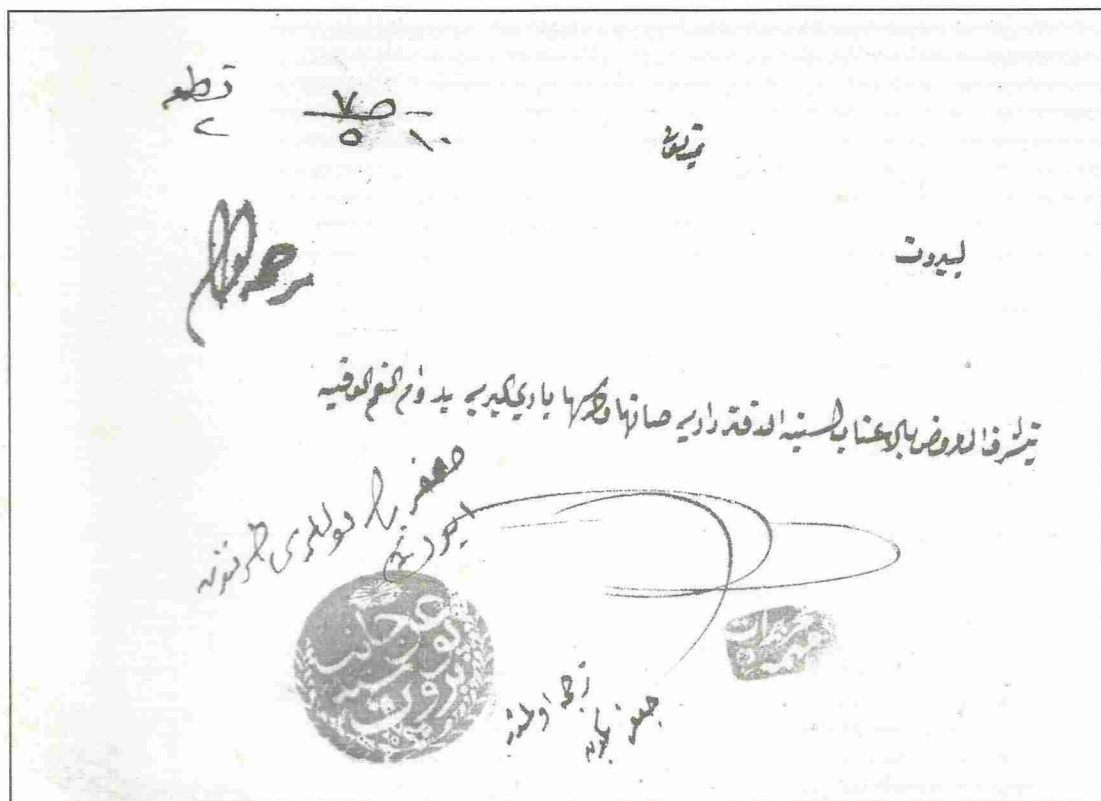


Holy Land Postal History

V
93-94

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



מכתב רשמי מירושלים, מהמוקדמים ביותר הידועים מסוג זה, שהועבר ע"י שרות השליחים
בין ירושלים לבירות, שרות שהופעל ב-1845.

One of the earliest recorded official letters from Jerusalem, carried by the courier service which
operated between Jerusalem and Beirut from 1845 (See article on p. 474).



WINTER / SPRING 2003

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

Official Bulletin of the Society of the Postal History
of Eretz-Israel

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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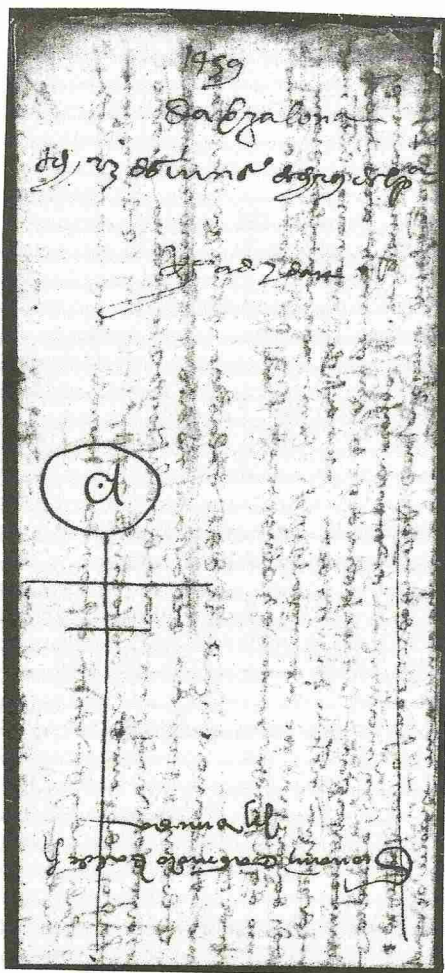
Forerunners to the Forerunners

(A Pre-philatelic Postal History of the Holy Land)

J. Alexander

Fifteen years ago, in 1988, the Society published an excellent monogram by Joseph Aron from Australia on the Pre-philatelic Postal History of the Holy Land. Since that time there has been almost no additional information or article published on this subject. It was, therefore, suggested to me to write up the pre-philatelic items from my collection.

The earliest letter I have (Fig. 1) is a 1459 letter from Ascelon to Venice forwarded by the Venetian post. The letter, written in Venetian dialect, accompanied a shipment of goods. The pen drawing of a tied bag denotes this fact. The crossed lines indicate that carriage was pre-paid. The year and origin of the letter are written on top.



**Fig. 1: Mar. 31, 1459 Entire letter
Ascelon to Venezia.**

The second letter, shown on the Back Cover was also forwarded by the Venetian post. Posted in Acre on March 24, 1471, transit March 30th, 1971 Beirut and from there by Galley ship to Venice. The cross at the beginning of the first row indicates "For the Grace of God". A "hanging device" at the end of the third row may be a sign to indicate to the courier a hanging punishment in the event of the loss of the letter. The two inverted V's at the end of the second row indicate, probably, two changes of horses on the way to Beirut.

The third and fourth letters are from the Livorno archives (1668 - 1707), which were discovered by the late Robson Lowe and were auctioned in Zurich in October 1984 and April 1985. Livorno, during that period, was a free port and a center of the European and Mediterranean trade. The letter shown in Fig. 2 dated March 4, 1691 in Acre, arrived at Livorno on Apr 12 (39 days of passage). Livorno was made a free port by Cosimo I, the grand Duke of Tuscany, and remained its greatest port. The letter is from Joseph Arnaud to Venturin; & Vernaccia; Francesco Venturini - merchant, banker and ship owner, died in 1690. Raffaello Vernaccia, a member of the distinguished Florentino family, entered into a partnership with the aging Venturini in

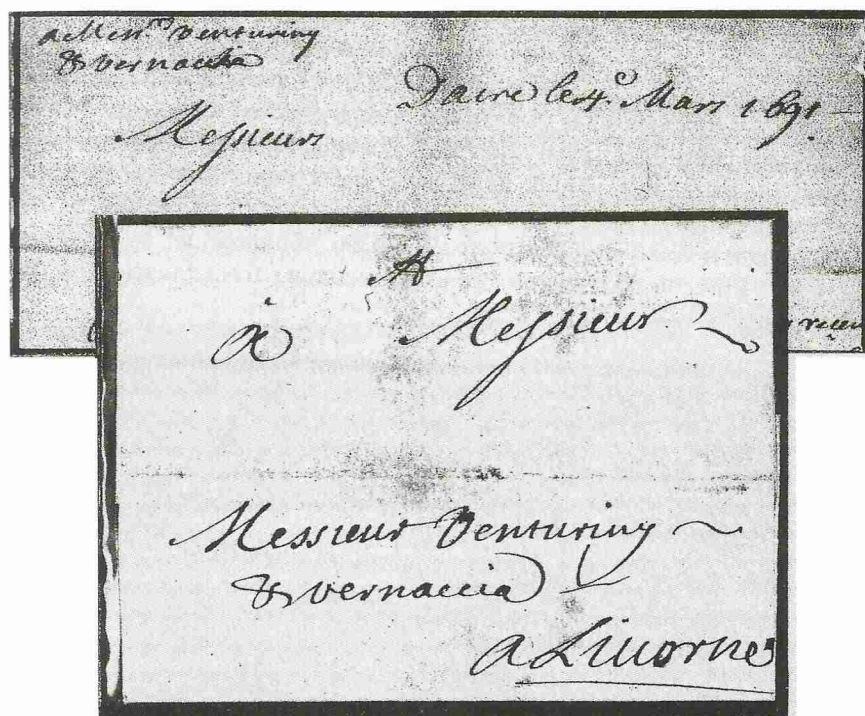


Fig 2: Mar. 4th, 1691 Acre, Arrival Livorno, Italy Apr 12th (39 Days Passage).
 (From the Livorno Archives)

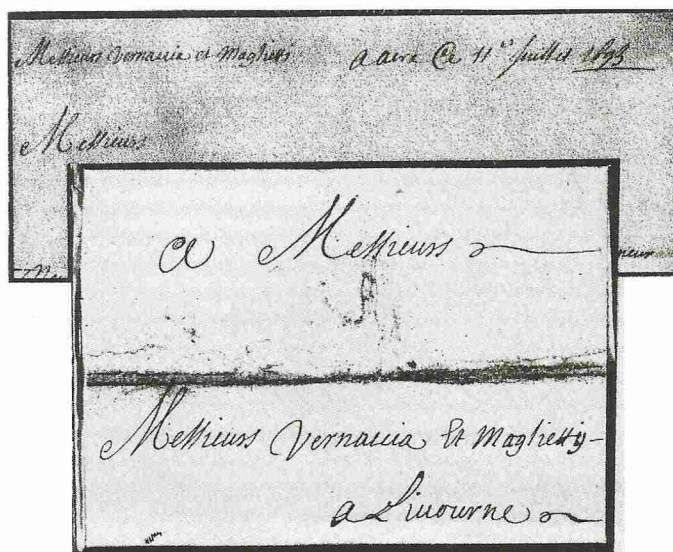


Fig. 3: July 11, 1693 Acre arrival Livorno, Italy Aug 29th (49 days Passage).
 (From the Livorno Archives)

1689. Text of the letter: "Letter received by the Capt. Grimaud in the ship La Paix with the settlement of 589 Piasters for the account of Francois Marin".

The letter shown in Fig. 3 is dated July 11, 1693 at Acre, and has an arrival Livorno, Aug 29, 1693 (49 days of passage). Joseph Arnaud writes to Vernaccia & Maglizi: "Capt. Paty was taken soon after leaving Livorno by two ships from Vlissingen. In truth this would have been unfortunate but he managed to escape. There are many dangers at sea with many Corsairs sailing. Capt. Antoine Fougasse bought a small ship in Cyprus Renamed "Commande" by Capt. Joseph Brunet. Capt. Francois Martin has been taken coming from Smyrna. The news is very distressing."

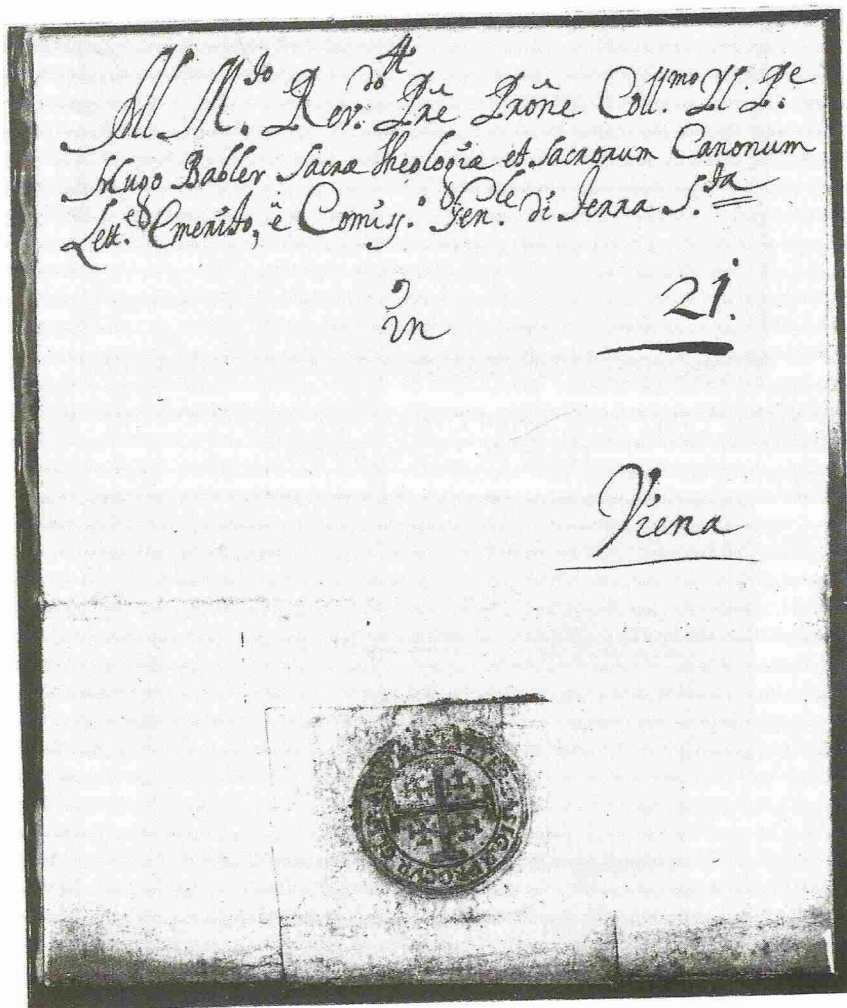


Fig. 4: Jan 28th, 1731 Jerusalem to Vienna, an entire letter in latin addressed to "The most reverend Father in Christ, Fr. Hugo Babler, Preacher and Professor Emeritus Minors, Commissioner General of the Holy Land."

Fig. 5 is dated Sep 23, 1736, Nazareth to Vienna. It is a single sheet ecclesiastical entire letter written in the Italian language, showing manuscript "15" together with double cross salutation. Decorative wafer seal embossed with the picture of Jesus and Mary and inscribed "Mary and the Angel of God".

The third Ecclesiastical letter (Fig. 6) dated May 7, 1737, Ain Karem to Vienna is an entire letter from a Franciscan father in the Holy Land stationed in Ein Karem, addressed to the same Hugo Babler: "The most Reverend Father in Christ, Fr. Hugo Babler, preacher and professor Emeritus of the Franciscan minors, reformed, of the Holy Roman Empire". A plain rectangular wafer appears on the reverse.

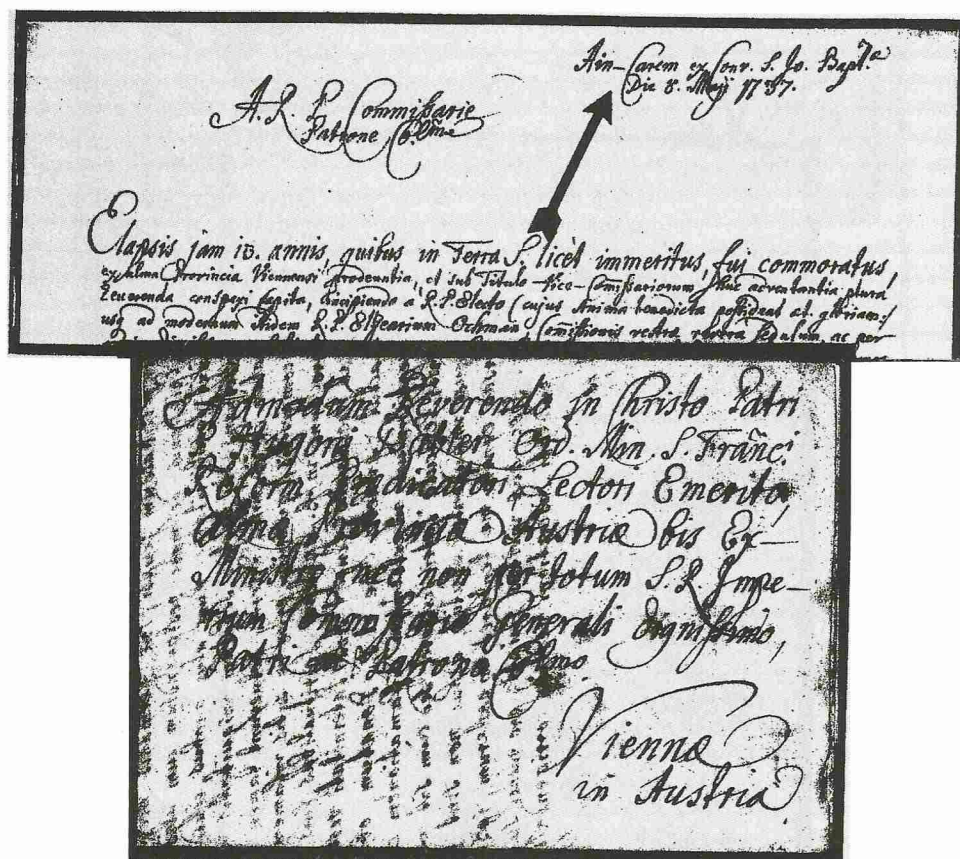


Fig. 6: May 7th, 1737, Ain Karem to Vienna. an entire letter from a Franciscan father in the Holy Land located in Ein Karem, addressed to Hugo Babler, Commissioner General for the Roman Empire".

Figure 7 shows a Napolionic Campaign letter dated Mar 9, 1797 from "Le General Du Genielau, Camp Du Jaffa" to Rhamanie in Egypt, showing fine "Arm. De La Med^{nee}/I^{re} Div^{on}" cachet. Written at the Camp before Jaffa three days after the city had fallen to the French, and the day after the 4,200 prisoners had been massacred. The writer, General Maximilien De Caffarelli, was the head of the Engineers in l'Armee De l'Orient. He was mortally wounded at the siege of Acre, dying on Apr 27, 1797.

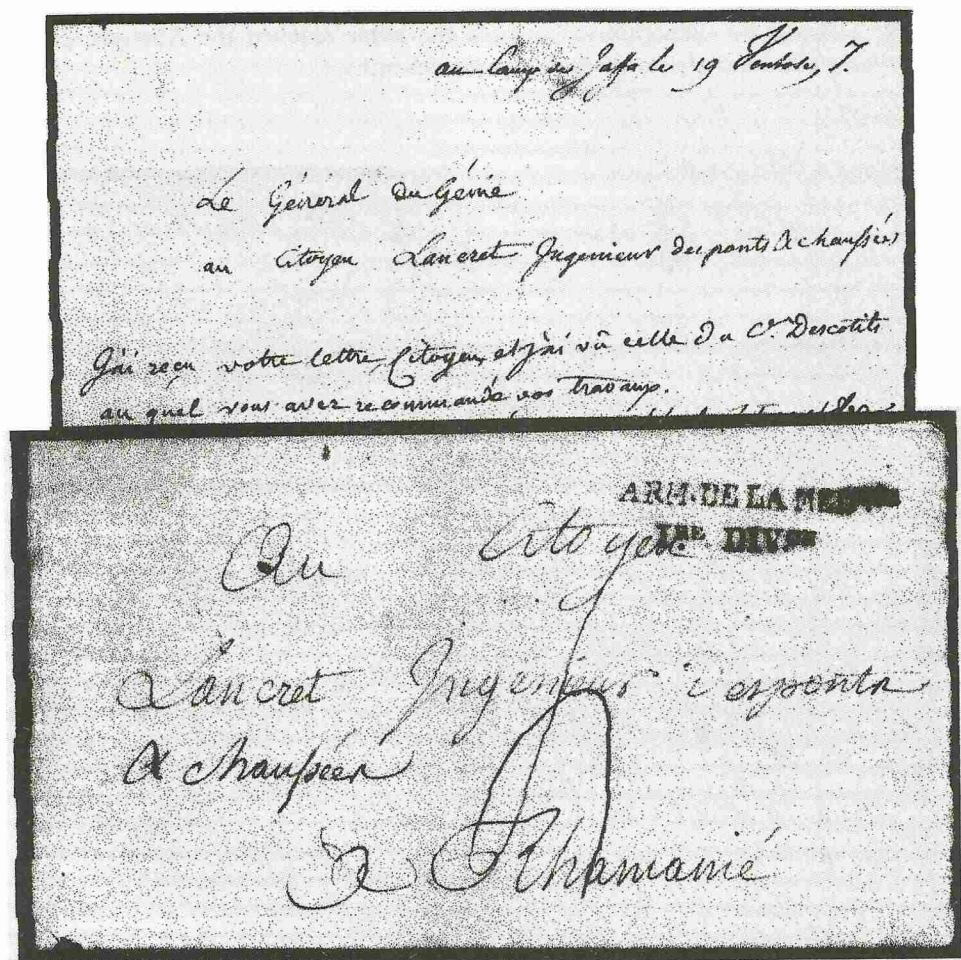


Fig. 7: Mar 9, 1797 E.L. from "Le General du Genielau, Camp du Jaffa, La 19 Vendose 7" to Rhamanie, showing fine "Arm. de La Med^{nee}/I^{re} Div^{on}" handstamp. (Ex. C. Chase & M. M. Sacher)

The next group of letters (Figs. 8-17) are pre-philatelic nineteenth century letters:

Fig. 8 is a letter dated Oct 6 1817, Acre to France arriving Jan 9, 1818 (after 95 days). It has a rare cachet Marseille / Turgee a Marseille.

The letter in Fig. 9 is dated Mar 25, 1820, Jerusalem to Dublin, arrival Aug 31, 1820. Transit marks include "Tur AT" in black (probably an Austrian entry mark from Turkey), an Austrian disinfection mark in black, a French entry cachet "Autriche par Huningue" in red, a London foreign office arrival mark "F.P.O. AU 28 1820" and a dispatch mark "AU 28" both in black. Disinfection cachet on reverse. There is no indication as to how the letter reached the Austrian postal authorities. The time of transit was over five months.

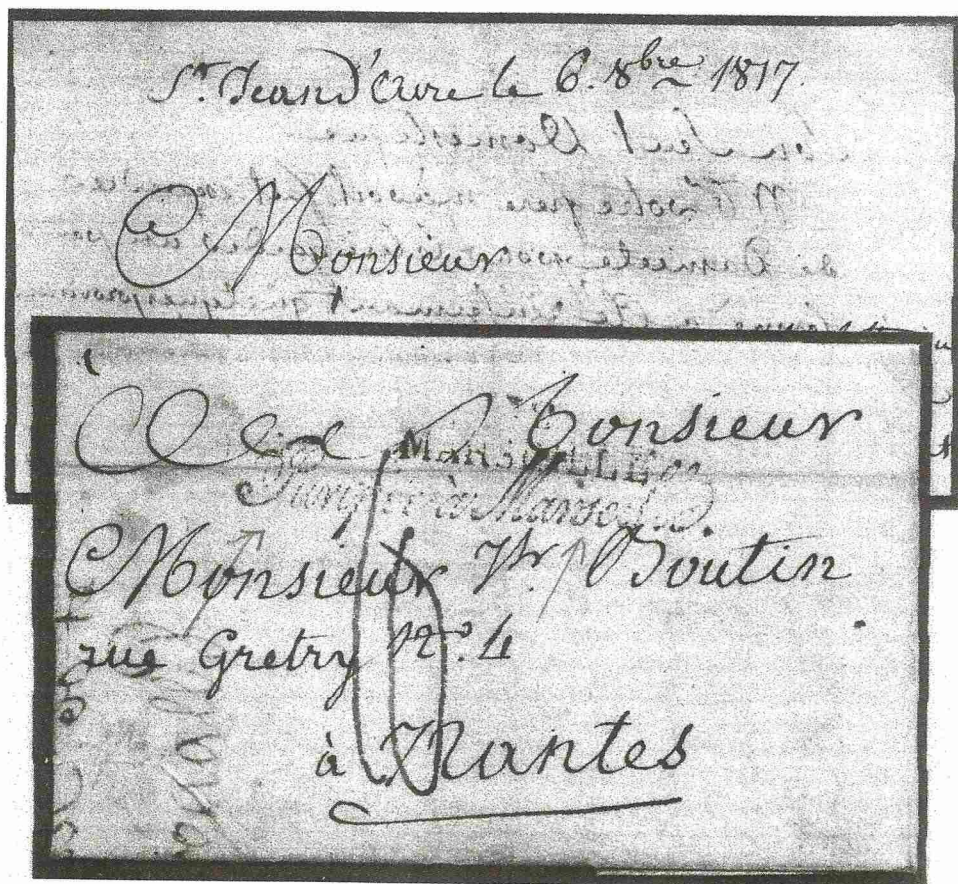


Fig. 8: Oct 6 1817, Acre to France arriving, Jan 9th, 1818
cachet: "Marseille Turgee a Marseille."

Figure 10 shows a letter dated Jan 1, 1824, forwarded by courier from Jerusalem to Beyrouth, then by English sailing ship "Emmettje" to Malta receiving the cursive on the handstamp showing postage unpaid. Left Apr 9, 1824 for Falmouth on the "Prince Regent", a Falmouth packet under P.O. contact, arriving May 8th. Two days by mail coach to London, where struck with 'evening duty' and H.P.O. handstamps, both dated May 11th. On to Bishops Stortford where marked by the postal clerk with 6/6, the charge to be paid on delivery, being 4/6d double packet rate from Malta plus 2/- double rate inland postage for 300 miles. A fervent pilgrim's letter to a clergyman in England.

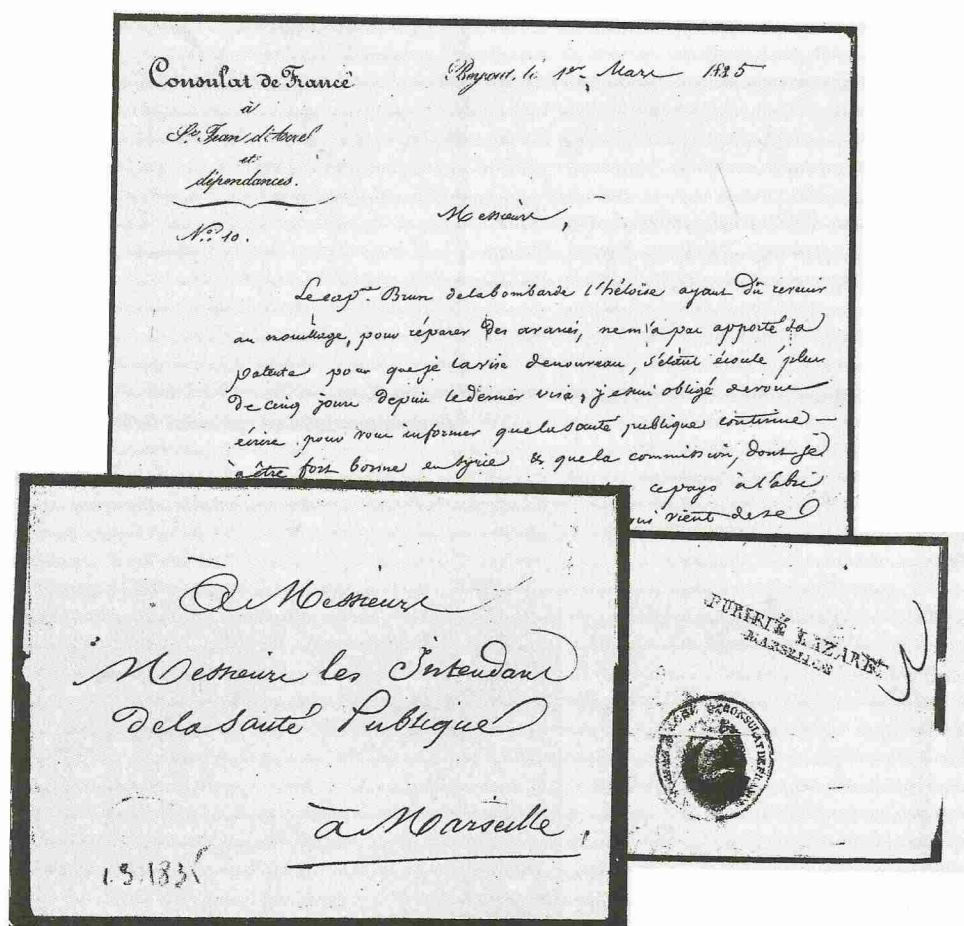


Fig. 11: Mar 1st, 1835 stationery of the French Consulate in Acre addressed to the Health Authorities in Marseille.

Figure 11 is a letter dated Mar 1, 1835 written on the stationery of the French consulate in Acre, addressed to the Health Authorities in Marseille. It is not clear whether the letter originated in Acre or Beyrouth. Acre French Consulate seal on reverse and Marseille Lazareth cachet applied on arrival.

The following three letters (Figs. 12-14) were forwarded by the Jerusalem British (Missionary) mission which from 1838 to 1852 operated an efficient monthly mail service to Beyrouth. The writes a members of the British Missionary Society in Jerusalem, mention this service. Fig. 12 is a letter written by Reverend C.S. Sherman in Jerusalem, dated Mar 19, 1841. The letter was mailed from Beyrouth on Apr 16th, forwarded through Malta signed by the forwarder on July 7th addressed to New Haven, Connecticut, it has an arrival mark of New York on Oct 25th.

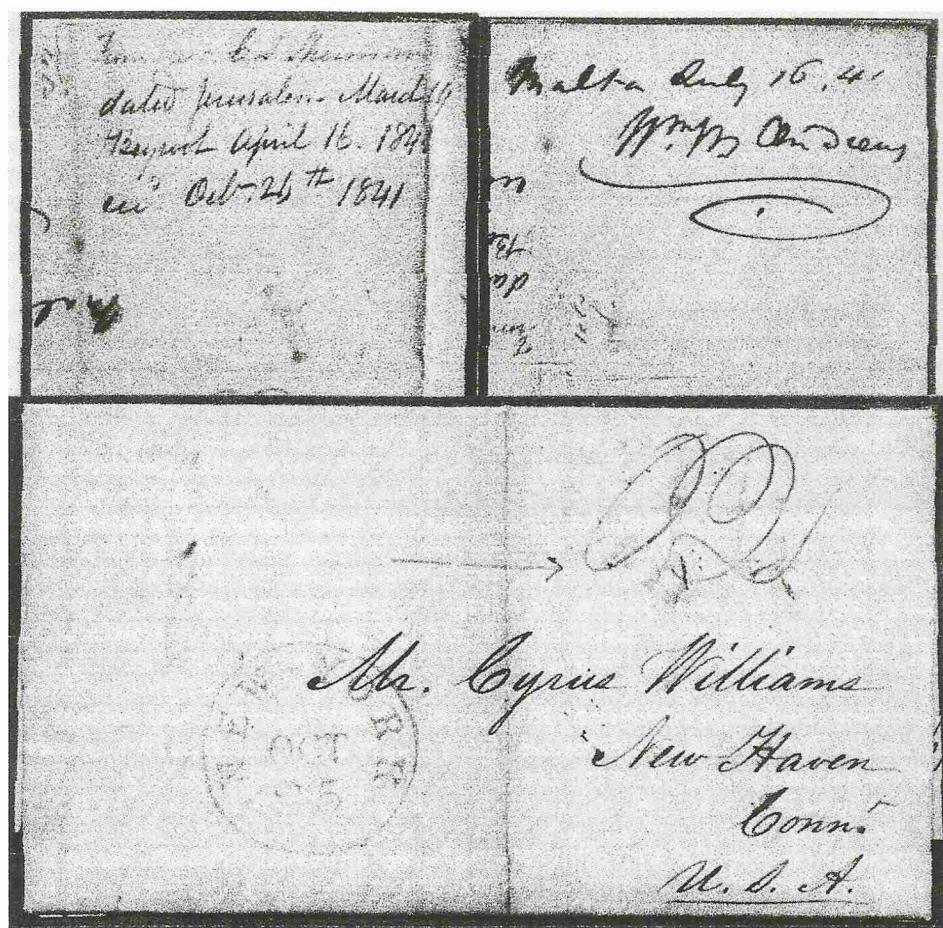


Fig. 12: Letter written by Reverend C.S. Sherman in Jerusalem, dated Mar 19th, 1841. Forwarded by the Jerusalem British (Missionary) Mission.

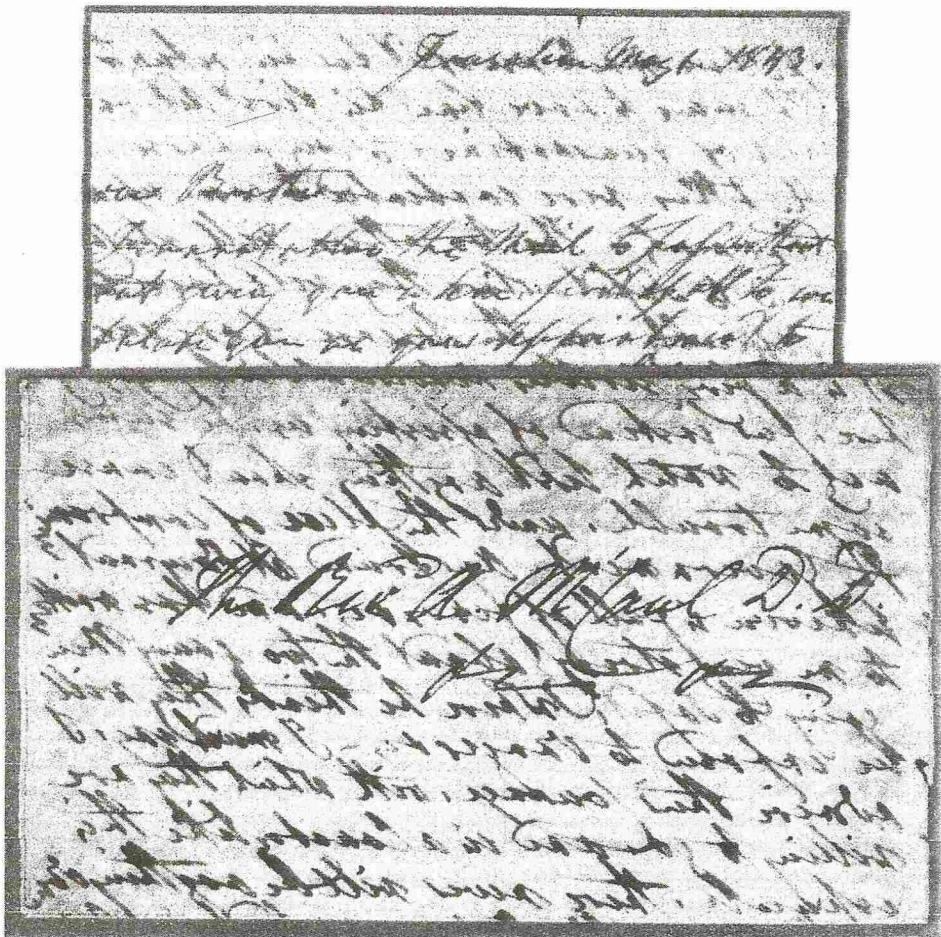


Fig. 13: May 1st 1843, Jerusalem to London. The letter was disinfected in Malta where it was fumigated through the 32 Millimeter slits pierced in the cover.

