

Holy Land Postal History

V
99-100



The Swiss issued "Souvenir de Bethlehem" Last Christmas of the XIX Century card.
(See article on p. 719)

שנה טובה וחברות
Happy New Year



רשות הדואר



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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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Correspondence

For general Society matters - Dr. E. Leib (Chairman),
P.O.B. 151, Qiriyat Bialik 27101, Israel
New members and other Society business - Mr. Z. Aloni (Secretary),
152 Kedem St., Shoham
Society dues and other payments - Mr. B. Kaliner (Treasurer),
36 Harav Berlin St., Jerusalem 92506, Israel
HLPB editorial matters, Society Publications and HLPB back Issues
Dr. Z. Shimony, P.O.B. 10175, 91101 Jerusalem, Israel

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A Double Celebration

This issue is a gala one indeed, for with its publication the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel celebrates two milestones. The first – that this is the 100th issue of its journal and the second that it coincidentally marks the journal silver anniversary and the Society's 27th birthday. During this period of time the Society has assumed the leadership in the assemblage and dissemination of original research in all aspects of Holly Land Postal History. On the pages of these 100 issues of the journal can be found the findings and conclusions of contributors from many countries. Thus, so very much knowledge and so very many philatelic discussions were initially revealed to the philatelic public on the pages of this publication.

As is the case in most every philatelic organization a key individual is always present who assumes the mantle and burden of leadership and makes certain that the Society continues to function in an orderly and effective manner. In our case Dr. Zvi Shimony has certainly fulfilled this function faultlessly and with utmost dedication during the entire 27 year period of the Society's existence. His efforts have been and continue to be legion and many of the Society's accomplishments can be directly traced to his leadership. All wish Carmela and Zvi so very many more years of fruitful leadership.

Postal History is merely a reflection of actual history and as such it behooves all of us to do all we can to increase our knowledge of our social heritage as reflected philatelically. It is our Society that performs the vital functions of collating and preserving the Postal History research of the Holly Land. Thus we have to redouble our contribution in performing these functions, participating in the good and important works of this Society, and while we are celebrating let us convey once more our sincerest appreciation to the few who by hard and incessant efforts have led us to these festive moments .

Marvin Siegel

Bethlehem and “The Last Christmas of the XIX Century” Mailings

Ralph Perry

I. Background

In 1898 the sale of commemorative postcards marking the occasion of the visit of the German Kaiser to the Holy Land (HLPH 91-92) was such a great success that in the following year, 1899, the Internationale Ansichtkarten Gesellschaft (IAG), a German company in Berlin decided to repeat this success on the occasion of the last Christmas of the 19th century. They then created another postcard-postal history combination; a ‘Last Christmas’ card, not a “Gruss aus” card, to be mailed from the Holy Land (Fig. 1)*.

Christmas and Bethlehem are historically connected by the date and place of the birth of Christ, so what better place to mail the card than from Bethlehem. The one Turkish post office was the only one in Bethlehem but was not very efficient. So the Austrian post office in Jerusalem, the one that so effectively handled the large Kaiser visit mass mailing in October 1898 was chosen to handle the expected mass mailing for the last Christmas postcards.

But to enhance the sale, a Bethlehem connection was needed. So to make it look as if the card was mailed from Bethlehem, IAG created a postal souvenir cachet (see section II) in the manner of other Austrian postal advertising cachets and applied to the Austrian Ministry of Commerce for a permit and sanction for its postal usage. That permit was granted on November 30, 1899, and thus these cachets were accepted by the philatelic world as postal history since they had the official blessing of the Austrian post office.

IAG was a specialist in the selling and mailing of commemorative post cards and the ‘stamp box’ of the post card carried a brief note (Fig. 2) loosely translated as ‘For 20 pfennig extra this card will be posted as Christmastime in Bethlehem. Please send to the International Picture-card Company, Berlin SW, Friedrichstrasse 239’. Anybody could send IAG the money and a mailing address, or send IAG money with a card already addressed with or without a message. IAG would mail the cards.

Like IAG, Kunzli, a known Swiss postcard publisher, created a ‘Souvenir de Bethlehem-Letzte hl. Christnacht des XIX Jahrhunderts’ card (Fig. 3). This card was sold in souvenir shops and mailed locally; Kunzli was not a mailer. Figure 4 is the address side of Figure 3 and depicts a card mailed from the Bethlehem Turkish

* Due to the complex nature of demonstrating the text of this article by illustrations, all its Figures (Figure 1 - Figure 31) are assembled together at its end.

post office. It has a negative Bethlehem (Collins T2) cancel, a Turkish Jerusalem transit cancel dated December 25, 1899 and a Swiss, January 22, 1900 arrival cancel.

Was the last Christmas of the century in 1899 or should it have been in 1900? It is an interesting academic subject for late night discussions, but its resolution will not change anything in postal history.

In 1900, IAG decided to promote another Christmas-Holy Land combination sale. Anticipating that the loss of the headline 'the last Christmas' would reduce the volume of sales, they created a set of four different and beautiful colored cards, each with a Christmas scene (Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8). The new postcards were all titled 'Gruss aus Jerusalem', and most important, the stamp box message indicated that the card would be mailed from Jerusalem, not from Bethlehem, (Fig. 9). Why the change? We don't know. Perhaps the Austrians refused to renew the 1899 permit; perhaps IAG realized that the Bethlehem illusion did not work or did not really increase sales. All we know is that the Austrian Postal Museum records mention only the 1899 permit (the original document is missing), and there is no record or reference to a 1900 permit for a Bethlehem cachet. In any case, it is clear that IAG did not plan to use the Bethlehem cachet in 1900.

However, somebody did create a second Bethlehem 1900 "mailing", without a permit from the Austrians, without IAG blessing and without the cooperation of the Austrian Jerusalem post office. The commemorative colored cancel was not available. Somebody was trying to copycat the 1899 mailing using the newly issued IAG Christmas card. Some of these cards were even altered (Fig. 10). The IAG name on the left side was covered with a black strip, the words 'Und Bethlehem' were added under 'Gruss aus Jerusalem' and the writing in the stamp box was blacked out. However, none of the altered cards seen were mailed from Jerusalem.

Finally, like the analysis of the postal history of the 1898 Kaiser visit, the study and understanding of the postal history of the 1899/1900 Christmas mailings was greatly enhanced by the study and review of the various commemorative post cards issued for these events.

II. The 1899 Last Christmas of the Century Issue

(A) Overview

The special cachet designed for the 1899 'Last Christmas of the Century' mailing consisted of two parts. The top part contained the name Betleem, or Bethlehem and the date 24.XII.99 (Christmas Eve), surrounded by a group of four long and nine short lines. In the bottom part is a description in French or German, of the IAG company and the Austrian permit number. In general, both parts were combined to create one solid cachet. Steichele/Collins identified six different types described in the following section, (B). A seventh type was added later.

The Betleem cachet was not applied on top of the Austrian Levant stamp but always on the opposite side from the stamps. The stamps were cancelled in Jerusalem with the Austrian Jerusalem ST 546.3 obliterator, (ST refers to the Steichele/Collins numbering system; see any of the exhibits). Both the cachet and the cancel were in commemorative colors as detailed in section (V-C).

The stamps used in 1899 were Scott/Michel # 21/22, the 10/20 para on 3/5 Kreutzer. These were demonetized on September 9 1900, and thus the 1900 issue used Scott/Michel #32/33 the 10/20 para on 5/10 heller stamps.

(B) The Cachets

(1) ST. 561 (Fig. 11)

BETLEEM
24.XII.99

Timbre d'envoi

Conc. à la Cie. Intelle. des cartes postales illustres à Berlin

Par decret du ministere de commerce d'Autriche No. 62884

Loosely translated, 'Departure stamp granted to the International Picture Postcard Company in Berlin by decree No. 62884 of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce'..

Characteristics

- * Betleem – in capital letters taller than their width.
- * Text - in three lines in lower case type, 58mm wide.
- * T of Timbre in capital letters.

(2) ST. 562 (Fig. 12)

- * Betleem – letters are square
- * Text – same as ST. 561 but 72 mm wide
- * t of timbre in lower case

(3) ST. 562A (Fig. 13)

- * Identical to ST 562 except that the letters "ales" of "postales" in the text are missing.

(4) ST. 563 (Fig. 14)

- * Betleem letters taller than their width.
- * Accent over second E of Betleem is more to the left.
- * Text in two lines.
- * Same as St. 561 except that the words “illustres a Berlin” were replaced by the word “ill”.
- * Space sometimes exists between the numerals 62 and 884.

(5) ST. 564 (Fig. 15)

- * Cachet is identical to ST. 563 except that the accent on the Second E of Betleem is more to the right and the period following the month XII, is sometimes missing.

(6) ST. 565 (Fig. 16), The German Issue

BETHLEHEM

24. XII 99

- * No periods after XII and 99, but not enough samples have been seen to say that it is definitely so.
- * Text is in four lines
Absendungs – Stempel
Bew. It. Verzug. Des K.K. oest Handelsministeriums
Z. 62884 vom 30. Nov. 1899 an die
Internationale Ansichtskarten-Gesellschaft, Berlin.

Here we clearly see the date the permit was issued.

(7) St. 567 (Fig. 17)

Cachet with only Betleem and a date without a text. Letters are square like St. 562. The cachet was not illustrated in the original Steichele/Collins book but was reported later. See sections II-C and IV-D. Possibly, an accidental leftover.

The Betleem cachet was probably applied in Jerusalem; however some tourist cards were addressed and datelined in Bethlehem (Figs. 1, 19) and then taken to the Austrian Jerusalem post office. The best assumption is that the mass application of cachets and cancels started before December 25, and included some unaddressed cards. These were then sold to tourists in souvenir shops in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Uncancelled cards could probably have been bought early and then brought back to the Jerusalem post office. Unlike the Kunzli cards that were mailed in the Turkish Bethlehem post office, none of the IAG cards have been seen or reported with a Turkish stamp and cancel, but they may exist.

(C) Some Variations

In general, both parts of the cachet were combined to create one obliterator, thus keeping the distance between Betleem and the text constant (Figs. 11, 14, 15).

However, the 3-line text type ST. 562 and ST. 562A, can, at times, be found separated (Fig. 13); see also Steichele/Collins, page 311.

One can only postulate that the newly discovered 1899 cachet, Betleem without the text, ST. 567 (Figs. 17, 25) was not part of the original plan, but a leftover item from the above separation. (More about this cachet in section IV-D).

The Betleem letters in ST. 562/562A are square, while in all others they are higher than wider. The 3-line text (ST. 561) has a capital T in Timbre; all other cachets have a lower case 't'. In ST. 564/565 dots following XII and 99 in the dates are sometimes missing; the letter E is sometimes accented to the left and sometimes to the right; dropping 'a Berlin' created the 2-line text; and so on.

One may wonder why there are so many different variations in a cachet to be used for only a few days. There are no variations on the Kaiser's Camp-Imperial cancel, also used for only a few days. The answer lies in the fact that the Betleem cachet was controlled by the Austrian post office; it was their permit. Work on the cachets started after the November 30 permit was issued. This was late for such an undertaking. The time span did not allow for creation of the cachet in Austria. If it had, the accent on the E would have been consistent, and there would have been only one cachet and not the variations we see. It is most likely the cachet was made in Jerusalem by a few local artisans in a rush to accommodate IAG and their expected mass mailing. The German text, on the other hand, could have been produced in Germany and brought to Jerusalem at the last minute, but this text was rarely used. The Austrians were giving the cachets a postal sanction, and the UPU language was French, not German. A few cards with German text do exist, but they are not common. A card (Fig. 16) with a message and a Bethlehem dateline of December 24, arrived in Bavaria on January 6, twelve days after being cancelled in Jerusalem; certainly a tourist card.

In addition to the cachet's varieties, there exist several post card varieties, all of which could be used interchangeably and mailed, in time, with both the Betleem cachet and Jerusalem post office cancel. For example:

- * Fig. 27 – the picture side shows the words 'Frohliche Weihnachten' (Merry Christmas) instead of the 'Letzte hl Chrisnancht' – as in Fig. 28.
- * Figs. 12, 14 – this is the basic address side to be used in the Levant.
- * Fig. 20 – The address side to be used in Germany.
- * Figs. 11, 13 – the address side to be used anywhere.

III. The 1900 Gruss aus Jerusalem – Betleem Issue

(A) The Cachet

BETLEEM

25. XII. 1900.

* ST. 566 (Fig. 21)

- * No permit text.
- * Letters are square.
- * Second E larger than other letters.
- * All letters except the second E are smaller than the 1899 issue.
- * Date is December 25, not December 24 as in the previous year.
- * Only “Gruss aus” card, Figs. 5,6,7, and 8, were used (leftover 1899 cards may surface but have not been seen).
- * Jerusalem cancel (ST. 547) is only in black, no Austrian commemorative colors used.
- * The cachet is surrounded by four long and thirteen short lines; the 1899 issue had only nine short lines.
- * The height of the cachet is 12 1/2 – 13 mm high, shorter than the 13 1/2 – 14 mm of the 1899 issue.
- * No cachet variations.

It is obvious that this cachet is different from the 1899 issue, which points to new management or private enterprise; a copycat attempt, not sanctioned by either IAG and/or the Austrian postal authorities. No commemorative color on the Jerusalem cancel clearly indicates no preferential treatment. This undertaking was much smaller; few cards with the 1900 Bethlehem cachet exist, making it a rare postal history item.

Was the cachet a last minute idea? Probably. It could have been created by a Jerusalem IAG agent who wanted to make a few hellers on the side, or by a local Palestine tour operator for the Christmas tourist groups. It is possible that an enterprising German dealer advertised in Germany a service; mailing a “Christmas card from Bethlehem”. He would collect fees and addresses, or even pre-address cards and send them with an agent to Jerusalem. The agent would make the cachet in Jerusalem and mail all addressed cards locally. But what about the Innsbruck cancels? Did a tour guide, the IAG agent, or the German agent carry pre-canceled, pre-addressed cards with him for a small fee, to have them mailed from Innsbruck?

(B) The Innsbruck Connection – Caveat Emptor

What are we to make of this additional cancel, i.e. INNSBRUCK-BAHNHOF on a 5 heller Austrian stamp (Fig. 22)? Is it postal history? Is it a “hand me back” card or is it a postal fabrication?

It probably is all of the above: postal history from Innsbruck; a “hand me back” from Jerusalem; and an attempt to create the idea that the card was a Christmas card from Bethlehem.

Here is what we know: It is not a postage due item. There is no T for Tax and/or a crayon marking of the amount due for a postage deficiency. Both normally applied at the point of origin i.e. Jerusalem. Postage due is collected at the point of delivery i.e. Germany, not Innsbruck, Austria. Postage due is double the deficiency:

if it was 10 para, 20 para would have been due, 10 heller not 5 heller. Moreover, since most of the cards were either blank or had a short message of less than five words, the correct postal rate was 10 para; no deficiency.

It is not "sequence mail". A search conducted by the American Philatelic Research Library in State College Pennsylvania, found only one reference to this term in an article in *The Israel Philatelist* (vol. LIV no. 1, Feb. 2003). The article names as it's source the *Bale Holy Land 1999* catalog (p. 204). The word "sequence" implies postage paid to two different postal units for ordinary mail, but these postcards were mailed in 1900, twenty-four years after the UPU rules came into being. The Forwarding Agents were gone; they mostly operated in the early to mid 19th century. The so-called Greek 'postage due Lepta' mail was discontinued in 1876 when the UPU rules were enacted. Even the American Embassy in Jerusalem stopped forwarding in 1882, except later in wartime.

Moreover, mixed franking a regular Austrian stamp in tandem with a Levant stamp was accepted in Palestine as well as in the German post office, but both stamps were always cancelled in Palestine. Mixed franking in conjunction with mixed cancellations, i.e. an item with a Palestine cancel on a Levant stamp, coupled with an Austrian cancel on an Austrian stamp are unknown post-UPU, except for a batch of Austrian cum Levant items with a 5 heller stamp which are known to be a purely philatelic fabrication. The above should not be confused with redirected mail, re-stamped by the addressee after he received the mail himself.

So how were these cards mailed? Who paid for the stamps in Jerusalem and in Innsbruck? Dates may give us some clues. First, the Jerusalem cancels, all in black, were applied on Christmas Day, December 25. It is unlikely that in the absence of a permit, the Austrian post office would have pre-cancelled cards. Additionally, the arrival dates on the December 25, 1900 mailed cards are between January 10 and January 15, unlike the 1899 cards which had arrival cancels as early as December 29 and as late as January 22, a consistently short span, probably indicating only one mailing date. Second, the Innsbruck dates are January 4, 5, or 6; no other dates were seen, and the German arrival dates on these cards were January 6 (Fig. 23), January 7 (Fig. 22) and January 8. All had earlier arrivals than the cards mailed from Jerusalem (Fig. 21).

If via Innsbruck was so fast, why then was not the entire 1900 issue mailed that way? It stands to reason that Innsbruck was most likely a last minute idea to expedite the mail. It could have been the idea of a tour guide or the local agent himself who offered to carry the cards, for a fee, to Innsbruck. It could have been a planned undertaking by the German originator of the "second Betleem" enterprise to service late subscribers; i.e. orders received after his agent had left for Palestine in November or early December. The originator planned to have the agent pre-cancel unaddressed cards in Jerusalem on Christmas Day and immediately travel to Innsbruck arriving there on January 3 or 4, 1901, ten or eleven days later. A sufficient period to travel from Jerusalem to Innsbruck by boat and train via Constantinople or Trieste.

Simultaneously, a messenger from Germany would carry the list of late subscribers to Austria. The two would meet in Innsbruck and create postal history.

Whichever way this unfolded, these cards entered the postal system for the first time in Innsbruck. It was there that an Austrian 5 heller stamp was added to the card to pay for the Austria to Germany postage. This stamp is the one used to create the 10 para on 5 heller Levant overprinted stamp, thus helping to create the illusion that the mail originated in the Holy Land.

The Innsbruck railroad post office was probably selected, not only because Innsbruck is very close to the German border, but most likely because it had good railroad connections. One may note (Figs. 8 and 23) a clear Innsbruck January 5 cancel, a German January 6 arrival, and a mysterious January 7 dateline on the picture side.

Finally, there was no reason for the Jerusalem to Germany mailbags to be opened in Innsbruck or anyplace else except on arrival in Germany. However one may interpret this story, there is no logical way to explain the Innsbruck cancels unless the mail cancelled in Innsbruck was not posted in Jerusalem.

IV. Commercial, Tourist and Philatelic Mail

(A) General Observations

The last Christmas mailing generated great interest, but postally it was unlike the Kaiser visit to the Holy land in 1898. First. The Kaiser visit generated over 200 different picture postcards; more than one hundred of these cards were available before the trip started. The "Last Christmas" card was a single issue postcard. Second, the number of tourists, dignitaries, marines, sailors and camp followers of the Kaiser visit surely must have exceeded the Christmas season visitors to Bethlehem in 1899. Third, the Kaiser mail used three postal facilities: the Turkish Camp Imperial/Jerusalem, the Austrian Jerusalem; and the German Jaffa post office. The last Christmas mail had only one post office, the Austrian Jerusalem facility.

As a result, before the Kaiser visit, a German collector could order, for his own collection, one or one hundred different picture postcards, all mailed to himself. He paid the fees, selected the cards and IAG and the other mass mailers took care of the addressing and mailing from the Holy Land, creating the easily recognized, prepaid, mass mailed card. It's main characteristic was the lack of a message, a dateline or a signature. But how many copies of the same Christmas card does a collector need? Here the mass mailing was created, for the most part, by people physically purchasing the card, addressing it to friends and family, writing a message, signing it and then giving it to the IAG who took it to Jerusalem. Therefore, the majority of the Christmas cards, even though mass mailed, did have a message.

(B) Purely Philatelic cards

Cards in this category are easily identified. They are either unaddressed (Fig.

24), the 'hand me back' type, or a pre-cancelled leftover card (Fig. 25), used at a later date, this one in April 1900.

Just as they did in the Kaiser's mailing, the Austrian post office in Jerusalem accommodated the mass mailers and accepted pre-cancelled cards for mailing at a later date. (But not for the 1900 issue).

(C) Prepaid Commemorative Mail

As described previously, IAG collected cards in Germany, took them to Jerusalem and there applied the Betleem cachet and mass mailed them from the Jerusalem Austrian post office. They are recognized by not having a dateline (Fig. 27), or an early dateline (Fig. 28), October 30, 1899.

(D) Non-Philatelic Tourist and Commercial Mail

Some tourist cards do exist. Cards with a message and a dateline, like Figure 1, dated Bethlehem, December 24, or Figure 18, dated Bethlehem 'Weinacht' (Christmas) and a greeting message, the two conditions necessary to be included in the tourist card category. If we conclude that the 1900 issue was strictly a local Jerusalem undertaking, then the entire issue is not prepaid, but tourist mail.

The 1899 black Jerusalem cancel is a rarity (Figs. 20, 26) which certainly does not belong in the prepaid mass mailing genre.

But does a non-philatelic, non-tourist commercial 'Last Christmas' card exist? Maybe. Eleven years ago a card was reported (HLP# #55) mailed from Jerusalem to Jaffa (Fig. 17). Possibly a great rarity. Not only was it locally mailed in the Holy Land, but it also had the newly discovered Betleem ST. 567 cachet. The picture side of the card (Fig. 18) has a clear commercial message and a December 25 dateline. Several observations are noted on close examination:

- * There is no Jaffa arrival cancel, a common Austrian practice in the Holy Land; by itself not a fatal flaw.
- * The card is underfranked; postage for a commercial postcard was 20 para not 10 para. There are no postage due markings.
- * The card is an ordinary Palestine postcard; how did the sender obtain both commemorative cancels?
- * Betleem ST. 567, without the text, is an enigma. Only one other such cachet has been seen (Fig. 25), or reported, and this one was a leftover 'hand me back' mailed four months after Christmas (April 28, 1900) arriving in Germany on May 8. Interestingly, the stamp is the 1900 issue Scott #33, possibly an early usage thereof.
- * Yes, the card is dated December 25, 1?99; is it an 8 or a 9 ? Was it an innocent mistake?
- * The card is addressed in French, 'Monsieur', the commercial message is in German starting with 'Lieber Herr...' and the dateline is American, not European (month first, date second). Moreover, the month is spelled December, with a 'c'; the German is spelled Dezember with a 'z'.

We need more research and proof to say that this card is not a doctored 'hand me back;' at least one more unquestionable tourist or commercial card mailed in time with the ST. 567 cachet.

(E) Some Rare and Some Odd Cards

Dates may be deceiving. A card (Fig. 28) signed by Felix, bought and addressed in Germany, has a Berlin 30 X 1899 dateline; an October date which is a full month before the November 30 permit was issued. Obviously, a prepaid mass mailed card from Jerusalem, arriving in Berlin on January 10, 1900.

Figure 29, shows a 1900 Christmas card mailed from Jerusalem without the Betleem cachet, with a message, a 24 Dezember 1900, dateline and a long poem on the picture side (Fig. 7). This is certainly a genuine and colorful tourist card mailed from Jerusalem on Christmas day, December 25.

Figure 30 is a card to Switzerland with a Jerusalem commemorative cancel but without the Betleem cachet, Swiss, January 17, 1900, arrival, but no message; probably a tourist mailing a card to himself.

Figure 31, shows a card with Betleem on the right side, exposing the stamp box. The stamp and the Jerusalem cancel are on the left side.

V. Dates and Colors

(A) The 1899 Issue

IAG was experienced in the sale and mailings of specialized commemorative postcards, and like the Kaiser's mailing they arrived in Jerusalem, with the cards and addresses, early; three to four weeks before the day of the main event.

The Austrian post office must have set up the mass cancellation production line December 18-19, about two weeks after the permit was issued, to accommodate the 1899 mass mailing which could not have been handled in one day, Christmas Day. How else do we explain a German December 29, arrival (Fig. 11), four days after Christmas. Early mailings and pre-canceling of commemorative cards was not new to the Austrian Jerusalem post office; they had done it for the Kaiser mailing.

