

CHAPTER #80



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# ISRATHEME

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The English Bulletin of **AYELET**, Thematic Association of ISRAEL.

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**From the Editor's Desk** - Nahum Shereshevsky

This issue of ISRATHEME is printed in April, 1995. It seems that the gap is getting wider rather than narrower. However, I believe that a journal that is issued late is better than none at all and therefore I continue to produce ISRATHEME, hoping that some day I'll catch up. In order to make it easier for me to achieve this goal, I decided on a change of policy: from now on, you may find in this journal not only articles that are about Israeli thematics but also articles about thematics in general. I intend to use suitable material from NOSON, our Hebrew journal, as well as articles about issues in collecting and exhibiting thematics. The latter are intended to create a forum for debate and exchange of views, and our readers are invited to participate.

You will notice that "Meter Corner" is not listed in the table of contents below. Its author, Dr. Eliahu Foa, passed away in October 1994, in his eighties. Dr. Foa devoted his philatelic life to the study of meter postmarks of Israel and was considered the number one expert in this special field. He was a member of AYELET and when I asked him to write thematic articles about meters for ISRATHEME, he was glad to oblige as he was always glad to share his knowledge. I spoke to Eliahu many times over the phone, but we met only once. Dr. Foa's death left a vacant niche in this country's philately.

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# FOCUS ON VINES Nahum Shereshevsky

(Editor's note: this article was planned to appear in the previous issue, to complement the report on the 1993 Festival Stamps which include a stamp showing grapes).

The vine is known to have been growing in Israel since at least the Bronze Age. The planting of the first vineyard is attributed to Noah: "... And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard" (Genesis 9,20). Noah is also regarded as the first drunkard...

The grape is one of the "Seven Species" of food that are mentioned in the Bible as being abundant in the Land of Israel: "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil, and honey;" (Deuteronomy 8,8). The Seven Species first appeared, in two parts, on the Festivals stamps of 1958/59. The grape is on the 1958 160 pr. value (SG 152/Sc 147). A design incorporating all the seven was used on a number of "stand-by" definitives issued between 1982 and 1984, ranging in value from IS 1.40 to IS 500.

When Moses sent the 12 spies from the desert to the Land of Israel "to tour the country", they returned with fruits that were so big, that the bunch of grapes had to be carried on a rod by two people - as seen in the 1954 Festivals stamp (SG 97/Sc 87). This motif became a symbol of tourism and was adopted by the Ministry of Tourism as its emblem. It can be seen in the meter postmarks of the Ministry's main office in Jerusalem, and in the FDI postmark of the 1989 "Tourism at the Four Seas" set.



The grape is one of the "Seven Species"

"... and they bare it between two upon a staff..." - a symbol of tourism





A meter from the Ministry of Tourism head office, Jerusalem

The 5 pr. stamp of the 1950 air mail series (SG 32, Sc C1) shows two doves eating grapes, taken from an ancient pottery lamp from the period after the destruction of the Second Temple.

The vine was also a symbol of economic welfare, stability and tranquility as opposed to a life of wandering. In the 0.50 ag value of the 1960 World Refugee Year set (SG 187/Sc 179) we can see a family in a house, with grapes and vine leaves on the roof and the verse "...But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid" (Micha 4,4) on the tab. The symbolism of the vine goes even further to refer to the People of Israel in general, and as such it appears on two coins from the Second Revolt period (132-135 C.E.). A coin with a bunch of grapes was depicted on a the 15 pr value of the 1948 Doar Ivri stamp (SG 4/Sc 4) and in a number of variations in the coin series of the early 1950's, including the 1951 service set and the stamp indicium of postal stationery items. Another coin, showing a vine leaf was depicted on the 5 pr Doar Ivri as well as on other stamps.



