

Holy Land Postal History

V
91-92

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



צד התמונה של גלוית מזכרת מ-31 באוקטובר, 1898, שנשלחה ב-3 בנובמבר מירושלים לאמברג,
גרמניה, לכבוד ביקור שליט גרמניה הקיסר פרידריך וילהלם פון הוהנצולרן בארץ הקודש.

Picture side of an October 31, 1898 (mailed on November 3) Jerusalem to Amberg souvenir card
commemorating Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm Albrecht von Hohenzollern, the Emperor of Germany,
trip to the Holy Land

(The front of the card is shown on the Back Cover. See article on p. 400)

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2002

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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The General Meeting of the Society

Reported by Yereimiyahu Rimon

On October 17, 2002, the general meeting of the Society was convened in Tel Aviv. The agenda consisted of the following items:

- (A) - Report of the outgoing Committee.
- (B) - Approval of the financial reports.
- (C) - Election of a new Board (Committee).
- (D) - General discussion.

(A) - The chairman reported that the Society faced several difficulties in the past few years, some of them are of general and objective nature and some of particular personal nature. The most serious one is the decline of philately and other collectible hobbies among the new generation. As a result we are facing a steady slow decline in membership and the lack of new younger and more vigorous forces in our field of interest. This and the fact that in the last decades we have been engaged in a very active and comprehensive research in the Postal History of the Holy Land, may have reduced the new discoveries and new subjects to write about. As a result there is a growing difficulty to maintain the high standard of our Bulletin.

On the personal side, we are missing greatly our treasurer Mordechay Sondak Z. L. who passed away in July 2000 and left a big gap. Fortunately we were able to find a replacement. Beni Kaliner from Jerusalem agreed to take the burden on himself and he was the acting treasurer until this assembly.

Our editor, Zvi Shimony, had some health problems in the last years and we are happy to report that he has greatly improved and is fully active in the editing of the HLPH Bulletin and the writing of the book on the 1948 transition period in besieged and disturbed places (together with the authors I. Karpovsky and Y. Rimon).

(B) - Due to the death of M. Sondak a lot of the documents relating to the years 1999 and 2000 were lost, and it is very difficult to prepare a financial report for these years. We are trying to obtain the bank documents of these years and restore as much as possible the financial activity. The 2001 activity is almost fully documented but still some bank transactions were not clear, and copies were ordered; therefore, the 2001 report will be completed in the very near future.

Beni Kaliner reported that the balance of the Society today is about NIS 100.000.-, a reserve which will be enough to publish about 5 issues of the Bulletin. But some of our supporters in the past withdrew for one reason or another and this may jeopardise the Society financial standing in the near future!

(C) - After serving as a chairman for several years, Y. Rimon thought that it was time to run some fresh blood into the system and we are very glad that Edi Leibu agreed to serve as the new chairman of the Society. Edi is one of the foremost postal historians in Israel, he is an international juror and has excellent connections with the international community of postal historians, therefore it is very reasonable to expect that under his leadership the Society will be active and will flourish. We wish him good luck and success in this hard task.

The Board also suggested the creation of a new function which was until now part of the chairman responsibility - A Co-ordinator of the cultural activity in the

Society. He will be responsible for organizing meetings, lectures and other cultural activities for the Society members. Joseph Wallach, who has been active in this function, encompassing a broad range of subjects of philately, agreed to undertake this task pending the cooperation of other members of the Board. We hope thus to renew and invigorate this important activity in the Society.

The assembly voted for a new Committee consisting of:

Chairman - Dr. E. Leib; Vice Chairman - Dr. Z. Shimony; Secretary - Z. Aloni; Treasurer - B. Kaliner; Cultural Co-ordinator - Dr. J. Wallach; Dr. Y. Rimon; Y. Shabtai; M. Siegel; Y. Tsachor.

Control Committee: Mr. I. Karpovsky; Mr. M. Marco; Miss A. Shapira.

(D) - In view of the decline in new discoveries and subjects it was suggested that more review articles which collect and update all known information accumulated in previous years on a certain subject be encouraged for publishing in our Bulletin. It was also stressed that on the other side of the spectrum short articles describing a certain interesting item or some new findings are very wellcome. Such articles do not place a heavy burden on the writer and can enlarge considerably the circle of participating writers.

The Assembly agreed upon creating a special medal and citation by the Society to those who contributed significantly to our field. Ya'acov Tsachor will submit to the Board a suggested procedure and criterions for electing the recipients of this honor.

Lastly the assembly decided not to change the membership fee and it remains \$18 per annum.

(Y. Rimon, the outgoing chairman)

The HLPHS Committee wishes all our members a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year, with a lot of interesting findings!

Happy new year



Postal History of the Kaiser's Visit to the Holy Land

Ralph Perry

1. Historical Background

In October 1898, His Royal Highness the emperor of Germany, Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albrecht von Hohenzollern, embarked on a trip to the Middle East.

One of his objectives was to cement the existing German-Ottoman commercial and military relations, e.g., the expanding of the so called Berlin to Baghdad railroad, then being built by German companies, and possibly to increase the advisory role of the German military to the Turkish army. The latter paid off, sixteen years later, when Turkey entered WWI on the side of Germany.

All this, of course, was being done at the expense of Britain (ruled by the Kaiser's grandmother Queen Victoria) and Russia (ruled by Kaiser's cousin Czar Nicholas II).

To obscure the above, the trip was advertised as pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to dedicate the newly built Church of the Redeemer (Die Erlöser Kirche) in Jerusalem, a new church built by contributions of Germany's Protestant community (Figs. 13,35).

This trip was the first visit by a German Kaiser to the Holy Land in 670 years. Nevertheless, history books about Wilhelm II hardly dedicate more than a few paragraphs to this event and error of dates and places abound. There existed however, two eye witnesses to the trip, who reported on these events: David Yellin, of Jerusalem and a French newsman, Georges Gaulis. We also have the extensive work and handbook by Crüsemann on the German marine-ship mail, to help us follow the Kaiser's trip and pin down the correct dates and places of the visit (See Table 2).

This visit is of great interest to Holy Land philatelists and deltiologists as well as to historians of political Zionism. It was the largest peace time event, or one may say spectacle, in the Holy Land at the turn of the 19th century (see Table 3 for all relevant dates and stops).

Physically, it was orchestrated by the company of Thomas Cook and Sons Tours, which provided 26 sleeping tents, six vast reception canopies, mobile kitchens, 500 mules and countless servants for the convenience of the Kaiser, the Kaiserene and their large entourage of 50 plus nobles.

The Kaiser sailed from Venice on his yacht, the SMY Hohenzollern (Fig. 1), to Constantinople (Fig. 2). Following a three day visit with the Turkish Sultan, Abdul Hamid II, he sailed to Haifa, escorted by two cruisers and a supply ship, arriving there on October 25th (Fig. 3). He made a short visit to the German Templar colony, commemorated by a monument at Haifa (Fig. 4), and stayed overnight on his yacht. He left for Jaffa the next day, on horseback or by carriage, staying overnight south of Caesarea in a camp courtesy of Cook and Co. The Kaiser arrived at Jaffa on October 27 stayed overnight in Hotel du Parc and

ABFAHRT DER HOHENZOLLERN VON Venedig .

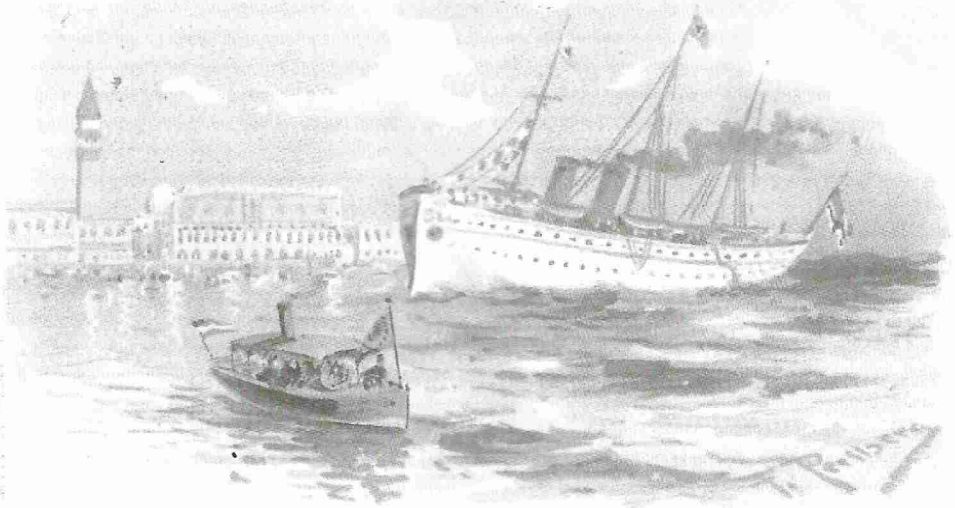


Fig.1: Start of the trip, departure from Venice. Oct. 14, 1898.



Fig. 2: Commemorative card from Constantinople, datelined Oct. 20, 1898.



Fig. 3: Arrival at Haifa, Oct. 25, 1898.



Fig. 4: Kaiser visit commemorative monument at Haifa (Not a post card).



Fig. 5: Camp Imperial.

rode out the next day, the 28th, passing by Mikve-Israel, on his way to camp Latrun for his next overnight stay, again courtesy of Cook and Co.

At noon on Saturday, October 29th, he arrived at the Imperial Camp (Fig. 5), outside the old city of Jerusalem. The official entry of Kaiser Wilhelm II to Jerusalem was at 3 p.m. on October 29th and must have been a magnificent sight (Fig. 6). The Kaiser, riding on a white charger, dressed in gleaming white with a gold eagle on top of his helmet, was accompanied by a courtier of about 50 of his knights, all attired in full uniforms, with pith helmets on their heads, and white capes on their shoulders.

The streets of Jerusalem were lined with the Sultan's own Syrian body guards, in their blue and red uniforms, and by 250 German marines, brought up from Jaffa, dressed in their best starched white and blue marine uniforms. The entry route was festooned with German and Turkish flags, streaming banners and two large festive arches built for the occasion. One of these was constructed by the Jewish community of Jerusalem, as shown on a set of five multicolored commemorative postcards printed after the visit by the Jerusalem lithographic shop of A.L. Monsohn (Fig. 7). The parade was observed by the people of Jerusalem (whose population was about 60,000 at that time), countless number of tourists and photographers, including one special visitor, Theodor Herzl, the father of political Zionism (see section II).

The official day of the visit was actually the day of the inauguration of the Church of the Redeemer, October 31, 1898 (Fig. 33). The Kaiser rode on his horse from Camp Imperial to the church in the Old City of Jerusalem. In order for him



Fig. 6: The Kaiser enters Jerusalem, Oct. 29, 1898.



Fig. 7: The Kaiser rides into Jerusalem through the decorative 'Jewish arch'.

not to have to dismount his horse and walk to the church, the wall of the old city was breached, between the Citadel and Jaffa Gate, and he rode through it into the Old City (Elon, A., p. 145).

A major international trip by the Kaiser could not go unnoticed by the German philatelists and post card collectors. Various publishers and enterprising businessmen saw the commercial opportunities and entered the fray and herein lies our interest, as postal history was in the making, literally and figuratively.

The Kaiser visit commemorative post cards are an important part of the visit's postal history (see section III) ; without the post cards there would hardly be any postal history of the Kaiser's visit. Moreover, used postcards help us pin down mailing points, mailing dates, arrival dates, and help distinguish between philatelic and non-philatelic mail.

Finally, like all good plans, they do sometimes change upon execution. The German Royal court probably issued a preliminary itinerary for the visit, but due to the abnormal and extreme heat conditions in Jerusalem, the Kaiser changed his plans; his entourage considered the whole visit as an ordeal. He not only cancelled the trip to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, he also skipped Tiberias. Some publishers were caught short in their early published commemorative postcards. One such card (Fig. 8) showed a scheduled stop on November 11th at Tiberias, but on that day the Kaiser was being lavishly feted in cool Beirut.



Fig. 8: Pre-trip commemorative card showing planned date for the Kaiser stop at Tiberias.

II. Herzl and the Kaiser's visit

Herzl's contribution to the postal history of the Kaiser's visit is small. One example known (Figs. 9,10, Wallach, J. cover page) is a postcard he wrote in Jerusalem to his daughter Pauline. It is datelined October 30 and was mailed from the Austrian Jerusalem post office cancelled with the October 31, 1898 commemorative cancel; it arrived in Vienna on November 9. Another commemorative card to his daughter was mailed from Jaffa and cancelled there in the German post office on November 4 (Alexander, Z., 1999, p. 686). These two postcards, aside from their historical import, help us to establish two points. The first is that not all the Kaiser visit mail was philatelic; some mail was sent by people without any philatelic motive, just as many tourists did then and are doing so today, sending greetings to family and friends. The second point is that the Jerusalem cancel (Fig. 9) looks like the short 'o' type (close inspection was not possible, see section IV - A), adding to the conviction that the rarer type was used in Jerusalem, in time, and not at a later date or in Austria.

Historically, however, this was a major event of early Zionism. Herzl was not a tourist in the Holy Land but came there as the head of a delegation for his second meeting with the Kaiser. The first meeting was a scheduled audience at the Kaiser's invitation. It took place in Constantinople late in the afternoon of October 18. Herzl's hope and purpose was to obtain the Kaiser's support and sponsorship for

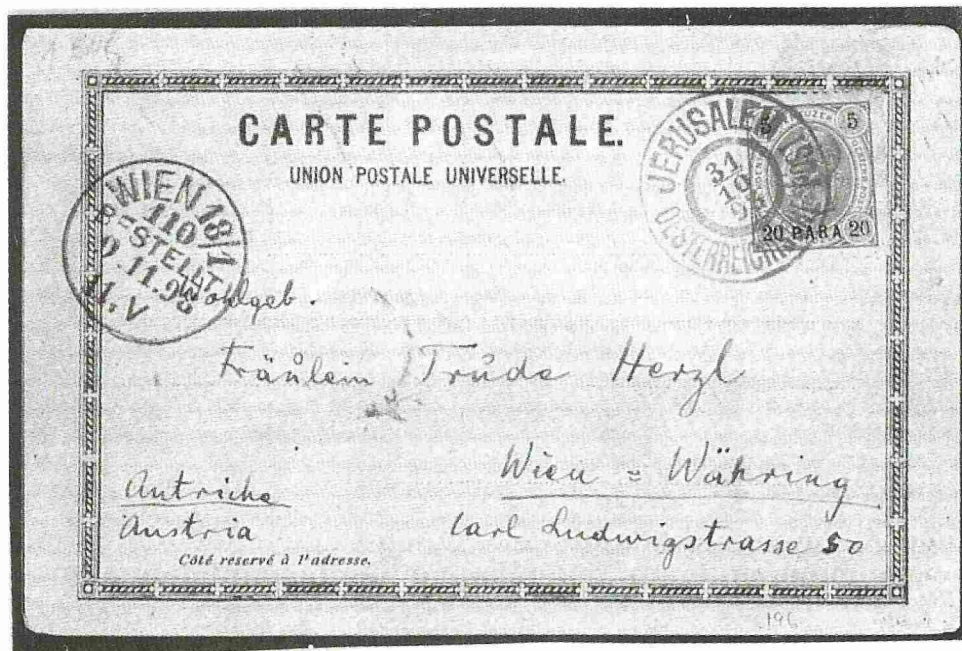


Fig. 9: Herzl's PC to his daughter with ST. 546.1A cancel dated Oct. 31, 1898.

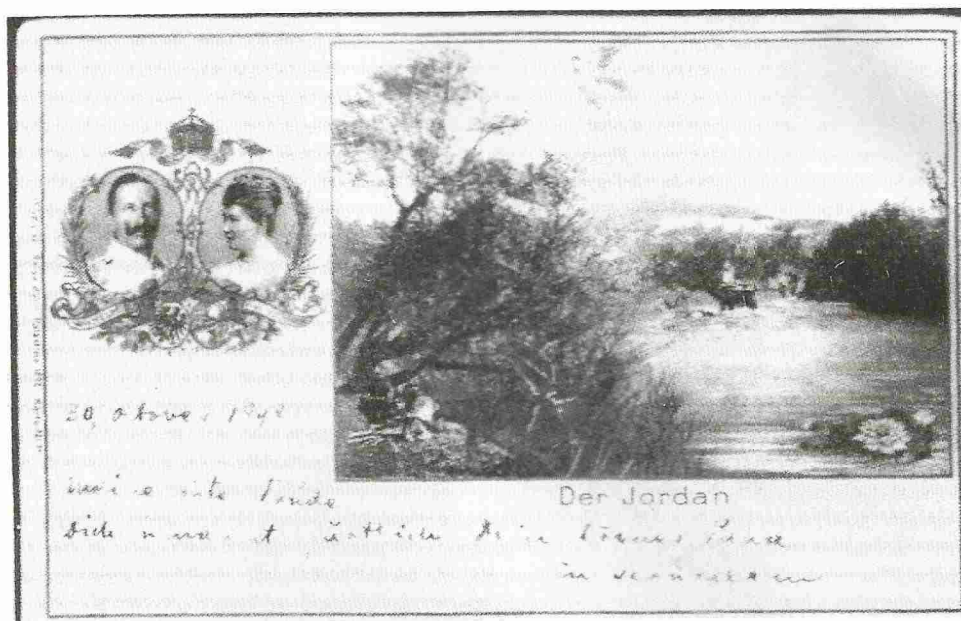


Fig. 10: Picture side of Herzl's PC, datelined Oct. 30, 1898.

settling Jews in Palestine, to create a chartered Jewish land company under German protection. The Kaiser agreed to bring up the subject, later that evening, during his dinner with the Sultan and hopefully obtain Abdul Hamid's blessing for such undertaking. He also invited Herzl to meet with him again in Jerusalem.

The idea for a Jewish land company under German protection was completely dismissed by the Sultan during that dinner, resulting in the Kaiser losing his enthusiasm for the entire undertaking. Herzl, however, was elated at the early support he received from Wilhelm II, but he left for the Holy Land right after the meeting with the Kaiser, and was not aware, nor was he informed later, as to the substance of the Kaiser - Sultan conversation at the October 18 dinner.

The second time Herzl met the Kaiser was on October 28, an unscheduled event. Herzl was standing in the crowd, outside Mikve - Israel, waiting to greet the Kaiser who was on his way from Jaffa via Latrun to Jerusalem. As the awestruck crowd was applauding, the Kaiser spotted Herzl, stopped his horse and greeted him; "How are you Herr Doctor?"; they exchanged a few pleasantries (Fig. 11) and the Kaiser rode on. Legend has it that this picture may be a composite. It is said that David Wolffsohn, a member of Herzl's delegation who was taking the pictures, was so excited when he saw the Kaiser making a special stop to greet Herzl that his hands shook and the picture was ruined. The fact is, however, that the Kaiser was at Mikve, Herzl was at Mikve, they met and had a pleasant conversation.

Herzl's third meeting with the Kaiser, his second official audience, took place on November 2, 1898 at Imperial Camp in Jerusalem. There, Herzl understood, indirectly, that the winds had shifted and that any deal to settle Jews in Palestine he



Fig. 11: Herzl and the Kaiser at Mikve - Israel, Oct. 28, 1898.

had hoped to make with the Kaiser's support would have to be made directly with the Sublime Porte in Constantinople without the help of the Kaiser.

Herzl left Jerusalem by train on November 3 and Jaffa by boat on November 4 in a hurry; he had become an unwelcome guest to the Ottomans. It should be noted that the Kaiser's unpublished autobiography does not mention the November 2 Herzl meeting, an omission that contributed to having many historians not discussing this important event in their writings.

III. Post Cards and Postal History

Historians may have neglected the Kaiser visit to the Holy Land, but it was a great commercial success. The German post card industry rose to the occasion and produced special commemorative post cards; some with titles such as "Die Reise



Fig. 12: A tourist card from Jerusalem with Oct. 31, 1898 commemorative cancel (in lilac) to Beirut, Nov. 4 arrival.

