

III
53-54

תולדות הדואר בארץ ישראל

★

SOCIETY OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL

★

יְרוּשָׁלַיִם
Jerusalem

An outline map of the land of Israel is centered within a circular border. The map shows the coastline and major geographical features. A small rectangle with horizontal lines, representing a postage stamp, is positioned in the upper left corner of the map. A dot marks the location of Jerusalem, with the Hebrew word 'יְרוּשָׁלַיִם' and the English word 'Jerusalem' written below it. The circular border contains text in Hebrew at the top and English at the bottom, separated by two stars.

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Reports of New Findings from the Ottoman Period

Norman J. Collins

1. The French Post Office in Jerusalem

On page 171 of Steichele's Vol. I¹, we recorded the registered mail from Jerusalem known to us, the earliest cover being dispatched in 1902. In the December, 1992 auction catalogue of Harmers of London, two startling covers have come to light, each in its own way possibly unique. One has a combination of the Jerusalem Cross postmark (Steichele/Collins Type 325) in combination with a chamfered boxed R-cachet and Jaffa pearl ringed postmark (St/Col Type 302) dated 16th March, 1877 (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Registered cover from Jerusalem to England, dated 16th March, 1877 in Jaffa, with a new R-cachet Type 334 and a registration number in manuscript.

The other cover has the postmark Type 326 (as 325 but without the cross), the R-cachet and the stamps having been cancelled by the Jaffa postmark Type 308 dated 27th November, 1879 (Fig. 2). In both cases the Jerusalem postmark and the R-cachet are in blue. The R-cachet differs from that used in the 1900's in that it is more square, the frame is thicker and the foot of the R does not curl upwards. This R-cachet is now designated Type 334 and the additional section to the book should be as follows:



Fig. 3: A registered cover, posted at the Italian P.O., Jerusalem, on 3rd September 1908, with the extremely rare registration label Type PA without place name.

3. A 1888 Postage Due Stamp on a Cover from Jerusalem

In my recent article⁵, I was unable to record any examples of the 1888 Postage Due stamps used on cover in Palestine. I can now record the 1888 1 piastre P.D. stamp used on cover from Jerusalem and possibly uniquely cancelled by the rare postmark "JERUS" (St Type 28/04). The postmark is dated 2nd February, 1890 (Fig. 4).

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Mr. J.A.H. Childs and Harmers of London for their help concerning section (1). My thanks to Jeffrey Schneider and Trevor Langton, and to Christie's-Robson Low Ltd. for their help and for supplying photographs to section (3).

References

- (1) A. Steichele (English Rev. Ed. by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein), "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", Vol. I (1990). Published by W.P.C.



Fig. 4: Cover from Jerusalem with the 1888 1 piastre black Postage Due stamp, cancelled by the rare "JERUS" postmark, dated 2nd February 1890. (Courtesy Christie's-Robson Lowe Ltd.)

- (2) A. Steichele (English Rev. Ed. by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein), "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", Vol. II (1991). Published by W.P.C.
- (3) N.J. Collins, "Some Rare Items of the Foreign Post Offices in Palestine", HLP# 51 (Summer 1992) p. 512.
- (4) A. Friedberg, Letters to the Editor, IP Vol. XLIII, No. 7/8, p. 6535.
- (5) N.J. Collins, "Palestine Postage Due Stamps on Cover During the Ottoman Period", HLP# 52, (Autumn 1992) p. 594.

Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period

E. Leibn, Haifa

In an article published in the last Bulletin, Norman Collins gave a revised and updated version of his long census of Postage Dues on covers during the Ottoman Period (HLP# #52, pp. 594-605). In his article he showed the rarity of this material. I will deal with almost the same subject from a different approach – the study of mail taxed in the Holy Land. This study involves various aspects of Postal History:

1. The reasons for taxation (rates, validity of stamps, etc.).
2. Methods of collection of the charges from the addressee (P.D. labels, ordinary stamps, payment in cash).
3. Relations between various Postal Administrations.

The challenge is to explain the way each item had been processed. This is sometimes an easy task; in other cases, almost an impossible one.

General Information

Mail sent unfranked, insufficiently franked or franked by non-valid stamps was taxed by the Postal Authorities, the charge collected upon delivery from the addressee. A "T" (French "Taxe") mark and a notation of the amount due were usually applied on the front. In many cases the "T" handstamps had a characteristic shape, belonging to the administration which struck them.

On international mail the notation of the amount due was made in gold centimes of the Swiss Franc – the currency adopted by the U.P.U.. During the period dealt with the Swiss, French and Italian centimes were of equal value. The rate of exchange of other relevant currencies were: 10 Centimes = 2 Cents USA = 0.4 Egyptian Piaster. The Turkish Piaster had a value of slightly less than the Egyptian Piaster.

In order to facilitate correct prepayment of mail, the charge imposed was double the deficit. Exceptions to this exist: redirected mail was charged only the difference in postage. The single rate was also charged for the return of printed matter franked according to the special reduced rate.

Special Postage Due labels were issued in many countries and served to indicate and collect these charges. When no Postage Due stamps were issued the amount due was marked by manuscript or special handstamps.

A. The Ottoman Post Office

Usage of Postage Due stamps vs. Ordinary Postage Stamps

The Ottoman Post Office used Postage Due stamps for taxation of mail, although initially these stamps were used for another purpose – on letters mailed pre-paid but unfranked from rural places. On the other hand, a large portion of the mail taxed by this Post Office show ordinary stamps used for taxation. Obviously the postal clerks did not pay much attention to the specific stamps used.

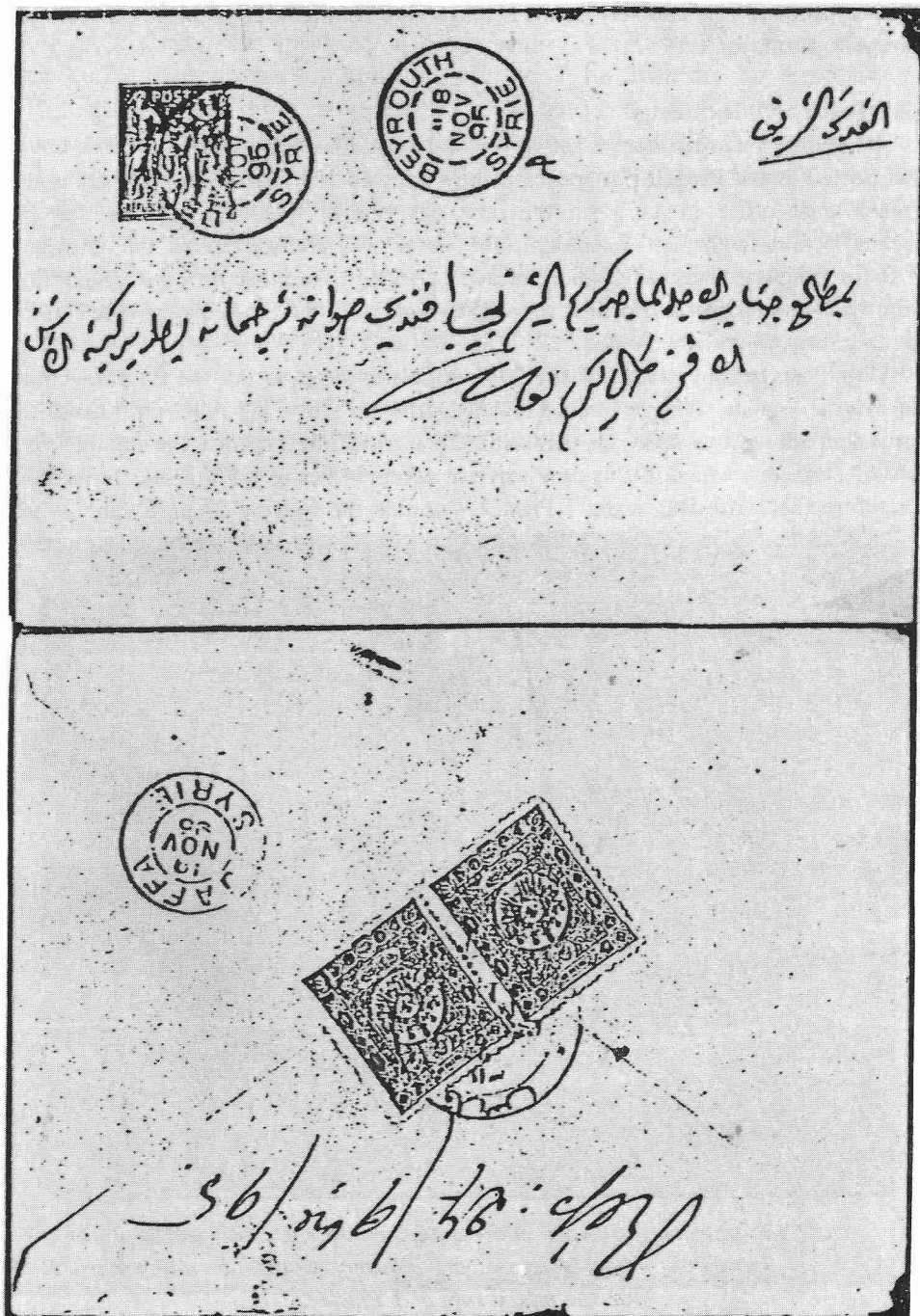


Fig. 5: 1895 cover mailed from the French P.O. in Beyrouth to Jerusalem. Taxed 2p upon arrival. (Courtesy Zvi Alexander)

Further proof to this conclusion are Postage Due stamps used in place of ordinary stamps to frank mail.

Mail Taxed by P.D. Stamps

The earliest recorded item taxed in the Holy Land is shown in Fig. 5*. The cover was posted at the French post office in Beyrouth on Nov. 18, 1895, arriving at the French post office in Jaffa on the next day. As at that period there was no French postal facility in Jerusalem, the cover was transferred to the Ottoman Post for delivery. This office did not accept foreign franking on mail originating from Ottoman territory, therefore taxed the cover with two (1p) Postage Due stamps (double rate) of the 1892 issue.

A 1p Postage Due stamp of the 1901 issue was used to tax the 20 para entire shown in Fig. 6. It was mailed from Jaffa on July 4, 1902 and taxed in Jerusalem three days later. 20 para was the littoral rate (against the inland letter rate of 1 Piaster) which in this case was not accepted between Jaffa and Jerusalem. Therefore the entire was taxed 1 Piaster – double the missing 20 para. This is the

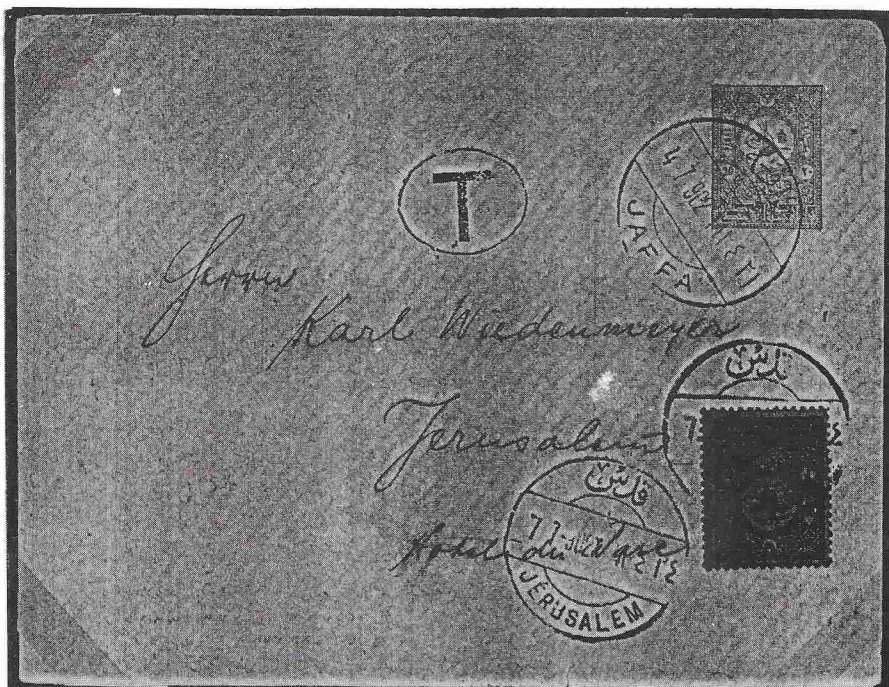


Fig. 6: Littoral rate (20 paras) entire mailed on July 4, 1902, from Jaffa to Jerusalem. Taxed in Jerusalem 1 Piaster – double the difference to the inland rate of 1 Piaster.

* All earlier covers shown by Collins are not taxed mail, nor were the P.D. stamps applied in the Holy Land.

only recorded usage of the 1901 Postage Due issue on taxed mail in the Holy Land.

Fig. 7 shows the front of a cover mailed under-franked from Halfa in the Sudan (5m instead of 1p) on Feb. 24, 1910. It bears an Egyptian-type "T" mark and a m/s notation "25" (centimes) on the upper left corner. Accordingly it was charged in Jerusalem 1 Piastre ($2.5 \times 0.4 = 1$ Egyptian Piastre, of almost equal value to 1 Turkish Piastre). A 1p Postage Due stamp of the 1908 issue was used to collect the charge.

Only one item is recorded taxed in the Holy Land with the 1914 P.D. issue. It is the postcard mentioned by Collins and is shown in Fig. 8 (and on the Back Cover). It was mailed from Rehovot to Jerusalem on Sept. 10, 1914 and franked 4 para only (Fig. 8(a)). As the postcard rate was 20 para, this one was underpaid 16 para. In Jerusalem the card was taxed 30 para on Sept. 14, using a pair of 5 para and a single 20 para Postage Due stamps. The exact amount due, 32 para, was not collected probably because this issue had no denomination lower than 5 para.

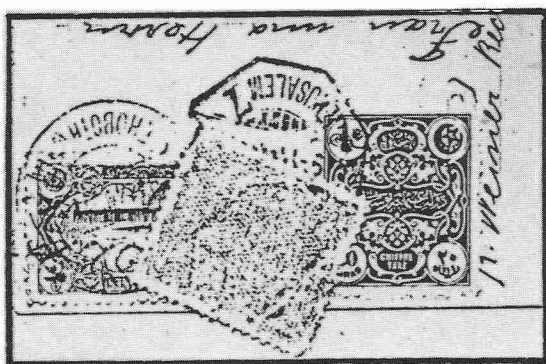


Fig. 7: Cover front from Halfa, Sudan, to Jerusalem, franked 5m (Inland rate only).
Taxed 1 Piastre in Jerusalem, March 30, 1910.

Mail Taxed with Ordinary Postage Stamps

The earliest recorded usage of ordinary stamps as Postage Due is shown in Fig. 9. The postcard had been mailed from Bethlehem on Jan. 8, 1900, franked 10 para only – the printed matter rate. Having been insufficiently addressed it was returned from Munich via the Austrian Post Office (Jerusalem), to the Ottoman Post Office in Jerusalem. There, a 10 para stamp was affixed, and cancelled on March 30 to charge the fee for the return of printed matter.

Fig. 8: Underfranked (4 paras instead of 20) viewcard mailed from Rehovot to Jerusalem on Sept. 10, 1914. Taxed in Jerusalem by a pair of 5 paras & 20 paras single Postage Dues of the 1914 Issue. (a) Photo of a part of the card, in which one of the P.D.'s is folded up to show the original postage stamp and "Rehoboth" postmark.



(a)



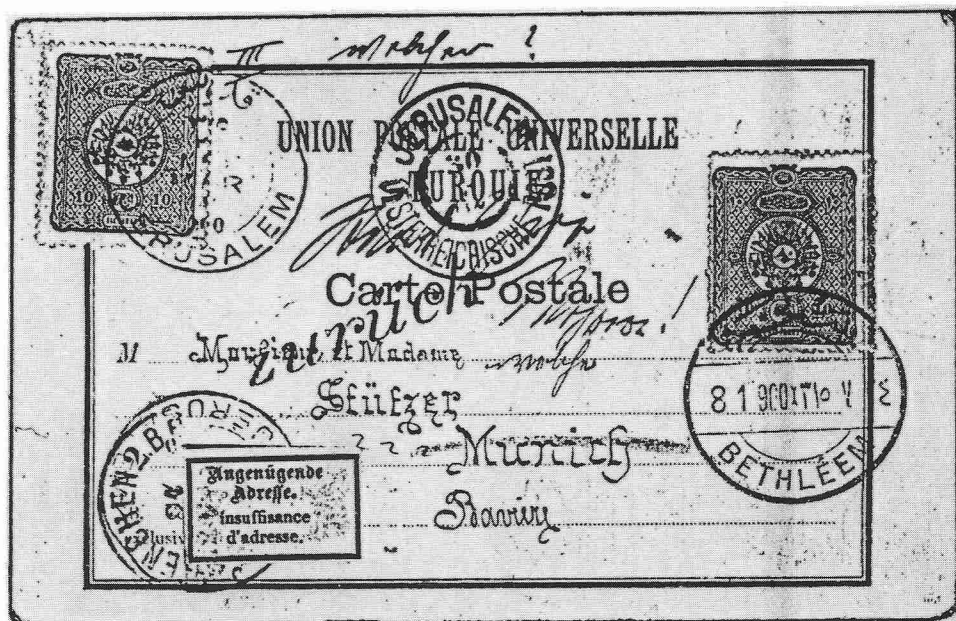


Fig. 9: Returned printed matter rate postcard, charged in Jerusalem 10 para for the return, on 30 March, 1900.

The cover shown in Fig. 10 was mailed on May 19, 1904, from Luxor in upper Egypt to Cairo, franked 5 m – the correct Egyptian inland rate. Then it was redirected to Jerusalem. The payment of the difference in postage was required, thus a “T” mark was struck and a m/s notation of 12½ (centimes, equal to the difference of postage of 5m) was made on May 22 in Cairo. Upon arrival in Jerusalem this charge notation was disregarded and the cover was taxed 1 Piaster – the double rate, and was collected by a 1 Piastre stamp of the 1901 issue.

The ornamental postcard (printed by the postal agency in the Jewish quarter in Saffed) shown in Fig. 11 was mailed from Tiberias to Jaffa on June 19, 1916. The 20 para stamp covered the postcard rate, but not the war tax of 10 para imposed in 1915. Therefore it was marked by an encircled “T” and upon arrival in Jaffa the postcard was taxed 20 para with a stamp of the 1914 issue. The stamp is cancelled by the “Jaffa 5” postmark dated July 13, 1916. In addition the stamp is also tied by another encircled “T” mark, very similar, but not identical with the first one.

The cover in Fig. 12 was mailed from Jerusalem to Tiberias, franked by a strip of three 10 para stamps, cancelled by the “Jerusalem 3” octagonal postmark, dated Nov. 11, 1916. The franking was 10 para short of the internal letter rate of 1 Piaster (1 Piaster = 40 para), therefore the cover was charged 20 para upon arrival in Tiberias



Fig. 10: A cover from Luxor to Cairo, redirected to Jerusalem and taxed 1p in May 1904.

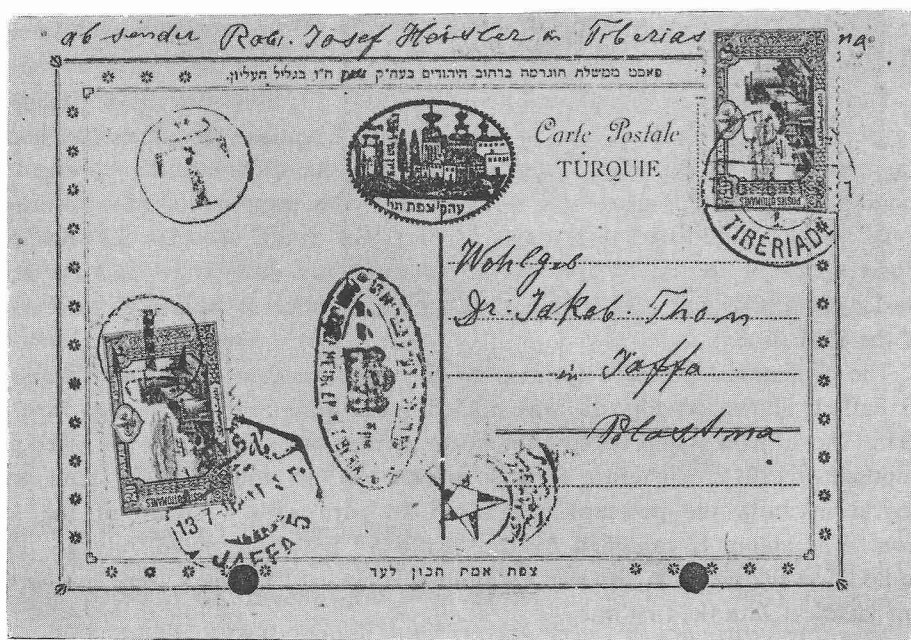


Fig. 11: A postcard from Tiberias to Jaffa sent on June 19, 1916. The mandatory war tax of 10 paras had not been prepaid, hence on arrival in Jaffa, a double charge was collected with a definitive 20 paras stamp on July 13.