תאמי יונים  
לקישוט  
בערות חרס



"...every man under his vine" - World Refugee Year



Grapes on ancient Hebrew coins: a leaf and a bunch



Doves eating grapes, ancient pottery lamp

The modern history of the wine industry in Israel starts in 1880, when 20 dunams (2 hectares) of vines were planted in Migve Israel Agricultural School. It continued with the colonies that were supported by Baron Edmonde de Rothschild. The Baron's idea was that the colonists would grow products that could be sold abroad, and for that purpose some of the best cultivars of French vines were planted in Rishon Le-Zion and Zikhron Ya'aqov. A firm called Carmel Oriental was formed with a winery in each of the two colonies, which still operate. Grapes therefore became associated with these two towns, as can be seen in two 1952 postmarks that commemorate the 70th anniversaries of Rishon Le-Zion and Zikhron Ya'aqov. Grapes were incorporated in the emblems of the two towns as well as that of Mazkeret Batyya, as seen in 1982 postmarks commemorating the centenaries of the three towns. Not surprisingly, a 1954 stamp issued on the occasion of the Baron's 20th death anniversary shows his portrait next to a grape motif (SG 100/Sc 90).

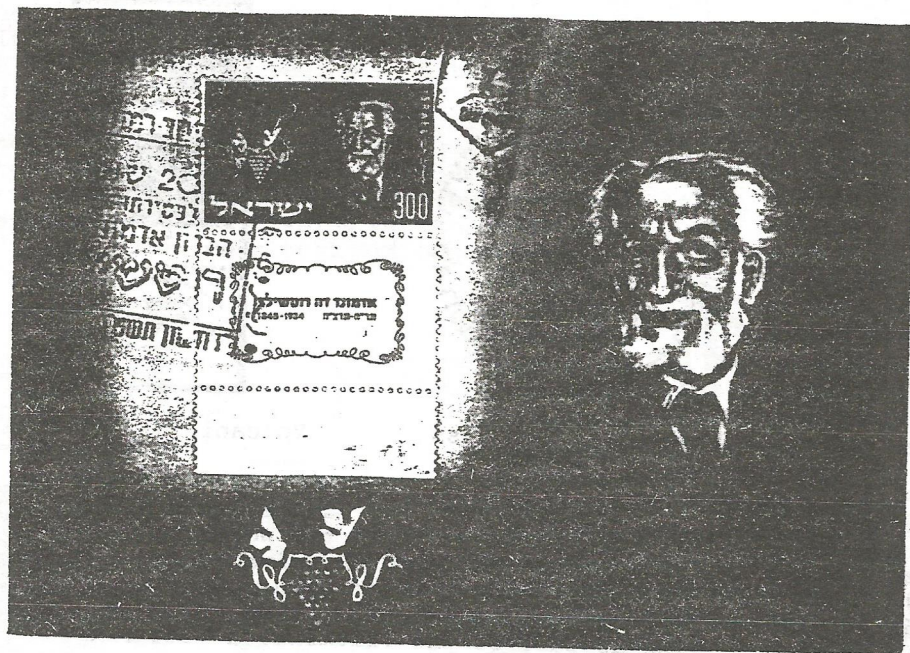


70th anniversary  
of Rishon Le-Zion

Centenaries of  
Mazkeret Batyya  
and Zikhron  
Ya'aqov

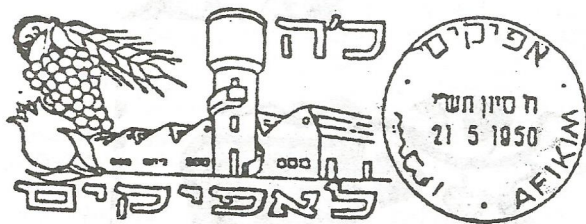






20th anniversary of the death of Baron Edmonde de Rothschild

One would expect to find grapes on a postmark commemorating a vine fair, but this fruit can be found representing agriculture and fruits in general. When Kibbutz Afikim, in the Jordan Valley, had a postmark for its 25th anniversary, grapes were a part of the design, being a major product in that area at the time. Later grapes were replaced by bananas which were more profitable. More grapes appear in postmarks commemorating the 20th World Vegetarian Congress and a fruit exhibition, and on the tab of a 1971 stamp commemorating the jubilee of the Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research (SG 511/Sc 460).



