

V
95-96

[illegible]

1948 annual salary sheet of a worker in a Jerusalem Corporation. For every month there is a line of details and a revenue stamp as was needed. The three administrations in Palestine in 1948 are seen here: The British Mandate, the Minhelet Ha'am and the State of Israel.

SUMMER / AUTUMN 2003

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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Europe - \$4.-, U.S.A. - \$6.- (subject to postal rates' changes)

Life Membership: \$250; addition for airmail delivery: \$50 (Europe), \$100 (USA, Canada, RSA), \$125 (South America & Australia). Payable in 2 yearly instalments.

Publications: Holy Land Postal History bulletin back issues available:
2-94 at \$7.- each (regular issues),

\$10.- each (double issues & #32), Index for Vol I - Vol. IV - \$3 each.

M. Sondak, "Jerusalem Postal Services during the Siege of 1948" - \$12;

J. Aron, "Forerunners to the Forerunners: a Prephilatelic Postal History
of the Holy Land" - \$17;

Shamir & Siegel, "Israel Foreign Postal Links (1948)" - \$25.

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Editorial and Society News

Unfortunately, after 15 years of fixed membership fee, it became mandatory to ask for a moderate rise in the annual fee. It is not higher (percent wise) than the previous increase, which was 20% (from \$15 to \$18), so it comes to \$4 approximately. **Thus the annual membership fee for 2004 onwards is \$22**, which should be paid no later than 31 January of each year. Members who will have paid 2004 at the old rate of \$18 before 31 Jan, 2004, are exempted from the addition of \$4 for that year. On the other hand, members who have dues from previous years (2003 and/or prior) on that date should pay the \$22 new fee for the unsettled years as well! It should be noted that members wishing airmail delivery of the Bulletin have to add the following sums (which are not altered) to the basic fee of \$22: USA and Canada - \$6, Europe - \$4, Australia - \$8. The Life Members' "Donation" remains the same (see details on Front Cover inside), so it is even a better deal now!

Starting with the present issue it was decided to change the Bulletin's policy which hitherto excluded from its scope the subject of Revenues or any other Tax stamps and documents. For more information about this please see the following section, "Revenue and Tax Stamps".

Joint Meetings and Lectures of Philatelists and Postal Historians

"Stamp Corner" is the name given to a relatively new "Forum for discussing stamps and philately", which is sponsored by two well known philatelists, Dr. Josef Wallach and Mr. Evyatar Chelouche and by the Holy Land Postal History Society (HLPHS). The Forum meets generally each first Monday of the month to hear a lecture read by a fellow philatelist, to discuss the subject presented and to have a chat about any philatelic matter bothering any of us*.

The meetings generally take place in the Tel Aviv Stamp Club (16 Hess St.) at 17.30, but both time and lieu are subject to changes, so it is advised to call any of the following gentlemen to be updated: (972 code of Israel) Dr. E. Leibi (Tel. (0)4-8712796), Mr. E. Chelouche (0)8-9263991, or Dr. J. Wallach (0)8-9461010. The office of the Israeli Philatelic Federation may also be called for this information (Tel. (0)3-6295547) as well as information of other meetings and philatelic activities open to the public.

The following circular was distributed by the Stamp Corner forum, giving the lecture program for the period December, 2003 - February, 2004. The speakers' names and the subjects, translate as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--|
| 1.12.03 | Mr. Y. Levanony | "Clock Towers in Eretz - Israel in the Ottoman Period" |
| 5.1.04 | Mr. A. Cohen | "Israeli Postage Due Postcards" |
| 2.2.04 | Prof. S. Ladani | "The German and Austro-Hungarian Army in Beer Sheva, 1916-1917". |

* The meetings, lectures and chat, are naturally held mostly in Hebrew. but it should not deter members from abroad to participate and / or to read a lecture in English. Actually you are invited to do so!

Stamp Corner



פורום לדיון על בולאים ובולאות

חולר עצכון 10.11.03

להלן תוכנית ההרצאות בפורום הבולאי לתקופה דצמבר 2003 – פברואר 2004:

| מפגש מס' | תאריך: יום ב' ה- | מרצה | נושא | מיקום |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 24 | 1.12.03 | מר יהודה לבנוני | מגדלי שען בא"י בתקופה העותומנית | מועדון העמותה התל-אביבית לבולאות, רח' הס 16 ת"א |
| 25 | 5.1.04 | מר אלון כהן | גלויות דמי-דאר ישראל | מועדון העמותה התל-אביבית לבולאות, רח' הס 16 ת"א |
| 26 | 2.2.04 | ד"ר שאול לדני | הצבא הגרמני והאוסטרו-הונגרי בבאר-שבע 1916-1917 | מועדון העמותה התל-אביבית לבולאות, רח' הס 16 ת"א |

המפגשים יערכו ע"פ המיקום המצויין בטבלה, בין השעות 1730-1900. הכניסה חופשית. על המפגשים המשותפים במזידאן לתולדות הדואר והבולאות תבוא הודעה נפרדת.

להזכירכם - מטרת הפורום הינה כפולה:

- מתן במה להצגה של ידע ומחקר בולאי, תוך שימת דגש על בולי ישראל והיסטורית הדואר.
- דיון חופשי בנושאים על סדר היום של אספנים ובולאים.

המעוניינים לתרום מהידע שלהם באופן של הרצאה או מצגת, מתבקשים ליצור קשר עם ד"ר יוסף ואלך, אביתר שלוש או ד"ר אדי ליבו, בטלפונים שלהלן. הכוונה היא לפרסם מראש את רשימת ההרצאות, לידיעת ציבור המשתתפים הפוטנציאלי. הערות ורעיונות נוספים יתקבלו בברכה. מצפים לראות (ולשמוע!) אתכם.

ד"ר יוסף ואלך 08-9461010 אביתר שלו 08-9263991 ד"ר אדי ליבו 04-8712796

שנה טובה ומבורכת

Happy New Year



More about "Forerunners to the Forerunners"

Itamar Karpovsky

I would like to enlarge on the article of Zvi Alexander¹ and also to show some more illustrations of letters of this period.

Many philatelists are not familiar with the postal history of this period in the Holy Land. A paragraph in the "Introduction" of Aron's Monograph (1988)² defines it shortly and clearly:

"Whilst the earliest stamps to appear in the standard catalogues under the heading 'Palestine' were issued in 1918, philatelists interested in the Holy Land are aware of the forerunner period dating back to the mid Nineteenth Century, when the Turkish, Austrian, French and Russian postal systems operated from and within the Holy Land. The postal markings, stamps and entires of that era form adjuncts to, if not the basis of many a Holy Land collection. They are also the subject of an extensive literature in the form of specialized Handbooks and Journals.

*This monograph, which takes the postal historian one step further back in time, is concerned with **The Forerunners to the Forerunners***. Its substance is the set of formal and informal arrangements for the transfer of correspondence to and from the Holy Land, prior to the advent of the mid Nineteenth Century Government sponsored and operated postal systems. The development of such arrangements reflected the commercial and socio religious significance to Europe of the Levant generally, and the Holy Land in particular, throughout the period under examination."*

Palestine was, for four centuries, a part of the Ottoman Empire - from the beginning of the 16 C. up to the end of W.W. I in 1918. The main ports in the Middle East were then Alexandria, Jaffa, Acre and Beirut. Mail was sent mainly by merchants and church Dignitaries being forwarded by horse mounted couriers or by ship's captains

Holy Land pre-philatelic letters are already known from the 14th century, originating from Askelon, Gaza, Acre and Jerusalem. The earliest letter known is a commercial letter from Gaza to Aleppo, Syria, from 13 Sept., 1362. Another very early letter from Acre to Tunis is known, sent on 18 October 1418.

The first Post Office which was opened in the Holy Land was the French P.O. in Jaffa, opened in June 1852. The earliest known letter from Jerusalem is from 1583 (Fig. 1). It was sent "Free of charge" through the well known courier service "The Wandering Monk" by land to Aleppo, arriving on 8 May 1583.

(1) Alexander Z., "Forerunners to the Forerunners", HLPB 93-94 (2003), p.474.

(2) Aron J., "Forerunners to the Forerunners - a pre-philatelic Postal History of the Holy Land" (1988), published by HLPB Society, Jerusalem.

* It is also called "**The pre-philatelic History of the Holy Land** (Bold letters and footnote by I.K.)

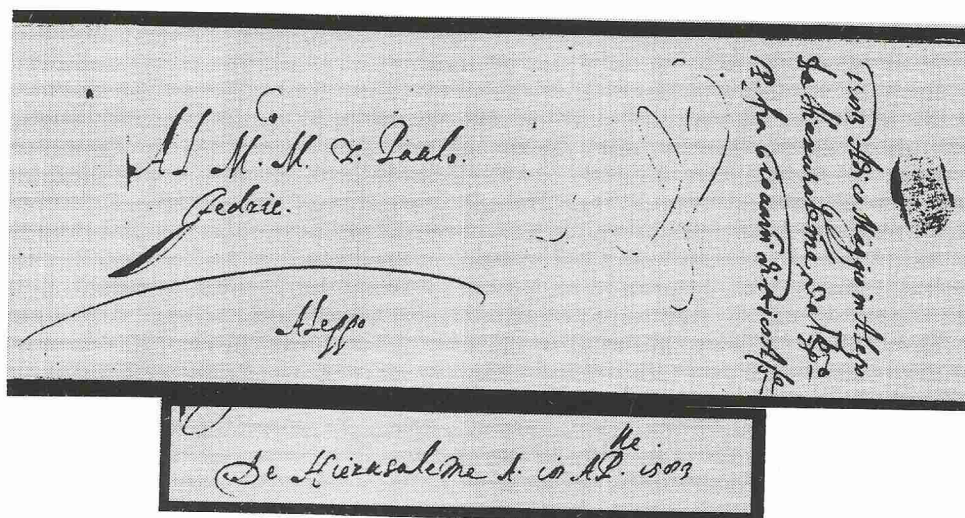


Fig. 1: *Folded letter to Aleppo, written on April 1583. Carried free of charge by the "Wandering Monk" church courier service arriving at Aleppo on 8th May, 1583 when it was endorsed by the recipient.*

Figure 2 shows a letter of a company from Acre sent in 1695 via the Mediterranean to Livorno. Apparently it is the earliest letter reported on which the notation of the charge paid appears (25 Soldi).

In several auctions in the years 1984-86 relatively large number of Holy Land pre-philatelic letters were offered, most of which were from the 17th and 18th centuries, addressed to merchants and bankers in Livorno, Italy (Francesco Venturini, et al.). The aggregate of letters, named "The Livorno Archive", include a few tens of letters from Acre and also from other parts around the Mediterranean. Figure 3 is an example of such a letter from Acre dated 1702, arriving in Livorno after 46 days.

The folded letter from Jerusalem (Fig. 4) written in 1732 by Brother Andrea di Montoro is addressed to Bishop Balbergia Pronte at Saint Francis, Vienna. It is sealed with pink paper embossed with the "Jerusalem Cross" of Saint Saviour Convent. It was taken by a church courier to Beyrouth and thence by a Vessel to Europe.

The subject of the pre-philatelic letters carried by the French Post in Beyrouth should be augmented by noting also the activity of the French in Alexandria. The letter shown in Figure 5 is one of a very few such letters originating in Jerusalem in 1839. This was a time of cholera epidemic so the letters had to pass disinfection in a Malta Lazaret which is noted by a d.c. handstamp "Purifie au Lazaret / Malta" before entering Europe. The other marks on the letter are c.d.s. "Alexandria Egypte / 7 Avril 1839" and a red one line cachet VIA DI MARE (by sea).

There exist also similar letters from Palestine which were forwarded to Egypt and posted at the Italian Post Office in Alexandria. Figure 6 shows such a letter (one of 2 known) from Haifa to Naples in 1863.

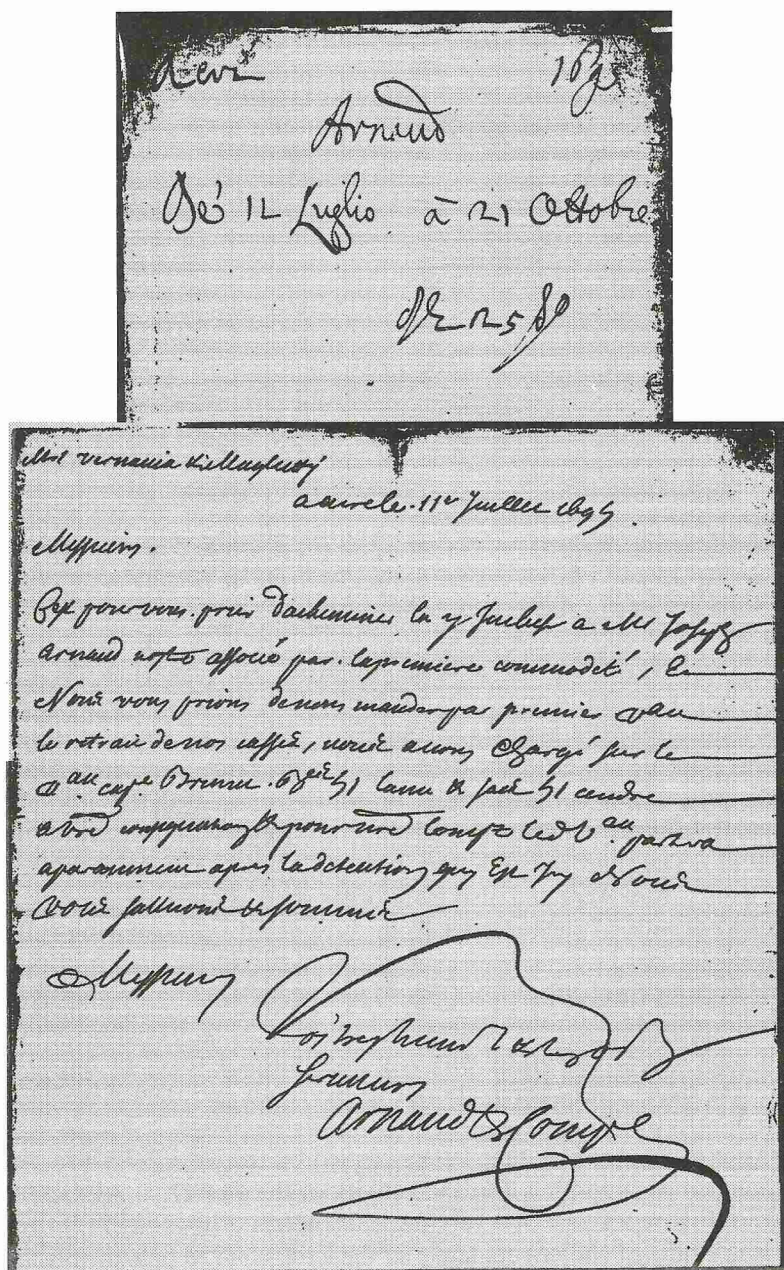


Fig. 2: Commercial folded letter from Arnaud & Company in Acre to a Livorno Merchant. Written on 11th July, 1695, the letter arrived on 21st October and was charged 25 soldi for delivery.

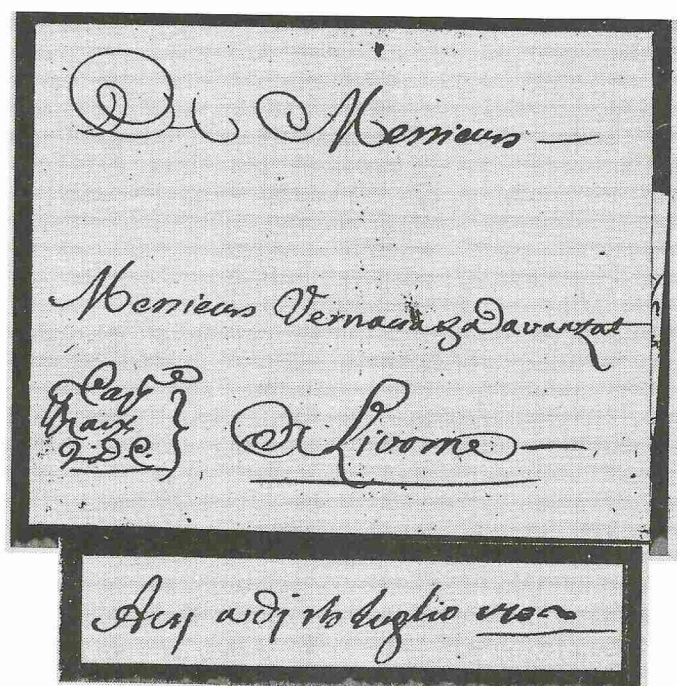


Fig. 3: A 1702 commercial letter from Acre to Livorno, written by a merchant reporting cotton prices and conveyed privately by Captain Roux Q.D.C.

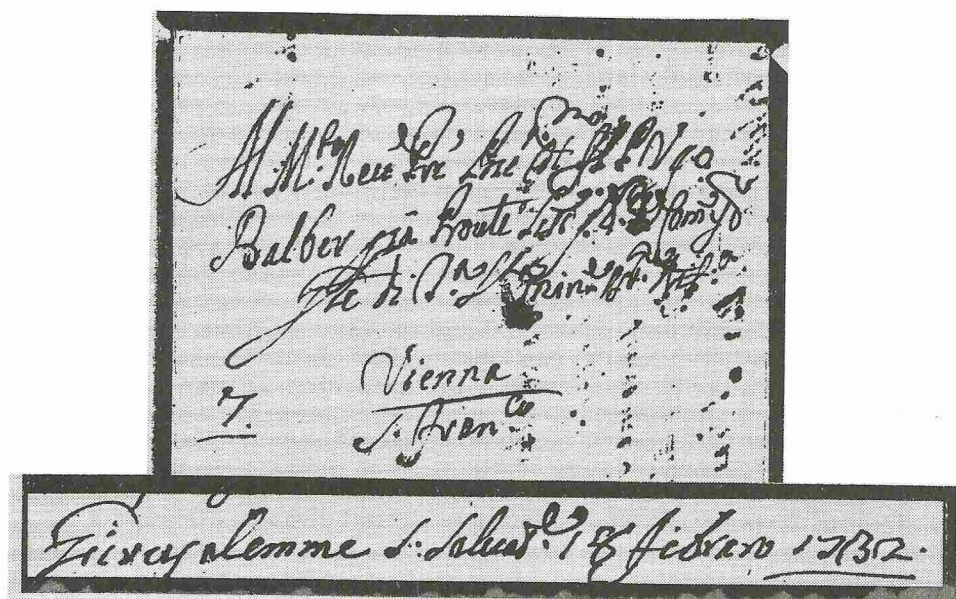


Fig. 4: Folded letter from Jerusalem, from 1732, addressed to Saint Francis, Vienna and sealed with pink paper embossed with the "Jerusalem Cross" of Saint Saviour Convent, it was taken by a church courier to Beyrouth, and then onward by sea to Europe.

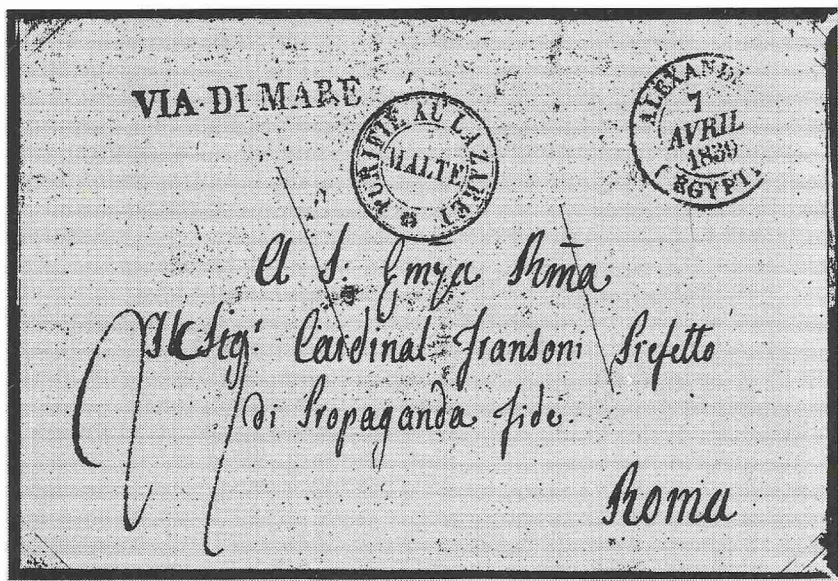


Fig. 5: A pre-stamp folded letter to Rome, originated in Jerusalem, forwarded to and posted at the French post office in Alexandria on 7 April 1839.
Rated "20" (decimes) double letter rate to Italy.

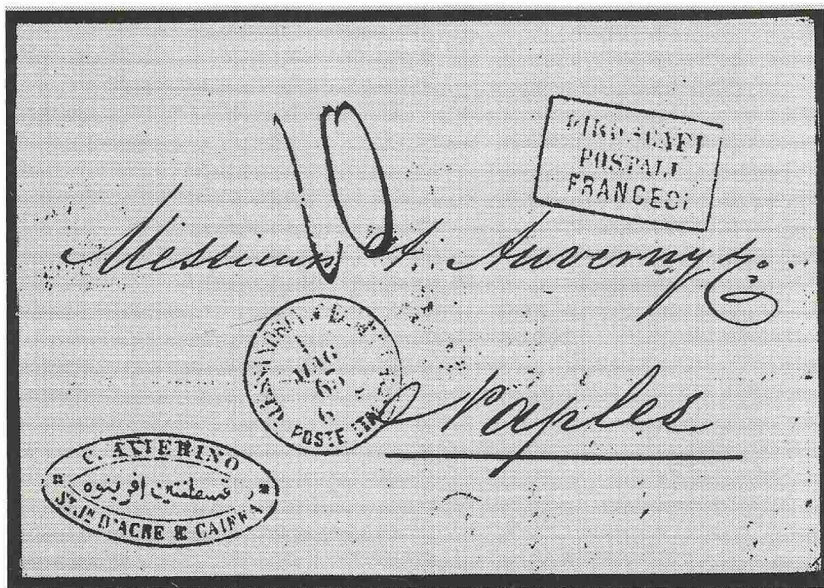


Fig. 6: Stampless letter to Naples. Originating in Haifa on 26th April, 1863, it was forwarded and entered the Italian post at Alexandria on May 1st. Marked on obverse with manuscript "10" (decimes) tax mark, the post-paid single letter rate to Italy. Transferred to the French Paqueboat "Peluse". On reverse: Massina transit May 5th and Naples arrival postmark May 7th.

Comments to the Article about the Originality of the Postcard with T.P.O. Nablous-Caiffa

Yoel Amir

I would like to comment on the article by Zvi Alexander¹. The comments are based on my philatelic - historical researches of the German Templer settlement in the Holy Land (1868 to 1948) and other references cited in the document.

A. The addressee of the postcard is Joh (annes) Pross (1845-1930), a Templer hotelier whose hotel was opened in 1873 in the German Colony of Haifa and was moved in 1903 to the small Templer suburb on Mount Carmel (today, the center of Ahuza).

B. The Templers were closely linked with the construction of the Hedjaz Railway, in particular to the architect and engineer Gottlieb Schumacher. The Beilharz family were masons and building entrepreneurs and Paul Sandel, whose Nablus public-works firm was working on the Affula - Beer Sheva - Sinai branch of the Hedjaz Railway (note Figure 7, a letter mailed on 30 September, 1917 to a Templer employee of the Deutsche Palestina Bank in Haifa).

