From the Editor's Desk - Nahum Shereshevsky

   In the previous issue I commented on the number of stamps issued by
the Israeli Philatelic Service. After   the   journal   was   printed,
Menahem Lador remarked that the New Issues section was very long –
almost half of the pages, 9 out of 20. You are right, I said, but
what can I do - there were so many items issued lately! Let me share
with you some of my considerations when I write about the new issues.
My starting point is the Philatelic Service's leaflets. There is no
point (nor space) to reprint them entirely, but I try to include
information that can relate the stamp to themes that are not obvious.
I also keep in mind that my readers are not Israelis, and therefore
some   background information is helpful sometimes. Finally, I'm
looking for previous issues that are related to the new stamp. As a
matter of policy, I include not only stamps but all kinds of
philatelic material, and describe every detail in them. Booklets are
a typical example, their covers often carry illustrations that relate
them to themes entirely different from those of the stamps inside. It
goes without saying that all of that information is also illustrated,
and that ,takes space. I believe, however, that this space is well
used. Your input on the New Issues section (and anything else) is
invited!
   In this issue we start a new regular feature, "Meter Corner",
written by our member Dr. Eliahu Foa, who has the largest collection
of meter postmarks in Israel. Each time he will show us examples of
Israeli meters on a chosen theme. Any special requests?

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INTRODUCTION TO ISRAELI METER POSTAGE STAMPS

Meter Postage Stamps (MPS) machines made their appearance in Israel in the 1930's during the time of the British Mandate. They were in use by public institutions as the Jewish Agency, Histadrut (Federation of Labour), some banks, the Hebrew University, and only very few private enterprises.

Soon after Independence in 1948 the use of MPS machines was discontinued by the Post Office, to be re-introduced in 1950.

The number of MPS machines greatly increased during the years and in absence of factories in Israel that made such machines they were and still are imported from abroad, under many trade marks. Of the best known are Universal, Francotyp, Postalia, Pitney Bows, Frama, Hasler, Statas, Alcatel.

METERS OF MUNICIPALITIES, AND LOCAL / REGIONAL COUNCILS

Meter Postage Stamps of Israel's municipalities, local councils and regional councils often incorporate in their slogan their beautiful arms. Some examples are reproduced here, and, thematically speaking, these meters may satisfy not only collectors of local arms but also collectors of other themes that can be found in the arms. For instance, Bible/archaeology (Bnei Shimon), historical monuments (Acco, Lod, Yavne), animals (Menashe - oryx ("unicorn"), Emeq Hefer - fish, Qiryat Shemona - lion), trees (Holon), flowers.

Note: the place name in the meter is given in parenthesis when it differs from that of the council.
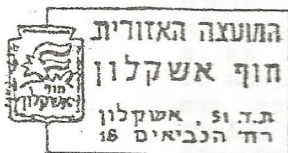
HOF ASHQELON
Regional Council
(ASHQELON)
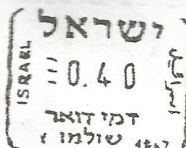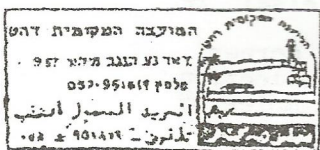
RAHAT Local
Council (Bedouin
township)
(HA-NEGEV MPO)

YAVNE Local Council

Slogan: "every drop
[of water] is
precious!"

2

עירית עטולה

עפולה
22. 4.77
AFULA

ISRAEL ישראל
060

AFULA
Municipality

נהריה

המרכז לתיירות ומרגוע

נהריה
14. 2.63
NAHARIYYA

ISRAEL ישראל
012

NAHARIYYA Municipality

**"The Centre for
Tourism and
Relaxation".**

עירית לוד

לוד
08.7.77
LOD

ISRAEL ישראל
2.60

LOD (Lydda)

Municipality

עירית רמלה

רמלה
18. 1.63
RAMLA

ISRAEL ישראל
0.12

RAMLA

Municipality

עיריית עכו

עכו
19 II 56
ACCO

ISRAEL ישראל
000
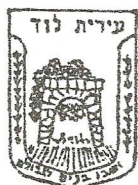
ACCO (Acre)

Municipality

עירית
קרית
גת

קרית גת
23.12.83
QIRYAT GAT

ISRAEL ישראל
004.50

QIRYAT GAT

Municipality

3
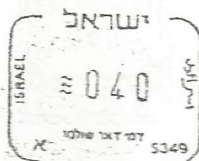
EMEQ HEFER
Regional
Council
(KFAR VITKIN)

fish, orange
tree

MENASHE
Regional
Council
(HADERA)

Oryx, emblem
of the Tribe
of Menasseh
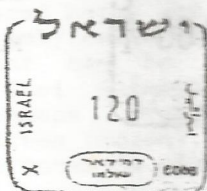
GALIL ELYON
(Upper Galilee)
Regional Council
(QIRYAT SHEMONA)

The Roaring Lion
monument at Tel
Hai.

