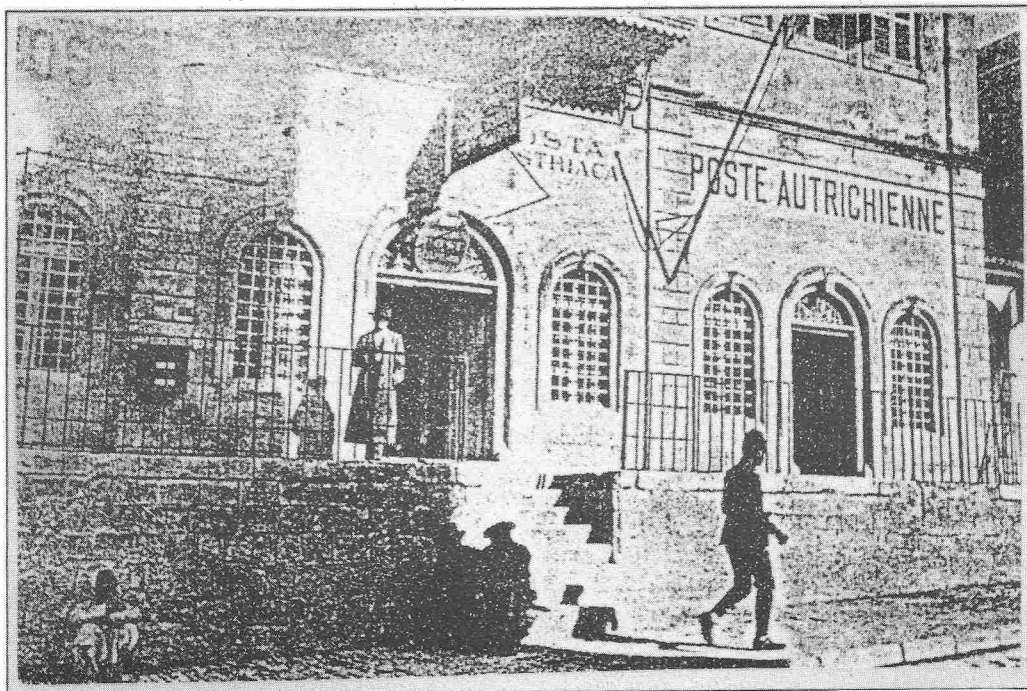


Holy Land Postal History

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



בית הדואר האוסטרי "החדש" בעיר העתיקה, מול המצודה
The "new" Austrian Post Office in the Old City, opposite The Citadel



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שנה טובה ומבורכת

Happy New Year



The Austrian Post in Palestine*

Andreas Palera

1. The k.k. Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem

The Imperial-Royal Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem – for a long time the only foreign post in the interior of the Ottoman Empire – had been established in 1859 on the legal basis of a special agreement between the Austrian k.k. Ministry of Exterior and the Sublime Porte. Even as during the first three decades of its existence its function was limited to mere mail delivery, the services of the Austrian post office were highly appreciated because of its reliability by the indigenous population of Jerusalem as well as by the numerous foreign pilgrims. Already during the years 1863 to 1865 the post office managed to gain considerable surplus:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
1863	2894 fl. 32 kr.	959 fl. 82 kr.	1934 fl. 50 kr.
1864	4062 fl. 14 kr.	970 fl. 02 kr.	3092 fl. 12 kr.
1865	3504 fl. 66 kr.	1202 fl. 20 kr.	2302 fl. 46 kr.

We know these budget figures in detail because the balance was audited by the k.k. Central Auditor's Office for Communications and the k.k. Ministry for Trade in April 1866. The ministry had been confronted with an application of the k.k. Post Expedition Jerusalem concerning the granting of a raise for rent as well as office lump sum expenses and of a raise of the messenger service charge. This application of the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem was submitted through the official channel, via the post directorate direct superior in Trieste. The supreme post authority in Vienna agreed in face of the continuously growing importance of Jerusalem as the destiny of an ever-growing stream of pilgrims which caused considerable rises in the local cost of rent and living.

2. The Jaffa-Jerusalem Junction

The maintenance of the regularly served connection with the k.k. Post Office in Jaffa was of highest priority for the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem. A specially employed post rider took care of this connection. In 1873 the allotted lump sum for this rider had to be raised by 20%, because the volume of forwarded mail had grown so extensively that the messenger was obliged to rent additional mules for his rides to Jaffa. The reason for this considerable increase in the volume of

* Reprinted from "Austrian Presence in the Holy Land in the 19th and early 20th Century", Proceedings of the Symposium held in Jerusalem on March 1-2, 1995. Published by the Austrian Embassy, Tel Aviv. The paper appeared in German in an abridged version in: Postrundschau 12/92.

forwarded mail was that every two weeks not only letters, but also many newspapers, and product samples arrived from Trieste via Alexandria. In the approval of this application, the post directorate, Trieste stated in its report from 07.10.1873 that the "revenues of the post office in Jerusalem have risen from 1870 to 1872 considerably, while the expenses of the post office remained almost the same". In order to compensate the additional expense of 120 florin per year, the k.k. post expedient Giacomo Pascal proposed "to add a surcharge of 1 Kreuzer per newspaper and 2 Kreuzer per parcel of 2.5 pounds".

Giacomo Pascal was k.k. Vice Consul in Jerusalem and in charge of the k.k. Post Office there. He was also nominally the head of the Austrian post office in Jaffa. Pascal was the first Austrian post master in Palestine to be found in the Austrian Post Archives.

The k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem received an annual salary of 380 fl. and the service lump sum of 36 fl.. The income of the k.k. Post Office in Jaffa resulted from 15% of the total delivery charges up to 1.000 fl., and 5% for any revenues exceeding 1.000 fl.. In 1874, the post office in Jerusalem accrued 6.420 fl., and the post office in Jaffa 1.826 fl. plus 114 fl. for stamps.

In view of the ever increasing mail volume of the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem, the k.k. Ministry for Trade in Vienna soon recognized, that "Pascal is not able to do the service on its own but that he urgently needs an assistant for manipulative tasks". At the same time the supreme postal authority in Vienna accepted a proposal of the post directorate, Trieste "to increase the salaries of the two post offices considerably in view of the general price increase in the Holy Land". Consequently the annual salary of the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem was raised from 380 fl. to 500 fl. beginning in April 1875. Also an assistant with an annual salary of 200 fl. was granted for the Jerusalem institution. The post office in Jaffa was granted an annual salary of 300 fl. and a general office lump sum of 24 fl. per year.

Up to 1875 all the surplus revenues accrued by the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem were handed over month per month to the k.u.k. consulate in Jerusalem to cover its running expenses and were in return refunded to the postal authority by the k.k. Ministry of Exterior. As the Austrian consulate was not in the position to use all the money received and as the Austrian Consul General Count Caboga was not willing to take responsibility for the steadily increasing post revenues, it was decided to transfer the remaining surplus periodically to the nearest Lloyd agency in Jaffa against receipt. The Austrian-Hungarian steamship company was obliged to deliver all revenue surplus of all the Austrian post offices situated along the Syrian coast periodically to the post directorate, Trieste.

The post riders often carried quite large amounts of money. They had to be escorted by a special guard on the 65 km road to Jaffa which had been constructed in 1869. As the escort cost 1 fl. and 50 Kreuzer each time, the transfer was carried out only when the sum of money was sufficiently high or at least every four

months. Records show that from July 1 to December 31, 1875 just two such money transfers to Jaffa took place, the first time with 899 fl. and the second time with 536 fl.. From November 1, 1875 onwards the guarding of these transports were carried out by a night guard employed since then by the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem. This night guard received a monthly salary of 35 fl. and was responsible for the security of the post office and he also performed petty jobs during the day. It was his task also to pick up Austrian mail parcels which arrived every 14 days by Russian steam ships in Jaffa and bring them to Jerusalem.

In 1882, the number of ingoing mail in the Jerusalem post office accounted on an average of 2.500 pieces per ten days, the outgoing mail exceeding 4.000 pieces on the average.

In May, 1888 the German traveler and author Paul von Lietzow visited the Holy City and also the Austrian post office. Ten years later he described the k.k. Austrian Post Office in a description of the Holy Land:

"The Austrian post office is hard to find. It is located in a plain and ugly stone building and has only one window facing the street. If someone has to do some business at the Post Office, he is forced to stand on the incredibly small sidewalk of the narrow street, be it in the full glare of the sun or in heavy rain, and negotiate with the official who, like everywhere in the Orient, does not wear any uniform, but civil clothing. Next to the window, there is a case which holds all poste restante letters waiting to be picked up by the clients. So everybody knows if there is new mail for him. On the right hand of this case there is an incredibly old-fashioned tiny yellow painted letter box for outgoing mail, which looks like it was designed in 1801. If the Post Office is closed however – which also occurs on working days in the middle of the week – the letter box is removed, which is a grotesque situation. What is the use of a letter box, which is not there when the Post Office is closed? Furthermore the k.k. Austrian Post in Jerusalem delivers only letters and parcels, but undertakes no money transfers. Since Jerusalem is visited every year by more than 30,000 pilgrims, and at least a quarter of them are going to post or receive letters, one reaches the conclusion that the entire postal system in the Holy Land definitely needs profound restructuring. Jerusalem, the Holy, Old and famous city, with a considerable high population and a huge influx of visitors from all four continents has a postal system inferior to many German villages and small towns."*

* HLPB Ed. note: In 1903 the P.O. moved to a central location (opposite The Citadel) where it had a spacious and functional office (s. Front Cover of this Bulletin).

3. Cooperation and Competition. The Relations of the k.k. Austrian Post Offices to the other Post Institutions in the Holy Land.

What were the other postal institutions in Palestine in this time? In Jaffa there was a French Post Office established in 1852 by a shipping agency, the "Messageries Maritimes". After the end of the Crimean War the "Russian Company for Steamship Voyages and Trade" (R.O.P.I.T.) also founded a Post Office in Jaffa. Both postal agencies, the French as well as the Russian, also had post riders in the services for the communication with their Consulates in Jerusalem. Since the 1840s, there also existed in both towns, Jaffa and Jerusalem, and in other main cities of Palestine, the Postal Services of the Ottoman Empire. All these postal installations, however, did not mean serious competition for the k.k. Austrian Post Offices. Perhaps the French Mail Service could match up the Austrian to a certain extent. The least effective Post service was the Turkish, even after 1900, when the roads in Palestine were considerably improved and a permanent railway connection between Jaffa and Jerusalem established. In 1902, Leonhard Bauer described the Ottoman Post system in his book about "Life in the Land of the Holy Bible" ("Völkseleben im Lande der Bibel") as follows: "The letters were displayed in the middle of the street in a simple handkerchief and anyone could search the bundle to see if there was anything of concern to him".

Till the turn of the century, the Austrian Post Offices were the most frequented by clients, for the following reasons: Most of the pilgrims came from Germany and Austria, had relations in these countries or at least spoke German as did the increasing number of Jewish colonists settling around Jaffa and Jerusalem. The post volume also heavily increased since the German Post Authority transferred its mail to the Holy Land to the Austrian Post for forwarding. Also later, after the establishment of the German Post Offices in Jaffa (1898) and Jerusalem (1900), most of the customers, among them many German citizens and businesses, continued to make use of the Austrian Postal services – out of appreciation and habit.

After the turn of the century, the German postal institutions became the most serious competitors. The German Empire established its first Post Office in the Ottoman Empire in 1871 in Constantinople. In 1898, a second German post office was established in Jaffa on the occasion of the visit of the German Emperor Wilhelm II to the Holy Land.

On April 1, 1890, the Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem introduced international money order services. The connections of the k.k. Post Office with Europe were improved considerably: Every week by the Austrian Lloyd via Egypt to Europe and via Beirut, Smyrna (Izmir) to Constantinople; with a steamer of the Egyptian Khedivise mail ship Cie once a week via Egypt to Europe; with the French Messagerie-steamers and with Russian ships every second week via Egypt to Europe and every second week via Beirut and Smyrna to Constantinople. In the peak season of tourism additional ships were used.

Particularly the money order services turned out to be highly successful. In 1897 more than 16,000 postal orders were processed at the k.k. Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem, many of them arriving from Germany.

In the same year the office equipment and furniture improved considerably. A comfortable waiting room was made accessible for the public.

In 1900 also Germany, France and Russia opened their own post offices in Jerusalem.

In 1892, Jaffa and Jerusalem got connected by a single track railway-line of 87 kilometers. The Ottoman Government, however, denied foreign post offices the transport of foreign mail bags by train. Thus the foreign post offices were forced to continue out the transport of mail from Jerusalem to Jaffa by rented horse cabs. Whereas the German, French and Russian post offices sufficed with one joint daily cab, the Austrian post office had to rent its own daily carriage due to the large amount of processed mail. This rental cost more than 22,000 fl. per year. From 1896 onwards the steadily rising mail volume necessitated k.k. Vice Consul Pascal to concentrate on the management of the k.k. Post Office in Jaffa. The management of the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem was handed over to the Armenian Artin Torossian.

It can be found in the records of the Austrian Post Archive in Vienna that the not very friendly attitude of Vice Consul Pascal in the Jaffa post office drove more and more German customers to the imperial German post office in Jaffa (letter of the new post master of the post office in Jaffa, Gotthilf Kirchner to Austrian post inspector Alexander Eberan von Eberhorst from January 29, 1903).

Year	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902
Frcs	12,843	12,793	9,127	10,966	8,733	10,626

The loss of the first year accounted already for a quarter of the total income and rose three years later to a third of the total income.

Certain shortcomings contributed to the fall back of the Austrian position in competition with the other foreign post offices, particularly the German post had established more customer friendly services like mail delivery services and tax exemption for its customers. The Austrian post office had limited service hours and was much more expensive than the German rival. This situation improved considerably when Gotthilf Kirchner replaced Vice Consul Pascal as the new post master in Jaffa in July 1902. The new post master recognized, as he wrote in a letter to post inspector von Eberan:

"All the post offices in the Orient must be considered as mere commercial enterprises and therefore their income will be according to the conditions and advantages they are capable of offering to their clients".

The dynamic new post master introduced all the new postal services the Germans had begun to offer. He could not, however, prevent the constant lagging

behind due to the rigid and inflexible red tape of the Austrian post bureaucracy.

The k.k. Post Office in Jaffa also functioned as a customs and tax exemption office for the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem. Besides the post master, two assistant officials, Giacomo Kevorkian and Raguel el Abdelnour, and a night guard and mail delivery man, Balian Moise, were employed.

Immediately after beginning in his new position, Gutthilf Kirchner installed four letter boxes in Jaffa and one in the new Jewish colony of Rishon Le-Zion. The strong competition of the foreign post offices was evidenced when two days later German and French letter boxes were set up in Rishon Le-Zion.

Besides commercial rivalry, the foreign post masters generally tended to co-operate by transporting each other's mail bags on their daily Jerusalem-Jaffa carriages.

On June 1, 1908, the Italian post office was opened in Jaffa. The establishment of this office was a clear act of national prestige and never achieved any considerable importance. In 1909 the German post office reported an income of 60,000 French Francs, the Russian of 100,000 French Francs and the Austrian of 250,000 French Francs. The Turkish post office accrued 20,000 French Francs, the Italian office lagging behind with only 15,000 French Francs.

4. An Austrian-Jewish Post Agreement

In 1903 the post master of the k.k. Post Office in Jaffa, Gotthilf Kirchner, took another measure to strengthen Austria's position in competition with the other foreign post offices. Presumably on his own initiative he concluded a special agreement with the administrations of a group of Jewish agricultural settlements which foresaw the transport of mail among the Jewish settlements by the Austrian post free of any charge, whereas the settlers agreed to send their mail abroad exclusively through the Austrian post. The representatives of the Jewish settlements also obtained Austrian stamps for the internal sale inside the settlements. In 1905 Gotthilf Kirchner was appointed post master of the k.k. Post Office in Jerusalem. His successor Steffan kept this agreement with the Jewish pioneers which contributed extraordinarily to the raise of the foreign mail volume transported by the Austrian Post.

5. Severe Working Conditions

The climate in Jaffa and its special implications were stated in a report of an Austrian post inspector of May 13, 1914:

The climate of Jaffa is very humid and thus unhealthy. The almost unbearably hot summer days are followed by humid evenings and the humidity covers all items like heavy dew. The situation is even worse in winter during the rain period, when the wetness penetrates everything and changes streets and lanes of the city into a sea of mud. These climatic conditions naturally affect the buildings most of which are situated close to the coast. The Austrian post

office is accommodated in such a building. The walls of the office are extremely wet. The extremely porous sandstone absorbs the ground water which then runs down the walls.

This generates strong secretions of saltpeter on the plaster that form ugly gray, frayed out spots and that corrode everything attached to the walls. On Sirocco days the saltpeter secretions fall down from the ceiling and cover everything in the room. Annual inspections of the post office in Jaffa showed that the strong humidity corroded every item of metal within the shortest period of time, from the sign post to the smallest weight of a letter scale. Even the gold scales were effected.

The application of the post office for the refurbishment of the post master's office should be approved since the post office is visited by many pilgrims and foreign tourists, also in matters of tourist information. The renovation of the office rooms is therefore also a matter of prestige and reputation. The present office of the post master in Jaffa is a tiny room to the left of the entrance door. It is separated by a two meter painted plywood wall from the other rooms.

6. World War I and the End of the Austrian Post in Palestine

In the wake of the cancellation of the Foreign Capitulations by the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of World War I, all foreign post offices in the Ottoman empire had to cease their operations by October 1, 1914. This measure also applied to the Austrian post offices in Palestine. The enlargement of the k.k. Post Office in Jaffa with the addition of an official sent from Vienna, as planned by order of April 29, 1914, could not take place. Only the Ottoman post continued to connect Palestine with the outer world.

The buildings in which the Austrian Post Offices in Jaffa and Jerusalem were located still exist. In Jaffa, the house is a dilapidated ruin near the eastern entrance to the Jaffa Port, situated on Retzif Ha'aliya Hashniya between the Maritime Mosque and the Monastery of Saint Nicholas.

In Jerusalem, the building next to Jaffa Gate inside the Old City has been beautifully renovated and serves as the Christian Information Center. In 1918, the owners of the building, the Palestinian-Armenian family Gaspar-Mordian, relatives of the former Austrian Vice Consul Pascal, rented the streetside offices to the Italian Banco di Roma and they remained there until 1940. In 1948, the owner of the building, Dr. Vahan Gaspar-Mordian, who had lived with his family in the rear of the spacious building, left for Beirut. In 1964 the Custodia di Terra Santa (Franciscan Order) bought the building. It was completely renovated and refurbished in 1971. In 1973 the Christian Information Center was opened.

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The 1948 Emergency Mail of Tiberias, Afula and Nahalal

I. Harpovsky, Herzlia

One of the most controversial subjects of the 1948 Transition Period is the "Emergency Mail" of these three settlements. Towards the end of April and the beginning of May 1948, we find letters from Tiberias, Afula and Nahalal franked by Mandate stamps with an overprint indicating that this is an "Emergency Mail".

Early researchers of the postal history of the period, e.g. B. Forsher or E. Fluri, were very skeptical as to the validity of this Emergency Mail and even called it a bogus production or fabrication. Their doubts were based mainly on the fact that such Emergency Mail in the aforementioned places was unnecessary, and also on the philatelic origin of most of these letters. It may be mentioned here that all of the previous researches were written some 25 years ago, and were based on the relatively small amount of material available which justified their conclusions. Today, almost 50 years after the event, additional material has surfaced which enables us to study and understand better this episode of postal history. This is the purpose of this research.