C. I have carefully studied the content of the postcard, assisted by a (Gothic) German translator:

1. From the language of the opening greeting ("My Dear...") the postcard was written by an unidentified person, who was a close friend or a relative of the addressee, J. Pross.
2. This person traveled with a group and *"...arrived safely at the hotel, and already had dinner..."*. *"...the trip up to Deraa was interesting, but further on it was monotonous and almost all of us slept..."* *"...This night at eleven we will continue to Aleppo..."*

Deraa was the junction station in Trans-Jordan leading to Damascus (in the North) and Amman (in the south) - note the map in Fig. 8². The distance by train from Haifa to Deraa was about 160 km, and to Damascus about 270 km. Assuming the trip started in Haifa in the morning this distance (including stops) took at those times certainly the whole day (this train was notoriously slow). It can be concluded that the writer of the PC was dining with his friends in a Damascus hotel, waiting to resume the trip at 23:00 to Aleppo. Landscape wise the writer is right in describing the way up to Deraa (Haifa - the Valley of Jezreel - the Valley of Beit Shaan - crossing the Jordan and climbing to the plateau of Trans-Jordan) as "interesting", while the way from Deraa to Damascus on the verge of the desert as "monotonous".

3. The PC was written by pencil (note par. E) in the Damascus hotel and was mailed

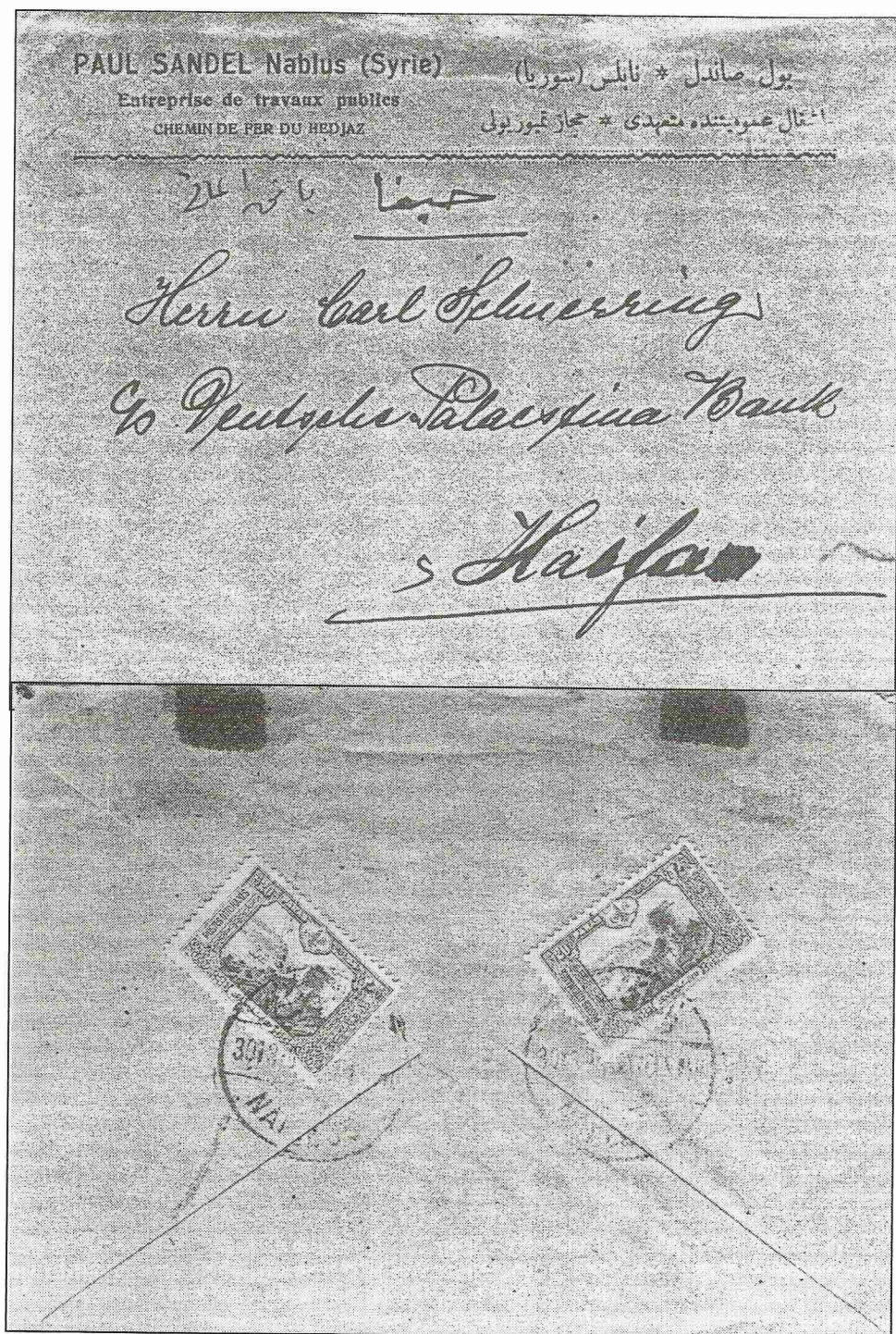


Figure 7

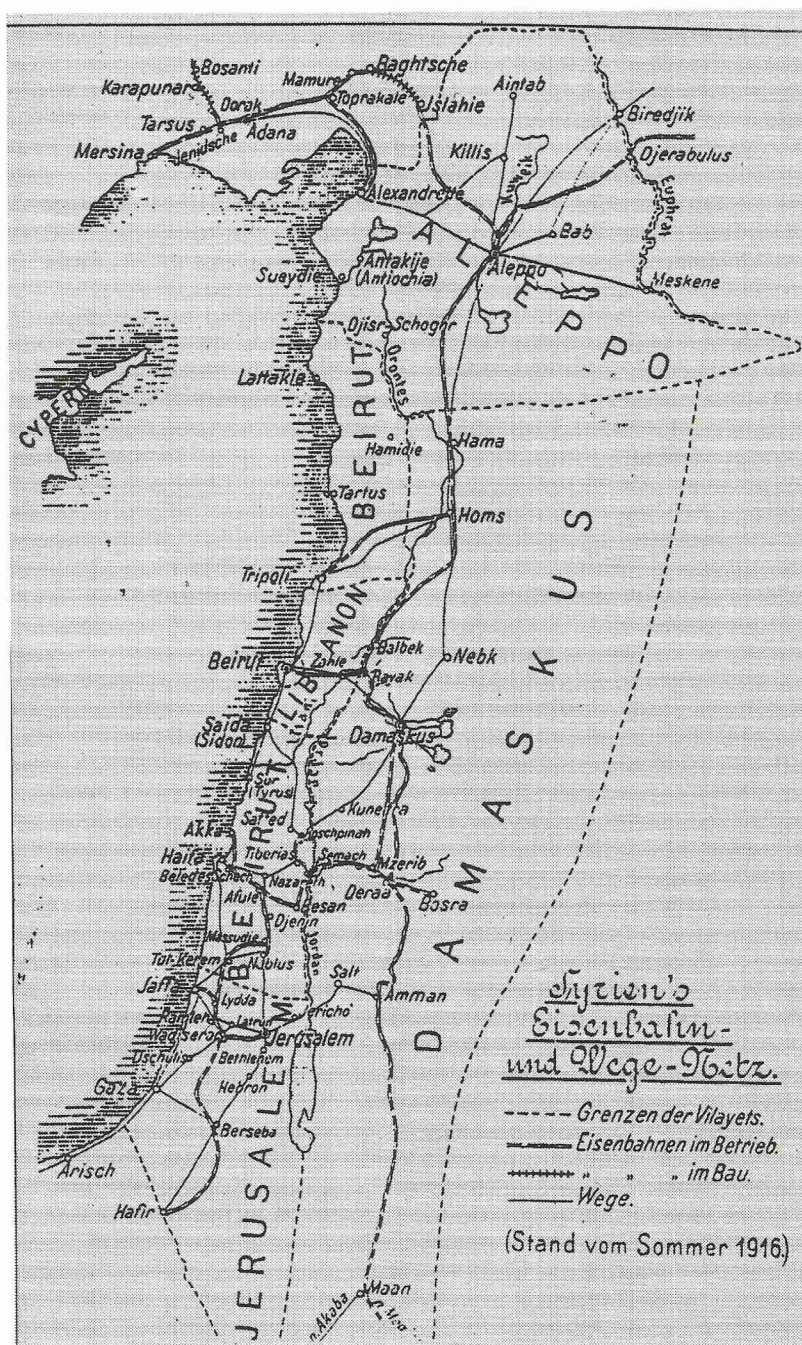


Fig. 8: A German map showing the extent of the railway system in summer, 1916.

in the local traveling post office for delivery to J. Pross in Haifa. The writer did not even bother to add the date on the PC, assuming it is obvious from the content, as he met J. Pross that morning in his hotel before departure.

4. The clerk in the Damascus TPO applied the "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" postmark, dated 8 August 1914, immediately on acceptance of the postcard. The morning train departing from Damascus to Haifa carried the PC to its destination, where it got the Haifa arrival postmark of 9 August 1914.

The crux of the question is why did the TPO clerk apply the "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" postmark instead of the "TPO Dams-Caiffa"?

a. First possibility: The clerk had in front of him all of the TPO cachets related to the destination Haifa, and he simply made a mistake.

b. Second possibility: This was a brand new cachet^{3,4}, just received from Istanbul during the day (the 8th August, 1914) and he was eager to try it out. As the destination of Haifa appeared on both TPO postmarks, the clerk did not believe he was doing a big mistake. In fact he created a "first-day postmark"!

c. Third possibility: The cachet was returned to Istanbul, due to the cancellation of the (civilian traffic) line "Nablous-Haifa" (note par. D) and the clerk made one last use of the postmark on the PC addressed to Haifa. Later the Ottoman post authorities used the cachet set on the 8th August to record a proof (see note no. 2). This hypothesis disregards the existence of another partial sample of the postmark shown in Fig. 91 of Alexander's article. Personally, I believe that the second possibility did happen, and the postmark of Fig. 92 is not only rare but also a "first day" one.

In any case, it is evident from its content that the PC was mailed between Deraa and Aleppo, most probably at the TPO Damascus, and not anywhere along the line Nablous-Haifa (which in fact was then only "Djennine-Haifa").

D. Why is the "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" postmark so rare?

The answer is probably quite simple. Assuming that the specific cachet was delivered on 8th August, 1914, it served a 17 km line from Djennine to Afula station, which was an important railway junction of the Haifa-Damascus line. The next part of the line to Messudje (between Djennine and Nablous) was operated until the end of 1914. It may well be that the planned Nablous-Haifa line was in fact temporarily downgraded to a shuttle service of Djennine-Afula, for at least the last five months of 1914, and the full service Djennine-Haifa was operated irregularly. The popular Damas - Haifa line was served by the "TPO Damas-Caiffa" postmark⁵, which, I believe, is abundant. As stated by Alexander the only other partial example of the "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" postmark is dated 25 September, 1914, which fits well into this explanation.

W.W.I broke out early in August, 1914. An emergency state was declared and the railway development plans were changed altogether. In a concentrated effort the Turkish authorities finished the lines Djennine-Messudje-Nablous (end 1914), Messudje - Tul Karem - Lydda - Beer Sheva (1915) and lines to Sinai, Gaza in

1916⁶. Railway traffic was mainly for official and military purposes and civilian transportation was drastically cut, mainly due to lack of coal for the engines. The service and cachet "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" were abandoned, as well as the service and cachet of "TPO Jaffa-Jerusalem".⁷

E. Why is the address on the PC written in ink, while the content was scribbled by pencil?

The handwriting of the PC address looked familiar to me, so I scanned my philatelic research on the Haifa Templers and found the letter of Fig. 9, which address was written by the same person who wrote the address of the PC (Fig. 90 of Alexander's article), namely Johannes Pross.

Based on the philatelic data, content of the PC and known historical facts, the story is most probably the following: at the outbreak of W.W.I and declaration of an emergency state in the Ottoman Empire, J. Pross tried to evacuate a group of friends or family members (staying in his hotel?) back to Europe. As passenger maritime transportation had stopped, he sent his friends by the Haifa-Damascus train in order to continue to Istanbul and Europe. To avoid (expected) trouble, Pross prepared for his friends one or more stamped, addressed postcards the

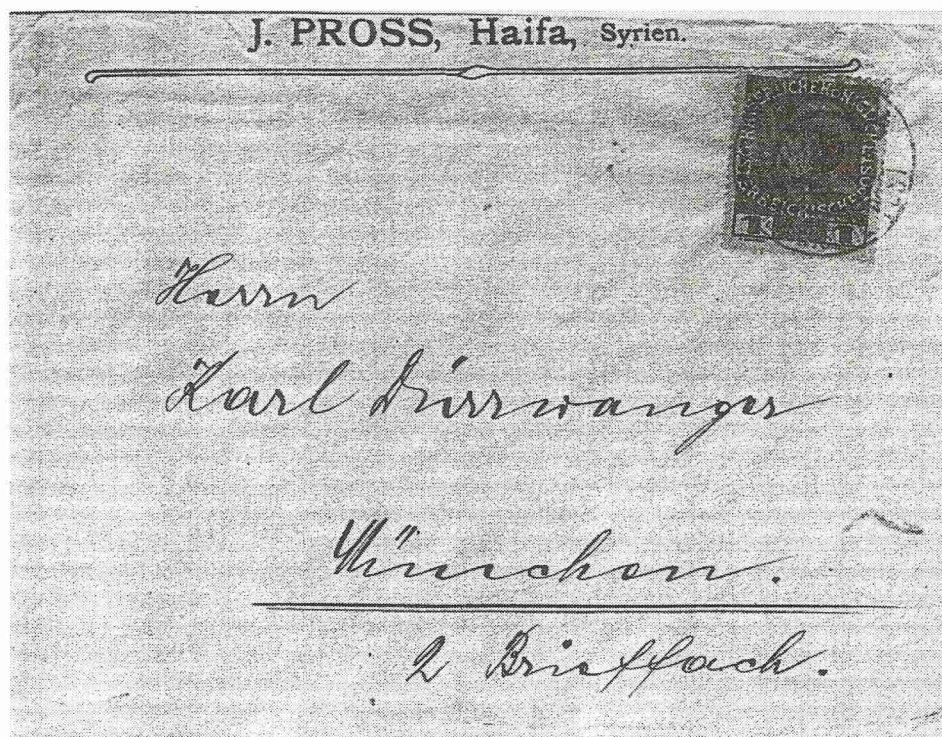


Figure 9

address being written by ink in his own handwriting. All he asked his friends to do was to scribble a few words by pencil (inkwell and stylus are out of the question in such a journey) and mail the PC at one of the TPOs on the way.

F. Conclusions: Based on the analysis above, the PC is authentic, including the "TPO Nablous-Caiffa" postmark. This rare postmark was in fact applied to the PC in the TPO Damascus on the first day of use, namely the 8th August, 1914 and was delivered in Haifa on the next day (9th), where it was cancelled on the back with the local "Caiffa 3" arrival postmark.

References

- (1) Z. Alexander, TPO Nablous-Caiffa, is the Postmark Genuine, Fake or a Fabrication, HLPH 93-94 (2003) p. 555 and Collins-Steichele, The Ottoman Posts & Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai, p. 202 re RP13.
- (2) Collins-Steichele, The Ottoman Posts & Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai, p. 196.
- (3) Ditto, p. 202 re RP13.
- (4) Re (1), p. 555.
- (5) Re (2), p. 202.
- (6) Re (2), p. 201
- (7) Re (2), p. 198, RP 9.




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What Caused some Early Israeli Postmarks to Be so Short-Lived?

(some selected examples)

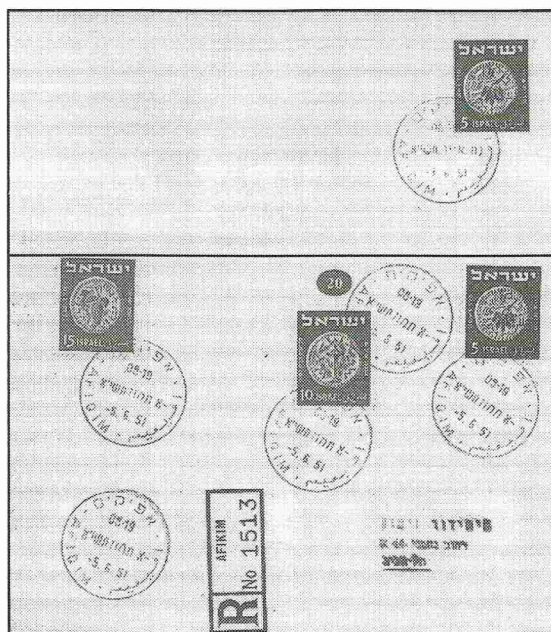
Ehud Jungwirth, Rehovot

Introduction: Some working definitions seem to be in order. First, for this paper, "early" refers to the 50s and early 60s, i.e., does not include A-type postmarks as described in Nachtigal and Fixler's catalogue of Israeli postmarks,¹ but includes C-1 type cancellations for every-day use (not special or trial cancellations). Secondly, "short lived" is regarded here as having been used for periods ranging from a few days up to a few months before being withdrawn, for reasons to be detailed, but not because of "loss or damage".

The selection of cases presented here is entirely arbitrary; other authors might have chosen other cases, but they are, in my opinion, representative. All cases and illustrations are taken from my own collection.

(A) The Case of Afiqim

A C-1 type cancellation was introduced in this Jordan-valley Kibbutz on 3.6.1951 since the locality was to be served by the Jordan Valley MPO as from the next day. However, the LD postmark read, erroneously, 5.6.51, as if it had been withdrawn after a mere two days' use, only the Hebrew date shows the correct state of affairs. See Figs. 10, 11.*

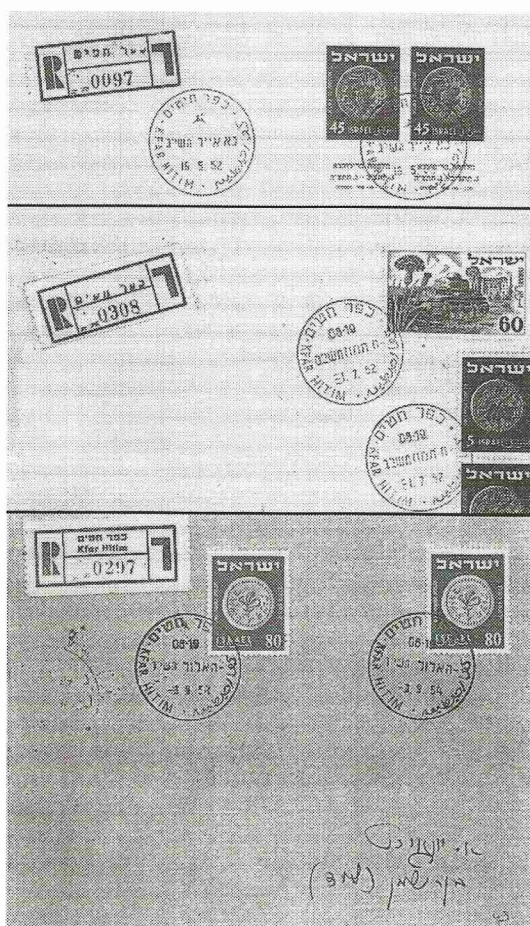


Figures 10-11: Afiqim

(In every page of illustrations, order of Figures is from top to bottom)

(B) The Case of Kfar Hitim.

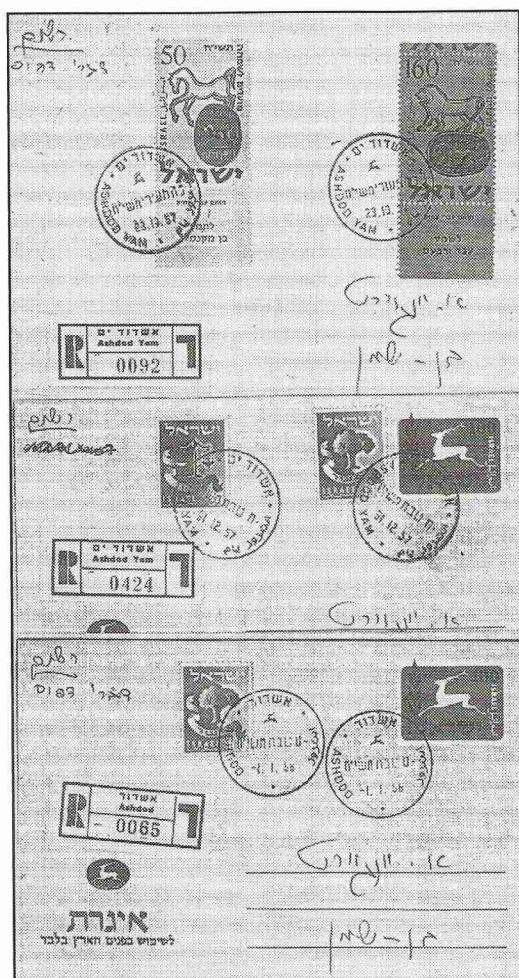
A postal agency was opened in this small farming village near Tiberias on 16.5.52, the place-name in Hebrew spelt with two Yods. Hitim in Hebrew is the plural of Hitah i.e. wheat, or cereals and should be spelled with one Yod only - between the Hebrew letters "Tet" and "Mem". However, putting a Yod also between the Hebrew letters "Het" and "Tet" could make one pronounce Hitim as Hayatim i.e. the plural of Hayat (=tailor), referring to this place as a "village of tailors"! The inhabitants protested strongly and successfully. The offending Yod was absent in the replacement postmark which was issued only six weeks later on 1.7.52, itself to be withdrawn on 3.9.54, when Kfar Hitim was taken over by the Lower Galilee MPO (Figs. 12-14).



Figures 12-14: Kfar Hitim

(C) The Case of Ashdod

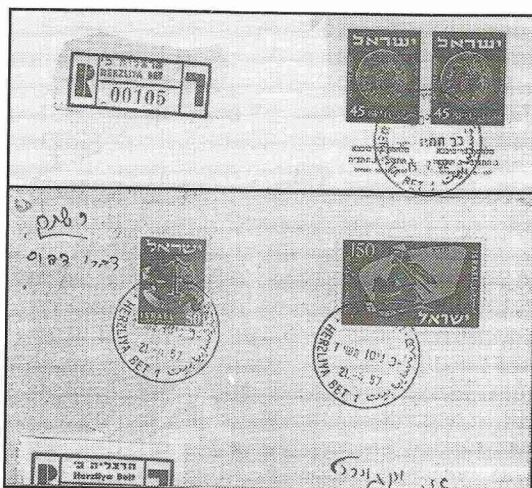
Today Ashdod is a flourishing municipality, but in the beginning it was just a small locality, the first postal agency to be established there only on 23.10.57. This went by the name of "Ashdod Yam" i.e. Ashdod-on-Sea. The "sea" was dropped from the place-name according to a decision of the Israeli Authority determining place-names and a new Ashdod (sans sea!) was introduced on 1.1.58. Today the sea-port city of Ashdod boasts several post-offices and agencies and multiple postmarks (Fig. 15-17).