BNEI SHIMON
Regional Council
(HA-NEGEV MPO)

Archaeological
findings.

HA-ARAVA
Regional Council
(ARAVA MPO)

HOLON
Municipality

4

A METHOD FOR THEMATIC INDEXING   Nahum Shereshevsky

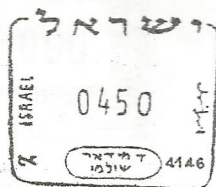In ISRATHEME #2 Menahem Lador proposed a world-wide philatelic data-base. In this article I want to introduce a method for the building of an index for such a data-base, or a catalogue, based on some experimenting that I have done.

There are two aspects to the problem, which are inseparable.

One is the method of indexing used. There are classification systems, like Dewey or UDC, that place the object in a certain logical concept, going from top to bottom. They divide and sub-divide the world into categories. The advantage is that if you're looking for a specific category, say birds, you can narrow yourself down to a certain range of the index, maybe a few ranges (for example, "ornithologists" under "scientists"). That is fine as long as your area of interest falls into the classification's logic, but in thematics it often doesn't. For example, if your theme is "wetlands", you're interested in birds as well as in mammals and reptiles, which would be in different sub-classes.

But the crucial problem with systematic classifications is that the data entry process is very time consuming. We must remember that the people that would do it would be mostly volunteers that are not familiar with the system and would have to look for every entry.

I propose to use the word index method. Instead of defining and classifying the object, we just write it. The index is sorted alphabetically, and the user goes over it and chooses the words or proper names that interest him. One disadvantage of words compared to numerical classification is the language dependency. Personally, I believe that an educated person should know more than one language, and at least one of the leading ones such as English, French, Spanish. It would be necessary to translate the word lists into two or three languages, but that is relatively easy.

The other aspect of the indexing problem is the level of detail. In a stamp catalogue every stamp or series has a title, but for a thematic collector that is not enough. He is also interested in the visual side of the stamp - what is shown on it, big or small. If a set entitled "Independence Day" depicts flowers, a collector of flowers would like to know about it, that is, to find these stamps in the index under "flowers". If the stamp is dedicated to a person, it is useful to index the stamp under what that person was famous for (president, doctor, author, and often more that one classification). This is especially important if we keep in mind that the index would also be used by people from another country who are not familiar with the prominent people of our own country.

I have defined five levels:

1. The subject of the issue ("title") - for example, Festivals, Memorial Day, Aviation, a person's name.

2. Main graphic motif of stamp that is not in the title, proper name of object.

3. Secondary theme which is related to main theme: occupation of person, broader classification of subject of issue (e.g. - religion for festival stamps).

4. Small graphic elements.

5. Graphic elements on tab, marginal inscriptions, labels etc. For Israeli stamps this is a must, but it can occasionally be useful for stamps of other countries as well. This level should be distinct from the previous one, so that the collector should know that in this case he must have the stamp with the addition.

As an example I have chosen two Israeli stamps that are illustrated below. The one on the right is the 60 pr. value of the 1954 TABIM Stamp Exhibition set, which was chosen as an example of all the five levels in one stamp. On the left is the 1985 Kibbutz stamp (900/921), which demonstrates that one stamp can yield many index words.

For the TABIM stamp: (1) "Stamp Exhibitions", and the proper name "TABIM". (2) "post office". (3) "Jerusalem", "architecture", "post" (more general than "post office"). (4) "horse", "coach". (If the mail coach was in level 2, than "transportation" would've been in level 3). (5) "lion (symbolic)".

For the Kibbutz stamp: (1) "Kibbutz" (2) nothing here, as the stamp shows a picture with many small details. (3) "agriculture" (an Israeli collector of agriculture would know to associate "kibbutz" with his theme, but we must also have in mind the foreign collector!) (4) "cow", "flag", "water tower", "cloud", "cogwheel". (5) "wheat".