Figure 13 letter, dated May 1, 1842, Jerusalem to London is addressed to the reverend Dr. Alexander McCaul, distinguished Hebrew scholar and author, whose son in law James Finn became the famous British Consul in Jerusalem serving from 1846 to 1863. The letter was disinfected in Malta, where it was fumigated through the 32 millimeter slits pierced in the cover.

Figure 14 shows a letter, dated Mar 31, 1845, from Jerusalem to London (May 7 1845). It has disinfection slits, applied in Malta, Malta Lazaret cachet in front and at the back. Charge "20" decimes.

Figure 15 letter, dated Jan 22, 1853 from Hartuv (Near Jerusalem) to New York was forwarded by the Prussian closed mail (PCM) system. Six pages written in English. The route was: to Beyrouth (by courier), arrival postmark "Beyrut 15 Feb" (two lines scarce cachet and 'Franca' (prepaid) 'Trieste 3/3' boxed on back; by train

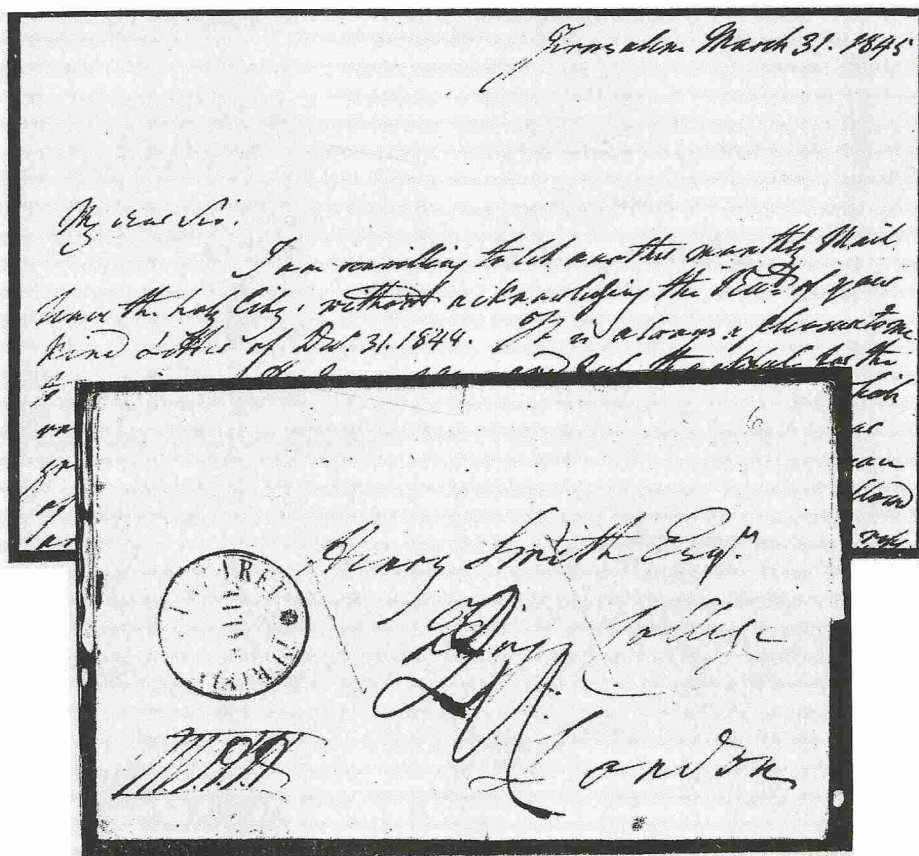


Fig. 14: Mar 31st, 1845, Jerusalem, arrival London May 7th. Letter forwarded by the Jerusalem British (Missionary) Mission.

to Aachen (postmark on front); to Coeln (7/3 postmark on back); from where the route was Osten (Belgium), Liverpool (UK) and across the Atlantic to New York (A large red arrival postmark 'N. York 30 (AMPKT) paid - Mar 23 & paid 25 cents on the front).

Figure 16 is a letter dated late April or early May 1853, arrival London May 16th 1853, from James Finn, second British Consul in Jerusalem (1846 - 1863), to his father-in-law, the Reverend Dr. Alexander McCaul, describing a trip north of Jerusalem. Letter forwarded by diplomatic bag, and was put in the normal post in London. The circular postmark was used for late collections from, or deliveries to, Government offices and houses of Parliament. Private mail in the bag had to repay inland postage if addressed inland. This was not paid therefore it was marked "2" (double 1d), then it was found to be over 1/2 oz. and charged 4d. The same regulations apply today for private mail, and embassies are supplied with stamps for that purpose.

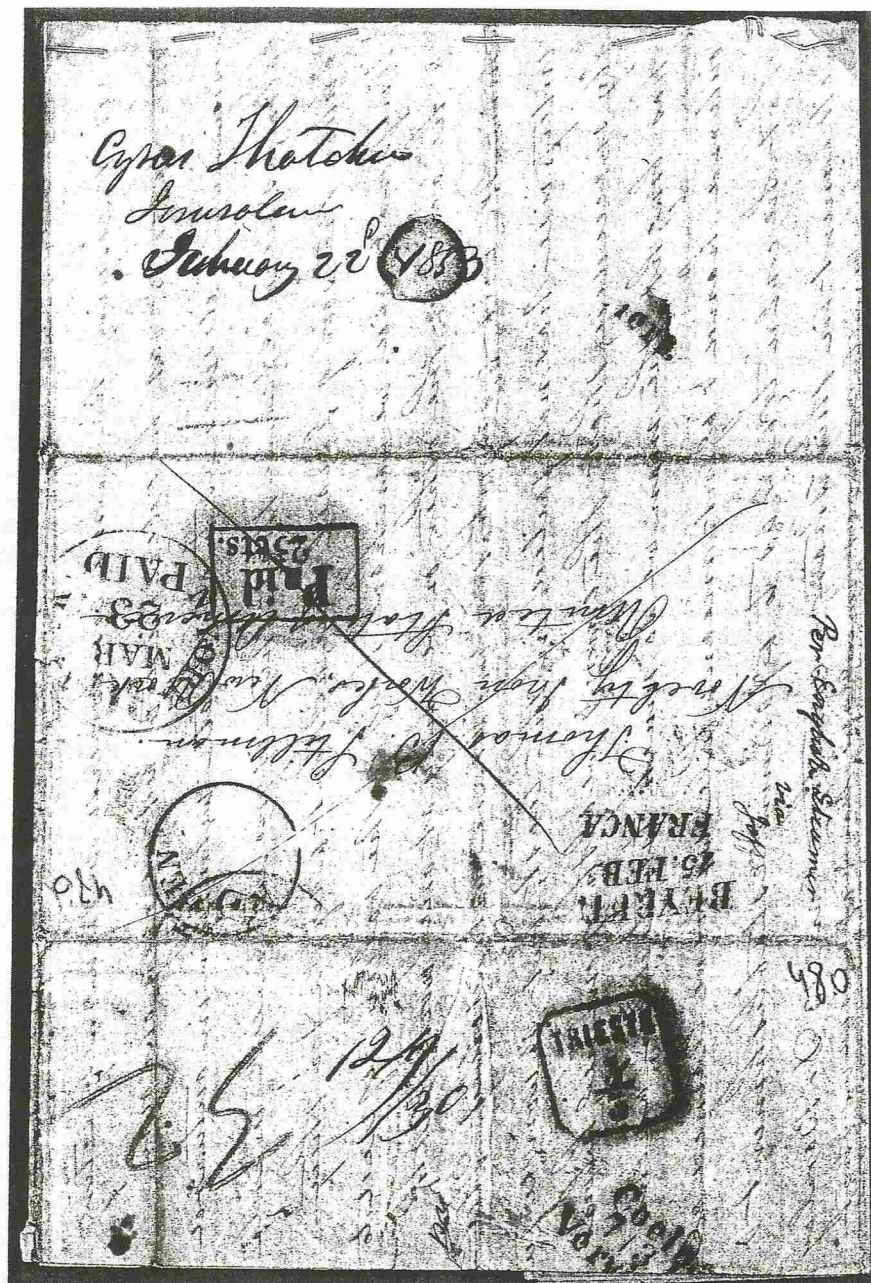


Fig. 15: Jan 22nd, 1853, letter from Hartuv (by Jerusalem) to New York forwarded by the Prussian Closed Mail (PCM) system.

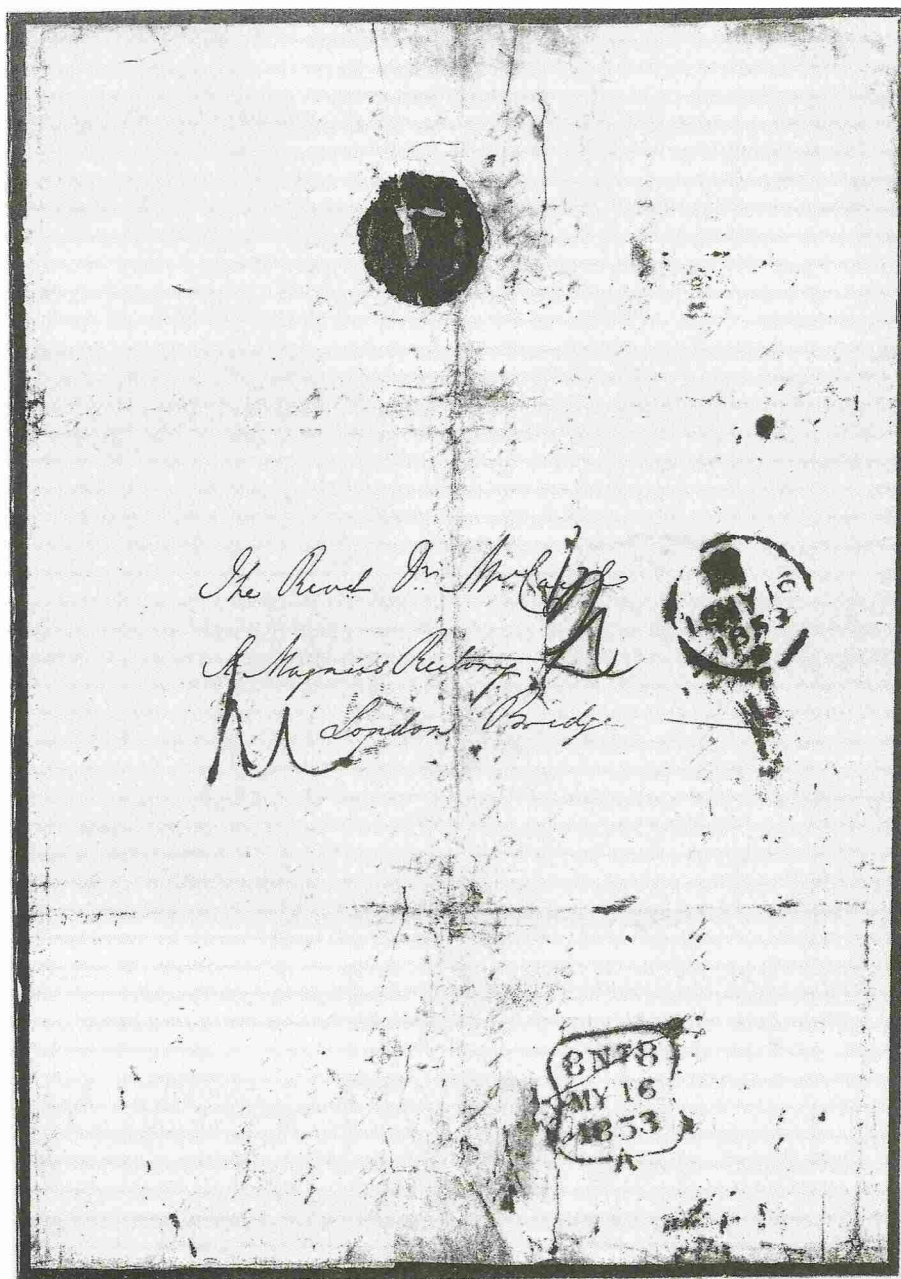


Fig. 16: Late April or early May 1853 arrival to London May 16th, 1853. Letter from James Finn, second British Consul in Jerusalem. Letter forwarded by diplomatic bag, and put in the normal post in London.

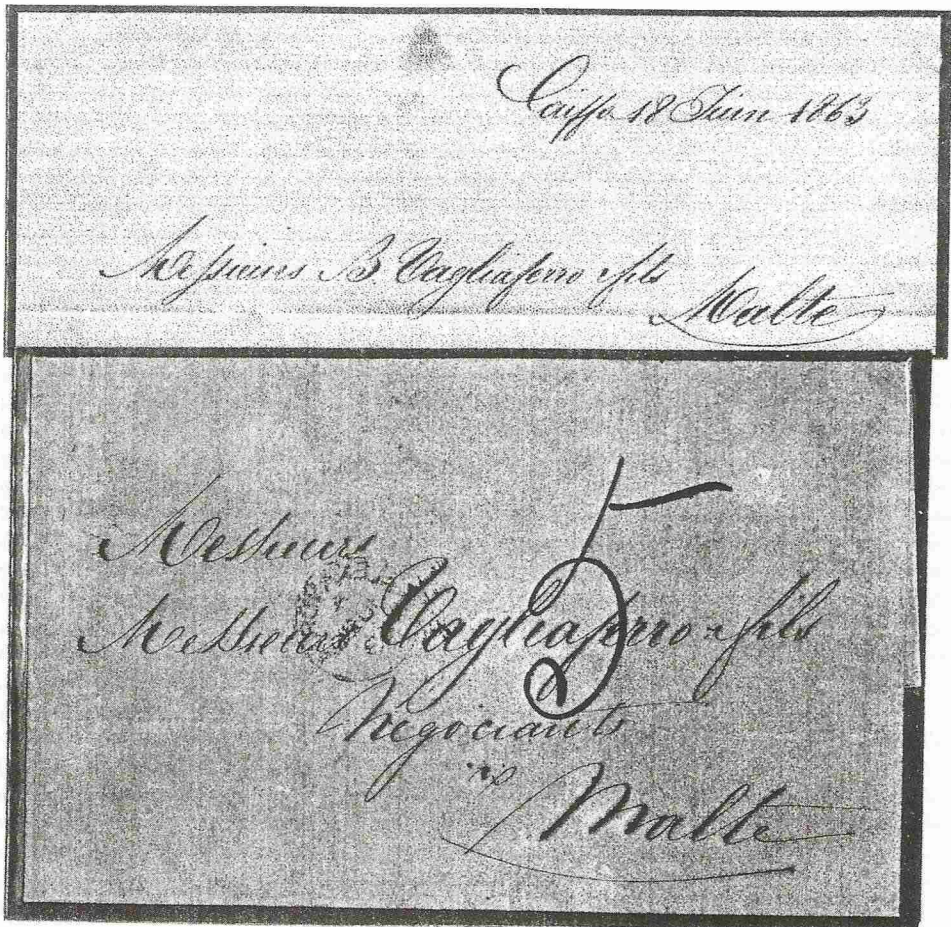


Fig. 17: Jun. 18th, 1863, Haifa to Malta arrival, Jun 30th. Carried by SS Meinam from Smyrna to Alexandria, from there by P&O Ceylon to Malta.

The Letter in Fig. 17 dated Jun 18, 1863 from Haifa, arrival Jun 30th carried by SS Meinam which left Smyrna on Jun 19th, and arrived in Alexandria on the 26th. From there it was carried by P & O Ceylon to Malta charged 5 pence British Mediterranean rate.

The next group of eleven letters were delivered by the French post through the decade 1847 - 1857:

Figure 18 shows a letter dated Apr 14, 1847 Jerusalem, transit Apr 26th. Beirut, Paris, May 5th and arriving London May 13th. London Head office postmark morning duty stamp in red, arriving Scarborough the next day. Taxed 1 shilling & 3 pence on arrival. Letter conveyed from Jerusalem to Beyrouth by the Jerusalem English (Missionary) Mission which, from 1838 to 1852, operated an efficient monthly mail service to Beyrouth.

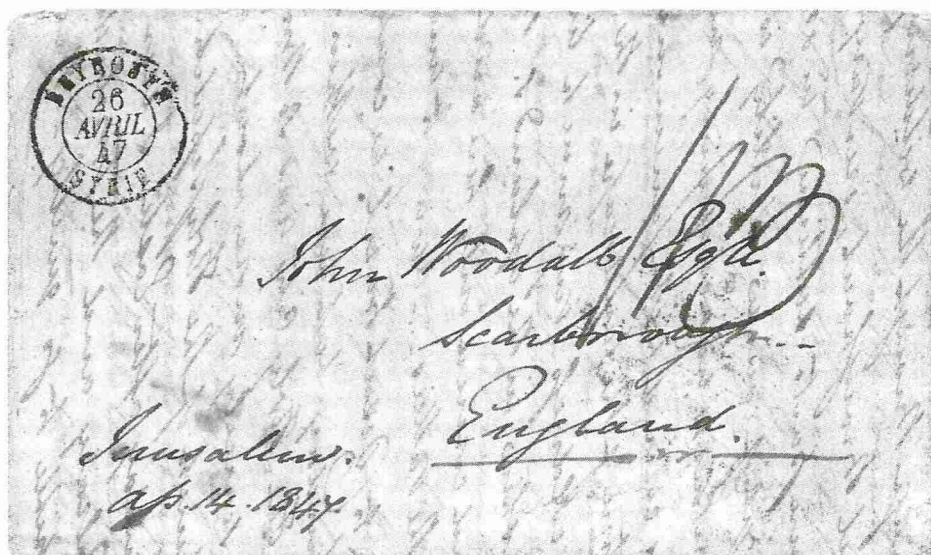


Fig. 18: 1847 letter from Jerusalem, Apr. 14 to London, May 13. First by the Jerusalem English Mission to Beyrouth, and then via London to Scarborough with the French Post.

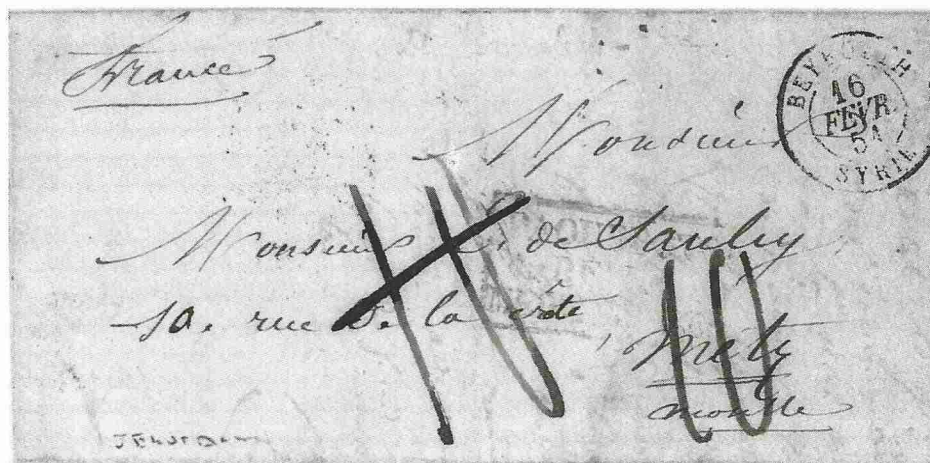


Fig. 19: 1851, letter from Jerusalem to Metz, via Beyrouth, first leg carried either by the French Consular Service in Jaffa or by the Forwarding Agents Santelli and Micciarelli.

Figure 19 is a letter dated Jan 29, 1857 Jerusalem, transit Beirut Feb 16th, arrival March 2 in France. It was conveyed to Beyrouth either by the French consular service in Jaffa or by a service established in 1846 by two Italian Merchants, Santelli and Micciarelli, to convey mail via Ramleh, Jaffa, Haifa, Sur and Saida to Beyrouth. Hand written "10" decimes, which was the charge for basic weight letter addressed abroad, and a red cachet "Paquebot de la Mediterranee".

Very few letters from Jerusalem, dated prior to 1852, when the post office in Jaffa opened, conveyed by the French post office in Beirut have survived.

Fig. 20 folded letter from the Patriarch of Jerusalem is marked with one line

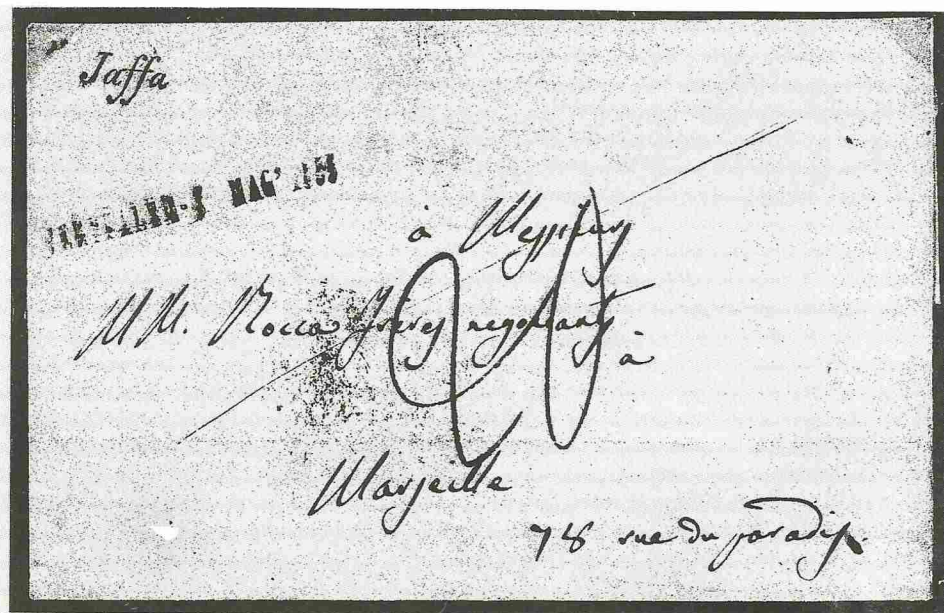


Fig. 20: Folded letter from the Patriarch of Jerusalem with one line "Jerusalem (Manuscript "3") Mag' (May) 1853" in capital letters (St. 323) straight "Jaffa" (St. 301) and manuscript tax mark "20" (Decimes).

Jerusalem (Manuscript "3") Mag' (May) 1853 in capital letters (St. 323),* straight "Jaffa" (St. 301) and manuscript tax mark "20" (Decimes). Transit Beyrouth / Syrie. May 53, arrival Marseille May 25, 1853.

Figure 21 and 22 are covers from Jaffa dated Aug. 14, 1853 and May 9th, 1854 respectively, the first with transit Aug 15 and arrival Marseilles Sept. 6, 1853, the second with transit Alexandria May 11th, arrival Lyon May 22nd, both with one line "Jaffa" (in Italics) at top left and different "Paquebots / De La / Mediterranee" cachets.

* "St. x" denotes type numbers of the postal markings according to Steichele's and Collins' Listing.



Fig. 21: Aug. 14th, 1853, Jaffa, folded letter transit Aug. 15th, arriving Marseilles Sep. 6th with 10 Decimes tax mark.

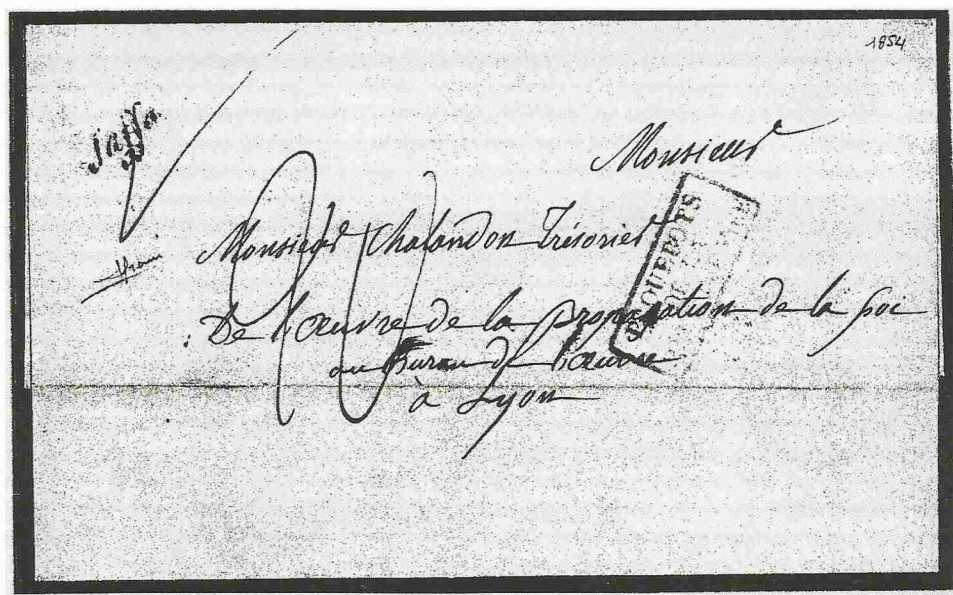


Fig. 22: May 9th, 1854 Jaffa, transit Alexandria May 11th arrival Lyon May 22.
One line "Jaffa" (in Italics) and different (from the previous)
"Paquebots/De La/Mediterranee" cachets.

Figure 23 and 24 are 1855 Jerusalem covers. Fig. 23 is a folded letter dated Feb. 5, 1855, from the well known Venturini correspondence with clear and complete blue one-line "Jerusalem (Manuscript "5") Fev 1855" (St. 324), tax mark "10" (decimes), backstamped Alexandria Feb 8th and arrival Marseille. Fig. 24 letter dated Apr 16, 1855 Jerusalem, Apr 17th Jaffa, Apr 19th Alexandria, arrival May 3rd London. "P.P." framed cachet and in manuscript on upper left, "Franco" & 4 decimes - 40 centimes - correct rate or an indication that there were four separate messages in this cover. In bottom left "Affranchir" - prepaid mail. Red "paid" in bottom right.

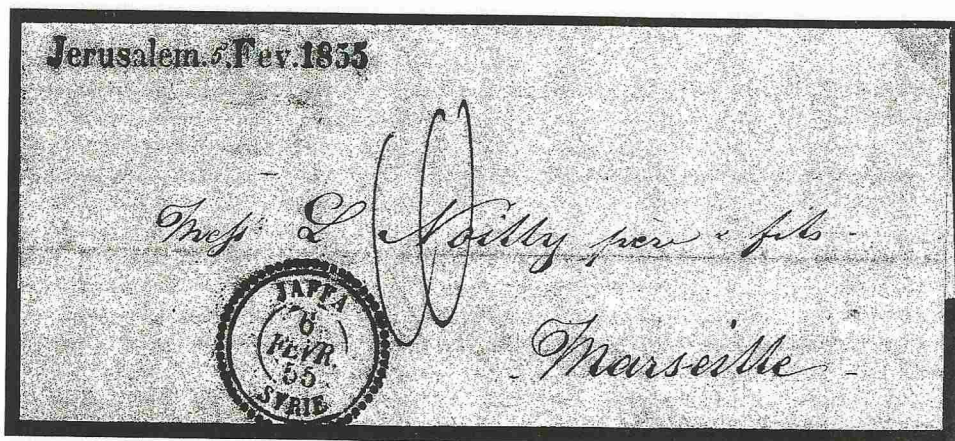


Fig. 23: Feb. 5th, 1855 Jerusalem folded letter from the well known Venturini correspondence.



Fig. 24: Apr. 16th Jerusalem, 17th Jaffa, 19th Alexandria, arrival May 3rd London.

postmark applied in London on arrival. The letter caught the French boat "Tage" which arrived in Jaffa from Istanbul on Apr. 18th, arrived in Alexandria on Apr. 19th (Backstamped). Left Alexandria on another (larger) boat "Egyptus" to Marseille where it arrived on May 1st. and from there overland to Calais, Dover and London.

Figure 25 & 26 are 1856 and 1857 Jerusalem covers. Fig. 25 letter dated Nov. 11, 1857 Jerusalem, transit Jaffa Nov. 12th, Alexandria Nov. 14th, Frankfurt Nov. 26th, arrival Gotha Nov. 29th. Blue "Jerusalem 11 Nov. (1857)" (St. 324). One line

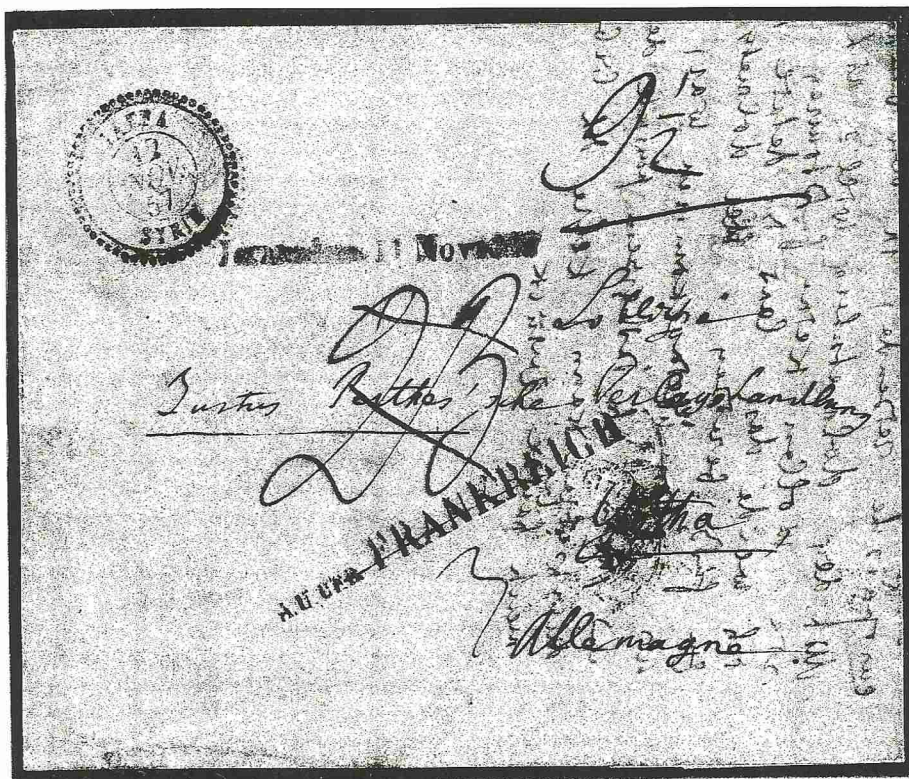


Fig. 25: Nov. 11th 1857, Gotha, 19th. Blue "Jerusalem 11 Nov. (1857)" (St. 324). One line (capitals) "A.U.UEB. FRANKREICH" (from overseas via France).

(capitals) "A.U.UEB. Frankreich" (from overseas via France), two tax marks in blue ink: "23" (crossed out) and "9 1/2". Fig. 26 letter dated Mar 2nd 1856 Jerusalem, transit Jaffa Mar 4th, Beirut Mar 14th, arrival Marseille Apr 1st. Pale grey - blue one line "Jerusalem 3 Mars 56" (St. 324). Framed red "Paquebots / De La / Mediterranee" and tax mark "10" (decimes).

Figure 27 letter dated May 23rd 1857 Jaffa. Marked PD, showing payment made through France. Taken by Messageries Imperiales Paquebot "Mersey", transiting Alexandria May 25th, Marseilles Aug. 3rd and Paris - Calais T.P.O. Aug 5th. Philadelphia arrival Aug 19th. The red handstamps "BR, Service" & "21"

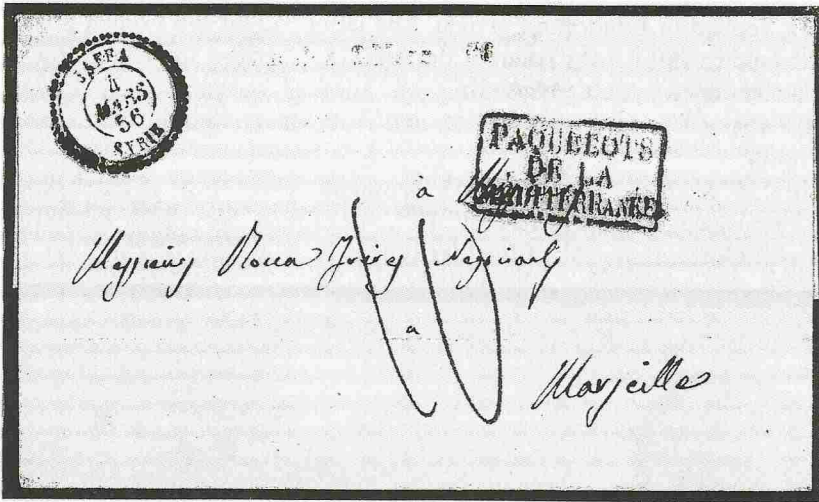


Fig. 26: Jerusalem to Marseille. Pale grey - blue one line "Jerusalem 3 Mars 56".

