

Holy Land VI

Postal History 109-110

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



The only known letter to Jerusalem from Copenhagen franked with stamps of this issue. A highlight from World Championship Israel 2008 Stamp Exhibition, (see next page).

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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The Exhibit Page With The Letter From Copenhagen To Jerusalem Shown On The Cover.

To the Ottoman Empire

Copenhagen (1), re-routed via Trieste, to Jerusalem

1 1/4 loth (19.5 grams)

1 April (1861)



Only letter recorded to the Middle East with stamps from this period

As the 4 sk. stamp was from the third printing - issued 3 August 1860 - the letter was probably sent in 1861. The Copenhagen 1 April cancellation "KB" indicated that it was posted in a mailbox. The sender affixed 134 sk. (31 1/2 sgr.) in stamps, which would have paid the postage for a triple-weight letter (15 - 22.5 grams) via France to a Mediterranean destination. However, it was a double-weight letter when sent via Trieste, according to Denmark and the German-Austrian postal union (1 loth increments).

Letters sent via France could be prepaid as far as Jaffa, but not all the way to Jerusalem. However, letters sent via Trieste could be prepaid all the way to Jerusalem. It is likely that the postmaster changed the routing, as the same pen was used to make the manuscript markings: "Via Trieste; 1 1/4; fr 18 Sgr".

Manuscript "wfr 12" in Trieste for 12 sgr. credited forward to pay for the Trieste to Jerusalem stretch.

Re-calculated for routing via Trieste	
Postage	94 sk. or 22 sgr.
Danish share	17 sk. or 4 sgr.
Foreign total	77 sk. or 18 sgr.
German share	2 x 3 = 6 sgr.
Trieste - Jerusalem	2 x 6 = 12 sgr.

Postage paid	134 sk. or 31 1/2 sgr.
Danish share	17 sk. or 4 sgr.
Foreign total	117 sk. or 27 1/2 sgr.
German share	2 x 3 = 6 sgr.
Belgian share (old rate)	2 x 1 = 2 sgr.
French share	3 x 6 1/2 = 19 1/2 sgr.

ZVI ALEXANDER 1922-2008



A PILLAR OF HOLY LAND PHILATELY IS NO MORE!

It unthinkable that we no longer will meet zvi at philatelic exhibitions, at stamp club meetings or at his Museum. All his many collector friends will miss the benefit of his vast knowledge, that he willing shared, in a gentle and humors way. A great philatelist and a friendly person.

Zvi immigrated to Eretz Israel from Poland at the age of 12. After graduating from the "Hertzlia" high school, he volunteered to the British Army and served during WWII, and later served as an officer in the Signal Corps of the Israeli Defence Forces. He was sent by the Signal Corps to New York, to serve as their representative in the Israeli Defence Purchasing Mission. During this period he attended the Graduate Business School of Columbia University.

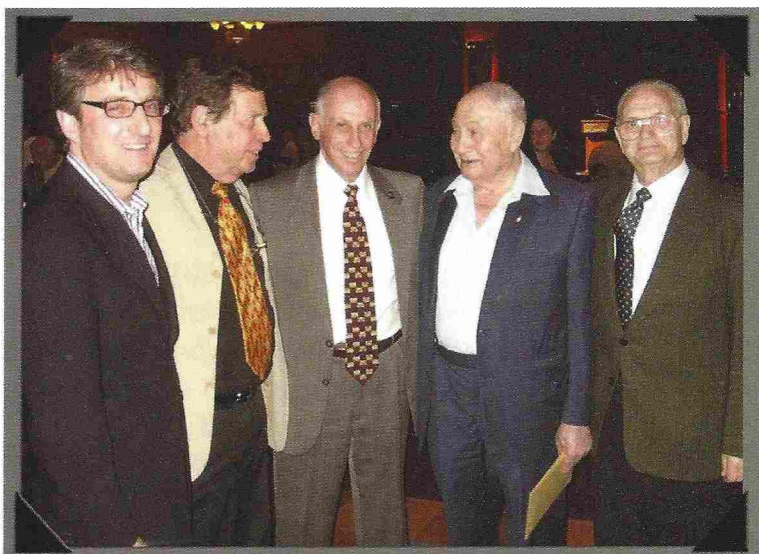
On completion of his Army service Zvi joined the Israeli Oil Exploration Industry, serving on several senior managerial positions. In 1974, he moved to London to manage the Company after it had been acquired by a British Investment Bank. Several years later, he became an independent entrepreneur in Oil affairs, with activities in Africa, South America and the Far East.

Zvi was a passionate collector of Holy Land Postal History. He was particularly interested in letters that represented historical developments and events, in fact he aimed to show history through his collections, Zionism, for instance.

His collections were awarded top medals in international and national stamp exhibitions. He shared his enthusiasm and knowledge by publishing books, articles and membership in philatelic societies, where he made many friends. The highlight of his philatelic achievements was the establishment of The Alexander Postal History and Philately Museum in Tel Aviv, the first and only one in the country. There his admirable collections are housed, for the education, learning and pleasure of collectors and the public at large as well.

Zvi leaves behind, his Wife Rachel, two Children and five Grand Children. He will be missed by his family, his friends and by many collectors.

Farewell Zvi, rest in peace.



Zvi and friends in Israel World Championship 2008 Stamp Exhibition. From left to right: M. Bass, Y. Kleiner, D. Chafetz, Zvi and S. Borovich.

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Editorial

The letter shown on the front cover is one of the gems exhibited in World Championship Israel 2008 Stamp Exhibition. The letter is a proper representation of the high standard of the Holy Land exhibits.

Our members did well with their exhibits, in face of fierce competition. We should be proud of their achievements. A discussion about the Exhibition follows later in the Bulletin.

Forgeries are the scare and the plight of collectors. Learning about them in order to be able to recognize dubious items, is an important task of collecting. A detailed article by the expert Yaacov Tsachor is an eye opener.

2008, marks the 60th. Birthday of the state of Israel. During most of these years, there were no official postal relations with the hostile Arab states, including Egypt and Jordan, until peace agreements were signed with both. However, "underground" postal connections existed, and mail traveled forth and back through unofficial channels, or through third countries. Lawrence Fisher discusses this unusual subject of Holy Land postal history.

An attempt by the Editor to establish the route by which a 1742, ecclesiastical letter traveled from Jerusalem to Venice proved a difficult undertaking, at the end of which; no definite conclusion could be reached. Readers are invited to comment.

A twist of humorous postal history is presented by the story of a naïve European traveler, who just wanted to send a letter from Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. Read and enjoy.

In this issue, we introduce a new section: "Queries and Opinions". It is intended for members to raise questions about items to which they seek answers. We hope that other members would address the questions, and where necessary we would direct them to experts. Likewise, we wish that members would express their opinions on matters of Holy Land philately.

The more controversial the opinion the better. The section should become a vivid discussion forum.

Since this is the first time for the section to appear, the Editor took the liberty to present an item from his collections, for review and discussion. Please participate and use this new section. Write to the Editor at; yehudak73@gmail.com

Our new volunteer Treasurer, Rafi Nachum, has compiled a list of members that are still delinquent in paying their membership fees. Eddie Leib, our Chairman, used the list to send reminders to Israeli non-paying members. Sid Morgenst, will approach U.S. members, and reminders will be sent to members living in other countries. We urge all members to be attentive about payments of membership dues*. The Society cannot function without funds. Thank you.

** Cheques should be made to the Holy Land Postal History Society, mailed to Rafi Nachum, 4 Moshe Dayan Street, Yahud 56450, Israel.*



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Holy Land And Israel, Fakes And Forgeries.examples From 1860 -1948

Yacov Tsachor, Member A.I.E.P.

This Article is based on the lecture given by the author at the inauguration ceremony of the F.F.E #11 (Fakes, Forgeries, and Experts, book). This book is issued annually by the A.I.E.P. (The International Association of Philatelic Experts). The ceremony was held this year during the philatelic exhibition "Israel 2008".

The front cover of the book shows an 1948 Interim Period forgery – Ma'abarot Registered cover and it is the first time that the F.F.E. gives such an honor to Holy Land philately.

The postal History of the Holy Land area is very much in demand by many collectors. As of the early 1850's, several Foreign Post Offices offered their services in the main cities. First the Austrian and the French Pôsts, later the German, Russian and Italian Posts, and of course the Turkish one, that functioned until the British the occupation of the area in 1918.

The British Mandate Postal services lasted until May 1948, as of when, the Israeli Post took over. In between there were two transition periods: December 1917 – May 1918, until the British authorities established postal services for civilians, and in May 1948 until the official Israeli government replaced the British Mandate.

Fakes and Forgeries of stamps, postmarks, overprints, varieties and other philatelic items are known to exist in all the collecting specialties. The article presents a modest part of these, from all periods, of this rich philatelic area.

The Austrian Post

a) Forged JAFFA Ornamental Postmark

The JAFFA ornamental postmark, principally, the first device used by the Austrian Post in Jaffa, is known to be used during 1862 -1879. It is rare on postal entires.



Fig. 1: 3 Soldi LV (Lombardo Venetian) imprinted envelope, not for use in the Holy Land, bearing a forged postmark - crude impression and larger diameter than the original, etc.



Fig. 2: Genuine postmark tying 10 Soldi 1863 LV to entire letter 1867 (Nov 8) Jaffa to Beirut.

b) Forged JERUSALEMME Postmark

This device was in use during 1859 – 1879.



Fig. 3: Genuine strikes on 3 & 15 Soldi 1867 LV issue



Fig.4: Forged postmark on 1903/4 Kreta issue 1 Fr on 1 Kr (Mi 5). Stamps issued 24 years after the device was no longer used.

The French Post

Forged JAFFA "Small & Large Digits" Postmarks

The "Small Digits" (Petits Chiffres) 3768 of Jaffa was used to obliterate stamps during 1857 – 1862, after which the "Large Digits" (Gros Chiffres) 5089 were in use until 1877.

