

III
52

הנני מכתב לך
מכאן

אל-הברית

תל-אביז ערד ראש-השבוע
תרצ"ח

תל אביז

דגל

ג'נה דרלין

308

170

A 1912 postcard delivered by the “postal service” of Herzlia Gymnasium students in Jaffa (Tel Aviv), that operated in the High Holidays of 1912–1914. It is franked by a J.N.F. label, cancelled by the students’ Herzl Club handstamp (see article on p. 645)

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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Palestine Postage Due Stamps on Cover During the Ottoman Period

Norman J. Collins

The first article on this research appeared in BAPIP Bulletins 116 and 117, with a further update in Bulletin 123¹. As further information is to hand, a revised version is now appropriate.

Turkish Postage Dues*

All Turkish Postage Dues used on cover from Palestine are of extreme rarity; of some issues only single covers have been recorded. I will show selected examples of the P.D.'s on cover. Unfortunately some P.D.'s do not reproduce

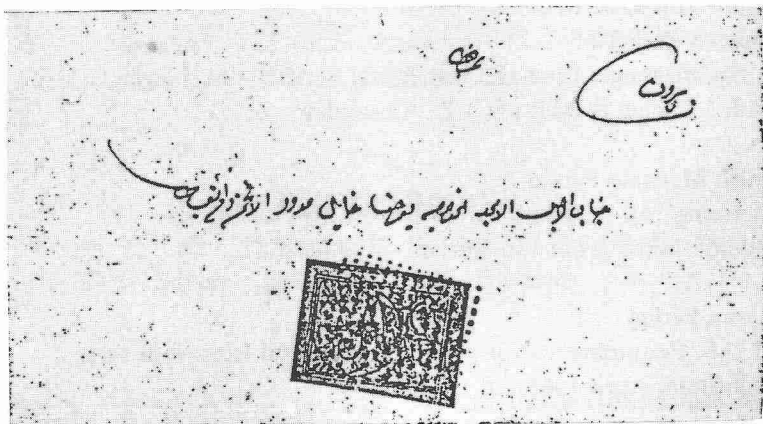


Fig. 1: Cover from Haifa to Beirut written on 10th July 1863, one of three covers recorded with the 1863 Postage Due issue.

* Editorial Note

The purpose of the early Turkish Postage Due stamps was to provide stamps for letters collected pre-paid in rural places. Such letters were handled by messengers, with the amount paid in cash, to the district Post Office where the Postage Due stamps were affixed and cancelled. These stamps had the same franking power and also the same design and denominations as ordinary stamps. In many cases these two sets were used indiscriminately. Therefore many letters exist, franked at post offices of the Ottoman Empire, with Postage Due stamps, sometimes together with ordinary stamps.

The early covers of the Turkish post described here are not taxed mail. The first group (Figs. 1, 2, 3) were mailed pre-paid from northern Palestine, the P.D. stamps placed and cancelled in Beirut. The other two covers were franked at the post office with P.D. stamps in combination with regular stamps to make up the rate (Figs. 4, 6).

(E. Leibu)

well in the photocopying process which most contributors used, so I hope that readers will bear this in mind as regards the quality of the illustrations; I can only show what my fellow philatelists were able to supply in the way of illustrations.

Of the 1863 issue I have only been able to record three covers, all from Haifa to Beirut, with the P.D.'s cancelled by the Battal postmark (e.g. Fig. 1). Of the 1965 P.D. issue only two covers have been recorded, one of 1865 (Fig. 2) and one of 1866. Of the 1867 Postage Due issue I have recorded no covers from



Fig. 2: Cover posted on 14th July 1865, from Acre to Beirut. 1 Piastre P.D. of the 1865 issue, cancelled by the Beirut triple box postmark on arrival.

Palestine. As regards the 1868 issue, only one cover of 1869 is recorded from Acre to Beirut (Fig. 3).

From the 1870 issue I have recorded two covers. One is a damaged cover with 20 para P.D. cancelled by the double boxed Jaffa postmark in 1875. The other is a remarkable cover (Fig. 4) with a single 2 Piastre, a pair with one bisected of the 20 para P.D., and a 1 Piastre orange postage stamp, all cancelled with the Acre double box postmark.

From the 1888 Postage Due issue, I have no covers recorded from Palestine. Regarding the 1892 P.D. issue only one cover has been recorded by me (Fig. 5). Only one cover with the 1901 P.D. issue has been recorded by me (Fig. 6). No cover is recorded with the 1905 Postage Due issue.



Fig. 3: Cover from Acre to Beirut, 1869, with 20 para and 1 Piastre P.D.'s of the 1868 issue, cancelled by the Beirut triple box postmark.



Fig. 4: Cover from Acre, 1873, with 1870-72 P.D. stamps as described in the text.

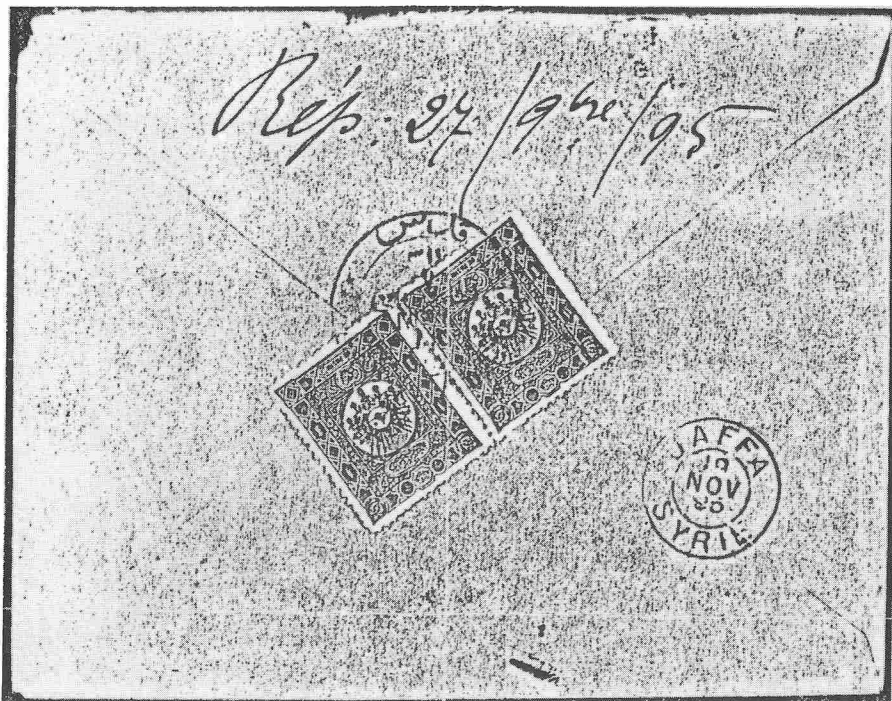


Fig. 5: Reverse of a cover posted at the French P.O. in Beirut on November 1895, with transit of the Jaffa French P.O.. On arrival at the Jerusalem Turkish P.O. two 1 Piastre P.D.'s were applied.

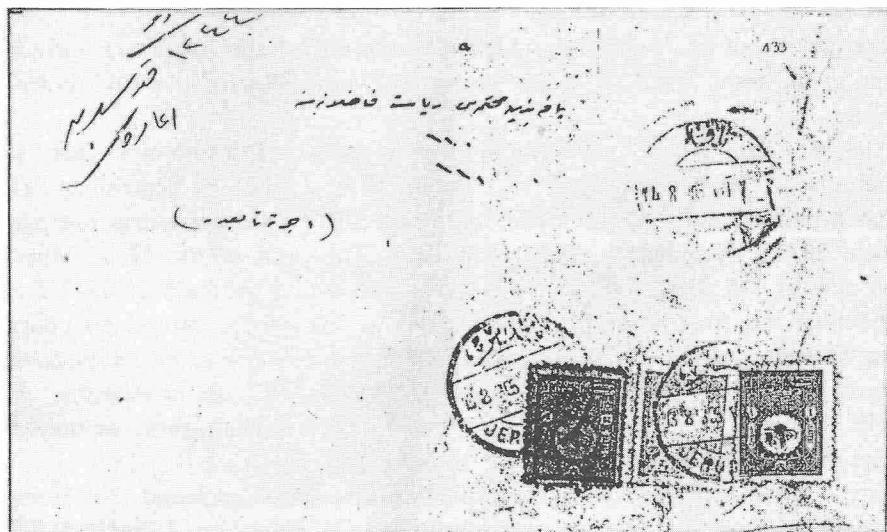


Fig. 6: Cover from Jerusalem to Jaffa, with postage 1 and 2 Piastre stamps and 20 Para Postage Due of the 1901 issue. Arrival date 14th August 1905.

Of the 1908 and 1909 issues only five covers or cards have been recorded (e.g. Fig. 7). I have not been able to say which is which issue due to



Fig. 7: Cover from Western Australia to Jaffa, with 1 Piastre Postage Due of either the 1908 or 1909 issue applied on arrival. The P.D. was cancelled in Jaffa on 8th January 1912.

the dark colour of the copies supplied. Consequently both issues are included together in the total. I have recorded no covers with either of the 1913 Postage Due issues.

Of the 1914 issue I have recorded only two items from Palestine with this issue genuinely used. One is a postcard from Rehoboth to Jerusalem, September 1914. This has a pair of the 5 para and a 20 para cancelled by the Jerusalem postmark (Steichele 28/23), dated 14th September 1914. This was in the H.G. Muentz auction sale of 8th April 1987, Lot 233. The other is a postcard of 1917 from a member of the Austrian Forces and written in Jerusalem, carried by courier to Pera, Constantinople, where a 5 para P.D. was applied (Fig. 8). Other covers and cards are known to me from Austrian and German Forces in Palestine with philatelic frankings, which include P.D.'s, but I do not include these as they are incorrect usages (e.g., Fig. 9).

In my original article covers with ordinary stamps were included that seemed to have been used for postage due purposes. On reflection I have decided not to include these due to doubts about them; in any case the stamps were not Postage Dues.



Fig. 8: Postcard from Jerusalem, 16th March 1917, with Austrian Forces cachet "Geb Haub. Div. v. Marno/IV OSMANISCHE ARMEE TURKEI/ 1. EXPEDITIONSKORPS". Carried by a courier to the Pera quarter, Constantinople, where a 1914 5 para P.D. stamp was applied and cancelled.

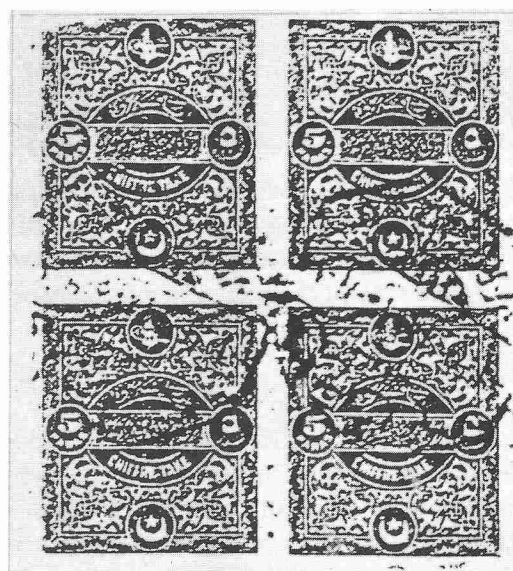


Fig. 9: A block of four of the 1914 5 para Postage Due, used in Jerusalem. Postmark dated 1st September 1914.

The Austrian Post Offices

Of all the postage due covers of Palestine the Austrian are the most common and most frequently seen. I gave up recording the numbers as every sale with Holy Land seems to have one or more covers or cards with Postage Dues included. Nevertheless in reality they are still scarce items, and in some cases quite rare frankings can be seen. I therefore only show one item of each design (Figs. 10, 11).



Fig. 10: Reverse of a parcel card sent to Poland from Haifa on 27th July 1905 and returned. A 3 Heller P.D. was applied at Chrzanow and on arrival back in Haifa a 2 Piastre on 10 Heller and a block of eight 5 Para on 100 Heller P.D. of the 1902 issue were applied.

The French Post Offices

Postage due covers of the French post offices must be considered, together with the Italian and German post offices, as great rarities of the Holy Land, along with the Turkish. The French post offices did not have any special Postage Due stamps, but used those of metropolitan France. Only three P.D. items are known for Jerusalem and one for Haifa where ordinary stamps were used as dues on the cover. No P.D. covers have been seen for Jaffa and none with P.D. stamps for Haifa, though loose stamps are known for both P.O.'s.

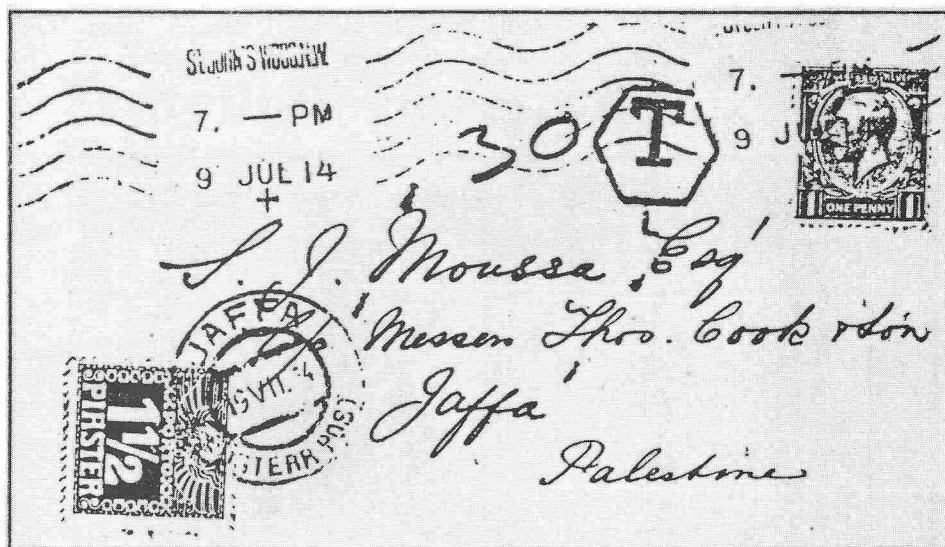


Fig. 11: Cover from England to Jaffa with 1½ Piastre Postage Due stamp of the 1908 issue, applied at Jaffa on 19 July 1914.

Below is shown one card with P.D. stamps from Jerusalem (Fig. 12), and the reverse of a cover to Haifa with postage stamps used as Postage

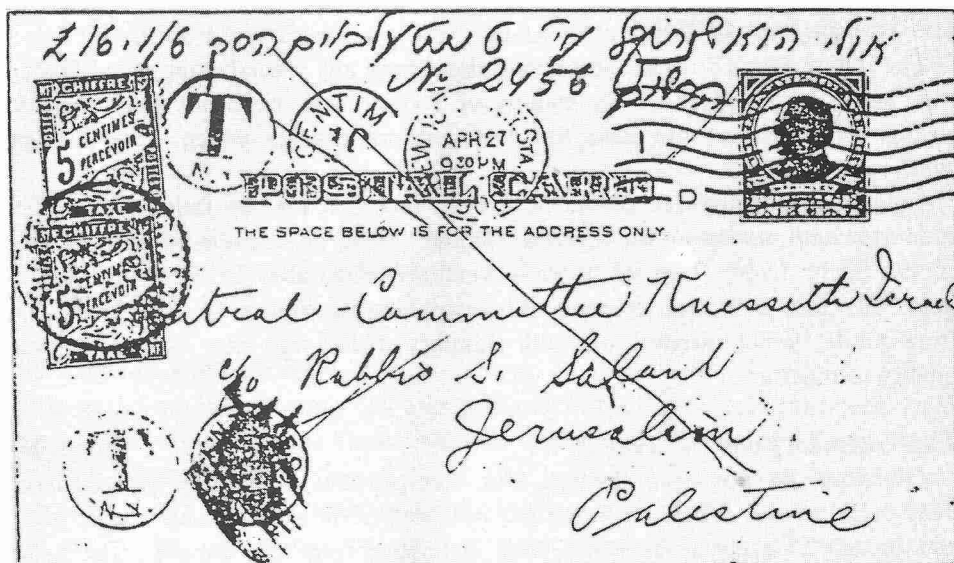


Fig. 12: A postcard from USA with two 5 centimes P.D. stamps cancelled in Jerusalem in 1908.

Dues (Fig. 13). For the other items refer to Ref. (2), Vol. I, pages 179 to 182.

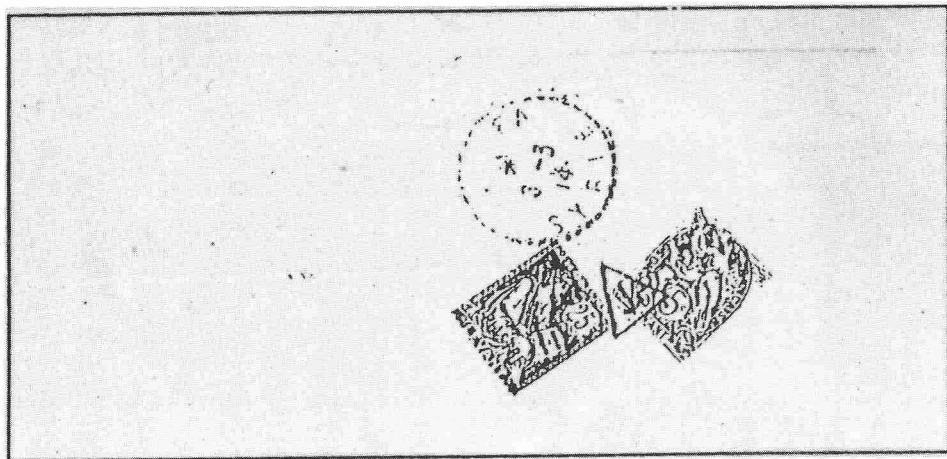


Fig. 13: The reverse of a cover from USA with 5 and 25 centimes Levant postage stamps cancelled by 'T' in triangle, to indicate these were for postage due. These were applied in Haifa on 3 March 1914.

The Italian Post Office

The Italian Post Office in Jerusalem did not have any special overprinted Postage Due issue, but used the P.D. stamps of Italy. These were not only used for postage due charges, but also for post restante charges which were 20c. per item.

Only three postage due covers have been recorded for the Italian post office, and as stated before in the French chapter, must be considered great rarities of the Holy Land. Two of these covers are illustrated in Ref. (2), Vol. II, pages 218 and 219. One of them is shown here as Figure 14. The third item, from Chile, which arrived on 10th January 1914, was not of good enough quality to illustrate.

The German Post Offices

Germany did not have Postage Due stamps, thus no covers with such can exist from its post offices in Palestine. But both Jaffa and Jerusalem post offices had boxed 'T' handstamps which were distinctive from one another. The Jaffa's has the box of the 'T' with slightly chamfered corners while the 'T' mark of Jerusalem had larger chamfered box corners. Only one item from Jaffa and two from Jerusalem are known to me. There is a third item from Jerusalem,



Fig. 14: Cover from Italy, 31st January 1913, with 20c P.D. stamp applied in Jerusalem.

with the stamp removed, with a 'T' mark, but it is uncertain that this mark was not applied on arrival in Germany. I show below one item from each office (Figs. 15, 16).