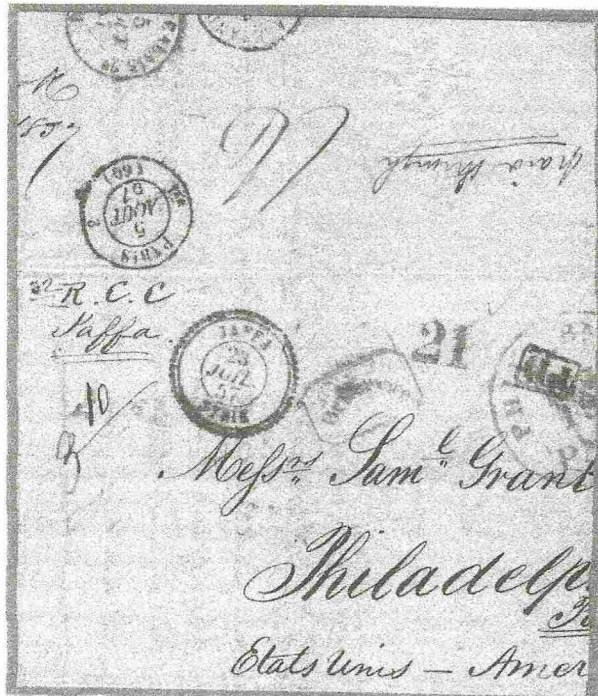


Fig. 27: Jaffa, May 23rd 1857 to Philadelphia, Aug. 19, 1857 marked PD, showing payment made through France. Taken by Messageries Imperial Paquebot "Mersey". Handstamps "Br. Service" & "21" indicate the transatlantic journey was rated as by British Packet - 21c from 1855. 5c was retained by the U.S., hence the "paid through 16" on the reverse.

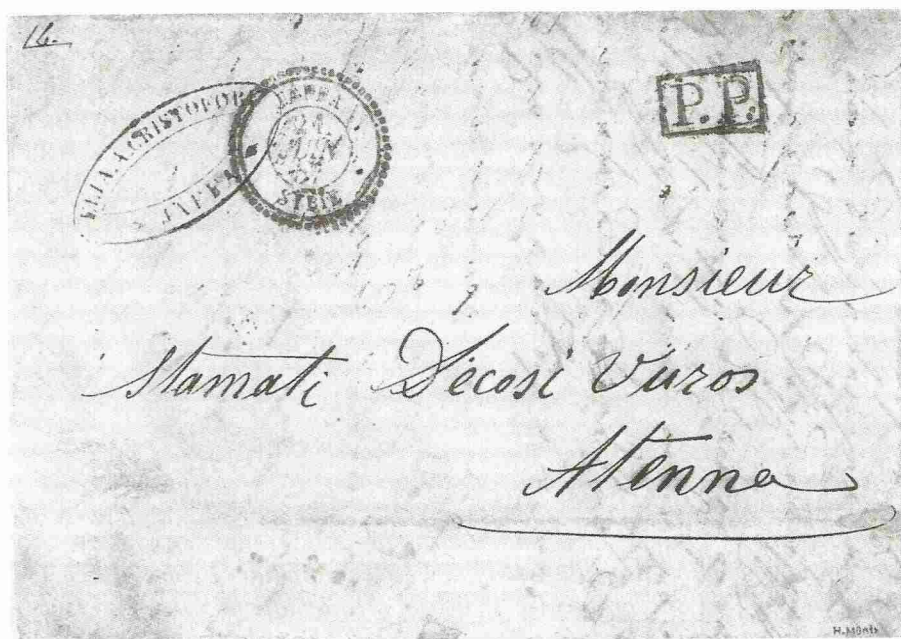


Fig. 28: Folded letter from Jaffa, Nov. 4, 1857 by the French Post to Atens, Greece with framed P.P. handstamp.

indicate that transatlantic journey was rated as by British packet - 21c from 1855. 5c was retained by the U.S., hence the "Paid through 16" on the reverse. A strip has been cut out from the right hand side of the cover, Fig. 28 is dated Nov. 21 1857, Jaffa, transit Beirut Nov. 22, arrival Greece Nov. 26th. With framed "P.P." handstamp.

The last group of letters is Turkish pre-philatelic mail shown in Figs. 29-35. Fig. 29, letter dated March 1845, Jerusalem. Terra Sancta - (Holy Land) to Diarbekir in east Turkey. Seal C&W 4 recorded from 1844, indicates that postage was paid. The letter was carried by postal rider service operating once weekly from Jerusalem to Jaffa and Beirut. This service was established between 1840 and 1846 and was under the supervision of the Postal Directorate of Beirut. The service was leased on an annual basis to leaseholders who provided the rider service. During their journey the rider- messengers collected the letters and noted on them the town of origin, the weight and the fee received. In the upper section the weight was noted (3 dirhams, approximately 10 grams, was the minimum weight) and in the lower section the fee was noted in paras. 1 para per each journey hour, which covered a distance of 3 - 4 kilometers, depending on the terrain. This letter was conveyed from Beirut by an official courier to Istanbul and from there posted to Diarbekir. It is the earliest recorded letter from Jerusalem delivered by the Turkish post.

The following three letters (the one on the Front Cover and Figs. 30, 31) are amongst the earliest recorded official letters from Jerusalem. They all carried the negative seal, "An Janibi Postai Beyrouth" (From the Beirut Post Office). This is

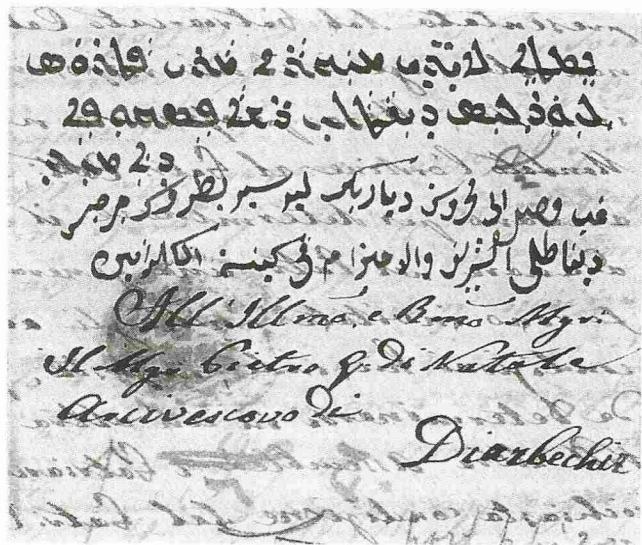


Fig. 29: : Folded letter from Jerusalem to Diarfekir (Turkey) from March 1845, carried by the Turkish rider service to Beirut, then by official courier to Istanbul and by the regular Turkish post to Diarfekir. (Ex. Melon and Sacher)

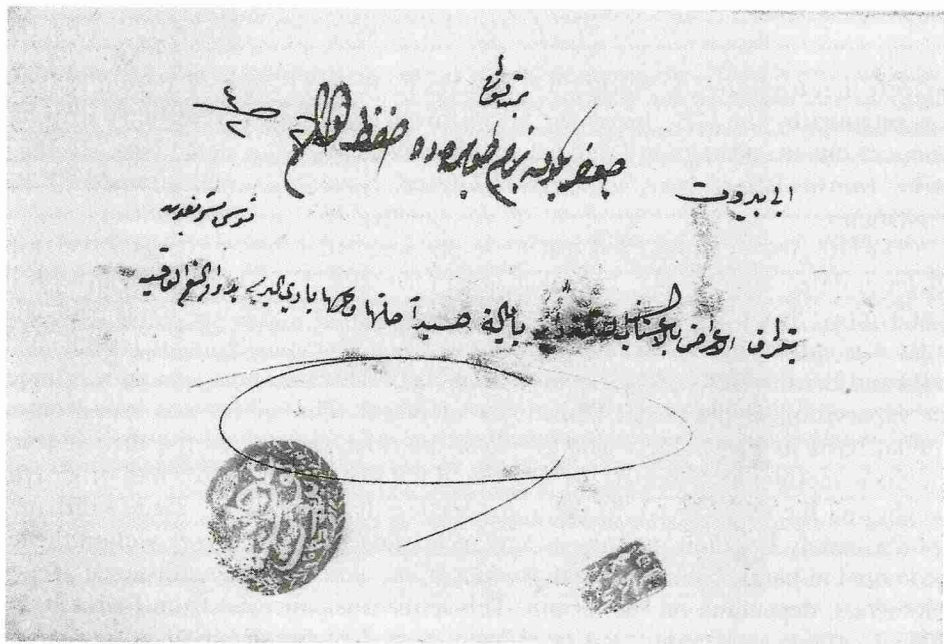
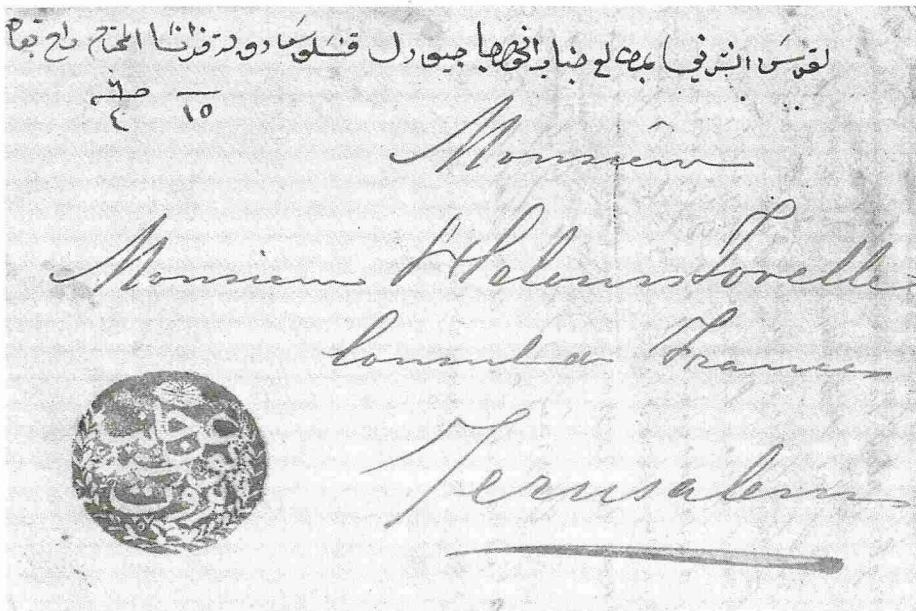


Fig. 30: A cover from Jerusalem to Beirut, delivered by the official Turkish courier during the period 1845-49. Negative seals "From the Beirut Post Office" (1st Type) and "Important Official Correspondence" (Ex. Steichele).

the first type of a postal seal of the Ottoman Empire. It was in use from 1840 to 1849. As the Beirut Post Office was opened in 1845 the letters were sent between 1845 and 1849. They were forwarded by the courier service which operated between Jerusalem and Beirut. The courier used to note on the cover the weight of the letter and the charge according to the time it takes to pass the route Jerusalem - Beirut. Also other information is handwritten or handstamped; for example (see Front Cover illustration). Beirut is written in the top right corner and "Tetaa 2" (2 pieces) at the upper left. "Tachrirat - i - Muhumme" (important - official correspondence) rectangular seal was struck at the bottom right. The courier noted, at top left, the weight of the two letters - 7 dirhems with the postal charge of 5 piasters and 10 para which is twice the 2 piasters and 25 para for a single letter from Jerusalem. This charge corresponds to 70 hours of journey at 4.5 km an hour (= 315 kilometers) which is the distance from Jerusalem to Beirut. The sender of the letter must have been a nobleman as the writing in the upper part of the cover is in ink which contained gold powder. Another example is shown in Figure 30. Beirut is written in the top right corner and "QDS Sherif" (Jerusalem the Holy) at the upper left. Again, "Tachrirat - i - Muhumme" rectangular seal appears at the bottom right. The courier noted at top left the weight of the letter - 4 dirhems, and below it the postal charge of 2 piasters and 25 para. This charge, at this weight of the letter, corresponds to 70 hours of journey at 4.5 km an hour = 315 km (= the distance Jerusalem to Beirut). Also in this case the sender of the letter must have been a



**Fig. 31: A letter from (to?) Jerusalem, July 1847 to Beirut, delivered by the official Turkish courier with beautiful negative seal (1st type):
"From the Beirut Post Office".**

nobleman as the writing on the top contains gold powder. In the third example the date of dispatch from Jerusalem July 1st, 1847. (see Fig. 31) The letter was forwarded through Beirut including an official complaint about custom official. The indicated weight on top left was 6 dirham and the postage paid was 4 piasters and 15 para. It is not clear why the letter, which was addressed inside to the Governor General in Beirut, and has the Beirut seal, has an address of the French Consul in Jerusalem. An address in Arabic was added to help the courier.

Figure 32 shows a letter dated Aug 15, 1849, Beirut to Jaffa. It has the same first type Ottoman seal and was addressed to Captain Cosrad, care of the Consul in Jaffa. An address in Arabic was added to help the courier. Postage paid, indicated

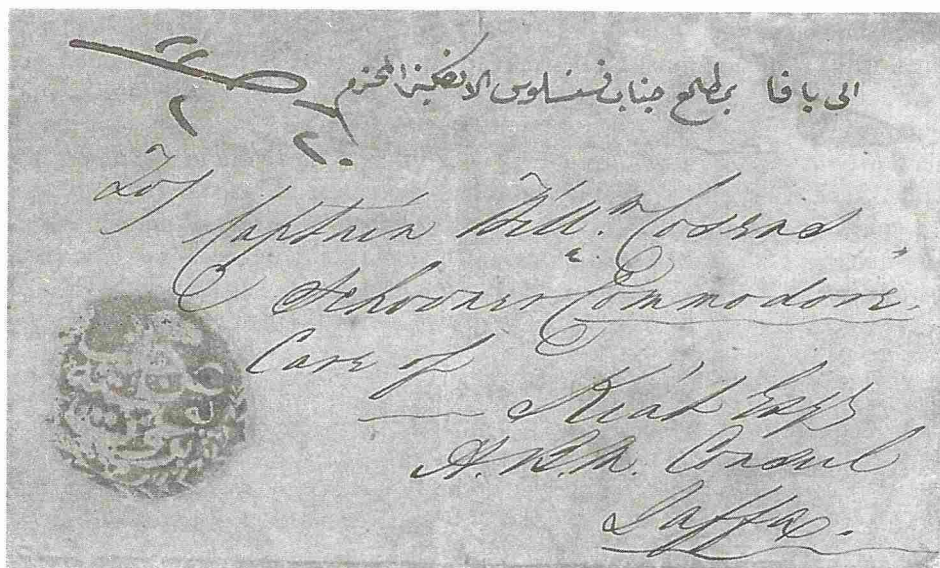


Fig. 32: A folded letter dated Aug 15, 1849, Beirut to Jaffa.

on top left, was 1 piaster 20 para = 60 para, paying for 60 hours of the courier's time, at 4km per hour, equals 240 km, the distance Beirut to Jaffa.

Figure 33 is a letter from Jaffa to Istanbul, struck with a "rosette" seal. Such seals were applied at the G.P.O. in Istanbul to letters from towns where no post office existed, denoting that the fee is to be collected from the addressee. Letter inscribed at top left "Jaffa". Weight 2 dirhams, charged 2 kurus (piaster) & 25 para. Correct postage for a letter weighing less than 3 dirhams (10 grams) and traveling less than 200 hours (a distance of less than 1000 kilometers). Top right number 26 indicates probably the courier's serial number. In manuscript above the seal: "70/28 safer" probably Istanbul register. Below the address: "Baraj", a good luck sign.

Figure 34 letter dated Dec. 20th, 1850, Haifa to Beirut is probably the earliest known letter originating from Haifa by Turkish post. C&W type 1. Notation in upper left 4 dirhams weight and underneath is the charge of 1 piaster + 25 para.

Letter was forwarded by the rider-messenger service to Beirut where the seal was struck. Figure 35 letter, dated 1862 / 1865, also Haifa to Beirut, has in manuscript "Beirut" & "Haifa" in the upper right hand corner and a blue seal: "An Janibi Postai Beirut". C&W type 2 introduced in 1862. In upper left corner the weight 4

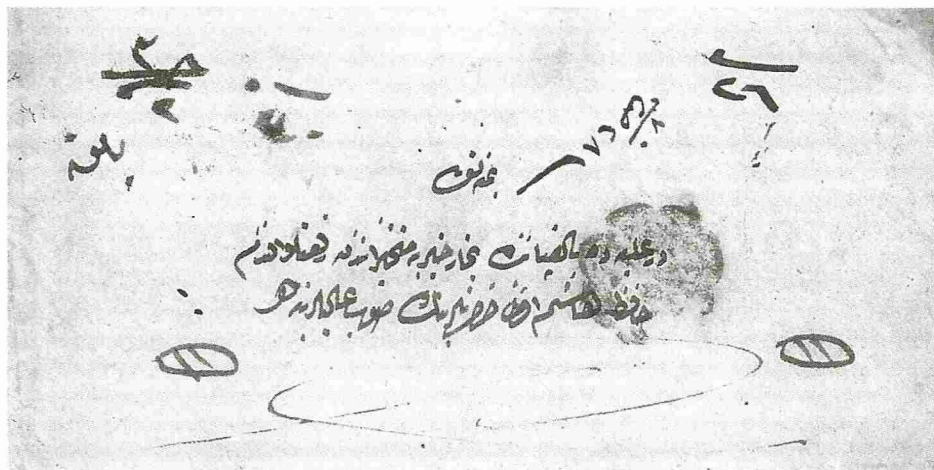


Fig. 33: A letter from Jaffa to Istanbul, showing the "Rosette" negative seal applied in Istanbul G.P.O..

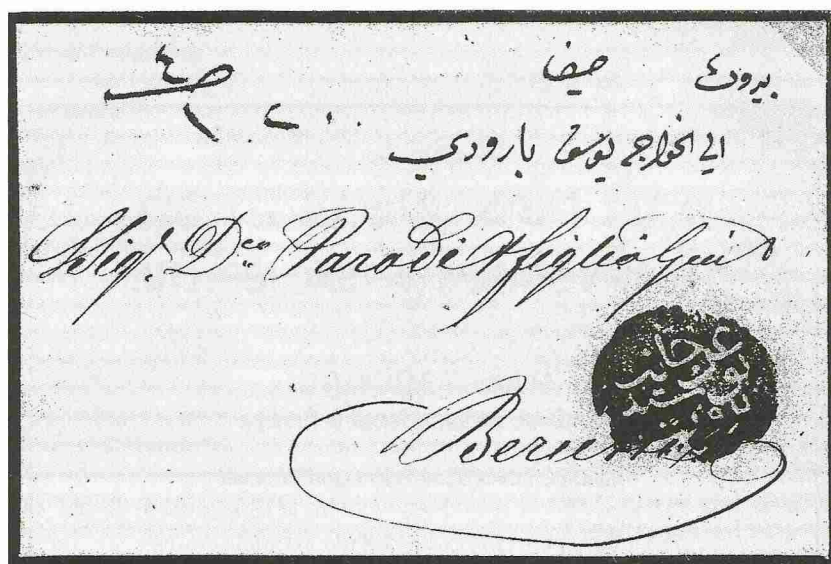


Fig. 34: (Front only) Haifa to Beirut letter (in manuscript Beirut & Haifa in the upper right hand corner). Blue seal: "An Janibi Postai Beirut," and C & W type 2 introduced in 1862.

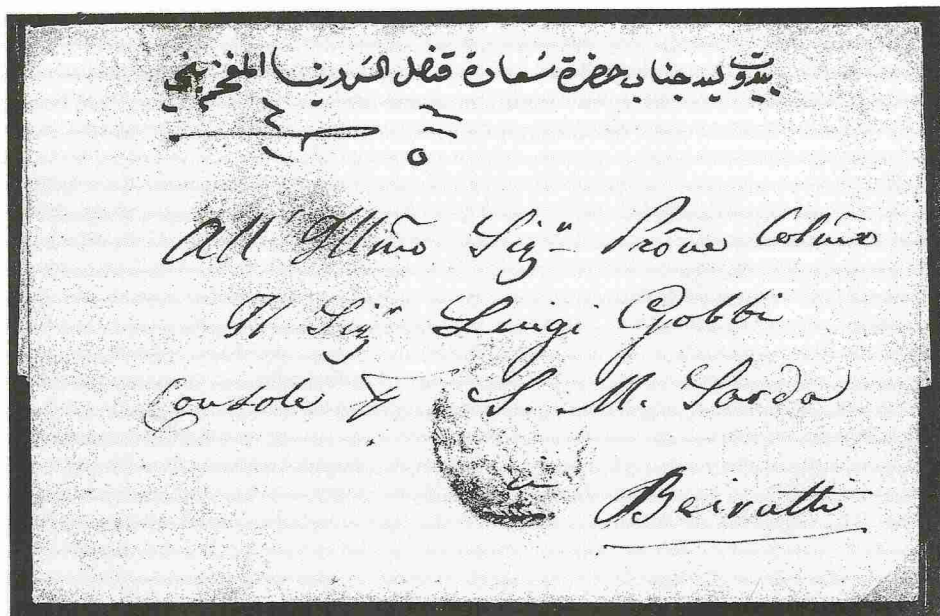


Fig. 35: Dec. 20th 1850 Haifa to Beirut, probably the earliest known letter originating from Haifa by Turkish post (Ex. Sacher)

dirhams, and underneath the charge of 1 piaster + 25 para. The charge corresponds to 40 journey hours which equals 140 km, the distance between Haifa and Beirut.

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Transliteration of Place Names on Israeli Registration Labels and Postmarks*

Ehud Jungwirth

The Israeli Multilingual R-Labels (A close look at a closed chapter)

Back in 1958, when Israel was just 10 years old, I wrote an article¹ in the Holy Land Philatelist entitled: "Trial and Error in Israel's Registration Labels" which the Editor, the late F. W. Pollack, subtitled "The Story of an endless muddle". Now, as Israel's Postal Authority has finally (?) discontinued the use of name-bearing R-labels (from the middle of 1999) substituting computer-read stickers (see Fig. 36) one might suppose that we have finally come to the end of this "muddle" stretching over more than five decades. However, this assumption might be a bit premature, judging from the following headline which appeared in a 2001 issue of "Shovel - Israel Philatelic Federation Magazine: "The new Registration Labels are a Disaster for Philatelists", and urging collectors to keep on complaining to the Postal Authority. Nevertheless it is now possible to attend to certain aspects of this topic in retrospect.

When the Israeli Postal Authority took over, in 1948, from the British Mandate, they also continued the use of Mandate R-labels as long as existing stocks permitted, in some places well into the 1950s². During Mandatory times the R-labels bore the place name in one language only in Latin characters, transliterating the Hebrew or Arabic place names in a , at times, peculiar manner, e.g. Nes Tsiyona, Rishon le Tsiyon or Hertseliya. When permanent (as distinct from

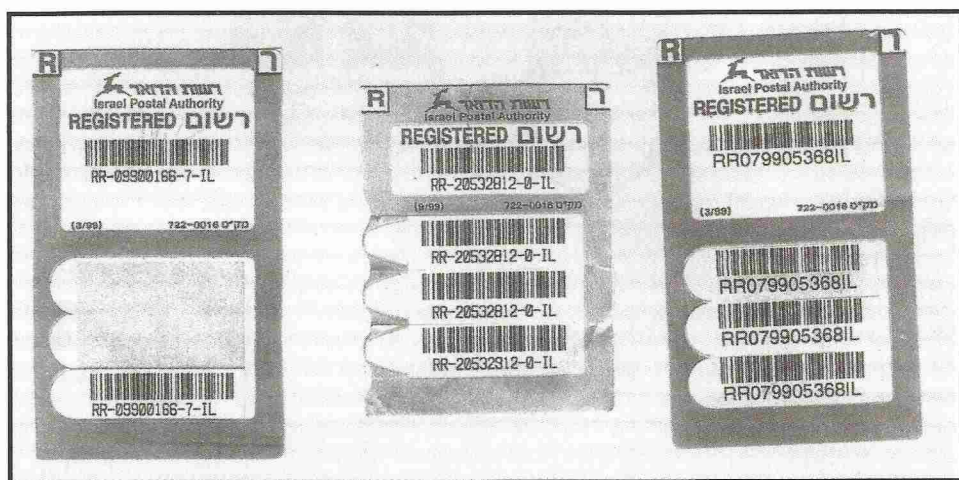


Fig. 36: The first issues of the new computerized R-labels (large and small printing dates - March 1999 (two types) and Sep. 1999)

* Ed. Note: We apologize that most of the R-labels in the Figures of this and other articles are hardly readable without a magnifying glass. The character of these Figures and the importance to show (almost) full covers and not only the R-labels made it technically impossible to show larger pictures.

temporary issues) Israeli labels appeared they were bilingual Hebrew/Latin, which, again, caused transliteration "artforms" like TIVHON (the Hebrew Ayin (א) given as H) or CFAT (the Hebrew Zadi given as "C"). Special problems were caused by the translation of the Hebrew Shva Na (a very short "E" at the beginning of a word) which was either ignored as in Kfar (village) or, later, given as Kefar. We shall return to this later (See both above-mentioned articles for particulars).

We shall now skip the perennial muddles until 1967, Six Day War, leading to the Military Administration of the previously Jordanian held "West Bank", the previously Egyptian held Gaza Strip and the previously Syrian territory - the Golan Heights, all needing postal services. The switch-over from the Jordanian/Egyptian/Syrian postal services to that provided by the ZAHAL (Israeli Defense Army) Administration was quick. After the Six Day War (June 5-11), the first Post Offices opened under its auspices were in the West Bank: Hevron in Hebrew and Latin, but El Khalil in Arabic, on July 9; in the Gaza Strip: Gaza on July 13 and on the Golan Heights: Majdal Shams, on August 9 - all introducing novel trilingual R-labels (see Fig. 37). As this is not a chronological history of postal activities in "the territories", we shall give here only a few summaries. In the period 1967 - 1994 (Gaza strip) / 1995 (West Bank, later named Judea and Samaria) when the Palestinian Authority took over - 73 post offices/agencies were opened in Arab localities (20 in the Gaza Strip and 52 in the West Bank) the last only in 1992 (Beit Umrin, but the R-label reads "Imrin"), in addition to 12 MPO's and several "Postal points" (for non-R-mail only). For particulars, readers are advised to consult the Handbook of postmarks (Parts I and III) by Nachtigal and Fixler³, which covers the period up to 1994. all the R-labels used in Arab "Westbank" localities on First Day covers supplied to collectors from 1986 onwards, with the exception of the last (Beit Umrin/Imrin) were, however, Israeli mute labels with the place name either rubberstamped or handwritten in Hebrew only, but trilingual labels were affixed to Last Day covers. I have no information as to whether these were put into use prior to that date (Nov. 2, 1995). For particulars regarding the label coils and early transliteration problems of some Arabic place names see the 1971 paper by Wallach⁴.

On the Golan Heights the situation was somewhat different. First - the Majdal Shams post office, opened in 1967, was transferred in 1979 to the more centrally located village of Mas'ade (the current spelling). Second, Quneitra, the only other PO located on the outskirts of the abandoned town of Quneitra, was renamed Merom Golan (a Jewish settlement) in 1976, which was itself transferred to the Tsefon Hagolan MPO in 1982. Thirdly, Ramat Hagolan Military Administration was abolished on the Golan Heights in 1981. New cancellations, without the acronym Z.H.L. were introduced on Mar 3, 1982, trilingual R-labels continuing to be used at Mas'ade. The Jewish township of Qazrin (the latest spelling), and the MPOs opened Sep 11, 1979, the last introducing later bilingual R-labels as in Israel proper.

The year 1972 brought about a new postal phenomenon i.e. the inauguration of postal services in Jewish settlements within the "territories". The first of these, Qiryat Arba (adjoining Hebron) was opened on May 23, 1972 using a trilingual

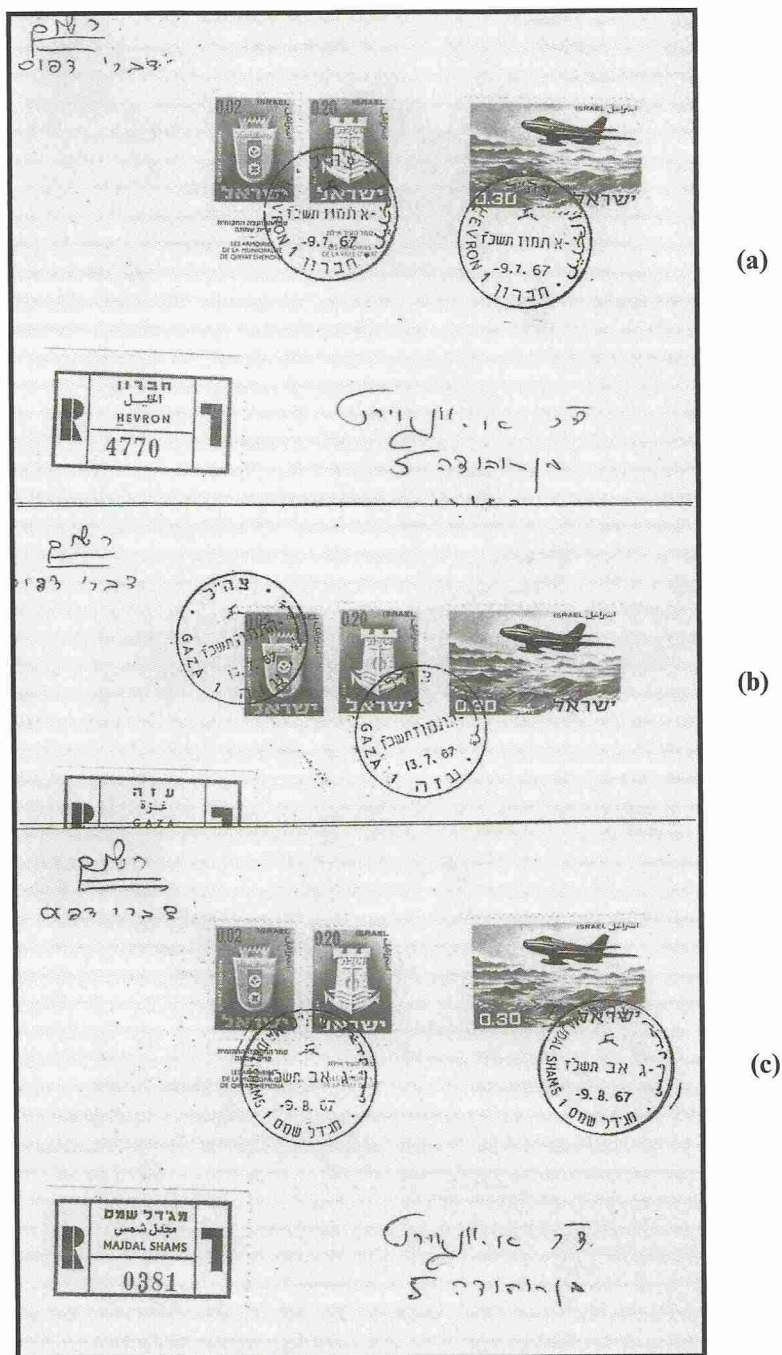


Fig. 37: The first postal openings under the military administration: Hebron (West Bank), Gaza and Majdal Shams (Golan Heights).

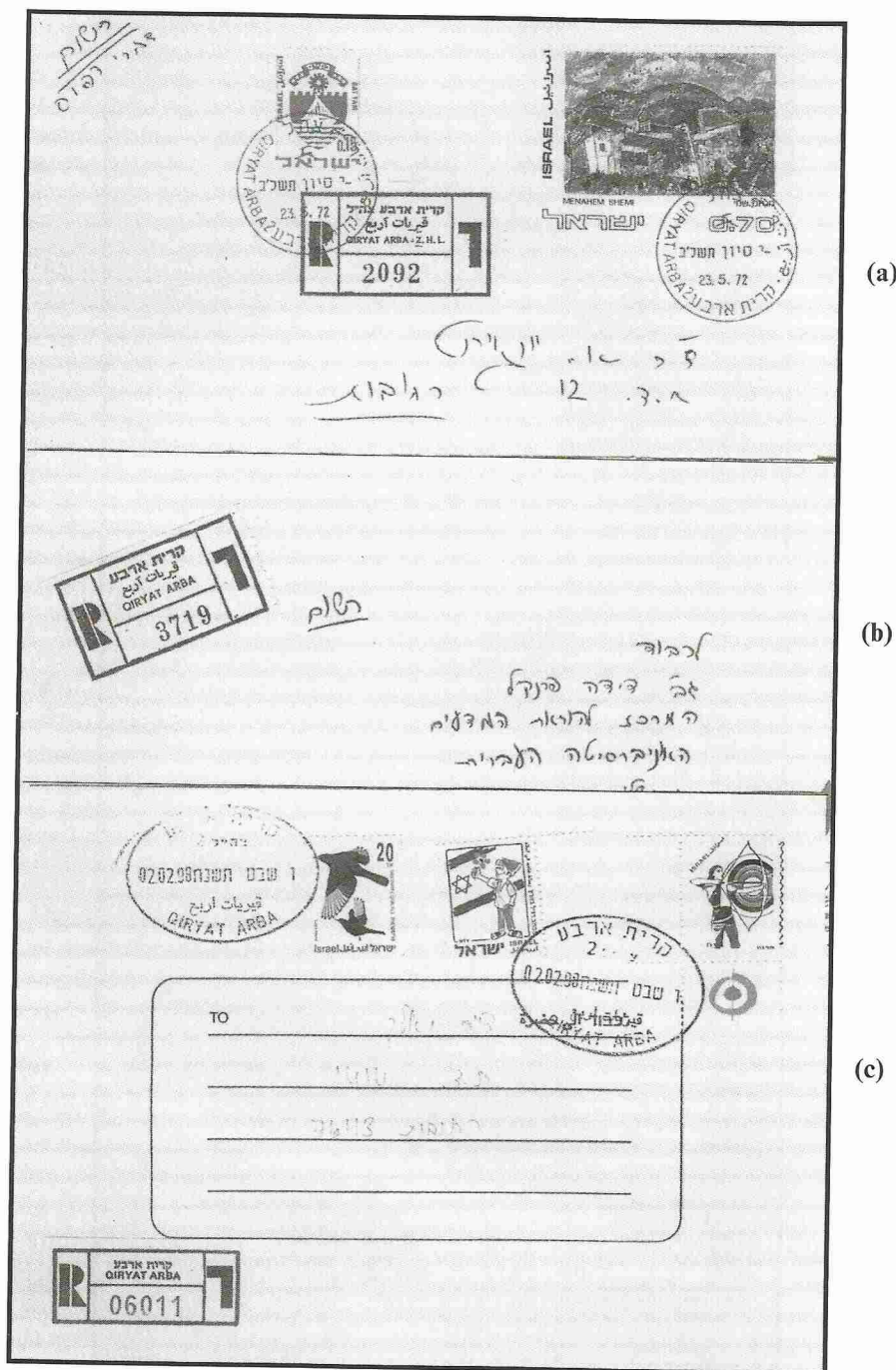


Fig. 38: The evolution of the Qiryat Arba R-labels.

label reading in both Hebrew and Latin letters: Qiryat Arba - Z.H.L. (צה"ל) but without the Z.H.L. in Arabic (Fig. 38(a)). This was the only case of its kind, and the Z.H.L. was dropped from later issues of this trilingual label (Fig. 38(b)) until, much later, bilingual labels (of the type used in Jewish localities in Israel proper) were introduced (Fig. 38 (c)). Since the Postal Authority does not furnish "Public Notices" about changes in R-labels (neither does the Philatelic Service), I am unable to provide the dates of these changes. Later, use of trilinguals was irregular e.g. Bet El (July 10, 1973), started out with a bilingual one, while the next one to be opened - Allon Shevut (July 24, 1973) - had a trilingual one (also to become bilingual later). Two more special cases should be mentioned here: The P.O.'s at the Jordan bridges and the Mobile Post Offices (MPOs). The "Bridge P.O.'s" i.e. Allenby Bridge (near Jericho) and Adam Bridge (further north) were opened in 1970 as "postal points", i.e. for dispatch of unregistered mail only, and only in 1976 were upgraded to full post offices. Fig. 39 (a) shows a letter which was sent from Austria to be dispatched as registered letter from Allenby Bridge P.O. - it was cancelled at the bridge, but registered in Jerusalem! Fig. 39 (b) shows a registered "bridge letter" of the later period with an R-label reading: "Gesher Adam" (in Hebrew and Latin), but "Jisr (= bridge) Damia" in Arabic, as the name of the nearby Arabic village, which can be seen in the 1957 then Jordanian postmark (Fig. 39(c)).

