

Holy Land Postal History

III
59

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



מעטפה נדירה ביותר — אחת מ-3 הידועות — של הדואר האיטלקי, שנקנסה
בירושלים. הקנס נגבה ע"י בול דמי-דואר איטלקי שהוחתם בירושלים ב-1913

Extremely rare cover — one out of 3 known — of the Italian post taxed in
Jerusalem. The tax was levied by an Italian postage-due stamp cancelled
in Jerusalem in 1913 (see article on p. 998)



SUMMER 1994

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period

(Part V)

E. Leibu, Haifa

F. The Italian Post Office

The Italian Post Office in Jerusalem operated for a relative short period. It was opened – for political rather than commercial reasons – on June 1, 1908, then closed for the Italian-Turkish war on October 1, 1911. It reopened on December 1, 1912 and closed finally along with all foreign post offices on September 30, 1914. During its operation this office handled mainly mail with Italian interest and did not gain much popularity. The volume of mail carried was therefore small compared to the other post offices.

Taxed mail by this office is extremely rare and very few items are known¹; they are presented here. The P.D. stamps used by the Italian Office in Jerusalem were the contemporary P.D. stamps of Italy – no P.D. stamps were overprinted for use in the Levant.

The only recorded item taxed during the first period of operation of the Office (1908–1911) is shown in Figure 1. Unfortunately it is only a large cutout



Fig. 1: Cutout of a cover from Venice, charged 20c upon arrival in Jerusalem, Feb. 1909.

and not a complete cover. As such, it has a limited value for the study of Postal History and it is shown here only because of the rarity of relevant material. Mailed from Venice to Jerusalem, it bears two Italian 15c stamps cancelled on departure and a large "T" mark applied by hand. Two 10c P.D. stamps were affixed and cancelled on arrival in Jerusalem on February 10, 1909, to collect the due.

The Front Cover illustration shows a 1913 cover mailed on January 31 from Milan to Jerusalem, franked 15c. The figure "20" was made in M/S on the left of the cover and a 20c P.D. stamp was applied and cancelled in Jerusalem on February 14. This cover was included in the "Manuella" Grand Prix exhibit, and if my memory does not fail me, a second taxed cover, of similar postal characteristics, was also presented there.

At that time the rate for letters addressed from one Italian office to another was 15 centesimi for each 15 gr, therefore the letter appears to be properly franked. Overweight would have attracted a charge of at least 30c and not 20c, thus the reason for taxation is not clear. N.J. Collins² comments that P.D. stamps were also used to collect a Poste-restante charge of 20c per item. This may be a valid explanation for the charges on both items illustrated.

The last cover (Fig. 2) was mailed from Chile to Jerusalem, where it arrived on

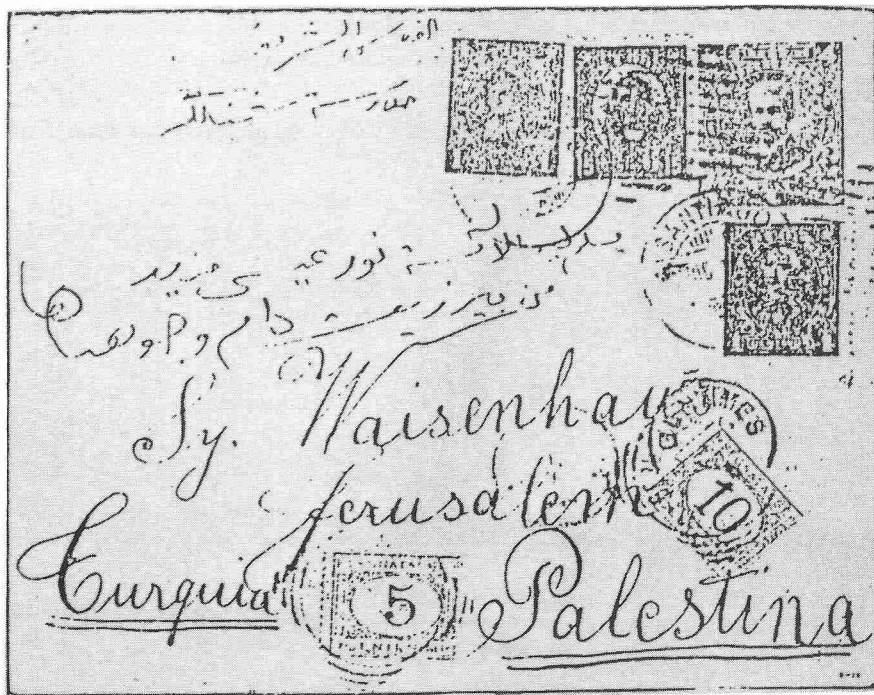


Fig. 2: Cover from Chile to Jerusalem, bearing a handstamp "T 12c", with 5 & 10c P.D. stamps affixed in Jerusalem, Jan. 1914.

January, 1914. It bears a handstamp reading "T 12c". In Jerusalem a 5c and 10c P.D. stamps were applied on January 10 to collect the charge. This resulted in over payment of 3 centesimi (at that time the centime and centesimi were of equal value), probably due to shortage in P.D. stamps of 1 and 2 centesimi.

Addendum

The French Post Office

The postcard in Figure 3 was recently offered in a Tel Aviv auction. Mailed from Laval, France to Jerusalem on June 7, 1906, it bears a 5c stamp. The sender crossed out the "Carte Postale" heading and wrote "Imprimé" (printed matter) to make clear his intention to use the reduced "printed matter" rate. On the back, the only inscription is the return address, and there is no other message also on the front of the postcard, so it seems to be eligible for the reduced rate. In Jerusalem a charge of 30c was collected with a strip of three 10c P.D. stamps cancelled on June 20, 1906. The postcard also bears a triangular French "T" handstamp.

The postcard rate at the time was 10c. Had this postcard been mailed unfranked it would have had to be charged 20c only! If it had not been accepted as "printed matter", the charge of double the rate difference would have been 10c and not 30c. Hence the tax of 30c remains unexplained.

References:

- (1) N.J. Collins, "Palestine P.D. Stamps on Cover during the Ottoman Period", *HLP* #52 (1992) p. 602.
- (2) A. Steichele (English rev. Edition by N.J. Collins & L. Dickstein), "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918" Vol. II, p. 218 (1991).

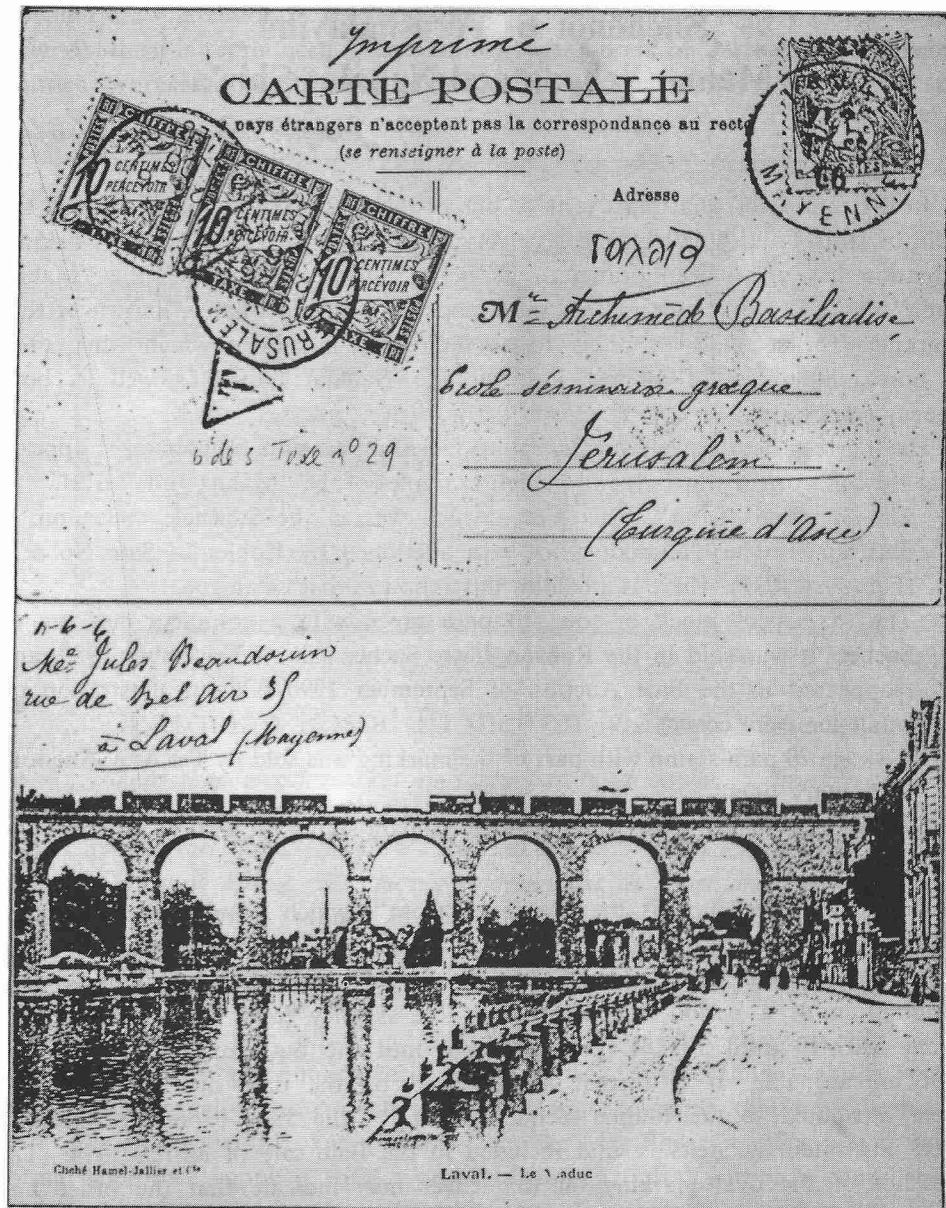


Fig. 3: Postcard from France to Jerusalem taxed upon arrival 30c, on June 20, 1906.

Shehunot Bi'Yerushalayim: Mahne Yehuda and Nahalat Shiv'a

Joseph Aron, Australia

In the context of what must rank as one of the most exciting recent finds in the field of Holy Land philately, the discovery of the Nahalat Shiv'a agency marking, attention has again been drawn to its better known counterpart, the "Mahna Juda" oval. The first part of this short paper documents what is known of that marking. The second part refers to an interesting document which while itself is non-philatelic, is of interest in regard to Nahalat Shiv'a as well as both agency markings.

Having searched the relevant literature including auction catalogues, it appears that the following list includes all known examples of the "Mahna Juda" oval.

1. The Steichele "front". This piece, which was in the Steichele collection, is illustrated in his Handbook and was auctioned by Kohler in Sale No. 275 (February 1992). There is a colour illustration in that catalogue.
2. The (damaged) block of four 10 para green with a complete marking ex Sacher. It was sold in the Robson Lowe Sacher sale of November 1989, and reappeared in the Bale Auction of September 1990 (Colour illustration on catalogue front cover).
3. A single 20 para stamp with part of the marking was sold by Tel Aviv Auctions in January 1994.
4. A complete marking cancelling a single 10 para stamp on piece*.

The only dated item is the Steichele "front", which bears a supplementary postmark of February 1912. However all items involve stamps from the same series, which was first issued in 1909. This would seem to indicate that assumption of a period of operation of the Agency (and usage of the oval) from 1909/10 until 1913/4 (perhaps even until the outbreak of the War), is not unreasonable. It is further strengthened by the date of the only other item attributed to the Mahne Yehuda agency – the 1909 express ("Eilbrief") also illustrated by Steichele and included in the Bale sale of March 1994. (The absence of the oval marking on this cover may indicate that the office had just opened – and was not yet supplied with the canceller). In this context, however,

* Following upon the appearance of this item at Berger Sale No. 17 and Stanley Gibbons 1979 Middle East Sale, there was some debate as to its genuineness in BAPIP Bulletins Nos. 91-95 (1978/9). The debate was brought about by the extreme clarity of the item in question, where the first word of the bottom line (abbreviating the word "succursale") read "Sue" rather than "Suc".

I would draw attention to the following undated contemporary newspaper extract (Fig. 4) which is reproduced in Binyamin Kluger's book on Jerusalem Settlements, entitled "Yerushalayim Shehunot Saviv Lah" (Jerusalem 1979):

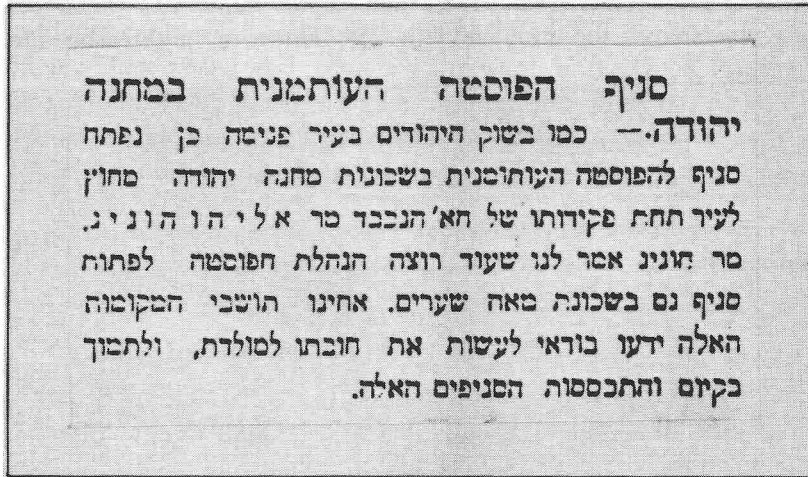


Figure 4

"Ottoman Postal Branch in Mahne Yehuda

As in the Jewish market so there has been opened a branch office of the Ottoman post in the suburb ('Shehunna') Mahne Yehuda outside the City (i.e. the walled Old City - J.A.) under the supervision of the Honorable Mr. Yehuda Honig. Mr. Honig told us that the post management further wishes to open a branch in the Mea Shearim suburb. Our brethren the inhabitants of these suburbs will certainly know to do their duty to the fatherland and to support the existence and viability of these branches".

Given that the post office in Mea Shearim opened as early as 1903, this would appear to imply a much earlier opening date for the Mahne Yehuda postal facility. Additionally, the comparison would seem to imply that both branches were of a similar nature. Yet we know that the Mea Shearim office was a more formal sub-office supplied with a proper Ottoman postal authority cancellation device, while that of Mahne Yehuda was apparently an agency using a locally made handstamp. Has anyone any further comments on these questions?

The suburb of Nahalat Shiv'a was founded by Rabbi Yoseph Rivlin in 1869, predating Mahne Yehuda (1886) by seventeen years. As one of the earliest residential quarters built outside the Walled City, it had declined somewhat by the end of the First World War, and then received the dubious distinction of becoming a designated "Red Light" district during the initial period of British Military occupation. This unfortunate development was soon brought to an end

when it came to the notice of the Vatican which used it during the 1919 Peace negotiations to argue that Britain should not be given the Mandate over the Holy Places as it showed an inability to maintain the sanctity of the Holy City. In the interim however, it also upset the conservative religious population, who addressed the document illustrated here to the authorities which petitioned for action to remove the problem (Fig. 5). However, my reason for citing

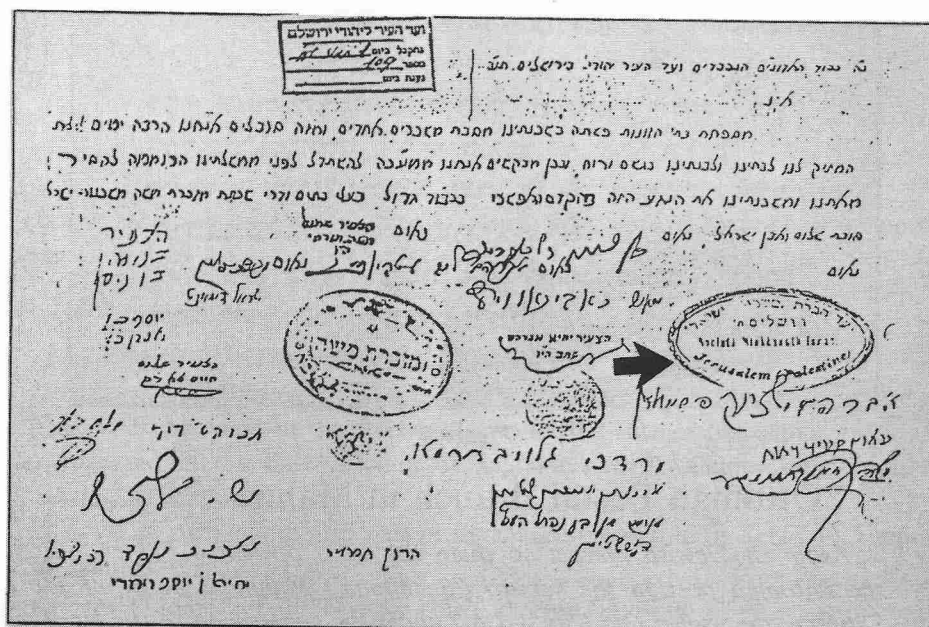


Figure 5

it is not just to add to knowledge of the colourful history of the area which today is a focus of Jerusalem night life.

The document bears the stamped seals of two suburbs: Mishkenot Israel and Mazkeret Moshe. Comparison of the first of these seals with the "Mahna Juda" oval shows that they obviously came from the same local source (cf. the oval itself and the type of the word Jerusalem in both cases). The second, i.e., that of Mazkeret Moshe, has no philatelic significance, but it is worth noting that like Mea Shearim prior to the establishment of its postal branch office, Mazkeret Moshe was initially a site of an Ottoman post box*.

