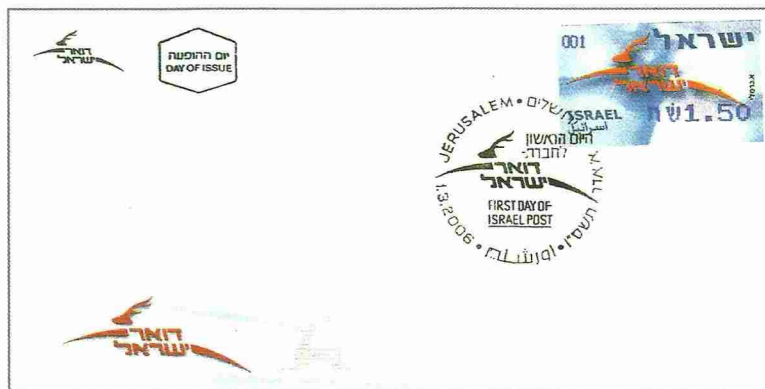
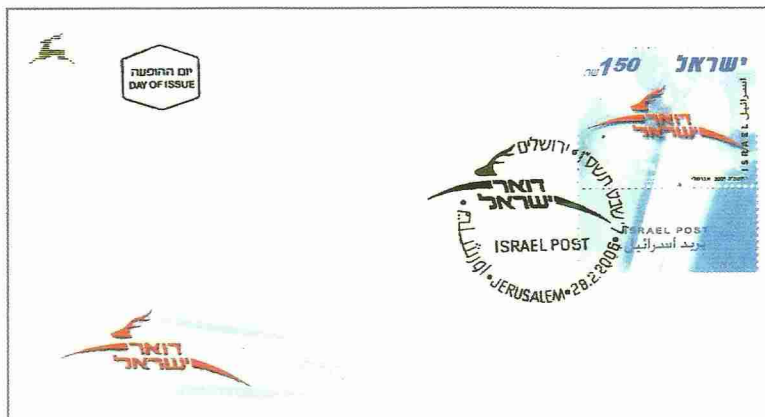


Holy Land Postal History

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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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Congratulations

The Holy Land Postal History Society congratulates its member **Prof. Zvi Rappoport** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on obtaining

the “**Israel Prize**” (פרס ישראל) in Chemistry for his work on Mechanisms of Organic Reactions.
KO-LECHAI, Zvi and best wishes for your on-going research!!

Editorial Note: Ya'akov Shabtai, author of the article “Israel Post Office Taxing Practices, 1948-1975” (HLP# # 99-100, pp. 778-795), would like to correct his unintentional omission of the important article by Itamar Karpovsky, “Taxed letters during the 1948 Interim Period “ (HLP# # 45-46, pp. 216-237).

Preserving Stamp Collections

A Fight Against Biologic and Chemical Destruction*

Fred Korr, Los Angeles, Ca

In physics, the three laws of thermodynamics provide a general description of the way the universe works. The second law notes that the entropy ("randomness") of the universe is always increasing.

One can cut and build roads through the jungle. Without constant road maintenance, fungi, plants and bacteria will ultimately move in, decompose and destroy the road, and return the jungle to its native condition. Although a road that is built in a temperate climate will be subject to less intense environmental pressures of decay, road maintenance would still be required.

In general terms, philatelists must fight a similar, ongoing battle to maintain their collections. Variations in the pressures of the environment dictate the intensity with which efforts must be made to maintain a stamp collection. Yet, even when stamps are stored in the optimal temperature and humidity conditions found in museums, periodic efforts and knowledge of conservation experts are still required to assure that these paper-based treasures are well maintained.

Not all collectors may have seen the deterioration that the environment may have upon paper. Figure 1 shows the decomposition of papers held in Cuba's national archives prior to the introduction of current conservation technology and funding, provided in the 1990s, by American conservationists.¹ Stamps of course, are subject to the same problems of paper decay.

We collectors must not be lax in maintaining our own collections. We must be aware of possible sources of damage to our collections and the most current methods

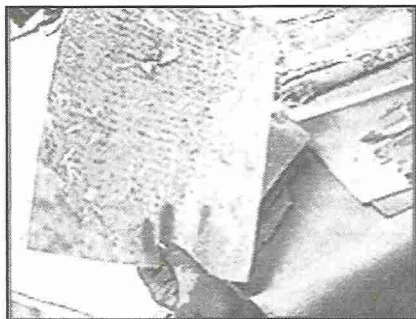


Figure 1

to conserve stamps. With care and with continued examination of our stamps and storage methods, we will be able to examine and study the stamps we have collected for many years.

The very first step in conservation is also the easiest. Always wash and dry your hands before working on your collection. Dirt and oils on the skin can damage stamps. It can be very disheartening to find a clear image of your fingerprints on the adhesive

* Reprinted from the Israel Philatelist, Vol. LVI, No. 3 (June 2005), No 5 (Oct. 2005), No. 1 (Feb. 2006).

side of a stamp. Stamps should only be handled with stamp-tongs. No food or drink should be in your philatelic work area. Accidents do happen! Simple precautions can prevent disasters!

Issues to Be Discussed

- 1) The degradation to which stamps are subjected by life forms that feed on paper - Fungi and insects.
- 2) Aspects of the chemistry of paper and its manufacture, which contribute to instability.
 - a) Recommendations of what acid free paper to use
 - b) Information, where available, from Postal Agencies about their standards for acid
 - c) Content of the papers they use to print stamps
- 3) Recommendations on how to store one's stamp collections, including issues of:
 - a) Temperature and humidity
 - b) Plastic housing materials
 - c) Safes to house one's collection at home
 - d) Future trends - paper impregnated with antibacterial / anti-fungal chemicals

Fungi that Destroy Paper-Based Materials

There are more than 60,000 different fungi on earth. They range in size from microscopic to the large mushrooms you see growing in forests and include varieties that we use for food and which can be purchased in stores. Many fungi are saprotrophs, living on dead organic matter such as leaf litter, dung etc and have an important role in recycling.²

Mushrooms propagate in either of two ways:

- a) Vegetative propagation: fungal networks of threads (mycelium) spread outwards in the soil into new territory.
- b) Spores: Mushroom types of fungi produce massive amounts of spores on their gills. The spores are forcibly shot out into the air and are spread by the wind.

Spores are microscopic in size (just few microns in width and length):

1,000 microns = 1 millimeter,
 10 millimeters = 1 centimeter,
 2.54 cm = 1 inch.

Normal air is full of mold spores. Humans and other animals can thus readily inhale them. A healthy immune system will destroy the spores before they propagate. In animals and people who are immunologically compromised, the spores may grow and spread into the blood, and create serious, life-threatening infections. Some molds will also infest paper.

Some fungi require specific temperatures, humidity and nutrient sources to survive. Other fungi are very hearty and can be found almost everywhere.

The poisonous mushroom *Amanita muscaria* (commonly called "Fly agaric"; Figure 2) is found in most land areas of our earth, where supplies of fresh water are adequate; it has a bright red "cap" with irregular, white coloration across the top.

Several countries have issued stamp sets depicting various mushrooms. *Amanita muscaria*, ubiquitous across the earth, is a common item selected for use on postage stamps. Three examples, from different countries, show stamps depicting the *Amanita muscaria* mushroom. *Amanita* stamps are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5.

When fungi grow on paper, a colony of many thousands appears as small, orange to yellow circles, often not more than 1/2 cm (or approximately 1/4 inch) in diameter. Such fungal growth and discoloration on paper is termed "foxing"^(3, 4, 7).



Figure 2: *Amanita muscaria*
(the image comes from the Internet at
http://www.cx.sakura.ne.jp/~kinoko/01eng/amanita_muscaria.htm)



Figure 3: East Germany Poisonous European Mushrooms
- 8 stamp set
descriptively called
"Roter Fliegen-pilz"
in German ("Red Flying Mushroom")
Mar. 19, 1974.

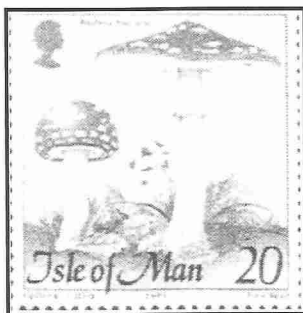


Figure 4: Isle of Man
6 stamp set - various mushrooms. Sept. 1, 1995



Figure 5: Israel
3 stamp set - various mushrooms.
Feb. 24, 2002

Microscopic spores are everywhere, just waiting for the right conditions to grow - damp, hot, dark, and still. Philatelic materials, paper and gum, are just what they like.³

The microscopic fungi are the bane and nemesis of the stamp collector or any person whose hobby involves preserving materials made of paper.

When fungal spores land on appropriate paper-based materials, they begin to grow, using the paper as one of their food sources. This is a continuation of the important recycling function of all fungi. As philatelists, however, we are trying to stop the decomposition naturally occurring, recycling of our cherished paper based postage stamps! We want to preserve our postage stamps!

The common, musty odor of "mildew" can readily be detected in stamp albums that have been stored in humid environments, with little airflow to remove fungal spores. This environment allows microscopic fungi to settle and grow. The distinctive mildew, musty or earthy odors are the volatile gases produced as part of normal mold metabolism.⁵ Controlling environmental moisture is the key to limiting the growth of mold (^{4, 5, 6}) This will be discussed in further detail in the section about temperature and humidity.

Prevalence of specific microscopic fungi will vary according to local conditions. Table 1 notes some of the most common, microscopic fungal species occurring in Tulsa, Oklahoma⁹. These are indicative of what we would find in any location.

Table 1:
Occurrence of Microscopic Fungi on Plates Exposed for analysis
(Oklahoma)

<u>Fungus</u>	<u>Indoors</u>	<u>Outdoors</u>
Clodosporium	94.5 %	51.7%
Alternaria	86.0	51.2
Aureobasidium	66.7	32.4
Epicoccum	37.4	31.1
Mycelia	32.1	15.5
Helminthosporium	25.4	10.9
Phoma	17.2	5.0
Penicillium	16.1	27.1

In recent years, high-rise office and residential buildings are constructed with sealed windows. This requires that air-filtration systems be closely monitored, to avoid the "sick building syndrome" created when fungi are disseminated through the air ducts instead of removed by ventilation/ filtration systems, thus exposing workers and residents to potentially toxic exposure to fungi. This has created a new area of academic¹⁰ and professional engineering, "Aerobiological Engineering." These same fungi can, of course, also infest the pages of one's stamp albums.

Insects that Eat Paper

Insects, one of whose food staples are fungi, prefer the same humid conditions which fungi do. Adults may eat paper; larval stages often burrow through paper.⁴ The silverfish (Figure 6), up to 3/4 inch (1.9 cm) in length, is found worldwide. It is the most common insect that feeds upon paper. Silverfish are sensitive to moisture and require a high humidity (75% - 90%) to survive. They also have a temperature preference between 70° - 80° F (21° - 26° C)⁸.

Information about the Papers Used by Several Postal Authorities to Print Stamps

Paper is principally made from three materials: linen rags, cotton, or tree pulp. Until about 1850¹¹, most paper was made from either linen or cotton. Fortuitously, these materials are also the least acidic and the most stable. As literacy grew in the 17-18th centuries, the demand for more and cheaper paper grew.

By the mid 17th century, alum rosin, Aluminum Potassium Sulfate, was added to vats during the paper-manufacture process to control bacterial and fungal growth¹². One of the breakdown products of alum is Sulfuric Acid, a strong acid that can destroy paper. The pH scale is used to measure acidity:

- Neutral pH = 7
- Acidic pH has value less than 7
- Basic pH has a value greater than 7.



Figure 6: Silverfish - *Lespisma sacchrina* (Linnaeus) (Thysanura: Lepismatidae) Photo by Dreës⁸

Principal Source of Inexpensive Paper after 1850

This source was much cheaper than the older materials. The innate chemistry of the raw materials (i.e. wood pulp) and the paper manufacturing process itself i.e. the addition of alum, as noted above, can contribute to acidity and instability of the final product.

Chemicals must be added to the manufacturing process to decrease the acidity, creating an "Acid Free" and very stable paper product. Such additional processes of course, can be costly; acid free paper is therefore more expensive.

Conversely, one does not want to add excessive amounts of basic materials, for this would produce a paper product with too high a pH (a "basic" pH), which could also damage the paper.

The cheapest paper, newsprint, is highly acidic. Little correction for acid content is made in the manufacturing process, for there is no desire for the product to last for a long period of time.

The acid content of tree pulp originates from lignin, a principal component of

the cell wall of plants. Lignin does not exist in cotton. "Ligin free" (meaning less than 1% lignin) is a term often included on the packaging of current "archival quality" paper.

Logically, one must ask: If the highly acid lignin is such a notable source of damage to paper, why is it present in trees? During a recent visit to one of California's many Redwood State Parks, a ranger explained that the high acid content in the bark of Redwood trees serves to protect the tree against insect and bacterial parasites.

Does it necessarily follow that cotton or linen based paper products would thus not need to indicate "acid free" on their packaging, since these materials have no innate acid? This is very important when selecting paper upon which the collector may wish to mount his stamps and covers.

To answer this question and learn more about the current manufacturing processes of paper, I had the good fortune to speak with plant managers at two paper mills^(13, 14). A summary of the telephone discussions appears below.

Question: Some paper products manufactured from cotton do not specify "acid free" on the packages. Since there is no lignin or acid in cotton, should the final paper-product not be "acid free?" If not, it would follow that acid must be added during the manufacturing process. But why add an agent (acid) that could damage the final product?

Answer: Regardless of the starting materials, wood pulp or cotton, alum is added during the manufacturing process as a source of positive ions, which function to get the fibers to align and bind into sheets.

Indeed, cotton fibers are more difficult to align than wood pulp based fibers, so more alum must be used in making cotton-based paper than in wood pulp based paper.

Question: What is the pH of pulp-based paper that does not have the pH adjusted by adding chemicals? What chemical is added and what is the desired pH?

Answer: Pulp-based paper has an approximate pH = 4. Paper is made "acid free" by adding Calcium Carbonate to vats, to buffer the final product to a slightly basic pH = 7.5 - 8.5.

Question: What is the effect of lignin in paper?

Answer: Lignin will decay in the un-buffered, acid pH of pulp-based paper. Additionally, acid will be released from the lignin cells, furthering the acid-mediated destruction of the paper. There is no lignin in cotton, so there will not be a spiraling effect of low pH destroying lignin cells, which then releases more acid.

Question: What is the pH of non-buffered, cotton-based paper?

Answer: pH = 5.5 - 6. Since there is no lignin, cotton-based paper will last for 100-200 years. Manufacturers will make extra efforts to create buffered papers,



Figure 7: pH testing pen by Lineco

where packaging will read: "acid free" or "archival quality." If there is no such statement, the product simply is not "acid free."

A pH pen¹⁵ (see Figure 7) can be used to determine if the paper-product is acidic or not. A small mark is made on the paper to be tested and a color change by the indicator dye reveals whether the paper is acidic or not.

A clear or yellow line indicates material which is unsuitable (acidic), a purple line reveals the paper is safe (pH above 7) for preservation purposes.

Question: What factors determine whether you make a paper product "acid free" and what will be the weight (or thickness) of the paper?

Answer: The decision to make a paper pH neutral or "acid free" is made based upon end user demand at the time of production.

"Thesis paper" is acid free because people want their theses to last for a long time. Such thesis are written on 20-pound paper; there is no demand for heavier weight "thesis paper." Heavier paper, as might be desired for mounting stamps, is not in much demand in "acid free" format. Although this is changing rapidly, a visit to your local computer store will show myriad papers, many of which are now available in heavy weight, acid-free format.

"Acid free," archival paper usually has a pH in the range of 7.5 - 8.5. "Archival", "Acid free" or "neutral pH" are all synonyms. Paper cannot be one without being the other.

Manufacturers will make extra efforts to create buffered papers, where packaging will read: "acid free" or "archival quality." If there is no such statement, the product simply is not "acid free" or "archival quality."

Question: Where might heavier weight, archival paper be available?

Answer: Art stores sell "water color pages" in assorted sizes. Artisans want their works to last a long time, so the paper is acid free. Check to assure it is labeled as such! The pages can be cut to any size the artisan or collector desires!

Question: Is there any functional difference between papers made from cotton vs. tree-pulp?