The Russian Post Offices

Russia did not have Postage Due stamps until 1924, so no covers of the period with such stamps exist. A card is known with an oval stamp with the cyrillic words 'To Pay' and a manuscript 8 (Fig. 17)³. It also has a 'T' mark in a circle. It was posted with a 5 Kopec revenue stamp, but as similar oval marks are known used in Russia, one cannot say with certainty that this mark belongs to the Russian P.O. in Jaffa. If it can be proved that either of the marks were issued to the Russian post offices in Palestine, then such covers must be considered extremely rare.

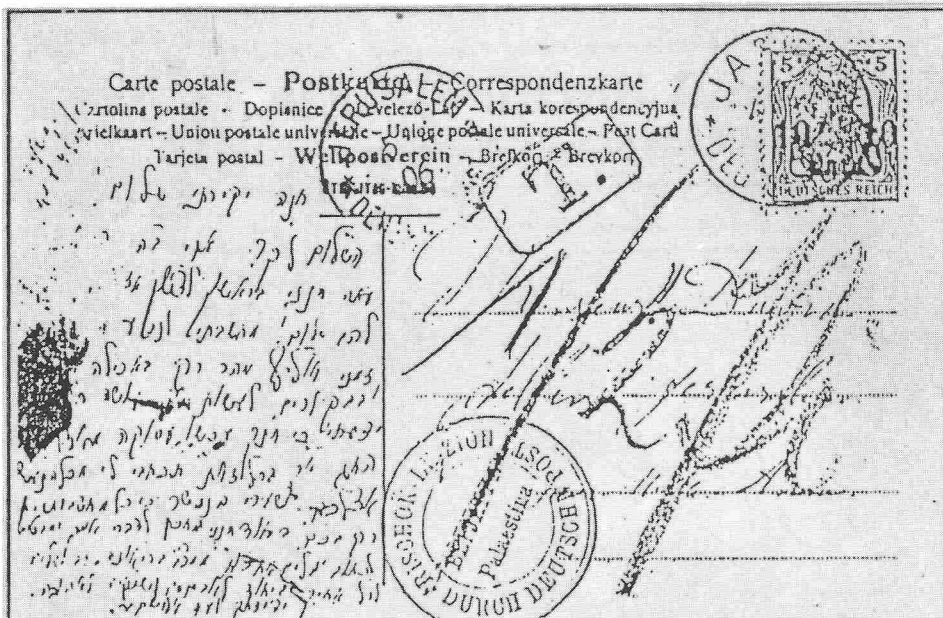


Fig. 15: Postcard from Rishon Le Zion via the Jaffa German post office to Jerusalem. Posted on 4th April 1906 and arrived in Jerusalem on 5th April, showing the typical Jaffa boxed 'T' mark.

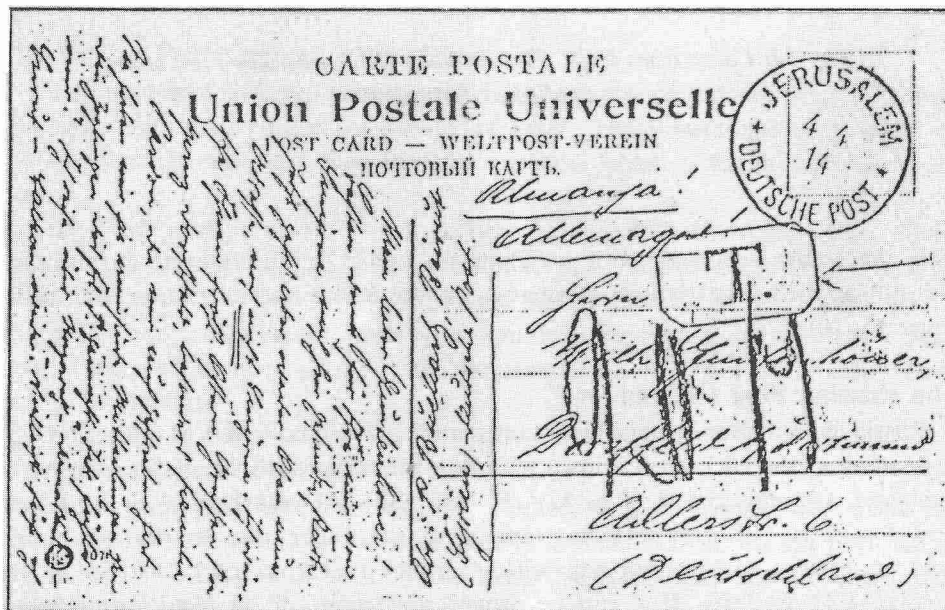


Fig. 16: Unstamped postcard from Jerusalem to Germany. Posted on 4th April 1914, marked with the Jerusalem boxed 'T'.

Austrian Postal Agent in Nazareth The Straight Line Nazareth Cachet

Ivi Alexander, London

The existence of the straight line Nazareth cachet/postmark was first reported by E.C. Sterne in December, 1967¹. Since that time more examples have been discovered^{2,3}. There are probably now about 40 examples known, the majority on stamps or cutouts and the rest on postcards. There is also one example of the cachet applied on a postal stationery item, as shown below.

There are 4 different types of the cachet: Type 1, 2 and 3 are shown below. Type 4 is similar to type 1 but in capital letters. All the postcards and letters were cancelled on the following day by the Haifa Austrian postmark, which cancellation was applied alongside, on the left hand side. Examples of Type 1 & 2 on postcards are shown in figures 18 & 19.

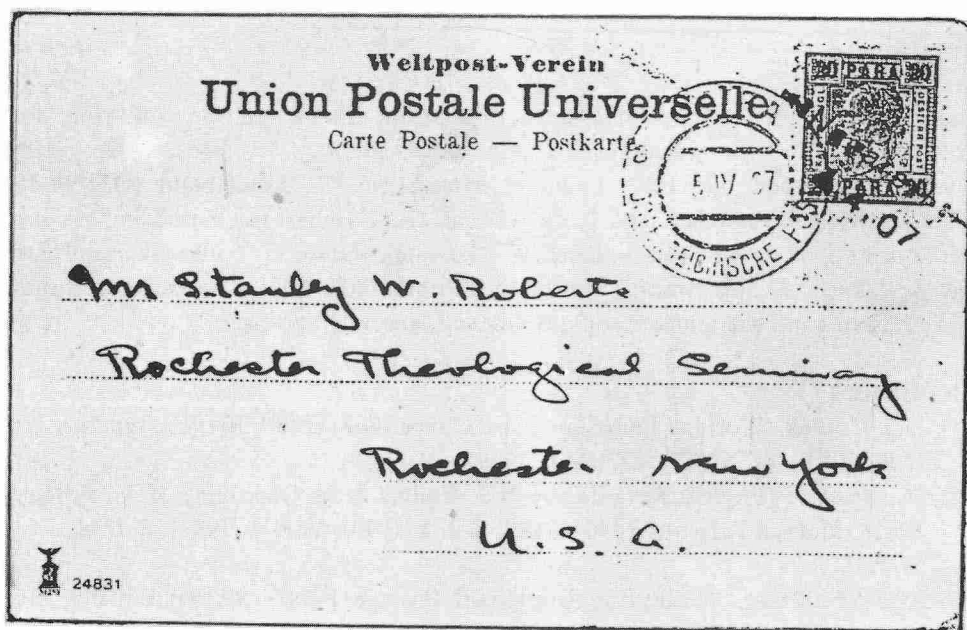
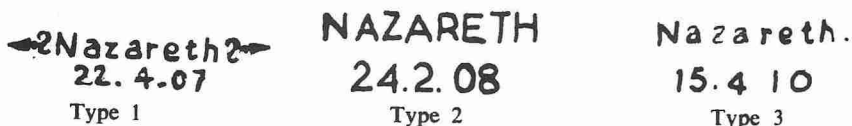


Fig. 18: Type 1 straight line 'Nazareth' dated 4.4.07, with Haifa postmark of 5.4 alongside.

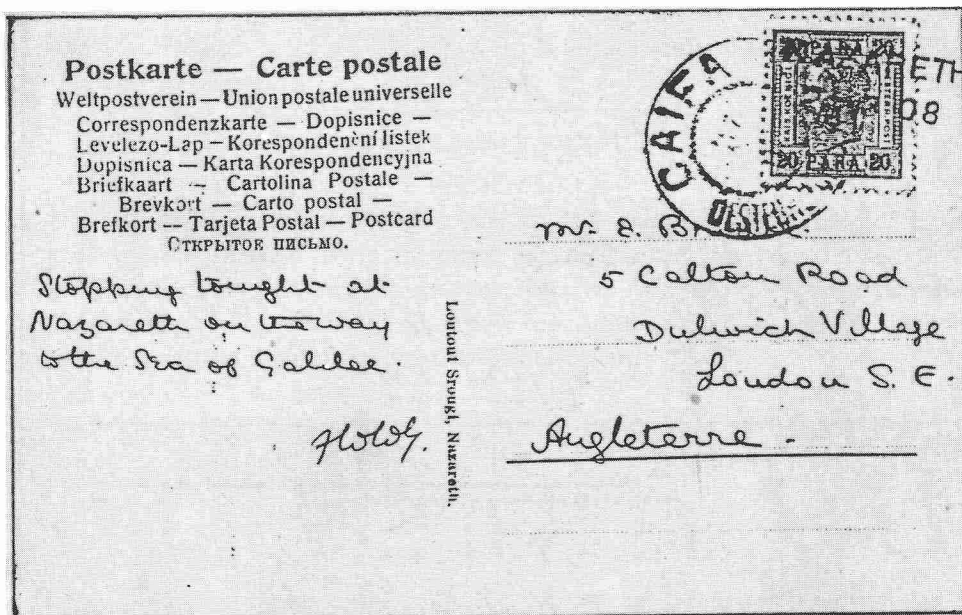


Fig. 19: Type 2 straight line 'Nazareth' dated 26.3.08, postmarked Haifa, 27.3.08.

Numerous hypotheses have been brought forward as to the origin, nature and usage of this cachet. Some of the hypotheses are rather bizarre. This article, I hope, will prove that there was an Austrian Postal Agent and that a Postal Agency operated in Nazareth, at least during the years of 1906–1911. Still, a mystery will remain as to why this cachet is so scarce and why it was used primarily during the first few months of the year only. Only one example is recorded from the month of November.

The evidence that there was actually an Austrian postal agent and a postal agency in Nazareth can be seen in the two items of commercial mail both addressed to Mes'ha (now Kefar Tavor), shown in Figures 20 and 21. Both postcards were written by people who lived permanently in Palestine, and were not tourists or pilgrims. The postcards were addressed to J. Ehrlich, a famous Hebrew teacher and researcher who taught school in Mes'ha. Although the postal communication with Mes'ha was supposed to have been directed through the Turkish post office in Tiberias (as described in the Mes'ha / Kefar Tavor museum brochure), these postcards were sent by the Austrian post. The writers, one in Jaffa and one in Haifa, must have known that there was a postal agent in Nazareth, and, trusting the Austrian mail more than the Turkish mail, addressed their letter "Mesha pres Nasareth". The letters were then collected in Nazareth by a Mes'ha representative. I believe that these two postcards, going to Nazareth by the Austrian Post, prove conclusively the official existence of an Austrian postal agent in Nazareth.



Fig. 20: Postcard dated 11.8.06, Jaffa to Mes'ha, by way of Haifa and Nazareth.

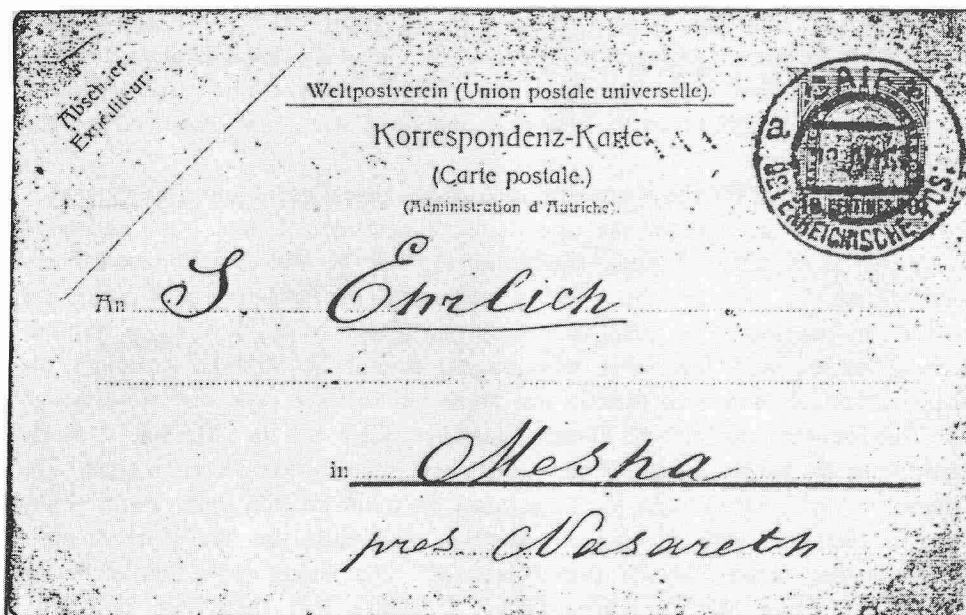


Fig. 21: Postcard dated 19.4.07, Haifa to Mes'ha, by way of Nazareth.

A further proof of the existence of such postal agency and agent can be seen in the postcard shown in Figure 22, which I have acquired recently. This is a commercial letter written by Joh. Wagner, a prominent German businessman in Nazareth, to a book publisher in Stuttgart, Germany, requesting a dispatch of a particular book. This is, by the way, the only example of the straight line Nazareth cachet cancelling a postal stationery item. The Wagner's cachet, in violet, in the upper left hand corner of the postcard, is in the same ink as the Nazareth cachet. It is therefore suggested that Wagner himself might have been the Austrian postal agent in Nazareth. He was a picture postcard publisher and a miller of wheat and barley. It is quite possible that he had another occupation and title, that of the Austrian postal agent.



*Fig. 22: Type 1 straight line 'Nazareth' dated 9.5.07 on postal stationery.
The only recorded example.*

There was a beer cellar in Haifa, in the German Colony, owned by a Wagner (as reported by Baedeker Guide Book, dated 1906) – the only beer cellar in Haifa and possibly in Palestine. One of the publications mentions that the owner of the restaurant and beer cellar in Haifa was the brother of Joh. Wagner in Nazareth who supplied his brother with barley for the beer production. A 'Gruss Aus' postcard (Fig. 23) from the beginning of the century shows the Wagner restaurant in Haifa.

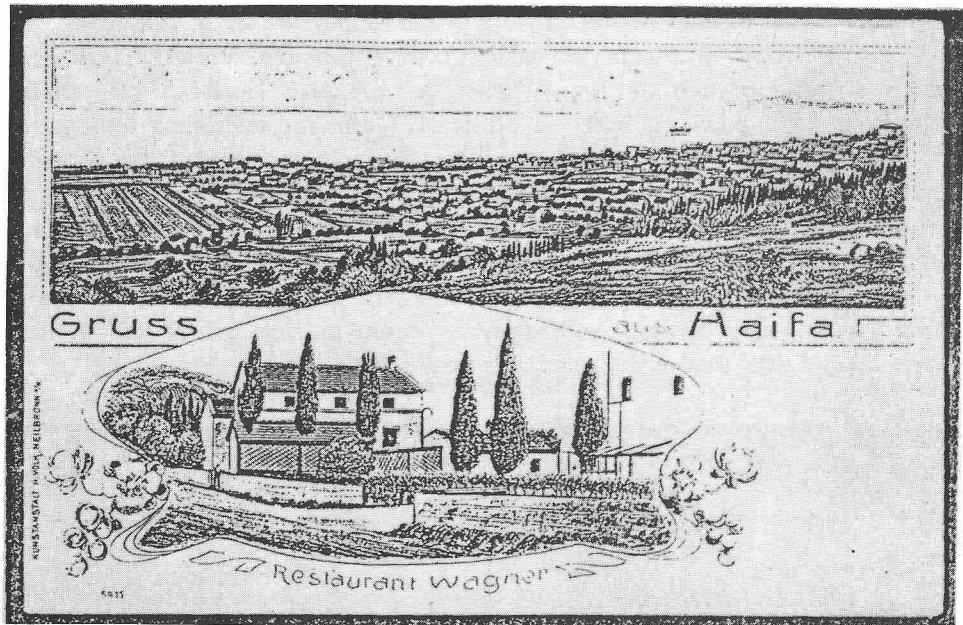


Fig. 23: 'Gruss Aus' postcard showing the Wagner restaurant in Haifa.

Norman Collins came to a similar suggestion regarding the existence of an Austrian postal agent in Nazareth, based on the above mentioned new evidence³.

References:

- (1) E.C. Sterne, BAPIP #57 (Dec. 1967)
- (2) A. Steichele, Der Israel Philatelist #43 (August 1973) pp. 1182-87.
- (3) A. Steichele (English Rev. Ed. by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein), "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", Vol. II (1991) pp. 261-264. Published by W.P.C..

Austrian Postal Agency in Nazareth – New Evidence

(H. G. Muentz, Tel Aviv)

Recently I came across a photo of a postcard mailed in Jaffa by a Jewish settler from the Galilee (Fig. 23a). His return address appears at upper left: "M. Nissenbaum, Colonie Jemma prés Nazareth, Öster. Post". It is addressed to Prof. O. Warburg, a renowned scientist and a prominent Zionist leader, and has an arrival postmark of Berlin, 17.3.08.

This item proves conclusively the existence of the Austrian Postal Agency in Nazareth.

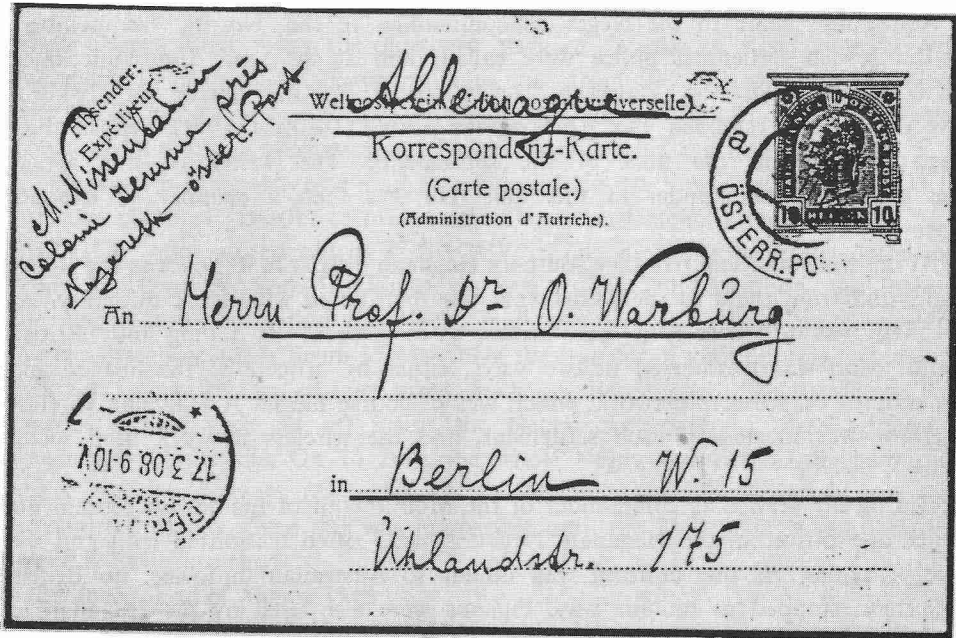


Fig. 23a: Postcard mailed at the Austrian P.O. in Jaffa on March 5, 1908. The sender's address (upper left) is "...Colonie Jemma prés Nazareth, Öster. Post". (Collection S. Sorani).

