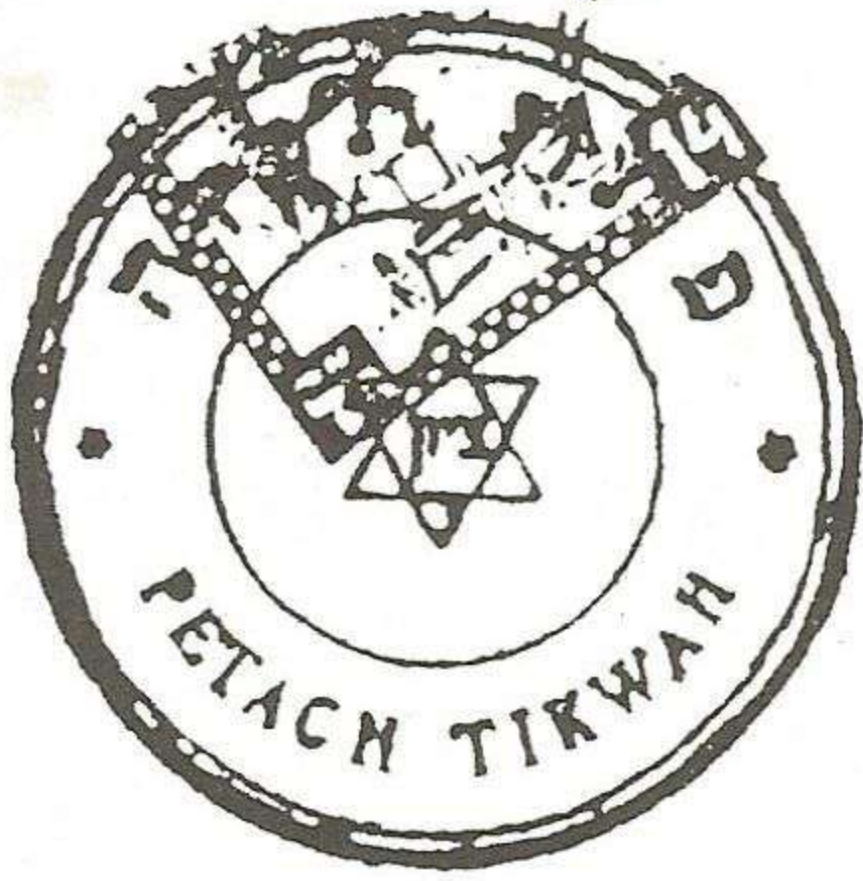


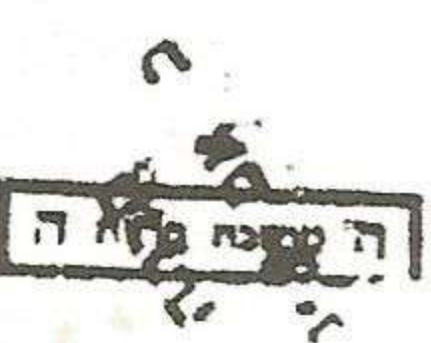


No.	Illustration	Inscription	Colour in Use	Est. Period Value \$ U.S.
16 <sup>(g)</sup>		NAZARETH 24.2.08		1908 \$200
17 <sup>(h)</sup>		Rishon Stamp	blue	31 Dec. \$2,700 1904 one day only!
18		RISCHON-L'-ZION PAR POSTE AUTRICHIENNE	blue	July \$600 1903- Jan. 1908
19 <sup>(i)</sup>		פוסט אסטרייח: ראשון לציון		1908 \$500
20		RICHON LE SION PAR POSTE AUTRICH		1910
21 <sup>(j)</sup>		RICHON LE SION		1903 \$1,000

TABLE OF THE POSTMARKS, CACHETS AND STAMPS OF THE POSTAL AGENCIES  
IN PALESTINE DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD (continued)

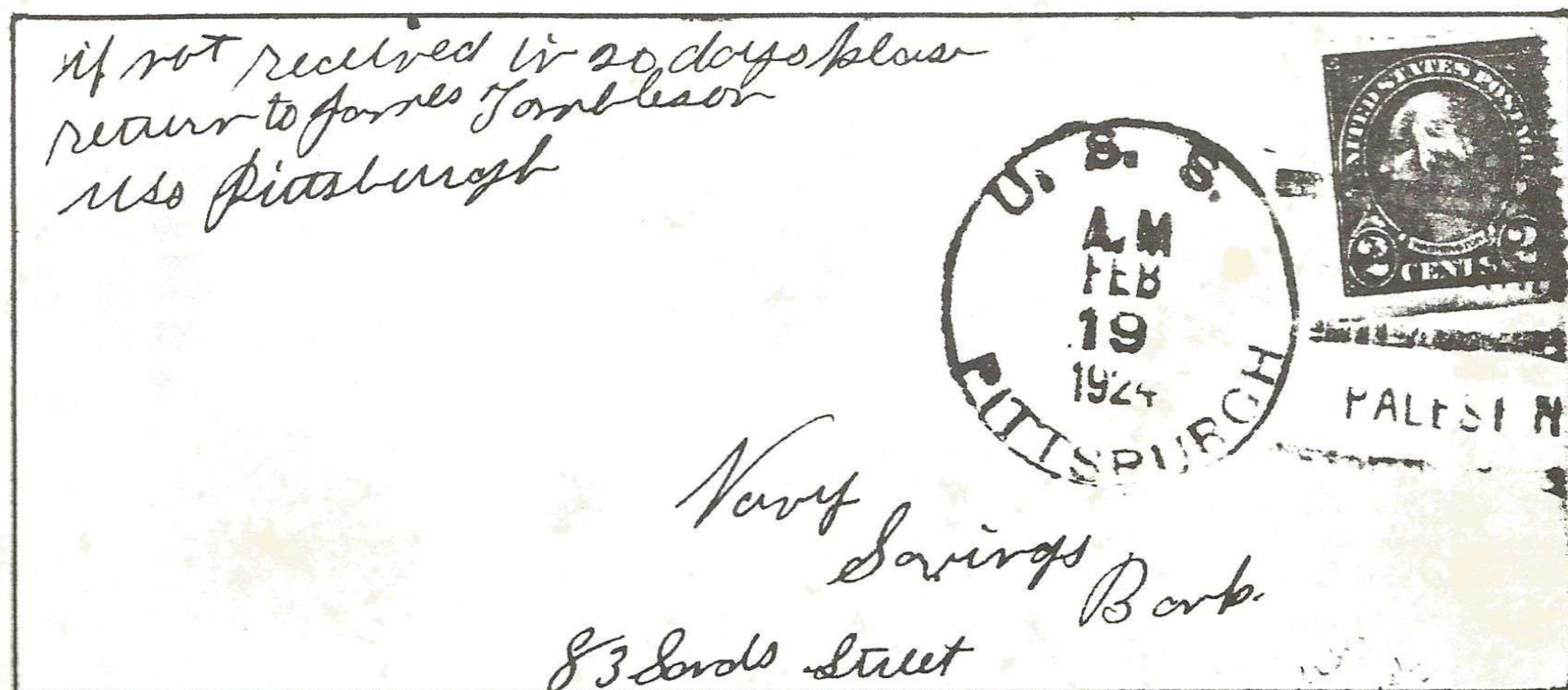
No.	Illustration	Inscription	Colour in use	Est. Period Value \$ U.S.
22 <sup>(k)</sup>		Petah Tikva Stamp		1909- \$100 1910
23 <sup>(l)</sup>		פתח תקוה *PETAH TIKWAH*	red 1909- violet 1910	\$1,000
24		פתח תקוה PETAH TIKWAH PER OESTER POST	violet 1908- 1911	\$1,200
25 <sup>(m)</sup>		י מושבה חדרה י (half of the label)	green 1913- or pink 1914	\$2,700
26		חדרה כ אב תרנ"ג	violet 1913- 1914	\$3,000
27		דאר גדרה POSTE CATRA	violet 1914	\$1,300
28		בי-הדואר. יבנאל גליל טבריה	1912	

QUESTIONS AND PERHAPS SOME DISCOVERIES

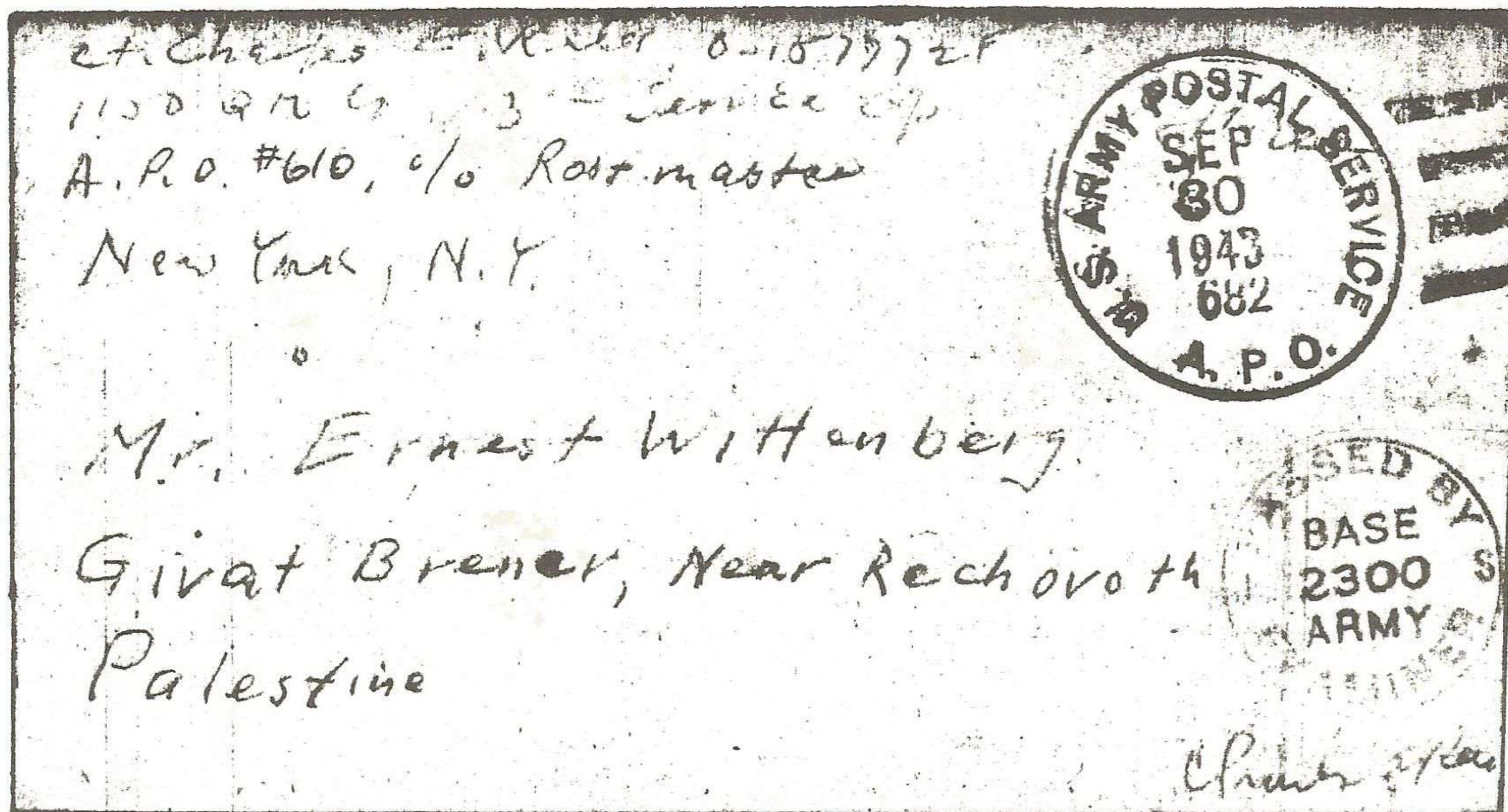
Marvin Siegel, New York

Three attributes are required of a Postal Historian: a) A knowledge of political, military and even economic and social history; b) a Reference Library; and c) imagination. In the following presentation, this writer offers for further investigation by his fellow Holyland Postal Historians, some interesting "theories" and he awaits their comments.

Cover A: 4 covers have been seen franked with American stamps and postmarked by American devices that were apparently posted from Haifa in February 1924. At least 2 ships, the American Cruisers USS Raleigh and Pittsburgh, visited Haifa during that month and in honor of that visit a special postmark was produced that included "Haifa, Palestine". The covers were sent by sailors serving on these ships and to the knowledge of this writer, these are the only American postmarks used in Palestine except for the Army Post Offices used by the small American detachments serving in Palestine in World War II. For a full discussion of these see The Israel Philatelist, pages 1299-1303, April 1977 and the next cover in this article. It should be noted that these vessels were cruisers following the long standing American Navy practice of naming cruisers after cities. However, this writer wonders if there were other postmarks from other ships, as it was not general or good practice to send cruisers without escort of at least a destroyer or two.



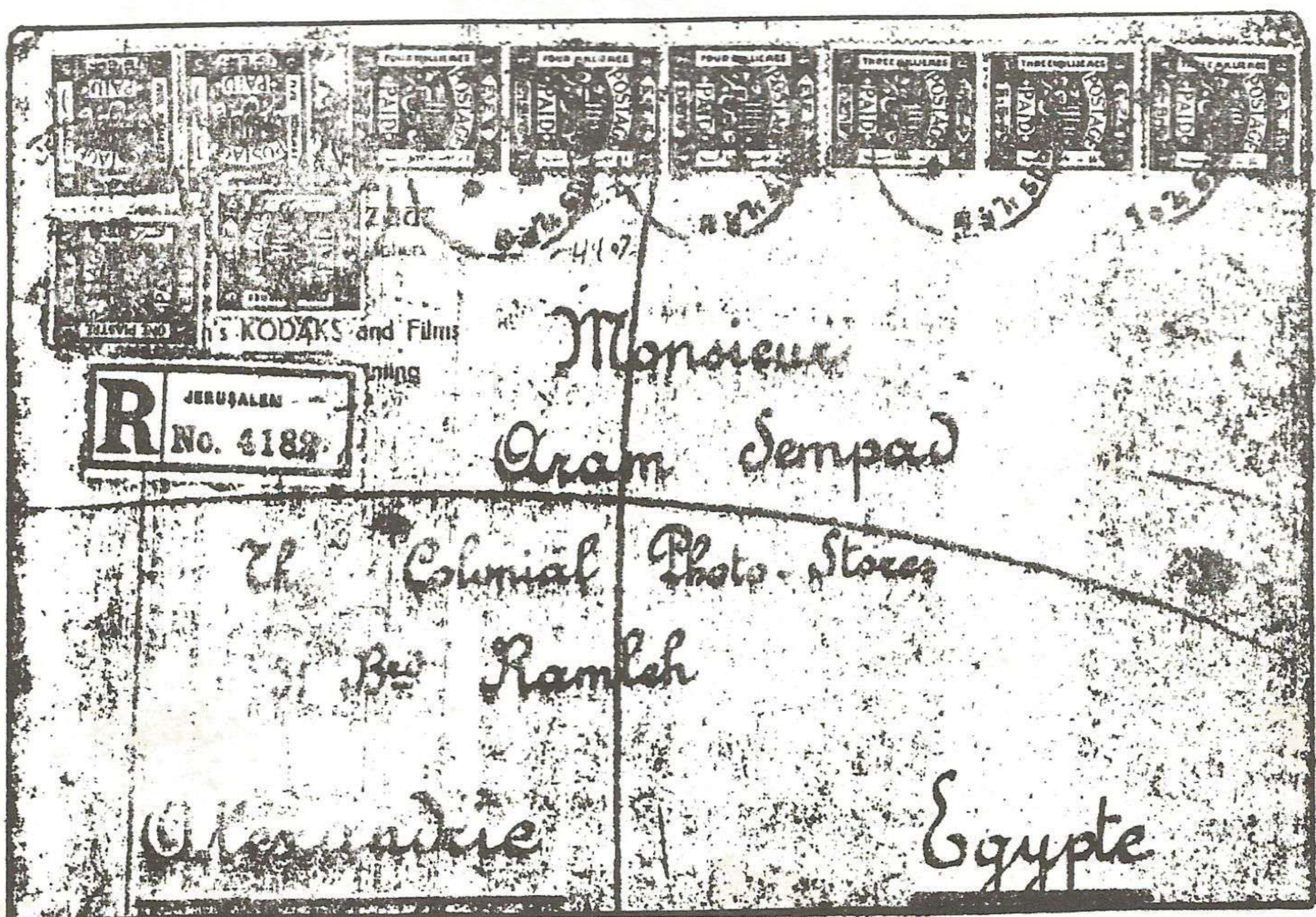
Cover B: In the article cited above concerning American Army Post Offices in Palestine during World War II, all illustrated pieces originated in the Holyland. Recently, the unique item illustrated has surfaced. This piece shows a most unusual usage of an American Army Post Office postmark as a TRANSIT MARKING! US APO #682 was located at Tel Litwinsky and was then the base for the American 24th Station Hospital. This is near the site of today's Tel Hashomer Hospital Complex. The cover was sent by an American officer from APO #616 (outside of Palestine)\* and was postmarked on Sept. 30, 1943. It had been censored abroad and was processed here by turning it over to the Civil Mandatory Post, as per the Mandatory arrival postmark of Rehovot, 3 October 1943 on the back. Apparently this procedure took 3 days. Does anyone have any knowledge of a similar usage - that of an American APO postmark used as a transit or arrival cancel?



