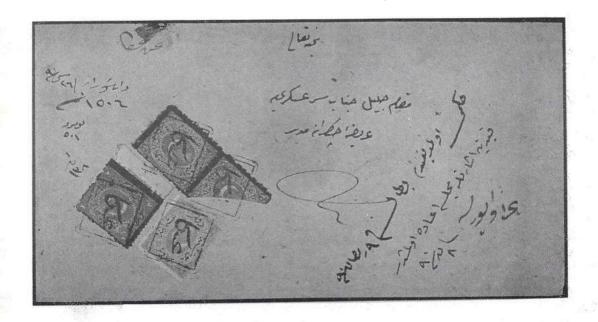
Holy Land Postal History

41-42

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



מעטפה מ-1873, עם חותמת "הקופסה" הנדירה מעכו על 4 בולים תורכיים, שאחד מהם חצוי. The rare Acre "box" cancellation on 1873 cover with 4 Turkish stamps, one bisected (see note on p. 57).

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

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EDITORIAL

With the beginning of Volume III, which starts with this Issue, we would like to reiterate the Editorial of Summer, 1988, which aims at our article contributors. For one reason or another, not all contributors have followed that Editorial and we would like to stress the importance of these requests to the success of our Bulletin.

As you have probably noticed, it has been our practice always to try to improve the appearance of our Bulletin - but this requires the help of our contributors. We have made special efforts to better the quality of the Illustrations and in this respect have depended on the photocopies submitted to us with the articles. So, please send clear photocopies that are neither too dark nor too faint.

We consider captions to the Figures a very important feature of a serious scientific journal. Unfortunately many of our dear contributors are not in the habit of supplying captions with their illustrations, thereby burdening us, the editors, with a lot of extra work. We are sorry, then, that from now on we will not be able to accept articles in which figure captions are not included. These should be short (no more than one or two lines) and describe concisely the most important features of the illustration; all the rest of the details should appear in the text.

Let's work together and make our Bulletin even better than it has been!

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Congratulations to our Members: Norman J. Collins, who has been awarded the Tapling Medal for 1988/89 (for his article in The London Philatelist); Marvin Siegel - the Dr W. Hoexter Medal of the S.V.I.Ph. (Switzerland); Zvi Shimony - the first awarding of the Dr W. Hoexter Medal by the I.P.F. (Israel).



Front Cover Illustration: Courtesy Christie's - Robson Lowe (Ex Michael Sacher collection).

Back Cover Illustration: Courtesy Zvi Shimony.

Postal Orders for Palestine 1921

Norman J. Collins, U.K.

Nothing seems to have been written about the postal order forms of the Palestine Mandate though these are an integral part of postal stationery. In the De La Rue correspondence books held at the National Postal Museum, London, there is correspondence relating to the introduction of these, and photographic examples of the original Crown Agents artwork, plus the artwork (essay) produced by D.L.R.. Also in the Crown Agents archives there is an example of the first postal order for the 5 Piastres value which is of proof status.

On the 27th April 1921 the Crown Agents wrote to D.L.R. asking them to quote for the printing of postal orders, the text of the letter being as follows:

"We shall be glad to receive a quotation for the supply of Inland Postal Orders for the Administration of Palestine as follows:

- 1. 250,000 of values 5 piastres, 10 piasters, 15 piastres, etc., up to 100 piastres in equal quantities, i.e. 12,500 of each value.
- 2. An alternative quotation whould be given for double quantities of each value, i.e. 500,000 in all.
- 3. The values in all cases are to be printed in black, but the remainder of the Orders should be green for values 5-50 piastres inclusive, and brown for values 55-100 piastres inclusive. Specimens of the colours proposed should be submitted.
- 4. A specimen Order showing the general arrangement of the printing may be seen at this office, and the Orders will be required as nearly as is possible of the same size as those printed for the Egyptian Administration.
- 5. It is proposed to use watermarked paper for these Orders and the cost of the paper be shown separately with particulars of the watermark suggested.

W.L. Paton

for Crown Agents"

On the 10th of May 1921, the Crown Agents sent the following letter to D.L.R.:

"In continuation of our letter of the 27th April, we now enclose photographs of the front and back of the original darwing for the Palestine Postal Orders.

The wording in English is required to be shown in the centre as marked in red ink on the photograph and further details will be found on a memorandum attached to the photographs.

F.W. Deakin

for the Crown Agents"

The photographs of the original artwork for the back and front of the

Postal Orders are shown in reduced form in Figure 1. These two illustrations are not of as good a quality as I would have wished, but copying from very thick volumes was difficult. I ask readers to bear with me as regards these and D.L.R.'s essay which follows.

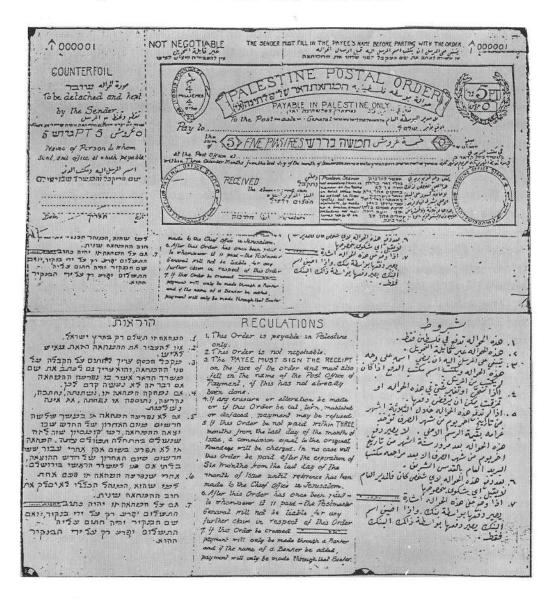


Fig. 1: The original Artwork for the obverse and reverse sides of the proposed Palestine Postal Orders.

Courtesy the National Postal Museum, London.

On the 20th May 1921, De La Rue replied to the Crown Agents: "We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th Ult., and in reply we enclose a sketch for the proposed Postal Order. (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: The sketch for the proposed Postal Orders made by De La Rue. Courtesy the National Postal Museum, London.

Our price exclusive of paper for an order of 250,000, comprising 12,500 of each of 20 values would be 23/21/2d per 1,000, or for 500,000 16/23/4d per 1,000.

In addition to the above prices there would be a charge of £26 for the necessary Key and Back Plates.

We enclose a specimen of Green and Brown colours we should propose to use.

We could commence delivery in ten weeks.

We are preparing a design for a watermarked paper, which will follow in a few days, together with the cost of the dandyroll.

Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd."

On the 30th May, D.L.R. forwarded a design for the suggested watermark to the C.A. and stated that the cost of a Dandyroll (used for producing a watermark) would be approximately £50. On the 1st of September 1921, the Crown Agents informed D.L.R. that the Postmaster General, Palestine had

accepted their tender to print the Postal Orders.

A proof of the first Postal Order for the 5 Piastres value is shown as Figure 3.

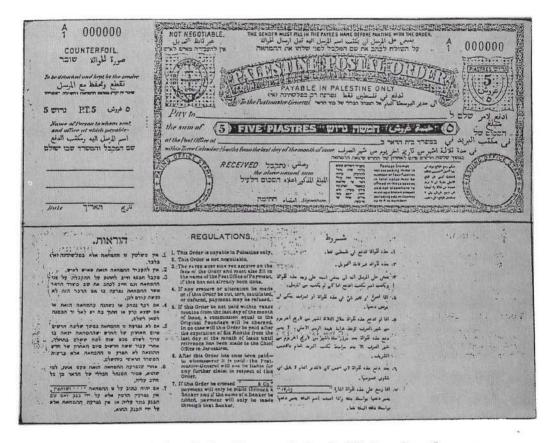


Fig. 3: Proofs of the Key and Back Plates for the new Palestine Postal Orders. Courtesy the Philatelic Archivist to the Crown Agents.

Sources of Information

- 1. The De La Rue Correspondence books housed in the National Postal Museum, London.
- 2. The Crown Agents archives (now housed in the British Library, Philatelic Collections, London).

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank the staff of the National Postal Museum, for their kind help during my researches and especially John N. Davies. Also my friend Marcus Faux for his unstinting help in extracting information from the Crown Agents' Archives.

The Origin and Meaning of P.T.

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi

Postal historians are aware of the fact that during the entire period of the British control over Palestine, the Postal Administration was responsible for many auxiliary services in addition to the supervision of the mails. In order to provide these services, many different forms were needed. In keeping with usage in Great Britain and many of the countries over which Britain exercised control, most forms for all government departments were given a letter-number designation. The letter part would usually consist of two letters which would normally identify the branch of the government service. In the example shown (Fig. 4), 'S.B.' stands for 'Savings Bank'. The purpose of these letter-number combinations was to simplify the reordering of forms when necessary.

S.B. 22. DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS. SAVINGS BANK DIFFERENCE IN SIGNATURE ON APPLICATION FOR WITHDRAWAL. Head Postmaster_ As depositor's signature on form S.B. 5 does not agree with the specimen on file in this office, please take steps to ensure that payment of the attached warrant No is made to the rightful depositor who should be requested, if necessary, to produce evidence of identity. This paper should be returned together with form S.B. 10. L. C. SAVILL Chief Accountant 33401-10000-26.1.46-G.C.P.

Fig. 4: Savings Bank Form S.B. 22.

'P.T.' is the most common letter combination found on Palestine forms in use for the Postal Service (Fig. 5). As a collector of this material, there was always a question in my mind in the beginning as to the exact meaning of the initials 'P.T.' and their origin as well.

In any further communication please quote Ref. No. TEA	P.T. 410. POST OFFICE Joff Whenle 1922
	Removal of phone acknowledge the receipt of your
	dated yesterolog and to matter is receiving attention
Mess Br	I am Gertlene. Your obedient Servant Office bloom

Fig. 5: Post (and) Telegraph Form P.T. 410.

The 'P.T.' numbers are only found on forms issued by the Civil Administration, beginning on July 1, 1920. During the Military Administration which preceded it, beginning with the invasion of Palestine by the EEF in 1917, a different designation for the forms was in use. The first forms used by the Military Administration, needed for telegrams, were Egyptian or British forms improvised for use in Palestine on an interim basis. Fig. 6 is an example. Such forms were coded according to Egyptian or



Fig. 6: Egyptian State Telegraph Form G15a, used on "interim" basis in Palestine.

British usage. When the first forms printed in Palestine for telegram use were introduced, they were designated as "No T. (with a number)", the "T" indicating 'Telegraph' (Fig. 7). Subsequently forms were put into use for postal services other than telegrams. These were designated as "No. (with a number)" (Fig. 8).