Des Deutschen Kaiser nach Jerusalem" (Fig. 18, 40). Some used old Palestine Gruss-aus type cards and overprinted them with a line "Zur Erinnerung an die Kaiserreise 1898" (Figs. 27, 37), and some printed new "Gruss aus ——" cards (Figs. 15, 33, 39).

The German post office took the opportunity to finally join the other Capitulation countries and opened its first post office in Palestine on October 1, 1898 at Jaffa, four weeks before the arrival of the Kaiser. The Austrian post office in Jerusalem, expecting a flood of tourists and philatelic mail deals with German post card printers/dealers, rolled out its usual commemorative lilac/violet ink stamp pads, to be used on the official day of the visit, October 31 (Figs. 12, 13). Not to be left behind, the Turkish post office opened a temporary postal facility at the Jerusalem camp where the Kaiser stayed, providing a special cachet for the occasion. (See section IV for postal details of these post offices).

Understanding the type and quantities of post cards produced for this visit helps one determine what is and what is not philatelic postal history. The invaluable and continuous research conducted by David Pearlman on the entire area of Palestine PC's, their origins, publishers and printers has so far catalogued about 225 different commemorative post cards associated with the Kaiser's visit. Even more than 100 years later newly discovered cards are found every couple of years.

Some 37 publishers, mostly German, who generally printed one or just a few cards each, produced the cards, most of which are very difficult to find. They were prepared for local consumption and never left Germany. However, four of these



Fig. 13: Picture side of Fig. 12, with message.

publishers produced about half of the total cards extant. They were: (a) Herman Vogel - 32 cards (Figs. 8, 10, 39); (b) Alfred Silberman - 34 cards (Fig. 15); (c) Knachstedt & Nather - 36 cards (Figs. 18, 31, 40, 41); and (d) ACB - 18 cards (Figs. 5, 33). The first three of these publishers are the ones that were involved with the majority of the mass mailing from the Holy Land and some from Turkey and Egypt, the so-called 'prepaid' commemorative PC's (see section V-B). ACB was involved mainly in some of the 'late' mailings of 1899 (see section V-A). Yellin (1972, p. 278) reported that on October 21, 1898 two people bought 200,000 (two hundred thousand) stamps in the Austrian Jerusalem PO to be used on Kaiser commemorative cards on October 31. In another report, he tells us that Wilhelm Gross, a known Jaffa merchant and PC agent and sales representative, came to

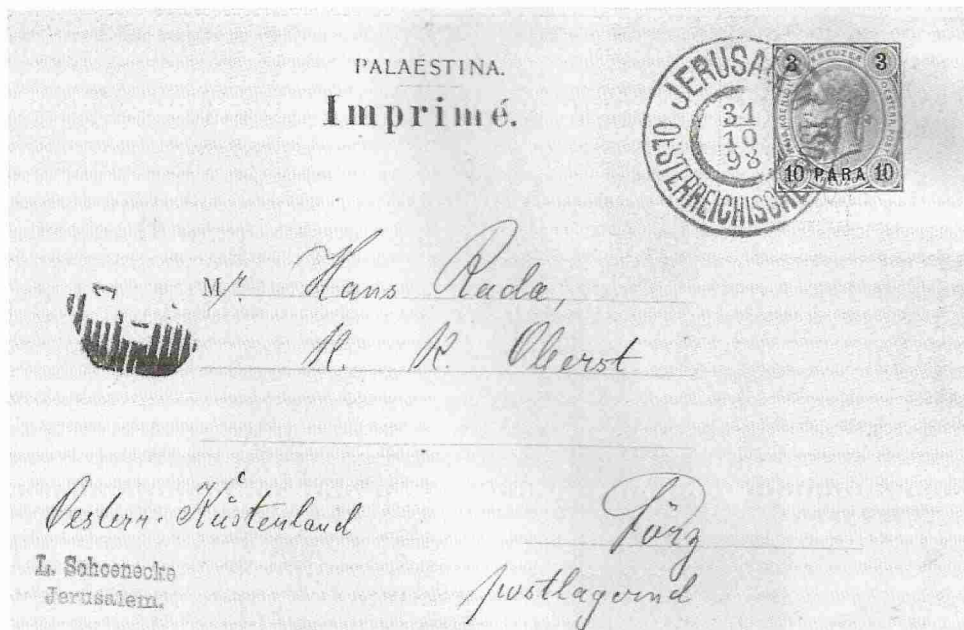


Fig 14: 'Prepaid' PC from Jerusalem to Austria, cancelled with ST. 546.1A, short 'O', Oct. 31, 1898.

Jerusalem with some 60,000 cards and that both the Austrian post office and the Camp Imperial postal facility were busy working for days canceling thousands of PC's with commemorative cachets.

Alas, even if Yellin's numbers are to be taken as fact only very small percentage of all these cards seem to have survived. One can compare this to another 'special' cancellation reported earlier by Yellin. In his 1896 article regarding the 1895 opening of the Turkish Quarte Israelite post office in Jewish quarter of the Old City, he states that the tri-lingual **with year date** cancel (ST. 33/01, OR - 106), was applied to about 6000 covers and cards each month since the opening of the post office. This large quantity of mail was created by the great demand of world Jewry to own this particular postal cancellation, as it was the first to contain the name of the city of Jerusalem in Hebrew. But today, this cancellation abundantly collected in 1896, is one of the rarer Turkish Jerusalem cancels to be found on either card or cover.

All Kaiser commemorative postcards can be divided into two distinct groups, the identity of which is important to the postal historian. The first group includes all cards produced one or two months before the trip commenced. These were generally based on file photographs of Palestine, and other countries as well., or on sketches of local scenes to which an image of the Kaiser, and sometimes the Kaiserene, were superimposed on the card (Figs. 2, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 39, 40, 41). The second group includes all cards produced after the completion of the trip, probably in November/December of 1898. These were based on actual events that had taken

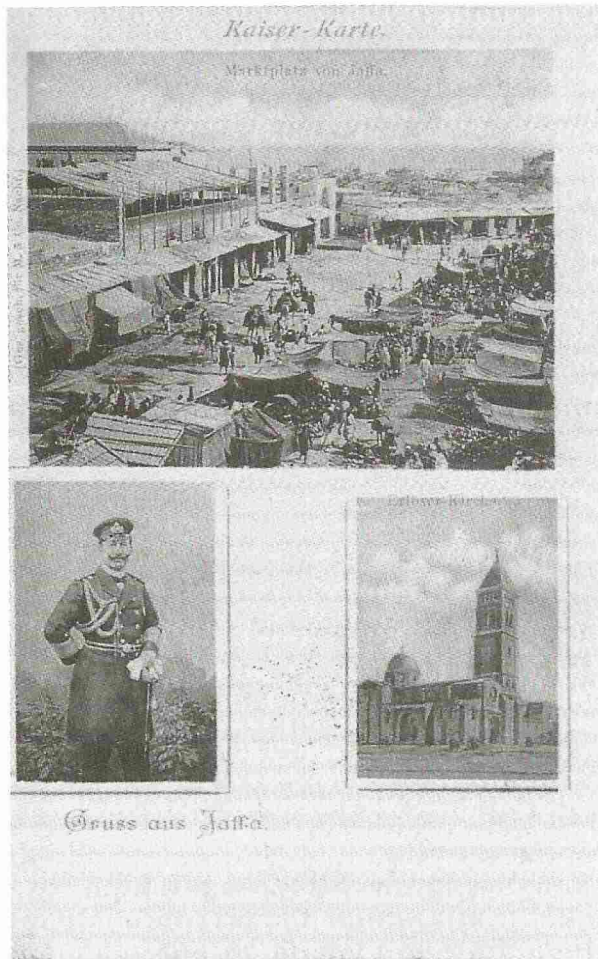


Fig. 15: Picture side of Fig. 14 without message.

place during the visit. The image on the card was from 'real time' photographs taken during the visit (Figs. 5, 31, 33), or 'from paintings' painted by German artists following the end of the visit (Figs. 1, 3, 6).

It was a physical impossibility to create these later images and produce the postcards, especially the beautiful multi-colored 'from painting' type, in Palestine during the visit and have them simultaneously cancelled in Jerusalem on October 31 (See section V-A for more detailed discussion.).

As a matter of interest, the majority of the 'painted' PC's are signed by Perlberg, a known German painter of that era. Knackfuss, the official court painter, was there with the Kaiser, but his signature is not found on any of the existing cards.

IV. Postal Cancellations and Post Offices (For all cancels discussed see Table I)

In theory, any Kaiser commemorative PC mailed between October 25 and November 4, from any Turkish or foreign post office in Palestine, or any cover with a commemorative cancellation, as well as any postal item connected with the Kaiser's yacht and his escort ships during that period, is part of the Kaiser's Holy Land Trip Postal History.

It is a mystery, though, why Kaiser cards with dates of the visit with Turkish non-Jerusalem cancels, or Austrian Jaffa-Haifa cancels, or any French-Russian cancels, have not been reported. These post offices did not provide commemorative cancels, nor were they involved with the mass mailing deals, but they were open for business. Didn't any locals or tourists use their services during the visit? Surely, some mailing must exist. One may wonder if the Templars, in Haifa, didn't send home some Kaiser commemorative cards on October 25/26.

In essence, however, there are only four offices directly associated with this visit. They were (A) the Austrian Jerusalem PO; (B) the German Jaffa PO; (C) the Turkish Camp Imperial facility and Turkish Jerusalem PO; and (D) the Marine-Schiffsposts of the Kaiser's yacht and his escort ships.

A. The Austrian Jerusalem Post Office. In the absence of a German post office in Jerusalem, the Austrian PO provided a commemorative cancel for the occasion. It was the regular Jerusalem cancel, but instead of the standard black ink pads normally in use, they provided a commemorative color, a lilac/violet ink pad to be used only with one date, October 31, 1898. To facilitate the mass mailings, they not only started canceling the 'prepaid' commemorative cards several days before October 31, albeit with the October 31 date, they must have used several obliterators. In fact, Steichele-Collins (p. 296 - 297) show two different cancels in use. The first, ST. 546.1 (Fig. 12), the more common cancel, in which all the letters of 'OESTERREICHISCHE' are even and are approximately 4mm high. The second, ST. 546.1A (Fig. 14), the rare type, the so-called short 'O', in which all the letters of Oesterreichische are approximately 4½mm high except that the letter 'O' is shorter, about 4mm high.

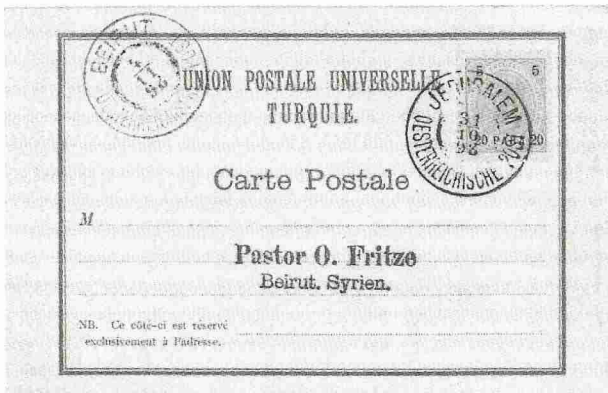








Fig. 16: Commemorative card mailed from Jerusalem to Beirut on Oct. 31 with ST. 545 cancel in black, Beirut arrival Nov. 4.

TABLE 1
THE KAISER 1898 HOLY LAND VISIT
POSTAL CANCELLATIONS IN PALESTINE

	Post Office	Dates Used	Color	Steichle #
	Turkish, Camp- Imperial	Oct.29-Nov.4	Black	29/01
	Turkish Jerusalem	Oct.29-Nov.4	Black	28/05
	Austrian Jerusalem	Oct.31	Lilac/Violet	546.1
	Austrian Jerusalem	Oct.31	Lilac/Violet	546.1A short 'o'
	German Jaffa	Oct.28,29,31	Black	221
	German # 11, 14, 32, 39	Oct.25-Nov.4 # 32 up to Nov.6	Black	202, 204, 209, 211

It should be noted that because of frequent over-inking, it is difficult to obtain accurate measurements of these letters. We must rely on visual differences between all letters and the 'O' letter. The latter must clearly be shorter than the other letters (Figs. 32, 36).

Some collectors, or their agents, did mail many different Kaiser cards to themselves. One such collector was Pastor O. Fritze of Beirut; several different cards with commemorative cancels addressed to him have been seen. But Fig. 16 is different; it is not a commemorative cancel; it is, in fact, the regular Austrian Jerusalem cancel ST. 545 in **black** ink, indicating that regular mail was processed on

October 31 in the Austrian Jerusalem post office. Moreover, since the card shows a November 4 Beirut arrival, it probably got there in the same mailbag as the card shown in Fig. 12, which does have a commemorative lilac cancel. The Austrian commemorative cancel does exist on regular (non-Kaiser) Gruss-aus type cards mailed, in time, by tourists or locals.

B. The German Jaffa Post Office. The Kaiser stayed in Jaffa less than a day and the German post office, either because it was new or, for some other reason, did not provide a special cancel from Jaffa. Postal historians will note that the German Jaffa cancels (Table I) with dates between October 1 and October 24 are hardly to be found. Collectors should be aware that since the October 31 date is shown on the cancel as 3110, the omission (or removal) of the figure 3 creates a new date, 110, i.e. October 1, a bogus first day item, and the omission of the number 1 leaves a date 3 10 creating an early date item; written dateline must verify printed date.

Notwithstanding the absence of a commemorative cancel, Knackstedt and Nather of Hamburg made a deal with the German post office to mass mail their cards (Figs. 17, 18). Ninety-nine percent of the mail seen from Jaffa is of the "prepaid" type (see V-B), i.e. proper Jaffa cancel, proper arrival cancel, but no message on the picture side. But, unlike the Austrian Jerusalem post office which dated all the mass mailings October 31, the German Jaffa office inserted the proper day, on the day the cancellation was applied to the cards; cards have been seen with October 28, October 29, and October 31 dates, but not Sunday, October 30. All

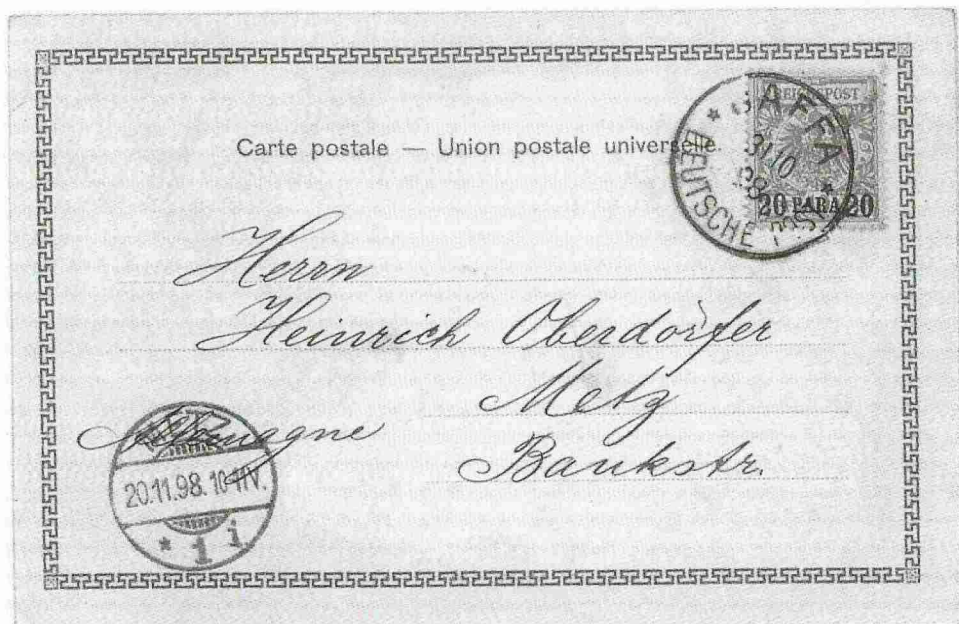


Fig. 17: 'Prepaid' commemorative card cancelled in the German Jaffa PO on Oct. 31; Metz arrival, Nov. 20.



Fig. 18: Picture side of Fig. 17. A typical Knackstedt & Nather Kaiser visit commemorative card.

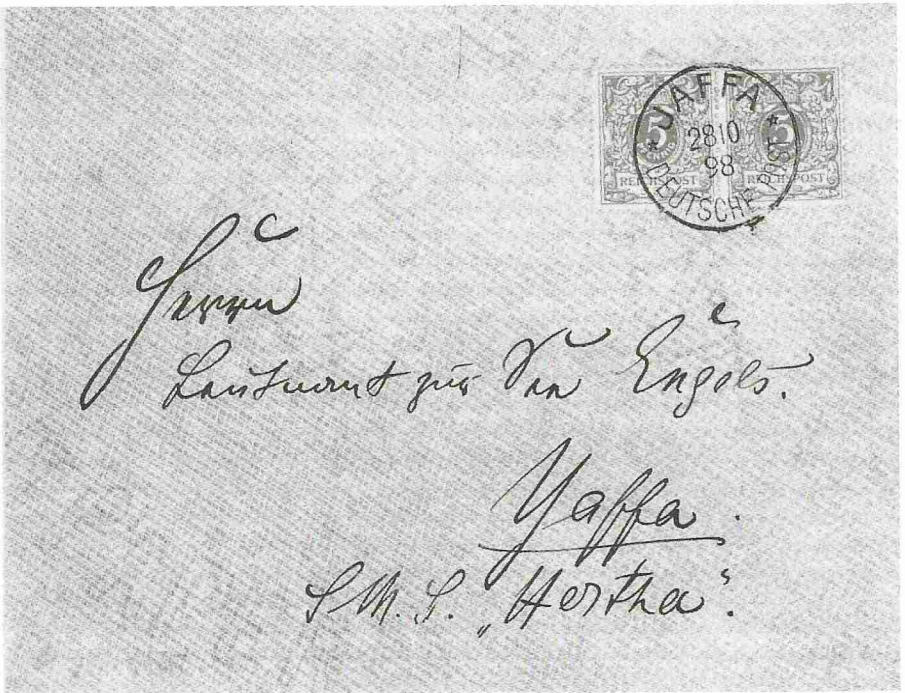


Fig. 19: A rare cover mailed on Oct. 28, 1898 from the German PO in Jaffa to the cruiser Hertha anchored at Jaffa.

German arrivals were dated between November 6 and November 31. It seems that the Knackstedt deal was the only one in Jaffa; no other mass publishing deal has been seen. A few Kaiser commemorative cards from other publishers with in time Jaffa cancels have been seen, mailed by tourists or locals, e.g. the Herzl card mentioned previously.

One rare cover (Fig. 19), possibly the only one known, was mailed from German Jaffa post office on October 28 to a German naval lieutenant (serving?) on the heavy cruiser Hertha, one of the Kaiser's escort ships as it was anchored at Jaffa between October 26 and November 1.

C. Camp Imperial - Jerusalem. The Kaiser visited the Jerusalem area for almost six days and stayed at a camp outside the walls of the Old City (Fig. 5). The camp, located in what is today the street of the Prophets, close to the "Russian Compound" and known as Camp Imperial, probably adopted from the name on the Cook security pass (see below), and the special Turkish postal cachet.

The Turkish post office set up a temporary facility at the camp which used a special obliterator (Fig. 20), reading 'Camp Imperial' in both Turkish and French, even though the 'e' of Imperial is not accented. It can be assumed that the cancel was made locally and its makers may have followed the so-called special permit pass needed to enter Camp Imperial. The pass was in the form of a medallion made of nickel, imprinted on one side "Pass to Camp Imperial" and on the other side "T.C. et S." ("Thomas Cook and Sons", Yellin p. 279).