Answer: No. Cotton provides an added texture and "feeling quality" not found with pulp-based papers. Businesses often use 25% cotton (mixed with 75% tree pulp) or even 100% cotton paper for the psychological effect of indicating a quality, commercial business which uses high quality paper products.

Questions: Does the term "Archival quality" have any generally accepted meaning today?

Answer: "Archival Quality" and "Lignin Free" are the buzzwords of the day, but have no generally accepted legal definition.

The absence of a legal or business definition of "archival quality" becomes of great importance in selecting plastic, protective housing materials for one's stamp collection. See further discussion under the section dealing with plastic housing materials.

Postal Agencies and the pH of the Papers Used to Print Stamps

There are well-defined standards for the papers and inks used by the government departments (or subcontractors) that print a nation's currency. These help to make forgeries more difficult.

We may do the very best to mount our stamps and covers on pH neutral pages, but are the stamps themselves printed on paper that is stable and acid-neutral or not?

Now that basic information about paper manufacture, paper acidity, and the effects upon the stability of the paper is known, the next step is to determine what standards, if any, postal agencies have developed for the paper upon which they print postage stamps.

Postal agencies often subcontract the operation of printing stamps to private firms. They must meet standards for the final product, which include obvious issues such stability of the image and ink. Similarly, there may be various firms that provide the paper used to print stamps. Do Postal Authorities in various nations establish specifications for those firms that provide paper? Perhaps specifications are kept as a secret and confidential! One must remember that the paper specifications are an integral security component for a nation's stamps as well as its currency!

I wrote to several postal agencies where I had possible contacts to obtain the answer to my questions. The results are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Standards for Postage Stamp Paper from a few
Select Postal Agencies**

	Canada ¹⁶	England (UK) ¹⁷	Germany ¹⁸	Israel	USA
Response received	yes	yes	yes	no*	yes
Standards for paper used in stamps	Yes; Secret and proprietary; cannot be revealed	Yes; "commercially sensitive" (not revealed to me)	Yes	No response	Yes
Paper manufacturer(s)	Proprietary; cannot be revealed	Standard Royal Cypher watermark paper	-----	Many sub-Contractors Recent stamps printed on imported paper. Many stamps printed in UK and Holland** ²⁰	Many sub-contractors

* No response to multiple e-mail and regular letter inquiries to the Israel Postal Authority over the course of 12 months.

** Israel's stamps (during the last 5 years) often sub contracted to the UK or Dutch printing firms of Harrison, Enschede or De La Rue²⁰.

What was the pH of stamp paper addressed during the period of the British Mandate of Palestine? Mr Muir¹⁷ noted that the same firms printed all of Great Britain's stamps for domestic or colonial use. "I doubt very much if they considered acid content in those days."

Postally used stamps of Israel (Figure 8) were removed from envelopes by soaking in a water bath. The stamps were then allowed to dry. Indicator ink from the pH pen was applied to the now gumfree "reverse" of the stamp, to test the pH



Figure 8

of the paper upon which the stamp was printed. The results, shown in Table 4, show an acceptable "acid free" pH.

Table 4

pH Testing of PAPER of Recent Israel Stamps			
Date of Issue	Image shown in Figure	Design Motif	pH Pen test results
February 13 2001	8	Hebrew Alef Beit (alphabet) series	pH > 7 purle color
February 11 2003	9	Menorah definitve	pH > 7

The indicator ink may permanently stain the gum side of a stamp to which the ink is applied. **Do NOT use the pH testing pen on valuable stamps!**

The following comments from the German Federal Printing Office¹⁸ are worthwhile sharing in total. I have translated from the original German letter, written on September 1,2004:

Dear Mr. Korr,

Thank you for your letter of August 16th. We have been involved with the issue of acid stability and acid-mediated (self) destruction of paper. In addition to the desirable, stability issues for paper, which you mentioned, one must also be aware that poor storage conditions of a collection can cause damage. Therefore it is extremely important to use softener free, clear-plastic housing materials; the acid

content of paper used in old stamp album pages can also be a potential source of damage.

With regard to the paper used to print stamps, I can provide you with good news. Your collection will not self-destruct!

Without being aware of the issue of acid content of paper, it is rather fortuitous that relatively acid-neutral paper was used in previous years. This was principally due to the way paper was manufactured long ago.

Both the paper and gums used in stamp production were always in the (neutral and desired) range of pH 6-8. This applies as far back as 1850.

Light, humidity, chemical softeners in plastic housing materials, and the acid content of old album pages are major issues in conservation. One must be especially aware that, as old, stamp adhesive materials deteriorate with age, they can crack and cause color changes in the stamp. Today we use only acid neutral paper; our uncoated paper is pH 7 and our coated paper is pH 8.

Special concerns about aging apply to self-adhesive stamps (which Germany uses in booklet and coil formats). Of especial note is that the "Noteworthy Sights" self-adhesive booklet (Michel 1531-1534) issued in May 1991 has a gum that will cause a brown discoloration of the paper. Removal of the adhesive material on this issue is exceedingly difficult or impossible. Due to a chemical reaction, a brown discoloration of the image of the stamps occur.

Since that time, technology has advanced and we have solved the problem of the self adhesive materials reacting with the inks used to print stamps. In Germany, self-adhesives are now sold, as you know, only with "liner backs". We have our doubts about the (stability of the) "linerless-coils" format used in the USA (by the US Postal Service).

We hope this information is helpful and wish you continued pleasure from your hobby.

Best regards from Berlin,
Hans Zerbel, Senior Consultant Philatelic Industries
Bundesdruckerei GmbH
German Federal Printing Office
Oranienstrasse 91, 10958 Berlin

We thus can conclude that the acidity of the paper used in stamps is likely to be within the acceptable range. Older stamps, and certainly those issued prior to approximately 1950, are likely to have been printed on high quality, acid-free paper.

The limiting factor, over which the collector does indeed have control, is the paper upon which one mounts one's stamps. The criteria to make an informed selection have been discussed. One should use only commercial paper that is labeled as both "acid free" and "lignin free". Heavier weight paper will provide stronger support for larger or heavier philatelic items such as booklets or large covers.

Paper, made from the pulp of plants (trees or cotton) is an organic compound.

Temperature and humidity have a significant impact on the stability of all organic compounds. Relative humidity, often simply called "humidity", is the **amount of water vapor in the air, at a given temperature, expressed as a percent of the maximum amount of water the air could hold at that given temperature.** Thus, if the absolute amount of water vapor in the air is kept fixed and the temperature is increased, the relative humidity will, by definition, be a smaller number (percentage). This can be seen in Tables 6 and 7, where the humidity decreases as the peak temperature of the day is reached around 3 pm.

Many of the naturally occurring chemical reactions that promote the degradation of paper (ie hydrolysis, which breaks down the molecular structure of paper) occur more rapidly at high humidity. High temperatures can also facilitate such degradation reactions; every 10°F (approximately 5°C) increase in the ambient temperature decreases the functional life of paper by 50% (reference 12 - page 46)

How to Store One's Stamp Collections
Temperature and Humidity

Optimal storage conditions must balance elements of human comfort, temperature/humidity and the air-conditioning costs required to maintain both.

The humidity values cited in Table 5 are low enough to avoid problems of mold growth, yet high enough to avoid dessication and dehydration of materials, which can lead to brittle material, which can break.

Table 5

Optimal Temperature and Humidity to Store Stamps		
<u>Source</u>	<u>Recommended Temp</u>	<u>Recommended Humidity</u>
British Library, Philatelic Collections ³	18°C {64.4°F}	50 ± 5 %
Smithsonian InstitutionNational Postal Museum, Washington DC ²⁴	18 - 21 °C {65 - 70° F}	45-50 %
Society of American Archivists (Ratzenthaler (ref 12; p. 53)	21 ± 1°C {70° ± 2°F}	45 ± 2 %
Gaylord Archival Products Firm ²⁴ p. 151	Less than 21°C (<70°F)	30-50 %

Just as the extremely cold winter temperatures can cause metal fatigue and the rupture of water-pipes, so too can significant temperature fluctuations cause paper fibers to crack and break. Thus, optimal temperature/humidity must be maintained 24 hours a day.

The recommended, optimal temperature and humidity ranges to store paper based materials vary slightly and are noted in the Table 5.

On an arbitrary summer day I gathered temperature and humidity conditions in several cities. Summer was selected to show the greatest extremes in temperature and humidity stress that our environment may place upon paper (including stamps, covers, and albums). Note that humidity is always higher during the night, when the temperature is lowest (3 am in the data I collected) and will decrease in each city as the peak heat of the day occurs (around 5 pm). A summer temperature was recorded for several northern hemisphere cities in July. A few select cities in the southern hemisphere are also noted on an arbitrary summer (January) date. These are not meant to demonstrate peak summer temperatures. Of note is that virtually nowhere on earth do ambient temperatures and humidity provide conditions appropriate to house a stamp collection. The desert climates offer low humidity and, as archeological finds have shown, prove to be excellent, natural locations for the preservation of materials.

Air conditioning is needed and, as is the case in museums, must be constantly kept within the range defined in Table 5 to assure survival of these treasured pieces of paper!

The ultraviolet rays of sunlight have a strong bleaching effect. Prolonged exposure to sunlight can "bleach" the colors out of clothing or from paintings and photographs one might hang on the walls, where there is direct exposure to sunlight. That is why museums have only low levels of light and no direct sun exposure for exhibits of paintings, photographs etc. Exposure to light, during normal work intervals on one's stamp collection, will not harm stamps.

Extended exposure of stamps to direct sunlight - or even brief exposure to the intense light from photocopy machines - can damage stamps (reference 4, pages 28-30; reference 12, pages 47-48) and should be avoided.

We all want to share images of stamps, especially when writing philatelic articles. The best options available, which will not damage your stamps are:

1. Use a camera to photograph your stamp using normal sun/room light. (Do NOT subject your stamps to the intense light of a flash)
2. Photocopy the stamp from images in printed catalogs or "copy" the image from digital stamp-catalogs.
3. Use internet, on-line sources. Many postal agencies have images of recent stamp issues available at their web sites.

Table 6

Summer Temperatures Noting Low and High Temperatures and Humidity Northern Hemisphere on 28 July 2004				
<u>City</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Humidity</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Humidity</u>
Chicago	60°F/16°C	82%	83°F/18°C	44%
Los Angeles	65°F/18°C	93%	81°F/27°C	54%
New York	69°F/21°C	81%	71°F/22°C	90%
Palm Springs	81°F/27°C	42%	107°F/42°C	20%
Phoenix	80°F/26°C	62%	103°F/40°C	23%
San Francisco	57°F/14°C	90%	73°F/23°C	57%
Toronto	63°F/17°C	74%	73°F/23°C	61%
London	61°F/16°C	84%	75°F/24°C	53%
Rome	64°F/18°C	93%	81°F/27°C	60%
Luxor, Egypt	76°F/24°C	35%	106°F/41°C	20%
Haifa	75°F/24°C	78%	88°F/31°C	63%
Jerusalem	64°F/ 18°C	69%	82°F/ 28°C	38%
Tel Aviv	77°F/ 22°C	72%	90°F/ 32°C	51%

Data from <http://www.accuweather.com>

Table 7

Summer Temperatures Noting Low and High Temperatures and Humidity Southern Hemisphere - on 7 Jan 2005 3 am (local time) 5 pm (local time)				
<u>City</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Humidity</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Humidity</u>
Buenos Aires	74°F/23°C	93%	85°F/31°C	67%
Sao Paulo	72°F/22°C	87%	77°F/25°C	70%
Capetown	66°F/19°C	90%	77°F/25°C	50%
Johannesburg	63°F/17°C	75%	82°F/28°C	48%
Melbourne	49°F/9°C	81%	63°F/17°C	56%
Sydney	64°F/18°C	72%	74°F/23°C	40%

Data from <http://www.accuweather.com>

The Hebrew web page of the Israel Postal Authority is <http://www.postil.com>. One may click on "English" at the bottom right of the home page, to be taken to the English version of the Israel Postal Authority web site. At the center-top one may click on "new stamps". Images of each stamp issued since January 2000 are available.

A complete catalog of all postage stamps issued by Israel since 1948 may be found as a link called "Stamp Cat." - at the top right of the home page of the Israel Postal Authority. One may access the same catalog via the web site of the Israel Philatelic Federation. Click on the icon labeled: "stamp catalog."
<http://www.israelphilately.org.il/>

Plastic Housing Materials

Plastic "films", "enclosures", "album pages" or "sheet protectors" can keep atmospheric dust - which can damage paper by abrasive ("scratching") action - away from stamps and covers. They also allow a full view of stamps or covers without having to remove the stamps or covers from the album, thus decreasing wear and tear on the stamps. These are valuable reasons to store one's stamps in clear, plastic "film."

Which plastic materials are acceptable and which are not has been the subject of much discussion in recent years. General reviews and the opinions of experts have indicated that PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) should **not be used**^{3, 4, 22, 24}, (ISO 18902 - see page 172; Table 8), while the manufacturers of PVC-based - "hingeless" album pages and a few others²³ state that PVC (without 'softeners') is safe to use to house stamps.

Many different plastics are available and are marketed to those interested in preserving paper (including stamps!) and photographic material. Curators and conservators in charge of museum stamp collections - such as the Philatelic Collections at the British Library (London) and the Smithsonian National Stamp Museum (Washington, D.C.) continue to state^{3, 24} that PVC materials should not be used to house stamps, due to problems of image transfer.

An interesting comment from the managers of paper mills^{13, 14} was that their paper products meet American National Standards Institute (ANSI) IT 9.2 standards. ANSI²⁵ uses panels of scientific experts to develop consensus standards. Although ANSI standards are not legally binding or mandatory, ANSI provided a description that proudly notes in a 1966 Congressional Law that:

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act requires federal agencies to increase their reliance on consensus standards.

Inquiry to the ANSI²⁵ directed me to their technical experts who develop standards. A letter interchange with Mr. James Peyton²⁶ advised me that ANSI IT 9.2 had been withdrawn in 2001 and was replaced by the International Standards Organization (ISO) standard, ISO 18902, released in September 2001. ISO 18902 is titled: Imaging materials - Processed Photographic Films, Papers and Plates — Filling Enclosures and Storage containers. ISO 18913 is titled: *Imaging Materials - Stability - Vocabulary*.

The latter standard provides for the standard terminology used for image permanence. Terms such as "archival quality" (having become too ambiguous) have been replaced by terms such as "long term storage" and "extended term storage."²⁶

"Medium term" storage is defined by ISO 18913 as 10 years. A specific time for "long term storage" and "extended term storage" is not defined in 18913.

Mr. Peyton referred me to Dr. Peter Adelstein²⁷, an internationally recognized expert on image permanence and chair of the ISO committee (25-50 members) of international experts who developed the 2001 standards. Committee members

included experts on plastics and image transfer from Belgium, China, Denmark, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA.

The American National Standards Association is a member of the ISO. The ISO publishes technical standards in many fields. Their web address is: www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage.

ISO 18902 Standards

ISO standards defined in 18902 include definitive recommendation on plastics, which are acceptable to use, and those **NOT** to use. The following is quoted from page 4 of 18902:

4.3 Plastics

A suitable plastic enclosure material is polyester [poly (ethylene terephthalate)]. In addition, polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and spun-bonded polyolefins generally have been found suitable as they are usually inert, unplasticized, and have good chemical stability. Other plastics may be satisfactory, but there has been no extended experience with such materials. **Chlorinated or nitrated sheeting, such as polyvinyl chloride [PVC] and cellulose nitrate, shall not be used** (emphasis added).

Table 8

List of Plastics				
Plastic	(a) ISO 18902	(b) British	(c) Smithsonian	(d) retailers
Polyethylene terphthalate**	yes	yes	yes	yes
Polyethylene	yes	no	yes	yes
Polypropylene	yes	no	yes	yes
Polystyrene	yes	no	-----	no
Polyolefin	yes	no	-----	no
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)***	no	no	no	no

Notes for the Table:

Yes = plastics suitable for philatelic use. No = plastics NOT suitable for philatelic use.

** Brand name = "Mylar" (a polyester resin) film and sheet protectors are recognized as the most inert and safest for stamps. The British Museum (c) chooses to use only the "very best" product.

*** It is PVC itself (in the ISO analysis) that is the problem, not any plasticizers or slip-agents.

(a) ISO 18902 recommends as suitable and stable.

