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# SRATHEME

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The English Bulletin of AYELET, Thematic Association of ISRAEL.

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From the Editor's Desk - Nahum Shereshevsky

Once again I have to start my editorial with an apology for producing this issue so late. Since the beginning of 1994 I am also co-editor of NOSON, our Hebrew journal, which required a lot of my spare time on the expense of ISRATHEME. As so much material has accumulated since ISRATHEME #11, I decided to put out a double issue. Still, some of the items reported are more than a year old, and I am very unhappy with that! Learning from past experience, I do not promise to close the gap, but I do promise to do my best to improve the situation. I can only hope that you will find that this issue was worth the wait. I would like to thank Eliezer Saraf and Dr. Eliahu Foa, our regular contributors, for their articles, and to Naomi Koepler and David Fein for their contribution to "Reader's Mail". I am very happy that after 11 issues I have such a column in my journal, and all of our readers are invited to share with us their views. Besides the fact that your letters help filling a page or two, they give me a much needed and appreciated feedback. And Finally, many thanks to Ron Berger, my partner in editing NOSON, for proofing this issue. Due to the tight schedule, there was no time to send the text to Stuart Elgrod for proofing as usual, so don't blame him for typos or incorrect English this time!

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Turkey entered the war a few weeks late. Her main aim was to recoup territories in the Caucasus - but, under German pressure, she also agreed to open a front in Palestine. "Army Group No. 4" was created, comprising of 20,000 men and 7,500 camels, under the nominal command of Jamal Pasha (the real authority was the German "advisor" von Kressenstein). The aim was to reach the Suez Canal and render it inoperative.

The Turks also had another hope: to "liberate" Egypt from the English infidels. Among other things, they prepared special stamps for the use of the "liberated" population. These stamps were adorned with religious symbols and the slogan "the Moslem liberation army".



"Liberation" stamp



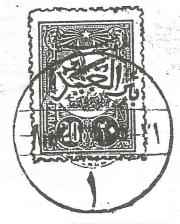
Turkish pipe dream: stamp stowing the Nile and the Pyramids

The Turkish dream was soon shattered. Surprise when Bedouin camel riders charged in screaming shrill was The Turks had to beat a shameful retreat. The occupation were destroyed, but naturally quite a few "stuck" to the hards of warious officers.

A stalemate developed, the Turks remaining in Simal cut sporadic raids. They built several camps and continued the Beersheba railroad to their base camp at Hafir, today's with the checkpoint. A postal service was created, using Today's starps overprinted "Tur Sinaa" in Arabic script. The German and Arabic advisors were issued stampless field-post cards.

The British were aware of the danger. They augmented their force in Egypt, notably by the Australian and New-Zealand riders was "ANZAC", soon to reach world fame. A memorial to them stands in southern Israel near Kibbutz Be'eri.



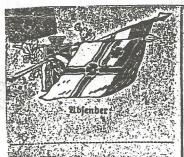




"TUR SINAA" overprint

HAFIR basecamp, 1915

BIR EL ABID camp in central Sinai







Germam fieldpostcard, sent from BIR-ES-SEBA (Beersheba)

Meanwhile, Winston Churchill, Secretary of the Navy, came up with a more daring idea: a landing in the very heart of Turkey, delivering a punch that would knock that country out of the war. On March 18, 1915, a large force landed at Gallipoli, not far from Istanbul (Constantinopole). Turkish resistance was fierce, much stronger than expected, and after a year of hard and bloody fighting, the British were forced to evacuate. During the battle, a Turkish colonel named Mustafa Kemal distinguished himself - he later became known as Kemal Attaturk. Israel also has a special tie to Gallipoli - the first Jewish volunteer regiment, the "mule drivers", took a distinguished

At nearly the same time, the British suffered another severe defeat: an expeditionary force, trying to conquer southern Iraq, had to surrender to a superior Turkish force.

part in the battle.



ANZAC memorial near Be'eri



Zion Mule Corps

The Jewish Legion



Gallipoli from the Turkish side



Col. Mustafa Kemal



Heavy artillery



The memorial

As a result of these developments, the British decided to conquer Sinai, by that way securing the Suez Canal which they regarded as "the lifeline of the Empire". The Canal defence force was reinforced and renamed the "Egyptian Expeditionary Force" (E.E.F.). This army began to slowly push the Turks out of Sinai. The E.E.F. had its own postal service, and special stamps, carrying the E.E.F. logo, were printed for it. These stamps, with suitable overprint, became the first stamps of Palestine and Trans-Jordan. E.E.F. stamp



The Turks defended themselves stubbornly. The Germans obliged them by sending reinforcements, especially technical experts such as artillery men and engineers. With the advent of British and German aircraft, the war became three dimensional. The Ottoman post even issued a special set of stamps, describing the heroic fighting of its army. Unfortunately, by the time the stamps came out, Palestine was already in the enemy's hands! The stamps were therefore held back -

although, inevitably, some found their way into collectors' Later, due to the chronic shortages, these stamps were issued - with various overprints. The original, unoverprinted stamps, are now among Turkey's most valuable stamps.



German & Turkish officers



Germam artillery



EL ARISH, an oasis in central Sinai



Caravan in Sinai





Well in Sinai Turkish Bleroit XI

Meanwhile, there were important developments on the British right wing. The Arabs began to understand that they had a real chance to throw off the Turkish rule. The Sharif of Mecca raised the standard of revolt. His decision to do so was faciliated by the able British intelligence officer known as "Lawrence of Arabia", who spoke fluent Arabic, and further faciliated by several chests filled with shiny

For the Turks, the loss of the holy city of Mecca was a hard blow, and their war propaganda reacted typically: yok! there was no revolt, the holy Ka'abah is still in our hands! To prove that the "State of Hejaz" existed in fact, the British decided that it had to issue stamps. Lawrence went to the Arab Museum in Cairo, selected a few





Two of Lawrence's stamps

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arabesque adornments, and had stamps made showing them. As Desecrates never said - "I issue stamps therefore I am"...

While the war raged near their southern border, the Jews of Palestine were at a loss as to which side to support. Most people favoured a show of loyalty to the Turkish ruler, not out of love but out of fear of reprisals. There was, however, a small group of dissidents who saw the salvation of their hopes in a British victory. They decided not to limit themselves to hope and prayer but to act: around the Aaronsohn family from Zikhron Ya'acov assembled a network of intelligence agents, numbering over 30, with sympathizers all over the land. The organization, called NILI (an acronym meaning "The Eternal God of Israel shall never lie") supplied the British important information during 1915-1917. Eeventually, the Turks uncovered the spy-ring, and arrested most of them. Sarah Aaronsohn committed suicide and two others were hanged. Aaron Aaronsohn, who happenned to be in Cairo at he time, continued to operate from there.