As mentioned before, the data entry time is a critical point. We assume that the data would be entered into a computer data-base. Every entry (record) consists of the word that would later be used for sorting, the level that may be used for secondary sorting, and the stamp identification (e.g., catalogue number or record number of another data-base). For one stamp, its identification should be repeated in every record, and the level may also appear in more than one record of that stamp. When entering data into a data-base application, time has to be allowed for entering repeated information, for skipping fields that are irrelevant to the specific data entry (with the possibility of getting confused and entering data in the wrong field), and some application insist that you save every record to disk, which interrupts your work flow.

My suggestion: instead of entering the data directly to a data-base, we should type it as a text file, one (logical) line to a stamp, adhering to a simple syntax. Instead of repeating information, we let the computer do the breaking of the line into several records and copy the relevant data as many times as needed.

The syntax is very simple: the classes are represented by the following characters, in order: !@#$% . The stamp ID is entered first, followed by a class and its words, separated by (;). The line is terminated by (|). The Kibbutz stamp would be entered as:

```
900 !Kibbutz #agriculture $cow;flag;
water tower;cloud;cogwheel %wheat|
```

And after the expansion we get:

```
!900    Kibbutz
#900    agriculture
$900    cow
$900    flag
$900    water tower
$900    cloud
$900    cogwheel
%900    wheat
```

Next stage is sorting.
This method can be
used for other types
of philatelic material,
we just have to define the relevant codes.
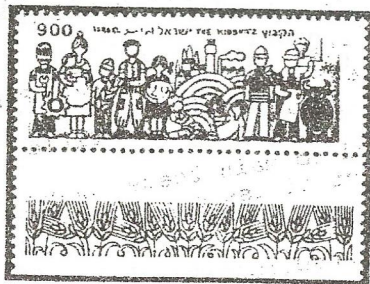
THE SPORTS IN ISRAELI PHILATELY: THE MACCABI GAMES By Alan E. Karpas

The Maccabi Sports Union was founded in 1921 and rapidly established branches throughout the Jewish world. In 1933 and 1935 games were held in Palestine, called Maccabiah (sometimes spelled Makkabbiyya). But with the outbreak of World War II, the Jewish sports organizations in Europe collapsed.

With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 a decision was taken at the 10th Congress of World Maccabi to renew their Games, which have become, in fact, the Jewish Olympics.

Held in Israel every four years (since 1953) and bringing together athletes from all over the world, the Maccabiah is the foremost competition for Jewish athletes. Many non-Jewish sportsmen of international stature are invited to participate.

The Maccabi Games have been extensively commemorated philatelically in Israel. The next Maccabiah, the 14th, will be held in 1993.

10th World Maccabi Congress, 1948.
Postmark: TEL AVIV 26.12.48. "10th Congress of World Maccabi" with Maccabi logo.

3rd Maccabiah, 1950.
One stamp, SG 40/Sc 37, issued on 1.10.50
80 pr. Sprinter on track. Tab: Maccabiah Magen David logo with olive branch.

4th Maccabiah, 1953.
a) one stamp, SG 88/Sc 78, issued on 20.9.53.
   110 pr. Hand holding football-globe with Maccabiah logo. Tab: four Magen-Davids inside track.
b) FDI postmark: RAMAT GAN, 20.9.53. "opening of 4th Maccabiah" (in French) inside track, with Israel and Maccabiah flags.
c) KFAR HAMACCABIAH (Maccabiah Village) CDS used at that Post Office during the games, with logo. First day: 14.9.53.

5th Maccabiah, 1957.
Four postmarks.
a) TEL AVIV-YAFO, JERUSALEM, HAIFA 21.8.57 slogan: "SEPT. 1957 V MAKKABBIYYA" with logo.
b) RAMAT GAN 15.9.57 "V MAKKABBIYYA" with logo.
c) RAMAT GAN - CAMP DE LA MACCABIADE 16.9.57, a flower with logo. Used in the Maccabiah Village.
d) JERUSALEM 18.9.57, "The Maccabiah Sports Games" (in French) with logo and Jerusalem city arms.

25th Anniversary of Maccabi Games, 1958.
One stamp, SG 142/Sc 137, issued on 20.1.58.
500 pr. Hammer Thrower. Tab: logo with olive branch.

6th Maccabiah, 1961.
One postmark: RAMAT GAN 29.8.61 "VI MACCABIAH", track inside figure "6" and logo.

7th Maccabiah, 1965.
One postmark: RAMAT GAN 23.8.65 "VII MACCABIAH" with logo.

8th Maccabiah, 1969.

a) One stamp, SG 412/Sc 385, issued on 9.7.69.
   0.60 IL Hand holding torch with logo. Tab: logo in oval.
b) Postmark: RAMAT GAN 28.7.69 "EIGHTH MACCABIAH" with logo.

