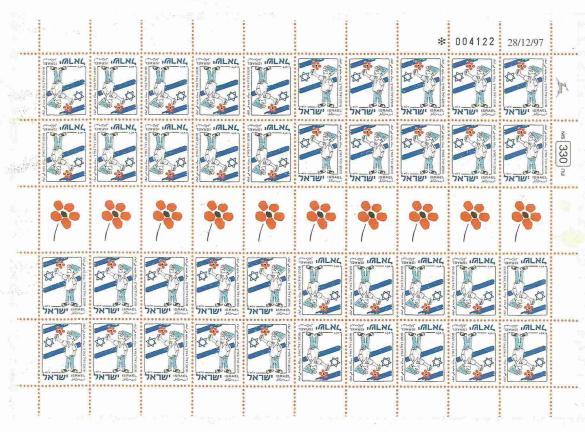
Holy Land Postal History

73-74

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



Golden Jubilee of the State of Israel

20th Anniversary of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel

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HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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Editorial

1998 – the 50th Jubilee of the State of Israel – is also the 20th anniversary of our Society – the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel (SPHEI). To cite from the article "The Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel," published in our first Bulletin (HLPH #1, Summer 1979, p. 3):

"For some time it has been felt by philatelists here in Israel that it is absurd that there is no Postal History Society in Israel itself whilst prosperous societies dealing with the Postal History of the Holy Land exist in other countries. . . .

With due regard to the many excellent philatelists abroad who guide the organisation, research and publications on the Postal History of the Holy Land, it is the strong feeling here in Israel, the source of past and present history, that the main effort on research and documentation should be concentrated locally. It is here where all of the relevant information should be gathered and made available to philatelists and postal historians throughout the world.

With these thoughts in mind a group of people met about a year ago and decided "to do something about it." Thus the **Postal History of Eretz-Israel Study Group** started its activities in Jerusalem. Later on other philatelists from other parts of the country joined the initial group, as did some overseas collectors. Thus the **Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel** was formed."

About a year later the Society's Bulletin, Holy Land Postal History, started to be published and it became during the years one of the prime sources of information and research of the Holy Land postal history. Members of the Society are today spread all over the globe. The Bulletin is well known and has been highly praised by many philatelic critics and in many stamp exhibitions. Undoubtedly the Society has fulfilled the expectations and wishes of its founders, as cited above.



The cover of the first HLPH Bulletin

The German Postal Cachet "Aus Emmaus (El Kubebe)"

Chanan Schiftan, Hod Hasharon

At the end of the Ottoman era, when foreign post offices operated in the Holy Land, the Germans used to apply outgoing handstamps on the mail that was collected from gathering places on the way to the nearest main post office. Such handstamps are well

known from Jerusalem, Jaffa, Ramleh, Rishon LeZion, Sarona and Wilhelma. The rarest and least known of them all is undoubtedly "Aus Emmaus (El Kubebe)" (Fig. 1). To date only seven entires with this handstamp are known, spanning the period 1909–1917, three of which are military mail* (see, e.g., Fig. 2). Postal historians have often won-

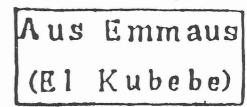


Fig. 1: Enlarged reconstruction of the German "Aus Emmaus" handstamp.

dered why the Germans issued a handstamp for the small Arab village of El Kubebe, and what their interest was in that remote site, about four kms. north east of Ma'ale Hachamisha^{1,2} of today.



Fig. 2: German Levant 1908 postal stationery cancelled with framed violet cachet of origin "Aus Emmaus (El Kubeibe)." Posted there and forwarded to Jerusalem on 13.6.11. (Courtesy Itamar Karpovsky.)

^{*} The last item with the El Kubebe handstamp was sold in Israel in 1986 by Zodiac Stamps in Tel Aviv for about \$1500.

often wondered why the Germans issued a handstamp for the small Arab village of El Kubebe, and what their interest was in that remote site, about four kms. north east of Ma'ale Hachamisha^{1,2} of today.

The place known as Emmaus has been known for about 2500 years. In the days of Ezra and Nehemia (450 BC) Emmaus was part of the new Jewish settlement in the Bet Hakerem region. During the Maccabean war, Yehuda struck the Syrian (Greek) army under the command of Gorias, in the famous Emmaus campaign. During Herod's kingdom (37–4 BC), Emmaus was a county capital. Here the Roman commander Varos, the Syrian governor at that time, had to suppress mutinies that arose after Herod's death. During the revolt against the Romans, the 5th legion camped at Emmaus, and after the destruction of the second temple, the famous Jewish leaders Raban Gamliel, Rabbi Yokhanan Ben Zakai and Rabbi Akiva visited the place. In the Bar-Kokhva revolt, the 10th legion camped at Emmaus, and with the urbanization of the land by the Romans (about 300 AD), its name was changed to Nicopolis, which later was the seat of a Bishop. The last mention of Emmaus was when the Norman Crusader commander Tancred camped there before conquering Bethlehem. After the occupation by the Muslims, the name was changed to Immwas, and Emmaus was never again mentioned in the history of Eretz Israel.

The search for ancient Emmaus began in the days of the Crusaders, who identified the village of Abu-Gosh with the place mentioned in the New Testament.* However, from the middle of the 19th century, three villages were identified as the historic Emmaus by Christians and especially by the German Catholics: Immwas, Kolonia and El Kubebe. In all three villages, ancient ruins were found that could be related to famous events in the past, but the researchers were motivated more by a deep religious belief than by an interest in the history of the Holy Land. According to the Christian belief, Jesus appeared before his pupils in Emmaus, on the day he was resurrected. The New Testament provides the only clue for the location of Emmaus, but along with the clue comes the seed of a dispute. In Luke (Lucas) 24/23 it says, "...two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus which was from Jerusalem about sixty Riss." Near the word "sixty" a "*" is printed, and on the edge of the page the remark: "Different version: hundred and sixty."

The different version is based on the Greek translation of the New Testament from the 4th century. In the later Latin translations and in all new versions the distance of 60 Riss was chosen. This distance is the only scale left for believers to point out the location of Emmaus. There is a theory that the origin of the "sixty Riss version" dates to the end of the crusader era.

In 1244 Christian pilgrims had to reach Jerusalem via the ancient Roman road and were not allowed to visit the holy places in the vicinity. To continue with their heritage, the Christians "copied" such places to other sites, to which access was allowed, and so all customs related to Abu-Gosh were transferred to El Kubebe.

"Riss" is an ancient unit of measure that is equal to the Greek "Stad" whose value derived from the 2000-pace mile. Therefore the Stad is not constant and falls between

150 and 190 meters. Based on the New Testament and the unit Stad, the German settlers in the Holy Land in the middle of the 19th century calculated the location of ancient Emmaus: The village Immwas that was located about 175 Stads from Jerusalem was not found suitable; Kolonia, which was only 34 Stads from Jerusalem, was not accepted either; and so the best location matching the scripts was El Kubebe, which is about 64 Stads from Jerusalem. In a German atlas printed in Leipzig in 1902, "Emmaus" is mentioned only near the village Kolonia. However, in Baedeker's tourist guide to Palestine of 1904, "Emmaus" is mentioned near two villages: Immwas – Nicopolis (near Latrun), and El Kubebe (s. map in Fig. 3).

El Kubebe is mentioned in the history of the Land of Israel from the days of the Crusaders. It was an agricultural village, one of twelve that were inhabited by peasants from Europe. In his journey to the Holy Land in 1170, Benjamin of Tudella called El Kubebe "Mahomeria La Petita" – the Small Mosque (contrary to the adjacent El Bira, called the Big Mosque). The village is mentioned again in 1517 when the stones from the church were taken to build the wall of Jerusalem, after the Ottoman occupation.

The Franciscan German father Ladislaus Schneider, who operated in Jerusalem to promote Catholic objectives, purchased in 1876 (with funding from Cologne's "Society

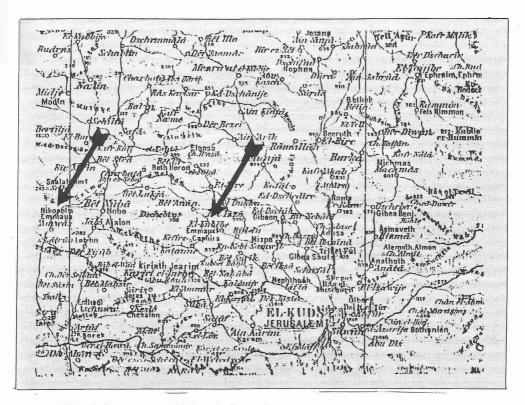


Fig. 3: Immwas and El Kubebe as "Emmaus" in a 1904 German map.

of the Holy Grave") large areas in El Kubebe, to provide agricultural products for the hostel he established in Jerusalem. In 1885, a rest house was established in El Kubebe by "The German Society of the Holy Land" formed in Aachen (Figs. 4, 5). This rest house was operated by the sisters of the St. Bromeus order, and was used later by the sisters and fathers of the "Schmidt" girls school (named after Schneider's follower) and the St. Paul hostel. At the beginning of the century, a church and a small hospital were built, for the welfare of the local Arab population.

The German post office opened in Jerusalem in 1900, handling amongst others, the mail that was brought from El Kubebe. Because of the small amount of mail left from that time, it is not known when the outgoing handstamp "Aus Emmaus (El Kubebe)" was first used, to differentiate that mail from that collected inside Jerusalem or from the mail brought from Jaffa and Ramleh.

In the First World War, the German field hospital (Feldlazarett) No. 213 used the rehabilitation facilities in El Kubebe to hospitalize the injured and the recuperating soldiers. This was mentioned by one of the hospitalized in a postcard he sent in 1917. The stamping of the mail was done either at facilities in El Kubebe or in the offices of the society in Jerusalem by one of the workers, and not by the post office clerks. This procedure explains the presence of the outgoing handstamp on the previously mentioned postcard, even though it was sent via the military postal services. It is also likely that only the upper item of the mail package was stamped with the handstamp, and this could be one of the reasons why such a small number of these items are known today.

Other main reasons are: a small and closed community, isolated from the local population, and the location of the remote village that lay a distance from the main road and the popular tourist routes, without a hotel and a post office, and probably without a mail box either. These made it very uncomfortable, and perhaps prevented the visits of the "creators of philately" who visited all the other German colonies in Palestine and sent mail to themselves, to collectors, and especially to dealers. Thanks to them – or because of them – there is a great number of items, but many of them are philatelic.

Today, the German facilities in El Kubebe are called "Beit Emmaus" (Emmaus House), "Immwas" by the locals, and are used as a home for the aged by Muslims and Christians. All the assets bought and built by the Germans are still listed using the name of "The German Society for the Holy Land" in Cologne. Catholics today do not point out the place of ancient Emmaus, and the believer still has the same three options: Immwas, Kolonia or El Kubebe. The Arab village Immwas that was located about two kms. north east of the Latrun Monastery was destroyed by the I.D.F. after the Six Day War, and all of its inhabitants were expelled. That was the end of Emmaus – Nicopolis – Immwas; on its ruins Canada Park is located today. The ruins of Kolonia, whose lands were bought for a Jewish settlement at the end of the 19th century, can be found near Lower Motza. Of the three villages, only El Kubebe remains today (Fig. 6), and thanks to the religious belief of the Germans and their missionary initiative, its name is interwoven in the postal history of the Holy Land.

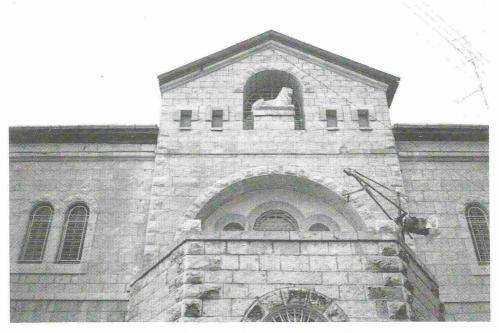


Fig. 4: The front of Beit Emmaus today.

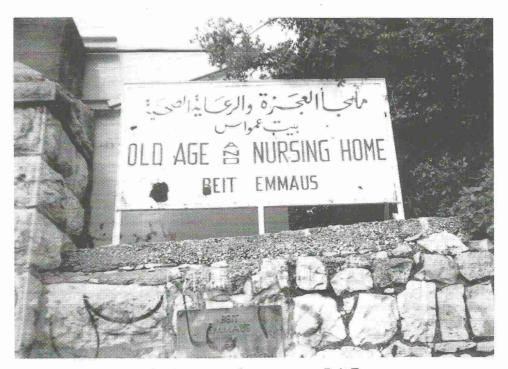


Fig 5: The signpost at the entrance to Beit Emmaus.

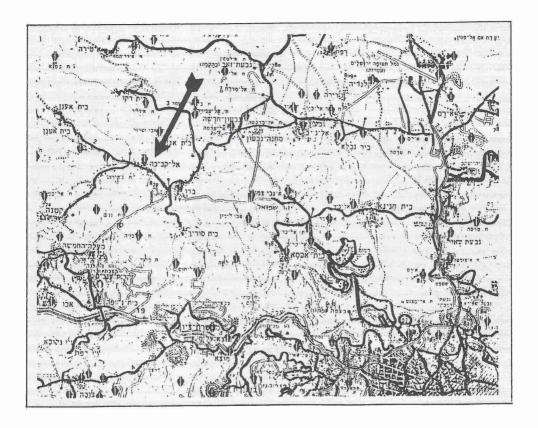


Fig. 6: El Kubebe (אל קביבה) today on an Israeli map.

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- (2) H. Muentz, HLPH # 13-14 (Winter 1983), p. 669.

The Postal Story of the Alien Internment Camps in Palestine (1939–1948)

Yoel Amir, Kefar-Sava

On the outbreak of World War II the British Mandate authorities rounded up the German citizens and other aliens who sided with the Germans, and sent them to internment camps in Palestine. This research covers the story of those camps, the identity of the internees and their communication methods with the outer world in Palestine and elsewhere, and some of the personal stories as reflected in authentic postal items of that period.

Most internees were Germans and Austrians who lived and worked in Palestine, including the Templers, whose forefathers immigrated to the Holy Land some seventy years earlier, motivated by religious and social ideals. The Templers settled in 1868 in Haifa and later in Jaffa, Jerusalem and four agricultural settlements – Sarona, Wilhelma, Beit-Lehem and Waldheim. They were a prosperous and respected community throughout the nineteenth century and the early twentieth. In 1932, Templers were among the first to join the local NSPD, and from then on this party grew in numbers and influence, including amongst its members most of the young Templers and many adults of this community. The British authorities kept close watch on the Templer colonies and settlements, but this did not prevent many young Germans from leaving Palestine just before the war and later joining the Wehrmacht.

Early in September 1939, the British authorities surrounded the Templer urban colonies and turned them into temporary internment camps. We have postal evidence of such a camp in a letter mailed in 1940 from Germany (Fig. 7) addressed to a Templer woman in the internment camp near the Jaffa-Tel Aviv road (today Eilat road). This location coincides with the Walhalla suburb of the German Templer colony of Jaffa, vis-a-vis the Jewish quarter of Neve Zedek. German men up to the age of fifty were deported from all settlements to the Acre internment camp, identified as Camp I. The Acre camp, which also interned political prisoners, included the Schtod agricultural farm identified as "Farm Labour Camp". The letter in Figure 8, mailed in 1942 by an Estonian, was stamped with the Farm's oval cachet, while the sender of the letter in Figure 9, the Templer G. Bauerle, marked in 1940 his return address simply as "Internment Camp Acre". Another internment camp was situated south of Jaffa (Camp XIII). The postcard from Germany in Figure 10 was addressed to an Austrian supposedly interned in the "German Internment Camp near Jaffa", but was diverted on arrival by the authorities to the Acre camp.

The four Templer agricultural settlements were fenced in and turned into "Perimeter Settlements" where the settlers (less the younger men) continued to farm the land under the supervision of the British police, and even supplied other internees with agricultural products. Waldheim (Camp II) – today Alonei Aba – was operated as a

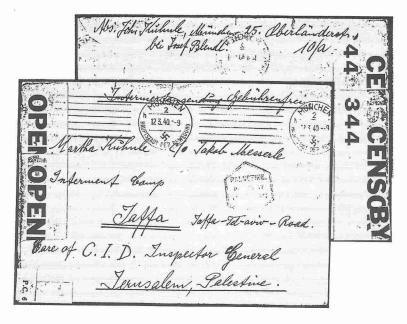


Fig. 7: A cover marked by the sender "for internees – no charge", mailed in Munich, 12.3.1940 and addressed to Martha Kuhnle c/o J. Messerle (a Templer of the Walhalla suburb) in the internment camp on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv road.



Fig. 8: A cover mailed in Acre, 2.3.1942, stamped with the "exempt from postage..." mark (not shown by GS) and the "FARM LABOUR CAMP, ACRE" cachet. Inspected by censor No. H.55, with arrival Tel Aviv, 3.3.1942.

