



ISRAEL PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Member - Federation Internationale de Philatelie

Holy Land • Postal History

VII • 130-131

SUMMER 2015



Cover sent from Jerusalem to Italy, franked with 60 Centimes French stamps to pay the single letter rate to Italy as from 1 July 1871, marked with "Jerusalem Cross" cachet in blue and framed "PD" cachet in red, cancelled by Jaffa dotted rhomboid "5089" in large figures, and pearl ring "Jaffa/Syrie 2 Avril. 75" postmark alongside. Transit Alexandria and arrival Naples postmarks on reverse. (Page 981)

HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY



ISRAEL PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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on display are unique letters, stamps and documents

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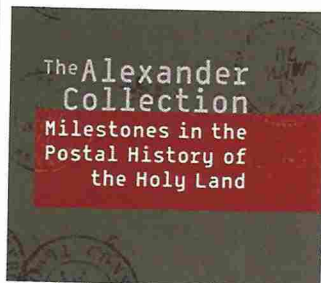
Q Search



Postcards from Herzl

Herzl's love for his children is demonstrated in three postcards written by Herzl to his daughter Paulina. The postcards were found in London in the 1970's in the inheritance of Joseph Weiman. Following prolonged negotiations, that lasted 10 years, the collector Zvi Alexander managed to purchase the three postcards and added them to his extensive collection.

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Home page of the Alexander Collection website

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Editorial

The subject of taxing letters by the post office due to none franking, insufficient franking or for any other infringements of postal regulations, is thoroughly covered by an article in the Bulletin.

This is a “backroom” subject, which is not very popular with collectors, nevertheless it is an interesting one for those who are interested in the operations of the postal system.

“Better late than never”. We are one year after the 100th. Anniversary of the outbreak of W.W.I. Still, we did not want to forgo this important historical event and an article about the Foreign Post Offices, The Post of the Jewish Colonies and the effect of the closure of the F.P.Os, due to the abolition of the Capitulations is devoted to the subject. Extensive use in the article was made on items from the Zvi Alexander collection.

The inexhaustible subject of the Foreign Post Offices appears once more in the Bulletin, but by a special feature, namely the sea post of these offices which used their national marine navigation companies for the delivery of letters. Rare covers are shown in the article.

There is a new trend in collecting Postal History, the application of facets of Social History. It means that a letter is not just appreciated because of routes, rates and postal significant, but also through the relation to Social History and to Human Interest, based on the experience of the writer. This article which was prompted by a letter from a soldier stationed shortly in Palestine during World War I is such an example. Indeed the border line between Postal History and Social History is thin, but it may give more depth and variety to collecting. We have included the article as a “feeler”, as an experiment if you will, to hear from you readers your opinion about it. *Please tell us what you think.*

Yehuda Kleiner
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Zeev/Yehuda, Good afternoon.

I received my HLPH journal yesterday and immediately read and reread your fantastic EEF article on the APO's. You know how passionate I am about the area and dedicated to my EEF collection... dating back to our dear friend, Dr. Al Friedberg. I want to congratulate you on the excellent article, and let you know how much I enjoyed it! In fact, I ran to my stamp cave and immediately started to cross reference your list of APO SZ numbers to my collection... what fun. Of course I'm missing a few SZ's, but that's the fun of the hunt. I hope everyone's well and just an FYI, I plan on putting my EEF into an exhibit for the 100 anniversary of Allenby's conquest of Jerusalem in 2017.

Best regards – Mike Bass

Thank you Mike for your compliment. It is most appreciated, this is one of the objectives of our Bulletin to promote the knowledge of Holy Land Philately.

Yehuda Kleiner – Editor

Dear Editor,/Good Morning

I am doing some research on a chap called Eli Goldenberg who is said to have made the interim postal stamps used in Zafed in 1948. I understand there was a round and a rectangular version. While I might be interested in buying an original I am really looking for a photograph of each type to illustrate a book (not on philately!) I am writing.

I would be very grateful if you could help me out with any information or photos.

Yours – Major Edwin Parks, Hillsborough, N Ireland

Israel's Post Office Taxing Practices, 1948-1971

Yaakov Shabtai, Ramat-Gan, Israel

Foreword

Several articles have been written on the topic of taxed mail in the Holy land. The Ottoman Period was covered by Norman Collins. The comprehensive study on "Taxed Mail of the Ottoman Period" was published by Dr. Eddy Leibu in a series of five articles. "Minhelet Ha'am" period and the establishment of the State of Israel were covered by Dr. Stephen Rothman and Yakov Tsachor in their book, "The Doar Ivri Issue of Israel". Another article "Israel 1948-1949 Taxed Mail" was written by Yakov Tsachor and was published in the Israel Philatelist. The later Postage Due stamps of Israel were covered by Norman Gladstone in his article "Letters Taxed by Non-Postage Due Stamps".

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

Background

"Minhelet Ha'am Postal Services" – The department of Posts, telegraph and Telephone prepared stamps (Overprinted JNF labels) and all-Hebrew undated canceling devices. The stamps and the canceling devices were put in use in settlements and villages from May 1st to May 15th, 1948. Post Offices in towns from May 6th to May 15th, 1948. The stamps were

sanctioned for use until May 23rd. In besieged Jerusalem the stamps were put on sale from May 9th to early August 1948.

“Transition to Israel’s Post” – “Doar Ivri”, Israel’s first set of stamps of nine denominations was put on sale on Sunday, May 16th. Israel’s trilingual (Hebrew, English and Arabic) canceling devices were introduced at the same day in Tel-Aviv and Haifa HPO’s. In other Post Offices, the dated Mandate devices were reintroduced and used until July 1st. The use of the Mandate Registration labels was continued, and the use of the Mandate “To Pay” cachets was terminated with the introduction of the Hebrew cachets in 1949. The siege of Jerusalem was lifted in mid-June with the arrival of the first convoy. The “Doar Ivri” stamps were brought in and were put into use on June 20th. The Jerusalem’s trilingual postmark became available on July 4th.

“The use of Postage Stamps to Tax mail” – “Minhelet Ha’am” stamps were used as tax stamps from May 2nd to May 14th. The Mandate Postage Due stamps were withdrawn on May 2nd and in Tel-Aviv HPO on May 5th. As from May 16th and until the new Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps became available at the different Post Offices, the regular “Doar Ivri” stamps were used instead. At Tel-Aviv’s HPO the “Minhelet Ha’am – Chaim Weizmann” 10 mils stamps were also used as postage dues during this period.

“The Doar Ivri Postage Due Stamps” – A set of five denominations was issued from Friday May 28th. At Tel-Aviv’s HPO counter the stamps were put in use on Sunday, May 30th. In Haifa’s HPO the stamps were put into circulation on Tuesday June 1st (the Official First Day of the stamps) and in Jerusalem in July. The sale of the Doar Ivri Postage Due set of stamps was terminated on April 30th, 1950.

Second Postage Due set of stamps – Israel’s first definitive Postage Due stamps, comprising six denominations, were issued on December 18th, 1949. The stamps replaced the Doar Ivri Postage Dues and were on sale until May 31st, 1953. The New Hebrew “To pay” (לשלם) cachet was put in use at the beginning of 1949.

Third Postage Due set of stamps – Israel’s second definitive Postage Due stamps, consisting nine denominations, were issued on November 30th, 1952 and their sale was terminated on January 5th, 1960.

The Definitive stamps – In January 1960, following the change in the

division of the Israeli pound into 100 agorot instead of 1000 prutot, the use of Postage Due stamps was stopped. A new era of using definitive postage stamps and commemoratives as postage due stamps began and continued until early seventies. The definitive stamps were: the Provisionals; the Zodiacs (I, II and III); the Town Emblems (I and II); and three sets of Airmails stamps: 1st – The Airmail set of 1960: 2nd – The Birds of Israel of 1963: 3rd – The Exports stamps of 1968. Commemorative stamps were used at random.

Inland mail taxed with provisional Postage Due stamps, Minhelet Ha'am and Doar Ivri. The collected tax was 20 mils, double the inland letter rate.



Fig. 1: A stampless letter mailed from Tiberias to Herzliya during the "Minhelet Ha'am" period. The letter was charged In Herzliya with 20 mils, a pair of "Minhelet Ha'am – Herzl" 10 mils stamps was affixed and cancelled with the Herzliya undated "Minhelet Ha'am" postmark. A rare combination that lasted two weeks between May 2nd and May 14th, 1948.

Fig. 2: A locally addressed Tel-Aviv letter, mailed during the "Minhelet Ha'am" period. The letter was franked with a "Jewish National Fund – Negev Pipeline" label invalid for postage. It was marked with the reintroduced "To Pay" cachet and was charged with 20 mils. A pair of "Minhelet Ha'am – Amsterdam Ghetto" 10 mils stamps of the "Diaspora" second issue were added, and cancelled with the Tel-Aviv undated "Minhelet Ha'am" postmark.





Fig. 3: A locally addressed Tel-Aviv letter, mailed on May 20th, 1948. It was franked with a demonetized Mandate 10 mils stamp cancelled against regulations thus it was charged with 20 mils. A pair of "Minhelet Ha'am - Chaim Weizmann" 10 mils stamps were marked with the Tel-Aviv reintroduced Mandate "T" marking used as postage dues. The British Mandate stamps became invalid for use on May 16th, 1948. The "Minhelet Ha'am - Chaim Weizmann" 10 mils stamps were used as provisional postage dues, after May 14th, at Tel-Aviv's HPO. A very rare combination that lasted from May 16th to May 30th and only at Tel-Aviv's HPO.

Fig. 4: A commercial Bank letter mailed from Tel-Aviv to Haifa on May 25th, 1948. The letter was franked with a demonetized Mandate 10 mils stamp cancelled against regulations, but it was encircled according to its requirement. The letter was charged with 20 mils and a Doar Ivri 20 mils stamp marked with the large Haifa Mandate "T" was affixed and cancelled on May 26th.

A very rare combination that lasted two weeks from May 16th to June 1st.



Fig. 5: A letter mailed from Rosh Pinna to Affula on May 19th, 1948. The letter was franked with a demonetized Mandate 10 mils stamp cancelled with the reintroduced DC Rosh Pinna postmark. It was charged in Affula with 20 mils on June 7th, and a Doar Ivri 20 mils stamp was affixed and cancelled with Affula's reintroduced SC postmark. A very rare combination that lasted approximately three weeks, between May 16th and the date when the new Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps became available at Affula's Post Office.



Fig. 6: A locally addressed Haifa letter, mailed on May 23rd, 1948. It was franked with a demonetized "Minhelet Ha'am – Immigrants' ship" 10 mils stamp on its first day of invalidity. The letter was charged on the same day with 20 mils. A Doar Ivri 20 mils stamp was added and used as Postage Due stamp. A very rare combination that lasted only one week from May 23rd to June 1st.

Domestic mail franked with demonetized Mandate and Minhelet Ha'am stamps, taxed with the new Doar Ivri Postage Dues.

Fig. 7: A locally addressed Tel-Aviv commercial letter franked with a 10 mils Mandate stamp valid at time of dispatch, April 5th, 1948. It was delivered three weeks later by the new State's Postal Authorities. The Mandate stamp was invalid for postage at the time of delivery and the letter was charged with 20 mils. A Doar Ivri Postage Due stamp was affixed and cancelled on May 30th (first day of use at Tel-Aviv's HPO). An unknown addressee and the 20 mils stamp was annulled with the reintroduced "Charge not collected – Fresh Label required" cachet.

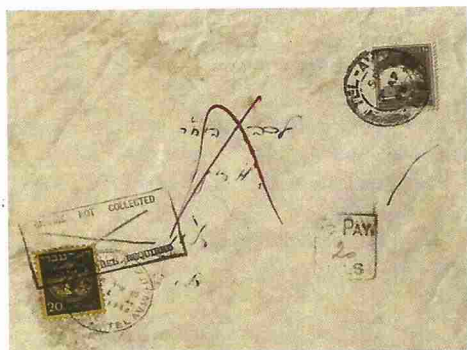


Fig. 8: A printed matter mailed from Tel-Aviv to Haifa, franked with a demonetized 3 mils Mandate stamp. The letter was charged in Haifa with 6 mils, double the inland printed matter rate. A pair of 3 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps was affixed and cancelled on June 2nd 1948 (second day of use) at Haifa's HPO. The inland printed matter rate was 3 mils between May 1st, 1941 and October 1st, 1948.