Historic and Philatelic Background

In 1948 the town of Tiberias, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, had a population of 12,000 of whom 4000 were Arabs. The settlement of Afula in the center of the Valley of Jezrael had a population of about 3000 and Moshav Nahalal, also in the Valley of Jezrael, had about 1000 inhabitants. These three settlements were never under siege or blockade during 1948. Real emergency conditions existed only in Tiberias, which had a large Arab minority, supported by the Arab villages surrounding the town. There were conflicts in mid-April, and the town was "liberated" by the Palmach forces on April 18th.

According to the Mandate announcement No. 53 from the beginning of April, and as David Dorfman writes in his book on the Mandate Post Offices, the post offices of these three settlements operated until April 30th.

The "Minhelet Ha'am" Post replaced the Mandate Post before Israel's declaration of independence; it started to operate on May 2nd. On this date Tiberias, Afula and Nahalal were supplied with the temporary Minhelet Ha'am cancellers, as were all the other post offices in the country. However, Minhelet Ha'am stamps arrived in these post offices only on May 3rd. In the northern part of the country most post offices started selling stamps to the public only on May 4th. In the meantime Mandate stamps were used wherever they were available, being still valid. "Kofer Hayishuv" stamps were also accepted for postal use.

The Establishment of the Local "Emergency Mail"

We know today that the initiative to create the "Emergency Mail" emanated from a meeting of three local postmasters headed by Mr. Etz-Hadar, then postmaster of Tiberias. The exact date is not known but it was probably after the liberation of Tiberias on April 18th. They decided to create a local temporary mail service which would replace the Mandate Post until the opening of the Minhelet Ha'am postal service at the beginning of May.

The last known letter of the Mandate Post in Tiberias is dated April 23rd. It can be assumed that the "Emergency Mail" started to operate during the last week of April until the beginning of May.

What were the reasons which led to this action? There were several which together resulted in the implementation of the "Emergency Mail":

(A) Strong patriotic feelings enhanced by the end of the British rule pushed for this act as a demonstration of independence.

(B) The hostilities of the Arabs in the North during the struggle for independence started at the beginning of 1948, and practically an emergency situation existed in the Jewish sections.

(C) It is possible that the Mandate cancellers were removed from these post offices before April 30th (as was the case in Safed and Jerusalem), and a stock of Mandate stamps was left there without any possibility of using them.

(D) Commercial motives (especially on the part of the Tiberias postmaster).

As will be shown this postal service operated for a short period of 10 days or less which accounts for the scarcity of the material. Nonetheless we have today several commercial letters which were mailed and delivered.

The main problem is the difficulty in dating the letters which were mailed, since no postmarks were used in general and no date was applied. In fact the main reason for the "Emergency Mail" was the creation of "new" stamps by applying the overprint "Emergency Mail" on the existing Mandate stamps. Until the appearance of "Minhelet Ha'am" postmarks there is no commercial letter with a cancellation. It is possible that this is the result of the illegality of producing a private cancellation while the British rule was still in force until May 15th.

We will now study in detail the "Emergency Mail"; each of the three was different in some aspects from the others.

The "Emergency Mail" of Tiberias

This was the largest and the most problematic of the three post offices. The overprint consisted of three lines in Hebrew: "דאר לשעת/חרום/טבריה" ("Emergency Mail Tiberias"). In addition, in the upper right and left corners there appeared the denomination "10" which overrode the original nominal value of the stamp so that all Tiberias "Emergency Mail" stamps were of this value. The overprint is known both in violet and black. The method used was to overprint all the sheet with a

rubber handstamp. The resulting overprinted stamps were then sold to the public.* There is a single example of a complete Mandate sheet of stamps with the overprint of the "Emergency Mail" (Fig. 1).

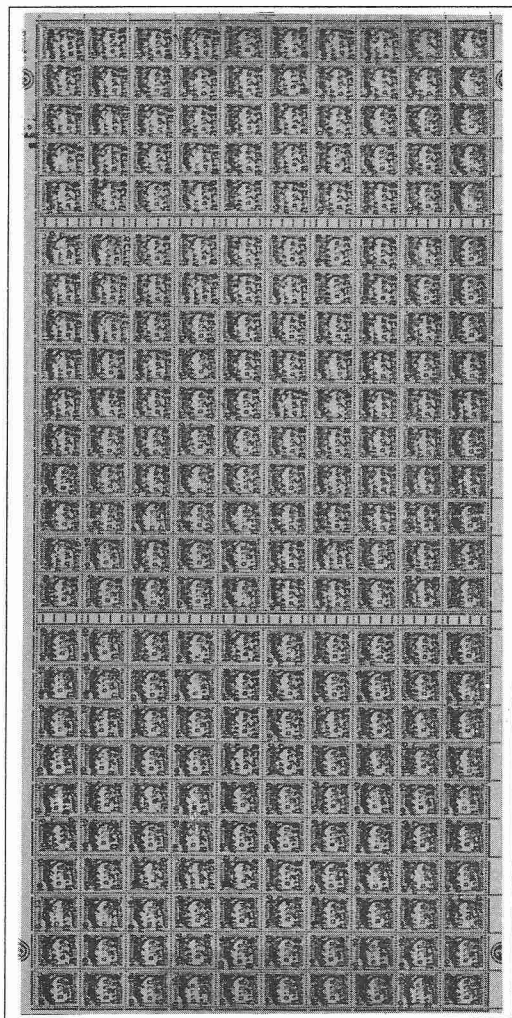


Fig. 1: A full sheet of Mandate 3 mil stamps with the Tiberias "Emergency Mail" overprint.

* Editorial comment: This is not always true, since there exist letters with stamps on which the overprint ties the stamp to the cover. This indicates that the overprint was applied after the stamp was attached to the cover.

The stamps used were mainly from the Mandate Pictorial series of values 2 to 50 mils, and also some Revenue and Postage Due stamps, all of which now received the nominal value of 10 mils.

The "Emergency Mail" letters of Tiberias are characterized by three features which are different from those of Afula and Nahalal:

(A) No pre-Minhelet Ha'am letters are known from Tiberias. The earliest known letters date from May 2nd; May 6th is the latest date known today. All are cancelled by the Minhelet Ha'am postmark, which was introduced on May 2nd (Fig. 2).

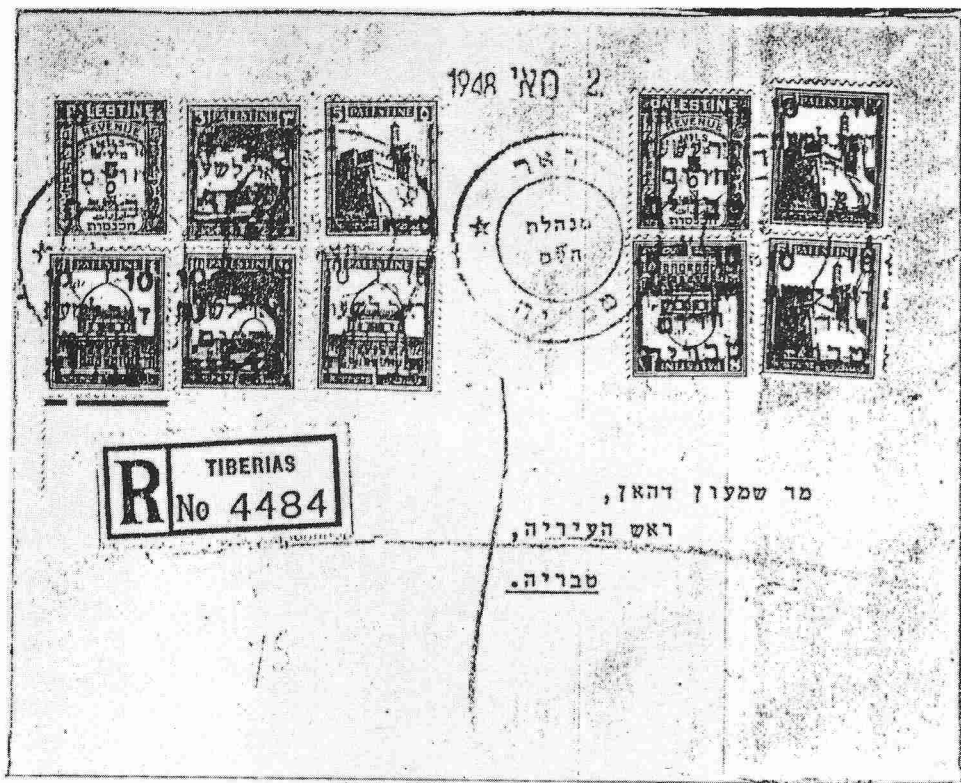


Fig. 2: A philatelic registered cover franked by the Tiberias "Emergency Mail" stamps, dated May 2nd, 1948.

(B) The franking of the Tiberias letters is without any relation or proportion to the required postage rate of the service. Many have a large and inexplicable number of stamps (See Fig. 2). There are many registered letters with Mandate registration labels. These apparently come from two distinctive coils, one with low numbers (less than 100) and one with high numbers (above 4000).

(C) The addresses of the Tiberias "Emergency Mail" letters are mostly of philatelic origin – from the Postmaster himself, the Mayor and their friends.

Despite the mainly philatelic origin of most of the letters, there do exist a few rare commercial letters with the correct franking of 10 mils which were actually delivered by the mail. The rarity of these letters is a result of the fact that they could have been mailed only on either May 2nd or 3rd, before the Minhelet Ha'am stamps were introduced there (e.g., Back Cover illustration). This commercial letter was sent by a doctor from Poriah hospital (near Tiberias) to Dr. Yehuda Matot at the Hebrew University Hospital on Mount Scopus, which was under siege at that time. The "Emergency Mail" stamp was cancelled by Tiberias Minhelet Ha'am postmark without date. However, the fresh shape of the postmark indicates that the letter was mailed on the first or second day of Minhelet Ha'am Post in Tiberias (May 2nd or 3rd). Since Jerusalem was under siege it is not known when the letter was delivered in Jerusalem. It may have arrived with the First Convoy on June 18th.

Figure 3 shows another interesting commercial letter from a much later period.

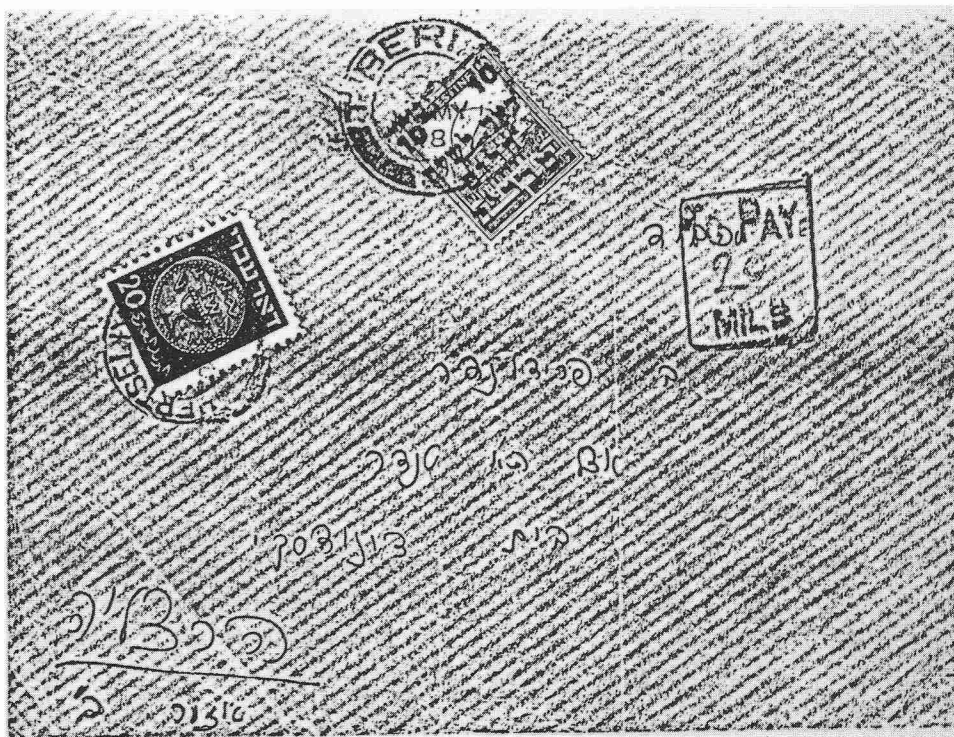


Fig. 3: A letter mailed in Tiberias on May 20th using an Emergency Mail stamp. Accepted in Tiberias but unaccepted in Herzlia where it was taxed by a 20 pr Doar Ivri stamp. (Courtesy E. Jungwirth)

Mailed on May 20th to Herzlia it is franked by a Tiberias "Emergency Mail" 10 mil stamp which was accepted and cancelled by the Mandate D.C. Tiberias cancellation (reintroduced on May 16th). However, the Herzlia post office treated it as an ordinary invalid Mandate stamp and taxed it at 20 pr using a regular Doar Ivri stamp (double the 10 pr rate) for the postage due.

The "Emergency Mail" of Afula

In Afula Mandate stamps of the Pictorial series, revenue and Postage Due stamps were used, overprinted in black only. However, unlike in Tiberias, here the overprint did not include the value "10". Every stamp thus retained its original nominal value. The overprint consisted of three lines in Hebrew, reading: דאר
חרום
עפולה ("Emergency/Mail/Afula"). A proof of the overprint is shown in Figure 4.



*Fig. 4: A proof of the Afula
"Emergency Mail" overprint.*

Compared with Tiberias, the number of letters from Afula is much smaller, but more commercial letters are known. The Afula letters can be divided into two distinctive groups. The first consists of letters probably from the end of April. Among them is the largest number of commercial letters from all the three post offices. The second group is from the early Minhelet Ha'am period, at the beginning of May. These letters are properly franked and some were even "registered". All of them were cancelled by the Afula Minhelet Ha'am postmark (e.g., Fig. 5), and most of them were addressed to philatelists or to stamp dealers from Haifa.

Of greater importance is the first group, which does not include any registered mail but consists of regular and printed matter letters. To date nine commercial letters, of which two are printed matter, are known to the author. All of these letters are characterized by being properly franked but without a postmark tying

the stamp to the cover (e.g., Fig. 6). In Afula as in Tiberias, the overprint was applied before the sale of the stamps at the counter.*

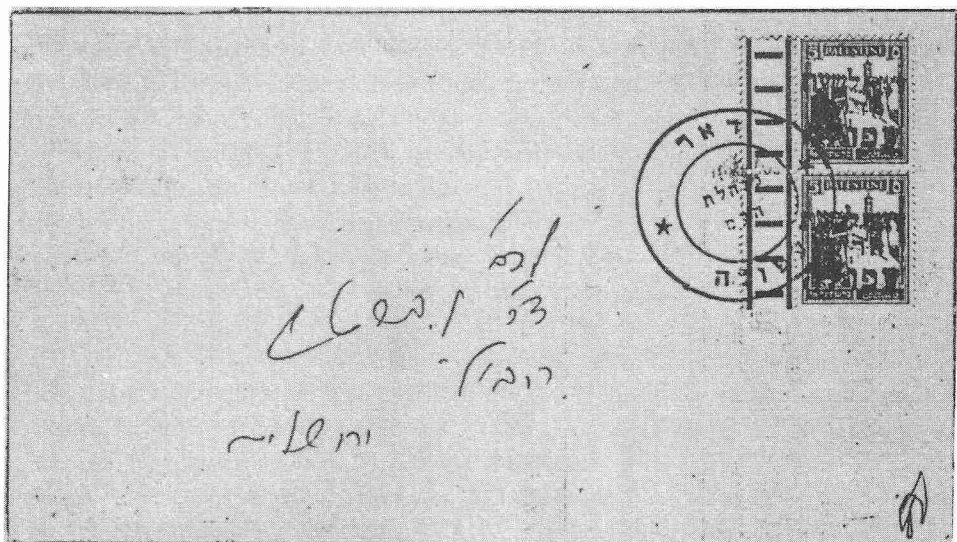


Fig. 5: A letter franked with the correct rate of 10 mils by Afula "Emergency Mail" stamps cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am postmark of the town.

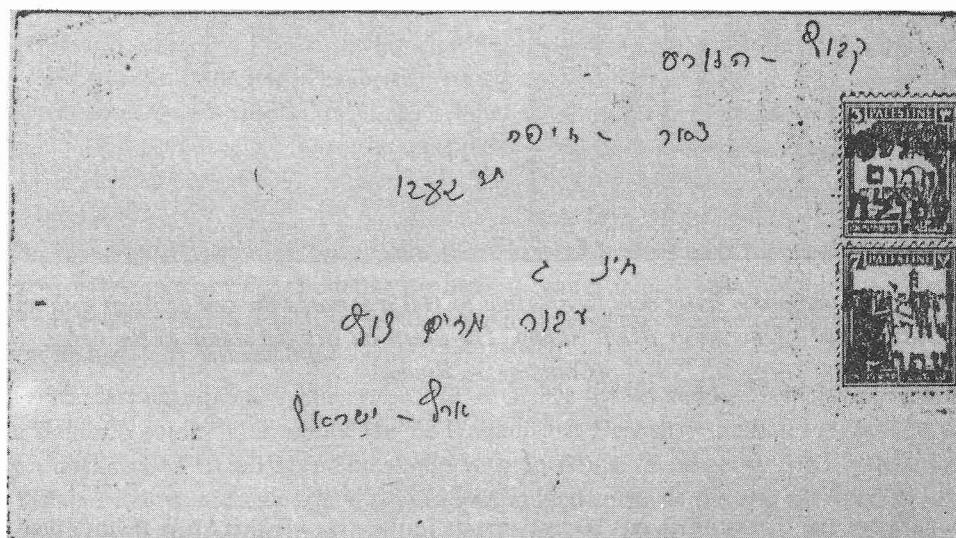


Fig. 6: A commercial letter of the Afula "Emergency Mail" sent towards the end of April, hence the stamps are not cancelled.

* Editorial note: See earlier note in the Tiberias section and Fig. 7 showing such an example.