Forgeries of both are known, either complete forged strikes or alterations of original strikes such as 3168 to 3768 or 5080 to 5089.



Fig. 5: Genuine "3768" on letter to Paris January 17, 1862.



Fig. 6: Forged "3768" on 10 c imperforate Napoleon.



Fig. 7: Genuine "5089" on letter to Malte, August 13, 1868.



Fig. 8: Forged "5089" on 2c pair & 4c single perforated Napoleon Lauree. The forgeries show slightly different digits from the originals.

Turkish Post

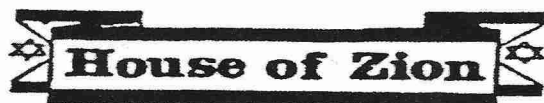
The Boxed ACRE postmark is known used during 1860-1876



*Fig. 9: genuine Acre
Boxed postmark.*



*Fig. 10: Single stamp
with Forged Acre Boxed
postmark, complete thin
lines and pointed
corners, thin Acre in the
center.*



Israel, Palestine
Judaica
Interim Period
Forerunners, Synagogue Postcards
Gaza & West Bank

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British Palestine

a) Forged Overprint on 1918 –SG#4

The 5 mils 1 piaster was first issued on 5th March 1918 for postcard rate. It is rouletted 20 on gummed paper.



*Fig. 11: Genuine SG #4
– 5 mils on 1 piaster.*



*Fig. 12: Forged
overprint, letters and
figures slightly different
and less clear. The
forger probably intended
to sell these as the
scarcer SG #2 which
are quite similar to SG
#4.*

b) OETA-EEF Jerusalem Bogus postmark dated 17 JY 18

Occupied Enemy Territory Administration – Egyptian Expeditionary Force, one of the Jerusalem British postmarks used during their Military Administration in Palestine.



Fig. 13: Cover bearing 1,2,4 & 5 m (SG #5,6,8 & 9) singles of the Typographed E.E.F. stamps. All tied by bogus postmarks of JERUSALEM OETA-EEF 17 JY 1918. The earliest recorded date of use of the 5 mil. stamp (SG #9) is 25 November 1918 (4 months later than the postmark's date). The earliest recorded date of the genuine postmark is 9 May 1919.

c) The DEAD SEA Postmark

This lowest post office in the world, about 380 meters below sea level was opened on October 1, 1941 to serve the Dead Sea Potash workers and the visitors to the area.



Fig. 14: Genuine postmark 15 JY 42 tying 10 m stamp to cover mailed to Tel Aviv.



Fig. 15: Bogus genuine device, date 30 MR 44, reaffixed later, using slightly different digits, tying 13 mil reused stamp on white wove paper.

d) OVER LAND MAIL – HAIFA - BAGHDAD



Fig. 16: Bogus 2-line cachet on genuine cover mailed from Haifa to Abadan on 20 AU 1941. The Overland route was the normal route for surface mail to Iran as of the mid 1930's and did not require route instructions. The cover was censored, Baghdad transit and Abadan arrival postmark on back. The bogus cachet was applied later.

1948 Transition Period

This period lasted two weeks, from 2nd May 1948, when the British Postal Authorities ceased to function (except for Haifa & Tel Aviv H.P.O's – until 5th May) till 14th May 1948, after which the Israeli Post started its services. During these two weeks Jewish National Fund labels overprinted "Doar" (Post) were used as legal stamps.

Faked Ma'abarot Registered cover - An archive Fake made later in Tel Aviv.

Ma'abarot was a small settlement of about 600 inhabitants in 1948, less than 15 registered letters are recorded sent from there, during the Transition Period.



Fig. 17: Properly franked 25 mil registry rate cover, postmarked with the provisional rubber postmark of Minhelet Ha'am (the Transition Period postal authority) & Mandate type MAABAROT 5 MY 48 double circle postmark, but the registry label "No 0294" was not in use during this period – 0252 is the highest recorded number of the Transition Period from this locality. The cover is addressed to a Nes Ziona bank.

1948 Israel 1st Coins – Doar Ivri

a) Forged 1948 1st Coins Essay

Following the choice of the Coin design for the first Israeli stamp issue, essays were done in April/May 1948. As the name of the State was not yet decided upon, various names were suggested – this one is the YEHUDA Essay.



Fig. 18: Imperforate block of 4, a Yehuda Essay with the Coin design printed in letterpress from the original plate.

Fig. 19: Imperforate block of 4, a Yehuda Essay, a complete Forgery on different paper & crude printing.

b) Faked FDC of the 1st Coins



Fig. 20: Doar Ivri 10 & 20 mils Plate-Blocks, Bale groups 79 & 124 tied to cover by FD Mandate type postmarks RAMAT GAN 16 MY 48. The forger did not realize that these two plate blocks are from the later June 1948 printing and not from the May 1948 1st issue. The postmark is an archival one.

c) Faked Imperforate Varieties

The 1948 1st Coins stamps issue, partly perforated varieties, are very popular and cataloged much higher than the fully imperforated ones.

Many rare, partly imperforated varieties, are made by perforating the fully imperforated ones.

The following are all ***Faked "varieties"*** made by perforating original imperforate items.



Fig. 21: 3m perf. 11 right marginal pair twice vertically imperforate.



Fig. 22: 3mil perf. 10 vertically, vertical



Fig. 23: 3m perf 10x10 imperf. at top margin pair all horizontal perfs. omitted.



Fig. 24: 5m plate block of 10, perf. 11 partly horizontally & vertically imperforate. In this case of the 5 mil – the forger destroyed an extremely rare Imperforate proof sheet of the 1st printing on thin yellow paper.

d) Forged 1948 1st Postage Dues

The provisional 1st Postage Dues, were printed in five denominations from the original 1st Coins plates on yellow paper and overprinted "Postage Dues" in Hebrew.



Fig. 25: Genuine block of 4 of the 3m 1st Postage Dues on yellow paper with Overprint "Postage Dues" in Hebrew



Fig. 26: A complete forgery, the stamps and the "overprint" were printed together.

1948 Israel 1st Festivals

a) Faked Vertical Gutters with tabs

This issue of five values 3-65 mil in the format of vertical gutter pairs with tabs has Israel's highest value of a straightforward cataloged set. (Bale & Scott 10/14c). The regular tabbed sets are quite common. The gutters exist with white or colored bands.



Fig. 27: *Faked 65m Vertical Gutter & Tabs, the bottom tabbed stamp has been expertly reattached to the upper stamp and reperforated. Different centering can be noticed between the two stamps. The vertical color band at right of tabs is original but not fully lined when reattached.*



Fig. 28: *The two original tabs before being reattached. Top tab with original bottom gutter.*

b) Faked Tête-Bêche issue official FDC

No official FDC for the Tête-Bêche was made by the Philatelic Service. Very few private FDC's were made by collectors, mostly on private covers, and are very much in demand.



Fig. 29: Complete Tête-Bêche issue on two official FDCs – genuine stamps & official covers, Forged Tel Aviv FD postmarks 26.9.1948.

Mail Contacts between Israel and Arab countries – a summary

Lawrence Fisher, Raanana

The article summarizes the postal clandestine contacts between Arab residents of Israel and their brethren in other countries, as well as, between Jewish residents of Arab countries and their brethren in Israel. The article aims to condense information that has been published before.

In the article, the following issues are discussed:

1. Breakdown of postal relations.
2. The International Red Cross as an intermediary.
3. Tourists as couriers.
4. Couriers crossing borders.
5. Foreign postal administrators as intermediaries.
6. Special post boxes in neutral countries.
7. Restoration of postal relations.

Breakdown of postal relations

During the British Mandate, mail was handled freely between Arab countries and Palestine. With the establishment of the state of Israel, the Arab nations broke off postal relations and refused to handle mail intended for Israel. This gave rise to mail being marked by many different types of "Pas de Service" cachets. These were covered in a previous article (1).

Two interesting covers are shown here. Figure 1, shows an air letter sent from London to Tel Aviv which landed up in Beirut and was sent to Damascus. It was returned to the sender, with a seldom seen cachet: "Retour A L'Origine communication avec Palestine interrompues". To the best of my knowledge, this is the only reported cover with this cachet.

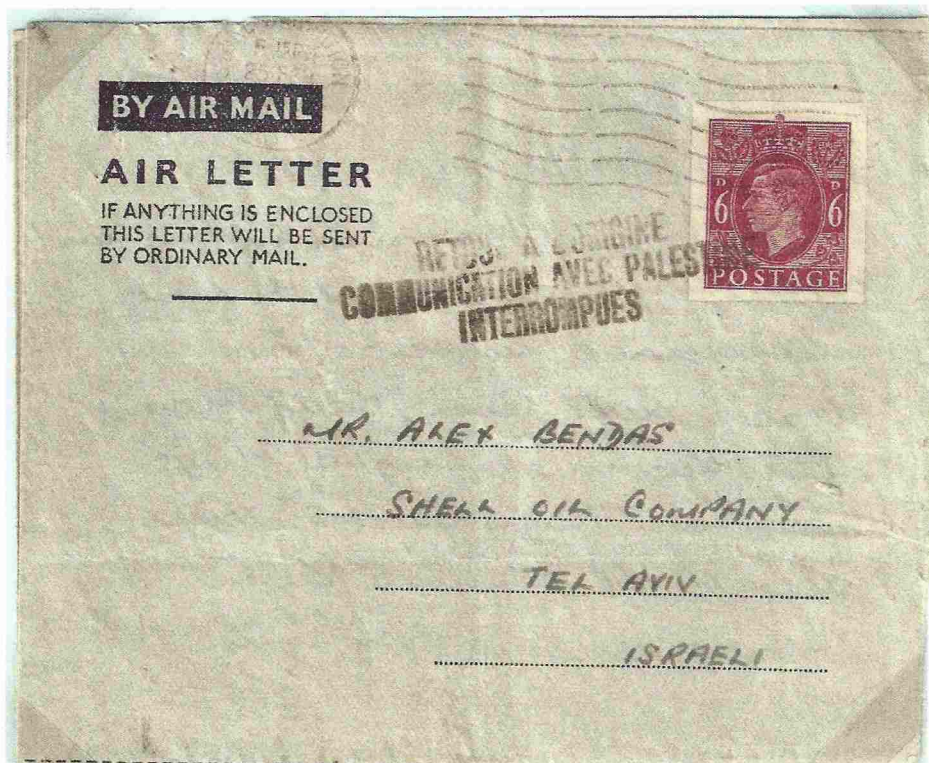
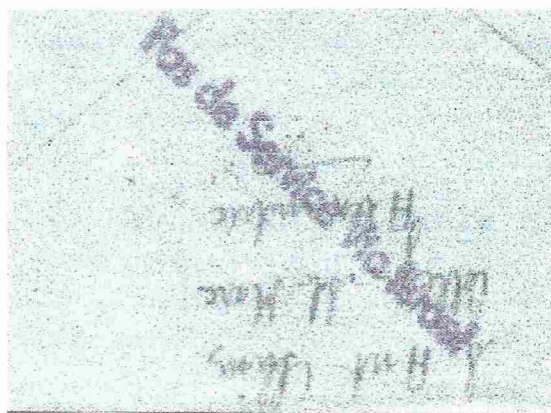