Fig. 9: demonetized Mandate stationery, mailed from Tel-Aviv to Haifa. It was charged in Haifa with 14 mils double the inland Postcard rate. 14 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps were affixed and canceled on June 2nd, 1948 (second day of use) at Haifa's HPO.

The British Mandate stationery became invalid for use on May 16th, 1948.

The inland postcard rate was 7 mils between April 1st, 1941 and October 1st, 1948.

Fig. 10: A letter mailed from Tiberias to Tel-Aviv during the "Minhelet Ha'am period". The letter was franked with a 10 mils Mandate demonetized stamp cancelled with Tiberias' "Minhelet Ha'am" postmark. It was charged on June 2nd with a 20 mils and a 20 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamp was affixed and cancelled. The letter was redirected to Haifa where the addressee refused to pay the tax, and the 20 mils stamp was annulled with a "Charge not Collected – Fresh Label Required" cachet. A three different authorities letter – British Mandate stamp and cachets, Minhelet Ha'am" postmark and Israel's tax stamps and postmark.



Fig. 11: A locally addressed Tel-Aviv letter mailed on May 23rd, 1948. The letter was franked with a demonetized "Minhelet Ha'am" – Immigrants' ship" 10 mils stamps on its first day of invalidity and was cancelled against postal regulations. The letter was charged with 20 mils and a pair of 10 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps was affixed and cancelled on June 2nd. An unknown addressee and the taxed stamps were annulled with the reintroduced "Charge not collected – Fresh Label Required" cachet. As no return address, the letter was forwarded on July 2nd, by Israel's postal authorities to its "Dead Letter Office".



Fig. 12: A letter mailed from Jerusalem to Petah Tiqva. The letter was collected by the Jerusalem's sorting office on August 16th, 1948 and was forwarded to the Jerusalem HPO on the same day. It was franked with a demonetized pair of 5 mils Jerusalem's "Minhelet Ha'am" first issued stamps and was marked with Jerusalem's reintroduced Mandate "T" marking that was reintroduced in mid August. The letter was charged in Petah Tiqva with 20 mils, double the inland letter rate, and a 5 mils block of four Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps was affixed and cancelled on August 18th.

Insufficient franking of Inland mail.

Stampless, under franked and taxed twice.

Fig. 13: An under franked letter, mailed from Haifa to Affula on October 9th, 1948. The letter was franked with a 10 mils stamp instead of 15 the inland letter rate and was charged with 10 mils, double the deficiency. In Affula a 10 mils Doar Ivri stamp was affixed and cancelled on October 28th. The inland letter rate was 15 mils from October 1st, 1948 to January 31st, 1952. The use of Doar Ivri stamps as postage dues after June 1st is exceptional.



Fig. 14: A locally addressed letter, mailed in Haifa on June 18th, 1948. The original stamp was removed and the letter was considered as a stampless letter; thus it was charged on June 22nd with 20 mils. An unknown addressee and the tax stamps were annulled with the reintroduced "Charge not Collected – Fresh Label Required" cachet. The letter was returned to sender and was charged second time with 20 mils. A 20 mils Doar Ivri postage due stamp was affixed on reverse and was cancelled on June 27th.

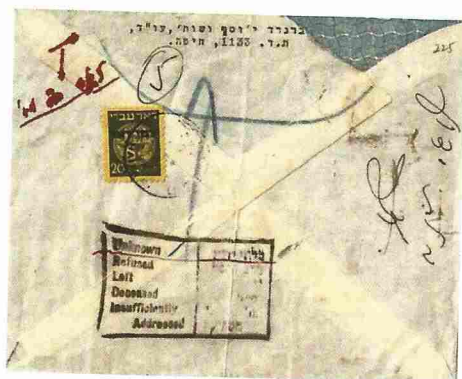


Fig. 14a:
The second tax charge
on reverse side.

Fig 15: A stampless letter, mailed from Nathanya to Tel-Aviv on December 18th, 1949. The letter was charged in Tel-Aviv on December 19th with 30 mils double the inland letter rate. A10 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps plus a 20 prutot of the second Postage Dues were used. The only recorded inland letter with a mixed franking of the Doar Ivri Postage Due stamp and the second Postage Dues. The New Hebrew "To pay" cachet was available for use at the beginning of 1949.



Fig. 16: A locally addressed stampless postcard, mailed in Tel-Aviv on January 3rd, 1950. The postcard was charged on January 5th with 20 prutot, double the inland postcard rate. The addressee moved and the postcard was redirected to Hadera where the addressee refused to accept. The taxed stamp was annulled by a "Charge not Collected – Fresh Label Required" cachet. The inland postcard rate was 10 prutot from October 1st, 1948 to February 1st, 1952.

Fig. 17: An under franked letter, mailed from Haifa to Tel-Aviv on August 18th, 1952. The letter was franked with 30 prutot instead of 50 the rate for an excess weight mail of extra 30 grams. It was charged with 40 prutot double the deficiency and a pair of 20 prutot was affixed and cancelled on August 19th. The inland letter rate was 30 mils up to 30 grams, plus 20 mils for each extra 30 grams from March 20th, 1952 to June 1st, 1953.





Fig. 18: A stampless letter, mailed from Haifa to Tel-Aviv on January 4th, 1953. In Tel Aviv the letter was charged with 60 prutot, double the inland letter rate. A mixed franking of 10 prutot of the second Postage Due and 50 prutot of the third were affixed and cancelled on January 5th. The inland letter rate was 30 prutot from March 20th, 1952 to June 1st, 1953.

Fig. 19: A locally addressed stampless letter, mailed in Haifa on July 13th, 1955. The letter was charged on July 18th with 120 prutot, double the inland letter rate. It was inscribed "exempt" in Hebrew and the postage due stamps were annulled with a "Charge not Collected – Fresh Label Required" Hebrew cachet. The address was marked out and the letter was returned to sender.

The inland letter rate was 60 prutot from February 1954 to June 1956.



Fig. 20: An under franked stationery, mailed from Shaar Menashe to Tel-Aviv on February 2nd, 1958. It was charged in Tel-Aviv on February 4th with 40 prutot, double the 20 prutot deficiency of the inland postcard rate. The addressee "Refused to accept" and the postage due stamp was "Annulled". The stationery was returned to sender on March 9th, 1958.

The inland postcard rate was 50 prutot from November 29th, 1956 to December 1st, 1958.

January 1960, Change of Currency – The division of Israel's pound was changed into 100 agorot instead of 1000 prutot on January 5th.

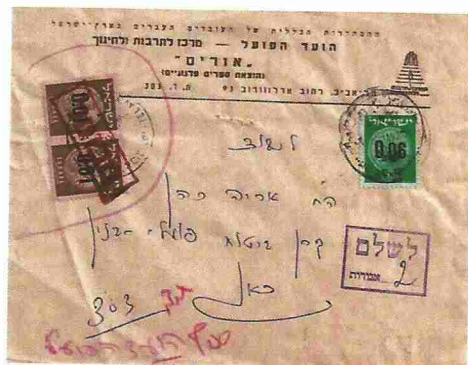


Fig. 21: A locally addressed under franked letter, mailed in Tel-Aviv on April 5th, 1960. The letter was charged with 2 agorot double the deficiency of an inland 7 agorot letter rate. A pair of 1 agora of the new Provisionals stamps were affixed and cancelled on April 6th. The tax stamps were not required as the letter status was confirmed to be a printed matter. Its inland rate was 6 agorot thus the tax stamps were “annulled” (מבוטל).

Fig. 22: A stampless postcard mailed from Netanya to Jerusalem on June 15th, 1960. It was marked with an inappropriate “To Pay” prutot old cachet and a second “To Pay” agorot cachet was added. The postcard was charged on June 16th with a 0.12 Israeli Lira (equals to 12 agorot) double the 6 agorot inland postcard rate.

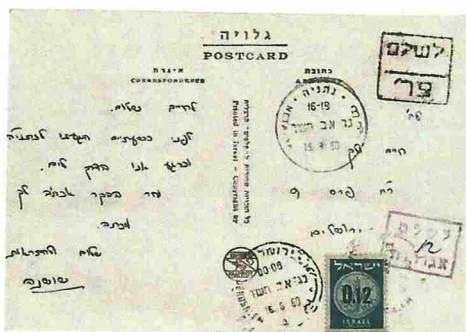


Fig. 23: A locally addressed under franked letter mailed in Tel-Aviv on May 29th, 1966. The letter was charged with 6 agorot on June 1st, 1 agora of Zodiac's first issue plus 5 agorot of Zodiac's third double the 3 agorot deficiency of the inland 15 agorot letter rate.

Fig. 24: A locally addressed letter, mailed in Jerusalem by “The American Jewish Congress” office on June 6th, 1963. It was marked by franking machine but was treated as stampless letter as the machine strike was unreadable. The letter was charged on June 12th with 24 agorot, a 1 agora plus two 10 agorot stamps of Zodiac's first issue plus 3 agorot of Zodiac's third, double the inland 12 agorot letter rate. The addressee “left” and the letter was returned to sender. The tax stamps were annulled with a “Charge not Collected – Fresh Label Required” Hebrew cachet on June 19th.





Fig. 25: A stampless letter, mailed from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem on February 27th, 1966. The letter was charged with 24 agorot double the inland letter rate. A pair of 12 agorot of Town Emblem first issue was added and canceled on February 28th. The letter was not reclaimed and the stamps were annulled with a "Charge not Collected - Fresh Label Required" cachet.

Fig. 26: A locally addressed stampless letter mailed in Tel Aviv on June 12th, 1970. The letter was charged with 30 agorot double the inland letter rate and a "Nature Reserves - Soreq Cave" 30 agorot stamp was affixed and cancelled on June 14th. The addressee refused to pay the charge and the stamp was "annulled" - (מבוטל). The letter was "returned to sender" and was charged second time with 30 agorot. A 30 agorot stamp of Town Emblem's first issue was affixed on reverse and cancelled on June 26th.



Fig. 26a:
The second charge on reverse side.



“Return Postage Guaranteed” – Undelivered printed matters when returned to sender as “returned postage guaranteed”, were charged with delivery service fee equivalent to its postal rate. The delivery charges for a pack of returned letters to the same sender were affixed on the “Top of the Pile” cover.



Fig. 27: A locally addressed postcard, mailed in Jerusalem on February 8th, by the Workers' Union (Histadrut) tax office. The addressee “Left” and the postcard was Return to Sender “as returned postage guaranteed”. It was marked on February 11th with 5 mils the returned postcard delivery fee but was charged with 25 mils as being the “top of the pile” of five similar postcards returning to the same sender. The only recorded postcard with returned delivery fee being “a top of the pile”.

Fig. 28: A printed matter franked with 10 prutot the surface mail rate to North America. The letter was mailed in Jerusalem on August 10th, 1950. It was sent to St. Louis, Missouri where it arrived on September 27th. The letter was not delivered as the addressee was not located. It was returned to sender “as returned postage guaranteed” and was charged with a 10 prutot printed matter delivery service fee. As being the “Top of the Pile” of sixty three similar letters returning to the same sender, it was charged on December 13th with 630 prutot.



*Fig. 28a:
The 630 prutot charge on reverse side.*



Fig. 29: A printed matter locally addressed mailed in Tel-Aviv on May 12th, 1958 by "Idud LTd", constructive money Loan Company. It was franked with 50 prutot the inland printed matter rate. Because of an unknown addressee the letter was returned to sender "as returned postage guaranteed". It was charged on May 22nd with returned delivery fee of 2500 prutot as being the "top of the pile" of fifty similar undelivered letters returning to "Idud". The printed matter rate was 50 prutot from November 29th, 1956 to December 1st, 1958.

Fig. 30: A printed matter locally addressed, mailed in Tel-Aviv on July 19th, 1960 by "Idud LTd". The letter was franked with 7 agorot the inland printed matter rate. Because of an unknown addressee it was returned to "Idud" and was charged on July 24th with 112 agorot as being the "top of the pile" of sixteen undelivered similar letters.



Fig. 31: A printed matter locally addressed, mailed in Tel-Aviv on March 29th, 1962 by "Idud LTd". The letter was franked with 8 agorot the inland printed matter rate. Because of an unknown addressee it was returned to "Idud" and was charged on March 29th, 1962 with 208 agorot as being the "top of the pile" of twenty six undelivered similar letters. A mix franking of Zodiac's first, second and third issues.