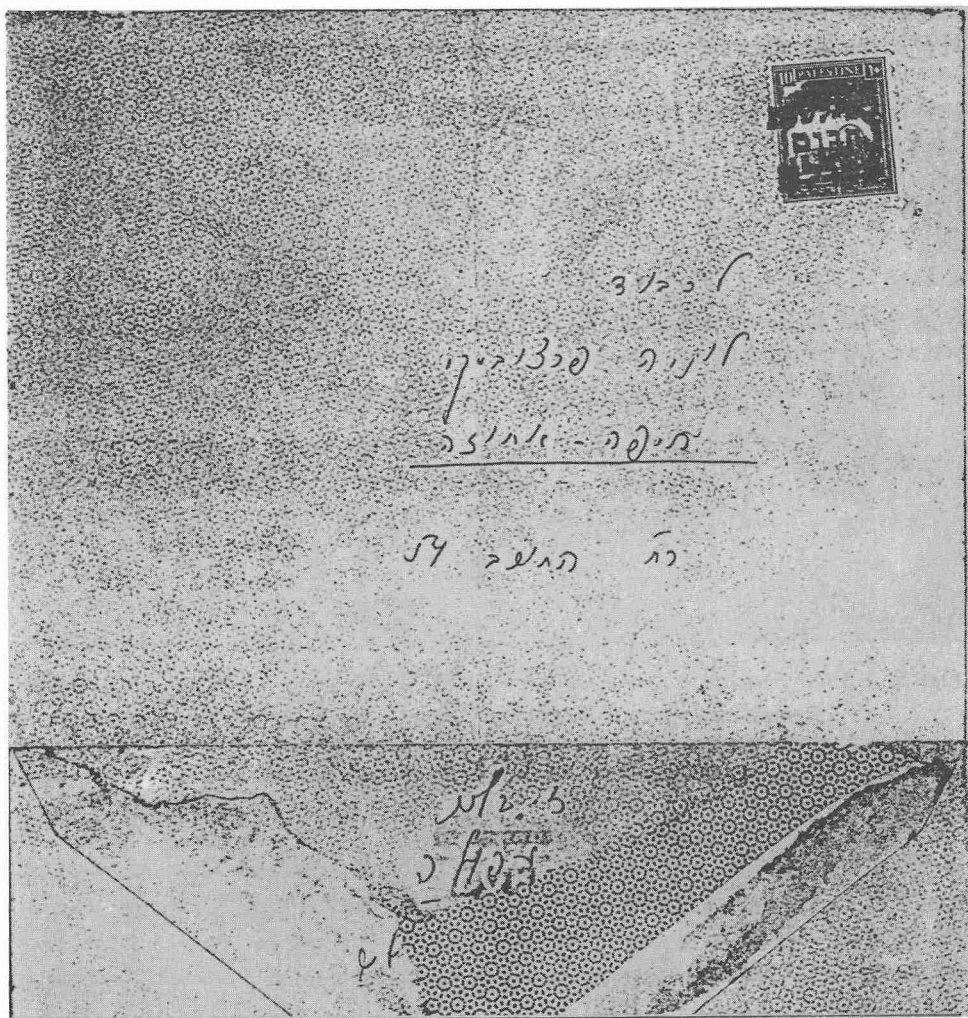


Fig. 7: A commercial letter sent from Afula to Haifa towards the end of April with an uncanceled "Emergency Mail" stamp. The overprint ties the stamp to the cover.
(Courtesy Y. Rimón)

Most of the letters were sent by settlements in the area via the Afula Post Office: e.g., by Geva, Ein Harod, Afqim, Tel Adashim or from Afula itself. Some of the letters of special interest are discussed below. Figure 8 shows a printed message from the Afula branch of "Halva'a Vehisachon" bank to Balfouria. It is sealed by an uncanceled 3 mil Mandate stamp overprinted by the Afula "Emergency Mail".

This is the correct rate for a printed matter item proving that the overprint did not alter the original nominal value. Furthermore, the message demanded the payment of a note dated May 1st, which shows that it was mailed towards the end of April.



Fig. 8: A printed matter sent from Afula to Balfouria towards the end of April with an uncanceled Afula "Emergency Mail" 3 mil stamp.

Figure 9 shows another interesting letter which was sent from Kibbutz Geva via Afula to the Teachers Seminary in Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem. It is franked by an uncanceled 10 mil Mandate stamp (the domestic letter rate) with an Afula "Emergency Mail" overprint. Since Jerusalem was under siege from April 20th this letter may have reached Jerusalem with the first or second convoy (June 18th or 21st). By that time the addressee could not be found. After a search in Jerusalem the letter was returned to the sender in Geva on September 24th with a Jerusalem trilingual cancellation of that date. Of interest is the fact that the Jerusalem main post office did not tax the letter probably because it had been accepted in Afula. The result is that we have in fact an Afula Emergency Mail letter with an arrival (or redispach) cancellation!

The last example is a letter shown in an article by M. Sondak¹ which was sent to a Palmach soldier in Kibbutz Ma'ale Hahamisha. Here also the letter is franked by an uncanceled 10 mil Mandate stamp with an Afula "Emergency Mail" overprint. Because it was addressed to a soldier and mailed towards the end of April, it was flown from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and was cancelled there by the "Rosette" cancellation. It was delivered to the Kibbutz which had a regular connection with Jerusalem. Sondak claims that the letter was mailed between May 2-4, however, on those dates it would have been cancelled by the Minhelet Ha'am cancellation of Afula. It is more likely that it was mailed earlier.

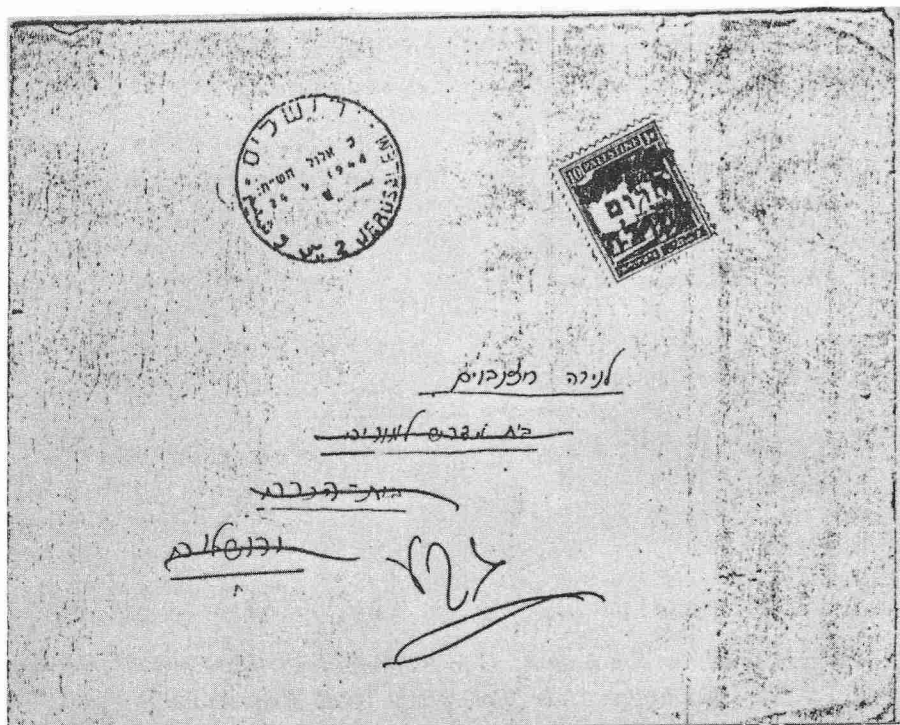


Fig. 9: A commercial Afula “Emergency Mail” letter mailed to besieged Jerusalem towards the end of April, which arrived in Jerusalem after the siege and returned to the sender with a redirection cancellation “Jerusalem 2” on August 24.

The "Emergency Mail" of Nahalal

Nahalal is a Moshav (Cooperative settlement) in the Valley of Jezrael and had a branch post office since 1928. In 1948 it had a population of about 1000 which accounts for the fact that only a few letters are known from its "Emergency Mail". In many respects this is the most interesting of the three. Unlike Tiberias and Afula, in Nahalal only the Mandate Pictorial stamps were used. The overprint is similar to that of Afula and also has three lines in Hebrew "דואר לשעת/חרום/נהלל" ("Emergency Mail Nahalal") without any value. It appeared only in violet. A proof can be seen in Figure 10.



Fig. 10: A proof of Nahalal "Emergency Mail" overprint.

As in Afula, the overprint did not change the nominal value of the Mandate stamps and all the letters were correctly franked. No commercial registered or printed matter letters are known from the Emergency Mail of Nahalal. This mail can also be divided into two distinct periods, the first from the end of April until May 2nd, and the second, Minhelet Ha'am period, from when most of the letters are of philatelic origin.

Only three commercial letters are known to the author and they are amongst the rarest postal items of the 1948 Transition Period. Two are from the first period; the third is the only known commercial "Emergency Mail" letter from the second period. Unlike in Tiberias and Afula, the overprint was not applied to the stamps before sale in the first period, but was used as a cancelling device which tied the stamps to the cover.

Figure 11 shows a commercial letter sent from Nahalal to the bookstore "Pales" in Tel Aviv, franked by 3 and 7 mil Mandate stamps with an overprint of Nahalal Emergency Mail. It can be clearly seen how the overprint was deliberately struck so that it tied the stamps to the cover and cancelled them at the same time.

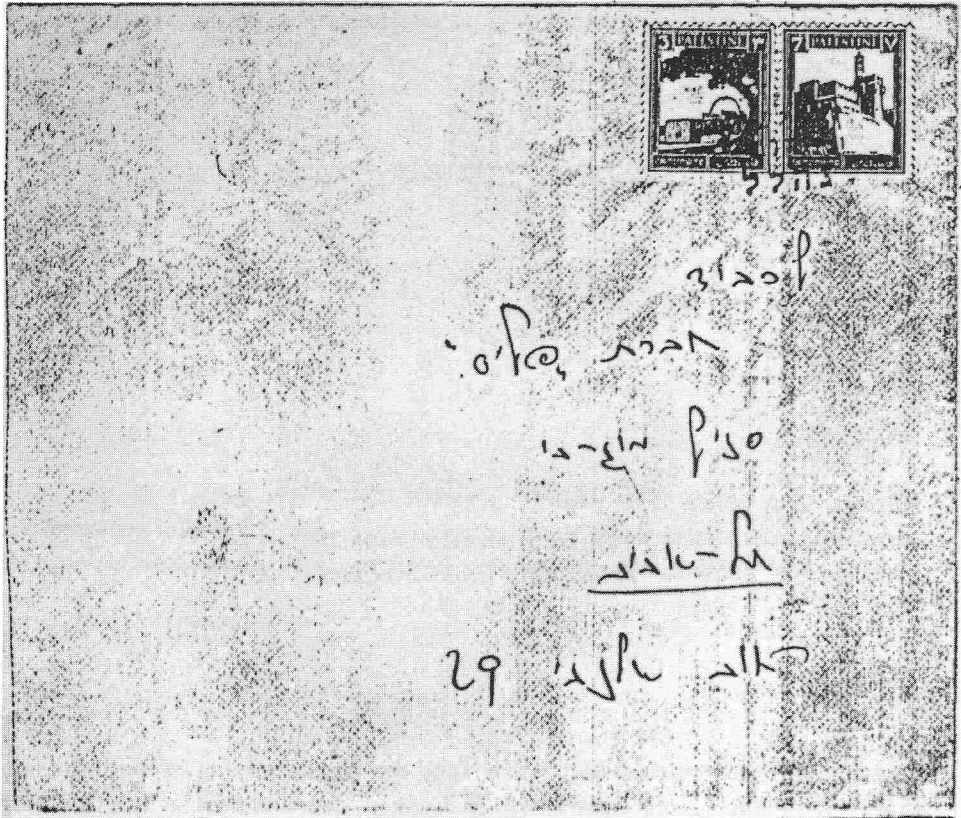


Fig. 11: A commercial Nahalal "Emergency Mail" letter mailed towards the end of April to Tel Aviv, the overprint tying the stamps to the cover.

Figure 12 shows a letter sent from Kibbutz Gvat via Nahalal to Kibbutz Ami'ad near Tiberias. In this case, as well, the Nahalal "Emergency Mail" overprint cancelled the two 5 mil Mandate stamps and tied them to the cover.

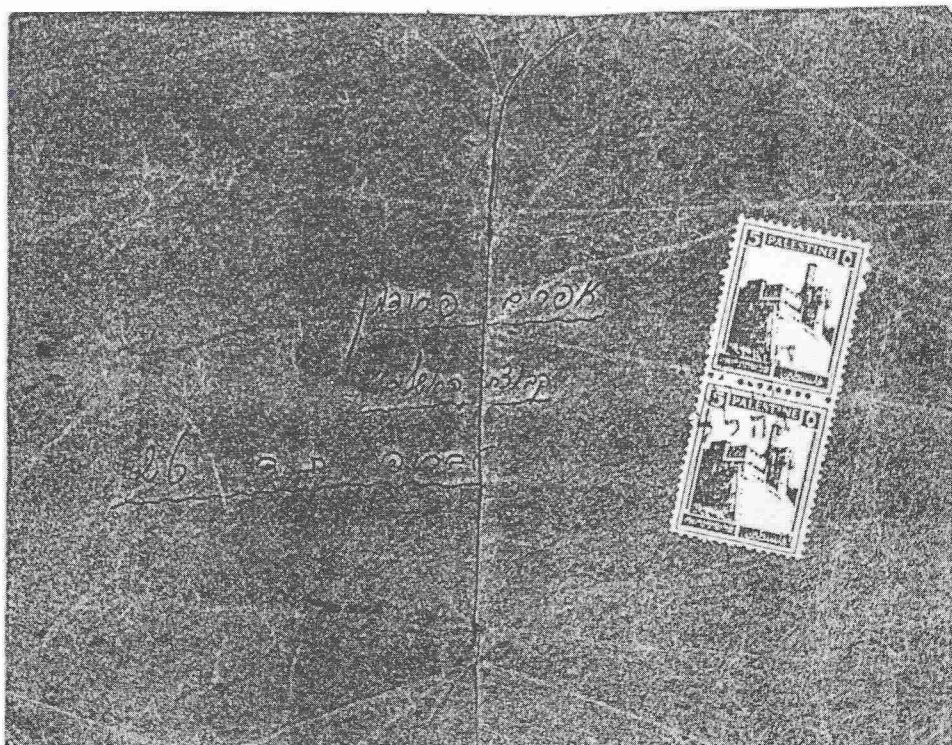


Fig. 12: A commercial Nahalal "Emergency Mail" letter sent from Kibbutz Gvat to Kibbutz Ami'ad toward the end of April, the overprint tying the stamps to the cover.

Figure 13 shows a commercial letter sent from Kibbutz "Kfar Hachores" near Nazareth via Nahalal to Moshav "Kfar Yehoshua" in the Jezrael Valley. Again the cachet overprinted the stamp as well as cancelled it and tied it to the cover. However, the stamp was also cancelled by the Minhelet Ha'am postmark which means that the letter was mailed on or after May 2nd. So far this is the only known **commercial** Nahalal Emergency Mail letter from the Minhelet Ha'am period.

In the second period almost all of the letters were of philatelic origin and the overprint did not serve as a cancelling device on them. The overprint in most cases was in the middle of the stamp and the cancelling device was the Minhelet Ha'am canceller of Nahalal, introduced on May 2nd. Two registered letters are known from this period (Fig. 14), one of them is also an express letter (Fig. 15). Both are of philatelic origin but properly franked and with Nahalal Mandate registration labels. The overprint on the 13 mil stamp (in Fig. 14) tied the stamp to the cover indicating that also on these letters the overprint was struck after the stamps were applied to the cover.

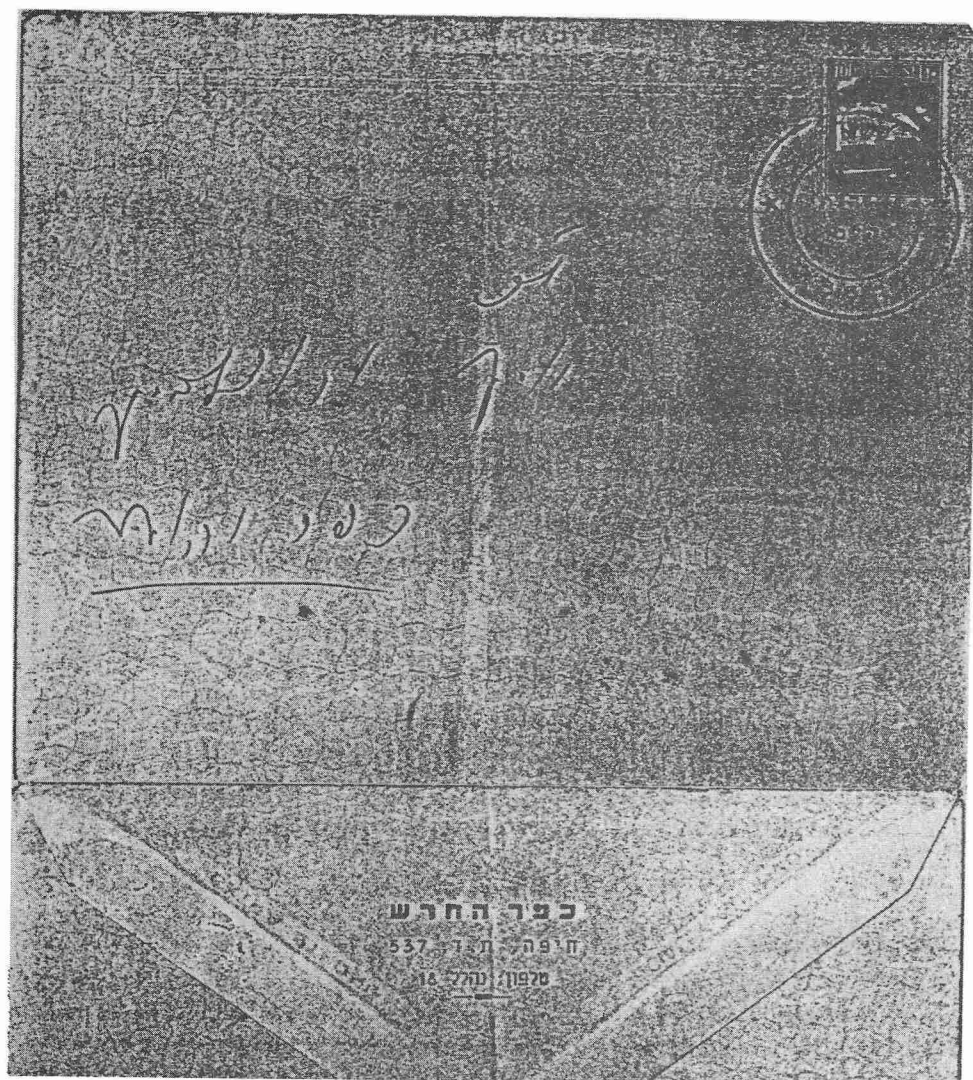


Fig. 13: A commercial Nahalal "Emergency Mail" letter from Kibbutz Kfar Hachorash to Moshav Kfar Yehoshua. The overprint ties the stamp to the cover and the stamp is cancelled by a Minhelet Ha'am postmark on or after May 2nd.

