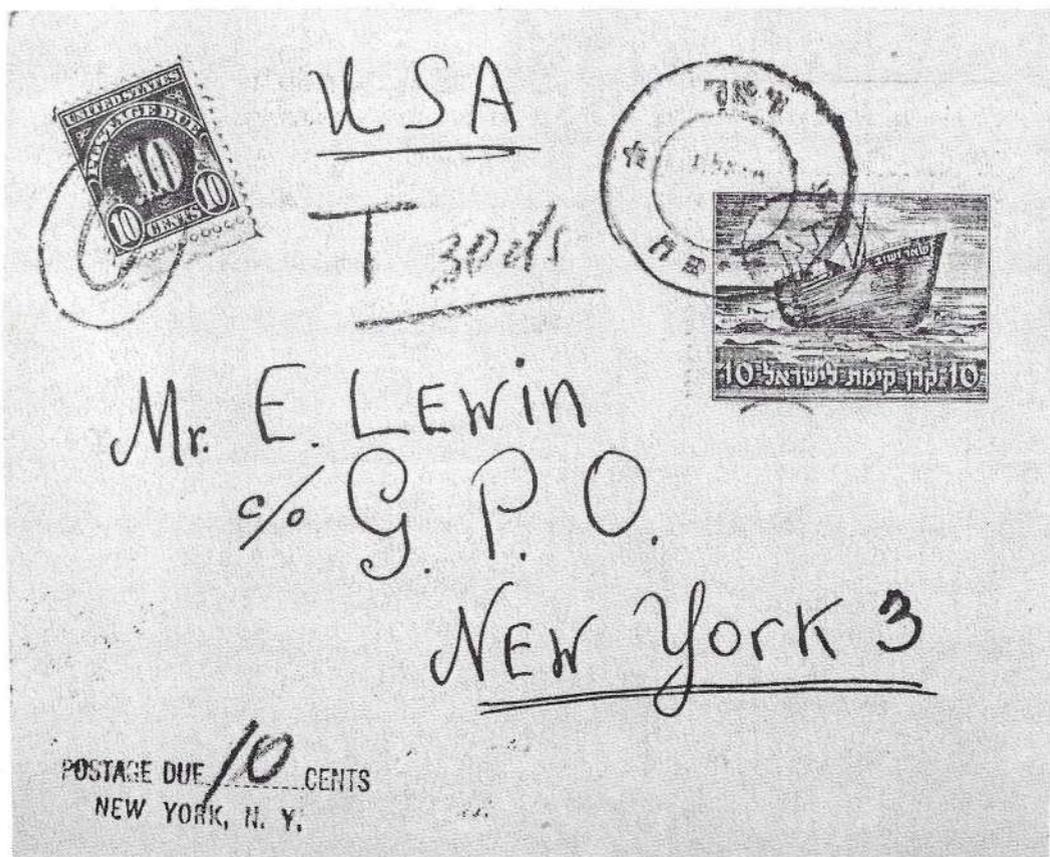


Holy Land Postal History

III
4546

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



מעטפה נדירה מתקופת מנהלת העם, שנשלחה מחיפה לניו-יורק בתחילת מאי, 1948.
המעטפה הגיעה ליעדה ב-17 ביוני ונקנסה שם ע"י בול דמי דואר של ארה"ב.
A rare Minhelet Ha'am cover sent from Haifa to New York in the beginning of
May, 1948. Reaching its destination on 17 June, it was taxed there with US
postage due stamp for insufficient franking (see article on p. 216)

WINTER/SPRING 1991

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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חיפה '91
תערוכת בולים דו-לאומית
ישראל - פולין
חג הסוכות, התשנ"ב
24.9.—1.10.1991



ב.ה. נסטויטר

יו"ר תערוכת הבולים "חיפה '91"

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HAIFA '91
BINATIONAL
STAMP EXHIBITION
ISRAEL - POLAND

First Issue of Datestamps for the 2nd A.I.F.*

David C. Collyer, Australia

It is hoped that the following material and discussion will stimulate comments on the origin and use of the first issue of datestamps used by the 2nd AIF in the Middle East. This material has been under assessment for some time and it is now felt that comment should be sought from philatelists and postal historians interested in this area.

The traditional view of these datestamps was propounded originally by H.S. Porter in the "Australian Stamp Monthly", 1946-47, which was reprinted with some amendments in the same journal between January and December 1958. Over the years this view has been supported by P.M. Rock, 1971 and P. Collas, 1977. When No. 1 AIF Base Postal Unit, with 6 Div. Postal Unit, reached Palestine on 13 February 1940 it carried with it a group of 20 datestamps:

Army PO AM 1	2nd Bde HQ PO P 2
Army PO AP 1	3rd Bde HQ PO P 3
Army PO AW 1	Railhead PO RM 1
Base PO BW 1	Railhead PO RW 1
Div DQ PO DM 1	Div Supply HQ PO SM 1
Div HW PO DW 1	Div Supply HQ PO SP 1
1st Bge HQ PO M 1	Div supply HQ PO SW 1
2nd Bde HQ PO M 2	1st Bge HQ PO W 1
3rd Bde HQ PO M 3	2nd Bde HQ PO W 2
1st Bge HQ PO P 1	3rd Bde HQ PO W 3

Archival research and oral history work, carried out by workers in Melbourne, has come across some material that raises questions regarding this interpretation. This material will be shown as Appendices A-D**.

Appendix A from Quartermaster General to 'Austair' and dated 4 January 1940 asks two questions:-

- Will the British supply postal stationery?
- Will the British Base Post Office accept mail from Australians for despatch to Australia?

It is understood that the term 'stationery' refers to forms, invoices and other documents required for the functioning of a Field Post Office, and not 'imprinted' postal stationery, as known by philatelists.

* Reprinted from the Bulletin of The Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of N.S.W., August 1988.

** These original documents, shown in the Appendices of the original Australian article, are not reproduced here in HLPH.

Appendix B is the reply to Appendix A. The message makes three points:

- The British will supply stores and stationery.
- Postage is to be the prevailing rates in the country of despatch.
- When a British Post Office bulk forwarding centre is established, the Australian Postal Unit may send its mail through that centre. This implies some other arrangement may have existed at that time.

The addressee of Appendix B, Air Board Melbourne, from A.L.O. (Army Liaison Officer) Air Ministry, helps in explaining the 'Austair' referred to in Appendix A. It would appear that 'Austair' was an RAAF Liaison Officer in the Middle East. This implies that in early January 1940, there was no Army equivalent in that area.

Appendix C dated 16 January 1940 from Quartermaster General to 'MILPAL' and for Brigadier Morris makes the following points:

- Free postage is approved on letters up to 4 ounces.
- Other rates have to be prepaid.
- Letters required the imprint of an FPO datestamp.
- British will supply Post Office equipment and stationery.

Brigadier Morris was Basil M. Morris, who later rose to the rank of Major General. He served in the First AIF, was commanding Officer of the Advance Party of the AIF which left Australia on the 'Strathallan' on 15 December 1939. As Commandant of Aust. Overseas Base 1940 he was located in Jerusalem whilst the training camps for the 2nd AIF were located around Gaza. Later in his career he was Australian Military Liaison Officer in India 1940-1, Commandant 8 Military District (Papua) 1941-2, Commander New Guinea Force 1942 and Commander ANFAU 1942-6.

The introduction of free postage on letters up to 4 ounces was in line with the Postal Rates (Defence Forces) Act of November 1939. This message confirms the point made in Appendix B that the British were prepared to supply post office equipment and stationery.

Appendix D is a review of postal despatches from Base Post Office BW. 1 for February and March 1940, the first two months the 2nd AIF was based in Palestine. Serial No. 1 was sent on Saturday 22 February 1940, whilst serial Nos. 6-8 were sent on consecutive Sundays, March 2, 9 and 16.

Using the above, and other data, the researchers made the following comments:-

- 1) From 14 February to 13 October 1940 AIF troops were concentrated in Palestine. The Postal Section of the Overseas Base operating the Base Post Office comprised 1 Officer and 9 other ranks, total 10 men. The 6 Aust. Division Postal Unit comprised 1 Officer and 17 other ranks, totalling 18 men. The first postal administrative officer, NX 390 Major C.J. Fletcher, arrived by

air on 1 August 1940 and was appointed DAD HQ 1 Aust. Corps. This would give a spread of 20 datestamps between 28 men.

- 2) No identical Australian manufactured datestamp was duplicated.
- 3) The second series of datestamps inscribed 'Aust Base P.O. 1-4' and 'AIF Field PO 5-16 and 21-24' were issued in the Middle East in July 1941. Numbers 17-21 of this series were in use in Malaya from February 1941.
- 4) The datestamps detailed above are the only ones that can be traced as being made in Australia, and then sent out to the Middle East and Malaya.

Appendices A,B,C show that the Quartermaster General - Q Branch - was the administrative body looking after the APS, at least in 1940. The distribution list of Appendix B - Chief of General Staff, Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, and Major General of Ordnance - shows that each of the major administrative branches was kept informed in regard the APS. It is probable however, that only the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General were involved at any given time. Appendix C illustrates that in Palestine in January 1940 the Australian Overseas Base was controlling postal matters.

Appendix D indicates that the first despatch of mail through the Australian Base Post Office? occurred on 22 February 1940. The advance party of the 2nd AIF left Sydney aboard the 'Strathallen' on 15 December 1939, and arrived at Port Said on 7 January 1940. There was no postal representative in the advance party. The first convoy of the 2nd AIF left Sydney on 9 January 1940 and the 6,600 troops arrived at camps in Southern Palestine from 13 February onwards. This convoy transported 6 Aust. Division units including 16 Bde., Reconnaissance Regiment, 2/1 Aust General Hospital and detachments of other units including the postal section of the Overseas Base and the 6th Division Postal Unit.

Given that the Overseas Base brought the first issue of datestamps with it from Australia, why is there a gap of greater than 7 days between the arrival of the troops and the first despatch of mail from the Base Post Office? Mail is known from the first convoy but it bears cachets from the transports, not datestamps.

A second convoy transporting the 17 Brigade left Melbourne on 15 April 1940 and arrived at Suez on 17 May 1940. A third convoy left Fremantle on 15 May carrying the 18 Brigade, but was diverted to England arriving at Clyde on 16 June 1940.

Anyone who has ever looked at the makeup of the Divisions of the 2nd AIF in the Middle East would be struck by the apparent 'ad hoc' composition. The force decided upon in September 1939 called for a single Division. Australian Military Practice of the time followed the lines of the British Army and the First AIF in WW I. Each Division consisted of 3 Brigades which in turn consisted of 4 Battalions. In January 1940 the Australian Government agreed to the formation

of a second Division for the 2nd AIF. At this time it was decided to follow the then British practice and have each Brigade consisting of 3 Battalions.

The significance of this organisational structure is that the first series of datestamps used the 3 Brigade sequence. It can also be seen that the sequence was based on a single division. As the Brigade datestamps sequence is based on 3 times 3 grid using letters and numbers, it may well be that these datestamps were produced after the decision was made to use 3-battalion Brigades instead of 4-battalion Brigades.

With regard to the datestamps of the 2nd AIF, the coding used on this first issue is unique. In some ways it appears to follow the system developed by the British in WW I and used by the First AIF, where the letters specify the function of the unit and the numbers its numeric order within the command. In WW II the Divisional level would have been served by datestamps inscribed "Brigade", "Divisional HQ" and "Divisional Supply HQ". "Railhead" Post Offices had a function in the Army postal service of British Army in France in WW I, but had little relevance to the M.E. at the beginning of WW II. The Army Post Office datestamps would have functioned similar to Lines of Communication catering for units between Base and operational forces. The Base Post Office was the funnel through which mail moved in and out.

The timing of the introduction of the letter-numeral series of datestamps is interesting. As the series was developed for a Divisional basis one would expect its introduction to occur over a short time. There appears to be two periods: February and April 1940 plus September 1940 to January 1941.

Year	Month	Datestamps introduced
1940	February	BW.1, M.1, RM.1, SM.1
1940	April	SP.1
1940	September	DM.1
1940	October	AP.1, AW.1, M.2, P.3, DW.1
1940	November	P.1, RW.1, W.3
1940	December	M.3, P.2, W.1, W.2
1941	January	SW.1

The February period covers the Australian Overseas Base and the 16th Brigade, and the April period covers the 17 Brigade. The September 1940 to January 1941 period covers the arrival of the 7th and 9th Aust. Divisions, and the establishment of 1 Aust Corps and the Lines of Communication units. The break in distribution may indicate that the datestamps in the later distributions arrived close to the time they were issued. It is equally possible that they had been held since February 1940.

One may ask where was this series of datestamps made, and by whom. The evidence available is fragmentary and at times analogy is reverted to. The work of R. Tobin on the datestamps of NSW shows that from the early

1930's the majority of contracts for the manufacture of postal datestamps was awarded on a Commonwealth basis to H.C. Horton of 717 Dandenong Road, Malvern SE.4 Melbourne. Tobin notes that until late 1938 the diameter of datestamp blanks varied from 29.5 to 31 mm, which coincides with the first issue of datestamps for the 2nd AIF. After 1938 the size varied between 29.5 to 30.5 which coincides with the diameters of the second issue of datestamps for the 2nd AIF:

Issue	Diameter	Datestamps
1	29.5 mm	P.2
	30 mm	AM.1, AP.1, M.3, P.3, RM.1, RW.1, SP.1
	30.5 mm	AW.1, BW.1 (A&B), DM.1, M.2, SM.1, W.1(B), W.2, W.3
	31 mm	BW.1 (C), M.1, P.1, SW.1, W.1(A)
2	29.5 mm	ABPO 4, AIF FPO 5,6,15,24
	30 mm	ABPO 1,2,3, AIF FPO 7,8,9,10,11(A),12,13,14,21,22,23
	30.5 mm	AIF FPO 11(B), 16

Independent archival research has located only one reference in the Commonwealth Gazette regarding the manufacture of postal datestamps for the Army. This work has been included to show how the tender system worked and thus what may exist in regard the first series of datestamps. It would appear that the tender was for 'O' series of datestamps, the third series which were first issued in late 1941 and early 1942. This work illustrates that tenders were called for this type of work.

In the Commonwealth Gazette of 7 August 1941, tenders were invited for the supply of 'Hand Postmarkers, Army Pattern, C3454, which closed at 3p.m. on 14 August 1941. The issue of 2 October 1941, announced the awarding of contract No. 4541 to H.C. Horton, 717 Dandenong Road, Malvern, S.E.4, Victoria - schedule C 3554, ... 412/10/-, Victoria. The letter 'C' in the tender number denotes the tender was called for by the Commonwealth Government. Horton had been awarded a normal Post Office datestamp contract on 1 July 1941. The calling of a separate tender one month later may be regarded as an emergency measure. The 'Army Pattern' specification implies that the datestamps were for use by the Army in places not controlled by the PMG's Department, therefore, most likely for overseas use. The inclusion of 'Victoria' at the end of the announcement is taken to mean that the datestamps were for delivery in Victoria, where Army Headquarters was located.

The concept of duplicate stamps was first put forward by H.S. Porter in 1946. He noted that: "On all the three Base PO datestamps the inscription at the bottom BW.1 and they can only be distinguished by slight differences in the size and distribution of the lettering, inseparable from hand engraving." This was extended in later work to show that each of the datestamps in the first and second series was duplicated. Besides BW.1, W.1 appears in

two diameters, 31mm and 30.5mm. In the second series of datestamps AIF FPO 11 also appears in two diameters, 30mm and 30.5mm. It would appear that in each case different diameter blanks were engraved separately. Proving the case for duplication of design requires a large sample of each of the datestamps, something few collectors would have access to. Accepting duplicated datestamps would mean that the first series of 20 datestamps would become 41 datestamps and the second series of 20 datestamps would become 40. In the Australian Civil Postal Service, duplicate datestamps or reserve datestamps made up were not kept. The situation in the AIF could well have been different as the contractor could not readily be called on to provide repairs or new datestamps.

Comparisons with other types of datestamps used in the Middle East at the time, show that the First and Second series of AIF datestamps are of different origin. Whilst the Palestine Post Office used a ring datestamps, it was built up from loose type. The date is inserted type unlike the AIF series which had a revolving date wheel. The British military datestamp were normally double ring and a smaller diameter. The Egyptian datestamps used a central revolving date, but the design was divided into three horizontal segments.

NZ forces were equipped with two basic types of datestamps which did contain a revolving date wheel. Unlike their Australian counterparts, these also contained an additional wheel for the hour which appears after the year wheels.

The first of these types were taken to Egypt engraved and inscribed NZ/FPO 1 (9 MR 40) and NZ/FPO 2 (3 MR 41) in Egypt. Of the 'KW' series, KW and KW.1 were obtained in Egypt. The rest of the series, commencing with KW.2, came from NZ as unengraved blanks, and were engraved in Egypt.

The NZ datestamp with the most resemblance to Australian types is the 'J' class datestamp engraved '- N.Z. Army - Base Post Office -'. It was proofed in NZ on 4 January 1940 and is first known to be used in Egypt on 22 February 1940. The engraving format and style is different from Australian datestamps of the period.

The origins of the second series of AIF datestamps can be documented. On 26 July 1940, the Directory Army Postal Service, was asked by the A.D. Posts Headquarters AIF (M.E.), to arrange for the following War Equipment Tables for Base and Field Units. These included:-

"Postmarkers, revolving steel	- Admin HQ Postal	6
	- Corps Postal Unit	4
	- Divisional Postal Units (3)	15 (5 each)

The engraving to include serial numbers 1-25."**

** This material is taken from 'War Diary Administrative HQ AIF Postal Unit', 3/40 to 9/40 (AWM 52 17/1/85). Some researchers have queried this reference as A.D. Posts HQ (M.E.) was not in existence in July 1940. As a War Diary is an official document, either the original writer was given an incorrect unit designation, or the title has been incorrectly transcribed later.

This directive seems to be based on 3 Divisions – 6 Division, 7 Division, 9 Division. The 8 Division went to Malaya in February 1941 and its datestamps went with it. Commencing on 29 January 1941, Camp Post Offices in Palestine were given numbers instead of names for security reasons. This process was extended throughout the AIF in the Middle East by April 1941. In the War Diary of the Assistant Director Postal Services Headquarters AIF Middle East for 4 June 1941, the entry notes that steel revolving postmarkers had been received from Australia. Instructions were given for the return of some datestamps then in use, and for the distribution of datestamps Aust. Base PO 1–4 and AIF Field PO 5–15 plus 21–24. The new postmarkers were to be forwarded from the Headquarters on 5 July 1941, and brought into operation on 15 July 1941.

Appendices A & B cover the period prior to the arrival of the AIF Advance Party. It would appear that the Air Board handled communications to the Middle East prior to the arrival of the AIF Advance Party. Appendix C shows that the situation changes once the AIF Advance Party arrives and communications are directed to Brigadier Morris. The crux of this evidence in regard the provision of the first series of datestamps to the 2nd AIF is the meaning of:-

- Appendix A – “...supply Australian Overseas Base and Field Post Offices with postal equipment.”
- Appendix B – “...will supply stores and stationery for Australian Post Service.”
- Appendix C – “...will supply Post Office equipment and stationery required.”

Does ‘Postal equipment’ or ‘Post Office equipment’ imply the provision of datestamps? It is likely that the AIF would not bring bulky postal equipment with it from Australia if similar equipment could be acquired in the Middle East.

It would be much appreciated if anyone would like to comment as to why there was a delay in distributing the second series of datestamps.

Conclusion: Data from archival sources may require a re-assessment of the first issue of datestamps used by the 2nd AIF. Whilst there is no direct evidence to their manufacture, they seem to be of Australian origin. The format, layout and engraving conforms to Australian standards of the period. If they arrived with the First Convoy in February 1940, they needed to have been made some time before it was decided the Brigade numbers of the force start at 16 which would have been between September 1939 and early January 1940. Their coding is unique amongst the datestamps of the 2nd AIF, and may go back to WW I. An understanding of the structure of the AIF in the Middle East is useful in comprehending the distribution of these datestamps.

Comment on points raised in this article would be greatly appreciated.

Acknowledgements: This paper was based on material submitted by R.T. Macafee.

Mr. Macafee served with the Army Postal Service during World War II and over the years has been conducting research in this area.

Thanks to R.W. Stern and K.S. Sheard for commenting on the draft and making their experience available in regard both the military side and aspects of forces postal history.

This manuscript could not have been completed without the assistance of Mrs. M. Perkins and Mrs. N. Wright who produced the typescripts.

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Palestine Perfins and Non-Perfins

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi

"Perfin" is an acronym composed of the first four letters of the word "Perforated" and the first two letters of the word "Initial". For convenience, the letter "S" is added making the word "Perfins" as it is usually found in the plural.

In philately, the term is used for one or a series of punched out holes on stamps not involving the outer perforations. Such stamps are variously termed "Branded Stamps", "Punchies", "Punch Perforated", "Punctured" and "Spifs" (the last an acronym for Stamps Perforated with Initials of Forms and Societies or Stamps Perforated for Insurance against Fraud).

There are two major uses for perfins. The first use is to indicate a variety of Postal Administration usages. Such devices have been used on stamps as far back as 1854 when single holes were used on the stamps of Western Australia to indicate official postage stamps. In 1882, stamps of British Guinea were perforated "Specimen" as a precaution against fraud on its revenue stamps by forgery. Beginning in 1888, issues of Tunisia were perforated with the letter "T" signifying "postage due". In the following year, 1889, Spain used the single perforation hole to designate that the stamps had been telegraphically used. In 1917, Argentina perforated holes on stamps forming part of the word "Inutilizado", signifying that the stamps had been cancelled by the perforations in payment of postage on the bulk mailing of newspapers. To this list must be added the "PG" perfin found on the 1921 issue of Palestine. This stands for Palestine Government. The major official use of the "specimen" perfin was by many countries of the world at the behest of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to be distributed to the other member countries as examples of their postage stamps for identification purposes.

The second major use of perfins was for private application, but with official sanction, as a protection against pilferage. This was well before the use of postage meters, in popular use today as a guard against the stealing of stamps. Such use was first authorized in Great Britain in 1868 and later in the United States in 1908. Such private perforations are to be found on the stamps of well over 100 countries.

During the Palestine Mandate, both types of perfins were in use. The first was authorized for official usage and the second was authorized for private usage. The Palestine perfins are listed here.

(1) Figure 1 shows the "PG" perfin which stands for Palestine Government. This perfin is extremely rare and only one copy has been reported in the literature. It is found on the 2 millimes stamp of the London I Issue released in 1921. It is not clear what the intent was of the Postal Administration in introducing this perfin. Whether it was to be used for "Official" postage or as a design

against the theft of its stamps at its own agencies is not known. For technical reasons relating to the means of applying the perforation, this perfin was not put into general use.

(2) Figure 2 shows the straight line "specimen" perfin. This appears vertically on the 4, 7, 8, 13, and 15 mil values, and horizontally on the 250 and 500 mil and 1 pound values. All of these stamps are of the Pictorial Issue and represent the reissues with a change of color, and the new 15 mil value (1932), or the new high values (1942). The purpose of these "specimen" perfins was for identification to be distributed to the other member countries of the UPU.

(3) Figure 3 shows the arc "specimen" perfin found only on the 6 mil value of the PD III Issue released in 1933. Other values of this set were overprinted "specimen". The purpose was for identification as described above.

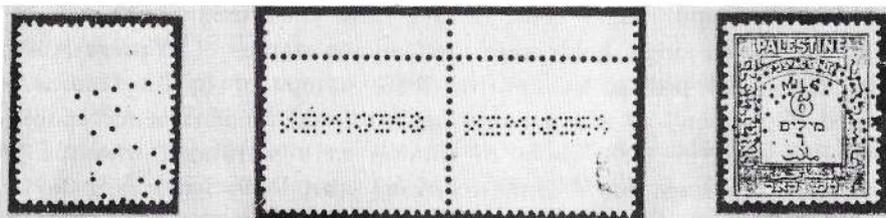


Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

(4) Figure 4 shows the "KKL" perfin. These are the initials of the Hebrew words Keren Kayemet L'Israel (Jewish National Fund). They are known in four positions: correct upright, inverted upright, turned right to left upright and inverted. These are known on several values of both the London II and Pictorial Issues. These were authorized by the government, clearly for anti-theft purposes.

(5) Figure 5 shows the "APC" perfin. These are the initials of the Anglo Palestine Company. They are found on the London I Issue and on many values of the London II and Pictorial Issues in eight different positions. These were government authorized for anti-theft purposes.

A full listing of the "KKL" and "APC" perfins may be found in the Bale Palestine catalogue. So much for the reported Palestine Perfins.