Aaron Aaronsohn



Sarah Aaronsohn



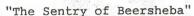
50th anniversary of Sarah Aaronsohn's heroic death in 1917

During 1916, the British advanced in Sinai, laying a railroad track and a water pipeline and repulsing spirited Turkish counterattacks. In January 1917 they took Rafah and stood at the gates of Palestine. The Turks fortified the Gaza-Beersheba line. They received new reinforcements of German soldiers, including a regiment of heavy machine guns. Their morale was high, and they were fairly certain they could hold out against an enemy beset with long and fragile supply lines. For most of 1917 these hopes seemed to be true. Two heavy attacks against Gaza were bloodily repulsed. Even employing a tank unit did not help. In view of these attacks, the British changed commanders. General Edmond Allenby, who distinguished himself in France, took over. Lloyd-George bluntly demanded that he "give the people of England the city of Jerusalem as a Christmas present".

On October 31 the British renewed their offensive. Sophisticated deception (including Colonel Meinerzhagen's famous "lost suitcase") convinced the Turks that the prime target would again be Gaza. In fact, the main thrust was to the east, and the Australian Light

Horses stormed Beersheba. The Turkish front collapsed; at last, the road to Jerusalem was open. Lawrence's desert riders also advanced. A bold force of 50 men took the port of Aqaba. Then the camel riders turned northwards, moving in parallel to the British army on the west bank of the River Jordan.







Trench warfare





The Arab Revolt of 1916

There were, again, Jewish units in the British army. The "mule drivers" had been disbanded, but two new regiments - the King's Rifles No. 38 and 39 - were commissioned, to be joined later by Regiment No. 40, made up of Jewish volunteers from Palestine itself. Among the volunteers were some of the future leaders of Israel: David Ben Gurion, first prime minister; Yitzhak Ben Zvi, second president; Ze'ev Jabotinsky, leader of the Revisionist Movement; Joseph Trumpeldor, hero of Tel Hai.

Throughout November the British advance continued. On December 9 Jerusalem surrendered, and General Allenby entered the city on foot "like a simple pilgrim". Britain cheered, deeming itself heir to the Crusaders, but Allenby was served with the terrible news that most of his soldiers were to be taken from him and sent to France, where the

situation had become critical. Allenby had no choice but to obey, but he resolved to continue his offensive, even with clipped wings. History tells us that he succeeded. The dismayed Germans sent more reinforcements, and at their head was an experienced general: Liman von Sanders, a former chief of staff. But all was to no avail, the Turks retreated and the Germans with them. In the autumn of 1918 the British started their last offensive. On September 21 a vanguard unit reached the German headquarters at Nazareth and forced poor von Sanders to make his escape in his nightgown. A week later, British coming from the west reached Tiberias and joined up with forces coming from the south. taking Samakh and then taking a refreshing bath in the Sea of Galilee... On September 28th the British scaled the Golan Heights and met Lawrence's "free Arab" camel riders. Both forces turned north and raced toward Damascus.









Trumpeldor

Jabotinsky

Ben Zvi

Ben Gurion

### 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. YOSSI FOGEL, P.O. Box 2006, 56915, SAVYON, ISRAEL wishes to trade and correspond with collectors from other contries. His also some countries.

Insurance agencies existed in old Palestine, which was a province of the old Ottoman Empire, more than a century ago. At that time there was an insignificant industrial development but most of the materials for construction, mechanics and transport were imported from Europe and had to be insured during transport.

One of the first big European insurance companies which was represented in Jerusalem and Jaffa was the Italian "Assicurazioni Generali di Trieste e Venezia". Its building, known as "Generaly Building", still stands in the central area of Jerusalem, noted for the winged Lion of Venice on its roof. It does not appear in any meter postmark of this contry, but you can see it in the 1988 "Independence 40" souvenir sheet (SG MS1048/Sc 987), the rightmost building in the top row.

The development of the Jewish centres in Palestine was followed by increasing commercial contacts with Europe and more insurance agencies started operating in the country. Further developments of many other branches of insurance took place only after Israel's independence. Local insurance companies were founded, many insurance agencies were opened and today the insurance business represents important economic assets of the country.

As in other commercial branches, the development of insurance is reflected in the expanded use of meter postage machines. A few examples of meter postmarks of Israeli insurance companies and agencies are shown here.







1. Association of Insurance Companies in Israel







2. MIGDAL Insurance Company Ltd. ("migdal" means "tower")



3. HASSNE Israeli Company for Insurance Ltd







4. ZION \* YEHUDA "Life is safe with Zion \* Yehuda All insurance types"







5. CLAL Insurance Company Ltd







6. HAMAGEN Insurance Company Ltd







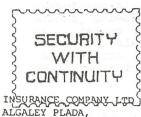
7. HAREL HAMISHMAR SHILOAH insurance group







8. MAOZ Insurance Company Ltd



22.





9. The Israel Reinsurance Co. Ltd "Security with continuity"







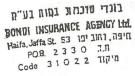
10. S. MADANES, the medical insurance agency







11. SHADMA Insurance Agency Ltd "Service, efficiency, reliability"







12. BONDI Insurance Agency Ltd.

### READERS' MAIL

NAOMI KOEPLER from Israel who is a pharmacist, sent us the following note concerning the "Say No to Drugs" stamp (see ISRATHENE #11):

After seeing the stamp and maxi card out today to commemorate drug abuse, I would like to pass my comment.

The illustration of the common red field poppy is in my opinion an inaccurate and misleading choice of design for this particular subject, issued with a specific objective, in drawing public attention to Drug Abuse. This red poppy, Papaver rhoeas, contains no drug whatsoever. its only usefulness lies in its petals, which are used as a colouring agent. What should have been illustrated was something at least resembling the opium-containing Papaver somniferum, whose petals are usually pale mauve or white.

DAVID FEIN from New York State responds to my review of the 1992 stamps of Israel with his own opinion:

Generally speaking, the 1992 stamps are mediocre and ridiculous. There are many candidates for the worst stamp.

