Holy Land Postal History

V 87-88

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
TURQUIE.

Carte Postale

M Mrs Schmidt
304 Erskine St
Detroit Mich
U S A

NB. Ce côté-ci est réservé
exclusivement à l'adresse.

גלויה יחידה במינה מ-1910/1909, מוחתמת ע"י חותמת סוכנות הדואר
"Jerusalem / Svc. Poste Grand New Hotel" שהתגלתה לאחרונה.
ממוענת לארה"ב ונושאת בול טורקי בן 20 פרה מסידרת 1909.

Unique postcard from 1909/1910 cancelled by the newly discovered Jerusalem Agency cachet
JERUSALEM/SUC. POSTE GRAND NEW HOTEL
addressed to the USA with a 20 para stamp of the 1909 issue.
The postmark here has been retouched to ensure a clear illustration

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SUMMER/AUTUMN 2001

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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C O N T E N T S

The Post Offices of Turkish Jerusalem

E. Glassman, Jerusalem

1. Introduction

Jerusalem at the beginning of the nineteenth century was but a pale shadow of its days of glory, some three centuries before. In its glory days Jerusalem had been, apart from the historical and religious importance to both Jews and Christians, one of the three great cities of the Muslim religion, and was treated as such. Much building had been carried out, schools opened, and the walls rebuilt. With the coming of the Turks this all changed. Conquered by the Turks in 1617, it had slowly been relegated to insignificance. Jerusalem became part of the Damascus Senjak, lost its importance, and became more and more backward and neglected.

Reports at this time describe a small, neglected, dirty and decaying town. Its inhabitants were poor, ignorant and suffered periodic outbirsts of cholera and typhoid. This effectively kept the population constant. There was very little commercial business, the town relied on the surrounding villages for their fruit, vegetables and the very occassional meat. The town gates were locked at night and opened the following morning. Few dared stay outside lest they be attacked by the marauding Beduin groups roaming the country side (Robinson, 1843[1]).

Ruled by rapacious Pashas little development took place, mainly due to the excessive bribes which had to be paid to officials for permission to make changes. Ownership of property was restricted to Turkish citizens only, and buying and selling could only be undertaken by them. No foreigners were, at that stage, allowed to deal in property.

Nevertheless over the ages a small trickle of pilgrims and visitors did visit. They had to brave the rutted, dusty, badly maintained road from Jaffa (the port where they disembarked from the boats bargaining with the local Beduin chief who demanded payment for the privilege of crossing "his" territory (both Ramleh and Abu Gosh were notorious for this). Some of these visitors wrote about their travels and their visit to Jerusalem; we often have a clear picture of the conditions of the people living there. The town administration was careful to allow such visits; they received payment from the particular church organising the visit, mainly the Franciscans and less often the Greek Orthodox churches (Fig. 1).

Mail is known from Jerusalem during the Middle Ages and later periods. This subject has been discussed by Aron[2]. At irregular periods the Turkish administration arranged for a courier service between Jerusalem and Beirut and Damascus, but this did not continue for any length of time. Letters were also taken by the Christian or Jewish visitors, but the quantity was not large and very few are known to date.

Three factors caused this situation to change. All had their effects but the result was to change the status of the town radically so that the population grew, the town expanded, commercial activities developed with the attendant supporting facilities, and communications with the coast considerably improved.

The first was the occupation of Palestine by Ibrahim Pasha in 1831, who led a revolt against the corrupt and decaying Turkish Government, and occupied Palestine and Syria for some fifteen years. The main result from this change in government, as far as Jerusalem was concerned, was the easing of the conditions for buying and extending existing buildings. As a result extensive building was started,

Fig. 1: Jerusalem, the walled town in about 1860.

mainly by the churches who had the necessary financial resources.

The second was the Crimean War of 1853. Ostensibly fought to protect "rights" in the Holy Sepulchure, the major reason was to extract concessions from the Turkish Government, and to extend the European trade and influence throughout the Arab Middle East. These were enforced through what are called the Capitulation Treaties signed with several European countries. In effect the treaties allowed the representatives to look after the affairs of their ex-citizens, in some cases to take legal action, and most importantly to allow these countries to open Post Offices wherever this was deemed necessary.

At this time the English Government was active in encouraging Jews to settle in Palestine, which meant Jerusalem since this was the centre of their studies and the place where many had retired to die. Immigration of Jews as a result increased with the immediate effect of making the town even more crowded than before. Further immigrants came because of pogroms in Eastern Europe, mainly in Poland and in Russia. We therefore see, in the mid-nineteenth century, a marked increase in the Jewish population of the town, where they were now in the majority.

The third factor was the tourist trade. For some time it had been the practice of

well to do persons to make what was called the "European Tour", visiting France, Germany and Italy in order to visit and learn about the glories of other countries in Europe, and more particularly about their rich past. An increasing number of tourists, having satisfied their curiosity in Europe, turned their attentions to the more exotic Middle East, particularly Egypt, Palestine and Syria. New regularly scheduled boat services from Marseilles, Genoa and Odessa made this far easier.

More tourists meant a radical change in the thinking of the administration. In order to make access to Jerusalem easier the road from Jaffa was converted to an asphalted one, in 1893. At the end of the century a railroad was built to connect Jaffa with Jerusalem, although this was carried out by a private contractor (Figs 2,
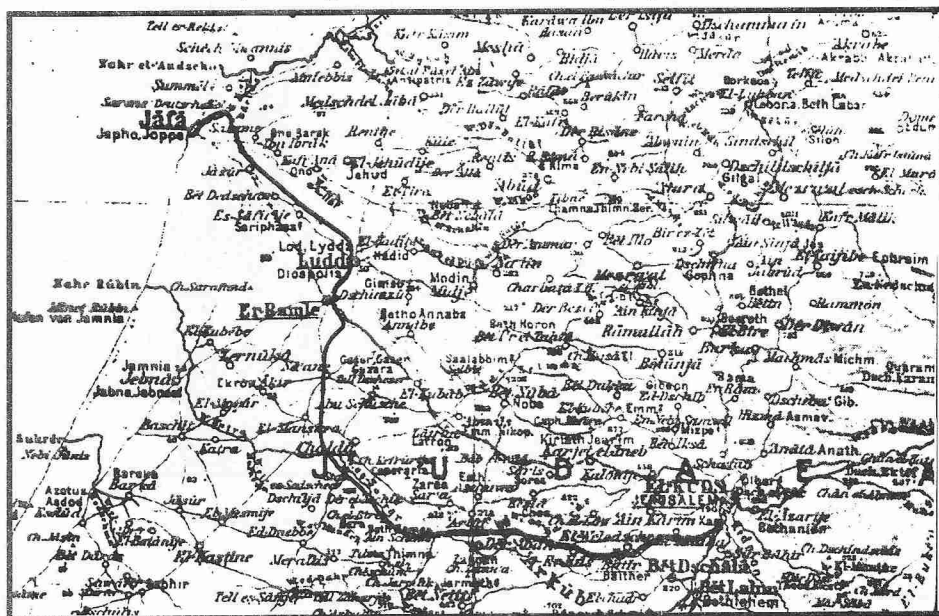

Fig. 2: The Railway line Jaffa - Jerusalem, 1892.

3). More tourists also meant more accomodation, so that we see the construction of both pilgrim rest houses and the first hotels. In the main, before this period, pilgrims and visitors had been accomodated by either friends, acquaintances or by the church rest houses. But with the pressure of increased tourism this was inadequate, and more guest houses were built to accommodate the increased number of visitors.

The first known hotel in Jerusalem was opened in the early 1840s, called the Damascus Hotel and was situated near the Damascus Gate. It remained here for many years bafore closing down due to the lack of visitors. Shortly afterwards another hotel opened nearby, the Mediterranean. This latter hotel moved to new premises near the Jaffa Gate in 1871. Other hotels opened shortly afterwards nearby, forming the nucleus of a developing hotel industry.
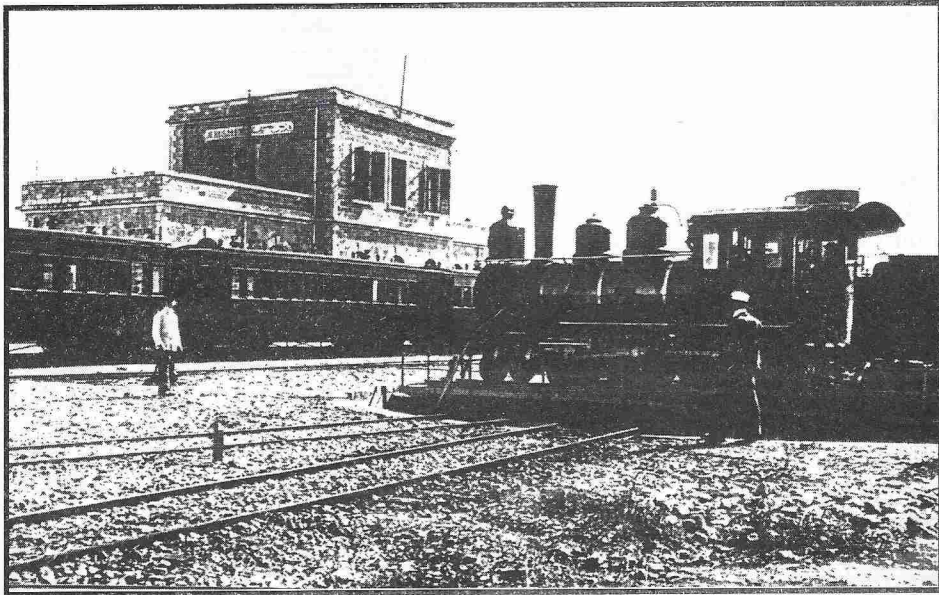
Fig 3: The Jerusalem Railway station. In the foreground is the turntable for turning the locomotive around.

The Jaffa Gate was the gate first encountered by the visitor. The end of the road from Jaffa, it was also the closest to the Holy Sepulchure, the goal of the Christian visitors. When the town expanded the direction was to the west or more correctly to the north west, following the new Jaffa Road. New hotels opened at the corner of or near to the north western corner of the City walls, and then onwards down Jaffa road or in parallel streets. Additional buildings were constructed to the north resulting in an easier access being opened in the walls, the New Gate in 1893. This allowed additional access to the city from the new Pilgrim centres, for example, the Russian Compound and Notre Dame.

The overcrowding within the city walls led to expansion outside, resulting in the first houses being built in several new suburbs, to its west. This was also possible because the dangers of marauding thieves had been largely overcome. Initially the expansion was carried out by Jews, but after them the Arab population followed suit, but in their case to the north, near the Damascus gate (Fig 4).

All of this generated a much increased business activity. Banks were opened to cater for the increased demands for money changing facilites, new businesses opened to cater not only for the visitors but for the inhabitants. Consulates were opened to cater for their touring citizens. Parallel to all of this was the development of the Postal System, led primarily by the foreign postal services.

Fig 4: Jerusalem, about 1875.

2. The Postal System

As described above, no regular and sustained postal service as such existed between Palestine, and Jerusalem in particular and a known address elsewhere. An official courier postal service existed, when it functioned, mainly to transmit administrative letters to Constantinople via Beirut. However in the 1840s two services did operate for several years, one unofficial and the other under the auspices of the Turkish Government. The first was run by the London Jews' Society, was reliable and ran once a month in each direction. A second, also unoffical, service operated by the Anglican Mission between 1838 and 1848 between London and Beirut and apparently was extended to Jerusalem. It is not known whether the two private services operated in sequence or independently. The Turkish courier service, from 1840, was a weekly one running to Beirut and from there to Damascus. It is known that the French also ran a service along this route in the late 1840s.

The Turkish service was not particularly interested in developing an international service, but according to their regulations all internal mail within Palestine had to have been franked with Turkish stamps and sent through the Turkish service. This therefore left the field of overseas post to the foreign post

offices, who were only too eager to do so. By the time the Turkish administration became interested it was far too late.

Thus the increased demand for such facilities was answered by the different foreign postal services, who initially established agencies and then opened formal post offices. The earliest such office to open in Jerusalem was the French. This was followed by the Austrians, Prussians (which did not last for long), Germans, Russians and finally the Italians. The United States consulate ran a service for American visitors, but this was terminated when an arrangement was entered into with the Turkish service. The Prussian service appears to have handled mainly consular mail, but private letters are known from Jerusalem with a Berlin arrival datestamp. It presumably ceased at the time of the formation of Germany.

The post offices opened at a site closest to the main tourist activities. The Turkish office, as will be seen, opened their branch near the Damascus Gate but the demand for postal services eventually convinced them to transfer the office to the Jaffa Gate area. Over the years the post offices moved premises, and towards the end of the century were opened in the adjacent suburbs to cater for the larger volume of mail handled. Thus we have the Turkish authorities opening a branch in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, further agencies were opened in Mahane Yehuda and in other parts of the city (cf the Turkish post, below).

Competition between the various services was fierce. The most favoured post office was the Austrian, mainly because of their efficiency, the regular Austro-Lloyd boat sailings from Jaffa, and the business acumen of the postmasters. The Turkish authorities tried their utmost to restrict these services. When the railway line from Jaffa opened, only Turkish stamped mail was carried on the train. The other offices were forced to rely on horse-drawn carriages to carry their own post using the initially poor road but afterwards the smoother asphalted one. By cleverly placing post boxes on the route they were able to offer a service to the more isolated communities. As a result of the opposition to the use of the train, the foreign offices developed a highly efficient and fast carriage service between the two towns; mail would sometimes reach Jaffa five hours after leaving Jerusalem. In an effort to counter the success of the foreign post offices the Turkish government even resorted to selling their stamps at a significant reduction in the face value – all to no avail. Customers preferred the efficient and reliable over the cheaper service.

The earliest known regular private postal service was established in 1837 or 1838, with the permission of the Pasha. It was established primarily to facilitate the transfer of funds from Europe to the Holy City (see below, the section dealing with the Austrian Post Office). How long this service oprated is unknown. Three letters using this service are known (HLPH, 1998[7]).

3. The French Post Office

Although France (and Austria) obtained early franchises to operate postal services, the first postal agency was opened in Jerusalem ca. 1843; the earliest letter known with the agency's single line date stamp, "Jerusalem and date" is from Sept. 1843. However, between 1846 and 1852 a courier service was operated by the
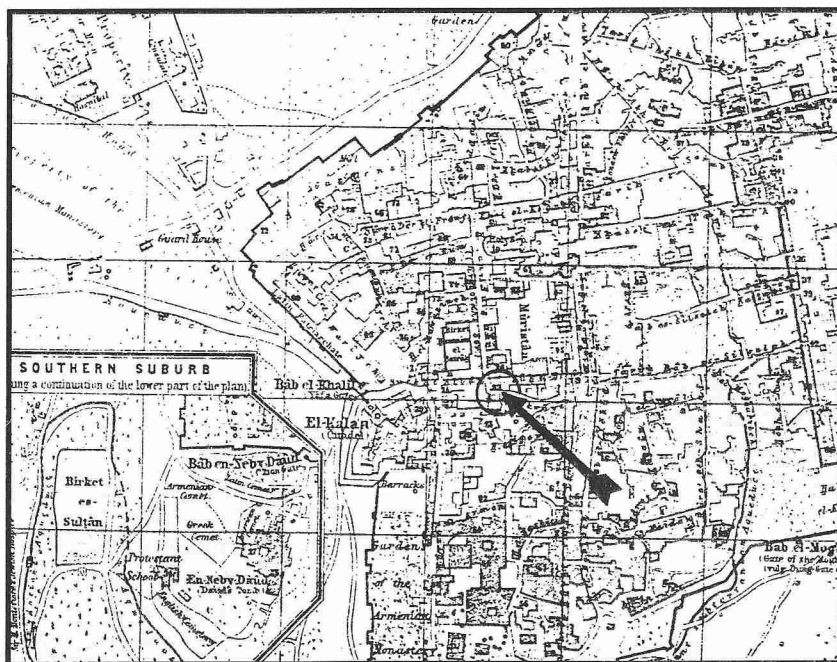
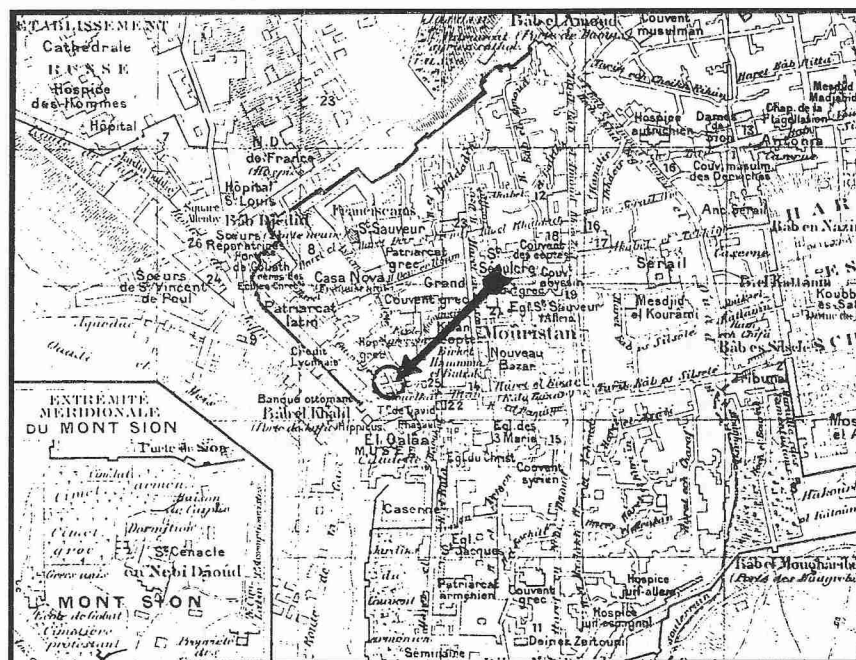*Fig. 5: The first French agency.*

Fig. 6: The French Post Office in the New Market Building.

