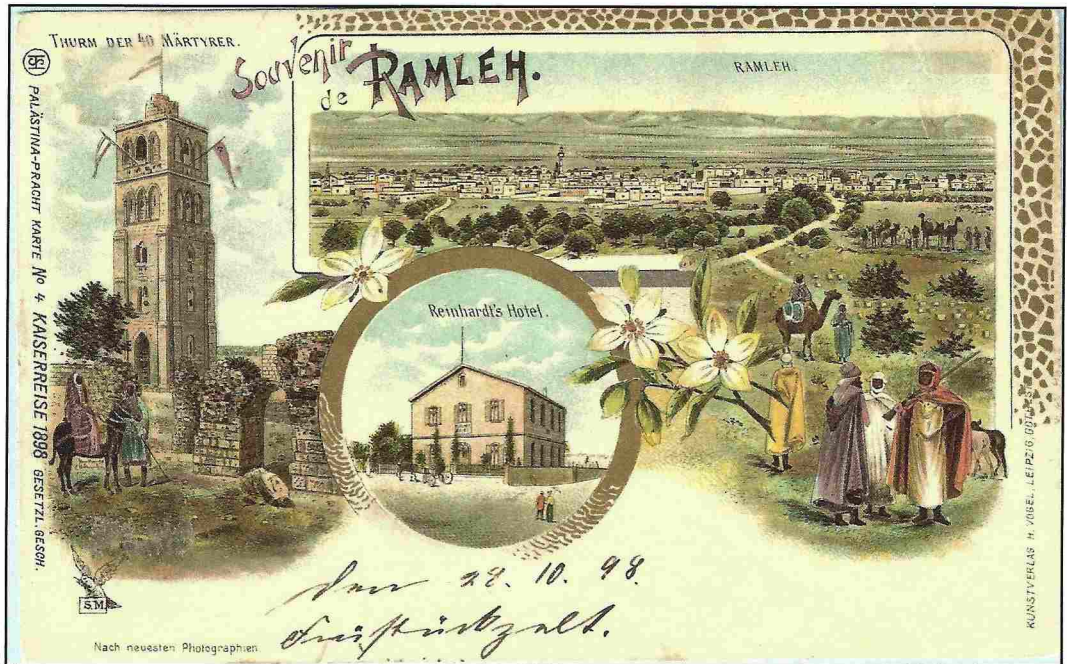


578/20170

# Holy Land VI

## Postal History 117-118



**Ramle PPC with Reinhard's Hotel in the centre. The hotel served as a postal repository and collection station for the German post. (page 601)**

**Winter 2011**

**Published by Israel Philatelic Federation**

# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY



התאחדות בולאי ישראל  
ISRAEL PHILATELIC FEDERATION  
Member - Federation Internationale de Philatelie

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## New Book

The longtime anticipated Part 2 of Volume II of the Series "The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel, 1948", has at last been published.

Like its predecessor, Part 1, it deals with the Postal History of the places in Israel which did not have a regular postal service during the war of Independence. Part 1, which dealt with Safad and Jerusalem, was published five years ago<sup>1</sup>.

The New Book covers: Nahariya. Rishon Le Zion, The Negev Settlements, Sdom, Gush Etzion, Ben Shemen, Haifa "Messengers Mail" as well as, the Tiberias, Affula and Nahalal "Emergency Mail"

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Vol II Part 1	200
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<sup>1</sup> It was awarded a Gold Medal in Tel Aviv 2004 National Stamp Exhibition.

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## Editorial

The Editor is pleased that this issue does appear before the end of 2011. The pause in the publication of the Bulletin was due to the disbandment of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz Israel.

It took me some time to find a new home for the Bulletin, during which, the Bulletin could not be published.

Our members and collectors of the Postal History of The Holy Land, should be grateful to the Israeli Philatelic Federation, which agreed to support us and publish the Bulletin. I hope that with their help we would issue two double Bulletins annually. This however calls on us, to do our part, by submitting articles.

There is no chance in the annuals dues. Those of you, residing in the U.S. please send it as before, to Sid Morgenstin. Those living outside the U.S. please make out the cheques to Israel Philatelic Federation and send to: Israel Philatelic Federation, P.O.Box 4523, Tel-Aviv 61045, Israel.

The Reinhardt's German Hotel in Ramle the picture of which is shown on the front cover, was used by the German post as an auxiliary post box, during the Ottoman period. Post was received, transferred, collected and dispatched from there. The article about the Hotel and its postal activities embodies the connection between History and Postal History. We are always pleased to publish such articles in which Philately reflects historical places, people and events. We believe that it adds value and depth to our Hobby.

A year has passed since Zvi Shimony, the founder of our Society and the first Editor of our Bulletin passed away. We have not forgotten Zvi and for his remembrance we publish "In Memoriam".

Jerusalem, being the hub of religious, cultural, political and touristic prominence, has in parallel rich Postal History. Some of it, during three periods, namely; the prephilatelic period, the early philatelic period 1863-1914 and finally in 1948 through the French Consular post services, are covered in this issue. It is a vast subject and therefore it will be divided

into two or even three chapters of which chapter one is included in this issue, while the other chapters will appear in the next issues.

The Ottoman post period is well presented with an article about the registered post from Tiberias and about the Ottoman and the French post office in Jerusalem. The Transition period is indirectly represented in an article about the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes. Marginally, Mandate and Doar Ivri stamps are also part of the same article. However, we strive to have a balance between the various aspects of Holy Land philately and we need articles about Mandate postal history and Israel postal history, even about modern Israeli issues. We do not have enough of those. Would our members, readers, who collect these fields, please try to submit articles.

*Thank You*

*Yehuda Kleiner, FRPSL*

*Editor*

## **In Memoriam**



**Dr. Zvi Shimony 1936-2010**

Last year Zvi left us. He was a mentor to many philatelists, particularly to collectors of Holy Land Postal history. His desire to promote the study and the research of this collecting field induced him to establish in 1979 the Holy Land Postal History Society and its Bulletin, which he edited for 25 years. Zvi was a Scientist, Doctor of Physics, who applied the scientific approach to the editorship of the Bulletin. It meant; dedication, discipline, thoroughness, analysis, verification of what seems obvious and a thirst for discovery.

In a way he was a teacher, who wished to share his knowledge with others, and therefore, together with Y. Rimon, I. Karpovsky, Z. Aloni, prompted the Society to research and subsequently to publish the books about The Postal History of the Transition Period 1948, about which very little was known at the time.

In recognition of his contribution to Holy Land philately he was awarded the "Medal of Life Achievement", by the Israel Philatelic Federation.

Zvi, is missed by his family, by many Philatelists and by his friends.

It is with owe and respect that I edit the Bulletin, which he founded.

## Registered Letters sent from Tiberias during the Ottoman Post Period

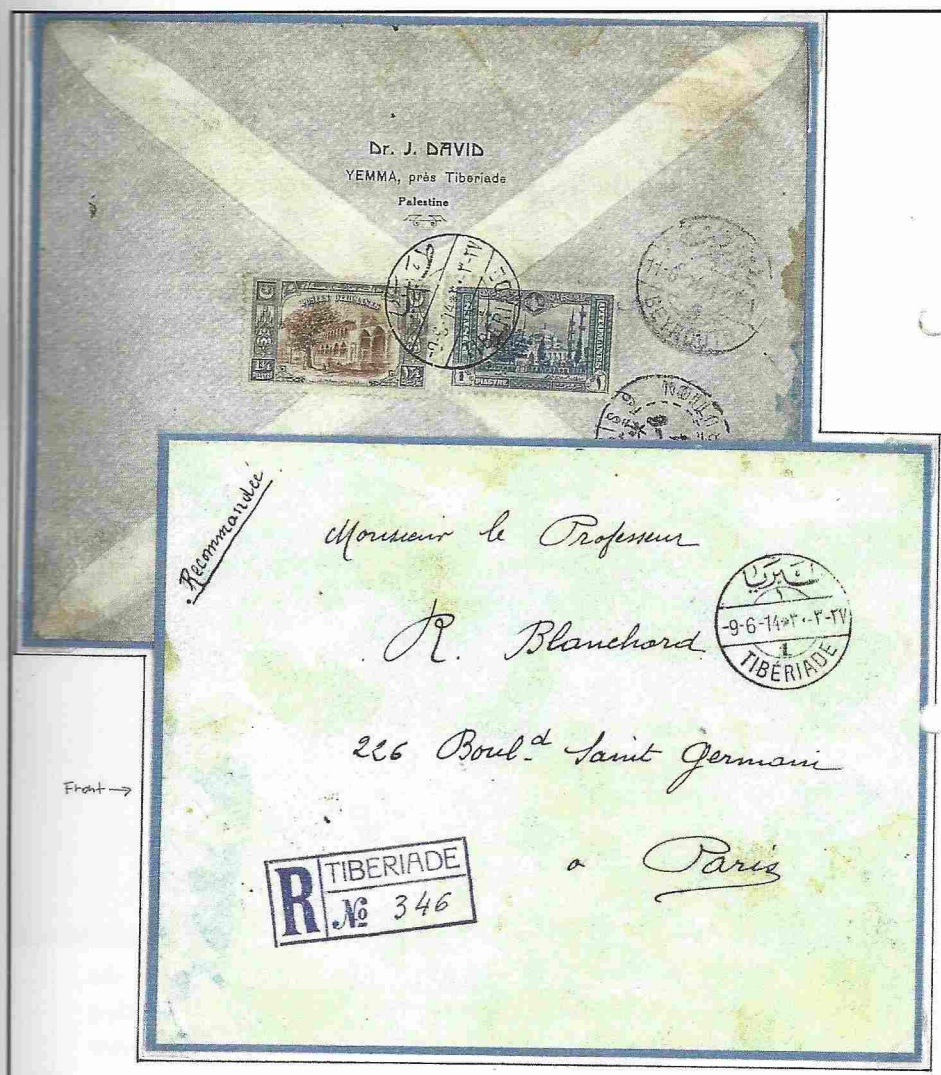
*Itamar karpovsky, Tel Aviv, Israel.*

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Century the population of the town of Tiberias increased from about 7,500, to about 8,600, naturally, this had its impact on the volume of mail, which increased. Mail at that time was served by the Ottoman post office in competition with several foreign post offices. Although, U.P.U treaties and regulations, were already in operation since 1875, these were applied for the town of Tiberias only as of 1895.

Prior to the U.P.U period we do not find any registered letters from Tiberias. The earliest one recorded during U.P.U period, is from 1904, and the total number of registered letters from Tiberias, known so far to 1917, when Ottoman rule was terminated is only 16. These can be divided into two groups, 12 letters, which were stamped with registration cachets and 4 letters to which registration labels were affixed. Of these, one with the registration cachet and two with the registration label are shown in this article. All are rare.

In Figure 1, a registered letter sent to Paris, from Yemma (Yavniel Jewish settlement), posted at the Tiberias post office on 9.6.1914 is shown. It is franked with 1+1.75 piaster stamps, of the 1914 Turkish Constantinople scenery stamp set, canceled "Tiberiade 9-6-1914", having as well the Beyrouth 11.6.1914 transit and Paris arrival postmarks. On the front side of the letter the violet rectangle "R TABERIADE No 346" registration cachet, was applied (Fig.1).





**Fig. 1: Registered letter from Yemma (Yavniel) through the Tiberias post office to Paris, with the rare boxed registration cachet No. 346.**

In Figure 2, a registered letter sent to Rumania, from the Jewish settlement MESSCHA (Kefar Tabor), posted at Tiberias on 30.10.1912 is shown. It is franked on the reverse by 2 piaster (4 x 20 Para) stamps of the 1908 Turkish definitive stamp issue, paying the registered rate to Europe.