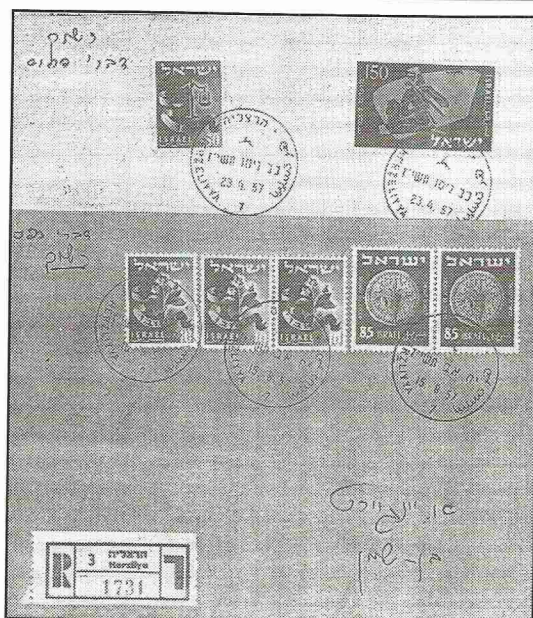
Figures 15-17: Ashdod

(D) The Case of Herzliya Bet

Before Israel became a country and for a few years after independence Herzliya Bet (i.e. Herzliya B') was a separate entity. A postal agency was opened there on 15.7.52, operating until 21.4.57, when it became part of the Herzliya postal network. Please note the new spelling on the R-label, Herzliya Beit. Two new cancellations (Nos. 7 and 8) were issued on 23.4.57, the R-label reading "Herzliya 3". But lo and behold, whoever ordered the new postmarks didn't know how to spell "Herzl"! "Herzl" had become "Herzel". Note that the place-name is now spelled "Herzeliyya". This situation lasted for about four months, and on 15.8.57 "Herzl" was returned to what was rightfully his, the correct spelling of his name (Figs. 18-21).



Figures 18-19: Herzliya Bet



*Figures 20-21: Herzliya Bet
(continued)*

(E) The Case of "the Offended Philanthropist"

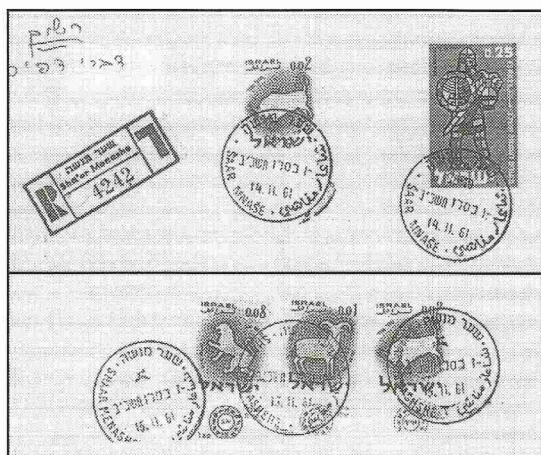
Before detailing this particular case, some background information is warranted here. The later 50s and early 60s saw a switchover in Israel's postal service transliteration methods - from what I would like to term the Czech (or Slavic) method to what might be called the English fashion. Further, it was decided that place-names, and thus postmarks, should consist of only two words.

Some examples to illustrate this gradual process are given below: (a) The transliteration of the Hebrew letter "Shin": A postal agency was opened in the senior citizen's village Sha'ar Menashe on 5.5.53, the postmark and R-label reading "Šaar Mnaše". The LD of this postmark was on 14.II.61(!) when tens of such "Czech" cancellations were withdrawn and "English" ones substituted the next day. Note that the R-label had been changed some time previously (according to my collection, already in 1957). The new postmark now read "Shaar Menashshe". No, this is not a typographical error on my part, but the outcome of the grammatical rule of having (in transliteration) to double an accented consonant (ot degushah), in this case the Hebrew "Shin". More could be, and will be, said about the "double-shin syndrome" in another article. (Figs. 22-25).



Figures 22-23: Sha'ar Menashshe (Monosson).

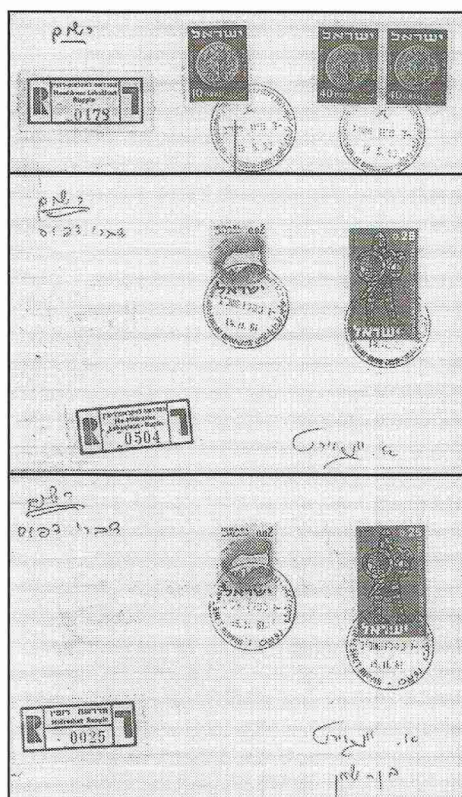
(b) An example boasting both a "Czech" spelling and a **three-word** place-name: A postal agency was opened at the Ruppin Agricultural College (located in Emeq Hefer, near Natania) on 18.5.53, the place-name transliterated as: Hamidraša (i.e. college) Lehaklout (for Agriculture) - Ruppin. Please note also the "k" instead of a "q" in "Lehaklout" (see my recent paper on the "c-k-q" syndrome)². The last day of this postmark was on 14.11.61 (as in the previous example), but the R-label had been changed previously to read Ha-Midrasha Lehaqlaut - Rupin i.e. separating the definite article "Ha" from "Midrasha", substituting the correct "q" for the previous "k" in Haqlaut, but dropping one of the "p"s in Arthur Ruppin's name. The new



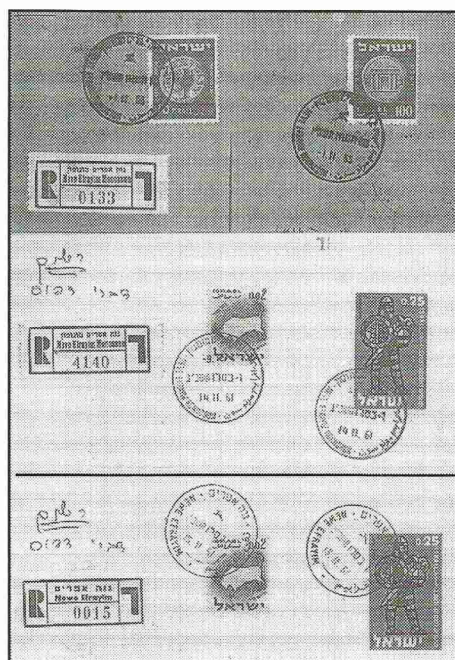
Figures 24-25: Sha'ar Menashshe (Monosson) (continued)

postmark, as from 15.11.61. dropped the "agriculture" part altogether, both in the postmark and the R-label, which read now Midreshet Ruppin - two words only, as well as conforming to the new "English spelling" and correcting Mr. Ruppin's name (Figs. 26-28).

Having presented this general background data, we can now return to the case before us. The new middle-class suburb Neve Efrayim Monosson, named to honor the American Zionist philanthropist of that name, located near Ben-Gurion International Airport, received a postal agency on 1.11.55., both the postmark and the R-label reading as given above. We already know now, that place-names should not consist of more than two words, so one of the three had to go. Furthermore the spelling Neve was incorrect, since the Hebrew letter concerned was a "waw" to be transliterated as "w" (the "v" being reserved for a "vet" as in Be'er Sheva). As in both of the cases mentioned above, this postmark was withdrawn on 14.11.61, the new one (and R-label) introduced the next day, reading just "Neve Efrayim". This was not the end of the story by any means. Both the inhabitants and the now anonymous Mr. Monosson went into action and forced the postal authorities to withdraw the offending postmark immediately (well, almost). The LD was on 29.11.61 - just two weeks after the introduction of the postmark, and a new one re-introducing Mr. Monosson's name against the regulations of the postal administration was issued on 30.11.61, surely a very special case! One may wonder whether the dropping of Mr. Monosson's first name would also have resulted in such a furor. One may also wonder why it took about four months to correct Theodor Herzl's spelling, whereas in the Monosson case it was done in two weeks! (Figs. 29-33).



**Figures 26-28: Midreshet Ruppin
(Monosson).**



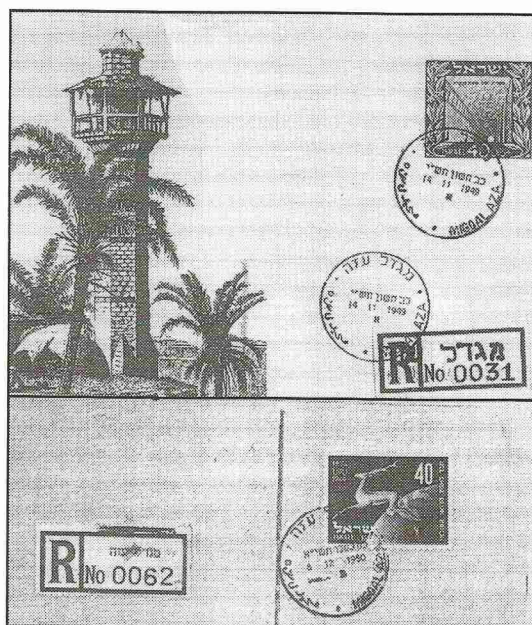
Figures 29-31: Monosson (proper)



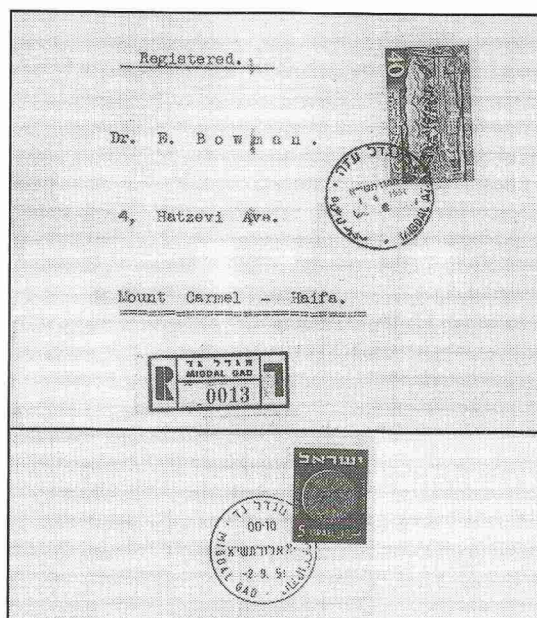
Figures 32-33 (continued): Monosson (proper)

(F) The Case of Migdal Gad

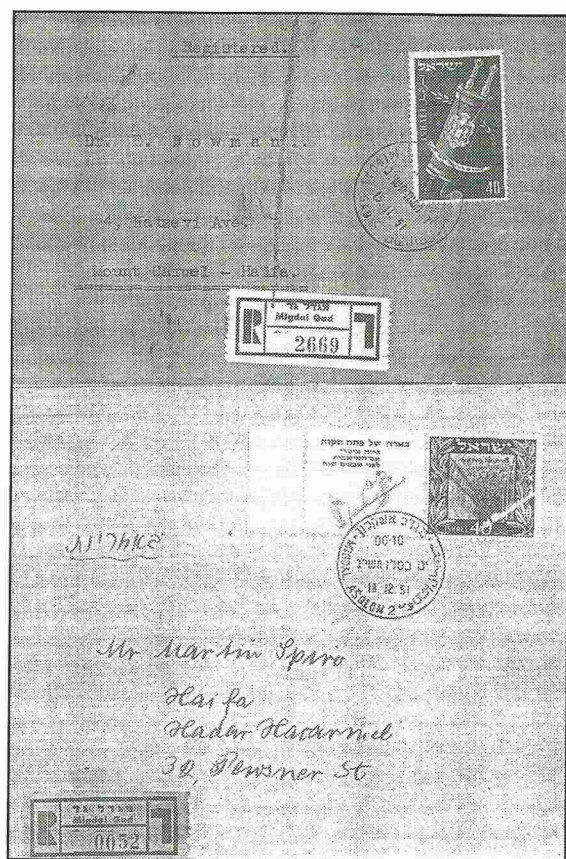
In October 1948 Israeli armed forces occupied the Arab town of El Majdal (just north of what is known today as the Gaza Strip) and the location was renamed "Migdal Aza". A postal agency bearing that name was opened only on 14.11.49. On 1.8.51 an Israeli R-label was introduced reading "Migdal Gad" to replace various provisional "Migdal Aza" R-labels. A C-1 type cancellation bearing this name was issued, however, only on 2.9.51 as part of the last batch of the introduction of the C-1 type cancellations³. It would appear that the introduction of the "Migdal Gad" R-label one month previously had been a mistake, the local postmaster having expected that his locality would be part of the large-scale changeover scheduled for 1.8.51. A somewhat different "Migdal Gad" R-label appeared in November 51. The 17.12.51 saw the Last Day of Migdal Gad, three new cancellations bearing the place name "Migdal Ašqlon" (Nos. 1-3) were introduced on 18.12.51, the Migdal Gad R-label, but again of another (a third!) type, happily carrying on alongside. (Figs. 34-39) - A special case for R-label collectors like myself. For details of the further evolution of the postal cancellations of what is now the city of Ashqelon, the reader is referred to Nachtigal and Fixler's catalogue of Israeli postmarks.



Figures 34-35: Migdal Gad



Figures 36-37 (continued): Migdal Gad



Figures 38-39 (continued): Migdal Gad

All the dates quoted above for postmarks, but not, of course, for R-labels, can be found in Nachtigal and Fixler's catalogue; this paper's potential contribution is in attempting to show "the reasons why". One might also recall the Chinese proverb: One picture is worth a thousand words!

References:

- (1) Nachtigal, I. and Fixler, B. (undated), Regular Postmarks of Israeli Post, Part 1 (1948-1990). (No publisher given).
- (2) Jungwirth, E. (2003); Transliteration of Place Names on Israeli Registration labels and Postmarks. Holy Land Postal History, Vol. V, No. 93-94, pp. 501-519.
- (3) Jungwirth, E. (2003), The Israeli C-1 Type Cancellation 1950/51..., Holy Land Postal History, Vol. V, No. 93-94, pp. 556-561

For Whom the Clock Tolls?

(The Clock Towers that were built at the beginning of the 20th century in the Land of Israel in honor of Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II)

Yehuda Levanony, Holon

Introduction

In April or May 2004, new stamps depicting the Ottoman Clock Towers, that were built in the Land of Israel, will be issued by the Israel Philatelic Service. The history of these clock towers will be discussed in the following article with a special stress on philatelic and postal relevance. It is about a specific historical period in which a series of important changes, mainly caused by global events, took place in the Land of Israel, at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

The Land of Israel was then a neglected and undeveloped part of the Ottoman Empire. In the days of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the Zionist Movement was just established and immigrating Jews (making "Aliya") had begun purchasing land and property in this country. It was in those days that the conflict between Jews and Arabs arose. The European Powers began showing an increasing interest in the Holy Land. Ottoman rulers realizing it, also started paying more attention to the area. Jaffa, the main entry port to Palestine, and the first place that pilgrims saw on their way to Jerusalem, was described then as a dirty, insecure place.

In 1816, the governor of Jaffa, Muhamad Abu Nabut, repaired the ruined city walls. It is thought that their destruction happened after the conquest of the city by Napoleon (1799) and during the wars that erupted after his withdrawal. But in the 2nd quarter of the 19th century Jaffa had developed and expanded so that in the 1870's the walls were dismounte'd in order to allow for the expansion of the city. In the 1880's, the "Kishle'h" (prison) was transferred from the Old Ottoman Government Building (A Saraya el-Athika) to the north-eastern corner of the previous wall. At about the same time the Market developed and its site was called the Market Square. In 1879, a new magnificent Saraya, the Ottoman rulers' palace (A Saraya el-Gadida) was built. It was badly damaged during the 1948 war, but its ruins can still be seen today and reconstruction had begun in 2003.

The square in front of the Saraya is called "Sacnat el-Dawla ("The State Square").

The Clock Tower (C.T.) - probably the most famous symbol of Jaffa - was erected at the center of the Square. Today it is commonly known as "The Clock Square", although its official name is "The Jewish Agency Square", a name hardly remembered.

In addition to the Jaffa clock tower, several other towers were built in the Land of Israel: in Acre (in the Khan el-Umdan), in Jerusalem, (at the Jaffa Gate), in Safad (on the Saraya), in Nablus (in the "casba"), and in downtown Haifa (at El-Jarina Mosque, near the Zim building and the new Government Building Center).

The Jaffa Clock Tower

The clock tower was built in honor of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the Ottoman ruler during 1876-1909. Although the tower is mentioned in all the history books and reports about Jaffa, there is still disagreement as to the exact date of its erection. In some publications, the year 1901 is regarded as the date the tower was



Fig. 40: Find the Differences.

built, whereas in others the year 1906 is quoted, and some authors even refer to both dates; (Fig. 40).

The exact date at which the tower was built is a rather complicated issue. I tried to solve it by using several approaches - including investigating historical photographs and postcards; checking the postmarks on postcards dated from the beginning of the 20th century; examining books and magazines of the period; and trying to translate the inscriptions engraved on the towers themselves.¹ I also tried to verify the dates on which the many clock towers were erected in honor of the Sultan Abdul Hamid II throughout the Ottoman Empire, assuming that they were all built in the same year. The Jaffa archive, where some answers could have been found, had disappeared - it probably burnt down during the 1948 war. In the Tel Aviv archive, only the plans for the reconstruction that took place in 1980 could be found. The answer may be found in the photograph Archive owned by Sultan Abdul Hamid himself. This valuable source of information, located in Istanbul,

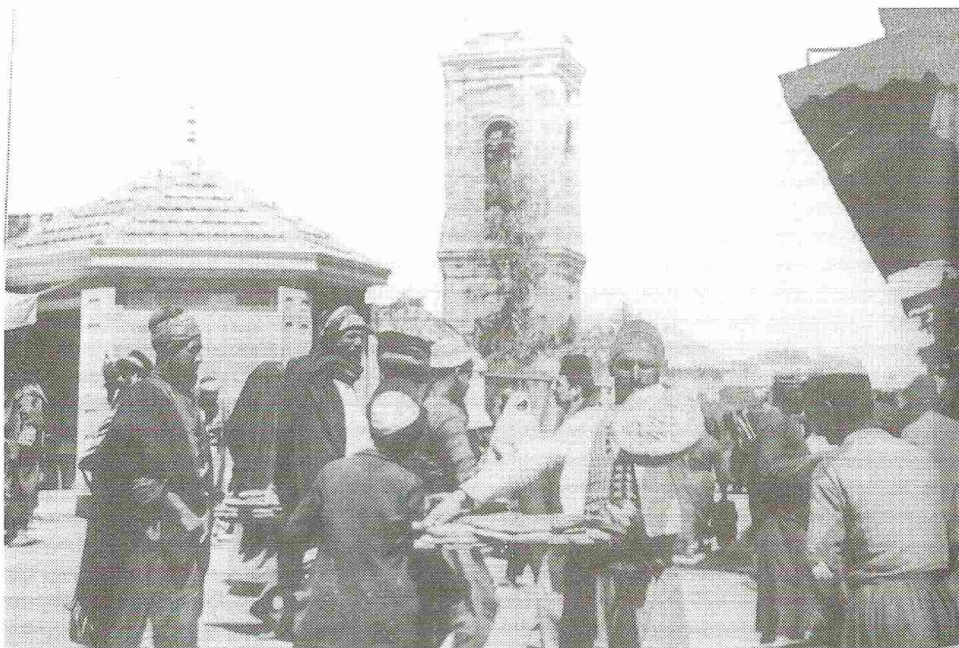


Fig. 41: A photo from 1901 - The Jaffa Clock Tower with 2 floors only.



Fig. 42: An 1900 photo of the Jaffa market square before the clock tower (C.T.) was built.

contains all the photographs sent to the Sultan routinely by his agents from all over the Ottoman Empire.

Odd as it may appear, the two dates 1901 or 1906, do not necessarily contradict each other. While watching carefully the Jaffa clock tower, I noticed a slight difference in the architecture of the two lower floors relative to the third one. It could be argued that there were two phases of building - beginning in 1901 and completion in 1906. In the book "Yafo - Tides of Times" (Ed. R. Zeevi, in Hebrew),² two relevant photographs were published: in the first, the clock tower had only two floors, as the third one and the top were not yet built (Fig. 41). D. L. Elmendorf published this photograph in 1912, clearly stating that the author photographed it in 1901³. This proves that in 1901 the two floors of the tower had already been built!

In the second photograph, a military parade is seen in front of the clock tower, the clock digits being in Arabic. The caption to the photograph reads: "The ceremony of inauguration of the clock tower on the occasion of the celebration for the 25th anniversary to the ruling of Sultan Abdul Hamid II". This could prove that the tower was built in 1901, but the year is not given. I found that this photograph had been originally printed as a postcard and was sent via the Austrian Post Office from Jaffa to Jerusalem. According to the postmark, it was sent on March 1906, indicating that on that date (and probably earlier) the tower was fully completed.

In "The Encyclopedia of Personalities" by Tidhar, it is told about the watchmaker, Morris Sheinberg, who had suggested building a clock tower in Jaffa, near the Saraya. Since he was in Charge of the construction of both towers, in Jaffa and in Nablus, this may indicate a possible linkage between the building dates of those two towers. The watchmaker, Zerach Alter Moshli, was also mentioned in connection with the Jaffa clock.

The most convincing proof for the exact building date of the clock tower was found in periodicals, dating from the beginning of the 20th century. In the journal "Ha'Yehudi" (London, October 4, 1900), it was announced that on the 25th anniversary to Sultan Abdul Hamid II's reign, on September 1, 1900, the cornerstone of the Jaffa clock tower was laid (Fig. 42). The completed Jaffa Clock Tower was first mentioned in the "Bedeker Guide Book" in 1904, implying that the building was accomplished in 1903/4 (Figs. 43, 44).

On the year 2001 reconstruction of the Clock Tower took place, new illumination was set, the copper goblet was renewed, both clocks were replaced by new ones and the original bell has since been ringing again (Fig. 45).

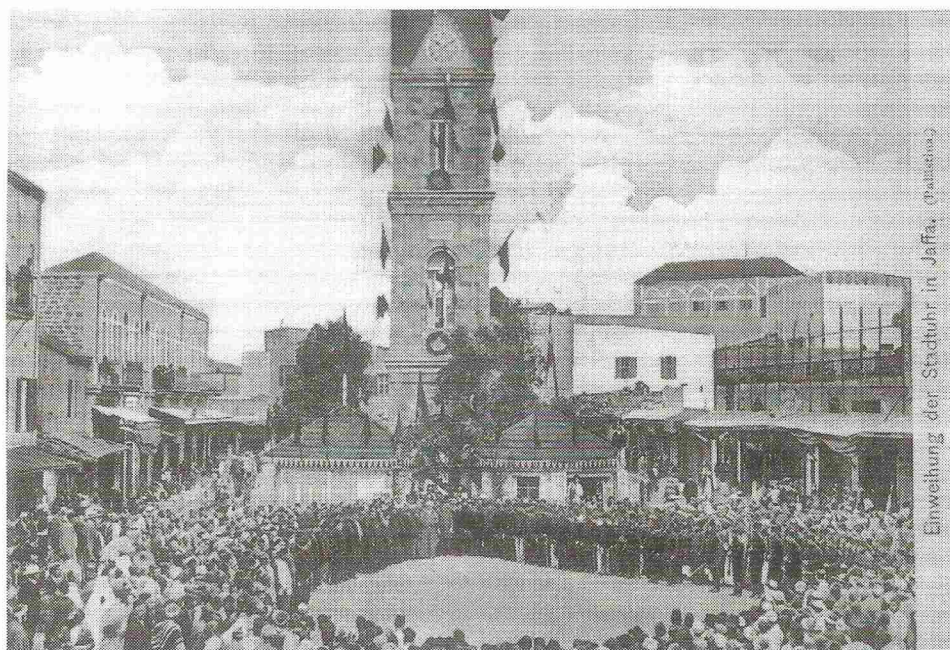


Fig. 43: A postcard showing the inauguration ceremony of the Jaffa C.T.; (probably 1903/1904). (Courtesy of the Zionist Archive).