Fig. 32: A printed matter locally addressed, was mailed in Tel-Aviv on May 4th, 1966 by "Idud LTd". The letter was franked with 12 agorot the inland printed matter rate. Because of an unknown addressee it was returned to "Idud" and was charged on May 16th with 492 agorot, as being the "top of the pile" of forty one undelivered letters.

A mix franking of Town Emblems first issue and Zodiac's first.





Fig. 33: A printed matter locally addressed, mailed in Tel-Aviv on January 1st, 1968 by "Idud Ltd". The letter was franked with 12 agorot the inland printed matter rate. The addressee "left" and it was returned to "Idud". The letter was charged on January 8th with 432 agorot, as being the "top of the pile" of thirty six undelivered similar letters.

A mix franking of Town Emblem first issue and Airmail – Birds of Israel 1963.

Fig. 34: A printed matter locally addressed, mailed in Tel-Aviv on October 25th, 1968 by "Idud Ltd". The letter was franked with 12 agorot the inland printed matter rate. Because of an unknown addressee it was returned to "Idud" and was charged on November 7th with 528 agorot, as being the "top of the pile" of forty four undelivered similar letters.

A mix franking of Town Emblems first issue, Airmail – Export Diamonds 1965 and Tabira National Stamp Exhibition.



Under franked mail from foreign countries – The Paris 1947 International Agreement, concerning the subject of foreign taxed mail, determined that the amount to be levied should be based on weight and postal rates of the country of origin. The calculated amount should be converted to French Gold Centimes and re-converted to the local currency at the country of destination. The conversion to French Gold Centimes at the country of origin was generally correctly done, but the re-conversion at the country of destination was every so often incorrect.



Fig. 35: An under franked "On Active Service" airmail letter, mailed on July 18th, 1949 from FPO 899 in the British Zone to Haifa. It was marked with a British tax marking "T" "ES" 84 (Centimes), the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Haifa it was converted to 84 (mils) and 84 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps, in four colors, were affixed and cancelled on July 26th.



Fig. 36: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Johannesburg to Tel Aviv on December 3rd, 1949. It was marked with 21 centimes the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Tel Aviv it was converted to 25 mils. A mix franking of 5 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamp and 20 prutot of the second Postage Dues issue were affixed and cancelled on December 19th.

A rare combination, as very few mixed franking covers at overland mail are recorded.

Fig. 37: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Kibbutz Kfar Darom on February 14th, 1950. The letter was marked with 60 centimes the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Tel Aviv it was converted to 119 prutot and 119 prutot of the second Postage Dues stamps were affixed and cancelled on February 23rd.

A rare combination of the six colors of the second postage due issue.



Fig. 38: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Johannesburg to Tel Aviv on January 1st, 1950. It was marked in Johannesburg with a "T 21 c" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Tel Aviv it was converted to 25 prutot and 25 prutot stamps were affixed and cancelled on January 7th. The charge was not collected, thus the stamps were annulled with a reintroduced "Charge Not Collected - Fresh Label Required" cachet. A second charge was required latter and additional 25 prutot stamps of the same issue were added and charged on January 9, 1950.



Fig. 39: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Floral Park, New York to Gan Ha'shomron, P.O. Karkur on May 20th, 1953. It was marked with a "T 210 Centimes" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Karkur it was converted to 695 prutot. The letter was charged with 695 prutot, 155 prutot of the second postage due stamps plus 540 prutot of the third were affixed and cancelled on both side of the cover, on May 26th.



Fig. 39a: Part of the mix franking on reverse side.



Fig. 40: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from France to a firm in Tel-Aviv on May 7th, 1957. The letter was inscribed with a "0.17" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes (The pen inscribing "0.17" is concealed by the pair of 5 prutot coins definitive stamps). In Tel-Aviv it was converted to 110 prutot and 110 prutot of the third Postage Dues set of stamps were affixed and cancelled on May 13th. The firm moved to Herzliya thus the taxed stamps were "annulled". The letter was redirected to Herzliya and was charged a second time on May 14th, with 110 prutot in a very rare combination of mixed franking. Pair of 50 prutot of the third postage dues plus a pair of 5 prutot of the definitive second coins issue stamps.



Fig. 41: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Paris to Haifa on April 15th, 1961. The letter was marked with a "T = 0,37" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Haifa it was converted to 18 agorot. A mix franking of a 12 agorot of the provisional stamps plus a 6 agorot of Zodiac's first issue were affixed and cancelled on April 18th.

Fig. 43: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from New York to Haifa on August 8th, 1965. The letter was marked with a "T 150 centimes" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. In Haifa it was converted to 150 agorot, 50 agorot of Zodiac's first issue and 100 agorot of the second were affixed and cancelled on August 12th. The stamps were annulled with a "Charge not Collected Fresh Label Required" Hebrew cachet for a reason not indicated. The letter was charged a second time with Zodiac's first issue three time 50 agorot stamps on August 13th.



Fig. 44: An under franked airmail letter, mailed from Newark, New Jersey to Jerusalem on May 4th, 1964. The letter was marked with a "T 150 centimes" the franking deficiency in French Gold centimes. It was converted in Jerusalem to 145 agorot. A mix franking of 5 agorot of Zodiac's third issue, a pair of 20 agorot of Airmail's - Birds 1963 and a Commemorative S/S Shalom 100 agorot stamp. All were affixed and cancelled on May 10th. The addressee a guest of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem moved to the Dan Hotel in Tel-Aviv. The letter was redirected to Tel-Aviv with a note "Hold for arrival". The guest left by that time Tel-Aviv and the letter was not collected thus the tax stamps were annulled with a "Charge not Collected - Fresh Label Required" cachet.

Compulsory Registration – During the first and the second decades of the new state, incoming mail from foreign countries found to contain valuables greater than 500 mils (1.50 US Dollar) would be registered by the authorities. This procedure was implemented in order to force the recipient to pay the customs' tax and the appropriate registration fee. In Jerusalem and Haifa the authorities collected a fee equal to the registration rate, in Tel-Aviv the collected registration fee was doubled.



Fig. 45: An airmail letter, mailed at Church Street N.Y. City P.O. to Tel Aviv on August 13th, 1948. In Tel-Aviv the letter was opened for customs examination on August 30th and its contain was checked for valuable. It was subject to compulsory registration and a reintroduced "Tel Aviv" HPO registration label was affixed on September 2nd together with 30 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps, double the registration fee.

The registration fee was 15 mils from July 1st 1948 until October 1st, 1948.



Fig. 46: An airmail letter, mailed in New York on September 7th, 1948. The letter was addressed to a Cyprus detainee in Camp 55, passenger of the illegal ship "Mordei Hagetaot", c/o AIG CID (Assistance Inspector general – Criminal Investigation Department). In Tel-Aviv the letter was opened by a military censor and its contain was checked for valuable. It was subject to compulsory registration and the reintroduced Mandate "Tel Aviv 8" District Office registration label was affixed on October 3rd together with 50 mils Doar Ivri Postage Due stamps, double the registration fee. The letter was inscribed by red pencil in Hebrew "to be sent to the Committee of Cyprus Detainees" as the addressee was still detained at Cyprus detention Camp.

The registration fee was 25 mils from October 1st, 1948 until January 31st, 1952.



Fig. 47: A charity letter, mailed in New York on October 25th, 1949. It arrived in Jerusalem on December 5th and was censored, the content was checked for valuables and US Banknote was found. It was subject to compulsory registration and the reintroduced "Jerusalem 14" Registration label was added. The letter was marked with a "To Pay 25 mils" cachet but was charged with 75 mils on December 6th, as being a "top of a pile" for three similar covers to the same addressee. In Jerusalem a single registration fee was charged.

Fig. 47a:
75 mils Doar Ivri postage due stamps
on reverse side.

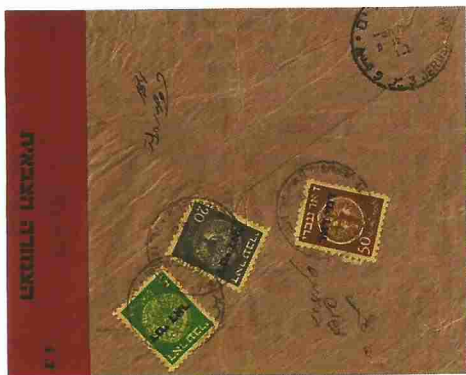


Fig. 48: An airmail letter, mailed on June 1954 from Los Angeles to Ben-Shemen – Youth village. The letter was censored in Tel-Aviv and was found to be subject to compulsory registration. A "Tel-Aviv – Yaffo 35" registration label was added and 100 prutot were charged on June 21st. The Registration fee was 100 prutot from February 1st, 1954 to December 31st, 1955.

Fig. 49: An airmail letter, mailed in Casablanca to Kibbutz Givat Brenner on May 21st, 1958. In Tel-Aviv the letter was opened by the censor and its content was checked. It was subject to compulsory registration and the letter was marked with "force registration To Charge 150 prutot" cachet. A "Tel-Aviv – Yaffo 35" registration label was added, and 150 prutot were charged in Givat Brenner on May 26th. The registration fee was 150 prutot from November 29th, 1956 to December 1st, 1958.



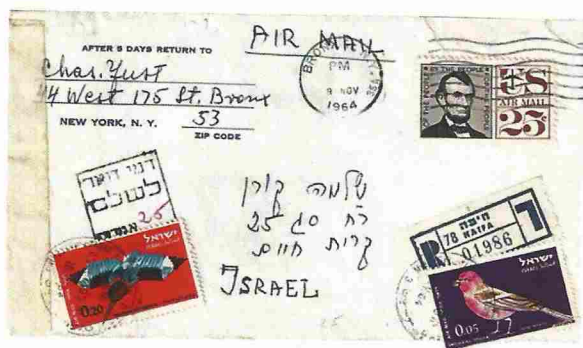


Fig. 50: An airmail letter mailed on November 9th, 1964 from Bronx to Qiryat Haim. The letter was censored in Haifa on November 15th and was found to be subject to compulsory registration. It was charged with 25 agorot and a "Haifa 78" Registration label was added. 25 agorot registration fee was charged in Qiryat Haim on November 16th. An uncommon use of compulsory registration mail after 1960 and unusual use of the Airmail – Bird of Israel stamps as Postage Dues.

Conclusion

Israel's Post Office Taxing Practices is a most challenging topic to collectors of Holy Land's Postal History. The topic span is wide and it is divided into three periods of time creating different combinations of rates, frankings, postmarks, labels and markings. The 1st period covers the use of Minhelet Ha'am provisional stamps and postmarks together with British Mandate postmarks, labels and markings during the month of May 1948. The 2nd details the use of three different sets of definitive Postage Due stamps from June 1948 to January 1960 when a change of currency took place. The 3rd sums up the use of different definitive set of postage stamps together with commemoratives as postage dues during the second decade of the State of Israel.

The basic Taxing Practices along the three periods remained stable. The changes that took place were the Postage Due stamps and the Rates. Gradual changes also took place during the 1st and 2nd periods, where the British Mandate postmarks, labels and markings were converted into Hebrew language.

And a personal note – Is it not a most fascinating theme of Holy Land Philately emphasizing on the large scope of Israel's taxed mail?

Anniversary W.W.1 1914-2014, Capitulations and the Closure of the Foreign Post Offices

Compiled by Yehuda Kleiner, Raanana Israel

Foreword

Last year 2014, was the 100th. Anniversary of the Outbreak of W.W. 1 and the abolition of the Capitulations.

The event prompted this article, in which a short overview of the Foreign Post Offices (as much detailed information has been published already), and also showing the effect of the abolition of the Capitulations by closing their operation is given.

The article is divided into two main parts. The first one, a short description of the Foreign Post Offices, with illustrations of typical letters. The second, the consequences of the closure of the FPOs, by showing letters from the same locations on a *before and after basis*, namely first through the Foreign Post Office and then through the "forced" Ottoman post. In the later some items carry Turkish stamps bearing the overprint "*Abrogation of Capitulation*" and *Turkish military censor marks*.

In compiling the article much use was made of the *Alexander Collection*, both with the illustrations and with the text.