In general, mail from Jerusalem to Germany took ten to twenty days, two weeks on average, depending on the availability of mail boats and to city of destination. The majority of the 1899 issue have arrival dates prior to January 10, 1900.

(B) The 1900 Dates

There are not many examples of this issue to review and draw definitive conclusions about. But from what has been seen, mail arrived in Germany, from Jerusalem, between January 10 and January 15, 1901, leading to the conclusion that whatever was actually mailed from Jerusalem was cancelled only on Christmas Day, December 25, 1900.

Only the via Innsbruck mail arrived in Germany earlier, January 6 – 8 (see III

B), supporting the thesis that these cards were hand carried from Jerusalem to Innsbruck.

(C) Colors, Colors and More Colors

The color of the Austrian Jerusalem post office commemorative cancel consisted of mixing two primary colors, red and blue. The results varied:

Purple/Violet = reddish blue (less red or more blue)

Magenta = purplish red (more red)

Lilac = pale reddish purple (more red or possibly an ink fadeout leaving more red).

Whereas in 1898, for the Kaiser visit, a long planned and orderly mixing of the colors took place resulting in a basic Lilac/Magenta color, with a few violet cancels, the 1899 process was out of control. As a result, color variations of both the Jerusalem cancel and the Betleem cachets are in abundance.

Thus we find the following colors:

Jerusalem Cancels

Red – not seen;

Blue – less common;

Lilac/Magenta – most common;

Purple/Violet – common;

Black in 1899 – rare (the standard post office color);

Black in 1900 – the ONLY color.

Bethlehem Cachet

Red and/or Black – not seen;

Blue – rare (not seen on the 1900 issues);

Lilac/Magenta – common;

Purple/Violet – common.

It should be noted that since the betleem cachet may not have always been applied at the same time the Jerusalem cancel was applied, colors on the same card can be found to be different.

A collector could build a large collection of these cars. Three basic colors for the Jerusalem cancel (Purple/Violet; Lilac/Magenta; Blue). Two basic Betleem cachets (2-lines; 3-lines). Three different Betleem colors (Blue; Lilac/Magenta; Purple/Violet). We have a 3x2x3 combinatorial; that is eighteen different cards. Adding a few varieties, some black cancels, some 4-line German Betleem cachet, a couple of the 1900 issue and a beautiful collection of some twenty-five-plus items is created.

As noted, the 1900 issue received only a black Jerusalem cancel and a basic lilac/magenta Betleem cachet; darker purple/violet colors do exist. The smaller size

of this issue did not create a massive missing of inks; a few batches resulting in little color variation.

Finally, an interesting “color-date” observation can be made, Ninety-percent of the 1899 Christmas issue seen, with arrival dates in Germany prior to January, 7, 1900, have either the Jerusalem cancel of the Betleem cachet, or both, in blue color (Figs. 12,13,14) indicating a possible pre-Christmas Cancellation and a shortage of red ink. Apparently, the IAG company was ready, but the Austrian Jerusalem post office got caught short. They had waited until they were officially notified that the November 30 decree was issued to buy red ink. By the time they had received a new supply, someone had already stated to cancel cards with blue ink only. When the red ink finally arrived, the frantic pace to create the desired color in a very short time created all the color variations we find. It should be noted that no ‘only’ red ink cancels have been reported.

VI. A Final Note

The available material points to the following:

- * The majority of the 1899 issue was prepaid in Germany and then mass-mailed from Jerusalem, while the 1900 issue was primarily a local Jerusalem enterprise.
- * Both the 1899 and the 1900 cachets were most likely applied at the same time during the mass mailing, but not necessarily by the same person; the 1900 cachet was applied separately, before the Jerusalem cancellation.
- * The Innsbruck cancel was a private attempt to expedite the mail, a ‘hand-me back’ pre-cancelled in Jerusalem, and then hand carried by a non-postal employee to be mailed from Innsbruck.

Collecting these cards can be fascinating and challenging. There are some obvious hard-to-find items here, like the 1899 black Jerusalem cancels, cards without the Betleem cachet, the German Bethlehem cachet, and cards with non-German/Austrian addresses.

Never mind who did what, when and where. The real undertaking is to find and collect the varieties and the ‘all-color all-cachet’ combinatorial of some twenty-five - plus cards of these issues. A big challenge, but lots of fun.

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The Figures



Fig. 1: The basic German issued 'Last Christmas of the XIX Century' picture postcard, datelined by a tourist in Bethlehem.

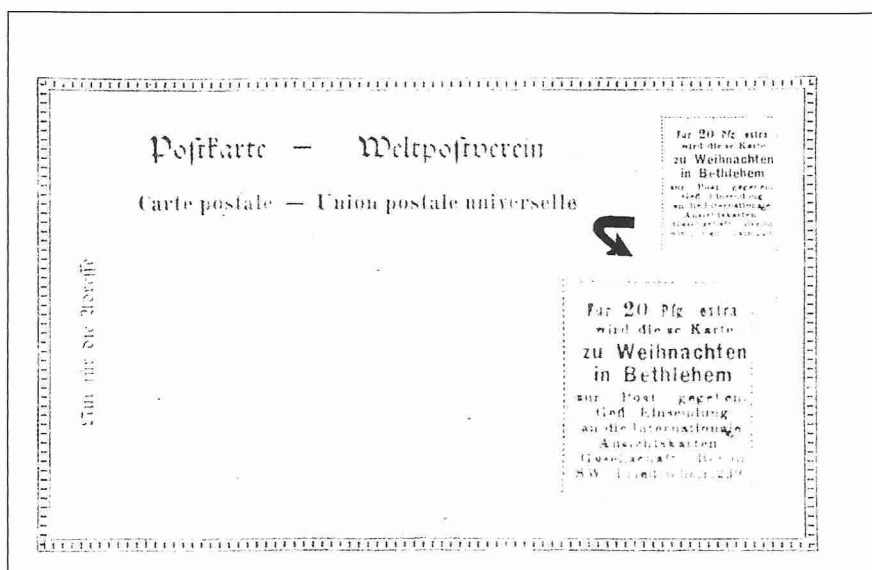


Fig. 2: UNused address side of the basic 1899 with BETHLEHEM in the stamp box (enlarged duplicate below).

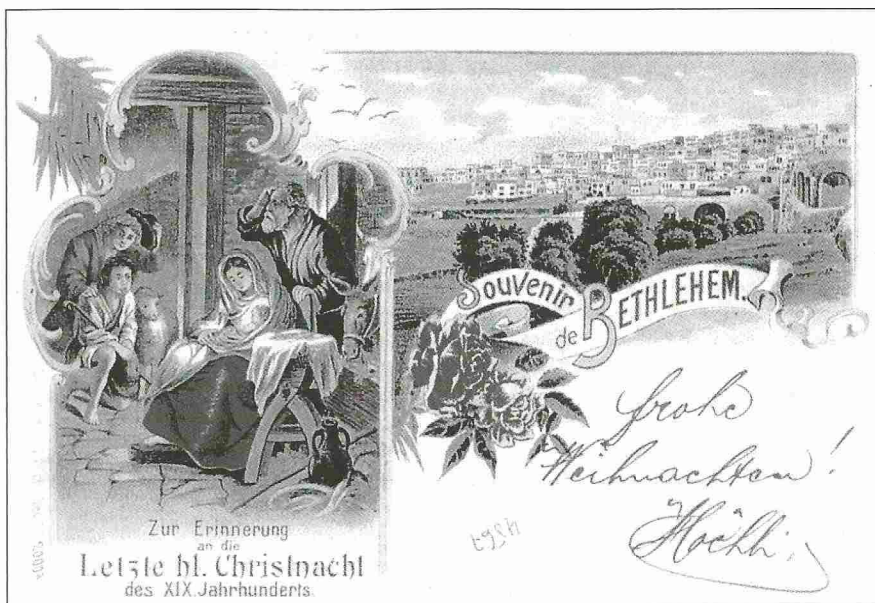


Fig. 3: The Swiss issued Souvenir de Bethlehem Last Christmas of the XIX Century, card.

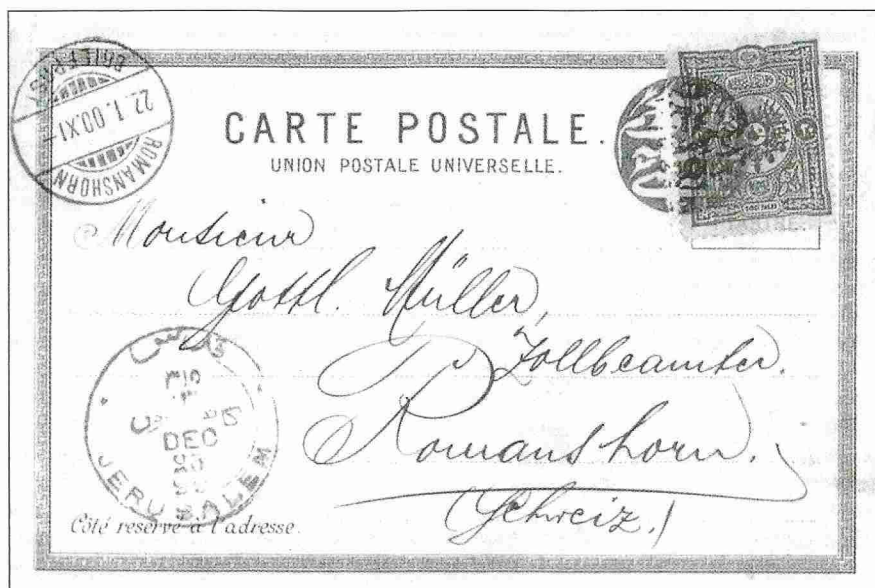


Fig. 4: The address side of Fig. 3 mailed from the Turkish Bethlehem post office



Fig. 5: The 1900 “Gruss aus Jerusalem” Christmas card #1.



Fig. 6: The 1900 “Gruss aus Jerusalem” Christmas card #2.

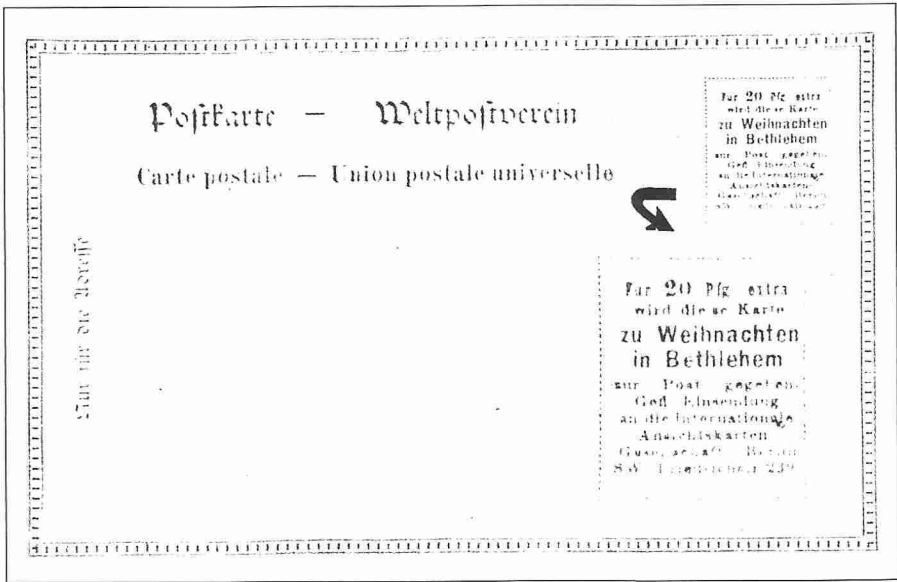


Fig. 9: An unused address side of Figs. 5, 6, 7 and 8, with JERUSALEM in the stamp box (enlarged duplicate below)



Fig. 10: An altered Gruss aus Jerusalem card (Fig. 8) with added "Und Bethlehem" and a black strip.



Fig. 11: ST.561, Betleem in purple/violet, Jerusalem in blue, early arrival Dec.29,1900.



Fig. 12: ST.562, Betleem in purple/violet, Jerusalem in blue, arrival Jan.4,1900.



Fig. 13: ST.562A, Betleem in purple/violet Jerusalem in blue, arrival Jan.4,1900.



Fig. 14: ST.563, Betleem in purple/violet Jerusalem in magenta, arrival Jan.6,1900, redirected,(address side of Fig.19.)



Fig. 15: ST.564, Betleem in lilac/magenta, Jerusalem in lilac/magenta, arrival Jan.17,1900.



Fig. 16: ST.565, the German text, Betleem in lilac/magenta, Jerusalem in lilac/magenta, arrival Jan.6,1900, (address side of Fig.1.)

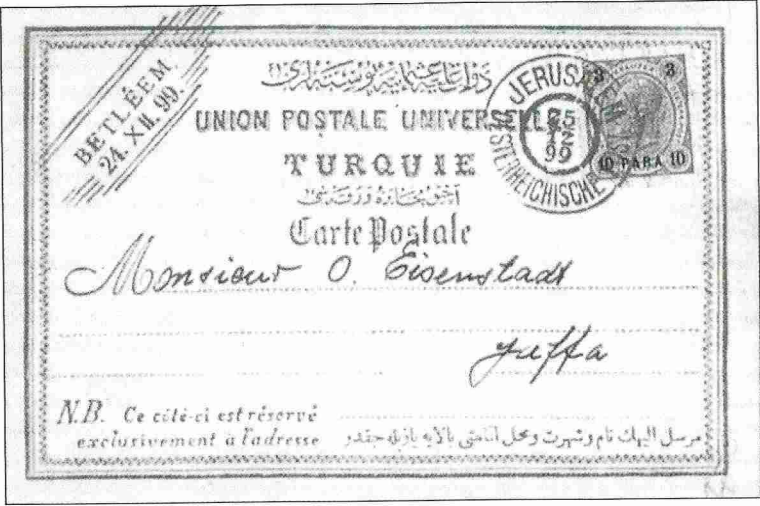


Fig. 17: ST.567, Betleem in lilac/magenta, Jerusalem in lilac/magenta, No text, no arrival cancel, (address side of Fig.18).

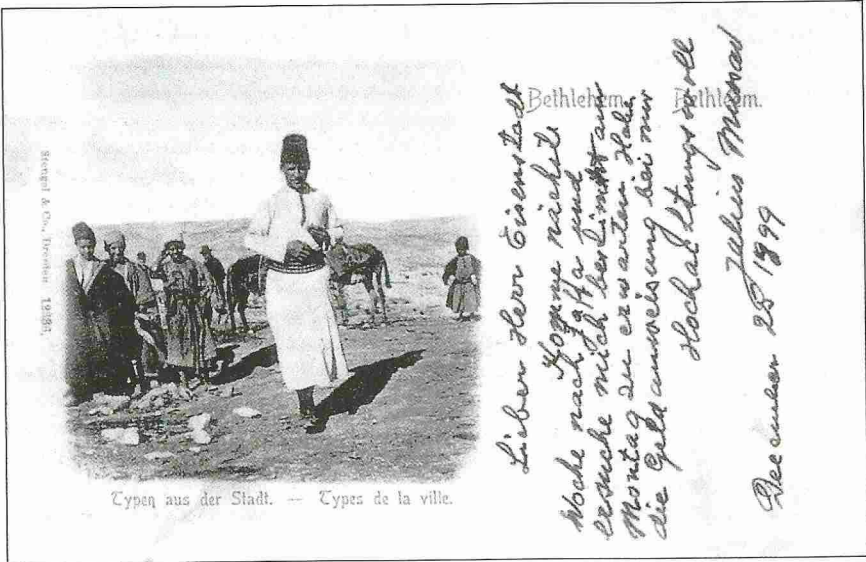


Fig. 18: A Regular Palestine picture postcard, (picture side of Fig.17.)



Fig. 19: A tourist card with message and Bethlehem dateline, (picture side of Fig.14.)



Fig. 20: ST.564, Bethlehem in blue, Jerusalem in black, arrival Jan.6,1900, (address side of Fig.27.)



Fig. 21: ST.566, Betleem in lilac/magenta, Jerusalem in black, The 1900 issue, arrival Jan.15,1901 (address side of Fig.5.)



Fig. 22: ST.566, Betleem in purple/violet, Jerusalem in black, Innsbruck dated Jan.4,1901, arrival Jan.6,1901 (address side of Fig.6.)



Fig. 23: No Betleem pmk, Jerusalem in black, Innsbruck dated Jan.5,1901, arrival Jan.6,1901 (address side of Fig.8.)

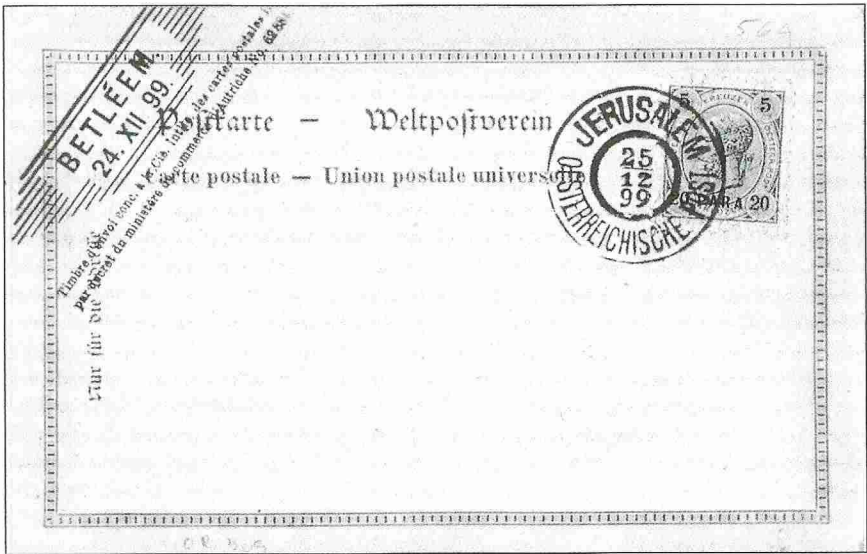


Fig. 24: A philatelic 'Hand me back', or leftover. Betleem in purple/violet, Jerusalem in purple/violet.



Fig. 25: ST.567, Betleem without text, a leftover, mailed from Jerusalem on Apr.23,1900, four months after Christmas.

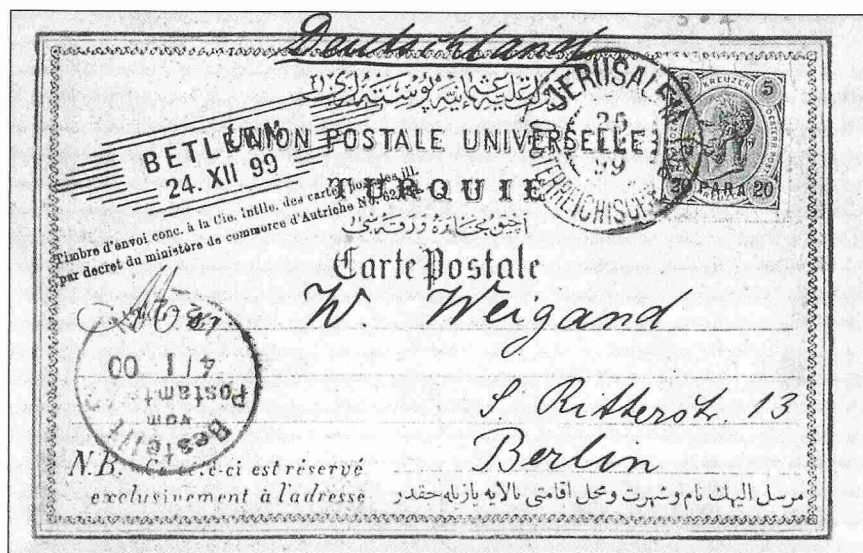


Fig. 26: ST.564, Betleem in purple/violet, Jerusalem in black, arrival Jan.4,1900.



Fig. 27: An 1899 Christmas card with 'FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN' replacing the "Last Christmas..." salutation, (picture side of Fig.20.)



Fig. 28: ST.564, early Berlin dateline (Oct.30), on a prepaid 1899 card. Mailed from Jerusalem, Berlin arrival Jan.10, 1900.



Fig. 29: Card mailed from Jerusalem on Dec.25,1900.
No Betleem pmk, (address side of Fig.7.)

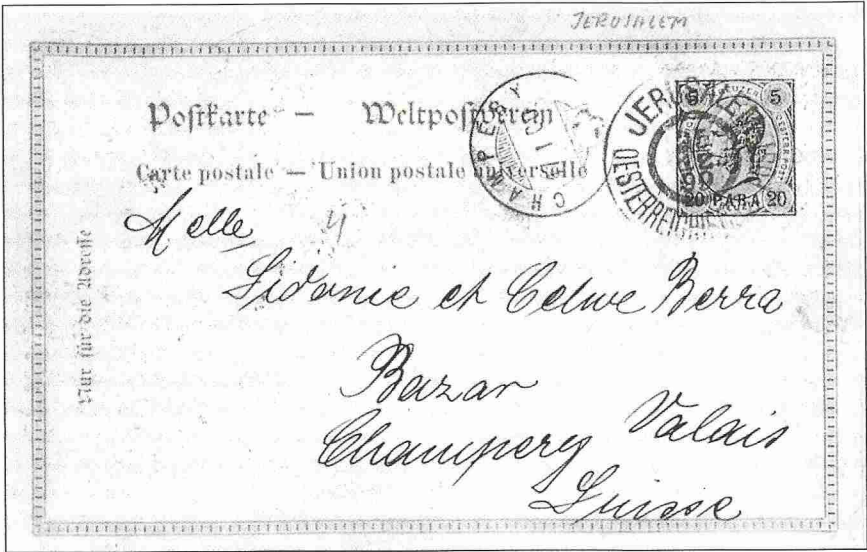


Fig. 30: An 1899 card mailed to Switzerland. Jerusalem in magenta.
No Betleem pmk, arrival Jan.17,1900.



Fig. 31: ST564, Betleem in lilac/magenta on right side of card, stamp and Jerusalem cancel (in magenta) are on left side of card, arrival Jan.10,1900.

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Early Incoming Mail to the Holy Land in the 19th Century

I. Karpovsky

Collectors of stamps and postal history of the Holy Land during the Ottoman administration, known as "Holyland Forerunners," are generally interested in outgoing mail – be it stamps used in Palestine, rates of postage, postmarks and R-labels of the various BPO's, etc., and sometimes also in the destinations of the outgoing letters. For some reasons, the collection of Incoming letters (which in my opinion is not less interesting) has been relatively neglected – perhaps for the reason that they had been much scarcer than the outgoing ones.

One kind of letters – taxed letters – is different, being more abundant in incoming than in outgoing letters in that period and region - but these letters are rare anyway*. In addition the incoming ordinary letters, especially those from remote countries, are generally very interesting, as Palestine itself was in those days a very isolated and remote land.

I would like to show here a few examples of such mail, some of them very rare, which were delivered by the various foreign Post Offices operating then in the Holy Land.

1854, French Post (see Back Cover). Commercial letter from England via Jaffa to Jerusalem, posted in Derby on 1st November 1854, franked with G.B. 1854 issues, total 1 shilling and 3 pence, to pay the single letter rate to Palestine via Marseille. Carried by the French paquebot "Lycurge", Transit Smyrne 20th Nov. 1854, Beyrouth 28.11.54, and which arrived in Jaffa on 30th Nov. 1854. Upon arrival, struck with "Jaffa" single line French Consulate postmark. This is the earliest known letter incoming to the Holy Land franked with any stamp, and the only example of the "Jaffa" single line used as arrival postmark.

1860, French Post (Fig. 32). Letters from Paris via Jaffa to Jerusalem, addressed to the French Consul. Franked with a total of 2.5 francs 1853 issue, to pay the very rare quintuple letter rate to Palestine. Cancelled with roller Paris cancellation dated 30th March 1860, with red "P.D." alongside. Transit Alexandria, Egypt 8th April 1860.