Since the Camp Imperial cancel is dateless, how can one determine the number of days that this postal facility was operating, and more so, was the cancel applied

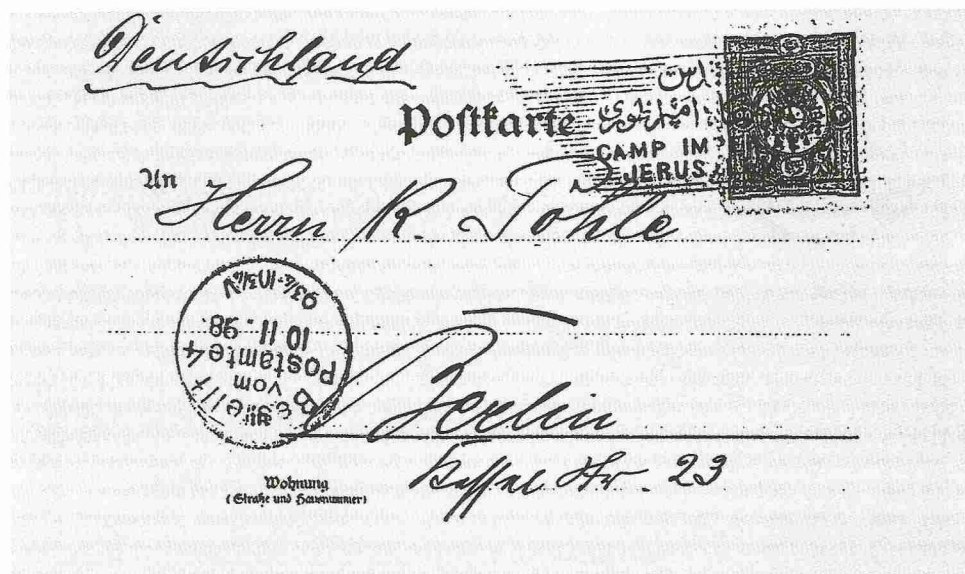


Fig. 20: Commemorative card mailed from Camp Imperial. Berlin arrival on Nov. 10.

in time? The logical way is to assume that the Turkish authorities wanted to accommodate the Kaiser, and therefore they kept the facility open as long as he was in residence. That is, from noon on October 29 to the morning of November 4. However, Hoexter's (p. 530) operational days were October 28 - November 4, Collins (p. 139) dates are for material he saw that was dated between October 31 and November 2, and Glassman (p. 269) states that the facility was open four days (no dates).

To determine if an item from Camp Imperial was mailed 'in time' we need a few simple rules: (a) Does the item have a message with a dateline? If affirmative it should be between October 29 and November 4. (b) Does the item have an arrival cancel in Germany or Austria? If "yes", it must be between November 6 and November 21. Items to Beirut or other Ottoman addresses can have arrival cancels as early as November 4. It should be noted that these dates are the earliest and latest dates seen for the Kaiser visit mail from Palestine to Germany, Austria and Beirut. (c) Does the item have a Turkish Jerusalem post office cancel (see Fig. 21)? If so, it must be dated between October 29 and November 4. The date and dateline illustrated in Fig. 21 is October 30, indicating that the card was cancelled in Camp Imperial on October 30. Finally, either (b) or (c) above must exist in addition to the Camp Imperial cancel. Preferably rule (a) above should also exist. There seems to have been an agreement between the Turkish postal authorities and the German court to expedite the mail from Camp Imperial cancel and an arrival cancel at its destination (Fig. 19). All the Mail from Camp Imperial and not subject it to any

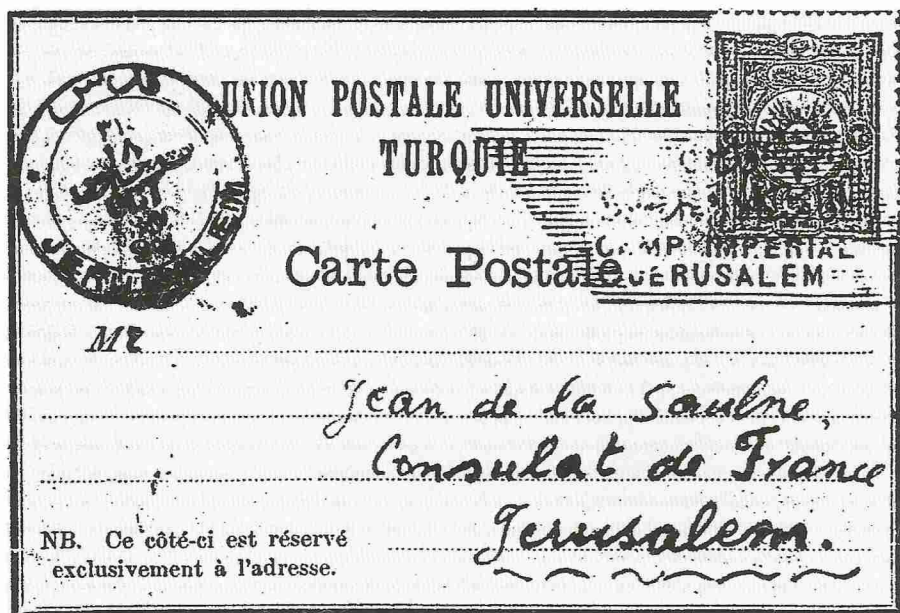


Fig. 21: Locally mailed Camp Imperial to Jerusalem, cancelled Oct. 30. Datelined on reverse Oct. 30.

delay by sending it through the Turkish Jerusalem post office. All the mail that this writer has seen, which was addressed to non-Palestine addresses showed only the Camp Imperial cancel and an arrival cancel at its destination (Fig. 19). All the mail from Camp Imperial addressed to Jerusalem (Fig. 21) or anywhere else in Palestine, (cards to Bethlehem and Nazareth were reported), showed, in addition to the Camp Imperial cancel, the Turkish Jerusalem cancel. The latter thus became either an arrival or a transit cancel.

It should be noted that all Camp Imperial mail must carry a Turkish stamp(s), and the absence of a foreign or Jerusalem arrival cancel indicates that the item was not mailed.

The majority of the surviving Camp Imperial items are probably of the "prepaid" type (see V-A), but non-philatelic cards do exist, as well as a few covers, such as a rare cover to Istanbul (Fig. 22) and a cover with overweight franking to Germany with a Berlin November 10 arrival on its back (Fig. 23). This cover was probably used to mail a group of Kaiser postcards; it still bears a light indentation of its contents. Two other covers, with the regular 40 para postage to the same address were seen, as well as one to a different address in Berlin.

D. Marine-Schiffspost - Maritime Post. All German navy ships had a maritime post office which functioned as a regular post office as long as the ship was in international waters. Each maritime post office was assigned an identification

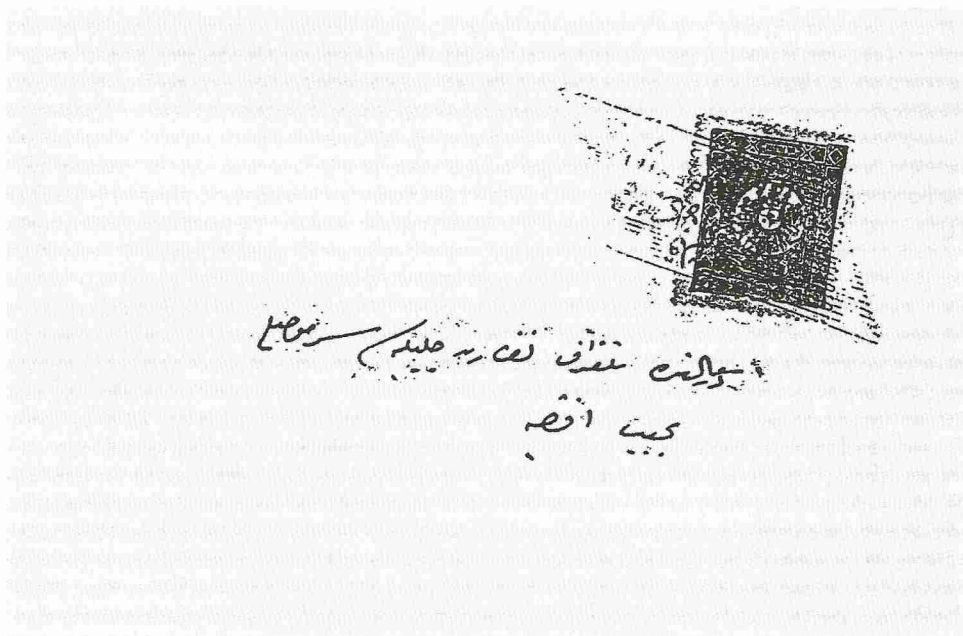


Fig. 22: A rare commercial cover from Camp Imperial to Istanbul, Turkey. (Alexander collection).



Fig. 23: A rare overweight cover from Camp Imperial to Berlin. Arrival backstamped on Nov. 10, 1898.

number. Theoretically, it was to be used for one cruise only; in practice, however, most of the time, but not always, the same number was reassigned to the same ship for its next cruise and so on.

The cancel was a large, 30mm in diameter, single circle obliterator inscribed with the words "KAIS. DEUTSCHE MARINE SCHIFFSPOT", followed by three lines. The first, assigned ship's number; the second, the Day-Month printed between two stars; and the third, the last two digits of the year. The cancel is mostly seen on the standard issue 10 pf (pfenning) German Marineschiff entire, (Fig. 24), recognized by the words "Nur fur Marine Schiffsposten" around the stamp. Other forms of mail, such as post cards or covers were accepted, but are rarer (Figs. 26, 27).



Fig. 24: Marine schiffspost card entire, cancelled on the Hohenzollern on Nov. 6, 1898 after leaving Jaffa. Sender message datelined Jaffa, Nov. 3, Ostheim, Nov. 14 arrival, and redirected.

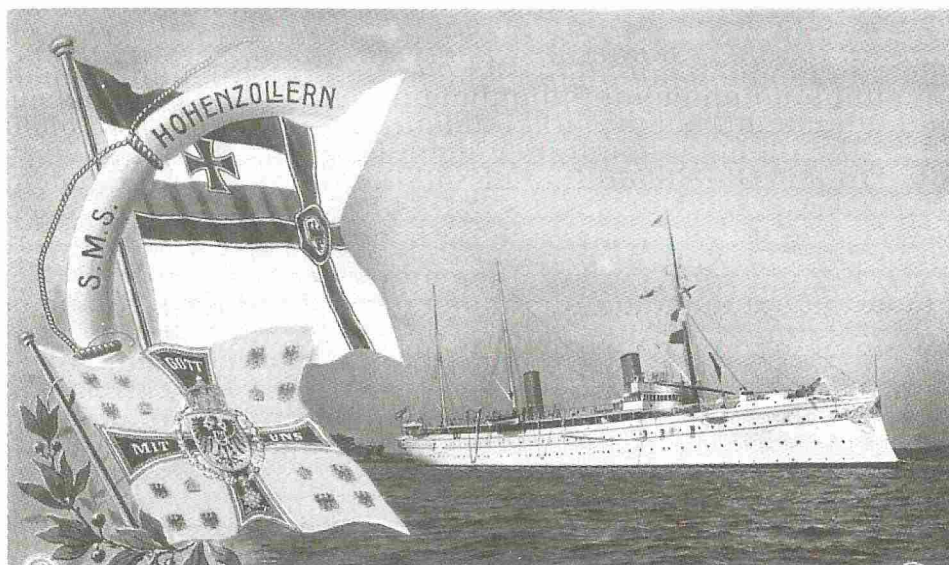


Fig. 25: The Kaiser's yacht. (PC circa 1908).



Fig. 26: Marine schiffspost cancel on commemorative Kaiser card mailed from the cruiser Hertha, cancelled at Jaffa, Oct. 29, 1898. Varel arrival, Nov. 6.



Fig. 27: Picture side of Fig. 26. Datelined Oct. 26, 1898.

The Kaiser arrived in Palestine on his yacht the SMY Hohenzollern (Fig. 25) escorted by two cruisers, SMS Hertha and SMS Hela, and a supply ship, SMS Loreley. The ships' characteristics were:

	Hohenzollern	Hertha	Hela	Loreley
<u>Ship type</u>	Kaiser Yacht	Heavy Cruiser	Light Cruiser	Supply Ship
<u>Marineschiff #</u>	32	39	11	14
<u>Crew</u>	323	473	164	NA
<u>Displacement (tons)</u>	4280	5660	1630	924
<u>Launched</u>	1891	1897	1892	1884

To determine if a maritime mail item belongs to the Kaiser's Holy Land trip we need two pieces of data. The first is the location of the ship the day the cancel was applied (see table #2 for dates and locations). The second piece of data needed is the actual dateline as written on the card with its message by the sender. These two dates need not be the same, but the dateline must be earlier or the same. If there is a message, but no handwritten dateline, the cancel date may be sufficient.

The ships' post offices were probably not open on a continuous basis; being a ship's postmaster must have been a part-time assignment for some officers. Since a ship's post office transferred its mailbags to a mail carrying ship, or to a railroad post office at the nearest port of call, we can assume that the ship's post office sprang into action the day before or on the day of its next scheduled mail transfer to a 'mail ship'. One such example seen is a Marineschiffs entire, addressed to Germany, written on the Hohenzollern and datelined Venice, October 13, the day before the start of the trip; it was cancelled by the ship's post office in Constantinople on October 19, the day after the Kaiser arrived there. At that point the mailbags of the Hohenzollern were, probably, transferred to the railroad

mail system going to Germany. There obviously was no 'mail ship' available between Venice and Constantinople and very likely there was no time to handle mail locally at Venice on October 13 or 14, as the Kaiser was coming aboard and the ship was preparing for its long cruise to the Holy Land.

Another example is a Jaffa Gruss aus commemorative card (Figs. 26, 27), datelined October 26 and cancelled on the Cruiser Hertha on October 29, with an arrival at Veral on November 6. It should be noted that it is franked with German 10pf stamp, not a German Levant stamp, and that a November 6 arrival date in German is tied to an October 29 mailing date in Jaffa. (See more on dates in section VI).

All this helps us understand why several Hohenzollern Marineschiffs entires exist with a Jaffa November 3 dateline and a November 6 ship's cancel after it left Jaffa and arrived in Beirut (Fig. 24, Ex-Steichele, is one such example). It must be assumed that the Hohenzollern post office was closed between November 1 and November 4, since the ship left Jaffa on November 1, for refueling at Port Said, returning on November 3, at which point it started its operation for the return of the Kaiser and his entourage from Jerusalem on November 4. The yacht had to be readied to sail to Beirut late on that day or on the night of November 5, leaving no time on either November 3 or November 4 to handle the mail of all the dignitaries returning to the ship. Time at Jaffa was short and the mail could no longer be handled there and transferred to a 'mail ship'. So, the mail, deposited in the ship's mailbox or written on board on November 3 - 4, had to wait for the next available 'mail ship' in Beirut. There, on November 6, the Hohenzollern post office opened up again.

Thus, all Marineschiffspost mail must show datelines and/or cancels between October 25, the Haifa arrival date, and November 4, the Jaffa departure date, except for the Hohenzollern whose last day can be November 6, if, and only if, it has a Jaffa dateline, dated before November 5, the day it was traveling up the Palestine coast to Beirut. The SMS Loreley, which was anchored at Jaffa from October 26 to November 4, did have its post office open on November 4; mail with that date does exist. The SMS Hertha left Jaffa on November 4, but did not go to Beirut. From the SMS Hela, only a few items are known, with dates of October 30 and November 1 reported so far.

V. Philatelic, Tourist, or Commercial Mail

In as much as the Austrian Jerusalem PO, the German Jaffa PO and the Turkish Camp Imperial facility set up 'production lines' to cancel thousands of post cards, the majority of the surviving material today would be thought to be philatelic. There exists more than a few items, however, that are certainly not philatelic.

Mail associated with the Kaiser's visit can be divided into four distinct groups:

A. Purely Philatelic. Cards in this group either did not go in the mail, or if mailed, were produced specifically for this occasion, These are characterized by having a commemorative cancel, but not addressed and not having an arrival cancel, such as

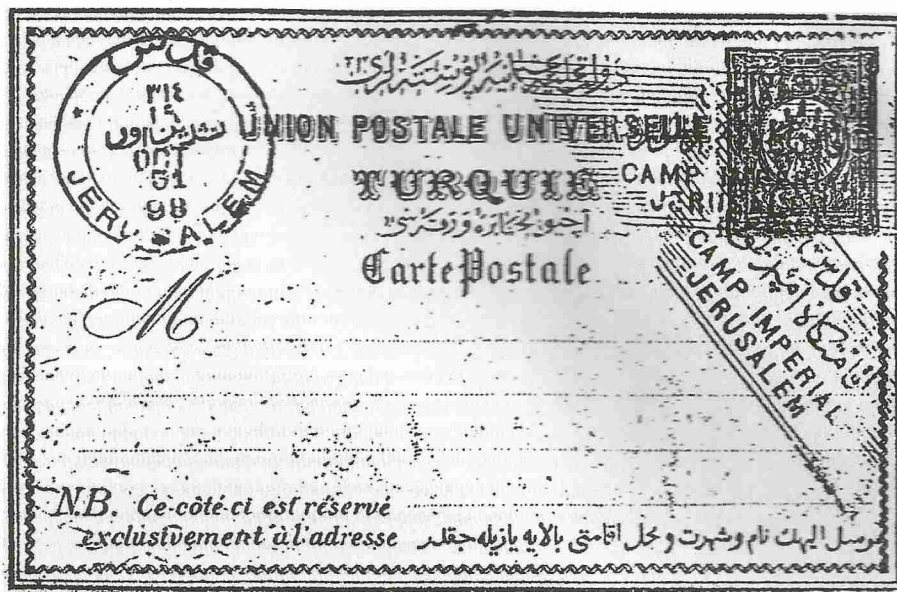


Fig. 28: "Hand me back" souvenir; Camp Imperial with dated Turkish Jerusalem cancel.

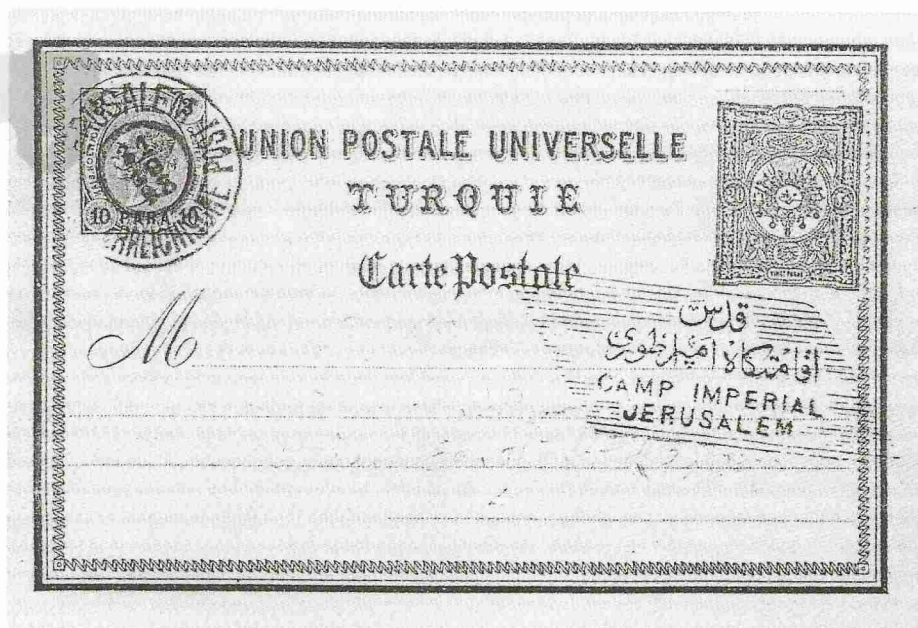


Fig. 29: "Hand me back" souvenir; Camp Imperial with dated Austrian Jerusalem cancel.