(Courtesy Y. Rimon)

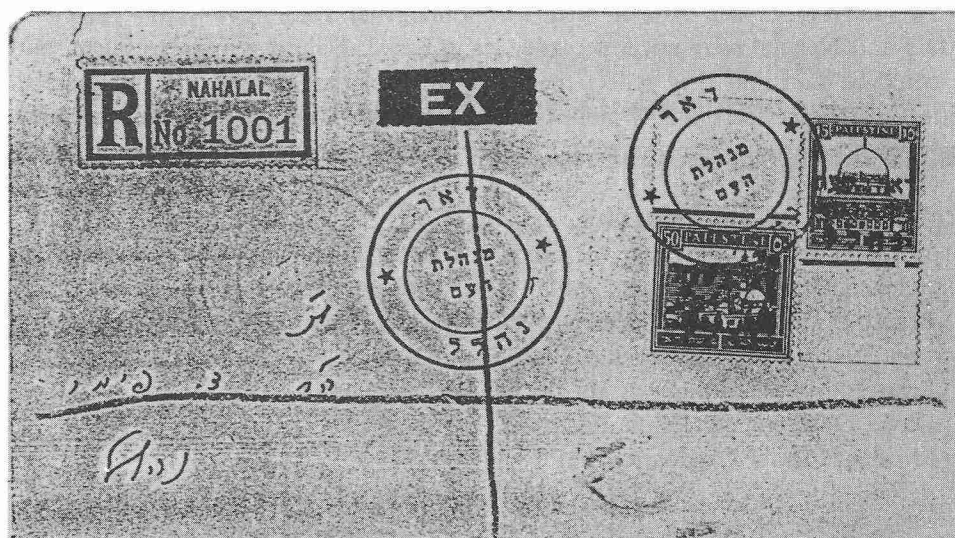


Fig. 14: Registered (Mandate label) cover of the Nahalal "Emergency Mail", of philatelic origin but with the correct franking. Mailed and cancelled during the Minhelet Ha'am period. (Courtesy Y. Rimón)

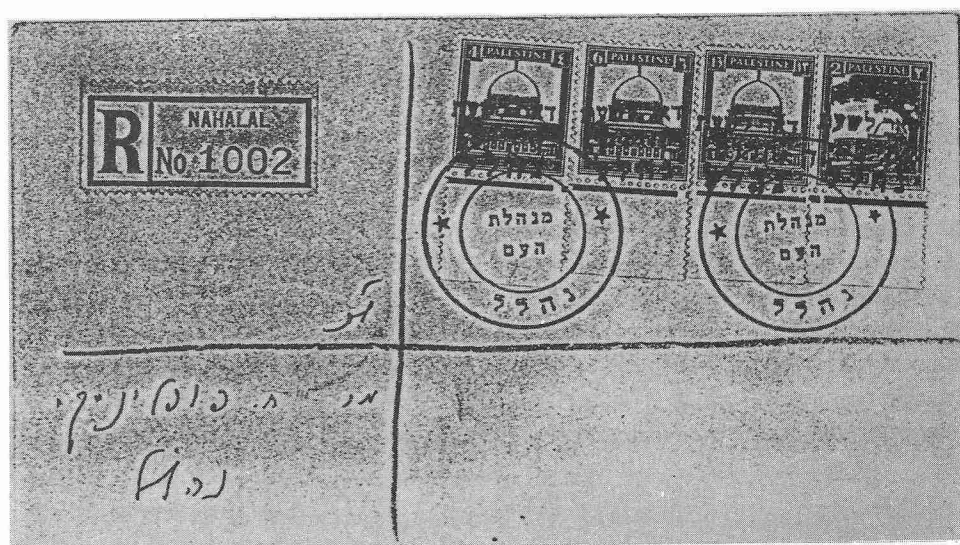


Fig. 15: Registered Express cover of the Nahalal "Emergency Mail", of philatelic origin but with the correct franking. Mailed and cancelled during the Minhelet Ha'am period. (Courtesy Y. Rimón)

In summary, it can be said that the "Emergency Mail" services in Tiberias, Afula and Nahalal were not a necessity, as in Safad, Nahariya and Jerusalem, but it could be said that they reflect the atmosphere of that period. The commercial letters of this service, actually mailed and delivered through the post, are extremely rare and interesting from the postal history point of view.

References and Bibliography

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- 3) Ernst Fluri, "The Minhelet Ha'am Period". Pub. 1973.
- 4) David Dorfman, "Palestine Postmarks". Pub. 1985.
- 5) Mosden, "Israel Catalogue, 1961".

Telegram Record of my Father's Exile to a Siberian Labor Camp During Word War II and my Mother's Rescue Operation*

Ephraim Margolin, San Francisco

Two days after the Nazis invaded Poland, my late father (having fled Lodz) cabled my late mother, in Tel Aviv. The cable came from Lwow: "All your letters... received. Application Bucarest sent. Cable news about visa, be quiet (calm), kissing..." (Figure 16). My father abandoned his efforts to escape Poland through Roumania (the Roumanian border was closed a day before he arrived there) and fled to his parents in Pinsk. The Soviet army then occupied Pinsk. The desired visa from Bucarest to Palestine was never issued. My father and his parents were trapped.

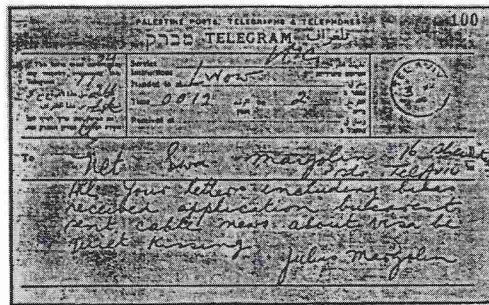


Figure 16

A month later, on October 3, 1939, a friend cabled my mother that father and Uncle Yasha "were healthy." More than 20 telegrams between my parents survived the war. My father's address in Pinsk changed from Sowietzkaya 20 (April 1940), to Karolinskaya 49 (April 1940), Termapolski (Tarnopolski?), Ostrowskovo 49 (May 29, 1940), to Bernardynska 20 (January 1940). We can never know what caused these changes of address. The laconic language of the telegrams reveals a frantic search for information, help, assurance. Anguish and terror alternate with hope.

* First published in "The Israel Philatelist", December 1995.

On May 23, 1940, my father cabled my mother "... What about visa? Will await patiently news. Please, be strong. Greetings." On March 19, 1940, a secretary of the British Consulate in Moscow wrote my mother that, since my father was not a Palestinian citizen, there is nothing they can do (Figure 17). On August 8, 1940, the Government of Palestine extended my father's visa until December 31, 1940,

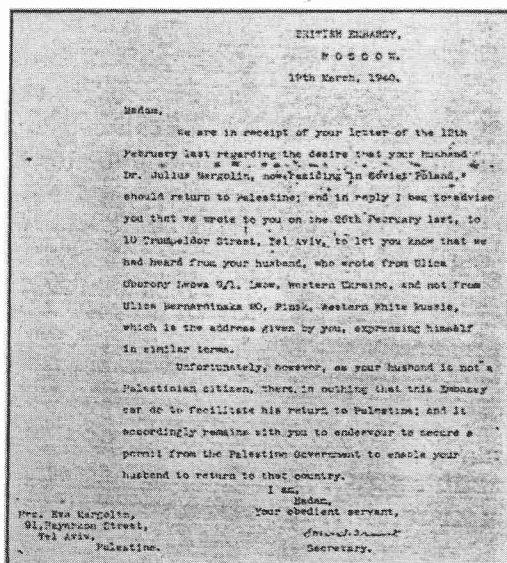


Figure 17

notifying British Passport Control Officers in Bucharest (Figure 18), which my father left fifteen months earlier. The British consul in Istanbul was also authorized to issue the visa, but unbeknownst to us, the British Consul in Moscow was not notified. Suddenly, the Soviet authorities arrested my father for "Zionist activity" (?) and deported him to Siberia. My mother, unaware of the arrest and the deportation to Karelofinia by a 900 kilometer forced march on foot, sent father a happy, optimistic telegram about his visa being extended by the British Government. Figure 19 is a copy of her handwritten draft. The original did not survive.

On August 13, 1940, my grandmother Olga Margolin cabled my mother from Pinsk: "Julie (Julius) sent away Russia, 26 July, as foreigner-refugee, address unknown, try everything." She followed it up on September 7, 1940, with "Julie alright, letter..." (Figure 20). But she could not tell where my father was.

Efforts to rescue my father continued. On October 28, 1940, Grandmother cabled mother "(British) Consul Moscow refused visa..." referring her to the British Consul in Palestine. We did not know that by then father had been

GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

DEPARTMENT OF MIGRATION
Tel-Aviv Immigration Office

Reference: 11/123/10 8 August, 1940.

The Assistant Commissioner for Migration, Tel-Aviv
presents his compliments to Mrs. Ewa KAROGLIN
and has the honour to
state that the British Passport Control Officer, XXXX
Bucharest,
has been authorized to grant Mr. JULIUS KAROGLIN
a visa for Palestine.

The visa will be made valid for admission to Palestine
not later than the 31st December, 1940.




Figure 18

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

Name	Address	Work	Class	Rate	Remarks
English	506	10	Palestine	506	
August	British	Consul	Jerusalem	506	
506	Karlin	506	Jerusalem	506	

* The above form is to be filled in by the sender of the message and is to be submitted to the Post Office for the purpose of the message.

Figure 19

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES

تلغراف TELEGRAM

تلغراف TELEGRAM

To	Service	Time	Rate	Remarks
To: <u>Mr. Karoglin, 10, Scheinman Street</u>	Service: <u>PA</u>	Time: <u>1950</u>	Rate: <u>5</u>	Remarks: <u>July 1940</u>
<u>Julius Karoglin</u>				
<u>Olga Karoglin</u>				




Figure 20

sentenced to five years of hard labor. We did not know where he was or whether he was still alive. We could not know that grandmother and grandfather would be dead within the year and the Jewish community of Pinsk would cease to exist. Five years of nightmares followed. We did not hear from Dad again until 1945.

My mother did not give up. For four years she advertised in Polish army and emigre publications in the Middle East, imploring anyone who knew of my father's whereabouts to contact her. Some 55 Polish officers and enlisted personnel responded. Some described over a cup of tea where my father was buried. Some were victims of mistaken identity. Some "knew" his address but the address was no longer in use. Whenever any address was mentioned, my mother would promptly send food parcels to my father at that address. At the time, there was no way to tell whether any of the parcels reached him. She would do it as a statement of hope. It was the only thing she could do.

Finally, a tip placed father, ill but alive, in a Slavgorod Sibirski camp hospital. Mother sent packages. In time, we found that some of these packages had, indeed, reached him. He sold their contents for food. My mother's blind hope made the difference and saved his life.

In July of 1945 (date unclear) father cabled mother "Wusia" (mother's nickname) "wire immediately answer. Send several parcels directly, not through Teheran. CLOTHES, SHOES, LINEN, Slavgorod Sibirsky, Post Restante ..." (Figure 21). On August 28, 1945, he cabled again "Your second telegram received. Thanks. Wire immediately how many parcels already sent my address..." On October 3, 1945, he acknowledged receipt of five parcels.

TELEGRAM		157
To	Lansman Maryam, Bogachov, Street 5, Gdansk	
From	Tulline Maryam	
Date	15/7/45	
Text: Please wire immediately answer send several parcels directly not through Teheran clothes shoes & linen Slavgorod Sibirski post restante Tulline Maryam		

Figure 21

On September 13, 1945, my father cabled mother "Congratulate Ephraim birthday. Received sixth parcel. First postcard received..." He did not know how long the cable would be on its way, for my birthday is on October 16th!

In November, 1944, he was freed from the camp and confirmed "as a free resident" to live in Sangorodok Kruglica, Ercevo, in the Archangelskaya Oblast.

He was not allowed to travel from there and it is not clear how his life “as a free man” differed from his life as a prisoner.

On November 20, 1945, he cabled my mother “Everything received except blankets altogether (?) parcels. If sent more w(h)ere? ... information. Continue sending parcels twice monthly. Love.”

Miracles happen. My father's Polish passport with a valid visa for Palestine, meant for use in September 3, 1939, remained expired and remained useless until the Soviet Union recognized an independent Communist Poland. This Polish passport now enabled my father to leave the Soviet Union for Poland. Father's friends, co-detainees in the same camp, were unable to leave and all ultimately died in the Soviet Union because their original passports were Latvian, Lithuanian or Estonian, and the Soviet government deemed these countries as “incorporated” in the Soviet Union and, for that reason legally incapable of issuing valid passports. So died Dr. Berger, who was my father's camp physician and who saved his life. When, following his repatriation to Israel, my father visited the Berger family in Haifa, he found to his dismay, that the Bergers were dedicated members of the Israel Communist party. Their reaction to greetings from Dr. Berger was that if Dr. Berger was in a Soviet camp, he must have been a criminal with whom they wanted no contact.

On May 17, 1946, my Uncle Yasha (in New York) cabled my aunt in Tel Aviv: “Because not sure when Juli (my father) will obtain (his visa) renewal certificate, have been promised to have visa for Santo Domingo within next seven days then can arrange French transit visa for him. I have not informed Juli of this but leaving this to you possibly important keep him informed. Mother and Wusia (my mother) will soon receive 100 pounds. Spector.” (Figure 22).

TELEGRAM 340

NEW YORK 17 MAY 46

TEL AVIV

TO: 115 NEW YORK 091 64 8 MCI

FROM: SPECTOR 30 PRINCE ST TEL AVIV

BECAUSE NOT SURE WHEN JULI WILL OBTAIN RENEWAL CERTIFICATE
 HAVE BEEN PROMISED TO HAVE VISA FOR SANTO DOMINGO WITHIN
 NEXT SEVEN DAYS THEN CAN ARRANGE FRENCH TRANSIT VISA FOR
 HIM. I HAVE NOT INFORMED JULI OF THIS BUT LEAVING THIS
 TO YOU POSSIBLY IMPORTANT KEEP HIM INFORMED. MOTHER
 AND WUSIA WILL SHORTLY RECEIVE 100 POUNDS.

SPECTOR

Fig. 22

On March 26, 1946, father cabled mother from Slavgorod “Leaving for Poland 24 March. Await next telegram from home. Be patient journey about this week (?) kissing.”

It took a long time before father could leave Poland. On August 21, 1946, he cabled my mother from Warsaw "September 19, I shall arrive by air at Marseilles Hotel in Paris." He repeated this on August 21, in Polish. He arrived there on September 4, 1946, and cabled: "Expecting steamer date of departure." It was almost exactly seven years since the war delayed his departure for Palestine by two days! The German invasion of Poland, on September 1, 1939, derailed his departure to join his family in Tel Aviv.

For the rest of my life, I will believe in miracles. Miracles happen! In 1936, my father shipped my mother and me to Palestine, convinced that there is no life in Europe for us. He could not join us himself for if you were Jewish in 1936, you could not go to Palestine because of anti-Jewish quotas. Only "capitalists" were welcome. Unable to document the one thousand pounds Sterling "capitalist" resources, he borrowed the money and stayed in Poland, to work it off. This is how my mother survived. This is why I am alive now. And this is why he missed joining us by two days and seven years.

For the rest of my life I will believe in miracles. As long as I live, I would remain a Zionist, and support Israel. It saved my life and my mother's life and then, it saved my father's life as well. And for the rest of my remaining days I shall remain incapable of thinking about "visas" with equanimity. When United States policy of immigration is debated, all I see is my own community of contemporaries, wiped out because some politicians in Great Britain sat on other peoples' visas.

The Inverted Watermarks of the Waterlow Issue

Arthur M. Hochheiser

As a collector of the forms used by the Postal Administration in carrying out their functions in Palestine under British control, I have acquired several that may only be considered marginal material, although clearly part of the postal history of the period. Figure 23 illustrates one such form, a copy of a letter mailed in 1923 by an official in the Crown Agents office in Britain in response to an inquiry by the Postmaster General in Palestine concerning the receipt by the Palestine Postal Administration of stamps with a 'reversed' watermark variety.

There are several interesting features to discuss in this letter, but first some explanations are in order. Almost all stamps and postal stationery required by Great Britain's overseas administrations were printed in England. The Crown Agents, an office of the British Government, acted to order, supervised production and delivered most of the needed material to their colonial customers.

Norman Collins, a former editor of the BAPIP Journal and an ardent philatelic research historian, has published a monograph, entitled "Palestine Mandate Issues 1921-1948: The Crown Agents Requisition Books". This details the shipments of those stamps sent by the Crown Agents office to Palestine. Shown in Figure 24, taken from the monograph, is the tender form sent to the Waterlow Company to learn of their interest in producing this issue of stamps.

Figure 25 is a printout from page 10 of the Collins' monograph, showing clearly, from the dates of delivery of the stamps, that it was the first printing of this issue by the Waterlow Company that is referred to in Figure 23.

It is only of academic interest but it must be explained in reference to current usage that the dictionary definitions of the words 'inverted' and 'reversed' are synonymous. Classically, during this early period of time, the term 'reversed' was preferred by the Crown Agents officials in describing this variety. Today, we use the term 'inverted' to describe the up and down vertical displacement. The term 'reversed' is now used for the right to left change. Hence, the term 'reversed' used in the letter shown in Figure 23 refers to what we now know of as 'inverted'.

It is an interesting fact that the term 'Inverted Watermark' is a misnomer. The watermarks on all paper are introduced in the same manner during the manufacture of the paper. The pulp 'stuff' is initially made up of 95% water. When it is extruded onto a rotating web, gravity and suction help to reduce its water content. Most of the excess water is squeezed out by passing the pulp on the rotating web beneath a "dandy roll", a light, hollow, smooth-surfaced cylinder

G/Palestine 671

Crown Agents
London

16th August 1933

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter N^o. 671/25449 of 26th June transmitting a communication from the Postmaster General pointing out that some of the postage stamps recently received have been printed with the watermark reversed.

I would explain for the information of the Postmaster General that it has been the practice to allow our inspector to pass stamps irrespective of the position of the watermark, and this practice is based on the fact that the reversal of the watermark does not in any way destroy the protection of the mark. Further it is understood that reversed watermarks are not of great interest to collectors. In the case of the Imperial Government, half of the stamps which are used for making up into booklets always bear a reversed watermark and from this it would appear that the Post Office can see no great objection to a stamp bearing a reversed watermark though in other cases it is not the usual practice of the Post Office to issue such stamps.

We submit that the variation is not sufficient to render the stamps unfit for issue, but we appreciate, that it may be desirable for reasons of uniformity that stamps should usually be printed with the watermark in the ordinary position, and we have issued instructions to the inspector to this effect.

The stamps enclosed in your letter are in the circumstances being returned to you under separate cover by registered post.

I am Sir, etc.

(Sgd) F/Crown Agents

Freda de Stockport
7/8/33

The Controller of Stores
Jerusalem

Figure 23

Palastine 354.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.
THE ABOVE REFERENCE AND THE
DATE OF THIS LETTER BEING QUOTED.

TELEGRAMS "CROWN, LONDON"
TELEPHONE, 1700 VICTORIA.



140
158

4, MILLBANK,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON. S.W. 1.

17th May 1922.

Gentlemen,

We are instructed to arrange for the preparation of an issue of postage and revenue stamps for the Government of Palestine and you are invited to tender for the supply.

2. A list showing the duties, quantities and colour required, is attached. The original plates from which previous supplies have been printed are worn out and new dies and plates are necessary.

3. Stamps for circulation in Palestine are printed from plates originally prepared for the production of stamps for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and are overprinted in black with the word "Palestine" in English, Arabic and Hebrew, the word in English being ⁱⁿ block capitals. An overprint plate will, therefore, be necessary. The stamps are required to be printed 240 sets.

4. A photographic reproduction of one of the duties is attached for guidance, and must be returned with your reply. Specimens of the actual stamps may be inspected at the Crown Agents' Head Office. The stamps are 'surface' printed at present, but an alternative quotation for steel plate printing may be submitted if you consider that this method of printing is advisable. Printing in one colour only is required.

5. If your tender is accepted you will be required to submit a colour scheme in due course, also proofs of the vernacular and of the overprint, for approval.