1863, Italian Post (Fig. 33). Folded letter from Leghorn to Jaffa. Franked with 80 c. Sardinia 1858/62 issue, to pay the single letter rate. Forwarded by a French ship to Palestine. Cancelled with a d.c. "Livorno" postmark, dated 21st February 1863. With manuscript "Vapor Post Francese". Transit Smyrne 28th February 1863, and Beyrouth 7th March 1863. A rare example of early correspondence from the United Kingdom of Italy, use of Sardinian stamp by the new postal administration.

* See E. Leib, "Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period", HLP# # 53, 59 (1993/94), 77-78 (1999).

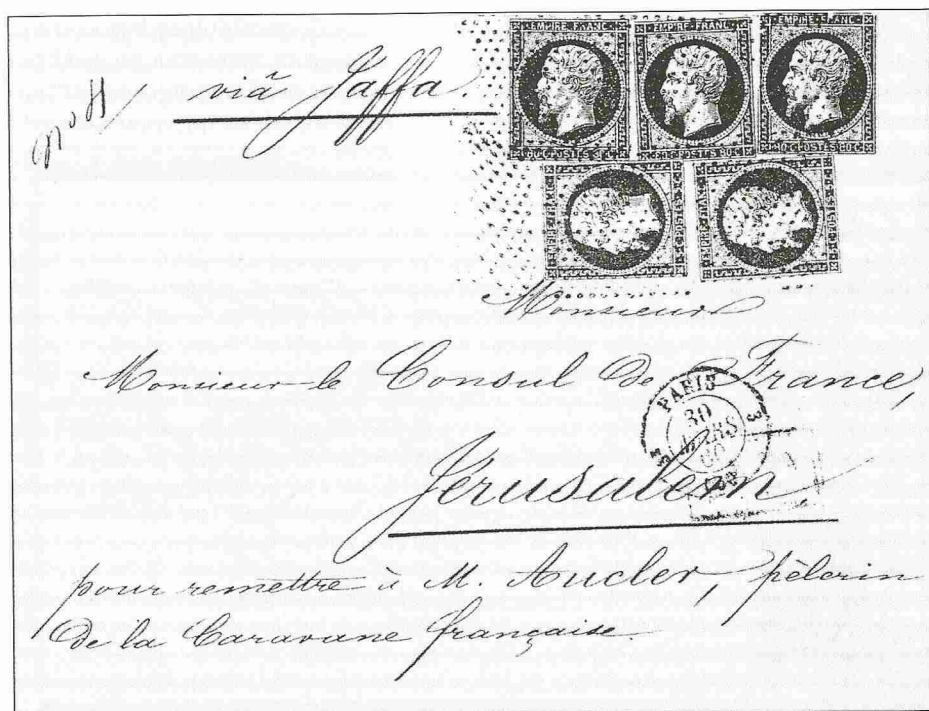


Figure 32



Figure 33

1865/66 Russian Post (Figures 34a and 34b). Commercial folded letters from Beyrouth, franked both with rare 2pi “ROPIT” 1865/6 issue, to pay the single letter rate to Jaffa. One letter cancelled by the triangular “783” dots of Beyrouth. The



Figure 34a



Figure 34b

second letter left unmarked, and cancelled upon arrival by the rare triangular “784” of Jaffa. A rare usage of the “ROPIT” stamp on letters sent to Palestine.

1866, Austrian Post (Fig. 35). A commercial letter from Beyrouth to Jaffa. Franked with mixed franking issues of 2 Soldi Lombardo-Venetia 1863 issue with the rare perforation 14, and (3x3 =) 9 Soldi of the 1864 issue perforation – 9.5, all

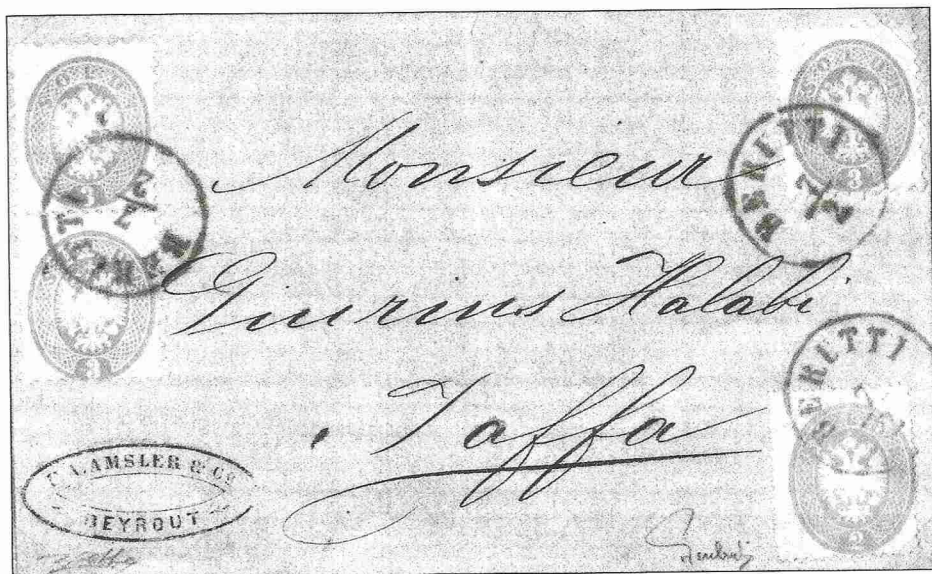


Figure 35

together 11 Soldi, to pay the single letter rate to Palestine (over-paid by 1 Soldi). Cancelled with s.c. Austrian Beyrouth postmarks dated 7th February 1866. This interesting letter came from Dr. Jerger's famous "Austrian Levante" collection.

1866 French Post (Fig. 36). Commercial letters from Marseille to Jaffa. The earlier one franked with 40 c. French 1862 issue, to pay the single letter rate to Palestine. Cancelled Marseille dotted rhomboid postmark No-2240, dated 8th March 1866, with manuscript "Per Vapeur Asie" (means: will be transferred by the ship "Asie") on obverse. Arrived Alexandria 18th March 1866, where forwarded to the paquebot "Volga" for onward transmission. Arrived Jaffa Port the next day, 19.3.66.

The second letter of the same correspondent (Fig. 36b) franked with 80 c. French 1862 issue, to pay the double letter rate to Palestine. Posted at the Messagerie Egypt – Lines steamship "PELUS", and cancelled with the ship cancellation dated 19th October 1866. Upon arrival slitted for disinfection at Jaffa Port Lazaret.

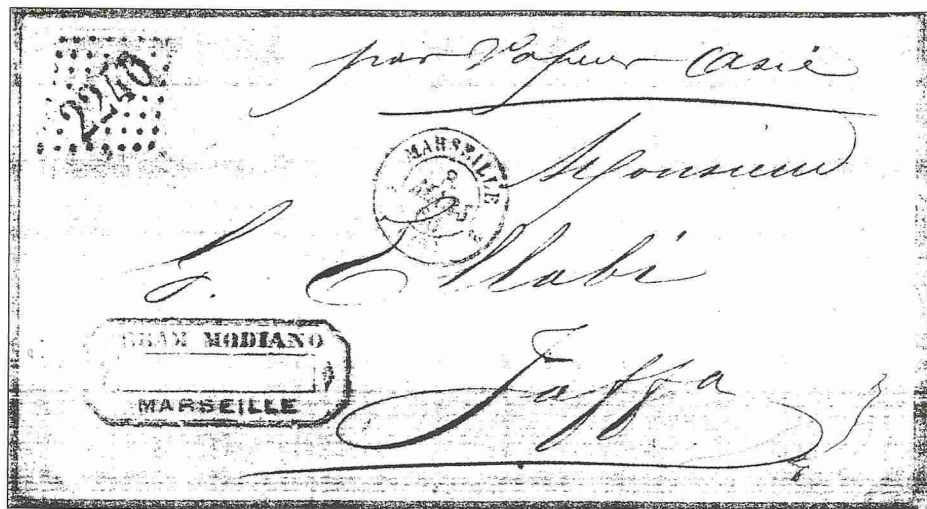


Figure 36a

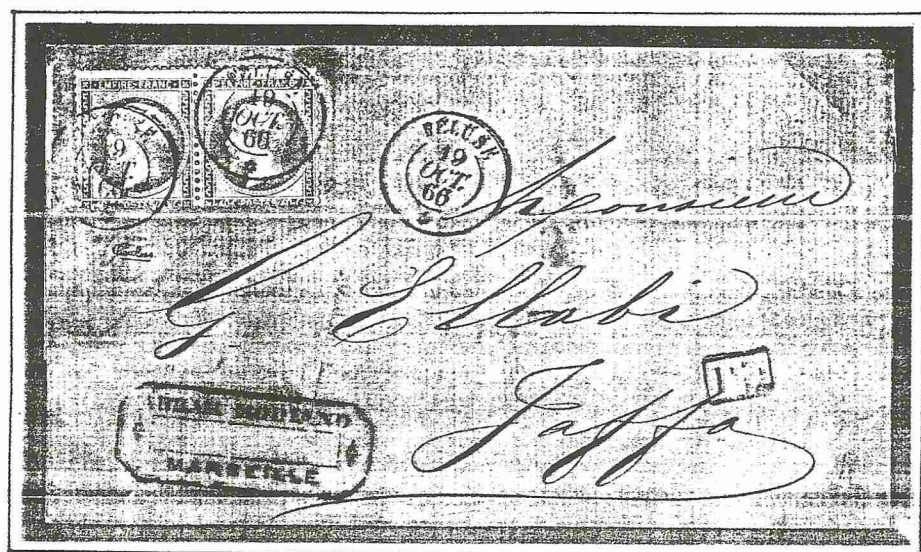


Figure 36b

1875, German Post (Fig. 37). Postcard from Berlin via Triest to Jerusalem, franked with rare mixed franking issues: 1/2 Groshen imprinted stamp + 1/2 Groshen orange Groserschild and 2 x 10 pfenning; all together equal to 30 pfenning of the new German currency, to pay the rate of a postcard destined to Asia region without a German Postal operation. Cancelled s.c. Berlin postmarks, dated 16th April 1875.

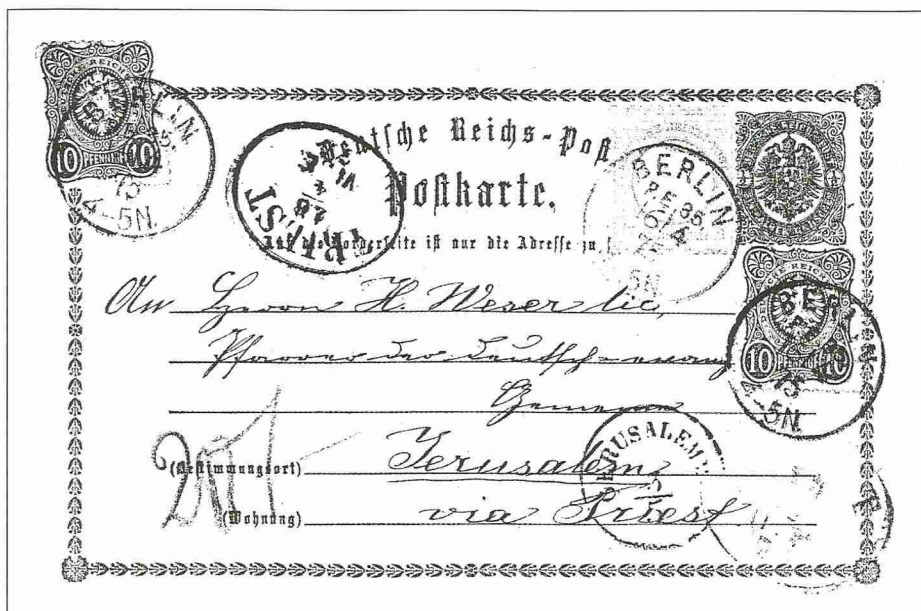


Figure 37

Transit Triest 26th April 1875, where forwarded to an Austrian paquebot of the "Lloyd Agenzia" line. Arrived Jerusalem via Jaffa, and stamped on obverse with s.c. "GERUSALEMME" postmark of the Austrian Post, dated 3rd May 1875.

1881, Austrian Post (Fig. 38). Registered letter from Wznitz via Beyrouth to Safad. Franked with 70 Kr. Austrian stamps to pay six times (90 gr.) registered letter rate to Beyrouth. Cancelled with s.c. Wznitz Austrian postmarks, dated 3rd March 1881. Addressed to "Moses Jedid Leiwy", who had a Jewish messenger service re-directing the letter to Safad. On the reverse the sender wrote in Hebrew manuscript to forward the letter to the Jewish community in Safad. Transit Austrian postmark of Triest on reverse, dated 11th March 1881, which show that the letter was forwarded to Beyrouth, by one of the "Lloyd Agenzia line" ships.

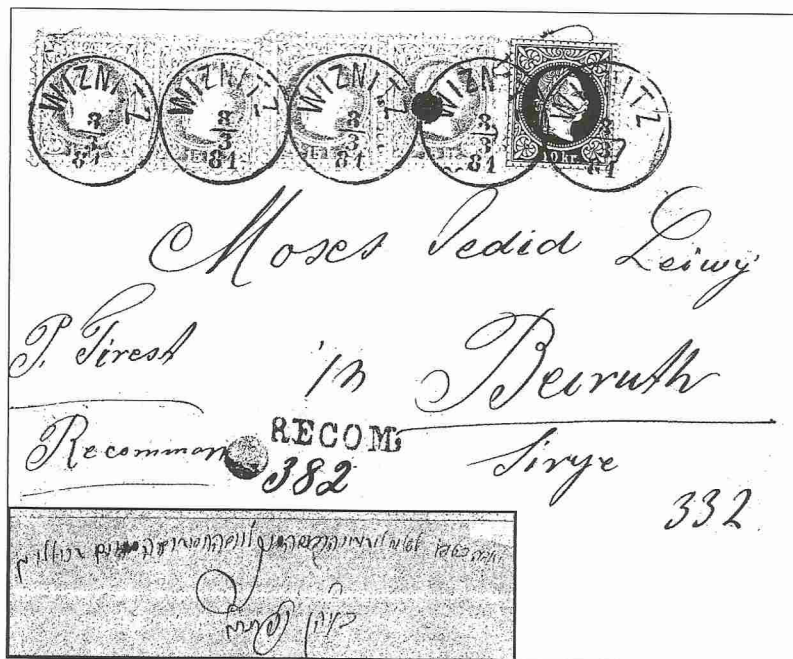


Figure 38



Taxi Post In Palestine (Israel) (Taxi Courier Mail)

Uriel P. Federbush, Israel

Taxi and Bus “Post” as it has been defined is a method of mail transmission typical to the region and especially to Palestine and subsequently to Israel¹. It enjoyed popularity in times of uncertainty, such as the Arab disturbances and riots directed against the Jewish population (the Yeshuv). It provided a more personal service and direct involvement with the forwarding agency, and a more secure feeling that delivery would reach the intended recipient. The **Palestine Post** newspaper of April 5, 1940 ran an item regarding Taxi Mail and stated that people needing an express service were willing to pay double and more the Post Office rate. Letters between the main cities would take two days or more, while Taxi Mail delivered the item in a matter of hours.

Pursuant to the Post Office Ordinances of the British Mandatory Government, all mail up to 250 grams in weight came under its monopoly. This was meant to cover all letters. However, packages and items of mail heavier than that were not included. Thus provided and opening for the establishment of private mailing services which would include letters.

These services were supplied by bus and taxi companies who were ideally suited for this endeavor due to their extensive network of routes throughout the country. Taxi companies also plied scheduled inter-city routes – an unusual phenomenon typical to the area.

An early example of Taxi Post is an envelope sent with the Egged Bus company* on June 15, 1933 to an address in Tel Aviv (Fig. 39). Enclosed was a four page letter in German. A very rare red “Egged” label (Fig. 40) is attached to the face of the cover. It is cancelled with the date and a portion of a large Egged cachet (Fig 41). The label, in the form of a rectangular perforated stamp, is obviously a portion of a sheet printed by Egged for this purpose. It is numbered “1506” and has the Hebrew “Egged” printed vertically on the right. On the back of the envelope is a large Egged pink address label numbered No. 2559, dated 15/6, with **Paid** written in Hebrew. (Fig. 42). The red label is closest to a postage stamp of all those known on Taxi Post envelopes.

The story of Egged, the bus cooperative, begins in the beginning of 1933 by the amalgamation of a group of smaller enterprises who felt that their existence was in jeopardy due to the uncertain conditions existing in the land. Thus this cover is amongst the first by that cooperative (Fig. 43).

* The phrase “Taxi Mail” or “Taxi Post” is commonly used for mail carried by both Taxi and Bus companies.

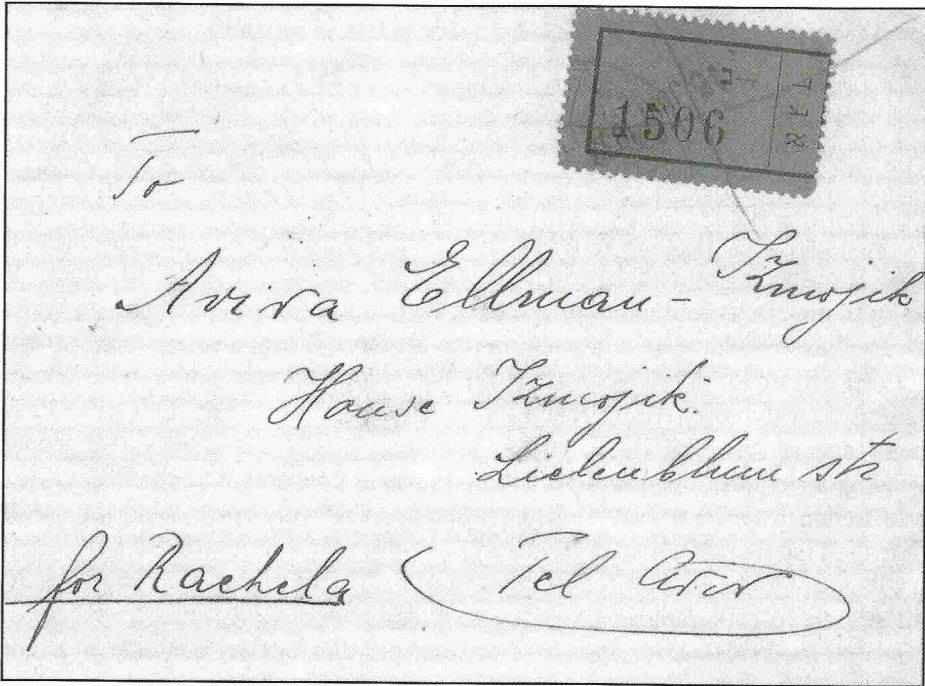


Figure 39



Figure 40



Figure 41

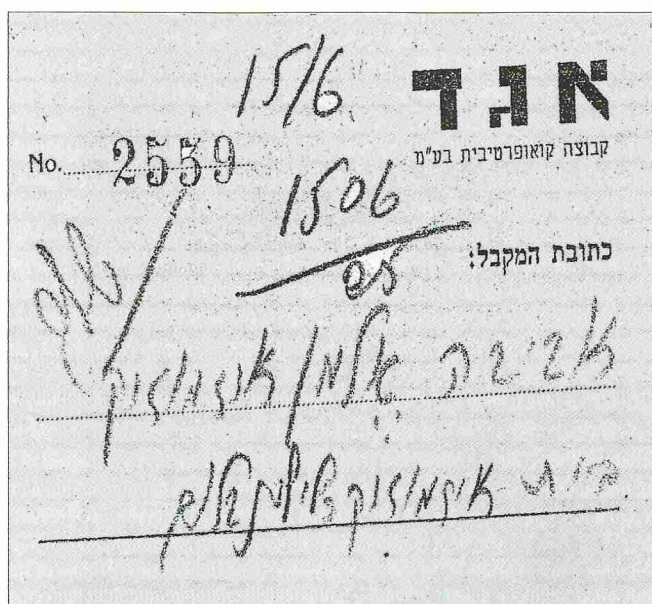


Figure 42

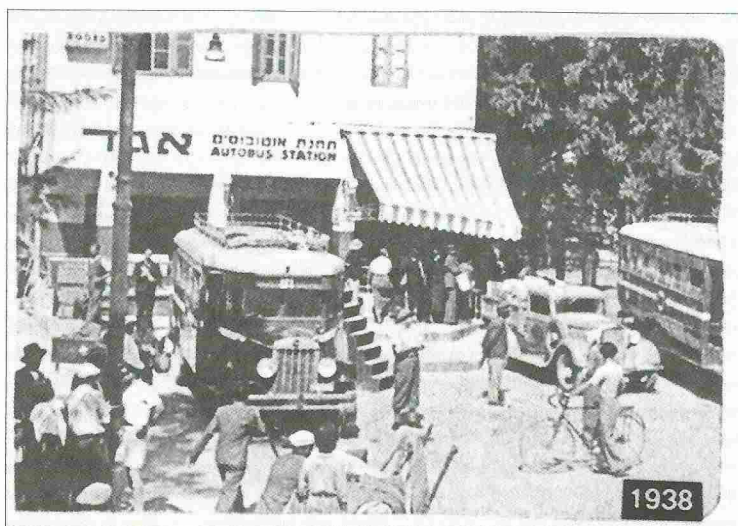


Figure 43

Another mailing from this period is a cover from the German Immigrants Society with a pink slip dated 2/4/35 sent through Egged from Haifa to Tel Aviv, the fee being 50 mils (Fig 44).

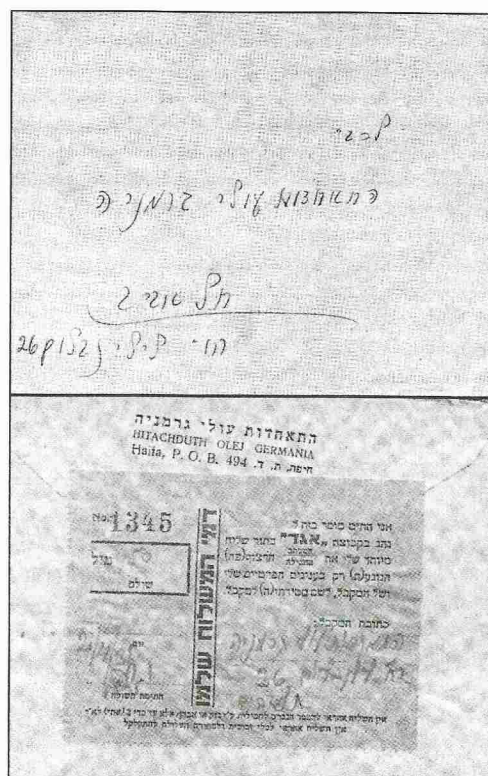


Figure 44

Other companies as well participated in this mail service. Illustrated is a seldom seen cover sent through "Aliya" to Bank Kedem in Jerusalem. The cost is marked on the tan pasted slip as 25 mils, with the attached slip bearing the date January 6, 1938 (Fig. 45).

