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ל' ניסן תש"ח
9.5.48

לכבוד
ה' ד. בן-גוריון
ח' ל - א ב י ב .

בשם מזכירות ועדת-המצב אני מאשרת
לברך אותך, המאמין הגדול של ימינו, לפתיחת
שירותי הדאר העברי הראשון בירושלים.

ח. אבן-טוב
מזכירות ועדת-המצב

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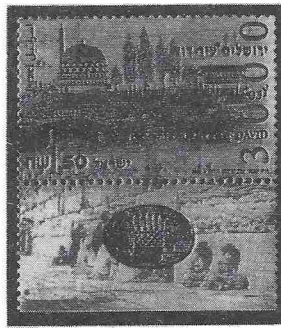
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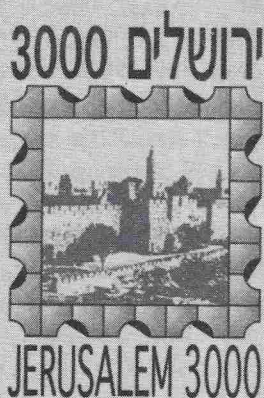
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תערוכת בולים אירופאית

EUROPEAN STAMP EXHIBITION



בניני האומה, ירושלים

כ"ד - כ"ח כסלו ה'תשנ"ו
(16 עד 21 בדצמבר 1995)

BINYANEY HA'OOMA CONVENTION CENTER

DECEMBER 16 - 21, 1995

The Howard's Hotel Cachet

David Pearlman, London

(The following article may possibly be worthy of publication. In my view the widespread use of hotel cachets was more than mere publicity. My view is that the use of these cachets was to prove to the post office that the hotel was instrumental in capturing the sales of postage stamps. The fierce competition between the postal services in the years to 1914, gave such possibilities to the hotels).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

During the 1890s the (very) few hotels of Jerusalem were keen to promote themselves, and in 1894 both the Grand New Hotel (just inside the Jaffa Gate) and Howard's Hotel (200 meters up the Jaffa Road outside the Jaffa Gate) produced promotional postcards in the "gruss-aus" style. The chromolithographed pictures are identical. The only difference is the name of the hotel and the inset picture of the hotel building (Fig. 1).

It seemed common practice for the hotels of Palestine to apply cachets with their own name, and generally assumed to be a simple and obvious means of advertising the hotel. The cachet was, of course, applied to the postal side of the postcard. The regular Howard's Hotel cachet is fairly large – much larger than many of the other hotel cachets.

HOWARD'S HOTEL.
JERUSALEM.

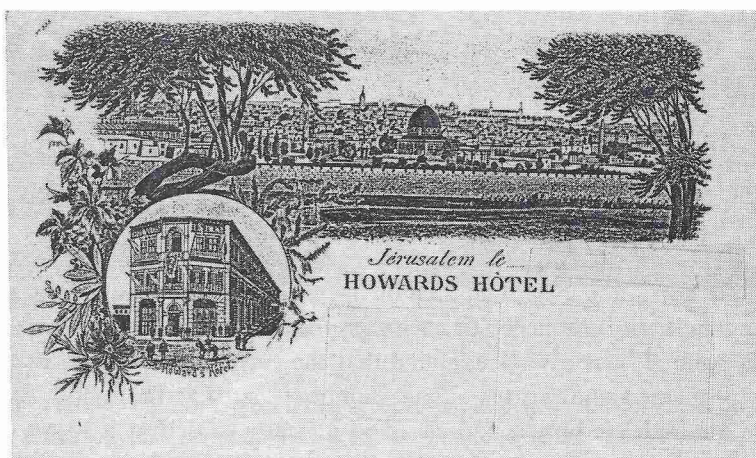


Figure 1

The best that the hotel could ever do was to stamp the cachet on the top left hand of the postcard, and even then it looks too large relative to the space left after the printed words (Fig. 2).

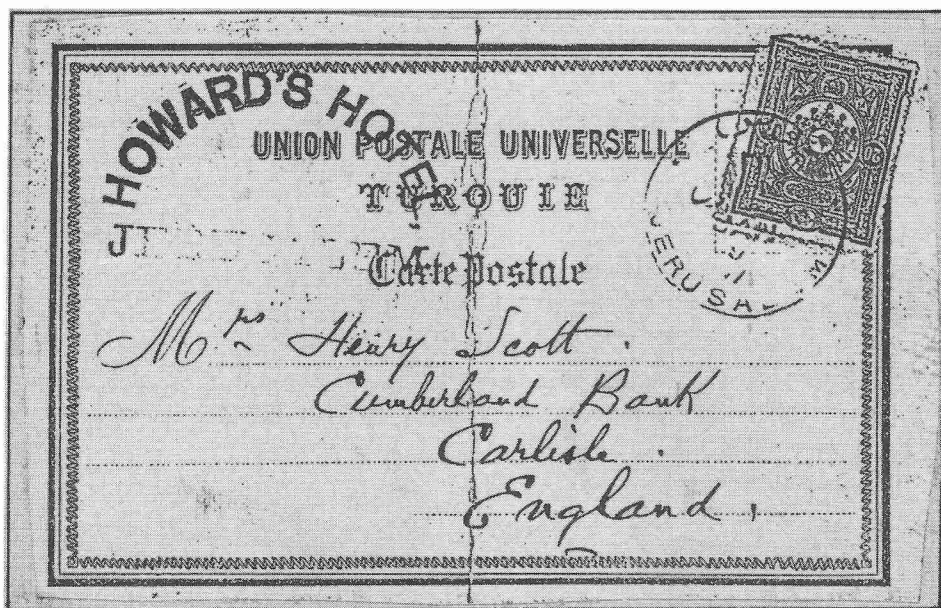


Fig. 2: The Howard's Hotel cachet on a postally used postcard of 9 January, 1897

The Howard's Hotel cachet always seemed to me quite ugly when placed like this on the postcard, for I am sure that no tourist-guest at the hotel would have purchased a card with a cachet applied in this manner. It is possible that the hotel gave its postcards without charge to its guests, for many hotels today follow this tradition. The postcards would serve as a promotion for the hotel, and if the postcard was free it is likely that a hotel guest would accept the gift even if it did have an ugly cachet on the postal side.

Such a large and awkward cachet was surely not applied before the cards were placed on the hotel desk awaiting purchase or free distribution. Surely the cards were in pristine condition – untouched by cachet or postage stamp. Though I was unable to prove this point, I have always assumed that the cachet was applied after the card had been purchased and written – and stamped – so that the cachet was applied only after the hotel reception had accepted it, ready to deliver it to the local post office, the nearest being the Turkish Office on the Jaffa Road.

I believe that a card of January 1896 helps to prove that the cachet was not on

the unstamped postcard, but was applied after the postage stamp was placed on the card* (Fig. 3 – address side of card, Back Cover – picture side).

This postcard of 1st January 1896 (the postmark is unclear, but the written message is “Jan” 1st, 1896) has the cachet struck over the 20 para postage stamp. This proves that the cachet was struck **after** the stamps were placed on the card, and **before** the postcard was delivered to the post office. There is no mark of any sort on the postcard to indicate that the cachet struck across the postage stamps was in some sense unacceptable. Clearly the Post Office accepted the postcard in this format.

The cachet of the hotel stamped on the postal side of the postcard, was, I believe, to ensure that the hotel received its commission from the local post office. Howard’s Hotel had the Turkish Post Office just a few hundred meters away near the Jaffa Gate (I have a number of Howard’s Hotel cards and all went through the Turkish Post Office. No other offices seem to be used) and the arrangement probably was for a few paras commission for every 20 para sale of postage stamps and their affixing to the postcards of visitors staying at the hotel. The Post Office accepted this as long as the hotel added its cachet onto the cards – a simple enough procedure.

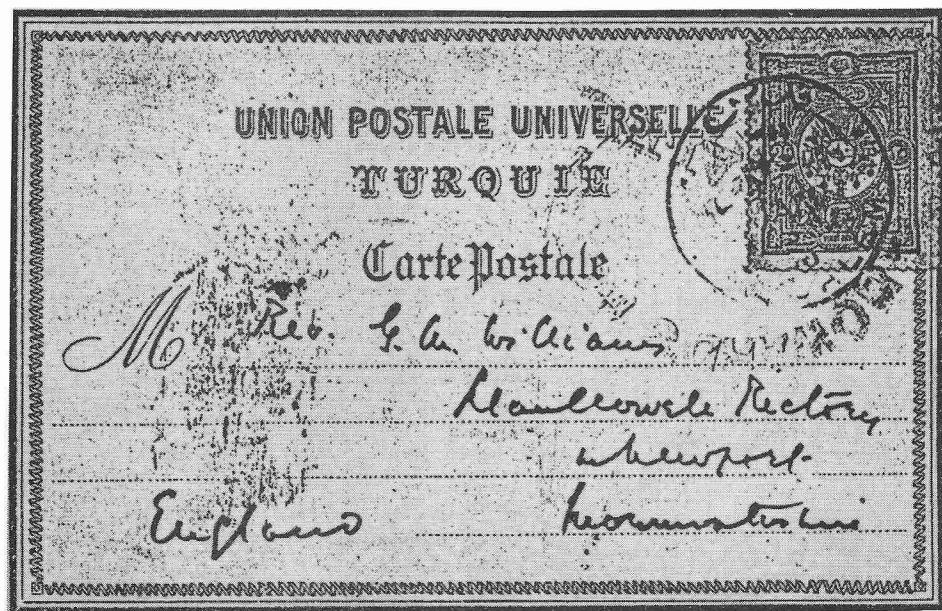


Figure 3

* Ed. note: The above is not logical if one accepts that a cacheted postcard was an advertising escaping the imprint, this being applied afterwards. Almost all of the known cacheted cards have the imprint in the upper left corner.

The Sub-Types of Turkish Field Post Office Cancels 1 to 67

Norman J. Collins

With the publication of the catalogue by H.Y. Nuhoglu and T. Mert in 1990¹, we have for the first time clear examples of FPO cancels 1 to 67, except FPO 54. This has enabled me to study the changes in the Turkish script for SAHRA POSTASI (Field Post Office) at the top of the cancels (Fig. 4).



TYPE 1
FPO's 1 to 4



TYPE 2
FPO's 5, 6 and 8 to 10



TYPE 3
FPO's 7 and 21 to 24



TYPE 4
FPO's 11, 12, 14, 15,
17 to 20.



TYPE 5
FPO 13



TYPE 6
FPO 16



TYPE 7
FPO's 25 to 28



TYPE 8
FPO's 29 to 32



TYPE 9
FPO's 33 to 36



TYPE 10
FPO 37



TYPE 11
FPO 38



TYPE 12
FPO's 39 to 44

Fig. 4: The upper parts of the Turkish FPO cancels from WWI.



TYPE 13
FPO 45



TYPE 14
FPO 46



TYPE 15
FPO's 47, 48.



TYPE 16
FPO's 49, 50.



TYPE 17
FPO 51



TYPE 18
FPO's 52, 53.



TYPE 19
FPO 55



TYPE 20
FPO 56



TYPE 21
FPO's 57, 58 and 61.



TYPE 22
FPO 59



TYPE 23
FPO 60



TYPE 24
FPO's 62 to 67



TYPE 25
FPO 68

Fig. 4 (continued): The upper parts of the Turkish FPO cancels from WWI.

If one uses the script in the cancels of FPO's 1 to 4 (Type 1) as a base, one can notice changes of the position of the characters, and the addition of more ornaments. By ornaments I mean the comma-like characters, 'V'-like characters, wavy script-like characters and circular characters. The additional comma-like characters are mostly inverted.

In the script in the right-hand half there are three dots in the form of an inverted triangle, but these change as follows in some cancels:-

FPO 38 – into an upright triangle at the bottom centre.

FPO's 47 & 48 – into a vertical line, in the normal position at the right.

FPO's 51 & 55 – into a horizontal line, bottom centre.

FPO's 52, 53, 57 to 67 – into an inverted triangle, bottom centre.

The wavy line character, similar to an Arabic 'S', appears at the bottom left on the following cancels:- FPO's 25 to 28, 37, 39 to 44.

The wavy line at the left, plus a 'comma' at the left of the wavy line:- FPO's 29 to 36 and 56.

The following have a 'comma', plus a wavy line at the bottom left and a wavy line at bottom right: – FPO's 45, 51 to 55.

The following have wavy lines at bottom left and bottom right:- FPO's 46, 57 to 67.

The above are just a few of the differences, and as the rest of the differences are quite clear in the illustrations, one should be able to check a well struck top half of a cancel and establish at least the group it comes from, even if the number is not clear. It should be noted that some layouts of the script are unique to a single FPO, from the group under study. These are FPO's 13, 16, 37, 38, 45, 46, 51, 55, 56, 59 and 60.

The barred segments also differ, both in the thickness of the bars and the number in each segment. Alas, not all are fully struck in the illustrations in the catalogue, thus a complete listing would not be possible.

I hope that the illustrations will help readers to recognise the FPO cancels from this group, when the number is not clear. This where the sender's unit and location can be established, and where the FPO cancels used in that area are known for the date period.

Reference: (1) H .Y. Nuhoglu and T. Mert, PTT Muzesi Osmanli Posta Damgalari (catalogue), 1990.