Fig. 1: Cover from London to Tel Aviv, returned from Damascus to sender, bearing the cachet: "communication with Palestine disrupted, in French".

Figures 2 and 3, show a cover (and back) from Egypt to an Arab resident of Jaffa. As the Arab fled from Jaffa following the War of Independence, the letter could not be delivered and was handstamped with the violet linear cachet, "Destinataire Parti" as well as "Returned to Sender". An attempt was made to return the cover to Egypt, but as there were no relations with Egypt, the Israeli postal authorities added the "Pas de Service via Israel" cachet on the back of the cover. Because the cover was incoming mail from an enemy country, the military censor, "Taf 1", censored it.



Figs. 2&3: - Letter from Egypt to a departed Arab resident of Jaffa. The letter was censored and returned, bearing the cachets: "Destinataire Parti", "Returned to Sender" and "Taf 1" and "Pas de Service via Israel".

The Egyptian Military took matters even further. It was not satisfied with returning the mail to the country of origin, but also opened the mail, censored, resealed and then returned the cover to the country of origin. Figure 4, shows a cover from Italy to Haifa on 16/7/48, during the War of Independence, which was opened and resealed by the Egyptian Military Censor, number 53.



Fig. 4: Cover from Italy that was opened by the Egyptian Censor and resealed with the Egyptian censor band.

This treatment of mail was taken one-step further in 1950. A TWA flight from USA to Israel was forced to land at Cairo Airport. Israeli bound mail was taken by the Egyptian military censor who opened the mail, censored it, resealed and returned the mail to the USA. 19, mailbags were on this flight, including mail from United States, South America, Italy and France (2). Figure 5, shows a cover from this flight, which was sent, from New York on September 15, 1950 and bound for Ramat Yitzhak in Israel. It arrived in Ramat Gan 3/3/51, 6 months later, bearing the Egyptian Military Censor cachet, number 53.

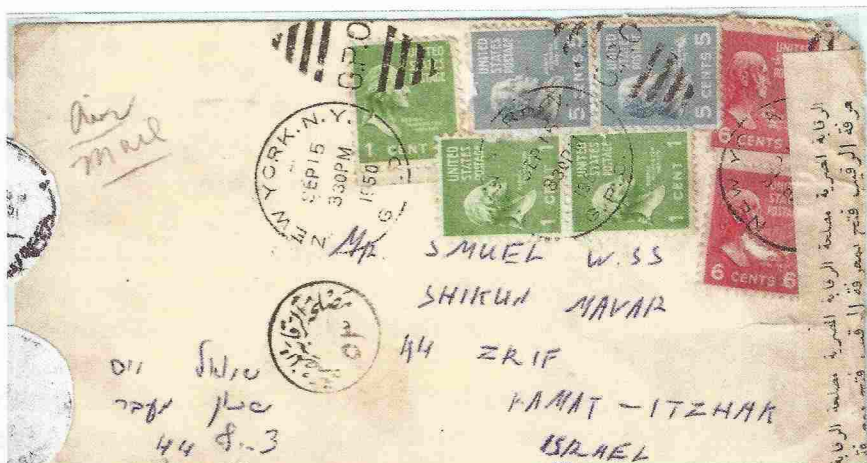


Fig. 5: From USA to Israel on TWA flight that was forced to land in Cairo. Letter finally arrived after 6 months.

Some countries that had postal relations with Israel, decided to break them off, due to the radicalization of their leadership. Such is the case with Iran, which under the Shah, had very warm relations with Israel but since became quite belligerent towards Israel. Figure 6, shows a cover sent from Canada to Israel which landed in Teheran. There, the boxed handstamp “There is no postal relations between Iran and Israel” was applied.

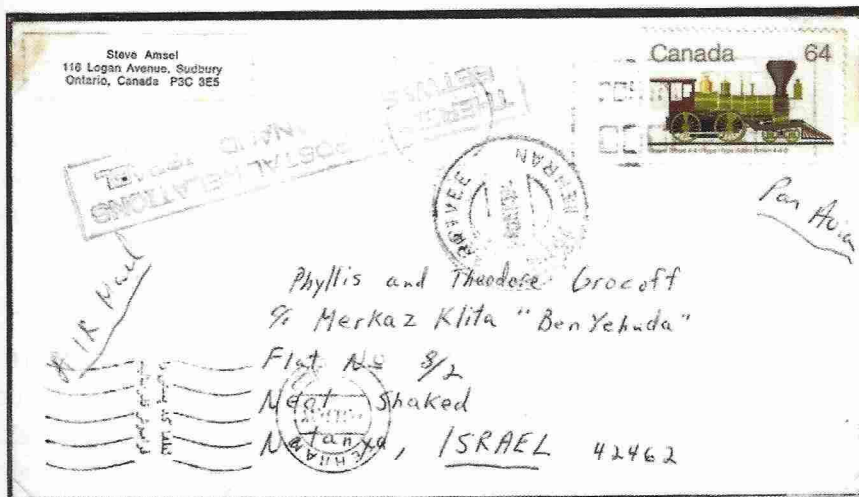


Fig. 6: Letter from Canada to Israel, which landed in Teheran in error was returned and stamped: “There is no postal relations between Iran and Israel”

The International Red Cross

The Third Geneva Convention deals with the Treatment of Prisoners of War. (Geneva, 27 July 1929 later amended in 1949) - comprised 97 articles. The relevant articles for mail are set out below.

- Art. 8. As soon as possible, every prisoner shall be enabled to correspond personally with his family, in accordance with the conditions prescribed in Article 36 and the following Articles:
- Art. 36. Each of the belligerents shall fix periodically the number of letters and postcards which prisoners of war of different categories shall be permitted to send per month, and shall notify that number to the other belligerent. These letters and cards shall be sent by post by the shortest route. They may not be delayed or withheld for disciplinary motives. Not later than one week after his arrival in camp, and similarly in case of sickness, each prisoner shall be enabled to send a postcard to his family informing them of his capture and the state of his health. The said postcards shall be forwarded as quickly as possible and shall not be delayed in any manner. As a general rule, the correspondence of prisoners shall be written in their native language. Belligerents may authorize correspondence in other languages.
- Art. 38. Letters and remittances of money or valuables, as well as postal parcels addressed to prisoners of war, or dispatched by them, either directly or through the intermediary of the information bureaux mentioned in Article 77, shall be exempt from all postal charges in the countries of origin and destination and in the countries through which they pass.

The International Red Cross, I.R.C., was useful for transferring mail between prisoners of war and their relatives. This was used widely throughout the Arab – Israeli wars. Figure 7, shows a cover sent from Egypt to a POW held captive in the Israeli POW camp #1. It was censored by both Israeli and Egyptian military censors. This is the only known case of a registered cover to a prisoner of war!

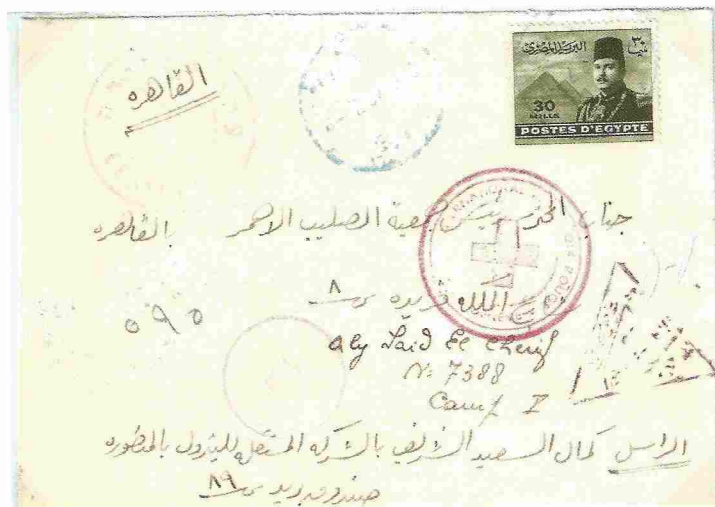


Fig. 7: Registered letter to an Egyptian POW in Israel, through the International Red Cross.

Figure 8, shows a postcard from an Israeli POW held captive in Lebanon. The cover was censored by the Lebanese camp censor and sent to the Lebanese Red Cross. There, it was stamped with the circular Red Cross cachet. Then it was passed on to the Israeli Liaison Unit to the Red Cross, where the violet linear Hebrew cachet, was applied. Only seven Israeli prisoners of war were held in Lebanon and only nine letters are known from them.