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

(Part IV)

A. Zakai, Beer Sheva

B. The Postal Services to the Haganah and Army Units in the Negev

1. Postal Services to the Haganah Units 1941-1947

After the founding of the first settlements in the Negev during 1941/43 the Headquarters (HQ) of Nafat Hanegev (Negev Zone) was established in the winter of 1943/44. Eretz Israel was divided by the Haganah command into Districts and Zones. The Negev Zone was part of the Southern District, with HQ in Rehovot. The commander of the District was Moshe Lehrer (later General Tzadok) and the first commander of the Negev Zone was Aba Fuchs who was also Sergeant Major of the new Jewish settlements police unit in the Negev.

The Jewish settlements police was an official police unit under British command and its members' salary was paid by the British government. All the policemen were recruited by the Haganah and their Jewish commanders received their instructions and orders from Haganah HQ. Their function was the security of Jewish settlements.

Aba Fuchs came to the Negev as commander of the 'Notrim' (as members of the Jewish settlement police were called) and at the same time functioned as commander of the Haganah Negev Zone. In the spring of 1944 it was decided to establish the 'HaMishmar HaNa' (Mobile Unit), whose duty was to patrol in the area of the settlements. The writer of this article was appointed commander of this unit (He was then a member of Kibbutz Dorot).

At this time mail sent from the southern Haganah district in Rehovot to the Negev Zone, and from there to the settlements was distributed with great difficulty. As all mail was top secret, it was necessary to prevent its falling into British hands. Mail was transferred in two ways, either by officers of the district and the zone or on wireless network, which was of course illegal. A Haganah wireless operator was located in each settlement, and the wireless network used secret codes.

During my service as commander of the Mobile Unit of the Jewish settlements police and officer in the Haganah, Negev Zone, I often transmitted mail and the wireless codes. As our uniform was similar to Australian uniforms, no British policeman stopped us on our way. Pigeons were also used by the Haganah to transfer mail.

During the advance of the German forces under the command of General Rommel to El Alamein in 1942, a Palmach platoon was sent to the Negev and they used the wireless station of the settlements.

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

a. November 1947 – 28 June 1948

Arab hostilities which led to the War of Independence started immediately after the UN Partition Resolution of 29 November 1947.

The 2nd Battallion fought in the Negev from the beginning. In March 1948, a Platoon from this Battalion was sent to the southern Negev, to Gvulot, and it was the basis for the 8th Battalion. At the same time the HQ of the Negev Brigade was established. In May 1948, the 7th (Beer Sheva) Battalion and the 9th (Armored) Battalion joined the Brigade.

At first the fighting centered upon transportation to the Negev and two long water pipelines to the settlements in the southern Negev. The battles were very hard and the enemy inflicted many casualties. The transports were nearly totally stopped and only the opening of a separate inner road, which did not cross Arab villages, made passage of convoys possible.

On 15 May 1948 the Egyptian army staged a two-prong invasion of the new state of Israel. In the east it entered Beer Sheva and met the Jordanian army near Bethlehem. In the west it attacked Nirim and Kfar Darom and conquered Yad Mordechai and Nizanim. After being stopped south of Ashdod, the Egyptian army could not continue its advance northwards to conquer Tel Aviv. It thereby positioned itself along the Migdal/Hebron road. This cut off the whole Negev area from the northern part of Israel. At first some convoys succeeded in crossing the Egyptian lines, but from the 10th of June the Negev was totally cut off. No convoys could pass through and only on the 31 July 1948 one convoy, with the assistance of a United Nations unit, reached the Negev.

The system of transferring mail to army units in the Negev was described in the previous chapter. Transfer of mail to the Negev settlements by airplanes of "AIR SERVICE" was carried out by "SENGEV". Light airplanes transported the mail from Army or Palmach headquarters, first to the 2nd Battalion and later to the Negev Brigade. Within the Negev mail was sent to various units overland. Wireless was also used. From 15 May 1948 the transfer of mail became increasingly difficult, especially to certain areas such as Beit Eshel, Nevatim and Kfar Darom, which were cut off inside the Negev. Approach to these settlements was nearly impossible. On 10 June the whole Negev was cut off, as mentioned above, and no convoys reached the area. Till then some mail and parcels were transported by car. Even this was impossible until the 23 August, when operation "AVAK" was launched.

b. 28 June – End of August 1948

On 28 June 1948, Army Post Office (APO) No. 10 was opened at the Negev Brigade HQ. The fighting units were assigned KBA numbers as follows:

Negev Brigade, HQ – KBA 279, 2nd Battalion – KBA 219, 7th Battalion – KBA 224, 8th Battalion – KBA 225, 9th Battalion (originally 7th Battalion) – KBA 280.

As the different fighting units were scattered over a large area, the post office allocated subnumbers to the main numbers of the Battalions. As the 2nd and the 8th Battalions were responsible for the settlements in the area, (see HLP# #48, Fig. 18) they were also allocated similar subnumbers, as mentioned in the previous chapter.

The subnumbers of the 2nd Battalion were (KBA 219/) 1-27. Settlements were allocated 14 subnumbers. Thirteen were allocated to different army units, as follows:

219/1 2nd Battalion HQ.	219/9 Brur Chayil Company
219/2 Company B	219/14 Kfar Darom Company
219/3 Company B, 1st Platoon	219/19 Company A, HQ - Gvar Am
219/4 Company B, Reconnaissance Platoon	219/20 Company A, 1st Platoon
219/5 Company B, Heavy arms Platoon	219/21 Company A, 2nd Platoon
219/6 Company B, Recruiting Platoon	219/27 Company A, Shuval Police St.
219/8 Mekorot Company	

Figure 27 shows a letter with postmark Army Post Office (APO) 10 dated

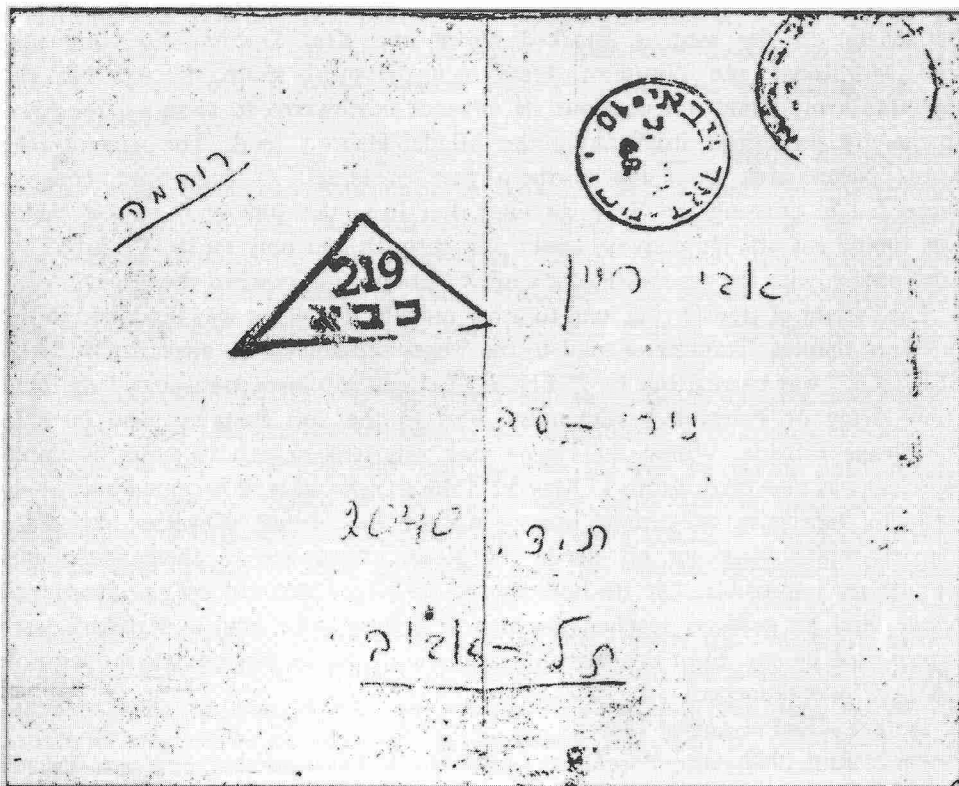


Fig. 27: Letters were still sent to Nir Am through P.O.B. 2040 in Tel Aviv, as before the war. As this soldier had been transferred to Ruhama, the letter was redirected to APO 10 and was stamped with the 2nd Battalion's KBA 219.

7.VII.48 with triangular KBA 219, the KBA number of the 2nd Battalion. The letter was sent to a soldier in Nir Am, P.O.B. 2040, Tel Aviv – the postal address of Nir Am before the war. The soldier served in the Negev Brigade HQ and as the HQ was transferred to Ruhama, the letter was sent there.

Figure 28 is a letter sent from the Negev Brigade HQ through the post office of the 2nd Battalion with postmark KBA 219, and postmark APO 10 dated 31.VII. 48. The sender's address on the back of the cover is "Army Post 9/1". As the sender was a

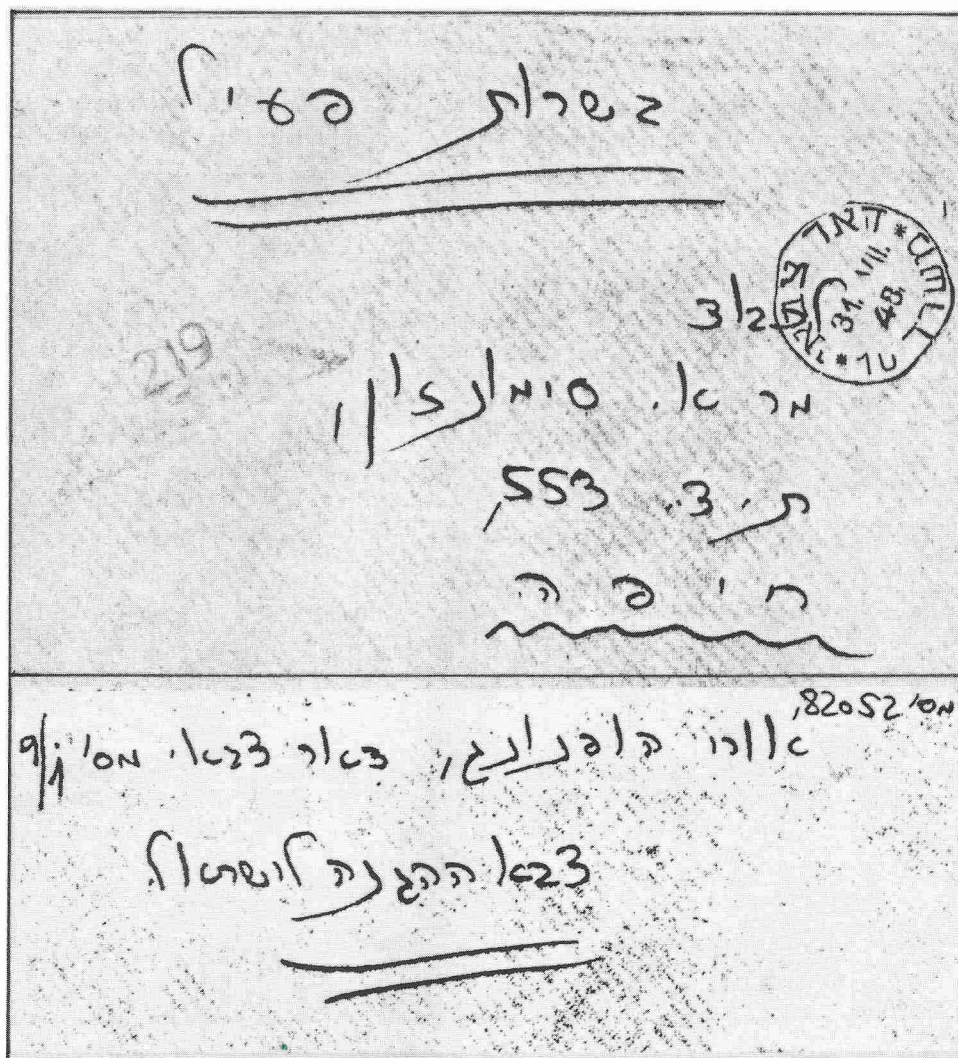


Fig. 28: Letter sent from the Brigade Headquarters to Haifa via APO 10, 30.VII. 48, and KBA 219 of the 2nd Battalion.

sergeant in the intelligence office of the Negev Brigade the address is 279/1, the KBA number of the Negev Brigade HQ. As the Brigade HQ was next to the 2nd Battalion's HQ, all its mail was handled by the latter's postal clerk.

The postal subnumbers of the 8th Battalion were (KBA 225/) 1-25. Of these, the settlements were allotted thirteen; twelve were given to army units. Unlike the 2nd Battalion, the first 12 subnumbers were allocated to army units and the following 13 to the settlements. These were the subnumbers of the army units:

225/1 8th Battalion HQ - Zeelim	225/7 Company B HQ - Chaluza
225/2 Company A HQ	225/8 Company B 1st Platoon
225/3 Company A 1st Platoon	225/9 Company B 2nd Platoon-Chazale
225/4 Company A 2nd Platoon-Gvulot	225/10 Company C HQ - Beit Eshel
225/5 Company A 3rd Platoon	225/11 Company C 1st Platoon
225/6 Company A 4th Platoon-Imara	225/12 Company C 2nd Platoon-Nevatim

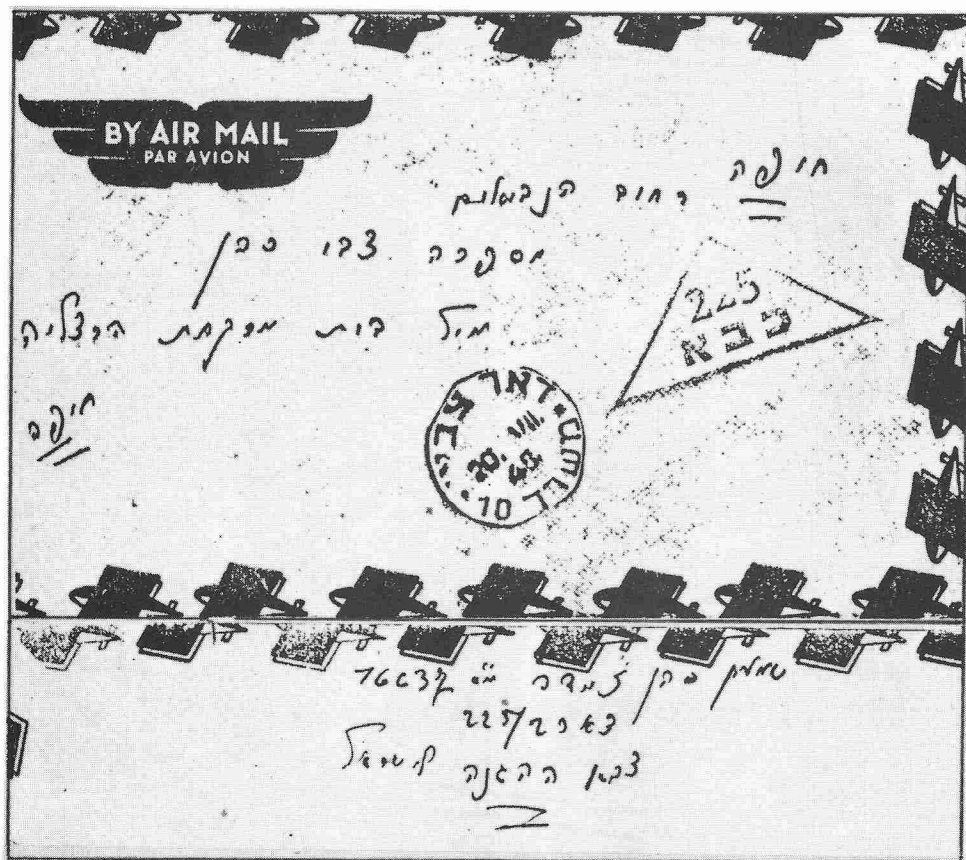


Fig. 29: Letter cancelled "APO 10", dated 20.VII. 48, and triangular KBA 225. Sender's address: KBA 225/2, which belongs to Company A of the 8th Battalion's HQ.

Fig. 30: A card for a parcel sent to KBA 225/4, to a woman soldier serving in the 8th Battalion's 2nd Platoon.

Fig. 31: A card for a parcel sent to KBA 225/5, to a soldier serving in the 8th Battalion's 3rd Platoon.

Nearly all army units were stationed in or near settlements. This fact caused the basic mistake made by Kanner & Spiegel¹. They allocated all the subnumbers to the different settlements, instead referring part of them to the army units which were stationed near these settlements, as described above. The settlements were assigned other subnumbers, as described in earlier chapters. Z. Berest and B. Hurwich corrected this mistake in their respective articles, but did not supply the allocation of the subnumbers to the army units.

All the other units of the Negev Brigade also were given subnumbers as described and illustrated in the following pages.

The subnumbers of the Negev Brigade HQ were:

279 HaNegev Brigade	279/6 (Not identified)
279/1 Brigade HQ	279/7 Transit Unit
279/2 HQ Platoon	279/8 Transport Unit
279/3 Ruhama Depot	279/9 Solel Boneh
279/4 (Not identified)	279/10 Field Engineers Platoon No. 2
279/5 Mechanical Unit	279/11 Military Police

Figures 32 & 33 show parcel cards to the Brigade HQ units, the first to KBA 279/6 which is not yet identified, and the second to the Transport Unit (KBA 279/8).

P.T. 238.

INTERNET PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE.

Insured for 4908 (Pounds to be written in words) **4908** Postage Paid

TELE. AVIV No. 32

Gross weight in grammes (if insured) 32 (Pounds to be written in words) (כתב הגביהת בפרוט) (כחב תא חלית באחית)

Here with parcel(s) bearing the address given below 32 (Pounds to be written in words) (כתב הגביהת בפרוט) (כחב תא חלית באחית)

Name 32 Address 32 (Pounds to be written in words) (כתב הגביהת בפרוט) (כחב תא חלית באחית)

Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (SEE OVER)

Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (SEE OVER)

Fig. 32: A parcel card sent to KBA 279/6, to a soldier serving in an unidentified unit at the Brigade HQ.

P.T. 238

INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

HAIFA 1

No. 258

Postage Paid

Mils 30

Insured for 20

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)

Net weight in grammes (if insured)

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below

Name 279/8

Address 279/8

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

(SEE OVER)

صورة الختم لتسليم لفعل الطرد

ملاحظة: الختم يجب أن يكون مغلقاً

(انظر على الخلف)

Fig. 33: A card for a parcel sent to KBA 279/8, to a soldier serving in the Transport Unit of the Brigade HQ.