Registration is indicated by the rare violet rectangle "R TABERIADE PALESTINE NO. 1608" registration label, on the front of the letter.



**Fig. 2: Registered letter from Messcha (Kefar Tabor) through the Tiberias post office to Paris, in 1912, bearing the rare registration label "TIBERIADE PALESTINE NO. 1608". (One of two recorded).**

Shown in Figure 3, is the recent discovery of the only registered post card, recorded so far from Tiberias, during the Ottoman post period. It is a picture post card, showing the ruins of Capernaum (kefar Nahum), sent from Tiberias to France on 2.7.1910. It is franked 50 Para by two Turkish stamps from the 1909 definitive stamp issue paying the 10 Para postcard rate for a short message (the usual rate for a post card was 20 Para, but only 10 Para when the written message was short), and 1 Piaster for registration. Canceled "TIBERIADE 2.7.1910 and Beyrouth 5.7.1910



transit and Gers-France, 13.7.1910 arrival postmarks. Registration is indicated by the rarest blue ornamental registration label "TIBERIADE No. 894", (one of the two recorded), thus this is a unique registered postcard from Tiberias during the Ottoman post period.

### *A real Holy Land gem.*



**Fig. 3: Registered letter from Tiberias to Gers-France, in 1910, bearing the rare ornamental registration label "TIBERIADE NO. 894", (One of two recorded). This is the only known registered post card from Tiberias during the Ottoman post period.**

## **Letters from the Pre Philatelic Period of Jerusalem 1683-1861.**

*Les Glassman, Jerusalem & Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana, Israel.*

The subject is a vast one. Thus this article is no more than an overview that hopefully will encourage readers to further their interest and promote collecting activities and study of this subject. A comprehensive list of references is given at the end of the article for those who wish to gain further knowledge. These references also helped us when we wrote the article, which consists of two parts. Part one follows below. Part two would be published in the next issue and shall cover the following topics:

1. The British Connection.
2. Jewish Organization Post.
3. Disinfected Letters from Jerusalem.
4. Supplementary Issues.

### **Part One**

#### ***Introduction***

Although, the Pre-Philatelic Postal History period of the Holy Land has its root in Biblical times, the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, was not home to large literate letter writing until the Seventeen Century, after the conquest of the Country by the Ottomans in 1517.

The Ottoman Empire (Fig. 1), was divided into Pashliks (Provinces), which were governed by Pashas, appointed by the Sultan. The Pasha of Damascus governed the District of Jerusalem. Until 1840 there was no regular post service due to lack of proper transportation facilities. Mail was carried privately by couriers, by pilgrims, by travelling merchants and by members of religious organizations. In 1840 the Ottoman Post created an organized courier service from Jerusalem to Jaffa, Acre, Haifa, Tyre and Beirut. In the Mid 19th. Century, France, Austria and Russia,



sought to extend their spheres of influence in various parts of the Ottoman Empire, including in the Holy Land. They did it by opening Consulates, establishing shipping lines and opening post offices, which were much more reliable and efficient than the Turkish ones. The first postage stamps were introduced in the Holy Land during the late 1850s. First by the French Post (1857), later by the Austrian one (1864) and subsequently by the Russian post.

Nevertheless, although stamps were available, the Pre-Philatelic period extended until the late Eighteen Sixties.



**Fig. 1: Map of the Ottoman Empire circa 1620. Cartographer Brertius (1565-1629).**

### **Ecclesiastical Letters.**

At a time when the majority of the population was illiterate and thus did not need any facilities for national and international correspondence the merchants and the clergy did need it. Merchant post was organized by the relevant Merchants Guilds, by Merchant Houses (Companies), or like in the case of the Venetian Republic by the state. The clergy and in

particular the monasteries who were largely dependent on the constant flow of funds from world religious communities, required frequent contact through written communication that was carried and delivered by travelling pilgrims and monks. Occasionally the services of the Austrian Consul in Constantinople were used who transferred the mail to Vienna via an overland route. Use was also made of out of country foreign post offices, mainly in Alexandria and Beirut.

Very few ecclesiastical letters are known from Jerusalem prior to the Seventeen Century. The text side of two Ecclesiastical letters from the 17th Century, from Jerusalem are shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.2.



Juan Maria y Joseph

Sean en la continua asistencia de Vuestro. y la concurrencia que  
arriba para su Servicio recuértenle.

Viendo, como va, el portador desta a una Corte, en lo querido de Dios  
Examinar estas quatro reglas, solo aspiro a que Vuestro. entienda tie-  
ne en esta S.<sup>a</sup> Tierra un obligado, y reconocido Capellan, a la qual  
no solo me arduoso la Divina Mag.<sup>d</sup> libiando me de infinitos peli-  
gro; sino q. de lo que llegué a esta S.<sup>a</sup> Ciudad, me dexé de el. Primi-  
legio de estar de familia dentro del Templo de su S.<sup>a</sup> y gloriosa fi-  
nal sepulcro: Lugar, aunque fues por natura leza, en donde  
y ahora los mas nobres conaques; pero q. mucho si muriere, y  
fue sepultado aqui aquel S.<sup>a</sup> que vino a poner fuego en ellos.  
Puedo decir con toda verdad, que no he celebrado vez q. sea aya  
hecho especial oracion de Vuestro. lo qual tambien hago en mis  
privadas oraciones y visitas de Santuarios: y lo continuare se-  
guir q. prometi a Vuestro. con q. quanto es de mi parte, corres-  
ponde agradecido, que es lo que siempre me he preciado.  
Luego q. llegué a vivir otra a Vuestro. en q. di noticia (cuan-  
do me acia informado) como me sucede hazer la compra q.  
Vuestro. medixo, en otra alguna por asna. Cansi su buena vo-  
luntad recibirá la Virgen S.<sup>a</sup> mrd. y el S.<sup>a</sup> Dios Altissimo,  
q. orecio q. febrilimos años avichida de sus granos. Tem-  
solen. Entre el Templo del S.<sup>a</sup> Sepulcro. oy 27 de Mayo dia  
de la Ascension. 1683.

Humilde Capellan de Vuestro J. M. B.

J. M. B.

Pedro Diaz

ECCLESIASTICAL LETTER INNER PART, FROM JERUSALEM DATED 27<sup>th</sup> MAY 1683 BY PEDRO DIAZ  
OF THE 'TEMPLE OF THE SEPULCHRE' RE. CLERICAL MATTERS.

2.1: "27 May 1683, by Pedro Diaz of the TEMPLE OF THE  
HOLY SEPULCHER"



ti sana luoghi. Si fece la festa della gloriosa S. Plena  
 nella Chiesa del Nro Convento di S. Pio in Montano  
 Rubae, che penso sia riuscita conforme il genio pie-  
 toso di V.E., mentre quella S. Capella ornata co pre-  
 ziosi adocchi della sua carità, risvegliava il spirito  
 di questi sani Religiosi a pregar il Sig. acciò ci  
 conservi una madre, tanto pietosa di noi tutti, quan-  
 to si è l'Eccl<sup>la</sup>. Sig. Duchessa d'Avero. Ho soddisfat-  
 to puntualmente alla celebrazione delle dieci Messe  
 secondo l'ordine di V.E. presentaron dal P. Conf.  
 e sarà sempre prontissimo ad ogni altro suo coman-  
 damento, mentre profondamente inchinato le faccio  
 riverenza e il prego dal Sig. ogni desiderata felicità  
 SVE

Gerusalemme li 10 settembre 1686.

Devotiss<sup>mo</sup> et Oblig<sup>to</sup> Servo.  
 Angelico di Milano Guard<sup>no</sup>.  
 del S. Monte Zion

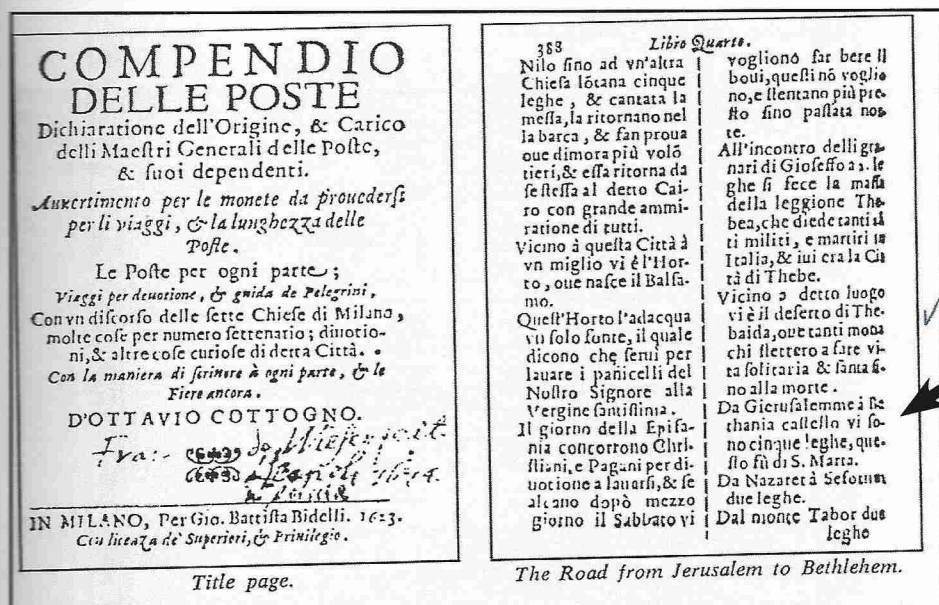
2.2: "10 September 1686, by Brother Angelico of Milan,  
 Guardian of HOLY MOUNT ZION" to the Duchess of Avero

### Venetian Letters

Parallel to the Ecclesial correspondence Venetian commercial one  
 took place. However, this sparsely included Jerusalem. The Venetian  
 traders centered their activities along the shore in port cities like;  
 Acre, Jaffa and Ashkelon and letters from and to these places are known. Still an



early Venetian Postal Guide "Compendio delle Poste", published in Milan in 1623 (Fig. 3) in which information about distance between points in the Levant is given, also mentions the road from Bethlehem to **Jerusalem** and the road from Damascus to Jerusalem. Admittedly, this guide was intended primarily for use by travelers, pilgrims and merchants, but it is well known that travelers, monks, traders and couriers of merchant companies also carried letters. Hence the term "**POSTE**" in the name of the guide.