Is there perhaps another agency marking waiting to be discovered? Or at the very least does anyone know of a postcard or letter with a text indicating it was posted in Mazkeret Moshe?

* See Yehoshua Ben Arieh on pp 514/5 of his massive compendium on the history of Jerusalem, citing various contemporary sources.

The “Up” and “Down” Lameds

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi

One of the curiosities of Palestine Mandate philately is the No. 1 Post Card (Figure 6). These post cards were produced in England without the Hebrew and Arabic Inscriptions. These were added separately afterwards at the Greek Convent Press in Jerusalem. Shown here are two copies alike in most respects but with one marked difference. The ‘lameds’ (L) in the Hebrew word “GLUYAH” are different. “GLUYAH” is the Hebrew word meaning ‘exposed’ and it was coined as the Hebrew word for ‘Post Card’.

‘Lamed’ is the Hebrew name for the letter “L” (Figure 7). Of all the letters in the

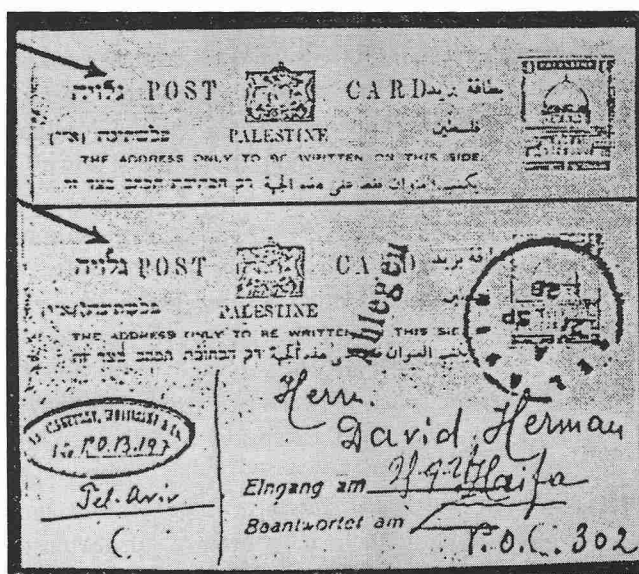


Figure 6

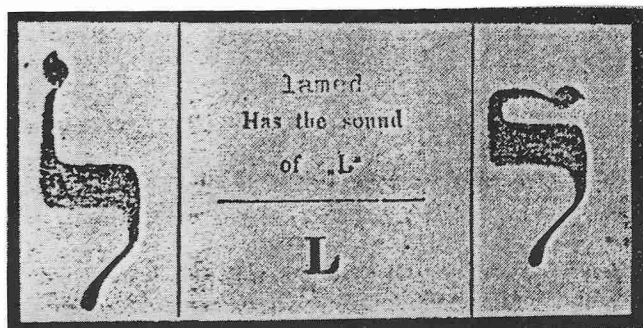


Figure 7

Hebrew alphabet, it is unique in one respect. While some letters have extensions below the lower base line, it is the only letter that has an extension above the upper base line. (Figure 8). In the classic letter inscribed by hand in Hebrew manuscripts prior to the invention of printing, the upper extension



Fig. 8: The Hebrew alphabet.

is a vertical stroke with a small ornamentation at the top. However, examination of printed examples reveals two styles: the usual “up” vertical stroke or a horizontal “down” stroke extending across after a curve from the upper left base line (Figure 7). Since the “up” stroke lamed derives from the original hand written representation of this letter, it is apparent that the “down” stroke lamed had its origin in more recent times.

The questions arise as to “why” and “when”. The explanation of the “why” seems to be one of the pragmatism. Since this is the only letter with a vertical upper extension, by laying down the upper stroke, the height of the individual piece of type could be shortened. Since the pieces of type for all letters in a font (a complete set of printing type of one size and style) had to be the same height, this would save vertical space between the printed lines without the fear of the lamed seeming to join the lower extension of letters in the line of type above it.

In some fonts, while an individual piece of type with a lamed would be the same height as the other letters, it contained an extension above the upper edge with the “up” stroke (Figure 9). This would lay on the base

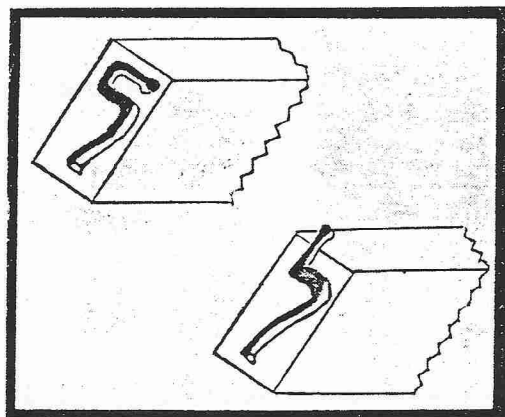


Fig. 9: The “up” and “down” lameds.

of the piece of type in the line of letters above it and could be used if the letter in the line above it had no downward extension. Thus the "up" stroke was more fragile and this is the main reason why this letter is found damaged more frequently than any other letter. Further evidence exists that this height problem had to be resolved for in some fonts the tops of the lameds have been cut off to accomplish the same purpose. Figure 10 shows a telegram form P.T.

PALESTINE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.
 إدارة البريد والتلغراف فلسطين
 משרד הדואר והטלגרף ב"י

TELEGRAM
 التلغراف מברק

This Form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram
 يلزم ارسال هذه التلغراف مع كل طلب بخصوص هذا التلغراف
 דוגמה ידו צריכה לעיני ראייה הנזכרת לסברק עצמו

Time 12:55 Date 12 Received at
 זמן תאריך דואר

Casso clarv

דנרה על פסח



למי גדל ועצום כמו שנאמר ובני ישראל פרו וישרנו
 וירבו ויעצמו במאד מאד ותמלא הארץ אלהם

Fig. 10: Portion of Telegram form and page of 1837 Haggadah.

6/A, issued in the early 1920s, in which all the lamedes have been cut off. In addition, lines of type from a printed Hagaddah (the Passover Service book) published in Italy in 1837 show the lamedes cut off also.

This laying down of the tops of the lamedes is not to be confused with deformed or damaged type. As explained above, since the upper stroke is relatively thin and fragile, it is more readily damaged in use resulting in the breaking off of the top part or its being bent. Notice the lines of print containing lamedes from a Hagaddah text printed in Amsterdam in 1695 (Figure 11). Lamedes show

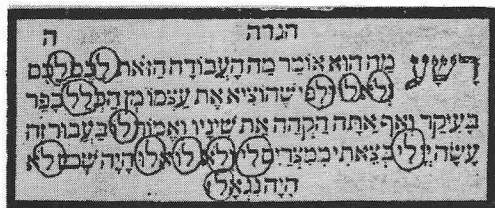


Fig. 11: Portion of a page of 1695 Haggadah.

a different state of damage. This is found even in more modern printing but quite naturally the replacement of broken letters has been accomplished more readily the more recent the type.

The answer to the question of “when” the “down” stroke lamed appeared requires looking into printed texts of varying periods of time. The oldest one that I have been able to find is in a Haggadah printed in Vilna, Lithuania in 1889 (Figure 12).

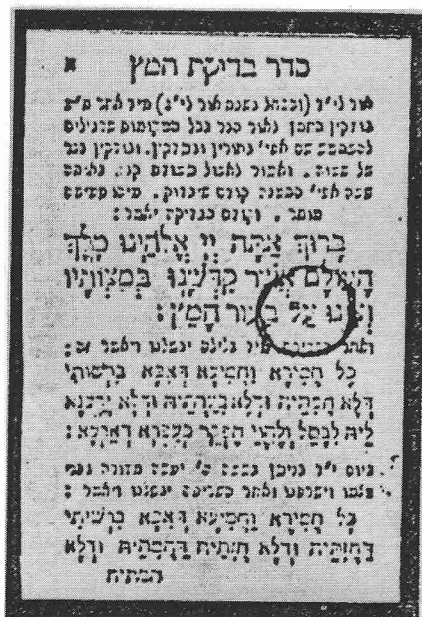


Fig. 12: Page from Vilna Haggadah, 1889.

Others appear in other cities shortly after that. Notice that the “down” stroke lamed inserted in Figure 12 was used where the “up” stroke lamed would have interfered with the letter above it. My search perforce was limited and anyone who can establish earlier usage is urged to report it to the editor of this journal or to this author.

This accommodation of having both styles of letters in the same font apparently carried on into later years. Figure 7 shows the two styles of lameds as they are illustrated in a Hebrew primer printed in the 1930s. Moreover, often the admixture provided for their use interchangeably. Figure 13 is the back of a

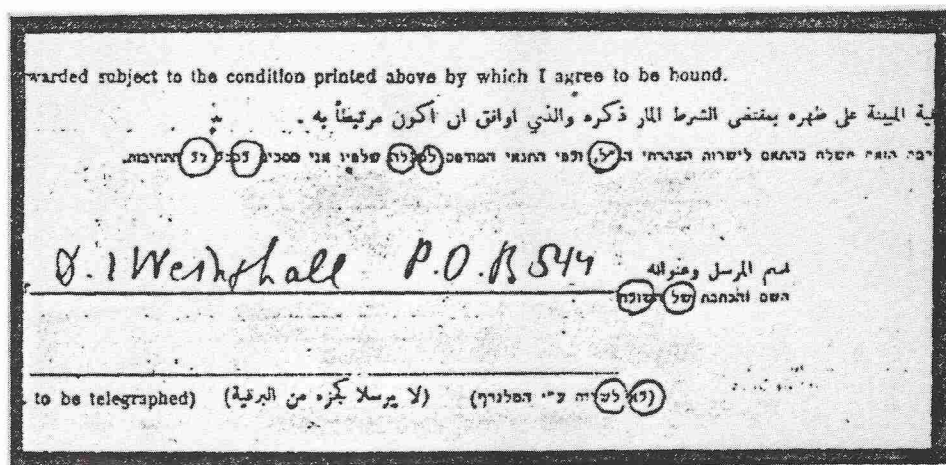


Fig. 13: Portion of the back of a Telegram form.

telegram Form P.T. 110. It shows both styles of lameds used in the same line of print with no apparent need for the “down” stroke lamed. This also disproves any thought that the two styles merely represented font styles used by different companies. Note that the size of the type makes no difference. Both styles of lameds were used for the letter even when it is the final letter in a word. I point this out because some Hebrew letters have different styles when that letter is the final letter in a word (Figure 8). The lamed is not one of them.

So, remembering that the Hebrew and Arabic were added to the No. 1 Post Card, otherwise completed, the only reasonable explanation for the two styles shown in Figure 6 is that the Greek Convent Press had both styles of lameds. They either had two presses running or more probably changed the type for some reason during the printing procedure. The “up” stroke lamed is scarcer by far. Thus the top may have been damaged or broken off early in the printing at the Greek Convent Press and was replaced by the less fragile “down” stroke lamed for the greater part of the printing necessary to complete these post cards.

A similar variation exists in the two post card P.T. 42 forms (Figure 14). However, these were printed by two different printing firms. This form was used by the authorities for informing telephone subscribers of a change in their telephone numbers.

The figure shows two variations of a postcard form, both labeled "P.T. 42" in the top right corner. Both forms are titled "POST CARD" in the center, with the Arabic text "بطاقة بريدية" (Postcard) and the Hebrew text "גלויה" (Gluia) below it. The top form has the word "To" on the left and "الى" (Ala) on the right, with a horizontal line for the address. The bottom form has the word "To" on the left and "الى" (Ala) on the right, with a dotted line for the address. Both forms have a horizontal line at the bottom for the return address.

Figure 14

Shown here are three examples which contain (Figure 14) the “Up” lamed and the “Down” lamed; and (Figure 15) the “shortened” lamed, which resulted from the breaking off of the top of the “Up” lamed.

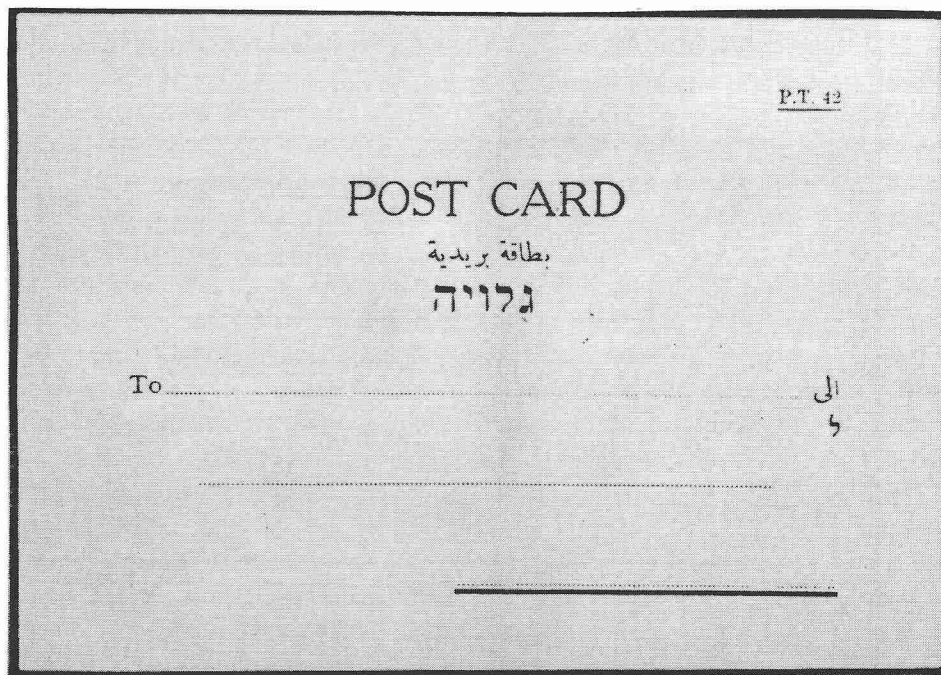


Figure 15

The reverse parts of the three cards, shown in Figure 16, were printed by three different printing firms. Note that the ‘lameds’ in the text on the reverse of the cards in Figure 14 are all “Down” lameds while the ‘lameds’ in the same text on the card in Figure 15 are all “Up” lameds.

All of this is of minimal philatelic import but it is an interesting part of the postal history of the period showing once again the inability of the printing firms of this period to deal with the Hebrew language.

I would like to thank Dr. Menahem Schmelzer, Chief Librarian at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, for his aid in locating the texts from which I was able to obtain some of the information contained in this article.

You are requested to note that the TELEPHONE
NUMBER of has been changed
to

الرجاء ان تأخذوا علماً بان نمرة تلفون
قد تغيرت الى

נא לרשם לפניך שמספר התלפון של
הוחלף ל

10.000-8.6.36-Com. P.

נא לרשום לפניך שמספר התלפון של
הוחלף ל

30048-32000-28/4/37-A P

נא לרשם לפניך שמספר ההלפון של
הוחלף ל

10.000 15.8.27 L.S.P.

Figure 16

Safad Mandate Postmarks Used by the Isarel Post

I. Karpovsky, Herzlia

Among the rarest items of the Transition Period are those few letters franked with Doar Ivri stamps and cancelled with the Safad Mandate handstamps.

According to a direction of the District Commissioner, the Safad Mandate Post had already closed on February 28, 1948. Testimonies of the vice postmaster, Mr. Dov Geiger, and of Dr. Kurt Steinberg (Sela), who was the first to research the "Safad Stamp", state that the Arab postmaster had taken with him all of the stamps and cancellers that were at the office at the time of closing. The post office building itself was handed over by the British to the Arabs on April 16, and when Safad was liberated by the Hagana forces on May 11, the place was found to be empty.

With the foundation of the State, post offices were again opened in various country-wide locations. Since there was not enough time to prepare the new Israeli trilingual postmarks for all of the post offices, the management put back to use temporarily till July 1st, the previous Mandate instruments that had been kept in the archive, with the exception of the Main P.O. in the big cities Tel Aviv and Haifa.

As the Safad Mandate postmarks were not found in the archive (having been removed by the Arab Postmaster), the provisional Minhelet Ha'am postmark was put into use instead on May 20th. This instrument had been kept all that time in the archive in Haifa, and was not used in Safad until then, due to the siege conditions.

The latest letter recorded cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am postmark of Safad is from June 24 (Fig. 17). After this date a Mandate instrument was re-introduced, the Minhelet Ha'am cancellation having been withdrawn. Between the dates of June 27 to 30, a very few number of letters are known of that are franked with Doar Ivri stamps and cancelled with the Mandate handstamp of Safad (Fig. 18). On July 1, Safad received the first Israeli trilingual postmark (Fig. 19), meaning that the Mandate handstamp was only used for four to five days at the most (the 26th was a Saturday)!

To date three outgoing and one incoming (arrival cancellation)⁴ letters are known with the Mandate Double Circle postmark (see References).

The first person who wrote an article on the subject was M. Brisker. In an article¹ in 1958 he wrote about the use of the Mandate D.C. postmark of Safad from June 27, adding that "A provisional Single Circle obliterator was prepared in Haifa". To the best of his knowledge, this cancellation is known used only on single commercial letter, dated June 30. Steinberg also wrote a similar observation noting that, "A new Single Circle obliterator was made"².