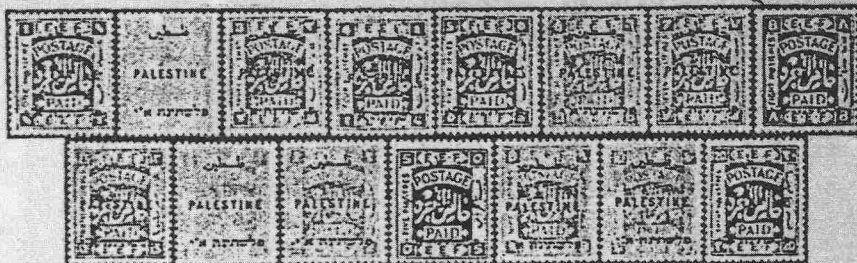
6. The matter is one of considerable urgency and you should therefore let us have your quotations by the 24th May together with a statement of the deliveries which you can guarantee.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Figure 24

THE WATERLOW (LONDON II) ISSUE 1922.



The Crown Agents' Requisition Book Entries

REQn. No.	DUTY	DESPATCH DATE	SHEETS SENT	REMARKS
384	1 mil		5,978	Postage Stamps 'EEF' overprinted Palestine. New Plates to be proposed for all duties.
	2 mils		4,196	
	3 mils		5,251½	
	4 mils		2,955	
	5 mils		6,176½	Stamps to be despatched in the following order: - 1, 3, 13, 5, 7, & 8 milliemes then remainder.
	6 mils		2,981	
	7 mils		2,780	
	8 mils	31st Aug.	5,264	
	13 mils	to	8,114	Supplies of 1, 3 & 13 milliemes to be despatched by letter post (Regd) on 31/8/22 (from GPO) Waterlow & Sons
	1 Pt.	20th Oct. 1922	3,943½	
	2 Pts		1,026	
	5 Pts		393	
	9 Pts		501	
	10 Pts		486	
	20 Pts		437	
671	1 mil		3,150	Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
	2 mils	1/5/23	1,540	
	3 mils		3,504	Postage Stamps 'EEF' overprinted Palestine.
	1 Pt		997	
756	1 mil		3,234	Postage stamps 'EEF' overprinted Palestine.
	2 mils		2,036	
	3 mils		2,119	
	4 mils		2,199	
	5 mils		3,278	14/9/23
	6 mils		2,151	
	7 mils		2,029	
	8 mils		2,166	
	13 mils		6,544	
	1 Pt		2,164	
	2 Pts		550	
	5 Pts		1,027	
	9 Pts		576	
	10 Pts		501	
	20 Pts		523	

Figure 25

(Fig. 26). If a watermark is to be introduced into the finished paper, small bits of wire are soldered to the "dandy roll" to indent the paper. Thus a watermark is a deliberate local variation in the thickness of an individual sheet of paper, caused by an intentional local variation in the surface of the "dandy roll". A watermark is merely a thinner area in the paper. Hence, watermark variation can only exist if parts of the watermarking wire bits are missing or erroneously inverted. The paper is then passed over a series of drying rollers and the finished sheet of paper is picked up onto a storage roll.

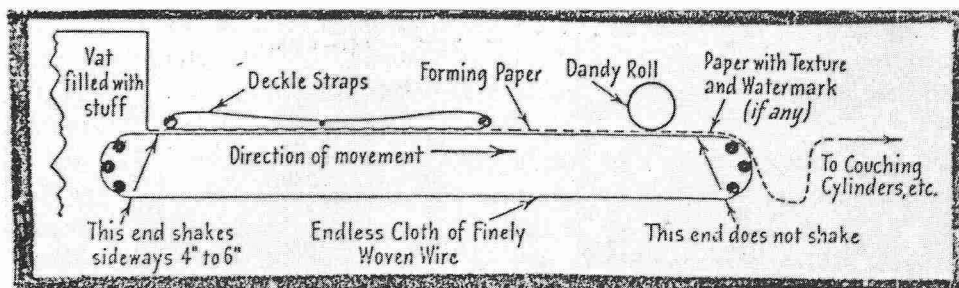


Figure 26

The second step in the production of stamps is the application of the glue to the underside of the roll of paper which was in contact with the rotating web. This rough surface allows for the more ready application of the glue. The upper side of the paper roll, which is smooth, is intended to receive the printing. The full roll is then cut into appropriate sheets for printing, the glue having been already applied.

The third step in the production of the stamp is the application of the printed design onto the upper surface of the paper, properly placed onto the printing plate. Thus any positional varieties of the watermark are obtained by improper placement of the paper onto the printing plate. The so-called 'inverted watermark' variety comes from placing the sheets up-side down onto the printing plate. The 'reverse watermark' comes from placing the sheet of paper onto the printing plate smooth-side down. This also results in the variety "Printed on the Gummed Side".

By far the most interesting philatelic part of the letter shown in Figure 25 is the sentence which reads "Further it is understood that reversed watermarks are not of great interest to collectors". How wrong the writer of this letter was! Shown in the following Table is an excerpt from the Bale Catalogue, showing prices of the normal stamps and the watermark variety stamps today. The watermark varieties list at over 100 times the value of the regular issues.

**Table of 1996 Bale Catalogue Prices (US \$) of
Waterlow Printings (London II)**

Bale No.	Face Value	Regular Issues		Watermark Varieties	
		M	U	M	U
71	1m	.15	.10	35.	33.
72	2m	.45	.15	45.	45.
73	3m	.30	.10	45.	42.
74	4m	.20	.14	60.	60.
75	5m	1.25	.25	90.	65.
76	6m	.50	.15	60.	80.
77	7m	.60	.15	120.	130.
78	8m	.50	.15	70.	85.
79	13m	.60	.10	50.	40.
80	1p	.55	.12	95.	90.
81	2p	.90	.20	250.	200.
82	5p	5.00	1.25		850.
88	10p	22.00	8.00	500.	400.

(Author's Note) Figure 26 and some of the information in this article on paper making and supplying watermarks were taken from the textbook "Fundamentals of Philately" by L.N. and M. Williams, published by the American Philatelic Society.

Israel's One and Only International "Travelling" Post Office

Ehud Jungwirth, Rehovot

A Travelling Post Office (T.P.O.) in Israel, nowadays called "Mobile Post Office" (M.P.O.) is a post office **on wheels**, be they of metal, running on rails, or rubber, running on roads. In Israel mail handled by TPOs/MPOs can normally be recognized by a special postmark depicting a post-office van (unless cancelled at the base post-office of that line). In Europe TPOs can and do cross international boundaries. In Israel's "Administered Territories" (the West Bank and, formerly, the Gaza Strip) the cancellation of a MPO bears the additional ZAHAL (Israeli Defence Army) annotation. Some MPOs, e.g. "Modi'in", do cross the "green line" (the demarcation line between the West Bank and Israel proper) serving localities on both sides of the line.

This paper will deal with the very special case of a postal agency, which was bodily moved from one location in "the territories" to another within Israel proper. This is a different case from the one described by me in 1958, i.e., the transfer of the Ben Shemen PA during and after the War of Independence in 1948 from its original location near Lod (Lydda) to Natanya and then to Kefar Vitkin, and back again in 1950 – all within Israel's national boundaries (See Jungwirth and Brisker¹ for particulars).

This is the story: Public Notice 41/74 announced the forthcoming opening of a postal agency at "Mahane Yokheved" – collectors to send their envelopes to the Postmaster of Eilat. This I did and duly received a FD cover postmarked with the "Elat – Port De La Mer Rouge" cancellation No. 11 and R-label "Elat 13" (Fig. 27). No indication was given as to the exact location of "Mahane Yokheved". Civilian PAs located in military installations are not unusual in Israel.



Figure 27

In all such cases they use postmarks bearing the name of the nearest civilian locality and are known, for some reason, by feminine designations e.g. Mahane Yehudit (using a Nahalal cancellation). I concluded, therefore, that "Mahane Yokheved" must be somewhere in the vicinity of Eilat, but did not, at the time, follow the matter up any further. It was only a considerable time later that I discovered that the location of this particular P.A. was actually on Egyptian territory in Sinai, to be exact – at Israel's "Etzion" Air Force Base in "Biq'at Ha'Yareah" (Moon Valley), west of Eilat. This large base comprised also accommodation for the personnel stationed there – hence the need for a P.A.. However, contrary to other P.O.s or P.A.s on Egyptian soil, e.g. El Arish or Ofira, all of which bore the ZAHAL annotation, this one did not and it operated for all intents and purposes as a branch-office of Eilat.

This situation continued until the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt (26.3.79), demanding the Israeli withdrawal, in stages, from all of Sinai. The postal authorities announced the closing dates of POs/PAs (El Arish immediately with the signing of the treaty, Ofira and Yamit and the TPO not until 1982). "Mahane Yokheved", however, was ignored. I decided, therefore, to make enquiries. It was generally known that, as part of the peace treaty, the Etzion Base was to be handed over to the Egyptians, but not before the end of construction by the United States of an equivalent alternative Air Force Base in the southern Negev (north of Eilat). This was provisionally called South Base by the Americans, as distinct from another base to be constructed further north – the North Base (later to become "Mahane Tali"). During construction a US Air Force APO – No. 09674 – operated there for the benefit of the civilian (mainly Portuguese) work force and the American contractors (Fig. 28). On completion of

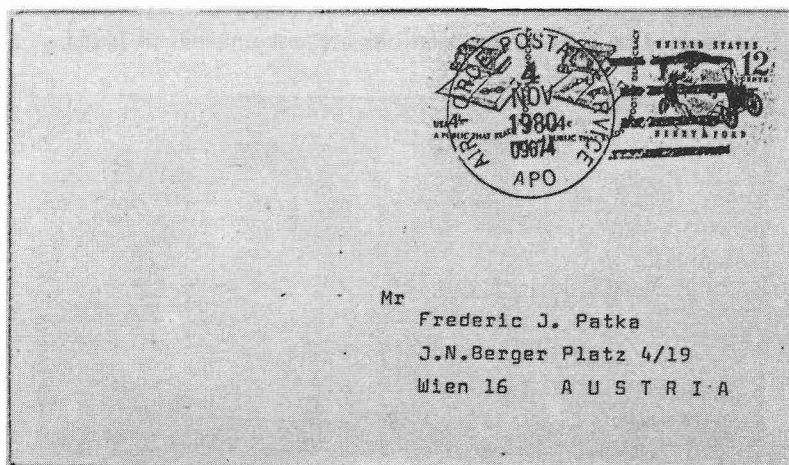


Figure 28

"South Base", the personnel of Mahane Yokheved was transferred to the new site - lock, stock and barrel - including the Postal Agency.

Here are the particulars as given to me by the postal agent in response to my questions (translated from the Hebrew original - Fig. 29):

"I am happy to be able to respond to your request regarding the postal agency Mahane Yokheved at the Etzion base.

The agency was closed on 23.12.81.

On this date the first of the families began to be transferred to the new Ovdah airbase, which replaced the Etzion base.

The Postal Agency was re-opened for the public using the same cancellation on 14.1.82, and is situated in a temporary building pending the completion of a permanent one now under construction."

להתחברות משרד בטרנספורט (התעבורה)		מזכר
התאריך	4.4.82	פילם א. יונגלויט
תקן מס'		מחנה
		מחנה בור. מנה. יורב
		המנהל

אני שמחה לומר לך בהמשך מכתב
 4 סינול מכתב יורב אלמ במכתב צבע
 בבקשתך
 הסתלק נסגרה בתאריך 23.12.81
 במכתב זה תהיו כאלו הגלגלים
 גלגלים זכרים עובדים תחת אלמ תהיו
 את כסים ע.צ.ת
 הסתלק נפתח מכתב אלמ תהיו
 (מכתב אלמ תהיו פילם)
 במכתב 14.1.82
 ונצטרך את במכתב אלמ
 ע.צ. תהיו תהיו תהיו
 למכתב תהיו אלמ תהיו ואוקם תהיו
 במכתב
 תהיו

1010

Figure 29

Fig. 30 shows a registered letter posted after the “exodus (of Mahane Yokheved) from Egypt” was completed. Apart from the Eilat cancellation and R-label, it also bears the military APO number of the Base, which is also the same as had been used at Etzion as can be seen from Fig. 31 dated before the transfer, bearing also the unit cachet: “Air Force – No. 10 Wing – Registry Office”.

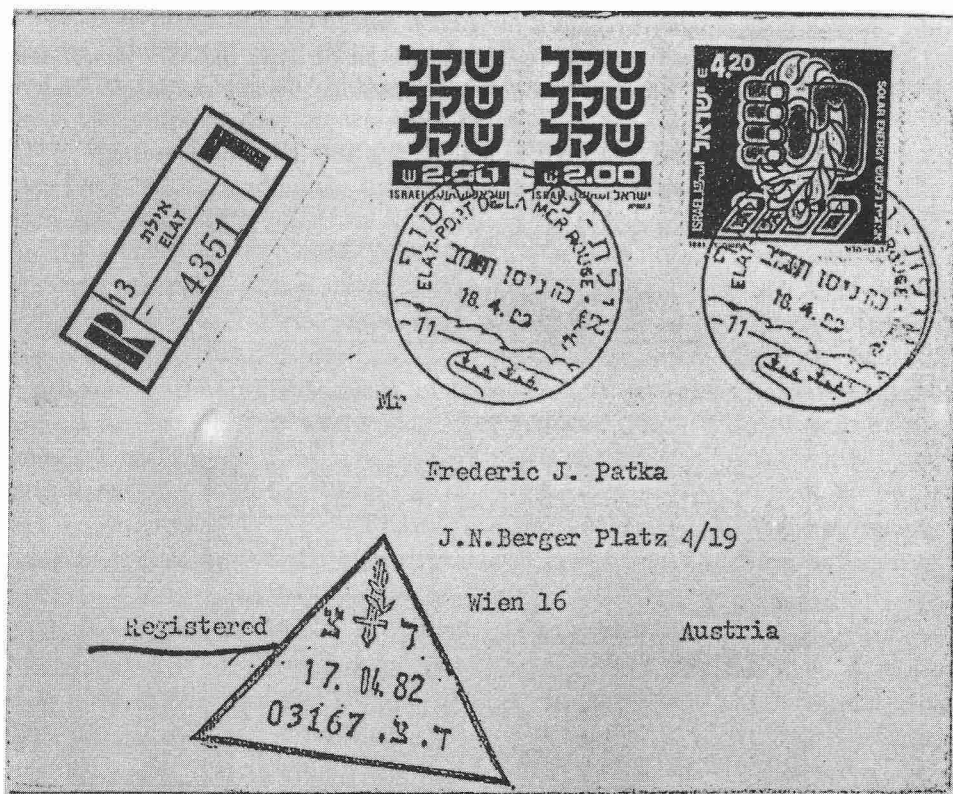


Figure 30

Readers scanning Nachtigal and Fixler's² will find “Elat – Port de la Mer Rouge No. 11” on page 17, serial number 16/17; First day: 17.7.74 and still in use. There is a world of difference between this laconic notation and actual Postal History!

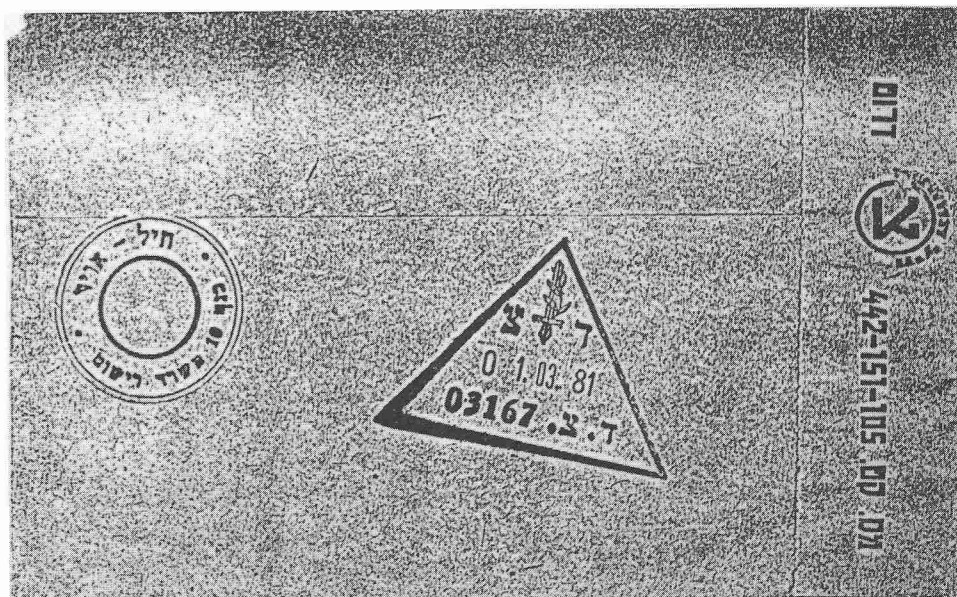


Figure 31

References

- (1) Jungwirth, E. and Brisker, M. (1958), "The eventful postal history of the Ben Shemen Youth Village". **The Holy Land Philatelist**, Vol. IV/V, pp. 1044-1046.
- (2) Nachtigal, L. and Fixler, B. (undated), **Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post, Part 1, 1948-1990**.

* * * * *

SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES

* * * * *


The Ottoman Period

Some New Findings from the Foreign Post Offices in Palestine

(N.J. Collins)

The Austrian Post Office, Jerusalem

A new registration label has come to light on a registered lettercard (Fig. 32). This label is similar to Collins/Steichele Type 'P' and the setting of 'Osterr. Post' in relation to 'Jerusalem' above it is similar to the setting in Type 'C', setting 'c'¹. The new type will be designated 'Q' and should be added to the book as follows:

	Q	One example recorded on a registered
	Perforated	1 Piastre lettercard, posted
	1913	8 January 1913.
	?	Extremely Rare

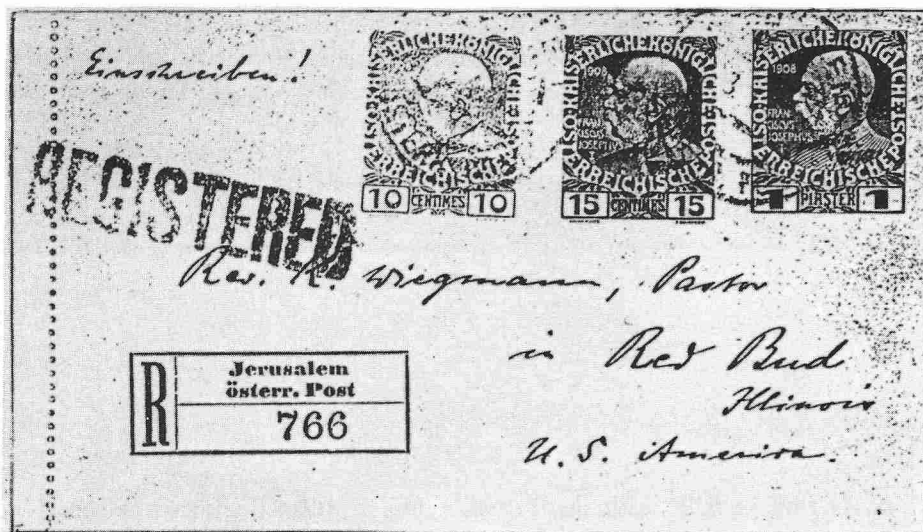


Fig. 32: Registered 1 Piastre lettercard posted 8 January, 1913 with the newly discovered R-Label Type 'Q'.

The lettercard shown is the first example of this type of lettercard I have recorded used in the Holyland. It also has an eye-catching three colour stamp combination.