9th Maccabiah, 1973.
a) One stamp, SG 563/Sc 522, issued on 3.5.73.
   1.10 IL New logo – Magen David & Runner. Tab: logo.
b) Slogan: JERUSALEM 1.6.73 "9th Maccabiah 9.–19.7.1973" with new
   logo inside figure "9".
c) Postmark: RAMAT GAN 9.7.73 "9th Maccabiah" with logo.

10th Maccabiah, 1977.
a) A set of three stamps, SG 667-9/Sc 633-5, issued on 23.6.77.
   1.00 IL Fencing.
   2.50 IL Shot Putting.
   3.50 IL Judo.
   Tabs: logo.
b) Postmark: RAMAT GAN 12.7.77 "10th Maccabiah" with logo inside
   figure "0".

11th Maccabiah, 1981.
A set of three stamps, SG 813-5/Sc 779-781, issued on 5.5.81.
0.80 IS Board Sailing.
4.00 IS Basketball.
6.00 IS High Jump.
Tabs: logo.

12th Maccabiah, 1985.
A set of three stamps, SG 962-4/Sc 910-2, issued on 16.5.85.
400 IS Basketball.
500 IS Tennis.
600 IS Board Sailing.
Tabs: logo.

13th Maccabiah, 1989.
a). One stamp, SG 1073/Sc ?, issued on 11.6.89.
0.80 NIS Logo
b) FDI postmark: RAMAT GAN 11.6.89 "13th Maccabiah 3-13.7.89".
c) postmark: RAMAT GAN 29.6.89 "Maccabi USSR arrives in Israel to
             participate in the Games" with logo.
d) postmark: RAMAT GAN 3.7.89 "13th Maccabiah, Festive opening"
             with logo.

IV Games,
1953

III Games, 1950 ->

IV Games, 1953
Maccabiah
Village

V Games, 1957

V Games, 1957

25th Anniversary
of Maccabiah
Games, 1958

VI Games, 1961

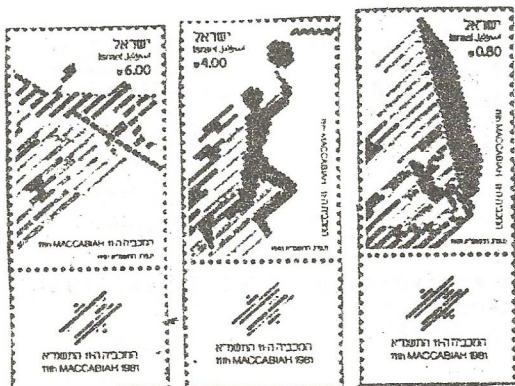VII Games, 1965

VIII Games, 1969

IX Games, 1973

9

IX Games, 1973

X Games, 1977

XI Games, 1981

XII Games, 1985

XIII Games, 1989

Maccabi USSR
Arrives to XIII
Games, 1989

CONTACTS

* Mr. RAPHAEL ROTEM, P.O. Box 504, 84965 OMER, ISRAEL, is looking for Fruits and Bees. He can send in return mint stamps and FDC of Israel 1981-1991.
* Mr. MICHA BACHMAN, Azar 5/B, Kfar Saba, Israel, collects FDC's (only, with full sets) and Maximum Cards with Animals and Flowers. He offers in exchange Israeli philatelic material of all kinds.
* Mr. DAVID ALTMAN, 19340 Kibbutz Gazit, is looking for an exchange partner in Australia and New Zealand.

18.2.92

ANEMONE - NON-DENOMINATED STAMP (Sheet stamp & booklet).

The Anemone is a bulbous plant, a member of the Buttercup family. The most common Anemones are the red ones, which can be found growing throughout Israel from the north to the Negev. There are white, pink and blue anemones as well. In Israel Anemones flower from January to April.

The Anemone has appeared three times before on Israeli stamps: The 110 pr. value of the 1952 Independence Day (SG 67/Sc 64) shows an Anemone with Zefat in the background. The 1953 Independence Day stamp (83/73) shows five Anemones, for the five years of independence. The third appearance, this time as the main design of the stamp, was on the 60 pr. value of the 1959 Independence Day stamp (161/157).

On the stamp are two Anemones, and the inscription "standard inland letter" in Hebrew and Arabic.

The FDI postmark (#14 on p. 20) shows the flower's perianth.

The booklet contains a pane 20 stamps, made of two sub-panes of 10 (2 rows of 5) tete-beche to each other. The Philatelic Service also sold entire tete-beche panes of 40 stamps.