French similar to that run by the Turkish government then. The agency operated from the French consulate, and mail was sent through Jaffa to France. The service closed a few years later. In 1858 a formal postal agency was opened by the

Fig 7: The New Market Building, with the Grand Hotel occupying the upper floors. This photo dates to ca 1893.

postmaster of the Jaffa office (itself opened in 1857). This agency was almost certainly situated in David Street, between the gate and the Christian Patriarchate Road (Fig. 5). The first commercial offices were situated here then. The agency operated for some twenty two years, closing in 1882. Two years later a post office was opened in the newly built New Market Building, which had the Grand New Hotel in its upper floors, next to the Jaffa Gate (Figs. 6, 7). Four years later the post office relocated to the Jaffa Road, next to the branch of the Credit Lyonnaise Bank (Fig. 8). It remained there until the closure of several of the foreign post offices at the end of September 1914 (Fig. 9).

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Fig. 8: The French Post office in Jaffa Road.

Fig. 9: The French Post Office.

4. The Turkish Post Office

The Turkish Government established, by edict, the formation of a postal system in the empire in 1834. Initially it handled internal mail only, and was the only organisation permitted to do so. Growth in the number of post offices was slow. It was only in 1867 that the post office in Jerusalem was opened. An announcement of the opening of this post office appeared in the Hebrew newspapers at the time (Fig. 10). Over the years a developed system of branch post offices and agencies was established in different parts of the city (Fig. 11).

This office was opened in a small side street near to the Dammascus Gate (Fig. 12). Here it served the local population and the various churches sited not too far away. It was only after the Crimean War that the Postal Administratiom developed an interest in the international posts, but by then several foreign post offices or agencies were well established. These fought the Government's attempt to restrict their activities, eventually succeeding in doing so.

The post office remained at this site for some twenty five years. Realising that the bulk of the letters being sent were sent through the post offices situated at or near the Jaffa Gate, a new office was opened in the relatively new New Market Building (built in 1884), near the Jaffa Gate, in which the Grand Hotel occupied the upper floors (Fig. 13).

In 1896 the office moved again to new premises on the Jaffa Road abjacent to the Jaffa Gate. This office combined the postal and telegraph services which before had been separate, in two different places. (Fig. 14). This site became the Turkish Police Station when the office had moved. The building was subsequently demolished to make place for the Clock Tower. In 1900 the Post Office moved again to a site further up Jaffa Rd. Four years later it moved further up Jaffa Road, to an office close to the north-western corner of the Old City walls (Fig. 15). Approximately four years later the office moved once
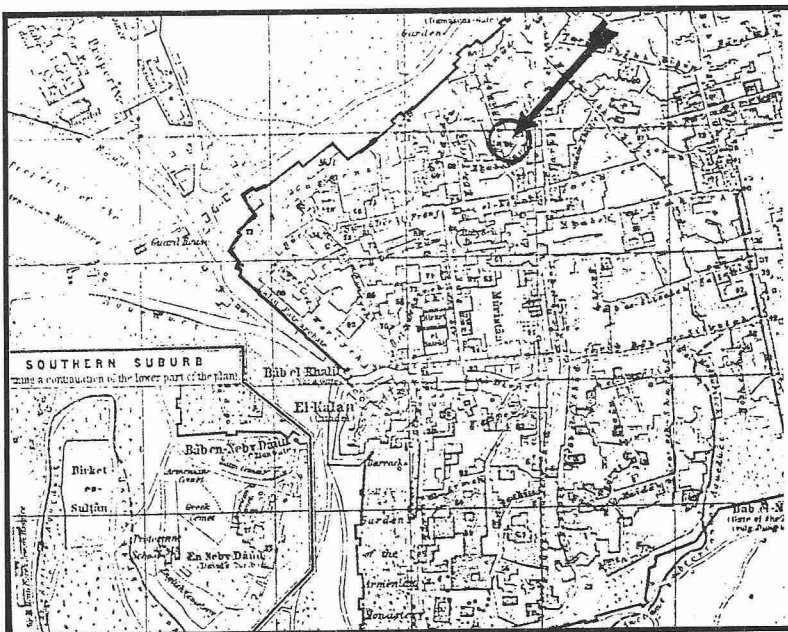

Fig. 10: An announcement in the Hebrew newspaper שערי ציון ("Scharei Ziyon" (1867)) concerning the opening of the Turkish Post Office.
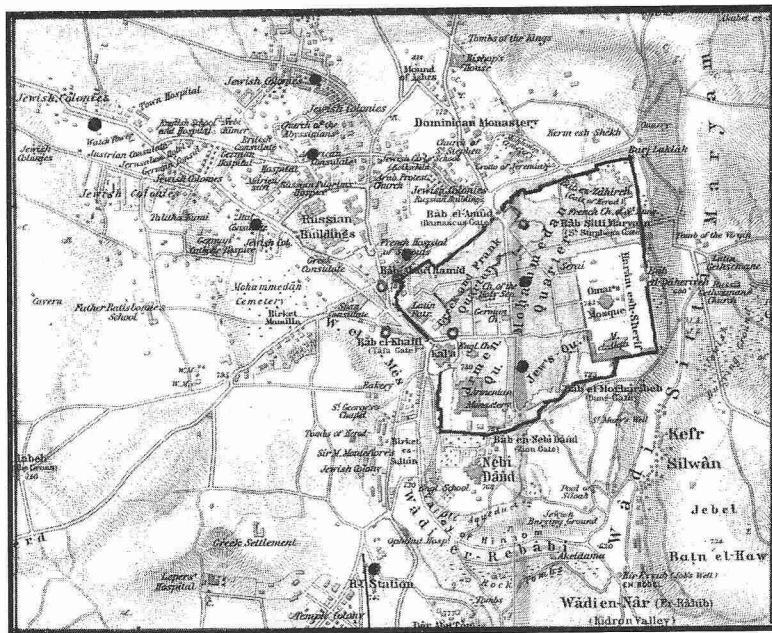
Fig 11: Map of Jerusalem showing the various sites of the Post Offices (at different times), the postal branches and agencies.

Fig. 12: The first Post Office, sited off the Sha'ar Hagai Street near the Damascus Gate.
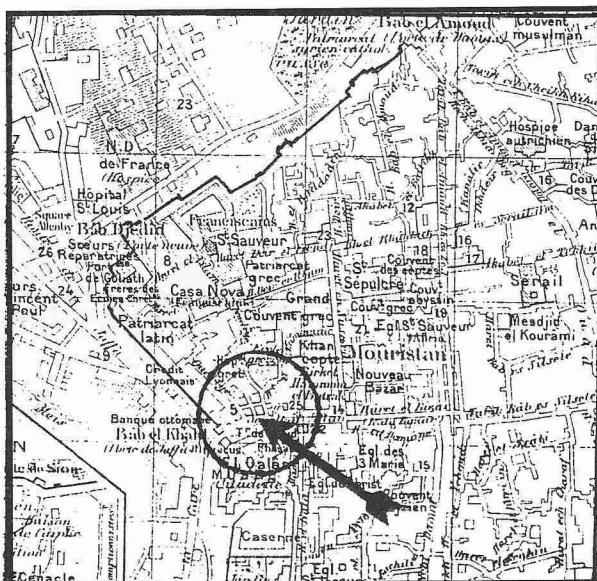
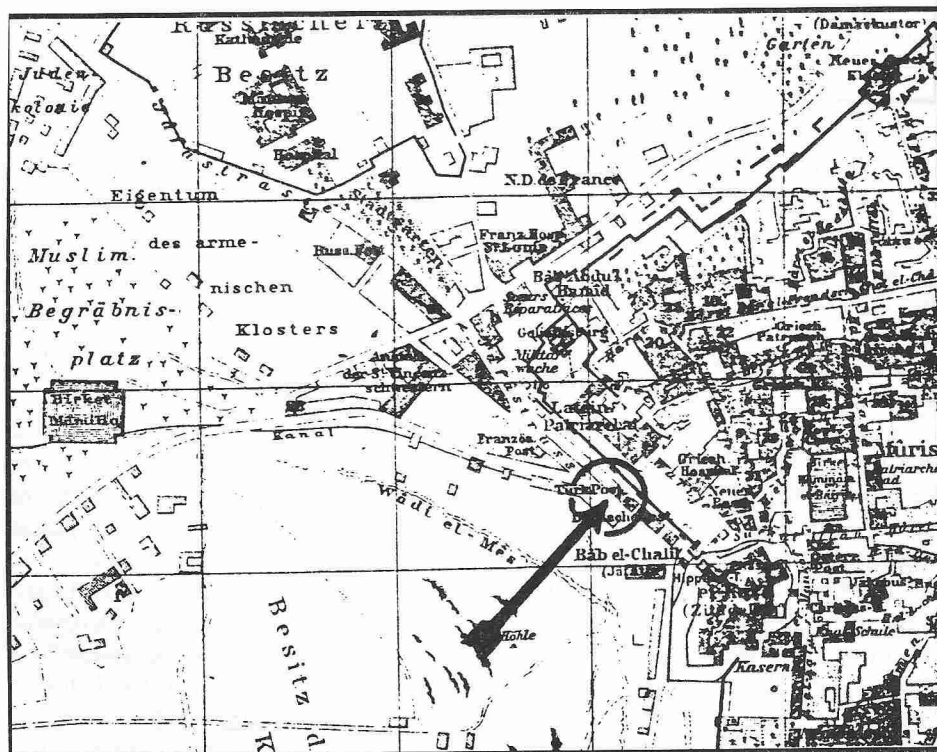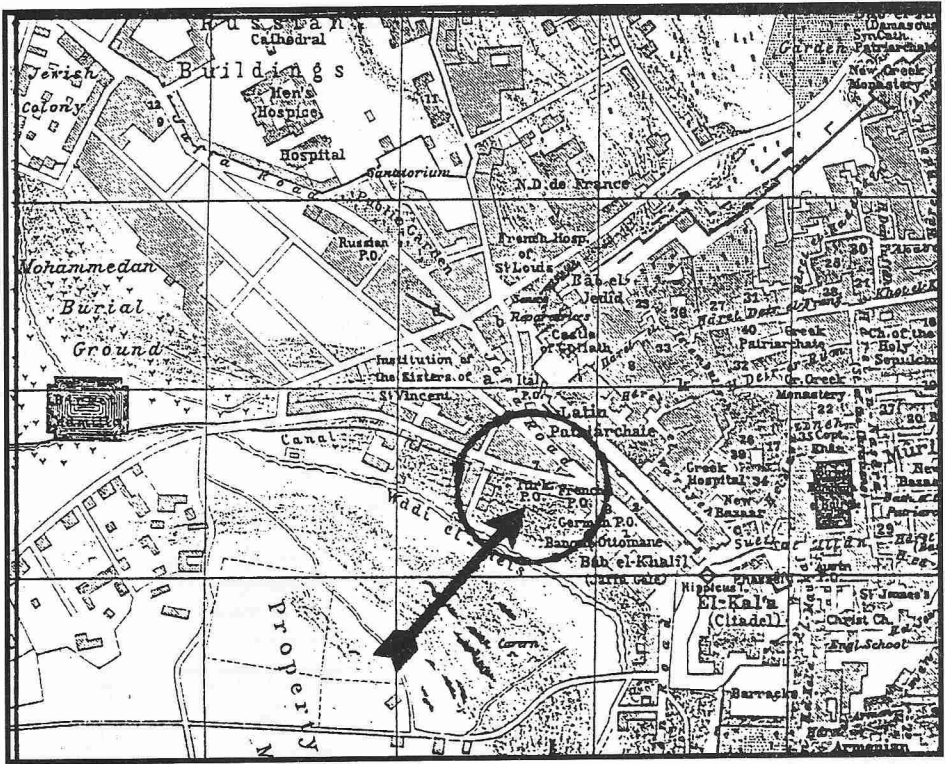*Fig. 13: The Post Office in New Market Building.*

Fig 14: The Office in Jaffa Street.

Fig. 15: The Post Office has now moved across the Street.

again, this time to the rear of the Kaminitz Hotel (Fig. 16). A fire severely damaged the office resulting in the Post Office moving for the last time to a new building designed specifically for the service, at the north western corner of the Old City. This became the Main Post Office, and in fact remained so during the British Administration until the building of the new Main Post Office in 1935 (Fig. 17).

Competition from the foreign Post Offices was much stiffer than the administration had conceived. In order, therefore, to improve their services the Turkish authorities appointed a Mr. Honig as the chief Postmaster with the intention of opening branch offices sited much closer to specific areas. His specific purpose was to promote sales and increase awareness of the Turkish service.