A further point worth mentioning regarding the trilingual R-labels in the "territories" relate to the Mobile Post Offices. For some (to me) inscrutable reasons there are three types as far as the Arabic part is concerned. In one type the Hebrew is exactly transliterated by using equivalent Arabic letters including the words "doar na" (meaning Mobile Post), in the second the Hebrew words "doar na" are not shown at all in the Arabic part, and in the third type they are **translated** into Arabic (as "albarid almutjawal") and only the name itself is **transliterated** (Fig. 40 (a), (b), (c)).

This concludes this overview of trilingual R-labels used in the "territories". We will now follow up this subject within Israel proper.

On the termination of British rule in Palestine there were 32 post-offices / agencies in Arab localities. Of these 14 found themselves under Jordanian or Egyptian administration, the rest, 18 were within Israel. Some of these, e.g. Lydda, Ramle, and Beer Sheba (now Lod, Ramla and Beer Sheva) were "re-opened" by the end of 1949, others became Jewish settlements and were "opened" as such, e.g. Shelomi (formerly El Bassa) or Ashdod (formerly Isdud). Some were neither "re-opened" nor "opened", e.g. Beit Jibrin or Faluja. However an increasing number of postal facilities in Arab localities, which did not have such services during the Mandate period, about 60 according to the Handbook, were inaugurated within Israel proper in later years. The first in this category were: Baqa Hamaaravit (Aug. 13, 1952), Tayiba (Oct. 29, 1952) and Kfar Yasif (Nov. 12, 1952);- all three using bilingual (Hebrew/Latin) R-labels, which remained the norm for the coming twenty years. It was only in 1972 (!) that trilingual R-labels made their appearance in Arab localities in Israel proper, the first ones in conjunction with Opening Days at Hurfeish (Dec. 11, 1972) and Abu Sinan (Jan. 3, 1973) (Fig. 41). This remained the norm (with very few exceptions) until the introduction of the computerized stickers

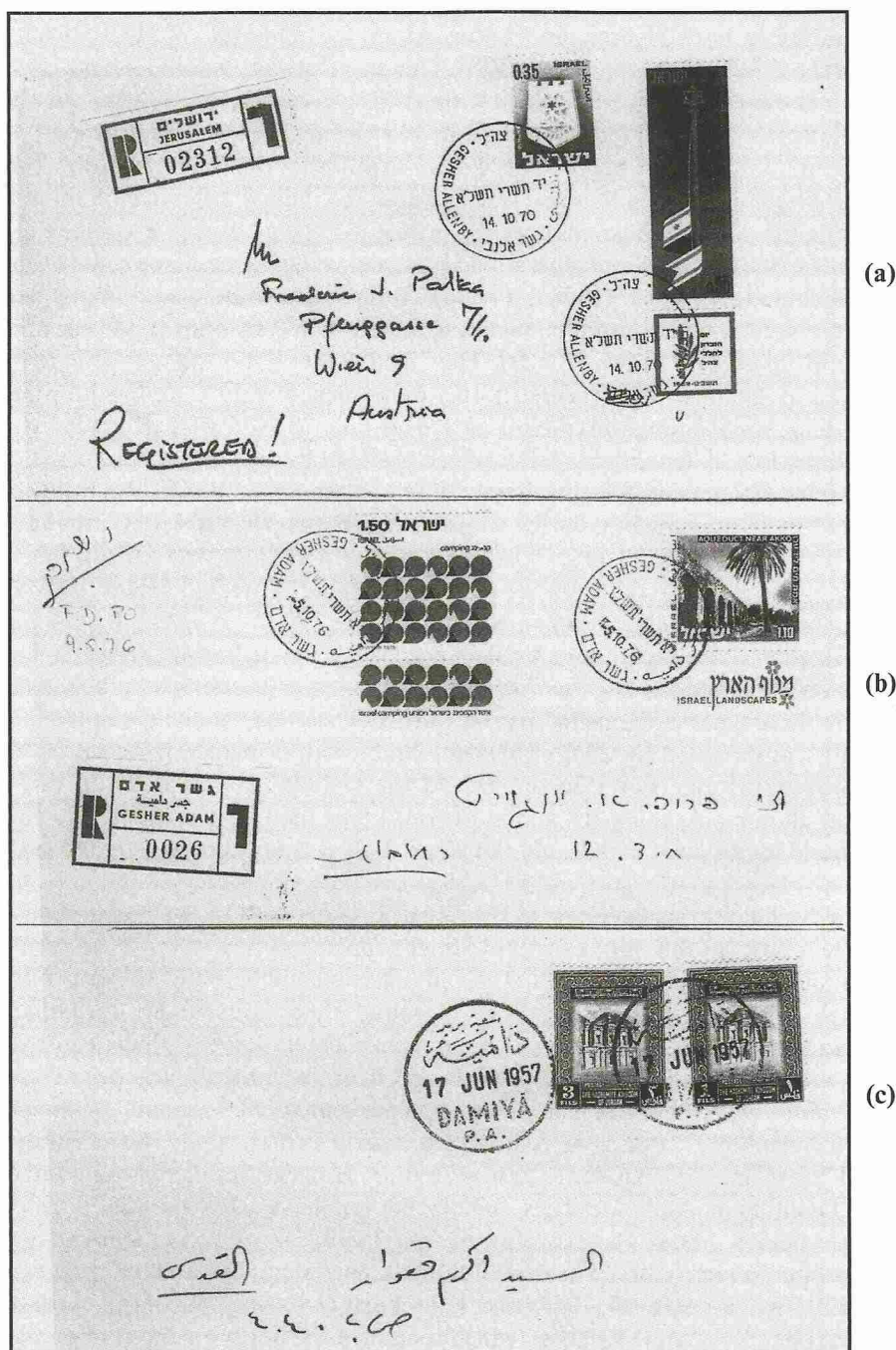


Fig. 39: The Allenby and Adam (Damiya) Bridge Post Offices.

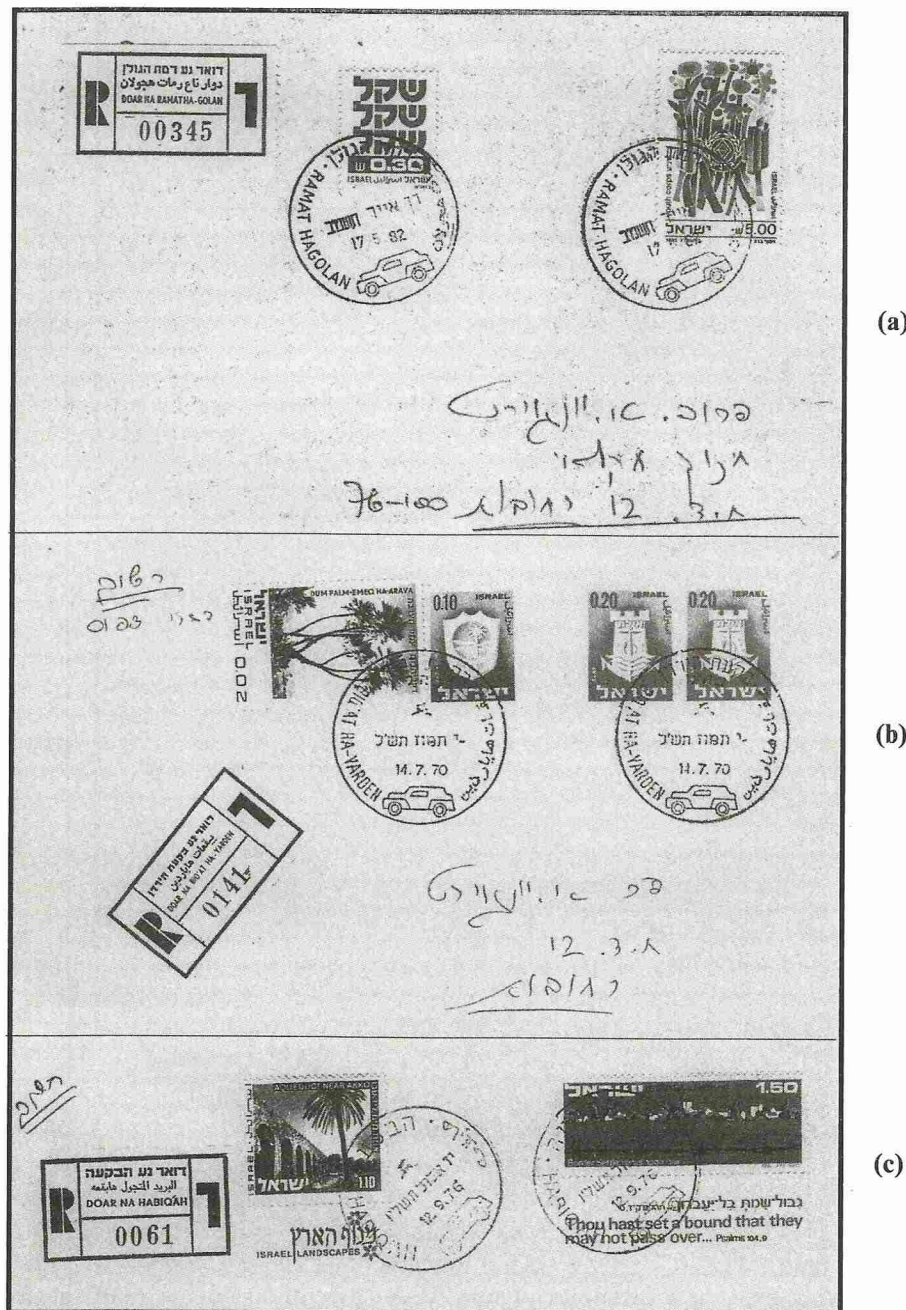


Fig. 40: The three types of the Arabic rendering on MPO R-labels: (a) Both "Doar Na" (i.e. MPO) and place name transliterated; (b) Doar Na omitted and (c) "Doar Na" translated with place name only transliterated.

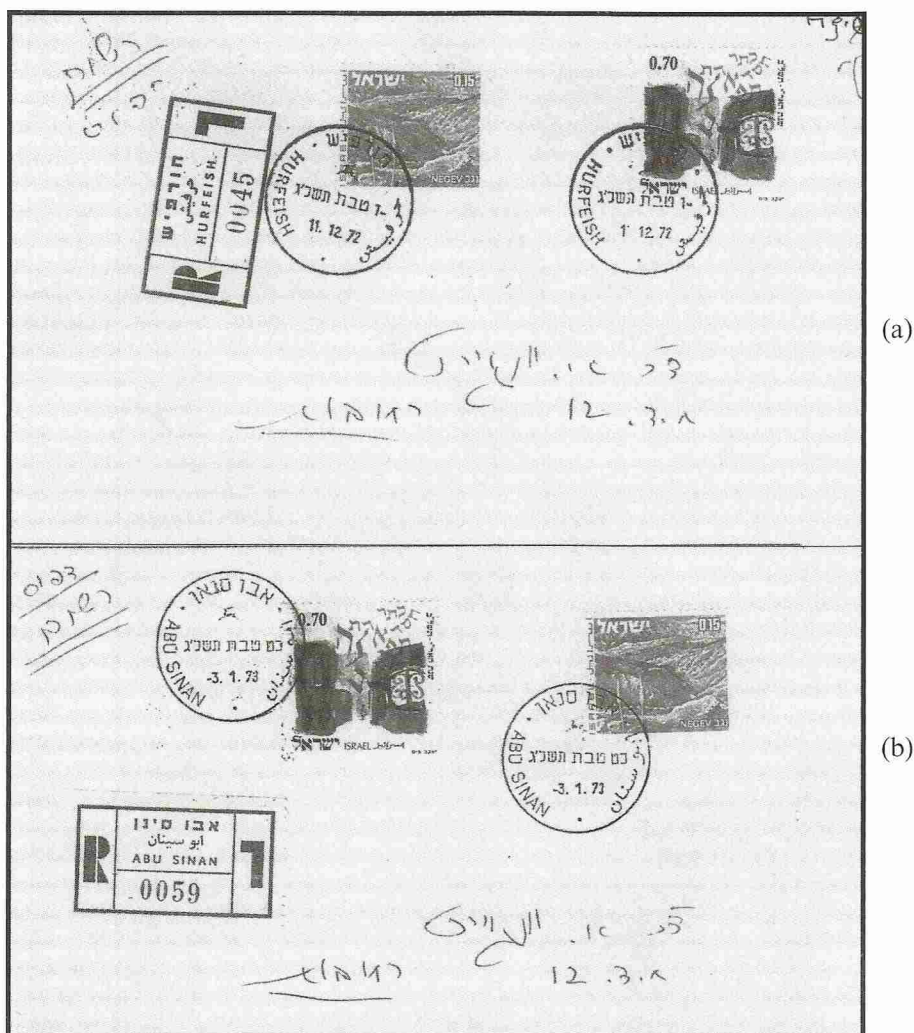


Fig. 41: Hurfeish and Abu Sinan - the first trilinguals in two Israeli Arab localities.

in 1999. The same period, mainly in the 80s and 90s, also saw a gradual change over to trilinguals in those Arab locations which had started out with bilinguals (Fig. 42). Note also the changes in spelling - a not unusual phenomenon.

Following are a few examples of non-Arab "exceptions to the rule", always assuming that there ever was a rule for the use of R-labels. First use of trilinguals in non-Arab locations, July 1, 1975 saw the opening of the Biqat Beit Kerem MPO in Central Galilee using bilingual R-labels (Hebrew/Latin) in trilingual format. Then the Hefer M.P.O. (Mar. 2 1980) issued regular trilingual labels Caesarea (Nov. 6, 1983) (Fig. 43 (b)) and Migdal Tefen (May 1 1986). Of special interest is the opening of the Post Office in the Beduin Village of Tel Sheva (Feb. 19, 1992) using a trilingual label in bilingual format (Fig. 43 (c)).

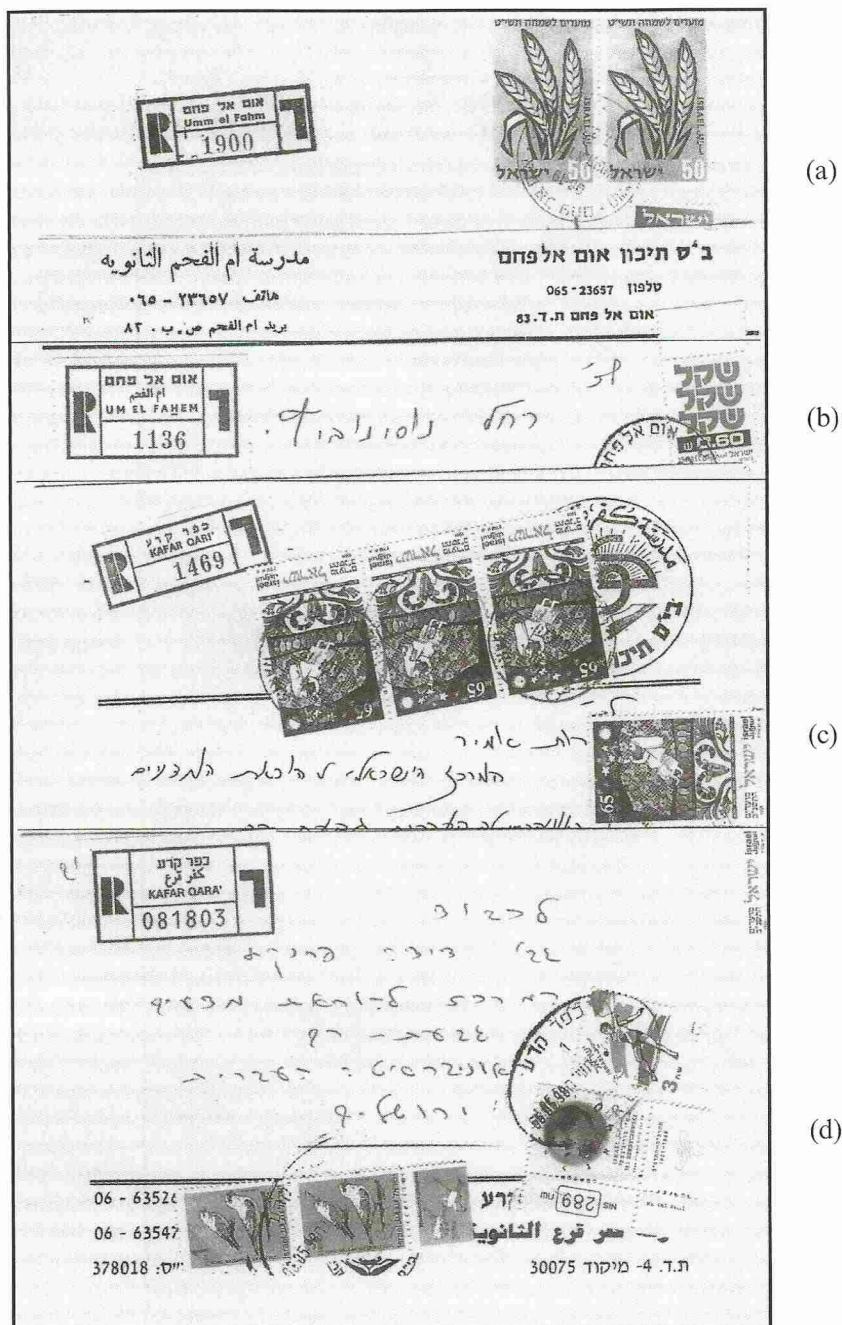


Fig. 42: Change over from bi- to trilingual in two Israeli Arab localities.

Two more topics remain to be discussed: First the problem of transliteration Hebrew to Arabic and Arabic to Hebrew, as well as that of both Hebrew and Arabic into Latin characters. Then, the phenomenon of incompatibility of the spelling (in Latin characters) appearing on the R-labels with that on the postmarks,

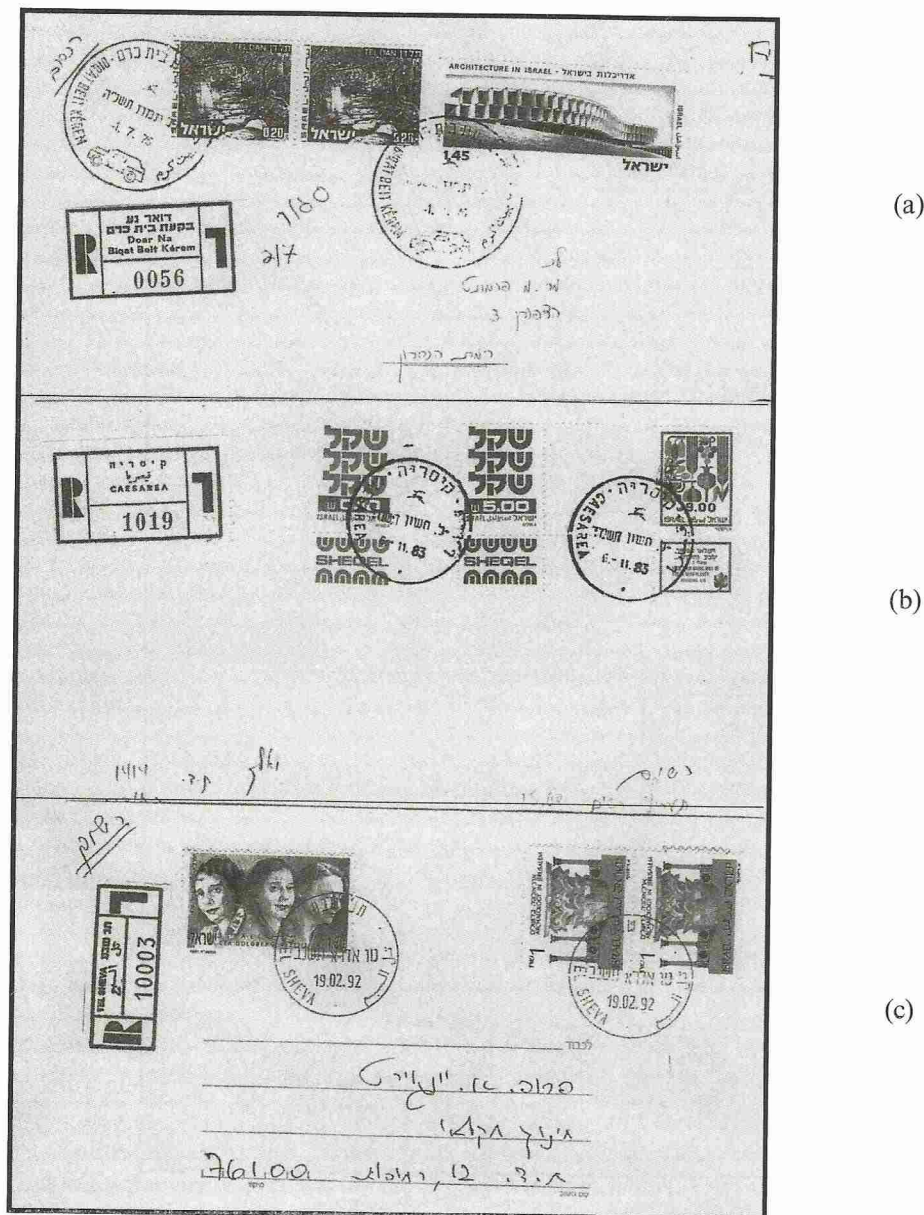


Fig. 43: "Exceptions" - (a) bilingual in trilingual format, (b) use of trilinguals in non-Arab location and (c) trilingual in bilingual format.

not uncommon even on First Day Covers! These two topics will be presented in a further article.

2. The C-K-Q Syndrome

No, this is not a medical treatise insinuating itself into a philatelic publication, but a close look at Israel's Postal Authority arbitrary spelling methods relating to the use of the letters "C" "K" and "Q" when transliterating the Hebrew letters "KAF" and "KOF". The Israeli Academy for the Hebrew Language decided many years ago that "KAF" should be represented as "K" when "hard" כ and as "KH" when "soft", while "KOF" (which is always "hard") should be transliterated as "Q". I have mentioned this problemé, among other transliteration problems, already almost 50 years ago¹. One might have hoped that the powers that be, in this case the people placing their orders for the printing of R-labels, should in the meantime have learned the correct spelling procedures. However, reality shows that one should never be overly optimistic, as will be illustrated below. Having already dealt with the C-K-Q syndrome in Israel's first decade, I will concentrate here on the last twenty years, the 80s and 90s, i.e. prior to the discontinuation of "named" R-labels in 1999. I would like to point out that the following examples are not spelling "errors" i.e. inadvertent typographical mistakes, but systematic transliteration aberrations.

The following possibilities exist, all of which were also realized and are illustrated below:

(1) Using "C" instead of "K", (2) Using "C" instead of "Q", (3) Using "CH" instead of "KH", (4) Using "K" instead of "Q", (5) Using "Q" instead of "K".

First, illustrations of the correct spelling procedures (see Fig. 44). Here we have: (a) Kefar Ha-Makkabbi i.e. one "hard" kaf in Kefar and a double Kaf in Makkabbi. The double "k" denotes the fact that the Kaf in Makkabbi is accented (degushah) as is the double "b" for an accented "bet" (bet degushah), in accordance with the official procedure for such cases. (b) The second example comes from Kokhav Yair - the first Kaf is "hard" and thus shown as "k", while the second is "soft" and thus given as "Kh". (c) The third example comes from Pardes Hanna-Karkur. Please note the double "n" (because of a "nun" degushah) in Hanna and the two "hard" Kafs in Karkur. (d) The bottom example in Fig. 44 is from Ashqelon, correctly giving a "Q" for the Hebrew "Kof".

Now for the "spelling aberrations" outlined above. In Fig. 45(a) we have Ha-Carmel instead of Ha-Karmel, followed by Maccabim-Re'ut with a double "c" instead of a double "k". The postmark, however spells correctly "Makkabbim". This label also ignores the need for the doubling of the letter "b" for reasons given above. (c) The third example is from Beer Yaaqov (as in the obliterator), but the R-label shows a "c" instead of the correct "q". (d) The bottom example is another case of "c" instead of "k" in Merkaz Shapira.

In Fig. 46 (a) we have Zichron Ya'aqov instead of Zikhron for the "soft kaf", which might be pronounced correctly only by people with a German background. (b) The next is a "k" for "q" type in Ashkelon for Ashqelon. (c) The third example is even more noteworthy. This was used in the Qiryat Bialik shopping mall P.A. and

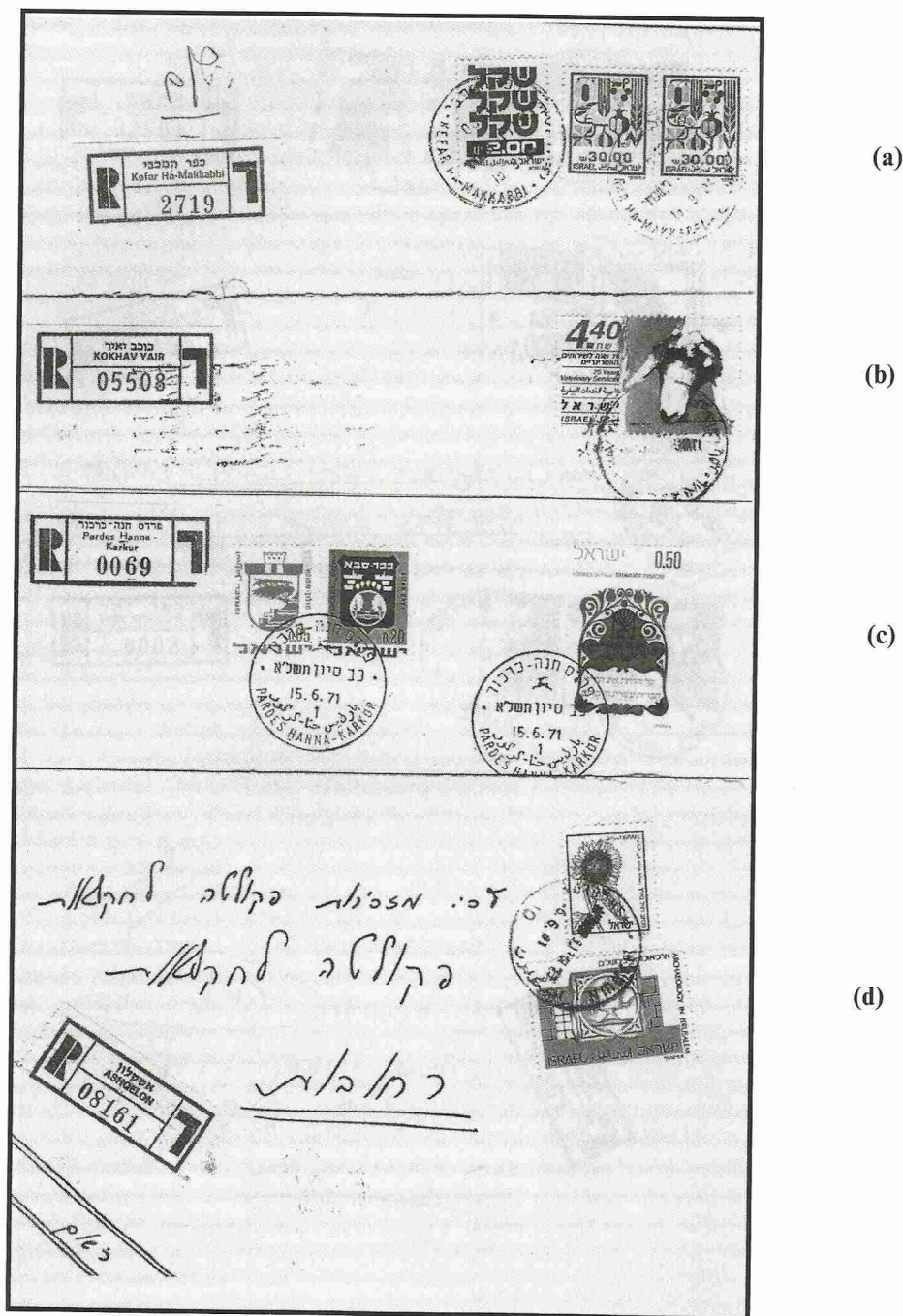


Fig. 44: Demonstrations of correct spelling procedures (See text for particulars).

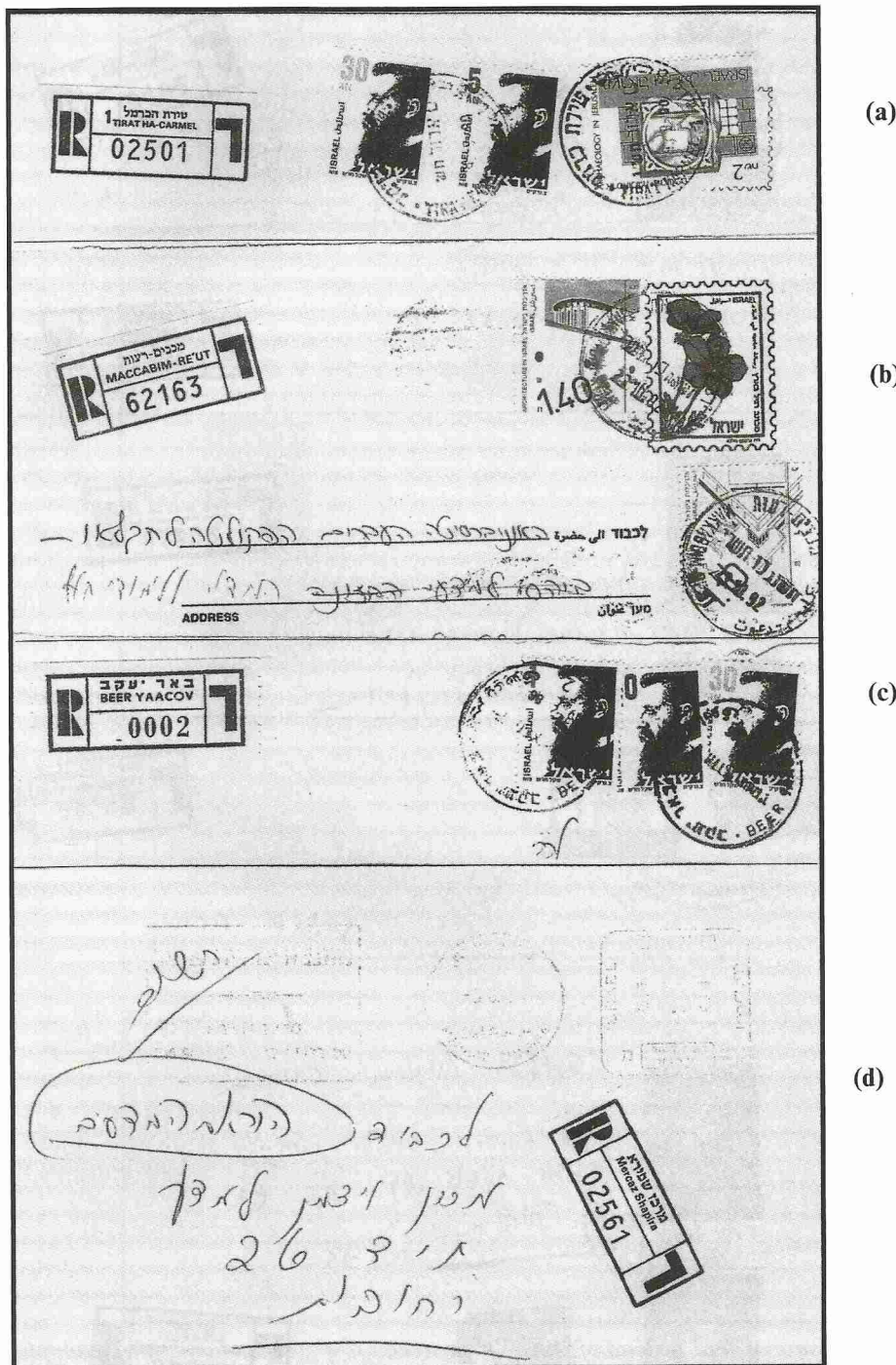


Fig. 45: Examples of the misuse of "c" instead of "k" and "q".