Fig. 30: Austrian Jerusalem commemorative cancel on 8 para stamp. Underfranked and on a 'real time' photo commemorative card. No message, no arrival cancel. Probably never mailed from Holy Land.



Fig. 31: Picture side of Fig. 30. A 'real time' photo printed in Nov.-Dec. 1898.



Fig. 32: Austrian Jerusalem, Oct. 31, short 'O' cancel; Freienwalde, March 8, 1899 arrival, 4 months later.

Figs. 28, 29, typical "hand me back" souvenirs. Such is also the card shown in Figs. 30 - 31: a more interesting card on several accounts. First, it is underfranked, 8 para instead of the proper 10 para printed matter rate; second, it has no arrival cancel and no message, and, third, and most important, it is a 'real time' photo card (the Kaiser riding through Jerusalem), probably produced in November-December 1898, a month or so after the visit. It should be noted that the J of Jerusalem of this cancel is elongated; maybe a different cancel but more probably over inking.

The postcard of Fig. 32 - 33 was probably mailed, but when? It is franked 10 para; it has an October 31 commemorative cancel with short 'O', but it is a 'real time' photo card (the Kaiser at the Church of the Redeemer) and it has an arrival cancel in Freienwalde on March 9, 1899, four months later. When and where this 'late date' mailing was done is an open question. Not that it changes the philatelic status of this card, but it is a good assumption that the card was mailed from Jerusalem. The quantity of these 'late' type cards is small, found generally on A.C.B. produced cards using 'real time' photo images of the visit. This company, or its agent, made a deal with the Austrian post office for a 'late' mailing; it is doubtful that Vienna's main post office would get involved in such a small undertaking. It should be noted that some early pre-visit commemorative cards exist with Jerusalem October 31 cancels and with 'late' arrival dates of December 1898.

The last interesting item in this category is Fig. 34-35. This "Gruss aus Jerusalem" card is a **reproduction**. The original card, printed in Germany and distributed in Jerusalem by the Syrischen Waisenhausen, probably bought in

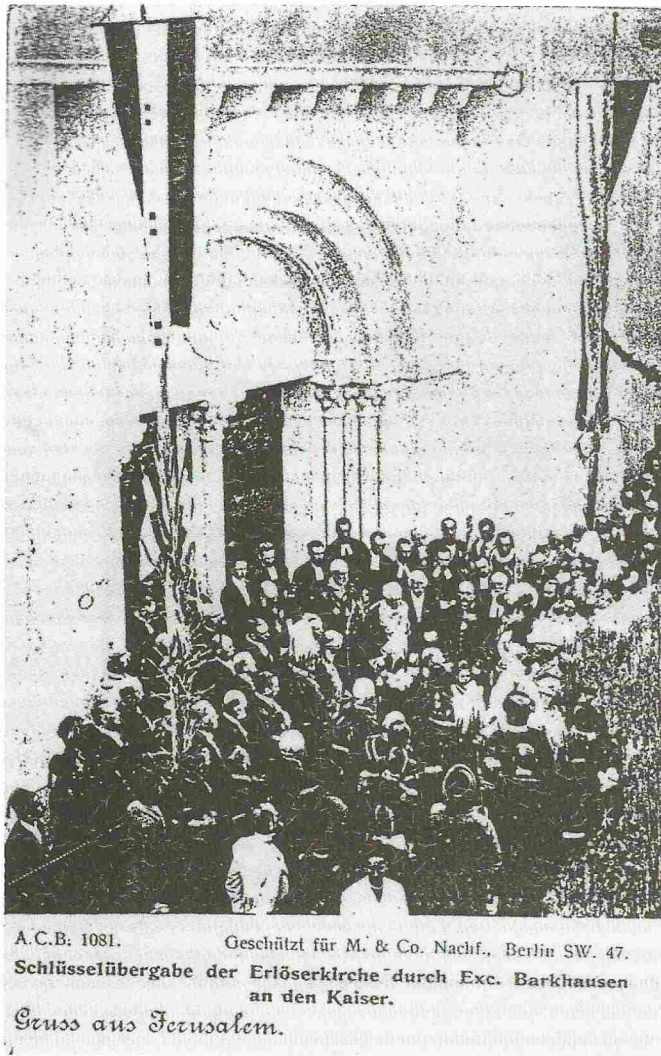


Fig. 33: Picture side of Fig. 32. A 'real time' photo by ACB

Jerusalem, was mailed from Camp Imperial to one Franz Graf Jr. in Geigenheim, Germany, where it arrived on November 7 (or November 17). It has a long message datelined October 31, and by itself is a beautiful non-philatelic item. However, on arrival at Geigenheim, the enterprising Franz Graf Jr. reproduced the card, first erasing the Kaiser visit notation of 'distributed on October 31' and overprinting it with a two line note, "Originalkarte in Besitz der Firma" (original card held by the firm) and his firm's name (see bottom left of Fig. 35). The Graf company then proceeded to print and sell copies of the reproduction as souvenirs to happy collectors.



Fig. 34: Front side of a reproduction of properly mailed card from Camp Imperial.



Fig. 35: Picture side of Fig. 34, with special notation in lower left.

A few of these cards are still circulating today, with some having the line "Originalkarte im Besitz der Firma" erased or inked out. How do we recognize this card? It is not too difficult. It has all the following characteristics:

- There is no adhesive; the stamp is imprinted as if the card is an entire;
- The printed stamp is upside down, slightly angled, and is perforated;
- The card is addressed to Franz Graf Jr..

But where is the original today? It must be one of a kind.

B. Prepaid Commemorative Philatelic Mail. Any person in Germany or Austria wishing to own a used 'in time' Kaiser visit commemorative card, without going to the Holy Land could, for a small sum, order different cards from several German publishers, postcard dealers, or agents who would arrange to bulk ship mint postcards to Palestine, have them addressed and stamped there, and have them cancelled on or before October 31 in either Jaffa or Jerusalem. These cards are characterized by having a German Jaffa, Austria Jerusalem, or a Camp Imperial cancel and an arrival cancel in the city of the collector who ordered it. There is no message.

Examples are: from German Jaffa post office Fig. 17 - 18 and from Austria Jerusalem post office Fig. 36 - 37. The latter has an early arrival in Dresden, November 6, indicating that it probably was cancelled before October 31. It should be noted that the publisher of this card, C. Brandes, was not involved in this prepaid mail, but rather a post card dealer named Alfred Metzner in Nordhansen, Germany (see right hand side of Fig. 37).

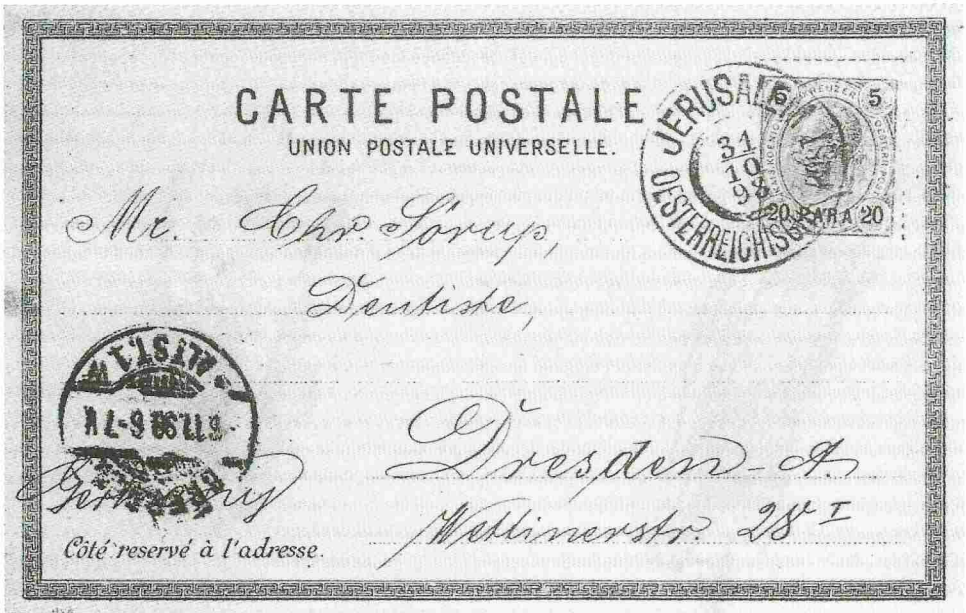


Fig. 36: 'Prepaid' Austrian Jerusalem commemorative cancel, short 'O' type. Early (Nov. 6) Dresden arrival.

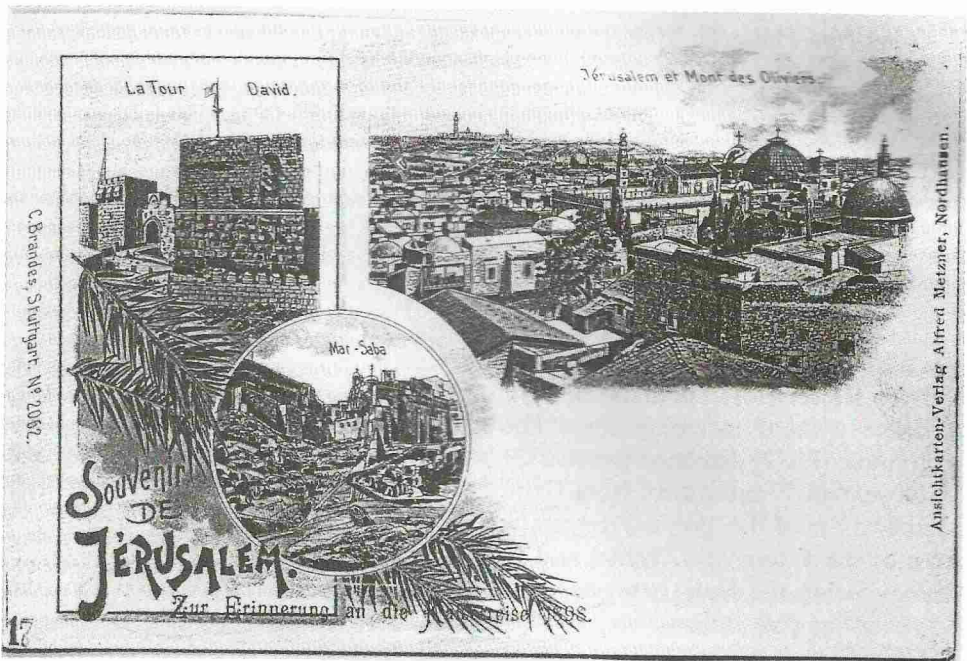


Fig. 37: Picture side of Fig. 36. "Gruss aus' type card with notation, (lower left)
"Zur Erinnerung —"

C. Non-Philatelic Tourist Mail. Tourists visiting the Holy Land, either as part of the Kaiser's company or on their own, did send mail home. This mail, with a short or long message is distinct from the items described in sections V-A and V-B. They certainly cannot be called philatelic. However, few are known. They are characterized by being written on a Kaiser visit commemorative card with either a commemorative cancel, a German Jaffa cancel, or any Palestine post office. They are dated between October 25 and November 4 and they have a proper arrival cancel between November 6 and November 21 (November 4 for Beirut arrival). Of course they must have a message with or without a dateline.

Two such cards are, of course, the Herzl card (Fig. 10) and the one he mailed from Jaffa, which aside from their historical value, were tourist cards from a father to his daughter; they certainly were not philatelic. Another card addressed to a German nobelsman, a colonel, in Amberg (Front and Back Covers) arrived there on November 17; it has a message datelined October 31 and was mailed and cancelled by the Turkish Jerusalem post office on November 3. It should be noted that the card to Beirut (Fig. 10) is also in this category.

D. Other Non-Philatelic Mail. Items in this category are seldom offered. They may be:

- Any Marine schiffspost items as described in section IV-D.
- Any commemorative cards mailed from Haifa or other Palestine locations and not described in section IV.
- Covers with commemorative cancels and arrival cancels before November 21 (e.g. Figs. 22, 23).
- Austrian Jerusalem October 31 cancels in black, on card or on cover, with a message and an arrival cancel dated before November 21.

VI. Final Notes

Any Kaiser Holy Land and postal history or postcard collection would not be complete without including some non-Palestine items, e.g. a card from Constantinople (Fig 2) datelined October 20; a card from Damascus (Fig. 38) cancelled on November 7; and a card from Cairo (Fig. 39) cancelled on November 11. The latter two are of the 'prepaid' type indicating that some publishers covered all the cities of the Kaiser visit, actual and planned. The Kaiser did not visit Egypt or Greece during the Holy Land trip. There were no commemorative cancels from non-Palestine post offices.

The Kaiser returned to Berlin on December 1, 1898. entering on horseback, a rare phenomenon, commemorated on a post card (Fig. 40), which includes a map of Palestine (this item was mailed in Berlin on December 2).

The Jaffa mail is very helpful in pinning down arrival dates in Germany, Jaffa

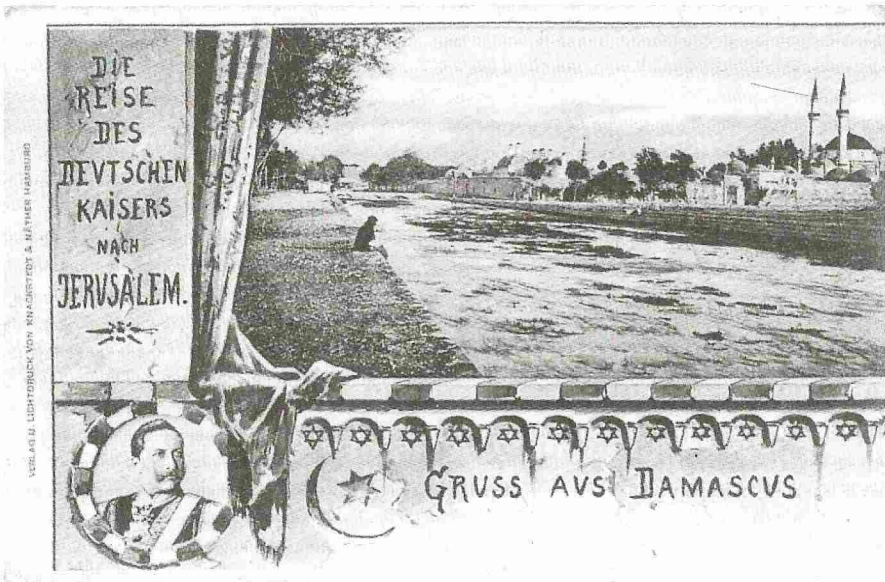


Fig. 38: Prepaid commemorative PC cancelled in Damascus, Nov. 7. Kitzingen arrival, Nov. 20. (The Kaiser was there on that day.)

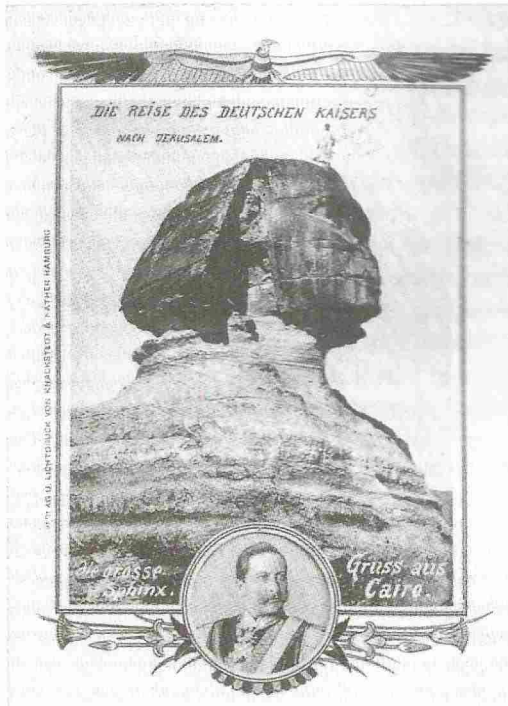


Fig. 39: Prepaid commemorative card, cancelled in Cairo, Nov. 11, (the Kaiser was in Beirut that day.) Metz arrival, Nov. 27.



Fig. 40: End of the trip. Return to Berlin, Dec. 1, 1898.

October 28 cancels show a German arrival of November 6, ten days later. Some mail from Jerusalem dated October 31 also arrived in Germany on November 6; surely these must have been cancelled in Jerusalem earlier, probably October 27 to 29. Moreover, a batch of 'prepaid' cards with different views, all addressed to a Mr. Oberdorfer in Metz, Germany, all published by the same publishers, Knackstedt, were inspected, e.g. Fig. 17-18. Seven of these had Jaffa October 31 cancels and three had Jerusalem October 31 cancels, but all had different arrival dates at the Oberdorfer residence; they were cancelled in Metz between November 14 and November 20. This indicates that the cards were put in different mailing bags, and probably were also shipped on different days, and possibly not even cancelled on October 31.

Finally, the late George Muentz once said that if not for the philatelic mail from the Holy Land, our knowledge of its postal history would be greatly reduced. This certainly holds true for the Kaiser visit mail. One hundred and four years and two world wars later, very little of the mail can be found, philatelic, but, nevertheless, these items did go in the mail, and, thanks to the philatelists and postcard and souvenir collectors, there are some cards still around for us to enjoy today. Some Kaiser cards, and especially the 'real time' photos and particularly the 'from painting' cards by Perlberg, are not colorful and beautiful, but they impart a sense of history to us, as if we were actually there.

VII. Tables

Table 1: The Kaiser 1898 Holy Land Visit Postal Cancellations in Palestine (See page 414).

Table 2
The Kaiser's 1898 Holy Land Trip - Ship's Location***

	<u>Constantinople</u>	<u>Haifa</u>	<u>Jaffa</u>	<u>Port-Said</u>	<u>Jaffa</u>	<u>Beirut</u>
<u>Hohenzollern</u>						
Arrival	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nov. 5
Departure	Oct. 22	Oct. 26	Oct. 31	Nov. 2	Nov. 4	Nov. 12
<u>Hertha</u>						
Arrival	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 4	———
Departure	Oct. 22	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	———
<u>Hela</u>						
Arrival	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 5
Departure	Oct. 22	Oct. 25*	Oct. 31	Nov. 2	Nov. 4	Nov. 12
<u>Loreley</u>						
Arrival	Oct. 13	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	———	———	Nov. 5
Departure	Oct. 21	Oct. 26	Nov. 4	———	———	Nov. 11**

* Left overnight to Post-Said.

** Sailed to Port-Said Nov. 7-9.

*** Source: Crüsemann

Table 3
The Kaiser's 1898 Holy Land Trip
Chronological Data

Friday	October 14	Sails from Venice
Tuesday	October 18 October 18	Arrives in Constantinople First official meeting with Theodor Herzl in Constantinople.
Saturday	October 22	Sails from Constantinople.
Tuesday	October 25	Arrives in Haifa. Visits the Templar Colony.
Wednesday	October 26	Leaves Haifa for Jaffa (a.m.). Overnight near Ceasaria.
Thursday	October 27	Arrives in Jaffa (p.m.)
Friday	October 28 October 28	Rides out from Jaffa to Latrun. Stays overnight. Unofficial meeting with Herzl outside Mikve Israel on the way to Latrun. (a.m.)
Saturday	October 29 October 29	The Kaiser arrives at Camp Imperial. (12 Noon). The official entry to Jerusalem (3 p.m.) (The 13 th day of Cheshvan 5659 in the Hebrew calender.)
Sunday	October 30	On tour of Bethlehem and area.
Monday	October 31	The official day of the visit; the dedication of the Church Of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem.
Wednesday	November 2	The second and final meeting with Herzl in Camp Imperial.
Friday	November 4 November 4	Leaves Jerusalem (a.m.) by train to Jaffa.. Sails from Jaffa to Beirut (p.m.)
Saturday	November 5 November 7-8 November 9-11	Arrives in Beirut. Visits Damascus. Visits Beirut and area.
Saturday	November 12 December 1	Sails from Beirut back to Pola via Rhodes, Malta, Syracuse and Messina. Returns to Berlin... End of Trip.

