

CHAPTER #80

MEMBER

ISRATHEME

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From the Editor's Desk - Nahum Shereshevsky

As I write these lines, HAIFA '91 is just behind us, the advantage of this column being the last item to be written. A detailed account of the exhibition would appear in the next issue, the following are just a few personal observations.

Excluding the Youth exhibits, about half of the exhibits were thematic, and that includes also the Polish ones. About 75% of the Israeli thematic exhibitors are AYELET members, and some of our members exhibited non-thematics. It shows that more and more collectors, especially new ones, are attracted to thematics. It also shows that AYELET is becoming a dominant factor in Israeli thematics, which was one of the goals that we had in mind when we founded the society. The number of good thematic exhibits in this country is still small compared to other classes, but we can see movement in the right direction. People who decided to take exhibiting seriously, attended the seminar that AYELET organized and applied what they learned there, have seen satisfying results.

This humble publication was awarded a bronze medal in the Literature Class, which pleases your Editor. This issue is printed on a laser printer, another small measure to improve the technical aspect of ISRATHEME. NOSON, AYELET's Hebrew journal, was awarded a silver-bronze. Congratulations to editors Tibi Yaniv & Moshe Rimer.

This year, for the first time, AYELET is producing Christmas covers. The idea behind them is to enable collectors in other countries to have the special Christmas postmarks of Bethlehem and Nazareth on something nicer than just a plain envelope but at a low price. See page 19 for more details.

Table of Contents

Freemasonry on Israeli Stamps	2
New Issues of Israel	14
Special Postmarks June - August 1991	18
New Postal Rates in Israel	19
Contacts	20

Introduction.

This is a preliminary study of the subject. A partial list of stamps related to Freemasonry was published by R. W. Bro. Eli Rosen in "Boneh Hahofshi" ("The Freemason") #2/1985. No attempt, however, was ever made to prepare a comprehensive list of stamps that might be of some Masonic interest.

I've tried to make this list as thorough as possible, within the framework of the three symbolic degrees as they are practised in Israel, even at the price of over-reaching the boundaries of the subject, so that the reader may decide for himself which are the stamps and issues that interest him.

1. Freemasons on Israeli Stamps.

Jabotinsky, Ze'ev (1880-1940).

Ze'ev Jabotinsky was a prominent leader in the Zionist movement, the founder of the "revisionist" trend in modern Zionism, and a publicist and writer of high expressive ability. He appears on three stamps, the first in 1970 (SG 440/Sc 410) commemorating his part in organizing the Jewish Legion in the British Armed Forces during WW I and the Defence of Jerusalem in 1920. Bro. Jabotinsky was initiated in "L'Etoile du Nord" Lodge of the Grand Orient de France, and was an active member for a few years.

Montefiore, Sir Moses (1784-1885)

Moses Montefiore was an Italian born English Jew. He became very wealthy through his activities in the London Stock Exchange. All his life he was a benefactor of the Jewish people, giving a helping hand wherever and whenever needed. Among other things, he saved the Jews of Damascus during the 1840 pogroms, and built the first suburb of Jerusalem outside the walls of the Old City. He was one of the most influential Jews of the 19th century, and was the first Jew ever to be knighted in England. A stamp commemorating him was issued in 1981 (810/777). Sir Moses was an active Freemason, a member of "Mt. Moriah" Lodge #24 in London. There are two lodges named "Montefiore" after him, one in London, the other in Glasgow.



Jabotinsky



Montefiore



Netter



Truman

Netter, Charles (1826-1882)

Charles Netter was a French Jew who founded in 1870 the first agricultural school in the Holy Land (also the first school where the official language was Hebrew), "Miqve Israel". He was a close friend and associate of Baron Adolph Cremieu (later Grand Master of the Grand Orient de France). Two stamps were issued in 1970 to commemorate the centenary of "Miqve Israel", the 0.40 value of which (448/417) shows Netter. Bro. Netter was an active Freemason in France and a founding member of the first regular Lodge in the Holy Land, "The Royal Solomon Mother Lodge" #293 (Canadian Constitution).

Truman, Harry S (1884-1972)

President Harry S Truman was the first Head of State who recognized the State of Israel after the May 14, 1948 Proclamation of Independence. He was a stout supporter of Israel, and is admired by many Israelis. Three years after his death, in 1975, a stamp commemorating him was issued (596/561). President Truman was also a prominent Freemason, and was a Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

2. Non-Freemasons after whom Lodges are named.

Herzl, Dr. Theodor (1860-1904)

Probably the most important modern Jewish leader, Dr. Herzl is the founder of the Zionist Movement. He was a "Lewis", his father, Ya'acov, being a member of a Lodge in Budapest, and some Masonic ideas might have influenced Herzl through his father. He had legal training and was a journalist and an author of some note. Never a Freemason himself, the Brethren in Buenos Aires founded a lodge named after this much admired leader of his people. Herzl appears on four commemorative stamps of Israel, among them are the 1978 "Personalities" issue (722/696).