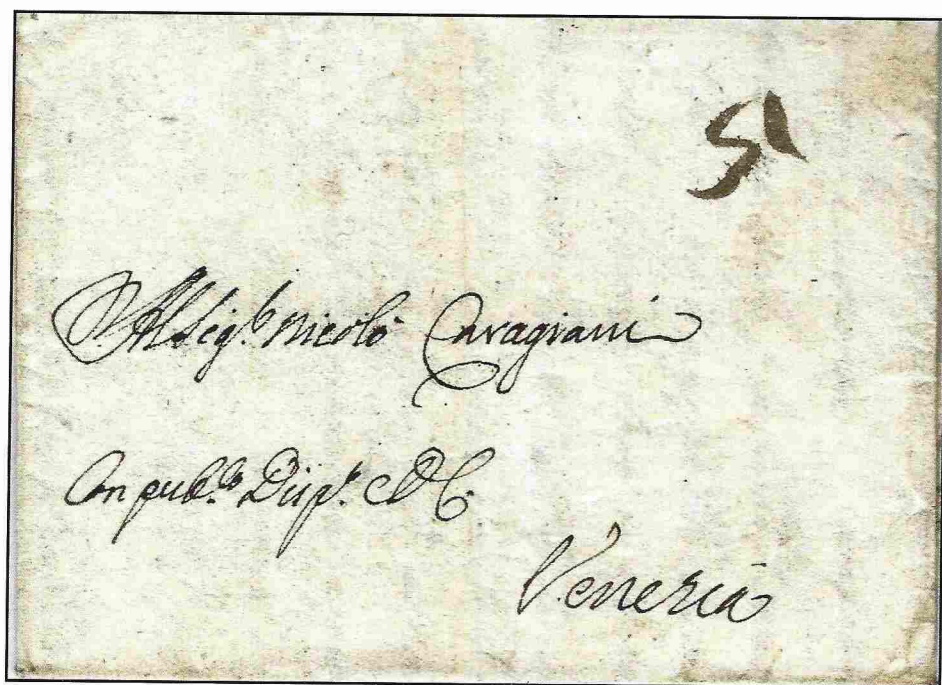


**Fig. 3: The Venetian Guide "Compendio delle Poste" of 1623, in which the route from Bethlehem and from Damascus to Jerusalem is included.**

### 18th. Century Austrian-Ottoman Treaties.

The involvement of the European Great Powers in the Ottoman Empire dates back to the sixteenth century, when a series of treaties, known as the "Capitulations" endowed the European subjects with complete legal, financial, and religious autonomy. This included the right to open Consulates through which postal communications were established that later developed into official Foreign Post Offices, among which Austria was prominent. Chapter 5 in the Peace Treaty of Passarowitz (1718)

bestowed Austria with the right to establish consulates in any city in the Ottoman Empire where a foreign consular agency already existed. This Treaty, was further expanded in 1736 and in 1748 to include the right to establish a 21 days post overland route, operating twice monthly from Vienna via Semelin, Belgrade, Nis, St. Sophia, Adrianople, Constantinople and visa versa. The rate from Constantinople to the border of the Austrian Empire was 5 Para per unit of weight and 6 Kreutzer within the boundaries of the Austrian Empire. Letters from Jerusalem to Europe were carried by a courier to Constantinople, usually via Beirut and then by the above mentioned land route to destination.



*Fig. 4: 1756, letter to Venice paying "5" Para (manuscript) to the border of the Austrian Empire in line with the Austrian-Turkish treaties of 1718 and 1736. The rate indicates that the letter was forwarded over the land route.*

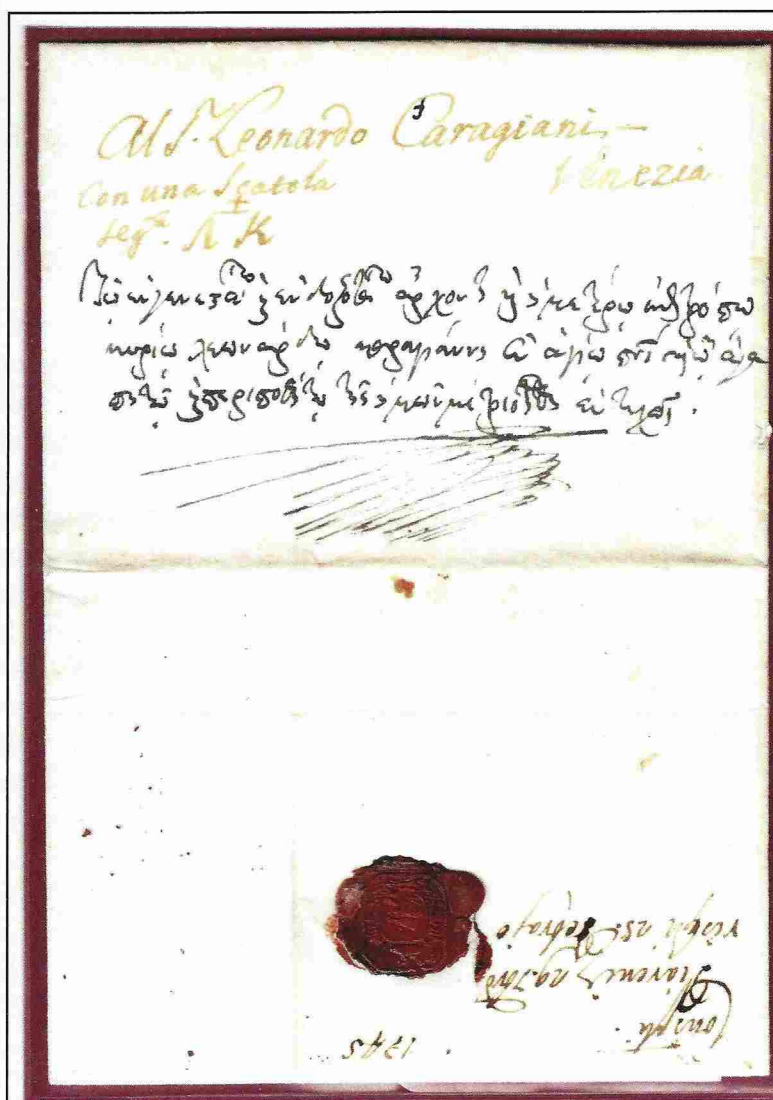


Fig. 5: Ecclesiastical letter from the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem to the merchant Carigiani in Venice, dated 24 September 1745, outside flap inscription "Constantinopoli Jiarenis 29, Resp(on) 28 di Febrajo". It took the letter four month to arrive. Possibly due to a delay in the time from writing it to the time it was given to the courier to take it to Constantinople. Although, there is no rate mark like in the previous letter (Fig. 4), it was probably forwarded by the Austrian post from Constantinople to destination.



### 19th. Century Developments

It is interesting and perhaps also amusing to start this section of the article with a citation referring to the post, from the book "**Early Memories**" by **Eliyahu Porush**, about the life in Jerusalem at the time:

"There were two Post Offices in Jerusalem – a Turkish Government one and a Austrian Government one. Working as postmen in the Austrian Post Office were Rav. Hayim Yisrael Scheinbaum and Rav. Meir, son of Rav. Avraham Aryeh Ha-Levi Hamburger. The manager was Rav. Mordechai Weisenstern. The remainder of the managers were Armenian. The Turkish Post Office was located outside of the Old City walls but had a branch inside on Street of the Jews. The branch director was Rav. Eliyahu Hoenig and the letter sorters were Rav. Mordechai Glick and Rav. Beryl Meir Tannenbaum. A Hebrew postmark was available in that branch. Turkish package mail was sent by train, in a special car, from Jerusalem to Jaffa. Austrian packages were transported to Jaffa in a 3-horse wagon with the adjutant of the Austrian consul sitting, armed with a rifle, beside the driver, to protect against thieves.

With time a German Post Office was opened with German clerks and among its mail carriers was Rav. Avraham, the grandson of Rav. Yoel Moshe Solomon.

French and Russian Post Offices also opened. The manager of the Russian mail was Mr. Avraham Solomik, a Jew, who also served as Russian vice-consul in Jerusalem. At first, Mr. Solomik worked on Shabbat as well, prompting the Jews of Jerusalem to boycott this office. The boycott was lifted after it was promised that he would not work on Shabbat. These Post Offices also sent packages in special, guarded, wagons similar to the Austrian mail."

Major postal developments took place in the 19th. Century, as the result of the growing interest of foreign powers in the political, economical and religious affairs of the Ottoman Empire. In fact, European powers were competing for a sphere of influence in the "Supreme Porte" lands and efficient communication was one of the means. Consequently in Jerusalem, the following post offices were open:



Ottoman Courier Service	1840
Austrian Consulate Post Service	1849
Austrian Lloyd Agency	1852
Imperial Austrian Post Office	1859
French Post Office	1852
Russian Consulate Post Office	1857

### *The Ottoman Post*

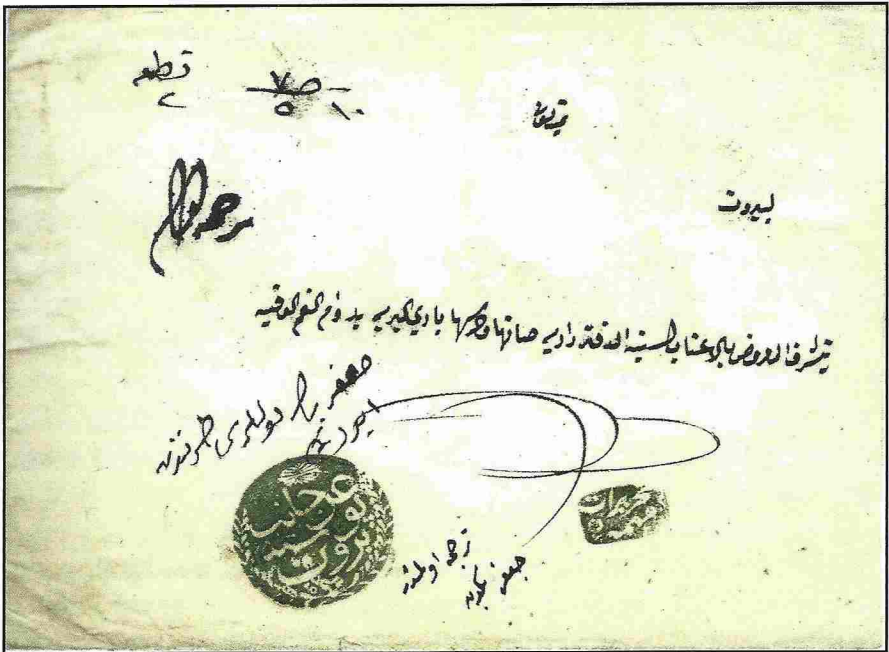
The Imperial edict of 12 Ramasan 1256 (14 October 1840) led to substantial improvements in the Ottoman postal system. A web of prescribed and regular dispatch rider (tatar) routes was created. Beginning in 1841, the Beirut-route, for example, was extended to serve Palestine, going from Beirut via Damascus and Acre to Jerusalem.

Postal services were organized at the local level by the provincial governors and the leases for the service (*posta mültesimi*) came up for auction in March each year. It is reported that in 1846, the Italian businessmen, Santali and Micciarelli became leaseholders and ran a service from Jerusalem to Ramle, Jaffa, Sûr, and Saida. By 1852, a weekly service operated from Saida via Sûr, Acre (connection to Beirut), Haifa, and Jaffa to Jerusalem, also serving Nablus beginning of 1856. That same year, two new routes came into operation: Jerusalem—Hebron—Gaza, and Tiberias—Nazareth—Shefa-'Amr—Acre. In 1867, the Jerusalem—Jaffa route operated twice weekly, in 1884, the Nablus—Jaffa route received daily dispatches.

Postal tariffs were based on the travelling hours-route hours, between the points of dispatch and receipt. The basic rate was 1 Para for every hour of the way for letters weighing up to 3 dirham's (7.98 gr.) .Above this weight half a dirham per hour was added and doubled for registered letters.

The official Ottoman post office in Jerusalem- "Kudos-O Serif" opened, however, only in 1865/6, a date which is outside the time term of this article. Prior to this date, post from Jerusalem was taken by courier to

Beirut and processed there, usually receiving the negative Ottoman post mark of Beirut, (Fig.6).



