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# Holy Land VI Postal History 115-116

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



THE ONLY KNOWN (so far) BALLON MONTE LETTER TO  
JERUSALEM 1870, (page 481).

Summer 2010

# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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### **Correspondence**

For general Society matters - Dr. E. Leibu (Chairman),

P.O.B. 151, Qiriat Bialik 27101, Israel.

New members and other Society business - Z. Aloni (Secretary),

152 kedem St., Shoham, Israel.

Society dues and other payments - R. Nachum (Treasurer),

4 Moshe Dayan St. Yahud 56450, Israel.

HLPB editorial matters, Yehuda Kleiner, yehudak73@gmail.com

P.O.B. 66, Ra'anana, 43100 Israel

Society Publications and HLPB back Issues, Dr. Z. Shimony,

P.O.B. 10175, 91101 Jerusalem, Israel

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## New Book

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> It was awarded a Gold Medal in Tel Aviv 2004 National Stamp Exhibition.

## Contents

Editorial.....	479
1870 - First Airmail To Jerusalem.....	481
<i>Zvi Aloni, Shoham, Israel</i>	
Holy Land Forerunners – The A.R. Ottoman Letters .....	484
<i>Itamar Karpovsky, Tel-Aviv, Israel</i>	
Polish Forces Mail in the Holy Land 1940 – 1947 .....	496
<i>Compiled by Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana, Israel</i>	
Messages From Captivity .....	508
<i>Alex Zolbesky, Israel</i>	
Picture Postcards Contribute to the Research of Holy Land 19th-20th Century History .....	518
<i>Yoel Amir, Bnei-Dror, Israel</i>	
The Pre-Stamp Postal History of the Holy land.....	526
<i>Joseph (dubi) Stier, Belgium</i>	
The Kaiser's Visit To The Holy Land. A Rare Double Rate Cover From Camp Imperial.....	534
<i>R. Perry, U.S.A</i>	
N E W S .....	538



## Editorial

The cover story is about a unique item. The only recorded "**BALLON MONTE**" to the Holy Land, sent from besieged Paris to Jerusalem in 1870. The letter was recently sold in an auction in Tel-Aviv. We are grateful for the opportunity to publish this story, since such items flavour the bulletin

Ottoman Postal History in the Holy Land seems inexhaustible. A relatively unknown subject is the "A.R."=Avis de Recaption service. This postal service is described in an article in which many rare items are shown.

The year 2010 is the 65<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the destruction of the Nazi regime and the end of World War II. Much Postal History is related to this war. Some of it to the Holy Land, of which two subjects were chosen. "Letters from Captivity" – about the correspondence of Jewish Prisoners of War interned in German camps, and the other one about the "Polish Forces (Anders Army) Mail in the Holy Land".

The interdependence between postal history and history is amply demonstrated by the article "Picture Postcards Contribute to the Research of Holy Land 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century History". Historical facts, were discovered through the pictures of the postcards, which originated from the Templers, and German colonies in the Holy Land. It is doubtful whether these historical findings would have emerged without these picture postcards.

During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Century, postal services in the Holy Land were unsatisfactory and letter writers and receivers had to use various foreign channels, mainly those in Alexandria, Beirut and other avenues in European cities. Various options used, are shown in an article on the subject.

A technical problem caused the article about the "Kaiser visit to the Holy Land" to be "cut into half", when it was printed in the previous Bulletin. We thought that out of respect for the Kaiser we should now publish the article in full.

Our members did well in "London 2010 World Stamp Exhibition". The list of the exhibits and the rewards are published in the News section.

The financial resources of the Society are not improving. To that end the Editor has sent an appeal to Life Members (most of which have become so many years ago), to help us by contributing this years dues to the Society. Four Life Members did so, we are asking the others to follow suite and send the dues to our treasurer.

We request those members that did not pay the 2010 year dues to do so. A reminder will be sent to them with the Bulletin. ***Please comply and do not force us to refrain from sending you future Bulletins.***

***Thank You.***

***Y.K.***

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## 1870 - First Airmail To Jerusalem

*Zvi Aloni, Shoham, Israel*

In the last auction of Tel Aviv Stamps (Y. Tsachor), that took place in Tel Aviv on February 24, 2010, one of the most important items of the Postal History of the Holy Land was auctioned. Lot 193 reads:

**MAJOR RARITY - THE ONLY RECORDED BALLON MONTE LETTER TO THE HOLYLAND:** *Formule imprimée properly franked 40c rate, 2x20c Ceres 1870 "Siege printing" (Yv 37) cancelled **PARIS 20 OCT 1870**, sent to Jerusalem/Syrie, boxed PD on face. On back: **MARSEILLE 2 NOV 70, ALEXANDRE 12 NOV 70** & arrival mark **JAFFA/SYRIE 15 NOV 70**, Letter leaving Paris with the Ballon "GARIBALDI". (See front cover picture and Fig.1).*

*The message in French from Albert Cohen, the trustee of Rothschild family's charitable trusts, to the Director of the Rothschild Hospital Jerusalem, telling him about the Paris Siege, Ballon Post, etc. The right 20c stamp fell off and was replaced, certificate by P. Behr says: "... **Unique Ballon mail sent to the Holy land... the 2nd 20c stamp on the right side does not belong... otherwise vj**". The item was shown on the front cover of the "Holy Land Philatelist" #1 Nov. 1954 and has not been on the market for 60 years. **The letter was sold for a total of \$ 55.000.-***

### **Background**

During the Franco-Prussian war of 1870/71, Paris was besieged by the Prussian Army and its Inhabitants suffered much hardship from bombardment, hunger and thirst.

The siege commenced on September 18<sup>th</sup> 1870, cutting off Paris entirely from the outside world as there was then no radio or other means of communication. The efficient administration of the besieged city started immediately its own mail service by balloons for which special light-weight letter sheets with the imprint "Par Ballon Monte" were issued. The additional charge per letter was only 20c.. The first "Ballon" named "Neptune", left Paris on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1870 and

landed 87 km. out of Paris. After landing, the mail carried by the Ballon, was placed in the regular French postal system and carried to destination by trains and paquebots.

The letter to Jerusalem traveled by the Ballon "Le Garibaldi" which left Paris on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1870. On board the "Ballon" there were 450 kgs. of mail, 2 passengers, some pigeon cages, and the pilot was Mr. Iglesia. The "Ballon" landed 37 km. out of Paris at 1:30 pm that day. The mail was collected by the locals and reached Marseilles on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1870, from there it was forwarded to Alexandria, (arrival postmark November 12th, 1870), transferred to Jaffa, (arrival postmark November 15th, 1870), and finally sent to Jerusalem the next day. No arrival postmark was applied in Jerusalem as the French post operated in Jaffa only at that time.

The letter was addressed to the Director of the Rothschild Hospital in Jerusalem and it was dispatched by Albert Cohen (1814-1877), a well known scholar and scientist and a professor at the Rabbinical Seminary of Paris. Mr. Cohen was the trustee of the Rothschild family's charitable trusts. The letter (in French), dispatched on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1870, dated also according to the Jewish calender (Fig. 1) reads (translated to English) as follows:

*Dear Doctor,*

*I am sending you this letter by balloon, and trust that it will reach you safely.*

*We have been living in a state of siege since Sunday, September 18. Today is the 33rd day of the siege. We are all well, thank God, my two sons, whom God has hitherto protected, are in the Army. One of my sons and my son-in-law are serving in the National Guard. My wife and my married daughter are with me.*

*I have sent off a letter by Ballon to London, requesting Mrs. Lionel de Rothschild to send you through the House of Valero a sum of 5000 francs, to be returned by me, by the grace of God, after the Siege. I hope that both these letters will reach their destinations.*



*All members of the Rothschild family, presently in Paris, are well.*

*Your last letter, dated 2 September, which has followed a round-about route, arrived here on the 15th September. Since then I have had no news from you, and I am in the dark about what is happening to you. I hope that all is well with you, your esteemed wife, and your dear children, as well as with our brethren in Jerusalem. Please convey my greetings to them, and to the Rabbis, and to the general population, both Sefardim and Ashkenasim. We shall celebrate the Holy Days as usual. Only the Etrog and the Lulav are missing.*

*Yours, ALBERT COHEN*



**Fig. 1: Front and text side of the letter in French.**

## Holy Land Forerunners – The A.R. Ottoman Letters

*Itamar Karpovsky, Tel-Aviv, Israel*

The A.R. (Advice of Reception) postal service was introduced with the establishment of U.P.U in 1875. The main purpose of it was to facilitate the sending by mail of valuable items, such as; money, cheques, financial and commercial certificates, valuables, etc, of course for an extra fee. Such letters during the Ottoman post period in Palestine are very rare and some are even unique. Examples are shown and discussed in this article.

By regulation, A.R. letters had to be registered ones. Thus, the basic rate for such letters during the Ottoman post in Palestine was 3 piasters, comprising of; 1 piaster regular postage, 1 piaster for registration and 1 piaster the A.R. service fee.

The A.R. letter was accompanied by a postal form, which the addressee had to sign to acknowledge receipt. The form was then returned by the post to the sender, as proof of delivery.

The 1 piaster A.R. fee was usually part of the franking on the letter, but in some postal Authorities like the French Post in Palestine it was franked on a separate form that was attached to the letter.

Samples of this special service during the Ottoman Post period in Palestine, in **chronological dates** order from **the Turkish and the various foreign post offices**, which operated in the land at the time, are shown in the next pages.

Many of the letters are rare, some even unique and these illustrate a very special area of the postal history of the Ottoman post in the Holy Land.

This subject is not often discussed and we are happy to publish it for our readers.

1. 1892, the earliest **registered "A.R."** letter,(Fig. 1) from Palestine is a double weight registered letter from Nablus addressed to Stuttgart, Germany. It is franked on reverse 4 piasters by the 1892 Turkish stamp issue, to pay 2 piasters the double letter rate, 1 piaster for registration and 1 piaster the **"A.R."** service fee. The stamps are canceled by the rare all Arabic oval **NABLUS** postmark. Stuttgart 3/5/1892 arrival date postmark. **NABLUS** circular registration negative seal and the unrecorded **"A.R."** box cachet number 452 on observe. *The only one recorded so far.*