Lake Kinnereth: tasteless and uninspired design, the tab is in Arabic only. [Editor's note: the Arabic text in the tab corresponds to the texts in Hebrew and English at the bottom of the stamp].

Hanna Rovina, Rivka Guber: mediocre artwork.

Voyage of Columbus: what is the connection to Israel?

Apes, elephants, leopards: belong to the stamps of Togo! If they wanted to interpret Bible verses, this set is not appropriate. Also, the verse "Judah is a lion's whelp" is an archaic English translation. Speakers of modern English don't understand the word "whelp". The right translation should be "Judah is a young lion". [Editor's note: looking at other examples, at the Philatelic Service they use the King James Version and do not translate the Biblical texts themselves. As for archaic - well, the Bible is old! Still, the English reader is in a better position than the Hebrew reader, because in the original text there are words that are not used today and even Israeli-born people wouldn't know their meaning without interpretation.)

Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway Line: too many small images, confusing.

The exceptions: Expulsion of Jews from Spain: good conception. I especially like the stamp with map of Israel (on the right side). Rabbi Shalom Shar'abi, Rabbi Haim Ben Atar: very interesting, I like the use of the title page from one of their books. Very good, and the quality of printing looks better than the others.

Concerning modern stamps, I like the "150 years of B'nei B'rith" stamp. It is simple and nice.

Our graphic illustrator, Eliezer Saraf, has a peculiar hobby: he draws cartoons in forms of stamps, most of these are, in fact, parodies of actual postage stamps. A selection of his work was displayed at TELAFILA '93 and was well received by the public. We bring you here a few examples relating to recent stamps and events, together with the original stamps.

We all remember the Railway Centenary stamps of 1992 with their strange design of five narrow vertical strips, trying to pack a lot of graphic information in one stamp. Saraf suggests to use this idea for a "Jubilee of the Zoo" set... On the tab is Noah's Ark, the first zoo...





One of the Railway Centenary stamps... ... and the Zoo "stamp"

Another 1992 set was dedicated to the Sea of Galilee. When this summer there arose a persistent rumour that a crocodile has been sighted in the lake, 3araf hastened to add a fourth stamp to the set.





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Then there is the ever-present trouble in the "Territories" Israeli traffic is subjected to manifold attacks, including storage firebombs, mines and gunfire. Saraf describes these perils in a series which is inspired by the 1966 Road Safety set.



Road Safety: original (above) and suggested intifada version (below)



Earlier this year we had a set of stamps which try to explain - in a somewhat convoluted way - various scientific principles (see ISRATHEME #11). Saraf countered with a set of his own, containing rather straight-forward illustrations of the concepts "mass", "energy" and "gravity".

The souvenir sheet issued for TELAFILA '93 Binational Israel - Romania Stamp Exhibition depicts a painting by Israeli Romanian-born artist Marcel Janco (see p. 20). Saraf believes that his superimposed drawing of a young Sabra boy offering a flower to a Moldavian ox-head somehow expresses Israeli-Romanian amity in a more direct way...



And finally, we have something which is not Israeli: a stamp from 1981, one of so many stamps issued for the Rcyal Wedding - together with a rather sad-looking 1993 edition...



### NEW ISSUES

# 1.8.93 JEWISH NEW YEAR NVI PSE

This year's New Year PSE shows a crown in the stamp area. The rest of the envelope is blank.

### 22.8.93

## RESPECT YOUR ELDERS 80 ag

The duty to honour the elderly has been a basic tenet of Jewish tradition for thousands of years. Modern Israel, however, was forged primarily by young people who left their families behind. Naturally, these pioneers put the emphasis on youth and health as these were the qualities needed to develop the country. In the first years of the state the number of old people was relatively small, but as the years passed that has changed. Today, the elderly population in Israel (women over 60 and men over 65) is about 10% of the overall population. Accordingly, more resources were directed to meet the specific needs of this age-group. In the last few years there has been a significant improvement in services to old people, including assistance at home, day care centres, medical services and senior citizens homes. About 95% of the old people in Israel live in a normal community environment and only about 5% live in institutions on a long term basis.

The stamp marks the International Day of the Elderly, traditionally October first. It depicts a tree with old roots but green, luscious foliage and signifies the continuity of life and the contribution of the elderly to society. The FDI postmark (#12, p. 38) shows a walking came and a bow tie.

The theme of caring for the elderly has already appeared in Israeli stamps: the 0.12 IL value of the Institute of National Insurance set, 1964 (SG 270/Sc 251); Gerontology, 1975 (607/570). Postmarks: The Union of Aging Workers in Israel (23.9.56, Fixler & Nachtigal 133); 4th Gerontological Convention in Israel, 18.12.82 (1038); Public Council for the Elderly, 18.4.88 (1265).

# FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT NIS 1.20

Humankind has long used the environment for personal need, but the race for progress had harmed the environment and left it badly scarred and changed. This process existed in Israel since its beginning, but it was only a few years ago that the Ministry of the Environment was formed. This ministry is aided by the environmental units of the local authorities, and their work is focused on the following areas: prevention of air, marine and soil pollution; managing waste disposal facilities and promoting recycling; supervision of hazardous substances and dealing with accidents and emergencies caused by them; prevention of pollution of water sources and establishing of sewerage treatment plants; making the environment

4. 125 1 10 A

a part of the considerations when preparing and authorizing development and building plans.

The school year beginning in September 1993 was declared Year of the Environment in Israel, in which various authorities and public organizations would be active in gaining significant improvements in all areas of the environment and in raising public awareness.

Previous philatelic material on the environment - stamps: Environment (air, water and noise pollution), 1975, (SG 617-9/Sc 580-2); A Clean Environment, 1987, (1023/968); postmarks: International Environment Day, 13.6.82 (F&N 1019); "Clean up Campaign", 2.4.84 (1098) and 14.6.87 (1223);

The stamp shows three rectangles representing water, soil and sky with a check mark on each of them. On the tab we can see smaller rectangles of the same design with birds, a plant and the sun, representing how the three media should be. The postmark (#11 on p. 38) shows the "To the Environment with Love" logo, incorporating a heart and a globe.