Fig. 12: Underpaid cover from Jerusalem to Tiberias, taxed 20 para in Nov. 1916, with a 1914 definitive stamp.

on Nov. 16. Again, a definitive stamp – 20 para of the 1914 issue – was used to collect the charge. It appears that this time the war charity tax was ignored or forgotten by the postal officials.

(To be continued)

Onward Air Transmission Markings*

(Part II)

Murray Heifetz

The A.V.2 Markings

Forerunners of the A.V.2 Markings 1939-1941

A. "Included in AV2"

Straight line 45mm×3mm

Handstamp found in Singapore. No covers recorded

B. "With A.V.2 Form"

Origin: Not determined

Used: November 30, 1938 and June 5, 1939
(both covers originated in India)

Design: Rectangular frame inclosing letters
Stops after A and V

Colors: Black

Size: 58mm×14mm inclosing 55×8

INCLUDED IN AV2
A

WITH A.V.2 FORM

B

WITH A.V.2 FORM
C

C. "With A.V.2 Form"

Origin: Not determined

Used: April 24, 1941 cover from Uganda to Palestine

Design: Unframed straight line marking
Serifed letters
Stops after A and V

Colors: Violet

Size: 53mm×5mm

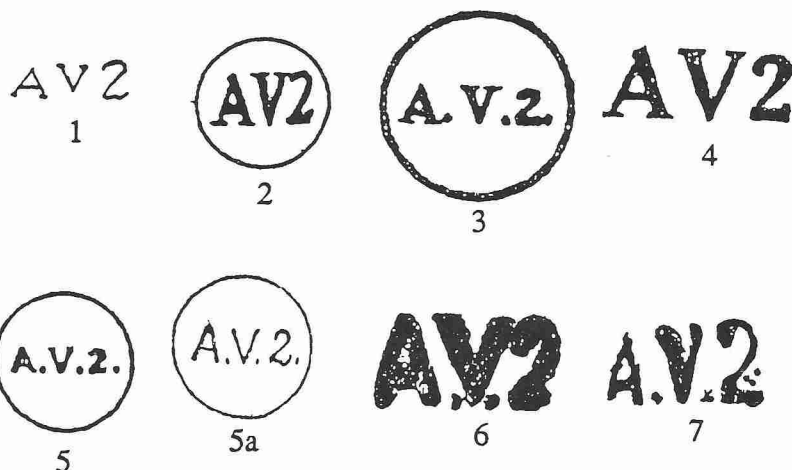
D. Manuscript Notation

Form: Pen, pencil or crayon

Used: 1940-1941; also December 17, 1948, from Sierra Leone

Colors: Blue and red most common

* Reprinted from "The Airpost Journal" (Journal of the American Air Mail Society), January 1992. Continued from HLP# #51, pp. 520-529.



A.V.2 Markings

Type 1

Origin: Singapore

Used: April 1940–August 1940

Design: Unframed

No stops after letters

Colors: Red

Size: 16mm×5mm

Note: This type (or variant) also known used in July 1949, probably at San Francisco.

Type 2

Origin: Singapore

Used: February 1947

Design: Single line circle

Serifed letters without stops

Colors: Black

Size: 19mm diameter inclosing letters 14mm×7.5mm

Type 3

Origin: Singapore

Used: March 1947–September 1947

Design: Single line circle

Round stops after serifed letters/number

Colors: Black

Size: 26mm diameter inclosing letters 20mm×5mm

Type 4

Origin: Singapore
 Used: July 1948–January 15, 1957
 Design: Unframed serified letters without stops
 Colors: Violet, black
 Size: 26mm×9.5mm

Type 5

Origin: Hong Kong
 Used: January 8, 1941–August 16, 1941
 Design: Single line circle
 Round stops after letters/number
 Colors: Light violet
 Size: 18mm diameter inclosing letters 14.5mm×3.5mm

Type 5a (Fig. 13)

Origin: Hong Kong
 Used: September 25, 1941–November 6, 1941
 Design: Similar to Type 5
 “2” is serified (curved at bottom)
 Colors: Black

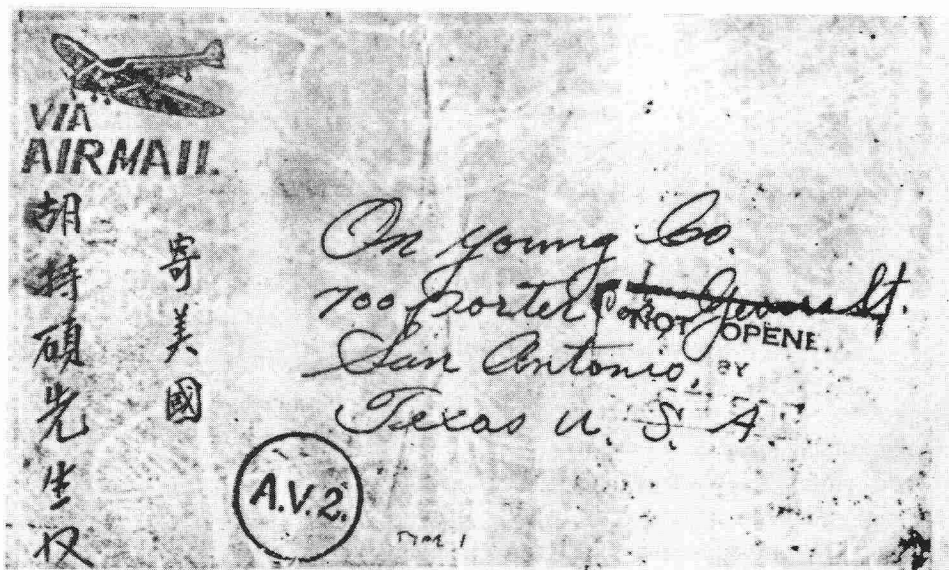


Figure 13

Type 6

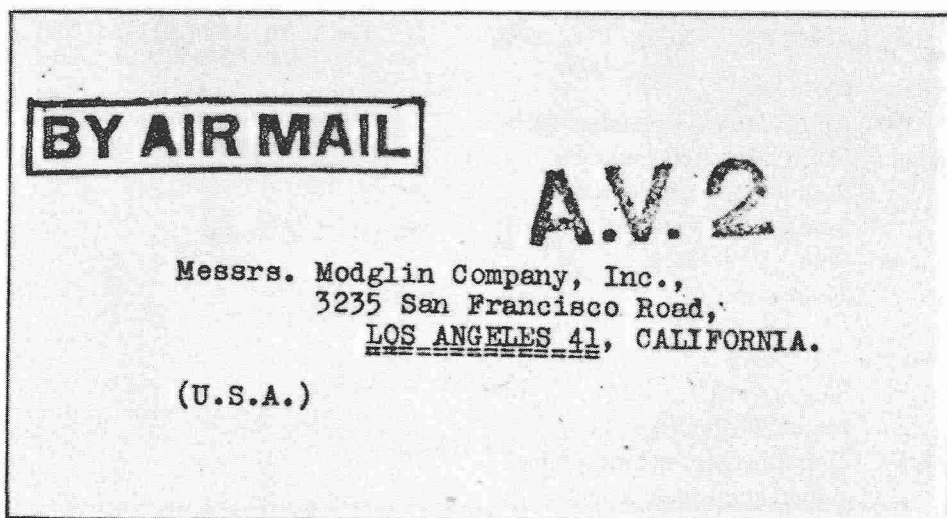
Origin: Bangkok
 Used: August 1946–December 1946
 Design: Unframed letters/number
 Distorted stops after A and V
 Colors: Black
 Size: 26mm×13mm

Type 7

Origin: Bangkok
 Used: October 1946–December 1946
 Design: Unframed letters/number
 Distorted stops after A and V
 Colors: Black
 Size: 23mm×12mm

Type 8 (Fig. 14)

Origin: Bangkok
 Used: January 1947–October 1949, 1955 (one known)
 Design: Unframed letters
 Round stops after letters
 Later impressions show wear
 Colors: Black, violet (1955)
 Size: 37mm×11mm

*Figure 14*

A.V. 2

8

A.V. 2

9

A.V. 2.

10

A.V. 2

11

A.V. 2

11a

A.V. 2

12

Type 9

Origin: Bangkok

Used: July 1951–December 1951

Design: Unframed outlined letters/number

Circle stops after letters

Colors: Black

Size: 29mm×8mm

Type 10

Origin: Amman, Jordan

Used: October 15, 1948–February 1950

Design: Rectangular frame

Rectangular stops after letters/number

Colors: Violet, black, gray, blue (and shades of all)

Size: 39mm×15mm inclosing letters 32mm×9mm

Type 11

Origin: Cairo

Used: April 1, 1947–September 1950

Design: Unframed letters/numbers

Round stops after letters

Base of “2” is curved (serifed)

Colors: Blue, green, black

Size: 24mm×7mm

Type 11a

Origin: Singapore(?)

Used: March 26, 1955

Design: Unframed serifed letters/number

Round stops after letters

Colors:

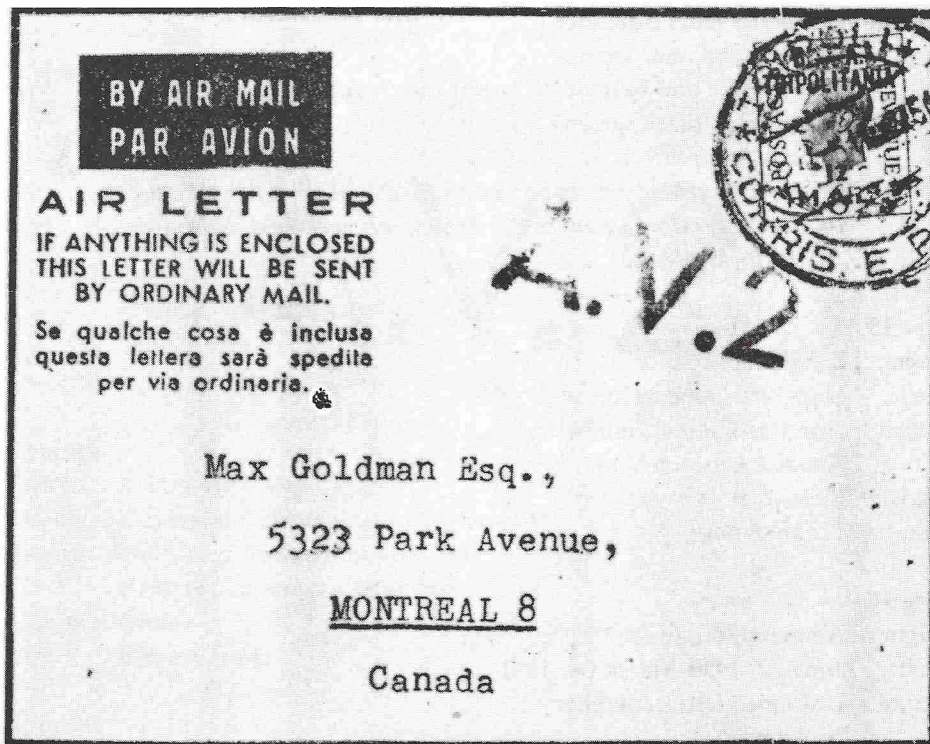
Size: 24mm×8mm

Type 12

Origin: Cairo
 Used: March 1943–August 3, 1945
 Design: Unframed letters/number
 Rectangular stops after letters
 Stop after A almost touches right leg of A
 Stop after V is midway between V and 2
 Colors: Violet, black
 Size: 39mm×12mm

Type 13 (Fig. 15)

Origin: Tripoli (Smythe) or Rome ("Osprey")
 Used: October 1949–August 1951
 Design: Unframed letters/number
 Round stops after letters
 Downstroke and base of "2" form sharp angel

*Figure 15*

A.V.2 A.V.2 AV*2]

13

14

15

AV2 A.V.2.

16

17

Colors: Violet, grayish violet, red, black

Size: 37mm×12mm

Note: Type 13 also known used September 1940, December 1942, and January 1944.

Type 14

Origin: Tripoli (Smythe) or Rome ("Osprey")

Used: January 9, 1952–February 1953

Design: Unframed letters/number

Round stops after letters

Downstroke and base of "2" form sharp angle

Colors: Blue, violet, black, green

Size: 41mm×12mm

Note: A variety, with 1mm space between the stops after V and the corner of the "2" rather than usual 3+mm, known used November 18, 1950, from Libya to Israel.

Type 15

Origin: San Francisco

Used: May 1950–June 1950

Design: Unframed letters/number

Asterisk between V and 2

Colors: Red violet

Size: 12mm×6mm

Type 16

Origin: Amman, Jordan

Used: June 22, 1950–March 30, 1951

Design: Unframed letters/number

No stops

Colors: Grayish black

Size: 43mm×16mm

Type 17

Origin: Cairo(?)
 Used: March 13, 1946 (one known, Palestine to Aden)
 Design: Unframed letters/number
 Square stops after letters/number
 Colors:
 Size: 49mm×12.5mm

A.V.2

18

Type 18

Origin: Tripoli (Smythe) or Rome ("Osprey")
 Used: November 1954
 Design: Unframed letters/numbers
 Square stops after letters
 Colors: Blue
 Size: 65mm×19mm

A.V.2

19

Type 19

Origin: Tripoli
 Used: Unknown (unreadable on cover seen)
 Design: Unframed letters/numbers
 Rectangular stops after letters
 Colors: Violet
 Size: 69mm×23mm

Type 20

Origin: Unknown
 Used: March 22, 1946
 Note: One cover recorded, St. Lucia to Cairo

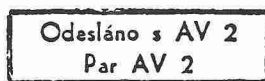
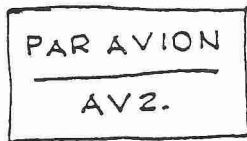
Design: Double Circle
 Two lines: Letters over number
 Serifed letters
 Stops after letters
 Colors: Violet
 Size: 16mm diameter inclosing 9mm×7mm

**Type 20a**

Origin: Unknown
 Used: May 1952 on cover from Trinidad & Tobago
 Design: Single Circle
 Two lines: Letters over number
 Serifed letters
 Stops after letters
 Colors: Violet
 Size: 15mm diameter

Type 21

Origin: Unknown
 Used: September 29, 1947
 Note: One cover recorded from Netherlands Indies
 Design: Rectangular frame
 Two lines: "Par Avion" over "AV2"
 25mm horizontal line between text lines
 Colors: Blue
 Size: 31mm×17mm inclosing 21×10mm

**Type 22**

Origin: Prague
 Used: March 1966
 Design: Rectangular frame
 Two lines: "Odeslano s AV2" over "Par AV2"
 Colors:
 Size: 36mm×10mm inclosing 26.5mm×6.5mm

“First Days” in Ramatayim

Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan

Ramatayim is located approximately a dozen miles northeast of Tel Aviv, and a short distance southwest of Kfar Sava. It was founded in 1925 but not until 1 January, 1935 was a postal agency established there by the Mandate Post.

Its initial postmark was a single circle skeleton, 30mm in diameter, with the village name on top and the date in two lines. All strikes noted to date by this writer have the index ‘A’ although other index letters exist, according to Dorfman. This first device was used for over a year until sometime in 1936, but the exact or even approximate date of its replacement by a double circle device is unknown. Dorfman records 29 January, 1936 as the latest skeleton use and 21 August, 1936 as the earliest known double circle use – a wide gap indeed!

An enterprising philatelist brought several wrappers to this Agency on its opening day and had them postmarked (Fig. 16). Apparently all were addressed to himself.

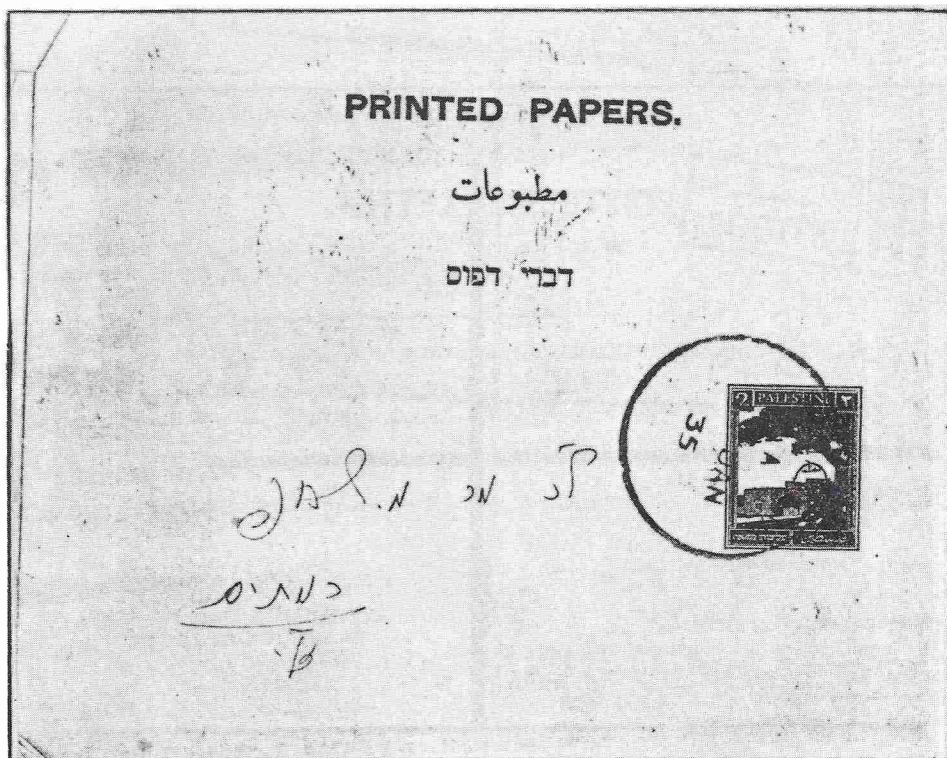


Fig 16: A wrapper posted on the opening day of Ramatayim Postal Agency.

A most interesting feature here is that the color of the postmark is violet. This first Ramatayim postmark is one of the approximately dozen that are recorded in more than one color. Thus, while violet postmarks are scarce, they should not be considered as rare only because of color. At the same time he also had a Mandate Registered Entire (Hochheiser #RE 7/1) postmarked, its registry label (without town name) being #0001 – thus it was the first registered item to be sent from this town (Fig. 17). On its back the same skeleton postmark was applied but this was black in color and is dated 6 January, 1935. Apparently, he had this postmark added as an afterthought, as it certainly would not have taken five days for it to be delivered within that small village. Thus this entire, although damaged by having its added franking carelessly removed, is certainly a postal history gem being Ramatayim's first registered item as well as the only recorded piece of mail having the scarce skeleton postmark in both known colors.

However, our tale does not end in 1935. The same enterprising philatelist was at it again – this time on 16 May, 1948, the first day of the Israel Post. His handwriting had changed a bit in the thirteen year interval but its writer as well as its address are clearly the same. On that memorable day, he posted a registered letter addressed to himself with the proper

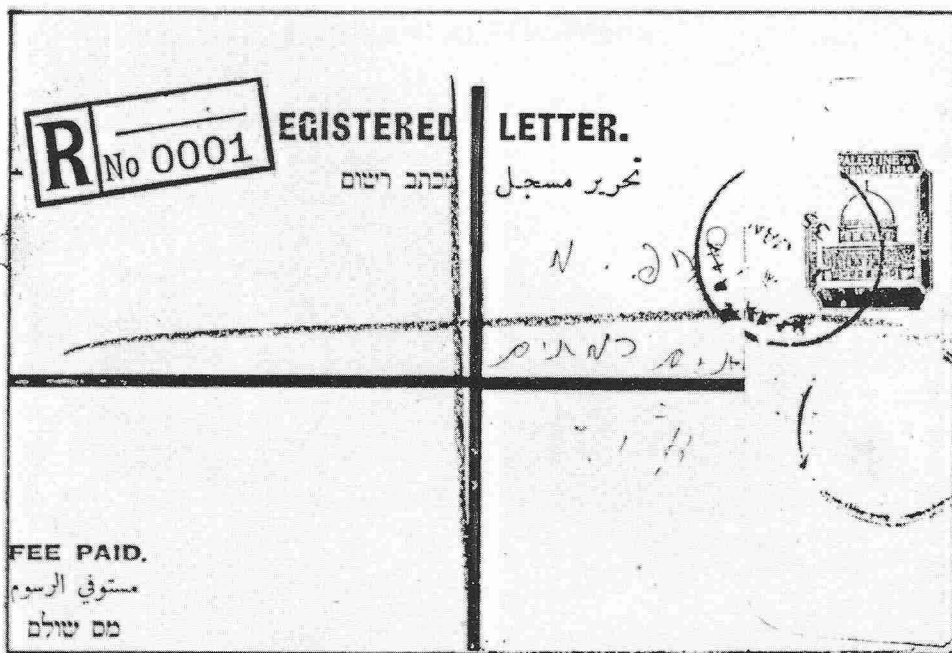


Fig. 17: The 1st registered item posted on the opening day of the Postal Agency. The postmark shown are violet but a black one is found on the reverse.