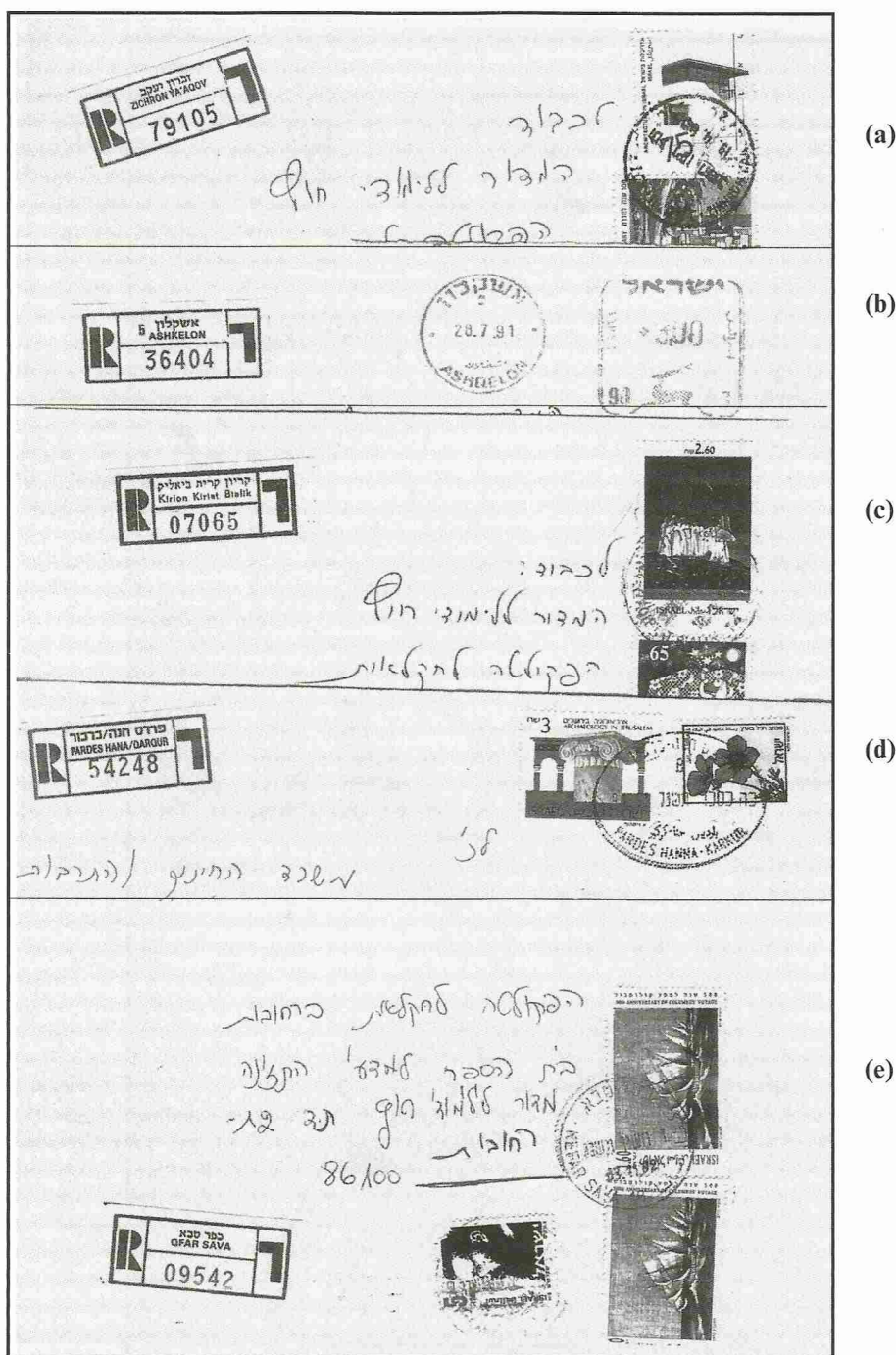


Fig. 46: Misuse of "ch" instead of "kh", "k" instead of "q" (second and third examples), and "q" instead of "k" (fourth and bottom examples)

should be spelled "Qirion Qiryat Bialik". Note that the "kof" in Bialik is not given as "q", correctly(!) since proper names are not affected by the kaf-kof rule, and the poet Bialik's name thus remains untouched. (d) This is followed by another cover from Pardes Hanna-Karkur, but this time doubly misspelled, giving a "q" in both cases instead of "k", and ignoring the "nun degushah" in Hanna, showing only one "n" instead of two. The last example (e) comes from Kefar Sava, also doubly misspelled by giving a "q" instead of a "k" in Kefar as well as omitting the "e".

The above illustrations of the C-K-Q Syndrome were all taken from my collection only. I could show some more, but these would suffice for the delineation of this phenomenon. I am also sure that there are others which I have not seen. In retrospect - since "named" R-labels are now a closed chapter - one cannot help wondering whether the phenomenon described here was the outcome of an "I-couldn't-care-less" attitude (in colloquial Hebrew termed "לא-אכפתיות" ("Lo Ihpatiut")) on the part of the persons concerned, or just a plain case of incompetence, lasting for no less than five decades.

3. Some Remarks on Nazareth and Upper Nazareth

Nachtigal and Fixler's Handbook of Israeli Postmarks (1990)³ allotted Running Number 409 to Nazareth (נצרת) and 410 to Upper Nazareth (נצרת עילית), transliterated as Nazerat Illit), the latter's First Day given as Feb. 5, 1959. Not so! Upper Nazareth's postal service was inaugurated on Aug. 4, 1957 as a sub-agency of Nazareth, using the Nazareth 4 cancellation as well as Nazareth 4 registration labels (see Fig. 47 (a), (b)). This arrangement terminated on Feb. 4, 1959. The next day Upper Nazareth became "postally independent" using both cancellation and R-labels reading "Nazerat Illit". The Nazareth 4 R-labels, however, continued to be used on and off for a number of years - see Fig. 47.

Fig. 48 (a) shows a 1965 cover bearing the Nazerat Illit rubber registration stamp used in lieu of R-label. Let us skip now the ensuing twenty years. The next two examples, both of 1989, (Fig. 48 (b), (c)) still showing the Nazerat Illit spelling in the obliterator, bear R-labels showing a radically divergent spelling in the transliteration: Instead of Nazerat we have now Nazeret and instead of a double "L" in Illit we have now a single one. The first change is in contradiction to the governmental commission decision which determined the spelling of place names. The second contravenes the rules of grammar i.e. that accented consonants (in this case a "lamed degushah") should be transliterated by doubling. Both these "felonies" were corrected as shown in the last (1995) example (Fig. 48(d)) returning to the former "Nazerat Illit" but introducing now an error in the Hebrew spelling of Illit - "עילית" instead of "עלית". Since I have no later example to show, I cannot say whether that error too was corrected prior to the discontinuation of named R-labels in 1999.

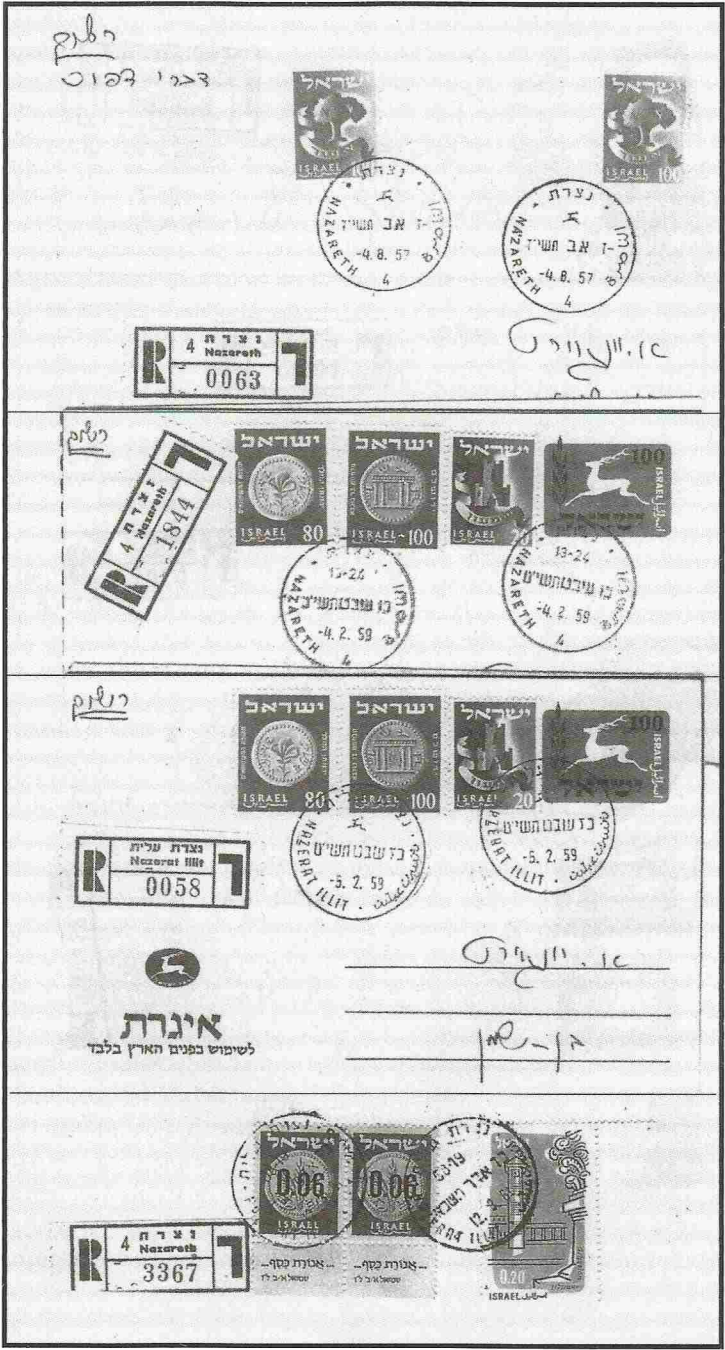


Fig. 47: The early postal history of "Upper Nazareth"

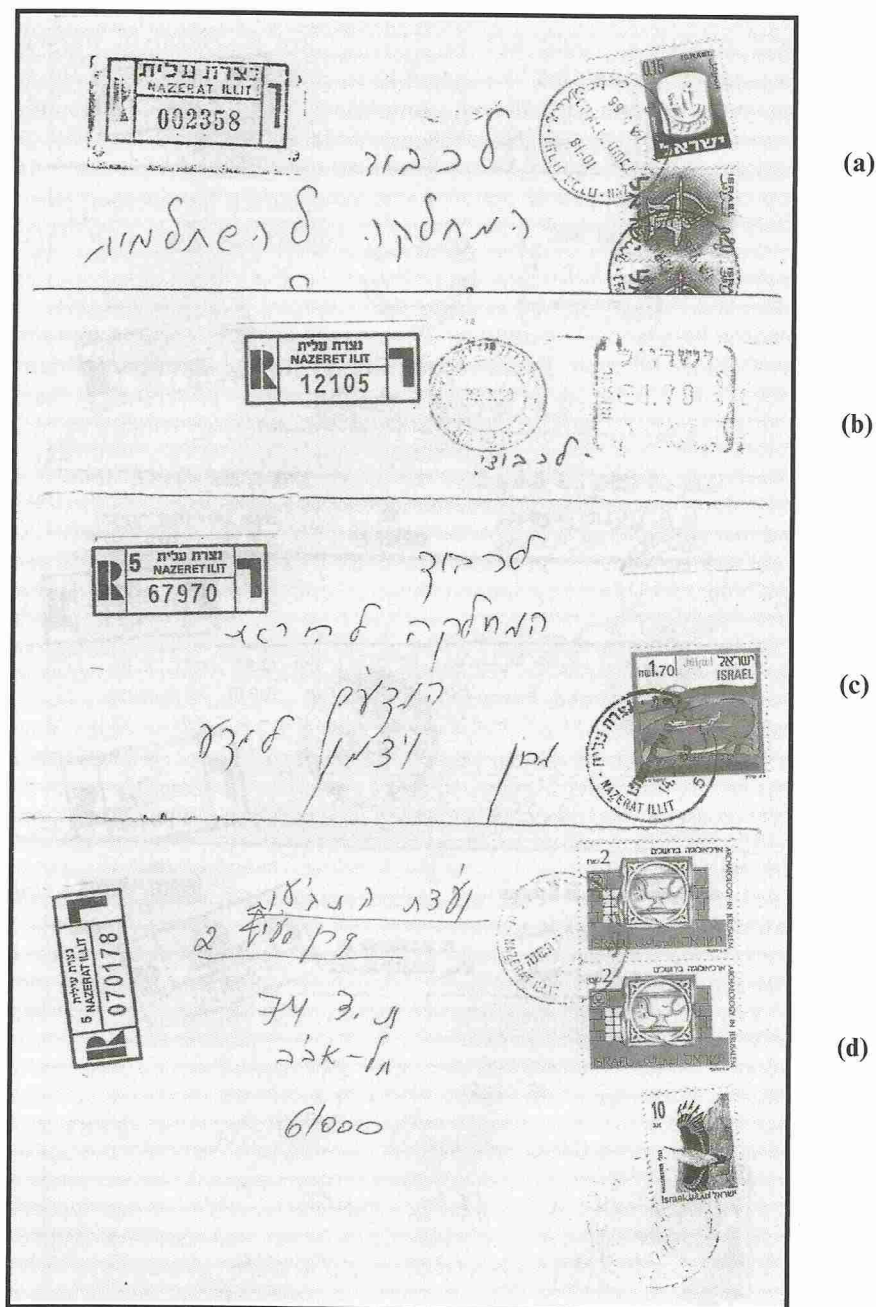


Fig. 48: Nazerat → Nazeret → Nazerat in "Upper Nazareth".

The second remark I would like to make relates to Nazareth proper. No introduction is necessary for this location, and no excuse is needed for the use of this spelling, both by the British and the Israeli postal authorities, in their obliterations as well as their R-labels. Then, suddenly, 40 years into the postal history of Israel, we find "Nazareth" transformed into "Nazerat" on the R-labels, similar to the above-mentioned spelling of Upper Nazareth i.e. Nazerat Illit. This had been tried once before on one obliterator, namely the short-lived type D-1 machine postmark (15.3.67 - 10.10.1970 according to the Handbook). This Nazerat R-label did not last long either and the Nazareth spelling was resumed. Fig. 49 (a), (b), (c) shows the "Nazareth" spelling in 1984, the "Nazerat" spelling in 1989 and the return to "Nazareth" 1990. Furthermore, Fig. 49 (d) shows the introduction of trilingual "Nazareth" R-labels (1992) and the last issue (?) six-digit Nazareth trilingual (1996) similar to the change over from bilinguals to trilinguals in other Arab locations in Israel proper in the 80s and 90s (Cf. section 1 of this article). Since no official information is issued by the Postal Authority as to R-labels, the dates are tentative and are based solely on my own material. With the introduction of computer-read R-labels in 1999 in lieu of "named" R-labels which could be read by mere mortals, these remarks are now part of a closed chapter in Israel's postal history.

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- (1) Jungwirth, E. "Trial and Error in Israel's Registration Labels", The Holy Land Philatelist Vol. V, pp 1089 - 1909, 1958/9.
- (2) Jungwirth, E., "The Use of Mandatory Registration Labels by the Israeli Post", The Holy Land Philatelist Vol. VI, pp. 1158 - 1160, 1959.
- (3) Nachtigal, I., and Fixler B., Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post (Parts I and III), 1990 and 1994 (no publisher given).
- (4) Wallach, J., "Post Office Openings in the Occupied Territories", The Israel Philatelist, May 1971.
- (5) Wallach, J., Israel's computerized R-labels (personal communication, 2003)



Fig. 49: Nazareth → Nazerat → Nazareth, showing also the change-over from bilingual to trilingual R-labels

Elusive Postal Rates - Under the Mandate, Minhelet Ha'am and Israel Administrations

J. Aloni, Thoham

The research of postal rates is always an important part of any postal history collection. As a collector of the postal history of the Interim Period, (1948), I was intrigued by the elusive and hard-to-find rates of this period. From time to time I purchased covers even when I could not explain the rate or the combination at the time, set them aside and waited for more information to be available.

The great majority of the mail sent during this period was with the basic postal rates of letters, postcards or printed matter, with appropriate registry or express fees when needed. Some combinations and special postal rates are extremely rare and make up the most interesting items of a postal history collection. In this article I shall try to show a few examples of elusive domestic postal rates during the mentioned period from the three postal authorities.

As the Minhelet Ha'am and the Israeli Postal Authorities decided to adopt the Mandatory postal regulations including the postal Tarrif there is no change in domestic rates till Oct. 1, 1948 and in foreign rates till Nov. 1, 1948, with some minor exceptions.

Scarce rates are usually connected to postal services which were used by a very small part of the population, or when the rate was in use for a very short time. Some other rare rates and combinations were created by multiples of the regular rates or a combination of charges.

The exact description of the postal rules and regulations governing these unusual rates is found in the "Palestine Post Office Guide" printed by the Mandatory government in April, 1948. In the following pages some of these hardly met with mail items are illustrated and discussed, each case preceded by the corresponding reference of this Guide (printed in italics).

1. Articles for the Blind

"Packets containing literature or other articles for the use of the blind will be transmitted within Palestine at a rate of 2 mils for each kilogram or part thereof up to a maximum of 5 kg."

This rate is hardly seen due to the fact that very few such letters and packets were sent compared to the volume of the regular mail, and even when we find such a letter, it is very difficult to identify it as an "Article for the blind" unless it has very specific characteristics, such as having been written in embossed Braille letters (see Fig. 50).

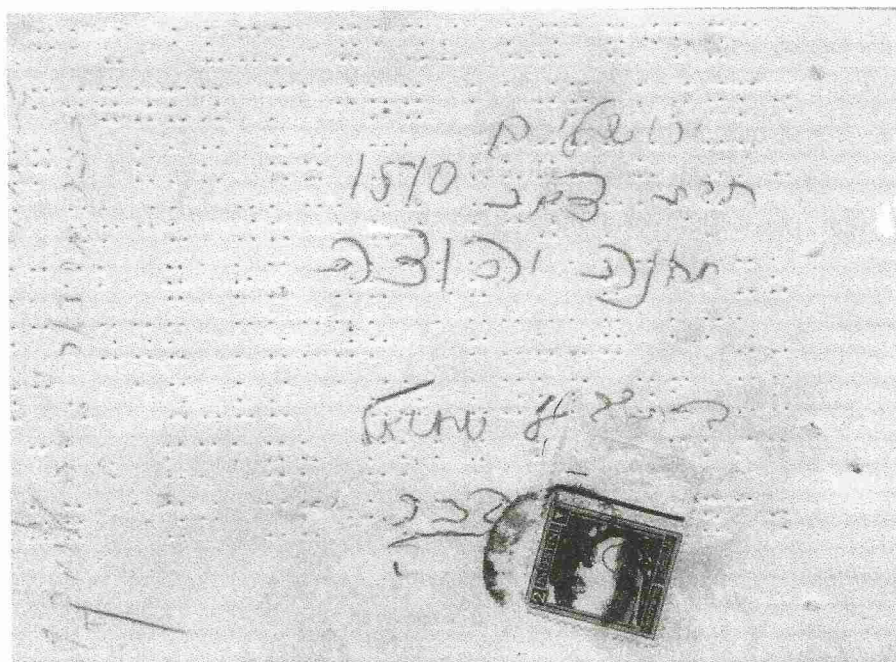


Fig. 50: Part of a page "written" in embossed Braille, franked by 2 mils Mandate pictorial stamp using the special rate of "Articles for the blind".

2. Newspapers

"The prepaid rate of a copy of publications registered for inland transmission, including supplements, is 2 mils for every copy. Any publication coming within certain description can, upon payment of an annual fee of 1. - LP (Palestine Pound) be "Registered at the G.P.O." for transmission by inland post as newspaper."

This rate is very hard to find due to several reasons: The big daily newspapers that had a distribution network of their own probably did not use this rate at all, and it was used only by small periodicals and specific publications. We have not seen until now any copy of a newspaper bearing stamps and the special cachet "Registered at the G.P.O.", as stated in the regulations, probably due to the fact that newspapers were sent in bulk, and nobody bothered to save them.

The few items that we have seen are all regular envelopes, seem to have come from the same origin having been used to send leaflets or newsletters folded to fit the envelope size. The usual printed matter rate being 3 mils, these covers were sent at the reduced 2 mils rate due to the "Registered at the GPO" regulation (see Figs. 51, 52).

These two covers, from the same sender, show clearly the continuity of the postal tariff over the change of administration from the British Mandate to M.H..

These special 2 mil rates (article for the blind and newspapers) were feasible only up to May 23rd, 1948, as Mandate stamps could be used only up to this date

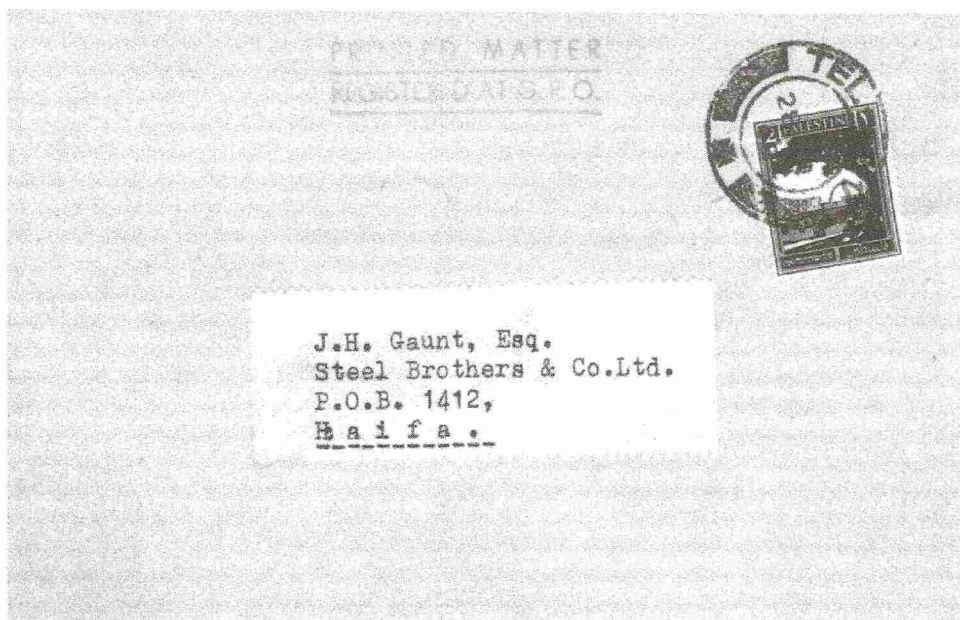


Fig. 51: "Printed matter Registered at G.P.O." cachet on a letter from Tel Aviv to Haifa, franked 2 mils Mandate stamp and cancelled by Tel Aviv Mandate postmark dated March 28, 1948.

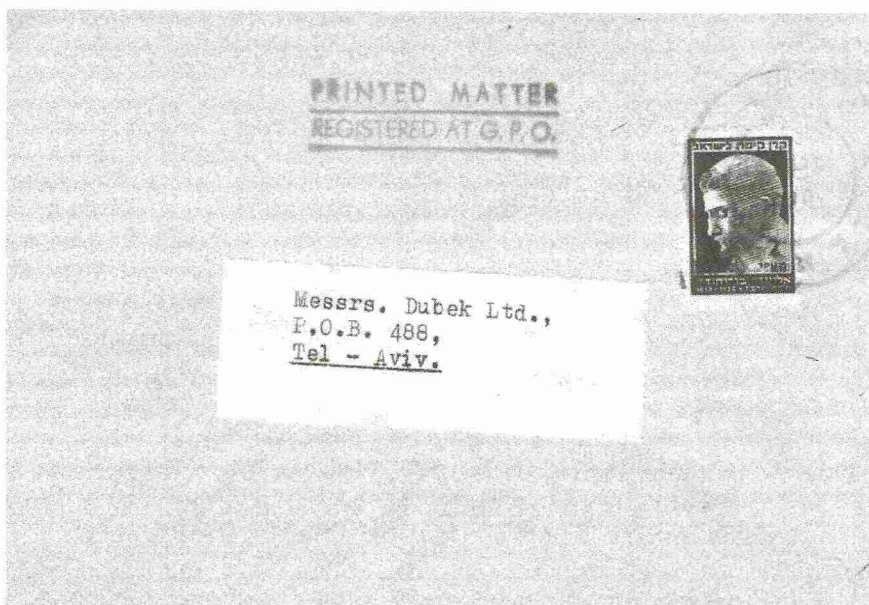


Fig. 52: "Printed matter Registered at G.P.O." cachet on a Tel Aviv local letter franked 2 mil JNF Ben Yehuda label overprinted "Doar", cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am Tel Aviv postmark (in use from May 5th - 14th, 1948).

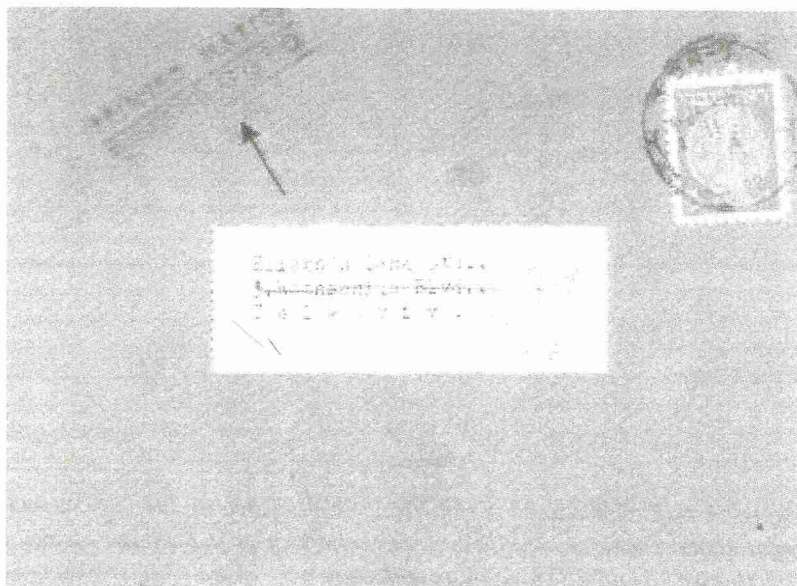


Fig. 53: *"Printed matter Registered at G.P.O." cachet on a Tel Aviv letter franked 3 mil Doar Ivri stamp and cancelled by an Israeli postmark dated November 2nd 1948 (after the change of postal rates of November 1st!).*

and no 2 mil Doar Ivri stamps were available. The rates were changed to 3 mils on the first change of the domestic rates in Israel on Oct. 1st, 1948. On this all-up postal upgrading, the regular "printed matter" rate was changed to 5 mils and the "printed matter registered at the G.P.O." rate - to 3 mils (see Fig. 53).

3. Samples

"The rate of postage on sample packets is 3 mils per 50 gr or part thereof with a minimum charge of 6 mils. Maximum weight is 500 gr. The use of the sample post is restricted to genuine trade samples and no article is admissible unless it be in fact a specimen of goods for sale, the specimen must be in itself without saleable value".

This rate is very seldom seen, the item shown here (Fig. 54) is probably the only sample of such rate used during the Minhelet Ha'am period. Few more "Sample" covers are known from the Mandate period.

4. Printed Papers

"The prepaid rate for printed papers is 3 mils per 50 gr or part thereof, maximum weight is 2 kg".

Printed matter letters are much more common than the items which we dealt with in the first paragraphs. But there exist interesting and intriguing printed matters which are very specific and very uncommon: they are connected to high multiples or combinations of registration and express fees and various special conditions. The next few items may serve as examples (Figs. 55-57).



Fig. 54: Registered "Sample wrapper sent from Petah Tiqva to Tel Aviv, unsealed as per regulations. Franked 24 mils mixed franking of Mandate and Minhelet Ha'am stamps. 9 mils (3x3 triple sample rate) + 15 mils registration fee. On the left upper corner is a Hebrew handwritten inscription, "sample without value / registered", as per regulations.



Fig. 55: Printed matter letter from Jerusalem to Tiberias, franked 10 mils, (2x5 mil Jerusalem 3rd Issue) canceled by the Liberation Postmark of June 25, 1948. The basic rate for printed matter being 3 mils per 50 gr and Jerusalem not having stamps at that period, the 5 mil stamps were used for printed matter. This cover then can be either double weight rate (2x5 mils) or triple rate (3x3 mils).

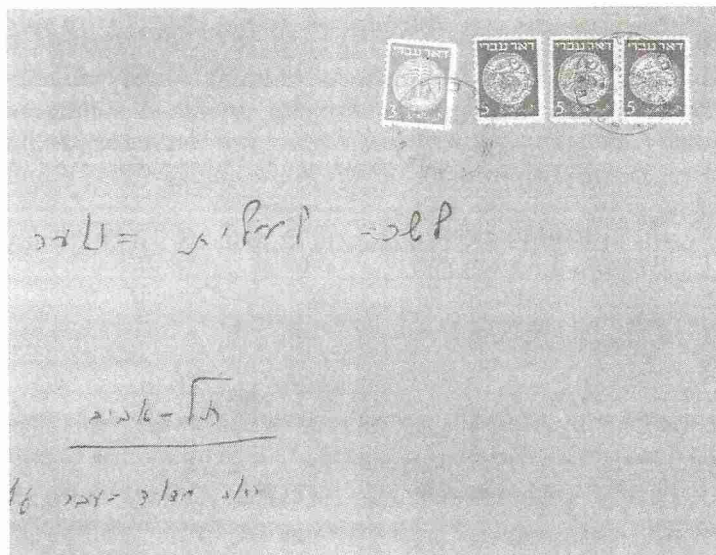


Fig 56: Large printed matter letter sent from Karkur on July 20 '48 to Tel Aviv by Dr. Abraham, dental surgeon, probably containing X-ray images, admissible as printed matter, therefore franked 18 mil Doar Ivri stamps: 3 mils basic printed matter rate + 15 mils (5x3 mils) additional weight.

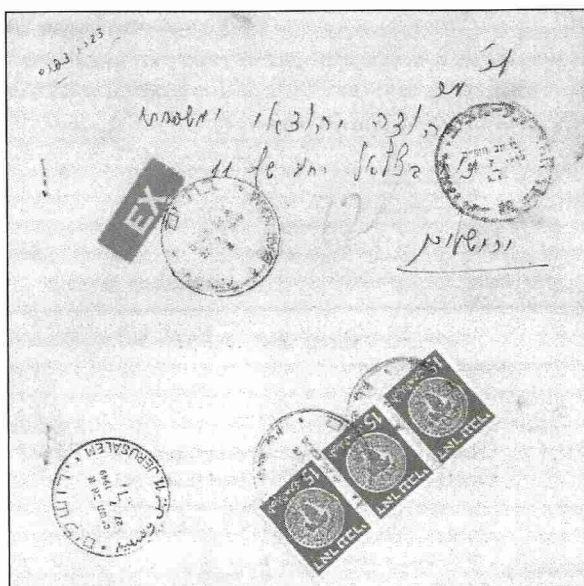


Fig. 57: Printed matter Express letter sent on July 27 '49 from Bat Yam to Jerusalem, franked 45 mils Doar Ivri stamps: 5 mils for basic printed matter rate + 40 mils Express fee (after Oct 1 ,1948).

5. "Printed Matter" Cards

"Printed Christmas, New Year, Easter, birthday, and visiting cards are admissible at printed matter rate if nothing may appear in writing except: Date of sending and names and addresses of sender and addressee; and formula of courtesy not exceeding five words or initials, for example, "Kind Regards", "Best Wishes" and so on.

The two cards in Figures 58, 59 were sent at reduced 3 mil rate instead of the regular 7 mil postcard rate.

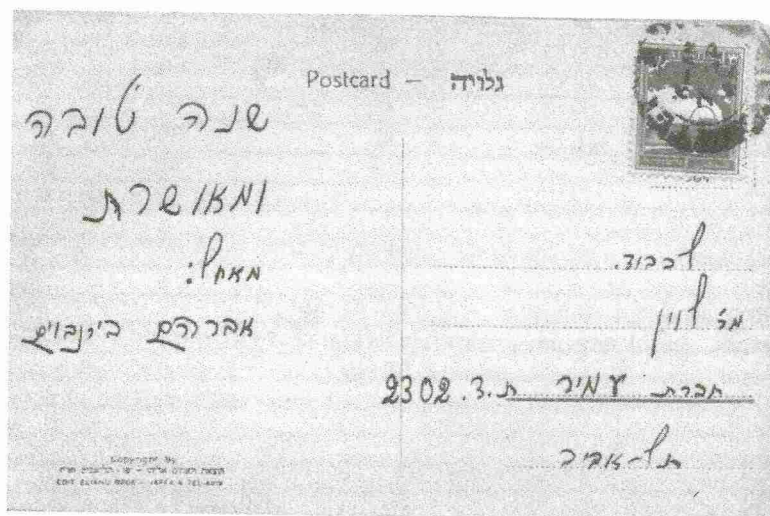


Fig. 58: New Year card sent in Tel Aviv, franked 3 mil Mandate stamp to pay the printed matter rate of the New Year card.



Fig. 59: Printed matter card - a printed form which refers solely to its subject and not exceeding five words or initials in handwriting. A postcard franked 3 mils Mandate stamp and cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am postmark of Jerusalem (valid only in 9th - 14th May 1948).

6. Cash on Delivery (C.O.D.)

"Under this service the amount called the "Trade Charge" specified by the sender for collection or delivery of a registered or unregistered letter or postal packet, can on certain conditions be collected from the addressee. On every C.O.D. packet a special fee is charged, which is additional to the ordinary postage.

Trade Charge, not exceeding LP. Mils	Fee: Mils	Trade Charge, not exceeding LP. Mils	Fee: Mils
0.500	20	15.000	70
1.000	30	20.000	80
2.000	35	30.000	90
5.000	50	40.000	100
10.000	60		

The sender must write in ink on the cover of the packet the amount of the trade charge.

The fee for the C.O.D. must be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the Trade Charge (separate) form".

Very few letters are known bearing the marks and labels of this service (e.g. Fig. 60).