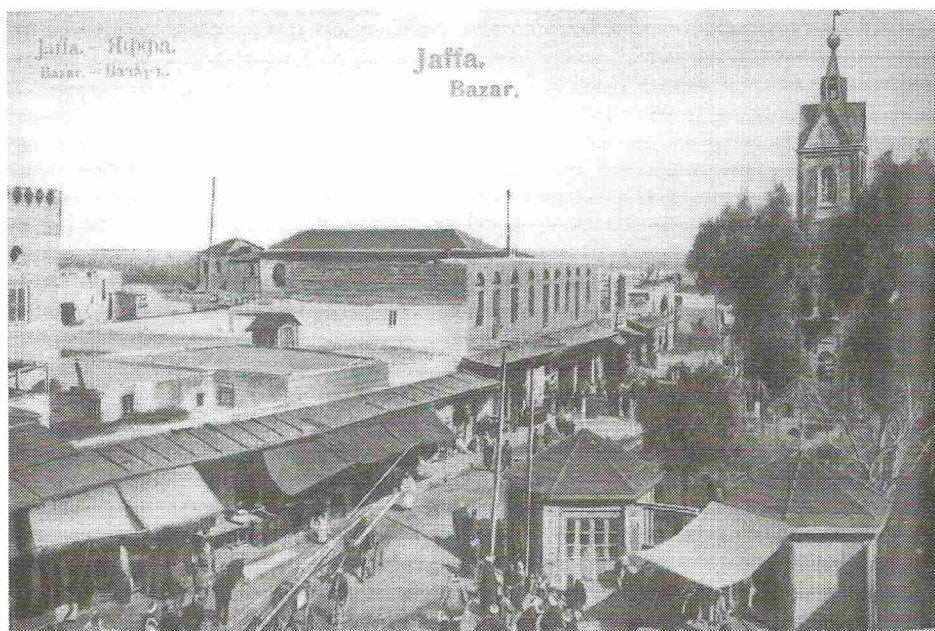


Fig. 44: A postcard showing the completed Jaffa C.T. (Courtesy Dr. Y. Rimón).

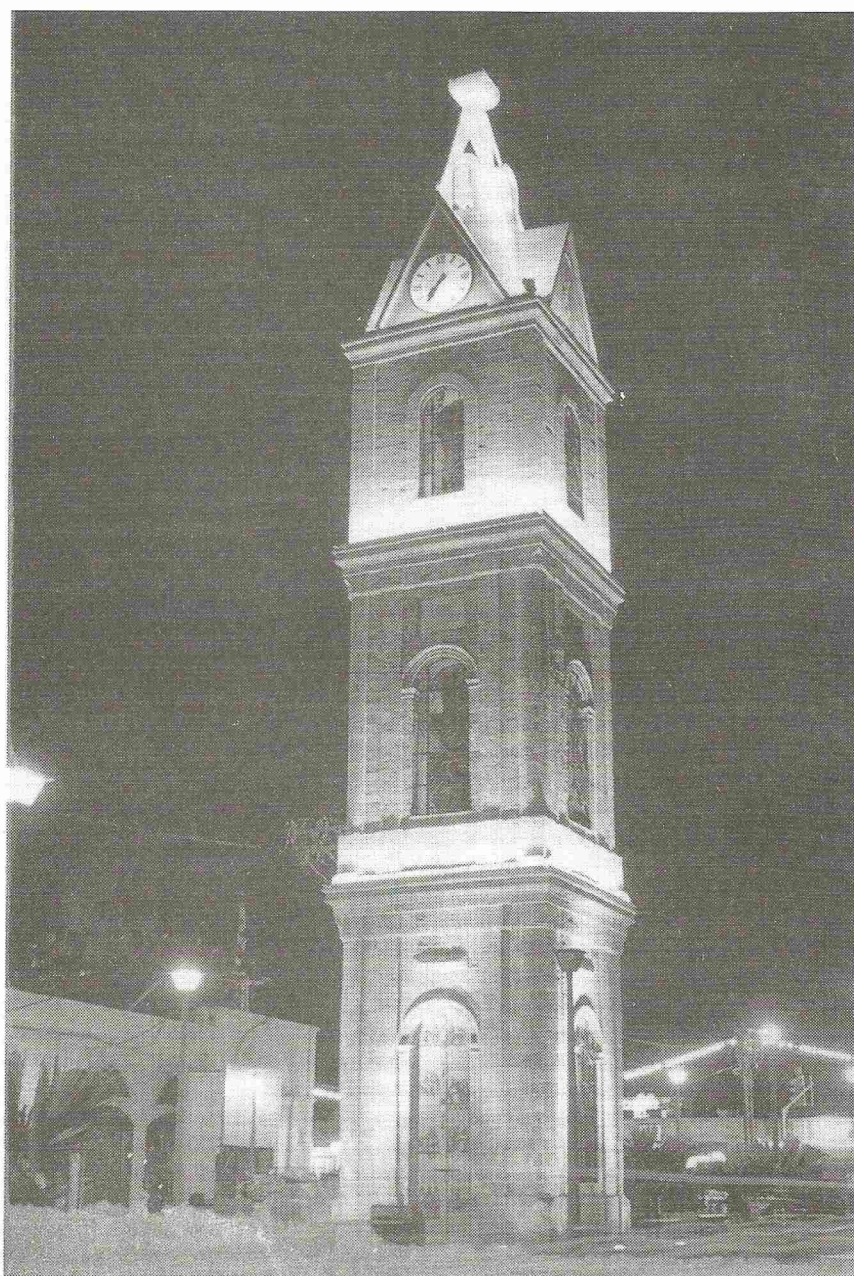


Figure 45

The Haifa Clock Tower

The Haifa Clock Tower has 6 floors and a dome on the top. The Arabic inscription engraved on the tower reads: "Celebration on the occasion of five and twenty years, the happy year has begun - Long Live the Sultan Abdul-Hamid."

The year engraved here is 1316 (probably to Hijra). If this is the case, it means that the tower in Haifa was built in 1898/9, sometime before the celebrations, and was in fact the first tower built in the Land of Israel in honor of the Sultan (Fig. 47).

On the year 2001 reconstructions took place but no clocks have yet been installed. See Figures 46 - 51.

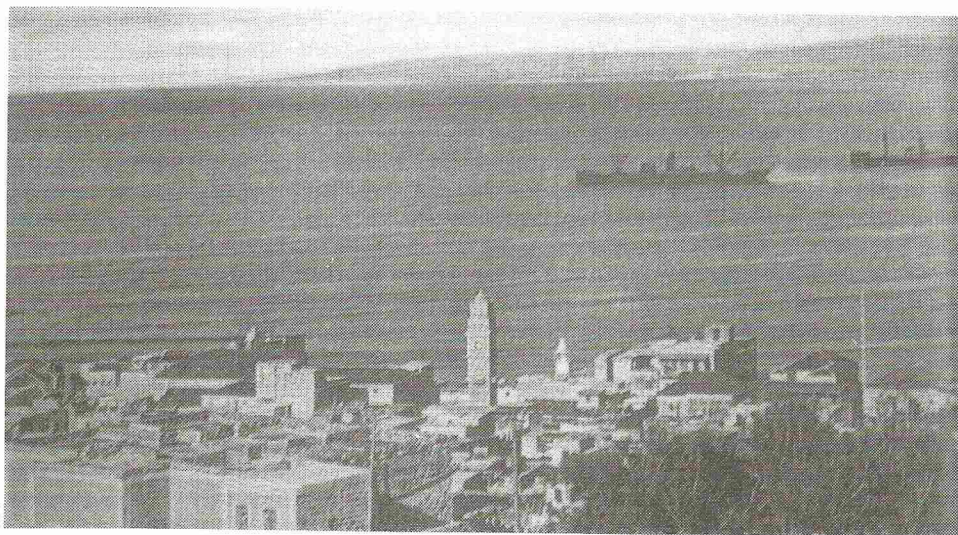


Fig. 46: A postcard of early 20th century of the Haifa C.T. (Courtesy Dr. Y. Rimon).

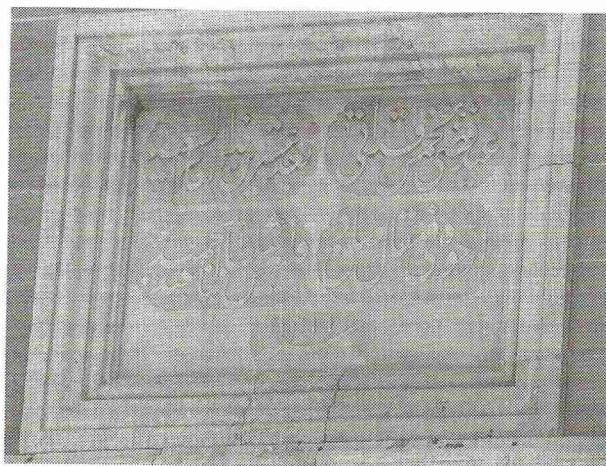


Fig. 47: The "plaque" engraved on the Haifa C.T. with the inscription in honor of the Sultan

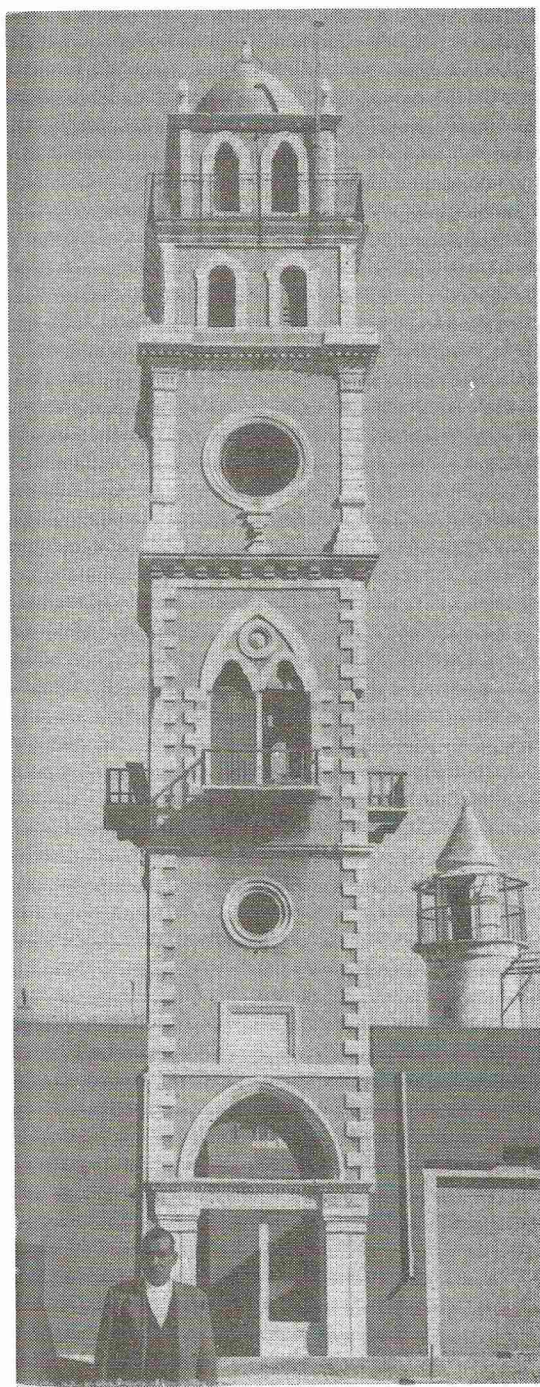


Fig. 48: A close-up photo of the Haifa C.T. and the Minerat (part) on its back.



Fig. 49: A postcard delivered by the French Post in 1906, showing the Haifa C.T. and the Minaret of the nearby Mosque. (Courtesy Dr. Y. Rimón).



Fig. 50: A 2001 photo of the renovated Haifa C.T.



Fig. 51: The Haifa C.T. on the front of El - Jarina Mosque

The Nablus Clock Tower

In the journal of the British Palestine Exploration Fund (P.E.F.) from January 1, 1901, K.Shik wrote that on September 1, 1900, the 25th year of the reign of the Sultan Abdul Hamid, a clock tower was built in Nablus (Fig. 52).

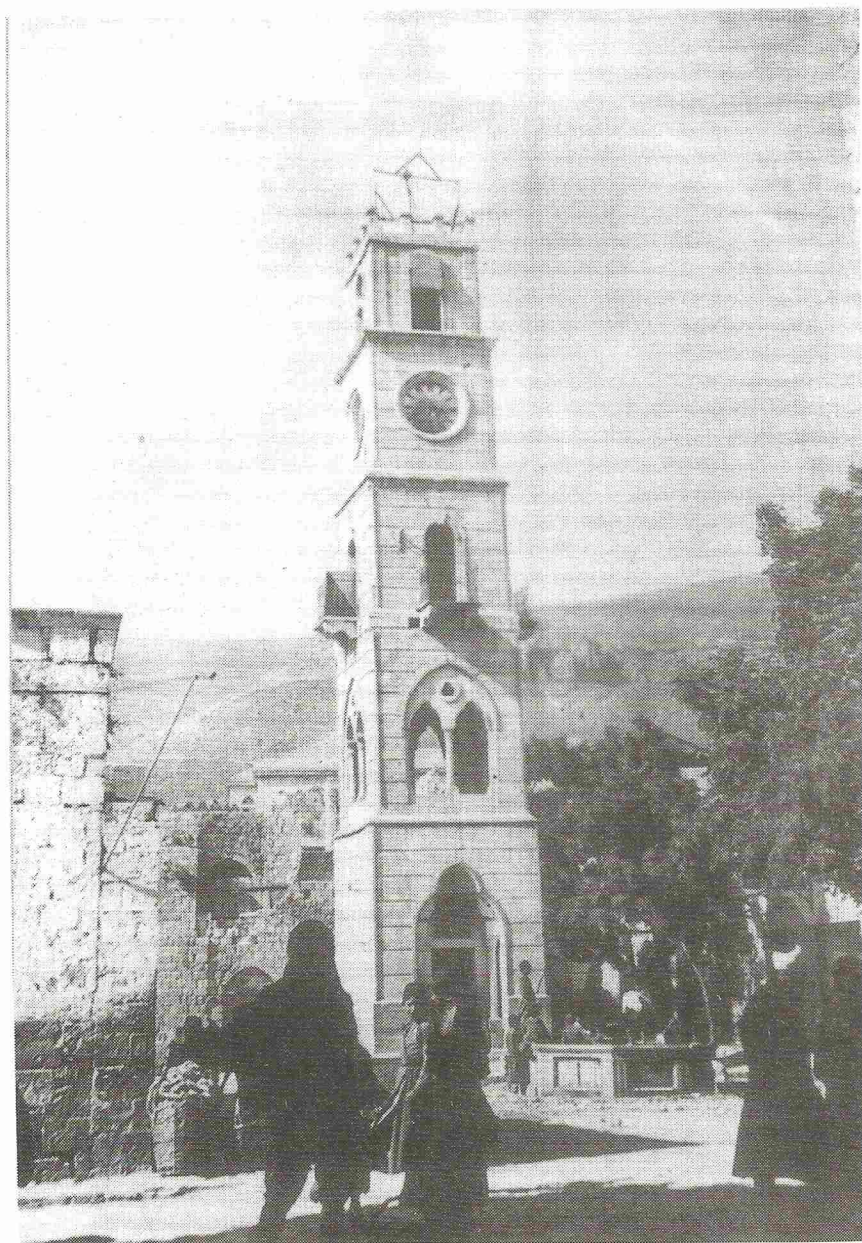


Fig. 52: The Nablus C.T. - a photo from 1917. (Courtesy the Zionist Archive).

We found the following lyrical lines engraved on the tower (in Arabic; Fig. 53):

"The celebration of the crown, it is splendor
Even the sun in the sky will obey,
The tower was erected with a lot of happiness and glory,
The clock appears like a maiden in her wedding.

Long live the Sultan - the great king
Abed el-Hamid donated us his great honor
This ceremony is held for the silver jubilee of the Sultan
In his honor the tower was built from bottom to top
The great ceremony of the crown jubilee
1318 Hijra; 1316 Rumi" (the year 1900, Y.L.)

The Rumi counting, similar to the Mali counting, was used for tax collecting purposes, thus linking the Hijra and the Gregorian calendars.

We can conclude that the clock tower in Nablus was erected in 1900 (i.e., September 1, 1900). (Fig. 54).

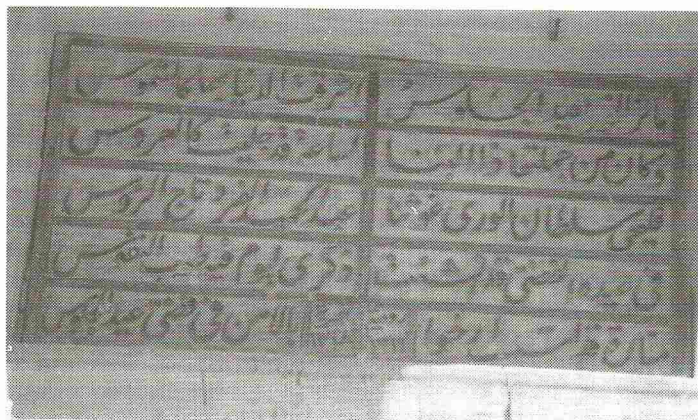


Fig. 53: The engraved inscription on top of the entrance to the Nablus C.T.

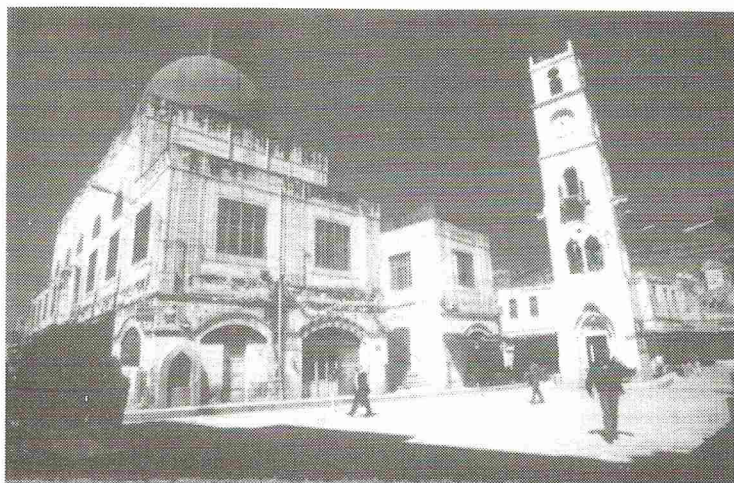


Fig. 54: The Nablus C.T. - a Municipality publicity poster from the year 2000.

The Safad Clock Tower

The Safad Clock Tower was built above the Ottoman "Saraya" Palace (Fig. 55). Its first floor is round and there are four more square floors. The square pyramid that was built on the top does not exist nowadays.

Two weeks after the "Ha'Yehudi" magazine announced the laying down of the cornerstone to the Jaffa clock tower, the same journal published that on the 25th anniversary of the Sultan, on the same date, September 1. 1900, the clock tower of Safad was inaugurated (Fig. 56).

The tower was built on the north-western corner of the Saraya palace, on a rounded base. It was made of limestone, had five floors but hardly any decoration. There were four clocks, one on each side: on the front, the western side, the clock was bigger than the others. Recently, on October 15, 2002, the clocks were replaced with new ones (Fig. 57). The original bell now rings again at the top of the tower.

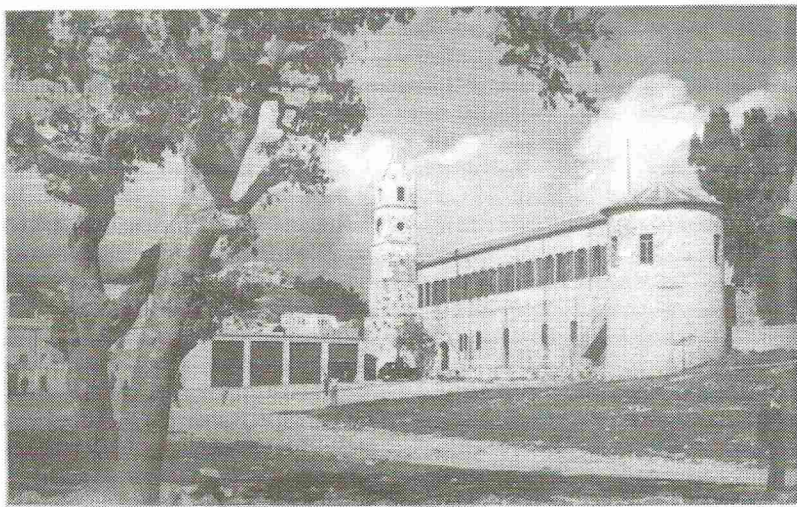


Fig. 55: The Safad C.T. above the Ottoman Saraya Palace - a 1945 photo. (Courtesy the Zionist Archive).

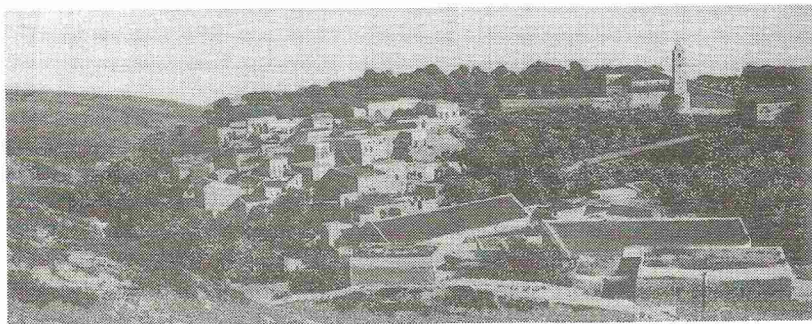
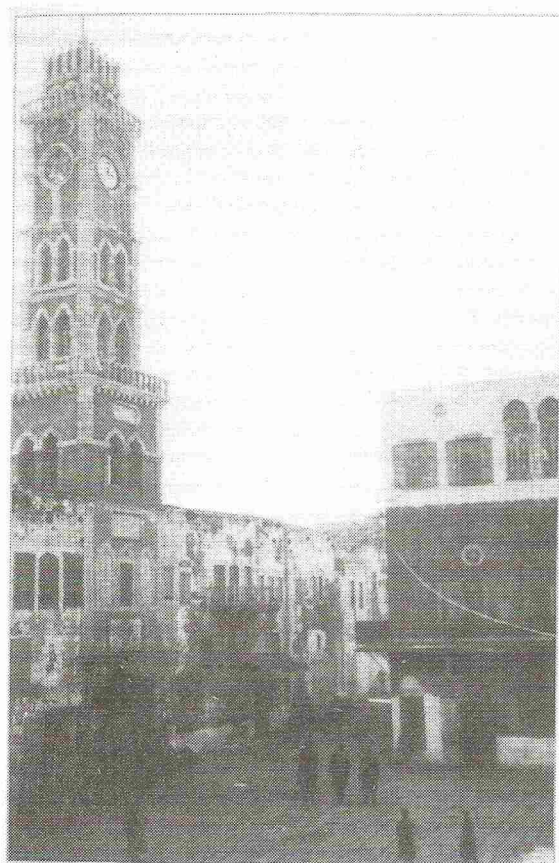


Fig. 56: A picture postcard of Safad (from the early twenties (1920th)) with the Safad C.T.



Fig. 57: The Saraya Palace and the C.T. after Oct. 15, 2002 when new clocks were erected in it.



*Fig. 58: The Acre C.T. - a photo from 1912.
(Courtesy the Zionist Archive).*

The Acre Clock Tower

This is one of the most decorated and impressive clock towers. It was built on the ancient beautiful Khan el-Umdan, in 1906 (according to all publications) (Figs. 58-61)

On the tower there are three limestone plates with the following inscriptions:

On the first, an emblem of the Ottoman Empire is engraved. On the second, there is an inscription written in the Ottoman language in calligraphic letters reading as follows:

"His Majesty the Sultan, El-Gazi Abed-El-Hamid Chan, the Sultan of the Sultans of the era and the best of our nation. The building of the praised clock tower was completed on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of our Sultan as a Caliph, glory and honor to him. 1318" (This year according to the Hijra counting is the year 1900; Y.L.).