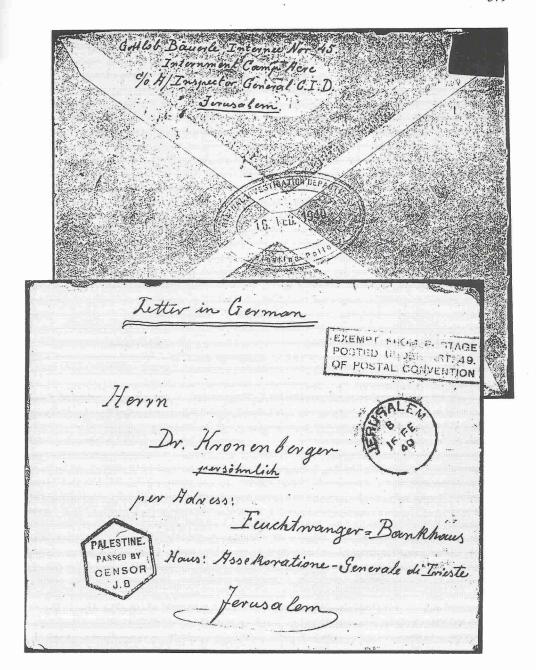


Fig. 9: A cover handstamped "exempt from postage . . .", mailed in the Acre camp, inspected by the CID on 16.2.1940 and then submitted to the Jerusalem post office for delivery.



Fig. 10: A postcard marked by its sender "for internees – no charge", mailed from Vienna, 18.3.1941 to F. Zitta via CID Jerusalem. First censored by the German OKW (Wehrmacht) and on arrival by the British censor.

"Perimeter Settlement" throughout the war up to 1948. The letter (Fig. 11) mailed to Austria by an internee from Waldheim in April 1947 was stamped with the local police cachet identifying the place as "Perimeter Settlement Waldheim". The neighbouring Templer settlement Betlehem - today Beit Lehem Haglilit - was identified as Camp III. The oval police cachet of "Perimeter Settlement Beit-Lahm" was placed on the back of a cancelled "Geminde Betlehem" envelope (Fig. 12) mailed by the Templer Johannes Wagner, a former citizen of Nazareth. Camp IV was at Sarona, the Templer settlement near Tel Aviv. Figure 13, a letter sent early in 1940 from Germany, was addressed to a Jaffa Templer now living with locals in Sarona. Another postal item (Fig. 14) sent by a Templer from Sarona, was stamped with the oval police and rectangular Sarona camp cachets. Finally, we have two postal items from Camp V -Wilhelma. The cover in Figure 15, mailed in 1946 to Haifa, was stamped with an oval cachet of "Camp Commandant - Camp 5". Figure 16, a registered letter mailed from Jaffa in March 1948, originated in "Perimeter Settlement Wilhelma" as evidenced by the d.c. round cachet stamped on its face. The identification of Camps II, III, IV, V was obtained from Sauer's detailed history of the Temple Society.1

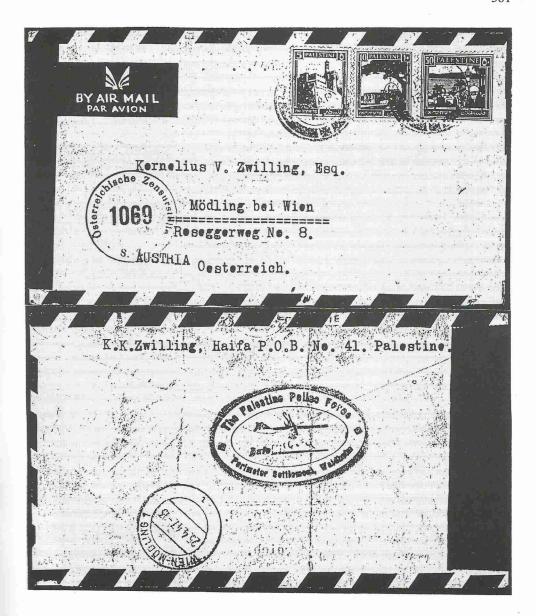


Fig. 11: An airmail letter to Austria, mailed in Camp II with the "Palestine Police Force – Perimeter Settlement Waldheim" cachet (dated 16.4) via the Haifa Post. It arrived in Vienna, 25.4.1947 after being censored by the Austrian censor.

The post was the only way the internees could communicate with the outer world. According to one source,³ each internee could send three letters per month. Outgoing letters were exempted from postage, as evidenced by the "Exempt from Postage..." cachet placed on most postal items shown, though one item (Fig. 11) carries the full

rate of airmail tariff to Austria, but another post-war item (Fig. 16) was sent free by registered post! The typical route of internee mail during the war was:

Camp office (local police or camp cachet) \rightarrow the British Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Jerusalem (CID and censor cachet) \rightarrow Jerusalem post office \rightarrow addressee.

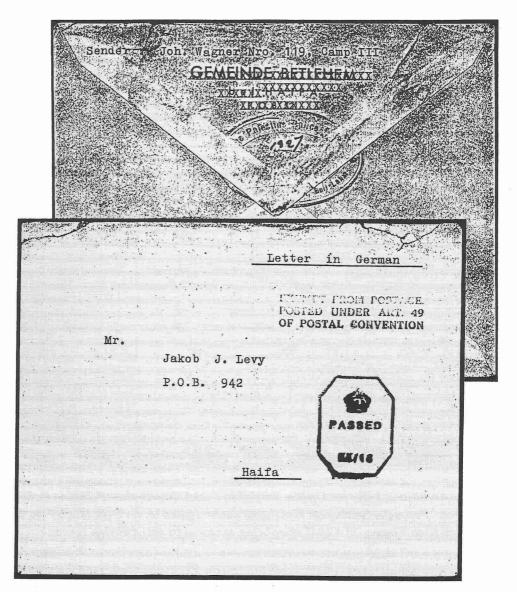


Fig. 12: A handstamped "Betlehem Settlement" printed cover, stamped with the "exempt from postage . . ." mark and oval police "..Perimeter Settlement Beit-Lahm" cachet, passed censor KK/16 before delivery to the addressee.

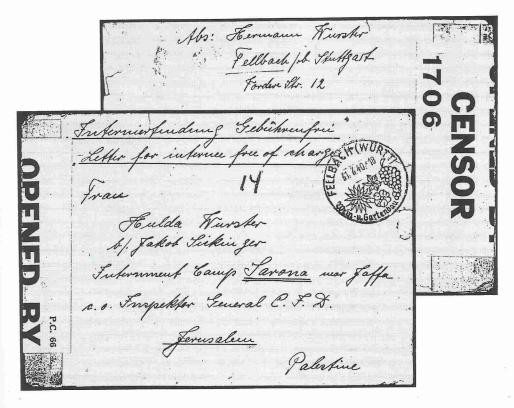


Fig. 13: A cover marked by the sender "letter for internee – free of charge", mailed in Fellbach (Wurttemberg), Germany 31.3.1940, addressed to H. Wurster in Sarona via CID in Jerusalem. Note the exceptional cancellation design of flowers and grapes with the slogan "wine and horticulture".

Postal communication with Enemy or Enemy-occupied Territories was done via the Red Cross in Geneva, or P.O.B. 506 in Lisbon, Portugal. Mail from enemy territories was exempted from postage on sender handwritten declaration (Figs. 10, 13), censored locally and then delivered directly to the Palestine CID as above. After the war, the procedure was relaxed, and mail was delivered from the camp office directly to the nearest post office (Figs. 11, 15, 16). Internees corresponded mostly with relatives and friends but also with their lawyers (Figs. 12, 14, 15, 16) and banks (Fig. 9).

In Glassman-Sacher⁵ one can find a comprehensive description of most British Mandate official markings used during WWII in conjunction with the internment camps and internees including CID, censor and "Exempt from Postage...". Local camps and Perimeter Settlements cachets were described by Collins⁷ and some good examples are shown in the enclosed figures.

Later in the war the Templer urban colonies (Haifa, Jerusalem and Jaffa/Walhalla) were totally evacuated. The younger Templers were transferred to internment camps

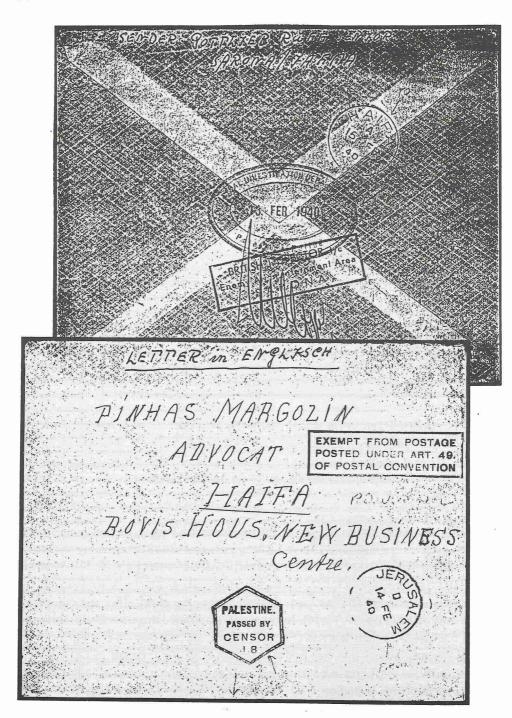


Fig. 14: A cover with the "exempt from postage . . ." mark, stamped with the local "British Inspector I/C Enemy Alien Internment Area – Sarona" cachet and later (13.2.1940) with the elliptic CID cachet and the hexagonal censor mark.

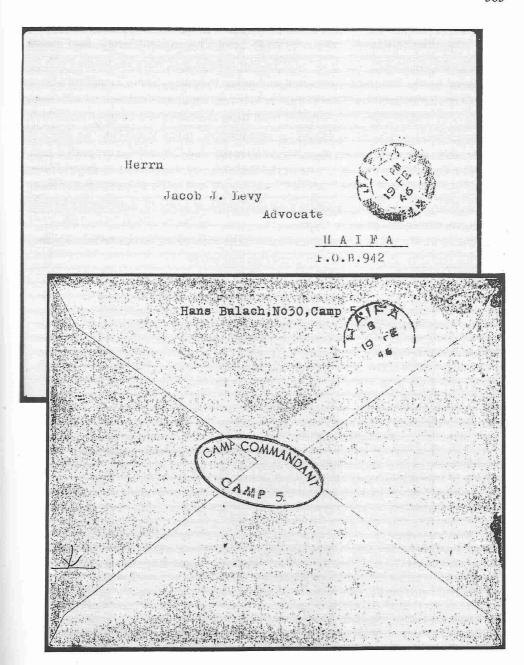


Fig. 15: A cover with the "exempt from postage..." mark, posted in Jaffa (19.2.1946) and arrived in Haifa on the same day. The "Camp Commandant / Camp 5" Wilhelma cachet on the backside.

while older people, women and children were sent to the four Perimeter Settlements. The Templer property, including the Bank of the Templer Society as well as other German establishments (such as the Schneller orphanage), were confiscated and then managed by the Mandate Custodian of Enemy Property. Some Templers were exchanged with Palestinian Jews caught in German occupied Europe and others with relatives of Palestinians who were released from concentration camps. Some of the internees were deported to camps in australia but many stayed in the Perimeter Settlements hoping to regain their homes after the war. Sarona was evacuated first of its internees and then handed over to the British army. Later the Israeli government converted the site – Hakirya – into its temporary center. In April 1948, following a direct confrontation with the Hagana, all the Templers were evacuated by the Mandate authorities from Palestine to Cyprus.

I would like to thank Chanan Schiftan for the copy of the postal item in Figure 16, and his remarks and assistance in preparing this study.

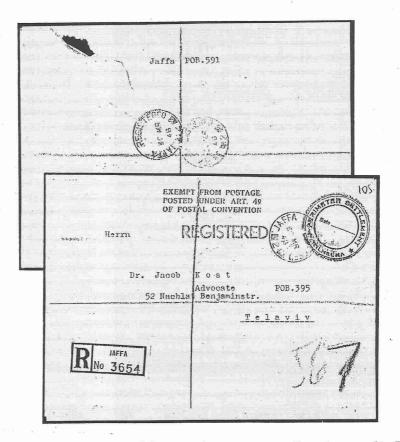


Fig. 16: A registered(!) cover with "exempt from postage..." mark, posted in Jaffa on 30th March 1948. The round "Perimeter Settlement Wilhelma" cachet appears on the front.

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Palestine Telegram Forms: The A.B.C.s

Arthur M. Hochheiser

It is a well established fact that the Postal Administration in Palestine under British control supervised other areas of message transmission. Chief among these was the Telegraph Service. While most areas of the Postal Administration service have been covered extensively in the literature, only one article supplying some definition to the telegram forms has appeared in "The Israel Philatelist". This was authored by Burton Adlerblum and appeared in the June 1983 issue of that journal.

For years since that time, I have been accumulating all such forms. In 1989, with the help of my friend Norman Collins, I was able to contact Norman Heyes, another British research philatelist. He was in the process of writing a book on the telegraph service in Great Britain. He since has passed away. I learned of this by contacting his widow who informed me that the book of her husband, of which I wanted to obtain a copy, was never published.

Fortunately for me, my correspondence with Norman Heyes, while he was alive, provided me with some of his material pertinent to the subject matter of this article. Much of this material is taken from that research effort.

One thing is certain. The forms issued for use in Palestine were patterned after those issued in Great Britain. To this extent, Official and Service Telegrams used in Palestine are known and these are in keeping with the same issues in Great Britain. However, our main emphasis in this article is the structure of the telegram printed for use by the general public, primarily the inclusion of forms marked with the letters A or B or C or BC.

Form "A" (Fig. 17). (Note: This copy is on an "Official Telegram" and does not conform to the "A" used on Post Office issues of regular telegrams. See below.)

Form "A". Copies of this form would be obtained from the Post Office counter and were for the public use. They are the accounts copy and is the original form made out by the sender of the telegram and the form on which the Post Office clerk makes the charge for sending the message. These forms in a used condition are rare to find, as after transmission they were sent to HQ for accounting and then by the rules of the Post Office destroyed. However, it has been known for some time that some of these forms slipped through the tight security.

Form "B" (Fig. 18). The message on arrival at the second station, whether it be a Relay Station or a Final Station, would be written on a "B" copy telegram form. Then if the message was to be relayed to a third station, the "B" copy would be retained on file in that office for reference after transmission.

Form "C" (Fig. 19). If station A is able to send the message directly to the Final Station, then the "C" form would be used to send the message on to its final destination. At this station this form would also be used when receiving messages from a Relay Station. This may be for both inland and foreign incoming messages.

Since it was easy for the telegraph operators to misuse the "B" or "C" forms especially when one or the other was in short supply, the "B and/or C" form was introduced (Fig. 20). Note that this form was issued during the Military Administration but it is found commonly used during the Civil Administration as well.

Special forms for the Press were also used. Figure 21 shows the "A" form used by the Press. Notice that the "A" is followed by a smaller "P," indicating Press usage (thus, "AP"). A continuation sheet, P.T.9a, without any letters was used (Fig. 22). Figure 23 shows the "BP or CP" Press Telegram form.

Two other telegram forms were in general use. One was the Official Telegram (Fig. 17). This was used by Government Departments who paid the Post Office for the service. The second was the Service Telegram (Fig. 24). Messages from Post Offices were sent as "Service Telegrams" for many reasons, such as Missorted Telegrams or the non-delivery of a telegram to its final destination. This implies that it was used by an office or official to which free calls were allowed.

One other early telegram form was in use. This was a "Prepaid Reply Form" (Fig. 25) marked with a P.T.7 and a similar voucher (Fig. 26) marked with a P.T.7A for use with foreign telegrams and radiograms only.

All early telegram forms carried P.T. numbers to facilitate reordering. These were numbered from P.T.1 through P.T.10, exactly as they were in the British Postal System.

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Figure 18

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Figure 19

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Figure 20

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Figure 22

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Figure 23

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Figure 25

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Figure 26

Rare Covers from the Egyptian Occupation of Parts of Palestine (1948/9)

I. Karpovsky, Herzliya

On May 15, 1948, the day on which the British Mandate of Palestine ended, the armies of the Arab countries invaded Palestine. The Egyptian army invaded from the south in three major axes. A major axis from Uja El Hafir to Beersheba (Be'er Sheva), a western axis on the coast road to Isdud, and an eastern axis along the Judean mountains up to Hebron and Bethlehem, there joining the Jordanian army. This invasion created in effect a horizontal front-line Isdud-Bethlehem, dividing the country in two, and leaving the south of the country and the Kibbutzim of the Negev under siege and in emergency conditions.

This changed in the latter part of October, when the IDF moved into a series of counterattacks ("Operation Yo'av"), liberating Beersheba on October 21, and liberating the besieged Negev and the coast line settlements. The Egyptian army retreated, leaving behind it an enclave in the area of Faluga village, which was besieged until February 1949, when an armistice agreement was signed with Egypt. At this time the enclave area was returned to Israel. Near the end of 1949 the Jordanian army replaced the Egyptian one in the West Bank.

Postal History

The Egyptians had prepared the invasion in advance, including the philatelic aspect, bringing with them postage stamps and handstamps for usage in the conquered places. Figure 27 shows an airmail letter from June 18, franked, amongst others, with the 10 mil Egyptian stamp depicting the Egyptian army invading Palestine, inscribed with the invasion date of May 15. Two weeks later, on June 1, the Egyptians opened several post offices in occupied settlements, using the existing British offices, and supplied postal services to the army and to the local Arab population. These postal services are called today "The Egyptian Occupation Post" (E.O.P.).

For franking they used several Egyptian definitive issues, and one airmail issue, all overprinted 'Palestine' (in black, red or green), in Arabic and English. These bilingual handstamps had the date in the middle, and the name of the place at the top (Arabic) and on the bottom (English). At the same time, they also used the old Mandatory handstamps of the Single Circle and the Double Circle types, left in the deserted Mandate post offices. They also used abandoned Mandate registration labels.