The first such branch office was opened in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, in the Street of the Jews in 1895 (Figs. 18, 19). This move was extremely successful, and even more so when the branch postmaster added the word "Jerusalem" (in Hebrew) to the postmark. Whilst received with delight by the local Jewish population the reaction of the administration was very negative and the postal branch was closed down. However, after some discussion and explanation it was
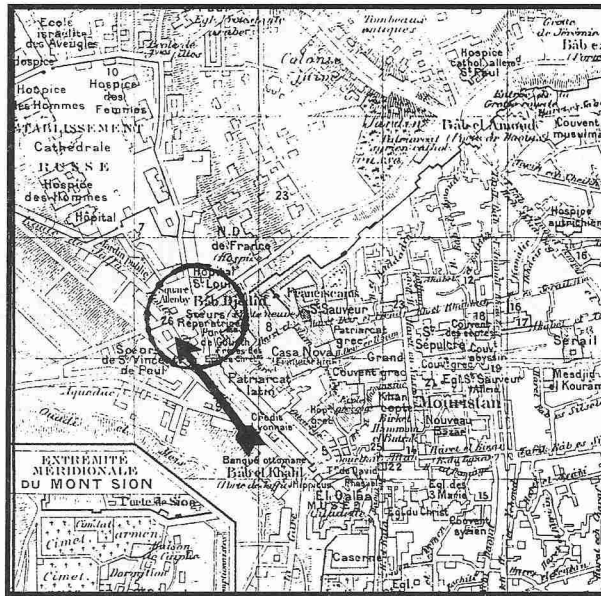
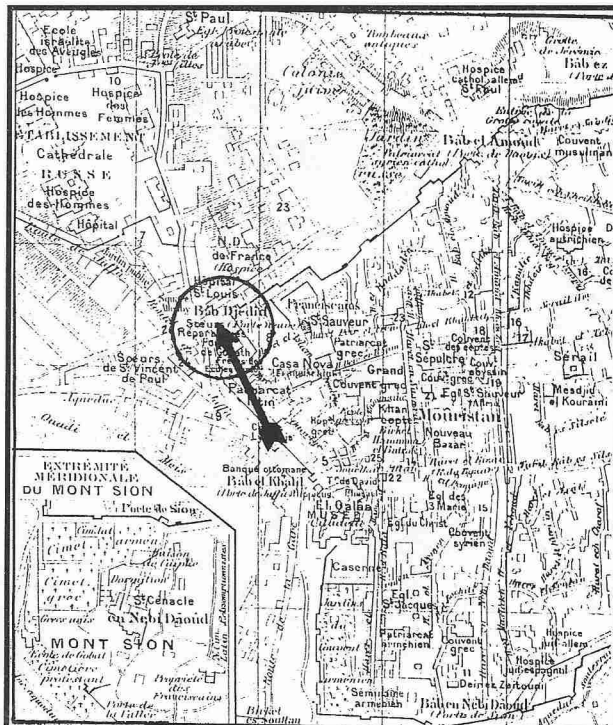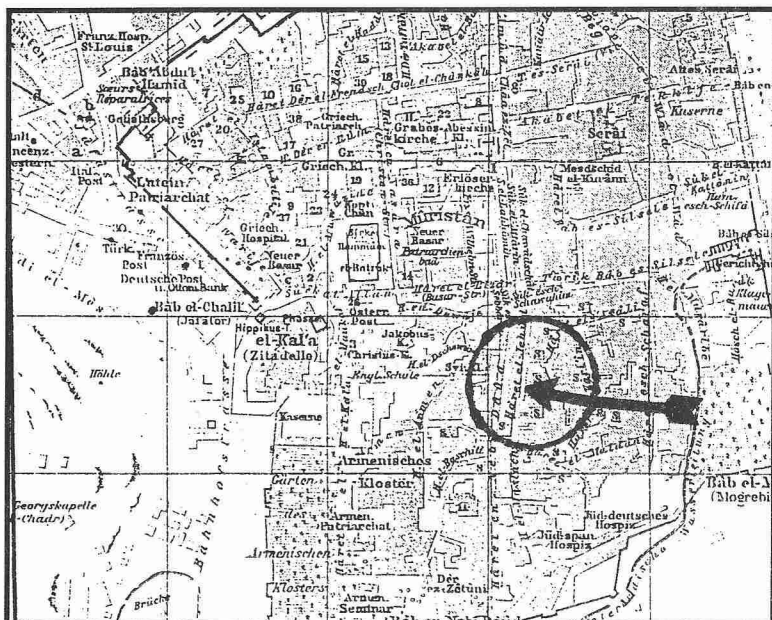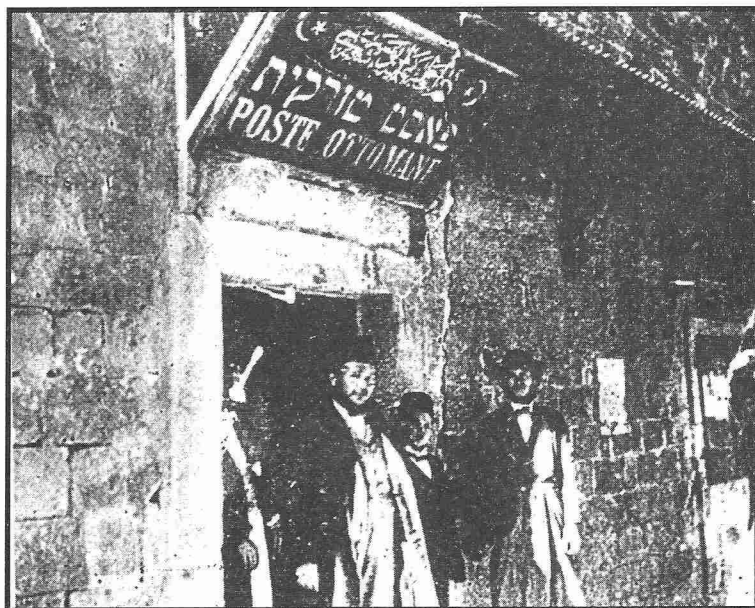*Fig. 16: The Post Office is now sited behind the Kaminitz Hotel.*

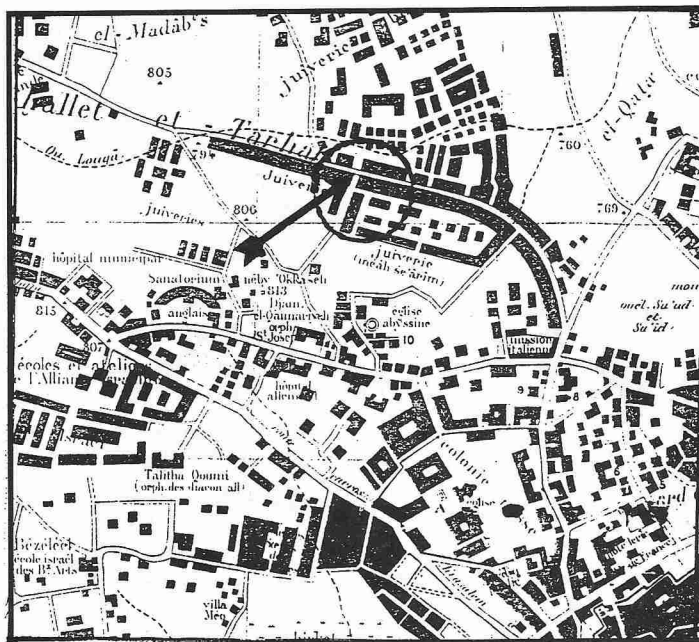*Fig. 17: The site of the Main Post Office (in use until 1936 by the Palestine Postal Administration).*
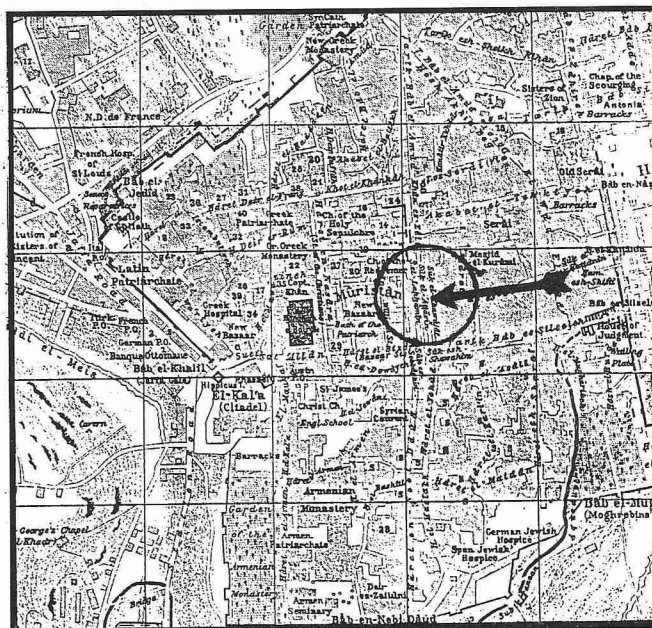
Fig. 18: The Jewish Quarter Branch Post Office.

Fig. 19: Mr. Honig and staff in front of the Jewish Quarter Office.

Fig. 20: The postal branch at the Railway Station.

reopened, across the street, soon afterwards, and functioned here until the end of the war. The controversial postmark continued to be in use for a while at the new site.

With the opening of the railway line from Jaffa it soon became obviovs that a branch office was needed at the station to cater for late delivery letters. This opened in 1904 (Fig. 20).

The Mea Shearim postal branch was opened in 1904 to compete with the Austrian post in the same suburb (Fig. 21). Whilst never achieving the success of the Austrian agency, nevertheless this agency was very successful mainly because of the increase in the numbers of letters being sent.

The closure of the first post office near the Damascus Gate left a gap in the postal services in that part of the Old City. In 1907 a branch agency was opened in the roofed Attarin Market, one of two sited near to the Church of the Holy Sepulchure. The agency functioned for several years until a disastrous fire which destroyed the roof forced it to close in 1917 (Fig. 22).

In 1898 the German Kaiser visited the city. To cater for the large number of accompanying staff a temporary camp was erected on the Prophets Street, near the Russian Compound. The office functioned for the duration of his short visit – for four days (Fig. 23).

Four postal agencies are known to have operated during this period. The first was that of Mahane Yehuda sometime about 1912. A new suburb which opened
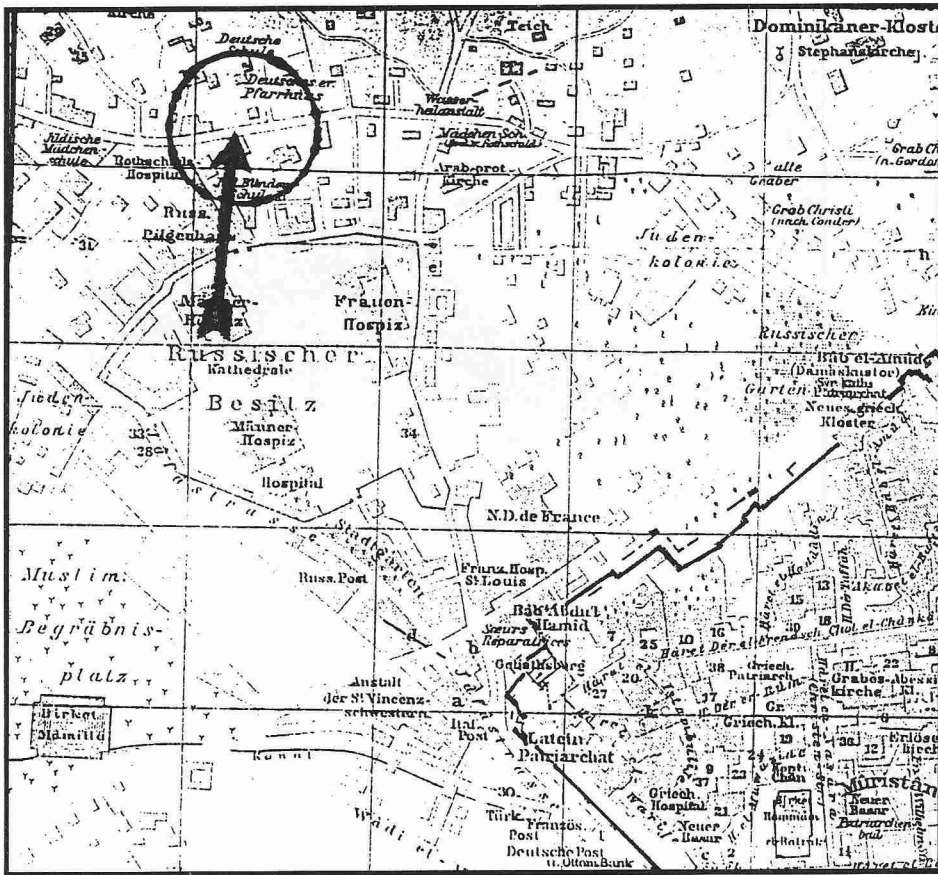
Fig. 21: The Mea Shearim Branch Post Office.

Fig. 22: The Shuk Al'attarin Branch Post Office.

Fig. 23: The site of the Imperial Camp in the street of the Prophets.

about a mile from the Old City on Jaffa Road. Several enclaves of new housing had been opened in the neighbourhood, so that an agency would have been seen as logical (Fig. 24). The agency was not successful and closed down after a brief period.

A second agency was apened in the premises of the Notre Dame pilgrim hospice or hotel, adjacent to the Old City (Fig. 25). This was one of the two largest pilgrim hospices other than the Russian Compound and received mainly French speaking pilgrims.

The third agency opened in Nahlat Shiv'a in 1913 to cater for the volume of tourist letters being sent from the many small hotels situated in this relatively new suburb in the centre of the city (Fig. 26).

The fourth agency is listed in the Turkish Postal Administration list of agencies. This was called "Souk el Tudjdjar", of which no strikes on a letter were known. However a strike of "Suc. Poste Grand New Hotel" on a postcard has recently come to light, dating to about 1910. This is a more correct reading of the previous "Grand

Fig 24: The Mahane Yehuda agency.

Fig. 25: The agency in the Notre Dame hospice.

Rue" strike reported in the literature. Souk el Tudjdjar means the Merchants Market, or the New Market, where the Turkish Post Office was situated at one time (see above). Opening an agency in the building would have been logical now that the main Turkish office was situated near the north western corner of the Old City walls. This again shows the Turkish Administration's determination to have branches or agencies in as many places as possible.

All of the Turkish post offices, branches and agencies (unless otherwise specified) functioned throughout the war, closing down only when the administration left the City in late November 1917, under the threat of General Allenby's forces which were then approaching the City.
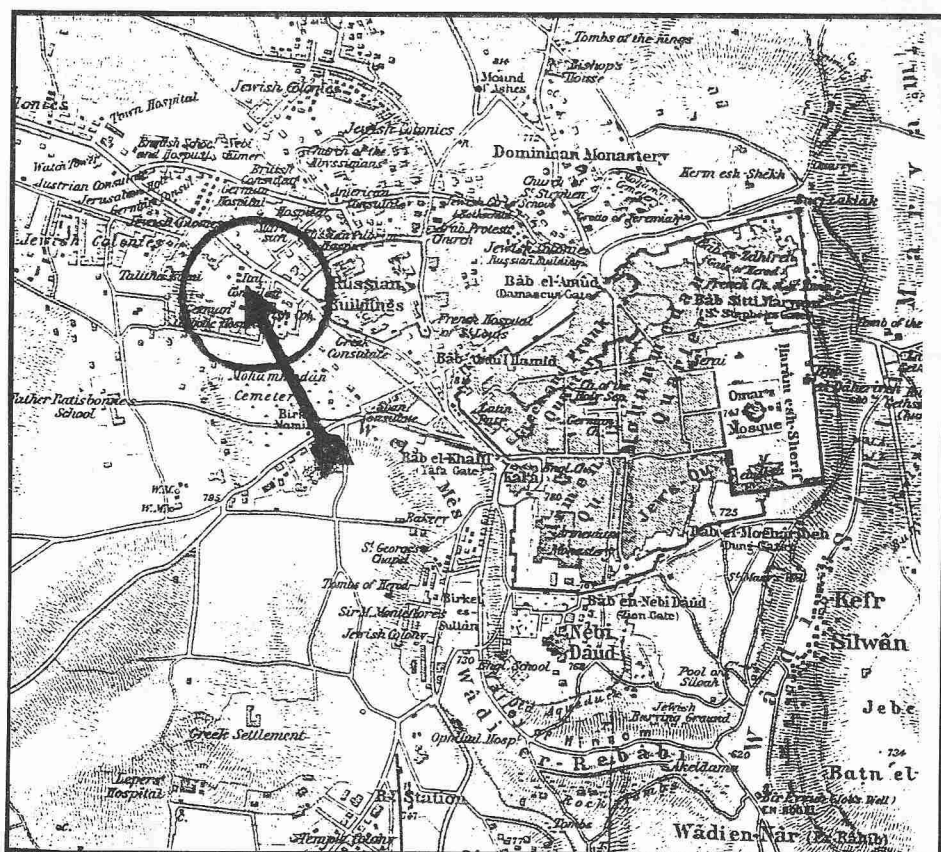

Fig. 26: The Nahlat Shiv'a agency.

5. The Austrian Post Office

One of the shipping lines serving the Eastern Mediterranean was that of Austrian Lloyd. This line plied between Genoa, Beirut, Jaffa and Alexandria and was highly successful. A regular service in well-built and comfortable boats made the company one of the leading shipping lines in this area. Over time Austrian Lloyd established postal agencies, under the authority of the Austrian Government, in the various ports which the boat visited, and in 1852 opened such an agency in Jerusalem. An announcement of the postal rates was published in 1858 (Fig. 27).