### 150th ANNIVERSARY OF B'NAI B'RITH NIS 1.50

B'nei B'rith ("Children of the Covenant") is the world's largest Jewish membership organization and the first international service organization founded in North America. It was established in 1843 in New York to promote Jewish culture and identity, defend Jewish interests and work for the betterment of society. It was the splintering of the small Jewish community there 150 years ago that motivated 12 German-speaking Jews to create a movement that became a unifying force for Jews of varied origins, religious viewpoints and economic background, numbering today hundreds of thousands of people in six continents. Those founding members initiated B'nei B'rith's first service program by contributing \$60 to a fund for widows and orphans. This year B'nei B'rith will spend more than 25 million dollars on education, social services, youth activities and other community programs.

With headquarters in Washington, D.C. and over 20 district offices around the world, B'nei B'rith has succeeded in adapting its program to the changing needs of world Jewry; in 1851, long before the term "anti-Semitism" was coined, B'nei B'rith fought its first campaign against persecution of Jews when it persuaded the United States Congress to insist on the removal of anti-Jewish restrictions in several Swiss cantons. In 1946 B'nei B'rith was the first civilian organization to be honoured by both the U.S. Army and Navy for service rendered during the second world war.

B'nei B'rith activity in Israel started in 1888 with the establishment of the "Jerusalem Lodge". The centenary of B'nei B'rith in Jerusalem was commemorated in 1988 by a stamp (SG 1053/Sc 990) and a special FDI postmark (1291). in 1981 the B'nei B'rith World Center was established in Jerusalem.

Today, B'nei B'rith international network includes a number of organizations, some of the better known of them are: The Anti-Defamation League, established in 1913, fights prejudice,

promotes democratic principles and works to improve intergroup and

interreligious relations.

Hillel Foundations, the definitive centre of Jewish activity on the college campus in North America as well as in South America, Europe, Australia and Israel.

The stamp depicts the evolution of the tablets of the Ten Commandments into a Star of David (representing B'nei B'rith's devotion to the Jewish people), a heart (representing promotion of the highest interests of humanity) and a menorah (representing dedication to the State of Israel). On the tab is the B'nei B'rith emblem, a menorah, and the verse "I will remember my covenant" (Leviticus 46,42). A menorah appears also in the FDI postmark (#10 on p. 38). B'nei B'rith was commemorated on special postmarks on several occasions before: The 70th anniversary, 2.6.58 (179); 50th anniversary of "Carmel" Chapter, 18.6.62 (307); 120th anniversary and inauguration of B'nei B'rith House, 17.12.63 (348); 140th anniversary, 29.1.84 (1091); Anti-Defamation League 70th anniversary, 16.5.83 (1055); B'nei B'rith Conventions: 25.5.59 (219), 23.5.65 (398), 14.11.74 (775).

### TELAFILA '93 ISRAEL-ROMANIA BINATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION s/s, NIS 360

The stamp area of the souvenir sheet shows the painting "Immigrant Ship", by Romanian-born Israeli artist Marcel Janco (1895-1984). Marcel Janco - artist, architect, theorist, teacher - stood out for his versatile talents even as a youth. In 1916, as a student in Zurich, he joined a small group of exiled artists that founded the Dada movement, one of the boldest revolutionary movements in the history of modern art. Its members undertook to protest against the horrors of wars and to undermine what they deemed the false values of Bourgeois society. The Dadaic ideas were Janco's guiding principles throughout his life.

Janco lived in Paris for a few years and then returned to Romania, but in 1941 he fled to Palestine. During his first decade in his new homeland he painted the freedom fighters, the landscape of the new state, its people, both veterans and newcomers. In 1953 he established an art colony called Ein Hod on the ruins of a deserted Arab village on the slopes of Mount Carmel, some 15 km south of Haifa. Janco himself lived there until his death in 1984. In 1967 he was awarded the Israel Prize for his life's work. Shortly before his death, in 1983, the Janco Museum was inaugurated at Ein Hod.

"The Immigrant Ship" (oil on canvas, 120 x 102 cm) was painted in 1945, shortly after his own immigration from Romania to Israel. His emotional involvement is evident: the illegal newcomers, Holocaust survivors, are depicted in gloomy colours, while the ship's hoisted sails flutter in optimistic bright colours. The composition of this work combines Janco's figurative and abstract styles. Many Jews came from Romanian to Israel throughout the years, and the choice of this particular work of art by a Romanian-born Israeli painter symbolizes the ties between Israel and Romania. On the lower part of the souvenir sheet is the exhibition's logo and the word "dada". The FDI postmark (#13a on p. 38) shows Heichal Hatarbut, the venue of the exhibition. (More on TELAFILA '93 items - see p. 26)

### TELAFILA '93 CPL (Computer Vended Postage Labels)

Special CPL's (also known as MASAD labels) were used at the exhibition post office, with a background design showing the TELAFILA '93 logo. The first and last printed lines on the label (normally used for the place name in Hebrew and English) were used for the various special days, thus creating six varieties of each label. For the list of days, see 13a-13f on the list of postmarks, p. 36.

### FESTIVAL STAMPS 5754 (1993) 80 ag., NIS 1.20, 1.50

In the Bible, the Land of Israel is described as a land of plenty. Seven species of food are mentioned in particular as being in abundance. Three of those can be considered to be basic foods, and are the theme of this set: bread, oil, and the fruit of the vine. A person who had all these three foods was considered blessed, hence their place in the Hebrew worship in the Temple in ancient times: the Showbread made of flour, the Menorah (seven branches candelabra) lit with olive oil and wine which was poured on the Altar. After the destruction of the Temple, the custom of thanksgiving for the blessings of the land took place in the Jewish home. The three basic foods are prominent in the weekly ceremony of welcoming the Sabbath: the & Sabbath loaves (halot) are blessed, the candles are lit (formerly, with olive oil), the wine of the Kidush (Sanctification) is drunk.

Each stamp depicts one plant: grain (80 ag.), vine (grapes, NIS 1.20), olives (NIS 1.50). On the tab are instruments that were used to process the plants: a flour grounding mill, a wine press and an oil press. There is also a verse from the Bible in Hebrew (stamp) and English (tab): "...that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil" (Deuteronomy 11,14). The FDI postmark (#9 on p. 38) shows all three plants as in the stamps. (More on vines in "Focus on Vines" that will appear in the next issue).