*Fig. 6: "Top of the Pile" of two letters, sent from Jerusalem to Beirut by a courier service, and marked in script: "Tetta 2" (2 pieces) and the charge of 5 Piasters and 10 Para for 7 dirhems of weight, for a distance equal to a 70 hour ride to Beirut. Cancelled upon arrival by Beirut negative seal "canib-I posta-I Beyrut 257" (On behalf of the post office of Beirut 1841). The small rectangular cachet is "Tahrirat-I Muhimme" (Official/important correspondence) - Alexander Collection.*

### **Austrian Lloyd Company**

The Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company was founded in 1835 with headquarters in Trieste. Under contract with the Austrian Post Office it acted as a sea route mail carrier in the Eastern Mediterranean. Services in the Holy Land were opened in the port cities of Jaffa in 1851 and Haifa in 1854 and inland Jerusalem in 1853. Special Austrian Lloyd postmarks/cachets were applied to the letters. The ones from the prephilatelic period from the Holy Land are rare. From Jerusalem the

letters were usually taken to the port of Jaffa and from there by the Lloyd ship to destination.



**Fig. 7: 1854, folded letter from Jerusalem to Amsterdam, cancelled by blue "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO/ GERUSALEMME" postmark. Marked in manuscript "franco sin Trieste" meaning paid/franked to Trieste. Reverse: Arrival postmark "Amsterdam 27.8.1854." (Alexander Collection).**

### **The Imperial Austrian Post Office**

**The Imperial Austrian Post Office** in Jerusalem was opened in 1859 following an agreement between the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Ministry and the "Sublime Porte". Since at that time most of the mail to Europe from the Holy Land was carried by ships of the Austrian Lloyd, it was only natural that the Company's status will be enhanced to being The Official Imperial Austrian Post Office. Forwarding agencies of this post office existed in Mea Shearim (Jerusalem), Safed, and Tiberias. Safed and Tiberias were only served by a private courier arranged by the local Austrian consular agent.





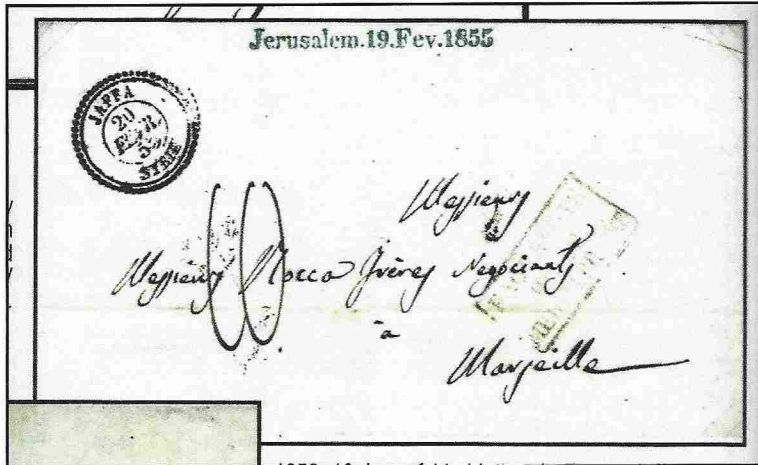
*Fig. 8: Austrian stamp issued in April 2005 to commemorate the Imperial Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem 1859-1914.*

### **The French Post Office**

The French Post Office in Jerusalem was opened in 1852, concurrently with the French Post Office in Jaffa. French post connections with the Ottoman Empire, already existed during earlier periods, basically concerning en-route post from the Levant to England. However, as of 1852 a twice monthly service to Europe was organized by the French mail-steamers, known as the "Messagerie Imperiale" (Postal Line). The ships stopped at Alexandria, **Jaffa**, Beirut, Tripoli, Latkia, Alexandretta and Constantinople. From these ports letters destined to Italy, France, England and America were taken. Letters from Jerusalem were carried to Jaffa and from there were sent to destination.



Therefore, these letters bear the postmarks of the two cities. The Jerusalem postmark for the place of origin and Jaffa postmark as "Dispatch/Transit" postmark.



*Fig. 9: 1855, letter from Jerusalem to Marseilles through the French Post Office in Jerusalem, bearing the straight line dated "Jerusalem 19.Fev.1855" place of origin postmark and the French "Jaffa/Syrie 20 Fev. 55", pearl ring postmark. (Joseph Stier Collection).*

A typical characteristic of letters that were forwarded by the French Post Office in Jerusalem is the "Jerusalem Cross", the design of which originated from the Crusaders Cross.



*Fig. 9.1: The French Jerusalem Cross*



**Fig. 10: 1861, letter from Jerusalem to Hamburg bearing the "Jerusalem Cross" cachet and Jaffa 8 Juin 61" pearl ring postmark Unpaid letter rate 13 ½ K (red manuscript) collected in Hamburg. (Joseph Stier Collection).**

The French postal agency was operated under contract and management of the Damiani family beginning in 1857, who operated a weekly postal link between Jerusalem and Jaffa.

### **Spanish Ecclesiastic Correspondence**

There was not an official Spanish post office in Jerusalem and letters from Jerusalem to Spain used other foreign post offices. J. Aron in his book "The Holy Land 3000 Years of Prephilatelic Postal History", presents the following four examples from the 19th Century:

1820, folded cover Jerusalem-Madrid; bearing Voghera 2 line and Milano postmarks and "9R" (Reales) rate mark.

1825, folded cover Jerusalem-Madrid, bearing "Turiquie" on top and "13R" (Reales) charged at destination.

1831, folded cover from Bethlehem to Madrid endorsed with circled manuscript "De Jerusalem" "5R" (Reales) charged at destination.

1835, folded cover Jerusalem-Madrid black "Turique" postmark and boxed "Autriche Par Huningue" entry cachet, "9R"(Reales) charged at destination, reverse shows Jerusalem seal (Fig. 11).

This shows that as of the Nineteen Century Ecclesiastic letters used official post organizations for the delivery of its letters and were no longer dependant on travelling pilgrims and clergy as before.



Fig. 11: The four letters mentioned above.

To be continued.

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- The Holy Land 3000 years of Prephilatelic Postal History-Joseph Aron.
- Bale Holy Land Catalogue-Ottoman and Foreign Post Offices.
- The Alexander Collection- Milestones in the Postal History of the Holy Land.
- The Holy Land Philatelist-F.W. Pollack.
- Holy Land Postal History I 10, V 87-88, 93-94, VI 109-112, 115-116.
- Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918 VOLS. I & II - A. Steichele
- The South African Philatelist Vol. 67 No. 1 - Aspects of Holy Land Postal History - Hilda Jeidel.

### **References:**



## French Postal Services in Jerusalem 1858-1914

*Mike Bass, U.S.A*

Editor's Note: In presenting this article we use a **new approach**. Instead of having a detailed article, we try to achieve the same purpose through an **illustrative exhibit format**. The benefit being that it allows to show France's postal operations in Jerusalem during a period of more than fifty years in a comprehensive and a concise way. During those fifty years there were many developments, which could not have been covered in one article in one issue. Even so, the new format facilitates to highlight the philatelic important subjects such as: rates, routes, registration, stamps, postmarks etc. by actually showing the letters and discussing these shortly. Readers who wish to have further detailed information are referred to the list of references at the end of the article.

### ***Purpose:***

- Examination of France's Formal Postal operations in the Holy City.
- Forwarding Postal Services using Consulate Services.
- Official French Post Office opened 1900.
- Emphasis on overseas routes and rates, and relevant markings.

### ***Scope***

- Handling of mail originating in the Holy Land using formal mail routes.
- Jerusalem center of influence for commerce and religious pilgrimages.
- France established consulate in Jerusalem early 19th century to maintain presence.
- No postal services available to French citizens working in or visiting Holy Land.

## ***Context***

- Postal agent set up by France to handle mail in its Jerusalem Consulate.
- Transport fee charged by Forwarding Agent to take mail from Jerusalem to Jaffa.
- France established consulate in Jerusalem early 19<sup>th</sup> century to maintain presence.
- Services suspended in 1879 due to intense competition from Austrian Post Office.
- France opened formal Post Office in Jerusalem in 1900.
- Outbreak of WWI caused closure of France's postal operations in 1914.

### **1. Consular Post up to 1858**

Mail from Jerusalem sent via the French consulate received a single line origin marking, or a manuscript indication and was carried to Jaffa to enter the regular mail stream.



***Rhomboid 3768 – used until 1862***

Jerusalem to Santiago, Chile via Jaffa, Alexandria, Egypt; Marseilles, France; and London, England Sent: 2 April 1858, Transit: Jaffa 2 April 1858, Marseilles, and London 17 April 1858. Rate 100c. franked By 1853 Napoleon Imper. Issue canceled by "3768" Rhomboid postmark in Jaffa.

The "15" in red circle Indicates additional transit fee in Chile. (Karpovsky Coll.)<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Postal Agency Mail 1858-1879

### Rhomboid 3768 – used until 1862



- Jerusalem to Boston, Massachusetts via Jaffa; Alexandria, Egypt; and Marseilles, France.
- Sent: 25 April 1862.
- Transit: 26 April and 6 May 1862.
- Arrival: 24 May 1862 Boxed red hand stamp – ‘AM Service’ (American Packet).
- 40 centimes rate to Jaffa + 80 centimes rate to Boston + 40 centimes closed mail fee Jaffa rhomboid ‘3768’ postmark, boxed ‘PD’ (paid to destination) marking.

<sup>1</sup> This is one of the two pictures in the presentation that are not from Mike’s exhibit.

*Rhomboid 5089 – used from 1862*



- Jerusalem to London, via Jaffa; Alexandria, Egypt; Marseilles and Paris, France.
- Sent: 2 November 1863; Transit: 2, 3, 14 and 15 November 1863; Arrival: 16 November 1863.
- 40 centimes letter rate to Jaffa + 80 centimes letter rate to London.
- Jaffa rhomboid '5089' postmark, boxed 'PD' (paid to destination) marking.

### Rhomboid 5089



- Jerusalem to Paris, France via Jaffa and Alexandria, Egypt.
- Sent: 24 December 1875.
- Transit: 24, 26 December 1875.



- Arrival: 5 January 1875 (back stamps).
- 40 centimes rate to Jaffa + 40 centimes rate to Paris.
- Jaffa Rhomboid '5089' postmark.
- Boxed 'PD' (paid to destination).
- Jerusalem Cross origin marking.

### **Rhomboid 5089**

**Route: Jerusalem New Brunswick. Rate: 120 centimes + 2 cent local fee.**



Rhomboid  
Postmark



Paid to  
Destination



Double ring  
with pearls

- Jerusalem to New Brunswick, New Jersey via Jaffa; Alexandria, Egypt; Marseille, France; and London, England.
- Sent: 3 April 1871; Transit: 3, 6, 17 and 21 April 1871; Arrival: 4 May 1871 (manuscript on rear).
- 40 centimes letter rate to Jaffa + 80 centimes letter rate to Boston.
- 2 cents local delivery fee (Exchange Office).
- Jaffa Rhomboid '5089' postmark boxed 'PD' (paid to destination).