25 mil franking (Fig. 18). Its registry label (town name in English only) is number 4477 whereas Fluri's date for #4660 is 14 May. Several explanations are possible for this discrepancy in dates but it would be pointless to discuss these here as any such discussion would be entirely speculative in nature.

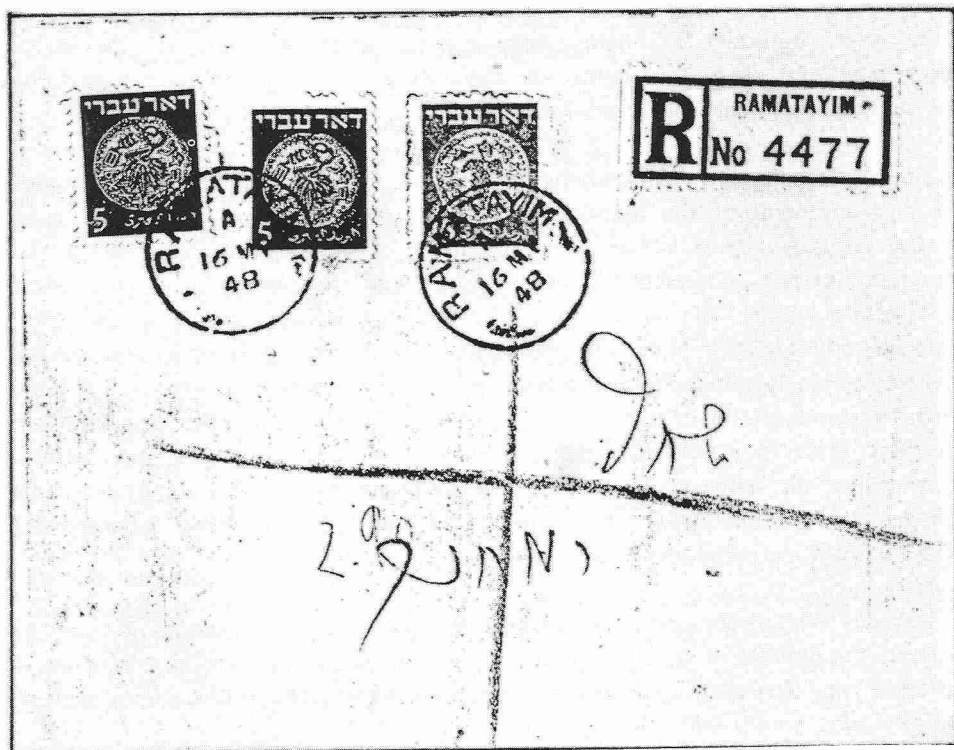


Fig. 18: Registered letter posted on the 1st day of the Israel Post by the same correspondent.

Registered Letters in Besieged Jerusalem, 1948

M. Pondak, Ma'ale Rachamisha

A. Introduction

Jerusalem post in the War of Independence is a source of extensive research these days. Although 45 years have passed from the time of the siege, every now and then new items are discovered, showing that not everything has yet been researched nor published.

One of the means of studying the postal services of that time – after the announcement of the Mandate Authorities from 25 April, 1948 of closing of the Jerusalem post offices – is a survey of registered letters during the transition period, commencing on 9 May with the opening of the three post offices under the supervision of Minhelet Ha'am, in Me'a She'arim, Rehavia and Mahane Yehuda. The possibility of inspecting registered letters carrying registration labels to indicate their registry is the main source for this study. The label carries a running number as well as a registration indicator number characterising the post office in which the letter was handed or, in some cases, the institute from which the letter originated. This allows indentifying the route the letter followed if it did not arrive at its destination, as it is transmitted accompanied by a special list of label numbers.

In order to study the operation of post offices in besieged Jerusalem and to try to estimate the number of registered letters they processed in this period, I have listed for some time Jerusalem registered letters appearing in public sales, stamp dealers' stocks, and in stamp exhibitions.

These registration labels were supplied in rolls of 1000, 5000 or 10000 units. As is the custom, these labels are supplied not only to post offices but also to large institutions and banks, which send a large number of registered letters and have a special permit from the Post Office. Fluri¹ gives a list of R-label rolls supplied to P.O. branches and various institutes in Jerusalem for the last time (on 10.12.47) by the Mandate Post (Table 1). Regrettably, Fluri does not comment on registered letters of Institutes or Banks (other than their listing in Table 1).

Table 1
List of R-label rolls allocated on 10.12.47 to Post Offices and Institutes
in Jerusalem by the Mandate Post

Registration Indicator No.	Post Office or Institute	"Size" of Roll
("Jerusalem")*	Head Post Office	—
"Jerusalem 1"	M'ea She'arim B.O.	10,000
("Jerusalem 2")	Tax Office	—
"Jerusalem 3"	Barclays Bank	10,000
"Jerusalem 4"	Anglo Palestine Bank	10,000
"Jerusalem 5"	Ottoman Bank	10,000
"Jerusalem 6"	Mahane Yehuda B.O.	10,000
"Jerusalem 8"	Jewish Agency	5,000
"Jerusalem 10"	Citadel B.O.	5,000
"Jerusalem 16"	Dep. of Immigr.	10,000
"Jerusalem 18"	Rehavia B.O.	1,000
"Jerusalem 20"	Greek Colony P.A.	1,000
("Jerusalem 22")	KKL	—
("Jerusalem 29")	Hebrew University	—

* Offices not mentioned in this list are shown in brackets in order to complete the record. Most of the offices on the list kept the same R-labels during the transition period, and even used the Mandate stock of labels for several years after the establishment of the State of Israel (see Glassman², p. 90).

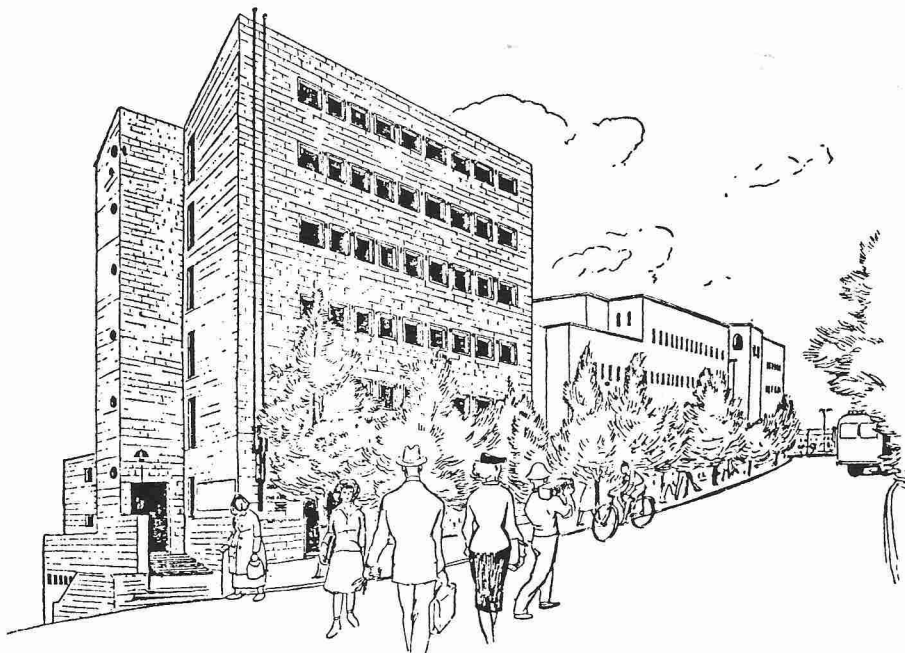
I wrote down for the items which I saw, or know of, the following:

1. Identification of post office or institute.
2. Registration numbers.
3. Dates of mailing (where this is possible).
4. Number of letters identified on the same date.

This part, the first of a series, refers only to registered letters of the Anglo-Palestine Company Ltd (APC) in Jerusalem, which were identified by the registration labels "Jerusalem 4".

B. The Registered Letters of APC Bank – "Jerusalem 4"

The block of buildings within the area called Bevingrad (defined as a military British area from April until the British leave and which included the adjoining Head Post Office) did not include the Bank itself, which was separated by a narrow lane (see Fig. 19). Therefore the Jewish bank clerks had access to the bank and



***Fig. 19: The Anglo-Palestine Bank main building (today Bank Le'umi Le'Israel)
at 21 Jaffa Road, Jerusalem***

its activity did not cease even during the war. Due to the fact that the nearby Head Post Office did not function until the 20th June, the Bank registered letters were taken to the other post offices by clerks who lived in the area of the corresponding post office. Most of the letters were sent from the post offices of Mahane Yehuda and Rehavia. The Mahane Yehuda office is recognized by its distorted cancellation (see Figs. 20, 21).

In order to allow classification and in attempting to assess the number of registered letters sent by the Bank every day, I prepared the following Table of registered letters which I have inspected (see Table 2).

Table 2
Inspected R-letters of APC bank ("Jerusalem 4")
during the Transition Period

Date	R-label Running No.	No. of letters Inspected
12.5.48	0005, 0042, 0048, 0060, 0088, 0103, 0118, 0134, 0136 0073	10

Date	R-label Running No.	No. of letters Inspected
13.5.48	0121, 0130, 0148 0151, 0155, 0177, 0186*, 0190*, 0194	9
16.5.48	0025	1
18.5.48	0208-0218**	(11)
23.5.48	0207	1
4.6.48	0011	1
1.8.48	0044	1
17.8.48	0432	1
W/O date	0006, 008, 0016 0022, 0024, 0329	6
Total		41

* On these letters the dates are not clear and could have been 23.5 instead of 13.5.

** These R-numbers come from the document discussed later and not from inspected covers.

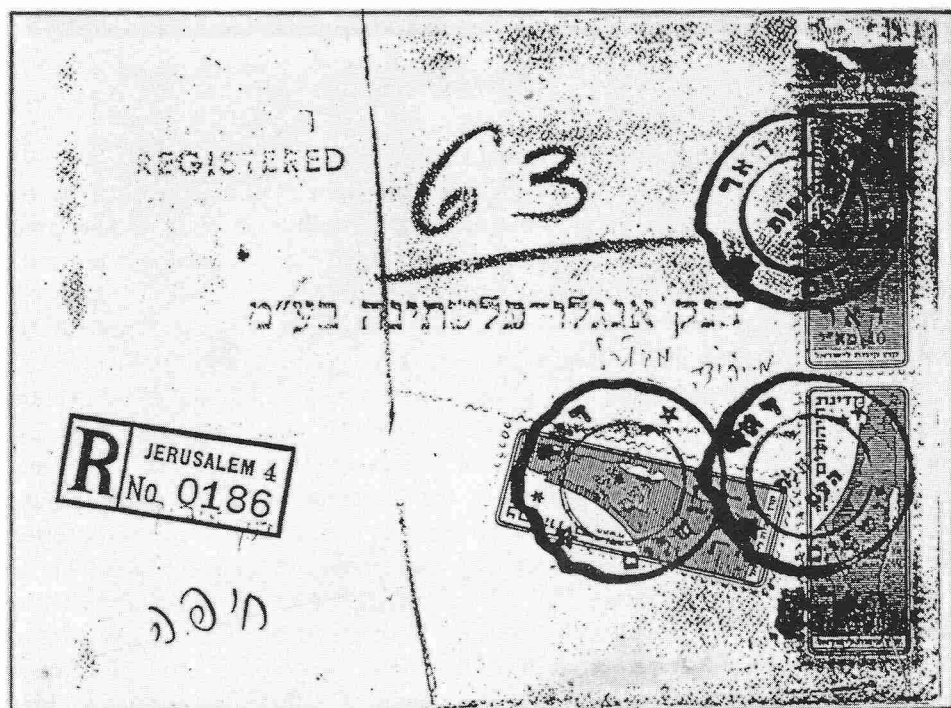


Figure 20

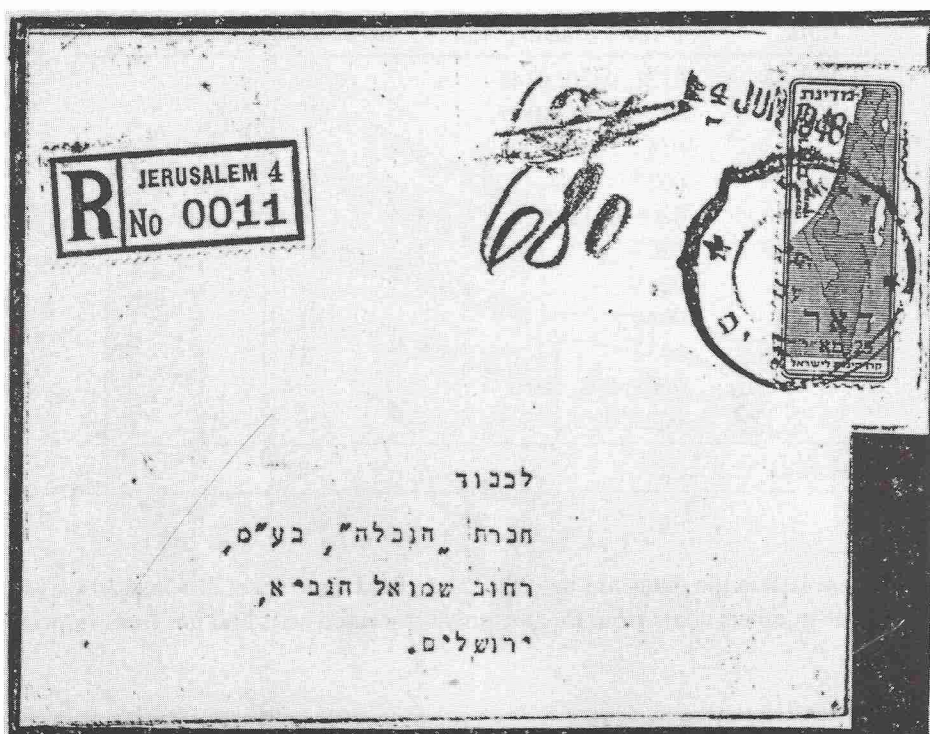


Figure 21

Identification of the Registered Letters and Delivery Dates

Identification of letters of the Anglo-Palestine Bank was mainly done by the registration labels "Jerusalem 4", but was also possible through a few other indications which sometimes appeared on the envelopes: a rubber handstamp with the words "רשום" in Hebrew and "Registered" in English (Fig. 22), which appears on many of the covers, and also, sometimes, the logo of the APC Bank (in Hebrew and in English; see Fig. 25).

The date is stamped on most registered letters with an office rubber handstamp (a "dater") showing the date in purple or black (see Fig. 22). Such a dater was in use in all the post offices in Jerusalem, and functioned as a marker for the receiving date of the letter in addition to the regular Minhelet Ha'am cancellation which did not include a date. Not all registered letters were marked by the dater, however we may sometimes find a hand written date on the envelope (see for example Fig. 23). Later on, after the Head Post Office was re-opened (on 21 June) and especially after the first trilingual cancellation of the State arrived (first to the Head Post Office on 4 July) the problem of identifying the date was simplified as the date was included in them (see Figs. 24, 25).



Figure 22



Figure 23

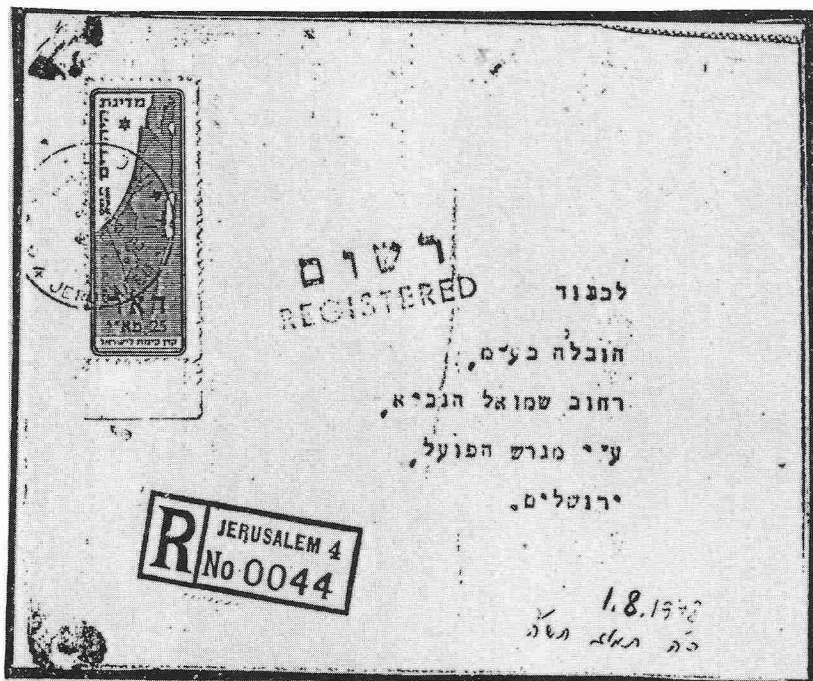


Figure 24

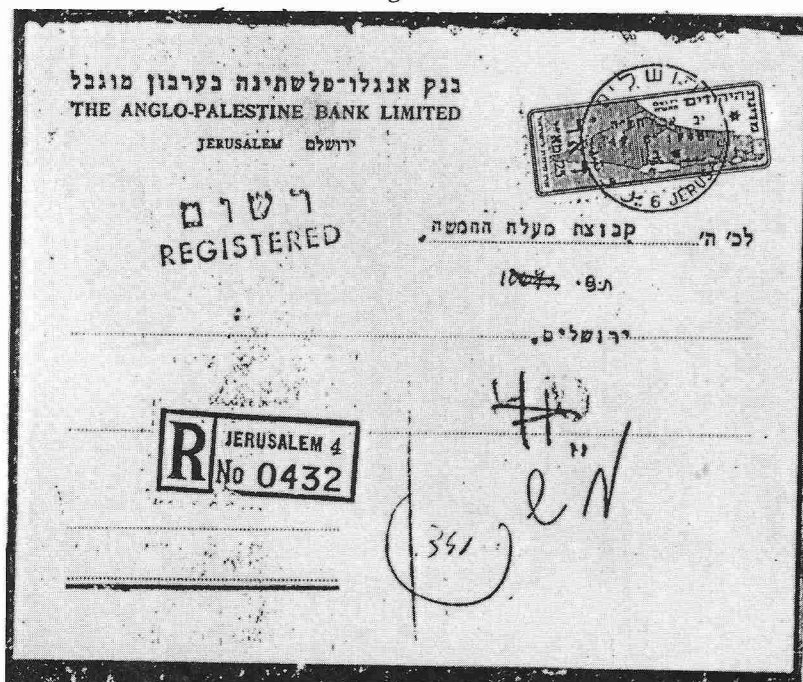


Figure 25

Another important source of information, except for the covers themselves, are the list of registered letters made by the institute on special post office forms. During the Transition Period, the Mandate form number P.T 825 and headed "List of Registered Articles" was still in use. Such a form from 18 May, in which 11 registered letters of the APC Bank are recorded, is shown in Fig. 26. Unfortunately, it seems that not many such used forms survived and this source of information is very limited.

Analysis of the Table and Conclusions

It is difficult to understand why the first date of dispatch of the registered letters (12 May) is only from the fourth day of the renewed operation of the Jerusalem post and not earlier. A number of additional facts appear when studying the Table:

A) On many dates not a single letter was recorded, while on other days (such as May 12, 13) a large number of letters are listed.

B) There are a number of cases of "non aligned registration numbers", or letters whose registration numbers do not seemingly fit the date of the letter and the sequence of numbers on other letters.

C) It seems strange that for all the items appearing in the Table the maximum registration number is 432 (from 17 August) and for all other previous dates there are no registration numbers exceeding 220, although the label rolls of "Jerusalem 4" had 10000 labels each (see Table 1 above).