In the Israphil 85 exhibition an exhibit named "The Postal History of the Galilee" included a commercial letter sent by the Klinger Bank in Safad to the Halva'a

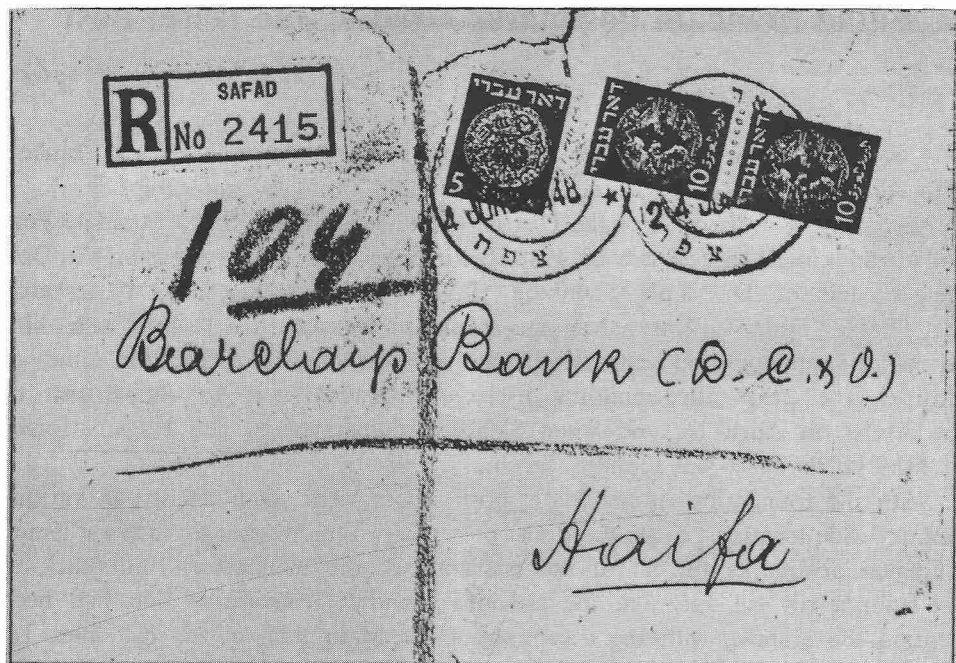


Fig. 17: June 24th, the latest known date of Minhelet Ha'am Safad postmark, on a registered cover to Haifa.

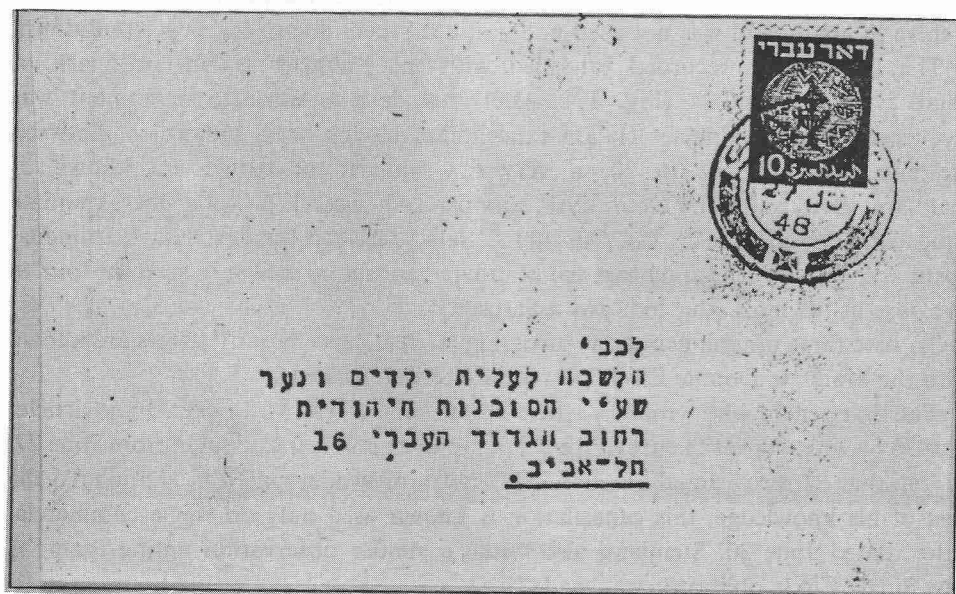


Fig. 18: June 27th, commercial cover to Tel Aviv, with a Doar Ivri stamp cancelled by the rare Safad D.C. British Mandate postmark.

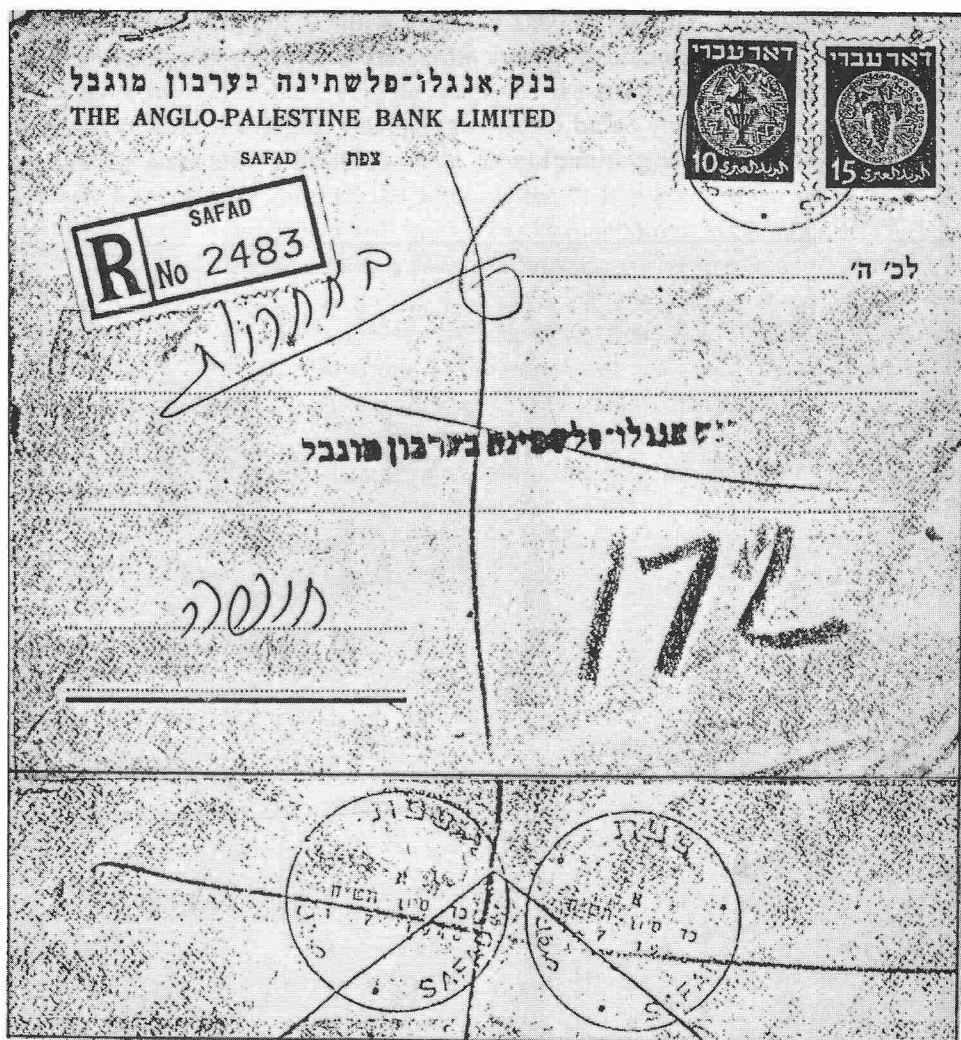


Fig. 19: July 1st, registered cover to Haifa, cancelled by the First Day Israeli Trilingual postmark (type-A) of Safad.

Vechisachon Bank in Tiberia. It was franked with a 10m Doar Ivri stamp, cancelled with a S.C. mandate postmark of Safad from June 30. Presumably, it is this letter that Brisker referred to.

Today this letter is in my Safad collection (Fig. 20), and I was able to examine it carefully. I compared the postmark with other similar S.C. Mandate postmarks

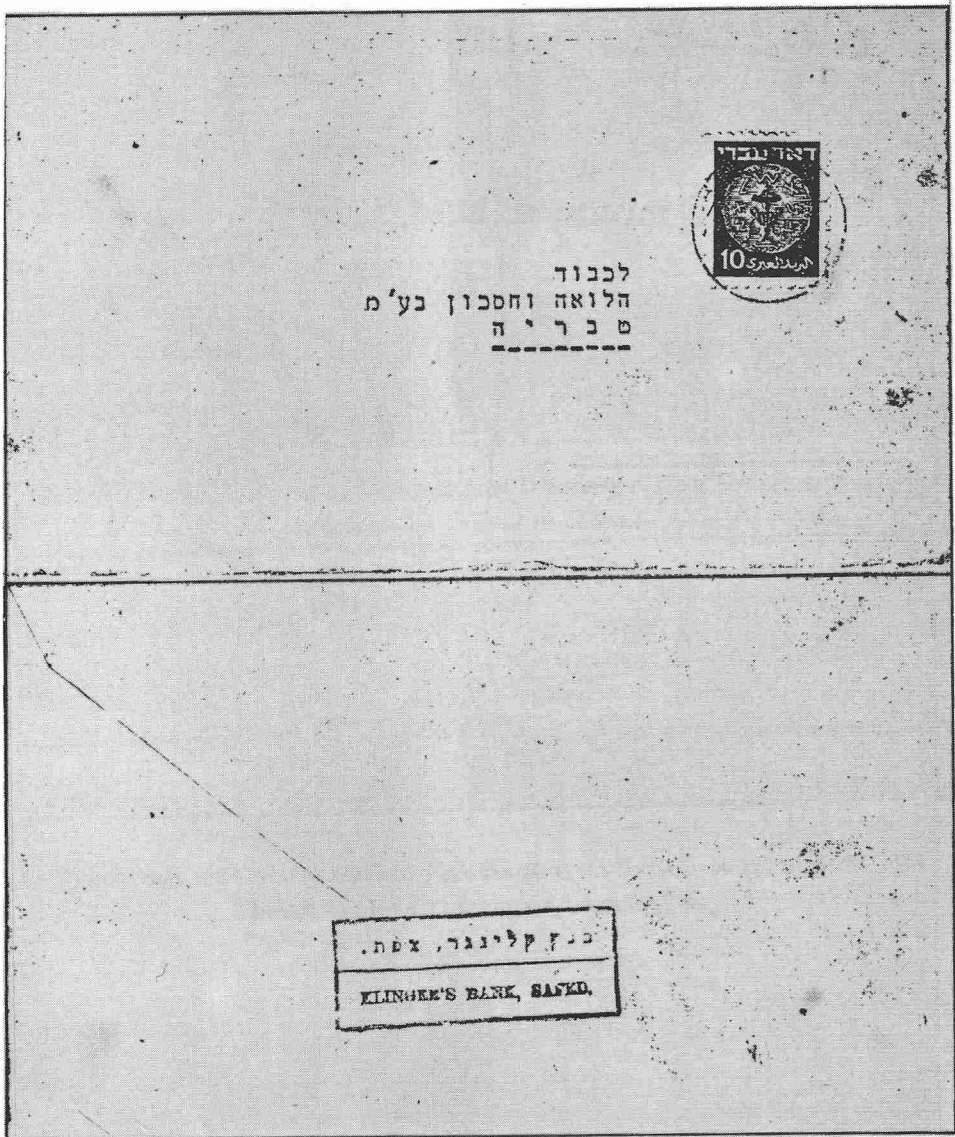


Fig. 20: A unique cover with a Doar Ivri stamp cancelled by a Safad S.C. Mandate postmark on June 30.

from the beginning of 1948 (Fig. 21). To my surprise I discovered that the postmarks were not identical. That from June 30 was smaller in diameter (24.5 mm) than the other (25.5 mm), and the shape of the letters was also slightly different being more elongated, flat and slightly larger.

Initially I was afraid that this was a case of forgery, and I decided to investigate further. I thoroughly checked the whole letter. It is a commercial letter, part of a correspondence between two well known banks functioning in Safad and Tiberias at that time. The Klinger Bank bilingual handstamp on the rear (see Fig. 20) is authentic and identical to those appearing on many other letters from the bank. The envelope itself is of the type that was used at the period, and the Doar Ivri 10m stamp fits the type that was sold in the Safad post office at the time. The address is typed in a typewriter identical to that used in 1948, and the ink colour of the typing also fits. Hence, I thus came to the conclusion that it was not a forgery, but a distinct though similar postmark.

In the philatelic literature this query has two solutions:

(1) Brisker's and Steinberg's version mentioned above, states that this was

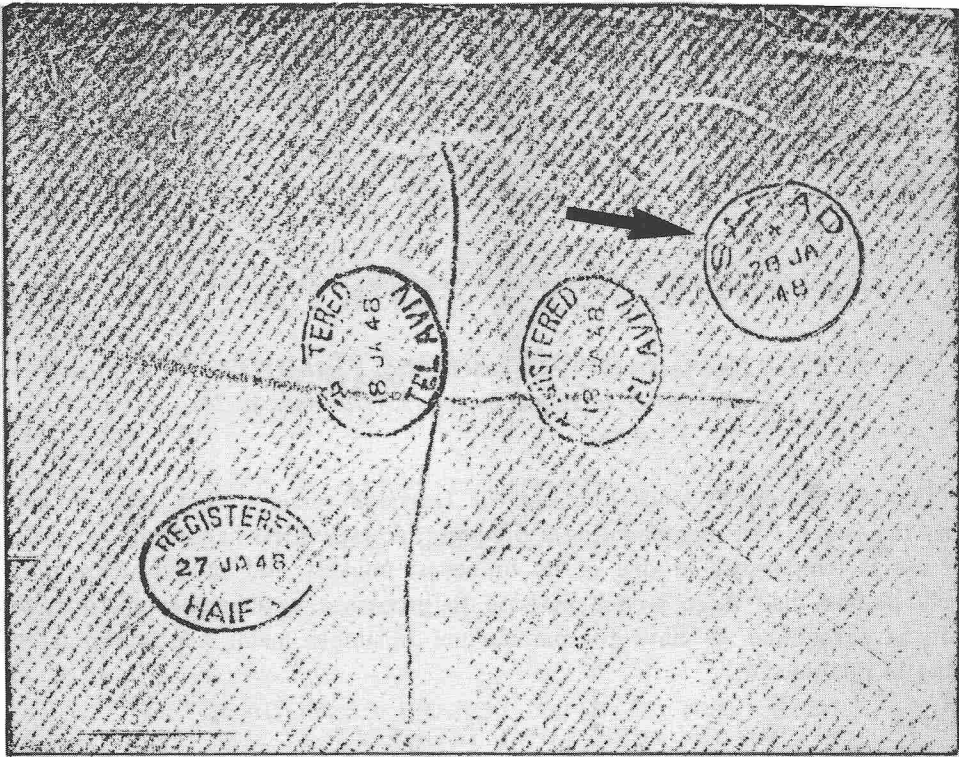


Fig. 21: A similar (but different) Safad S.C. Mandate postmark on a Mandate period cover (Jan. 28, 1948).

a new postmark, prepared after the Mandate period by the Israeli post for temporary use, instead of the original postmark that was taken by the Arab Postmaster in Safad.

- (2) A second version, appearing in Dorfman's research³, in which he mentions this postmark and also illustrates it (reproduced here as Fig. 22). He classifies it under "FEN", which is defined as: "Fake Engraved device, Never issued from the postal stores"*.

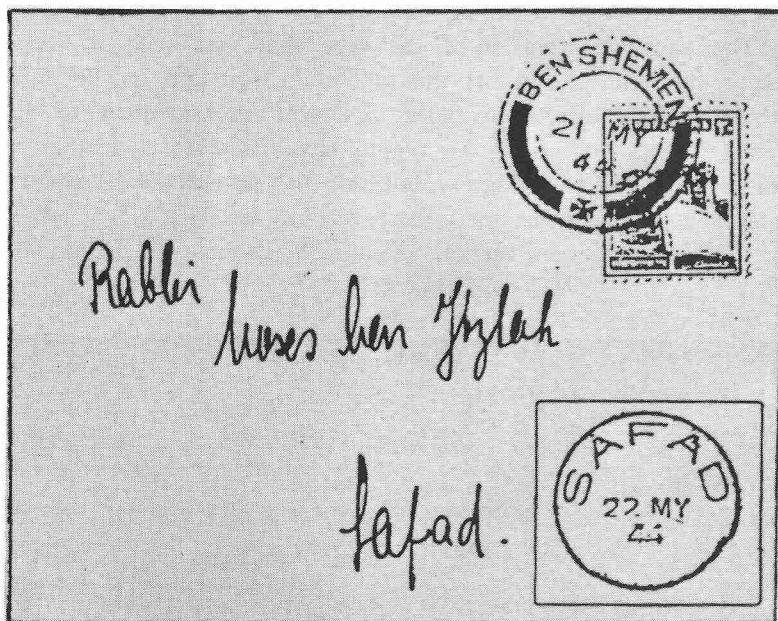


Fig. 22: Faked Ben Shemen ("FEG") cover, with a Safad S.C. ("FEN") dated 22 May 44 as an arrival postmark. (Dorfman, p. 20).

For two reasons, I tend to accept the Dorfman version. First, it is unlikely that the Israeli Post manufactured a previous administration handstamp, in order to use it temporarily in one of its branches; unlikely and probably illegal as well. Second, had there been a decision to prepare a new handstamp, it could not have required 44 days to manufacture a simple metal handstamp (from May 14 till June 26).