The Capitulations and the Foreign Post Offices

The right for the Foreign Post Offices to operate in the Ottoman Empire was granted under the Capitulation agreements. These were contracts between the Ottoman Empire and European powers made by successive Sultans to Christian nations, conferring rights and privileges in favor of their subject's resident or trading companies in the Ottoman dominions.

According to these capitulations traders entering the Ottoman Empire were exempt from local prosecution, local taxation, local conscription, and

their Companies and Agencies could operate freely. The earliest capitulation agreements were made with France in the 16th. Century (Figure 1).



Fig. 1: Copy of the 1569 Capitulation agreement between Charles IX and Selim II.

Under the Capitulations Agreements the following Foreign Post Offices were established:

Post Office	Opened	Closed	Branches in the Holy Land
Austrian	1859*	30/09/14	Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, & several sub agencies
French	1852*	30/09/14	Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa
German	1870	30/09/14	Jerusalem, Jaffa, & several sub agencies
Russian	1865	01/10/14	Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, Acre
Italian	1908	30/09/14	Jerusalem
Egyptian	1871	15/02/1872	Jaffa

* Consular postal services were given by these countries as of earlier dates: Austria 1849, Austrian Lloyds 1854, France 1850, Russian 1857,

As can be seen in the table these Post Offices were closed on 30th, September 1914, and October 1st, although the Capitulations as a whole, were officially abolished only in 1923.

The Austrian Post Office

The development of the Austrian Post Office in the Levant and Palestine depended upon the Austrian Lloyd Shipping Company. The "Lloyd Austriaco", established in 1836, contracted with the Austrian postal administration for various agreements. Lloyd was entitled and obliged to operate certain modes of transport and to maintain certain postal establishments.

The establishment of the Austrian post offices in Haifa and Jaffa in 1854 was based upon the agreement of 1851. The Jerusalem post office, however, was installed owing to a special understanding agreed upon between the Vienna Foreign Office and the Turkish government in Istanbul in 1852.

Before the founding of the Universal Postal Union, the services of the Austrian Post Office were chiefly in demand for correspondence from Palestine to Greece, to East and North Italy, to Switzerland, and to the countries of the Austro-German postal union.

The Austrians operated two types of postal agencies in Palestine, sometimes simultaneously and side by side.

1. Agencies of the Austrian Lloyd under the management of the Postal Directorate in Trieste.
2. Consular or State postal forwarding agencies, subordinate to the Postal Administration in Vienna.

Austrian postal head offices existed in Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa. Sub agencies in: Bethlehem, Gedera, Hadera, Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Jerusalem-Mea Shearim, Kastanie, Nazareth, Petah Tiqva, Rehovot, Rishon Le Zion, Safed, Tiberias, and Zichron Yaakov.

An example of a letter forwarded by the Austrian post is shown in Figure 2.



Fig. 2: Folded letter sent from Jerusalem to Jaffa, franked with 8 Soldi (2 x 4) to pay the Jerusalem – Jaffa domestic letter rate, cancelled by black single circle “Gerusalemme 9/4” without year postmarks.

Following to the outbreak of WW1, the Ottomans authorities closed this post office on 30th. September 1914.

The French Post Office

Even before the opening of a French postal service in Jaffa in 1852, mailings from Jerusalem are known which were handled by forwarding agents at first, and later through intermediary consular clerks, and conveyed via Jaffa either to Alexandria or to Beirut for onward transmission.

From 1858, the postal manager in Jaffa, organized a weekly postal link between Jerusalem and Jaffa. Under the administration of the Jaffa manager, receiving agents operated the postal agency in Jerusalem until 1880. Such mailings were, in the great majority of cases, marked with the Jerusalem Cross cachet. Additionally, in the left upper corner of mail the amount of collected postage fee was noted in ink, and in Jaffa the corresponding postage stamps were affixed. The cancellation of the stamps was always done in Jaffa. Occasionally, the Jerusalem Cross cachet was also applied on the back of mail arriving in Jerusalem.

This postal agency in Jerusalem was closed in the summer of 1880, probably because of the strong competition from the Austrian post office which ran a comprehensive service.

The French and English pilgrims liked to have their correspondence from Europe addressed to the care of the French consulate in Jerusalem, a quasi Poste Restante service, was establish there where they could then call for their mail. There, the Jerusalem Cross was used on occasions as an arrival postmark.

Seven years after the discontinuance of the French postal service in Jerusalem, the Damiani families tried again, in 1887, to have the French consulate open a postal agency. Under the management of Damiani. This occurred on September 3, 1900. According to the "Mitteilungen und Nachrichten of the German Palestine" The post office was at first no more than a small shop in the lobby of the Grand New Hotel in the New Bazaar. Following the development of commerce in the city the French post office moved to more serviceable quarters near the Latin patriarchate. So, from March 9, 1904 onwards, it remained continuously in the building of the Credit Lyonnais, west of the Jaffa Gate.

French mail-steamers, known as the *Messagerie Imperiale* ("Postal Line"), operated by the *Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Nationales*, departed every fortnight from Jaffa and collected the letters destined to foreign countries.

The French post office in Jaffa also handled the only letter which was sent from France to Palestine by a balloon "Par Balloon Monte" (article in the HLPH, 115-116, pg. 481-483).

An example of a letter forwarded by the French Foreign post office is shown in Figure 3.



Fig. 3: Cover sent from Jerusalem to Italy, franked with 60 Centimes French stamps to pay the single letter rate to Italy as from 1 July 1871, marked with "Jerusalem Cross" cachet in blue and framed "PD" cachet in red, cancelled by Jaffa dotted rhomboid "5089" in large figures, and pearl ring "Jaffa/Syrie 2 Avril. 75" postmark alongside. Transit Alexandria and arrival Naples postmarks on reverse.

Following to the outbreak of WW1, the Ottomans authorities closed this post office on 30th. September 1914.

The Russian Post Office

Of all the foreign powers wielding considerable influence inside Turkish territory, Russia was the first to conduct postal services, as far back as 1721. This right to maintain courier services, traveling under an escort of Janissaries of the Ottoman Government, was based on the Treaty of 1720. Russian post offices were not, however, opened before 1748, when the first such post office started its work in Constantinople.

The Crimean War led to changes in Russian policy in the Near East, reflecting on the activity of the Russian post offices in the Ottoman Empire. In 1856 an important company was founded, the "Russian Company for Steam Shipping and Trade", known under the name ROPiT (from its Russian initials). From the very beginning, the agencies of ROPiT and the ships operated by it undertook the forwarding of mail entrusted to their care.

The Russian postal administration recognized the reliability of this service, and from 1862 to 1864 the agencies of ROPiT acted as the official postal branches of the Imperial Russian postal administration, this was extended for good in 1867. Branches of the Russian post office operated in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa and Acre.

In the Ottoman Empire, ordinary Russian stamps were in exclusive use up to 1865 (in Constantinople even up to 1868). The ROPiT issues were used from 1865 to 1868, and the “Russian Levant” issues from 1868 to 1914. In 1900, the regular definitive stamps of the Russian realm became available with overprints in Turkish currency.

An example of a letter forwarded by the Russian post office is shown in Figure 4.



Fig. 4: Folded letter sent from Jaffa to Beirut franked 12 Kop Russian Levant stamps (3 and 5 Kop. Of the 1868 issue, 4x1Kop. Of the 1872 issue), to pay the double letter rate to Beirut. Cancelled by blue truncated triangle of dots “784” of Jaffa port, and blue circular “JAFFA PORT 20 MAR” postmark without year alongside. Letter was probably sent in 1872. Arrival postmark “PORT BEIRUT 22 MAR” without year.

With the outbreak of WW1 Russian post offices were closed on 1st. October 1914.

The German Post Office

The first German post office in the Holy Land was opened on October 1, 1898 in Jaffa. The scheduled visit of the Emperor and Empress to the Holy Land was cited as the occasion for the opening of the post office in an extensive net of branches and auxiliary ones.

On March 1, 1900, the Post Office in Jerusalem was opened and following Auxiliary Agencies (Depositories and similar facilities) as follows:

Hamidije-Wilhelma, Jaffa (Sebil Abu Nebbut, a quarantine station at the Jaffa city boundary), Jerusalem (Jaffa Gate), Ramleh, Rishon Le Zion, Sarona and Emmaus.

Additional postal forwarding arrangements from Jerusalem to Beit Jala, Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah also existed.

German Post mail boxes were generally installed in buildings, hotels, and clubs. A postal coach, drawn by three horses and escorted by an armed guard, commuted at night between Jaffa and Jerusalem.

The mail was carried by coach because the use of the railroad was restricted for Turkish mail only.

The guard was a consular employee with police authority. Exchange stations for the horses existed in Ramleh, Bab el-Wad and in Kaloniyeh. When mail arrived by ship in Jaffa, another coach was made ready to ensure the delivery of foreign mail on the same day.

Letters were franked by German stamps overprinted with Turkish currency.

An example of a Parcel Card from the German post office in Jerusalem is shown in Figure 5.



Fig. 5: Parcel Card from Jerusalem "Schneller Orphanage House" to Finland franked 30 Piaster German Levant stamps, to pay for 3 parcels 4.5 Kg.+4 Kg.+4Kg. to Finland, cancelled by "Jerusalem Deutsche Post 26 4 13" postmarks, with 3 "Jerusalem (Deutsche Post)" labels numbers crossed out and new "No's" added in manuscript. Transit train postmark "Constanta - Bucharest 3 MAI 1913". On reverse transit "Jaffa Deutsche Post 27 4 13" postmark, "Vyborg - Wiipuri 15 V 13" and arrival Kangasala 21.5.13. Finnish customs label with charge of 10Mk. & 22p.

Following WW1 the German post office was closed on 30th. September 1914.

The Italian Office

In April 1908 the Italian Government, wishing to establish their own post offices within the Turkish Empire under the Capitulation Treaties, sent a statement to the Sublime Porte (The Ottoman Government). This statement was more an ultimatum than a request. The Ottoman Government agreed to the opening of five Italian post offices, at Salonika, Smyrna, Valona, Constantinople and Jerusalem.

The Italian post office in Jerusalem was opened on June 1, 1908 and housed in a one-story building near the Deutsche Palastina Bank. The management of the post office was in the hands of Count Politti up until its first closure on October 1, 1911, which occurred because of the

Italo-Turkish War over Tripoli and the Libyan North African coast. The Italian post office in Jerusalem maintained its own coach for the overland transport of mail to Jaffa during the period of 1908 to 1911.

Following the peace agreement, the post office in Jerusalem reopened on December 1, 1912. Since then, the Italian post office transported its mail in a coach rented jointly with the German, French and Russian post offices.

The stamps and postal stationery of Italy for the Levant, and some of the values of the Janina and Constantinople issues were used on mail from Jerusalem until February 1909, when Jerusalem-issued stamps, came into use.

An example of a letter forwarded by the Italian post office is shown below in Figure 6.

Following WW1 the Italian post office was closed on September 30, 1914.



Fig. 6: Registered Express letter from Jerusalem to Dresden Germany franked 2 Piaster + 1 Piaster Express Italian Levant stamps, to pay the registered express letter rate (1 Piaster Letter rate + 1 Piaster Express fee + 1 Piaster registration) cancelled by "Gerusalme Uffi. Postale Italiano 27.10.08" postmarks, "R Gerusalme Uffi. Postale Italiano" On reverse transit Brindisi 4.11.08 and arrival Radebeul 6.11.08.

The Post of the Jewish Colonies – Before and After

The first Jewish agricultural colonies in the Holy Land were established in the 1870's: Petach Tiqva (1878), followed by Rishon Le Zion, Rosh Pinna and Zichron Yaacov (1882), Gedera (1884) and Hadera (1890). Additional colonies were later settled to accommodate the growing Zionist immigration. The settlers in the colonies had a vital need for efficient and reliable postal connections with the Diaspora. At that time, postal services were almost non-existent in rural Palestine.

The Turkish Post had offices in a number of towns whilst the Foreign Posts had offices only in the three major cities. As mail was not collected or delivered in the colonies other arrangements had to be made.

Mail had to be forwarded to the nearest town in order to be sent, and incoming mail had to be collected from there. Settlers who happened to be passing through the town carried out this task. Recognizing the need for regular postal services, Austrian postal agencies were established in two of the largest colonies: Rishon Le Zion and Petach Tiqva.