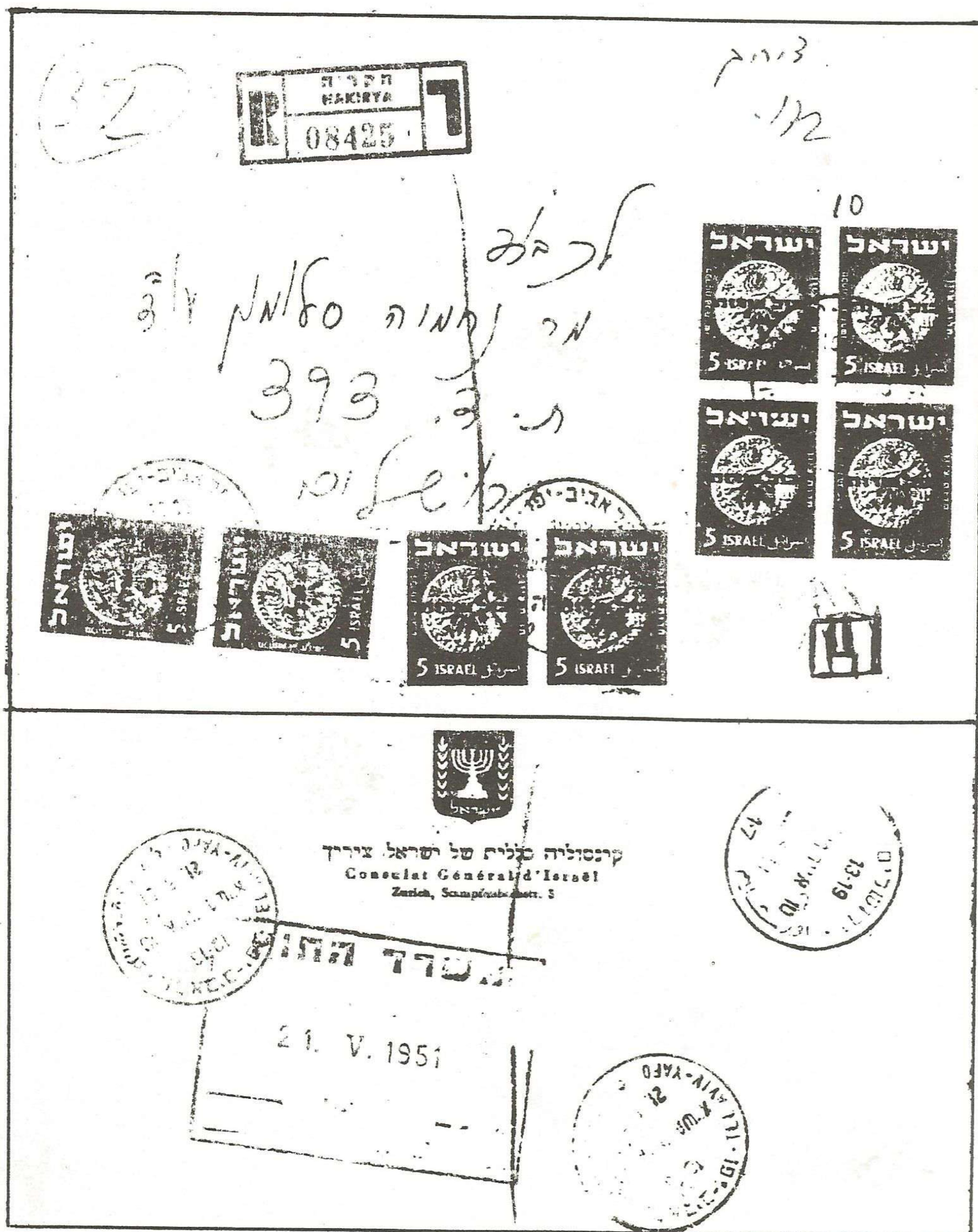
\*APO #616, New York, was Camp Huckstep, Heliopolis, Egypt at that time, having been moved there from Cairo on July 27, 1942. It is next reported from Dharan, Saudi Arabia on March 7, 1947.

Cover C: On November 8, 1920, the Registered Cover shown was sent to Egypt and it must have contained some weighty photographic items which accounted for its high franking which totaled 1 piastre and 36 milliemes or 4 piastres and 6 milliemes. Does anyone know how this rate was calculated? The stamps themselves are most interesting for their mix of 1st and 2nd setting of Jerusalem I issues: The 4 mil stamps are 1st setting and the others are 2nd setting with the 5 mil stamps being perf. 14 (S.G. 29). These Jerusalem I issues are first known from Sept. 1, 1920. Yet, here on this cover, only 2 months later, mixed settings were already used at Jerusalem's Main Post Office (!) as certain values from the 1st Printing of Jerusalem I were already out-of-stock. The stamps used here from later settings and perforations establish the validity of the catalogued values for these various denominations as follows:

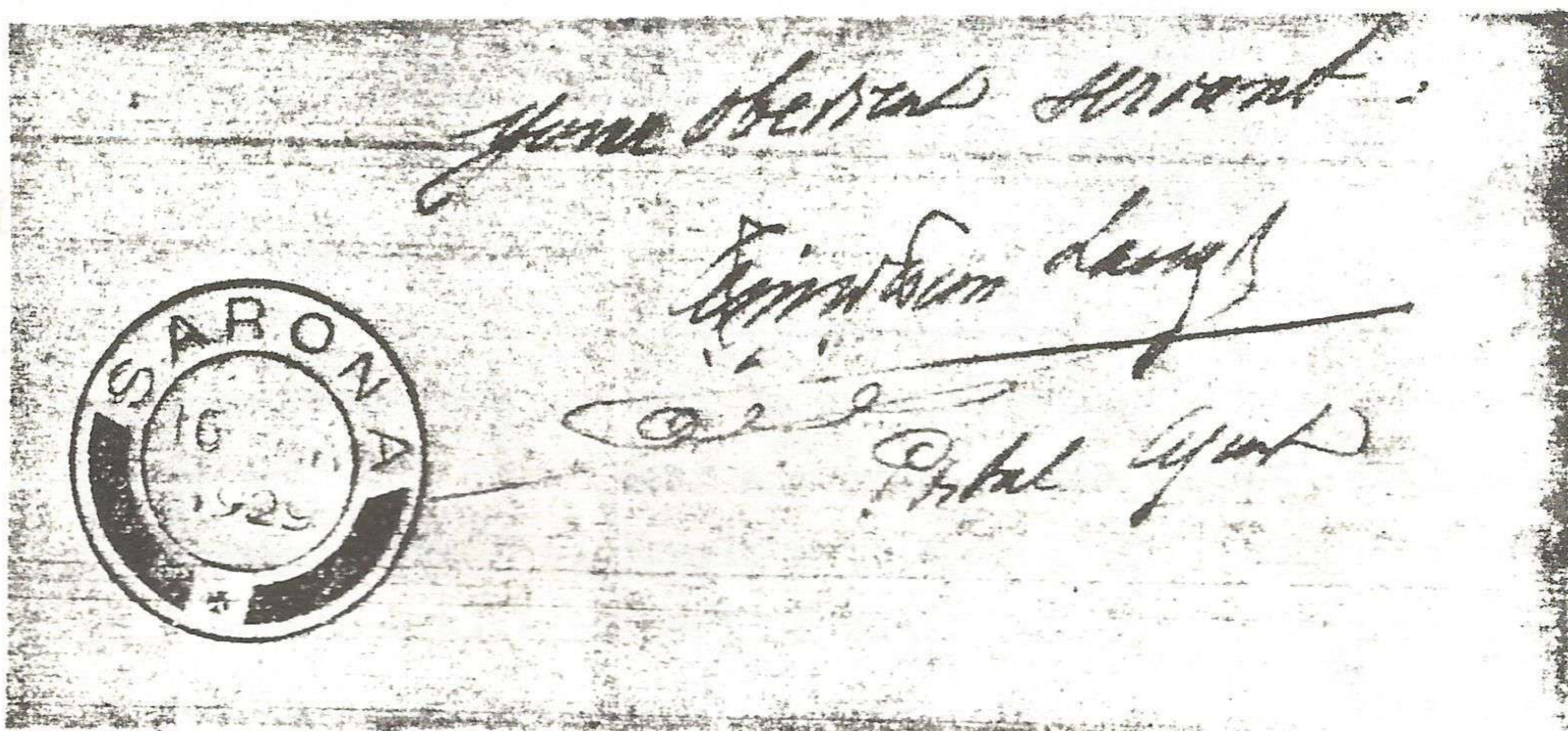
a) The 3 mil (#18) is 2nd Setting - much cheaper than its scarce 1st Setting counterpart, b) The 4 times 4 mil are 1st Setting (#19) - always available as a cheaper stamp, c) The 5 mils is #29, perforated 14 - this is an early usage for this perforation and indicates that the supply of the much more expensive perforation 15 (#20, both settings) was already exhausted. All this is a wonderful verification of the honesty and ability of our cataloguers.



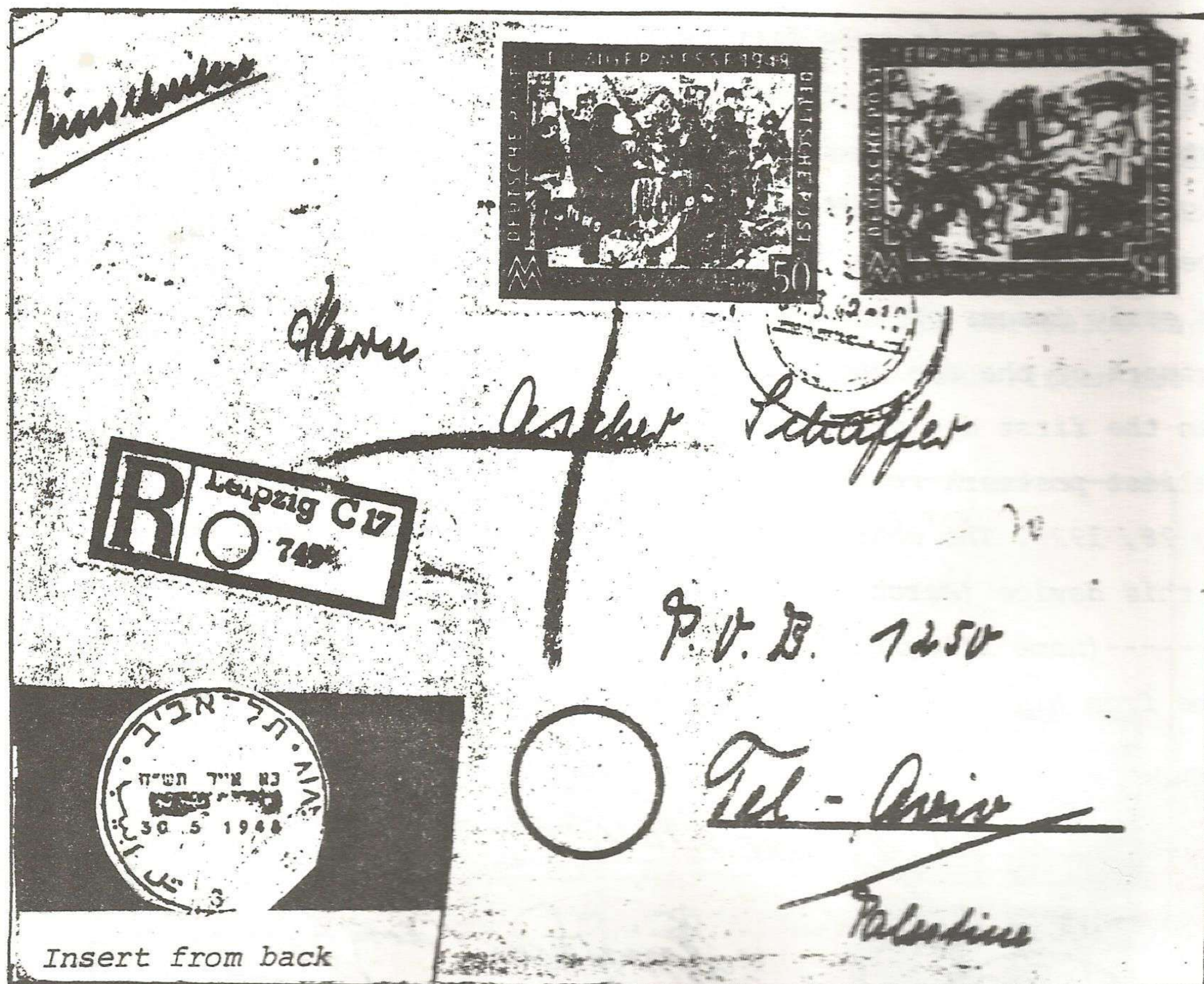
Cover D: In 1951, this cover was apparently carried by diplomatic pouch from the Israeli Consul in Zurich to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Hakiya as per the rear handstamp dated 21 May 1951, and from there it was posted, Registered Hakiya, using 8 of the 5 prutah Official Stamps as franking. It was addressed to Jerusalem and arrived there the next day as per its Jerusalem backstamp. Was this a usual practice? Do the various handwritten notes have any postal meaning?



Cover E: It is only fitting that a discussion of an Hakirya item be followed by a piece from its Mandatory predecessor Sarona. This Post Office was opened in 1929. For the full background of its origin, devices and history, readers are referred to Volume II, page A-17 of Dorfman's "Postmarks of the Palestine Mandate" and to the early issues of this publication. I have never seen reported a postmark of the skeleton device, which Pollack surmised to have been the first device used by this office when it opened. The earliest postmark recorded is of the double circle one dated February 28, 1929. The charming souvenir shown here is an early strike of this device (March 16, 1929) and is signed "your obedient servant ----- (name illegible), Postal Agent". Can anyone decipher his name from his signature? Has anyone seen the skeleton device?