This agency was opened in a small office not far from the Jaffa Gate, in a side street between the Syrian and Armenian quarters (Fig. 28). The agency operated for
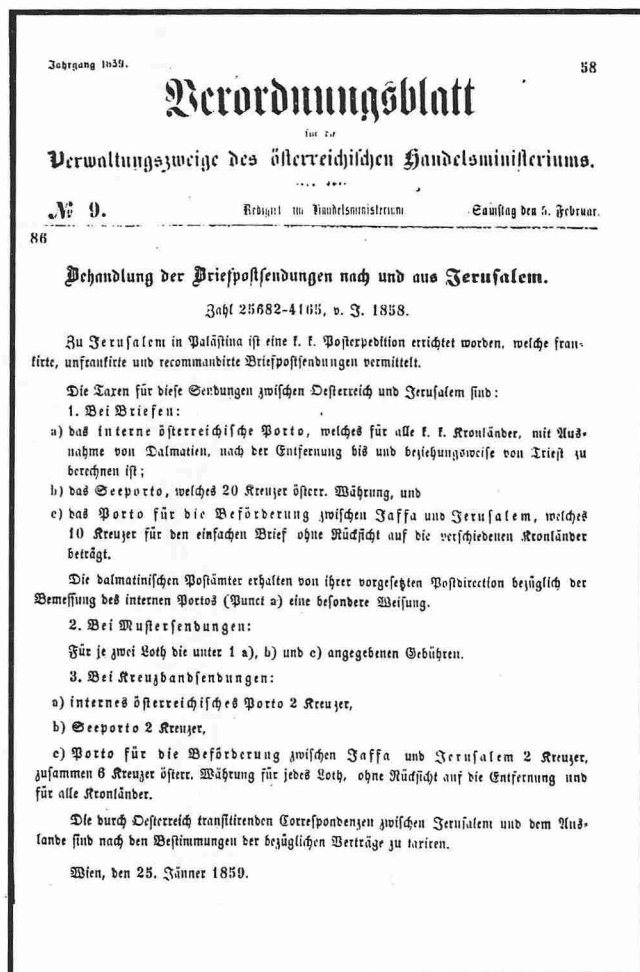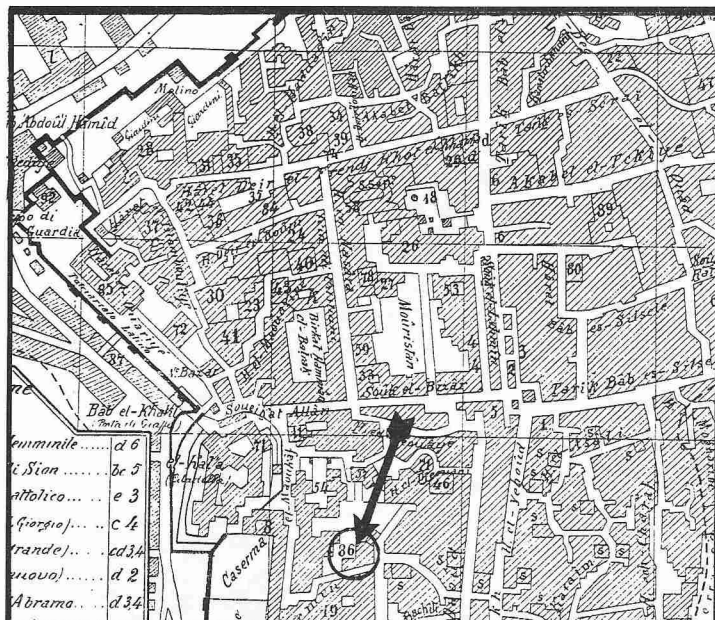
Jahrgang 1859.   58

Verordnungsblatt

für die

Verwaltungszweige des österreichischen Handelsministeriums.

№ 9.   Redigirt im Handelsministerium   Samstag den 5. Februar.

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Behandlung der Briefpostsendungen nach und aus Jerusalem.

Zahl 25682-4165, v. J. 1858.

Zu Jerusalem in Palästina ist eine k. k. Posterpedition errichtet worden, welche frankirte, unfrankirte und recommandirte Briefpostsendungen vermittelt.

Die Taxen für diese Sendungen zwischen Oesterreich und Jerusalem sind:

1. Bei Briefen:

a) das interne österreichische Porto, welches für alle k. k. Kronländer, mit Ausnahme von Dalmatien, nach der Entfernung bis und beziehungsweise von Triest zu berechnen ist;

b) das Seeporto, welches 20 Kreuzer österr. Währung, und

c) das Porto für die Beförderung zwischen Jaffa und Jerusalem, welches 10 Kreuzer für den einfachen Brief ohne Rücksicht auf die verschiedenen Kronländer beträgt.

Die dalmatinischen Postämter erhalten von ihrer vorgesetzten Postdirection bezüglich der Bemessung des internen Portos (Punct a) eine besondere Weisung.

2. Bei Mustersendungen:

Für je zwei Loth die unter 1 a), b) und c) angegebenen Gebühren.

3. Bei Kreuzbandsendungen:

a) internes österreichisches Porto 2 Kreuzer,

b) Seeporto 2 Kreuzer,

c) Porto für die Beförderung zwischen Jaffa und Jerusalem 2 Kreuzer, zusammen 6 Kreuzer österr. Währung für jedes Loth, ohne Rücksicht auf die Entfernung und für alle Kronländer.

Die durch Oesterreich transitirenden Correspondenzen zwischen Jerusalem und dem Auslande sind nach den Bestimmungen der bezüglichen Verträge zu tariren.

Wien, den 25. Jänner 1859.

Fig. 27: Official announcement advising of the opening of the Austrian Post in Palestine.

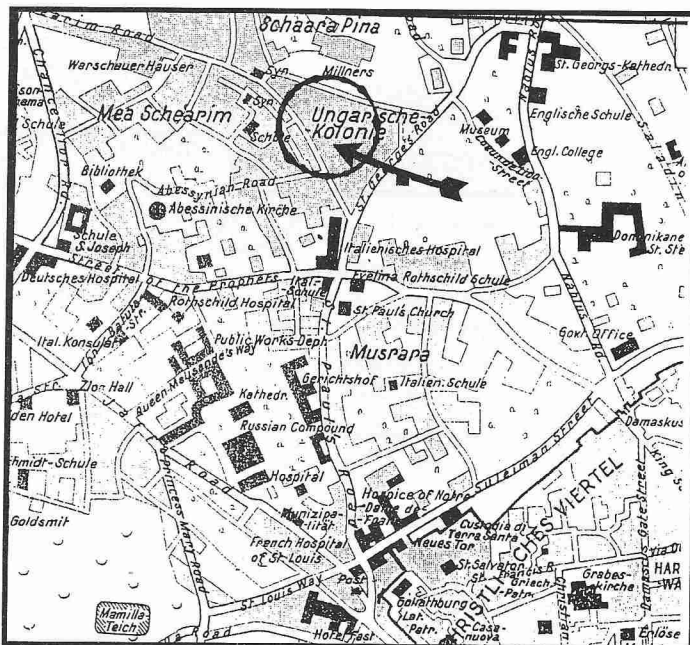*Fig. 28: The first postal agency, off the Armenian Patriarchate Road.*

some seven years and closed when the official Post Office opened in 1859.

The new Post Office was sited at the upper end of David Street, adjacent to the American Consulate (Fig. 29). In 1896 the Post Office moved to a larger and more comfortable site two houses away, in the Armenian Patriarchate Road at the corner of David Street (Fig. 30). The final move took place in 1908, to new premises built opposite the entrance to the Tower of David (Fig. 31).

Mail initially arrived once a fortnight but later this increased to once a week, depending on how many Austrian ships arrived at Jaffa. The popularity of this service lay in the knowledge about its reliability - that a letter sent through the Austrian postal service arrived at its destination - not something which could be said, for example, about the Turkish service.

The Austrian Post had a branch in the Mea Shearim quarter, in Beit Ungarn (Fig. 32). It is known that this branch simply accepted and distributed mail, not being permitted to carry out other activities (like registering letters). Being sited in the area of Mea Shearim the branch was able to cope with the large Jewish population there and their very large volume of mail. This was the only branch agency of a foreign Post Office which operated in the city other than the branches of the Turkish Post itself.

Fig. 29: The Austrian Post Office in the Armenian Patriarchate Road,
on the corner of David Street. (The early site).

Fig. 30: A postal diligence in front of the Post Office. This
was used to take the post to and from Jaffa.

Fig. 31: Another photograph showing two diligences in front of the Post Office.

*Fig. 32: The Ungarn section of Mea Shearim. The Postal
Agency was located in the main building.*

Fig. 33: Two examples of "schnorrer briewe" sent at the beginning of the previous century. These usually formed the outside of the folded lettercard; another was enclosed inside for the reply.

The Austrian Post was the most popular of all the foreign post offices in Jerusalem. It handled the largest volume of mail, in both directions. It was an efficient, reliable, well run office, which may well be the reason for its attraction to the people of the city. By far and away the largest volume of mail sent from Jerusalem for very many years wear the "schnorrer briewe" (Fig. 33). These were letters sent mainly from Mea Shearim and the Old City, by the members of each individual small congregation to those fellow villages from which they came, primarily in Poland, Western Russia and Germany, asking for contributions to support the congregation and its families. The letters were in two parts: the outer folded and perforated letter card was for sending the message, and the inner letter card, smaller in size, was for the reply (and, hopefully for contribution). As there were very many such congregations, particularly in the area of Mea Shearim and the Old City, a large amount of mail was sent. Most of such mail was sent through the Austrian Post Office, but a largish number went through the Turkish office too.

Street post boxes for the collection of mail outside of the Post Office itself were introduced to Jerusalem by the Austrians. Four such boxes are known: in the Kaminitz Hotel (Prophets Street), near Mahane Yehuda, in Mazkeret Moshe (behind Mahane Yehuda) and at the exit of the city on Jaffa Road. Mail was taken to Jaffa by diligence (Fig. 30), operating initially once a week, but as demand and volume went up the frequency increased too until in the early 1900s there was a daily service.

Pollack[3] states that the post office was closed only in 1917. Austria being an ally of the Turks, two detachments of troops were seconded to Palestine by the Austrian Army to assist the Turkish forces there. The Austrians maintained two hospitals in Jerusalem, one in the city and the other a recuperation centre in Ein Kerem. The troops were withdrawn from Jerusalem early in 1917, when presumably the post office closed.

6. The German Post Office

The German Post Office formally opened in Jerusalem on May 1, 1900 (Fig. 34). Originally the intention was to open the post office before the arrival of Kaiser Wilhelm in 1898. The problems of so doing proved to be too great and so the opening took place some two years later. The office was situated on Jaffa Road, near to the Jaffa Gate. In 1904 the office moved further up the Jaffa Road, to the building of the French Credit Lyonnaise Bank. (Figs. 35, 36). A year later the Post Office finally moved to the new building of the Anglo - Palestine Bank on the opposite side of Jaffa Rd. (Figs. 37, 38-40 are photos).

Adopting the practice of the Austrian Post, the Germans also set up post boxes, mainly in the walls of houses, in front of the Post Office itself, in the Via Dolorosa and in the Fast Hotel. Other post boxes were set up on the road to Jaffa. To attract customers the practice of home delivery was instituted. This service was also offered, some years later, by the Austrian office.

The mail collected at the Post Office together with that in the various post boxes in the city were collected together and sent to Jaffa by diligence. This service
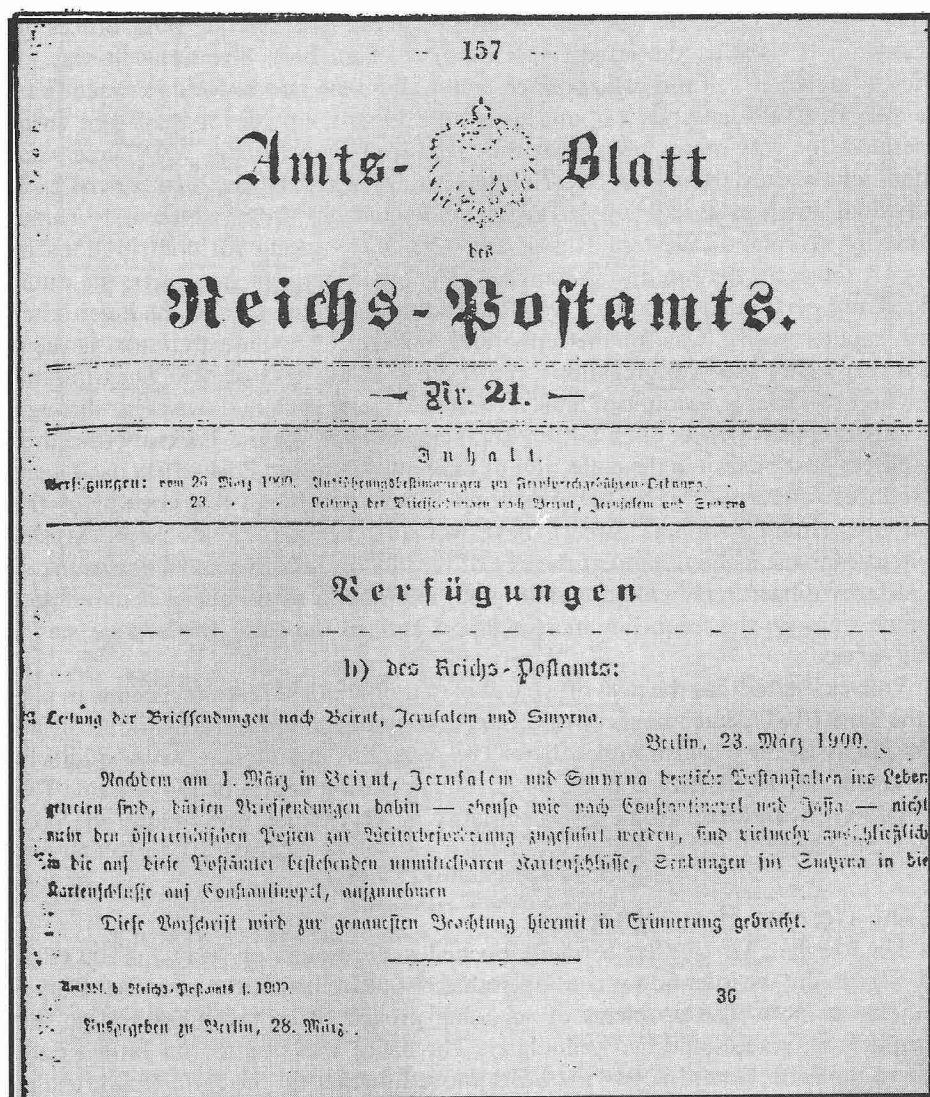
Fig. 34: The official announcement of the opening of the German Post Office on May 1, 1900.

operated at night, and on the way letters posted at the other post boxed was collected, to be cancelled on arrival at Jaffa.

Pollack records that, like the Austrian Post Office, the German Post Office closed in late 1917. The German Army sent both troops and a squadron of aircraft to help the local Turkish Army. Letters were sent via Beirut to Constantinople, then onwards to Germany. As with the Austrians, the German forces retreated from Jerusalem in the face of the approaching British forces, transferring to Damascus.

Fig. 35: The German Post office in Jaffa Road (first site).