25th anniversary of Kibbutz Afikim



3rd Fruit Exhibition





Vine Fair, Hebron



Vegetarian Congress



Volcani Institute

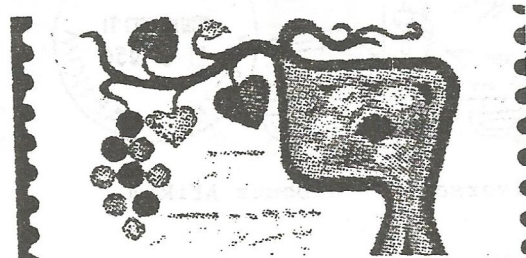
Grapes are commonly used as small decorative illustrations and spacefillers, the word vignette derives from the word vine. Two examples are shown here, enlarged: in the 1950 Festivals set (SG 38-9/Sc 35-6) there is a bunch of grapes inside a Shield of David, and in the 1.50 IL value of the 1971 Feast of Shavuot set (SG 486/Sc453) we can find a grape vine as part of the illuminated lettering.



1950 Festivals, with a grape brunch decorating the Shield of David

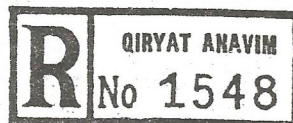


A grapevine used to illuminate letters, 1971 Shavuot set





One of the the main reasons for growing vines is, of course, producing wine. "And wine that maketh glad the heart of man" is written in the Bible (Psalms 104,15). The Book of Esther, which tells the story of Purim, begins with the feast that King Ahasuerus made in his palace. The 0.40 IL value of the 1976 Purium (SG 628/Sc 593) set shows a man, probably the King, raising a glass of wine. A bottle of wine is a universal symbol for good luck, as we can see in one of the "greetings" stamps. But wine is also used in an important Jewish ritual, the Kiddush - blessing (sanctification). A kiddush cup is depicted on the 0.35 value of the 1966 Festival set (SG 339/Sc 320), which shows Jewish ritual art objects.



King Ahasuerus  
raising his  
glass of wine



A Kiddush  
cup



A bottle of wine  
for good luck on  
a greeting stamp

KIRYAT AVAVIM and  
'ANABTA are grape-  
related names



And to conclude our story, let us look at the map: not surprisingly, a number of grapes are found there and some of them have their own postmark. In both Hebrew and Arabic the words for grapes come from the root ANV/ANB: We have "Kiryat Anavim" ("Grapetown"?) in Hebrew and "Anabta" in Arabic. Names, however, can be misleading. The word "kerem" in Hebrew is used for "vineyard", usually with the words "grapes" following, but it can also refer to other types of trees like olives or almonds. Names like "Karmiel" or "Beit Ha-kerem" may or may not be associated with grapes and it is suggested not to use their postmarks in a grapes collection. In fact, in Arabic the root KRM refers to olives, so that a postmark from Tul Karm definitely doesn't belong to our theme.

(The author would like to thank our member Dr. Kovac for his contribution to this article).

## READERS' MAIL

From Martin Jacobs, Mitzpe Ramon:

I read with interest Eliezer Saraf's article devoted to Palestine in World War I and I recognize the research that was put into it. However, with respect, I would point out some discrepancies that came to my mind.

The Jewish volunteers referred to on page 3 were not at that time part of a regiment, their official title was the Zion Mule Corps and were under the direction of the Royal Army Service Corps. Page 4 illustrates their title in the postmark.

Page 7 refers to the Kings Rifles, this was not so. The Jewish volunteers were formed into three battalions of the Royal Fusileers, the 38th, 39th, and the 40th, as an infantry brigade. The 38th comprised elements of the Zion Mule Corps and many Palestine Jewish volunteers who had escaped to Egypt to avoid conscription into the Turkish Army. The 39th contained Jewish volunteers from other regiments in the British Army who transferred specifically to fight as a Jewish formation. The 40th battalion was made up with Jewish volunteers from the U.S.A. many of whom had signed up to fight before the U.S.A. entered the war in 1917.

The Royal Fusileers was a City of London regiment and because of the preponderance of Jews in the East End of London many of the faith were found in the Fusileers ranks. The regiment is now more or less in moth balls but the regimental history of all the battalions including the 38th, 39th and 40th is preserved with the history of the regiment.