(b) British Library Philatelic Collections³.

(c) Smithsonian National Postal Museum uses²⁰.

(d) Available from Archival Products USA^{15, 21}.

IPI was founded in 1985 (web: <http://www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org/index.html>). It is a University-based, non-profit, research laboratory devoted to scientific

research in issues of preservation of visual information. Its base is the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT, Rochester, New York) and the Society for Imaging Science and Technology (SIST).

ISO standards defined in 18902 include definitive recommendation about plastics which are acceptable to use and those which are NOT acceptable (see Table 8).

ISO 18913 recommends that the term "archival" not be used. In a personal communication, Dr Adelstein²⁷ stated that "there is no legal mandate that prevents manufacturers from using the word 'archival'. It sounds good for advertising purposes."

Non-stable plastics can damage the items stored within them. Generally, this damage occurs via "image transfer," a process whereby the inks from the original image (i.e. inks on a postage stamp) are transferred to another surface. The process may take 20 years or longer.

In Figure 9, one sees damage to a philatelic item - along the top edge and back - caused by a vinyl "sheet protector" that was exposed to moisture and heat of some sort. "The vinyl deteriorated along the top edge and adhered to the object surface leaving the residue you see as well as discoloring the paper."²⁴

Collectors may have stamps stored in album pages made of various plastic films. With the knowledge that the latest international experts have provided in ISO 18902, one can decide whether the plastics currently in use are indeed protecting one's collection or offer the prospect of damaging that collection. (See Table 8).

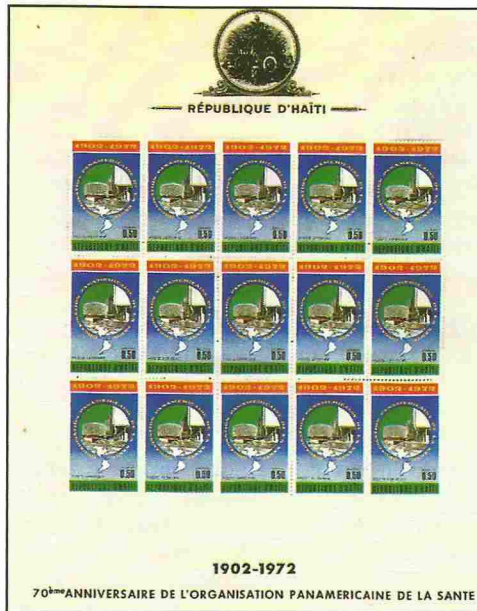


Figure 9: Damage to philatelic item stored in vinyl. (Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution, National Postal Museum, Washington, DC).

Storage Locations

Wherever one stores a stamp collection, there is always a concern of safety. In the previous sections it was noted that cool temperatures, low humidity, and good air movement are essential environmental concerns. Recall that stagnant air facilitates fungal growth!

There are only 3 options available for storing one's collection:

- 1) In a home-safe, large enough to hold your collection.
- 2) In a bank vault, where temperature, humidity, and air circulation are maintained 24 hours a day. (For those with large collections, the space required, and attendant bank fees, likely exclude this option).
- 3) On home bookshelves, perhaps in a closet that can be locked, thus providing some security.

Safes are boxes which decrease - but do **NOT** completely eliminate - the ability of unwanted contact with the contents. A typical safe is shown in Figure 10. The safe must be heavy enough so that a potential rubber cannot simply pick up the entire safe and exit! Safes can be fitted with internal shelf unit to hold binders.

There is no such thing as a "burglar proof" or "fire proof safe. Rather, safes retard the ability of a burglar to access, or a fire to damage, the contents.

Safes are rated by the "Underwriters Lab" (i.e. UL). The UL "fire test" requires that the safe be heated to 1550°F (=843°C) for 30 minutes. The safe must maintain its integrity and "protect" all contents. (The 'degree' of that protection - i.e. in pristine condition? - is not defined). The UL Residential Security Container (RSC) theft rating is tested by a five minute attack with standard household garage tools.

Are these criteria helpful in developing a plan to secure your paper-based stamp collection at home? To gather basic information, I spoke with Firefighters in Fire Stations in Los Angeles, California and Oakland, California²⁹. In both cities, I was advised that firefighters will usually be able to put out a residential fire within 15-20 minutes after they arrive. I was also advised that the temperature in a fully engulfed residential fire may reach 1800-2000° F (=982-1093 °C).

A most pertinent point to consider is the ambient temperature that must be reached for paper to "spontaneously combust." Science fiction author Ray Bradbury consulted his local fire department about this very question; they provided the answer. 451° F (=233 °C), which he subsequently used as the title for his novel: *Fahrenheit 451*.

"Fire Class" or "fire retardant" safes are constructed with materials that maintain high moisture levels within the insulating materials of the safe. The heat-energy of a fire will thus first be dissipated as vapor which is generated within the safe. This will keep the temperature inside the safe less than that of the "outside" fire. However, in a fully engulfed house-fire, temperatures may still be sufficient to char and burn paper stored within such a safe. Although currency may still be identifiable and be redeemed at a bank, stamps would likely be reduced to charred ash. Stamps would not be saved or safe in a "fire class" safe.

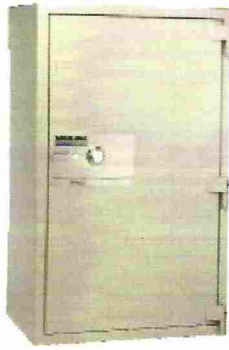


Figure 10: Typical Home/Office Safe

Table 9

Range of Size and Weight for Common Home/Office Safes (28)	
Dimensions Height – Width - Depth	Weight (approx range)
21 inches x 7 inches x 21 inches 53cm x 43cm x 53cm	400 pounds 180 Kg
6 feet x 3 feet x 2 ½ feet 1.82m x 0.92m x 0.76m	2,000 pounds 900Kg

Additionally, the high humidity maintained within a fire class safe would, in itself, be a likely source of damage to stamps (See Table 5).

By default, the "burglar retardant" safe is thus the preferred type of safe to use if one wishes to use a safe. Normal care of stamps stored in a safe requires that one open the door of the safe for several hours, at least 2-3 times per week, to assure good air circulation. Stagnant air provides a wonderful growth opportunity for fungi. If one fails in this task, one creates an environment, inside the safe, that will promote fungal growth and will likely facilitate destruction of one's paper-based treasures!

The use of a bank safety-deposit box assures security, maintenance of a uniform temperature and humidity, and a well aired environment. One of the biggest problem philatelists face, as more and more stamps and covers are accumulated, is the ever-expanding space required to store a stamp collection. Thus, the cost and availability of bank vault space adequate for a stamp collection could be exor-bitant. Of course, one would not be able to open up an album whenever one might choose, as would be the case if the collection were on one's shelves, at home.

One is thus left with the most practical place to store a stamp collection - on the shelves, at home. Likely, air conditioning exists in the home, to maintain a

climate which is comfortable for the inhabitants and for one's cherished stamps and covers (see Table 5)! The stamps are also readily at hand to be enjoyed and to allow further study, whenever desired.

Insurance policies often do request that valuable stamps be stored in a safe. One's ability to care for stamps stored in a safe (burglar class being the recommended format) by frequently opening and "airing out" stamps is a notable issue the collector must consider.

The Future - Paper Impregnated with Anti-fungal Chemicals

The Smead Office Products Corporation (30) markets a series of "antimicrobial filing products," primarily file folios and folders, which have been impregnated with the bactericidal agent Silver Zeolite. It is a chemical similar in activity to Silver Nitrate. The bactericidal (i.e. ability to kill bacteria) effect of Silver Nitrate has been known for thousands of years.)

A bacterial cell will transfer the Silver ion into the cell, resulting in "the generation of reactive oxygen species in the cell" (31) that results in the death of the cell.

The Silver Institute (32) notes, among its web pages, that "Silver Zeolite (can) provide a controlled release of silver ions to prevent (growth of) bacteria, molds, and mildew...."

The Silver Zeolite impregnated onto file folders will, hopefully, control the growth of bacteria and fungi on the pages stored in those folders.

Customer service at the Smead Corporation (33) advised me that their folders are acid-free, lignin-free and that the expected duration of action of the antimicrobial effect of the Silver Zeolite impregnated folder is "the life of the folder."

Currently, no paper impregnated with Silver Zeolite is marked in the USA, nor is there any information about the effect of direct contact of Silver Zeolite with philatelic inks or papers. The possibility of being able to control one of the major causes of damage, bacterial and fungal growth, to stamps would certainly be welcome by all philatelists. This is an interesting possibility for future preservation.

In summary, there are many factors to consider in storing the stamps and covers that one collects over a lifetime. Being aware of potential problems and then using that information to create the best environment for your stamps and covers will assure that your collection remains intact and will not be destroyed by the natural processes of recycling and biodegradation. "It's a jungle out there". Do your best to keep the jungle at bay!

References:

- 1) Cavanaugh, Joanne P. "**Battle to Preserve Cuba's Heritage**," John's Hopkins Magazine Nov. 1998 with permission of the author, <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhumag/1198web/arts01.html>.
- 2) Fungi Bank, <http://www.fungibank.csiro.au/default.htm>), Australia's rich resource bank of native fungi.
- 3) Personal communication from David Beech, Director, the Philatelic Collections, British Library, London (March- June 2004).

Table 10

Retailers Specializing in Archival Products Annual catalogs available at no charge		
Firm	Address	Phone
Conservation Resources	5532 Port Royal Road Springfield, VA 22151 www.conservationresources.com	(800) 634-6932
Gaylord Archival Products	PO Box 4901 Syracuse, NY 13221-4901 www.gaylord.com	(800) 448-6160
The Hollinger Corporation	PO Box 8360 Fredericksburg, VA 22404 www.hollingercorp.com	(800) 634-0491
Print File – Archival Photograph & Paper Preservers	PO Box 60738 Orlando, FL 32860-7638 www.printfile.com	(407) 886-3100
University Products	517 Main Street Holyoke, MA 01041-0101 www.universityproducts.com	(800) 336-4847

- 4) Collings, T. J. and Schoolley-West *The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials*, The British Library 1989, p. 32-33.
- 5) Aerias, LLC (industrial air quality firm) Atlanta, <http://www.aerias.org>.
- 6) Roberts, Matt T. and Don Etherton, *Bookbinding and the Conservation of Books*, 1982 available on the internet from the Preservation Dept, Stanford University, Libraries <http://sul3.stanford.edu:10001/don/dt/dt1434.html>.
- 7) *American Industrial Hygiene Association*. Fairfax, Virginia <http://www.aiga.org>.
- 8) *Department of Entomology*. Texas A&M University, <http://insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/aimg2.html>.
- 9) *Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences*, no. 57:51 -53 (1977).
- 10) *Pennsylvania State University Department of Aerobiological Engineering*, <http://www.arche.psu.edu/iec/abe/>.
- 11) Conte, Silvia O. *National Archives*, Pittsfield, MA 01201, <http://www.rootsweb.com/mafsocna/index.htm>.
- 12) Ritzenhaler, Mary Lynn, *"Preserving Archives and Manuscripts"* The Society of American Archivists, Chicago 1993, pages 22-23.
- 13) Personal communications with Alex Lak, Mill Director (Nov.2004), *Southworth Paper Company*, West Springfield, MA 01089 (800) 225-1839, <http://www.southworth.com>.
- 14) Personal communication with Steve Rapp; Manager, Product Development, *Wausau-Mosinee Paper Corporation*, Mosinee, Wisconsin (Nov. 2004), (800) 950-9762; ext 8303, <http://www.wausaupapers.com/>.
- 15) *Lineco pH pen* (item L533-0023) <http://www.lineco.com/>, <http://www.lineco.com/item.cfm?itemnum=L533-0023>, available from various sources, including: *University Products*, (800) 336-4847

- <http://www.universityproducts.com/main2.html>.
- 16) Personal communication from Jim Phillips, Director, **Stamp Products, Canada Post Ottawa** ON K1A 0B1, May 2004.
 - 17) Personal Communication from Douglas Muir Curator, Philately Heritage. **Royal Mail Freeling House**, London WC1X 0DL (Feb. 2004).
 - 18) Personal Communication from Hans Zerbel, Senior Consultant, Philatelic Industry, **German Federal Printing Office** (Bundesdruckerei) Oranienstrasse 91, 10958 Berlin (1 Sep. 2004).
 - 19) **US Postal Service Monograph USPS-P-1238E** (Jan. 1999), a 31 page document defining all standards for suppliers of paper used for pressure sensitive stamps. Technical items discussed include the ash and fiber content of paper; tensile strength of paper; surface pH and drying time for cancellations.
 - 20) Personal communication from the **Israel Philatelic Federation**, POB 4523, 61045 Tel Aviv E-mail: ipf@netvisjon.net.il Nov. 2004.
 - 21) **Gaylord Archival Products Catalog**, P.O. Box 4901, Syracuse, NY 13221-4901 (800) 448-6160, <http://www.gaylord.com/>.
 - 22) Fred Korr, "*Plastics in Philately*," **American Philatelist**, Jan. 1998, p. 76-78.
 - 23) William Souder *Safe Plastics for Philately* (in support of PVC for stamps), **American Philatelist**, Dec. 2000 p. 1102-1108.
 - 24) Personal communications from Linda Edquist, Conservator, Preservation Office, **Smithsonian National Postal Museum**. Washington, DC 20002 (during 2004).
 - 25) **American National Standards Institute**, West 43rd St, 4th floor, New York, NY 10036, www.ansi.org, 25.
 - 26) Personal communication with James Peyton, Director of Standards and Technology, **International Imaging Association**, Harrison, NY 10528, May 2004.
 - 27) Personal communications with Dr Peter Adelstein, **Rochester Institute of Technology**, Image Permanence Institute, Rochester, NY 14623, June 2004.
 - 28) **Meilink Safe Products** <http://www.meilinksafe.com/hercc.html>.
 - 29) Conversations with Firefighters at **Los Angeles Fire Station No. 92**, 10556 W. Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064, Sept. 2004, and **Firefighters at Fire Station, Engine 21**, 13150 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, CA 94619, July 2004.
 - 30) **Smead Corporation**, 600 Smead Blvd, Hastings, MN 55033-2219, <http://www.smead.com>.
 - 31) Matsumura, Y et al, *Mode of Bactericidal Action of Silver Zeolite and its Comparison with that of Silver Nitrate Applied*, **Environmental Microbiology**, July 2003, vol. 69: 4278-4281.
 - 32) **The Silver Institute**. 1200 G Street, NW #800 Washington, DC 20005. The organization seeks to increase public awareness of the many uses and value of silver, www.silverinstitute.org.
 - 33) Personal communication from Carol Humbert, Customer Service **The Smead Corporation**, Hastings, MN 55033-2219, Sept 2004.

Conservation references

(Recommended to Add to Your Home Library)

- 1) **The Saint Foundation Reports, Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC):**
A series of vignettes from the 1990s. Photocopies are available for the cost of a stamped, self-addressed envelope. They may also be printed directly from the internet site of the CCC: <http://www.askphil.org/>.
Mail requests to: Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610. For all 6 reports, send a 87c stamped self-addressed, legal size envelope.

For Canada or Mexico, the self-addressed envelope should have \$1.89 in U.S. postage; \$2.52 in U.S. postage to all other countries or include 3 International Reply Coupons. All postal rates are those in effect as of January 2006.

Salm Foundation Report

- #1 Paper used for Stamp Albums
- #2 Non US made Paper for Philately
- #3 Plastics, Paper Permanence, etc
- #4 Labels purporting to be stamps
- #5 Pressure-sensitive, adhesive US Stamps
- #6 Flying (Airmail Cover) Fakes

- 2) Collings, TJ and Schooley-West, RF, *The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials*, The British Library, London 1989, (Currently out of print, but one of the best single sources available. Buy it if you can find a copy).
- 3) Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn, *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts. The Society of American Archivists*, 527 South Wells St., Chicago IL 60607 (312) 922-0140, Chicago. The 1993 edition is still the most recent edition of this comprehensive work. Purchase (\$30 for non-members + \$5 shipping fee) may be ordered by mail or through their internet site: <http://www.archivists.org/>.

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Some Notes and New Findings*

Zvi Alexander

I have recently purchased several interesting items from the late Herbert Rosedale collection which were not described before. I also list several additions to my collection from other sources.