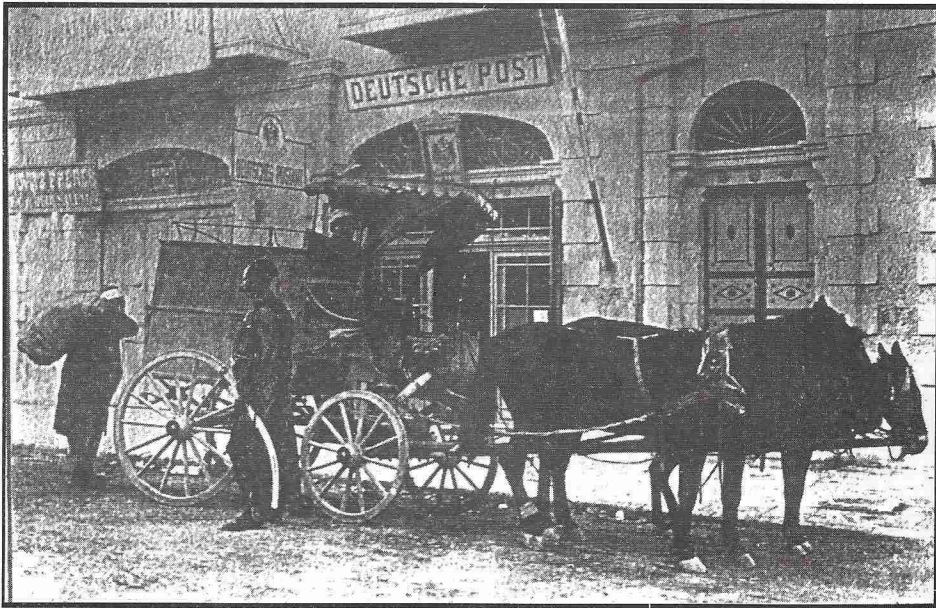*Fig. 36: The German Post Office in Jaffa Road. Note the post box on the wall.*
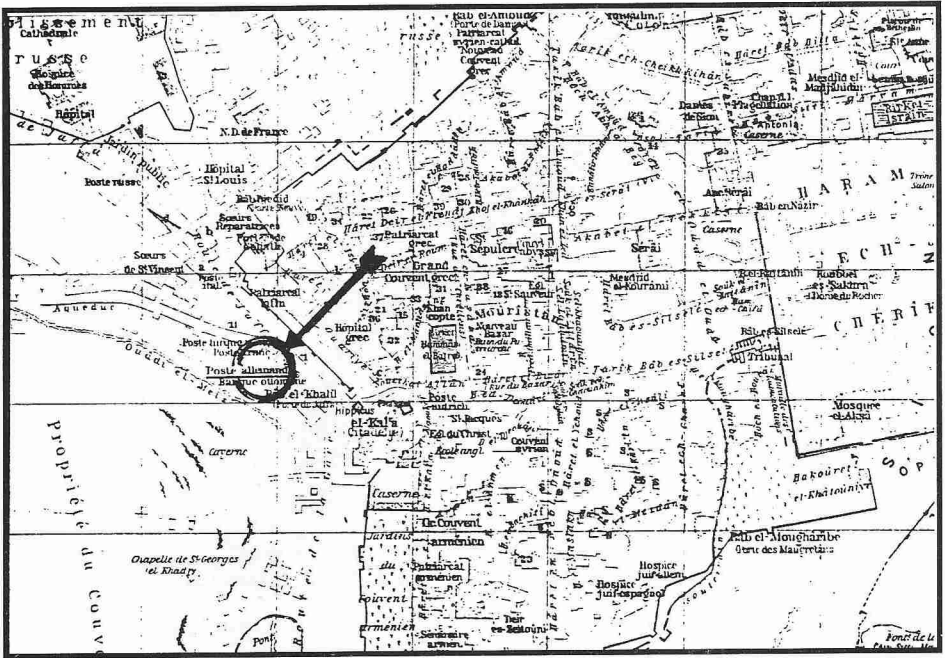
Fig. 37: The German Post Office in Jaffa Street (second site).
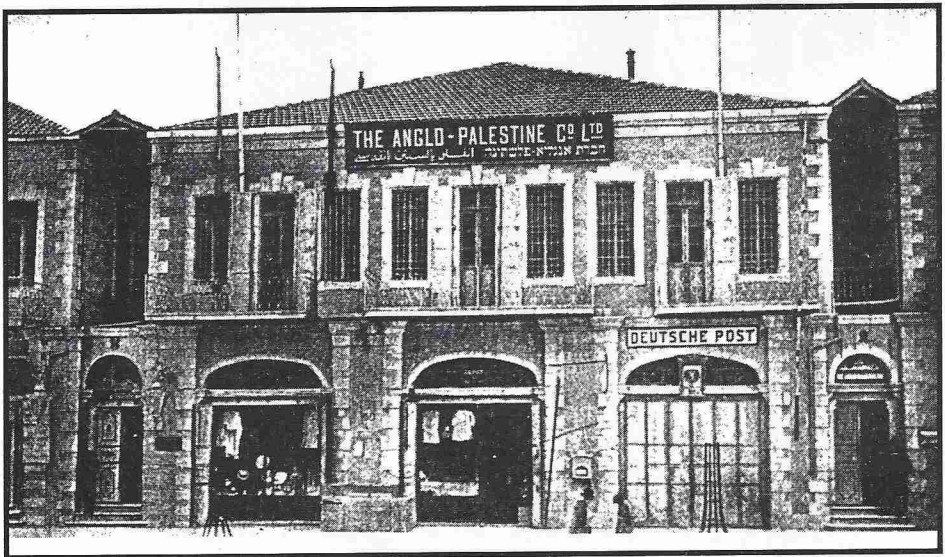
Fig. 38: The Post Office in the Anglo-Palestine building (final site).

Fig. 39: The German postal diligence in front of the Post Office.

Fig. 40: In front of the Post Office. The post box is now on the right of the entrance.

7. The Russian Post Office

The largest number of pilgrims who visited Palestine in the nineteenth century were the Russians. Initially number but a few hundred, towards the end of the century several thousands poured into the country each year.

This was made possible by the opening of the ROPiT shipping line, which connected Odessa in the Crimea with ultimately Alexandria in Egypt. It offered a regular schedule, calling at several ports on the way. Fares were cheap so that this allowed the pilgrims to travel to the Holy Land with the minimum of finances (Fig. 41). All of their visits to the various Holy Places, from Jerusalem to the Galilee, were made on foot.
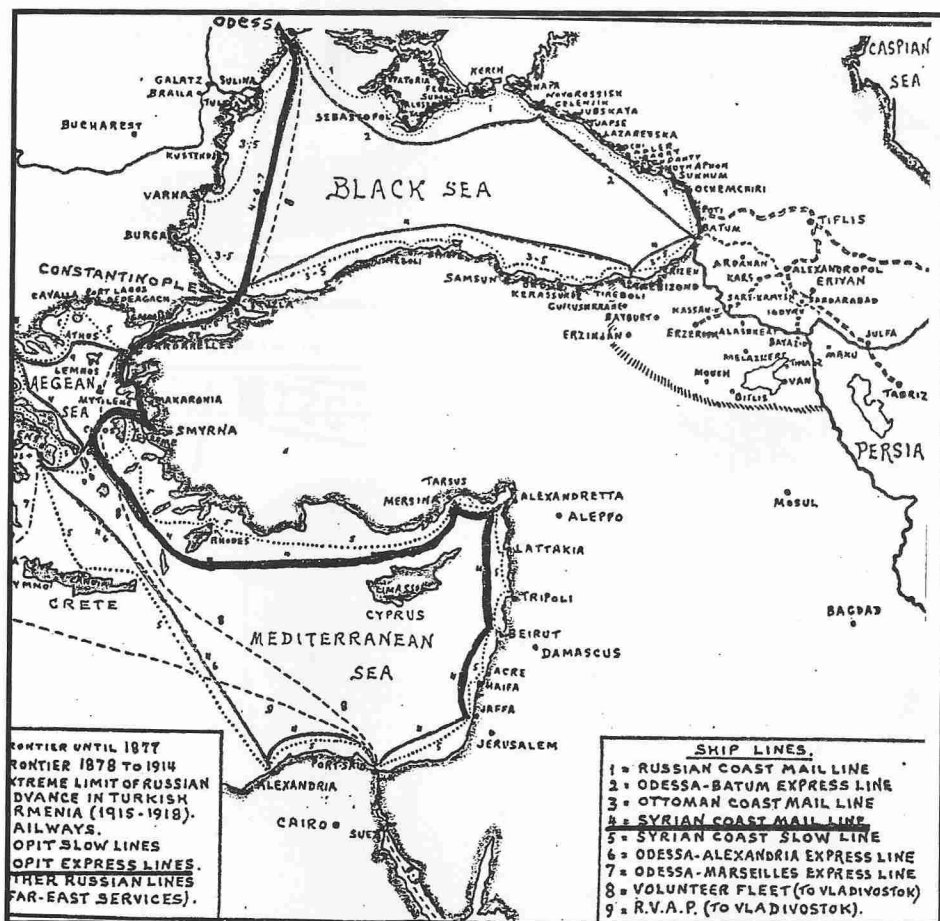

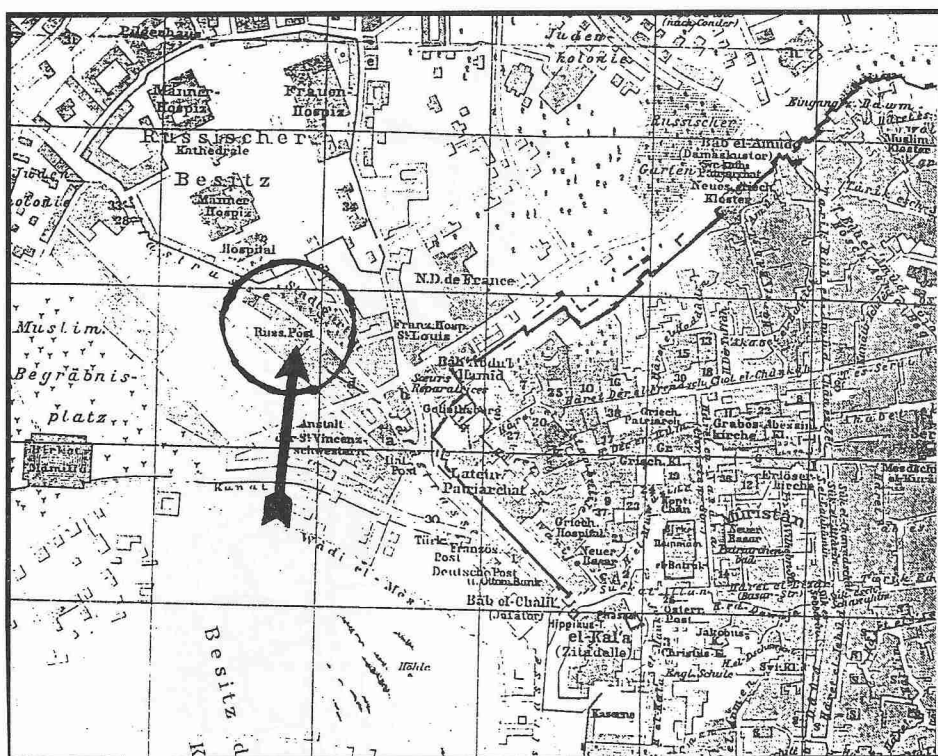*Fig. 41: Map of the ROPiT shipping service Odessa to Jaffa.*

Fig. 42: The Russian Compound.
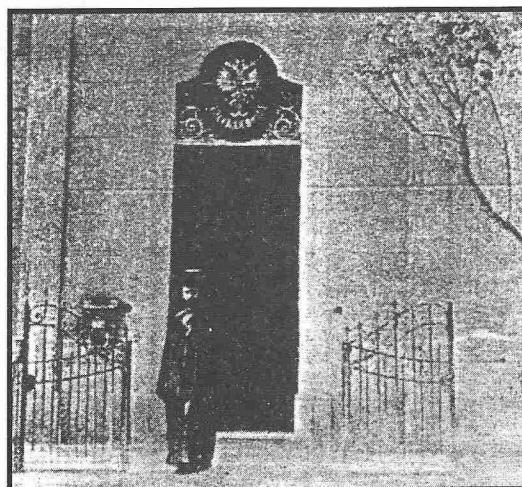
Relations between the Russian and Turkish governments were fragile before the Crimean War. This did not stop the Russian Orthodox Church from being one of the first to buy land outside of the Old City. This was the Russian Colony (also called the Compound), situated just beyond the north - western corner of the Old City. It was sufficiently large to have built on it three hospices (two for men, one for women), a church, a hospital, and an administration center. The hospices were large enough to cater for the large numder of pilgrims which by the turn of the century averaged some 5000 a year (Fig. 42).

With the increasing number of pilgrims arriving a demand was soon established for a Russian Post Office. Initially post to and from the Russians was handled by the Turkish Post Office, who charged a small additional charge for handling the letters. The post office itself, a rather small one, finally opened in September 1901 in Jaffa Road, not far from the Russian Compound (Figs. 43, 44). It closed in September, 1914, as some of the other foreign post offices.

Fig. 43: The Russian Post Office.

Fig. 44: In front of the Russian Post Office, Jaffa Road.

8. The Italian Office

The Italian Post Office was the last of the foreign post offices to open a branch in Jerusalem. The truth of the matter is that they were never able to compete with the Turks and the Austrians. The major source of letters sent through it came from the many Italian speaking monks and nuns who lived in the various organisations scattered throughout the Old City.

The office was situated in the Jaffa Road, further away from the Jaffa Gate then the other post offices (Figs. 45, 46). It opened in June, 1908 under rather unusual circumstances. The Italian Government, which also had signed a capitulation treaty with the Turks, had indicated for some years that it would like to open offices in several Turkish cities but this was refused. Uitimately the Italians lost their patience and threatened war, in fact sending a naval detachment to the Eastern Mediterranean to enforce their demands. The Turkish Government backed down and the offices duly opened. The office used its own carriage for the transfer of mail to Jaffa.
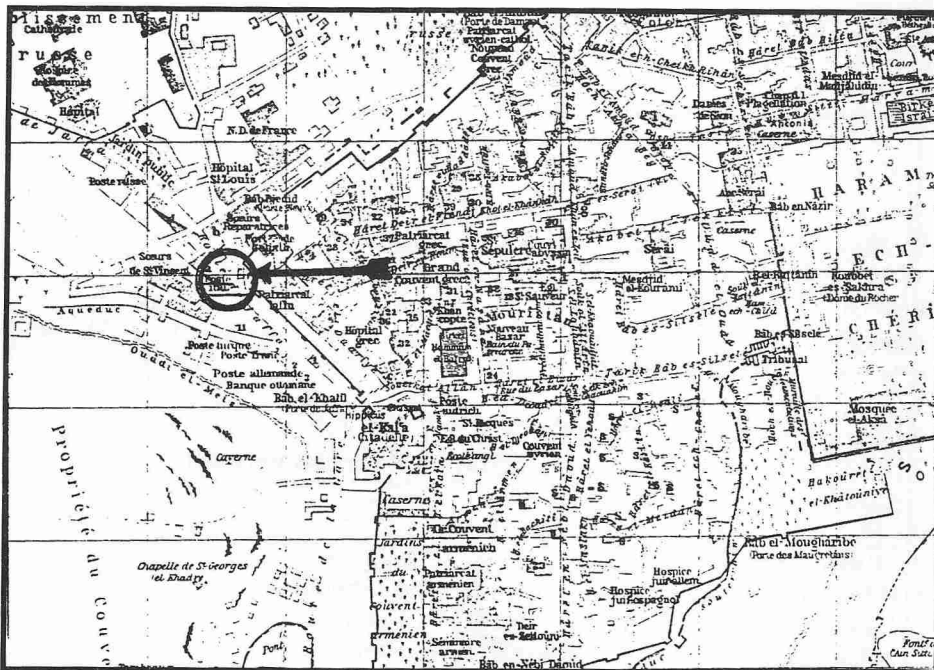
Fig. 45: The Italian Post Office, Jaffa Road

In October, 1911 the Post Office was closed down, due to the outbreak of war between Italy and Turkey in North Africa. The war, however, was of short duration and the office reopened in 1912, to be closed down for good in September, 1914.

Fig. 46: The Italian Post Office in Jaffa Road.

9. Appendix: The Jaffa Gate and Environs

Since the Jaffa Gate has been the attraction for the establishment of the various Post Offices, and also to show the concentration of hotels in the area, the adjacent map (Fig. 47) has been annotated to show the various sites over time. The period covered is about 1850 to 1917.

1. The Holy Sepulchre
2. The Christian Quarter Road
3. The Mediterranean Hotel, site III (the previous sites were near the Dammascus Gate).
4. Malta Hotel
5. Rosenberg's Hotel
6. Mediterranean Hotel, site IV. The hotel was subsequently bought by Amdursky, a hotelier, and under different managers and names has operated as a hotel to this day. Today it is known as the Petra Hotel.
7. Armenian Patriarchate Road
8. New Market Building, completed in 1884. The ground floor contained shops; the upper floor was occupied by the Grand New Hotel. Under different owners and names it still operated today.
9. The French Post Office, site I (1858 - 1882)
10. The French Post Office, site II (1884 - 1888)
11. The French Post Office, site III (1888 - 1914)
12. The Turkish Post Office, site II (1896 - 1900). The first office opened near the Damascus Gate.
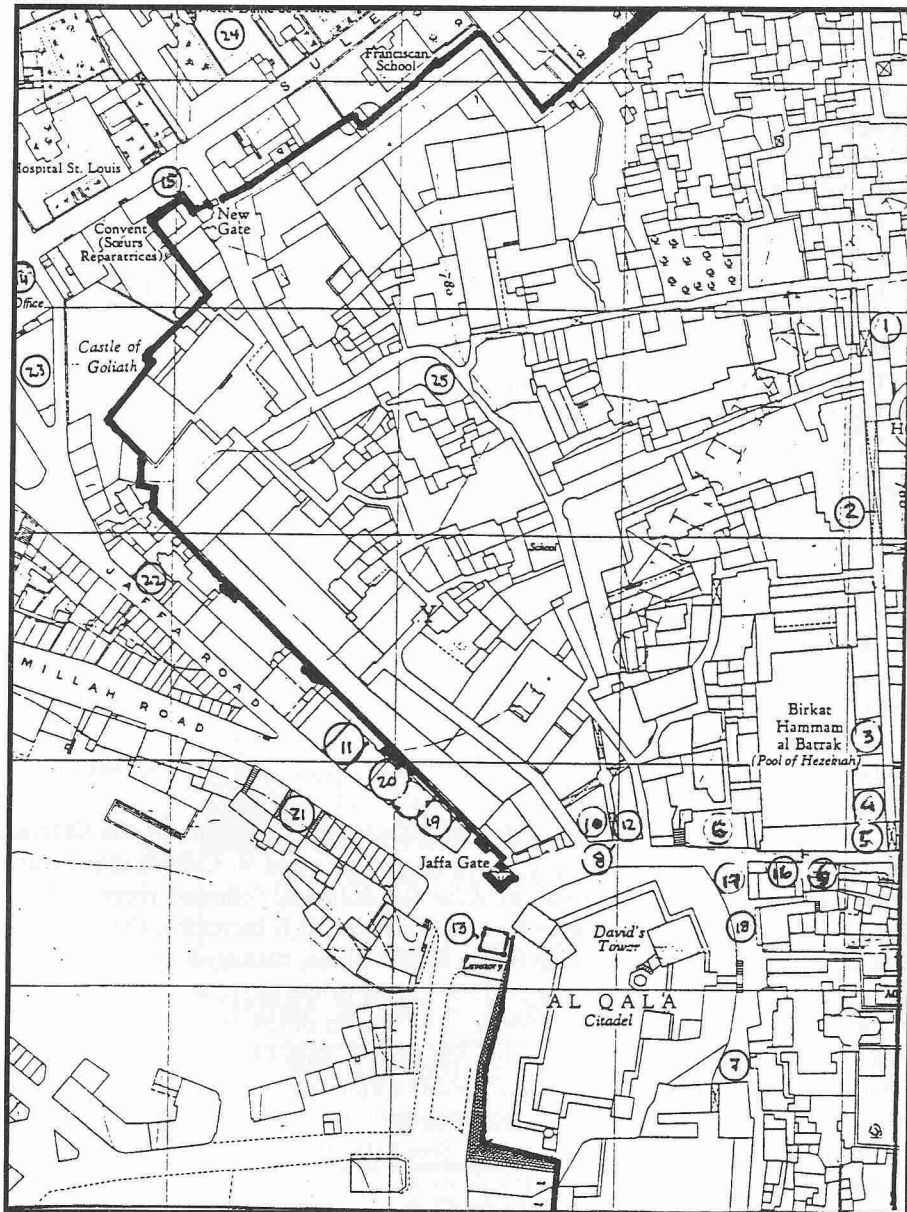
Fig. 47: Public sites, hotels and post offices in the environment of the Jaffa Gate in the period 1850 - 1917.