On July 1, 1920, when the Civil Administration took over the control of the Potal Administration, many Military Administration forms were kept in use on an 'interim' basis until the Civil Administration forms could be printed. The new Civil Administration forms no longer contained the designation of "Occupied Enemy Territory". Examination of form P.T. 401, from its introduction, clarifies the origin and meaning of the letters "P.T.".

This form, for general use by the Postmaster General in responding to inquiries, was obviously necessary from the onset of the Civil

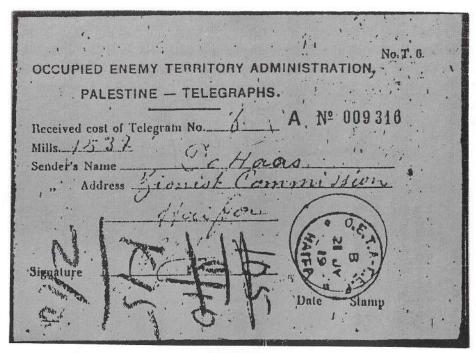


Fig. 7: Military Administration Form No. T.6.

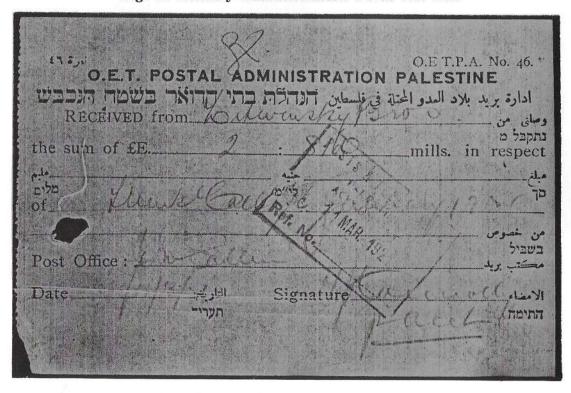


Fig. 8: Military Administration Form No. 46.

Administration. Figure 9 shows the first of these forms introduced for such use. There are several interesting features. Note first that there is no

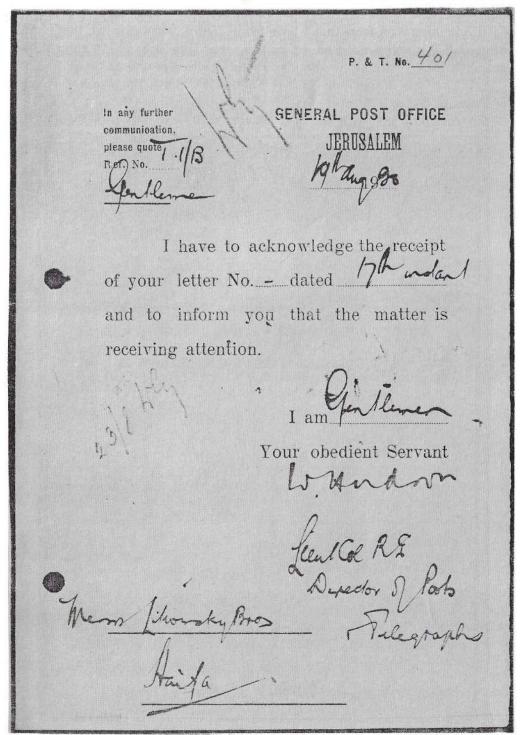


Fig. 9: Civil Administration Post (and) Telegraph Form P.& T. No. 401.

Printer's Legend which would indicate the date of the printing. Second, the date of use is August 19, 1920, just a month and a half after the Civil Administration took over control in Paelstine. This is the earliest use of a Civil Administration form that I have found. Third, when printed, there had been no P.T. number assigned yet for this form. Here it has been entered by pencil. Fourth, and most important, the form is designated as "P. & T. No. _____". The form is signed by Lt. Col. W. Hudson, Royal Engineers, Director of Posts & Telegraphs.

Now compare this with the next issue of this form, shown in Figure 10.

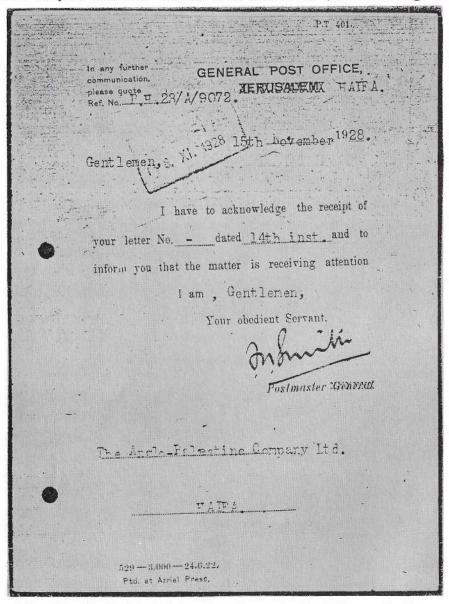


Fig. 10: Civil Administration Post (and) Telegraph Form P.T. 401, with earliest Printer's Legend 24.6.22.

This is identical in content and includes the printed title "Postmaster General" which would appear under the signature. This form contains the Printer's Legend "529 - 3,000 - 24.6.22 Ptd at Azriel Press". This indicates that 3000 were printed and released on June 24, 1922. 529 is the work order

-9 TED 1945
P.T. 401.
In any further communication
please quote Reference No. GENERAL POST OFFICE Y////366 JERUSALEM.
30.11. 10.85
I have to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter No. dated > // 75 and to
inform you that the matter is receiving attention.
A further communication will be addressed
to you as soon as possible.
Your obedient servant.
~G_H_WEBSTER_
Postmaster Genera
32-78- 600-1.12.4)-0.C.P.

Fig. 11: Civil Administration Post (and) Telegraph Form P.T. 401, with latest Printer's Legend 1.12.44.

number of the Azriel Press. The year 1922 is the earliest on which Printer's Legends are found. Now the form has the coded letter-number "P.T. 401" which remained in use as such throughout the entire Mandate period. Figure 11 shows the form printed in 1944 with a slightly modified text.

While form "P.T. 410" (Fig. 5) shows the identical form for use by Postmasters (not the Postmaster General), Figure 10 shows the use of a form P.T. 401 by a postmaster who merely crossed out the word "General" in the printed subtitle. This is improvisation.

So, "P.T." derives from the name of the government agency and stands for "Posts (and) Telegraphs".



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Doar Ivri - a New Approach

Ya'akov Shabtai, Ramat Gan

Introduction

The past few years have witnessed a major revision in the way in which philatelists have come to look upon philately. It has been given concrete expresssion in the revised definitions and regulations recently adopted by the FIP. This revision has strengthened my conviction that there is still much to be done in the field of Holy Land philately. This view is shared by many philatelists, both in Israel and overseas.

In order to understand the new approach to the Doar Ivri Issue, we first have to look back on the rich collection of research works, articles and numerous discoveries all of which have been based on a philatelic approach that is known today to be out-dated.

The earliest researches into Israel's first stamps - the Doar Ivri - were made even before the ink on the first printings had time to dry and long before the final printings of the Issue in May 1949. Many philatelists researched these stamps and numerous articles have appeared after the publication of the very first articles by the Haifa Study Circle. Most of these pioneering researches by Dr. W. Hoexter and S. Lachman of the Haifa Study Circle, Major Denfield of England, M. Levison of the USA and others were devoted to the various philatelic aspects of the Issue, and concentrated on categorizing the various printings via the plate blocks. Up-dated lists of the different Plate Block groups were published over the years in various catalogues produced by Heyman & Pertzelan, Simon, Mosden and M. Bale.

The Tab Stamps of Doar Ivri were treated as a separate subject in all these researches. The different tab types were treated as errors and the perforation and paper varieties were accorded similar treatment. But all those philatelists who published their researches in the past "erred" in one important aspect in that they ignored the philatelic common denominator of the various printings of the Doar Ivri as the only true philatelic basis of this classic issue. In this and subsequent articles, the new approach of Doar Ivri research is discussed, emphasizing the various printings and their special significance.

A philatelic breakthrough relating to the various Doar Ivri printings took place in the seventies, when Raphael Livnat who had a rich philatelic experience was able to research the Doar Ivri and present the results from a different point of view. In 1978 he published a booklet representing the first part of his researches into the various printings of Doar Ivri, in which he dealt with the different "tab types", no longer treating them as printing errors. In March 1979, at DISA 79 in South Africa, he showed, for

the first time, the various printings that he had researched. It is unfortunate that as a result of his unrelenting principle that the result of his research must appear first of all in Hebrew, we have been denied the opportunity of seeing the completion of his work.

In 1985, Stephen Rothman and Yakov Tsachor published their book "The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel" which sums up the researches of many philatelists over the past 40 years or so of Doar Ivri philately. This work covers a wide range of topics whose common denominator is the Doar Ivri Issue. It contains the fruits of the latest research into the different tab and printing varieties together with information on such other important topics as the postal usages of the Doar Ivri stamps, frankings, Postage Dues, etc.

Another important article is "The Creation of the Doar Ivri Issue" by G.H. Muentz, which was published in the 20th anniversary booklet of the World Philatelic Congress of Israel, Holyland & Judaica Societies, in 1988. This article, which throws light on the way in which Israel's first postage stamps were prepared, complements the work of Livnat and Rothman & Tsachor.

We have to ask ourselves whether these latest researches represent the last word on the Doar Ivri. Can we expect further discoveries relating to previously unknown printings or unrecorded tab types? And what about the identification and re-classification of the different types of paper, or colour varieties and shades which, for some reason, have not so far been researched? How are we to relate to varieties of perforation, postal rates and frankings, postage dues, booklets etc., all within the framework of the new approach to philately?

Historical and General Philatelic Background

The British Mandatory authorities, in the knowledge that a Jewish State would come into existence on 15th May 1948, in accordance with the UN Resolution, issued Public Announcement No. 53 of the Post & Telegraph Department dated the 13th April, dealing with the gradual cessation of the Mandatory postal services as from the 15th April.

Following this publication, the PTT Department of the Jewish Agency published its Circular No.1, dated the 25th April, in which it described the setting-up of independent postal services for the interim period of 2-14 May. In its Circular No. 2 of the 9th May, it gave details of the issue of the new state's first postage stamps, to appear on the 16th May.

The designers of Israel's first stamps were requested to submit their proposals as early as the beginning of April and on the 2nd May, Otto Wallish's designs were duly approved. On the 7th May, the first Doar Ivri plate proofs were printed and in the course of the week beginning the 9th

May, final corrections were made and the stamps were printed, perforated, sorted and distributed to post offices.