Ottoman Post

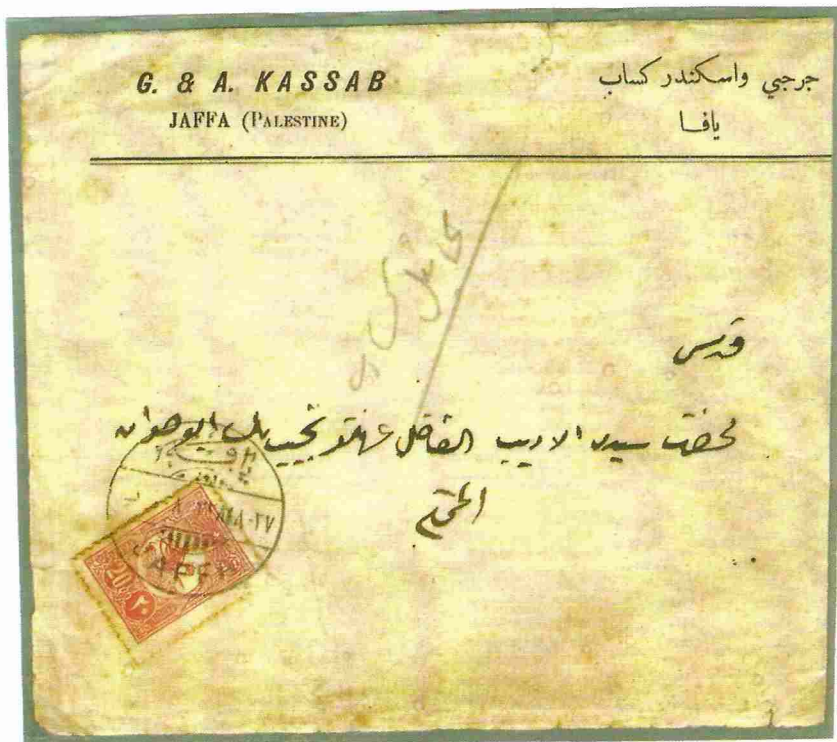


Figure 11: 1886 Jaffa, arrival Acre 23.9.1886. Port to Port littoral rate of 20 para.

*Editorial Note: Zvi Alexander shows and describes in these pages a choice of rare Ottoman and Austrian Post covers from the Holyland. Each cover (or postcard) in this selection has at least one feature (e.g. AR Service or having been used in Palestine) that makes it special and very interesting.



Figure 12: 9.11.1912 Jaffa to Jerusalem, forwarded by the Jaffa-Jerusalem railroad, also franked at the reduced littoral rate of 20 para – not clear why - Jerusalem obviously not being a port town.

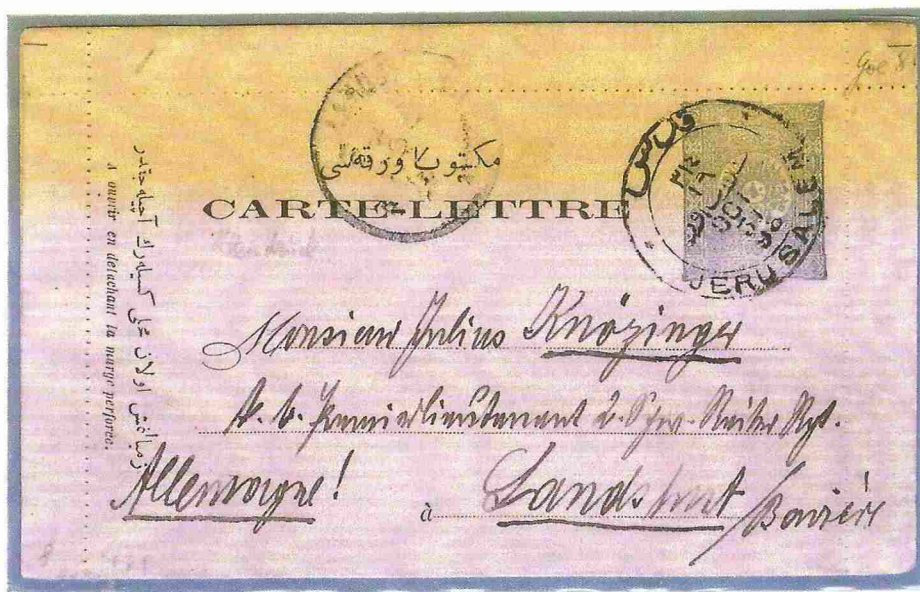


Figure 13: 1898, the first Turkish letter card. N.J. Collins notes that very few Turkish letter cards are known to have been used in the Holy Land.

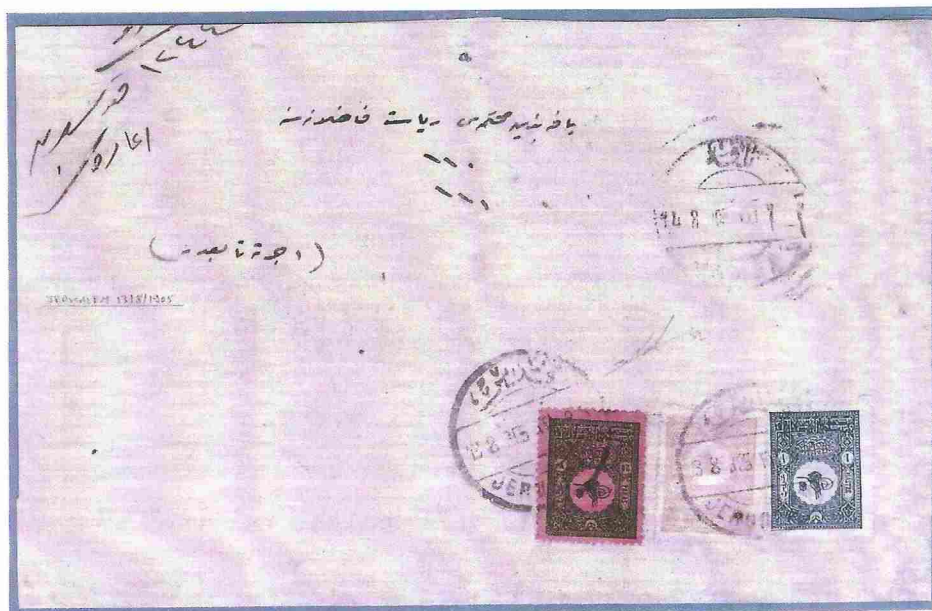


Figure 14: 1905 registered (heavy) letter to Jaffa, forwarded by rail from Jerusalem, weighing 75 - 89 gram. It was franked at a reduced littoral rate of 100 para + 40 para registration. Very rare use of a 20 para Postage Due stamp for regular mail.

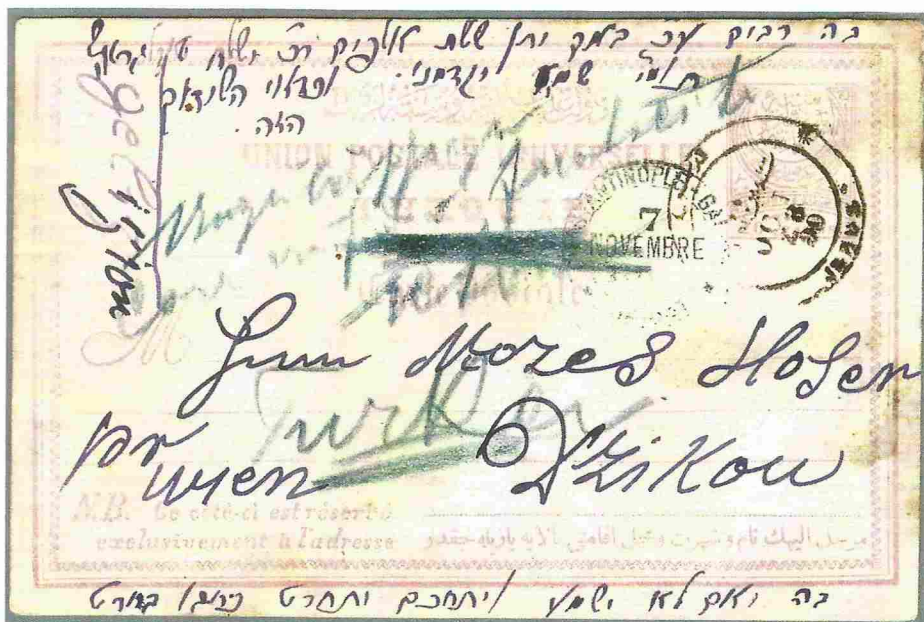


Figure 15: 1890 postcard with "JERUS" postmark, which was in use for 18 months only. It is very seldom seen on postcards. It was returned to sender because of illegal writing on the face of the card.

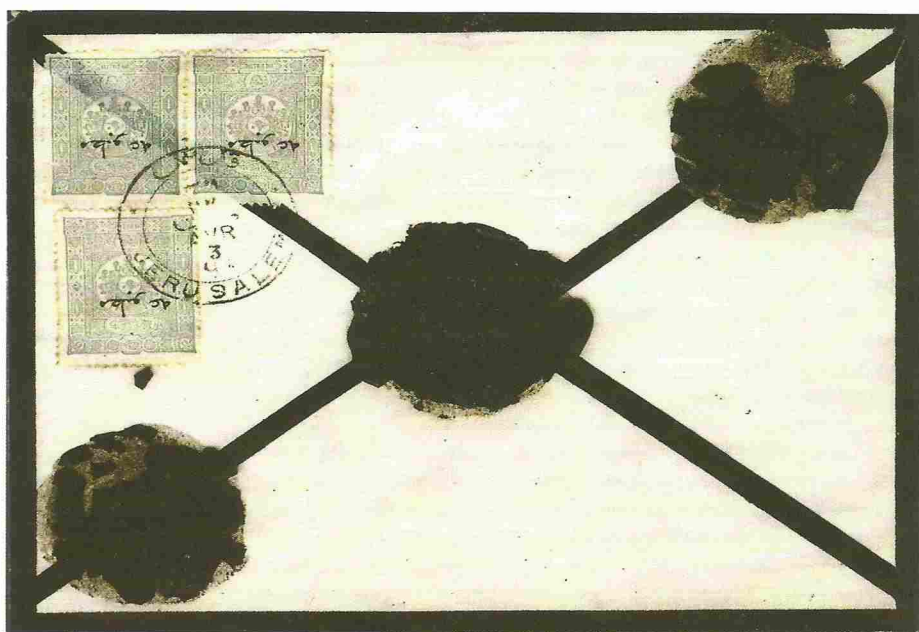


Figure 16: 1900 registered Mourning Cover from Jerusalem to Beirut, franked with three 1-piaster "Matbua" (Printed Matter) stamps. Very few such covers recorded, and it is not clear why 3 piaster franking was needed.



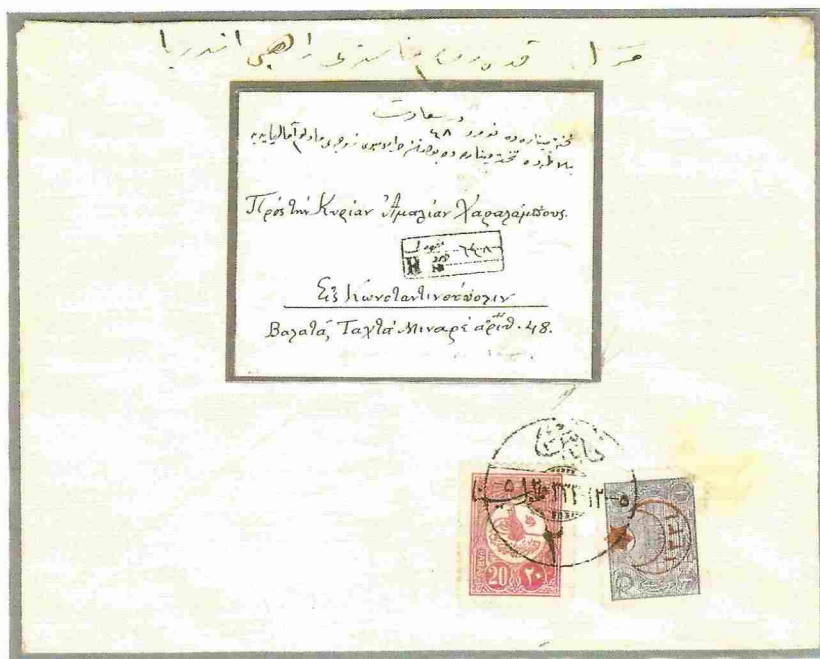
Figure 17: 14.11.1914, unrecorded Turkish cachet, "Returned because it is impossible to send to addressee". Turkey joined W W I at the beginning of November 1914 !!



Figure 18: June 1915, registered cover to Germany. Boxed "R" cachet to indicate registration was applied in Jaffa or in Beirut, the latter case has only been recorded. N.J. Collins is of the opinion that on this cover the "R" was applied in Jaffa and it is the only such example recorded.



Figure 19: 5.4.1917 registered postcard from Jaffa to Germany, a German registration label applied on arrival.



(a)



(b)

Figure 20: (a & b): (a) 5.11.1917 registered cover and (b) 6.11.1917 postcard, cancelled "Jerusalem 2" all Arabic postmark, in use 17 days only, 21.11.17 - 7.12.17. As the British forces captured Jerusalem on December 9th, those items probably did not travel and were removed from the post office by the occupying forces.



Figure 21: 7.8.1917 Turkish FPO 68, stationed near the Dead Sea. This letter, addressed to Jerusalem and censored there, is the only recorded example of a civilian letter forwarded by the Turkish military post.



Figure 22: 1873, two registered letters from Jerusalem to Kishinov, then in Russia. 30(=15+15) soldi stamps in front and 20 soldi at the back (total 50 soldi) in one letter and on the other 50 soldi postage prepaid by manuscript "50" on reverse. This rate is seldom seen.

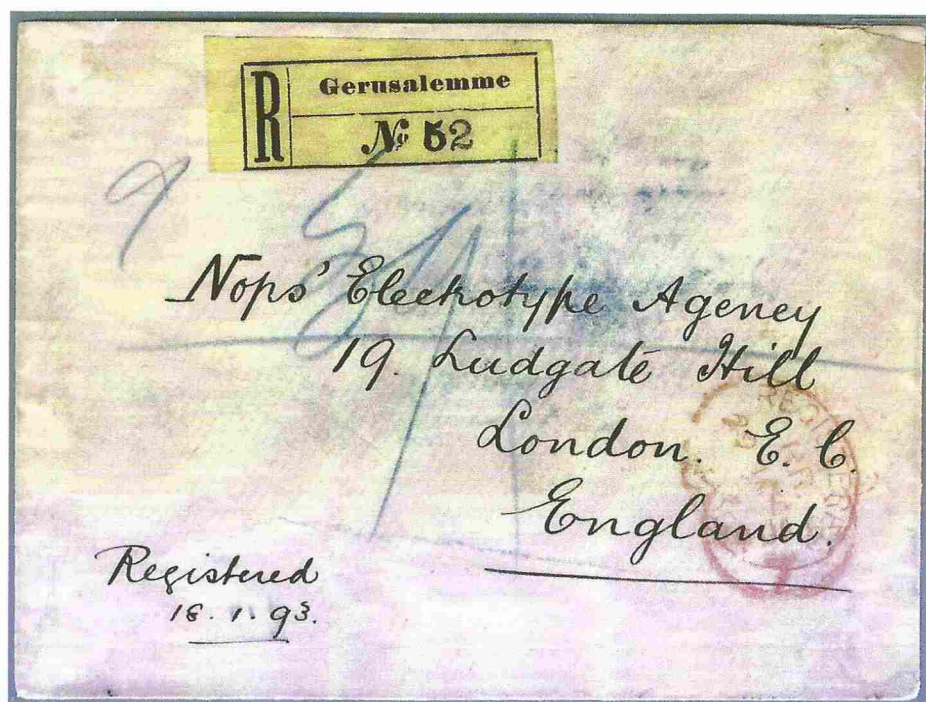


Figure 23: 1893 registered letter with imperforated registration label.



Figure 25: 1903 registered AR (=Avis de Reception) cover from Jaffa, Beirut registration label replaced by "Jaffa" in Ms., and 1910 registered AR letter from Jerusalem addressed to the Pope in Rome.