### TOURISM POSTAL CARDS non-denominated

The postal cards show Tel Aviv, Elat and Jerusalem (the Citadel, also known as "Tower of David"). A landscape design is on the lower-left part ("cachet" part), and the stamp indicium shows a partial version of that design. The Tel Aviv and Elat postal cards are for inland use, carrying the inscription "inland standard letter" in Hebrew and Arabic (there is no special rate for inland postcards in Israel). The Jerusalem postal card is for world-wide airmail and is inscribed "postal charges collected" in Hebrew, English and Arabic, with an airmail label. This postal card for international mail is









New Year PSE

Festivals: Grain

Wine

Olive







For a better environment

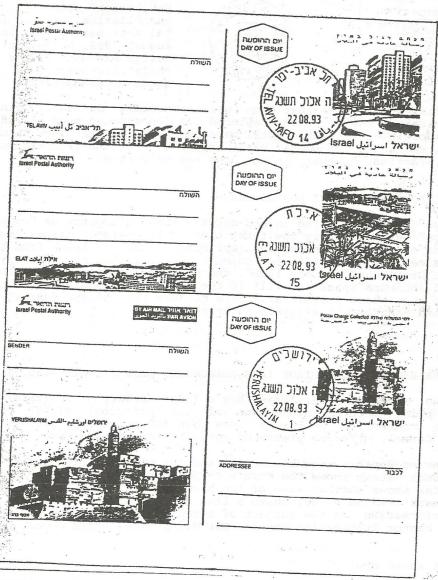
Respect your elders

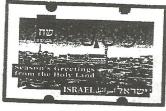
TELAFILA '93 souvenir sheet and CPL





B'nai B'rith





1.30

Tourism postal cards: Tel Aviv, Elat, Yerushalayim (Jerusalem)

1993 Christmas Klussendorf machine vended stamp



"Visit TELAFILA 93 Stamp Exhibition" slogan cancellation, used at the Tel Aviv mail centre in August 1993. A similar design was used by the Philatelic Service in their meter machine.

issued after a long time that none were available. In fact, since non-denominated postal cards replaced the denominated ones in 1983, it was impossible to send a postal card overseas, as the regulations forbade adding to the postal cards stamps to meet the international rate. In practice, however, it was done and tolerated.

### 21.11.93 "FOLLOW ME" NVI postal cards

"Follow me" non-denominated inland cards - known elsewhere as "change of address" cards. This is the first time that Israel issues such cards. There are four cards, the imprinted "stamp" is taken from the Greetings series, with different colours: "Keep'in touch", "See you again", "Greetings", "Good luck". The text is identical on all four cards and includes spaces to fill in the old and new addresses. (We don't show these postal cards here because the stamp design is not new and the text is entirely in Hebrew).

9.12.93

DEFINITIVE SERIES: SONG BIRDS (PASSERIFORMES) part III NIS 1.30, 1.70

Although small in size, Israel has a large variety of habitats, as well as being located along one of the principal global bird migration routes. As a result, more than 500 aviary species may be found in Israel, offering plenty of activity for birdwatchers.

This series depicts song birds, 192 species of which are found in Israel. Each stamp shows the bird with its Hebrew and English names, and the tab shows another view of the bird, with its Latin name. The FDI postmark (#23 on p. 40) shows a line drawing of the birds.

(More information on the subject of birds in Israel can be obtained from the Raptor Information Centre, Har Gilo, 90907 North Judea MPO, ISRAEL).

The birds shown are:

NIS 1.30 - Common Bulbul (Pycnonotus barbatus)
NIS 1.70 - Graceful Warbler (Prinia gracillis)

100 YEARS OF HEBREW MAGAZINES FOR CHILDREN PHILATELY DAY NIS 1.50

The Hebrew Press is usually dated from 1863, the year in which the "Halevanon" and "Hakhavatzelet" newspapers first appeared. In 1892

the first edition of "Olam Katon" ("miniature world") was published in Jerusalem, being the pioneer of children's newspapers in Hebrew not only in this country but in the entire world. One of the editors was Eliezer Ben Yehuda, "The Father of Modern Hebrew" (1959, SG 169/Sc 156), and their objective was stated in the first issue: "A newspaper for children, which will include stories, poems, fables and puzzles, information on nature and history, written with children in mind and within their comprehension". But there was another important aim: to promote the hegemony of the Hebrew language, particularly among the schoolchildren of the early settlements. It should be remembered that at the time modern Hebrew was just emerging and fighting for its place as the every-day language, and there were probably no more than twenty families in the entire country who spoke it at home. The pages of the newspaper were full of new words and their meaning. Olam Katon came out irregularly for a period of ten months, seven editions being published at all, and copies are extremely rare to be found today.

During the next twenty years there were a number of other attempts to issue children's newspapers in Israel, but all were short-lived. On the other hand, Hebrew newspapers for children in Eastern Europe flourished and came out with regularity from the start. The first of these was "Gan Shaashuim" ("playground"), a weekly that first appeared in Russia in 1899. 85 editions were issued over two years.

The pioneer of illustrated children's newspapers in Hebrew was "Olam Katan" ("small world"), a weekly that was first issued in Warsaw in 1901. It was widely distributed all over the Jewish world, was issued for four years, and constituted a foundation stone of children's literature in Hebrew.

The stamp shows the pictorial cover of the Polish "Olam Katan", and on the right-hand part of the tab is the cover of the Israeli "Olam Katon". To its left are the logos of the IPF and the FIP, to remind us that this stamp is this year's Philately Day stamp. The FDI (#22 on p. 40) shows a boy with a spread-out magazine.

Previous appearances of newspapers on Israeli stamps include the "Halevanon" mentioned earlier (1963, SG 260/Sc 241) and The Jewish Chronicle (1991, see ISRATHEME #4).

### HANUKKA 90ag., NIS 1.30, 2

This set of three stamps launches the Hanukka series that will include eight stamps, representing the eight days of the festival. The stamps depict objects connected with Hanukka and on the right side of each stamp is an illustration of a Hanukka lamp with candles from the first candle to the eighth candle. On the tab we can find the object shown again reduced with its description. The FDI postmark (#24 on p. 40) shows the 90 ag. oil lamp.

90 ag. - Oil Lamp, Talmudic Period, Hecht Museum, University of Haifa.

The oil lamp was used to light both private houses and public

buildings. The lamps were also placed in tombs, as memorial lights and to protect against the "Evil Eye". In Israel olive oil was generally used as fuel, since it was the only oil which was accepted under the laws of the Torah. The lamp depicted on the stamp is made of clay using a press mould. It is decorated with a seven-branch menorah and a shovel. The menorah is decorated with squares each with a circle in the middle, a design which emphasizes the part or bulbs which make up the menorah.