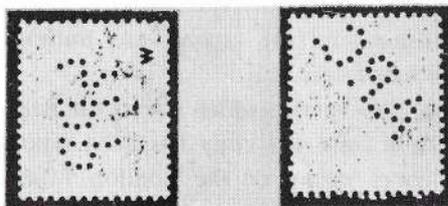


Figure 4

Figure 5

While this full discussion has not been previously covered in the Holy Land literature, in itself it would not contain the unreported material required for a separate article on this subject. Recently at a meeting of the Palestine Study Group of the Central Jersey Chapter of The Society of Israel Philatelists (SIP), one of the newer members brought in a group of stamps (Figure 6) which contained perfin(?) -like perforations. These stamps were all 7 mil pictorials with both the rose and violet colors. None of the more experienced members could offer an explanation. However, on reflection, one of our group remembered seeing a 1928 bank check (Figure 7, the back and the front) with identical perfin(?) -like perforations. Closer examination showed that the perfin(?) -like perforations in Figure 6 were part of a two-line machine punch with the word "PAID" and a "DATE" below. This was obviously applied by one of the banks, having authorized payment on the check. Of particular interest in Figure 7 is that the machine punch goes through the 7 mil stamp. The stamp was applied in Palestine in payment of one of the special taxes authorized by the government. It was only coincidental that the machine punch went through the stamp here as it did in all the stamps shown in Figure 6. Figure 8 shows another 1921 check (front and back) wherein a similar machine punch of different size letters and numbers is clear of the OPDA revenue stamp. In both cases, the stamp has been cancelled by a handstamp as required by authorities.

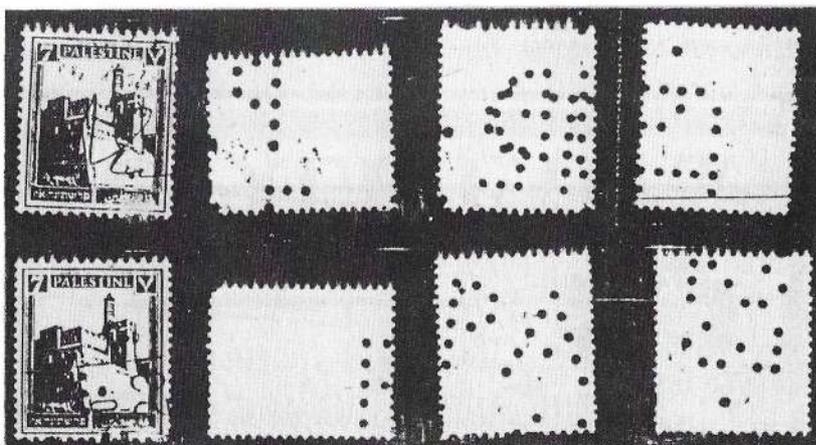


Figure 6

Two other interesting observations are evident. First, not all checks seen have a stamp applied in payment of the tax. There must have been some alternative method of paying the tax. Second, some stamps, off paper, have been seen with machine punch letters or numbers different in size from those illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

So, do we have another Palestine Perfin? Obviously not!

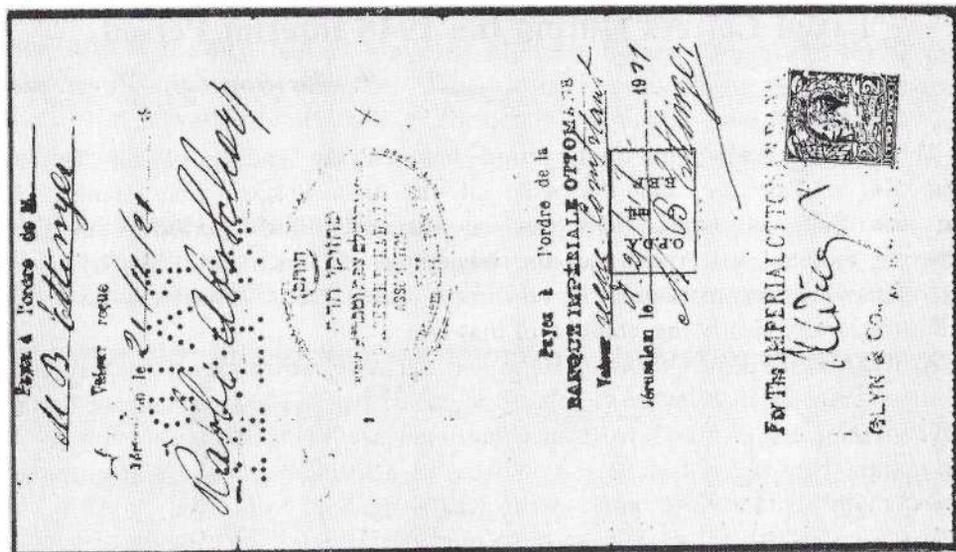


Figure 8(b)

I would like to thank Dr. Barry Elkins, Earl Kaplan and Nathan Zankel for lending some of the material shown in this article.

I would like to point out that some of the information discussed in this article was taken from the text "Fundamentals of Philately" by L.N. and M. Williams, a publication of the American Philatelic Society.

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Taxed Letters During the 1948 Interim Period

J. Karpovsky, Herzliya

This article deals with that period between the ending of the British Mandate in Palestine and the issue of the first Postage Due stamps of the new State of Israel. This was an extremely short period – in fact between the end of April and the beginning of June, 1948. As a result the material under discussion is very rare, varied, very improvised: in brief it illustrates very clearly the situation of that time.

Apart from the Post Offices of Haifa and Tel Aviv, which closed on May 5th, all other branches in Palestine closed at the end of April. The last Mandate Postal Bulletin (No. 53, of April 13) states that branches would close at the end of the month. However not all of the branches so acted: for example that of Safad closed about February 28th, and those in Jerusalem about April 26th.

Very few taxed letters are known from the end of the Mandate period. An example of one is shown in Fig. 9, from Rishon Lezion, sent on April 25th to which was affixed a KKL stamp and was thus taxed 20mils (Mandate P.D.), together with the known "To Pay 20 mils" cachet.

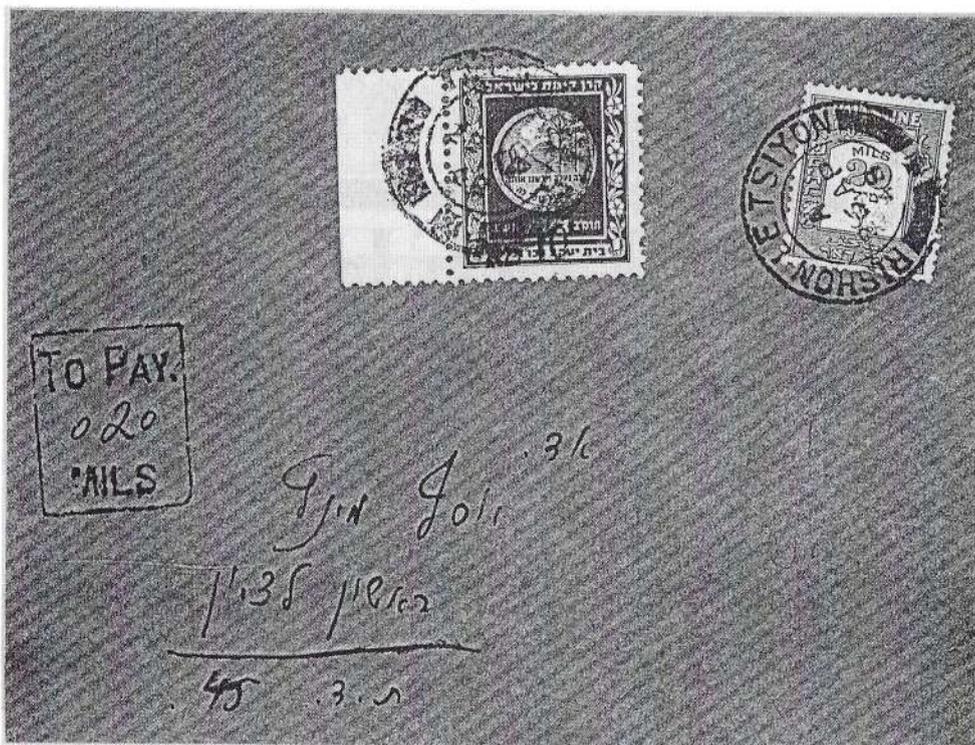


Fig. 9: A late Mandate period taxed cover, "franked" with a KKL label on April 25, 1948.

The period under discussion can be generally divided into two parts: the first that of the first half of May, the Minhelet Ha'am period, and the second that which could be called the "Early Israeli period" until the beginning of June. Not always are we able to distinguish between these periods, as will be seen later.

(a) The Minhelet Ha'am Period.

By order of the National Committee of the Community of Israel of April 25th, the Post Office branches in the country – some 80 in number – were to open on May

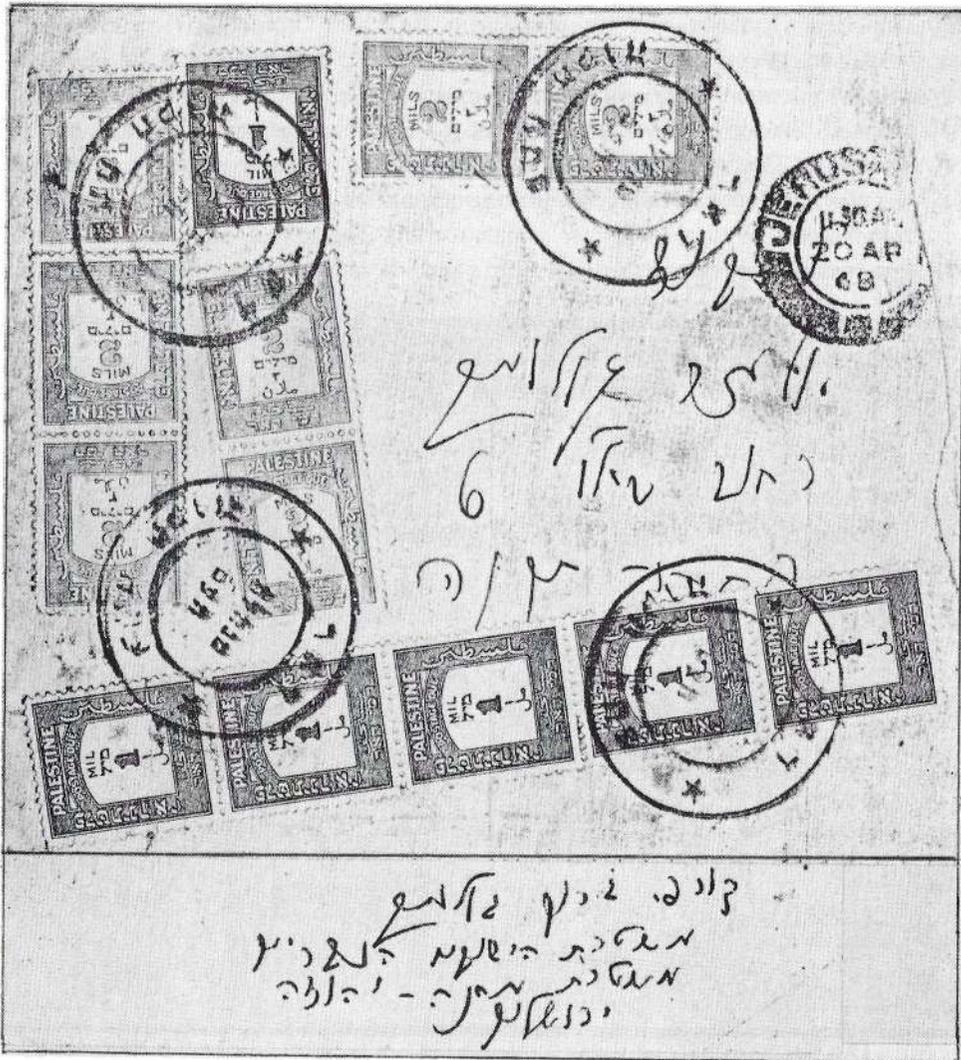


Fig. 10: An unfranked letter from besieged Jerusalem, taxed with Mandate P.D. stamps by Minhelet Ha'am, Petah Tikva.

1st, to operate temporarily until the establishment of the State on May 15th. Since the 1st fell on a Saturday, most of the branches opened on Sunday, May 2nd, and closed on Friday the 14th. The Post Offices thus operated for some 13 days (including one Saturday). Taxed letters of this period also cover those areas where the Minhelet Ha'am stamps were accepted as legal tender after May 15th - until the 22nd in most of the country, and in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (then under siege) even later.

In the above mentioned notice the National Committee added a special paragraph (No. 14), requiring the continuation of the Mandate regulations concerning the taxing of letters according to the accepted criteria (double the missing amount):

"..Letters on which postage was not paid as per tariff will be delivered against payment of tax as per the present regulations. Such letters should be marked in red "TO PAY ... MILS" before they are handed over to postmen. The due tax will be collected by the affixing of Hebrew stamps for the necessary amount. The stamps should be cancelled by the provisional handstamp".

Several examples are described. The first shown here (Fig. 10) is one taxed in Petah

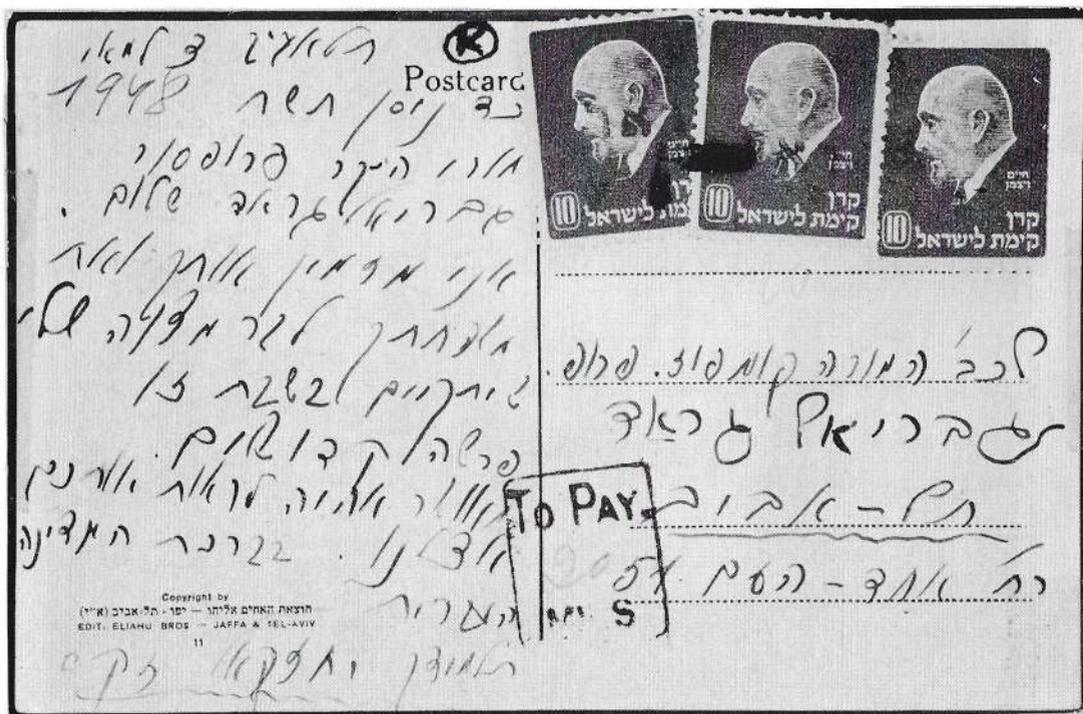


Fig. 11: A Minhelet Ha'am taxed postcard - franked by illegal 10 mil KKL label (unoverprinted), tax collected by two same stamps (made legal by 'Doar' overprint) cancelled "T" for 'Tax'.

Tikva. This is of special interest in that it is virtually the only known taxed letter definitely illustrating the transition between the Mandate and Minhelet Ha'am periods. The letter was sent from Jerusalem on the date of the beginning of the siege – April 20th. It was sent by a policeman and hence was not stamped. Because of the siege it arrived in Petah Tikva at the beginning of May. The Minhelet Ha'am postal authorities refused to accept the status of the letter and fined it 20 mils, using Mandate Tax stamps left behind, which were still officially usable. These stamps were cancelled using the Minhelet Ha'am canceller.

Of the very few examples known from this period most are from the Post Offices in Tel Aviv. The stamp used for such taxation was generally the blue 10 mil KKL Weizmann stamp. The classic example of the use of this stamp is shown in Fluri's book, page 29 (shown here as Fig. 11). He adds: "*Franked with the KKL Weizmann blue 10 mil label without 'Doar' overprint. As a penalty two similar stamps with 'Doar' overprint were affixed and cancelled with the large 'T' tax mark*". Fig. 12 shows a similar cancel on a letter which used the KKL Tchernichowsky label as postage, and which was taxed using the Weizmann stamps.

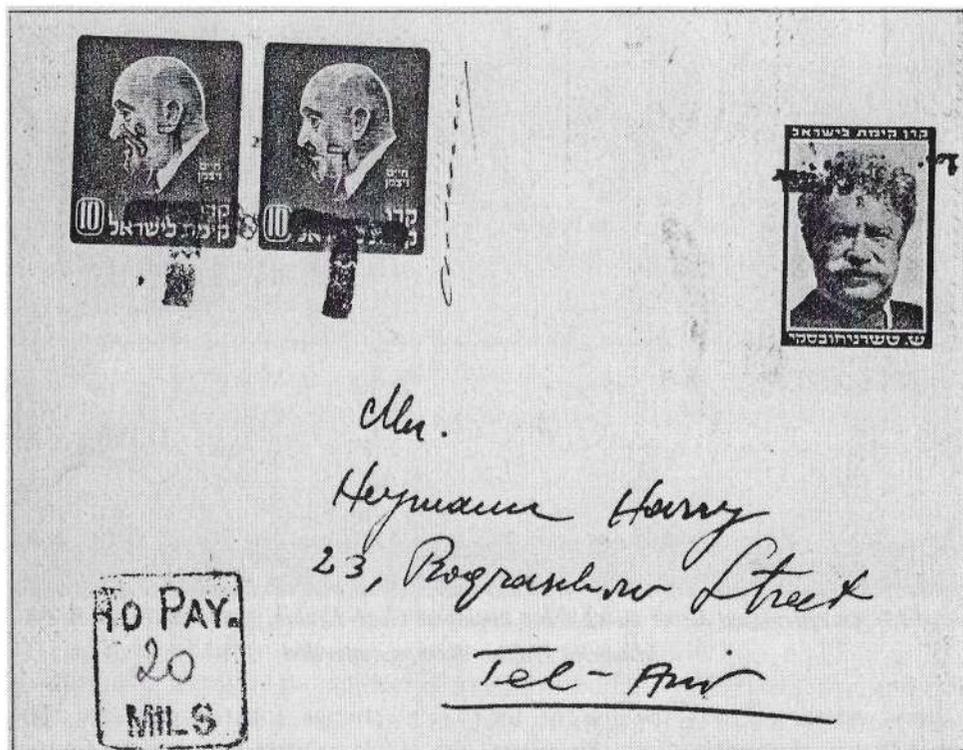


Fig. 12: A Minhelet Ha'am taxed postcard – franked by illegal 10 mil KKL Tchernichowsky label (unoverprinted), tax collected by two Weizmann stamps with Doar overprint, cancelled "T" for 'Tax'.

An extremely interesting and rare example is the flown cover from besieged Gush Etzion, sent by the Hagana plane to Tel Aviv, shown in Fig. 13. This letter, written by E. Broder (serving in the Michmash company, and who was subsequently killed there) was written to a friend in Tel Aviv. It was flown from Gush Etzion in one of the Piper planes, and was put unstamped into a post box in the city. This was naturally taxed, using the Weizmann KKL stamps, together with the "T" cancel. As the air connection from the Gush ceased on May 9th it is possible to calculate that the letter was flown between May 5th and 9th.

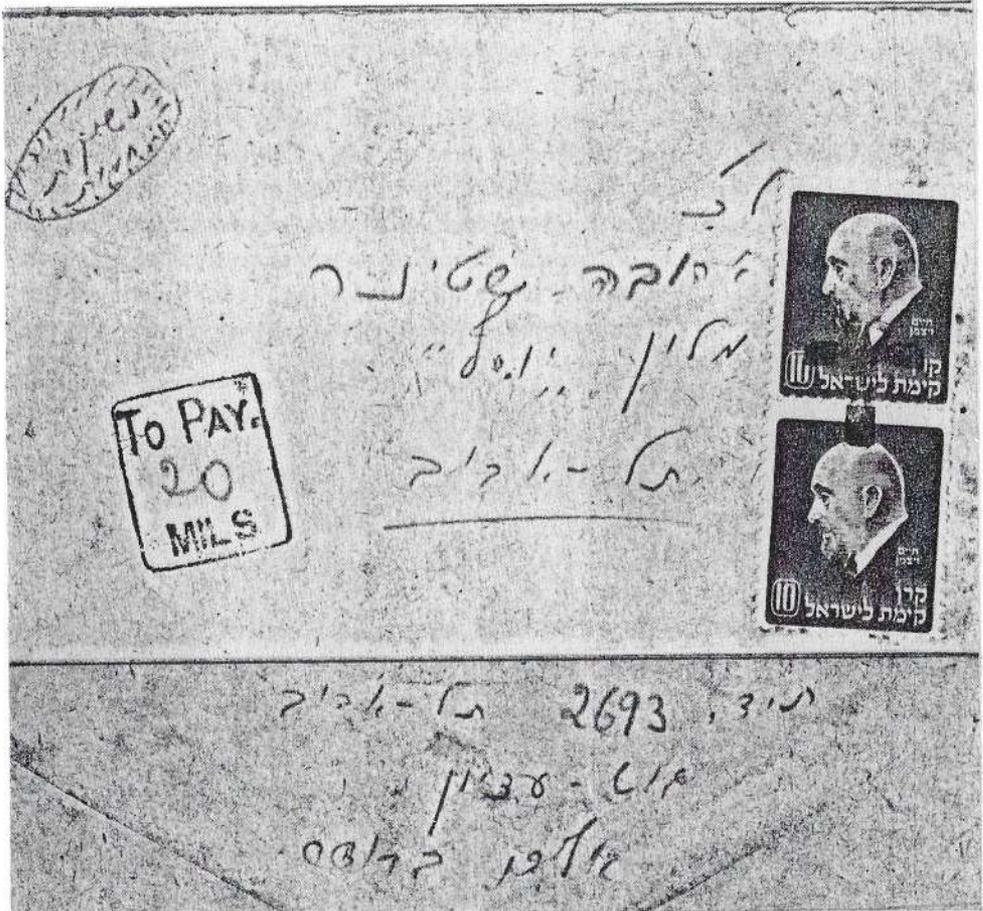


Fig. 13: An unfranked letter flown from besieged Gush-Etzion, taxed in Tel Aviv by two Minhelet Ha'am stamps cancelled "T".

