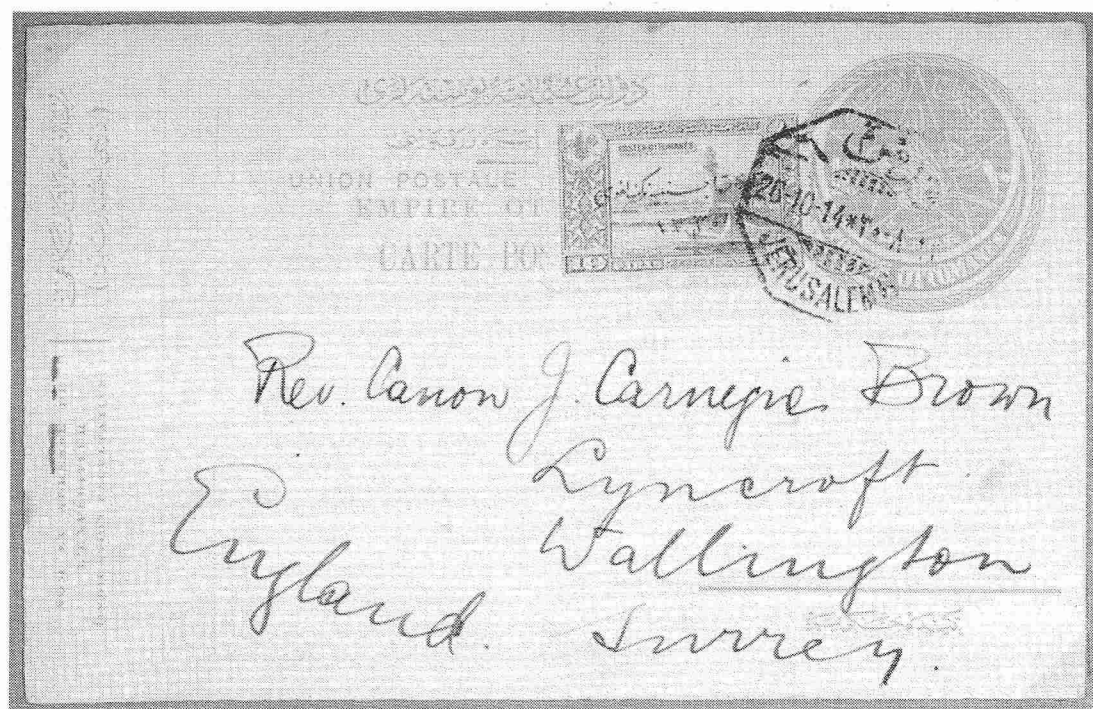


# Holy Land Postal History

V  
81-82

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



בול מסדרת הנופים הטורקית מ-1914, עם הדפס רכב בצבע אדום "בטול הקפיטולציות 1330", על גלוית הדפס מירושלים לאנגליה, שנשלחה ב-26 באוקטובר 1914. בול זה, על דבר דואר מוחתם בארץ ישראל, הוא נדיר ביותר

A 10 para stamp of the Turkish 1914 Issue overprinted in red, "Abrogation of the Capitulation 1330" on a prestamped postcard from Jerusalem to England, sent on Oct. 26, 1914. Extremely rare as used in the Holy Land (See article on p. 2).



WINTER/SPRING 2000

# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

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

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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**Stop Press:** With very deep regret we announce the death of our veteran and faithful treasurer Mr. Mordechai Sondak Z.L., who has been with us since the foundation of the HLPH Society twenty years ago. Mordechai died on Wednesday, July 12, at the age of 85; let his sole rest in peace. We send our sincere condolences to his family and to his Kibbutz, Ma’ale Ha’chamisha.

**New Temporary Treasurer:** Our member Beni Kaliner, has volunteered to carry on the “job” until a new treasurer will be elected formally. For the time being, therefore, please address any mail intended for the treasurer to **Beni Kaliner, 36 Harav Berlin St., Jerusalem 92506, Israel.**



## Abrogation of the Capitulation Treaties

*J. Alexander, London*

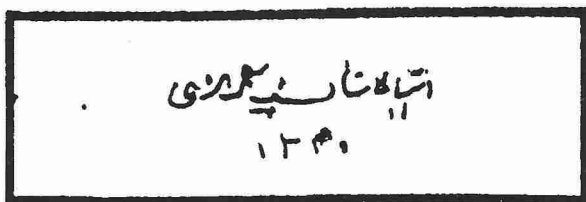
Capitulation treaties between European powers and the Ottoman Empire existed for hundreds of years. Those Treaties gave European citizens residing in the Ottoman Empire special rights, such as protection from Turkish courts, and other extra territorial commercial rights. In the middle of the 19th century, with the development of the postal system those rights were extended to the opening and operation of foreign post offices.

In Palestine the first foreign post offices were opened in the 1850's by the French, Austrians and Russians, with the assistance of their respective Consulates and shipping lines. They were followed by the German post which opened in October 1898 in Jaffa, in preparation for the German Kaiser's visit. The last office to open was the Italian post office, in Jerusalem in 1908. The foreign post offices, which were permitted to operate only in the three big towns of Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa, were obviously very much resented by the Turkish authorities, both as an offence to the Turkish sovereignty and as strong competition to the Turkish post itself which was much less efficient.

With the outbreak of World War One the Turkish authorities abrogated the capitulation treaties and closed the foreign post offices throughout the Ottoman Empire on October 1st, 1914.

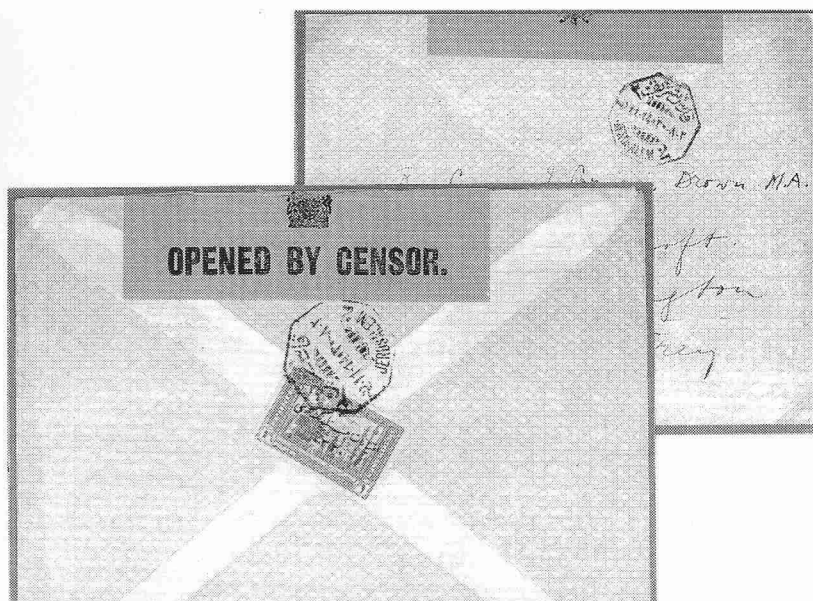
To celebrate this event the set of Turkish pictorial stamps, issued in 1914, from 5 Para to 10 Piaster, was overprinted with the "Abrogation of the Capitulation 1330" (1914) legend as shown in Figure 1. The stamps are not rare, whereas covers with such overprinted stamps, throughout the Turkish Empire, are for some reason very rare.

In thirty years of collecting I have seen only five covers originating in Palestine franked with such overprinted stamps. They are shown on the Front Cover and in the following figures (Figs. 2-5).



*Fig. 1: Enlarged overprint, "Abrogation of the Capitulation 1330" which was printed on the Turkish 1914 Pictorial Issue.*





*Fig. 2: Nov. 2, 1914 Jerusalem to England. Red overprint on the 1 piaster stamp. Letter posted in the interim period between the breaking of diplomatic relations and the declaration of war and therefore not censored in Jerusalem, but censored in England.*



*Fig. 3: Jan 10, 1915 Rehovoth to California. Black overprint on two 5 para stamps. Censorship cachet "No. 1", in use for one month only at the beginning of the war. Another small violet censorship cachet recorded previously in black color during six days only: Dec 30, 1914 - Jan 6, 1915.*





Fig. 4: Feb 10, 1915 Rehovoth to California. Black overprint on two 5 para stamps. Postcard written by Jacob Hazanoff (one of the 11 founders of Gadera in 1884). Censorship cachet "No. 2", in use for one month only at the beginning of the war.

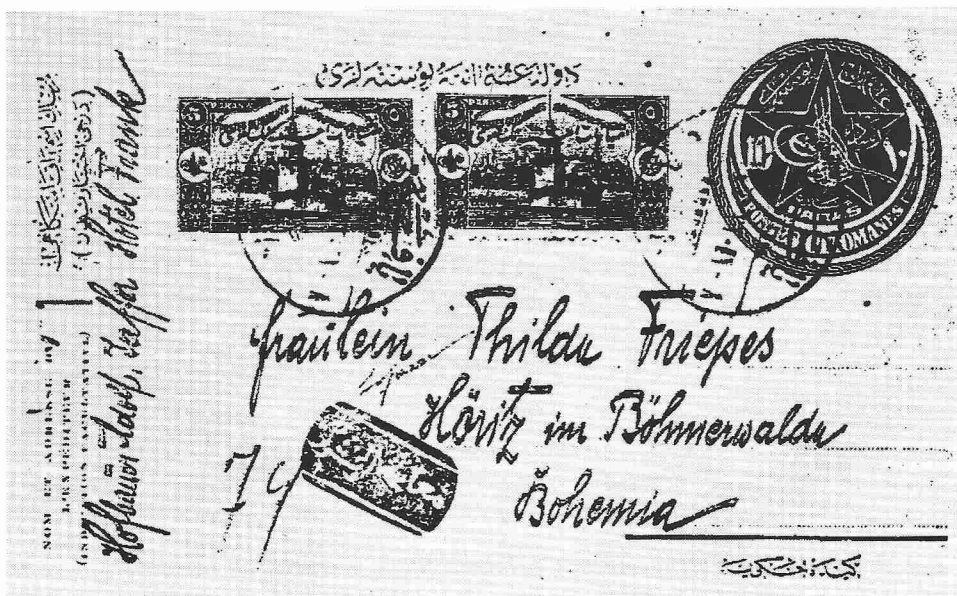


Fig. 5: Mar 21, 1915 Jaffa to Bohemia. Black overprint on two 5 para stamps. Small censorship cachet recorded previously in use for six days only.

## Outlining "Economy Use" In Palestine

*Arthur N. Hochheiser, Hackensack, N.J.*

Articles have appeared previously in Holy Land literature detailing certain instructions by the Postal Authorities on the "economy use" of materials. This was ever a 'watchword' during the entire administration of the Palestine Mandate. This was particularly true of the Postal Administration, which probably required the printing of more forms and envelopes than all other departments of government combined. The need for "economy use" of materials became more evident in the late 1930's and especially during the war years of World War II since the primary sources of paper, that from the Axis Countries of central Europe and its smaller satellites, were cut off from the Allied countries and their colonies.

While some aspects of "economy use" have been pointed out, this article proposes to outline in more detail all methods for "economy use" of materials. There were essentially six different features of materials which were available for reuse.

- (1) The reuse of the duplicate backs of forms remaining on file in the post office where the originals were issued to patrons.
- (2) The reuse of all departmental forms which were not required to be kept on file or were surplus.
- (3) The reuse of the backs of non-postal department forms.
- (4) The reuse of all envelopes from any source.
- (5) The subsequent reissuing of forms on smaller sheets of paper.
- (6) The "interim use" of old forms from previous administrations. This form of "economy use" of Palestine forms was carried over by the "Minhlet Ha'am" and the State of Israel.

### Economy Use #1

Figure 6 shows part of a page originally containing six imperforated forms remaining on file of Form P.T. 512. The originals were issued to postal patrons. This original file page has been cut in half and the backs, shown in Figure 7, were used on an "economy use" basis to send a Department Circular Letter. While the form was printed on Mar 12, 1935, the letter was not sent until Nov 29, 1944.

Another example of this type of "economy use" is shown in Figures 8 and 9. Figure 8 is the front of a Form P.T. 608, prepared in triplicate, two copies to be forwarded with a remittance. Shown is the file copy, dated Oct 27, 1942. Figure 9 is the reverse used over one year later by the Deputy Postmaster General's Office to send a message.

### Economy Use #2

This method of "economy use" of forms has by far the most plentiful of



צ'רור דאר עפ'י הטען דלמטה נרשם היום

Date Stamp *35* *ה'תרצ"ה* *9/11*

Accepting Clerk *המפקד המכתב*

29223-2500 Bks.—12.3.35—S.O.P.

P. T. 512.

Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet.

תזכרת צדיר רזמה מסجلة תעודת משלוח של צ'רור דאר רשום.

Registration No. *3660* Registration fee paid 13/5 *13/5* *מלא*  
 مرة التسجيل *3660* قيمة التسجيل المدفوعة 13/5  
 מספר הרשום דמי הרשום ששולמו 13/5 *מלא*

A Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered this day  
 אן הרזמה המנונה אדאם סגלת פי הריד היום  
 צ'רור דאר עפ'י הטען דלמטה נרשם היום

Date Stamp *ה'תרצ"ה* *9/11*

Accepting Clerk *Sub Accountant* *המפקד המכתב*

29223-2500 Bks.—12.3.35—S.O.P.

P. T. 512.

Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet.

תזכרת צדיר רזמה מסجلة תעודת משלוח של צ'רור דאר רשום.

Registration No. *3661* Registration fee paid 13/5 *13/5* *מלא*  
 مرة التسجيل *3661* قيمة التسجيل المدفوعة 13/5  
 מספר הרשום דמי הרשום ששולמו 13/5 *מלא*

A Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered this day  
 אן הרזמה המנונה אדאם סגלת פי הריד היום  
 צ'רור דאר עפ'י הטען דלמטה נרשם היום

Date Stamp *ה'תרצ"ה* *9/11*

Accepting Clerk *המפקד המכתב*

29223-2500 Bks.—12.3.35—S.O.P.

Figure 6



DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

CIRCULAR LETTER No. 41 of 1944.

Loss of Pass Cards.

The following additions should be made to the list of lost entrance pass cards exhibited at Watchmen/Doorkeepers' posts :-

Name	Rank	Branch or Section	Station	Type	Number
Mr. Missa Cafity	Postman	Sorting Office	Jerusalem	Primrose	960
Mr. Nissim Albalek	Temporary Postman	-do-	-do-	-do-	1805
Mr. G. Giacomani	Temporary Clerk	-do-	-do-	-do-	1865

Care should be taken that persons who may present the lost passes are NOT admitted to any part of Post Office premises. If the passes are presented they must be retained and the circumstances reported to the Police immediately, followed by reports to the local Post Office Security Officer and to the Deputy Postmaster General as instructed in Post Office Circular No. 853, dated 5th July, 1944.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
JERUSALEM.  
29th November, 1944.

(P.T. 115/10/9)

**Figure 7**

examples. Several will be pointed out. Figure 10 shows the upper half of an unused surplus form P.T. 804(b) printed in Hebrew. This is an Application for License to Use Wireless Receiving Apparatus. Figure 11 is the reverse showing an interdepartmental letter used over ten years after the form was printed.

Figure 12 is a form P.T. 420 "For Departmental Use Only". A reply by the postmaster is noted on the reverse (Fig. 13).

Figure 14 is an Express Delivery notice mailed on Aug 28 1942. The reverse (Fig. 15) sent one and a half years later is a letter sent by the Deputy Controller of Posts.

### **Economy Use #3**

Figure 16 shows part of a "Receiving License" (non postal) expiring on 31 Mar 1939. The reverse (Fig. 17) is a letter mailed in Oct 1942 relative to postal matters. D.P.M.G. are the initials for "Deputy Post Master General".

### **Economy Use #4**

The reuse of all envelopes as an "economy use" measure is an interesting story in itself. There were two major methods employed. Shown in Figure 18 is the plain envelope Form P.T. 749. This was elaborated for use with telegrams by adding a transparent window in the center/address area Form P.T. 749 B (Fig. 19). Excess

P.T. 603.

PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

CASH REMITTANCE F N<sup>o</sup> 7310

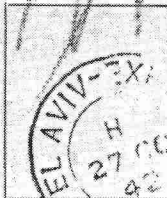
From

To

31426-500 Bks. 18.12.39-G.

Particulars of Remittance	L.P.	Mils
50 Notes at LP.	50	000
" LP.		
" LP.		
" LP.		
" LP.		
" 500 Mils.		
Coin		
TOTAL	50	000

Date Stamp



Signature

Rank

Note:- To be prepared in triplicate; two copies to be forwarded with the Remittance.

Figure 8



P.T.C.49. \ 17th February, 1944.

Deputy Postmaster General,

Subject :- Yokneam Postal Agency  
Category "C".

Reference:- Papers HR.20555/42.

I have to confirm  
that the abovementioned Postal  
Agency was opened on the 15th  
February, 1944.

S. Stephan  
DEPUTY CONTROLLER OF POSTS(B)

Copy to:- Ch. Accountant,

With receipt of the  
imprest of LP.10.

DB/RP

Figure 9

P. T. 804(b)

הדארי המברקה והשח-רחוק של מלשתינה (א"י)  
**פקודת התלגראף האלחוטית 1924-1932**  
 טופס בקשה לרשיון להשתמש במכשיר מקבל

1. (א) שם המבקש (במלואו) .....

..... משלח ירו.

..... מעטו

(ב) נתינותו של המבקש .....

(ג) אם המבקש הוא פחות מכן י"ח, צריך לענות על השאלות דלקמן:

(1) \* שמו המלא של אחד ההורים או של האפוטרופוס .....

(2) נתינותו .....

(3) היחס המשפחתי (אם ישנו) שבין המבקש .....

(4) משלוח ירו .....

(5) כתבתו .....