Some Sort of Records

Arthur M. Hochheiser

During the period of the Palestine Mandate, most letters were mailed internally with a single stamp to pay the necessary postage. Letters which were registered, insured or sent by air mail or express would have more than one stamp affixed to pay for the special handling. Such mail is called "commercial" to distinguish from letters whose postage was "philatelically" contrived even though "commercially" mailed.

Figure 5 shows a registered letter mailed from Nathanya to Tel Aviv using a corner



Figure 5

block of four stamps plus two "slug" singles. These were mailed out by a bank clerk and many "philatelically" contrived varieties of such postage are known even though the mail was sent "commercially". Since these letters survived in numbers, it is apparent that arrangements were made to save the envelopes because of their "philatelic" interest.

Another type of “philatelically” contrived envelopes were those sent with an assortment of values to make up the necessary postage. Figure 6 is a simple example.

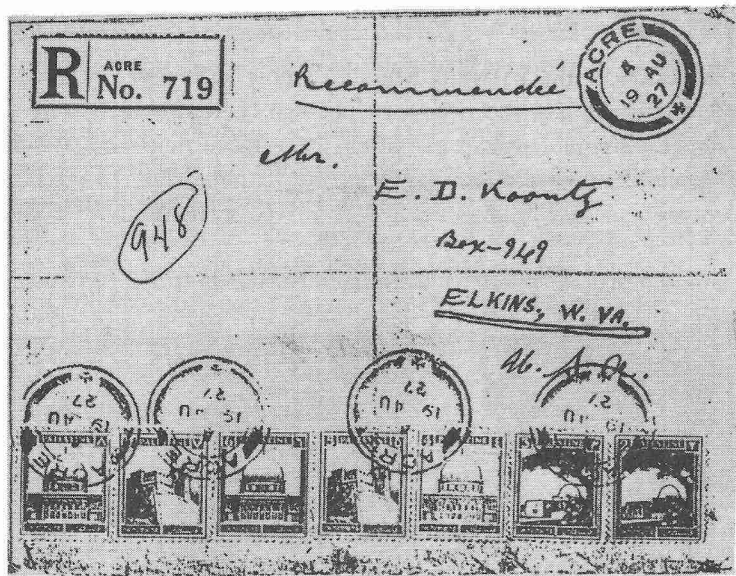


Figure 6

More elaborate combinations are known. Figure 7 shows a registered air mail letter sent from Tel Aviv to Argentina (Bank to Bank). This contains the pictorial issue set with only three values missing (13/90/100). What is of further “philatelic”



Figure 7

interest is the back of the letter (Fig. 8). Note the request written on the outside of the letter to have the envelope and stamps returned. This was obviously done so that the envelope would not be destroyed in being opened.

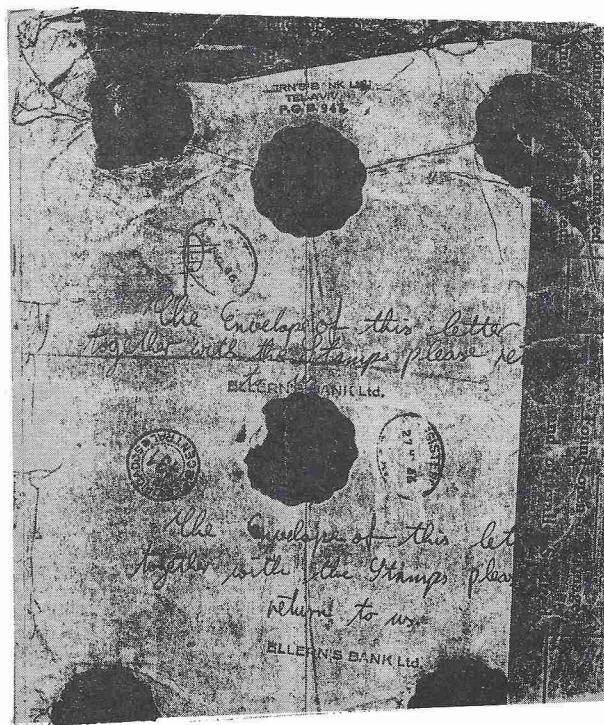


Figure 8

Figure 9 represents quite a different story. This letter, sent "commercially" by registered, air mail from Jerusalem to Denmark has the necessary postage of 335

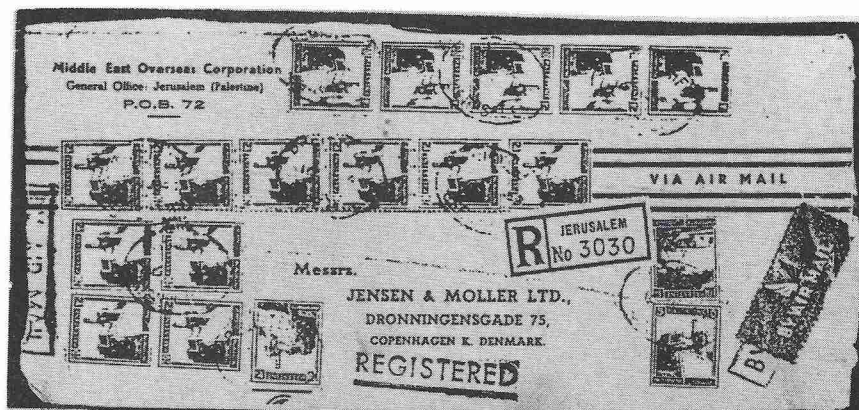


Figure 9

mils supplied by 18 stamps. The number of stamps used here on a business-size envelope (4"x9") may well be a record for this type of envelope.

Figure 10(a) is the front of a prestamped registered envelope (RE 11). This envelope

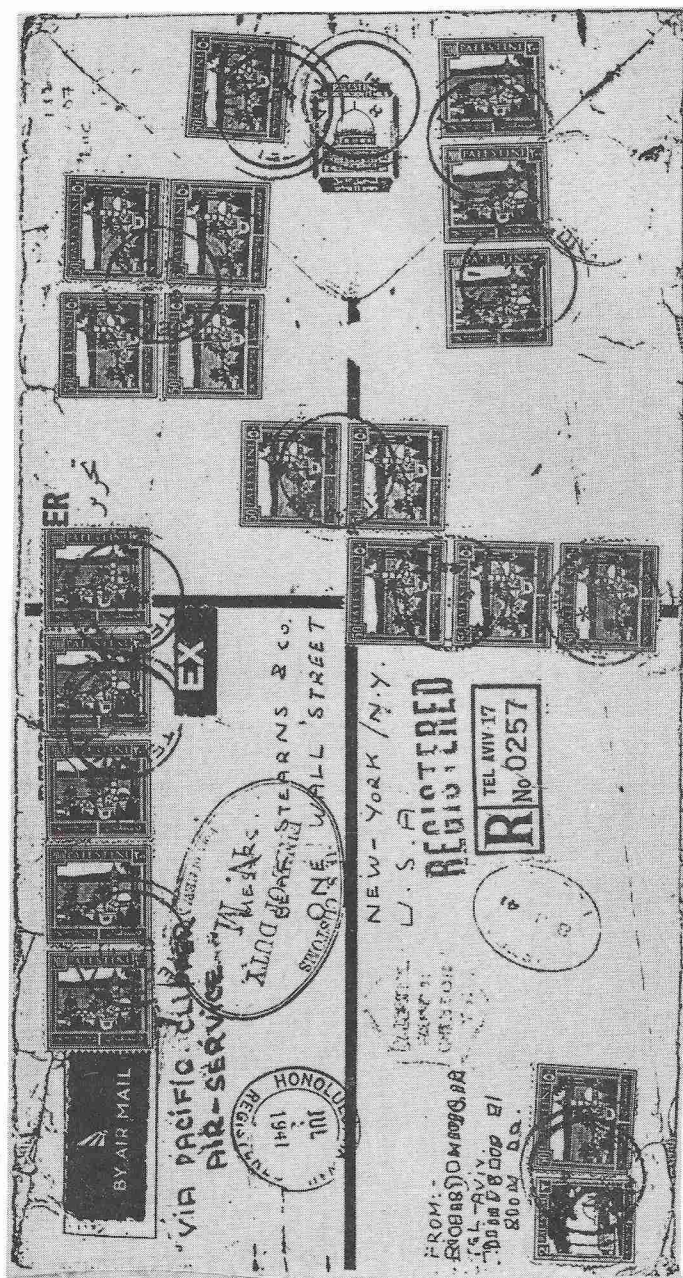


Figure 10(a)

is 11¼"x6". This envelope was sent by registered air mail express from Tel Aviv to New York City. The front shows twenty stamps plus the imprinted 13 mil registry stamp, and the back (Fig. 10(b)) contains 55 additional stamps. This total of 75 stamps to pay postage must be a record of all time.

My thanks to Irwin Math of the Palestine Study Group of North Jersey Chapter of SIP. His specialty is the pictorial issue of Palestine and most of the material shown here was loaned for this article.

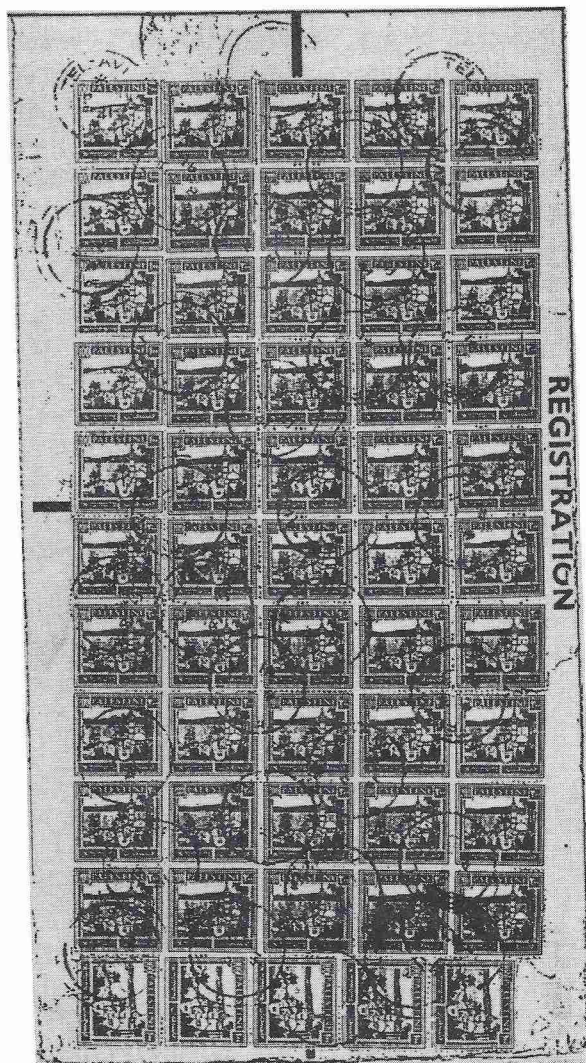


Figure 10(b)

The Preparation and Opening of Minhelet Ha'am Jerusalem Post Office during the Siege (1948)

Zvi Shimony

The postal services in Jerusalem during the Minhelet Ha'am period were different from the rest of the country in many respects, as Jerusalem was under postal siege through all the prescribed period, May 9 to June 21, 1948. We use the phrase "postal siege" to indicate that there were no ordinary postal connections with other parts of the country, even though the general siege ended somewhat earlier, when the "Burma Road" to Jerusalem became passable. Therefore, the "Minhelet Ha'am Period" in Jerusalem, as defined in the postal sense, differed significantly in its dates and characteristics from the rest of the country.

A few original documents have recently come to light concerning the preparations and planning to renew Jerusalem postal services on May 9. Some of them reveal interesting new points not reported before and some portray very vividly the known facts of the renewal of the postal services.

It is not widely known that before, or simultaneously with, the preparations done by the Emergency Committee (E.C. = "ועדת המצב"), there was another institute – the J.N.F. (קק"ל) – which had offered to take upon itself the organizing of the postal services. Mr. I. Dartchinski of the J.N.F. Jerusalem Lodge wrote on April 29 to his Head Office that:

"...The local Jerusalem Lodge is ready to carry out the establishment of the Post in the Hebrew city of Jerusalem and will use for this purpose J.N.F. stamps and the previously employed postmen, according to a plan set up here.

"It is not impossible that shortly there will also be the possibility to transfer mail from T.A. and vicinity,... We request from you, as a first step, to consult the appropriate body about the organizing of the Post internally and to bestow us with the power of attorney for fulfilling the task immediately.

"In our opinion the matter is worthwhile to the J.N.F. and it is recommendable that... we can commence the operation on Sunday, May 2..."

We do not know today whether this proposal was discussed further by the J.N.F. Directorate and officially offered to the Minhelet Ha'am, but the facts were that only a small part of the plan was carried out by the J.N.F. – that concerning the use of J.N.F. labels as postage stamps – while all of the organization of the postal services (also out of Jerusalem) was done by the M.H. authority: in Jerusalem, specifically, by the Emergency Committee.

In a "Plan for a Postal Service in Jerusalem" Mr A. Renan, the E.C. officer for postal matters, laid out his proposal, which was probably submitted to the E.C. The main points of the document were as follows: 1) The postal service in Jerusalem is worthwhile only if communications to Tel Aviv and other places in Israel and, later also to abroad, are assured. 2) A central post office should be opened in

"קפה אירופה" ("Europe" coffee shop) in King George Street, or in a similar building in the center of the Jewish region, where the Jerusalem sorting office will be located as well as the management of the Jerusalem Post and a public postal counter. In addition the three existing branch post offices in Rehavia, Mea Shearim and Mahne Yehuda should be reopened. 3) All offices will operate 8 hours daily. A car will collect the mail twice a day from the branch offices and the mail boxes and will bring them to the Main P.O. 4) Three possible solutions are suggested for stamps: a) The Jewish State will print stamps which will be used also in Jerusalem, possibly with a special overprint. b) Provisional use of J.N.F. stamps, with a special overprint. c) Printing of special stamps for Jerusalem. These stamps could be a source of income, as they would be in great demand by philatelists all over the world. 5) Postal rates must be low and should not be much higher than the existing 10 mil for surface letters. An additional charge should be fixed for airmail. 6) Staff and inventory are also discussed.