Less widespread was the use of the 'Gola' stamps for tax purposes. The two following examples show this usage. Fig. 14 is a letter sent by the journal "Life in Palestine", using two 5 mil 'Kofer Hayishuv' stamps as postage. Although these stamps were generally accepted for postage purposes during this particular period, one clerk refused to accept them and taxed the letter using two 10 mil

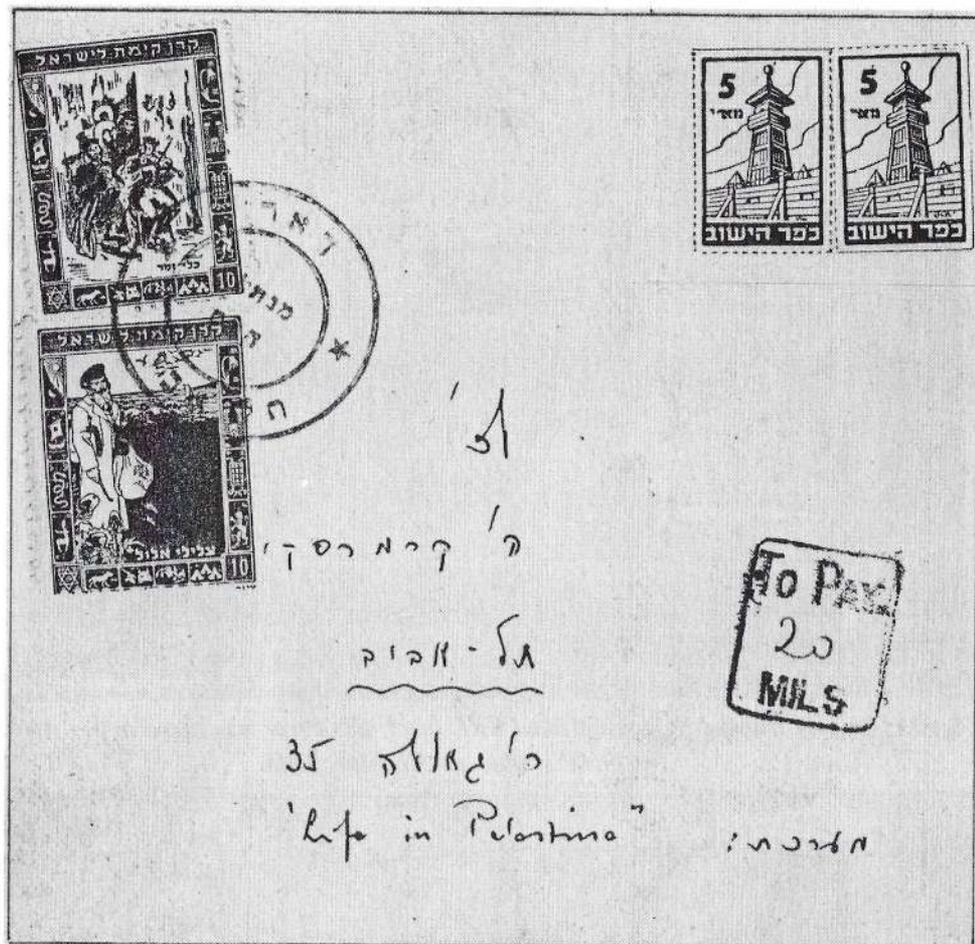


Fig. 14: A letter franked by the generally accepted 'Kofer Hayishuv' labels, nevertheless taxed in Tel Aviv by two 10 mil 'Gola' stamps.

'Gola' stamps. Fig. 15 shows another letter using, this time, a 10 mil KKL 'Zionist Organisation' label, which was not included in the Minhelet Ha'am listing. Two 'Gola' 10 mil KKL labels were used for taxation, cancelled by the temporary purple cancellation of Tel Aviv. In addition a Mandate single circle cancellation was also used, as a dater.

Outside of Tel Aviv the number of known taxed letters are even fewer, and from Haifa, for example, no commercial examples are known. Fig. 16 was sent from Photo Suhler in Raanana to Tel Mond. Sent as printed matter, a valid 3 mil Mandate stamp was affixed. the letter was, however, overweight, and so was fined 6 mils. In Tel Mond three Ben Yehuda 2 mil KKL labels (overprinted 'Doar') were affixed, cancelled with the temporary handstamp of the office there, to collect the tax.

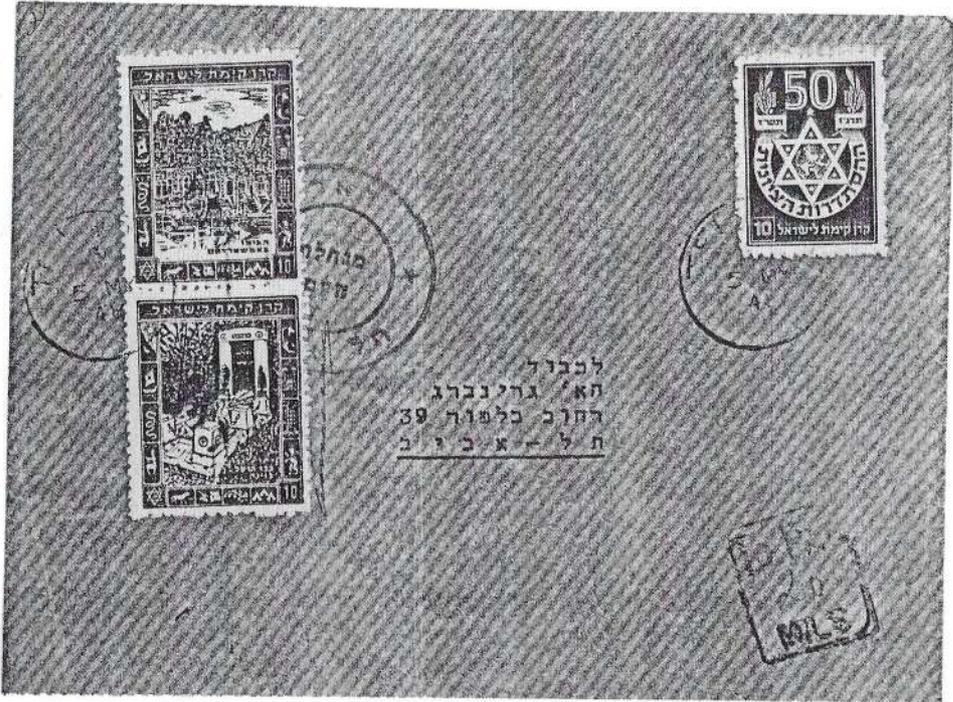


Fig. 15: Illegally franked by unoveprinted KKL label, this cover was taxed in Tel Aviv by 'Gola' stamps on 5th May, 1948.



Fig. 16: Double weight printed matter franked 3 mil only (valid Mandate stamp) and taxed 6 mil with Minhelet Ha'am Ben Yehuda stamps in Tel Mond.

Fig. 17 shows a letter sent from Raanana to Hertzliya, on May 2nd. A 5 mil Minhelet Ha'am stamp was used, so the clerk wrote on the top left hand side "To Pay 10 mils" together with the letter "T". The stamp used for taxing was the 'Jewish Brigade' stamp of 10 mils, cancelled in Herzliya.



Fig. 17: A 'Jewish Brigade' Minhelet Ha'am stamp used for taxing an insufficiently franked letter from Raanana on 2nd May.

(b) The Early Israeli Period

This period commences on Sunday May 16th, with the opening of the first Post Offices of the State of Israel together with the appearance of the new Doar Ivri stamps. The period continued until the end of the month with a few exceptions into the following month with the appearance of the first Postage Due stamps. Usage of Mandate stamps ceased on May 15th, although there

are examples of the continued use of these stamps for a limited period thereafter without being taxed. This use was mainly by institutions and foreign organisations (e.g. Fig. 18). Minhelet Ha'am stamps were officially permitted until May 22nd. This was not strictly true as these stamps continued to be used in several places, as in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, for some time.

In general the new State continued the practices of taxation of the Minhelet Ha'am and the Mandate periods.

Let us begin with Tel Aviv where the transition period between the Minhelet Ha'am and State occurred in a continuous manner. This is shown in that unlike most of the other Post Offices where taxed letters were levied using the new Doar Ivri stamps (without overprint), in Tel Aviv the Post Offices continued to use the 10 mil Weizmann label even after the 22nd, until the appearance of the new Postage Due stamps at the end of the month.

Fig. 19 shows an early airmail courier cover sent from Geneva, and which was placed in a post box in Tel Aviv on May 18th. The letter was taxed three days later using two Weizmann labels, cancelled by the large "T",

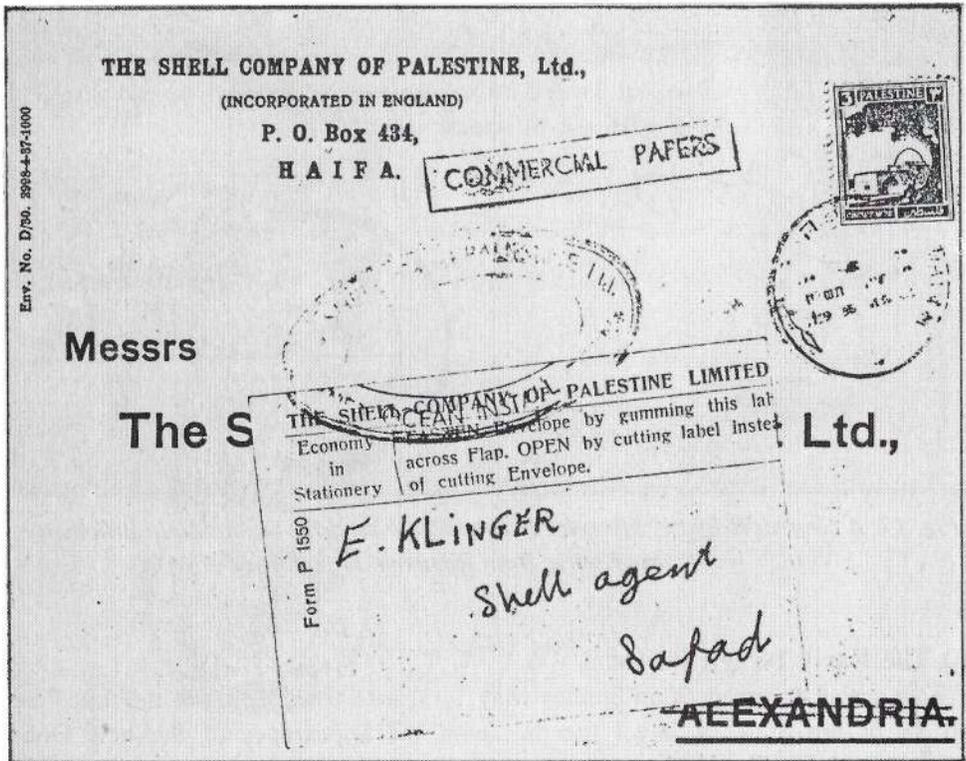


Fig. 18: A demonetised Mandate stamp franking a letter on 19.5.48, but the letter was not taxed!

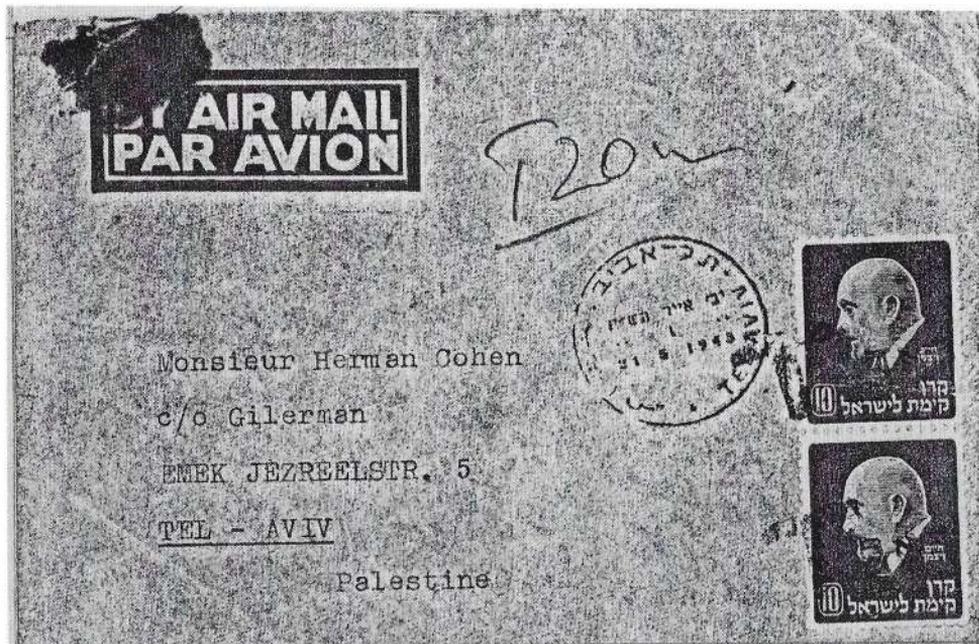


Fig. 19: An unfranked courier letter from Geneva, taxed in Tel Aviv on 21st May with T-cancelled Weizmann stamps.

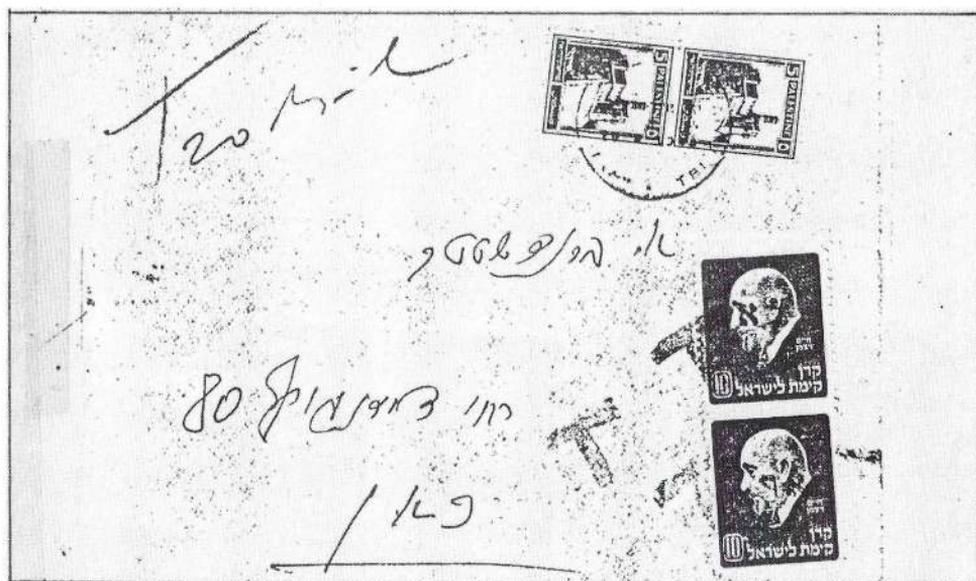


Fig. 20: Demonetised Mandate stamps illegally franking a Tel Aviv letter on 20th May. Cover still taxed by Minhelet Ha'am T-cancelled Weizmann stamps.

with the new trilingual Tel Aviv cancellation at its side. Fig. 20 shows a local commercial letter of the 20th with two demonetised 5 mil Mandate stamps. Two Weizmann labels were used as tax, cancelled with the large "T". Unusually and against the regular practice, the mandate stamps were cancelled using the trilingual Tel Aviv postmark.

Fig. 21 shows a letter sent from Haifa to Tel Aviv on May 25th, also using Mandate stamps. In Haifa the clerk outlined the stamps and applied a "T" mark. In Tel Aviv two Weizmann labels were added, cancelled with the large "T". Here as in the previous example the stamps were cancelled contrary to regulations, using the trilingual canceller of Haifa.



Fig. 21: Demonetised Mandate stamps illegally franking a Haifa letter on 25th May. Cover still taxed by Minhelet Ha'am T-cancelled Weizmann stamps.

In Haifa the type of fine varied, and changed from branch to branch. Fig. 22 shows a local letter taxed on May 16th, the first day of the new Post. No stamps were used, so the letter was taxed using two Doar Ivri 10 mil stamps, cancelled with the new Haifa postmark. On the upper left corner appears the narrow "T" together with a hand written "20 mil", with the Haifa cancellation at their side.

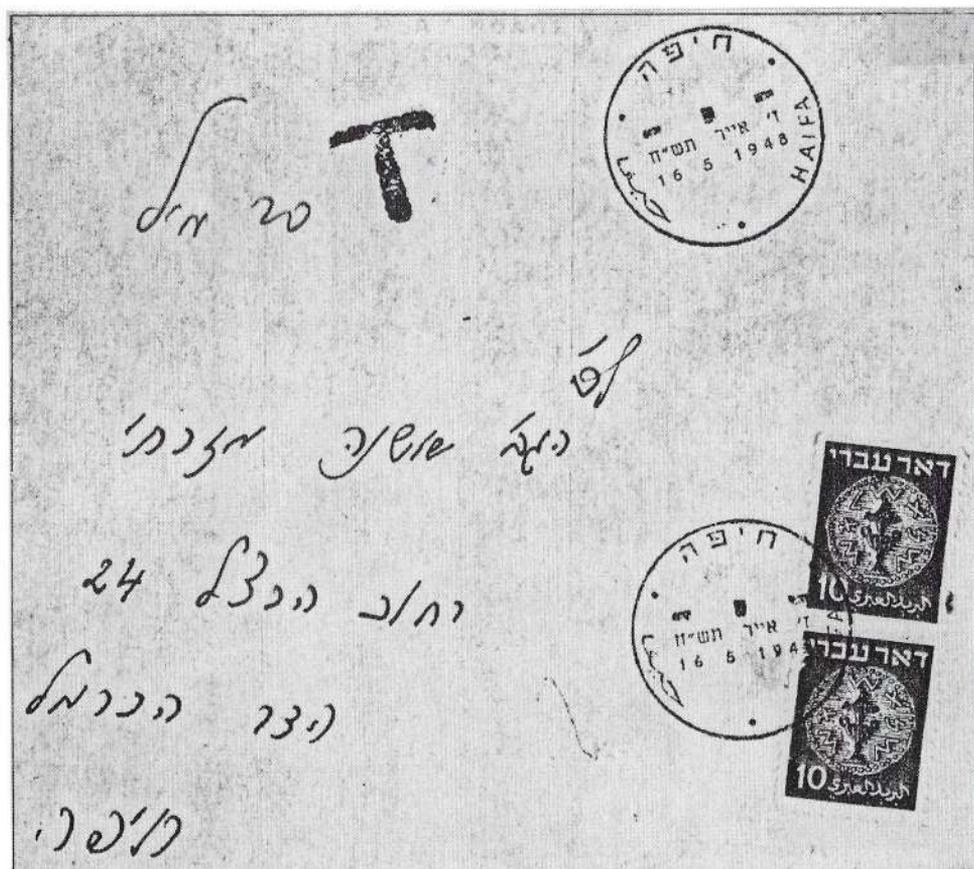


Fig. 22: An unfranked Haifa cover taxed by Doar Ivri stamps on 16th May.

Fig. 23 shows a letter sent from Tel Aviv to Haifa, using an invalid Mandate stamp, cancelled by a Mandate postmark with a very unclear date. It is clear, though, that it had been sent from one of the branches, with the well known "To Pay 20 mils" mark. In Haifa the letter was taxed using the regular 20 mil Doar Ivri stamp, but here the rare small boxed "T" was used, together with the new cancellation of the city, dated the 20th. Fig. 24 shows a local window type commercial letter from the Shell company. the letter was stamped using the invalid 3 mil Mandate postage stamp, and against regulations this was cancelled using the trilingual postmark of the 24th. The "To Pay 6 mils"

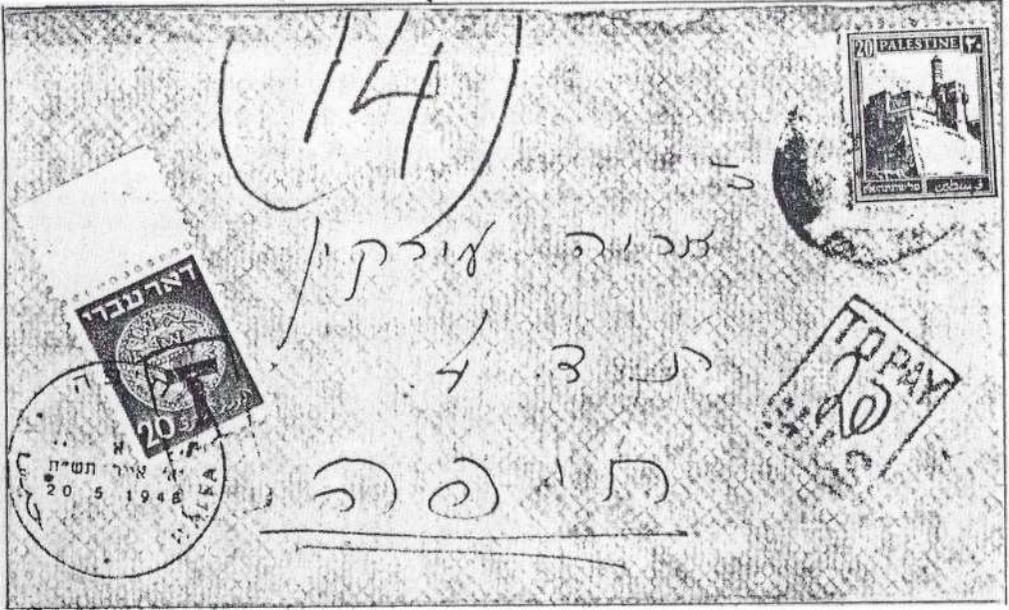


Fig. 23: The rare Haifa boxed "T" cancellation on a Doar Ivri 20 mil stamp, used for taxing a letter franked with an invalid Mandate stamp.

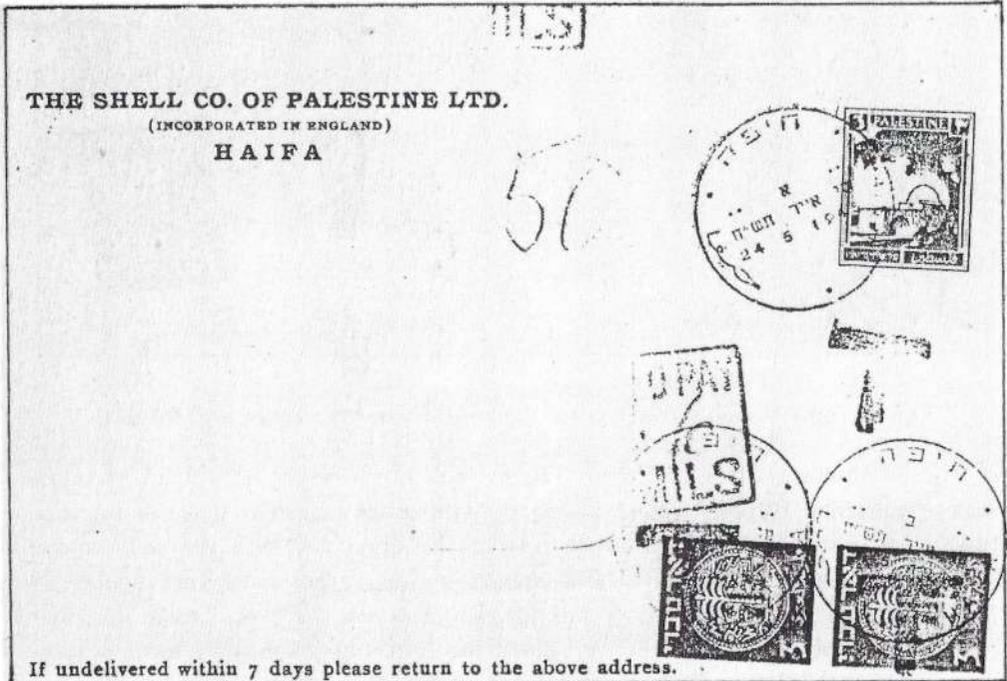


Fig. 24: A commercial printed matter franked with invalid 3 mil Mandate stamp, and taxed 6 mils with T-cancelled Doar Ivri stamps on 24th May.

(double rate) together with the large "T" were added. On the same day the letter was taxed using two Israeli 3 mil stamps, cancelled with the known Haifa large "T". It should be mentioned here that the large "T" of Haifa was not an overprint, but a cancellation, this despite the fact that examples are known where the "T" appears in the centre of the stamp. The practice in Haifa was that the stamp was first affixed to the letter, and then the "T" was applied.