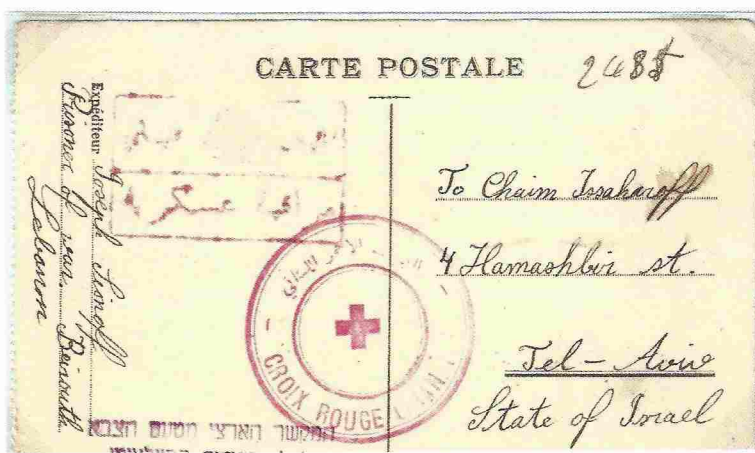


Fig. 8: Letter from an Israeli POW in Lebanon, the International Red Cross.

The Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross, the Magen David Adom, was not accepted by the Arab world. In fact, only recently the International Red Cross recognized it. When dealing with mail, the Arab states took the refusal of recognition one-step further. They removed all signs of the Israeli insignia from the letters.

Figure 9, shows an official prisoner of war card that was issued to prisoners of war during the 1956 Sinai Campaign. The Magen David was totally obliterated by a red marking. This was the only way the mail would be accepted and forwarded.

פסוק מדמי דואר
Postage free

דואר שבויי מלחמה
Prisoner of War Mail

גלוית דואר
POST CARD

To: *ל קצין חינוך... מפקדת...*

Sender: *השולח*
Name and first names *שם המשפחה ושמות פרטיים*

Place and date of birth *מקום הלידה ותאריכה*

Prisoner of War No. *מס' שבוי המלחמה*

Name of camp *שם המחנה*

Country where posted *הארץ שממנה נשלחה הגלויה*
ISRAEL *ישראל*

Place of Destination *מקום המסרה*

Street *רחוב*

Country *ארץ*

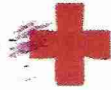
Province *מחוז*

Fig. 9: A POW card from 1956 in which an attempt was made to obliterate the Star of David

Figure 10, shows a later example in which the top of the form was ripped off so that the name neither of Israel nor of the Magen David was visible. This letter sheet was issued to prisoners of war during the six day war.

Fig. 10: A Magen David letter sheet where the Star of David was torn off.

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL de la CROIX-ROUGE
GENÈVE (Suisse)

اللجنة الدولية للصليب الأحمر
(جنيف - سويسرا)

٤٤٤

المرسل - ENQUIRER - DEMANDEUR

Prénom Name Kamal اسم الشخص
Nom du père Bano اسم الأب
Father's name
Nom de famille التوبيع اسم العائلة
Family name
Adresse du demandeur الشارع - المدينة - البلاد عنوان المرسل إليه
(rue - localité - pays)
Enquirer's address (street-locality-country)



غير معروف

Prière d'écrire très lisiblement
Please write very legibly
الرجاء الكتابة بخط واضح جداً

المرسل إليه - ADDRESSEE - DESTINATAIRE

Prénom Name Ahmed اسم الشخص
Nom du père Ahmed اسم الأب
Father's name
Nom de famille el Bano اسم العائلة
Family name
Adresse du destinataire الشارع - المدينة - البلاد عنوان المرسل إليه
(rue - localité - pays)
Addressee (street-locality-country)

gaza P.O. Box 93

Fig. 11: Red Cross message sheet where the Red Cross cancel was placed on top of the Magen David

Tourists as couriers

A useful method of communication is via the auspices of tourists. If one knew of a tourist travelling to a neutral country, they could post the letter from that country. This method often escapes detecting by the authorities.

Figure 12, shows a postcard sent from Vienna- Austria, by a son to his father in El Arish, when the town was a part of Israel. Due to an incomplete address the card could not be delivered and was to be returned to sender. However, in the case of postcards there is no return address.

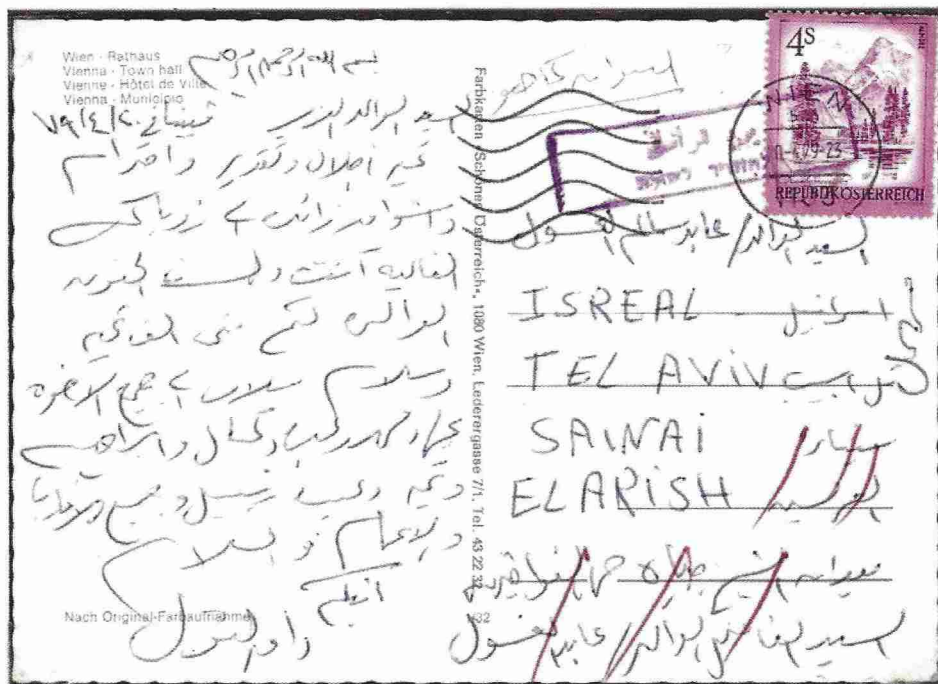


Fig. 12: Postcard sent from Vienna to El-Arish, during Israel occupation. Addressee could not be found, but card was not returned to sender.

If one was aware, that a family member would visit a neutral country, he could send a letter to a postmaster, using the "Poste Restant" method. The addressee would then come to the post office and claim his letter.

Figure 13, shows a letter sent from Gaza to Zagreb, Yugoslavia. The letter was not claimed and thus returned to Gaza.



Fig. 13: Cover from Gaza to Zagreb, which was to be picked up by the recipient using the "Poste Restant" method.

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Couriers crossing borders

Much was written about couriers crossing Israel's borders (3, 4) and we will not go into too much detail, but we shall illustrate this method of transferring mail, by the following examples.

After the 1967, Six day War, Moshe Dayan administrated the heavily populated Arab areas of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). The residents were cut off from their brethren in other countries, particularly from Jordan. Moshe Dayan insisted on an open bridges policy, and encouraged local residents to maintain ties with their neighbors.

This resulted in traffic across the border from Israel to Jordan and visa versa. People crossing the border were able to take mail across to be sent using the local postal system.

Figure 14, shows a cover that was sent, 4/12/79, from Saudi Arabia via the Allenby Bridge, destined for Gaza. The courier probably did not have local stamps and posted it without stamps. As a result, it received the "T", for tax handstamp. There is no evidence that the tax was paid.



Fig. 14: From Saudi Arabia to Gaza via the Allenby Bridge

Travel Agents as couriers

Not everyone knew of someone who crossed the border. Apart from which, it is not always pleasant to ask people for favors all the time? Therefore, it was not long before professionals took over and charged a fee for the service. After all, isn't that what the postal service does?

This service was taken over by Touring Companies who usually crossed the border for business purposes. These Companies added their own labels to the covers, in part as proof of the service and in part as advertising.

One such company was the El Halabi Tourist Company in Amman, Jordan. Figure 16, shows a cover sent in 1978, with their label on the front and the correct franking. As these were professionals, they presumably had a stock of valid postage stamps.



Fig. 15: Cover sent via the Halabi Tourist Company in Jordan.

Another such company was the Philadelphia Tourist Agency. Figure 17, shows a cover sent from Allenby Bridge 19/7/79. This was taxed with a total of 1.90 IL. Was this a special rate?



Fig. 16: Cover sent via the Philadelphia Tourist Company.

Foreign postal administrations

A study of the use of postal administrations appeared in an earlier article published in the HLPB (5). To summarize the issue: an arrangement was made by which a postal authority would send a cover letter containing an enclosed one, and an international reply coupon, to another postal administrator. The coupons were equivalent to the tariff of regular international mail. The postmaster would then extract the enclosed letter; affix the relevant stamps, post it, and keep the coupons as proof of payment.

Three known postal administrations were enlisted to assist in postal contacts between Arabs living in Israel and elsewhere:

- London – King Edward street (the most popular)
- London – Mount Pleasant Road
- Nicosia, Cyprus – seldom used

Figure 18, shows a letter sent from Bir Zeit, 10/2/78, to the London-King Edward address. The letter had a handwritten notation, "Iraq-Baghdad" showing the final destination.



Fig. 17: Letter from Bir Zeit, via London-King Edward address, with handwritten notation "Iraq - Baghdad" to indicate final destination.

Although this was a clandestine method of mail contacts, the Israeli Military knew it and some mail have been found opened and resealed. Figure 19, shows a cover from Jenin, 30/10/74., also to the London- King Edward address which was opened, censored and resealed by the Israeli military censor. Note the diamond shaped censor handstamp.

