

Holy Land Postal History

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125



Letter sent in the 1870's from the German Consulate in Jerusalem to the German Consulate in Jaffa, and franked 2 piaster and 10 para 1869 issue Turkish stamps to pay the basic, short-distance letter rate of 60 para plus 30 para for additional weight. Cancelled by three Jerusalem (Quds) box postmarks.

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HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY



התאחדות בולאי ישראל

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מוזיאון אלכסנדר לתולדות הדואר והבולאות

THE ALEXANDER MUSEUM OF POSTAL HISTORY AND PHILATELY

Zvi Alexander



This bulletin of the Postal History of Eretz Israel is dedicated to commemorate 5 years since the passing of Zvi Alexander on November 28, 2008, at the age of 86.

Zvi Alexander was an internationally renowned philatelist and collector of Postal History of the Holy Land. His collections were awarded numerous Large Gold Medals in International Exhibitions across the globe over the last 3 decades. Zvi was a member of top philatelic societies in Europe, America and Israel, including the Royal Philatelic Society London, the British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelist and the Monaco Philatelic Club. He was also a major contributor to Postal History publications and books.

Zvi was born in Poland, and at the age of 12 immigrated to Eretz Israel and graduated from the "Herzliya" High School. He volunteered and

served in the Jewish Brigade of the British Army during World War II, and later served as an officer in the Signal Corps of the Israel Defense Forces. In 1953, he was sent to the United States to represent the Signal Corps in the Israeli Ministry of Defense Purchasing Mission in New York, and while in New York he attended the Graduate Business School at Columbia University.

After returning to Israel in 1957, Zvi joined the nascent Israeli oil industry during the first years of oil exploration in Israel. He served as assistant managing director of Lapidoth, the company owning the only oil field in Israel, and in 1965 was appointed Managing Director of the Israel National Oil Company, a post he held until 1974. Under his leadership, the company accumulated drilling concessions in friendly African countries. The Arab Oil Embargo of Israel following the 1973 Yom Kippur war forced a change of direction. Zvi arranged a sale of the company to a British Investment Bank, securing their commitment to give the government of Israel first rights to purchase oil. The sale price of \$30 Million was unprecedented for an Israeli company at the time.

Zvi continued to manage the oil company in England for a couple of years to secure Israel's rights. After leaving the Bank, he became an independent oil entrepreneur pursuing activities in Africa, South America and the Far East.

Zvi Alexander was married to Rachel and they have 2 children, Dr. Shaula Alexander Yemini, the CEO and founder of SMARTS a software company acquired by EMC, and Jacob (Kobi) Alexander, the CEO and founder of Comverse Technology, one of Israel's first and most successful Hi Tech companies. Zvi and Rachel have 5 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

In 2006 Zvi decided to place his collection of Postal History and picture postcards of the Holy Land at the "Eretz Israel Museum" in Tel Aviv. The Alexander Family accompanied it with funds sufficient to maintain the collection over a long period of time, while continuing to curate and exhibit it.

The Alexander Collection in The Alexander Museum of Postal History and Philately enables us to illuminate the Postal History of the Holy Land and to highlight how the study of letters and documents opens a window onto social, political, military and religious history. We are honored to be able to share Zvi Alexander's collection with the public, highlighting the fruits of his passion of collecting.

The Alexander Collection

Milestones in the Postal History the Holy Land

Zvi Aloni

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Postal History

Postal history is a philatelic collecting specialty in its own right. Postal History tells the story of how mail has been handled, who has handled it and why. Postal history refers to stamps as historical documents, as it does to postmarks, postcards, envelopes and the letters they contain.

Postal history can include the study of postal rates, postal policy, postal administration, political effects on postal systems, postal surveillance and the consequences of politics, business and culture on postal systems, and basically anything to do with the function of collection, transportation and delivery of mail.

A piece of mail receives postal markings as it travels through the system; postmarks, backstamps, transit markings, registered marks, ship marks and so on, that testify to its routing, what postal services were used, when it was picked up and delivered, and what transportation was employed. Decoding the marks involves retracing how a specific piece of mail reached its destination. The postage paid or due, whether a manuscript mark, postage stamp, meter marking or label, documents the postal rate demanded for carrying and delivering the item at the period in which it was mailed. It is this evidence of 'postal history' that generates so much interest in collecting and studying covers.

However, social, economic, and political events as they affect the post and are mirrored on covers and in letters also have their proponents. Terms related to these collecting groups abound. 'Adversity' and 'inflation' refer to downturns in national economies. 'Quarantine' and 'disinfected covers' refer to public health crises. 'Crash', 'wreck', and 'earthquake covers' speak of disastrous events. 'Mourning covers' suggest public and private sentiments of grief. 'Patriotic', 'propaganda', 'prisoner-of-war covers', and 'siege mail' are evidence of ideologies and wars.

Until recently, letters were the most common and important way for people to communicate with family, friends, business associates and institutions. Thus through philately, we learn about the lives of people throughout different periods and in many places around the world.

A continuous Jewish presence remained in the land of Israel. This presence was gradually expanded by groups and individuals immigrating to Israel, mostly for religious reasons. In 1870, the first Jewish agricultural

school, Mikveh Israel, was established by Alliance Israelite Universelle. The 1880's saw the establishment of the first Jewish agricultural communities (Moshavot) in Palestine, followed by the first communal settlements Moshavim and Kibbutzim. After World War I, the Ottoman Empire disintegrated and the British ruled Palestine for thirty years. World War II brought with it illegal immigration of Jewish refugees from Europe. Finally, May 14, 1948 saw the birth of the State of Israel.

This article depicts the history of the Holy Land through the eyes of a philatelist and postal historian. Beginning in the 15th century, through the pre-philatelic period, the Turkish Post, Foreign Post Offices, World War I, the evolution of Zionism, the development of agricultural settlements, the British Mandate, the struggle for independence, the Israeli War of Independence, and up to the birth of the State of Israel.



Venetian Post Office, 18th century

The Pre-Philatelic Period

Pre-Philately is generally associated with the period before 1840 when the first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued by Great Britain and letters were sent without stamps. However, the first stamps were introduced in the Holy Land much later. The Turks issued their first stamps in 1863, but these were not available in Eretz Israel.

The pre-philatelic postal history of the Holy Land has its roots in Biblical times. The earliest letters available to collectors that are connected to the Holy Land postal history date back to fourteenth-century Venetian mails.

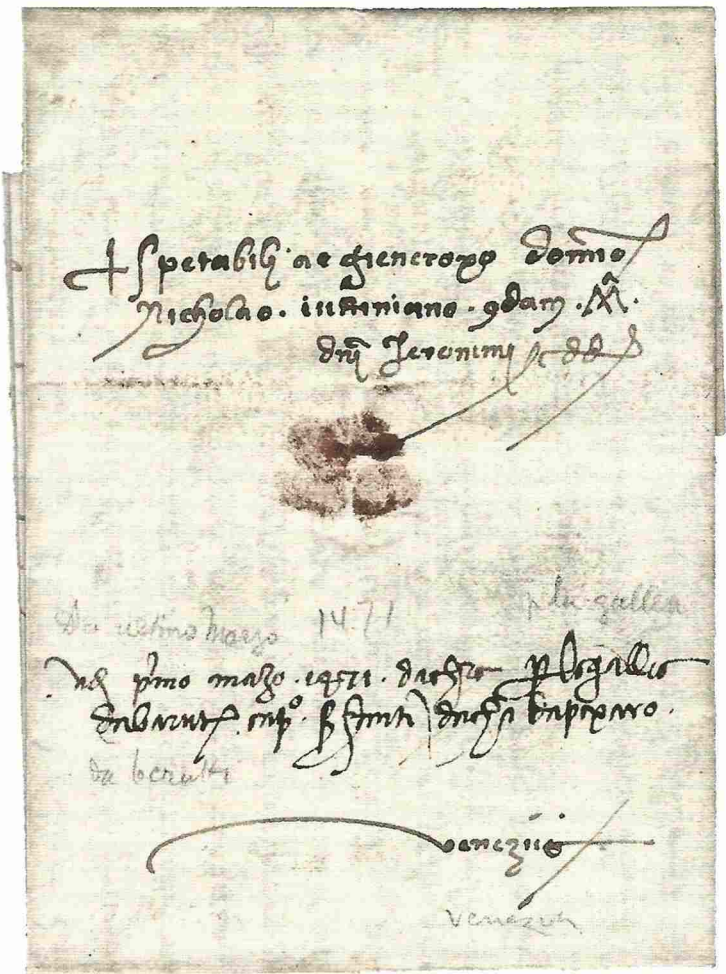
Other than the religious functionaries of the Holy Cities (Jews and Christians) and the merchants concentrated near the ports, the Holy Land was not home to a large literate, letter-writing population. Correspondence emanating from there during this period generally falls into one of the following categories: commercial, military or religious mail. Depending on the period and circumstances, the letters may have been carried by an organized postal system, a private courier or a combination of both.

Acre – Venice, 1471

Folded letter from Acre to Venice dated 24.3.1471, transit in Beirut 31.3.1471 and onwards to Venice by the Venetian post. The letter, written in Venetian dialect. The cross at the beginning of the first row is a Christian talisman mark indicates “For the grace of God”.