The KBA subnumbers of the 7th Battalion were (224/) 1-22 as follows:

224 7th Battalion	224/12 (Not identified)
224/1 Battalion HQ	224/13 (Not identified)
224/2 Company A HQ	224/14 Courses Company
224/3 Company A 1st Platoon	224/15 Reconnaissance Company
224/4 Company A 2nd Platoon	224/16 Signal Course
224/5 Company B HQ	224/17 (Not identified)
224/6 Company B 1st Platoon	224/18 (Not identified)
224/7 Company B 2nd Platoon	224/19 (Not identified)
224/8 Company B 3rd Platoon	224/20 (Not identified)
224/9 Company C HQ	224/21 (Not identified)
224/10 Company C 1st Platoon	224/22 Reconnaissance Course
224/11 Company C 2nd Platoon	

Figure 34 is a parcel card sent to KBA 224/9, the HQ of Company C. Figure 35 shows a parcel card sent to KBA 224/20, to Avraham Idelson, later General Avraham Adan ("Bren"). Unit KBA 224/20 is not identified. As it is known that "Bren" was a company commander in the 7th Brigade, it is possible that he instructed soldiers in one of the Brigade's courses which was assigned KBA 224/20 - and so this parcel was sent there.


		TEL AVIV No. 4796 Number to be affixed here
Insured for _____ (Pounds to be written in words) (תקבץ הגביהים בארץ) (בזה את הליקוט בארצות)	Gross weight in grammes (if insured) (המשקל בגרמים) (אם הובילה מבוטאת) 0 60 Mils	Postage Paid 0 60
Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below (הנה חבילה/חבילות) (הנלווה/הנלווה) (אם רצונו המעביר להלן) (הנה חבילה/חבילות) (הנלווה/הנלווה) (אם רצונו המעביר להלן)		
Name _____ Address _____ 123 224/9		
Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (הנה כיתה להצפית)		
(SEE OVER) (אנظر على الخلف)		

Fig. 34: A card for a parcel sent to KBA 224/9, to a soldier serving in Company C HQ.


		No. 440 Number to be affixed here
Insured for _____ (Pounds to be written in words) (תקבץ הגביהים בארץ) (בזה את הליקוט בארצות)	Gross weight in grammes (if insured) (המשקל בגרמים) (אם הובילה מבוטאת) 0 30 Mils	Postage Paid 0 30
Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below (הנה חבילה/חבילות) (הנלווה/הנלווה) (אם רצונו המעביר להלן) (הנה חבילה/חבילות) (הנלווה/הנלווה) (אם רצונו המעביר להלן)		
Name _____ Address _____ 123 224/20		
Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (הנה כיתה להצפית)		
(SEE OVER) (אנظر على الخلف)		

Fig. 35: A parcel card sent to KBA 224/20 (an unidentified unit of the 7th Bat.), to Avraham Idelson, now General (Ret.) Avraham Adan (Bren).

Figure 36 is a letter sent by a soldier in the Reconnaissance Course of the 7th Battalion (KBA 224/22). The letter bears the triangular mark 224 of the 7th Battalion and the postmark APO 10.

The 9th Battalion had the following KBA subnumbers:

280 9th Battalion	280/3 3rd Company
280/1 HQ's Company	280/4 (Not identified)
280/2 2nd Company	280/5 (Not identified)

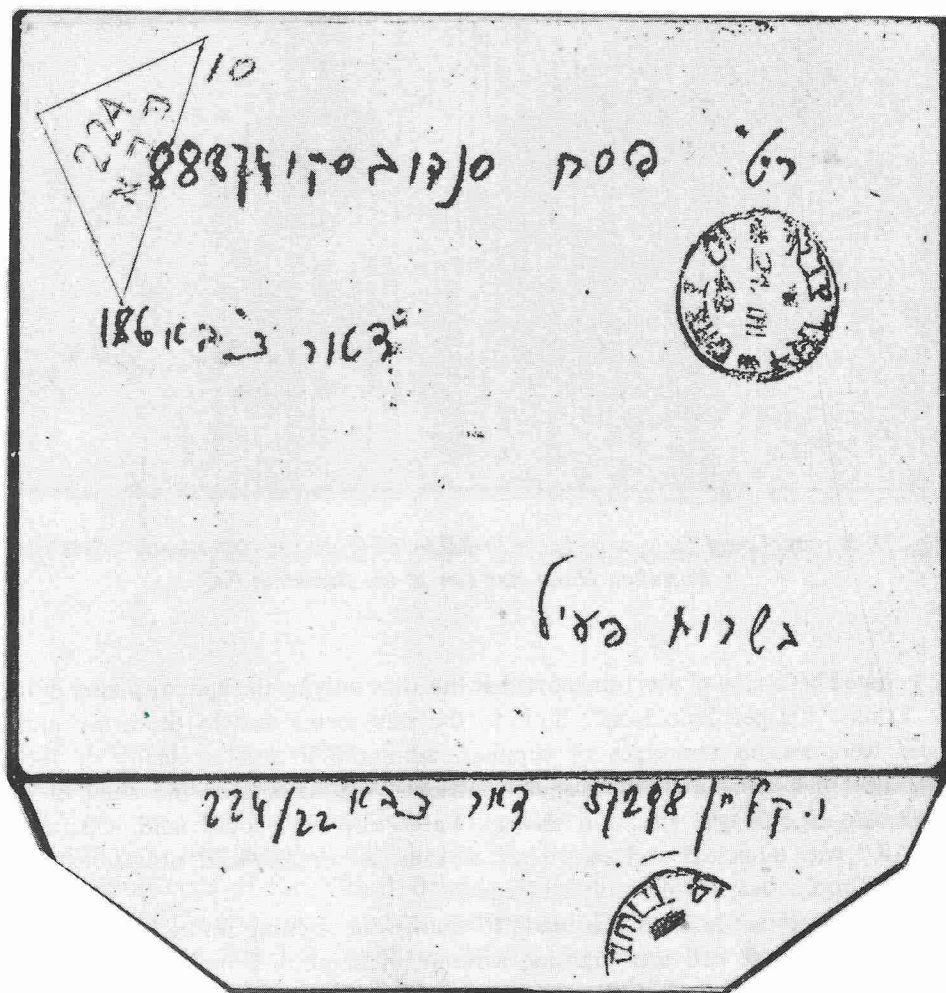


Fig. 36: A letter cancelled "APO 10", 21.VIII.48, and triangular KBA 224, sent by a soldier from the 7th Battalion Reconnaissance Unit.

Figure 37 is a parcel card sent to KBA 280/1, to the commander of the 9th Battalion Haim Bar Lev at Battalion HQ. Figure 38 is a parcel card sent to KBA 280/5, to a soldier serving in an unidentified unit.

INLAND
No. 2902
affixed here
Postage Paid
Mils 6
Here with parcel(s) bearing the address given below.
Name _____
Address _____
Impression of seal used to close the parcel.
(SEE OVER)
(אשר על האריזה)

Fig. 37: A parcel card for a parcel sent to KBA 280/1, to the commander of the 9th Battalion Haim Bar Lev at the Battalion HQ.

As noted before, mail was transported at this time only by the light airplanes of the Air Force's "Negev Squadron", both to the settlements and to the army units. There were serious shortages of supplies, ammunition and especially of food. Only after the opening of the Ruhama airfield "Sde Avak", on the night of the 22/23 August, did the situation change. Large airplanes could land, Operation "AVAK" was launched and thousands of tons of supplies and provisions were unloaded in the heart of the isolated Negev.

At that time the decision was made to change the fighting forces in the Negev. The Negev Brigade had been fighting without interruption from the beginning of the war, from December 1947 until August 1948, and was at the point of total exhaustion. It was transferred by air to the north of Israel, for rest and recruitment of new soldiers and for reequipment with new supplies and provisions.

In its place, from late August to early September, 1948, another Palmach Brigade, the Yftach Brigade was transferred south to the Negev.

P.T. 238.

No. 2180

attached here

Postage Paid

Mils 0.20

הבילה מוכנתה בכסות של
(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב הגביה באותיות)
הכסות באותיות באותיות
Gross weight in grammes
(אזאן משונה)
משקל ברוטו בגרמים
(לא מבוטל)
(Not insured)

Here with parcel(s) bearing the address given below
חבילה (חבילות) הנושאת(אות) את הכתוב המפורט להלן.

Name 129676 בן דא/בן

Address 280/5, 743 743

השם 280/5, 743 743

הכתוב 280/5, 743 743

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

מורה החמ לשתמש לחלל הפרד
הכיתה הנושאת שכתובים בה
לכיתה הנושאת

(SEE OVER)

הוא מוכן למוסר

(אשר על חתום)

Fig. 38: A parcel card sent to KBA 280/5, an unidentified unit of the 9th Battalion.

c. End of August – 24th October 1948

When the Negev Brigade left the area, its postal clerks took with them all "APO 10" and the triangular KBA 219, 224, 225, 279 and 280 handstamps. New postmarks were supplied only on the 10th September.

The commander of the Yftach Brigade decided not to mix the postal KBA subnumbers of the army units and the settlements. The settlements were given new subnumbers: KBA 379/1-27 (without 24 and 26) except for Beit Eshel, which received KBA 377 and Nevatim, KBA 378.

The KBA Numbers of the Yftach Brigade were:

HQ – KBA 277, 1st Battalion – KBA 218, 3rd Battalion – KBA 220.

I have not found much evidence of the subnumbers of this Brigade or of its Battalions. A parcel card carries the address KBA 277/5, what suggests

that at least 5 subnumbers or units existed. In the 1st Battalion I found four, and in the 3rd Battalion six subnumbers. There is no evidence concerning which units were assigned these subnumbers except for one case, when the address is KBA 220/2 and also is Company 2. This suggests that the subnumbers are the numbers of the different companies. However, there is a subnumber 220/6 and I don't imagine that there were six companies in this Battalion. (A battalion has only 3 or 4 companies and this number was most likely given to another subunit of the 3rd Battalion).

We know that the Yftach Brigade was divided into fewer postal units than in the earlier period of the Negev Brigade, when subnumbers were given also to Platoons, which were stationed in different places in the large Negev area.

Figures 39 & 40 show parcel cards sent respectively to KBA 277, the

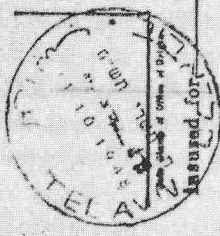
INLAND F		TEL AVIV		No. 1248	
		affixed here משובץ		Postage Paid משלם	
(Pounds to be written in words) (כתב الجنيهات بأحرف) (כתב את הליטות באותיות)		Gross weight in grammes (if insured) الوزن القائم بالגרם (إذا كان مضموناً) משקל ברוטו בגרמים (אם הדבר מבוטח)		Mills מיל	
Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below בזה פרד (פרוד) מכתב (מכתב) את הנושאים להלן. בזה הדבר (הדברים) דורשים (אות) את הכתוב המפורט להלן.					
Name		277 1009 74619			
Address		277 1009 74619			
Impression of seal used to close the parcel.		صورة الختم المستخدم لفتح الطرد طبع الختم المستخدم لفتح الطرد			
(ראה כתוב למוסד)		(SEE OVER)		(الطرد على الخلف)	

Fig. 39: A parcel card sent to KBA 277, to a soldier serving in the Yftach Brigade HQ.

Brigade HQ, and to KBA 277/5, one of the Brigade's HQ units, which is unidentified.

P.T. 238

INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

TEL AVIV No. 3658

Insured for

ש"י

(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב המניות באותיות)
(באות את המילים באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)
(המשקל הכולל בגרמים)
(אם התבטלה בכתב)

Postage Paid
Mils 060

Here with parcel(s) bearing the address given below
להלן עם חבילה (חבילות) נושא(ות) את כתובת הכתובת להלן.

Name _____
Address _____

43815
רחוב
מס' 43815
רחוב

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

מחטרת החטמל לחלל הפרד
מכירת החטמל שמשמשות כח
לכירות החבילה

(SEE OVER)
(ראו מעבר)

(חטמל על החלב)

Fig. 40: A parcel card sent to KBA 277/5, to a soldier serving in one of the Brigade HQ's units (unidentified).

Figure 41 is a letter sent by a soldier serving in the 1st Battalion, KBA 218, through APO 10 on 24.IX.48 to Mikveh Israel. Figure 42 illustrates a letter sent to a woman soldier in the 1st Battalion, KBA 218, via APO 10. The letter was stamped with an arrival postmark APO 10 on 14.IX.48. As she was transferred to the Brigade's rear base in Tel Litvinski, to the "פלוגת ב.מ." (B.M. Company – Bilti Meshubatzim = Not specifically assigned), the letter was sent to APO 14 and there was stamped with an arrival postmark on 16.IX.48. But the letter was returned to APO 10, received there on 20.IX.48 and again sent to APO 14 with an arrival postmark 23.IX.48. Figure 43 depicts a parcel card sent to a soldier serving in the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion, Sappers Platoon. This address was written on the parcel card, against the army's security orders.

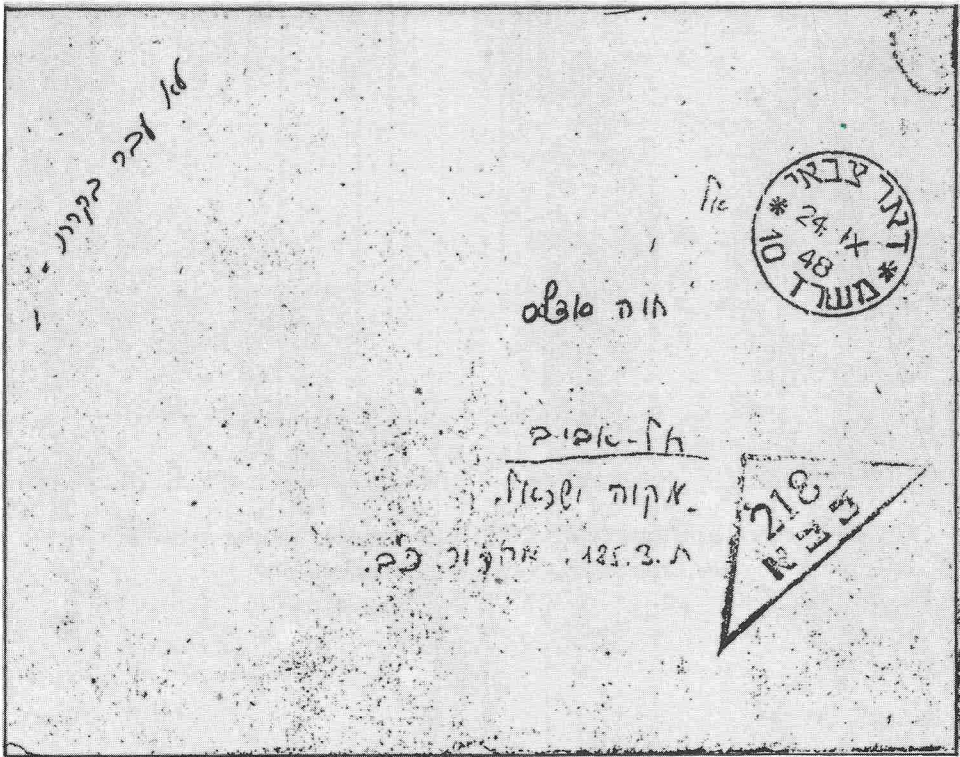


Fig. 41: A letter cancelled "APO 10 24.IX.48", and triangular KBA 218, sent by a soldier serving in the 1st Battalion of the Yftach Brigade.

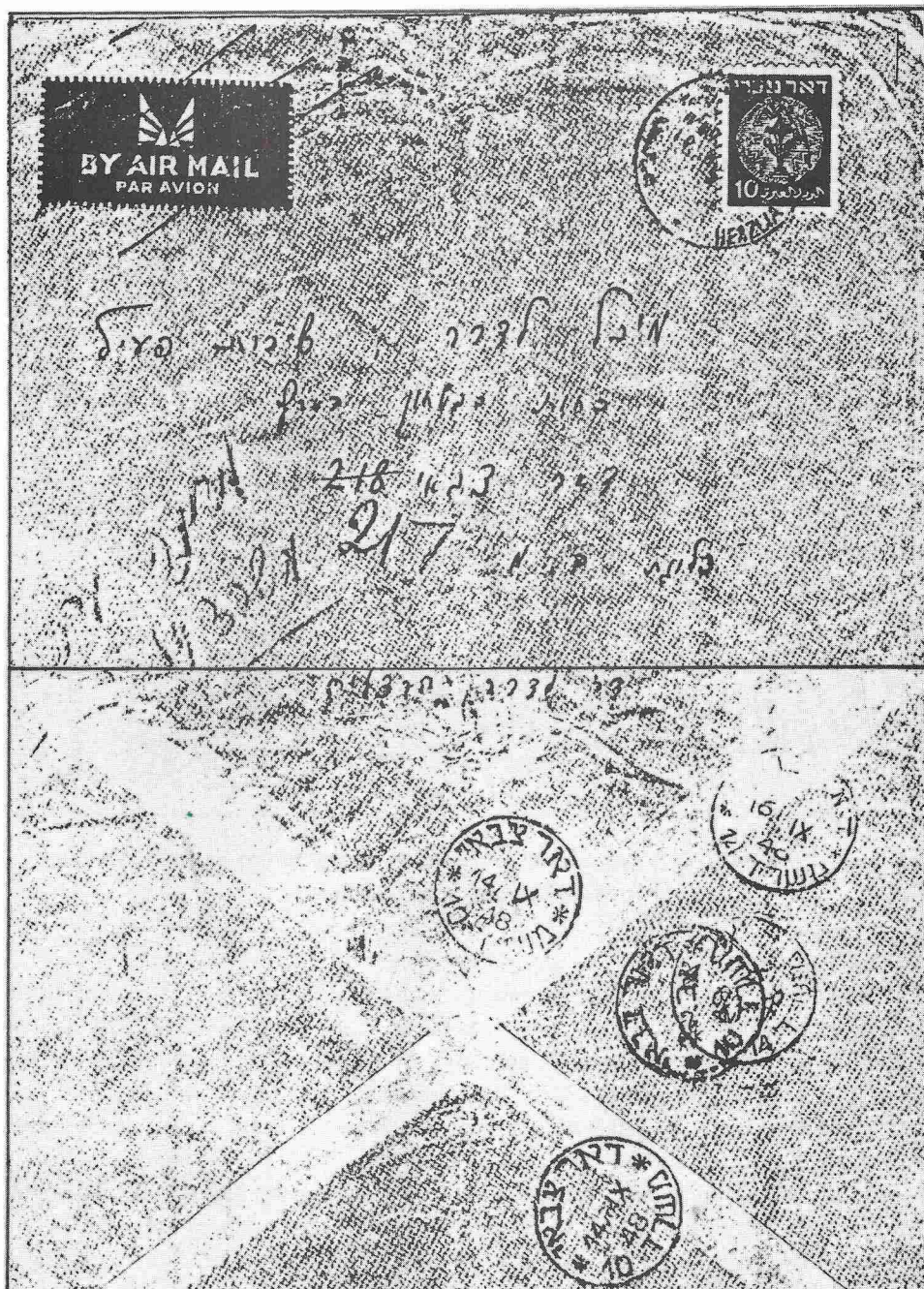


Fig. 42: A letter sent to a woman soldier, serving in the 1st Battalion (KBA 218) via APO 10. As she was transferred to the Brigade's rear base in Tel Litvinski, the letter was redirected twice (why?) and cancelled there by APO 14.