I will try to explain these facts, although it seems that additional information is needed, as mine summarises only 40 letters from a mere 8 out of 88 days (excluding Saturdays) of the discussed period of 9 May – 17 August. It is possible that the reason for the Bank letters not appearing on the first four days after the opening of the post offices was the situation in the city and that the Bank had not yet organized itself to send mail after the long period during which the postal service did not function. The emergency conditions can also explain the obvious lack of uniformity in the quantities of daily letters – it is possible that the Bank gathered the mail of several days in order that the responsible clerk would transfer it all together to the post office in Rehavia or in Mahane Yehuda, which were pretty far from the Bank. However, this explanation is not true after June 20, the date on which the Head Post Office near the Bank was re-opened; it is very strange that no registered letters of the Bank with the "Liberation Postmark" are known. This postmark was in use in the Head Post Office in the period 21 June – 4 July. Also very few letters are known of from the months June–August (see Table 2).

The most reasonable and simple assumption concerning the way in which the registration labels were used by the Bank is: the labels (carrying the running numbers of 1–9999) were removed from the roll, one after another, according to the need of the bank and were placed on the registered letters, according to their order and date of delivery. If and when one roll was finished, another roll was started, when the labels start again from 1. Looking at the

P.T. 825.

LIST OF REGISTERED ARTICLES.

רשימת חפצים רשומים. قائمة المواد المسجلة.

Posted at _____ للودعة في مكتب البريد في
נסטרו למשלח ב. _____

By _____ من قبل
על ידי _____

Registration Indicator No. _____ رقم التسجيل الخاص
83827-1000 Bks.-26.12.46-O.C.P. מספר ציון הרשום

Entry No. رقم البريد מספר סדרני	Name and address of Addressee اسم المرسل اليه وعنوانه השם והכתובת של המשלח אליו	Registration No. رقم التسجيل מספר הרשום
1 ١	אלכסנדר - אלכסנדר	210
2 ٢	משה - משה	211
3 ٣	דוד - דוד	212
4 ٤	אברהם - אברהם	213
5 ٥	חיים - חיים	214
6 ٦	יצחק - יצחק	215
7 ٧	יעקב - יעקב	216
8 ٨	לוי - לוי	217
9 ٩	מנחם - מנחם	218
10 ١٠	נחמן - נחמן	
11 ١١	אשר - אשר	
12 ١٢		
13 ١٣		
14 ١٤		
15 ١٥		
16 ١٦		
17 ١٧		
18 ١٨		
19 ١٩		
20 ٢٠		

Total No. of articles posted _____

(To be inserted in words) _____

Signature of Receiving Officer _____
امضاء الموظف للمستلم
חתימת הפקיד המקבל

8 MAY 1946

Fig. 26: List of Registered Articles, P.T. 825, listing 11 letters of APC, posted on 18 May, 1948

Table shows that the reality is not so simple – there are many cases where the running order is not congruent with the dates of delivery (for example No. 0121 was sent on 13 May although Nos. 0134 & 0136 had already been sent on 12 May; 0025 was sent on 16 May although most numbers lower than 0100 had already been sent on 12 May). The numbers 11 and 44 also seem to be out of order, unless a new roll was started about the beginning of June. But in that case the question remains where had all the numbers higher than 218 from the first roll disappear?

The following assumption might explain a great deal of the non sequencing. It is possible that various departments of the Bank sent their registered letters independently of one another, where each department had received a continuous series of label numbers from the big roll (and maybe in certain cases a complete different roll) and used it for its registered letters according to its needs, without any relation to other departments.

In any case, additional information is required – registered letters, Registration Forms of letters and other documents relating to the subject – so that there will be enough statistics in order to prove any assumption and so that the number of registered letters sent by the Bank each day, or in the whole period could be assessed with a reasonable amount of precision.

I would gladly accept the help of readers of this article who have, in their collections, letters from this period with registration numbers which have not been mentioned here. Please include all of the related details, and if possible please send a clear photocopy of the cover. Please write to the Bulletin editors, or directly to me: M. Sondak, Ma'ale Hachamisha, M.P. Harei Yehuda, Israel.

I would like to thank Zvi Shimony for his help with the preparation of this article.

References

- 1) E. Fluri, "the Minhelet Ha'am Period", Handbook of Holy Land Philately, WPC Publication (1973)
- 2) E. Glassman, "The Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948", Central Stamp Gallery, London (1978).

The Postal Services to the Negev Settlements during the Mandate Period and the Army Postal Services to the Negev during the War of Independence.

(Part V)

A. Zakai, Beer Sheva

2. Postal Services to the Fighting Units, from November 1947 (continued)

d. 25th October, 1948 – 10th February, 1949

APO 10 had now a direct approach to the Army Post Base A in Tel Aviv*. Whilst the Negev was cut off, all mail was sent to APO 9 in Tel Nof Airbase (Ekron) and from there flown to the Negev or from the Negev to Tel Nof and from there to other parts of Israel.

After a short period, on 7.11.1948, APO 1 was opened in Beer Sheva. Its function was to serve all the units stationed in the Beer Sheva area, and to the south and east of the town, including the settlements in that area. APO 10 served all the units and settlements stationed west and north of the town. This office was transferred to Julis Base on 26 December.

Figures 27–29 show items from various Army Units in the region which were processed by APO 1 in Beer Sheva.

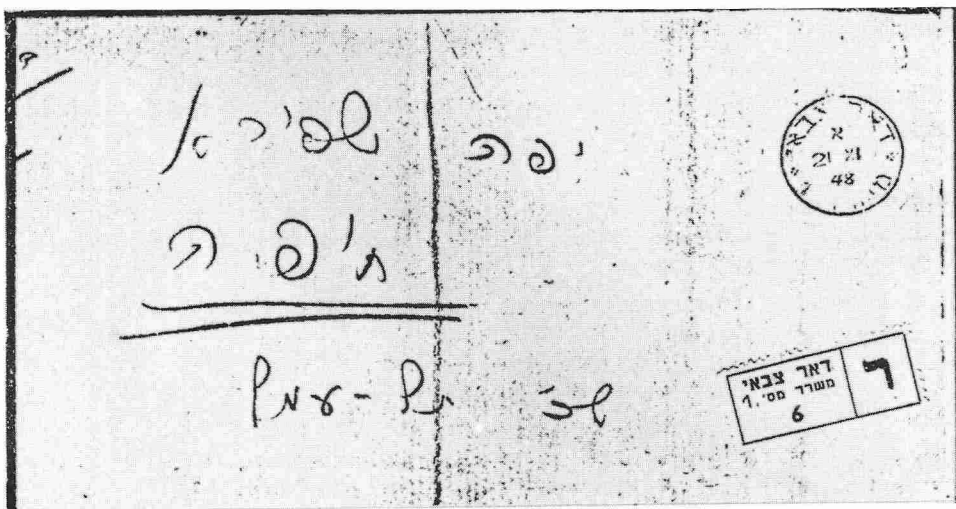


Fig. 27: A registered letter sent from APO 1 in Beer Sheva on 21.11.48, with registration label No. 6 of the APO, the "1" added in manuscript.

* The Army Post divided Israel into two parts: the South, with an office in Tel Aviv – Base A, and the North, with an office in Haifa – Base B. These bases collected the mail from all the Army Post Offices (APO's) in their area and then sent it on.

שירותי הדאר הצבאי

מסמך 1609 דצ

2782

רשום צרור דאר

וזאת לאשור שצרור דאר לפי המען דלהלן נרשם היום תחת

מסמך 61 ונתקבל הסך של 15 מא"י דמ"ר רשום.

הכתובת

30574

13.1.49

חתימת הרושם

חתימה

13.1.49

49

המנדט

(ראו פער לדה)

Fig. 28: Receipt to the sender for a registered mail sent through APO 1, on 13.1.49.

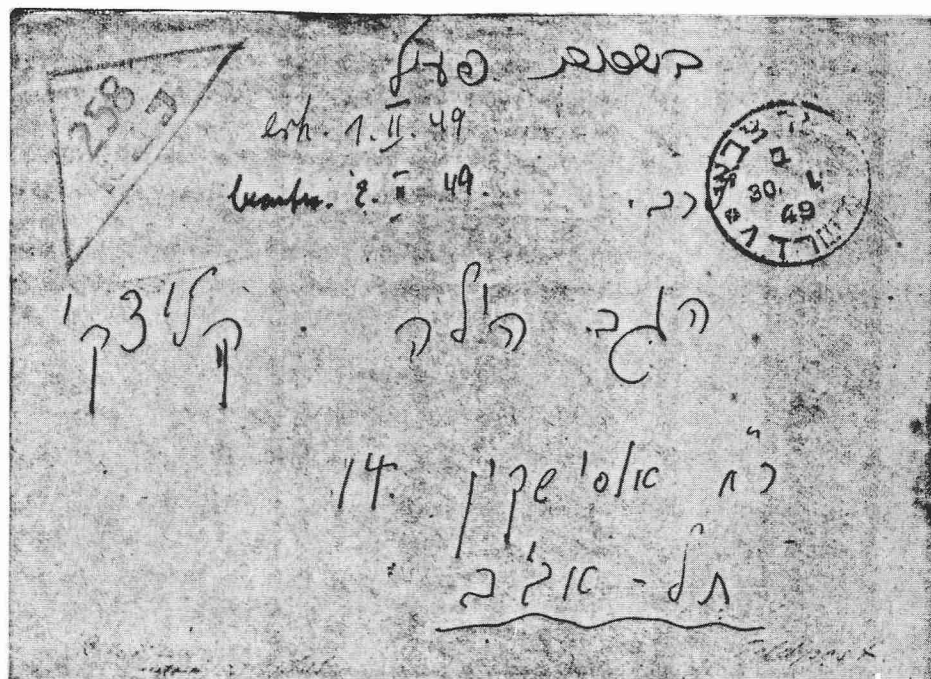


Fig. 29: A letter from APO 1 with triangular KBA 258. It was sent by a woman soldier at the Beer Sheva Hospital.

Fig. 30 shows the envelope of the first telegram to Beer Sheva. It was sent from Prague, Czechoslovakia on 23.12.48 to Avi Sakai, APO 279/1, Tel Aviv. The telegram was cancelled with elliptical postmark "Radio Telegraph Israel" in Hebrew and English, dated 23 December. On the same day it was censored and received the postmark of Tel Aviv. There it was placed in an envelope which was marked with the same number as the telegram (64) and sent on to the Army Post

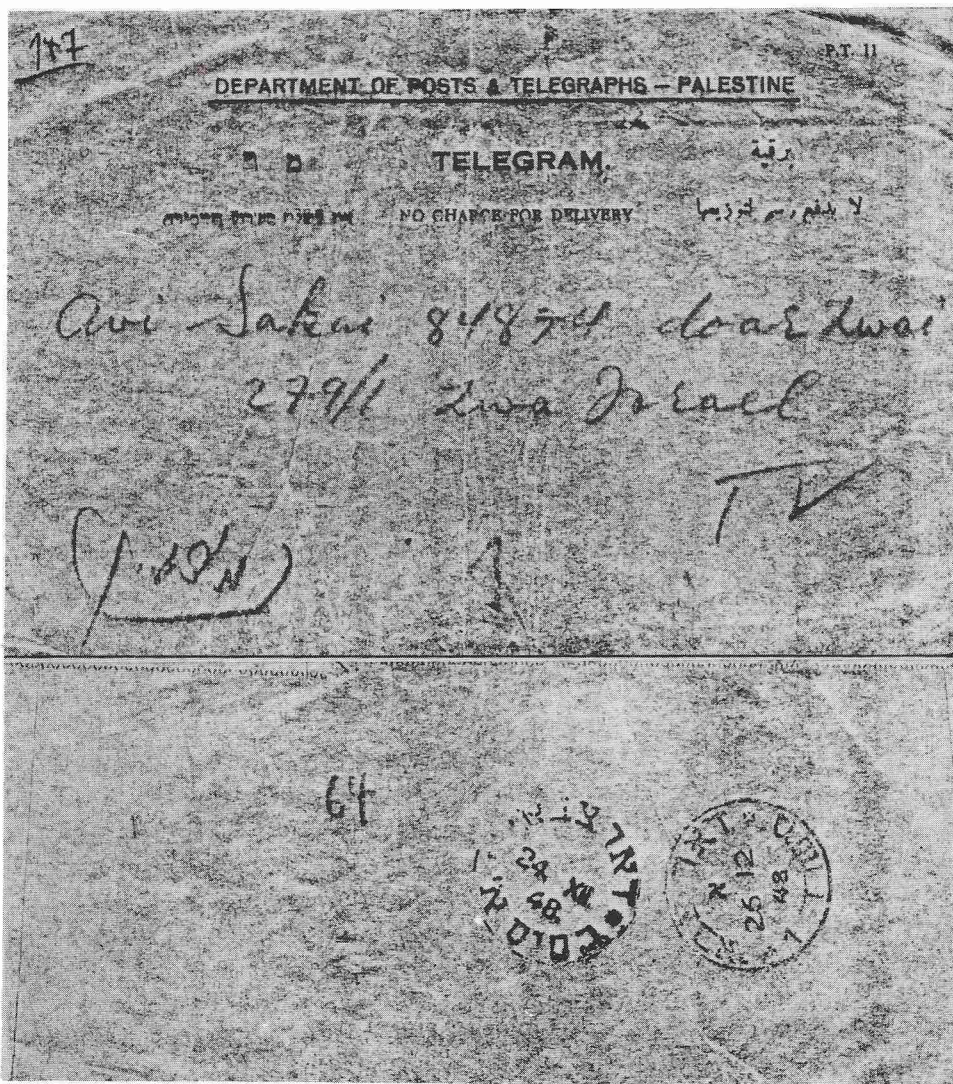


Fig. 30: The envelope (front and back) of the first telegram to Beer Sheva, sent from Prague on 23.12.48 to Avi Sakai, Army Post 279/1, Israel Army, Tel Aviv. In T.A. the telegram was placed in an envelope and sent to A.P. Base A from where it was sent on to APO 1 in Beer Sheva, and delivered to the addressee.

Base A (24 December). From there the telegram was sent to APO 1 in Beer Sheva, marked "intelligence", the addressee's unit, and delivered to him.

During this period 3 Operations were carried out in the Negev:

(1) Operation "Lot" on 24-25.11.48. This Operation united the southern Dead Sea area with the State after six months of isolation. It was carried out by the Negev Palmach Brigade.

(2) Operation "Assaf", whose aim was to eject the Egyptian from the western Negev, was during 5-7.12.48. It was carried out by the Golani Brigade and the Armored Battalion 89 of the 8th Brigade. This was the first operation in which the Golani Brigade participated in the Negev. They participated in all future operations in the Negev with the Negev Brigade.

(3) Operation "Chorev", which took place between 22.12.48-7.1.49, pushed the Egyptian army back into Egyptian territory. The Negev and Harel Palmach Brigades, the Golani Brigade, and the 8th Armored Brigade took part in this big Operation. The Israeli army destroyed the Egyptian army and conquered Auja el Hafir and Abu Ageila advancing to the El Arish airfield. In the last stages the whole Gaza area was encircled, but under UNO's order the Israeli Force withdrew, the Gaza strip being left under Egyptian command.

Obviously APO's 1 and 10 took care of all the postal needs of most of the units fighting in the Negev.

The Golani Brigade, taking part in operations "Assaf" and "Chorev" in the western Negev, recieved their mail mainly through APO 10 but also through APO 9 (Ekron). The Brigade consisted of 3 Battalions: 2 infantry - the 12th and 13th, and one armored - the 19th.

The KBA numbers of the Golani Brigade were: HQ - KBA 180, Battalion 12 - KBA 182, Battalion 13 - KBA 183, Battalion 19 - KBA 288. There are very few cases known, where subnumbers were used; on many occassions the name of a subunit was used instead.

Figures 31-36 show parcel cards which were sent to soldiers in various Golani Brigade units during this period.

Only two items are known of the 8th Armored Brigade, which were sent through a Negev Army Post Office, one of which is shown in Figure 37. It is a card for a parcel sent through APO 8 (Netania) to APO 15 (Tel Litwinsky) for KBA 281, the Armored Battalion 89, 8th Armored Brigade - to a soldier serving in this unit. At that time the Battalion took part in the heavy fighting at Auja el Hafir, during the "Chorev" operation. The parcel was marked, "to be sent to APO 1" and was transferred there. There it received the arrival postmark APO 1 on 2.1.49 (the numbers 2 and 49 in the postmark are handwritten as in all the parcel cards received at APO 1 on this day).

From the Harel Palmach Brigade, which was involved in the battles during the "Chorev" operation, no items are known to have been sent through a Negev Army Post Office. They received their mail, even during the fighting in the Negev, at

[illegible]

Fig. 31: A parcel card sent to APO 10, KBA 180 on 27.12.48, to a soldier serving in the Golani Brigade Headquarters.

[illegible]

Fig. 32: A parcel card sent to APO 9, KBA 180/3 on 23.12.48, to a soldier serving in a sub-unit of the Golani Brigade Headquarters.

P.T. 238
INLAND PARCEL CARD

No. 2270

Insured for _____
(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב הגביה בארץ) (בזה את הלידה בארץ)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)
(המשקל הכולל בגרמים) (אם הובלה מבוטאת)

Postage Paid 1/5
Mils 0-38

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below
טובה טרד (טרוד) מנוון (מנוני) כא הו מנין אדלה
בזה הובלה (הובלות) הורחא(חא) את דבתיך דבתיך לרלה

Name: ארם ארם ארם
Address: 182, KBA 10, Company B
12th Battalion Company B

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.
מורה הגם ללשכל לשל הפרד
מבית החרבה שבהם בה
לפנות הובלה

(SEE OVER)
(ראו בקצה לשל)

(אשר על הגב) (האשר על הגב)

Fig. 33: A parcel card sent to APO 10, KBA 182, Company B, on 30.12.48, to a soldier serving in the 12th Battalion Company B.

P.T. 238
INLAND PARCEL CARD

No. 182

NOTE: POST affixed here

Insured for _____
(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב הגביה בארץ) (בזה את הלידה בארץ)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)
(המשקל הכולל בגרמים) (אם הובלה מבוטאת)

Postage Paid
Mils 0-60

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below
טובה טרד (טרוד) מנוון (מנוני) כא הו מנין אדלה
בזה הובלה (הובלות) הורחא(חא) את דבתיך דבתיך לרלה

Name: ארם ארם ארם
Address: 182, KBA 10, Support Company
12th Battalion Support Company

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.
מורה הגם ללשכל לשל הפרד
מבית החרבה שבהם בה
לפנות הובלה

(SEE OVER)
(ראו בקצה לשל)

(אשר על הגב) (האשר על הגב)

Fig. 34: A parcel card sent to APO 10, KBA 182, Support Company on 2.12.48, to an officer serving in the 12th Battalion Support Company.

P.T. 253
INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

No. 3101

Insured for: _____

(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב הגביה באותיות)
(בכוח את הלירות באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)
המשקל ברוטו בגרמים (אם הובילה בטוחה)

Net weight in grammes (if insured)
המשקל נטו בגרמים (אם הובילה בטוחה)

Postage Paid

Here with parcel (s) bearing the address given below
עליו פרד (פרוד) מכתוב (מכתוב) כאילו מכתוב אדואה
בזה הובילה (הובילה) דנושא (אות) את הכתוב המכתוב להלן:

Name: 38242 - 201
Address: 183 KBA 13
3 212 - 13132

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.
הדפוס על החבילה (ראה מכתב למעלה)

(SEE OVER)

מורה החטם לסתכל לפני הפרד
מכירת החבילה שכתובתה בזה
לכונן החבילה
(לפרט על החבילה)

Fig. 35: A parcel card sent to APO 9, KBA 183, Battalion 13, Company 3 on 23.12.48.

P.T. 253
INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

No. 454

Insured for: _____

(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב הגביה באותיות)
(בכוח את הלירות באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)
המשקל ברוטו בגרמים (אם הובילה בטוחה)

Net weight in grammes (if insured)
המשקל נטו בגרמים (אם הובילה בטוחה)

Postage Paid

Here with parcel (s) bearing the address given below
עליו פרד (פרוד) מכתוב (מכתוב) כאילו מכתוב אדואה
בזה הובילה (הובילה) דנושא (אות) את הכתוב המכתוב להלן:

Name: 288
Address: 10 KBA 288
288 10 KBA 288

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.
הדפוס על החבילה (ראה מכתב למעלה)

(SEE OVER)

מורה החטם לסתכל לפני הפרד
מכירת החבילה שכתובתה בזה
לכונן החבילה
(לפרט על החבילה)

Fig. 36: A parcel card sent to APO 10, KBA 288, Raid Company on 26.12.48, to a soldier serving in the 19th Battalion Raid Company.