The document ended in stating that: "To clarify the situation, we sent a letter to Tel Aviv with the following questions..." This latter letter, dated April 27, is shown in Figure 11. It is a letter from A. Renan to Zeev Sherf (the M.H. Secretary) in Tel Aviv, reading as follows:

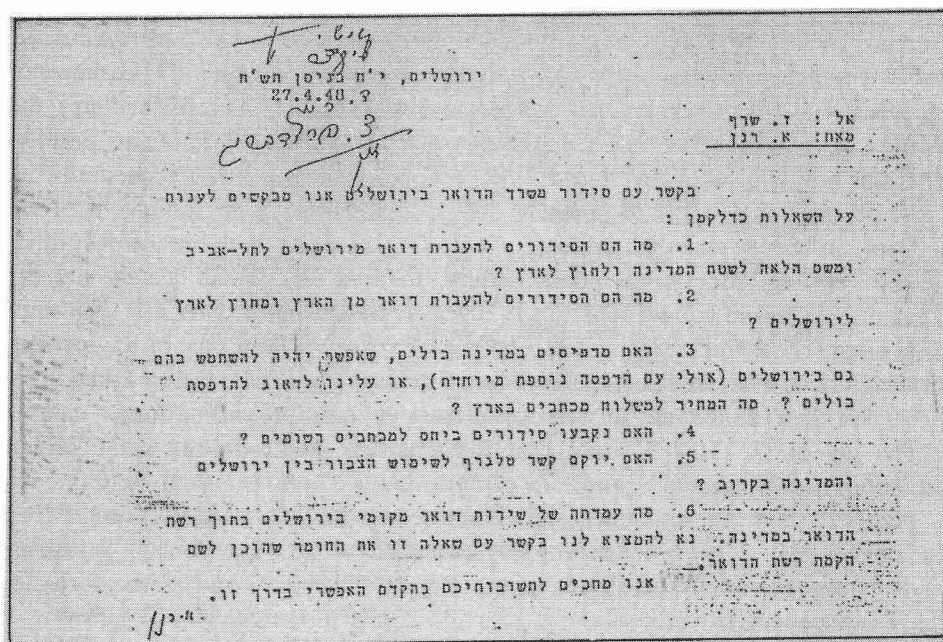


Fig. 11: A letter from the Jerusalem future Postmaster to the M.H. Secretary in T.A. asking for information about the establishment of postal services in Jerusalem. Some of the questions concern what stamps will be used and what will be the arrangements for mail to abroad.

"Regarding the setting-up of the post office in Jerusalem, we request an answer to the following questions:

- 1. What are the arrangements for mail transfer from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and thence to the rest of the Country and abroad?*
- 2. What are the arrangements for mail transfer from all the Country and from abroad to Jerusalem?*
- 3. Is the State printing stamps that may be used also in Jerusalem (maybe with additional special printing), or should we take care of printing stamps? What is the charge for inland letters?*
- 4. Are there procedures for registered letters?*
- 5. Will there shortly be a public telegraph communication between Jerusalem and the rest of the State?*
- 6. What is the standing of a local Jerusalem postal service inside the State postal network? Please supply us, with respect to this problem, the material prepared for the establishment of the postal network.*

We expect your answers as soon as possible, via this route.

(signed) A. Renan

Furthermore, in a telegram to Z. Sherf in T.A., Hanna Even-Tov (the E.C. secretary) wrote on May 5, among other things: *"... Send immediately stamps (for use as revenues) and also for the post"*. So, amazingly, four days before the reopening of Jerusalem postal service the organizers did not yet know what stamps they would use, let alone that they themselves would have to take care of this problem! This was only typical of the "impossible" conditions that prevailed then, and which those determined people had to face.

Then, on May 9, came the dramatic event of opening the three branch post offices (and the sorting office) to the public, selling "the first ever Jewish postage stamps". They offered postal connections to the eager Jerusalem public who has been under total siege for several weeks and had been deprived for a long time of any personal connections with friends and relatives out of Jerusalem. Little did they know at this time, that their mail would stay stuck in Jerusalem until the end of June!

The joy of the May 9th can best be described by illustrating some original announcements and communications of that time.

Figure 12 shows the announcements submitted by the E.C. secretariat on the eve of the opening day to the broadcasting services "קול ירושלים" (The Voice of Jerusalem) and "קול המגן העברי" (The Voice of the Hebrew Defender) and to the Jerusalem daily newspapers. It reads:

"Minhelet Ha'am announces: Tomorrow, Sunday..., the postal services of Jerusalem will start operating.

The Services include, at first, only despatch of letters from Jerusalem to all parts of the Country and inside the City, and also delivery of letters arriving from other inland places.

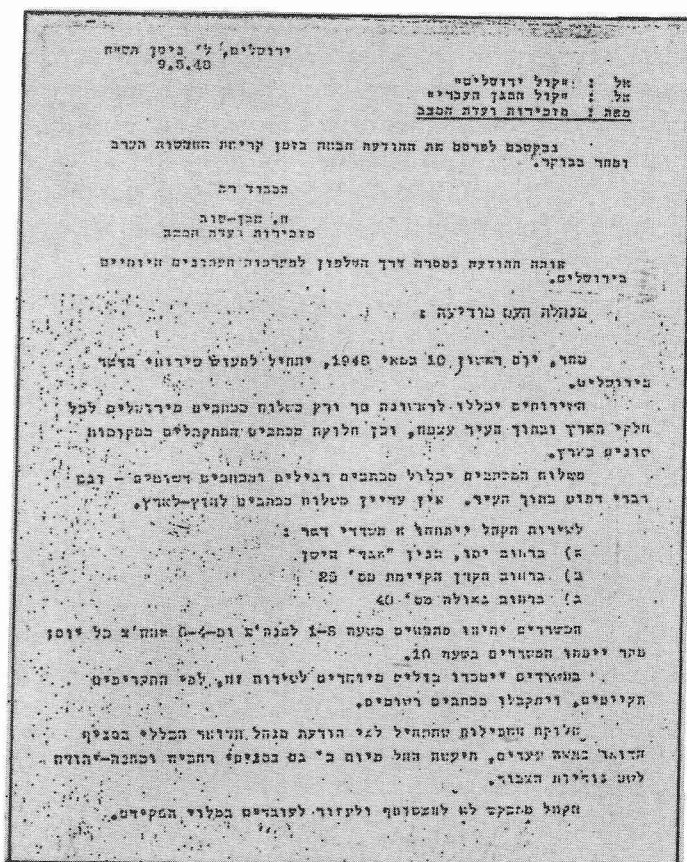


Fig. 12: The announcement submitted by the Emergency Committee to the Jewish broadcasting services and to the Jerusalem newspapers about the opening of the three branch post offices of Jerusalem on May 9, 1948.

Mail despatch includes ordinary and registered letters – and also printed matter inside the City. There is not yet any mail service abroad.

For the public service, post offices will be opened:

- (a) In Jaffa St., the old "Egged" building ("Mahne Yehuda" P.O. – Z.S.)
- (b) In 25 K.K.L. St. ("Rehavia" P.O. – Z.S.)
- (c) In 40 Ge'ulla St. ("Mea Shearim" P.O. – Z.S.)

The Offices will be opened daily 8–1 a.m. and 4–6 p.m.; tomorrow they will open at 10 o'clock.

The Offices will sell special stamps for this service, according to the prevailing tariff, and registered letters will be accepted.

...

The public is requested not to crowd together and to help the clerks in their duty".

We learn from this document that the organizers of the postal services believed, even on this date, that mail would be carried from (to) Jerusalem to (from) all parts of the country, in spite of the siege. The facts, as is well known now, were different in spite of the big efforts of the organizers, who were very disappointed not to be able to fulfil their promises to the public for many weeks. As is well known, only on June 18 the "First (mail) Convoy" left Jerusalem with part of the accumulated siege mail (Fig. 13), and even this did not mark the beginning of regular mail from



Fig. 13: A First Convoy commercial cover from besieged Jerusalem to Petah Tiqva. Posted on May 12, backstamped Tel Aviv, June 18 (transit) and Petah Tiqva, June 18 (arrival). Mixture of three period postmarks: Minhelet Ha'am (Jerusalem), Israel (T.A.) and British Mandate (P.T.). (Courtesy Y. Rimon).

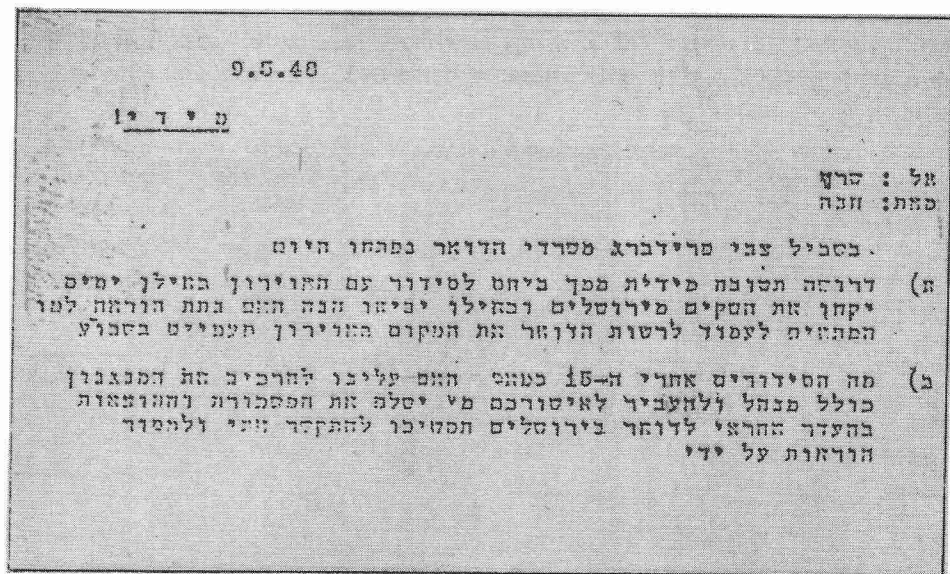


Fig. 14: An urgent telegram from Jerusalem to the Minhelet Ha'am Postmaster General in Tel Aviv informing of the opening of the Post Offices and urging him to haste the arrangement of air mail with Jerusalem.

(to) Jerusalem. Figure 14 shows an urgent telegram from H. Even-Tov to T.A. describing these efforts, and other problems regarding arrangements after May 15. The first part of the telegram reads:

"9.5.48

URGENT!

"To: Sherf

From: Hanna

For Zvi Friedberg. The post offices have been opened today.

a) Immediate answer required from you regarding the arrangement with the airplane. On which days the bags (of post - Z.S.) will be taken from Jerusalem and on which will be brought here. Did you give instructions to the proper authority to allocate to the post office the space in the plane twice a week?

b) ..."

The telegram shown on the Front Cover and the one in Figure 15 portray vividly the excitement and elation of the people involved, with regards to the events described. The first one translates:

"The Emergency Committee

9.5.48

*"Mr. D. Ben-Gurion**Tel Aviv*

On behalf of the Emergency Committee I am delighted to congratulate you, the great believer of our time, on the opening of the first Hebrew postal service in Jerusalem.

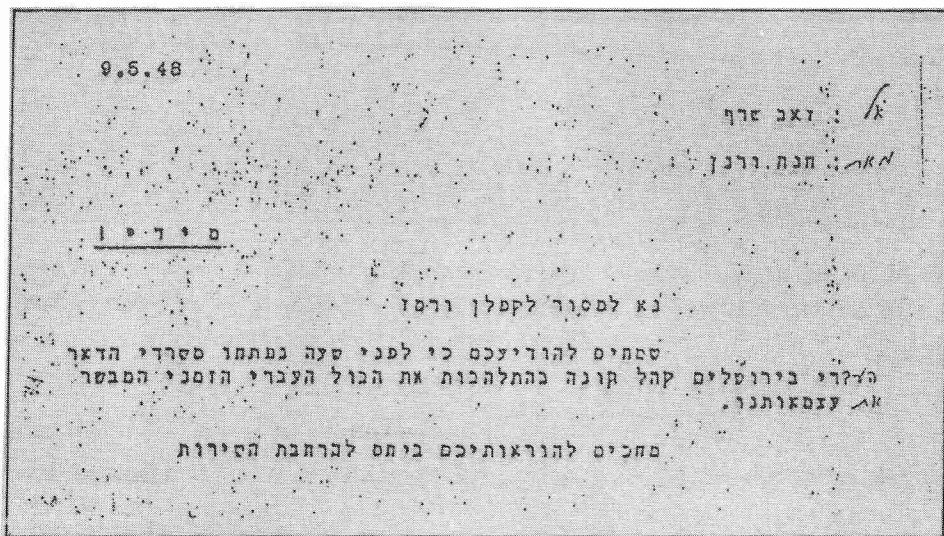
*H. Even-Tov**The Emergency Committee Secretariat"*

Fig. 15: A telegram from the E.C. to Messrs. Kaplan and Remez informing them that "... the Hebrew post offices in Jerusalem were opened. The public buys enthusiastically the temporary Hebrew stamp which foreshadows our independence..."