* Their use during the Mandate period was unauthorized, and that is the reason Dorfman describes the samples that he knows of as "Fake"; he does not however relate to their later use by the Israeli State (in June).

Having reached this conclusion, I decided also to check the D.C. Mandate handstamp of Safad, the authenticity of which had never been challenged (Fig. 18). In this case I found a few differences as well in comparison to that from the end of the Mandate period in Safad. The diameters are identical, but the shape of the letters is different, and quite similar to that of the June S.C. – they are more elongated and flat.

The conclusion, thus, is that both “new” handstamps are from the same manufacturing series, and both were, probably, handstamps prepared for use but which were never put into use during the Mandate period itself. They were found later in the archive in Haifa after the British withdrawal. Having been discovered they were put into use in Safad for a few days.

We have here an interesting and unusual postal history phenomenon: Mandate handstamps that were not in legal use during the Mandate time, but were put into use for a short time in the Transition Period by the Israeli Post.

References:

- (1) M. Brisker, “British Mandatory Postmarks, used by Israel Post”, THLP #41, (1958).
- (2) K. Steinberg (Sela), “The Postage Stamps of Safad”, THLP #64/65 (1960).
- (3) D. Dorfman, “Palestine Mandate Postmarks”, (1985).
- (4) I. Karpovsky, “A Unique Postmark Combination on a Safad Transition Cover”, HLP# #53/54 (1993).

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Was There a Public Telegraph Service in Besieged Jerusalem? Yes, There Was!

E. Jungwirth, Rehovot

The question above was asked by Z. Shimony in HLPB (#57/58 p. 926), who also states that "The 26th of April, 1948 is considered the last operational day of service of the Mandate Post in Jerusalem". I am able to submit three items which might provide an answer, at least a partial one, to this question. Shimony shows a receipt for a telegram and states, quite correctly, that a receipt per se does not prove that the telegram was actually despatched. For proof of despatch one needs an actual arrival.

Fig. 23 shows a telegram **received** in Nathanya on May the 3rd, handed in Jerusalem on May the 2nd, addressed to Dr. Lehman (then Director of the Ben Shemen Youth Village located near Lydda), Ben Shemen Camp, Nathanya. The pupils and part of the staff of Ben Shemen Youth Village had been evacuated to a former British Army Camp near Nathanya in April and later to Kfar Vitkin.

P26

P. T. 6.

Service	تعليمات ادارية	Prefix No. 184	No. of Telegram 21
Instructions	הוראות משרדיות	Orig. No. 17	
Handed In at	سلمت في	Words	
On	التاريخ	Recd. from	
Time	الوقت	By	
Received at	سلمت في		

58

To	من	إلى	عن
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100
ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100	ل. ش. 100

58

P. M. D. 88320 - 8000 Pads - 23.7.47

Figure 23

Apart from illustrating the history of Ben Shemen, about which quite a bit has been written philatelically and otherwise, this telegram shows quite clearly that a telegraph service **was operating** out of Jerusalem at least until May 2nd.

The second question pertaining to the above quoted article is one relating to the period of the "Hafugah Harishonah - the First Truce" which lasted for one month, -from June the 11th. Here I can contribute the following two items: Fig. 24 is a telegram handed in at Herzlia on June 21st. The form was filled out in Tel Aviv the same date and forwarded as

C P.T. 6.

Service	تعليمات ادارة	Prefix No. <u>A</u>	No. of Telegram
Instructions	הוראות משרדיות	Orig. No. <u>46</u>	
Handed in at <u>ADIS</u>	سلمت في نمسرد	Words <u>11</u>	
On <u>21.6.47</u>	التاريخ بيوم	Recd. from	
Time <u>2A</u>	الوقت الزمان	By	
Received at	وصلت في نكفيل ب		

Jerusalem
23 JU 48

To אל כולביות של נתניה טא. ירושלים

כרמל	נחמיה	נחמיה	נחמיה
כרמל	נחמיה	נחמיה	נחמיה

P.M. D. 38520 - 5000 Paris - 22.7.47.

Figure 24

such i.e. by letter-post to Jerusalem arriving on the 23rd of June. Fig. 25 is a telegram from Jerusalem handed in on June 28th and arrived in Nathanya on July 1st (although addressed actually to "Ben Shemen, Post Kefar Vitkin"). I should imagine, that this telegram, too, was sent as far as Tel Aviv by letter-post and by telegraph onwards to Nathanya, which would account for the same amount of delay in both directions.

c P8/ 1052 P.T. 6.

Service	تعليمات ادارية	Prefix No.	No. of Telegram
Instructions	הוראות משרדיות	Orig. No. 37	
Handed in at	سلمت في نمبر 28	Words 13	
On	التاريخ بיום 28	Recd. from	
Time	الوقت هو	By	
Received at	وصلت في نمبر 28		

To	אל / אלן / צהר / סמיואל / אל		
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל
	אלון	אלן	אל

Figure 25

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The Gradual Termination of the Israeli Postal Services in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, May 4–17 1994: An Eye-Witness Report

Josef Wallach, Rehovot

The uncertainty which accompanied every stage of the signing of the autonomy agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and their application, was reflected in the various stages of the closing of the Israeli Postal Services in Gaza and Jericho. The Israelis wanted to hand over active post offices so as to enable the Autonomy Administration to continue regular postal activity. The Palestinians, on the other hand, though not yet ready had a strong desire to cut themselves off from the Israeli administration and become independent. For that reason, postal activities ceased as soon as the Autonomous Government started.

Following are the stages of the termination of post office services.

May 4 '94 – Last Day of Postmark Use inside the Gaza Strip

The day that Rabin and Arafat signed the Autonomy agreement in Cairo, the Supervisor of Postal Services in the Gaza Strip instructed that all postmark instruments must be collected from all post offices and agencies. All but three instruments (on which we shall elaborate) were gathered at the Supervisor's office, in the administration camp near Erez checkpoint. Between May 5 and 16 none of these postmarks was in use. Then, they were put to use for one day, May 17, which was formally declared the Last Day of Israeli Post in the Gaza Strip. Collectors' covers were stamped on this date*. The last "business" day of use of these postmarks was therefore the 4th and not the 17th of May (e.g., Fig. 26). The three following postmarks continued to be used after May 4.

"GAZA 11" Postmark – Gaza Mail Sorting Center. As the only postmark inside the Gaza Strip, this postmark continued to be used in the mail sorting centre in Gaza (Fig. 27). Note that it does not include the word Zahal (IDF). This postmark replaced "Gaza 10", which was stolen. It shows advanced signs of erosion especially in the date, due to its massive use as arrival postmark on incoming or transit mail.

The last day of this postmark was May 10, when it, too, was handed over to the Supervisor's office. Between May 11 to 16 it was not in use.

* Note that there are several changes in the actual list of Last Day postmarks (as listed at the table below) compared to that published in the advance Notice to the Public of Dec. 13 '93'. There are also many changes of spelling (in English) of the Arab place names in various versions of the postmarks.

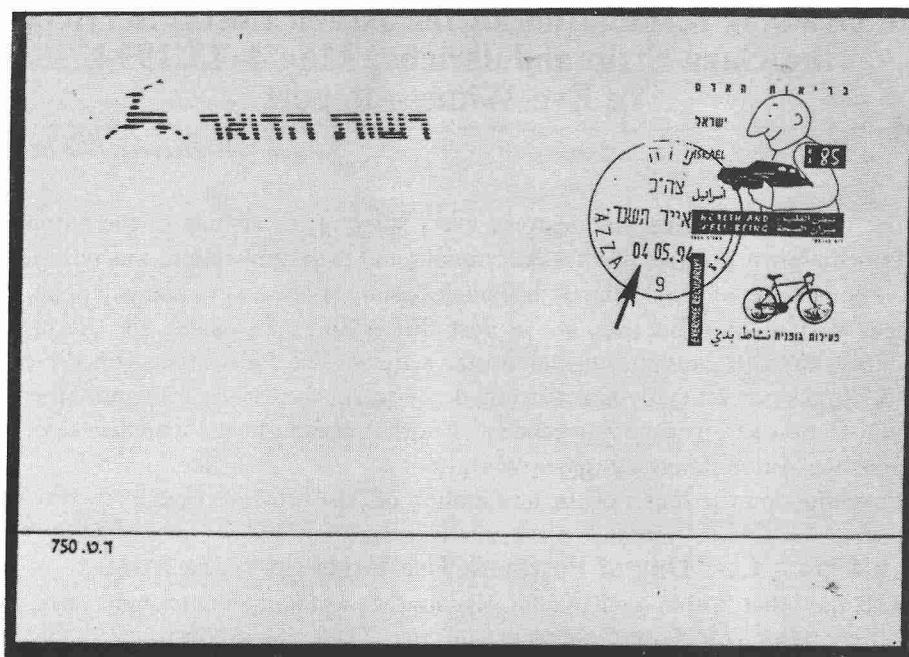


Figure 26



Figure 27

The other two postmarks left in use were "Gaza 8" (Administration) and "Gaza / Industrial Centre", both in branch offices at the northern border of the Strip, near the Erez Checkpoint, an area which remained under Israeli rule.

"GAZA 8" Postmark – The Civil Administration Postal Branch in Gaza. This postmark was known as the "Administraion House Post – Gaza" and also did not include the word Zahal (IDF). It was used in the branch post office, which operated inside the Civil Administration Camp in Gaza. Towards the end of the military rule, a new camp was built next to the Erez Checkpoint in the northern border of the Strip. This camp was named the "Headquarters for Liaison and Coordination with the Autonomy" and the Civil Administration offices were transferred into it. As the Autonomy was established, the branch's name was changed to "MEVO AZZA" ("Gaza Entrance"). The "Gaza Entrance" postmark started to be used only on June 1 (Fig. 28), the cause for the delay being the debate whether the word ZAHAL (IDF) should be included in the postmark or not. The decision was affirmative. This branch, which remained open throughout this whole period represents a particularly interesting transition period.

After May 10th, the "Gaza 8" postmark was no longer used except on May 17th, "the Last Day". During the transition period, which lasted 20 days until the



Figure 28

"Gaza Entrance" postmark was introduced, all outgoing mail was taken to Ashkelon and stamped there. The outgoing registered mail shows a gradual transfer:

Stage I – use of provisional "Gaza 8" registration labels; cancellation (+ posting) in Ashkelon (Fig. 29).

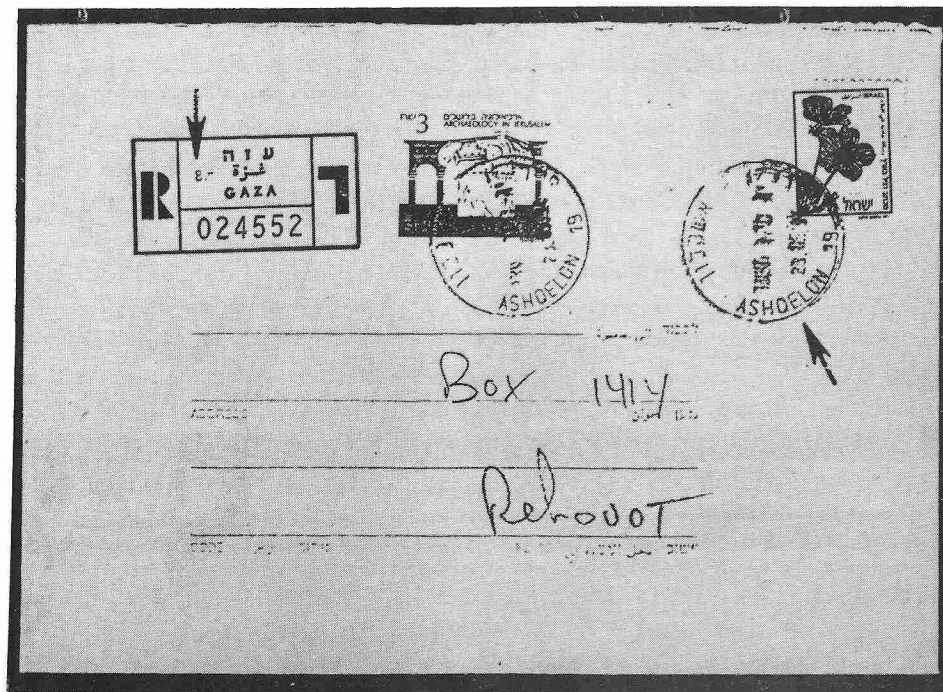


Figure 29

Stage II – use of mute registration labels, cancellation (+ posting) in Ashkelon (Fig. 30).

The "Gaza Entrance" postmark was introduced on June 1, as mentioned above.

The Gaza 8 Administration branch office had additional exclusive services, which should be mentioned:

1. During the Intifada, security measures prohibited the posting of parcels from postal agencies all over the Strip. The only exception to this rule was the Gaza / Administration branch, which used mute parcel labels and stamped them with a "Gaza Administration House" rubber handstamp (Fig. 31).
2. A Francotype franking machine was used by the Gaza Administration (Fig. 32): Its "slogan" – "Offices of the Civil Adm. in the Gaza Strip", its d.s. has "Zahal AZZA 8" and its "stamp" is numbered "מ 919".

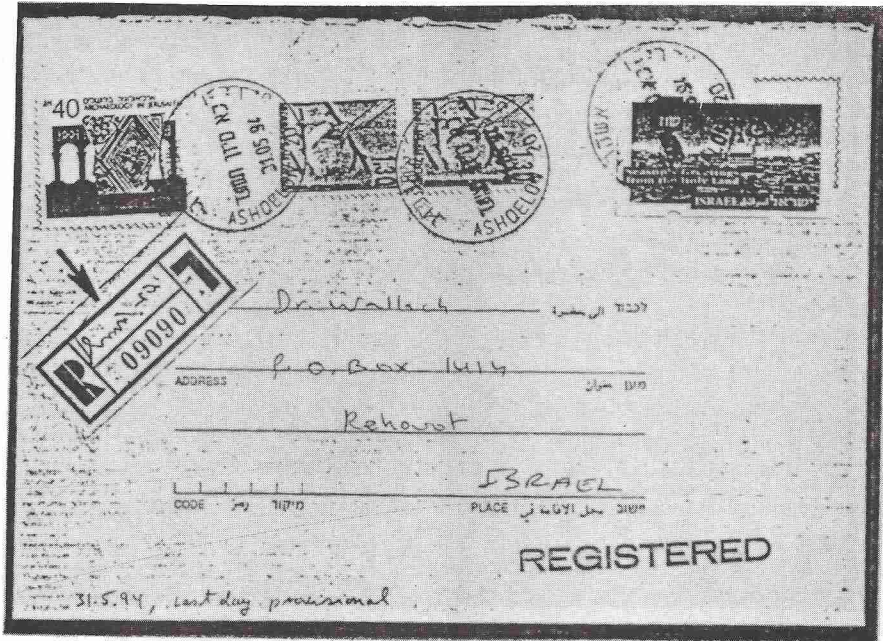


Figure 30

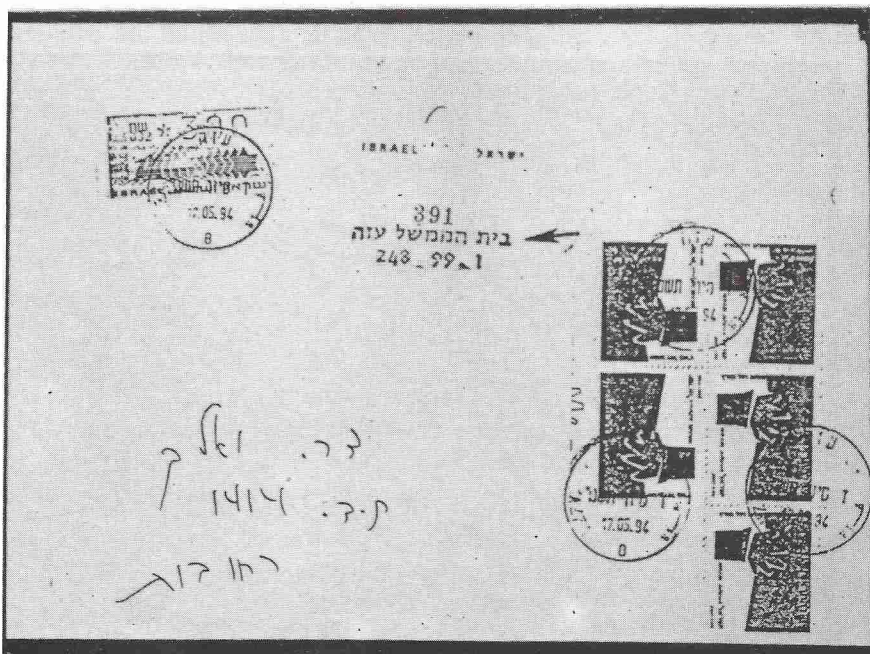


Figure 31



Figure 32

(There was an additional Francotype machine which apparently served the Military Court in Gaza (Fig. 33). Its d.s. reads "Zahal / Gaza 5" and its number is "910").