מדינת ישראל - טופס זמני ארבעה חודשים No. 2229		NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER. اسم المرسل وعنوانه חשם והכתובת של השולח	
Intended for (Pounds to be written in words) Gross weight in grammes (if insured)	affixed here Postage Paid Mils.	Postage Stamp 50 10	
Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below طيه طرد (طرود) مضمون (مضمونة) 4 حزم בזה הבילה (הבילות) הנלקחת(ות) את רשומת הכתובת להלן		RECEIVED BY ADDRESSEE وصل المرسل اليه	
Name 42193 / 111180 / 7710 Address 281 / 743		The undersigned acknowledge receipt of the parcel(s) described hereafter. أنا الموقع أدناه أقر باستلام الطرد/الطرود المبينة تاليها على الخلف	
Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (ראה בקבוצה 281) (SEE OVER) (انظر على الخلف)		Date 2.1.49	

Fig. 37: A parcel card sent through APO 8 (Netania) to APO 15 (Tel Litwinsky) for KBA 281 – the Armored Battalion 89 of the 8th Armored Brigade.

their home base Tel Litwinsky (APO 15) who sent it from there to the various units in the Negev.

Many other units obtained their mail through APO's 1 and 10, a few examples of which are illustrated in Figures 38–40. A detailed list is given later in Tables 2 and 3.

e. After 10th February, 1949

At the beginning of March, 1949 “Uvda” operation took place, which liberated the whole Negev area to Eilat on the Red Sea. In the northern negev, along the Dead Sea, the area up to Ein Gedi was occupied. In this operation, the Negev and Golani Brigades took part and in the Dead Sea area the Alexandroni Brigade operated. After the operation, Golani Brigade took command of the whole Negev area.

APO 10 continued to be responsible for all the postal matters in the northern Negev from its office in Julis, and APO 1 for the southern Negev from the office in Beer Sheva.

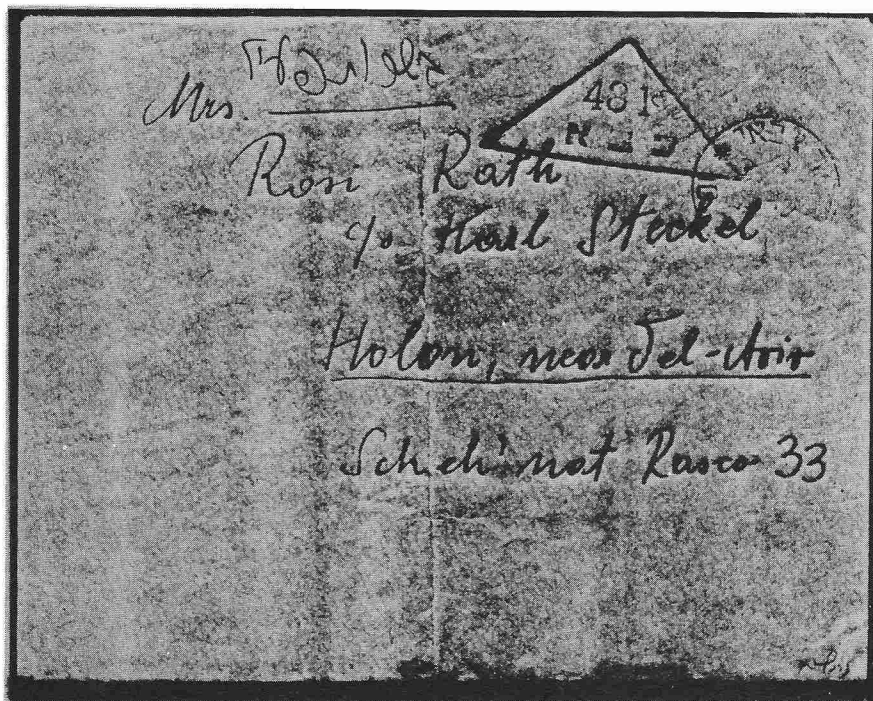


Fig. 38: A letter sent from APO 10, KBA 481 on 3.12.48, by a soldier serving in the 171st Battalion, the Negev District Command.



Fig. 39: A letter sent from APO 1, KBA 280, on 9.1.49, by a soldier serving in the 9th Battalion, Hanegev Brigade. Handmarked "Battalion Censor".

P. T. 233

INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

HAIFA

No. 635

Postage Paid

Mils 060

Insured for (Pounds to be written in words) (כתב التأمين بألفاظ)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured) (الوزن الخام بالغمم (إذا كان مضموناً))

1800

Here with parcel (s) bearing the address given below (ههنا مع الحزمة (أو الحزم) المذكورة أدناه)

Name 68295 (الاسم 68295)

Address 423 (العنوان 423)

Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (رسم ختم مغلق الحزمة)

(SEE OVER)

صورة الختم المستخدم لفتح الحزمة

ملاحظة: الحزمة مضمونة

(الفرق على الخلف)

Fig. 40: A parcel card sent to APO 1, KBA 423, to a woman soldier serving in Hanegev District Headquarters.

Figure 41 shows a registered letter sent from APO 1, with triangular KBA 526, and registration label of APO 1, sent on 24.2.49 to David Ben Gurion, Minister of Defence, Hakiria, Tel Aviv, by a pilot from the Negev Air Force Squadron. This is the only Negev Air Force Squadron (KBA 526) known to me. Figure 42 is a registered letter sent on 11.5.49 from APO 10, with its registration label, marked "Censor-1" and signed by the censor.

The following Table 2 and Table 3 detail the units' KBA numbers which were served by APO 10 and APO 1 in the Negev.

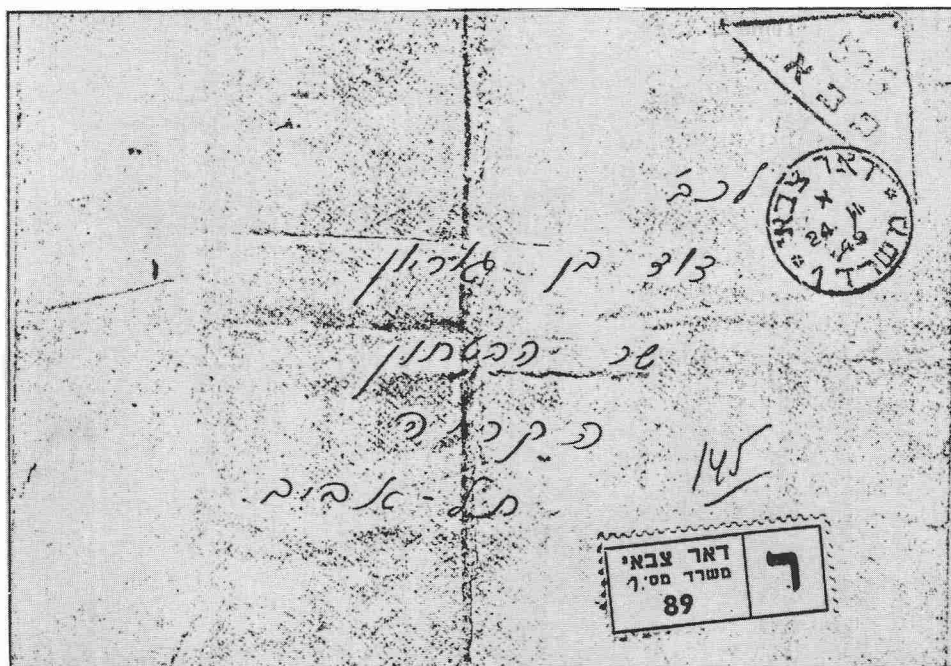


Fig. 41: A registered letter sent from APO 1, KBA 526, on 24.2.49 to David Ben Gurion, Minister of Defence, by a pilot from the "Negev Air Force Squadron".

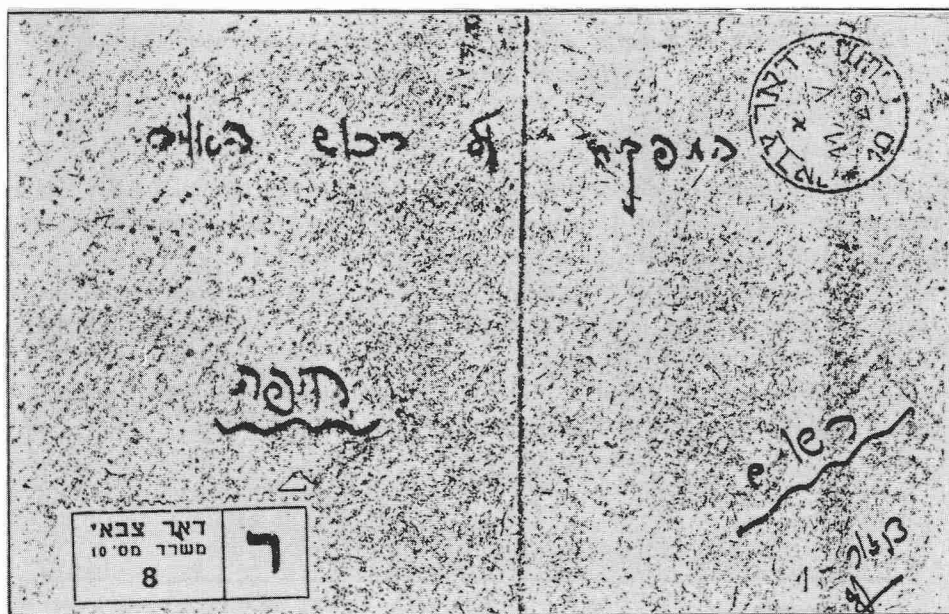


Fig. 42: A registered letter sent from APO 10 on 11.5.49.

Table 2: Army Units and Settlements Served by APO 10⁺

KBA #	Unit or Settlement	KBA #	Unit or Settlement
180	Golani Brigade, No. 1	*378	Nevatim
182	12th Btn., Golani Bde.	*379	Negev settlements (Except Beit Eshel and Nevatim)
183	13th Btn., Golani Bde.	392	South Front HQ
218	1st Btn., Yftach Bde.	*396	Supply Base No. 615
219	2nd Btn., Hanegev Bde.	407	Yftach Rear Base
220	3rd Btn., Yftach Bde.	*423	Negev District HQ
*224	7th Btn., Hanegev Bde.	*454	Military Commander, Negev
*225	8th Btn., Hanegev Bde.	*481	171st Btn., Negev District
*258	Military Hospital No. 1	506	Technical unit No. 10, Hanegev Bde.
277	Yftach Palmach Bde., No. 11	529	Muchtar, South Front
*279	Hanegev Palmach Brigade, No. 12	531	Migdal Military Commander
*280	9th Btn., Hanegev Bde.	531x	Migdal
288	19th Btn., Golani Bde.	*541	Base No. 2
317	Military Police, 1st Bde.	561	Engineers Field Unit No. 9, South Front
352	Hanegev Bde., Rear HQ	588	Flight Detachment No. 101
370	Kibbutz Dorot**	604	Not identified
*377	Beit Eshel	605	Not identified

⁺ APO 10 operated from 28.6.48 in its base in Ruhama and was later transferred to Julis on 26.12.48.

* KBA units with asterik (*) received army postal services also from APO 1.

** I have not seen a "proving cover" for this KBA No. of Kibbutz Dorot. Its usual KBA No. in the Second Period was 379/5.

Table 3: Army Units and Settlements served by APO 1⁺

KBA #	Unit or Settlement	KBA #	Unit or Settlement
209	2nd Btn., Rear Base	*396	Supply Base 615
210	151st Btn.	*423	Negev District HQ
*224	7th Btn., Hanegev Bde.	*454	Military Commander, Negev
*258	Military Hospital No. 1	*481	171st Btn., Negev District
*279	Henegev Bde., HQ	520	Women's Unit
*280	9th Btn., Hanegev Bde.	526	Flight Detachment No. 2, Hanegev Bde.
*281	89th Btn., 8th Armored Bde.	*541	Base No. 2
*377	Beit Eshel	543	Quarter Unit Base No. 556
*378	Nevatim	544	Nachal, 2nd Company
*379	Negev Settlements (except Beit Eshel and Nevatim)	591	Town Officer, Beer Sheva

+ APO 1 operated from its Beer Sheva Base, commencing from 7.11.48

* KBA units marked with an asterik (*) received army postal Services also from APO 10.

Conclusion

From the beginning of the settlement of the Negev, the connection of the Hagana and later of the I.D.F. to the different Headquarters and units was based mainly on wireless, through which the main orders were sent. At the same time land transfer or airplanes were used.

As for the mail to soldiers and to settlers in the different settlements in the Negev, this was sent only by land transport or airplanes.

However, from the very beginning of the settlement of the Negev, as there was no governmental concern, the settlers organised the receiving of mail by opening post office boxes in central towns in northern Israel and transfer of the mail by supply cars.

From the opening of the War of Independence, the army became responsible for the transport of all mail items to the Negev through the convoys or using light airplanes, in operation "Sanegev". In the first period they only dropped the mail to the settlements or army units and only after small landing strips were prepared they also transported outgoing mail. Of course, there was no solution for transport of parcels or heavy equipment, especially during the "Cut Off" of the Negev from the beginning of June to the end of October, when only one convoy passed through the Egyptian lines to the Negev on 31st August. During this time only the small airplanes from the Negev squadron

were active. The problem of the transfer of parcels and heavy equipment was solved only with the opening of the Ruhama airfield, and operation "Avak" on 22nd October.

The opening of the APO 10 at Ruhama on 28 June enabled the orderly distribution and dispatch of the mail which was sent only via light airplanes and later, after the opening of the Ruhama airfield, through APO 9 at Ekron (Tel Nof), using large airplanes. After operation "Yoav", mail was sent with land transport. APO 10 served both the army and the settlements.

After the occupation of Beer Sheva and the opening of APO 1 on 7 November, the services were divided: APO 10 served the northern and western Negev, and APO 1 the southern and eastern Negev.

On 10 February 1949 the Army Post Offices suspended their service to the civilian settlements but continued to serve the army units in this area.

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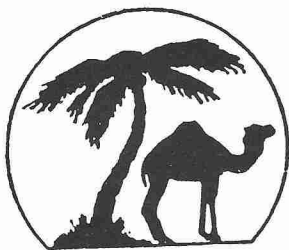
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 ר. קרק, "תולדות ההתישבות החלוצית בנגב", ספר הפלמ"ח, הוצאת הקבוץ המאוחד
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Dan Bar On and Yehuda Kariv from Beit Eshel; Shlomo Dagan from Yad Mordechai; Yehudith Agasi from Shuval; Amnon Dagieli from Nirim; Amichai Ben Zur and Schmu'el Bunim (Momus) from Mishmar Hanegev; Shimon Aloni from Gvulot; Kanaani from Ruhama; Mordechai Sappir from Urim; Aharon Levy and Rachel Heler from Beerot Yizhak; Yoel De Malach from Revivim; Ester Roth from Dorot; and Col. (ret.) Eli Eyal from the Israeli Air Force.

Apart from the above, many items are based on my own memory and on my archives, as I was amongst the first settlers in the Negev in 1942 at Kibbutz Dorot. Afterwards I was the commander of the mobile unit in the Jewish Settlement Police in the Negev during the Mandate Period. During the War of Independence I served as Intelligence Officer in the 2nd Battalion, and later as Reconnaissance Officer in the Negev Brigade; afterwards in the South Front Headquarters. In these functions, during the whole period, I was involved in all the operations in the area. In the War of Independence I was in connection with all of the units which served in the Negev.

(End)



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Constructing a Mini-Vacuum Unit and Using it for Philatelic Materials*

Michael Maggen, Jerusalem

Introduction

In 1990 I participated in a course in the use of the suction table at the Conservation Analytical Laboratories (CAL) of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA. The main topics of the course were the history of the suction table and the theory and practice of treatment and techniques. This article was written in the spirit of "do it yourself" displayed by some of the course instructors.

Philatelic Material of the Transition Period in 1948

Israel's struggle for independence in 1948 had a strong influence on, and interaction with, the postal services of the period. During the hostilities and later during the War of Independence many Jewish communities, towns and even large regions were under partial or total siege. The postal connections with them were intermittent, unreliable and in some cases ceased completely. It took heroic resolve, efforts and a lot of improvisation to maintain the postal services while the battles were raging about. Many and varied means of transportation were used to deliver the mail – from couriers, bicycles and cars to boats and airplanes.

From the postal history aspect the most fascinating sieges were those of Jerusalem, Safad and Nahariya. Some of the mail items from these sieges are extremely rare and are historic evidence of Israel's struggle for independence; therefore they ought to be preserved in the best possible condition.

On the other hand some of the paper used during that period was of poor quality, and in some cases, due to ignorance, mail items were not treated and kept as historic documents. Hence the need for restoration and preservation arises. Our first experience with such material was with several covers in the collection of Dr. Y. Rimmon from Haifa, two of which are shown in Figs. 43 and 44.

Fig. 43 shows the earliest known registered letter by the Israeli post in Safad after the siege was lifted and the postal services renewed. Fig. 44 shows the latest known letter sent to Nahariya by the "Emergency Boat Service".

Of special interest are also covers from the Jerusalem siege which lasted from the last week in April to the opening of the Burma Road in the beginning of June. During the total land siege all the mail was flown in and out of Jerusalem by light airplanes. Civilian mail from this period had to

* Revised version, reprinted from *Restaurator*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (1993); copyright: Munksgaard International Publishers Ltd.

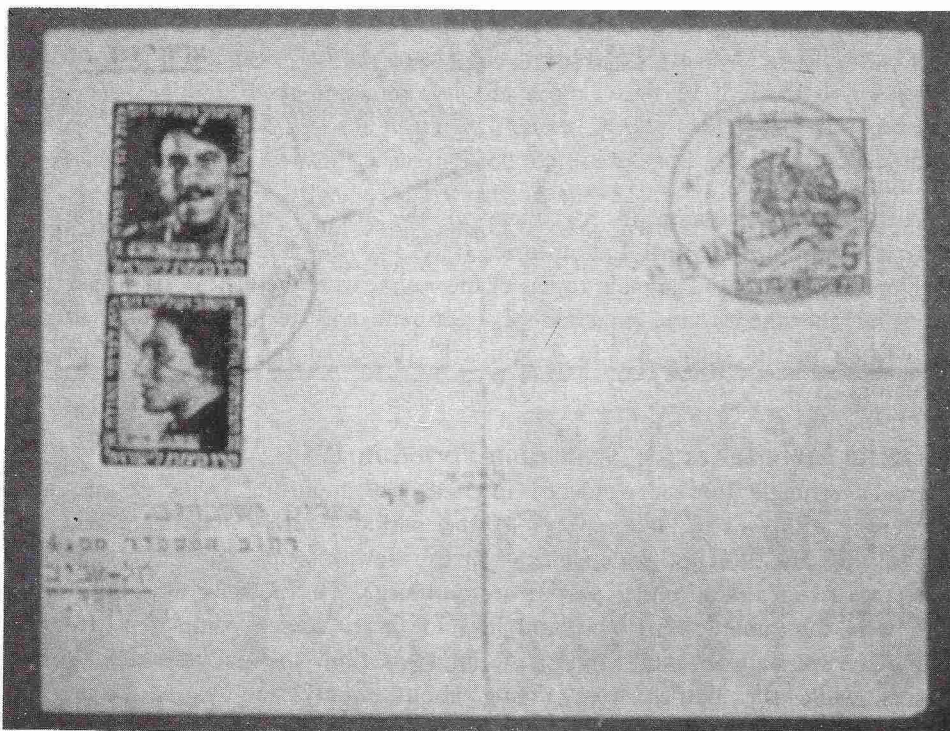


Figure 43

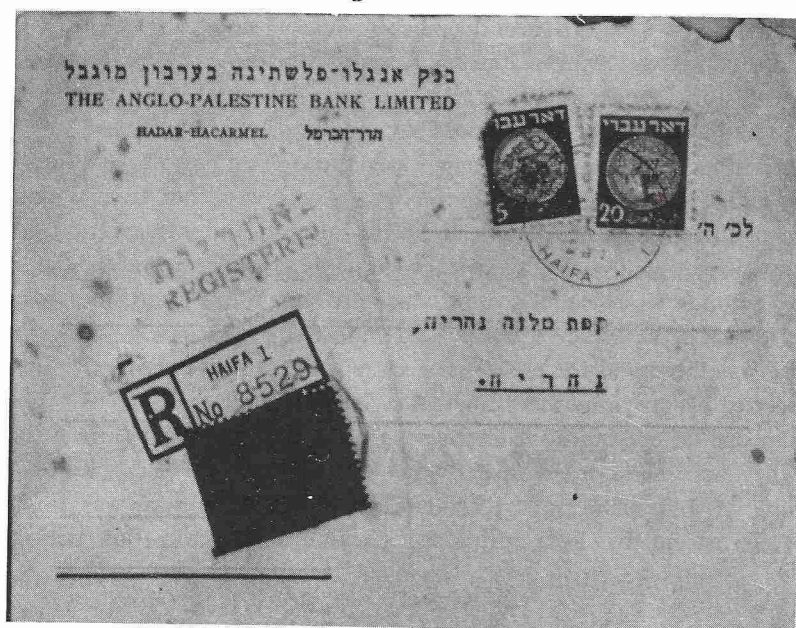


Figure 44

be specially authorized for delivery and very few such items exist¹. Some of Rimon's covers from the Jerusalem siege were also treated and restored by the same methods which are described in this article. It should be stressed that these methods are applicable to postal history items of all periods when restoration is needed.