The brief preparations for the production of the stamps were carried out under conspiratorial conditions, since such action was illegal while the British Mandate was still in force. In order to keep to the tight production schedule, several line-perforating machines were used - 10, 10 3/4 and 11 - as well as one rouletting machine. The pressure under which the issue was produced and the use of a number of perforating machines led to the production of many perforation varieties, which are typical of the May '48 printing. Most of these varieties take the form of imperforated, vertically imperforated-between stamps, horizontally imperforated-between stamps, imperforated-between stamps and tabs, imperforated-between stamps and margins, double perforations, and perforation shifts. Philatelists and stamp dealers alike spotted these varieties as soon as they were issued and it is, therefore, possible to find a large selection of them in mint condition, on FDC's and other philatelic items. Few perforation varieties are known from the later printings and are consequently scarce.

The First Printing (May 1948)

The first printing was the only one to comprise all nine values. The six low values (3-50 mils) were all printed on thin yellow paper normally used for labels, while the three high values (250-1,000 mils) were printed on better quality paper, each value being printed on a distinctive shade of paper.

3 mils: This value was intended to pay the postage on printed matter within the country (including New Year greeting cards), newspaper wrappers for domestic use, and similar items. The printing run was 10,000 sheets of 100 stamps each. The tab row had a single setting - Type "A" - which comprised five different tab types. A mere 54 sheets were perforated 10x10 and their plate blocks and tab stamps are exceedingly rare and are hardly known commercially used: only one such letter delivered to an overseas destination is known, bearing a tab stamp. These stamps found their way to post offices in Haifa, Tiberias, Kefar Yona, Naan and Ma'abarot, but stamps with Tel Aviv and Petach Tikva cancellations are also known.

1,500 sheets were perforated 11x11. A large part of these were used for FDC's and for commercial use so that mint tab stamps are quite scarce. 3500 sheets were perforated 10x11 and 5,000 were rouletted. These tab stamps are to be found mint, on FDC's and on other philatelic items. Their commercial use is rare.

5 mils: The postal use of this stamp was limited to printed matter destined for overseas surface mail. 10,000 sheets of 100 stamps were

printed. The tab row had a single setting - Type "A" - which comprised three different tab types. 6,500 sheets were perforated 11x11 and 3,500 rouletted. This large quantity of stamps which had limited postal usage, serviced FDC's and the various philatelic requirements of collectors and dealers. Mint tab stamps can be found in quantity while their commercial usage was limited.

10 mils: This value was intended to pay postage on inland letters. 10,000 sheets were printed. The tab had a single setting - Type "A" - and there was only one tab type. 3,000 sheets were perforated 11x11, 2,000 - 10x11 and 5,000 rouletted. These stamps served both postal and philatelic uses and tab stamps can, therefore, be found mint, on FDC's and on commercial mail. The rouletted stamps are catalogued very highly in comparison with the perforated ones - unjustifiably so, in the opinion of the author.

15 mils: The postal use of this stamp was limited to paying the additional registration fee on inland mail. 5,000 sheets of 100 stamps were printed. The tab had a single setting - Type "A" - which comprised 5 tab types. 4,500 sheets were perforated 11x11 and these served both postal and philatelic purposes. Tab stamps are to be found, therefore, mint, on FDC's and mainly on registered mail. 500 sheets were perforated 1034, known only for this value, and they are, naturally, scarce. They were sold in the Haifa, Qiryat Motzkin, Qiryat Hayim, Yagur-Nesher, Tiberias, Afula, Nahalal, Tirat Zvi, Zichron Ya'akov, Binyamina, Pardess Hanna, Ramat Gan, Rishon Leziyyon and Rehovot post offices. Collectors and dealers discovered their existence so that one can find tab stamps mint and on FDC's prepared by collectors themselves and cancelled at the above-mentioned post offices. The postal use of these tab stamps is very rare and only a few such examples are known. Two sheets, Nos. 1836 and 1949, were perforated 10x10 and were sold at the Philatelic Service counters. They are very rare.

20 mils: The postal use of this value was limited to paying postage on all overseas sea mail, and on air mail postcards to Europe. 5,200 sheets of 100 stamps were printed. The tab had a single setting - type "A" - comprising six tab types. 4,700 sheets were perforated 11x11 and they served both postal and philatelic needs. Tab stamps are to be found, therefore, mint, on FDC's, on registered inland mail and on overseas mail. 500 sheets were perforated 10x11. Tab stamps of these too are to be found mint and on FDC's, but they are very scarce due to the limited printing. These stamps on commercial mail are exceedingly scarce, and examples are known only with postmarks after the 9th June 1948.

50 mils: The postal use of this value was for an "Express" inland letter (10+40) or for overseas mail. 5,000 sheets of 100 stamps were printed. The

tab had a single setting - Type "A" - comprising four different tab types. 4,000 sheets were perforated 11x11, serving both postal and philatelic purposes. Tab stamps are to be found, therefore, mint, on FDC's, on inland "Express" mail and particularly on overseas mail. 1,000 sheets were perforated 10x11 and their tab stamps can be found mint and on FDC's, but they are not as rare as the 10x11 20 mils stamps. The use of these stamps on commercial mail, both inland and overseas, is also rare. One sheet - No. 070 - was vertically rouletted and only the plate block, a pair of tab stamps and one marginal block of 6 (signed by Otto Wallish) from this sheet are known to date (Fig. 12).

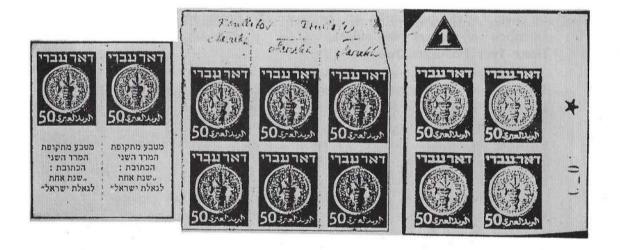


Fig. 12: Parts of the only known sheet (#070) of the 50 mils, vertically rouletted.

The three high values all come from a single printing in May 1948. They were printed in sheets of 50 stamps and perforated 11x11. Their postal use was for items of mail, domestic or overseas, whose weight required high postage. The tab stamps are valuable because of the high nominal value and the comparatively small printings. Tab stamps of all three values are to be found mint, used, on FDC's and on other philatelic covers. Commercially used copies of these stamps are rare, while commercially used examples of tab stamps are practically unknown.

250 mils: 2,200 sheets of this value were printed on thick white and medium white paper. The tab row comprised 5 stamps with a single setting - Type "A" - and a single tab type.

500 mils: 2,250 sheets of this value were printed on yellow paper. The tab row comprised 5 stamps with a single setting - Type "A" - and a single tab type.

1,000 mils: 2,150 sheets of this value were printed on two different shades of bluish paper. Here too the tab row comprised 5 stamps with a single setting - Type "A" - and a single tab type.

The 10x10 Perforation.

On the 16th May, a number of sheets of all 9 values were perforated 10x10 for the Minister Sheets and were never sold over post office counters. A small quantity of the 250 and 1,000 mils stamps were supplied to the Philatelic Service counter at a later date but were not sold to the general public. The 54 sheets of the 3 mils stamp which were sold at post office counters do not belong to this group. Odd copies of tab stamps and regular mint stamps of the various values are known. These stamps were detached from the Minister Sheets and some of them cancelled by collectors with commemorative postmarks or by postmakrs marking the "First Day of Operaion" of various post offices.

Doar Ivri Postage Dues

The 5 Doar Ivri stamps overprinted "Demei Doar" were also printed in May 1948 so that it would not be incorrect to state that the May 1948 printing comprised 14 different denominations. The printing comprised 1,000 sheets of 100 stamps of each value, on yellow paper. They were printed by utilizing the original Doar Ivri plates but without tabs so that the bottom row selvages are blank. The catalogue value of these "tab" stamps is very high - without any justification.

A number of sheets of the different values without the overprint were supplied for postal use. Of these, the 10 mils is the scarcest of all since 94 stamps of the only known sheet were discovered in time by a postal clerk and destroyed. Other scarce examples of the postal use of the Postage Dues are:

- a) Items of mail that were taxed and cancelled with the mandatory obliterator that was put back into use after the 16th May. Particularly scarce are items bearing the cancellation of the first day of use of the Postage Dues.
- b) Printed matter which was returned to sender and to which a 3 mils postage due stamp was affixed.
- c) Letters that were taxed by the addition of a number of 50 mils
 Postage Due stamps.
 - d) Letters that were taxed by the addition of Postage Due plate blocks.
- e) Forced registration in Tel Aviv the custom was to tax such letters by an amount equivalent to double the registration fee 30 mils (2x15) until the 1st October and 50 mils (2x25) after that date, when the postage tariffs were changed. In Jerusalem, the tax was equivalent to the registration fee 15 mils until the 1st October and 25 mils thereafter. Examples are, however, known of covers that have been taxed by an amount

equivalent to multiples of the registration fee where only the top envelope of a bundle of envelopes, destined for various addresses, was taxed.

Doar Ivri stamps used as Revenue stamps

The use of Doar Ivri stamps for revenue purposes was widespread. Documents, receipts, and cheques bearing low value stamps are well known. The use of the high value stamps for revenue purposes is less common. The most interesting and most valuable such item is a document of the Anglo-Palestine Bank that was stamped with a complete sheet of 50 of the 1,000 mils (without tabs) plus a number of revenue stamps. Another item associated with the Haifa and London branches of the Anglo-Palestine Bank was stamped with 2x1,000 mils on one side (Fig. 13) and 6x15 mils plus 1,150 mils in revenue stamps on the other, all postmarked Haifa, 26th May 1948. Copies of the high values that have been removed from documents and their fiscal markings erased are also known.



Fig. 13: A bill of exchange made out in Haifa on 9th April, 1948. On the face of the bill are 2x1000 mils Doar Ivri stamps, used as "revenue", cancelled with a date handstamp of 26 May, 1948.

Conclusions

The first printing, that of May 1948, has been thoroughly researched over the years. Numerous articles have been written about it, based on first hand information from the designers of the issue and all of those concerned with its production. After studying all the available information and from my own knowledge of this particular printing, I permit myself to conclude, that we cannot expect any further substantial revelations. Our information on various aspects is, however, still incomplete, and I therefore anticipate further discoveries that will help us update the lists of plate block groups or will add to our knowledge of the postal and philatelic usages of this printing.

The six low values of the series were reprinted several times during 1948 and the first part of 1949. These additional printings were to meet current needs of the Postal Services, taking into account changes in the domestic and overseas tariffs which came into effect on the 1st October, 1948. Information on these later printings will appear in the next article.

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The Ottoman Period

A New "Find" of Forged Holy Land Postmarks'

When working on a philatelic estate and preparing it for auction, a philatelist in Germany noticed that the Holy Land part of the collection contained a great number of forged postmarks. These are shown hereunder (Fig. 14, reduced in size). A number of the postmarks could easily be established as forged, whereas others required more detailed study. Greatly supporting the assertion was the find of a large sheet of shiny paper on which all these forged postmarks were recorded. Based on this discovery, the material was thoroughly rechecked and further forgeries were discovered primarily on cheap stamps.