An example of this is shown in Fig. 25, of special interest because of the postal

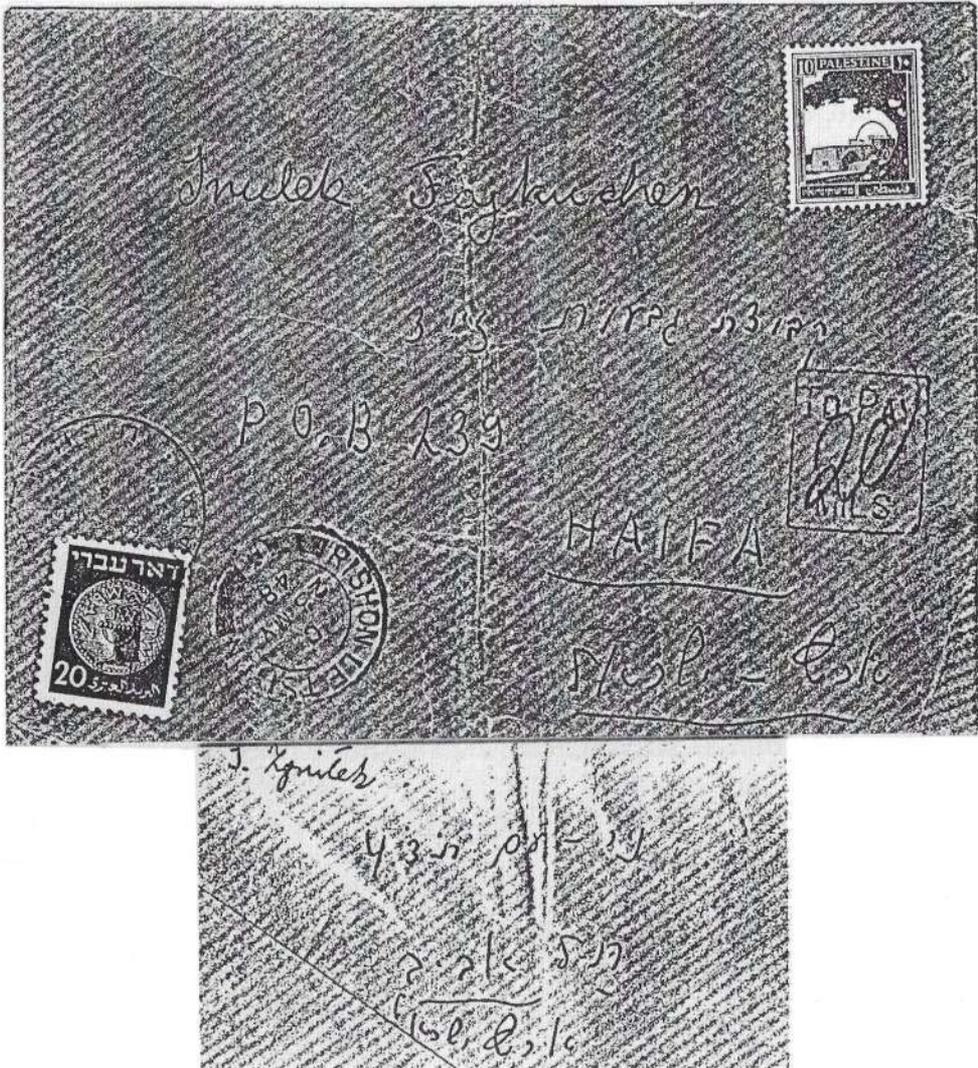


Fig. 25: A courier letter from Kibbutz Nir Am in the Negev to Haifa. Unaccepted Mandate stamp, taxed 20 mil and paid by a T-cancelled Doar Ivri stamp.

history aspect. The letter was sent as a courier letter from Kibbutz Nir Am, then behind the Egyptian lines, using the demonetised 10 mil Mandate stamp, posted by the courier in Rishon Lezion on May 23rd and cancelled using the Mandate postmark. (not on the stamp, according to regulations). The cachet "To Pay 20 mils" was added. On arrival in Haifa a 20 mil Doar Ivri stamp was applied, then the large "T" and these were cancelled using the trilingual Haifa postmark dated May 26th. Here the "T" mark is completely on the stamp itself.

From the Minhelet Ha'am period the greatest exceptions occurred in Jerusalem. During the periods under discussion Jerusalem had been under siege, and so did not receive the stamps used on other parts of the country. On May 9th three branches only were opened, using the Jerusalem Minhelet Ha'am cancellers, together with the special emergency stamps printed in the city then. The Doar Ivri stamps only arrived in the city on June 20th. Being under siege these stamps were used mainly for local usage. Only on June 18th, when the first convoy left the city, was regular contact reestablished with the rest of the country. Letters which succeeded in leaving the city before the 18th, either by courier or by plane, which were franked with the local stamps were often taxed since the receiving clerks regarded them as KKL labels, then invalid.

Such taxed letters are known from the beginning of June. Fig. 26 shows an early courier letter dated June 1st. Sent to the Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, the courier added a 10 mil Doar Ivri stamp to avoid delay and taxation.



Fig. 26: An early courier letter from besieged Jerusalem to Petah Tikva, mailed by the courier in Tel Aviv after adding a Doar Ivri stamp.

Figs. 27 and 28 show two courier letters from Jerusalem where the emergency stamps were not accepted by the receiving postal clerks and so were fined 20 mils by First P.D. stamps. The first was mailed in Tel Aviv on June 8th and fined the same day. The second was mailed in Tel Aviv on June 14th but was fined in Petah Tikva on the 16th. First and Second Convoy letters from the 18th and 21th June were known throughout the country, and were not fined.

Taxed letters within Jerusalem during the Minhelet Ha'am period are not known to us at the present, and such letters taxed in Jerusalem using Doar Ivri P.D. stamps are known not before August.

We have discussed until now the situation concerning taxed letters of the large cities. As regards the other branches in the various smaller places the procedure was usually uniform. Doar Ivri stamps were generally used for tax purposes with the fine added either in writing or using the boxed Mandate "To Pay" cachet. Doar Ivri P.D. stamps were used from the end of May or the beginning of June. Some examples are shown hereunder.

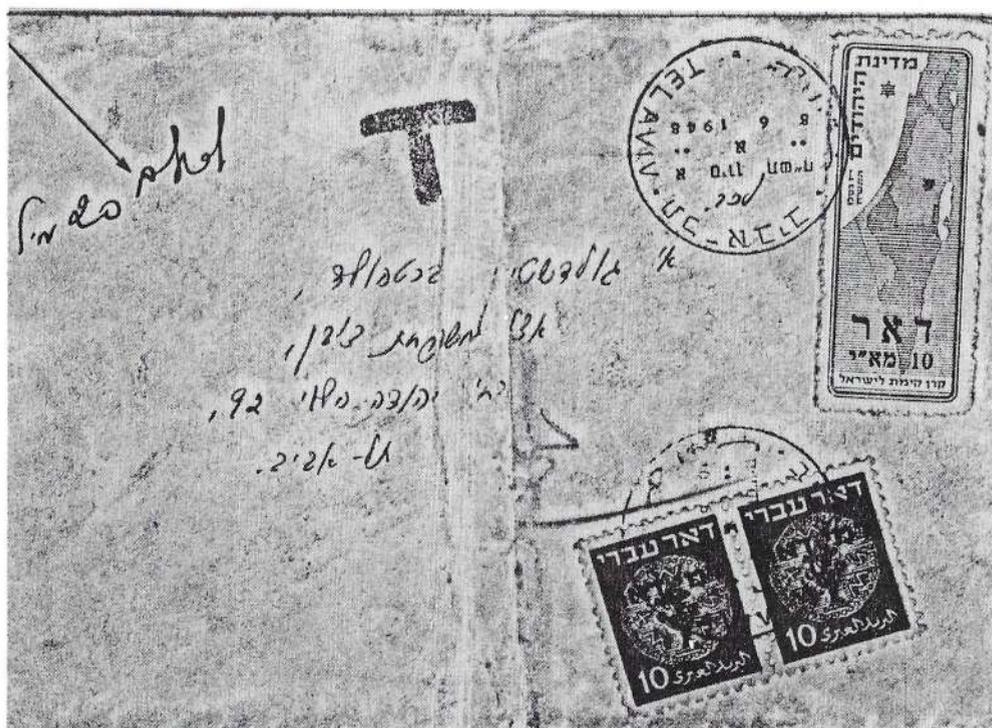


Fig. 27: An early courier letter from besieged Jerusalem, mailed and taxed in Tel Aviv on 8th June by Doar Ivri P.D. stamps.



Fig. 28: An early courier letter from besieged Jerusalem, mailed in Tel Aviv on 14th June and taxed in Petah Tikva by Doar Ivri P.D. stamps.

Fig. 29 shows a Tiberias letter sent at the end of the Minhelet Ha'am period using a stamp of that time, the 5 mil 'Tractor' KKL label (overprinted 'Doar') cancelled with the temporary postmark of the town. On the top left hand side the words 'To pay 10 mil' were added using a red pencil. the fine was paid on the first day of the new State using a 10 mil Doar Ivri stamp, cancelled by the Tiberias Mandate s.c. postmark then reintroduced, with the Tiberias 'boxed T' cachet alongside. A classic example of the transition period.

Fig. 30 shows a letter sent from Pardess Hanna to Herzliya on 20th May, using two invalid Mandatory stamps. The Mandate d.c. postmark of Pardess Hanna appears to their side, having been reintroduced to usage. "Tax 20 mils" appears in handwriting. The tax was collected in Herzliya on the 23rd, via the 20 mil Doar Ivri stamp.

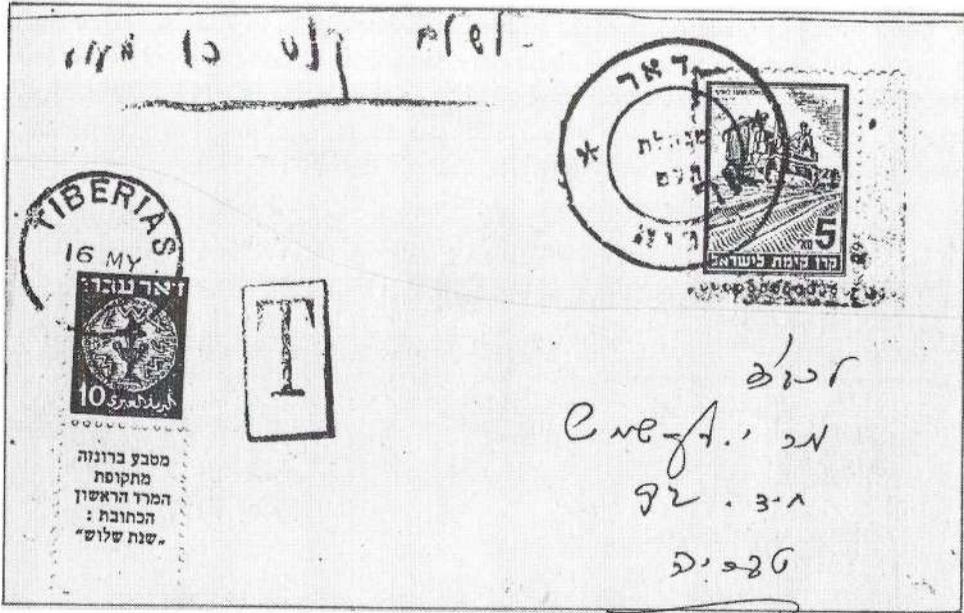


Fig. 29: Insufficient Minhelet Ha'am franking (5 mil), taxed in Tiberias on 16th May with a Doar Ivri stamp alongside the characteristic Tiberias 'boxed T' cachet.

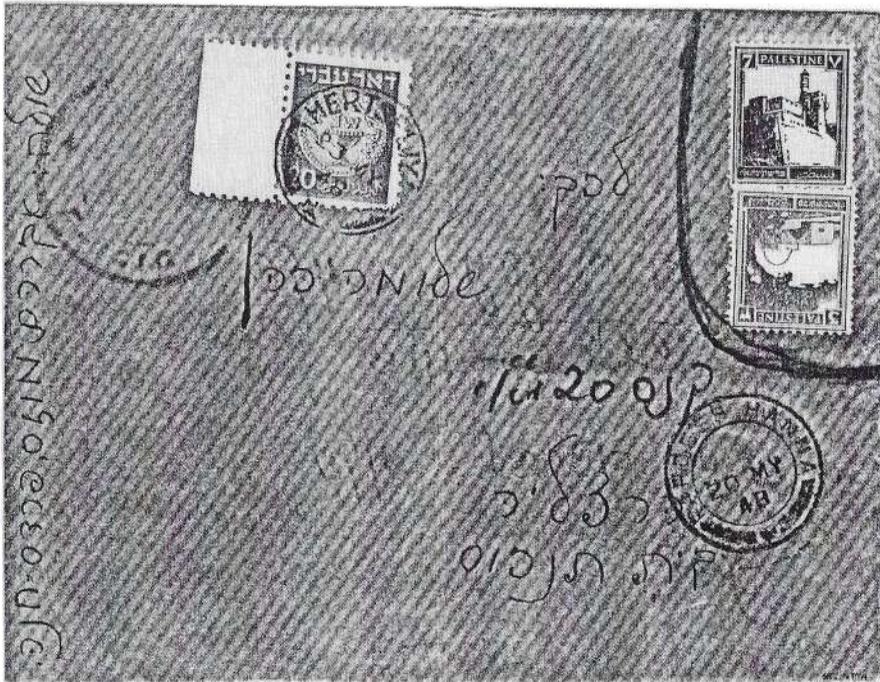


Fig. 30: Franked in Pardess Hanna with invalid Mandate stamp on 20th May, this letter was fined 20 mils, collected in Herzliya with a Doar Ivri stamp.

Fig. 31 shows a Gedera letter sent by the Local Committee to Rishon Lezion, again using invalid Mandate stamps but these were cancelled, against the regulations, using the Mandate d.c. postmtrak dated May 20th. The boxed "To Pay 20 mils" was applied. In Rishon the fine was collected by means of two Doar Ivri stamps, these cancelled by the Rishon Lezion Mandate canceller dated May 25th.



Fig. 31: Invalid Mandate franking of a Gedera letter led to a tax of 20 mils, paid with Doar Ivri stamps in Rishon Lezion on 25th May.

Fig. 32 shows an extremely interesting example of the use of regular Doar Ivri stamps as tax stamps. It is a commercial wrapper using a valid (at that time) 3 mil Mandate stamp sent from Tel Aviv to Afula. The postage stamp was cancelled using the Tel Aviv s.c. instrument, dated May 5th. For some reason the writer erred in writing the address, giving the name of the town as Tel Aviv instead of Afula. It took some time for the letter to be sent back, when it was readdressed to Afula, where it finally arrived in June. By that time the Mandate stamp was no longer valid, resulting in the Afula office adding in writing "T" and the words "To pay 6 mils". The tax was collected via two Doar Ivri stamps, these being cancelled by the Mandate Afula s.c. instrument dated June 5th.

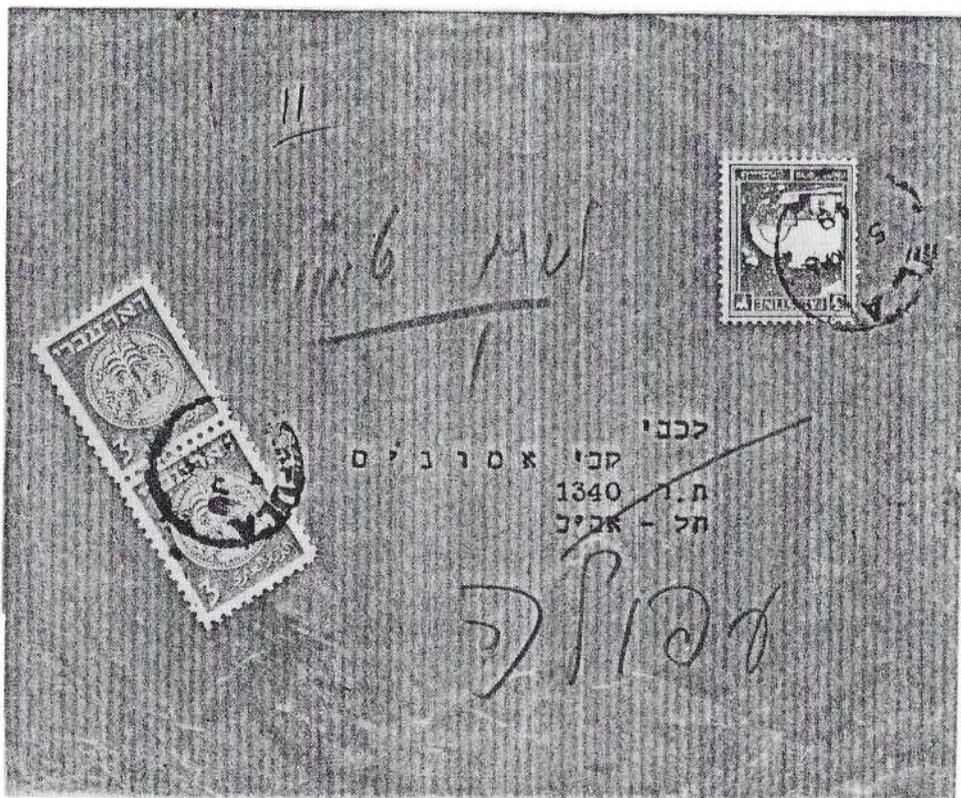


Fig. 32: A printed matter correctly franked by a 3 mil Mandate stamp (still valid on 5th May), taxed for 6 mils when the redirected letter arrived in Afula a month later. Tax collected by regular Doar Ivri stamps.

The new Postage Due stamps came into use at the end of May. The earliest date of use on a letter known to us is May 28th; a few other taxed letters of this date are known to us from Herzliya and Ramat Gan. The earliest date known from Tel Aviv is the 30th, whilst in Haifa the earliest date is June 1st. The earliest date known in Jerusalem is in August. The majority of the Post Offices in the country received the new stamps by the end of the first week in June.

Fig. 33 shows a postcard sent from Herzliya on May 19th, using an invalid 7 mil Mandate stamp, cancelled by the Herzliya Mandate instrument. On the side was added the boxed "To Pay" cachet, showing a fine of 14 mils, subsequently changed to 15, probably for convenience. It was taxed in Tel Aviv with three 5 mil Doar Ivri P.D. stamps, cancelled by the trilingual postmark of 30 May, believed to be the first day of use of this issue in Tel Aviv.

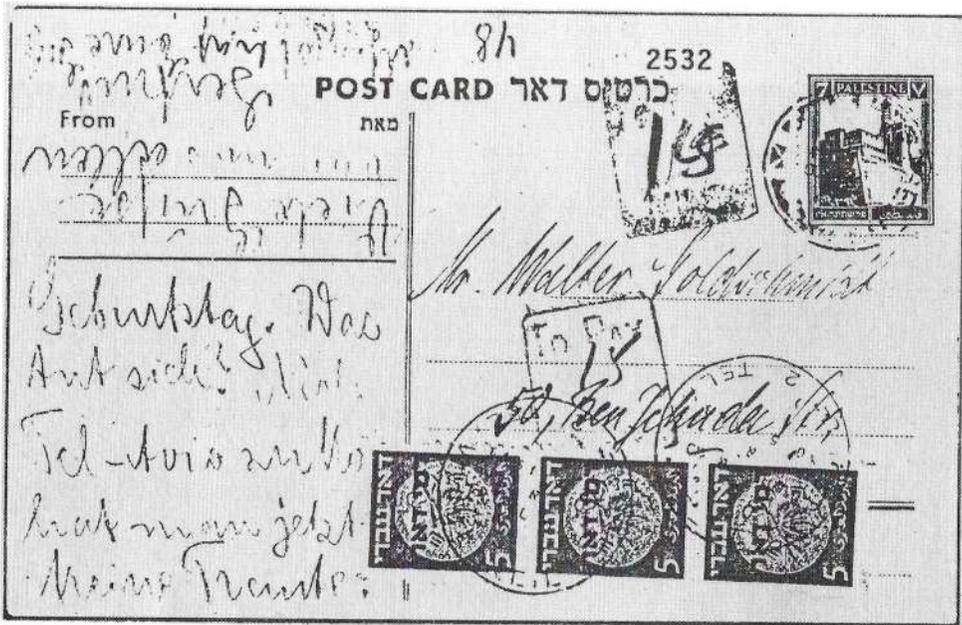


Fig. 33: A postcard from Herzliya, 19th May, to Tel Aviv, franked with invalid 7 mil Mandate stamp. Taxed 15 mils with Doar Ivri P.D. stamps on 30th May, believed to be the first day of use of this issue in Tel Aviv.

Finally, we show an example of a letter not exactly belonging to the subject under discussion but which nevertheless belongs to this period and was fined. According to the notice of the National Committee of April 25th, the temporary stamps then available were to be used only for internal postage, mainly because they were not recognised by the UPU. For letters sent to foreign addresses the use of Mandate stamps was requested, but without using the temporary postmarks. Such stamped letters were to be sent to the central Post Office in Tel Aviv. Despite this announcement some letters were sent overseas, stamped and cancelled using the temporary means intended only for internal use. There are very few examples known.

The Front Cover shows what perhaps is the rarest of these known to us. This is a sea mail letter sent from Haifa to New York. The letter was sent via the ship S.S. Franconia which left Haifa with a parcel of letters between the 12th and 14th of May. The letter arrived at the Cooper Station office in New York on June 17th, according to its backstamp. The letter was stamped with the 10 mil 'Boat' Minhelet ha'am stamp, and was cancelled at one of the branches in Haifa using the temporary cancellation. The postal tariff to the States was then 20 mils, and because of the shortage the clerk added at the side in blue "T 30 cts". In America the clerk translated the fine as being equal to 10 US cents, and taxed the letter accordingly

with a US P.D. stamp. It should be pointed out that in this very rare case the letter was treated as a legal one, and the fine was applied simply because the amount affixed was insufficient. An interesting and unusual item of postal history!

Because of the scarcity of taxed material from this period, and of the resulting value of such items, attempts to forge material have come to light in the past. Most of these forgeries concern letters sent in or from Haifa. For this reason, collectors interested in this subject are requested to check as deeply as possible the sources of the material offered, or even better to have them validated by an expert in the field.

Finally, I would like to mention that a few of the items discussed in this article have been published before in the Philatelic Press. But since this subject has not previously been written about in the integrated manner presented above, it was felt that because of the importance of the subject it should be brought before the collectors interested in the general subject of the period of the end of the Mandate and the beginning of that of the new State of Israel.

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- (3) E. Fluri, "The Minhelet Ha'am Period", pages 9 and 28.
- (4) B.J. Forsher, "The Interim Period Postage Stamps of Israel", p. 51.
- (5) Rothman & Tsachor, "The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel", p. 68.

ד.ר. יוסף ואלך

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Jerusalem 1st and 2nd Issues – How Many Stamps were Printed?

Zvi Shimony, Jerusalem

Some original documents from Jerusalem, 1948 which I have recently seen, aroused my curiosity as to the question of exactly how many stamps of the Jerusalem first two issues were printed and sold. Reading the literature on the subject¹⁻³, I find that there are some inaccuracies and also obvious discrepancies among these sources, but none of the authors acknowledge that there are in fact obvious contradictions, not easily explained, in the related original documents themselves.

The First Issue

Some of the original documents relating to the First Issue are illustrated in Figures 34 and 35. These deal with the purchase of 159,000 stamps showing the "Partition Map" (popularly called "The Jewish State" stamps) from the K.K.L., by the "Emergency Committee" of Minhelet Ha'am in Jerusalem for P £ 397.5 (2½ mil each). These evidently were the non-denominated K.K.L. labels in three colours, which were then overprinted and comprised the "Jerusalem 1st" Issue.

The 3rd document (Fig. 35) ends: "*Hereby I give Mr. Ha'ezrachi the two plates of these stamps for safe keeping (2 blocks of 10 stamps each)*". This emphasizes in addition to the dates of the documents, that they do, in fact, deal with the labels for the first Jerusalem overprint (previously printed by the K.K.L. in sheets of 10), and that the 2 plates of 10 still existed and were kept in good hands. As is known, they were subsequently joined to make one plate of 20 and used for the printing of the "Jerusalem 2nd" Issue.

Another document, dealing with the overprinted stamps of the First Issue, is shown in Figure 36. This is a report of a joint meeting held on May 9th which states, among others, that **84,500 stamps** were given to Mr. M. Ashkenazi, acting on behalf of the Post Office Accounting Dept., to be transferred to the three branch post offices of Jerusalem. The number of stamps of each value is also given: 5 mil – 32,500, 10 mil – 37,000, and 25 mil – 15,000.

Thus 159,000 unoverprinted labels were purchased from the K.K.L. and only 84,500 overprinted stamps were distributed to the post offices. What happened to the balance of 74,500 stamps? One possible explanation for this difference would be printer's waste occurring during the overprint process, but it is hard to believe that this could account for such a large number. A second explanation could be suggested by item (B) of the document in Figure 36, which states: "*Mr. Ashkenazi... will pass the above stamps and also those which*

8271/842

ירושלים, כ"ז ניסן תש"ח
6.5.48

אל : הועד המקומי של הקרן הקיימת לישראל
מאת: מזכירות ועדה המצב

אח כמות הבולים לפי הקבלה הר"פ קבלנו
לפי הוראה מתל-אביב, ונשלם לכם את תמורתם עם התחלת פעולת
הדואר בירושלים.

ח. אבן-סובל
מזכירות ועדה המצב

הנני מודיע בזה את גבול
159,000 (מאה וחמשים ותשע אלף)
ק"ל "המדינה היהודית"
נאם ממכרתם לפני 2/2 (לפני חצי)
מיל זכר ק"ל, ג.א.י. מסך הכל
397,500 (אלף תשע מאות וחמשים
ושש אלפי) ע"מ

א. ג. נ.
(גם ידוע במצב)

6.5.48

Fig. 34: The letter and receipt from the "Emergency Committee", confirming the purchase of 159,000 stamps of "The Jewish State" from K.K.L.