Eliezer Saraf responds:

The reason to my errors lies, of course, in re-translation from Hebrew to English. The fighters of Gallipoly are known in Hebrew as "The Mule Drivers' Regiment". The 38th-40th are called in Hebrew "The King's Sharpshooters". Anyway, thank you for the corrections.

Editor's note:

Mr. Jacobs is, of course, right in all of his comments, and Saraf is right in his response- it's all a matter of terms and translation.

On page 3 Saraf does refer to the Mule Corp, he just called them "Mule Drivers" as he explains above. The word "regiment" in that sentence is indeed confusing with the King's Rifles. This later term is again a translation from the Hebrew term, though we usually use the general term "The Hebrew Regiments". (We use the same word for both "regiment" and "battalion"). I'm familiar with the term "Royal Fusileers" - in fact, when I was in London I visited their museum at the Tower and there I saw the badge of the three battalions (the Menorah with the Hebrew word "forward"). However, though I'm not an expert on the British Army, I think that I've seen the term "King's Rifles" used in connection with the Royal Fusileers.



## NEW ISSUES

8.2.94

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 85 ag, NIS 1.30, 1.60

In the last few years it has come to light that the serious diseases prevalent to our time (heart and blood diseases, cancer, those caused by accidents, from alcohol and drugs, etc.) are a result of man's behaviour.

Smoking and dangerous addictions, diets high in calories, fat and cholesterol, sugar, salt and food colourings, and the lack of physical exercise, are all factors in bringing on the above-mentioned diseases. These factors are mainly functions of human behaviour, whether individual behaviour or social behaviour patterns.

Therefore, in order to reduce the effect of these major causes of disease and death throughout the developed world, it is very important for people to adopt healthy lifestyles. Each of the stamps in this series highlights a different aspect of this idea.

85 ag - Exercise regularly! Aerobic exercise such as jogging, fast walking, cycling, swimming, aerobic dancing, is moderate activity but regular exercise. This type of activity helps to prevent heart disease, keeps you fit, and makes you feel good. Today, when we use cars to get everywhere and climb multi-storey buildings only by elevator, the Ministry of Health recommends that we all do some physical exercise, particularly aerobic exercise, so as to feel well and to help prevent disease. The stamp shows a person holding his car in his hand, and on the tabs is a bicycle.

NIS 1.30 - Don't Smoke! Reduction of smoking is today the most important factor in the prevention of heart disease and cancer. While in the past the emphasis was on the smokers themselves, the concentration today is on passive smokers - people who live in a smoking environment. The damage caused to them has recently become clearer and unquestioned and is similar to that caused to the smokers themselves. It is therefore strongly recommended not to smoke and to avoid, as far as possible, being in the company of those who do. The problem has therefore become a social problem as well, and legal measures have been taken to protect the non-smokers and their right to breathe clean air. The latest action in Israel was the banning of smoking at the workplace. The stamp shows a person blowing soap bubbles out of his cigarette, and on the tab is a butterfly, symbolizing clean air.

NIS 1.60 - Eat sensibly! It is important for us to inspect our food and to know what we are eating. This can be done by reading the food tag/label on packaged products that details the ingredients and the nutrition values. The latter was recently made a requirement on all food packages in Israel - previously it was required only on products marked "diet" or "low calories". It is desired to eat less of foods rich in calories, in fats - particularly high fat products - and in cholesterol. Excessive quantities of sugar and salt should be

avoided, and foods rich in edible fibers, such as vegetables and fruits, whole wheat, and whole rice, should be preferred. And in hot countries like Israel, we also need to drink a lot of water, especially during the summer. The stamp shows a person looking at his food through a magnifying glass (is he a philatelist?...) On the tab are three tomatoes.

The FDI postmark (#4 on p. 16) shows a heart which resembles an apple.

Previous items on anti-smoking include the 1983 Anti-Smoking Campaign stamp (SG 893/Sc 832), and slogan postmarks for the Anti-Cancer Association fund raising: that of 1970 just shows a cigarette to indicate the connection between smoking and cancer, while the 1979 and 1980 slogans also state clearly: "Smoking or health - it's your choice".