## Rhomboid 5089

**Route: Jerusalem Pennsylvania. Rate: 140 centimes + 2 cent local fee.**



Jerusalem  
Cross



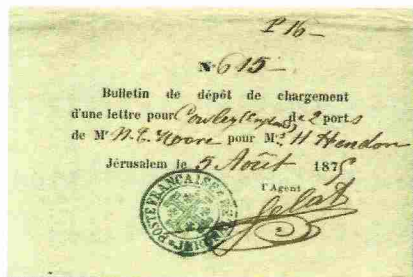
Paid to  
Destination



Double ring  
with pearls

- Jerusalem to Reading, Pennsylvania, via Jaffa; Alexandria, Egypt; Marseilles, France; London, England; and New York, New York.
- Sent: 8 March 1872; Transit: 9, 11, 19, 20 and 21 March 1872.
- Arrival: March 1872 via Marseilles on British Packet.
- 80 centimes letter rate to Jaffa to France + 60 centimes to U.S.A.
- 2 cents local delivery fee (Exchange Office).
- Jaffa Rhomboid '5089' postmark boxed 'PD' (paid to destination).

## Registration Service insufficiently paid



Jerusalem  
Cross

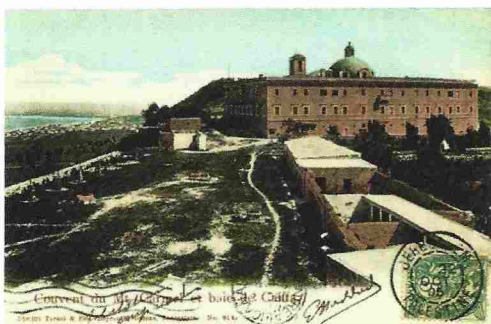


Double ring  
with pearls



### 3. Official Post Office 1900-1914

The Damiani agency reopened the French post office in Jerusalem on 3 September 1900 in the lobby of the Grand New Hotel at the New Bazaar in the Old City. The French post office opening was likely a consequence of the opening of the German post office in the same year. The post office was relocated to the Credit Lyonnais bank building in 1904. Offices were maintained in Caifa, Jaffa and Jerusalem and maintained close collaborative efforts with the French post offices in Alexandria, Beirut, Constantinople and Marseilles. On the eve of World War I, all French post offices ceased operating in the Levant 30 September 1914.



26mm ø  
Slot under 'J'

- Jerusalem to Montreal, Canada via Beyrouth, Syria.
- Sent: 22 October 1905.
- Transit: 17 November 1905.
- Arrival: 7 December 1905 (wavy line machine cancel).
- 10 Para (5 centimes) souvenir card rate.



## Rare Destination Postcard



- Souvenir card without message rate = 10 Para.
- Jerusalem to Mexico City, Mexico.
- Sent: 3 October 1905.
- Arrival: 27 October 1905.
- 10 Para (20 centimes) post card rate.

## Earliest reported date for this postmark type on a Postcard



26mm ø  
Center ring  
slotted before 'J'

Mail en-route often received a transit marking on passing through a city en route to its destination. In some instances, a special postal marking device was used only for this purpose, as in this case on the postcard from Jaffa to Jerusalem

- Sent: 10 December 1902.
- 20 Para (10 centimes) post card rate.

**Earliest reported date for this postmark type**



Date missing  
time and year

- Jerusalem to Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, USA.
- Sent: 22 May 1905.
- Arrival: 12 June 1905 (back stamped).
- 1 Piaster letter rate.

**Earliest reported date for this postmark type**



- Sent: **17 April 1905.**
- Arrival: 18 April 1905 --(Back stamped).
- 1 Piaster letter rate.

**One of Twelve examples of overall advertising covers recorded**



26mm ø  
Slot under 'J'



Registration

- Jerusalem to Paris, France.
- Sent: 28 April 1902.
- Transit: 2 May 1902.
- Arrival: 7 May 1902 (backstamp).
- 1 Piaster letter rate.
- + 1 Piaster registration.

**Earliest reported date for this postmark type**



- Jerusalem to Lot et Garonne, France.
- Sent: 9 May 1905.
- Arrival: 19 May 1905 (backstamp).
- 1 Piastre letter rate + 1 Piastre registration.

### Registration Rate



Registration

- Jerusalem to Paris, France via Jaffa.
- Sent: 22 January 1905.
- Transit: 23 January 1905.
- Arrival: 31 January 1905 (backstamp).
- 1 Piaster letter rate+ **1 Piaster registration.**

### Printed Matter Rate



- Jerusalem to Niofe, France.
- Sent: 22 February 1905.
- 5 centimes (10 Para) **printed matter rate.**



#### 4. Official Mail

Official mail was sent free of charge, both postage and registration fees were unpaid. The official nature of this mail type was indicated through the imprinted text cachet, 'Republic of France' with the imprinted text notice 'Service.'

#### Extremely rare use of post office official mail



- Jerusalem to Lima, New York, USA.
- Sent: 4 February 1914.
- Arrival: 26 February 1914 (backstamp).

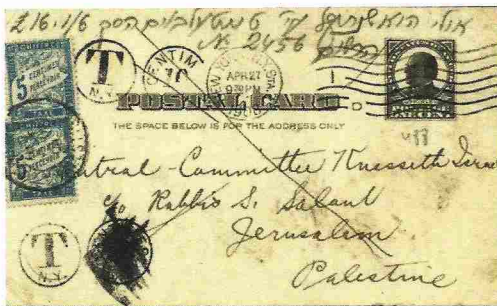
## 5. Latest recorded use of Jerusalem registration label

### *Postage Due Mail Taxed at double deficiency*



- Jerusalem to La Bresse, Vosges, France.
- Sent: 4 February 1901.
- Arrival: 15 February 1901.
- Postcard rate 10 centimes; 5 centimes underpaid; Taxed 2 X 5 centimes.
- Total due = 10 centimes taxed at double deficiency.

## 6. Insufficient foreign postcard rate



- Foreign postcard rate 2 cents; 1 cent underpaid; Taxed 2 X 1¢ = 2¢; 1 cent = 5 centimes; Total due = 10 centimes. Jerusalem postmark cancels postage due stamps.

- New York, New York, USA to Jerusalem.
- Sent: 27 April 1908.
- Arrival: 14 May 1908.

\*\*\*\*\*

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- Bale Specialized Holy Land Catalogue: Ottoman and Foreign Post Offices.
- Postal History and Stamps during the Rule of the Ottoman Empire. The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918; Anton Steichele; Vol. 1.

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## French Consulate Stamps In Jerusalem In 1948\*

*Sid Morginstin, U.S.A*

### **Foreword**

In this article, I summarize information gleaned from recent publications, and provide some background information of this fascinating and brief philatelic adventure in Jerusalem 1948. Some of these materials were in French publications and so may be unfamiliar to the English reader. Also, being a summation it provides a wide perspective of this unusual and perhaps controversial subject.

### **The Stamps**

The 2010 BALE ISRAEL catalogue (page 37) lists four stamps issued by the French consulate. The values are in dollars and are estimates for mint/ used/ on cover.

#### ***1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE (Bale catalog numbers)***

Issued May 5, 1948. French Consulaire “Gratis” stamps overprinted “Jerusalem Postes Françaises”

#### ***Mint/Used/Cover***

#125 - 6 fr.	Poste Française	\$2750/3000/6000
#126 - 10 fr.	Post Ariennes (air mail)	\$3500/3750/6000

Bale has a note: “The French Consul in Jerusalem at the time, Mr. René Neuville, appears to be a philatelist. Most of the covers known were prepared by him and some actually mailed (mainly to France).”

#### ***2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE***

Issued May 15, 1948. “Agencies Consulaires” stamp overprinted “Jérusalem Postes Françaises 20 milliemes”



*Mint/Used/Cover*

#127 - 20 mil.	Overprinted stamp (red yellow)	\$200/250/800
----------------	--------------------------------	---------------

**3<sup>RD</sup> ISSUE**

Issued May 26, 1948. French 6 Franc "Marianne" stamp overprinted "Jérusalem 20 Milliemes"

*Mint/Used/Cover*

#128 - 20m/6fr 20 mils	overprinted on ref. 6 Fr. Stamp	\$80/100/240
------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------

**Background To The Issue Of These Stamps.**

Prior to World War One, the area was ruled by the Ottoman Empire. Various European governments extracted concessions to operate postal services. One of these was France. All foreign post offices were closed by the end of the war (1917-1918), when the British Mandate began.

Consequently, the French Consul General in Jerusalem, Mr. René Neuville, was no longer subordinate to the French Ambassador in Constantinople. Although the British suspected the motives of France's protection of Christians in Palestine, the French Consul General maintained an important influence locally. In fact his office was granted certain autonomy that allowed him to assume some diplomatic importance, on top of the consular duties, in a Near East that quickly began to be reconfigured. This is the context in which plans were begun in 1929 for the construction of a consular headquarters, whose imposing design reinforced the intention of France to maintain its influence in the region. The new Consulate opened in 1932. The quarter around the new Consulate had considerable caché. The Pontifical Institute (completed in 1927) was the consulate's immediate neighbor, followed in 1930 by the Scottish Church, the King David Hotel (1931), and the YMCA in 1933. At the same time, the sumptuous residence of the British High Commissioner was erected on an adjoining hilltop.

The British ruled the area until soon after World War Two when they gave up their Mandate. The United Nations partitioned Palestine into a Jewish State and an Arab State on November 29, 1947. The British Mandate of Palestine was to end on May 15, 1948.

From February 1948 onwards the roads to Jerusalem were under attack by Arabs. The Israelis were able to get some convoys through to the city. The last of these was on 20<sup>th</sup>. April, when the formal siege officially began. The siege was not fully lifted until June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The British ceased postal operations in Jerusalem on or about April 25<sup>th</sup>. 1948. However, they started closing them earlier.

For a period of 14 days, until the provisional government could get the postal services running, there were no official or organized postal services in the Western part of Jerusalem.

The various consular offices attempted to have their official mail transferred either to the coast (perhaps Tel Aviv or Haifa) or through Jordanian lines to Amman or Beirut

### **How The Stamps Came About**

René Neuville the French Consul in Jerusalem issued on 30 April 1948 a proclamation or ordinance about the interruption of all postal services, the lack of French postage stamps, and asking French nationals to send mail through the Consulate. The "legal/procedural" basis for the proclamation was Article 12, Section One, of the official French Edict of March 1781, which allowed French consulates in the Levant to establish a postal service under certain conditions. The problem was however that the authority to do so was granted to France by the Ottoman Sultan at the time, and Ottoman rule in Palestine was long gone in 1948.

He set the postal rates at 6 francs for sea mail and 10 francs for air mail, to be paid by surcharging 300 Consulate "Gratis" adhesive stamps, 150 stamps for each rate. The upper five rows of 5 stamps each, were overprinted "Jérusalem/ Poste Aérienne 10 Frs" in three lines, and the lower five rows with "Jérusalem/Postes Françaises 6 Frs". The word "GRATIS" was overprinted with a bar on both cases (Fig. 1).



*Fig. 1: The overprinted Consular 6 fr. stamp of the first issue, on a May 1948 cover from Jerusalem to Paris, and the 10 fr. Stamp of the same issue.*

These stamps are known as “1<sup>st</sup> issue” and were available at the consulate as of May 5<sup>th</sup>. 1948. The proclamation was circulated within the consulate itself and presumably to certain French institutions in the City.