The German post office followed and opened an agency in Rishon Le Zion. The Turkish post did not remain idle and established post offices in five colonies: Rishon Le Zion (Aioun-Cara), Petach Tiqva, Rehovot, Zichron Ya'acov and Rosh Pinna.

In some of the colonies, charges were collected for forwarding service. Local stamps were issued for this purpose in Petach Tiqva and Hadera.

With the outbreak of World War I, the foreign post offices were closed and settlers were obliged to use the services of the Turkish post, we use the post of the Jewish Colonies to demonstrate this fact.

This by showing a set of letters sent from the Jewish Colonies **before the closure and after the closure**, (Figs: 7-19). In addition two examples of letters from official Foreign institutions which were no longer sent through the post of those Foreign Post Offices, but compulsively through the Turkish Post, (Figs, 11-12)

Petach Tikva



Fig. 7: Printed matter letter from Petach Tikvah to Vienna franked 14 Para Petach Tikva local stamp to pay the delivery to Jaffa & JNF Nordau label, tied by bilingual "Petah Tikvah / Per Osterr.Post" red-violet large cachet with Shield of David. Franked 5 centimes Austrian Crete stamp (currency used in Crete, but accepted for mailings in other places), cancelled "Jaffa Oesterr. Post 12 II 10" arrival Vienna 18.2.1910 postmarks on back.

Letter sent from Petach Tikva to Tel Aviv, franked 10 para Turkish stamp cancelled "Petach Tikva (Jaffa) 12 II 14" postmark and violet "T" cachet alongside as franked 10 para instead of 40 para letter rate. Letter returned by censor as remarked by the censor; in French, on both sides of the cover. Letters had to be handed unsealed and written in Turkish, Arabic, French or German. All other languages were prohibited even on inland mail.



Fig. 8: Picture postcard originating at Gedera bearing "Poste Catra" bilingual cachet, posted at Jaffa to USA franked 20 Para Austrian Levant stamp, to pay the postcard rate, cancelled by "Jaffa Osterr.Post 12 III 1914".

Postal card sent from Gedera to California, posted at the Turkish post office in Rehovot, franked 10 Para Turkish imprint + 10 para stamps, to pay the 20 para postcard rate, cancelled by "Rehoboth (Jaffa) 20 1 15" postmark. On front framed rectangular "Military Censor 1" cachet. The stamps are overprinted "Abrogation of Capitulation".

Rishon Le Zion



Fig. 9: Registered letter originating at Rishon Le Zion winery “Carmel Oriental”, mailed at Jaffa to Singapore franked 2 Piaster Austrian Levant stamps, (1 Pia. letter rate + 1 Pia. registration). Cancelled by “Jaffa Oesterreichische Post 16 12 03” double circle postmarks, “Recommandée” and “112” in manuscript and “Rishon L’ Zion / par Poste Autrichienne” black cachet with Star of David, Letter returned to the sender; endorsed in red Jaffa – Palestine, on reverse arrival Jaffa 4.2.04 postmark. Registered letter sent from the Rishon Le Zion Winery to Geneva Switzerland. Franked 100 para Turkish stamps, (50 para basic letter rate + 50 para registration). Posted and cancelled in Jaffa 4.8.1916. Registration number “R 2326” in manuscript at left and special violet cachet “Recommandée”. Censored in Beirut and by the Austrians, arrival Geneva 1.9.1916.

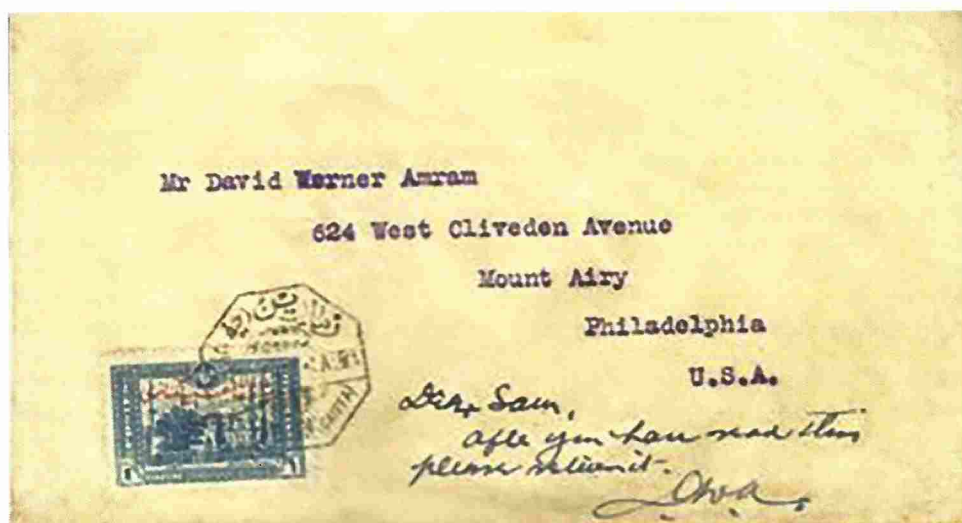
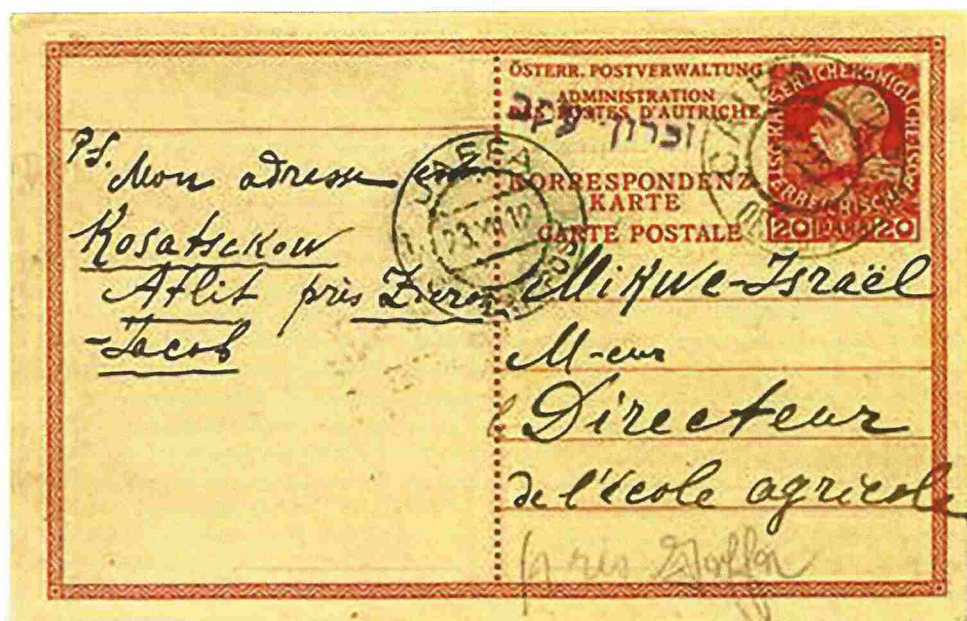


Fig. 10: Postal Card Austrian Levant 20 Para imprint, hand stamped with the small "Zichron" cachet, mailed to Rishon Le Zion at the Austrian post in Haifa, cancelled "Caiffa Oesterreichische Post 13 9 13". Arrival "Jaffa Osterr. Post 14 IX 1913".

Letter sent from Zichron Yaacov to Philadelphia USA at the beginning of WWI, franked 1 piaster Turkish stamp overprinted "Abrogation of Capitulation" cancelled by octagonal "Zamarin (Caiffa) 21.10 14" black postmark, on back transit "Caiffa 2 - 23 10 14" Turkish postmark.

German Consulate Haifa



Fig. 11: The German Consulate at Haifa sending an official letter could not use the (closed German Post Office) and had to use the Turkish Post. Addressed to Germany, franked 2 Piaster and 20 Para Turkish stamps, cancelled Caiffa 1 octagonal Turkish postmarks dated 4.4.17 On back Haifa German Consulate blue round label, transit Istanbul 19 IV 1917 and arrival Stuttgart 24.04.1917.

Deutsche Palastina Bank



Fig. 12: This German bank usually used the the German foreign Post Office, now two days after it's closure it had to use the Turkish post. Registered letter sent from "Deutsche Palästina Bank" in Jaffa to Gaza franked 60 Para Turkish stamp to pay the littoral registered letter rate, 20 Para littoral rate + 40 Para registration fee, cancelled Jaffa 5 octagonal postmark 2.10.14. "Recommandirt" violet cachet and 68 in manuscript at top left.

Holy Land forerunners – Foreign Post Offices Ship Post

Itamar Karpobsky, Tel Aviv Israel

A major mode of operation of the Foreign Post Offices in the Holy Land during 1850-1914 was Ship Post. This made their international post services superior to the local Ottoman Post services which also lacked efficiency in inland post services.

The Sea Post operation of the Foreign Post Offices was based on their national shipping companies which were as follows:

Austria: “Agenzia del Llyod Austriaco”, as of 1850.

Russia: “Ropit”, as of 1859.

France: “Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Nationales”, as of 1865.

Germany: War ships assigned as post offices, as of 1897.

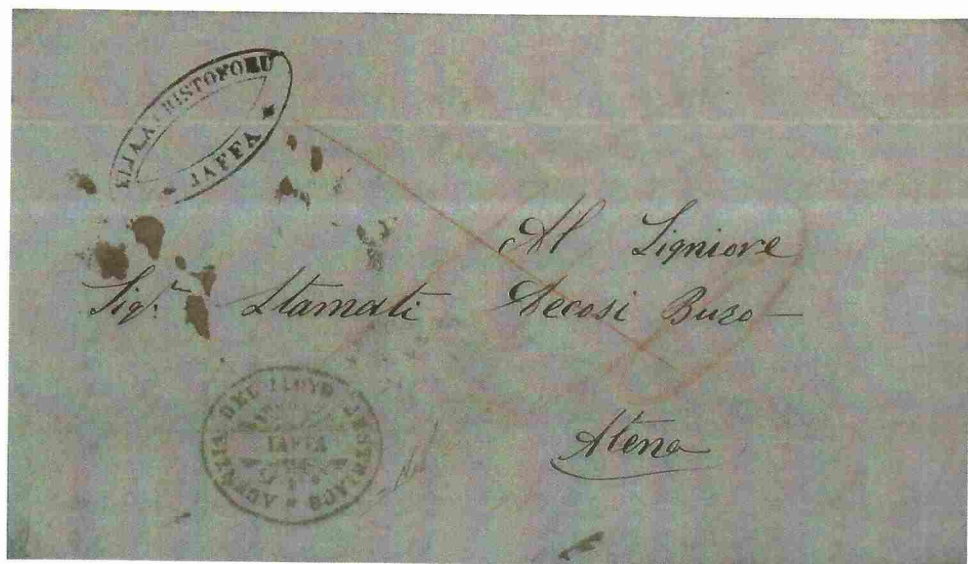
Italy: “Florio & Rubattino” Genoa-Alexandria Line, as of 1901.

Egypt: “The Kadival Line”.

Mail for the shipping lines was dealt with in the offices of the Foreign Post Offices at Jaffa and Haifa and Jerusalem, while the Russian one had a sub office in Acre. It was also possible to deliver letters directly to the ships mostly in Jaffa port. For this purpose the relevant ships had a post office box on board or had a mail box hung on the side of the ship. Letters collected from these boxes were cancelled by special sea post cancellers or, were not canceled on board the ship at all, but at the next port of call.

The subject of the ship post of the Foreign Post Offices in the Holy Land is a vast one. To cover it in one article would be a misnomer and rather than do it, we chose to present the subject by illustrations of letters which would give some idea about this postal service. At a later date, in future issues, it might be discussed in detail.