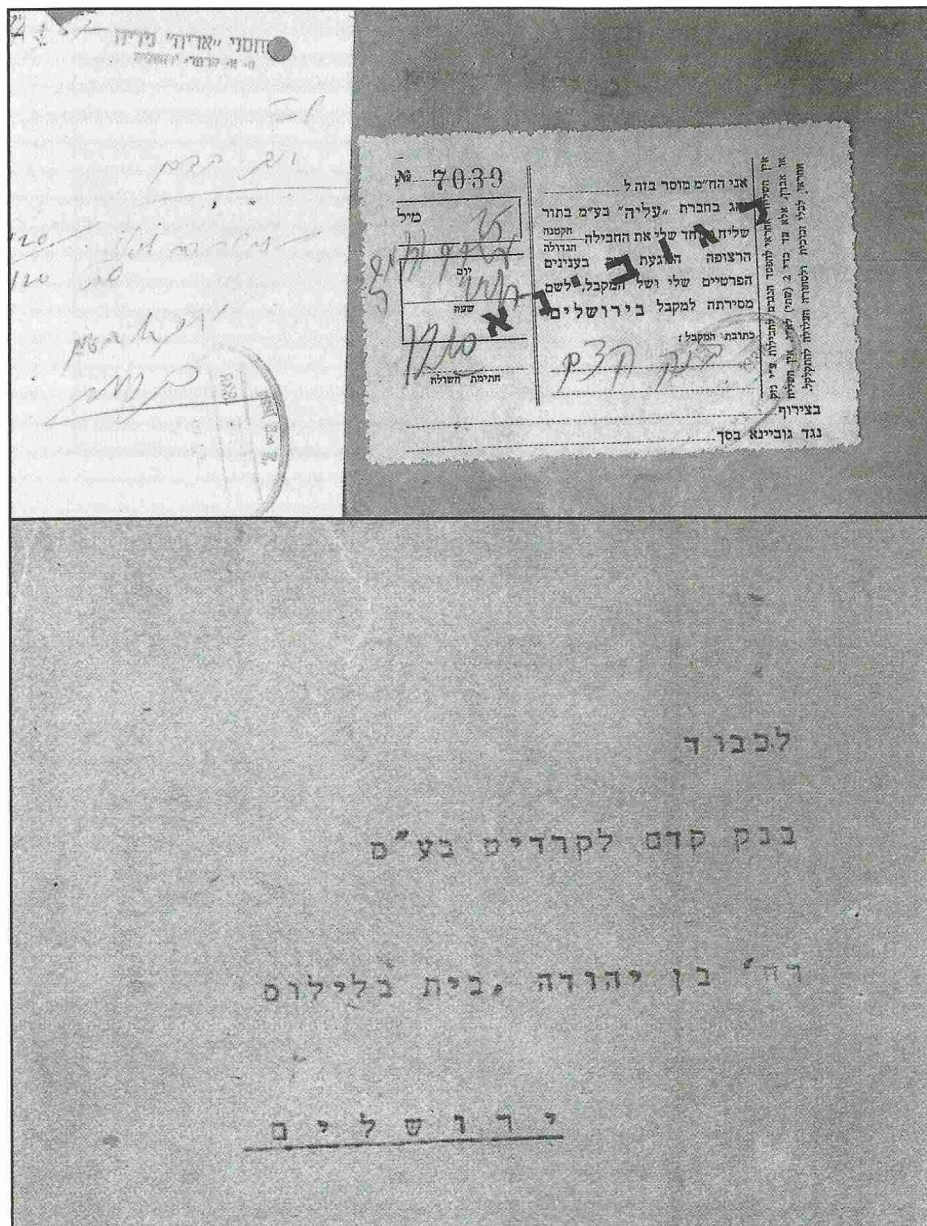


Figure 45

“Keshet” was another taxi company involved. Illustrated is a cover with the tan slip No. 15647, stating a cost of 10 mils (which probably meant to be 100 mils), from the early 1940’s (Fig. 46).



Figure 46

“Yael” had an Express service with their cover being sent to Tel Aviv. The pink slip, No. 54114, indicated a cost of 100 mils. 1940’s (Fig. 47).



Figure 47

“Taxi Aviv” also took part. A cover tied with a 5 Mil Kofer Hayeshuv (Jewish Community Tax) stamp sent from Tel Aviv to Haifa with a line cancellation reading per Taxi Aviv in black in Hebrew and English. 1940’s (Fig. 48).

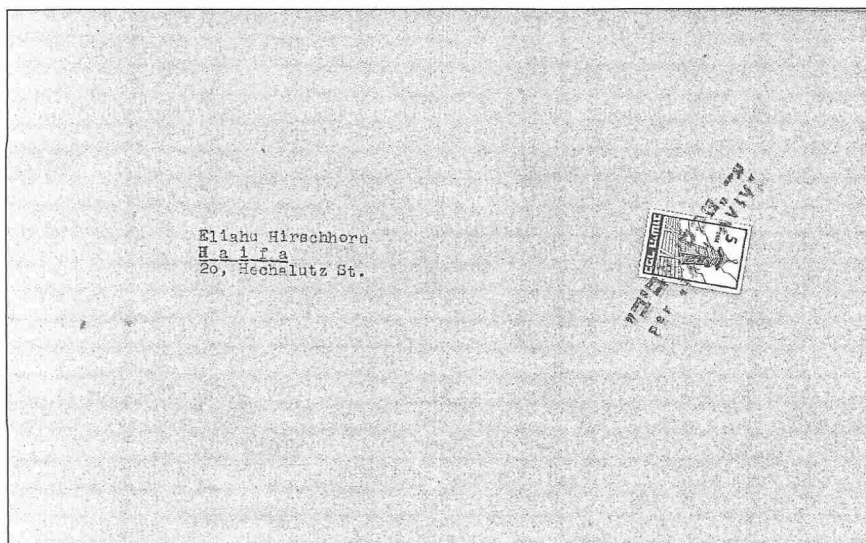


Figure 48

“Yael” used a line cancellation in red in both languages as seen in a letter cancelled By Yael Letter Service sent from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. 1940’s (Fig. 49).

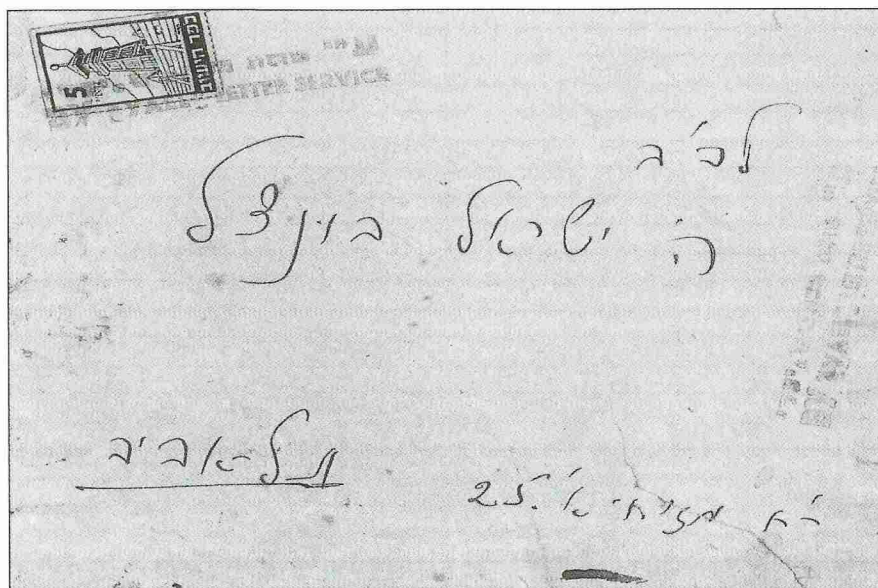


Figure 49

The year 1948, a historic one for Israel's independence, expectedly produced a variety of examples. Shown are some of them:

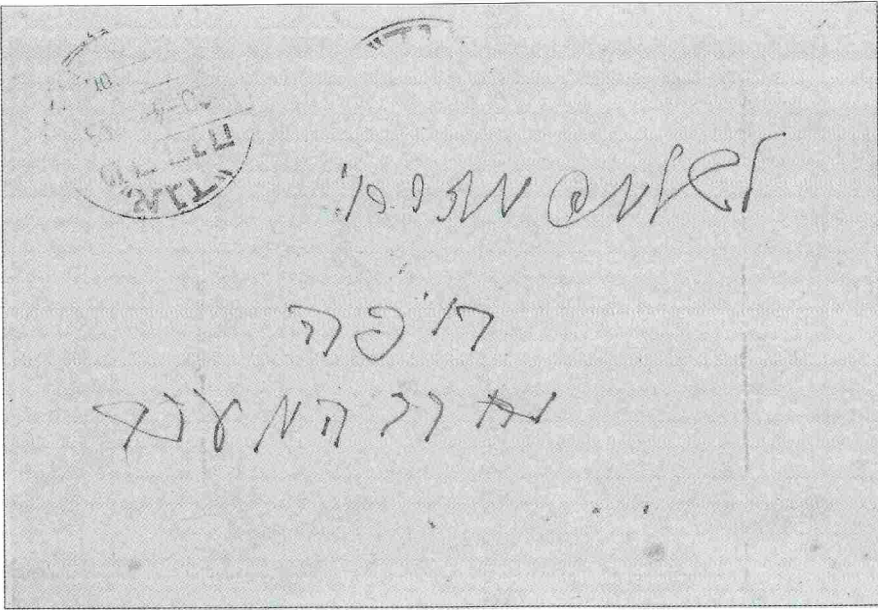


Fig. 50: A letter sent from Tiberias to Haifa with an uncommon Egged rubber cancellation dated 20.4.48.

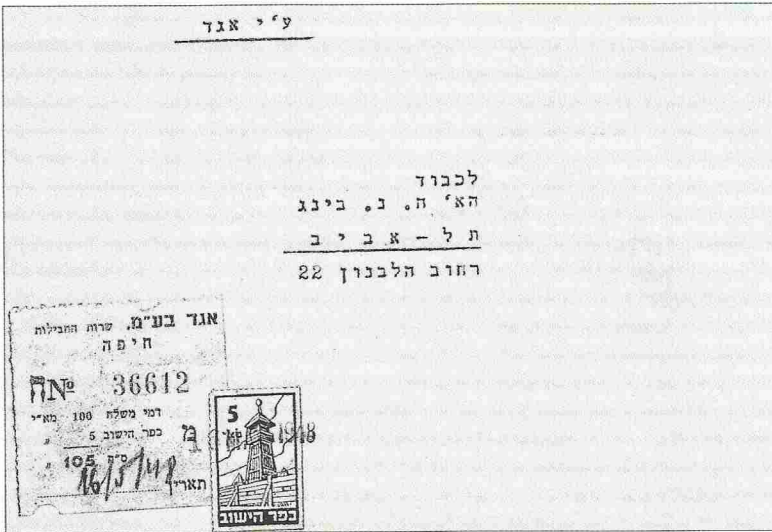


Fig. 51: Another example of Egged service is a cover sent from Haifa to Tel Aviv on May 16, 1948. This was the day of issue of Israel's first postage stamps, the Doar Ivri set, and two days after independence was declared!

A white Egged sticker No. 36612 is affixed (Fig. 51), with the delivery cost listed as 100 Mils plus a 5 Mil Kofer Hayeshuv tax, the stamp being cancelled with the date May 16, 1948.

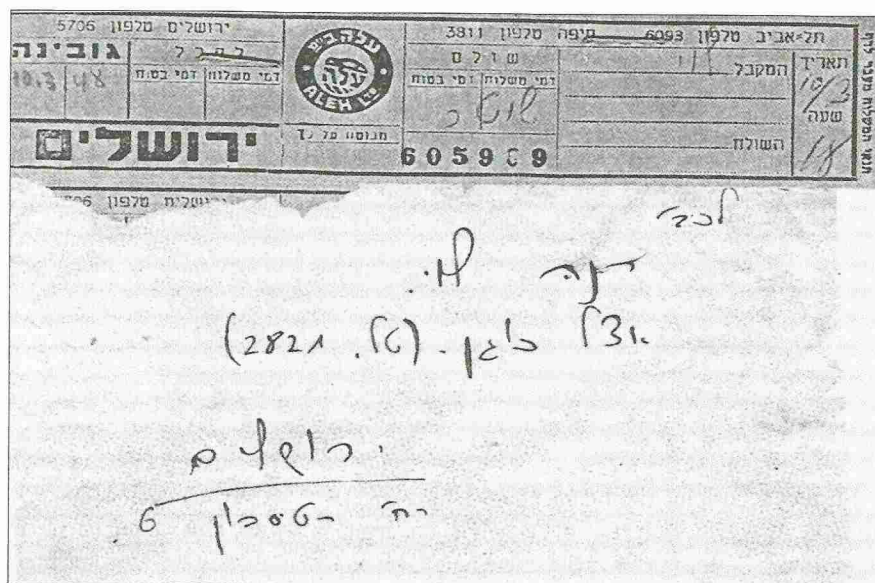


Fig. 52: A cover with a grey slip sent with “Aleh” taxi from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, dated 10.3.48.

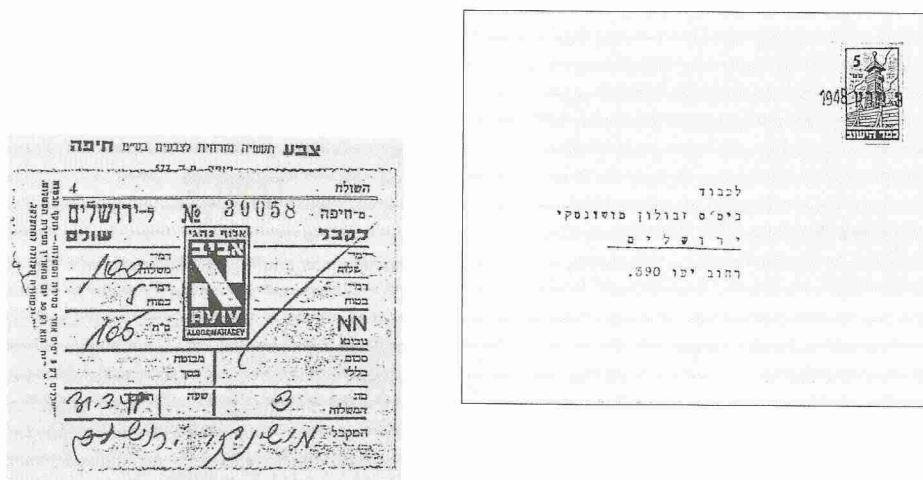


Fig. 53: Cover from Haifa to Jerusalem with “Aviv” taxi. Cancelled 31 March 1948 over a 5 Mil Kofar Hayeshuv stamp.

5
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14/10/48	מגן	דמי משלוח דבר בסוף	דמי משלוח דבר בסוף	+
שעה	השולח	מבוסס על סך	ירושלים	הסך הנ"ל קבוע
		44552		חתימה

888

Fig. 54: Cover tied with a pink slip sent with "Magen" taxi from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem dated 14/10/48.

Further examples include a "Yael Daroma" cover sent from Beer Sheva to the Ministry of Agriculture in Tel Aviv. On the front is a pink slip dated 12.11.64 in ink, with the bottom printed line reading in Hebrew **urgent deliver Immediately!!**. The back has a slip reading Immediate Delivery and No. 68044 (Fig. 55).



Figure 55

יעל דרומה שם המקבל

תל אביב

תאריך	שולם	שולח	מקבל	מקבל
12.11.64	מגן	מגן	מגן	מגן
שעה	השולח	מבוסס על סך	ירושלים	הסך הנ"ל קבוע
		44552		חתימה

מסלול של שולח עבורו בטוח.
אחריות החברה עבור כל נזק או
אבדן עד חמש ל"י

№ 68044

A manila envelope sent with the same company from Beer Sheva as well illustrates a sort of transition as it also has affixed an Israel Post Office label picturing the Running Stag emblem and reading “Fee Paid.” Thus the Post Office officially recognized the fact of Taxi Mail and collected its fees (Fig. 56).



Figure 56

Another example with an Israel Post Office **Fee Paid** label tied to an envelope with a round “taxi Jerusalem Aviv” handstamp (Fig. 57).

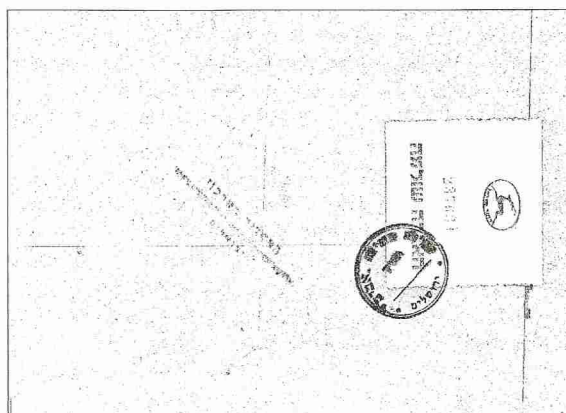


Figure 57

There are more recent illustrations of this type of mail as well: The first civilian auto service to the Gaza Strip was by "Kopel Tours" dated 24-11-1956. A Post Office label is affixed (Fig. 58).



Figure 58

Then there is the first mail service to the Western Wall by "Taxi Atid" dated 14.6.1967. A Post Office label is also affixed (Fig. 59).*

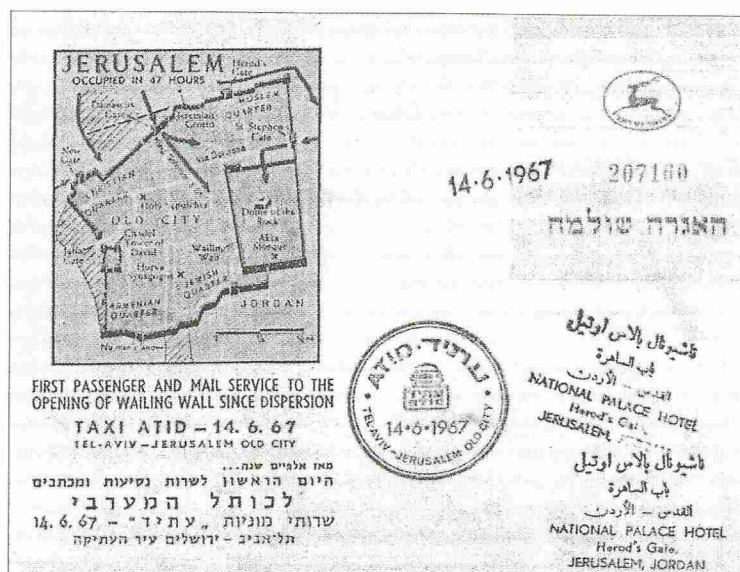


Figure 59

* These two first covers, especially No. 58, are of course "philatelic souvenirs" not adhering to "postal history" Nature.

Although the classic period of Taxi Courier Mail is past, taxis at this time still accept letters and parcels for delivery at rates substantially higher than the Post Office. However, labels or cancellations are no longer employed. The service is used infrequently today as the level of efficiency of the postal system is quite good.

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The Trials and Tribulations of the “Three Issacs” (and Other Transliteration Victims)

Ehud Jungwirth

“Transliteration” according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary means: Representation of a word or passage in the **more or less** corresponding characters of a different language (my emphasis – E.J.). In the 1956/7 Proceedings of the Israeli Academy of the Hebrew Language, giving the rules for the transliteration of Hebrew into Latin characters, we can read that “such transliterations intend solely to transmit the approximate sound of today's Hebrew words” (my emphasis and translation).

The problem which arises is this: Whose ears is the transliteration intended to serve, in other words what will be the “approximate sound” when heard by different language-groups, all used to pronounce a certain combination of letters in their own fashion. To give a non-philatelic example – my late friend whose name – in Hebrew – was שׁוֹר (shin-waw-resheh) who had been studying in France, prepared visiting cards for a trip to the USA, spelling his name the French way, i.e. Chor and was disagreeably surprised when everyone there addressed him as Mr. Tshor.

It might have been “kor” in Austria/Germany. Since the place-names in postal cancellations and R-labels transliterated from the Hebrew are destined to an international, multi-linguistic public, it seems to be a “mission impossible” to satisfy the Academy's demand, and thus it would be up to the powers that be to make a decision, which would be satisfactory to one population of recipients, but not to others.

I have dealt with the philatelic problem of attaining a reasonable transliteration of place-names in several articles over the last 50 (well, almost) years e.g., recently “The C-K-Q Syndrome”, or the grammatical problem of dealing with the prefixed definite article, in this publication. This time I would like to deal with the problem of transliterating the Hebrew letter “Zadi” which represents, probably for most people, the sound produced by a “t” followed by “s”. The Proceedings of the Academy prescribe this to be given as “Z”, since a non-underlined “Z” stands for the Hebrew letter “Zayin” i.e. the sound of the English “zed or zee” depending which side of the Atlantic you are on, or in the German word “Salbe”. Fig. 66 shows a cover from Mazkeret Batya as an example. What has all this to do – you might wonder – with “The Three Isaacs” etc.?

Isaac – in Hebrew – translates as Yizḥaq (יִצְחָק) with both the Z as well as the H (standing for the Hebrew Het) underlined, all according to the Academy rules for transliteration. A non-underlined H would stand for the Hebrew letter Heh. Let us now take each Isaac in turn.

The first Yizḥaq locality to acquire a postal agency on 22.9.1950 i.e. prior to the publication of the Academy regulations, was Beit Yizhak (an agricultural

community near Nataniya), spelled thus on the type-A cancellation. I have not seen a permanent R-label with this spelling, mine are handwritten in Hebrew only. This A-type postmark was exchanged for a C-1 type as part of the general changeover in 1951, in this case on 1.8.1951 – reading Bet Yichaq! (Fig. 60). We have now entered the “Slavic” period, although a “c” for Zadi could be correctly pronounced as t-s in parts of Germany/Austria as well, but what about the Anglo-Saxon and French pronunciation of “ch”, let alone the German “ch”? This time the R-label reads as the postmark does. This situation continued until the next change-over, i.e. the elimination of the Czech spellings on 14.11.1961 and the introduction of a new postmark the next day – conforming to the Academy regulations. Please note, that an in-between R-label had been in use prior to the change-over (Fig. 61). The postal independence of this location came to an end on 23.9.1992, when it was united with the neighboring locality of Sha'ar Hefer, the postmark now reading Bet Yizhaq-Sha'ar Hefer without any underscoring; so does the current postmark.

The second “Isaac” to receive a postal agency – on 17.10.1971 – was Tel Yizhaq, conforming from the start with the Academy regulations, both in the C-1 type postmark and the R-label (Fig. 62). However, on 15.6.1994 there appeared a special cancellation on the occasion of the Opening of the Renovated Holocaust Post Museum in Kibbutz Tel-Yitzhak (sic!) – this should have been spelled, according to the Academy regulations, as “Qibbuz Tel-Yizhaq”! This cancellation, by the way, bears the name of the Hasharon Hatikhon M.P.O., then serving this locality (Fig. 62 – enlarged for easier reading).

The third “Isaac” was Beerot Yitshaq – opened on 17.2.1974 – deviating from Academy regulations by using a “ts” spelling for the “ts” sound. Looking closely – one finds a dot under the “s” in the C-1 type postmark, but not in the R-label. A further letter from this locality dated 14 years later still shows this dot, proving that its first appearance was not accidental (Fig. 63). The current postmark reads Be'erot Yizhaq, in line with the other Isaacs, i.e. without any underscoring or dots. Please note, that the illustrated recently arrived cancellation is dated “1994” instead of 2004 (actually 94 instead of 04)!

Another interesting case of transliteration the “ts”-sound can be found in the Golan Heights town of Qazrin. Here a post office was opened on 11.9.1977 with the spelling, both in the postmark and trilingual R-label, given as Qatsrin (Fig. 64). Figure 64 also shows a letter from the Local Council office with their meter mark in red, spelling the place-name “Katzerin”(!). Next, a commercial letter showing that the trilingual R-label had been changed in the bilingual format in use in both the Jewish localities in the “territories” and in Israel proper. Figure 65 shows a changed spelling (in the R-label only): Qatzrin. The current postmark (and the last R-label before their abolishment in 1999), however, reads “Qazrin” without underlining, contrary to the Academy regulations.

Another example pertaining to the transliteration of the “Zadi – ts” is the case of Bizzaron (an agricultural village near Gedera). Here the Zadi is an accented

consonant (ot degushah) and thus doubled in transliteration. A postal Agency was opened here on 8.9.1963, conforming with the Academy rules. The current postmark, however, again shows no underscoring (Fig. 62).

The last example I would like to present here (Fig. 66) comes from Qiryat Motzkin near Haifa, a veteran postal location stemming from Mandatory times. With the FD of the local postmark No. 5 in 1959, I received an R-label with the spelling “Mozkin” – right? No, Wrong! The Academy rules do not allow tampering with proper names, so “Motzkin” remains “Motzkin”. Later R-labels corrected what had been the fault of a transliteration-overzealous postal employee.

