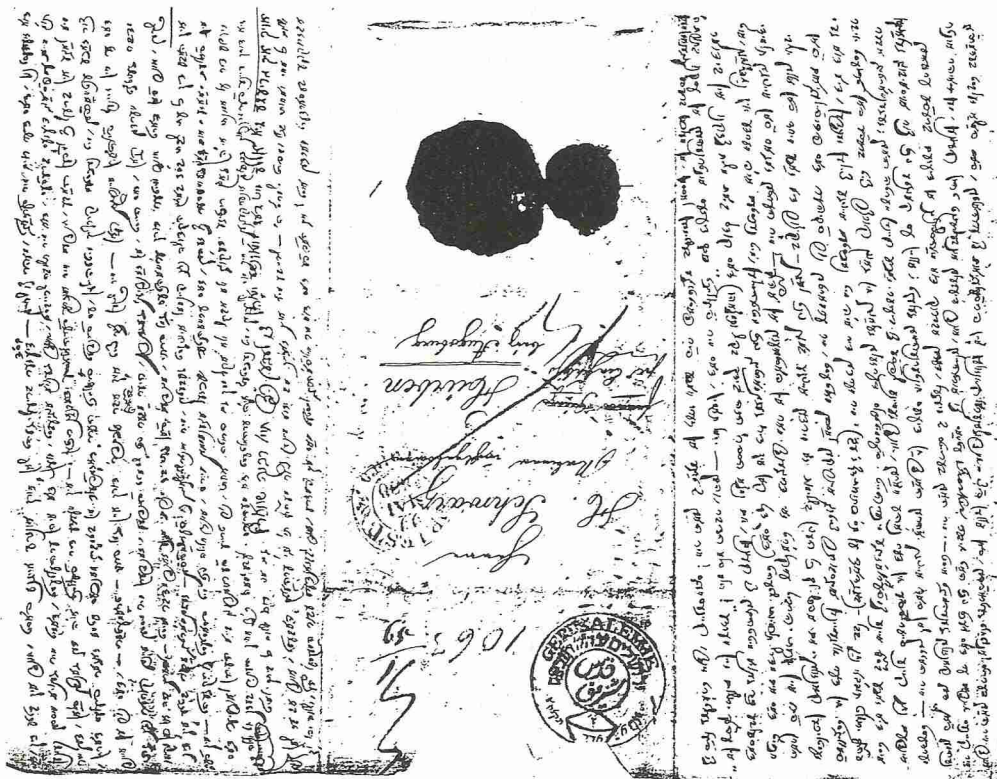


# Holy Land Postal History

IV  
75-76

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL



מכתב מ-1838 מרבי יהוסף שוורץ לאחיו בגרמניה, הנושא חותמת דואר המוקדמת ביותר  
הידועה מירושלים (בעברית, בערבית ובלטינית) והמספר על הקמת סוכנות דואר חצי-רשמית  
בקהילה היהודית בירושלים

An 1838 folded letter from Rabbi Joseph Schwarz to his brother in Germany,  
bearing the earliest known Jerusalem postmark (in Hebrew, Arabic and Latin)  
reporting the foundation of a semi-official postal agency of the Jewish  
community in Jerusalem (See articles on pp. 529 & 533)



SUMMER / AUTUMN 1998

# THE HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## Official Bulletin of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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## The Postal History of the Knesset

*Yehuda Levanon, Jerusalem*

After the first general elections, which were held on January 25, 1949, the Israel Constituent Assembly convened for the first time, on February 14, 1949, in the central meeting hall of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

A special double circle cancellation was prepared for the occasion, bearing the inscription: "האסיפה המכוננת למדינת ישראל / ירושלים" (The Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel, Jerusalem; Fig. 1). A postal point was established at the information desk of the Jewish Agency. All the mail delivered there was handstamped with the cancellation with index א (Alef; Fig. 2). To accommodate collectors who did not have access to the Jewish Agency building, a special mail box was placed on the steps of the entrance to the Jewish National Fund offices. All postal material dropped into this box was taken to the Rehavia post office branch. This branch was located then on 19 Keren Kayemet Street, within walking distance from the Jewish Agency building. There it was stamped with the same cancellation, but with the index ב (Beit; Fig. 3).

A special 250 Pruta stamp, showing the roads to Jerusalem, was to be issued for this festive occasion (for which a special F.D. postmark was prepared; Fig. 4), but it appeared two days after the event, on February 16, 1949! The special cancellation, bearing the inscription "Opening of the Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel" marked the First Day covers which were handstamped in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv and in Haifa (see Back Cover). On February 17, 1949 the post office clerk, by mistake, entered the Hebrew date below the Latin date. This mistake was corrected on the same days (Figs. 5a & 5b). On that same day the Constituent Assembly adjourned and it was the last day the two special cancellations were used in Jerusalem.

On March 8, 1949 the Constituent Assembly re-convened in Tel Aviv, under a new name, הכנסת (The Knesset; Fig. 6). It sat in the "Kessem" cinema building on the sea promenade. A regular branch post office was established there using the same double circle cancellation, bearing the inscription: "מדינת ישראל / הכנסת / תל-אביב" (The State of Israel, The Knesset, Tel Aviv). The index letters א (Alef) and ב (Beit) became a little smaller. For registered mail the Knesset post office clerk used "Tel Aviv 14" Mandate registration labels, handstamped with the word "The Knesset" in Hebrew, including the quotation marks, as if he was mocking the Knesset (Fig. 7).

A special cancellation was used on May 4, 1949, when the young state celebrated its first Independence Day. In addition to the previous text, it reads: "The Stamp Day of Issue" – meaning the first day of issue of the Flag Pre-stamped Envelope (Fig. 8).

On the afternoon of May 12, 1949 (Israel Time), Israel was admitted as a member state to the United Nations Organization. A special cancellation to commemorate this event was used in the Knesset post office on 12 and 13 May (Figs. 9a & 9b).



Figure 1

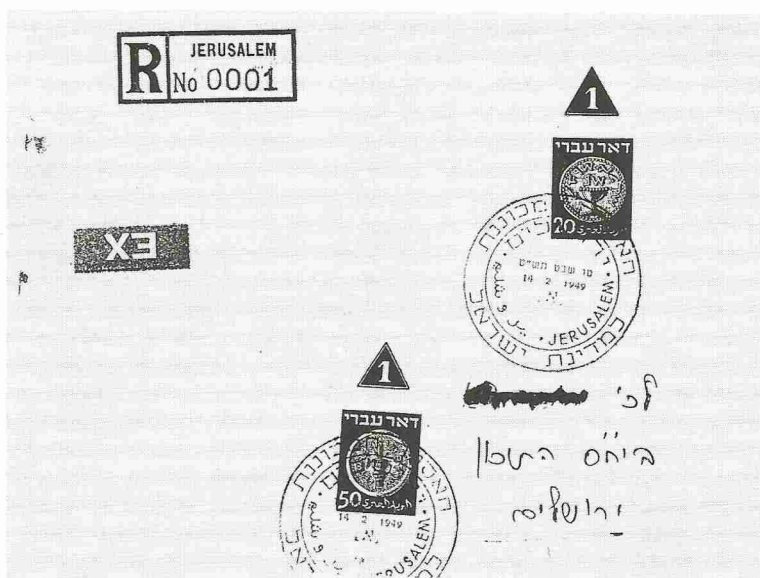


Figure 2



Figure 3

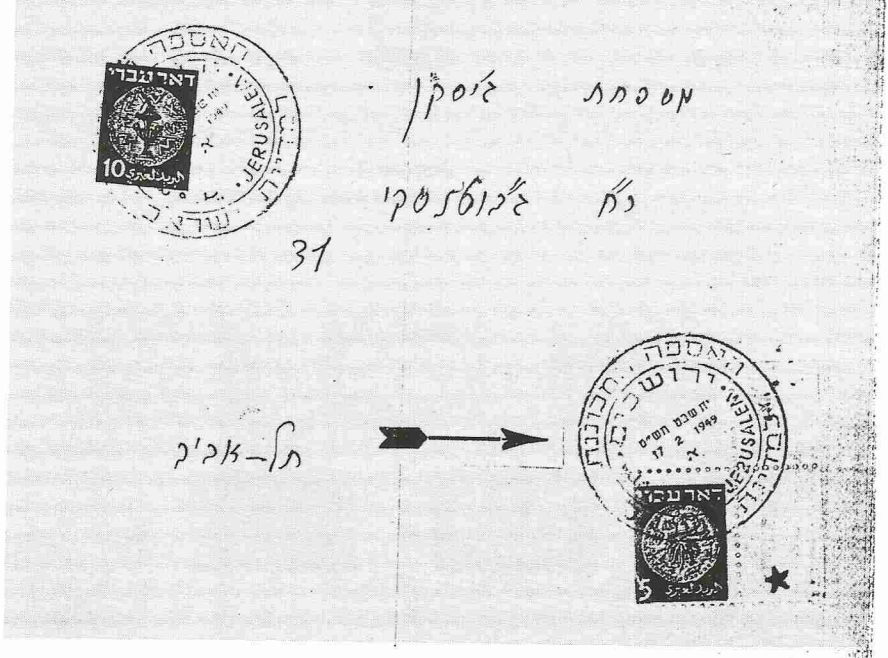


Figure 4

(a)



(b)



Figures 5a (above) and 5b (below)

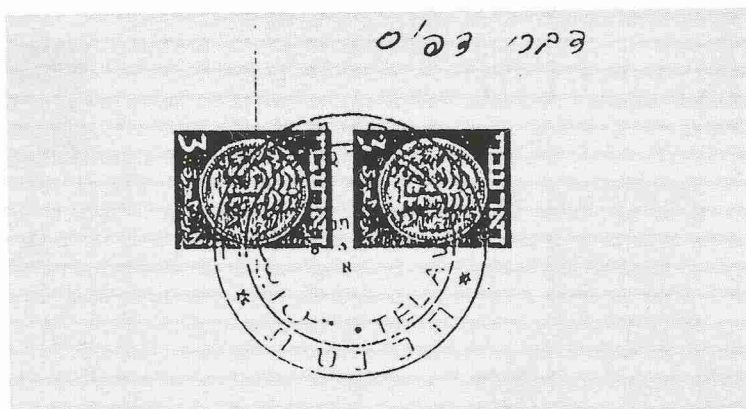


Figure 6

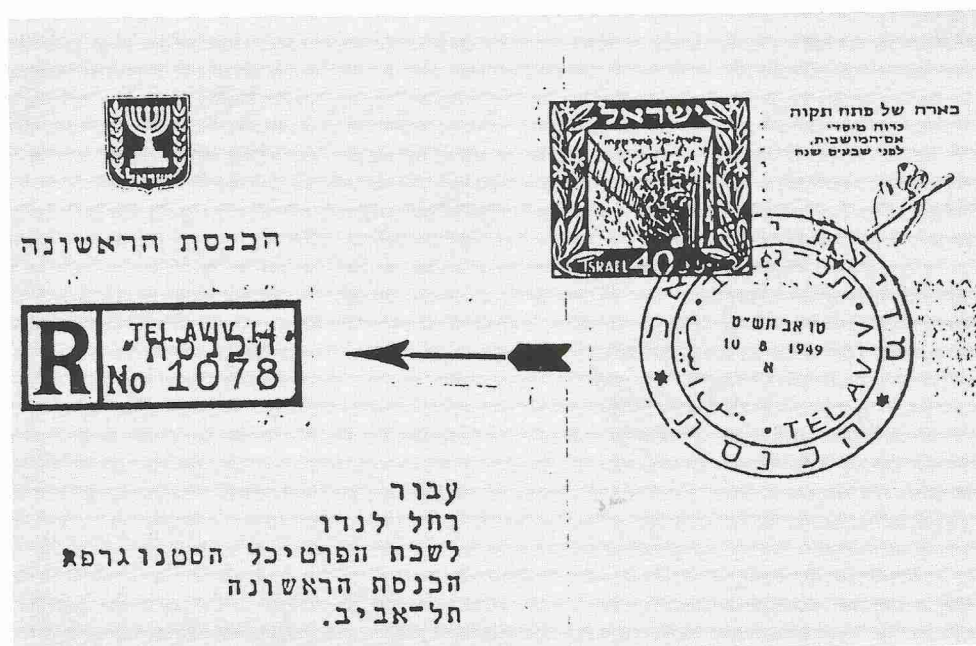
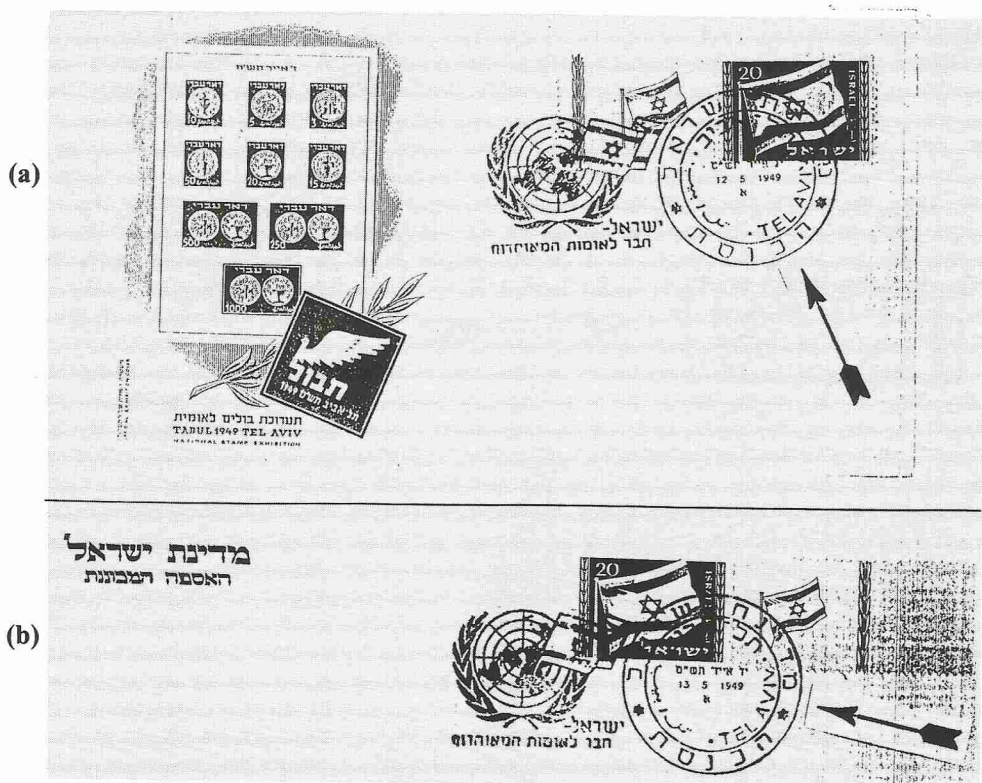


Figure 7



Figure 8



Figures 9a and 9b

The re-internment of Dr. Theodor Herzl's remains in Jerusalem on August 17, 1949 called for another special cancellation commemorating the event. No less than three different configurations of the handstamp were used in the Knesset post office on that day (Figs. 10 [a,b,c]): (a) The index "א" (Alef) above the date; (b) the index "א" below the date; and (c) with the index "ב" (Beit) below the date.

The Knesset sat in Tel Aviv about ten months. On December 26, 1949 it returned to the capital, Jerusalem. It sat again in the assembly hall of the Jewish Agency. The same double circle cancellation which was used in Tel Aviv was now used in the Knesset post office in Jerusalem, with "Jerusalem" instead of "Tel Aviv" (Fig. 11). Although the Knesset permanent seat was now in Jerusalem, the Tel Aviv Knesset post office branch continued to operate for two more months, until March 30, 1950. This explains the existence of the first day covers of the stamps commemorating the acceptance of Israel to the Universal Postal Union on March 26, 1950, cancelled both at the Jerusalem Knesset post office as well as in Tel Aviv (Figs. 12a & 12b.)! It took about three months to remodel the Froumin Building, on 24 King George Avenue, to accommodate the Knesset. It moved to this building on March 13, 1950. On May 8, 1950 another mistake appeared in the Knesset post office cancellation: 1905(!) instead of 1950 . . . (Fig. 13).

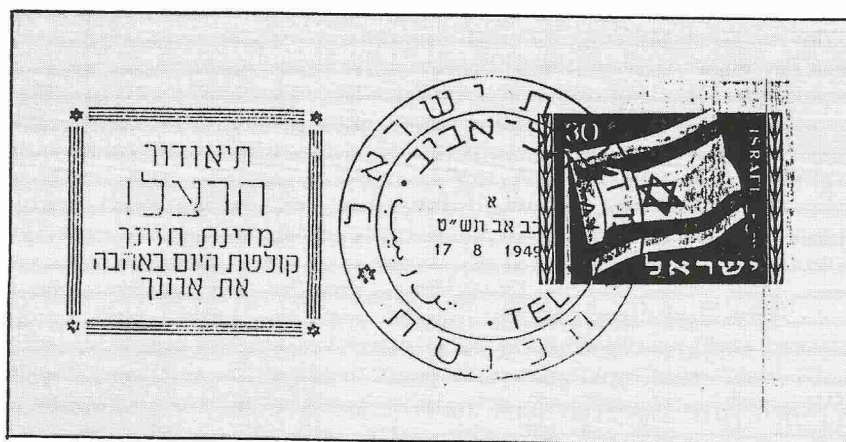
On September 2, 1951 it was decided that the words "The State of Israel" and the double circle were not necessary any more on the Knesset postmark. So a new cancellation was introduced, with the words in Hebrew, "The Knesset / Jerusalem" while in English it read, "Jerusalem" only. It also included the hours of the cancelling (Fig. 14).

During the years there have been several designs of the Knesset registration labels, differing both in the English and in the Hebrew parts of the label (Fig. 15 [a,b,c] and cf. also Fig. 7 above). At the beginning of 1993 the stock of the registration labels, used since 1960 – with the impossible English transliteration "Ha-Keneset" instead of "Haknesset" – ran out. The new registration label avoided such a mistake: It read in Hebrew: "הכנסת ירושלים" (The Knesset, Jerusalem), but in English it had only one word, "Yerushalayim" (Fig. 15 [d]). In mid-1996 a new printing of the last label appeared, with the English letters now all capital and in a slightly different font (Fig. 15 [e]).

On December 7, 1959 the old and battered cancellation of the Knesset was replaced with a new one. It was very similar to the old one, but its letters were about half of a millimeter further away from the rim of the circle (Fig. 16).

On December 14, 1960 when the Henrietta Szold stamp commemorating her hundredth birthday was issued, the Knesset P.O. changed its "Day of Issue" cachet (in Hebrew and English), which included the Post Office "Running Stag", to a cancellation in Hebrew and in French, reading: "יום ההרפעה" / Jour d'émission" with an index number "28" and without the stag emblem (Fig. 17). This was in conformity to all P.O.'s in the State, each receiving a different number for its Day of Issue cachet. On April 17, 1990 there has been again a change in this mark, which now reads "DAY OF ISSUE" in English only, and without any serial number.

(a)



(b)



(c)



Figures 10 [a, b, c]



Figure 11



Figures 12(a) and 12(b)

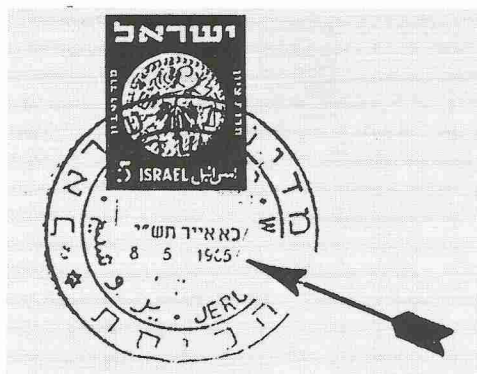


Figure 13



Figure 14

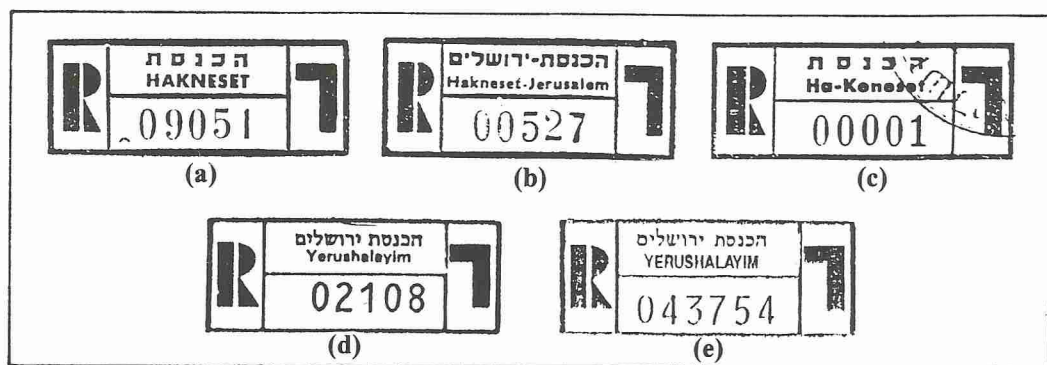


Figure 15



Figure 16



*Figure 17*

The permanent residence of the Knesset, built with the generous donation of the Rothschild family, appears on a stamp issued to honor the Inauguration Ceremony. It appeared more than two months in advance, on June 22, 1966 (Fig. 18) while the building was inaugurated on August 31. Only then, a special cancellation was issued (Fig. 19).

After seven years of faithful service the Knesset cancellation was replaced again on November 2, 1966. The silhouette of the Knesset was added at the bottom of the cancellation (Fig. 20 [a]). To accommodate collectors who could not get permits to enter the building, a mail box was placed outside the gates. All postal material dropped there for the F.D. of use, was stamped with a wrong-year cancellation, namely the year 1965 instead of 1966 (Fig. 20 [b]).

The next innovation concerning the Knesset post office happened on June 16, 1970, when a franking machine was introduced there. Unfortunately it did not include the Hebrew date (Fig. 21)! Sometime in 1975 the Zip Code of the Knesset, 91999, was added to the franking machine cancellation (Fig. 22).