Dr. Herzl



"Ha'Ari"



Maimonades

"Ha'Ari" - Rabbi Isaac Lurya (1534-1572)

One of the foremost students of Kabbalah, Rabbi Lurya was born in Jerusalem and lived most of his life in Safed. His writings are a

truly outstanding study of Jewish Mysticism. His pseudonym, "Ha'Ari", means "The Lion". His synagogue in Safed is still a place of worship. A stamp commemorating him (showing his synagogue) was issued in 1972 (532/494). A lodge in Jerusalem, "Ha'Ari" #27 is named after him.

Maimonides (Rabbi Moses Ben Maymon, "Rambam") (1138-1204)

Maimonides was the most outstanding Jewish personality of the medieval era. A scientist, a philosopher, a logician, a doctor of medicine, a political leader and a foremost interpreter of the Bible and of Jewish law, he had as much influence on medieval Europe (mainly through St. Thomas of Aquinas) as Marx, Freud and Einstein have today. With these last three, Moses, Jesus, Paul and Spinoza, Maimonides ranks as one of the greatest Jewish persons in history, a stamp depicting him was issued in 1953, commemorating an international convention on the history of science (84/74). A Lodge in Tel Aviv is named after him ("Rambam" #54).

3. Officers' Jewels

A Square - The Worshipful Master's Jewel

The Square is one of the Working Tools of the second degree, where it is defined as the symbol of Morality. As an expression of moral behaviour it is one of the three Great Lights of Freemasonry, and thus adorns the Altar. The Square is also the Jewel of the Worshipful Master, and when the Lodge is being closed the Brethren part "on the Square", that is, they are now able to go out to the profane world with their sense of morality fortified by their activity within the Lodge.

A Square appears on one Israeli stamp, the 0.20 value of the 1970 Education series (513/477), in the form of a three sided school Square. This stamp will be further referred to in this study as the "Technical Education" stamp.

A Plumb - the Junior Warden's Jewel

The Plumb, like the Square, is one of the Working Tools of the Fellowcraft degree, where it is said to symbolize uprightness. Masons work according to the Plumb, i.e., do their work in good faith. A Plumb is also shown on the Technical Education stamp.

An Open Book - the Chaplain's and the Bible Bearer's Jewel

The Volume of the Sacred Law is one of the three Great Lights of Freemasonry, and its place is on the Lodge Altar and in the heart of each Brother. It is a Landmark to keep it open during the Lodge communication. With the Square and Compass on top, it is all that a true Freemason needs for Moral Gratification. An open Volume of the Sacred Law is the Jewel of the Chaplain and the Bible Bearer. The book also hints at the knowledge, education and spiritual values of the Lodge, all of these being part of the Chaplain's responsibilities. An opened book appears on six Israeli stamps, the first being the 1950 Hebrew University stamp (31/23), where a book is shown twice - on the stamp itself and on the tab.

A Dove bearing the Olive Branch - the Deacons

The Dove bearing the Olive Branch was Noah's messenger that brought back the good tidings of the end of the deluge. It is therefore used as the Jewel of the Deacons who are the messengers of the Worshipful

Master and the Senior Warden. In Renaissance art the Dove was a symbol of the Holy Ghost. Pablo Picasso turned this symbol into an allegory of Peace in his famous "Paloma" drawings, and it is often used today as a common symbol of Peace. The Dove Bearing the Olive Branch appears on eight Israeli stamps. As Noah's Dove it appears on the 250 p. air mail stamp of 1950 (37/C6), showing the Dove bearing the Olive Branch, found in the Jaresh Mosaic (fourth century C.E.). As the symbol of Peace it appears on the 0.70 IL stamp of the "Peace in Children's Drawings" set of 1977 (660/623).



Technical Education



Open Book
Dove with Olive Branch



Harp - the Organist's Jewel

Music, the most expressive and emotionally stirring of the arts, has a place of honour in our Lodges. The brethren start and end every Communication singing the Glory of the Grand Architect of the Universe, led or accompanied by the Lodge Organist. His Jewel is King David's Harp, which is shown of five Israeli stamps, shown here is the 2.00 IL value of the 1977 "Ancient Musical Instruments" set (665/632).

Sword - (the Inner Guard's and) the Tyler's Jewels

The Sword is one of the symbols of the Freedom of medieval Masons, who were allowed to wear arms for self-protection. It is therefore the Jewel of the Guardians of the Lodge, the Inner Guard and the Tyler. The Sword is a part of the emblem of the Israel Defence Forces (combined with the Olive Branch). It thus appears on some thirty-eight stamps, among them is the 1971 Memorial Day (475/446).

4. Symbols of the Degree of Symbolic Freemasonry.

4.1 The Entered Apprentice Degree

Light - "And there was LIGHT"

Immediately after taking the Obligation of a Freemason the newly initiated Brother is asked what he desires most, and answers "Light". Then, while the first three verses of Genesis are read, he

is shown the Light of Freemasonry. The 1965 Festival (New Year) stamps show the six days of the Creation, and the first of the set, the 0.06 IL value (317/298) show the Creation of Light.