Observation of Paper Objects and the Complexity of Treating Them

The conservation of an envelope initially requires an examination of its folding system and the nature of the adhesive. Most of the envelopes seen were of poor paper quality; the margins were coated with gum-arabic, which eventually became brown and subject to micro-organism activity. Varied mediums were found on the envelopes; official franks, postal cancellations and personal information that varied from pencils (normal, colour and copy), different inks (water-soluble and water-resistant in different colours) and typewriter characters. This was found on both sides of the envelope.

Figs. 43 and 44 show varied mediums. These paper objects are extremely sensitive to conventional conservation treatments and require a new approach. This was the basis for developing a miniature suction unit. Treatment involved removal of rust stains, mending of tears and flattening by liquid or vapour treatments.

The miniature suction device is a vacuum unit with a modified suction panel allowing for greater control over the introduction of liquid and vapour. The unit has produced excellent results with the cleaning of stains, consolidation of sensitive inks and flattening of deformations.

The Miniature Suction Unit

The cost of constructing a mini-vacuum table can be quite low; the most expensive item is the vacuum pump, which can range between USD 400 and 700. The following elements are required:

- perforated metal sheet (ideally stainless steel), thickness 1.5mm, size 110 mm x 70 mm; an old radio-transistor receiver can be used;
- light metal plate (brass), size 110 mm x 70 mm, thickness 1.5–2 mm;
- aluminium tube, internal diameter 5–6 mm, thickness 1.5–2 mm;
- aluminium profile, U-type, size 5 mm x 5 mm x 5 mm, length 140 mm;
- corrugated metal, size 110 mm x 70 mm (waffle metal sheet);
- epoxy resin; and
- the vacuum pump must be lubricated.

The cover of an old radio-transistor receiver is removed from the receiver box (Fig. 45).

Fig. 46 illustrates the position of the waffle on top of the metal plate; the angle of the ribs was changed slightly, creating the internal space (Fig. 47). This was placed on top of the perforated metal plate and secured together by

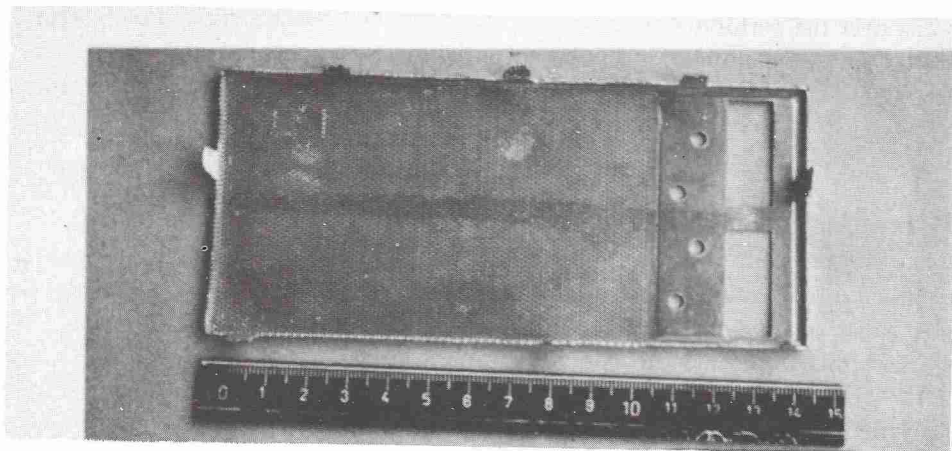


Figure 45

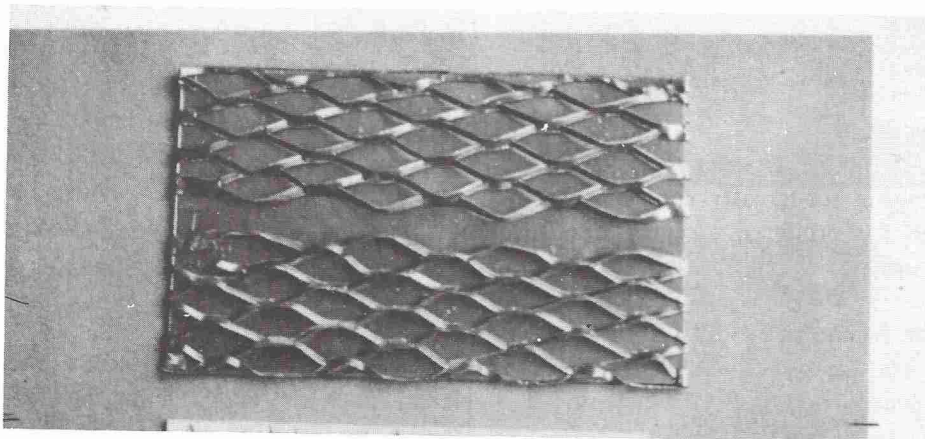


Figure 46

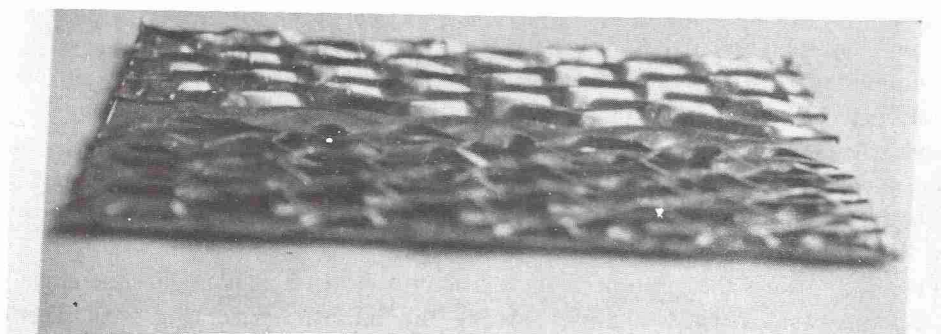


Figure 47

bending over the perforated metal edges (Figs. 48, 49). The new combined element was attached to the aluminium U profile (Figs. 50, 51).

Epoxy resin sealing glue was applied to the bottom cover along the aluminium U profile and on the small aluminium tube, ensuring effective sealing and allowing air to flow down the perforated cover along the aluminium U profile and to the pump without any air leaking. Fig. 52 shows the completed unit.

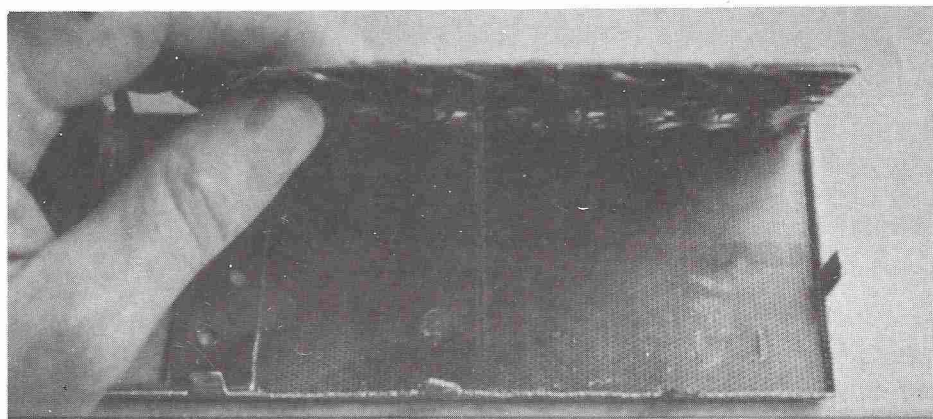


Figure 48

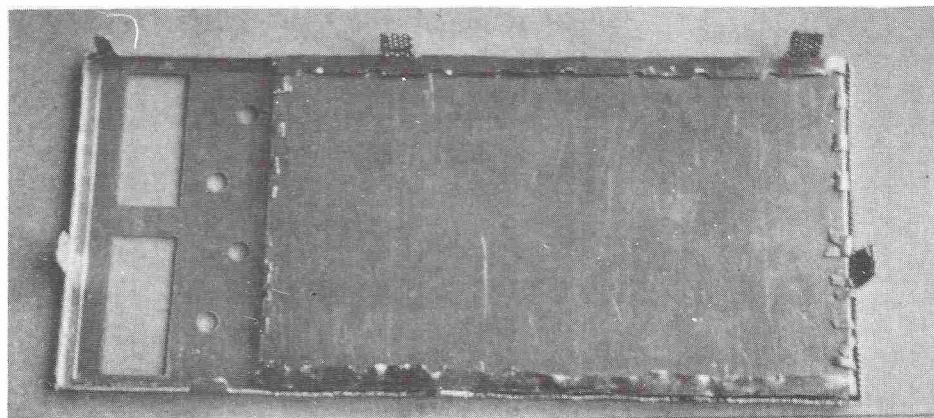


Figure 49

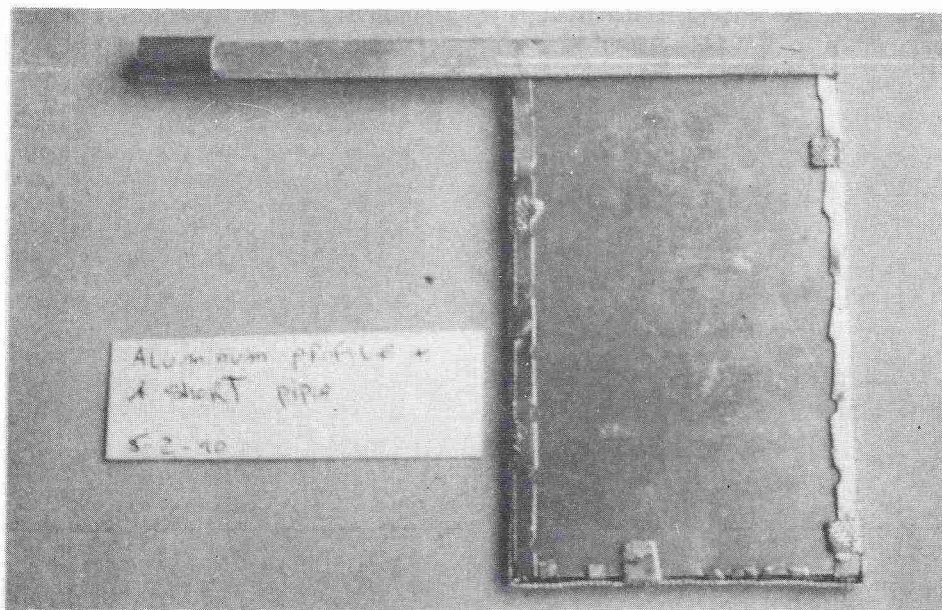


Figure 50

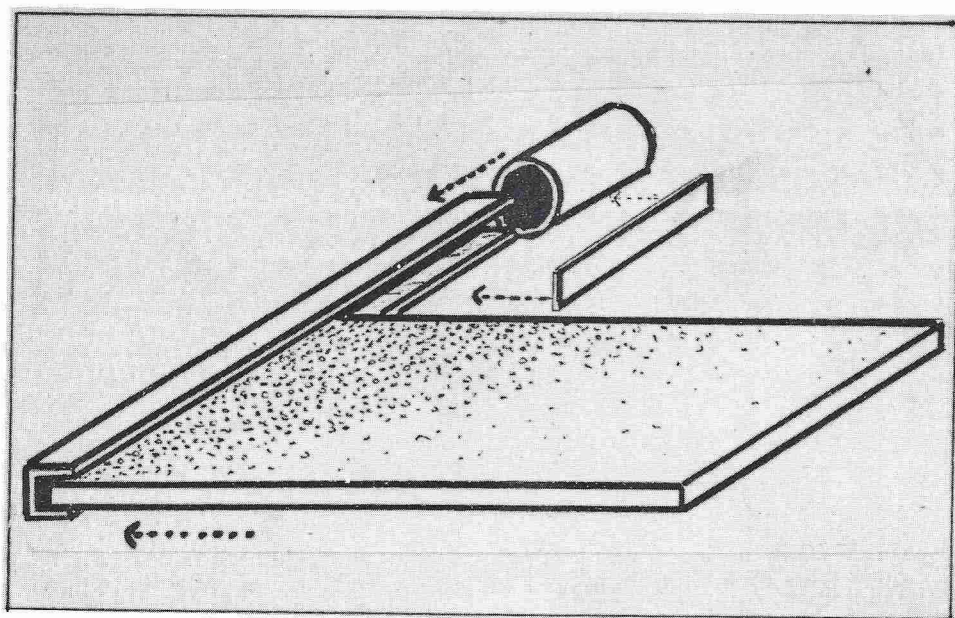


Figure 51

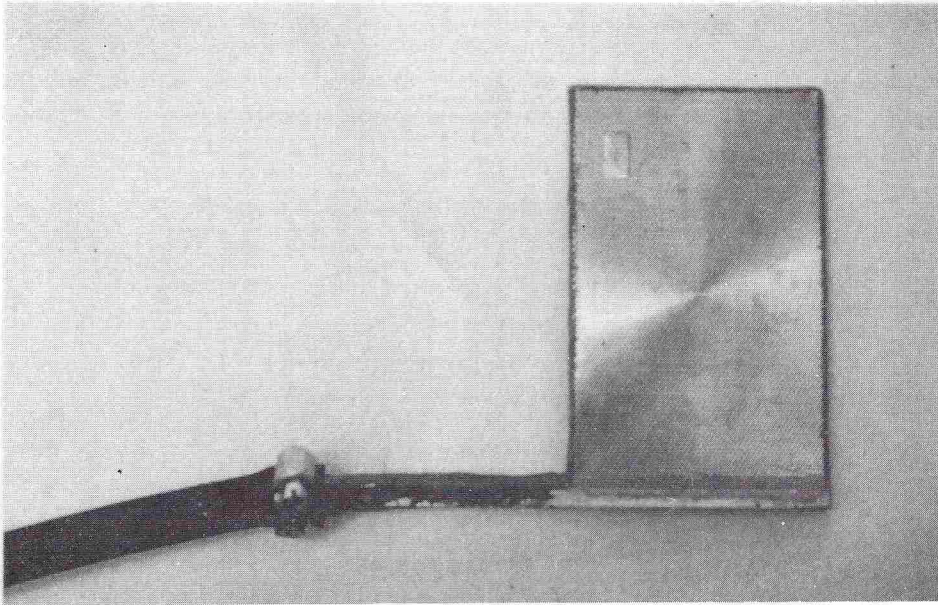


Figure 52

Some Pre-operation Remarks

The unit was designed as a tool for local treatment. The pump should ideally produce a high vacuum and low air flow. A lubricated vacuum pump produces such vacuum values. This unit was connected to a lubricated vacuum pump, such as that made by Gast Company (UK), Model 1022. For vacuum and air flow specifications, see Fig. 53. Such vacuum sources as the centrifugal vacuum table pump or blower are not recommended; they would fail to produce the high vacuum under low-air-flow conditions.

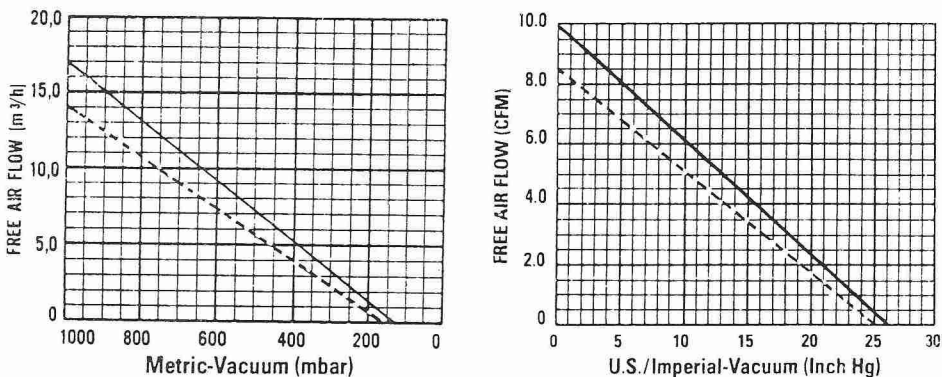


Fig. 53: The solid lines are for 60-cycle performance; the dashed lines — for 50-cycle.

Operational Remarks

There are several options to working with the unit inside the envelope (Fig. 54). it is important to use a blotting paper support to absorb the liquids and the impurities of the dissolved stain and to provide a soft support preventing alteration of the object surface and texture.

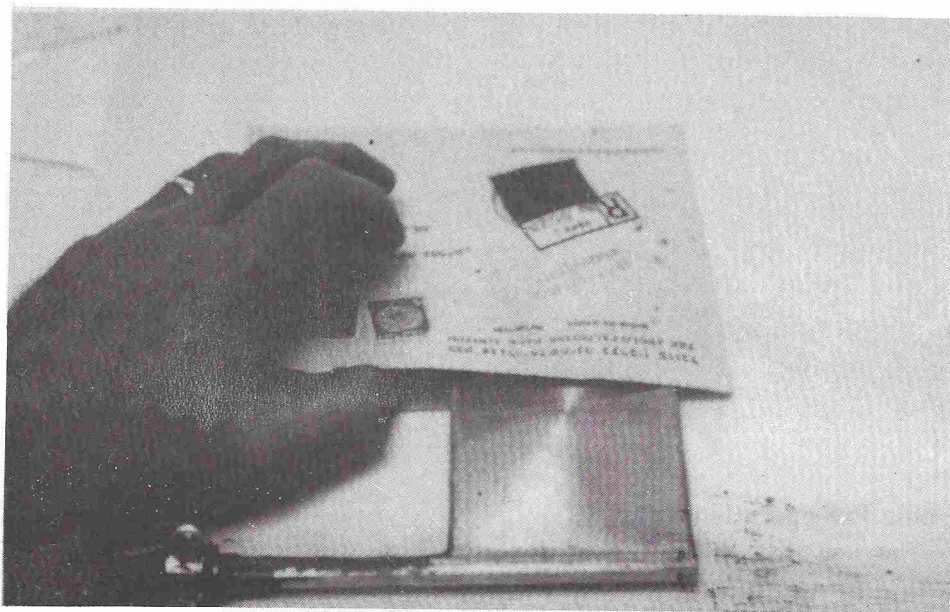


Figure 54

Figs. 44, 55, 56 give an example. Fig. 44 shows the foxing before treatment. The object was treated with an aqueous solution pH 9 (ammonium hydroxide) to eliminate the stains. Figs. 55 and 56 (detail) show the object after treatment.

Acknowledgement: I thank Hasia Rimon, Paper conservator of Tel Aviv Museum for Art, for help in this article.

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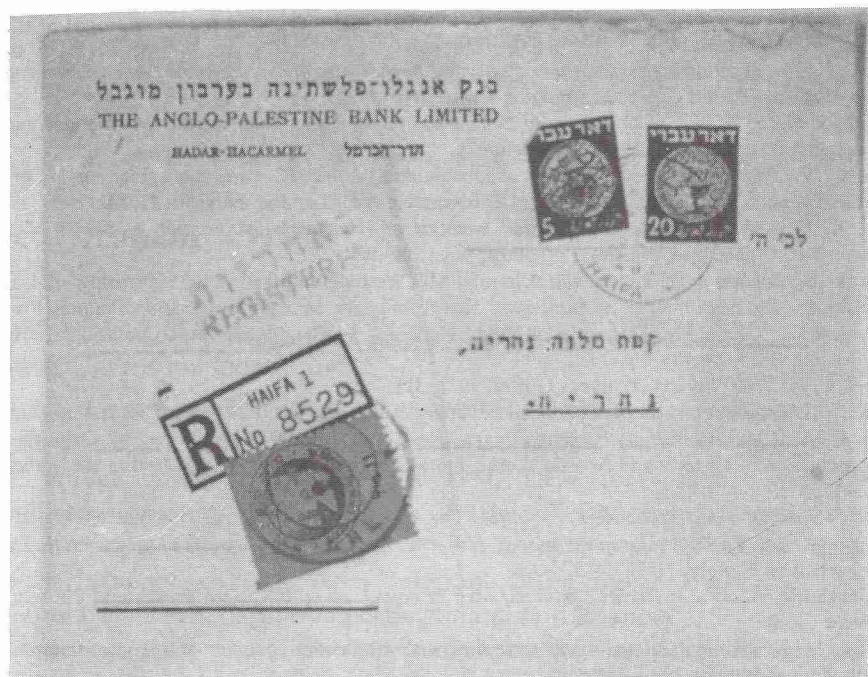


Figure 55



Figure 56

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* * * * *

* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES *

* * * * *

The Ottoman Period

Combined Use of Postage and Fiscal Stamps on 1917/1918

Turkish Correspondence

(J. Alexander)

H.J. Posner first reported, in 1952 (BAPIP No. 3, December 1952), a number of cutouts franked with Turkish fiscal stamps cancelled with the Acre postmark, dated in February, May and October 1917. These fiscal stamps were affixed to individual pages of correspondence of semi-official nature and sent as such, apparently without an envelope. One letter is an application of an Acre telegraph officer to be appointed to the Army Telegraph Office, and the other letter contains an appeal by the writer against a posting to a distant location.