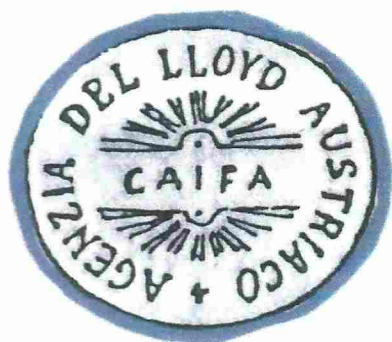
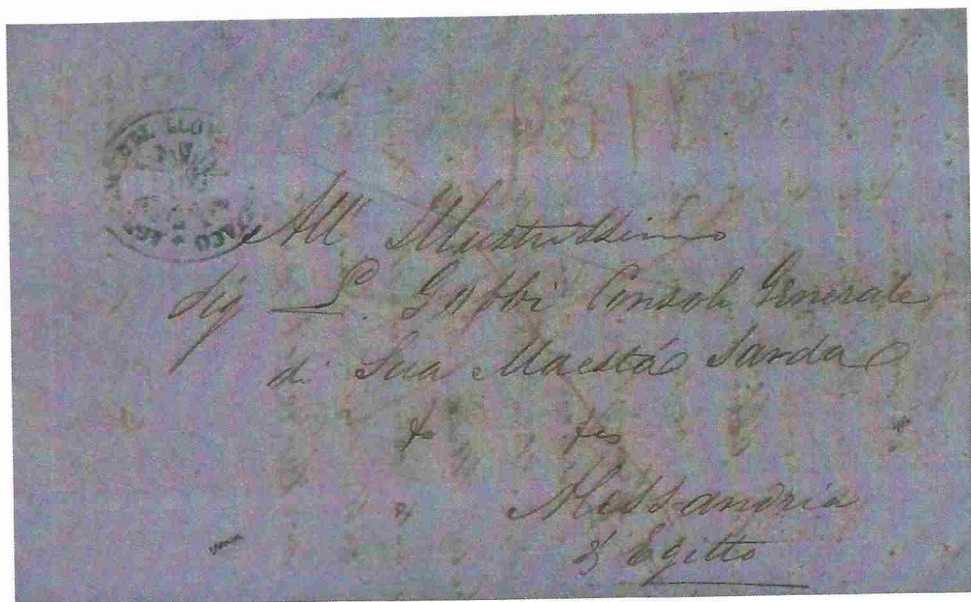
Austria: "Agenzia del Llyod Austriaco", as of 1850



Figs: 1, 1.1 and 1.2: The earliest ship post letters sent through the "Agenzia del Loyed Austriaco" date from the years 1854/5. The group of these three letters cover the three locations in the Holy Land from where letters were sent by the agency, i.e Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa.

They are addressed to: Breslau (Germany), Athens and Egypt, using the "port to port" sea post service.

All three including the one on the next page are cancelled by the Lloyds oval sea post cachet with diagonal crossed lines to mark prepayment.



Figs: 1.2: letter from Haifa to Egypt, by the "Del Lloyd Austriaco Caifa", using the "port to port" sea post service. The letter is canceled by the Austrian Haifa Lloyds Agency sea post cachet with diagonal crossed lines to mark prepayment.

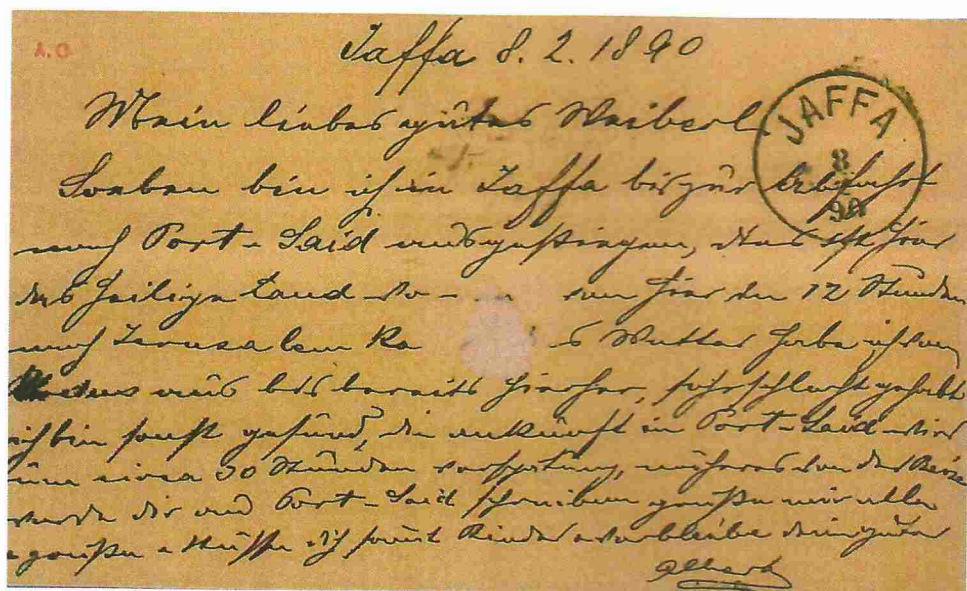


Fig. 2: Austrian Levant 20 Para stationary sent from Jaffa to Vienna-Meidling, canceled on the back (text side) with the s.c. Austrian Jaffa postmark dated 8.2.1890. On the front side the rare sea post cachet "COL-VAP-DA-COSPOLI" (by steamship from Constantinople) was applied. Vienna-Meidling arrival postmark 17.3.1890.

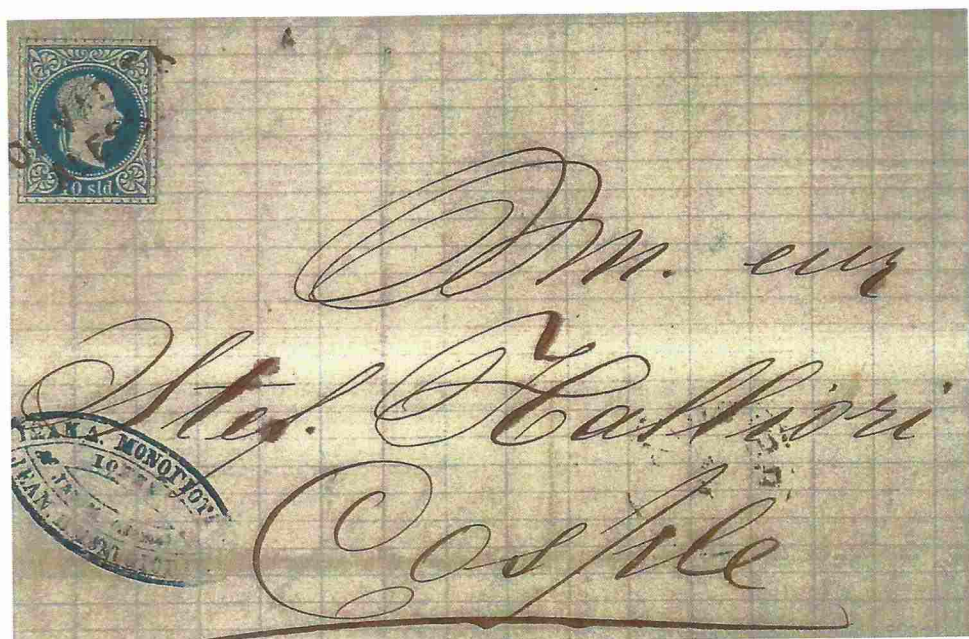


Fig. 3.1: Two letters posted in the mail box of Austrian Steamers. The first to Constantinople, in 1881, franked 10 Soldi Austrian Levant stamp (single letter rate) cancelled by the sea post "COL VAP DA / ALESS" (arrived by steamer from Alss, Alexandria).

This cachet is apparently the only one recorded so far. The second one a 1904 post card, from Jaffa to England franked by a British 1 penny stamp canceled "COL VAP DA" (arrived by steamer), with Austrian Jaffa dispatch post mark dated 9.3.04.



Fig. 3.2 A third one from Jaffa to California, franked by 5 kreuzer Austrian stamp cancelled "COL VAP and da Jaffa" in manuscript, taxed 5 cents in the U.S. in New York on Jan 1895.

Austrian post through French sea post



Fig. 4: Letter posted in the Austrian post office in Jerusalem, destined to New York, franked with 1 piaster Austrian Levant stamp, but dispatched from Jaffa by the French: "Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries..." line, bearing the red cachet "PAQ FR NO - 6 LIGNE - N", dated 15.1892, attributed to the steamer "NATAL".

Austrian post through Egyptian sea post

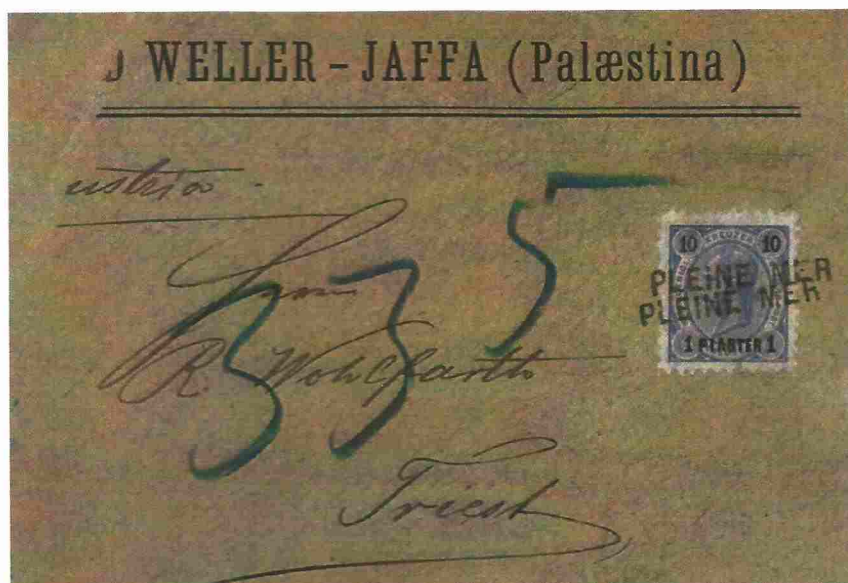


Fig. 5: Letter from Jaffa to Triest, franked 1 Piaster Austrian Levant stamp cancelled on board the Egyptian Khedival rare "PLEIN-MER" vessel/sea post cachet. Arrival postmark 21.9.1895. on the back. So far the only recorded one probably unique.

France: "Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Nationales"

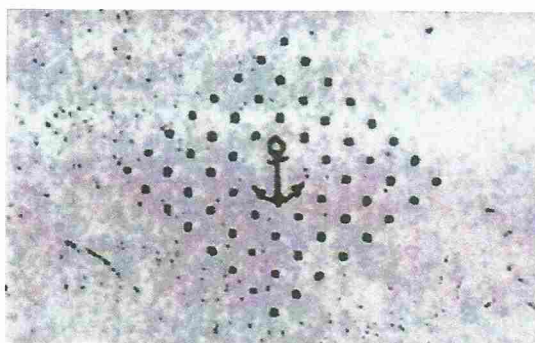
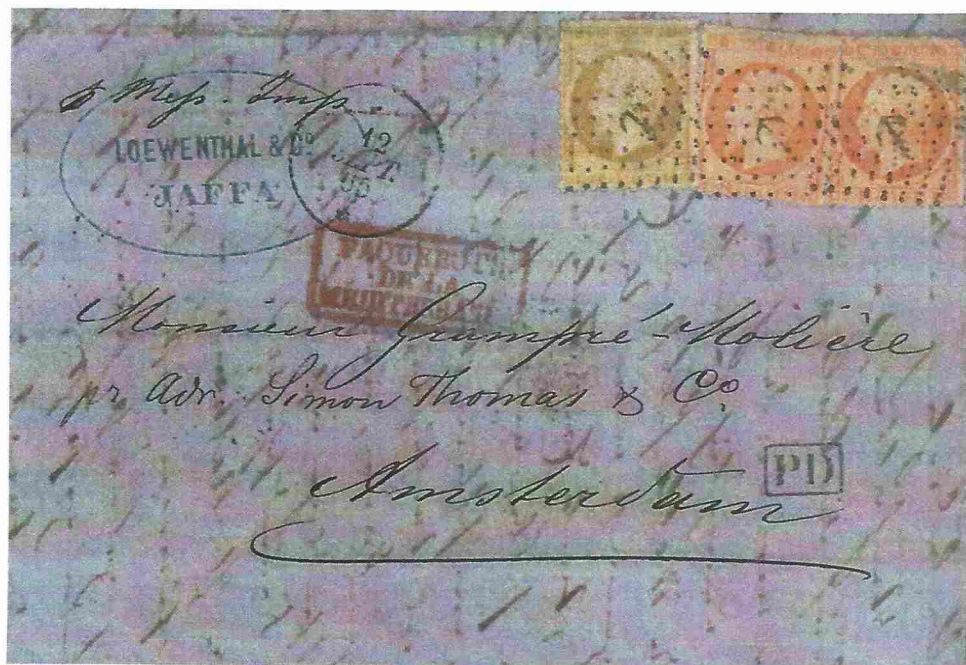


Fig. 6: Folded letter to Amsterdam, posted on board of the French paquebot "Euphrate", franked 90 cent to pay the letter rate to Holland via Marseille. Cancelled with the "Ancre" = anchor, the symbol of the French sea post, dated 12.9.1865. At Alexandria transferred to the French paquebot "Said" which arrived at Marseille on 25.9.1865, where it received the French sea post box cachet "Paquebot De La Mediteranee", one of the two letters, known so far, bearing two different French ship post marks.