The above selection of localities in order to demonstrate the phenomenon of the “ts-sound” transliteration was entirely arbitrary, other localities could have been used, but the ones included here are, in my considered opinion, the most adequate.

The last 50 years have seen many attempts to deal with the “Zadi” problem in cancellations as well as R-labels, some of which, as we have seen, rather esoteric.

It would appear, however, that the powers that be have given up the attempt to produce the “ts” sound in a universally acceptable manner, and to disregard the Academy's rules for transliteration. Recipients of such mail will have to make up their own minds as to the “approximated sound” represented by the transliterated spelling.

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Figure 60

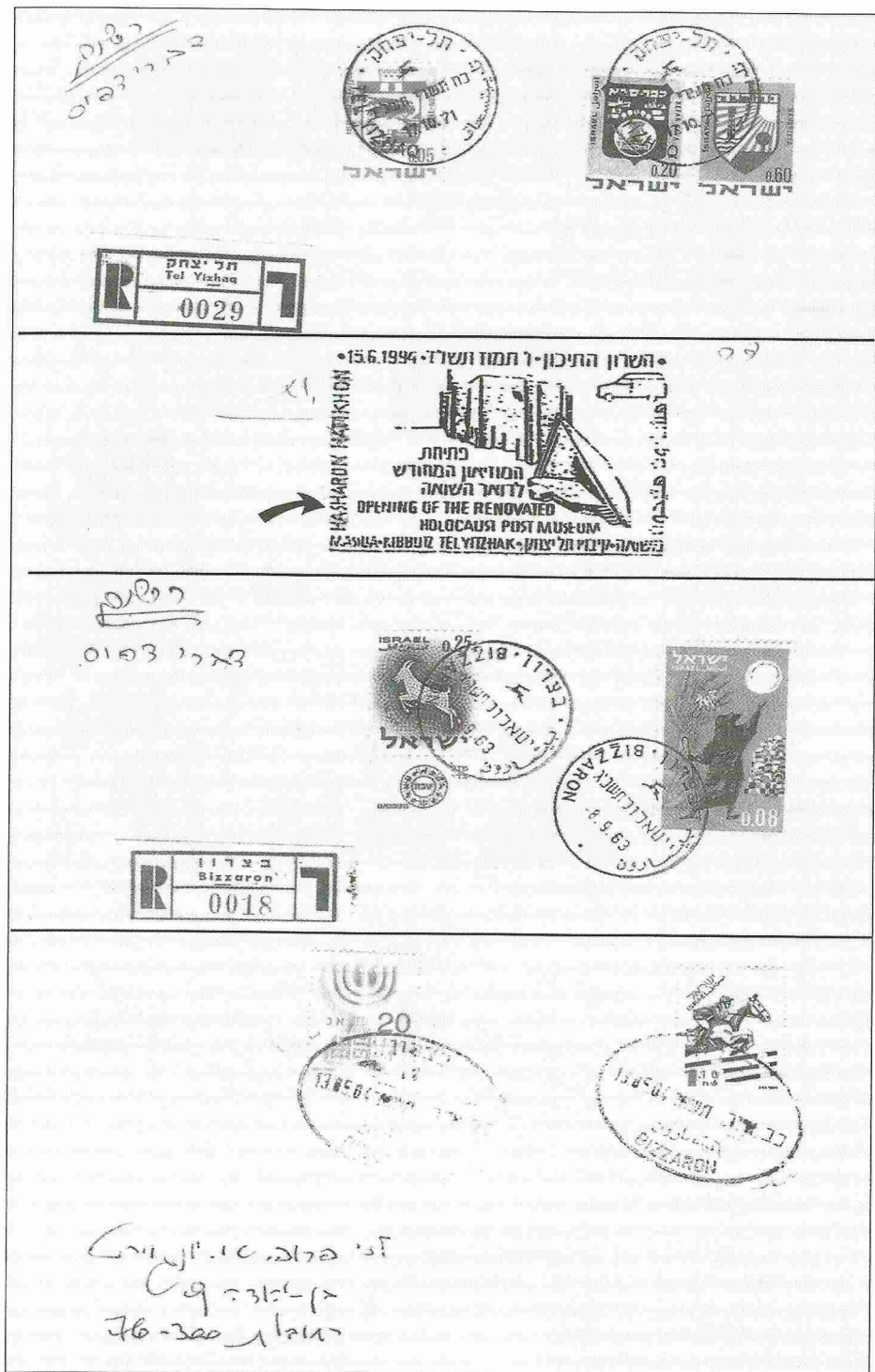


Figure 62

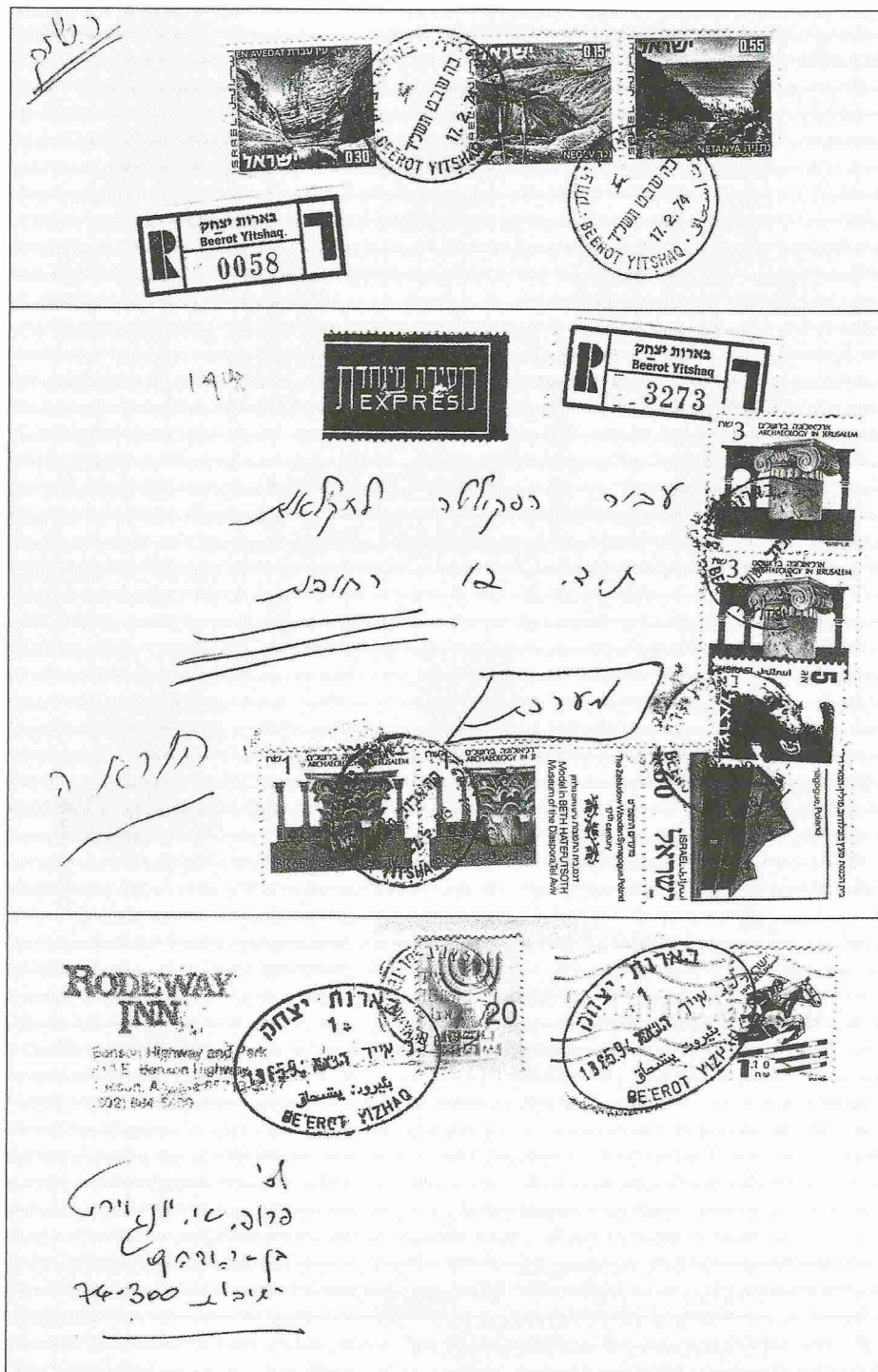


Figure 63

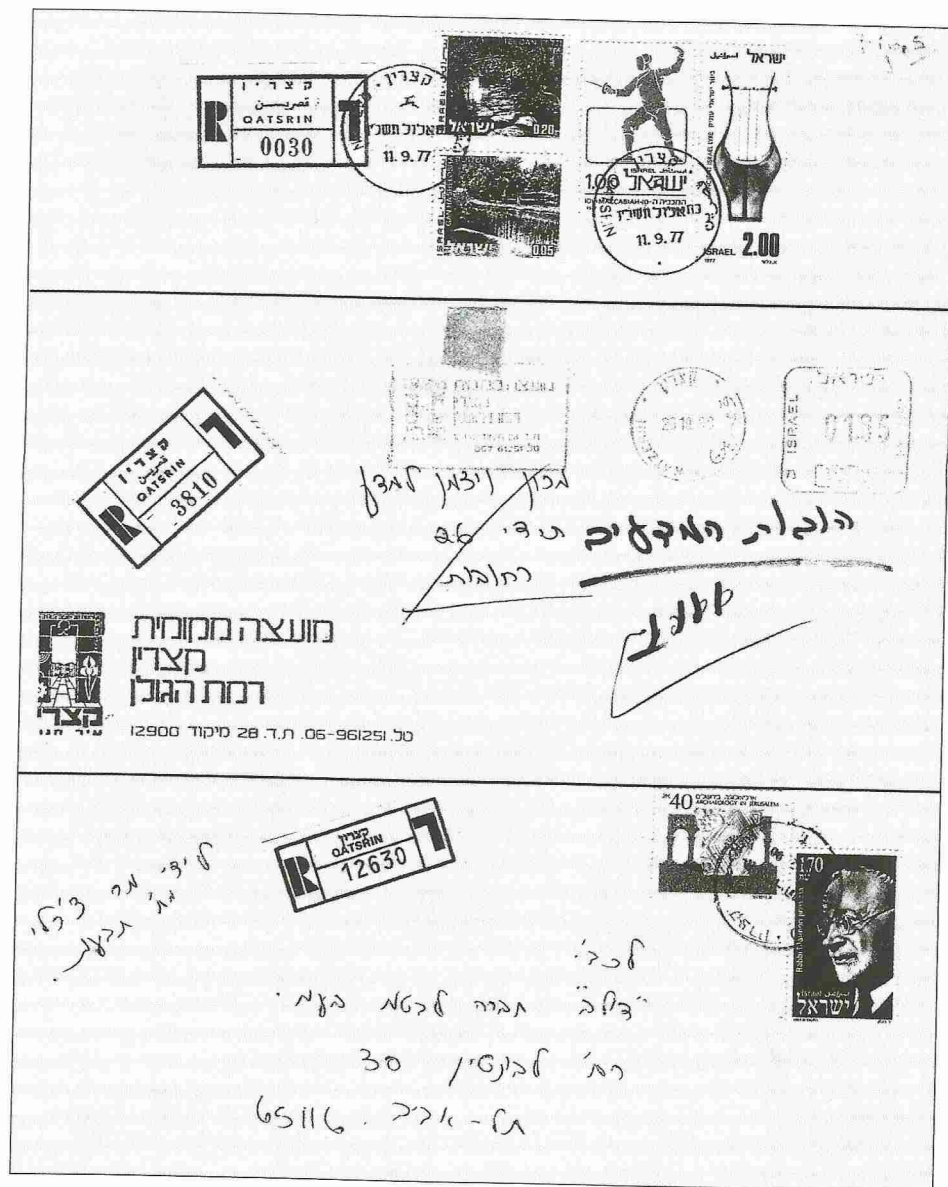


Figure 64

[illegible]

Figure 65

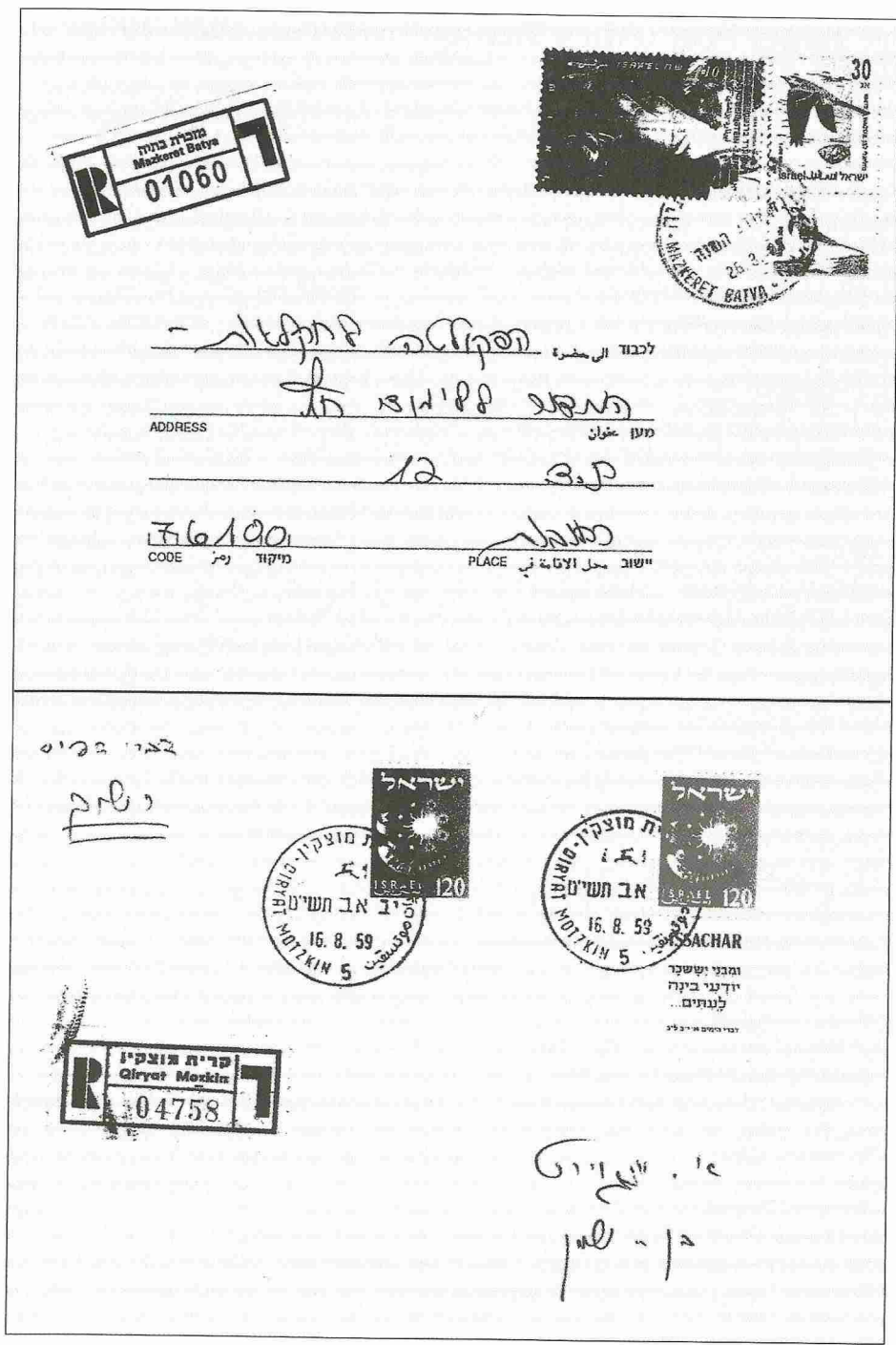


Figure 66

Israel Post Office Taxing Practices, 1948-1975*

Yaakov Shabtai, Ramat-Gan

Several articles have been written on the fascinating topic of taxed mail in the Holyland. The Ottoman Period was covered by Norman Collins in BAPIP Bulletins 116 and 117 and The Holy Land Postal History publication (HLPN) No. 52. Dr. Eddy Leibu's comprehensive study on "Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period" was published in a series of five articles in HLPN 53 to 59. The "Minhelet Ha'am" period and the establishment of the State of Israel were covered by Dr. Stephen Rothman and Yakov Tsachor in their book, *The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel* published in 1985, in which they dedicated a chapter to the Doar Ivri Postage Dues. Another article "Israel 1948-1949 Taxed Mail" written by Yakov Tsachor was published in the Israel Philatelist (IP) of August 1999.

Few articles have been published covering the later postage due issues of Israel. Norman Gladstone's article "Letters taxed by Non-Potage Due stamps," published in the IP of December 1981 and October 1982, and Andrew Katz's article "The postage Due Hand-stamps of Israel" published in the HLPN 19 in summer 1984.

This article details the postal uses of Israel's Postage Dues from the establishment of the new state in May 1948 until the mid-seventies when the use of Postage Due stamps was discontinued. It illustrates the various uses of the Postage Due stamps, of postal items, including domestic mail and incoming foreign mail, Compulsory Registration, Return Postage Guaranteed, and Double Taxation. It does not claim to be a comprehensive study of the subject. Its object is to review the development of Israel's postal practices in tax collecting over the period.

The Minhelet Ha'am temporary postal services.

The PTT department of the "Minhelet Ha'am" prepared stamps and all-Hebrew undated canceling devices. The stamps were on sale during the Interim Period, May 2 - 14, and sanctioned for use until May 22. In besieged Jerusalem, the stamps were put in use on May 9 and were tolerated until mid-August but there had not been any official notice stating the last date.

Transition to the Israel Post.

Israel's first stamps, the "Doar Ivri" nine denominations, were put on sale on Sunday, May 16. On the same day Israel's trilingual (Hebrew-English-Arabic) canceling devices were introduced at the Tel Aviv and Haifa HPO's. In other Post Offices; the dated Mandate devices were re-introduced and used until July 1. The siege of Jerusalem was lifted mid-June with the arrival of the First Convoy. The "Doar Ivri" stamps were brought in with the convoy and were put into use on June 20. The Jerusalem trilingual postmark devices became available on July 4.

* First published in The Israel Philatelist, Vol. L I, No. 4 (August 2000) pp. 129-133.

The Mandate Postage Due stamps were withdrawn from circulation during the Interim Period. The Doar Ivri Postage Dues, a set of five denominations, were issued and distributed on May 28. At the counters of the HPO in Tel Aviv the stamps were already in use on Sunday, May 30. In Haifa the set was put into circulation on June 1, and in Jerusalem in early July.

In the meantime, from May 16 and until the new "Doar Ivri" Postage Dues became available, the regular "Doar Ivri" stamps were used to tax underpaid mail. The Minhelet Ha'am stamps were also used as postage dues at Tel Aviv's HPO.

The "Doar Ivri" Postage Dues.

The "Doar Ivri" Postage Due stamps were used to tax underpaid domestic and incoming foreign mail. The trilingual postmark were introduced on July 1 at almost all Post Offices. The use of the Mandate Registration labels was continued, and the use of the Mandate "To Pay" cachets was terminated with the introduction of the Hebrew cachets in 1949. The sale of the "Doar Ivri" Postage Due stamps was discontinued on April 30, 1950.

Postage Dues II

Israel's first definitive Postage Due set of stamps, comprising six denominations, was issued on December 18, 1949. The stamps replaced the "Doar Ivri" Postage Dues, and were on sale until May 31, 1953. The use of the Mandate Registration labels was meanwhile continued.

Postage Dues III

Israel's second definitive Postage Due set of stamps, consisting of nine denominations, was issued on November 30, 1952 and their sale was discontinued on January 5, 1960. The use of the Mandate Registration labels indeed in 1955 with the introduction of the Hebrew labels.

Definitive stamps.

In January 1960, following the change in the division of the Israeli pound into 100 agorot instead of 1000 prutot, the use of Postage Due stamps was discontinued. A new era of using regular definitive and commemorative stamps began and continued until the mid-seventies. The definitive stamps used as postage dues were the Provisional, the Zodiacs (I, II and III); the Town Emblems (I and II); three series of the Airmails – the third, the fourth (Birds of Israel), and the fifth (Exports).

Domestic mail taxed with provisional Postage Due Stamps – domestic mail, franked with demonetized stamps, taxed with Minhelet Ha'am and regular Doar Ivri stamps used as Postage Dues. The tax collected was double the inland rate of 10 mils.



Fig. 67: A private letter from Tel Aviv dispatched locally through the Minhelet Ha'am postal services.

It was franked with a JNF label invalid for postage and was taxed with a pair of 10 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamps. This combination lasted only two weeks between May 2 and May 14.



Fig. 68: A private inland letter from Rosh Pinna to Affula, dispatched on May 30, 1948. The letter, franked with a demonetized British Mandate stamp, was taxed in Affula on June 7 with a 20 mil "Doar Ivri" stamp. This combination lasted approximately two weeks between May 16 and the date when the Postage Dues became available at the Post Offices.

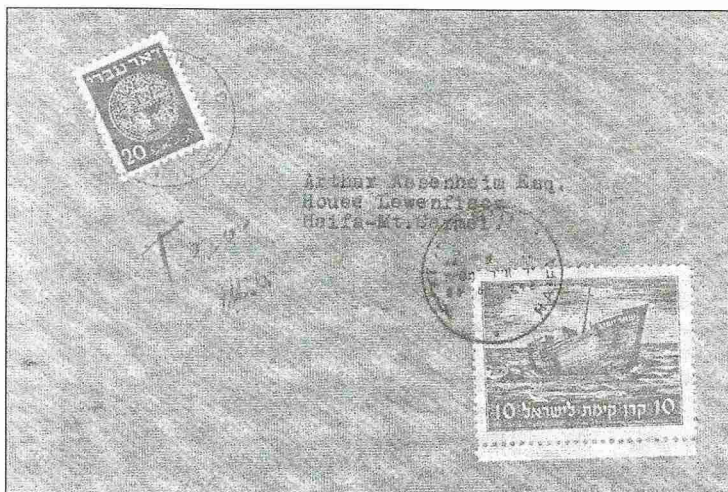


Fig. 69: A locally addressed letter within Haifa, dispatched on May 23, 1948. The letter franked with a demonetized Minhelet Ha'am stamp on its first day of invalidation, taxed with a 20 mils "Doar Ivri" stamp. This combination lasted one week, between May 23 and June 1, the official first day of the Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps at Haifa HPO.

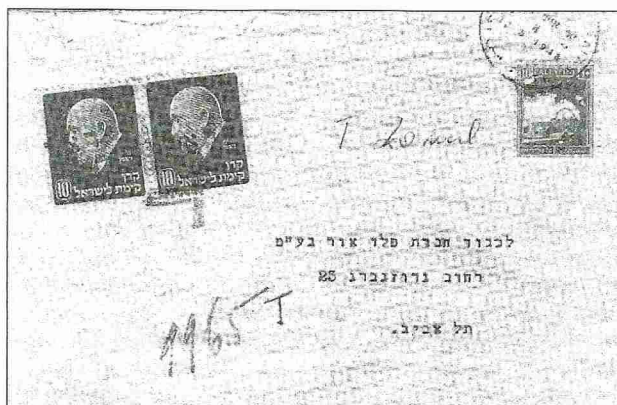


Fig. 70: A locally addressed letter within Tel Aviv, dispatched on May 30, 1948. The letter franked with a demonetized British Mandate 10 mils stamp, was taxed with a pair of 10 mils Minhelet Ma'am stamps. This combination is known only at Tel Aviv HPO, where Minhelet Ma'am stamps were used after May 22 as postage dues.

Domestic mail franked with demonetized Mandate and Minhelet Ma'am stamps and taxed with Doar Ivri Postage Dues. The tax collected was double the inland rate of 10 mils.