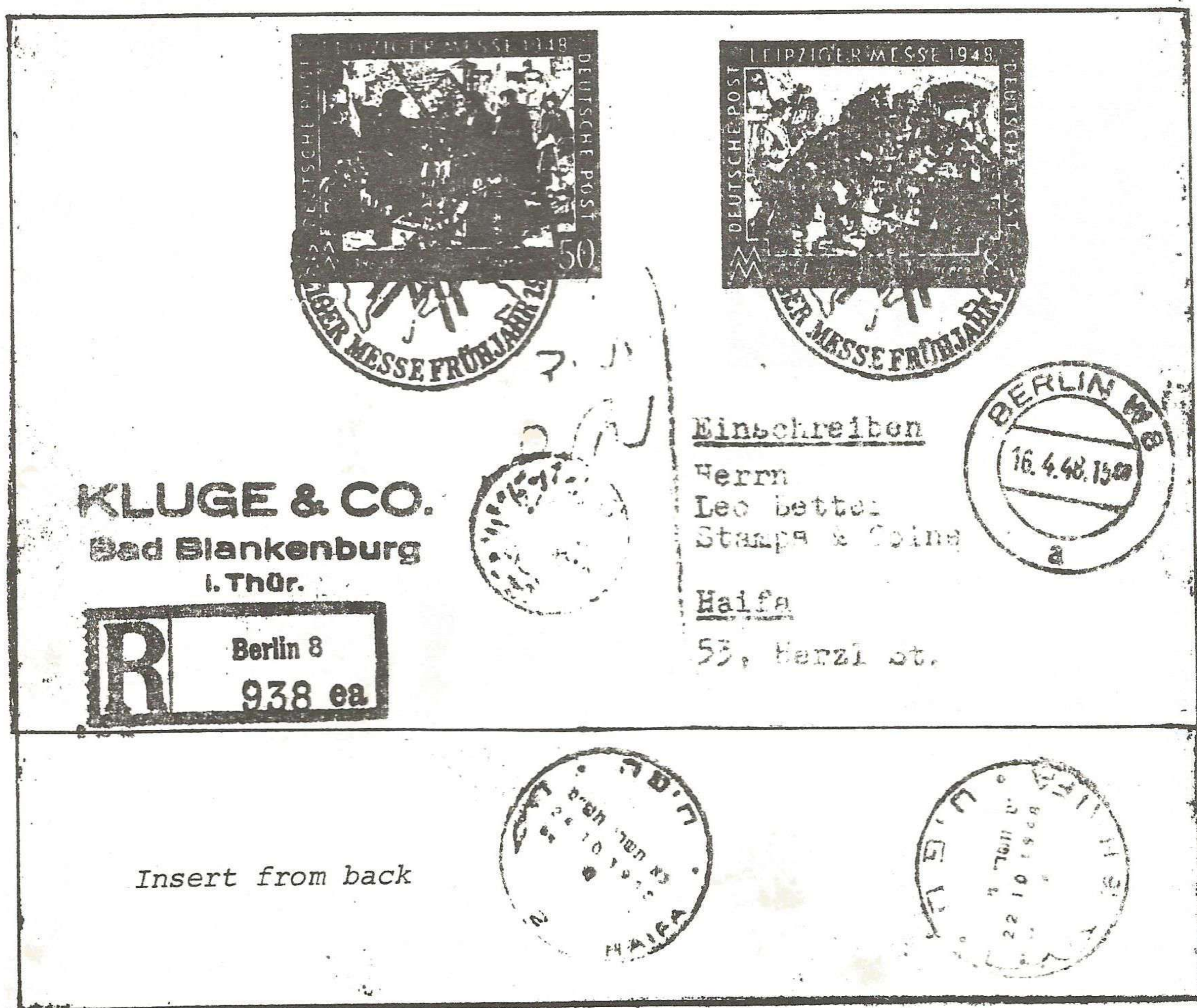
Cover F: On 30 March, 1948, a registered cover was sent from Leipzig to Tel Aviv, franked with the 2 values of the 1948 Leipzig Fair stamps issued a few weeks earlier. On its back is a Tel Aviv arrival May 30, 1948! It was always my understanding that no ships carrying mail arrived in Israel during May, 1948. Therefore, it must have been carried by air by the Czechs. But, what happened to it that it took so long? This writer believes that it was held by the German Post (probably for Censorship purposes), which delayed it until it was too late to send by ordinary routes, as



service had been suspended because of the War that had started in the meanwhile. Rather than return the item, with the bureaucratic procedures required for return of a registered letter, it was held in the hope that the postal links to the Holyland would soon be reestablished. Finally, the German Post heard about the Czech "Special Services" Flights and the item was forwarded to Prague for its ultimate transmission to Tel Aviv. Does anyone have any better explanations? Does anyone know the date of the first mail arrivals by ship to the new state in 1948?

My friend Chaim Shamir showed me recently the cover illustrated as Cover F<sub>1</sub>, which bears an interesting resemblance to the Leipzig Cover previously discussed. The same stamps were used to post a registered cover from Berlin on April 16, 1948. It apparently was put into the mail bag destined for Egypt, as may have been the practice until then. This German Post Office apparently had not received

appropriate instructions regarding the turbulent political situation in the Holy Land. The letter arrived in Egypt, as evidenced by their censor handstamp on the face of the cover. What happened to the cover can only be surmised but it finally arrived in Haifa on October 22, 1948 - more than 6 months after its original dispatch. Apparently it had been returned to Germany by the Egyptian Post and then reforwarded.

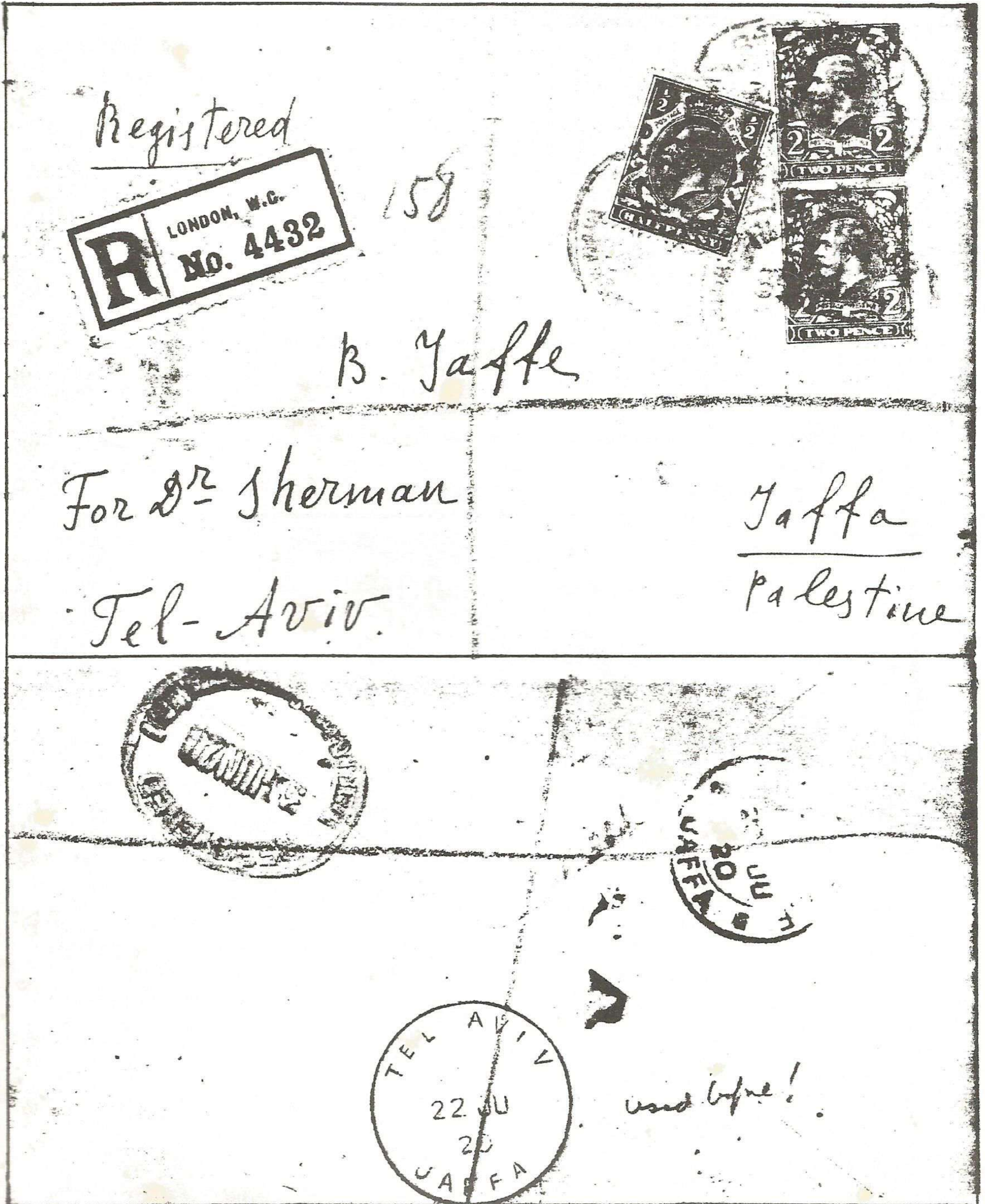


Cover F1

Cover G: Those who have studied "Austerity" usage ("reusage" may be a more appropriate term) by various Departments of the Mandate Government are aware of their extreme dedication to paper conservation; particularly during the World War II period. However, the cover shown illustrates this practice most graphically - in fact more than

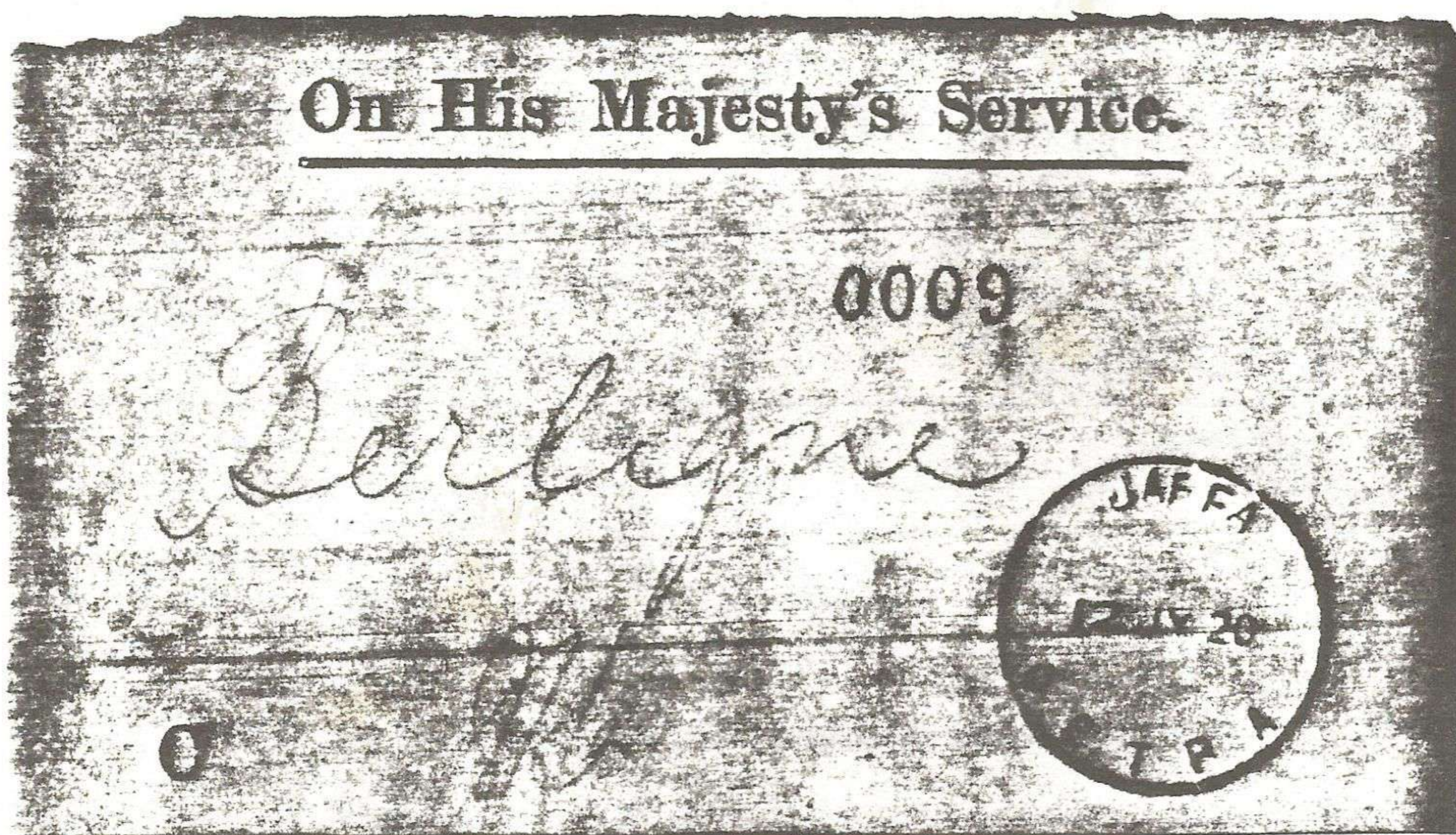
any this writer has yet seen. The cover was finally posted by the Tel Aviv Courts (on May, 1942) to a well-known Tel Aviv lawyer. However, the envelope itself was produced in 1936 for the Levant Fair, held that year in Tel Aviv. The cover was certainly used twice as can be seen by the address crossed on its front. Perhaps that was its original 1936 destination and it was retained in the Court's Archives for 6 years, to be pressed into reusage during the paper shortage of that time. Apparently, official files were searched and all but the most vital documentation was consigned to reusage. It should be remembered that wood and paper were both almost entirely imported during this period.

Cover H: On 3 June, 1920, this cover was posted by registered mail from London to c/o Bezalel Jaffe (one of the founders of Tel Aviv, etc.). Its backstamps prove it to be a most important piece of Holyland Postal History, for it has what is possibly the earliest Civil (non-Military) Government postmark of the Mandatory Period. It is noted in our literature in BAPIP Bulletin #29 (page xf). It is



the single circle Tel Aviv-Jaffa cancel without OET-EEF. How could this occur when the Civil Administration did not begin until 1 July 1920, and all other civil postmarks are first recorded after this date? It is most interesting to note that the Jaffa postmark still contains "OETA-EEF"! Apparently the change to the Civil Administration was known well in advance and appropriate postal devices were ordered and prepared. Here it was certainly pre-used commercially!

Cover I: In Drs. Goldstein & Dickstein soon-to-be-published work covering the postmarks of Mandatory Jaffa and Haifa, mention is made that the OETPA postmark was used on Jaffa Telegrams, but is known on only one cover and its latest date is 28 March, 1920. The cover referred to is Arabic and is franked. The present item is an OHMS cover and shows the date of usage 12 July, 1920! It is addressed to Berligne, Jaffa and probably contained a telegram, as there is a #0009 lightly struck on its face.



Incidentally, is anyone certain of the exact meaning of the "P A" in OETPA and why was Jaffa the only city that had an OETPA postmark? Was it the only city that had facilities to receive and send telegrams abroad at that time?

Comments and hopefully answers are eagerly awaited to all of the above!

PRIVATE PRINTING COMPANIES DURING THE PALESTINE MANDATE PERIOD

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi N.J.

Most of the printing requirements for the postal service were completed during the period of the Palestine Mandate by private facilities in Palestine. By far, most of the printing was done by the Greek Convent Press, also referred to as the Greek Orthodox Convent Press or the Greek Orthodox Press. In addition, many other companies were used. Some, like the Syrian Orphanage Press, are well known but most are identified only by initials in a legend found on the material they printed.

During the first years of the Mandate until the early twenties no legends are found on printed matter (e.g., Fig. 1). During a few later years in the twenties, printing companies printed the forms with their names as part of the legend (e.g., Fig. 2). Subsequently,

O.E.T.P.A.		O.E.T.P.A. No. 17	
ادارة البريد		INLAND PARCELS POST.	
في بلاد المدو المحتلة		طرود بوسته داخلية	
הנהלת בתי הדואר		מישלוח חבילות בתוך הארץ	
של שטח האויב הנכבש		Certificate of posting of an Inland Parcel.	
		شهادة ارسال طرد داخلي	
		תעודת למכירת חבילה המיועדת להשלח לתוך הארץ	
Postage } Paid }	P.T. 1/6		مills. 1/6
	اجرة البوسته المدفوعة		مليمان 1/6
	רמי המשלוח למ		גר"מ
Address		العنوان	
B. Faltakinsky & Co		17 D	
Cinema Coliseum			
G. Caiffa			
Accepting Officer's signature			
امضاء الضابط المسطر			
חתימת הפקיד המקבל			
			

Fig. 1: Early "Inland Parcel Post" form (O.E.T.P.A. No. 17) without the legend of the printing company.