The Lesser Lights - the Sun and the Moon

Having been shown the Greater Light of Freemasonry, the new Brother's attention is next drawn to the Lesser Lights, which are the Sun, the Moon and the W.M. The Creation of these lights is shown in the fourth stamp (0.25 IL) of the above mentioned "Creation" set (320/301). The Sun can be found on 21 Israeli stamps, the Moon on three. Both appear together on the 9.50 IS 1982 Festival stamp (863/823) which shows Joshua's famous battle of Bet-Horon, with the Sun and the Moon standing still.



Sword

Harp

Creation of Light

Creation of Sun and Moon

Sun and Moon standing still at Bet-Horon

The Globe

In many Lodges a Globe adorns the left Column, showing the material foundation of Freemasonry and symbolizing its universality. A Globe is shown on 12 Israeli stamps, among them the EL-AL souvenir sheet of 1962 (237a/228a).

The Common Gavel and Chisel

Two of the Working Tools of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Common Gavel teaches us the lesson of diligence and dedication, the Chisel points to the advantage of education and studying. Both Tools appear together - in the context of stone cutting - on the tabs of the "Archaeology in Jerusalem" definitive series, started in 1986.

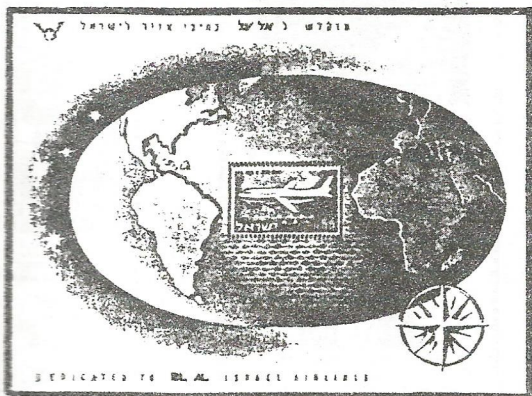
The Trowel

Having received the Working Tools, the new Entered Apprentice is given a lecture listing the virtues of a Freemason. This lecture, known as the Worshipful Master's Address, begins with stating the high esteem in which the Fraternity is held, thanks to which kings and princes did not hesitate to pick a Trowel instead of their sceptre. The Trowel, a symbol of the Mason's Work, and of the love that cements us into a truly Universal Order, is shown on the

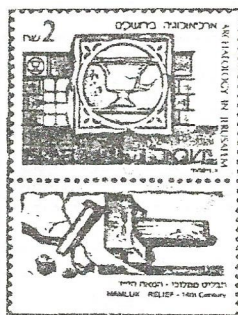
"Technical Education" stamp mentioned earlier.

Jacob's Ladder

In the Explanation of the Tracing Board of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the Brethren are told of the Ladder of Masonic Virtues, resting upon the Volume of the Sacred Law. A Freemason is expected to climb this Ladder if he wishes to reach the summit of the Craft. This Ladder is symbolically the Ladder in Jacob's Dream (Genesis 28, 12-15) shown on the 6.60 IL 1978 Festival stamp (730/703).



The Globe



Common Gavel
and Chisel



Jacob's Ladder

A Chalice and an Anchor

Among the many Virtues symbolized by the rungs of Jacob's Ladder, three are the most important: Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith is shown as a Cross, Hope as an Anchor and Charity as a Chalice. A ceremonial Chalice is shown on sixteen Israeli stamps, among them the three high values of the famous "Doar Ivri" stamps of 1948. A beautiful Jewish Chalice is shown on the 0.35 value of the 1966 Festival stamps (339/320). An Anchor is shown on nine stamps, among them is the 0.40 IL Caesarea Port of the "Ancient Ports" series of 1967.

The Seven Stars

The ceiling of a Lodge is in the form of the Heavens, with seven stars, which symbolize the seven Master Masons without whom no Lodge is ever complete. The Stars of Heaven appear in God's Promise to Abraham: "I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the Heaven" (Genesis 22, 17). In that context they are shown in a 1977 stamp commemorating E. M. Lilien, an important Jewish painter (354/338).

4.2 The Fellowcraft Degree

Two of the Working Tools of this Degree were mentioned earlier as Officers' Jewels (the Square and the Plumb). King Solomon - who was first mentioned in the first degree - and his Temple are treated fully in the next paragraph, where they belong.