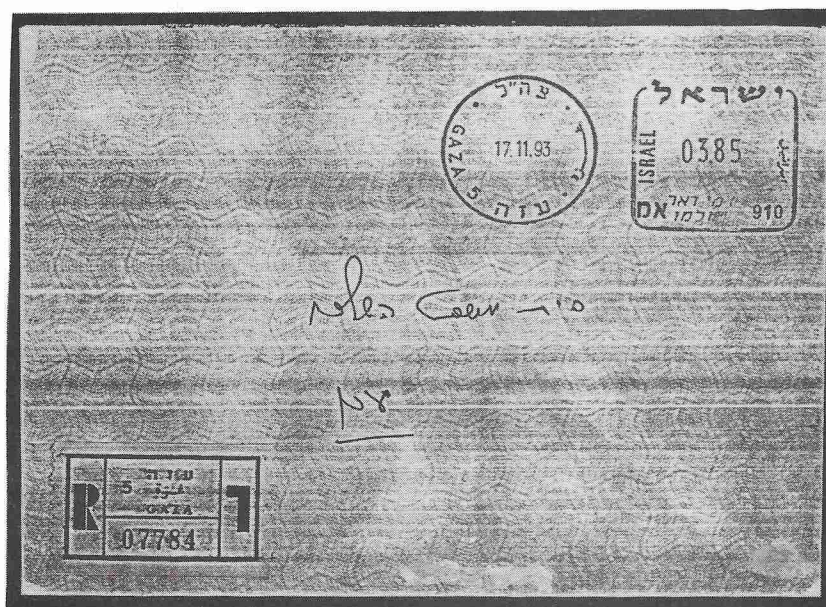


Figure 33

Gaza/Industrial Centre Postal Branch. This branch, close to the Erez checkpoint, had a postmark bearing this title (Fig. 34). This branch, like the Gaza/Administration branch was never shut down, and was active throughout the transition period. The office's postmark was apparently used until May 10.



Figure 34

On August 1 a new postmark was introduced, "MEVO AZZA 1" ("Gaza Entrance 1" Fig. 35). During the transition period, which lasted approximately one month, all outgoing mail was posted via the Ashkelon post office (e.g.

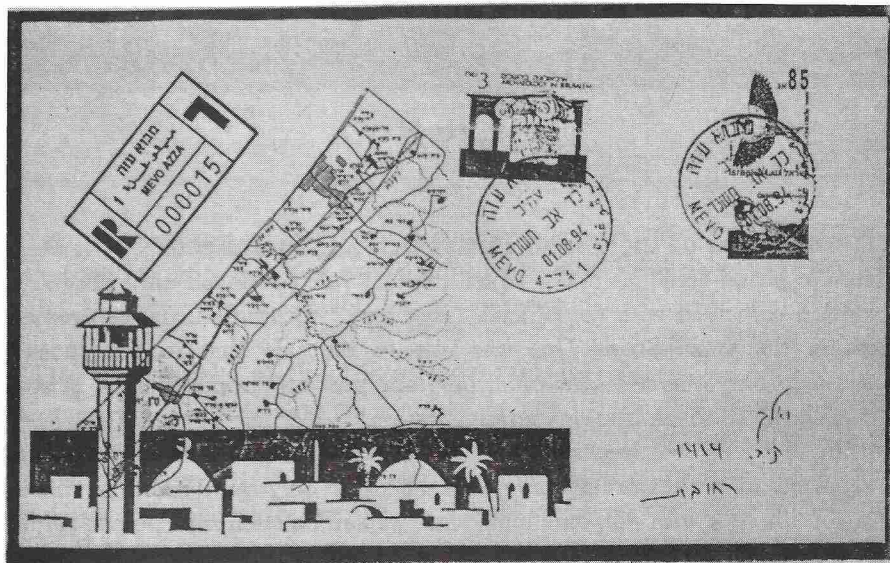


Figure 35

Fig. 36 of July 24). The local branch used a mute registration label, sometimes handwritten "Erez Checkpoint".

Since after May 4, all Gaza Strip postal services ceased, mail was privately routed by messengers from all over the Strip to the above branch and/or to the Ashkelon office.

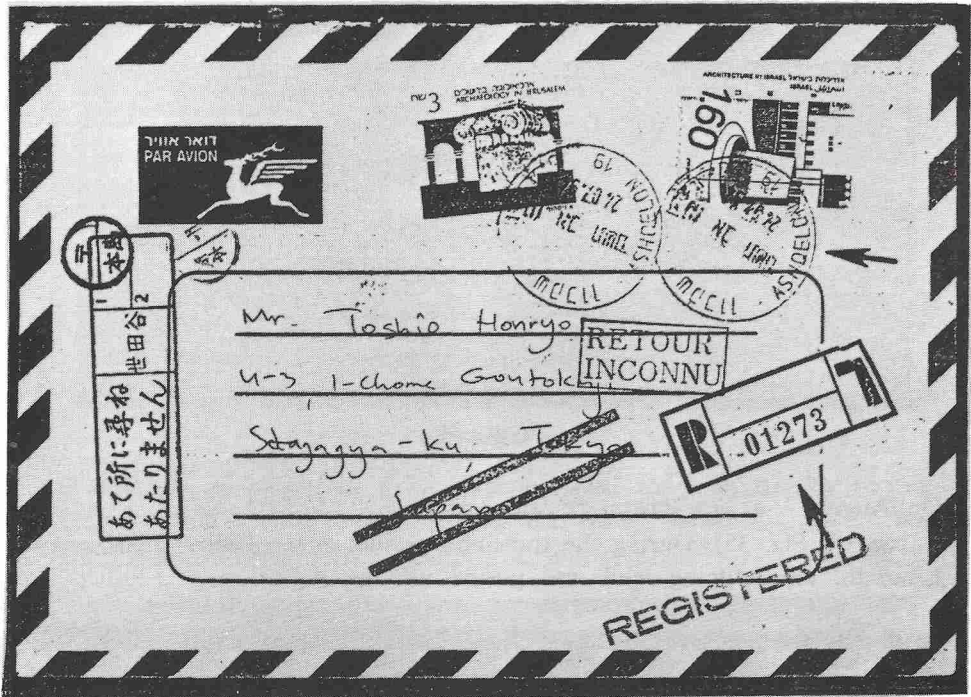


Figure 36

The Termination of the Israeli Postal Services in Jericho

Here the postal activities under Israeli military rule continued until May 9. Their termination coincided with the official "Last Day" declaration, unlike the parallel process in the Gaza Strip. This was due to the fact that in the Judea and Samaria area only one city which had only one post office with a single postmark, was transferred to the Autonomy administration.

During the first few weeks of the autonomous rule, the post office manager was reported to have worked daily. But he dealt only with incoming mail and its distribution, not with outgoing mail, since he had no stamps or postmarks, much like the Gaza offices.

Adam Junction Postal Agency

A new agency was opened by the Israeli Military Administration north of

Jericho, at the junction heading to the Adam Bridge, one of two bridges connecting Israel and Jordan.

The agency's postmark was not yet ready when it opened on May 15. All outgoing mail was sent via Nablus, carrying a trilingual box rubber stamp: "Posted at Adam Junction" (s. Back Cover illustration).

May 25 was set as the official opening date of the agency, when the use of the "Adam Junction" postmark commenced (Fig. 37). The transition period in which

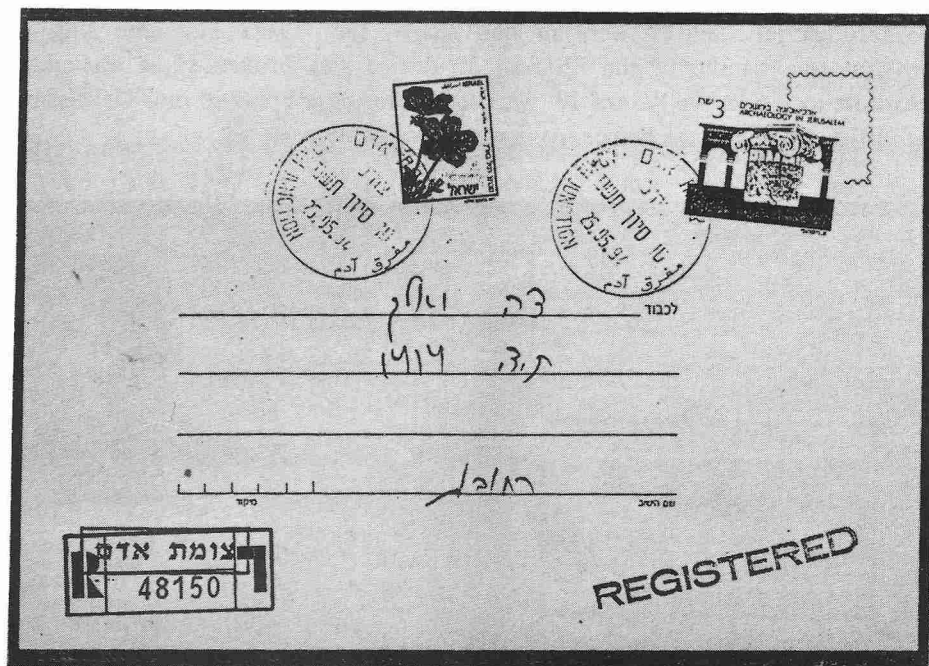


Figure 37

an auxiliary handstamp was used lasted about 10 days. A small framed handstamp "Adam Junction" (in Hebrew) was stamped on mute R-labels of registered mail which left the agency in this period and also afterwards.

Last Day Postmarks of the Gaza Strip and Jericho

The uncertainty concerning the date of validating the Autonomy agreements prevented an advanced announcement concerning the "Last Day" of Jericho and Gaza Strip postmarks. In a Notice to the Public, published a few months ahead, collectors were instructed to send their stamped covers to the supervisors of postal affairs in both areas, without noting when they will be postmarked¹.

In fact, the last day for sending plain and registered mail from the Gaza Strip offices (excluding the three mentioned above) was May 4, but the official Last Day was

set to be May 17 (e.g., Fig. 38). In Jericho, the termination of postal activities and the official Last Day coincided and were set to May 9.

Cancelling collectors' covers with the Last Day postmarks of the various postal offices created a problem. Most handstamps were in reasonable condition since they were replaced between 1991 and 1993. Thus in October 1993 alone (6 months before termination of the postal services) 12(!) postmarks were replaced by new ones in the Gaza Strip.

However, a few of these devices had problems: the "Rafiah 1" and "Gaza/Industrial Centre" were in bad shape; the "Gaza 11" date slug was worn out; the handle of the "Rafiah 3" device was broken so it was almost impossible to use it; the "Gaza 10" was stolen during a break-in into Gaza's main Post Office a few months before, so it was unavailable.



Figure 38

In order to supply collectors with clear, clean postmarks, a decision was made to prepare an equivalent set of new rubber cast handstamps bearing the **fixed** official Last Day 17.5.94. The following are the main characteristics of the two sets of the Last Day postmarks (see also Table and Figs. 39, 40):

- a. Original, metal cast device with changeable type-set dater. These devices were taken from the actual original post offices. Some show erroneous Hebrew dates (Fig. 41).
- b. New rubber cast fixed date (17 May '94) devices. All give distinct, clear and clean impression, easily distinguished from the above mentioned everyday postmarks.

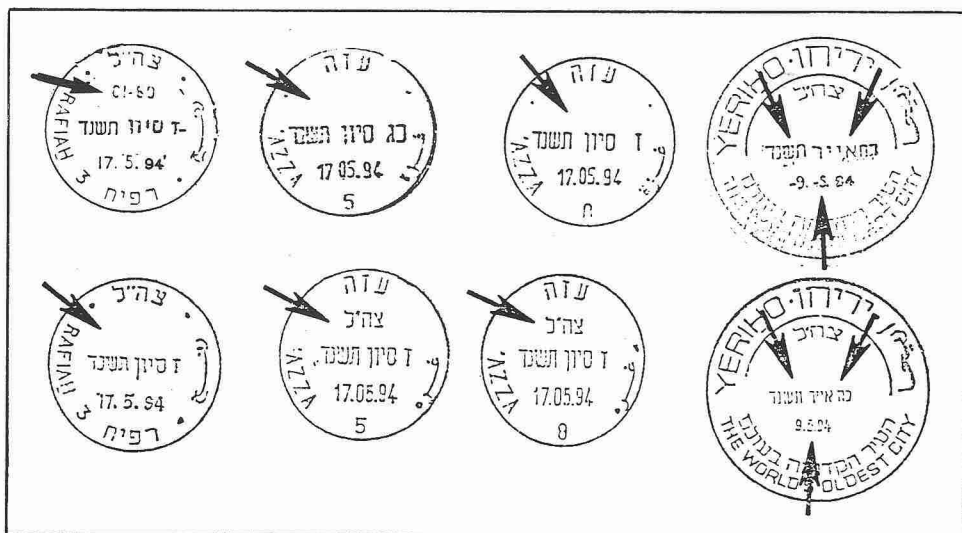


Fig. 40: Major differences between the regular (top) and the new fixed-date (bottom) postmarks.

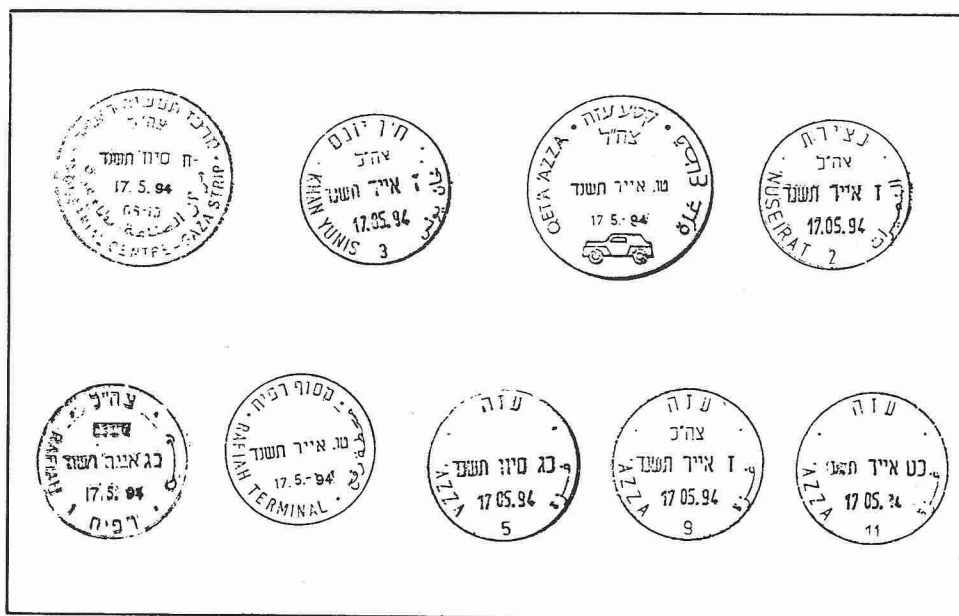


Fig. 41: Examples of incorrect Hebrew dates in the regular "old" postmarks. The correct date is "ז' סיון".

Lately the Philatelic Services issued a "machine printed" set of the Last Day postmarks. They resemble the new fixed-date set, but were manufactured by a Printing House, similar to FDC's cancellations.

The volume of postal activity can be investigated by examining registration numbers appearing on registered mail. Registration labels come in 1000-unit rolls. Thus, the first roll bears the numbers 0001-1000, the second 1001-2000 etc. The following Table lists the rolls used by postal offices in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho, found on registered letters mailed in April 1994, approximately one month before these offices were handed over to the Autonomy Administration.

Table of the postmarks and R-numbers used in the last period of the Israeli Administration in the Gaza Strip and in Jericho

Office/postmark	Regular Metal Pmks.	New Fixed Date Pmks.	Registr. Nrs. at Origin Office(*)
Beit Lahiya -1-	+	+	1-1000
Bani Suheila -2-	+	+	3001-4000
Beit Hanun -1-	+	+	1-1000
Khan Yunis -3-	+	+	1-1000
Deir El Balah -2-	+	+	2001-3000
Nuseirat -2-	+	+	3001-4000
Qeta Azza (M.P.O)	Rare	+	6001-7000
Jabaliya -2-	+	+	1001-2000
Sheikh Redwan -1-	+	+	4001-5000
Gaza Strip/Industry (Erez Checkpoint)	Rare	+	3001-4000
Rafiah -1-	+	+	} 3001-4000
Rafiah -2-	+	+	
Rafiah -3-	V.R.	+	
Rafiah Terminal	+	+	3001-4000
Azza -4- (Rimal)	+	+	} Azza -5- 5001-7000
Azza -5- (Rimal)	+	+	
Azza -8- (Admin. House)	+	+	
Azza -9- (Main P.O.)	+	+	24001-25000
Azza -10- (Stolen)	---	+	22001-23000
Azza -11- (Main sorting)	+	+	22001-23000
Azza -12- (Port)	+	+	(Azza -6-) 7001-8000
Jericho	+	+	1-1000

* As found on registered covers from April '94.

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Mrs. Michal Tor-Ovadia for her help in editing and translating of this article.

References

- (1) "Last Days of the Israeli Post Offices in Jericho and in the Gaza Strip", HLP# #57/58 (1994) p. 988.

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* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES *

* * * * *

The British Mandate Period

An Unusual Unknown Early Mandate Military Cancellation

(E. Glassman, Jerusalem)

A philatelic friend, Ken Torby from Southfield, MI, recently sent me a previously unknown early Mandate cancellation (shown in Fig. 42). Unfortunately this cancellation appears partially on a postage stamp, and not on a document, full or part. It is not known to the writer.

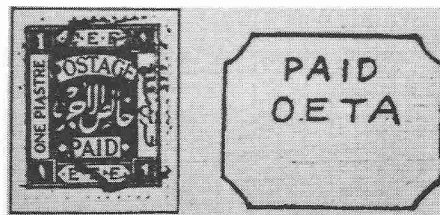


Figure 42

OETA EEF postmarks, from the days of the Military Administration in Palestine, all included the name of the town or place where the instrument was placed in use. These instruments were used for cancelling postal material, thus the need for the name and also, of course, for the date.