P.T. 238.

INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH N^O. 1.

No. 947

Insured for _____

(Pounds to be written in words)

(כתוב את הלירות באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Postage Paid

Mils 30

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Name _____

Address _____

השם _____

הכתוב _____

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

החומר (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Insured for _____

(Pounds to be written in words)

(כתוב את הלירות באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Postage Paid

Mils 30

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Name _____

Address _____

השם _____

הכתוב _____

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

החומר (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Insured for _____

(Pounds to be written in words)

(כתוב את הלירות באותיות)

Gross weight in grammes (if insured)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Postage Paid

Mils 30

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

הכבול (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Name _____

Address _____

השם _____

הכתוב _____

Impression of seal used to close the parcel.

החומר (אם הובילה בטובמחה)

Fig. 43: A card for a parcel sent to a soldier serving in the Sappers Platoon, 3rd Company, 1st Battalion.

Figure 44 is a letter bearing the triangular KBA 220, to a soldier serving in the 3rd Battalion HQ. Figure 45 shows a parcel card sent to KBA 220/2. This address also records Plugah (Company) B. This suggests that 220/1 was used for company A and 220/3 for Company C. Figure 46 is of a card for a parcel sent to KBA 220/6 to a soldier serving in an unidentified unit in the 3rd Battalion.

Figure 47 reproduces a very unusual letter. It is a 'Courier letter' sent by a soldier serving in Field Artillery Unit No. 65, stationed next to the Negev Brigade's HQ in Ruhama. The letter was brought by a pilot or a passenger who came by airplane to the Tel Aviv military airfield. From there the letter was put into the mails, given a KBA 165, the airfield's KBA and it was censored. Finally it was sent through the civilian Tel Aviv post office and given a postmark on 12.X.48.

Operation "YOAV" took place on the 15th–22nd October 1948. The objective of this

operation was to reopen the roads to the Negev, to rejoin the Negev to the new State of Israel after it was cut off for 4½ months and to evacuate the coastal area till Beit Hanun near Gaza. The highlight was the capture of Beer Sheva, the main city in the Negev, on the 21st October 1948. The Givati Brigade took part in the north, the Yftach Brigade in coastal area, and Beer Sheva was captured by the Negev Brigade with the 82nd armored Battalion.

As operation "Yoav" was successful, all the roads were opened and the transport of supplies by airplane to the Negev was stopped. From 25 October all transport was overland.

Figure 48 shows a parcel card sent to KBA 218, Plugah (Company) D, to a soldier serving in this unit, which arrived at Ruhama post office APO 10 on 25.X.48, the first day of road transport.

(To be continued)

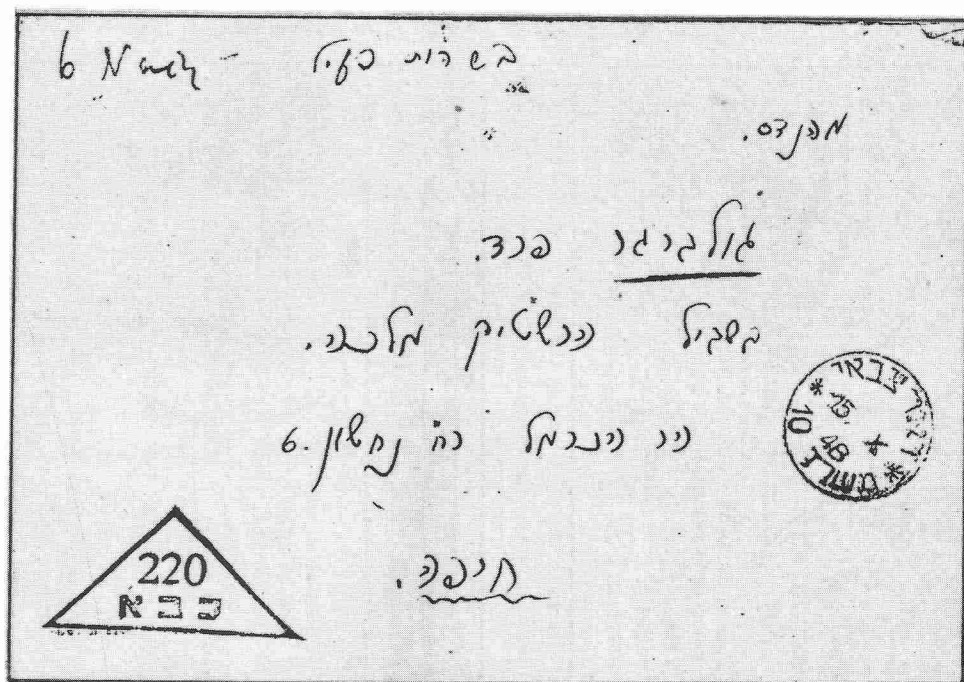


Fig. 44: A letter with arrival "APO 10, 15.X.48" and the triangular KBA 220, sent to a soldier serving in the 3rd Battalion HQ.

P.T. 238
INLAND PARCEL POST DESPATCH NOTE

HAIFA 1 No. 93

Insured for _____

Postage Paid _____ Mils. 600

(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב המיניאטור באותיות)
Gross weight in grammes (אזאן מוטון)
(אזאן מוטון) 5000
(אם המכילה כמות) (אם המכילה כמות)

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below:
חבילה (חבילות) הנלווה (חבילות) את הכתוב להלן:
Name _____
Address 220/2 _____
Name _____
Address _____

Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (SEE OVER)
מחטבת הדפוס שבה הדפוס (ראה עמוד 220/2)

Fig. 45: A card for a parcel sent to KBA 220/2. The address mentions also "Plugah (Company) B", contrary to regulations.

P.T. 238
WATCH NOTE

No. 864

Number to be affixed here _____

Postage Paid _____ Mils. 040

(Pounds to be written in words)
(כתב המיניאטור באותיות)
Gross weight in grammes (אזאן מוטון)
(אזאן מוטון) 270
(אם המכילה כמות) (אם המכילה כמות)

Herewith parcel(s) bearing the address given below:
חבילה (חבילות) הנלווה (חבילות) את הכתוב להלן:
Name _____
Address 220/6 _____
Name _____
Address _____

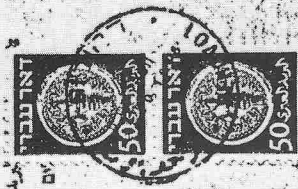
Impression of seal used to close the parcel. (SEE OVER)
מחטבת הדפוס שבה הדפוס (ראה עמוד 220/6)

Fig. 46: A parcel card sent to KBA 220/6, to a soldier serving in an unidentified unit in the 3rd Battalion.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER.
 اسم المرسل وعنوانه
 השם והכתובת של השולח

א. ס. א. 14
 כ. פ. - 12
 ד. ר. י. 11

Postage Stamp to be affixed here.



3351-500000-23.4 5-G.P.

RECEIPT OF ADDRESSEE
 קבלת התוכן

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the parcel (s) described overleaf.

החתום מזהיר באשר את קבלת התכולה (התכולות) המתוארות מעבר לעמוד.

החתימה
 25.4
 25.4

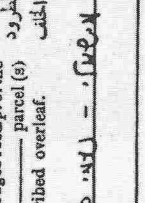
POSTAGE PAID
 (Pounds to be written in words)
 (כתוב הכובות באותיות)
 (בדולר או פאונד בלבד)

514 No.

HEREWITH PARCEL(S) BEARING THE ADDRESS GIVEN BELOW
 פה תכלה (תכליות) הנושאת(ות) את הכתובת המופיעה להלן.

ט. פ. 14
 כ. פ. - 12
 ד. ר. י. 11

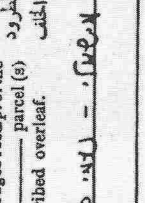
IMPRESSON OF SEAL USED TO CLOSE THE PARCEL.



SEE OVER
 (ראה מעבר לעמוד)

ADDRESS
 14323
 313

IMPRESSON OF SEAL USED TO CLOSE THE PARCEL.



NAME
 14323
 313

IMPRESSON OF SEAL USED TO CLOSE THE PARCEL.

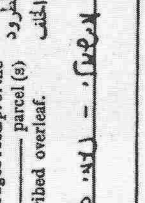
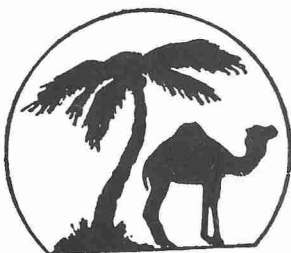


Fig. 48: A parcel card sent to KBA 218, Company D. It arrived in Ruhama APO 10 on 25.X.48, the first day of using road transport.

References

- (1) P. Kanner and Y. Spiegel "The Israel Army Postal Services During the War of Independence 1948-49", BAPIP Nos. 35, 36, 37 (August, September, December, 1961).
- (2) Z. Berest, "Classification of the KBA Triangular Army Units Marks 1948/9", HLPN No. 20, (Autumn 1984) pp. 1000-1001.
- (3) B. Hurwich, "Revised Classification of the KBA Units Numbers of Israel Military Mail 1948/9", HLPN No. 47 (Summer 1991) p. 321; No. 48 (Autumn, 1991) p. 398.



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Postal History of the Doar Ivri High Value Stamps

Y. Tsachor and J.L.G. Rothman

Introduction

On May 16, 1948 the nine Doar Ivri stamps were placed on sale. These included three high values: 250, 500 and 1,000 mils. Unlike the low value stamps which were reprinted many times on many papers and with many perforation varieties, the high values were printed only once – all were issued perforated 11 and all the tabs were the same type and setting. The paper did vary somewhat, even in this single printing. The 250 mil stamp exists on two types of white paper: thick white and medium white. The 1,000 mil exists on two shades of light blue paper. The 500 mil was printed on a single yellowish paper.

Perforation varieties exist. High value stamps perforated 10x10 and 10x11 are found on "Minister Sheets", distributed to V.I.P's, which were prepared by the government probably from excess stamps not included in those which were distributed to the post offices. An occasional, official First Day Cover can be found with these rare perforation varieties.

The 250 mil stamp was issued only with an imperforate bottom of tab, the 500 mil stamp was issued with both perforated and imperforate tabs. The great majority of 1,000 mil tabs were perforated. Genuine imperforated tabs of the 1,000 mil are very rare.

Among the highlights of any Israel collection are covers of the Doar Ivri high values. Genuine postally used covers with proper frankings are very hard to find. This article describes the various types of covers that exist using the Doar Ivri high value stamps.

Postal Rates

The basic domestic letter rate in May 1948 was 10 mils. Registry cost 15 mils and the Express fee was 40 mils. The air mail letter rate to the United States was 65 mils and to South America between 100 and 125 mils. It is obvious that the high values were used commercially only on heavy air mail letters requiring multiple high frankings and for domestic and foreign parcels.

It should be emphasized that as "postal rate collecting" was generally neglected until the 1980's, dealers used to soak off the high values from many postal packets and documents in order to complete sets. Thus, even philatelic covers with these stamps are uncommon. In the early years of Israel's existence the descriptive tabs were considered relatively unimportant. The early stamp albums did not include spaces for tab stamps. The tabs were often removed because they were too large to be conveniently used on letters. Consequently, commercially used

letters with high value tabs are almost unknown and those existing are considered great rarities.

Postal Usage

A. First Day Covers

1. First Day Covers were prepared by postal authorities using a large official envelope cancelled with the unique 16 May 1948 slogan postmark. These covers contained all nine stamps without tabs. They exist with Tel Aviv and Haifa postmarks but the Haifa covers are most uncommon. Circulated covers are known (Fig. 49).

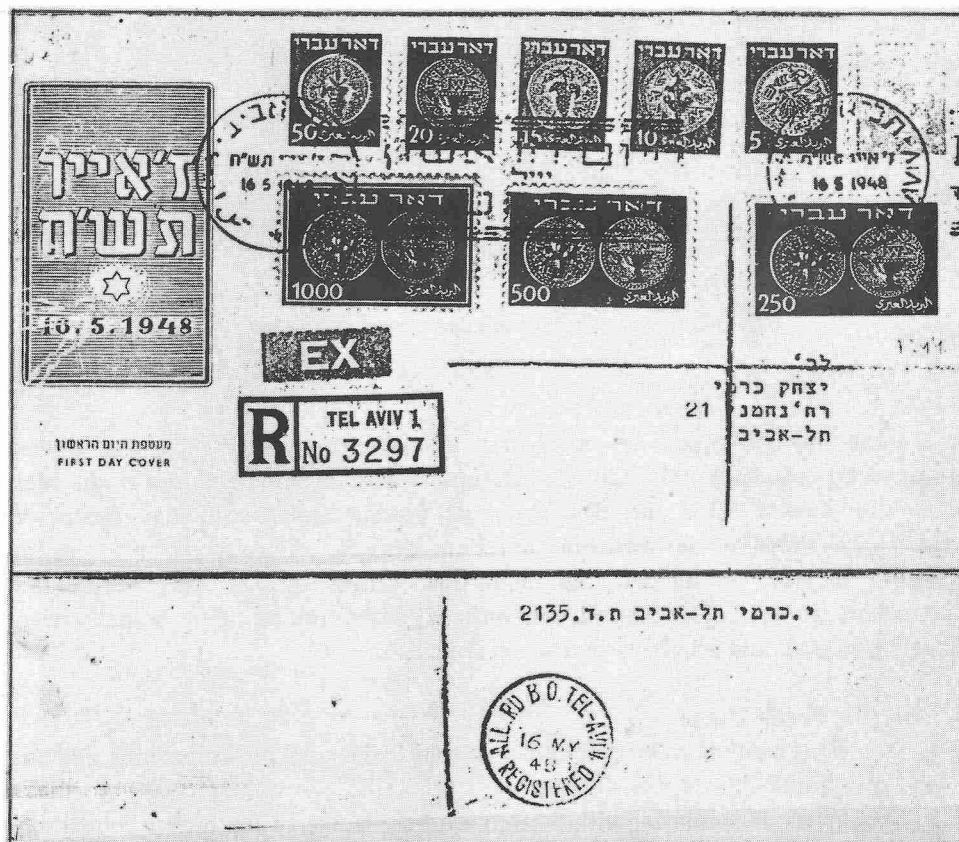


Fig. 49: Official FDC, registered and express, with Tel Aviv Mandate arrival pmk.

The Tel Aviv slogan cancellation was available at the Mivne Israel post office for several months after the actual first day of issue and dealers or collectors could come to prepare souvenir covers for themselves. This accounts for the many combinations of perforations of the low values found on these covers. Private covers with high value stamps with and without tabs were made in this manner (Fig. 50).

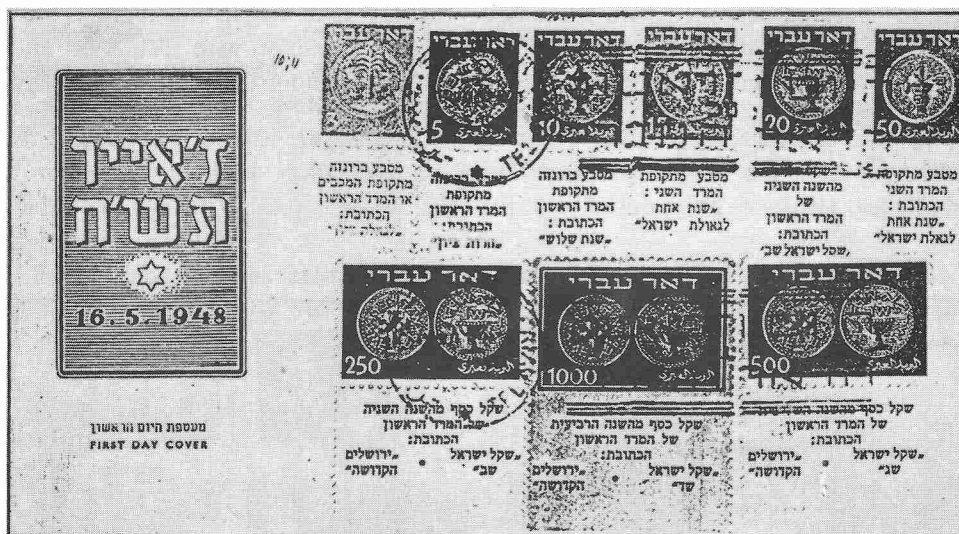


Fig. 50: Official FDC with the complete tabbed set.

2. First Day Postmarks on other than official envelopes. Private covers were produced by collectors with individual stamps or with all three high denominations. Most are known with the Tel Aviv or Haifa Israeli trilingual postmark. Scarcer are those made with the Mandate devices reintroduced into use on the 16th of May in all but the main post offices of Tel Aviv and Haifa. These exist addressed, registered, or with express franking. Few actually went through the mail and all are over-franked (Fig. 51).

B. Philatelic Postal Usage

1. Domestic mail: Covers generally made by collectors for collections and are always over-franked.

2. Foreign mail: Similarly, with foreign mail the usage of the high value stamps nearly always required over-franking envelopes. People frequently sent souvenir envelopes to friends and collectors abroad. These covers show many interesting mixed frankings with later issues (Figs. 52 and 53).



Fig. 51: 500m tabbed stamp on philatelic cover tied by Mandate
"Nes Tsiyona, 16 MY 48" pmk.

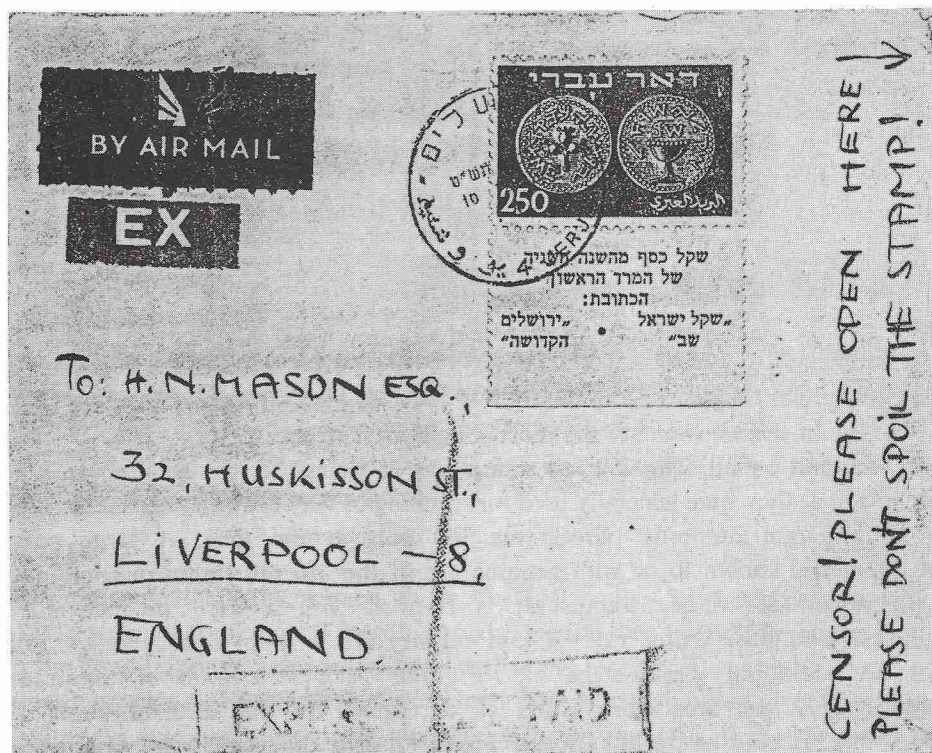


Fig. 52: 250m tabbed stamp on over-franked express air mail cover to England.