This Occupation Post operated in the central region (Beersheba) and in the western coastal settlements for about three and a half months, until the occupation of these settlements by the IDF. In the West Bank, which was not conquered by the IDF, the Egyptian service operated till September 1, 1949 being then replaced by the Jordanian post. In the Gaza Strip the Egyptian post operated till June, 1967.

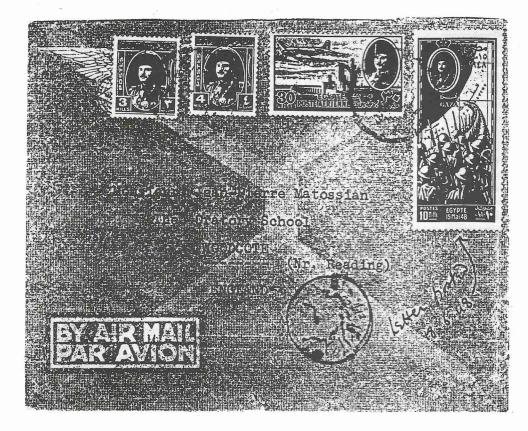


Figure 27

It is important to note the relative rarity of business and registered letters from these post offices. This is mainly due to the short period in which the post operated, and due to the emergency and war conditions that existed in the area. What remained is a small number of P.O.W. letters, and very few registered letters.

The E.O.P. had in total 8 post offices, at the following places: Beersheba, Gaza, El-Majdal, Isdud, Hebron, Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Faluga. Let me now present shortly each of these places and show some rare commercial letters from each of them.

Beersheba (Be'er Sheva)

An Arab town in the mid Negev, with about 7,000 inhabitants in 1948. A Mandate post office operated there from July, 1920. It was the first to be seized by the Egyptian army, which made it into an important military and logistic center for the whole southern front.

The Egyptian post office opened there on June 1, 1948, and operated till October 21, 1948, the day of its liberation by the IDF.

A relatively small number of letters from Beersheba are known to exist. At the

town's liberation about 10 registered letters which had not yet been sent were found in the post office, all cancelled with the Egyptian cancellation dated October 18, 1948 (Fig. 28). In all, three registered letters that left Beersheba on different dates are known today. Figure 29 shows a letter sent to Tubruc but returned to Gaza as the addressee was not found. An expanded article regarding the Egyptian post in Beersheba was published in HLPH #48, p. 369.

Gaza

An important Arab city on the Mediterranean shore in the south. Its population in 1948 was 40,000, and a Mandatory post office operated there from March 1919. Its Egyptian postal service opened on June 1, 1948 and continued to operate till November, 1956, when the IDF conquered the Gaza Strip in "Operation Kadesh".

Figure 30 shows a registered letter sent to Cairo on 14.11.48, franked with 35 mil "Palestine" stamps and with a Mandatory registration label. The addressee was not found, and the letter was therefore returned to Gaza on 13.1.49. Figure 31 features a letter sent to a P.O.W. in Israel on 9.12.49, through the Red Cross. The letter passed through both the Egyptian and Israeli censorship.

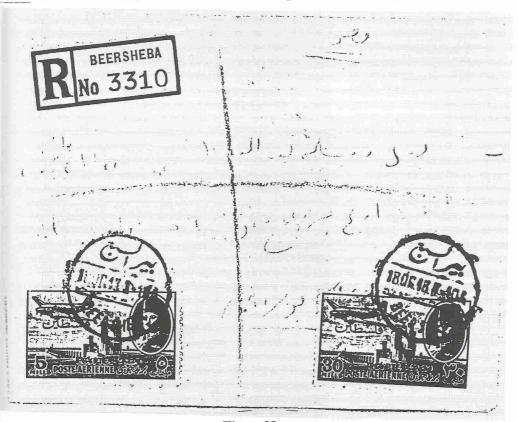


Figure 28

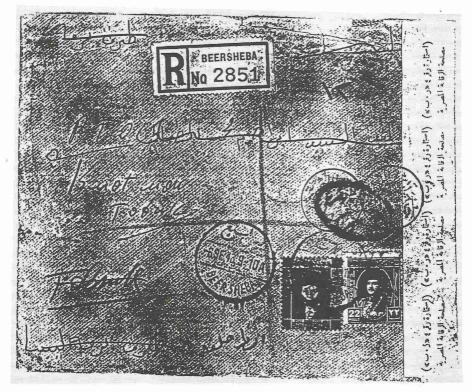


Figure 29

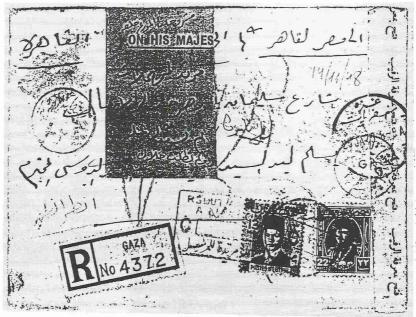


Figure 30



Figure 31

Regarding Gaza, it is worth mentioning that commencing in 1950 one finds there also taxed letters. Again Egyptian postage due stamps overprinted "Palestine" were used. About 10 such letters are known today. Figure 32 shows a stampless letter, dated 20.6.48 from Tulkarm to Gaza. In Gaza it was taxed 60 mils (= 2 x 30), twice the regular fee. Figure 33 shows a letter from Kantara, also stampless, to a soldier in Military Post No. 8. It was taxed in Gaza at 44 mils (= 2 x 22, twice the regular fee) "Palestine" postage due stamps.

El-Majdal (today Migdal-Ashqelon)

A town situated in the south near the coast and on the railway line Haifa-Rafa, about 50 kms. south of Tel Aviv. In 1948 it had a population of 10,000. Its Mandatory postal service started in October 1920, and the E.O.P. on June 1, 1948. Relatively few letters from the E.O.P. of Majdal are known. Figure 34 shows a letter to Egypt from the first day, with a "Palestine" stamp cancelled by the E.O.P. handstamp. Figure 35 also shows a letter sent on the first day, to Cairo, but here the stamps are cancelled with the Mandate S.C. handstamp of Majdal. Figure 36 shows a commercial letter to a prisoner of war, in Israel, sent through the Red Cross on 28.9.48.



Figure 32

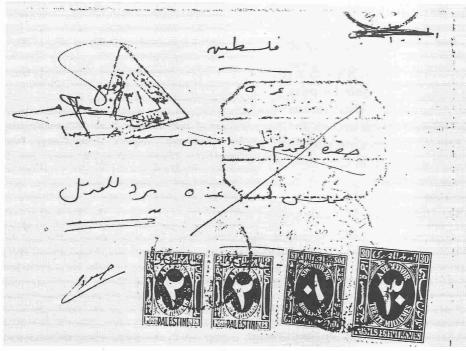


Figure 33



Figure 34



Figure 35



Figure 36

Today, only two registered letters from Majdal are known. Figure 37 shows one of them, from Majdal to Egypt, sent on 15.8.48. The letter is franked 35 mils 'Palestine' stamps (the correct fee), and carries a handstamp registration mark with the number 540 (in Arabic numerals) filled out in handwriting.

The Egyptian post office of Majdal closed on 5.11.48 with the town's occupation by the IDF.

Isdud (today the port town of Ashdod)

In 1948 Isdud was a village of some 5,000 people. During the invasion, the Egyptian army concentrated large forces there, preparing to move on to Tel Aviv, which is only 40 kms. away. In fact, however, Isdud was the most northern point which the Egyptian army reached.

A Mandatory post office existed in the place since June 1947. The Egyptian postal service was opened there on June 1, 1948. Figure 38 shows a letter from the first day of service, sent to Egypt. It carries the "Palestine" stamps and is cancelled by the Mandate D.C. handstamp of Isdud. Only few (less than 10) commercial letters cancelled with the Egyptian "Isdud" postmark are known. Figure 39 shows a letter sent to a P.O.W. in Israel, through the Red Cross, on 29.9.48. The "Palestine" stamp was cancelled with the Egyptian handstamp, and there are some cachets of the Israeli censorship.

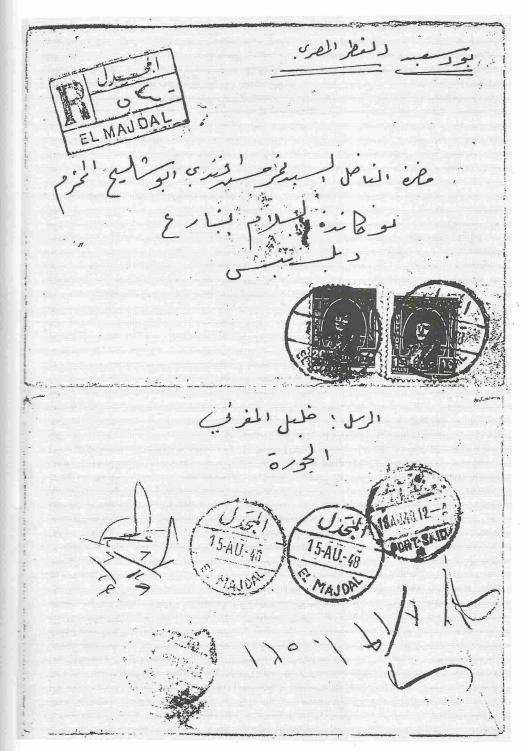


Figure 37



Figure 38

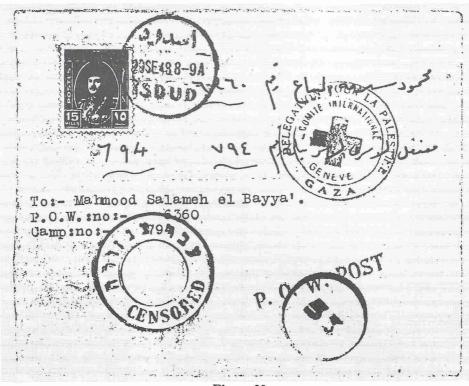


Figure 39

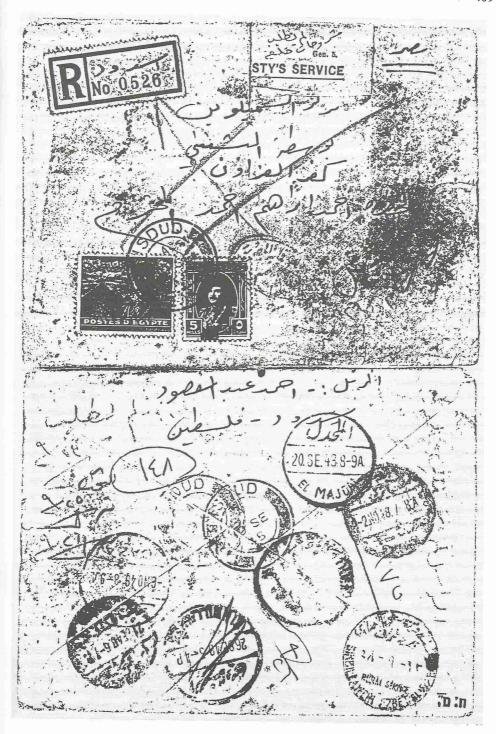


Figure 40

Figure 40 shows the only known registered letter from Isdud of the Egyptian occupation period. It is dated 19.9.48, and was sent through El Majdal to Cairo. The addressee was not located, and the letter was returned to Gaza on November 6, as at that time Isdud had already been seized by the IDF, and its Egyptian post office had closed on 27.10.48. The letter is franked with 35 mil "Palestine" stamps (the correct fee), and cancelled by the D.C. Mandate handstamp of Isdud. Its registration label is a Mute Mandate R-label, with the name Isdud entered in manuscript pencil.

Hebron

The ancient biblical city, which is situated in the south of the West Bank on the Judean mountains, 8 kms. south of Jerusalem, was populated in 1948 by about 27,000 Arabs. A Mandatory post office was opened there in July 1920. Here also, the Egyptian army invaded from the south, joining the Jordanian military forces. Its Egyptian post office was opened on June 1, 1948.

It is interesting that despite the city's large population not many letters from there are known. Figure 41 shows a commercial letter sent from Hebron to an Arab P.O.W. in Israel. The letter, dated 18.9.48, was sent through the Red Cross to a P.O.W. camp



Figure 41

No. 1 and carries also Egyptian and Israeli censor handstamps. On 1.9.48, the Egyptian post office was closed, and was replaced by the Jordanian post office, as Jordan now occupied the territory, according to the Arab countries' mutual agreements.

Bethlehem

In the sacred Christian town of Bethlehem, situated on the Judean mountains, about 8 kms. south of Jerusalem there lived about 10,000 Arab inhabitants in 1948. A Mandate post office was opened there in July, 1920. Here too the Egyptian army which invaded from the south, joined the Jordanian force, which was deployed around the city. The Egyptian post office was opened here on June 1, 1948. In comparison to the other post offices, it was from here that most of the philatelic mail was sent, especially abroad and mostly to the USA.

Figure 42 shows a rare postcard, sent by airmail to the USA, franked with a 40 mil "Palestine" stamp, the correct fee. Figure 43 is a registered airmail letter, sent through "Faruk" airport in Egypt to Cyprus. This is a double weight letter, correctly franked with 75 mils (15+30+30). The registration "label" was handstamped, its number (280) entered in handwriting. Figure 44 shows a registered airmail letter of a different character. It was sent to the USA on October 16, 1948. It is also a double weight letter, and it was therefore franked, correctly, with "Palestine" stamps of 165 mils (15+75+75). This letter was also sent through "Faruk" airport in Cairo, but its registration label is a Mandatory one (No. 4967).

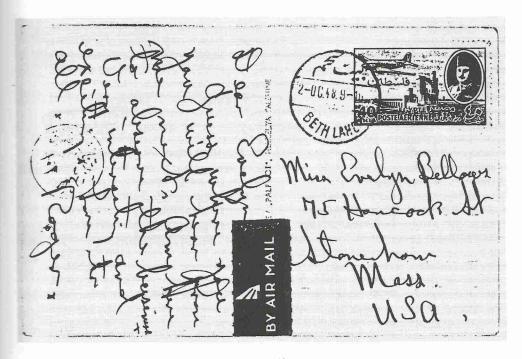


Figure 42



Figure 43



Figure 44

Another interesting airmail letter from Bethlehem (Fig. 45) is from the end of the period, sent to Czechoslovakia and cancelled by the S.C. Mandate handstamp on August 18, 1949. Its oddity is that, although correctly franked with 35 mils Egyptian stamps, these stamps do not have the "Palestine" overprint. Possibly by the end of the E.O.P. period the Bethlehem post office had run out of "Palestine" stamps, and it therefore used regular Egyptian stamps. This letter, unlike the previous ones, was sent in transit through Amman and not through Cairo, and it arrived in Czechoslovakia on August 22, 1949.



Figure 45

Beit Jala

A Christian Arab village, west of Bethlehem, about 5 kms. south of Jerusalem. This was the most northern point to which the Egyptian army managed to reach, and here too they joined the Jordanian forces. In 1948 Beit Jala had about 4,000 inhabitants. Its Mandatory post office was opened in April, 1929. Of all the Egyptian post offices, the fewest number of letters known are from Beit Jala. Therefore they are among the rarest in the postal history of the period. In all, only three or four commercial letters, and an additional three registered letters have been reported. Figure 46 shows a commercial letter sent by airmail to England, on April 6, 1949, with Amman transit. Figure 47 shows an express registered airmail letter to Zurich from September 6, 1948. The letter is franked with "Palestine" stamps of 240 mils, including a rare express Egyptian stamp of 40 mils with the overprint "Palestine" in red (the only known example). Unlike the



Figure 46

previous examples, it was sent through "Faruk" airport in Cairo, and arrived in Zurich on September 15, 1948. The registration label is the Mandatory R-label (No. 0141), with the name Beit Jala in English.

Faluga (Faluja)

The Arab village Faluga was situated on a central road junction in the Negev – the crossroads of the west-east road Majdal-Hebron, and the south-north road Beersheba-Masmia. It was situated 40 kms. north of Beersheba and 50 kms. south of Tel Aviv. Because of the strategical importance of the place, a large Egyptian force seized the area after the invasion, and during the War of Independence fierce battles were fought around it. After the Egyptian defeat in "Operation Yo'av" in the Negev, Faluga remained besieged in an enclave called "the Faluga Enclave", which was evacuated only in February, 1949, with the signing of the armistice agreement with Egypt. In 1948 this village was inhabited by some 4,000 people. A Mandatory post office was opened there in November 1943.

Similar to Beit Jala, very few letters of the E.O.P. are known from Faluga. Actually, except for souvenir covers, only two commercial letters and two registered letters have been reported. The Egyptian post office was opened in Faluga, as in the other places, on June 1, 1948. Figure 48 shows a souvenir letter from this date. Figure 49 shows one of the two known commercial letters. It left besieged Faluga on October 3, 1948, without stamps; it was addressed to an Egyptian P.O.W. in camp No. 792 in Israel. The letter was sent on October 5 through Gaza from where it was transmitted by the Red Cross to Israel. En route it was examined by the Egyptian and by the Israeli censorship.