2. הכתובת המלאה של המקום או המקומות שבהם יחזיקני את מכשירי האלחוט .....

Figure 10

envelopes were modified to accomodate Airgraphs. Figure 20 shows the "Return Message" blocked out and "AIRGRAPH" printed above the window. Later these envelopes were again modified for general use by blocking out both the "Return Message" at the bottom and "AIRGRAPH" at the top (Fig. 21).

However, during the war years of World War II, another measure was employed to aid in the reuse of all envelopes. Form P.T. 445 was applied to the back flap of all envelopes. The instructions are self explanatory (Fig. 22).

### Economy Use #5

Figure 23 shows four superimposed copies of Form P.T. 418. The dates of printing are succssively (1) Aug 21, 1947; (2) Feb 2, 1941; (3) Sep 4, 1939; (4) some time prior to June, 1932 as revealed by the date that the form was sent. The "Printer's Legends" reveal this and the fact that each form was printed by a different firm. However, the more interesting feature pertinent to this article is that each form was printed on successively smaller sheets of paper even though the contents are identical.

Another example of this type of "Ecomony Use" is shown in Figure 24. This shows two copies of Form P.T. 791. While the contents are identical, the later copy printed on Oct 18, 1943 is half the size of the copy on which it was superimposed,

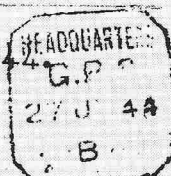


EW/M.T.28.

Jaffa - 25th July, 1944

Engineer-in-Chief,

Subject :- Mr. Nimer Sharbaji - M.T.  
Driver - absence from duty.



-- Reference:- Enclosed.

It appears that the abovementioned driver became involved in a fracas in the Manshieh Quarter, Jaffa on 9.7.44 and was taken into custody with others.

2. He did not report for duty on that day.

3. The following day he reported for duty at 0930 hours after all duties have been allocated and therefore, was sent home by his Foreman, no other duties being available.

4. Under the circumstances, it is recommended that he forfeits pay in respect of these two days.

for decision please

*Francis*  
DIVISIONAL ENGINEER WEST.

*Approved*  
*Am*

Figure 11



P. T. 420.

(For departmental use only)

Ref. No. 17 C 49 Office RR

17. 12 1983

Postmaster

Nesku Yajur

Subject:- Postal Agent  
Yaknam

Reference:- My letter  
Papers number aa forwarded  
to you on 9. 11. 43

Please expedite a reply to  
return of the abovementioned letter  
papers  
or state how the matter now stands.

T. H. Reddy  
Deputy

(Signature and rank of signing officer)

PT 10

90889-10000-81.10.38-G.C.P.

Figure 12

S.D.1/12/5. 6th November, 1943.

Deputy Controller of Posts,

Subject :- Postal Agency Category C - Yokneam near Nesher Yajour.

Reference:- P.T.C.49 of 4th November, 1943.

The engagement of Miss Hanna Rosin as Postal Agent Yokneam is approved subject to the usual conditions.

DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Copy to:- S.D.

*Figure 13*

printed on Sep 11, 1934. Note, too, that the "Printer's Legends" reveal both forms were printed by the same firm, G.C.P., the Greek Convent Press, the largest printing firm in Palestine.

### **Economy Use #6**

The inclusion of "interim use" forms in the list of types of "economy use" forms comes as a necessary afterthought.

The term "interim" is used in philately to describe a period of necessary improvisation by an authority before it has had time to provide its own materials. In some instances, the use of prior authority forms was carried over even after the new authority provided its own forms. This was a true "economy use".

Actually, there were three "interim" periods involving the Palestine Postal Service. The first "interim period" began with the invasion of Southern Palestine by the E.E.F. (The Egyptian Expeditionary Forces), the name of the British Army. The Postal Authorities were immediately required to provide service both for the military personnel and the civilian population. Perforce, they improvised by using either British or Egyptian forms, modified for use in Palestine. At the onset of the occupation, the need for the telegraph service was most important. Accordingly, the first forms in use by the Military Administration were telegraph forms. Shown in Figure 25 was one of the earliest forms, an Egyptian State Telegraph G.14 sent on May 13, 1919 from Kantara. This was certainly "economy use" in action.




P.T. 528

**PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.**

**EXPRESS DELIVERY.**

31616-2000 Pds.-27.5.40-G.C.P. E. No. 315

Distance		No. of Articles (If more than 1)	Office of Origin. If registered Registration Particulars to be shown (Service II)	Office Date Stamp	
Kilom.	Metres				
1		1	<i>[Signature]</i>		

ARGES.	Postage (Service II)	Express Fee	Registration Fee	For Articles above one	Other Charges (nature to be stated)
Prepaid by Sender	Mils <u>10</u>	Mils <u>125</u>	Mils	Mils	Mils
To be collected from Addressee					

ADDRESS OF ARTICLE.

*controller of Heavy Industry*

*[Signature]*

(Service I) H. M.	H. M.
Handed in at _____ Messenger <u>124</u>	despatched at <u>1945</u>
H. M.	Initials of
Messenger returned at <u>1230</u>	Despatching officer <u>[Signature]</u>

Postage Stamps to be affixed here by the Sender

*stamps fixed on the envelope*

**COST OF DELIVERY**  
(Value of personal labour only; to be entered on Messenger's return)

Mils \_\_\_\_\_

Received by <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	H. M.
---------------------------------------	-------

الساعة والدقيقة

في

الساعة

11:00

تسليم الى

مكتب البريد

Figure 14



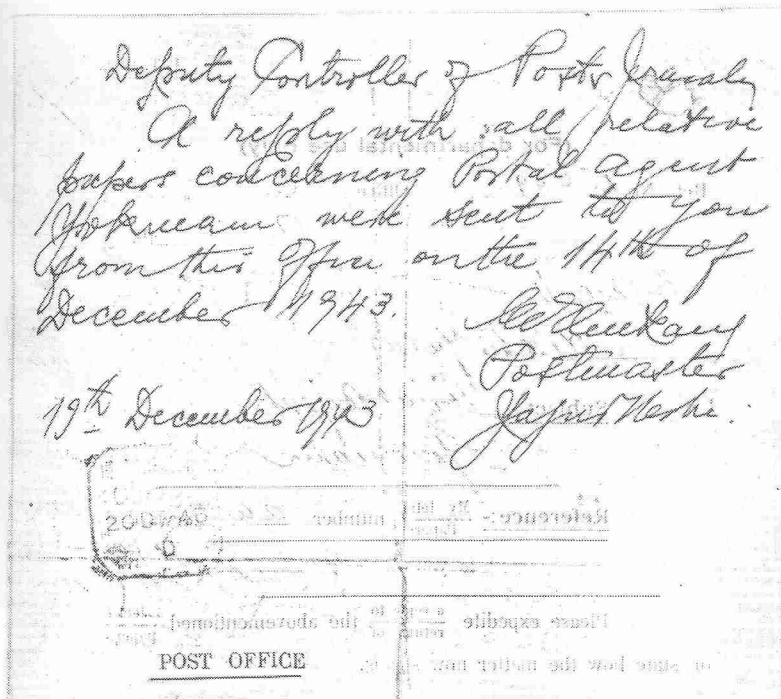


Figure 15

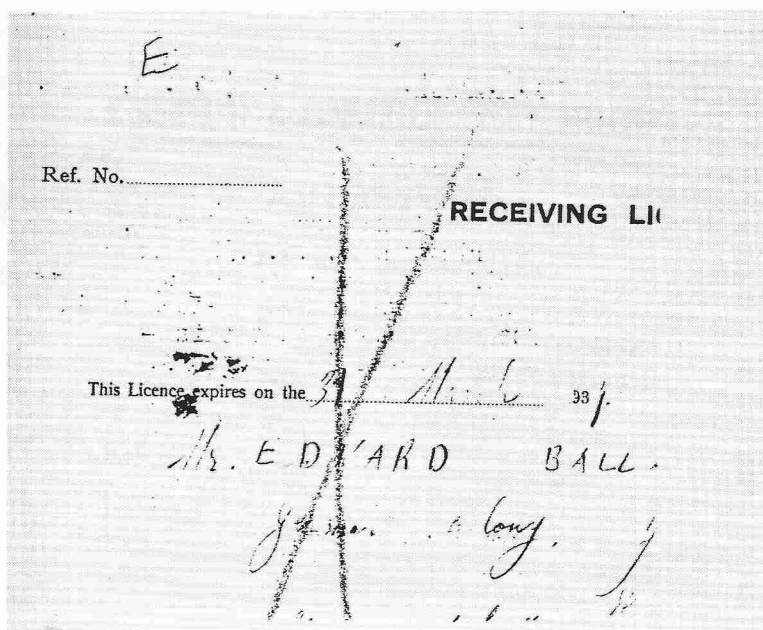


Figure 16

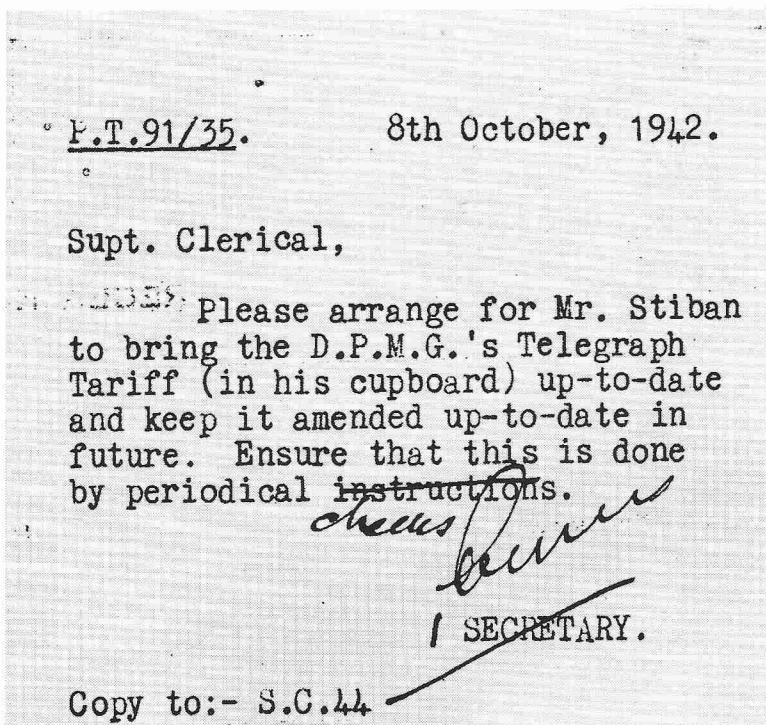


Figure 17



Figure 18





Figure 19



Figure 20

Figure 22

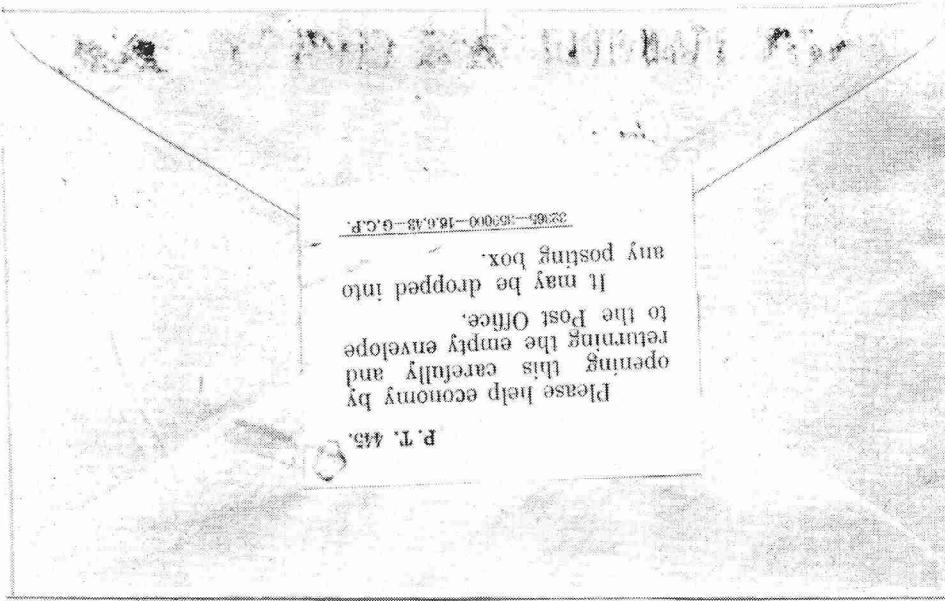
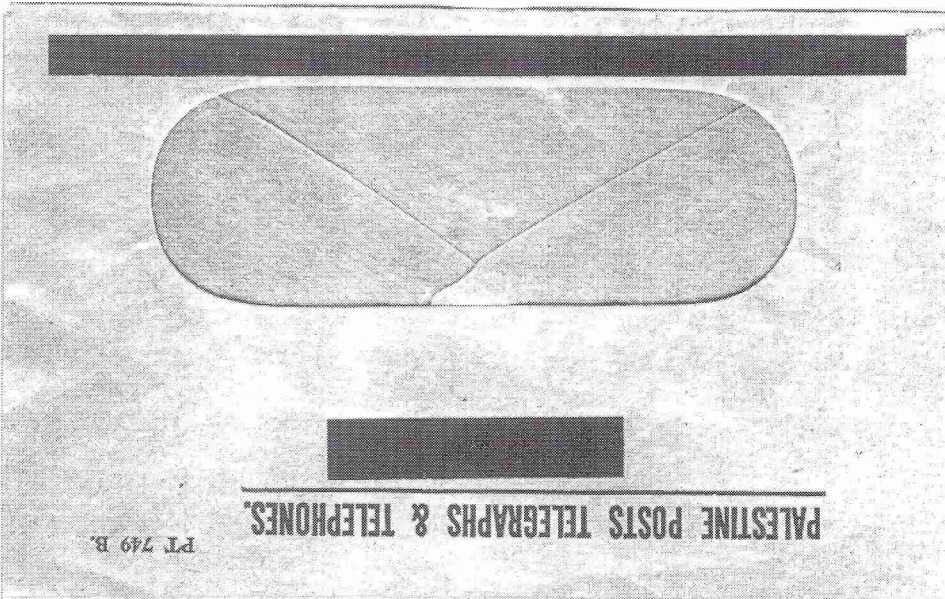


Figure 21





Ref. No. P.T. ....	P.T. 418.	P. T. 418	T. 418
GENERAL POST OFFICE, JERUSALEM.	194.....	T. 418 FICE, FICE, 1A1FA 1944 194Y	E 1551 932.
I have to refer to my letter bearing the above reference number dated ..... respecting .....	erence	ing number	umber
and shall be glad to receive a reply thereto at your earliest convenience.	2777)	id over	ecting
I am, .....	xlist	NBROS less,	earliest
Your Obedient Servant,	nieace.	ER AL	ERAL
POSTMASTER GENERAL.	ERAL.	31774-5000-4.2.41 Com. P.	10891-1000-B.M.P.
G.C.P. 33870-7000-21.8.47	3177-2500-4/6/53 Econ. P.		

Figure 23

**Figure 24**

**Figure 25**



No. 90	Orig. No. 111	Verba 9	Date Stamp 3 May 1919
From [illegible]	To Heron Hill Station	At [illegible]	By [illegible]
REMARKS	Office of Origin [illegible]	Date 3 May 1919	Time 2:15 PM

for accurate gascon hen dante  
Malkie

Figure 26

Figure 26 shows the telegraph form preprinted or used by the occupying army and dated May 3, 1919, showing that this form was available prior to the improvised issue shown in Figure 25.

The “second interim period” deals with the period when the British were gradually closing postal facilities in Palestine starting on April 15, 1948 with the “Minhelet Ha’am Administration” and continuing on May 15, 1948 when the authorities of the fledgling new country of Israel could set up its first postal service terminating the use of Mandate materials. Figure 27 is an envelope preprinted for use in Israel, numbered the same as the telegram delivery envelope in Palestine, but using the Hebrew ט.ז. instead of P.T.. However, Figure 28 shows an original Palestine envelope overprinted for use in Israel and dated 12.7.54. This was certainly “economy use” in action since original envelopes for use in Israel were already available (Fig 28).

A third less known “interim period” involved the use of a Military Administration Postal materials including stamps and postal forms by the Civil Administration which took over on July 1, 1920. Figure 29 shows Form P.T. 512 used as a receipt for registering a parcel, dated 4 Ap 1922. However, “economy use” was in action at this time as well. Figure 30 shows a Form O.E.T.P.A. No. 14 used on 1 Nov 23 for the same posting of a parcel. (O.E.T.P.A. stands for Occupied Enemy Territory Postal Administration).



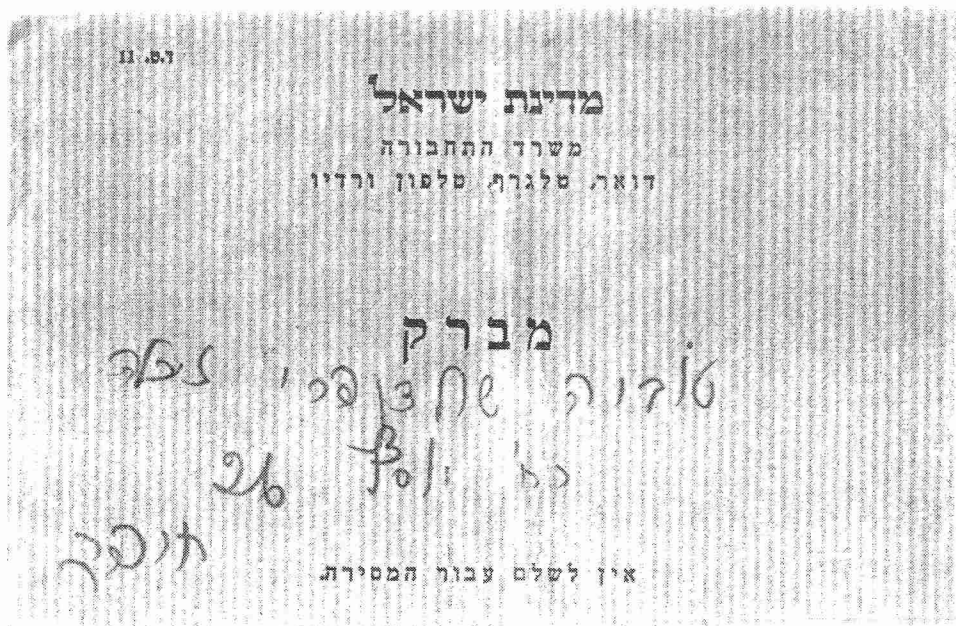


Figure 27



Figure 28



P.T. 512.