On the upper plate is written,

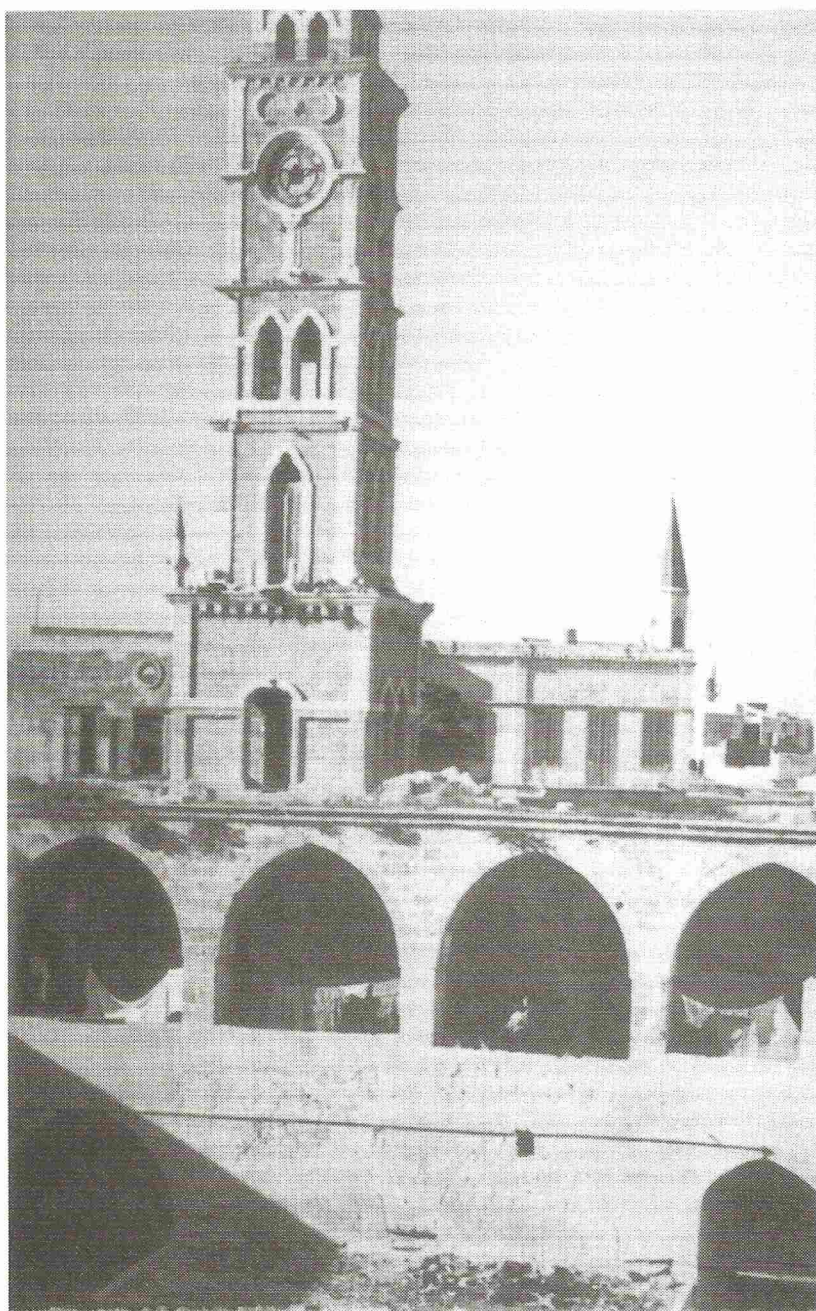


Fig. 59: The Acre C.T. - a photo from 1945. (Courtesy the Zionist Archive).

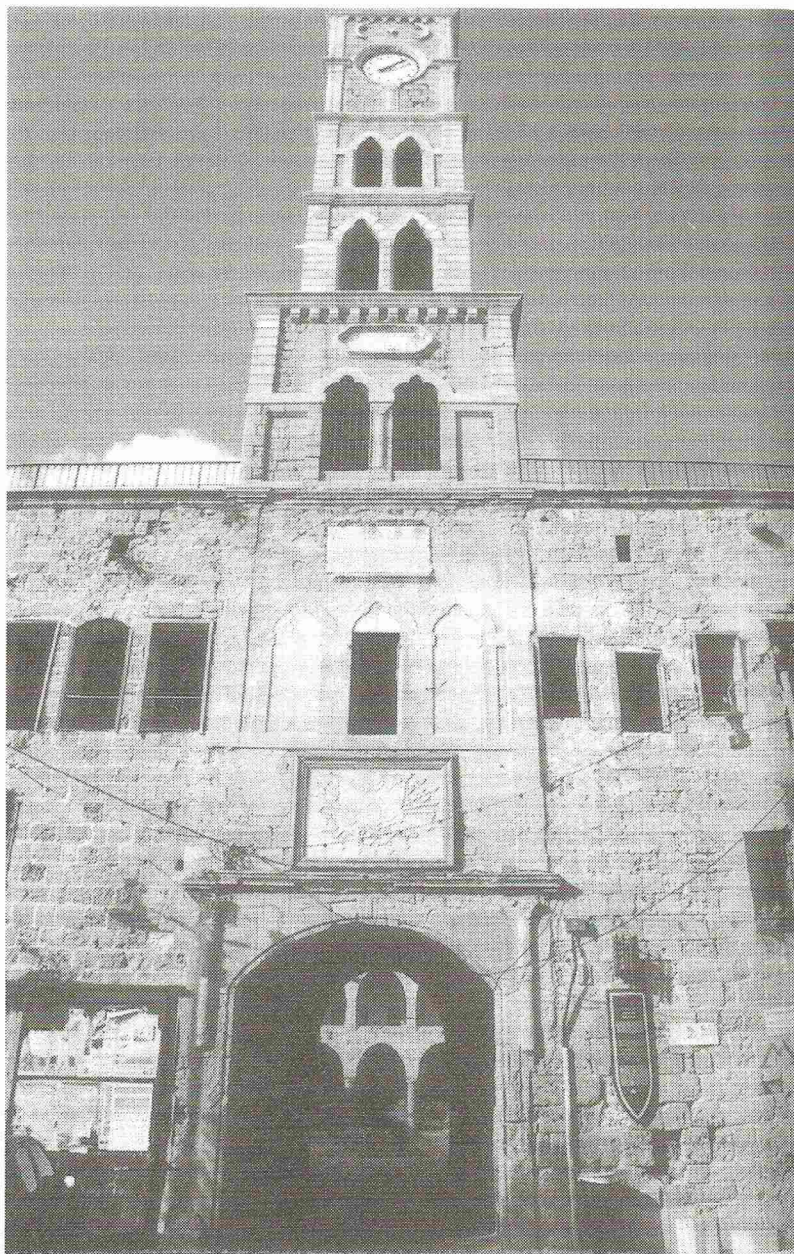


Fig. 60: The Acre C.T. - a photo from 2001, after the replacement of the clocks.

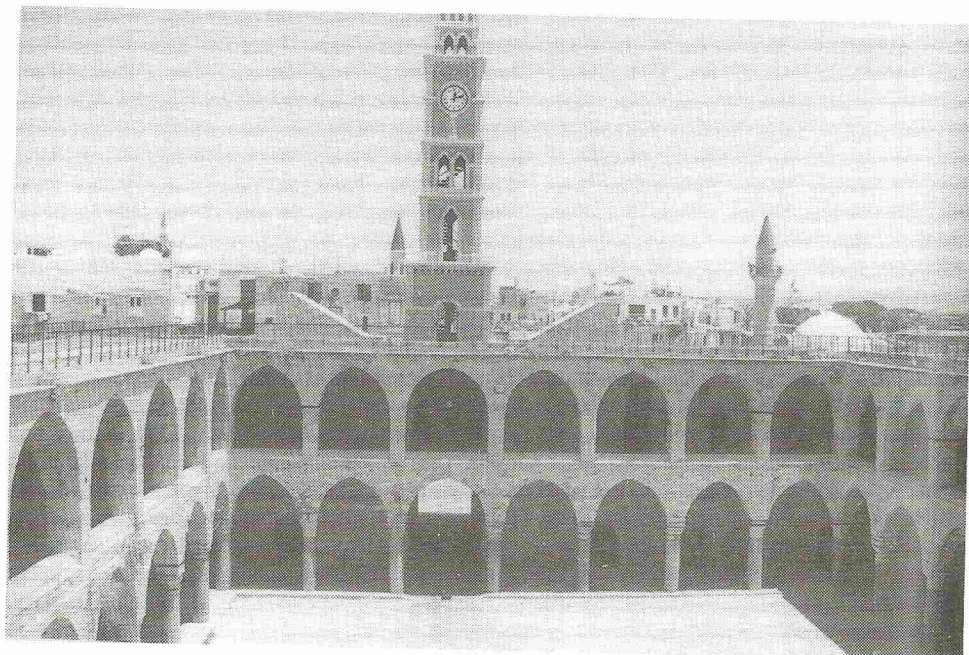


Fig. 61: A panoramic view of Khan el-Umden and the C.T. that "Emerges" out of it.

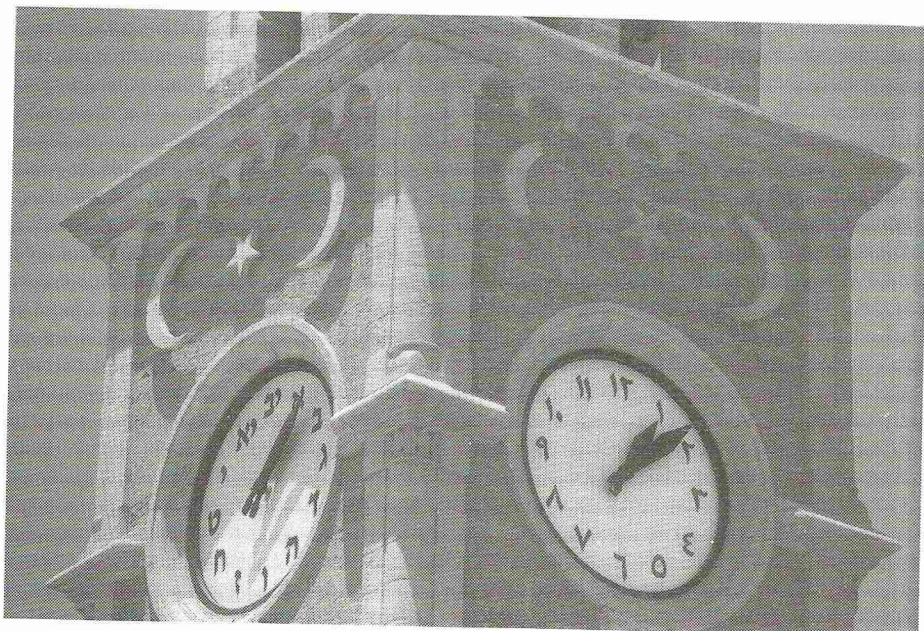


Fig. 62: Two of the Acre C.T. clocks, one with Hebrew letter digits, the other with Arabic digits.

in Arabic: *"Five and twenty years of happiness since the beginning of the Calipha Abed el-Hamid. 1318"*.

Thus, the Acre clock tower was erected in the year 1900 on the Sultan's 25th jubilee. In a special ceremony, in 2001, four new clocks were installed: one with Hebrew letters, the second with Arabic digits, the third with Latin digits and the fourth with Indo - Arabic (regular) digits (Fig. 62).

Three Israeli stamps were issued during the State period depicting the Acre C.T. as parts of various series (Fig. 63). In April or May 2004, it will appear again on a stamp, this time as part of a special issue of 5 stamps depicting five C.T.'s in Israel (see later).



Fig. 63: Three postage stamps of Israel (from various sets of different years) on which the Acre C.T. is seen.

The Jerusalem Clock Tower

The tower in Jerusalem is unique since it was built above the Jaffa Gate of the Old City wall by the Governor Ali Acram Bey in 1907 - later than all the other towers. It was ready for the celebrations of the 31st (actually 32nd; Y.L.) anniversary to the Sultan's reign, and unlike the other towers it was later taken apart.

In the Magazine "Hashkafa", published in Jerusalem by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (September 1907), the following was announced:

"On the celebration of the crowning day of our Master and King, his Majesty the honorable Sultan, on 22 Elul (September 1, 1907; Y.L.), the happy day of 31



Fig. 64: The Jerusalem C.T. in the wall near the Jaffa gate - a picture postcard printed around the end of the first decade of the 20th century.

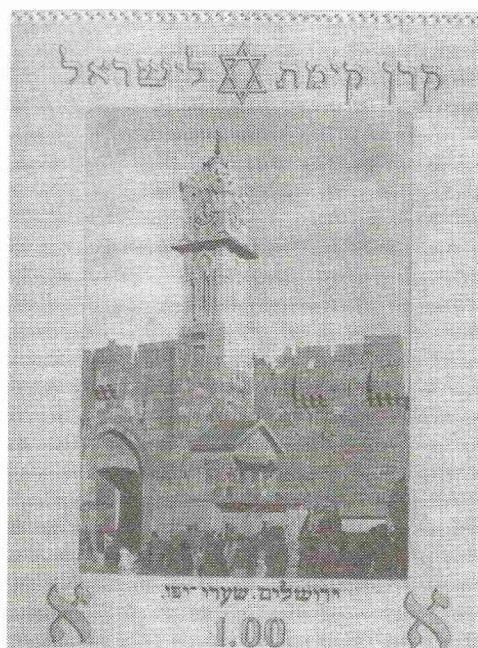


Fig. 65: A label from 1912 showing the Jerusalem C.T. - out of a label booklet issued by the Russian lodge of the J.N.F. (Courtesy Romano Auctions)..



Fig. 66: A postcard of 1917 depicting the historic entrance of General Allenby to Jerusalem Old City through the Jaffa gate.



Fig. 67: The entrance to Jaffa gate from where the C.T. and the Ottoman hut attached to the wall are seen

years of ruling of the distinguished and very honorable king, the Sultan son of the Sultan el-Gazi Abed el-Hamid..." To celebrate the occasion, many magnificent parties were held, and "all the Ottoman government officials and army officers, the 'Ishmaelians' and the Jews had participated, and many of them came to the clock tower on the city wall for its inauguration".

The Clock Tower was built of limestone in "*modern-arabic style*". Its height was about 14m in addition to the Jaffa Gate building.

R. Stores, the British governor, demolished the tower in 1922.

The Nazareth (Clock?) Tower

Another small and elegant tower that resembles those of Acre and Haifa was discovered. This tower was built on the monumental Saraya of Nazareth, and has four circular openings that could have been used for clocks. The neighboring community, from the Dahar-El-Omar dynasty (ruler of Galilee in the 18th century), referred to it as "the clock tower". Yet there is not enough proof for that. Presently, it is not conclusive whether this is the 7th Ottoman clock tower in the Land of Israel. See Figures 68-70.

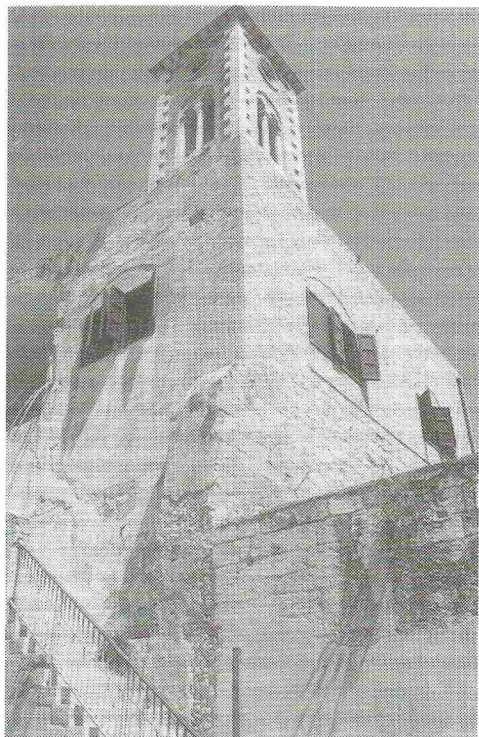


Fig. 68: The tower on the top of the Saraya in Nazareth; is it also a Clock Tower?

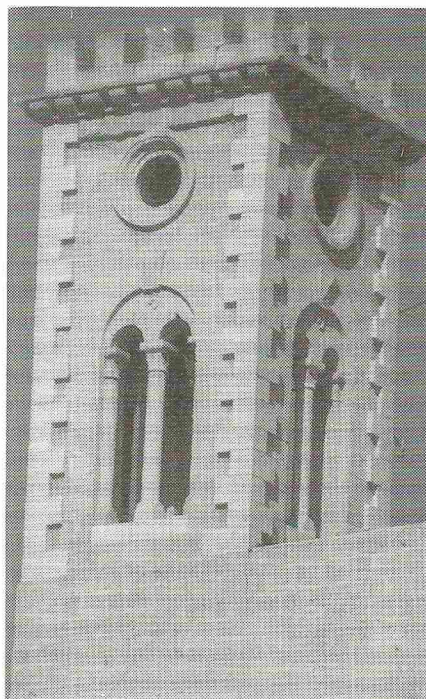


Fig. 70: A close-up of the top of the Nazareth tower showing some architectural elements similar to the C.T.s'.

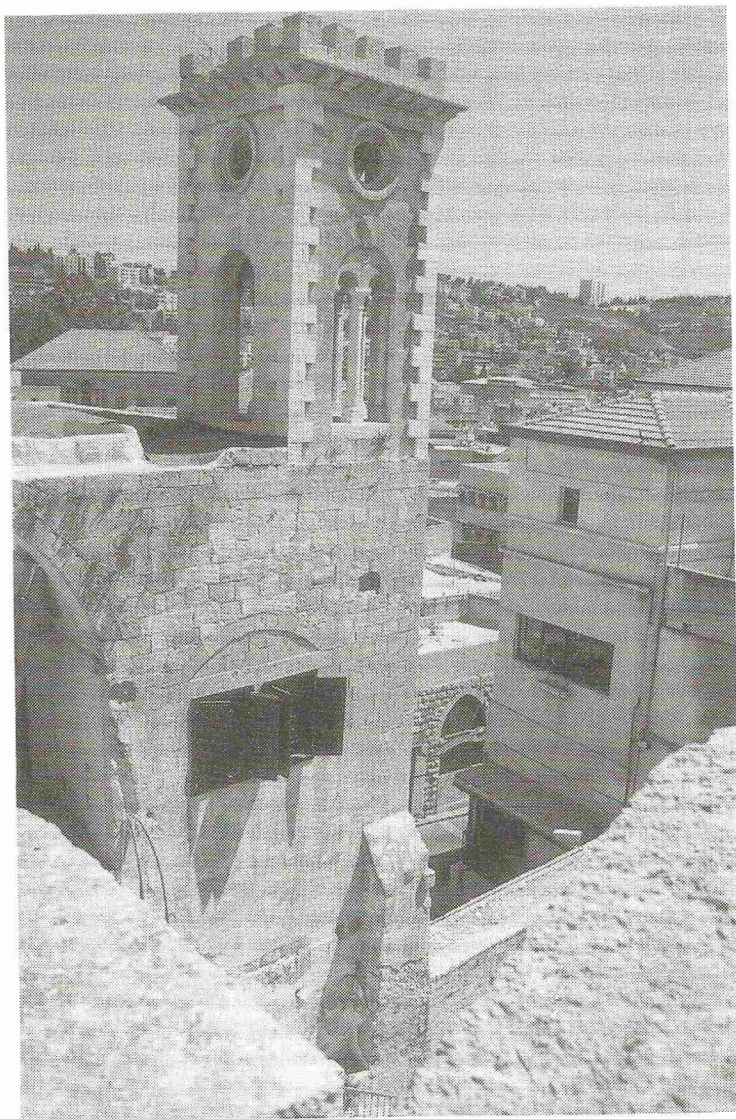


Fig. 69: The entrance to the tower through Nazareth roof of the Saraya.

The Clock Towers in the Holy Land - an interesting collectible.

The monuments - the C.T.'s - that were shown in the previous chapters are indeed magnificent objects, and they certainly may define a theme by itself, of which one can make a beautiful collection including all kinds of reasonable objects which depict any of the C.T.'s, e.g., postcards, stamps, photographs, etc...

Especially interesting is the possibility (which exists of course also with other themes) to link this theme (the C.T.'s) with other two very popular types of

collection - postcard collection and Postal History collection - that is, one may define the objects of such a **3-way collection** as follows: used picture postcards which illustrate one of the C.T.'s or anything connected to them. The postal history aspect is naturally provided by the front side of the card which, being "used", would generally have a postage stamp (or not), a cancellation (postmark) supplying date and place, and frequently other postal marks, all of these relate to the postal history aspect.

The six picture postcards in Figures 71-76, each shown from both sides, may demonstrate the above description of such a 3-way collection. They are all postcards showing either the ground prepared for or the C.T. in Jaffa or Jerusalem, and they represent a nice cross-section of the postal manifold of that period (as proved by the different postmarks): - The Ottoman post, the German post, the Austrian post, the French post, a British Army post and a civilian Palestine Mandate post.

Fig. 49 above (which has the postage stamp and postmark on the picture side), also belong to such a collection, but it hints at a rather different and already long time FIP sponsored class - "Maximaphily" (collection of Maximum Cards). The card would have been a "Maximum Card" if the stamp had shown the Haifa C.T. (which is shown in the card picture). So, we see that a Maximum card with the proper theme (in this case "C.T.'s in the Holy Land") is also a subsection of the above defined 3-way collection, or, it is possible to say vice-versa that this type of collection is a **4-way collection**.

Summary

There is a debate regarding the exact date of the 25th Jubilee of the Sultan. Since the Sultan began governing on September 1, 1876, in 1901 he had already been ruling for 25 years. The question is therefore raised: why, according to the magazines and the inscriptions on the clock towers, did the celebrations take place on September 1, 1900? Where is the "lost" year? The answer is very simple. The Sultan was crowned on September 1, 1876. On the very same day he was in his first year of office. So on September 1, 1900, after 24 years plus one day, he had begun the 25th year of his reign, and for that reason there were celebrations throughout the Empire. Strangely, in history, in contrast to mathematics, $24 = 25$!

To conclude, six or seven clock towers have been built in the Land of Israel, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sultan's reign in the year 1900.

These are the dates of their erection:

The Haifa clock tower - 1898/9

The Jaffa clock tower - the cornerstone, on September 1, 1900; The lower two floors, in 1901; Completion of building in 1903/4

The Safad clock tower - on September 1, 1900

The Nablus clock tower - on September 1, 1900

The Acre clock tower in 1900

The Jerusalem clock tower - in 1907, dismantled in 1922

The Nazareth tower - the data is not clear.

There was a plan to build a clock tower in Beer-Sheva
but it was not carried out.