The Russian Post Office

(a) Jaffa

On page 388 of Volume II¹, I recorded an oval postmark of Jaffa reading: RUSSKOE OBSHCHESTVO PARKHODSTVA (I) TORGOVLI OTDYELNIE ZHELEZNOI DOROGOI (=RUSSIAN COMPANY FOR STEAM SHIPPING (AND) TRADE, RAILWAY DIVISION) – as an unconfirmed postmark, as only one strike was known on the back of a cover. I gave it a temporary number UC-1 (627B). The number in parenthesis was to be used when it was confirmed as a cancel.

George H. Muentz has now reported this postmark used as a cancel on a small piece, in conjunction with postmark Type 622: “784 in dots”. These cancel a 7 kopek ROPiT stamp (Fig. 33). Unfortunately the date in UC-1 is not clear, but the year appears to be 1889.

With the confirmation of the use of UC-1, it now reverts to the permanent number Type 627B.



Fig. 33: Small piece with 7 kopek stamp cancelled by postmark Type UC-1 and postmark Type 622.

(b) Jerusalem

Only one example of postmark Type 642A had been recorded at the time of publication of Volume II¹. This is on a cover (Fig. 344 there, on p. 376) in black and dated 21st February 1903.

A postcard has come to light with another example dated 23rd April 1903, but in **blue**. This is shown below in Figure 34.



Fig. 34: Postcard cancelled by postmark Type 642A in blue, dated 23rd April 1903. Only one other example of this postmark has been recorded, but in black.

Acknowledgement: My thanks are due to George H. Muentz for the information about the postmark Type UC-1.

Reference

- (1) "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine, 1840-1918", Vol. II, (by Steichele), English version by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein.

The Kaiser's Yacht (*Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan*)

As we approach the date of the 100th anniversary of the 1st Zionist Congress held in Basel on 29-31 August, 1897, it is only fitting that we include something in this journal connected with the early history of Herzl's Zionist Movement. This is not easy as most of the major events (and postal history) are entirely European. Thus, strictly speaking, they are not eligible for inclusion in this journal of **Holyland** Postal History. However, one important series of events did occur directly involving the Holyland and Herzl, namely his 1898 trip to the Holyland during which he met Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany twice. Pictured is a card from a sailor (belonging to the crew of the German Royal Yacht Hohenzollern) to a Dr. Knopf in the town of Goldberg (sorry but regretfully no Jewish connection), Silesia (Fig. 35). On the picture side can be seen a photo of the beautiful and graceful ship itself. The card itself is an undivided entire being unusual as seldom are entire cards (those with imprinted stamps) issued with views. The entire has a 10 pfenning Reichspost imprint stamp overprinted **Nur für Marine Schiffsposten** (Only for Maritime Post). The postmark reads "Kais. Deutsche Marine Schiffspost No. 32", which is Steichele's PM Type 209, and is dated 31 Oct, 1898. The ship's arrival was timed approximately to coincide with the opening of the German Post Office in Jaffa on 1 October 1898. Steichele also records the information that this imperial yacht was launched in 1891, had a crew of 323(!) men and displaced 4280 tons.

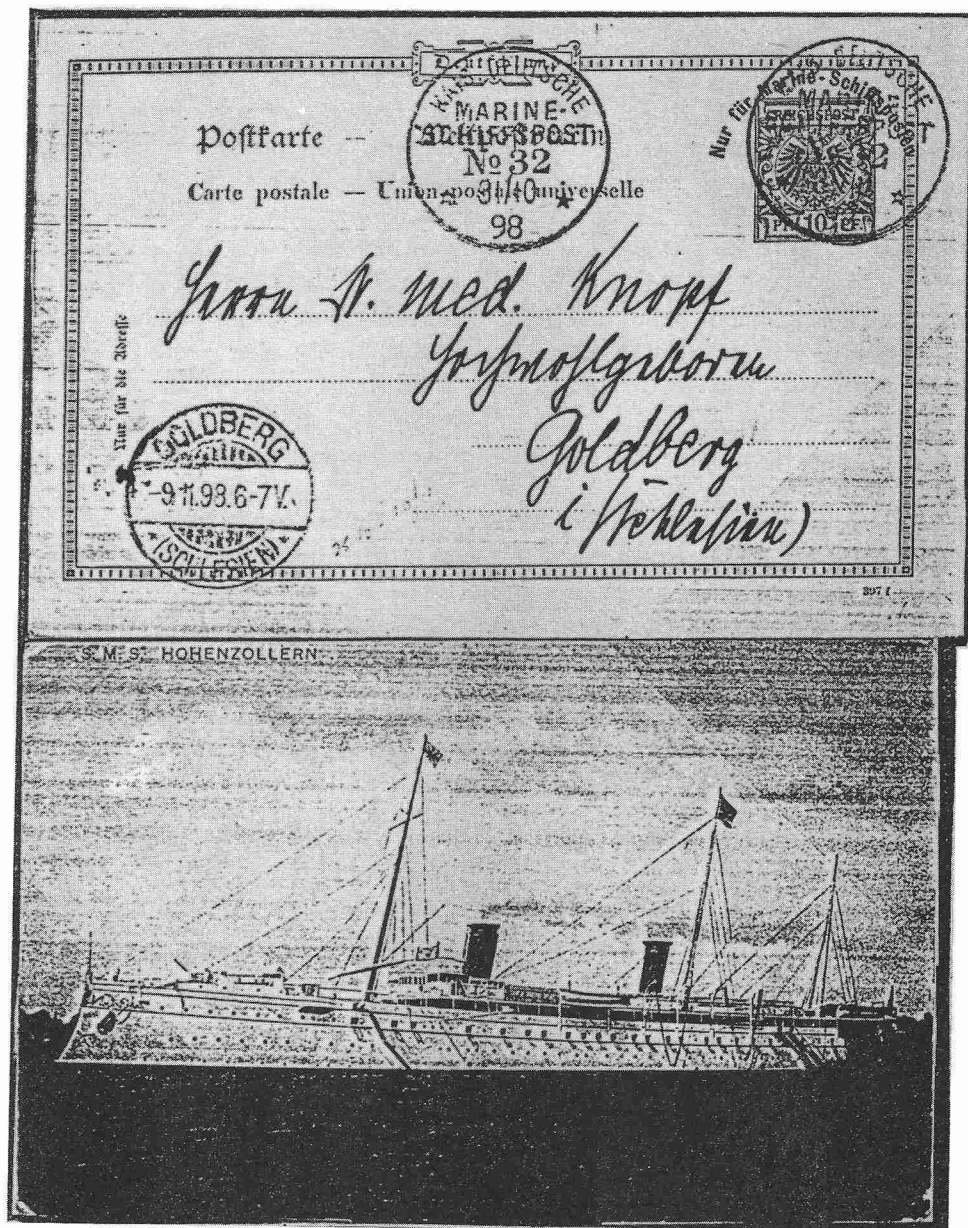


Fig. 35: Card sent by a sailor from the Royal Yacht "Hohenzollern" to Germany, posted on the ship's arrival date in Jaffa of 28 October, 1898.

The British Mandate Period

Palestine Postal Printing Problems (*A.M. Hochheiser*)

Most forms used by the Postal Administration in Palestine under British control were completed by printing firms in Palestine. They used the classical method of printing during this period. Type slugs that were removable were assembled into plates and locked into the upper moving part of the printing press. Paper was laid onto a stationary base. A roller would apply ink onto the locked-in plate which would then be lowered onto the paper producing a printed impression. The sheet was removed for storage at the side of the printing press and a new sheet of paper was placed to repeat the process. After the necessary issue was completed, the individual pieces of type were disassembled and replaced into slots in their carrier.

Mistakes in replacing the individual pieces of type would later account for some of the errors. Poor workmanship gave rise to a variety of other letter placement errors. Figures 36-42 were pieces cut from full postal forms, all showing these minor errors.

Figure 36: A "G" is placed instead of a "Q".

Figure 37: Hebrew letters show partial breakage.

Figure 38: An unnecessary spacing between Hebrew letters.

Figure 39: Misplacement of the letter "B".

Figure 40: Double transposition of Hebrew letters.

Figure 41: A missing letter "R" in "Jerusalem".

Figure 42: An incorrect number has been replaced by a handstamp.

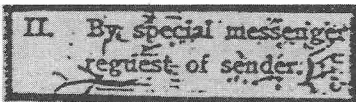


Figure 36



Figure 37

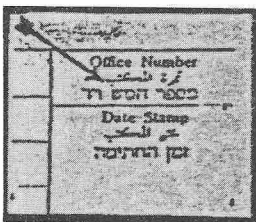


Figure 38



Figure 39



Figure 40

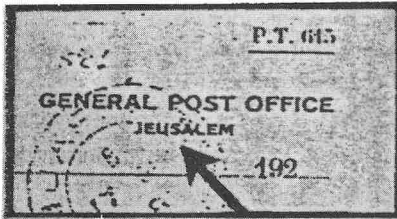


Figure 41



Figure 42

However, there were two major errors that are more difficult to explain. Figure 43 shows a full doubling of a P.T.50 Form. This can only be accounted for in one way. An initial printing was not inked sufficiently. As a result, a second fully inked image was printed atop the same form.

Figures 44 and 45 are the backs of a telegram form with identical instructions. Note that in Figure 45 some printing in the upper right corner is missing. There are two possible explanations for missing printing.

First, but not probable here, a piece of foreign matter fell onto the paper ready for receiving the printing plate. After the printing was completed, this foreign matter dropped off in transferring the paper to storage, leaving the void behind it. This type of flaw is referred to as a "Confetti Albino".

However, here the error was almost certainly caused by the loosening of the type in the corner of the printing plate causing that part of the printed image to be flawed or missing. In addition to the missing words and letters, note the partial impression of some of the other letters. This could only be caused by loose type in the printing plate.

R.T. 30.

ACCOUNT FOR TELEPHONE TRUNK CHILLS.

حساب الطلبات الخارجية

Exchange 4461 No. 4461

Month of July 1942

Date (Arabic)	Amounts مبلغ		Date (Arabic)	Amounts مبلغ	
	L.P. (Arabic)	Miles (Arabic)		L.P. (Arabic)	Miles (Arabic)
1		480	17		025
2		100	18		020
3		025	19		060
4		300	20		
5		480	21		
6		145	22		
7		200	23		200
8		215	24		215
9		400	25		
10			26		025
11			27		
12			28		
13			29		
14			30		
15			31		020
16					
Car.		480	Total from month		2045
Amount due for preceding month					
Total					

Figure 43

Use the Express Delivery Services

The undermentioned services are available:

I. By special messenger all the way.

II. By special messenger after receipt at office of delivery, at request of sender.

III. By special messenger after receipt at office of delivery, at request of addressee.

Charges and further particulars may be ascertained at any Post Office.

جاءات البريد السريع -
توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر
(1) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق
(2) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد
(3) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد

توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر

جاءات البريد السريع -
توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر
(1) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق
(2) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد
(3) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد

توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر

Figure 45

Use the Express Delivery Service

The undermentioned services are available:

I. By special messenger all the way.

II. By special messenger after receipt at office of delivery, at request of sender.

III. By special messenger after receipt at office of delivery, at request of addressee.

Charges and further particulars may be ascertained at any Post Office.

جاءات البريد السريع -
توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر
(1) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق
(2) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد
(3) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد

توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر

جاءات البريد السريع -
توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر
(1) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق
(2) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد
(3) بواسطة موزع خاص على الطريق في كل مكتب البريد في كل مكتب البريد

توفر البريد السريع في كل مكتب بريد في مصر

Figure 44

ISRAEL, HOLY LAND, JUDAICA

ISRAEL, Holy Land, Judaica philately
featured in award-winning journal
of the

Society of Israel Philatelists

Membership information from

Dr. Emil I. Dickstein

8358 Hitchcock Road

Youngstown, Ohio 44512 U.S.A.

Some Unusual Mandate Telegrams (*M. Siegel, Ramat Gan*)

(a) "Long" Telegrams

60 years ago, before the advent of the many instant means of communication available today, the telephone (if both parties had access to this facility) or the telegraph were the methods used for rapid communication if the situation called for the same. However, the sending of telegrams in those days, like now, was not cheap and the charges were proportional to the number of words. Thus, the importance of every word was measured, and whichever could be eliminated were deleted. Hence, it is quite rare to find "long" telegrams. Recently, this writer chanced upon two telegrams (see Figs. 46 and 47), containing many more words than could be written onto the PT6 Telegram Forms that were used by the Mandate Post. The first contains 49 words and obviously is too long for one PT6 form so what did the clever clerk do? He simply glued two such forms together as can be seen in Figure 46. The second (Fig. 47) is a form PT 28 (previously unseen) which has more than three times the message space than a usual PT6. It was used in Jerusalem on 12 April, 1947.

(b) A 'Taxed' Telegram

On page 737, Issue #53/54 of this publication, this writer discussed Mandate Telegrams for which the receiver had to pay additional charges. In the cases therein discussed, these charges apparently were to compensate the Post for extra work that was required to locate the addressee. However, recently encountered was the Haifa 1940 telegram from Turkey shown in the accompanying illustration (Fig. 48). It is of interest for two reasons: (1) On its upper left corner can be seen the same trilingual 4-line handstamp discussed in the aforementioned article that reads ENQUIRY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE. Thus, its use in two locations (Haifa and Jerusalem) has been confirmed. (2) On its lower left corner can be seen the handstamp CHARGES TO PAY _____ M(?)Ms FOR _____. On the first underlined blank was inserted the handwritten figure 030. The second blank's notation might be "one word" but this cannot be definitively ascertained. Possibly the contents of the box could read CHARGES TO PAY 0.30 Mils FOR ONE WORD. Thus we can only speculate as to the reason for the charge that was levied upon the receiver of the cable.

(211)
P.T. 28
No. 123

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Received from *C.* No. of words *92*

by *92* Prefix *93* Original No. *93* Service Instructions

Handed in at *Cairo* Date *12* at *1/35* m. Received here at *1:30* m.
30220-200 Pds.-11.12.45-G.C.P.

To: *Executive Officer Polish Affairs Pal.*

<i>Four</i>	<i>telegram</i>	<i>£ 8</i>	<i>april</i>	<i>stop</i>
<i>reference</i>	<i>KLATMAN</i>	<i>National bank</i>	<i>egypt</i>	
<i>confirms</i>	<i>lp</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>transferred</i>	<i>angle</i>
<i>Palestine</i>	<i>Bank</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>on</i>	<i>✓</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>favour</i>	<i>Poltoars</i>	<i>stop</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>paid</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>money</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>Poltoars</i>	<i>Cairo</i>	<i>stop</i>	<i>please</i>
<i>ask</i>	<i>Poltoars</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>Despatch</i>	<i>recruit</i>
<i>to</i>	<i>this</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>immediately</i>	<i>stop</i>
<i>reference</i>	<i>Couplis</i>	<i>Aberstein</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>Jeaisi</i>
<i>or</i>	<i>travel</i>	<i>agencies</i>	<i>Cairo</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>no</i>	<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>imminent</i>	<i>sailing</i>	<i>Miss</i>
<i>for</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>normal</i>	<i>third</i>
<i>fare</i>	<i>this</i>	<i>boat</i>	<i>le</i>	<i>120</i>
<i>per</i>	<i>person</i>	<i>stop</i>	<i>total</i>	<i>amount</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>le</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>stop</i>
<i>verify</i>	<i>Your</i>	<i>quotations</i>	<i>incurred</i>	

Fig 47: A "long" cable utilizing a special form PT28.

NOT BE ACCEPTED
TELEPHONE

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES

54

TELEGRAM

Service Instructions
Handed in at *Beyoglu*
Time *13.00*
Received at *Haifa*

To *Schniel* *Leion Hotel* *Haifa*

english visa obtained will arrive
arrival

TO PAY
13.00
one word

Fig 48: A taxed Haifa telegram from Turkey.

Discovery of a second cover with the rare JSM-LYDDA TPO double-ring cancellation ("Railman")

On page 24 of his book on Palestine Mandate Postmarks, David Dorfman illustrates the only cover known bearing the double-ring JSM-LYDDA TPO cancellation (Dorfman Type 9) dated 14 AP 1936 which was first reported in 1962 by the late Arthur A. Lyness. Dorfman adds that since then only a single stamp dated 9 NO 1936 had subsequently turned up bearing this cancellation. Naturally he gives it the "V.R." scarcity rating.

Figure 49 shows another cover which has now recently come to light bearing this postmark. Addressed to a minister of religion in Aberdeen, Scotland, it has a "Via Imperial Airways" annotation in manuscript below the airmail label, and is correctly franked at the 13m rate for its flight to the UK. The adhesive is clearly cancelled by the Type 9 postmark dated 9 AP 1936, which pre-dates the other cover by 5 days.

The reverse of the cover shows its provenance to have been Saint Andrew's Hospice which is very near the Jerusalem railway station. Presumably the writer took advantage of the station's proximity to post his letter on the TPO there.

I believe this to be only the second cover known to exist bearing this, the rarest of all Mandate TPO cancellations.



Figure 49

A New Earliest Date (*M. Siegel & Y. Tsachor*)

In checking the franking of the cover shown in the accompanying photostat (Fig. 50), we noted that it was "Mix Franked" with SG #50 and #60. These two stamps together paid the then current inland letter rate of 5 milliemes. This rate was in effect from 16 February, 1918 until 1 May 1940 – a very long period of over 22 years! Closer examination determined that the postmark was Zicron Jacob (Dorfman D4) and its date of posting 30 September, 1921. When checking the 1996 Bale Palestine Stamp Catalogue, it was noted that this date is 6 days

earlier than the catalog's earliest recorded date for use of #60 of 5 October, 1921 (see catalog page 61). Of additional interest is that the cover was sent by a member of Zicron's most illustrious family, the Aronsons of NILI spy ring fame, and its enclosed content is a photo of a family member with personally inscribed New Year wishes.

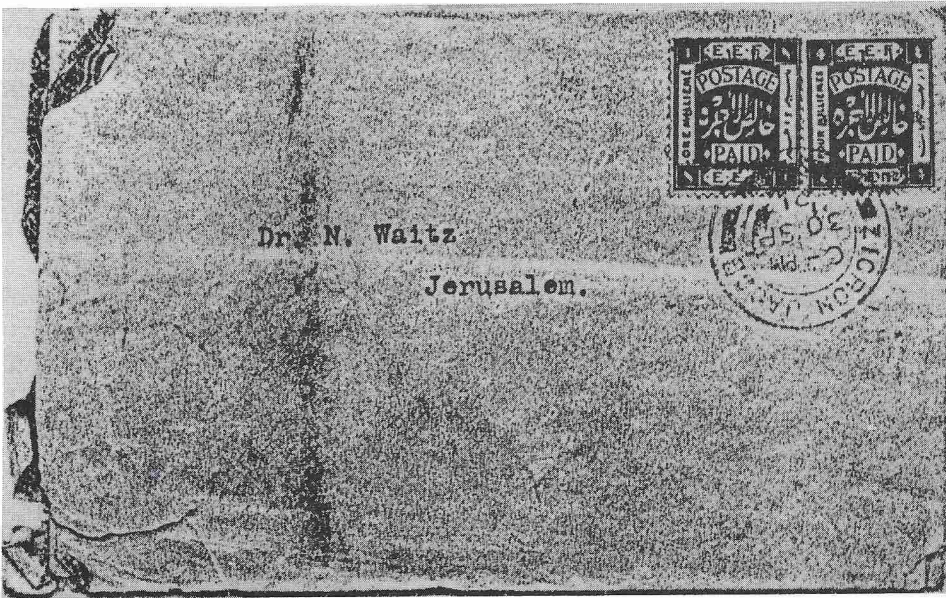


Fig 50: A cover with new earliest date of use of SG #60, 30 Sept, 1921.