The Venetian Mail

Venetians who traveled overseas, and the agents of merchants based in Venice, had to employ some means of communication. Letters were written and dispatched by the merchants themselves or by their scribes. Regular schedules of trade voyages of the Venetian merchant fleet operated from about 1200 to Greece, Syria, the Black Sea, Egypt, North Africa, Flanders and England. From 1346 onwards, they made regular stops in Alexandria. Beirut was included in the regular service from 1374. By 1405, the Venetian merchant fleet was estimated at 3,300 ships. Most Venetian overseas correspondence was sent via these regularly scheduled voyages.



Napoleon's campaign in the Holy Land Mail

On 19.5.1798, a French expedition under the command of Napoleon set sail from Toulon in the direction of Egypt, which was then ruled by the Ottoman Empire. The ship dropped anchor off Alexandria on July 1, and the French proceeded to capture the city, subsequently conquering the rest of Egypt. The defeated Turkish forces escaped in the direction of Eretz Israel and attempted to organize a resistance together with Ahmad al-Jazzar, Pasha of Acre. In early February 1799, Napoleon crossed the Sinai Desert and moved into Palestine. The campaign to overtake Palestine lasted from February 8 to July 1. On March 7, Jaffa surrendered after a four-day siege and the massacre of 4,200 Turkish prisoners. The French forces continued northward, reaching the walls of Acre on March 19 where Napoleon was forced to remain for 61 days. Acre succeeded in withstanding the siege and continued French assaults, sustained by the support of British warships.

Jaffa – Rhamanie, 1799

Folded letter sent from “Le General Du Genielau Camp Du Jaffa,” dated 9.3.1799, to Rhamanie, Egypt. The letter was written three days after Jaffa had fallen to the French. The letter was written by General Maximilien De Caffarelli, chief engineer of the Army of the Orient, who was mortally wounded in the siege of Acre on 27.4.1799.

au Camp de Jafa le 19 Ventose, 7.

Le Général Eugénie

au Citoyen Lancret Ingénieur des ponts & chaussées

J'ai reçu votre lettre Citoyen, et j'ai vu celle du C^{te} Desrottes
au quel vous avez recommandé vos travaux.

J'ai instruit dans ce sens le général de Turck et le
général Menou & Marmont des ordres que je vous donneis et
je suis très fâché qu'il m'en donne une impossibilité absolue le général
Marmont resté seul commandant dans cette partie de l'Egypte
vous donnera tous les moyens en hommes, en troupes, en choses
et en argent dont il pourra disposer. Demandez lui les directions
vous ferez au jourd'hui trop éloigné pour qu'il n'y ait beaucoup
trop de temps perdu si vos demandes devaient mettre à l'essai,
pour avoir leur effet.

Je m'embrasse à vous salut
Marmont

ARM. DE LA MEDITERRANEE
1^{RE} DIV. ON

Au

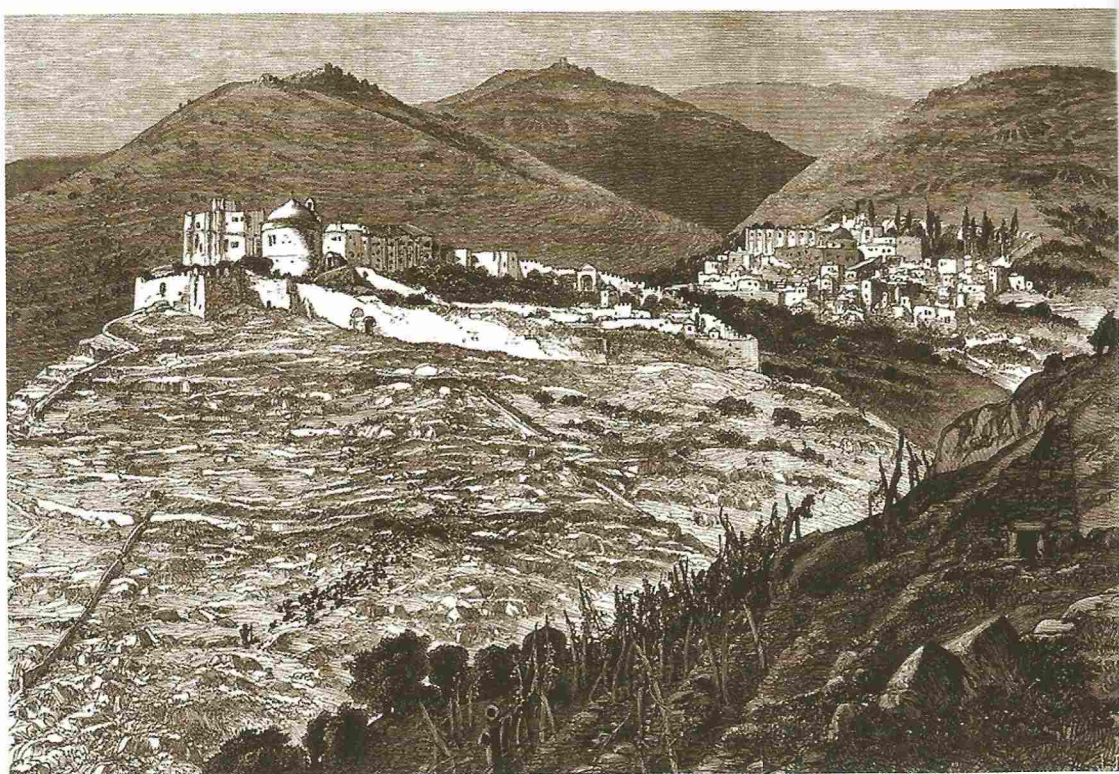
Citoyen

Lancret Ingénieur des ponts
& chaussées

à Thamarie

Ecclesiastical Correspondence

The clergy representing the Catholic Church and various Eastern Orthodox churches in the Holy Land were, in effect, the representatives, of religious communities around the world. They were largely dependent on these communities for funds and were in frequent contact with them. The correspondence of Christian clergy was mainly carried to its destinations by pilgrims or monks traveling home, although it is possible that some may have used the services of the Consul in Constantinople, who transmitted mail to Vienna via an overland route.



"Franciscan Monastery, Church of St John at Ein Karem" engraving, 1881

Ain-Carem ex loco L. Jo. Bapt.
Die 8. May 1757.

[illegible]

Admodum Reverendo in Christo Patri
P. Hugoni Babler, Ord. Min. S. Franci.
Reform. Predicatori, Lectori Emerito
Almae Provinciae Austriae bis Ex-
Ministro, nec non per totum S. L. Impe-
rium Commissario Generali dignissimo,
Patri ac Patrono Olmo.

Vienne
in Austria

Ain Karem – Vienna, 1737

Folded letter from a church in Ain Karem to Vienna dated 7.5.1737, written in Latin and addressed to “The most Reverend Father in Christ. Fr. Hugo Babler, Preacher and Professor Emeritus of the Franciscan Minors, reformed of the Austrian province, Commissioner General for all of the Holy Roman Empire.”

The Jewish Messenger Post

From the 15th-19th centuries, Jewish correspondence was carried by merchants as well as by private couriers to and from the Holy Land; these were considered Messengers of the Rabbis (shelichei derabbanan), and it was of utmost importance for them to maintain a connection between the Jewish settlement in Eretz Israel and the Jewish communities in the Diaspora, particularly in regard to enlisting funds from the latter. The second half of the nineteenth century saw the establishment and expansion of the formal Turkish and foreign postal services. With the focus of these services on the coastal ports and Jerusalem, there were still portions of the country that were not fully integrated into the developing postal network. One such area that had a need for postal facilities was the eastern Galilee including the towns of Safed and Tiberias.

Hebron – Casale, 1854

Letter sent from Jewish community in Hebron on 2.6.1854 and addressed to the Head of the Jewish community (“Signori Capi Della comunita Israelitica”) in Casale, Italy. The letter bears a seal reading: “Seal of the Holy City of Hebron. The burial cave of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah, Rebekah and Leah.”

Novamente pighiamo dalla sua bontà e' aperta
al nostro amico come sopra detto.



A. Signorari Capi
della Comunità Israelitica
di

Casale

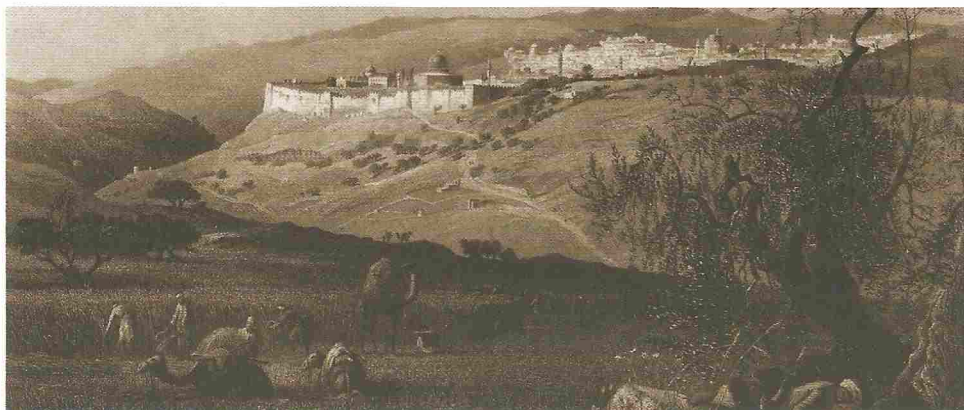
Turkish Post in the Holy Land

Prior to 1866, all Turkish mail from the Holy Land was prepaid and was brought by couriers to the Beirut post office. The courier who collected the letters noted (in the top left hand corner) the weight and, underneath it, the postal charge, based on the weight and the distance from Beirut. In 1863, when stamps became available in the Beirut Ottoman Post Office, such letters were franked and cancelled in Beirut for onward dispatching. There are very few such letters of both categories recorded.