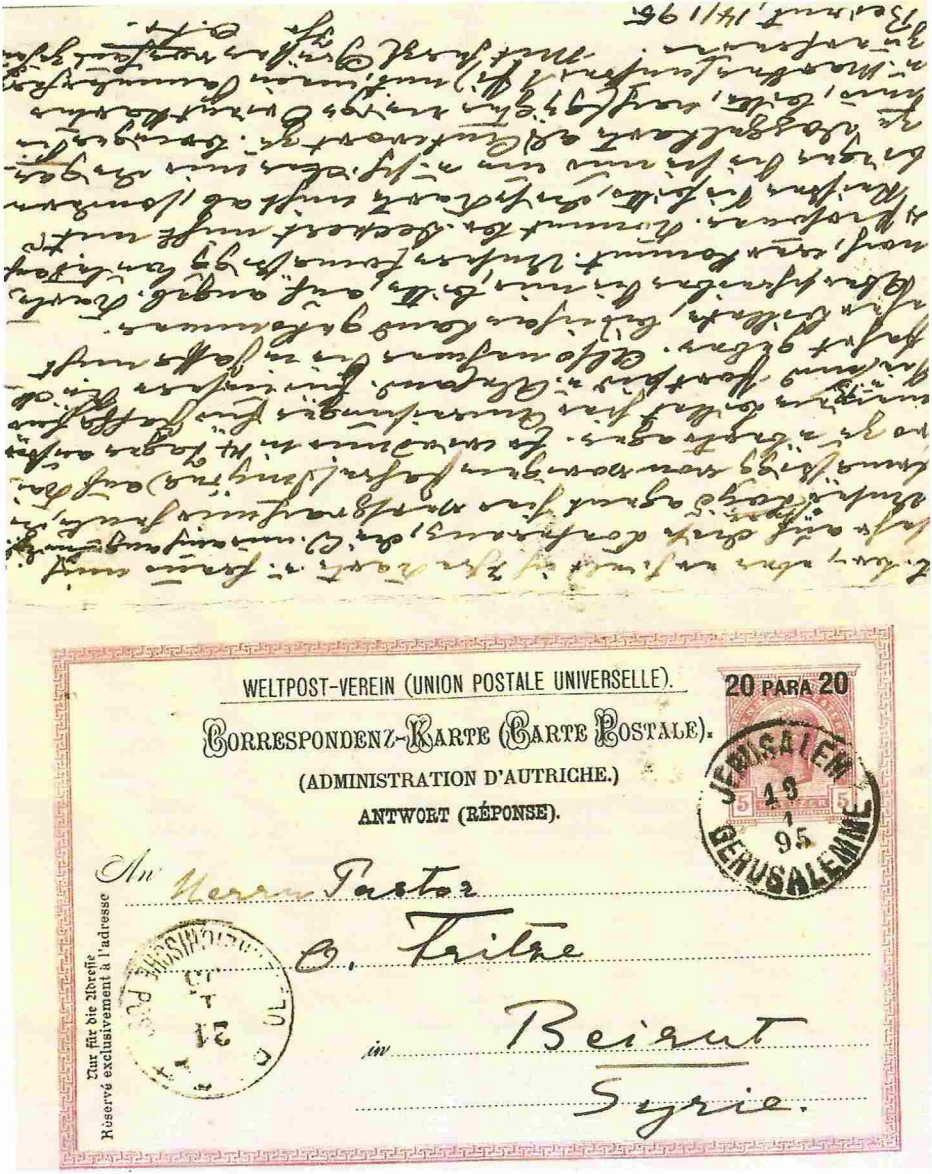


Figure 26: 1895 reply card Beirut - Jerusalem.

Is Taxi Post part of the 1948 Transition Period (TP) and Why?*

L. Shimony

*"...Wherever within Palestine post or post communications are established the Postmaster General Possesses, by virtue of the Post Office Ordinance (Chapt. 115), the exclusive privilege of carrying from one place to another all letters and of performing all the incidental services of receiving,collecting,dispatching,and delivering all letters**...."*

Such a regulation existed in G.B. and several other countries for many years. In Palestine it was not very strictly imposed, but the fine - if caught - was very high.

This article deals only with Jerusalem in the Transition Period. The Taxi Postal Service in the other big cities, although quite different – so is the TP – have the same features. It is very proper to cite here a paragraph from the first comprehensive work on the subject¹:

"In view of the steadily increasing insecurity of the postal services from as early as the beginning of 1948, people wished to avail themselves more and more of other means of transport for letters. So the importance of buses and taxis grew all the time along with the volume of the mail. It was above all the omnibus company "אגד" (EGGED) - a Jewish Co-operative - which linked virtually all the better known and larger places of the country by a network of regular routes. Then there was and still is another motorized transport, considered unique and typical for Israel, the SHERUT Taxis, which traveled in a planned manner the main routes of Tel Aviv - Jerusalem, Tel Aviv - Haifa, and Haifa - Jerusalem, and also the roads leading to Tiberias in the North and Beer Sheva in the South. A number of taxi companies seized the opportunity to share profits by adding to their passenger services the transmission of letters and parcels."

Thus in Jerusalem the increasing volume of Taxi mail, incoming and outgoing, in the first few months of 1948 was considerable and this increase was certainly a manifestation of the unreliability of the Mandate postal services. The taxi mail of Jerusalem from this period (ca. January - May, 1948) may therefore be logically considered to be part of the postal history of the Transition Period.

One can find a number of letter sheets of the period where the writers (from/to Jerusalem) complain about their anxiety in sending the letters by the standard **inefficient and unreliable** Mandate Postal Service. They therefore tried to send their letters (or other mail) via the Taxi Post. For instance a letter written in Tel Aviv on 21.3.48 and sent by Taxi Aviv to Jerusalem, starts as follows (translated from German):

* In most of the cases in this note the word "Taxi" is used for both Taxi and Bus.

** A "letter" was defined by the British Post as item of mail not exceeding 25 grams.

"Dear Gerda! I tried already twice to send you the letter with the post but it seems that there is no delivery. Therefore I am trying this time with Egged...."

And another example may be seen in the "Milstein Family Correspondence"², where the following paragraph appears in the letter of Hasia Milstein (in Jerusalem) to her family in Balfuria (near Affula), which was written on April 17, a date when Jerusalem was not yet under complete siege (for more details see references (2,3),

Jerusalem

Saturday morning

17.4.48

Dear mom, dad and Ayale!

I am not writing now a letter, just sending regards written on a car's wing which I am using as a desk. The convoy arrived unexpectedly and I want to write just a few words and I don't know if it gets you, nevertheless if you get my letter I'll be very happy.

I don't know if you are writing to me or you can't send, anyhow it is already a month that I have not received a letter from you, and every day I'm waiting and then disappointed. Frequently, it spoils my mood, but the fact that the postal service is not so good - is some comfort.

Be healthy my dear and try to write to me on the first occasion, because I'm waiting for letters. Send a lot of mail and maybe part will arrive for better.

Be well, yours Haske

The next two letters were written in Balfuria and were brought to Jerusalem by "Egged" bus company. The parts of the letters which are relevant to our subject are translated as follows: ".....Haske! They say that it is possible to send letters by "Egged" and it arrives quickly. I'll try to send this letter maybe by Egged.....By the way she (Zipora) received your letter today. At Egged they promise that soon they would accept parcels and then for sure we'd send to you..."

Shalom, Aya"

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

Aya"

The next letter was written on April 28th and was sent by Egged, but we do not know its posting date:

"28.4.48 Balfuria ;

Shalom Haske,

You are surely wandering that suddenly I write to you a letter. You know that our Zvi was wounded in the "Mount Scopus" convoy. We learned about it only

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

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

Thanks in advance

Ishak Levinski.

Address the letter to Ishak Levinski, Affula."

References:

- (1) Danesch, H., "Taxi Post" (1973); English Version – BAPIP Monograph (1976).
- (2) Aloni, Z. "Family Correspondent during the Siege of Jerusalem, 1948", HLP# #91-92 (2002) p.437.
- (3) Shimony, Rimom, & Karpovsky, "The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel, 1948 :Vol II, Part 1 – Jerusalem and Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period"(2004) pp. 177-180.

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The Auction Corner

Yacov Tsachor, Tel Aviv

Auction catalogues are usually of great interest, not only because of the opportunity they offer us to enrich our collections but because they often include great rarities and new discoveries which were buried in collections for decades.

The following items auctioned in past years are good examples:

1) The Hadera 10 para Bisect

Local fee stamps for messenger charges from the colony Hadera to the Austrian Post in Jaffa: 5 para for postcards and 10 para for letters. Half of a 10 para stamp was accepted as a valid 5 para as seen in Figure 26: 10c Austrian postcard sent in May, 1914 from Hadera to Dr. Rupin in Jaffa with **bisect of the pink 10 para local**. Sender's address in Yiddish is: "Workers' Council Hadera". Back of card shows the arrival mark of "Palastina Amt" in Jaffa one day after the Jaffa postmark.

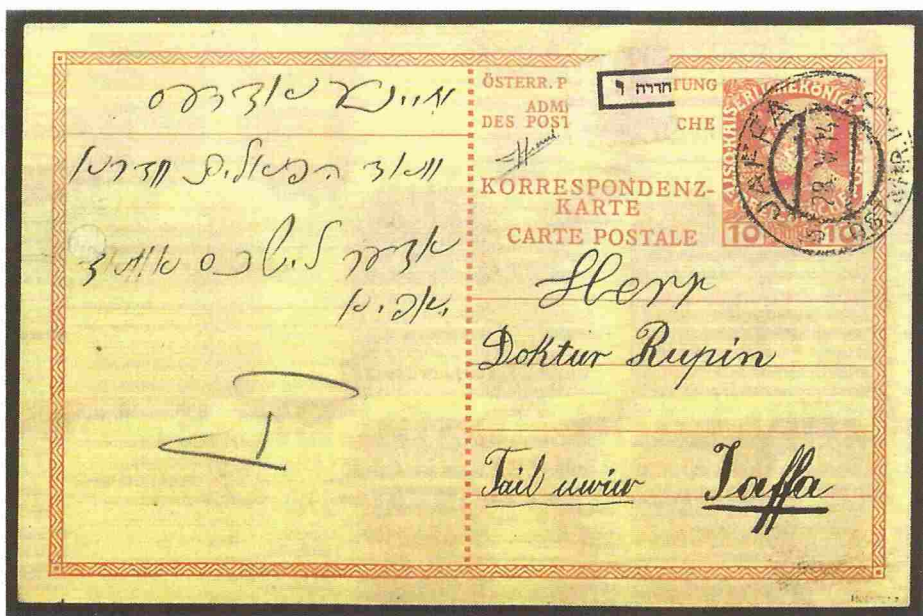


Fig. 26: 1914 Hadera Colony 10 para Local BISECT on 10c Austrian postcard to Jaffa (courtesy of Itamar Karpovsky)

2) Highest Recorded Mandate Franking

This item was discovered in the USA in 2003 and first time offered for sale in 2004 (Fig. 27). It is a small cloth sack approximately 22x21 cms sent registered Tel Aviv to New York, Nachum Gutman at the National Labour Committee. **Franked total P£ 12.715** (15m+200m+5x500m+10x1P£), This is by far the highest recorded Mandate franking on a single item. Registry label and USA 10c postage due stamp for Customs fee are on back as are the arrival postmarks. This small sack probably contained the documents for a much larger insured parcel.



Fig. 27:
1943 Highest
Recorded franking
on a Mandate item:
£P12.715

3) Israel's 1948 1st Postage Due – 10 Mils Overprint Omitted

This unique plate block of 4 is one of Israel's philatelic gems. Only 6 stamps with this variety recorded, 4 of them in this item, (Fig. 28).



Fig. 28: 1948 1st Postage Dues – 10 mils plate block of 4 OVERPRINT OMITTED

The story, as the late H.G. Muentz told me, is that a collector bought this block and an adjacent pair in late 1948 at the Tel Aviv Philatelic Service office. When he returned home and noticed the variety he rushed back in order to purchase the entire sheet but was told by the selling clerk that after he had left the printing error was discovered and that he received orders to return the remaining stamps to the main office.

4) Israel 1950 Air Mail 250 pr Imperforated Tete-Becche Strip of 4 with Central Blank Gutter

Figure 29 shows the only item from this issue in collectors' hands that proves the panes arrangement in the printer's sheet: 6 panes of 50 stamps in 3 pairs, each pair in Tete-Becche position, 10 tabs at eight margin. This is identical to the 1948 1st Festivals issue. Both sets were designed by O. Wallish in the summer of 1948, but the 1st Air Mail issue date was postponed to 25.6.1950 – inaugurating El-Al's 1st flight to New York. In contrary to the 1st Festivals that were supplied to the post offices in unseparated sheets of 300 stamps due to shortage of time before the High Holidays, the 1st Air Mails were delivered in the planned panes of 50 so that Tete-Becche and Gutter pairs are practically non-existent.



Fig. 29: 1950 1st Air Mails – 250 pr IMPERFORATE TETE-BECHE strip of 4 with central blank gutter

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* * * * *

* Short Notes and Discoveries *

* * * * *

Taxed Mail of the Russian Post in Palestine – a New Discovery

I. Karpovsky

In the important research of the Taxed Mail of the Ottoman period, as was written by Eddie Leibu, in the HLPH no. 53 to 59, Eddie wrote in the "Russian Post" section (HLPH No. 56 of Autumn 1993): "Neither the Russian, nor the German Post offices used Postage-Due stamps during the period prior to W.W.I. Handstamps and manuscript marks were used by these offices on taxed mail, and fees were collected from the addressees. The extreme rarity of material is another factor which causes difficulties in this study". Concerning the Russian Post he added: "Four taxed Postcards (and no cover) have been recorded so far".

While re-reading some of the previous bulletins of our society, I came to bulletin No. 69 – 72 from Autumn 1997, and read in page 337 an article written by our friend Marvin Siegel, "Taxed Mail of the Russian Post Office". In this article Marvin wrote about a reverse of a Russian letter he found. It is only the reverse side of a 1914 letter sent from Russia to Jerusalem. It has a 7 kopeck franking cancelled by a Russian postmark, apparently at the time and place of dispatch. Also can be seen are two different Jerusalem postmarks. The first (Steichele #646) is apparently the arrival mark, but it is the second (Steichele #647) that commands our attention as it was struck twice onto a strip of 3x10 para overprinted on 2 kopeck stamps, certainly applied in Jerusalem. "It should be noted that no postage-due stamps as such were used in Czarist time....as we have only the cover back, we will never be able to fully ascertain the reason for this 30 para charge, and we are left to speculate whether in fact it was a tax or fee for some additional postal service. If it is indeed the back of a taxed cover, it would be the only recorded example of an entire taxed with stamps at the Jerusalem office of the Russian Post", so Marvin wrote in 1997.

I think by now, I can solve this enigma. While reading Marvin's article, I suddenly remembered that a few years ago I bought something similar. It is a Russian taxed entire letter which was sent from Astrachan in Russia, via Odessa, to the Archimandrite Seraphime, staying at the Convent Pretorium in Jerusalem (Fig 30). The letter was dispatched from Astrachan on the 20th of May 1914, and arrived in Jerusalem on the 19th of June of the same year. On obverse there are no stamps affixed, but it can be seen clearly that it is struck with a red oval cachet which reads "ASTRACHAN/DOPLATIT" (To Pay). On reverse the letter is franked like Marvin's letter with 5 Russian stamps, all together 7 kopeck, cancelled by Astrachan postmarks. The 7 kopeck rate was at that time the inland letter rate, but

to send a letter abroad, the letter had to be franked with 10 kopeck! So both letters were underpaid, and that is the reason that the "Doplatit" cachet was applied.

Upon arrival, the letter was cancelled in Jerusalem, with the arrival Russian postmark (Steichele #646), dated 19.6.1914, and taxed with an additional 30 para (3X10) para overprinted 2 kopek ordinary Russian stamps, in order to pay double the deficiency (double of 3 kopeck=30 para), but contrary to the first letter fragment, here the tax stamps are cancelled with special circle "T" cachet, which certainly were applied at the Jerusalem Russian Post, and not cancelled with ordinary Jerusalem postmarks, as done with Marvin's letter.