What is unusual in this unknown cancellation is that there is no name at all, nor any date. This leads to the suspicion that it was an official cancellation, used in some office/s where receipts or similar documents were issued. Such use would not require any specific name, nor the date.

Unfortunately the example is known only partially on a single stamp. Do any of our readers know of another example, preferably on some document, official or otherwise, which could explain the lack of name, and explain its use?

Errors--Errors--Errors

(A.M. Hochheiser)

Collectors of material issued by the Postal Administration during the period of British control of Palestine are generally aware of printing mistakes. These involve the incorrect placement of single letters or the transposition of two or more letters. These can be found on stamps, stationery or Postal Administration forms. They can be found in all three languages. While others exist, the most prominent are known in the trilingual overprint (Fig. 43); 1) the "Z" error in the Arabic; 2) the "B" error in the English; 3) the "Transposed" error in the Hebrew.




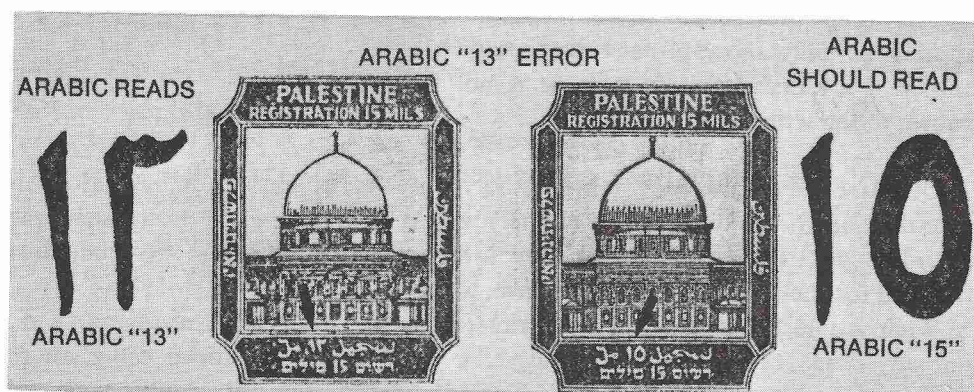
 The "Z" error	 "Orphan B" - variety	 Normal - error
--	---	---

Figure 43

What is not generally known is that errors exist as well in the numbers found on this material. The most important of these is the Arabic "13" (Fig. 44). This is found on the Registered Envelopes RE 13/14/15. This resulted because the registry fee was raised from 13 mils to 15 mils in 1943. While the change was made correctly for the English and the Hebrew denominations in the new stamp die, it was not changed from 13 to 15 in the Arabic. During the war years of World War II, the economy use of materials required that these envelopes be used up before the new and corrected ones were issued.

*Figure 44*

Another number error of minor import (Fig. 45) is found on the first printing in the new issue with the corrected Arabic 15 (Re 17-1), the medium size registered envelope. Here the numbers 1 and 5 in the Arabic are joined incorrectly by a horizontal bar. This is really in the nature of a plate defect. This was corrected in the two subsequent printings of Re 17-2/3.

Other interesting number errors are also known. Figure 46 shows the Postal Form P.T. 13, a receipt for a telegram. On one of the later issues of the same form (Fig. 47), the numbers on the form were incorrectly transposed to P.T. 31. This was corrected by using a handstamp supplying the correct number while blocking out the incorrect number.

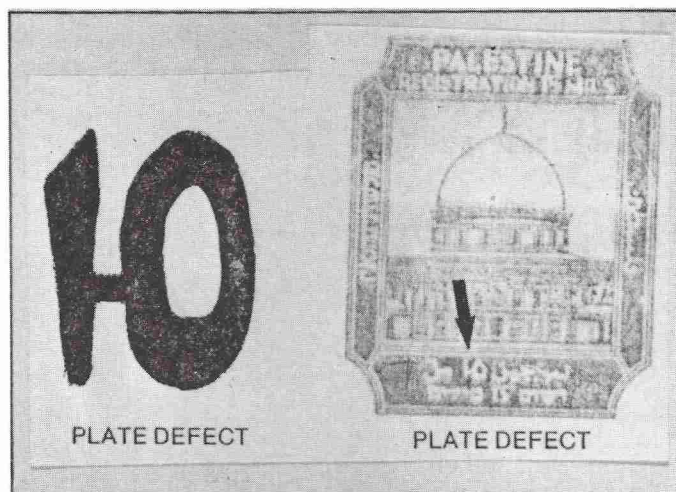


Figure 45

P.T. 13.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.
 دائرة البريد والتلغراف
 מחלקת הדואר והטלגרף.

N N^o 544899

Telegram No. 23 1039 Time of 1039 1039
 וכן המסירה 1039 1039
 handing in 1039 1039
 Received the sum* of 397 Mils 1039
 נתקבל הסכום ש- 1039 1039
 Address of Telegram: EL AVIL
217
London
 Signature of Accepting Officer 1039
 32245-8000 Bks. 18.2.43-G.C.P.

Figure 46

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.

دائرة البريد والتلغراف
مחלקת הדואר והטלגרף

P.T. 18

P N° 308618

Telegram No. 138 رقم التلغراف Time of handing in وقت التسليم

Received the sum of 195 Mills استلمت مبلغ 195 ملليم

Address of Telegram عنوان التلغراف - من المحرك ١

Signature of Accepting Officer

33407-0000 Bks. 47.4.46 - U.C.F.

Figure 47

Figure 48 shows an example of Form P.T. 401 (in English), a form intended for the use of the Postmaster General in Jerusalem. Figure 49 shows another example in Hebrew. However, here the number as printed is incorrect. It is printed as P.T. 410, another form similar in content but intended for use by all postmasters. Again the number has been corrected by using a handstamp.

Figure 50 shows two copies superimposed of P.T. 13. The printer's legend at the bottom indicates that the two forms were part of the same printing order bearing the same work order Number 33585 and the same date of printing 6.12.46. However, notice that the upper form incorrectly lists the quantities printed as 1000 instead of 10000 as shown in the lower copy. The latter would have been a normal printing quantity.

I would like to thank Yaron Reinhold of Azor, Israel for furnishing some of the material shown here.

P.T. 401

In any further communication
please quote Reference No.

PT44/1/61/38

**GENERAL POST OFFICE
JERUSALEM**

17.1. 1938

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter No. dated 15.1.38 and to
inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

A further communication will be addressed
to you as soon as possible.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. WEBSTER

POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Figure 48

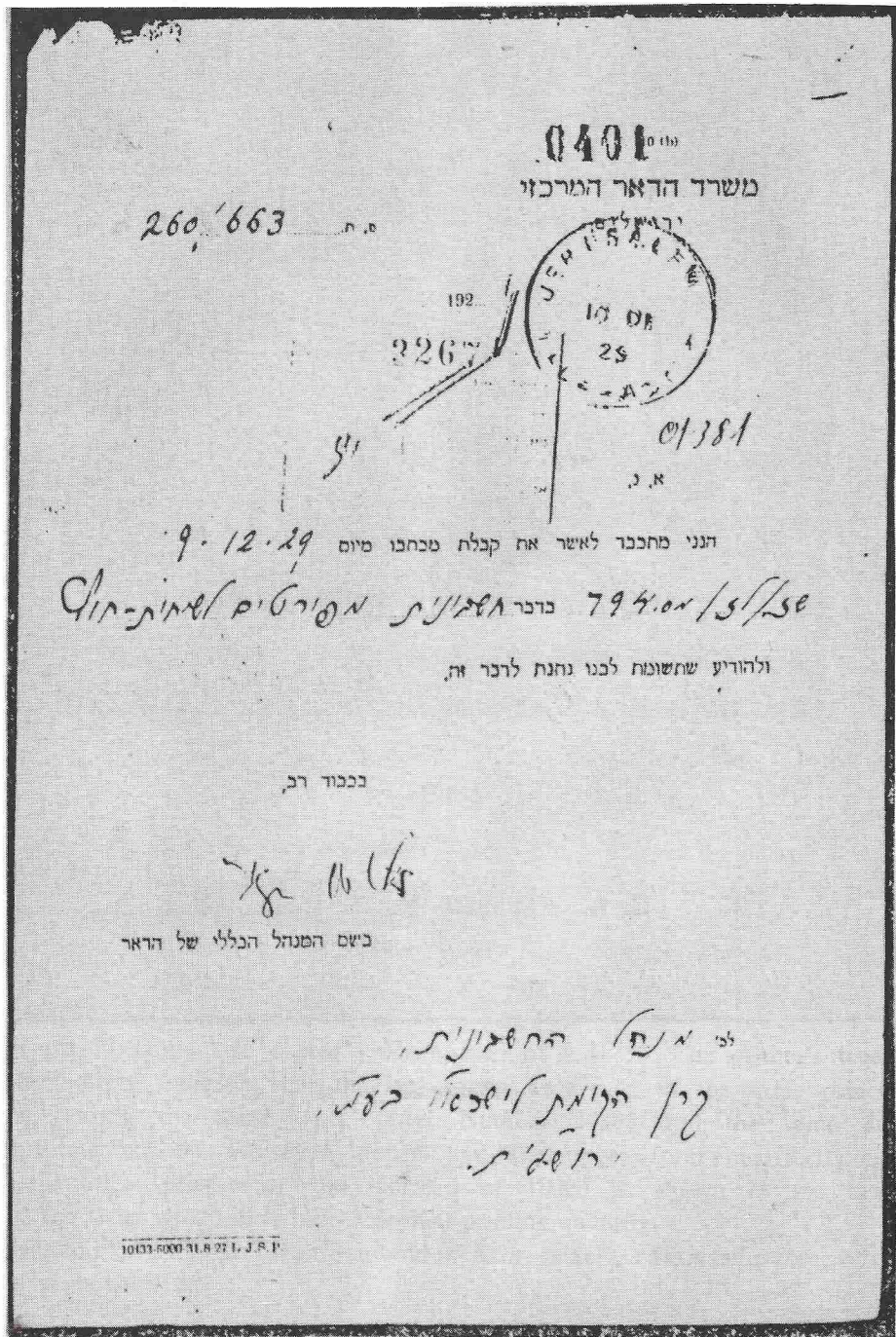


Figure 49

P.T. 13.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.
 دائرة البريد والتلغراف
 מחלקת הדואר והטלגרף

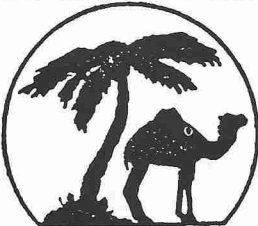
o N^o 892416

Telegram No. 149 رقم التلغراف Time of 1016 وقت التسليم
 handing in 1016 זמן חסירה
 Received the sum of 748 מילס مل استلمت مبلغ
 מקבל הסכום של מילים
 Address of Telegram:- عنوان التلغراف :
 מקן חסירה

S. K. Adman
Lady
 Signature of Accepting Officer
 82595-1600 Hks. - 6.12.44 - G.C.P.

Signature of Accepting Officer
 82585-10000 Hks. - 6.12.44 - G.C.P.

Figure 50



NEGEV HOLYLAND STAMPS LTD

We hold three times each year a
HOLY LAND POSTAL BID SALE

Free sample Catalogue by airmail on request.
 We will continue to send regularly to those who bid.
 Our Postal Bid Sales usually contain a comprehensive range of all
 aspects of Holy Land Philately and prices are in U.S. Dollars.

Negev Holyland Stamps
 (Incorporating MICHAEL H. BALE) Ltd.
 PO Box 1, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 9BR, England.
 FAX: 0271-867161

The Interim Period

The Locked Bag Service in the Interim Period 1948

(E. Jungwirth, Rehovot)

This is just a short note to illustrate the fact that this service was continued after the cessation of the Mandatory Postal Services. Fig. 51 shows a registered **official** cover addressed to the same firm (Maspero Ltd) as the cover shown by Hochheiser in HLPH 57/58 (p. 966). The Hebrew (in brackets), however, says **closed** (not locked) bag service. The back of the cover bears the stamp of the Head Postmaster Tel Aviv, dated 10.5.1948. As far as I know **official**, especially **registered official**, mail during the interim period should be regarded as rather scarce.

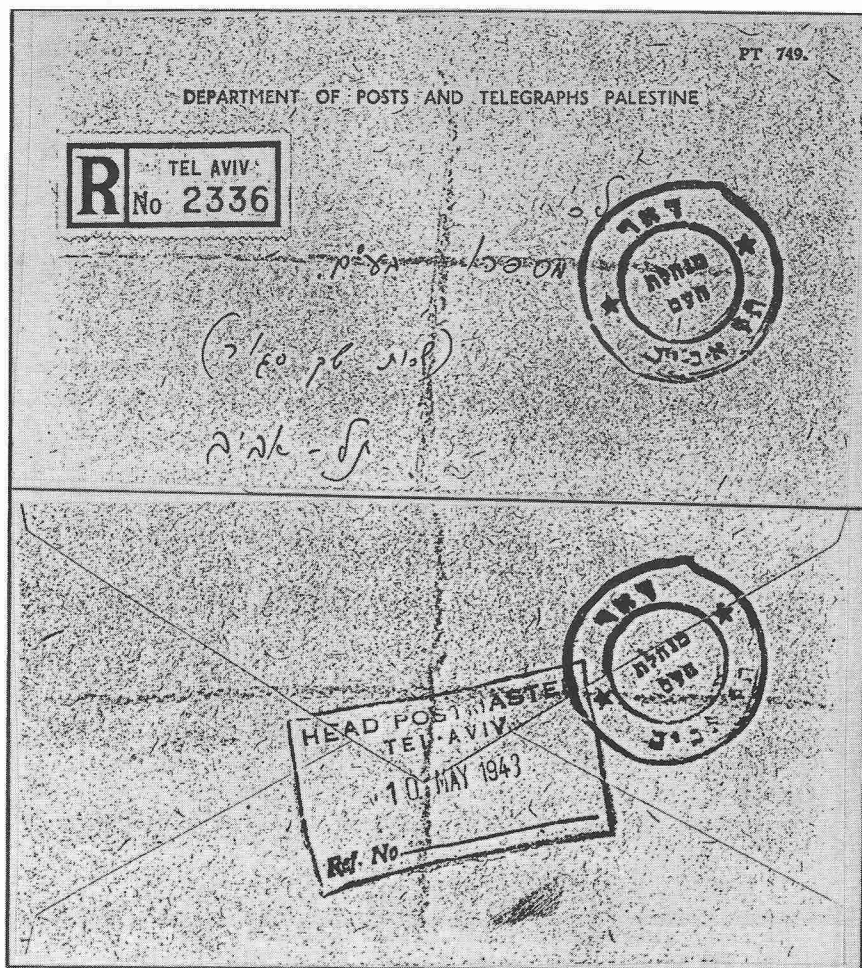


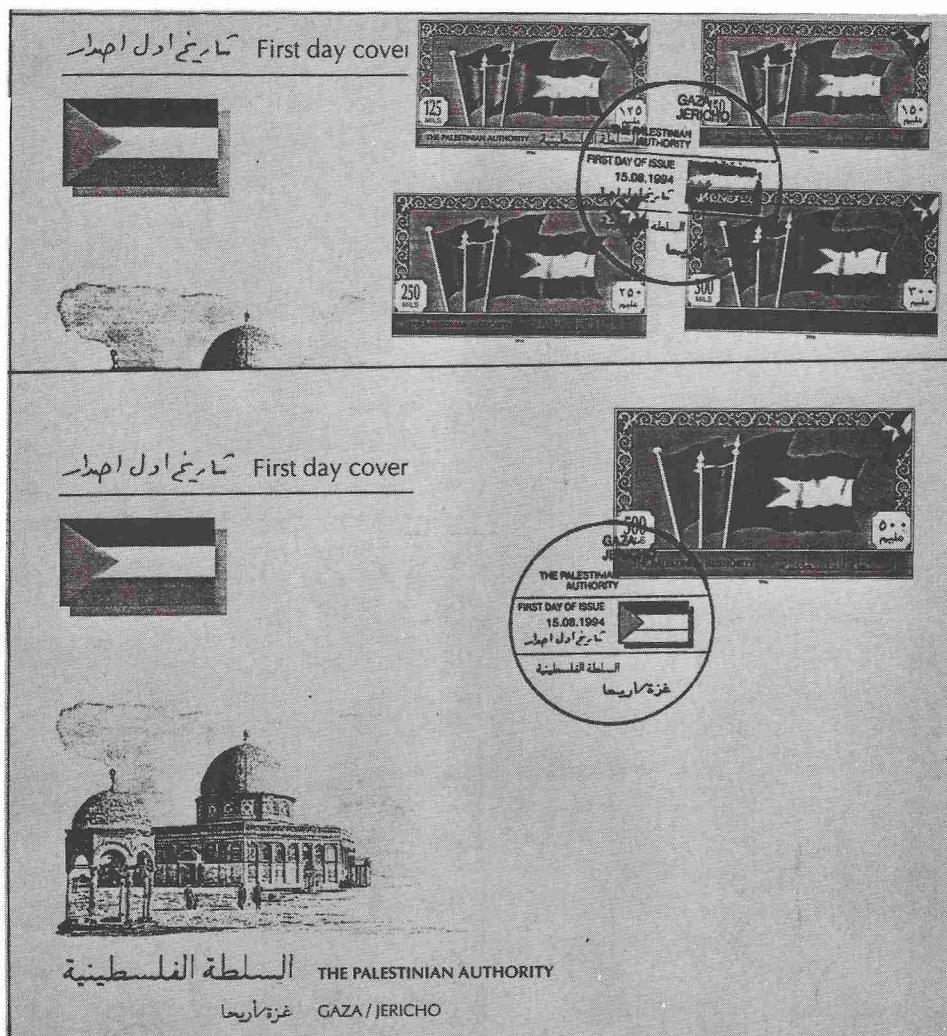
Figure 51

April 3, 1967 (?). From there it was sent on to Jerusalem, Jordan arriving on June 5th, the eve of the Six Day War.