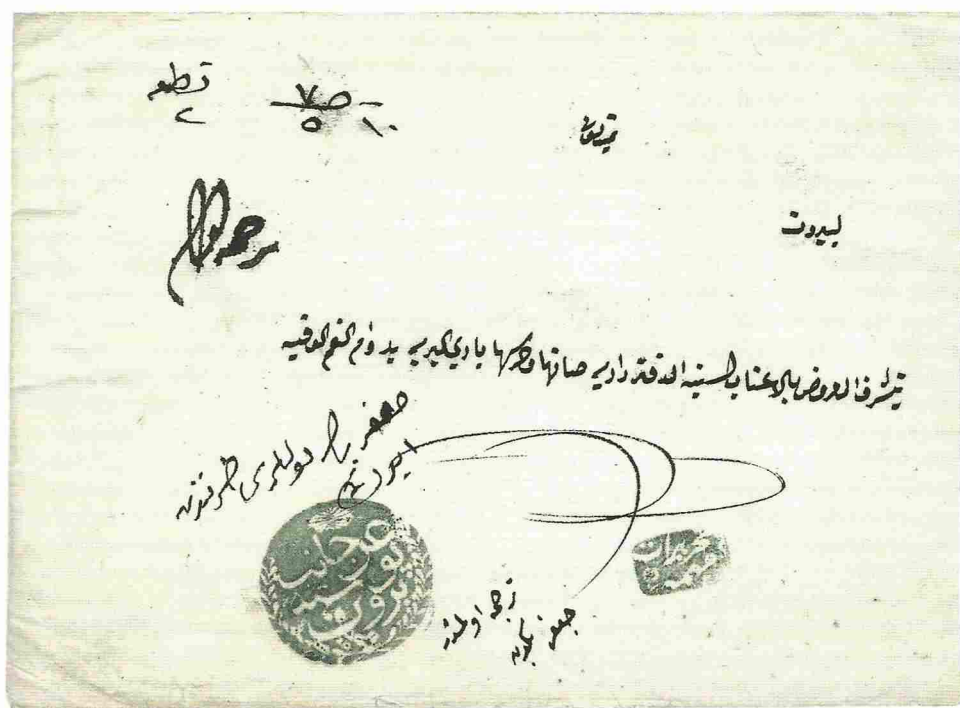
The first Palestine postmarks were box type and negative seal type. The boxes were inscribed only with the name of the town. The seals were inscribed with the name of the town and with either "Posta Ve Telegraph," "Posta Hanesi" (Post Office), "Posta Shubesi" (Branch P.O.), or "Telegraph" only. They all appear to have been randomly used on letters, telegrams and documents.

Over time, more than 50 permanent and mobile post offices (for example, the mail coach on the line from Damascus to Haifa or that on the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway), branch post offices or agencies of the Ottoman Post in Palestine were established.

The Turkish Post Offices were in constant competition with the Foreign Post Offices, which operated in the Holy Land until 30.9.1914 under the Capitulation Agreement. With the entry of Turkey into WW I, all foreign post offices were closed down. The Turkish post offices continued to operate during the war until September, 1918.



Jerusalem from Mount Scopus, engraving, 1881



Jerusalem – Beirut, 1841-1845

Letter, "Top of the Pile" of 2 letters, sent from Jerusalem to Beirut by a courier service, and marked in script by the courier: "Tetaa 2" (2 pieces) and the charge of 5 piaster and 10 para (each Piaster is equal to 40 para) for 7 dirhems (22.4 gr.) (each dirhem is equal to 3.2 gr.) of weight, for a distance equal to the 70 hour ride to Beirut. Cancelled upon arrival by Beirut negative seal postmark "From Beirut Post Office 1841" in green and, alongside it, a small rectangular cachet of "Important Correspondence." The seal was first introduced in the year 1841.

No 44. (١٤٧٠, No 614) إلى Johanne M. Stillhamert. *Handwritten*
 KONSULAT DES DEUTSCHEN REICHS FÜR PALESTINA

لجانب فيسترفون لاتوارولة المانيا الفخيم بيافا



إلى يافا

Vice-Consulat d'Allemagne

à

off.

Jaffa

Jerusalem – Jaffa, 1870's

Letter sent in the 1870's from the German Consulate in Jerusalem to the German Consulate in Jaffa, and franked 2 piaster and 10 para 1869 issue Turkish stamps to pay the basic, short-distance letter rate of 60 para plus 30 para for additional weight. Cancelled by three Jerusalem (Quds) box postmarks.



Jerusalem – Berlin, 1917

Commercial Registered quadruple weight letter sent from Jerusalem to Berlin and franked 190 para Turkish stamps (50 para basic letter rate, 3x30 para additional weight, 50 para registration). Canceled by "Jerusalem 3" all Arabic 15.10.1917 postmarks and registration label "Jerusalem No. 500." Censored at Istanbul. (Jerusalem was conquered by the British less than two months later on 9 12 1917.)

The Foreign Post Offices in the Holy Land

Around the middle of the 19th century, the great powers of France, Austria and Russia sought to extend their spheres of influence in the eastern Mediterranean Sea at the expense of the Turkish Empire. Their goal was to increase and secure trade with the Middle East. The deficiencies of the Turkish inland postal system were a welcome cause for the foreign powers to use as a pretext to exert economic and political influence with their own local agencies. An additional excuse of the Christian countries of France and Austria was the “need of protection” for the holy sites in the Holy Land. Consular offices, already established in some places before 1850, were entrusted to assure both economic and supposedly religious interests. The Turkish postal system at that time was entirely inadequate to fill the various growing needs of the foreign demand. This did not change when Turkey joined the Universal Postal Union in 1878. Consequently, France, Austria and Russia operated their own post offices in the Holy Land, with the assistance of their consular agencies and corresponding shipping companies. Within time, the German Empire, Italy and Egypt claimed the same privileges for themselves. All foreign post offices in Palestine were closed with the outbreak of World War I by the Turkish authorities on 1.10.1914.



Removing French Post Box at the time of abrogation of the Capitulation treaty,
October 1914 Jerusalem

Egyptian Post

An Egyptian post office operated at Jaffa from January 1871 till February 1872, it was established to serve the Egyptian shipping line along the coasts of the Mediterranean. The Egyptian Jaffa postmark is known on several stamps and cut outs and this is the only complete letter recorded.



Jerusalem – Cairo, 1871

Letter from Jerusalem to Cairo, franked 1 piaster Turkish stamp 1871 issue. Cancelled by Jerusalem (Quds) box postmark, notation in Arabic 27.9.71. The letter was transferred to the Egyptian post at Jaffa, and cancelled by single circle "V.R. POSTE EGIZIANE / IAFFA 30 SET 1871." The addressee was charged 4 piaster upon arrival, as marked twice on front by hand stamp and manuscript, double the charge of 2 piaster. for inland transmission in Egypt. On reverse: Transit postmark "Alexandria 1.10.71" and arrival postmark "Cairo 3.10.71."

French Post in Jerusalem

Even before the opening of a French postal service in Jaffa in 1852, mailings from Jerusalem are known which were handled by forwarding agents at first, and later through intermediary consular clerks, and conveyed via Jaffa either to Alexandria or to Beirut for onward transmission.

From 1858, the French postal manager in Jaffa, organized a weekly postal link between Jerusalem and Jaffa. Under the administration of the Damiani family, receiving agents operated the postal agency in Jerusalem until 1880. Such mailings were, in the great majority of cases, marked with the Jerusalem Cross cachet. In Jaffa the corresponding postage stamps were affixed. The cancellation of the stamps was always done in Jaffa. Occasionally, the Jerusalem Cross cachet was also applied on the back of mail arriving in Jerusalem.

Damiani's postal receiving agency was closed in the summer of 1880, probably because of the strong competition from the Austrian post office which ran a comprehensive service.



French Post Office in Jerusalem

The French and English pilgrims liked to have their correspondence from Europe addressed to the care of the French consulate in Jerusalem, a quasi *Poste Restante* service, where they could then call for their mail. There, the Jerusalem Cross was used on occasions as an arrival postmark.

On September 3, 1900, the French post office in Jerusalem was reopened, at first no more than a small shop in the lobby of the Grand New Hotel in the New Bazaar. The lack of space and narrow conditions in the Old City prompted many businesses to move outside the city walls and relocate along Jaffa Street in a westerly direction. The post office was closed, as were other foreign post offices, on September 30, 1914.



Jerusalem – Lyon, 1874

Cover sent from Jerusalem to Lyon, franked with 80c. French 1870 issue to pay the single letter rate to France as from 1 July 1871, marked with “Jerusalem Cross” cachet in green and “P.D.” (Payé à la destination – Paid to Destination) in red, cancelled by Jaffa dotted rhomboid “5089” in large figures (“Gros Chiffres”), and pearl ring “Jaffa/Syrie 18 September 74” postmark alongside. On reverse: transit postmark “Alexandria 19.9.74” and arrival postmark “Lyon 29.9.74.”

The Russian Post

The Russian Empire had an extensive postal service on foreign soil and the number of its post offices operating abroad at one time or another exceeded 250.

Of all the foreign powers wielding considerable influence inside Turkish territory, Russia was the first to conduct postal services, as far back as 1721. This right to maintain courier services, traveling under an escort of Janissaries of the Ottoman Government, was based on the Treaty of 1720. Russian post offices were not, however, opened before 1748, when the first such post office started its work in Constantinople.