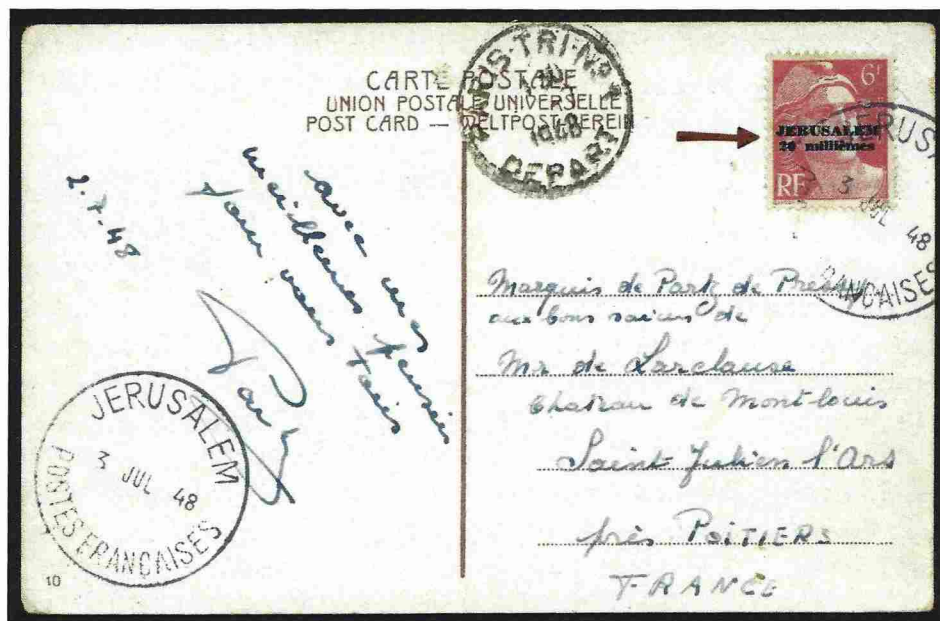
When the stamps issued under the first proclamation were sold out, Neuville on May 15<sup>th</sup>. 1948, issued a second proclamation, (English translation appendix 2), and the “2<sup>nd</sup>. issue” of stamps. This issue was also prepared by overprinting of Consular stamps, as in the previous issue, but inscribed “Agence Consulaire” instead of “Gratis”. The stamps were also overprinted “Jérusalem/Postes Française 20 Milliemes” and two bars covered the legend “Agence Consulaire”. As shown on the stamps, the postal rate for airmail was to be 20 mils. Surcharges were applied to 2,000 Agences Consulaires stamps (Fig. 2).



*Fig. 2: The overprinted Consular 20 Milliemes stamp of the second issue, on a May 1948 cover from Jerusalem to Paris.*

Later, reciting the 1781 edict and the prior two ordinances, the Consul issued a proclamation on 26 May, ordering 5,000 French “Marianne” stamps to be overprinted, (Fig. 3) and that these be used for franking airmail letters to France.





**Fig. 3: The overprinted 20 Milliemes "Marianne" stamp of the third issue, on a postcard from Jerusalem to France.**

Ostensibly, the reason for the new issue was that the supply of 2300 Foreign Affairs Consular Service stamps (e.g., passport and visa stamps) were exhausted, though this seems unlikely. For this third issue, Neville made use of the 6 franc value (issued in 1946 in carmine) of the current French definite stamp, the 1945 Marianne (Scott A147) series. At first he planned to make available the same two values as with the prior two issues — 6 francs for land/sea routes, 16 francs for airmail (using a 10 franc and a 6 franc stamp). The 6 fr. stamps were to be sold for 7 mills each, and the 16f (10fr + 6 fr stamp) for 13 mills. But based on his experience with the previous issues, Neuville scrapped the two values and issued only 6 fr. stamps, surcharge at 20 mills. regardless of how the mail was transmitted.

The surcharges were done by the Azriel Printing Co., on Ben-Yehuda Street, Jerusalem. A single metal date stamp was used for the entire period in use, which was produced by Kretschmer & Sons, a metal workshop located at 1, Hassolel St., in Jerusalem.

5000 stamps were surcharged at a cost of 30,000 francs charged to the MAE (Ministre des Affaires Étrangères). The French Bureau of PTT (Poste, Telegramme & Telegraphe) objected to the issuance of these Jerusalem stamps but the Foreign Office backed up Neuville.

The third issue stamps were surcharged on 30 May 1948, and were available thereafter, though evidence suggests they weren't put into use until 20 June. The Consular postal service was stopped on 31 January 1949, as a result of France's recognition of the *de facto* existence of the State of Israel as of that date. Also, Trans-Jordan set up a postal service in Jerusalem (East) in December 1948.

Shimony, Rimon, and Karpovsky (ref. 1), mention a private communication between L. Livnat and E. Glassman in 1975, of which two phrases are of interest here:

1. The issue of these stamps was a deliberate political move designed to underline the French Government's attitude regarding the proposed International status of the City under the Partition Plan.
2. The Consul was ordered to prepare the issue of stamps through the use of the 1781 Edict, arrangements being made to send him stamps from the Post Office in Paris. However, these arrived too late, so that temporary local arrangements had to be made.

Not only was René Neuville somewhat of a philatelist, but he was also the local President of the United Nations Truce Commission from June 1948 on, and as such, chaired negotiations between Jordan and Israel over various cease-fire and truce agreements. Neuville was also alive to the possibility of re-opening French postal services on two accounts:

1. As early as 1915, the French Government envisioned re-opening its Capitulatory post offices in Turkish areas after hostilities ceased.
2. As part of implementing the UN partition plan of 29 November 1947 that Jerusalem was to be put under an international regime and hence the French post service (however restricted) would demarcate a neutral service between Jordanian and Israeli services.

3. A third question arises about the rates set by Neuville. They do not match any of the published rates, and the consul could not know in advance the cost of sending out mail by car, truck, or plane.

### *A Controversy For The Stamps*

Even without Levant's communication, the consulate's authority is an obvious problem. Had such measures been taken in the past? Unless the consulate used French stamps during the Mandate – and none have ever been seen – all Jerusalem mail was franked with the stamps issued by the British. There were French stamps in use during the Ottoman Period. However, these could not be used in 1948.

I surmise that René Neuville used whatever stamps that were on hand for the first two issues. By May 26, the Marianne stamps could have already arrived from France if ordered in early April. If this was not the case, then he would have used a stock of these stamps stored by the consulate. But then I will ask why would the consulate have any of the regular French stamps? After all, no Mandate era covers with French stamps have ever been seen. It is a mystery.

Asher's article in *The Holy Land Philatelist* (#24, Oct 1956, reprinted in ref. # 3) questions the legitimacy of these stamps. As can be seen from the Catalogue listing, the first issue was after the end of the Mandate and the other two after the establishment of the State of Israel. Asher points out that the 1781 law was promulgated under Louis XV and under the Code of Napoleon all prior laws, except this one, were abolished.

Asher deduces that as the three aforementioned ordinances were not publicly published and as the text states that the receipts were to be given to the Postal Administration, the Consular service was an "internal service". He goes on to the question about the postal rates, the forwarding of the mails, the number of French nationals in Jerusalem, and other items.

### *Postmarks And Postal History*

Two postmarks were used for mail with the second series, one reading "Jérusalem, postes françaises" and the other "Jérusalem, poste aérienne".

There was a single postmark for mail with the third series. This was determined because, in effect, letters were likely to be carried by air for part of most of the journey from the Levant to Paris.

The French Embassy came under heavy fire in June-July 1948, and René Neuville did much of his work at the Church of Saint Anne in the Old City, where a radio antenna was installed. Mail was collected at St. Anne's and then bound into the consular valise at the Embassy. The courier made this trip 2 to 4 times a month, each time carrying 100 to 250 letters. His route by car was out of Jerusalem East, across the Allenby Bridge beyond Jericho to Amman. From Amman the consular valise was taken by car to Damascus and then to Beirut, or by airplane from Damascus to Beirut, and then by plane to Paris. Initially, the valise may have traveled by a U.N. plane, which during 1948 made a trip from Beer Shiva to Ramallah to Beirut. At the end of the trip, the consular valise ended up at the Quai d'Orsay (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), where the letters were sorted and those with further destinations put into the mail stream.

Simony's book (ref. # 1) contains a discussion about the handling of the mail from the Consulate. The following is a summation.

A special postmark was used for the cancellation. It consisted of a single ring with the text: *Jérusalem Postes Françaises*, and the date in a single line in the center. No covers franked with the first issue and very few letters/covers franked with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> issue, which were cancelled by this postmark, have arrival marks.

Thus, the authors embark upon a discussion regarding the legitimacy of any covers bearing these stamps. They feel that an arrival mark will give some credence to the covers. However, such a mark is not used on regular mail.

All covers that do have an arrival mark, have a *Paris Départ* postmark – even those addressed to Paris. The reason given is that this service was by diplomatic pouch to Paris, where it entered the ordinary postal route.

The authors depict two covers. Both have the *Paris Départ* postmark of June 2, 1948. However, one was mailed May 5 and the other May 26.



They conjecture that this was due to the difficulties in passing the mail thru the war inflicted area around Jerusalem and Beirut.

The authors point out that some covers are taxed for postage due. They surmise that this was either because the local postmaster felt that the stamps were invalid or for other legitimate reasons (forwarding or over weight). They state "it was clear that officials at the main post office in Paris knew of the Consular stamps since very few letters are known taxed there for reasons of invalidity of the stamps" (ref.1, p. 240).

In his new book on these stamps, Livnat (ref. # 4) includes images of several letters which were sent to Morocco and other places. This shows that Neuville was not creating a philatelic fantasy but that many of the letters show regular postal use, even if the PTT objected."

\* A version of this article appeared already in "The Levant" journal Vol. 5 # 5 (May 2010) of the Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society.

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4. Livnat, R. Jérusalem, le Post Consulaire Française 1948. (Academe de Philatelie, 2007)

The author thanks Richard Rose for locating relevant passages and translating them from French.

\* A version of this article first appeared in *The Levant* (5:5 May 2010)

## **The use of postage stamps as revenues During Israel's war of Independence**

*Captain Yaakov Shabtai, Ramat-Gun, Israel.*

Israel's War of Independence was the outcome of the political situation which took place following the UN resolution on November 29th 1947, whereby Palestine is to be divided into two separate entities, Jewish and Arabic.

The Jewish community accepted the UN decision, whereas the Arab leaders in Palestine rejected it. The Arab terror attacks on the Jewish population commenced thereafter.

On Friday, May 14th 1948, the establishment of the Jewish State was proclaimed and the British Mandate ended the following day. On that same day armed forces of seven Arab countries crossed the borders of Israel with the sole intent of preventing the establishment of the Jewish State.

The ten days of fighting, following the cease-fire (June 11th - July 9th) were in Israel's favor. The siege on Jerusalem was broken, the Egyptian army was surrounded and the Southern Israeli settlements in the Negev were liberated. Towards the end of 1948, the hostilities ceased and the truce negotiations began.

The changes in government during the war disrupted most of the services normally supplied to the population by the ruling regime. The Mandatory services were discontinued gradually in April 1948 when it became clear that the British Mandate in Palestine would be terminated.

The Jewish interim government, called "Minhelet Ha'am" instructed all public servants of Jewish origin to continue with their tasks. The department of Posts and Telegraph issued postage stamps, "Jewish National Funds" (JNF) labels with a "DOAR" (POST) overprint, for use during the Interim Period.














The use of the Interim Period stamps ceased with the establishment of the State of Israel, when the "Doar Ivri" stamps, were introduced concurrently.

***The postage stamps used as revenues during the war of Independence were:***

1. **British Mandate Stamps** - During the last days of the Mandate, Palestine's definitives were utilized as Revenues. The set used was issued in 1927 and was invalidated on May 15th 1948,

*The Palestine Corporation Limited, Jerusalem*  
Salary Sheet for the year 1948

*Mrs. Ruth Stanner*  
I hereby certify my salary and cost of living allowance as evidenced by my signature against the entry for the month in question.