A misleading "Announcement to the Public" appeared on December 21, 1970. It announced the introduction of a new Knesset machine cancellation to be applied on January 5, 1971. Its circular part was very similar to the handstamp used at that time in the Knesset, but with a much smaller diameter (Fig. 23: underlined by the author).



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figures 20(a) and 20(b)

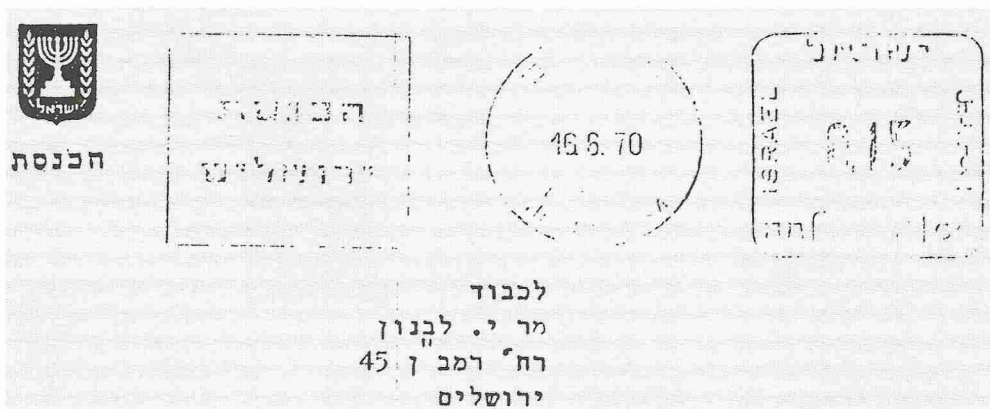


Figure 21

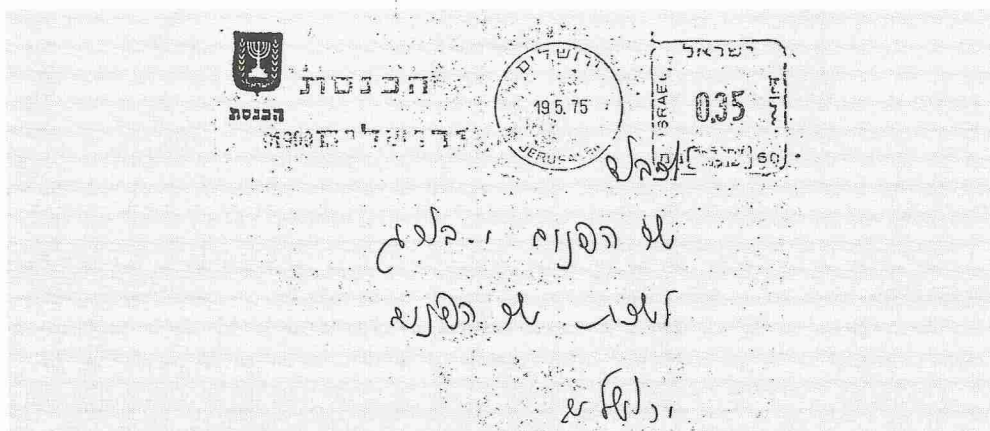


Figure 22

חמשך הודעה לקהל מס' 72/70  
21.12.1970 מיום

-2-

4. הכנסת חותמת למכונת החתמה בסניף הדואר הכנסת ירושלים

מודיעים בזה כי ביום אלישי ח' בשבת חש"א (5.1.71) הוכנס בסניף דואר הכנסת חותמת למכונת החתמה.

אספנים המקונינים בהמכירה של חותמת הדואר הנ"ל ביום הכנסתה ליזמו מתבקשים להמציא את מעטפותיהם ומכויילות למנהל דואר ירושלים לפני השחרור הנ"ל.

האספנים מתבקשים להדביק את המכילה בפניה הימנית העליונה של דברי הדואר מעל לשמן הואיל ולא קיימת אפשרות להחתיים במכונת החתמה כיהם מודבקים במקום אחר.

חותמת זו נועדה אך ורק לשיגור דברי דואר רגילים (לא רשום).



Figure 23

Research proves that this particular machine cancellation never entered the Knesset building. It operated solely at the Postal Authority sorting facility in Giv'at Shaul, Jerusalem, and was used, as far as we know, only for one day! Only a few philatelic covers with this cancellation are known, and until now no commercial cover has been reported.

On August 21, 1984 the name "Jerusalem" in Latin letters in the Knesset cancellation was changed to "Yerushalayim", like in most of Jerusalem cancellations<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 24).

On May 9, 1995 the Knesset marked with a special cancellation the 50th anniversary of "V-Day" and honored the participation of Jewish fighters in defeating Nazi Germany (Fig. 25).

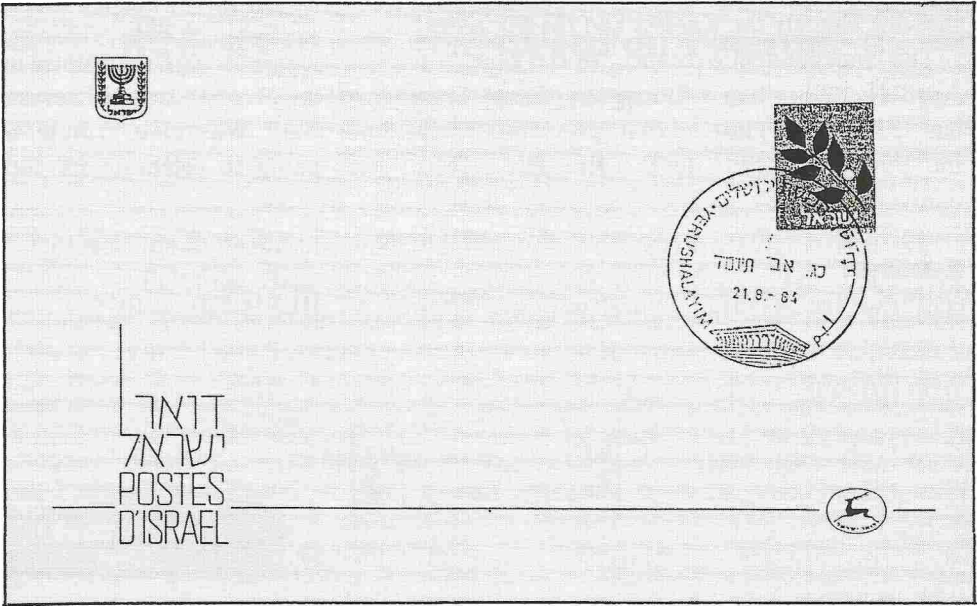


Figure 24



Figure 25

On December 28, 1997 a Vending Machine Klussendorf Postage Label was issued, showing vaguely the Knesset and the Supreme Court buildings (Fig. 26).

The "independent existence" of the Knesset post office branch ceased abruptly on April 21, 1998, when without previous notice it received the oval handstamp "Jerusalem 133" (Fig. 27) instead of its previous illustrated postmark. Was this a "tribute" of the Postal Authority to the Knesset, before it was going to celebrate its 50th anniversary?

#### Reference:

- (1) "Further Details of Jerusalem Postal Affairs (3)", HLP# #20, p. 1035.



Figure 26

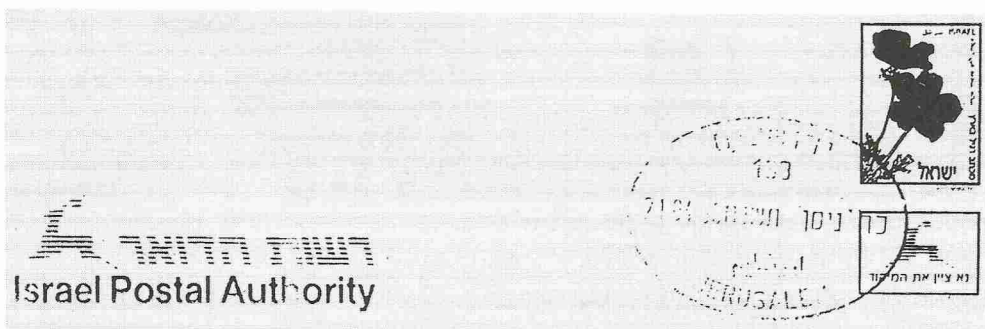


Figure 27

## A Study of the Texts Used on Palestine Telegram Forms

*Arthur M. Hochheiser*

This research study must be threefold. First, we are concerned with the texts used in printing the Palestine telegrams. Then, we must look at the languages used in writing the messages sent on telegram forms. To complete the study, we must look at the origin of the letters and numbers used in the texts. While most of this study is not philatelic, it does involve postal history because the telegraph service was under the supervision of the Postal Administration.

Of general interest, let us first examine the last facet of this study, the origin of the letters and numbers used in the texts. All language of the printed text is in English, with Hebrew and Arabic added where necessary. What is the derivation of the English language as we know it today? Figure 28 shows that our modern English language as printed is almost identical to the letters used in the ancient Roman (Latin) of the first century A.D. (C.E. in the non-Christian world, which stands for "Common Era"). Note that originally the "I" and "J" were identical, as were the "U", "V", "W" in the ancient Roman. The "I" and "J" were separated in the 17th century and the "U" and "V" were separated about 1800. The "W" was introduced by the French scribes in the 11th century.

Similar evidence exists that the "numbers" currently in use in our modern times were derived from the ancient times. They are generally accorded to the Arabic, but modern Arabic numbers are different (Fig. 29). These are seen in the upper right corner of the first 'typo' issue of Palestine stamps (Fig. 30). While only some similarities exist, the origin of numbers is attributed to earlier Hindu-Arabic numerals (Fig. 31). Hindu was one of the native races of India. From 300 to 200 B.C. it developed a system of numbers based on 10 with symbols for each number from 1 to 9. Originally, names were used for the zero. About 700 A.D., the Arabs learned Hindu arithmetic from scientific writings. About 100 years later, a Persian mathematician wrote a book. This was translated into Latin some 300 years later. This translation brought the Hindu-Arabic numerals into Europe, which in their present form are now called Arabic. It is interesting to note, as well, that numbers in the Hebrew correspond to the letters of their alphabet (Fig. 32).

Now let us examine the texts and languages used on Palestine telegrams. Telegraphic service was necessary in Palestine for military transmission from the time of the initial invasion of Southern Palestine by General Allenby's Army, The Egyptian Expeditionary Force (E.E.F.) in January 1917. Telegram forms were printed in English script. The individual pieces of type varied in size and style. Hebrew and Arabic were added most of the time where it was necessary. This existed throughout the Military Occupation and during the Civil Administration which followed as well.

Semitic About 1500 B.C.	Phoenician About 1000 B.C.	Greek About 600 B.C.	Roman A.D. 114	Semitic About 1500 B.C.	Phoenician About 1000 B.C.	Greek About 600 B.C.	Roman A.D. 114
			A				N
			B				O
			C				P
			D				Q
			E				R
			F				S
			G				T
			H				V
			I				V
			J				X
			K				Y
			L				Z
			M				Z

Figure 28

ARABIC NUMERALS									
•	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Figure 29

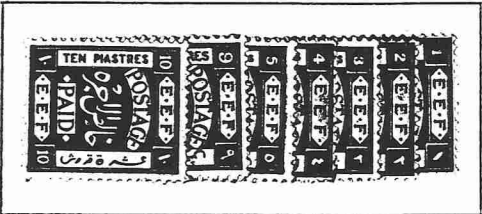


Figure 30

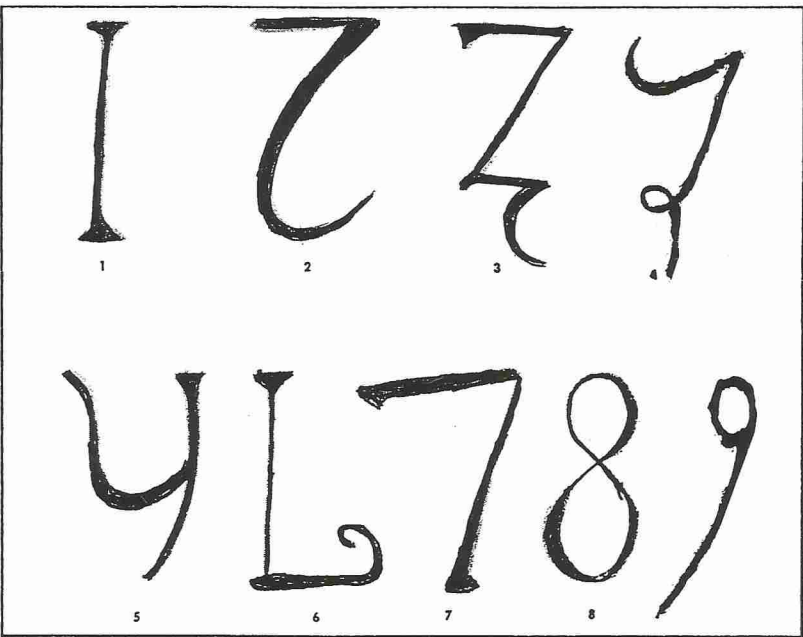


Figure 31

H E B R E W			
PHONETIC	NAME	PRINT	VALUE
( Silent )	Alef	א	1
B, V	Beit, Veit	ב	2
G	Gimel	ג	3
D	Dalet	ד	4
H	Hei	ה	5
V	Vav	ו	6
Z	Zayin	ז	7
CH	Chet	ח	8
T	Tet	ט	9
Y	Yod	י	10
K, KH, CH	Kaf, Chaf	(כ) כ	20
L	Lamed	ל	30
M	Mem	(ם) מ	40
N	Nun	(ן) נ	50
S	Samekh	ס	60
( Silent )	Ayin	ע	70
P, F	Pei, Fei	(ף) פ	80
TS	Tsade	(צ) צ	90
Q, K	Kof	ק	100
R	Re ish	ר	200
SH, S	Shin, Sin	ש	300
T	Taf	ת	400

Figure 32

Perforce, the first telegraph forms were improvised using both Egyptian and British forms. Egyptian State Telegraphs were used on an "Interim" basis. There were two types, G13 and G14 overprinted for use by the British with either a one-line "OET PAL TELS" in black with a heavy underline (Fig. 33) or a boxed "O.E.T.A." in black or red (Fig. 34). The British form (Fig. 35) was identical to its own "Service Telegram" but printed in Egypt. None of these forms contained any Hebrew print in the texts. Figure 36 shows the first Palestine Telegraph form printed for Official use. Hebrew is included in the text. Note the designation "O.E.T.P.A. No. T2" with a title "Palestine Telegraphs". O.E.T.P.A. stands for "Occupied Enemy Territory Postal Administration". Figure 37 shows the first "Occupied Enemy Territory Administration Palestine-Telegraphs" printed for general use by civilians. For some reason there is no Hebrew in the printed text. There were several reissues. Fig. 38 shows a new O.E.T.P.A. No. T3 titled exactly and printed closely after Figure 36 with Hebrew in the text. Figure 39 shows the O.E.T.P.A. No. T4, a Service Telegram without Hebrew in the text.

In 1920, when the Civil Administration took control in Palestine, a new printed telegram form was introduced with the heading "Palestine Posts and Telegraphs" (Fig. 40). The content was similar to the form shown in Figure 36 although laid out in a different pattern. Throughout the Civil Administration, the texts in the forms remained essentially the same with all three languages in the printed texts. Only the title was changed later to "Palestine Posts, Telegraphs & Telephones" (Fig. 41). Finally, in the early 1940s, a titleless "telegram" form was introduced for use with Radiotelegrams for transmission to ships at sea via Jerusalem Radio. These could be handed in at any Post Office or Agency open for the acceptance of telegrams (Fig. 42).

Now let us look at the languages used in writing the messages sent on the telegrams. An examination of the telegram illustrations shown indicates that many foreign languages in addition to English were used. These were readily acceptable. However, Hebrew is only shown on Figure 42 sent in 1947. This requires some further explanation.

On July 1, 1920, Sir Herbert Samuel was appointed first High Commissioner for Palestine, heading the new Civil Administration. An order, published in the Official Gazette three months later, recognized Hebrew as the third official language of the country. However, the use of Hebrew characters in writing telegrams was delayed. It was put off subject to technical arrangements to be made in the future, pending which Hebrew messages were to be transliterated into Roman (Latin) characters as seen in Figure 40. Articles of the League of Nations Mandate clearly prohibited any such discrimination among the official languages, even though other foreign languages were used at all times.

This was not corrected until some 15 years later only through the efforts of a Haifa lawyer, Israel Amikam. As one of the first Jewish employees of the telegraph service, he and his colleagues invented a Hebrew Morse Code. Through his efforts authorities finally permitted the use of Hebrew in telegraphic transmission.

No. 13	Orig'l No. 13	Words 13	Date Stamp	EGYPTIAN TELEGRAPHS	مصلحة التلغرافات المصرية
From	Time	Time		CHARGES	الاجرة
REMARKS			To: Gattegno A: Caïre		
Boiles oke dix demi piastres Egyptien rendu Wagon Akka cablez urgent très nécessaire prière remettre.					
Faraggi					
Not for transmission. الجزء الآن لا يدرج بالتلغراف. Cette partie n'est pas à transmettre.					
I beg that the above telegram may be forwarded according to the conditions printed hereon. L'Administration est priée de transmettre la dépêche ci-dessus d'après les conditions imprimées ci-contre.					
Signature: Faraggi Address: David Faraggi (Akka) مكان					

Figure 33

No. 17	Orig'l No. 17	Words 17	Date Stamp	EGYPTIAN TELEGRAPHS	مصلحة التلغرافات المصرية
From	To	Time		CHARGES	الاجرة
REMARKS			To: Bonserli Espagne Jerusalem		
Office of Origin: 35 Rue de la Paix Date: 17/11/1918 Time: 17h					
Helen Alexander Kinnell Desire de main prier me passer instructions eventuelles et autorisation					
1/11/18 17h 17h 17h					

Figure 34

A.P.&amp;S.D.Alex.,/6534/20/29 3:19/50P.(V.&amp;G.)

No. T. 4.

OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION, PALESTINE-TELEGRAPHS

## SERVICE TELEGRAM — اشارة مصالحة

Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ تاريخ

Received From ورد من	Time وقت	Clerk النوتيجي	Sent to ارسل الى	Time وقت	Clerk النوتيجي
3 Addo					

No. H98 غرة \_\_\_\_\_ الساعة \_\_\_\_\_ ق \_\_\_\_\_From Signal Officer, OETA من \_\_\_\_\_To Block in Charge, Tiberias الى \_\_\_\_\_  
military Governor Tiberias  
Corpl Demmison Tiberias

14/7/19 In future you SIMON MIKHAIL  
will be on duty in office from  
8am to noon and 1.30 to 5.0 pm.  
daily except Sundays AAA On  
Sundays from 8.0 am to 12 noon  
AAA You will plug through  
military Governor's telephone to  
Nazareth when not in office. Add  
Block in Charge Tiberias repeating  
Tiberias and Corpl Demmison Tiberias

Figure 35

Prefix اللائحة	Original No. الرقم الاصلية	O.E.T.P.A. No. T. 2.		Office Date Stamp. تتم المكتب
Time الوقت	Words كلمات	<b>PALESTINE TELEGRAPHS</b> ادارة تليفات فلسطين <b>משרד התלגרף בא"י</b>		חומר המשדר
Sent to ارسل الى				O.E.T.A.(S) OFFICIAL 24-6-20.
At الوقت		In case of official Telegrams I certify that this Telegram is on the service of P. & T. Depts.		
By التلغرافى	Remarks ملاحظات	Official	Signature W.M.	Charges Paid الاجرة المدفوعة
			Rank Major R.B.	P.T. مستلم نرس
To الى	Postmaster General Alexandria			
From من	Hudson			
P.T. 67 24-6-20 Kindly suspend introduction of proposed arrangement for through English mail vans from Port Said stop Understand P.M.R. shortly introducing daily service from Kantara				

Figure 36

B. & C.	
RECEIVED From At By	Orig'l No. 8 Words 18 Date Stamp T. 3
To At By	OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION PALESTINE-TELEGRAPHS To mil have Tul Keran
REMARKS Office of Origin Date Time	
Jerusalem 18/11/19 77-43 cid/399 (Fhvzppuzjir) Njhjtlp) Zh. (Psto) (Zkkthj) (ojh-njp) (wppjn) Fyi (Zh) (otcps) (Tyop) (Cidots)	

Figure 37

Original No. ٨٥٩	R. & O. 0137	CE.T.P.A. No. T.3	Sent to أرسل إلى	Office Number مكتب الممرور
Received from وصل من	PALESTINE TELEGRAPHS تلفافات فلسطين مשרد التلغراف في	At الوقت	Date Stamp تاريخ الطابع	
At الوقت		By التلغراف	٢٥	
By التلغراف		Remarks ملاحظات	٢٥	
Handed in تسلمت	at د	hours ٧٥ ساعات	Received here at وصل هنا ب	hours ساعات
To إلى	<p>وصف: وفاء ماجد باخ</p> <p>وصف: حبيبكم اجتمعتوا بتعبير الغد بالكريني بالاولى هو</p> <p>وصف: اهدم اهلكم تيلونا (١٢) بلفيرا بالاحد باركنو</p> <p>الاحد مال</p>			
From من	<p>زنتوت</p>			

**Figure 38**

Prefix	أشارة	O.E.T.P.A. No. T. 4.	Sent to أرسل إلى	Office Date Stamp. ختم المكتب والتاريخ
Original No. رقم الاصل	Time الوقت	<b>Palestine Telegraphs</b>	At الوقت	
Recd. from	وصل من	<b>SERVICE TELEGRAM</b>	By التلغرافى	
At	الوقت	مصلحة التلغراف بـفلسطين		
By	التلغرافى			
To إلى	} <i>Hfa</i> Commence test now I will send first			
From من	} <i>Jhm</i>			

**Figure 39**

**Palestine Posts and Telegraphs** 0166

دائرة البريد والبرق في فلسطين  
דואר והמברקה של פלשתינה, א"י

146  
TELEGRAM تلغراف

Office Date Stamp  
11 DE 21  
ختم المكتب ختم التاريخ

This Form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.