Little is known about the development of Russian postal services inside the Ottoman Empire until 1853, when the Crimean War broke out and all Russian post offices had to close down. In 1856 an important company was founded, the "Russian Company for Steam Shipping and Trade", known under the name ROPiT (from its Russian initials). From the very beginning, the agencies of ROPiT and the ships operated by it undertook the forwarding of mail entrusted to their care.



Russian Post Office in Jerusalem

When, at the end of the Crimean War in February 1856, the Russian Post resumed its operations, in the Ottoman Empire, its postal establishments were limited to the Consular Offices of Constantinople, Jaffa and Jerusalem.

The newly-founded ROPiT meanwhile established regular shipping services, and its steamers plied between Odessa, Constantinople, and various Eastern Mediterranean ports.

All Russian Levant post offices had to close with the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War, 1877–1878, but were reactivated after the signing of the peace treaty. All foreign post offices in the Levant closed on September 30, 1914 with the exception of the Russian offices which closed on October 1, 1914.



Jaffa – Beirut, 1872

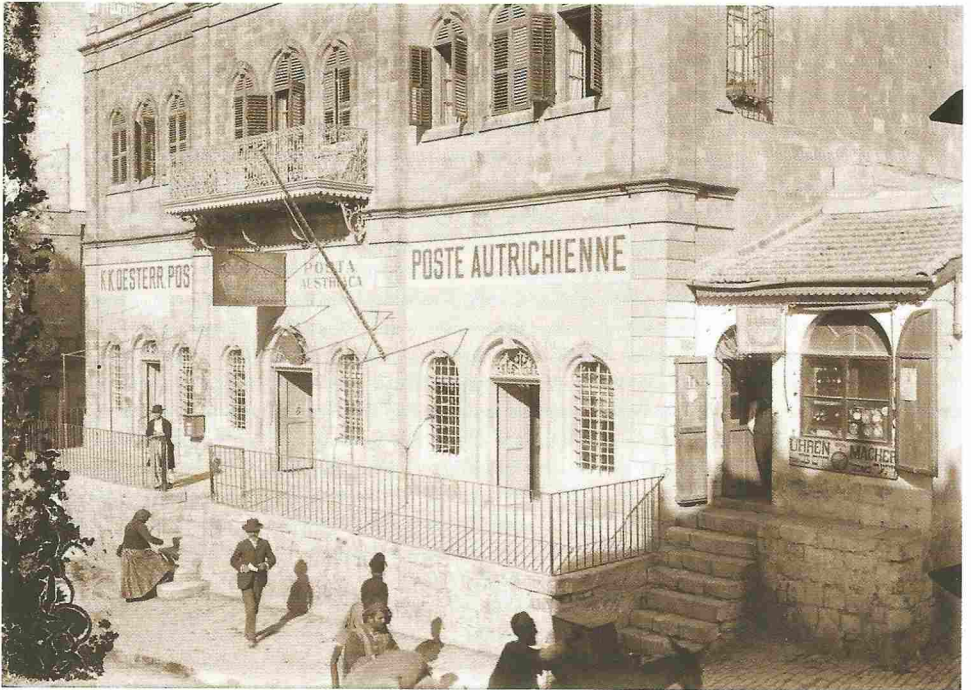
Folded letter sent, probably in 1872, from Jaffa to Beirut franked 12 Kop Russian Levant stamps (part of 1872 issue), to pay the double letter rate to Beirut. Cancelled by Russian blue dotted trapezoid “784” of Jaffa port, and blue circular “Jaffa Port 20 Mar” postmark without year alongside. Below: arrival postmark “Port Beirut 22 Mar.”

Austrian Post

The development of the Austrian Post Office in the Levant and Palestine depended upon the Austrian Lloyd Shipping Company. The “Lloyd Austriaco”, established in 1836, contracted with the Austrian postal administration for various agreements. Lloyd was entitled and obliged to operate certain modes of transport and to maintain certain postal establishments.

The establishment of the Austrian post offices in Haifa and Jaffa in 1854 was based upon the agreement of 1851. The Jerusalem post office, however, was installed owing to a special understanding agreed upon between the Vienna Foreign Office and the Turkish government in Istanbul in 1852.

Before the founding of the Universal Postal Union, the services of the Austrian Post Office were chiefly in demand for correspondence from Palestine to Greece, to East and North Italy, to Switzerland, and to the countries of the Austro-German postal union.



Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem

The Austrians operated two types of postal agencies in Palestine, sometimes simultaneously and side by side.

1. Agencies of the Austrian Lloyd under the management of the Postal Directorate in Trieste.

2. Consular or State postal forwarding agencies, subordinate to the Postal Administration in Vienna.

The Austrian post office was closed, as were other foreign post offices, on September 30, 1914.



Jaffa – Vienna, 1866

Folded letter from Jaffa to Vienna, message dated 17.8.1866, franked 30 soldi (to pay the 20 soldi port-to-port fee to Trieste and 10 soldi inland rate) and cancelled by black “AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO JAFFA” postmark. On reverse: arrival Postmark “Wien 30.8.1866.”

German Post

The German Imperial Post was represented in the Holy Land by its own post offices in Jaffa and Jerusalem or by an auxiliary Agencies.

The first German post office in Palestine was opened on October 1, 1898 in Jaffa. The scheduled visit of the Emperor and Empress to the Holy Land was cited as the occasion for opening of the post office. The post office in Jerusalem was opened on March 1, 1900.

On the same time, the German escort ships were moored outside the harbor of Jaffa from the middle of October until the beginning of November while the Kaiser undertook his pilgrimage to the Holy places. Each vessel had its own post office on board for the needs of the crew.

A postal coach, drawn by three horses and escorted by an armed guard, commuted at night between Jaffa and Jerusalem. The mail was carried by coach because the use of the railroad was restricted for Turkish mail only. The guard was a consular employee with police authority.



German Post Office in Jerusalem



Jaffa – Jerusalem, 1910

Registered letter sent from Jaffa to Jerusalem franked 2 piaster and 30 para German Levant stamps (1 piaster letter rate, 1 piaster registration and 30 para late fee). Cancelled by "Jaffa Deutsche Post 7.3.10" double circle postmarks, "R Jaffa (Deutsch Post) No 840" label and "Kaiserlich deutsches Postamt, Nach Postschluss" violet cachet alongside. On reverse: arrival postmark "Jerusalem 8.3.10."

Zionism and Congresses

As early as 1882, in response to the pogroms in Russia, and as part of the national revival in Europe, Jewish immigration to Palestine began with what came to be known as the First Aliyah; thirty thousand Jews, the majority of them Russians, arrived in Eretz Israel over a period of twenty years. They settled in a number of agricultural settlements founded with the financial support of Jewish philanthropists from Western Europe. The Dreyfus Affair (1895), which was accompanied by a rise in anti-Semitism in France, aroused Theodore Herzl's awareness that a solution had to be found for the problem of the Jewish people; he formulated a new and practical approach for political Zionism in order to ensure Jewish rights in Eretz Israel, the nation's historic homeland. For this purpose, he established the World Zionist Organization and, together with others, planned to make Zionism a political movement at its First Congress in Basel (August 1897).



Theodor Herzl & David Wolffson on board ship, on the way to Eretz Israel, 1898

At the conclusion of the First Congress, Herzl wrote in his diary: "Were I to sum up the Basel Congress in a word, it would be this: At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years and certainly in 50, everyone will know it." Exactly fifty years later, on 29.11.1947, the United Nation resolution for the partition of Palestine was approved.



Jaffa – Vienna, 1898

Theodor Herzl's postcard to his daughter Pauline in Vienna, before his departure from Jaffa and after his audience with the German Kaiser, 4.11.1898. This was Herzl's only trip to the Holy Land.

Jewish Settlements

The first Jewish agricultural colonies in the Holy Land were established in the 1870's: Petach Tiqva (1878), followed by Rishon Le Zion, Rosh Pinna and Zichron Yaacov (1882), Gedera (1884) and Hadera (1890). Additional colonies were later settled to accommodate the growing Zionist immigration. The settlers in the colonies had a vital need for efficient and reliable postal connections with the Diaspora. At that time, postal services were almost non-existent in rural Palestine. The Turkish Post had offices in a number of towns whilst the Foreign Posts had offices only in the three major cities. As mail was not collected or delivered in the colonies by the post office, other arrangements had to be made.



Rishon Le Zion – A street at the Colony – postcard, edition Moshe Ordman, Tel Aviv

Mail had to be forwarded to the nearest town in order to be sent, and incoming mail had to be collected there. Settlers who happened to be passing through the town carried out this task. Austrian postal agencies were established in two of the largest colonies: Rishon Le Zion and Petach

Tiqva. In some of the colonies, charges were collected for the forwarding service. Local stamps were issued for this purpose in Petach Tiqva and Hadera. The German post office followed in the footsteps of the Austrians and opened an agency in Rishon Le Zion. The Turkish post did not remain idle and established post offices in five colonies: Rishon Le Zion (Aioun-Cara), Petach Tiqva, Rehovot, Zichron Ya'akov and Rosh Pinna.

With the outbreak of World War I, the foreign post offices were closed and settlers were obliged to use the services of the Turkish post.



Rishon Le Zion – Singapore, 1903

Registered letter originating at Rishon Le Zion, mailed at Jaffa to Singapore and franked 2 piaster Austrian Levant stamps cancelled by "Jaffa Oesterreichische Post 16.12.03" double circle postmarks, "Recommandee" and handwritten "112." Alongside the stamps: "RISCHON L' ZION / PAR POSTE AUTRICHIENNE" black cachet with Star of David. Letter returned to the sender. On reverse: arrival postmark "Jaffa 4.2.04."