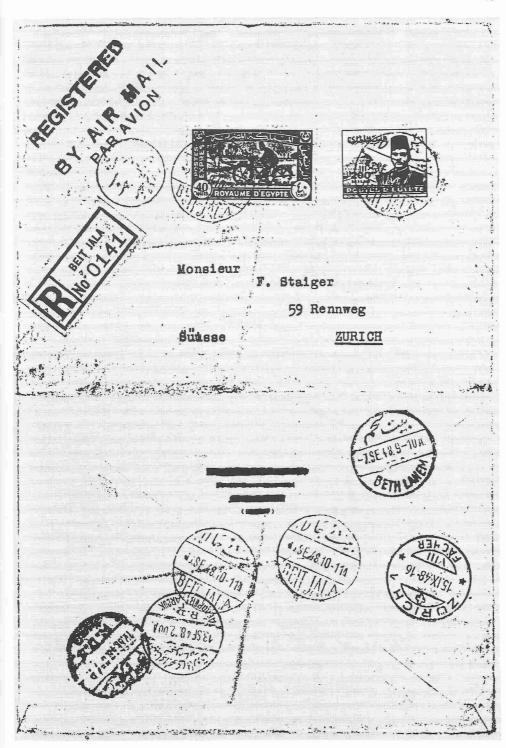


Figure 47



Figure 48



Figure 49

The last letter shown (see Back Cover) may be the most important that exists from Faluga. It is a registered letter sent on June 24, 1948, by a soldier to Cairo. The letter is franked 35 mils of "Palestine" stamps, which was the correct fee for a registered letter to Egypt. There is a Mandatory registration label No. 1200 and next to it, in Arabic manuscript, "O.A.S./Military Mail". On its way to Cairo the letter passed Gaza (June 28) and Port-Said (June 30), as can be seen from the transit postmarks on its back. The E.O.P. in Faluga ended in February 1949, with the returning of the enclave to Israel.

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- (1) David Dorfman, "Palestine Mandate Postmarks".
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- (4) E. and M. Talmi, "Kol Eretz-Israel" (in Hebrew), 1973.

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The Transition Period of the Palestinian Authority Post

Part 2: External Postal Communications from the Palestinian Authority

Josef Wallach, Rehovot

In our previous article¹ the birth pangs of the Palestinian Authority Post were described, including the appearance of stamps and provisional postmarks in Gaza and Jericho. This article will survey the postal communications between the Palestinian Authority and Israel and the rest of the world. Mail from the Palestinian Authority is routed through Israel as the Authority is not a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

In surveying the foundation of the Palestinian Authority's postal services, two stages can be defined.

Stage 1 - First Oslo Accords: May 1994-November 1995

At the beginning of this stage the area of the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho were transferred to the Palestinian Authority together with, among other responsibilities, that for postal services. During this period, the use of Palestinian Authority postage stamps was limited solely to the area of the Palestinian Autonomy. As can be seen by Public Notice No. 93/95, dated 11th July, 1995 (see Fig. 50), postal items which managed to pass to the Israeli Post were returned to the sender with an oblong cachet on the envelope "Returned to sender – please attach postage stamps". This "Notice" translates as follows:

93/95

Jerusalem, July 11, 1995

Autonomy (Palestinian Authority) Postal Items

Recently, inland or air-mail letters bearing Palestinian Authority stamps were discovered in our sorting centers.

It is hereby clarified that there is still no commercial agreement with the Palestinian Authority regarding handling of postal items franked with such stamps. At this stage, letters originating from Autonomy areas (Gaza and Jericho) as well as from Judea and Samaria, must still be franked with Israeli stamps.

Hence, postal items bearing Palestinian Authority stamps will be regarded as stampless items, and will be returned to their senders for replacement of envelope and franking with Israeli stamps.

Should this situation be changed, an update notice will be published. Sincerely,

Herzel Bar-Mag, Deputy Director for Operations, The Postal Authority

Ž, Tahti timi הודעה לקהל לקוחותינו

1995 ביולי 1995

יל בתמוז חתשנ"ח ל9/ 3/

ירושלים.

מנדון: | דברי דואר משטחי האוטונומיה (הרשות הפלסטינית)

לאחרונת נמצאו בבתי המיון מכתבים לארץ או לחו"ל מבויילים בבולים של חרשות הפלסטינית.

מובחר בזה כי אין עדיין הסכם מסחרי עם הרשות הפלסטינית בדבר העברת דברי דואר הנושאים בולים אלה. בשלב זה, מכתבים שמקורם בשטחי תאוטונומיה (עזת ויריחו) וכן מיהודה ושומרון, חייבים עדיין להיות מבויילים בבולים ישראליים.

לפיכך דברי דואר הנושאים בולים של הרשות הפלסטינית יחשבו כפריטים בלתי מבויילים, ויוחזרו לשולחיהם לצורך החלפת המעטפה וביולם בבולים

אם יחול שינוי במצב זה, תפורסם על כך הודעת.

חתצל בר-מג מנהל אגר חתפער

לפרסום עד 10.8.95

אגף התפעול

Fig. 50: Public Notice No. 93/95, dated 11 July 1995, of the Israeli Postal Authority.

After attaching Israeli stamps as required, the letters were forwarded to their destination (see Figures 51, 52 and 53).

Residents of Gaza and Jericho who wished to send letters to Israel or abroad were required to do this via the Israeli "Mevo Azza" post office in the north of the Gaza Strip or via Jerusalem.² An interesting curiosity was the Jericho post office – the Postmaster sold concurrently both Palestinian Authority and . . . Israeli stamps! Thus Jericho residents could use Palestinian Authority stamps for sending mail within the Autonomy and Israeli stamps for sending mail outside the Palestinian Autonomy (Fig. 54). This situation can be described as autonomy within the Autonomy.

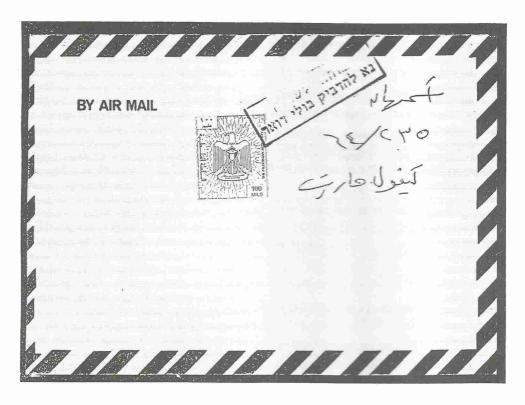


Fig. 51: Cover with Palestinian Authority stamp from 1995, returned to the sender with an oblong violet cachet "Returned to sender – please attach postage stamps."

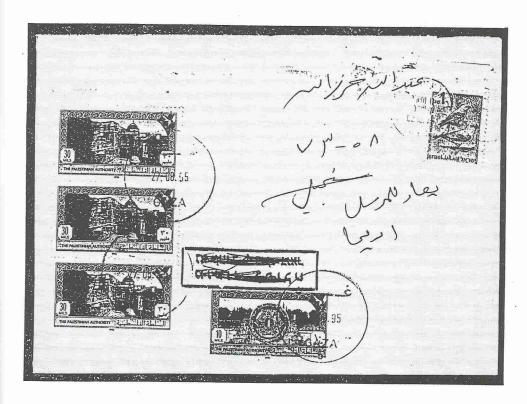


Fig. 52: Cover franked with Palestinian Authority stamps sent from Gaza on 27th August, 1995. The Israeli Post Office returned the letter with a cachet "Returned to sender – please attach postage stamps". After franking with an Israeli stamp, the letter was sent to its destination.

Stage II - Second Oslo Accords: 8th November, 1995 and on

At the beginning of this stage the cities of the West Bank, from Hebron in the south to Jenin in the north, were transferred to the Palestinian Authority together with their postal responsibilities. On this date the **first postal communication** of the Palestinian Authority with the rest of the world began. This was originally planned to begin on 5th November, 1995 but was postponed due to the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin on 4th November, 1995. From then on, letters with Palestinian Authority stamps

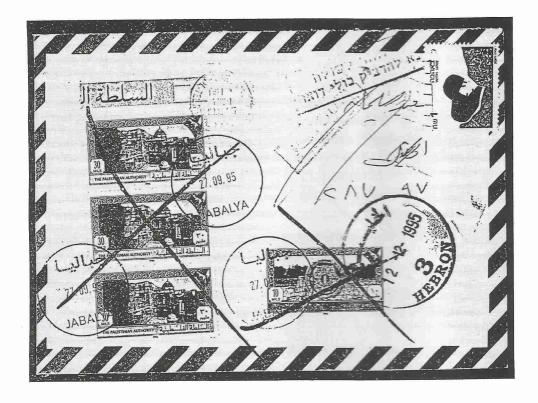


Fig. 53: Two Period Cover – Sent with Palestinian Authority stamps from Jabalya on 27th September, 1995, returned to sender with cachet "..please attach postage stamps". Sent again with Israeli stamp and Tel Aviv postmark from 3rd December, and a Hebron arrival (provisional) rubber postmark of 12th December.

could be sent to Israel and via Israel to the rest of the world subject to the following limitations set by the Oslo Accords:

- a) Postal tariff will be identical to that in use in Israel.
- b) The name of the political entity on the stamps must be the "Palestinian Authority". "Palestine" must not appear in any form.
- The monetary value of the stamps must be neither "mil" nor "mils" (the currency during the British Mandate). "Fils" was agreed upon as the currency to be used. As the Palestinian Authority does not have its own currency the marked value actually refers to Israeli currency: 100 fils = 100 agorot = 1 NIS (= sheqel).

During 1995 Israel protested to the Palestinian Authority about the first Palestinian postage stamps ("sites", "flags" and "official") on which the monetary unit was "mils"

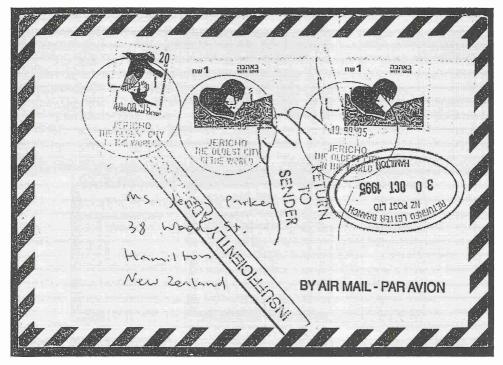


Fig. 54: Israeli stamps used by the Jericho post office in the Palestinian Authority, postmarked 19th September, 1995 on a cover to New Zealand.

and not "fils" as was agreed (Fig. 55a). The Palestinian Authority officials responded to this protest by adding a series of sites and flags stamps with a "fils" overprint. The Jericho postmaster applied a small rubber "fils" cachet over the word "mils" on stamps with a mils denomination. These handstamped postage stamps can be regarded as "Jericho Locals."

The "eagle" stamps (the eagle is the Autonomy's emblem) were also not acceptable, as under the eagle appeared the word "Palestine" alone which was proscribed by the Accords (Fig. 55b).

On 17th May, 1995 the Palestinian Authority issued a series of three stamps depicting "stamps on stamps". They show stamps from the British Mandate period: Rachel's Tomb, Tower of David and the Dome of the Rock (Fig. 55c). Issuing series of "stamps on stamps" is widespread throughout the world but these stamps caused a political problem in that despite the fact that they were valued in "fils" and issued by the Palestinian Authority, the word "Palestine" appears on the Mandatory stamp – again proscribed by the Oslo Agreement.

As long as the use of the stamps described above was limited to the area of the Autonomy, Israel sufficed with a protest. However, once postal communications to the outside began, the Israeli Post Office took action and forbade the use of these

a b



Fig. 55: Non-valid stamps (from left to right): Top row: stamps with mils currency; "Palestine" on bottom of eagle. Bottom row: Mandate stamp on stamps with inscription "Palestine."

stamps which were defined in Public Notices Nos. 130/95 and 133/95 (see Figs. 56 and 57) from November 1995 as "invalid stamps". These Notices read:

130/95 Jerusalem, November 7, 1995

Re: Use of Palestinian Authority Stamps

Postal administration in the West Bank is being transferred at present to the Palestinian Authority, as was done a year ago in Gaza and Jericho.

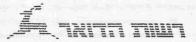
Simultaneously, Postal items mailed from this area will be franked with Palestinian Authority stamps. These stamps will be valid for postage to Israel and abroad.

The Palestinian Authority stamps are valid only for mail from the West Bank and Gaza areas, and under no circumstances should letters franked with such stamps be dropped in mail boxes in Israel. Such postal items, when found in Israeli mail boxes, will be considered unfranked, and will be handled accordingly.

This notice cancels Notice to the Public 93/95 of July 11th, 1995.

Sincerely,

Herzel Bar-Mag, Deputy Director for Operations, The Postal Authority



הודעה לקהל לקוחותינו

7 בנובמבר 1995

130/95

ירושלים, יד'בחשון התשנ"ו

שימוש בבולים של הרשות הפלסטינית

הנדון:

סמכות הדואר בשטחי הגדה המערבית מועברת בימים אלה לרשות הפלסטינית, כפי שהדבר נעשה לפני כשנת לגבי עזה ויריחו.

במקביל, יותל בשימוש בבולים של הרשות הפלסטינית לביול דברי דואר תנשלחים מהאזורים הנ"ל. בולים אלה יהיו תקפים למשלוח דואר לישראל ולחו"ל.

בולי הרשות הפלסטינית תקפים רק למשלוח דואר משטחי הגדה המערבית ואזור עזה, ואין בשום מקרה לשלשל מכתבים מבויילים בבולים אלה בתיבות הדואר בארץ. דברי דואר מסוג זה שיימצאו בתיבות הדואר ייחשבו כבלתי מבויילים, ויטופלו בהתאם.

תודעה זו מבטלת את ההודעה לקחל מס' 93/95 מה-11.7.1995.

הרצל בר-מג סמנכ"ל לתפעול

לפרסם עד 6.12.95

אגף התפעול

Fig. 56: Public Notice No. 130/95, dated 7 November 1995, of the Israeli Postal Authority.

E THITH TIWE הודעה לקהל לקוחותינו ון בנובמבר 1995 137,/95 רושלים, כון בחשון התשנ"ו בולים של הרשות הפלסטינית בהודעה לקהל מספר 130/95 מ-7.11.95 הודענו על תחילת השימוש בבולים של הרשות הפלסטינית לביול דברי דואר הנשלחים מעזה ומהגדה המערבית לישראל או לחו"ל. מובהר בזאת כי האמור בהודעה הנ"ל מתייחס אך ורק לבולים תקפים התואמים את ההסכם בין מדינת ישראל והרשות הפלסטינית. בולים שהונפקו בעבר בידי הרשות הפלסטינית בניגוד להסכם, לא אושרו לשימוש, ואם יאותרו דברי דואר הנושאים בולים אלה בתוך הדואר המגיע אלינו מעזה ומהגדה המערבית, הם לא יטופלו. הרצל בר-מג סמנכ"ל לתפעול אגף התפעול

Fig. 57: Public Notice No. 133/95, dated 18 November 1995, of the Israeli Postal Authority.

Re: Palestinian Authority Stamps

In Notice to the Public Nr. 130/95 of Nov.7.95, we have informed you of the beginning of Palestinian Authority stamps usage in franking postal items mailed from Gaza and the West Bank to Israel or overseas.

It is hereby clarified that the information in the above mentioned Notice relates only to valid stamps, which comply with the agreement between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The usage of stamps manufactured by the Palestinian Authority in contrast to the agreement, was forbidden. Should postal items carrying such stamps be intercepted in mail coming from Gaza and the West Bank, they will not be attended to.

> Sincerely, Herzel Bar-Mag, Deputy Director for Operations, The Postal Authority

Since all incoming and outgoing mail from the Palestinian Authority passes through Israel, items with "invalid stamps" were found during routine checks of stamps on letters from the Palestinian Authority. These letters were returned to the Palestinian Authority Postal Services.

In order not to force the sender to frank letters again and thus having to pay twice, the two postal authorities agreed that Palestinian Authority officials would cover the invalid stamps with a white sticker. This sticker was handstamped with an oblong cachet "Palestine Authority/Postage Paid" in both English and Arabic to show that postage had been paid as required (see Figures 58 and 59). The letters were then sent to their original destination.

The delay caused by this procedure meant that some letters took two to three months to reach their destinations abroad as can be seen on the envelope shown in Figure 58. Despite Israeli diligence on this subject some postal items can be found which escaped the watchful eyes of the Israeli postal authorities and were sent to their destinations with invalid stamps (Fig. 60).

References

- (1) J. Wallach, "The Transition Period of the Palestinian Authority Post, Part 1", HLPH # 65-66 (1996), pp. 149-157.
- (2) J. Wallach, "The Gradual Termination of the Israeli Postal Services in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, May 4-17, 1994", HLPH # 59 (1994), pp. 1023-1036.

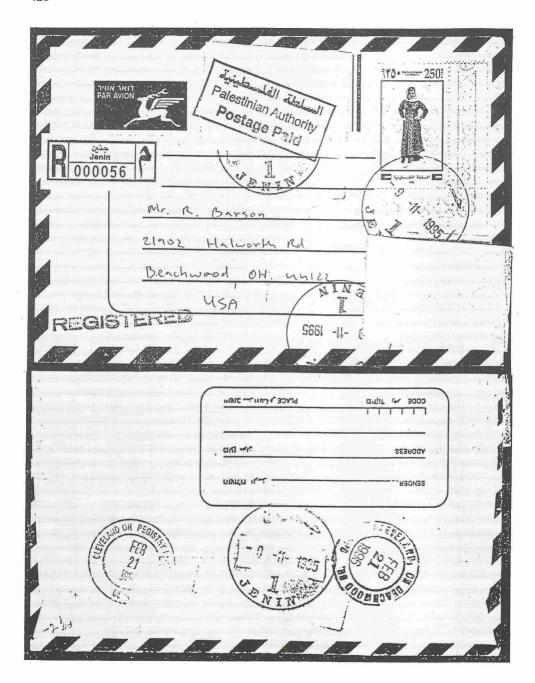


Fig. 58: "Non-valid" stamps covered by white labels tied by box cachet "Postage Paid".