את המוסס הזה צריך לערוך לכל  
מכתב חקירה בדבר המברק הזה.

יזום מראקה هذه النسخة مع كل  
طلب بخصوص هذا التلغراف

Handed in at Jerusalem Time 2:22 Date 11 Received at 3:30

To PP Michpat achalom initie  
todienic ahlatat achofet  
Alcalay

From

Figure 40

Via Western Union Radio Lyric  
PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES. 3  
מברק TELEGRAM تلغراف

Office Date Stamp  
28 MAR 21  
ختم المكتب ختم التاريخ

This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.

את המוסס הזה צריך לערוך לכל  
חקירה העוסקת בענין המברק הזה.

יזום ارسال هذا النسخة مع كل  
طلب بخصوص هذا التلغراف

Service Instructions

Handed in at Haifa Time 11 Date 8.22 Received at 8.22

TO Ed Collip, Beth Chassan Suffer Paper  
mutter sehr krank eidel bus  
ist bald hier mit thullen  
ital B...

נתקבל ביום 8.22.21 חשוכה ביום 12.12.21

FROM

Figure 41

= כד כחור =  
 מכתב ירושלים =  
 מכתב ארה"ב =  
 בית טלפון =  
 זכרון פסד =  
 כדור  
 16  
 Number  
 31558-500 Pads - 174.40 - S.O.P.  
 27 15 מ כמ  
 13 4 1620 = ציפח  
 THIS FORM MUST ACC.  
 From  
 at  
 by  
 את המופס הזה צריך לצרף לכל תקניה הערכת בנידון המבוק הזה  
 זכרון מכתב בית אברהם מכתב  
 16  
 NO  
 TELEPHONE  
 (See over)  
 ירושלים =  
 חב"א = שמואל  
 הידע ידע  
 ידע ידע

**Figure 42**

The first cable in Hebrew letters was a "Press" telegram by Mr. Amikam to the editors of the four daily newspapers in Tel Aviv. In response, on the first of January 1935, Mr. Dizengoff, then mayor of Tel Aviv, sent the first Jewish telegram to Mr. Amikam. The telegram (Figure 43) written in Hebrew letters sent by Mr. Dizengoff read as follows:

*"The Municipality of the first all-Jewish city of Tel Aviv heartily congratulates you on your great success in the battle you have waged for many years against the discrimination against Hebrew and Hebrew characters in the Palestine telegraph system. We hope that complete victory will soon be achieved in all settlements, including our capital city of Jerusalem. May your stubborn perseverance which has proved so fruitful serve as an example to other Jews that they may struggle unrelentingly for their human and national rights in our land the world over, until victory is won."*

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.		
TELEGRAM تلغراف		
This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram. (This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.) (This form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram.)	Service Instructions Handed in at _____ Time _____ Received at _____	(Circular stamp: EL AVIV 1 JAN 1935) (Circular stamp: EL AVIV 1 JAN 1935)
	To _____	
(Main body of the telegram text in Hebrew)		
(Bottom section of the telegram form)		

Figure 43

## Acknowledgements

Completing any in-depth study requires both information from various sources and the help of others in locating this information. In addition, other people may offer contributions of their own.

First, I would like to thank Neil Cohn and Barbara Frank, librarians at the public library in Lodi, New Jersey. They were able to provide me with the encyclopedic sources which contained the necessary information using computer enhancement at times. I would like to thank Rabbi Leonard Kravitz of Hackensack, New Jersey for his help with the transliteration in Figure 40 from Hebrew to Roman script.

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- (1) A.M. Hochheiser, "Palestine Postal Forms – British Military Administration 1917–1920", Monograph (1989) published by The I.P. Educational Fund. A more complete description of early telegram forms.
- (2) A.M. Hochheiser, The Israel Philatelist (June 1997), pp. 123–125. A more complete description of all telegram forms.
- (3) The Holy Land Philatelist, Vol. 1–2, pp. 122–124. A detailed article about the first Hebrew telegram.

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## 1948 Israeli P.O.W.'s

*Yacov Tsachor, Tel Aviv*

Recently a client showed me a bulletin in Hebrew titled "The P.O.W. Leaflet", issued by the Israeli Defense Forces, the Coordinator to the International Red Cross, Department of Press and Information. Figure 44 depicts the cover page of the bulletin. It was mailed to the Office of Immigration, Hakiryia from Unit 388 (Coordinator to the I.R.C.) and has their circular cachet at left, via Tel Aviv APO #3 (postmark at top right).

The 12-page bulletin includes a message to the parents, relatives and friends of "Our soldiers in the hands of the Enemy" as well as details about the P.O.W.'s in Trans-Jordan, Egypt, Syria (46 prisoners) and Lebanon (3 prisoners). Included are letters from P.O.W.'s in Syria with details about captivity conditions and tables with lists of supplies sent to the P.O.W.'s in Egypt and Jordan during December, 1948. For example, the mailing to Egypt also contained 24,000 cigarettes and 1 sack of stationery and musical instruments! Details are also given about the women P.O.W.'s, some of whom were pregnant. It is stated that the Syrian government demanded 2 healthy sergeants in exchange for a woman in her 9th month of pregnancy! This, states the report, is an insult to the Geneva convention and the I.R.C.

In one letter of a P.O.W. in Syria, it is mentioned that the period of delivery of letters from Israel is 32-50 days.

Most important for Postal Historians are two tables dealing with the exchange of letters with the P.O.W.'s in December 1948. They are shown here with a column added by us showing the percentage of mail to/from each of the four Arab enemy countries holding our P.O.W.'s.

### Exchange of letters with Israeli P.O.W.'s, December 1948

#### Received:

<i>From</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>Inquiries</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage %</i>
Trans-Jordan	623	294	917	63.6
Egypt	473	—	473	32.8
Syria	44	—	44	3.0
Lebanon	8	—	8	0.6
Total	1148	294	1142	100%

Sent:

To	Letters	Inquiries	Total	Percentage %
Trans-Jordan	600	484	1084	62.6
Egypt	381	80	461	26.6
Syria	173	6	179	10.3
Lebanon	9	–	9	0.5
Total	1163	570	1733	100%

It is most evident from these percentages why mail connected with the P.O.W.'s in Syria is scarce and any item connected with a P.O.W. in Lebanon is a genuine rarity. Many thanks to Marvin Siegel for his assistance in this article.



Fig. 44: The front page of "The P.O.W. Leaflet", (Issue No. 3, January 1949), issued by the I.D.F.

## A Philatelic Tour of the American-German Colony of Jaffa\*

*Joel Amir, Kefar Sava*

In the second half of the 19th century and up to the Twenties Jaffa was Palestine's port of immigration and a center of business activity well ahead of other areas of the desolate and backward country, then dominated by the Ottomans. In 1886 a Christian religious group of Maine Americans settled on a hill northeast of Jaffa, in prefabricated wood houses they shipped from their homeland. This group, motivated by Messianic belief but little experience, succumbed within a short period to illness and poverty and in 1869 most of them perished or were evacuated to the States.<sup>1</sup> Their settlement was soon purchased by another group of believers – the German Templers, who left their homeland in Wurttemberg with the purpose of building God's Kingdom on Earth in Jerusalem. The Templers,<sup>2</sup> more practical and experienced, settled first in 1868 on the seashore of Haifa, and later in Jaffa (1869) and Jerusalem (1873), and in four other agricultural settlements. The German Colony in Jaffa was later extended to another nearby site – Walhalla – which faced the Jewish settlement Neve Zedek, and the first Hebrew town of Tel Aviv. The Jaffa Templers soon excelled in agriculture, building, commerce, and industry and had a pronounced influence on the development of the area up to the end of WWI. The story of the Jaffa German Colony was sealed in September 1939 when the Templers were evacuated from their homes by the British Mandate authorities, interned in Palestine, or exiled.

The German Colony is today a small neglected site in the city of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, marked for conservation but still an interesting site for the researchers of Holy Land history.

This article highlights the American-German Colony of Jaffa via philatelic documents, adding another angle to the historic research done to date. The backbone of the Colony (Fig. 45) were two intersecting streets of which the North-South oriented was the See Strasse (the Sea Street, today Auerbach St., marked No. 1 on the map), and the other – Wilhelms Strasse (today Bar-Hoffman St., marked No. 2). The See Strasse was the first modern hotel "district" of Jaffa and probably of the entire country. At the center of the Colony was Hotel du Parc (Figs. 46, 47, marked No. 8 on the map). The Hotel is known for its owner, Count Plato von Ustinov, a Russian nobleman who

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\* Ed. note: This article, like several other published recently does not belong to the classic definition of "postal history", certainly not so according to FIP definition. It rather adheres to a relatively new class of philately, called 'Heimat Filately' (Homeland Philately) which has less strict rules of the way and items exhibited.

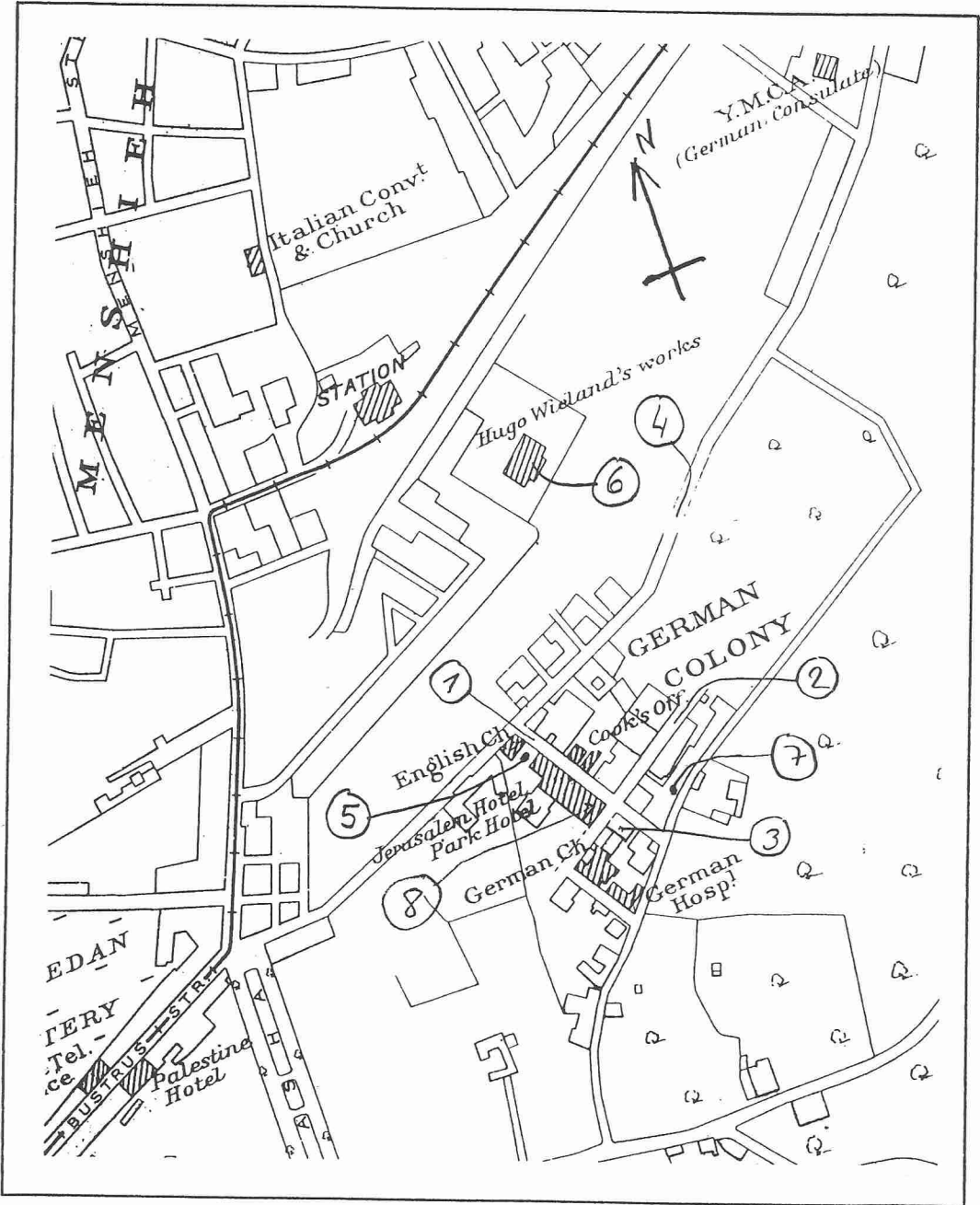
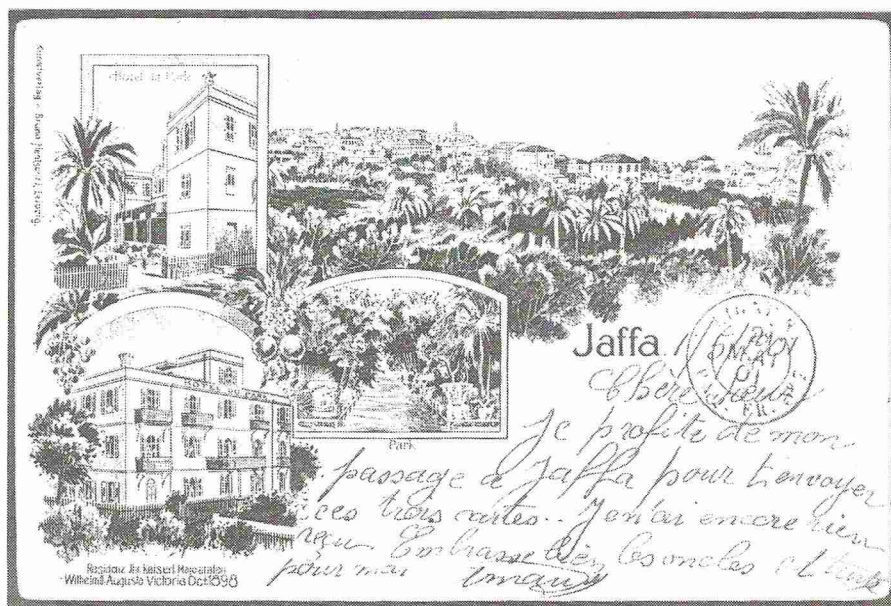
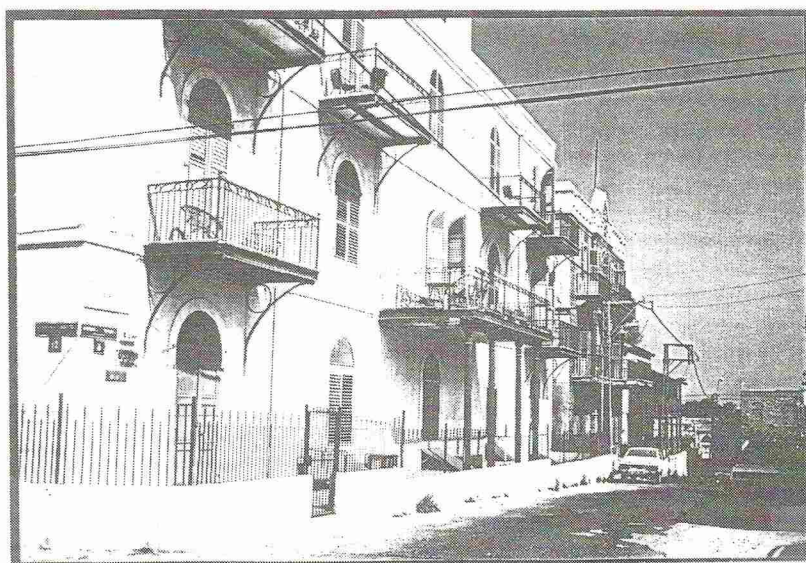


Fig. 45: The Jaffa German Colony in the first quarter of the 20th century.



**Fig. 46:** A postcard printed at the end of the 19th century showing four scenes related to Hotel du Parc, Jaffa: The front and back of the hotel building, Ustinov's park and the view of Jaffa from the German Colony westward.



**Fig. 47:** The view of Auerbach St. to the north (1996) showing, from the left: the building of Hotel du Parc, Hotel Jerusalem/Hardegg (almost in ruin), and the reconstructed wood house of the Keren restaurant.

joined the Templer community, and operated the hotel at the end of the 19th century, planting in the backyard a park that was unique at those times, including a small archeological museum. In WWI Count Ustinov's son Peter volunteered, with other young Templers, to the German Imperial army (Fig. 48) and was later killed in France. Peter's grandmother Christina Hall (Fig. 48) lived in the German Colony a short distance from the hotel. Count Plato is the grandfather of the famous British actor



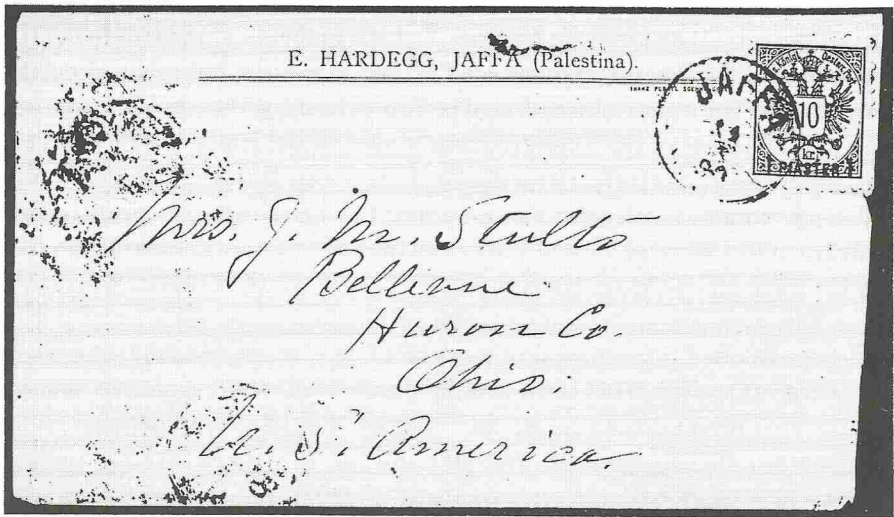
**Fig. 48:** A letter to the volunteer lance-corporal Peter von Ustinov, at a civilian address in Wurttemberg, was mailed from Jaffa in August 1915 by his grandmother Christina Hall. The letter was censored in Beyrouth.

Peter Ustinov. Hotel du Parc was honored (as marked on the postcard in Fig. 46) to host Kaiser Wilhelm II and his wife Augusta Victoria in their historic visit to the Holy Land in October 1898. The next building in the See Str. was the Jerusalem Hotel (Fig. 49) known also as Hardegg Hotel operated by Ernst Hardegg, the son of Georg David Hardegg, the co-leader of the Templers, who stayed in the Haifa Colony, while his senior partner Christoph Hoffmann settled in Jaffa. Ernst Hardegg (Fig. 50) was one of the Templer community leaders and for a time the American vice-consul in Jaffa. The postcard of Fig. 51 is the view of Jaffa from the back windows of Hardegg's Hotel (and for the same matter, from Hotel du Parc). The air photo of Fig. 52 will help the present visitor to understand the unique view of Fig. 51.