World War I, 1914-1918

On the morning of June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, a Serbian student by the name of Gavrilo Princip shot and killed the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Duchess Sophie Von Hohenberg. These shots signaled the start of World War I (1914-1918) – as it was eventually called.

It was a bloody juncture between the 19th and 20th centuries. It was the first industrial war to take place on all fronts – air, land and sea. A heavy price was paid – eight million dead, seventeen million wounded and entire regions destroyed. Europe after 1918 was a different Europe – exhausted, scarred and entering a phase of modernization. World War I is perceived as a modern war, not only because of its military tactics and innovative weaponry, but also because of the changes that occurred as a result of the war: the collapse of traditional empires – Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia and the Ottomans – and the emergence of new national identities and borders.

The fall of the Ottoman Empire set the scene for a new geo-political order in the Middle East. In the history of Eretz-Israel, World War I will be remembered as a dark period of starvation, expulsion and the use of the population as pawns in a confrontation between powerful nation-states. Historians generally relate to the military and political aspects of the war, presenting a linear narrative of the chain of events on the battlefield.

The Ottoman Empire officially joined the war on the side of the Germans and the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of October 1914. On August 2, the Turks signed a secret agreement with the Germans for reciprocal military support against the Russians. The same day, a military call-up was announced for a general recruitment of soldiers, beginning in Turkey and then spreading throughout the entire Empire. On October 1, the privileges of foreign citizens living in Eretz Israel were revoked – an annulment of previous capitulation agreements. As a result, all foreign consulates and postal agencies in the country, including the offices of Turkey's allies, Austria and Germany, were closed. The old Jewish settlement saw the cancellation of these agreements as a scheme to sever their bond with Eretz-Israel, since their life there depended upon foreign citizenship granted by the European powers. The choice facing foreign citizens was to become Ottomans or leave the country.

At the beginning of the war, some groups of settlers supported the Turkish war effort, going so far as to praise the annulment of the capitulation agreement; they believed that, as Jews who agreed to adopt Ottoman citizenship, they would receive better treatment from the governing authorities.



Jamal Pasha – commander of the Ottoman Army

The Turkish Army

With the outbreak of World War I, the Turkish military administration arranged a special service of Field Post Offices (FPOs) that were attached to divisions, army corps, expeditionary corps and base units, and moved from place to place with the units. The main reason for the small amount of mail handled by the Turkish FPOs was the simple fact that most of the Turkish soldiers were illiterate.





Friedrich Frieherr Kress Von Kressenstein

Bir Hassane – Vienna, 1916

Letter sent from Bir Hassane (Sinai desert) to Vienna by an engineer under the command of Kress Von Kressenstein during the Suez campaign, February 1916. The letter is franked 50 para Turkish stamps and cancelled by “Field Telegraph Center 52” negative seals.

The German Flight Corps 1916-1918

The flight detachment “Feld Flieger Abteilung 300” (FFA 300), consisting of some nine planes, was established in early 1916. It was attached to the German Expeditionary Force “Pascha,” and its main mission was to provide supplies and reconnaissance in support of the planned attack on the Suez Canal. During the war, additional planes and squadrons were stationed in Palestine. In the course of the Turkish-German retreat, during battles against Allied Forces in 1917 and 1918, the main quarters of the FFA 300 were situated at Samach, on the southern end of the Sea of Galilee. On 25.9.1918, following the final attack by the Allies under General Allenby, Samach was lost to the Allied Forces and the German squadron was completely destroyed.



Funeral of German Pilot at the German cemetery at Nazareth – Real photo postcard

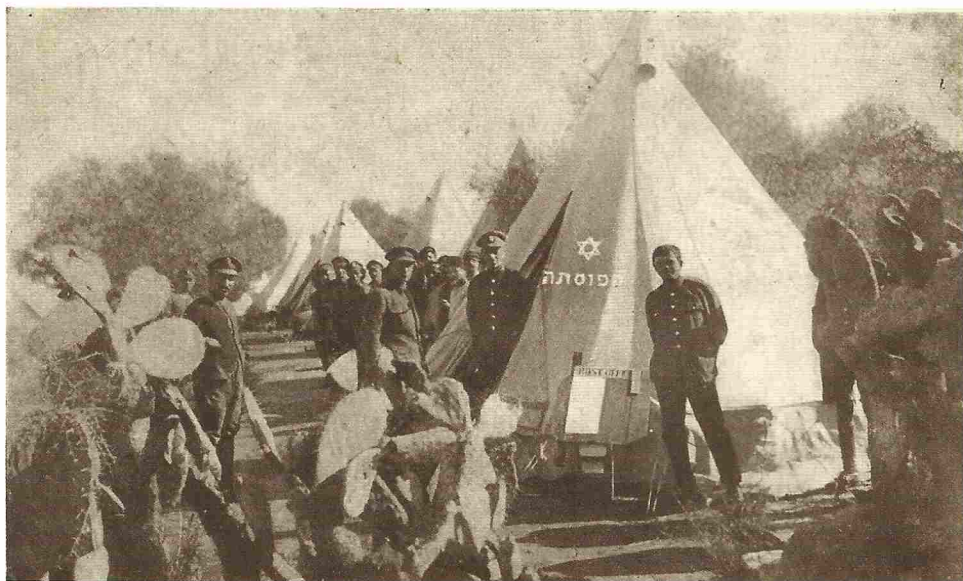


German Field Post, 1916

Postcard sent to Germany by a German pilot from “Deutsche Feld Flieger Abteilung 300” stationed in Beersheba, via the Field Post Office of the German Expeditionary Force, carrying the cachet of the flight squadron, 18.10.1916.

The Jewish Legions

At the outbreak of the War, Josef Trumpeldor and Ze'ev Jabotinsky attempted to advance the creation of a Jewish fighting force. The British army authorities, however, only permitted the establishment of the "Zion Mule Corps," which served in Gallipoli in 1915 and 1916. Eventually in 1917, persistent efforts were rewarded and the first battalion of the Jewish Legion was formed – the 38th Royal Fusiliers under the command of Colonel J. H. Patterson.



Jewish Brigade Post Office of the 40th R.F. postcard, photograph J. Ben Dov



Gallipoli – Alexandria, 1915

Registered letter sent by Captain Trumpeldor, Zion Mule Corp (handwritten at the bottom of the cover) to Miss E. Rosoff in Alexandria. The letter is franked 2 pence for registration and exempt from regular postage as endorsed at the top – “on field service.” The registration number “SZ-1-397” was entered by hand.

The British Mandate

Following the British conquest of Palestine and its immediate vicinity, the British established a military administration known as the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (OETA).

After capturing Jerusalem, one of the first tasks of the British Military Administration was to supply postal services to the civilian population. It was decided that the British Army Post Offices would provide the service.

The post office in Jerusalem was opened on December 16, 1917, one week after the surrender of the city. Since no stamps were available, the civilian letters were posted free of charge, similar to army mail; this privilege was withdrawn on February 10, 1918 with the arrival of the first British EEF stamps.



Reading Sir Edmund Allenby's proclamation at Jerusalem – Postcard, edition M. Cassab, Cairo

During the next few months, the stamps were only supplied to three British Military Post Offices: SZ-44 – Jerusalem, SZ-45 – Jaffa and GM-1 – at Beer Salem near Ramleh. "Pre-paid" mail was brought to these offices,

stamps were affixed and cancelled and the letters were forwarded on.

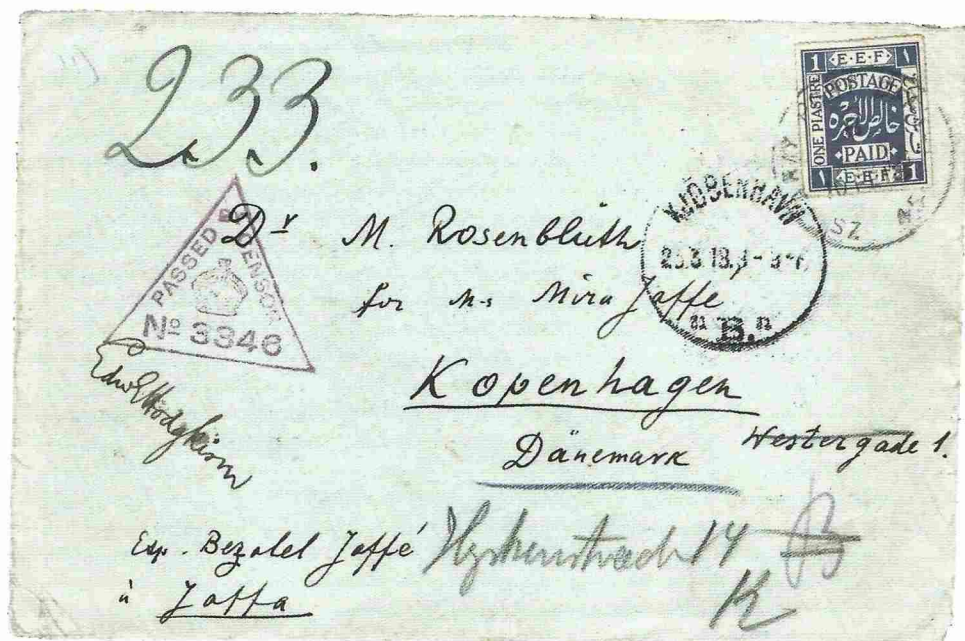
With the gradual distribution of postage stamps to all military post offices, this provisional "pre-payment" arrangement was abandoned in July 1918.