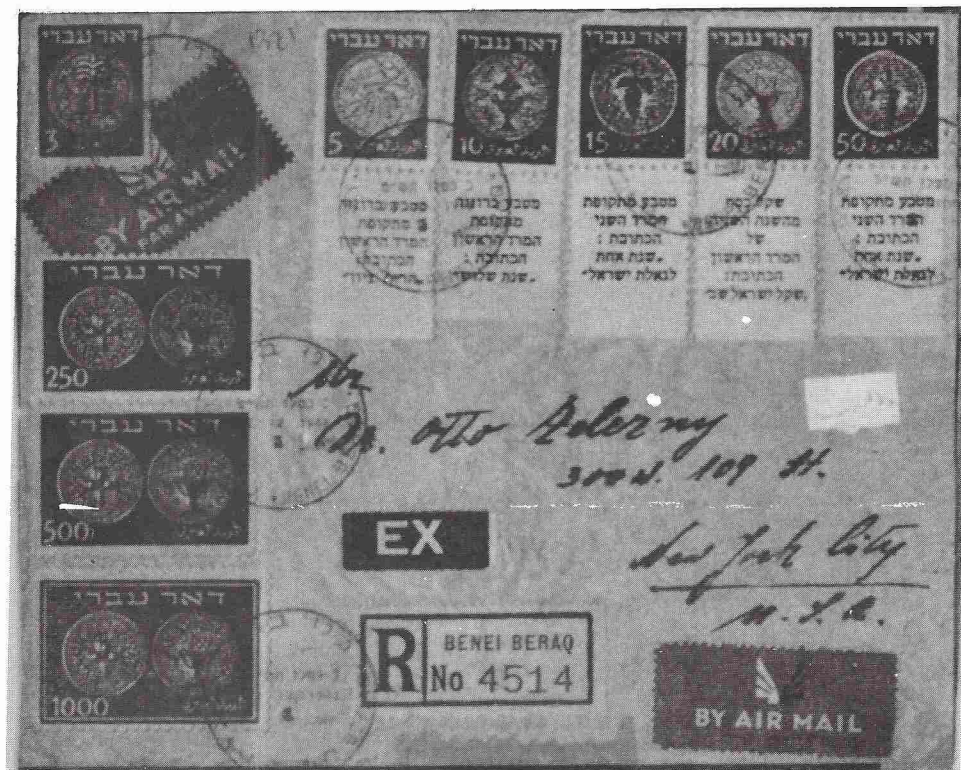


Fig. 53: Complete set 3-1000m on over-franked registered express air mail cover to New York.

C. Commercial Usage

No doubt these covers are the most sought after items.

1. Domestic mail: The 250 mil stamp was 25 times the regular letter rate. It is obvious that they were generally used for franking of very heavy letters as the rate for a 10 kilogram domestic parcel was 100 mils at the time. A large portion of a cover is known to us with genuine use of the 250 mil stamp in combination with other low values stamps. It is franked with a total of 383 mils as follows: 10m basic letter rate + 15m registry fee + 40m express fee + 53x6m for 53 additional weight-steps of 10 grams each – a total of about 1600 grams. This was sent from Haifa to Jerusalem on the 23rd of June, 1948 (Fig. 54). According to the postal regulations, a domestic letter could weigh up to a maximum of 2,000 grams.



Fig. 54: Large part of a registered express cover from Haifa to Jerusalem (June 1948), franked with a total of 383 mils.

2. Foreign mail: As mentioned above, the high values were generally used for multiple air mail frankings. According to the regulations, a multiple of the postal rate was used for each additional 10 grams that the foreign letter weighed.

Single Frankings: Figure 55 depicts a single 500 mil stamp on an air mail letter to India paying five times the single air rate which on the 15th of January was 100 mils. This type of franking is very seldom found.

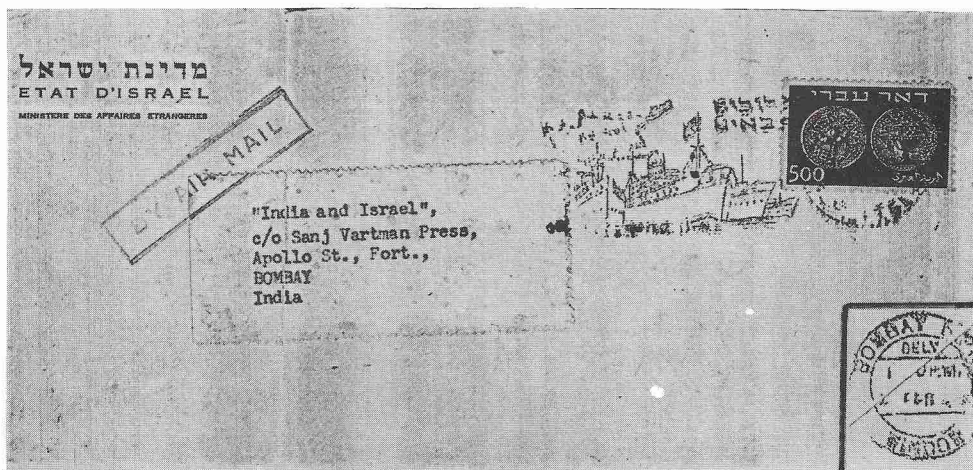


Fig. 55: 500m single franking on air mail letter to India paying 5 times the single air letter rate.

Combination Frankings: Figure 56 depicts a large registered air mail cover sent from Tel Aviv to Prague with a combination franking of 900 mills paying for an additional 240 grams which represents 24 times the air mail rate of

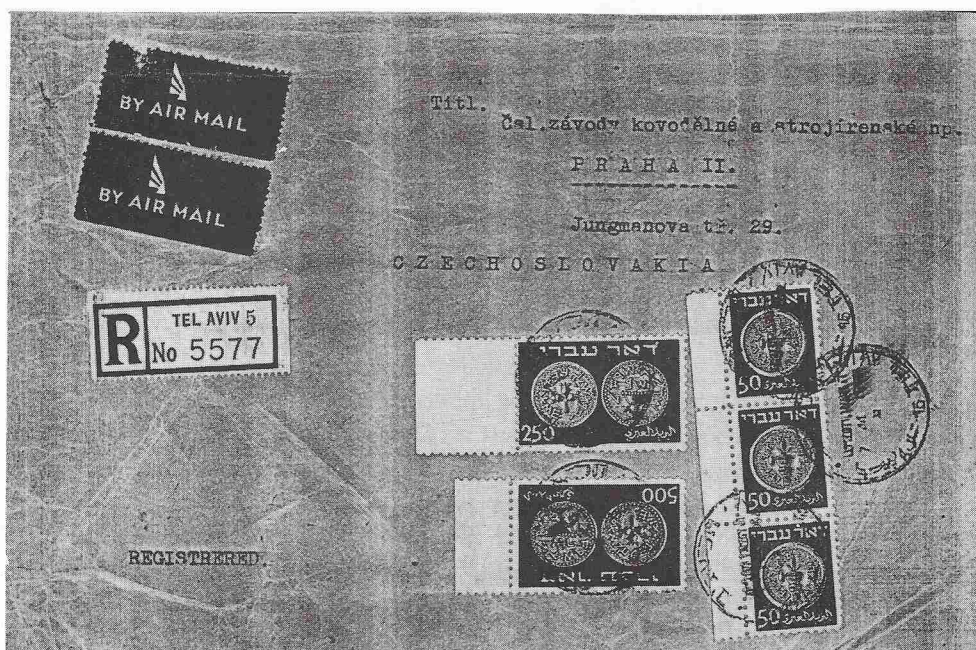


Fig. 56: Combination franking of 250m, 500m and 3x50m on large registered cover to Prague.

35 mils. The cover front in Figure 57 shows a mixed franking of the Doar Ivri issue and the 1949 Flag stamps. This large air mail registered letter was franked a total of 2,745 mils paying for an additional 330 grams which represents 33 times the single air mail rate of 80 mils to South Africa.

A large cutout is known with a combination franking of a total of 1,835 mils including all three high values, paying the postage for multiple registered air mail letter rate from Jerusalem to the United States in July, 1948 (this is cancelled with the Jerusalem Minhelet Ha'am postmark – sold by Habul Stamp Company, auction #17, lot 822).



Fig. 57: Mixed Franking of 50m, 500m and 1000m Doar Ivri with 2 Flag stamps on large registered air mail cover front to South Africa.

Tabbed Commercially Used Covers: These are the most elusive items, and as mentioned above are great rarities. The two items discussed below are the closest to genuine commercial use we have ever seen. Figure 58 depicts a 250 mil tab stamp used in combination with third coin stamps paying 265 mils for registered, triple air mail rate (3x80 mils) to the United States. This is a bank correspondence and the cover bears the appropriate transit and arrival postmarks.

The Back Cover illustration depicts a 1,000 mil tab stamp in combination with other denominations and mixed franking with Petah Tiqva stamps for a total of 1,225 mils. This represents the multiple registry air mail rate to South Africa (16x75 + 25 mils). This is a correspondence between two collectors bearing all appropriate transit and arrival postmarks.

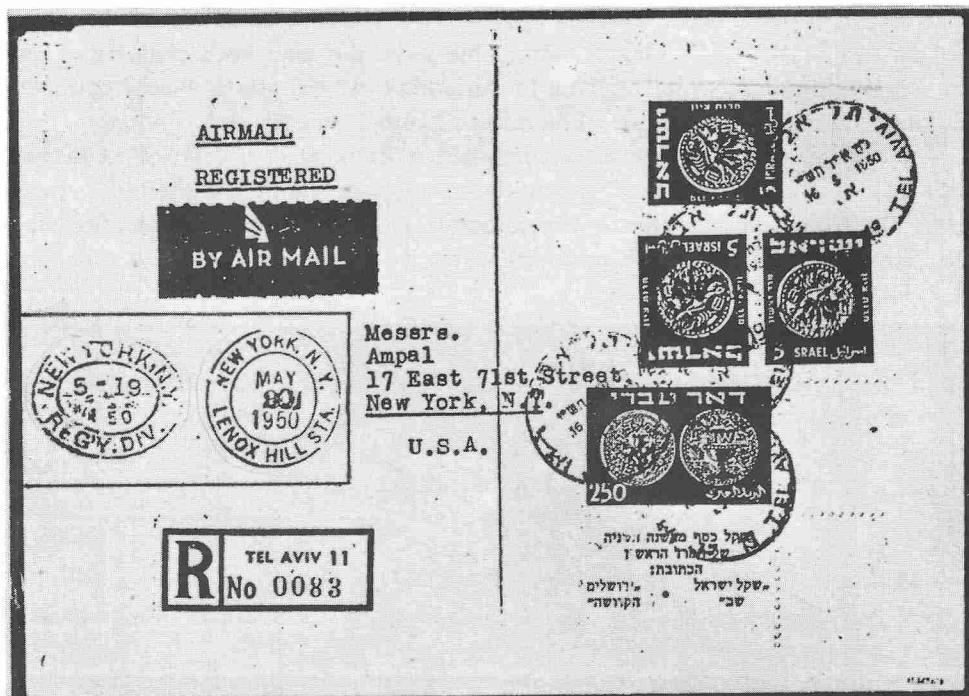


Fig. 58: Tabbed 250m Mixed Franking with 3rd Coins on registered air mail bank cover to New York.

Mention should be made of at least four other covers known to the authors. One with a tab 250 mil, two with tabs 500 mils and the fourth with a tab 1,000 mil. All went through the mail. They are all sent and addressed to philatelists and are over-franked.

D. Used as Revenues

In 1948 and 1949 the Doar Ivri stamps were occasionally used in place of revenue stamps on contracts, bills, transfers of shares, insurance policies and other important documents. Because of their relative scarcity as individual stamps, most were removed from the documents and sold to collectors. Figure 59 depicts a complete sheet of the 1,000 mil stamp without the tabs used as a revenue on the back of an Anglo-Palestine bank letter of credit for the amount of 40,000 IL (\$160,000 in 1949). Figure 60 depicts the use of the 500 and the 1,000 mil, a total of 1,650 mils on a transfer of shares document in February, 1949.

In conclusion, we have described in this short article the different types of philatelic, postal and souvenir envelopes bearing the high value Doar Ivri stamps. Undoubtedly, there are other covers hidden away in collections for many years which would be of great interest.

21

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 בידי אפוטרופסיו ובאי-כוחו עפ"י כל התנאים טלפיהם
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 (המניות) הנ"ל ועפ"י התנאים הנ"ל.

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 מטלח יד של מקבל ההעברה
 עד לחתימה

דואר נבדל 1000
 דואר נבדל 500
 דואר נבדל 50
 דואר נבדל 50
 דואר נבדל 50

2/2/49

Fig. 60: A bill for transfer-of-shares from February 1949, with Doar Ivri stamps used as revenues.

* * * * *

* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES *

* * * * *

The Ottoman Period

Herzlia Gymnasium's First Hebrew Postal Service

(Marvin Siegel)

The story of this first Hebrew Postal Service must always rank amongst the most romantic and delightful of all the many episodes in Holyland Postal History. Readers are referred to two early articles in The Holyland Philatelist¹. These two informative selections succinctly reveal the details of this service. A brief summary follows: For the High Holiday seasons of 1913 and 1914, the students of the Herzlia Gymnasium (Tel Aviv's first Hebrew secondary school) delivered all mail deposited into a special blue and white letter box which bore a Magen David and the inscription "Hebrew Mail". Their only requirement for performing the service was that the envelope bear a Jewish National Fund label. Thus, in effect it was an early means of JNF fundraising. However, after Yom Kippur of 1914 (תרע"ה), the local Turkish governor ordered the service to be discontinued.

In the first article's foreword (November 1955), F.W. Pollack, the periodical's editor, noted: "*Unfortunately no covers of the service described hereunder, are in his possession. Who has got one?*" Five years later the second article featured a lovely postcard that Pollack had located (s. Front Cover; courtesy David Feldman – Zurich Auction Catalogue, Nov. 1992). It was properly franked with a JNF label cancelled with the oval Hebrew handstamp of the service, reading "Herzl Club of the Students of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Jaffa". As Tel Aviv was in its infancy, no post offices were yet functioning therein and so the students used Jaffa as their address. However, ignored in this second article was a striking discrepancy with the first: Nissenbaum's article spoke about the Holiday seasons of 1913 and 1914, while the latter one illustrated a card of the year 1912 (ערב ראש השנה תרע"ג)!

Also, in the recently issued Volume II of Steichele's work², a most relevant footnote can be found. It mentions that a New Year Card for 1912 with a KKL stamp is known. Two possibilities are then offered for this early date as follows: "*It is possible that the previous year's printed card ...was used in 1913 or that it is a souvenir item; more likely the former. Of course, there is the possibility that the service started a year earlier than has been supposed*".

A few years ago, a 1913 'Herzlia Gymnasium' postcard featured in a Swiss auction and its description included the statement that 6 pieces are known that were carried by this service. Later, the pair consisting of the cover and its letter shown in Figures 61 and 62 were acquired with the kind assistance of Rabbi Norman Pauker of North Hollywood, California. This pair is unlike all others recorded to date in that it was **internal mail**, meaning that it was mail of the student organization itself! It is dated early in the month of Tammuz (June) in the year of 1912 (ד' תמוז ה'תרע"ב). Thus, it is evidently of an earlier vintage than all other known surviving pieces. The letter itself was written to the well-known Nina Berligne and is an invitation to a meeting to be held the following day (proving its hand delivery) in the home of a Mr. Arye Rubinstein, the head of the club. The agenda was listed and it is signed by Mr. Rubinstein and his secretary. The critical oval handstamp is present both on the face of the letter and the back of the

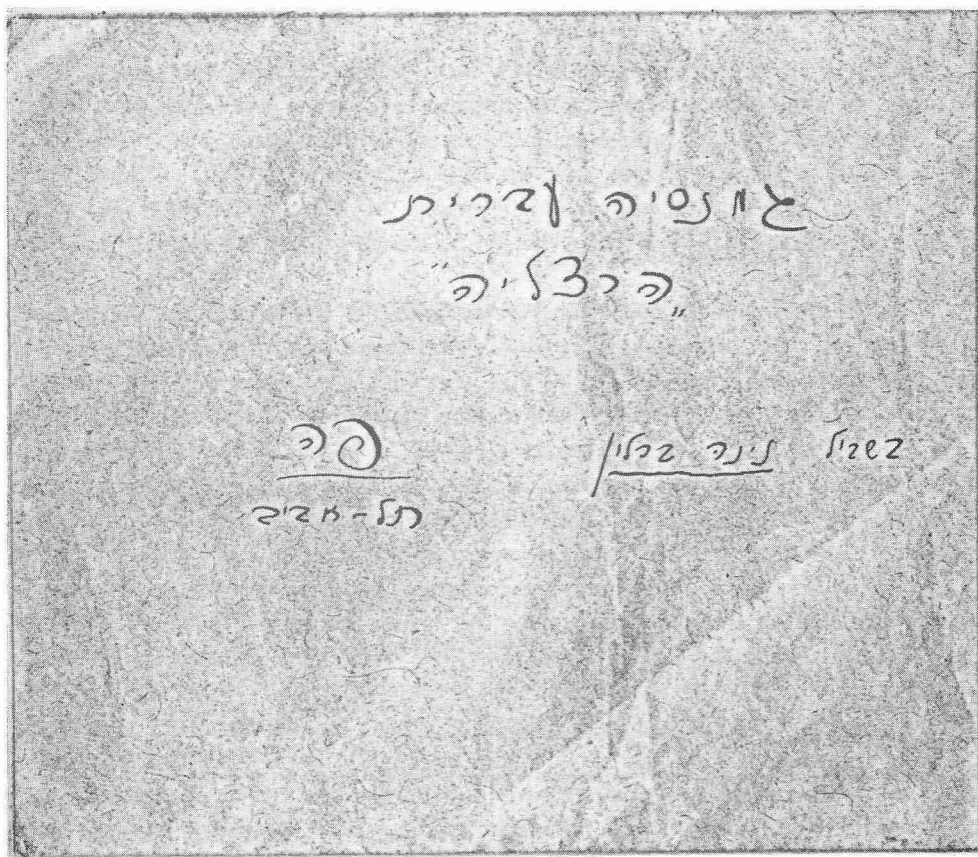


Fig. 61: 1912 cover to Nina Berligne, of the internal Herzlia Gymnasium's Student Mail.

envelope. Curiously, the second item on the agenda is "the matter of the stamps". Could it be that a decision was to be made at that meeting about the "stamps" to be used by their private mail service? Two similarities were noted between the latter document and the card shown on the Front Cover: both were addressed to Miss Berligne and both were written by the same person.