1605  
Certificate of posting of a Registered Postal Packet, Regn. No. 2761

is paid 13

תדכרה תצדיק חבילת דואר מספר הרשמה  
העודת משלוח חבילת דואר רשומה מספר הרשמה

הסכום ששלם

A. Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered & posted this day

אן הפרד המנון אנה תסגל וארסל פי הבריד היום

חבילת דואר אחת הנשלחת עפ"י המסך דלמטה נרשמה ונשלחה היום

*Simon Raab*

Date Stamp

REGISTERED  
4 APR 22  
VERSALEN

Accepting Clerk

אמضاء الساتم

חתימת הפקיד המקבל

Figure 29

O.E.T.P.A. No. 14.

14 إدارة بريد بلاد العدو المحتلة

**O.E.T.P.A., FOREIGN PARCEL POST.**

ادارة بريد بلاد العدو المحتلة - طرود بوسنة اجنبية

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A PARCEL.**

شهادة ارسال طرد بوسنة

Postage Paid 12 P.T. — Mills. No. of Parcel 771

الاجرة المدفوعة

مليم

غروش

دמי الموشلוח בסך

Address

מלים שולמו

גר'ם

המנון

*Eugene Kapp, Lausanne Suisse*

Accepting Officer Signature:

אמضاء الفاعل الساتر

חתימתו של הפקיד המקבל

Sender's Name and Address:

اسم الرسل وعنوانه

*S. Talabinsky Rapp*

*Telaviv*

DATE STAMP

1 NO 23

PARCEL POST

Figure 30

## A Courier Postcard from Prague to Haifa via Tel Aviv

*Z. Aloni, Tel Aviv*

In one of the auctions in Tel Aviv I bought a mixed lot of postcards and letters from the Interim Period and the British Mandate. One particular postcard caught my eyes, and it was the booster for the purchase of the lot. It was franked by mixed franking of 5 mil Doar Ivri stamp and 3 mil Minhelet Ha'am "Tirat Zvi" stamp, all tied by Israeli trilingual postmark of May 18th, 1948 (Fig. 31).



Figure 31

Closer look at this postcard revealed a wonderful story connected with the history of the young Israeli Air Force in the just declared State. Apparently this postcard was written by Meir Roof in Prague, on May 15th, as written on the top of the card. The postcard was then taken by a messenger, who brought it to Israel, franked it and sent it to its destination. I checked the possibility that the card came with one of the passengers of the Czechoslovakian Airlines.

I went to Shamir's and Siegel's work where I found that on May 16th the Czechs informed Mr. Taussig that there would be three special flights plus the regular one



during the coming week, May 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th. So the obvious conclusion was that the postcard was carried by one of the passengers arriving at Haifa Airport on one of the flights of May 16th or 17th, 1948. The planes landed at Haifa airport because Tel Aviv Sde Dov airport has been attacked by the Egyptians, and an Air France plane was damaged on the 15th.

The postcard was addressed to Abraham Roof, 24 Massada St, Haifa, and was written by his son Meir Roof. Meir writes about Prague and his impression of the city, and sends regards to his father from four of his friends.

Considering who was in a position to send letters by courier in such a short time, and whose names were on the postcard, I thought it should be someone with an official job, and then it crossed my mind that at that time Israeli pilots were trained in Czechoslovakia. I checked the book "The Roots of the Israeli Air Force" where I found the list of the pilots trained in Italy and Czechoslovakia in May 1948, and all the names were there (Fig. 32). Further on we can find the detailed story (abridged translation): "Shalom Levin came back to Eretz Israel on May 2nd in one of the Nordsman planes, and briefed the Air Force Headquarters regarding the preparations for the "Pilot Training School" (in Italy).

On May 13th the group left on a Dakota plane of the Czechoslovakian Airlines. All of the people had transit visas to Czechoslovakia; they came as car dealers to the car show that was held in Vienna. According to the plans they had to meet



*Fig. 32: Trainees of the first Pilot Training School in Italy and Czechoslovakia.*

מימין לשמאל: דני שמירא, ישעיהו שוורצמן, עזריאל ספיבק, מאיר רוף, כהריאל גרינשפן, יצחק וולוביץ, קצין צ'כי ורעייתו, נתן נוביק וגרשון ליטוויץ

Dani Agroski, who had to arrange the visas to Italy for the period of the training, and in Rome they had to meet Abraham Yofe and Mordehai Fine. In the Rome airport nobody was waiting for them and the group then continued its flight to Czechoslovakia. When they reached Prague, on May 15th, four people were chosen – Dani Shapira, Yeshayahu Shwarzman, Itzhak Wollovitch and Meir Roof – to escort the Dakota airplanes of the Czechoslovakian shoes company “Bata” which were clandestinely used for transporting arms to the State of Israel”.

### References

- (1) C. Shamir & M. Siegel, “The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel, 1948./Vol. III: Israel Foreign Postal Links, P. 45. Published by HLPHS, 1991.
- (2) In Hebrew:  
 “תולדות חיל האוויר – שורשי חיל האוויר” עמ' 383, משרד הבטחון, ההוצאה לאור, 1988
- (3) Ibid, pp. 337-8.

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**סתומה אקה**  
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## **Egyptian Occupation Postage Due Covers, Iraqi F.P.O. from the 1948-9 War, and the Change Over to Jordanian Administration**

*Zvi Alexander, London*

Itamar Karpovsky published two important articles on the first two subjects of this article in HLPH 73/74 & 77/78. I would like to add some additional examples from my collection and correct some historical and Postal History statements.

The Egyptian Army crossed Palestine borders on May 15th, 1948 and advanced into the country in two (not 3) prongs. One line of invasion was on the Coastal Plain and the other was from Auja El Hafir to Beersheba and from there to Hebron and the Judean Mountains. In their Western advance they attacked several Jewish settlements: Yad Mordechai, Kfar Darom, Nirim and ten days later, Negba. The fierce defence of these kibbutzim, which suffered terrible losses, slowed the Egyptian advance and they arrived in Isdud (Ashdod) only on May 27th, 1948. They also landed some troops by sea on May 15th in Majdal (Askelon of today). In the East they advanced without opposition through the Arab towns of Beersheba, Hebron up to Bethlehem and Beit Jala, where they met the Arab Legion of Jordan, south of Jerusalem. They then created an West-East line, from Majdal to the Hebron area thus cutting off the Negev from the rest of the country.

Following the "Yoav" campaign (Oct 15-22, 1948) the Egyptian forces evacuated Ashdod on October 28th, and Majdal on November 6th, retreating to the Gaza Strip. Thus the whole Coastal Plain, up to the border of the Gaza Strip was captured by the Israeli forces. An Egyptian Brigade (in which Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser served as a young Major) was trapped in the "Faluga Pocket". They remained under siege until February, 1949 when the Armistice Agreement with Egypt was concluded, and the Faluga Brigade was allowed to return to Egypt. The Gaza Strip remained under Egyptian Occupation.

Beersheba was captured by the Israeli forces on Oct 31, thus cutting off the Egyptian forces in the Hebron-Bethlehem & Beit Jala area from their home contact. They evacuated the Eastern part of Palestine at the beginning of May, 1949, following the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan which was signed on the island of Rhodes on April 3rd, 1949. Jordan took over the administration of the areas which the Egyptians evacuated. The change of the postal Administration is shown in Figures 33-35. Any covers from Palestine, except the Gaza Strip, franked with Egyptian stamps dated after May 4th, 1949, are bogus.

As Karpovsky rightly points out, the Egyptians were well prepared for the occupation of Palestine including overprinting, in advance, regular and airmail Egyptian stamps with the name "Palestine".



**Fig. 33: 26.4.49 - First day of Jordanian postmaster in the Bethlehem Post Office. He used Jordanian "Palestine" overprinted stamps cancelled with the Egyptian postmark of Bethlehem, on a self addressed cover.**



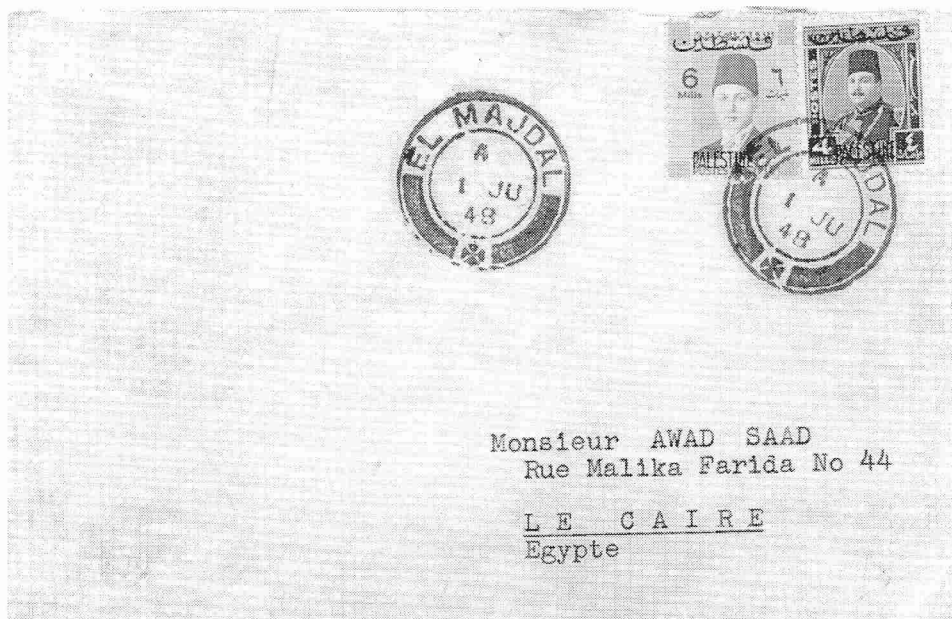
**Fig. 34: 30.4.1949 - Cover inscribed "Last Day Cover" with Egyptian "Palestine" overprinted stamps cancelled by the Mandate postmark, reintroduced by the Jordanians, when they took over the administration in Bethlehem from the Egyptians. The same postmark was used by the Egyptians at the beginning of their rule of Bethlehem.**





**Fig. 35: 3.5.1949 - First day of commercial operation of the Jordanian Post Office in Bethlehem. Mandate DC postmark reintroduced. Cover addressed to Rotary International in Jerusalem.**

I doubt very much that they had also prepared in advance Egyptian type postmarks, except for that of Gaza; primarily from the simple reason that they did not know in advance which other towns they would occupy. I am therefore convinced that the Egyptian type postmarks were made later, probably in mid-June, 1948. I have many covers from different localities with the Egyptian type postmark dated 17.6.1948. This is probably the first date of these postmarks used in Palestine. Any cover dated with the Egyptian type postmark earlier than 17.6.1948 is of doubtful nature, in my view. Another fact that supports this theory is that the Egyptians first used the Mandate instruments which they found in the relevant post offices. Examples of such covers, with Mandate type postmarks, are shown in Figures 36-38.



*Fig. 36: 1.6.1948 - First Day Cover of Majdal with the SC Mandate postmark.*



*Fig. 37: 1.6.1948 - First Day Cover of Majdal with the DC Mandate postmark.*





**Fig. 38: 1.6.1948 - First Day Cover of Isdud with the DC Mandate postmark.**

The same procedure of first using the Mandate postmarks repeated itself when the Jordanians took over from the Egyptians. Figures 39-42 show the four phases which occurred in one year, in the Beit Jala Post Office – first the Egyptians using the Mandate postmark, then the Egyptian postmark, then the Jordanians using the Mandate type postmark followed by the Jordanian type which was introduced several months later.



**Fig. 39: 18.6.1948 - Beit Jala under Egyptian occupation with Mandate type postmark.**





Fig. 40: 14.2.1949 - Beit Jala under Egyptian occupation with Egyptian type postmark.



Fig. 41: 18.5.1949 - Beit Jala under Jordanian rule with the reintroduced Mandate type postmark.





**Fig. 42: 4.9.1951 - Beit Jala cover with a Jordanian type postmark.**

Another historical fact which needs to be added is that the Iraqi forces occupied, throughout the War period, the Triangle area (Nablus - Jenin - Tulkarem) which they evacuated in April/May, 1949 following the Armistice Agreement between Israel and Jordan. The Triangle area then came under full Jordanian administration. The postal administration during the Iraqi occupation must have been jointly administered by the Iraqis and the Jordanians as the few surviving covers from that period indicate. These items carry Jordanian stamps and Iraqi censorship cachets. Examples of such covers are shown in Figures 43-45.



**Fig. 43: 9.4.1949 - Registered letter from Nablus to Egypt with Jordanian "Palestine" stamps and postmarks, and Iraqi Military censorship (as negative seal).**

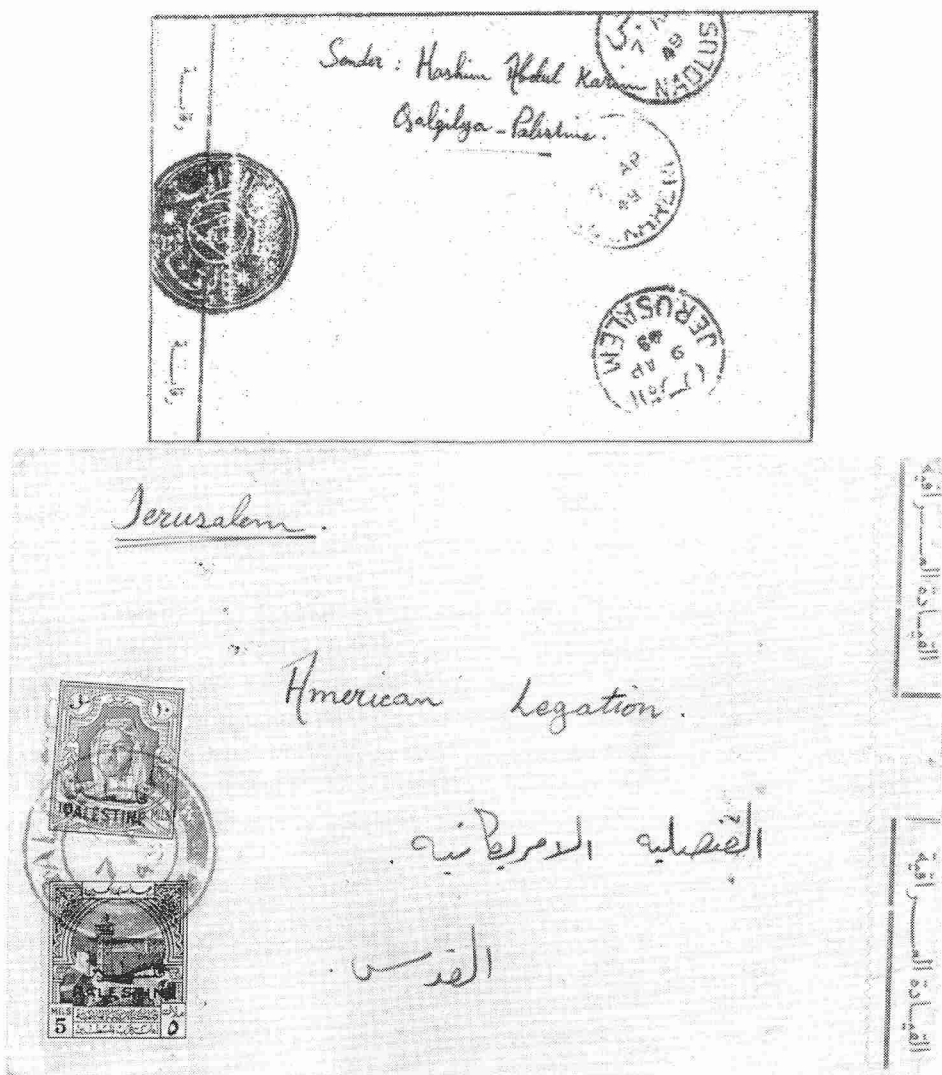
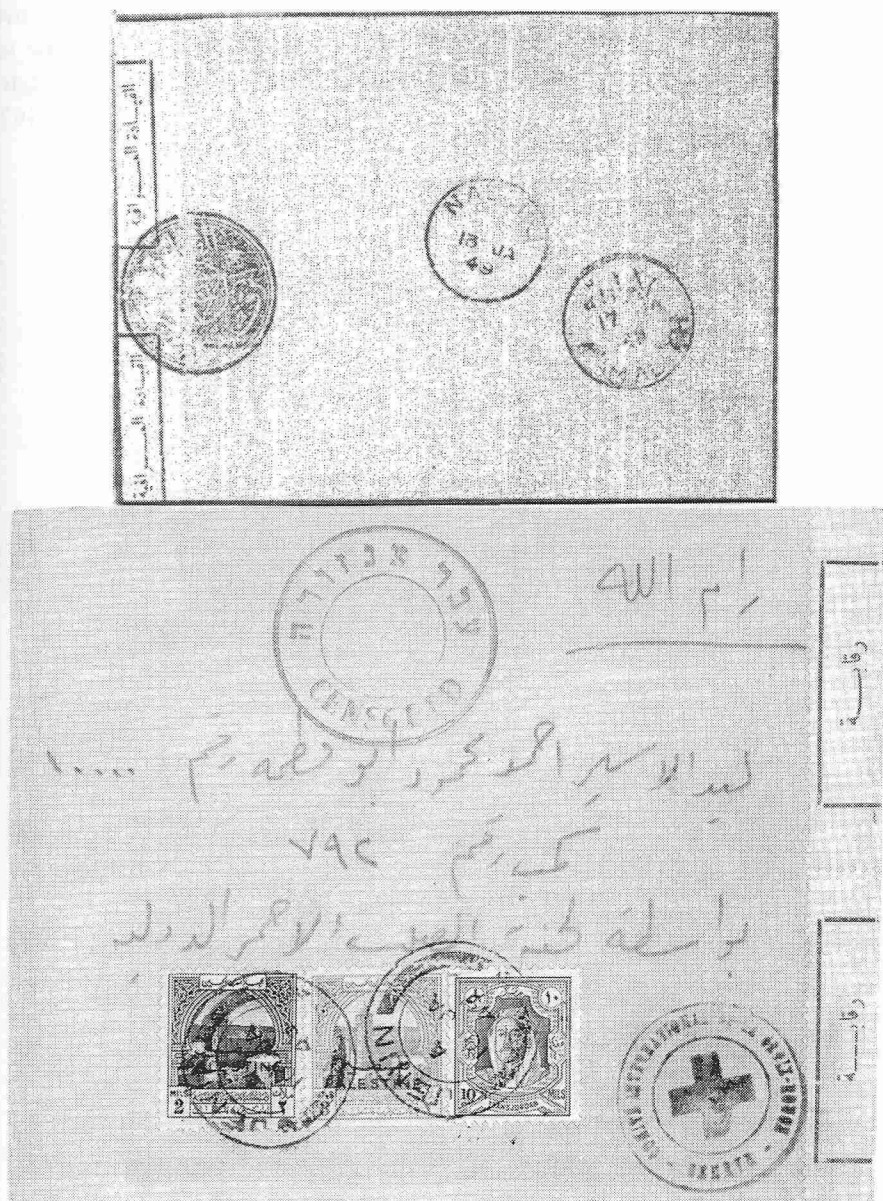


Fig. 44: 7.4.1949 - Qalqilya to Jerusalem cover with Iraqi military censorship. The only recorded example of the Qalqilya Mandate postmark under Jordanian rule.