Fig. 7: Letter from Marsielle to Jaffa, posted on the "Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Nationales, Egypt Line ship "DELUSE" bearing the ship's cancellation dated 19.10.1866, slit for disinfection at the Jaffa port lazzaret.

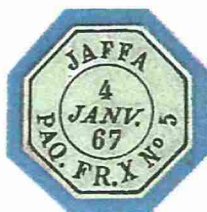


Fig. 8: Letter from Jaffa to the U.S.A via Marsielle, franked 240 cent by a strip of 3x80 cents, Napoleon III stamps of the 1862 issue, cancelled by the French Anchor dotted rhomboid sea postmark and a strike of the octagonal paqhebot cachet "JAFFA//PAQ. FR-X No - 5" dated 3.11.1867, partly overlapped by the red New York arrival postmark. Probably, the only example recorded so far.

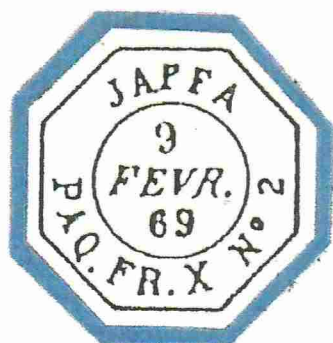
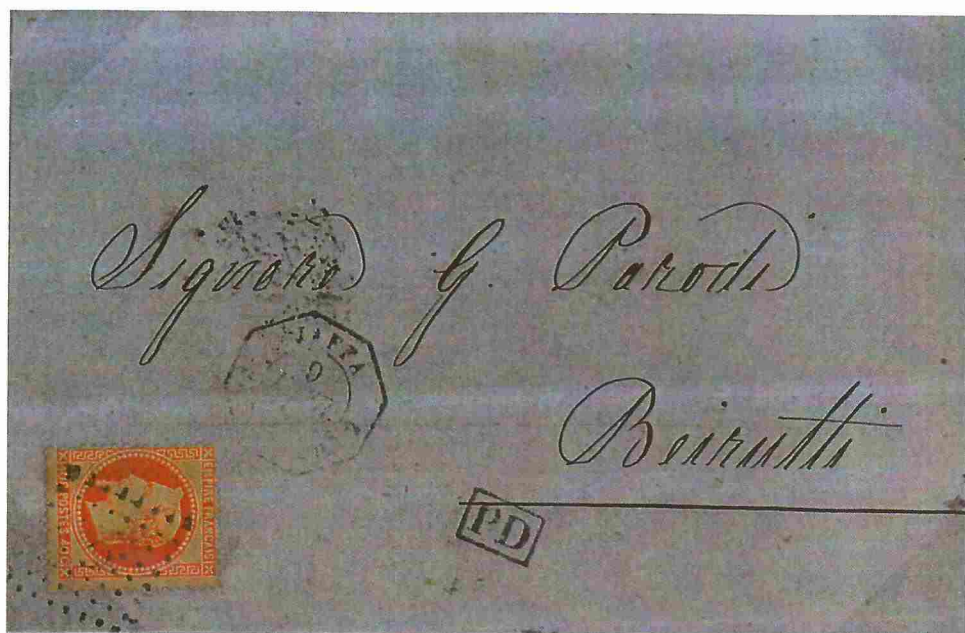


Fig. 9: folded letter from Jaffa to Bayreuth, franked 40 cent by Napoleon III stamps of the 1862 issue, cancelled by the French Anchor dotted rhomboid sea postmark and a strike of the octagonal paghebot cachet "JAFFA//PAQ. FR-X No - 2" dated 9.2.1869. Probably, the only example recorded so far.

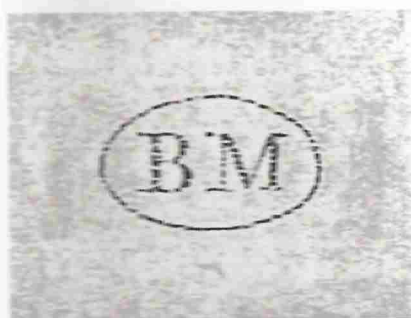
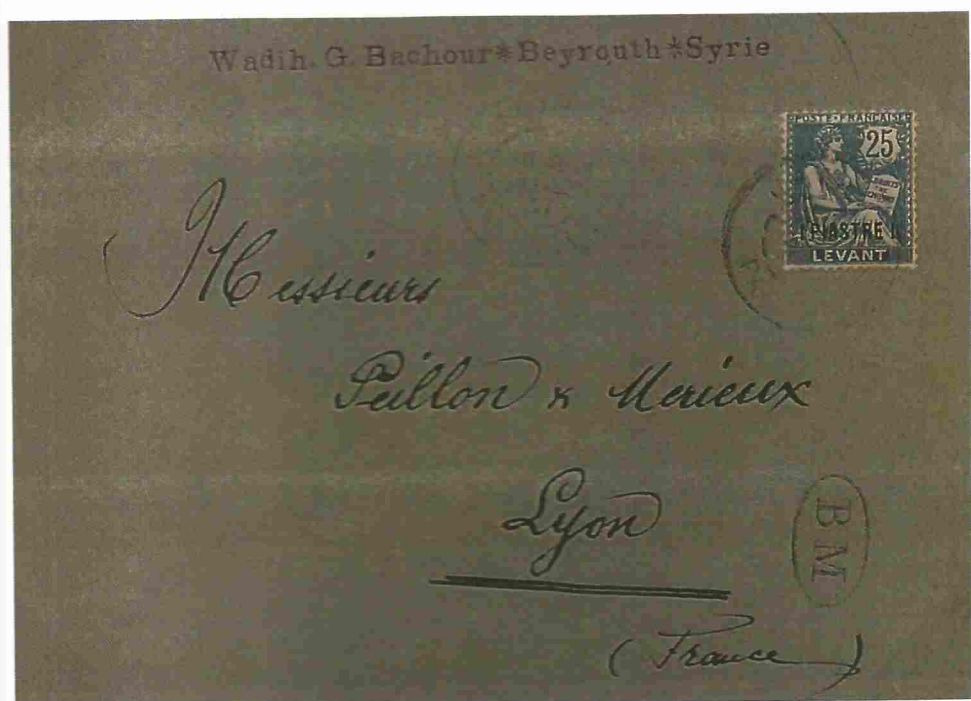


Fig. 10: 1907 letter from Bayreuth to Leon transit Jaffa, cancelled with "FRENCH/JAFFA/PALESTINE" postmark, and framed oval "BM" (Boite Mobile) mark, which is applied for mail carried by French ships.

Russian post through Egyptian sea post

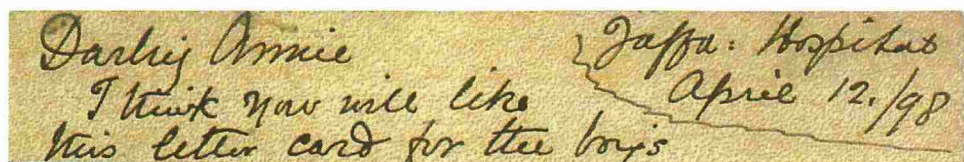
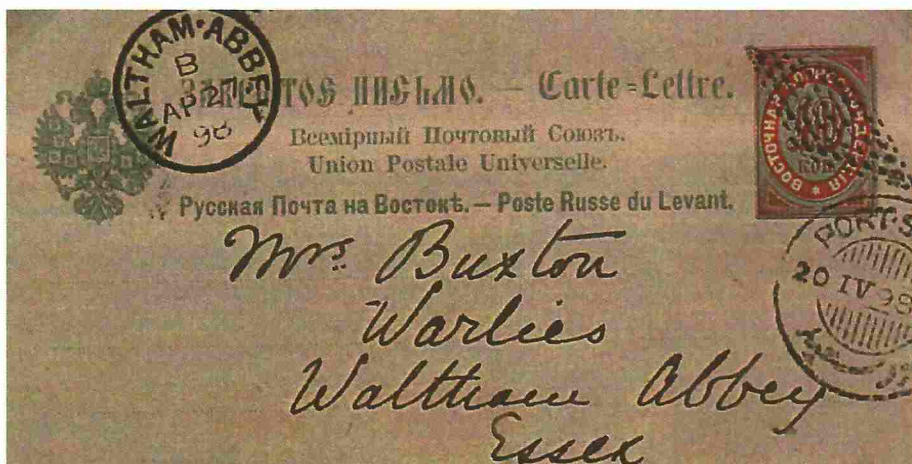


Fig. 11: Two imprinted 10 Kopek Russian postcards sent through the Egyptian sea post. The first from "JAFFA HOSPITAL" to England posted on board of an Egyptian ship, cancelled at Port Said with the rare sea post "RETTA" dotted rhomboid postmark, dated 12.4.1898. Arrival Waltham-Abbey 27.4.1898.



The second card sent from Jaffa to the unusual destination "TANGA EAST AFRICA", cancelled by the violet oval Russian "R.O.P.I.T JAFFA 8.8.98". Arrived at Tanga via Port Said and Aden on 4.9.98, with the sea post single line cachet "PLEIN MER".

German sea post



Fig. 12: German sea post letter and stationary card, both originated from Jaffa port and were rated the reduced 10 pfennig rate for the ship's crew on board for mail to Germany. The letter was posted on board "MARINE SCHIFFSPOST NO.11 SMS HELA", on 1.11.1898. The sea postcard was posted on board "MARINE SCHIFFSPOST NO. 39 SMS HERTHA", on 29.10.1898. Both these war ships escorted the German Kaiser Yacht "BOHENZOLLERN" on the occasion of his visit to the Holy Land.

Turkish post through the Austrian sea post

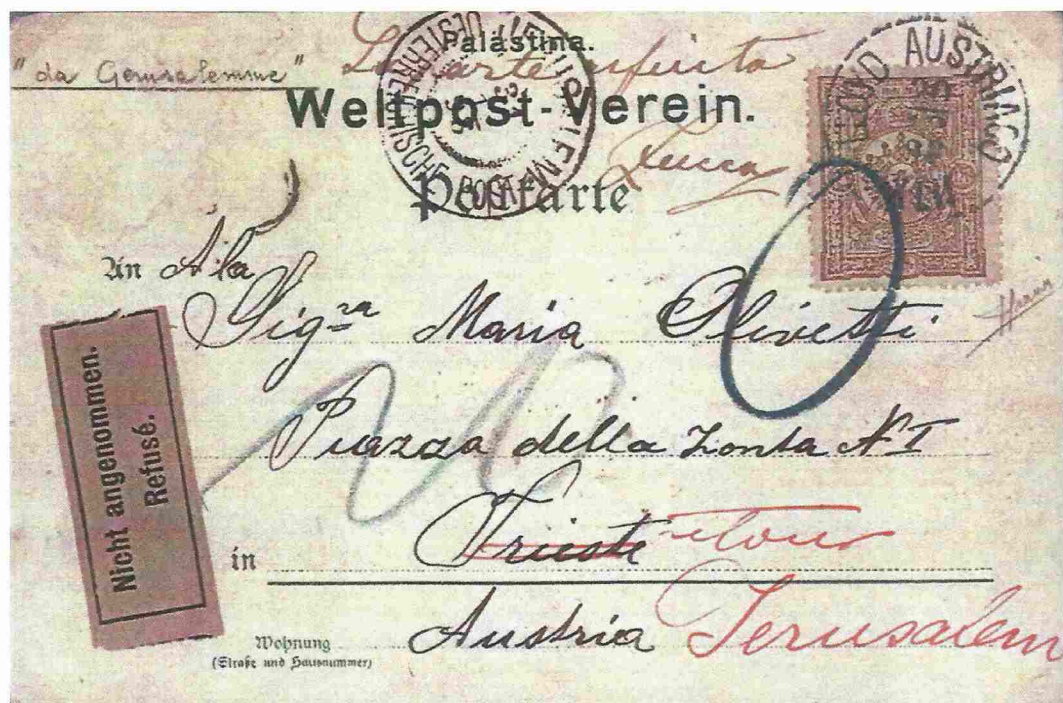


Fig. 13: Postcard from Jerusalem to Triest franked 20 Para (postcard rate) by Turkish 1892 definitive stamp issue, posted on board Austrian ship, canceled "LLYOED AUSTRIACO" dated 20.12.1898.