Britain was awarded the Mandate for Palestine by the League of Nations at the San Remo Conference in 1920. In February 1947, the British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin decided to return the Mandate for Palestine to the United Nations, which voted for the Partition Plan on November 29, 1947, and the British left Palestine on May 15, 1948.



First Interim Period, Jerusalem – Switzerland, 1917

Letter sent from Jerusalem to Switzerland, free of charge through Army Post Office SZ-44 – Jerusalem; censored by the British and the French, 26.12.1917. Taxed upon arrival by the Swiss authorities with a 30 centimes postage due stamp, as Swiss authorities did not accept the exemption from postage.



First Day of Mandate stamps, Jaffa – Copenhagen, 10.2.1918

Letter sent by Bezalel Jaffe to Mira Jaffe in Copenhagen through British Army Post Office SZ-45 in Jaffa, on the first day of use of British Mandatory stamps, 10.2.1918.

The Struggle for Independence

In May 1939, the British government issued the “White Paper,” a policy report determining limitations on the immigration of Jews to Eretz Israel. This act symbolized, more than any other, the deterioration of British sympathy for the idea of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine and was contrary to a promise made by the League of Nations. In September of that year, World War II broke out. These two events, in effect, shaped the history of the Jewish settlement in Palestine up until the establishment of the State of Israel.

In spite of the “White Paper,” illegal immigration to Palestine continued, even though the numbers were limited by the outbreak of the War. Those who were caught by the British were sent to detention camps in Mauritius and Cyprus. Resistance to the British Mandate also weakened during the war, and approximately 30,000 Jewish volunteers from Eretz Israel and abroad served in the British Army on the European Front.

Following the war in 1945, the Jewish settlement in Palestine renewed its opposition against British rule and the three resistance movements – the Haganah, Lechi and Etzel (Irgun) – began to attack British Army installations. As a consequence, the British arrested 2,700 freedom fighters on the “Black Sabbath”, among them a number of the Yishuv leaders. Some were imprisoned in Latrun, while others were deported to internment camps in Africa. The Etzel underground responded with a vengeance and blew up the southern wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem where administrative personnel of the British Mandatory government were housed.

In February 1947, the British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin announced in Parliament that, since the British had failed to provide a solution, the future of Palestine would be determined in the United Nations. On 29.11.1947, the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine and the establishment of the State of Israel.



Latrun Detention Camp – Tel Aviv, 1946

The leaders of the Yishuv and the Jewish Agency were arrested by the British on “Black Saturday” (29.6.1946) and were detained in the Latrun Detention Camp. Letter sent from Latrun Detention Camp on 7.7.1946, by Moshe Shertok (who would later become the first Foreign Minister and the second Prime Minister of Israel) to his sister Ada Golomb in Tel Aviv.



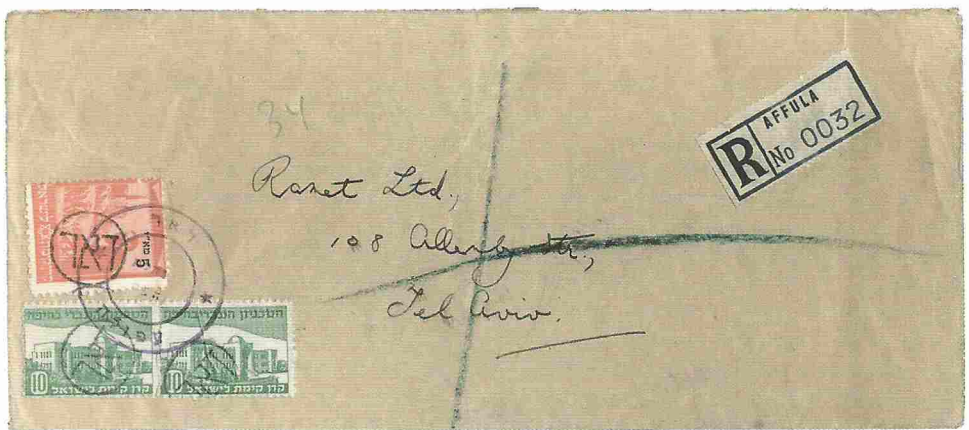
British soldiers searching for arms in Kibbutz Yagur on
"Black Saturday" 29.6.1948

The War of Independence

On 29.11.1947, the UN Assembly voted 33 to 13, with 10 abstentions, for the Partition Plan that divided Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The Palestinian Arabs and the neighboring Arab countries rejected this decision, and the following day marked the beginning of the War of Independence. In April 1948, as the British Mandate drew to a close, the British authorities abandoned their control over civilian affairs. This vacuum was filled by the Minhelet Ha'am, the temporary government of the Jewish community, which lasted until the State of Israel was proclaimed on 14.5.1948. The continuation of the postal services was a prime objective of the Minhelet Ha'am administration, and a significant effort was made to effect a smooth transition from the Mandatory postal system to the Israeli post, in spite of the difficult political and military situation at the time. The military situation left large parts of the country under siege, including Jerusalem, the Western Galilee, the Negev and other areas, and hindered established and international postal links.



Negev Brigade soldiers, 1948



Minhelet Ha'am, Affula – Tel Aviv, 1948

Registered letter posted at Affula post office during Minhelet Ha'am period and franked 25 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamps. Cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am Affula postmark. The letter was sent by the British Account office of the R.A.F. in Ramat David Airfield to Tel Aviv.



Besieged Jerusalem – Tel Aviv – Haifa, 1948

Letter sent from Jerusalem, flown to Tel Aviv via “Menorah Club” and posted in Tel Aviv on 16.5.1948 to Haifa. The Menorah Club was an organization of Jewish veterans of WW I and II that accommodated convoy drivers and wounded soldiers during the siege on Jerusalem. The soldiers’ letters sent by the club were flown by army planes to Tel Aviv during the siege.



The convoy from Tel Aviv entering Jerusalem, 1948

The State of Israel

Suspension of Foreign Postal Links and the Establishment of Unofficial Postal Links, 1948

In early March 1948, the British authorities in London informed the public and the offices of the Universal Postal Union in Berne, Switzerland that mail services to and from Palestine would cease to be their responsibility as of April.

Lydda Airport was closed by the British Mandate authorities on April 25, 1948 and handed over to the Arab Legion. Between April 26 and May 5, 1948, there was an almost total suspension of civil mail, both by air and surface to and from Palestine. Immediately after the official links had been cut, unofficial organizations began to function. Their aim was to make use of every available means of transportation to keep communication channels open between Israel and the rest of the world. The Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee, the Zionist Organization in Johannesburg, the Refugee Offices in Italy and Cyprus, the travel offices of Peltours, Patra and Louis in London and Cyprus, the Czechoslovakian Airline (CSA) and Air France were recruited to achieve this goal.

Austria – Tiberias, 1948

Registered Express airmail cover, 19.4.1948, sent from DP (Displaced Persons) Camp "Giv'at Avoda" in Austria – Saalfelden and franked 5.40 shillings to Tiberias, Palestine. The address was written in Yiddish and Latin on the front, and thus franked on the back. As no service was available, it was returned to the sender. The letter was brought to Israel by a courier in the first CSA (Czechoslovakian Airlines) flight that landed in Tel-Aviv, 5.5.1948. It was then sent to the Haifa Head P.O. where it was franked 10 mil Minhelet Ha'am stamp and cancelled by "Haifa Minhelet Ha'am" postmark, and from there to Tiberias, stamped with the arrival postmark "Tiberias Minhelet Ha'am, 12 May 1948."

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 Hr. Hachopian
 Fibrias
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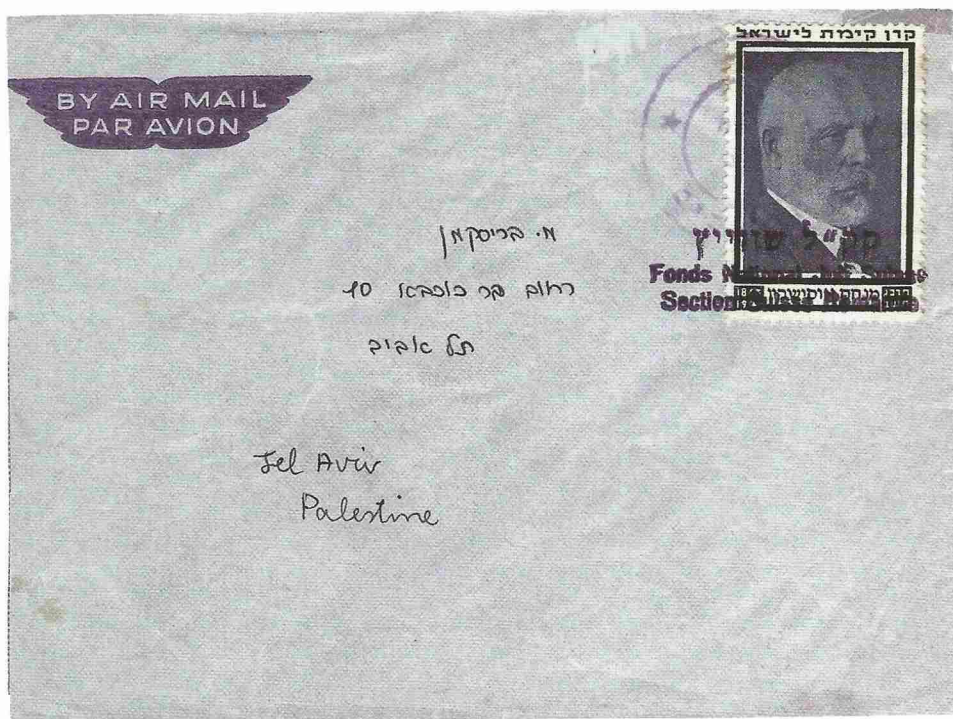
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R Saalfelden
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Durch Eilboten
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 Barak 13.
 Saalfelden
 Austria.