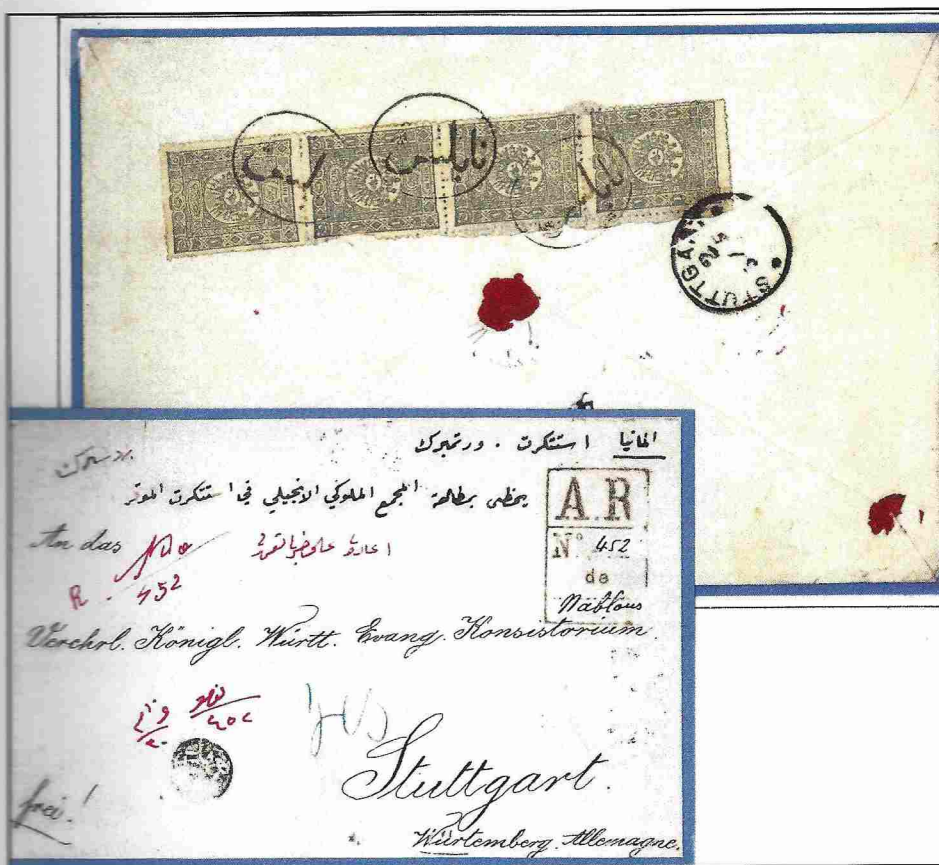


Fig. 1



2. 1895, Turkish Postal Form number – 46 (Fig. 2), it is a stampless official envelope used as an "Advice of Delivery" notice, imprinted in French "Avis de réception en route", a registration label number 741. It is addressed to an uncommon destination; Transvaal, South-Africa via London. *Jerusalem 30<sup>th</sup>. March 1895, postmark*, red oval London registration 9<sup>th</sup>. April 1895 postmark, Port Said transit postmark, (observe). *The only example known so far.*



Fig. 2

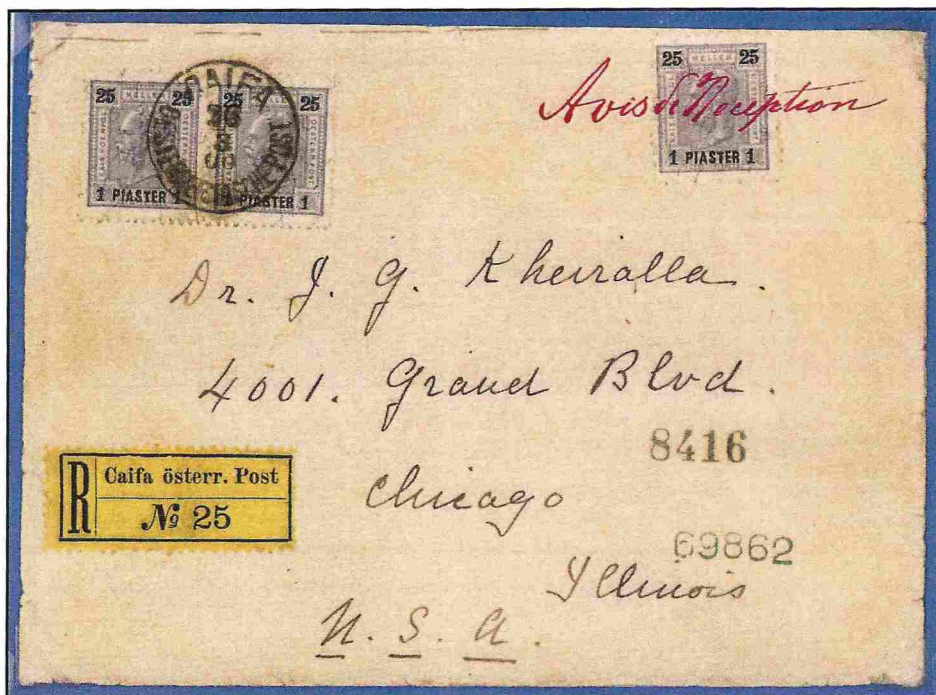


3. 1899, registered "A.R." letter from Acre to Constantinople, (Fig. 3). Franked on reverse 3 piasters by stamps of the 1892 Turkish issue those are canceled by the "ACRE" d.c. dating 29/3/1899. Redirected in Istanbul to London on 24/4/1899, where it was franked by an additional 1 piaster to pay the rate to London. London 28/4/1899 red oval registered arrival postmark. Un recorded "A.R." handstamp beside the U.P.U Turkish "A.R." number 37 Cachet (applied in Acre) and the rare ACRE registration negative seal.



Fig. 3

4. 1900, **registered "A.R." letter** to Chicago through the Austrian post office in Haifa, (Fig. 4). Franked 2 piasters by Austrian Levant stamps to pay the registered letter rate to the U.S. **Cancelled Caifa/Oesterreichische Post 26<sup>th</sup>.march 1900**. Additional, 1 piaster stamp overwritten **"Avis de Reception"** to indicate that the return postage for the A.R notice has been paid. *One of three such letters recorded so far.*



*Fig. 4*

5. 1901, **registered "A.R." letter** from Acre to Chicago, (Fig 5) franked with 3 piasters stamps of the Turkish 1892 issue, paying the registered A.R. letter rate to the U.S. (one piaster postage, one for registration, one the A.R. fee). Canceled **ACRE** bilingual Turkish/English postmark, framed box **"A.R./No 9/Acre"** cachet. Transit London registered postmark 25<sup>th</sup>. February 1901, green U.S. registration number 45052 and Chicago 12<sup>th</sup>. March arrival postmark.



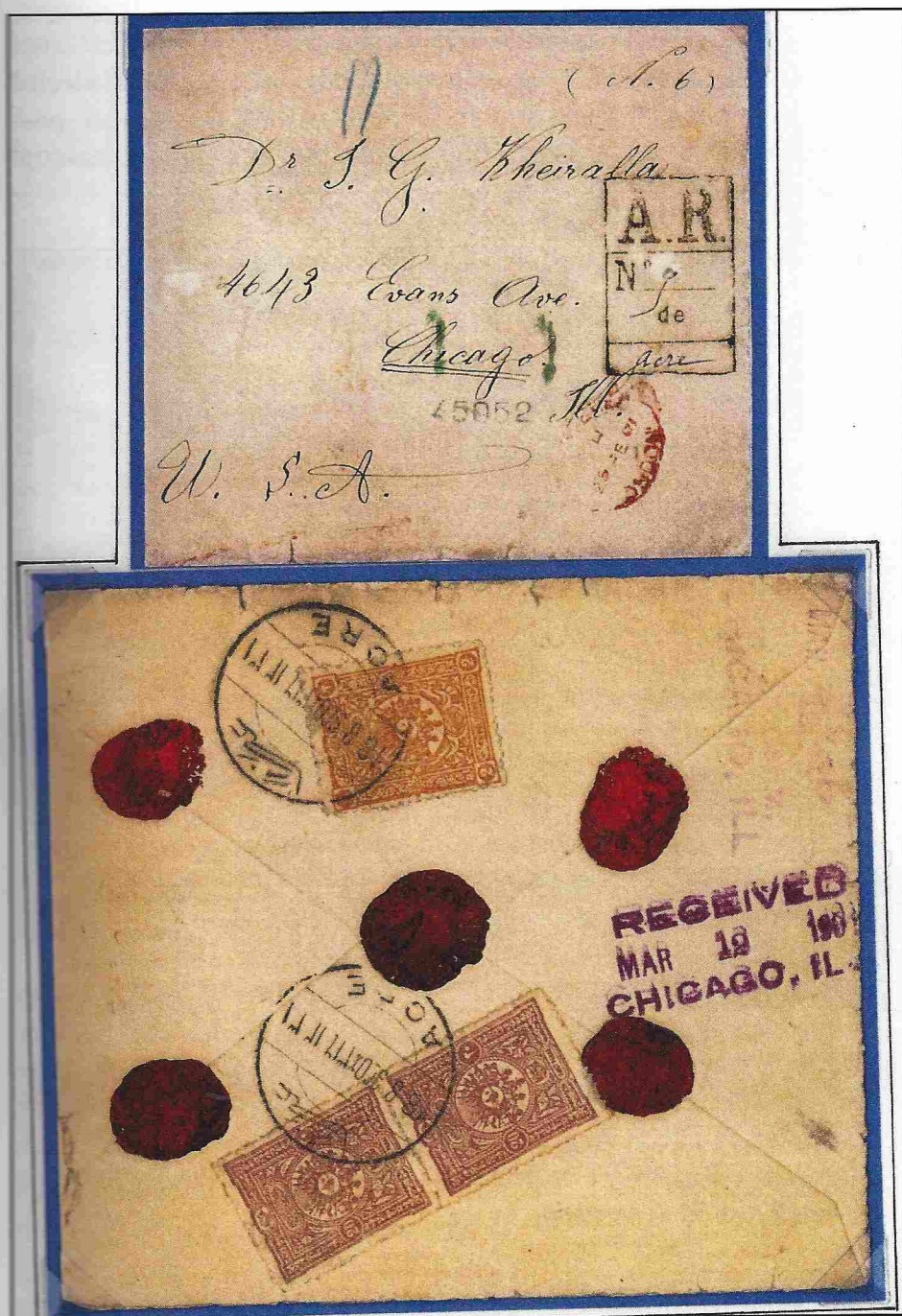


Fig. 5

6. 1904, **registered "A.R."** letter front from Jaffa to Constantinople, (Fig. 6). Franked 2 piasters and 20 para to pay; 20 para littoral letter rate and one piaster for registration and one the A.R. fee. Canceled 2.6.1904 bilingual Turkish and English **JAFFA** d.c. A rare pink bilingual registration label, (*2 recorded so far*) and manuscript "**Advice of Delivery**" alongside the label in Arabic.



*Fig. 6*

7. 1907, "**AVIS DE RECEPTION**" form for registered printed matter from Jerusalem to Vigo, Spain, (Fig. 7). Properly franked 10 cents by the French Levant stamp canceled **JERUSALEM** 24-8-1907, on the left side of the stamp the rarest A.R cachet, of the French Post Office in Palestine. Arrival mark "certificado Vigo" dated 3.9.1907, on reverse. *This is the only entire A.R. form known today from the French post in Jerusalem.*




N° 514.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION**

PER OBJET

CHARGÉ OU RECOMMANDÉ



AR

Pour le bureau de Vigo

Département Espagne

N° 514.

(Régime rose 178.)

(Mod. B. de l'Union.)

SOUS-SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

DES POSTES

ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES.

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION**

d'un (1) Imprimé

de (2) JERUSALEM

et adressé à (inscription complète) M. Daniel R. Valdes

le 24-8-07 sous le n° 471

à Vigo


(rue et n° s'il y a lieu) Espagne

enregistré au bureau

valeur déclarée                     

recommandé

Timbre du bureau d'origine:



Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur (A) Monsieur G. de France

à JERUSALEM

Fig. 7

8. 1908, Registered "A.R." littoral letter No. 633, from Jerusalem to Istanbul, (Fig 8). Franked on reverse 2 1/2 piasters by 1908 Turkish stamp issue, to pay; 20 para "port to port" littoral rate + 40 para registration fee + 40 para "A.R." rate. Canceled JERUSALEM 22.12.1908 and arrival Istanbul mark 31.12.1908. *The only registered "A.R." letter, known today that was mailed at the littoral rate from Jerusalem during the Ottoman post period*



Fig. 8



9. 1909, registered "A.R." letter from Haifa to the rare destination **Peking-China**. Franked to order by 3 piaster Turkish stamps (one piaster postage, one for registration and one the A.R. fee) (Fig. 9), canceled HAIFA 13/6/1909. On the left hand side the rare violet A.R. Caiffa No-1 cachet. Transit Port-Said 15/6/1909, Hong-Kong 7/7/1909 on reverse and Shanghai China, 12/7/1909 arrival postmark. The letter was unclaimed and a red note to this effect was written on the letter, which was sent back to the sender via Shanghai on 2/10/1909. *This spectacular letter is one of the two "A.R." letters originating from Haifa at the time.*



Fig. 9

10. 1917, registered "A.R." letter (Fig. 10), franked 3 ¼ piasters by 1915 Turkish stamp issue, paying one piaster for postage, one for registration and one A.R. fee, and additional 1/4 piaster = 10 para war tax.