"Shibboleth" and Jephthah

The Biblical password "Shibboleth" finds its place in Freemasonry in connection with the second degree. The word in Hebrew means an ear of

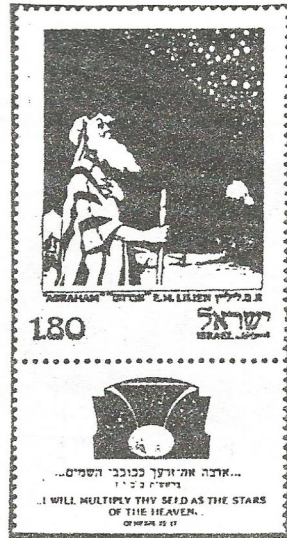
corn. An ear of corn is shown on twelve Israeli stamps, among them the 50 & 60 p. values of the 1958 Festival stamps (150-51/145-46). The story of the war between Jephthah and the Ephraimites that gave rise to this password in shown is the 1.40 IL stamp of the 1975 Festival set (610/575).



Chalice



Anchor



The Stars of Heaven



Jephthah



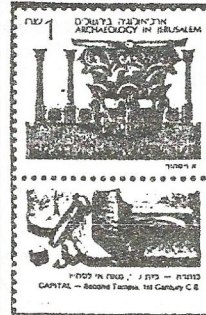
"Shiboleth" (ear of corn)



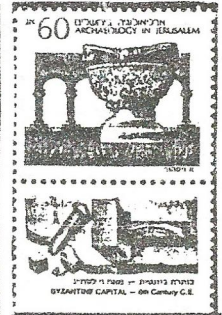
The Orders of Architecture



Doric



Corinthian



Byzantine

The Orders of Architecture are first mentioned in the explanation of the Tracing Board of the Entered Apprentice Degree as three (Ionic, Doric and Corinthian), and later referred to in the explanation of the Tracing Board of the Fellowcraft Degree as five (the above three, the Toscan and the Composite). In the first degree they symbolize King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abif, or Wisdom, Courage and Beauty. In the second degree they symbolize the five senses by which we learn the truth about the world. The

"Archaeology in Jerusalem" definitive series depicts capitals of three of those Orders: a Corinthian capital from the first century B.C.E. (1.00 NIS, 1986), a Doric capital of the same century (3.00 NIS, 1986) and a Byzantine capital (of the Composite Order?) is to be found on the 0.60 NIS of 1988.

4.3 The Master Mason Degree

4.3.1 King Solomon's Temple

King Solomon

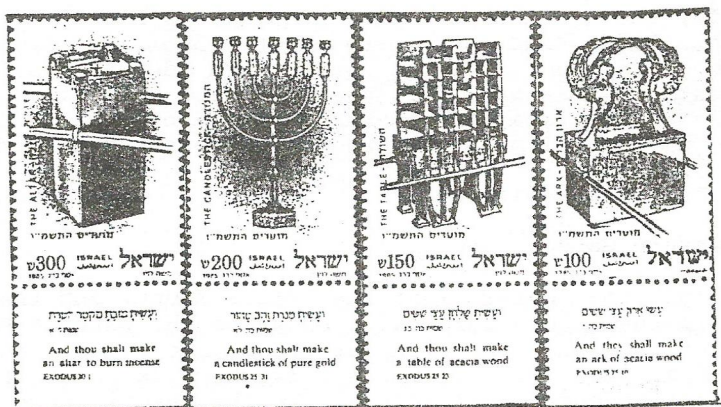
The son of David, King Solomon inherited his father's realm and the Divine Promise that he would build the Temple, and became our first Grand Master (according to Masonic legend). King Solomon is shown on the 0.40 IL value of the 1960 Festivals set (193/186), holding in one hand a scroll with the plan of the Temple.

The Temple

King Solomon's Temple is not shown on any Israeli stamp. However, in the iconography of the pre-Christian Near East, a temple is always shown as a building or a place behind (usually two) columns, just like those that adorned the entrance to the Temple of King Solomon. An ancient Jewish coin of the second century C.E. that shows a temple (the second Temple of Jerusalem?) appears on the 100 p. value of the 1954 Coins definitive series (92/82).



King Solomon



The Altar Menorah Table Arc of Covenant

The Temple Furniture

The Festivals set of 1985 (957-60/913-6) depicts four items of the Furniture that belonged to the Tabernacle and were later used in the Temple.

They are:

- 100 IS - The Ark of Covenant, made of Acacia wood.
- 150 IS - the Table, made of Acacia wood.
- 200 IS - the Candlestick (Menorah).
- 300 IS - the Altar.

The Menorah (seven armed candlestick) is the central element in the Coat of Arms of the State of Israel and is shown on about eighty Israeli stamps, the most interesting of which are the Heraldic

Menorah as shown on the 1955 Independence Day stamp (103/93) and the second century C.E. stone Menorah from Tiberias (now in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem) shown on the 0.30 IL value of the 1966 "Israel Museum" set (348/324).



A Temple



Heraldic Menorah



Ancient stone Menorah

Jaffa

Jaffa, the ancient port of Jerusalem, is shown on the 0.80 IL value of the 1967 "Ancient Ports" set (355/379). Apart from its being mentioned in the ritual of the third degree, Jaffa is also of interest to Masons as it was the place where the cedars of Lebanon were sent to by sea, and there they were brought ashore and carried inland to Jerusalem to be used in the construction of the Temple.