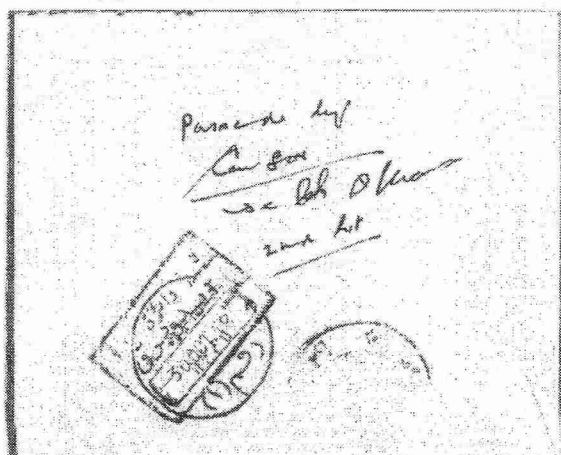
*Fig. 45: 10.1.1949 - Jenin to Ramallah with Jenin Mandate postmark under Jordanian rule and Iraqi military censorship cachet. Forwarded by the Red Cross to an Arab P.O.W. in Israel.*

The most baffling enigma is the Iraqi Field Post Office covers from the Palestine occupied areas. In thirty years of collecting I have seen only two such covers (shown in Figures 46, 47). The late Abdallah Rashty, who changed his name to a Hebrew name in Israel, was in 1948 the secretary of the stamp collectors club in Baghdad. He described these postmarks in BAPIP Bulletin No. 83 (Summer, 1975).



**Fig. 46: 26.8.1948 - Iraqi FPO 1 (situated in Nablus) cover to Iraq, inscribed "Medinat Nablus". One of two recorded examples of Iraqi FPOs in Palestine.**





**Fig. 47: 30.10.1948 - Iraqi FPO 1 (in Nablus) registered cover with transit Baghdad to Czechoslovakia.**

According to him, this subject was considered a military secret in Iraq and all such covers were destroyed. The Iraqis must have been very strange and difficult people already in 1948.

Karpovsky is right in his statement that the Egyptian Postage Due covers from Palestine are very rare and that only 20-25 examples exist. Figures 48-53 show six such covers from my collection. Figure 48 indicates that such stamps were already used in Palestine at the beginning of 1948 and Figure 53 extends the period of their use until 1957.

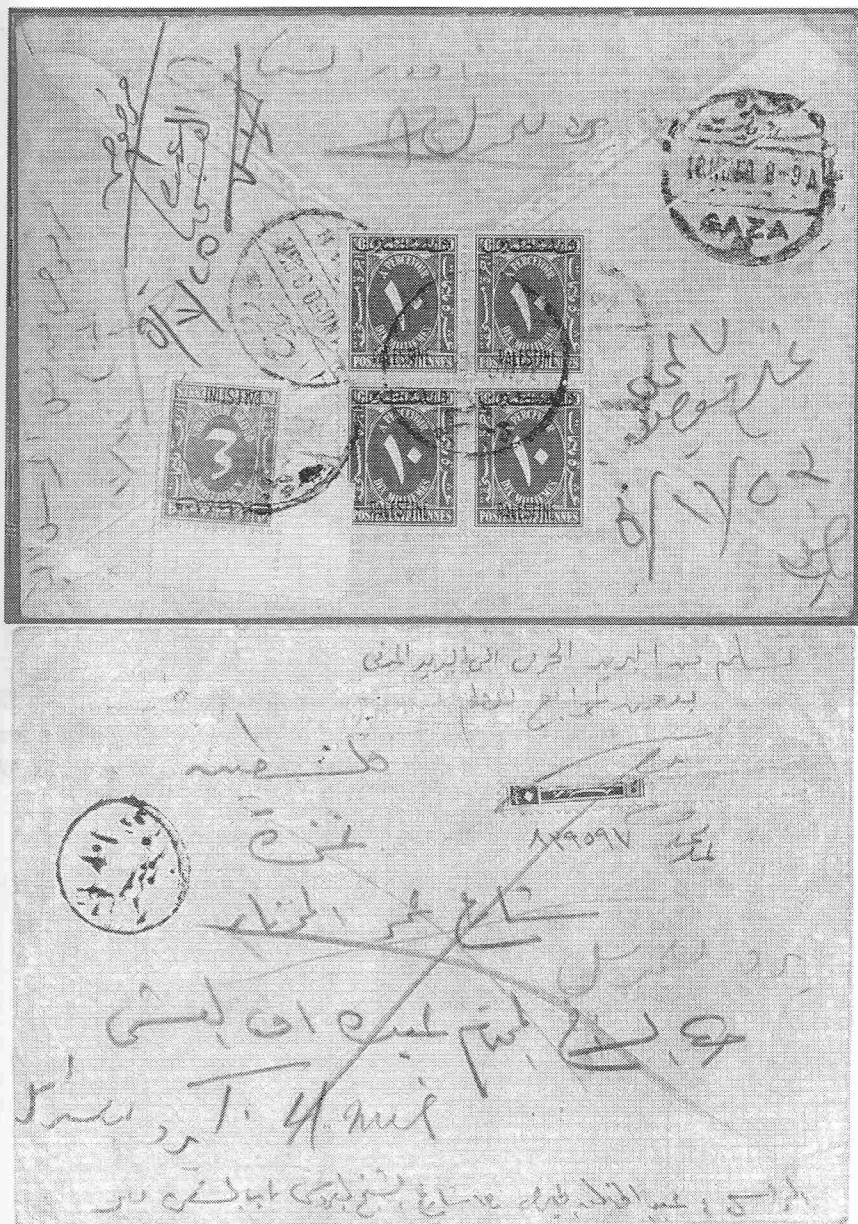
Figures 54-56 show a very early soldier's letter from Majdal and two covers from the Palestine campaign which were taxed on arrival in Egypt. Egyptian mail items sent from the Palestine Campaign back to Egypt are extremely rare. Only in 1997 did I succeed in finding a number of such Egyptian Army covers, some of which were addressed to Alexandria / the "Northern Command", which was probably in charge of the Palestine campaign. The other covers are soldiers' letters from the Palestine Front.



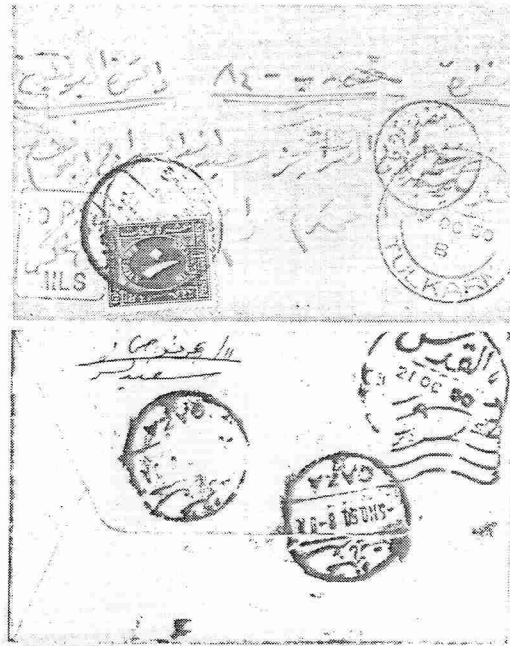
**Fig.48: 17.6.1948 - Gaza to El Majdal. Egyptian stamp showing the entry of Egyptian troops to Gaza on May 15th, 1948. The postmaster at El Majdal did not recognize the stamp as it did not have Palestine overprint and taxed the cover 10 Mils.**

**The only example of taxed cover dated 1948. All other known examples are from 1950 onwards.**





**Fig. 49: Rafah 11.11.1950 and Gaza 18.11.50. Letter written by a military man addressed to Gaza. Notation in upper right: "From military post to be handed over to civilian post. - No stamp required". On reverse F.P.O. postmark partly obscured by the postage due stamps. Notation on reverse: "Refused Return to sender". It is possible that the 44 Mil charge was levied for the return dispatch of the letter.**

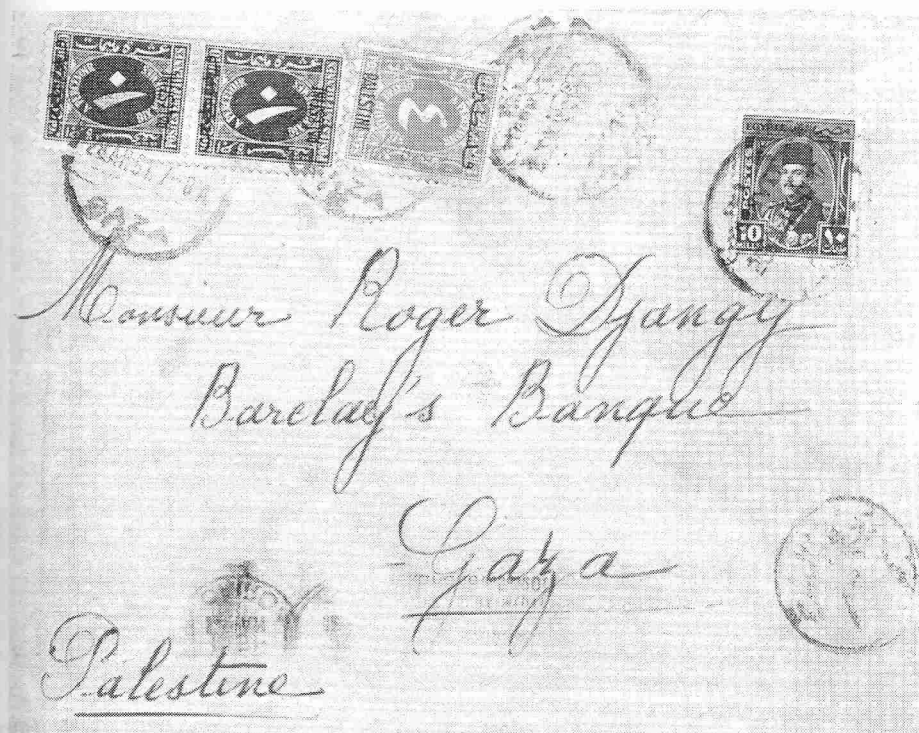


**Fig. 50: 19.10.1950 - Letter from Tulkarem under Jordanian Administration to Gaza under Egyptian Administration. Censored. Addressed to the police station in Gaza, it was unfranked. The Egyptians applied the "To Pay" handstamp, charged 10 Mil Postage Due and censored the letter.**

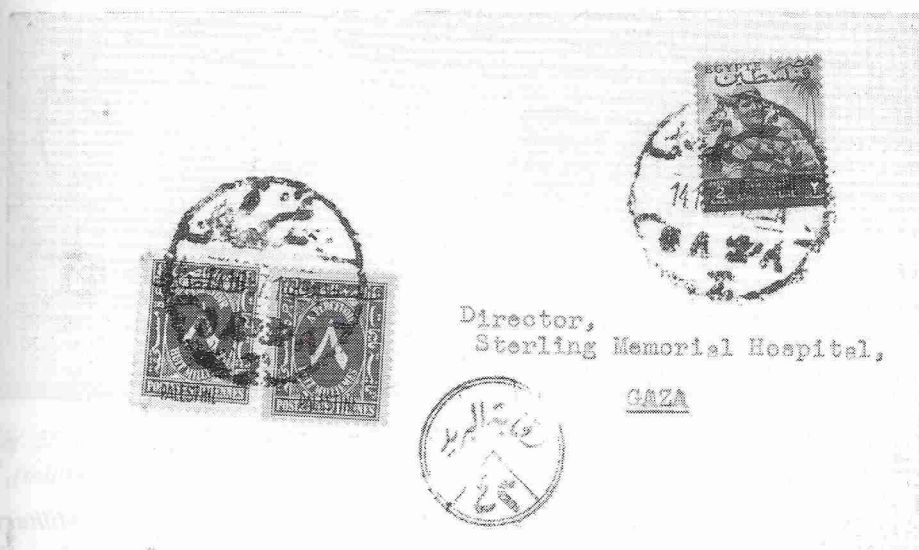


**Fig. 51: 3.11.1950 - Letter from Holland redirected in USA to Khan Younes. Taxed by the Egyptian authorities 8 Mil.**

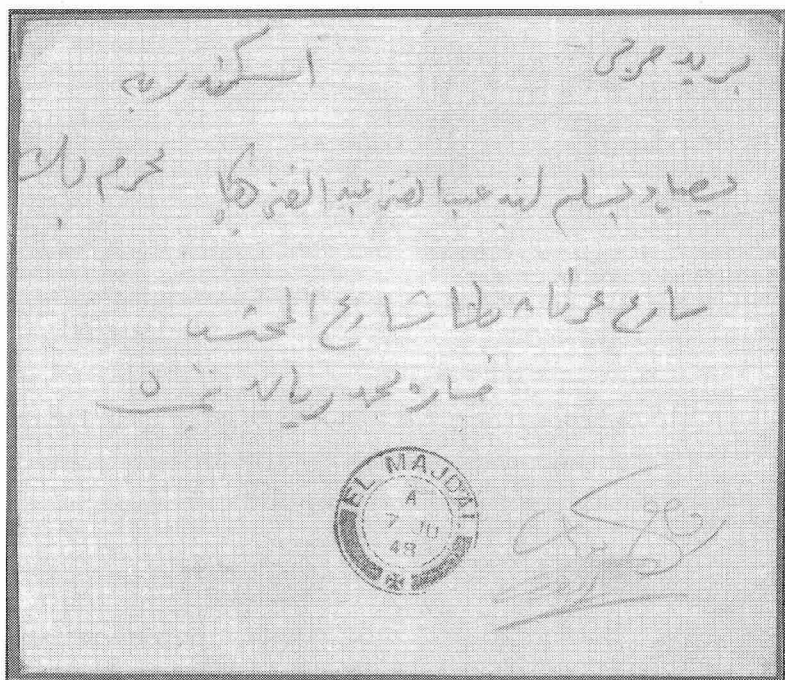




**Fig. 52: 20.4.1951 - Letter from Alexandria to Gaza. Charged 24 Mil for deficient postage.**



**Fig. 53: 14.10.1957 - Local letter underfranked 8 Mils. Charged 16 Mils.**



**Fig. 54: 7.6.1948 - A very early Egyptian military letter from Majdal. Inscribed "Barid El Harbi" – Military Mail on top right. Letter accepted without stamps due to its military nature.**



**Fig. 56: 21.2.1949 - Bethlehem to Alexandria inscribed "Barid El Harbi". Military letter from a Commando Unit stationed in Bethlehem. Unrecognised to be free of postage and taxed 20 Mils upon arrival in Alexandria.**