The stamps are canceled by the "Meo Charim" (Jerusalem) 16/5/1917 bilingual postmark. Handstamped framed "R" box for registration and manuscript "A.R." number 7533 underneath. Transit Beyrouth 16<sup>th</sup>. May 1917, T.P.O – 5 German registration label. Frankfurt arrival postmark on reverse. *Only six letters from Jerusalem with this "R" type handstamp are known.*

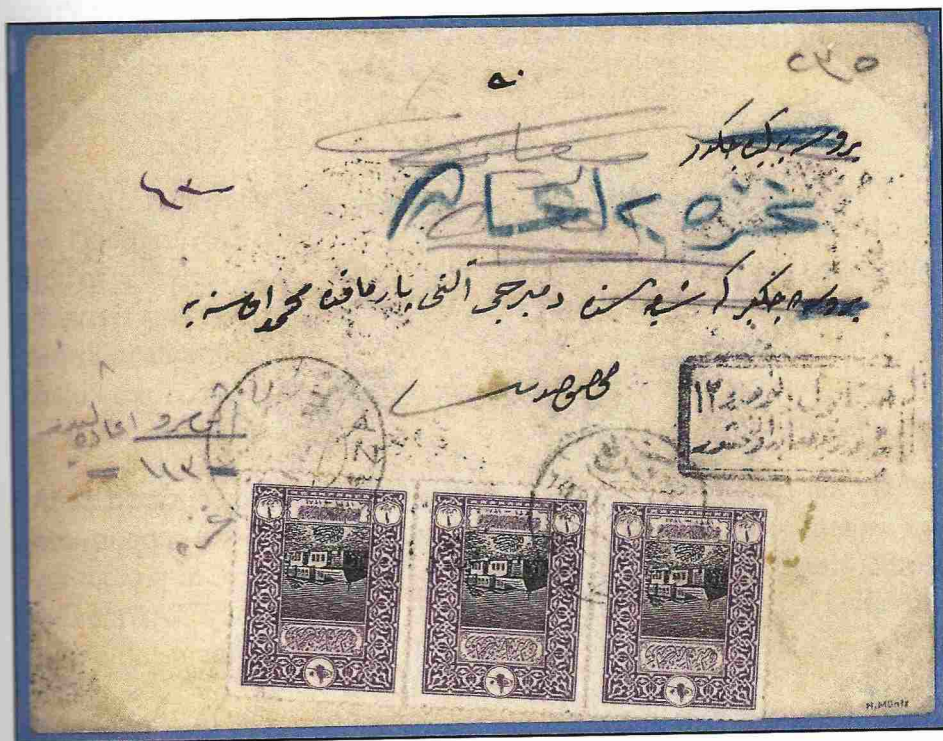


Fig. 10



11. 1917, "A.R." registered letter from Gaza to Brousse - Turkey (Fig. 11), franked by 3 piasters Turkish 1916 stamp issue, to pay one piaster for postage, one for registration and one "A.R." fee. Canceled **Gaza** 14<sup>th</sup>. August 1917 postmark. Manuscript "**Registered** / 113 / Gaza" and manuscript "**Advice of Delivery**" in Arabic. Transit Damas 28<sup>th</sup>. 1917, and Istanbul 4<sup>th</sup>. September 1917 and Brousse arrival 7<sup>th</sup>. September 1917. As the addressee left his residence the letter was returned to Gaza.

*The only "A.R." registered letter known so far from Gaza.*



*Fig. 11*

This article of an unusual postal history subject is seldom presented and not much known. The letters that are shown and analyzed are really exceptional.

## Polish Forces Mail in the Holy Land 1940 – 1947

*Compiled by Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana, Israel*

2010, is the 65<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary year of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War 2. This war gave rise to the creation of many Field Post Offices, one of which, was the Polish Field Office in the Holy Land. These Polish forces are also Known as the "General Anders Army", which had a critical impact on many of its Jewish soldiers. When the Army was stationed in Palestine many deserted, settled in Palestine, eventually becoming the citizens of Israel. One of them was Menachem Begin, z.l, former Prime Minister of Israel.

### ***Background***

Following the occupation of Poland on September 29<sup>th</sup>. 1939 and its eastern part annexation to Russia, a "Free Polish Government" was established in France by General W. Sikorski. One of its aims was to build a new Polish Army that would fight alongside the Allies against Germany. The soldiers to the Army were recruited from Polish emigrants in France, Polish volunteers from other countries and refugees who fled from Poland, crossing borders of yet unoccupied countries and by sea to France.

By the spring of 1940, the Polish Army in France consisted of two full infantry divisions and two air squadrons and auxiliary support units. At that time the French established their "Levant Army" to protect their interests in North Africa and the Mid East, against Rommels Africa Corp. It was decided that the Polish forces shall form an independent brigade, named the **Carpathian Brigade**, within the "Levant Army". The buildup of this Army was in Beyrouth, Lebanon as France was by then surrounded by the chief axis powers, Germany and Italy.

When in June 1940, France surrendered to Germany the French forces in Lebanon and Syria were disbanded, the Polish Brigade refused to give up and made its way to Palestine to join the British forces. In Palestine the Brigade camped first in Zemach on Lake Tiberias, later at Latrun (center of Palestine on the way to Jerusalem) and some of its units camped near Haifa on the Mediterranean shore. Haifa became now the entry port for

Polish emigrees who were directed to Palestine by the Polish Consular Offices via Turkey.

After a period of organization, training and arming the Brigade was transferred to Egypt and Libya to take part in the North African campaigns against Rommel. Occasionally, it returned to Palestine, with some of the units remaining there until the end of the war.

In August 1941 **General Anders** (Fig. 1), who was detained by the Russians, was freed to become the commander of the Polish Army.



*Fig. 1: A Polish Stamp issued in 1946 to commemorate General Anders and the battle of Monte Cassino in Italy, where his Army excelled fighting the Germans.*

About 41,000 combatants-and 74,000 civilians, former Polish citizens-left the Soviet Union with the **Anders Army**, joining the British High Command in the Middle East, traveling through Persia, Iraq and Palestine. When the **Anders Army** reached Palestine most of the Jewish Poles left and joined veteran settlements in the land. In 2006 a memorial to the Anders Army was erected on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, (Fig. 2).





*Fig. 2: The Memorial to the Anders Army on Mount Zion Jerusalem.*

In Palestine The **Carpathian Brigade** (mentioned earlier), was absorbed by the **Anders Army** that was now 115,000 soldiers strong.

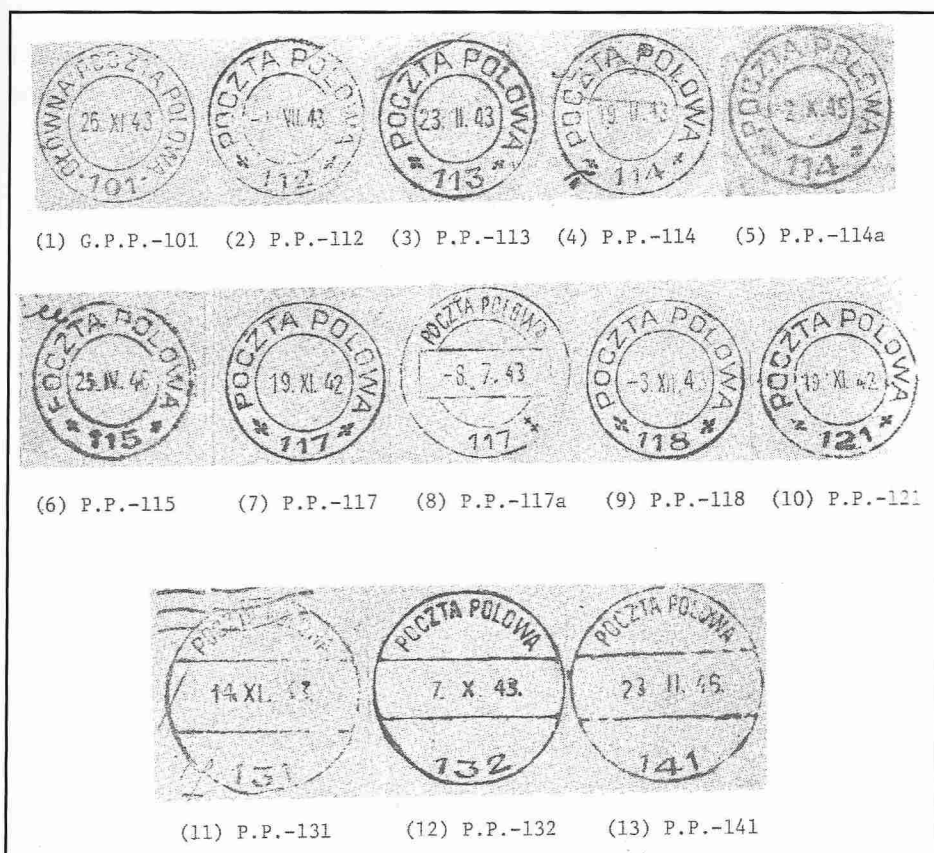
In the **Anders Army** women served as well. usually as truck drivers, radio and communication equipment operators, nurses and in clerical and logistic jobs. One of those was Jadwiga (Fig. 3)



*Fig. 3: Jadwiga in Anders Army uniform hat. Note the insignia with the Polish Eagle. Is she the famous Jadwiga, daughter of Field Marshal Pilzusi, the ruler of Poland before the war, who was a trained pilot that joined the Royal Air Force in Britain?*

## Postal History

During the early stages of the buildup of the Polish forces in the Middle East, British field post offices were used for them, through a liaison office. As of November 1940 Polish date postmarks started to be used while the **Carpathian Brigade** was stationed in Egypt. These postmarks of the "Viennese Type" consisted of two concentric circles, of 28cm. and 17cm. diameter, Roman figures denoting the month, inscribed "**Głowna Poczta Polowa**", Polish for Base Army Post Office, and having the number of the field post, ranging from 101 to 141.



**Fig. 4: Samples of hand stamped postmarks used by the Polish Field Post Offices in Palestine.**

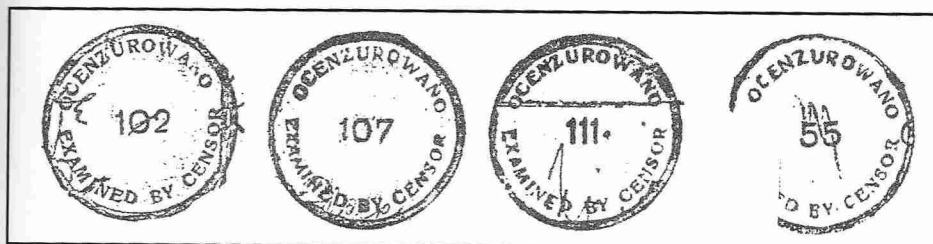
The F.P.Os, were attached to the various army contingents and moved with them between; Persia, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Libya and later within Europe, mainly in Italy.

Some units stayed at one place for short periods, others for longer ones, even for years, like P.P 115, that stayed in Palestine from 1942 until 1947. The Field Post Offices and the Censors Office moved with the units from one location to the other one. The letter to New Zealand shown in Figure 5, serves as an example. The stamps on the letter are canceled "**Głowna Poczta Polowa\* +101+ 21.5.1943**". According to the "chronicles" the unit to which this field post office was attached, was stationed in Baghdad, Iraq from 1<sup>st</sup>. November 1942 till 13 August 1943. Before and afterwards it was mainly stationed in Palestine (May -October 1942, August 1943-March 1944, later until April 1948 it served Palestine form Egypt).