Figure 15 reads:

"9.5.48

Urgent

To: Zeev Sherf

From: Hanna and Renan

Please convey to Kaplan and Remez.

Glad to notify you that an hour ago the Hebrew post offices in Jerusalem were opened. The public buys enthusiastically the temporary Hebrew stamp which foreshadows our independence.

The problem of the stamps was solved at the last moment, and J.N.F.'s stock of the "Jewish State" labels was urgently overprinted 'דאָר' with a rate, and distributed to the three P.O.'s to be used as postage stamps* (Fig. 16).

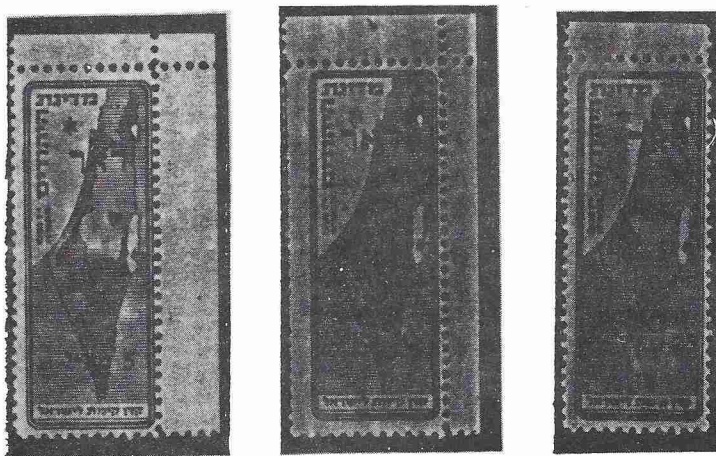


Fig. 16: The First Issue of the Minhelet Ha'am emergency "Jerusalem Stamps".

The frustration of the organizers for not being able to supply the service of postal communication out of the city, which was possible in this period only via planes, is best portrayed by a letter of May 14 from Mrs. Even-Tov to the Postmaster General in Tel Aviv, Mr. Z. Friedberg. She complains that:

"The lack of arrangement by you regarding the delivery of mail from Jerusalem by planes, as promised in your instructions of 5.5.48, sabotages this enterprise considerably. The public, who enthusiastically received the tidings of the renewal of postal connections with all parts of the country, will be bitterly disappointed when it is aware of our failure. It is self-evident that we keep secret the fact that till today not a single mail bag has been transferred from Jerusalem, but it is evident that such a thing cannot be kept secret for long; also the mail from Tel Aviv promised by you, has not arrived either.

We beg you to make all the arrangements with the authorities in charge of the air service, for initiating the mail transfer. Please, notify us immediately what are the prospects and which days have been fixed for receipt and delivery of the mail".

* As is well known, three issues of these were made, with some changes, mainly of the overprint.

Nothing could be more appropriate for the conclusion of this chapter than a letter by the person who seems to have been the "living spirit" of the whole project, Mrs. Hanna Even-Tov. In a letter of May 14, she writes to Mr. Zeev Sherf (Fig. 17):

"The adventure of the post in Jerusalem – its birth and operation, will remain in my memory as one of the deepest experiences of my life. It was the first case where the dead letter of our plan crystallized into the important project without which no civilized society is possible; this being the first Hebrew official enterprise, it brought a lot of excitement to a small group of workers who prepared and cherished it...

It also brought a lot of satisfaction to the whole Jewish population of Jerusalem – starting from the Orthodox Jew of Mea Shearim, who said the "Shehecheyanu" ("שהחיינו") blessing, his hands trembling when he affixed the first Hebrew stamp to the letter, and ending with the modern philatelists who related with a certain hesitation to the value of the new stamp in their collections – all were delighted, and the opening of the post put in the shadow all the other events on that day.

Renan has not rested until he prepared all the details of the plan, and thanks to him the whole "business" started, turning truly into success.

Nevertheless, the transportation problems caused quite a lot of trouble and hindrances in the matter, and in one of these moments of despair I wrote this 'report'."

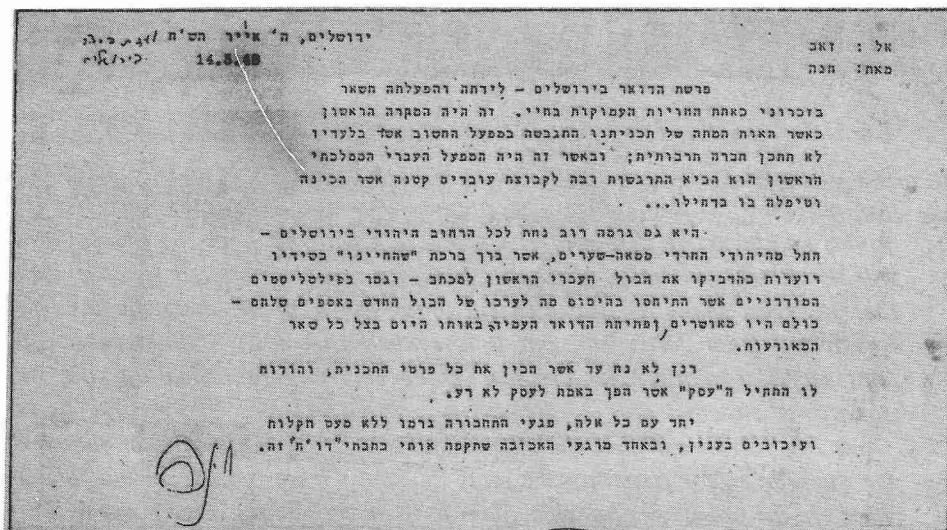


Fig. 17: A letter of May 14, 1948 from Mrs. H. Even-Tov (the E.C. secretary) to Mr. Z. Sherf (the Minhelet Ha'am Secretary), describing in short the efforts, successes and points of failure of "the adventure of the post in Jerusalem – its birth and operation".

The Use of Mandate Stamps with Minhelet Ha'am Postmarks in Besieged Jerusalem

Zvi Aloni, Ra'anana

The transition in 1948 from the British Mandate postal authority to the Israeli postal authority via the Minhelet Ha'am post was much more complicated and longer in Jerusalem than in other parts of the Country due to the special situation of the siege.

The first day of Minhelet Ha'am post in Jerusalem was May 9, 1948, and the date that Mandate stamps officially went out of use (demonetized) was May 16, 1948. As a result combination of mail franked with Mandate stamps and cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am postmark was possible for only one week, officially. Few letters are known with this kind of franking, postmarked in the branch post offices of Jerusalem (Fig. 18).

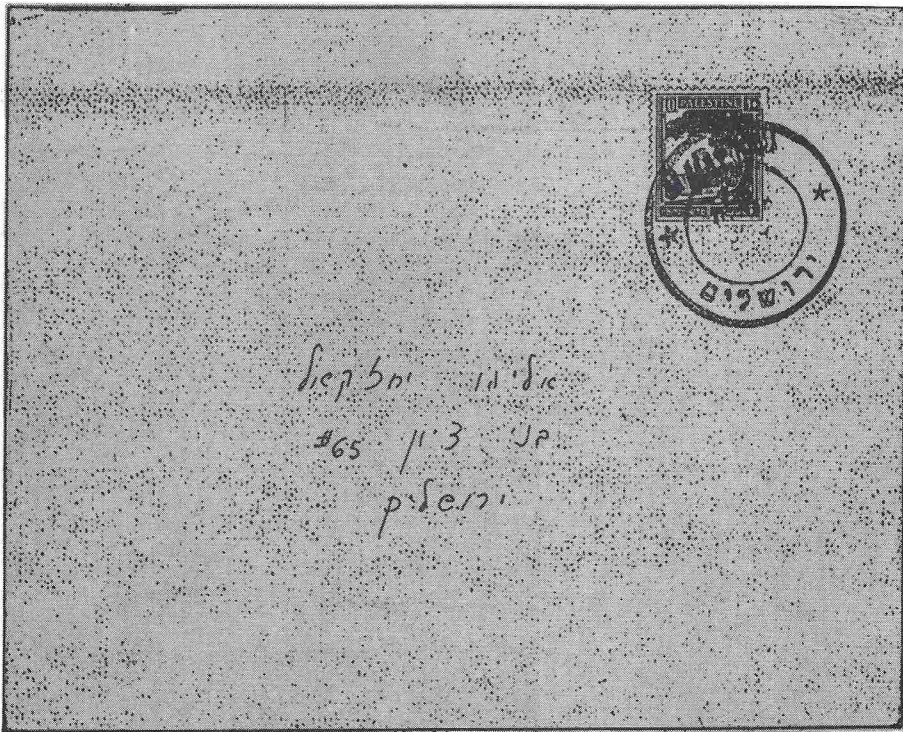


Fig. 18: An ordinary letter franked by 10m Mandate stamp, and cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am postmark.

Recently, I found a letter franked with a 3 mil pictorial stamp, to pay the printed matter rate, cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am "Rosette" postmark of the sorting office (Fig. 19). This combination was possible only for 2 days, May 13 and 14. In Figures 19 and 20, we can see two covers with the combination of Mandate stamps and

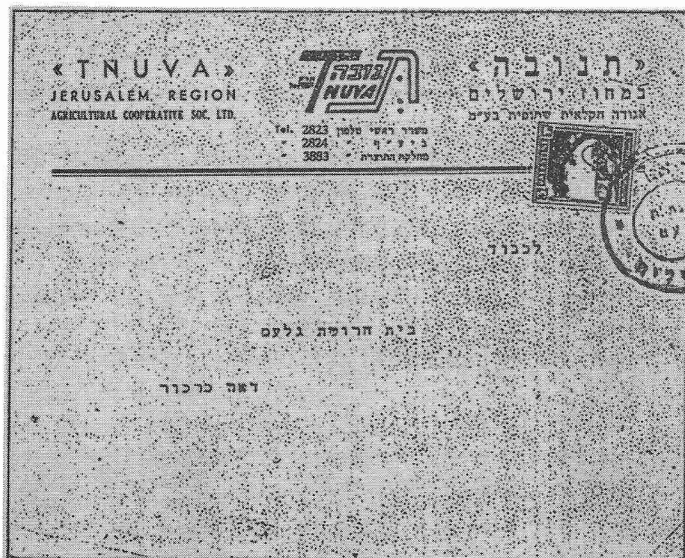


Fig. 19: A printed matter letter from Jerusalem to Karkur, franked with a 3 mil Mandate pictorial stamp and cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am "Rosette" postmark.

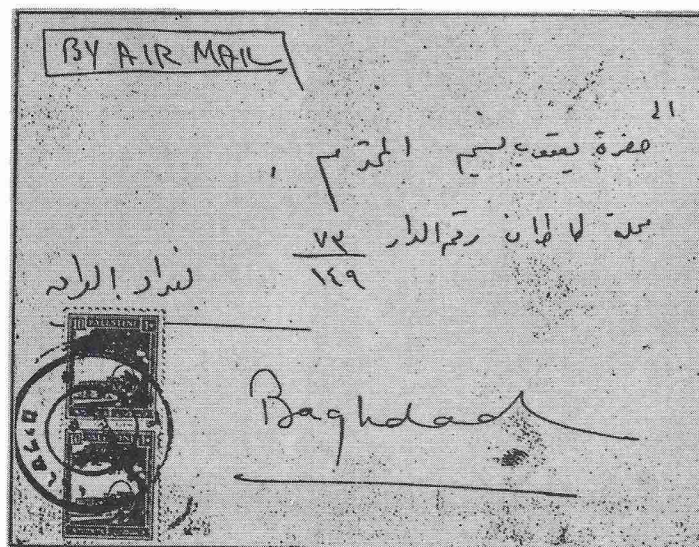


Fig. 20: "Rosette" cancelled Mandate stamps on cover to Iraq.

the "Rosette" postmark: one printed matter, and the second to Baghdad, franked 20 mils, which probably never reached there.

Looking for further examples of this kind, I have come across two registered letters only, franked with Mandate stamps and cancelled with Minhelet Ha'am postmarks. The first has a Mea Shearim "large" Minhelet Ha'am postmark on Mandate stamps, which is in my opinion either a fake or a favor and probably was never in commercial use between May 9 and 14 (Fig. 21). The second registered letter was described by I. Karpovsky in HLP# #36, p. 926. It was probably posted in the last days of April, after the closing of the Mandate H.P.O. in Jaffa Street, and was taken by one of the Jewish employees to be sent after the opening of the Minhelet Ha'am post offices on May 9 (Fig. 22).