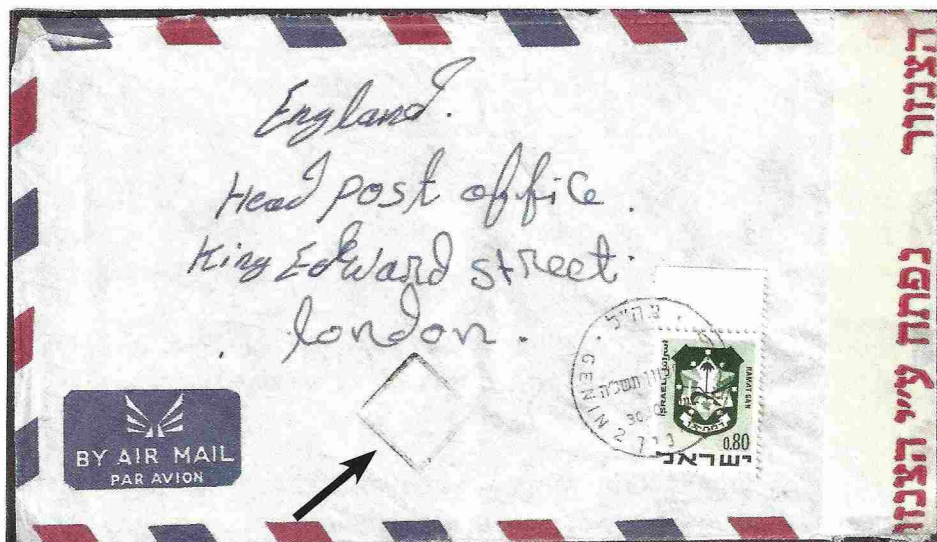


Fig. 18: Cover from Jenin via London-King Edward address which, was still censored by the Israeli military censor.

Figure 20, shows an example of a cover sent from Qatar to the Cypriot postmaster. The cover had a seldom seen engraved Arabic slogan for "Palestine fight until freedom".



Fig. 19: cover sent from Qatar to the Cypriot postmaster, Bearing a seldom seen engraved Arabic slogan; "Palestine fights until freedom".

Covers from these drop off points carry interesting markings. Covers from London are known with general cancellations not containing a dater or the city of origin, but simply the letter FS, for Foreign Office. Figure 21, is an example. The cover was sent from Kuwait (address on back) to Nablus, via London.

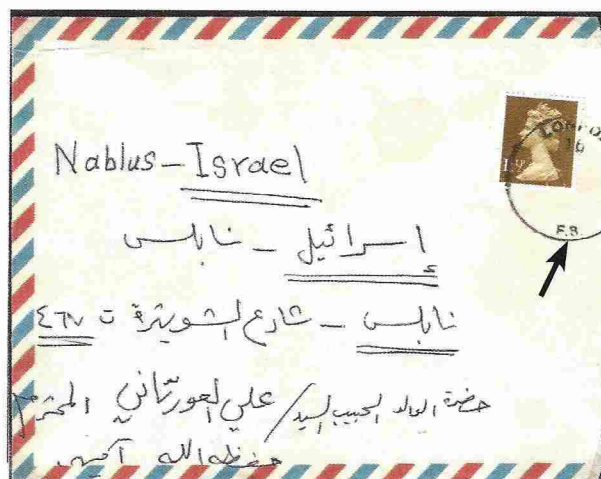


Fig. 20: Sent from Kuwait to Nablus via London, bearing the British "FS" cachet, for Foreign Office.

Established post box drop points

Clandestine post box drop off points are not a new phenomenon and are well known to readers of this bulletin. They were used often during the Second World War. A previous article (6) discussed the establishment of a special postbox by the Israel Broadcasting Authority for listeners from Iran to send mail to Israel. PO Box 152, was established in Geneva specifically for this purpose.

Figure 22, shows a cover sent from Iran. Due to the threat of letter bombs, the mail was screened for bombs and the Hebrew "Checked" cachet applied. The security officer also was required to sign that the letter was in fact checked.

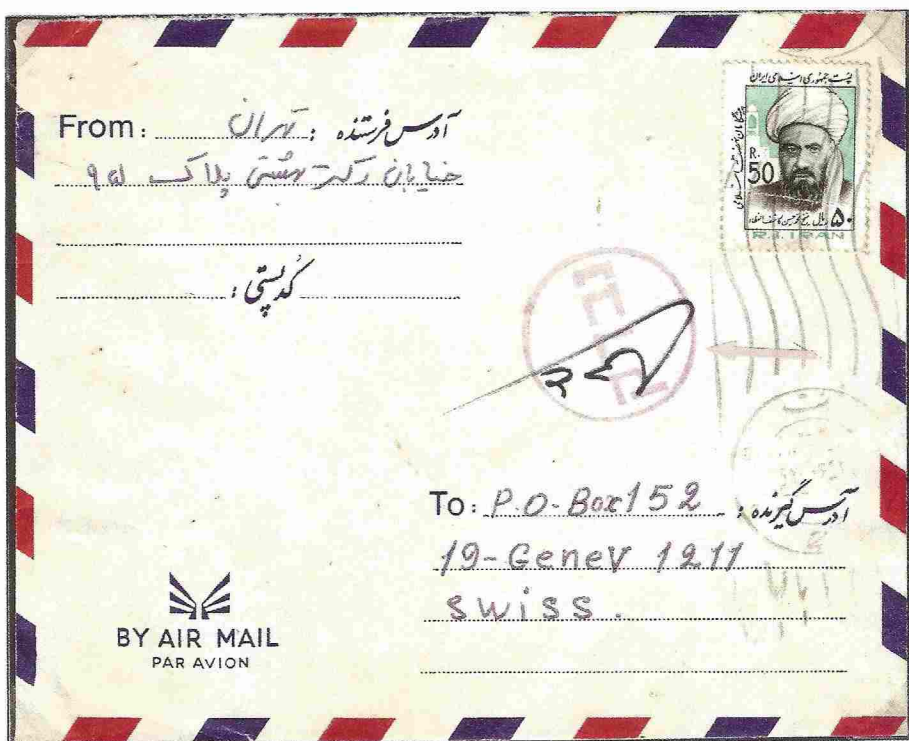


Fig. 21: Cover from Iran to Israel via the intermediate Geneva post box.

To the best of my knowledge, this particular mailbox is no longer in use.

Restoration of contacts

Following to the peace agreements and normalization of contacts, postal relations were reestablished with Egypt and Jordan.

Figure 23, shows a cover sent from Egypt to Gaza on 18/2/1989, which was sent directly without third party intervention, because of the peace treaty.

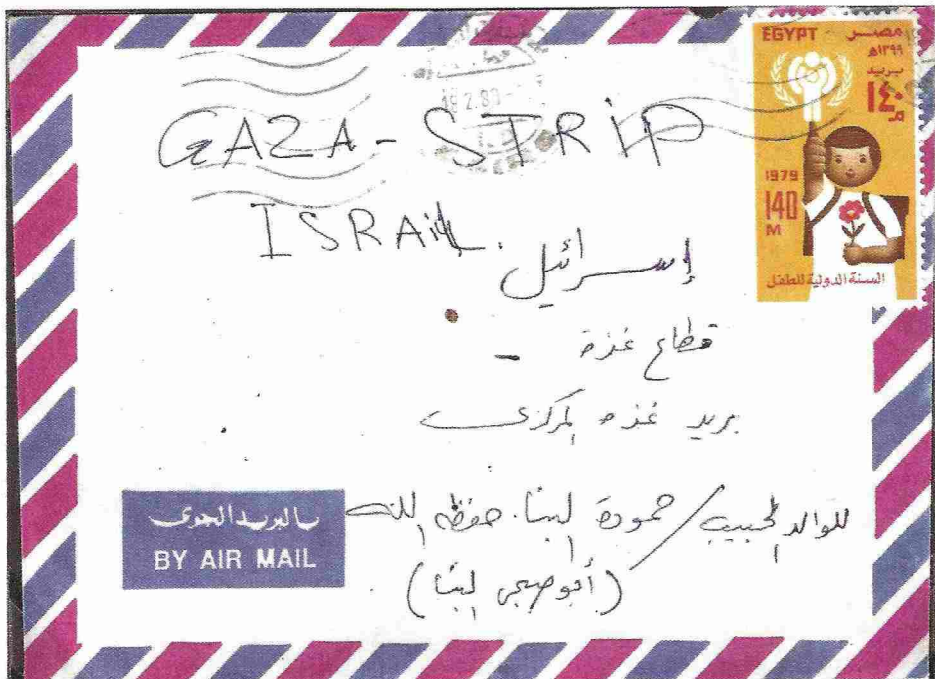


Fig. 22: Letter sent from Egypt to Gaza, following to the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The restoration of postal relations had an additional effect. By adding a “via” country to the address, countries which had no postal relations with Israel, could still send letters to Israel. Figure 24, shows a letter from Kuwait to the Arab village Self in Israel, “via Jordan” on 25/08/2003. Note the Jordan cancel on the face of the letter.



Fig. 23: Letter sent from Kuwait to Israel via Jordan following to the peace treaty.

In this article, the Author has summarized the various known methods of clandestine mail connections with hostile Arab countries. Each method can provide the Postal History collector with much material to study. It would be a study of a large scope as correspondence with at least ten countries would be involved.

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4. "Postal History Guide to the Territories administered by Israel since 1967", Dr. Joseph Wallach
5. HLPN No. 51, Summer 1992, Page 575, "Undercover Mail", L. Fisher
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1745, Ecclesiastical Letter Jerusalem - Venice *An attempt in Postal History research.*

Y. Kleiner, Raanana

Some years ago, our member Les Glassman acquired the letter (Fig. 1), which was sent in 1745 from Jerusalem to Venice via Constantinople.