4.3.2 The Hiram-Abif Legend

The Eastern Gate

One of the gates into the Temple Mount, and the only one on the East, is the Golden Gate, also known as the Gate of Mercy. This gate is blocked, and the legends claim that it will be opened when the Messiah arrives. The Golden Gate is shown on the 0.18 IL value of the 1972 Independence set (528/489). In the Masonic Legend it is the site of Hiram Abif's death.

The road from Jerusalem to Jaffa

One of the first Israeli stamps with a "Masonic" subject was issued on Feb. 16, 1949, when Israel was still fighting its War of Independence. The stamp (15/24) shows the road from the Coast to Jerusalem. During the war Jerusalem was besieged by Arab forces, and there was a very real danger of losing the city altogether. A major effort of the Israeli forces was thus put into the repeated attempts to open the road leading from Tel Aviv/Jaffa to Jerusalem. The road was finally opened, the siege lifted, and the relief and joy of the whole nation were reflected in this stamp, which shows the road twisting through the barren hills of Western Judea. Since the stamp was issued, the hills have been planted with large pine woods, and today they are delightful to behold. These now verdant hills can be seen in the 100 pr. airmail stamp of 1954 (76/C9) that shows another part of the road, Sha'ar Ha-Gay. Every Master Mason must be aware of

the place this road has in the Hiram Abif Legend.



Jaffa



Road to Jerusalem

5. Places and Events connected to Modern Masonic History.

A Cave at Saris

The first Lodge in the Holy Land was a moot Lodge that met once in King Solomon's Quarries in Jerusalem in 1868. Five years later the first regular Lodge was consecrated, the "Royal King Solomon Mother Lodge" #293 (Canadian Constitution). This Lodge remained active for more than thirty years. For many years, all that was known about this Lodge came from a reference to it in the "Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement". In 1889 a cave was discovered near the village Saris, not far from the road from Jerusalem to Jaffa. The cave was later identified as a burial cave from the first or second century C.E., but at the time it aroused the curiosity of the Brethren residing in the Holy Land. Not only its location made this cave of interest to them. In the cave were found two large reliefs of human figures standing with their hands raised above their heads (the Brethren probably were not aware that this stance is common in Hellenistic and Roman iconography and is known as "Laudae" - praying people). The combination of the cave's location and the figures triggered the imagination of the Brethren of the Canadian Lodge and they came to the cave one day led by their Worshipful Master, and excavated it thoroughly. The story of the cave and its unusual excavators, a mis-identification of the carved figures as those of Christ on the Cross and much more information may be found in the "P.E.F.Q.S." of 1889 thru 1902. The cave is now part of a Nature Reserve Park, called "Hamasreq" ("Comb") that is shown on the 0.05 IL value of the Nature Reserves set of 1970 (435/405).

The Jaffa - Jerusalem Railway

In 1888 a second regular Lodge was consecrated in the Holy Land, "Moriah" (Turkish Constitution), and in 1889 a third, "Le Port du Temple de Roi Solomon (Egypt Constitution). This Lodge later changed its name and Constitution a few times, and is now "Barkai" #17 (Israeli Constitution). It is the oldest Lodge in the Holy Land. A year after it was consecrated, a group of French engineers joined

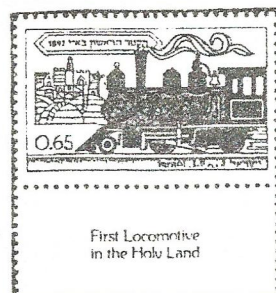
this Lodge, and for many years it was thought that they had founded it. These engineers were engaged in the building of the railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem which was opened in 1890. In 1977 the Post Office issued four stamps and a souvenir sheet, showing the history of the railways in the Holy Land. The 0.65 IL value stamp (685/674) shows the first railway engine in the Holy Land and the old station in Jaffa.



The Eastern Gate



Cave at Saris



The Jaffa -
Jerusalem Railway

The Jerusalem YMCA Building

Few buildings in the world can claim the distinction of being the site where two Grand Lodges were consecrated. The Jerusalem YMCA is one building that can. In this building the National Grand Lodge of Palestine was consecrated on January 9, 1933, and twenty years later, on October 20, 1953, the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was consecrated at the very same place. On the centenary of the Jerusalem YMCA in 1978 this building was depicted on a stamp (723/698).

6. Other Stamps of Masonic Interest

Masons at Work.

in 1949 Tel Aviv was 40 years old, one of the youngest cities of the world, but already a thriving metropolis. A special memorial was erected to commemorate the builders of Tel Aviv, and the bottom panel of this memorial shows Masons at Work, digging and setting the foundations of the city on the sands north of Jaffa. This memorial is shown on a 1951 stamp (59/44).