Posted at Jenin, 9.11.1995 (2nd day), arrival pmks Feb. 21. 1996 on reverse.

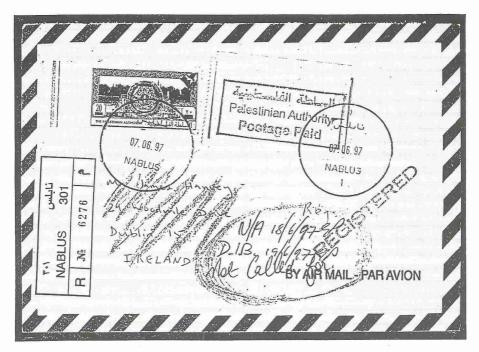


Fig. 59: "Non-valid" stamp covered by white sticker and cachet. Ex Nablus to Ireland.



Fig. 60: 350 Fils "Mandate" stamp on stamp slipped through without being covered by white label.

The Odyssey of Palestine Postal Form P.T. 564

Arthur M. Hochheiser

During the past several years, three articles have appeared in Holy Land Philatelic Society Journals illustrating mail "facing slips". They explain that the purpose of these "facing slips" is to designate the post offices of origin and destination of bundles of mail. However, the main purpose of these articles was to illustrate a variety of "facing slips" used in various countries. Moreover, research into this phase of postal history reveals some interesting facts.

Figure 61 is an illustration of a "facing slip" currently in use in the United States. In a "Glossary of Postal Terms" published by the United States Postal Service, a "facing slip" is defined as

"A paper label attached to a package of mail showing the postal unit where the mail is due to be distributed, the class and type of mail, and the country or military post office."

Figure 62 shows a newer example of a "facing slip" using vertical bars called "facing identification marks" to clarify mail distribution. Note in Figure 61 the large number 07644. This is the code for Lodi, New Jersey. This "facing slip" is to be placed atop a bundle of mail to be sent to Saddle Brook, New Jersey, which has a ZIP Code 07633. "ZIP" is an acronym for "Zoning Improvement Plan". ZIP Codes were introduced in the United States in 1963, a system of five-digit codes identifying the individual Post Office or Metropolitan Area Delivery Station associated with the address. "ZIP Codes" are a United States Postal Service trademark. It is interesting to note that ZIP Codes are almost universally found today throughout the world even though there are several smaller countries that still do not use them. ZIP Codes vary in different countries using combinations of numbers and letters.

The use of ZIP Codes has been expanded to include an additional four-unit number (Fig. 63). The first two additional digits designate the 'sector'; a geographic portion of a zone, a portion of a rural route, several city blocks or a large building, part of a box section, or an official designation.

The last two digits designate the 'segment'; a specific block face, apartment house bank of boxes, a firm, a floor in a large building, or other specific location. "ZIP + 4" (Fig. 64) is a United States Postal Service trademark.

The "ZIP + 4", a nine-digit code, was established in 1981 in the United States. A National File Directory now lists 22 million such addresses for all delivery points in the United States.

All of the above is introductory by way of explaining general information which may be of interest to all readers. But what has this to do with "The Odyssey of Palestine Postal Form P.T. 564"? A simple question supplies the answer. How was mail

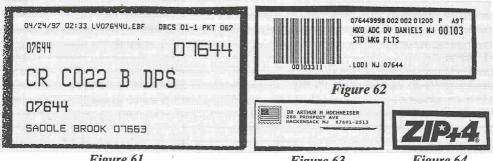


Figure 61

Figure 63

Figure 64

dispatched from one post office to another prior to the introduction of ZIP Codes? Obviously, some form of written notes were attached to a package of mail to be sent to another post office, serving as the direction for mail transfer within the Postal System.

Such "facing slips" were originally only pieces of paper onto which the offices of origin and delivery were written or stamped. In Palestine, the origin of the use of preprinted "facing slips", Form P.T. 564 (Figures 65 and 66), is not certain but it must have been introduced early in the 1940s. There are two clues. First, note that the Printer's Legend in Figure 65 reads 13.8.43, meaning that this form was printed for release in August 1943. Second, a book published for use in Palestine for the years 1940/41 entitled "Requisition for P.T. Forms and other Printed Matter" does not





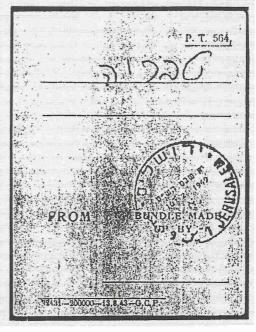


Figure 66

contain a designated description for Form P.T. 564, indicating that the form was not in use at this time. This book, which lists all P.T. numbers from 1 to 1009, has many numbers unlisted for usage. Some missing numbers are now in groups, obviously intended for the later introduction of a group of new forms.

On these preprinted "facing slips" for general use, the office of origin is designated by a cancellation of the local Post Office and the Post Office to which the mail was to be dispatched was written in by hand at the top. Note that both "facing slips" (Figures 65 and 66) were used in Israel as the cancellation of origin reveals. At this early period, after Israel was granted Statehood and before there was time to set up its own printing presses, improvisation by the 'economy' use of Palestine forms was mandatory.

Extended 'economy' use of Palestine Postal Forms by the State of Israel continued into the middle 1950s. This was especially true of the use of envelopes, which were not discarded but converted to Israeli use. This was done in some cases by crossing out the name "Palestine" and writing in the name "Israel" as seen in Figure 67. Later uses than shown here of Palestine envelopes used in Israel have been reported.

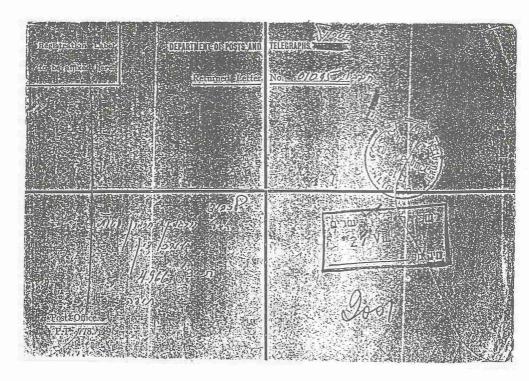


Figure 67

These "facing slips" are exceedingly rare since there was no reason to keep them once they had reached their destination. Note, too, that while the Printer's Legends indicate that the forms illustrated in Figures 65 and 66 were printed by the same firm, the Greek Convent Press (G.C.P.), at different times, they were cut apart differently. Obviously, these were printed in sheets of multiple copies and individual "facing slips" were

separated as needed. Note the error in cutting apart Figure 65, where the Printer's Legend appears at the top of the slip instead of properly at the bottom as seen in Figure 66.

Now look at Figure 68, another "facing slip" printed by the Israeli Government for use in its postal system. Note that there is a similarity to Figures 65 and 66, the P.T. Forms 564 printed in Palestine. The size and translated printing layout are almost identical. Only the dotted rectangle has been added to locate the placement for the cancellation denoting the office of origin of the "facing slip". Most significant here is the identification number 564 .ט. (Daled Tet in Hebrew, the abbreviation for Doar and Telegraph which translates to Post & Telegraph). Remember that Hebrew reads from right to left. There is no explanation for the use of the same



Figure 68

number '564' except to note that apparently the Israeli authorities decided to use the same Palestine numbers on some of their forms. The Odyssey goes on.

When ZIP Codes were introduced, Israel was one of the many countries throughout the world which adopted its usage. Shown in Figures 69, 70 and 71 are three "facing slips", alike in most respects. These are in current usage. While there are minor differences, the 564.0.7 is constant, completing the Odyssey of P.T. 564. The Hebrew translates as shown in Figure 72. Only the names have been changed of the communities in which the post offices exist.

There are two additional features that require some explanation. These are found outside of the box at the bottom. Note that while Figure 69 shows only the 564 .ש.ד, Figures 70 and 71 show additional characters: In Figure 70 in addition to the 564 .ש.ד at the right there are four Hebrew letters at the left, ד.מ.ד. These are the initial letters for the Hebrew words "Central Post Postal Authority". Figure 71 has an additional set of characters, 3-4011/5, to the left of the 564 .ש.ד. These are some sort of catalogue numbers which are not in use today.



	רשות הדואר 🔍					
1	אגד מכתבים					
	ל: ראש פינה					
ĺ	12 100					
	יותמת בית הדואר השולח נבדק ונארו על ידי					
i	*					

Figure 69

Figure 70



Figure 71

POSTAL AUTHORITY							
LETTER PACKAGE							
THE PERSON OF TH							
TO (name of post office)							
ZIP CODE							
EXAMINED&BUNDLED BY SENDING POST OFFICE STAMP							

564.0.7

Figure 72

No research article can be completed without help from various sources. I would like to thank Mr. Joseph A. Avato, Postmaster, in Lodi, New Jersey for furnishing me with material and information on the current usage of "facing slips" in the United States. I want to thank Dr. Zvi Shimony who furnished the "facing slips" currently in use in Israel, and Dr. Allen Simon of New Rochelle, N.Y., for helping me with the translation of the Hebrew.



A New Type of the Nahariya Slogan Cancellation

Y. Rimon, Haifa

It is not an everyday occurrence for a postal historian to find a new type of an important cancellation, especially in a field that has been thoroughly researched for about 50 years. Therefore, it was very exciting and gratifying to ascertain that indeed we have an additional type of the Nahariya slogan cancellation, of which we were unaware. This new type will be described and discussed in this article.

The Nahariya slogan cancellations were used by Mishmar Ha'am (Hagana) in March and April, 1948 to collect the "By Sea" fee for the boat part of the Nahariya Emergency Mail Service. These cancellations were not applied to the covers by a cancelling device with a rubber or steel head, but were made with a stencil and a small duplicating machine. A sketch of such a stencil device can be seen on p. 61 of Forsher's monograph. The stencil, being a fragile material, deteriorated during its extensive use and had to be replaced about every week, except for types I and II which for different reasons were in use only for one and two days, respectively.

It is this frequent replacement, and the hand preparations of the stencils, that caused the appearance of so many variations of the slogan cancellations over a very short period. So far it was known that of the third type (with the slogan "Emergency Mail, to Haifa" ("דאר לשעת הרום, לחיפה"), there existed three subtypes designated IIIA, IIIB and IIIC. These subtypes were of similar appearance but differed in dimensions and small geometrical details. A discussion and summary of the known information on these subtypes can be found in Forsher's monograph.

Recently I purchased a cover with a Nahariya slogan cancellation of 1 April, 1948. This commercial cover was sent from Nahariya to Tel Aviv and mailed in the Haifa Main Post Office on April 4th. April 1st was the last day of use of type IIIA; the stencil was already in bad shape and exhibited serious deterioration signs as can be seen in Figure 73. The cracks of the disintegrating stencil appear as long disorderly lines emanating from the main body of the cancellation. Contrary to this condition, the new cover displayed a very fresh cancellation and was in an excellent condition, as can be seen in Figure 74. After an additional and closer examination of the cancellation, it proved to be a new type which differs from all the other known types of the Nahariya slogan cancellations.

Forsher claims that since April 1st was a Thursday, the operators of the Emergency Mail Service, not expecting shipments of mail on Friday or Saturday, prepared the next stencil, type IIIB, only on Sunday the 4th. This explains the gap between April 1, the last day of IIIA, and April 4, the first day of IIIB. However, the appearance of the new type undermines this theory. Apparently after the type IIIA disintegrated, a new stencil was cut on the same day. This is the newly discovered type, also dated April 1! This leaves us with a new problem, which is what happened to the new stencil and why



Fig. 73: Nahariya slogan cancellation type IIIA1 of 1 April 1948. The black lines emanating up and down from the main body of the postmark result from cracks in the stencil in its deteriorated condition.

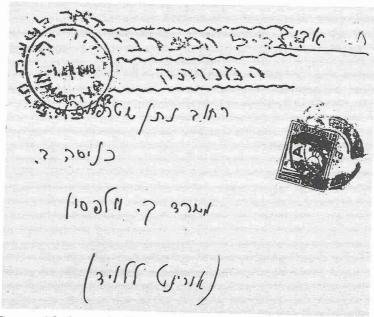


Fig. 74: Cover with the newly discovered Nahariya slogan cancellation type IIIA2 of 1 April, 1948, mailed in Haifa on 4 April.

we do not have more examples of it on April 1, and especially on April 2, which was a Friday, a legitimate day for sending mail. The answer to this problem may never be known but it can be argued that if the change of stencils occurred in the late afternoon of Thursday (April 1) it would account for the remarkably few covers cancelled by the new type on that day.

Another explanation for the scarcity is that the new stencil was for some reason lost or destroyed. A close examination of the enlarged new type in Figure 75 may give the reason. We see that the word "NAHARIYA" inside the circle is smeared and unclear. Note that the letters "AHA" are joined and partly missing. This indicates that there was a flaw in the stencil in that area which occurred when the stencil was cut too deep. It is plausible that as with the short-lived type II (in use for two days only) the stencil of the new type was torn after a very short use and so discarded. If this is the case then this type had the shortest lifespan of all the Nahariya slogan cancellations and examples of it should therefore be extremely rare.

In any case we know that on April 1 two different stencils were used to produce two distinct types of the slogan cancellation. This naturally creates a need for designation for the new type. In order not to disrupt the well known and accepted designation system it was decided to merge the new cancellation into the type IIIA class, since they both appear on the same date, and differentiate between them by designating the previously known IIIA, as IIIA1 and the new type will thus be designated as IIIA2.

Last but not least comes the description of the new type and a comparison between it and the previously known types. Figure 75 shows an enlargement of the new type IIIA2. Figures 76 and 77 show an enlargement of types IIIA1 and IIIB respectively for comparison. Forsher identifies the different types by three parameters: a) The distance from the first Hebrew letter of the word HAGALIL (top line, extreme right) to the edge of the circle; b) The distance between the words HAGALIL and HAMA'ARAVI in the top line; and c) The space between the top and bottom wavy lines. From Figures 75–77, we note that parameter C is the same for all the III types. However, parameters A and B vary and are as follows (all distances are in millimeters):

Type Parameter	A	В	С	
IIIA1	67	3	22	
IIIA2	70	5	22	
IIIB	70	6	22	
IIIC	73	8	22	

From the table we can see that the dimensions of the new type vary in at least one parameter from the others, which establishes its identity as a separate type.

In addition, there are several geometrical shapes which characterize each type. Some of the more obvious will be pointed out and compared:

(1) In type IIIA2 the letter א (Alef) in the word "דאר" is much larger than its

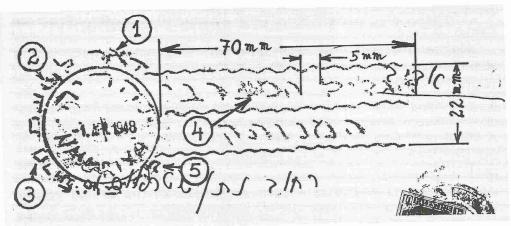


Fig. 75: The Nahariya slogan cancellation Type IIIA2 of 1 April (enlarged).

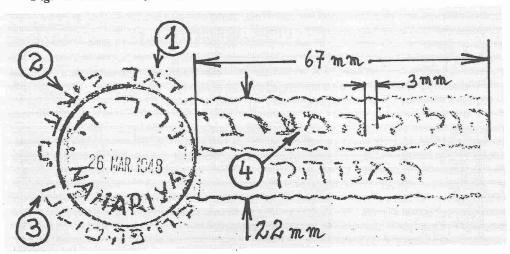


Fig. 76: The Nahariya slogan cancellation type IIIA1 of 26 March (enlarged).

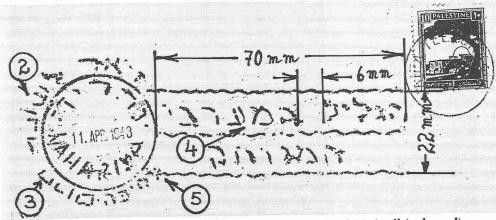


Fig. 77: The Nahariya slogan cancellation type IIIB of 11 April (enlarged).

neighbouring letters and has the shape of an X. IN type IIIA1 it is of the same size and style as the 7 and the 7.

- (2) In types IIIA1 and IIIB the middle line of the letter w (Shin) in the word "לשעת" is vertical to the bottom line. In type IIIA2 this line leans backwards to meet with the left vertical line of the w.
- (3) In type IIIA1 the letter π (Chet) in the word "חרום" is wide and its upper line is horizontal with a pronounced gap between the right vertical line and the top line. In type IIIB the π is also wide and similar to that of type IIIA1, but without the gap. In type IIIA2 the letter π is much narrower than those of types IIIA1 and IIIB and the top line is slanted strongly downwards.
- (4) In types IIIA1 and IIIB the two letters מערבי" (Mem and Ayin) of the word "המערבי" in the top line between the wavy lines are distinctly separate. In type IIIA2 the two letters are smeared and joined.
- (5) The most prominent difference between types IIIA1, IIIA2 and IIIB is in the location of the letter ל (Lamed) of the word "לחיפה". In types IIIA1 and IIIA2 the ל is distinctly below the lower wavy line. In type IIIB the ל is raised half way into the lower wavy line.