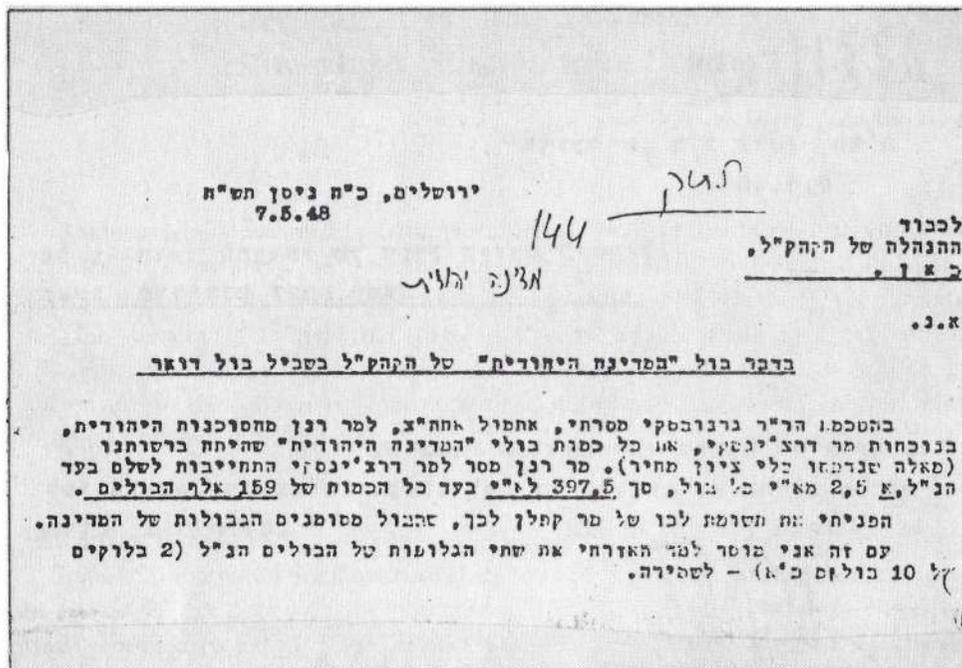


Fig. 35: Another letter, to the K.K.L. Head Office, of 7th May 1948 confirming the purchase of "The Jewish State" labels.

he will receive during the days May 9-14 (emphasized by the Ed.), to... the branch post offices...". This could suggest that the 84,500 stamps transferred on the May 9 were only part of the full 159,000 print, and that the balance was given on the following days. But this explanation is again not reasonable due to the well known fact that the First Issue stamps were quickly depleted and a second printing was already made (and issued) on the next day (10 May)!

A third possible explanation is the following. Reading the two articles "A Miniature Sheet of Jerusalem Stamps"⁴ and "The Jerusalem Interim Issues and KKL"⁵, one could presume that the extra stamps were for one reason or another not fit for overprinting if, for instance, they were in the form of 5-stamp Miniature Sheets which could not be overprinted by the prepared blocks of 10 units for the ordinary sheets. But this explanation appears also far fetched.

So the paradox is not resolved and for the time being, as long as other documents or reasonable explanation do not come to light, we should assume the number 84,500 to be the correct number of stamps overprinted and sold of the First Jerusalem Issue. This is also the number, including the value distribution, cited by Hoffman¹, who probably drew his information from the same original document. The other references mention slightly different quantities.

פ ר ט י כ ל

של ישיבה שנתקיימה ביום 9 במאי 1948 במשרדי הסוכנות היהודית לאיי בדבר הוצאת בולי דאר לשירותי הדאר בירושלים העברית.

נרחכים : גב' ה. אבן-שזב מטעם ועדה המצב
 ח' א. רגן " " " " אחראי לשירותי הדאר
 ח' מ. אשכנזי " הנהלת השכונות של הדאר המרכזי
 ד"ר א. נוימן " גזברות הסוכנות היהודית, אחראי לגזברות "אוצר העם" במחוז ירושלים.

(א) בנוכחות הנ"ל נמסרו לידי ח' מ. אשכנזי כמויות בולים אלה :

כמות	ערכים
32,500	5 מא"י
37,000	" 10
15,000	" 25
<u>84,500</u>	

(ב) מר אשכנזי או בא-כחו ימסרו את הבולים הנ"ל וגם את אלה שיקבלו במשך הימים 9-14 במאי, לידי האחראיים שמונו ע"י ועדה המצב בשלושת הסניפים של הדאר (במאה-שערים, במחנה-יהודה וברחביה).

(ג) תגביה מהסניפים הנ"ל תיעשה ע"י מר אשכנזי או בא-כחו בכל יום בין השעות 6-8 אחרי הצהריים. חספ הנגבה יימסר לקופת "אוצר העם" (בית-יהלום, רח' שמואל חגגיד) בין השעות 6-7 בערב.

(ד) הוחלט שעד 16 במאי 1948 לא יימסרו בולי דאר למכירה לסוכנים.

Handwritten signatures and notes at the bottom of the page, including a large signature on the left and another on the right, with some illegible text and a date "10.5" below.

Fig. 36: Report of a joint meeting in Jerusalem (9th May), stating that 84,500 stamps (of the Jerusalem First Issue - Z.S.) are given to Mr. Ashkenazi for distribution to the Post Offices.

The Second Issue

An even greater deficiency of the number of sold stamps as against the alleged printed quantity exists in the Jerusalem Second Issue. The document in Figure 37 is a letter from the K.K.L. to Mrs. Hana Even-Tov (of the Emergency Committee) on May 10th, stating that *"We confirm herewith our conversation in which it was agreed that we print 240,000 stamps as follows:*

*40,000 stamps of value 5 mils each,
160,000 stamps of value 10 mils each,
40,000 stamps of value 25 mils each."*

These numbers are repeated in several other relevant documents of the period. They certainly referred to the quantities which were ordered to be printed and delivered for the Second Jerusalem Issue of May 10th.

We have not seen any documents about the supply to the post offices of these stamps, but there certainly existed such documents as Hoffman¹, in his table headed "Number of stamps of all Issues supplied to the Post Office", gives a very detailed distribution of the quantities. His table is reproduced below:

Number of stamps of all Issues supplied to the Post Office			
Date	5 mils	10 mils	25 mils
9th May 1948	32,500	37,000	15,000
10th May 1948	15,000	30,000	15,000
11th May 1948	10,000	18,900	6,000
13th May 1948	4,000	1,000	-
16th May 1948	2,560	-	-
18th May 1948	8,000	-	-
1st June 1948	2,000	2,000	4,000
10th June 1948	2,000	4,000	-
Total	76,060	92,900	40,000
Returned unsold	6,191	5,195	5,450
Total sold	69,869	87,705	34,550

The first row of the table (headed 9th May) certainly refer to the stamps of the First Issue. If we take the "Total" row and subtract the first row and the 8,000 5-mil stamps, known to comprise the Third Issue, we obtain the following figures for the Second Issue stamps supplied to the post offices (in parenthesis, the above mentioned numbers of the quantities printed are repeated for comparison):

5 mil -	35,560 (40,000)
10 mil -	55,900 (160,000)
25 mil -	25,000 (40,000)
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
Total (2nd Issue) -	116,460 (240,000)

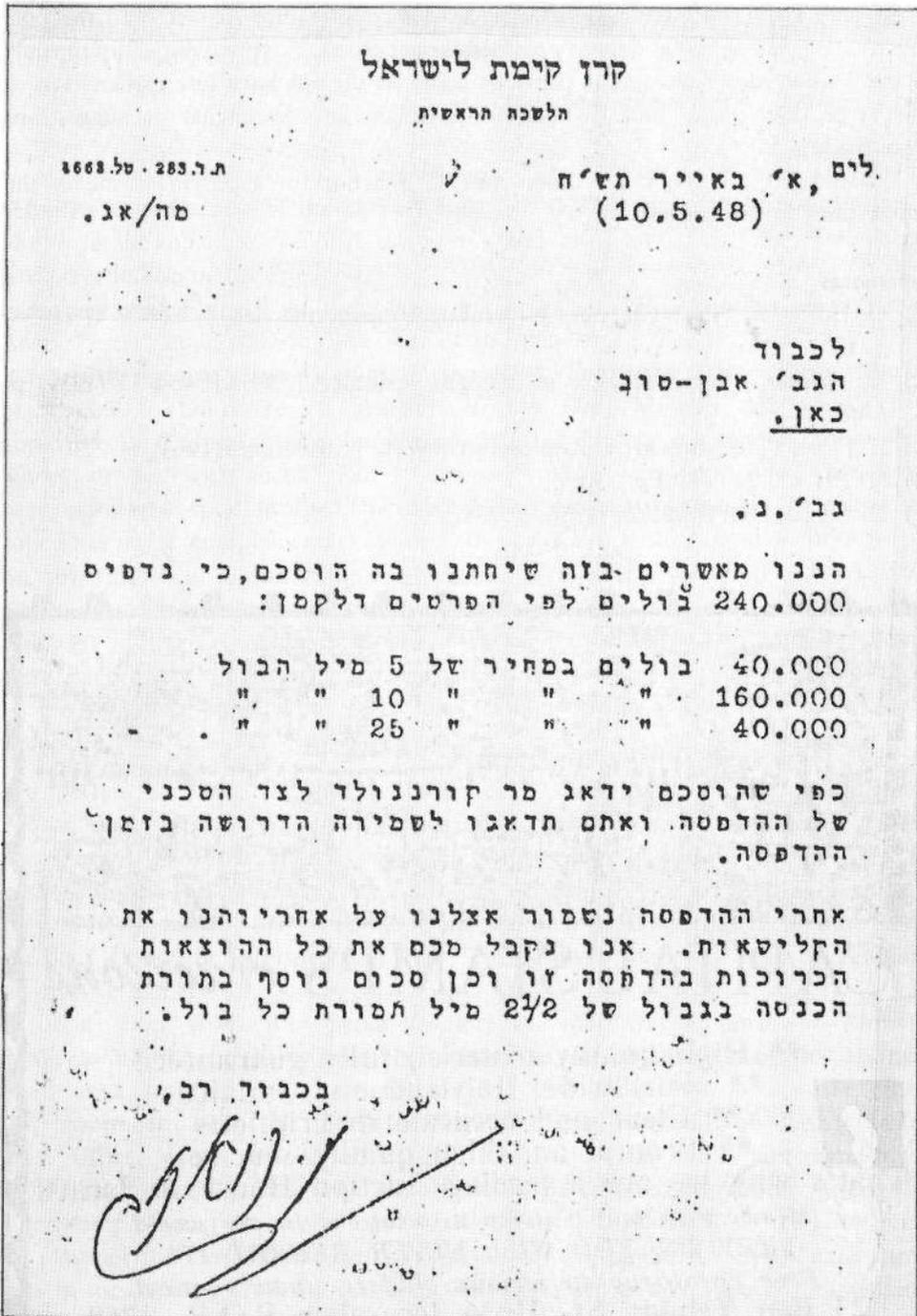


Fig. 37: A letter from the K.K.L. to the Emergency Committee confirming the order for printing of 240,000 stamps (of the Jerusalem Second Issue - Z.S.)

So here again we have a very large deficiency of stamps delivered to the post offices as against the total quantity printed (note here the extremely large discrepancy in the 10 mil value). As in the previous case, we do not have any explanation of this large discrepancy and we would appreciate any comments or suggestions from readers.

I would like to thank Y. Rimon and Y. Tsachor for supplying some of the illustrations for this article.

References

- (1) O. Hoffman, "Postal services in Jerusalem during the siege", THLP #1 (1954) p. 12.
- (2) M. Brisker, "Postal services in besieged Jerusalem", THLP #54/55 (1959) p. 1148.
- (3) E. Fluri, "The Minhelet Ha'am period", WPC publications (1973), p. 27.
- (4) HLP# #23-24 (1985) p. 130.
- (5) M. Siegel, HLP# #25-26 (1986) p. 238.



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Israel Military Mail: A Proposed New Terminology and Chronology

Baruch Hurwich, Jerusalem

Archival documents of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have made possible a definitive classification of the various stages of IDF Military Mail. Universal use of the terms and dates which I propose would bring order into future research and presentation of such material.

Kanner and Spiegel¹ in their landmark work in 1961 described the "Israel Army Postal Services during the War of Independence". Berest², in 1984, refined our knowledge of "Classification of the KBA Triangular Army Units' Marks of 1948/9"*. Other review articles of the IDF Military Mail have not appeared, to the best of my knowledge. Isolated findings or reports, or limited works, dealing with such topics as prisoner mails, censorship and such, have been published sporadically. This author has exhibited from his collection of cancellations, a complementary subject to the KBA listings, and a monograph on the subject is in the planning stages. The relation between the KBA Unit numbers, the cancellations, and the dates in which they, or the later Unit markers, using the letters DZ (in Hebrew "צד", short for Military Mail) were used is of importance in this area. There follows a short background to the founding of the IDF mails, and the documents establishing the periods described.

On March 26, 1948, the head of planning of the Hagana general staff, (later Major General) Zvi Ayalon, using his code name "Boaz", sent a letter to the Quartermaster of the Hagana General Staff notifying him of the decision to assign him the responsibility for establishing a postal service for military personnel (Fig. 38). In a telegram from the Quartermaster to Boaz, dated 18 May 1948 (s. Back Cover) he informed him that "The Military Mail will begin to function as of May 20".

In a letter from Rav Seren (Major) A. Matanya, Commander Military Mail, to all the units involved, he announced the dissolution of the Military Mail as a separate entity as of June 24, 1949 (Fig. 39). In a letter dated 10 November 1954, H. Ben-Menahem, Director General of the (civilian) Post Office, wrote that as of 15 November, 1954 the KBA unit handstamp would no longer be used (Fig. 40). It would be replaced by another triangular handstamp bearing the symbol of the IDF, the letters DZ (Hebrew "צד") and four, in place of the three, numerals used exclusively as long as the KBA handstamp was in use. During 1980 the numerals were increased to five. The DZ handstamp is still in use.

* KBA stands for the Hebrew letters כבא, short for "National Security Forces", i.e. the IDF.

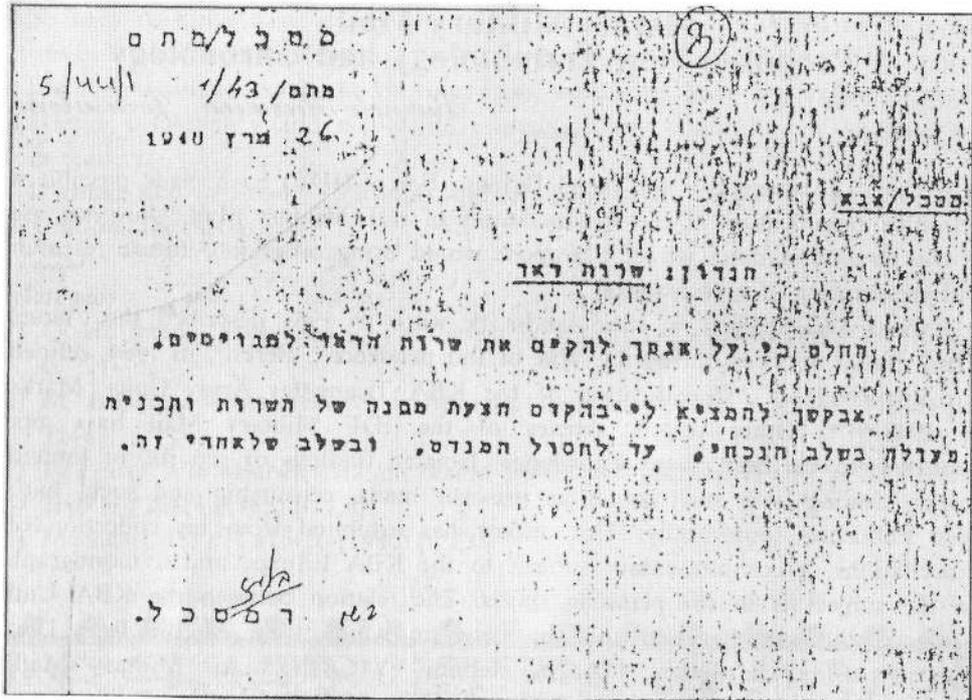


Fig. 38: Letter dated 26 March, 1948 – decision to establish a Military Postal Service.

I therefore propose that Israel Military Mail be divided into two periods, and that each in turn be divided into two phases. **Period I: the KBA Period**, during which a triangular handstamp bearing the Hebrew letters כבא and three numerals was used, has two phases. **Phase 1:** 20 May, 1948 to 24 June, 1949, when the Army Post Office was an independent entity, with a system of Army and Field Post Offices (ref. 1). **Phase 2:** when the KBA handstamp was still in use, though without the circular APO and FPO handstamps, until 14 November 1954. **Period II: the DZ Period**, when the triangular handstamp was as described above. Its **Phase 1** lasted from 14 November, 1954 until 1980 (I do not have the precise date) and is characterized by four-numeral unit markings. **Phase 2**, from 1980 when units were, as they still are, identified by five numerals.

References

- (1) Kanner P. and Spiegel Y., "The Israel Army Postal Services During the War of Independence 1948-49", BAPIP Bulletin Nos. 35, 36 and 37 (1961).
- (2) Berest Z., "Classification of the KBA Triangular Army Units' Marks of 1948/9", Holy Land Postal History No. 20 (1984); No. 21-22, No. 23-24 (1985).

ה.צ.ת.פ

סודי

מטה לרשות הדואר הצבאי

צד/78

13 ביוני 1949

בסיס דאר צבאי א'
 האחראי על מרחב הצפון
 משרדי הדאר הצבאי

הנדון : - סגירת משרדי הדאר הצבאי.

1. משרדי הדאר הצבאי יפסיקו לקבל דאר טן היחידות ביום 21.6.49.
2. החל מיום זה לא ישלחו יותר משלוחים, אך יקבלו עדיין משלוחים ממשרדי הדאר האזרחי עד תאריך 24.6.49.
3. ביום 24.6.49 יתקבלו המשלוחים האחרונים ממשרדי הדאר האזרחי.
4. על תעודות המשלוח האחרונות שתשלחנה ביום 21.6.49 יש לסמן בעפרון אדום את המליט "משלוח אחרון".
5. ביום 24.6.49 ימסר הדאר בפעט האהרונה לאחראים לדאר של היחידות. להבא תקבלנה יחידות הצבא את שרותי הדאר ממשרדי הדאר האזרחי.
6. יחידות צבא שעד יום 21.6.49 לא החיינה עדיין קשורות למשרד דאר אזרחי יש להפנות לקצין הדאר של הצבא, חיבת דאר כס' 510 יפו.
7. מנהלי המשרדים יסגרו בסוף יום 24.6.49 את המאזנים של המפקדים ויסכנו עליהם בעפרון אדום את המליט "מאזן אחרון".
8. מנהלי המשרדים יארוזו את כל החפצים הנתנים לאריזה ויכינו את פנוי המשרדים.
9. אנשי המשרדים ישארו במקומותיהם עד לקבלת הוראה מיוחדת ממטה השרות בדבר פנוי המשרדים.

א. כהנא רב-סרן
 מפקד הדאר הצבאי

אק/יש

Fig. 39: A letter from the Military Mail Commander announcing the termination of the Military Mail as a separate entity as of June 24, 1949

מזכירות ירושלים
 משרד הדואר
 (דואר, סלג'רף, טלפון 20110)

מכתב חרוז מס' 226/54

הנדון : החלפת חותמות "דואר צבאי" ביחידות
 צ.ה.ל.

- ביום שני י"ט חשוון תשס"ו (15.11.1954) יוכנסו לשימוש
 ביחידות צה"ל חותמות חדשות במקום החותמות המסולסות "כ.ב.א.י".
2. החותמות החדשות תשאנה תמיד מספרי דואר צבאי של 4 ספרות
 ויהיו לפי הניגמה הבאה :-



3. סאותו יום זאילך ישמשו היחידות הצבאיות רק בחותמת החדשה.
4. אם יימצאו דברי דואר אשר נשלחו לאחר התאריך הנ"ל
 והם נושאים את החותמת הישנה, צריך להעבירם בתוך העטפה, או יצין
 הדואר של הצבא ד.צ. 2140.
- אם יובאו דברי דואר כאלה ע"י בא כח היחידה, יש לסרב לקבלם
 ולבאר לו את סיבת הסירוב.
5. רשימה חדשה של מספרי הדואר הצבאי תסופק רק למספר קטן של בתי
 דואר.
- בתי הדואר וסוכנויות הדואר אשר לא יקבלו רשימה חדשה, ואין
 דברי הדואר סיועדיים ליחידות צה"ל המקבלת אותם באותו בית דואר, ינתכרו
 אל בית הדואר בחיפה או בתל אביב-יפו, בהתאם לסחוז בהם הם נמצאים.
6. כל דברי הדואר אשר יישלחו לאחר יום 15.11.1954 והנושאים
 כתובת ד.צ. עם מספרי של 3 ספרות בלבד צריך להעביר אל קצין הדואר של
 הצבא ד.צ. 2140 באמצעות בית הדואר בתל אביב על מנת שיצויין עליהם
 המספר החדש של אותה היחידה.

ת. בן-טנחם
 המנהל הכללי.

ירושלים, בחשוון תשס"ו
 10 בנובמבר 1954

Fig. 40: Post Office announcement that as of 15 November, 1954 all 'KBA' unit handstamps will be replaced by another type of triangular handstamps.

* * * * *

* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES *

* * * * *

The British Mandate Period

Die-Cut Paper Varieties *(Arthur M. Hochheiser)*

There are two general methods of manufacturing paper. The more common production is called "wire wove" or simply "wove" paper. This type of paper is used for more than 95% of all philatelic material, including stationery and postal forms. The main characteristic is that the paper seems to be even throughout, just as the page on which this is printed. This effect is achieved by processing the pulp mass, used to manufacture the paper, onto a closely knit rotating wire mesh belt. Actually, under high magnification, the interspaces become visible whilst to the naked eye the paper seems smooth.

The other, less common, processing method gives rise to "laid" paper. Here the main features are bar-like stripes in the paper, much the same as a watermark. This is achieved by using a rotating belt in the manufacturing process which contains the series of parallel bars in place of the wire mesh screen. Other "laid" paper pattern characteristics have been used for the stamps



Fig. 41: P.T. 11 postal form on horizontally "laid" paper used as a telegram envelope.

of other countries, even though only "wove" paper is found on the stamps of Palestine.

Shown in Figures 41-43 are three different examples of "laid" paper. Figures 41 and 42 are envelopes used as postal form P.T. 11, required for the delivery of telegrams. Figure 43 is a general purpose envelope used by many government agencies. One would expect that in die-cutting the finished paper into the customary required shape for the envelopes, some care would be taken to insure that esthetically the "laid" paper pattern would run horizontally for all of the envelopes. The horizontal, vertical and diagonal patterns of the three illustrations belie this fact.

In truth, this is a variety of the die-cutting process, not of the paper production method.

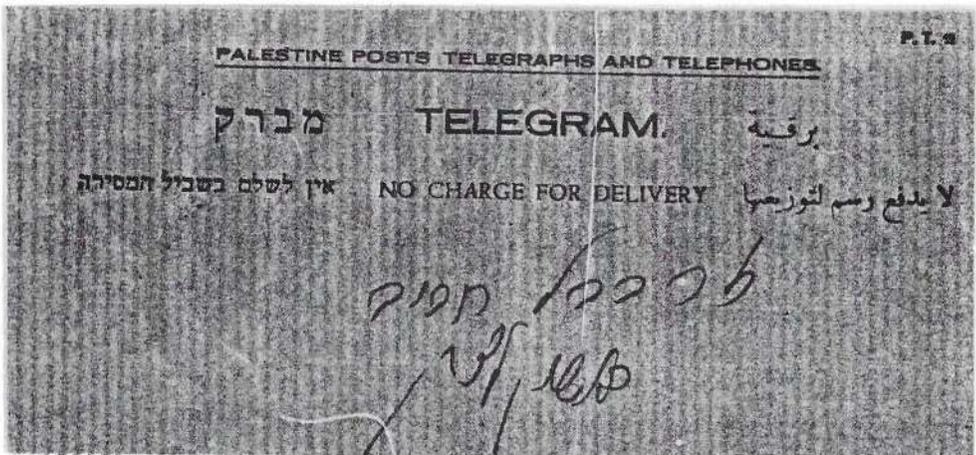


Fig. 42: P.T. 11 postal form on vertically "laid" paper used as a telegram envelope.