On the front outer cover are a number of Anemones of different colours, and the inscriptions "Anemone Stamps" (with Postal Authority Stag logo), "20 stamps for posting standard inland letters".

Back outer cover: "Israel Postal Authority/Philatelic Service" (also in English), and "A Philatelic Service subscription the best gift". On the lower part are sketches of some Israeli stamps, from left: the Anemone (with ribbons), 1948 10 pr. Doar Ivri (3/3), 1960 Herzl (194/183), 1965 Independence Day (National Water Carrier) (312/293), 40 ag. 1987 Dogs (952/965), 1988 sunflower NVI (970/984).

Inner front cover: "Dial 171 and send a telegram for all occasions". Shown are three examples of illustrated greeting telegrams.

Inner back cover: "Bills are paid at the Postal Bank".

PALMAH NIS 1.50

"PALMAH" stands for "Assault Companies". The Palmah was the striking force of the Hagana, one of the underground organizations during the British Mandate period. The Palmah was mobilized in 1941 as a national force under the high command of the Hagana. Palmah members, men and women, spent a few months in Kibutzim, working part of the time and getting military training. During 1941-2, as part of co-operation between the Hagana and the British, the Palmah fought alongside the Allied forces against the Axis.

At the beginning of the War of Independence in November 1947, the Palmah numbered 2100 fighters, increasing in a few months to 6000, and was the main fighting force in the war.

Another one of the Palmah's tasks was the "ha-apala", the illegal immigration of Jews to Israel. The Palmah had a maritime branch, PALYAM ("Maritime Companies"), that organized 65 immigration ships. Jews were also smuggled across the Lebanese and Syrian borders.

With the establishment of the IDF in May 1948, the Palmah, like the other underground organizations (ETZEL and LEHI, see ISRATHEME #5)

was disbanded and its members joined the IDF, forming three brigades (Negev, Yiftah, Harel).

The first commander of the Palmah was General Yizhak Sadeh, who later founded the Armored Corps of the Israeli Army. Sadeh appeared on a 1978 stamp (702/691). The second commander was General Yigal Alon, later minister of education, minister of foreign affairs, and deputy prime minister. Alon appeared on a 1984 stamp (919/858).

The stamp and the FDI postmark (see #15 on p. 20) shows the Palmah emblem, two heads of wheat and a sword, which symbolizes the connection between agriculture and military. On the tab is a verse from the Palmah song, by Zrubavel Gilad (free translation): "The storm is roaring around us, but our head stands high. We're always ready for the order, we the Palmah".

THE SEA OF GALILEE - SOURCE OF WATER AND LIFE   85 ag. X 3

The Sea of Galilee is the Biblical name of Lake Kinneret, a name derived from "kinor", a violin, originated from the lake's shape. Lake Kinneret is in the north-east part of Israel and is the only freshwater lake in Israel and the major reservoir that supplies water to the entire country. Lake Kinneret is the lowest freshwater lake in the world - 208 meters below sea level! The water level of the Kinneret is of major concern to Israelis, and in recent years the water line receded. But, during this winter (1991/92) that was exceptionally rainy and cold, the Kinneret gained all the water that it lost, and in fact, the dam in the south of the lake had to be opened to let the water flow to the Dead Sea via the River Jordan.

In addition, Lake Kinneret is also used for fishing and as a resort centre that offers sailing, swimming, and historical and archaeological sites around it.

These activities have brought many environmental pressures on the lake, which requires careful planning by the Kinneret Administration, a government body that was established in 1969. The stamps symbolically illustrate different aspects of Lake Kinneret: (left to right) agriculture around the lake, fishing, boating and recreation. The FDI postmark (#16 on p. 20) shows a topographical representation of the lake with contour lines.

THE SAMARITANS   NIS 2.60

The Samaritans are an ancient people who live in the Land of Israel. According to Jewish tradition, as told in the Bible (Kings II, 17), the Samaritans were brought by the King of Assyria from the Fertile Crescent and were settled in the cities of Samaria (an area north-west of the River Jordan) in place of the Israelites who were exiled to Assyria. Accordingly, the Samaritans are not a part of the Israelite Tribes.

The Samaritans' version is different: their destiny and Torah are - according to their belief - living witnesses that they were in Israel much earlier and are remnants of an ancient people, the heirs of the Lost Tribes.