I have not seen, since, either in auction catalogues, collections or exhibits, additional examples of such use of fiscal stamps except in the following two examples from my collection.

Figure 57 shows a letter or a telegram from Acre to Nazareth, dated 15.4.1918. It is franked with three 1 piaster postage stamps, 2 Hejaz Railway fiscal stamps as well as another 1 piaster fiscal stamp. The text of the message, on the reverse: "The Post Office servants in Acre, Palestine, are asking their chief for an increase in wages, as they cannot buy bread and oil with their present wages. They need money to buy soap, onions, lentils, peas and beans. They may decide to stop working if their request would not be satisfied. Can this request be duly taken into consideration". Signed by the telegraphist and various other postal employees and approved by the Turkish Mudir (Government Official), Acre.

The second document (Figure 58) is an official letter of complaint, written on both sides, originating from Chefa Omer to Beyrouth, dated 23.6.1918. It carries the unusual high franking of four 5 piaster stamps, almost unknown in use in Palestine, plus two 1 piaster stamps, 2 Hejaz Railway fiscals and two 2 piaster fiscals. The complaint is signed by two Mukhtars (Village Heads), one Moslem and one Druze, and is addressed to the supervisory District of Beyrouth.

A third unusual document is shown in Figure 59 (It does not carry fiscal stamps). It is a letter from Acre addressed to Damascus carrying greetings and requesting the purchase of sugar. It is possible that due to the wartime conditions and shortages the letter was sent as a piece of paper without an envelope. The franking is rather unusual – 50 para plus three 10 para surcharged stamps for the Turkish war orphans.

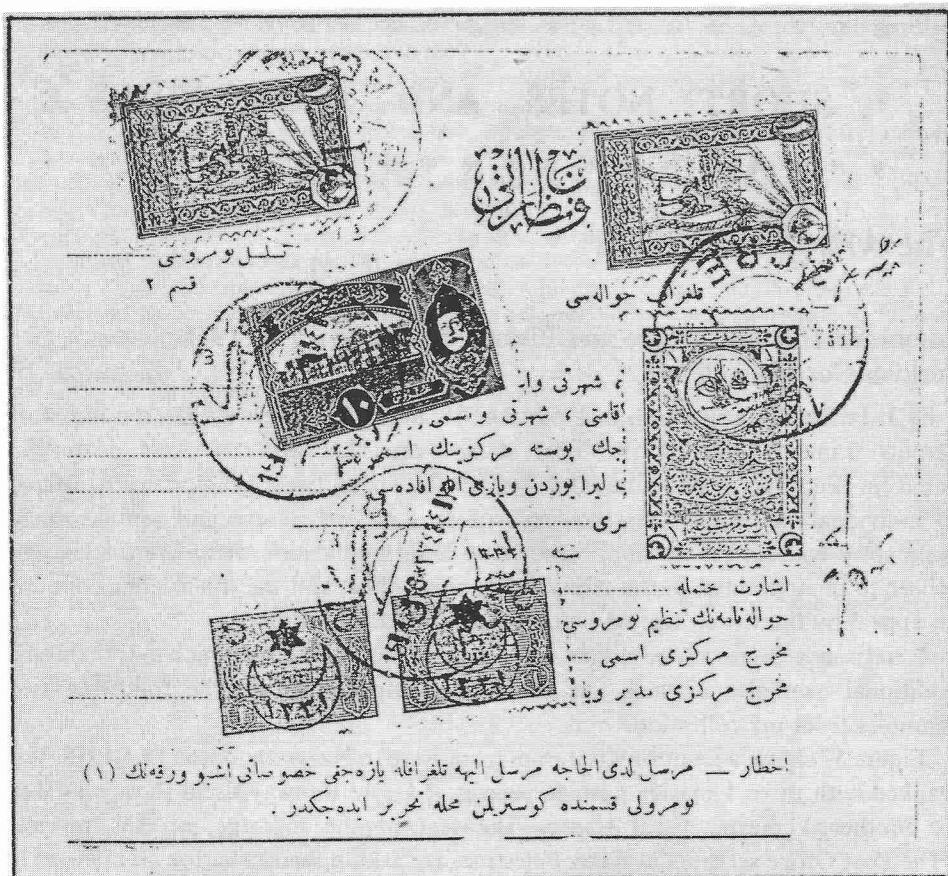


Fig. 57: Telegram or letter, from Acre to Nazareth, written on the reverse of a telegram receipt, franked with postage and fiscal stamps.



Fig. 58: A wartime letter from Chefa Omer, with one of the rarest Holy Land postmarks dated 23.6.1918, with unusual high franking (postage and fiscal) applied on the letter sheet.

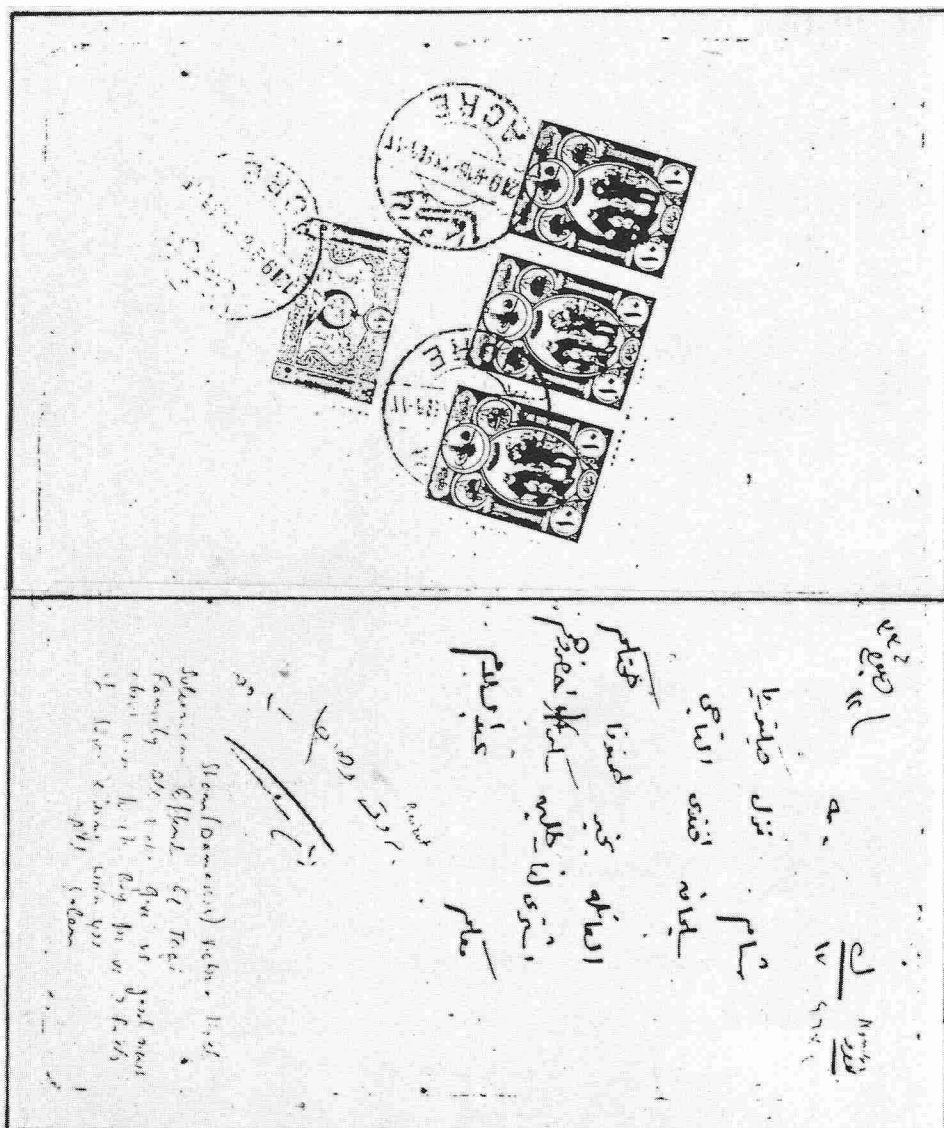


Fig. 59: A letter from Acre to Damascus, dated 12.9.1918, one week before Acre was captured by the British Forces. Franked on the letter sheet without an envelope.

The British Mandate Period

Some Interesting Handstamps on Mandate Telegrams

(*M. Siegel, Ramat Gan*)

In HLPH #17/18 (p. 869) and #40 (p. 1144/45) were shown two telegrams with Mandate Post handstamps CHARGES TO BE COLLECTED... MILS. The dates and their "charges" were 26 mils on the February, 1930 item and 61 mils on the January, 1936 one. Another telegram has recently come into this writer's possession, dated 7 November, 1940 with a charge of 20 mils handwritten into the appropriate line of the boxed handstamp (Fig. 60). Thus it appears that the practice of the Post of performing some unusual service, for which they charged the receiver, continued for more than ten years at the very least. However, still to be solved is the mystery for the charges to vary between 20 to 61 mils. Also of interest is that the 1940 item illustrated bears (on the top left) the heretofore unrecorded trilingual handstamp ENQUIRY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE. The salient feature common to all three telegrams is obviously that the receivers' addresses are incomplete. Thus, it can be assumed that the charge levied by the Post was for the extra service of locating the intended receiver from the incomplete address on the telegram.

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES			
5 ENQUIRY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE		TELEGRAM 20 MILS	
This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram يجب أن يرسل هذا النموذج مع كل استعلام بخصوص هذا التلغراف أما المستلمة فليز ليرسل لكل الحقيبة البريدية المبركة		Service instructions تعليمات إدارة الخدمات مكرريه سلم في نمبر ب التاريخ اليوم وصل في تمكيد ب	
Planned in at		Tel Aviv	
Time 1018		on 27	
Received at		1025	
To Lea Proshansky Beit Dfus Livino Beitwegan Jerusalem Brachot lewowitz lejedidi hazekara lejobel hashivim mirjam Bloon			

Fig. 60: 1940 telegram with "Charges to be collected..." and "Enquiry will not be accepted by Telephone" (upper left) handstamps.

The 1940 telegram was found inside its PT 11 envelope (Fig. 61). Pages 866/867 (Issue #17/18) have a full discussion of these envelopes in which the telegram itself was enclosed. This particular PT 11 envelope also bears the "Charges to be Collected" handstamp in the same violet ink as the telegram itself. The receipt on its rear side had been detached, indicating delivery and thus collection of the 20 mil charge. However, the trilingual printed notation NO CHARGE FOR DELIVERY always found on the face of PT 11 envelopes had not been blacked out, as per Figure 3 shown on page 868 of Hochheiser's article. Thus the PT 11 usage apparently preceded the introduction of PT 11A envelopes – this latter designation having been used for telegram envelopes with charges to be collected.

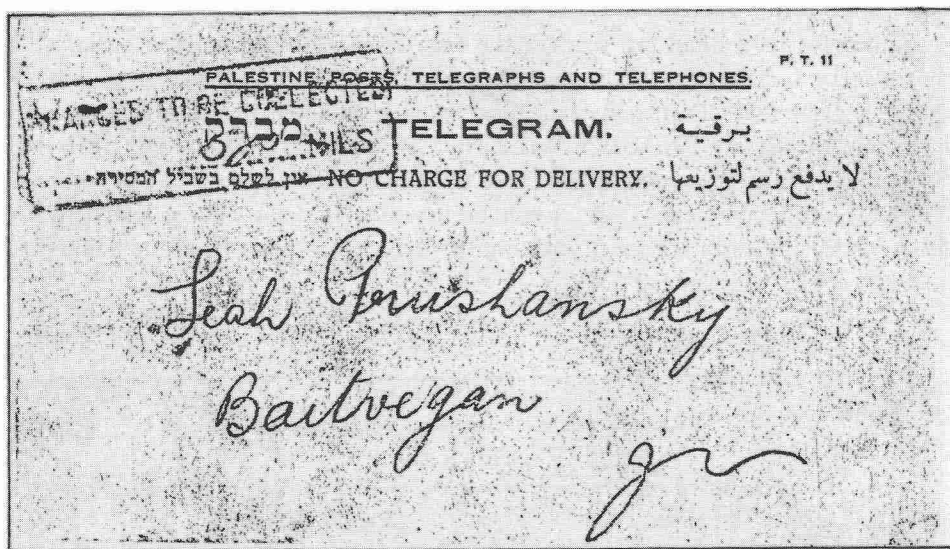


Fig. 61: Envelope in which the telegram shown in Figure 60 arrived (P.T. 11).

"Economy" Use of P.T. Forms in Reverse *(A. M. Hochheiser)*

It is a well established fact that "economy" in the use of materials was an ever constant concern during the British control over Palestine. This was especially true in the Postal Administration during and immediately following the war years of World War II. Postal forms which were in-office, duplicate copies of receipts handed out to patrons were rarely discarded. Most examples of "economy" use involved P.T. forms. Moreover, with very few exceptions, all P.T. forms were preprinted.

Figure 62 shows the bottom pair of a strip of form P.T. 512. This form was preprinted in pads in duplicate, vertical strips of five, perforated at the

P.T. 512

Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet. Regn. No.

Fee paid

..... تذكرة تصدير طرد مسجل نمرة القيمة المدفوعة

..... תעודת משלוח חבילת דאר באחריות מספר הבטחון הסכום שנשלם

A Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered & posted this day

..... ان الطرد المعلن أدناه سجل وأرسل في البريد اليوم

..... חבילת דאר אחת הרשומה ע"פי המען דלמטה הבטחה ונשלחה היום

Date Stamp

..... تاريخ

..... תאריך

..... 3 4 25

..... Accepting Clerk

..... امضاء المستلم

..... חתימת הפקיד המקבל

P.T. 512.

Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet. Regn. No.

Fee paid

..... تذكرة تصدير طرد مسجل نمرة القيمة المدفوعة

..... תעודת משלוח חבילת דאר באחריות מספר הבטחון הסכום שנשלם

A Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered & posted this day

..... ان الطرد المعلن أدناه سجل وأرسل في البريد اليوم

..... חבילת דאר אחת הרשומה ע"פי המען דלמטה הבטחה ונשלחה היום

Date Stamp

..... تاريخ

..... תאריך

..... 3 4 25

..... Accepting Clerk

..... امضاء المستلم

..... חתימת הפקיד המקבל

Figure 62

removed by being torn out. However, this did make possible the "economy" use of these duplicate forms. Figure 64 shows the reverse of Figure 63. The cut-out was made to accommodate the Post Office Circular shown in Figure 64. This is a typical example of the "economy" use of the backs of P.T. forms to print other agency circulars or letters.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.
CIRCULAR LETTER No. 45 OF 1944.

Postal Services with Metropolitan France.

With reference to the notice on the above subject published in Post Office Circular No. 864 dated 20th September, 1944, it is notified for information that the postal services with those parts of France in Allied Military Occupation have been extended to include private and business unregistered letters.

Commercial and financial correspondence must at present, however, be limited to communications ascertaining facts and exchanging information. No actual commercial contracts may yet be entered into, nor may instructions to effect transactions, or financial instruments (such as powers of attorney, proxies, payment orders, etc.) be sent to Allied Occupied Metropolitan France without the permission of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

The maximum weight for any one article is 30 grammes.

The current rates of postage for foreign countries are applicable.

A Public Notice is distributed with this Circular.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
3rd December 1944.
NM/NF

Figure 64

Figure 65 shows a copy of P.T. 855 as preprinted by the Greek Convent Press (G.C.P.) for the Postal Service. Figure 66(a) shows a copy typed and run off on a duplicating machine. Such duplicated copies of P.T. forms are exceedingly rare. What is of interest to postal historians is the fact that the paper used to duplicate this form was, in fact, an "economy" use of another Post Office Circular (Fig. 66(b)), cut to size to accommodate the form P.T. 855.

Since almost all known examples of "economy" use of materials involve using the back of P.T. forms for other purposes, Figures 66(a) & (b) show a rare example of "economy" use in reverse with a P.T. form printed on the back of another administration document.

P.T. 855.

S.D. _____
 Chief Accountant,

TERMINATION OF SERVICES.

M _____
 Grade _____
 Staff No. _____
 Office _____

Please note that the services of the above-named officer
 will terminate/terminated on _____
 Last day of service _____

The cause of termination of service is _____

Please acknowledge on attached copy.

DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL(S).
ENGINEER IN CHIEF.

Date _____
 Copy to:- _____

* Delete words not required.

Acknowledged.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.

Date _____

83397-256-70 1.46-G.C.F

Figure 65

S.D. <u>391</u>		P.T. 855.	
Chief Accountant,			
TERMINATION OF SERVICES.			
Name <u>And. Rabin</u>			
Grade <u>Post. Capt. G. C.</u>			
Staff No. <u>S.D. 3964</u>			
Office <u>Yokneam</u>			
Please note that the services of the above-named officer will terminate/terminated on <u>21st March 1947</u>			
Last day of service <u>21st March 1947</u>			
The cause of termination of service is <u>Resignation</u>		Please acknowledge on attached <u>copy</u> for POSTMASTER GENERAL.	
Date: <u>21st March 1947</u>		Delete words not required.	
Signed to: <u>Chief Accountant</u>		Acknowledged.	
CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.			

5. Commercial papers, as defined at page 57 of the Post Office Guide, may be sent through the post in the ordinary way, without a permit.

6. Particulars concerning details of articles coming under the definitions of "Printed Papers" and "Commercial Papers" may be obtained on enquiry at the nearest Post Office.

7. Public Notice No. C.9, dated the 20th September, 1939, is cancelled.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
20th July, 1945.

(a)

(b)

Figure 66

Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem P.O.W. Airmail Route – an Update

(N. J. Collins)

In my last article on this subject¹, I pointed out that as each article in the series had been published, new information came to light. Despite my expecting that the last version be the final one, it has attracted a further new type of route instruction cachet. This new cachet reads "Posta Aerea per Internati Civili di Guerra / Via CHIASSO-SOFIA-GERUSALEMME", and is now designated as Type F.

The cover (Fig. 67) was postmarked at Tarsia on the 19th April, 1942, the writer being detained in the Ferramonti Concentration Camp. This camp was set up



Fig. 67: Cover from Ferramonti Camp to Haifa, dated April 1942, with a new type of "Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalemme" cachet, designated as type F.
(Courtesy Chanan Schiftan, Israel).

by the Italian regime in June, 1940 to intern Jewish refugees. It was located in the borough of Tarsia, Calabria. The camp was liberated in September, 1943 by the allies but was not closed until September 1945.

Reference: 1. N.J. Collins, HLP# #49/50 (1992) p. 444.

The Jewish Agency and Red Cross Inquiry Requests

(M. Siegel, Ramat Gan)

Recently this writer purchased two groups (of three items each) of similar World War II period pieces. The trios each consist of (a) a Red Cross Inquiry from a European Jew to his Palestinian relative with the same family name; and (b) two receipts for donations to Keren Hayesod and Keren Kayemet by the Palestinian. Each of the trios had been stapled together.

At first the reason for the joining of the three items was not obvious. What possible reason could there be to staple together an inquiry form and two receipts? However, closer examination revealed a most interesting practice of the period not previously discussed in our journals. The first trio's dates are 27.12.43 for the inquiry, 2.5.44 and 3.5.44 for the receipts. The second trio's dates are 6.1.44 for the inquiry (Fig. 68) and 23.4.44 for both receipts (Fig. 69). The riddle of the trio's connection was solved by the reading of the printed Hebrew notation on the Keren Hayesod, receipt which roughly translates to "*according to the Jewish Agency of Eretz Israel decision, it is required that this certificate be attached to requests for immigration certificates for relatives*". Apparently, those desiring Jewish Agency assistance to secure certificates for the relatives who sent the Red Cross Inquiries had to contribute to both worthy causes (Keren Kayemet LeIsrael and Keren Hayesod). The Jewish Agency had kept the trios stapled together in their files with the inquiry providing the potential immigrant's then current address.

X ROUGE DE BELGIQUE
98, Chaussée de Vleurgat.
BRUXELLES

OD KRUIS VAN BELGIË
BRUSSEL

GISCHES ROTES KREUZ
BRUSSEL

Par l'intermédiaire de la Croix-Rouge allemande
Door tusschenkomst van het Duitsche Rode Kruis
Durch Vermittlung des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes

527836

QUÊTE au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge à Genève.
QUEST aan het Internationale Comité van het Rode Kruis te Genève.
TRAG an das Internationale Komitee des Roten Kreuzes in Genf.