The almost complete absence of registered letters with Mandate stamps (except from philatelic letters) in this period is due to two reasons: (1) A registered letter is always posted at the counter, where only Minhelet Ha'am stamps were provided at that time. (2) The Minhelet Ha'am instruction (see "Annex to Circular No. 1" of 25.4.48) was that inland mail **should** be franked by Hebrew stamps (Minhelet Ha'am stamps - Z.A.) but, "Letters found in boxes franked by Mandatory stamps

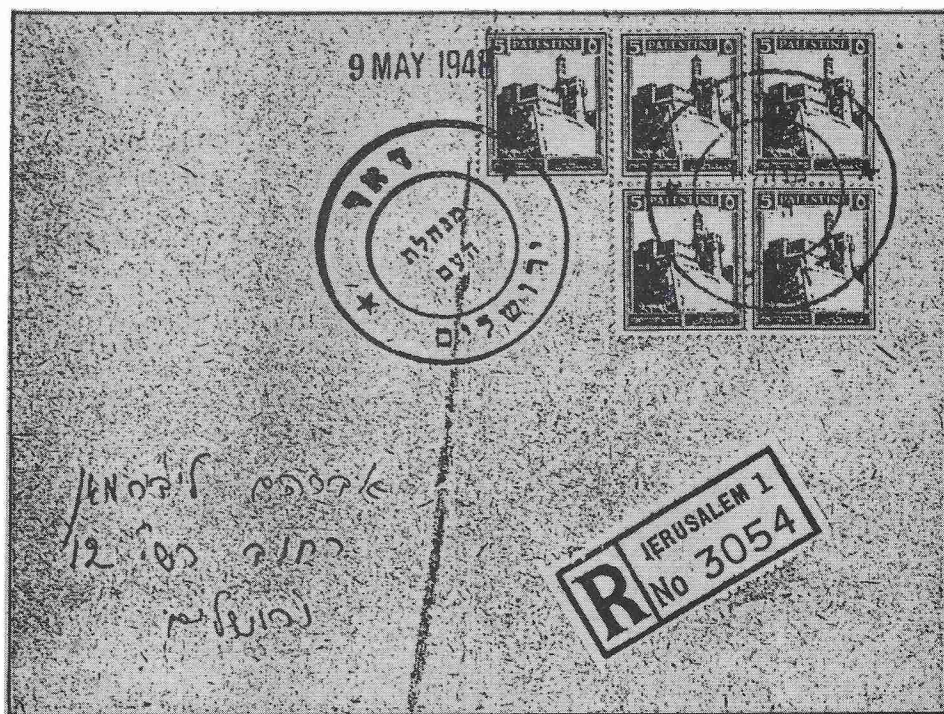


Fig. 21: May 9, registered cover franked with still valid British Mandate 5m stamps, cancelled with the first day Mea Shearim "large" Minhelet Ha'am cancellation.

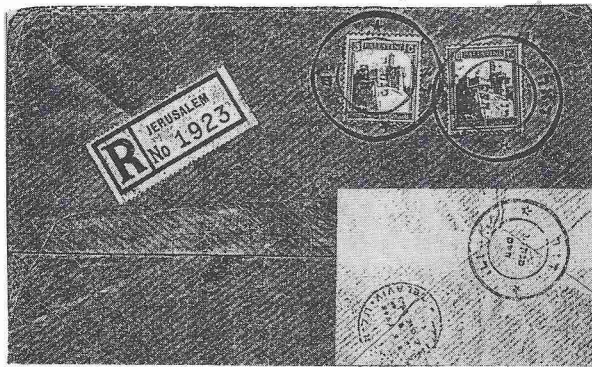


Fig. 22: A registered "window" cover to Tel Aviv, franked with Mandate stamps and cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am postmark. Arrival Israeli Tel Aviv postmark, June 21 (Second Convoy) on reverse.

are to be forwarded to destination without tax..."; but these could not be registered letters, of course.

Finally, in Figure 23 we see a very rare example of mixed franking on commercial mail, dated May 13, 1948.

I would like to thank Itamar Karpovsky for most of the photocopies shown here.

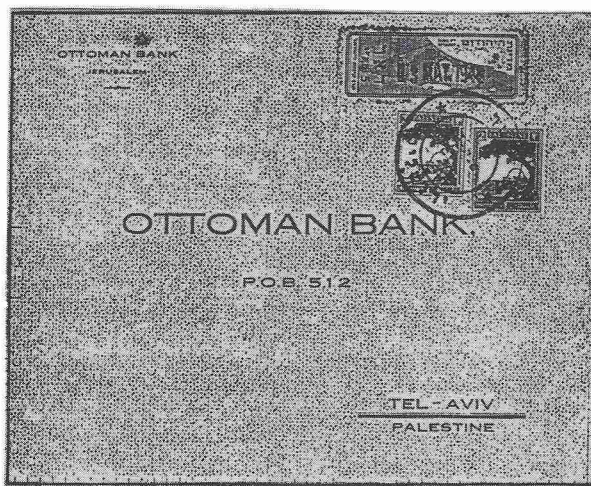


Fig. 23: May 13, mixed franking of Mandate stamps together with a local Minhelet Ha'am stamp.

The Mea Shearim Minhelet Ha'am "Large" Postmark

Itamar Karpovsky

One of the unsolved problems of Jerusalem Postal History in the Transition Period (1948) is that of the "large" postmark of the Mea Shearim branch post office. As is known, in addition to the Minhelet Ha'am regular type handstamp, which all branches received, letters from Mea Shearim are also found cancelled with larger handstamps, especially at the beginning and at the end of the Transition Period, with a one and a half month's gap in between.

Due to the rarity of items known, especially from the later period, this phenomenon had not been given a convincing explanation. Two theories exist^{1,2}:

- a) The large postmarks from the end of the period originated from the same handstamp that created the "large" postmarks at the beginning of the period, with distortions resulting from usage.
- b) The large postmarks from the end of the period originate from the handstamp that created the regular "small" postmarks of the beginning of the period, with enlargement and distortion due to extensive usage.

Recent findings of new material support another explanation which, in my opinion, is the correct one.

The method I used in my research was to gather the available material and, after sorting it into groups which have identical characteristics, compare them, especially through the exact measurements of each group, and afterwards examine the philatelic nature of the letters themselves.

Within each group I measured three geometrical parameters:

- a) The diameter of the postmark's outer circle (OCD), measured on the imaginary horizontal axis connecting the two stars.
- b) The diameter of the postmark's inner circle (ICD), on the same axis.
- c) The perpendicular distance between the two circles (BCD), as measured in the middle and towards the bottom, where the letter "ש" of the word "ירושלים" appears; this is a zone in which, for no apparent reason, most of the postmarks I checked were the clearest.

The conclusion after analyzing these parameters is that there existed **three different handstamps**, each clearly distinct from the other.

Group No. 1: The letters of this group are cancelled with the regular ("small") Minhelet Ha'am handstamp which was used in all branch post offices commencing on May 9. Its measures are: OCD – 35mm, ICD – 20mm, BCD – 7mm (Fig. 24). This postmark is found on a large number of commercial letters from the period of May – June, addressed to many addresses in Jerusalem and elsewhere, including Convoy letters, and on many letters with arrival postmarks. The registration labels,

in case of registered letters, are similar in type to those of the end of the Mandate period (Fig. 25).

Group No. 2: This handstamp is of a much larger diameter, and is found only on a small number of letters from the beginning of the Minhelet Ha'am period – from its first day, May 9, until May 13 – a period of 5 days only. Its measures are: OCD – 38.5mm, ICD – 23mm, BCD – 8mm (see Fig. 21 above).

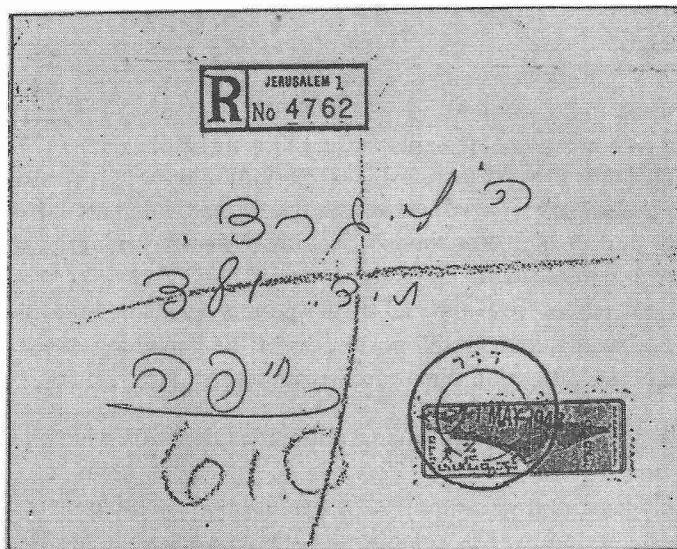


Figure 24

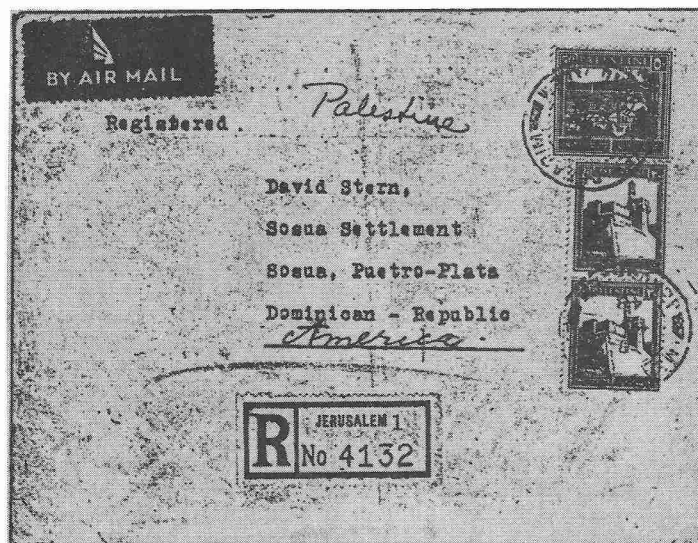


Figure 25

This large postmark is found only on philatelic letters, regular and registered, franked mostly with the local emergency stamps with overprint errors, or with Mandate stamps. All of these letters are locally addressed, mostly pencil written with the same handwriting. None of the registered letters are marked with an arrival handstamp or any other marking proving that the letter had been received by the addressee.

The registration labels are different from those of Group 1, the word "JERUSALEM" appearing in larger letters, 19mm in length instead of 15mm (see reference (1), p. 946). Almost all of these large postmarks are very clear and neat, and it appears to me that this particular handstamp was prepared and used illegally, at a later period, by a collector or a post office clerk, who possessed sheets of "Jerusalem Stamps" with errors and also Mandate stamps, which he used to create supposedly rare and valuable envelopes.

Group No. 3: A group of letters cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am handstamp, larger than the "small" one, which reminds one at first sight of the Group 2 handstamp. It appeared at the end of the Transition Period, from the beginning of June until the beginning of August, when the old Mandate handstamp was temporarily re-introduced.

Its measures are: OCD – 38mm, ICD – 21mm, and the BCD – 9mm.

Today, at least six commercial letters cancelled with this large handstamp are known: four are Express letters sent to outside of Jerusalem and, excluding one, carry an arrival or transit handstamp. The other two are registered letters sent abroad, both carrying arrival postmarks.

The earliest letter known of this type is a registered letter sent by air mail to the United States (Fig. 26; courtesy E. Jungwirth). It is franked, as required, with eighty

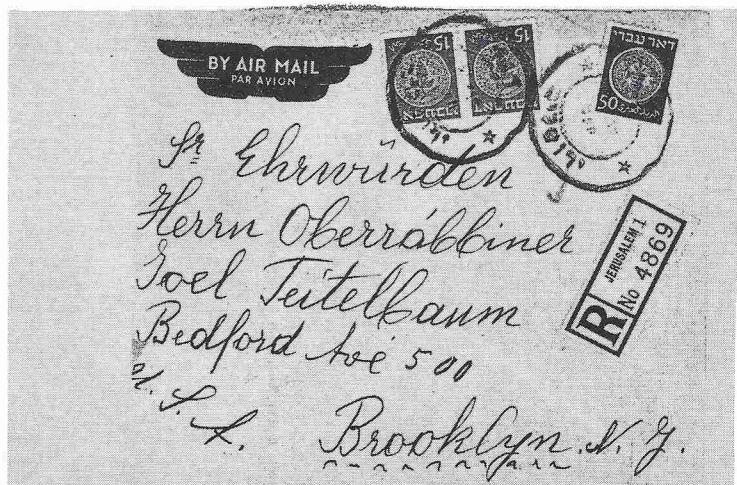


Figure 26

mil Doar Ivri stamps, cancelled with two large postmarks, and sent from Jerusalem to Rabbi Joel Teitelbaum, commonly known as "The Satmar Rabbi". On its back it carries the Tel Aviv transit postmark of July 1 and the New York arrival of July 10. Thus it probably left the Jerusalem post office during the last days of June.

The latest letter known to carry this postmark is an Express letter franked, as required, with 50 mil Doar Ivri stamps and sent to a commercial company in Tiberia (Fig. 27). On its rear it has a Haifa transit postmark of August 3 and an arrival of Tiberia of August 4. This means that the letter had left Jerusalem at the beginning of August!

Of the ones mentioned above there are two Express letters to Tel Aviv with arrival postmarks of the dates July 27 (Fig. 28) and 30 respectively, and a commercial Express letter to Petah Tikva.



Figure 27



Figure 28

The most interesting letter of this group is the one which is illustrated on the Front Cover of our HLP# #57-58 and is shown again here (Fig. 29). This is an air mail registered letter to the U.S., sent from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to Princeton University in New Jersey; it is undoubtedly a commercial letter. On its back there is a July 11 transit postmark of the Jerusalem central post office as well as a number of American arrival postmarks.