The Samaritan religion is based on five principles of faith: the belief in one God; in his servant, Moses son of Amram; belief in the Torah; in Mount Grizim, near Nablus; and the Day of Vengence and Retribution - the End of Days when the Messiah will be revealed. The

Samaritans celebrate the seven festivals that are mentioned in the Torah (while Jews also celebrate later festivals): Passover; The Feast of Unleavened Bread ("Matzot"), which falls on the seventh day of Passover; Pentecost; The Festival of the Seventh Month – equivalent to Jewish New Year, as the Jewish start of the year was changed; Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement); Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot); Shmini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Holy Convocation). They also observe the Sabbath, the laws of purity and impurity, Kashruth (Dietary Laws), and circumcision.

In the 4th century C.E. over a million Samaritans were living in the area, from Damascus to Alexandria, but today there are only about 550 Samaritans, equally divided between Mount Gerizim and Holon, near Tel Aviv.

The stamp shows the Samaritans praying on Mount Gerizim. The tab shows the Samaritan Torah Scroll. On the FDI postmark (#17 on p. 20) is a verse from Deuteronomy 11, 29, written also in the Samaritan letters (three top horizontal rows): "... thou shalt put the blessing upon Mount Gerizim".

WOMEN 80 ag., NIS 1.10 .

Each stamp shows portraits of the lady concerned at different periods of her life. The special FDI postmark (#18 on p. 20) shows three flowers, each is taken from a woman's name in Hebrew.

HANNA ROVINA (1889-1990) 80 ag.

Hanna Rovina was known as the "First Lady of the Theatre". She was born in Poland, and started her career as a kindergarten teacher. In Warsaw she met Nahum Zemach, who founded a Hebrew theatre company, and he offered her to join. During the First World War she left Warsaw, but returned in 1917 and joined "HABIMAH" ("The Stage"), a new Hebrew company that Zemach founded. The actor and producer Vakhtangov, a protegé of Stanislavsky, became Habimah's instructor, and under his direction Rovina reached one of her artistic peaks – playing Leah in An-Ski's "Hadibbuk" (then entitled "Between Two Worlds"). A scene from Hadibbuk is shown on a 1970 stamp commemorating Habimah's jubilee (SG 442/Sc 412).

In 1928 Hanna Rovina emigrated to Palestine with the rest of the company. Among the many roles that she played in her long career were: in Chekhov's "Marriage", the young Jewess in Gutzkow's "Uriel da Costa", Jokasta in Sophocles' "Odipeus Rex". In 1956 Rovina was awarded the Israel Prize for Theatrical Art.

On the stamp's tab is a drawing of Habima theatre in Tel Aviv in its early days and a quotation from Hadibbuk: "I yearned for a fountain of light".

RIVKA GUBER (1902-1981) NIS 1.30

Rivka Guber became a symbol of pioneering, personal sacrifice and Zionist idealism. She was born in Ukraine, and in 1921 married Mordehai Guber, a Hebrew teacher who later, in Palestine, became an agricultural instructor. In 1925 they settled in Rehovot. During 1939 Rivka left her husband and three small children and joined the British Army. In the War of Independence Rivka and Mordehai lost their two sons, Ephraim and Zvi. A moshav, Kfar Ahim ("Brothers Village") was named after them, as well as a major near-by road

junction that was formerly called Qastina. Since then Rivka Guber was also known as "The Mother of the Sons". Over the years the Gubers moved several times from one settlement to another and helped to establish new settlements in the Lachish Region, which is south-east of Tel Aviv, on the way to Beer Sheva. During these years Rivka was an educator and taught new immigrants. She also wrote many books that were translated into many languages. In 1979 Prime Minister Menahem Begin invited Rivka Guber to be a part of the official Israeli delegation that went to the United States to sign the peace treaty with Egypt.

The tab shows the landscape of the Lachish Region, and the following sentence, said by Rivka Guber: "Peace, the more are those who share it, the more there is of it for everyone"
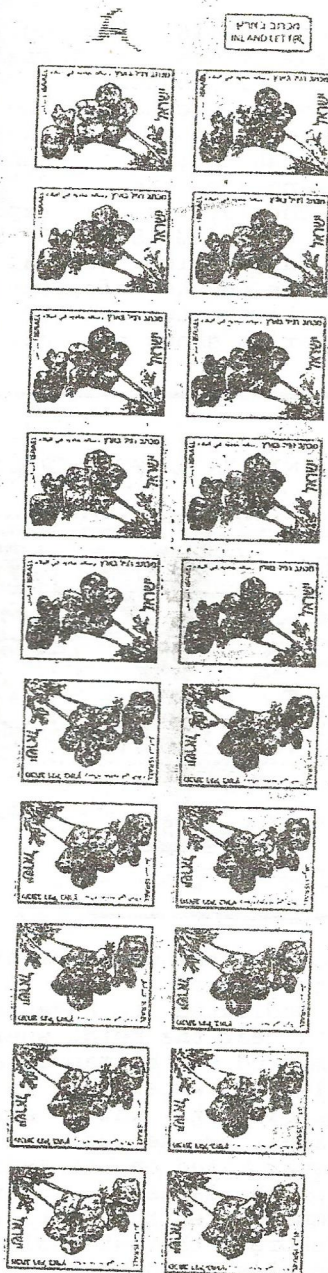
Anemone