Why did the cover arrive in Jerusalem? One possibility is that he or the Saudi Fourth Division was stationed in Jerusalem and the cover was sent on to him by military mail. This would possibly answer the question as to how it arrived in Jerusalem without passing first through Amman. The other point of interest is a purple, unidentified Arabic handstamp on back.

I would be interested to hear other explanations from fellow collectors.

Stop Press:



The first postage stamps of the Palestinian Authority (Gaza & Jericho), issued on 15 August, 1994.

The State of Israel

Telegrams Addressed to Soldiers, 1948 *(E. Jungwirth)*

On p. 973 of HLP# #57/58 Marvin Siegel shows a civilian telegram cover and wonders about the manner it was sent. I am able to show here two items which should illuminate the matter. Fig. 53 shows the envelope of a telegram

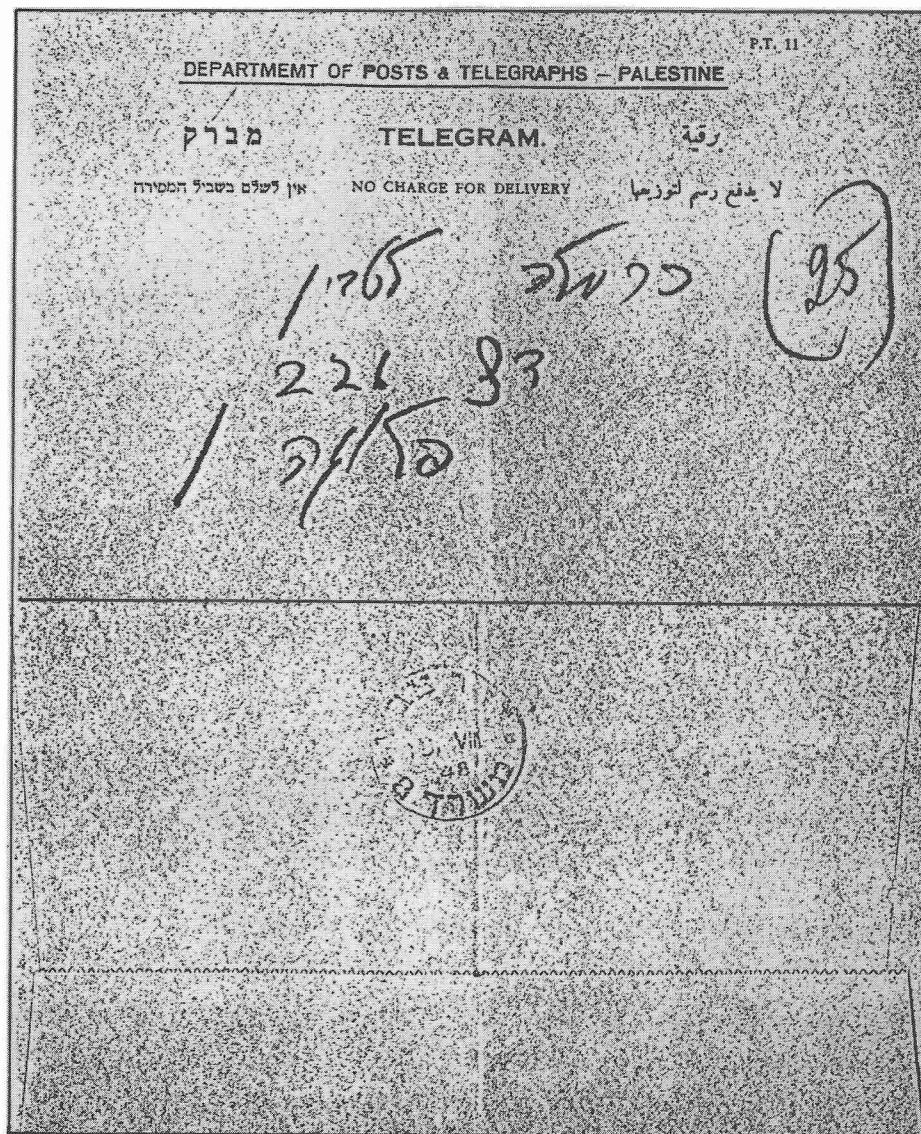


Figure 53

addressed to: Carmela Litvin, APO 226, Plugah (company) 1. The back of the cover bears the datestamp of Army Post Office No. 8 (located in Nathanya), dated August 18th. Fig. 54 shows the actual telegram datestamped Nathanya 18.8.1948, handed in at Haifa and received in Nathanya on the same date. The text reads: "Mother is worried, please write". So we have a one-day service from Haifa (civilian) to Nathanya (civilian) through Army Post Office 8. There is no way to ascertain whether the telegram was indeed delivered to the addressee on that date, or, with other unit-mail, the next day only.

[illegible]

Figure 54

The second telegram (Fig. 55) is addressed to 44742 Huber Avraham APO 283 and bears the encircled figure "9". The back of the cover has the datestamp of Base A of 22.10.48 and of Army Post Office 9 of 23.10.48. Since I obtained the cover from Mr. Huber himself and was told it had contained a telegram from his wife – a resident of Jerusalem, it would appear that the telegram was handed in Jerusalem, was forwarded to Base A in Tel Aviv and from there to Army Post Office 9 (located in Tel Nof Air Base) for delivery to the unit.

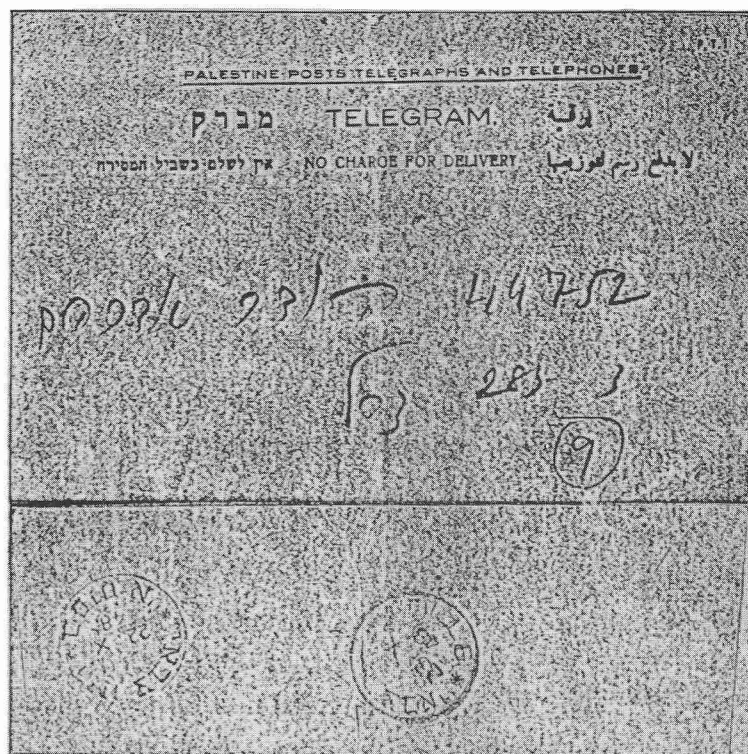


Figure 55

A Wrong Name Corrected on a Haifa CPL

Mr. Gad Shefer sent us the following photocopy of Computer Postage Labels (CPL) from Shiqmona, a Haifa branch post office (Fig. 56). The label on the left, issued on May 20 1994, the first day of installation of the computer of this office, is erroneously inscribed "שקמונה" (Shiqmona) in Hebrew instead of "חיפה" (Haifa) as is correctly printed in English. It was corrected after several days, as can be seen on the right label of May 30, from the same printer (No. 701143).

CPLs from other "stations" of this office (e.g., with numbers 701096, 701169) show the same phenomenon.

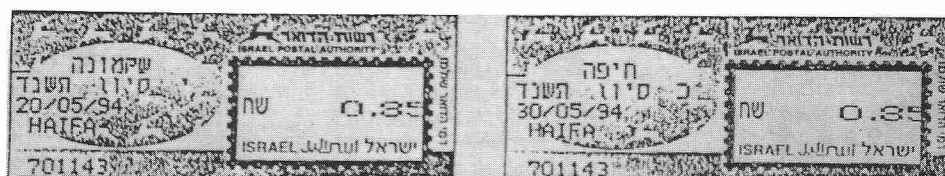


Figure 56

* * * * *

* GENERAL NEWS *

* * * * *

New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by J. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 57)

29.4.94: "El Al's Boeing 747-400 Takes off", Ben-Gurion Airport.

23.5.94: "International Style Architecture Conference", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

26.5.94: "34th Conference District 2490, Rotary Israel", Elat.

7.6.94: "50 Years of Tseire Tsion-Dror Youth Movement in North Africa", Shefayim.



Fig. 57: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



Fig. 57 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



Fig. 57 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.

- 8.6–15.6.94: "The Hebrew Book Week", Ashqelon, Afula, Ramat Gan.
 8.6–18.6.94: "The Hebrew Book Week", Yerushalayim, Tel Aviv–Yafo, Haifa.
 12.6.94: "'Stamps Tell Stories' Exhibition", Holon.
 15.6.94: "Opening of the Renovated Holocaust Post Museum Massua, Kibbutz Tel Yitzhak", Hasharon Hatikhon (M.P.).
 19.6.94: "Silver Jubilee. Supreme Grand Royal Ark Chapter of the State of Israel", Yerushalayim.
 20.6.94: "World Covention. 50 Years after the Holocaust of Hungarian Jewry", Yerushalayim.

- 21.6.94: "75th Anniversary of Tarbut, Hebrew Educational and Cultural Organization", Yerushalayim*.
- 21.6.94: "International Olympic Committee Centennial", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.
- 21.6.94: "Antoine de Saint-Exupéry 1900-1944", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.
- 21.6.94: "Ayalon 94. Balloons", Ramla*.
- 3.7.94: "ISPEX 94. Greetings from Israel's Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo
- 6.7.94: "50th Anniversary of the Rescue of Bergen-Belsen Transport 222", Yerushalayim.
- 18.7.94: "60th Anniversary of Qiryat Bialik", Qiryat Bialik.
- 18.7.94: "16th European Basketball Championship for Junior Men, Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 18.7.94: "Israel Jordan Peace Talks", Elat.
- 21.7.94: "The Academic College of Netanya", Netanya.
- 24.7.94: "50 Years since the Liberation of the Treblinka and Majdanek Concentration Camps", Lohame Ha-Getaot.
- 23.8.94: Festivals of the Year 5755 (1994), Yerushalayim*.
- 23.8.94: "The Peace Process", Yerushalayim*.
- 23.8.94: "75 Years since the The Third Aliya; 70 Years since the Fourth Aliya", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.
- 25.8.94: "Greetings from Israel's Philatelists to Philakorea 1994", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 29.8.94: "Centennial Olympic Congress", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 1.9.94: "25 Years Israel Labour Courts", Yerushalayim.
- 21.9.94: "Stamp Exhibition Be'er Sheva 94", Be'er Sheva.
- 23.9.94: "1994 Israel-Belgium Davis Cup", Ramat Hasharon.

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

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 9.5.94: Last Day of the Jericho postmark "Yeriho the World's Oldest City"*.
- 10.5.94: On this date 4 new or replaced handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices as follows: "Or Aqiva 4", "En Hashofet 1" (instead of En Hashofet without number), "Tel Aviv-Yafo 368" (instead of Tel Aviv-Yafo 275), "Tel Aviv-Yafo 369" (instead of Tel Aviv-Yafo 75), in Yafo Post Office.
- 17.5.94: "Nazareth 11", for the Postal Agency, Grade A, in Safafra near Nazareth.
- 17.5.94: "Last Day" of 29 postmarks of the Gaza Strip due to the change of administrations*.
- 25.5.94: "Adam Junction (Zahal)", for the Postal Branch in Adam Junction, in Biq'at Hayarden*.

* Cf. article by J. Wallach in this Issue. Wallach refers to only 21 postmarks of the Gaza Strip, the discrepancy will be dealt with in the next Issue.

- 1.6.94: "Mevo Azza (Zahal)", for the Postal Branch near Erez Checkpoint*.
- 21.6.94: On this date 4 new decorated handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices as follows**: "Akko 10", "Tel Aviv-Yafo 388", "Tiberias 16", "Yerushalayim 146".
- 27.6.94: "Matitiah", for the Postal Agency, Grade A, in Matitiah.
- 3.7.94: "Shefar'am 3", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Shefar'am-El Midan.
- 1.7.94: "Nahariyya 5", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Ein Sara Quarter, Nahariyya. (This postmark was used before in Nahariyya Main P.O.).
- 10.7.94: "Givatayim 526 ט", new Francotype machine in Givatayim Post Office.
- 14.7.94: "Hadera 811 ט", new Francotype machine in Hadera Post Office.
- 1.8.94: "Haifa Paye", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Haifa Post Office.
- 1.8.94: "Mevo Azza 1 (Zahal)" for the Postal Agency Mevo Azza, Erez Checkpoint*.
- 23.8.94: On this date 4 new decorated handstamps were put into use in various Post Offices as follows: "Capernaum 1"**, "Elat 20", "Massada 1"**, "Yerushalayim 147"***.
- 11.8.94: "Ashdod 32", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Quarter 13 Centre, Ashdod. (This postmark was used before in Ashdod Main P.O.).
- 28.8.94: "Yerushalayim Paye 3", new "Paid" machine cancellation in Yerushalayim post office, instead of "Yerushalayim Paye 2".
- 1.9.94: "Kaokab Abu Al-Hija 1", for the Postal Agency, Grade B, in Kaokab Abu Al-Hija.
- 1.9.94: "Netivot 4", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Kanion Netivion, Netivot. (This postmark was used before in Netivot P.O.).
- 1.9.94: "Qiryat Ata 8", for the new Postal Agency, Grade A, in Shehunut Qiryat Benyamin.

C. Slogan Cancellations

- 17.7.94: "Zip Code and the Letter Speeds Up", used with "Tel Aviv-Yafo 1", "3", "4", "5", "8", "45".
- 7.8.94: "Zip Code and the Letter Speeds Up" used with "Haifa 2", "3".
- 21.8.94: "Zip Code and the Letter Speeds Up" used with "Yerushalayim 4", "5".
- The slogan was still in use on October 31.

* Cf. article by J. Wallach in this Issue. Wallach refers to only 21 postmarks of the Gaza Strip, the discrepancy will be dealt with in the next Issue.

** These postmarks were introduced to cancel F.D. covers of the new "Tourism" set of Klussendorf postage labels. Cf. next chapter, "New Stamps and Postage Labels".

New Stamps and Postage Labels

The following stamps and Klussendorf postage labels (ATMs) were issued during the last period.

18.4.94: Booklet of 10 stamps "Keep in Touch" (which was issued previously in sheets); Tete-Beche sheet of 20 "Keep in Touch" stamps.

21.6.94: Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944) (IS 5.-); 75 years to "TARBUT" - Hebrew educational and cultural organization (IS 1.30); International Olympic Committee centennial (IS 2:25); Balloons (3 X Ag 85).

Tourism set of Klussendorf ATMs (part I) - six labels depicting remarkable sites of the following towns:

Yerushalayim (Jerusalem - David Citadel), Bethlehem, Yafa (Jaffa; 033*), Akko (Acre; 028**), Nazareth (018), Tiberias (035). All the six were "issued" by the Philatelic Services machine (without cliché number; with minimum nominal value of Ag. 30) but four of them were also available from machines placed at the respective towns - these had the typical machine's cliché number (noted above in brackets) and could be obtained with any value (multiple of 5) from Ag 5 up to IS 15.-. While the Ph.S. distributed to subscribers the whole issue on only two F.D.C.'s, all of the labels being cancelled with the Jerusalem decorated postmark ("Yerushalayim 146") issued for the occasion (s. Figure 58), there were different special decorated postmarks in the Post Office of the respective towns for use on the First Day and onward***.

23.8.94: Festival stamps 1994 (תשנ"ה) - Children draw Bible stories (Ag. 85, Is 1.30, 1.60); Booklet of the Festival stamps (one pane with decorated margins - $3 \times 1.60 + 2 \times 1.30 + 0.85$); Festival souvenir sheet (IS 4.-); The Peace Process (Ag 90); The "Third Aliya" and the "Fourth Aliya" - Waves of immigration to Eretz-Israel (IS 1.40, 1.70).

Tourism set of ATMs (part II) - 3 labels as follows: Massada, Capernaum (כפר נחורם), Yerushalayim (Jerusalem - the Holy Sepulchre). Only Philatelic Services labels without cliché number were available (minimum value Ag 30). There were no individual machines at the sites, but new decorative postmarks were issued for each label respectively ("Massada 1", "Capernaum 1", "Yerushalayim 147").

* The same Jaffa label, but with cliché No. 004, was available from a machine placed at Tel Aviv Museum during 17.7-30.9.94 on the occasion of an exhibition "Mailing a Painting from the Museum".

** By mistake, one coil of these labels was mounted in another Klussendorf machine in Acre and thus labels of various face values exist with cliché No. 015 instead of 028.