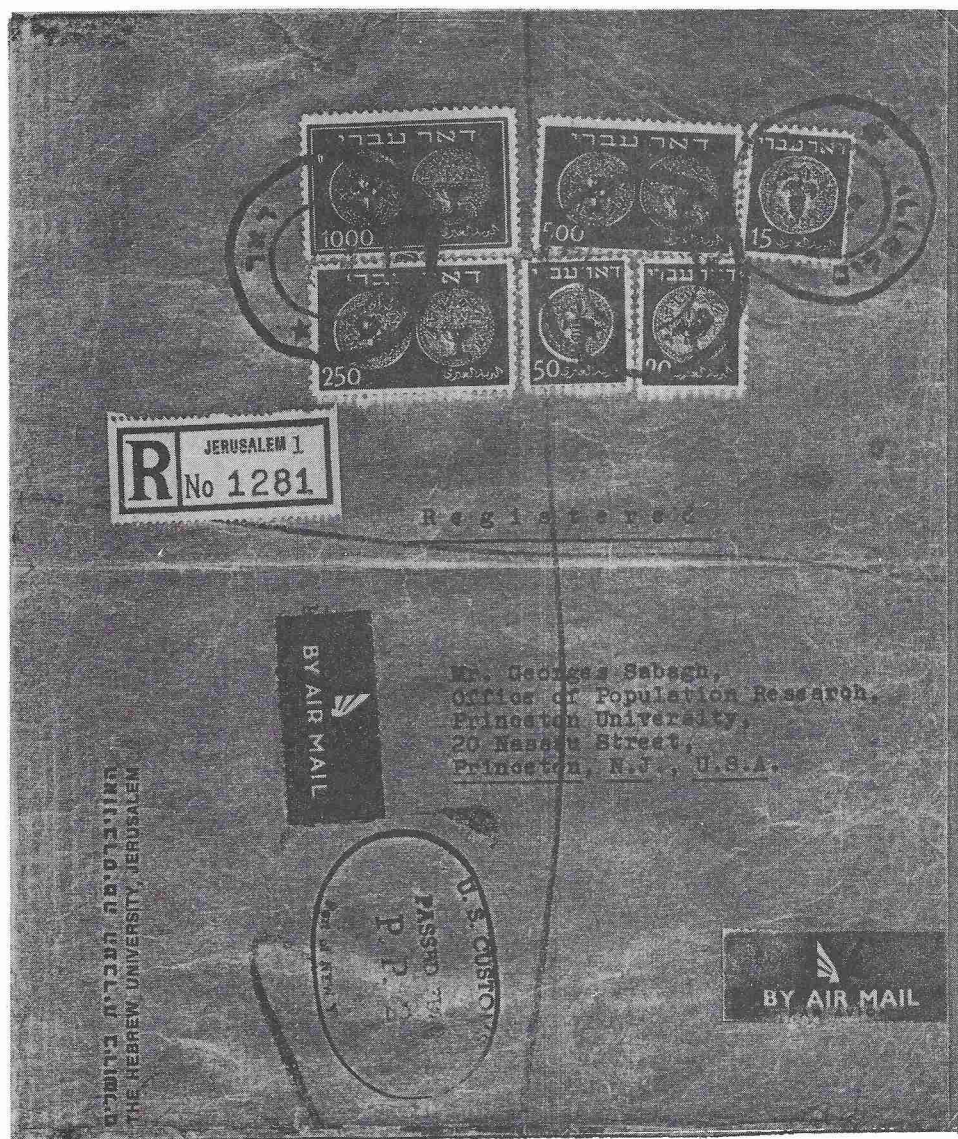


Figure 29

The two registered letters from Group 3 carry the same type of registration labels as Group 1 (with the smaller "Jerusalem").

The question arises as to why this large handstamp appears only at the end of the Transition Period and not at an earlier date.

In my opinion, the answer is that this was a reserve handstamp, put into use later in the Mea Shearim branch post office, and not manufactured together with the first series of Minhelet Ha'am handstamps. Later, with the growth in the post offices activities after the declaration of the first ceasefire and the opening of the Burma Road to Jerusalem at the beginning of June, an additional handstamp was ordered, which was not of the same size as the first one. The fact that this postmark appears only on special letters such as Express and Registered, and not on regular ones, shows that it was used only at the "special" post counter. This assumption also explains the rarity of mail carrying this postmark*.

References

- (1) M. Sondak, "Registered Letters in Besieged Jerusalem, 1948", HLPH #57-58 (1994) p. 943.
- (2) Z. Shimony, "The Temporal Changes of the Interim Mea Shearim Postmark", HLPH #20 (1984) p. 1021.

* Ed. Note: The assumption of a possible third obliterator in Mea Shearim had already been published in 1980 (Z. Ben-Meir, "A Third Type of Mea Shearim Postmark of the Interim Period (?)", HLPH #3, p. 89). It was, however, refuted in a later article².

* * * * *

* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES *

* * * * *

The Ottoman Period

Two Types of the Austrian Levant 1890-96 2 Piastre

(Norman J. Collins)

Though the Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists the various perforations used on the Austrian Levant issues of 1890-96, there is no mention that the 2 Piastre exists in two types.

Whilst examining some "odds and ends" in my collection, I noticed that two examples of the 2 Piastre seemed different (Fig. 30). At first I thought the word 'PIASTRE' seemed to be above the line, but this turned out on closer inspection to be caused by the foot of the 'P' not being fully printed. Then I noticed that the figure '2' used in each of the stamps was different, thus a different type-face. In one (a) the foot of the 2 points upwards and in the other (b) the foot slants to the right. I do not know which is the scarcer setting.

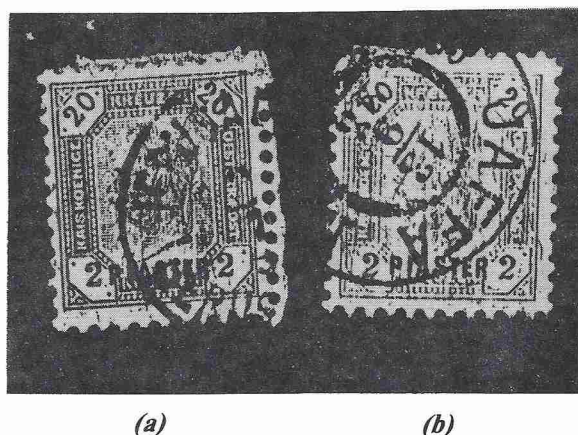


Fig. 30: (a) Thick figures, foot of 2 points upwards. (b) Thinner figures and foot of 2 points to the right.

The Three Types of the Egyptian Seal of Jaffa

(Norman J. Collins)

The Egyptian interpostal seal of Jaffa is well known, but what is not generally known is that it exists in three types. This fact does not seem to have been reported before.

The three types are shown in Figure 31 and are characterized as follows:

Type 1: J of JAFFA low and near the bottom inner line at the foot of the white space containing the name. The rest of the letters slant upwards.

Type 2: JAFFA with even space above and below the letters.

Type 3: All letters high and near the top line.

Acknowledgement: My thanks to Tony Schmidt of the Egypt Study Circle, who is the leading authority on Egyptian interpostal seals, for his help and advice.



Fig. 31: The three types of the Egyptian seal of Jaffa.

An El-Arich Postmark – a Forgery

(*Avraham Zakai*)

In a 1995 auction catalogue a lot appeared, described: "EL-ARICH scarce double bridge pmk St. 70/01, complete strike across pair Turk. 1 Pi. stps, apparently made from parts of two pmks placed together. Dated 19 MAR 1918, late date" (Fig. 32).

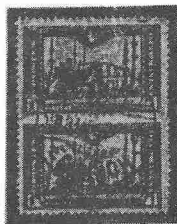


Figure 32

As we know, El Arish was occupied by the British advancing forces on December 21, 1916 and the Turkish post office was closed some days earlier. We also know that from the Sinai peninsula genuine Turkish postmarks are only known from El Arish and Kusseima, but these only until the occupation by the British forces.

After the British occupation, the Egyptian civil post office was again opened. I have in my collection a letter sent by Dr Benzev, a Medical Officer in the Camel Corps, from El Arish, with the Egyptian postmark "ARISH" dated 25 AP 17 (Fig. 33).

There is no doubt that the postmark in the auction is not a "late date", but a forgery. It is not known if this postmark was prepared by the same person who prepared all the postmarks from Sinai on cutouts – whole pages and postcards from the 27 civil post offices which was planned but never opened by the Turkish Sinai administration (Cf. A. Zakai, HLPH 21–22, Winter/Spring 1985).

Many of these souvenir (fake) postmarks appearing on the philatelic market from time to time are bought by ignorant collectors for excessive prices.

I have to mention, that the auctioneer properly withdrew the lot immediately after I brought to his attention that the postmark was a forgery.

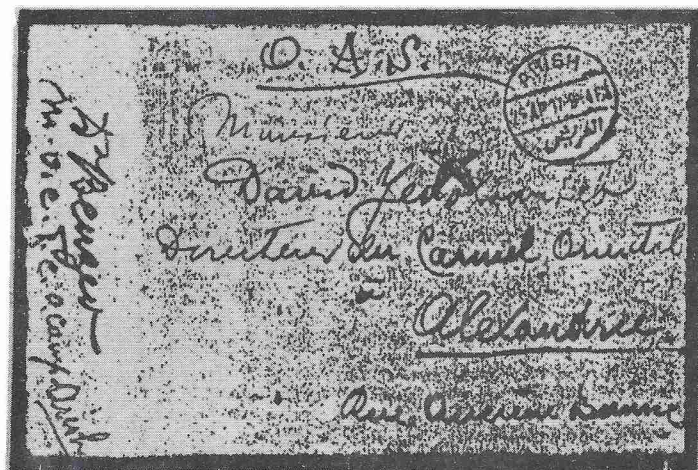


Figure 33

The British Mandate Period

A Change in an Earliest Cancellation Date of Jaffa

(A.M. Hochheiser)

One of the collateral interests in philately is the study of the cancellations used by a postal administration. This study has been completed in depth for the postmarks used in Palestine under the British control. Various authors have published monographs on the subject. In addition to the varieties, efforts have been made to determine the earliest and latest dates of use of each postmark. In this regard, in spite of the diligence of the authors, changes in the listings of dates of use have had to be made as new evidence surfaced.

Shown in Figure 34 is the back of Post Office Form P.T. 423, a card mailed advising the holder of a Post Office Box of impending expiration. While this card is written in Hebrew, identical cards were printed in English and Arabic. Of interest here is the cancellation JAFFA M.O.O. 10 DE 28. This cancellation is listed in the Goldstein & Dickstein Monograph "Haifa and Jaffa Postmarks of the Palestine Mandate". It is listed under Jaffa Post Office Departmental Postmarks #40, illustrated on page 54. Their earliest listed date of use is 17 Fe 33. The cancellation shown here is over four years earlier!

779

JAFFA
*
10 DE
28
M.O.O.

משרד הדואר

P.T. 423

192

הנני להודיעו שמועד שכירות חבת הדואר מספר יתם ביום

אם רצונו לחדש את השכירות לעוד תקופה, צריך לשלם למשרד זה ביום 8-1-DEC-1928

או לפני 8-1-DEC-1928

אם לא יפרע הסכום המגיע הימנו בתאריך הנזכר נא להחזיר את המפתח לא יאוחר מיום 1-1-1929

של 250 מילים.

דרוש לשלם, עד כמה שאפשר, את דמי השכירות עבור שנה שלמה במקום ששה חדשים

כבוד רב,

מנהל הדואר

2638 12-XII-1928

ה ביח

12027-3000-S.O.P.

Figure 34

A Coronation Cover from Palestine 1937 *(N. J. Collins)*

In 1937, commemorative stamps were issued for the Coronation of George VI, by Great Britain and countries or colonies in the British Empire. Palestine, being a mandated territory, of course did not issue stamps for this occasion. Thus one would not expect commemorative covers to exist from Palestine.

Some years ago I was surprised to find an illustrated commemorative cover for the Coronation of George VI used from Bethlehem. This cover, of course, only has a normal 3 mil Pictorial cancelled at Bethlehem, on the 12th of May, 1937, which was Coronation day (Fig. 35).

This is the only illustrated commemorative cover I have recorded from Palestine and wonder if any one else can report a similar item.

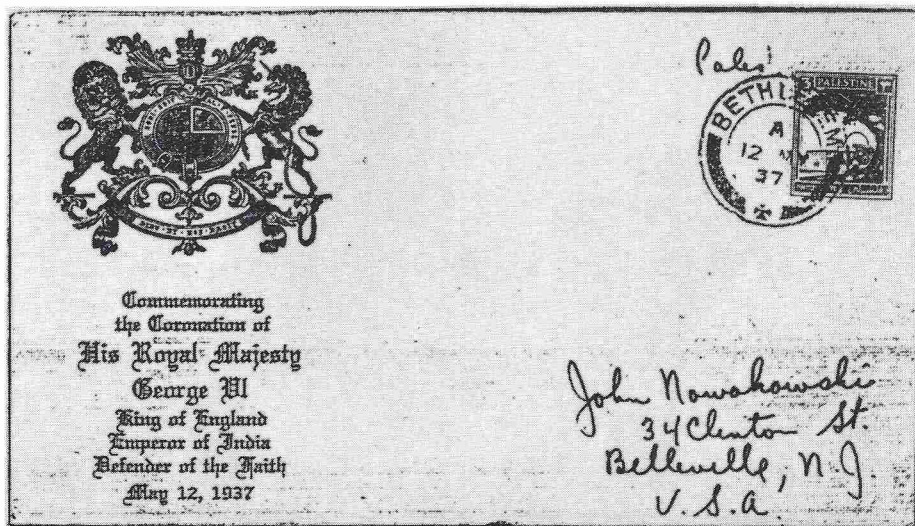


Fig. 35: Illustrated commemorative cover for the Coronation of George VI, used from Bethlehem on 12 May, 1937.