**Fig. 5: Censored cover addressed to New Zealand, postmarked 21 May 1943, "Głowna Poczta Polowa +101+" (Polish for Base Army Post Office), censor number 55, used mainly in Palestine (see Fig. 6).**





*Fig. 6: Samples of bilingual (Polish/English) censor cachets used in Palestine 1943/1945*

### **Franking**

In country regular letters from one field post to another -exempt from postage, (Fig. 7).

In country regular letters from a field post office to a non military address,- exempt from Postage, (Fig 8).

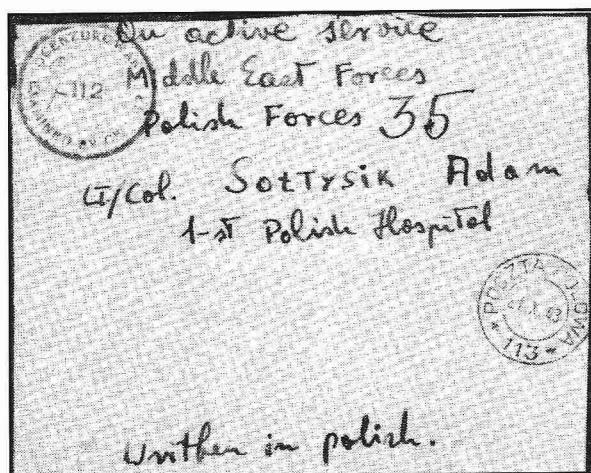
Regular letters to Polish Delegations or to Military Addresses outside the country-exempt from postage, (Fig 9).

Regular letters to an outside country addressee, franking required. (Fig. 10)

Registered letters inside and outside country, franking required, (Figs. 5 & 11).

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**Fig. 7:** Unfranked local cover from P.P.113 at Nuseirat, Palestine, dated 21.X.1943, addressed to M.E. 35 Polish Army Hospital, where the P.P.112 censorship cachet was applied, at that time stationed in Rehovot. The letter is unfranked as it is in country correspondence between two Army units.



**Fig. 8:** In country letter from p.p.111 to Tel-Aviv Censored by the 111 censorship office as well as by a British censor. The letter is unfranked as it is a incountry letter.

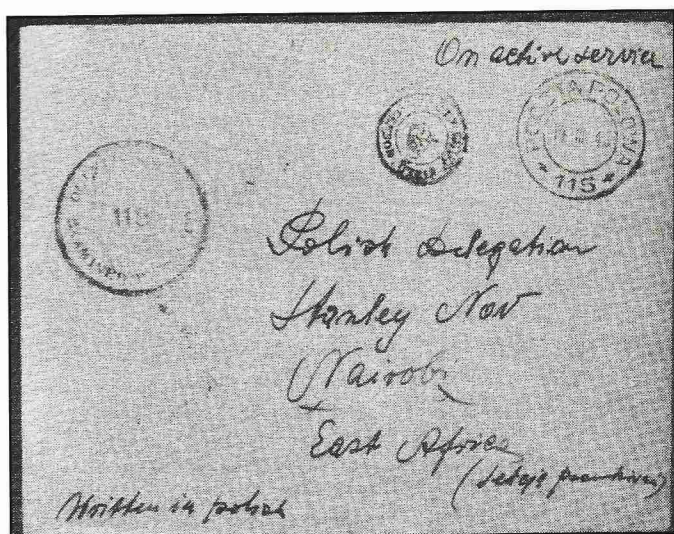
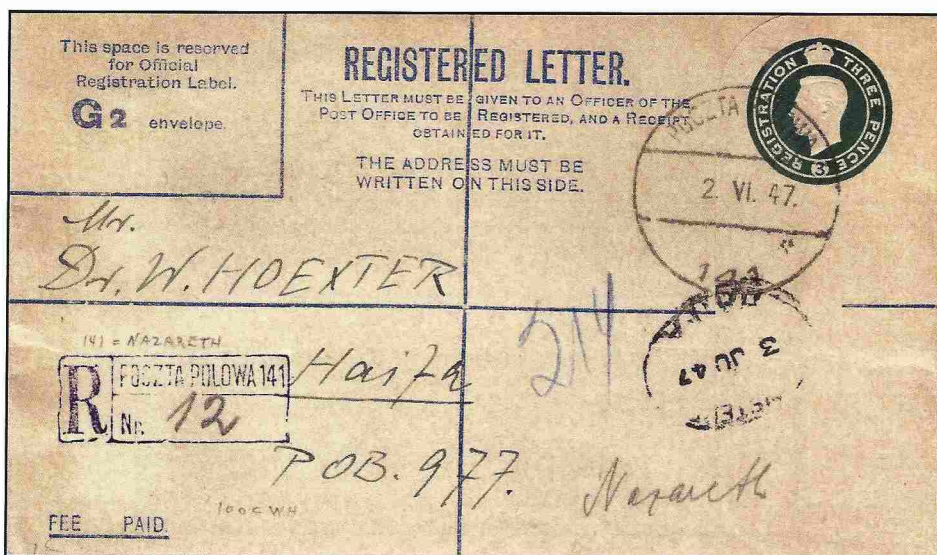


Fig. 9: Unfranked cover from P.P.115 stationed at Rehovot, dated 14.III.1943, to the Polish Delegation at Nairobi, East Africa. No franking required as the addressee was an official Polish office.



Fig. 10: Regular Air Mail letter card, sent through "Pocztą Polową 111" stationed in Palestine at the time to Manchester England. Franking required as sent from one country to another.





**Fig. 11: In country registered franked letter sent on 2 June 1947, through "Poczta Polowa 141", stationed in Nazareth at the time, to Haifa, bearing 3 June and 4 June 1947 (backside) Haifa receiving postmarks. In country registered mail, so franking was required.**

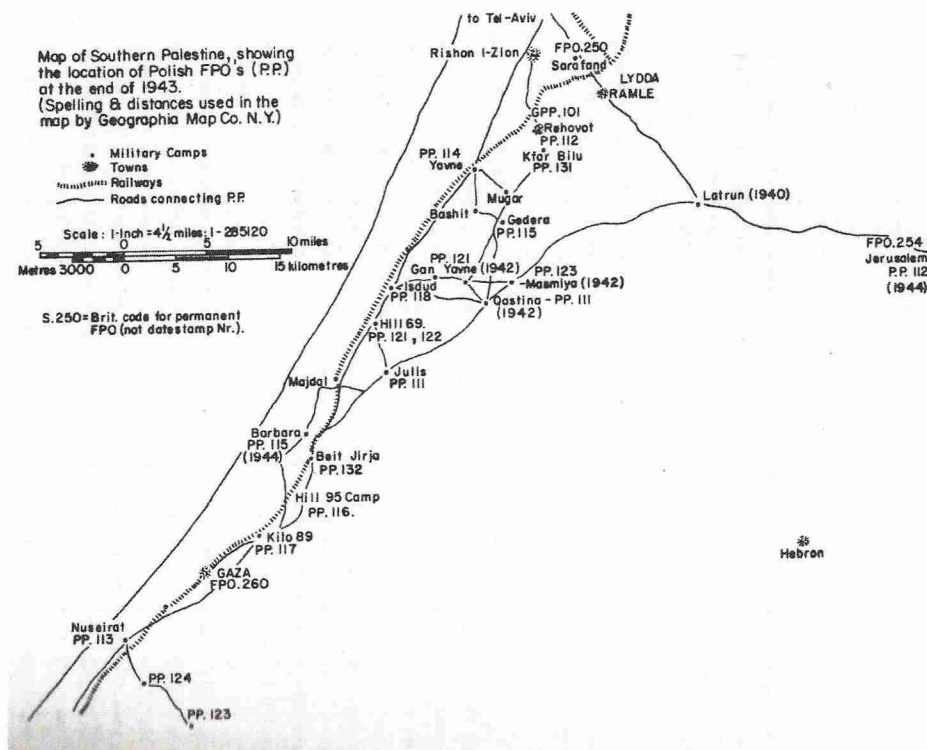
It must be said that franking rules were not always adhered to due the war conditions in which the field post offices operated. Thus, unfranked letters that should have been franked are occasionally found. Shortage of stamps might be one reason.

### ***List of the Polish Field Posts Operating in Palestine***

Field Post Number	Location in Palestine	Dates
G.P.P 101	Quastina (12 miles from Rehovot)	30.4.1942-5.5.1942
	Gedera	6.5.1942-29.5.1942
	Rehovot	29.5.1942-24.10.1942
		1.3.1943-5.3.1944

Field Post Number	Location in Palestine	Dates
P.P 111	Quastina	1.5.1942- 7.10.1942
	Julis (Gaza area)	30.8.1943-16.12.1943
P.P 112	Gedera	2.4.1942-30.8.1942
	Rehovot	1.7.1943-16.12.1943
	Jerusalem	6.3.1944-9.9.1947
P.P 113	Jerusalem	1.1.1942-30.9.1942
	Nuseirat (Gaza area)	10.9.1943-16.1.1944
P.P 114	Beyt Jirja (Gaza area)	5.8.1942- ?
	Ybne (Yavne 5 miles South of Rehovot)	7.7.1943-26.1.1944
P.P 115	Rehovot	24.9.1942-18.7.1943
	Gedera	18.7.1943-23.8.1947
P.P 116	Hill 95-Camp Gaza	6.9.1943-25.1.1944
P.P 117	Julis (Gaza area)	5.9.1943-18.12.1943
P.P 118	Isdud	1.10.1943-31.12.1943
P.P 121	Isdud	26.8.1943-10.11.1943
P.P 122	Isdud	? 8.1942-5.10.1942
		30.8.1943-28.11.1943
P.P 123	Masmiya	16.6.1942-19.9.1942
P.P 131	Kefar Bilu	18.10.1943-10.3.1944
		12.10.1943-28.12.1943
P.P 132	Bait Jirja	6.10.1943-16.12.1943
P.P 141	Nazareth	27.2.1945-12.8.1947

A map of Southern Palestine showing the locations of the Polish Field Post Offices is given in Figure 12.



*Fig. 12: Map of Southern Palestine showing the locations of the Polish Field Post Offices.*

The total number of Polish Field Post Offices in Palestine approached 15 in 1943 and early 1944. It should be noted that the units were dispersed in several locations, based according to the accommodation facilities of the British and the Australian camps. The continues movement of the troops between the countries in the Middle East is indicated in the table of the Field Post Office (Dates column), by the short periods in which these operated in one location and by the reopening of these once the unit/s returned to Palestine. Polish Field Offices operated in Palestine for over five years, with one of them, Number 101 serving Polish units in Palestine until 6.4.1948, although it was located in Egypt.

This article is a **short overview** on the subject. There are many more features to this collecting area such as: the attachment to the various units, the connection with the British field post, the various censorship procedures



and cachets, the routes etc. For those interested a list of references is given below. Use of some of these was made when compiling this article.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. The Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land by J. Kucharski.
2. The History of the Polish Post Offices in the East during ww2. Bulletin Nr. 201 of the Polonus Philatelic Society, Chicago IL, 1962.
3. Field Post Offices of the Polish Forces In Palestine ww2, by E. Rachwlsk, B.A.P.I.P Bulletin Nr. 3, 1952.
4. Internet sites.



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## **Messages From Captivity**

### ***Incoming postcards from Jewish prisoners of war to Palestine during ww2<sup>1</sup>.***

*Alex Zolbesky, Israel*

#### ***Historical Background***

In June 1940, the Fascist Italian Army being the ally of Nazi Germany attacked British held areas in North Africa, with the intention to join Rommel's Army in the conquest of Egypt and the Suez Canal.