*** Only Bethlehem and Nazareth used for this purpose their last year Holiday Season decorated postmarks.

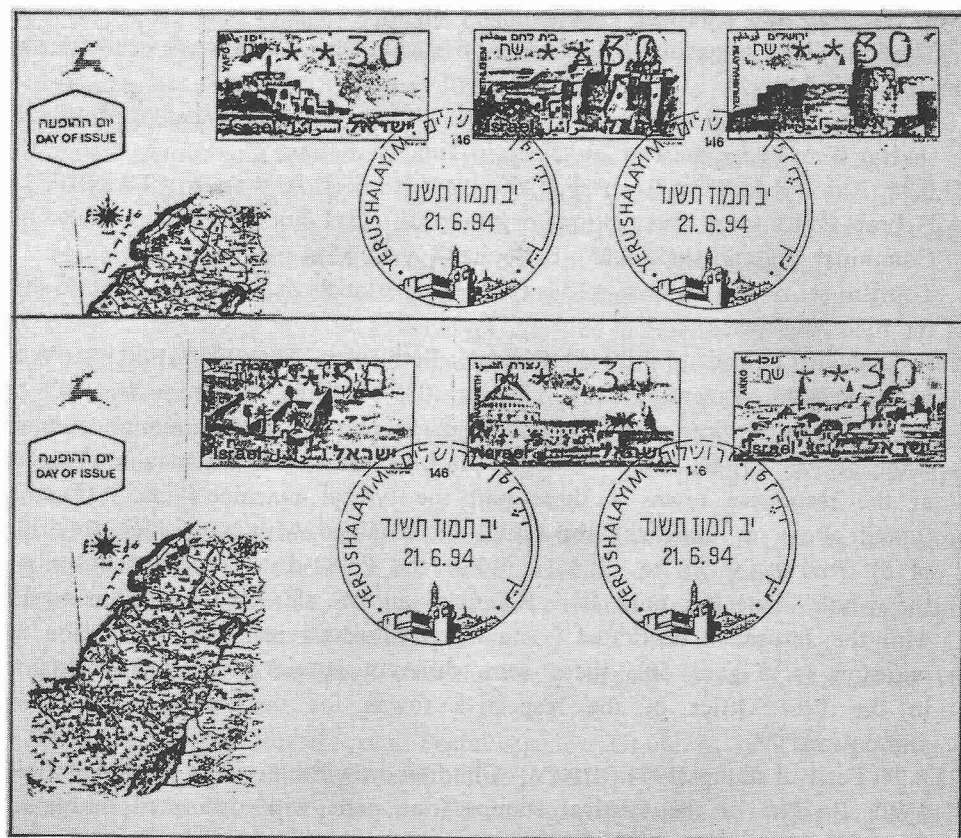


Figure 58

A New Set of Illustrated Telegrams

On July 25, 1994, the Postal Authority issued a new set of 33 illustrated (coloured) telegrams (numbered 211 to 244) to supplement the previous set (numbered 50 to 73, 90, 91) which had been issued on June 11, 1989 (see article by Ladany & Shimony, HLP#40 (1989 p. 1106). Whilst the telegrams of the previous issue were named by the authors "Telegram Cards", the present issue can be well defined as "Telegram Folders" as can be seen in the illustration (Fig. 59) – the card can be folded at the mid-line, the "blank" side containing only the number of the card (212 in Fig. 59) and the Postal Authority logo.

A pamphlet was published by the Postal Authority, explaining how to use these illustrated telegrams and illustrating them in colour (only the picture) according to subject groups (Fig. 60 and its continuations). The subjects are translated as follows: (1) Marriage/Betrothal Day (Nos. 211–214), (2) Birthday (215–218),



Figure 59

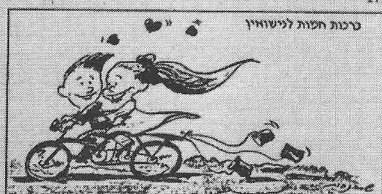
(3) Birth of Children/Grand Children (219-222), (4) Bar (Bat) Mitzva (223-225), (5) New Year and Holidays (226-230)*, (6) Various (231-234), (7) Convalescence Greetings (235-236), (8) Military Service (237), (9) General (238-241), (10) Condolences (242-244).

חתונה / יום נישואין



שתהיו מאושרים יחד - לתמיד!

211



טובות חמות לנישואין

212



איחולים לחתנים לכלה, לחתן ולכל המשפחה
קול ששון קול חתן
וקול שמחה וקול כלה

213



ברכות חמות ליום הנישואין!

214

רוצים להפתיע? לשמח או לכרך משהו? שלחו לו ברכה משגעת בדרך מקורית במיוחד - מברק מאויר. רשות הדואר מעמידה עכשיו לרשותכם מגוון רחב של מברקים מאויירים בסגנונות שונים לכל אירוע: יום הולדת, בר-מצווה, חתונה, החלמה, ברכות לחגים, ברכות תודה, בהצלחה, ברית מילה, ומה לא!

אין זה עובד?

פשוט מאוד. כל שצריך לעשות הוא לחיצה 171 - המוקד הטלפוני של רשות הדואר - 24 שעות ביממה, למסור לטלפן/ית את מספר המברק המבוקש (כפי שמופיע בקטלוג) מתוך המגוון הגדול, ואנו נבצע את המשלוח באמצעות דואר שליחים של רשות הדואר. ומה עם נימה אישית? אין בעיה, ניתן להוסיף כל מלל שתמצאו לכל מברקו את המברקים ניתן להזמין גם בכל סניפי הדואר.

"מברק מתוכנן" - אנו נשלח שלא תשכח

עוד שירות מיוחד עבורכם של רשות הדואר! ברצונכם לשלוח מברק בתאריך עתידי? חיצו 171, מסרו את רשימת התאריכים, סוגי המברקים המבוקשים ופרטי הנמענים ואנחנו נדאג לשלחם בזמן.

...ויש גם כרטיסי ברכה!

ברצונכם לשלוח בעתיד כרטיסי ברכה לקבוצת אנשים במועד אחד או במועדים שונים? שלחו את רשימת האנשים ואת מועדי המשלוח הרצויים אלינו, ואנו נשלח את כרטיסי הברכה המתוכננים כמבוקש.

לפרטים נא לפנות למוקד שה"ם ת"א: טל' 03-5643615/2
■ חיפה: טל' 04-304323 ■ ירושלים: טל' 02-290610

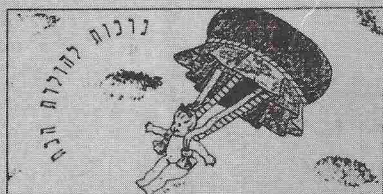
כמו כן תוכלו לרכוש בסניפי הדואר סידרה חדשה של כרטיסי ברכה מרהיבים לכל ארוע.

Figure 60

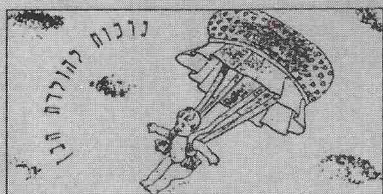
הולדת ילדים/נכדים



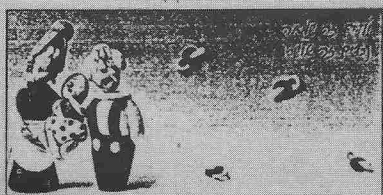
219



220



221

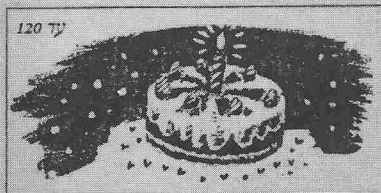


222

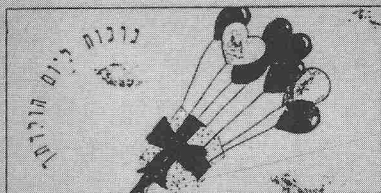
יום הולדת



215



216



217



218

Figure 60 (continued)



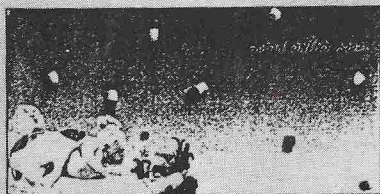
Figure 60 (continued)

* 227 is like 226 but inscribed in English; 230 is like 229 but inscribed in Arabic; 233 does not exist.

ברכות החלמה



235



236

שירות צבאי

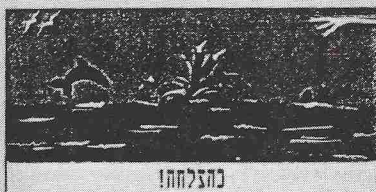


237

שוונות



231



232



234

Figure 60 (continued)



Figure 60 (continued)

Book Reviews

Cancellations of the Israeli Post. Part 3: Slogan Cancellations 1948-1994, by I. Nachtigal and B. Fixler. (Order from: The Philatelic Services, 12 Jerusalem Ave., T.A.-Yafo 68021. Price for Members \$10, incl. postage. Vol. 1, "Regular Postmarks", and Vol. 2, "Special Cancellations", can also be ordered at the reduced price of \$10 each. To get the reduced price, note in your order "Member HLPH").

Philatelists are generally not interested in contemporary Postal History. This is true of almost any country in the world, and, unfortunately, also of collectors in Israel. Unfortunate because we are blessed by having two (one has, most tragically, left us) energetic postal historians whose major interest for many years has been the accumulation of information on the postmarks, cancellations and slogans of Israel since 1948.

Two of the previous books by Nachtigal and Fixler on the postal history of Israel have already appeared: the first on the postmarks, and the second on the special cancellations. We now have volume 3, which completes the study, this one being devoted to the many slogans which have appeared since 1949, when the first was used at the "Tabul" Philatelic Exhibition in Tel Aviv. Slogans were used for many years by the philatelic authority, but the practice diminished in the early 80s. Presumably the authority found that special cancellations were more useful (or profitable?), but a slogan was suddenly used again in the 1993 Telaphila Exhibition in Tel Aviv.

As with other postal history items, slogans are great fun to collect and also a challenge. There are scarce items, with the result that building up a collection of these relatively inexpensive slogans will give much fun.

This third volume also includes a supplement to the previous two volumes, on the regular postmarks and the special cancellations issued since the appearance of those two books. Not only are the postmarks given, but also the machine cancellations, TPOs, and the "Zahal" postmarks, assembled together for the first time, all to June 1994.

This volume, as with the previous two, is essential for anyone interested in the Postal History of the State. We are indeed very fortunate that we have researchers of this stature who are prepared to devote so much energy and time to the listing of this information.

We deeply regret the loss of Mr. Fixler, who died late last year. Mr. Nachtigal is to be greatly complimented on the continuing excellence of the work, and for his devotion to carrying on with the important research which he and his late partner started so many years ago.

(E. Glassman)

1994 Bale Catalogue of Israel Postage Stamps (Price \$40 post paid).

All Israel and Interim Period Philatelists continue to be indebted to Michael Bale for his continuous stream of timely catalogues. Frankly, our hobby would be in trouble without these references as they provide much necessary and important data and listings and our basic pricing guide. Almost all commercial transactions, auction valuations and philatelic communications relative to Israel Philately use this catalog as the source of all relevant information, catalog numerology, etc.

Unfortunately philatelic publishing is hardly ever a profitable venture. Thus, our appreciation of Mr. Bale's efforts should be sincere in quality and large in quantity. It is true that his catalogues double as a sales tool. But, this very fact makes them even more valuable since all prices quoted therein are his actual selling prices and thus furnish accurate and precise current information.

The Interim Period quotations are of the stamps alone and thus this section should not be viewed as a complete catalog of Interim Period material. Again, we point out, as Mr. Bale did on his page 4, that these stamps should be ideally collected on covers. Nevertheless his listings do serve a most useful function as a guide to the values of cover frankings and for those who insist upon collecting the issues 'off cover'. This section's quotations have changed only slightly since those of the 1992 Catalogue with only a few of the most expensive and exotic pieces reflecting any price movement. For example, the French Consular Post material and the Rishon Imperforate Sheetlet have dropped in price while the exotic Safad local varieties listed have risen substantially.

The Doar Ivri Section shows a similar picture with very few prices being changed. Again most of these involves the most expensive and rarest of the Plate Blocks. Also, several new Plate Block Groups have been added and new numbers assigned to them.

The excellent Israel Stamp Section includes all issues until February, 1994. The most noticeable changes are the strong upward movement of the early full sheets reflecting the current strong market demand for these rarities. In these thousands of listings spread over 340 pages, it is only to be expected and quite natural that some differences of opinion would arise amongst various dealers and experts. Such is certainly the case here. A particularly glaring difference of opinion is his lowering of the full tabbed FDC of #7/9 from \$4000 to \$3600. If anything this valuation should have been increased to \$5000.

The contents of the catalog include special sections for Definitive Plate Blocks, Errors and Varieties (no comments this time!), IRCs, Stationery and Booklets. Almost all of these listings are exactly as per the previous edition with only an occasional addition or two for newly issued items. The major exception here is the booklet valuations. Again, Mr. Bale has correctly increased these to reflect current popularity and scarcity of supply. It is suggested that future editions

of this work include listings for the Booklets on FDCs. Many collectors now include these privately-produced pieces in their FDC Collections.

In short, a collector could probably get by with the 1992 edition if not concerned with newer issues or specialty items. However, such a parsimonious gesture would neither be wise nor fitting nor recommended as Mr. Bale has certainly earned the support of all Israel collectors by his herculean cataloging efforts.

(Marvin Siegel)

Letters to the Editor

Dear Zvi,

I agree with your suggestion in HLPH #57-58, that illustrated slogans imprinted on official envelopes are eminently collectable. It is a very wide field, but likely to be inexpensive and fascinating.

I should like to make two comments. You wrote that you were not aware of a previous mention of this topic, but as in several other areas, Norman Gladstone appears to have been the first to discuss these slogans. In his BAPIP Monograph of 1986, **Police and Prison Mail in Israel** (still available), the related imprints are described and translated whenever they are shown in his material.

My other point is intended to supplement your illustrations of the emblem of the Council for Fire Prevention. Possibly some readers may not have recognized the emblem's allusion to the Bible, of the fox with his tail on fire. Judges chapter 15 describes how Samson caught 300 foxes, tied them together in pairs by their tails, attached lighted torches and sent them into the crops of the Philistines to burn them in revenge.

So the study of this material offers still more possible aspects.

Sincerely Yours,

Walter Loebel

The Editor,

In response to Mr. Show's article about the Kuwaiti Pro-Palestinian Cachet (HLPH #57-58 p. 974), I would like to point out that this slogan was used for a limited period and was used on mail sent from the main Post Office building in Fahad Al Salem Street and also at Safat Post Office both in Kuwait City.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Fisher



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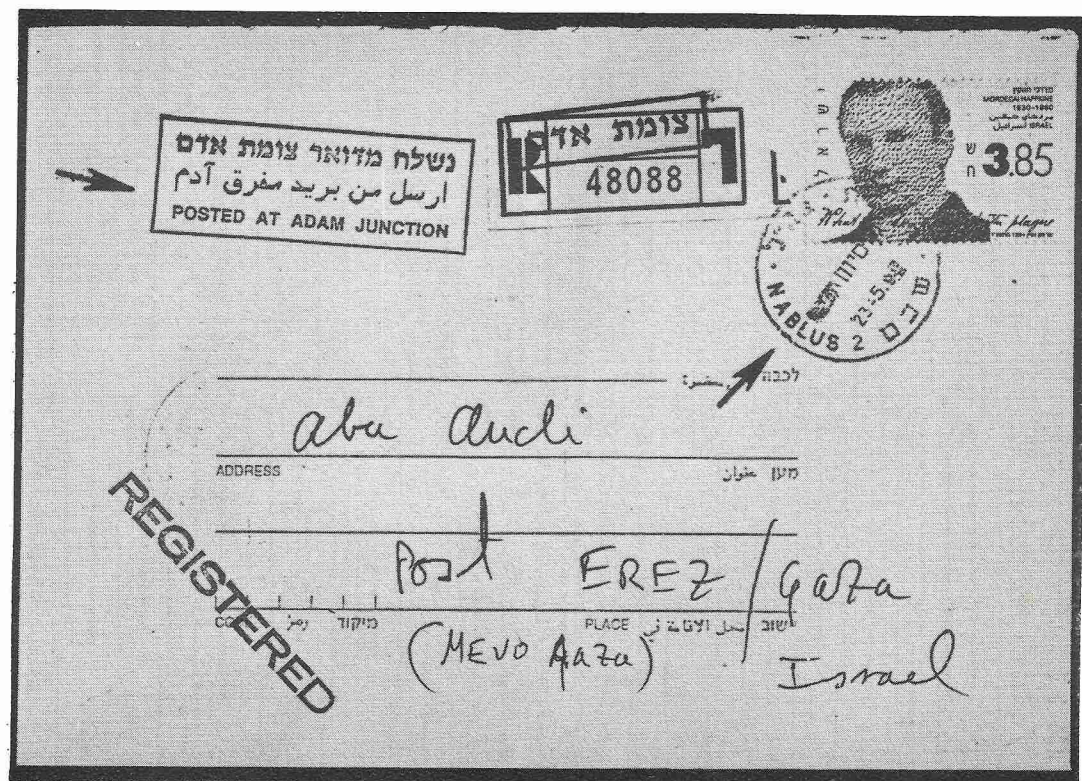


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"Postal History" in the making: a cover characterizing the postal changes in
the beginning of the Palestinian Autonomy in Jericho (see article on p. 1023)