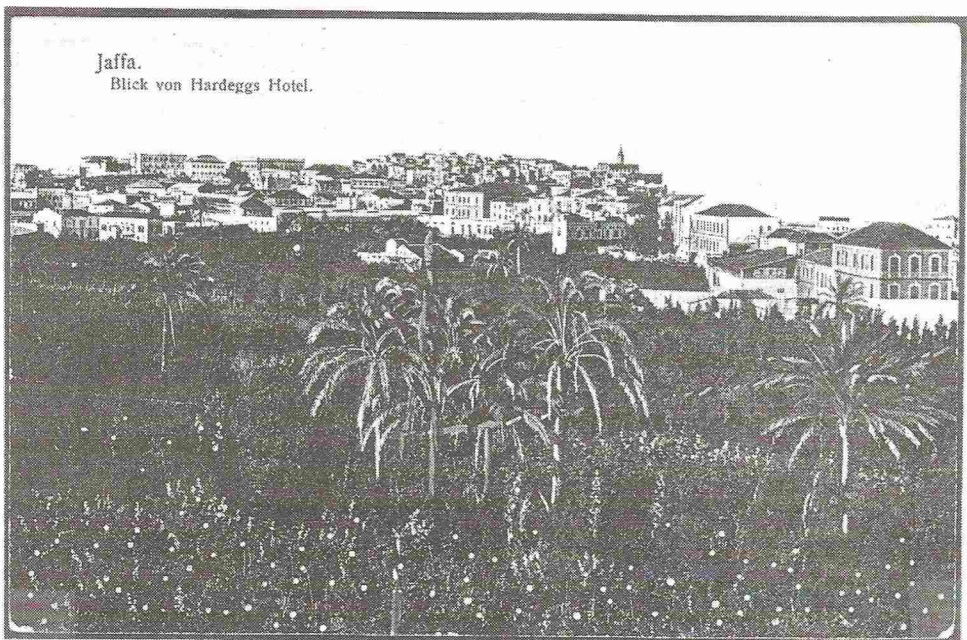
Another site of interest for the visitor is the reconstructed building marked No. 5 in Fig. 45, next to the Jerusalem Hotel, hosting the "\*\*\*" Keren restaurant. This is an original wooden prefabricated house imported by the unlucky American settlers. Another such building was hand drawn by the adjutant of major Rabiner of the WWI German Expeditionary Mission on a postcard (Fig. 53) sent in 1916 to the son of Johannes Spohn, a friend of the Templers and the founder of the Bir-Salem agricultural school near Ramleh (today just next to Kibbutz Netzer Sireny). The adjutant, so he



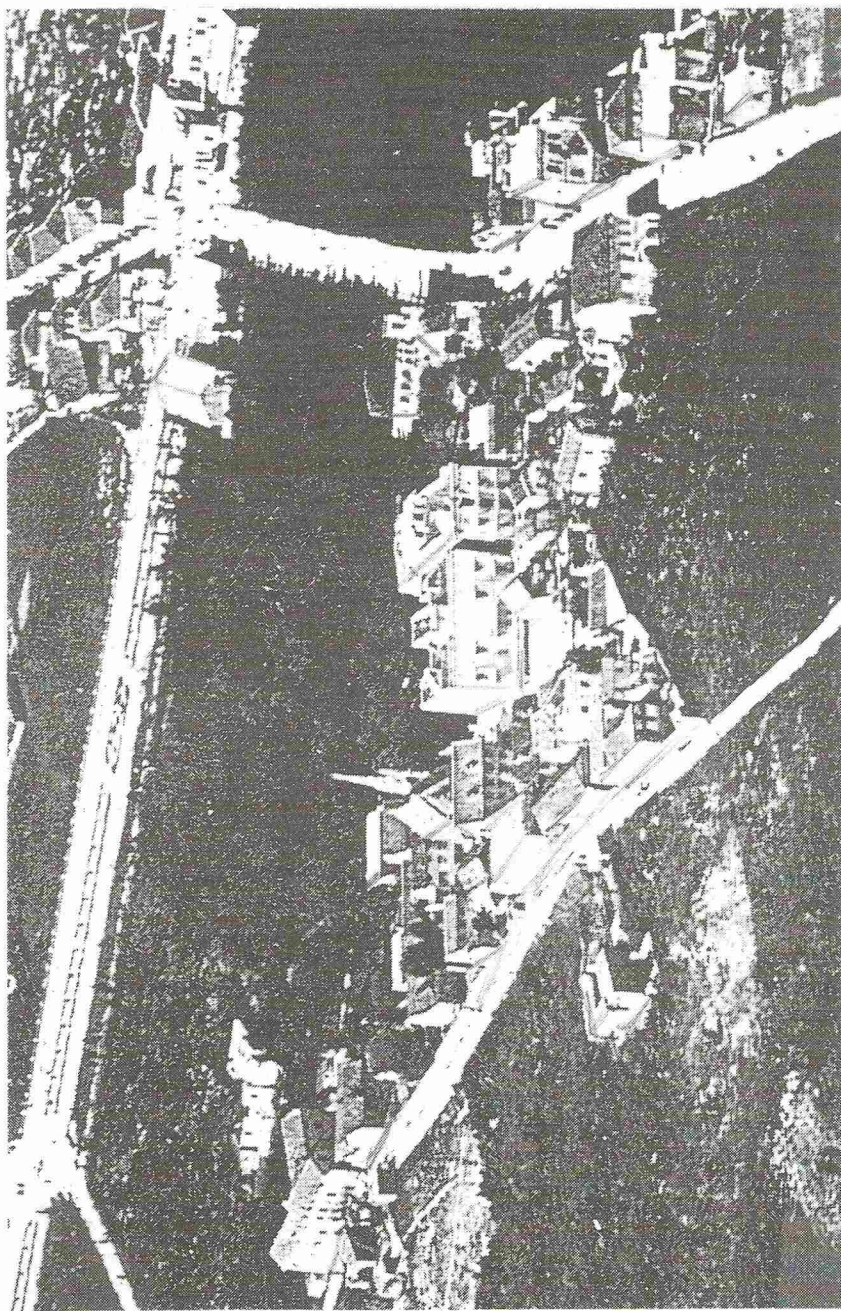
**Fig. 49: The Jerusalem-Hotel, private envelope was used by a hotel guest to mail a double weight (2 piastres) letter to England in 1894.**



**Fig. 50:** The E. Hardegg private envelope was used by an American hotel guest in 1890 to mail a letter to the States via the services of the Austrian post.



**Fig. 51:** The view of Jaffa as seen from the Hardegg Hotel – a postcard printed at the end of the 19th century.



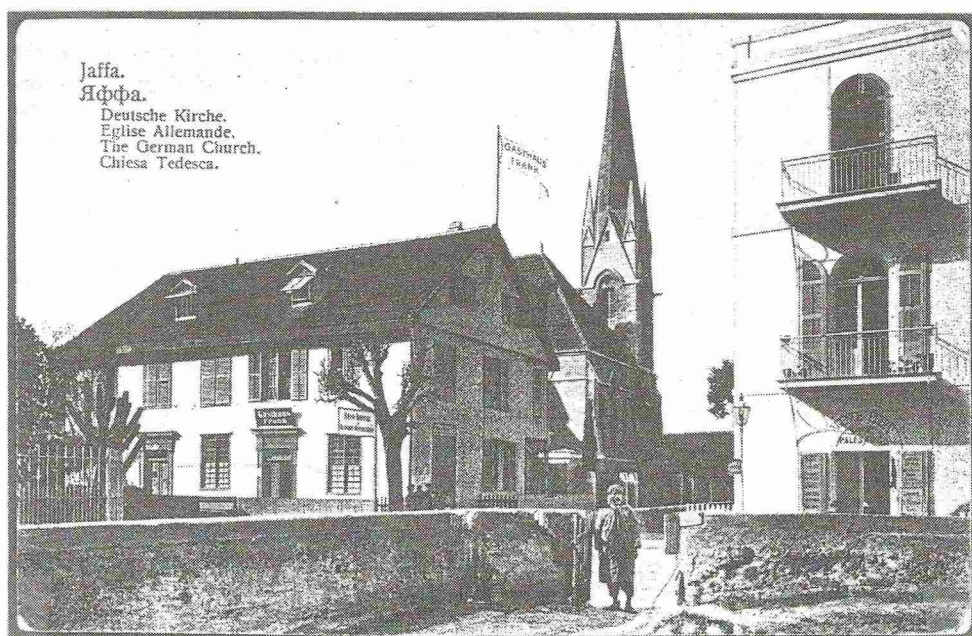
*Fig. 52: The German Colony, an inhabited island amongst the citrus orchards of Jaffa, as seen from the air in 1917 by the British. The new avenue in the background is the Gemal Pasha, later King George, now Jerusalem Boulevard.*



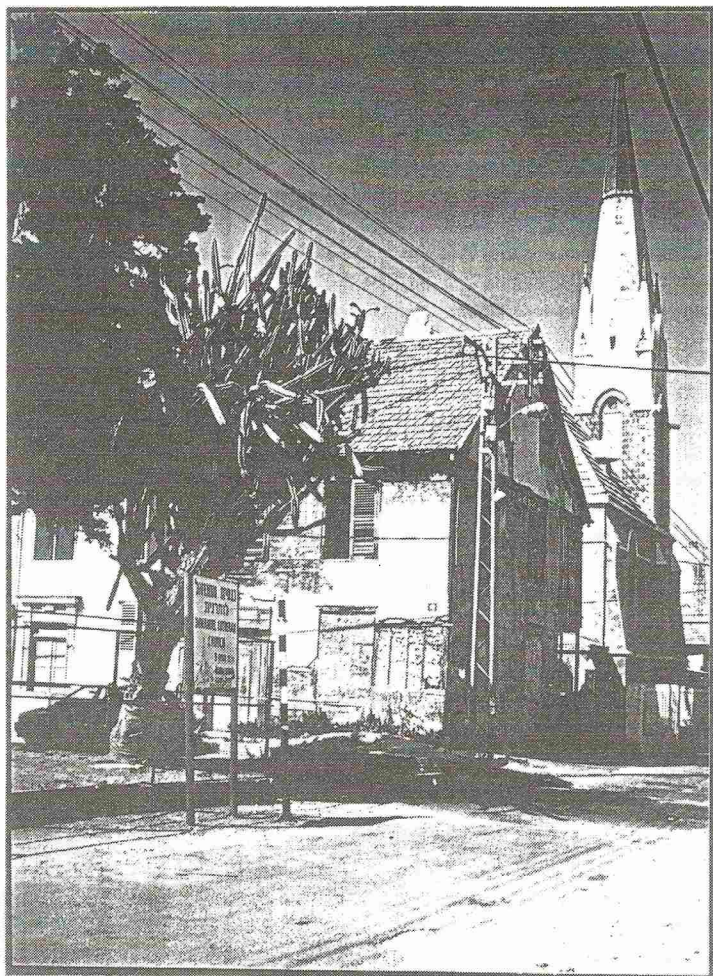
Fig. 53: A hand-drawn postcard mailed in June 1915 by a member of the German Military Expeditionary Mission then in Nabulus to Mattheus Spohn, in Bir-Salem. The Jerusalem censor large circle cachet was stamped on the front.

writes in the postcard, promises to draw his present house in Nablus in the next courier, but in the meantime sent a drawing he made during the last visit of the major in Bir-Salem. The style of the building is unique for that time to the American prefab wood houses of the Jaffa German Colony and taken together with the church drawn in the background can be easily identified with the view seen then (and today) from the eastern side of Wilhelms Strasse (No. 2 in Fig. 45) to the west. The church was originally German Evangelic, built in the early years of this century, now called Immanuel, operated by a Hebrew-Christian organization that owned the building of Hotel du Parc and reconstructed the prefab wooden house shown in Fig. 53.

On the crossroads of the German Colony (No. 3, in Fig. 45), just south of Hotel du Parc, was the Gasthaus (guest-house) Frank, another Templer family that operated the place in a converted wood structured building. The postcard of Fig. 54 shows the building just in front of the German Evangelic church and next to Hotel du Parc. The sharp observer will notice the humble cactus plant on the lower left side of the postcard and can compare it with the giant cactus on the left of the present day photo (Fig. 55) of the same place. Guest-house Frank was operated by the family from the later 19th century up to the thirties as evidenced by the advertisement in Fig. 56 published in 1929 in a Hebrew business publication directed to the German speaking countries.



***Fig. 54: The crossroads of the German Colony as pictured on an end of the 19th century color postcard. Guesthaus Frank is on the left, in front of the German church. A part of Hotel du Parc is shown on the right.***



*Fig. 55: The crossroads of Fig. 54 as photographed in 1996.*

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Gasthaus FRANK</h2>		<p>DEUTSCHE KOLONIE JAFFA</p>
<p>Für Touristen, Geschäftsreisende und Pensionäre für vorübergehenden oder längeren Aufenthalt.</p>	<p>   </p>	<p>Besonders günstig gelegen im Zentrum zwischen Jaffa—Tel-Aviv. Gute bürgerliche Verpflegung und Bedienung.</p>

*Fig. 56: Guest-House Frank was advertised in the June 1929 edition of the Hebrew commerce magazine "Mischar W'taasia."*

A modern pharmacy was operated by Friedrich Sandel (Fig. 57) next to a small hospital at the southern part of the German Colony. His father, Dr. Gotlob Sandel, was an acting physician in the colony, and his brother Theodor an architect and cartographer. Other members of this Templer pioneer family were acting in building and road construction (Fig. 58).

The Hugo Wieland cement works (No. 6 in Fig. 45), north to the Nablus road (No. 4, today Eilat Road), pioneered prefabricated building elements such as floor tiles, pillars and balustrades. The Wielands, a distinguished Templer family, lived in Jerusalem and Jaffa. The letter of Fig. 59 was mailed in 1916 to Walther Wieland, another young Templer who volunteered to the German army. The military censor seemed to ignore the detailed "battle order" of a WWI German reserve corps, as given on the cover.



**Fig. 57:** A letter, mailed in Jaffa by Friedrich W. Sandel on November 10, 1881 to a Templer in Marseilles, was routed by the French post via Egypt and Paris.

The home of the Templer family Breisch, on the southeastern part of the Colony (marked No. 7 in Fig. 54) is the last site in our philatelic visit. Immanuel Breisch and his son Paul (Fig. 60) were prominent exporters, importers and customs agents serving the sea port of Jaffa.

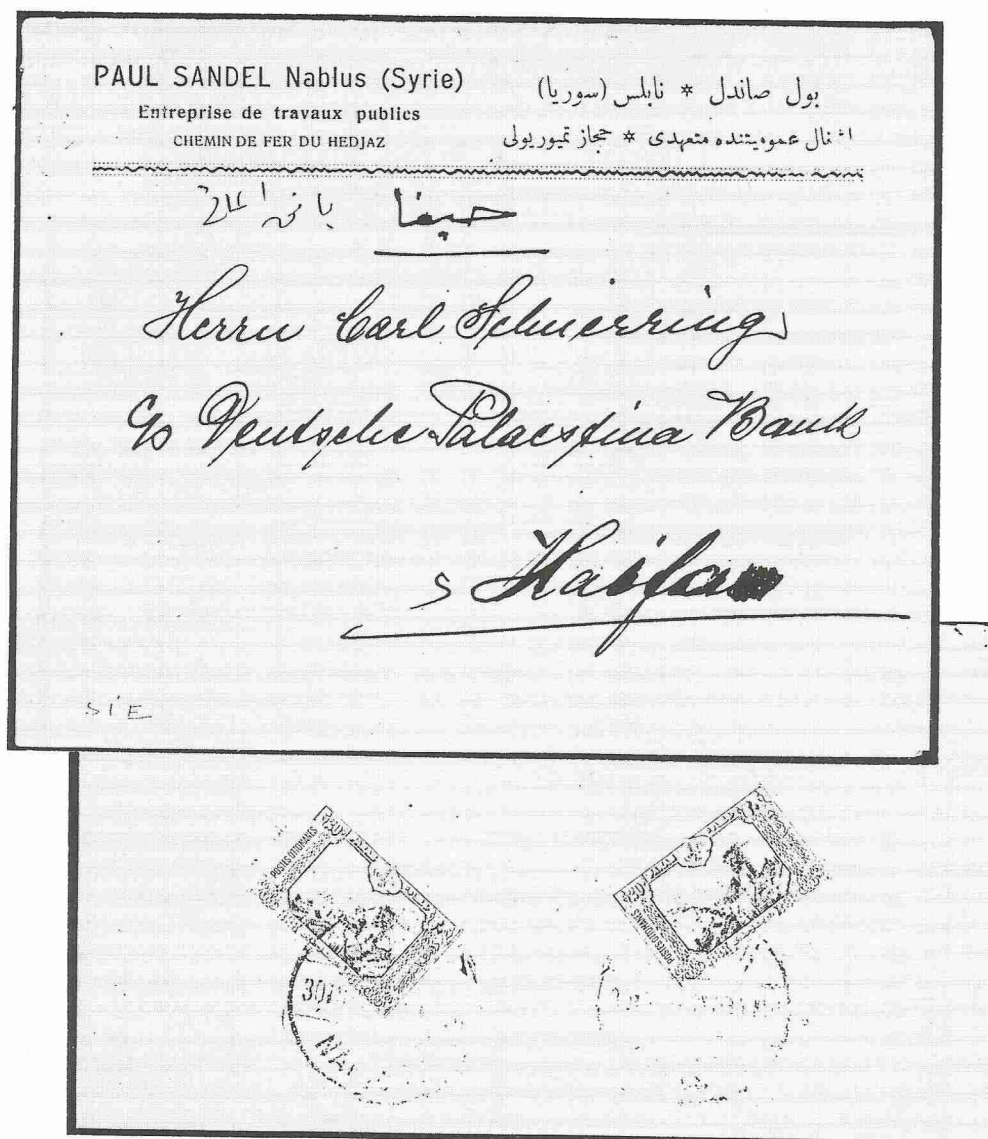


Fig. 58: A private envelope of Paul Sandel's Nablus based public works co. was mailed on 30 September, 1917 to a Templer banker in the Haifa branch of the Deutsche Palestina Bank.

In the mid-twenties, Jaffa's young neighbor Tel Aviv took over the role of economic leader in Palestine, and Haifa's modern port became the sea gate of the country. Jaffa went into an economical and political decline which ended in 1948, when the town was annexed to its neighbor to form Israel's number one city of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

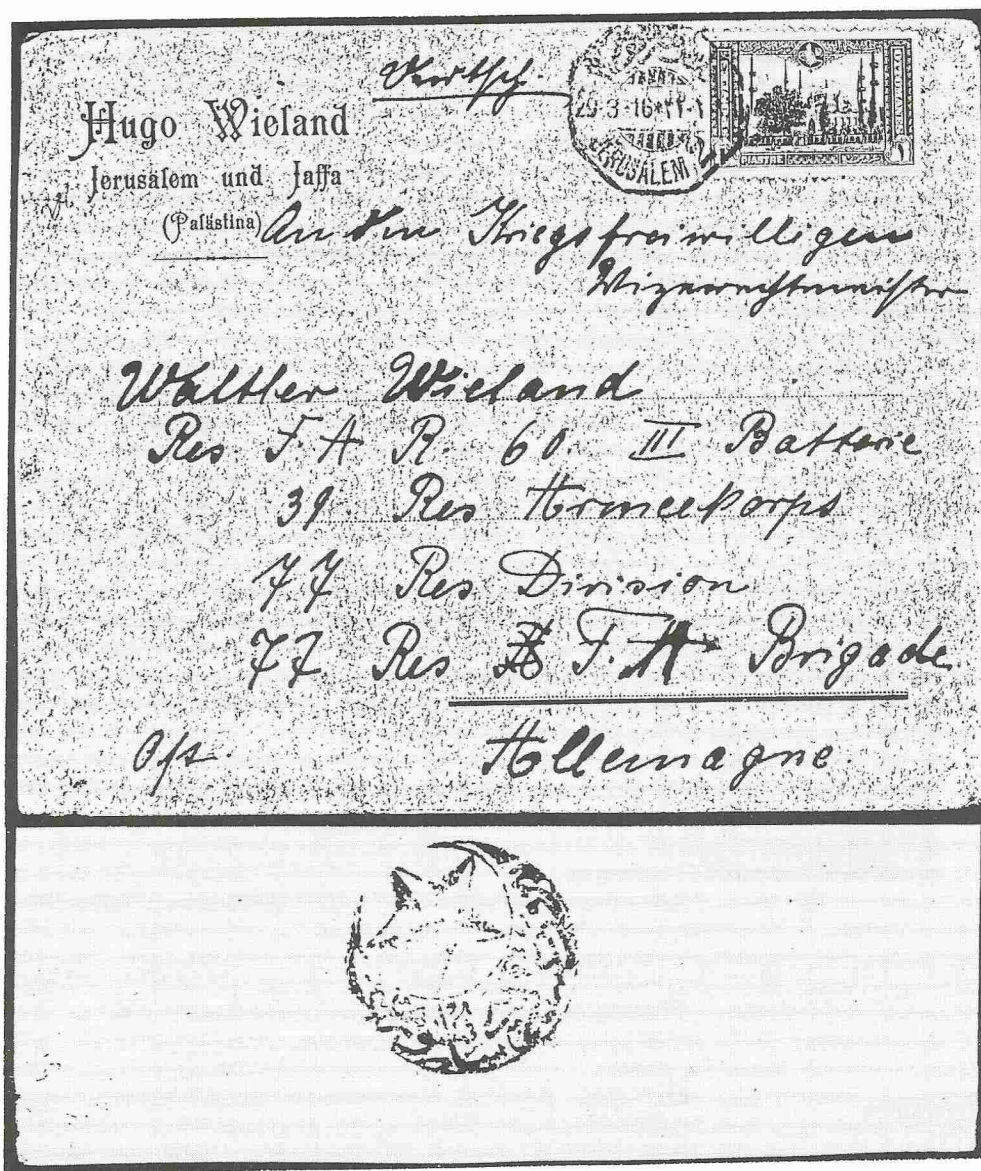


Fig. 59: A private envelope of Hugo Wieland (Jerusalem & Haifa) mailed in 1916 in Jerusalem to the military address of volunteer gunner Walther Wieland stationed in Germany.



*Fig. 60: The Paul Breisch, Jaffa cachet was stamped on a parcel card delivered by the Russian R.O.P.i.T. shipping service to a Jewish addressee in Jerusalem.*

## References

- (1) Eyal Eisler, "The American-German Colony in Jaffa as a pattern to the activities of the Christian world in 19th century Palestine." A thesis (in Hebrew), University of Haifa.
- (2) P. Sauer, "The Holy Land Called – The Story of the Temple Society."
- (3) B. Z. Kedar, "Looking Twice at the Land of Israel."

## \* \* \* \* \* \* \* **SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES** \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

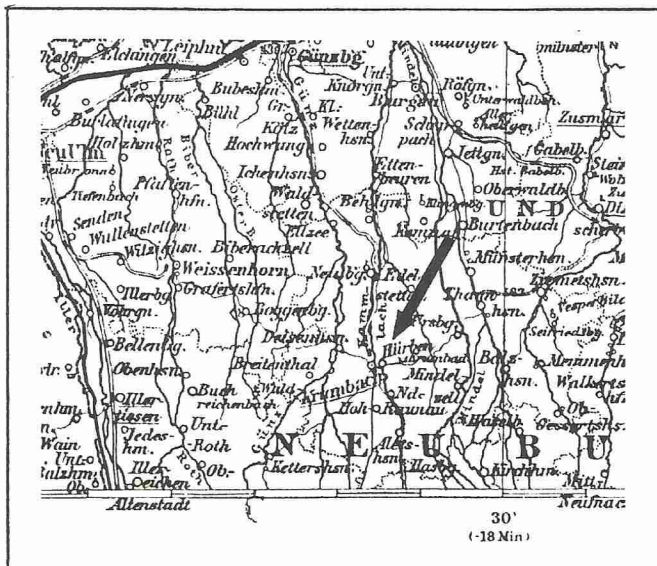
### The Ottoman Period

#### An Interesting 19th Century Jerusalem-Germany Correspondence and Extremely Rare Jerusalem Postmarks *(Chanan Schiffman)*

Lately I came across a very interesting correspondence from Jerusalem to Germany.

In 1833, Rabbi Joseph Schwarz<sup>1</sup> left his home village Hürben near Augsburg in Bavaria (Fig. 61), made the long journey to the Holy Land and settled in Jerusalem. The small village Hürben no longer exists. It was absorbed into the nearby town Krumbach. No sign or memory of the village exists in the post-war atlases of the region.

The Holy Land at that time was under the rule of Egypt, led by Mohammed Ali, which lasted 9 years until 1840. For more than three decades Rabbi Joseph Schwarz wrote dozens of letters to his brother Haim in Germany, in which he described the land and the Jewish life in Jerusalem.