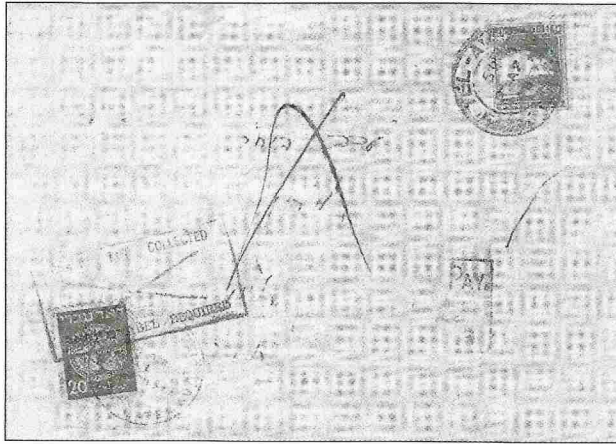


Fig. 71: A locally addressed letter within Tel Aviv, dispatched on April 5, 1948, through the British Mandate postal services. It was franked with a 10 mils Mandate stamp valid at the time of dispatch. The letter was taxed three weeks later, on May 30, by the new State Postal Authorities. It was taxed with 20 mils, double the inland rate, as the Mandate stamp was no longer valid. The addressee refused to pay the tax therefore the tax was annulled with the re-Introduced Mandate “CHARGE NOT COLLECTED / FRESH LABEL REQUIRED” cachet. The new Postal Authorities finally transferred the letter on July 2, to its Dead Letter Office (Hebrew cachet on reverse). May 30 was the earliest date of use of the new Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps in Tel Aviv.

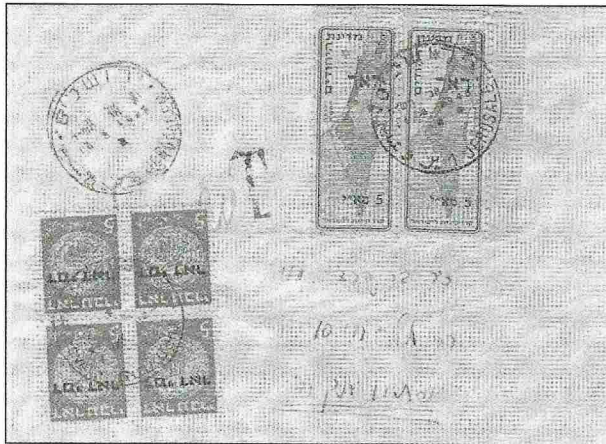


Fig. 72: A private letter from Jerusalem, addressed to Petah Tiqva, dispatched on August 16, 1948. The letter was franked with a pair of demonetized 5 mil Jerusalem’s first issue Minhelet Ma’am stamps. It was posted and accepted at the Jerusalem HPO and was forwarded to the Jerusalem sorting office on the same day. At the sorting office, the letter was marked with the reintroduced Jerusalem Mandate “T” and with a manuscript “20 mils”. The letter was taxed in Petah Tikva on August 18 with four stamps of 5 mils – double the inland letter rate. The Jerusalem Mandate “T” was reintroduced in mid-August, and August 16 is the earliest recorded date.



Fig. 73: A locally addressed printed matter within Haifa was franked with a demonetized 3 mils Mandate stamp and was taxed on June 2 with a pair of 3 mils, double the inland printed matter rate. June 2 was the second day of the new Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps in Haifa.



Fig. 74: A private postcard from Bnei Beraq addressed to Tel Aviv, dispatched on June 24, 1948. The postcard franked with a demonetized 7 mils Mandate stamp was taxed in Tel Aviv on August 1 with 15 mils (instead of 14 mils), double the inland postcard rate.

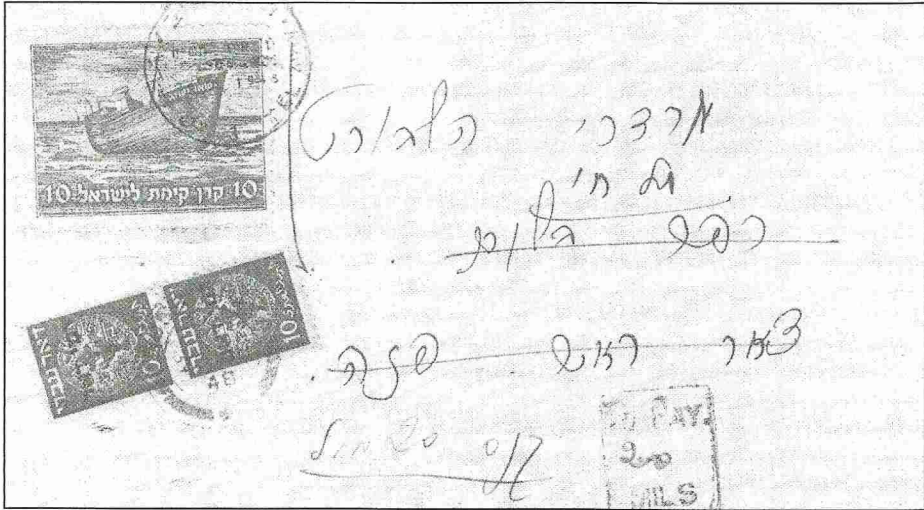


Fig. 75: A private letter from Tel Aviv, addressed to Kfar Blum, P.O. Rosh Pinna, dispatched on May 26, 1948. The letter, franked with a demonetized 10 mils Minhelet Ha'am stamp, was taxed on June 29 with a pair of 10 mils, P.D. stamps, double the inland letter rate. The letter was addressed to a soldier serving with the new State's Defense Forces in the upper Galilee and was redirected to Tel-Hai, as his unit moved. A combination of a demonetized Minhelet Ha'am stamp taxed at a Branch Post Office using the re-introduced Mandate canceling device during its last days of use, before the new Israel's trilingual devices were re-introduced on July 1.

Underfranked mail from foreign countries.

The Paris 1947 International Agreement, concerning the subject of foreign taxed mail, determined that the amount to be levied should be based on the weight, and postal rates of the country of origin. The calculated amount should be converted to French Gold Centimes and reconverted to the local currency upon its arrival at the country of destination. The conversion to French Gold Centimes at the country of origin was generally correctly done, but the reconversion was often incorrect.

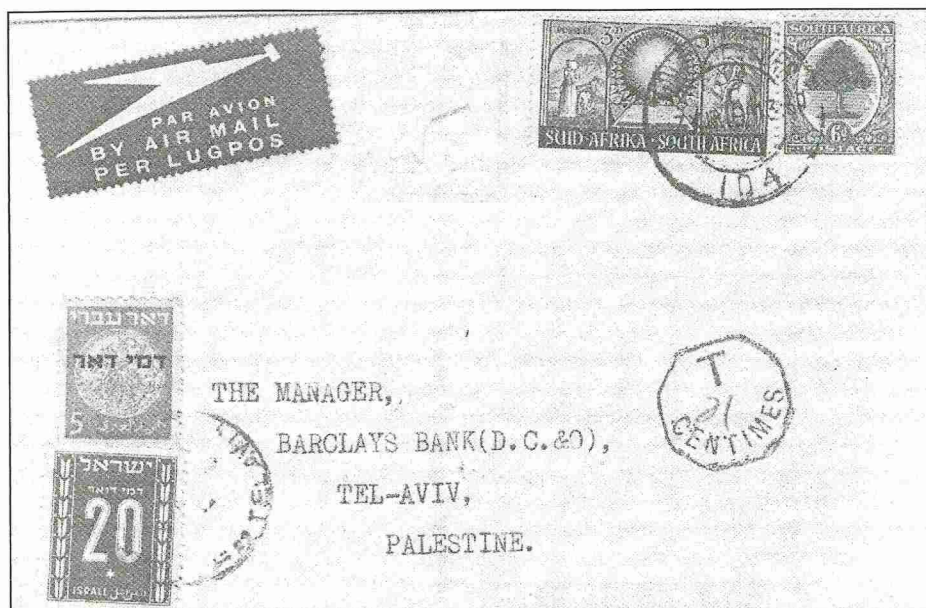


Fig. 76: An underfranked letter from Johannesburg, South Africa to Tel Aviv, dispatched on December 3, 1949. The letter was marked with Tel Aviv's "To Pay" cachet, and was taxed on December 19 with mixed Postage Due stamps – 5 mils of the Doar Ivri Postage Dues and 20 prutot of Postage Due II.

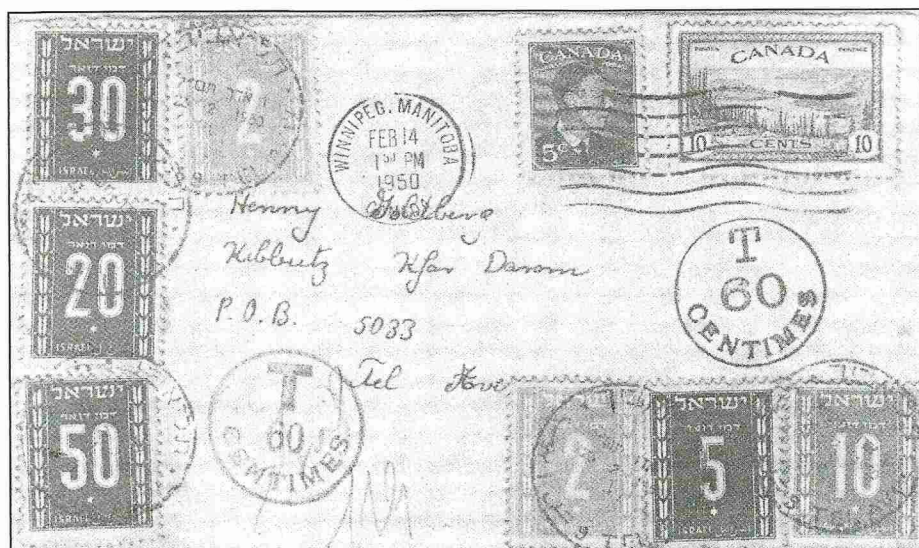


Fig. 77: An underpaid letter from Winnipeg, Canada, to Kibbutz Kfar Darom, dispatched on February 14, 1950. On arrival in Tel Aviv it was marked with a manuscript "To Pay 119 (pr.)" and was taxed on February 23, with 119 prutot using a complete set (six colors) of Postage Due II.

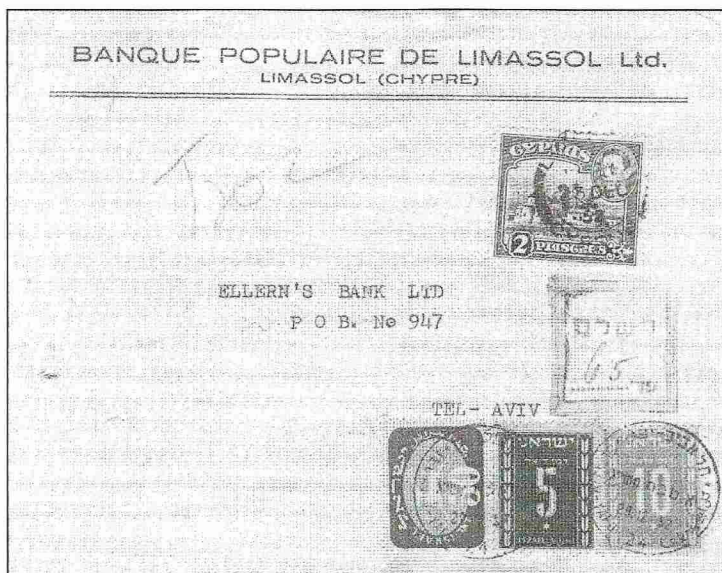


Fig. 78: An underpaid bank letter from Limassol, Cyprus, to Tel Aviv, dispatched on December 23, 1952. On arrival in Tel Aviv it was marked with Tel Aviv's "To Pay" cachet on December 29 and taxed with 75 prutot, a mixed franking of Postage Due II (25 prutot) and Postage Due III (50 prutot).



Fig. 79: A stampless airmail letter from Paris to Ramat Gan, redirected to Tel Aviv, dispatched on March 9, 1961. On arrival in Tel Aviv it was marked with Tel Aviv's "to Pay" cachet and taxed on April 5 with 9 agorot mixed franking of a Provisional (7 agorot) and a Zodiac I (2 agorot).

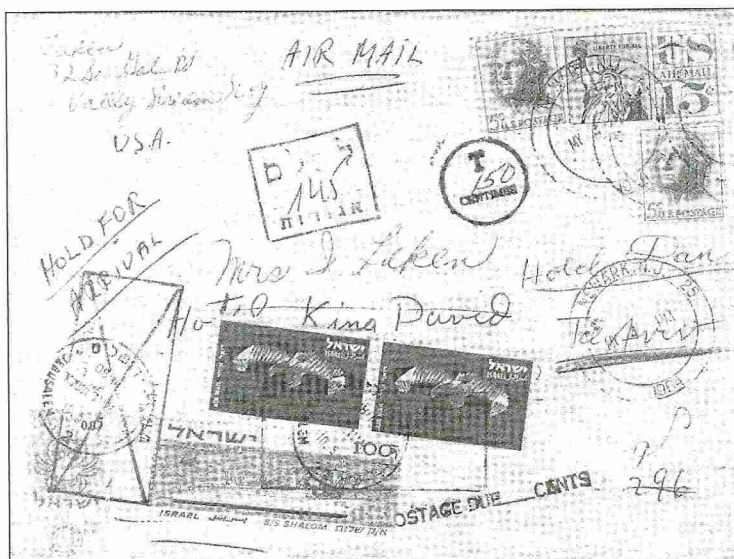


Fig. 80: An underfranked airmail letter from Newark, New Jersey to Jerusalem, dispatched on May 4, 1964. The letter was marked with Jerusalem's "To Pay" cachet, and taxed on May 10 with 145 agorot. The charge was annulled with the Hebrew "Charge not collected, Fresh label required" cachet as the addressee, a guest at the King David Hotel, had left for Tel Aviv. A mixed franking of Zodiac III (3 agorot) plus a pair of 3rd Airmail (20 agorot) plus the s/s Shalom commemorative (100 agorot).

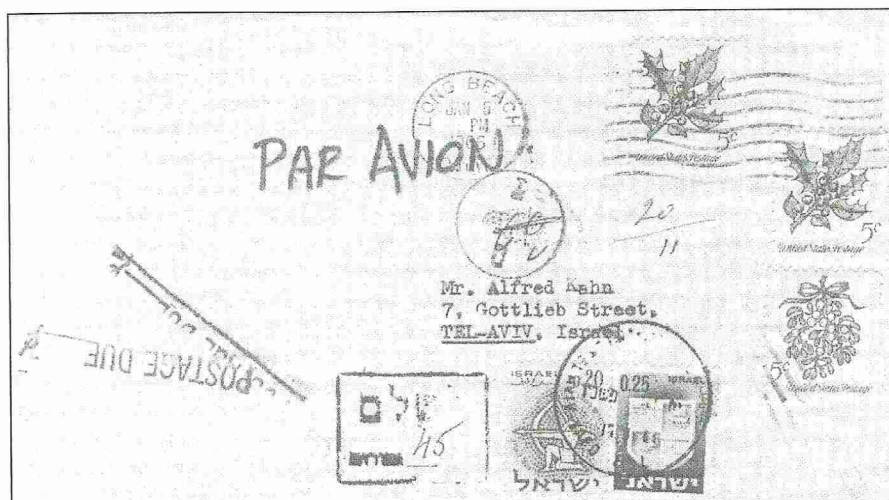


Fig. 81: An underfranked surface mail letter from Long Beach, California to Tel Aviv, dispatched on January 5, 1966. On arrival in Tel Aviv it was taxed on January 17 with 45 agorot, a mixed franking of Zodiac I – 20 agorot – plus a Town Emblem – 25 agorot.

Compulsory Registration

During the first decade of the State, incoming mail from overseas was inspected by the government censor or by the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Post Office Customs. Where valuables were found, the postal authorities would arbitrarily register the item and demand the registration fee from the addressee. This procedure was implemented in order to ensure that the recipient would collect the valuables at the Post Office and pay the customs tax. In Jerusalem the authorities collected a fee equal to the registration rate where as in Tel Aviv, the collected fee was double the amount.



Fig. 82: An airmail letter from New York, dispatched on August 13, 1948 and arrived in Tel Aviv on August 30. After being checked by the customs, the letter was sealed with the Tel Aviv customs label and wax seal (on reverse). It was registered on September 2 with the re-introduced Mandate "Tel Aviv" (HPO) R- label, and the appropriate 30 mils, double the registration fee of 15 mils, were charged.

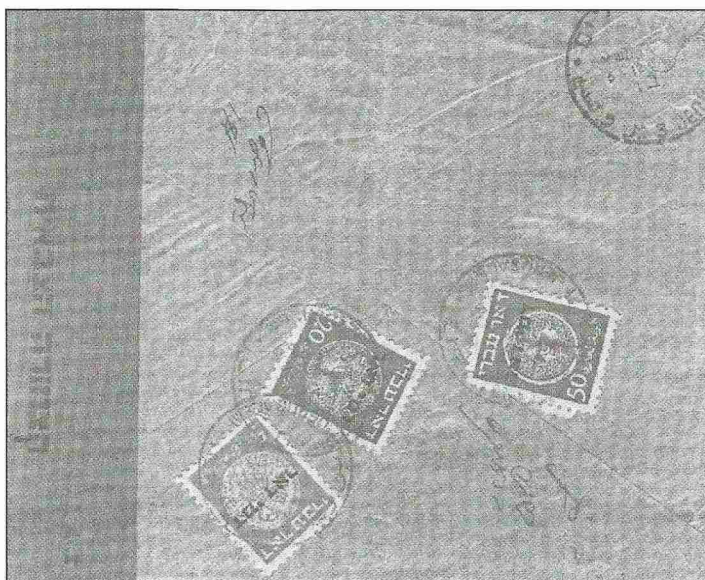


Fig. 83: An airmail letter from New York dispatched on October 25, 1949 and arrived in Jerusalem on December 5. After inspection by the military censor, the letter was sealed. It was registered on December 6 with the reintroduced Mandate "Jerusalem 14" R-label. The appropriate 25 mils - the registration fee charged after October 1, following a domestic rate change - was applied. The letter being a "top of a pile" of three similar letters to the same addressee, was therefore taxed with 75 mils – 25 mils per letter. An unusual example of a compulsory registered letter being a "top of a pile".

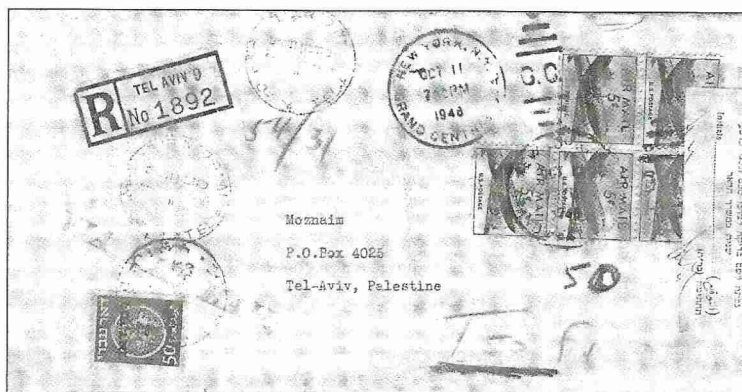


Fig. 84: An airmail letter from New York dispatched on October 11, 1948 and arrived in Tel Aviv. After customs inspection the letter was sealed with the Tel Aviv custom's label. It was registered on October 22 with the reintroduced Mandate "Tel-Aviv 9" R-label. The appropriate 50 mils, double the registration fee of 25 mils were charged.

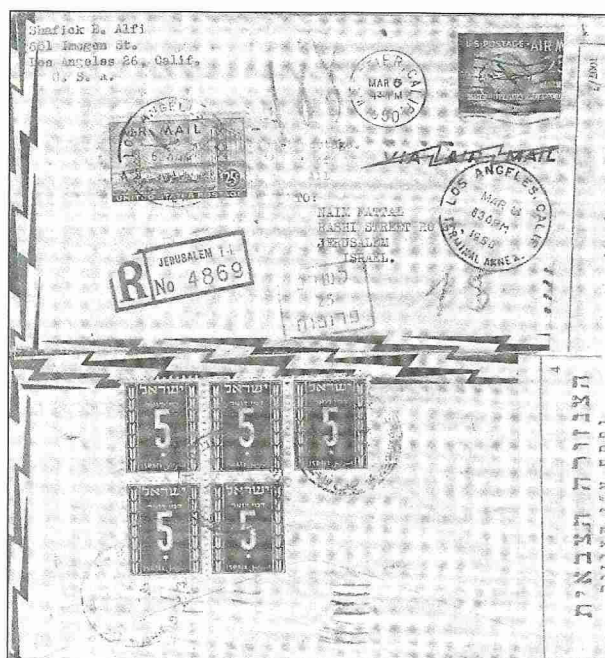


Fig. 85: An underfranked airmail letter from Los Angeles dispatched on March 6, 1950. It was returned to sender for additional postage, re-dispatched on March 8, and arrived in Jerusalem. After being checked by the military censor it was found to contain \$1 banknote. The letter was sealed and was registered on March 16, with the British Mandate re-introduced "Jerusalem 14" R-label. The appropriate registration fee of 25 prutot was charged, using Postage Due II stamps.



Fig. 86: A private letter from Casablanca to Kibbutz Givat Brener, dispatched on May 21, 1958, and arrived in Tel Aviv on May 28. After inspection by the military censor the letter was sealed. It was marked with Tel Aviv's "Forced Registration – to charge 150 pr" cachet, and registered with a "Tel Aviv – Yaffo 35" R-label. The letter was forwarded to Givat Brener on the same day, where 150 prutot of Postage Dues III – double the registration fee of 75 prutot, were applied.

Return Postage Guaranteed

Commercial Printed Matter when undelivered and returned to sender as requested, were surcharged with a Printed Matter delivery service fee. The Post Office, when handling "Return to sender" with "Return postage guaranteed" items, collated letters from the same sender and indicated the total return fees on the "Top of the Pile" cover, while affixing the relevant Postage Dues.

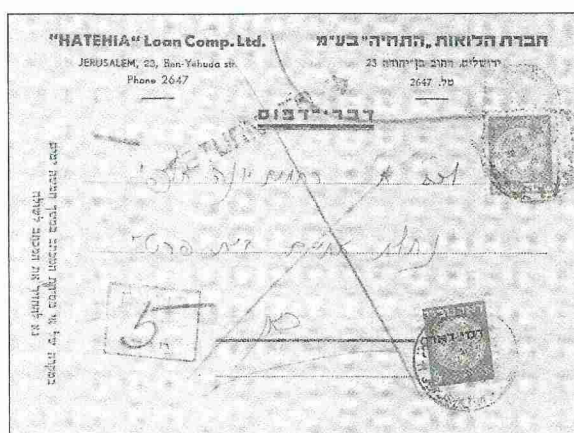


Fig. 87: A Jerusalem locally addressed printed matter dispatched on April 23, 1949. As the addressee was deceased, the letter was returned to sender as requested. It was marked with the Jerusalem "To pay" cachet, and was charged on April 25 with 5 mils, the inland "return to sender" fee for printed matter.

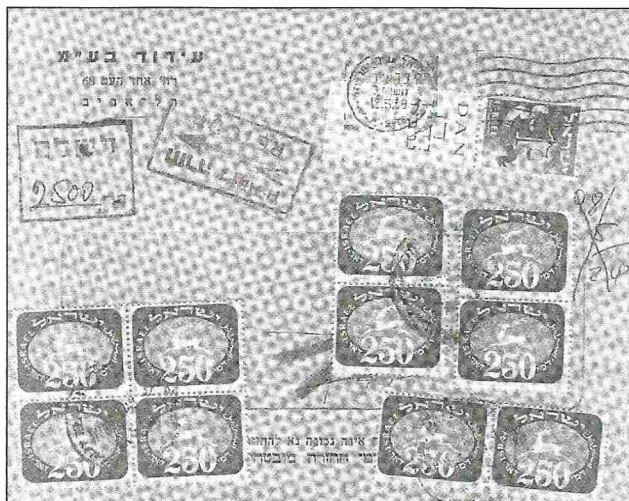


Fig. 88: A Tel Aviv locally addressed commercial letter dispatched on May 12, 1958. It was undelivered as the addressee was not found and was returned to sender as “return fee guaranteed.” The letter was charged on May 20 with 2500 prutot of Postage Due III - 250 prutot, the inland letter rate, time 50 being the “top of a pile” of 50 undelivered letters returned to the same sender.