NIS 1.30 - Hanukka Lamp, Israel, 20th century, Israel Museum.

The stamp shows a Hanukka lamp, the work of a Yemenite artist who lived in Jerusalem at the beginning of this century. It is carved from Jerusalem stone in the shape of a building with nine triangular pans for oil wicks: eight for the sacred lights and one for the "shamash" (servant) - the extra light from which the Hanukka lights are kindled. The building, which has a cernellated roof, recalls architecture in Yemen. The artist was apparently influenced by the design of other Hanukka lamps using architectural designs connected with the Holy Temple.

NIS 2 - Lighting the Hanukka Lamps, from the Rothschild Miscellany, Israel Museum.

The Rothschild Miscellany is from Northern Italy, c. 1470. It is one of the finest Hebrew illuminated manuscripts and almost every one of its 948 pages is richly decorated with colourful paintings and gold leaf. The book comprises of about forty different compositions, including Biblical books, a prayer book for the whole year, a halakhic (Jewish law) book, and historical and scientific books. The book belonged to the Rothschild family library in Paris and was given as a gift to the Israel Museum, Jerusalem by James A. de Rothschild.

Hanukka lamps from the Israel Museum were the subject of a 1972 set of stamps (SG 540-2/Sc 502-4).

### ISRAEL STAMP WEEK . FESTIVAL OF HANUKKA souvenir leaf

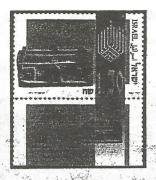
On the souvenir leaf is the Hanukka set, postmarked with the Israel Stamp Week postmark (#21 on p. 39).

### NEW POSTAL RATES IN ISRAEL

As of November 10 1993, in NIS
Inland letter/postcard: 0.85 Registration surcharge: 3.00
Airmail postcard and aerogramme worldwide: 1.00. In the table the numbers refer to letters/printed matter, letters refer to zones:
A - Europe; B - N. America, Africa, Asia; C - S. America, Pacific

	to 20g.	50g.	100g.	250g.	500g.
A	1.30/1.30	2.30/1.80	5.20/3.20	7.00/4.30	15.50/8.90
B	1.60/1.60	3.00/2.30		9.00/5.40	20.50/11.00
C	2.00/2.00	3.60/2.90		10.80/6.70	24.00/13.80





- ALKY, PHINT TOY US

Hanukka stamps

Israel Stamp Week . Hanukka souvenir leaf



Street John Weight

Graceful Wabler

Common Bulbul

100 Years of Hebrew Magazines for Children • Philately Day



Dec. 1993

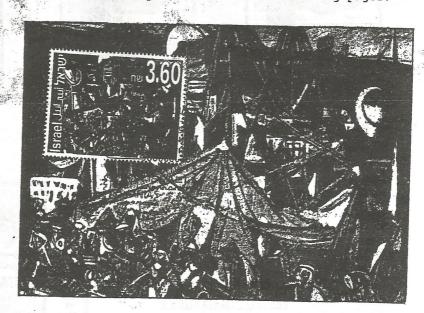
ISRATHEME 12-13

### TELAFILA '93 SPECIAL ITEMS

Many items of all sorts were issued and prepared for the exhibition by the postal services and philatelic federations of Israel and Romania. A selection of those is presented in the following pages.

ISRAELI ITEMS

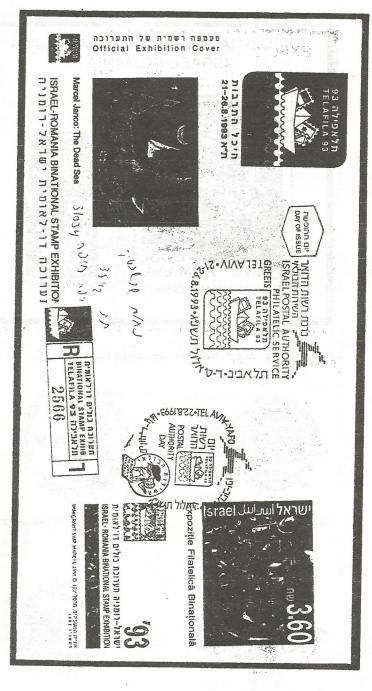
Maximum card prepared and sold by the Israeli Philatelic Federation (IPF), using a postcard from the Janco Museum in Ein Hod.





Slogan meter postmarks used by the IPF: "To the Environment with Love" (Environment Day), Marcel Janco, basketball (Youth Day).

Official Exhibition Cover, franked with the souvenir sheet and postmarked with the Postal Authority Day (22.8.93) postmark. Also on the cover: Philatelic Service cachet handstamp, exhibition sticker and the special registration label used at the exhibition post office. The cover's cachet shows Marcel Janco's "The Dead Sea".



# EXPOZIȚIA FILATELICĂ BINAȚIONALĂ ISRAEL-ROMÂNIA

Postmarks used at the exhibition



Opening Day



Environment Day

ISRATHEME 12-13



Postal Authority Day



ROMANIAN ITEMS

Souvenir sheet

"Women with Eggs" by Janco, National Museum, Bucharest



"Success for TELAFILA" slogan postmark, used in Bucharest. In it can be found the names of: Albert Einstein, Teofil Vescan, Yehudi Menuhin, George Enescu, Dr. Chaim Sheba, Nicolae Cajal.

Israel-Romania Friendship Day

Dec. 1993

Destinatar

Strada Nr.

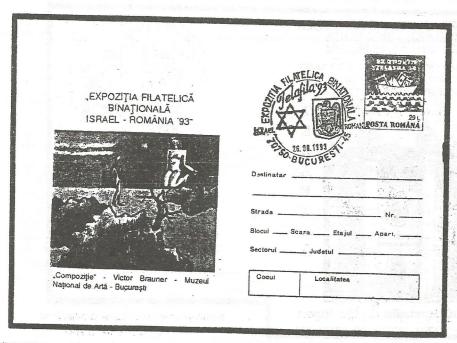
Blocui Scara Etajul Apart.

Sectorul Judetul

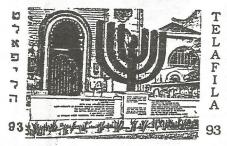
Judetul

Codul Localitatea

PSE's with works of art by Victor Brauner,: top - "Ilarie Voronca", Visual Art Museum, Galatj; bottom: "Composition", National Art Museum, Bucharest.