The strike of the forged postmarks was generally soft as if produced by a rubber or wooden cancelling device. The colour of the cancellation had a somewhat violet gleam and the total unit, stamp and cancellation, were often most perfect and considered "too good to be true". However, when comparing the forgery with a genuine cancellation, the difference immediately became obvious. Furthermore, all date stamps had the same day-date, year and hour indicating that a fixed canceller was used.

Certain difficulties arose when checking the box-cachet "aus Jerusalem" and the overprint "Doar" on the JNF stamps of the interim period (Ed. remark: forgeries of interim period overprints were thoroughly dealt with in the Ernst Fluri Minhelet Ha'am handbook which contains a plastic device to check overprints - published by us). Examination by the Verbandsprufer (Federation expertizer) confirmed these as forged. It cannot be established if the late collector produced these forgeries himself or purchased them from a dubious dealer. However, the fact that all the forged postmarks were recorded on a white sheet of paper seemed strange. It is not known if there are any further forgeries of the same kind but one must observe postmarks very carefully and especially the date stamp which might indicate forged pieces. It was impossible to reproduce individual stamps with the forged postmarks because the complete object had to be returned to the heirs.

^{*} Reprinted from: A. Ben David, WPC Newsletter #56 (March 1990) p.29-30.



Fig. 14: Many Ottoman and some Mandate and Interim (1948) forgeries of Holy Land postmarks recently discovered. (Reduced).

The British Mandate Period

"P.G." Perfins Do Exist! (Norman J. Collins, U.K.)

My article reporting the Indent No. 326, dated 20th April 1922 relating to an order for a Hand Press with 12 dies for perforating postage stamps with the letters "P.G." (Palestine Government) was first published in the Israel Philatelist in its December 1986 issue (Fig. 15). On the 6th of January 1987, I received my first response to this article from Dr. Arthur M. Hochheiser confirming the existence of stamps with this perfin, so two pieces of the jig-saw came together.

		GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE		*
	Inde	nt No.326 dated 20.4.22.	Regn. 40	2
Item No.	Quantity	Description of Articles	E	nated cost in
			Rate	Total L. s. d
1	1	Hand press with 12 dies for perforcting postage stemps with Letters *P.G.*3/8" high.	5	5. 1. 6

Fig. 15: Indent No. 326 of De La Rue correspondence books, with the order of a Hand Press for perforating stamps with letters "P.G.".

In the June 1979 issue of the Israel Philatelist (p. 1954) Arthur had reported a copy of a 2 mils London I with this perfin. Illustrated in Figure 16 is the obverse and reverse of Arthur's example. In his article, he states that the Press was ordered on a trial basis, but was presumably turned down because it could only perforate one stamp at a time. This statement was based on a note which was with the item when he purchased it.



Fig. 16: A 2m 'London I" Palestine stamp with the rare perfin 'P.G." (Palestine Government).

It also noted that the item had been reported in a stamp magazine circa 1929, i.e. 50 years before his article.

The statement that the Press could only perforate one stamp at a time (based on the note) we see is incorrect as the order was for a Press with 12 perforating heads. Be this as it may, the Press was undoubtably used and thus produced the only stamps for OFFICIAL use during the Palestine Mandate. With the evidence of the order for the Press and the example found (I'm sure more should exist, and possibly of other values), this item and any other copies found and especially if found on cover, must rate among the great rarities of the Mandate and should be included in future specialised catalogues as OFFICIALS.

Two unexplained cancellations on a cover from Jerusalem

(H.L. Rosedale, N.Y.)

I recently acquired a very interesting cover concerning which I would like some information or explanation (Fig. 17).

The cover is a printed matter from a college (Yeshiva) Torath Haim in Jerusalem to Los Angeles, California. It is like another printed matter cover which I have, mailed from the same sender at about the same time, bearing the appropriate printed matter rate postage cancelled with a Jerusalem cancel. On the present cover, however, the Jerusalem "paid 3 mills" cancel, listed as Glassman E7, is struck alongside the stamp. It bears the date of February 15, 1922, a different date from the only date recorded for the use of this cancel!

It would initially appear to support the view stated in Glassman concerning the use of this cancel because of lack of stamps for the printed matter rate. However, the matter becomes unclear because to the right of this red cancel there is an affixed 2 mills "London I" stamp cancelled with

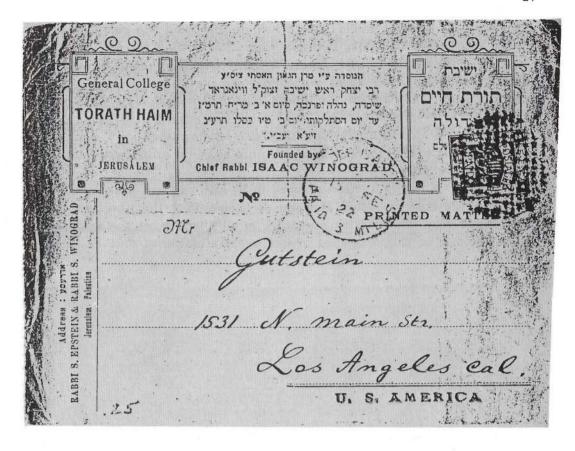


Fig. 17: A 'killer" cancellation and a 'Paid 3 mills" postmark on a 1922 Jerusalem cover.

an "all dot" circular obliteration looking like a parcel post cancellation. It is unclear whether that 2 mills stamp was affixed prior to or after the postage paid cancel. I cannot figure out the reason for this double franking: Was the 2 mills deemed to be an insufficient franking and 3 mills additional required to be paid, but no 3 mills stamp available?

Trying to Clarify the Record (A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi)

David Dorfman has recently published a book which is a treatise on "The Postage Stamps of Palestine 1918 - 1948". This is an excellent compilation of all known facts about these stamps including some of his personal insights on the subject. Certainly, Dorfman must be recognized as one of the greatest authorities on the stamps of Palestine.

As someone who has published catalogues, I am aware of the pitfalls that can arise due to incomplete information. I hve found one such instance in

Dorfman's book and I would like to help in clarifying the record.

On page 85 of his book, Dorfman writes: "Regarding the last issue of booklets, I cannot agree with Bowmans' (sic) conclusion that the last of these were made in 1939. I own a photocopy of a postal document, form P.T. 618A, which is a 'Counter Main-Stock Requisition Slip'. This form was printed at the Greek Convent Press on or about November 19, 1947. This form still shows the availability of 'Booklets 120 Mils'. If they were available at this late date, then the stamps would have to be on white wove paper. I have no other proof."

Figure 18 is form P.T. 618A referred to by Dorfman and one notes that 'Booklets 120 mils' are listed. However, it is significant that the form was an unused copy. The question arises as to whether or not the listing of these booklets on this form does in fact indicate that they were issued at this late date.

		COUN	ITER MAIN-STO	CK REQU	IISITIO	N SLIF	. Se	rial No	52				
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		Value			-	lue		1		lue			
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4 ,,			Rag'd For. Lga 30				20						
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Fig. 18: Unused copy of form P.T. 618A 'Counter Main-Stock Requisition Slip."

Figures 19-20 are three different copies of the form P.T. 618 entitled "Counter Sub-stock Balance and Requisition Slip". These are actually used copies and they contain much the same information that is shown in Figure 18. Figure 19 is the earliest of the three. The printer's legend shows that this form was printed and released March 23, 1940. The copy illustrated here is dated October 26, 1941. Notice that the three high-value pictorials (250 mils, 500 mils, 1 pound) are not listed since these were first issued in 1942. Figure 20 shows subsequent reissues of form P.T. 618, printed in a condensed format of smaller size. These were printed for use much later and

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Fig. 19: Used copy (1941) of form P.T. 618 'Counter Sub-Stock Balance and Requisition Slip."

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Fig. 20: Used copies (1947-1948) of Forms P.T. 618 "Counter Sub-Stock Balance and Requisition Slip."

include listings for the high-value pictorials. There are other minor differences as well. Note that all of the forms contain listings for the booklets.

What is significant is that none of the used forms show any 'quantity

listings' on hand for booklets. It is much more reasonable to assume that the reason 'Booklets' are listed on all issues of form P.T. 618 and 618A is that authorities did not prefer to change the printing format since a determination to reissue booklets at a later date may subsequently have been made. With no evidence to prove that booklets were on hand, we had best conclude that there were none. Thus we may decide that Bowman was correct in his assertion that the last booklet was printed in 1939.

Recently, Norman Collins was able to secure print-outs of the Post Office Circulars distributed in the 1940s, originally retrieved by Bowman. No. 748 of 1st July 1942 contains among other items the following notice: "Stamp Booklets - All stamp booklets on hand at Sub-Offices and Postal Agencies should be returned to the Chief Accountant, and value thereof claimed in the relative Cash Accounts." This should add to the presumption that it was the intention of the Postal Service not to continue these booklets in circulation at this time. This again tends to corroborate Bowman's statement.

Proof positive only may be used to alter previous statements. Conjecture based on inconclusive evidence is insufficient to change listed data.

What is the "Horseshoe Route" of WWII? (F.F. Blau, Chicago)

Reviewing Zvi Alexander's article ("WWII Special Airmail Services from Palestine", HLPH #39, p. 1060), I would like to comment. The late Michael Sacher and as well Zvi Alexander do not give the correct picture. All the 3 illustrated covers and the others mentioned, did not go via the so-called HORSESHOE Route. The covers went via Singapore, Hong Kong and then via the China Clipper Service to San Francisco and on to other parts of the USA - and even to England. Most were flown to the Far East by Air France and K.L.M.

The HORSESHOE Route was entirely different. Mail was flown via Cairo, Mozambique, Cape Town, Dakar and from there across the Atlantic to South America (Recife), then Miami and other USA destinations. If you draw a line between Cairo, Mozambique, Cape Town and Dakar, you can clearly see a horseshoe.

Ed. Note: Other readers' comments on the subject are invited.

The Misuse of an Airgraph Envelope (A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi)

Airgraphs are special forms on which messages could be written to be microfilmed. In this latter form, they could be sent by air to another country. There they were then reproduced photographically in reduced size,

about 10x12.5 cms (Fig. 21), inserted into windowed envelopes and mailed with the name and address showing through (Fig. 22). These were introduced as a WWII conservation method of transmitting mail to and from England.