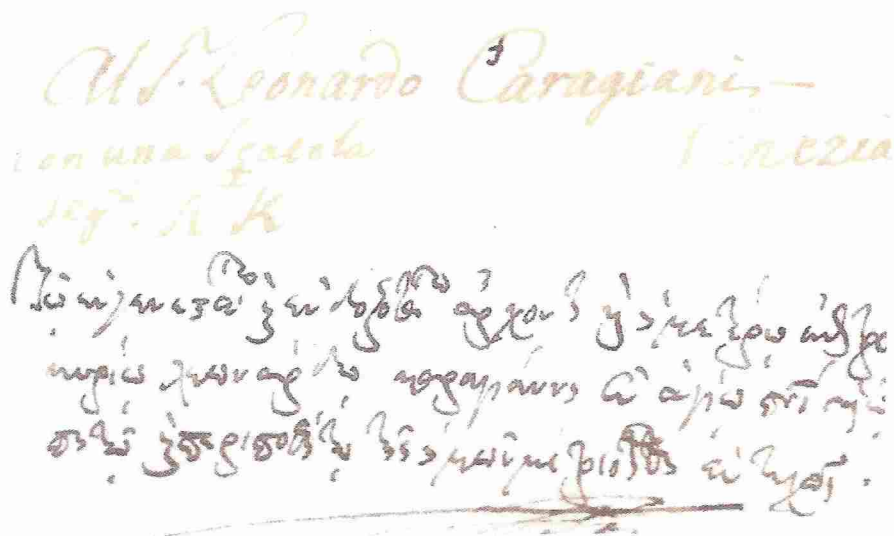


Fig. 1: 1745, ecclesiastical letter from Jerusalem to Venice.

It is an ecclesiastical letter from the Greek Patriarch Parthenios of the Holy City of Jerusalem and of Palestine, to Leonardo Caragiani, merchant in Venice. Caragiani was well connected to church affairs. He is referred to in the letter as:

“Your Highness, Noble and Honorable Sir Leonardo Caragiani, Churchwarden of the Holy Grave, Son in the Holy Spirit, dearest and beloved to our modesty, May the Holy Spirit’s Grace be with you.” The letter written in Greek is about a shipment of Balsam that is shipped to Caragiani from Mecca. The letter is dated, 29th. September 1745, and bears on the outside flap the inscriptions: “Constantinopoli 1745 Jiarenis 29, resp(on) 28 di febrajo” i.e.; Constantinople 1745, January 29, responded 28 February, (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2: Dates of receipt and response on the flap - backside of the letter.

The letter traveled for about 4 months. This prompted the attempt to discover the post offices, which were involved in the delivery of the letter and the routes that it followed.

* * * *

The letter, as per the inscription on the flap, passed through Constantinople. This city, Capital of the Ottoman Empire was for centuries the fulcrum of European trade with the Orient. The flourishing exchange of trade there, required the most expedient and safest possible transmission of messages, and hence an efficient postal service. Consequently, several European states: Venice, Austria, Naples and Spain established post offices in the City during the 18th Century.

The first ascertained knowledge about Venetian message carrying couriers to Constantinople dates back as far as 960. Otavio Codongo,* mentioned, that as of 1200 a monthly courier service existed between Venice and Constantinople. Since 1265, when a Venetian “Balio” – Ambassador had resided in Constantinople, a regular exchange of letters took place between the two cities. The route could be entirely by sea, through the Aegean and the Adriatic, or part of the journey by sea and part of it on land, through the Balkans, (Fig. 3). The courier service that initially operated at the Embassy became an official foreign post office in 1742.

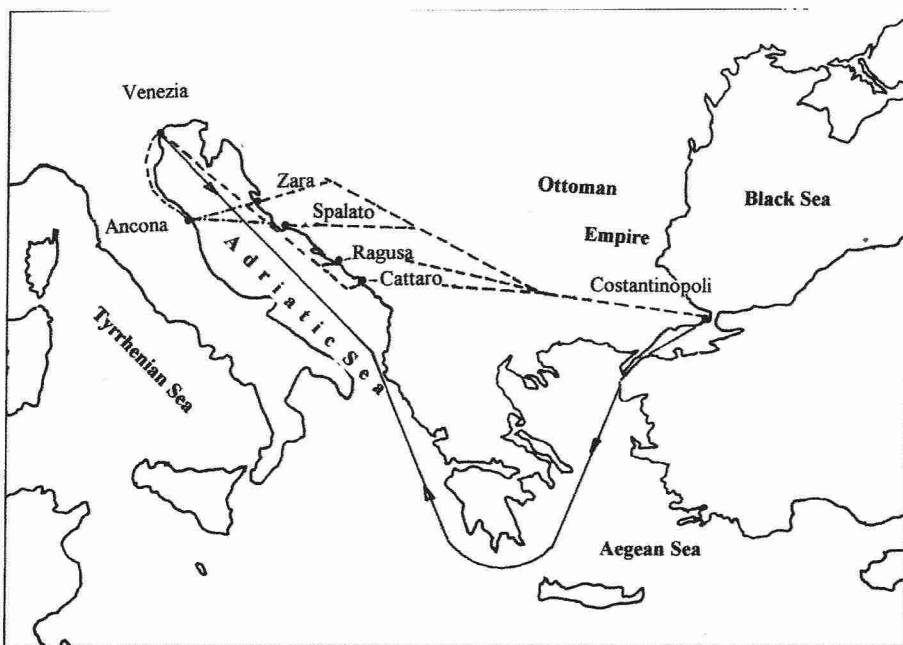


Fig. 3: Mail routes via sea and land between Venice and Constantinople in the 18th Century.

Parallel to the Venetian post office an Austrian one also operated in Constantinople. This post office was established following the Passavorits/ Belgrade peace treaty in 1721, between Austria and the Ottoman Empire. The treaty granted Austria several concessions, including the establishment of an overland courier service to Vienna. This courier service became an official foreign post office in 1739. The Austrian postal service was very efficient and even the Venetian used it.

* * * *

From Jerusalem to Constantinople, the letter could have been carried, either by a traveling monk, or by a Turkish post messenger. We know from another patriarchal letter sent in 1753, from Jerusalem to Venice in which it says: "...We ask you to send us a bill to be paid in **Constantinople in our office** to our metropolitan procurator of Caesarea...." (Quote from the letter discussed in an article in Bapip journal number 51, 1968, by Posner), (Fig. 4).

As you have taken now the place of your Father, we beg you to send us a clear statement of debit and credit concerning the estate of the Holy Sepulchre, that is the amount of money which your Father handled, as well as the amount which you handled after his death, and of the credit balance now in your hands.

We ask you to send us a bill to be paid in Constantinople in our office to our metropolitan procurator of Cesarea of Palestine, because we have great need of this money, having planned to go this August to the Holy City of Jerusalem.

As soon as we will be there, we shall celebrate a Mass Pro Defunctis for your late Father.

Fig. 4: Ecclesiastical letter from Jerusalem to Constantinople referring to the office of the church in Constantinople.

Having a patriarchal, even a metropolitan office in Constantinople must have entailed a regular system of message exchange with Jerusalem by a church courier for economic and security reasons. Thus, such a courier was used to carry “our” letter. Whatever the messenger, the letter traveled from Jerusalem via Bayreuth to Constantinople, by a foot messenger, as it took 2-3 months to arrive.

Onwards from Constantinople, the letter could have traveled either by the Venetian or by the Austrian post, both, operating in the City at the time. However, by Which of these?

It is not an easy question to answer, as the letter has no manuscript endorsements. Letters that were forwarded from Constantinople by the Venetian post at the time, usually have the inscription: “Col Pubblico Dispaccio” i.e. by public dispatch, (Fig. 5). This endorsement was inscribed on official and on non-official letters. Therefore, the absence of the “Col Pubblico Dispaccio” inscription may indicate that the Venetian post did not forward the letter.



Fig. 5: 1749, letter from Smyrna via the Venetian post office in Constantinople endorsed "Col Publico Dispaccio".

Then, did it go by the Austrian post? The letter shown in (Fig. 6), may give us a clue. This letter bears the "Col Publico Dispaccio" inscription a fact that would indicate forwarding by the Venetian post. But, it also bears the figure "5" to denote a 5 Para postage fee.

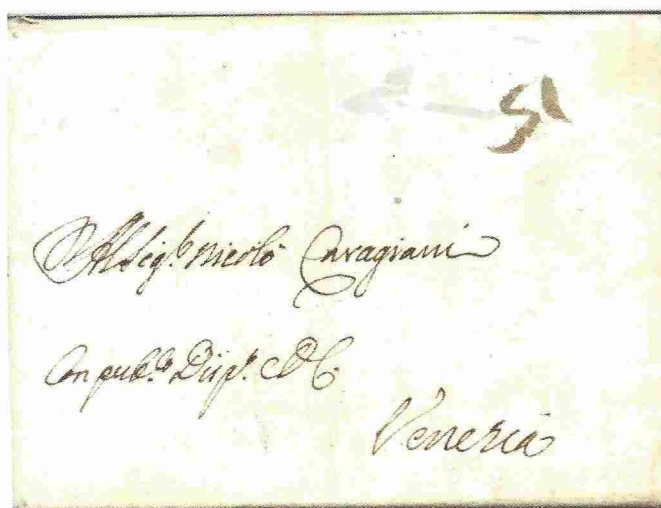


Fig. 6: 1742, letter from Constantinople to Venice, bearing the "Col Publico Dispaccio" Venetian post endorsement and the "5" Para post charge.

Now, this cannot be a Venetian post fee, since the 5-Para postage fee was introduced by the Venetian post in Constantinople in 1789, (Fig. 7), and “our” letter dates 1756.