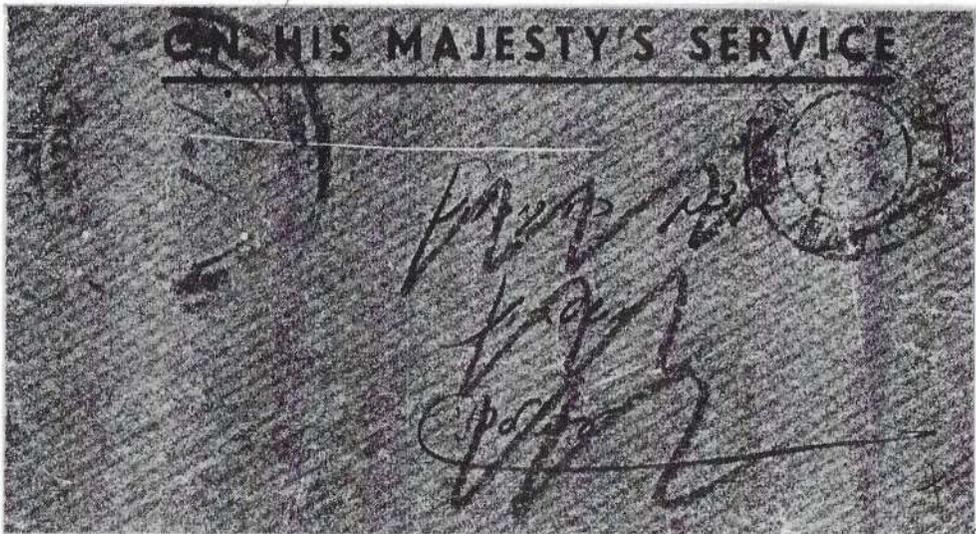


Fig. 43: A general purpose envelope on diagonally "laid" paper.

Another "Transposed" Error *(Arthur M. Hochheiser)*

On July 1, 1920, a Civil Administration was appointed by Great Britain to take over the duties in Palestine from the Military Administration, which had the previous responsibility. Certain necessary changes were required in the postal system. Chief among these was the designation of the country name on its stamps. Under the Military Administration, a complete set of stamps was issued for use in the entire area administered by the British Army, including Palestine, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Cilicia. This typographed set of stamps is known as the "Typo" series and the only identifying designation were the letters E.E.F.: the abbreviation for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, the name of the occupying British Army.

Under the Civil Administration, in keeping with the League of Nations Mandate, the name of the occupied country was to be designated trilingually as Palestine and this name was applied to the "Typo" series of stamps, reading in three lines (1) Falastin in Arabic, (2) Palestine in English, (3) Palastina E'I (Eretz Israel) in Hebrew (Fig. 44).



Fig. 44: "Jerusalem I - 1st setting" - the first overprinted set of the Mandate Civil Administration.

This first overprinted issue, known as Jerusalem I - 1st Setting, was completed at the Greek Orthodox Convent Press in Jerusalem. Their facilities obviously left something to be desired. Three major errors appeared in the first overprinted issue. Interestingly, of the three major errors, one appeared in each line of the overprint.

The Arabic error is known as the 'Z' error, with a letter 'Z' replacing the letter 'T' in Falastin. The Arabic 'Z' is the same as the 'T' with a dot over the middle of the 'T' (Fig. 45). Accordingly, the overprint line reads 'Falaszin' instead of 'Falastin'. In the literature this has been described as the 'dot' that makes all the difference.

The English error is known as the 'B' error with the letter 'B' replacing the final 'E' in Palestine (Fig. 46).

 The "Z" error <i>Figure 45</i>	PALESTINB "B"-variety Setting 1.-pos. 133 <i>Figure 46</i>	Normal / error  <i>Fig. 47:</i> <i>"Transposed" Error</i>
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The Hebrew error is known as the "Transposed" error with the two central apostrophe-like (") characters between the Hebrew letters 'א' and 'י' being transposed with the final letter 'י' so that it reads "יא" instead of "אי" (Fig. 47).

These errors were all noticed after the overprinting was completed and an effort was made to remove the vertical rows in which the errors appeared. Some of these errors reached the public, and they are among the prized rarities of Palestine stamps. When this overprint was replaced by the Jerusalem I - 2nd Setting, two of the errors, the Arabic 'Z' and the English 'B', reappeared in different positions in some of the printings. Only the "Transposed" error in Hebrew was eliminated successfully.

It is interesting philatelically that the 'Z' error appeared again in the 2nd Setting and was found again on Postcards #8 and #10 (Fig. 48). The 'B' error



Fig. 48: Postcard #10 with the Arabic 'Z' Error.

also recurred in the 2nd Setting. Many 'B'-like letters are found in these issues and in the Jerusalem II and III Issues as well, but these are only the result of overinking in the printing or deformed or damaged letters in the type used for the overprint.

While the "Transposed" error did not appear again on stamps or postal stationery, another example can be found on a Postal Form P.T. 61B. This form, in Hebrew, was an "Agreement for Telephone Exchange Service". The top part of the face page, cut down, is shown in Figure 49. This form consists of four pages identical in size, $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 13\frac{1}{2}''$.

6. ה. ב. ב. P.T. 61 B.

מחלקת הדואר, הטלגרף והטלפון של פלשתינה (א'').

הסכם לשרות טלפון
(עין את הנאים בעבר לדף)

תאריך החכור פ. יוסף

התחום כפוף, הא' ה.ק.צ.נ.ס.י.י.ן. ה.י.פ.ה.
(אשר יקרא לקמן יזמניו) סציע לשכור סאת המנהל הכללי של הדואר, בהתאם לתנאים ולהוראות הכאים בזה ובחוספת המצורפת לכך, את קו הטלפון המרכזי המוכר לקמן. המנוי סתחייב לשלם למפרע את דמי החתימה לרבע שנה כספורט לקמן, את כל הפקדונות הדרושים וכן את כל המסים וההוצאות בצדוק סכום המינימום אשר ישולם בהתאם לשעורי התקרים המפורטים בתוספת הנ"ל, ועל פי רדישה עליו לשלם את כל המסים וההוצאות אשר סתווין לשעורי התקרים שיוציאו על חשבון התקלות והשרויות, וכן כל מיני חוספות לדמי הפקדון, שהמנוי ישלש בהתאם למסוף 9 סן התנאים המוכרים לעיל.

הסכם זה הוא לתקופה של **שנה אחת** בהתאריך שהחכור לסרכו המלפונים יצא לפועל, והוא יוסף להמשיך במשך זמן אחד סן שלשה חדשיחמה למשנהו, אלא אם כן הובא לירי נמר בסוף התקופה הנ"ל או בסוף משך זמן כאמור, ע"י אחד הצדדים שנתן לחברו הודעה ככתב על כך שלשה חדשים מראש.

אם הובא ההסכם לירי נמר כאמור לעיל, יתורו למנוי כל פקדון שנוקף וזכותו בצדוק ח"ק פרופורציונלי מדמי החתימה השנתיים ששולמו בכספי השרות שלאחר תום תקופת ההודעה כניכוי כל אותם הסכומים המניעים למנהל הכללי של הדואר עפי' הסכם זה או כאופן אחר.

הסוכנה המנהל הכללי של הדואר פורשו המנהל הכללי של הדואר שכאותה עקה או כל אדם אחר אשר יתמנה לנהל את מחלקת הדואר והטלגרף.

פרטים על קו הטלפון המרכזי

29002-3000-22-11-34 H.P.H.

Fig. 49: Postal Form P.T. 61B with the "Transposed" Error.

A detailed description of these errors including where they were found in the sheets of stamps appears in many places in the Holy Land literature as well as in the Stamp and Stationery Catalogues of Palestine.

While it is only of academic interest, a full explanation of the "Transposed" error is in order since nowhere in the philatelic literature is it to be found. The "Transposed" error, as described above, consists of two characters (Fig. 47) in the bottom line of the overprint found at the left end of the name in Hebrew. One character is the Hebrew letter Yod 'י'. The other character is a double apostrophe (") which is not a Hebrew letter but a punctuation mark in Hebrew. This is not one of the English punctuation marks as such. It appears as half of a 'Quotation Mark' ("...") which is not what it is at all. In English, it is only used following a number to designate inches.

It is the meaning of this important Hebrew character that has never been properly explained in the philatelic literature of Palestine. Collectors not conversant with the Hebrew language are either ignorant of its meaning or at a loss to understand it at all.

In Hebrew, there are two forms of abbreviation marks. Both can be found in Figure 50 which is the face page of a handbook of Hebrew abbreviations. One type is a single apostrophe ('), designated 'A' in Figure 50. This is

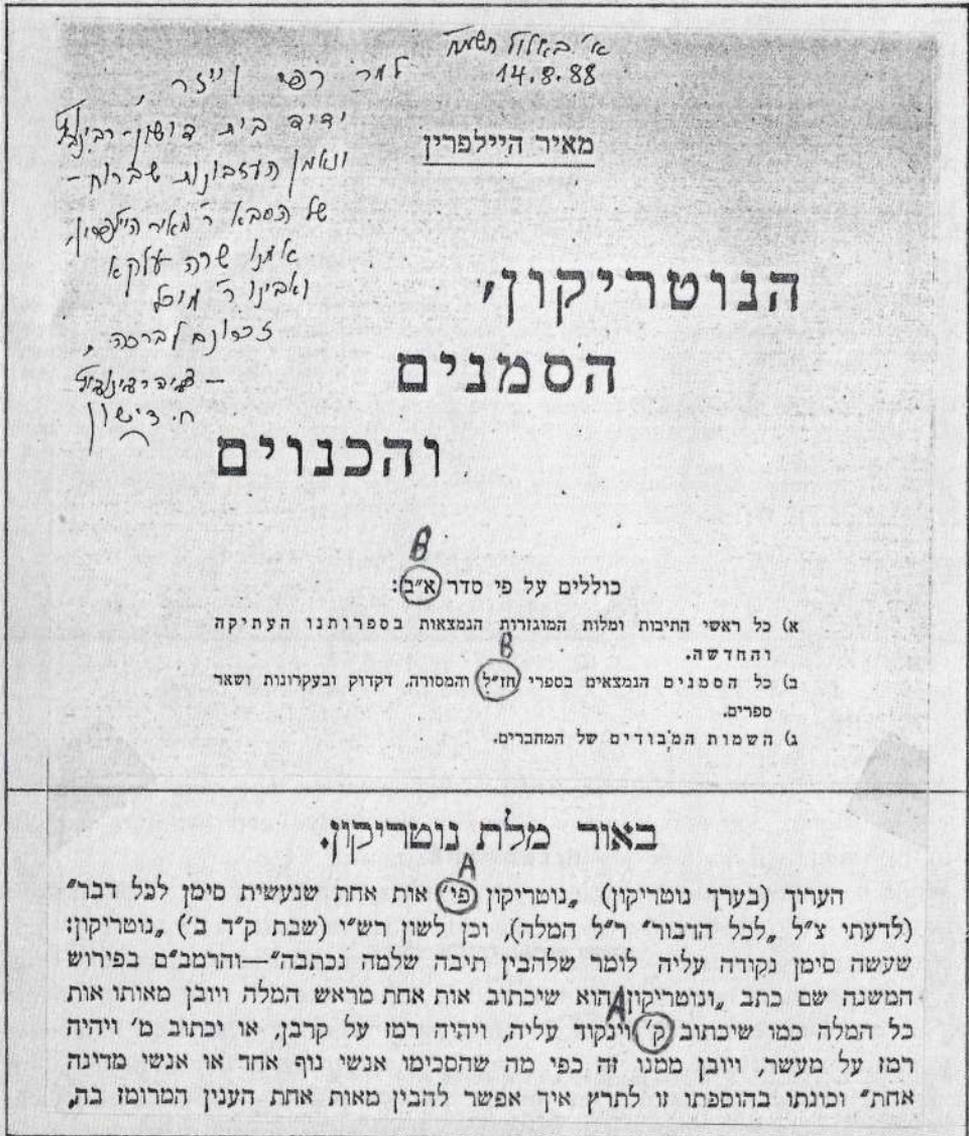


Fig. 50: Face page of a handbook of Hebrew abbreviations.

used to truncate a word. This character is not to be confused with the Hebrew letter Yod (י). This character, in Hebrew, is called a 'גרש' (GERESH – the E's pronounced as in the word 'WET'). The more common abbreviation mark is the double apostrophe ("), designated 'B' in Figure 50. This is found in the "Transposed" error. This abbreviation mark is always placed before the last letter in any acronym. An acronym is a word generally formed from the first one or more letters of a series of words, which series may consist of two or more words. 'United States of America', in Hebrew ארצות הברית, is abbreviated ארה"ב. Similarly א"י following Palastina in the Hebrew line of the trilingual overprint is the acronym for ארץ ישראל. This is Hebrew for Eretz Israel (Land of Israel). The English equivalent would be E.I. with 'periods' used to denote the abbreviations just as in the acronym N.A.T.O.

This punctuation mark in Hebrew (") is called גרשיים (GERSHAYIM). This is the Hebrew plural for גרש (GERESH) indicating two strokes instead of one.

My thanks go to Dr. Zvi Shimony for the explanation of the Gershayim and to Rabbi Louis Sigel of Hackensack, N.J. for the clarification of the spelling and pronunciation. Several of the illustrations were taken from the Bale Palestine Catalogue.

Taking Parcels from Palestine to Egypt

(N. Gladstone & E. Kaplan)

The interesting article written in the HLP# #43, pp. 91–3, by Shmuel Meiri has prompted us to show a few items from the Palestine Censorship which were unfortunately too late to be included in my book "Postal Censorship to and from Palestine in 1939–1945", published by BAPIP.

These 3 items are from the collection of Palestine Censored covers of Earl Kaplan. In the collection are above 40 covers, all to and from a Mrs. L.M. Hoyman and addressed to her at the American Mission and the WCTU Headquarters at Assuit, Egypt.

Figure 51 shows a Palestine censorship printed authorisation allowing Mrs. Hoyman to take parcels out of Palestine, provided that the seals were unbroken. In Figure 52 we have a similar authorisation, but in manuscript, also passed by the Jerusalem censor. Figure 53 shows the Jerusalem seal and a handstamp authorisation to take packets from Jerusalem to Egypt.

We have been trying for many years to get any information about the missions run by Mrs. Hoyman and her associates, and in what capacity they functioned. Some letters addressed to Mrs. Hoyman were also sent to the Syrian Palestine Relief, Jerusalem and many were sent from a Yvonne Salmon at 44 Mamillah Road, Jerusalem. Can any of our readers help in solving the whereabouts

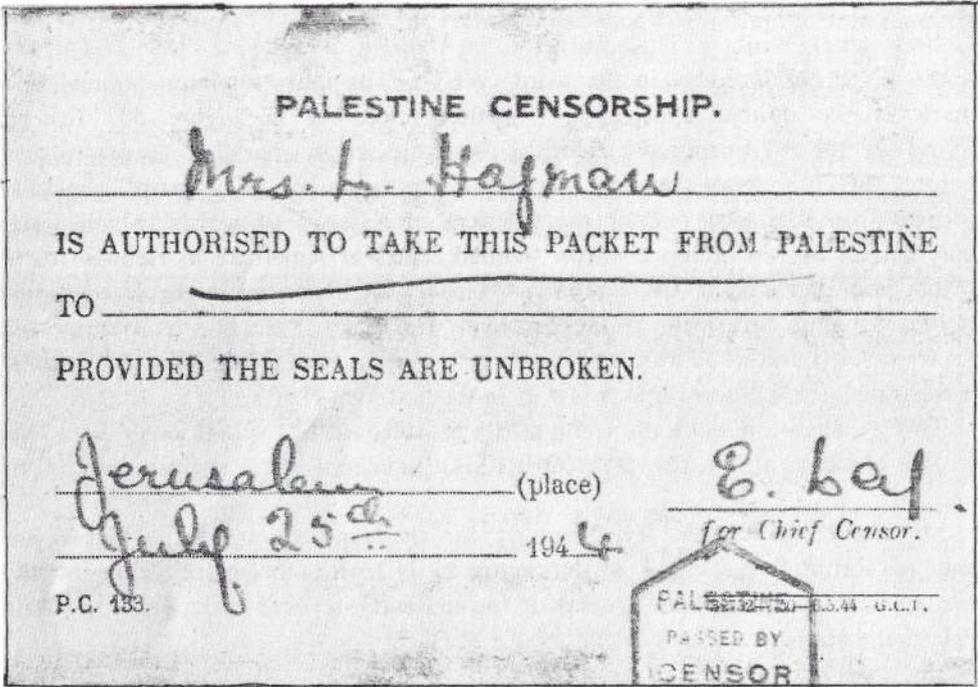


Fig. 51: Palestine Censorship printed authorisation to take a packet out of Palestine.

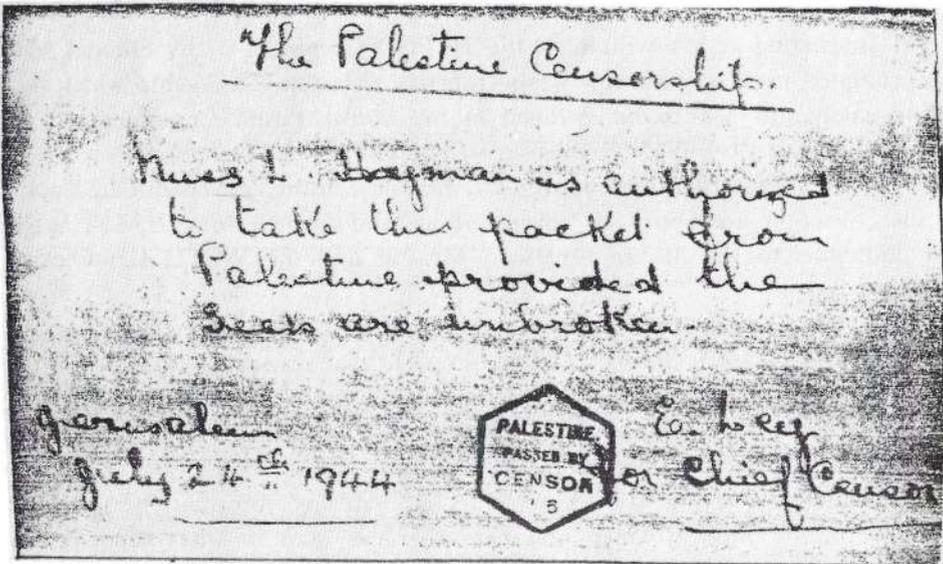


Fig. 52: Palestine Censorship manuscript authorisation to take a packet out of Palestine.

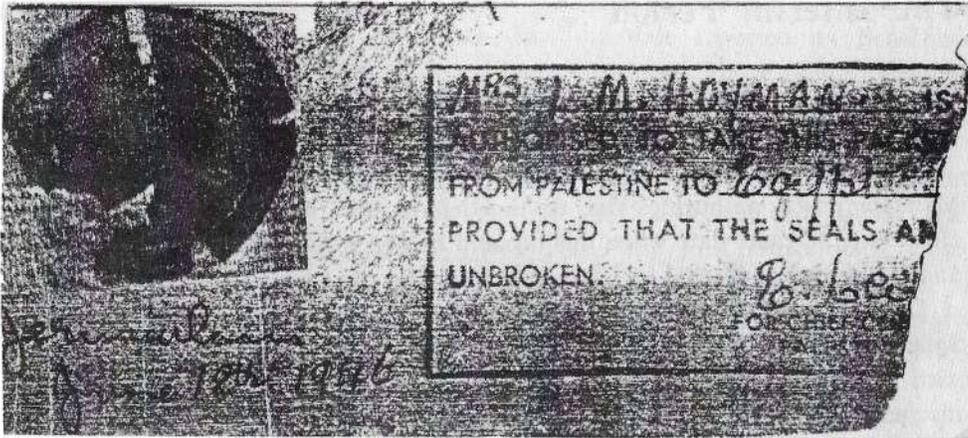


Fig. 53: Palestine Censorship handstamp authorisation to take a packet out of Palestine, showing also the Jerusalem packet seal on the left.

of this organisation, also known as the American College; American Presbyterian Institute; Pressley Memorial Institute, and also the Arabic Union Mission of Menthaday Adventists, P.O.Box 592 Haifa, during the years 1942-1945? Incidentally, all of these covers were censored during that period. We would appreciate any information.

TEL-AVIV STAMP Co.

Yacov Tsachor

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The Interim Period

An Update on the Termination of the Mandate Postal Services in Safad, 1948

(Y. Rimon, Haifa)

Safad was the first Post Office to be closed, ahead of schedule, by the Mandate postal authorities due to the deterioration of the security conditions. However, the exact date when this occurred has been the subject of several articles and research notes¹⁻³.

Due to a misinterpretation of a report by D. Geiger, the Jewish postmaster of Safad, it was believed for many years that 2nd February was the date¹. But covers with Safad cancellations of later dates (5th February and then 16th February) discredited this information. A. Ben-David reported in a note², again based on the memory of Geiger, that 26th of February was the correct date. Later I. Karpovsky illustrated³ an "Announcement to the Public" (No. 26 by the Palestine Post and Telegraph Dept., dated 2nd March 1948), which states that "the Safad Post Office is closed and all services suspended". This gives us an upper limit to the date we are looking for.

Lately the author acquired a cover which gives almost the ultimate information on this subject. It is a registered cover (Fig. 54) sent to the Klinger Bank in Safad and it was mailed in Tel Aviv on 24th February. It was cancelled in transit

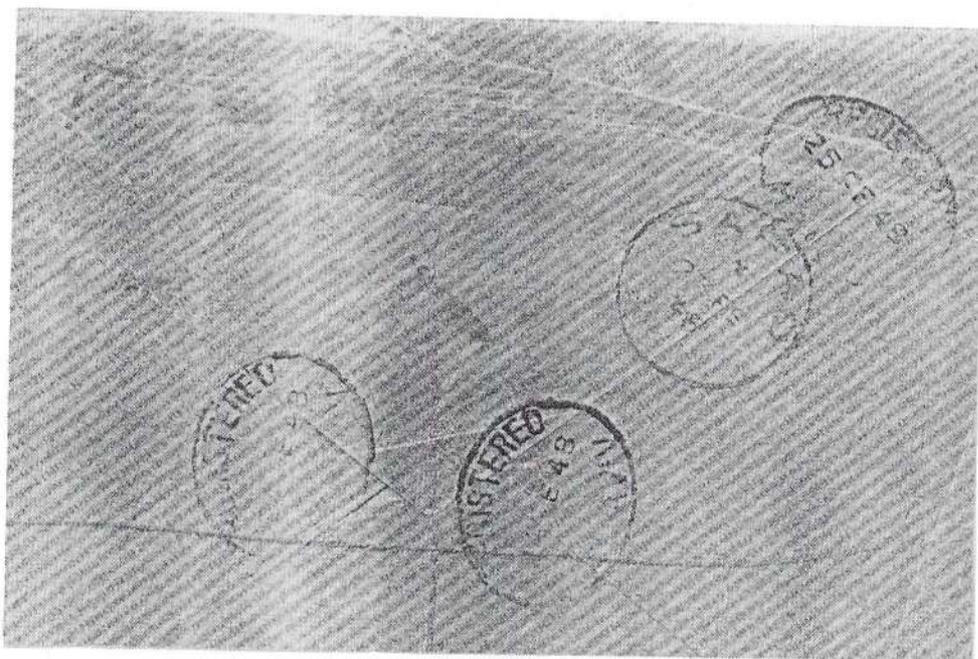


Fig. 54: Back of a registered cover with arrival S.C. pmk of Safad of 27 February 1948.

in Haifa on 25th February and received an arrival Safad S.C. postmark on 27th February. This is one day later than the date reported by Ben-David and only three days before the upper limit mentioned above. Thus, the Post Office was still operating on the 27th February and it is very likely that it closed on that date, or at most on March 1st.

To summarize – the latest examples of Safad Mandatory cancellations known to date are: (1) The D.C. pmk – on 5.2.48; (2) the barred D.C. – on 16.2.48; (3) the S.C. pmk – on 27.2.48. The Post Office itself closed sometime between the end of work on February 27th and the 1st of March. The postal services of the Jewish community were conducted afterwards unofficially from a hotel room until the beginning of the local Safad postal services on 4th May.

References:

- (1) Y. Rimon, "Postal services in Safad at the end of the Mandate period", HLPH #19 (Summer 1984) p. 918.
- (2) A. Ben-David, "A note on the 'End of the Mandate postal services in Safad'", HLPH #21-22 (Winter/Spring 1985) p. 68.
- (3) I. Karpovsky, "The closing of the Mandatory Post Office in Safad in 1948", HLPH #29-30 (Winter/Spring 1987) p. 495.