So far we have for the first time two pieces of Russian mail, taxed with ordinary stamps, used as Postage-Due and for the first time the use of the circle "T" cachet, on a taxed letter, at the Russian Post office in Palestine.

As both letters are from the same month, June 1914, it can be assumed that towards the end of the Russian Post operation in Palestine (all Foreign Post offices, were cleared by the Turkish authorities on October 1, 1914, with the outbreak of W.W.I.), the Russian Post in Palestine started to collect the taxed letters fees by using ordinary stamps, and not by cash only as was done before. Russian Post offices in the Levant never issued special tax stamps and extremely rarely used ordinary stamps to collect the deficient. These two taxed letters are a major postal history discovery of the Russian Post in the Holy Land prior to W.W.I.



Figure 30

Bissan (Beit Shaan) Post Office

L. Alexander

I have recently purchased two interesting postcards sent by the same writer, during WWI in 1915, from Palestine to Istanbul.

One of the postcards is the second recorded postal item from Bissan. The first (Fig 31), a cover is a letter dated 2.1 1918 sent from the Veterinary Hospital in Bissan (Beit Shaan) to Istanbul.

The second reported (Fig. 32), dated 17.3.1915 despatched from Bissan (Beit Shaan) carries only a short greeting - "Bissan Salam", therefore it was subject to the reduced rate of 5 para. The European date on the postmark - 17.4, was incorrectly inserted by the Postmaster. It should have been 17.3 (The Turkish date of 5.1. converted to European date by adding 12 days and 2 months should be 17.3) The postmark is in violet colour. The postcard arrived in Istanbul 34 days later on 20.4.1915. Red Censorship cachet applied in Istanbul.

The other postcard, written by the same writer (but mailed in Jenin) and addressed to the same address in Istanbul was posted in Jenin on 3.6.1915, transited in Damascus on 7.6.1915 (Fig. 33). arriving in Istanbul on 16.6.1915, Censored there. As it had a full text, it carries a 20 para stamp, as a letter.



Figure 31: Cover dated 2.1.1918, black Bissan postmark, from the Veterinary Hospital in Bissan arriving in Istanbul 22/23.1.1918 and censored there. 1 piaster postage and 10 para War Orphan tax.

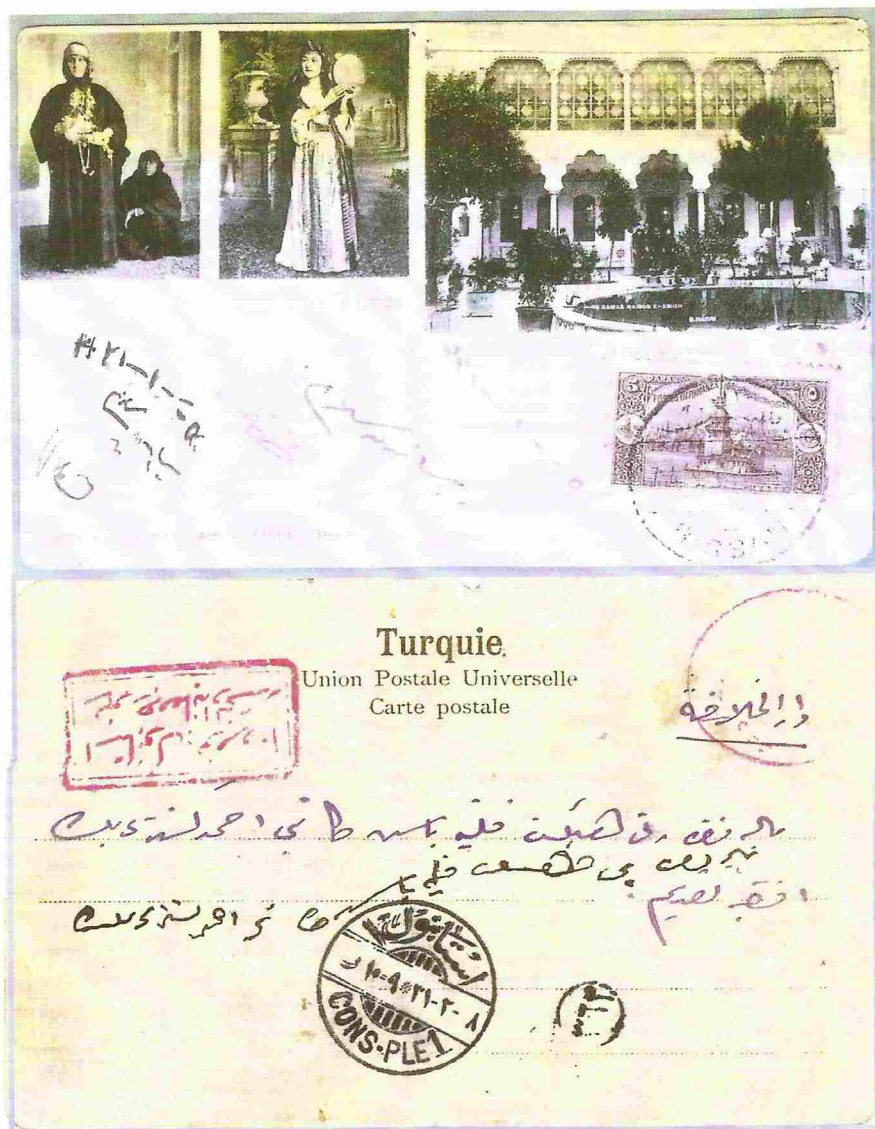


Figure 32: 17.4.1915 (should be 17.3.) Bissan, violet postmark, addressed to Istanbul.
In M/S. "Bisan Salam" - Greetings from Bissan (Beit Shaan).
Greeting card rate of 5 para.



Figure 33: 3.6.1915 Jenin, transit Damascus 7.6.1915 addressed to Istanbul. 20 para postcard rate.

The Journey of Menahem Berliner, a Man of the Second Immigration (Aliya Shnia) in the Jesreel Valley and the Galilee Settlements, 1914.

L. Aloni & L. Alexander

Lately I have been lucky to find a small postcard, written in Hebrew that was sent from the small settlement Migdal on the shore of the Sea of Galilee that was sent via the Turkish post in Tiberias to **Russ-Polen** at that time, Poland today (Fig. 34). An innocent 20 para Turkish postcard cancelled by the Turkish "Tiberiade 1"¹ dated 14th July 1914. The postcard reached it's destination Zajrz, a small village near Lodg', at the same date, 14.7.1914, apparently an impossible date - no, the date of dispatch and the date of arrival both are correct, each in his own system. The Tiberias dispatch was according to the Gregorian Calendar, and the arrival in Russia was according to the Julian Calendar, that was at that time 13 days behind.²

Beside the very rare origin of the postcard, the settlement "Migdal", the most interesting is the story that the postcard content is revealing. And it says:

"20 Tamuz "Migdal" Tar'ad (1914) Tuesday

To my parents, brothers and sisters Shalom

Last Friday I left "Gan Shmuel" to explore the Galilee. For the last four days I have been in this settlements: "Karkur", "Merhavia", "Tel-Adas", "Mount Tavor", "Mesha", "Sedgerah", "Sirona", "Yavneel", "Bet-Gan", "Melahamia", "Beitania", "Dgania", "Kineret", "Poriah", "Mitzpe", "Hitin", and now I am in the last settlement at the Lower Galilee, at "Migdal". Within half an hour, we are leaving for the Upper Galilee, for Rosh-Pina, Mishmar Hayarden, Yesod Hamalla, and maybe even Metula. I met my Rahel in Kineret. When I'll be back I'll be again in Kineret, I'll go with her to "Gan Shmuel". On this Saturday an interesting festival at Beitania, I'll probably be there. I'll write in detail at the end of the journey. I am going with two friends from Gan Shmuel.

Be well, your son and brother Menahem.

As you have seen, this postcard is folding in itself the story of the Jewish settlement in the Valley of Jesreel and the Galilee. In my efforts to follow Menahem Berliner's journey in the Holy Land,

I happened to talk with Moshe Rimer, a fellow philatelist, and I was amazed to realize that he has conducted a very detailed research for the last 4 years on Menahem Berliner and his family. Rimer supplied me with texts of Berliner's

1. Collins PM5

2. From 1900 the difference between the two calendars was 13 days, the Russians started to use the Gregorian calendar in 1918.

letters; Menahem used to write to his family every few days, to share with them his experiences in Eretz Israel. His letters were brought to Eretz Israel by his brother, and they were classified and numbered. Most of the material is nowadays at the Zionist Archives in Jerusalem.

The postcard that we have seen is numbered 100; in the letter numbered 102, written 18 days later from Gan-Shmuel, Hadera, Menahem describes in detail the foot journey that he made, the people he met and their jobs, and the view of the settlements. What is very obvious from his description is the grave poverty and the harsh life conditions of the Jewish settlers in the settlements before the First World War.

Menahem Berliner died from Yellow Fever when he was only 24. He was treated in his last days by Dr Hillel Yafe in Zikhron Ya'acov, where he is buried.



Figure 34

The Nahariya Slogan Proofs on Gestetner greenish blue Paper

L. Aloni, Shoham

Mr. Doron Waide in his auction catalogue of June 2006, published a short article regarding the proofs of the 6th Nahariya slogan, in which the conclusion was the statement : **"It is highly likely that these proofs currently in existence are merely copies of the same original."**

I would like to congratulate Mr. Waide for his initiative to use the valuable space in his catalogue to publish philatelic knowledge, and I hope that in the future more auction houses and more knowledgeable auctioneers will follow.

I agree with most of Mr. Waide's arguments about the similarity and the human error or forces applied but he did nothing to prove or disprove his assumption about the resemblance of the proofs in his hand.

I assembled 6 such proofs, 2 of the 1st slogan, 2 of the 2nd and 2 of the 6th slogan, similar to those showed by Mr. Waide, and brought them for inspection at the ink and paper restoration laboratory of "The Israel Museum, Jerusalem". I asked them if they can determine whether these proofs are "stencil prints" or photocopies?

Their answer was as follows:

1. Even if for the naked eye the two proofs in each of the pairs look identical, with all the surrounding marks -- under a microscope it is clearly seen that they are not identical in shape and shade; the differences are caused mainly by the variable amount of ink applied each time.
2. As the ink applied to the paper by copying machines is heat-sensitive, a simple test was suggested: With a small iron the ink was heated from the back side on a blotting paper. The Nahariya proofs did not leave any marks on the blotting paper, but when the test was repeated on a photocopy it left a very distinctive mark on the paper.
3. Under the microscope one can see very distinctive differences in the borders of written lines between the "stencil print" and the photocopy.

The laboratory's definite conclusion was that all these proofs are "stencil prints" and not photocopies.

There are two additional points to be considered :

- A. I personally know about these proofs from the 70's, but a fellow collector remembers the proofs from the 50's. In those days the copying machines were based on chemical paper and copy's quality was far from that of these proofs.

B. I found in my collection a cover sent from Nahariya with the 6th slogan, where the peripheral marks are very similar to those on the existing proofs (see the following figure: (a) The 6th Slogan proof, (b) the 6th Slogan on the back of a cover).

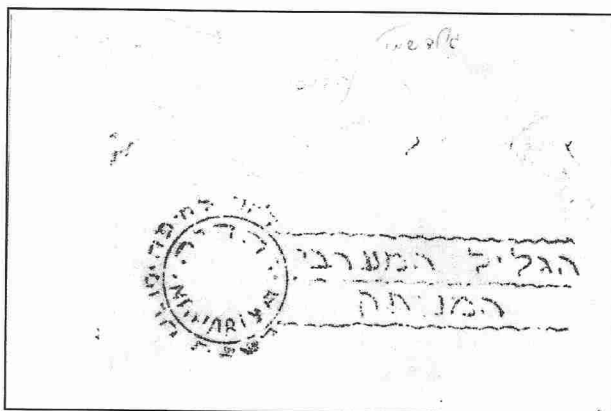
Regarding Mr. Waide remarks about the Gestetner paper used and the watermark - his conclusion is very wrong, he probably does not know that in those days Gestetner was the leading manufacturer of printing and "Stencil" machines and the sole supplier of special paper and accessories to those machines.

It is worthwhile to note here that "probably" and "likely" is not enough for proving a theory and such proofs can mislead our fellow collectors.

(a)



(b)



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.



13.3.2005
חותמת אירוע, יריד המולים
"יד יונגוף סטמפ" תל-אביב



23.2.2005
חותמת אירוע, הוועידה ה-40,
ההסתדרות הרפואית, ירושלים



14.2.2005
חותמת אירוע,
25 שנה לבית איז שפירא, רעננה



10.2.2005
חותמת אירוע, 70 שנה להכרזה,
נהריה



3.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, מוסדות חינוך בדרך
ישראל, ראשון לציון



3.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, יום הויכוח לחללי
מערכות ישראל, ירושלים



3.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, 50 שנה
לאוניברסיטת בר אילן, רמת גן



3.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, 60 שנה לסיום
מלחמת העולם השנייה, ירושלים



20.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה,
ועידת המדינה של דוד יורדי ישראל
ויובל המאה ליושני העולם



17.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה,
ויובל למרכז וינצ'י למשפחה
בית הכנסת ירושלים



5.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, חיי למצעד החיים,
60 שנה לסיום מלחמת העולם השנייה



3.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה, סעוד המילואים,
תל-אביב



25.5.2005
חותמת יום הופעה,
25 שנה לקרן לבני

חותמות דואר ישראל



18.5.2005 חותמת יום הופעה,
האפיפיור יוחנן פאולוס השני.
ירושלים



09.4.2005 חותמת אירוע,
פתיחת קו הרכבת לירושלים,
ירושלים



23.2.2005 חותמת אירוע, הועידה
הרצית ה-40 של ההסתדרות הרפואית
בישראל. ירושלים



22.2.2005 חותמת יום הופעה, תחילת
אוטומט, 800 שנה לפטירתו של
הרמב"ם, טבריה



11.7.2005 חותמת אירוע, המכביה
ה-17, נתניה מארחת את משתתפי
המכביה ה-17. נתניה



21.6.2005 חותמת אירוע, עסקים
קטנים ובינוניים מנוע הצמיחה של
המשק, ירושלים



07.6.2005 חותמת אירוע, הועידה
השלישית של הסתדרות הגימלאים
בישראל. תל-אביב-יפו



10.5.2005 חותמת אירוע,
40 שנות פריחה.
כרמיאל



16.8.2005 חותמת אירוע,
הדאר בא היום באוטו האדום.
קבוצת כנרת



26.7.2005 חותמת יום הופעה,
זהבית השלוחות - מן המניין,
בית שאן



26.7.2005 חותמת יום הופעה,
אומנות ישראלית.
תל-אביב-יפו

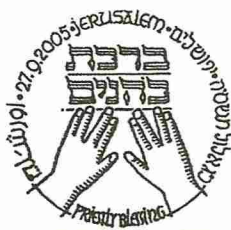


11.7.2005 חותמת יום הופעה,
מכביה 2005.
רמת גן

חותמות דואר ישראל



27.9.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
רפואה בישראל,
תל-אביב-יפו



27.9.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
ברכת הכהנים,
ירושלים



27.9.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
מועדים התשס"ו,
בני ברק



01.9.2005 חתמת ארוע,
80 שנה לתעשית המלט בישראל,
נשר



31.10.2005 חתמת ארוע,
אליפות העולם לנבחרות
בשחמט. באר שבע



28.9.2005 חתמת ארוע,
חובת מתקן ההתפלה באשקלון.
אשקלון



27.9.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
מרכז יצחק רבין.
תל-אביב-יפו.



27.9.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
שנת הפיזיקה העולמית - אלברט
איינשטיין ירושלים.