Lake Kinneret

Samaritans

<-- Hanna Rovina

Rivka Guber -->

בולי כלנית

20 בולים למשלוח מכתבים רגילים בארץ

Anemone
Booklet
front
cover
<--

PALMAH

מנוי לשירות הבולאי המתנה היפה ביותר

Annemone booklet - back cover

חייג 171 ושלח מברק לכל ארוע

Anemone booklet - inner front cover

חשבונות משלמים בבנק הדואר

Annemone booklet - back inner cover

Booklet pane

Lake Kinneret, being the only freshwater lake in Israel, has appeared many times in Israeli philately, as appropriate to its importance to this country.

The Kinneret is located in the north-east part of Israel, between the Galilee mountains in the west and the Golan Heights in the East. The River Jordan enters the Kinneret in the north and leaves in the south, flowing to the Dead Sea. This can be seen on the old map depicted on the 19th Century Exploration of the Holy Land souvenir sheet from 1987 (SG MS1036/Sc 978). Note that on that map North is on the left, a practice that was common in old maps of the Holy Land. The Kinneret is on the left, the Dead Sea on the right, and the River Jordan connects the two. The FDI postmark that was used for that issue in Tiberias shows the lake as it might have been last
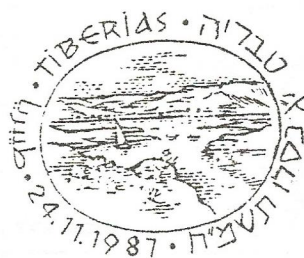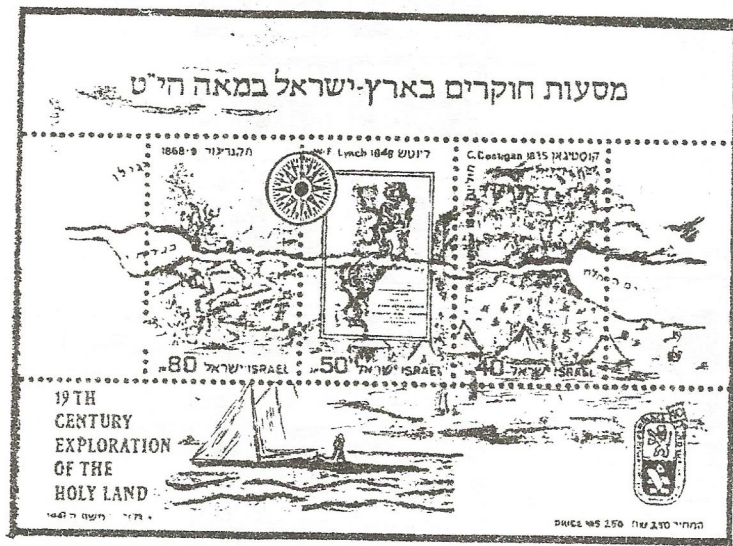
The Kinneret in the 19th century

century, before the development around it. A modern map of the lake appears on the tab of the 180 pr. value of the 1959 Jubilees set (172/167), dedicated to Deganya. Deganya is located in the South of the Kinneret, near the point where the River Jordan flows from the lake. It's marked on the map as a tower.

As the only freshwater lake in Israel, the Kinneret is the nation's water reservoir. Its water are carried to the Negev desert on the south of Israel, by the National Water Carrier, inaugurated in 1964. It was commemorated on the 1965 Independence Day stamp (312/293) as it was one of the largest projects done in Israel at the time. A 1989 postmark commemorates the Carrier's 25th anniversary, showing the emblem of Mekorot, the national water corporation.

The Kinneret's uniqueness as a lake (not counting the Dead Sea which is another matter) makes it a major resort area, sometimes dubbed "the national bathtub". The 1.70 value of the 1979 Four Seas of Israel set (1068/1068) shows waterskiing on the lake, while the 0.18 IL stamp of the Landscape Definitive set (496/464) shows people picnicking between the palms on the eastern shore of the Kinneret.