T A R I F F A G E N E R A L E DELLA VENETA POSTA DI COSTANTINOPOLI,

In cui s'ha espresso distintamente il Prezzo, che inalterabilmente si dovrà esborsare tanto nella Consegna che nel Riscapero nelli due Stabiliti Uffici di Venezia, e di Costantinopoli per tutta la direzione, e cose indicate in ragione di Oncia Sottile Veneta, ed in Lire Piccole Venete, ragguagliate ancora in Piastre, e Para calcolate la Piastra a Lire quattro Piccole Venete, ed il Para a Soldi due per Veneti.

Prezzi per la Consegna nell'Ufficio in Costantinopoli.	Lettere Semplici, e fino al Peso di Dramme quattro ESCLUSIVE.				Altre Lettere delle Dramme quattro fino all'Oncia ESCLUSIVE.				Lettere, e Plichi del Peso d'Oncia fino a qualunque Peso in ragione di Oncia.			
	Piastra.	Para.	Lire.	Soldi.	Piastra.	Para.	Lire.	Soldi.	Piastra.	Para.	Lire.	Soldi.
Per Venezia	—	5	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	15	—	—
Per lo Stato Veneto, Ferraresi, Bolognese, Firenze, tutta la Toscana, e la Città di Roma	—	10	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	30	—	—
Per lo Stato Pontificio, Mantova, Modena	—	15	—	—	—	30	—	—	—	45	—	—

Fig. 7: Extract from the Venetian Post Tariff in Constantinople of April 18, 1789. **

The 5-Para charge was the charge for overland letters from Constantinople by the Austrian post, in accordance with the Austrian-Turkish 1739 treaty. Again, “our” letter does not bear the manuscript “5” figure. Therefore, it seems that it was forwarded neither by the Venetian post nor by the Austrian one.

This situation leaves two options:

1. The letter was forwarded by the Venetian or the Austrian post, but for some reason did not receive the postal inscriptions.
2. The letter was carried privately from the Carrigani office in Constantinople, by a Carrigani messenger.

Indeed, the above is a hypothesis, based on information from various sources and is by no means a factual conclusion! However, this is often the case with some postal history studies of early periods, where relevant

documentation did not exist or is hard to find. This is why the research of postal history can be difficult, but still is part of the fun of our hobby.

We would be pleased to receive comments from our readers about their experience.

* * * *

* Ottavio Codongo, Nuovo itinerario delle poste per tutto il mondo. Venezia, 1620.

** Due, to the large size of the notice only the top part of it is shown.

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"Adventures" Of Posting A Letter In Jerusalem In C.1880

Courtesy Bapip Journal #15

In reading the story, one should bear in mind that a German traveler wrote it at a time when there was no German P.O. in Palestine, though such operated elsewhere in the Levant. These were known for their efficiency. The traveler just wished to send his letters through the Austrian and through the Turkish post offices in Jerusalem and Jaffa, but encountered adventures, that he wishes to share with us.

* * *

If you wish to walk from the Wailing Wall to the Jaffa Gate, you cross Jerusalem from East to West. The road leads you through the bazaar, and a corner of the Jewish quarter. The excitement that reigns there is difficult to imagine; here as anywhere else, in the Orient all commercial life is found in the streets.

Compared to that of Cairo or Constantinople, the Jerusalem Bazaar is of course, relatively unimportant, yet to the traveler just disembarked from Europe, it is a constant source of fascination. Slipping through the crowds as best I could, I arrived at the Jaffa Gate. There I turned left, passing in front of the American Consulate on which the Stars and Stripes were hoisted

Turning left again into an incredibly narrow street, where houses had no windows and paving stones were atrocious, I hurried on depressed by an evil foreboding. I finally stopped before a stone building of poor appearance whose shutters were all closed. I was amazed! Here was housed the Imperial Austrian Post and it was already closed at five o'clock in the afternoon

If the readers will bear with me, I will explain why I was so disappointed I had with me a large batch of letters and postcards, addressed to friends and to my family in Germany. The post office being closed and having to leave Jerusalem at six o'clock the very next morning, I was losing all chance posting my correspondence from Jerusalem which I knew would

have pleased the people to whom it was addressed. It meant taking it all the way to Jaffa or Beyrouth, before handing it in at a post office!

All correspondence and parcels sent by post from Jerusalem are first forwarded by carriage to the Austrian Post in Jaffa, where they are put on board ship. Ships leave for either Port Said or Alexandria or sail in the other direction towards Beyrouth, Smyrna or Constantinople. Departure takes place once a week, so any delay in posting a letter in Jerusalem increases the time by eight days.

Now my heart was burning and determined to have my letters show that they had been posted in Jerusalem, I went to the Imperial Turkish Post Office which by the way, was also in a lonely quarter of the city. Passing through the dark and narrow vestibule, I stopped in front of a side-door, where I saw an office in which seated at a table was the employee, who wear a French suit, busy writing some notes

When I asked him in French to take care of my correspondence, explaining that I would pay for the Turkish stamps, which would have to be affixed next to the Austrian Soldi stamps that already franked the letter he coldly turned me down, pointing out that my letters would have to go through the Austrian mail.

The employee was definitely at fault. After all, his job was to Turkish stamps and in refusing to do so he was depriving his government postal revenue. If I was willing to accept the loss of my Austrian stamps that was no concern of his

My displeasure was not small I assure you. Nevertheless, all was well at the end. I traveled to Jaffa, where I went to the Austrian postal agency. I recognized the owner, a young Syrian who spoke some German. He accepted my letters and promised to have them mailed from Jerusalem. He did keep his word, for all the letters and cards arrived safely at destination.

Now, a word concerning postal facilities in Jerusalem. The post office, as I explained above, is not in a central position, and it has one single window looking out into the street. He who has dealings with the post has to stand outside on the footpath, and from this side-walk exposed to the

sun or rain as the case may be, he must do his explaining to the employee, who like the others of his class in the orient, wears civilian cloth instead of a uniform. (This applies to the employees of the German posts as well.)

Next to the window, fastened to the wall is a wooden frame holding letters sent there and to be called for – so that every stranger can see if anything has arrived in his name. By the side of this sort of cupboard is a small letterbox, yellow in colour, apparently a model dating from 1801. Such a box could be a god sent item when the post office is closed, as often happens, even on weekdays. However, the Austrians are stubborn. When the post office is closed, the box disappears. Is it not ridiculous?

If we consider that 30,000 pilgrims visit Jerusalem a year, of which at least a quarter certainly write or receive letters, I conclude that a reform of the postal administration in Jerusalem is urgently necessary.



Austrian post near Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem

The World Stamp Championship Israel 2008

Under F.I.P patronage the event held in Tel Aviv, Israel

May 14 - May 21, 2008



The show is over. It was a wonderful philatelic event. We think that all of our members that exhibited or visited the Exhibition will vote a vote of thanks to the organizers: The Philatelic Service of the Post Company, The Israel Philatelic Federation, F.I.P, Jury, Commissioners, Exhibitors and the volunteers all of whom cooperated to make the Exhibition an unforgettable event.

Twelve philatelic competition classes were held: World Stamp Championship, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aero-philately, Astro-philately, Thematical Philately, Maximaphilia, Revenue, Youth, Single Frame and Literature.

2500 frames, from 70 countries. Super exhibits were shown, a challenge and a joy for every collector. We need a whole issue to describe these gems, so we decided to leave it for the moment, and perhaps invite the exhibitors to write and present their exhibit in future issues.

There were many new Israel issues and cancels available to the attendees. Outstanding among these was the "Jerusalem of Gold" souvenir sheet, dedicated to the origin of the phrase "Jerusalem of Gold" from Naomi Schemer's song, devoted to the liberation of the Old City during the 1967 Six-Day war.

The sheet was printed using an exclusive printing technique for embossing 22 karat gold!



The exhibition catalogue was efficiently organized. The classification of the exhibits to the various philatelic competition classes was clearly presented, so that one could easily locate the exhibits, which one wished to see. For collectors of the Holy Land the catalogue should be used as a reference source, especially such articles as: Launching Postal Services in the Holy Land: Extracts from the "Israel 1998" Grand Prix Exhibit, by Eddie Leib. The article covers the foreign post offices: French, Austrian, Russian and the Ottoman one, with illustrations of the rarest covers, for each of the post offices.

The article – "1948 A Fateful Year – The Year of the Siege of Jerusalem", by Y. Rimon is a detailed study of the mail connections with the besieged city, when only armored vehicles could break through, or mail had to be dropped from light planes, or delivered by other unconventional ways.

There were many events for all ages including a large area dedicated to children. The kids could design their own stamps. A wonderful display of the winning children's stamp designs, was exhibited (Fig. 1).

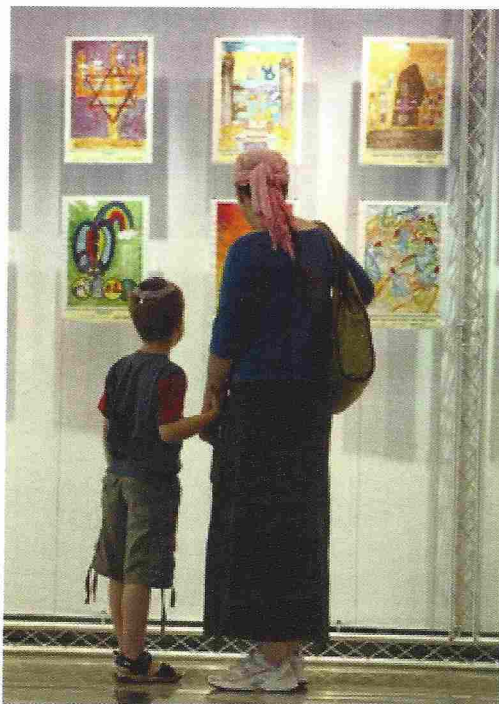


Fig. 1 Boy and Mother looking at stamps designed by children.

Organized tours for visiting school pupils were arranged. These included philatelic lectures, performances, games and music. (The noise from the loud speakers compelled visiting adults to participate).