Due to the need to strengthen the British Army, it was decided to recruit soldiers from British controlled areas including Palestine. An official bulletin, calling for the formation of a Jewish Infantry Division was issued to the Jewish Agency on September 19<sup>th</sup>.1940.

It called for the establishment of 15 units to form 3 auxiliary infantry regiments manned by Jewish soldiers from Palestine.

During March 1941, these regiments were moved from Tubruk in North Africa to Greece. The following month the Germans successfully attacked Greece forcing the British Army to retreat and evacuate its Army by ships to Egypt. Not all units could be evacuated and they were ordered to surrender on April 29<sup>th</sup>.1941. About 1500 soldiers of the Jewish Palestine regiments were taken prisoners of war and detained in a camp near the town of Corintia in Greece.

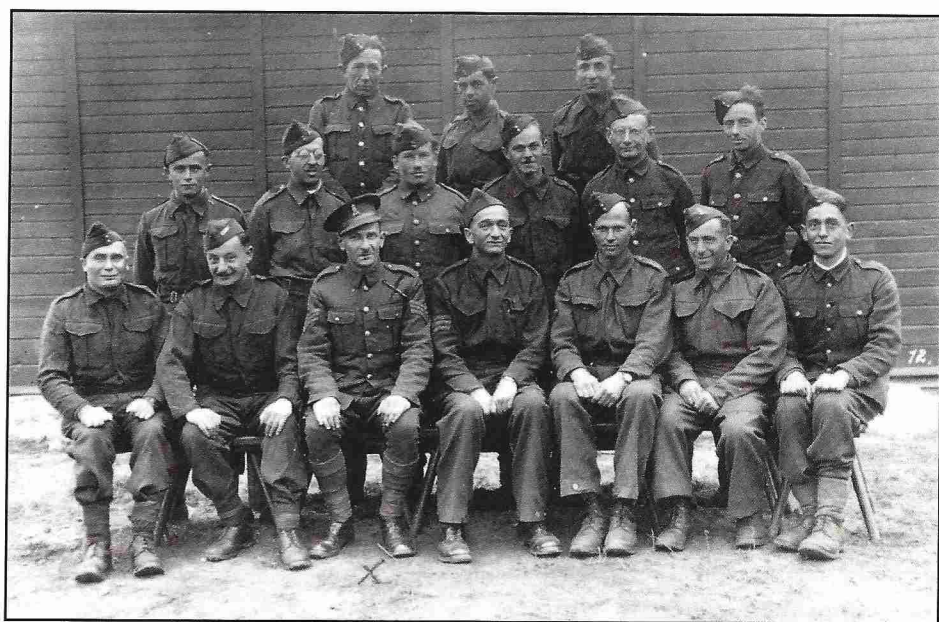
In July 1941 the P.O.Ws were sent from Greece to two transit camps; Stalag B/Z XVIII in Marbug, Slovenia and Stalag XVIIIA in Wolsberg, Austria. They were transferred once more towards the end of 1941 to Stalag VIIIB Larensdorf in Upper Silesia.

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<sup>1</sup> This article was first published in the Hebrew Journal Shovel No. 78, the magazine of the Israeli philatelists and was translated by the editor.

## *Life in Captivity*

The prisoners were organized in work groups that worked in the coal mines, the factories and in fields in the vicinity of the camp. They were allowed to send and receive letters. These were forwarded to and from the camp via Switzerland, Egypt to Palestine. The correspondence from the camps was usually by standard postcards as shown later. Packages to them were sent by the Red Cross. Although being Jewish, the Palestinian P.O.Ws were treated in accordance with the rules applicable to Prisoners of War. This changed however, towards the end of the war when the Germans gradually evacuated the camp and marched the prisoners west (towards Germany), in adverse winter weather conditions that caused many to perish from cold and hunger. Those who stayed alive were freed by the Allies. 900 of them were sent to New Cassel, Britain to recuperate and later shipped to Palestine. Several went directly back, the first already in May 1945.



*Fig.1: Jewish Prisoners of War from Palestine in Stalag VIII B Camp.*



## The Post Cards

### *The Standard P.O.W postcard.*

At the top of the front of the postcard the term "**Kriegsgefangenenpost**", meaning prisoners of war was imprinted. About two thirds of the front of the card was used to write the address of the receiver in four lines, (Fig. 1). The remaining third was sometimes used to indicate the details of the sender, including his number and location. However, there are instances where the details of the sender appeared on the back of the card at the expense of the text that had to be squeezed into 7 lines.

The languages used were usually European languages and the Germans engaged censors from the occupied countries when needed. A standard card usually bears several censor cachets; one of the camp's censor, one of the British censor and one with the number of a censor.



*Fig. 1: A standard postcard from Stalag VIII B to Tel-Aviv, 12.10.1942 with 4 censor cachets, the censor's number 100 is struck twice.*

The arrival date of the postcard shown in Figure 1, Tel Aviv, 29. NO. 42 appears on the postmark struck on the back of the postcard. This indicates

that it took 47 days, or one and half months to arrive. Considering the route, from the camp overland to Switzerland, than again overland to a port probably in Italy, from there by ship to Egypt, from there overland or by ship to Palestine, while censored by three different censors on the way, seems acceptable in war times. However, for a prisoner waiting for a reply, this seemed eternity, and some of them complained to their families about the lack of response in ample time.

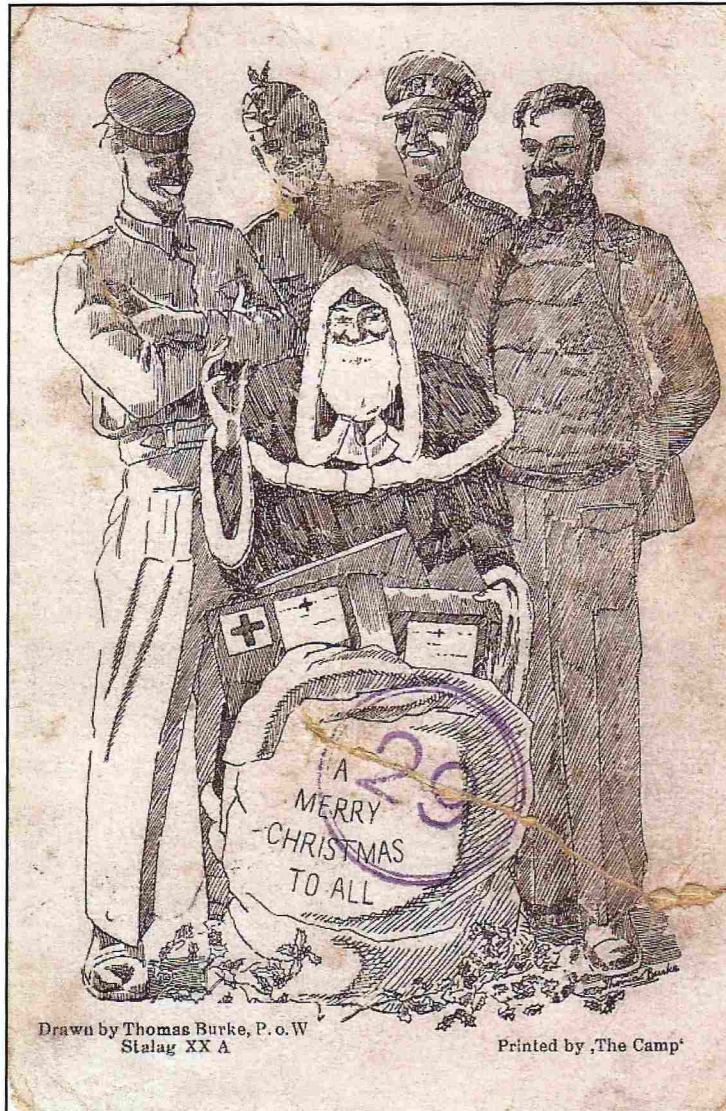
### *A picture post card*

A non-standard P.O.Ws postcard is shown in Figure 2. It was sent from Stalag VIIIB, recognized by the violet oval censor cachet, by Shelomo Stodaz, number 6466, work group Kommando 207E, to his wife and son in Tel-Aviv Palestine. It is infact a picture postcard (PPC), showing on the reverse 4 soldiers with Santa Claus standing in front of them and an inscription "A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL". The Jewish P.O.W Stodaz did not mind using this PPC, as long as it served him to send a message to his wife in Palestine. The PPC bears censor cachets of the German, Egyptian and British censors. It is unusual because prisoners of war were not allowed to send picture postcards. Stodaz complains that for six weeks he had no letter from her and is his son talking and thinking about his father? He says that he is well.



**Fig. 2: Front of the postcard with "A Merry Christmas to all" drawing on the backside of the postcard shown on the next page.**





**Fig. 3: The front and the back of the PPC sent by P.O.W Stodaz to his wife in Tel-Aviv Palestine.**

***A "coded wish" on the address panel.***

On the address panel of the letter shown in Figure 4 the prisoner Walter Bernstein wrote (in the kreis line) "od-chazi-shana" translated from Hebrew: another half year, probably expressing his wish to be freed



in a half years time. Walter, rightly thought that the German censor will not discover the "trick" thinking that this is part of the address. As the letter is dated 18.12.1942, it would appear that Walter's wish remained wishful thinking..



Fig. 4: The post card from Walter Bernstein with "od-chazi-shana" in the kreis line of the address panel.

*The editor apologizes for the poor quality of some of the pictures in this article. The originals were not at hand and the pictures were scanned from a journal in which they already were a little unclear. Nevertheless, the pictures are fully described in the text that tells their story.*

### ***The story of the P.O.W Avshalom Drori.***

The story of Avshalom Drori, the writer of the postcard from an Italian P.O.W camp (Fig. 5) is a very interesting one.

Drori who had a civilian flying license first joined the British Air Force. Later he volunteered to a Scottish Commando unit that took part in operation "Crusader", a counter offensive against Rommel to destroy his main panzers force and to relieve Tobruk and wrest Libya and Tripolitania from the Italian fascist empire. "Crusader", was to open with Rommel's murder, whose reputation had a demoralizing effect on the British Army in North Africa.

The plan was for six officers and fifty-three **Commandos, Drori among them**, to land near Beda Littoria from two submarines, the *Torbay* and the *Talisman*. They had four missions: to kill or capture Rommel at his headquarters in a villa near Beda Littora. To attack and destroy the Italian headquarters at Cyrene. To attack and seize the papers and ciphers of the Italian intelligence at their headquarters at Appollonia and kill the staff; and finally to cut all telephone and telegraph communications with these targets and seize all Enigma-related material.

The submarines surfaced off Beda Littoria in driving rain and rough seas, after dark on November 17. The Commandos' drove to the shore with rubber boats, formed up on the beach, and moved up to a ridge overlooking the villa. However, only 32 of the 53 succeeded to land because of the adverse weather conditions. Of those three commandos rushed into the villa, but were discovered. Two of them were killed in the fight that ensued. The third was captured. The whole operation was a failure. The only casualties inflicted upon the Germans were three supply colonels and a soldier, killed at the villa. The targets at Cyrene and Appollonia were not attacked, and the only damage done was to a petrol supply point, which was blown up. Of the British party that landed; two were killed while clashing with the Germans in the villa, two managed to escape and the rest 28, **Drori among them**, were handed to the Italians who put them in P.O.W camps in Italy.



*Fig. 5: The postcard sent by Drori from the camp in Italy to Tel Aviv is imprinted "Poste Italiane per Prigionieri di Guerra" meaning prisoners of war post. It was written on 27.4.1943 and sent by air and therefore, a stamp had to be affixed. The air route-Rome-Lisbon-Cairo is indicated in hand writing. The postcard was censored by the Italian censorship: "Verificato Per Censura".*

In the text Drori complains that he had no letter since 5.3.43 and requests more frequent correspondence, and sends regards to his mother, his sister and the family

He requests to be mentioned to Sima and what is happening with her.