Scouts

Boy and Girl Scouting were the brainchild of Robert Stephenson Smith Baden Powell, K.G., Baron of Baden Powell, a prominent British soldier and a Freemason. The Freemasons of the U.S.A. have a somewhat similar Youth Movement, De Molay. In 1968 a stamp was issued to commemorate the jubilee of the Hebrew Scout Movement (400/369).



The Jerusalem YMCA



Masons at work



Scouts

Noah

James Anderson calls the Freemasons of his time "Noahites" and claims that Noah and his sons were Masons. In some parts of England, mainly in places where the building material was more often wood than stone, the Hiram Abif Legend is replaced in old manuscripts by a similar one about Noah and his sons. The 1969 New Year set (425-9/394-8) shows scenes from the Biblical story of the deluge, including Noah sending out the dove.



The story of Noah's Ark

Roses

The Rose is the flower of Freemasonry. A newly initiated Brother receives three roses to give to the woman closest to his heart, and many Lodges hold annual meetings in the Lodge, attended by the wives of the Brethren, known as the "Feast of the Rose". In general, the rose is the Masonic symbol of the female element that adorns the world. A 1981 set shows roses (821-3/791-3).

Bees

Bees are known as industrious and well disciplined, and are the symbol of the spirit of industriousness and obedience that should always characterize our Lodge work. A beehive is thus a symbol of a Lodge whose brethren work wholeheartedly to promote the ideals of the Craft. Bees are the subject of a 1983 stamp (892/833).



Roses



Bees

7. Masonic Postmarks

Although no stamp of Israel was yet dedicated to Freemasonry, two commemorative postmarks were made and used on special occasions:

1. The foundation of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel was commemorated by a special postmark in Jerusalem, 20.10.53.
2. In July 1959 the Grand Lodge of Israel celebrated its fifth anniversary, and the 25th of the National Grand Lodge of Palestine. A special Masonic Pilgrimage was organized, and the Post Office prepared a commemorative postmark used in Jerusalem on July 22, 1959.
3. In 1978 the Grand Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary and again a Masonic Pilgrimage was organized. A special commemorating postmark was prepared and used in Jerusalem on Nov. 20, 1978.



Foundation of Grand Lodge of Israel, 1953



Pilgrimage, 1959



Pilgrimage, 1978



Conclusion

It is to be hoped that studies such as this one will encourage new Brethren to combine their efforts in their hobbies with their Masonic work, enriching their hobbies and their Masonic life. Through such combination both Freemasonry and the Freemasons will be fortified in the effort of making our world - and the world of tomorrow - a better place to live in.

JCA - JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION 1891-1991 NIS 1.60

The Jewish Colonization Association was founded by the Baron Maurice de Hirsch, a German Jewish financier and philanthropist. The JCA was founded in London as public company with a prime capital of some £8,000,000, all coming from the Baron. Baron de Hirsch believed that in the future the Jews should become productive and be able to stand on their own feet rather than receive charitable handouts. He did not believe, however, that there could be a Jewish autonomous entity in Palestine under the Ottoman rule, and therefore the JCA directed the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe mainly to Argentina, Brazil and Canada. Nevertheless, at the end of the century the JCA began to assist a number of Jewish villages in Palestine, and in 1899 the JCA and Baron Rothschild established the "Eretz Israel Commission" and through it the JCA took under its wing nine of Baron Rothschild's settlements. The JCA also set up other new settlements, and today it can be seen that its settlements activities helped determine the borders of Israel in 1948. For many years the JCA supported important educational and research institutions. In recent years, the JCA's activities in other countries have decreased and the funds are mainly directed to Israel.

The stamp shows a group of settlers with the portrait of Baron Hirsch. The FDI postmark (fig. 10 page 20) shows the coat of arm of Baron Maurice de Hirsch. Its central element, on the shield and crest, is the deer - "hirsch" in German.

FESTIVAL STAMPS 5752 (1991) - 65 ag., NIS 1, NIS 1.20

This year's theme for the Festival stamps, issued each year before the Jewish New Year, are the High Holidays. The stamps depict some of the customs associated with each holiday.

65 ag. - ROSH HA-SHANA (New Year)

The Jewish New Year is celebrated in the first day of Tishrey, the first month of the Hebrew calendar, which falls in September or October. But in Biblical time the year started in Nissan, and therefore the Bible refers to it as a festival in the first day of the seventh month (Leviticus 33, 24). Shown on the stamp is a man blowing the Shofar (ram's horn), this being an essential part of the festival which is performed several times during the two-day holiday. The lower part of the stamps shows a ram's head, a motif from the binding of Issac (Genesis 22), which also represents the symbolic expression of being the head and not the tail. On the tab are the sun, the moon and the stars (Saturn is noticeable among them) which relate to the Rabbis' conception that the New Year is the anniversary of the Creation of the Universe.