A meeting of our Society took place during one morning, in which three presentations were given. Our Chairman, Eddie Leibu, an accredited international judge, talked about the importance of the title page of the exhibit. He said that the jury has very little time for each exhibit. Therefore, a well written up title page, that highlights the story, the importance, the uniqueness of the exhibit, and directs to the rare items of it, is necessary, if we wish "to catch the judge's eye".

Ed Kroft, our member from Canada, talked about the value gained when using archives for philatelic research and discovery. He thought, that although much is known about Holy Land philately, it is in the archives that we may discover new information to compliment our knowledge. Ed

demonstrated the subject, with examples from his recent research of the Rishon Letzion municipal archive.

Zvi Aloni talked about the Postal Services to the Besieged Negev Settlements towards the end of the British Mandate. During 1947, with the Jewish state on the horizon, special measures had to be taken to ensure the post connections with the besieged settlements. Armored vehicles, light planes, etc, were used to transport the mail.

Members of our Society did quiet well in the competitive classes of Holy Land Postal History exhibits, as shown in the following table of top results:

Medal	Exhibitor	Exhibit	Remarks
Large Gold	Alexander Zvi	Turkish Post in Palestine, 1840-1918	Best in National Class.
	Alexander Zvi	Overland Mail, via the Syro-Iraqi Great Desert.	
	Karpovsky Itamar	Israel Transition Period. Cities Under Emergency Conditions.	
Gold	Aloni Zvi	Between Three Postal Authorities, Rates, Stamps and Postal Markings In use.	
	Bard Leslie	Commercial Airmail Rates from Palestine to The Americas 1933-48.	+ Felicitations.
	Bass Michel	Holy Land Postal Services 1707-1917.	
	Becker Jonathan	Conquest and British Military Administration of Palestine and Greater Syria.	
	Kroft Ed	Rishon Le Zion-From Settlement to City.	
Gold	Nogid Henry	The Siege Cities of 1948, Rishon Le Zion, Safat, Nahariya & Jerusalem.	

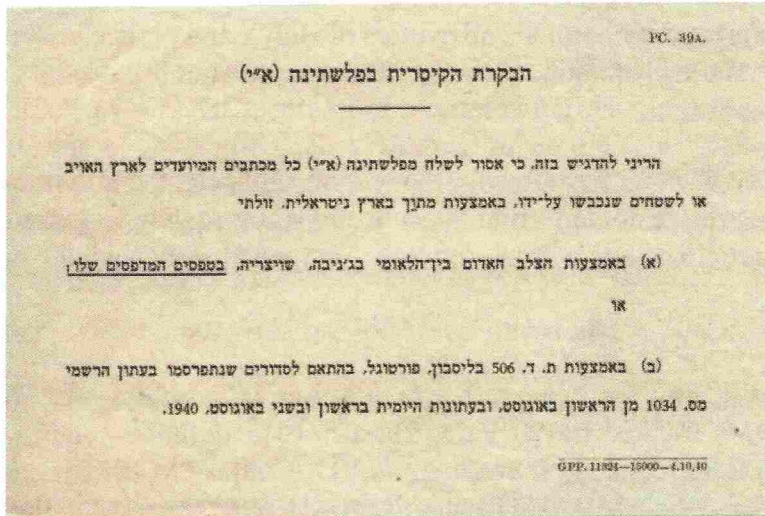
Medal	Exhibitor	Exhibit	Remarks
	Rimon Yermiyahu	Haifa A Profile of the Posts.	+ Special Prize.
	Rothman Stephan	Post History & Usage of the High Value Doar Ivri	One Frame
	Zankel Nathan	Palestine 1918 Interim Period	One Frame
Large Vermeil	Alexander Zvi	The Ottoman Post in Palestine 1840-1918.	Literature.
	Alderblum Burton	Holy Land 1459 – 1918	
	Becker Jonathan	Palestine British Civil Administration and Mandate	
	Chafetz Donald	Holy Land Printed Matter 1889-May 14th. 1948.	
	Kaplanian Avo	Registered Envelopes of Palestine Mandate under British Control.	PS.
	Pildes Robert	Israel 1948 Transition Period.	
	Shabtai Shay	Postal Communication of the Jewish "Yishuv" of Eretz Israel 1939-1948.	+ Felicitations
Vermail	Blau Dan	Air History of the Holy Land	
	Chafetz Donald	Printed Matter Mail into the Holy Land 1898-1948.	
	Falk Jurgen	The German Post in the Holy Land	Literture

In addition to the above, our member Itamar Karpovsky, participated In the World Stamp Champion Class, with his exhibit: Holy Land Forerunners, Postal Services Up to 1918.

The Editor apologizes for any omissions that may have occurred. Such omissions when brought to our attention would be corrected in the next issue the Bulletin.

Short Notes and Discoveries

Shown below is a Royal (British Mandate Palestine) Censorship insert, that was applied to rejected letters, which were sent to enemy countries against regulations during WWII.



Imperial censorship in palestine

I need to emphasize herewith, that it is forbidden to send letters to enemy countries or to areas occupied by him, through an agent in a neutral country, except:

A) through the international Red Cross Geneva, Switzerland, Using his formal printed forms;

OR

B) through P.O.Box 506 Lisbon, Portugal, in line with the arrangements that have been published in the official gazette no. 1034 From the First of August, and in the daily press in the First and Second of August 1940.

Queries and Opinion

This new section, "Queries and Opinions", should be used by members to raise questions about items for which, they seek answers. We hope that other members would address the questions, and where necessary, we would ask experts to help. Likewise, we wish that members would express their opinions on matters of Holy Land philately. The more controversial the opinion the better. The section should become a vivid discussion forum.

Since this is the first time for the section to appear, the Editor took the liberty to present an item from his collections, for review and discussion. Please participate and write to the Editor at; yehudak73@gmail.com

The PPC. shown in Figure 1, was sent from Jaffa to Germany. Written, 12.12.1914, franked by 20 Para, Turkish 1914 definitive stamp issue, canceled Jaffa 13.12.1914, Steichele #22/17, Collins PM 20. The card was censored and the; "MUAJENE OLUNMUSHDUR" = passed violet script censor cachet, Seichele #42/11, Collins #CM2, was applied Fig 2.



Fig. 1: PPC. from Jaffa to Germany, 13.12.1914, with Turkish Censor violet cachet.



Fig. 2: "MUAJENE OLUNMUSHDUR" censor cachet (enlarged).

Steichele, did mention the time span of use of this censor cachet as of 13.12.1914 without mentioning a terminating date, also he does not indicate the color of the cachet. Collins, gives the time span of use – 13.12.1914-17.12.1914, thus only during four days. Collins also indicates black as the color of the cachet. In Bale's Holy Land Specialized, 2008 catalog, the cachet does not seem to appear.

The above-mentioned gives rise to several questions:

1. Was the period of use four days only –as per Collins? If so why such short duration?
 2. Are cards/covers known with this cachet from localities other than Jaffa?
 3. Collins omitted the violet color in the description of the cachet. Is this PPC. the only one known with the cachet in violet?
- The Editor would be pleased to receive comments

Philatelic News

Israeli Philatelist Day – 23 December 2008.

PROGRAM

09.00-10.00	Reception.
10.00-10.15	Greetings: M. Haba, A.Hocman, E. Weber
10.15-10.45	Antique Letters in Eretz Israel. – M. Rimer
10.45-11.00	Award Ceremony – Philatelist of the Year Prize for the best (beautiful) stamp design – 2007
11.00-11.10	My Stamp Corner. – I. Nethanel
11.10-11.50	Milestones in the Postal History of Eretz Israel – Z. Aloni
11.50-12.00	My Stamp Corner – A Cover with a Bisected Bavarian Stamp – E. Weber
12.00-12.10	Philatelic Concept Corner – 1951, Israel Service (Government) Stamps – E. Leibur
12.10-13.00	Israel Planed 2009 New Stamp Issues – Y. Razon, Manager Philatelic Service
13.00- 14.30	Lunch at the Sheraton Hotel Dining Room
14.30-14.45	Announcement of the contest results about the best stamp and postmark designs 2008.
14.45-15.30	Thematic Research – First International Postal Sledge Journey – A. Swartz
15.30- 16.00	Egyptian Post in Occupied Beer Shiva, 1948 – S. Ladani

New Books

Milestones in the Postal History of the Holy Land.

The Book is based on The Alexander Collection that is permanently exhibited in the Alexander Museum of Postal History and Philately, in the Eretz Israel Museum, Tel-Aviv.

The Collection, which is well represented in the Book, is an exquisite one, unique in its scope and in the quality and rarity of the material. Above all, in the linkage between History of the land and its Postal History. A significant feature of the Collection is the length of historical periods that it covers, from the Prephilatelic period to the War of Independence. These five hundred and fifty years of letter writing are divided in the Book into seven sections: The Prephilatelic Period, Turkish Post in the Holy land, The Foreign Post Offices in the Holy Land, Zionism and Congresses, Jewish Settlements, World War I, The British Mandate, The Struggle for Independence, and The War of Independence. It should be noted that four out of the nine sections are devoted to Zionism and the creation of the State of Israel, showing the development of same, through philatelic items. Therefore, it is an important reference Book for Holy Land philatelists.

A short historical introduction is given in each section as a background to the rare philatelic items that follow. Historical documents, pictures and quotes from the press further emphasis and highlight the historical background of the letters.

A well-written introduction by Zvi Aloni, the Curator of the Collection, the editor and the organizer of this publication, provides a clear understanding of the aims and the scope of the Collection as represented in the Book.

The Book is written in Hebrew and English, and this "Bi-Focal" language format will allow it to reach a wider audience, Hebrew readers and English ones.

It is a hard cover Book, in A4 size, quality glossy paper with beautiful, clear and well-defined illustrations.

Zvi Aloni and the museum and all who participated in the publishing of the book, deserve praise. This book should be in every philatelic and Holy Land collector's library.

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