A 1959 map of the lake

The National Water Carrier

The lake's circumference is 55 km, and part of it is used for an annual marathon - probably the lowest one on earth!

Water-ski

Picnicking

Kinneret Marathon

Lake Kinneret played its modest role in the development of commercial aviation in this country and the British Empire, as was commemorated by the 150 IS value of the 1985 Aviation in Israel set (951/901). In 1931 the British airline "Imperial Airways" started flights between England and India, via Palestine. A Scipio-Short Sea-plane (shown on the stamp) landed on the Kinneret, and its passengers were taken by land from Tiberias to Sameh and from there made the next leg, to Baghdad, aboard a regular plane. This line operated until 1942, when a sea-plane crashed because of stormy weather. The landing site was then moved to the Dead Sea and Haifa Bay.

Views of the Kinneret and its surroundings have appeared on a number of definitive stamps. The 70 pr. airmail of 1954 (77/C10) shows a view from the lake to Ein Gev, on the eastern shore. Behind Ein Gev is Mount Susita, known also by its Roman name Hipos, both deriviating from the word "horse". The harp on the tab refers to the yearly music festival that is held in Ein Gev. The 0.35 IL value of the 1960 airmail (184c/C22) shows Capernaum, on the north-east shore of the Lake of Galilee.

Landing on the
Kinneret

View from the lake
to Mt. Susita & Ein Gev

Capernaum

The city of Tiberias is the "capital of the Kinneret". Located about half-way on the western shore, it was built in 19 C.E. and was named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius. Throughout the years the city was rebuilt several times. The 0.65 IL value of the 1960 airmails (185/C16) shows part of the fortress bulit in the 18th century. A larger view from the Kinneret toward the city is shown on the tab of the "Four seas" stamp mentioned earlier. The 3000 pr. value of the 1956 airmails (82a/C16) shows the tomb of Rabi Meir Baal Hanes, on the shore of the lake.

Tiberias is also known for its hot springs, commemorated on the 8.00 IL value of the 1979 Health Resorts in Israel set (760/734). The water on the stamp's foreground represents the hot springs, and that on the background represents the Kinneret.

Finally, and not surprisingly, the Kinneret is also represented in the Tiberias city arms, just below a representation of the fortress. (Town Emblems I definitive series 0.12 IL, 1966, 300/282).

Hot Springs

18th century
fortress, Tiberias

Tomb of Rabbi
Meir Baal Hanes

City arms
of Tiberias

Note: '*' denotes a postmark used for FDC of stamps.

*1. 2.12.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Women (Dona Gracia, Ben Zvi).
*2. 2.12.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Barcelona Olympics '92
*3. 2.12.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Int'l Mozart Year in Israel
*4. 2.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: LEHI [signature of Abraham Stern].
*5. 2.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: The Postal and Philatelic Museum
          "Building a home for the stamp and the post".
*6. 2.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: Philately Day.
*7. 2.12.91 AKKO: ETZEL 60th Anniversary (Akko fortress).
8. 2.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: Israel Stamp Week.
9. 3.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: 5th Convention of Israel Philatelists.
10a. 24.12.91 BETHLEHEM: Christmas.
10b. 24.12.91 NAZARETH: Christmas.
11. 24.12.91 TEL AVIV YAFO: 50 Years of the Introduction of Income
          Tax in Israel 1941 - 1991.
12. 26.12.91 MODI'IN MPO Herzl Forest. Ben Shemen: 90th Anniversary
          of the Jewish National Fund.
13. 30.1.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: 50th Anniversary of the Death of YAIR.
*14. 18.2.92 TEL AVIV YAFO: Anemone non-denominated stamp.
*15. 18.2.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): 50th Anniversary of PALMAH.
*16. 18.2.92 TIBERIAS: Sea of Galilee (Kinneret).
*17. 18.2.92 HOLON: The Samaritans.
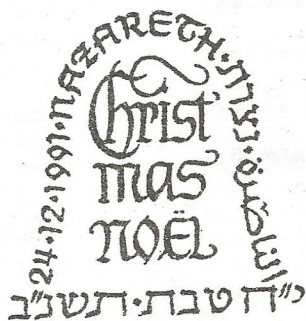*18. 18.2.92 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Women. (Rovina, Guber).
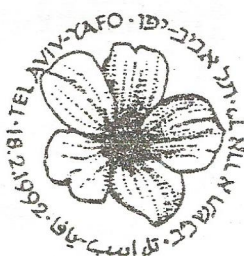

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