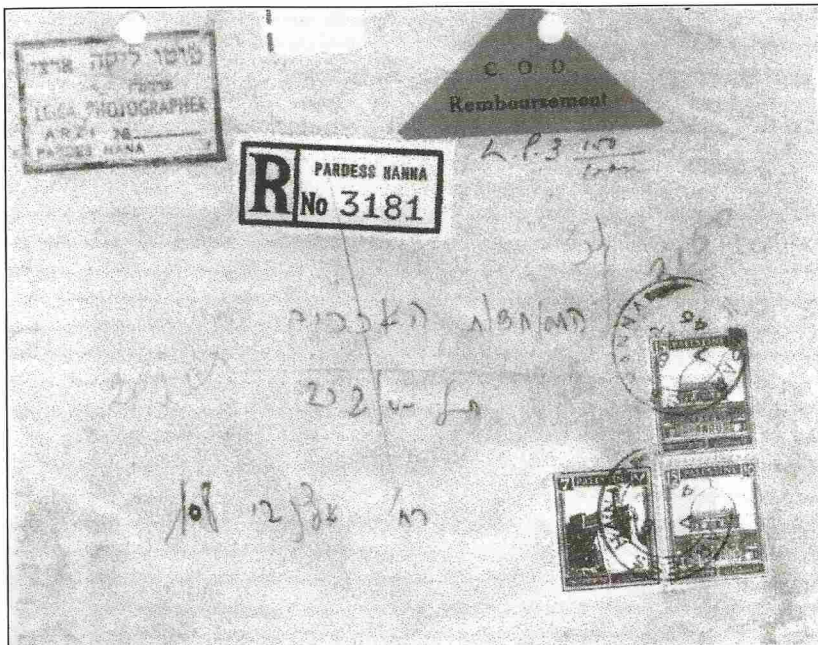


Fig. 60: C.O.D. registered letter sent from Pardes Hanna, franked 37 mil Mandate stamps: 10 mils basic letter rate + 12 (2x6) mils additional weight + 15 mils registration fee. Marked with a special C.O.D. label and manuscript LP 3.150.

The sender paid additional 50 mils which were levied by stamps affixed to a special form for the C.O.D. service.

7. Parcels

"The prepaid rate for parcels is:

<i>Not exceeding 1 kg</i>	<i>20 mils</i>
<i>1 - 3 kg</i>	<i>40 mils</i>
<i>3 - 5 kg</i>	<i>60 mils</i>
<i>5 - 10 kg</i>	<i>100 mils</i>

The parcel should be marked "parcel post" and the sender must affix the postage stamps to the "dispatch note" supplied by the post office."

Domestic Parcel Cards from the Mandate (Fig. 61) and Minehlet Ha'am (Fig. 62) periods are very rare and seldom seen. As of June 1948, large numbers of Parcel Cards franked with Doar Ivri stamps are known. Most of these "Parcels" are addressed to soldiers at their army unit addresses, or to isolated cities during the War of Independence. During the Mandate period there was no connection between the Postal Authorities and the Palmah or Hagana units, so the families were sending parcels to the soldiers by other means than the Mandatory Post.

Only after the establishment of the Israeli postal services and the Army postal service "Doar Zvai" on May 20th, 1948 did the confidence in the system make the public use this service in large quantities. This was probably the main reason for the change in sending parcels.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SENDER
 اسم المرسل وعنوانه
 תושב ומספר ש"ח תל אביב

Postage Stamps to be affixed here.
 תלשץ חא עוא יע الزيد
 את הביצים
 להחביק פת

RECEIPT OF ADDRESSEE
 The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the parcel(s) described above.
 קבלתי את החביות (החביות) המפורטות לעיל
 ונכנסות כעבר דרך

وصل المرسل اليه
 ان الموقع امضائه اعلاه يترقب
 باستلام الطرد (الطرود) المين
 (المينة) خلف هذه القيادة

Date 31.5.48
 تاريخ
 التوقيع

Fig. 61: Mandatory Dispatch Note ("parcel card") for a parcel sent from Tel Aviv: 100 mil Mandate Pictorial stamp to pay for the parcel which is weighing in the range 5 -10 kg.

9. Heavy Letters (large weight multiples)

"The prepaid rate of postage is: 10 mils, not exceeding 30 grams in weight, and 6 mils for every additional 30 grams. The limit of weight is 2 kg."

Letters were the most popular postal packets, and still are. Heavy letters, that is more than 30 grams or multiples of it, are very seldom seen (see Figs. 64-67). Collectors ignore them because most of them are large format covers not easy to handle. From the postal history point of view, and especially for rate research they are very interesting. But care should be taken to avoid pure philatelic covers, which are (relatively to commercial ones) more abundant in this group.

Thanks to Yaakov Tsachor, Yoel Slutski and Itamar Karpovsky for some of the photos in the article.



*Fig. 64: A commercial large size cover from Tel Aviv "Anglo Palestine Bank" (today's "Bank Leumi") franked 65 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamps (overfranked 1 mil):
10 mils basic letter rate + 54 mils (9x6) additional weight = 64 mils for
a multiple weight letter in the range 270 up to 300 gr.*

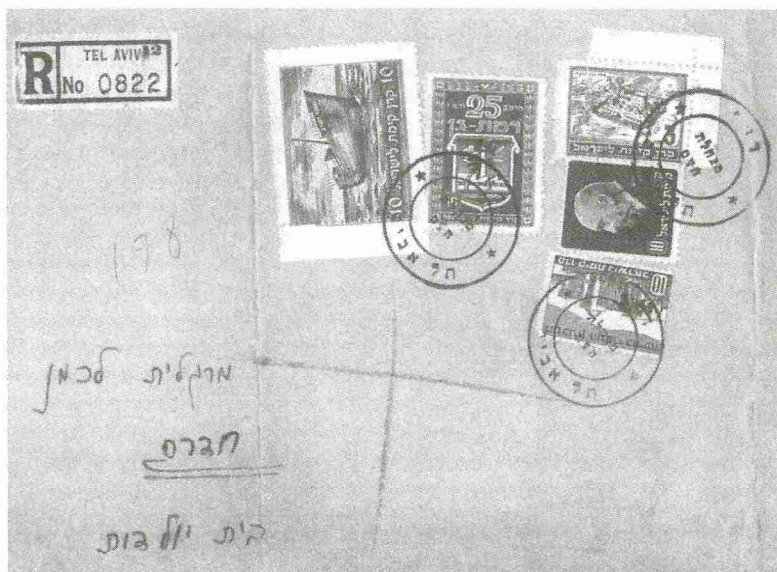


Fig. 65: Large size registered cover from Tel Aviv to Hadera franked 43 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamps: 10 mils basic letter rate + 15 mils registration fee + additional weight 18 mils (3x6) = 43 mils for a registered heavy letter in the weight range 90 up to 120 gr.

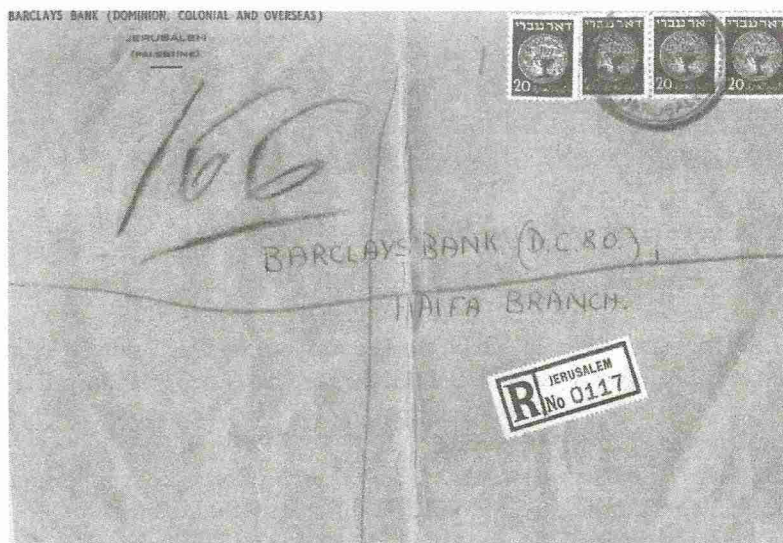


Fig. 66: A large size cover from Jerusalem "Barclays Bank" to Haifa franked 80 mils (overfranked 1 mil) Doar Ivri stamps, cancelled with the provisional "Liberation" postmark. The franking of 79 mils composed of: 10 mils basic letter rate, 54 mils additional weight (9x6 mils) in the range of 270 up to 300 gr. + 15 mils registration fee.

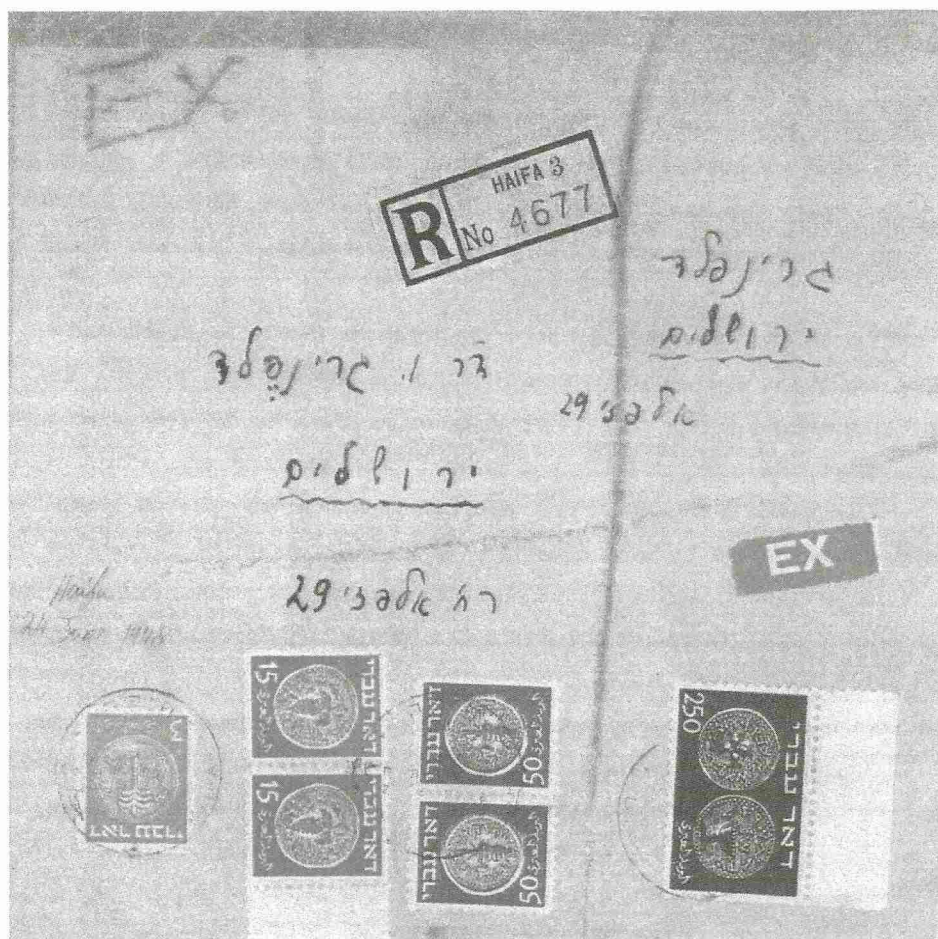


Fig. 67: A large size cover from Haifa to Jerusalem, franked 383 mils Doar Ivri

A.R. Postal Service in the Transition Period

What is the A.R. Service *(J. Shimony,)*

The abbreviation "A.R." in the postal world is a funny creature being the "official" phrase for the service "Advice of Delivery"* - why then not to designate it "A.D."?

First, let me explain in short what this postal service is. It is an optional service supplied by most post offices by which a confirmation that a sent item (which can be either registered or insured) has been delivered to the addressee. This is done by the sent article being escorted by a special form filled in with details of both "sides", signed by the addressee when he received the letter and then sent back to the sender as a proof of delivery to destination (see, for example, Fig. 68) the answer to the above query is that "A.R." comes from the French "Avis de Reception" (meaning "Advice of Reception") which is the French name for this service and as quite a few terms has been adopted by the U.P.U. to be used in the "universal postal language". "Advice of Reception" is of course equivalent to "Advice of Delivery" and is just a description of the same activity from opposite sides respectively: The addressee **receives** the letter from the postman = The postman **delivers** the letter to the addressee.

Minhelet Ha'am "Advice of Delivery" (AR) Letters *(J. Karporsky)*

Letters sent with "Advice of Delivery" (AR) request are generally, as also taxed letters, considered the most desired in each post office from the postal history aspect. This is obviously due to the relatively small number of letters using this service, which demands, naturally, an extra charge. Collection of this extra charge has been done, in most cases, by one of two ways: (1) Attaching to the envelope postage stamps of the full charge of the letter, that is the regular postage & registration fee (as the AR service is given only to registered or insured items) and the AR charge, or (2) Franking the envelope with postage + registration only and tying the stamps for the AR extra charge to the special A.R. Form which always escorts the A.R. letter.

During the British Mandate the second arrangement was used, where the extra charge stamps were tied to a Form, P.T.-520. The M.H. post, which practically continued without changes most of the Mandate Post services until May 16, when the Israeli state took over. So the A.R. service also continued to operate using, the same P.T.-520 forms and 15 mils charge.

Due to the short time of the M.H. Post (only a fortnight in most places) and the low quantity of A.R. letters anyhow, such letters from this period should be a priori very rare and indeed it was only a few years ago that a completed Form P.T.-520 from the M.H. period (4 May 1948) was reported ¹ (reproduced here in Fig. 68), and recently an envelope of an A.R. letter of June 15, 1948 was discovered (Fig. 69). In this date, the Minhelet Ha'am post still prevailed in Jerusalem due to the siege,

* In some Postal Administrations it is called "Return Receipt".

P.A.E.S.T.E. 520.

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.
دائرة البريد والتلغراف في فلسطين
הדואר, הטלגרף והטלפון של פלשתינה (א"י).

ADVICE OF DELIVERY:
علم وصول
הודעת מסירה

of a letter insured for L.P. _____ Mils _____
של מכתב מבטוח בסכום של _____
של דורו רשות _____
of a parcel insured for L.P. _____ Mils _____
של חבילה מבטוחה בסכום של _____
registered at the Office of _____ on the _____ Under No. _____
רשום במשרד הדואר, ב- _____ תאריך _____
Sent by M. _____
משלח ע"י _____
and addressed to M. _____
מפנות אל (השם המלא) _____
(full address) _____

The undersigned { an insured letter,
acknowledges that { a registered letter
an insured parcel } addressed as above & posted at _____
המתחתן כה מוכיר (עלה ונשלח) _____
מכתב יד _____
מועד נדיב ובטוח לשלוח _____
תוצע حسب האופן _____
נספר (ה) להעדרותה ביום _____
חתימה (2) (1) (2)

(1) Nature of article, letter, sample, printed paper, etc. Office of origin; date of posting at this office;
No. of registration at this office. _____
(2) Note:—This advice must be signed by the addressee and then sent by the first mail to the address
shown on the other side. _____
(3) הודעה—הודעת מסירה זו צריכה להתחתן ע"י המקבל וזאת בין לחיטה של הדואר ורגישון למי החברה שמקבל לוגו.

89077-50000-90-6-46-0-1.C.P.

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.
دائرة البريد والتلغراف في فلسطين
הדואר, הטלגרף והטלפון של פלשתינה (א"י).

ADVICE OF DELIVERY علم وصول
הודעת מסירה

M. _____

הדואר, הטלגרף והטלפון של פלשתינה (א"י).

הודעה השליחה והקנייה

Figure 68

and the letter is franked by the M.H. Jerusalem Stamps and cancelled by M.H. postmarks and dater. The charge of 25 mils was for the basic postage + registration, the 15 mil A.R. extra charge must have been tied to the A.R. Form attached to the letter, which unfortunately was not found in this case. The letter was carried from Jerusalem with the Second Convoy on 21 June arriving in Haifa on the 23, as is indicated by the trilingual postmarks on its back.

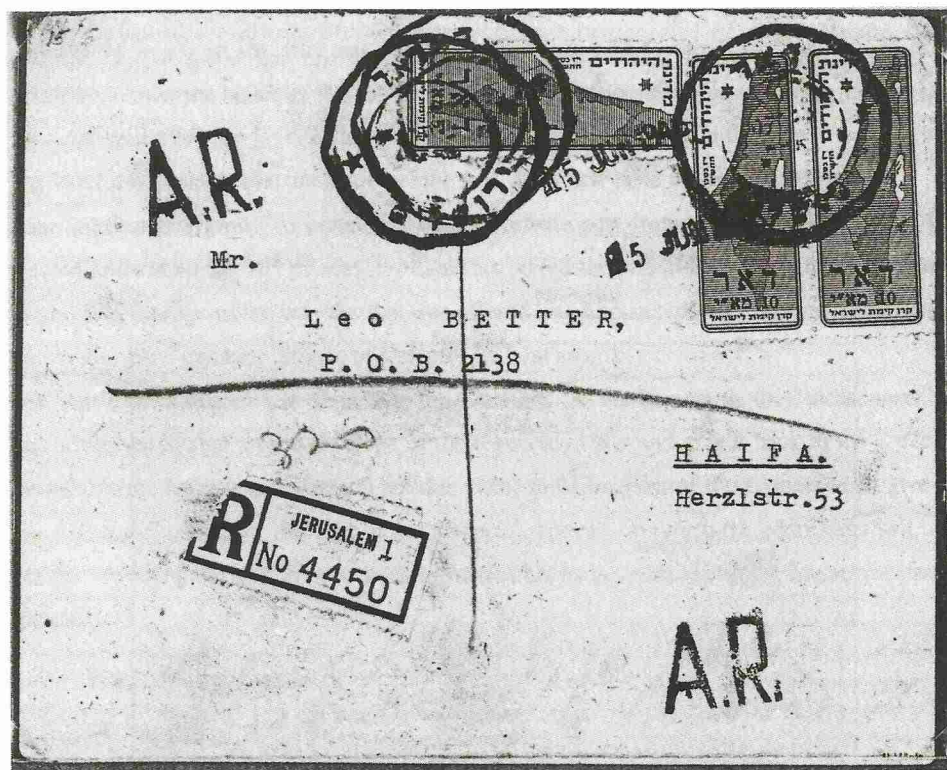


Fig. 69: Registered "A.R." 2nd convoy letter to Haifa via Tel Aviv. Franked 25 mils local Jerusalem stamps of the second printing to pay the domestic registered letter rate. Posted at Mea Shearim B.P.O. (Jerusalem-1) on 15th June 1948, and cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am postmarks. The additional "A.R." fee of 15 mils worth stamps were affixed to a special "A.R." form.

Free of Charge A.R. Service for Registered Letters of the "Messengers Group", Haifa 1948. (*J. Aloni*)

The Mandatory Post offered the special Advice of Delivery service (A.R.) for registered and insured postal packets*, the fee for which was 15 mils in 1948 and was paid by affixing the appropriate stamps to a special Form, P.T. 520. The Form having been signed by the recipient of the registered letter, was returned to the sender. This procedure resulted in a situation where the letter was in the hands of the addressee and the A.R. Form in the sender's hands. It is therefore seldom to "match a pair" and only in the case of non-delivery of the letter is it possible to find the letter and the A.R. Form at the same location.

The "Messengers Group" operated in Haifa as a private post from February 2 until May 10 1948. In this period they delivered an estimate thirty thousand postal articles. One of the services offered was delivery of registered letters which, probably unintentionally, included "advice of delivery" service without any extra charge. Amikam in his pioneering work², describes the procedure as follows: "At the beginning, the "Messengers" made the addressee sign on the envelope of the registered letter and gave it back to the sender (as a proof that the letter was delivered) but due to the unwillingness of the addressees to give up the "Historic" envelope, they put in use special receipts, on which the addressees had to sign. At

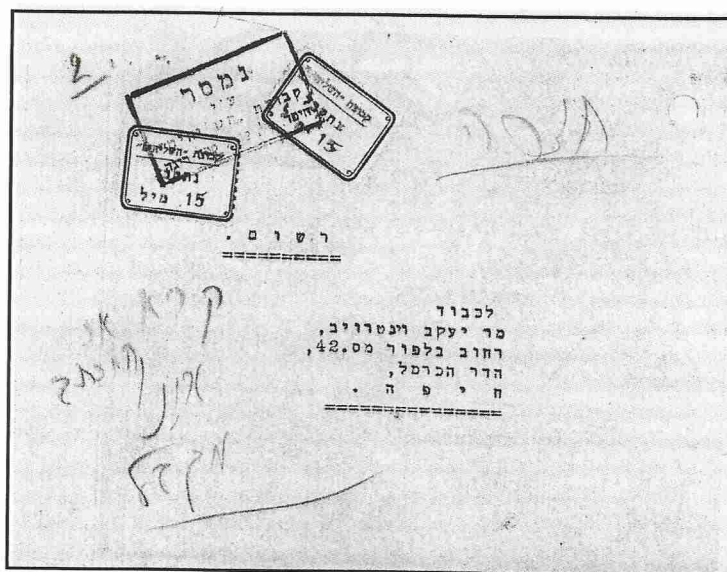


Figure 70

* The term "packet" was used by the British Post Office to denote any postal article which is delivered by the Post.

the beginning the receipts were all handwritten but as the quantity grew special receipts were printed..."

The illustrated letter (Fig. 70) and the note which escorted it (Fig. 71) are mute witnesses to this service. It is a registered letter sent to a Mr. Weintroib, franked 2 x15 mil "Messengers" labels to pay the registered letter rate in Hadar Hacarmel (15 mils basic letter rate + 15 mils registration). The letter is marked by the Messenger "return" on the upper right corner and on the left side, "(He) read the letter, refuses to receive". Attached is the "Messengers" specially printed note of registration and delivery, with the letter details and Mr. Weintroib manuscript "I do not accept this letter, J. Weintroib" headed (in Hebrew) "The Messengers Group, Haifa, Tel 2302" and the filled in details of the letter as requested: "Sender", "Station - "/ Receiver " —", Address "—" / "Date"—" / Receiver Signature "—". In the bottom of the present note the addressee wrote (in place of his signature): "I do not accept this letter, J. Weinroib".

In this case the letter was returned to the sender together with the special note of non-delivery which gives us the rare opportunity to find a registered letter together with its escorting note which is in fact an A.R. Form.

Figure 71

References

- (1) M. Siegel, "Some more Philatelic Tidbits from the Transition Period", HLPB 81-82 (1991), pp. 82-83, Fig. 100.
- (2) I. Amikam, The Haifa "Messengers" post, THLP Vol. II, # 13 (1955) p. 335.

Letters of Foreign Destinations during the Minhelet Ha'am Period

Z. Aloni

The United Nations voted on November 29th, 1947, in favor of establishing a Jewish State. The British Mandate of Palestine was to be terminated on May 15th. In April, 1948, as the British Mandate drew to a close, the authorities abandoned their control over civilian affairs. This vacuum was filled by Minhelet Ha'am, the temporary Government of the Jewish community. The continuation of the postal services was a prime objective of the Minhelet Ha'am administration and a strong effort was made to effect a smooth transition from the Mandatory postal system to the provisional Jewish (Minhelet Ha'am) postal system and to the Israeli Post in spite of the prevailing difficult political and military situation.

The Mandate postal services were gradually suspended, from April 15th onwards as declared in the "Public Notice No 53" of April 13th (Suspension of Post Office Services), Minhelet Ha'am taking over on May 2nd. On April 25th Minhelet Ha'am issued the first circular referring to the termination by the Mandate and continuation by Minhelet Ha'am of the postal services. Most of the information in that circular dealt with local mail, but in Paragraph 13 there are instructions regarding mail to foreign destinations.

"Letters to foreign countries carrying stamps of the present postal authority (Mandate) are not to be cancelled by the provisional postmark. Such letters are to be sent uncanceled to the head post office of Tel Aviv or Haifa."

The annex to the first circular reads:

- A. Mail dispatched from all Post Offices, except Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, in the period from May 1st to 5th, should be franked as follows:
 - 1. Inland mail - Hebrew stamps at present rates.
 - 2. Foreign mail - stamps of the present Department of Posts (Mandate)
 - B. The inland mail is to be cancelled by the provisional hand stamp and dispatched to destination as per present usage.
- The foreign mail should be dispatched uncanceled to the H.P.O., Tel Aviv."*

The Minhelet Ha'am stamps and obliterators were for internal provisional use and were not compatible with the regulations of the U.P.U., as no date was given and the only language used was Hebrew. In spite of the simplicity of the instructions, few letters are known, dispatched as per the regulation, brought from small cities and settlements to Tel Aviv or Haifa Head Post Offices for dispatch to foreign countries, franked with Mandate stamps and cancelled by Mandatory obliterators during the interim period May 2nd - 14th. More letters are known that have been sent abroad against the regulations than according to the regulations. There are letters franked with Minehlet Ha'am stamps, but cancelled by Mandate postmarks, letters franked with Mandate stamps but cancelled with Minhelet Ha'am postmarks, letters bearing mixed franking of Minhelet Ha'am and Mandate stamps etc.

The purpose of this article is to show a few examples of letters sent to foreign destinations during this period and to check their adherence to the regulations.

Our first example is a letter from Rishon Le Zion to San-Mateo, California (Fig. 72) which fully complies with the regulations - it is franked with Mandate stamps (not M.H. stamps) and cancelled with Tel Aviv Mandate postmark of May 14 (not Rishon Le Zion's M.H.).

The two following illustrations (Figs. 73, 74) also demonstrate clearly the M.H. regulations for sending mail abroad in that period: they are franked with

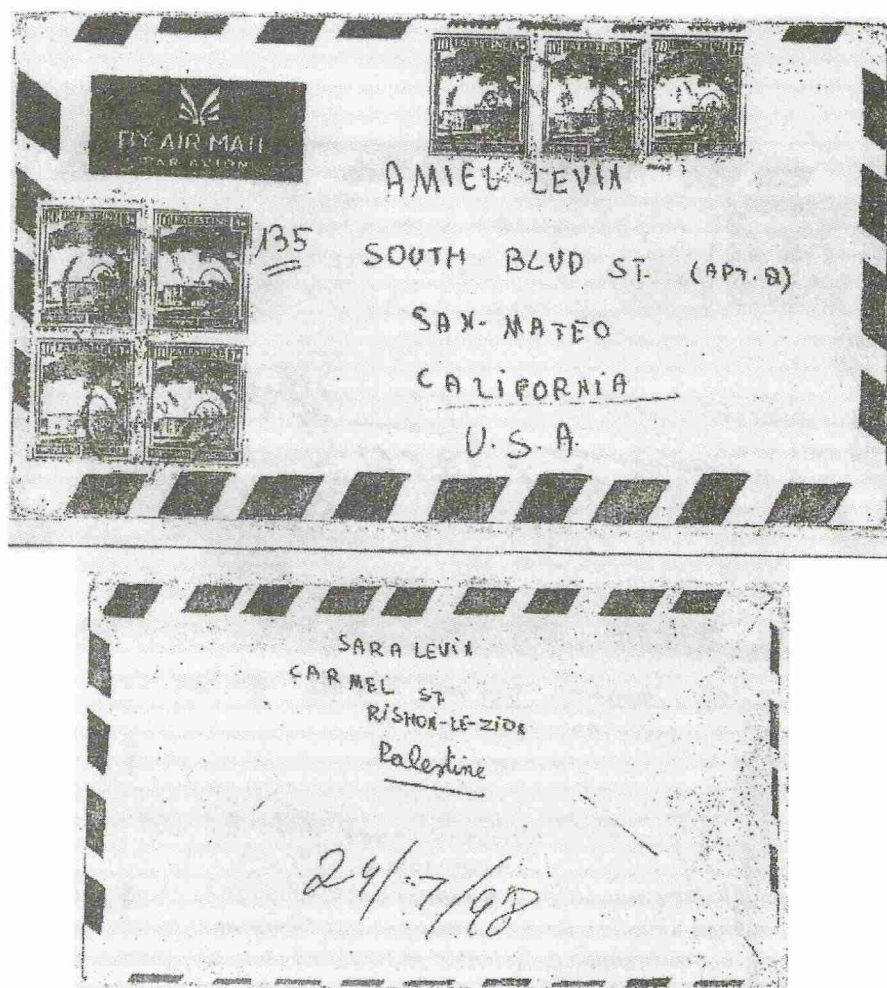


Fig. 72: Airmail letter to San Mateo CA. originating from Rishon Le Zion. Franked 70 mils Mandate stamps to pay the airmail letter rate to the U.S.A. (overfranked 5 mils) it was brought to Tel Aviv H.P.O. and cancelled there with the last day Mandate postmark of May 14th, 48

Mandate stamps (and not with the contemporary M.H. stamps) and the stamps being cancelled by the Tel Aviv H.P.O. Mandate postmark of May 5* and not by the M.H. postmark which was struck alongside but not touching the stamps.

As a popular proverb says, "Every rule has its exceptions", we can find here too letters that did not comply with the regulations partially or totally. In some of the



Fig. 73: Airmail letter to the USA, sent from Naharia to Haifa by the boat Emergency Service. Franked 65 mils Mandate stamps to pay the airmail letter rate to the U.S.A., it was brought to Tel Aviv H.P.O. and cancelled there with a Mandate single circle postmark of May 5th (probably a "frozen date")*.

* It is known that some Mandate handstamps (mainly in Tel Aviv H.P.O.) were not updated daily during May, 1948 - their marks are therefore called "frozen dates".

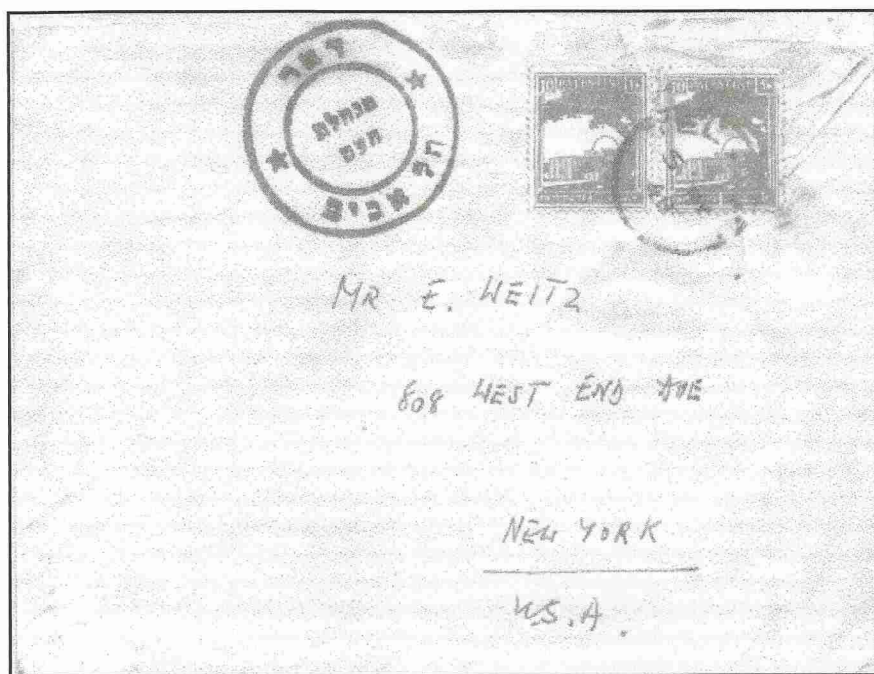


Fig. 74: Surface letter to the USA, sent from Tel Aviv. Complying with Minhelet Ha'am regulations for mail destined abroad it was franked 20 mils Mandate stamps (Surface letter rate to U.S.A.), transferred to Tel Aviv H.P.O. and cancelled there with the Mandate postmark of May 5 (probably a frozen date).

cases their senders were not even punished for that (!) and the letters reached their destination, as proved by the proper arrival handstamp on the cover. This was the case with the letters shown in Figures 75 and 76. Both of these letters did not comply with the regulation not to cancel such letters with M.H. postmarks and one letter (Fig. 76) also violated the other regulation inhibiting the use of M.H. stamps. Nevertheless, both were delivered unharmed at their destination, as proven by the arrival backstamps.

The last two examples (Figs. 77, 78) are of letters which violated the two M.H. regulations concerning mail destined abroad but, again, were not "punished" by the postal authorities (no handstamp or any mark was struck on the cover by the H.P.O.) But in these cases, as there are no arrival marks, we cannot be sure that these two reached their destinations. Quite amazingly, I have not seen a letter like these two with any note by the M.H. post office which, reasonably should have been added like taxing the letter or returning it to the sender. Does anybody know of such?

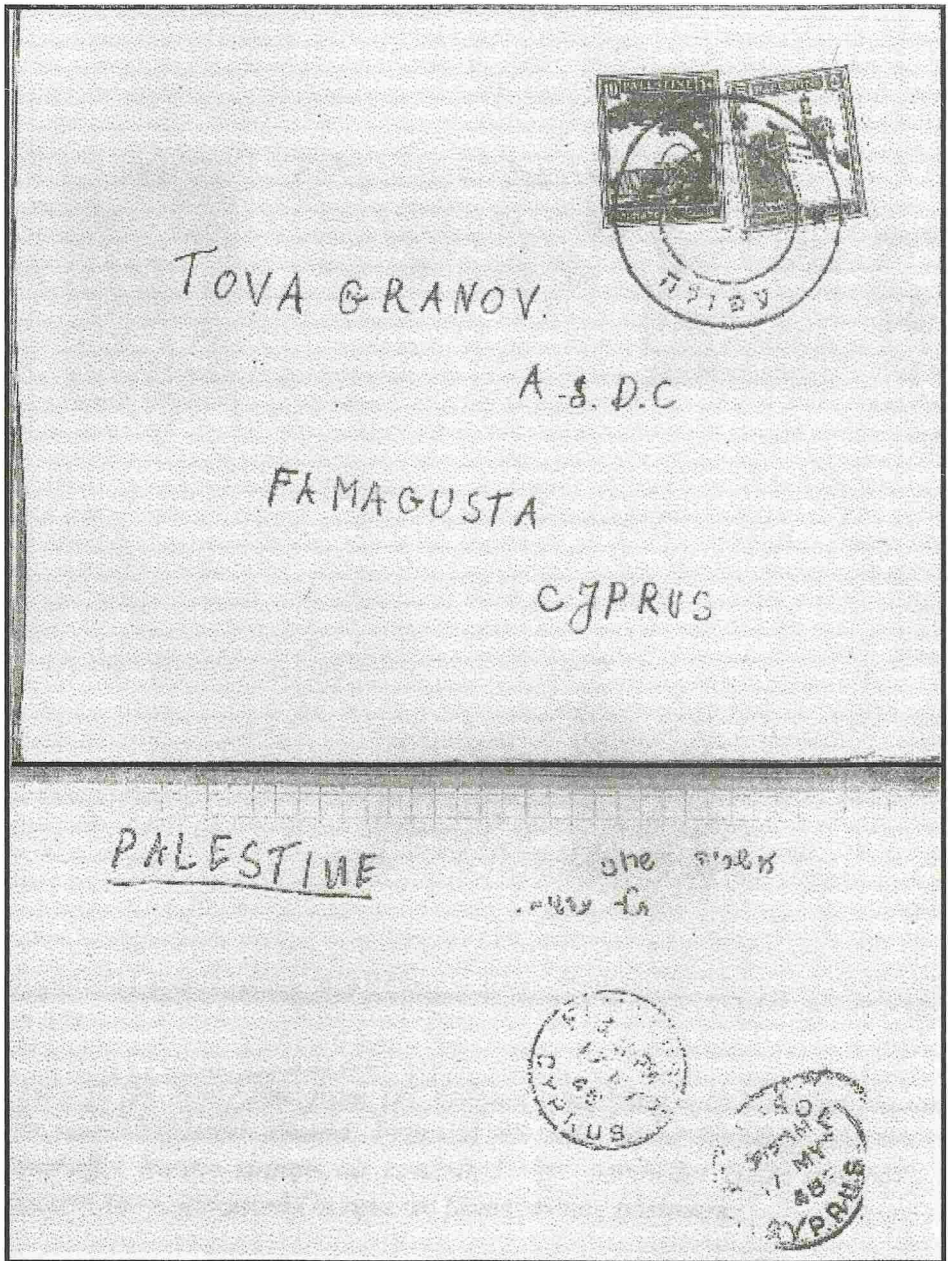


Fig. 75: Surface letter to Cyprus sent from Tel Adashim via Afula not complying with one of the regulations for mail destined abroad. Franked 15 mils Mandate stamps to pay the surface letter rate to the UK and cancelled with Afula Minhelet Ha'am postmark against the regulation. On reverse Famagusta arrival postmark.