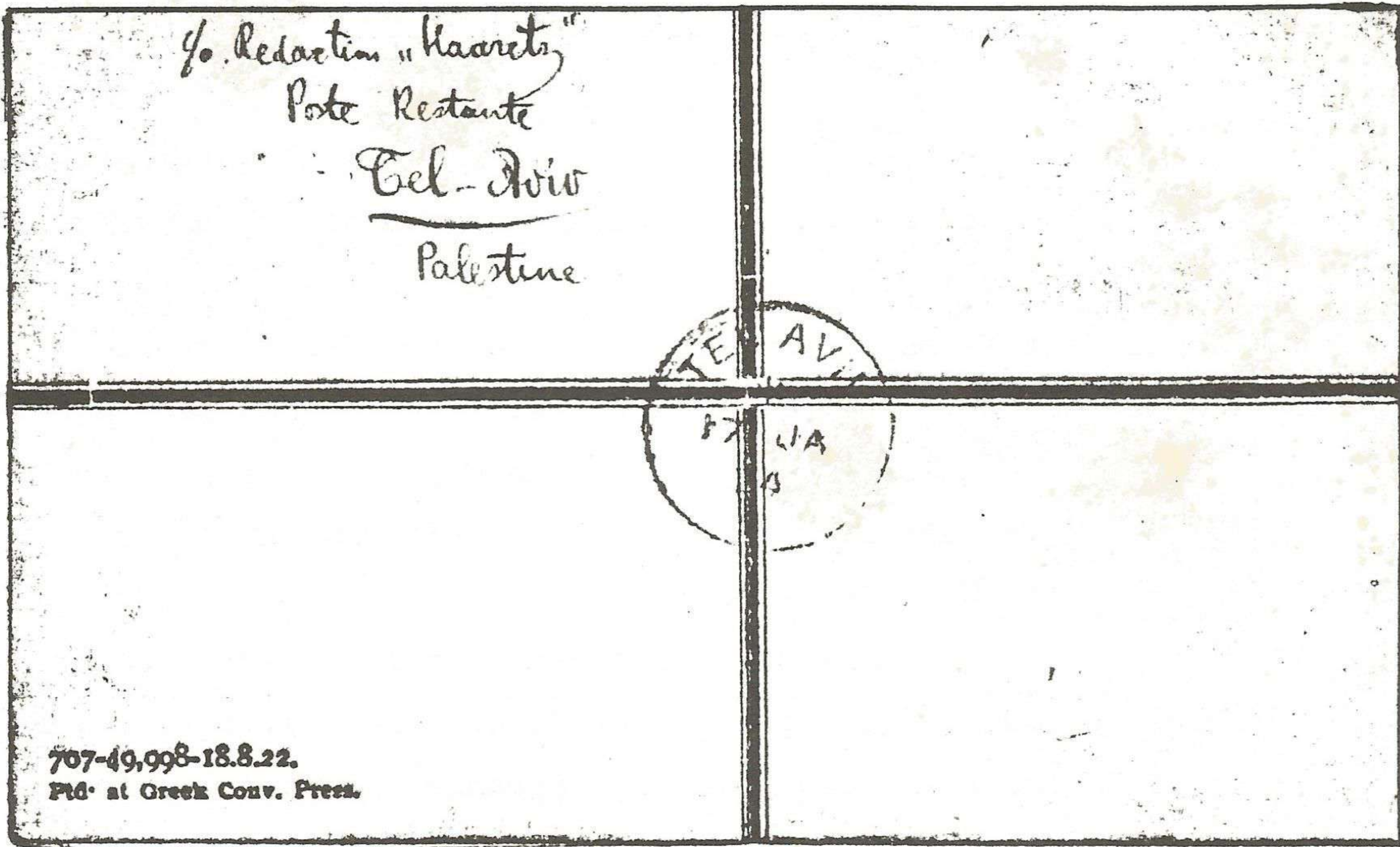


Fig. 2: A printed registered cover with the full name of the printing company (The Greek Convent Press).

Prefix	Orign. No.	INLAND TELEGRAM		P.T. 4.	Counter No.	
Time	Words	برقية داخلية مبرك בפנים הארץ		Sent to	Office Date Stamp	
Charges Paid		Office of Origin & Service Instructions		at	20/11/74	
Mils				by		
To						
صديقه ليهيه - بور سعيد						
صديقه ليهيه - البجاء لطرفنا بالبريه						
خواد الحاح راسم روائه						
32815-500000-7.7.44-G.C.P.						

Fig. 3: An "Inland Telegram" form (P.T.4) with initials only of the printing company (G.C.P.) in the legend.



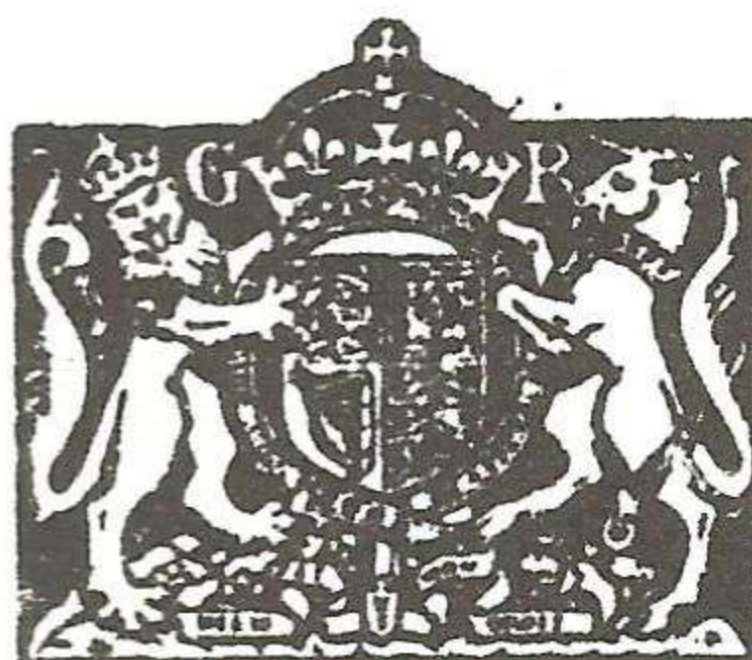
As a collector of postal forms as well as stationery, I have found the following list of company initials with the earliest and latest date in my possession. It would be interesting if all of these could be identified and corrections made in their periods of use. Anyone having any information or knowing of any additional companies is urged to notify the editor of this journal or the author.

LIST OF PRINTING COMPANIES AND DATES OF THEIR  
POST OFFICE FORMS

<u>Initials</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>
1. A P	03/09/24	24/07/40
2. B M P	? /26	04/09/39
3. C M J P	17/01/30	06/02/32
4. Com P	30/07/31	04/02/41
5. D P W		? /02/42
6. Econ P	08/06/38	15/02/40
7. F P	20/06/36	10/02/38
8. G C P	01/09/20	03/02/48
9. G P	13/01/25	03/11/41
10. G P P	05/07/37	13/11/45
11. HAT P		05/03/34
12. H P H		22/11/34
13. H P P	13/01/47	13/11/47
14. H & S		? /05/24
15. J C & S Ltd.		? /10/35
16. L J S	24/01/27	15/06/28
17. L J S P	02/03/25	27/07/31
18. N P		23/11/24
19. P M D	22/07/47	21/08/47
20. P R P		? /07/46
21. S P		13/03/43
22. Si P	19/03/31	15/12/39
23. S O P	23/03/23	17/04/40
24. T G P	01/03/43	? /06/43

# GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE.

## TENDER FORM.



Contract

This ~~Tender~~ issued to Goldberg's Printing Press,

of Jerusalem

is to be delivered to the Principal Stores Officer,

Government Offices, Jerusalem, before

a. m. on

Contract

TENDER FOR Printing Telegraph Tariff.

To the

Central Tenders Board.

I/We The Goldberg's Printing Press of Jerusalem

the undersigned (hereinafter styled the Contractor) hereby offer to provide and deliver to the Government of Palestine during the period from the 1st day of March 1930, to the 31st day of December, 1930 supplies of the articles specified herein (and of which samples are sent herewith) in such quantities and such times and places as may be demanded by the Government of Palestine in accordance with the General and Special Conditions herein set forth and at the prices which I/We have inserted herein against the description of the articles.

And I/We further undertake that this offer shall not be retracted or withdrawn for and during        days/months from the date above for delivery, but may be accepted any time during the said period of        days/months.

I/We further agree to deposit a sum equal to 10% of the total amount of this Tender, as security for the fulfilment of the Contract if this tender should be accepted. I/We agree not to leave the territory of Palestine without giving seven days notice in writing to the ~~Principal Stores Officer.~~

I/We understand that the Government of Palestine does not bind itself to accept the lowest, or any, tender.

I/We agree that if this tender is accepted that this form shall be treated as the acceptance of a Contract which shall be subject to the Conditions specified herein.

Dated this

Witness:

Address:

Signature of Contractor:

Address:

Accepted this 8 MAR 14 day of

192

by W. H. WYATT

~~Principal Stores Officer.~~ SEPT. OF PRINTING & STATIONERY

on behalf of the Government of Palestine subject to the payment of the Deposit or Guarantee referred to above.

W. H. WYATT

~~Principal Stores Officer.~~

SEPT. OF PRINTING & STATIONERY

Fig. 6: The first page of a Mandate Tender Form, which was used by the post office to contract printing companies.

It is probable that in this list some of the legends belong to the same company with the initials changed or inadvertently omitted. I have also included the full names of printing companies that are identified:

Azriel Press (probably A P), Atid Press, Commercial Press (Com P), Goldberg Press (G P), Goldberg Printing Press (G P P), Greek Convent Press (G C P), Beyt-Ul-Makdes Press, New Jerusalem Press, Survey of Palestine (S P), Syrian Orphanage Press (S O P).

Purchases were made at the direction of the Mandate authorities confirmed by an acceptance of a printed contract. Fig. 6 shows the first page of a tender form used during the Mandate period. There are four pages to the tender, of which the fourth side is the same as the third side, obviously for additional information if necessary.

\*

\*

\*

YOUR STAMP DEALER IS

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אוניסטמפס

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\* S H O R T   N O T E S   A N D   D I S C O V E R I E S \*

\* \* \* \* \*

B R I T I S H   M A N D A T E   P E R I O D

UNUSUAL SORTER'S CACHET ON 1947 MAIL (M. Levin, Jerusalem)

A handstamp "Embarrassing Postal Packet" was used in Jerusalem in July, 1947 (Fig. 7). It was applied on a routine invitation to a meeting of a Jewish cultural club in Jerusalem, concerning a lecture about the Bnei-Israel community in India, scheduled for 24th July. The invitation was sent folded, sealed with the 3 mils Mandate stamp on the back of the invitation.

Another such handstamp is reported by H.G. Muentz, struck on a postcard sent in 1947 from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. The mark was reported to exist by N. Collins (BAPIP No. 89, p.10), who noted that it was used on mail which "did not comply with regulations...or considered offensive in some way to public taste".

It is not clear why such "innocent" postal items deserved the title of "embarrassing postal packet".



Fig. 7: "Embarrassing Postal Packet" handstamp on a letter of July, 1947.

T H E   I N T E R I M   P E R I O D

MAIL FROM NEGEV SETTLEMENTS DURING SUMMER 1948 (H.G. Muentz, Tel-Aviv)

The list of monographs and articles dealing with postal communications between towns under siege in 1948 and other parts of the country is very impressive, the only exception being the settlements in the Negev.

It is known that mail from settlement inhabitants was handled by the Army Postal Service free of charge.

We reproduce here a cover from Tse'elim (a kibbutz southwest of Beer Sheva) with a dateless APO 3 postmark (in use from May 22nd through 27th) applied on arrival in Tel-Aviv (Fig. 8). Such covers are quite scarce.

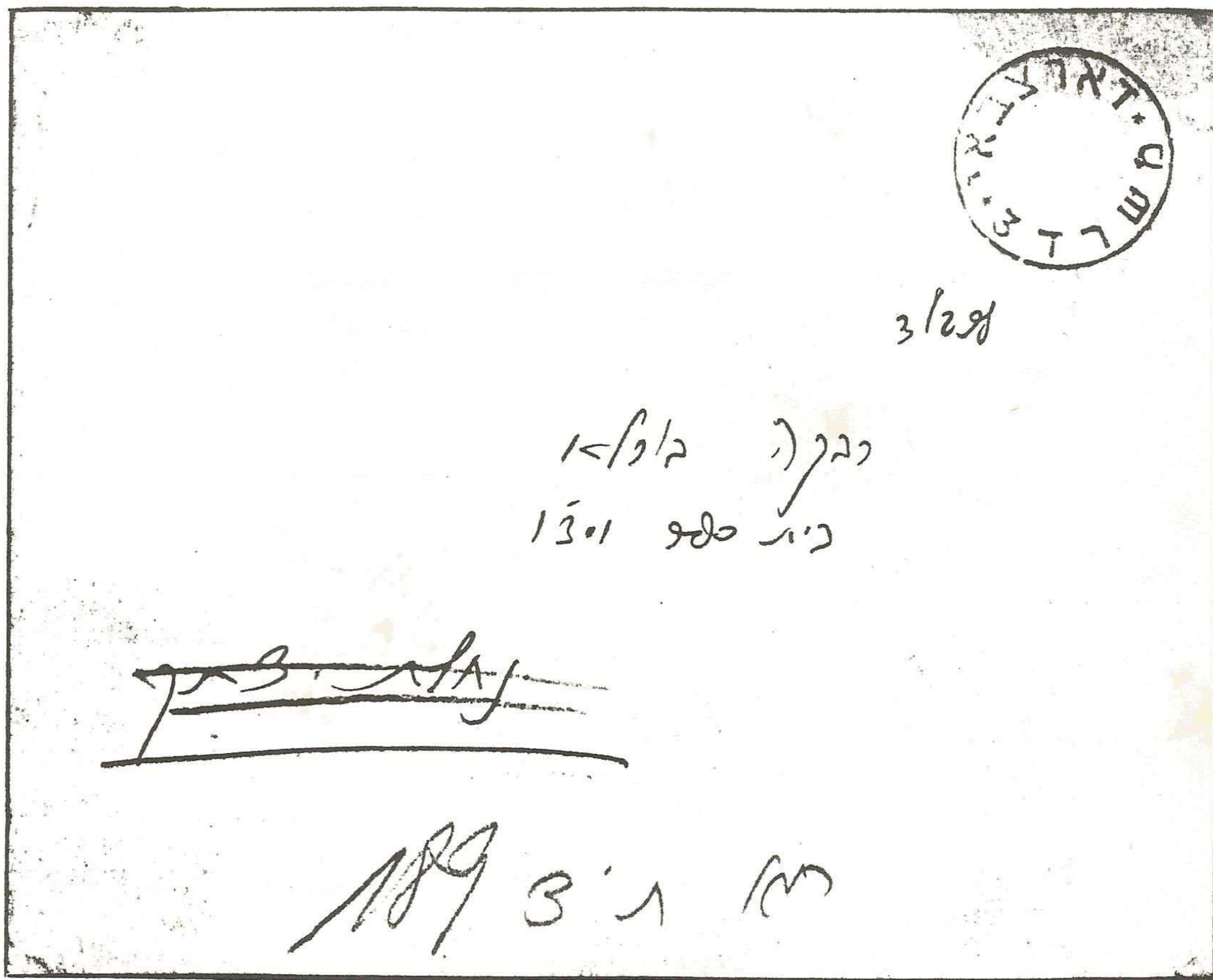


Fig. 8: A cover from kibbutz Tse'elim in the cut-off Negev, which arrived in Tel Aviv at the end of May, 1948. (courtesy Ing. E. Stein).

P.T. 238.

## INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE.

Date Stamp of Office of Origin

Insured for

TEL AVIV

No. 1971

(Pounds to be written in words)

(כתב הגביהות באחור) (כתב את האלמות באחור)

Gross

weight in

grammes

(if insured)

الوزن القام بالقرام  
(إذا كان مضموماً)

משקל ברוטו בגרמים

(אם המבילה פוכשה)

Postage Paid

Mils

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below

طيه طرد (طردود) معنون (معنونة) كما هو مبين أدناه  
 בזה מבילה (מבילות) דנועה (נועה) את רשען הפכשה להלן.

Name

Address

الاسم

المنوان

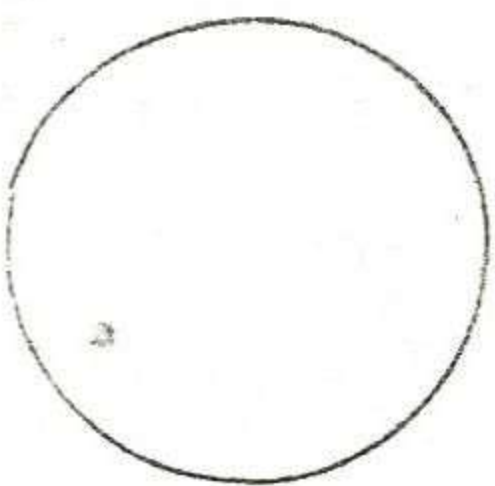
השם

רשען

Impression of seal

used to close

the parcel.