13. The Turkish Post Office, site III (1900 - 1904).
14. The Turkish Post Office, site IV (1904 - 1908).
15. The Turkish Post Office, site V (1908 - 1917). This Post Office was used by the Mandate Postal Administration as the Main Post Office until 1935, when a new and much larger building, still operating as such today, was completed further up Jaffa Rd.
16. The Austrian Post Office, site II (1859 - 1896).
17. The Austrian Post Office, site III (1896 - 1908).
18. The Austrian Post Office, site IV (1908 - 1917). The sign of this post office, in German, was finally removed from the fascia of the building in 1974. It is now the Christian Information Office.
19. The German Post Office, site I (1900 - 1904).
20. The German Post Office, site II (1904 - 1905).
21. The German Post Office, site III (1905 - 1917).
22. The Italian Post Office.
23. Kaminitz Hotel
24. Notre Dame pilgrim Hostel
25. Casa Nove pilgrim Hostel

10. Sources

a. The first research worker in the field of the foreign post offices in Palestine was the late **H. Pollack**, who published the results in the **"Holy Land Philatelist"** which he edited and published. He was more interested in the postmarks, but provided enough information on the post offices themselves for the solid skeleton of knowledge on which later studies were based.

b. The major source of information concerning the postal affairs of the Ottoman administration in Palestine is, of course, **A. Steichele's and N. Collin's** monographs on the **Foreign Post Offices in Palestine** (in two volumes) followed recently by the third in the series, on the **Ottoman Posts in Palestine.** It is incredible that Steichele, working from a small town on the banks of the Rhine, managed to accumulate so much information not only on the postmarks (the prime purpose of the books) but on the postal administration as a whole. The wealth of information in these three books is amazing: detailed, pinpointing the various sites over time, and the names of the postmasters, all illustrated with photographs and examples of postmarked covers, mostly rare. Any researcher can only be grateful for this eminently pioneering work. The combination of Steichele and Collins, working initially together and subsequent to Steichele's death Collins on his own, have produced the finest record of Postal History of the Holy Land.

c. **Travel Guides**. With the increase in the number of tourists visiting the country a demand arose for travel guides. The first (by Murray of Edinburgh) appeared in 1862. But the dominant press for such guides was Baedecker, of Frankfurt. So successful were these detailed guides that new impressions appeared approximately once every five years. Each edition had been extensively up-dated and new maps drawn. The guide books themselves appeared initially in German, but the demand

was such that both English and French versions were published soon afterwards. The German versions are more reliable for up-to-date maps than the other versions, which often had out-of-date maps included in a new edition. It is, incidentally, extremely interesting to see how travelling styles and the demands of the tourist changed over the years through the revised editions.

Other guide books also appeared: the Guides Bleu (in French) and Meistermann (German) being the most prominent of the competitors. But their maps were much simpler, less detailed, and of far less use than the Baedecker editions.

d. Specific references:

1. Robinson: "Travels to Palestine", 1843 edition.
2. Aron: "The Forerunners to the Forerunners", HLPH pubs. 1988.
3. Pollack: "The Holy Land Philatelist" (Nos. 1 to 72)
4. Steichele and Collins: "The Foreign Post Offices of the Holy Land", 2 volumes.
5. Collins & Steichele: "The Ottoman Posts and Telegraphs in Palestine and Sinai"
6. Various Travel Guides, mainly Baedecker of different editions and languages: Murray, Meistermann, Guide Bleu and others.
7. C. Schiftan, HLPH 75-76 (1998), p. 529.

The two photocopies of the "schnorrer briewe" are courtesy of G. Muentz. Thanks are due to Norman Collins for the information concerning the "Suc. Poste Grand New Hotel" strike which has come to light very recently.

Whose Address is it Anyway?

Y. Rimon

Sometimes when I read the pages of our Bulletin overflowing with ideas, discoveries and information I have a feeling that we are taking ourselves and our hobby too seriously. A little bit of humor could always help in digesting the rest of the learned material, and give us a better perspective as to the relative importance of things and remind us that collecting postal history is first of all fun!

It is in this spirit that I suggest here the formation of a new section (subject) in our Bulletin which will be dedicated to the lighter side of Postal History. I would name it, "Whose Address is it Anyway?" Because many of the items suitable for this section are connected to a bizarre addressing of the letter.

However, sometimes it is the route of the letter which makes it interesting and sometimes the contents of a postcard or a letter are even more fun than the cover itself.

I have in my collection a small section of such items and I would like to share part of it with you in this article; I hope that our members who have suitable material for this section will share it with us in the future issues.

I open with a Mandate postcard (Fig. 48) mailed in Jerusalem on 13 Jan, 1939. The address is: "To any Stamp Collector in Canada (Montreal)". Probably at the last moment the sender decided that all of Canada is rather too big, and restricted his request to the Montreal region only. The contents of the postcard are a plea for
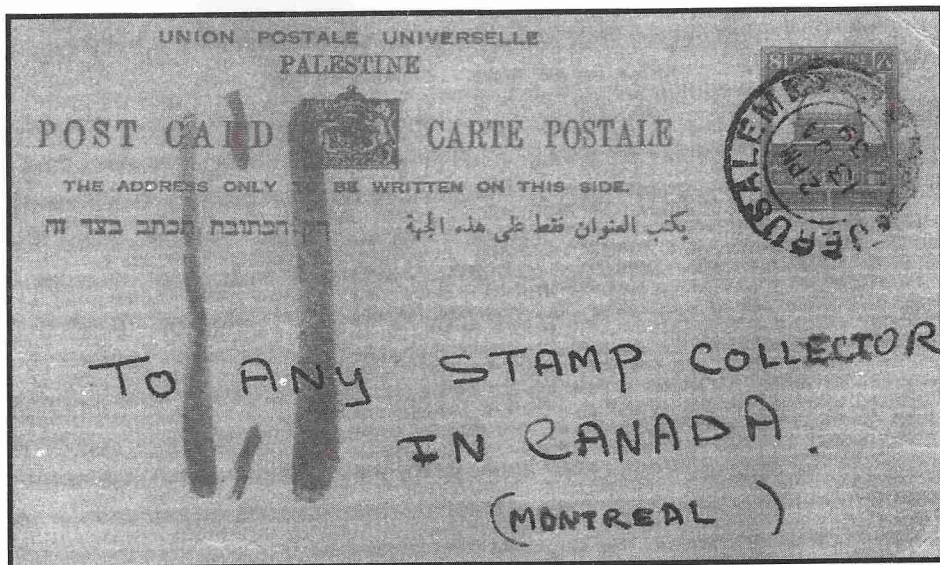
Figure 48

stamps of different countries of the world, and the sender was an Arab boy from Shefa-Amr, a village in the Lower Galilee, near Nazareth. Apparently the postcard did reach one of the stamp collectors in Canada since there are no marks of "return to sender" on the postcard. The 8 Mil rate was for Surface Mail, therefore the postcard was marked by two red bars to ensure that it was not sent by Air Mail.

The second item also has an unusual address. Mailed in Jerusalem on 9 Feb, 1933 (Fig. 49) it is addressed to: "Mr. Eliyahu Misrachi, seller of galanteriyah, near the shop of Ezra Cohen the tailor in the white market, opposite the shop of Mazliah the money changer / Tiberias." Despite this careful and detailed description the addressee was declared as "Unknown" in red manuscript on the back and in violet handstamp on the front and the letter was returned to sender on 18 Feb, 1933.

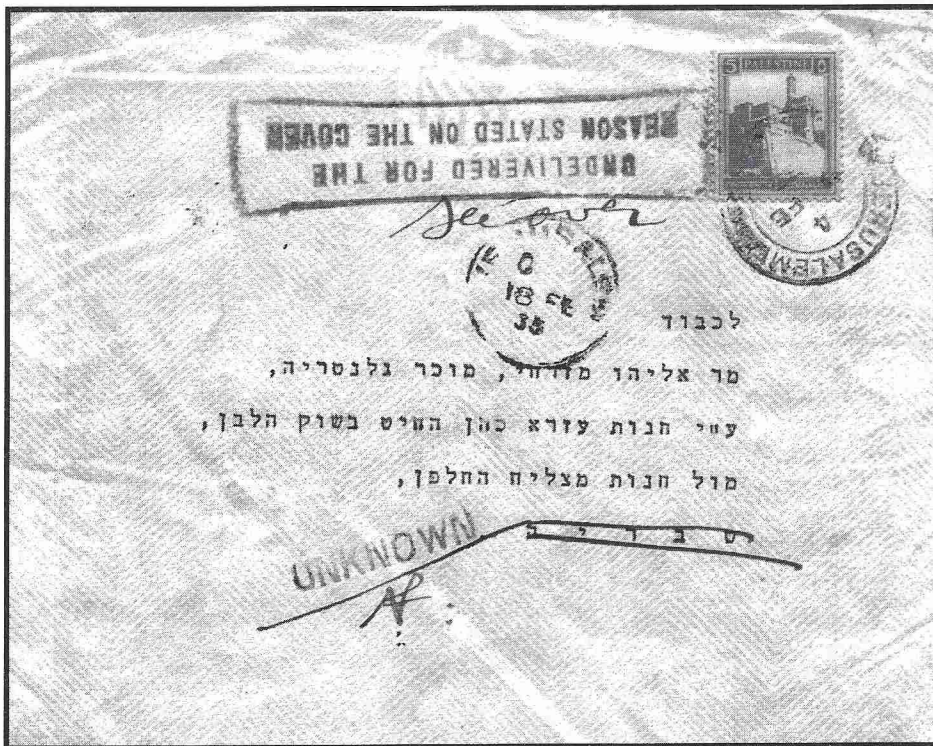The third and last item for this time has to do with the delivery process. It is an

Figure 49

official government registered letter from the "Chairmanship of the War Loan" in Tel Aviv (Fig. 50), mailed on 4 July, 1949 to an addressee in Jerusalem. The postman tried to deliver the letter but was unsuccessful and apparently frustrated, wrote on the back: **"He is in Tel Aviv and his wife refuses."** Consequently a return cachet was applied on the back with the reason of the return underlined in red, "Refused to accept" and on the front in red manuscript, "she refuses" and the letter

was returned to the sender on 6 July, 1949.

I hope that this little diversion from the really important items of business appeals to many readers and they will participate in this section in the future.

Figure 50

* *
*   *
* # SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES   *
*   *
* *

The Ottoman Period

Jerusalem Postal Agency "Grand New Hotel" * *(Norman J. Collins)*

A part cachet reading Suc. Poste Gran (Fig. 51) was previously assumed to read in full Suc. Poste Grande Rue. It is now known and proved by the cover shown below to read in full Suc. Poste Grand New Hotel (Fig. 52 and Front Cover). As the Merchants Market, which is listed as Souk-Ul-Tudjdjar in the 1909 and 1914 PTT Lists as having an office, was alongside the hotel, this must be that office but with the name of the office location (at the hotel) in the cachet.

Fig. 51: The part-postmark which was believed to be part of, "Suc. Poste Grande Rue/Jerusalem" (courtesy Coles & Walker).
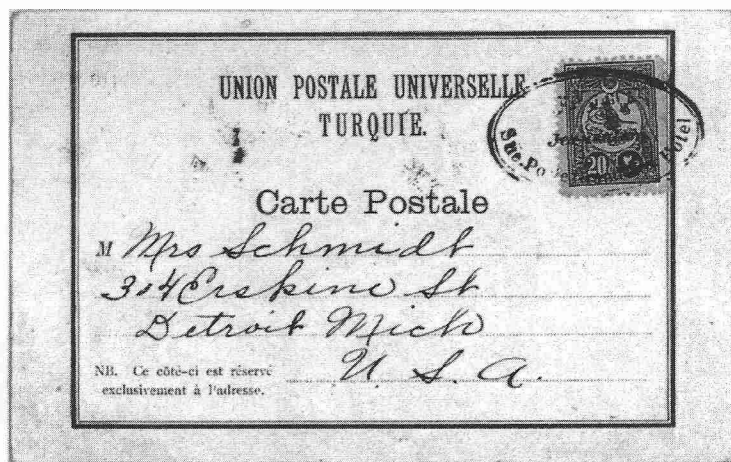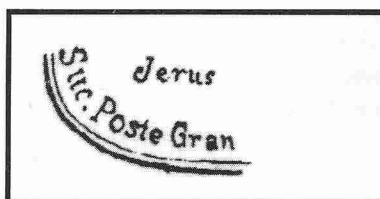
Fig. 52: The postcard from the Suc. Poste Grand New Hotel P.A. (courtesy I. Karpovsky).

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* Ed. Note: As this note by Norman Collins and the following note by G.H. Muentz were submitted simultaneously and independently to the editors, it was decided to print both of them, in spite of their being very similar to each other.

The Ottoman Postal Agency at the Grand New Hotel in Jerusalem

(George H. Muentz, Tel Aviv)

For decades, the only known part-postmark of this P.A. on a Turkish stamp adorned the collection of Otto Hornung (London). It has been recorded in the literature as the cancellation of "Suc. Poste Gran ...Jerus" and listed by Coles and Walker as "Jerusalem Grande Rue" (Fig. 51). There was some speculation regarding the full name and the location of the Agency. Many researchers thought that it was located somewhere along the Jaffa Road, the main street of Jerusalem.

Last year an undated picture postcard from Jerusalem to Detroit, USA with part of an arrival postmark on the back, was sold in an American auction sale (Fig. 52). The 20 para stamp tied by the oval postmark "Suc. Grand New Hotel/ Jerusalem", was issued in December 1909. That means that the postcard was mailed either at the end of 1909 or later. The postmark strongly resembles all other Ottoman Postal Agency cancellations from Jerusalem. According to Norman Collins the Souk-Ul-Tudjdjar (Merchants' Market) Post Office, recorded in the Ottoman PTT lists for 1909 and 1914, was located in the Grand New Hotel (Fig. 53).

This important discovery brings the number of known Ottoman Postal Agencies in Jerusalem to four: Suc. Mahne Yehuda, Suc. Notre Dame de France, Suc. Nahalat Shiva and Suc. Grand New Hotel.

Fig. 53: The Grand New Hotel, Jerusalem
(courtesy N. Collins / A. Steichele).