The envelope used in Palestine was Postal Form P.T. 749 B (Fig. 22). This is the windowed counterpart of P.T. 749 which had no window. Originally this windowed envelope was intended for use in mailing telegrams. Hence the order at the bottom "IF NOT DELIVERED IN SEVEN DAYS RETURN TO SENDER". This was a telegraph service regulation to handle undelivered telegrams. Note that here, in Fig. 22, this notice has been blue-pencilled

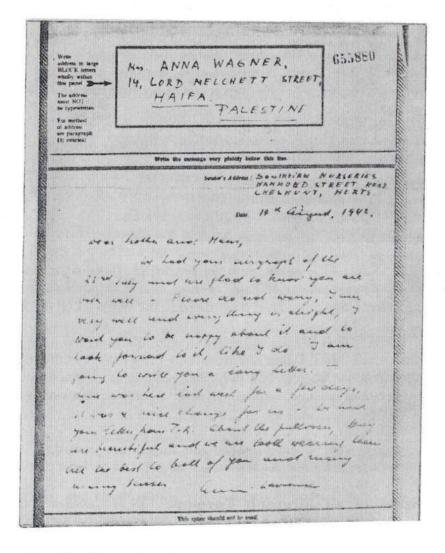


Fig. 21: Airgraph, photographically reproduced from a microfilm, for mailing in a reduced size.



Fig. 22: Form P.T. 749B, the windowed envelope originally used for mailing telegrams.

since it does not relate to airgraphs. The postage paid cancellation was customary so that there would be no inquiry of mail without postage.

Fig. 23 shows the same envelope overprinted for Airgraph use. The overprinting includes blocking out the telegraph service regulation at the bottom.

Fig. 24 shows one such Airgraph envelope used for other than airgraph service. The date cancellation, 9 Dec 42, with no postage, indicates official use of the envelope addressed for ordinary mail.

Post Office Circular #795 released on Wednesday, 26 May, 1943 lists under Miscellaneous Items the following notice:

"Misuse of Airgraph Envelopes (P.T. 749B)

Cases have come to notice in which Airgraph Envelopes have irregularly been used for official correspondence and there is reason to think that Airgraph Envelopes may have been supplied from Stores in error.

Airgraph envelopes whether previously used or not are to be used for airgraph letters only.

Any office which may have received supplies of these envelopes irregularly should at once return them to the Chief Storekeeper with a note indicating from which office they are sent."

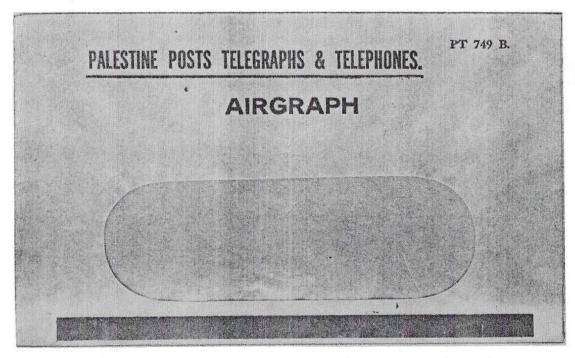


Fig. 23: The same envelope as in Fig. 22, overprinted for use in mailing airgraphs.



Fig. 24: Airgraph envelope addressed for other than airgraph service.

Too Many Censors (E. Foa, Rehovot)

The letter which is the subject of this article (Fig. 25) was sent from Tel Aviv on March 20th, 1944 by myself to my uncle, at that time interned in a camp for displaced persons in Switzerland.

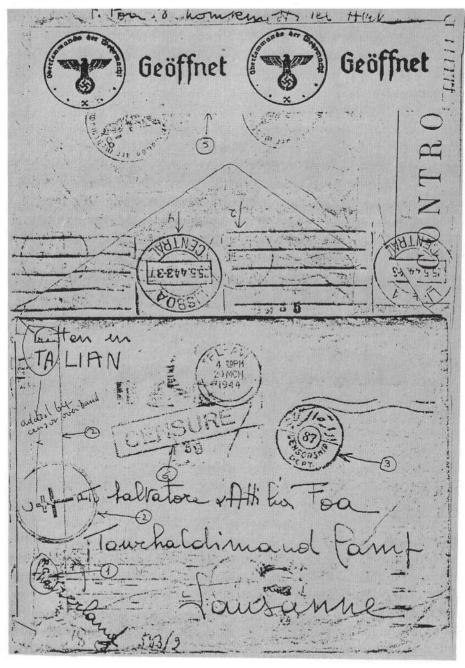


Fig. 25: A much censored cover from Tel Aviv to Lausanne during WWII.

The route it went through was a rather long one, the reason being that the only possible way from Palestine to western Europe was through Portugal.

The envelope was, at first, opened by the Palestine Censorship in Tel Aviv. It was sealed with a yellow censorship label bearing the letters P.C. 90.

Strangely enough, the letter was sent from Tel Aviv to Damascus in Syria, as is shown by two date stamps on the back of the envelope which was again opened, this time by the Free France Censor and closed in turn with a Free France Censorship rose label over the already existing yellow one. On the back of the envelope the word CONTRO... in big letters is clearly visible. Another smaller round stamp, in English and Arabic, bears the letters "Censorship Dept.", the number 87 in its centre and an Arabic inscription.

Two other big datestamps on the back of the envelope inform us that the letter finally arrived at Lisbon, Portugal, on the 25th May 1944. This short period of time was sufficient for the letter to be opened for a third time, this time by the German Army censorship in Occupied France. The envelope was sealed on the back by a white paper label bearing the script in German "Geoffnet" and a circular cachet of the "Obercommando der Wehrmacht".

The letter arrived without the Palestinians stamps, probably because a very suspicious censor wanted to be sure that no secret message was hidden under the stamps.

All in all, this shows a rather interesting case of successful envelope surgery! A few weeks ago the letter made its way back to Israel.

"Postage Refunded" (N. Gladstone, London)

In the article entitled "No Registered Service to Israel" by Zvi Shimony (HLPH #39, p. 1067, Summer 1989), mention is made of the use by the British Post Office of the handstamp "POSTAGE REFUNDED" as shown on a registered letter mailed from Britain to Palestine on 5th August 1948.

In my collection of Censored Mail during the Second World War, I also have a cover which shows the use of this "POSTAGE REFUNDED" handstamp, struck on a letter mailed from Manchester to Spain on 16 January 1941 (Fig. 26). Also affixed on this letter is the PC23 "RETURN TO SENDER / BY THE CENSOR" label, similar to those illustrated in my book on "Postal Censorship to and from Palestine During the Second World War 1939 to 1945."

Enclosed in this cover were three Postal Censorship Memorandums similar to those used in Palestine during the Second World War (Fig. 27). But these Postal Censorship Memorandums do not have the serial numbers, quantities, dates or printing office as shown on the Palestine Censor Memorandums sent from Palestine during the Second World War. The PC 90 censor label "OPENED BY / EXAMINER 6243" seen on this cover is also shown in my book.

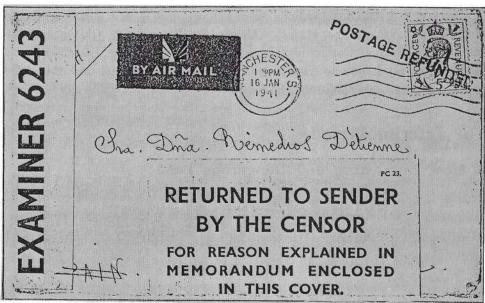
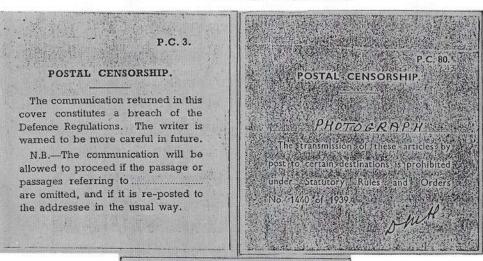


Fig. 26: A cover 'Returned to Sender" by the British Postal Censorship (in England), with the handstamp "Postage Refunded".



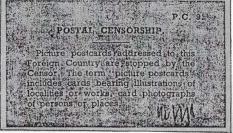


Fig. 27: Three "Postal Censorship" notes which were inserted into the returned letter (shown above).

The "POSTAGE REFUNDED" handstamp is shown very clearly struck on the 5d King George VI postage stamp. Under the Emergency (Defence) 1939 Regulations, Section Communications in force at that time, it was strictly forbidden to send mail to Spain so this letter, its contents, and the three Postal Censor Memorandums were returned to the sender.

The Interim Period

A Most Interesting and Dangerous Fake

(Ch. Shamir, Rishon LeZion)

"Fakers come and fakers go, but fakes go on forever." (Stanley Gibbons Monthly 2:378 (1892))

The popularity of the field of Israel 1948 postal history and the high financial value of rare items from this period have not gone unnoticed by the forgers' eye.

An unknown example of one such fake¹ is presented in Figure 28, an early commercial air mail cover addressed to a soldier in the Israeli army.



Fig. 28: Early faked French air mail to Israel.

This cover was genuinely posted in Paris and cancelled by the French post on June 11, 1948 (less than one month after the birth of the State of Israel).

This cover has the appearance of having been censored on arrival to Israel by the Israeli military postal censor using the known oval handcancel containing the inscription that reads: "Hatsenzura Hatsvait" at the top, "Tzensor HaBasis" below and the initials "Tzadik Shin Tav" for "Tzensor Sheirut Tel Aviv" (Tel Aviv Censor Service). It arrived at the Army Post Office No. 7 on June 17, 1948, as per its postmark on the back.

At first sight - a very early and rare example of commercial air mail cover from France to Israel. On closer examination, however, the faker's mistakes begin to surface. From the information at the Israel National Archives (Jerusalem) of the official Israeli Postal documents of that period it emerges that even though the Israeli post was sending Air Mail shipments to France via Air France (Air Transport) from June 10, 1948, no French air mail shipment was sent or received in Israel during the month of June 1948. Also, the Israeli military censorship handcancel is of a later type and to my knowledge not used at this early stage.

The final evidence that gives the fake away is the mistake of using a genuine military handcancel of office No. 7 as an arrival postmark of too early a date. This type of postmark shows a time index "Alef" (morning) between the words "Doar Tsva'i" and the date June 17; it was only introduced after September, 1948.

Fakes of such a nature have been recorded in the past². But those were done to create First Day cancels of Army Post Office No. 7, and to my knowledge this is the first one designed to create early arrival air mail cover.

Remarks and References

- Fake A genuine stamp or cover which has been doctored by altering its colour, perforation, postmark, etc. in order to defraud.
- (2) Kanner and Spiegel, "The Israel Army Postal Services during the War of Independence 1948-49", BAPIP No. 36 (1961) page 9 and figures 100, 101.
- (3) Acknowledgements: (a) To Tsvi Alexander (London), for the photocopy provided. (b) To the Israel National Archives.

The West Bank

More About the Postal History of East Jerusalem in 1948-49

(I. Karpovsky and Z. Shimony)

Some additional information can be added to Alexander's article on East Jerusalem, published in our previous Bulletin.¹

It appears that there are several major interesting problems concerning East Jerusalem Citadel post office, with regards to its date of opening and first cancelling instrument, which are unclear to date. Some important dates in this subject can be added.