Jerusalem Convoy Letters Sent Abroad

(Z. Shimony & I. Karpovsky)

It is well known that after the siege of Jerusalem in 1948, two "mail convoys" were sent out, on 18.6 and 21.6 respectively, with the mail which had accumulated during the siege. Most of these letters were internal and, except for a few unusual cases, only registered letters are nowadays collected and displayed as "convoy letters", since these carry the arrival postmarks which prove that they travelled with the "convoy". It is generally accepted that the "First Convoy" consisted of mail from the commencement of the siege (i.e. about April 20th) until the first few days of the reopening of Jerusalem post offices (May 12th), whilst the "Second Convoy" carried the mail of the subsequent period. The most typical characteristic of the "convoy letters" is the Tel Aviv trilingual arrival postmark on the back (of 18.6 or 21.6 respectively)*; the front generally carries Jerusalem stamps tied by Minhelet Ha'am Jerusalem postmark.

Very few convoy covers exist which were addressed abroad and even fewer of such

* When addressed to places other than Tel Aviv, there is generally also the postmark of destination. A few of the covers addressed to Haifa carry only the Haifa trilingual arrival postmark.

exist which actually reached their destination. We would like to show in this note several covers of the First Convoy intended for overseas addresses. Apart from being rare and interesting, these covers emphatically demonstrate some of the important postal regulations of the period, as will be explained later.

The Mandate Air Letter shown in Figure 55 was written in Jerusalem on 25 April and addressed to Australia. Due to the siege, it left Jerusalem only

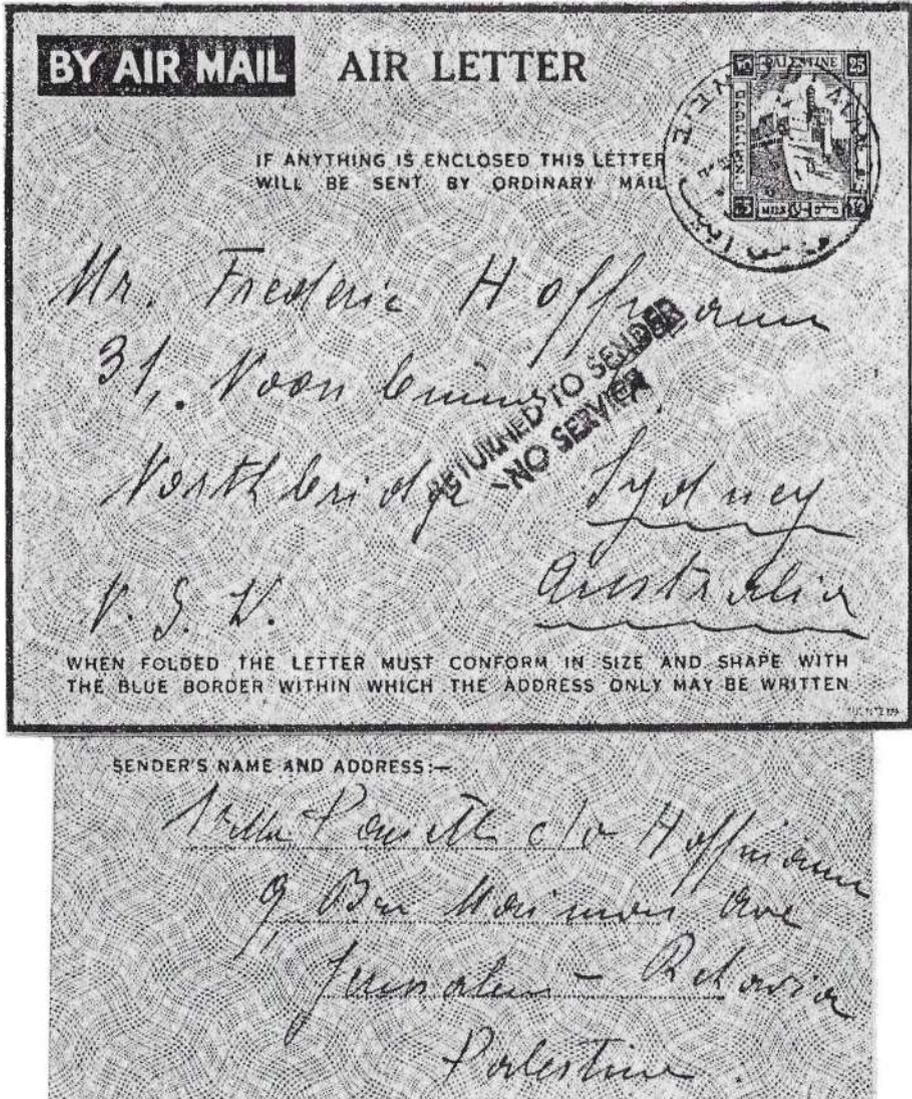


Fig. 55: Air letter from besieged Jerusalem to Australia, brought to Tel Aviv by the First Convoy but returned to sender as there was "No Service" (to Australia). Note the Mandate "stamp" and Tel Aviv trilingual cancellation of June 18th.

on the first mail convoy of 18 June, when it was sent to Tel Aviv. In Tel Aviv it was cancelled with the Tel Aviv trilingual postmark of the 18th, but as there were still no postal relations with Australia the letter was handstamped "Returned to Sender / No Service" and was probably returned to the sender in Jerusalem a few days later.

The striking aspects about this letter (and the other covers shown later) are its Mandate "stamp" and the Tel Aviv postmark, in contrast to most of the inland convoy letters which bear Jerusalem Minhelet Ha'am stamps and postmarks. Truly, this letter was written in the period when Mandate stamps were still the only ones available, but even if mailed later (when Jerusalem stamps were already available) it should have been franked with Mandate stamps according to Minhelet Ha'am regulations regarding letters sent abroad! This is also the reason for this letter being cancelled in Tel Aviv and not by the Jerusalem Minhelet Ha'am postmark. The UPU (Universal Postal Union) had not recognised Minhelet Ha'am stamps and one of its rules was that postmarks should include the date and at least one of the internationally recognized languages (e.g. English or French) - while the Minhelet Ha'am postmarks were dateless and included only Hebrew - and therefore the letter was not cancelled in Jerusalem. When the letter arrived in Tel Aviv (uncancelled) with the First Convoy on 18 June, it was cancelled there legally, as Tel Aviv already had the UPU-legal trilingual postmark (including English and date).

Another cover (Fig. 56), also dispatched from Jerusalem with the First Convoy, was delivered to its destination (Vienna) as proved by the Austrian censor mark on its front. This letter is somewhat overfranked (the correct airmail rate being 35 mil), as the sender probably did not have the exact stamps and probably could not buy other Mandate stamps then. We do not know when this letter was written, but according to the circumstances it should have been written (and sent) in the period between April 25th and May 12th.

The third cover (Fig. 57) went by sea, according to the correct surface mail franking of 20 mil, in spite of the incorrect hand written instruction "Air Mail" on the front. Again, it was franked correctly with Mandate stamps, left Jerusalem with the First Convoy and then cancelled in Tel Aviv in June 18th by the trilingual Israeli postmark. Spectacularly, the cover was cancelled on arrival by a machine postmark of Helsinki (Finland) on July 21st.

According to Ch. Shamir, based on documents of that period, postal relations with Finland were renewed on June 27th, but the second official surface mail shipment to Europe was made with the S.S. Kedma which left Haifa on July 6th. So this cover was very probably carried on this ship to Marseilles and its arrival in Helsinki about a fortnight later is very reasonable, taking into account its route through Europe.

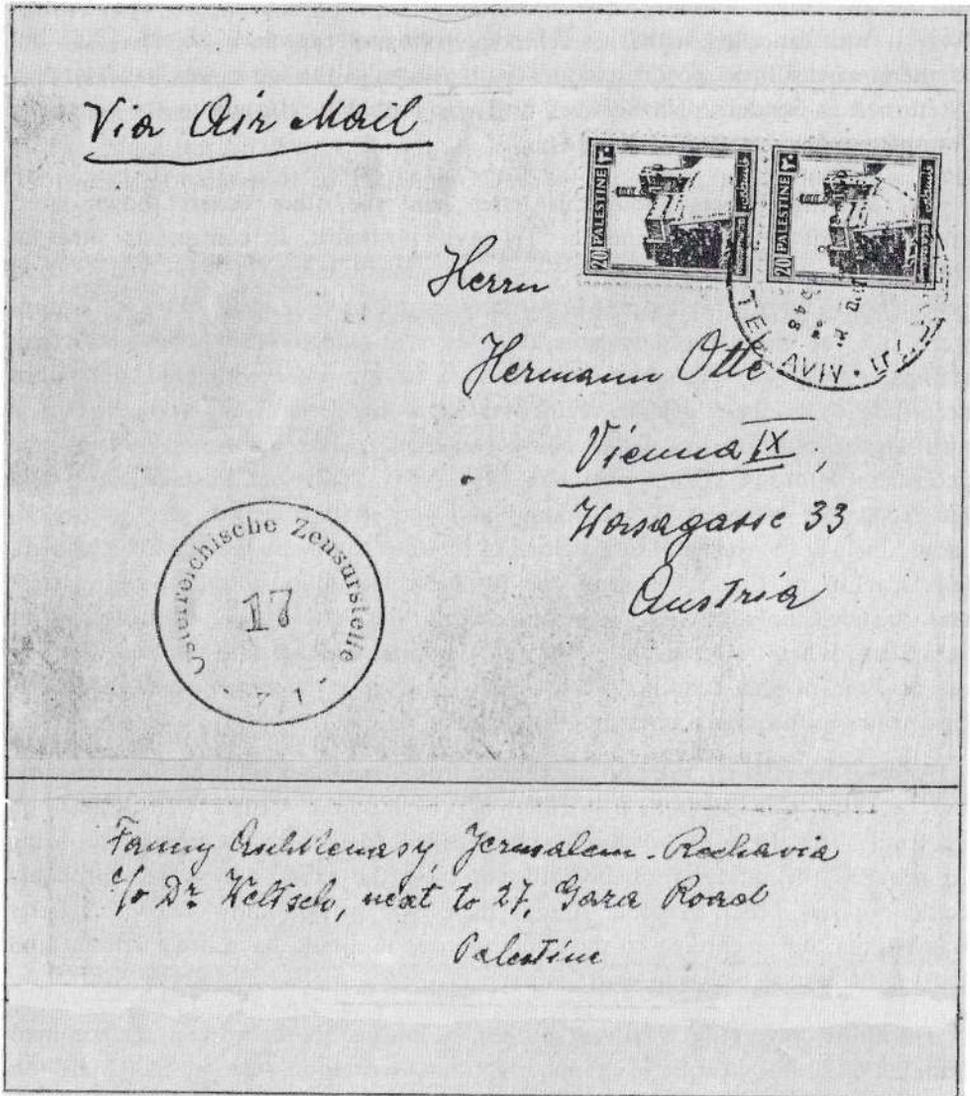


Fig. 56: First Convoy letter from besieged Jerusalem to Vienna, legally franked by Mandate stamps and cancelled "Tel Aviv 18.6.1948". Austrian censorship handstamp applied on arrival.

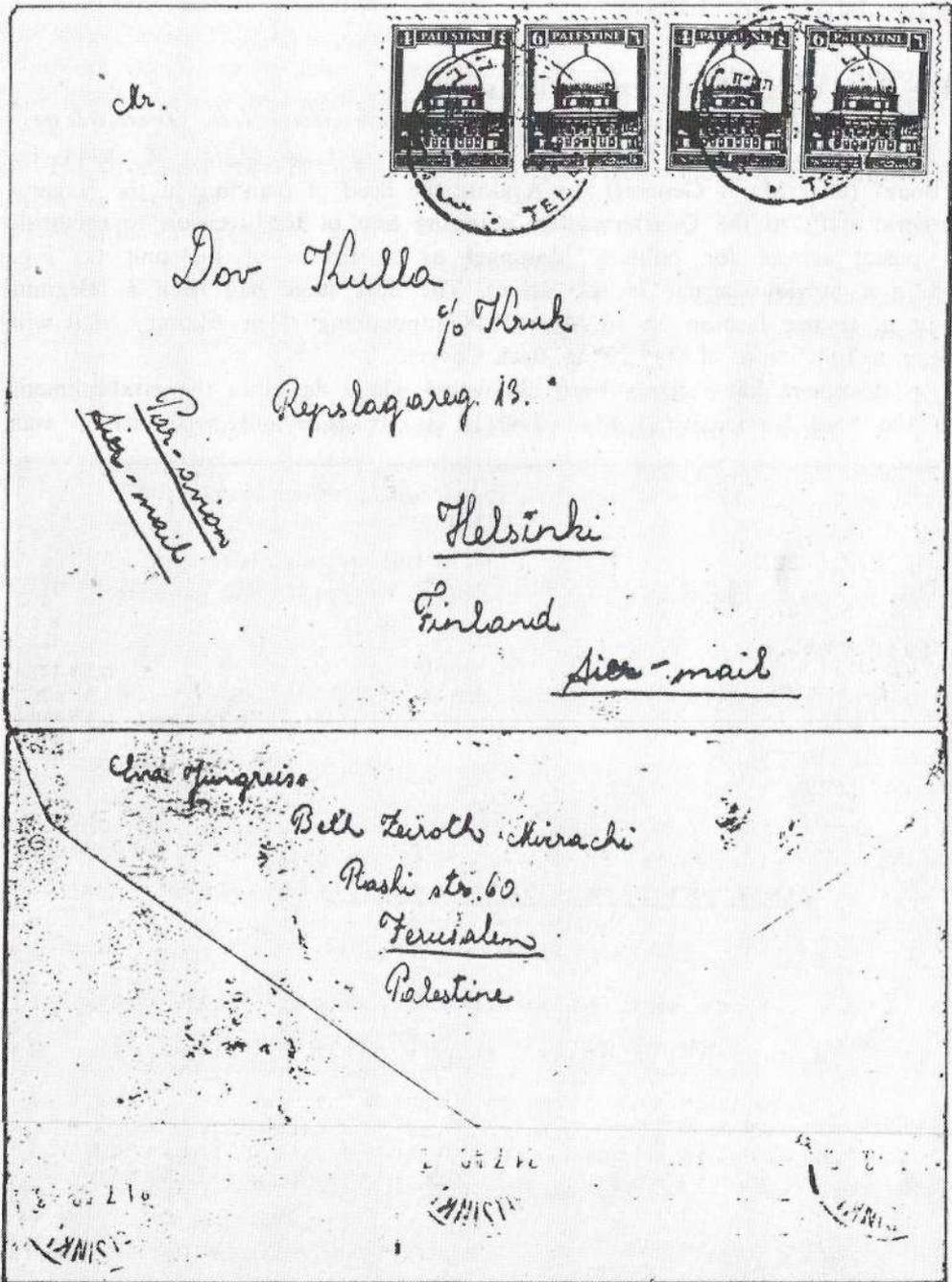


Fig. 57: First Convoy letter from besieged Jerusalem to Helsinki, legally franked by Mandate stamps and cancelled "Tel Aviv 18.6.1948". Helsinki arrival cancellation (on back) of July 21st.

The State of Israel

The Date of Establishment of the Israel

Military Postal Service

(Baruch Hurwich, Jerusalem)

Previous publications have noted the letter sent on March 26, 1948, by "Boaz" (later Major General) Zvi Ayalon, the head of planning of the Hagana general staff, to the Quartermaster, notifying him of the decision to establish a postal service for military personnel as a section of his unit (s. Fig. 38 in a previous article in this Issue). The next stage had been a telegram sent in reverse fashion on 18 May, 1948 announcing: "The Military Mail will begin to function as of May 20" (s. Back Cover).

A document has recently been discovered which describes the establishment of the Mail Service on 3 May, 1948(!), its structure and personnel. It was

סודי

מטכ"ל/מחמ
מחמ/43
3 מאי 1948

אגפים
חטיבות
חילוג ושרותים
שונים

הנדון: תקן מס. 32/48 - שרות דאר צבאי.

1. התקן הנ"ל יכנס לתקפו מיום חאריך מכחב זה.
2. תקן הציוד, התחבורה והחמש יפורסס ע"י מטכ"ל/אגא.
3. מטכ"ל/אכא ימציא לשרות את כה-האדם למלוי התקן.
4. השרות הנ"ל יהווה יחידת חשבון עצמאיה ומטכ"ל/אגא יפרסס הודעה על כך בפקודות אגא.

א. צ. א.

בהמשחלקה לתפקידי מטה.

Fig. 58: Military Postal Service established on 3 May, 1948.

on the basis of this document that the services was able to begin functioning 17 days later. This is in contradistinction to the statement in Kanner and Spiegel's classic article that "...the basic order on this subject was issued by the General Staff on 18th May, 1948, to be in force as from 20th May, 1948".

The document appears as Figures 58 and 59. There follows a free translation from the Hebrew.

(Translation of Figure 58)

SECRET

*General Staff/Planning
Document/43
3 May 1948*

Subject: Norms (teken) no. 32/48 / Military Postal Service

1. *These norms will take effect as of the date of this letter.*
2. *Norms for equipment, transportation and arms will be published by General Staff/Quartermaster.*
3. *General Staff/Personnel will provide the Postal Service with personnel according to these norms.*
4. *The Postal Service will be an independent Unit for pay purposes and General Staff/Quartermaster will publish a notice to this effect.*

(signed) Lapidoth
(in the name of) Planning Section*

(Translation of Figure 59)

*Norms (Teken) No. 32/48
MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE*

The functions of the Military Postal Service are:

- a. *To maintain a postal service in the various military units for communication with the civilian post and overseas.*
- b. *To maintain a postal service between military units themselves.*

The Service will consist of:

- a. *a Staff*
- b. *2 Base Post Offices*
- c. *8 Army Post Offices (APO's)*
- d. *A Returned Letter Office.*

* Note: "Lapidoth" was the code name for Matityahu (Kornfeld) "Matti" Dagan, who later served as Administrative Officer of the Central Command under Major General Ayalon.

תקן מס. 32/48

שרות הדאר הצבאי

הפקידי שרות הדאר הצבאי הם:
 א. לקיים שרות דאר בין אנשי הצבא ביחידות הסונות ובין האוכלוסיה האזרחית באוץ ובחוץ לארץ.
 ב. לקיים שרות דאר בין אנשי הצבא ביחידות הסונות לבין עצמם.

השרות יהיה מרכב מ--

- א. מטה השרות
- ב. 2 בסיסים
- ג. 8 מסרדי דאר
- ד. מסרר דאר למכתבים מוחזרים.

מטה השרות

(3+4=7)

מפקד השרות
 סגן המפקד
 מנהל הסכונות

פקיד ראשי
 2 פקידים
 נהג

2 בסיסים

(2+22=24)

כ"א-- (1+11=12)

קצין הבסיס
 סמל
 מ"כ

פקיד
 נהג
 7 טוראים

8 מסרדי דאר

(0+32=32)

כ"א-- (0+4=4)

פקיד ראשי או סמל
 מ"כ
 2 טוראים

מסרר דאר למכתבים מוחזרים

(0+3=3)

מ"כ
 2 טוראים

סה"כ

ס"ה	מסרר דאר למכתבים מוחזרים	ס"ה מסרדי דאר	8 מסרדי דאר כל אחד	ס"ה בסיסים	2 בסיסים כל אחד	מטה השרות	תאור
5				2	1	3	קצינים
11		8	1	2	1	1	רב סמלים וסמלים
11	1	8	1	2	1		מ"כים
39	2	16	2	18	9	3	טוראים
66	3	32	4	24	12	7	סה"כ

Fig. 59: Structure and personnel of the Military Postal Service.

(There then follows a breakdown of manpower for each unit).

	Staff	2 BPO's (each)	8 APO's (each)*	R.L.O.	Total
Officers	3	1			5
Other Ranks	4	11	4	3	61
Grand Total	7	24	32	3	66

* Note: There subsequently were established APO's numbered 1 through 10 as well as 12, 14 and 15, for a total of 13 APO's.

How to Make Franking of NIS 2.35 *(Nahum Shereshevsky)*

I collect registered covers, and lately I have noticed the different combinations of stamps on them. The rate is 2.35, and the problem lies with that last 5 agorot*. The registration fee is 1.80 which is added to the basic rate of 0.55, making 2.35. Basic rate letters are no problem, since they are franked with NVI stamps. But when it comes to 2.35 (which is the only rate with 5 agorot), we have a problem. There are three solutions: 1) making the exact rate all in denominated stamps, 2) using an NVI stamp contrary to regulations, 3) overpayment. I have also found combinations of (2) and (3) which I call "2+3".

(1) **Exact and 'kosher'**. To do this, you need at least 3 stamps. When the rate came into effect (1.5.90), there were two stamps with 5 agorot: there was the Herzl 0.05 definitive, but there was no 2.30 stamps. There are 2.50, 1.90. 2.00 (definitives and commemoratives) – but again no 2.30. The most frequent combination is 2.00+0.30+0.05 (Fig. 60). There is also the 0.75 Architecture definitive, but there is no 1.60. Fig. 61 shows one solution using 4 stamps; 2×0.80+0.75 is another, with 3 stamps. On 12.6.90 the (denominated) Greeting Stamps came out, including a 0.55 stamp. But as there is no 1.80 stamp, you still need at least 3 stamps.

(2) **Using an NVI stamp**. According to Post Office regulations, NVI stamps are to be used only for inland standard letters, and cannot be used together with other stamps. It should be noted, however, that this regulation was never strictly adhered to, and combination covers have been rather common from the beginning of NVI stamps, in 1982. But in our case, using the NVI stamp is especially convenient, and I have seen many such covers. There are currently five NVI stamps to choose from – the three Greeting Stamps, the Sunflower, and the Olive Branch (from booklets). Complementing the NVI stamp to 2.35 requires 1.80, and the easiest

* The article was written when the postage for registered inland letter was NIS 2.35.



Figure 60

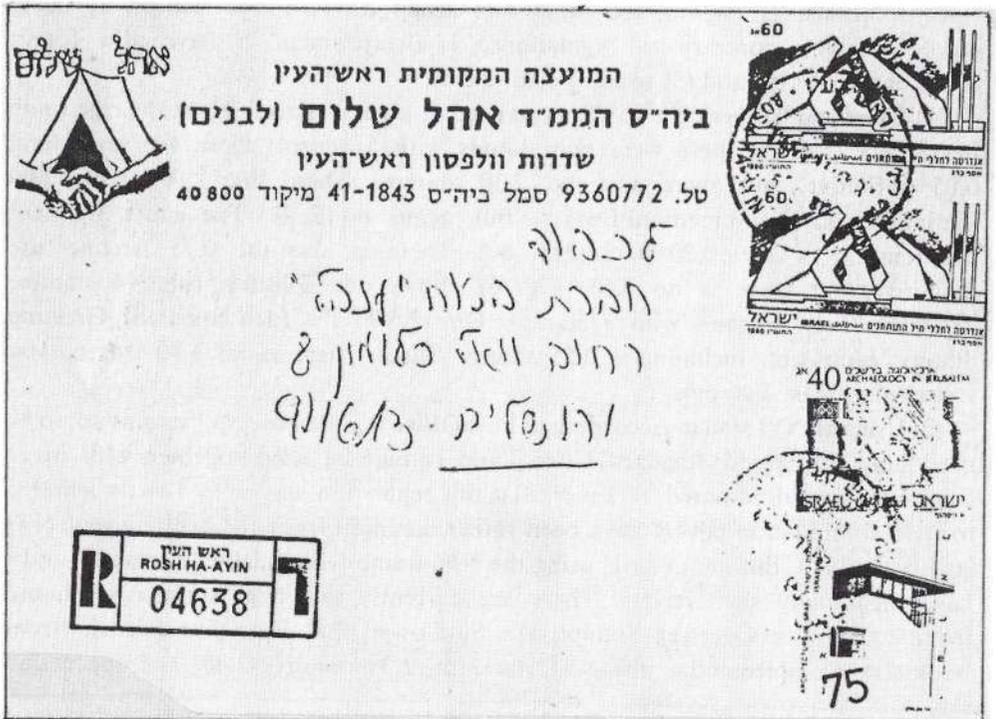


Figure 61

way is to use two 0.90 stamps. There are currently (August, 1990) three such stamps, including one definitive. Figures 62 and 63 show examples of combination covers.

(3) **Overpayment.** This is another practical solution that avoids the issue (five agorot) at all. The most common franking is, naturally, 2.40. Figure 64 shows one combination, $2 \times 1.00 + 0.40$ (all definitives), Figure 65 shows another - $2.00 + 4 \times 0.10$. The combination of 3×0.80 is also widely used. It all depends, of course, on what is available at the post office at the time. In the case of Figure 66, sent from a mobile post, they did not even have a 0.40 stamp, so they used 0.50 instead, making an overpayment of 0.15.