As for Rommel, the villa had only been his temporary headquarters and he had moved some weeks before to another headquarters at Gambut, about 100 miles away down the coast. The Commandos could not have caught the Desert Fox even there; he was celebrating his birthday with his wife and some friends in Rome at the time.





*Fig. 6: General Erwin Rommel. "The Desert Fox"*

Drori was later transferred to a camp in Germany from where he sent several postcards. In one of these he tells that he won trophies in the bridge card game and in table tennis.

Drori was probably among the prisoners that were freed by the Red Army from Stalag IVB in Mulberg-Elbe in the vicinity of Dresden on 23.4.1945. He was sent to a recuperation camp in New Castle, England. The letter shown in Figure 6, dating 31.5.1945, from the recuperation camp to Tel Aviv, ends the "war Story" of Drori. He advises that in about a month time he shall board a ship to Palestine. However, a letter written by him six weeks later, on 10.7.1945, shows him still to be in England.

In this letter he writes that following his return (to Palestine) he intends to be engaged in journalism.



*Fig. 7: Regular letter from Drori at 201H+T (recuperation) camp, New Castle, dated 31.5.1945, to Tel Aviv. The letter is not censored and is written on the NAAFI letter form. (Acronym, Definition. NAAFI, Navy Army & Air Force Institutes, a store for military British service members).*



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## Picture Postcards Contribute to the Research of Holy Land 19th-20th Century History

*Yoel Amir, Bnei-Dror, Israel*

The latest changes in F.I.P regulations for "Postal History" (reported in the HLPB Winter 2009 edition<sup>1</sup>) define new fields of interest which should be researched, exhibited as well as reported in future HLPB articles. The new sub-class "Historic, Social and Special Studies" opens the door to the study of philatelic documents, which were considered up to now as philatelic "inferior". One such group of documents is "picture postcards", especially those printed and used between the nineties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and W.W.II.

The advantages of the postcard, adopted worldwide in the eighties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – minimal cost and efficient communication by a short text – were overwhelming. In 1892 the Ottoman authorities allowed private printing of postcards including graphic elements on the back side of the card. This turned the "picture postcard" – printed with photos, paintings and sketches in black & white and color – into a flourishing business.

Post services and particularly picture postcards were used intensively in the Holy Land by the growing flow of tourists and local population, as well as by soldiers of many armies involved in conflicts in the area. Publishers of picture postcard printed popular and up-to-date themes in purpose to capture the attention of customers, creating a wealth of visual documents covering historic and holy sites, ethnic and oriental scenes, political and national scenarios. While the master glass negatives of photos or original paintings were damaged over time or lost, copies printed on postcards survived. Many Holy Land postcards were used as souvenirs but others were mailed in the country and abroad.

A mailed picture postcard with or without text is a historic document. True – it can not be compared to documents in archives, letters and photo albums, but in absence of such historic sources one picture postcards can

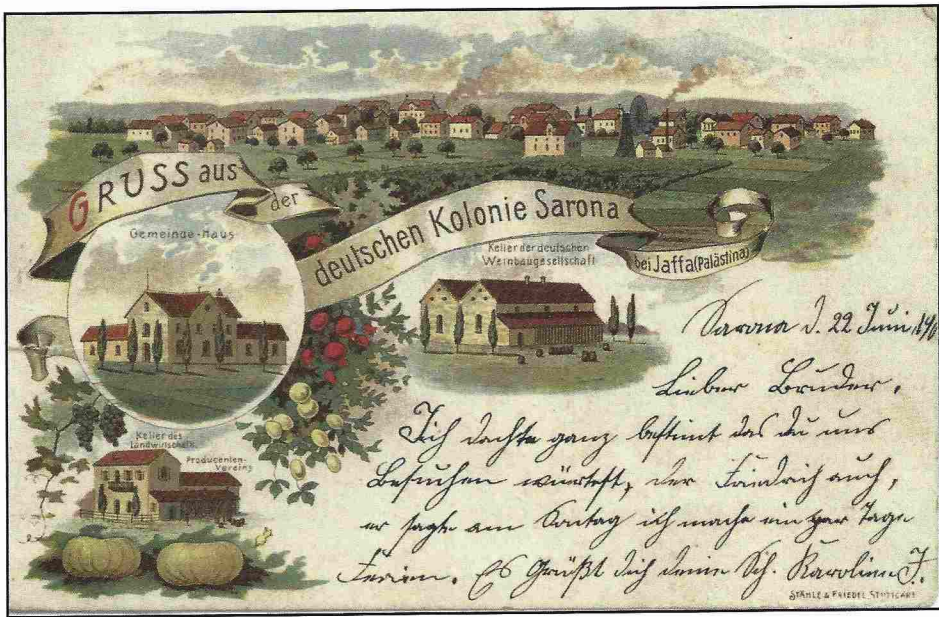
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<sup>1</sup> *Yehuda Kleiner About the New F.I.P Regulations for International Competitive Postal History, HLPB VI 113-114 p.463*

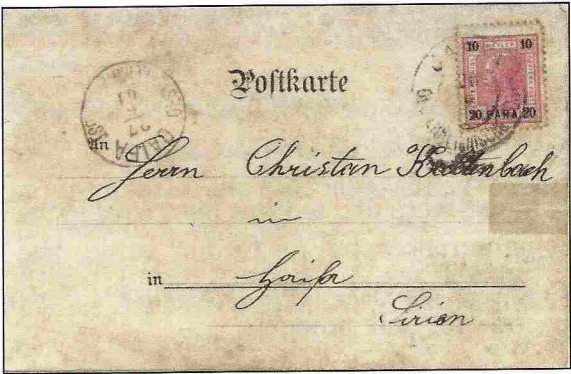


be the starting point of a fruitful research. A few examples will illuminate my argument.

*The "Sarona Postcard" (Fig. 1a, 1b) – discovery of the first motorized pumping station in the Holy Land and more.*



*Fig. 1a – "Gruss Aus....Sarona" picture postcard*



*Fig. 1b – Address side of the Sarona PC. Undivided back picture postcard mailed in June of 1901 by the Austrian post services from Jaffa to Haifa at a minimum text tariff of 10 p.*

This undivided back picture postcard was written in the Templer colony Sarona (near Jaffa) and mailed in June of 1901 by the Austrian post services from Jaffa to Haifa at a minimum text tariff of 10 piaster. The sender – one Karolina J. – sent the PC with a short text to her brother in the German colony of Haifa. The mailing date of 1901 suggests that the PC was printed (in Germany) some time before, most probably prior to October 1898 – the date of Kaiser Wilhelm II visit in the Holy Land (including Sarona - on his way from Haifa to Jaffa). "Gruss Aus..." postcard were popular at that time, illustrating in black & white or color local (Jerusalem, Jaffa or Sarona in this case) important sites or scenes. The illustrations were usually based on photos supplied to the printer by the customer (in this case - the Sarona municipality). The illustration of the Sarona PC comprise of a general scene of Sarona as seen from the west, three public buildings with associated captions and an ornamented graphic element made of grapes, pomegranates, lemons and pumpkins.

I purchased this PC in 2002 just in time to research the document and incorporate the findings in the survey of Sarona by the Municipality of Tel-Aviv and the Council for the Preservation of Historic sites. It turned out that this picture postcard, that would have gained little attention according to the standards of "Postal History", was a real bonanza:

- One of the three buildings nicknamed today the "Distillery" was identified as the first winery of Sarona. The other (large) winery (depicted as well) played an important role in the creation of Israel's air force in 1947-8.
- The illustrations of the three building were an important source of information for the Sarona Survey architects.
- Sarona farmers were first to grow pumpkins in the Holy Land, not for cooking purposes, but for feeding cattle. The Templers were pioneers of the "mixed farming" concept in the country, including growing cows for milk products.

The first phase of the research based on the Sarona Postcard was published in Eretz Magazine<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Yoel Amir, **Greetings from Sarona**, *Eretz Magazine* no. 86, February-March 2003



The second phase of the research involved an even more dramatic finding.

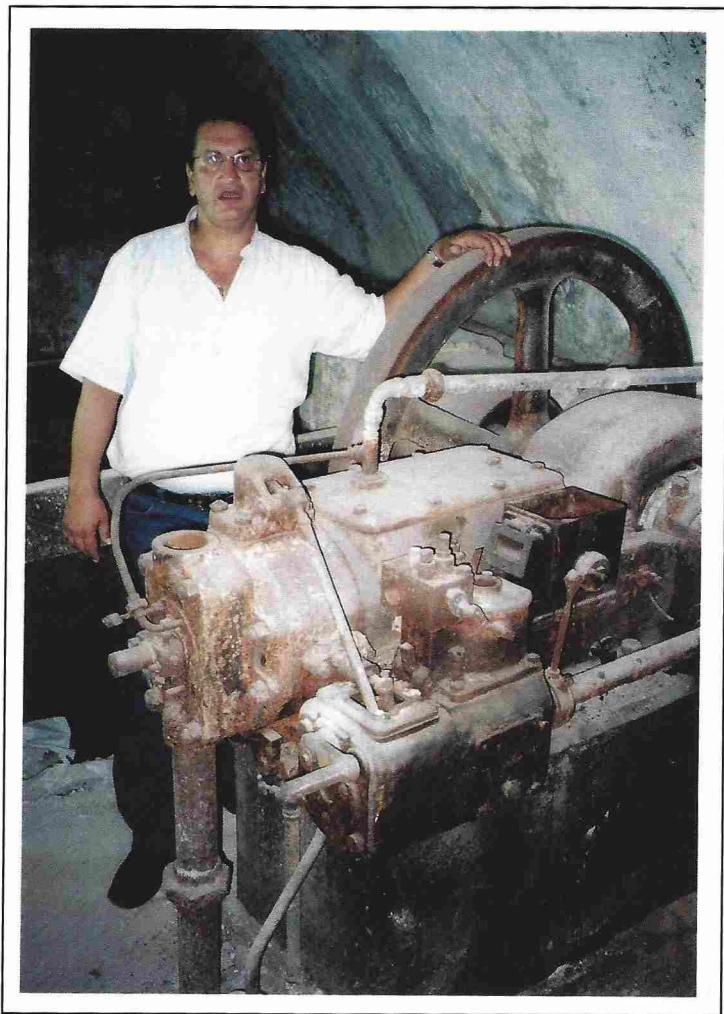
A close examination of the Sarona Postcard revealed an outstanding detail (Fig. 2). The wind-turbine at the top of a tower was identified as a wind driven water pump, introduced into the Holy Land by the Haifa Templers in 1880.



*Fig. 2 – Detail of the Sarona PC – farm building with two water pumping installations.*

But what is the nature of the small adjacent building having a high smoking chimney? Speculations pointed at the existence of an early internal combustion engine of the type imported to the Holy Land by the Jaffa Templers in 1895-6. A search of the south-western area of Ha'Kiria in Tel-Aviv (the former Templer colony Sarona) revealed the entire well installation, including that ancient motorized pump, hidden in a cellar of the Israeli Broadcasting Service (Fig.3).





*Fig. 3 – The interior of the motorized water pumping installation, as found in 2002*

This historic water pumping installation was earmarked for conservation in the framework of the Tel-Aviv Municipality "Sarona Gardens" project.