As can be seen from Alexander's article and previous sources², the following is known only approximately from dates of covers reported by collectors: (1) The date the Mandate Citadel B.P.O. officially closed; (2) When it re-opened under the Jordanian Administration (and was there a period in which it operated only partially?); (3) The date when the "Jerusalem Parcel Post" instrument was brought (and used philatelically) to East Jerusalem; (4) The First Day of use of the "excised" Jerusalem postmark in this office.

It is possible that the three last points are interconnected, e.g. that the first day of postal (commercial) use of the "excised" postmark signifies the initiation of a full postal service from the Citadel post office.

We would like to reduce the uncertainties left by Glassman and Alexander concerning the above mentioned queries with the following illustrations: Figure 29 shows a registered letter to Haifa, sent on 8 April 1948, from the Mandate Citadel B.P.O. (confirmed also by the R-label #10), with a Haifa arrival pmk of 14 April. This extends the period of operation of the Mandate Citadel to at least the 8th of April.

A philatelic cover with the "excised" pmk ("parcel post" removed) of 1 November (Fig. 30), was submitted to the Editors by our member Herbert Rosedale of New York. This extends the earliest date of this pmk, surmised by Zvi Alexander, by more than 5 weeks and reduces the gap between the full (un-excised) "parcel post" pmk (15 October, shown by Alexander's Figure 20) and its "excised" state to a mere fortnight.

The cover shown in Figure 31 was already shown by Glassman² (p.7), but there it appeared to be a philatelic cover which was perhaps not actually posted. In the full illustration shown here of the same cover, with the arrival backstamp of Lebanon, it is certain that the letter was

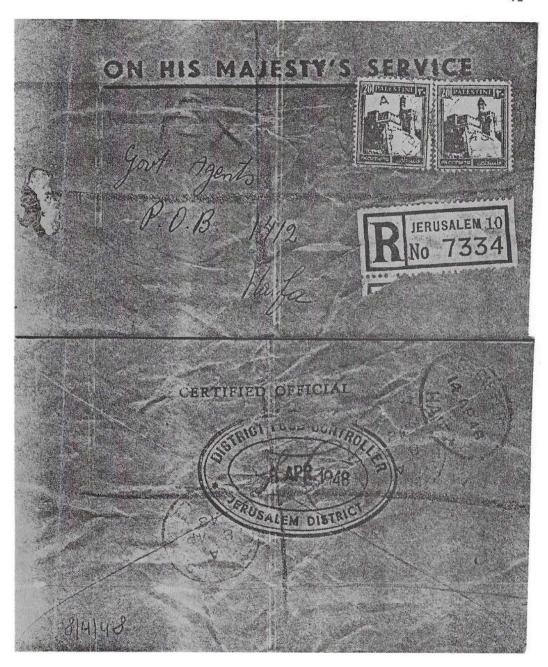


Fig. 29: The latest date reported of a letter from the Mandate Citadel B.P.O. in Jerusalem (8.4.48).



Fig. 30: The earliest date reported of the excised "parcel post" pmk, used in the Citadel P.O. (1.11.48).

indeed sent from the Citadel post office on 25 December 1948, more than 3 weeks earlier than Alexander's Figure 22 (18.1.49). These two examples of the use of the "excised" pmk (the philatelic use of Figure 30 (1.11.48) and the commercial use of Figure 31) may well indicate two "stages of operation" of the Jordanian Citadel post office. If this is correct, then Figure 31 may indicate the earliest reported date of full postal operation of this post office, or of any Jordanian Jerusalem post office for that matter. It is questionable whether the "verbal information" cited by Glassman (that "the Citadel P.O. opened for service sometime in September/October 1948") is in fact reliable.³

References: (1) Z. Alexander, "Postal History of East Jerusalem 1948/9", HLPH #39 (1989), pp. 1038-1044.

⁽²⁾ E. Glassman, "The Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948", London (1979).

⁽³⁾ See note below by E. Glassman.

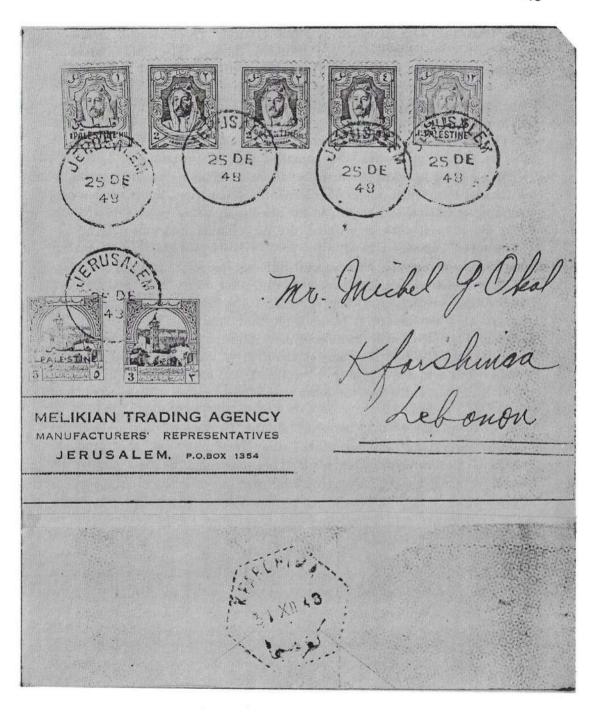


Fig. 31: A very early actually mailed cover from the Citadel P.O., with the excised "parcel post" pmk.

The "Official" Opening of a Post Office (E. Glassman, Jerusalem)
The article by Karpovsky and Shimony (above) raises an interesting question. This is - when is a Post Office "officially" open?

Generally, and certainly during the Mandate and Israeli periods, when branches opened they were fully equipped with counters, drawers, tables, the required postal forms in all their sorts, stamps, various comforts - and the cancellation instrument. This did not, it should be emphasised, apply to agencies which not always were supplied with an instrument.

The question is asked because the situation applying to the opening of the Citadel Post Office under the Jordanian occupation is one of the very intriguing questions which will, in all likelihood, never be answered fully. When did it open with or without the cancellation instrument?

The verbal evidence offered in the book "The Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948" was derived from several different sources: initially from ex-Jordanian postal clerks who were employed after June 1967 by the Israeli Postal Administration until their retirement; the stamp dealer Mr Melikian who operated an importing business at that time; and members of the Armenian Patriarchate, which housed many pilgrims at that particular period (others managed to find sanctuary in the Christ Church and in the Spafford School). This evidence stated that the Post Office opened during September 1948. It did not state that the postal cancelling instrument was used from then.

It is very likely that because of the extremely unclear political situation prevailing at that time (the uncertainty of the proposed Provisional Government) no decision had been arrived at by the time that the post office opened. But that it opened, even as a functioning agency, is attested to by those that this writer managed to speak to. In other words, mail was received and collected, to be distributed to their addresses, be they in the Old City or overseas. Whether these were stamped either by some instrument or with postage stamps is, unfortunately, unclear. But the service very definitely existed and functioned. The tremendous demand by the several hundred hysterical pilgrims caught in the Old City during the fighting was such that some sort of service had to be supplied. Most of the letters and telegrams leaving the Old City were sent by taxi via Jericho to Amman for onward handling.

The question of the introduction of the modified instrument is another matter. As far as can be determined from circumstantial evidence, this had been stolen from the Parcel Department in Mamilla Street earlier in the year. Quite a few examples of its use to cancel Jordanian stamps, mostly for favour postmarks on philatelic material, are known dating from April to October of that year. At some stage, probably during October, the decision was taken to excise the irrelevant letters and convert it, by so doing, to

an instrument which could be used for cancelling letters. We do not know who made the decision. But we do know that the decision was carried out since evidence of the use of the modified instrument is extremely clear, as the article and book show.

Comment has been made that this particular period of time on the Jordanian side is as fascinating as that on the Israeli one. This still applies, and material is as difficult to obtain here as are the rarer examples of Israeli Jerusalem.

The State of Israel

Mandate Triangular Obliterators Used on Israeli Stamps

(Y. Tsachor & S. Rothman)

Triangular Obliterators with English letter inserts were used during the Mandate period to postmark the very large volume of High Holiday (Jewish New Year) cards and letters. The Israeli post provided similar triangular obliterators with Hebrew letters for use during the 1948 High Holiday period.

The Mandate devices were usually made of a metal triangle with the name of the locality inserted in the center. Occasionally, the entire city name was used but more commonly there were only several initials, as in Figure 32. A date was never included within the triangle so the date and year can

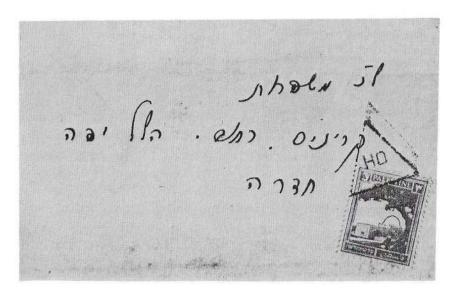


Fig. 32: Printed Matter mailed locally in Hadera; 3 mils stamp cancelled by Mandate triangular (HD).

only be assumed according to the postal-rates or in instances where the contents of the letter are known.

These obliterators were meant to be used only for printed matter, domestic letters and cards, but exceptions are known to exist and are uncommon.

According to the guidelines of the Israel postal authorities, these devices were to be withdrawn from use at the termination of the Mandate period, as were most other Mandatory obliterators.

In the frantic days leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel, postal authorities were unable to produce the necessary obliterators for each of the 80 post offices and agencies. The government therefore authorized the reuse of the old Mandate obliterators. Double or Single Circle postmarks were legally used by the Israeli Postal authorities in all localities, except for Jerusalem and the Head Offices of Tel Aviv and Haifa. These devices were in use generally until July 1948, when they were replaced in most cases by Israeli trilingual obliterators.

Depicted here are 2 covers (Figs. 33, 34) where 3 mils Doar Ivri stamps



Fig. 33: Cover from Kibbutz Merhavia, posted in Affula, presumably Sept.-Oct. 1948; 3 mils Doar Ivri tied by Mandate triangular Affula (AF).