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The next two letters were written in Balfuria and were sent to Jerusalem by "Egged" bus company. The reason for sending letters by "Egged" is explained in the letters. The fee of sending a bus (taxi) letter was 155 mils (150 mils fee + 5 mils Kofer Hayeshuv tax) compared to 10 mils inland or 50 mils for express inland letter.

The first of the two letters was written by Aya, Hasia's sister on April 20th and was sent by Egged on April 22nd (we have the sender's receipt). The part of the letter which is relevant to our subject is translated as follows:

"... .. Haske! They say that it is possible to send letters by "Egged" and it arrives quickly. I'll try to send this letter maybe by Egged. By the way she (Zipora) received your letter today.

At Egged they promise that soon they will accept parcels and then for sure we'll send to you.

Shalom, Aya"

Levinski family is very worried about Sinai's health. They heard that he was wounded, and with the lack of possibility to contact Jerusalem they sent a letter to you, asking to inform them what you know about his condition. Maybe my letter will reach you before theirs. Try to answer if you know something. But if you can, do it by telephone.

Aya.

The next letter was written on April 28th and was sent by Egged, (see Fig. 42) but we don't know its posting date.

"28.4.48 Balfuria

Shalom Haske,

You are surely wondering that suddenly I write to you a letter. You know that our Zvi was wounded in the "Mount Scopus" convoy. We learned about it only from the newspaper, and beside that we don't know anything. How he was wounded and what is his condition now. Where he is, and generally what happens with him. If it's not a trouble for you to learn some details about him and write us. I already sent a letter by the usual way and for the fear that it will not reach you I'm sending another letter by Egged and hope it will find you healthy. In Balfuria there is nothing new and everything is O.K.

Regards from your parents and sister, I see them every day.

Thanks in advance

Ishak Levinski

*Address the letter
to Ishak Levinski
Affula"*

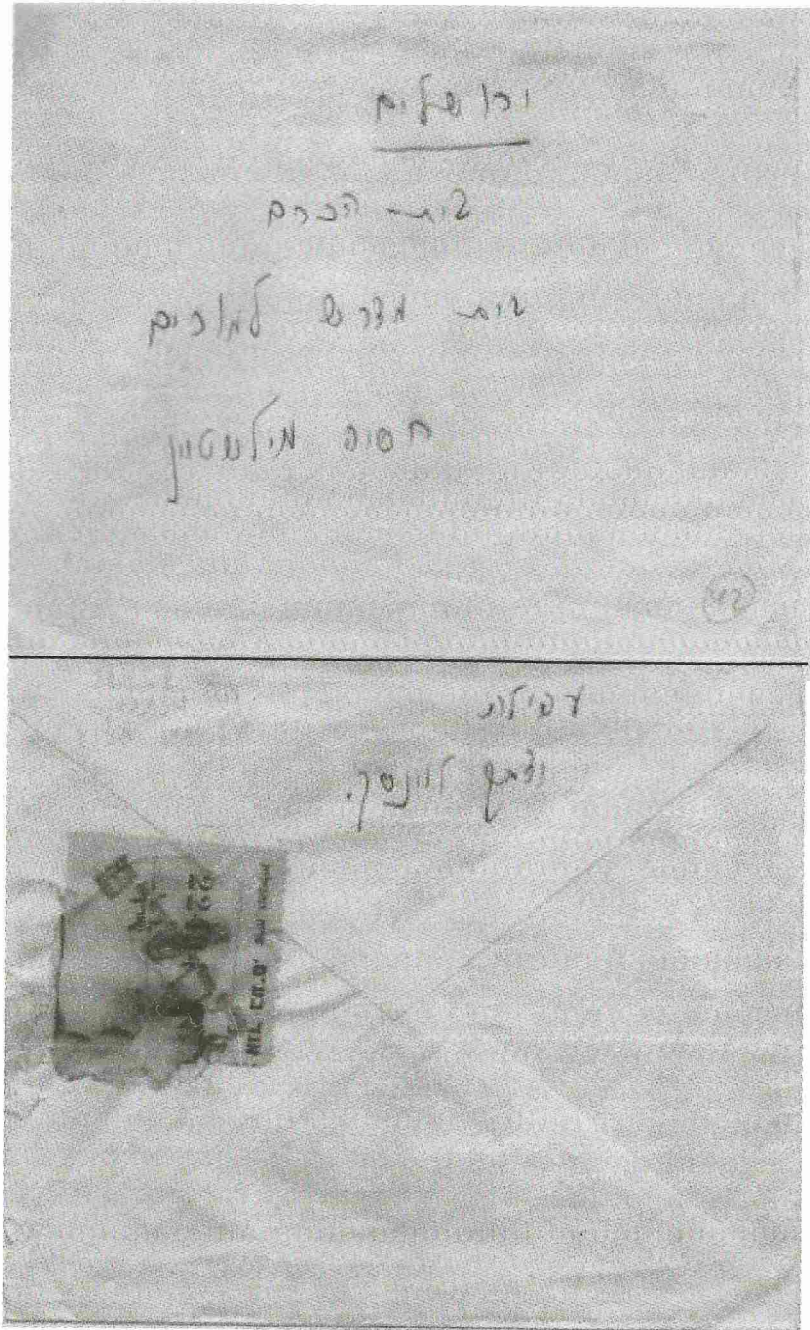


Fig. 42: A letter sent from Balfuria, Affula, by Eged, written on April 28th, delivered in Jerusalem on May according to Hasia Milstein letter of May 11th to her parents.

The next letter was sent by Hasia Milstein from Jerusalem to her parents in Balfuria, written on the May 11th, posted in Jerusalem on May 13th, cancelled by the Rosette postmark on its first day of use (May 13; Fig. 43). The letter probably

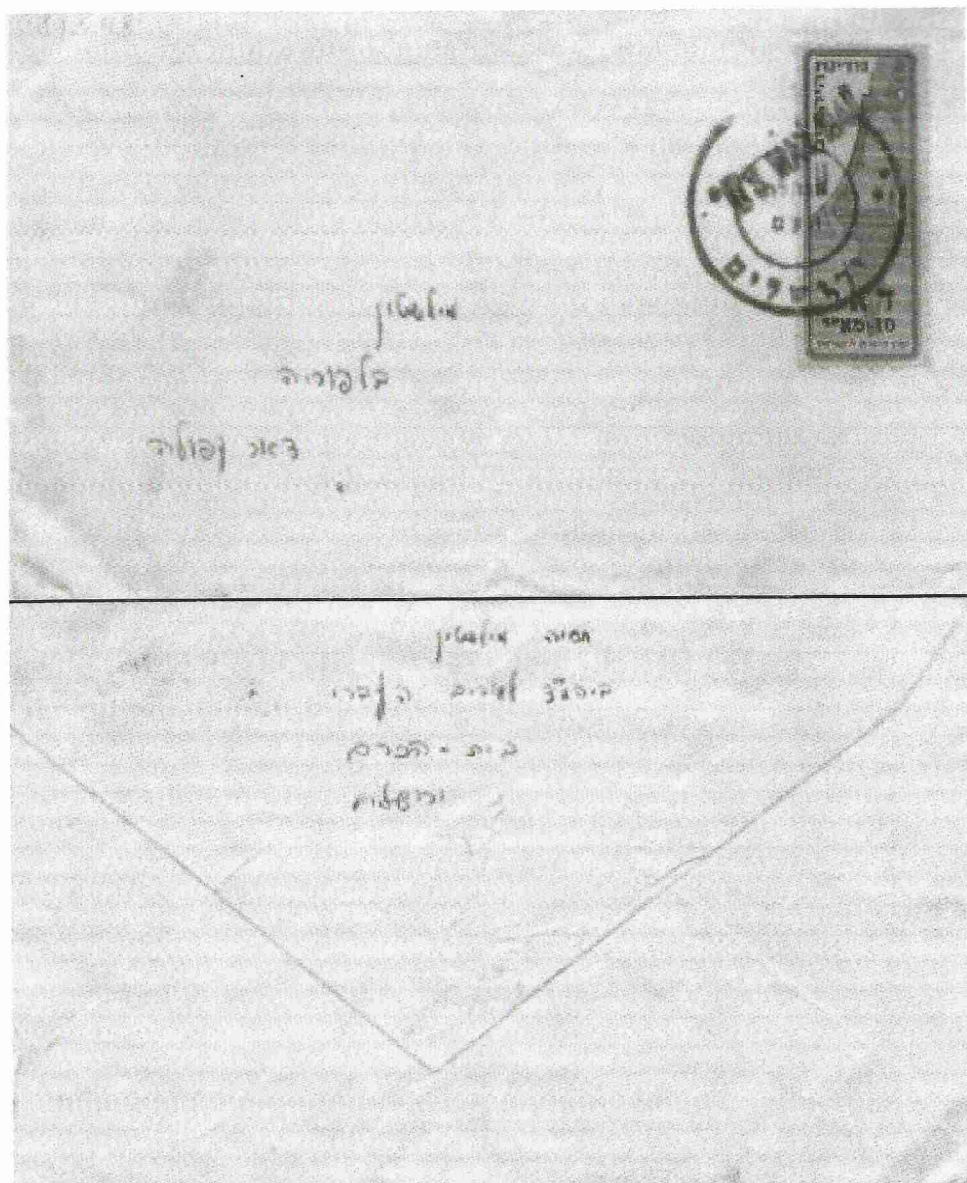


Fig. 43: Another cover of the Milstein's correspondence - posted in Jerusalem, May 13, arrived in Balfuria (Affula) probably only after leaving Jerusalem with the Second (Postal) Convoy.

did not arrive in Balfuria before June 22nd having left Jerusalem with one of the Convoys. The contents of the letter is very interesting, it conveys the urge of the people in Jerusalem for regular postal communications. The second and the last paragraph of the letter, where Hasia tells about receiving the Levinski letters, are a confirmation of the fact that some letters did come into Jerusalem during the siege, at least in the period between the end of April and May 9th.

This letter translates:

"My dear dear mom, dad and Ayale! 11.5 Thursday.

The new possibility of sending letters out of town in the regular post is not a new thing for me (at least emotionally) because I'm writing to you all the time in different routes. I don't know if my letters reached you and which, I nevertheless did not receive from you any word for almost two months and I'm pretty worried.

I received a few days ago a letter from Ziva and a letter from Izhak Levinski (he asks me to enquire on Zvi's condition) (emphasized by Z.A.) and if till now I accepted the fact that it's impossible to receive letters, those two letters caused me only grief and longing. I don't know what to think and on which account to put it but by all means try to write to me something soon, because I am not quiet. I would ask you, if it's not hard for you, to write a lot and maybe part of it will arrive.

Generally with me nothing is new. It's already the second week after "Passover" that we study and the studies continue as usual (only the girls); they say that soon they will bring the boys back according to the decision of the Education Department, but for the time being there is no change.

... ..

... ..

I am not writing more today and I am waiting impatiently for a letter. I hope I'll get something from you before you get this letter and hope that at least you received all my letters and you are not worried as I am.

Be well my dear dear

Yours, Haske

*Rohke wrote home already everything about Zvi's condition and that's why I did not answer Izhak's letter. They live now at Beit Hakerem and I visit them frequently and I am happy to see Zvi in good shape and progressing every day. **Please notify Izhak about it. I received his letter only two days ago.** (emphasized by Z.A.)*

Haske"


The story of the Milstein family correspondence raises a few questions about the way the letters reached Jerusalem, due to the fact that we don't know today any convoy or other method of delivering mail to besieged Jerusalem at the beginning of May. This open question is similar in nature to the situation raised by Y. Rimon about the S. Yevin postcard that was posted at Haifa on April 26th and delivered in Jerusalem on May 12th. (HLPH 33-34). In her letter of May 11th, Haske writes that she received Izhak's letter of April 28th "Two days ago" - that means on May 9th

which was the first day of operation of the Jewish (M.H.) post in besieged Jerusalem.

So, it is possible that Izhak's letter, that somehow reached Jerusalem in spite of the siege (in the period April 28 to May 8) was dormant somewhere in Jerusalem until it was possible to deliver it to the addressee by the newly established M.H. postal service. The possibility to send a letter to besieged Jerusalem with Egged Bus Co. in that period is still a great enigma.

☆ ☆

☆



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Official Mail During the Periods of the British Mandate, Minhelet Ha'am and the Fledgling State of Israel

Z. Aloni, Pitham

Official mails from their nature are letters exempt from normal postage, and therefore without stamps. This has caused a lot of collectors to ignore official mail. Very few articles have been written on the subject*. Through my general interest in postal rates of the end of the British Mandate, I came across a lot of Official Mail and unfranked mail to and from Government Departments. In this article I try to deal with Official Mails to and from Government departments, not including Army post and detention camps, which were also exempt from postage, but under different regulations.

1. Official Mail Sent by Government Departments

Lack of official information on this section made it necessary to rely on existing items from the British Mandate, Minhelet Ha'am and The State of Israel.

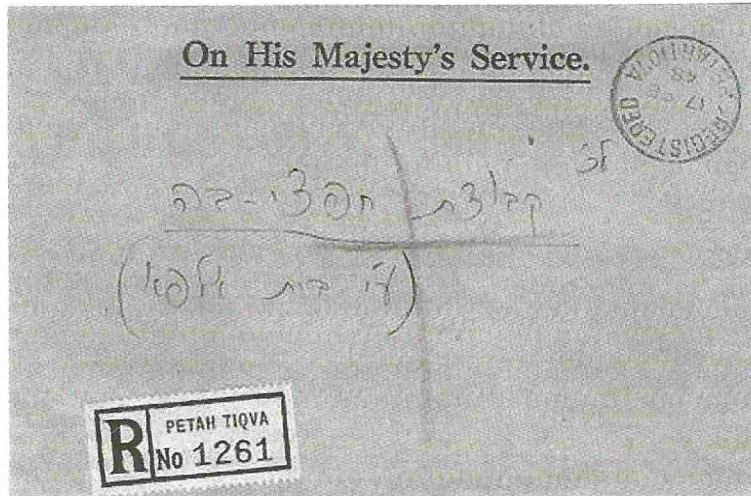


Fig. 44: Official registered letter sent by Government Department from Petah Tiqva to kibbutz Hefzi Ba on Feb. 17th 1948. Exempt from basic letter postage (10 mils) and registered fee (15 mils), sent unfranked as per regulations. Back stamped Feb. 17th Tel Aviv and Feb. 18th Affula.

* Lists of Government cachets are given by Sacher (1981), Gladstone & Glassman (1998) and in the recent edition by Glassman (2002).

1.1 Official Mail Sent by Government Departments

Exempt from basic rate + additional weight.

Exempt from registration fee.

Not exempt from express fee. (see Fig. 44 and 45).



Fig. 45: Official registered express letter sent by Government Department of Transportation from Tel Aviv to Natania on May 23rd 1948, exempt from basic letter postage (10 mils) and registration fee (15 mils), but not exempt from express fee, so franked 40 mils Doar Ivri stamps as per regulations. Backstamped Natania May 25th.

1.2 Official Mail Sent by the Government Department of Posts and Telegraphs

Total exemption from postage and special fees. (See Figs. 46 and 47).

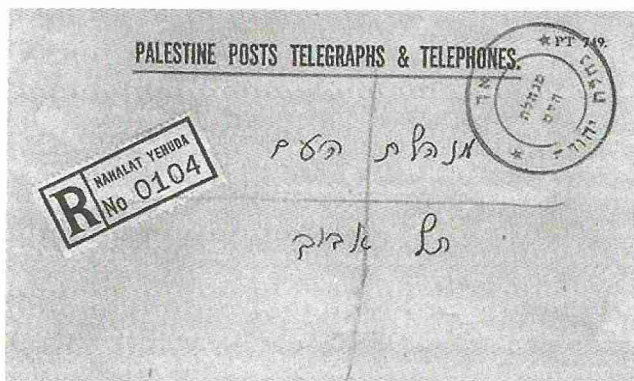


Fig. 46: Official registered letter sent from Nahalat Yehuda to the Minhelet Ha'am offices in Tel Aviv. Unfranked as the Postal Department was exempt from any postage.

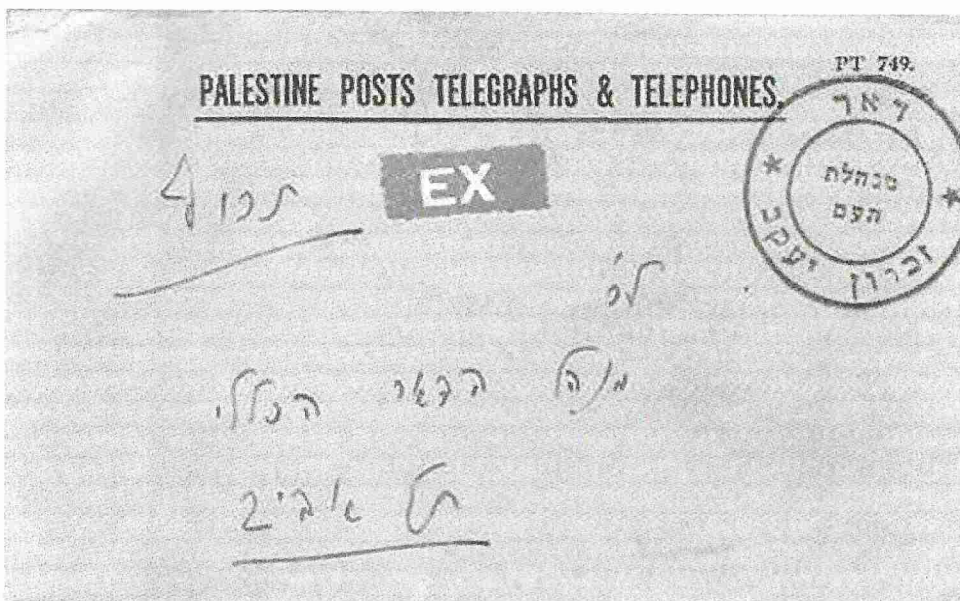


Fig. 47: Official express letter from Zichron Ya'acov Minhelet Ha'am Post Office to the Postmaster General in Tel Aviv. Unfranked as Postal Department was exempt from all postage.

2. Mail Sent to Government Departments

2.1 Letters to Government Departments unfranked and untaxed.

From the "Palestine Post Office Guide, April 1948":

"Letters or other Postal packets addressed to Government Departments, Postmasters, etc..

As a general rule letters or other postal packets addressed to Government Departments or an officer of the Government should be prepaid just as if it were addressed to a private person. Any communication addressed to a Head Postmaster or Postmaster should similarly be prepaid."

There is a popular opinion that letters to the Income Tax office have always been exempt from postage, but I failed to find any notification or regulation regarding the exemption in the pre-State period. On the contrary, in the "Post Office Guide" of April '48 the income Tax Office is not excluded from the general rule. In my opinion the 3 letters shown here (Figs. 48-50) two of which are to the Income Tax office, were sent against the regulations and maybe even were a way to avoid payment of postage by the senders. The letters were not taxed upon delivery just because it was addressed to a Government Department (on the letter in Figure 49 there is a handwritten notation of the postal clerk in red crayon, "Income Tax").