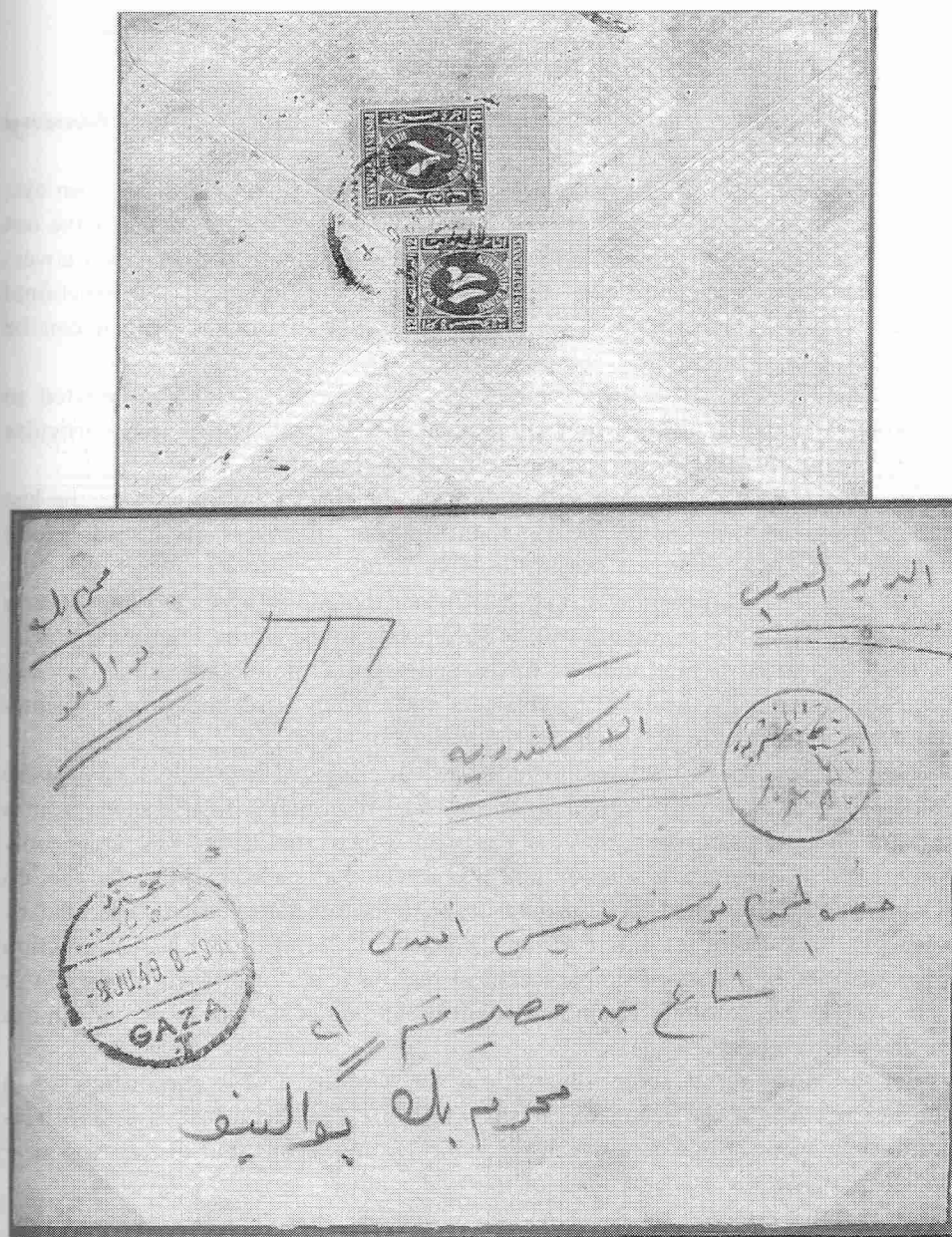


Fig. 55: 8.6.1948 - Censored letter from Gaza to Alexandria inscribed "Barid El Harbi" (military post). Very early military letter from Gaza. Unrecognised to be free of postage, marked "T" and taxed 19 Mils on arrival in Alexandria.

## Instructional Marks Reversing or Correcting the Route of the Letter

*Zvi Shimony*

I believe that most of us who are interested in Postal History keep an open eye, and at least put aside to consider later one of these days, covers which "have not passed the postal route" smoothly and in the most ordinary manner. Such covers are characterized by having been struck on their route by various "Instructional Marks" (I.M.). This may be a very interesting collecting subject which can be assembled with a relatively modest budget.

This field can be divided into sub-groups by subjects, e.g.: I.M.'s. related to franking of the letter, I.M.'s. indicating some special treatment of that particular letter, I.M.'s. reversing or correcting the route of the letter.

In this article we would like to demonstrate the wealth and interest of the last sub-group by showing some incidental illustrations of covers of this sub-group whose route has at least one end in the Holy Land.

These cachets are generally struck by rubber (sometimes by metal) handstamps in violet (purple); other colours will be specifically noted in the Figure captions.

They appear in a multitude of forms and texts – more so because they are generally ordered by the local postmasters and, in any case, they are frequently reordered without care of keeping any standard designs.

The sub-group dealt with here includes several classes of cases which change the route of the letter from its original planned one, returning it to its sender from a certain midpoint. Another class is cases in which the letter was erroneously misdirected to a wrong destination and was detected as such; marking this fact on the cover it was rerouted to its proper destination. Subclasses are also formed by noting various significant differences in the reason of "return to sender" instruction which may be of a class of simple technical reasons (e.g. "insufficient address") or of a much more profound reason like political banning of state or of certain stamps of the other country.

Let us now show some illustrations of various I.M.'s. according to a subclassification of the group of cachets which are dealt with in this article. This is not pretended to be a comprehensive work, by any means, but just an appetizer which may give the reader a taste of this wide subject.

### **Returned-to-the-Sender Letters due to Technical Reasons**

The simplest kind of I.M.'s. of the sub-group is the (usually framed) cachet which indicate a reason for the letter to be "returned to sender" for one of a number of technical reasons (e.g., Fig. 57). The possible more or less standard reasons are: Unknown, Departed, Unclaimed, Refused, Insufficient Address, etc. They may appear in two languages as in Figure 57 or in Hebrew only (Fig. 58) and





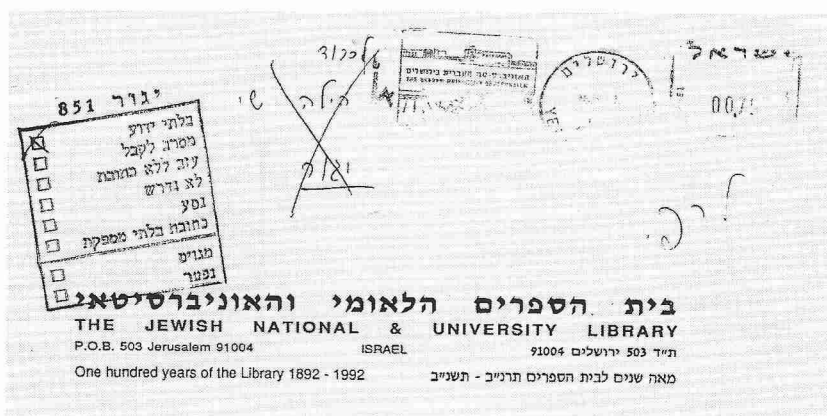


Figure 59

"לא ידוע" ("Inconnue") in Figure 57 versus "בלתי ידוע" (which is popular but wrong Hebrew) in Figure 58; "מען בלתי מספיק" ("Address insufficient") in Figure 57 versus "כתובת בלתי מספקת" in Figure 58.

Most of the infrequent reasons for returning letters appear as a single reason in a separate I.M. as in Figure 60 ("נפטר" = deceased) or in Figure 61 ("אין רחוב כזה" = No such street in Haifa). The following technical reason for returning letters – closed P.O.B. – is illustrated here by three different I.M.'s: "תא דואר סגור" (Fig. 62; unframed), "מוחזר לשולח / סגורה. ת.ד. / P.O.B. Closed, Retour to Sender" (Fig. 63), and "ת.ד. סגור/מספר ת.ד. שגוי" (Fig. 64). Note that in Figure 62 the verb "closed" in Hebrew is the masculine gender ("סגור") while in Figure 63 it is the feminine ("סגורה"); in the latter the acronym is probably meant to be "תיבת דואר" (and therefore feminine) which is alternatively used (but is incorrect Hebrew). In Figure 64 there are two possible reasons: "מספר ת.ד. שגוי" (wrong P.O.B. number) or: "ת.ד. סגור" (Closed P.O.B.), the actual proper reason to be encircled by the postal clerk.

It should be noted that there are various styles of marking where the letter is to be returned. The instruction "Return to Sender" may be an integral part of the cachet indicating the reason for returning (e.g., Fig. 63) and frequently this is adjoined by an arrow pointing to the sender's address. In most cases there is a separate "Return to Sender" with an arrow handstamp. Frequently, this function is performed by a handstamp or by a pen crossing off the addressee's address and pointing to the sender's address (as in Fig. 64). There are cases, mostly of emergency or other provisional situations, in which no I.M. instruments are available and the instructions are handwritten by the postal clerk or by the postman (see later).





Figure 60

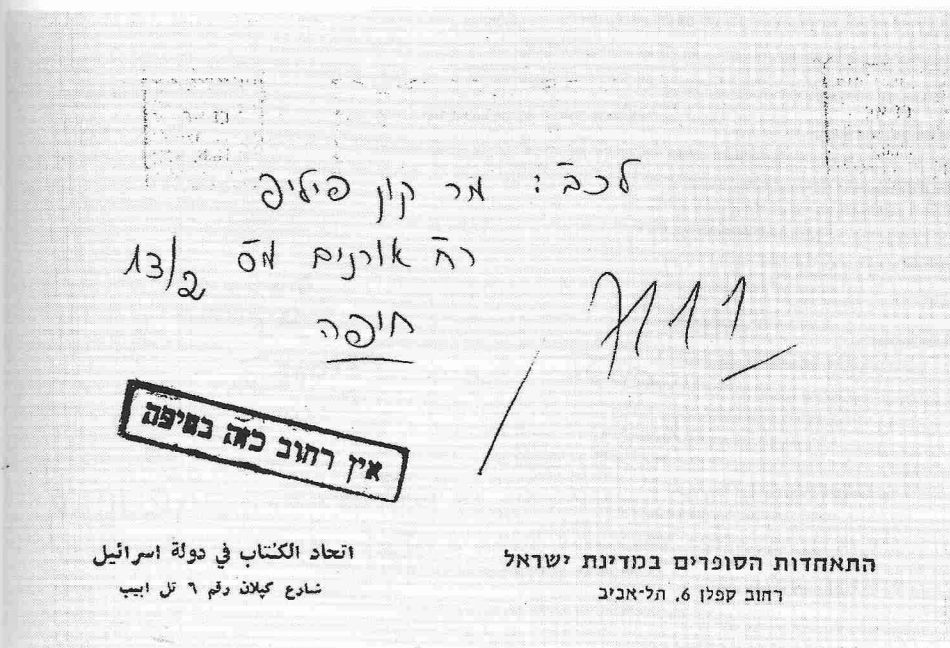


Figure 61



Figure 62



Figure 63



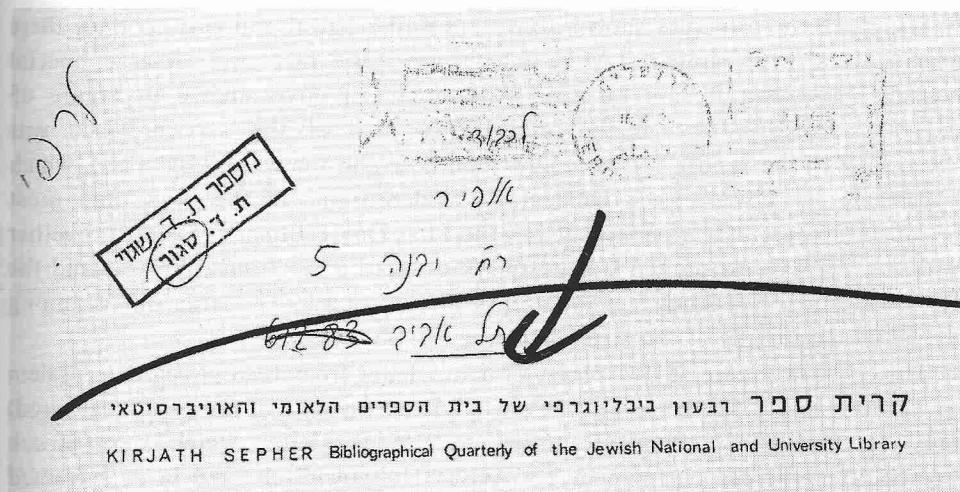


Figure 64



Figure 65

Whilst all the examples shown above are rather trivial and easy to find, there exist covers with similar I.M.'s. which are very rare and deserve special consideration. The Rishon Le Zion Armoured Car cover shown in Figure 65 (courtesy I. Karpovsky) is the only known mail of this service which was "Returned to the Sender". This handwritten note and the word "עזב" (left), which appear on the cover's back incidentally render it one of the rarest and most interesting covers of this service: It has the First Day Postmark (5 April) together with the Tel Aviv Armoured Car postmark of April 6 (as "transit" mark) and the Rishon postmark of April 7 as the returned arrival mark. The latter one is among the rarest postmarks of the Armoured Car service.

The cover in Figure 66 is a "First Convoy" letter from 1948 besieged Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and it proved to be a "Convoy" letter (in spite of not being registered) only by the marks of a "Returned to Sender" letter which were struck (handwritten) by the postman in Tel Aviv: "Unknown" checked in in a framed I.M. cachet and "18.6, ידוע, לא" (unknown, 18.6) manuskript. The date 18.6 (1948), as is well known, is the date of arrival backstamped in Tel Aviv on all First Convoy letters from Jerusalem. Thus, this is a rare cover from besieged Jerusalem, since most of the authenticated Convoy letters are registered.

### Returned-to-Sender Letters due to Political or Social Reasons

A more interesting sub-class of the Returned to Sender class of letters is discussed now. This sub-class includes letters which either were returned by the country of origin or by the destination country for other than simple technical reasons. These as will be later elucidated by the following illustrations, are very diverse but can be grouped under the title, "Political or Social Reasons". Some of these have probably been published, scattered around the issues of this Bulletin and elsewhere, and in some of the cases are republished here.

The cover from Switzerland to Tel Aviv, Palestine, mailed on April 25 1948 (Fig. 67) was handstamped "Service Postal Aerien Suspendu" (Airmail service suspended) and returned to its sender. This latter action is not instructed or indicated on the cover, as is frequently the case, but it is self-evident because of the special I.M. and the crossing out of the original destination. This service suspension was indeed, as is well known, due to the British decree of a gradual termination of all postal services in Palestine on April 26 '48, and to their announcement that most of the air companies have suspended their landing in Lydda (Palestine) airport.

Relating to the same suspension of postal services by the British Mandate in 1948, the postcard in Figure 68 show the handstamp "Return to Mailing Office / Service Suspended AMF Chicago" from Chicago (USA) to Israel sent on June 10, when there was still no **official** postal connection between the two countries (only the unofficial PEDI post existed). It was remailed on June 29 when the official airmail service was resumed.



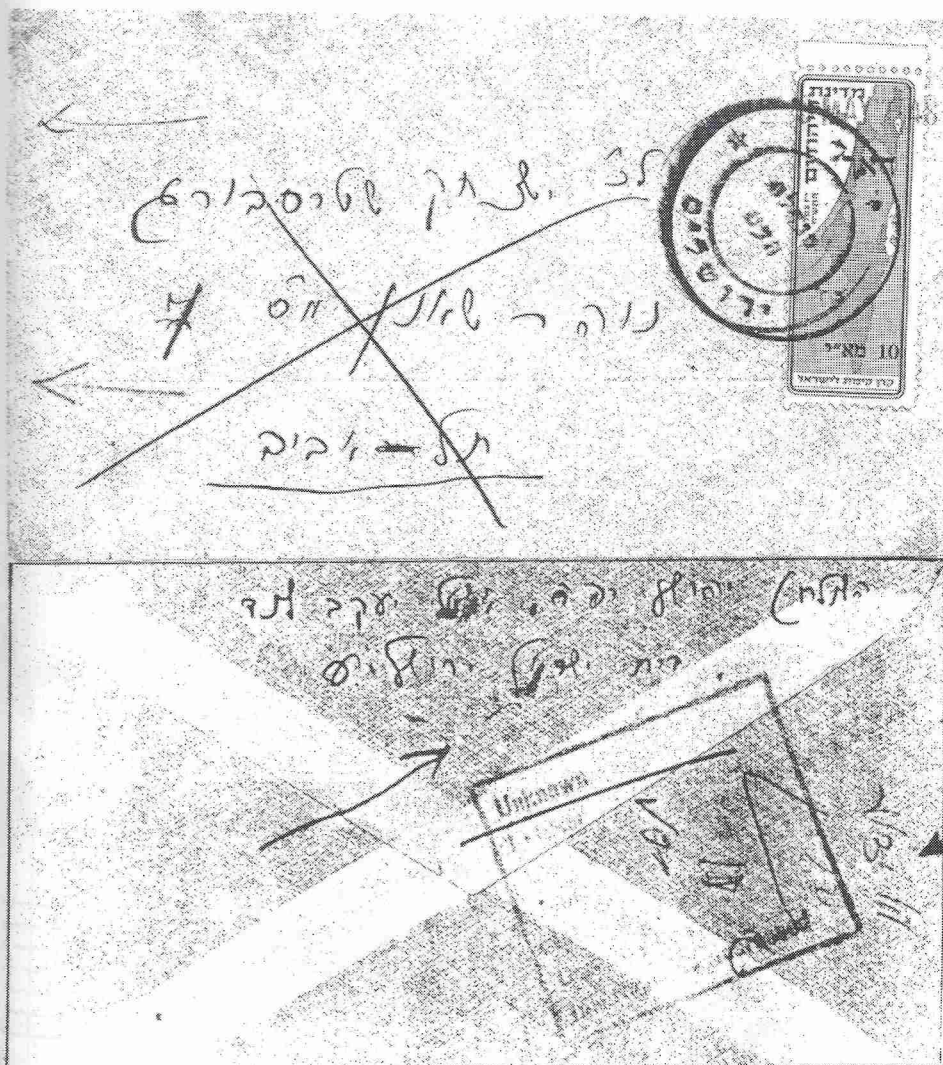


Figure 66



Figure 67



Figure 68



The cover in Figure 69 is a reflection of a piece of history demonstrating the withdrawal of the Israeli Administration from the Gaza Strip after the Sinai war of 1956. It was sent registered from Tel Aviv to Rafi'ach (Raffa) on March 3, 1957 but was returned to the sender after being handstamped with a framed magenta I.M., "קשרי הדואר לאזור עזה הופסקו" (The postal communication with the Gaza Zone has been suspended).