The Case of the Missing H of the “Haifa Registered” Oval Cancellation

(Y. Rimon, Haifa)

A few years ago I found in my collection of the postal history of Haifa a registered OHMS cover, sent on 28.4.1947, with an odd defect in the cancellation (Fig. 36). The H in “Haifa” was completely missing and in its place appeared a small irregular blot (Fig. 37). I did not have any explanation for this variation since it was no “freak” and four more strikes all with the same defect appeared on the back of the cover. I

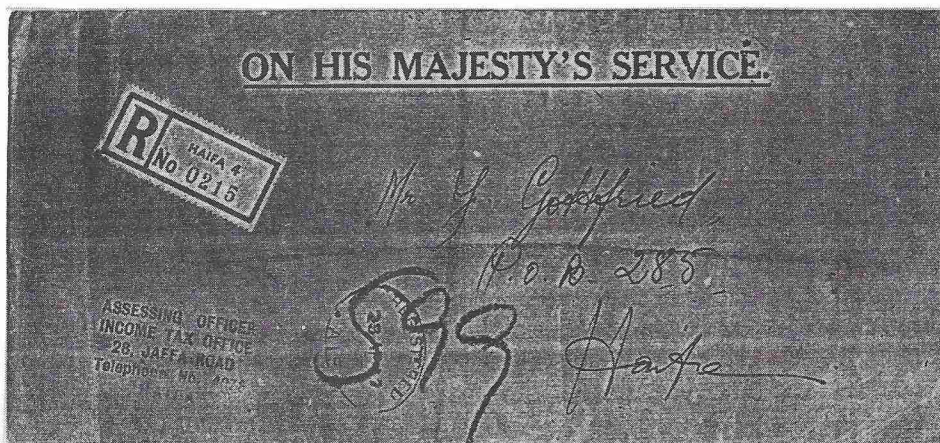


Figure 36



Figure 37

did not find any reference to such a variation in the literature but I could identify the cancellation as Type 68 in Goldstein and Dickstein¹. This posed even more of a problem because they claim that this cancellation was in use until 5.5.1948. So, what happened to the missing H?

Then, a few months ago I bought a lot of Haifa registered covers sent to Ellern Bank in Haifa and one of the covers supplied the answer to the problem (Fig. 38). The postmarks on the cover (Fig. 39) showed part of the missing H and the same blot with the same shape and in the same location as the one with the H missing completely. However, the date of the cover with the partial H is 29.5.47, i.e. later than the one with the completely missing H. One would expect that if the disappearance of the H was a continuous process then the cover with completely missing H would be later than the one with the partially missing H. I presented this inconsistent behavior of the missing H to a group of fellow philatelists during a viewing of my Haifa collection and together we came with a plausible explanation of the "mystery".

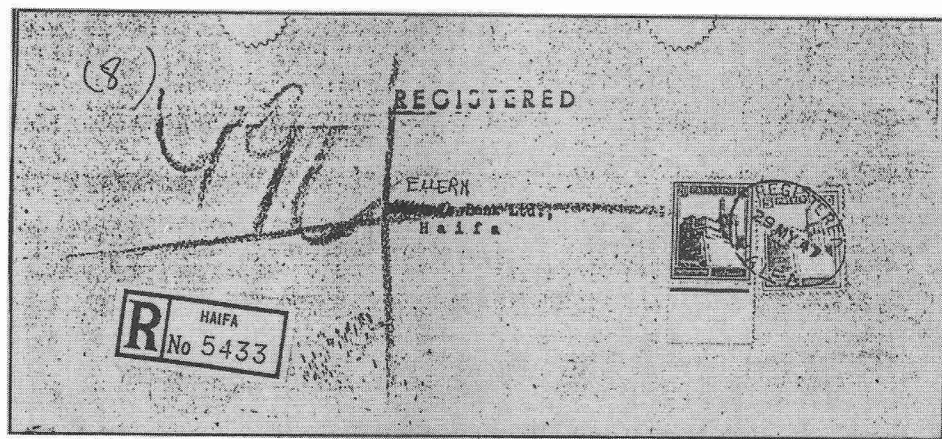


Figure 38



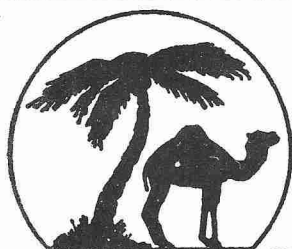
Figure 39

The oval metal canceller was engraved on a steel plate which was attached to a wooden handle by nails. One nail was driven between the lower arms of the H and got loose towards the end of April '47 and was pulled out. When the nail was in an all out position it did not enable the H to imprint, obscuring it completely and causing the blot to appear instead i.e. the blot was the imprint of the head of the nail. In May, the nail was pushed "partially" back by the pressure of the cancellation operation, thus allowing part of the H to appear but still showing the same image of the nail head as the blot.

Apparently the loosening of the nail was finally discovered and corrected, thus causing the missing H to reappear and the canceller to be used in its original shape to the end of the Mandate Post. It would seem therefore that this variation existed only for a very brief period of a month or two and, therefore, it was not noticed before.

The author would appreciate any additional information about the missing H (completely or partially).

Reference: (1) Goldstein & Dickstein, "Haifa and Jaffa Postmarks of the Palestine Mandate", SIP Educational Fund, USA, 1983.



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The State of Israel

Destroying Evidence? *(Lawrence Fisher, Ra'anana)*

A friend of mine received the postcard shown in Figure 41 which was sent by a friend of his while holidaying in Taba. The card was not cancelled by the Egyptian authorities but although posted in Taba carries a Tel Aviv postmark of 1/2/95. As can be seen, an attempt was made to prise off the stamp presumably due to its anti-Israel design. The stamp (Fig. 42) was issued to commemorate Saladin and the Battle of Hittin and depicts the Al Aksa Mosque superimposed on a map of Israel. An interesting curio of the peace between Israel and Egypt.

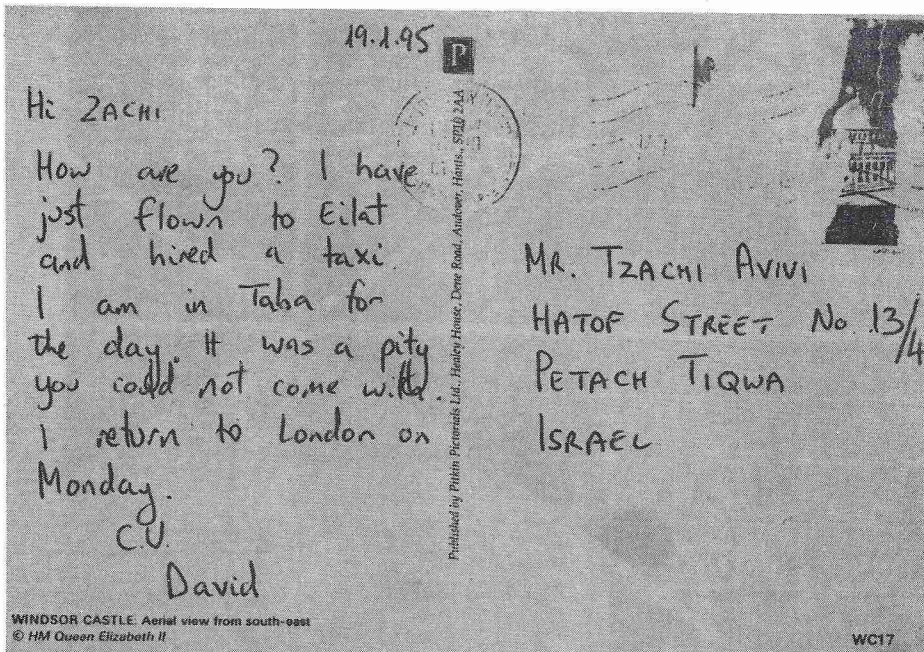


Fig. 41: Postcard sent from Taba to Petach Tikva where an attempt was made to remove the stamp.



Fig. 42: A copy of the original stamp.

* * * * *

* GENERAL NEWS *

* * * * *

New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by J. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 43).

6.2.95: "Inauguration of Postal Service between Israel and Jordan", Yerushalayim.

19.2.95: "60th Anniversary of the Rotary Club, Tel Aviv-Yafo - 1935-1995", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

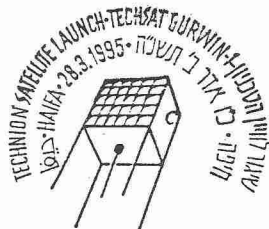


Fig. 43: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

תל אביב-יפו • ד' ניסן תשנ"ה



TEL AVIV-YAFO • 4.4.1995 • תל אביב-יפו



ישראל • 9.5.1995 • ירושלים • ירושלים

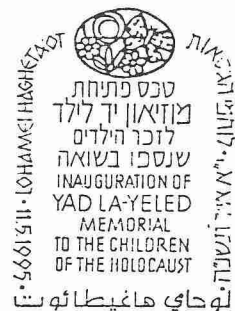


Fig. 43 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

Fig. 43 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



Fig. 43 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

- 19.2.95: "1945–1995, Hevel Megiddo Regional Council", Hevel Megiddo (M.P.).
- 13.3.95: "75 Years since the Defence of Tel-Hai", Hagalil Ha'elion (M.P.).
- 16.3.95: "Volleyball Centennial Israel Cup Final. Israel Volleyball Association", Or Aqiva.
- 27.3.95: "The 34th Annual Conference and Exhibition – International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations", Yerushalayim.
- 27.3.95: "2nd Road Safety Week in the ECE Region. Road Safety Saves Life – Save Young Lives", Yerushalayim.
- 27.3.95: "Visit of H.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands", Yerushalayim.
- 28.3.95: "Technion Satellite Launch – Techsat Gurwin – 1", Haifa.

- 4.4.95: "50 Years Convention of the Children of Buchenwald 1945-1995", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 25.4.95: "End of the Second World War and Liberation of the Camps 8.5.45-95", Yerushalayim*.
- 25.4.95: "Yishuv Volunteers to the British Army in the Second World War", Yerushalayim*.
- 25.4.95: "50th Anniversary of the United Nations", Yerushalayim*.
- 25.4.95: "Darius Milhaut, Arnold Shoenberg", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.
- 25.4.95: "Memorial Day" 1995, Netanya*.
- 27.4.95: "End of Second World War & Liberation of the Camps. 1945-1995", Lochamei Haghetat'ot.
- 9.5.95: "The Knesset marks 50 Years since the Victory over Germany", Yerushalayim.
- 11.5.95: "Inauguration of Yad La-Yeled Memorial to the Children of the Holocaust", Lohamei Haghetat'ot.
- 19.5.95: "Tel Aviv University. Board of Governors Meeting", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 24.5.95: "Music and Dance Day in Israel", Yerushalayim.
- 25.5.95: "ROTARY, District 2490. 35th Conference", Yerushalayim.
- 7.6.95: "Kites", Yerushalayim*.
- 7.6.95: "50th Anniversary of Zim Shipping Company", Haifa*.
- 7.6.95: "Songbirds", Elat*.
- 7.6.95: "Children's Books", Holon*.
- 7.6.95: "15th Hapoel Games", Ramat Gan*.
- 7.6-14.6.95: "The Hebrew Book Week", Afula, Ashqelon, Ramat Gan.
- 7.6-17.6.95: "The Hebrew Book Week", Yerushalayim, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa.
- 8.6.95: "Israel Swimming Association. Calendar Conference", Yerushalayim.
- 22.6.95: "75th Anniversary of Keren Hayesod, United Israel Appeal", Elat.
- 22.6.95: "70 years of Industry at the Dead Sea", Be'er Sheva.
- 6.7.95: "Rashi School-Safety Headquarters - Education to Road Safety Prize Winners", Netanya.
- 6.7.95: "The Schneider Children's Medical Center naming Ceremony", Petah Tiqwa.
- 9.7.95: "Aliya (Immigration) Absorption - Prisoner of Zion Decoration Awarding Ceremony", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 20.7.95: "Opening of the Olympic Year in Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 23.7.95: "LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defence", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 15.8.95: "The Opening Day of the 8th Klezmer Festival", Zefat.
- 1.9.95: "Greetings from Israel's Philatelists. Singapore 95", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 4.9.95: "Festivals of the Year 5756", Yerushalayim*.
- 4.9.95: "3000 Years of Jerusalem", Yerushalayim*.
- 4.9.95: "75 Years - Veterinary Services", Bet Dagan*.