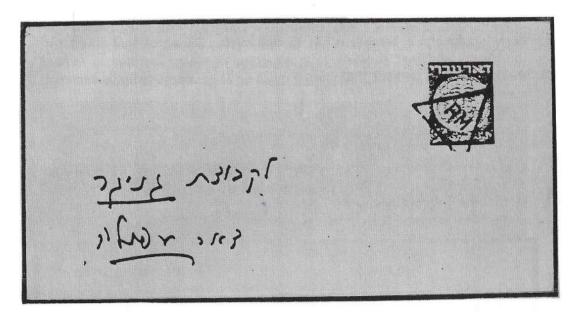


Fig. 34: Printed matter mailed in Ramatayim. The Doar Ivri stamp tied by Mandate triangular of the town (RM).

are cancelled by **Mandate triangular obliterators.** These were not officially authorized. The only citation in the literature regarding the use of these triangles was by P. Kanner in BAPIP Bulletin #77, April 1972. Kanner mentions that he knew of English language triangles used in Affula (AF) and Ramatayim (RM). He included only a picture of a single 3 mil Doar Ivri stamp postmarked "AF". To our knowledge only the above shown two covers are known to exist with Doar Ivri stamps cancelled with English triangle obliterators.

As all known examples are found on 3 mils stamps, we assume that these obliterators were evidently not yet withdrawn in September 1948, and were still considered by the Postmasters of these two localities proper for use during the heavy rush of Holiday mail. It is not known if the devices were used occasionally, but it is obvious that covers and even single stamps cancelled by Mandate triangulars are rarities.

Empty Margins (J.C. Has, Holland)

As beginners in Israeli philately we all had to get accustomed to the fact that the lower margin of the stamp, the tab, was an essential part of it. It gave additional information.

To this (sometimes) another, extra part existed (the selvedge). We all ran after those empty edges as if they were the highest desirable objects. Stamp-dealers around the world made a fortune out of this nonsense.

Nowadays, we all know that the lower row of an Israel stamp sheet belongs to the stamp above, because it has special information about that stamp. In the history of Israel philately only one group of stamps printed in normal sheets appeared without information on their lower edges: the postage due stamps.

Whilst trying to complete my collection of post openings, I recently obtained some nice replenishments from the beginning. In two cases, the opening of the Mabarat Qesari post office on June 23rd 1952 and the same event for the Herzliya Bet post office on July 15th 1952, the stamps attached to these covers have their margins. However, without the essential information: empty margins! (s. Fig. 35). What a find! A so far unreported curiosity??? No, not at all.

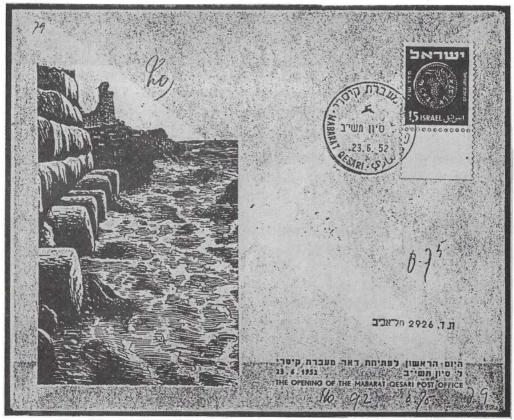


Fig. 35: A second-coin 15 pr stamp with blank tab on cover - a rare error?

The stamps from the tete-beche sheets intended for stamp-booklets appeared without the usual tab information in the margin of the sheets. Again a dream is over... Why not a fortune for this mute piece of paper, which left the printer and the Postal Service in an entirely legal way... This is a regular philatelic item. Perhaps difficult to trace after such a long time, but certainly not printer's rubbish.

An Unusual Haifa Registry Label (Avi Zechory, Southfield, MI)

I have recently seen a cover with an early Israeli handwritten registry label of a type previously not reported (Fig. 36). The cover was mailed in Haifa on May 27th, 1949, to a local P.O. Box.

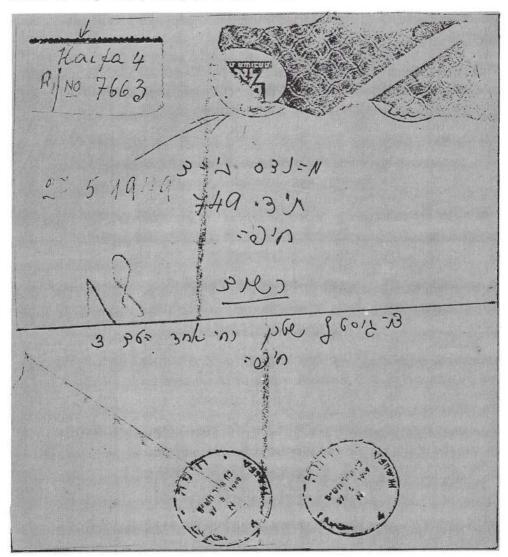


Fig. 36: An unusual variety of a handwritten R-label from Haifa, May 1949.

The front and back of the cover are marked with blue lines, as was the usual procedure for registered letters in the State's early years.

The label is handwritten in English, and is similar in style to the Mandate registry labels that were sometimes used at that time. It was most likely produced by some innovative postal clerk, having run out of registry labels at his post office branch, Haifa 4.

Other Mandate, interim and early Israeli registered covers have been noted without labels, with crossed lines, handwritten 'R' numbers, with or without additional inscription "Registered" (in English or Hebrew). This cover described above represents a novel attempt to comply with all the regulations, creating an unusual variety.

I would like to thank Marvin Siegel for helping me with the above information.

Matching Sets (J.C. Has, Holland)

Plateblock collectors are after a lot of information. Sometimes it is possible to add other features to this. One of these is called "matching pairs"; this means looking for plateblocks from the same printer's sheet with corresponding cyclometer numbers according to the number of sheets having been printed. Sometimes, however, these are very difficult to find. Furthermore, I have in my collection a "matched triplet" of plate/tab blocks.

They come from a stock of plateblocks I bought recently which contained several matched pairs and one matched triplet. I show them here as they might be rather scarce (Fig. 37). A note accompanying them states:

"Matched triplet. IS 2.00 180582, originating from one printer's sheet, Nos e.g.: 909000, 939000, 969000. First and only known case of matched triplet in Israel stamps. Genuine post office discovery. Rare & exclusive."

A close look at the perforation holes shows that the three blocks fit together perfectly well: 969464 at the top, 939464 in the middle and 909464 at the bottom. Just as has been the case in the original printer's sheet.

Furthermore, in this case, a few other points can be noticed:

1. The two upper blocks show a (very) narrow 9th tooth (counting from the top) in the stamp row next to the stand-by rectangular box. The bottom block does not show any extraordinary narrow or thick teeth.

The comb perforator used for these stamps has a double-H shape: \square . Each single stamp part of this comb has four sides plus nine holes pointing up and eight holes pointing down. In one stroke a complete row and two incomplete rows are perforated.



Figure 37

In this case both the upper blocks have the second stroke of the comb slightly too high, resulting in these very narrow perforation teeth. The following perforation strokes, as can be seen in the bottom block, were regular again.

2. The "stand-by rectangle" in the margin of the block in the middle is much closer to the stamp design than it is in the accompanying blocks on both

sides.

I wonder if such matched triplets have been recorded by our members. Or is this one really that "rare and exclusive"?

דר. יוסף ואלך

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* GENERAL NEWS

New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by B. Fixler & I. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 38)

24.11.89: "Herzliyya 65 anniversary", Herzliyya.

24.11.89: "European Chess Team Championship 1989", Haifa.

06.12.89: "The Postal Authority at Export 89", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

15.12.89-20.1.90: A special decorative postmark for Beth Lehem, Zahal.

23.12.89: "Israel Stamp Week / Feast of Hanukka 23-30.12.89, 18:00", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.

24.12.89: "Christmas, Noel", Nazareth.

24.12.89: "Christmas, Noel", Beth Lehem, Zahal.

25.12.89: "Launching of Shaldag Gunboat, Israel Dockyard", Haifa.

26.12.89: "IPF - 3rd Convention of Israel Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

08.01.90: "50 Jubilee Qiryat Ono", Qiryat Ono.

08.01.90: "Conference on Frontiers in Condensed Matter Physics, Bar Ilan University", Ramat Gan.

13.02.90: "Rehovot Centennial", Rehovot**.

13.02.90: Illustrative postmark to commemorate the Bedouin culture, Ha-Negev (3) Mobile Post**.

13.02.90: Decorative Postmark to Commemorate the Circassians in Israel, Kafr Kama**.

28.02.90: "International Israel Bonds 40th anniversary conference", Yerushalayim.

03.04.90: "The 16th convention of the National Labor Federation in Eretz Israel", Tiberiya.

17.04.90: "Nature Reserves in Israel", Qiryat Shemona**.

17.04.90: Artillery Corps Memorial Monument, Zikhron Yaaqov**.

17.04.90: "Penny Black 150th Anniversary", Yerushalayim**. This postmark was used for the "Ardon Windows" souvenir sheet.

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

stamp issue.

^{*} Unusually, the hour 18:00 appears in this postmark, to emphasize that it was already Sabbath night. Note that the general date (23.12) is Saturday, while the Hebrew date (26 Kislev) is already Sunday.



Fig. 38: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 12.12.89: "Petah Tiqwa 27", "Petah Tiqwa 28", "Petah Tiqwa 29", "Petah Tiqwa 30", additional postmarks in Petah Tiqwa post office.
- 12.12.89: "Petah Tiqwa 31", for the postal agency, Grade A, opened in 30 Lohame Hagetaot St., Kefar Ganim.
- 24.12.89: "Yerushalayim 97", for the postal agency, Grade A, in 17 San Martin St. (without the Stag emblem on the F.D.).
- 01.01.90: "Rishon LeZiyyon 14", "Rishon LeZiyyon 15", additional postmarks in Rishon LeZiyyon post office.
- 01.01.90: "Rishon LeZiyyon 12", "Rishon LeZiyyon 13", for the postal agencies in Hadekel St. and Shikun Ovdim in Nachlat Yehuda, respectively. These were introduced due to the change of status of Nachlat Yehuda into a suburb of Rishon LeZiyyon.
- 07.01.90: "Yerushalayim 96", for the postal agency, Grade A, in Abu Tur (without the Stag emblem on the F.D.).
- 10.01.90: "Migdal Ha-Emeq", new machine cancellation in Migdal Ha-Emeq post office.
- 10.01.90: "Migdal Ha-Emeq Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Migdal Ha-Emeq post office.
- 10.01.90: "Nesher", new machine cancellation in Nesher post office.
- 10.01.90: "Nesher Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Nesher post
- 10.01.90: "Qiryat Yam", new machine cancellation in Qiryat Yam post office.
- 10.01.90: "Qiryat Yam Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Qiryat Yam post office.
- 01.02.90: "Beer Sheva 24", for the postal agency, Grade A, in Shehuna Tet, 38 Rahavat Zefat."
- 11.02.90: "Tuba-Zangariya", for the postal agency, Grade B, opened in Tuba-Zangariya.
- 11.02.90: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 3 Paye", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 4 Paye", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 5 Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellations in the sorting office, Tel Aviv.
- 11.02.90: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 12", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 13", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 14", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 15", new machine cancellations in the sorting office, Tel Aviv.
- 01.03.90: "Yerushalayim 89", for the postal agency Grade A, in Klal Building, Shop 312A (without the Stag emblem on the F.D.).
- 04.03.90: "Elfuwar", Zahal, for the postal agency opened in the Arab village Elfuwar.
- 11.03.90: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 274", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 275", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 276", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 277", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 278", additional postmarks in the sorting office.
- 15.03.90: "Ajja", Zahal, for the postal agency opened in the Arab village 'Ajja.
- 20.03.90: "Netanya 26", "Netanya 27", additional postmarks in Netanya post office.