*Figure 69*

Likewise the cover in Figure 70 carries an unforgettable sad memory of an episode from the post-Yom-Kipur-war Peace Agreement with Egypt when Israel had to return all of the Sinai Peninsula, including the Israeli town Yamit. The cover was sent from Jerusalem to Yamit on 24.11.85, but was returned to the sender struck by the framed cachet, "היישוב חוסל/חזרה לשולח" (Settlement destroyed/Back to sender).

The following three covers belong to a very interesting sub-group of letters which may be titled "Rejected because of anti-peace propaganda on the postage stamps or postmarks". The first cover (Fig. 71) was sent from Jerusalem to D.D.R. (East Germany) in July 1969 franked, among others, with the Mystère Fighter, 1967 Independence Day (Bale #373, Sc. #343, Carmel #417) and the 1967 Western Wall (Bale #378, Sc. #347, Carmel #422) stamps. The letter was intercepted by the D.D.R. Postal Authority, which attached to it over the address a typed note in French reading: "Not admitted - Art. 28 §1 letter (d) of the U.P.U. Convention -



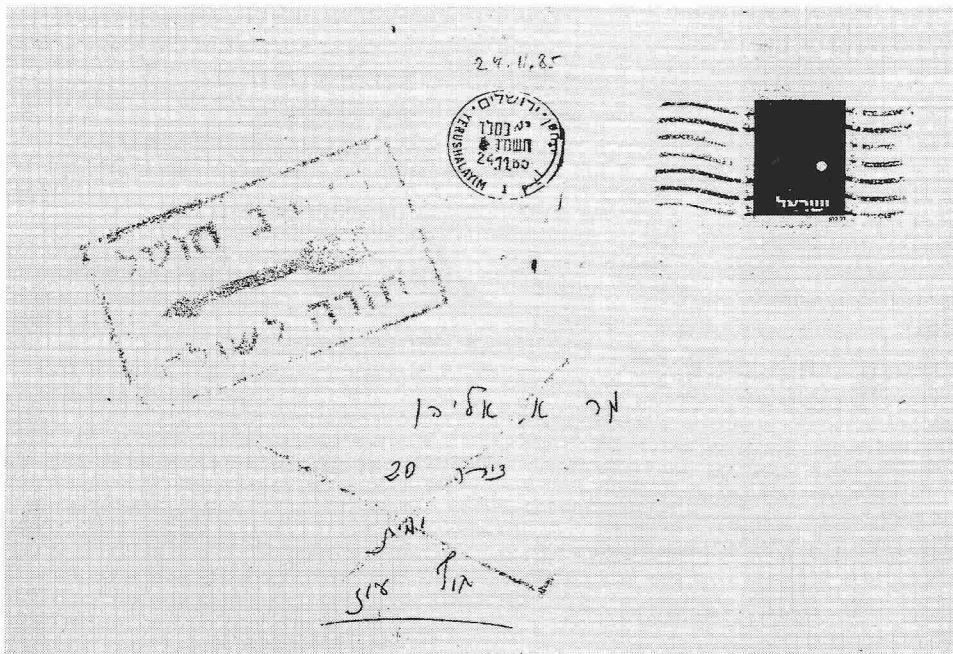


Figure 70



Figure 71



propaganda on postage stamps directed against peace maintenance” and alongside “Retour” in manuscript. The East German communists obviously detested any sign of Israel victory in the Six-Day War of 1967 and regarded these stamps as “anti-peace propaganda”.

The second cover of this sub-group (Fig. 72) was sent to the Soviet Union in October 1968, franked with the 1968 New Year 0.35 stamp of the issue depicting schematic drawings of various buildings in Jerusalem, some of them in the Old City (Bale #418, Sc. #372, Carmel #457). The Russians “naturally” could not bear this and they probably used the same U.P.U. regulation (although in this example it was not stated on the cover) as a pretext to reject the letter – there is a manuscript styled cross, one of its legs crossing out the address and pointing to the “outlaw” stamp, the second line pointing to a handwritten “Retour”. There is also an Israeli framed I.M. which reads: “This postal item was returned from abroad without stating the reason”. This note is obviously wrong, showing that the Israeli postal clerk was not aware of the meaning of the Russian marking which obviously meant: Return the letter because the postage stamp (which is pointed at by the arrow) is illegal according to U.P.U. regulations.



Figure 72

The third cover (Fig. 73), also sent from Israel to the Soviet Union but somewhat later than the previous one, carries some stamps of the same set which the Russians did not like (1968 New Year: Bale #416-417, Sc. 370-371, Carmel #455-456). Here they were already more advanced and managed to produce a rubber (or metal) handstamp of about the same design as the manuscript of the previous cover. In this particular case the mark is in Red which, together with the colourful stamps makes a lovely and lively scene.

In February or March 1983, the extreme religious regime of Iran decided to suspend the postal relations with Israel and letters from Israel to Iran or letters to Israel in transit in Iran were returned, often being struck by an I.M.: "There is no postal relations with Israel" (s. HLP#15, p. 782). Therefore the Israeli post office also started to "Return To Sender" letters to Iran (e.g. Fig. 74), with the framed I.M. "No Service" in three languages. In the cover inspected there is also a manuscript "אין שירות לאירן" (No Service to Iran).



Figure 73





Figure 74

### Correcting or Reversing the Letter's Route because of Post Office Malfunction

There are various possible causes for letters to belong to this sub-class, the most frequent one being erroneous routing of the letter. Sometimes the misrouting is incidental, resulting from a mechanical mishap of one or several letters "sliding" from their proper place during the sorting stage, and mixing with the letters destined to another country. In other cases, it may happen that a whole postal bag has been misdirected to the wrong country during one of the stages of international routing. This would result of relatively many letters being misrouted, but one cannot distinguish between these events by spotting one or two such misrouted letters.

When misrouted letters are discerned as such by the post of the wrong country of destination they are struck with I.M. "Missent to..." and sent back to one of the international postal distribution centers from where they continue on the right course.

The "Missent..." marks may appear in various formats and colours framed or not, single lined or multilined, and in various languages. Some examples are shown in Figures 75-77, all three addressed to Israel, but misrouted to other countries first.

The first, missent to Ireland, is framed in grey colour; the second, missent to Jakarta (capital of Indonesia), is red infamed; and the third, "Maldirige Au Japon" (French for "Missent to Japan") is unframed one-lined in violet. It has on its back a "transit" postmark of Tokyo, Japan.

The last cover shown (Fig. 78) is a different kind of misrouting; humouristically one may name it "intentional misrouting", as this was deliberately sorted into the wrong bin due to logical misconsideration. The zip code of the addressee, (Jerusalem) 96348, was considered by the sorter to be an Army Post Office (APO) Number and thus the letter arrived at this APO, as is evidenced by the APO 96346 S.C. postmark on its reverse. There, noting their mistake, it was handstamped in magenta "Missent to APO 96346" and sent back to the international sorting system and to Israel.

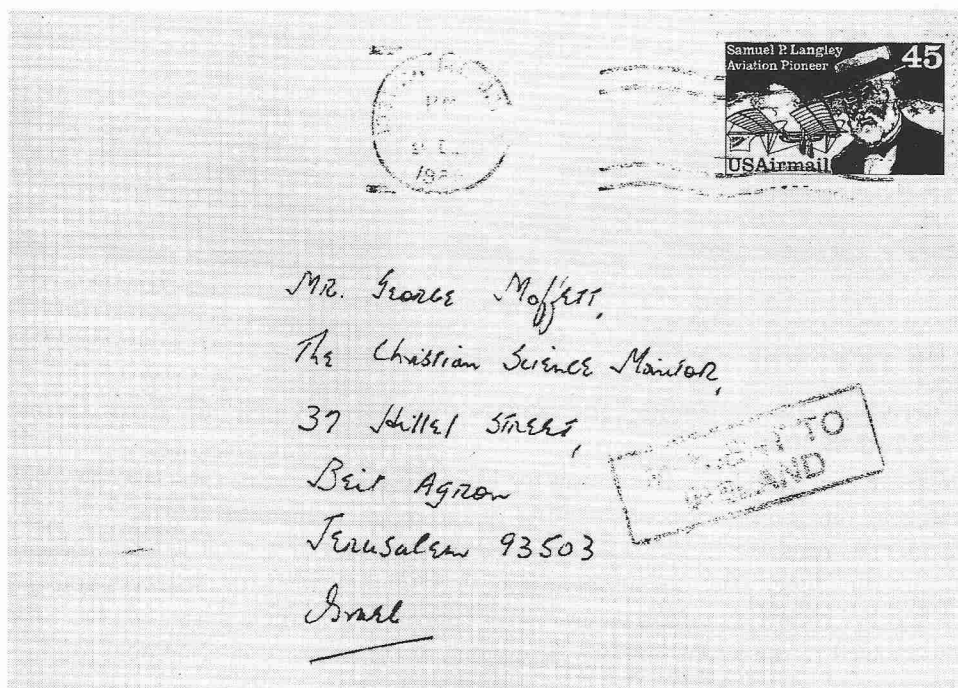


Figure 75



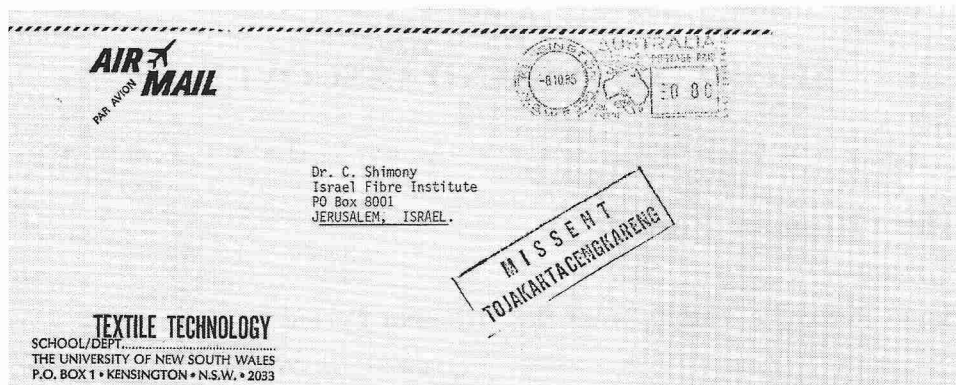


Figure 76

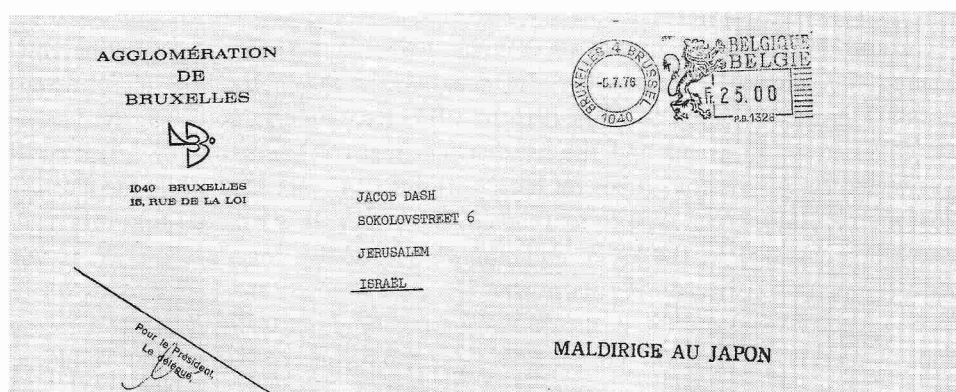


Figure 77

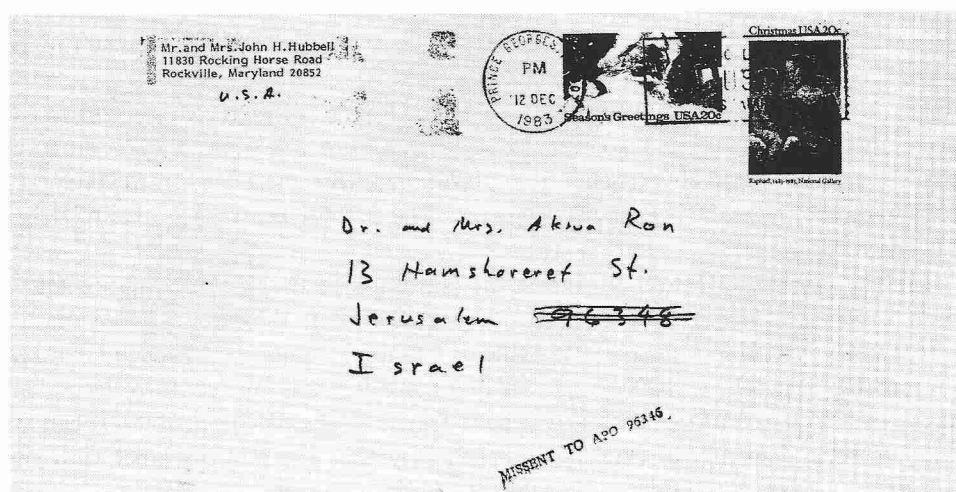


Figure 78

\* \* \* \* \*

\* **SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES** \*

\* \* \* \* \*

## The Ottoman Period

### Some Philatelic Tidbits from the Ottoman Period

*(Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan)*

(1) In November, 1915 the well-known German Templer merchant Paul Aberle sent the cover shown in Figure 90 to a Baron Rothschild in Wien. He registered the cover and declared the value of its contents to be 25,000 piastres and apparently insured the sending for full value. Its postmark is Steichele 28/12 (Jerusalem 1 circular) as used during the years 1910 to 1917. Its weight is noted on the face of the cover to be 50 grams and the handwritten registry number is '78'. The cover was sealed by Aberle four times on back with his 'PA' wax seal, while the Turkish Post used a seldom seen type to seal the cover's center. It is believed that this seal's inscription testified to the value and importance of the cover's contents. It was censored at least twice during its journey as evidenced by the handstamps on its face. Of particular interest is its total franking of 27 piasters plus 20 paras as applied on the back of the cover. This is certainly one of the highest frankings known on a complete single piece of Turkish mail. A simple calculation leads us to the following breakdown of the postal charges; 1 piaster registration + 1 piaster letter rate + 20 paras orphans war tax + 25 piaster insurance at the rate of 1 piaster letter rate + 20 paras orphans war tax + 25 piaster insurance at the rate of 1 piaster for 1000 piasters of declared value.

(2) Between 1875 to 1886 the Austrian Post's Printed Matter Rate to destinations abroad was 3 soldi. This rate is a rare one indeed. We show in Figure 91 the 1886 cover sent from Jerusalem (Steichele #543) to Hungary backstamped and with a Pest transit mark. The 3 soldi franking is the Austrian Levant Michel #9.

(3) The newspaper rate used during the late years of the Turkish Empire was 2 para - very reasonable indeed when one considers that the basic printed matter rate was 10 para. The May 14, 1912 Issue of Istanbul - published French language journal LE JEUNE TURC, as shown in Figure 92, was mailed to a Jerusalem subscriber with the aforementioned 2 para franking. Alongside the stamp can be seen its Jerusalem arrival (Steichele 28/14). Pity that the address label with the subscriber's name and address was almost totally removed.



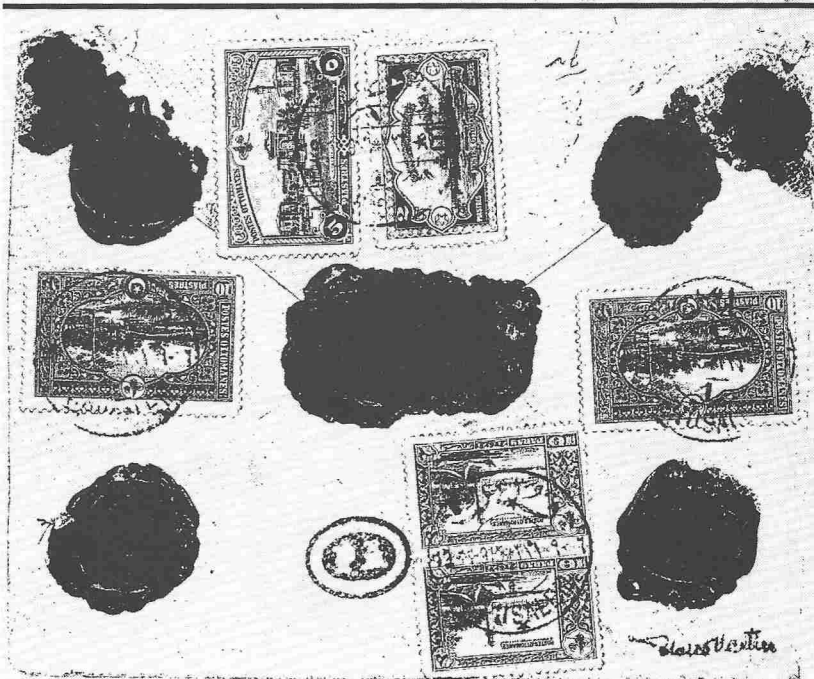


Figure 90





## The Recently Discovered Ottoman “Registered” Postcard from Beer Sheva - is it really a Registered Item?

*(Shaul P. Ladany, Beer Sheva)*

Although I have been a philatelist for almost 60 years, I became a student of the postal history of Beer Sheva only twenty-six years ago. During this period I read every philatelic and most non-philatelic publications dealing with any major or minor aspect of the history of Beer Sheva, thoroughly inspected many thousands of auction catalogues from 32 countries (!!!) in a variety of different languages, but was unable to detect any Ottoman period registered cover or postcard from Beer Sheva. The closest that I came in my search was a Postal Money Order in which 55 Grush were sent on 23.2.1914 from Beer Sheva to Jerusalem (cashed on 27.2) bearing a Money Order Sequential Number No. 078575 which allows the tracing and control over money orders, similarly to the tracing and control of registered letters by their registration number. Several Ottoman money orders from the Holy Land have been reported, but only a single one is known from Beer Sheva (See Back Cover and Fig. 79). It was exhibited by Anon<sup>1</sup> at the “Independence 40” National Stamp Exhibition in Jerusalem in 1988.