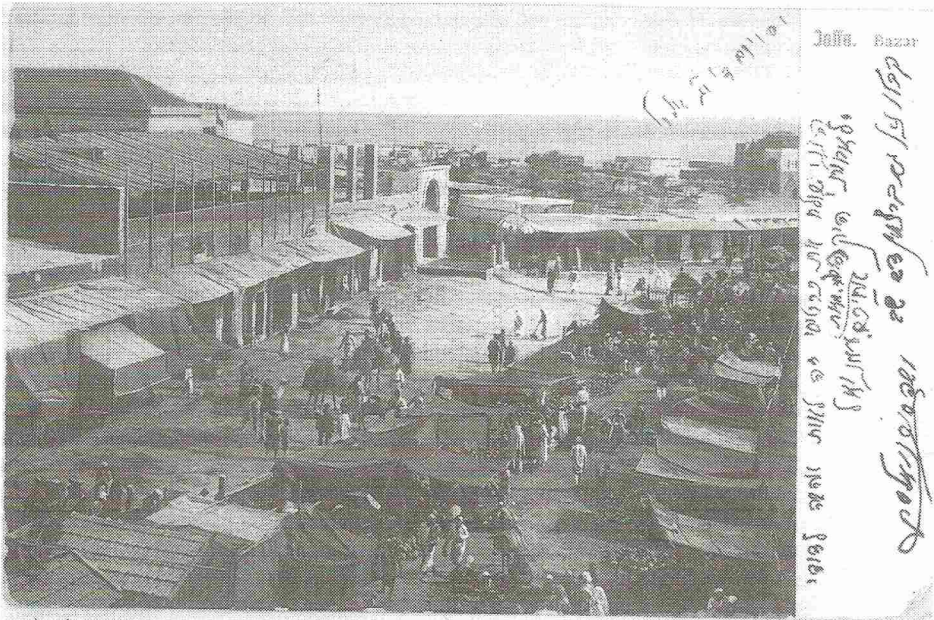


Figure 71(a)

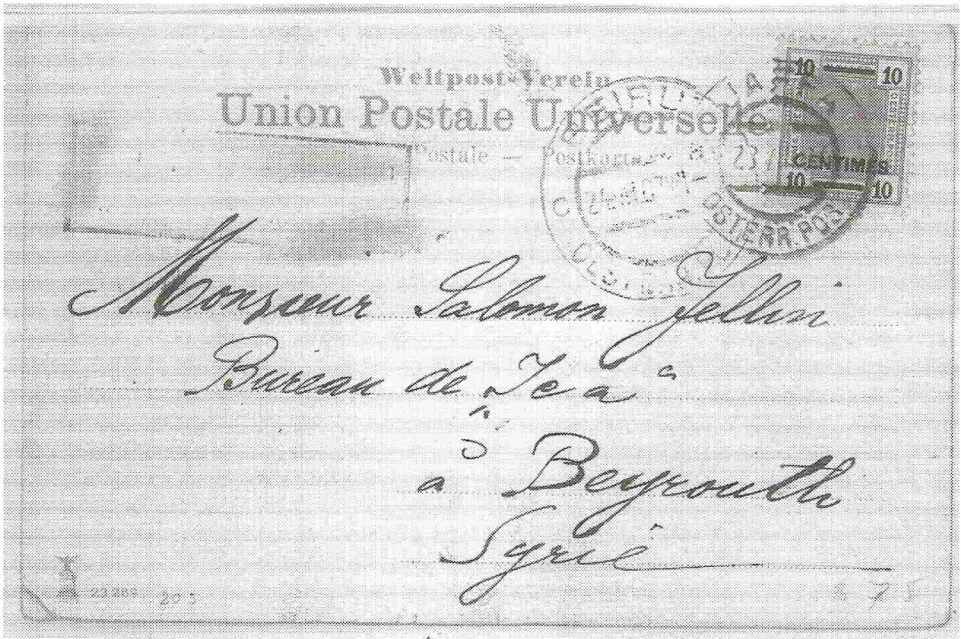


Figure 71(b)



Figure 72(a)

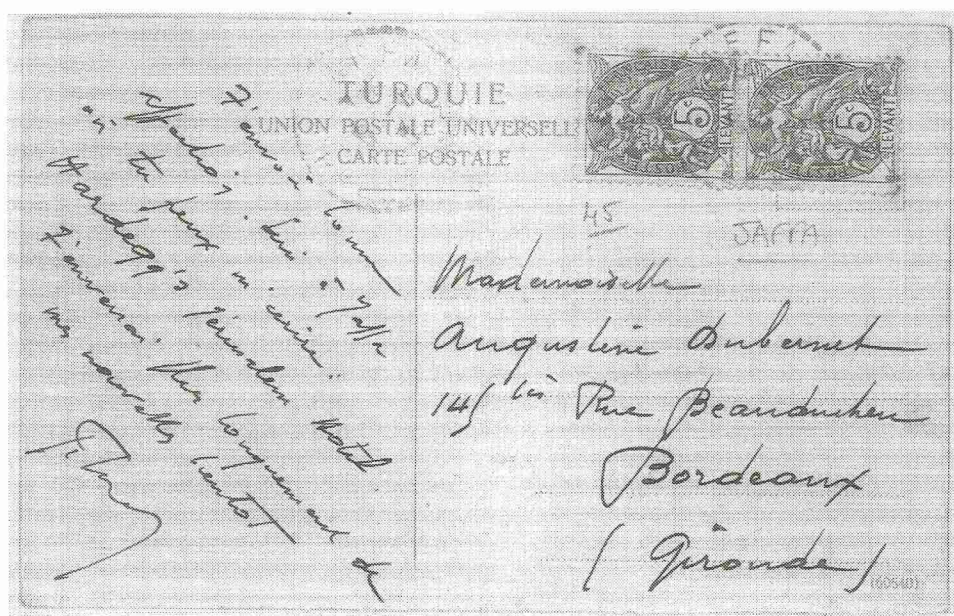


Figure 72(b)

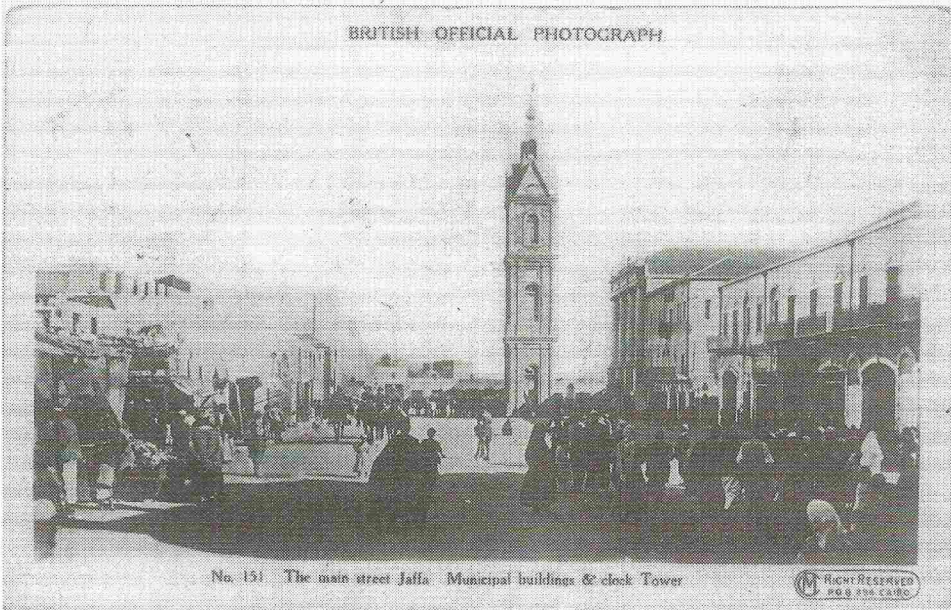


Figure 73(a)

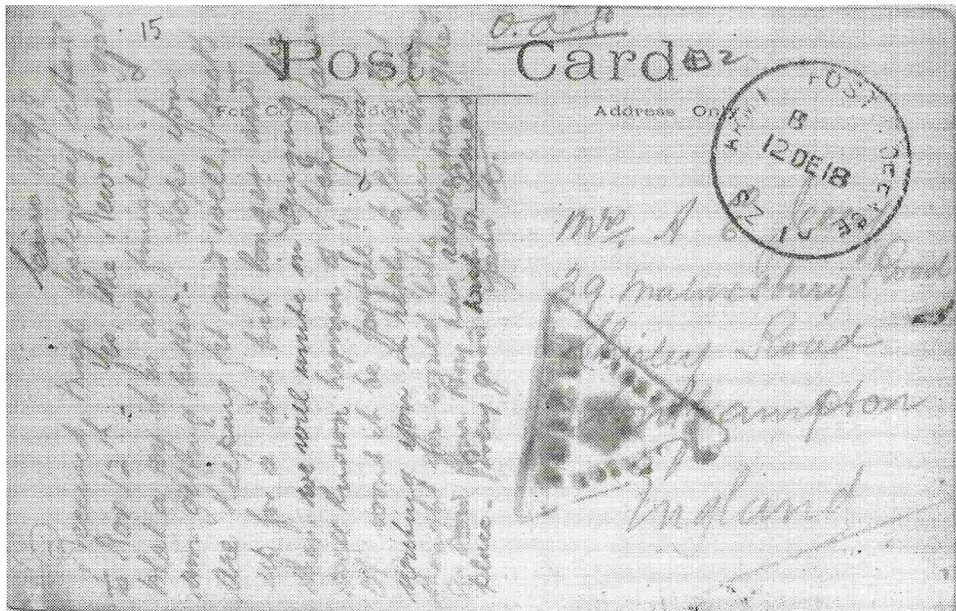


Figure 73(b)

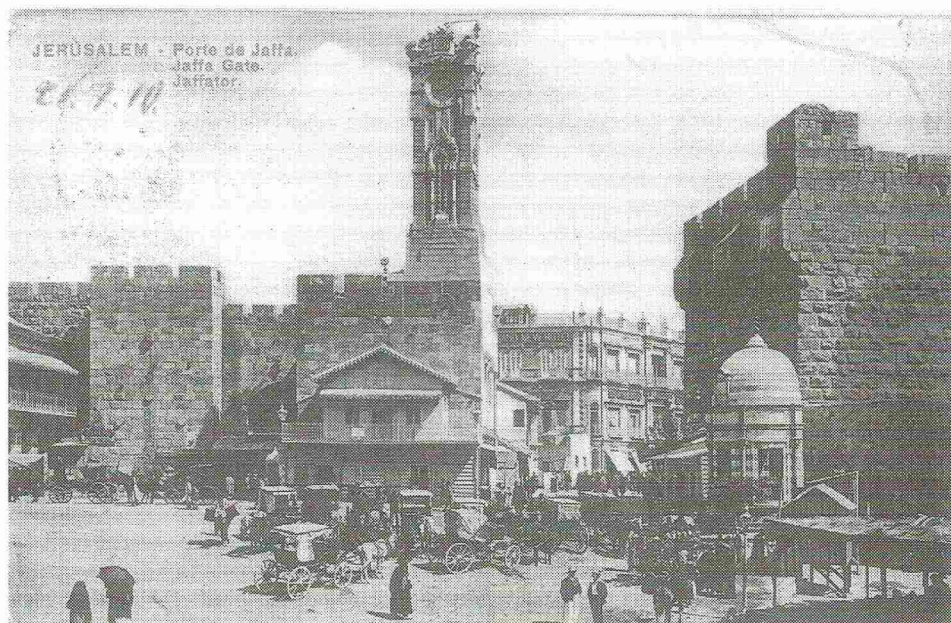


Figure 74(a)

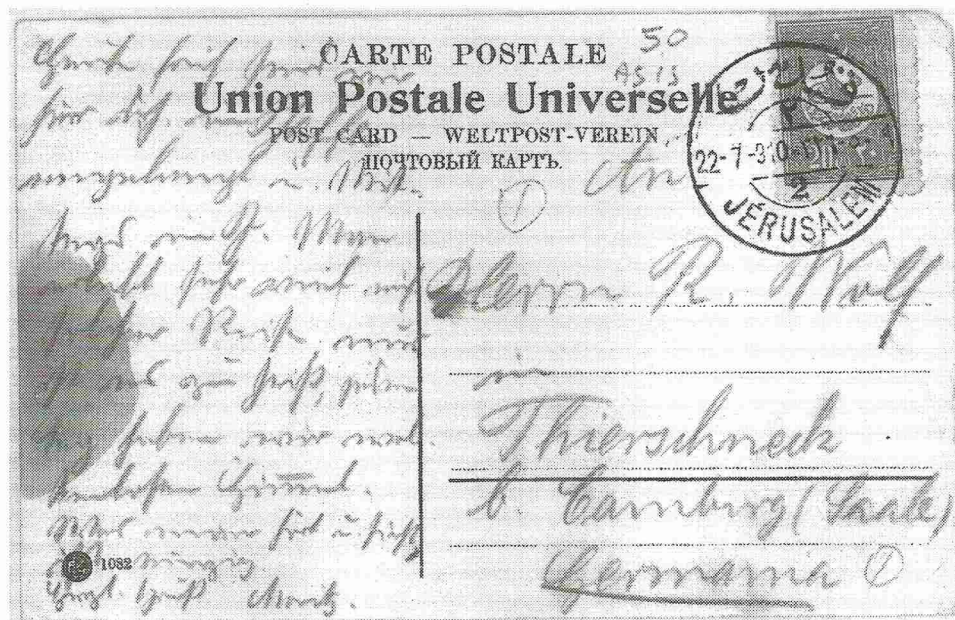


Figure 74(b)

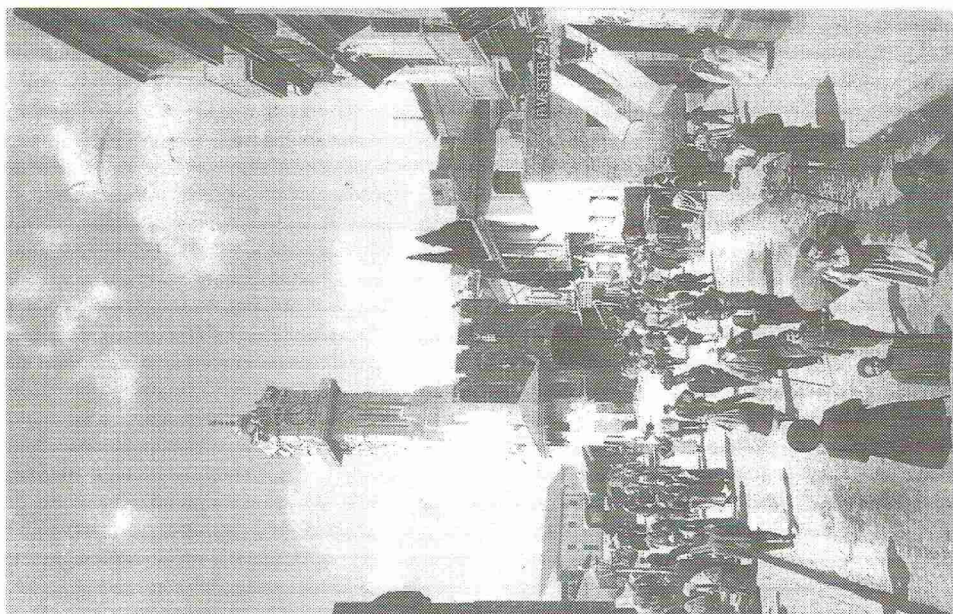


Figure 75(a)

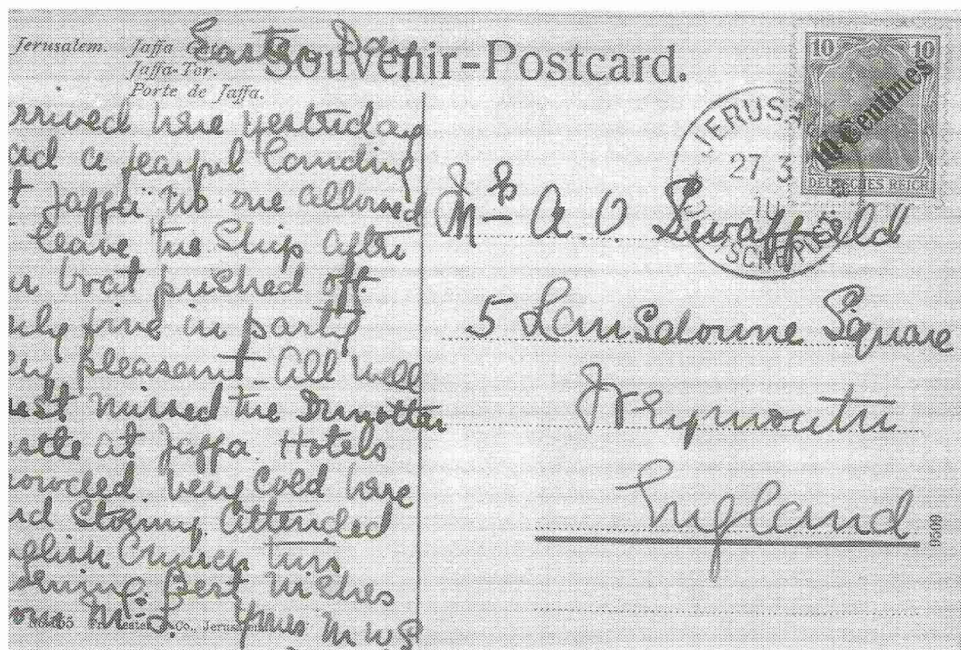


Figure 75(b)

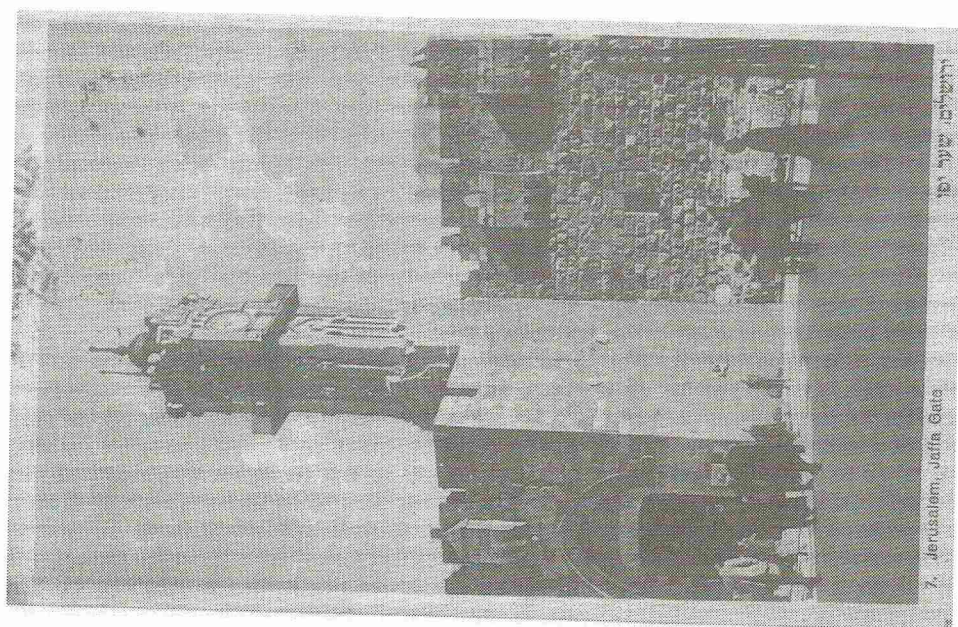


Figure 76(a)

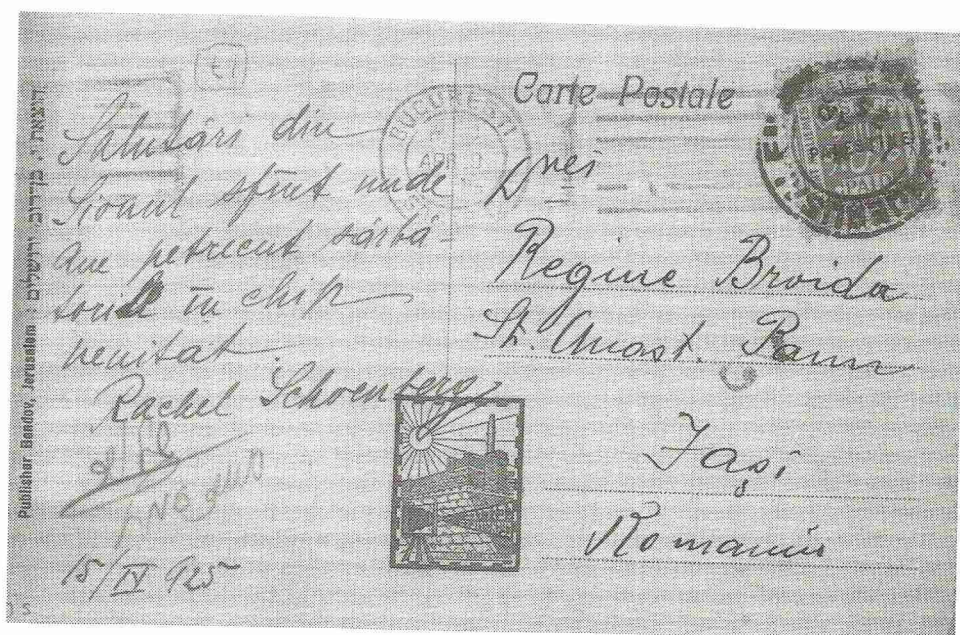


Figure 76(b)

In April or May 2004, new stamps of the Ottoman Clock Towers in Israel will be issued by the Israel Philatelic Service (Fig. 77).



Fig. 77: A set of 5 stamps depicting the five Clock Towers in Israel which were built to honor the 25th anniversary of the ruling of Sultan Abdul Hamid II - to be issued in April or May 2004.

References

- (1) Levanony Y. "למי צלצלו השעונים?", published by the author (2003), Holon (Tel. 052-933232).
- (2) R. Zeevi (editor), "יפו בראי ימים" (1985) Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv.
- (3) Elmendorf D.L., "A Camera Crusade through the Holy Land", (1912), New York.

Revenue and Tax Stamps

Introducing revenue and tax stamps to the scope of the HLPH Bulletin was asked for by some of our members quite a long time ago. But for several reasons it was the policy of the Editorial Board of the HLPH, since its inception in 1979, to restrict the subjects dealt with in the bulletin to postal only, including postage stamps, postal history, etc..., but excluding revenues and anything not connected to the process of communication.

One of the main reasons for this policy was that such restriction was held by the FIP with regards to its sponsored stamp exhibitions. This attitude has changed however and in 1991 it was decided to cancel this restriction and to include the various fields of revenues in the scope of Competitive FIP Exhibitions.* The following SREV was then composed and distributed, regulating the exhibiting of revenue affiliated exhibits. It thus made it reasonable that the HLPH would also cancel this restriction and print serious articles dealing with Holy Land revenues.

So, dear Members, rush in and submit for publication in HLPH all your revenue articles awaiting for so long!! But please, don't push, not always "First come first served".

(The Editors)

Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Revenue Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (SREV)

Article 1: Competitive Exhibitions

In accordance with Art. 1.4. of the General Regulations of FIP for the evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV), these Special Regulations have been drafted to supplement those principles with regard to Revenues. Also refer to Guidelines to Revenue Regulations.

Article 2: Competitive Exhibits

2.1 Competitive Exhibits

A revenue exhibit comprises embossed, imprinted or adhesive tax, fee or credit stamps issued by or under the originating authority of a state or municipal authority.

Such exhibits will display one or more such type of stamp, and where appropriate will explain and in any event will make suitable references to, the reasons for and where necessary the regulations relating to the services, transactions or other matter being considered.

2.2 Tax Stamps

Stamps issued for the payment of, or for noting matters relating to, the payment of or exemption from a tax, levy or other fiscal imposition or duty are "tax stamps".

* The inclusion of revenue stamps in exhibits of other sections is still not permitted.

2.3 Fee Stamps

Stamps the purpose of which is to record payment or exemption from a fee for which some service is to be or has been rendered are "fee stamps" (but see Article 2.5 below).

2.4 Credit Stamps

Stamps issued to denote some monetary or fiscal credit in favor of the purchaser, his principal or assignee are "credit stamps".