(2+3) **Overpayment with NVI's.** I have found those as well. Figure 67 has 4 NVI's + 2×0.10 , making a total of 2.40. Figure 68 has 5 NVI's, a total of 2.75! My guess is that the senders used stamps that they had "at home", rather than franking the letters at the post office. I can accept Figure 67 as being franked by a postal clerk, since it is the closest overpayment, but not Figure 68, which has 0.40 overpayment and stamps of only one type. It should be noted that if that letter was over 20g., the rate was actually 2.70 and if the sender had only these NVI stamps, 5 of them were the minimum needed.

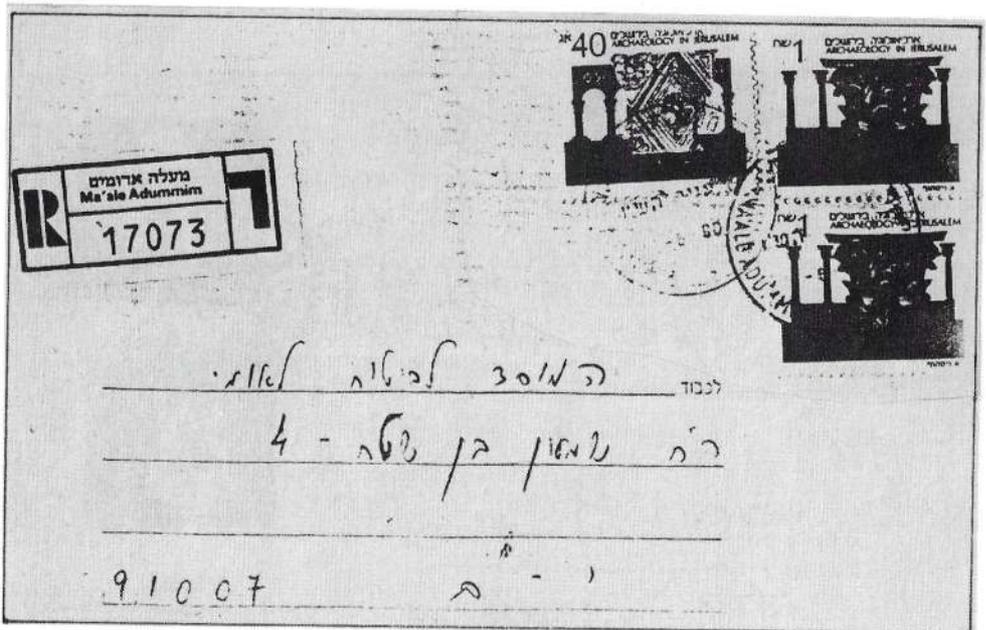


Figure 64

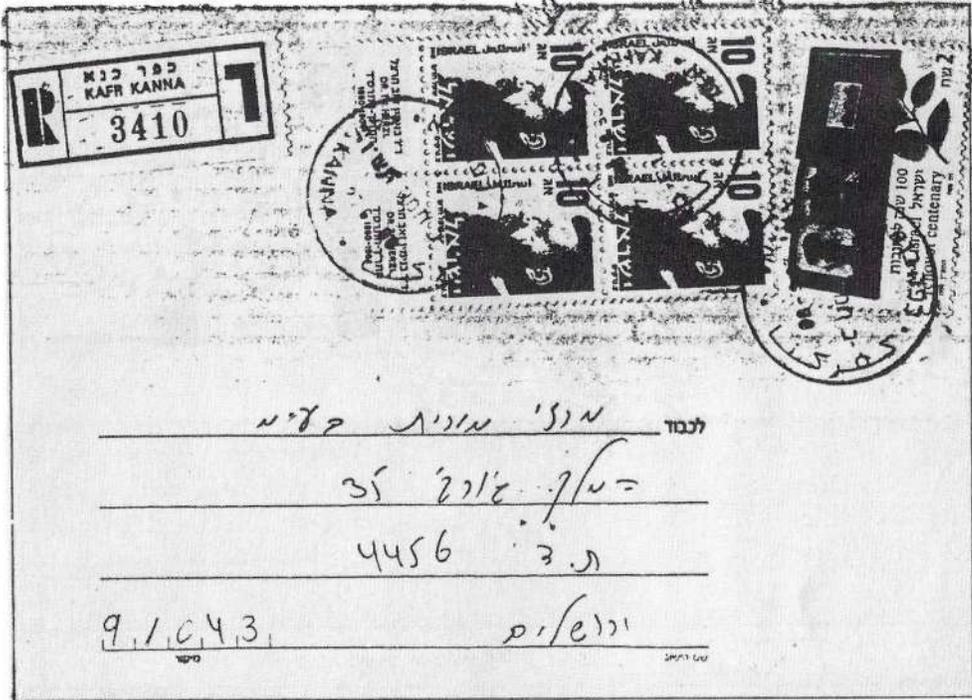


Figure 65

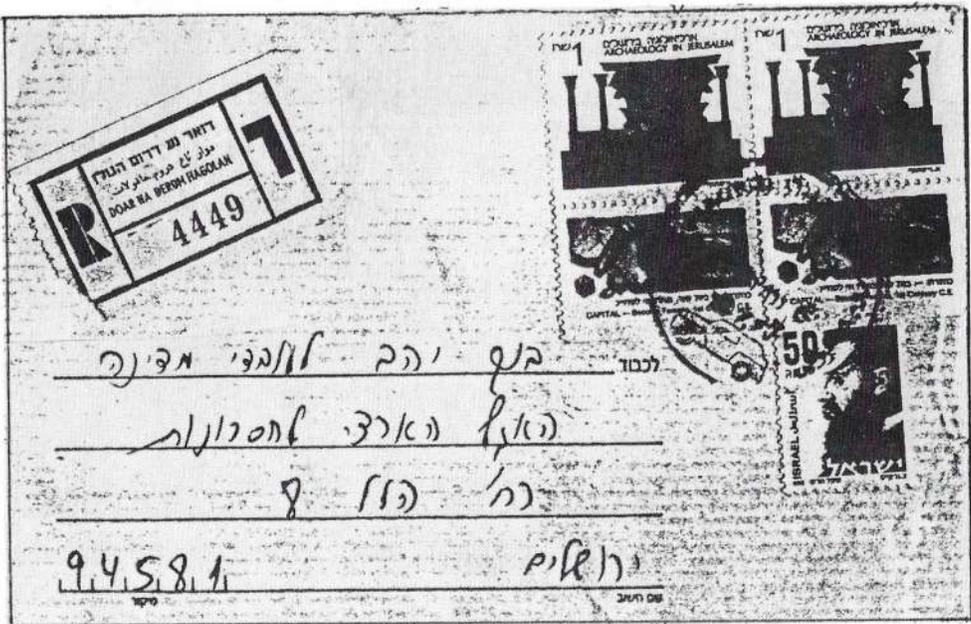


Figure 66

(4) The **ultimate solution** is using labels from machines. Figure 69 shows a cover with Frama labels, but even here the sender used 2 labels... Incidentally, in this case, 2.35 is still overpayment: this is a business reply mail, and therefore only the registration fee of 1.80 should have been charged. Figure 70 shows a Klussendorf label. The interesting point here is that the letter was sent from Elat, which has no Klussendorf machine! A close inspection of the label reveals that it has no cliché number, which means that it originated from the Philatelic Service.



Figure 69

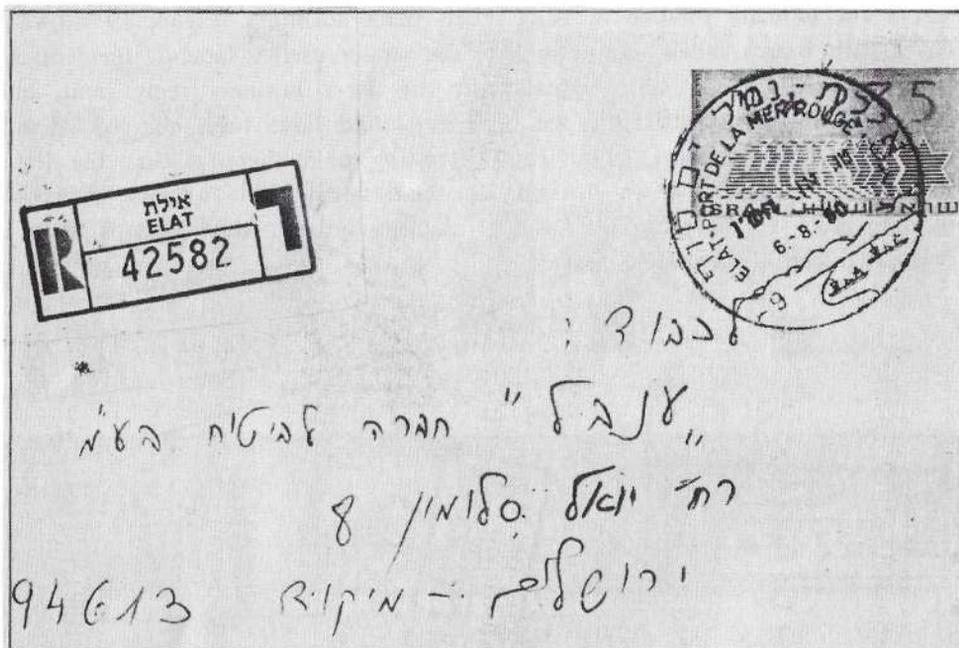


Figure 70

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New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by B. Fixler & J. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 71)

- 21.11.90: "25 yeras Port of Ashdod", Ashdod.
- 27.11.90: "Israel's Philatelists greet Armenia '90", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 04.12.90: "Menachem Savidor Tel Aviv (central) railway station", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 12.12.90: "Philately Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.
- 12.12.90: "Computer games", Yerushalayim*.
- 12.12.90: "Architecture in Israel", Yerushalayim*.
- 12.12.90: "50th anniversary of the death of Z. Jabotinsky", Yerushalayim*.
- 12.12.90: "70th anniversary of the General Federation of Labour in Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 12.12.90: "70th anniversary of 'Hagana'", Haifa.
- 12.12.90: "Israel Stamp Week, Feast of Hanukka", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 18.12.90: "4th Convention of Israel Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 24.12.90: "Christmas. Noel", Bethlehem.



Fig. 71: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

* These were used as special postmarks for the F.D. of the corresponding stamp issue.

24.12.90: "Christmas. Noel", Nazareth.

19.02.91: "Hadera Centenary, 1891-1991", Hadera*.

19.02.91: "Keep in Touch, Greetings, Happy Birthday", Yerushalayim*.

19.02.91: "Sarah Aaronsohn, Lea Goldberg, Rahel Bluwstein", Yerushalayim*.



Fig. 71(continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

B. Definitive Cancellations (Type designation refer to Figure 72)

- 21.11.90: "Qiriat Bialik, Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Qiriat Bialik Post Office.
- 21.11.90: "Qiriat Bialik", new machine cancellation in Qiriat Bialik Post Office.
- 12.12.90: "Givatayim 11", "Givatayim 12", additional postmarks in Givatayim Post Office.
- 12.12.90: "Netanya 30", additional postmark in Netanya.
- 17.12.90: "Ramat Gan, Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Ramat Gan Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Afula 12" (Type A), additional postmark in Afula Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Akko 9" (Type A), additional postmark in Akko Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Haifa 4", "Haifa 5" (Type A), replaced postmarks in Haifa Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Haifa 17", "Haifa 22", "Haifa 41" (Type B) replaced postmarks in Haifa Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Holon 4" (Type A), additional postmark in Holon Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Kefar Sava 17" (Type B), additional postmark in Kefar Sava Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Nahariyya 13" (Type A), additional postmark in Nahariya Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Nes Ziyvona 6" (Type B), additional postmark in Nes Ziyvona Post Office.



Fig. 72: Some types of postmarks recently introduced.

- 23.12.90: "Qiryat Gat 5" (Type B), additional postmark in Qiryat Gat Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Qiryat Malakhi 4" (Type B), additional postmark in Qiryat Malakhi Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Raanana 10" (Type A), Additional postmark in Raanana Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Ramat Gan 39" (Type B), additional postmark in Ramat Gan Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Rehovot 27" (Type B), additional postmark in Rehovot Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Rishon Leziyon 16" (Type A), additional postmark in Rishon Leziyon Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 12" "Tel Aviv-Yafo 33" "Tel Aviv-Yafo 35" (Type A), replaced postmarks in Tel Aviv-Yafo Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 40", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 131" (Type B), replaced postmarks in Tel Aviv-Yafo Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Tiberias 15", additional postmark in Tiberias Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Yavne 6" (Type A), additional postmark in Yavne Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Yerushalayim 5", "Yerushalayim 13" (Type A), replaced postmarks in Jerusalem Post Office.
- 23.12.90: "Yerushalayim 15", "Yerushalayim 18", "Yerushalayim 34" (Type B), replaced postmarks in Jerusalem Post Office.
- 25.12.90: "Soreq Nuclear Research Center"*.
- 25.12.90: "Netivot & Paye", a handstamp "Paid" in Netivot Post Office.**

* This postmark, introduced in the afternoon of the 25th, has the name of the institute in proper English, while the previous one (which was still in use on the same morning) had the name in transliteration from Hebrew.

** This postmark was not mentioned in any "Notice to the Public".

- 06.01.91: "Haifa 20" (Type C), replaced postmark in Haifa Post Office.*
 06.01.91: "Nazeret Illit 3" (Type C), replaced postmark in Nazeret Illit Post Office.
 06.01.91: "Netanya 24" (Type C), replaced postmark in Netanya Post Office.
 06.01.91: "Rehovot 30" (Type C), additional postmark in Rehovot Post Office.
 06.01.91: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 4" (Type C), replaced postmark in Tel Aviv-Yafo (Philatelic Service)
 06.01.91: "Tel Mond 3" (Type C), additional postmark in Tel Mond Post Office.
 06.01.91: "Yerushalayim 89" (Type C), replaced postmark in Jerusalem Post Office.
 21.01.91: "Nazareth 10", for the Postal Agency grade A, opened in El-Ram suberb in Nazareth.
 03.02.91: "Basmat Tabon", for the Postal Agency grade B, opened in Basmat Tabon
 03.02.91: "Dimona 7", "Dimona 8" (Type C), additional postmarks in Dimona Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Givatayim 6" (Type C), replaced postmark in Givatayim Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Hadera 3", "Hadera 4", "Hadera 7", "Hadera 11", "Hadera 12" (Type C), replaced postmarks in Hadera Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Haifa 21" (Type C), replaced postmark in Haifa Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Herzliyya 21" (Type C) additional postmark in Herzliyya Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Hod Hasharon 9" (Type C), replaced postmark in Hod Hasharon Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Hod Hasharon 11" (Type C), additional postmark in Hod Hasharon Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Holon 34" (Type C), additional postmark in Holon Post Office.
 03.02.91: "Tiberias 9" (Type C), replaced postmark in Tiberias Post Office.
 12.02.91: "Ashdod 25", additional postmark in Ashdod Post Office.
 12.02.91: "Ashqelon 21", additional postmark in Ashqelon Post Office.

 * On 6 January, 1991 some new postmarks have been introduced in various post offices, having the usual diameter (29-30 mm) but larger letters than most of the usual postmarks (s. Fig. 72, Type C, in comparison to the usual Type D).

New Stamps

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 19.2.19: Famous Israeli Women – Rahel Bluwstein, Lea Goldberg, Sarah Aaronsohn, (3×NIS 1.30); Hadera Centenary (NIS 2.50); Good Wishes (continued) – "Greetings", "Happy Birthday", "Keep in Touch" (3× Ag 60) – non-denominated, for local letter.
 9.4.91: Architecture in Israel (NIS 1.40); Memorial Day, 1991 (Ag 65); 14th Hapoel games (NIS 0.60, 0.90, 1.10).

Updated List of the Klussendorf Postage Labels

(N. Shereshevsky, Jerusalem)

List of Klussendorf postage labels in Israel as of 1.4.91. "*" indicates one of the original machines, installed on 9.7.90. If not stated otherwise, machine is at the head post office of the town.

- 1.* AFULA 016
- 2.* AKKO 015, 038 (Sep. '90)
- 3.* ASHDOD 021
- 4.* ASHQELON 031
- 5.* BAT YAM – Balfour branch 027, 002 (?12.90), 027
6. BEER SHEVA
 - a.* Head Office 019, 037 (around 25.7.90)
 - b. Hadassa branch 001, 042 (?12.90)
7. HAIFA
 - a.* Carmel branch 030
 - b. Shiqmona (GPO) 029
 - c. Hachalutz branch 035 (24.3.91)
 - d. Qenion Lev Hamifratz 018 (24.3.91)
- 8.* HERZLIYA 022
9. HOD HASHARON – Paz petrol station 017, 006 (1.91), 017
10. GIVATAYIM – Paz petrol station, Ha'aluf Sade junction 012
11. JERUSALEM
 - a.* Ramat Eshkol branch 013
 - b.* Rehavia branch 020, 036 (19.11.90), 020 (13.3.91)
 - c.* Beit Hakerem branch 023, 045 (11.7.90)
- 12.* NAHARIYA 009
13. QIRYAT ATTA 006, 040 (19.11.90), 039 (18.2.91)³, 015 (20.2.91)
- 14.* RAMAT HASHARON 010, 043 (16.9.90), 010 (1.91)
- 15.* RISHON LEZION 004
16. TEL AVIV
 - a.* Yehuda Halevi branch 033, 008 (?12.90)
 - b.* Weizmann branch 034, 041 (2.91)
 - c.* Dizengoff 286 branch 032, 044 (?12.90)
 - d.* Philatelic Service², Jaffa – no cliche number.
 - e.* Sorting Centre¹, Hahagana Rd. 014, 003 (around 11.7.90)
 - f. Zamenhoff branch 026
- 17.* YAVNE 024
- 18.* ZEFAT 007

Cross-reference by cliche numbers to list numbers:

--- 16d

001 6b	010 14	019 6a	028	037 6a
002 5	011	020 11b	029 7b	038 2

003	16e	012	10	021	3	030	7a	039	13
004	15	013	11a	022	8	031	4	040	13
005		014	16e	023	11c	032	16c	041	16b
006	13,9	015	2,13	024	17	033	16a	042	6b
007	18	016	1	025		034	16b	043	14
008	16a	017	9	026	16f	035	7c	044	16c
009	12	018	7d	027	5	036	11b	045	11c

Notes:

1. #16e was not listed in the original Post Office Public Notice.
2. #16d was used for the official FDC, and is used now by the Philatelic Service to fill orders.
3. Cliche 039 was in the QIRYAT ATTA machine on 18.2.91 but functioned less than a day and was replaced by 015 the following day.

Book Review

Siegel's Newsletter of Holyland-Israel-Judaic philately by Marvin Siegel

Sometime ago this tiny publication celebrated the appearance of its 100th Issue. We consider it proper to take this opportunity to highlight this humble but noteworthy bimonthly newsletter, which was first issued about 17 years ago.

This one-person enterprise is a marvelous example of a publication, commercial on the one hand, but on the other very useful from many aspects to all Holyland and Judaica philatelists. It could only have been issued by someone like Marvin Siegel, an exceptional stamp dealer, who not only deals with stamps and covers but also loves and enjoys our hobby and who is moreover most knowledgeable about the material. He involves himself devotedly in the propagation and developments of Holyland philately throughout the world.

Each Issue (of about 12 pages) is typically composed of four pages of current text and eight pages of a mail auction of Holyland and Judaic material extensively illustrated. The current text is devoted to a lively spectrum of philatelic subjects, from first hand news of interest to Holyland collectors, analyses of philatelic market trends, to highly professional discussion of various philatelic and postal history subjects and reviews of new books.

The profound knowledge and experience of Marvin in all these subjects make these short passages a rich source of interesting information apart from being most enjoyable reading. Many up to date news of current events and developments are also included in these pages. Since his "aliya" to Israel Marvin has first-hand information of all news both in Israel and in the USA.

The items offered in the mail auction range from low priced to rarer, far more expensive, ones - in other words for all levels of collectors.

We congratulate Marvin and wish him many happy returns with his Newsletter.

(Zvi Shimony)

Holy Land Auctions' Realizations

(Compiled by E. Leib)

Prices are in US Dollars. 10-15% buyer's commission and 1.5-2.7% V.A.T. should be added.

Negev Holyland Stamps, September 1990

*Turkish Post, 1914, Khan-Younesse (ST. 35/01) on punched postal stationery to Rosh Pinnah -	\$3200
*Turkish Post, 1905, "Jaffa-Jerusalem" in red (ST. 53/06) on official stampless cover -	\$3750
*Turkish Post, 1908, "Safed 2" all Arabic (ST 47/08) on printed matter cover to Vienna -	\$860
*1918, Typo, 9p pair with double print, unused -	\$120
*1920, 2nd Local Ovpt. 5p with English "Palestine" partly omitted -	\$1350
*1948, Doar Ivri 50m imperforated between stamp and tab -	\$630
*1949, "Road to Jerusalem" with tab on private FDC -	\$470

Siegel's Holyland Philatelists, February 1991

*Turkish Post, Meo Shearem on p.c. to Germany -	\$285
*1920, 1st Local Ovpt. 5p Type 13, mint -	\$322
*1948, Minhelet Ha'am, Ness Ziona registered cover -	\$78
*1948, Minhelet Ha'am, Jerusalem 5m "Gimmel" on circular -	\$86
*1948, Doar Ivri, tabbed rouletted set on FDC -	\$470

*Tel Aviv Stamp Co., February 1991

*Turkish Post, "Haifa" (ST. 10/05) on registered cover, franked quadruple rate to Germany -	\$900
*1920, 1st Local Ovpt., 2p Setting I, the 24 types -	\$600
*1922, "London I", 3m, circle variety in block of 12 -	\$1100
*1928, Registered envelope PR10, franked 26m pictorials from Jaffa to Köln -	\$325
*1948, Minhelet Ha'am, 10m used as revenue on document, tied by firm cachet, May 5, 1948 -	\$700
*1948, pair of courier covers from Qiryat Anavim, both mailed in Tel Aviv with Minhelet Ha'am stamps. One is tied by Minhelet Ha'am pmk, the other by Tel Aviv trilingual pmk on FD, May 16, 1948 -	\$1150
*1948, unfranked courier cover from Paris. Haifa transit May 31, taxed 20m with 1st P.D. in Rishon LeZion on June 2nd -	\$3100
*1948, Registered cover "Meshek Yagur", franked Doar Ivri -	\$275
*1948, Doar Ivri full set on Minister Sheet, cancelled Sde Ya'acov mandate D.C. pmk -	\$3000
*1953, Maimonides, final colour trial in brown, complete imperforate pane of 16 -	\$12,500

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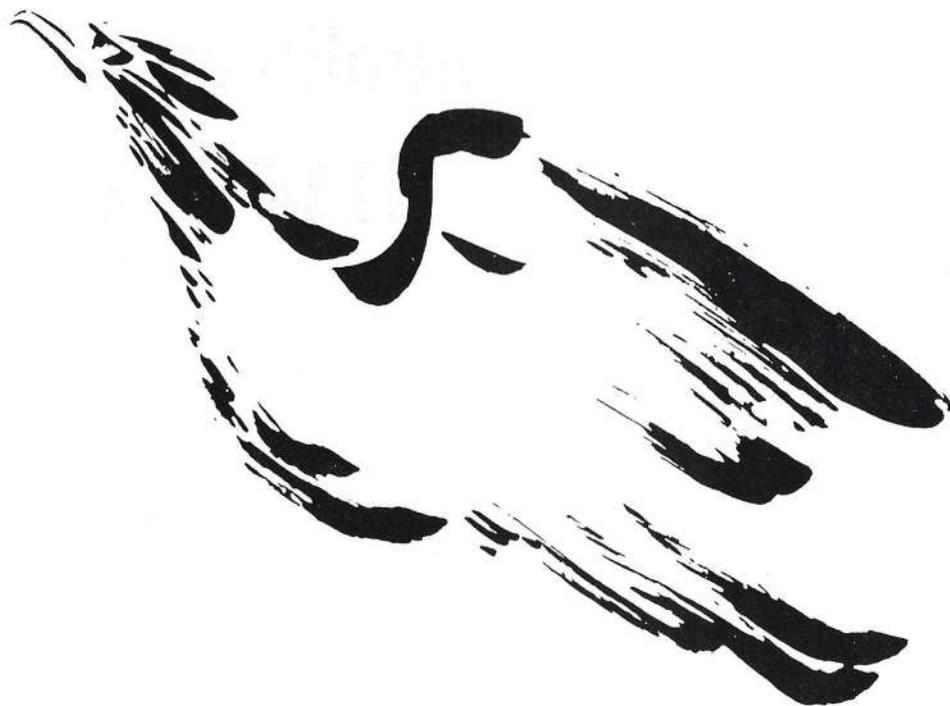
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