**Fig. 61: Rabbi Joseph Schwarz's home village Hürben near Augsburg in Bavaria, in a pre-WWI map.**

The first letter, marked "No. 1" and "...נכתב על הספינה...", was "written on the ship" (posted on the high seas?) in Hebrew and sent from or via Trieste during February, 1833 (Fig. 62). From that year on, Joseph Schwarz sent his letters regularly from Jerusalem to Germany, written in Jewish German in Hebrew letters, and forwarded to Europe in an unknown way. All the letters up to 1838 do not bear any inscription or handstamp from Jerusalem or the Mediterranean area to indicate the route, except the sender's hand written directive "Via Trieste". That is the reason that Trieste is always the first transit postmark, then mostly Frankfurt, Augsburg and/or Krumbach.

The exception comes around March 1838.<sup>2</sup> One single letter bears a full and very clear trilingual handstamp:

"GERUSALEMME – ירושלים עה"ק תובכ"א – QUDS SHARIF" and a full Hebrew date: "Sunday – Adar 7, 1838 (in letters)" (See Front Cover).

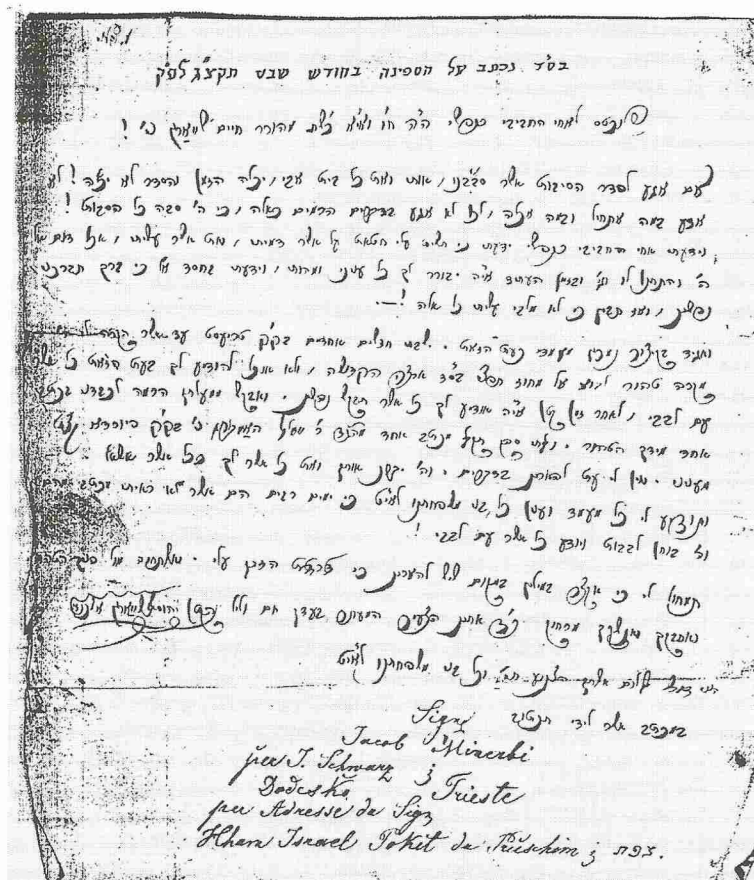


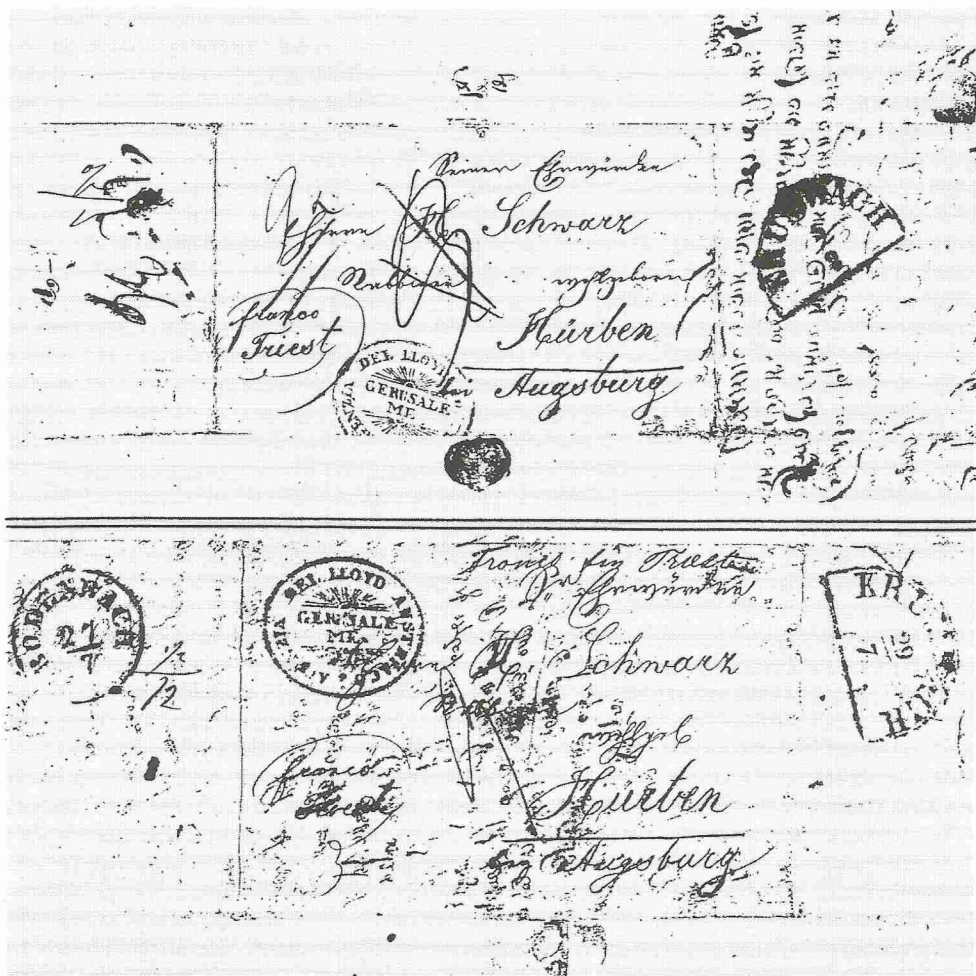
Fig. 62: The first letter (marked "No. 1" on left top) was written by Rabbi Schwarz in Hebrew on the ship, in February 1833 (posted on the high seas?) and sent from or via Trieste.

A similar but not the same inscription (without date) is also pressed on the large wax seal. It reads:

“SIGLLIO DI POSTA IN GERUSALEMME – ..... ירושלים עה"ק תובב"א ..... – QUDS SHARIF” (Seal of Post in Jerusalem . . .).

The Hebrew acronyms which traditionally follow “Jerusalem,” could indicate that those were the handstamp and seal of the Jewish community in Jerusalem, which acted apparently also as a postal dispatch agency, by which only this single letter of the whole ca. 270-letter correspondence was sent.

In the following seventeen years all letters, as mentioned above, were sent as if they started their route in Trieste. 1855 was a year of meaningful philatelic change for Rab' Schwarz as he sent two letters via the Austrian Lloyd agency in Jerusalem (Fig. 63).

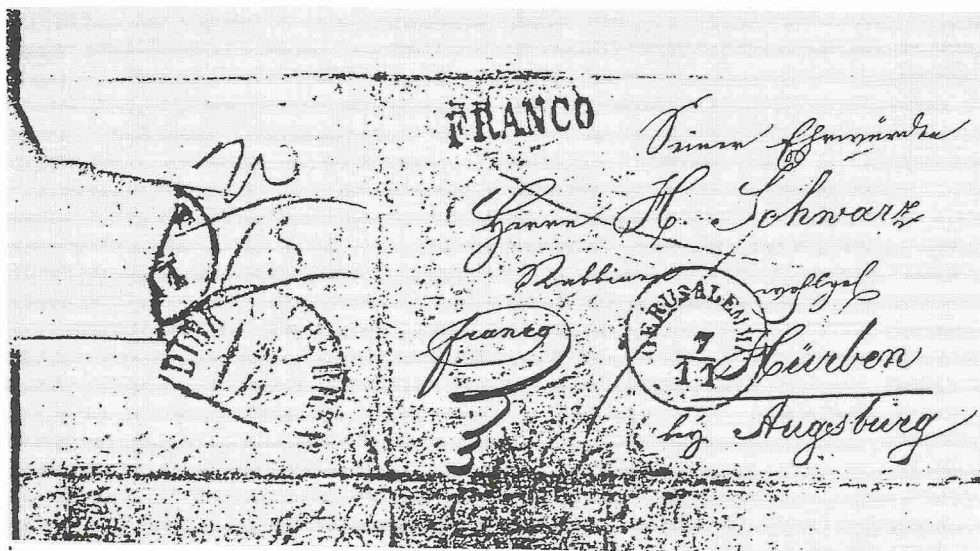


**Fig. 63:** 1855 was a year of meaningful postal change for Rab' Schwarz as he sent two letters via the Austrian Lloyd agency in Jerusalem.

Then again five years of unknown routes or carriers, and from 1860 on he regularly used the services of the Austrian post office in Jerusalem (Fig. 64).

The Rabbi wrote his last letter in 1865; the next one was written in German and was signed: "Joseph Schwarz widow." All these letters were kept by his brother Haim and family, and then handed over to the Jewish community of Augsburg. After the destruction of the Synagogues, and during the Nazi period and later, the letters, among other Judaica items, were withheld in a museum in Potsdam, and were only recently returned to Jewish hands. Today, these letters are kept in the "Center Judaicum" in Berlin.

Rabbi Joseph Schwarz wrote letters for 32 years – he died in 1865 in Jerusalem. May he rest in peace!



*Fig. 64: From 1860 on, Rabbi Schwarz used the services of the Austrian post office in Jerusalem.*

#### References:

- (1) Encyclopaedia Hebraica, Vol. 31, p. 674 (1979), שורץ יהוסף, האנציקלופדיה העברית, כרך ל"א, עמ' 674
- (2) A. Morgenstern, Cathedra #82 (Dec. 1996), pp. 58–59 (in Hebrew).

## The First Jerusalem Postmark *(Joseph Aron, Australia)*

The significance of the decade of the 1830s for the history of Jerusalem and the Holy Land arises from the invasion and occupation by Egyptian ruler, Mohammed Ali. This brief interlude in four hundred years of history of the Ottoman dominated Holy Land served as a turning point in the fortunes of Jerusalem. Until the second decade of the nineteenth century there was only a small and poor Sephardi Jewish community in Jerusalem. About 1816 the first attempt at reestablishment of an Ashkenazi presence took place. However severe difficulties were experienced based on Moslem attitudes to debts accumulated by Ashkenazi Jews over a century earlier. It was only after the advent of Mohammed Ali to power over Palestine that these problems were overcome, title to various properties (including that later occupied by the Churva Synagogue) were cleared, and an Ashkenazic yishuv was reestablished. Key players in that development were the Perushim – associated with the disciples of the Gaon Elijah of Vilna. They had previously mainly been located in Safed; the final demise of their Safed settlement followed the devastating earthquake of January 1837, after which the survivors moved to Jerusalem.

Various postal historians dealing with the development of postal communications in Egypt have drawn attention to the role of Mohammed Ali in creating a more modern system. This is not the place to discuss that aspect. However the most amazing recent discovery in the history of the posts in the Holy Land involves the establishment in 1837–38 of postal communication from Jerusalem to Egypt and thence to Europe – by the leaders of the Ashkenazic Yishuv with the authority of Mohammed Ali. The most breathtaking aspect of that postal system is that it had its own handstamp – the first in the history of the Holy Land.

Those early Jerusalem settlers were at-least-partly dependent for their livelihood on funds transmitted to them from European communities, especially their colleagues who remained in Vilna and the Amsterdam based Kollel. Accordingly a reliable and efficient mode of communication was essential. The well preserved files of the Amsterdam Kollel include a copy of a letter dated Cheshvan 5592 (November 1831) in which its administrator, AM Lehen of Amsterdam, advised Reb Israel Shklov (a leader of the Perushim) that he had arranged for the Dutch diplomatic courier (presumably to Constantinople) to assist in transferring mail and funds to the settlers. He also requested that Reb Israel seek the assistance of Mohammed Ali to improve communications between Europe and the Holy Land (Morgenstern, "גאולה דרך הטבע" [Geulah Derech Hateva], Jerusalem 1997).

In addition to the practical requirements to facilitate the transfer of funds, the mystically oriented among the leaders of the yishuv saw every aspect of normalization of life in Jerusalem – including the establishment of communications integrating the Jerusalem community with that of the Diaspora – as part of the process leading to the final redemption and its accompanying Messianic revelation (which was widely anticipated as due in 1840). This two faceted need led Yehosef (Joseph) Schwarz and Eliezer

Bergman to seek authority from the Pasha (Mohammed Ali) in 1837–38 for establishment of a postal system based in Jerusalem. Authority was granted – and seen as an achievement with miraculous ramifications.

At least one letter has survived that was actually sent by this system; it was recently found in an archive in what was formerly East Germany and studied by Professor Arie Morgenstern. That letter, which is illustrated in the Front Cover, was written up and illustrated in *Cathedra* #82 (December 1996), published by Yad Yitzchak ben Tzvi (in Hebrew). Part of its text describes the process of gaining approval from the pasha for establishment of the post. Of particular importance however are its postal markings. It bears the hitherto unknown postmark of Jerusalem dated 7 Adar 1838, as well as a standard mark from Trieste dated 22 May 1838. Jerusalem to Trieste must have taken two months – presumably overland to Alexandria and hence by boat.

The Jerusalem postmark itself is constructed of two concentric circles. The outer ring is inscribed Gerusalemme above the hebrew for Yerushalayim IH"K TVBB"A (Ir hakodesh; Tibane vetikonen bimhera beyameinu amen: the holy city may it be built and reestablished speedily in our days, Amen). The central ring has the Arabic 'Kuds (al)Sharif'. The Hebrew date 7 Adar is handwritten in Rashi writing in a decorative space under the Arabic; on either side of that date appear the handwritten words 'יום א' (Sunday) and the year 5688, respectively. The impression appears in a blackish ink.

It is not long since the recent discovery of the postmark of the DDSG service via Jaffa, of which two letters are now known (HLPB Bulletin # 69/72). Obviously discoveries are still being made regarding the early postal history of the Holy Land. One wonders what is yet to come, particularly as the archives of the now democratized Eastern European countries are opened to scholarly research and public scrutiny. There is also scope for research in the files of material related to the Pekidim and Amercalim of Amsterdam (the full name of the Kolliel organization) held by Yad Yitzchak ben Zvi, which (to the best of my knowledge) have as yet to be examined by a postal historian specifically seeking information as to the modes of transfer of funds and correspondence.

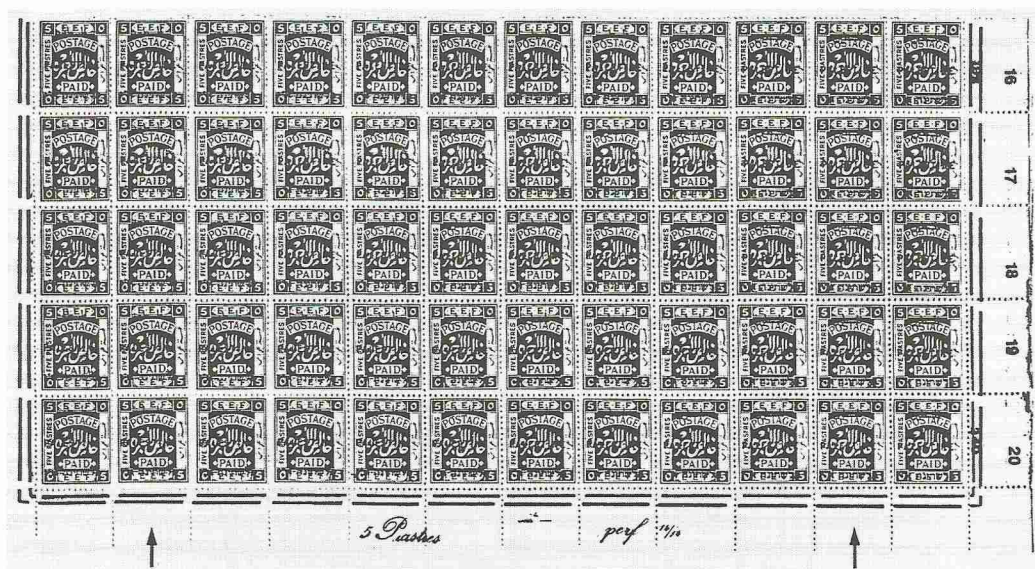
## The British Mandate Period

### The Bale Listing of the London II (Waterlow) Plate Blocks

*(A. Kaplanian & Jacques Kaufmann, Holland)*

The Bale Palestine catalogue lists all the corner and control plate blocks of the Mandate issues. In the latest 1986 edition, the listing is found on pages 111 to 117. The typographed issue through the London I Somerset printing do not exist with plate control numbers. Therefore, their listing is for the four corner blocks of the complete sheet.

When we come to the London II sheets, we see that these carry the plate number "1" in a small square in the colour of the printed stamp. This plate block number appears above stamps number 2 and 11 and under stamps number 230 and 239 in the sheet of 240 stamps. But this is true only for the values of 1 millieme to 2 piastres. The 5, 9, 10 and 20 piastres values show a different pattern, for the sheets of these values were cut in half first before the overprinting was applied. That is why these sheets have a blank intersecting gutter, while the lower values have a gutter with four horizontal lines in the stamps' colour. Also the plate numbers are above stamps number 2 and 11 and below number 110 and 119 in the upper (half) sheet, and above number 122 and 131 in the lower (half) sheet. No plate numbers are found under the last row of the lower sheet (see Fig. 65).

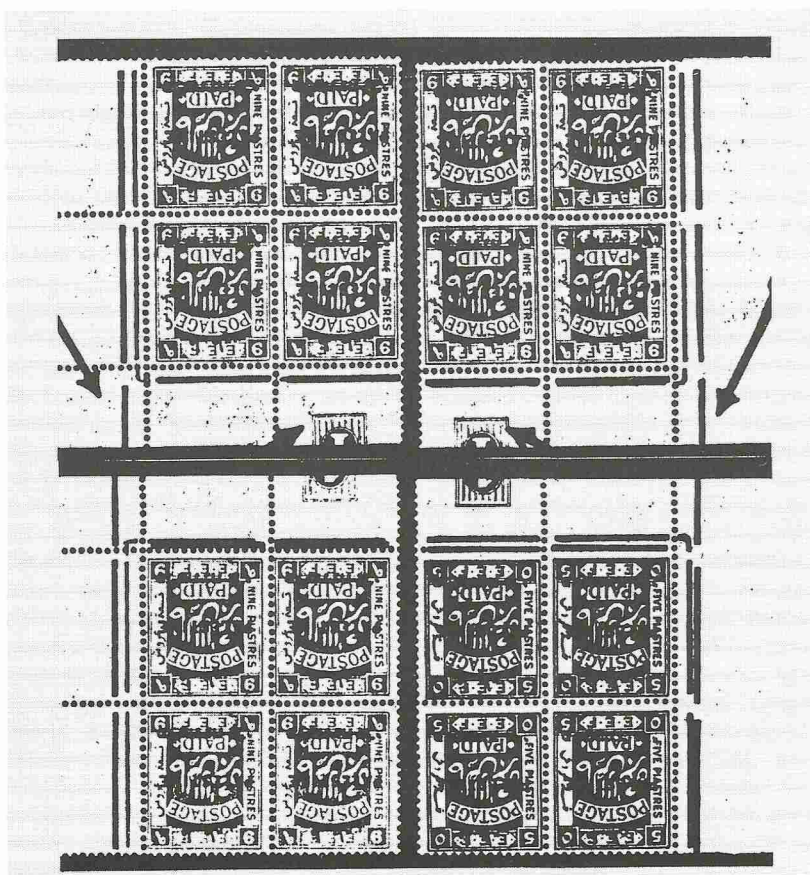


**Fig. 65:** The last five rows (16–20) of the lower half sheet, showing the absence of the plate block number under stamps in position 230 and 239.

Furthermore, because the full sheet was cut in half before adding the overprint, we usually find the plate number under stamps 110 and 119 and above 122 and 131 cut in half (see Fig. 66).

Dorfman gives in his book<sup>1</sup> a clear illustration of the eight corner blocks of the upper and lower (half) sheets of the 9 piastres stamp. Unfortunately, when we look at the Bale catalogue, we see that the listing of these blocks does not correspond with the reality of this information, for it follows the four classifications of "upper left and right" and "lower left and right" for all the plate blocks including these four higher values without making any distinction between them and the lower values. This of course does not do justice to the exact description and is confusing to the collector of these plate blocks.

The reader might wonder how to differentiate between the two upper plate blocks, i.e. above stamps 2 & 11 and those of the lower plate blocks of the sheet, i.e. above stamps 122 & 131. The answer is simple. First, the upper blocks have the plate number "1" in full while those of the lower sheet are usually cut in half. But this is not always the



*Figure 66*

case as some of the 5 and 10 piastres values are found complete and uncut in half (see Fig. 67). And secondly, the block line surrounding the sheet parallel to the Jubilee line in the stamps' colour will be seen cornering the left and right sides of the blocks in the upper sheet (thus stamps 1 & 2 plus 11 & 12; see Fig. 68), while this line will go in a vertical straight line in the lower sheet (thus stamps 121 & 122 plus 131 & 132; see Fig. 67).