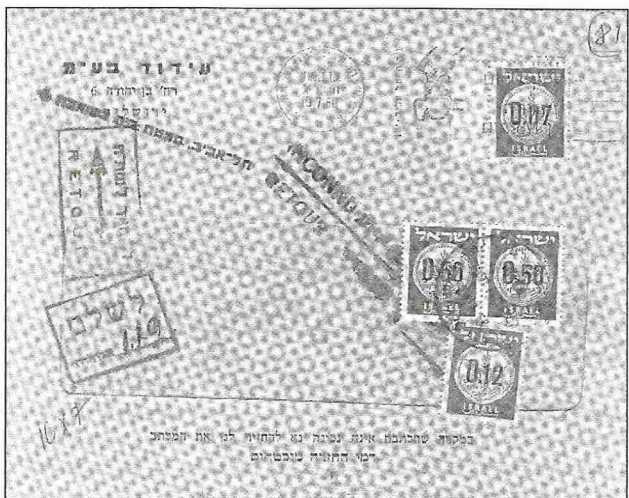


Fig. 89: A Tel Aviv locally addressed commercial letter dispatched on July 19, 1960. As the addressee was unknown, the letter was returned to sender as “return postage guaranteed”. The letter was charged on July 24 with 112 agorot of the new Provisional stamps. 8 agorot, the new inland letter rate, time 16 being the “top of a pile” of 16 undelivered letters returned to the same sender.

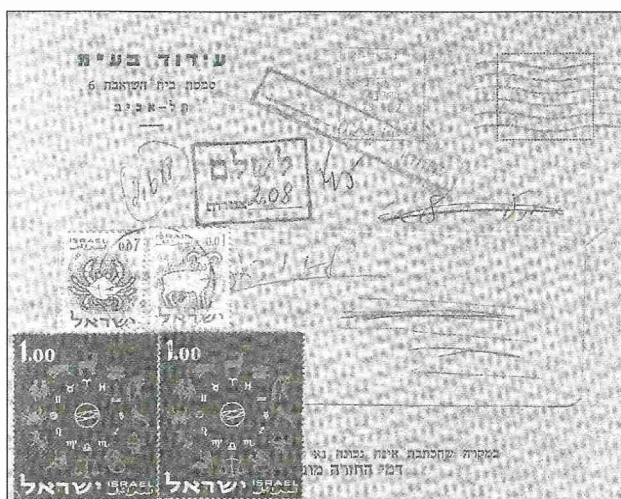


Fig. 90: A Tel Aviv locally addressed commercial letter dispatched on March 29, 1962. As the addressee was unknown the letter was returned to sender, as “return postage guaranteed”. The letter was charged on April 4 with 208 agorot of Zodiac I and II stamps: 8 agorot, the new inland letter rate, time 26 being the top of a pile of 26 undelivered letters returned to the same sender.



Fig. 91: A Tel Aviv locally addressed commercial letter dispatched on October 25, 1968. As the addressee was unknown the letter was returned to sender as “return postage guaranteed.” The letter was charged on November 7 with 528 agorot. 12 agorot, the inland letter rate, time 44 being the “top of a pile” of 44 undelivered covers returned to the same sender. It was franked with a mixed franking, Town Emblems I – of 8 and 20 agorot, plus Airmail Export – 300 agorot, plus a pair of the Tabira National Stamp Exhibition – 100 agorot stamps.

Double Taxation

Underpaid incoming foreign mail that were taxed, the addressee was not found and the charge was not collected, the affixed Postage Dues were annulled with a "CHARGE NOT COLLECTED/FRESH LABEL REQUIRED" cachet. The letter was charged a second time, the appropriate Postage Due stamps were applied and the fee was collected from the addressee. In case of underfranked domestic mail that were taxed and not claimed by the addressee, the mail were returned to sender and a return delivery fee was charged.

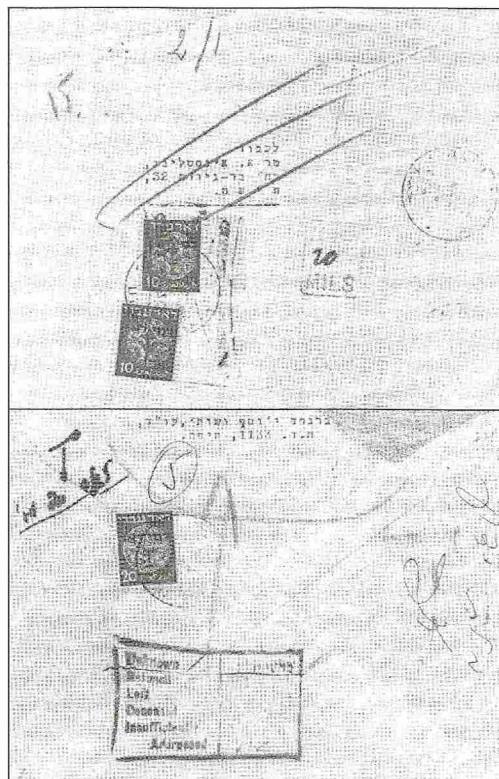


Fig. 92: A Haifa locally addressed letter dispatched on June 18, 1948. The letter was marked with the re-introduced British Mandate "To Pay" cachet as the original stamp had been removed. It was taxed on June 22 with 20 mils Doar Ivri Postage Dues (2 x 10 mils stamps on the cover front), double the inland letter rate. The reverse of the cover has a cachet in which "addressee unknown" has been indicated and the tax stamps were annulled with the re-introduced Mandate cachet, "CHARGE NOT COLLECTED/FRESH LABEL REQUIRED".

The letter was returned to sender, a return delivery fee was charged and a 20 mils Postage Due stamp was applied on reverse.



Fig. 93: An underpaid airmail letter from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Tel Aviv, dispatched in early January 1950. The letter was marked with Tel Aviv's "To Pay" cachet and the deficiency was charged on January 7, using 25 prutot of Postage Due II. The Postage Due stamps were annulled with a "CHARGE NOT COLLECTED/FRESH LABEL REQUIRED" cachet as the charge was not collected. An additional charge of 25 prutot was added on January 9.



Fig. 94: An underpaid commercial letter from France to a Tel Aviv firm, dispatched on May 7, 1957. The letter was marked with Tel Aviv's "To Pay" cachet and the deficiency was charged on May 13 with 110 prutot of Postage Due III. The Postage Due stamps were "Annulled" (using a Hebrew cachet), as the firm had moved. The letter was redirected and charged a second time on May 14 in Herzliya. 110 prutot were charged in a very rare mixed franking – pair of 50 prutot of Postage Due III and a pair of 5 prutot of the 3rd Coin issue.

* * * * *

* Short Notes and Discoveries *

* * * * *

The Ottoman Period

T.P.O. Nablous-Caiffa - Second Stage (*Yoel Amir, Bnei-Dror*)

This unique postmark, first presented by Zvi Alexander¹, was researched by me in the historical aspect, based on the identity of the addressee and content of the postcard. The background story (as deciphered from the PC) involves the writer of the postcard², a relative of the addressee, Joh. Pross of Haifa, who dined with friends in a Damascus hotel, after a day long travel by train from Haifa to Damascus. The group was scheduled to continue just before midnight to Aleppo. The date is the 7th August 1914, a few days after the outbreak of W.W.I; the maritime route from Haifa to Europe was blocked, and those trying to get there were forced to take the land route to Constantinople.

The message of Fig. 96 was penciled on a pre ink-addressed and stamped postcard, and the postcard was dropped, just before leaving to Aleppo, in the T.P.O mailbox at the Damascus train station. The following morning, the postcard of Fig. 96, addressed to Haifa, was delivered to the Damascus-Haifa train and somewhere en route the T.P.O clerk used the "T.P.O Nablous-Caiffa" postmark set to the 8th August 1914, instead of the appropriate "T.P.O Damas-Caiffa" one. The train arrived in Haifa in the evening, and the cancelled postcard was delivered to the local post office, where it received the arrival Caiffa postmark dated 9th August.

Due to the outbreak of the war, the planned Nablous-Caiffa railway (and T.P.O) was in fact never opened to civilian use. My second article (HLP 97-98) suggested an explanation to the fact that only one "T.P.O Nablous-Caiffa" postmark (of Fig. 96) is known to exist, except for the one in the Ottoman postal records, which is shown with the same date of the 8th August 1914.

As far as I know, the debate on the authenticity of the "T.P.O Nablous-Caiffa" postmark on the PC of Fig. 96 has not been concluded, but in the meantime I have found another document, shown in Fig. 97, which sheds more light on the story unfolded by the PC of Fig. 96.

The postcard of Fig. 97 was mailed on 22 September 1919 from Neuweiler (Wurttemberg, Germany) addressed to Joh. Pross of Haifa, received the arrival

(1) "T.P.O Nablous – Caiffa: Is the Postmark Genuine, Fake or a Fabrication?" HLP 93-94, (2003).

(2) "Comments to the Article about the Originality of the Postcard with T.P.O.," HLP 95-96 & 97-98 (2004).

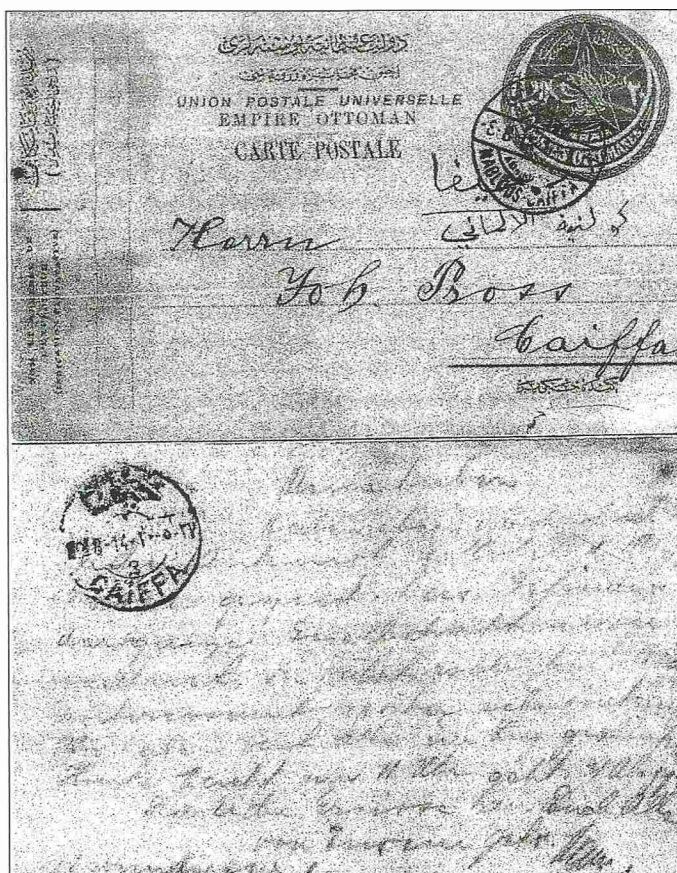


Figure 96

postmark “O.E.T.A- E.E.F HAIFA” dated 17 October 1919. The PC, written in German and signed “Johannes”, opens with the same “My dear !” (reserved for family correspondence) as the PC of Fig. 96. The handwriting of the 1919 PC (text and address), though written in ink, is identical to the penciled handwriting of the 1914 document.

In the text, Johannes complains on the cold weather and longs for the warm homeland, hoping that the “Palestine issue” will be solved and “they” (he and his friends) will be able to return home. The PC mentions names of other persons and places near Stuttgart, all related to the Templer families of Haifa.

With the help of Prof. Martin Higgins³, I reconstructed the story unfolded by the two postcards, as follows:

(3) Martin P. Higgins, a professor of Slavic languages in England, is the topmost expert of Templer genealogy.

At the outbreak of W.W.I young German nationals were summoned for army service. Johannes Pross (age 21) was called up. With the sea route already blocked, he and other young local Templers took the 7th August 1914 Haifa-Damascus train in the direction of Constantinople and Germany. To keep in touch, his father or the old hotelier uncle gave the young recruit one (or more?) pre-stamped, ink addressed blank postcards, one of which was mailed from Damascus as the PC of Fig. 96.

Johannes Pross Jr. survived the war, and in 1919 was marooned in Germany, unable to return to his home in Haifa, now occupied by the British army. He staid with relatives in Neuweiler, the native town of the Pross family, from which they emigrated 50 years earlier to the Holy Land. Other young Templers, who served in the German army, were staying with relatives in the same area.

The addressee of the 1919 PC was the father of Johannes Pross. In 1920 the exiled Templers and ex-servicemen were allowed by the British to return to their colonies and settlements in Palestine.

The findings of the 1919 postcard support the background story of the "T.P.O Nablous-Caiffa" postmark, but add nothing to the question of the postmark authenticity. It is possible that between the 8th August 1914 and 1919 Johannes Pross Jr. sent more postcards or letters addressed to his father (or uncle) **Joh. Pross in Haifa**. I urge, therefore, my philatelist colleagues to scan their W.W.I Palestine – Germany collections for more documents related to this riddle. It might well be that more postcards were mailed in 1914 by Johannes Pross Jr. en route between Damascus and his destination in Germany. Such postcards mailed and dated after the 8th August 1914 might support the assumption that the "T.P.O Nablous-Caiffa" postmark of Fig. 96 is authentic.

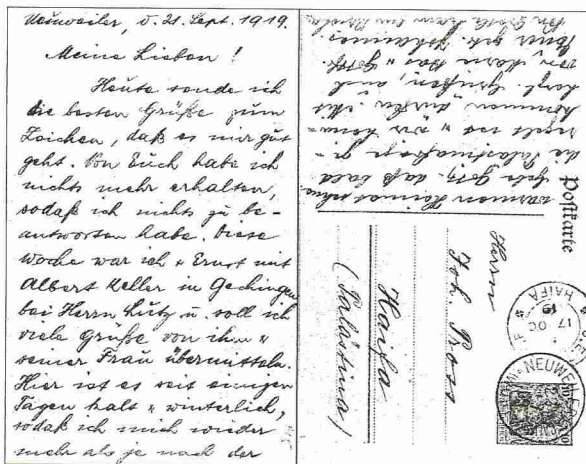


Figure 97

The Transition Period

Courier Covers from Cyprus to Besieged Jerusalem, 1948

(Lvi Alexander & Lvi Aloni)

Recently two unusual courier letters to Jerusalem have been discovered. One of them (Fig. 98) arrived in Jerusalem on 11th May 1948, which is the earliest incoming courier letter known so far from this period. The second letter arrived in Jerusalem on 28 June 1948.

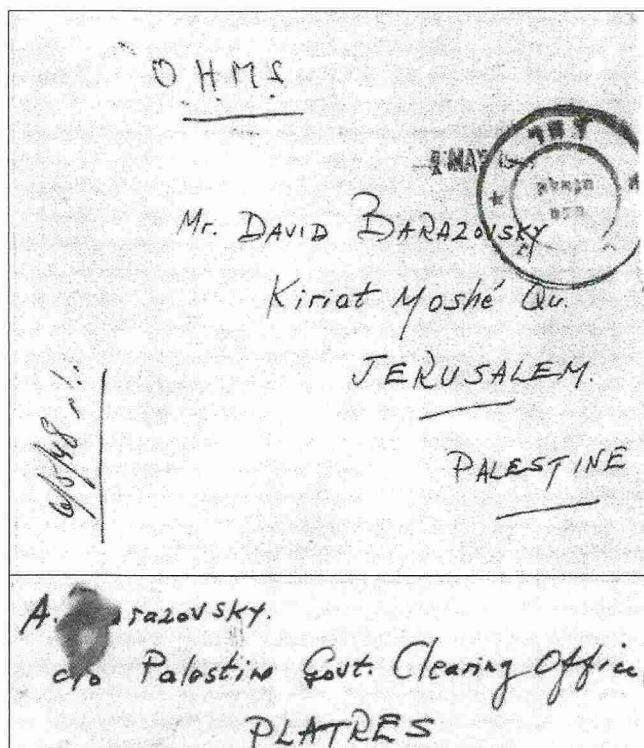


Figure 98

Both letters were sent from Cyprus by A. Barazovsky who served as a civil servant at the British Foreign Office in the "Palestine Govt. Clearance Office", at that time stationed at Platres, Cyprus. They are addressed to his Brother David Barazovsky in Jerusalem. One letter is marked O.H.M.S. and as such was exempt of postage, and has no postal markings of the Cyprian postal authority. The letter is a double courier from Cyprus to Tel Aviv and from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, where it entered the postal system. The only postal markings on this letter are a Jerusalem date-less "Minhelet Ha'am" postmark and a single line office dater of 11th May

as was usual in that period (only the last digit of the "11" is visible). All other known courier letters to Jerusalem from later dates are cancelled by the "rosette" postmark of the sorting office.

The letter was written in Cyprus on 6th May 1948s endorsed in manuscript on the back. We do not know for sure how it was brought to Tel Aviv: by British plane coming from Cyprus, or by a private courier on board a civilian flight like the flights chartered by the "Joint" from Aviron" or by Pelrtours Agency, but this time without marking the company's logo? From Tel Aviv the letter was flown to Jerusalem as a privileged mail (note that the Jerusalem air strip "MAROM" was operational from the 6th of May 1948).*

The letter has another interesting aspect. It was sent from a British unit marked O.H.M.S and was treated and delivered untaxed by an unauthorized (with respect to the British rule and the UPU) postal administration, "Minhelet Ha'am", on 11th may, still under the British Mandate.

It is the earliest recorded courier letter to Jerusalem, the next to the earliest letter reported being from Tel Aviv, 27th May, more than 15 days later. Also known is a double courier from Cyprus that reached Jerusalem on 16th June from the same British Govt. Office in Cyprus.

The second letter which was recently discovered (Fig. 99) is from the same correspondence. It is franked with 2 1/2 piasters Cyprian stamps, but was never posted in Cyprus, probably because the sender knew that at that time, end of June 1948, there were no postal connections between Cyprus and the State of Israel. Only on 27th July the regular and air mail services with England and the Empire were resumed (see "Notice to the Public No. 36" of 27th July, 1948).

The letter was carried to Israel by a courier and we face the same uncertainty as with the first letter, regarding its detailed route. At that time - end of June - Jerusalem was not besieged and the courier must have dropped the uncanceled mail from Cyprus in one of the mail boxes in Jerusalem. The letter subsequently arrived at the sorting post office where it was cancelled upon arrival, (against UPU regulations) by the "Egg" postmark dated 28th June 1948, and delivered to the addressee - a very unusual procedure for foreign letters.

There exists another letter from the same Cyprian office to Jerusalem which was treated the same way and on the same date, so it is reasonable to assume that the courier brought from Cyprus at least two letters.

* See HLP# 8, "The Air Mail from Besieged Jerusalem, 1948": Y. Levanon, "Personal Recollections"; Y. Rimon, "Philatelic Review" - (1981) PP. 363-379.

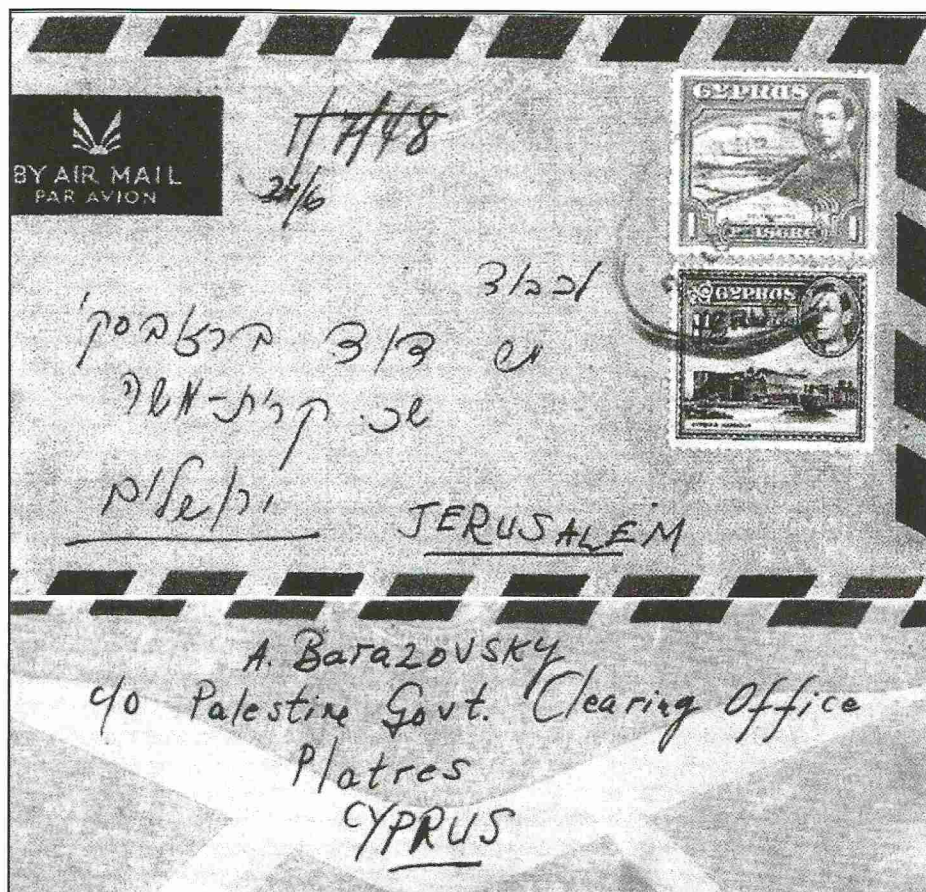


Figure 99

The First Day (?) Use of Stamps by the Haifa Messenger Group

(Zvi Shimony)

The story of the Messenger Group – those four brave youngsters who took upon themselves the dangerous task of keeping up the postal communication in the Jewish quarters of Haifa, which was then (Feb. – May, 1948) terror struck by the Arabs – is well known^{1,3}. Amikam^{1,2}, in his basic early work on this subject, states:

“...They issued stamps of their own, which were affixed on each envelope entrusted to them. The postage for an ordinary letter within the limits of Hadar Hacarmel was 15 mils and outside Hadar 20 mils... **At first they accepted printed matter in open covers at the rate of 5 mils per envelope but this was found to be unprofitable and they were unable to continue this rate.**” (bold letters by Z.S.).

The existence, “At first”, of the 5 mils Printed Matter rate led some researchers to presume that “At first” they did not use stamps at all, as the issued stamps, as we know, are only of denominations 15 and 20 mils. The important question, postal history wise, is what was the date of introduction, or better asked, the First Day of Use of those ugly – but so attractive for a dedicated philatelist – labels, was not answered by Amikam nor by anybody else, as far as I know.

In 1980 a short note was published³ concerning a logbook of a company (Rasco) where a daily list of addressees of letters handed in to the Messengers, with the corresponding charge to be paid, were noted. It was a pretty demonstration of a part of the postal schedule of the Messengers, but nothing more. Figure 100 shows the cover page of this logbook which is a standard Duplicate-Book with “The Messengers” (השליחים) in manuscript on top.

The main importance of this logbook had to wait a decade more until the sharp eyes of Ya’acov Tsachor noted the following details in the pages of the logbook: On page 14 top the (Hebrew) manuscript, “2/3/48 by the “Messengers” / With stamps!” (The underline is in the original; see Fig. 101). Then there is the usual list of letters handed in on that day. This page, of 2/3/48, is the first one which is inscribed “עם בולים” (with stamps), the previous pages (which are of successive dates) missing these words but the following pages (i.e. of 3/3, 4/3, etc.) having them, always somehow emphasized (by underlines, or exclamation mark, etc.) (See Fig. 102).