מורה לחתם המסמל לפני הפרד  
 שביעת ההחלטה שששהחשית בה  
 למערכת המבילה

(ראה בעבר לעמוד)

(SEE OVER)

(انظر على الخلف)

## NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.

اسم المرسل وعنوانه  
 השם והשען של השולח

קבלת המקבל

RECEIPT OF ADDRESSE

החתום מזה מאשר  
 את קבלת המבילה  
 (המבילות) המסומנות

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the  
 parcel (s)  
 described overleaf.

ان الموقع امضاه اذناه لترف  
 باستلام الطرد / الطرود  
 للمينة تفاصيلها على الخلف

Date

4/8/48

التاريخ  
 התאריך

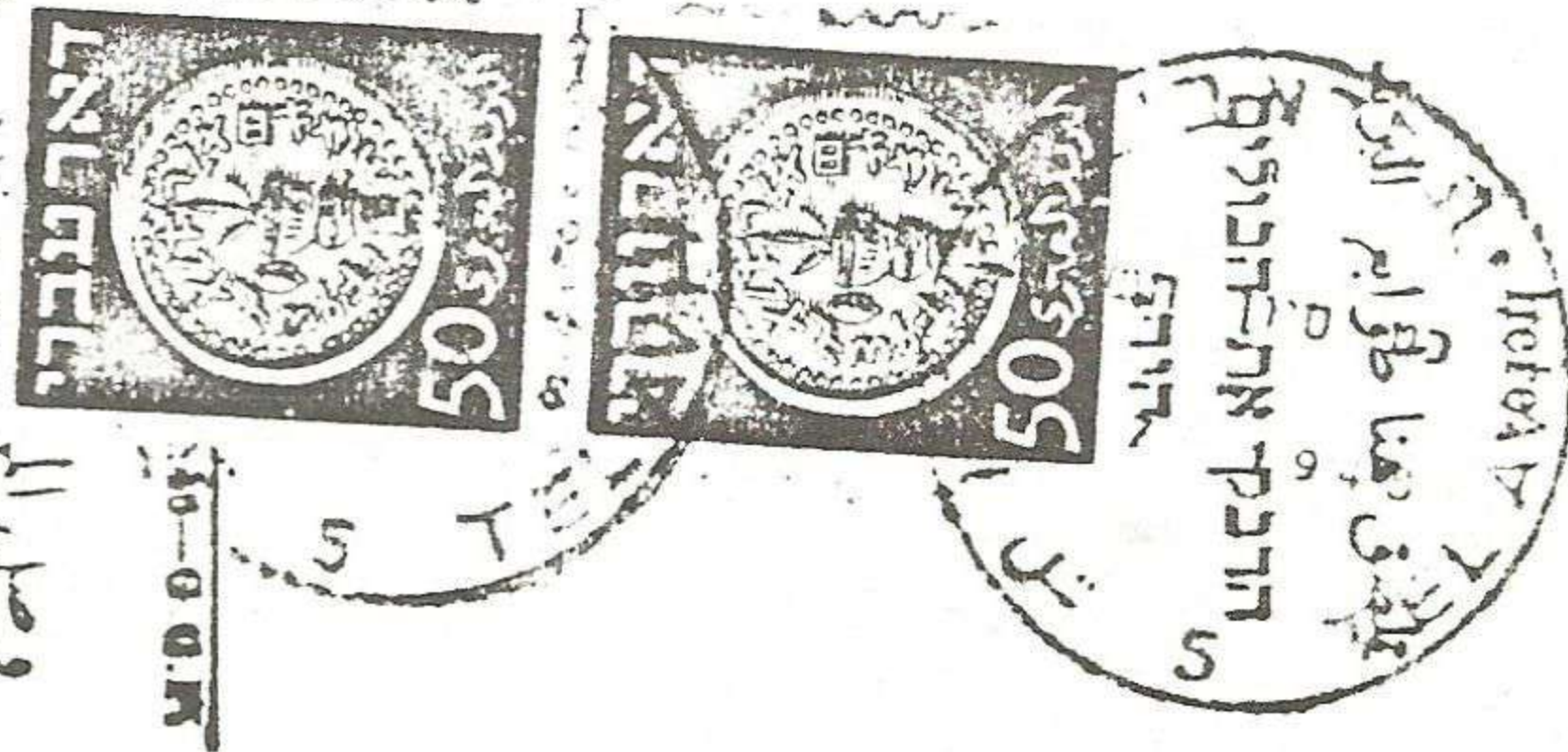
Postage Stamps  
to be affixed

Fig. 9: Two sides of a Parcel Despatch Note, sent from Tel Aviv in

July, 1948, to kibbutz Halutsa in the Negev through Army Post

Office No. 10 in Ruchama.

After opening of the APO 10 at Ruchama at the end of June 1948, this APO handled mail of the settlements on the same basis as that of the military units operating in the Negev\*. Here is a photo of a parcel card mailed in Tel Aviv on 7.7.1948 to "Hayuta Eisenberg, Halutsa, Negev", received at APO 10 on August 1st and handed over on August 4th to "Naftali Tal, Quartermaster, 8th Battalion" (Fig. 9).

The Editors request the cooperation of all collectors who own similar material or can supply evidence how mail was carried from and to the localities behind Egyptian lines, particularly during May-June 1948.

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\*For details see Kanner-Spiegel, "Army Postal Services 1948/49", BAPIP No. 36, pp.10-14.

DOES THE THIRD JERUSALEM ISSUE HAVE THE "SHORT 7" VARIETY?

In his note about the "Short 7" variety of the 1948 "Jerusalem stamps" (HLPH No. 10, p.510) M. Sondak inquired if the same variety exists as well in the Third Jerusalem Issue. We have checked a complete sheet of this third issue (No. 344, with brown plate number 1) and can ascertain that this variety does not exist here! Though the 7 in the overprint of the middle stamp of the bottom row does look somewhat shorter, it is not as short as in the variety and especially it does not have the characteristic "broken leg" of the real "Short 7" (see Fig.10).

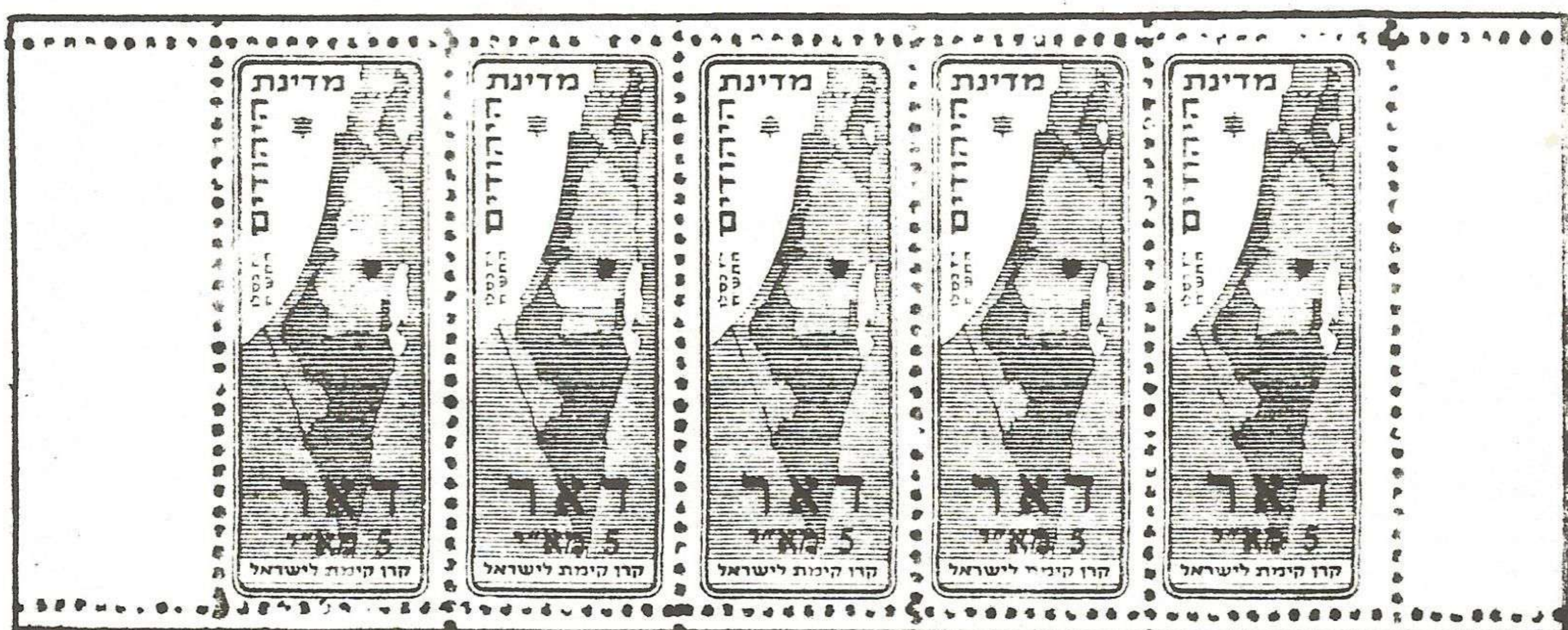


Fig. 10: The bottom row of stamps of 1948 Jerusalem III issue, showing the non-existence of the "Short 7" variety.

It has yet to be proved that all sheets of the third issue were overprinted with the same printing plate (which is probably the case), to make sure that the "Short 7" variety does not exist at all in this issue.

T H E   S T A T E   O F   I S R A E L

UNUSUALLY HIGH CHARGES ON TAXED COVERS - AN EXPLANATION

(E. Leibu, Qiryat Bialik)

In HLPH No. 2 (p.30), a returned Mandate Red Cross cover is illustrated with excessive postage due taxation of 48 mils for which the editor calls for a logical explanation. Similar material from the Israeli period is described by N. Gladstone<sup>1</sup> without a proper explanation. The aim of this note is to suggest a postal procedure which could explain these examples as well as the additional cases brought here.

The key to the solution is Fig.11, which shows a window envelope mailed in Tel Aviv on 19.4.67 with a franking machine cancellation. The sender is Idud Ltd., a bank handling mortgages to new immigrants. The two Hebrew lines on the bottom of the cover guarantees payment of postage for the return of the letter if not delivered. Since the addressee was not found the cover was returned. However, instead of the expected fee of 12 Ag., we find a rectangular cachet "To pay 312 Ag." and definitive stamps of this amount used as postage dues stamps on 27.4.67. Why such a high amount?

The answer is hidden in the hand-inscribed calculation on the right hand side of the cover. Obviously many undelivered letters were returned to the bank. These were tied up into bundles and this cover was at the top of such a bundle, containing 26 covers. The number 26 was encircled and then multiplied by 12 - the rate for returned printed matter. Taxation mark and stamps were applied accordingly on the top cover only, instead of on each of the 26 covers.

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<sup>1</sup>Gladstone, N. "Letters taxed by non-postage dues stamps", The Israel Philatelist, Dec. 1981, pp.2675-2681 (Figs. 2, 4, 5, 9, 10).

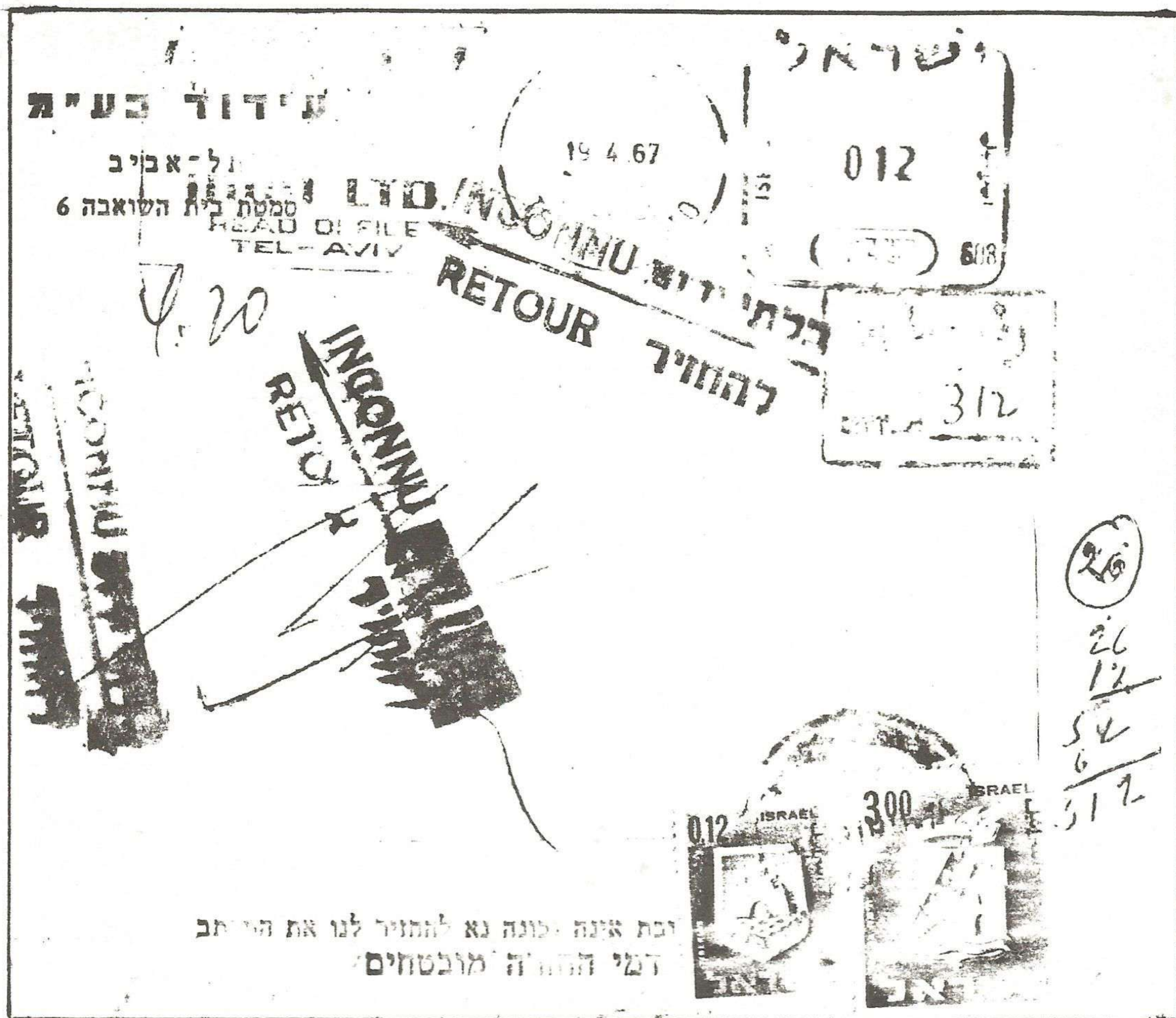


Fig. 11: A multiply taxed letter (of 312 Agorot), being the top letter of a bundle of 26 returned letters, each to be taxed 12 Ag.

This method can be traced back to the Mandate period and the early years of the State. The rate of 48 mils on the Mandate cover which baffled the editor is very likely an amount collected for 16 returned covers ( $16 \times 3 = 48$ ) in the same manner as the above cover.

The charity cover from New York, shown in Fig.12, compulsorily registered in Jerusalem on 5.10.49 - as money was found inside by the censor - and marked accordingly "To Pay 25 M." Surprisingly, on the back are tied 3 postage due stamps of the amount of 75 mils. Again the explanation is that the high amount is the charge for three such covers belonging to the same addressee. In this context mention should be made that compulsorily registered charity covers with "To Pay" cachets, but without postage due stamps, can be found - probably the remaining covers of such a bundle.



Fig. 12: A compulsorily registered cover (front and back), taxed triply (3x25 Pruta), probably as a result of being the top cover of three similar covers. (Courtesy Y. Shabtai).

HANDSTAMPED REGISTRY NOTATION - MORE EXAMPLES (N. Valersteiner,  
Bene Beraq)

I wish to refer to M. Siegel's note about handstamped registration notations on Israeli covers which appeared on pages 403/4 in HLPH No. 8 and that by S. Vurgan, appearing on pages 518/9 of HLPH No. 10. I offer some additional information on the subject.