The lack of registered letters is further exemplified by the fact that hundreds of general purpose postal receipts from the Ottoman Beer Sheba post office are known, but all of them, without exception, are for telegrams, and none of them is for registered mail. One of such receipts, a page of 5 attached receipts, is shown in Figure 80. Incidentally, it is the only known receipt sheet bearing two different types of Beer Sheva postmarks.

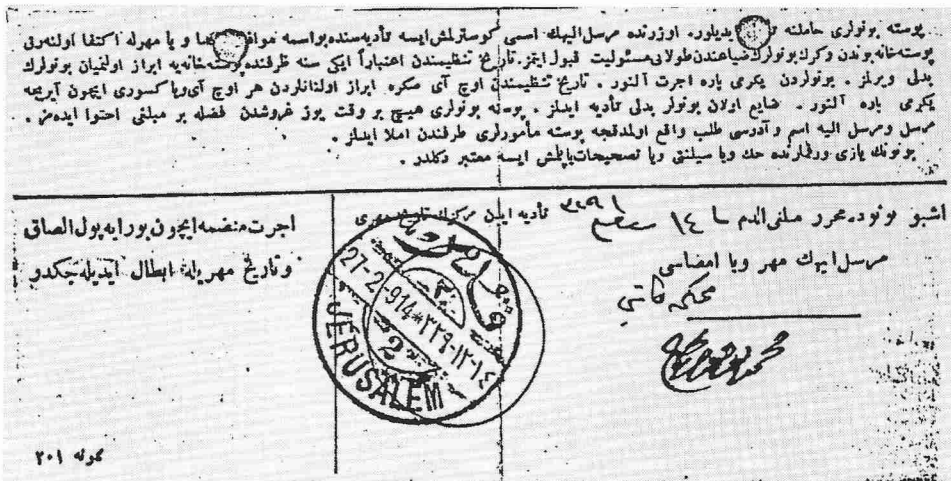


Fig. 79: Reverse of the Money Order from Beer Sheva with an arrival postmark of Jerusalem.



*Fig. 80: Postal Receipts for Telegrams from Beer Sheva.*



In a telephone conversation about a year ago with a highly respected and very knowledgeable philatelic expert, he told me that he issued an expert certificate for a first-time seen newly discovered Ottoman Beer Sheva registered postal item. Since neither did he disclose any further details about the item, nor did he divulge any hint about the identity of the recipient of the certificate, I was eager to have an opportunity to see that postal item.

The opportunity appeared soon with the publication of Karpovsky's article<sup>3</sup> in which he describes the item: a 16.4.1916 registered postcard from Beer Sheva. Prior to reading the article, I looked at the rear cover of the journal which carried the illustration of the item together with a descriptive caption. A quick glance at this photograph (reproduced here as Figure 81) revealed its identity and sufficed to deduce that this postcard is **not a registered** item.

I suppose that two characteristics of the postcard – the number written on it that could be assumed to be a registration number, and the amount of postage corresponding to the registration rate – led the expert to draw his conclusion. However, the major characteristic which refutes this claim is the identity of the handwriting of the addressee's address, and of the number thought to be the registration number. The last name of the addressee, and major portions of the address are written with a neat calligraphy that stresses in bold parts of the letters, and continuously varies the width of the lines. This peculiar calligraphy is identical to the one exhibited by the written number "203". Moreover, the double underlining of "203" (starting from right to left), and "Hongrie" (starting from



**Fig. 81: The Karpovsky "Registered" Beer Sheva postcard.**

left to right), are also identical. Such a calligraphy is mastered only by writers with many years of writing experience of Latin characters (letters and digits), and you don't have to be an expert graphologist to distinguish between the caligraphy of two persons. Thus, it is impossible that different persons wrote the number "203" and the address (except if they were faked by an expert crook), and it is implausible that an Arab or Turkish postal clerk had such a handwriting. If the writer of the postcard wrote by himself the number "203", then it is not a registration number, and the postcard is not a registered one.

If the number is not a registration number, then what is it? And why would the sender write on the postcard such a number with a "No" prefix? The answer to these queries is very simple. It was a custom by many of the serial or repeat writers to the same address to provide the recipient with information whether all of the sender's letters arrived, or some of them got lost. The information was provided by marking their letters with consecutive numbers. Mostly (but not exclusively), when a letter was mailed inside an envelope, the letter sheet was numbered, as demonstrated by the "35" marking on top of the 21.7.1916 letter of Paul Ludwig, the inspector of the German Military Sanitation Depot 101 stationed in Auja-el-Hafir (Fig. 82) sent to his brother in Berlin inside a fieldpost envelope (Fig. 83), bearing the German "Feldpost, Mil. Miss. 1. EXPEDITIONSKORPS, 23.7.16" postmark. When the item mailed was a postcard, obviously the postcard itself

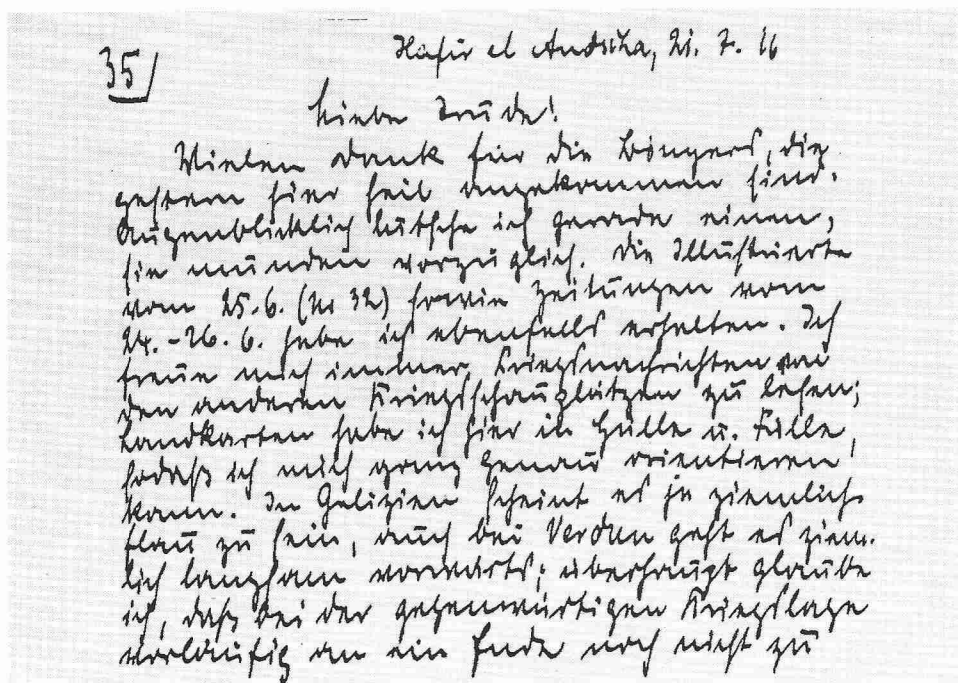


Fig. 82: Letter from Auja-el-Hafir with "35" sequential marking.





Fig. 83: The Envelope carrying the Letter in Fig. 82.

carried the numbering notation, either on the front or on the back, as demonstrated by the “47” notation on front of the 1.10.16 postcard from the same Paul Ludwig in Auja-el-Hafir to the same destination, but this time bearing the German “FELDPOST MIL. MISS. BIR-ES-SEBA 10.10.16” postmark (Fig. 84).

The fact that this was a wide-spread custom and not a rare event, is evidenced by another sender's 9.12.1916 German Field Post Military Mission envelope from Beer Sheva (also from the Anon collection<sup>1</sup>). Its enclosed letter bears the “No 80” numbering notation (Fig. 85). A casual check of some recent auction catalogs shows that this numbering custom among German and Austro-Hungarian soldiers in the Ottoman empire was not just a Southern Palestine habit. Figure 86 shows a German soldier's postcard mailed on 10.6.1917 from Damascus to Hamburg (illustrated in Harlos<sup>2</sup>), and Figure 87 shows a Fieldpost envelope dated 11.8.1918 from the famous Elstner correspondence (illustrated in Tsachor's<sup>6</sup>), which are marked on their fronts “28” and “No 56”, respectively.

Can the remaining evidence of the franking of the Karpovsky postcard be neglected to refute the registration claim? Let us analyze the franking step by step. The sender of the postcard was a German medical doctor named “Franz”. In 1916, which was a period of armed military confrontation between the Turks and their German & Austro-Hungarians allies on one side, and the British Egyptian



Fig. 84: Postcard from Auja-el-Hafir with “47” sequential marking.





No 80  
 Herr Laba, Am 6. Th. 16  
 Mein lieber,  
 Ein frohes, gesegnetes Neues Jahr  
 wünscht ich auch Ihnen!  
 Ich werde Ihnen eine Flasche Schwabacher Pilsener  
 die ich per Gefängnis für Sie besorgen kann, auf fünf Mark  
 und mein Wohl wünschen! Bis bald mit dem besten Gruß  
 Ihr  
 [Signature]

Fig. 85: Letter from Beer Sheva with "No 80" sequential marking (below) carried in an un-numbered envelope (above).

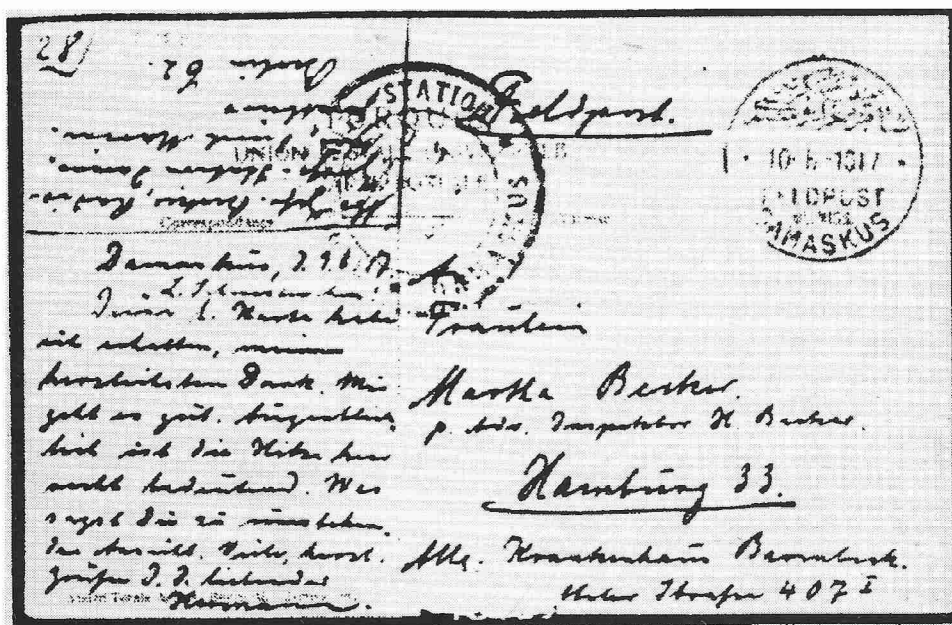


Fig. 86: Postcard from Damascus with "28" sequential marking.

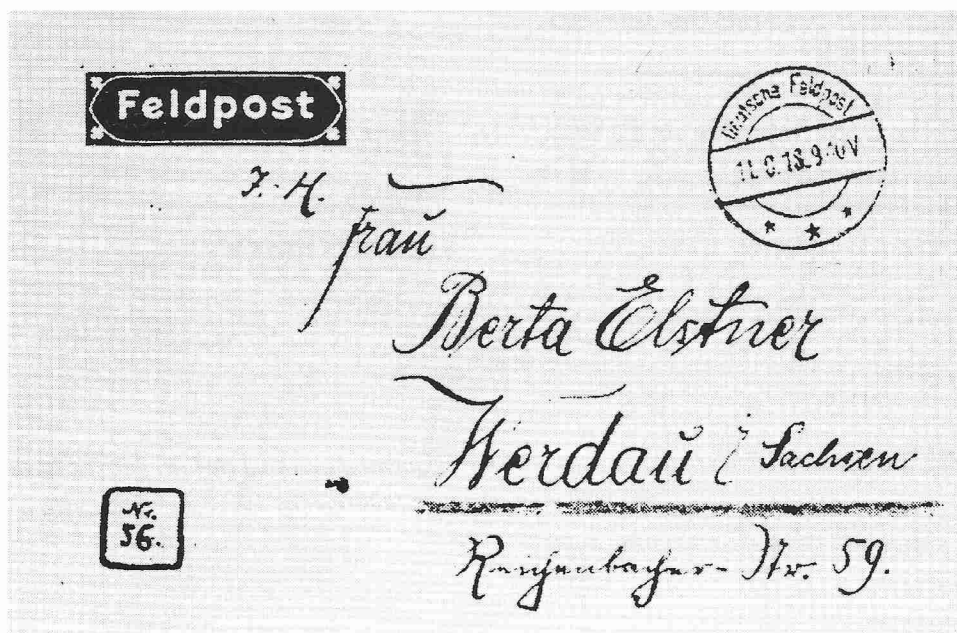


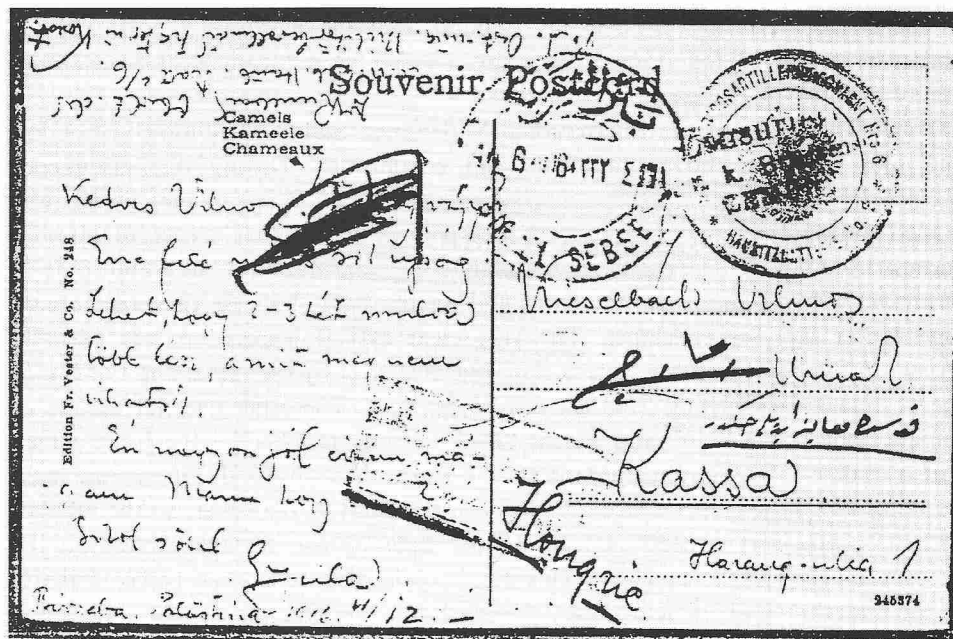
Fig. 87: Envelope of the Elstner correspondence with "No 56" marking.



Expeditionary Force on the other side, there were no tourists in Beer Sheva. All the Germans, Austrians and Hungarians were members of, or attached to, the German 1st Expeditionary Corp under the command of General Kress von Kressenstein. They all enjoyed free franking privilege for their mail. It was much faster and much more reliable than the Ottoman postal service, even when they needed courier service to the nearest German military post office. Did they always use the offered free-franking privilege? Not at all. Among them there were many philatelists, souvenir seekers, or they have been the friends of collectors, and despite the free mailing privilege they were willing to frank their mail with Turkish postage stamps for which they had to pay. Nevertheless, in most cases they preferred to mail their letters franked with Turkish postage stamps through the more reliable German Fieldpost system. Figures 84 & 85 are clear evidence of such unrequired franking.

Figure 88 (from Anon's) provides evidence that the Ottoman post office in Beer Sheva was willing – at least in some cases – to honor free-franked mail from members of the German Expeditionary Corp, and to service and forward them to their destination, without taxing the postage defficiency.

Thus the franking with Turkish postage stamps of the Karpovsky postcard by a German who enjoyed free-franking privilege, and its sending via the unreliable and



**Fig. 88: 14.6.1916 Postcard from a member of the Austro-Hungarian Mountain Artillery Regiment stationed in Beer Sheva, sent free via the Ottoman Beer Sheva Post Office to Hungary (Censored in Zemun).**

slower Ottoman postal service, is a clear indication that it was mailed with philatelic intentions. The philatelic inspiration is further evidenced by the extra care the sender took to write the number "203" to the left of the extreme left postage stamp, and in the underlining of the digits starting from right to left (as opposed to the underlining of "Hongrie" from left to right), so that the ink would not touch the postage stamps. Would you expect to obtain such a slow, carefully positioned and executed underlining, and repeating it parallelly in the same manner, from an Ottoman postal clerk in a tiny place in the middle of the desert?

As can be seen from the Schmidt & Briken<sup>5</sup> handbook of Ottoman postal rates, the one-and-a-half piaster (60 para) postage stamps on the Karpovsky postcard indeed correspond to the 1 piaster registration fee plus the 20 para foreign postcard rate prevailing between July 8, 1915 and July 13, 1916. However, Perry<sup>4</sup> in a thorough investigation of 211 pieces of Ottoman mail from Palestine posted between July 8, 1915 and Sept. 18, 1918, describes the confusion of citizens and postal clerks and their difficulty to obey and apply the legally required postage, and states that "it remains a mystery of the Turkish post office why there exists a considerable volume of WWI mail without the proper postage". He summarizes, "any mail without the proper foreign rate is not a rarity". Thus the fact that the postcard has a registration rate franking is not a proof that indeed it is a registered item.