Article 3: Principles of Exhibit Composition

3.1 A revenue exhibit consists of unused or used embossed, imprinted or adhesive revenue stamps. If used on documents, such documents should be arranged to illustrate clearly the pertinent transactions or services. The exhibit may comprise some of the following:

1. Registration of Deeds or Documents
2. General Revenues
3. Judicial or Court
4. Transfers of ownership of moveables or immoveables
5. Receipts
6. Documentary
7. Public Service
8. Bills
9. Duty Stamps
10. Funds
11. Assurances and policies
12. Consular services
13. Inspections
14. Weights and Measures
15. Licenses
16. Postage stamps used as revenue stamps, or revenue stamps used for postage
17. Other Revenue Stamps.

The plan or concept of the exhibit shall be described in an introductory statement (ref. GREV, Art. 3.4)

3.2 A revenue exhibit may contain, where it improves its composition:

1. Essays, proofs of adopted or rejected designs;
2. Legal documents and postal covers if applicable;
3. Varieties of all kinds including watermark, perforation, paper, and printing;
4. Maps, prints, decrees and similar associated materials.

Such items must have direct relation to the fiscal services described in the exhibit (ref GREV, Art. 3.4).

Article 4: Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits

(ref. GREV, Art. 4)

"Knowledge" (ref. GREV, Art. 4.5)

A Revenue exhibit may require or admit of more comments and explanation than a comparable postal exhibit but this text must be concise and clear.

Article 5: Judging Exhibits

5.1 Revenue exhibits will be judged by the approved specialists in their respective fields in accordance with Section V (Art. 31-47) of GREX (ref. GREV, 5.1).

5.2 For Revenue exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the jury to a balanced evaluation (ref. GREV 5.2)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Treatment and Importance of the exhibit | 30 |
| Knowledge and Research | 35 |
| Condition and Rarity | 30 |
| Presentation | <u>5</u> |
| | 100 |

Article 6: Concluding Provisions

6.1 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

6.2 These Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Revenue Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions have been approved by the 60th FIP Congress on 25th November 1991 in Tokyo. They come into force on 25th November 1991 and apply to those exhibitions which are granted FIP patronage, auspices or support at the FIP Congress and thereafter.

Guidelines for Judging a Revenue Philately Exhibit

Article 1: Competitive Exhibitions and Exhibits

1.1 It is the intention that these Guidelines should serve as advice on the application of the SREV for Revenue Exhibits following the approval by Congress of the Special Regulations in Tokyo (1991).

1.2 The general principles stated in SREV must remain the basic framework, but clear and sensible extensions will be practiced to demonstrate revenue philately and its development within the Exhibit.

Article 2: Principles of Revenue Philately Exhibits

2.1 Generally a Revenue Exhibit should show:

2.2 mint or used revenue stamps of a particular State or Municipal or Local authority, explaining the reason for the issue or use and showing its developments;

2.3 it should show the date of usage and the date it was withdrawn from use, why and whether it was replaced;

2.4 method of printing, type of paper, essays, proofs, design varieties if appropriate to the subject or presentation;

2.5 geographical or chronological development within one country, continent or covering the whole world where the Exhibit lays emphasis on the subject matter

- of the revenue use;
- 2.6 documents with printed, embossed or adhesive revenue stamps demonstrating and explaining the rules, the sums paid and/or the reason for the document as may be appropriate.

Article 3: Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits

3.1 Plan

All Exhibits of Revenues must contain an introductory plan showing the scope of the intent of the Exhibitor, which should be educational. This plan should be headed with a title which corresponds to the introductory plan. The plan should also be used to give relevant general information on the subject and to indicate areas of personal research. It should also contain a short list of important documentary sources used. The judges will use this information to evaluate the material shown in relation to the aims of the exhibitor as stated in the introduction and plan. If more than five frames, or if Revenues of different countries are shown, another introductory page may be desirable.

The Exhibit should clearly show the subject as introduced.

It must be stressed that complete revenue collections do not exist from the majority of the countries, and therefore Exhibits of Revenue stamps should be judged more according to their relative philatelic significance than for their completeness.

3.2 Article 4 of GREV is applicable

Article 4: Criteria for Judging the Exhibit

4.1 Treatment and Importance

Out of 30 points, treatment should in the case of a Revenue Exhibit attract up to 20 points. This is because the composition of a Revenue Exhibit is vital to show a coherent assembly to the judges.

- 4.2 A Revenue Exhibit may require different treatment from a postage stamp or postal history exhibit. Postage stamps, with some few exceptions, are issued solely for the prepayment of postal charges, whereas the same Revenue stamp may be used for the collection of monies from a variety of different sources and, because of this, there is a wider scope for a Revenue Exhibit to have an imaginative treatment and this should be expected. For example, display of Revenues of any of the categories mentioned in Article 3.1 of SREV should be regarded as an acceptable approach and complying with the Guidelines, if, notwithstanding that the stamps come from different countries, there is demonstrated a similar purpose for their issue or the stamps have similar characteristics of design or production.

Within the narrower fields of specialization, exhibits concerned with the plating of specific stamps or concerned with errors which have arisen during the production of stamps, should be treated in the same way as similar exhibits of postage stamps, but should never be considered a thematic exhibit.

- 4.3 Whenever possible, the Exhibit should illustrate or at least explain usage. Non-revenue stamp material should normally be avoided. Its inclusion will usually be regarded as legitimate only if it advances or enhances the central theme of the exhibit in some clearly discernable manner.

It is under treatment that we have to consider completeness. The introductory statement is a guide only. It will be better to show a specialized but complete set than to treat the Exhibit by showing wide sections say Documentary Revenues with many of the rare combinations in the set missing.

- 4.4 Importance is more subjective to the Exhibitor. We suggest up to 10 points. What is important to the Exhibitor may be less important to revenue philately. Showing the Beer Stamps, Consular Stamps or Gun Licenses may be worth only 5 points for importance, but the treatment of such an Exhibit may be so superb or perfect, that it may reach a maximum of 20 points.

- 4.5 The main point in judging will therefore be the overall relative balance between treatment and importance. For some of the best results individual sheets will give sub-titles with a positive references to this balance.

Article 5: Knowledge and Research

- 5.1 It must be generally stated that, contrary to literature covering postage stamps, revenue stamps have been poorly treated in the last 60-70 years. Therefore out of the 35 points available under this heading, points awarded must depend on the extent of available research material. Without deducting points for lack of research because there may be considerable literature on the subject, the Exhibit shall be evaluated on the write-up of each page by reference to what is known and available in the extant literature and what, if any, new information is given. For instance, in a Bills of Exchange display, additional research on the rates relating to values would be a plus. Explanations of the less obvious and a reference to sources, rules and regulations which add to the reason for the transaction or service for which the revenue was paid, will add to the points. But these are not available for all countries. Knowledge and research are thus to be considered together, but with general knowledge being given not less than 20 out of the 35 points.

Note: Except for a few countries, collectors have perforce to restrict themselves for knowledge to out of date publications, and it may take one or two decades for a few dedicated students to produce good, up to date handbooks and catalogues on revenues.

Article 6: Condition any Rarity

- 6.1 Many revenue stamps are far rarer than postage stamps, but often by the way they were used they became damaged. When used as a seal such as Beer or Tobacco stamps, they were torn. Others, such as Indian Native States revenues were mostly punched when applied to documents. Some were cut, even nailed or stapled. For these, fine condition is exceptional. Therefore acceptable

damage of used stamps should not be downgraded. They may be very rare or even the only recorded examples.

6.2 Points for condition should be a maximum of ten.

6.3 Rarity in revenues is a vitally important factor. It seldom has any connection with price or value. Some revenues are expensive to buy but are not rare. On the other hand, many revenue stamps are very common and should not attract points for rarity. It will be given up to 20 points and if the display shows revenues of a country which has little or no literature, the use of the words "One or two copies recorded" will be acceptable and may be useful. When specialised revenues are shown, reference to a Catalogue (if one exists and provided it is relevant) may be helpful. Rarity is based on facts, and once the facts are established, condition can be judged in the light of these facts.

Article 7: Presentation

7.1 Good presentation is very important. The display should appeal to the eye and each sheet in every frame should give the impression of balance to the display. The rest, subject to any special regulations about frame or sheet size, is left to the Exhibitor.

7.2 Limit the write-up to essentials, but give all important information.

Newly Discovered Turkish Revenues Overprinted EEF for Use in Palestine

Gary Theodore

It is unusual for a collector to have the pleasure of finding a previously unreported variety, or even more unusual, an unreported stamp. I recently acquired several Palestine revenues that are over 85 years old and discovered several previously unreported stamps.

On December 9th, 1917, the British Third Army Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF), under the command of General Edmund Allenby, captured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Empire after a battle that had started on November 17th.

Until this time Palestine had been governed by the Ottoman Empire and stamp duties had been levied by the Government since the seventeenth century. In the years following the Crimean War of 1853 to 1856 the Ottoman Empire had borrowed heavily and, in 1875, became bankrupt. In 1881 the Ottoman Public Debt Administration (OPDA) was formed, at the decree of the Sultan, and was empowered to collect revenue from the sale of tax stamps. The Stamp Tax Law of 1873 was replaced in 1882, modified in 1887 and 1888, and in 1906 a new law was enacted which provided for two main categories of revenue stamps: proportional tax and fixed rate tax. The fixed fee was a set rate based upon the type of transaction or document while the proportional fees were imposed on documents and transactions which had as their purpose a particular value or sum with the amount of the tax based upon the value of the transaction. Fifty-five (55%) of the

income under these laws went to the OPDA to repay the debt and forty-five (45%) to the Ottoman Ministry of Finance. These Stamp Tax Laws required the payment of a tax on most acts concerning business, banking, travel, transactions with the Ottoman Government, dealing with the courts, the purchase and sale of real property and publishing of newspaper and public notices. Most of these revenue stamps were printed by the Government Printing Office in Constantinople.

Upon the victory of the Allies over the Ottoman Empire and the ensuing occupation of Palestine, the British Army assumed the Governmental administration and the collection of taxes governed by the Stamp Tax Law. It can be assumed that the British Army seized the revenue stamps left behind by the Ottoman authorities and overprinted them "EEF" in either black or purple. Prior to the issuance of the 2001 Bale Palestine catalogue which listed 27 stamps for this series the specialized Palestine catalogues listed either 19 or 20 stamps for this series.

The previously unreported stamps are overprinted EEF, either in black or purple, and bear the tughra (royal seal) of Sultan Mohammad V and Paraph of El Gazi or Sultan Mohammad V Reschad who ruled from 1909 to 1918. A 5 piastre black on blue paper, overprinted in purple, and a 20 piastre black on white paper, overprinted in black, are national issues issued in 1915 for the payment of the tax on the transfer of real estate (Figures 78 and 79). A 10 piastre green on white paper national proportional fee issue (Figure 80) was issued in 1916, a 10 piastre black on white paper (Figure 81) was issued in 1905 for use on passports and a 25 piastre national proportional issue (Figure 82) was issued in 1916.

I have also found Bale R.P11, a 1 piastre brown-gray, and R.P18, a 5 piastre green, with both black and purple overprints.

I would appreciate being advised if any of these stamps have been previously reported. Please write to Gary Theodore, POB 3025, Long Branch, NJ 07740, USA.

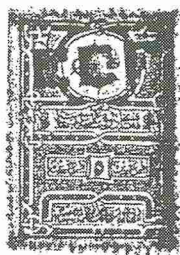


Figure 78



Figure 79



Figure 80



Figure 81



Figure 82

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

The Ottoman Period

Jewish Postal Service between Beirut, Safad and Tiberias in the 19th Century *(Zvi Alexander)*

In winter 1980 A. Stampler wrote about the forwarding services performed by two Jewish merchants from Beirut, Zalel Barschach and Moshe Yedid Halevi (HLPN No. 3). They acted as forwarders for letters from Europe addressed to Jewish families and institutions in Safad and Tiberias. The letters were addressed to one of these merchants in Beirut while the name of the ultimate addressee in Palestine appeared in Hebrew at the back of the cover. According to Stampler, which was later proven by additional letters, Barschach operated in the 1870's and Halevi in the 1880's. In HLPN No. 19 some of these letters and Yedid Halevi cachets are illustrated.

I have recently found a letter (Figure 83) which indicates that such service existed already in the 1860's. The letter written in Radovitz, Transylvania in May 1960 received a Chernovitz transit postmark 11.5, Triest 16.5, arriving in Beirut on June 2nd, 1860. The letter carries a manuscript notation "Per Triest" and a single line Austrian Levant cachet "BEYRUT / 2 GIUG". This cachet was in use from 1850 to 1863, when in that year stamps in Beyrut were introduced. This cachet is quite rare.

The postal charge was first indicated 15/20, 15 Kreuzers for sea passage and 20K for land transport, which charge was doubled as indicated by the new charge 30/40 in blue pencil, due probably to weight.

The letter is addressed to Aron Yedid Lewi, probably the father of Moses Yedid Halevi, who must have started the forwarding service in or before 1860. The back of the letter, in Hebrew, carries a request from the honorable Yedid Lewi in Beirut to speedily forward the letter to the Holy City of Tiberias to Rabbai Selar the supervisor of the (Jewish) Austrian congregation.

There is a notation in Hebrew on the front of the letter that a charge of 9 Grush (Piasters) should be paid to the carrier. This was quite a high charge as the Turkish rate in 1861 was 2 grush for a letter traveling 50 route hours (200 kilometers approximately) and 3 grush for a 400 kilometers distance.

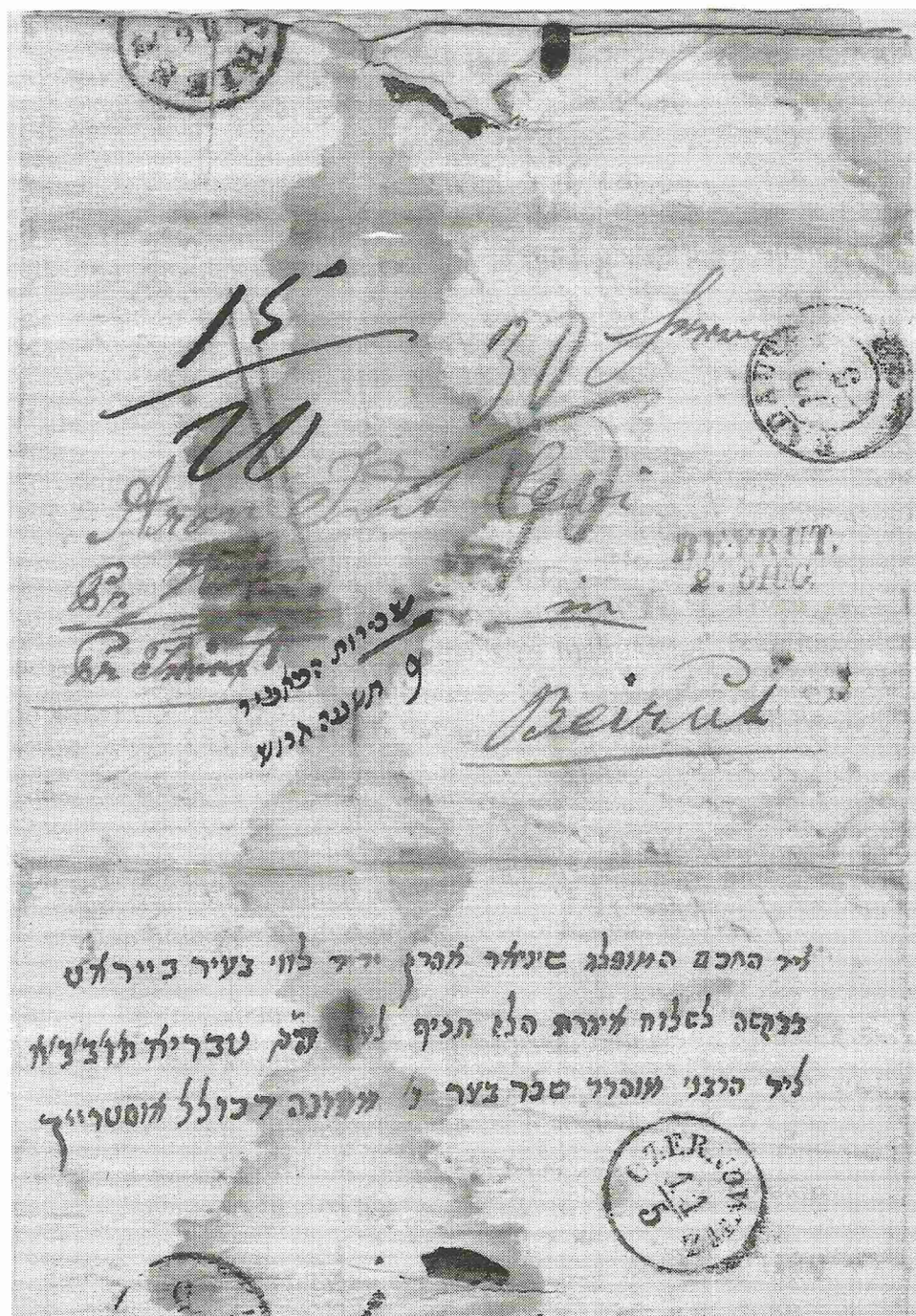


Fig. 83: 11 May 1860 letter from Chernowitz forwarded through Yedid Lewi, a Merchant in Beirut, to Tiberias.

A Gem and Two Forgeries (*Y. Tsachor, Tel Aviv*)

1. A Holy Land Gem: Shown in Figure 84 is a 1913 postcard of a family correspondence from Jerusalem to Copenhagen, properly franked 20 para Turkish stamp of the 1909 issue, tied by the extremely rare bilingual postmark in violet, **Jerusalem / Suc. Poste Mahna Juda**. The postal agency in "Camp Juda" is listed as PM1 in Collins & Steichele¹. The postcard was written on 27.2.13 and on its route transferred to the Main Post Office where it received the dated octagonal postmark "Jerusalem 4" (listed as PM 24) on 1.3.13.

This is the 2nd item recorded with this oval postmark and the only complete one, the other item being only a front of a registered cover.

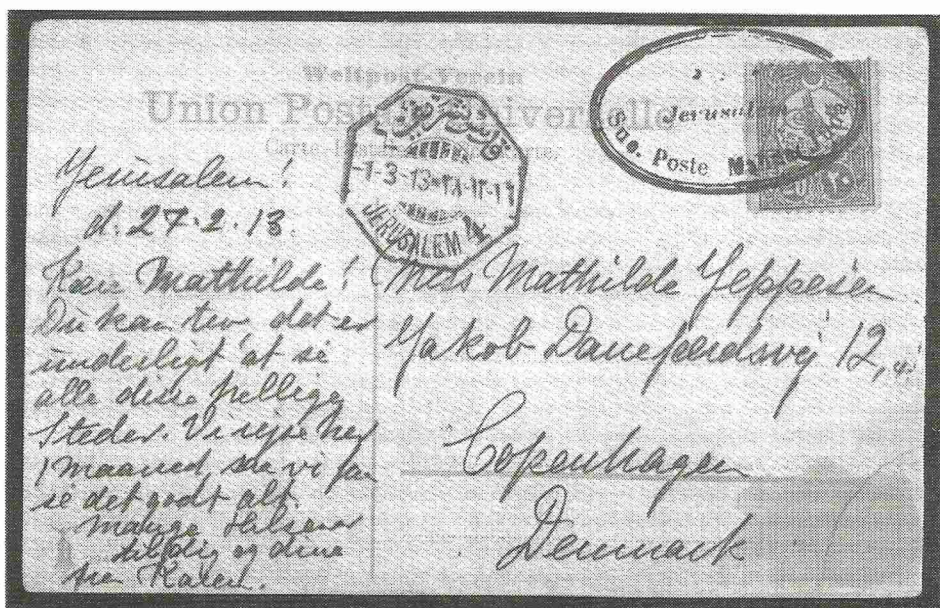


Fig. 84: A February 1913 postcard, Jerusalem to Copenhagen, cancelled with the extremely rare oval postmark, "Jerusalem / Suc. Poste Mahna Juda" and the octagonal "Jerusalem 4" (in "transit") at the Jerusalem M.P.O. .

2. A Dangerous Forgery: In Figure 85 we see a beautiful 1913 commercial cover from the "Tachkemoni" High School in Jaffa to Anvers, Belgium, via the German Post in Jaffa. Franked German Post in Turkey 1905 issue 10 para on 5 pf & 20 para on 10 pf (Mi 24,25) both tied by postmarks "Jaffa Deutsche Post". Being underfranked 10 para (letter rate 40 para) the cover was marked with the large "T" handstamp and manuscript "T10c", and taxed upon arrival 10c Belgian Postage Due 1900/1916 issue tied by Anvers postmark 19.XII.1913. A 2nd different Anvers d.c. arrival postmark on the back is also dated 19.XII.1913.

Isn't it a beautiful cover? - It could be, but unfortunately it is a dangerous forgery, being cancelled somewhere else - The two German stamps do not belong to

the cover. The left one dated 1/11 and the right stamp 10-12/08. The outer circles of the postmarks on this cover are completed by ink. The knowledgeable forger, probably knowing the correct rate of 40 para, was clever enough to "Underfrank" the cover properly.



Fig. 85: Commercial cover, Jaffa to Anvers, via the German post, taxed 10c Belgian P.D.'s. The two German Levant stamps do not belong to the cover.

3. Forged Doar Ivri Official FDC: Complete set of the 9 **genuine** stamps with full tabs tied to a genuine official cover by 4 strikes (2 full and 2 part strikes) of **Forged First Day Slogan** 16.5.1948 (Fig. 86).

The forger was also unaware of using 3 & 5 mil stamps of later printing (not existing in May 1948).

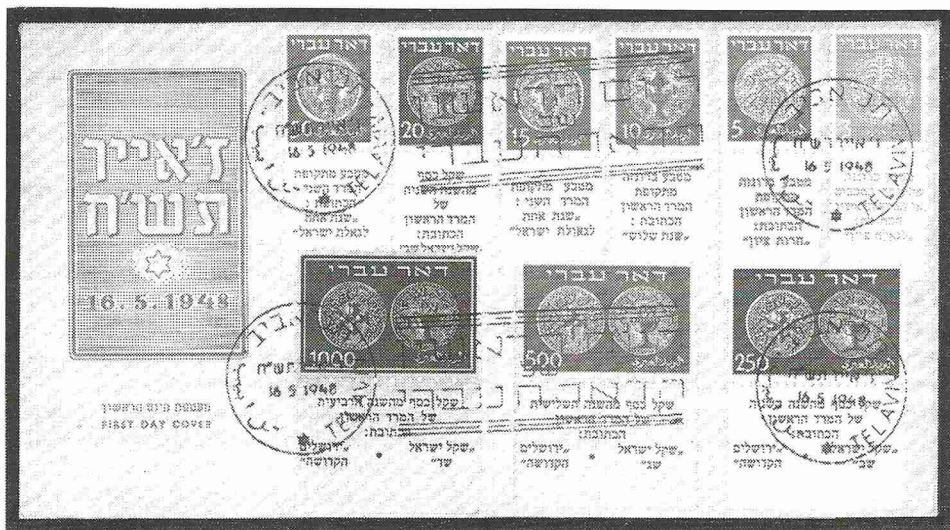


Fig. 86: Official full tabs Doar Ivri FDC with the complete genuine set, but FORGED FD Slogans.

References:

- (1) N. Collins & A. Steichele, "The Ottoman Post and Telegraph offices in Palestine and Sinai", Sahara Pubs., London (2000).

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The British Mandate Period

A New Palestine JERUSALEM I Variety (*Nathan Zankel*)

Recent editions of the Bale Palestine Catalog list a Jerusalem I stamp Hebrew overprint partly missing (Fig. 87). It occurs in the second setting two millimetres perf. 14 value. About half of the letters in the middle of the Hebrew line of the overprint are missing. It's position on the sheet is not listed. I have lightened the stamps' green color so the overprint is easier to see on this and the rest of the illustrations.