20.03.90: "Raanana 8", additional postmark in Raanana post office.

20.03.90: "Kefar Sava 15", additional postmark in Kefar Sava post office.

20.03.90: "Lod 10", additional postmark in Lod post office.

01.04.90: "Qiryat Hayyim 6257", new meter machine in Qiryat Hayyim post office.

08.04.90:"Tel Aviv-Yafo 231", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 14", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 22": 3 experimental postmarks in the central Sorting Office, Tel Aviv. These postmarks, illustrated below, are of very unusual forms and dimensions.



^{*} The postmarks appeared without the Stag emblem on the First Day, contrary to the "Public Announcement" #37/90.

New Stamps and Postal Stationery

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

13.02.90: Rehovot centenary (NIS 2.-); the Circassians in Israel (NIS 1.50); the Bedouin in Israel (NIS 1.50).

17.04.90: Nature reserves in Israel (60, 80, 90 Ag); Architecture in Israel (75 Ag); Memorial Day, 1990 (60 Ag); the Ardon Windows Souvenir Sheet (2 x 1.50: price NIS 4.50) - the Sheet commemorates the World Stamp Exhibition "London 90" and the 150th anniversary of the "Penny Black". While in the ordinary issued Sheets the two "stamps" are perforated, imperforated Sheets were distributed as gifts to P.S. subscribers (one each).

Maximum Cards: 17.04.90: Three Maximum Cards with the corresponding Nature Reserves stamps (price NIS 6 per set of 3 cards).

A New Form for the "Day of Issue" Cachet

Starting from the stamps issues of 17 April, 1990, the cachet "Jour d'Emission" used for F.D.C.s in all post office philatelic counters, is replaced by a similar "Day of Issue" cachet. While the previous cachets

were each characterized by a number, depending on the office of use, the new

ones are all identical, without any number.



Information Wanted - Mandate Postal Saving Service

Needed for research: Information and material relating to the Savings Facilities under the control of the Postal Service during the period of the Palestine Mandate. I would particularly like to secure a copy of "Circular Letter No. 1/42", dated 20th January, 1942, and the pamphlet entitled "How to Benefit from Savings", dated as being distributed 30 December, 1942. I would like examples of 150 and 250 mils Palestine Savings Stamps and the savings cards with 50 spaces onto which the stamps could be affixed. would be happy to obtain clear photostats of any relevant items. material will be used to publish a monograph on the Palestine Postal Savings All contributors will be acknowledged. Please write to: Arthur M. Hochheiser, 221 Union Street, Lodi, NJ 07644, U.S.A.

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(Compiled by Edi Leibu)

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Christie's-Robson Lowe, Zurich, 22 Nov. 1989 (The Michael Sacher Forerunners collection) The Ottoman Post Office

*1873 "Acre box" (ST 01/01), 4 strikes on cover bearing 20pa P.D. pair with upper stamp bisected, 2 piastre P.D. and postage 1 pi (See Front Cover illustration) - SF 60,000

*1886 "Acre Posta Shubesi" seal (ST 01/03) cancelling 2pi on cover -

SF 9000

*1918 "Affula" all Arabic on postcard -

SF 2,800

*1906 "Beni-Saab Posta Shubesi" (ST 07/01) in violet on cover to the Grand Vezier, Constantinople - SF 6,500

*1915 "Bireh/(Palestine)" on censored cover to Boston (ST 10/02) -

SF 3,200

*1918 "Djenine" (ST 16/04) on reverse of cover bearing 10 pa, 20 pa block of four and single - SF 14,000

*1890 "Gaza" negative seal in blue (ST 17/02) on cover to GB -

SF 10,000

*1866, Haifa - E.L. to Beirut, 1 pi P.D. stamp cancelled on arrival by "battal" (ST 00/04) - SF 5,200

*1895 "Halil-Ul-Rahman" double box (ST 21/01) in red on printed matter envelope to Bavaria - SF 8,000

*1900 "Jericho/Palestine" (ST 27/01) oval handstamp on stationery card to England - SF 8,500

*1917 "Jerusalem 2" all Arabic (ST 28/26) very late use (Dec. 6) on card to Hungary - SF 2,400

*1890 "Medjdil" (ST 38/02) on 20pa postcard to Jaffa - SF 8,000

*1876 "Naplous" double box, 3 strikes tying block of six 10 pa stamps on reverse of cover to Damascus - SF 32,000

*1917 "Nazareth 1" all Arabic (ST 41/07) on Registered cover from a soldier to Constantinople, framed "UPU/TURQUIE/R" handstamp alongside - SF 5.500

*1910 "Petah-Tikwa (Jaffa)" (ST 42/01) on postcard to Lucerne, showing also the red handstamp of the Austrian postal agency! - SF 4,000

*1897 "Ramle" negative seal (ST 43/01) on postcard to Jaffa -SF 11,000 *1915 "Ramoullah/Jerusalem" (ST 44/02) on cover, showing also

"Bireh(Palestine)" transit on back - SF 3,000

*1915 "Rehoboth (Jaffa)" (ST 45/01) on cover to Berlin - SF 3,500

AND CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACT
*1884 "Safed" negative seal" in blue (ST 47/02) on cover to GB -
SF 15,000
*1917 "Safed 2" all Arabic (ST 47/08) on Reg. cover to the USA,
"UPU/TURQUIE/R" handstamp alongside - SF 3,500
*1918 "Samach" (ST 48/01) on censored cover to Constantinople, FPO 42 on
reverse - SF 15,000
*1913 "Zamarin (Caifa)" (ST 52/01) on card (filing holes)
to Jerusalem - SF 1,600
*1905 "Jaffa-Jerousalem" (ST 53/06) in Carmine-Red on
official cover - SF 2,800
*1914 "Jaffa-Jerusalem 2" (ST 53/08), two strikes on postcard to Germany -
SF 3,000
*"Courier Postal Jerusalemme Jaffa" in red on postcard to Germany -
SF 4,000
The Austrian Post Office
*1858 "Lloyd Austriaco Gerusaleme" very fine strike on E.L. to Syros -
13,000 *1867 "Gerusalemme" c.d.s. tying Arms perf. 14 2s. yellow strip of three and
*1866 "Lloyd Austriaco Jaffa" on 1864 Arms perf. 91/2 10s blue strip of
three, cover to Vienna - SF 45,000
*1867 "Jaffa" ornamental pmk tying 1864 Arms perf. 91/2 3s green pair to
printed Hebrew circular to Italy (printed matter rate) - SF 5,200
*1864 Combination cover Haifa to Patras, bearing Arms perf 14 2s. strip of
three and pair, plus 10s. tied by ornamental Caifa pmk. Large Hermes
Head 20 lep applied on arrival - SF 38,000
The Jewish settlements
*Gedera, Bilingual eliptical "Doar Gedera/Poste Catra" handstamp on
incoming mail - SF 6,000
*Hedera, star ornamented ה" Moshavah Hederah ה" label on postcard to Rishon
LeZion, cancelled in Jaffa - SF 18,000
*Petah-Tiqwa, "Petah Tiqwa per Aust. Post" on front, "Petah Tiqwa" on back
of wrapper to Luzern - SF 7,500
*Rishon Le Zion, "Richon Le Sion" handstamp (earliest type!) on incoming
postcard from Jerusalem - SF 4,800
*Ditto, Stationery card to Constantinople, bearing JNF 10 pa label cancelled
"Rishon LeZion - Par Poste Aust."- SF 5,000
The Egyptian P.O. in Jaffa

SF 3,500

*1867, 1pi red cancelled in Jaffa -

The French Post Office

- *1853 "Jerusalem" straight line (block letters) with "Jaffa" straight line on cover to Allepo SF 9,000
- *1871 "Jerusalem Cross" on cover to Naples, bearing 1870-71 Bordeaux 40c block of four and single cancelled "5089" SF 32,000
- *1879 "Poste Francaise-Jerusalem" without cross on cover bearing 25c stamp cancelled in Jaffa SF 15,000

The German Post Office

*1908 "Tempel-Kolonie Wilhelma" on cover reg. in Jaffa to Germany -SF 2,000

The Italian Post Office, Jerusalem

*1908 15c unoverprinted stamp cancelled by the square pmk - SF 900 *1911 Reg. cover to Constantinople bearing 80 pa on 50c, early usage of printed "R" label - SF 4,000

The Russian Post Office

- *1860 Haifa Front to Beirut, bearing "Compagnie Russe / Caifa / 1.11.1860" - SF 12,000
- *1866 "Jaffa P.P." on E.L. to Chios SF 4,500
- *1872 "Port Yaffa" on cover to Beirut, bearing 1K and 5K SF 9,000
- *1882 "Jaffa" c.d.s. on cover to Constantinople, bearing 7K stamp -

SF 3,000

Zodiac Stamps, Nov. 21, 1989

- *1918, 5m (SG 2) Control Block "B18A" \$1100
- *1920, 2nd Local Ovpt. 1m overprint inverted \$550
- *1929 8m pictorials with APC perfins on reg. cover from Jaffa \$210
- *1927 Provisional Reg. envelope franked by London II 2p & 13m pictorials \$750
- *1948 Eretz Israel Essay, 5m red corner copy \$1300
- *1948 Doar Ivri 500m imperf. vertical tab pair \$1200
- *1948 ditto, Perf. 10x11 set mint \$490

Wallach Public Auctions, 6-7 Feb., 1990

- *1918 5m (SG 2) on postcard to Egypt \$1500
- *1918 5m+1p (SG 3+4) on Reg. cover from Jaffa to Jerusalem \$125
- *1918 "Per Postal Communication Box 18, Johanesburg" on cover ex Kenya to Tel Aviv, 10m Doar Ivri stamp affixed in Tel Aviv by Peltours -

\$420

*1948 20m Doar Ivri used as P.D. in Affula on cover mailed in Tel Mond with unaccepted Mandate stamp - \$1900

*1948 Nahariya yellow label on cover from Petah Tiqwa mailed on April 20, 1948 -

*Doar Ivri, 15m perf 103/4 mint tab -

\$275

*Zodiac Provisionals, 30 ag on 32 ag overprint omitted tab-block - \$245

*1952 2x20 pr 2nd Dues plus 2 pairs of 40 pr 3rd Dues, mixed franking on cover from USA, taxed in Haifa -

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