All of these features as well as the dimensional variations emphasize that types IIIA1, IIIA2 and IIIB are distinct stencils of the Nahariya slogan cancellation and that the new type IIIA2 was in use (at least) on April 1, between types IIIA1 and IIIB.

Reference

(1) B. J. Forsher, "The interim period postage stamps of Israel, March to July 1948", pp. 62-63, SIP (1969).



Oddities in Coding Mandate Postal Forms

Arthur M. Hochheiser

It has been well established that the operation of the Postal System under the Civil Administration in Palestine was patterned after its counterpart in Great Britain. To this extent, the major feature in printing forms for use by both postal administrations was the inclusion of an identifying code. This consisted of letters and numbers. The purpose of this was to simplify reordering forms when necessary. In Great Britain, the code was the letter "P," for 'Post', followed by a number (Fig. 78). Clearly this form was printed in England. Note that this specific sheet was used in Palestine as were a few other British forms. This was often made necessary on an "interim" basis. Later this form was duplicated for use in Palestine as "P.T. 589" (Fig. 79) with only a minor change. This duplication was so exact that "P.T. 589" was certainly printed in Great Britain as well by the same firm after necessary corrections were made.

The earliest form printed for use in Palestine by the postal authorities under the Civil Administration is shown in Figure 80. The form is coded "P. & T. No...." for 'Post & Telegraph' without a number since at this early period, no number had been assigned

	LETTP AND PARCEL POST ERROR SO DE BIEGE.
	Revd. 1003767237
Name of Office in fault	fficer it must be stated whether the Bag or other receptacle. Trectives from the Inland, E. 1997. Office it Innie be stated whether the Bag or other receptacle. Trectives from the Inland, E. 1997. Office it Innie be stated whether the Bag or other receptacle.
Description of Mail (1/2)	
Parcel, or Combine	
Datt of Bill and Time of Desp	
Nature of Error // // //	Cont Senature of
POSTKASTER JERUSALLI	Reporting Officer
7 AUG 1932	Particulars of Postal Packets irregularly treated
Red No (H) 4307/37	TOW ADDRESSED. No promise type. Value of the control of the cont
Place where Index of	labelled or 1 to 1
Date Letters, Date Signs or Stamp.	ADDRESSED ITEMS INCORRECTLY and Percels Labels II at Reporting Offices (II)
	ADDRESSED TERMS out Letters are letters ar
9/8/22	Domale 1 Lebelled year
	166 186 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18
15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (15 (
\$ 18 TO BE TO THE	
200 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (100 (
	CITED OF BOOK OF THE STATE OF T
	a Bundle or a Banker's Letter is missent, the fact should be stated.
Cooper	The Head Postmaster 3
To note the mis-se	
	Tosmaster 2 1032

Figure 78

P.T. 589				Jeg or 13hle	Whether in correctly addressed		TELAUNT.			14 41		
ST ERRORS.	ERED OF	DESPING!	Signature	ularly treated.	* No. for each town.	Small Packets Large and Parcels and Post- Letters. Novs.	>	The second secon		PAC NO TRE	fact should be stated. The Postmaster, Noted. 193	The state of the s
LETTER AND PARCEL POST ERRORS.	Letter, 1 PE9157 F RED	My Styl		Particulars of Postal Packets irregularly treated	HOW ADRESSED.	ERLY INCOMPLETELY OR INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED TIMES	TELMIN EXP		THE KL		le is missent, the	
LETTER ?	, wh	Parcel, or Combined	SNature of Error MSSEN	Particul	in mil	Place where Date. Letters, of PHODERIN Figures Stamp Addressed ITEMS. Prepaid	TERUSALEM 1115 21/6 TE		оправления применя применя по применя п	remaining management and the second s	Mr. Ms. Cabust. If a Bund To note the mis-sending 14 5 19 4 5 Frostmaster.	

100	Р. & Т. No
In any further communication, please quote Ref. No. 17.34	GENERAL POST OFFICE JERUSALEM
Gentlemen	The Hovember 1922.
of your letter No	acknowledge the receipt of dated 3" wist
receiving attenti	on. Market is
	Your obedient Servant
	· Sprochty
	Bohnester General
	sleum Co. (Palestine) CH.
	avis

Figure 80

for this form and the letter code had not been clarified. Note, too, that there is no 'Printer's Legend' on this form. Figure 81 shows the form reissued, properly coded "P.T. 401" and printed (as the 'Printer's Legend' shows) by the Syrian Orphanage Press (S.O.P.).

	P. T. 401.
In any further communication please quote Ref. No. P.T. 260 133	GENERAL POST OFFICE, JERUSALEM.
Sir	13 Nov. 1932
I have to ac	cknowledge the receipt of
	ted 8.10.32 and to Atter is receiving attention. Your obedient servant,
	For Postmaster-General.
	Fostmuster-General.
Mr. Philip Jos	seph,
Tel.	-Aviv.
15044-5000-S.O.P.	

Figure 81

Thereafter, all properly coded forms contained the letters "P.T." with a number. However, supplemental lower case letters were used on many forms for specific purposes. Forms which had no supplemental letter were generally those that were printed trilingually (Fig. 82) or forms printed in English only (Fig. 83). Many forms were printed separately in the three languages mandated by the League of Nations: English, Arabic, and Hebrew. These were coded as shown in Figure 84: English without a supplemental letter, Arabic with a supplemental lower case letter (a), and Hebrew with a supplemental lower case letter (b).

While these are the normal codings for Postal Administration forms, there are many variations that exist on some forms without any reasonable explanation. One must remember that there were more than twenty five different companies used by the Government to print forms for the various governmental agencies in Palestine. (See the article printed in the summer of 1985 entitled "Private Printing Companies During the Palestine Mandate Period"). This might account for some of the lack of uniformity.



Figure 82

P.T. 26.
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.
Advice of a Telegram.
A TELEGRAM No. 98 addressed to Orler will be available at the Post Office, from 7 to 20 to hours today.
If not called for within 3 days from the date of this
advice, the sender will be advised of non-delivery. Time 18 4 5 Initials of Messenger Date 3.2.12 47
33638-50000-10.2.47-G.C,P.

Figure 83

Some forms exist (Figs. 85 and 86) without any P.T. numbers. These were generally a "Notice" to the public and it can be assumed that there was no intention of reordering the forms.

Forms printed trilingually normally contained no supplemental letters. Figure 87, Form P.T. 605 A, shows the use of a trilingually printed form with a supplemental upper case letter "A". Figures 88 ((1) and (2)), Forms P.T. 45 (c) and (d) show the use of lower case supplemental letters on trilingually printed forms. Only one form is known printed in Arabic and Hebrew only (Fig. 89), Form P.T. 45.

Forms printed in English only were not supposed to have any supplemental letters, but there are exceptions: Figure 90 shows Form P.T. 726 (A); Figure 91, Form P.T. 50B, is printed in English and French; and Figure 92, Form P.T. 84 (c), has the supplemental letter (c), even though printed in English only.

Forms printed in Arabic only were supposed to be numbered with a lower case supplemental letter (a), but Figure 93, P.T. 249, is coded without any supplemental letter.

Forms printed in Hebrew only were supposed to have a lower case supplemental letter (b), but in fact they show the greatest deviation from the normal: Figure 94 shows Form P.T. 414, the letter (b) having been added in pencil; Figure 95 is coded P.T. 45A; Figure 96 is coded P.T. 45 B; Figure 97 is coded P.T. 413-H. Certainly the most unusual coding is found in Figure 98. This form in Hebrew is coded 84 .n.p (the Hebrew letters for P.T.).

An examination of the "Printer's Legends" on the more unusually coded forms reveals that they were printed by other than the three major printing firms used: Greek Convent Press (G.C.P.); Syrian Orphanage Press (S.O.P.); Goldberg Printing Press (G.P.P.).

	, p	.T. 615 (a).	
P. T. 615		. 1. 010 (a).	P.T. 615 (b)
PALESTINE POSTS TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES			
PALESTING 10010 ILBRIGHTED AND ILBRIGHTED	in h		
Post Office	ىد- يى	مكتب البر	
Telephone No.	<u>~</u> -	التاريخ	משרד הדאר
	l l		ירושלים
			1000
		19	/VA A Y
		Harris.	(18 EF)
			.33
			' X. C. V.
	r::	: * **	הננו מהכג
	_ R		המניע מאתך עכי
		שים נבינ	- 17-1-33
FINAL REMINDER.	l k	u · ··	אם התשלו,
	. 73	7	במשך שבעה ימיו (אחי
	- !.~	المسعق عر	ויחובר שנית רק א־ר־
		َ فِ	רמי חבור שני.
I have to direct your attention to the fact that the sum of	اتا له.	יתקב" ב- י	אם התשלחו רא
L.P. Mils due in respect of telephone service, payment			מרשותך. במקרה
of which was requested in the account dated,	٦,	يفصل تلفونه	
has not yet been received.		۲۵۰ ملا ر	
I have, therefore, to inform you that unless payment is received within seven days of the date of this letter, your telephone will be	111	·	
disconnected from the Exchange and will only be re-connected on		التلفون من	
payment of the outstanding amount, plus 250 mils re-connection fee.			
If payment is not received within fourteen days of the date		الادنى ٤ ج	1 💯 /
of this letter, the telephone will be removed from your premises and will only be re-installed on payment of a further installation fee			
(minimum L.P. 4).			
I am	Bert		
Your obedient servant. G. H. WEBSTER		At-G.C.P.	
Postmaster-General			
r osimaster-General			
	· -	אקרה	53
	-10		
and the second states of the second second second second second second	3)D	·····
30507—8000—20.1.38.—S. O. P.			

Figure 84

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS. NOTICE.

The efficiency of the telephone service will be considerably improved if subscribers will answer promptly rings from the exchange.

Neglect of this important requirement reacts to the detriment of prompt attention on the part of the operator.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, IERUSALEM.

> دائرة البريد والتلغراف اعلان

يتحسن سير حدمة التلفون تحسناً ملحوظاً اذا اسرع المشتركين مالاجابة على نداء الاكسشانج. ان اهمال هذا الطلب المهم ينتج عنه نقصاً من شأنه ان يؤثر على سم عة انتياه عاملة التلفون.

> مكتب البريد العام القدس

מחלקת הראר נהשלגרף. מודעה

שרות המלפון ישופר במדה נכרת אם המנויים
יענו מיד לצלצול מהמרכז.
זלזול בדרישה חשוכה זו פועל לרעה על
אפשרות של תשומת לב מידית מצד פקיד המלפון.
משרד הדאר הכללי
ירושלים

15000-15/9/34 Com. P.

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES. DELIVERY OF CORRESPONDENCE BY POSTMEN.

It is notified for information that, commencing on the 1st November, 1925, Postmen will not be required to deliver correspondence at any address located in premises above the ground-floor of any building.

Members of the public, the delivery of whose correspondence is affected by this regulation and who desire to have it delivered by Postman, are advised to arrange (a) for a letter box fitted with a good lock to be fixed in a suitable place on the ground floor and (b) for the box to be clearly abelled so as to indicate the persons for whom correspondence should be delivered into it.

The delivery of postal packets which are too large for the letter box may be delayed unless the addressee makes special arrangements with a person on the ground-floor to receive them from the Postman. Particulars of such arrangement should be communicated in writing to the local Postmaster. When packets are on hand at the Post Office a printed slip indicating the fact will be placed in the addressee's letter box.

GENERAL POST OFFICE JERUSALEM,	W. HUDSON.
28 July 1925,	POSTMASTER-GENERAL.
التلغراف والتلفون	دائرة الريد و
للان	
ت بواسطة الموزعين	توزيع الكاتبا

Figure 86

	P. T. 605 A
Palestine Posts, Telegraphs and Tele	
פ פושתינה (א"י). בישר המברקה והשחדרתום של פלשתינה (א"י).	
Office. Otto Date	19-8-27 EN
Received from Hatch factory Run	قد استالت من
The sum of fift founds of Onehuna	مبلغ قدره 9 مبلغ
forty millimes	nocia
on account of Telephone Service	و ذلك عن خدمة التلفون ولا معدا عدام ماها
(Trunk Call Deposit collected L.E. Mils) 1001	ديمورتو عن طلبات الترتك (الم هودار الوجهار فتداع
ملم Mils حنة مصري 14/0 و18 . L.E. 63/4/0	1211
	Signature
7670-109Bks-18.12.26.Lus.8.	ולמשו / התיימה

Figure 87

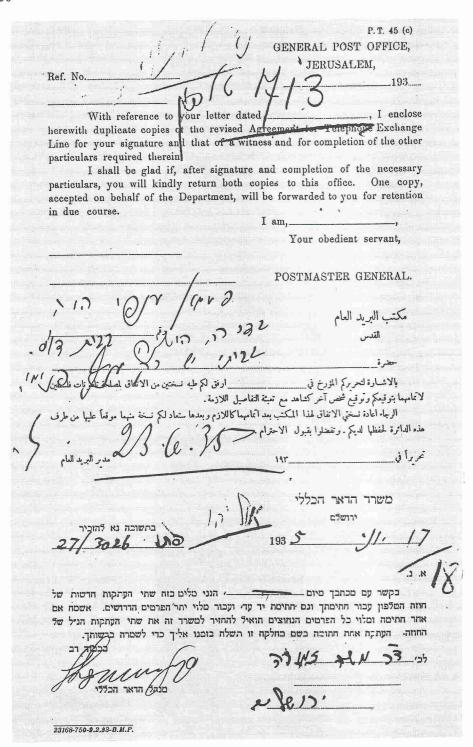


Figure 88 (1)

	P.T. 45 (d)
	GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Ref. No.	JERUSALEM
	193
·	
With reference to your letter dat	ted, I have
to return herewith your copy of Agree	eement for Telephone Exchange Line
duly amended.	and the second of the second
	l am,
	Your obedient Servant
	POSTMASTER GENERAL
	مكتب البريد العام
رقم	القدس
	خزة
اعيد لكم طيه نسخة الاتفاق	بالاشارة لتحريركم المؤرخ في
اعيد لكم طيه نسخة الاتفاق رل لحفظها لديكم وتفضلوا بقبول الاحترام	لمطحة تلفونات فلسطين متممة حسب الاص
	ند د اف
عن مدير البريد العام	نحريراً في
בתשובה נא להזכיר	משרד הדאר הכללי
27 422 03	ירושלים 193 <u>5 . נס</u> , <u>25</u>
271 420 50	193 5 10 , 25
	\$ 14 . One 1 3a
זויר בוה העתק תווה השלפון שלך מתוקן. כראוי.	משובה למכתבך מיום (ליים די ל. הנני מו
<i>,</i>	
ל בכבון רב ,	1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
בשם מנהל הדאב הכולני	[6] 300
······	1 h
29132-2000-54-35-Sl. P.	

Figure 89

16290-2600-28/2/30-C.M.J.P.

	P.†. 728(A)
Reference.	
	Head Post Office.
(FA	Hor 10
The state of the s	16-7 1946
Sir, I 6 6	
Madam,	
I shall be glad if	you will kindly call at this
	convenience foundary day,
except	, between the hours
of spow: and 1300	
	I am, Sir,
lou cher	Madam
	Your obedient servant,
	Notes .
	CHEAD FOSTMASTER.
MR Fecas 4	
1 0	they ad odr
1013.9	42 Hom 1.
	The state of the s
82676—8000—21.2.44—G.C.P.	

Figure 90

No. 2	11/47 P.T. 50 B.
Administration des Postes de la Palestine.	Correspondence avec l'Administration. Correspondence with the Post Office.
Bureum d'	8 4
Office of	of \
BULLETIN DE VERIFICATION	VERIFICATION NOTE
paditaire du nation pour la constatation de	Timbre du bureau
Myor lune verification and	correction of errors and
irregularities of all kinds	reconness day Godesen L. K. Etranger
No. du bureau d'échan	
No. from the office of en	
pour le bureau d'échange de for the office of exchange of	
of the Despatching	Stamp of the Receiving
ace of the V.N. 82	The state of the s
Recu 8 expedition du	e 19 at
	32583—12000—23.11.48—G.C.P.
	tarabourg No.949 avisé sur la eniale No. 2 "A.O." de votre dep
oi haut mentionée.	
Priere de traiter	l'affair d'urgeme.
···	
Haifa 9.4.47	
lo 194	le 194
the	Vu et accepté.
	Seen and accepted.
Les Agents de bureau d'échange destinatuire	
	Le Chef du bureau d'échange expéditeur de la dévêche.
Officers Receiving the mail	Le Chef du bureau d'échange expéditeur de la dépêche. The Chief of the Office despatching the mail.
Officers Receiving the mail	de la dépêche.

P.T. 84 (c) GENERAL POST OFFICE. Ref. No. 367 TV 1567 JERUSALEM. I have to refer to this office letter(s) No. RA payment of the sum of L.P. kon Tel Arix and the return of both copies of Agreement for Telephone Exchange Line, and to request a reply thereto. If a reply is not received within seven days after the date of this letter it will be assumed that the telephone is not required and your application will be cancelled. Your obedient servant

Figure 92

29867 -2000 -26 T 36. St. P.