Fig. 76: Letter from Tel Aviv to Rome, not complying with Minhelet Ha'am regulations. Franked 85 mils mixed franking, Mandate and Minhelet Ha'am stamps, all cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am postmark of Tel Aviv against the regulations. On reverse Rome arrival postmark.



Fig. 77: Surface letter to the USA from Kibbutz Dgania B via Tiberias post office not complying with Minhelet Ha'am regulations for mail destined abroad. Franked 20 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamps (surface letter rate to U.S.A.) cancelled by Tiberias Minhelet Ha'am postmark, and Haifa Mandate D.C. postmark of May 9 alongside the stamps.

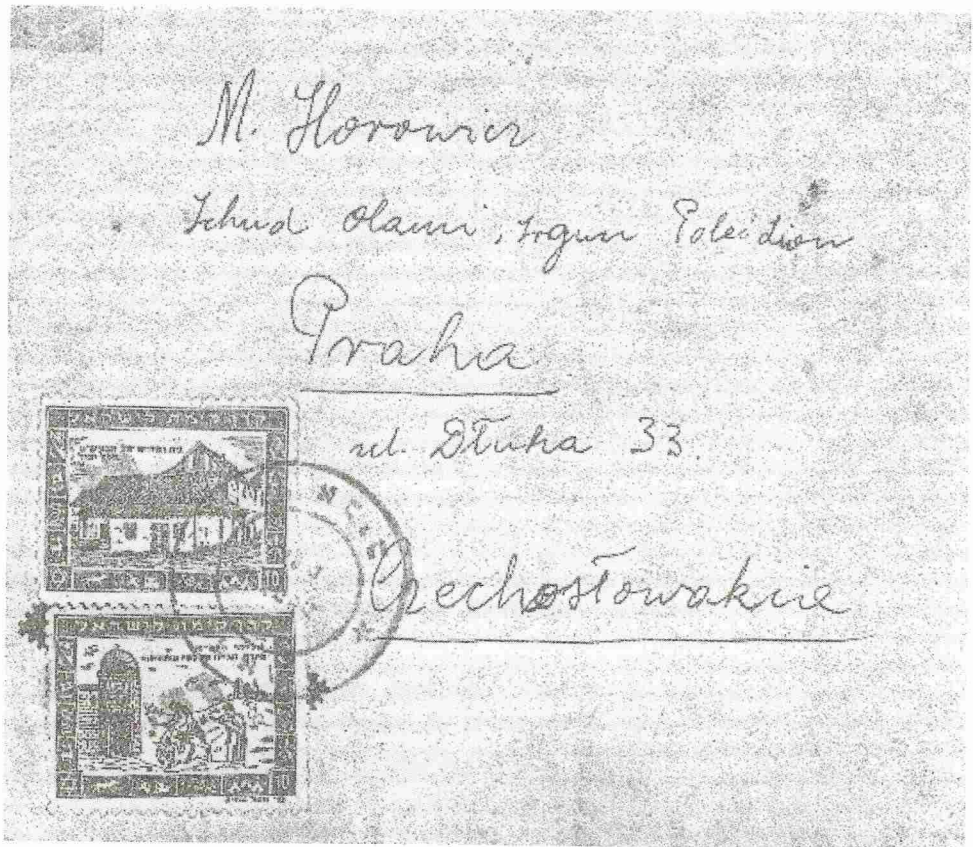


Fig. 78: Surface letter from Tel Aviv to Praha, Czechoslovakia, not complying with both of Minhelet Ha'am regulations for mail destined abroad. It is franked and cancelled with M.H. stamps and postmarks instead of Mandatory.

An extremely rare group of letters, which nevertheless demonstrate clearly the regulations for mail to foreign destinations, are those which were sent from besieged Jerusalem, reached Tel Aviv with the First Convoy on June 18, '48 and from there to their destinations abroad. Some of these are illustrated in an article by Shimony & Karpovsky¹.

Thanks to Itamar Karpovsky for some of the photos in this article.

References:

- (1) Shimony & Karpovsky, "Jerusalem Convoy Letters sent Abroad", HLPB 45-46, (1991) p. 259.

* * * * *

SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES

* * * * *

The Ottoman Period

Kaiser Wilhelm, the Emperor of Germany, Visit to the Holy Land - Addenda

The Kaiser's Visit to the Holy Land *(David H. Smith, Exeter, UK)*

May I add three observations to R. Perry's comprehensive article in HLPH 91 - 92 ? First, on November 11th 1898, the Kaiser visited Baalbek, near Beirut. I have a real-time photo card showing his entourage there, captioned with that date - but used in 1904 (Fig. 79)! Clearly there was a surplus of such cards which had to be used up later.

Second, many of the philatelic cards can be found with the country of destination shown by a rubber stamp. I have examples showing "Allemagne" and "Autriche" (Fig. 80, 81); perhaps there are others? Presumably these were used by the dealers or agents?

Third, besides having to cancel the large number of souvenir cards, the Austrian post office had to deal with a quantity of returned souvenir mail when the addressee

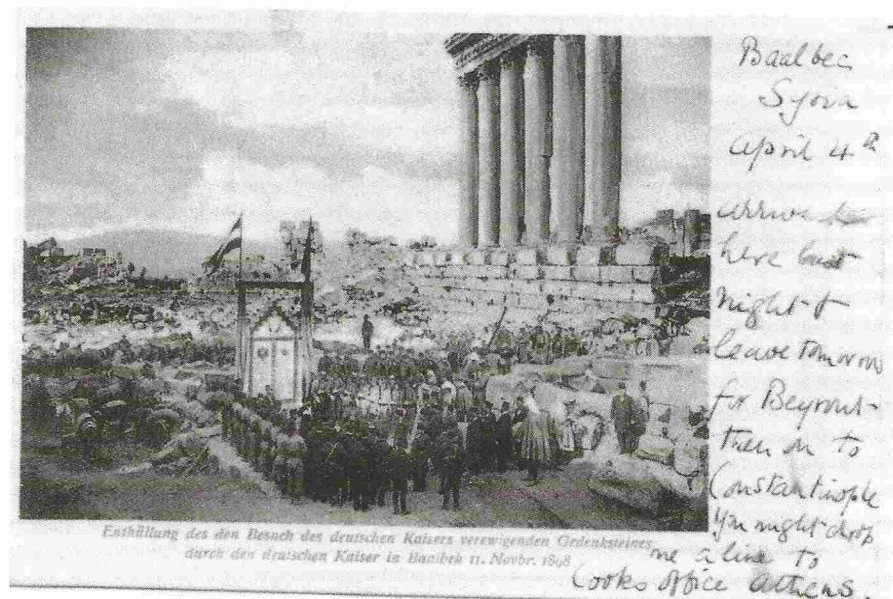


Figure. 79



Figure. 80

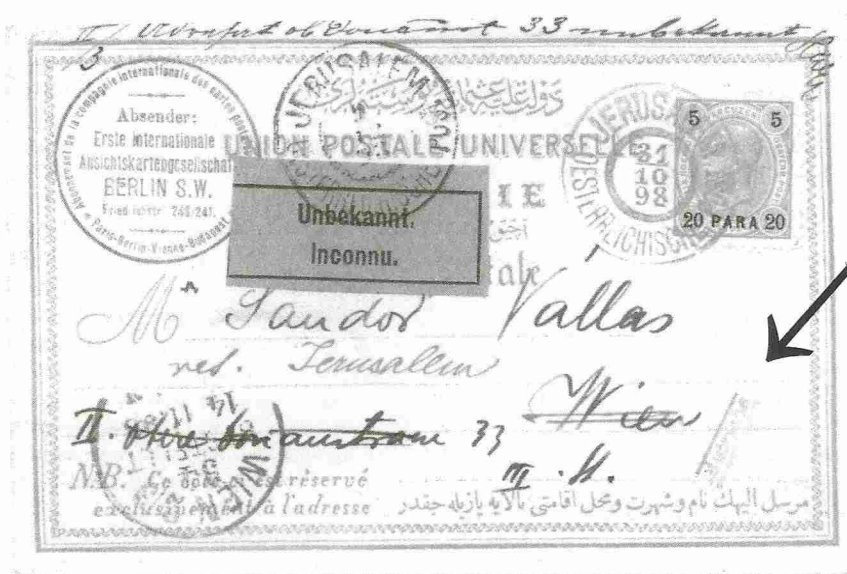


Figure. 81

could not be found. The examples in my collection were all delivered to cities in Europe during November 1898, and returned to Jerusalem with arrival there in late November or early December (See, e.g., Figs. 80, 81 above).

Some more Examples of Marine - Schiffspost Items from Kaiser Wilhelm Visit in the Holy Land *(I. Karpovsky, Tel Aviv)*

I would like to add two items to the illustrations shown by R. Perry in his article in the previous HLPB Bulletin (chapter (d), p. 419). These are a letter (Fig. 82) and a postcard (Fig. 83) from the two escorting cruisers SMS Hela and SMS Hertha respectively, both cancelled by the Marine Schiffspost handstamps (No. 11 and 39 respectively) while the Kaiser visited the Holy Land.

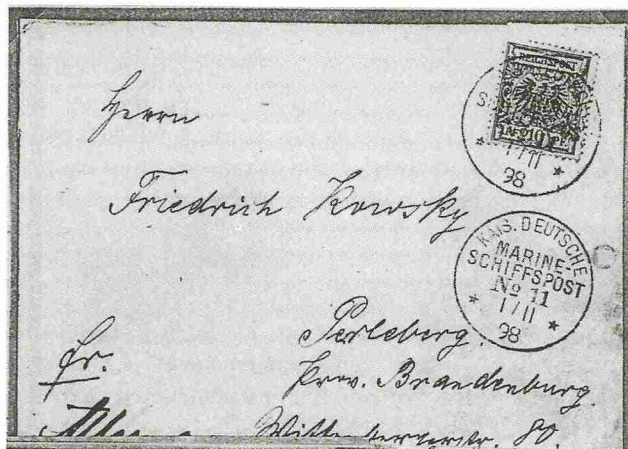


Fig. 82: Marine Schiffspost letter posted on board SMS Hela cancelled Schiffspost No-11 dated November 1st 1898, escorting the Kaiser Yacht "Hohenzollern" on the occasion of his visit to the Holy Land.



Fig. 83: Marine postcard rated 10 pfg, to pay the reduced ship's personnel rate to Germany. Originated at Jaffa and posted on board the ship "SMS Hertha", cancelled Schiffspost No-39 dated October 29th 1898.

1917 Beersheba Negative Seal - New Discovery

(Zvi Alexander)

When the allied troops entered Palestine during the 1917 - 1918 Campaign some enterprising soldiers, either British or Australian, removed from the conquered post offices letters which were ready for sending and also pages from the Telegraph receipt books. During the Turkish period the original receipt was given to the sender and the relevant payment for the telegram, in postage stamps, was pasted on the back of the copy page. Those pages were the ones which were "liberated" by the Allied troops.

Such telegraph book pages are known, among others, from Beersheba, Jericho and Beni-Saab. This material was most probably brought into the market in the twenty years by the families of these enterprising soldiers when they passed away. Incidentally, the majority of the surviving Turkish military mail from the Palestine campaign is dated around the dates when post offices, either civilian or military, were captured by the Allied forces. They were obviously removed by the same Allied enterprising soldiers.

I have recently purchased a group of telegraph book pages with "Beersheba 1" and "Beersheba 2" postmarks, as shown in Figs. 84 & 85. Among them was one page, shown in Fig. 86, with an unrecorded Beersheba seal including two rows of the "Beersheba 2" postmark at the bottom. The reconstructed seal, shown in Fig. 87, reads "Telegraph ve Posta Shubesi Beer El Saba".

So, almost 90 years later new discoveries of postal seals happen. It proves my hypotheses that postal seals existed in the post office contemporaneously with the bilingual postmarks and were primarily intended for the internal use of the post office. When the bilingual postal instrument was busy or misplaced, the seal was occasionally used on regular mail. This is, in my view, the reason for the scarcity of such seals and the fact that new discoveries can still be made.

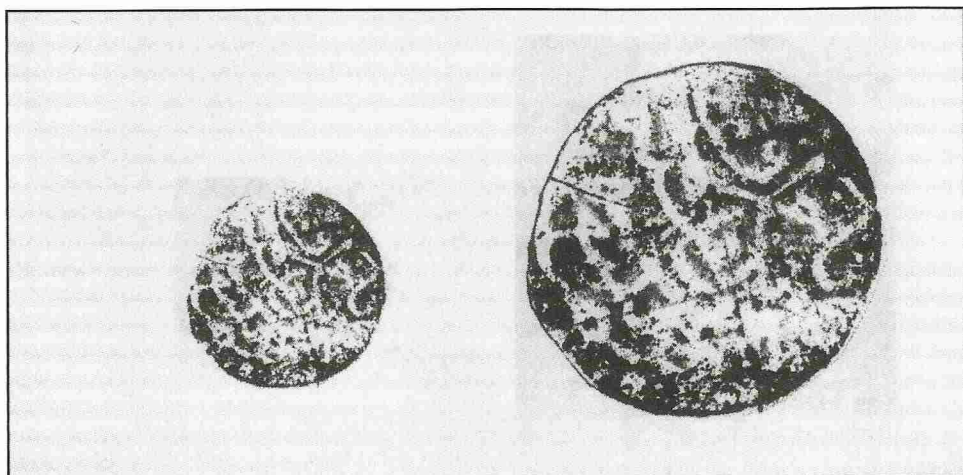


Figure 87

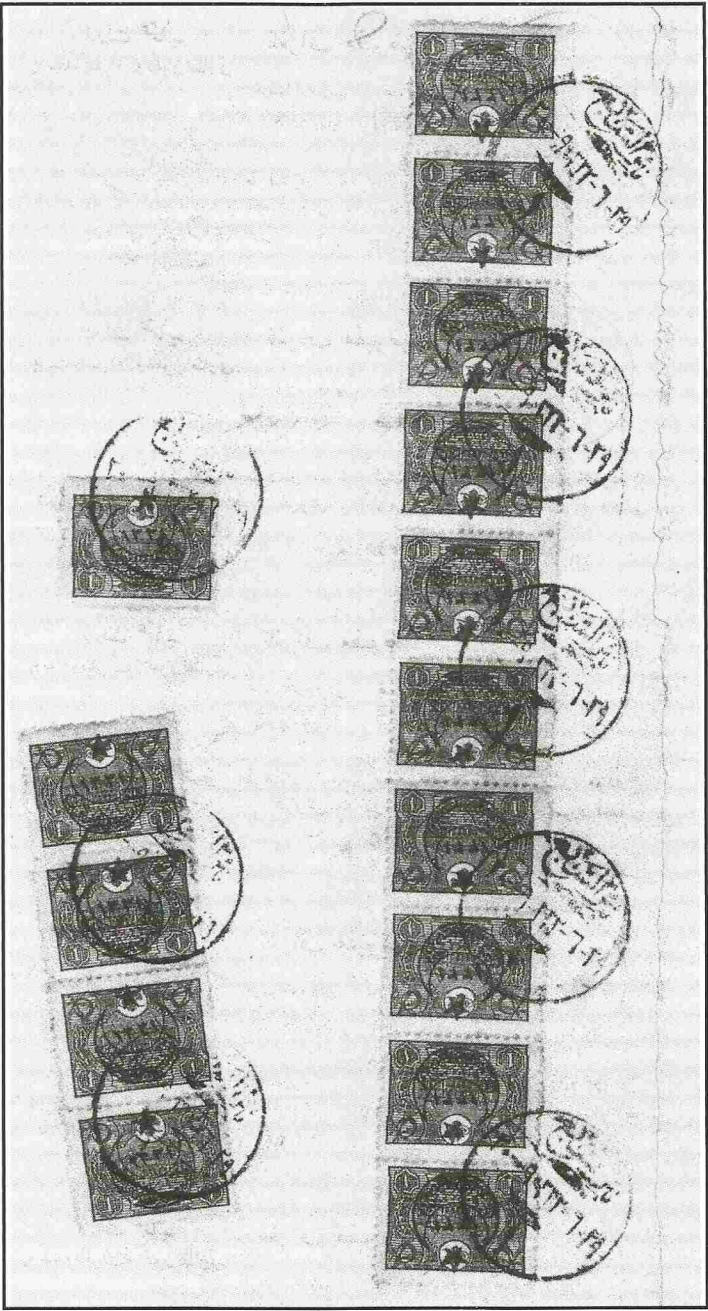
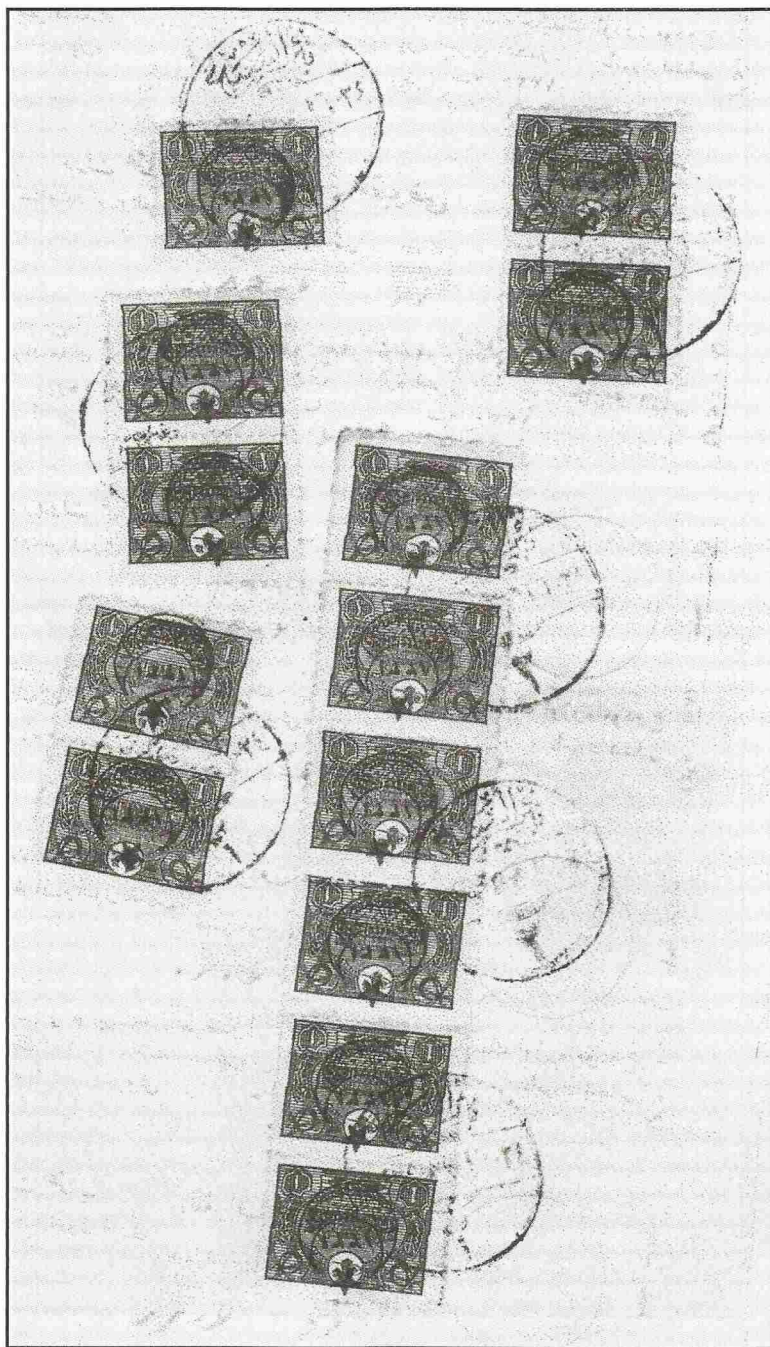


Figure 84

*Figure 85*

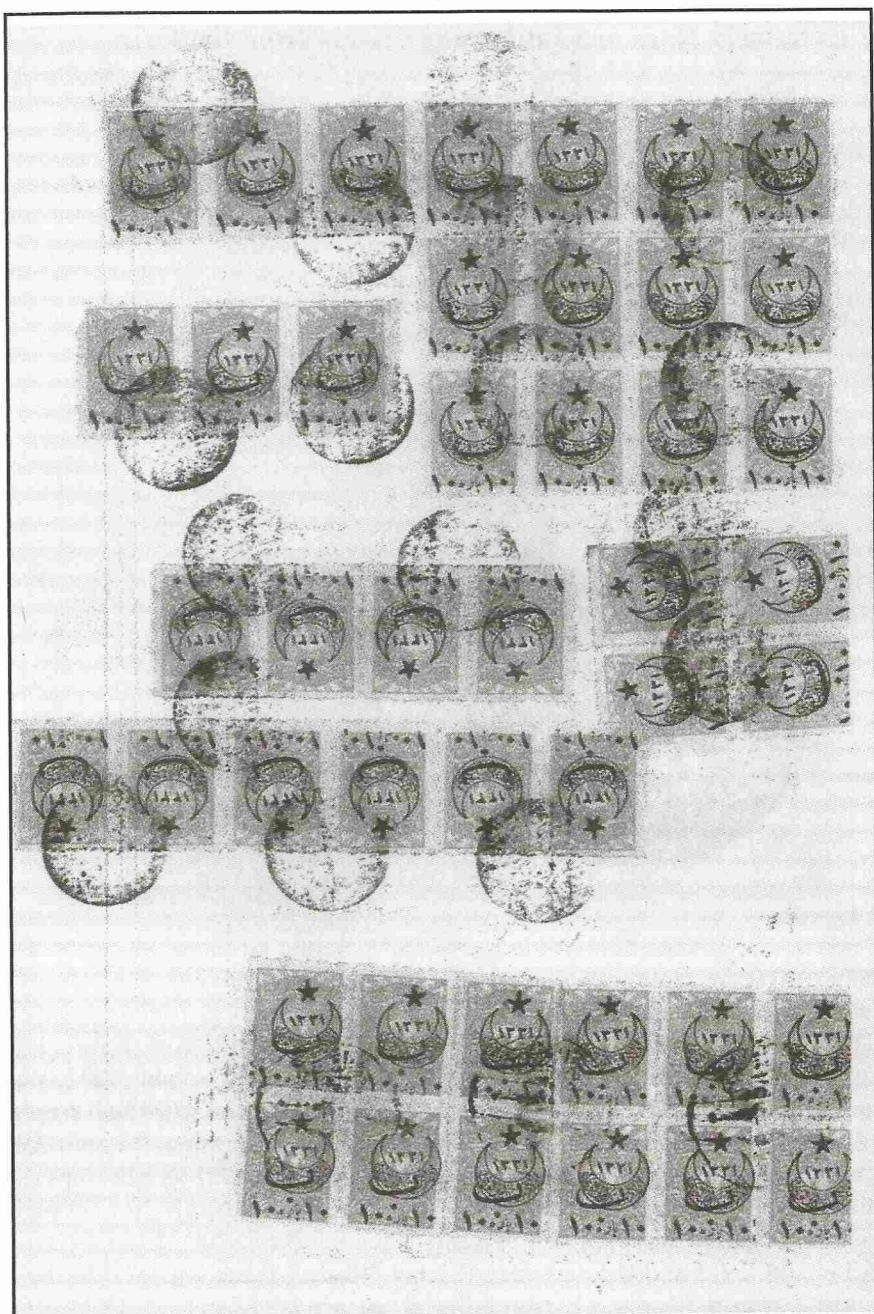


Figure 86

Two Extremely Rare and Interesting Covers from the Ottoman Period

(I. Karpovsky)

Each of the two following covers has a certain characteristic that makes it very interesting and in a sense unique. Figure 88 shows a cover (more precisely a Folded Letter) of the 1858 French Post in the Holy Land. It originated in Jerusalem and sent via Jaffa to Santiago de Chile, franked with 80 + 20 (= 100 cent) stamps of the French 1853 issue, to pay the letter rate to Chile. Cancelled by Jaffa dated "3768" rhomboid and Jaffa / Syrie dated April 2 postmarks with Jerusalem "one line" postmark in blue alongside. Transit Alexandria April 8, Marseille April 15, Paris April 16, where recancelled by "Grille-Pontille" postmark, and London April 17. Very unusual destination for mail from the Holy Land in this time period.



Figure 88

The second cover (it is difficult to get a proper B/W photo due to its colour) is extremely rare in several aspects (Fig. 89): It is a very heavy weight (420 gr) letter, registered at the Russian Post in Haifa and therefore franked with the exceptional rate of 17. 10 piasters (overpaid 10 para). Eleven overprinted Russian Levant stamps of the 1913 Romanov issue, to pay the registered and 21 weight steps rate to Germany (1 pias. Postage + 1 pias. Registration + 600 para (= 20 x 30 for each additional 20 gr)). Cancelled with "ROPiT / Kaifa" (in Cyrillic letters) postmark dated Feb. 26, 1913 and the very rare R-label "Kaifa / Poste Russe". On the back there are a transit March 14, Istanbul and on arrival March 21 Cöln - Deutz postmarks.

The letter originated from German Templers who lived in the "German Colony" in Haifa and worked in a factory near the harbor, "Gosmotor Metal Work" for casting metals, a subsidiary of a big company in Cöln.

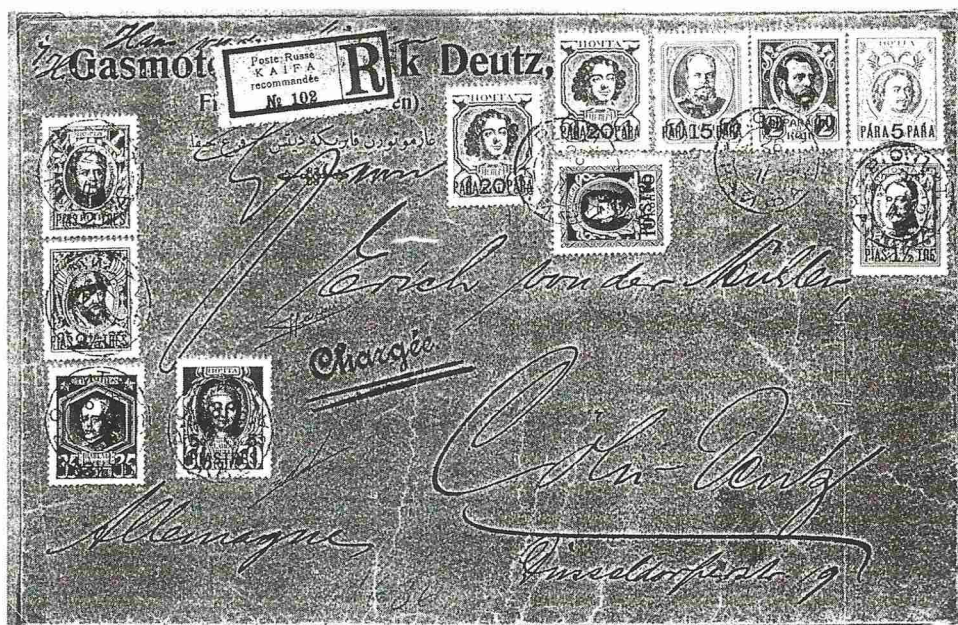


Figure 89

T.P.O. Nablous - Caiffa: Is the Postmark Genuine, Fake or a Fabrication?

(Zvi Alexander)

A year ago I was offered, from Turkey, a postcard with a Nablous-Caiffa postmark, shown in Fig. 90. It is the only example recorded of this postmark on an entire letter. The only other example is the part postmark dated 25.09.1814 (Fig. 91), shown in Pollack's catalogue which was published in 1962.

A railway line connecting the Hejaz railway with Jerusalem, via Affula - Jenin - Nablus was started in 1908, but the rail connection between Affula and Jenin was not complete before 1914. By the end of 1914 the line had not yet reached Nablus, it stopped 15km north of the town.

I sent the postcard to the late George Muentz in Tel Aviv for an opinion and certification. George told me that if I can establish the fact that the postmark was applied in 1914 he would issue a positive certificate. I then made contact with Professor Yosi Almogh from the Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who was the former head of the Israeli police forensic laboratory. Prof. Almogh was very interested in the case but after studying the subject advised me that his group could not help me, and that I should try the forensic laboratories of the Scotland Yard in London. Prof. Almogh kindly introduced me to the London Forensic laboratory. They said, after looking at the postcard, that unfortunately age of an ink cannot be truly established as ink can be treated, by heating and other methods, to appear much "older" than it is.

I then submitted the postcard to the expert committee of the Royal Philatelic Society in London which concluded that this was a forgery.

Following are the arguments for and against this being a genuine item - Any opinion on this subject would be welcome.

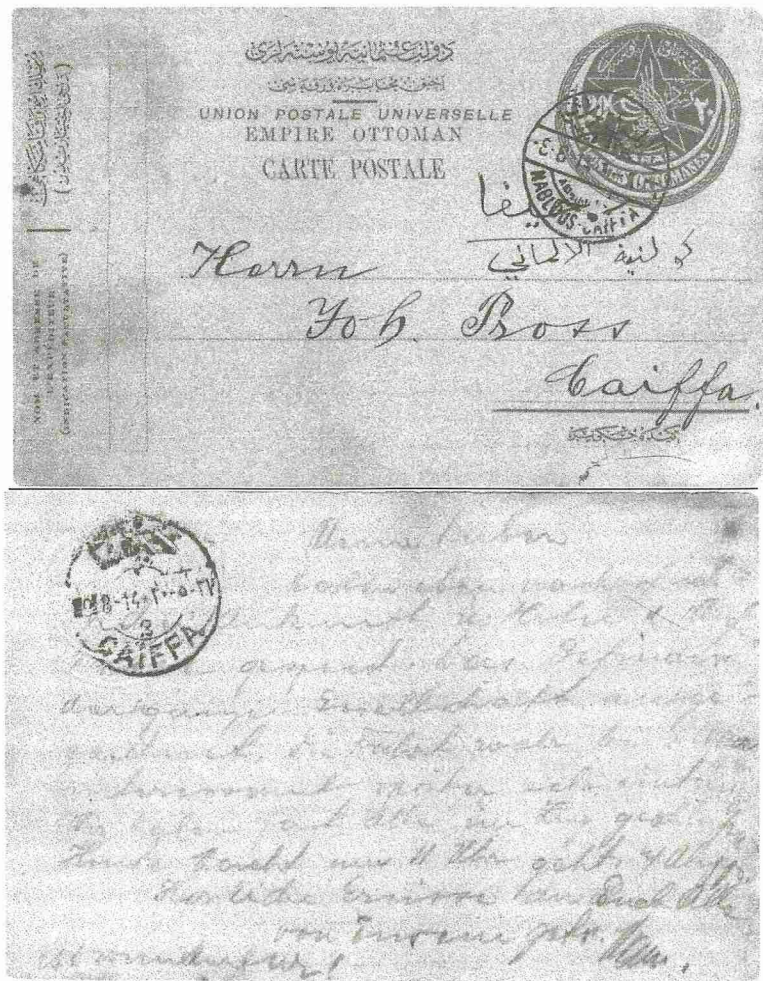


Figure 90

Arguments Against:

1. The date of the postmark on the postcard - August 8th, 1914 (see Fig. 92), is the same date which appears in three different publications, namely Osmanli Posta Damgalari published in Istanbul in 1990, the Bayindir Catalogue of Turkish postmarks published in 1992 and Collins' catalogue of the Ottoman Post in Palestine published in 2000. All three are copies of one and the same proof postmark in the Turkish postal archives.



Figure 91

Figure 92

2. The address is written in ink whereas the text of the letter is in pencil.
3. RPSL experts committee's negative opinion.

Arguments For:

1. The Caiffa arrival, which is 100% genuine, is on the following day - August 9th, 1914, which is perfectly logical.
2. The postcard is addressed to a German in the German Colony of Caiffa. The address in Arabic reads "Coloniât Allemania" (the German Colony).
3. The text in German states that the writer of the postcard arrived in a hotel in Dera'a which is on the Hejaz Railway branch-line from Caiffa to Dera'a and that he is continuing to Aleppo (on the same Hejaz Railway).
4. Finally, how could the postcard reach Caiffa and receive an arrival postmark if it did not have a dispatch postmark on it?

The State of Israel

The Israeli C-1 Type Cancellations 1950/51 and the Appearance of the "Running Stag" *(E. Jungwirth)*

Checking some information, I recently re-read Fixler and Nachtigal's Handbook of Israeli Postmarks¹ and discovered several omissions and/or inaccuracies which had escaped my notice before. These belong mainly to two categories:

A. The Israeli C-1 Type cancellations The Handbook states that the earliest C-1 postmark is that of Lod (Dec. 3, 1950). However this and several other subsequent postmarks differ from the "typical" C-1 pattern, (as defined in the Handbook) because the shift is not expressed by clock-hours, but by index-letters (aleph or bet). (see Figs. 93 and 94).