The West Bank

Early Use of a Jordanian Pre-Palestine Propaganda Cachet

Our member Zvi Alexander has sent us a photocopy of a cover sent from Irbid, in Jordan, about a month prior to the cessation of the operation of the Mandate Postal Administration in Palestine in 1948 (Fig. 51). The letter appears to have originated in Jerusalem but was posted from Irbid. What is of interest is the very early use in Irbid or en route in Amman, of the propaganda cachet, "Save Palestine Arab Lands".

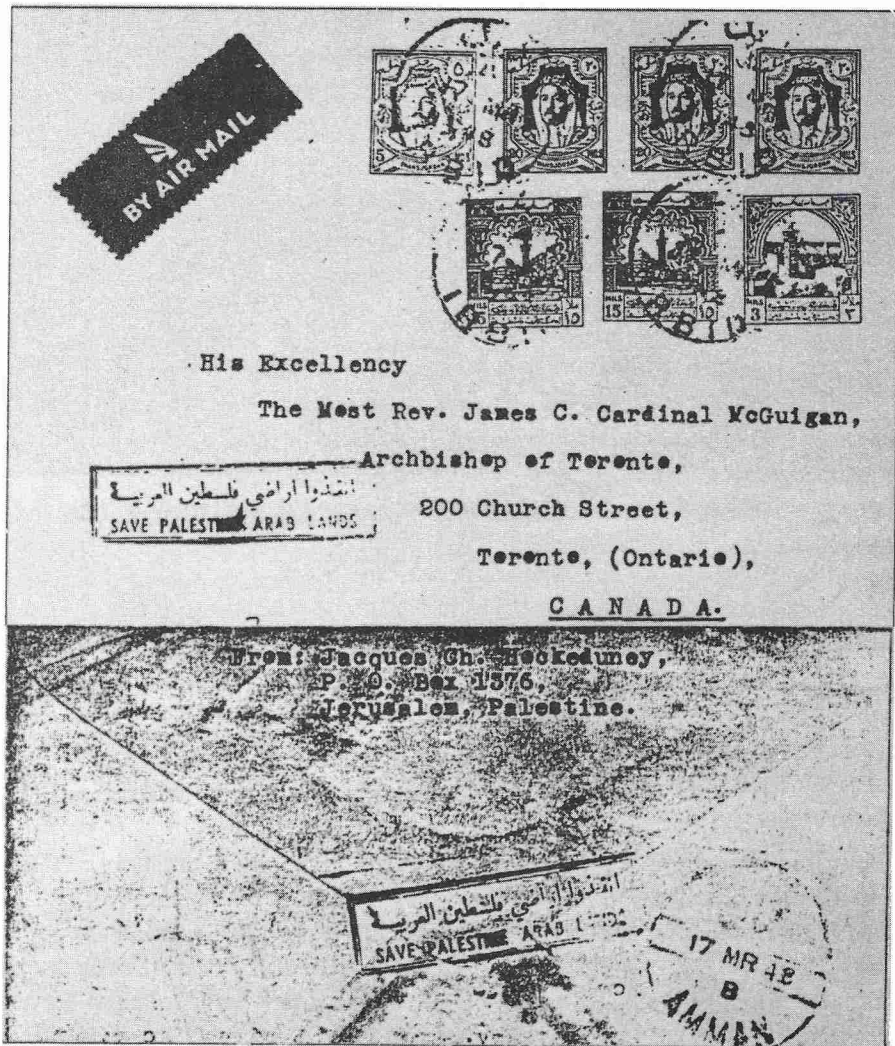


Figure 51

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 52)

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



Fig. 52 Special Cancellations issued in the last period.



Fig. 52 (continued): Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

- 12.12.96: "Anniversary Ceremony of the Sinking of the 'Salvador'", Jerusalem.
 15.12.96: "30 Years, The Golan Heights Communities", Qazrin.
 18.12.96: "Beilinson 60th Anniversary. Rabin Medical Center 1st Anniversary", Petah Tiqwa.
 24.12.96: "Christmas, Noel", Nazareth.
 24.12.96: 60 Years to the Establishment of the Special Police and Nation-wide Mobilization to the Mandate Police, Haifa.
 26.12.96: "60th Anniversary. Israel Philharmonic Orchestra", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 31.12.96: "Ariel Celebrates its 18th Year", Ariel.
 06.01.97: "Ceremony of the inaugural Flight Aman - Haifa - Aman", Haifa.
 09.01.97: "Israel Diabetes Association. 75th Anniversary of Insulin", Givatayim.
 13.02.97: "450 Years since the Birth of Cervantes", Akko*.
 13.02.97: "Sport - Definitives", Netanya*.
 13.02.97: "Hong Kong 97. Thomas A. Edison, Alexander Graham Bell. 12-16 February 1997", Rehovot*.
 13.02.97: "Ethnic Costumes", Be'er Sheva*.



Fig. 52 (continued): Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

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

B. Definitive Cancellations*

- 06.09.96: On this date 3 new 'Payee' machine cancellations were put into use in Tel Aviv Sorting House: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 8, 9, 10".
- 11.09.96: On this date 144 new and 117 replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices of the **Tel Aviv Region** and of the **Center Region** as follows:
- "Bene Beraq 1-22" (instead of Bene Beraq 1,2,4,6,10,12,14,16-23,26,27), "Giv'at Shemuel 1,2" (instead of Giv'at Shemuel 1,2), "Tel Aviv-Yafo 167" (in the new Central Station), "Giv'atayim 1-14" (instead of Giv'atayim 1,3,6-15), "Bene Ziyyon 1" (instead of Bene Ziyyon without No.), "Hod Hasharon 1-11" (instead of Hod Hasharon 1-11), "Elishama 1", "Jaljulya 1", "Hasharon Hatikhon 1 M.P.", "Kafr Bara 1", "Ramot Hashavim 1", "Herzliyya 1-20" (instead of Herzliyya 3-7, 10, 14-21, 23), "Ga'ash 1" (instead of Gaash without No.), "Yaquim 1" (instead of Yaquim without No.), Kefar Shemaryahu 1" (instead of Kefar Shemaryahu without No.), "Rishpon 1" (instead of Rishpon without No.), "Shefayim 1" (instead of Shefayim without No.), "Taiyba 1,2" (instead of Taybe 1,2), "Kefar Yona 1-3" (instead of Kefar Yona 1,2), "Kefar Sava 1-17" (instead of Kefar Sava 2-11, 15-19), "Efrayim 1 M.P. and Zahal" (instead of Efrayim without No.), "Bet Berl 1" (instead of Bet Berl without No.), "Kokhav Ya'ir 1" (instead of Kokhav Ya'ir without No.), "Lev Hashomeron 1 M.P. and Zahal" (instead of Lev Ha-shomeron 1), "Zofit 1" (instead of Zofit with No.), "Zefon Hashomeron 1 M.P. and Zahal" (instead of Zefon Ha-shomeron without No.), "Ramat Hakovesh 1" (instead of Ramat Ha-kovesh without No.), "Ben Gurion Airport 1-5" (instead of Ben-Gurion Airport 1, 3-5), "Avihayil 1" (instead of Avihayil without No.), "Udim 1" (instead of Udim without No.), "Ha'ogen 1" (instead of Ha-ogen without No.), "Kefar Vitkin 1" (instead of Kefar Vitkin without No.), "Kefar Hayyim 1" (instead of Kefar Hayyim without No.), "Kefar Monash 1" (instead of Kefar Monash without No.), "Lev Ha-sharon 1 M.P." (instead of Lev Ha-sharon without No.), "Rupin College 1" (instead of Midreshet Ruppim without No.), "Ma'barot 1" (instead of Ma'barot without No.), "Mishmar Hasharon 1" (instead of Mishmar Ha-sharon without No.), "Even Yehuda 1, 2" (instead of Even Yehuda 1,2), "Pardesiyya 1" (instead of Pardesiyya without No.), "Qadima 1" (instead of Qadima without No.), "Qalansuwa 1" (instead of Qalansuwa without No.), "Kefar Sirkin 1" (instead of Kefar Sirkin without No.), "Newe Yaraq 1" (instead of Newe Yaraq without No.), "Nehalim 1" (instead of Nehalim without No.), "Rosh Ha'ayin 1-6" (instead of Rosh Ha'ayin 1, 3, 4), "Giv'at Hasheloshah 1" (instead of Giv'at

* The new cancellations reported in this section – and in similar sections in our recent Bulletins – are taken verbatim (but translated from the Hebrew) from the "Notice to the Public" published by the Post Office now and then in advance of introduction of new cancellations. Unfortunately, in practice there are quite frequently various changes with respect to the original list.

Ha-shelosha without No.), "Kafr Qasim 1" (instead of Kafr Qasem without No.), "Enat 1" (instead of Enat without No.), "Ramat Ef'Al 1" (instead of Ramat Ef'Al without No.).

18.09.96: On this date 96 new and 54 replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices of the **Jerusalem Region** as follows: "Jerusalem 6, 7, 10-87, 89-104" (instead of Jerusalem 1-3, 9, 11, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26-30, 32-38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 51, 69-71, 75, 77, 80-82, 84, 86, 87, 89, 91, 94, 97-99, 101, 102, 104, 108, 117-120).

25.09.96: On this date 64 new and 39 replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices of the **Southern Region** as follows: "Be'er Ya'aqov 1-3" (instead of Beer Yaaqov 1-3), "Bet Dagan 1-3" (instead of Bet Dagan 1-2), "Mishmar Hashiv'a 1" (instead of Mishmar Ha-shiv'a without No.), "Newe Efrayim 1" (instead of Newe Efrayim Monosson without No.), "Or Yehuda 1-4" (instead of Or Yehuda 1,2), "Bat Yam 1-21" (instead of Bat Yam 10,13,14,16,18,20,24,27,30), "Magshimim 1" (instead of Magshimim without No.), "Azor 1,2" (instead of Azor without No.), "Yehud 1-3" (instead of Yehud 1-3), "Maccabim-re'ut 1" (instead of Makkabbim-re'ut without No.), "Savyon 1" (instead of Savyon without No.), "Lod 1-8" (instead of Lod 1, 4, 10, 12), "Ramla 1-11" (instead of Ramla 3, 4, 8, 9), "Hamergaz 1 M.P." (instead of Hammerkaz M.P. without No.), "Bene Atarot 1" (instead of Bene Atarot without No.), "Be'erot Yizhaq 1" (instead of Beerot Yitshaq without No.), "Nir Zevi 1" (instead of Nir Zevi without No.).

07.10.96: Last day of operation of "Mevo Azza" Branch P.O. at Machsom Erez.

22.10.96: On this date 2 new and 1 replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices of the Tel Aviv Region as follows: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 170" (Hadar Dafna), "Tel Aviv-Yafo 108" (Mendele), "Kefar Vitkin 2" (instead of "Mikhmoret").

31.10.96: Last day of operation of Ramat Shaul Postal Agency in Haifa, using the cancellation "Haifa 16".

03.11.96: "Modi'in 1" M.P., for the new Mobile Post centered in Modi'in.

01.01.97: "Ramle 8", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Emeq Ayalon Boulevard, Shoham Village, Ramle. (This postmark was used before in Ramle P.O.).

12.02.97: On this date 71 new and 66 replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices of **Tel Aviv** and the **Center Region** as follows: "Ramat Gan 1-40" (instead of Ramat Gan 1-3, 10-20, 24-27, 30, 32-42, 49-51), "Ramat Hasharon 1-10" (instead of Ramat Hasharon 3, 5-10), "Ra'ananna 1-10" (instead of Raanana 1-6, 9-11), "Bazera 1" (instead of Bozra without No.), "Tel Mond 1-3" (instead of Tel Mond without No.), "Tira 2, 3", "Bet Yizhaq 1" (instead of Bet Yizhaq without No.), "Qiryat Tzanz 1" (instead of Qiryat Zanz without No.), "Tel Aviv-Yafo 168" (University), "Amishav 1" (instead of Amishav without No.).

New Stamps and Postal Stationery *(Compiled by Z. Noy)*

Stamps

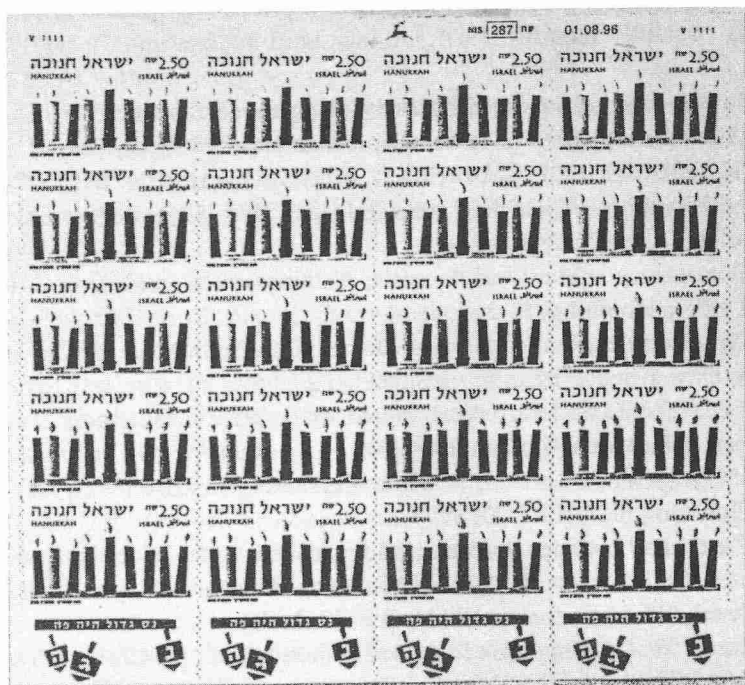
The following stamps have been issued during the last period.

- 22.10.96: Hanukkah (American-Israel co-production). The stamp is unique in that it is the first Israeli self adhesive stamp (Fig. 53; IS 2.50). The sheet has 20 stamps of which 4 are with tabs. Two oil jars are printed on the reverse of the sheet backing paper.
- 05.12.96: Coexistence – Man and Animals, 3 stamps: Birds and Aircraft (IS 1.10), Pets (IS 1.75), Dolphins (IS 2);
 Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities (IS 5.00);
 Philately Day – Space Research in Israel (IS 2.05);
 100 years “Ha-shilo’ah” Periodical, edited by Asher Zvi Ginzburg, later known by the pen name Ahad Ha’am (IS 1.15).
- 13.02.97: 450 years since the birth of **M. de Cervantes** Seavedra (392 years since his story “Don Quijote”) (IS 3.00);
 Ethnic Costumes, 3 stamps depicting traditional costumes of Jewish communities in the late 19th century and early 20th century: Jews of Ethiopia (IS 1.10), Jews of Kurdistan (IS 1.70), Jews of Salonika (IS 2.00);
 Hong Kong ‘97 – souvenir sheet, issued in honour of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Alva Edison (IS 2.00) and Alexander Graham Bell (IS 1.50). It was dedicated to the Asian International Stamp Exhibition.
 Sports (definitive series): Horseback Riding (IS 1.10), Archery (IS 5.00). Also booklet composed of 20 stamps of the Horseback Riding, in tete-beche arrangement (Fig. 54) and tete-beche sheet of 40 as shown in Figure 55.

Postage Labels

- 22.10.96: New background illustration introduced for “Massad” self-adhesive Computerized Postage Labels (CPL). As before, there are two basic formats – non-registered and registered labels (Fig. 56).
- 19.11.96: Klussendorf postage label “Season’s Greetings from the Holy Land”, both without machine number (Philatelic Services) and with No. 023 (Fig. 57).
- 05.12.96: Klussendorf postage label “Haifa” (Tourism Series), both without machine number (Philatelic Services) and with No. 027 (s. Fig. 57).