The British Mandate Period

An Additional Update on the Watermarks of the Blues

(J.D. Schwartz)

Re: "Watermark Varieties on Mandate Stamps" by G. H. Muentz which appeared in HLPH #79-80 (1999) p. 643 & #83-84 (2000) p. 147, I would like to report on items in my collection:
Classification (1) "Grown Missing in Watermark"

Bale #3

(1) Full sheet of Transfer G with the Crown Missing Watermark that appears on stamps #47 & #107 in the same sheet.
(2) Full sheet of   Transfer F   #57
(3) Block of 68   Transfer F   #23
(4) Block of 20   Transfer F   #119

I also checked my sheets of Bale #2 B18A Transfer D, Bale #3 C18 Transfer F (2 sheets), Transfer B, Transfer D and Bale #4 Transfer B and there are no (crown) Missing Watermarks in the eleventh row.

It should be pointed out that there must have been more than one Dandy Roll used to produce this watermark. My sheet of B18A shows a B2 mold watermark and I have sheets of C18 Transfer D and Transfer F with an A1 mold watermark. It is apparent that the "Crown Missing in Watermark" is to be found in all the positions of the eleventh row of the sheet. This indicates that the Dandy Roll did not match up to the printed sheet size. This is also evident by the different positions of the watermark POSTAGE that can be found in the right and left margins of the sheet and the different positions of the mold watermark A1 and B2.

Figure 54 is an illustration of the only known Bale #3 C18 control block of four with inverted watermark. There is only one sheet reported with this variety.
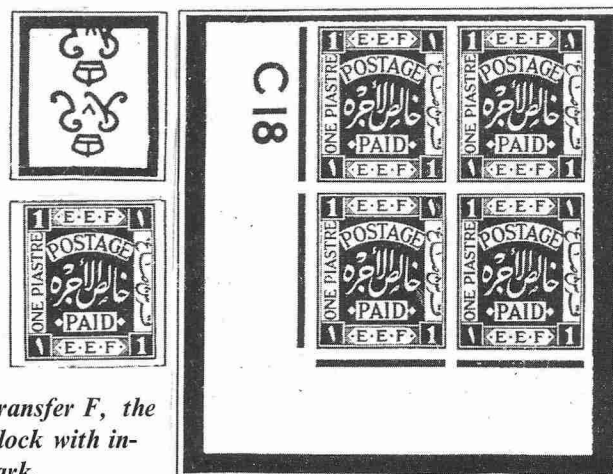

Fig. 54: Control C 18 - transfer F, the only recorded control block with inverted watermark.

Time Table of Mail Dispatch from Tel Aviv in 1933

(Shaul P. Ladany)

A casual glance at the November 1933 issue (Volume 5, No. 2) of the monthly official organ of the Tel-Aviv municipality, **Yedioth Iryath Tel-Aviv** (News of Tel-Aviv Municipality), revealed on (the unnumbered) page 46, the Time Table for the dispatch of letters from Tel-Aviv to foreign destinations. The information is included in a note on the 4th page of the journal (followed by numbered page 47) under the caption "For the Eyes of Citizens and Visitors / (useful information about Tel-Aviv)", and is illustrated in Fig. 55.

The English translation of the mail dispatch information follows:

Dispatch of Mail from Tel-Aviv Abroad

	Day	Hour
Dispatch of mail to Europe and America	Sunday	9 AM
is 3 times weekly as follows:	Wednesday	3 PM
	Friday	9 AM
Dispatch of Air-Mail		
To Europe	Tuesday	9 AM
	Friday	9 AM
To South America	idem	

[It is not clear whether it was dispatched only on Friday 9 AM, or also on Tuesday 9 AM]

to Baghdad and India	Tuesday	9 AM

משלוח הדואר מתל-אביב לחוץ-לארץ

השעה	היום	
יום ראשון 9 בבוקר	משלוח הדואר לאירופה ולאמריקה
יום רביעי 3 אחה"צ	הוא 3 פעמים בשבוע כדלקמן:
יום ששי 9 בבוקר	
	משלוח הדואר האוירי:
יום שלישי 9 בבוקר	לאירופה
יום ששי כנ"ל	
כנ"ל	לדרום אפריקה
יום שלישי 9 בבוקר	לבגדד ולהודו

Figure 55

The Transition Period

Fake or Postal History? *(Zvi Shimony)*

How many times have we heard the remark, while looking carefully at an interesting cover: "Ah, this was sent by (or addressed to) ... (a well known philatelist or stamp dealer), you should better ignore it!" And indeed most high rank philatelists prefer not to include such covers in their collections and especially not in their exhibits, because they know that the jurors do not approve them and may even reduce the evaluation of the whole exhibit. Such a cover is considered "philatelic" (in contrast to a "commercial" cover) and generally downgrades the collection.

The question now arises, are not we, philatelists, human beings who are entitled to send or to receive letters like anybody else? And then, why such a letter (or any other postal item) cannot be considered an equally legitimate postal history item like any other ordinary mail which was carried by the post? One would say that if, for example, I had sent a letter to my granny inquiring about her health, the cover of the letter would be considered a "good" postal history item in spite of my being a philatelist, but then how could one know what I had written in my letter and who is the addressee.

In fact most of us, I believe (and I hereby confess that I have done it more than once), have sent mail to ourselves or to an intentional wrong address just to obtain an example of an interesting handstamp or to have a certain stamp postally cancelled, etc...Such an entire would, on first glimpse, be considered less "commercial" than the granny's letter, but in my opinion it should not be so! Furthermore, there are some cases in postal history where important postal facts would not have been documented if some philatelists had not so acted. For instance, Minhelet Ha'am registered letters from Gevat (only 3 known) are all of this nature.

But there is another side to this matter, which brings us to the main issue of this note. In the above discussion we dealt with philatelists' mail which was legitimate under all the post office regulations and could in fact be "produced" by any non-philatelist as well - we back up the opinion that such mail items should be considered "good" postal history no matter who was their originator. But unfortunately we have seen quite a few entires (offered for sale in auctions and elsewhere) produced by philatelists or stamp dealers, which do not fulfill these criteria - such items do not document postal history proper, they twist it and are therefore fakes which should be avoided by any serious collector. To make this point clear, let me show and discuss the following cover, which was sold in a recent auction (Fig. 56).

The outright description of the cover is so: The sender underfranked it with 6 mils (two 3 mil Doar Ivri stamps), therefore was required to pay the missing 4 mils, as per the handwritten "T mil 4" on the top left, and the Doar Ivri stamps were cancelled by the trilingual "Jerusalem 2" handstamp of 19 August, 1948. By

Fig. 56: A unique Jerusalem cover or a fake?

regulation it should have been taxed 8 mils (double the missing frankature), but it is known that in this period (of war and emergency) sometimes the fine was not demanded but only the missing frankature. Not having stamps of 4 mils, the tax was collected by a 5 mil Jerusalem Stamp of the 2nd Issue, cancelled by a trilingual handstamp of 22 August.

As far as we know, this cover is unique having a Jerusalem M.H. stamp used as a postage due! But why would the postal clerk use a local Jerusalem stamp in August, when the Jerusalem post office already got the Doar Ivri stamps in June and it was supposed to use them? Only the public was allowed in some cases to use the Jerusalem stamps if someone had still possessed them.

So the cover was suspicious and I started to check it more thoroughly. The "To pay" indicator being in different script than any of those which I have seen in Jerusalem in that period, I became even more suspicious and I tried to find a clue in the address and mainly in the addressee's name. This was not easy to read but after some trials I found that it is "Her Otto Schwarz". In the beginning this name did not give me any clue, but when I descried the cover to a veteran friend-philatelist he immediately smiled, saying: "Don't you know that Otto Schwarz was a known philatelist and stamp dealer in those years in Jerusalem?" This knowledge then seems enough to uncover the mystery of the cover - only a philatelist may think, and know to engineer such a complicated arrangement of a cover, and many philatelists (and especially stamp dealers) have friends working in one post-office or another, who will do for them a small favour and cancel a cover when asked to, not noticing in most cases that the stamp scheme is illegitimate or at least "impossible".

The line between a legitimate postal history item and a faked one may be very narrow indeed, especially when the item was prepared by a philatelist, but this should not make every such item automatically non-kosher, only we ought to be much more careful when acquiring such items. And more important, an advice to ourselves on the other side of the fence: Let us be careful if and when we "prepare" a postal item, that it be fully legitimate and so that it might have been originated from any other non-philatelist person.

The State of Israel

The Origin of the Israeli Post Running Stag Emblem *(Zvi Alexander)*

I invited several of my close friends to the opening ceremony of the Jewish Colonies Postal History Exhibition in Ramat Aviv "Ha'aretz Museum" in Summer 2001. Fifty items from my collection of Jewish Colonies, plus additional items from Yosi Hakhmi's and Itamar Karpovsky's collections were displayed in the Postal Museum, in a very impressive setting.

One of my invitees was a very dear old friend of mine, since the War of Independence in 1948, Major Ja'acov Gur-Ze'ev, who later became the Commander of the Israeli Army Postal Services. Where we were sitting at the ceremony, listening to the speeches, there were, all around us, big pictures of the Running Stag - the emblem of the Israeli Postal Services. Gur-Ze'ev looked at one of them and said: "Let me tell you an interesting story of how this emblem was born."

In 1948 Gur-Ze'ev was a junior in the Army Postal Services. One day, the Commander of the Army Postal Services, Major Eliezer Shenker (who later changed his name to Matanya), told him: "We must have an emblem for our service. Why don't you think about it overnight and come back tomorrow with a proposal."

Many thoughts went through Gur-Ze'ev 's head on his way home. He was thinking what he was going to propose. He was thinking of an eagle with its speed and grace, or a pigeon which was used to carry messages, or a trumpet and many other interesting ideas. When he came home his wife was laying out playing-cards on the table for a game of "patience". On the back of the cards was a picture of a Running Stag. He told his wife about his assignment, and she said: "Why don't you suggest the picture on the back of my cards - a Running Stag, to be the emblem of the Army Post?" The picture of the stag was very nice and he enthusiastically accepted his wife's suggestion. He brought the cards next day to show his Commander. It was immediately accepted and this is how the emblem of the Israeli Army Postal Service was born.

Gur (this is how I used to call him), brought me the day after the ceremony a shoulder tag of the soldiers of the Israeli Army Post, which obviously was the Running Stag (see Back Cover). "I have kept it for the last fifty years, and here it is before you," he said.

The Israeli Post liked this emblem very much and soon adopted it as well.

The 1948 10 Mil Postage Due - A 2nd Printing *(Y. Tsachor, Tel Aviv)*

Frequently, I am asked by collectors if the 1948 1st Postage Due (P.D.) 10 mil (Sc #J3, Bale #PD3) with the "Short Tab" is genuine. The purpose of this article is to explain how this "Short Tab" (or difference in height from the usual) occurred.

Israel's 1st P.D. set of five, 3-50 mils (Scott #J1/5, Bale #PD1/5) was issued at the end of May 1948. The stamps were printed from the original Doar Ivri plates for the 3,5,10,20 & 50 mil denominations on yellowish paper, and were overprinted דמי דאר" (Postage Due). The "Tabs" are blank. The whole set was printed from Plate 1, and an additional "1" in a black triangle (for Plate 1 of the overprint) was added alongside the original Plate 1 triangle (Fig. 57).

***Fig. 57: The Doar Ivri P.D. set of five, 3-50 mils including the 10 mil "Long Tab"
type and the 10 mil Plate Block of the 1st Printing.***

The earliest recorded date of use is 28 May, 1948 in Hertzliya and Ramat Gan. Then on 30 May in Tel Aviv and finally on 1 June in the Northern regions including Haifa and Tiberias.

The issue was 100,000 of each of the 5 denominations. This is verified by the invoice sent by the Ha'aretz Press in Tel Aviv on 27.5.1948 to the Jewish Agency and is specified for each denomination[1]. As each sheet consists of 100 stamps, a thousand sheets of each denomination was delivered to the Postal Authorities.

In recent years I have checked dozens of Plate Blocks of this set and all denominations were found to have serial numbers between 0001-1100 appx.*

The top numbers are above 1000 as part of the printing was generally not suitable for use and considered to be Printer's Waste. This was relatively common in those days. Years ago I noticed a different type of the 10 mil Plate Block. It had a higher serial number, made of 5 digits, and a larger top margin. As all catalogues mention only a single printing for this issue, collectors did not pay attention to the existence of this 2nd type Plate Block.

Amongst many of the 10 mil Plate Blocks which I have checked, ten were of this type having CD (Control Distance) = 14 3/4 mms and a Margin Length (between the top stamps and the edge of the top margin) of 22 mms versus 12 mms and 15 1/2 mms respectively in the regular Plate Blocks. As the overall sheet size in the Doar Ivri Plate 1 printing was always the same, I presumed that sheets from the "2nd printing" with wider top margins, would have shorter bottom tabs. This indeed was finally verified last year when I was shown a complete sheet of the 10 mils, serial No. 01561, which had the "Short Tab" type (Fig. 58). (I had personally checked the complete sheet before it was split by the owner).

The following table summarizes the known information for the two different printings:

Feature	1st Printing	2nd Printing
Serial Numbers	0001-1106	01321-01776
CD (Control Distance)	12	14 3/4
ML (Top Margin Length)	15 1/2	22
TL (Tab Length)**	28	21

The 10 mil P.D. was the most requested stamp of the issue. As the domestic letter rate changed on 1.10.1948 from 10 mils to 15 mils, we find P.D. stamps of 10 mils on large number of covers. Many people continued franking the letters with 10 mils - the long standing domestic rate since April 1941, and such mail was taxed twice the deficiency or 10 mil P.D. The postal employees used the 10 mil Postage Due (the stamp in question) until their supplies of this denomination were exhausted which occurred before the other four denominations were exhausted. This was, probably, the main reason for the necessity of the 2nd printing.

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* The 50 mils is known with #1827 imperforate.

** The difference between the Tab Lengths (7 mms appx.) is actually the difference between the Top Margin Lengths.

I would like to thank Marvin Siegel for his help in compiling this article.

References: (1) The Holyland Philatelist (THLP) #2, (Dec. 1954), P. 16.

Fig. 58: Plate Block #01561 of the 2nd Printing and the corresponding "Short Tab" Block from the same sheet.

* *

GENERAL NEWS

* *

New Stamps

The following new stamps were issued in the last period of about a year.

13.02.01: The Hebrew Alphabet - 28 different stamps in three separate sheets: one regular sheet (IS 1.00 each stamp) and two special sheets one of 22 different stamps se-tenant (Ag 10 each with different Hebrew letters) and the other of 2 rows of 5 different stamps se-tenant (Ag 10 each with one of the end-of-the word Hebrew letters; (Fig. 60)); Ilaniyya (Segera) - part of the Buildings and Historic Sites series (IS 3.40); Centenary of Yavne'el (IS 2.50), Menahamiya (4.70) and Kefar Tavor (5.90).

18.03.01: Wild animals in Israel - Lesser Kestrel (IS 1.20), Kurhls Pipistielle (1.70), Roe Deer (2.10), Greek Tortoise (2.50), A stamp booklet was also issued with one pane of the animals se-tenant stamps (each stamp twice); Flowers - Gerbera, Calla Orinithogalum, Lisianthus (IS 1.20 each) issued as a special sheet of 16 of these stamps se-tenant and with additional flower labels as gutters. This issue coincided with the International Stamp Exhibition "Jerusalem 2001" during which it was possible for every visitor to "print" his

Figure 60

personal stamp (actually a se-tenant label) by being photographed by the Philatelic Service digital camera and after about an hour he would obtain a sheet of stamps like the flower sheet but with his personal photo replacing sixteen of the flower gutter labels (Fig. 61, half of the sheet).

A souvenir sheet depicting a "Bezalel" ceramics by Ze'ev Raban was issued in honour of the "Jerusalem 2001" exhibition (IS 10.-) and a CPL (Computerized Postage Label) of special commemorative design (Fig. 62) could be acquired in

Figure. 61

the exhibition P. S. desk ("cancelled" by each of the five day-slogans of the exhibition.).

18.04.01: Memorial Day 2001 - The Monument for the Fallen Nahal soldiers (IS 1.20).

23.05.01: The Shrine of the Bàb in the Haifa Bahài Gardens (IS 3.-); The Karaite Jews (IS 5.60); Sha'ar Hagay - part of the Building and Historic Sites series (IS 2.-), The diamond industry in Israel - a souvenir sheet dedicated to the "Belgica 2001" World Stamp Exhibition (IS 10.-).

17.07.01: Children paint dreams - a souvenir sheet dedicated to the "Philanippon 2001" World Stamp Exhibition (IS 10.-); "Bezalel" ceramics - Hebron (IS 1.20), Jaffa (1.40), Haifa (1.90), Tiberias (2.30); Youth Movements in Israel (IS 5.60).