I have quite a lot of registered Israeli covers, but only very few of them bear these handstamped notations, so it seems that it was not a common practice, but for some reason they were used at different periods and in different places. I have in my possession the following examples:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ashqelon	violet	1966
Ashdod	black	25.11.66, 15.1.67
Bene Beraq	black	10.2.69
Haifa	black	8.9.65, 10.65
Jerusalem	red	9.5.65
Nazerat Illit	black	29.4.69, 9.11.69
Petah Tiqva	black	7.2.67
Tel Aviv-Yafo with numbers:		
251	black	14.3.67
252	black	24.4.68, 12.9.69
256	black	31.8.69, 9.1.70

The Tel Aviv Municipality has been regularly using the registration notation "Tel Aviv-Yafo 301" in black.

Also the Israeli Government, Commerce and Industry Department used in the years 1957/58 the handstamped registration notations Jerusalem 13. I have one in the usual size in violet, dated 23.6.58, and three in a much larger size in black, dated 20.11.57, 14.12.57, 16.12.57.

SOME CORRECTIONS TO THE NEW CATALOGUE OF INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

B. Fixler &amp; I. Nachtigal

We have noted some errors and omissions in the new catalogue of IRCs by Prof. Koch, which is reviewed elsewhere in this Bulletin. The following refers only to the Israeli section of the catalogue.

The first issue of IRCs of value IL 3.90 with narrow letters was on 23rd February 1977 and not as listed on June 1st. (IRC No.55).

The first overprinting IL 3.90/3.50 (3.90 narrow) was on April 26th (and not June 1st). (IRC 54).

IRC No. 58 (IL 4.40/3.90/2.00/1.70) does not mention that the numbers of 3.90 are narrow (wide numbers do not, in fact, exist).

The last date of IRC 64 (IL 6.90) was 7.6.78 (and not 15.8.78).

IRC Nos. 68 and 69 which appeared on the 9th (7th) May, 1979, of value IL 11.80/3.90, exist in four types: 3.90 in narrow and broad numbers, and the IL normal and lower by 1 mm.

IRC No. 70 of value IL 11.80/4.40 issued on the 9th May (7th May) does not exist - it appeared for the first time on June 4th, 1979.

IRC No. 71 of value IL 11.80/4.40/3.50/1.70 of May 9th does not exist. An IRC with four overprintings appeared only on June 4th.

IRCs Nos. 83 and 84, of value IL 17.50 overprinted on other values, issued on January 16th, 1980, exists in 7 types, as follows: 17.50/1.70; 17.50/2.00; 17.50/3.30; 17.50/3.50; 17.50/4.40; 17.50/7.50; 17.50/11.80. The catalogue lists only two types.

The IRCs Nos. 94 and 95 were issued on March 23rd, 1981, and not on October 15, 1980.

IRCs Nos. 111 and 112 exist in four types: a distance of 1.25mm between the 0 and the L, a distance of 3mm between these two letters, and both types exist with horizontal and vertical watermarks.

In effect for the IRC of value IL 4.30 there exists 23 types and not only the 21 listed in the catalogue (7 with one overprint, 6 with two and 10 with three overprints).

SOME POSTAL CURIOSITIES (E. Foa, Rehovot)

Bulletin No. 9 (p.456) reported a case of a misdirected letter; it may interest our readers to see some more cases, which I have collected during a number of years.

The first one is certainly the more interesting (Fig.13). It concerns a letter sent on February 27, 1976, from the Ministry of Agriculture in Tel Aviv to the Nuclear Research Center near Yavne, a distance of barely 25 km. This letter, most probably remained attached to the bottom of the mail-bag which was returned from the Yavne Post Office to Tel Aviv and from there made a long trip with other mail to the U.S.A. The bag finally arrived at the Mailbag Repair Center at Edgewater, N.J., where our letter was found on April 14 and sent back to Israel. There another mark was added by the Post Office to explain the delay in forwarding:

"דבר דואר זה התעכב עקב תקלה בשירות" (This postal item was delayed owing to a mishap in the service).



Fig. 13: A letter from Tel Aviv to nearby Yavne, misdirected to New Jersey and returned to its original destination.

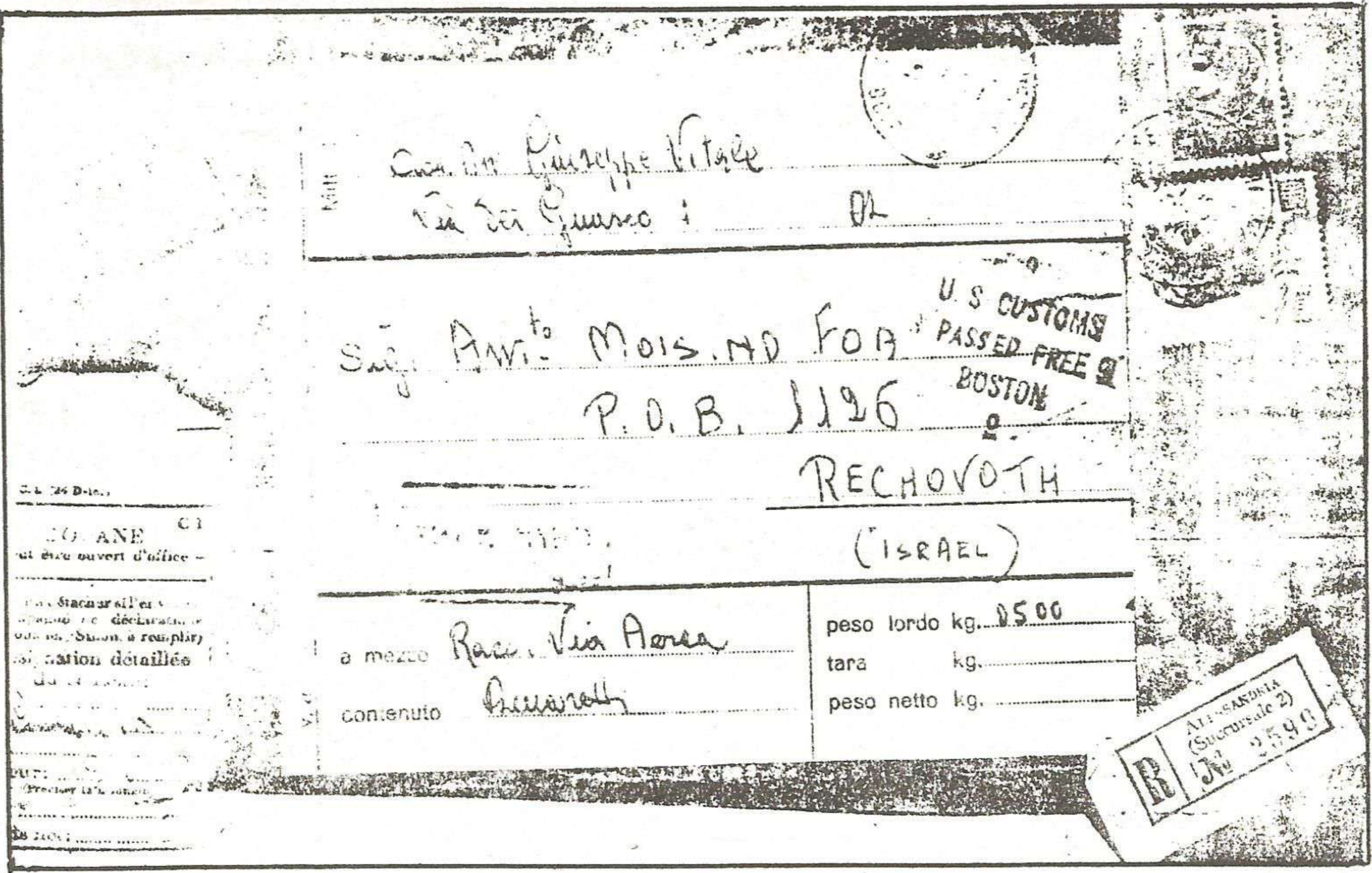


Fig. 14: A registered parcel from Italy to Rehovot, misdirected to Boston and then sent to Israel.

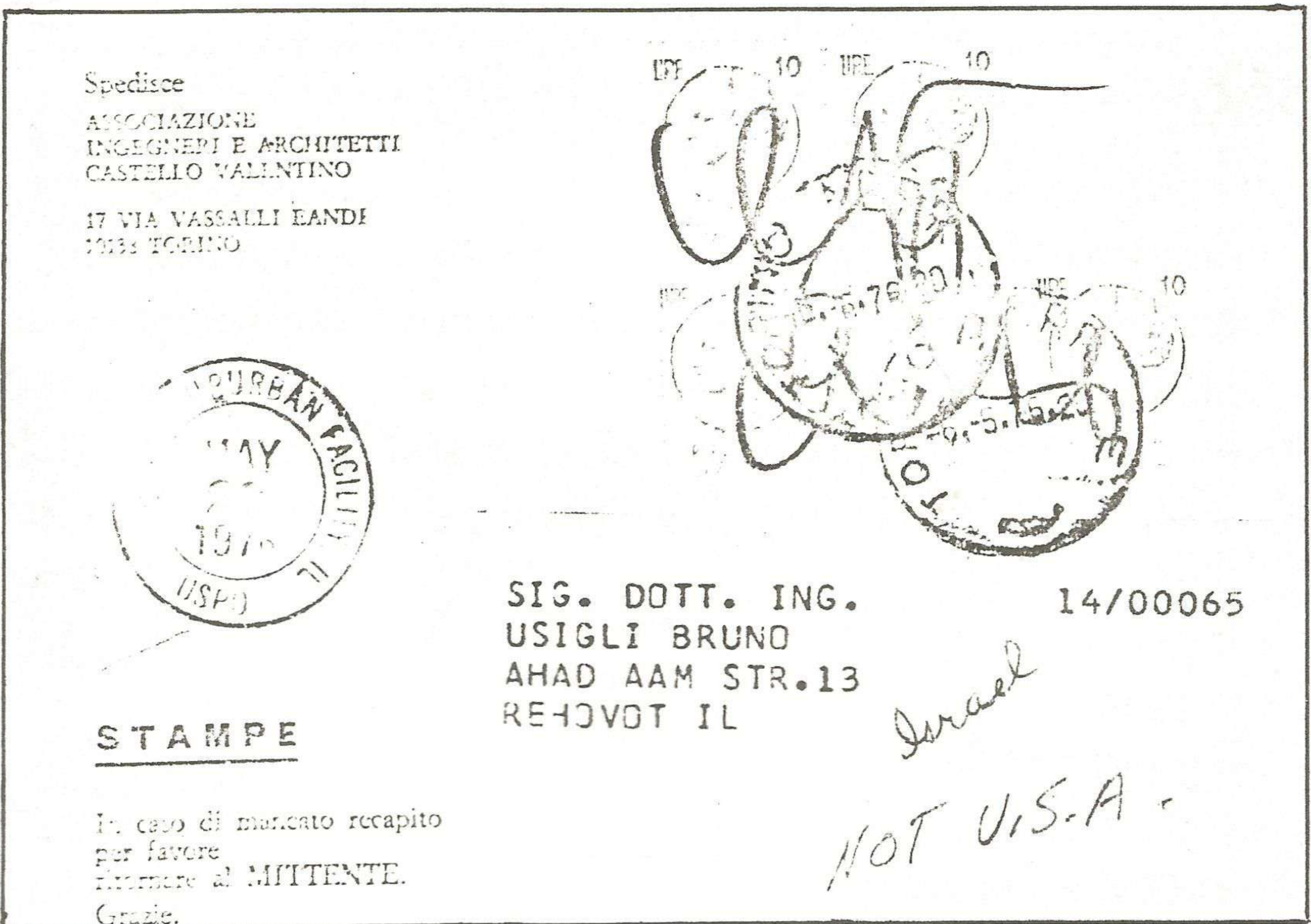


Fig. 15: A letter from Italy to Rehovot, misdirected to Illinois because of the use of "IL" instead of "Israel".

The second and the third cases are two postal items from Italy to Israel. One (Fig.14) is a postal parcel sent on April 2, 1971, by air on the eve of Passover from Alessandria to Rehovot, which was erroneously sent to Boston (see the stamp "U.S. Customs passed free-Boston") from where it was redirected to Israel, where it arrived only one month later. The other (Fig.15), mailed on May 6, 1976, from Torino, arrived at Illinois, U.S.A. (see the postmark "North Suburban Facility, IL-USPO") on May 20, before being sent back to the right address.

A fourth item (Fig.16) sent from Amsterdam on August 1961, was misdirected to Montreal, Canada and on September 11 was sent back to Israel from the British and Foreign Mails department.

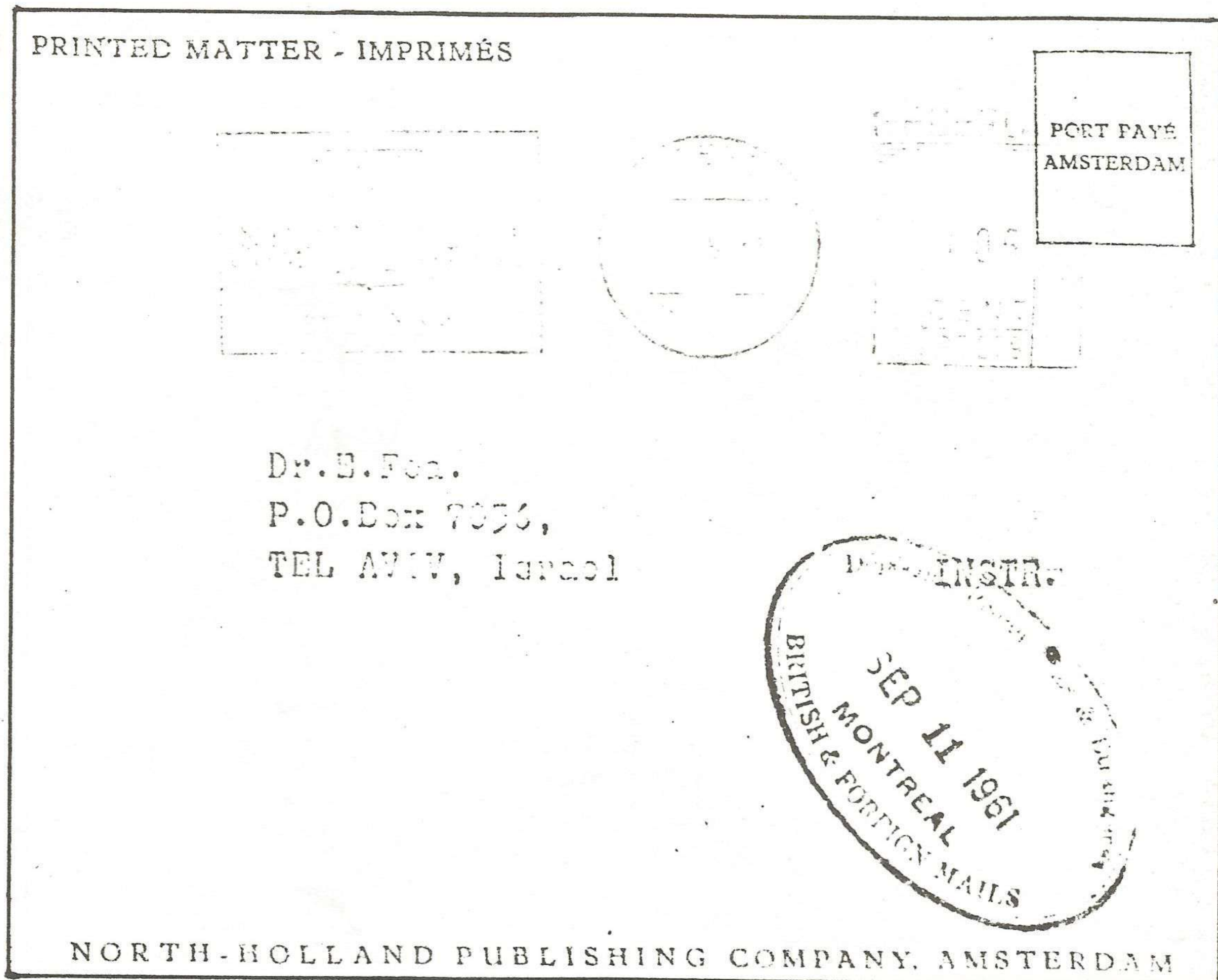


Fig. 16: A letter from Amsterdam to Tel Aviv, misdirected to Montreal, Canada.

The fifth and last item is the one which made the longest trip before reaching Israel. It is a postcard (Fig.17) mailed from Ireland on January 5, 1979. By some mysterious way it arrived on January 14 at SYDNEY, N.S.W., Australia and then made its long trip back to Israel.