Front



Back

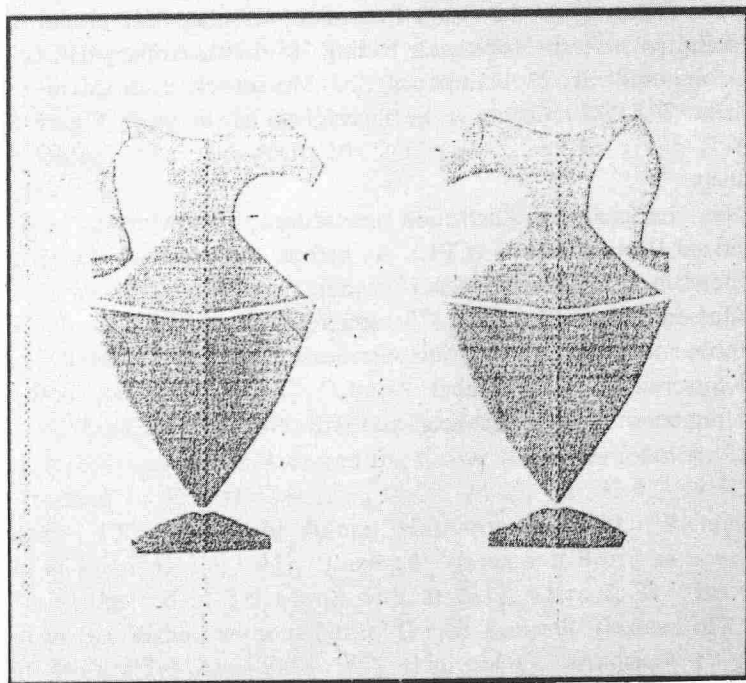


Figure 53

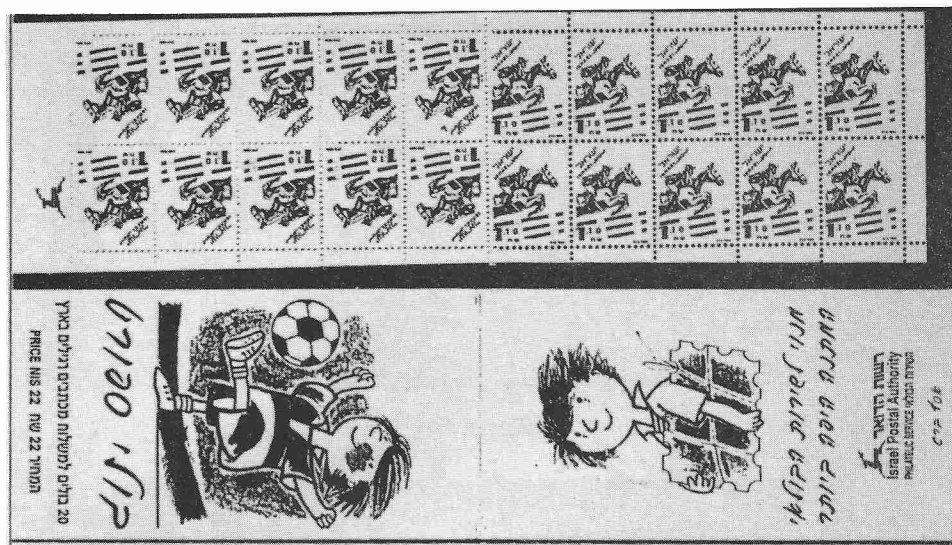


Figure 54

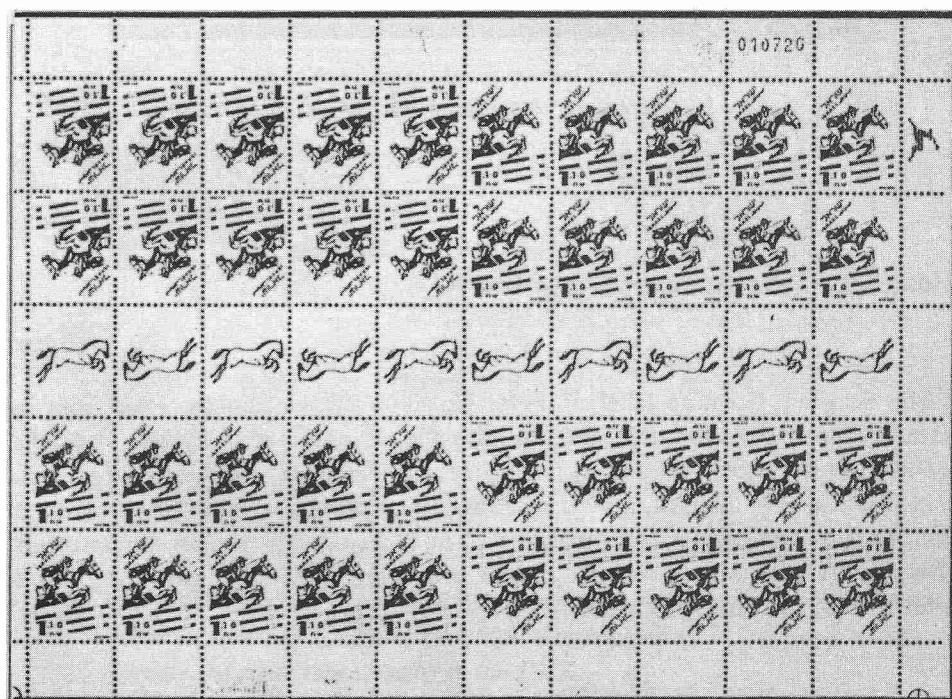


Figure 55

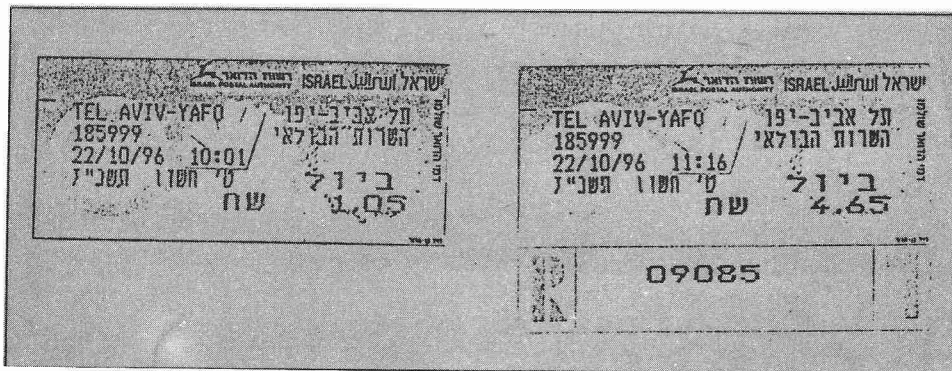
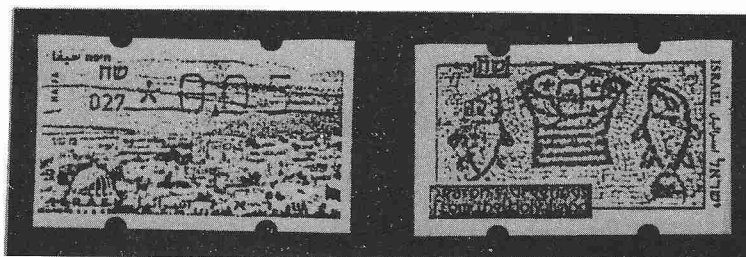


Figure 56



*Figure 57: Haifa Tourism label (machine No. 027) and
'Season's Greetings' 1996 from Nazareth machine (023).*

Klussendorf Christmas and Tourism Postage Labels - Addenda

(Z. Noy)

The Season's Greeting label of 1996, issued in November 1996, was sold in Nazareth (machine No. 023) and, as in previous cases, also by the Philatelic Services (both without No. and by a machine with No. 023). The latter 023 print is, as in some cases in the past, moved by about 1mm relative to the fixed background than the 023 from the Nazareth machine*. The Nazareth 023 machine operated for a very short time with a red ink ribbon producing some very rare 5 Ag labels **printed in red** instead of in black.

* On December 26, 1996 the 023 machine of the Ph.S. was fed with and supplied Nazareth Tourism labels instead of the Christmas labels.

The Hebrew year of the First Day postmark of Nazareth for the above label was wrong – תשנ"ו instead of תשנ"ז – it was correct in the Ph.S.'s postmark (Fig. 58). A similar error occurred in the Ph.S.'s F.D. postmark for the Haifa tourism label, but here the handstamp was "repaired" by splitting the "ו" into a "ז" (s. Fig. 58).

Both labels, of Haifa and of 1996 Season's Greeting, exist with two gum types: white gum and pink gum.

Three labels of the Tourism Series – Acre, Jerusalem (David's Citadel) and Tiberias – were produced with new plate (machine) Nos. These and the Haifa label and their varieties are described in the following Table.

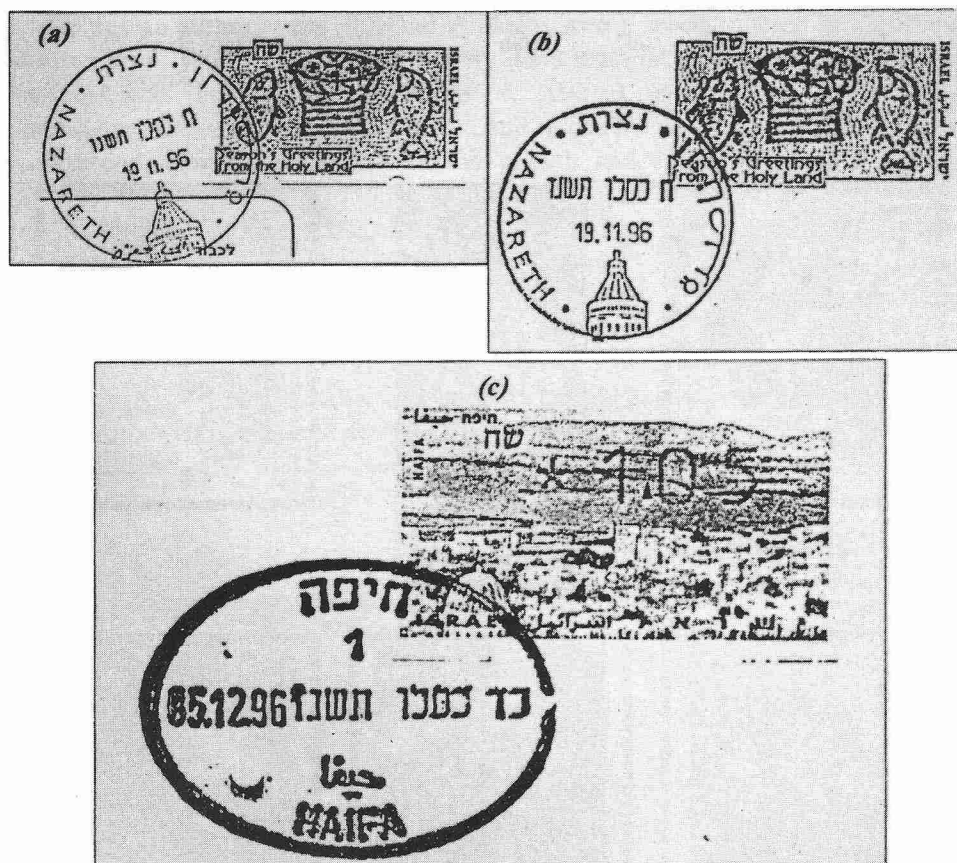


Fig. 58: The 1996 "Season's Greetings" F.D. postmark:

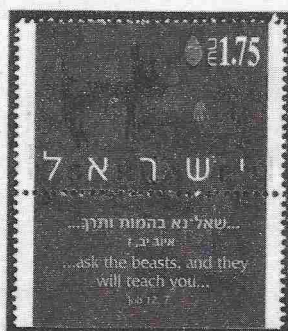
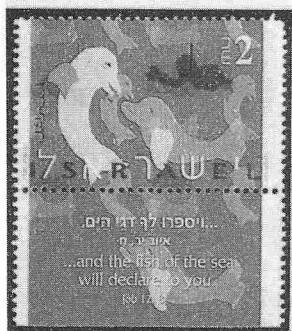
(a) with the wrong Hebrew year (תשנ"ו) in Nazareth;

(b) with the right year (תשנ"ז) in the Ph.S..

(c) The corrected year (תשנ"ז) in the Ph.S. F.D. postmark of the Haifa tourism Klussendorf label.

Table of New Tourism Klussendorf Labels' Varieties

Site	Machine No.	Phosphor	First Day	Remarks
Haifa	027	No	05.12.96	Only one role
Haifa	027	Yes	05.12.96	
Haifa	-	No	05.12.96	Only one role
Haifa	-	Yes	05.12.96	
Acre	008	Yes	26.12.96	
Jerusalem	003	No	26.12.96	
(David's Citadel)				
Tiberias	007	Yes	26.12.96	
Tiberias	007	No	26.12.96	Only about 700 labels known



Obituary

Mr. BEN REMINGTON

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away of Ben Remington of London on January 21st, 1997 after a long illness bravely borne.

Ben was a founder member of BAPIP, and one of its keenest active members. At various times he was President and Secretary of the Association and Editor of the BULLETIN. He fulfilled each task with wisdom, devotion and enthusiasm. He was always ready and available to give expert advice and encouragement to the Association and to fellow collectors. Generous to his friends, he was meticulously honest and fair – a kind man and a true gentlemen.

He was an authority on Holyland Philately, with a special interest in crash and disaster mail. With his collections of very good material, he won many awards at national and international exhibitions. A talented speaker with a very wide knowledge, his efforts to get Holy Land philately more widely known and understood, contributed greatly to the growth and success of BAPIP in this country and abroad.

To me Ben was like a bigger brother, always kind and helpful, and a ready source of information. We became firm friends, and I feel very fortunate to have known him for over 38 years. To me, as to his many other friends both here and abroad, his loss is great, and he leaves a void that can never be filled.

On behalf of his many personal friends and members of the Holyland Philatelic Society, our deepest sympathy and condolences go to Mrs. Remington and the family. Mr. Martin Genis and Dr. Walter Loebl represented the HPS at his Cremation Service. May his dear soul rest in peace. His album is closed but will never be forgotten. Shalom.

Norman Gladstone

Holy Land Auctions' Realizations

Prices are in U.S. \$'s. 10-15% buyer's commission and 1.5-2.5% V.A.T.
should be added.

Zodiac Stamps, Tel Aviv, Oct. 8, 1996

- | | |
|---|------|
| * Austrian P.O., "Jerusalem-Gerusalemme" (St. 543) on postcard
to Prague – | \$70 |
| * British Administration, 1918, 5m (SG 2) unused – | \$60 |
| * British Administration, "London I" unused set – | \$77 |

* 1948, Rishon LeZion local stamp, 18 Ap 48, on cover to Tel Aviv -	\$95
* 1949, Petah Tiqva plate block, mint -	\$110
* 1949, Festival II mint set -	\$280
* 1950, Independence mint set -	\$255

Negev Holyland Stamps, England, Oct. 16, 1996

* 1766, prephilatelic folded letter mentioning "Jerusalem" and "Mt. Scopus" -	\$950
* Turkish Post, 1909, "Acre" (St. 01/07) on A.R. cover franked 5 piasters -	\$2000
* Turkish Post, "Nasra 1" all arabic pmk. (St. 41/07) on cover to Berlin -	\$900
* German P.O., 1908, "Aus Ramleh, Palästina" on stationery postcard -	\$175
* E.E.F., 1918, pair of SG1 with "specimen" overprint -	\$450
* British Administration, 1920, 2nd local overprint 1m perforated 14, used -	\$475
* British Administration, 1922, "London II" 2p Ochre perforated 14, unused -	\$95
* British Administration, Pictorials 90m vertical ribbed paper, unused -	\$46
* 1948, Doar Ivri, 5m plate block group 25 -	\$725
* 1948, Festivals 3-65m, vertical gutter pairs with tabs, mint -	\$4300
* 1957, Tribes, no wmk set -	\$40

Dr. Wallach Auctions, Tel Aviv, Nov. 19-20, 1996

* German P.O., 1909, "Wilhelma Temple Colony" (St. 242) on cover -	\$365
* German P.O., 1911, "Aus Sarona" (St. 248) on inland reg. stationery cover -	\$720
* Turkish Post, 1908, "Gaza" (St. 17/04) on reg. cover to Jaffa with boxed "R" cachet -	\$3000
* Turkish Post, 1913, "Nasra" (St. 41/05) in combination with boxed "R" cachet (St. 41/08) on reg. stationery to Haifa -	\$1600
* E.E.F., 1919, "DAL TPO" on military reg. entire's front as transit pmk. -	\$2000
* E.E.F., 1919, Emergency air mail "Aerial Post EEF" circular cachet on OHMS cover -	\$500
* 1948, Jerusalem siege courier cover, franked 10m Jerusalem local and mailed from Tel Aviv to Geneigar -	\$900
* 1948, Jerusalem, 14 July 1948 rubber date slug on 10m Doar Ivri on commercial cover -	\$2600
* 1948, Safed local entire -	\$590
* 1952, Menora marginal tab cancelled F.D. -	\$125
* 1963, Hunger tete-beche sheet on private FDC -	\$445

Tel Aviv Stamps, March 12, 1997

- * Austrian Post, 1907, "Tiberias" two lines cachet on postcard to England; stamp cancelled in Haifa - \$23,750
- * French Post, 1873, "Jaffa-Syrie" pearl ring pmk (St 302) in combination with rhomboid "5089" (St 304) tying pair of 40c stamps to cover to France - \$650
- * Turkish Post, "Caifa 1" (St 19/08) 28.10.18 on reg. cover with handstamped "R" (St 19/13) to Vienna - \$500
- * WWI, French Detachment "Tresor et Postes 601B", 25.12.18 tying pair of 5m E.E.F. stamps to cover to Cairo - \$2500
- * WWI, 1918, prepaid cover from Rehovot, posted at "FPO HM"; pair of 5m stamps (SG4) cancelled by "FPO GM, 13 AP 18" - \$1600
- * British Administration, "Hebron OET" pmk on postcard to Switzerland - \$875
- * British Administration, 1920 "Jerusalem I" 20p transposed error, used - \$1500
- * British Administration, ditto, 4m "Z error", mint - \$1700
- * British Administration, 1922, "London I" 20p used on cutout (SG 70) - \$1600
- * British Administration, 1922, provisional reg. envelope PR2 to the U.S.A., franked 62m (Quintuple rate) - \$975
- * 1948, Minhelet Ha'am, Kefar Behadruga, philatelically inspired reg. cover - \$1300
- * 1948, Safed Local stamp tied by the oblong handstamp, dated F.D. 4 May 1948 - \$1400
- * 1949, commercial airmail cover to New York, properly mixed franked by 3 issues to make quintuple rate of 280m: 250m Doar Ivri + 10m Festival I + 20m Flag - \$560

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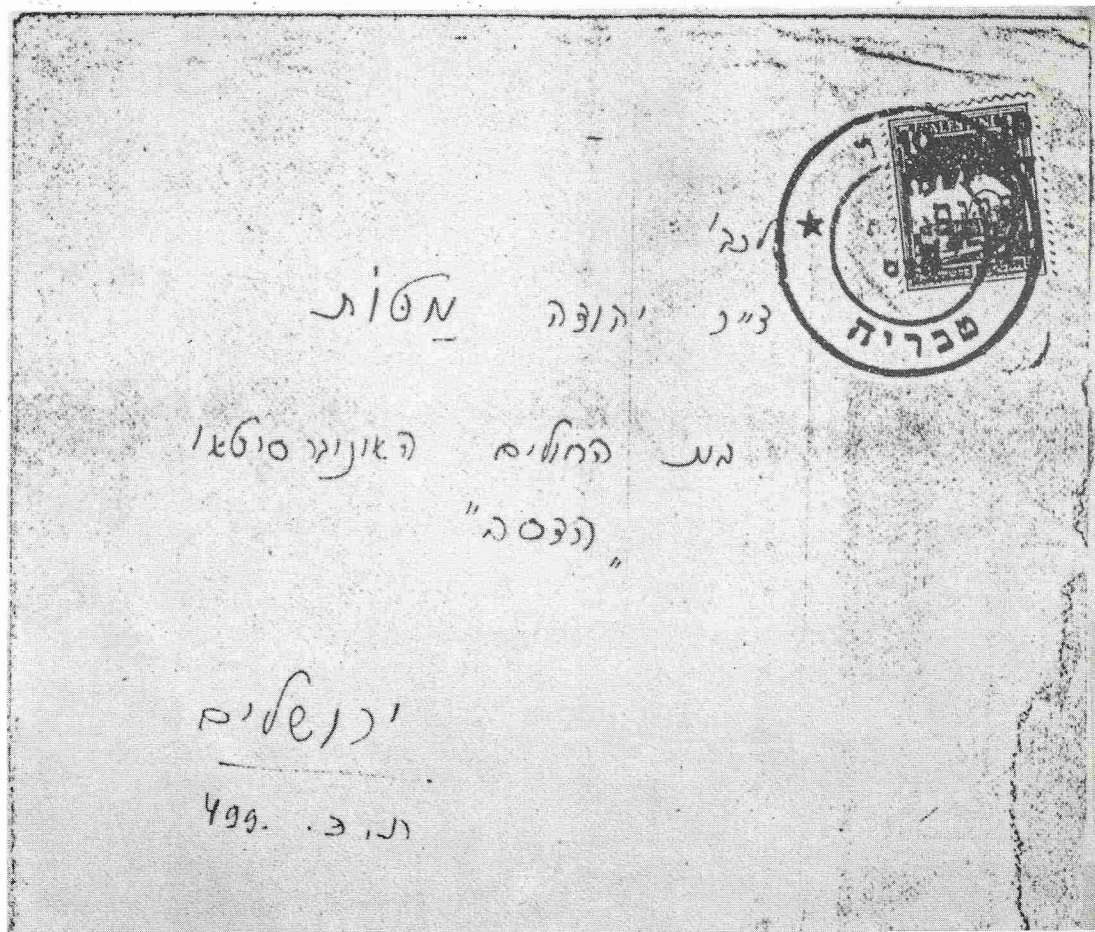


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המראה שהמכתב נשלח אחרי 2 במאי, 1948

A commercial letter of the Tiberias "Emergency Mail"; with Minhelet Ha'am cancellation
indicating that it was mailed after May 2nd, 1948 (s. article on p. 215)

קיץ תשנ"ו / סתיו תשנ"ז