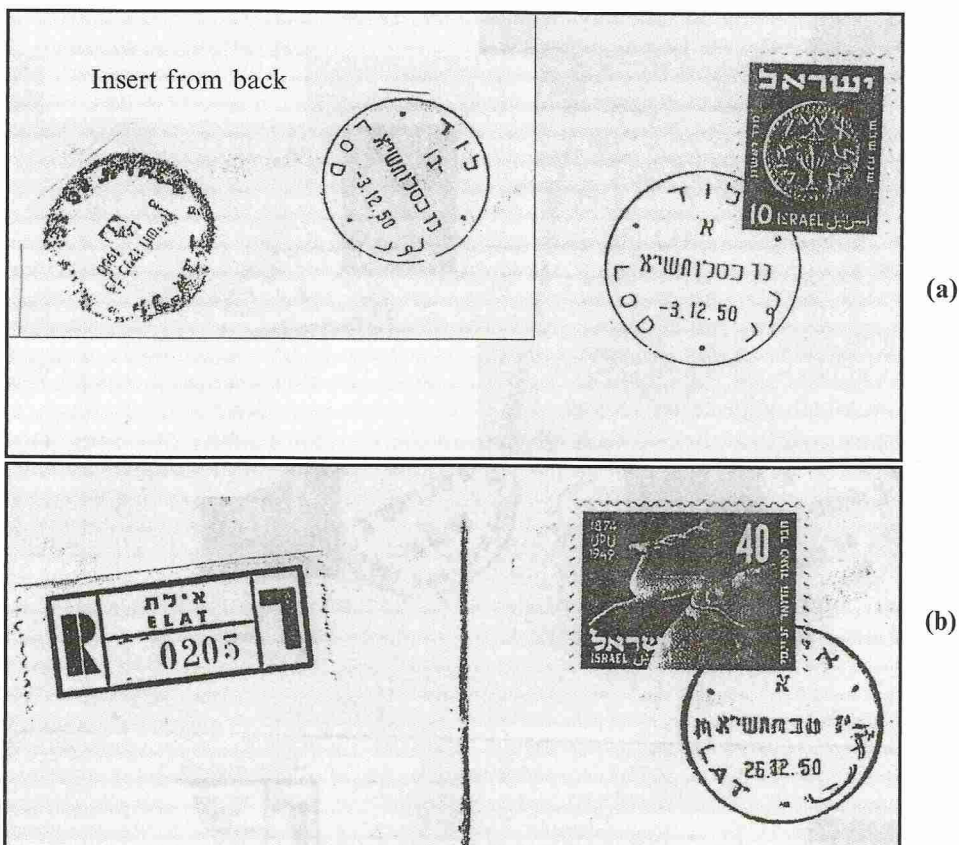


Fig. 93: The "interim" cancellations of Lod (dispatch and arrival) and Elat.

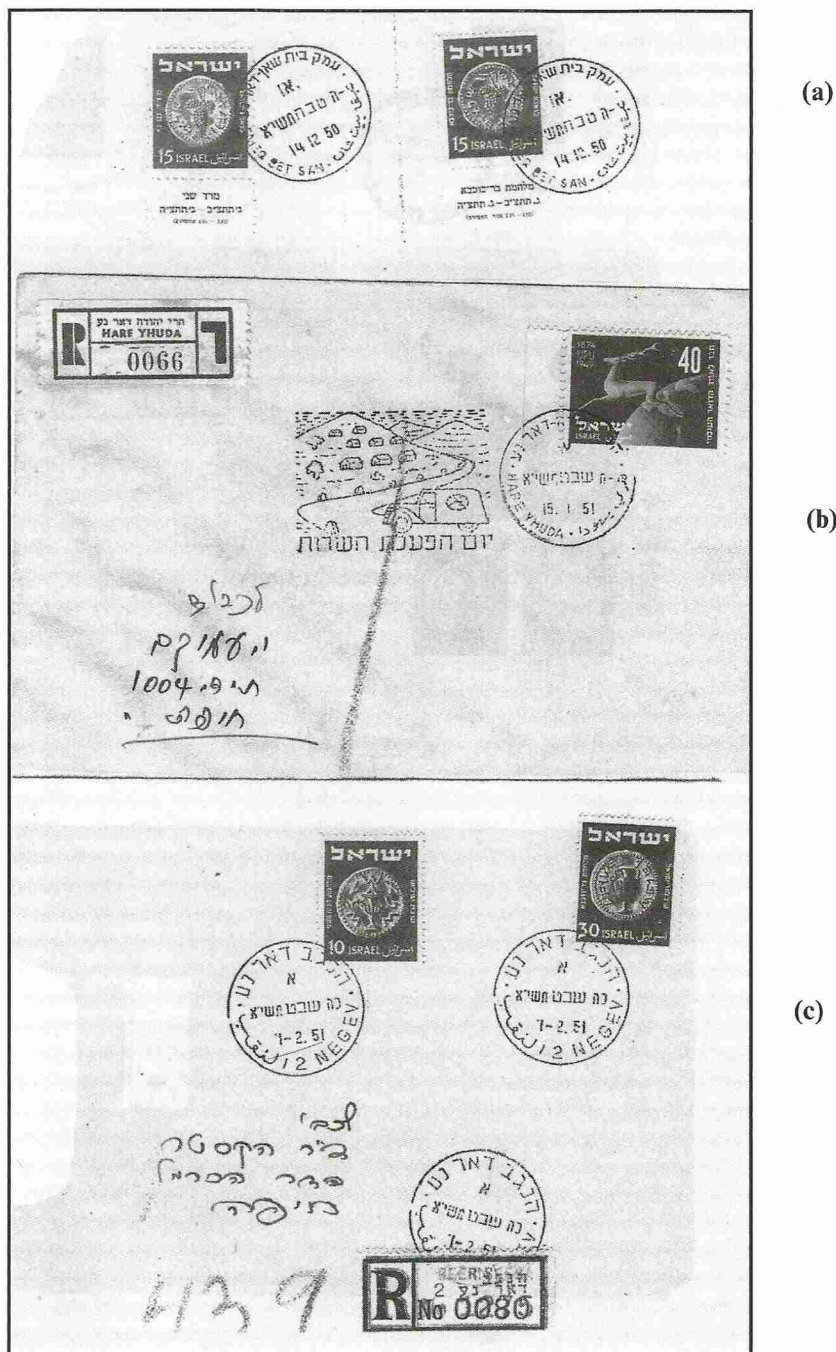


Fig. 94: The "interim" cancellations of Emeq Bet San (MPO), Hare Yehuda (MPO) and Negev 2 (MPO). Note that a Beer Sheba R-label was first affixed to the latter letter, later to be covered with a type-written Hebrew only label.

Here is a chronological list.

Lod	3.12.1950
Emeq Bet San (MPO)	14.12.1950
Elat	26.12.1950
Hare Yehuda (MPO)	15. 1.1951
(a duplex canceller was used on the FD)	
Negev 2 (MPO)	1. 2.1951
(in this postmark the Latin characters are on the right)	

For more details relating to these "interim" postmarks, in particular the use of the Lod and Elat postmarks, see Ref. (2). In the above period there also appeared the last Type A postmark to be issued: Beit Lid B.O. - Jan. 4, 1951. The first "proper" C-1 postmark - with clock-hours indicating the shift - was that of Kfar Masaryk: Mar 11, 1951 (a duplex cancellation was used on the FD, which was not mentioned in the Handbook (see Fig. 96 (a) later)

1951 saw the replacement of the Type A cancellations by C-1 in three large batches (properly mentioned in the Handbook): In the three large cities (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa) on Apr. 23, 1951, but - for reasons apparent only to the powers that be - only from 12 noon (Fig. 95) and on either Aug. 1 or Sep 2 1951 for the rest of the localities. However, a few localities were provided with C-1 postmarks "in between". There appear to be no logical reasons for this "preferential treatment". Here is a chronological list of these localities:

Afiqim	3.6.1951*
Even Yehuda	5.6.1951 (Fig. 97(a))
Ramat Gan	27.6.1951
Bne Braq	11.7.1951
Ako	13.7.1951
Ntanya	15.7.1951

During the above period several new post offices were opened with "proper" C-1 oblitters. These were:

Kfar Masaryk (see above and Fig. 96 (a))	11.3.1951
Qiryat Smone	17.4.1951
Emeq Hayarden (MPO)	6.7.1951
(a duplex postmark was used on the FD)	
Qadima	19.7.1951
Hamaapil	25.7.1951
(a special FD cachet in violet was used here (see Fig. 96(c))	

* This was withdrawn on July 5th 1951 because of the inauguration of the Emeq Hayarden MPO the next day (but the LD postmark "AFIQIM" reads 5.6. instead of 5.7). See Figure 97 (b).

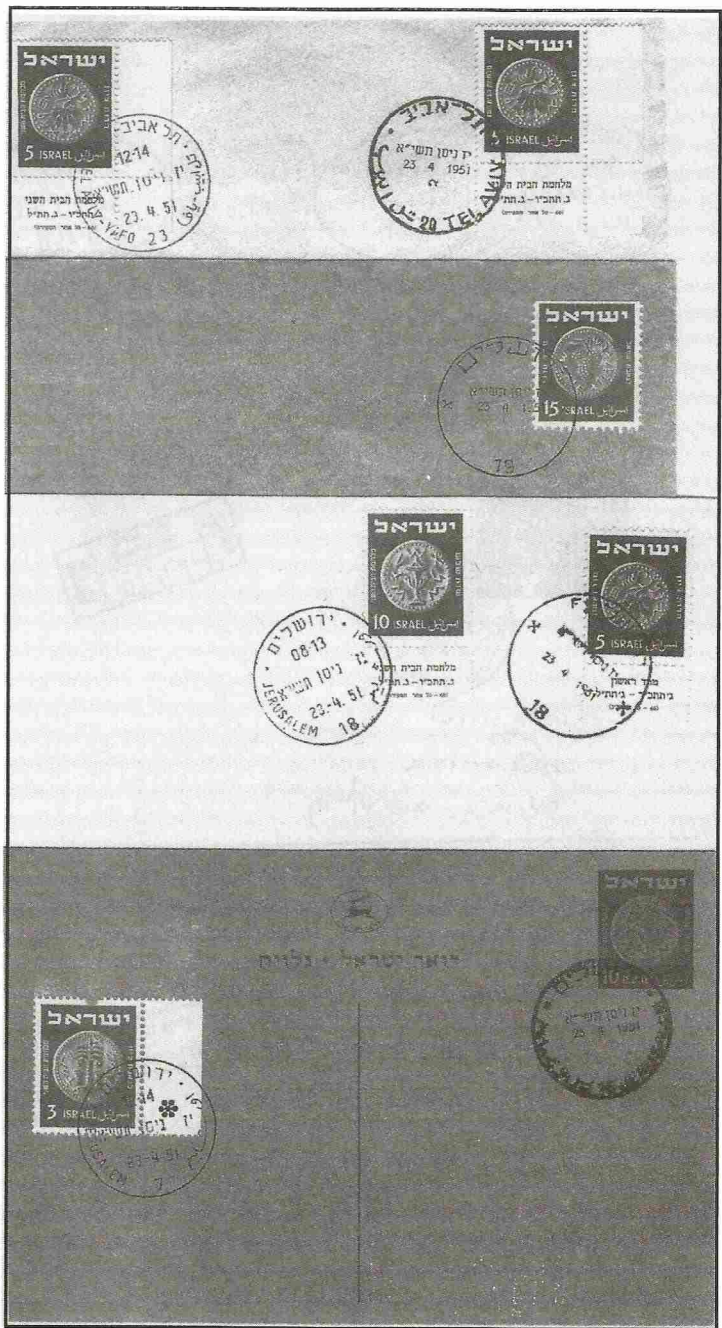


Fig. 95: The change-over in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

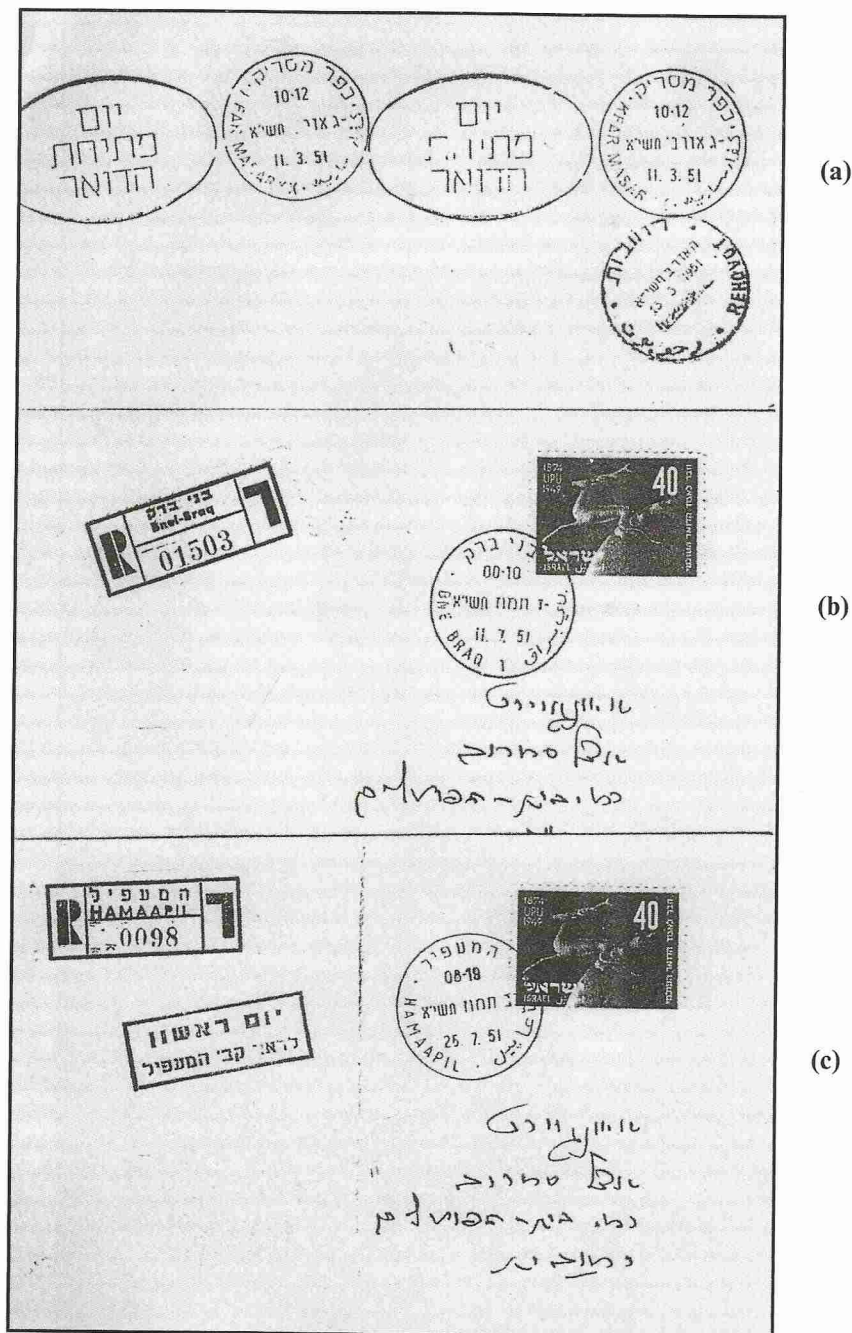


Fig. 96: The duplex FD postmark of Kfar Masaryk, the change-over in Bne-Braq and the additional rubber stamp at Hamaapil.

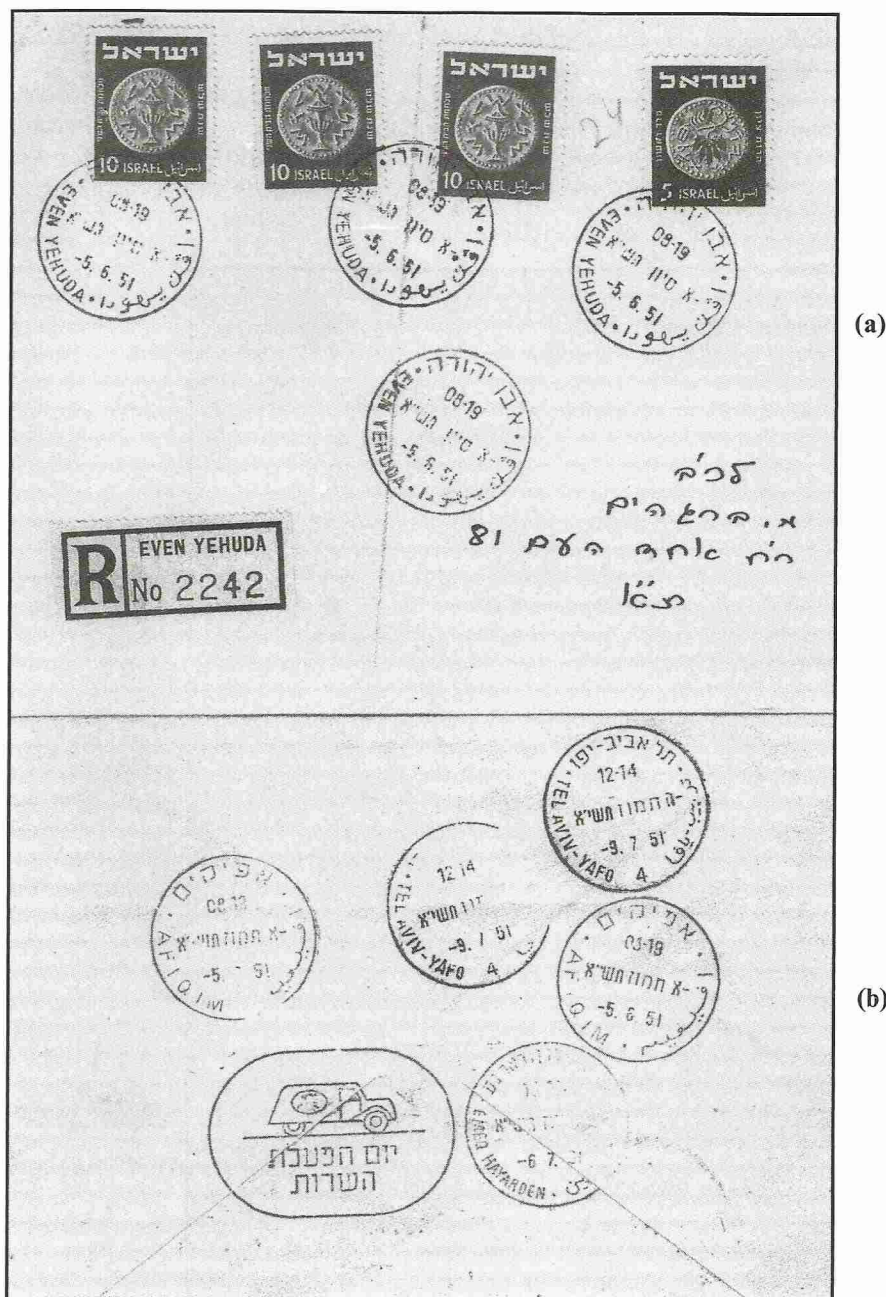


Fig. 97: "In between" early change-over at Even Yehuda and the erroneous LD postmark of Afqim.

B. The appearance of the "Running Stag" designating a First Day cover of a Postmark.

The Handbook states that the "running stag" first appeared on Aug. 13, 1952 in conjunction with the Baqa Hamaaravit. First Day. This is totally incorrect. The correct first appearance was on the occasion of the inauguration of the Hof Asqlon (MPO) on Nov 29, 1951! Here is a chronological listing of all "running stag" appearances prior to Baqa Hamaaravit (See Figs. 98 and 99):

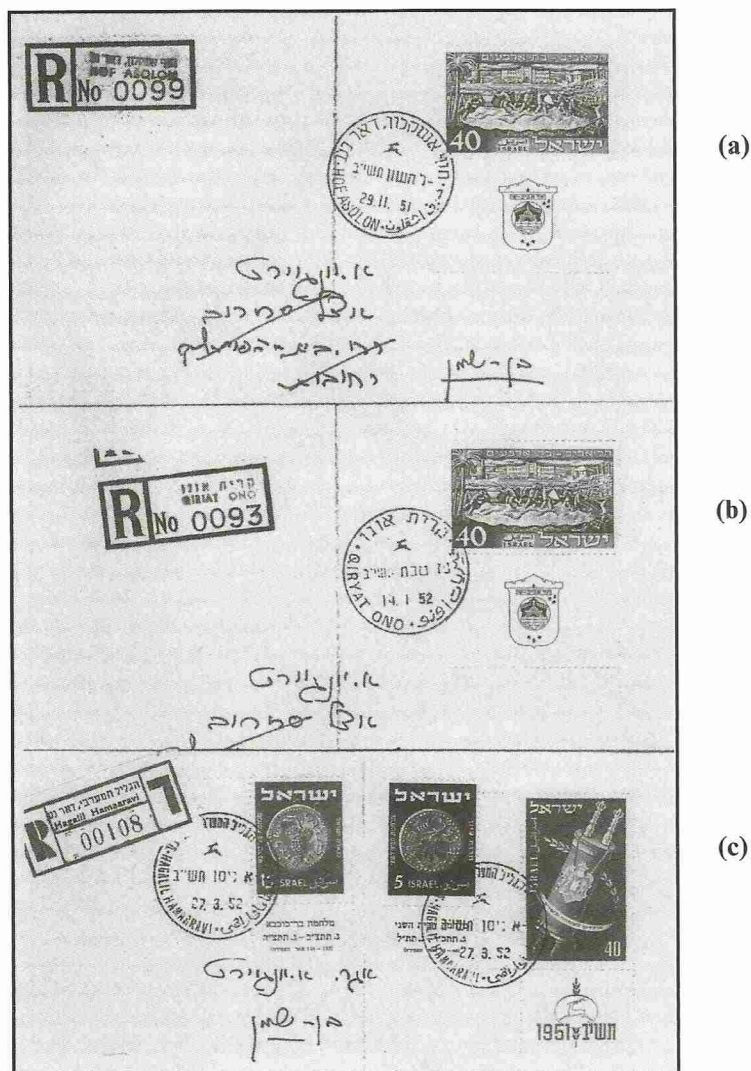


Fig. 98: The first appearance of the "Running Stag" - Hof Asqlon; and two further examples of the "Stag": Qiryat Ono and Hagalil Hamaaravi.

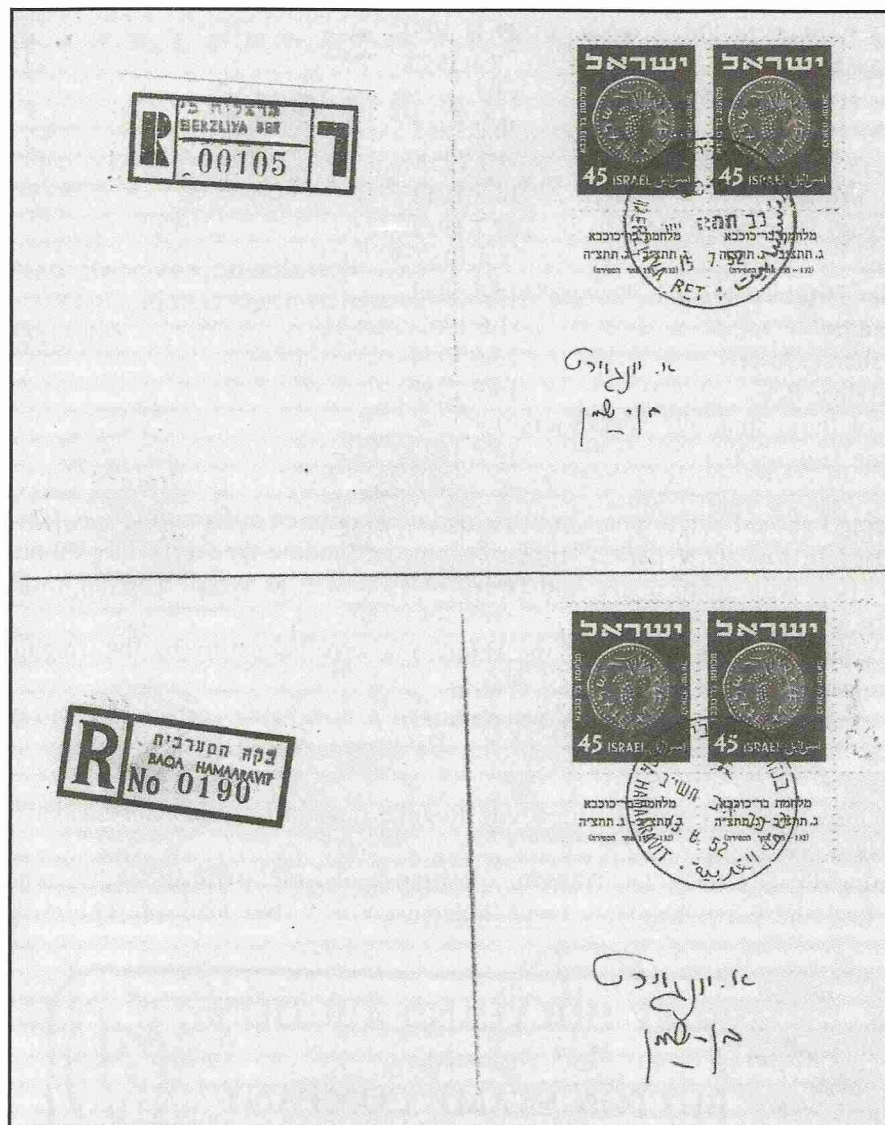


Fig. 99: Herzlia Bet FD without running stag and Baqa Hamaaravit.

Hof Asqelon (MPO)	29.11.1951
Kfar Azar	7.1.1952
Qiryat Ono	14.1.1952
Kfar Hamakabi	20.2.1952
Hirya	4.3.1952
Or Yehuda	15.3.1952
Hagalil Hamaaravi (MPO)	27.3.1952
Aqir	8.4.1952
Kfar Hitim	16.5.1952
Maanit	1.6.1952
Maberet Qesari	23.6.1952
Herzliya Bet	15.7.1952
(without stag, but clock-hours!!)	
Baqa Hamaaravit	13.8.1952

In passing I should like to point out that no less than three different mute R-labels were used in this short period (rubber-stamped Mandate-type with large digits, Madate-type with small digits, and Israeli-type) as well as Israeli with imprinted name of locality.

I surmise that the authors of the Handbook were led astray by the irregular appearance of the Herzliya Bet cancellation.

The information and illustrations contained in this paper are solely based on material in my own collection, apart from the references to the Handbook.

References:

- (1) Nachtigal, I. and Fixler B., (undated), Regular postmarks of Israeli Post, Part 1 1948 - 1990.
- (2) Jungwirth, E. (1959), The "interim" postmarks of Israel (with special reference to Lod and Elat), The Holy Land Philatelist Vol. V, No. 52/3, pp. 1114/5.

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GENERAL NEWS

New Special Cancellations

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10.12.02 - חגיגת אירוע - הודק
הישראלי לזכויות - יום זכויות האדם
- ירושלים



25.11.02 - חגיגת אירוע - הודק
הישראלי לזכויות - יום הסאנק
באלימות כלפי נשים - ירושלים

Sorry that the Hebrew notes under the slogans are not translated. However, this information (date of use, subject and place where used) is usually given (translated) in the slogan itself.



11.9.03 - חגיגת יום חומה - טימט האחים - נמל תעופה
בן גוריון



16.1.03 - חגיגת אירוע - שיגור
לחלל של האסטרונאוט הישראלי
הראשון - נמל תעופה בן גוריון



24.12.02 - חגיגת אירוע - חג
המולד - ירושלים



24.12.02 - חגיגת אירוע - חג
המולד - נצרת



11.2.03 - חגיגת יום חומה - המטרה - ירושלים



11.9.03 - חגיגת יום חומה - 11
בספטמבר - ירושלים



11.9.03 - חגיגת יום חומה - האנדרטה
לחללי כשול אבה - ירושלים



11.9.03 - חגיגת יום חומה - ישיבת
ההסדר - יבנה



23.3.03 - חגיגת אירוע - יום המים
הבינלאומי - ירושלים



9.3.03 - חגיגת אירוע - יום האשוח
הבינלאומי - ירושלים



6.3.03 - חגיגת אירוע - טקס
הענקת עיטורים במטרה - ירושלים



4.3.03 - חגיגת אירוע - יובל לייסוד
ישיבת כרם ביבנה - יבנה

11.2.03: The Menorah (Candlestick) (Ag. 20,40,50, IS 1.30); The Wright Brothers' Flight (1903) (IS 2.30, 3.30, 5.90); Yeshivot Hahessder (IS 1.20); Art - Michael Gross - "September 11, 2001" (IS 2.30); Monument for the victims of hostile acts (IS 5.90).

February 2003: During this month the service of "My Stamp" which had been initiated and operated only during "Jerusalem 2001" Stamp Exhibition, was offered to the general public (in Israel) (see HLPB 87-88, p.307).

11.3.03: An imprinted (prestamped) window envelope showing the flower "יפעה" (If'ah) (Dimension of env. 28/11cm, price IS 1.40 for inland mail (Fig. 101).

27.4.03: Memorial Day 2003 - Armored vehicles on the Road to Jerusalem (IS 2.20); 55 years of Israel Independence (IS 5.90); Holocaust Memorial Day (IS 2.20); Ya'akov Dori; (1899-1973) IDF first Chief of Staff (IS 2.20); Ya'akov Meridor, "Etzel" (Irgun) Commander (IS 1.90); 50 years of Israel Aircraft Industries (IS 3.30); "From Yemen to Zion", 1881 (IS 3.30); Greetings (3 x "rate of inland letter"); Sheikh Ameen Tarif (1898 - 1993, spiritual Druze leader).

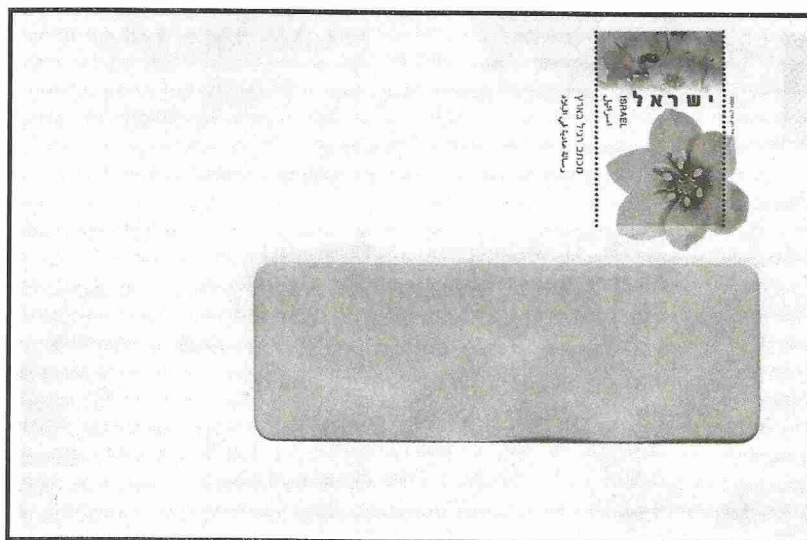


Figure 101

Condolences



Bernardo Grosser
(2.10.1906 - 15.5.2003)

It is with great sorrow that we inform our members of the demise of our **Honorary President**, our dear fellow and friend, **Bernardo Grosser** z.l. at the age of 96. Mr. Grosser was one of the three founders of our Society - The Society of the Postal History of Eretz Israel (The Holy Land Postal History Society) - back in October 1977. Its first inaugurating meeting was held at his home in Jerusalem, kindly hosted by his wife, Rina (תבדלי"א).

The Committee of the Society send their condolences to the Grosser family and participate in their sorrow.

He was a noble man and we will miss him greatly! - תנצב"ה.

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מזכיר — צ. אלוני, גזבר — ב. קלינר

מ. זיגל, ד"ר י. ואלך, י. צחור, ד"ר י. רמון, י. שבתאי

ועדת בקורת ובוררות: מ. מרקו, א. קרפובסקי, גב' א. שפירא

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

עורכים: צ. שמעוני, ע. גלסמן



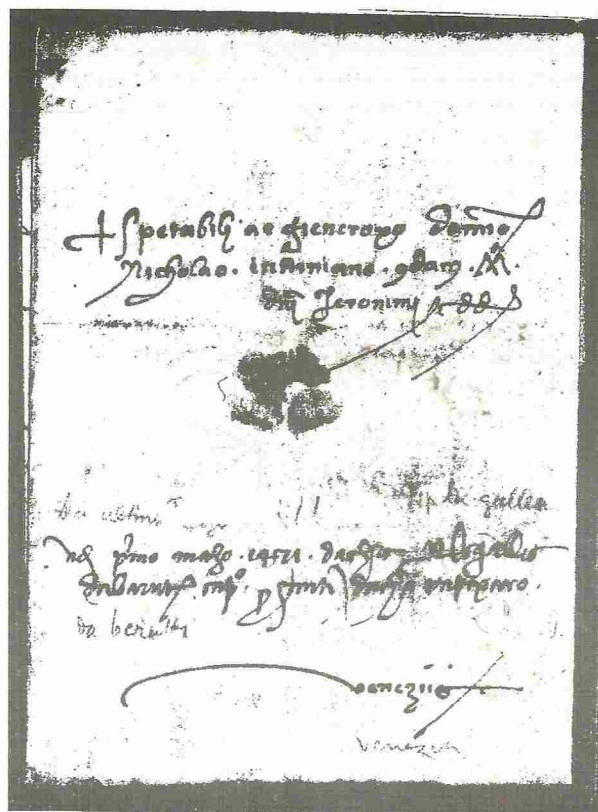
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פרסומים של האגודה וכתובות להתכתבות, ראה בעטיפה הפנימית השניה

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תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות
הדואר של ארץ-ישראל



הדאר הונציאני - מכתב מעכו משנת 1471, דרך בירות לונציה, דרך הים
The Venetian post - Folded letter from Acre (dated March 24, 1471) via Beirut and
to Venice by galley ship. (See article p. 474).

חורף / אביב תשס"ג