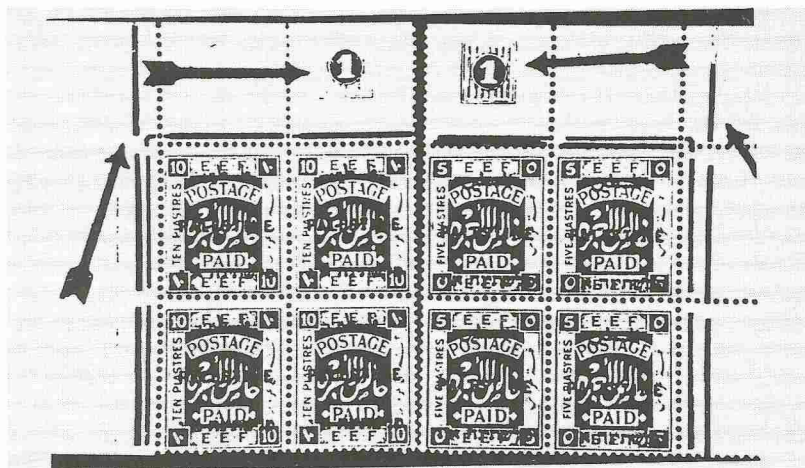


Figure 67

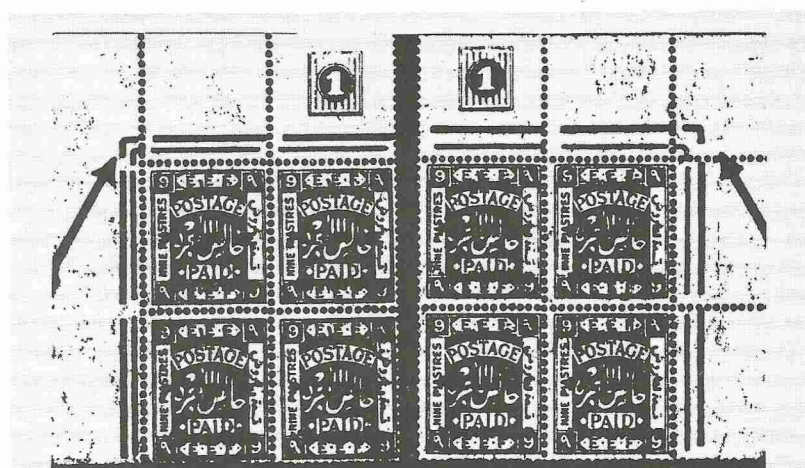


Figure 68

What we would like M. Bale to do when it comes to listing the plate blocks of the London II issue is the following:

- 1) Keep the listing of the 1m through the 2p stamps unchanged as listed on p. 114 of his catalogue. This listing will be for the stamps with Bale chronological numbers 71 through 81b.

- 2) To list the four higher value stamps, i.e. Bale numbers 82 to 84 (perf. 14) and Bale numbers 86 to 89 (perf. 15 x 14) as follows (prices of mint Pl.Bl.'s in US dollars):

**Perf. 14**

<i>No. Value Colour</i>	<i>Upper (half) sheet</i>				<i>Lower (half) sheet</i>	
	<i>upper left</i>	<i>upper right</i>	<i>lower left</i>	<i>lower right</i>	<i>upper left</i>	<i>upper right</i>
82 5p purple	80	75	80	75	75	75
82a 9p bistre	--	--	--	--	--	--
83 10p turq.	330	300	300	300	300	300
84 20p bright violet	1500	1450	1400	1400	1400	1400

**Perf. 15x14**

<i>No. Value Colour</i>	<i>Upper (half) sheet</i>				<i>Lower (half) sheet</i>	
	<i>upper left</i>	<i>upper right</i>	<i>lower left</i>	<i>lower right</i>	<i>upper left</i>	<i>upper right</i>
86 5p purple	260	285	260	260	250	250
87 9p bistre	300	310	300	310	300	300
88 10p turq.	190	200	190	190	190	200
89 20p bright violet	500	550	500	500	500	500

**Reference:** (1) D. Dorfman, "The Postage Stamps of Palestine, 1918-1948", p. 61.



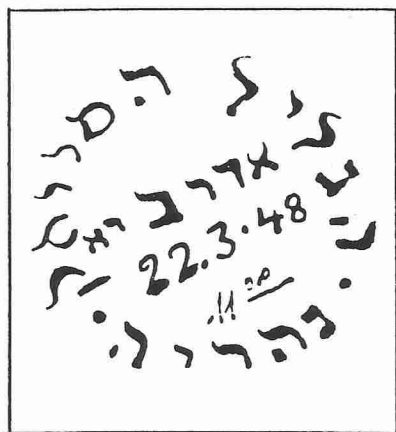
## The Interim Period

### A Last Day Arrival Postmark of the Nahariya Mandate Post (?)

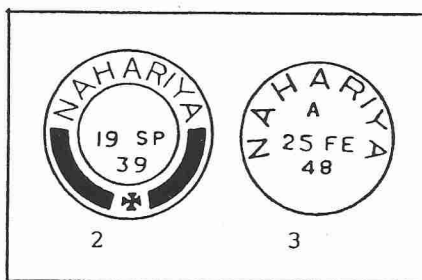
(Zvi Shimony)

**Last Days** of certain postmarks, and especially of changing Postal Administrations, are not, in many cases, less important than the corresponding **First Days**. But often they are less precisely known and certainly much more elusive on commercial mail. This may be one of the reasons that many philatelic publications deal extensively with F.D.'s, and rather infrequently with L.D.'s.

It is well known that the first day of postal service (and of the corresponding postmark) of the Nahariya Emergency Minhelet Ha'am Administration (Mishmar Ha'am) was 22 March, 1948 (Fig. 69). But what was the last day of operation of the former Mandate Post there? Has anybody seen a postmark – either a dispatch, an arrival or on a postal document – of this last day of Nahariya post? Dorfman<sup>1</sup> lists the "Latest Date" of the last two Nahariya Mandate postmarks – Nos. 2 (d.c.) and 3 (s.c.) – as **16 March**, but nothing is said about their source. They are shown here from previous dates (Fig. 70) as given by Dorfman.\*



**Fig. 69: The first type of Nahariya emergency postmark, inscribed "22.3.48 נהריה. הגליל המנותק."**  
(The Isolated Galilee. Nahariya.).



**Fig. 70: Dorfman's illustration of Nahariya Mandate postmarks Nos. 2 and 3.**

\* Dorfman's illustrations being so neat and sharp, are probably reconstructions which explain the differences from the actual postmark.

In the chapter "Nahariya Emergency Mail Service," Forsher writes:<sup>2</sup>

*On March 14, 1948, the postmaster of the town was notified via telephone by the British Mandate authorities that **effective March 15, the telephone, telegraph and mail forwarding services would be suspended and he was ordered to close the post office** [my emphasis – Z.S.]. The message caused much consternation. An urgent session of the Mishmar Ha'am (Emergency Town Council) was called.*

*On March 16 the Mishmar Ha'am of Nahariya dispatched a van with mail and goods to Haifa. This small truck disappeared and the Arab driver was discovered two months later near Akko, shot to death. On March 17, a road block, manned by Arab irregulars, was reported on the only road to Haifa, near the town of Akko. (At that time known as Acre). Thus, Nahariya was virtually isolated.*

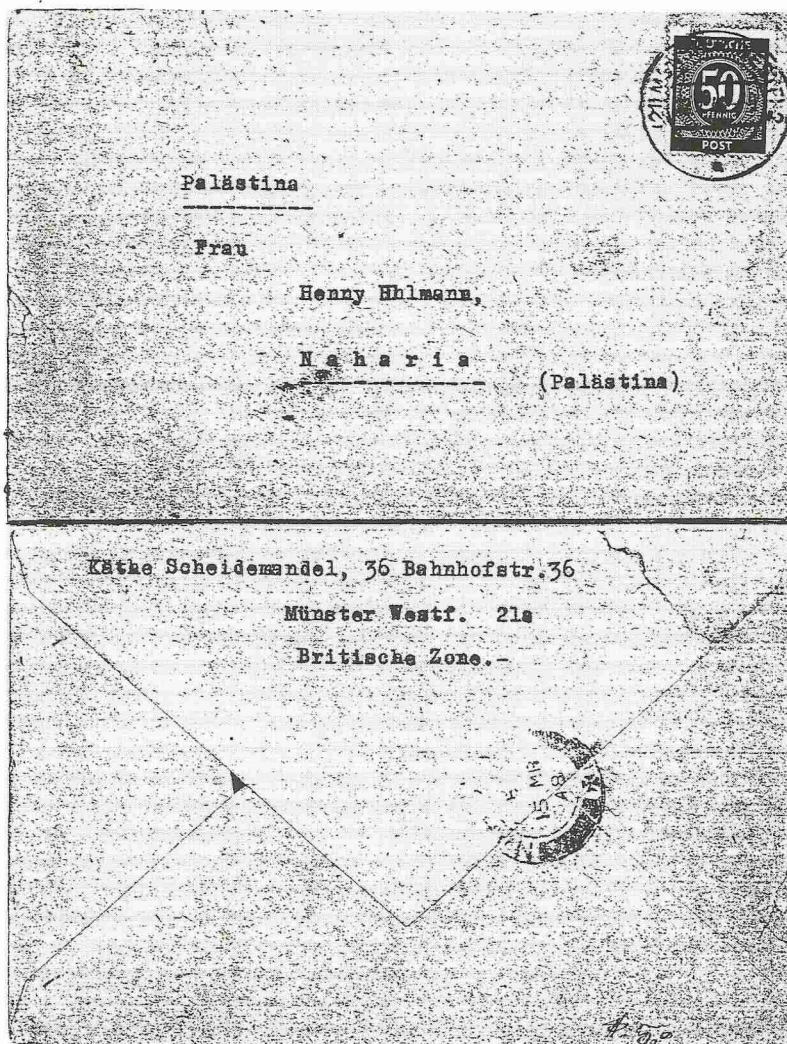
It is not infrequent that official announcements of "Last day of operation," especially in cases of emergency and war, are not accurate. In such cases, it is the task of postal historians to find out, generally by "field research," the proper date. It is usually reached in several steps and by several philatelists each contributing his own findings.

Recently I bought in a stamp club a cover which attracted my attention, although it did not show, on first sight, any special merits (Fig. 71). It was sent from Germany, the British Zone, on 12.3.48 (by surface mail) and was back-stamped in Nahariya on **15 March**. Though the arrival postmark is not full, it fortunately shows the date very clearly and it is definitely Dorfman's Nahariya No. 2 d.c. postmark.

Now we have three consecutive dates – 14, 15 and 16 of March – which one of them is the correct Last Date of the Nahariya Mandate Post? The answer is rather complicated and depends first of all on the exact definition of the phrase "Last Date of . . . Post". There may be an officially decreed L.D. of the Administration's Postal Management, which could be different from the field implication of this order. There may be official or semiofficial continuation of some unfinished postal tasks for a short period. Or there may be unofficial operations continued for even a longer period when, for instance, philatelic mail will be postmarked by what will purport to be the Last Day of that post office.

In the present case, it seems that 14 March was meant to be the official L.D. of the Nahariya Mandate Post, but for one reason or another, some pieces of incoming mail were left unsorted in the post office. They were sorted on the next day (15 March) and delivered to the addressees. The postal clerk – who may have had some historical aspirations – backstamped the few remaining items (even the ordinary letters not requiring arrival backstamping) to indicate for posterity the singularity of that date. This of course is just a speculation, and other explanations may be offered.

Now there is the query of what is the meaning of the L.D. (16 March) stated by Dorfman? As we do not know the source from which this information is extracted, we can only speculate on the circumstances which led to the existence of a so dated Nahariya postmark, two days after the formal official closure of the post office.



*Fig. 71: A cover from Germany to Nahariya backstamped "Nahariya 15 MR 48" – the Last Date of Nahariya Mandate Post (?)*

Reading carefully the above section cited from Forsher, we see in the second paragraph that on **16 March** "mail and goods" were dispatched by Mishmar Ha'am of Nahariya to Haifa. Is it possible that Mishmar Ha'am took upon itself the authority to use the Mandate post office and equipment during this day, and cancelled the outgoing mail with the "Nahariya 16 March" postmark? Perhaps some pieces of the mail carried by this van – which was captured or destroyed by the Arabs – were somehow salvaged and later reached their destination.

Until we know more details on the Nahariya Mandate postmarks of 16 March, we cannot really understand how and why they were applied – it seems more reasonable to assume that although the 14 March had been the officially decreed Last Day of the Nahariya Mandate Post, in practice the Last Day was the 15th.

**References:** (1) D. Dorfman, “Palestine Mandate Postmarks”, Florida (1985), p. 79.  
(2) B.J. Forsher, “The Interim Period Postage Stamps of Israel”, SIP (1969) p. 55.

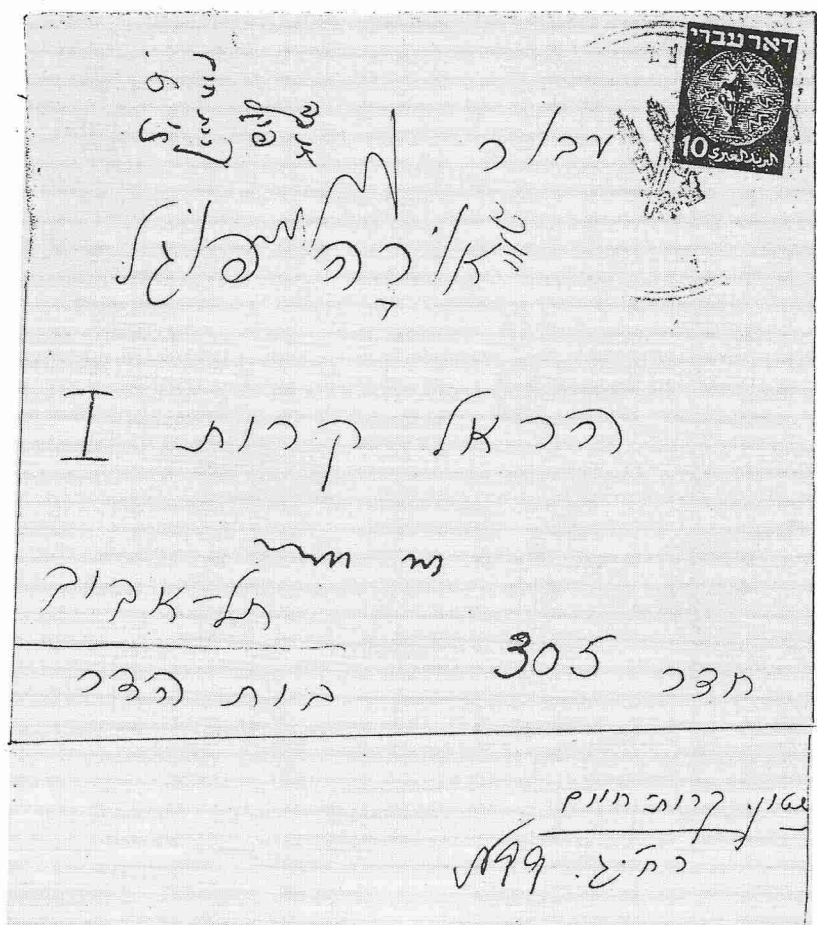
### **An Enigmatic Unique Palmach Siege Cover** (*Y. Rimon, Haifa*)

Old habits die hard. I refer to my habit of buying postal history items which at the buying time seem to be inexplicable or not understood. Many collectors refrain from buying such items but I consider them a lot of fun and a challenge – some of the most interesting treasures in my collection were obtained this way. The cover I am about to describe is a good example of such an item (Fig. 72).

I cannot remember when, where and why I bought this cover – probably the unusual cancellation caught my attention – but I could not explain then the meaning of it and how it came to be on the cover. So the cover went into the ‘cache of the inexplicable’ for many years.

While preparing my collection for the “Israel 98” World Stamp Exhibition I went over this cache and fished out several very interesting gems for the exhibit, including this cover. This time I concentrated on the address, which gave the solution to the riddle. The words “בית הדר” (Beit Hadar) reminded me of an article written in the HLPH (1987).<sup>1</sup> I showed there that there were at least two forwarding agents that collected letters for soldiers in besieged Jerusalem and its environs i.e. Qiryat Anavim and Ma’ale Hachamisha from the civilian mail. These letters were flown to Jerusalem by army planes and then forwarded to the soldiers. The service operated in both directions and many of the incoming covers were delivered this way.

One of the forwarding agents was in Beit Hadar and was called “SA’AD, the Yishuv committee for the enlisted soldiers”, and the other was in the “Egged” central bus station. This particular letter was mailed in Qiryat Haim near Haifa. It was addressed to Orah Fogel, a girl serving in the Har’el Brigade, which was fighting in the Jerusalem corridor at that period and was stationed in the Kibbutzim nearby. From what is left of the address it seems that she was stationed in Qiryat Anavim since the word קריית (Qiryat) appears but the rest was cut out. The Roman numeral I indicates she was in the first battalion. Apparently the senders knew of the arrangement of sending mail to Qiryat Anavim through Beit Hadar so they added to the address “Room 305, Beit Hadar, Tel Aviv”. The civilian post in turn transferred the letter to Beit Hadar for delivery. However, because the letter was not in the regular mail system, or due to

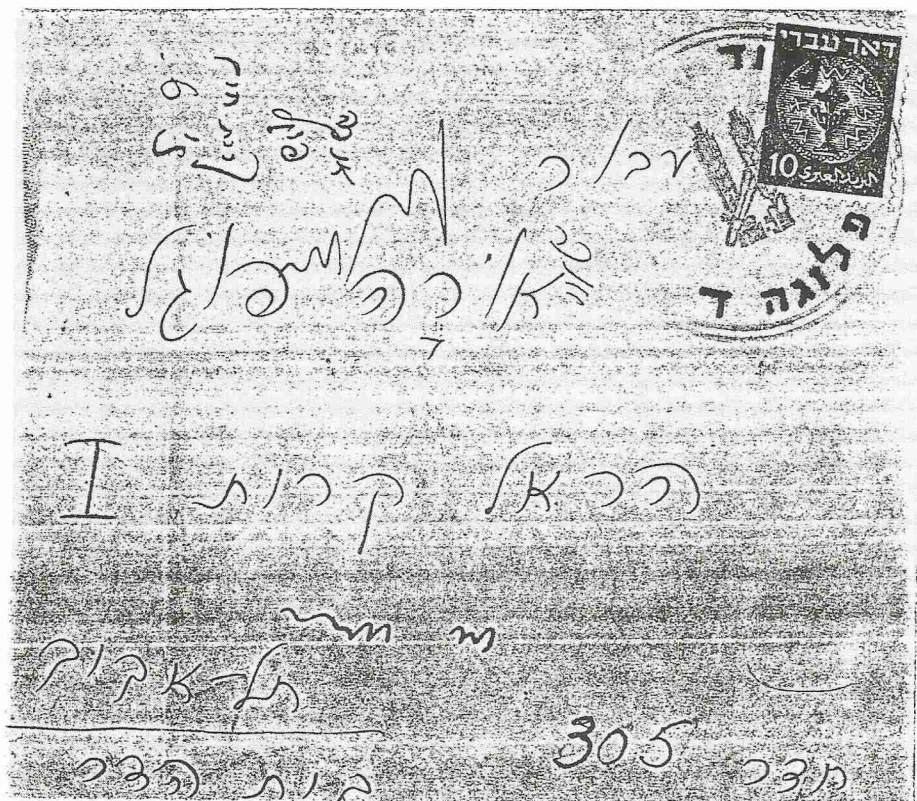


**Fig. 72: Cover delivered to Qiryat Anavim during the Jerusalem siege via the Beit Hadar forwarding agency. Cancelled by a Palmach office handstamp showing the Palmach emblem.**

negligence, it was not cancelled like several other letters were.<sup>1</sup> The Beit Hadar agency flew the letter to Jerusalem from where it was delivered to Qiryat Anavim.

Upon arrival the soldier dealing with the mail noticed that the stamp was uncanceled but, not having a standard postal handstamp, he cancelled it with the office handstamp of the Palmach 4th Company (see Fig. 73). The battalion number is illegible, but presumably it is the First Battalion since it appears so in the address.

This letter, which lay forgotten for so many years, is unique in that it is the only one known so far with the combination of a Palmach cachet used as a postal cancellation with an air route to besieged Jerusalem through the Beit Hadar Forwarding Agency. It



**Fig. 73: An enlargement of the above cover, with strengthened Palmach cachet cancelling the stamp.**

also informs us that this agency was located in room 305. Thus, an enigma which puzzled me for many years was solved.

**References:** (1) Y. Rimon, "The forwarding addresses of besieged Jerusalem", HLPH, Vol. II, # 32 (1987), p. 662.

### **Is the Shapira "Forged" Overprint Actually Authentic?**

*(David Dubin, Teaneck, NJ)*

The conviction of Mendel Shapira for fraudulent use of postal devices in 1952 has served to publicize his reputed forgeries more than any others in our field of Holyland philately. The exact circumstances of many of Shapira's activities (including the PATCO fiasco) and those of others in the Haifa area at the time are shrouded in uncertainty. The illustrated cover cannot help but complicate the situation (Fig. 74).