Our studies and instincts lead us to believe that the student organization maintained a courier service for its own mail before the same service was offered to Tel Aviv's citizens, and with the discovery of another 1912 item, we believe that the service did in fact start earlier than has been supposed.

Should any collector possess one of these historic pieces of the 1st Hebrew Postal Service with a legible date, this writer would greatly appreciate receiving a clear photostat of the same.

- References:** (1) The Holyland Philatelist: S. Nissenbaum, #13 (November 1955) p. 320; #64/65 (February/March 1960) p. 1300.
 (2) A. Steichele (English Rev. Ed. by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein), "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", Vol. II (1991) p. 445. Published by W.P.C..

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Unrecorded Cachet of Mettula *(J. Alexander, London)*

Mettula, the Northernmost settlement in Palestine, was founded in 1896 by Baron Rothschild for Jewish settlers who previously settled in the Golan in Syria. They were joined by other pioneers who came from Russia. Mettula is now located at the tip of the "Finger of the Galilee" on the Lebanese border. The name of Mettula is based on the Arabic name of the Druse village Umtulla, the meaning of which is "overlooking the area". The absentee Arab landlord, who sold the land to Baron Rothschild, evicted the Druse tenant farmers who lived there previously. For many years thereafter those tenant farmers continued to harass the Mettula settlers.

Mettula did not have its own post office and its mail was carried to the post office in the Lebanese village of Merdjaoun in the Aioun Valley. From Merdjaoun the mail was transported to Sidon and Beyrouth. Mail from Mettula, addressed to Palestine locations, went by sea from Beyrouth to Jaffa and from there by land to the various destinations in Palestine.

In 1920, following the Arab attack on Tel Hai, Mettula was evacuated by the order of the Jewish Agency. The settlers went to Sidon and from there to Haifa where they spent the next 8 months. The Arab attackers set fire to the houses of Mettula and most of their contents were destroyed. When the security situation improved the settlers returned to Mettula in 1921. The fact that all the letters and other documents in Mettula were destroyed by fire may explain the scarcity of any letters or other documents originating from Mettula. There are probably fewer than ten known examples of mail from Mettula with the Merdjaoun postmark.

A recently discovered postcard from Mettula is shown in Figure 63. It is dated 5.3.1913, and it carries a heretofore unknown cachet in Hebrew "Mettula, Emek Aioun" ("Mettula, the Aioun Valley"), in addition to the Merdjaoun postmark. This cachet is contemporaneous with other Hebrew cachets of Jewish colonies - Gedera, Hadera, Kastina, Yavniel and Zichron Ya'acov, all of which are dated after 1910.

The postcard is written by Michael Wiener to his parents, the Wiener family, in the Colony Sedjera. The address, both in Latin letters and in Arabic letters on top of the postcard, stipulates Nazareth as the forwarding post office. There was no post office in Sedjera. Michael Wiener was one of the original settlers in the Golan in Syria and a member of the original group that founded Mettula. His parents were amongst the original founders of Sedjera, in the Lower Galilee.

Michael Wiener's granddaughter was Esther Levit, the famous "Aunt from Mettula" ("Hadoda MeMettula") who was the adopted mother of the Israeli soldiers serving in that part of the country, especially those serving in Lebanon. For her devotion and dedication she received the highest Israeli civilian award - the "Israel Prize". Her son, Zalman Levit, the former Mayor of Mettula, and his three sons are all successful farmers in Mettula and continue the 100 years old family farming tradition there.

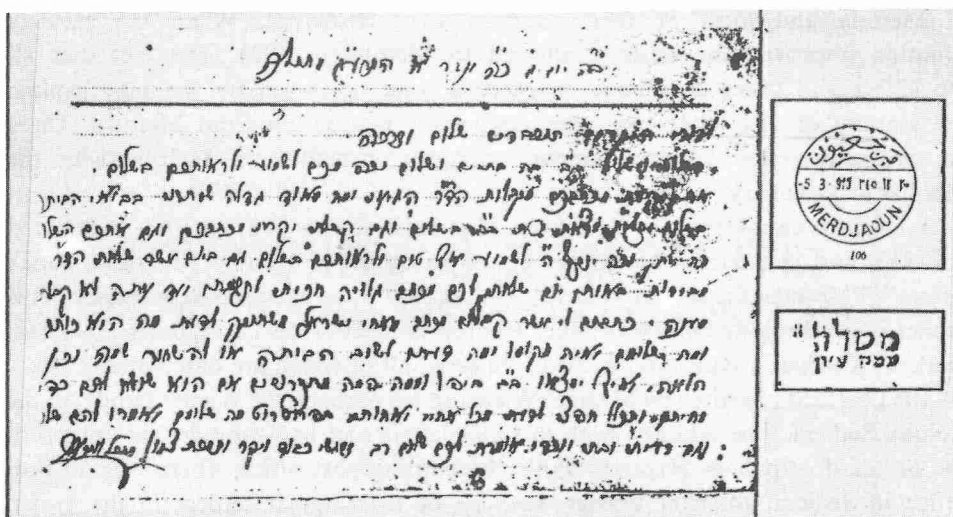


Fig. 63: Front and back of a 1913 postcard from Mettula with an unrecorded cachet: "Mettula – Emek (Valley) Aioun".

The British Mandate Period

"Readdressing" an Airgraph Envelope *(Arthur M. Hochheiser)*

In the winter/spring 1990 issue of this Bulletin (#41/42), I wrote an article entitled "The Misuse of an Airgraph Envelope". The theme of that article was incorporated as a miscellaneous item in Post Office Circular #795, released on May 26, 1943. It reads: "*Airgraph envelopes whether previously used or not are to be used for airgraph letters only*".

Unfortunately, the illustration provided, shown in Figure 64, was not an example of an Airgraph envelope addressed for other than Airgraph Service. The evidence indicates that this envelope was merely an example of redirection of an Airgraph envelope by "readdressing".

The address on the window is in Hebrew manuscript. It gives no name of addressee, only Haifa-Hadar, Hillel St. 15, c/o Heiman. It would fit neatly next to the original airgraph address showing through the window and probably addressed to Zichron Ya'akov. The person, presumably, had moved to Haifa-Hadar and the readdressed Airgraph was posted in Zichron-Ya'akov, receiving the date stamp at that post office as is customary postal practise for redirected mail. It was then forwarded to Haifa.

This explanation was suggested to me by Walter Loeb, editor of the BAPIP Bulletin, and confirmed by Julius Fletcher, author of the Monograph on Airgraphs. I now have every reason to believe that this explanation is correct.



Fig. 64: A readdressed Airgraph envelope.

A Registered Letter from Ein Karem *(J. Alexander, London)*

According to Dorfman, the Ein Karem postal agency was opened on the 15th April, 1945. This was a "type C" postal agency which was only opened two hours a day. These agencies operated from 1944 until the end of the British Mandate in 1948.

The front and the back of a registered letter from Ein Karem to Boston, sent on 20th April, are shown in Figure 65. For some strange reason the writer cut out an air letter and pasted it on a white envelope. The number on the registration label is 0011 which may indicate that 10 registered letters were sent during the preceding 5 days. It seems rather unusual for 10 registered letters being sent from such a small postal agency in such a short time.

Although the writer indicates "via Great Britain", the letter was flown by Pan American Airways via the South Atlantic route through Africa, South America and Miami.

The letter is addressed to Stefania Bardzinowska in Boston, who was the adopted mother of Polish servicemen. Many letters from this correspondence remained and one can say that most of the information relating to the postal history of the Polish army in the Middle East has been derived from this correspondence.

I believe that Dorfman's "F" rating for this Ein Karem postmark is too conservative: this postmark seems to be much scarcer than that. This is the first example of such a postmark that I have seen.



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Fig. 65: Registered letter from Ein Karem, 5 days after the opening of this postal agency. The reverse of the letter, with Miami transit postmark, indicates that the letter went by the South Atlantic route.

The Interim Period

Alleged U.S. Requirements for Non-U.P.U. Postal Link with the Jewish State, April 1948

(B. Hurwich, Jerusalem)

The "Palestine Emergency Deliveries Inc." (PEDI) was the successful means whereby airmail letters were sent **from** the U.S.A. to the newly-found State of Israel. Shamir and Siegel, in their recent publication¹, devote all of Chapter 5 to PEDI. Of note is the fact that, using U.S. postage alone, letters were forwarded from New York City to Rome, then transferred to a Czech Airline flight to Haifa. The first shipment arrived in Israel on June 2, 1948. This was "Emergency Mail not sent by the official American Post" (p. 5) as proved by the letter in Figure 5-8 which describes the arrival of mail in an open bag without the regular verification papers. The authors do not describe the means whereby postal relations to the U.S.A. were established.

The cable sent from New York by Hoofien (most likely Eliezer Sigfried Hoofien, at the time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Anglo-Palestine Bank²) to the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, dated April 30, 1948 (Fig. 66) suggested an altogether different postal link between the U.S.A. and the soon-to-be-born Jewish State, in **both** directions. Most important are the following:

"In explaining position you may quote following statement made by State Department and Postal authorities to counsel:

.....

- 2. No connection whatsoever with either political recognition or Postal Union.*
- 3. They had mail service with Russia long before they recognised them.*
- 4. They have mail service with Spain which is not member Union".*

Shamir and Siegel, in their Introduction (p. 5), write: "Uncertainty prevailed as to whether foreign countries would accept mail shipments with such frankings from a non-U.P.U. nation in the midst of a war of survival". In their Figures 5.2 as well as 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 are the same Linton, Eytan, Hammer and Grabowsky noted in our Figure 66, as is the address, "Javagency Jerusalem", which was, of course, the Jewish Agency office in Jerusalem.

The provenance of the illustrated April 30 cable is undisputed, as the original is located in the files of the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, File number S25/10523. The title of this article includes the word "alleged" inasmuch as a comparable document in American archives has yet to be reported. The outstanding feature of the cable is the statement:

"...postal communication with US can be reestablished without recourse to Postal Union or Commission by adherence to terms existing Postal Convention".

Had the steps outlined in the cable been followed quickly enough it is conceivable that a two-way postal link would have been established between the U.S.A. and

"Jevagency Jerusalem dated April 30 1948 Referring Grabowsky's cable 26th Hammer's 26th Eytan's 28 Dollik's 29th and various recent cables myself Linton Hammer please note all cables from here although differently signed were coordinated. Cable with whom subject centralized your end. Cables will in future be addressed to him by me and vice versa. According information from State Department and Postmaster General's Office given yesterday to our counsel postal communication with US can be reestablished without recourse to Postal Union or Commission by adherence to terms existing Postal Convention as follows: Official representative of Jewish de facto authority say Jewish Postmaster General informs American Consul Jerusalem he is ready assume responsibility resumption all or part postal services within any area he may designate and satisfied he commands all facilities for the purpose meaning mainly offices and staff it is desirable that he should reasonably satisfy consul that his assertion correct. If those facilities include control proper airfield Jewish area then airmail will be included. On receipt Consul's information accordingly American postal authorities will at once announce resumption without reference to Commission of Postal Union. In explaining position you may quote following statements made by State Department and Postal authorities to counsel:

1. They are most anxious resume communications.
2. No connection whatsoever with either political recognition or Postal Union.
3. They had mail service with Russia long before they recognised them.
4. They have mail service with Spain which is not member Union.

Hope you will act at once and inform us after which shall inform Commission. Reference Hammer's cable 26th if airmail resumed this becomes unnecessary but if we shall find necessity shall cable again. In this connection cable name prospective consignee airmail. Who is Jewish Postmaster General designate. What is your situation regarding stock of stamps.

Hoofien

c/525/10523



Fig. 66: Cable sent from New York by (Eliezer Sigfried) Hoofien on April 30, 1948, to Jewish Agency, Jerusalem.

Israel without recourse to the Emergency Mail system of PEDI. It is to be noted that Figure 5.9 of Shamir and Siegel is of a cable sent on June 3rd by the Postmaster General of Israel to his counterpart in Washington. The cable included these important points raised by the April 30th cable of Hoofien, included below within quotation marks.

1. A "Jewish Postmaster General" informs Washington that he represents a "Jewish de facto authority".
2. "Facilities include control proper airfield Jewish area" which is proven by the arrival of the June 2nd shipment of PEDI. Thus, "airmail will be included".
3. "Cable name prospective consignee airfreight" are Ports Haifa Telaviv Airports Haifa Telaviv within the "Jewish area" and they are functioning normally, meaning that they are under "control proper".
4. "Situation regarding stock of stamps" is that: We too may send airmail USA with State Israel stamps.

The cable reported in this article seems to be the key to establishment of a formal postal connection between the U.S.A and Israel.

I look forward to the discovery in an American archive of a document that would match and thereby corroborate the contents of Mr. Hoofien's April 30, 1948, cable.

References: 1. Shamir, Ch. and Siegel, M., "Israel Foreign Postal Links". Published by the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel. Jerusalem. 1991.

2. "Encyclopedia Judaica", Vol. 8, pp. 968-969. Keter Publishers. Jerusalem, 1971.

ד"ר. יוסף ואלך

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The State of Israel

An Unusual Mandate Registered Envelope *(A.M. Hochheiser)*

Searching through dealer accumulations can be quite rewarding. While attending the recent Columbian Philatelic Exhibition in Chicago, I came across a fellow philatelist examining the registered envelope shown in Figure 67. I convinced him that it was important enough to buy and knowing of my interest in Mandate stationery, he let me purchase it.

The cover is a copy of RE 17-2 with the light blue stamp and a 47 mm space between the rectangle and the center line. These envelopes were issued in 1945. What is unusual here is that the cover was cancelled for use in the State of Israel on 5 April 1950. This is the only registered envelope that I have seen used in the State of Israel.

The Israeli postage indicates that no credit was allowed for the Mandate registry stamp. The Israeli postage applied equals 140 prutot. This represents 25 prutot as a registry fee and 15 prutot for the first 30 grams of weight. The balance of 100 prutot was for excess weight at the rate of 10 prutot per 30 grams. This would indicate a total weight of between 300 and 329 grams.

My thanks to Paul Aufrichtig, my fellow philatelist, who allowed me to buy the cover and to Marvin Siegel who clarified the postage requirements.

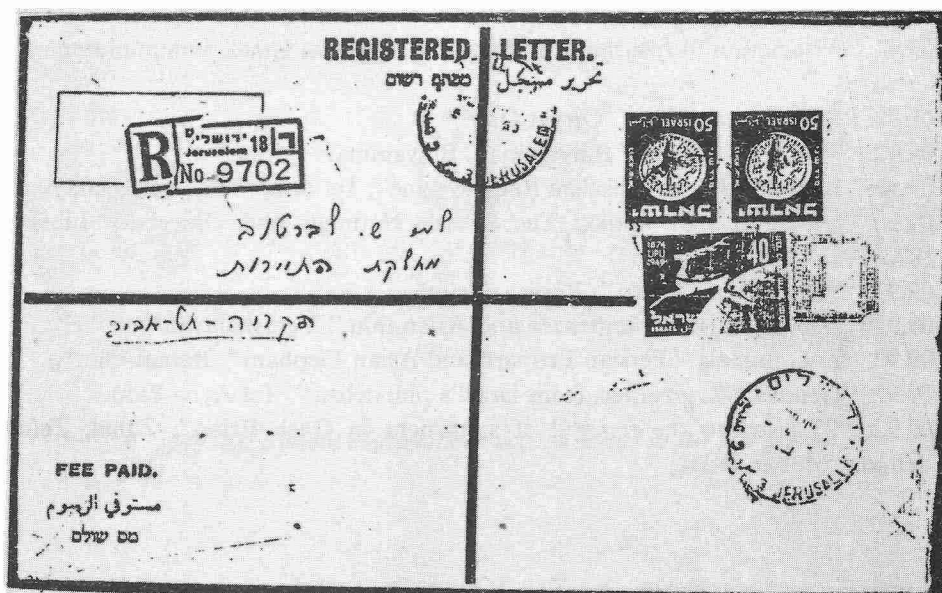


Fig. 67: A Mandate registered envelope of 1945, used in Israel in April 1950.

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by B. Fixler & I. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 68)

- 16.06.92: "Inauguration of the Tel Aviv-Ashdod passenger train service", Ashdod.
- 24.06.92: "The Hebrew Book Week", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 24.06.92: "The Hebrew Book Week", Beer Sheva.
- 25.06.92: Inauguration of the Alexandroni Brigade Memorial, Netanya.
- 26.07.92: "Olympic Games Barcelona, 25.7-9.8.92", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 26.07.92: "32nd Zionist Congress", Yerushalayim.
- 28.07.92: "Inauguration of the New Carmelit", Haifa.
- 11.08.92: "Israel's 1st Olympic Medals, Barcelona '92", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 14.08.92: "110th anniversary of Rishon Leziyyon", Rishon Leziyyon.
- 20.08.92: "M.V. 'ZIM Israel' maiden voyage, Kiel, Germany", Haifa.
- 27.08.92: "35th anniversary of Maalot", Maalot Tarshiha.
- 31.08.92: "M.V. 'ZIM Israel' maiden voyage, Haifa", Haifa.
- 03.09.92: "El Al - Beijing - El Al. First flight Tel Aviv-Beijing", Ben-Gurion Airport.
- 03.09.92: "Association of Insurance Brokers and Agents in Israel, 50th anniversary", Caesarea.
- 15.09.92: "Qiryat Ono - City", Qiryat Ono.
- 17.09.92: "70th anniversary of Binyamina", Binyamina.
- 17.09.92: "100 years Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway Line", Tel Aviv-Yafo-Yerushalayim*.
- 17.09.92: "A century of books, The Jewish National and University Library 1892-1992", Yerushalayim*.
- 17.09.92: "The Supreme Court", Yerushalayim*.
- 17.09.92: "Zoo animals - Chimpanzee and Asian lion", Yerushalayim*.
- 17.09.92: "Zoo animals - Persian Leopard and Asian Elephant", Ramat Gan*.
- 18.09.92: "Genova '92, greetings from Israel's philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 20.09.92: "25 years to the renewal of settlement in Gush Ezion", Zahal, Zefon Yehuda (Mobile Post).

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



Fig. 68: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



Fig. 68 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 01.07.92: "Akko 10", "Akko 11", "Akko 12", for the new postal branch, 49 Ben Ami Str., Akko.
- 12.07.92: "Ramat Gan 19", for the postal agency, grade A, in the "Shiba" Medical Center, in Tel Hashomer. (This postmark was used before in Ramat Gan Main P.O.).
- 12.07.92: "Bet Umrin", for the new postal agency in Bet Umrin (Nablus area in Samarea). Without the word "Zahal".
- 31.07.92: "Closing of the Mizra postal agency and joining of the Kibbutz to Yizreel Mobile Post". (31.07.92 – L.D. Mizra)
- 31.07.92: "Closing of the Merhavia postal agency and joining of the Kibbutz to Gilboa Mobile Post". (31.07.92 – L.D. Merhavia)
- 02.08.92: "Raana 10", for the postal agency, grade A, in the Industry Center, 15 Tausig Str. Raana.
- 01.09.92: "Qiryat Shemona 8", additional postmark in Qiryat Shemona post office.
- 01.09.92: "Karmiel 9", additional postmrk in Karmiel post office.
- 01.09.92: "Nahariyya 14", "Nahariyya 15", additional postmarks in Nahariyya post office.
- 01.09.92: "Maalot-Tarshiha 4", additional postmark in Malot-Tarshiha post office.
- 01.09.92: "Sakhnin 2", additional postmark in the Sakhnin agency.
- 01.09.92: "Illut 1", for the postal agency in Illut.
- 01.09.92: "Tamra 1", "Tamra 2", new postmarks with a change in the Hebrew spelling of the village name Tamra.
- 01.09.92: "Zarzir 1", in the postal agency in Zarzir, instead of the previous Zarzir postmark which was lost.
- 06.09.92: "Haela 1", Mobile Post office, instead of the previous postmark which was lost. The Last Day of the last instrument was 14.3.92, and "Bet Shemesh 4" was used in the mean time.
- 17.09.92: "The Supreme Court", Yerushalayim, for the B.P.O. in the new Supreme Court building.