Geneva – Tel Aviv, 1948

Letter sent from the JNF office in Geneva, franked with JNF “Ussishkin” stamp and cancelled by Geneva cachet, May 1948. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, violet Minhelet Ha’am postmark was applied. The letter was carried by Pan African Dakota, chartered by the Hagana; the plane left Tel Aviv on 8 May, and landed back the next day – 9 May. Minhelet Ha’am post did not impose any extra charge as the JNF stamp was deemed acceptable franking.



Pan African Dakota, chartered by the Hagana, 1948

Captions & Credit

Acre – Venice, 1471 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 799.

Jaffa – Rhamanie, 1799 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv . p. 801.

Ain Karem – Vienna, 1737 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 803.

“Franciscan Monastery, Church of St John at Ein Karem” engraving, 1881 – www.lifeintheHolyLand.com – Picturesque Palestine. p. 802.

Hebron – Casale, 1854 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 805.

Jerusalem from Mount Scopus, engraving, 1881 – www.lifeintheHolyLand.com – Picturesque Palestine. p. 806.

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Jerusalem – Berlin, 1917 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 809.

Removing French Post Box at the time of abrogation of the Capitulation treaty, October 1914 Jerusalem – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 810.

Jerusalem – Lyon, 1874 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 813.

French Post Office in Jerusalem – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 812.

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Russian Post Office in Jerusalem – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 814.

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Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 816.

Jaffa – Jerusalem, 1910 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 819.

- German Post Office in Jerusalem – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 818.
- Jerusalem – Cairo, 1871** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 811.
- Jaffa – Vienna, 1898** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 821.
- Theodor Herzl & David Wolffson on board ship, on the way to Eretz Israel, 1898 – Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem. p.820.
- Rishon Le Zion – Singapore, 1903** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 823.
- Rishon Le Zion – A street at the Colony – postcard, edition Moshe Ordman, Tel Aviv – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 822.
- Bir Hassane – Vienna, 1916** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 826.
- Friedrich Frieheerr Kress Von Kressenstein – American Colony Photo Department – Matson Collection, Library of Congress, Washington. p. 827.
- German Field Post, 1916** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 829.
- Funeral of German Pilot at the German cemetery at Nazareth – Real photo postcard – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 828.
- Gallipoli – Alexandria, 1915** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 831.
- Jewish Brigade Post Office of the 40th R.F. postcard, photograph J. Ben Dov – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 830.
- First Interim Period, Jerusalem – Switzerland, 1917** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 833.
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- Reading Sir Edmund Allenby's proclamation at Jerusalem – Postcard, edition M. Cassab, Cairo – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 832.
- Latrun Detention Camp – Tel Aviv, 1946** – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 836.

British soldiers searching for arms in Kibbutz Yagur on “Black Saturday”
29.6.1948 – Palmach Museum Archive, Tel Aviv. p. 837.

Negev Brigade soldiers, 1948 – Palmach Museum Archive, Tel Aviv. p. 838.

Minhelet Ha’am, Affula – Tel Aviv, 1948 – The Alexander Collection – “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately”, Tel Aviv. p. 839.

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The convoy from Tel Aviv entering Jerusalem, 1948 – Palmach Museum Archive, Tel Aviv. p. 841.

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Eretz Israel Museum “And the Turks No Longer Rule... A view of Palestine during World War I” 2008

The Alexander Collection Website

The Alexander Museum of Postal History and Philately Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv

The Alexander Collection is made up of a number of elements: postal items, stamps, postcards, and a few documents. The main part of the collection consists of the postal history collection (letters, envelopes and postcards), which covers the history of postal services in Eretz Israel from the fifteenth century to the early years of the State of Israel. The collection naturally contains items of greater and lesser importance, rarity and worth. It is not possible to display a large number of philatelic items in the museum itself because of space constrictions and, more importantly, because the items receive little attention in the museum since visitors find it difficult to digest a large amount of information in a short time, during a museum visit.

In order to display the collection in the best possible way and allow those who wish to repeat their visit and view items of interest to them, the museum's management and the Alexander Fund have decided to make the collection's thousands of items available on the Internet - the most appropriate medium for a collection such as the Alexander Collection - thus allowing anyone with Internet access to browse and enjoy this unique collection.

Website address: <http://www.alexandercollection.org/>

The Website can either be accessed directly via this address, or through the Eretz Israel Museum Website - Permanent Exhibits - The Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately - The Alexander Collection

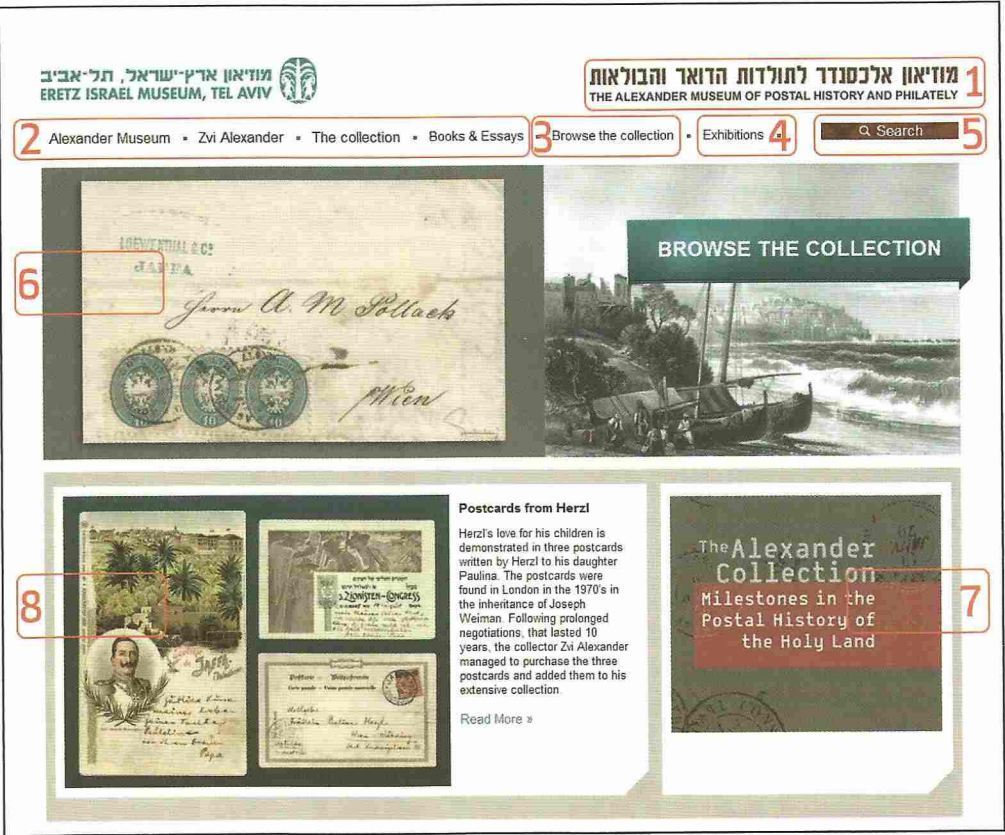
A Google search for "Alexander Collection" will also show a link to the site's homepage.

The site basically consists of informative web pages, like any other site, and data base records of the various items in the collection, and the images and content related to the items themselves. Conversion of the data to accessible, convenient and clear Web pages posed a considerable challenge.

To date, approximately 1,000 philatelic items from the postal history category have been scanned and posted on line, and some 2,000 postcards

of Eretz Israel appear in the postcards category. Since the project is an ongoing process, efforts are being made to continually add more and more items from the collection to the site.

All the site content is in English at this stage, the plan also being to have the site in Hebrew in the future, which will make it more accessible to Hebrew speaking students.



1. On every page in the site, the user can return to the Home Page by holding the cursor on the “Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately” and clicking the left mouse button
2. This row has a number of buttons from left to right. A click on **Alexander Museum** leads the user to a page explaining the history of the Alexander Museum of Postal History & Philately.

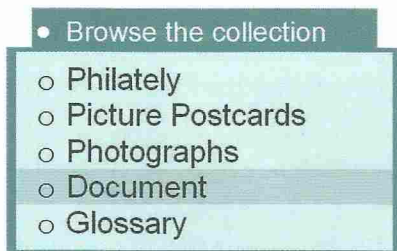
A click on **Zvi Alexander** leads to a page about Zvi Alexander and his work

A click on **The Collection** leads to a page about the collection’s history

A click on **Books & Essays** leads to a page that *will, in the future*, contain books and articles either written by Zvi Alexander or related to the collection

3. A click on **Browse the collection** leads the user to the main part of the site, namely the philatelic items described below
4. Placing the cursor on **Exhibitions** leads to a menu with two options,
Philatelic Exhibitions - a click leads to a page displaying Philatelic exhibitions; the display will open on a separate page with special software enabling the user to browse through the pages, enlarging them to facilitate easy reading
Museum Exhibitions - a click leads to a page displaying the various exhibitions in the Eretz Israel Museum which have used items from the Alexander Exhibition
5. The button furthest to the right in this row is **Search**. A click on it will open a search box enabling multiple termbase search options.
6. The top window displays alternating photos of a number of items from the collection; a click on one of the items takes the user to the item page in the collection's main database; the Browse the collection bar takes the user to the same place as Browse the collection in the upper menu.
7. The box in the lower right contains a link to the book "The Alexander Collection - Milestones in the Postal History of the Holy Land" A click in this box will open a separate tab and allow the user to turn the pages and search for content using special book-browsing software.
8. The bottom left part allows the user to access postcards in the collection written by Theodor Herzl to his daughter Paulina.