#### MORDECAI HAFFKINE NIS 3.85 (Scientists series)

Mordecai Haffkine was born in 1860 in Odessa, Ukraine, and studied at the university of that city. After completing his studies, he was offered a position as lecturer at the Natural Science Faculty - but on condition that he convert to Christianity. Haffkine refused and left for Paris, where he started his scientific work on immunization. In 1892 he succeeded in producing a vaccine against Cholera. His reputation led to his invitation to Britain, and in 1893 he went to India. He arrived at Calcutta and began travelling in the villages, persuading the villagers to take the vaccine. His efforts of almost three years reduced the cholera cases by 80% amongst those who were immunized. In 1897 Queen Victoria honoured Haffkine by naming him Companion of the Indian Empire. He continued his research in India, and in 1899 he discovered the vaccine against the plague. But his success made him enemies - a group of scientists who envied him spread rumours that he was a Russian agent and responsible to the death of 19 people who died of tetanus after receiving his vaccination. Haffkine had to leave India, and it took three years until he was cleared of the accusations. The Indian Government apologized and invited him to return.

During the First World War Haffkine was a member of the Medical Council of the British Army in France and continued in his research. In 1916 he published a major paper on Judaism, in which he concluded that the Jewish religion was the only set of values that modern science did not refute but rather supported. He devoted his total capital (about half a million dollars) to support Jewish religious schools. Haffkine died in 1930.

The stamp shows a portrait of Haffkine, and in the background (including the tab) is a hand-written page from his work. The FDI postmark (#6 on p. 16) consists of his name.



## BEETLES (Coleoptera) 85 ag. x 4 + booklet of 8

The beetles comprise an order of insects characterized by complete metamorphosis, biting-chewing mouth parts, and two pairs of wings, of which the hind pair are membranous and used for flight and the front (elytra) are sturdy and used for protection. There are approximately 350,000 species of beetles in the world and about 3500 of them are found in Israel. These species represent a wide variety of families, shapes, colours and modes of life. The four species depicted on these stamps have been chosen as particularly representative of Israel. The FDI postmark (#5 on p. 16) shows a line sketch of the beetles.

Yellow banded borer (*Chlorophorus varus*) is one of about 120 species of longhorned borers found in Israel, and is commonly found on flowers in Israel in the spring. During the larval stage, most members of the family develop in, and feed on, tree trunks, branches, plant stalks and grasses. Some of the species are agricultural pests, while others damage industrial lumber and furniture.

Copper Beetle (*Potosia cuprea*) represents the approximately 200 species of the family Scarabaeidae (lamellicorn beetles) found in Israel. This beetle feeds on plants and is commonly seen in the field in the spring, flying rather clumsily or feeding, mainly on thistle flower heads.

Pied Ground Beetle (*Graphopterus serrator*) is one of the 400 members of the Caribidae family that are found in Israel. This beetle is a predator, preying on smaller insects and other tiny creatures. It is active by day, inhabiting sandy soil, and can be found in Israel from the western Negev desert as far north as Tel Aviv, representing a more southern, desert fauna.

Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*) is one of the most common, familiar and congenial beetles. It is popularly known in Hebrew as "Moses' cow". The ladybird is exceptional in its voracity for aphids, a group of insects that includes many agricultural pests. About 70 species of ladybirds are known in Israel, and many of them help to regulate pest populations. At the end of spring the beetles migrate to mountain tops, where they mass together. At the beginning of the following spring they migrate back to the low-lying areas, a phenomenon that has not yet been fully studied.

## SONGBIRDS definitive series NIS 1.70 Sinai Rosefinch

This desert finch (*Carpodacus synoicus*) owes its name to the colour of the male plumage in spring. Its head and breast are pink, its wings and tail brown, and it has a strong, grey bill. It is about 15 cm long and weighs about 20 grams. The Sinai Rosefinch gathers seeds and other plants on the ground, and since it needs a regular water supply, may often be seen near water resources in the desert. Except for the nesting season, these finches live in flocks easily located by their calls. The Sinai Rosefinch is a rare, resident species of central Negev areas, but more common in southern Sinai. Its nest is hidden in crevices in cliffs.