3.09.01: Festival 2001 (תשס"יב) - Jewish "New Year" cards (IS 1.20, 1.90, 2.30); Shota

Rustaveli - a joint issue Israel - Georgia (IS 3.40); Keren Kayemeth Leisrael (The Jewish National Fund) centenary (IS 5.60); Yehuda Amichai (Israeli Poet. IS 5.60).
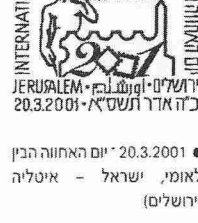
Fig. 62: The special CPL for "Jerusalem 2001" depicting a woodcut from the 1609 Venetian Passover Hagada featuring the prophet Eliah leading the Mesiah on a white donkey into Jerusalem.

New Special Cancellations

This section is reprinted here courtesy of "Shovel", Israel Philatelic Federation Magazine.

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 slogen itself.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY
ISRAEL-ARGENTINA
JERUSALEM
20.3.2001

• 20.3.2001 יום האחווה
הבינלאומי, ישראל-ארגנטינה
(ירושלים)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY
ISRAEL-SPAIN
JERUSALEM
20.3.2001

• 20.3.2001 יום האחווה הבין
לאומי, ישראל ספרד (ירושלים)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY
ISRAEL-GERMANY
JERUSALEM
20.3.2001

• 20.3.2001 יום האחווה הבין
לאומי, ישראל – גרמניה
(ירושלים)

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS DAY
JERUSALEM
21.3.2001

• 21.3.2001 יום "דבר אלי
בפרחים" (ירושלים)

YOUTH DAY
JERUSALEM
22.3.2001

• 22.3.2001 יום הנוער
(ירושלים)

Flowers
18.3.2001

• 18.3.2001 פרחים
(ירושלים) יום הופעה, גיליון
הבול שלי

חותמות תערוכת ירושלים
2001 – חותמות אירוע

ISRAEL POSTAL AUTHORITY DAY OPENING DAY
JERUSALEM
18.3.2001

• 18.3.2001 יום הפתיחה יום
רשות הדואר, תערוכה
(ירושלים)

JERUSALEM DAY
JERUSALEM
19.3.2001

• 19.3.2001 יום ירושלים
(ירושלים)

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY
ISRAEL-ITALY
JERUSALEM
20.3.2001

• 20.3.2001 יום האחווה הבין
לאומי, ישראל – איטליה
(ירושלים)

KEFAR-TAVOR CENTENARY
13.2.2001

• 13.2.2001 100 שנה לכפר
תבור (כפר תבור) יום הופעה

MENAHAMIYA CENTENARY
13.2.2001

• 13.2.2001 100 שנה
למנחמיה (מנחמיה) יום הופעה

BUILDINGS & HISTORIC SITES
ILANIYYA HAGALIL HATAHTON
13.2.2001

• 13.2.2001 מבנים ואתרים
היסטוריים-אילניה (ד"נ הגליל
התחתון) יום הופעה

Wild Animals in Israel

• 18.3.2001 חיות בר בישראל
(ירושלים) יום הופעה

2001

• 18.3.2001 תערוכת בולים
בין לאומית ירושלים 2001
(ירושלים) יום הופעה

CHRISTMAS NOEL
NAZARETH
24.12.2000

• 24.12.2000 כ"ז כסלו תשס"א

PHILATELIC CONFERENCE TEL-AVIV
26.12.2000

• 26.12.2000 הכנס ה-14 של
בולאי ישראל (תל אביב-יפו).

YOQNEAM
26.12.2000

• 26.12.2000 50 שנה
ליקנעם עילית (יקנעם עילית)

THE HEBREW ALPHABET
JERUSALEM
13.2.2001

• 13.2.2001 אותיות האלף
בית (ירושלים) יום הופעה

YAVNEEL CENTENARY
13.2.2001

• 13.2.2001 100 שנה
ליבנאל (יבנאל) יום הופעה

2/7/01 העצרת הממלכתית לציון 25 שנה למיבצע יונתן (ירושלים)

3/7/01 השקת קרונות דו-קומותיים ברכבת ישראל (תל אביב-יפו)

17/7/01 חותמת הופעה תנועות הנוער (ת"א -יפו)

17/7/01 חותמת הופעת גלויות תערוכת בולים, עולמית – **יפן** 2001 (ירושלים)

17.7.01 חותמת הופעת בולי קרמיקה **בצלאל** (ת"א-יפו)

16.7.01 -טקס פתיחת המכביה ה–16 (ירושלים)

5/6/01 יום הזיכרון לחללי הנח"ל, התשס"א (פרדס חנה כרכור)

7/6/01 - יובל לעליית יהודי עירק (ירושלים)

8/6/01 - חותמת מכונה הופעלה בבתי המיון בת"א, מוקדשת להתנדבות (ת"א-יפו)

12/6/01 -שנת היובל לאור עקיבא (אור-עקיבא)

19/6/01 - הכנס השנתי של מגדלי צמחי נוי (תל אביב- יפו)

21/6/01 - תערוכת הבולים קריית גת 2001 (קרית גת)

17/5/2001 -חותמת אירוע לציון יום התקשורת העולמי (אור עקיבא)

23/5/01 חותמת הופעה אתרים היסטורים - שער הגיא (בית-שמש)
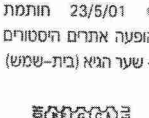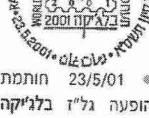
23/5/01 חותמת הופעה גל"ז בלגיקה 2001 (רמת-גן)

23/5/01 חותמת הופעה היהודים הקראים (אשדוד)

23/5/01 חותמת הופעה מול גני הבאב (חיפה)

18/3/2001 -חותמת ההופעה גל"ז ירושלים 2001 (ירושלים).

18/03/01 חותמת פרסומית תערוכת ירושלים 2001.

18/04/01 חותמת הופעה יום הזיכרון לחללי מערכת ישראל (פרדס חנה - כרכור)

3/5/01 - חותמת חדשה הופעלה בבתי המיון, בכותרת **שבע** האימות הלאומי.

13/5/01 מכבי תל אביב אלופת אירופה בכדורסל (תל-אביב)

Major New Type of Juara NIS 1.20 Stamp *(Josef Wallach, Rehovot)*

Introduction

The State of Israel's 50th anniversary was also the anniversary of the first set of Israeli stamps, the classic Doar Ivri issue. In honor of this Jubilee, Israel issued the SRULIK stamp (Sc. 1320, Mi. 1447) in 1997. Surprisingly, later printings of this non-denominated stamp yielded a crop of different major stamp types, unprecedented since the 1948 Doar Ivri stamps. It was no longer a differentiation only by perforation and phosphor tagging; but also the employing of different printing methods as shown in the following table:

Ser. Nr.	Bale Nrs.	Stamp Format	Perforation	Phosphor Tagging	Printing	Printing Method
1	1004a	large	14:14	Right	1st	offset
2	1004b	large	14:14	Left	1st	offset
3	1004c	large	13:14	Right	S/S	stp in s/s of prestige booklet
4	1004d	small	14:14	Right	2nd	offset
5	1004e	small	13:14	Right	3rd	photogravure

The trend did not end with the "Srulik" stamp, and other Definitives appeared with major varieties (e.g. the Horse Rider, Rowing). The latest one added to this list is the NIS 1.20 "Juara" stamp. This stamp, which appeared on 25 July, 2000, was innovative. It was printed by the London Questa firm, with a large vertical oval perforation centering on both sides of the stamp. This is a security measure against forgeries. Another new feature is that the stamps are phosphorescent, i.e. coated with phosphor all over, in comparison with the phosphor-bar system used in Israel.

The innovative features of this stamp continued to be displayed by the second printing which appeared this year. All the stamps of the new printing have a larger format of the inscription ("Israel" in Hebrew, English, Arabic and " ש״ח 1.20") and a different perforation gauge (Fig. 63). The picture part shows almost no changes. Consequently, one should refer to the two varieties as follows:

Printing Date	Format	Perf.	Plate Block Inscription
1st print 03/07/2000	'small'	14:14	small, vertical in blue
2nd print 28/03/01	'large'	14 1/2 :14 1/2	large, all black

There is also a major difference in the marginal inscription on the plate blocks (Fig. 64):

1st print - small figures, vertical pl. blk Nr. 361 and stag in blue;
2nd print - large figures, vertical pl. blk Nr. 361 and stag in black.

The easiest way to distinguish between the two types is by examining the distance between the vertical "Israel" and the denomination "1.20" on the left bottom corner. Since the letters and figures are larger in the second printing, the

distance between them is shorter! (1.5 mm compared to 2.5 mm). The new variety adds to the interest in this special stamp, reminding us of the "Srulik" stamp with its "large" and later "smaller" formats.

I would like to thank Mr. Y. Popovitch for his help in writing this article.
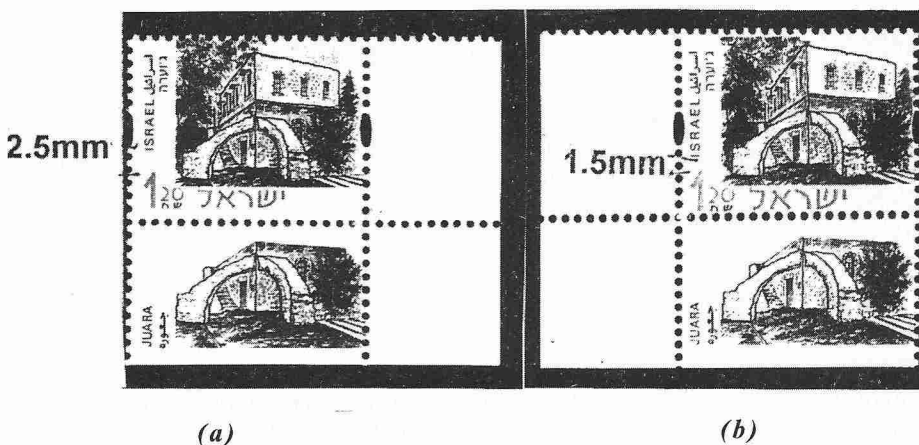

Fig. 63: The two printings of the Juara stamp - (a) 1st printing (small inscription), (b) 2nd printing (larger inscription).

Fig. 64: The Juara plate blocks of the two printings.

Book Reviews

The Stamps & Postal Stationery of Palestine Mandate by David Dorfman;

Bale Palestine - The Stamps & Postal History - 2002 (Revised 9th Edition, published by Chariot Global Marketing).

Recent years have seen some excellent additions to our Holyland Philatelic Reference Libraries with the publication of such works as Morginstin's Israel's Stationery, Chafetz' Israel's Dateless Cancellations, Bale's Forerunners and Collins & Steichele's Volume III. Now, two more recently published works have to be added to the list. Coincidentally, this reviewer read both works at the same time as they were published almost simultaneously and the contents of both cover identical subjects; basically the stamps and postal stationery of the Palestine Mandate (including revenues). Both are well produced and are worthy successors to Michael Bale catalogs (the last of which was published in 1996). Each one of these two possesses several features superior to the other and these are herein discussed.

Dorfman Catalog: It includes the "Blues" and Typographed Plate Diagrams (as published by the WPC) as well as Nixon's Jerusalem II overprint varieties last seen in BAPIP, as well as charts of the London II overprint varieties. His introductions to all of the issues are excellent. We like his new list of characteristics of the Narrow Setting Issues as well as his expansion of the London I overprint flaws. His pictorial coil section is extremely well done as is his list of IRCs. However, this last inclusion needs more illustrations.

His listing of the Embossed Revenues is a valiant first attempt. However, we found his listings of **specimens** after the issued stamps themselves awkward. Most important in our view is that his lumping without individual listings of such things as major plate varieties and assigning a blanket plus percentage **per family** for these is quite faulty and doesn't reflect all true values or their rarity. For example, he evaluates all Jerusalem I Major Plate Varieties as identified for the Typographed Issue as simply +400%.

Chariot's Bale: Control Blocks have been included in the sections of their "families" and not in an amalgamated separate section for all of these. The work begins nicely with two useful tables: (a) A simplified catalog, and (b) Overprinted Stamps by Catalog Numbers as well as an important illustrated key for identifying the Palestine overprints. Bale's system and previously printed diagrams are again reproduced. Particularly important here are his listings by families of Plate and Perforation Varieties. His illustrations of the London I Overprint Types is a welcome addition as is his excellent coverage of London II Plate Blocks. Also, we found his values for the rare stamps more accurate than Dorfman's as per recent auction results. A glaring misprint is the extra zero in P2's valuation (page 7). His lumping of the Provisional Registered Entires into two groups (small - 6 different, and large - 7 different) should be corrected with individual descriptions and illustrations in future issues. Frankly, this reviewer found some of the pages "too busy" with too many horizontal lines between

individual listings as well as too many illustrations of covers just to fill out pages.

Many of these illustrations were either misplaced or had no relation to the listings on the same page on which they were shown. His actual illustrations of the Mandate Revenues are preferred to Dorfman's diagrams. Particularly pleasing were some "firsts" included by Chariot as follows: (a) A very useful series of Rate Tables by periods (e.g., London Overprints Period) with the various rates on cover evaluated - Indeed a remarkable if not courageous piece of work and a great "first" for this catalog; (b) A short list of important dates of EEF Occupations of various localities in Palestine; (c) A handy list of SZ (EEF Military) postmark locations; and (d) A useful list with some valuations of various postal forms (Receipts, Telegram Stationery, Money Transfer Forms, etc.). Jacques Kauffman and Yoel Slutzky are to be congratulated for their excellent work as the "experts" for Chariot.

Conclusion: Both of these are fine works indeed and either will serve our collectors extremely well. Frankly, an ideal, if not logical, end product could have been produced by combining the best features of each of the two works. Having worked so many years with Bale's Mandate Catalogs and thus accustomed to his systems, listings, arrangements, diagrams, etc., this writer prefers Chariot's Bale catalog.

(Marvin Siegel)

The Ottoman Field Post Offices, Palestine (1914-1918) by Zvi Alexander, with a translation by Kemal Giray and Jeff Ertughrul [Published by OPAL and The Holy Land Philatelic Society, with sponsorship from The History Foundation of Turkey. Bilingual text in Turkish and English. Obtainable from Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX, and priced at twenty five pounds sterling plus postage overseas (three pounds in England)].

Zvi Alexander is well known in the field of Holy Land Philately for his outstanding collections for which he has won many prizes in most exhibitions in the world. In the field of the Forerunners of Holy Land philately he is one of the premier collectors, giving other collectors and interested philatelists an enormous amount of pleasure at the quality of his items.

Some years ago Alexander became interested in the subject of Turkish Field Post Offices which operated in Palestine at the time of World War One. Whilst a tremendous amount of information is known of the British field post offices, the Turkish side was an unknown ware, except for a few examples published in the well known speciality catalogues of that time. Nothing was known of the troop and division movements, and very little documentation had come to light. In the course of time Alexander began to accumulate a fascinating collection of these covers, and at the same time with exceptional perseverance managed to dig out official documents which gave him the background to the covers he had obtained. The result is shown in this book. It is, in effect, a catalogue of his collection but is also more than that. For the first time we have a well-documented and illustrated history of the Turkish troop movements for the period lasting from the beginning of

the war until 1918 when the last Turkish troops left Palestine. It is breathtaking to see how many covers he has managed to collect, many of them unique or one of only two or three known. Together with the short introduction we have a clear picture of what happened during those few years.

The book is printed in full colour, which helps making the book itself more attractive. Some of the covers are not all that clear and there are some minor misprints, but none of this detracts from the importance of this outstanding book and what it depicts.

The book not only appeals to those who collect Army Field Post Offices of all of the different armies and postal authorities but also to collectors of Turkish Postal History, and for those interested in Holy Land Philately - a bright light shining on what was considered to be a niche area.

The two sponsoring societies and the author are to be highly commended for this outstanding book.

(E. Glassman)

Members' Free Advertisements

Society of Israel Philatelists (U.S.A.). For membership information see website www.israelstamps.com or Mr. Gary Theodore, P.O. Box 3025, Long Branch, NJ 07740, U.S.A., e-mail JERSEYOWL@aol.com

תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

SOCIETY OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL

★   ★   ★

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות
הדואר של ארץ-ישראל

המקור של סמל "הצבי הרץ" של דואר ישראל: תג הכתף של יחידת הדואר הצבאי ב-1948.
The origin of the Israeli Post Running Stag emblem:
The shoulder tag of the Israeli Army Post unit in 1948
(See article on p. 302)