EXPOZIȚIA FILATELICĂ BINAȚIONALĂ ISRAEL - ROMÂNIA Tel Aviv. 21-26,08.1993 התערוכה הבולאית הרולאומית ישראל - רומניה ישראל - רומניה 1993.08.26-21



București - Monumentul ridicat în amintirea martirilor holocaustului אנדרטה לזכר הקדושים טרשואה בין לי עיט



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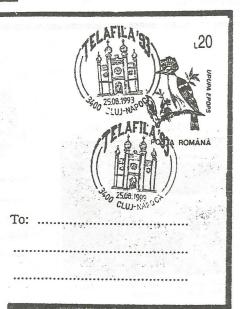
Bucharest - Holocaust Martyrs Monument

EXPOZITIA FILATELICA BINATIONALA ISRAEL - ROMÂNIA Tel Aviv. 21-26.08.1993

התערוכה הבולאית הדולאוםית ישראל – רוםניה תל-אביב 21–1993.08.28



Templul deportaților din Cluj-Napoca בית-הכנסת של הגולים מקרוז - נפוקה



Synagogue of the deported from Cluj - Napoca

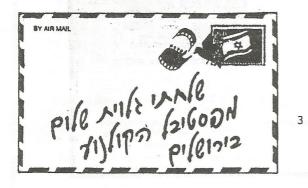


Flight covers Bucharest - Tel Aviv: top - 17.8.93 TAROM flight RO-151 by TU 154; bottom - 19.8.93 EL AL flight LY572 by B-757. Both covers have a Ben Gurion Airport arrival postmark of the same day.



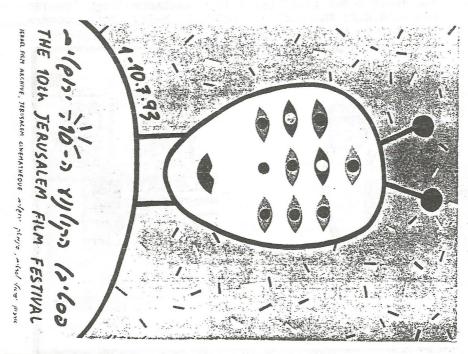
### THE 10th JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL

During the festival, 1-10.7.93, a special post office operated at the Jerusalem Cinematheque. On the first day a special postmark was used (#1, p.36) and there was also a non-postal cachet (1) that was applied during the entire festival. Also on sale were official festival postcards (2), franked with the "75 Years of Hebrew Film" stamps and carrying a label "PEACE (also in Hebrew & Arabic) Fast Forward to the Happy End!". Visitors could mail these "peace





2



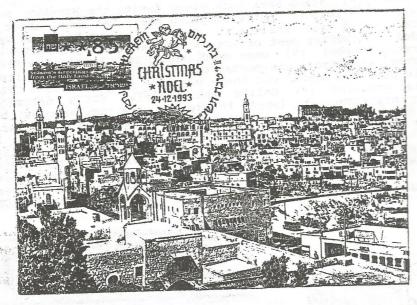
postcards" to the heads of the delegations to the peace talks that were held at the time in Washington, using address labels that were provided. There were also stickers that read "I sent a peace postcard from the Jerusalem Film Festival" (3).

### ISRAEL STAMP WEEK

As usual, the Israel Stamp Week took place during the Hanukka week (December 9-16) at Dizengoff Centre shopping mall, Tel Aviv. About 20 dealers participated. The Philatelic Service had a booth as well which included a temporary post office. A special cds postmark (4) and registration label (5) were used, which incorporate the Stamp Week logo. There was also a non-postal cachet (6). These three items were used in previous years, but there was also an innovation: CPL's with a special printing (7). Unlike the TELAFILA CPL's described elsewhere in this issue, the labels themselves were regular ones, but instead of the Hebrew place name TEL AVIV-YAFO there was the message HEBREW STAMP WEEK in Hebrew. The rest of the label was printed as usual. Also as usual, the annual convention of Israel's philatelists took place in Tel Aviv during this week, this time at the Eretz-special CPL's there, too, similar to the ones mentioned above except for the message which read 7th CONVENTION OF ISRAEL'S PHILATELISTS (8).



As in last year, Klussendorf machines operated at Bethlehem and at the Philatelic Service in Tel Aviv during November - December, issuing labels with a special design - this time view of Bethlehem. The pictorial postmarks introduced in 1992 in Bethlehem and Nazareth were used this year as well. Shown here are the official FDC and the maximum card made by the Maximaphily Group of Israel.





### REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S 1993 STAMPS

by Nahum Shereshevsky

In a ballot taken at Philately Day in December to select the most beautiful stamp that Israel issued in 1993, the results were as follows, in descending order: Songbirds, Road Safety, Science Concepts. The results for postmarks: Philately Day (centenary of children's newspapers), Independence Day, Maccabiah - all of them, by the way, are FDI postmarks.

The term usually used in English for such selections is best stamp. The Hebrew term used in this case was prettiest stamp. My opinion is that these are two different aspects of stamps, and should be evaluated and discussed separately, as I intend to do here. In the context of ISRATHEME, there is a difficulty with the visual side as the quality of reproduction in this journal is not very good and it is colourless (I'm fully aware of this, but cannot do anything about it). Therefore, those readers who know the Israeli stamps only from ISRATHEME are at a disadvantage, and I apologize to them. Having said that, we can go on to discuss the stamps.

Pretty stamps: we should exclude the Memorial Day and the Ghetto Revolt stamps as well as the portrait stamps - though a portrait also deserves a reasonable presentation, and that refers to the Menahem Begin stamp. Nature stamps are natural candidates in this category for their colourfullness, and as are art stamps. This year's nature stamps: Natural Reserves part III - pretty, but not impressive. Songbirds - definitely impressive. In the art theme we have the TELAFILA m/s - in my opinion, Janco's painting is simply not pretty. Stamps that are pretty: the Hanukka stamps that stand out with their silver colour, the Philately Day stamp and the Science Concepts set. The 'Say No to Drugs' stamp is also pretty - but that is to its disadvantage, and more on that later. To conclude, my prettiest stamp for 1993 is the NIS 2 Hanukka stamp.

As for the ugliest stamp of 1993, I'm happy to note that I didn't find any real ugly stamp.

In the category of best stamp: the TELAFILA m/s is good because the idea of linking Israel and Romania by Marcel Janco is good and a painting named "The Immigrant Ship" is especially appropriate. The Ghetto Revolt stamp is also good because it expresses the idea in a universal form that is understood by both Israelis and Poles. Also among the better stamps: Scientists (the formulae in the background and the universities on the tab) and the Environment (original idea).