Yellow banded borer



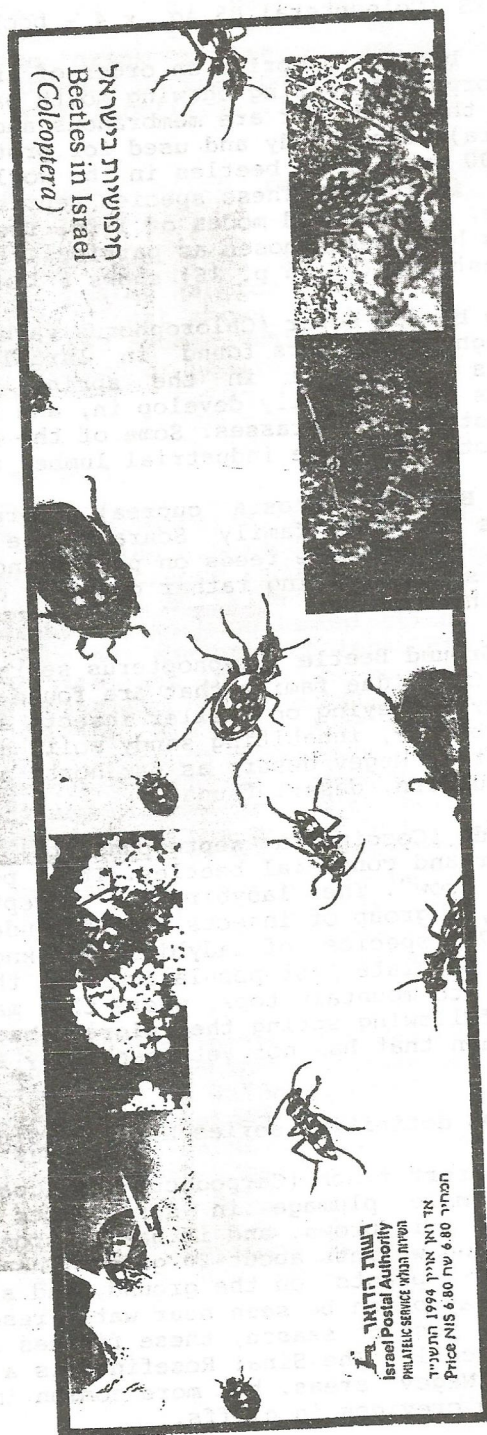
Copper Beetle



Pied Ground Beetle

Booklet

תקופות הכרזים  
Beetles in Israel  
(Coleoptera)

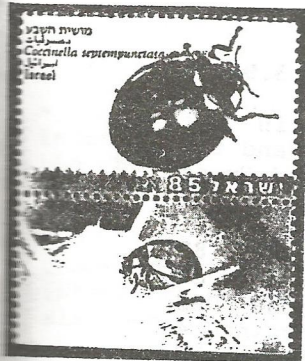


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PHILATELIC SERVICE

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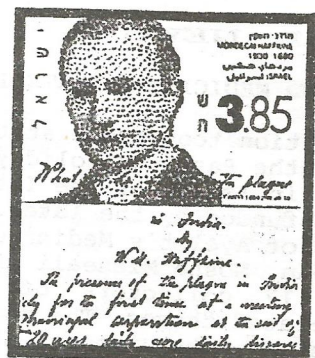




Ladybird



Sinai Rosefinch



Mordecai Haffkine



Health and Well-Being

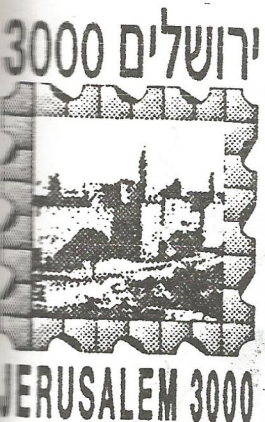
Exercise regularly!



Don't smoke!



Eat sensibly!