The **Browse the collection** button opens a bar with five page options: **Philately**, **Picture Postcards** (*Photographs and Documents are still not active, but will in the future contain documents and images from the collection*) and **Glossary**.



The **Philately** button opens a typical database screen with a brief explanation about Philately on the left, and a typical item from the category on the right.

מוזיאון ארץ-ישראל, תל-אביב
RETZ ISRAEL MUSEUM, TEL AVIV

מוזיאון אלכסנדר לתולדות הדואר והבולאות
THE ALEXANDER MUSEUM OF POSTAL HISTORY AND PHILATELY

Alexander Museum • Zvi Alexander • The collection • Books & Essays • Browse the collection • Exhibitions •

Search

» Collections » The Alexander Collection » Philately

Print

Philately

One of the world's most popular hobbies, philately is the study and collection of stamps and postal items. Many hobbyists collect regular postage stamps, others collect special use issues, some of which are unrelated to postal service. National postal administrations or smaller political entities and their lawful competitors issue stamps. So too do local posts, express companies, and even forgers.

While collectors organize their collections around personal interests, they frequently enjoy the philatelic pursuits of other collectors. Consequently, philately has fostered local clubs, national societies, major annual exhibitions, and innumerable publications since its origins in nineteenth-century England.

England introduced the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840. Across the English Channel in France, a different philosophy about collecting emerged. The 'French School' proposed classifying stamps, arguing that "the history of every design is worth tracing through the various mutations of shade, paper, watermark and perforation." Devotees of this viewpoint cultivated the scholarly aspects



Ottoman Post Tiberias

Placing the cursor on **Philately** opens a vertical bar with two categories: **Postal History** and **Stamps**. There are hardly any entries under Stamps at the moment and the majority of entries are under Postal History.

Placing the cursor on **Postal History** opens a vertical bar divided into 14 subjects, from **Prephilately** through to **Overland Mail**; each subject is characterized by further sub-divisions and each sub-division is accompanied by a short explanation about the subject in the left-hand part of the screen.

Postal History

Prephilately

Ottoman Period until 1918

Zionism & Congresses

Jewish Settlements

Jewish Communities

WW I

British Occupation & Mandate (1917-1948)

WW II

Struggle for Independence

War of Independence

Interim Period (1948)

The State of Israel

Arab Palestine

Overland Mail Haifa-Baghdad via the Syro - Iraqi desert

ity in its own right. Postal

andled, who has handled

historical documents, as

the letters they contain.

rates, postal policy,

al systems, postal

business and culture on

with the function of

travels through the

kings, registered marks,

g, what postal services

ed, and what

marks involves retracing

nation. The postage paid

stamp, meter marking or

label, documents the postal rate demanded for carrying and delivering

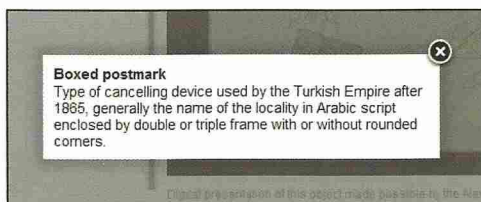


Rishon Le Zion

853

Clicking on one of the thumbnail images on the bottom bar brings the user to the requested item page, with text to the left of it including a title, description, date, details of postage and franking, and other information; the screen can usually be scrolled down, and the image of the item to the right can be enlarged by clicking on the magnifying glass in the top left hand corner of the black frame; to the right of the black frame there are usually thumbnail images of the front and reverse of the item and sometimes also of inner details; a click on any of these will bring the image in to the window.

At the bottom left side of the screen there is usually a short list of words and philatelic terms from the text or item's description which merit clarification in our opinion; these words are colored purple and underlined, and are in fact hyper-links; a click on the highlighted word will open a screen with a brief explanation of the requested term.



The **Glossary** button opens a glossary of philatelic terms related to the collection in alphabetical order; a click on each letter opens the list of terms beginning with that letter.

מוזיאון אלכסנדר תל-אביב
ERETZ ISRAEL MUSEUM, TEL AVIV

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Accountancy Mark - Countries with bilateral revenue-sharing agreements used Accountancy Mark systems from 1843 to 1876. Marks on interpostal mail showed the amount of shared revenue between two or more postal entities. Accountancy Marks were shorthand notations for journal entry instructions to record amounts owing to, or amounts owing from other postal authorities. For prepaid mail, the calculation of shared revenues to be paid to the destination country was marked in red on outgoing mails, and for unpaid mail, the amount owed to the sender country for its share of unpaid mail was marked in black. Red was used to indicate a credit entry in the sending country account, and black was used to indicate a debit entry for an amount owed to the sending country. During the 33-year period, the system was changed from the recording of a simple manuscript or handstamp numeral marking, to PD, PP, and P abbreviation handstamps. The system was then modified to include Articles handstamps and Letter or Way Bills. Finally, a system of country-designated handstamps was used with specific amounts due.

Adhesive - A stamp that may be affixed to an article to prepay postal fees, in contrast to a design printed directly on an article, as with postal stationery. An adhesive can also refer to a registration label or other label added to a cover.

Advertising cover - An envelope used as a form of advertising. Businesses began using this form of advertising in the mid 1800s. The cachets, meant to communicate a certain prestige, could be as simple as a blind-embossed corner card, a fancy return address corner card, an illustration of buildings or products, or as fancy as an all-over advertisement. The advertising envelope is still with us today and is most often found on our bills and junk mail.

Aerogram - (Aerogramme) - Printed and gummed writing-sheet designed to be folded and sealed to form a lightweight air-mail letter. Usually made of thin paper and printed with the appropriate postal duty. No enclosures are permitted.

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Airgraph - The airgraph was invented in the 1930's by the Eastman Kodak Company in conjunction with Imperial Airways and Pan-American Airways, as a means of reducing the weight and bulk of mail carried by air. The airgraph forms, upon which the letter was written, were photographed and then sent as negatives on rolls of microfilm. A General Post Office (GPO) poster of the time claimed that 1,800 letters on film weighed just 5oz, while 1,800 ordinary letters weighed 50 lbs. At their destination, the negatives were printed on photographic paper and delivered as airgraph letters through the normal Royal Engineers (Postal Section), also known as the Army Postal Services (APS), or Systems. In 1940, the British Minister of Transport, Lieutenant Colonel John Moore, put forward the idea that airgraphs be used to reduce both the bulk and weight of mail traveling between the Middle East Forces (MEF) and the UK. This eventually led to a service being instituted between England and Egypt in 1941, when 70,000 airgraphs were sent in the first batch and took three weeks to reach their destination.


Aerophilately - Area of stamp collecting which concentrates on mail carried by air.

The **Picture Postcards** button opens a database-type screen, but unlike the Philately section the postcard section is divided according to the name of the postcard publisher, and therefore this category is arranged in alphabetical order.

A click on **Picture Postcards** will open a bar with various types of postcards; at present, the only entries are in Palestine Postcards; 2,500 additional postcards will soon be posted on line.

A click on **Palestine Postcards** will open an alphabetical bar, and a click on any letter will open a list of publishers whose name begins with a certain letter; a click on any of the names will lead to the postcards themselves.

On the left side of the screen the details of the postcards and the names of the Publisher, Printer & Photographer/Artist appear; these fields are hyper-links, and clicking on them will open a window containing a brief explanation of the name in question.



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מוזיאון אלכסנדר לתולדות הדואר והבולאות
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Palestine

Description

The Jordan

Date

1911 - 1914

Publisher

[Sternberg A. Hamburg](#)

Photographer/Artist

[Bonfils](#)

Place of Origin

Germany


Caption Language

English, French, German

Postcard #






210

Reg.Number



Digital presentation of this object made possible by the Alexander family

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תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

הבטאון של תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

מוצא לאור על ידי התאחדות בולאי ישראל



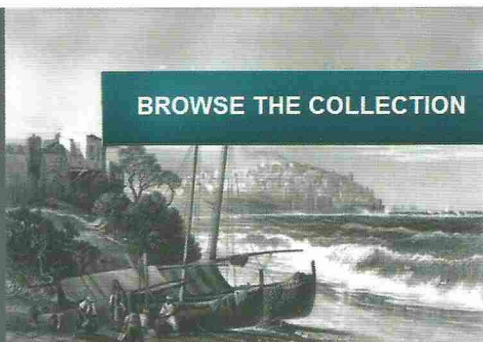
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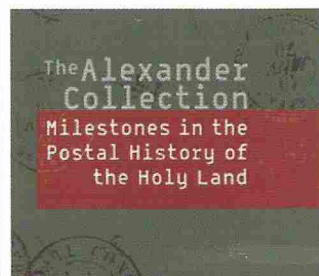
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Postcards from Herzl

Herzl's love for his children is demonstrated in three postcards written by Herzl to his daughter Paulina. The postcards were found in London in the 1970's in the inheritance of Joseph Weiman. Following prolonged negotiations, that lasted 10 years, the collector Zvi Alexander managed to purchase the three postcards and added them to his extensive collection.

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