27.12.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
תיאטרון.
תל-אביב-יפו



27.12.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
זכויות הילד.
ירושלים



27.11.2005 חתמת ארוע,
מלח. משק לשעת חרום -
50 שנה, תל-אביב-יפו



3.11.2005 חתמת יום הופעה,
40 שנה ליחסים דיפלומטיים
ישראל-גרמניה, ירושלים

חותמות דואר ישראל



24.12.2005 - חותמת ארז, נצרת, קריסטמס



12.12.2005 - חותמת ארז, נצרת המלאך - קריסטמס



15.11.2005 - חותמת ארז, ישראל-טוניס



14.11.2005 - חותמת ארז, אגודת הסוכרת בישראל



29.12.2005 - חותמת יום ההופעה, 85 שנה להתאחדות התעשיית בישראל



27.12.2005 - חותמת ארז, הכנס ה-19 של בולאי ישראל



27.12.2005 - חותמת ארז, כנס יום הבולאות



24.12.2005 - חותמת ארז, ירושלים - קריסטמס



28.2.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה, כפר חבד



28.2.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה, ילדי אמריקה מצירים ישראל



10.2.2006 - חותמת ארז, משחקי החורף האולימפיים טורינו 2006



27.1.2006 - יום הדיכון הבינ"ל לקורבנות השואה, החלטת האו"ם 60/7

חותמות דואר ישראל



4. 11.4.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
יום הזכרון לחללי מערכות ישראל



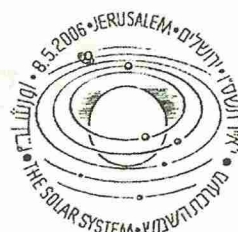
3. 1.3.2006 - חותמת ארוע -
חברת דואר ישראל



2. 28.2.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
עזר ויצמן



1. 28.2.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
לכול חברת הדואר



7. 8.5.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
מערכת השמש



6. 8.5.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
תזית דוארמט



5. 8.5.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
פרחים



11. 8.5.2006 - חותמת ארוע -
יום ארה"ב בתערוכה



10. 9.5.2006 - חותמת ארוע -
יום יון בתערוכה



9. 8.5.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
יובל אוניברסיטת תל אביב



8. 8.5.2006 - חותמת יום ההופעה -
גלוניות זכרון מגידו

New Stamps and Postal Stationery

- The following stamps and postal stationery were issued since January 2005:
- 22.2.2005: Animals in the Bible – Ostrich (IS 1.30), Brown Bear (1.30), Wolf (2.20), Nile Crocodile (2.20); Souvenir Sheet composed of the four animal stamps, but with different face values (IS 1.30, 2.10, 2.20, 2.80); Ancient Water Systems in Israel – Hazor Water System (IS 2.10), Megiddo W.S. (2.10), Caesarea Aqueduct (IS 3.30), Hezekiah's Tunnel, Jerusalem (IS 6.20); A do'armat label (CIMA machine label) commemorating 800 years since the death of the Rambam (Rabbi Moses Ben-Maimon) was sold by the Ph. S. (with Indicator # 001) and by the CIMA machine in Tiberias (#005).
- 3.5.2005: Educational Institutions in Eretz Israel - Hebrew kindergarten in Rishon Le-zion (2.10), "Lemel" Elementary School in Jerusalem (6.20); 50 Years to Bar-Ilan University (IS 2.20); 60 years since the end of W.W. II (3.30, 3.30) – issued in mini-sheets of 6, the two stamps arranged alternatively se-tenant (see Fig. 35); Israel Reserve Forces (IS 2.20); Memorial Day 2005 (IS 1.50).



Figure 35

- 9.5.2005: Do'armat commemorating 60 years since the end of WW II and the victory over Nazi Germany. Inscribed, "The Jewish soldier in the Allied Forces". Indicator # : 001 in the Ph.S., 010 in Jerusalem, 003 in Tel Aviv, 008 in Netania, 012 in Beer Sheva, 006 in Haifa, and 004 in Carmiel.
- 18.5.2005: Pope John Paul II (3.30)
- 7.6.2005: A booklet of 20 self-adhesive NIS 2.20 stamps showing Revivim Watchtower (Fig. 36). The same stamp, but in ordinary sheets and gum was issued already on 5.12.2000.

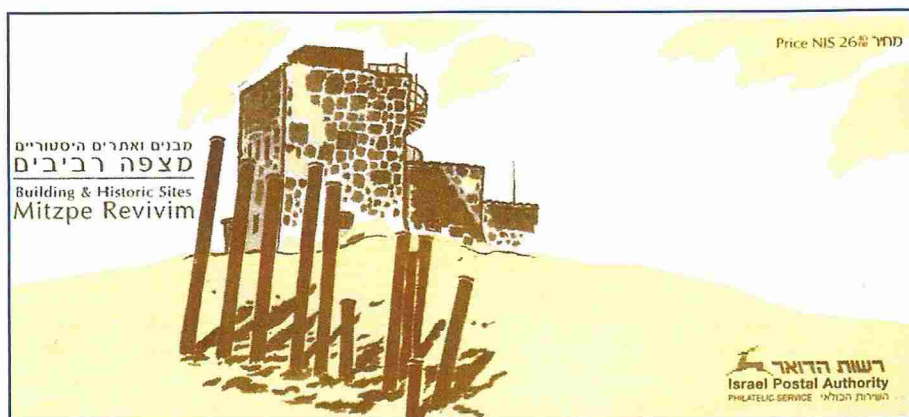


Figure 36



Figure 37

- 11.7.2005: The 17th Maccabiah, 2005 (3.30).
 26.7.2005: 800 years since the death of the Rambam (Rabbi Moses Ben-Maimon) (IS 8.20); Israeli Art (2.20, 4.90, 6.20); Gagea Commutate (a wild flower, part of the Definitive Series, non-denominated rated for a local regular letter), also issued a booklet of 20 of this stamp but self-adhesive (Fig. 37).
 27.9.2005: Priestly Blessing (IS 6.20); Festivals 2005, the six orders of the "Mishna"; (part I - IS 1.30, 2.10, 2.30, 3.30); Yitzhak Rabin Center (2.20); Medicine in Israel (IS 1.40, 2.20, 2.20, 6.20).
 3.11.2005: Forty years since the establishment of Israel-Germany diplomatic relations (IS 2.10).
 12.12.2005: Do'armat label Noel – Christmas 2005 (#001 from the Ph.S. and #015 from Nazareth).
 27.12.2005: Albert Einstein in the 2005 Physics year - Souvenir Sheet (12.00); Children's Rights (1.30, 1.30, 1.30); Theater Personalities – Moshe Halevy (2.20), Joseph Millo (2.20), Nissim Aloni (6.20), Shai K. Ophir (6.20).
 29.12.2005: Industry in Israel - 85 years to the Israeli-manufacturers' Association.
 28.2.2006: Chabad (Lubavitch Chassidism; IS 2.50); Ezer Weizman (1924-2005; IS 7.40); Children of America paint Israel (IS 1.50, 2.40, 3.60, 7.40); "Israel Post Ltd." Company (IS 1.50);
 1.3.2006: Do'armat label – "Israel Post Ltd." Company. They would appear gradually as different CIMA machines are operated in several towns around the country, each with a different indicator # printed on the Do'armat label supplied by it, as follows:

Town	Date	Indicator #
Ph.S.	1.3.06	001
Jerusalem	1.3.06	010
Rehovot	1.3.06	011
Tel Aviv	5.3.06	009
Netaniya	5.3.06	008
Ashkelon	7.3.06	016
Beer Sheva	7.3.06	012
Haifa*	9.3.06	006
Nazareth	9.3.06	015
Naharyia	12.3.06	002
Carmiel	12.3.06	004
Tiberias	12.3.06	005
Eilat	16.3.06	013

* This machine had not been in order on the specified date; it was repaired and started to operate on 28.5.06, supplying the 006 Do'armat labels.

- 11.4.2006: Memorial Day 2006 – the memorial monument in Latrun for the armored Corps (IS 1.50).
- 8.5.2006: “My own stamp” – Tulip (IS 1.50), Columbine (IS 1.50); The Solar System – Six se-tenant stamps, each of IS 2.50, also Souvenir sheet composed of the same stamps; 50 years to Tel Aviv University (IS 3.60); Souvenir sheet in honor of “Jerusalem 2006” National Stamp Exhibition, showing Megiddo 3rd century Mosaic; Souvenir sheet containing the “Israel Post” stamp (which was issued on 28 February (but here with nominal 5.90) also with the “Jerusalem 2006” Logo. This Sheet was also given as present to all Ph.S. subscribers (one each) – here with the company ‘Logo’ embossed on top left, and a cyclometric number on the bottom right (Figure 38).



Figure 38

Stationery

- 12.3.2006: Air letter, non-denominated (sold now for IS 1.50).
- 22.5.2005: Two prestamped (imprinted) envelopes (“Do’ar 24 hours”) – (a) 237x162mm (Fig. 39-a, depicting a Dalia flower) for inland letters up to 50 gr. (price IS 2.60); (b) 340x240 mm (Fig. 39-b, depicting an Amarilus flower) for inland letter up to 100 gr. (price IS 3.10).

(b)



(a)



Figure 39



“Jerusalem 2006” National Stamp Exhibition with International Participation

*Eddie Leibus
(Photographs* – Carmela Shimony)*



The “Jerusalem 2006” stamp exhibition with the participation of the USA, Denmark, Greece and Sweden was held in Binianei Ha’Uma in Jerusalem., from 8-11 May 2006. In the opening ceremony, a new souvenir sheet showing a mosaic of the 3rd Century Megiddo was exposed.



Launching the new souvenir sheet of
“Jerusalem 2006”.



Cancelling the new souvenir sheet with
the First Day special Postmark
for this event – 8.5.2006



Congratulating the Exhibition (from left to right): Shuka Dorfman, Director General, Israel Antiquities Authority; Yacov Edery, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Israel Post; Avi Hochman, President and CEO, Israel Post; Jacob Vidas, Acting Director, Israel Philatelic Service; Eli Weber, President, Israel Philatelic Federation.



The exhibition turned out to have been very successful. Jerusalem was as marvelous as ever, the weather was kind, the atmosphere - very friendly and the public came in.



Shuli Nathan, singing "Jerusalem of Gold"

The philatelic level of the exhibits was much higher than normally expected in a national exhibition. To the high level contributed the foreign exhibits which were carefully selected by the commissioners and which added international flavor to the 'show'.



Motti Kremener, IPF Secretary, with the Greek clergyman, one of the delegation invited to honour the issue of the Megiddo Souvenir Sheet.



The Greek delegation congratulates the occasion...

Six exhibits 'Hors Concourse' and almost 100 competitive exhibits were displayed in the frames, of which 18 were awarded Large Gold or Gold Medals. Among the non-competitive exhibits two were exceptional : (1) First time show of the renovated "Zvi Alexander Museum" of Postal History and Philately of Zionism and the Holy Land**.



Zvi Aloni, Philatelic Consultant and Secretary of the HLPH Society shows the "Alexander's Museum" exhibit.

(2) Some gems from the Archive of the Philatelic Service which were never shown before.

Here it has to be mentioned that due to the high level of the exhibits, medals were awarded according to the international (FIP) rather than the national scale. The jury work was smooth and the guest jurors (Harry Berglund, Sweden, Donald Chafetz, USA, Per Mortensen, Denmark, and Neoklis Zafirakopoulos of Greece) added much expertise which was highly appreciated.



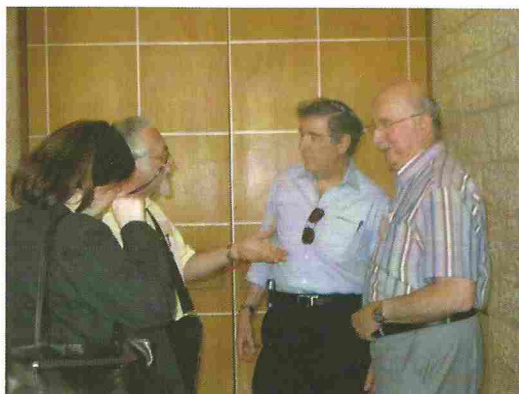
Eddie Leibur chatting with the Danish juror and the Danish Commissioner.

The Grand Prix of the International Class was awarded to the “Kassandra” collection of the Large Hermes Heads of Greece.



Eli Weber, IPF President and the Chairman of the Exhibition awards the Large Gold medal (The Grand Prix International) to the Greek collection

**Yaacov Shabtai chatting with
Henry Nogid et al.**



This is an international top level exhibit, probably the best exhibit of this popular



**Tibi Yaniv, IPF Manager and the Exhibition
Director**

subject seen for many years. Among the rarities one could see proofs, first day usage on cover, nine copies of the provisional Athens print 20 lepta – including two on covers – and two copies of the famous “Salferino”, one on cut-out – a marvelous exhibit indeed. The National Grand Prix winner was our active member Itamar Karpovsky for his exhibit “Transition Period 1948 – The Postal History of Jerusalem”. A powerful exhibit that portrays in the best way the complicate story of

Jerusalem under siege.

The National class benefited very much from the participation of members of the SIP. A number of the American exhibits were shown for the first time in Israel. All these exhibits were of a very high standard and well prepared. For us, it was a nice surprise to see them and all show an even greater promise for the future. A critique was held on the last day before the ceremonial distribution of the medals and exhibitors and jurors had lively discussions by the frames.

“Jerusalem 2006” gave almost all involved very pleasant memories. It was a perfect appetizer for “Israel 2008” World Stamp Championship, to be held in Tel-Aviv in two years.

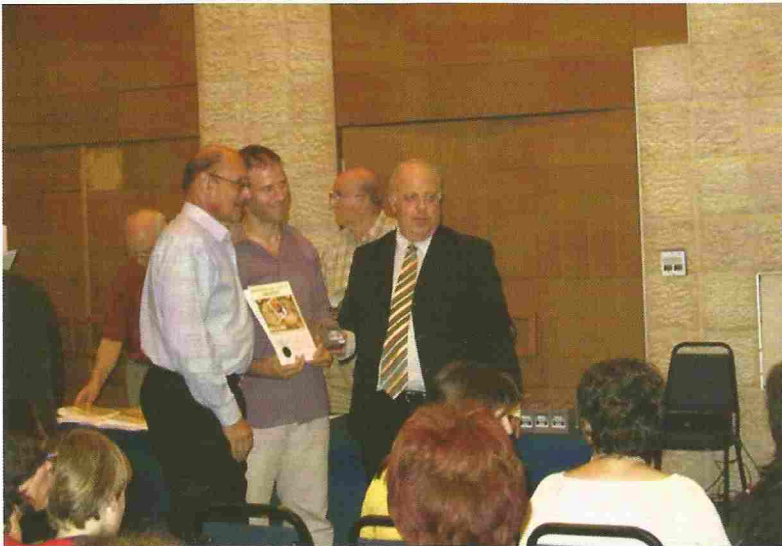
The Awards for Holy Land and Judaica exhibits

Large Gold:

Karpovsky Itamar: Transition Period 1948 – The Postal History of Jerusalem. (grand Prix National + “The Best in Group”).

Gold :

Levin Amir: Doar Ivri, its Preparation and Printing.



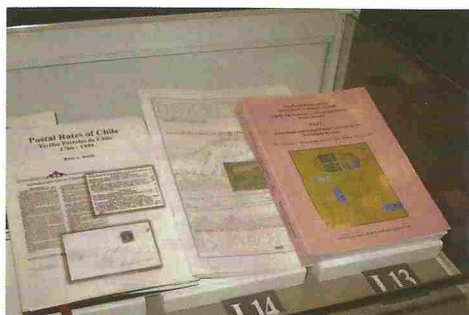
Eli Weber awards the Medal to Shmariahu and Amir Levin.

Rimon Yeremiyahu: Haifa – a Profile of the Posts.

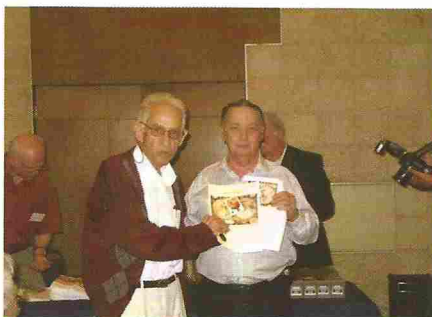
Becker Jonathan: British Palestine 1917-1920. The EEF in Palestine and Syria.

Nogid Henry: The Four Siege Cities of the Second Interim: Rishon Le Zion, Safad, Nahariya & Jerusalem.

Shimony, Rimon & Karpovsky: The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel 1948, Vol II: The Emergency and Private Postal Service. Part I: Jerusalem & Safad Postal Services in the Transition Period. (Literature Class; “Best in Group”).