NIS 1 - YOM KIPPUR (Day of Atonement)

Yom Kippur, which is ten days after New Year, was determined in the Torah as a day of purification (Leviticus 26,30). This is the most holy day in Judaism, a day of fasting and praying with the emphasis on the individual atonement of every Jew, who is obliged to repent his sins, and resolve before the Lord to be a better person. The upper part of the stamp shows a rooster, symbolizing the "Penitence Cock". In this ritual, one swings the rooster over one's head and says "this rooster will go to death and I will go to life". The

rooster is then killed. (The rooster can be replaced by money that goes later to charity). In the center is a father blessing his children before going to synagogue, another Yom Kippur custom. At the bottom are two men blowing the ram's horn, with a scroll of the Torah between them. On the tab are the Scales of Justice. According to the Jewish faith, on Yom Kippur, which is also called "Day of Justice", the Lord weighs every person's good and bad deeds, and determines whether that person will live until the next New Year or not.

NIS 1.20 - SUKKOT (Feast of Tabernacles).

Sukkot falls on the 15th of Tishrey (that is, 15 days after New Year and five days after Yom Kippur), and lasts seven days. "Sukkot" is the plural form of "Sukka" - a tabernacle, a kind of temporary dwelling covered only with vegetation. The People of Israel are commanded to dwell in a sukka during the seven days of the holiday, recalling the Children of Israel who dwelled in sukkot during their wandering in desert following the Exodus from Egypt. Another term associated with Sukkot is the "Four Species" - citron, branch of palm tree, myrtle, and branch of willow) Leviticus 23,40). One has to bless on them each day in the sukka. The stamp shows a family sitting in the sukka, which is decorated with colourful awnings and fruits. Three of the "Four Species" can be seen on the upper section of the stamp (the willow is missing). On the tab is the word "Sukkot" in a floral ornamentation.

The FDI postmark (fig. 8 on page 19) shows a Torah scroll, a shofar (ram's horn), a palm branch and a citron.

150 YEARS OF THE JEWISH CHRONICLE NIS 1.50

First published on November 12, 1841, under the editorship of Moses Angel and David Meldola, the "Jewish Chronicle" is today the oldest and most influential Jewish newspaper in the English-speaking world. Its aim, according to the leading article in the first issue, was to provide "religious and moral instruction; local intelligence, historical information, and facts, exclusively Jewish; original articles; and textbooks".

The "JC" was founded in London by Isaac Vallentine, and since 1847 it has been issued weekly. Throughout its 150 years, the paper has recorded the events of Jewish life in Britain and elsewhere, having today correspondents in 30 countries across the globe and in 40 communities in Britain. Its literary and feature pages boast the cream of the world's Jewish writers, philosophers, politicians and theologians, whilst a wide range of interests is catered for in its arts, travel, youth and Judaism sections.

The stamp shows a Magen-David adjacent to part of a Union Jack. In the background is the opening page of the first issue of the Jewish Chronicle with its title: an open book with the words "The Jewish Chronicle" in English and "A Book of Memory" in Hebrew. The open book with the Hebrew wording "A Book of Memory 1841-1991" also appears on the tab and on the FDI postmark (fig. 9 on page 20).

BINATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION ISRAEL-POLAND "HAIFA 1991" SOUVENIR SHEET
Sheet price NIS 4, incorporating a NIS 3 stamp.

"Haifa 91", to be held in Haifa during the Sukkot week (24.9-1.10.91) is the first binational stamp exhibition in Israel. The exhibition is

the fifth hosted by the Haifa Philatelic Society, the oldest in the country (founded 1938).

The stamp in the souvenir sheet shows a painting by the German artist Gustav Bauerfeind, which portrays the German Colony in Haifa towards the end of the 19th century. The painting was included in an album given by the Templers (German settlers in Palestine) to the German Kaiser Wilhelm II during his visit to the country in 1898.

Gustav Bauerfeind was born in the village of Sulz am Neckar, near Stuttgart, in 1848, and first visited the Holy Land in 1880. He returned again and again and finally settled in Jerusalem, where he died in 1904.

On the left part of the souvenir sheet is the HAIFA 91 logo: a stamp-like frame divided diagonally by the blue-white flag of Israel and the red-white flag of Poland. Above the flags is "HAIFA 91" in Hebrew and below is "haifa" in Latin letters. The ship in the lower-right corner is taken from the City of Haifa arms, where it represent commerce and the harbour.



JCA Centennial



Festival Rosh Hashana Yom Kippur Sukkot



Jewish Chronicle



HAIFA 1991 Binational Stamp Exhibition

Note: '*' denotes a postmark used for FDC of stamps.