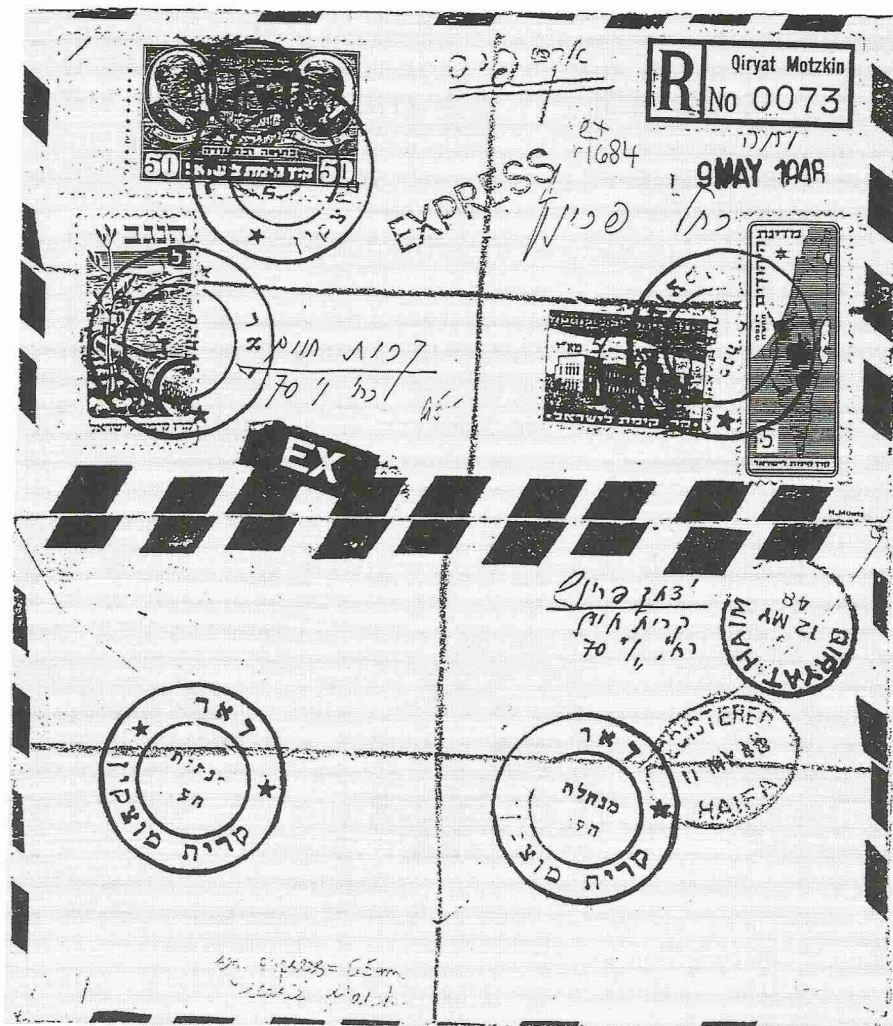


Figure 74

It is generally accepted that these forged covers can be identified by their Haifa registry labels, grainy Haifa cancellations and especially by a distinctive Haifa overprint. In his book, E. Fluri even provided transparencies printed with the "Shapira overprint" with which to overlay overprinted stamps and thereby identify the fakes. The message that this overprint device was made and used exclusively by unscrupulous people outside the legitimate postal system is unmistakable in the philatelic literature.

The illustrated cover shows what appears to be a genuine May 9, '48 registered

express cover from Qiryat Motzkin with a valid registry number and intact Minhelet Ha'am postmark (the lower part of the outer circle split on May 10), properly franked and handled with Haifa registered May 11 transit and Qiryat Haim May 12 arrival markings. It is probably of philatelic origin as the recipient had the same address as the sender, but it seems certain that it traveled the indicated route. So certain, in fact, that the handstamp and handwriting, respectively, of two great experts of Holyland philately appear on the cover.

The problem is that the upper left stamp (Fluri #5c) bears an overprint matching Fluri's "forgery" exactly. Note the sloping leg of the dalet and other classic signs of this postmark. Other interesting but probably irrelevant items on this cover are traces of two other circles on the offending Herzl and Bialik stamp – a poor strike at the bottom and the lower portion of a circle at the top – and a "genuine" Haifa overprinted Technion stamp near the bottom right. The presence of a "mixed franking" of Tel Aviv and Haifa overprinted stamps is reasonable as Tel Aviv overprinted stamps reached Haifa on May 6.

The foregoing strongly suggests either that the culprits began perpetrating forgeries early in the Interim Period in Qiryat Motzkin or that the overprint is actually genuine. If the former is true, it is strange that the forger was able to make and use his device only seven days after the genuine canceller went into service on May 2. Also, only one of the four stamps on the cover bears the forgery, an inefficient means of saving money on postage. The cover was accepted for posting, and this implies authenticity as well. Most strange is that this overprint device was illegally used again only after the Haifa canceller was retired (as seen by the grainy, deformed Haifa cancel on "Shapira" covers). Therefore, the forger had access to the archived device. Why did he not also steal the genuine overprinter? This would have been less likely to arouse suspicion and lead to the discovery that the covers were faked. Thus, a more likely scenario is that the later forgeries must have used authentic overprint and cancellation handstamps surreptitiously obtained from archives.

If the overprint is genuine, as seems the more likely possibility, one of the pillars upon which the experts stand to detect the forgery (and potentially upon which Shapira was convicted) has fallen.

Readers are asked to present their thoughts about the foregoing, especially since the above data contradict previously held dogma. Please feel free to write me at PO Box 5447, Englewood, NJ 07631, USA. Perhaps with some input from the readership we can ascertain the facts and better understand the situation in the fateful Interim Period.

Thanks go to Marvin Siegel who encouraged me to write up this item after I had believed that I had purchased a forgery. Now I am not so sure.

# GENERAL NEWS

## New Cancellations and Post offices *(Compiled by I. Nachtigal)*

### A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 75)

3.3.98: "Reshet Amal 70 Years", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

29.3.98: "Israel Electric Company – 75 Years, 1923–1998", Haifa.

2.4.98: "Wingate Institute – 40 Years", Netanya.

3.4.98: "Israel Tennis Association, Israel-Austria, Davis Cup 1998", Ramat Hasharon.

12.4.98: "The 30th Anniversary of the Jewish Community of Hebron", Qiryat Arba (Zahal).

27.4.98: "Israel Defence Forces, 50 Years", Jerusalem.\*

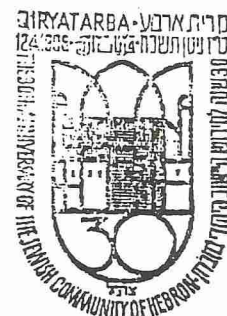


Figure 75: Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

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

27.4.98: "Memorial Day", Jerusalem.\*

27.4.98: "The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel – 50 Years", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*

27.4.98: "Jewish Contribution to World Culture in the Modern Era", Rehovot.\*

27.4.98: "Holocaust Memorial Day. Diplomats – Righteous among the Nations", Jerusalem.\*

27.4.98: "30th Anniversary of IAI Elta", Ashdod.

29.4.98: 18 Years to the Fund for Israel's Defence, Tel Aviv-Yafo.

1.5.98: "From the IDF with Appreciation. The Chief of Staff Souvenir for the Jubilee Year", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

3.5.98: "50 Years Ashqelon", Ashqelon.

3.5.98: "Israel Bonds International "Yovel" (Jubilee) Delegation", Jerusalem.

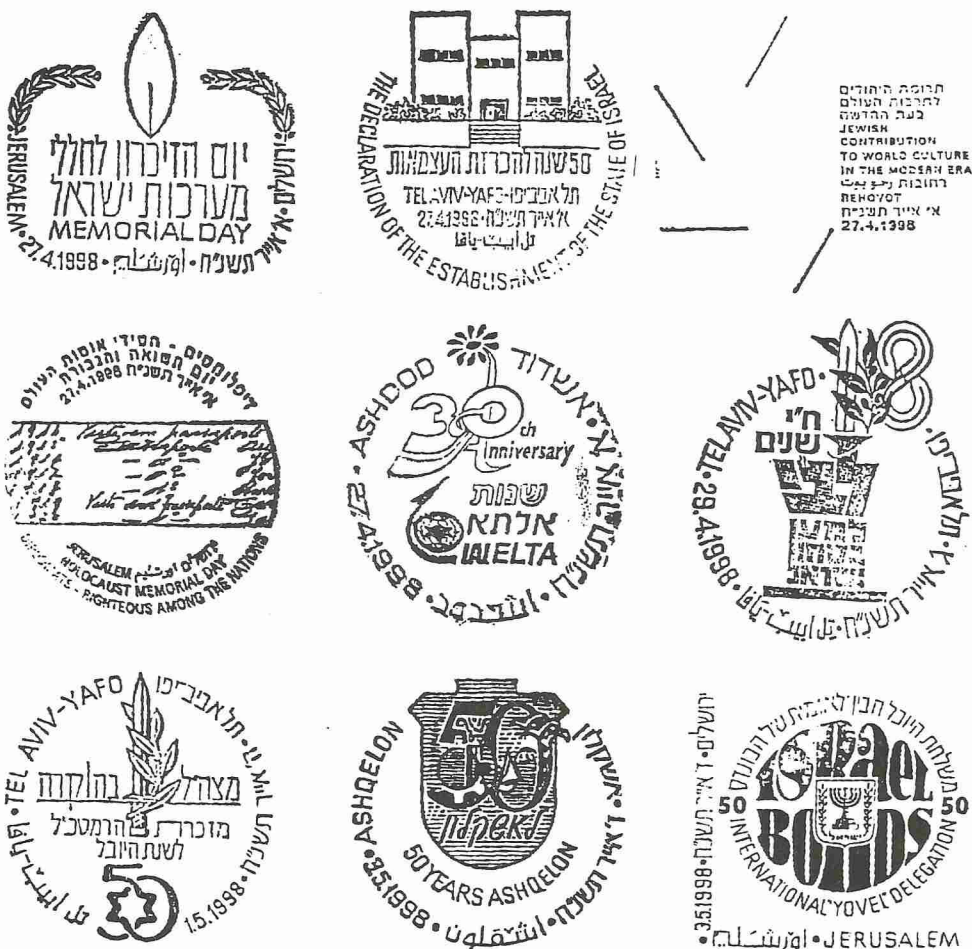


Figure 75 (Continued): Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

- 6.5.98: "War of Independence Veterans' Get-together. 50 Years Golani Brigade", Emeq Hayarden (M.P.).
- 13.5.98: "Children's Pets", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*
- 13.5.98: "War of Independence Aircraft", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*
- 13.5.98: "Mosaic Young Woman – Zippori. World Stamp Exhibition 'Israel 98'", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*
- 13.5.98: "The Postal & Philatelic Museum", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*
- 13.5.98: "Israel World Stamp Exhibition. King Solomon's Temple", Tel Aviv-Yafo.\*
- 13.5.98: "The Israeli Air Force Museum. Pioneers House Inauguration: The Story of the 1948 Warriors", Hatserim.\*
- 14.5.98: "Memorial Day. Inauguration of the AMIA Square in Memory of the Victims of the Attack on the Jewish Community in Buenos Aires", Ashqelon.





- 19.5.98: "COMPUTER DAY", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 20.5.98: "ENVIRONMENT DAY", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 21.5.98: "COLLECTORS' DAY", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 26.5.98: "National Youth Movements Day", Holon.  
 3.6.98–13.6.98: "The Hebrew Book Week", Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa.  
 3.6.98–10.6.98: "The Hebrew Book Week", Beer Sheva, Ramat Gan.  
 4.6.98: "Rotary 38th Conference", Be'er Sheva.  
 8.6.98: "Dedication of the L.H. Boyar Building of the Louis Rothberg International School, Mount Scopus", Jerusalem.



29.6.98: "Rambam Medical Center – 60 Years", Haifa.

9.7.98: "'Future Post Boxes' Exhibition. Mutual Project of the Postal Authority and Bezalel", Jerusalem.

12.7.98: "20 Years to Ma'aleh Efrayim, 1978-1998", Mizrah Benyamin (M.P.).

12.7.98: "Parma OH 44134 Exhibition Station. Greetings from Israel's Philatelists. 50 SIP / ISPEX '98", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

20.7.98: "International Communication Association 1998. 48th Annual Conference", Jerusalem.

28.7.98: "The 18th Conference of the New Histadruth HaKlalith", Jerusalem.

3.8.98: "The Israel Jubilee Exhibition", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

6.9.98: The 'Jubilee Harbour' laying of the corner-stone", Ashdod.



8.9.98: "Festivals החגים" (1998)", Jerusalem.\*

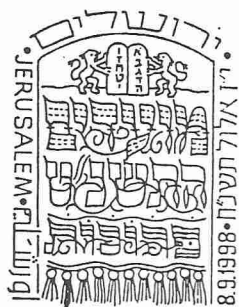
8.9.98: "Mutual Respect", Haifa.\*

8.9.98: "Continuity of Jewish Life in Eretz Israel", Qiryat Arba (Zahal). \*

10.9.98: "50 Years 69 Squadron", Hatserim.

20.9.98: "50 Years – Netzer Sireni", Be'er Ya'aqov.

23.9.98: "75 Years of Givatayim", Givatayim.



- 24.9.98: "Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 25.9.98: "Davis Cup 1998, Israel-France, Israel Tennis Association", Ramat Hasharon.  
 29.9.98: "50 Years since El Al's First Flight", Ben Gurion Air Port.  
 8.10.98: "50 Years Stamp Exhibition", Ashqelon.  
 23.10.98: "Italia 98. Greetings from Israel's Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 17.11.98: "Jordan Valley 30 Years", Arvot Hayarden (M.P.)



## B. Definitive Cancellations

When the new postmark replaces an old one, the replaced postmark number is given in parenthesis. (Z) after the place name stands for Zahal (IDF) meaning that the place is in the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip; (M.P.) means Mobile Post and (WN) means Without Number. All the new postmarks reported here are of the new oval type, replacing the pervious circular type (Fig. 76).

7.1.98: Bene Beraq 20; Herzliyya 21 (22); Taiyiba 3 (3); Tira 1 (1); Kefar Yedida 1 (WN); Kefar Mass 1 (WN); Kefar Sava 18, 19 (20, 22); Netanya 30, 31; Petah Tiqwa 29; Ramat Gan 41–43; Raanana 11, 12; Tel Aviv-Yafo (Paid) 7; Tel Aviv-Yafo 176–188 (311–313, 315–317, 319, 325, 389).

2.2.98: Oranit (Z) 1 (1); Elat 14–17; Elon Moreh (Z) 1 (1); Ariel (Z) 3; Ashdod 20–23 (32, 36–38); Be'er Sheva 29–32 (38); Bet El (Z) 1 (1); Betar Illit (Z) 1 (1); Bet Shemesh 1(1); Bene Ayish 1 (1); Barkan (Z) 1 (1); Gedera 4, 5 (4, 5); Haela (M.P.) 1 (1); Hanegev (M.P.) 1 (1); Hanegev (M.P.) 3, 4 (3, 4); Har Hevron (M.P., Z) 1 (1); Hare Yerushalayim 1 (1); Hevel Yeriho (M.P., Z) 1 (1); Mizrah Binyamin (M.P., Z) 1 (1); Zefon Yehuda (M.P., Z) 1 (1); Shiqmim (M.P.) 1 (1); Holon 26–29; Hazor 1 (WN); Yavne 6; Yehud 1 (1); Jerusalem (Paid) 1, 2; Jerusalem 88–123 (3, 24, 41, 47, 53, 68, 88, 92, 96, 105–107, 108, 109, 111, 114, 115, 124, 126, 147); Mevo Azza 1 (1); Mishor Adumim (Z) 1 (1); Ma'ale Efrayim (Z) 1 (1); Naan 1 (WN); Netivot 1, 3, 5 (1); Omer 2, 3, (2, 3); Ofra (Z) 1 (1); Immanuel (Z) 1 (1); Qidron 1 (WN); Qiryat Arba (Z) 2 (2); Qiryat Malakhi 5 (6); Rishon Leziyyon 1–24 (1–6, 10–20); Rahat 1 (1); Sderot 4, 5 (7); Shoham 1.

11.2.98: Haifa (Paid) 1; Haifa 103–106 (144–147); Jerusalem 148–151 (55, 56, 58, 59).

17.2.98: Iksal 1 (1); Afiqim 1 (1); Bet Oren 1 (1); Beit Hashita 1 (1); Basmat Tab'un 1 (WN); Gush Halav 1 (WN); Derom Hagolan (M.P.) 1 (WN); Hagalil Haelion (M.P.) 1, 2 (WN); Merom Hagalil (M.P.) 1 (WN); Tsefon Hagolan (M.P.) 1 (WN); Daliat Al Karmil 1 (1); Tiberias 13, 14; Yafia 1 (WN); Kefar Hassidim 1 (1, 3); Migdal 1 (1); Migdal Haemeq 5, 6 (5); Nazerat Illit 11; Sajur 1 (1); Arraba 1 (1); Fureidis 1 (1); Zefat 8; Qatsrin 4–5; Qiryat Atta 1–6 (2–5); Qiryat Bialik 1–11 (1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9–11); Qiryat Hayim 1–9 (1–3, 5, 7–9); Qiryat Tivon 1–5 (1, 2, 4–6); Qiryat



Figure 76

- Yam 1–8 (1–8); Qiryat Shemuel 1 (WN); Qiryat Shemona 1–6 (1, 2, 6–11); Rosh Pinna 1–3 (1, 2); Er-Reina 1 (WN); Rama 1, 2 (1, 2); Ramat Yishai 1 (1); Shibli 1 (WN); Shelomi 1 (WN); Sha'ab 1 (1); Shefar'am 1, 2 (1–2); Timrat 1 (WN).
- 1.4.98: Kefar Sava 1; Netanya 32; Petah Tiqwa 32, 33; Ramat Gan 44–46; Ra'anana 13; Tel Aviv-Yafo 189–195.
- 7.4.98: Tiberias 15; Arvot Hayarden (M.P., Z) 1 (Hevel Yeriho 1); Qiryat Shemona 7.
- 9.4.98: Jerusalem 124–133 (1, 109, 112, 113, 116, 122, 123, 125, 127)
- 21.4.98: Ashdod 24–26; Be'er Sheva 33, 34 (3); Bat Yam 2 (1); Holon 30, 31; Jerusalem 152–154; Rishon Leziyyon 25–29.
- 7.7.98: Rosh Ha'ayin 7–10.
- 4.8.98: Mevasseret Ziyon 1–4; Mevasseret Ziyon 5 (WN).

## New Stamps

The following stamps have been issued during the period Jan. to Nov. 1998.

- 17.2.98: War of Independence Souvenir Sheet (S/S, 7.00); War of Independence stamps (Jerusalem, Safed, Eilat, 1.15 each); Haim Herzog (5.35); Sports definitive set (1.80, 2.20).
- 27.4.98: Memorial Day (1.15); 50 Years of the IDF (5.35); 50th Independence Day (1.15); Holocaust Day: Diplomats – Righteous Gentiles (6.00); Jewish Contribution to the World Culture in the Modern Era (6 x 0.90 – Leon Blum, Franz Kafka, George Gershwin, Elizabet Rachel Felix, Albert Einstein, Lev D. Landau – all six stamps in one sheetlet).
- 13.5.98: Animals-children-love Sheetlet (6 x 0.60 different se-tenant stamps); War of Independence Aircraft (3 x 2.20 set and special sheetlet of 2 se-tenant sets tête-bêche with gutters); First Temple S/S (7.00); Young Woman Mosaic floor of Zippori, Lower Galilee, S/S (6.00); Inauguration of the Postal and Philatelic Museum S/S (8.00).

The following special items were sold only at the “Israel 98” exhibition ground during 13–21 May:

**Klussendorf postage label** with a special design was sold at the P.S. counter (w/o machine number) and by three self operated machines situated in the corridor (with numbers 003, 005 and 014 respectively. Fig. 77(a)).

A specially designed **Frama label** (Fig. 78, on a registered F.D. cover) was purchasable from a Frama machine situated nearby, and a new type of **CPL (Computerized Postage Label)** was sold at the P.S. counters – regular or registered (see Fig. 77(b)) – in strips of predetermined numbers. The CPLs, which are normally sold “precancelled,” had on each day the typed special logo of that exhibition’s day, e.g. “Tel Aviv Day” (in Hebrew) on the 13th, “Postal Authority Day” on the 14th, etc.

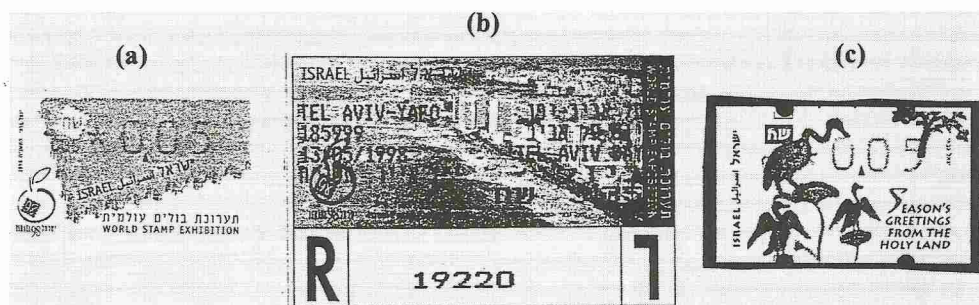


Figure 77

A magnificent decorative stamp booklet (size about 22 x 15 cm.) with ten leaves-panes of gummed stamp paper most of which are like souvenir sheets incorporating stamps issued to commemorate the Israel Jubilee Year. Altogether these leaves portray major events and symbols in the history of the State (Fig. 79 shows one of the leaves). Only 20,000 issued.

3.8.98: Jubilee National Show (5.35).

8.9.98: Festivals תשנ"ט (1998) (1.15, 1.80, 2.20); Etiquette and Good Manners (1.15); Continuity of Jewish life in Eretz Israel: Hebron (1.80), Jerusalem (2.20).

16.11.98: Klussendorf postage label "Season's Greetings from the Holy Land," both without machine number (Philatelic Services) and with No. 023 (Fig. 77 (c)) from the Nazareth machine.