"Nothing special" stamps: Hanukka - obviously, Hanukka stamps would show Hanukka artifacts! And the same is true for the Bahaii stamp. Festivals - we had the entire Seven Species on Festival stamps over thirty years ago - surely they could come up with something new! Road Safety - the choice of children's drawings is a part of a contest on the subject, and the idea is good.

"Why this design" corner: Philately Day - what is the connection between a children's magazine and philately? But at least we didn't get another Doar Ivri stamp-on-stamp! Independence Day - why a synagogue and why this particular one should represent "Unification of Jerusalem?" Besides, Jerusalem was unified just after the Six Day's War in 1967, which makes 1993 the 26th anniversary, not 25th!

And finally, the real fun: miss the point corner. Science stamps: can you learn anything from them? The items shown may well be good as museum exhibits, but not on stamps. It seems to me that drawings would have been better, even cartoons - remember the 1973 Australian Metric Conversion stamps? "Respect your Elder" stamp - the idea of a tree to represent old age is not original at all, but you can at least draw it nicely! But the biggest miss is the Drugs stamp, because of the message it is supposed to convey. The problem with this stamp is that it is pretty! Even cheerful! But drugs are not something pretty, and that is the message. I know of some stamps on the anti-drugs theme that are blunt and ugly, and therefore their message is blunt and effective.

To sum up - there were some stamps that were good/pretty and there were some that were not, but there wasn't any really impressive stamp that would remain imbedded in our philatelic memory.

### SPECIAL POSTMARKS July - December 1993

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

- 1. 1.7.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): 10th Jerusalem Film Festival
- 2. 5.7.93 NETANYA: Netanya Hosts the 14th Maccabiah Participants
- 3. 5.7.93 RAMAT GAN: 14th Maccabiah Opening Ceremony 4. 12.7.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: 70th Anniversary of Betar
- 5. 29.7.93 GIV'AT ADA: 90th Anniversary of Giv'at Ada
- 6. 30.7.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Greeting from Israel's Philatelists to "BRASILIANA '93"
- 7. 18.8.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: The New Tel Aviv Bus Terminal
- 8. 19.8.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Man and his World Fair · Cash & Carry
- \*9. 22.8.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Festivals 5754
- \*10. 22.8.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): B'nai B'rith 150 Years
- \*11. 22.8.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): For a Better Environment "To the Environment With Love"
- \*12. 22.8.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: ...and Show Deference to the Old
- 13. 21-26.8.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: TELAFILA '93 Israel Romania Binational Stamp Exhibition
  - \*13a. 21.8 Opening Day (showing the site, Heichal Hatarbut Hall)
  - 13b. 22.8. Postal Authority Day
- 13c. 23.8. Environment Day
  - 13d 24.8. Youth Day
  - 13e. 25.8. Israel Romania Friendship Day
  - 13f. 26.8. Thematic Day

- 14. 12.9.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Greetings from Israel's Philatelists to KATOWICE '93 POLSKA - IZRAEL (Binational Stamp Exhibition)
- 15. 10.10.93 NES ZIYYONA: 6th GORDONIADA · 110 Years of Romanian Jews in Israel
- 16. 18.10.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Israel Food Day."... And you shall eat your bread to the full" (Leviticus 26,5)
- 17. 26.10.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): 40th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel (of the Free Masons) 18. 8.11.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Visit of the Their Majesties
- the King and Queen of Spain in Israel 19. 10.11.93 REHOVOT: The Weizmann Institute of Science · 45th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors
- 20. 21.11.93 BEN-GURION COLLEGE: David Ben-Gurion's 20th Death Anniversary · "The Negev would be populated by pioneering and science"
  TEL AVIV-YAFO: Israel Stamp Week
- 21. 9.12.93
- \*22. 9.12.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Philately Day • 100 Years of Hebrew Magazines for Children
- \*23. 9.12.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Songbirds
- \*24. 9.12.93 HAIFA: Hanukka
  - 25. 9.12.93
- BEN-GURION AIRPORT: EL AL First Flight Tel Aviv-Bombay 26. 9.12.93 BEN-GURION AIRPORT: EL AL First Flight Tel Aviv-Bangkok 27. 14.12.93 TEL AVIV-YAFO: The 7th Convention of Israel's
- Philatelists 28. 14.12.93 MODI'IN MPO: Ceremony for Laying the Foundation of the City of Modi'in
- 29a. 24.12.93 BETHLEHEM: Christmas 29b. 24.12.93 NAZARETH: Christmas
- 30. 26.12.93 RAMAT GAN: 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of BETAR in Riga
- 31. 30.12.93 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Israel Holy See Fundamental Agreement





















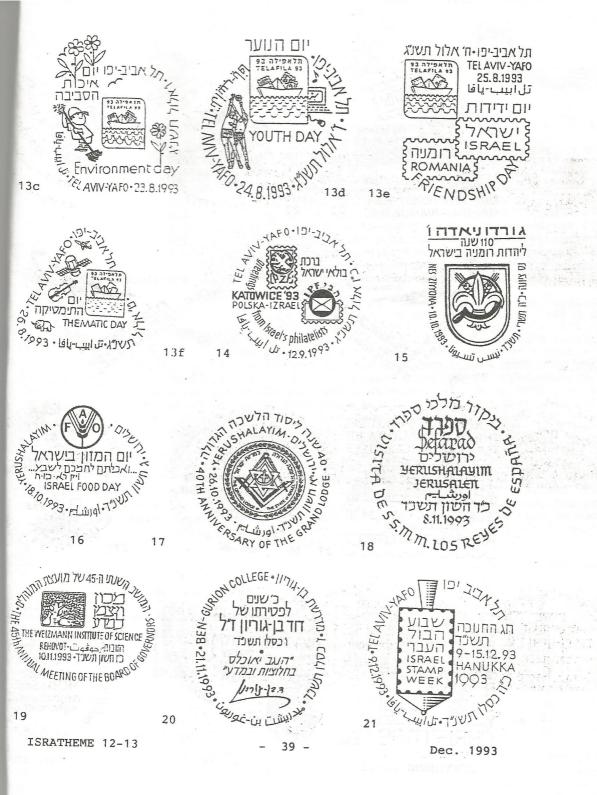


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