The discovery of the first motorized pumping installation in the Holy Land was published in the bi-monthly historical magazine Et-Mol.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Yoel Amir, **Water in the Sharon** (in Hebrew), Et-Mol no. 173, February 2004, Yad Ben-Zvi Press, Jerusalem



*Fig. 4 – A divided-back picture postcard published by the Eliahu Brothers, Jaffa, ca. 1922 depicting the American-German colony of Jaffa,*

#### *The Jaffa “Hotel District” (Fig. 4)*

This divided-back picture postcard published in the early twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Edit. Matathiahu Eliahu & Brothers – Jaffa is the only comprehensive depiction of the American-German colony of Jaffa, the first "modern" quarter of this ancient town. The group of three buildings in the back – the Jerusalem Hotel (second from the right), Hotel du-Parc (third from the right) and Pension Frank (fourth from the right) – was the only European class "Hotel District" in the Holy Land since 1870 and up to the twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A better view of Pension Frank is seen in the picture postcard of Fig. 5, published ca. 1910. The story of "Jerusalem Hotel" – now to be preserved and upgraded into a "hotel boutique" was published in the bi-monthly historical magazine *Et-Mol*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Yoel Amir & Shai Farkash, *Aquarelles, Beer and Hospitality* (in Hebrew), *Et-Mol* no. 197, January 2008, Yad Ben-Zvi Press, Jerusalem



*Fig. 5 – Pension Frank in the American-German colony of Jaffa on a PC of ca. 1910.*

***A new book on the history of hotel keeping and hospitality in the Holy Land***

The book,<sup>5</sup> due to be published soon, is based on extensive research done by Dr. Pedro Zuniga, a professional Israeli hotelier. While doing his research the author was exposed to the wealth of philatelic documents – especially picture postcards – related to the subject. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, picture postcards were an effective means of advertisement for the Holy Land hotel business. Hotel guests communicated with relatives and friends using locally purchased postcards. Apart from the visual data, mailed postcards disclose dates of use, the identity of senders and addressees, hotel cachets stamped on the PC and often the name of the proprietor. In many cases, the brief text tells us a short story and occasionally reveals interesting historic data. Tourist picture postcards, depicting the hotel building and local sites of interest,

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Pedro Zuniga, *Oh that I were in the wilderness, in a lodging-place of wayfaring men* (in Hebrew), Kavim, Tel-Aviv April 2010



were published by hotel owners as a side business and for publicity. The picture postcards of Figs. 4 and 5 for example, disclose architectural and environment details of the Jaffa hotels, while the picture postcard of Fig. 6 illustrates a lobby of a Haifa hotel.<sup>6</sup>



*Fig. 6 – The lobby of Pension Appinger in the German Colony of Haifa, PC mailed in 1936 in Germany.*

Dr. Pedro Zuniga admitted that following his research he started his private collection of postal documents and picture postcards related to the hotel business in the Holy Land.

**Conclusion:** the new F.I.P sub-class "Historic, Social and Special Studies" is an opportunity for veteran collectors to review their collections and locate items of interest warranting research, exhibition and publication. Newcomers to philately are called to join the ranks with ideas for new researches, in which Holy Land philatelic documents will play a role.

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6 *Pension Appinger in the German Colony of Haifa, PC mailed in 1936 in Germany. The old hotel was conserved and renovated and is today a boutique hotel named Colony Hotel, Haifa.*

## The Pre-Stamp Postal History of the Holy land

*Joseph (dubi) Stier, Belgium*

I define postal history as it is written – the history of the post, "post" being a government service, pre-paid, using markings of the town from which the letter originated, as well as, markings of payment.

Until the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century mail was sent by couriers. In Austria in 1722 the mail delivery service became a government function, and as late as 1817 it was permitted to send letters, either fully pre-paid, partially paid, or un-paid. Town postmarks appeared in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century in France, and later in other postal administrations in other countries. In 1817, a decree was issued in the Hapsburg Empire, which ordered all post offices, including letter collecting agencies, to use town postmarks as of 1<sup>st</sup>. January 1818. Town postmarks showing the date started to appear during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Two mail services were in use during the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries: the postal imperial/governmental system and the "private couriers" one, which consisted of individuals that delivered mail randomly or "companies" that offered mail delivery for a fee. Private couriers are not part of postal history, perhaps these may be considered as related to it.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following aims to discuss and define the "pre-philatelic" postal history of the Holy Land during the 19<sup>th</sup>. Century, when the country was under Ottoman rule, and in addition to the Turkish Post, Foreign Post Offices operated in the land.

There were three options to mail letters by post from the Holy Land during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century:

- A. Mailing from the nearest southern post office – Alexandria.
- B. Mailing from the northern nearest post office – Beirut
- C. Mailing from a post office overseas, usually Italy.

Each of these options involved using a courier from the Holy Land (usually Jaffa, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed or Acre) to deliver the letter to the desired post office. (*See examples in Figures 1-6*).

The postal rates and rate system of this period were different from one administration to another. There were also frequent fee changes and changes of systems. A full study of the rates of this period in relation with the Holy Land does not exist, but a few works related to specific postal administrations do exist and they help us to understand the charges.

Until 1838 only the third option was available: sending the letter by ship and requesting the "courier" to post the letter in a reliable official European post office from which it was mailed to destination using proper town markings and payments of postage. This, through the Austrian and British Post offices, which were the first to be opened in the region. First in Alexandria, later during the 1840s a few more post offices were opened in the region as follows:

Alexandria	French Post	1838
Alexandria	Austrian Post	1838
Alexandria	British Post	1839
Alexandria	Russian Ropit	1857
Beirut	French Post	1840
Beirut	Turkish Post	1841
Beirut	Austrian Post	1845
Beirut	Russian Ropit	1857

Following the opening of the first post office, in the Holy Land in 1852, the use of the above distant out of country options was considerably reduced, but was still used until about 1860. The first stamps were introduced in the Holy Land during the late 1850s by the French, and three years later by the Austrian Post, but stampless mail was common until 1864.



Consequently, we can divide the Holy Land pre-philatelic (= stampless) postal history periods into:

- Period I: 1817 -1838, use of overseas distant out of country post offices.
- Period II: 1838 -1852, use of regional post offices for Holy Land mail (Alexandria or Beirut).
- Period III: 1852 -1864, use of Holy Land post offices for stampless mail.

It is obvious that all such mail is extremely rare and only a few examples exist. Holy Land collectors tend to ignore these periods, probably because of a lack of information or simply because such letters are not so decorative as letters with stamps. Nevertheless, these are most important periods of Holy Land Postal History.

### *The early town postmarks*

The post offices that were active in Alexandria and Beirut were affiliated to one of the major empires of the period, Austrian, British or French, which had already clear postal regulations about fees, markings and cancellations. Therefore, these offices received town postmarks which were of identical design throughout the empire. As the design for the imperial offices changed – the Alexandria or Beirut local office had to adopt the same new design.

Apart from the town postmark they used additional cachets to mark payment of postage, such as PP or Porto. The fee amount was written by hand.

The basic and most important book of Steichele does not ignore this period, but he mentions only the use of the French Beirut office during the early period, most likely due to lack of information. However, I have found additional town postmarks that were used during the early period. These are:

## Alexandria post offices

<b><i>Austrian Post</i></b>	
ALEXANDRIA (1838)	1L type (straight line) (Figs.
Lloyd Pmk. / (1846)	Oval standard Lloyd design
ALEXANDRIE / (1851)	1L postmark with italic letters
ALEXANDRIEN / (1851)	1 circle
<b><i>French Post</i></b>	
ALEXANDRIE (EGYPT) /(1838)	large 2C (two circles)
ALEXANDRIE EGYPT / (1845)	small 2C
ALEXANDRIE (EGYPT) / (1847)	small 2C
<b><i>British Post in Alexandria</i></b>	
ALEXANDRIA (1843)	Circled crown
ALEXANDRIA	2 half circles
<b><i>Beirut post offices</i></b>	
<b><i>Austrian Post in Beirut</i></b>	
Oval Lloyd Pmk. / (1845)	Oval standard Lloyd design
BEIRUTTL. / (1856)	1L straight line Pmk
<b><i>French Post in Beirut</i></b>	
BEYROUT SYRIE / (1840)	small 2C
BEYROUTH SYRIE / (1846)	small 2C
<b><i>Ottoman Post in Beirut</i></b>	
Negative seal / (1841)	"coming from Beirut Post Office 1841"
Negative seal / (1846)	"Post district of upper Lebanon 1846"
Negative seal / (1856)	"coming from Beirut Post Office" no year
Negative seal / (1862)	"Beirut Post Office with no year"
<b><i>British Post in Beirut</i></b>	
Beirut -British	(1841)





sime oia q. pueden ir y dirlo quieran, pues era señal de que las  
cosas no iban tan mal p. hoy, aunque yo las considero del todo perdidas.  
Llegados lo lleva el conductor. Pero en caso de que  
las cosas se compusiesen bien, y esto hoy, puede mandar tambien un  
poco de bicolas, pero no mucho. Algún azúcar, y Café, y media docena  
de cuadernos del caso dela om. Todo lo que es de pedidos mandamelo  
en lista separada dela produeta, con la anotacion de su precio, que  
despues yo me gobernare.

Cuando salieron los Conduct. quedaba con dos pleitos con  
los Griegos, uno sobre las puertas del foro del Protopro, las q. se bol-  
uierón a poner, y están mejor q. antes. El otro here la obra del  
Monte Olivete, q. tamb. se termino aunque con alguna compen-  
sacion. Como uno y otro no talso a gusto delos Griegos, están tan irritados q.  
me las tienen juradas, y mandaron un testimonio a Antiochia con  
nuevas protestaciones. No se lo q. saldara, p. habra muchos q. padecer.  
Ahora me anuncian otra pretension delos Jofitos, q. si es cierto  
tambien tendremos queaser. No puedo pararme a explicar mas de  
las cosas q. lleuaron muchos tipos, y papeles, e yo apenas tengo tiempo  
para redactar. Solo digo q. aqui estamos desde 1890, con las armas en la mano.  
Salimos de un embudo, y vamos diez, y ponas al desmoron de embudo,  
tambien salamos en el q. donde estoy, nombraron otro, pero no quisio  
venir. Despues nos dijeron q. venia y finas flego, y asi cada uno has-  
tante perdido, pues la falta de tipo mayor por. trae malas conse-  
quencias, y muy malas de remediar despues. Despues de esto, p.  
ver si llega a tiempo, y antes q. salga la produeta, si es q. viene a  
necesidad de unirse lo q. se ofusca a seguir las noticias q. tenga.  
Dios conserve la vida de W. H. B. pues si falta mal no ira.

J. M. L. y Dicit  
J. de W. H. B.

JERUSALEM  
1834

D. W. H. B.

J. M. L. y Dicit

531

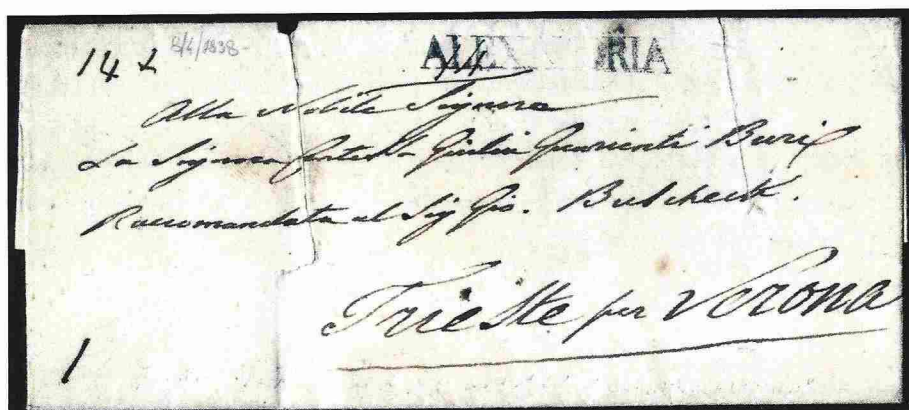


Fig. 3: An example of early Alexandria post office, 1838.