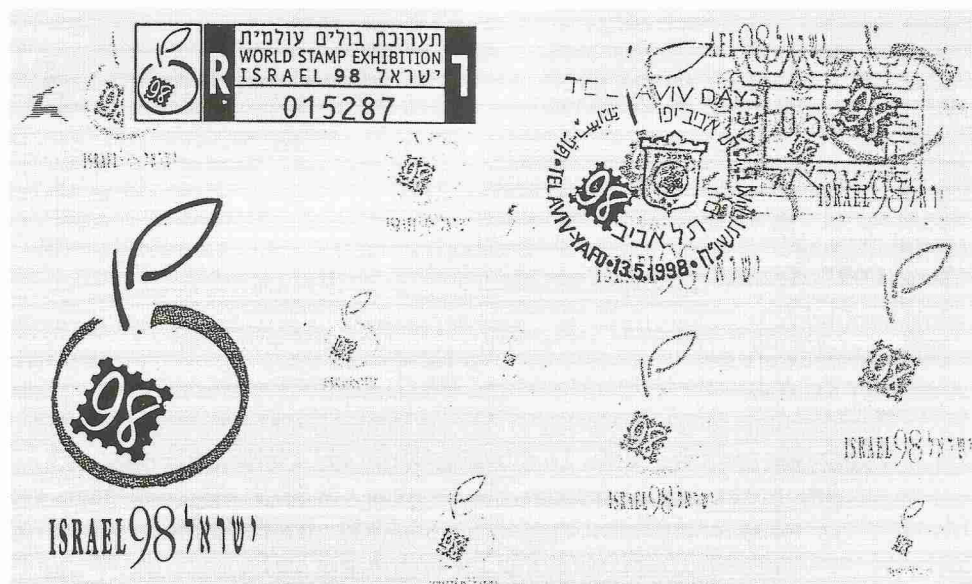


Figure 78



*Figure 79*

### **“Israel 98” World Stamp Exhibition** (*E. Leib, Haifa*)

The “Israel 98” World Stamp Exhibition, commemorating Israel’s 50th anniversary, was held in Tel Aviv from 13th to 21st May, 1998. The exhibition was officially opened by the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Ezer Weizman, in the presence of Israeli and F.I.P. dignitaries, members of the Diplomatic Corps and a large audience.

The exhibition was a great success. The weather was kind, the atmosphere was friendly, logistics were well taken care of, the philatelic standard of the exhibits was high, the public attended in numbers and the bourse was lively.

The Court of Honour turned out to be a great attraction. On the one hand one could see world philatelic jewels such as the “Post Office” Mauritius stamps, Hawaiian “2c

Missionary”, “Basle Dove” in a multiple of six on cover, just to mention a few. On the other hand there was an extraordinary display of Eretz-Israel material. Enormous interest was created by the items of Palestine Mandate period from the collections of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the British Library (London) and the National Postal Museum (London). These displays, when “combined” together, included “new” discoveries and many archival items exhibited in public for the first time. The Holy Land material in the Court of Honour was completed by an exhibit of the newly opened Postal & Philatelic Museum, Tel Aviv which included a selection from the S.N. Shure collection of Foreign Post Offices, and selected items from the archives of the Israeli Philatelic Service.

The “Hors Concours” (“out of competition”) section included displays of invited exhibits emphasizing Levant and Holy Land. There was also an experimental “educational class”. Initially the idea was to invite a small number of meritorious exhibits, that although not exactly “philatelic” in FIP terms, could be considered to be of historical importance. Unfortunately as the number of exhibits invited (or accepted) grew, this group had to be placed in an unfavourable location in the far away hall and its main effect was lost.

More than 400 exhibits were shown in competition, the overall philatelic standard being remarkable. This is reflected by the 42 Large Gold and 82 Gold medals awarded by the jury (not including the 10 exhibits in the Championship Class).

The National Class was outstanding. It appears that a large number of exhibits had “matured” for the occasion. The majority of the exhibits were well prepared and executed and were very interesting. This quality and quantity of Holy Land material – whether of the Ottoman, Mandate, War of Independence or early Israeli periods – had never before been assembled under one roof. For example, let’s take a very rare Mandate stamp, SG 44a (Narrow Setting 5 mil, perf. 14). In “Israphil 85” not even one was exhibited. Here one could see seven copies – almost the entire world “supply”. The high quality of the exhibits is reflected by the awards mentioned above. It has to be said that a number of exhibits which had not done well “medalwise”, this time had extraordinary elements and showed great promise for the near future.

The unorthodox opening hours – from noon to 10 p.m. – proved right. The number of visitors is estimated at 70,000, far above expectations. More important – the visitors went to the frames, not to the dealers only. Guided tours were conducted taking visitors round the exhibits and introducing all subjects of collecting and exhibiting. These tours were a great success. For the young visitor, internet and multimedia stations were available and related movies were played. Schoolchildren were invited and brought in the mornings, when the exhibition was closed to the general public. They were taken around by expert guides, then brought to an activity area where they were taught various aspects of stamp collecting.

More than 100 stands – stamp dealers and Postal administrations – were available to collectors, and business seemed to be good, although some booth holders located in less popular areas had some complaints.

Several lectures and seminars were held during the show. These were not always well attended. A happy occasion for us – the 20th anniversary of our society – was commemorated by a special meeting in which some of our veteran members talked about the foundation and first years of the Society and Dr. Yeri Rimon read a lecture “The Holy Land Postal History” from the aspect of exhibiting in National and International Exhibitions. Rimon collected this data from important exhibitions held in the last 20 years and showed that the number of Holy Land exhibits and their quality have steadily increased during this period, reaching a tremendous climax in this exhibition.

A Critique was held on the last day and many exhibitors – some of them rather angry – had the opportunity to discuss their exhibits with jury members, resulting in discussions beneficial to both sides.

“ISRAEL 98”, the most successful of the four international stamp exhibitions held in Israel, closed its doors leaving pleasant memories with almost all involved: organizers, exhibitors and visitors.

As usual in this Bulletin’s reports of important stamp exhibitions closely related to Holy Land philately, we report hereafter the awards endowed to (mostly) Holy Land and Judaica exhibits.

### **Grand Prix Awards.**

Grand Prix D’Honneur: Kuphal Edgar – “Hamburg.”

Grand Prix National: Hackmey Joseph – “Holy Land, Ottoman Period.”

Grand Prix International: Scott Gene – “Uruguay, The “Sun” Issues, 1856–1862.”

### **Large Gold (+ special prize)**

Hackmey Joseph: “Palestine, British Period.”

Hackmey Joseph: “Holy Land, Ottoman Period.”

Alexander Zvi: “Turkish Post in the Holy Land, 1840–1918.”

### **Large Gold**

Karpovsky Itamar: “Israel Transition Period: Cities under emergency conditions.”

Kestenbaum Luis: “History of the first coin stamps of Israel, ‘Doar Ivri’.”

Karpovsky Itamar: “Holy Land: Forerunner postal services up to 1918.”

### **Gold (+ special prize)**

Shabtai Yaacov: “Israel, the “Doar Ivri” issue.”

### **Gold**

Schwartz Joseph: “Palestine: 1917–1948.”

Pildes Robert: “The ‘Doar Ivri’ issue of Israel.”

Galibov Zeev: “Holy Land 1917–1928: Palestine from E.E.F. to the British Mandate.”

Wofchuck Joseph: “Mail from the Holy Land, WWI.”

Rimon Yermiyahu: "Israel 1948: Local and provisional Postal Services."

Alexander Zvi: "British Palestine: 1917–1927."

Slutzki Joel: "Palestine rates & routes, 1927–1948."

Shabtai Yaacov: "A state is born – Israel 1948."

### **Large Vermeil (+ special prize)**

Shabtai Shay: "Postal communications of the Jewish Yishuv of Eretz-Israel, 1939–1948."

Rosen Morris: "Ghetto Post and Labour Camps in German occupied Europe with emphasis on Ghettos in Poland."

### **Large Vermeil**

Pildes Robert: "Israel Transition Period."

Adlerblum Burton: "Palestine, 1799–1918."

Blau Fred: "K.U.K. – Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost WWI: Middle East / Turkish / Palestine."

Zakai Avraham: "Postal History of WWI from Egypt to Jerusalem."

Bard Leslie: "Palestine airmail rates for letters, 3 Aug. 33–30 Apr. 48."

Van As Johan D.H.: "The Airmail History of Palestine."

Groten Arthur: "Airmail routes from, to, and through Mandate Palestine, 1918–1948."

### **Vermeil**

Adlerblum Burton: "Palestine 1920–1927."

Rothman Stephen: "Postal rates of Holy Land, 1875–1950."

Kaplanian Avo: "Philately & Rarities of Mandate Palestine E.E.F. stamps, 1918–1927."

### **Large Silver**

Aloni Zvi: "Domestic Mail between three postal authorities: Palestine-Israel."

Rothman Stephen: "Postal rates of Israel, 1948–1952."

Gordon Justin: "Juden Post: Jewish mail from the Holocaust."

Zakai Avraham: "The Postal Services to the Negev during the Mandate Period and the War of Independence."

Bass Michel: "Post offices in the Holy Land prior to 1918."

Shimony & Glassman (literature): "Holy Land Postal History" Bulletin.

Heifetz Murray: "Palestine airmail."

### **Silver**

Kaplan Stephen P.: "The use of postage meters in Mandate Palestine."

Hariton Martin: "Booklets of Israel."

Daniels Maurice: "Israel: Definitive printing dates, 1960–1977."

Weitz William: "Palestine Mandate Government mail."

Torby Kenneth: "Palestine 1918–1948."

## Large versus Small “Srulik” Stamps *(J. Wallach & S. Shinwell)*

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel, a no denomination stamp was issued, with the motif of “Srulik”, a caricature of the typical Israeli of the 1960s.

This stamp first appeared on 7 September, 1997 using the offset printing method (Fig. 80 (A)). Later a new printing was made in which the whole picture was significantly reduced in size, to the extent that the difference can be seen by the naked eye. The most clearly noticeable differences are the size of the frame and the letters of the word “Israel” (Fig. 80 (C)). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time in Israel that a stamp appears in two versions – large and small.

On 3 May, 1998, another printing was made using the photogravure printing method, again with the small size of the design but perforated 13:14 as compared to the previous 14:14.

Up to September 1998, the variations of the “Srulik” stamp can be summarized as follows (see Fig. 80):

<i>Type</i>	<i>Printing Date*</i>	<i>Printing Method</i>	<i>Design Size</i>	<i>Perforation</i>	<i>Phosphor Tagging</i>	<i>Comments</i>
A	07/09/97	Offset	Large	14:14	Right	Regular sheet
B	07/09/97	Offset	Large	14:14	Left	Regular sheet
C	16/11/97	Offset	Small	14:14	Right	Regular sheet
C'	28/12/97	Offset	Small	14:14	Right	Tête-bêche sh.
D	030598	Photogravure	Small	13:14	Right	Regular sheet

The above table shows clearly that any future catalogue listing of the stamp should include (at least) four major varieties: A, B, C and D.

**Stop Press:** It was recently reported by a collector that the “large size” offset “Srulik” stamp also exists perf. 13:14.

\* As printed on the Plate Block.

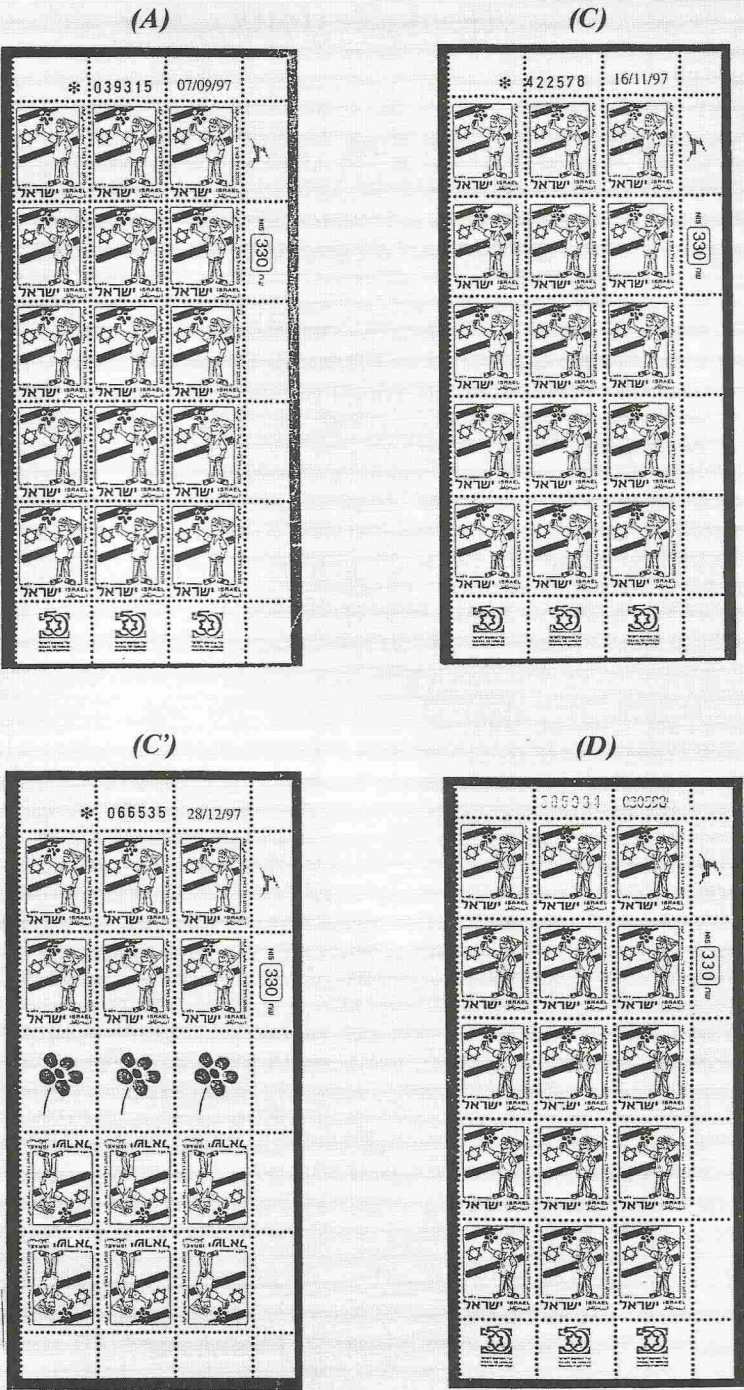


Figure 80

## Book Reviews

### **Special Cancellations of Israeli Post, Part 4**, by I. Nachtigal and A. Linn.

This volume, being Part 4, covering the Special Cancellations of the Israeli Post from 1948 to February of this year, is the latest in an ongoing encyclopaedic work started originally by I. Nachtigal and the late B. Fixler, now continuing with the co-editorship of A. Linn.

Together with this volume the interested Postal Historian of Israel has a wide spread coverage of all the postmarks issued by the Israeli Postal administration during the past fifty years. (This latest volume comes out coincidentally with the 50 years' celebrations of the State.) The coverage has been awe-inspiring in its comprehensiveness. Unlike the previous periods of the postal history of this land, where the information known has had to be "excavated" from various sources, here we have an exact record of all of the postmarks and cancellations of the State.

Part 4 covers the special cancellations which are issued to commemorate a special event. There have been a very large number of these: the volume lists, to the end of February of this year, some 1960 of them. Special cancellations are a service offered by the postal Authority to different organizations for commemorating some special event. Thus the life is almost always for one day only. The range is quite extraordinary, and for some interested person there is a mine of information here which merits investigation. Included in the volume are those which were used at different dates for annual meetings of some organizations, including, for example, the meetings of the Zionist Executive Council and the different dates for the ascent to Mount Zion before 1967.

Each is illustrated and where necessary additional information is supplied, i.e., additional dates of usage of a few of them. The listings also include those of the Mobile Post and of the Army special cancellations.

Special cancellations appear regularly, as readers of the Bulletin know. There is, therefore, a slowly increasing collection of new cancellations which will undoubtedly lead to another volume in this magnificent work in the future.

The authors are to be congratulated on yet another superb addition to an extremely valuable collection of modern Israeli postal history.

*(E. Glassman)*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends,

October 31, 1998

I regret to inform you that my father passed away on October 30, 1998.

As you know, Fred suffered a major stroke in January and his condition has gone down slowly since then. In the last few weeks he did not eat very much. Fred passed away while sleeping.

My father was a very fortunate person by having many friends throughout the world that cared about him and stayed in touch with him. He appreciated the letters, which he received.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank you for your friendship. Please feel free to write to me at any time.

Sincerely, *Dan Blau*

Dear Sir,

April 30, 1998

I read the paper by J. Hoffman, may he rest in peace, about the postal connections between Russia and Palestine during WWI. My interest was aroused because our family found after the passing of my father-in-law, Solomon Brochin, that he had stored a number of postal cards from Russia which were returned to Mr. Brochin in Minneapolis, Minnesota during the same time period as covered by Mr. Hoffman's remarks.

While I realize that my problem is not part of the Postal History of Eretz Israel, it is of Judaic interest and maybe some one of our members can set the story straight. Solomon Brochin not only ran his unique deli store in Minneapolis for many years, but during the years 1915 to 1918 he conducted a steam ship ticket agency to help Jews wishing to leave Russia for America to do so. The procedure was to send money that his fellow Jews in Minneapolis gave him to a bank in Russia. The bank was to locate the recipient and supply him or her with the steam ship tickets. Mr. Brochin received confirmation of the receipt of the money via the postal card from the bank. The problem is exactly how did these postal cards get from Russia to Minneapolis during 1915 to 1918.

I have found two views on how these mailings got from Russia to Minneapolis during the war. The first was an opinion of an Engineer who was trained in Russia and later came to the USA and worked for the General Electric Company in Pittsfield, MA. He felt that the mail could have gone to Sweden, a neutral country, and from there to the USA. The second view I obtained from Herman Herst who thought that this mail might have been sent across Russia to Vladivostok. From there they could have gone by ship to a US west coast port and from there to Minneapolis.

The postal cards themselves have much information on them. There are usually

several cancellation dates on each card. The earliest date is December 5, 1915 and the latest is August 27, 1917. Three are from Germany and about 30 are from Russia. My father-in-law wrote the money order number and the provider's name in Yiddish on each card, probably after he received the card.

So you can see my great interest in these mailings and how they traveled in those war-time days. I would be very pleased to hear from any of your readers who can help shed some light on this problem.

Yours truly,  
*Kenneth Goldblum*

## Norman Gladstone – A Tribute

It came as a great shock to learn that Norman Gladstone had died at the beginning of April last.

Whilst Norman had suffered from several illnesses in the past few years, he had nevertheless managed to complete several research projects. It was only after his wife, also very ill, had moved to an Old Age Home that he was persuaded to enter hospital for the care and treatment he was unable to receive any further at home.

The field of research is today becoming smaller and smaller. The loss of even one member of this diminishing group is thus felt all the more keenly.

Norman carried out his researches in the side ways of Holy Land History. His major research was on the Censorship labels and cachets of Mandate Palestine, but as a result of his interest in this field he then went on to research the Police marks of the same period. Most of the Holy Land Postal Historians concentrate on the postmarks or variations in stamps used for franking purposes. Norman showed that there were other aspects of the study worthy of study. He was interested in, but never managed to concentrate on or develop, the war time markings on mail sent by stamp dealers and other official bodies from Palestine.

He was a keen and devoted member of the then BAPIP and regularly attended the London meetings until his illness limited his ability to travel. But he nevertheless continued to correspond with the very many philatelic friends he had met through his researches, when he had reached the stage of not being able to leave home.

Norman will be missed by all Holy Land philatelists. In a field of fewer and fewer researches, his loss will be deeply felt.

*(Emanuel Glassman)*

## Members' Free Advertisements

Every member is entitled to a 3-line ad, once a year

**Wanted by Advanced Collector:** Various Israel trilingual postmarks (1948–1988) as per want list in exchange for other Israel postmarks, machine paye postmarks, SPCs, etc. or for U.S./foreign stamps/ covers/topicals. **William D. Farber, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 2026, San Rafael, CA 94912, USA.**

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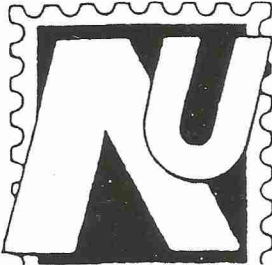
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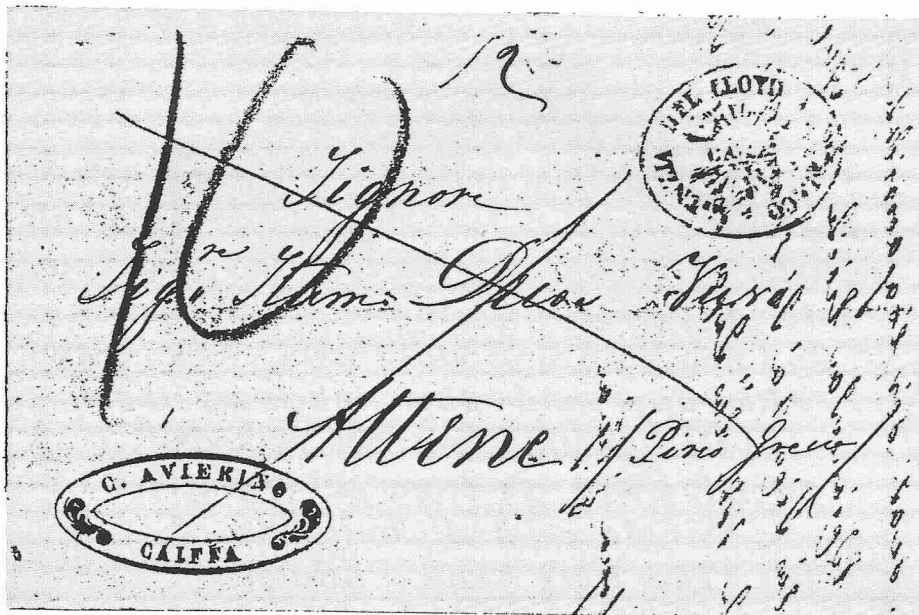
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עמותה מסונפת להתאחדות בולאי ישראל



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מעטפת היום הראשון של "בול ירושלים", עם החותמת המיוחדת "פתיחת האספה המכוננת למדינת ישראל", 16.2.49, והחותמת הדו-מעגלית "האספה המכוננת למדינת ישראל / ירושלים" שהופיעה לראשונה יומיים ק"ם לכן, עם פתיחתה למעשה של האספה המכוננת בבניין הסוכנות היהודית

The F.D.C. of the "Jerusalem Stamp" with the special cancellation "Opening of the Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel", 16.2.49, and the d.c. postmark "The Constituent Assembly of the State of Israel / Jerusalem" which had been issued two days earlier, on the actual opening of the Constituent Assembly at the Jewish Agency Building (See article on p. 486)



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