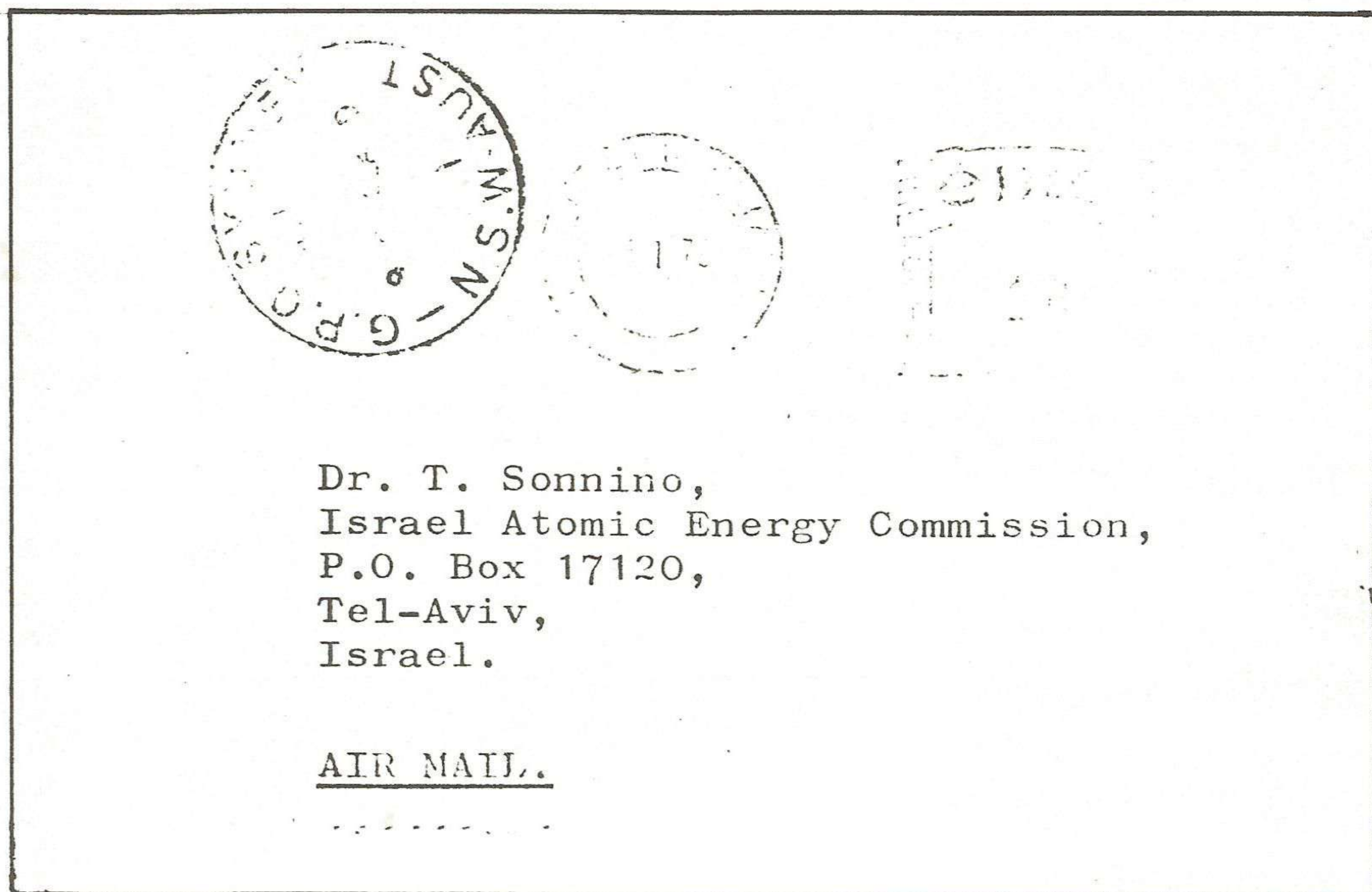


Fig. 17: A letter from Ireland to Tel Aviv, which made all the way to Australia and then to Israel.

#### STRANGE ARE THE WAYS OF THE POST

Fig.18 shows the front and rear of an airletter card sent from Jerusalem to an address in South Africa. The letter was posted at Ben Gurion airport and arrived in Johannesburg...a year later! It seems that the letter arrived in Aden, South Yemen, and was sent from there. The peculiar aspect is that Israel does not have any relations postally with South Yemen, and neither does South Africa. The puzzle is how on earth the letter got to Aden in the first place.

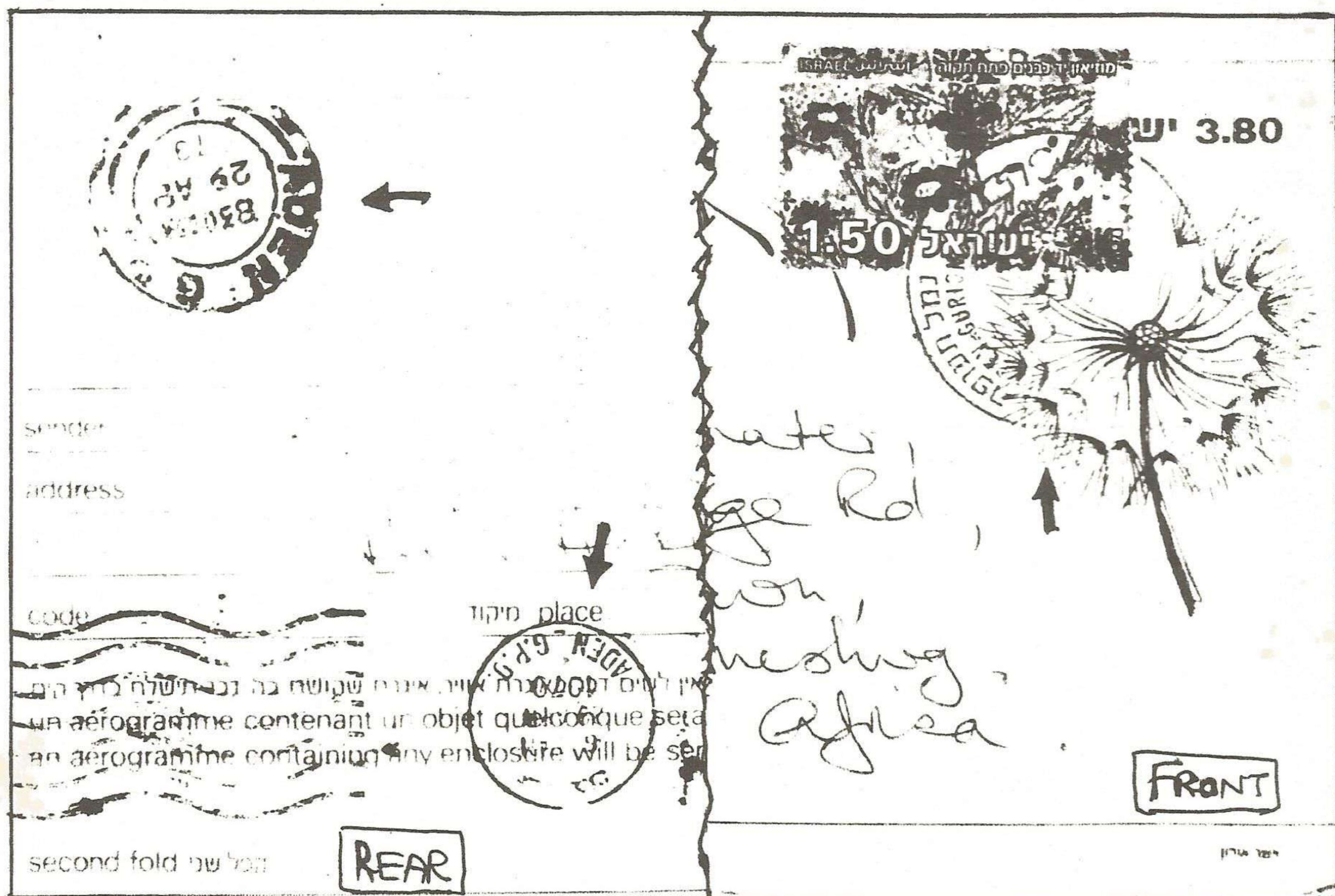


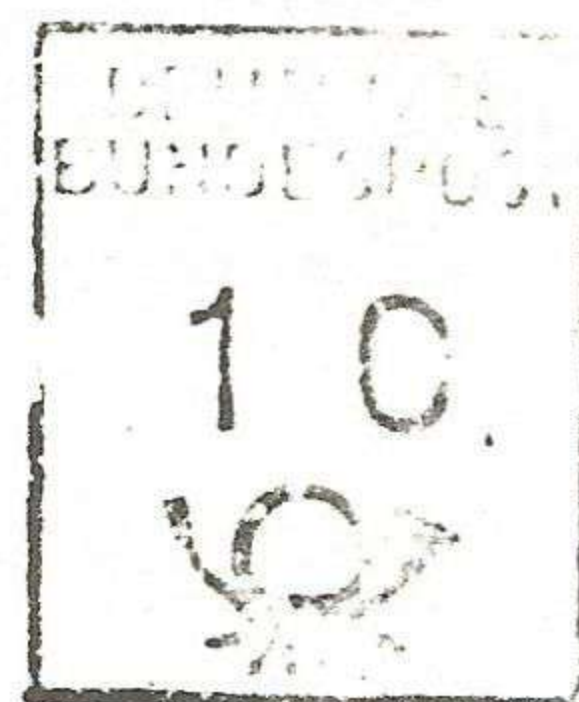
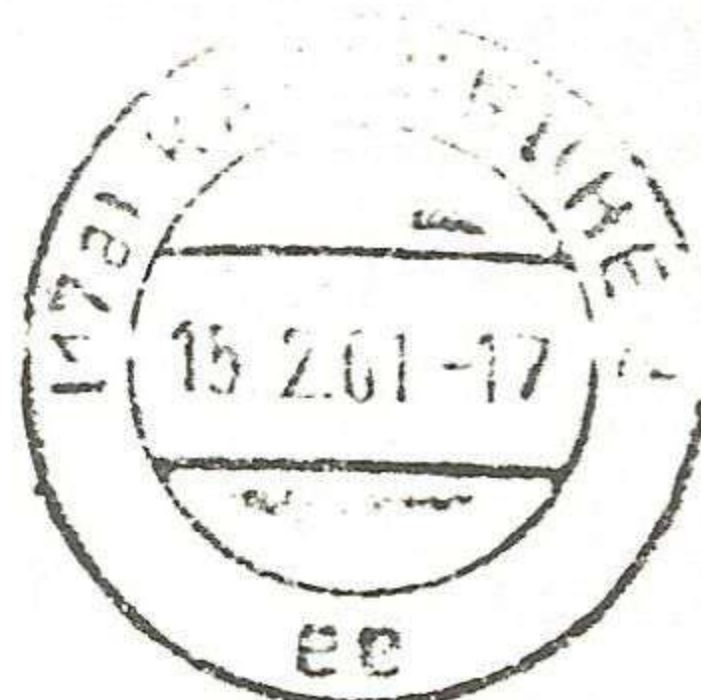
Fig. 18: A letter from Israel to South Africa via...Aden - it made it in one year!

A NOTE ON DAMAGED POSTAL ITEMS (E. Foa, Rehovot)

It is not unusual to receive postal items damaged in some way by improper handling or during their trip, but not always postal authorities recognise their responsibility. I report here two items which arrived damaged with special Post Office stamps explaining the reason for the damage.

The first is an envelope sent from Karlsruhe (W. Germany) to Israel (Fig.19). It arrived with an Hebrew handstamp: "דבר דואר זה ניזוק בעת העברתו לישראל" (This postal item was damaged during its transfer to Israel).

The second one (Fig.20) is an envelope which arrived in Israel from Torino (Italy) bearing a mark in French: "Endomagée par la machine oblitératrice" (Damaged by stamping machine) and the damage repaired with official scotch-tape bearing the words POSTE ITALIANE.



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Fig. 19: A handstamp "This Postal Item was damaged during its transfer to Israel" (in Hebrew) on a cover from Germany.

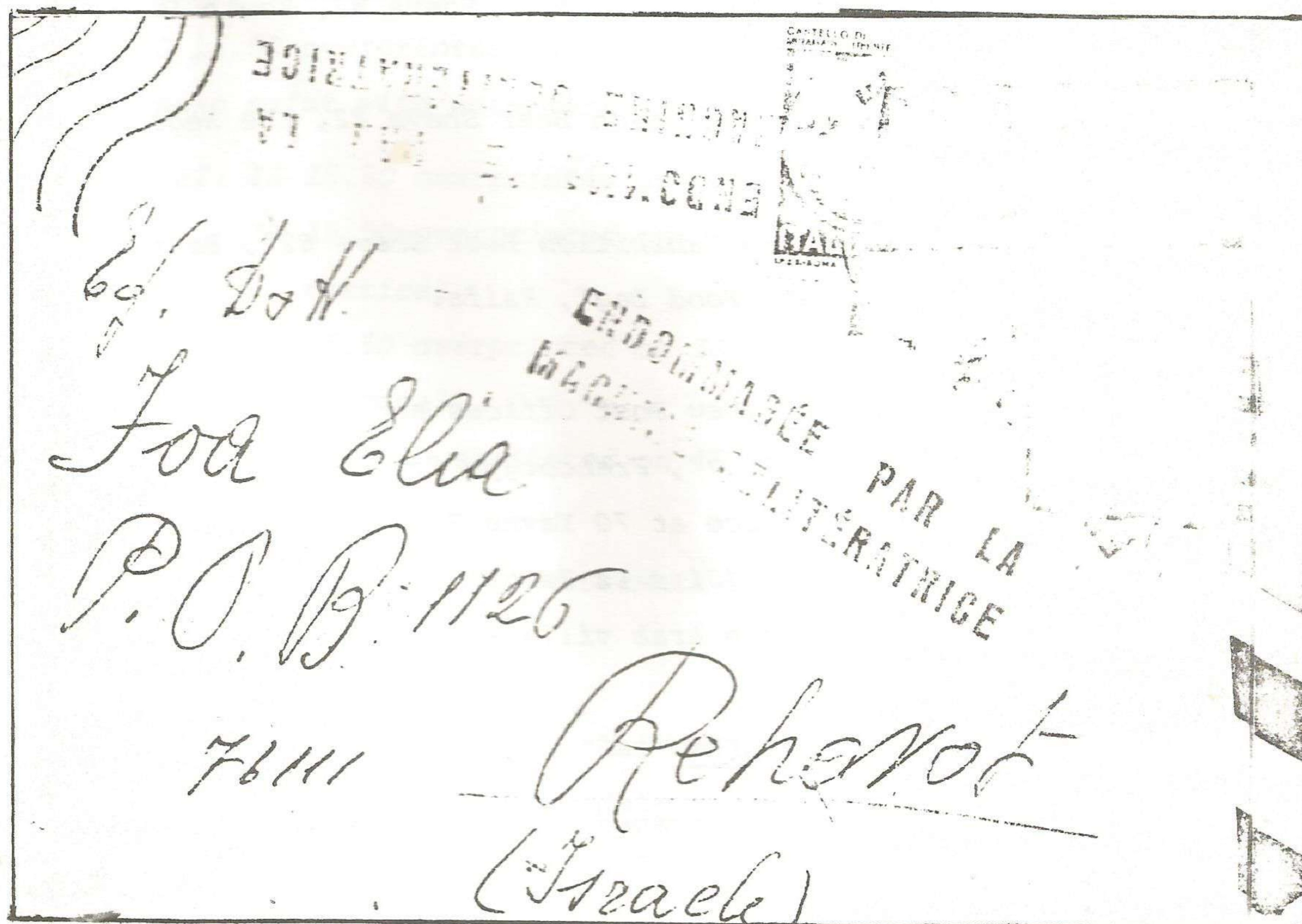


Fig. 20: A handstamp "Damaged by the stamping machine" (in French)

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW CANCELLATIONS AND POST OFFICES

(Compiled by B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal)

### A. Special Cancellations

- 17.8.82: "Rishon LeZiyyon Centenary", Rishon LeZiyyon.
- 17.8.82: "Rosh Pinna Centenary", Rosh Pinna.
- 30.8.82: "Seventh European Crystallographic Meeting, I.U.C.", Jerusalem.
- 01.9.82: "Ma'ale Adummim a new town in Israel", Ma'ale Adummim.
- 5.10.82: "25 years to Maalot", Maalot.
- 5.10.82: "100 to Mazkeret Batya", Mazkeret Batya.
- 5.10.82: "100 years to Zikhron Ya'akov", Zikhron Ya'akov.
- 5.10.82: "National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82", Beer Sheva.
- 6.10.82: "National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82, the Collector Day", Beer Sheva.
- 7.10.82: "National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82, Youth Day", Beer Sheva.
- 8.10.82: "National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82, the Negev Day", Beer Sheva.
- 9-10.10.82: "National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82", Beer Sheva.
- 17.10.82: "F.A.O. Israel Food Day", Haifa.