A folded letter carried by courier from Jerusalem (Fig. 4) to the Alexandria Austrian post office in 1838 destination "Trieste per Verona" (manuscript). The letter was written in Jerusalem on the 8 April 1838. **It is the earliest letter known, using this post office that was opened just 2 months earlier.** The town postmark ALEXANDRIA one line is extremely rare. As there are no payment markings, it was probably paid by the recipient.

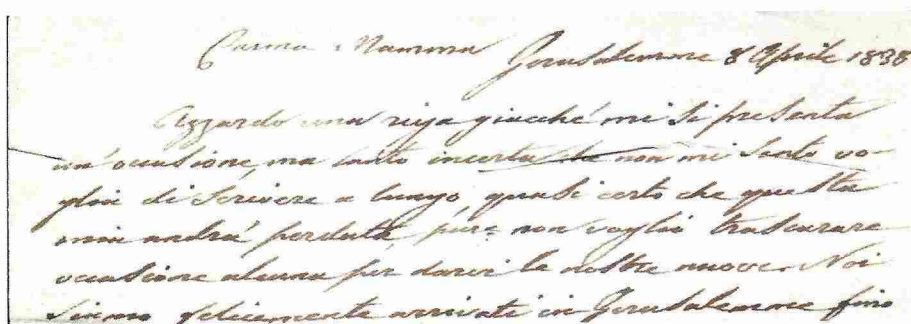


Fig. 4: Letter headed: "Jerusalem 8 April 1838.



**Fig. 5 : An example of early Beirut post office, 1849.**

A folded letter carried by courier from Jerusalem to the French Beirut post office on 1<sup>st</sup>. May 1849, destination "Marseilles. Rate: 10 decimes. A red cachet boxed "PAQUEBOT DE LA MEDITERANNENNE" on front. This letter was sent by the Consulate of Sardegna in Jerusalem (cachet reverse).



**Fig. 6: An example of late use of a European post office, 1852.**

A folded letter carried by the steamer "NIL" from Jaffa to France via Malta (for purification), 1852. Destination: Tours. Pre-paid on board this French steamer "NIL", (2c. Pmk, upper right corner). French "26" decimes black cachet indicates fee.



## **The Kaiser's Visit To The Holy Land. A Rare Double Rate Cover From Camp Imperial<sup>1</sup>**

*R. Perry, U.S.A*

### ***Forward***

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

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

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

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

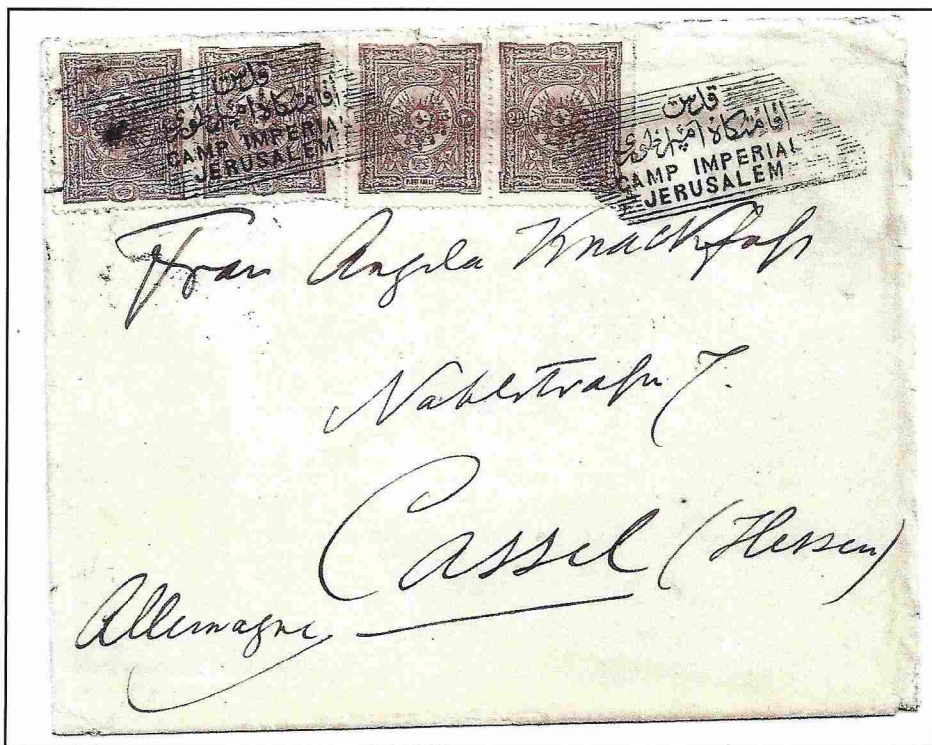
\*\*\*\*\*

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

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<sup>1</sup> *Due to technical problems this article was incompletely published in the previous issue of the Bulletin. Here is the full version.*

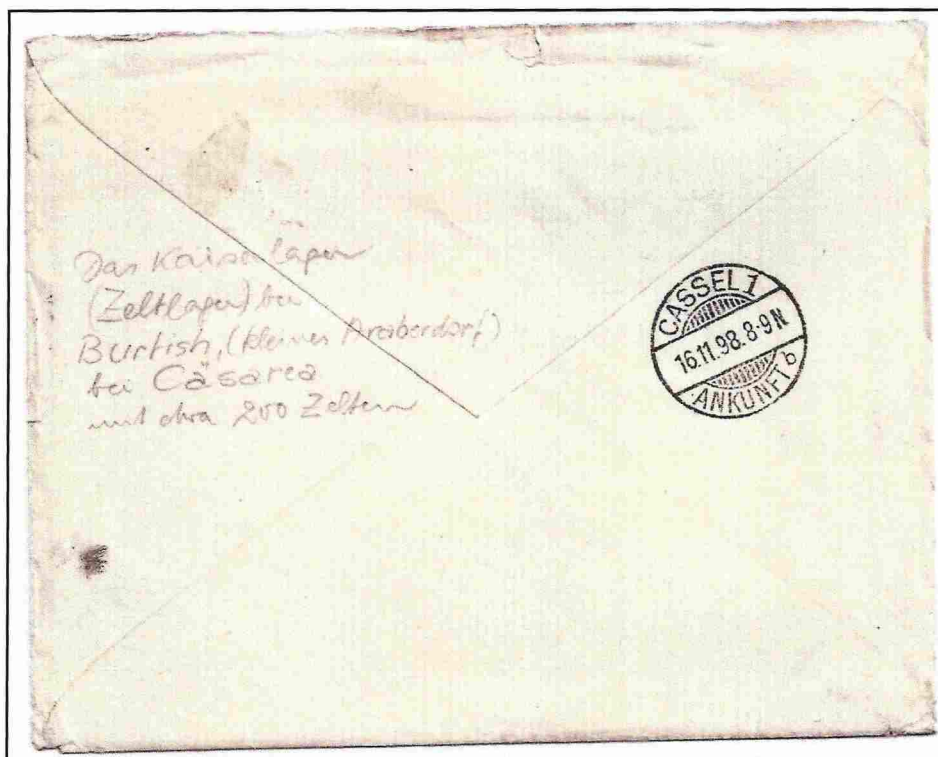
*The Cover (Figs. 1 & 2)*



**Fig.1: Front side of 1898 cover from Camp Imperial, Jerusalem.**  
**With 4x20 para Turkish stamps, totaling 80 para i.e. double the**  
**normal letter rate.**

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

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



**Fig. 2: Back side of Camp Imperial double rate cover with Nov. 16, 1898 CASSEL (Germany) arrival cancel and hand written historic note.**

The back of the cover also shows a hand written note which is of historical interest, it reads: "Das Kaiser Lager (Zelt lager) bei Burtish (Kleines Araberdorf) bei Caesarea und oberes 200 Zelten". Loosely translated; "The Kaiser camp (tent camp), near Burtish (a small Arabic village or hamlet), near Caesarea is with more than 200 tents.

Burtish is not a name of any new or old Arabic village, it is probably a translation error of the word "Burdsch", which describes many Arabic hamlets. Carmel<sup>1</sup> (page 72), locates the Kaiser's camp near Caesarea at; "Burdsch el-Khail dem heutigen Burdsch Binjamina". Burdsch may have sounded like Burtish to Knackfuss who probably was not familiar with the Arab language and thought that is was the name of the hamlet, "kleines Araberdorf", i.e., a small Arab village.



### ***A Rare Cover***

This cover may be unique for the following reasons:

1. It is only one of two Kaiser covers definitely identified to be mailed by a member of the Kaiser's entourage, (see HLHP Bulletin 105-106 pages 6-225).
2. It is only one of three known Kaiser covers franked with double rate postage, (see HLHP Bulletin 91-92 page 420).
3. It is one of less than a dozen covers that are known to exist from the Kaiser's visit to the Holy Land with authentic arrival cancels.
4. The notation on the back of the cover (as mentioned above), is historically important being a reference of an eye witness.

### ***Reference:***

1. Alex Carmel/Ejal Jakob Eisler "Der Kaiser Reist im Heiligen Land".

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

## NEWS

### *LONDON 2010 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION*

Our members did very well in this F.I.P exhibition, held in London May 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. 2010, as can be seen from the list of awards that follows:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Joseph Hackmey</b>   | Cape of Good Hope Triangles. Large Gold, 95 points + Special Prize.  |
| <b>Zeev Galibov</b>     | Palestine Mandate 1917 – 1927 from E.E.F to British Mandate. Large Gold, 95 points.                            |
| <b>Itamar Karpovsky</b> | Israel 1948 Transition Period. Cities Under Emergency Conditions. Large Gold, 95 points.                       |
| <b>Henry Nogid</b>      | The Four Siege Cities of 1948. Large Gold, 93 points.  |
| <b>Joel Slutzki</b>     | Palestine Rates and Routes 1927 – 1948. Large Gold, 93 points.   |
| <b>Les Glassman</b>     | Mozambique and Mozambique Company. Gold, 90 points.  |
| <b>Jonathan Becker</b>  | The Conquest and British Administration of Palestine and (Greater Syria), 1914-1920. Large Vermeil, 87 points. |
| <b>James Shaw</b>       | New Zealand Postage Dues 1899 to 1939 (and underpaid mails) Large Vermeil, 87 points.                          |
| <b>Yaakov Shabtai</b>   | The Doar Ivri Issue – Printing and settings Handbook. Large Vermeil, 87 points.                                |

Our member **Eli Weber** was a member of the jury.

CONGRATULATIONS! WELL DONE.

## ***JERUSALEM 2010 MULTI NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION.***

Multinational Stamp Exhibition with participation of China, Great Britain, U.S.A. and Israel. The exhibition will take place at the International Convention Center Binyaney Ha'uma JERUSALEM 21-25 November 2010.

Those interested please refer to web site: [www.israelphilately.org.il](http://www.israelphilately.org.il)

The exhibition will be under F.I.P auspices and regulations. 450 frames are planned, of which 300 will be allotted to Israeli exhibitors and 150 to exhibitors from the four guest countries, i.e., 50 to each country.



***WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE BY EXHIBITING AND VISITING.***



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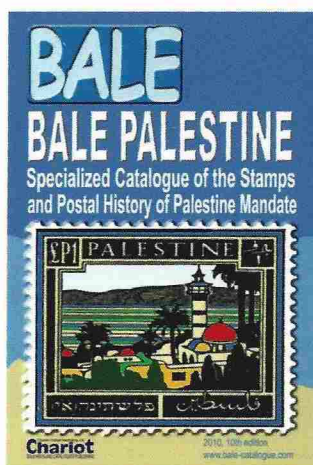


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