It is however true that sometime in the past (during the State period, but not known to us exactly) the regulation was changed as seen in Figure 51 which is a Post

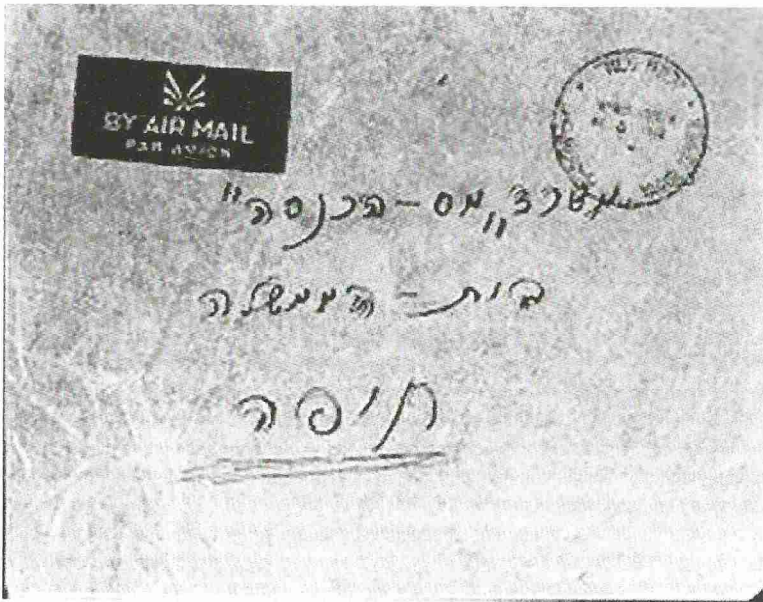


Fig. 48: A letter sent from Yagur-Nesher, Mar. 31st, 1949 to the Income Tax Office in Haifa, unfranked and yet not taxed.

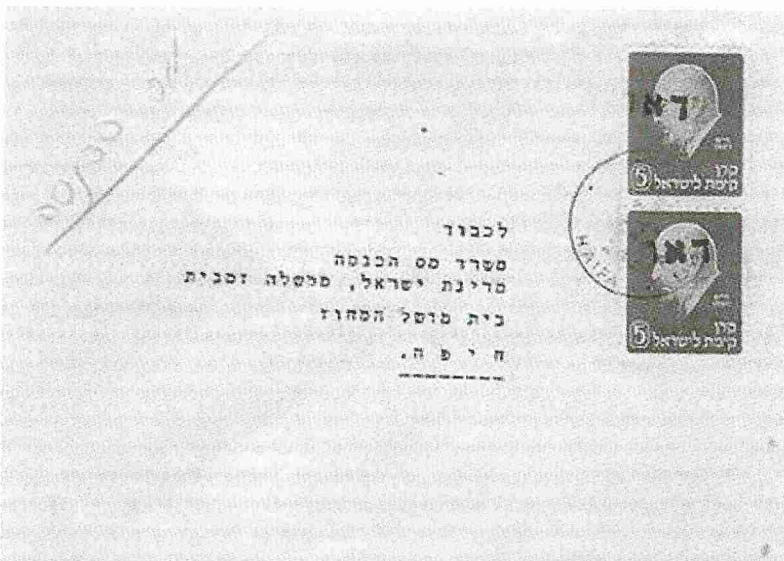


Fig. 49: A letter sent locally in Haifa, May 25th 1948, addressed to the Income Tax Office, franked 10 mils demonetized Minhelet Ha'am stamps; not taxed upon delivery as the addressee was a Government office.*

* These stamps were valid only up to May 23rd.

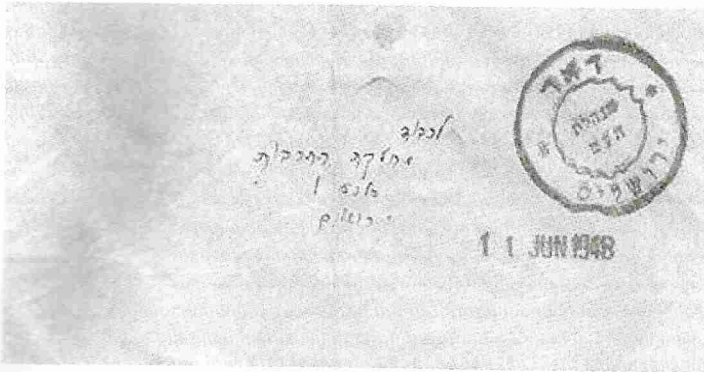



Fig. 50: A letter sent locally in Jerusalem, June 11th 1948, addressed to the "Department of Culture", unfranked, cancelled with the "Rosette" postmark. Not taxed upon delivery as the addressee was a Government office.

Office "Circular Letter" sent to all B.P.O.'s on 27th August, 2002. This "Letter" corrects a previous "Circular Letter" of April 9th by including "non-standard" letter ("מכתב חריג") in addition to "standard" letter which is stated to be free of charge if addressed to the Income Tax Office. But only the basic postage is exempt while any additional service (like Registration or Express) is not.



רשות הדואר

מכתב חוזר

27 באוגוסט, 2002
17/02
ירושלים, י"ט באלול, התשס"ב

הנדון: משלוח מכתבים בלתי מבוטלים למס הכנסה

על פי הודעת נציבות מס הכנסה לרשות הדואר, ניתן לקבל מכתבים חריגים שאינם מבוטלים, הנשלחים בידי הציבור למס הכנסה.

זאת, בשינוי לאמור במכתב חוזר בנדון, מספר 77/02 מ-9 באפריל 2002.

בברכת שנה טובה,
מרנלית בן-משה
ד"מ מנהלת תחום שירותי אשנב

אגף התפעול

Figure 51

2.2 Letters to the Government Department of Health

From the "Palestine Post Office Guide, April 1948":

"Notifications, etc., may, however, be sent as "official" when addressed by title of office to District officers at Government offices and to District Officers of Health, by mukhtars and others",

This case of exemption continued also after the British Mandate. Figure 52 shows a rare example of an unfranked letter to a Government Department in the M.H. period, which is according to the regulations.

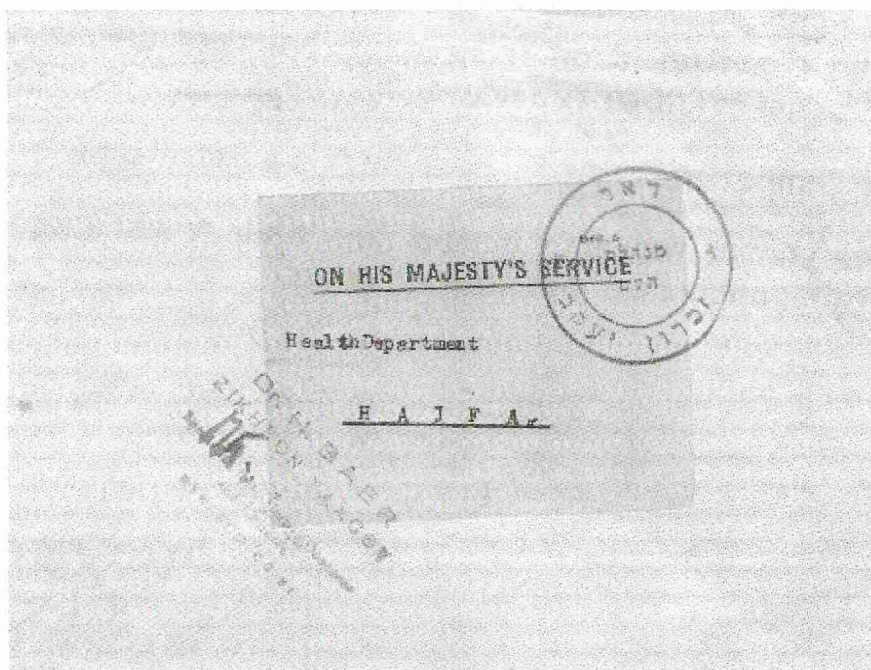


Fig. 52: Official letter sent by Dr. Baer from Zikhron Yaacov to the Health Department in Haifa, exempt from postage as per regulation.

References:

- "Palestine Post Office Guide", April 1948.
- "The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel", S.L.G. Rothman & Y. Tsachor (1985).
- "Government, 'Certified Official' and Post Office Cachets of the British Mandate of Palestine", M. Sacher, BAPIP Mongraph (1981).
- "Government, 'Certified Official' and Post Office Cachets of the British Mandate of Palestine"; A Supplement to Michel Sacher's Monograph", Gladstone & E. Glassman HLPH publication (1998).
- "Mandate Jerusalem Postmarks", E. Glassman, Jerusalem (2002)

* * * * *
 *
 * **SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES** *
 *
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The Ottoman Period

A comment on the "Schnorrer Briewe" controversy *(S. Ladany)*

Tourist guides touring with visitors through the center of Zichron-Yaacov tell the story about the first years of the first settlers in Zamarin (the early name of Zichron): Just prior to the harvest of their first crop, it was burnt. They had caught an Arab peasant who admitted the arson, and surprised the Jewish farmers revealing that he was hired for the job by the Jewish community of Safed. the Jews of Safed in those days lived on Schnor - on "Chalukah" Money - and tried to prevent a precedence that Jews could earn their own living in the Holy Land by working. I assume that a reference can be found to this story in the Ted Arrison Museum in Zichron Yaacov.

I also question the spelling "BRIEWE". It should be "BRIEFE". The late 19th century Ben-Jehuda Hebrew-Yiddish-Russian Dictionary, published in Warsaw, translates the Hebrew word "מכתב" (letter) to "בריעף" (brief), which has the same meaning and spelling as in German. Thus, the plural of it is BRIEFE.

The British Mandate Period

Reading From Right to Left - Why?

(by the late *Dr. Arthur M. Hochheiser*)

In memory of our very dear member and friend, Dr. Arthur Hochheiser, who was so prolific that we could not publish his articles - always interesting and revealing - as fast as he submitted them. So the present article still remained in the cartridge of the bulletin and is published posthumously

All collectors of the stamps of Palestine are familiar with the trilingual overprint found on the Mandate Issues of Jerusalem I, II, III and London I. These overprints were applied on the "Typo" Issue (Fig. 53) used during the Military Administration in Palestine. In accordance with the League of Nations Mandate, the Civil Administration was required to use the three languages, Arabic, English, and Hebrew on all Palestine Official Communications. It is the curious mind that asks



Figure 53

itself why the Arabic and Hebrew overprints, the top and bottom lines in the overprint, read from right to left while the English overprint line in the middle reads from left to right.

Most readers are aware of the fact that Hebrew and Arabic texts read as above in the indicated directions from right to left (Fig. 54). What is not generally known is that this is characteristic of all ancient Semitic languages, including the two above as well as Accadian, Aramaic, Phoenician and Ethiopic. Aramaic (Fig. 55) may well have been one of the most important languages of the prebiblical and biblical periods.

Of course, almost all later languages written horizontally read from left to right. It is academically interesting that Yiddish (translated: Jewish) is one modern language written from right to left. While the language is essentially different from Hebrew, the same letters used in Hebrew script are transliterated in Yiddish usage. Yiddish derives from German with a number of other Eastern European and some Hebrew words as well.

As writing developed, the use of different materials was generally based on the purpose for which the written material was intended, stone for permanent inscriptions like tablets and monuments and other materials for missives that were not necessarily intended to be of permanent nature.

P.T. 48

מכתב البريد العام - القدس
مשרد הדאר הכללי
ירושלים

رقم
כתשובה על לחזקר
31/1/26

193
26 26 198
א.ל.

بالاشارة الى
בקשר עם קביעה
3305
29.9.26
TELEPHONE POSTS TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES
ביום

ارجوكم بان تفضلوا بارسال نسخة الاتفاق لصياغة تافوات فلسطين الى هذا

المكتب في اقرب فرصة تناسبكم لكي يضاف عليها بمض التصليحات.

אשמח אם כב' יואיל להמציא למשרד זה בהקדם הכי אפשרי את העתק חוזה
המלסון שברשותו לשם הכנסת תקונים בו.

وستعاد لكم حالما يصير اتمامها وتفضلوا بقبول الاحترام
אחרי תקון יחידותו לכב'.

בכבוד רב

מנכ"ל
מנכ"ל הפלג של הדאר
מנכ"ל
מנכ"ל הפלג של הדאר

Figure 54

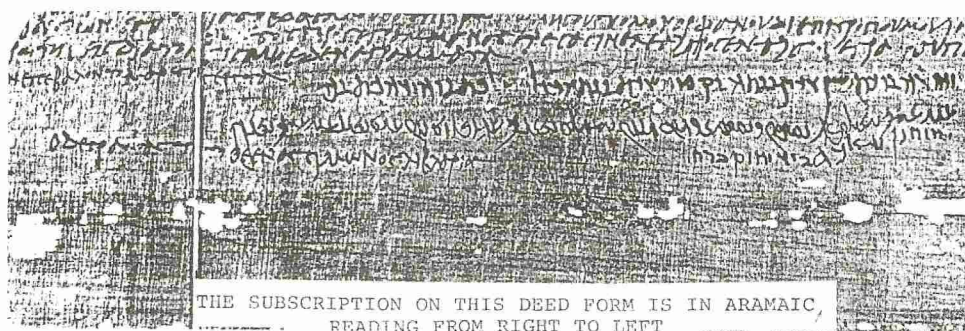


Figure 55: The subscription on this deed form is in Aramaic, reading from right to left.

The questions we must ask are "WHY" and "WHAT" brought about the necessity for writing in the indicated directions. The answer is to be found in the materials available for writing at the various times and the ease with which these materials could be used.

All of these elements of the origin of writing come down to one basic fact. What were the materials available onto which the first message could be written? Civilization began with the "Stone Age" and the "Iron Age". It took man's ingenuity to find those materials with which to write on stone tablets. These materials were the 'hammer' and the 'chisel' (Fig. 56). Right-handed people hold the hammer in the right hand and the chisel in the left hand. To begin at the left would have made it impossible to see what one was writing. So, perforce, they started at the right and wrote to the left. Later, when inks, pens and paper-like materials were



Figure 56

developed writing from left to right became more appropriate.

These facts are substantiated in texts and may be found in a book "Ancient Scrolls" by Michael Avi-Yonah. I would also like to thank Neil Cohn, Research Librarian at the Public Library in Lodi, New Jersey for his help in researching this material.

A Postal Form used just before World War II. *(D. Weiss, Raanana)*

On September 5th, 1939, somebody from Haifa sent a postcard in Yiddish to his relatives in Lodz, Poland. The letter has been returned to its sender with a special form made with a typewriter, stuck with glue to its front (Fig. 57). Its four lines are as follows:

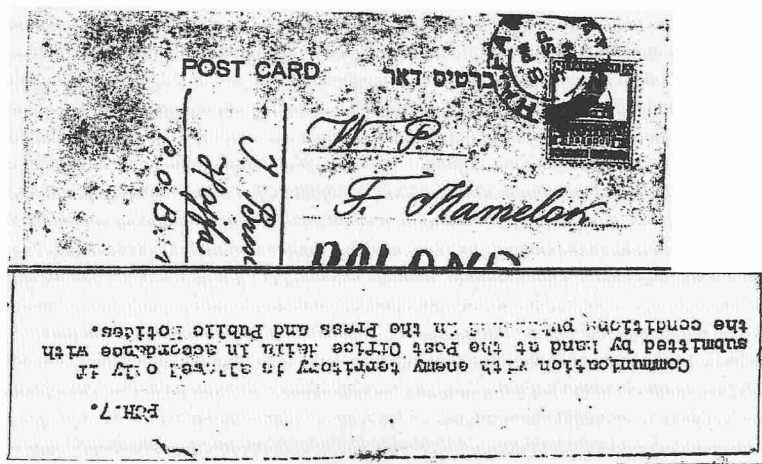


Figure 57

PCH. 7.

Communication with enemy territory is allowed only if submitted by hand at the Post Office Haifa in accordance with the conditions published in the Press and Public Notices."

There were two more postcards together with the one mentioned above with the same sender's and addressee's names but their stamps were scraped off, so, I guess, they have never been sent.

A Palestine Gem *(N. Zankel, NJ)*

There are several Palestine stamps with inverted overprints listed in the major catalogs. These occur on the "Jerusalem 1" three millimes, "Jerusalem 2" one millieme, and the "London 2" one millieme and two piastres stamps.

I remember a "Jerusalem 2" inverted overprint offered in a recent auction. They described the stamp as "overprint inverted and shifted." I checked my copy and saw that the Arabic is at the top, when it should be at the bottom, like it is on my

"Jerusalem 1" and "London 2" stamps with inverted overprint. I mentally filed away this information.

I was able to obtain in a New York City auction earlier this summer an upper left corner block of the "Jerusalem 2" inverted overprint (Fig. 58). The overprint is shifted down so the top two stamps have only the Hebrew and English lines of the overprint. This explains why the Arabic overprint is at the top of the stamps below them.

I have been collecting Palestine stamps for over 25 years and I don't remember seeing these two line inverted overprint stamps being offered by dealers or at auction. The pane was printed twelve stamps across so there should be ten more of these stamps available to collectors.

Does anyone have another example? Please write to me at the following address:

Nathan Zankel, PO Box 7449, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.



Figure 58

Elusive Error Long Chased Turnout to be a Constant Design Error

(J. Shimony)

Some years ago, I heard or read somewhere that there is an error, very rarely encountered, in a Jerusalem Krag Machine slogan cancellation of the thirties.* The slogan reads: "Buy Jaffa Oranges and Grapefruit / Achetez les Oranges et les Grapefruits de Jaffa / Kaufe Jaffa Orangen und Grapefruit", repeating the ad in the three languages, English, French and German (Fig. 59). The error, I was told,

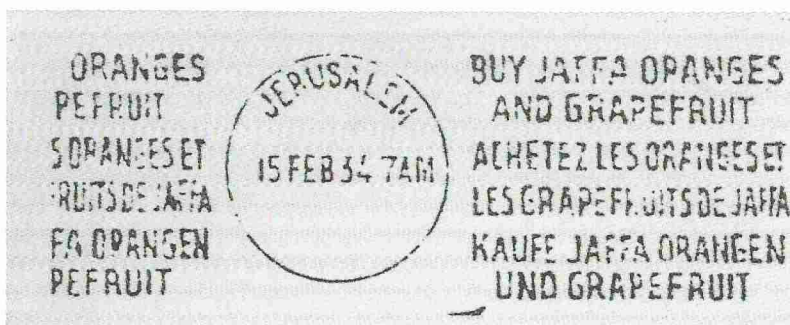
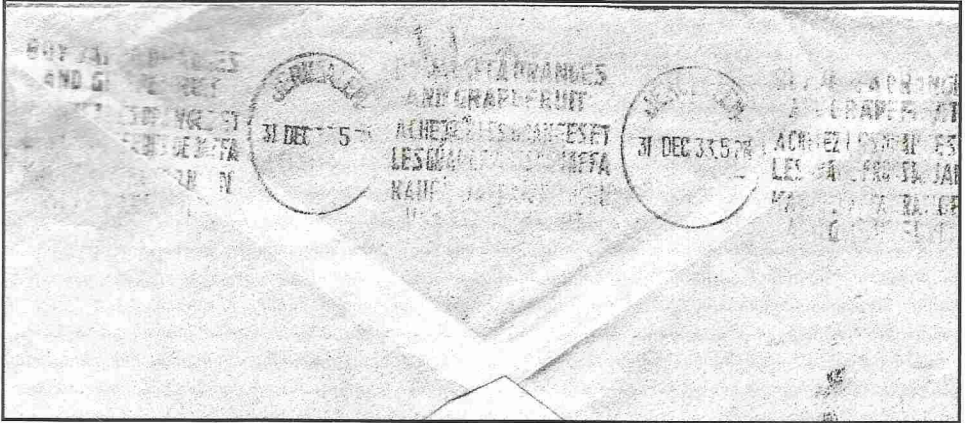


Figure 59

* The Krag type machine instrument is characterized by having more than one printing heads, each carrying a separate printing cliché and all of them tied to a revolving chain moving continuously during the operation.

may occur in the bottom (German) line, in the word 'UND', which means 'AND' and appears so in the rare examples of the error. Being a collector of Mandate postmarks of Jerusalem. I eagerly looked for years for this error, but in spite of checking many such cancellations, I have not found the "elusive" error. It should be noted that the impressions of this slogan appear generally very tatty, and especially the bottom lines are hardly readable (Fig. 60).