1. 2.6.91 OR YEHUDA: Exodus of Iraqi Jews to Israel 40th anniv.
- * 2. 11.6.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Bukharan Quarter Centennial. [Postmark shows old synagogue].
3. 12.6.91 TEL AVIV-YAFO: 23rd European Basketball Championship for Women.
4. 23.6.91 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Greetings from Israel to Bulgaria-Israel Stamp Exhibition, Rosa, Bulgaria 23-27.6.91
5. 30.6.91 ZIKHRON YA'AQOV: 75th Anniversary of the "NILI" Organization. [See Sarah Aaronsohn stamp, issue 2 p.14].
6. 10.7.91 TEL AVIV-YAFO: Inauguration of the Irgun Tzvai Leumi [National Military Organization - underground during British Mandate era] Museum.
7. 24.7.91 ARAD: The Arad Hebrew Song Festival.
- * 8. 27.8.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): Festival Stamps 5752.
- * 9. 27.8.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): 150 Anniv. of the Jewish Chronicle
- *10. 27.8.91 YERUSHALAYIM (JERUSALEM): JCA Centennial





AYELET CHRISTMAS COVERS 1991

Each year the Israeli Post has special postmarks for Christmas on December 24 in Nazareth and Bethlehem. AYELET is producing a pair of special cacheted covers that would carry the 1991 Christmas postmarks.

Prices are per pair, including air-mail delivery:

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Send your orders to: P.O. Box 3542, 31034 HAIFA, ISRAEL.

NEW POSTAL RATES IN ISRAEL

As of July 10, 1991, in NIS

Inland letter/postcard: 0.70 Registration surcharge: 2.30

Airmail postcard and aerogramme worldwide: 0.80

There was a re-structuring of airmail letter rates. Instead of steps of 10g. for letters and 20g. for printed matter, there are now steps of 20, 100, 250, 500 grams, with different rates for letters and printed matters. In the table the numbers refer to letters/printed.

Zones: A-Europe; B-N. America, Africa, Asia; C-S. America, Pacific

	to 20g.	50g.	100g.	250g.	500g.
A	1.00/1.00	1.80/1.40	3.30/2.00	5.90/3.30	12.00/6.40
B	1.30/1.30	2.00/1.80	4.00/2.50	7.60/4.20	16.00/8.10
C	1.60/1.60	2.80/2.20	5.10/3.10	9.00/5.20	19.00/10.00

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For more information, contact the Editor.

CONTACTS

* My name is Asael and I'm 11 years old. I collect stamps and I would like to exchange stamps and opinions... My address: ASAEL LEVIN, ASERET, 71939 D.N. MODIN, ISRAEL.

* Mr. BORIS ROCHMAN, P.O. Box 39221, 61391 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, is interested in Paintings on stamps, blocks, FDC's and maximum cards.

* Mr. STUART ELGROD, P.O. Box 3301, 61032 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL will be pleased to exchange Israeli thematic material for cricket, Shakespeare & Dickens material.

* Mr. AMI HARPAZ, 30097 KIBBUTZ SHAAR HAAMAKIM, ISRAEL wishes to correspond with collectors of folktales and legends, stories, mythology. Can write also Polish and French.

* Mr. Shmuel Kohn, 25 OVADIA, 34563 HAIFA, ISRAEL, collects mycophilately and history of biology. He can exchange material of that theme for other themes, such as space, environment, ships, flora and fauna, medical themes and Red Cross.

* Mr. LAWRENCE FISHER, P.O. Box 653, 4300 RAANANA, ISRAEL is interested in the Israeli-Arab conflict, Albert Einstein, and interrupted mail.

Mr. BARUCH HANS, WULFSON 29, 75202 RISHON LEZION, ISRAEL, is looking for postal stationary items, especially from Australia and India.

* Mr. SHAI KRITZ, P.O. Box 954, 44108 KFAR SAVA, ISRAEL collects stamps-on-stamps and is looking for exchange partners, particularly from the British Commonwealth.

* Mr. DANIEL SCHMIDT, P.O. Box 1187, 61010 TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, wishes to correspond with collectors of the following themes: blood donation /transfusion, care of the sick/wounded/aged, ambulances, hospital ships/planes/trains, leprosy, The Good Samaritan, SOS child villages.

* Mr. MOSHE MICHAELI, 12 BILU Street., 49463 PETAH TIQWA, ISRAEL, is looking for contacts with individual collectors and with specialized groups on the Red Cross theme.

* Mr. HAIM BASSAN, P.O. Box 24305, 91242 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL is interested in EUROPA and Unity of Europe material, especially postmarks and letters, and can send similar material as well as Israeli stamps.

* Mr. MOSHE BEN ZVI, P.O. Box 121, 75101 RISHON LEZION, ISRAEL collects meteorology, including (among others) rainbows, rain, clouds, snow, air pollution, meteorological natural disasters, meteorological instruments, Year of the Quiet Sun, IGY, pre-printed weather observation cards. Writes also French.

* Mr. RONNIE KENNIGSBERG, P.O. Box 3142, 26130 KIRYAT MOTZKIN, ISRAEL, is looking for collectors of ships and lighthouses.

* Mr. MOSHE RIMER, P.O. Box 215, 59101 BAT YAM, ISRAEL, is interested in molluscs and their products, including seashells, octopuses, pearls, seashells in art and craft.