I have in my collection a 2 millimetres perf. 14, also second setting almost half of the right side of the three lines of the overprint are missing (Fig. 88). This variety is



Figure 87



Figure 88



Figure 89



Figure 90



Figure 91

not listed in any Palestine catalog, and until last fall I had not seen nor heard of another example. A fellow collector recently purchased a block of four for me and a horizontal pair of this two millimetres value for himself. One stamp on each was similar to the stamp in Figure 88. The stamp to the right of it is missing the left part of the three lines of the overprint.

Figure 89 shows my block of four. The overprint on the stamps in the top row is normal. The bottom row shows both stamps with the three partly missing lines of overprints. This row plates as pos. 169 & 170. My friend's pair of stamps is shown in Figure 90. The right stamp has the plate flaw in position 206 which is three rows below my block of four.

I was recently able to purchase two more items which helped complete this story. I received from the April 2003 Tel Aviv Stamps Ltd. auction another pair of 2 milliemes stamps with this partly missing overprint variety (Fig. 91). They plate as position 193 and 194, the line above my friend's pair shown in Figure 90.

In the May 25, 2003 House of Zion auction, I purchased a block of four from the lower left part of the pane with incomplete overprints. It is shown in Figure 92. The top pair of stamps have the partly missing overprints, and the bottom row is almost normal.

Figure 93 is a chart of the lower pane showing the location of the known pairs of stamps with the partly missing overprints. The variety starts on the fifth row from the top and ends on the ninth row, so it exists on only five rows. It is highly unlikely that only one pane was overprinted with this variety. Does anyone have additional examples? If you do, please send me a good photocopy. If you can plate its position please let me know what it is. Please send the information to Nathan Zankel, PO Box 7449, North Brunswick, NJ 08902, USA.



Figure 92

| | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | |
| 13 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | |
| 14 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | |
| 15 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | |
| 16 | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 | 191 | 192 | |
| 17 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | 201 | 202 | 203 | 204 | |
| 18 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 208 | 209 | 210 | 211 | 212 | 213 | 214 | 215 | 216 | |
| 19 | 217 | 218 | 219 | 220 | 221 | 222 | 223 | 224 | 225 | 226 | 227 | 228 | |
| 20 | 229 | 230 | 231 | 232 | 233 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 238 | 239 | 240 | |

Figure 93

The Transition Period

Registry Notation "Labels" in the Early Period of the Israeli Safad Post. (*J. Karpovsky*)

Officially there was no period of Minhelet Ha'am administration in the post of Safad in 1948. When the Arab atrocities in Safad increased, a Palmach platoon entered the town and the Hagana Military Administration took over. A provisional Post Office was opened on May 4, and the famous Safad Stamp was printed locally because Safad was in siege at that time and they could not obtain the Minhelet Ha'am stamps which were in use then in most of the Jewish part of Palestine. In this period, which continued up to May 19, they used a provisional local handstamps to cancel the stamps on the mail, but there was no registration service at all in the Safad Post Office.

On May 19-20 the Israeli State Post Office took over in Safad, as it did on May 16 in most of the other places in the new State, but here there was no interval of time in which it was under Minhelet Ha'am Administration, unlike other places which had it through May 2-15. But, nevertheless, and rather amazingly, the Israeli Post made in Safad the following changes: May 20 - June 24 use of Minhelet Ha'am postmark (instead of the "Local pmk"); in about the three first weeks registration of letters was done with manuscript notation quasi-labels (see Fig. 94) and then using regular R-labels but those that remained from the Mandate period (see Fig. 95). From June 25 - June 30 the M.H. postmark was replaced by Mandate type pmks (a

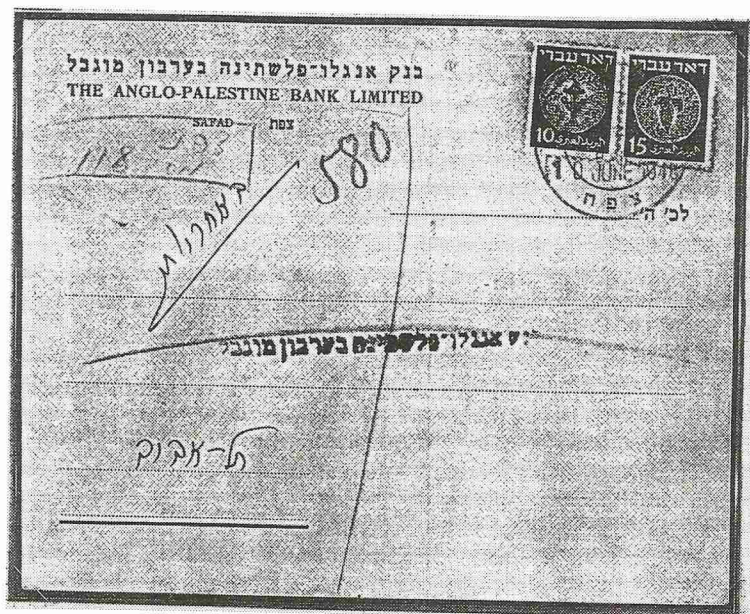


Fig. 94: June 10th, registered commercial cover to Tel Aviv, cancelled with Minhelet Ha'am Safad postmark and registration "label" by manuscript notation No. 118 (in Hebrew).

s.c. and a d.c.; these are among the rarest of this period), and from July 1 onwards the new Israeli type trilingual pmks were introduced. The Israeli type regular R-labels were introduced sometime after July, the exact time is not yet known.

Those Safad registered covers, being so unusual in their cancellation (M.H. type when the administration was already of the State) and so bizarre in their primitive registration "labels", which are **not labels at all**, are the most wanted by collectors and postal historians; even more so because of the short period and emergency troublesome days in which they originated.

Naturally, most of these covers were addressed inside the country, therefore their registry "label" was drawn in Hebrew (cf. e.g. Fig. 94 "צפת / מס' 118"), so that a registered airmail letter of June 1, addressed to Montreal, Canada, which was discovered recently, is indeed extremely rare (see Back Cover illustration). Being destined abroad its registry notation "label" is bilingual, reading

"Safad צפת / No. 63 מס'".

Another point of special interest are the handstamps (in Hebrew), "Return to sender / No service" struck several times on both sides if this cover, which was finally returned to Safad, getting the Safad trilingual cancellation on September 1, 1948. The letter was returned because on that date there was no airmail **registered** service with Canada, a fact that was apparently not known to the local Safad postmaster.

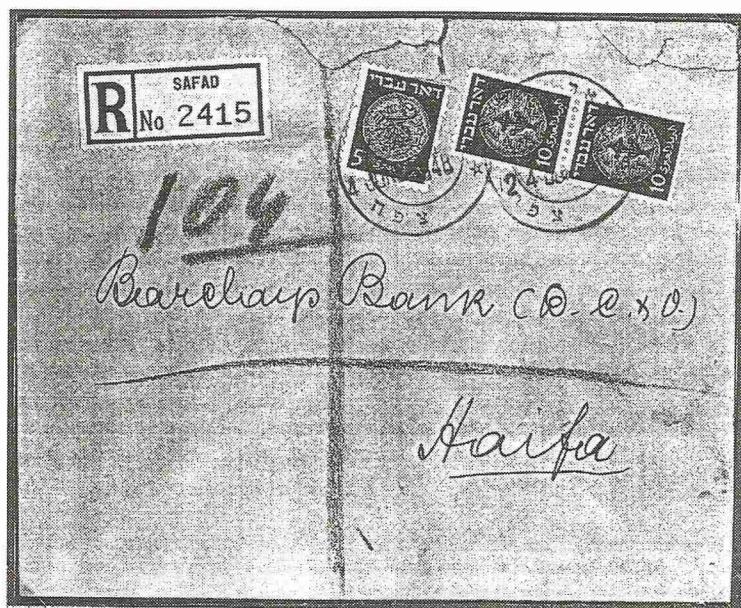


Fig. 95: June 24th, last day of Minhelet Ha'am Safad postmark on registered commercial cover to Haifa, already resuming the use of Mandatory regular R-labels.

The Minhelet Ha'am provisional Postmark of Qiryat Amal

(Z. Aloni)

Eighty towns and settlements having a post office or a postal agency were supplied with a rubber canceller in the Minhalet Ha'am period. These cancellers were of uniform design: a double circle with an outside diameter of about 35 mm and an inner one about 20 mm. The upper part of the postmark contains the Hebrew word "Doar" while the name of the locality is in the lower part. A two-line inscription in the middle of the inner circle reads "Minhelet Ha'am" and, on both sides inside the ring there are "stars". This normal type of cancellation was used in all the post offices, with the exception of Qiryat Amal, the Haifa Head Post Office, and of Jerusalem "Rosette" postmarks. While the reasons of the Haifa H.P.O. and the Jerusalem Rosette cancellers being different from the rest were uncovered before*, the Qiryat Amal incompatibility was never explained, as far as I know.

Recently I ran across some documents dealing with the preparations and opening of the Qiryat Amal postal Agency, and was thrilled to see that these documents supply a very reasonable explanation of the matter. There are 3 documents, as follows:

(1) Letter to the Postmaster General dated 22nd September 1947, Subject - Postal Agency Category "B" - Qiryat Amal. It is an URGENT letter from the Deputy Controller of Posts (North) writing to the P.G. that all preparations has been properly completed and that his approval to open the Qiryat Amal P.A. on 1st October, 1947 is noted.

(2) Extract from P.O.C. No 1026 of 1st October, 1947 - Opening of a Postal Agency Category "B" at Qiryat Amal. A copy of this document is shown in Figure 96. It notes that the Qiryat Amal Postal Agency is not included in the list of Post Offices appearing in circular No. 931 from 19.12.45 and it "should be amended by insertion of "Qiryat Amal" after "Meshek Ein Harod" in the list of Postal Agencies, Category "B" of the Northern District."

(3) Letter to the Postmaster General dated 2nd October 1947, Subject - Postal Agency, Category "B" - Qiryat Amal. This letter, also from the DCP (North), confirms that a certain lady "...assumed duty as Postal Agent of Qiryat Amal with effect from 1st October, 1947".

Qiryat Amal was founded in 1937, in the hills of Tivon, east of Haifa. It was sometimes considered a suburb of Haifa. On the 1st of October 1947 a class B Postal Agency was opened, this was the last official postal facility to be established during the British Mandate period. Document 2 is a request to add information about Qiryat Amal in the next "Post Office Guide" but when we looked in the "Post Office Guide" of April 1948, the information is not there and not a word about this

* The Haifa H.P.O. canceller was produced later, because this P.O. opened only on 10 May, and the Rosette canceller of Jerusalem was produced locally by a Jerusalem manufacturer (see HLP# #11 (1982) p. 538).

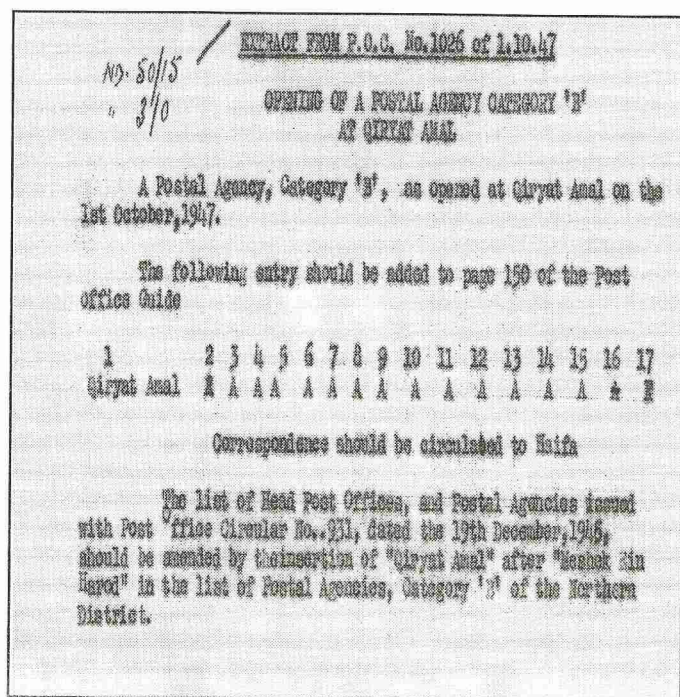


Figure 96

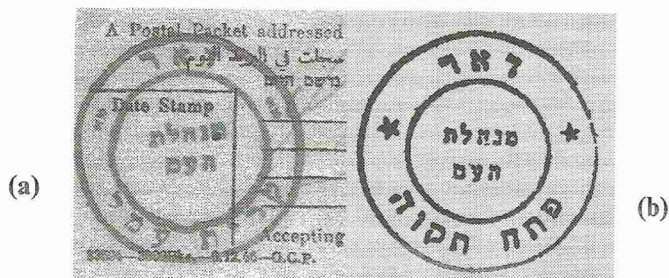


Fig. 97: (a) The Qiryat Amal M.H. postmark;
(b) The Petah Tiqva postmark, representing the "standard" M.H. postmark.

remote Postal Agency. Also in the annex to the first circular of the Jewish Agency 25th April 48, Qiryat Amal is not mentioned.

As I presume, the Minhelet Ha'am cancellers were ordered and produced according to a certain list and the most obvious list was in the Palestine Post Office Guide, April 1948. Qiryat Amal which was not on the list, did not get a "Minhelet Ha'am" canceller, and had to order it separately and possibly not from the same manufacturer. This may well be the reason for the difference in shape and size of its canceller compared to all the rest. The Qiryat Amal postmark is a double circle

with an outside diameter of about 35 mm and inner one of about 24 mm compared to 20 mm of the "standard" one. Instead of "stars" in the ring there are "pointed arrows" back to back as shown (Figure 97 (a)).

The State of Israel

1950 Independence 40 pr. Tab Forgery (*J. Aloni*)

E-bay, almost the ultimate market place including stamps and related items, offers from time to time some surprises. Not long ago I purchased two complete sheets of 30 stamps each of "1950 Independence 40 pr. Green". All the stamps are tabbed, not only the standard tabbed lowest row. One sheet is imperforated (Fig. 98) and the second is perforated. Both are in very nice color identical to the original, the gum is somewhat more shiny and the perforation is 14 instead of 11 1/2 of the original, and the tab is short with no salvage attached to it.

I think or honestly I'm sure, that there are more of those somewhere in the market, so be careful not to purchase those forged stamps unless you are interested in forgeries for reference and don't pay as much as for genuine stamps.



Figure 98

GENERAL NEWS

New Special Cancellations

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

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



21.5.03 - חגיגות אירוע
סוכר דבארי סודוקה ב"ש



29.4.03 - חגיגות אירוע
ביתר חגית בסולין -
לוחמי הגיטאות



24.6.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
בני-טבת בת 100,
סור-שטח



25.6.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
דלי ישראל, נסי ציון
סור-שטח



29.6.03 - חגיגות אירוע
יובל לבית יצחק,
בני-טבת



18.6.03 - חגיגות אירוע
חגיגות חבורת בת 75,
תל-אביב



24.6.03 - חגיגות אירוע
יובל לאחד השלטון המקומי,
תל-אביב



24.6.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
ברכות,
תל-אביב



24.6.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
בבית ערד בת 100,
בבית ערד



24.6.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
עולית בת 100,
עולית



9.9.03 - חגיגות יום חופשה
קרימיקה ארמית,
ירושלים



8.9.03 - חגיגות אירוע
יום הארצות
ירושלים



9.7.03 - חגיגות אירוע
יובל לבית אגשלים ליד בית חור,
תל-אביב



1.7.03 - חגיגות אירוע
120 שנה לנשיא,
נסי-עונה



New Stamps

The following stamps were issued in the last period.

9.9.2003: Yad Vashem Jubilee Year (the Teddy Bear stamp (IS 2.20), List of Jewish Forced Laborers (IS 2.20) - The two stamps are printed se-tenant in a sheet of 3 rows of 5, with 5 tabs, each row composed of the stamps alternating se-tenant (Fig. 99), Festivals 5764 (2003) - olive oil in Israel (IS 1.30, 1.90, 2.30), there is also a booklet of one pane composed like so (Fig. 100): 1.30 + 2x1.90 + 3x2.30), Armenian Ceramics in Jerusalem (Fig. 101, Souvenir Sheet composed of three round stamps of face values: IS 2.30, 3.30, 4.20, price of Sheet IS 15.00).

4.11.2003: A booklet of the Hyacinth stamp with 2 panes of 10 **self adhesive non-denominated stamps** (Fig. 102): Personalities - Yehoshua Hankin (IS 6.20).

The Philatelic Service started to offer to the public special sheets of "My Stamp" (for details see HLP# #87-88, p.307 and #93-94, p. 567) with several "Basic Sheets" of 12 stamps, the "Basic Sheets" being the "grid" or the postage stamps to which sides the personal labels ordered by the client are se-tenant. The price, which depends of course on the rate of the Basic Stamps, is IS 21.20 for the lowest rate of IS 1.30 (the inland minimal tariff). For the time being already 8 Basic Stamps (two with flowers and 6 with greeting stamps) have been used for this purpose.

There is no doubt that every "serious collector", whatever this means, would feel obliged to buy at least one sheet of "My Stamp" for every Basic Stamp, and Cheers!, here is another way to enrich the State Treasury at the expense of the rich philatelists! But history has proved many times that such tricks act as a boomerang and eventually turn back on their inventors ("... Veday lehakima bermiza").

9.12.2003: Personalities (cont.): Emil Habiby (IS 4.90), A. D. Gordon (IS 3.30); Philately Day - Children and wheels (4x1.30) - issued in irregular sheets of twelve stamps and 4 tabs, each row of the 4 se-tenant stamps of the set; The (Jewish) emigration waves to the Land of Israel - the First Aliya (1882-1903, IS 2.10), the Second Aliya (1904 -1914, IS 6.20).

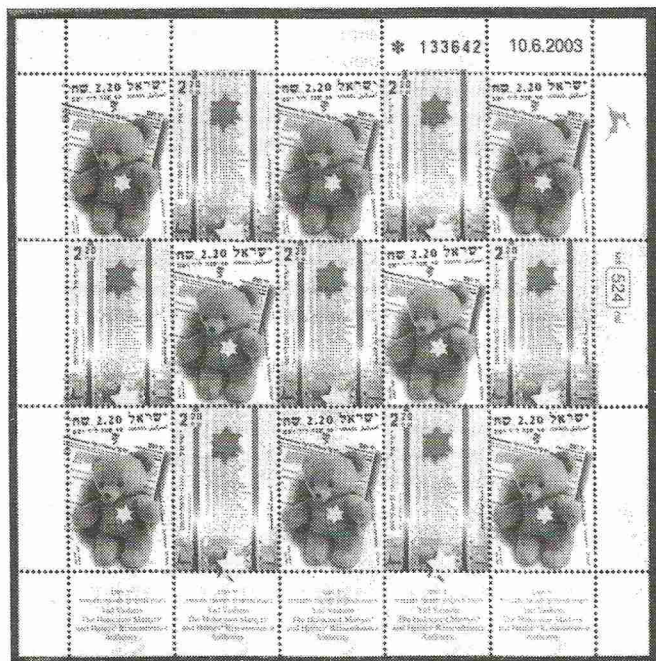


Figure 99

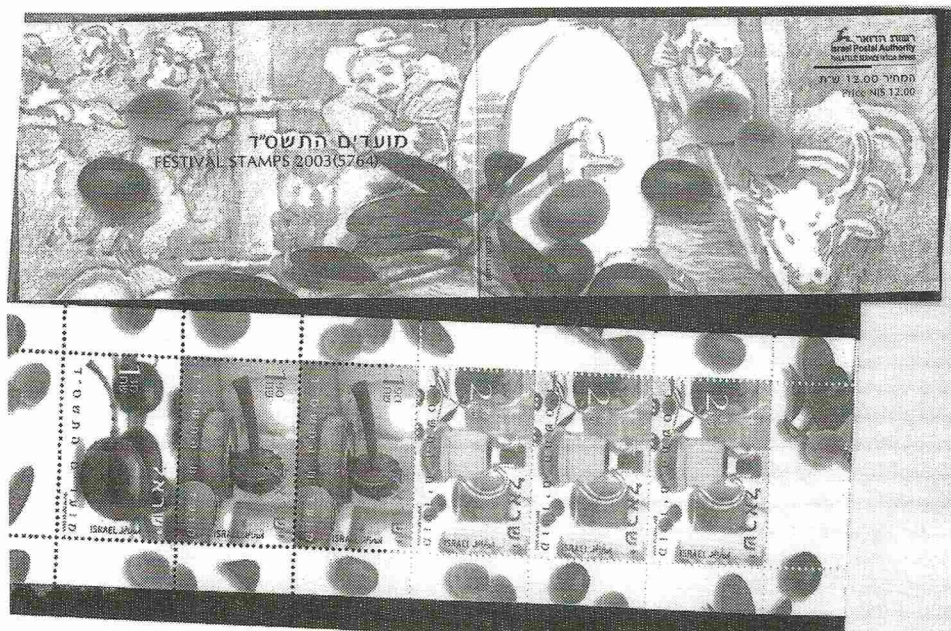


Fig. 100: (a) The (open) Cover of the Festivals stamp booklet and (b) the single pane of six stamps.



Figure 101



Figure 102



התאחדות בולאי ישראל

ISRAEL PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Member - Federation Internationale de Philatelie



"תלאבול 2004"

3 עד 6 במאי 2004



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עמותה מסונפת להתאחדות בולאי ישראל



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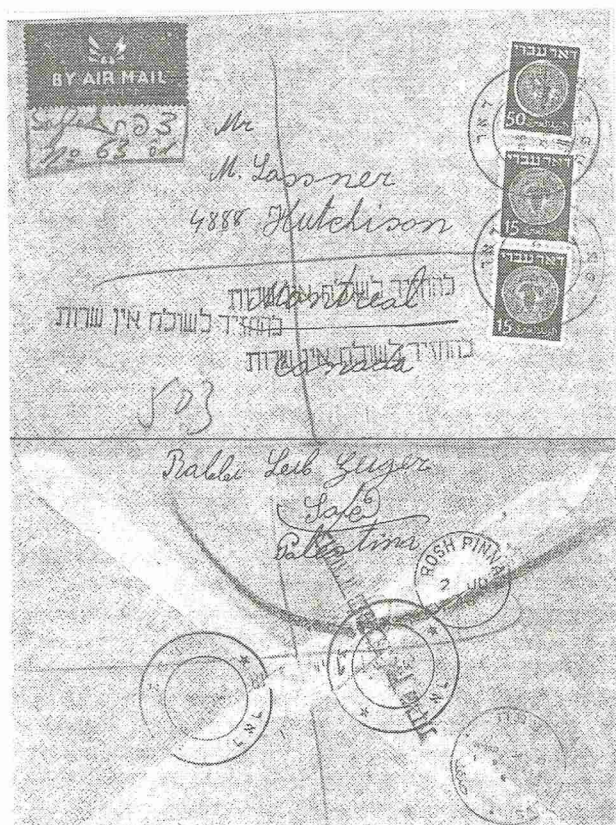
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מכתב דואר אויר רשום מצפת למונריאל, קנדה, מוחתם בחותמת מנהלת העם של צפת ביום 1.6.48 "תווית" הרישום "צפת מס' 63 Safad No. 63" בשתי שפות מצוירת ביד. בדואר הראשי מוחתם "להחזיר לשולח אין שרות" היות שלא היה עדין שרות דואר רשום לדואר אויר.

Registered air mail letter to Montreal Canada, cancelled with Safad Minhelet Ha'am postmarks dated 1.6.48. With unrecorded framed registration mark "Safad No 63" written in Hebrew and English manuscript. As no registered air mail service to Canada was available, marked with one line cachet "Return to sender no service". Returned to Safad it was backstamped by trilingual Israeli postmark on 1.9.48.