Month	Signature	Cost of Liv. All.	Salary	Total received
31/Jan		12.450	55-	63.450
23 Feb Bonus for 1947		3.114	5-	55.550
29 Feb		15.550	40-	55.550
31 Mar		18.945	40-	58.945 ✓
24 Apr		16.920	40-	58.920
30 Apr		16.920	40-	58.920
30 June		4.350 19.050	40-	63.450 ✓
9/6 July Bonus		94.520	—	94.520
20 "		27.960	40-	67.960
24 Aug		27.960	40-	67.960
30 Sept		27.960	40-	67.960 ✓
15 Oct Bonus		67.960	—	67.960
31 "		27.960	40-	67.960
30 Nov		1.260 23.220	40-	64.480
31 Dec		23.220	40-	63.220 ✓
		242.565	480	936.889

**Fig. 1: Annual Salary Sheet January-December 1948, in which the Governmental Administrative changes during that year are reflected through the stamps, starting with Mandate stamps and concluding with Doar Ivri stamps. (All stamps were used as revenue stamps).**

2. **"Minhelet Ha'am"** – Overprinted JNF stamps were used until May 16<sup>th</sup>. 1948, in Tel-Aviv's Main Post Office. The "Minhelet Ha'am - Haim Weizman" 10 mils stamp was however, used for taxing purposes, until April 23<sup>rd</sup>, as well as "Kofer Hayeshuv" stamps.

“Kofer Hayishuv” stamps were introduced by the Jewish National Committee in Palestine in 1938. Its purpose was to raise money for the defense, for families of WW II volunteers and for social services. Following the UN resolution for the partition of Palestine, the same pattern of use continued, namely on receipts for the donations for the war effort. During the Interim Period these Kofer Hayishuv labels were also used as revenue stamps and also as postage stamps in few Post Offices, (Fig. 2).

[illegible]

*Fig. 2: Loan order for 100 pounds issued on May 5th, 1948, during the "Minhelet Ha'am" period. The loan order/bill was taxed by a 10 mil "Minhelet Ha'am" revenue stamp of the "JNF" overprinted with the red Tel-Aviv "DOAR" (POST) overprint, and a 5 mil "Kofer Hayeshuv" stamp.*



- V 582
- AGREEMENT for HIRE and SALE
- It is hereby agreed upon, that Firm Symphonia, Tel-Aviv lets out  
to Mr. (Mrs.) R. Schmid Tel-Aviv  
of Hahad Benjamim street No. '83 a Accordion 75 sup Basilachio  
under the following conditions for the period of 8 months.  
one case
1. The rent for the a.m. period of hire is £P. 65/- (Sixty-five -  
Palestinian Pounds) and will be paid out  
as follows:
- The Hirer pays on signing this agreement £P. 25.- (Twenty-five -  
Palestinian pounds) and shall thereafter pay  
the balance by monthly instalments the amount of which is fixed as  
follows:
1. IV. 48 £P. 2.-      1. VII. 48 £P. 2.-
- J. Schmid  
15 May 1948
- Tel-Aviv
10. In case of dispute both parties are bound to bring their  
respective claims before the Magistrate Court at Tel-Aviv only.
- any other person or body without necessity of obtaining previous  
consent of the hirer to do so and the hirer hereby agrees to be bound by  
each assignment or transfer. But the transferee shall be bound by  
the conditions of this agreement.

593





The Bill of Exchange (Fig. 5 on the previous page) - for 2300 Pound Sterling at Thirty days right to be paid to the order of H. & N.M. Jacobs of 38, Duen Street, Manchester 2 England, to the Gilmore Trading Ltd. of 25, Kingsway, Haifa, Palestine. The Bill was made on April 9th, 1948 and was revenue taxed on the same day with Six Shilling, by two time Three Shilling British revenue tax markings. It was transferred to the Anglo-Palestine Bank - Haifa Branch, where the money was collected on May 26th by the Gilmore Trading Company. There the Bill was revenue taxed with 2 pound and 300 mils, by two 1000 mils - on front, plus six 50 mils Doar Ivri postage stamps, on the reverse. **The use of Doar Ivri 1000 mils postage stamps as revenues is seldom seen.**

4. **Jerusalem under siege and after liberation** - The siege of Jerusalem started at the beginning of April 1948. The three issues of "Minhelet Ha'am" overprinted "JNF" stamps, prepared in the besieged city, served as Revenues. On May 16th, the Revenues called "Otzar Ha'am" (Peple's Treasure) were put into use simultaneously for a short period. The Doar Ivri stamps were brought into the besieged capital with the first convoy in mid June and were put into use on June 20th. These stamps served as Revenues until the introduction of the official new revenue stamps (Fig.6).



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*Fig. 6: An Anglo Palestine cheque drafted in Jerusalem on June 8th, 1948 bearing a 10 mil. "Otzar Ha'am" (People's Treasure) revenue stamp. Further revenue was collected when the cheque was cleared by affixing a 10 mil. Doar Ivri stamp (Reverse).*

**It must be emphasized that the use of postage stamps as Revenues was on various Non Postal documents, such as:** Invoices, Receipts, Promissory Notes, Bills of Exchange, Loan Orders, Power of Attorney, Transfer of Shares, Lease Contracts, Agreements for Hire and Salary Sheets.

**The use on documents for levying tax** - The amount for levying tax was fixed for a variety of documents, whereas for other papers the tax levied was dependant on the value of the transaction. The Revenues that were affixed on non-postal documents were cancelled by the signatures of the parties in question; this was done by a pen dipped in ink or by the use of personal seals or marks. According to law, the Revenues must be cancelled in order to prevent their re-use, which would be subject to A Bill of Exchange fines and penalties.

**Fixed amount of tax to be collected** - Invoices, receipts, Loan Orders and monthly salary sheets were taxed at 10 mils. 'Lease Contracts' were



taxed at 250 mils whereas 'transfer of shares' were taxed at 500; 'power of attorney' papers were taxed at 250 or 500 mils plus 50 mils for notary endorsement.

**Progressive tax, dependant on value of transaction** - The value of one 'pro mille' was levied for cheques, promissory notes and contracts, when the value of the transaction was high. For low value transactions, the tax levied was fixed at 10, 20, 60 or 100 mils, accordance to the value of the transaction.



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## PhilaPedia.com The New Postal History Site

*Moti Kremener Haifa, Israel.*

**"Philapedia"** is a multilingual, web-based, free-content Encyclopedia project for postal history collectors. The name PhilaPedia is a portmanteau of two words "Philatelic and Encyclopedia".

**"Philapedia"** project provides historical, philatelic, price valuation and other information regarding postal history items from all over the world.

The most important *objective* of this project is to introduce this hobby to new collectors. As one philatelist told me in this year's London 2010 World Exhibition, *"since the young generation will inherit our collections, we must make sure they inherit our knowledge as well...."*

A presentation of the project was held on Aug, 13 at the APS 2010 Stampshow in Richmond, Verginia, and received there positive responses from collectors, dealers and auctioneers.

Subsequently, it was launched during London 2010 World Exhibition and a presentation is scheduled for Monaco 2011.

Philapedia is supported by the FIP Commission for Postal History as well as specialist Postal History Societies and work groups, in several countries.

## **Background**

As a collector of "Postal History" I have always been looking for a central source to find historical, philatelic and valuation information about an item. I had to rely on numerous philatelic literatures, auction catalogs and relevant collections to gather information about the item in question.

This in contrast to the traditional stamp collector who can easily find information regarding a stamp in a large number of general and specialized "Stamp Catalogs" that are published in Great Britain, USA, Germany and in many other publications from around the globe.

The advanced postal history collector has gained his information during years of collecting, however, to the beginner and upcoming collector it is a difficult task. One needs access to philatelic centers in major cities in order to find the information he is seeking.

Philapedia.com project was created to become a world center for "Postal History", where collectors can acquire information and add philatelic items and data, criticize and evaluate it.

How did we come about to develop the Philapedia site?

The idea evolved from my needs as a postal history collector spending a great deal of time and effort looking for information about various items in my collection; hence, as the old English proverb goes: "Necessity is the mother of invention".

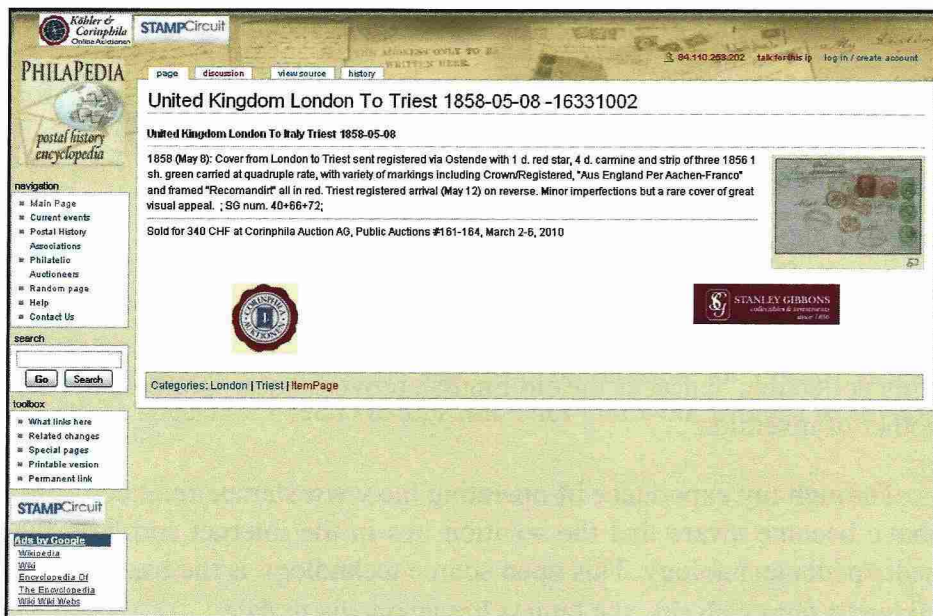
Through my experience of operating the [www.stampcircuit.com](http://www.stampcircuit.com) site, I have become aware that the solution lies in the internet and with the media/pedia technology. This open source technology is the basis for the [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com) web site, the largest Encyclopedia to date.

## Conclusion

Being an active participant in organized philately on national and international levels I know that one of **our most important tasks** is to introduce our hobby to new collectors. Today, the main source of information for the young generation is through the internet, and unless we bring philatelic data to the internet we will lose that public.

The cooperation we received from the FIP postal history commission, other postal Societies and the many auctioneers working with us at stampcircuit, reinforces the feeling that this project is much needed.

We are sure that with all of us behind this project, philately in general and postal history in particular, will become more relevant than ever.