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

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 12.2.95: "Yerushalayim 24", for the new Grade A Postal Agency at Dynamometer, Talpiyot Industrial Center.
- 19.2.95: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 311", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 313", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 325", for the new Postal Agency, at the New Central Bus Station.
- 21.2.95: "Nesher 7", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A at the "Test Car" garage.
- 5.3.95: "Be'er Sheva' 42", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, at the Elen garage. (This postmark was used before in Be'er Sheva' Main P.O.).
- 16.3.95: "Sajur 1", for the new Postal Agency, Grade B, in Sajur Village.
- 26.3.95: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 312", for the Shoncino Postal Branch.
- 4.4.95: "Yerushalayim 89", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in the Sheqem, Qanion Malha, Yerushalayim. (This postmark was used before in Shemuel Hanavi Postal Agency).
- 9.4.95: "Haifa Paye 1", "Haifa Paye 2", new "Paid" machine cancellations in Haifa Post Office).
- 9.4.95: "Tel Aviv-Yafo Paye 1" "Tel Aviv-Yafo Paye 2", new "Paid" machine cancellations in Tel Aviv-Yafo Post Office. These were not announced in any "Notice to the Public". The "Paye 1" appeared already on its first day with the slogan "Zip Code and the Letter speeds up" (Cf. the section "Slogan Canc." both below and in HLPH #60). The "Paye 2" (at least as it was supplied to collectors) was without a slogan initially, but was observed on April 30 with the same slogan (on commercial mail).
- 11.4.95: On this date 12 new or replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices as follows: **Southern Region:** "Ashqelon 24" (instead of Ashqelon 5), "Ha-Negev M.P. 4" (replacing a similar old handstamp); **Central Region:** "Taybe 3", "Netanya 31", "Ramat Gan 44"; **Northern Region:** "Nesher 8" (instead of Nesher 2), "Majd Al Kurum 1" (instead of "Majd Al Kurum", without No.), "Migdal Ha'emeq 6" (in Sapir Agency), "Migdal Ha'emeq 7"* (Nof Ha'emeq Agency). **Haifa** - (Shederot Hazonout) "135", "136" (instead of 90, 91), (parcel sorting office) "149" (instead of 36).
- 25.4.95: On this date 5 new "Paid" machine cancellations were put into use in various Post Offices in the Southern Region as follows: "Ashdod 1", "Elat 1", "Be'er Sheva 1", "Qiryat Gat 1", "Rehovot".
- 14.5.95: "On this date 2 new decorated handstamps were put into use as follows: "Ben-Gurion Airport 6" and "Ben-Gurion Airport 7".
- 1.6.95: Last Day of the "Hevel Korazim M.P.". It is possible that May 31 was in fact the last day of work.
- 6.6.95: "Tel Aviv-Yafo 317" for the Weizman Postal Branch.
- 7.6.95: "Elon More (Zahal)", for the new Postal Agency in Elon More Village.

* This new number (7) was introduced to avoid the confusion of having two No. 5 handstamps.

18.7.95: On this date 6 new handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices as follows. **Southern Region:** "Omer 2, 3", "Rahat 1", "Sederot 7, 8"; **Central Region:** "Tira 1".

7.8.95: "Ashdod 6", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in quarter 7, Rabi Meir Ba'al Haness Street, Shop 12, Ashdod. (This postmark was used before in Ashdod Main P.O.).

7.8.95: "Ashdod 32", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Quarter 10, Midrehov Haneviym, Shop 3/b', Ashdod. (This postmark was used before in Ashdod Main P.O.).

C. Slogan Cancellations

9.4.95: "Zip Code and the Letter speeds up", used with "Tel Aviv-Yafo Paye 1", "Paid" machine cancellation in Tel Aviv-Yafo Post Office.

(30.4.95)*: Ditto, used with "Tel Aviv-Yafo Paye 2".

* Bracketed dates mean that this is the earliest date observed, but there may be earlier ones. See also the corresponding section in the previous Bulletin (HLP# #60).

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PUBLIC AUCTIONS
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New Stamps and Postal Stationery

The following stamps and postal stationery were issued during the last period.

- 25.4.95: 1995 Memorial Day (IS 1); United Nations 50th anniversary (IS 1.50); 50th anniversary to the end of WW2 and liberation of the camps (IS 1), also a souvenir sheet in which the stamp is embedded (IS 2.50); Jewish Musicians – Arnold Schoenberg, Darius Milhaud (IS 2.40 each); Yishuv volunteers to the British Army in WW2 (souvenir sheet, IS 2.50).
- 7.6.95: Songbirds (definitive series, IS 1); 15th Hapo'el Games (IS 1); ZIM 50th anniversary (IS 4.40); Children's books (IS 1, 1.50, 1.80); Kites (IS 3x1.-), issued as a mini-sheet of 9 stamps (3 tabs) with alternate order of the three basic stamps.
- 4.9.95: Jerusalem, City of David, 3000 anniversary (IS 1, 1.50, 1.80); New Year Festival 1995 (5756) (IS 1, 1.50, 1.80); Veterinary Services 75th anniversary (IS 4.40).

Postal Stationery

- 25.4.95: A prestamped postcard for inland use (non-denominated) imprinted with a Netanya landscape “stamp” (sold at IS 1.-)
- 7.6.95: Prestamped envelope for inland letter (non-denominated) imprinted with the Sunflower “stamp” (sold at IS 1.10; Fig. 44, left).
- 20.8.95: Prestamped envelope for inland letter (non-denominated) imprinted with a Hyacinth “stamp” (sold at IS 1.10; Fig. 44, right).

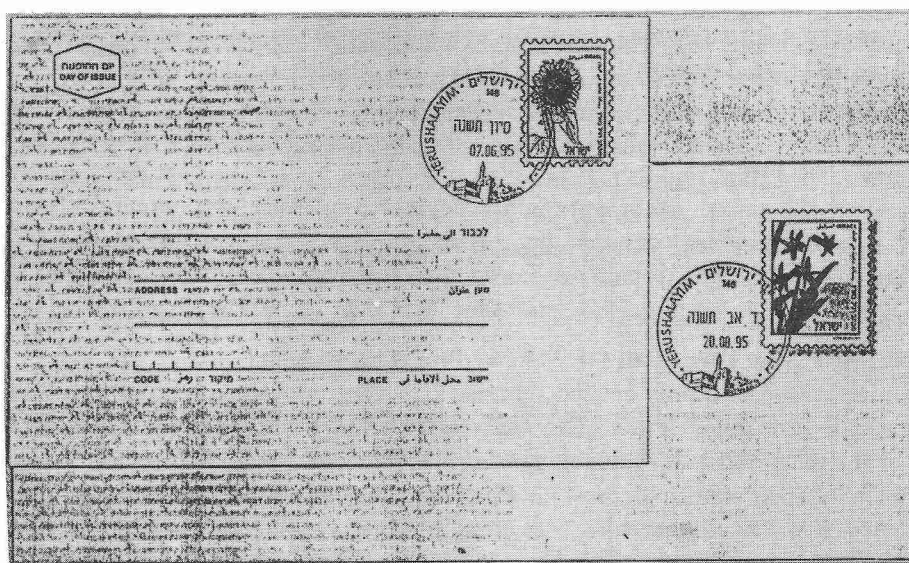


Fig. 44: Non-Denominated prestamped envelopes for an “ordinary local letter” issued on June 7 (left) and August 20 (right), respectively.

Book Reviews

Israel International Show Cards by Samuel Resnick (1994).

Samuel Resnick has produced a fine labor of love – a comprehensive listing with all available and appropriate background information of these souvenirs. Included in the work is a valuation table and photos of all catalogued items.

As Resnick so properly points out in his introduction, show cards are not postally valid nor are they intended for postal correspondence. They are mementoes or souvenirs of a particular occasion, exposition, exhibition, etc. Following this definition, he indicates that these souvenirs can be either (a) Official: authorized and printed by a Government; or (b) Semi-Official: not authorized but printed by a printer involved in Government printing; or (c) Unofficial: Privately produced by non-government printers. When considering these categories, it seems obvious that “problems” can arise if these are produced for the market place without authorization yet appearing to have this. Also, as Resnick’s valuation tables sometimes graphically indicate, where the information is available, the quantities produced of these show cards are often very small. Thus, situations can and do arise where very high prices are advertised and quoted by those merchants stocking these modern cards.

A particularly valuable section of the work is entitled “FORERUNNERS” wherein the various souvenirs produced in 1948 and 1949 are catalogued. These include the Doar Ivri Propaganda Sheetlets, various Minister Sheets, Imaba Sheet, 1948 New Year Card and the 1949 Cyprus Card. However, after this founding period, the next earliest item listed is the 1981 WIPA Exhibition Show Card. Unfortunately, the inclusion of the 1948/49 sheets and cards, which our knowledgeable collectors eagerly collect, does not elevate the status of the souvenirs that first began to appear thirty two years later. But Philately is an individualistic hobby and each of us spends his funds and collects those materials that appeal to him for whatever reasons.

Resnick is to be congratulated for his pioneering efforts in producing this well documented, completely illustrated and most interesting reference. It is his first published work and we hope he will continue to explore and discuss other specialties of Israel Philately as well as he has done here. Those interested in obtaining the work should contact the SIP Educational Fund, 25 113 Duffield Rd., Beachwood, OH 44122, USA.

(Marvin Siegel)

Greeting Telegrams of the J.N.F. by Prof. Shaul Ladani.

The collection of J.N.F. related material is a very popular subject among Jews around the world many of them, like this writer, are also philatelists. The J.N.F. being one of the most important tools of spreading the Zionist ideas and at the same time a tool of raising money to buy national land in Eretz-Israel, was very popular as an organization and therefore, everything which has to do with the J.N.F. became a collectible. The many and varied channels of the J.N.F. collecting include: Labels, Postcards, Telegrams, “Blue Boxes”, Tags, Pins, Documents, Posters and probably others which I am not aware of. Of the major subjects, the label and the postcard

catalogues have been in use by collectors for many years. Now Ladani's catalogue of the J.N.F. telegrams comes to fulfill a long awaited need by J.N.F. collectors in general and by telegram collectors in particular.

The J.N.F. telegram is not really a telegram. It is a telegram substitute which followed a trend created by private publishers and organizations to avoid the very high cost of sending a telegram in the early days of the 20th Century. The idea behind the J.N.F. telegrams was to sell a beautifully designed form bearing the title "Telegram" for the cost of a real telegram (less the postage needed to send it) which would then be posted via the regular post, the difference in cost being considered a donation to the J.N.F.. This enabled people to send a nice form and at the same time make a donation. The beautiful designs by some of the top Jewish artists of the time (like Joseph Budko), make the collecting of these J.N.F. telegrams very rewarding.

The monograph by Ladani is a very thorough research work. The first chapter, by way of an introduction, describes the history of the telegraph and the telegrams in general and the development of substitute telegrams among Jews and non Jews by both private publishers and organizations. The second chapter describes the introduction of the J.N.F. telegrams in 1903, its development and its place in the general scheme of the J.N.F. activity. This chapter contains many documents, posters and other material related to the J.N.F. telegrams and is very informative on all aspects which concern the J.N.F. telegrams. The next chapter is the core of the work: it describes methodically all the types of telegrams known to the author. The chapter is subdivided into eight sections categorized according to functional purpose, land of origin or designer of the telegrams. This categorization and the extensive summary table in the end of the monograph enable the collector to identify any given "telegram" and to organize his collection in an orderly manner. The profusion of illustrations of all the telegram types discussed makes the identification even easier.

As is the case with most pioneering works like this one, it provokes a lot of activity by collectors who have until now been in the "dark"; this activity usually uncovers new information and new types heretofore unknown. I hope that this be the case also here so that future editions will be even more complete and updated.

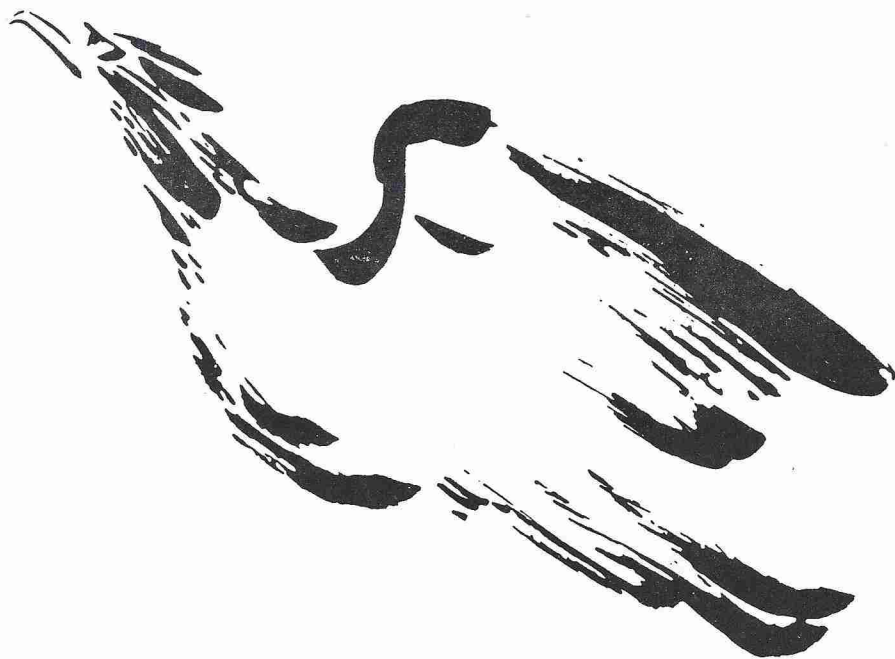
To summarize, this monograph is a very thorough and very well organized research work, worthwhile having by all J.N.F. collectors and especially the J.N.F. telegram collectors.

(Yeri Rimon)

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I am looking for the following Israeli post cancellations: (1) Special cancellation dated 6.7.1994, "Bergen Belsen Transport 222". (2) New post office openings: HAKIRYA (11.7.48), BET LEHEM HAGLILIT (28.10.52), BNE ATAROT (13.12.53). Yoel Amir, 44b Azar St., Kefar Sava 44415, Israel.



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