↑ UND
Figure 60

So, you can imagine how excited I was when, a few months ago, I found among many covers in a junk-box in a garage-sale the cover shown in Figure 61. Although rather damaged on its right side, most of its face is fine, the stamp very fine and the main part of the cancellation in a relatively (to its kind) superb condition, showing very clearly the long chased error, 'AND' instead of 'UND' in the bottom German line! But now, diabolically, I was curious to see the same 'AND' on the part of the second slogan on the right, being sure that I would - only to be deeply astonished to



↑ AND
Figure 61

find there, though almost unreadable, the word 'UND' instead of the anticipated erratic 'AND'! Now I asked myself, "is it an erratic cancellation on this cover or not?". Having in mind the answer to the query, I wanted first to check a clearer strike of the slogan cancellation and I found it, clear like a sunny day, in Glassman & Sacher's book (1982)¹. In their illustration of the postmark, which is copied here (Fig. 62), the duality of the German "UND" (and 'AND') in a single "strike" of the Krag cancel cannot be refuted. What is intriguing is the fact that the authors, Glassman & Sacher, failed to mention, and perhaps they did not notice, that there is an "error" in this postmark.* Anyway it becomes clear now that the 'error' is not "very rare" but rather 'omnipotent', existing in fact in every "strike" of the machine cancellation, resulting from the Krag-type nature of this cancel and from an engraved **design error** (not a traditional philatelic "error") in one of the heads of this multi-clishé Krag cancellation. Due to the revolving nature of the machine operation, the occurrence of the erratic head image on a clear blank space in addition to the bad quality of these impressions make the appearance of a clear impression of the 'AND' misprint very infrequent.

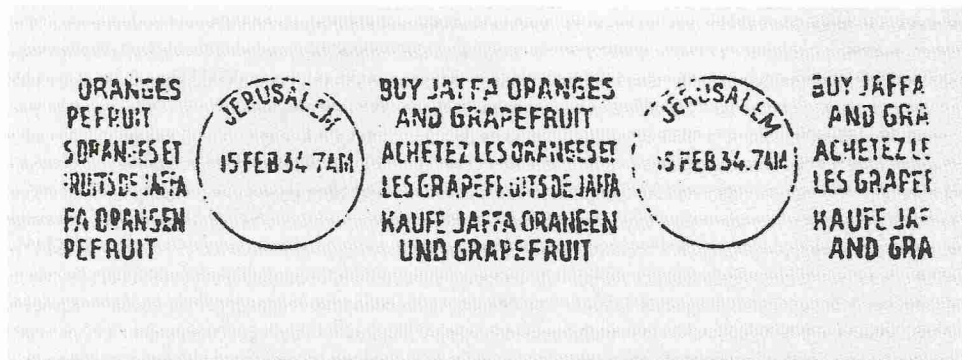


Figure 62

References:

- (1) E. Glassman & M. Sacher, "The Postmarks and other Markings of Mandate Jerusalem (1917 - 1948)", London (1982), p. 34.
- (2) E. Glassman, "Mandate Jerusalem Postmarks", published by the Author, Jerusalem (2002) pp.43, 45.

** In a recently published book Glassman does mention very shortly the existence of this error.

The Transition Period

Cooperation between the Mandatory Postal Service and the Rishon Le Zion Armored Car Service in April 1948 (*J. Aloni*)

From the nature of the "Armored Car" postal service of Rishon Le Zion, being a local private service, we do not expect any cooperation with the legal Mandate authority in the first days of the service. The organizers of the "Armored Car" service arranged the points of dispatch and delivery in Rishon Le Zion, Tel Aviv and Nahlat Yehuda without any connection to the existing, hardly functioning Mandatory post. (The main reason for the establishment of the "Armored Car" service was the inefficiency of the regular Mandatory postal service).

Few years ago I found a letter sent from Rishon Le Zion on April 6th 1948 by the local "Armored Car" service to Tel Aviv, backstamped by two postmarks, the regular bilingual arrival postmark of Tel Aviv and in addition a S.C. Mandatory postmark of Tel Aviv dated April 7th (Fig. 63). The Mandatory postmark is evidence that this letter entered the Mandatory postal service and was treated and postmarked as an express letter - Why???

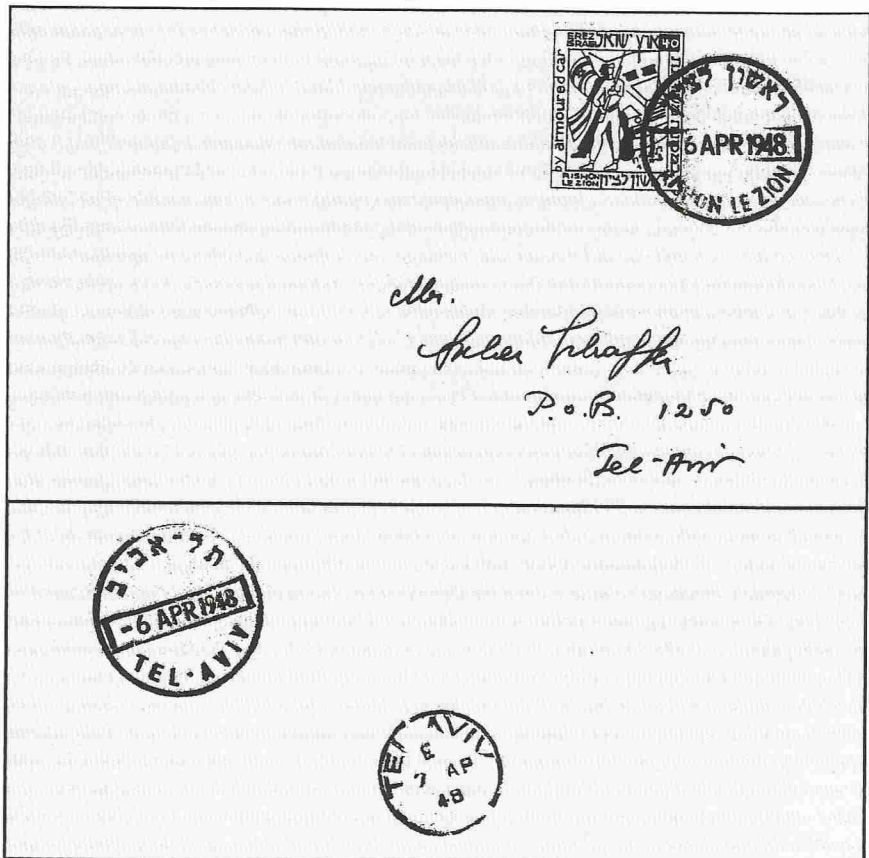


Figure 63

When carefully examining the letter I noticed that it was addressed to a post office box in Tel Aviv, and not to a street address. Assuming that the "Armored Car" service of Rishon Le Zion did not have P.O. Box service, being a temporary service, the only way to deliver this letter was to penetrate somehow into the Mandatory system and probably with the cooperation of a Jewish post office clerk the letter was delivered at the proper P.O.B..

This letter was the first swallow for many years but today we know of about two more letters addressed to P.O. Boxes in Tel Aviv, treated the same way. One of these belongs to an American collector who was very happy to discover the Mandatory postmark on one of the "Armored Car" letters in his collection.

If any of the readers have additional information about the cooperation between the postal service of the "Armored Car" and the Mandate (excluding Nahalat Yehuda) he is kindly invited to write to me.

Minhelet Ha'am Courier Letter from Besieged Jerusalem

(J. Karpovsky)

A few months ago, while browsing over a catalogue of a recent stamp auction, I saw a photo of a cover from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv franked with a 10 mil Jerusalem 2nd stamp, tied by M.H. postmark (Fig. 64). Apparently not a big deal, but when I looked at it more carefully I was greatly surprised - the M.H. postmark was of Tel Aviv and not of Jerusalem - which fact renders the letter extremely interesting and a top rarity. The letter having been franked with a Second Issue Jerusalem Stamp must have been sent not before May 10, 1948; and having been cancelled by M.H. postmark of Tel Aviv must have been in Tel Aviv before May 15. Therefore it is certainly a flown courier letter from besieged Jerusalem, which was sent and delivered in the period 10-14 May - a period which is part of that called "Minhelet Ha'am" Period.

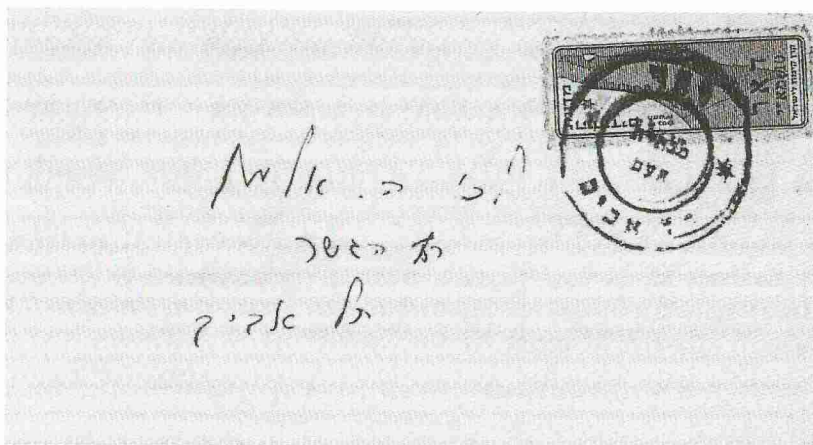


Figure 64

This letter is therefore a very important postal history item - being the earliest known to date flown courier letter from besieged Jerusalem* and the only known letter of this sort sent and delivered in the M.H. period.

A Letter from Besieged Kibbutz Ramat Rachel

(I. Harpovsky)

Kibbutz "Ramat Rachel" was founded in 1925 by members of "Gdud Ha'avoda Al Shem Yosef Trumpeldor" (Joseph Trumpeldor Labour Group), and named after Rachel the Matriarch because of its proximity to Rachel's Tomb. Ramat Rachel is situated about 2 km south of Jerusalem and is a buffer between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The Kibbutz was totally destroyed in the Arab riots of 1929, and was reestablished in 1930. During the War of Independence, in 1948, it served as a front guard line, defending Jerusalem from the south, where from the beginning of that year the kibbutz was attacked by Arab gun-fire from the neighboring villages. On May 21st, upon the invasion of the regular armies of the Arab countries into Israel, the kibbutz was attacked by the Jordanian Arab Legion soldiers, conquered and completely destroyed, after the retreat of its inhabitants. Following heavy fighting which lasted until May 25th, in which the kibbutz changed hands three times, it was finally liberated by two Palmach units on May 25th.

Due to the scarcity of agricultural lands in the region, the kibbutz had to maintain itself by rendering various services to the city of Jerusalem, such as laundry services to large institutions in the city, hospitals, etc.

During the period of the British Mandate, the kibbutz didn't have its own post office branch, and the inhabitants used the post services of Jerusalem, mainly the Mea Shearim branch, in the proximity of "Bikkur Holim" hospital, which also used the kibbutz laundry services.

During the War of Independence, and during the siege of Jerusalem, the kibbutz was cut off from the city. The only connection with it was by means of secured convoys that brought supplies and returned with the wounded and mail. From many aspects, the predicament of Ramat Rachel was similar to that of Mount Scopus, the enclave which was in state of a "siege within a siege", with respect to Jerusalem and the rest of the country.

A personal description of the situation during this time is very well depicted in the following letter that was written by a young woman from the kibbutz to her family in Ramat Gan on May 8th, 13 days prior to the kibbutz' conquest and its destruction by the Arab Legion soldiers on May 21st.

The letter was sent to Jerusalem with one of the convoys that left the kibbutz between the dates May 8th - 14th, without stamps (Fig. 65). It was franked in the post office branch of Mea Shearim with the Jerusalem emergency stamp, handstamped with the Minhelet Ha'am cancellation in purple on May 12^{th**}.

* Hitherto the earliest known one was a letter from 16.5.48.

** It is well known that purple coloured ink was in use for canceling letters in the Mea Shearim B.P.O. and on May 12 only.

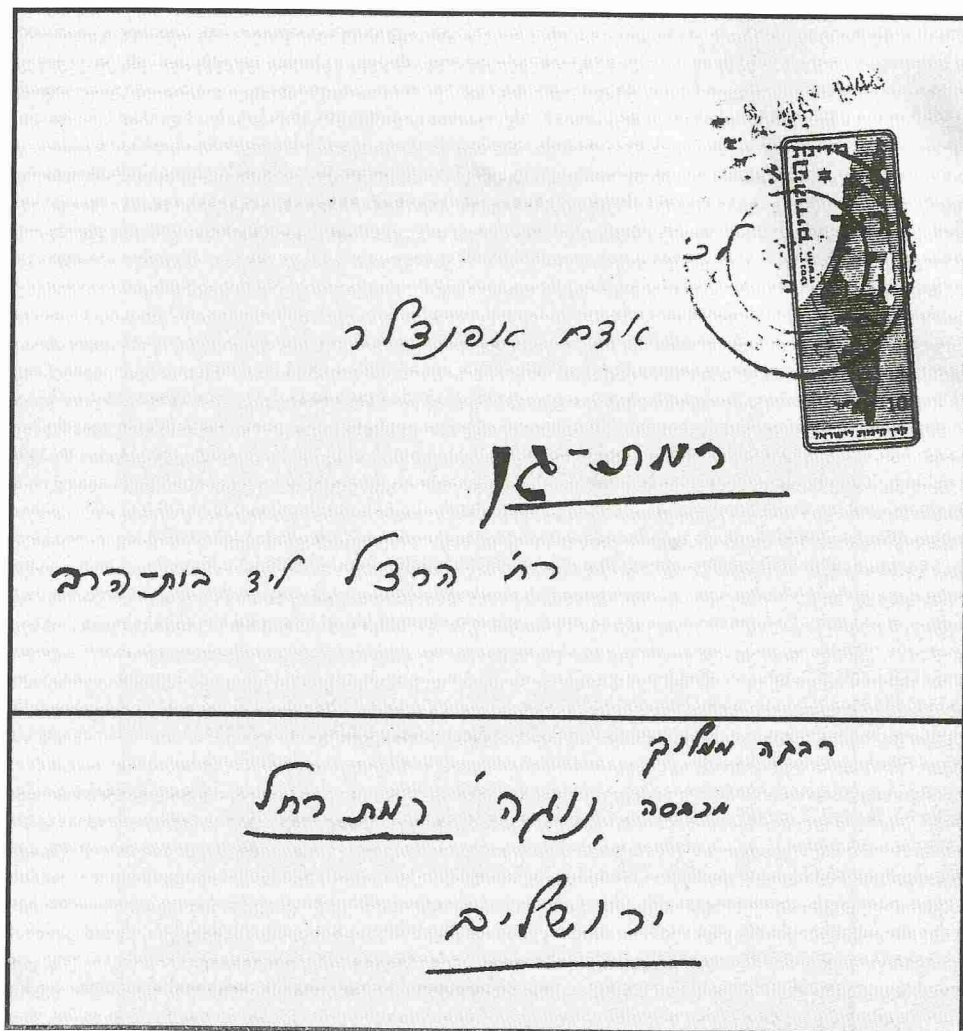


Figure 65

We have no information regarding the exact date of the letter's arrival at its destination; however, based on the date of its cancellation, it probably left Jerusalem with the second convoy, on June 21.

It is fortunate that we were able to find the text of the letter itself inside the envelope (parts of it are shown on Fig. 66 and translated herewith) in which the young woman wrote to her family about the long period of being isolated, of her fears, of the incessant gun-fire aimed at them from all directions, and that fortunately, up to that time, only 2 members had been killed:

8-4-79 - רמת רחל -

ליום זה לך אבא!

סוף סוף נפתח לי שוב אפשרות לכתוב לך המכתב הכתוב.
 צדדה זלתי תקנה כי אינכר של עתק ולי היה דברי קשה אך
 צדדיק לקנות לא יגדו ימים קשים יתנו, ובכל זאת כחיל וצדו
 הוא שיגדו.
 כל אדם כיום הולך נשוי בלבן חרדה גדולה לקנות הימים
 הקרובים, וזו מה שאלו הכל להתרשם, מה יהיה גורלן?
 מה יהיה גורל הקרובים לך וגורל האלף כולו?
 האם ישן משהו שזאלו בכלל אונס דברים שאלה?
 וצדד אחר משהו לבלתי-הרפון אחיו! כעם האונס התיי שחוקשה
 את בכל רפון שצדד ברעה אבני, כל אדם חצור רצון צד
 ונשוי אמת תמיד קבלי ונשטו, אלא בתקופה זו אמת מוקם
 וזו את צדד כל קוסק! בתקופה זו צדד נשטו מוחסי.
 בהכלל.

אדם יקר, קשה לי לתאר לך מה גדולים האגודי אליכם
 כשאתם רק חשבת על אבא ואלא חיד מתפרצות הדמעות -
 בוטת אעתי האלה לדברי שצדד חצי-שנה או להתחיל!
 עד לא הסרי סייע אליה תקנה. אך יוצ התאטת ואצדד תקיני.
 נדכסיו בהה לתלות את תקופת? ולסני ה-15 אחיו נראה
 הכל כל כך שחור ואיום.
 שבועים התי בינושלים ואחרות העצב הקשה לאו היה לי שם כעם
 אבל גומים האחרונה טענת מין טעם כצדד טל קיתנים



ת"י האנשים כאן לויים ברם העל מיוחד נדדקו כאן רק
 שטעם.
 אדם יקר את יגדו לך ימים קבלי יתני טובים?
 ולו לקבול קבולת אבא מתרבות. היה צדד מושל לי כ"ח
 ונולד מקבל כצדד השבוע?
 מה נשטו אצלכם? מה אבא כריאותך? ומה שלום סדב
 וסבתך?
 הדרה הדרה נשקות לכם
 ואינו כתבו אבא
 ללכם האבדד ובקצתנית
 יצדדים
 ד"ר מיוסל

Figure 66

Dear Edesh,

Ramat Rachel, 8/1/48

At last things quieted down and I could write a letter to you. We have had quite a long period of separation, and I found it very hard indeed. However, one should hope that we are not going to face harder days, though I am almost sure they will come. Nowadays, every person in Israel is carrying a great deal of fear in his heart for the upcoming days, and who knows what may happen here, what our fate shall be and what will be the fate of our dear ones, and the fate of the whole country.

Is there anybody at all who can guess such things?

One thing is common to us all - it is the will to stay alive! This is the first time in my life that I feel such a will, with every fiber of my body. Every person is filled with this will, and always cherishes it within his heart. However, at such a period it is embedded in your whole body! At such a period it becomes absolutely tangible.

Dear Edesh, it is very hard for me to describe how immense my longings for you are; when I only think of mother and father the tears roll down right away - really, I am not used to such a situation, half a year of not seeing each other!

I had been hopeful until the evening of Passover, but then I despaired, and lost my hope. Now, tell me where should I put my hope? And before May 15th everything looks so black and frightful.

I spent two weeks in Jerusalem, and despite the difficult situation there, I didn't feel too bad at all, yet during the last two days I experienced such a taste of the gun shots that is hard to describe.

.....

.....

Dear Edesh, when a little better days will come upon us?

And if at least I had received letters from you. It would have strengthen me, and perhaps I will get this week?

How are you? How is your health? And how are Grandpa and Grandma?

Many many kisses and please write soon,

Yours with strong love and longings

Rivka

The State of Israel

Some Rare Postal Handstamps *(P. Ladany)*

1. Comment on "An Intriguing Handstamp on a Cover From Jerusalem", by Les. M. Glassman, HLPH 89-90, p. 389.

Even though I collect postal handstamp markings of Instructional & Service Information nature, I have not yet seen the illustrated marking. (By the way, in the cited text there is a minor error; it should be "when THIS letter", and not "THE letter."). However, the principal message of the handstamp - instructing postal authorities to refrain from treating the postal item as lacking sufficient postage - was carried forward by the local Postal Administration.