DEMANDEUR — AANVRAGER — ANFRAGESTELLER

- Naam - Name *Landesmann*

- Voornaam - Vorname *Chana*

- Straat - Strasse *Liedts 37*

- Plaats - Ortschaft *Bruxelles*

- Provincie - Provinz *Brabant*

- Land - Land *Belgie*

age à transmettre — Mededeeling — Mitteilung
ois au plus pour des nouvelles strictement personnelles et familiales
tens 25 worden voor streng persoonlijke en familieaangelegenheden
zahl 25 Worte nur für persönliche und Familiennachrichten.)

Linke Kinder

*Danke für die Briefe
finden wir die Briefe
kein Loss für ihr Gutes
oder sonst in all Briefen
Datum 6/1. 44 Riffa Chana*

DESTINATAIRE — BESTEMMELING — EMPFÄNGER

- Naam - Name *Landesmann*

Prénom - Voornaam - Vorname *Moshe*

Rue - Straat - Strasse *c/o P.O.B. 1085*

Localité - Plaats - Ortschaft *Jerusalem*

Province - Provincie - Provinz *Palestine*

Pays - Land - Land *Palestine*

Le destinataire répondra au verso.
De bestemming antwoordt op keerzijde.
Empfänger antwortet umseitig.

27 JAN. 1944

Fig. 68: Red Cross Inquiry (with its file tab) – Part I of trio.

23.4.44 יום

קרן הקיימת לישראל
הועד בחיפה

אשר

לכבוד
אברהם יצחק
חיפה
א.מ.נ.

קיד קיבוץ לישראל
אברהם יצחק

הננו מאשרים בזה, כי ה' אברהם יצחק
סדר את תרומתו לסנת של.

בשם

קרן היסוד
הועד הארצי לארץ ישראל

23.4.44 אופי
הלישוי

תעודה מס' 1194

אנו מאשרים בזה שה' אברהם יצחק
סלק את כל תרומתו לקרן היסוד לשנת של
בסך לא

הועד הארצי לקרן היסוד

לפי דוחלסת דמוכנות היהודית לא"י,
צריך כל מבקש רשיון עלידה לקרוביו
לצרף תעודה זו.

Fig. 69: The KKL donation receipt – Part II of the trio, and the Keren Hayesod donation receipt – Part III of the trio. Note important boxed advice at lower right.

An Unusual Postal Form *(A. M. Hochheiser)*

The collection of the forms used by the postal administration of Palestine under British control can reveal interesting facts relating to post office function. One must remember that the post office provided many services including the issue of money orders.

Shown in the illustration (Fig. 70) is one such money order form, P.T. 320, issued by the Postmaster General to void a money order for which payment was not claimed. Note, too, that repayment for this order would be made on receipt of the original order.

A printer's legend is found at the lower left corner of the form. The legend, in two lines, reads "1020-500-17.11.22 Ptd. at Azriel Press". This means that the Azriel Press printed this form under its work order number '1020'. '500' copies of this form were printed on November 17, 1922.

What is most unusual about this form is that this copy of P.T. 320 was used by the post office on Dec. 13, 1943, more than 20 years after it was printed.

While some forms were in such constant use that, in some cases, more than 20 reissues were necessary to keep up with the demand, Form P.T. 320 was apparently issued only once. Obviously, very few money orders were issued without being redeemed for payment.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Jerusalem.

P. T. 320.

SUBJECT Money Order No 2514 P. S. 10/11/22
issued 2/5/43

The payee of the above described Money Order has not claimed payment and therefore the Order is void.

Repayment will be arranged on receipt at this office of the original order together with the relative receipt.

Yours obedient servant,
POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Fig 70: A Mandate postal form of 1922 – to void an unclaimed Money Order – used in 1943.

The Interim Period

A Unique Postmark Combination on a Safad Transition Cover

(I. Karpovsky, Herzliya)

With the opening of the Israeli post offices on 16 May 1948, only the big cities, Haifa and Tel Aviv, received the first Israeli postmarks, while in other places the previous Mandate handstamps, taken out of the archive, were returned for temporary usage.

This arrangement had a few exceptions in which, due to emergency situations or siege, the Mandate postmarks were returned for use much later. The notable examples are Jerusalem and Safad. In Safad the use of the Minhelet Ha'am postmark started only on 20 May, when in all other places apart from Jerusalem, these postmarks had already been taken out of use before. This postmark was in use in Safad through 24 or 25 June and only then were the Mandate handstamps, found in the Haifa archives, reintroduced on 27 June (the 26 being a Sabbath). As the new Israeli trilingual postmark arrived already on 1 July, these Mandate postmarks were in use only for four days!

Due to these circumstances letters cancelled with Safad Mandate postmarks at the time of the State are among the rarest from the Transition Period. Only three letters with the Double Circle postmark and one with the Single Circle are known today.

Recently, another interesting letter with the Safad D.C. postmark was discovered. This letter however has a particular interest and rare combination of postmarks. The letter (Fig. 71) was sent registered from Tel Aviv, Tel Nordau branch, to Safad on 7 June. On its way it received the transit postmarks of Haifa and Tiberias, and on arrival in Safad on 9 June the Minhelet Ha'am postmark in purple. The addressee was not found, and after repeated inquiries during more than two weeks, it was found out that he was killed in action – this is noted on the cover with the postman's handwriting "נהרג" (Killed). Then on 27 June the Safad Post Office decided to return the letter to the sender, and as on this date the Mandate Cancellation was reintroduced, it appears on the back of the cover as a "return" postmark.

The result is that, apart from discovering a fourth letter with this rare postmark, we have here a unique combination of cancellations: the Safad Minhelet Ha'am and Mandate postmarks appearing simultaneously on the same letter!!

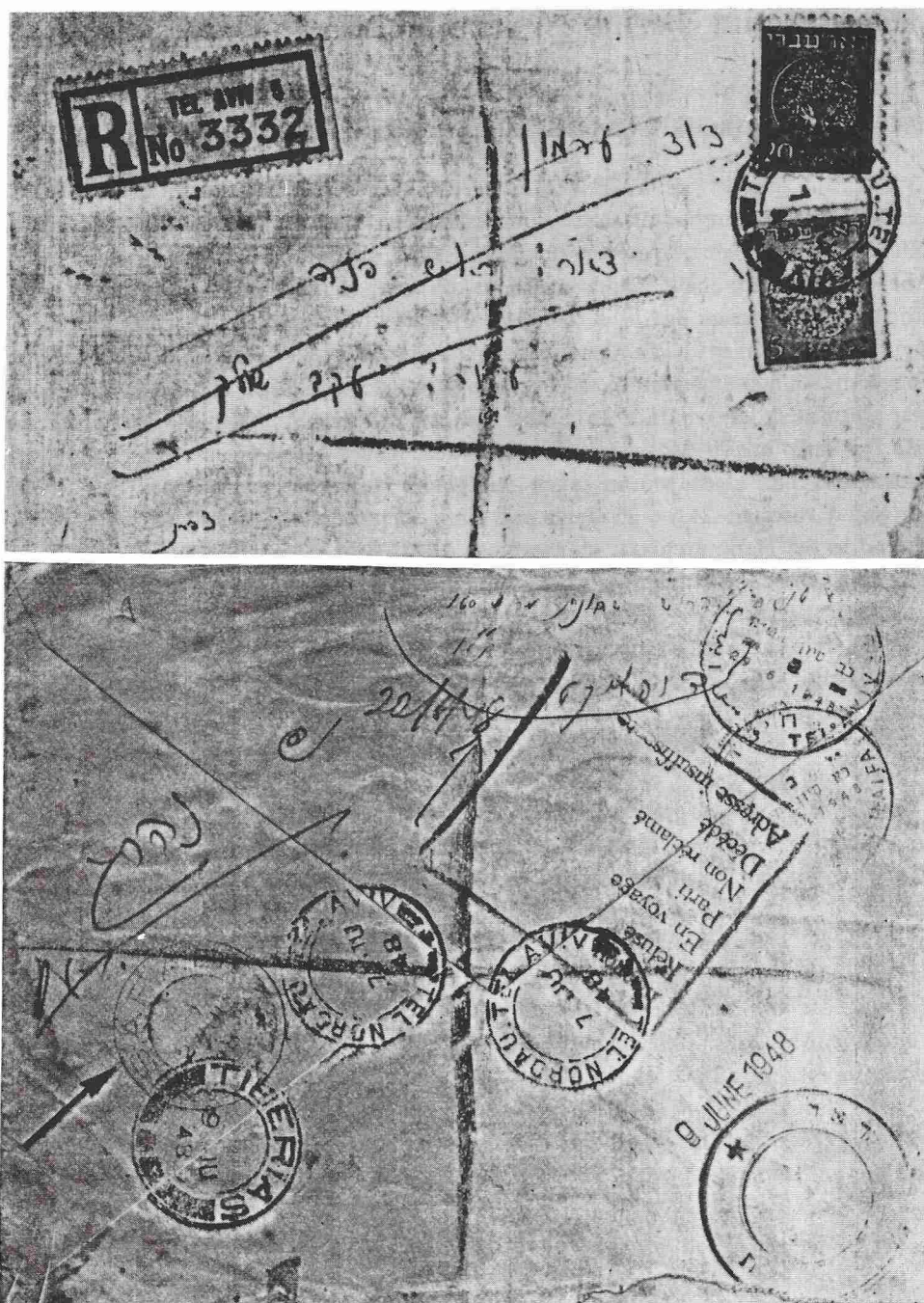


Fig. 71: A 7 June registered cover from Tel Aviv with Safad Minhelet Ha'am arrival purple postmark; returned to sender on 27 June with the rarest Mandate D.C. used as "return" postmark.

* * * * *

* G E N E R A L N E W S *

* * * * *

New Cancellations and Post Offices*(Compiled by B. Fixler & J. Nachtigal)***A. Special Cancellations** (see also Fig. 72)

- 21.10.92: "Railway centenary in the Holy Land 1892-1992", Yerushalayim.
 29.10.92: "500 Years Hospitality for Jews from Spain in the Ottoman Empire", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 02.11.92-8.1.93 (except 24.12): Special pictorial postmark for the Christian Holyday Season, Nazareth.
 02.11.92-8.1.93 (except 24.12): "Bethlehem 1, Holy Land", special pictorial postmark for the Christian Holyday Season, Bethlehem (Zahal)*.
 06.12.92: 20th anniversary of Israel Volunteering Centre, Yerushalayim.
 08.12.92: "75 years Hebrew film", Yerushalayim**.
 08.12.92: "Song birds", Tel Aviv-Yafo**.
 08.12.92: "European unification 1992", Philately Day 1992, Yerushalayim**.
 14.12.92: Interment of the drowned in the ship "Egoz", Yerushalayim.
 16.12.92: "20 years of I.D.F. Commissioner's Office for soldiers' complaints", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 21.12.92: "Israel stamp week 21-27.12.92, Hanukka", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 21-27.12.92: "Israel Stamp Week", special definitive-like pictorial postmark, Tel Aviv-Yafo
 23.12.92: "I.P.S.A." - 13th Congress of the Israel Professional Safety Association, Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 23.12.92: "Philately Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 24.12.92: "Music by the Red Sea", Eilat.
 24.12.92: "Christmas-Noël", Bethlehem.
 24.12.92: "Christmas-Noël", Nazareth.
 01.02.93: 60 years to the "Moshav" movement - the 17th convention, Shiqmim (M.P.O).
 16.02.93: "Song birds", Tel Aviv-Yafo**.
 16.02.93: "Nature reserves in Israel", Zefat**.
 16.02.93: "Baha'i World Centre", Haifa**.

 * See HLP# #52, p. 662 for a special Klussendorf postage label issued in connection with this postmark.

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

- 16.02.93: "Menahem Begin", Yerushalayim**.
 08.03.93: "International Women's Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 09.03.93: Kefar Sava 90th anniversary, 1903-1993, Kefar Sava.
 15.03.93: "13th Tel Aviv Marathon, Hapo'el", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
 21.03.93: "International Poets Festival 20-26.3.93", Yerushalayim.
 24.03.93: "60th anniversary of Haifa Rotary Club 1933-1993", Haifa.
 28.03.93: "International school football championship 1993", Ramat Gan.

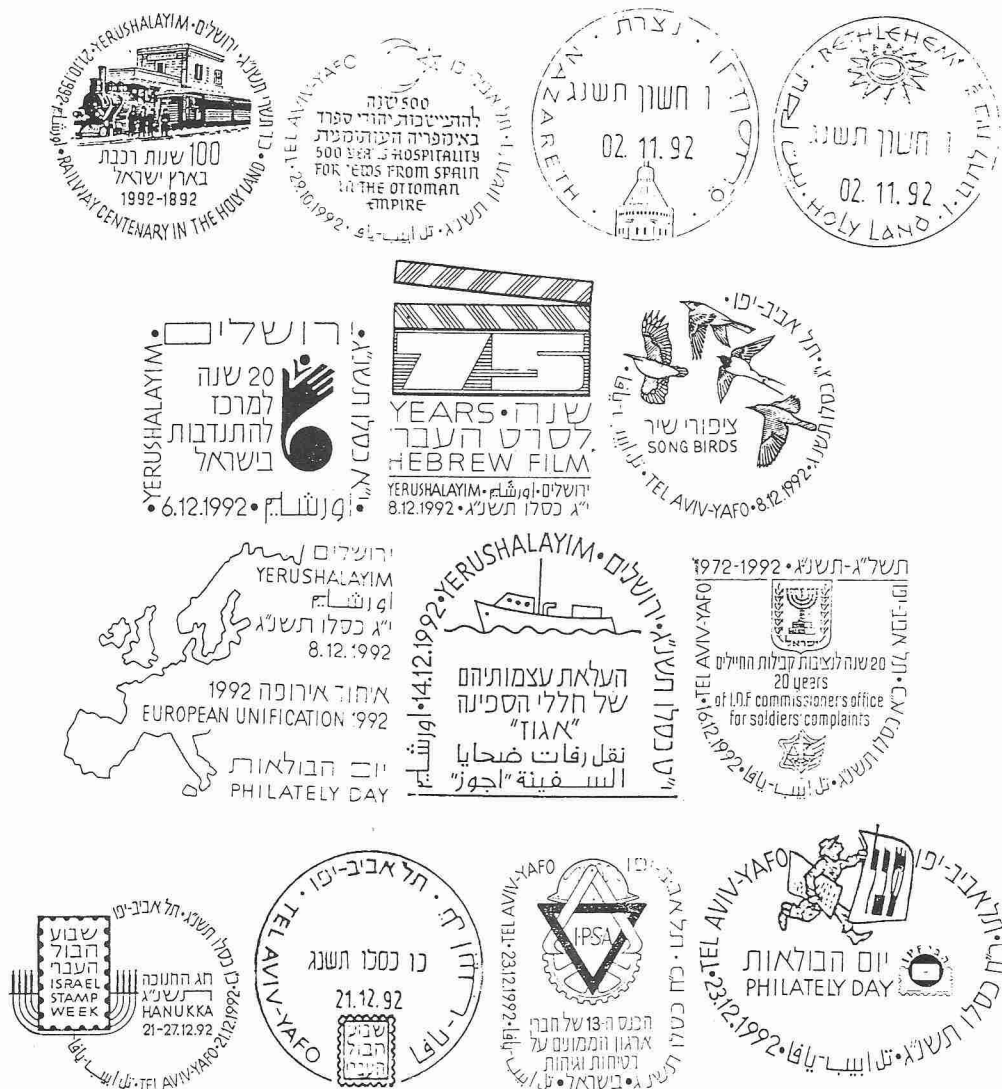


Fig. 72: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



Fig. 72 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

B. Definitive Cancellations

25.11.92: On this date more than 20 new or replaced handstamps were put into use in various post offices as follows:

"Ashdod 2", "Ashqelon 2", "Beer Sheva 9", "Beer Sheva 38", "Holon 2", "Holon 8", "Qiryat Malakhi 1", "Ramat Hasharon 6", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 12", 15, 108, 121, 155, 158, 214, 215, 285, 288, 289, "Yerushalayim 22", "Yerushalayim 40", "Yerushalayim 84".

- 01.12.92: "Ganne Tiqwa", for the reopened postal agency, Grade A. This postmark had been used before in this postal agency that was closed.
- 01.12.92: "Ofaqim 4". This postmark was used in Ofaqim Main Post Office.
- 01.12.92: "Yerushalayim 113", for the new B.P.O. in the new Postal Authority Administration building, 237 Jaffa St. In fact, as the "113" instrument did not arrive, "Yerushalayim 11" was used temporarily on the first day.
- 06.12.92: "Rosh Ha'ayin 1", for the postal agency, Grade A, in the Qanyon Hasela, Rosh Ha'ayin. This postmark was used before in Rosh Ha'ayin Main Post Office.
- 09.12.92: "Bat Yam 20", for the postal agency, Grade A, in 140 Balfour St., Bat Yam.
- 17.12.92: "Beer Sheva 9", for the postal agency, Grade A, in 56 Hapalmach St., Beer Sheva. This postmark was used before in Beer Sheva Main Post Office.
- 17.12.92: "Qiryat Gat 6", for the postal agency, Grade A, in the Shopping Centre on Micha St. This postmark was used before in Qiryat Gat Main Post Office.
- 20.12.92: "Yerushalayim 114", for the new B.P.O. in the "Hapa'amon" building, 6 King George St.
- 20.12.92: "Holon 23", in the Main Post Office in Holon, instead of the previous "Holon 23" handstamp which was lost.
- 07.02.93: "Haifa 22", in Haifa sorting office; "Haifa 17", in the registration desk; "Haifa 98", "Haifa 99", in the Western Branch; "Haifa 88", "Haifa 89", in Oren Branch; "Haifa 11", in the Palmer Branch. All these Haifa new handstamps were introduced to replace similar previous ones which had been worn out.
- 01.03.93: "Yerushalayim 11", in the new postal agency, Grade A, in the Qanyon Har Ha-Hozvim, Ramot Alon Road. This postmark was used before in the Mea Shearim branch.

New Stamps

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 16.2.93: Nature reserves in Israel (IS 1.20, 1.50, 1.70); Baha'i World Centre, Haifa (IS 3.50); Menahem Begin, former Prime Minister (Ag 80); Song birds (continued) (Ag 50, IS 1.50).
- 18.4.93: 50 years since the uprising in the Ghettos and Concentration Camps (a joint issue with Poland) (IS 1.20); Memorial Day, 1993 (Ag 80); 45th Independence Day, depicting the Synagogue Hurvat Rabbi Yehuda Hassid in Jerusalem (IS 3.60); Illustration of Scientific concepts (4 x Ag 80) – issued as a special minisheet of 8 stamps (2 rows of 4 se-tenant stamps) and 4 tabs.

Book Review

Die deutsche Post in Palaestina – Landpost, by Juergen Falk. (Published by the Working Group ISRAEL in the German Federation of Philatelists, 1992. 72 pp., about 120 illustrations, soft cover. Price DM 20. Available from W. Ising, Moordamm 72, W-2097 Ellerbek, Germany).

This work deals with the organization and the activities of the German stationary Post Offices and Auxiliary Agencies in Palestine, 1898–1914. It starts with a short historical introduction. The main part follows closely the Anton Steichele's unpublished German manuscript and the relevant chapter of English revised edition "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine", Vol. I, pp. 33–96, with some improvements and additions (e.g., postage rates before Oct. 1, 1907 and the first-time listing of parcel registration labels). It covers in detail the handling of mail, postage rates, cancelling devices, date stamps and sub-agency cachets, registration labels, taxed mail etc. Regrettably, the important paragraphs on forgeries have been replaced by brief notes and the majority of the illustrations of forgeries in the English edition have been omitted. Efforts have been made to improve the quality of illustrations and to add some meaningful reproductions.

This compact, very well written and well produced publication deserves a place in every philatelic library.

(H. G. Muentz)

New Members in HLPHS Life Members "Fraternity"

The following members have recently joined our Life Members "Fraternity" – we heartily congratulate them:

4. *Zvi Alexander, UK*
5. *Mark Forman, UK*
6. *Gary Theodore, USA*
7. *Yaron Reinhold, Israel*
8. *Yaacov Shaktai, Israel*
9. *Joseph Berkovits, Canada*

Life Membership details are published on the inside Front Cover.

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Israel Philatelic Magazine – **מגזין הבולאים בישראל**

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בסך 30 פארה ע"י שלושה בולי "דמי-דואר" מהוצאת 1914.
Underfranked postcard mailed from Rehovot to Jerusalem in September,
1914. It was taxed 30 para in Jerusalem by three Postage Due stamps
of the 1914 issue (see article on p. 678)