Some of the books in the Exhibition
Literature Class



Itamar Karpovsky & Zvi Shimony
receiving the medal awarded to their
book (co-authored also with Yeri Rimon)

Zankel Nathan: Palestine 1918 Interim Period (best one frame exhibit)***

Large Vermeil:

Kroft Ed: Rishon Le Zion - from settlement to city.

Bass Michael: A survey of Postal History in the Holy Land during the Ottoman Period.

Pildes Robert: 1950 Airmail Issue of Israel.

Stier Joseph: Bale Israel 2006 Catalogue (Literature).

Vermeil:

Blau Dan: Air Mail History of the Holy Land.

Silver:

Zorea Zvi: Carmel 2006 Israel Stamp catalogue (Literature).

Kandel Richard: Taxi Post in Pre-Israel 1948 (one frame)***

National Large Silver:

Rosen Ed: Shanghai 1939-1941, Port of Last Resort.

* The photographs appearing in the article were randomly and independently taken. They were not meant to be a part of this (or indeed of any) publication.

** It is part of Museum Eretz-Israel, Tel Aviv.

*** One frame exhibits were awarded according to the FIP system of three medals: Gold for 90-100 points; Silver for 70-90 points; Bronze for 50-60 points.

It happened again – Israel withdraw again from (parts of) the Gaza Strip

(Zvi Shimony)

The evolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute is demonstrated quite fully in philately and postal history. A glimpse of it may be seen in recent events, which leave their impressions on postal history – we refer to the repeated withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip or parts thereof. There were three times in which Israel - trying to advance the peace process with (first) Egypt and (later) with the Palestinians – withdrew from parts or from the whole of the Gaza Strip. In all of these cases, one can find postal marks which memorize this withdrawal, in one way or another.

In 1956, the Gaza Strip and Sinai were conquered by Israel as part of the Sinai War which erupted due to the atrocities of Egypt and the Arab Fediune who infiltrated to Israel through the Gaza and Sinai borders, murdering and robbing Israeli citizens. In this war France and Great Britain, for their own reasons, were active allies with Israel, while the U.S.A. and Russia opposed, and through political (**and other**) pressures enforced the allied armies to withdraw and U.N. observers deployed the borders with Israel of Sinai and the Gaza Strip. This took place on 1-3 Nov, 1956.



Fig. 40

The historic postal witness of that war is abundant, the Israeli occupation of the G.S. being evidenced by the opening of several Branch Post Offices in the larger towns of the G.S. (this part of the "story" is well known, and is not developed here). The end of this "story" postal wise may be told by observing the dates March 5, 1957 of closing of these PO's; of special interest is the handstamp struck on the "returned to Sender" registered cover to Khan-Yunes shown in Figure 40, which reads: "Postal connections with Gaza Region Suspended". The date of dispatch of this letter was 3rd of March, as seen on the postmark and, give or take 2 days it can be deduced that the Israel Postal Service in the Gaza Strip lasted for 86 days, terminating on March 5, 1957.

Another "advancing backward" (= withdrawal) from that region can be postally demonstrated by the following cover and handstamp (Fig. 41), sent from Jerusalem to Yamit, a city in the north part of Sinai, which was planned by the government of Israel, built and settled during the seventies and eighties, after the "Yom Kipur War". The region then, which was Egyptian territory before that war, had to be totally destroyed by Israeli bulldozers and evacuated according to the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty. The final desertion of all citizens from their homes in Yamit was ordered to be April 23, 1982. The handstamp (in Hebrew) reads:

(Settlement Anihilated / Back to Sender) ("הישוב חוסל / חזרה לשולח").



Fig. 41

The peace with Egypt having been substantiated, most of the Israeli-Arab dispute concentrated around the "Palestinian problem" and the crux of it, for the time being, concerned with the Gaza Strip, where Israeli settlers gradually settling down in new Arab areas raised the Palestinian wrath to new higher climaxes and hatred. So a new period of Arab (mostly Palestinian) terror against Israel erupted and on the other hand both sides felt the urgent need of starting some kind of peace talks. Unfortunately several such attempts have failed and recently Israel decided to make some movements without a dialogue with the Arabs, claiming that "there is nobody to negotiate with". This operation, called the **"Disengagement Plan"**, was fiercely rejected by the Arabs (who considered it "a one sided Israeli plot to fix the final borders"), in spite of the fact that it included evacuation of several Israeli settlements.

The settlements of the religious parties and/or various zealous rightists would not agree to leave the places they have settled in (sometimes with Government approval), but these were mostly secluded places, in the middle of Arab population, without critical importance to Israeli security, e.g., Newe Dekalim, Hof Azza. So in order to show that Israel is giving its share, a lot of such small and unimportant new settlements were to evacuate their homes, and naturally also the postal services to these will be suspended as announced in the "Notice to Our Clients" No. 42/05 from August 9, 2005 (see Fig. 42).

Another N.P. was later proclaimed, somewhat changing the Info, (see Fig. 42 bottom poster), changing some facts of the previous notice and also shows the pmks of those places to be suspended and informs us the dates that Last Day covers (Fig. 43) of the places in the Gaza Strip to be evacuated as part of the Israeli "Disengagement Plan".

רשות הדואר

הודעה לקהל לקוחותינו

ירושלים, ד' באב, התשס"ה 4/8/05 9 באוגוסט, 2005

הנדון: שירותי דואר בחבל עזה ובצפון השומרון, בעקבות תכנית ההינתקות

שירותי הדואר לישובי חבל עזה וצפון השומרון יופסקו ביום ב' ה-15 באוגוסט 2005, שהינו מועד תחילת ביצוע מינוי הישובים במסגרת ההינתקות. למיכך, היום האחרון בו ייעתנו שירותי דואר לישובים הוא יום א' ה-14 באוגוסט 2005.

רשות הדואר

הודעה לקהל לקוחותינו

ירושלים, ד' בתשרי, התשס"ו 5/8/05 11 באוקטובר, 2005

הנדון: חתומות יום העבודה האחרון של יחידות דואר בחבל עזה

להלן רשימת יחידות הדואר אשר פעלו ברצועת עזה ונסגרו עם הפינוי:

1. יום הפעילות האחרון של סוכנות הדואר "מבוא עזה" היה יום ראשון, כ"ד בתמוז התשס"ה, 31 ביולי 2005. בסוכנות הדואר הופעלה חתומת "מבוא עזה צה"ל 1".
2. יום הפעילות האחרון של סוכנות הדואר בגוזה דקלים, היה חמישי, ו' באב, התשס"ה, 11 באוגוסט 2005. בסוכנות הדואר הופעלה חתומת "עוזה דקלים 1".
3. יום הפעילות האחרון של קו דואר נע חוף עזה אשר בסיסו בית הדואר באשקלון, היה יום ראשון, ט' באב התשס"ה, 14 באוגוסט 2005. בקו הדואר הופעלה חתומת "דואר נע חוף עזה 1".

בדי השירות הכולאי מעטפות "צב אדום" החתומות בחתומות אלו מתאריך יום הפעילות האחרון.

אספנים יוכלו לרכוש מעטפות אלו באשנב המכירות של השירות הכולאי, שדרות ירושלים 12, תל-אביב-יפו 68021, מספר הטלפון: 03-5123907.

בברכת נמר חתימה טובה,

טל אמיד

מנהלת תחום שירותי אשנב

אגף התפעול








Fig. 42



Fig. 43

Israel Postal Authority becomes a governmental Company – “Israel Post Ltd.”

The Israel Postal Authority, which was established in April 1987, became as of March 1, 2006, a governmental Company. A concise description of the postal services status evolution in Israel since 1948 was published by the Israel Philatelic Service* in connection with the issue of a special stamp and postmark to commemorate the change into the company “Israel Post Ltd” (See Fig. 44).

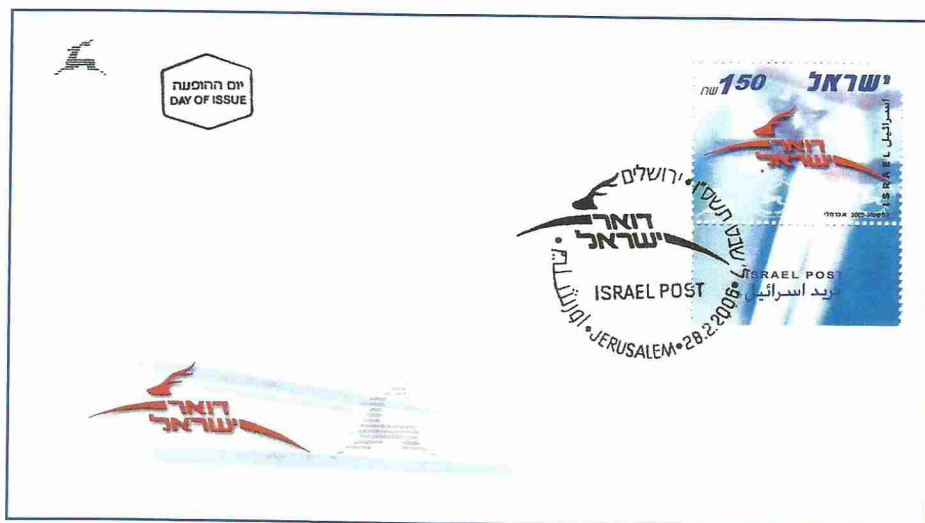


Fig. 44: FDC of the stamp issued by the Israel Postal Authority on 28 February, 2006, to commemorate the change of the Authority to the company “Israel Post Ltd”.
The cover has both the old and the new Logos.

It reads (Quote): “With the end of the era of the Israel Postal Authority, and at the threshold of a new and challenging era, the Israel Postal Authority will become a government-owned company - Israel Post Ltd. - on March 1, 2006. The new company seeks to expand and improve its services to the public while guaranteeing profitability and market competitiveness.

The State of Israel, established on May 14, 1948, continued providing postal services formerly supplied by the British Mandate, first under the aegis of the Ministry of Transportation, and, from October 1951 onward, as part of the Ministry of Posts, which later became the Ministry of Communications. The postal service delivered letters, parcels and telegrams, as well as providing telephone services. The Postal Bank, also established in 1951, in time became the main governmental conduit for payments and money transfers.

* Written by Jacob Vidas, Acting Director, Israel Philatelic Service

As part of the government policy of shifting public-service governmental bodies to a self-management basis, legislation enacted in January 1986 resulted in the establishment of the Israel Postal Authority in April 1987. The goals of the legislation were threefold: improving, developing and expanding the postal services; managing the organization as an economical, self-sufficient and profitable body; and improving the workers' employment and salary conditions side by side with improved efficiency. The Authority's goal was a "postal revolution" which led to the introduction of a new organizational and management conception; improvement in the range and quality of public services; reduced time spent waiting in line; enhanced reliability of services; greater accessibility of information to the public; and, most importantly, reduced postal delivery time. The postal branches were redesigned and acquired a modern, unified appearance. Postal workers were given training in providing efficient, quick and courteous service to the public.

The stamp has been issued to mark the statutory change in the transition of the Israel Postal Authority to the status of a government-owned company - Israel Post Ltd. - as part of opening up the postal market to competition by other postal conveyors. This change will allow Israel Post Ltd. which is the national mail carrier, to expand into additional areas. Israel Post Ltd. will continue to supply postal services in the State of Israel as it has done so since the country's establishment.” (unquote)



Fig. 45: Two consecutive "Public Notices", #11/6 from February 28, 2006 with the old Logo, and #12/6 with the new one.

On the FDC shown in Figure 44 above, one can see both the stamp and the postmark issued on 28 February still by the Authority, to mark the change into the Company on the next day; it is also interesting to note the logo of the new “baby” which appears in the PMK and on the bottom left of the FDC, as well as the logo of the departing Authority on the top left. Also printed on this last day of February (the 28th) the last “Notice to the Public”, the very typical long lived Public Notice with the Logo inscribed “the Postal Authority” (carrying the serial number 11/06, meaning the 11th notice in the year 2006) - see Figure 45 - while the 12th Notice in 2006 was printed on 7 th March, and have the Logo of the company “Israel Post” (see Fig. 45, bottom, overlapping part of the previous notice).



Fig. 46: FDC of the new CPL issued by the company “Israel Post Ltd”.

Figure 46 shows the FDC of a new CPL (MASAD) which was issued on 1st March by the “new” Company. Collectors of postal Forms (and stationery) and researchers of postal history should notice that (all?) these items are imprinted with the new logo instead of the old one. As typical of postal “transition periods” (T.P.) varieties and errors may exist in such a period, especially of Postal Forms. The present transition to the “Israel Post” company, although not as profound as a change of administration (e.g. the Israeli 1948 T.P.), still possesses changes and revisions in the Post – changes intended to improve, but unfortunately sometimes are failures – which leave enough field for postal collecting and research.

A deep research will quite surely be made by somebody during the time, on this subject; here I ‘d only show a few examples of postal Forms, belonging to the old period and having the Authority logo, compared to some of the new period and

having the Company Logo (Fig. 47 and 48). The Form to be filled when sending a parcel (Fig. 49) is still the old one in many BPOs, having the Logo of the Postal Authority (at least as late as May 15).

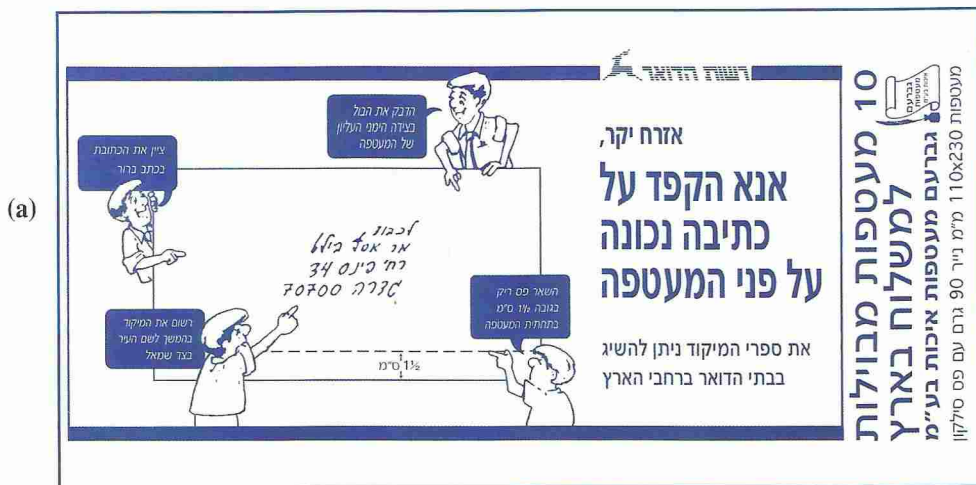


Fig. 47: Front of the pack publicity and instructional sheets, used by the Post Office to advance packs of 110x230 mm envelopes sold to the public: (a) with the old Logo, and (b) with the new Logo.

אישור משלוח בדואר רשום

דבר דואר רשום שמספרו _____
מסר לדיונו בידי השולח לשם סירתו לזמן המפורט מתה

שם השולח _____

מטען _____

מקור/רדד _____

מקור _____

שם המטען _____

מטען _____

מקור/רדד _____

מקור _____

שירות נלווה או תואר הרשום: ☐ אישור מסירה ☐ תשלום במגביה

SMS לטלפון סלולארי ☐

לחצונית לב משלוח

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13.2

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(b)

Fig. 48: Two forms of the IP company inscribed with the new Logo, (a) Confirming an item as registered mail and, (b) Notice of arrival of mail; a used form inscribed by hand 249/13.2 meaning that it arrived on 13 February, that is about fortnight prior to the transition !!

[illegible]

Fig. 49: A Parcel Post mailing Form with the Logo of the Authority, still known to be used as late as 15 May (maybe later) - well into the new period !

Naturally, used entires of the time close to the middle of the transition, may be most appealing as is for example the cover shown in Figure 50, which is a “Two Period” cover: It is a registered airmail letter from South Africa to Jerusalem where a “tab” of a notice of a “registered letter” was stuck on the letter and dated manually 20/4/06. On the left top of this small rectangular pink label one can see **the Logo of the NEW post company**, but about 10cm below there is another smaller label (in red & black) inscribed “Registered from Abroad” and “the Postal Authority” following the **OLD Running Stag Logo**.



Fig. 50: A “Two Period Cover” - registered airmail letter from South Africa to Jerusalem, stuck on arrival with two PO labels, one with the old Logo, the other with the new Logo.

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