A logical conclusion which would seem very probable is, that the 2 March was the first day in which they introduced and put into use their self-made stamps, but initially and through 1.2-1.3/48 they operated their postal service without using stamps, only marking the letters delivered by them with their rubber handstamps (see Fig. 103), the First Day of use (of at least part of these stamps) being **2.3.48!**

It is however rather hard to believe that this period (of the service without using stamps) was so long - more than a month. To substantiate or refute this “theory”, more letters of the Messengers, especially from February, and clearly dated, have to be checked. Readers who possess such examples are kindly requested to send photocopies to the Editor.

References:

- (1) הוצאה פרטית, “דואר השליחים בחיפה (1951)”, י. עמיקם
- (2) I. Amikam, “Haifa Messenger Service of 1948”, THLP 13, (Nov. 1955), p. 335.
- (3) Z. Shimony, “A logbook of the Haifa Messenger Post”, HLPH 5, (1980) p. 219.
- (4) Z. Shimony, “דואר השליחים בחיפה”, (1948), Catalogue, National Stamp Exhibition “Haifa ‘87”.

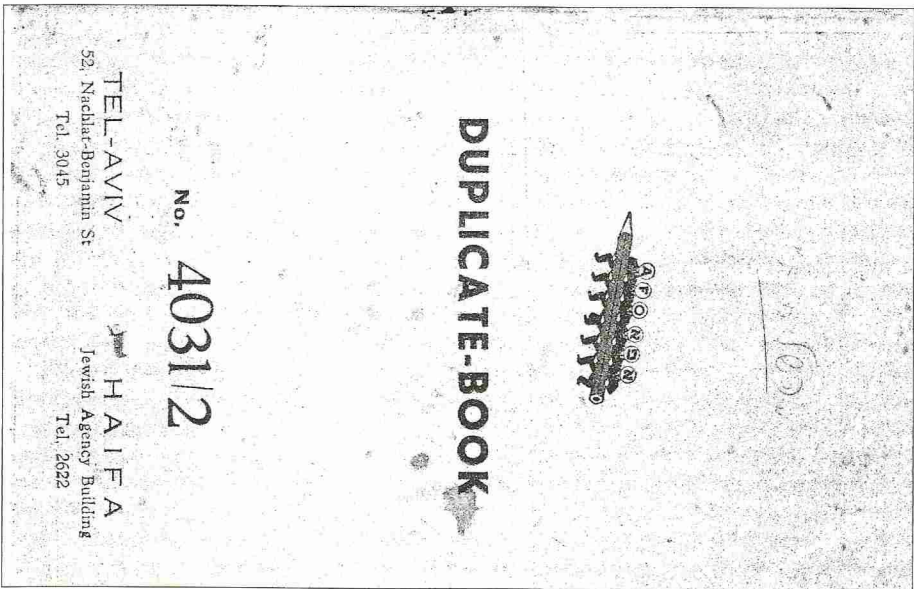


Figure 100

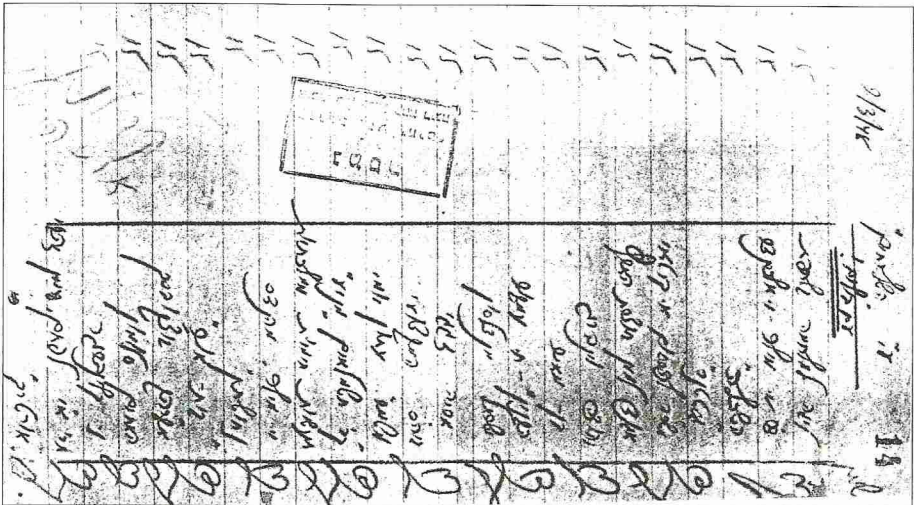


Figure 101

17 מרץ 1948

שולם בבולים שלהם

1	30	מ.א. שולם	1
2	30	מ.א. שולם	2
3	30	מ.א. שולם	3
4	15	מ.א. שולם	4
5	15	מ.א. שולם	5
6	15	מ.א. שולם	6
<hr/>			
135			

Fig. 102: "שולם בבולים שלהם" (Paid with their own stamps) 17 March, 1948 - part of the page.

לפני

הנהגה

ביוקלים ארץ כדור

הנהגה

הנהגה

נמסר
ע"י
קבוצת "הש"י"ת"
חפ"ר טל. 2302 קפה ריגה

Figure 103

Last Day and First Day on the same Cover in Jerusalem 1948 (*L. Aloni*)

In the story of Jerusalem siege the date of 20th June 1948 has a very special postal significance. This was the First Day of Doar Ivri stamps "sold over the counter" in the branch post offices*, after it had been brought to Jerusalem by the convoy of Friday the 18th of June. It was also the last day of use of the "rosette" – the postmark of the provisional sorting post office in Rehavia, which was in use from the 13th of May till the 20th of June**.

Few courier letters franked with Doar Ivri stamps cancelled by the "rosette" postmark at earlier dates are known, but as these Doar Ivri stamps had not been sold in Jerusalem (but were brought there by some chance courier) these letters are not considered "First Day" of Doar Ivri in Jerusalem.

A few First Day covers postmarked 20 June 1948 from the B.P.O.'S are known as well, but the combination of First Day of Doar Ivri stamps and Last Day of the "rosette" postmark is rare (Fig. 105).

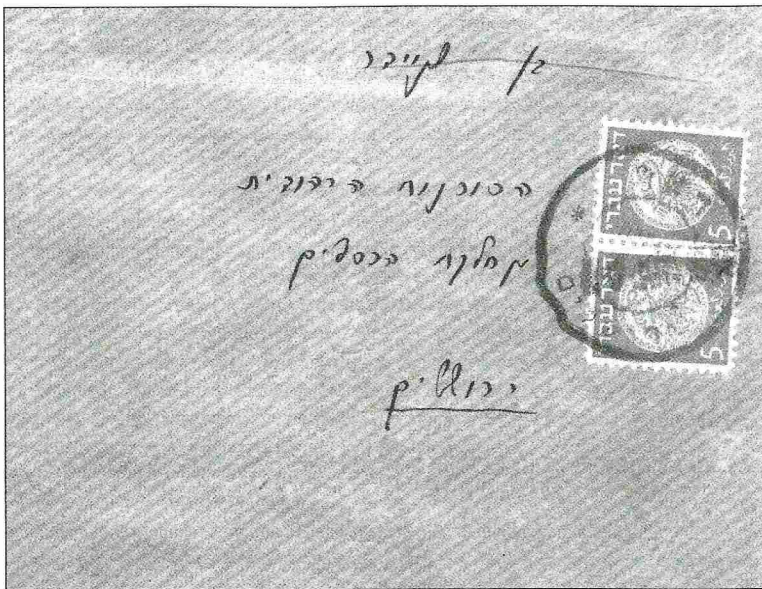


Figure 105

* The Head Post Office opened only on the next day, 21 June.

** It is to be noted again that the 11th May date, which had been considered as the First Day of the Rosette, proved to be wrong (see Karpovsky, HLP# 33-34 (1988), p. 752).

PHILATELIC NEWS

New Special Cancellations

This section is reprinted here courtesy of "Shovel", Israel Philatelic Federation Magazine. The Hebrew notes under the slogans give; The date of use, the type, which is generally either a First Day (of a new stamp), or a commemorative special postmark (of something), the subject, and the place of use. Most of this information appear also in English in the postmark itself.



10.10.2004 – חותמת אירוע
השקת קו הרכבת לתנ"ך,
נמל תעופה בן גוריון



28.10.2004 – חותמת אירוע
טקס חנוכת טרמינל 3,
נמל תעופה בן גוריון



12.12.2004 – יום הנובלות
בארץ ישראל
MAILBOXES IN
ERETZ-ISRAEL



14.12.2004 – בנק ישראל
50 שנים
בנק ישראל



28.8.2004 – תל אביב
תל אביב



28.8.2004 – חתמת אירוע
מדליית זהב לישראל,
תל-אביב



16.11.2004 – חתמת אירוע,
הכנס הבינלאומי ה-15
של האיגוד הישראלי לזכות
ירושלים



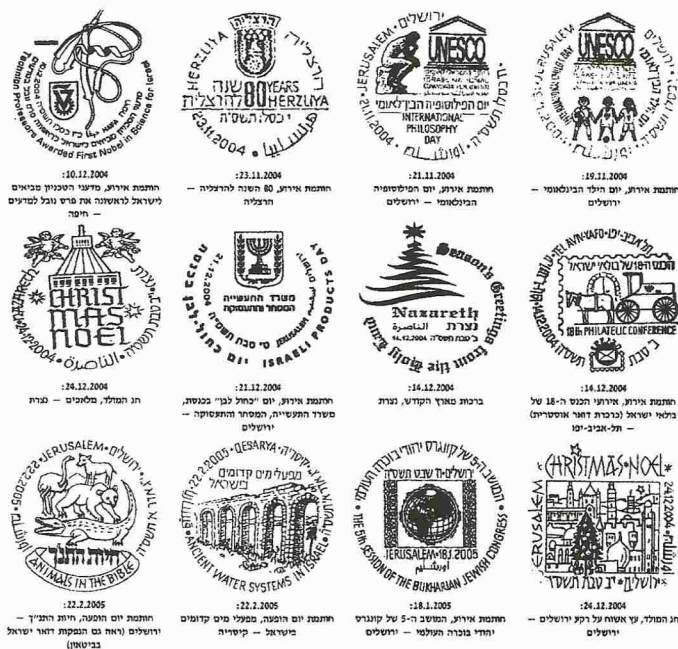
16.11.2004 – חתמת אירוע,
יום הסובלנות –
ירושלים



28.8.2004 – חתמת אירוע,
טרמינל 3



28.8.2004 – חתמת אירוע,
היבט בעולם
סירת בבוזה טרמינל 3



New Stamps and Postal Stationery

The following stamps and postal stationery were issued in the last period.

- 10.8.04: Prestamped (imprinted) envelopes of 3 sizes for inland use (see Fig. 106) – (a) 23x11 cm., price IS 2.30 ; (b) 25x18 cm., IS 2.40; (c) 34x24 cm., IS 2.60. They were sold only in packages of 500.
- 31.8.04: Festivals 2004 – Bread in Israel (1.50 Cereal Ear, 2.40 Hand Mill, 2.70 Bakery Oven); The Ben-Gurion Heritage Institute (IS 2.50); Educational Institutes in Eretz-Israel (2.20 Hertzliya Hebrew High School); Adventure Stories (2.20 “Eight on the Trail of One”, 2.50 “The HASAMBA Series”, 2.60 “Our Gang”).
- 2.11.04: Ben-Gurion Airport new Terminal (No. 3) (IS 2.70).
- 14.12.04: Philately Day – Post Boxes in the Holy Land (2.10 Austrian Post Box from the Ottoman Period, 2.20 British Mandate Post Box, 3.30 Israel State Post Box); “Telabul 2004” – Draw Yourself a Stamp (IS 1.30); 50 Years to the Bank of Israel (IS 6.20); Do’armat label “Christmas 2004” (Face values 1.30, 1.40, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.80, 2.90, 4.10).

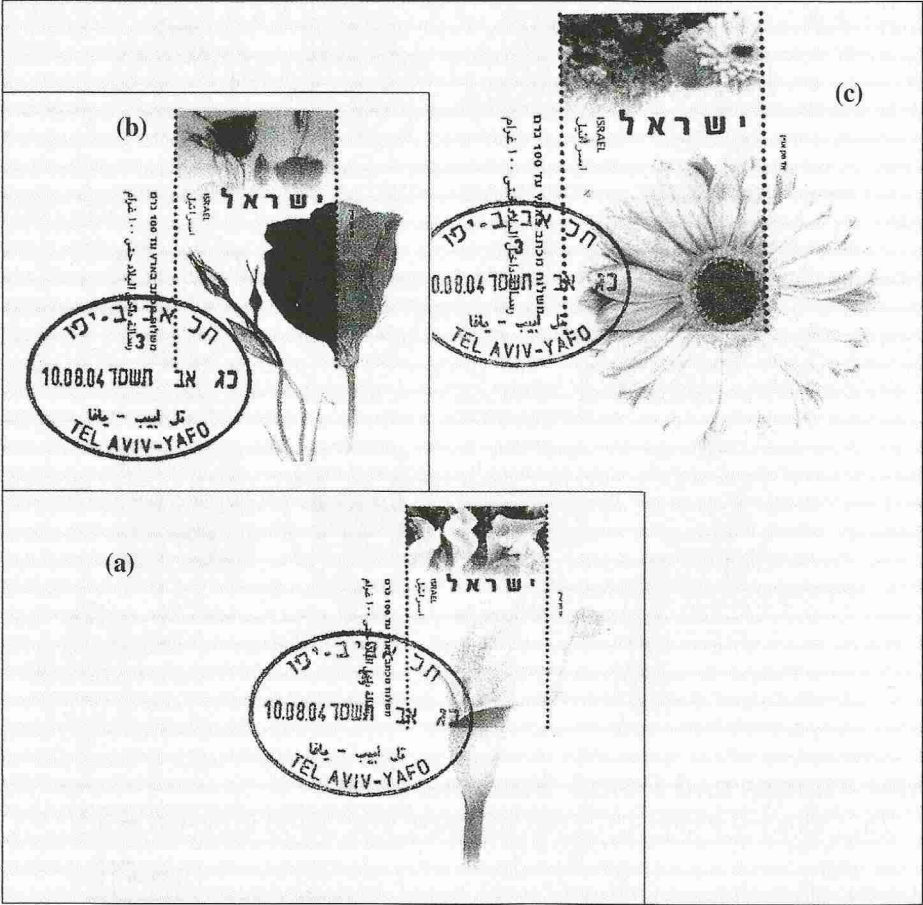


Figure 106

New Postage Labels in Israel – DO'ARMAT

After a long intermission since the stoppage of using the Klussendorf (K.) automatic stamp selling machines (which operated in the period 9 July 1990 - 1999), a new type of automatic stamp selling machines was introduced, first in Netaniya BPO, on 19 Feb 2004, and later in additional places around the country. Like their predecessors the Klussendorfs, each machine has an Indicator Number* identifying the machine and its labels, the number being printed on the top left background “stamp” (see Fig. 65 in the previous Issue, # 97-98). They are fabricated by the French company AMIEL (Model CIMA 2050) and have been activated in several places according to the following table announced by the Postal Authority (see Fig. 107 which depicts the table from Public Notice 7/04 completing the first Notice 3/04 from 10 Feb 2004).

לוח הזמנים להפעלת מכונות "דוארמט"			
מספר היכר	טלפון	כתובת יחידת הדואר	תאריך הפעלה
008	09-8627801	נתניה, רח' סמילנסקי 8	יום ה' 19.2.2004
010	02-6247533	ירושלים, רח' אגריפס 42	יום ב' 23.2.2004
002	04-9920180	נהריה, רח' הגעתון 40	יום ה' 26.2.2004
009	03-5228009	תל-אביב, רח' אבן גבירול 108	יום ב' 1.03.2004
011	08-9466460	רחובות, רח' הרצל 165	יום ה' 4.03.2004
012	08-6295847	באר שבע, שד' הנשיאים 9	יום ה' 11.3.2004
004	04-9987516	כרמיאל, רח' הגליל 2	יום ה' 18.3.2004
003	04-9910023	עכו, רח' העצמאות 11	יום ב' 22.3.2004
007	04-6342760	חדרה, רח' הרברט סמואל 54	יום ה' 25.3.2004
005	04-6790066	טבריה, כיכר העצמאות	יום ג' 30.3.2004
006	04-8381067	חיפה, שד' וודג'ווד 9	יום ב' 19.4.2004
013	08-6272302	אילת, שד' התמרים	יום ה' 22.4.2004

ב ב ר כ ה ,

טל אמיד

מנהלת תחום שירותי אשנב

Figure 107

* This number, which identifies a certain machine and the labels produced by it, is very easily altered in the CIMA machines, so there may be some 'problems' to specialist collectors. The term Indicator Number, which was used here, is not necessarily the term adopted universally; it was used here due to a certain similarity it has to the I.N. of Registration Labels.

Its main information translates as follows:

First Date	Address	Machine Indicator
19.2.2004	Netaniya	008
23.2.2004	Jerusalem	010
26.2.2004	Nahariya	002
01.3.2004	Tel Aviv	009
04.3.2004	Rehovot	011
11.3.2004	Beer Sheva	012
18.3.2004	Carmiel	004
22.3.2004	Akko (Acre)	003
25.3.2004	Hadera	007
30.3.2004	Tiberias	005
19.4.2004	Haifa	006
22.4.2004	Eilat	013

The Philatelic Service issues to subscribers in this category labels with # 001.

The CIMA Postage Labels are different from the Klussendorf's in the following parameters: They are issued as self-adhesive labels with a limited number of nominal values (see later) whereas the K.'s were issued on ordinary stamp gummed paper with a large number of possible nominals – in fact every value from NIS .05 up to NIS 15.00 in steps of 0.05 could be obtained from the machine on the spot.

The various nominal values of the CIMA labels are determined by the machine owner (the Philatelic Service in the present case) and are generally chosen to be a set of values which are popular postal rates at the time, and may be changed by a qualified technician. From the beginning of the present period these values are (in NIS):

- 1.30 – An ordinary inland letter, not exceeding 20 grs.,
- 1.40 – air mail postcard,
- 2.10 – a letter to Europe not exceeding 20 grs.,
- 2.20 – an inland letter, grs. 20-100,
- 2.30 – a letter to Africa, Asia, or USA not exceeding 20 grs.,
- 2.80 – a letter to Oceania or South Africa not exceeding 20 grs.,
- 2.90 – a letter to Europe, grs. 20-50,
- 4.10 – a letter to Africa, Asia, or USA, grs. 20-50.

So these are the (8) values of obtainable CIMA postage labels at the present. Up to the present time we therefore have $(3 \times 8 \times 13 =)$ 312 different CIMA postage labels, taking into account the three different backgrounds (Fig. 108), the eight face values and the 13 Machine Indicator Nos.

It should be noted that the labels supplied by the P.S. to subscribers of Postage

Labels (and now having the code 96 for CIMA labels) were only of one value (NIS 1.30) for the first four issues, and only starting from the fifth issue will it supply automatically the 8 different nominals as explained above.

P.S. To those of us dedicated collectors of all the sub- types of the machines' labels (e.g., the different machine numbers) , who are ready to walk (better to run) many kms to get some new machine labels, we can happily inform that arriving sweating and hardly breathing at the machine's spot, finding that its stamp selling unit is **not operating**, there is still a way to survive: You buy from the CIMA a Telecard and a prepaid envelope (Wow!! It works!!), you call or write to the Philatelic Service that you want your subscription to include code 96 and you don't have to worry anymore – you will get every new issue of the DO'ARMAT labels directly at your home (Only, what a pity, you will get only the labels of Machine # 1, which show the numerals 001 printed on them!!).

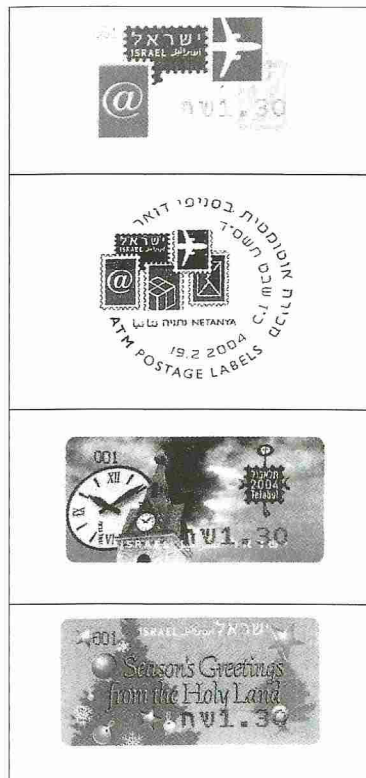


Fig. 108: The first three issues of the CIMA postage labels initiated on 19.2.2004 (from machine No. 001, nominal value 1.30) (from top to bottom):

- a) First definitive CIMA label;
- b) Postmark of the Day of Issue;
- c) Special CIMA issue honouring Telabul 2004 Stamp Exhibition (F.D. 3.5.2004);
- d) "Season's Greetings from the Holy Land" (F.D. 14. 12. 2004).

Members' Free Advertisement

Every Member is entitled to a three line ad in the Bulletin once a year

Help Needed!! For a research in preparation for a monograph on Mandate Taxi Mail. I am looking for photocopies (both sides) of all taxi covers and any ephemera, ads, announcements of service, receipts, tickets. In short, anything that would help determine which of the many taxi companies in fact carried mail. Any help will be acknowledged.

Art Groten, POBox 30, Fishkill, NY 12524; Email: info@printerstone.com

"Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period (1948)", By Shimony, Rimon, and Karpovsky. Published by the HLPB Society (See review of this book in the IP Vol. LV, No 4 (Aug. 2004) p. 159, or (in Hebrew) "Shovel", No. 53/54, p. 28. Orders: POB 10175, Jerusalem, 91101 Israel.

Email: Carmelas@Netvision.Net.IL, Tel. (972) (0)2-6711719, FAX (0)2-6731408. Price \$49 (+Postage), NIS 225 (PP in Israel).



STOP PRESS

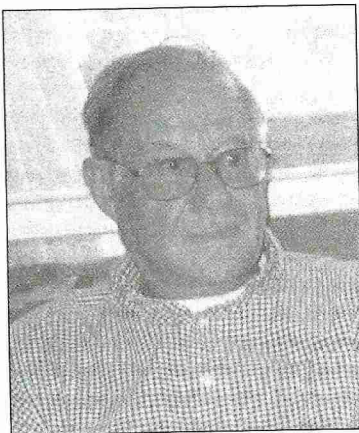
The Editorial Board and the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel (HLPB) are very sorry to announce the sudden death of our co-editor

Emanuel (Ami) Glassman, Z.L., who was one of the founders of the Society (in 1977) and served its causes faithfully ever since.

He passed away on Thursday, February 17, 2005 at the age of 76 while visiting the International Book Fair in Jerusalem.

We send our sincere condolences to the Glassman Family and deeply participate in their sorrow. May his soul be bound in the bond of life

(תנצב"ה).



Emanuel Glassman
(12.1928-17.2.2005)

תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל
עמותה מסונפת להתאחדות בולאי ישראל



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הדואר של ארץ-ישראל



מכתב מאנגליה (1.11.1854) לירושלים (30.11.1854), שדוור ע"י ספינת הדואר ליכורגה דרך מרסיי, סמירנה, ביירות ויפו (חותמת צרפתית "Jaffa" חד-שורתית). מבויל בבולי אנגליה 1 שילינג, 1 פני ו-2 פני משנת 1854. זהו המכתב המוקדם ביותר הידוע שהגיע לא"י והוא נושא בולי דואר.

Letter from Derby, England (1.11.1854), carried by the Paquebot "Lycurge", via Marseille, Smyrne, Beiruth, and Jaffa (transit French single-line "Jaffa") to Jerusalem (30.11.1854). Franked 1/3 shilling by 1/- embossed, 1 p and 2 p engraved issues of 1854, it has the record of being the earliest known incoming mail to the Holy Land, franked by postage stamps. (See article on p. 748).