Figure 67 illustrates a salvaged envelope, sent from abroad to Haifa with its stamp washed-off. The remaining postmark on the cover shows only "KATOW" (which stands probably for KATOWITZ in Poland), and only the day "13". The cover bears also the red colored all-Hebrew 2 line cachet "This Postal Item was Damaged During its Transport to Israel". This cachet is known, also in black color, from the 50's & 60's. In addition, a violet framed rectangular 3-line Hebrew-French handstamp is applied: "Found at Haifa Post Office Without Postage-Stamp." There is no other marking on the cover.

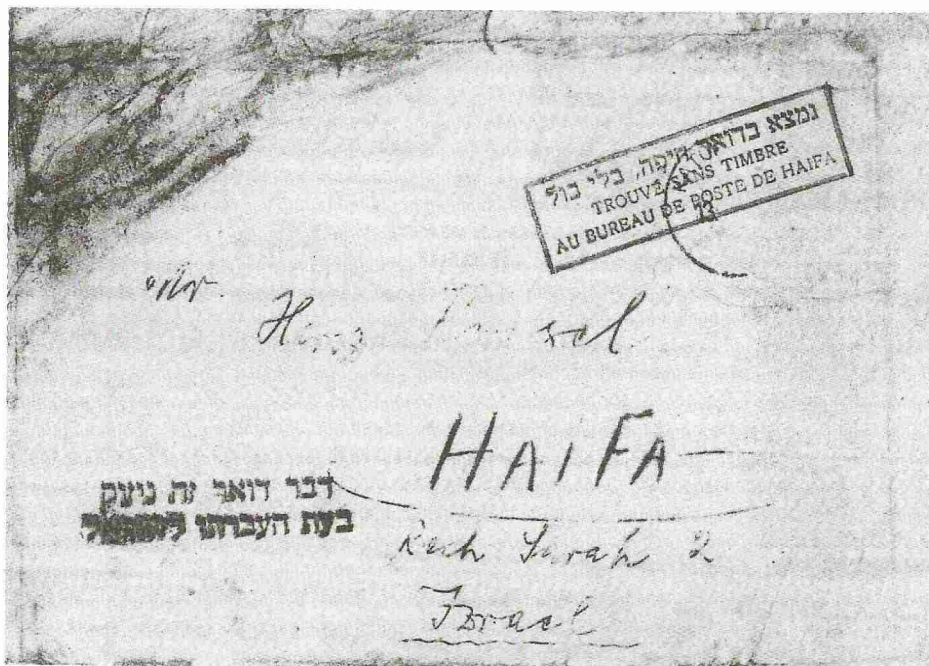


Figure 67

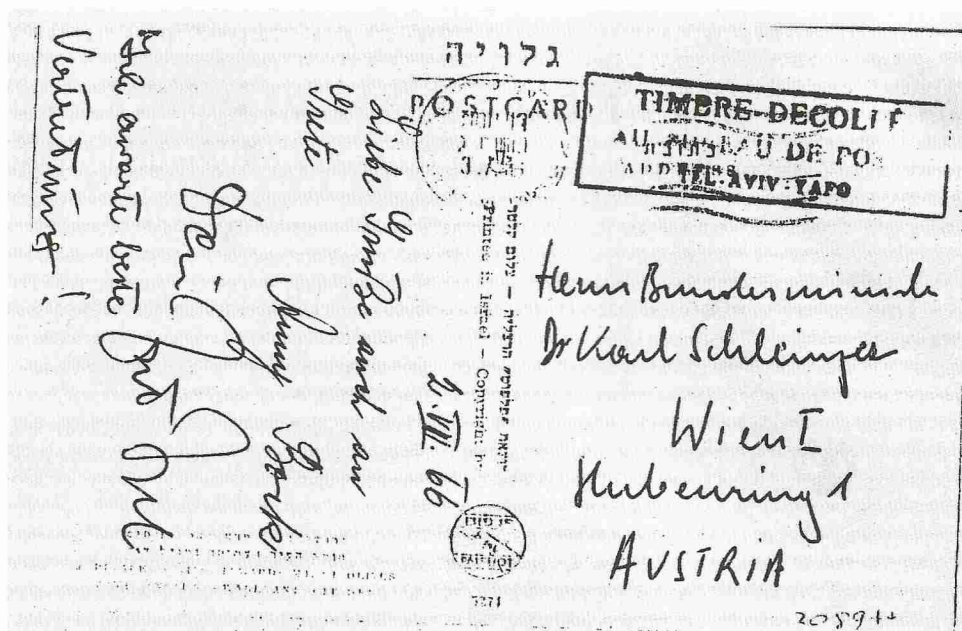


Fig. 68: An unrecorded cachet on a postcard from Tel Aviv, 3.7.1966 sent to the Austrian Minister Dr. Karl Schleinger.

Figure 68 illustrates a postcard machine-postmarked "3.7.1966 Tel Aviv" addressed and sent to the Austrian Minister Dr. Karl Schleinger in Vienna. The postage stamp fell off (its place is visible), probably during the cancellation process, and a violet framed rectangular 3-line all French handstamp applied: "Postage-stamp Fell off at the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Post Office".

I have not seen other copies of these two handstamps.

2. Comment on "A Letter from New York to Tel Aviv" by D. Weiss, HLPB 89-90, p. 386 (Figure 104).

It seems that the wheel is reinvented, or that HLPB is recycled. Z. Shimony (in the FIRST issue of HLPB, Summer 1979), discusses "The Post Office Strike in Israel," mentions and illustrates 2 similar "EMBARGO" cachets (p. 12 and plate VI). Several additional cachets of similar types were applied then, and once more several years later.

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GENERAL NEWS
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New Special Cancellations

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



מסלולי בוסר ישראל החוגגת יום החופשה. סגורה רמון 18.6.02



העובד "עזר החדש" החוגגת אירוע. טיבוח 26.5.02

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.



קבל לועזר סאניזציה אטומית. חוגגת אירוע. תל-אביב 13.6.02



רבבלים. חוגגת יום החופשה. ד.א. ים הסהל 18.6.02



רבבלים. חוגגת יום החופשה. קריית טיבוח 18.6.02



מגלים העתיים היסטוריים. תל חיבונת חוגגת יום החופשה ד.א. עסק הירזן 18.6.02



סכנות החלל חוגגת אירוע. נבל טיבוח 19.7.02



יום העשיית החלל. חוגגת אירוע. נבל טיבוח 4.7.02



קבל לועזר הוליוופי. חוגגת אירוע. תל-אביב 4.7.02



תקונגריש תיבוחי חלי. חוגגת אירוע. ירושלים 17.6.02 (להקטין את החוגגת כמו בעודל חוגגת מספר 6 ולקנות את החוגגת המגבי שחיה יופר ברזוח).



ירושלים זכר. חוגגת יום החופשה. ירושלים 27.8.02



מזינים 2002 חוגגת יום החופשה. ראשון טיבוח 27.8.02



מלים בקריאת. חוגגת אירוע. תל-אביב 2.8.02



80 שנה לביטן קן. חוגגת אירוע. רמת קן 23.7.02



בניינים היסטוריים ואתרים, בת שבע
 כדוריות חתומות עם חתומים
 27.8.02



ברוך שפינוזה, חתומת יום החתום
 ירושלים 27.8.02



חגודו על בסיס שבע חתומות אירוע, ארבע ארבע
 31.10.02



מוסיאון ריבלינוסקי, חתומת אירוע
 תל-אביב 30.10.02



30 שנה לרצח היסטוריונים בביבוק
 חתומת אירוע, תל-אביב 29.11.02



ציפורי בקשת הירדן, חתומת יום חתומים
 27.8.02



משחקי ילדים, חתומת יום חתומים
 תל-אביב 28.11.02



מנכ"ל קייטיביץ, חתומת יום חתומים
 ירושלים 26.11.02



יום הסובלנות, חתומת אירוע, ירושלים
 17.11.02



הטלרונת טלקום, חתומת אירוע, תל-אביב
 8.11.02



הכנס ה-16 של בוסניא ירושלים
 תל-אביב 3.12.02



פיב קבילנות חתומים
 חתומת אירוע, תל-אביב 29.11.02



מנורה, יום חתומים
 ירושלים 26.11.02

New Stamps

- The following new stamps were issued in the last period.
- 18.6.02: Cable-cars in Israel (4 x IS 2.20); Buildings and historic sites (definitive series) Hatsar Kinneret (3.30); Souvenir Sheet, "Geology of the Land of Israel" (Composing 3 stamps: IS 2.20 + 3.40 + 4.40, price IS 12.00).
 - 27.8.02: Buildings and Historic sites (definitive series) The Kadoori School (IS 4.60); Festivals התשס"ג (2002) - Wines of Israel (IS 1.20, 1.90, 2.30); Birds of the Jordan Valley (3 x IS 2.20); In Memory of Mr. Rechavam Ze'evy (Gandi), Minister of Tourism, assassinated by Palestinian terrorists (IS 1.20); Baruch Spinoza (Philosopher, 1632 - 1677) (IS 5.90).
 - 26.11.02: Philately Day - Children's games (4 x IS 2.20); Political Journalists - Abba Ahimeir, Israel Eldad, Moshe Belinson, Rabbi Binyamin (IS 1.20, 3.30, 4.70, 5.90); The Menorah (Candlestick) (IS 1, Ag 30).

Book Reviews

Mandate Jerusalem Postmarks by E. Glassman.

We Holyland Postal History Collectors are indeed fortunate to have Mannie Glassman amongst our number. He is a top-notch researcher and he complements this seldom seen talent with excellent writing skills. In 1982, he together with Michael Sacher (z.l.) published their "The Postmarks and other markings of Mandate Jerusalem (1917-1948)". Not only did this work bring coherency into a hitherto meandering series of references but it set a very high standard for the other references that were to follow covering other aspects of Mandate Postal History. Now, 20 years after its initial publication, Glassman has taken pen in hand again to update and even improve upon his earlier publication about Jerusalem - the city which he loves and his place of residence.

Quoting from Glassman's introduction, as he says it best and with the modesty so typical of him, "The first edition has long been out of print. In the interne, much information about earlier or later datings have been found, some errors corrected and the Government cachet section considerably enlarged. The listings of both the censor labels and numbers and the registered labels have been dropped. The text has been rewritten, and labels redrawn. The data table design has been retained for its ease of use. New illustrations have been incorporated into this edition, so that it is a new, completely revised up-to-date edition."

After perusing the new work, we conclusively state that he has accomplished all of these stated objectives. Particularly noteworthy are the excellent full color illustrations of germane covers that are amongst the rarities of Mandate Postal History. However, lest readers mistakenly believe that the work is only a strict illustrated listing of Jerusalem markings, all are hereby informed that the work skillfully incorporates much of the actual history of Jerusalem during the fateful years of the Palestine Mandate. These glimpses into history are to be found in the introductory remarks at the beginning of each of the book's 15 chapters. Most every conceivable aspect of Jerusalem Postal History is covered in the work whose chapter subjects include the following types of postmarks: OETA, Single and Double circle, Triangular, Registered, Postage Paid Machines and Meters, Traveling Post Offices, Departmental, Branch Post Offices, Military postmarks and Internal Post Office marks as well as Governmental and Certified Official markings. All are fully covered and illustrated with the postmarks themselves accurately evaluated.

This 178 page work is as good as it gets! It is technically accurate, well and fully illustrated and pleasant to read. It receives this reviewer's highest rating and its acquisition is a must for any Holyland Collector. It can be ordered from the SIP Educational Fund.

(Marvin Siegel)

Israel and Forerunner Military Postal Stationery by Dr. David Dubin and Lt. Col. (Retd.) Nancy Morrow. Published by the Educational Fund of the Society of Israel Philatelists, USA.

When first approached by Dr. David Dubin about the advisability of producing such a work, this writer opined that while it was certainly needed, the difficulties involved in classifying so very many different pieces of stationery seemed to preclude its publication. After all, involved were the Postal Stationery used in

both the 1st and 2nd World Wars as well as those pieces distributed and used in all of Israel's Wars and military Actions. The total number to be classified would certainly be many, many hundreds with only minor, if not subtle, differences between many of the pieces - particularly the 'cartoon' type cards used extensively by the Israeli Armed Forces in the 1960's and 1970's. Pleased to report that Dr. Dubin artfully managed to overcome this obstacle with an extremely clever classification system based upon a feature common to most all of the Israeli cards.

The work commences with the forerunner Stationery used by the Jewish soldiers who served in the Zion Mule Corps and the Jewish Legion in the years 1915 and 1921. This Forerunner Section continues with the pieces used by the 2nd World War's Jewish Brigade and other Jewish units during the years 1941 to 1946. many of the 86 pieces that are illustrated and explained that were used in those global conflicts are very seldom seen. Thus the authors are to be congratulated for assembling the data and the illustrations of so many of these true rarities. This data consist of colors of the piece (paper and printing), year of use and source or user. Thoughtfully, also furnished for each item is a bit of explanation (e.g. New Year's card) or a partial translation of the Hebrew words on the piece (e.g. 'On the Threshold Of Victory And Redemption').

His next section are the pieces distributed and used during the years of Israel's statehood. Similar data is presented for these later-used pieces than the forerunners. The Israel pieces are 540 in number and all are illustrated and classified according to the designs printed at the upper right of the piece's address (obverse) side. This is Dr. Dubin's remarkably effective classification tool. Because of the large number of illustrations, these have been reduced to approximately 40% of their actual size. These reductions did not affect their usefulness or clarity as all illustrations are full, legible and clear.

As per the practices followed in the armed forces of many other nations. Israel has always provided her personnel on active duty with free franking privileges as well as free postal stationery for soldiers' use in communicating with families and friends. These Israeli items are extremely artistic, and original and always contain the implied message of a longing for survival, peace and victory. They are truly a tribute to the Israeli character and their talents and abilities as well as their pride in the professionalism of their mostly civilian army.

In recent years, the availability and convenience of portable field telephones has generally resulted in the replacement of written communication by the phoned word. Hence such stationery is seldom if even, now being distributed. Several other catalogues (Mosden, Shalit and Simon) have listed some of these Israeli pieces in their earlier publications. The authors have thoughtfully listed these earlier attempts along with their corresponding catalog designations. Israeli business firms, banks, clubs as well as some military units themselves have sponsored (paid for) these items of postal stationery. Again this new work includes a full list of these. The closing page is a list of those artists that the author was able to ascertain actually designed particular items.

It's an excellent product that is a result of much hard and tedious labor and the authors are to be congratulated for their superb end-product. This work is certain to inspire more of our philatelists to collect this fascinating facet of postal stationery and military postal history. As such, it is heartily recommended to all collectors and men of good will everywhere.

(Marvin Siegel)

Remembering Hans: Friends Mourn Hans George Muentz, z.l.

A giant has passed from our midst with his demise. For the past 25 or so years, he was our ultimate authority - our reigning expert and our Court of Last Resort in all things philatelic. While many much less qualified dealers and collectors issue certificates of authenticity which knowledgeable philatelists generally regard as meaningless, a Muentz certificate is a valuable document because of its universal acceptance. Wary and wise collectors and dealers always sent their better pieces to George for his valued opinions. In fact, many would not consider bidding in any auction without first consulting with him. His discoveries and findings and opinions fill the pages of our journals, exhibition frames and auction catalogs. This writer particularly recalls his warnings 20 years ago about the proliferation of forgeries of Israel's most valuable early Tabbed First Day Covers (e.g. # 1/9, 24, 25, 28/30, C1/6, J6/11, J12/20, O 1/4, etc.).

George and wife Lottie narrowly escaped from Poland when the Nazis invaded in 1939. They spent the war years deep inside Russia. After VE Day, they made their way westward and shortly thereafter they reached the Holyland. George was a master linguist being conversant in many languages (Polish, Russian, German, French, English, Hebrew, etc.). This skill stood him in a very good stead in his philatelic endeavors. His memory was phenomenal as he could recall the most minute detail of an important cover or a commercial transaction years later. The auctions which he conducted with his partner of long standing, Mr. Erwin Caro, who also recently passed on, were events eagerly awaited by the philatelic community. The lot descriptions in their auction catalogs were succinct but yet meaty enough for the collector to bid properly. He was a devoted husband and father. To his wife, daughter Anat and son Mookie, we extend our deepest and sincere condolences upon their grievous loss.

We first met over 30 years ago and our friendship was long standing and our relationship very close when we lived in Israel during most of each calendar year. He was always helpful, hospitable, courteous, full of Old World Charm and he certainly could spin a most entertaining yarn. He leaves behind a host of devoted and grieving friends and collectors. Yes indeed - a giant has passed from our midst.

(Marvin Siegel)

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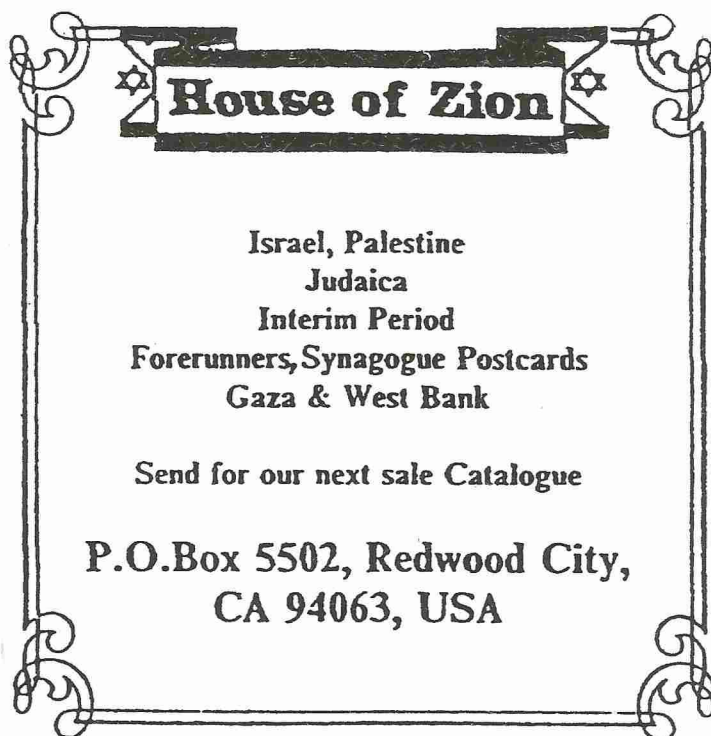
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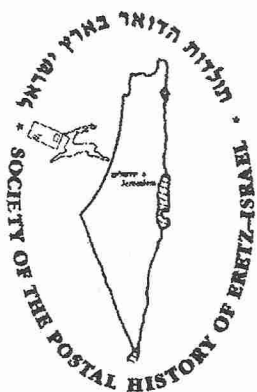
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עמותה מסונפת להתאחדות בולאי ישראל



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יו"ר — ד"ר א. ליבו

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מזכיר — צ. אלוני, גזבר — ב. קלינר

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

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בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות
הדואר של ארץ-ישראל



הצד הקדמי של גלוית מזכרת לתיירים, לא פילטלית, מירושלים לגרמניה, לכבוד מסע השליט הגרמני,
הקיסר פרידריך וילהלם פון הוהנצולרן, בארץ הקודש. הגלויה נשלחה בדואר הטורקי בירושלים
ב'3 בנובמבר, 1898

The front of a non-philatelic, tourist, Jerusalem to Germany, commemorative card of the German
emperor, Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm von Hohenzollern trip in the Holy Land, mailed in Jerusalem
Turkish post office, on November 3, 1898.

(See the Front Cover and the article on p. 400).

קיץ תשס"ב / סתיו תשס"ג