### C. Definitive Cancellations (New Post Offices and Instruments)

- 19.10.82: "Rehovot (3) 46 T", Francotype franking machine in Rehovot branch post office at 70 Yavne Road.
- 14.11.82: "Jisrez-Zarqa" (Jisr Ez-Zarqa), for the new postal agency (grade "B") in the Arab village.

## NEW STAMPS AND POSTAL STATIONERY

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 12.9.82: A stamp without value for "inland standard letter" (so inscribed on the stamp in Hebrew) was sold for IS 1.70, the

then prevailing local rate. This stamp will always be valid for a local standard letter, no matter what the tariff is at the time, but will be sold at post offices according to the updated rates. It is to be used, according to the post office, only for the above mentioned usage and not in any other combinations. Violations of this rule however are frequently unnoticed by the post office.



5.10.82: Centennial of Zikhron Ya'akov (IS 6.-) and of Mazkeret Batya (IS 9.-); "Beautiful Israel" (IS 17.-); National Stamp Exhibition Beer Sheva 82" souvenir sheet (IS 25.), incorporating the previous stamp imperforated.

New INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS were issued as follows:

01.09.82: IS 15.50 overprinted on IL 38.00, type I and type II.

Type I: Distance between last zero of 38.00 and L (of L.I.) - 3mm.

Type II: Distance between last zero of 38.00 and L - 1.25mm.

IS 15.50 overprinted on IS 3.80.

All these exist with watermark UPU both horizontal and vertical.

10.09.82: IS 15.50 overprinted on IL 28.00, watermark horizontal.

IS 15.50 overprinted on IS 5.60, watermark horizontal or vertical.

IS 15.50 overprinted on IS 6.70, watermark horizontal or vertical.

IS 15.50 overprinted on IS 7.50, watermark horizontal or vertical.

23.11.82: IS 16.30 (red), watermark vertical.

#### NEW POSTAL RATES

Members have requested that we publish some basic postal tariffs each time they are updated. We start here and hopefully we shall publish them whenever they are updated, which is too frequent nowadays....

Postal rates in Israel introduced on 9.11.82  
(rates in IS)

	Standard letter (first 20 grs)	Standard letter (20-50 grs)	Postcard	Aerogramme	Printed Matter (first 20 grs)
Inland	1.80	3.00	1.40	-	-
Abroad (sea)	6.30	11.60	4.80	-	3.10
Abroad (air)	First 10 grs	Each addi- tional 10 grs or part			First 25 grs
Group 1	8.80	4.80	5.50	7.90	7.40
Group 2	10.00	5.70	6.20	7.90	8.10
Group 3	10.70	7.10	6.20	7.90	8.80
Group 4	12.80	8.20	6.20	7.90	10.00
Group 5	14.90	8.50	6.20	7.90	12.80
Registration fee	6.50				
Advice of Delivery	3.00				
"Express" fee	17.00				

The groups for airmail include the following countries:

Group 1: Europe (including Gibraltar and Cyprus), Egypt and Iran.

Group 2: Countries of Africa (except Egypt).

Group 3: Countries of Asia (except Iran).

Group 4: U.S.A., Canada, Countries of Central America and some others.

Group 5: Countries of South America, Australia, New Zealand and some islands in the South Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

## HOLY LAND AWARDS IN "BEER SHEVA 82"

The national stamp exhibition "Beer Sheva 82" was held in Beer Sheva during October 5th to 10th, 1982. We list here the awards won by exhibits of Holy Land philately and postal history.

Class of Honour (out of contest): Fridman J. - "Minhelet Ha'am"; Shabtai Y. - "The Interim Period".

Large Gold: Popik A. - "The British Mandate"; Kovatz D. & E. - "Holy Land".

Gold: Tsahor J. - "Do'ar Ivri"; Zakai A. - "The Negev Postal History"; Ladani S. ("Anon") - "Beer Sheva postal history".

Silver: Kost J. - "Palestine"; Gever B. - "Interim period local issues"; Shtekel E. - "The Interim Period"; Slutzki J. - "Research of the S.B. Sheqel issues"; Berest Z. - "UN Forces in the Middle East"; Palevitz J. - "The Interim period".

Silver Bronze: Shtekel E. - "Netanya 1941-1950"; Ladani S. ("Anon") - "Errors in Israel stationery"; Rachmuth E. - "History of the railways in the Holy Land"; Sondak M. - "Stamp Exhibitions in Israel".

Bronze: Dafni E. - "Ashqelon".

Youth Class - Silver: Shabtai S. - "Israel and the history of Zionism"; Argov T. - "Jerusalem"; Zur A. - "Israel"; Cohen S. - "Stamp Exhibitions in Israel".

Bronze: Luft D. - "Stamp Exhibitions in Israel"; Brum Y. - "Israel, immigration and settlement"; Eisler E. - "Personalities in Israel".

Literature - Vermeil: Steichele A. - "The Postal History of Palestine 1841-1918: part I - The Ottoman Post" (in German).

Silver: Wallach J. - "Catalogue of Israel Definitive issues"; Lin A. - "Israel Philatelic Monthly" (in Hebrew); Glassman and Shimony - "Holy Land Postal History".

## Book Reviews

POSTAL MECHANISATION IN THE HOLY LAND 1925-1981, by W.Y. Loeb1;

BAPIP Monograph 1982. Available from BAPIP (free to BAPIP members) or from S.I.P. Educational Fund, 25113 Duffield Rd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122, U.S.A. (for \$10 postpaid).

This is the first detailed work aimed at philatelists and postal historians, which describes "the basic principles, the equipment and the organisation of stages in the mechanisation of postal services in Palestine and in Israel."

Whilst the main subject of the work is the modern automatic sorting of mail according to postcodes, the author also describes thoroughly many other developments in the postal services of the Holy Land using various mechanical equipment. Starting with the first cancelling machine, introduced in Jerusalem in 1925, other mechanical aids including stamp vending machines, automatic facing and cancelling machines, meter franking machines are also included, from the organisational, technical and philatelic points of view.

The philatelic aspects, like phosphor tagging of Israeli stamps, the different types of machine cancellations during Mandate and Israeli periods, the various booklets and coils which were available in vending machines and the impression on covers of the mechanical and electronic sorting machines are dealt with in much detail. Thus the monograph should be very helpful to philatelists and postal historians even if not interested in the technical details of the mechanisation which is responsible for all this.

The main technical details of the various machines are described, sometimes sketchily; it would be better had some of these details not been included in the main text. A more profound technical description for those interested could have been given in an appendix.

To conclude, this handsome monograph of 62 pages and many excellent illustrations, full of interesting information, is a very welcome and important contribution to our growing library of Holy Land postal history.

(Z. Shimony)

"DIE ANTWORTSCHEINE VON PALÄSTINA UND ISRAEL" by Prof. P.A. Koch

Collectors of philatelic matter ("ganzsachen") began, in the past fifteen years, to interest themselves in collecting International Reply Coupons (IRCs). It is natural, after all, that collectors of stamps and related philatelic material would interest themselves in IRCs, particularly of the Holy Land. But the lack of articles or of a catalogue, at least informing of the issue of new items, was very keenly felt.

In 1976 a study group, under the leadership of Prof. Koch, published a temporary catalogue in Germany. This was then sent to all the members of the ARGE BDDH. The work consisted of some sixty pages, and included incomplete sections on the Turkish, Mandate and Israel (only from 1950 to 1976).

At last we now have a comprehensive catalogue, covering the Mandate and Israeli periods, issued by the study group called Forschungsgemeinschaft Internationale Antwortscheine (FIAS) once again under the leadership of Prof. Koch.

The new catalogue now has some 160 pages of material, and covers a period of some 70 years, from 1912 to 1981, of the use of IRCs in the Holy Land. It includes not only the Turkish items but also those of the various foreign Post Offices functioning here then, the British Mandate period with the Reply Coupons of the Red Cross during the period of the Second World War, the Jordanian period and naturally also a very detailed section on Israel.

No serious collector of these items of Holy Land Postal material can afford to be without this very excellent book. It is therefore a great pity that the work was not printed on better quality paper, so that the book could be stronger and more useable.

There are some inaccuracies and missing information in the book, which are listed elsewhere, which hopefully will be included in a new edition of the book.

(B. Fixler & I. Nachtigal)

### AUCTIONS REALIZATIONS IN ISRAEL

The prices are in U.S. Dollars. 12% buyer's commission and 1.8% V.A.T. should be added. In the auctions marked by (\*) the bids were made in IS and prices here are converted to U.S. \$ according to the rate on the day of the auction.

#### Matsa Auctions\* (31.8.82)

"Postale Italiano Gerusalemme" 1909, circular postmarks tying ten "Gerusalemme" O.P. Italian stamps to a registered cover to Posen - \$2140.

"Menora Club Jerusalem" cachet on cover flown to Tel Aviv, with trilingual Tel Aviv postmark of 16.5.48 tying a 5 mil J.N.F. map stamp - \$2320.

A stampless cover sent by "M. Neustadt, Old City, Jerusalem" to Tel Aviv; struck by "M.K. Jerusalem/8 May 48" and arrival "APO 3" without date. (This cover was illustrated in Fluriś "The Minhelet Ha'am Period" (p.32)) - \$2000.

#### Geva Stamp Auctions (8.9.82)

"Rishon Le Zion Par Poste Autrichienne" postmark on local Austrian Post "Récépissé" printed in French and Hebrew - \$850.

"Embarrassing Postal Packet" almost full handstamp on Mandate postcard - \$100.

Jewish State Map sheet of 20 imperforated (proof?), blue "stamps" without value - \$420.

#### Capital Stamps Auctions\* (15.9.82)

Complete proof sheet on white paper of the 5 mil O.P. of Jerusalem I, 1948 - \$150.

Complete sheet of 20 Jerusalem III stamps (brown 1) of 1948 - \$1430.

Eight colour proofs (?) of Nahariya "Emergency Post" sheetlets and souvenir sheets in different colours and papers - \$390.

Zodiac Stamps (14.10.82)

Mandate triangular postmarks on covers (1946-1947): AF (Affula), HD (Hadera), NL (Nahalal), PT (Petah Tiqva), RM (Ramataim) - each sold for about \$100.

Cover from Rosh Pinna (Dorfman Type 6, 30.12.47) reused in Jerusalem 17.2.48 and reused again with Israeli postmark 7.6.48 - \$400.

H.G. Muentz Stamp Auction (20.10.82)

"Rehoboth (Jaffa)", 1915, superb strike on entire to Berlin - \$1800.

"Zammarin" postmark and straight-line Hebrew "Zichron Ya'acov" (both in violet) on postcard - \$1200.

"Caiffa" violet negative seal (Pollack No. K) on 1897 postcard to Leipzig - \$5400.

"Nablus" oval strike (Pollack No. C) on registered cover to London; Oval negative registration mark and pencilled AR mark (Avis de Reception) - \$4300.

"Petah Tikwah/Per Oesterr. Post" and Jaffa Austrian postmark on view card of Petah Tikva with Jerusalem arrival - \$2200.

"ROPIT Yaffa" "Swiss Type" (d.c. with bridge and lines in inner circle) postmark of the Russian P.O. (12.6.14) on a registered cover to Odessa - \$900.

Unistamps\* (17.11.82)

Jaffa, 1914 registered letter franked by two Austrian Levant stamps with "A.P.C." perfins - \$415.

Mandate 5m/1 pt (S.G.2) tied to a postcard by Jerusalem S.Z.44 postmark of 26.2.1918 - \$2200.

Tiberias, 1936, skeleton postmark on cover backstamped with red Jerusalem postmark - \$5.

Do'ar Ivri 3 - 50 pruta plate blocks (plate No. 1) on 6 FDCs - \$765.

## MEMBERS' FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

(Every member is entitled to a 3-line free ad, once a year.)

Collector seeks cachets, advertising postcards and illustrated stationery of hotels in the Holy Land, pre-1936. Purchase or exchange. Correspondence welcomed. D. Vandervelde, 25 Sinclair Grove, London NW11 9JH, Gt. Britain.

\* \* \* \* \*

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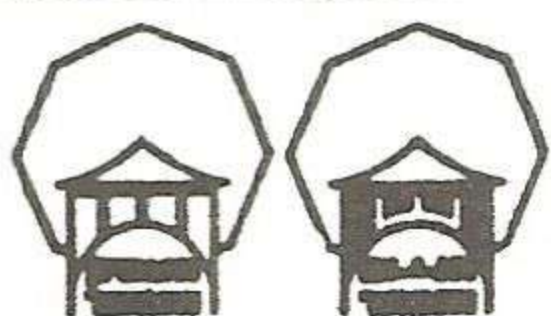
הנהלת "קלע" שמחה להודיעכם כי

ג ב ע

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מכירות פומביות בח"א

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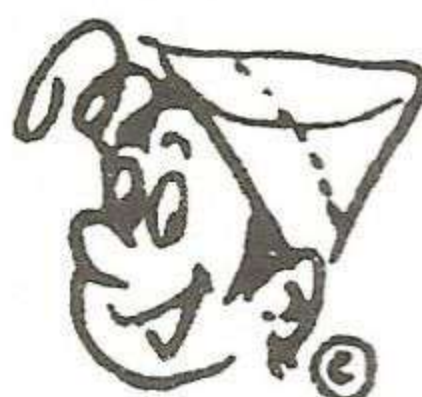
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דמי החבר לשנת 1983 נקבעו ל - 300 שקל. זהו סכום קטן במידה ניכרת מהמתחייב בהתאם לאינפלציה ואנו עושים מאמץ להקל על החברים ולא להעלות את דמי החבר במלוא הערך הראלי. אך דבר זה גם מחייב את החברים לעשות מאמץ מצידם ולשלם את דמי החבר בהקדם, רצוי בחודש ינואר 1983. כזכור עודכנו כל "שנות החברות" לשנה אזרחית מלאה, כך שכל החברים חייבים בתשלום ל-1983 עם ראשית השנה! לגבי אלו שיפגרו בתשלום לא היתה ברירה אחרת - וזאת גם בכדי שהחברים המשלמים בזמן לא יפגעו - מאשר לקבוע תשלומים יותר גבוהים בהתאם לתקופת התשלום, לפי הטבלה הבאה:

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ברצוננו להזכיר לחברים בישראל את מה שפורסם כבר בעתון הקודם (במסגרת דבר המערכת באנגלית) בקשר לסימפוזיון על "תולדות הדאר בארץ הקודש", שיערך במסגרת התערוכה הלאומית "תל אביב 83" בספטמבר 1983. אספנים וחוקרים המעוניינים לתת הרצאה מתאימה על נושא של בולאות ו/או תולדות הדאר בארץ ישראל במסגרת סימפוזיון זה מתבקשים לפנות אל צבי שמעוני (לפי כתובת האגודה או טלפון 02/711719). ההרצאות תהיינה ברובן באנגלית בגלל האורחים הרבים מחו"ל, שבודאי ישתתפו אתנו בארוע זה.

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\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* תולדות הדאר של ארץ ישראל \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות הדאר של ארץ ישראל  
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ועדת בקורת ובוררות: מ. סונדק, ב. קלינר

מערכת הבטאון: ע. גלסמן, ב. קלינר, ע. רחמוט, י. רמון, צ. שמעוני

\* \*

\*

דמי חבר שנתיים באגודה: 300 שקל (כולל קבלת בטאון האגודה).

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

# תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

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בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות  
הדואר של ארץ-ישראל



משרד הדואר ומרכבת הדואר האוסטרי בעיר העתיקה

ליד שער יפו, בשנת 1914

The Austrian Post Office and mail carriage  
in the Old City of Jerusalem near Jaffa Gate, ca. 1914.

(See article on page 599)



סתיו תשמ"ג