Upon arrival at Triest the post office there did not accept the franking and charged the addressee 20 Soldi who refused to pay and the letter was sent back to the post office in Jerusalem where it arrived in 31.1.98.

Turkish post through the Egyptian sea post

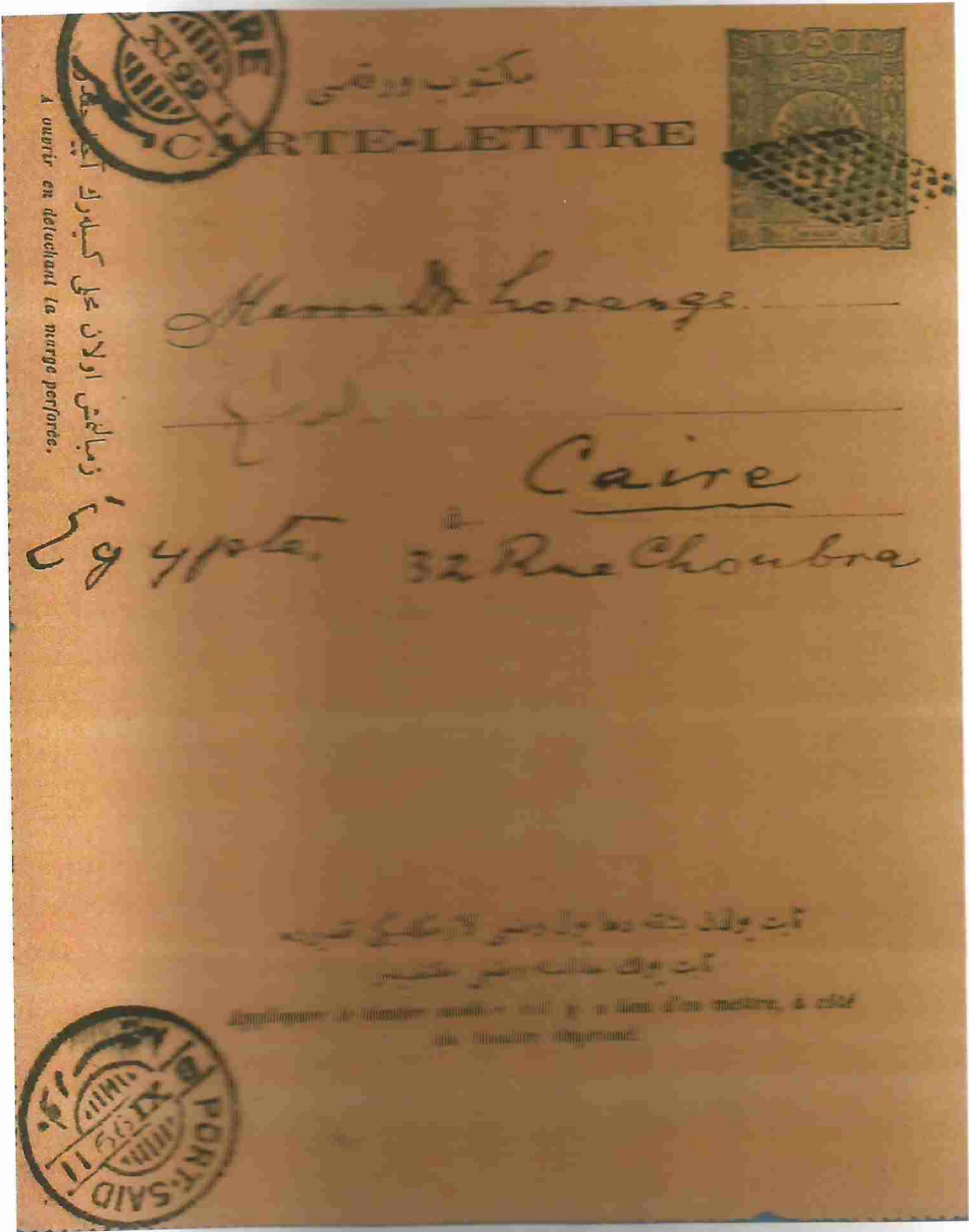


Fig.14: 1, piaster Turkish impressed letter card, written in Jaffa 2.II.99 sent to Cairo, posted on board of an Egyptian ship which docked at Jaffa Harbor. Cancelled at Port Said 8.II.99 with the rare sea post "RETTA" dotted roundabout postmark. Arrived in Cairo postmark 9.II.99.

A Letter From an Australian Soldier From Palestine-W.W.1

Joseph Aron, Melbourne, Australia

Foreword by the Editor

There is a new trend in collecting Postal History namely the application of facets of Social History. It means that a letter is not just appreciated because of routes, rates and postal significant, but also through the relation to history and to human interest, based on the experience of the writer. It is now recognized by the FIP, as expressed in the FIP Postal History Class 2c, guidelines, formerly introduced on 1st. January 2009, from which some of these are quoted below:

"Relevant quotations from the SREV and Guidelines (hereafter referred to as the Guidelines) set out in the FIP Commission for Postal History Newsletter of October 2008, are included below, and are intended to place the reality of judging Class 2C Historical, Social and Special Studies exhibits in the context of the Guidelines.

The Guidelines state at 2.1, that: *Historical, social and special studies exhibits show the interaction of the postal system with society, events, commerce or the historical geography of an area and the effect the postal system has on humanity and humanity on the postal system.*"

Background

The postal history of military campaigns in the Middle East dates back to the earliest times – long before the First World War. Leaving aside the clay tablets of Mesopotamia, a series of letters written on parchment from a Jewish brigade based at Elephantine in Egypt reveals that army life 2500 years ago differed little from more recent times. Letters relating to the Bar Kochba campaigns are also extant. More recent and more accessible to the collector is material from the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt and Palestine; regarding this campaign and the many that followed

letters teach us of campaign related matters as well as private lives of those involved.

Whilst letters from 17th century military campaigns appear at auction from time to time, it was from the Napoleonic wars and then from the Crimean war onwards that establishment of postal facilities was an essential part of army preparations. Mail was important to commanders and even the politicians back home who directed the military operations. But it also provided soldiers with a welcome connection with the lives and individuals they had left behind; similarly letters or cards from the front, albeit censored, gave those at home an inkling of what their loved ones were experiencing.

No doubt most collections of postal history of eg the campaign that moved northwards from Sinai in 1916, took Beersheba, Gaza and then Jerusalem in 1917 and reached Damascus in 1918 concentrate on the postal markings listed in those publications and the cards and envelopes



Fig. 1: A soldier of the 9th Australian Light Horse Brigade belonging to the same unit as the writer of the letter shown in Fig. 2.

on which they are struck. However another side of postal history collecting looks at the social history revealed through the words of the writers and senders of the material collected. The letter presented later (Fig. 2) is simply one example – albeit one of significance to those of us with an interest in the relationship between participants in the war and the fledgling Yishuv which would develop into all we know today.

As I write these notes in Australia, this country is preparing to commemorate the centenary of the disastrous landing at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. Marked each year with a solemn public holiday termed ANZAC Day that military event is seen as particularly influential in shaping the Australian national psyche. Of course the landing and the campaign that followed left a rich legacy of postal history which has just been the subject of displays and a book by Australian postal historian Gary Diffen. However for those of us interested in the postal history of the Holy Land it is the legacy of the events that followed the retreat from Turkish shores that are of particular significance.

The attack on Gallipoli was part of the British strategy that would in the end lead to the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. Sadly the terrain was such that after significant casualties were incurred the troops were withdrawn back to base in Egypt. From there some were sent in 1916 to France fight on the Western Front. However it is the balance of particular significance to us that the balance of the force became a key to the northward British advance from Egypt into Sinai and then into Palestine through Gaza and Beersheva from where they moved to be the advance force for the capture of Jerusalem.

The Letter

The letter (Fig. 2) transcribed below was written on note paper in pencil and is postmarked with the cancellation of the Fourth Light Horse Brigade dated November 27, 1917. At the time the letter was written, following the capture of Beersheba and Gaza, the Brigade had moved through Rehovot and Rishon and then just been rested pending its being called upon again as the armies moved further north towards Jerusalem.

4th Australian Light Horse Brigade

Two types of datestamps were used—the original one and a new British one.



Fig. DS.25
Feb 1917—June 1919
L.R.D. 5.1.19

Both used
concurrently



Fig. DS.55
Feb 1917—June 1919



Fig. 2: The letter from the soldier of the campaign the text is shown on the next page.

Dear Flo,

Palestine, 26/11/17

No doubt you will be surprised to hear from me as it is so long since I have written you last. We have been on the move for some time now and I was unable to post my letters. I received a letter from your mother last mail and I was pleased to hear from her. She was saying you were still ill but trust by the time you receive this letter you will be much better. It is getting pretty cold over this part now and occasionally have rain which isn't nice when you have to look after horses but suppose will get through alright. How is Alf

getting on supposing he is still in France which is much colder than this spot? We get plenty of oranges up this way 30 for 1/- and if course we didn't rush them. We are well amongst the Jews now and a bit better country. It is funny to see the natives plowing here. Some of them have camels some oxen and other donkeys and wooden ploughs but they seem to get over the land alright.

Well Flo news is very scarce so will close hoping this will find you in better health. How is Phillip and Len getting on I don't suppose I would know them now give my love to all of them.

Love Cyril,

PS, I hope you had a Merry Xmas and a right happy new year.

The Editor chose another example also associated with the Gallipoli campaign. The letter is from Capt. TRUMPELDOR (Fig. 3) and if it would not have been from him it would be a regular registered Army letter. In other words, the Social History aspect of the letter is at least as important as the Postal History one.



Fig. 3: Registered letter sent by Captain Trumpeldor, Zion Mule Corp (hand written at the bottom) to Alexandria. The letter is franked 2 pence for registration and is exempt from regular postage as endorsed at the top "on field service". (Alexander Collection).

Items of Interest



The letter was sent from Haifa to Rehovot on May 25th, 1948. It was franked with a demonetized “Minhelet Ha’am – Immigrants’ ship” 10 mils stamp on its second day of invalidity. The letter was charged 20 mils, double the inland letter rate and a Doar Ivri 20 mils tab stamp perforated 10:11 was used in Rehovot as postage dues on May 27th.

1. A very rare combination that was lasted only one week from May 23rd to June 1st.

2. The use of 20 mils tab stamp perforated with the rare 10:11 perforation used as postage dues is seldom seen.

3. The Doar Ivri 20 mils perforated 10:11 cancelled on May 27th is contrary to all catalogues and researches which June 1948 is referred to as the first month of use.

The 5250 sheets of the Doar Ivri 20 mils stamps were printed on May 7th. Most of the sheets were perforated 11x11 and their stamps were on sale at the 80 post offices under Jewish control as of May 16th (First Day of the Doar Ivri First printing).

About 500 sheets (4023-4495) of the May printing were perforated 10x11 and were distributed to some of the 80 post offices.

The 20 mils tab stamp perforated 10x11 of the above item is the first recorded stamp cancelled in May 1948.



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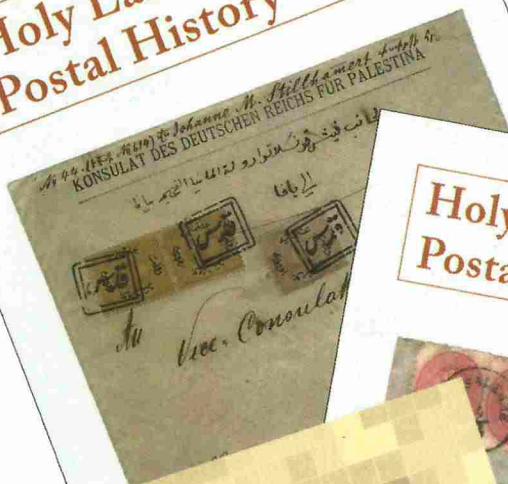
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