- 21.09.92: "Zfat 11", for the postal agency, grade A, 20 Herzl Str., Rasco Center, Zfat south (this postmark was used before in Zfat main P.O.).

- 23.09.92: "Bet Yizhaq-Shaar Hefer 1" for the postal agency in Bet Yizhaq (instead of the previous postmark "Bet Yizhaq").
- 23.09.92: "Bet Yizhaq-Shaar Hefer 2" for the postal agency in Shaar Hefer (instead of the previous postmark "Shaar Hefer"). Last Day of the 2 old postmarks was 22.9.
- 23.09.92: "Rishon Leziyyon 20", additional postmark in Rishon Leziyyon post office.
- 01.10.92: "Rishon Leziyyon 19", for the postal agency, grade A, in 12 Haargaman Str., Neve Hof, Rishon Leziyyon.
- 01.10.92: "Rishon Leziyyon 18", for the postal agency in 19a Hahelmonit Str., Qiryat Rishon, Rishon Leziyyon.
- 01.10.92: "Hazrot Yasaf 1", for the postal agency, grade B, in Hazrot Yasaf.
- 01.10.92: "Arad 6", for the postal agency, grade A, in 32 Hapalmach Str., Shehunat Neurim, Arad. (This postmark was used before in Arad Main Post Office).

New Stamps and Postal Stationery

(1) **Stamps and Postage Labels (Klussendorf's)**. The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 17.9.92: New Year Festival stamps commemorating the centennial of the Jewish National and University Library (IS 0.85, 1.-, 1.20). The Supreme Court of Israel – commemorating its new venue (IS 3.60). Zoo animals (4x50 Ag); issued as a special sheet of 3 rows of 4 and a bottom row of tabs (in each row are the 4 different stamps se-tenant, but not in the same order)*. 100 Years of the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway line (2nd issue) – a souvenir sheet incorporating 4 stamps of 50 Ag arranged tete-beche).
- 2.11.92: A special Season's Greetings (automatic vending machine) **Klussendorf postage label** was issued for the Christian Holiday Season (Fig. 69). The Philatelic Services, using its own machine, issued the labels without a cliché number and these were also sold in many post offices on special F.D.C.'s at IS 1.60 (stamp value IS 1.10), cancelled with a special Bethlehem postmark.

In Bethlehem post office, another Klussendorf machine was installed on that day, printing the same labels but with **cliché number 23**. According to the Post Office notice this machine should have operated in Bethlehem throughout the period 2.11.92–8.1.92, but due to malfunction it was not in use part of this time. However, a similar cliché (No. 23) was used in the Philatelic Services main office in Jaffa.

* 4 Maximum Cards with each of the 4 animal stamps were also issued, at IS 8.- (the 4).

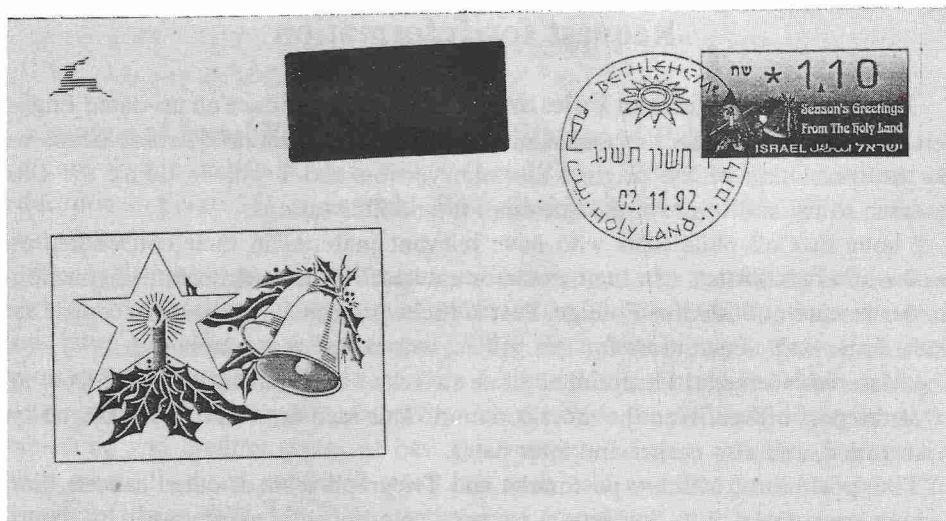


Figure 69

8.12.92: 75 years of the Hebrew film (IS 0.80, 2.70, 3.50) Philately Day (subject of stamp: European Unification, IS 1.50). Song birds (new definitive series; Ag 10, 20, 30, 90).

(2) **Prestamped Envelope.** On 1 September 1992, a special New Year prestamped envelope was issued, to be used for an ordinary inland letter (Fig. 70). Sold in packets of ten (for IS 8.50), each envelope is imprinted with a revised version of the 1991 Festivals' stamp of 65 Ag (but here without value and a different tab) and with the Hebrew words "שנה טובה" (Happy New Year).



Figure 70

Request for Information

Turkish Post Offices in Palestine: It is hoped to produce an up-dated English version of Anton Steichele's "Ottoman Post Offices in Palestine". Ernest Sterne will do the translating of the original German version and I will be doing the extra research to try and improve the information and illustrations.

I hope that all philatelists who have relevant material in their collections, and professional philatelists – in their stock, or entered for their auctions, will contribute to the research. With the Foreign Post Offices project 56 philatelists contributed and I hope that contributors for this project will exceed that number.

The Material Needed: a) Exceptionally fine strikes of any postmarks and seals of any of the post offices, even the most common. This includes these in colours not yet recorded, and also earlier and later dates.

b) TPO postmarks, Military postmarks and Telegraph seals or dated cancels. Early and later dates than Steichele's records, colours not recorded and of course, regarding Telegraph items, any not recorded.

c) All covers with 'Important Correspondence' seals (official covers), so that a survey of these can be produced. Notes on the colours of seals will be appreciated.

d) Reports of all registered covers, with notes on colour of cachet or colour of paper of labels and the printing. This includes AR covers.

e) Clear examples of censor marks listed by Steichele and especially these he recorded, but had no example to illustrate.

f) Covers with Turkish postage due stamps used in Palestine and with 'T' marks that are of positive Palestine usage.

g) All forged and bogus postmarks and cachets of the post offices in Palestine.

Would contributors please make any notes as regards colours, dates etc. **below** the photocopy of the item and **not** on the item itself.

It is possible that some of the items supplied may be useful for illustrating as a proving item. Would contributors therefore, please indicate if they would be willing to supply a postcard size black and white photograph of any of their items, if requested to do so.

Also it would be appreciated if any philatelist who has information that would help improve historical and other information in the original work, would report it. Also if anyone has useful postal route maps (official), I would appreciate copies.

I will give my thanks in advance and look forward to a good response to this request. All contributions will be acknowledged in the completed work.

Material can be sent to: **Norman J. Collins**, 21 Torrington Drive, Thingwall, Heswall, Merseyside L61 7UZ, England.

Book Reviews

Catalogue of Israel Postage Stamps & Stamps of Palestine Mandate, 1992

Editions by Michael Bale (Price \$42.50 (Israel Cat.), \$33 (Mandate Cat.) from SIP Educational Fund 25113 Duffield Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122, USA; add \$1 each abroad).

The publishing of philatelic literature is financially a risky venture at the very least. Costs are very high and the potential market is small. New and important references now have generally an average cost of \$30 or more. In turn, these high retail prices reduce the potential market even further. Having been personally involved in several publishing ventures, this writer can testify to the difficulty of retrieving the publishing and mailing costs. At best this recovery of costs is only accomplished when most all of the published stock has been sold and the funds collected. Yet in spite of these risks, Mr. Bale continues to provide us with his current editions of excellent catalogs that have long served as our basic references for Mandate and Israel stamps.

This latest Mandate stamp catalog has now grown to almost 150 pages and is a most excellent compendium of basic information vital to collectors on every level of these issues. Since the last edition published four years ago, some important discoveries have been made and, as is always the case, significant price changes have occurred. All of these have been incorporated into this new work, making the possession of this work a "must" for all Mandate stamp collectors. Having been involved with the revisions to the valuations, we can only say that this new edition quite accurately reflects the prevailing retail price structure. Noteworthy changes include significantly higher prices for such basic but scarce and elusive stamps as numbers 26 (2nd setting), 43 used, 70 used and 82a mint. Also, the price structure for the Jerusalem I Withdrawn Type and Oveprint Varieties has been realistically adjusted. Scattered throughout the work can be found many additional bits of new philatelic information nicely blended into the previously existing structure of the catalog.

The Bale catalog of Israel Postage Stamps (over 300 pages) neatly illustrates and lists all issued Israel stamps as well as 1948 Interim Period issues. Many other useful listings are included such as Revenues, Definitive Plate Blocks, Stationery, International Response Coupons and Booklets. Priced for each and every issue are mint and used both plain and with tabs, plate and tab blocks, sheets and FDC's. A specialized Doar Ivri section containing up-to-date plate block and perforation variety valuations is certainly one of the finest features of the work. All Israel stamps are numbered by both Bale and Scott catalog numbers. It is suggested to Mr. Bale that he make appropriate royalty arrangements with the Scott Publishers and do away with the "Bale numbers" not generally utilized anywhere else.

The writer has long disagreed with Bale's allocating one eighth of the work to a listing of Major Errors and Varieties. In this matter our feeling is that most post-1960 material of these types was manufactured or produced "to order" entirely for sale at exorbitant markups. By listing them with illustrations, he has ordained and dignified them and ignored their illegal pedigree. Such catalog inclusions can only serve to encourage future illicit productions.

Both of these fine catalogs are excellent productions with high quality paper and illustrations. Both are heartily recommended to collectors at all levels. In fact, it is inconceivable to all knowledgeable philatelists that one can collect these issues seriously without the appropriate Bale Catalog. He is again to be appreciated and congratulated for devoting the necessary time and money to produce these works.

(Marvin Siegel)

Special Cancellations of Israel Post, (1948-1992) – Part 2, by I. Nachtigal & B. Fixler. (Price for **HLPH Society members** and all **IPF affiliated societies** \$12 (IS 25) incl. surface mail. Special price for both Part 1 (Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post) and Part 2 – \$18 (IS 40). Orders: IPF, P.O.B 2896, Tel Aviv 61028, Israel).

This book forms Part Two of three which the authors have devoted to the postal history of the Israeli Post. Part 1, which dealt with the postal cancellations of every post office and agency from 1948, remains the standard catalogue of these fascinating postmarks, and will probably remain so for the foreseeable future. Part 3 will deal with the slogan cancellations of the State (and up-dating parts 1 and 2).

This catalogue thus supercedes the two other known sources of such cancellations: that of the German publication "Der Israel-Philatelist" which issues lists of these from time to time, and the limited and by now out-of-date listing in Glassman's book on Israeli Jerusalem.

Part 2 covers the special postal cancellations issued from 1948. Special cancellations were used from the beginning to commemorate or emphasize a special occasion or meeting, and have proliferated over the years. Since almost every organisation or group can order one of these special postmarks (at a price) their use has been very wide, as anyone paging through this fascinating catalogue will realise. Up to the middle of this year some 1560 special cancellations had been used since 1948. By simple calculation this works out at an average of some 35 such each year – one every one and a half weeks. This attests to their popularity.

Each cancellation is fully illustrated and details the purpose and date. In some cases there was more than one date use, and this leads to an unfortunate and unnecessary confusion. Such multiple use is listed separately, as an

appendix, instead of having been added to the original illustration, and therefore preventing misunderstanding.

The English introduction needs some heavy editing in the language used. The authors are advised to use an English speaker to check the translation from the Hebrew, to avoid the many mistakes which exist.

The catalogue, as with the previous one, records the enormous amount of work put into the listing of all postmarks and cancellations of Israel by the authors. They are heartily congratulated on an outstanding work, again, and we hope that they will continue with their work with Part 3 and all subsequent up-dates.

All of these books are essential to anyone collecting Israeli Postal History. They are certainly of a comparable standard to the other well-known catalogues of both Mandate and Ottoman postmarks.

(E. Glassman)

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Holy Land Auctions' Realizations

Prices are in U.S. Dollars. 10-15% buyer's commission and 1.5-2.5% V.A.T. should be added.

Negev Holyland Stamps, March 25, 1992

*1918, 1st interim period. Civilian cover mailed unfranked to Egypt on Feb. 11, taxed 1p in Cairo -	\$1200
*1918, Typo, 5m used "crown missing in wmk" variety -	\$225
*Ditto, 1p used, "Inverted wmk" -	\$290
*1920, 2nd Local Ovpt., 1m "Inverted Ovpt." -	\$1100
*1948, Festivals, tabs on private FDC, APO cancellation -	\$350
*1953, Jaffa 1000pr with tab, superb -	\$90

Dr. J. Wallach Public Auctions, June 30, 1992

*Turkish Post, "Naplous" (St. 40/06), 18.9.1918 - latest date on post card -	\$760
*1920, 1st Local Ovpt., 1m pair on printed matter to Beirut -	\$26
*1927, 2nd P.D. 2m pair on taxed post card from England -	\$210
*1947, Jerusalem "Greek Colony" (G/S J/10) on reg. cover to Haifa -	\$230
*1948, Saffed Local, 1st Setting, types 1 and 3 in tete-beche gutter pair -	\$1750
*1948, Jerusalem, deformed M. Ha'am pmk tying 15+20m D. Ivri stamps on reg. cover to the USA -	\$1100
*1948, Doar Ivri, 3m perf. 10 with tab on private FDC, cleaned -	\$575
*1948, Yokneam mandate pmk tying 3x10m Doar Ivri on commercial cover -	\$230
*1950, 1st Airmail, complete tab set, mint -	\$110

Tel Aviv Stamps, Nov. 4, 1992

*Russian P.O., 1908, "KAIFA-ROPIT" (St. 612) superb on post card to Germany -	\$850
*Turkish P.O., 1915 "Jerusalem 9" octagonal (St. 28/24) on reg. cover to Germany -	\$650
*WWI, SZ57 (Haifa) on civilian cover franked 2x5m Typo -	\$65
*1920, 2nd local ovpt. 5m perf 14 (SG41) unused -	\$90
*1923, Commercial postcard ex Beyrouth, taxed 8m (SG D4) on arrival in Haifa -	\$445
*1948, Jerusalem "Menorah Club" cover, APO #3 dateless arrival -	\$3150
*1948, Commenc. cover franked 10m M. Ha'Am tied by Q. Amal pmk on May 28, marked "T 20" and taxed 20m PDI on May 30 in Tel Aviv. Earliest recorded date for PDI in Tel Aviv -	\$2800
*1948, Doar Ivri, 15m perf 10x10, pl. block of 4, only 2 blocks exist -	\$19,425

- *1948, Colour trials for the First Postage Dues, group of six
imperf. pl. blocks of different colours – \$19,500
- *1950, Negev full tab on reg. official First Day Cover – \$3,780

David Feldman, Zurich, Nov. 4, 1992

Some top rarities of the Ottoman period were offered. A few selected realizations follow:

- *Ottoman Post, 1918, AFULA; the only known registered cover
(out of 4 items recorded) – SF28,000
- *Ottoman Post, 1900, "Jericho/Palestine" oval cancellation
on post card to Egypt – SF14,000
- *FRENCH P.O., 1853, "Jerusalem/Jan 23" double ring pmk on
stampless entire to Paris. Jaffa straight line transit – SF40,000
- *Russian P.O., 1888, reg. cover to Hamburg. 2x7 kop. stamps tied by
unrecorded large oval "ROPIT/AG. JAFFA" – SF7,000
- *Russian P.O. 1888 cover to Bogorodsk, 7 kop. tied by double oval "ROPIT/AG.
JAFFA", additionally franked by Bogorodsk Zemstvo 5kop. – SF8,500

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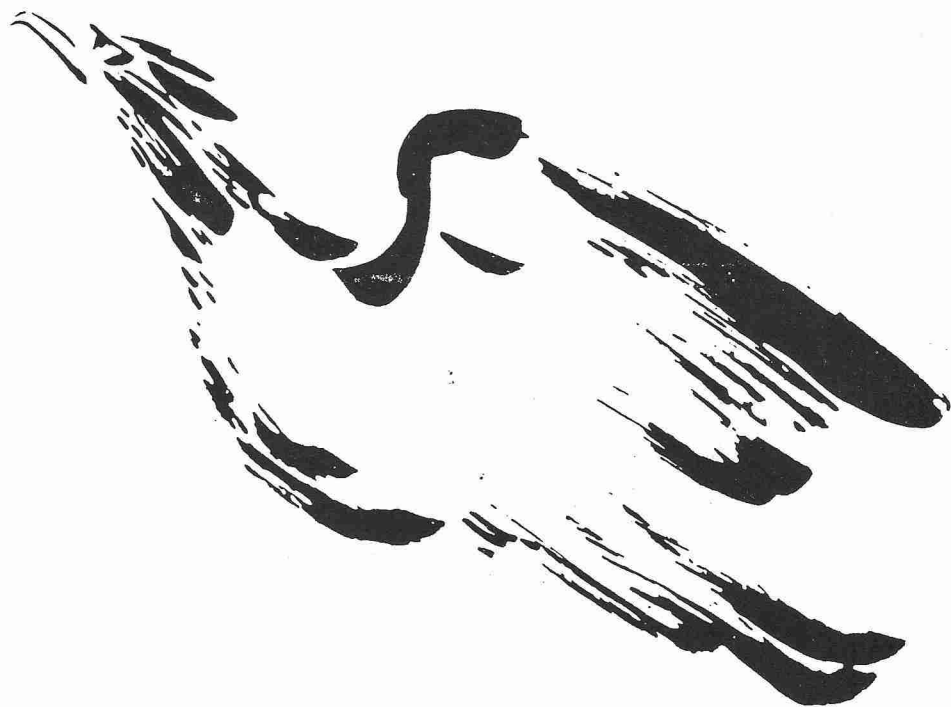
I intend to sum up a catalog on this subject and need
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ועדת בקורת ובוררות: מ. מרקו, א. קרפובסקי, גב' א. שפירא

מערכת הבטאון: ב. הורוויץ, ע. גלסמן, מ. זיגל, א. ליבו, י. רמון, צ. שמעוני

עורכים - צ. שמעוני וע. גלסמן

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