ADDRESS MAS BEEN SEPARATED P.T. 249. FROM LETTER OR PAYCE P.T. 249. ILLE SEPARATED DE PAYCE L. P.T. 249.

الغلافات والبطاقات المعنونة للنفصلة عن الرزم
ان المحتويات قد انفصات عن الغلاف/البطافة المرفقة ولا يمكن التعرف عليها في الوقت الحاضر، ومن الممكن ان تكون قد وصلتكم على حدة، او ارجعت الى المرسل، فاذا المحتوية كدون بأنها لم تمد الى المرسل، مكان ان يبحث عنها اذا اردتم ذلك ، وفي هذه الحالة المرجو تعبئة النموذج المرفق وارجاعه الى هذه الدائرة مع الفلاف/البطاقة بعنوان. — المرجو تعبئة النموذج المراسلات المرتجعة ،
أما اذا كنتم لا ترغبون في اجراه بحث عن المحتويات فيمكنكم اهمال هذا النموذج.
اذا كانت المحتويات المعقودة قابلة للاستهلاك ، او اذا كان مصدرها من الخارج ، فعليكم ان تذكروا كل ما المكنكم من التفاصيل عند تعبئة النموذج ، وان ترسلوه الى العنوان المذكور اعلاه .
الم وحوال المرسل
مكان وزمان الابداع
وصف واف عن المحتويات المعقودة
اذا وجدت المحتويات فماذا ترغبون ان بعمل بها
اسم وعنوان مقدم هذا النموذج
\$8546-2500-12.9.46-G.C.P.

	P.T. 414 (b)
בתשובה נא להוכנר	משרה הראר הכפפי
28/1367 . 1.8	ירושלים:
	1935 Colalle 21.
	и.е.
ום <u>מענו</u> המקצר למברקים	הגני להוריעו- להודיעכם כי מוער רש
1935 Colstle 27	BANKEDEM IN BANKEDEM
ישום לעור שנה אחת, נא לשלם את	אם <u>ברעוני</u> לחרש את הר
- ilkou centilala	הסבום שר 1 (פים (איר) למנהל?
ه نام	(6/21: 1/12)
	ביום הניל או לפניו.
בכבוד רב,	11/1
וו. הודסון המנהל הכללי של כתי הראר.	
המנהל הכללי של בתי הראר.	
pra 6	ادد در مدم عود
	723 75
	p. 5012.
28797—500—9.4.34—G.C.P.	

Figure 94

	P.T. 45 B
בתשובה נא להזכיר	משרד הדאר הכללי
	19\$ 0 1/1120 23
	ж. с.
19-2-40	בקשר עם מכתבך כם מיום
שלך־כם מתוקנת כראוי.	הנני מחזיר בזה את העתקת חוזה המלפון
בכבוד רב	
ג, ה. ובסמר	7 Lyle . N W ">>>5
המנהל הכללי של בתי הדאר	
30621-1000-1.4.38 G.C.P.	

Figure 96

	<u>P.T. 45 A.</u>	
בתשובה נא להזכיר. מספר "מ, 188 / '9 אצ	משרד הדאר הכללי, ירושלים. או או אי או	+
האת העתק חוזה המלפון שברשותו	א. ג. PAL PETINF POSTS. TPI POSTS מיום אשמח לקכל תשובה מוקדם מיום איש בדבר מיום איש בדבר לשם תקון.	
בכבוד רב, ה. ובסמר מנהל הדאר הכללי.	a culto	
	Puni	
29672_1250_15,2.36_Com, P.		

Figure 95

	р.т. 413-н
בתשובה נא להזכיר	משרד הדאר הכללי
28/4381 -0	
195	s CJrhs 20
	מכתכו
מיום אצי 8 יצו	בקשר עם מכתבכם
PACOTEX TOTAL	באן בהנין מתככה לחורימכם
וצר, למברקים לתקופה שבין אצי-8-21	מתוכם
250 A. CES	1385
האל בנבון וב	
(S) A D KENNEDY	
(Sel.) D. H. MACKAY בשם המנהל הכללי של בתי הראר.	
	לכב׳
9. 327	
30512-1000-10.2.38. GP.	

Figure 97

מלמון מספר 900		ه.م. 84
ינא לענות נא לענות	the training and add	משרר הראר הכללי
מפקח המלפונים הראשי	57	ירושלים
36 17 130 n. a 2000 1101	.18 - 14 - 15 Canal	937 4

א. ג. בקשר עם מבתבק מיום 12 / פניל הודיעך־כם שאפשר דקבוע מדפון בדירתך־כם. המחירים חיו כדדקמן:-

דמי קביעה. כדס בים (א"י) שרבע מהם יסולק מיד לכשתתבקש־ו לכך, והשאר בתשלומים שוים ככל אחד משלושת החשבונות חרבע שנתיים שושלחו אחרי הקביעה.

דמי שכירות לשנת 2000 פ'פ (א"י) הנשלמים ברבעים למפרע. חסכום הזה הוא עבור 2000 שיחות מקומיות לשנה. 3 מיל יוטלו עבור כל שיחה מקומית נוספת ל־2000 חשיחות הניתנות בכל שנה.

פקדון:--פקדון ידרש ממנויים שברצונם להשתמש בשרות שיחות חוץ. הפקדון חמנימלי הוא 1.500 פ"פ (איי). אם בתחלת איזה רבע שנה, חשבון שיחות החוץ של שלשת חחדשים הקודמים יעלה יותר ממכום הפקדון. המנוי ידרש להגדיל את המכום המפקד בתור ערכון למכום חשות לכל חפחות ל-75% מערך חמכום של חשבון שיחות החוץ הנידון, שיעלה עד לחצי חלירה הקרובה ביותר. מצד שני אם חשבון שיחות החוץ יופחת מכום כיות בהתאם להפחתת, חשבון, שיחות החוץ יוחור למנוי בחשבון שיחות החוץ עבור חרבע מנמר בדצמבר על מנת שהמכום המפקד לא יופחת לממח מ־1.500 פיפ (איי).

כמו כן חסנויים יכולים גם לחררש לחפקיד ערבון בעד חשיחות המקומיות הנוספות למספר השיחות המניע לחם. מכום הפקדון המנימלן הוא 1.500 פ"פ (א"י). פקדון כזה יררש לכשיתכרר שחשמוש בשיחות המקומיות במשך חשנה מחייב לכך.

מנויים ששלמו דמי פקדון לשיחות חוץ לא יתבקשו לשלם את סכום הפקדון המנימפי חנידון במעיף האחרון אולם במקרה שפקדונם זה יחשב לכלתי מספיק גם לשיחות חוץ וגם לשיחות מקומיות עליהם יהיה להפקיד. ערבון כזה שיעלה עד 500 מיל הקרובים ביותר בכדי לקחת בחשבון גם את השיחות המקומיות הנוספות.

SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES

The Ottoman Period

New Findings from the Foreign Post Offices in Palestine

(Norman J. Collins)

The Austrian Post Office

An A.R. Cachet for the Austrian P.O. in Jerusalem.

During the research for The Foreign Post Offices In Palestine², no covers were reported with an A.R. cachet for the Austrian P.O. in Jerusalem. Covers were reported with A.R. cachets for Haifa P.O. (circa 1906–07) and for the Jaffa P.O. (circa 1905–06).

A most unusual cover has now come to light from The Jerusalem P.O. with an A.R. cachet (Fig. 99): It is addressed to the Pope and is only franked 2 Piastres. Thus, it is postage free and only the registration fee of 1 Piastre and A.R. fee of 1 Piastre have been charged. Postage was not required in Italy for mail to the King and to the Pope at that time, but it is a puzzle that the Austrian P.O. did not charge the postage fee at least to the border.

The cover has a registration label type 'O' numbered 734, and the stamps are cancelled by postmark type 549, dated 21st May 1910. A further strike is on the obverse of the cover; also on the obverse is the A.R. cachet and a straight-line cachet reading IERUSALEM (in violet) – the latter I believe is of a private nature. On the reverse is the transit mark of Naples Port (registered) dated 28th May, 1910. The Rome arrival marks on the obverse and reverse are smudgy and the date unreadable.

Acknowledgement: My thanks to Colin Pilkington, the editor of Fil-Italia, for the information as regards mail to the King of Italy and the Pope.

The French Post Office

(a) A Registered Cover from Cairo to Jerusalem, 1873

Recently an unusual cover has come to light – a registered cover from the French Post Office in Cairo to Jerusalem (Fig. 100). The item was posted in Cairo on 24th January, 1873, franked by two French 80 centime stamps of the 1871–76 issue with thick figures. These were cancelled by the "5119" Cairo Lozenge of Dots. On the obverse there is also a CHARGÉ (registered) handstamp similar to Jaffa type 317. On the reverse there are the transit marks of the French P.O. in Alexandria, dated 25th

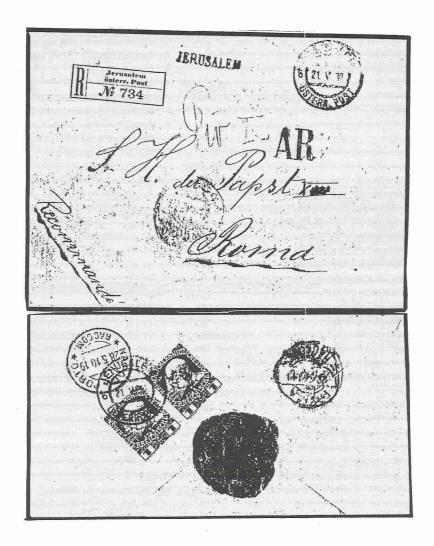


Fig. 99: The only cover recorded so far with an A.R. cachet for the Austrian P.O. in Jerusalem.

and 28th January, 1873 respectively, and a boxed cachet (weight marking) for Cairo similar to Jaffa type 318. Also on the reverse is the transit mark of the French P.O. in Jaffa, being the pearl ringed postmark type 302, dated 30th January, 1873.

This is the only registered cover from any of the French post offices in Egypt that I have seen for this early period. It pre-dates by four months the registered cover from Jaffa, which is shown in The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine¹, (p. 153, Fig. 158).

Can anyone show another cover of this period from any of the French P.O.'s in Egypt, to Palestine?

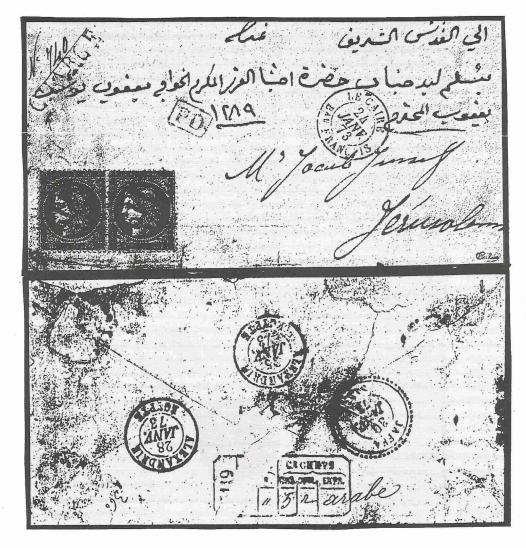


Fig. 100: A rare registered cover from the French P.O. in Cairo, to Jerusalem, 1873.

(b) A Rare Official Cover from Jerusalem

During my past research on the French Post Offices in Palestine¹, no official post office mail was reported. In December, 1997, an astounding cover came to light: an official "POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHS ET TÉLÉPHONES / SERVICE" cover (Fig. 101). It was sent from the French postmaster in Jerusalem to the postmaster at Lime, New York State, U.S.A.

The cover is registered, with an R-Label printed in red on buff paper, with a straight-line handstamp JERUSALEM in black. As this is a cover on postal business,

it is unfranked and has Jerusalem c.d.s. dated 4th February, 1914 as a dispatch mark. The cover is endorsed as on official business in manuscript and has the signature of the postal official authorising it. On the reverse is the NEW YORK oval registration receiving mark, dated 26th February 1914.

This item is the only copy known to me of a French post office official cover from Jerusalem of that period.

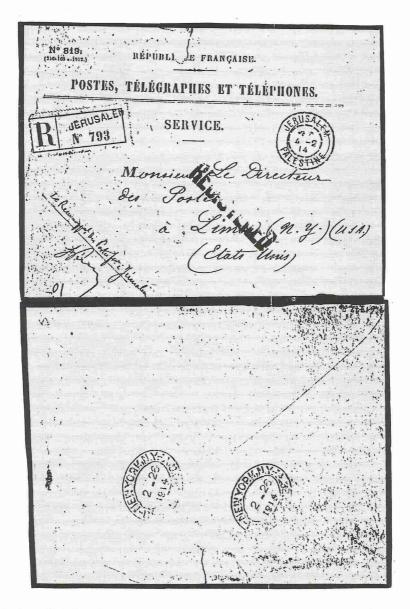


Fig. 101: An official registered cover from the French Postmaster in Jerusalem to the Postmaster in Lime, New York, U.S.A.

The Italian Post Office

(a) A New Type of Jerusalem Registration Label

In Volume II², three types of registration labels were recorded: types A, B and C. All have the same font letter 'R' in them. Recently, a registration label has come to light which has a different font 'R' (Fig. 102). The right leg of the 'R' is straight and does not have the outward pointing serrif at the foot. This new label can now be designated type 'D', as shown below, and added to the list.





Fig. 102: Registered cover from Jerusalem to Munich with the newly discovered registration label type 'D'. Franked by Italian Levant 80 Para / 50 Centisimi:

1 Piastre (= 40 Para) postage and 1 Piastre registration.

(b) A Faked Cover of the Jerusalem Italian P.O.

Shown below are both sides of a cover which purports to be a registered cover from Jerusalem Italian P.O. (Fig. 103). The stamp on the front has been cancelled by the forged single circle mark type F401, dated 13th May, 1909². On the reverse there are the cachets of "ORFANOTROFIO DI GESU BAMBINO/BETLEMME" (Gerusalemme), dated 27th October, 1908, a transit mark of Brindisi dated 4th November, 1908 and an arrival mark of Rome, dated 5th November, 1908.

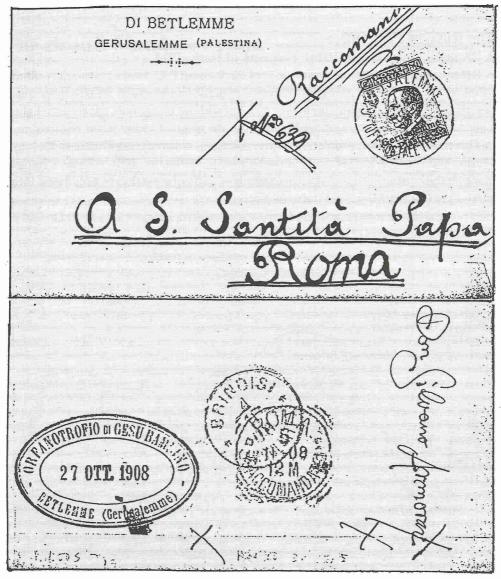


Fig. 103: Front and back of a faked cover, made of a genuine back and forged front, joined together.

The forger has taken a blank front of a cover from the orphanage and applied a 2 Piastre stamp, which he has cancelled with the forged mark. He has fixed to this front the back of a genuine cover.

A friend of mine bought this from an auction house and I advised him to return it. What I find most annoying is the fact that I had informed the auctioneer that this was a faked cover before the auction took place.

I can only reiterate the old saying "caveat emptor" ("Let the buyer beware"), when thinking of buying what purports to be a rare item, with a low estimate.

The Russian Post Office

A Previously Unrecorded ROPiT Postmark of Haifa, 1914

Recently I reported two new variations of the Russian P.O. Haifa postmark (Collins / Steichele type 612) and gave them the running numbers 614 and 615. Since these were reported, a new variation similar to type 613, but without bridge bars has come to light. This was first certified by George Muentz, but the original owner never reported it.

This new postmark (in violet) is on the reverse of a cover from Russia to Colony Jemma and is dated 16th May, 1914 (= 29th May, 1914) (Fig. 104). Also as a transit mark on the reverse of the cover is an example of Jaffa postmark type 636, dated 15th May, 1914 (= 28th May, 1914), also in violet.

I assign to this new postmark the designation type 616. Readers are advised to add it to "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine."

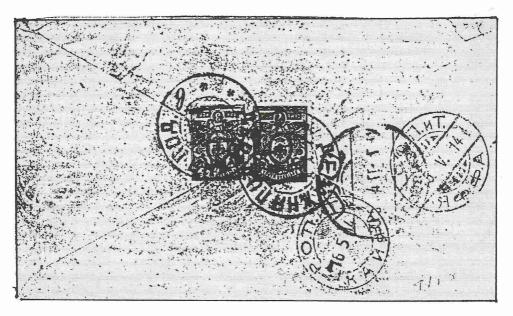


Fig. 104: Reverse of a cover from Russia to Colony Jemma, with Jaffa postmark type 636 and the new Haifa postmark now designated type 616.

References

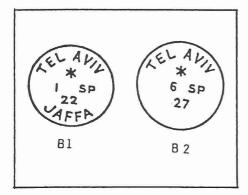
- (1) "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine, 1840–1918", Vol. I, English Revised Edition, by Norman J. Collins, Leopold Dickstein, 1990.
- (2) "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine, 1840-1918", Vol. II, English Revised Edition, by Norman J. Collins, Leopold Dickstein, 1991.