# EUROPEAN STAMP EXHIBITION JERUSALEM 3000

DECEMBER 16-21, 1995

The literature class is open for world-wide entries, free of charge! For more information, please write to:  
JERUSALEM 3000, P.O.Box 1361,  
91013 Jerusalem, ISRAEL.

# GENERAL NEWS

## RED CROSS AND MEDICINE PHILATELIC AND PHOTO EXHIBITION 28-31.3.94

The exhibition took place at the Post and Philately Museum in Tel Aviv during the Passover holiday. It was organized by the IPF and the delegation in Israel of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and funded by the latter. The philatelic part was carried out by members of Ayelet's Medicine and Red Cross Group, headed by Prof. Emanuel Eylan, Moshe Micheali and Dr. Hedy Faibel. It included 82 frames by 17 collectors of all levels who exhibited a variety of medicine-related themes. The photo exhibition, presented by the Red Cross, was on the theme "ICRC, the World Over" and contained 4 sections: "Story of an idea", "ICRC main activities", "ICRC the world over", "ICRC in the Middle East".

A special postmark was used on the first day of the exhibition (see #10 on p. 16) and a souvenir leaf was produced. In addition, three slogans were used on the IPF meter machine and a set of four exhibition covers was sold, carrying the special postmark and meter slogans.

Slogan part of meter cancellations



SOLFERINO 1859-1994  
(Henry Dunant)



HEALTH DAY MAIMONIDES  
HYGIENE PIONEER



DOCTORS DAY  
Dr. Th. Maunoir  
Dr. L.P.A. Appia



Exhibition logo



## CONTACTS

\* Mr. BOAZ GOLAN, 32 Ben-Shalom St., 47204 RAMAT HASHARON, ISRAEL is interested in the fighting in Africa in World War II and especially the Battle of El-Almein. He is looking for stamps, FDC's, soldier's mail and any type of philatelic material on the subject.

\* Mr. YOSSEI FOGEL, P.O. Box 2006, 56915 SAVYON, ISRAEL wishes to trade and correspond with collectors from other countries. His interests: music, dinosaurs, fauna, maps, flags, children, army and also some countries.

\* Mr. AMI MASHIACH, 114 HABANIM, 74024 NES ZIONA, ISRAEL, would like to exchange music and elephants material from countries such as Mauritius, Australia, Britain.

\* Wanted: postal stationery and special cancellations from all over the world (not Eastern Europe!). Offers: everything from Israel and many other items world-wide. Only serious dealers, please. Mr. E. BAR-EREZ, 58 BRANDE St., 49600 PETAH-TIQA, ISRAEL.

\* I'm looking for stamps on tennis and Olympics. I can send in return stamps of Israel on any topic required. Mr. ARIEL FRIEDMAN, MEIR YOSHA 4, PISGAT ZEEV, 97861 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL.

\* Miss SHELLY RUM, POB 239, 84101 BEER SHEVA, ISRAEL, is a young girl who would like to receive flora and fauna stamps and send used Israeli stamps.

## SPECIAL POSTMARKS      January - March 1994

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

1. 3.1.94 YAM HAMELAH MPO: The 7th Convention of the National Labour Federation in Israel·Ein Bokek·Dead Sea (Federation's emblem)
2. 14.1.94 HERZLIYYA: Grand Prix International Judo Tournament (Tournament's logo and town emblem of Herzliyya)
3. 1.2.94 TEL AVIV-YAFO: BEZEQ - Decade of Achievements (BEZEQ is the Israeli telecommunication company.)
- \*4. 8.2.94 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Health and Well-being
- \*5. 8.2.94 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Beetles (Coleoptera)
- \*6. 8.2.94 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Mordecai Haffkine 1860-1930
- \*7. 8.2.94 MIZPE RAMON: Songbirds
8. 23.3.94 HAIFA: 10th Anniversary of BEZEQ· Communications Exhibition, National Science Museum (Museum's building)
9. 25.3.94 RAMAT HASHARON: Davis Cup·World Group·Israel - Czech Republic (Israel Tennis Association emblem)
10. 28.3.94 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Red Cross & Medicine Philatelic and Photo Exhibition



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