*Fig. 1: An example of a "page" in Philaphidia.*



## Roadside Hotel On The Way To Jerusalem

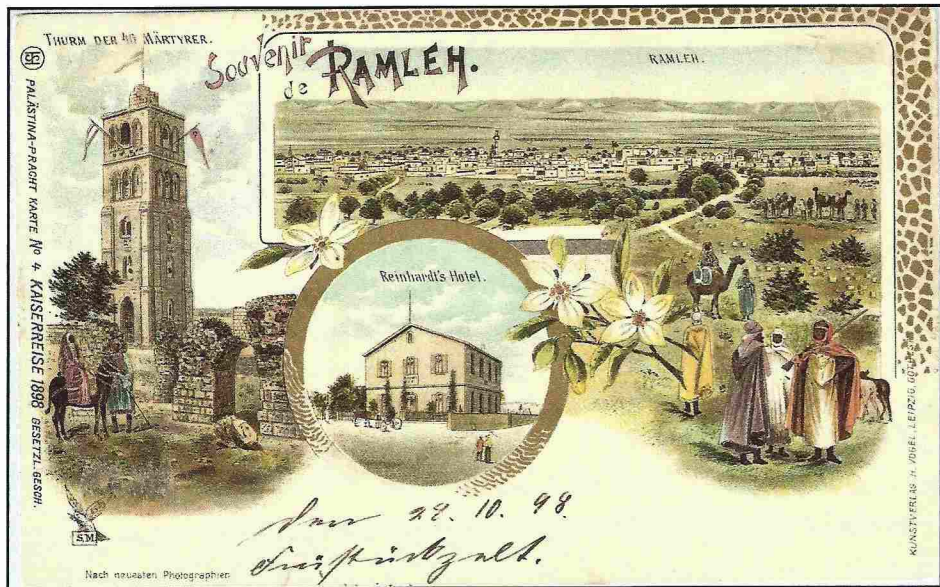
Philatelic documents unfold the story of Reinhardt's Hotel  
in Ramle.

*Yoel Amir, Bnei-Dror, Israel.*

A picture postcard written on the 28th October 1898 in Ramleh and mailed in Jerusalem, "Camp Imperial" branch post office (Fig. 1.1 and 1.2) and an "Aus Ramle" letter mailed in Jaffa in 1903 (Fig. 2) were the starting point of Yavin Katz's research on Reinhardt's Hotel. Reinhardt Hotel was one of three repose stations on the carriage road between Jerusalem and Jaffa at the end of the 19th Century. The other stations were in Motza, a small village west of Jerusalem, and Bab-el- Wad (today: Sha'ar Ha'Gay) where the road entered the Judean mountains.



*Fig. 1.1: The "Souvenir de Ramleh" - Camp Imperial*



**Fig. 1.2: The “Souvenir de Ramleh” - Hotel Reinhardt’s**

The “Souvenir de Ramleh” undivided picture postcard (Figs. 1.1 and 1.2) dated 28th October 1898 and mailed from “Camp Imperial” in Jerusalem on the following days, arrived at its destination in Germany on the 17th November 1898. It was bought and mailed from the Reinhardt’s Hotel, the picture of which is illustrated on the back of the card. This PPC together with the “Aus Ramle” letter, (Fig. 2) prompted the subject story of the article.

The carriage road Jaffa-Jerusalem was built and paved in 1859-1868. It took more than eight hours to cover the distance between the Holy City and its main sea port, Jaffa. Soon, due to poor maintenance, many travelers preferred riding on mules and donkeys to the bumpy ride in a carriage. In 1892 a train service was opened between Jerusalem and Jaffa. The trip by train was rough but shortened the time to four hours, except in the summer when occasionally the steam locomotive ran out of water while climbing the Judean hills.

When Dr. Theodor Herzl travelled in November 1898 to Jerusalem to meet the German Kaiser Wilhelm II he took the train. As reported by his

companions, he arrived in Jerusalem totally exhausted. At the same time the Kaiser did his whole tour on horseback. His entourage followed on horses or carriages. On the evening of 27th October 1898 the royal pair and attendants bivouacked near Ramleh. Kaiser Wilhelm II and his spouse Auguste Victoria used most of the time in their luxurious tent camp, while the entourage and staff slept in tents or in the better available hotels. The sender of the picture postcard of (Fig.1.1 and 1.2) was lucky to sleep in Reinhardt's Hotel, where he got the hotel's own postcard, dated it on the 28th October and mailed it on his arrival in Jerusalem. The PPC. is of the "Gruss aus..." or "Souvenir de..." style printed by Kunstverlag H. Vogel of Leipzig. It is No. 4 of a twenty six picture postcard series specifically issued for the Kaiser's visit in the Holy Land. Its design was prepared from "the latest photographs" (as written on the PPC), depicts the Reinhardt Hotel, the "Tower of 40 Martyrs" (a known ancient tower) and a general view of Ramleh. Also oriental figures and a camel.

*Reinhardt Hotel, being located in a strategic point on the road between Jerusalem and Jaffa, was used by the German post service in Palestine as an auxiliary post box.* The Ottoman authorities used the train service for dispatching the post between Jaffa and Jerusalem, but denied this privilege from the foreign post services. The Austrian and German post services used carriages for delivery of post. On the way post was collected (and delivered) at several locations, including the *Reinhardt Hotel* while the full postal service was given strictly at the destination post offices at Jaffa and Jerusalem. The letter of (Fig. 2), written by a Jaffa businessman, was collected at Reinhardt's Hotel as evidenced by the hotel cachet on the back of the envelope. The secondary postmark "Aus Ramleh (Palestina)" was applied at the hotel, but the stamps were cancelled in Jaffa.





**Fig. 2:** letter mailed at the German auxiliary post box of Reinhardt's Hotel to Germany. The stamps were cancelled by the German post in Jaffa on the 5th March 1903. The secondary postmark "Aus Ramleh (Palestina)" was applied at the hotel, when the letter was collected for posting as is evident from the hotel's cachet on the back of the letter. This is also substantiates the same finding by Steichele, as shown in the extract from his book in the Appendix to the article.

The illustration of the hotel building on the "*Souvenir de Ramleh*" *ppc* (Fig. 1.2) helped Yavin Katz to identify the building in the old part of Ramleh (Fig. 3) and tell the story of the place and its owners between 1874 and 1910. In the thirties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and up to 1942 the building served as a British Mandate police station.





*Fig. 3: The building of Reinhardt's Hotel as photographed in Ramleh in 2008. (Credit Shirly Katz).*

### **Bibliography:**

1. Yavin Katz "Breakfast in Ramle – Following a unique postcard and forgotten roadside hotel on the way to Jerusalem" (in Hebrew), Etmol no. 197, Yad Ben-Zvi Press Jerusalem January 2008.  
  
A. Steichele "Handbook of Holy Land Philately – the foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", volume I, p. 66-80.
2. Ralph Perry, "Postal History of the Kaiser's Visit to the Holy Land", HLPV V 91-92 Summer/Autumn 2002 p. 400-436.

## Appendix

It had previously been assumed that the 'Aus Ramleh' cachet was applied at the reloading station outside Jaffa. A postcard has come to light that gives evidence this is not so, and the cachet was applied by Mr. Reinhardt of the Hotel Reinhardt who must have acted as an auxiliary agent. In a reply to a German collector, Mr. Reinhardt stated he could only apply the cachet, the stamps having to be cancelled at Jaffa. The fact that the cachet is known on parcel cards points to the fact that this was not one of the usual collecting points (i.e., mail boxes). It is obvious that the Hotel Reinhardt served as a postal depository and collecting station. Thus contrary to general practice, Cachet No. 246 was applied at the hotel and not at the reloading station near Jaffa.



Fig. 79.

On the postcard shown above, both the 'AUS RAMLEH' cachet and the hotel cachet are in the same peculiar shade of violet. This gives further evidence that the cachet No. 246 was applied at the hotel.

*Fig. 4: Extract from: A. Steichele "Handbook of Holy Land Philately – the foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918", volume I, p. 79.*

## Collectors Beware

*Yaakov Tsachor – A.I.E.P., Tel – Aviv, Israel.*

In the past year a very dangerous and misleading phenomenon has occurred.

Israel early Philatelic items, mainly from 1948/52, are offered on the market *with photo copies of what meant to be my certificates of authenticity.*

The items are, in most of the cases, *Complete Forgeries.* They depict "original" artwork or printed Essays, Proofs & issued items.

The Xerox, or scan, of the certificate is of a one issued for a genuine item. The forger has fabricated a new similar item (or quite similar, minor differences can always be detected) and the attached photo of the certificate is intended to make the forgery "Kosher".

Collectors are advised to purchase such items only with the original certificate.

In no way should one accept excuses such as: "I forgot the original in the vault", "the previous owner lost it", etc.

The original certificate is on the official paper of the A.I.E.P. – Intern. Assoc. of Philatelic Experts. It is yellowish, vertically ribbed (fibers) on 1 side. *A photo (generally in color) of the expertised item is glued to the form and tied by two of my original signatures in Blue ink and my handstamps.* These appear alongside also at the base of the text (see Fig. 1).

These forgeries are also offered by leading auction houses in Europe and the USA.



Fig. 1: Genuine Certificate

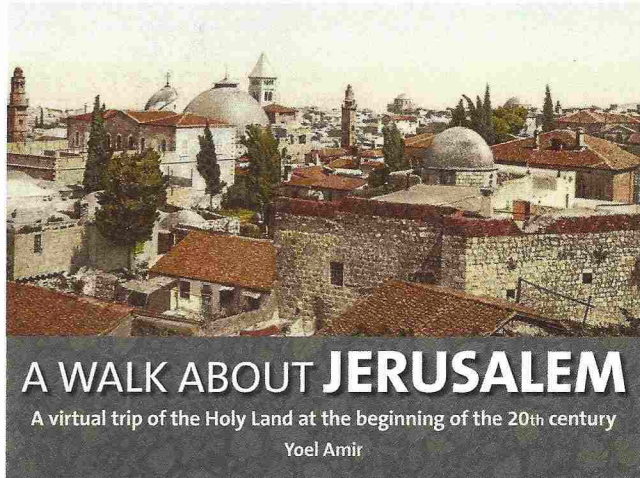


## A New Book

**A Walk About Jerusalem** – a virtual trip to the Holy Land at the beginning of the 20th Century, by **Yoel Amir**, is a new e-book available in Apple's iBook store for readers that have access to an iPad tablet.

The same coffee-table color picture e-album is available in Hebrew at [www.mendele.co.il](http://www.mendele.co.il). This is another publication (or rather e-publication) following a study of **Holy Land philatelic documents of the 19th and early 20th Century**.

Postcards, as we know, were used worldwide as the preferred means of communication from the Eighties of the 19th Century to mid-20th Century. Picture postcards were popular with tourists in the USA and Europe, and particularly in the Holy Land. Picture postcards printed from color paintings were a lucrative niche business in an era where photography was strictly in black & white. The Author demonstrates that it is possible to revive the scenes and sites of the Holy Land in color based on a hundred years old tourist photo album and color picture postcards. "A Walk About Jerusalem" is another proof that Philately is not only a distinguished hobby, but also a source of information for enjoyable reading.



## Queries

PALESTINE-SAUDI ARABIA 1924

"HAIFA" SINGLE CIRCLE ON

1/2p. HEJAZ ISSUE

***FALSE OR REAL?***



The Editor discovered this stamp on Ebay. Could it be real or is it a fabrication?

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**Readers are invited to comment.**

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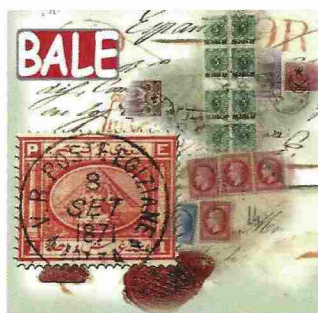
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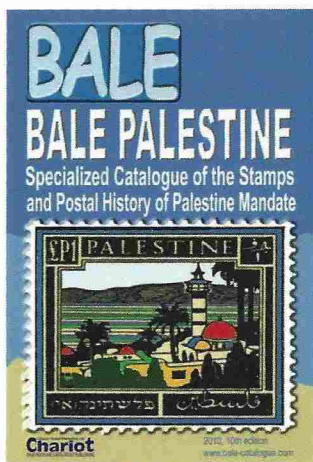


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