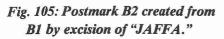
The British Mandate Period

An Unrecorded Mandate Traveling Post Office Postmark

(Shaul P. Ladany, Omer)

The postal history of the Holy Land has on record many cases in which changing circumstances necessitated the creation of new postal cancelling devices. In most of those cases a totally new device was manufactured. However, in a few instances – usually as a response to change in the magnitude of postal traffic to certain locations – the new cancelling device was created by a simple change of the old device. Such was the case, for example, when the growing volume of mail to the rapidly growing Northern suburb of Jaffa, Tel Aviv, coupled with the establishment of the Municipality of Tel Aviv, called for a "Tel Aviv" instead of the prevailing "Jaffa-Tel Aviv" postmarking instrument. The new engraved instrument was obtained by the simple excision of the word "Jaffa" in the old engraved instrument. The other features of the original canceller remained intact. See Fig. 105 and Fig. 106, respectively with the pairs of postmarks No. B1 & B2, and C1 & C2 of Mandate Tel Aviv.





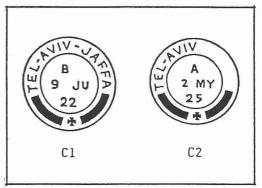


Fig. 106: Postmark C2 created from C1 by excision of "JAFFA."

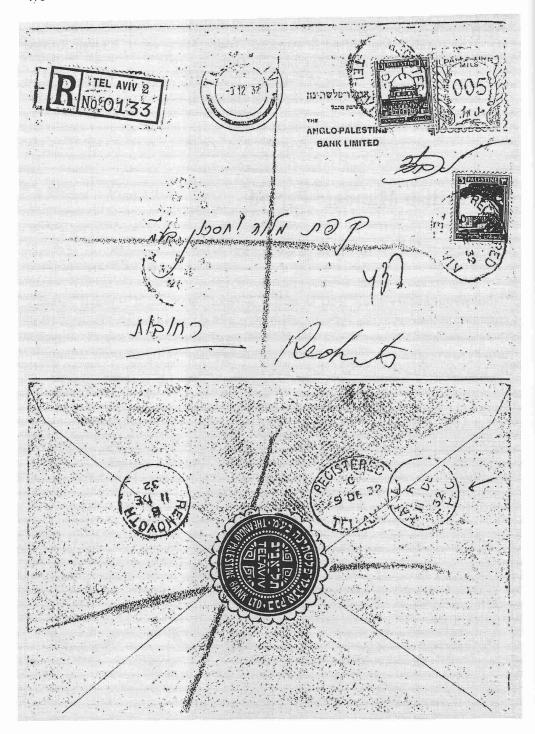


Fig. 107: A registered cover from Tel Aviv to Rehovoth, with a backstamp of an unrecorded "Haifa T.P.O." postmark.

It is clear that the population growth of Tel Aviv and Rehovoth, together with the growth of economic activity in these towns, increased the volume of mail between these locations. Since a portion of the mail was transported by train, via Lydda, it is plausible to assume that the volume of registered mail carried by train between Tel Aviv and Rehovoth had increased as well. Postal clerks, at any postal facility – including at train travelling postal offices – had to cancel all registered mail under their responsibility, generating a postmark which shows when and where the cancellation was applied. The prevailing cancellers, Haifa-Kantara, South or North, were vague in providing information where the cancellation was applied to a letter along the 300 km. long route between Haifa and Kantara. It seems that when the volume of registered mail increased between the Jewish towns along or adjacent to the coastal railway line, a new canceller was created by erasing the word "Kantara" and possibly also the dash in one of the existing engraved "Haifa-Kantara T.P.O." devices of the type Dorfman¹ No. 28 or No. 29.

These assumptions and conclusions are the result of the careful analysis of the cover in Fig. 107. The item discussed is a registered cover mailed on December 9, 1932 from Bank Anglo-Palestine headquarters in Tel Aviv, to its Rehovoth branch office. The T.P.O. postmark on the back has a diameter of about 24 mm and the letters are about 3mm high. This postmark is complete in its circumference, all letters and digits inside the circle are clear (except for the dash which might belong to the contour of a partially overlapping oval Tel Aviv registration mark), and there is no evidence of erasure. No philatelic manipulation is suspected, since the author received this cover, with other seemingly worthless banking covers, for free, from the archives of a non-collector physician. Enlarged view of this previously unrecorded T.P.O. postmark is shown on the left side of Fig. 108, besides the master-postmark (Dorfman No. 28 or 29) from which it was presumably created.



Fig. 108: Unrecorded postmark (left) created from Dorfman 28 (right) by excision of "RAFA."

Why is this the only known copy known until today? The answer is not clear. It is logically plausible that either:

- (1) the change of the cancellation device was unauthorized, and thus the authorities banned its further use;
- (2) the new postmark did not provide much more information (in regard to the location where the postmark was applied) than the device it replaced, and therefore it was revoked; or
- (3) the device was created accidentally when the engraved letters "Kantara" broke off, and after the completion of the train ride, the cancelling device was either replaced or repaired.

Any suggestions supporting or opposing the expressed views are welcome.

References

- (1) Dorfman, David, **Palestine Mandate Postmarks**, Tower of David, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, 1985, pp. 30-31.
- (2) Groten, Arthur H., The Postmarks of Mandate Tel Aviv, Society of Israel Philatelists Educational Fund, Beachwood, Ohio, 1987, pp. 2-7.

Correcting the Record

(Arthur M. Hochheiser)

The meaning of a "Printer's Legend" has been reported frequently in the Holy Land literature. Usually this four-part code is found at the bottom left of a printed form, as shown in the illustration (Fig. 109). To repeat, the code consists of four parts. The first number is a "work order." The second number is the "quantity" printed. The third number is the "date of printing." The fourth character is usually a "group of letters" being the abbreviation of the name of the firm that printed the forms. In some cases, the name of the firm is spelled out completely.

There were more than twenty-five firms which printed forms for the Administration in Palestine during the Mandate period. Shown here in the illustration is a "Printer's Legend" with the printing firm's initials "L.J.S.P.". This has previously been reported as belonging to the "London Jewish (sic) Society Press". This is in error as you will be shown.

Recently, I acquired a book entitled "The American Colony Palestine Guide" by G. Olaf Matson. This copy is a third edition, released in 1930, published by The American Colony Stores, Inc., in Jerusalem, Palestine.

In addition to the history and geography of Palestine, there is a section on institutions in Jerusalem. In a section on "religion," there is listed the "London Jews' (sic) Society – Christ Church, a large hospital, a printing establishment and workshop and a boys' school". This should identify "L.J.S.P." as "London Jews' Society Press".

Under a section listing institutions, hospitals are listed. Among them is the English Mission Hospital "London Jews' (sic) Society." This should now verify the "Printer's Legend" code L.J.S.P. correctly.

As a result of this information, further inquiry was indicated. Checking into the Encyclopedia Judaica, the following research was elicited on the London Jews' Society. This is a Bible Society. Some Bible Societies are associations founded with the intention of propagating the Christian Bible; i.e. the Old and New Testaments. The first such Society was founded in 1719 in Germany. Numerous other Bible Societies were founded during the following two hundred years in a number of other European countries as well. In 1809 the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews had been founded largely through the enthusiasm of a wealthy German Jewish convert. The first New Testament in Hebrew was published in 1817 by the London Society for Promoting Christianity among Jews, better known as the London Jews' Society.

P.T. 40

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.

Date Stamp

Docket to be attached to the "C" form (office copy) of any Telegram in which an irregular combination is observed.

Attention is directed to the undermentioned discrepancy—

Figure 109

The Minhelet Ha'am Period

A Courier Letter from Tel Aviv to Besieged Jerusalem, May 1948 (Z. Aloni, Ra'anana)

A few years ago I purchased in an auction a lot containing a few Jerusalem letters. Among them was a very unappealing stampless letter – a page of paper folded and glued with brown adhesive paper of the type used to protect glass during the war. The letter was addressed to "Dr. Mares, 3 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem" and cancelled with the Jerusalem "rosette" postmark, dated 27 May, 1948 (Fig. 110). The letter was sent from Tel Aviv on the 4th of May written in Romanian on a textile firm stationery (Fig. 111).

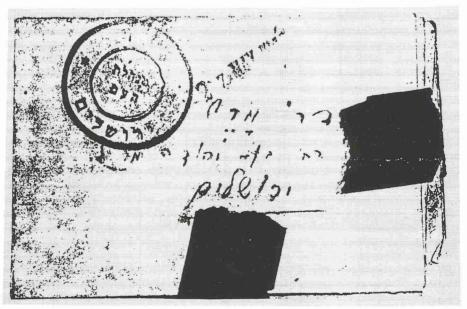


Figure 110



Figure 111

From the translation of the contents we can learn about the situation in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The sender noted that he is giving the letter to someone who will take it to Jerusalem and adds "... don't ask how because I don't know". He also writes that he has tried to send a telegram to Jerusalem, but the Post Office refused to accept it, so he sent a telegram to Bucharest, Romania to their relatives. Later he asks about some packages that he sent to Jerusalem: he sent 7 packages of food and clothing by Taxi "Yael," "Atid" and "Aleh," and he wants to know if they have been received. He adds that business during the last weeks was very bad due to the shooting in Jaffa (the place is 12 Hertzl St., near Salameh road, on the Tel Aviv and Jaffa border), but in the last three days there is a complete silence since the ceasefire was signed.

The letter, as mentioned above, was sent from Tel Aviv on the 4th of May and was stamped on arrival in Jerusalem on the 27th, after having been dropped into one of the mail boxes in the city. How did it reach Jerusalem? The last convoy of the "Operation Nahshon" reached Jerusalem on 20th April, and the first convoys through the "Burma Road" passed only on 31st May. So the only possibility is that the letter was carried to Jerusalem by one of the participants in the "Operation Maccabi" which started on 10th May. Any suggestions about the route and time of this letter will be most appreciated.



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GENERAL NEWS

New Cancellations and Post Offices

(Compiled by I. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 112):

25.12.97: "11th Conference of Israeli Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

29.12.97: "The Third Telecard Collectors Gathering in Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

30.12.97: "Eurostars '97", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

30.12.97: "50 Years to the State of Israel, 75 Years to Ramat Hasharon", Ramat Hasharon.



Fig. 112: Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

20.1.98: "Bat Ami Fair for Voluntary National Service", Jerusalem.

8.2.98: "Greetings to the Israel Delegation. The XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano 1998", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

17.2.98: "The War of Independence", Jerusaelm*.

17.2.98: "Chaim Herzog", Jerusalem*.

17.2.98: "Sport definitives", Tel Aviv-Yafo*.

17.2.98: "The XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano 1998", Netanya*.



Fig. 112 (continued): Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

^{*} This was used also as special postmark for the F.D. of the corresponding stamp issue.

B. Definitive Cancellations

Ed Note: Regretfully our dedicated member Israel Nachtigal is unable to edit this part of the cancellations' review and we are forced to skip it for the time being. We will greatly appreciate any of our members volunteering to perform this task.

New Stamps and Postal Stationery

The stamps issued in the last period will be reported in the next Bulletin.

Postal Stationery

- 17.2.98: An Inland postcard imprinted with the "Srulik" non-denominated "stamp" (sold for NIS 1.15), a booklet and a tête-bêche sheet (s. Front Cover) with the same stamp; An air mail postcard with an imprinted "stamp" commemorating the 1998 Nagano (Japan) Olympic Winter Games (Fig. 113; sold for NIS 1.40).
- 15.3.98: An Aerogramme imprinted with the "Srulik" n-d stamp and showing also the "Israel 98" logo (Fig. 114; sold for NIS 1.40); An inland envelope (size 23x11 cm) imprinted with a similar n-d "stamp" (Fig. 115; sold for NIS 1.34).

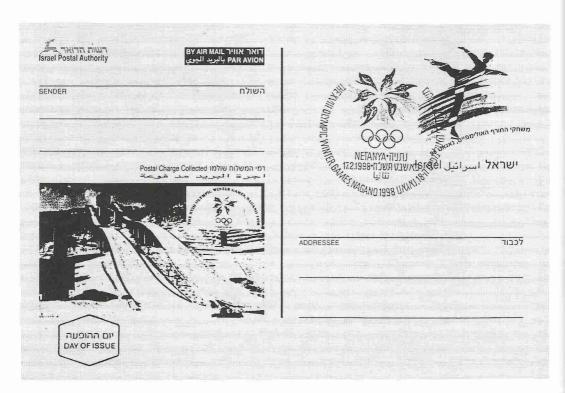


Figure 113

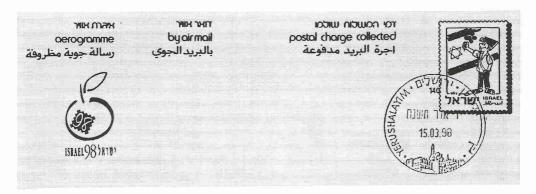


Figure 114



Figure 115

The Postal and Philatelic Museum

Fifteen years ago we wrote in our Bulletin¹, "The Philatelic Museum..., a dream of many years, has finally come true!...". Although several months later, on 26 September, 1983, the cornerstone of the Museum was laid on the grounds of Eretz-Israel Museum (Tel Aviv),² it was only in the end of 1991 that the building for the Museum had been constructed³, and it is only now going to be inaugurated for its original purpose – the opening ceremony is planned to be held on 19 May as part of the program of the World Stamp Exhibition "Israel 98."

The following paragraph is a reprint (courtesy of the Israel Philatelic Service) of the brochure published in conjunction with this event and with the issuance of the special Museum souvenir sheet (Fig. 116).



Figure 116

The Postal and Philatelic Museum documents the role of post in the historical development of Eretz-Israel. It exhibits rare stamps and entires from different periods, valuable items and important historical documents connected with the world of post and philately in Israel and around the world.

Like many other countries, Israel appreciates its cultural heritage and the role of the postal service and stamps in its history. Stamps document events and people which are engraved in the collective memory of a nation, certainly that of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

The museum was established through the joint efforts of the Postal Authority, the Eretz-Israel Museum – Tel Aviv and the Tel Aviv Foundation.

The Museum will serve both as an active point of interest for young students and visitors and as a magnet for stamp collectors in Israel and around the world. It will offer a permanent exhibition employing innovative methods, a postal and philatelic library, a lecture hall and classrooms.

Visitors will be able to view 150 years of postal history in the Land of Israel, including the Ottoman period, the British Mandate period, the Minhelet Ha'am, Doar Ivri and the history of post and communication in the early period of the State of Israel. Achievements of the Postal Authority in recent years will be depicted alongside an exhibition of the history of communication during thousands of years. A special wing will be devoted to philately, emphasizing the designing and production processes and the collection of stamps. Another wing will be designated for temporary exhibitions concerning post and philately.

The official opening of the Museum of Post and Philately has been planned for May 1998, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel and the opening of the "Israel 98" World Stamp Exhibition.

References

- (1) HLPH # 15 (1983), p. 733.
- (2) HLPH # 16 (1983), p. 840.
- (3) HLPH # 48 (1991), p. 423.

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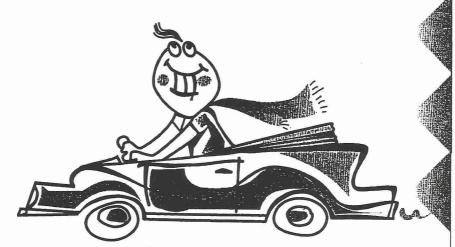
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Holy Land Postal History Society

Letter from the Editors

Dear Members,

The editors of the "Holy Land Postal History" Bulletin wish to apologise to all of our members for the very late and limited issue of the last year (1997).

Two things happened to cause this. The first is that one of us was ill for quite a long time, and was therefore unable to attend to the many pressing things which needed attention. This was caused by the second reason, the fact that we not only changed our printers but also the word processing programme. The resultant confusion took a tremendously long time to sort out. At long last this has all been corrected, and the health of both the computer and the editor has improved.

To compensate members we are publishing a monograph by N. Gladstone and E. Glassman ("A supplement to the Government Cachets of Mandate Palestine by Michael Sacher"). This will be distributed shortly, **free to all members**.

Price of the monograph for non-members will be US \$12 (p.p.).

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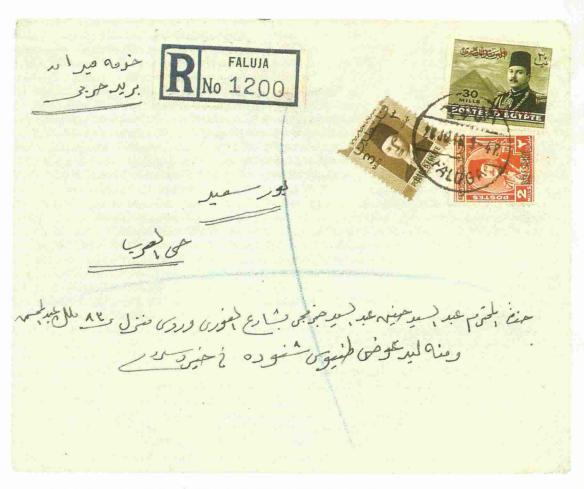
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מכתב רשום נדיר מאד מדואר הכבוש המצרי בפלוג'ה, מזמן מלחמת השחרור, יוני 1948 A very rare registered letter from the Egyptian Occupation Post in Faluga from the time of the War of Liberation, June 1948 (S. article on p. 399)

חורף תשנ"ז / סתיו תשנ"ח