The obvious conclusion is, in my opinion, that the Karpovsky postcard is a philatelic non-registered postcard sent by a serial writer from Beer Sheva to a family member in Hungary.

I met Karpovsky at the International Millennium Stamp Exhibition in London and told him the above arguments and conclusions. During our discussion, Karpovsky showed me another "Registered" envelope offered to him, which was mailed during the same period from Beer Sheva by another writer to another address in Hungary. The envelope had philatelic "mass-franking" of a multitude of Ottoman postage stamps on the front and on the back, but less than the foreign registration rate for envelopes. The very clear arrival backstamp was partially struck on the bottom of the closing flap, but mysteriously the remaining portion of the postmark was missing from the rest of the back. The other peculiar feature of the envelope was a "No" and 3-digit "Registration" number on the front, which had a similar calligraphy to the one on the Karpovsky postcard. Due to the mass franking very little empty space remained on the front of the cover, so the number with its prefix was written adjacent to the right of the postage stamps on the bottom left part of the envelope. This number was also underlined twice, similarly to the underlining of the Karpovsky postcard, but this time the careful underlining (as evidenced by the varying width of the lines) started from left to right, carefully starting the lines from the edge of the perforation of the postage stamp on the left, so that the ink will not touch it.

This second "Registered" Ottoman Beer Sheva envelope for sure does not



provide any additional support to the registration claim. On the contrary, it raises questions whether the numbers were applied for sequential numbering of writers' correspondences, or were added recently to take advantage of philatelic demand. Such criminal activity has already been evidenced: This writer has seen two fake Ottoman Beer Sheva covers! In one of them the postage stamps have been cancelled several years **before** the stamps were printed, and in the second case, the item was cancelled a long time **after** the conquest of Beer Sheva by the British forces...

## References

- 1) Anon, Amos, "The Postal History of Beer Sheva", exhibit at "Independence 40" National Stamp Exhibition, Jerusalem, 1988.
- 2) Harlos, Peter, 14th Auction, Wunstorf, Germany, 20 Nov. 1999, lot No. 1813.
- 3) Karpovsky, Itamar, "Beersheba Registered Letters of the Ottoman Period", Holy Land Postal History, Vol. IV, No. 79-80 (1999), pp. 693-694 and Back Cover.
- 4) Perry, Ralph, "Turkish Palestine Civilian Mail During WWI and the War Orphan's Surtax - Rates and Dates", The Israel Philatelist, Vol L, No. 6, December 1999, pp. 465-467.
- 5) Schmidt, Wolfgang and Brikan, Andreas, "Handbook of Turkish Philately, Part I - Ottoman Empire Postal Rates", James Brendon, Limassol, 1997.
- 6) Tsachor, Yaakov, Tel-Aviv Stamps Auction, Tel-Aviv, March 12, 1997, lot No. 730.



## The British Mandate Period

### The Adventure of a Trio in 1923 (*Marvin Siegel*)

Figures 93, 94, 95 are of a most unusual trio consisting of a registered letter and both its registry receipt and Advice of Delivery (Avis de Reception). The cover was mailed in Jerusalem, October 26, 1923 addressed to a Berlin Jewish Organization.

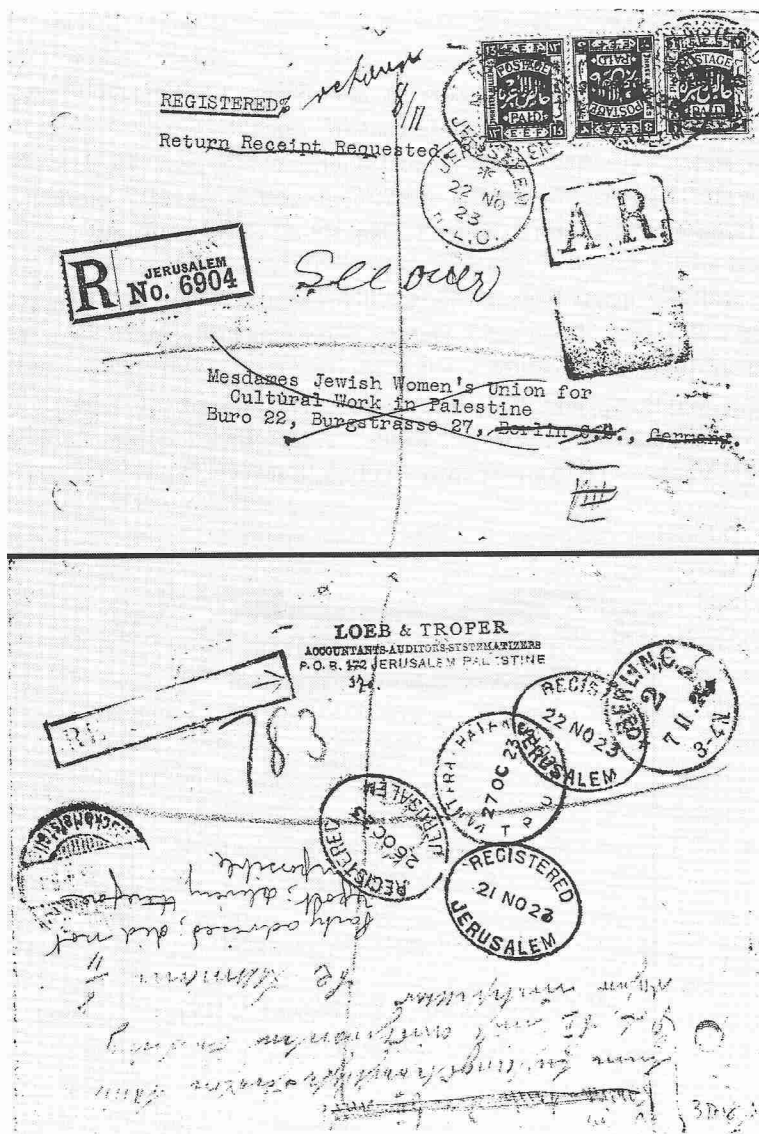


Figure 93



ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DE PALESTINE  
POST OFFICE OF PALESTINE

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION.  
ADVCE OF DELIVERY.**

Timbre du Bureau  
expéditeur



d'une lettre avec valeur déclarée de } a registered letter  
of a letter insured for }  
d'un objet recommandé }  
of a registered article }  
d'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée de }  
of a parcel insured for }  
de } expédiée par } le } Oct. 26/23 } Sous le No. }  
of } Post. F. Super } on the } 1013 376 } under No. }  
expédiée par } Monsieur General Wren's } Bureau 3  
sent by } Union for Cultural Work in Palestine } Burgstrasse Berlin 2  
et adressée à } Germany  
and addressed to }  
(full address) }

(1) enregistré au Bureau  
registered at the Office

(2) Sous le No. }  
under No. }

Le soussigné (qu'une lettre avec valeur déclarée }  
déclare (qu'un objet recommandé } à l'adresse }  
(qu'un colis postal avec valeur déclarée } sumantionnée }

The undersigned acknowledges that { an insured letter  
{ a registered letter  
{ an insured parcel } addressed as above  
et provenant } Jerusalem Palestine } { a été dûment  
and posted at } { was duly  
livré le } 19 }

Signature (3) }  
du destinataire }  
of the addressee } de l'agent du bureau distributeur  
of the Postmaster of the Delivering Office

1. Nature de l'objet { lettre échantillon, imprimé etc. } Bureau d'Origine; date de dépôt à ce  
Nature of article { letter, sample, printed paper, etc. } bureau; No. d'enregistrement au même bureau  
2. { Office or Origin; date of posting at this Office  
No. of registration at this Office. }

3. Note: Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si le règlement du pays de destination le comportant, par l'agent du  
bureau distributeur, et renvoyé ensuite par le premier courrier directement à l'adresse indiquée au recto.  
Note: This advice must be signed by the addressee or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination so  
provide by the Postmaster of the Delivering Office, then sent by the first mail to the address shown on the  
other side. 543. 5000—24, 6, 22  
Ptd. at COHEN Press.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION  
ADVCE OF DELIVERY.**

Timbre du Bureau  
expéditeur

Stamp of Office  
of Origin

Lien de Destination  
Place of Destination

Pays de Destination  
Country of Destination

**SERVICE DES POSTES  
POST OFFICE**

Figure 94

P.T. 512.

Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet. Regn. No. 1094

Fee paid.....

תזכרת משלוח חבולת דאר באחריות מספר הבטחה.....  
 הסכום שנשלם.....

A Postal Packet addressed as under has been registered & posted this day  
 ان الطرد المعنون اذناه تسجيل وارسل في البريد اليوم

חבולת דאר אחת הרשומה ע"פי דא"ת מספר הבטחה ונשלחה היום

Date Stamp 26 OCT 23  
 יום 26 תשרי 1382

Jerusalem  
 ירושלים

Accepting Clerk חתימת הפקיד המקבל

Figure 95

It was sent by a well-known firm of Jerusalem accountants and was properly franked with 13 Mils for the letter rate plus 13 Mils for the registry with Bale #s 73, 79 and #80. Its front bears the A.R. (Avis De Reception) handstamp apparently catalogued as the rare L16 by Glassman (Page 76). But, this use is 5 years after his last date of October 29 1918: Said handstamp is also found on the PT512 Registry Receipt retained by the sender. This mark is believed to be of Turkish origin being Steichele's 19/15 with the French printing in its lower box removed.

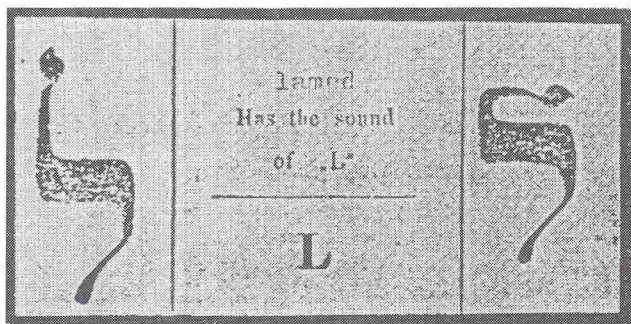
The cover did arrive in Berlin as per its November 7 backstamp after a trip that included a leg on the Kantara-Haifa South railroad as per its October 27 transit postmark. However it could not be delivered and it, plus its attached Avis de Reception, were returned to Jerusalem (Rearrival November 21 postmark). The next day it was forwarded to Jerusalem's Returned Letter Office (Glassman #H5 postmark) from whence it was returned to the sender, thus accounting for the three pieces being reunited.



## More on the “Up” and “Down” Lameds (*A.M. Hochheiser*)

In 1983 an article of mine appeared entitled “The “Up” and “Down” lameds”<sup>1</sup>. These are illustrated in Figure 96.

The “lamed” has the sound of the letter “L”. The article explained in detail the “why”, “where” and “when” of the origin of the “Down” lamed, the later of the two different styles. Readers are referred to this article for an explanation and the origin of each “Lamed”.



*Figure 96*

The previous article explained that the “Up” lamed was the original lamed found in script first and then in print when printing was discovered in the 1400s. The article also explained why the “Down” lamed was later devised for use.

Of primary interest was the fact that the first “Down” lamed I could find was printed in a haggadah in 1889 in Vilna, Lithuania. Since then, I had discussed this matter with some half a dozen different rabbis. All were aware of the difference and offered to check their libraries for an earlier use of the “Down” lamed in print. I received no return calls to help me.

However, a researcher never stops looking for information. Recently, I met Rabbi Peter Hyman, spiritual leader of the congregation at Temple Shalom in Broomall, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Hyman has a postgraduate degree, a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters. My daughter and son-in-law are members of this congregation. At a meeting of a calligraphy class initiated by Rabbi Hyman, my daughter chanced to meet the class in session. She mentioned my interest in the “Up” and “Down” lameds. This immediately aroused Rabbi Hyman’s curiosity and he asked to have the opportunity to speak with me. On one of my visits to my children, I stopped in to meet Rabbi Hyman.

This visit was most revealing. The Rabbi’s interest in Hebrew letters allowed him to accumulate an interesting library of books associated with this theme. Shown in Figure 97 is the face page of one of his texts. Its title is self-explanatory. Now look at Figure 98, one of its pages marked in the book’s introduction of illustrations as Plate 68, Jewish Folk Ornaments. Among the illustrations note particularly photos #5 and #7. These are listed as “Decorative Letters”. Illustration #5 is listed as scripted in parchment in Dubno in 1801. Illustration #7 is listed as scripted on a tombstone in Olike in 1781. Note that both of these dates are about 100 years

# Hebrew Alphabets

400 B.C.E.  
to Our Days

Reuben Leaf

BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

1950





## JEWISH FOLK ORNAMENTS (2)

- 1 — Fragment of Torah crown, silver, Lutzk.
- 2 — Tombstone, Proskurov, 1793.
- 3 — Torah silver plate.
- 4, 5 & 6 — Decorative letters on parchment, Dubno, 1801.
- 7 — Tombstone, Olike, 1781.
- 8 — Tombstone, Dubno, 1844.
- 9 — Tombstone, Radziwilow, 1800.

PLATE  
68

Figure 98

earlier than the first lay down lamed reported in my article in 1983. Both cities are in Eastern European Countries.

Obviously, as far as I have been able to learn, this means that the use of "Down" lameds in script preceded the first "Down" lamed in print by at least 100 years. Thus the use of "Down" lameds well preceded the first copy found in print. This leaves the way open for further research.

### References:

A.M. Hochheiser, "The "Up" and "Down" Lameds", The Israel Philatelist, Vol. XXXIV, No. 3/4 (1983), p. 3069; and HLP# #59 (1994), p. 1005.



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## The Transition Period

### The Origin of the "Wall Postmark" of the 1948 Jerusalem Jewish Quarter (*Z. Aloni, Thoham*)

While trying to learn more about the postal communication to and from the besieged Old City in Jerusalem during the War of Independence, I interviewed in April 2000, Mr. Moshe Rusnak. He was the commander of the forces in the Old City from the beginning of March, when Mr. Halperin, the former commander, was arrested and deported to the New City, till the surrender of the Jewish Quarter on May 28th. Mr. Rusnak was a prisoner of war at the Arab Legion camp in Mafrak and was released in March 1949.

Among questions raised during this conversation, I raised the query of the postmarks that were in use in the Old City during this period. Mr. Rusnak pointed at the postmark shown in Figure 99 (left), and said that this postmark was made by him in order to mark official mail from the Old City.

The handstamp was made in a small printing house in the Old City by the printer Haim Hamburger. To my question, "when was this handstamp made?" – as no date is inscribed but only the year **התש"ח** ("Hatashah") – Mr. Rusnak answered: "...I made this instrument in Nissan



Figure 99

or even Adar (April or end of March), but due to technical problems and lack of equipment a changeable date slug was impossible to produce and it was decided that only the year would appear in the postmark". "Also", said Mr. Rusnak, "the device was not a portable one, but a small metal type set, foot operated printing machine and the papers, or envelopes had to be fed one by one". According to his statement about 20 envelopes were struck, none of them with stamps, part of which used to send letters (unfranked) and part as souvenirs (Stamps were available in the Old City only on May 10th).

I asked him from where came the idea of the shape of the postmark, and he said: "I'll tell you, I was a member of the youth movement "Brit Ha'hashmona'im" and

our emblem had a similar frame (Fig. 99 right). I asked the printer if he could print a wall, and he answered, "Yes, I can print a wall". Mr. Rusnak then told me that he used only the framework of the emblem and not the inscription inside, which was something irrelevant.

A few days later, when I listened again to the tape of my interview with Mr. Rusnak, I decided to compare between the Old City postmark and the "Brit Ha'hashmona'im" emblem. I looked for more details on "Brit Ha'hashmona'im" and I found that it was a Jabotinsky related youth movement, with religious and military orientation under the patronage of "Beitar". Most of its members later joined the "Etzel" or "Lehi". In the "Beitar" book, in the section dealing with youth movements, the emblem of "Brit Ha'hashmona'im" is illustrated – the similarity of the frames of the Old City postmark and the latter one is of course striking at once!

### Some more Philatelic Tidbits, from the Transition Period

*(Marvin Siegel)*

(1) Postal Forms of the type shown in Figure 100 are seldom if ever encountered originating during the 1948 Transition (Interim) Period. This one is PT Form #520 – Advice Of Delivery (A.R.). It was used to advise the sender of delivery of either an insured letter or registered article or an insured parcel. The Advice shown was for a registered letter sent on May 4, 1948 from Hadar HaCarmel and was addressed to another Haifa resident. The fee for such a service at the time was 15 Mils to be paid by the sender. In this case the fee was paid by Interim stamps Bale 1.11c and 1.15 b – both with Haifa overprints.

(2) This writer debated until quite recently as to whether or not the Rishon Armored Car Local Service which operated in April-May 1948 did in fact carry any true commercial mail. Most of the pieces hitherto seen appeared to be philatelic in origin. Several seen might have indeed been commercial but these could not be definitively shown to be such. The cover shown in Figure 101 certainly is commercial as the addressee is **not** on the list of known philatelists who sent or received most of the surviving samples of the service **and** it contains its original letter sent by a son to his Tel Aviv parents. The date on this letter matches that of the Rishon dispatch of April 20th and the cover's back has a Tel Aviv arrival of April 21st.

This writer gratefully acknowledges the assistance rendered by my associate Yaakov Tsachor and by Stephen Rothman in the research and preparation of my notes in this Issue.



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of a letter insured for L.P. \_\_\_\_\_ Mils \_\_\_\_\_ مل \_\_\_\_\_ محرم مؤمن عليه مبلغ ج.ف. \_\_\_\_\_  
 של מכתב סבוסח בסכום של \_\_\_\_\_

of a registered article \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_ מסجل (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 של צרור רשום \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_

of a parcel insured for L.P. \_\_\_\_\_ Mils \_\_\_\_\_ مل \_\_\_\_\_ طرد مؤمن عليه بمبلغ ج.ف. \_\_\_\_\_  
 של חבילה סבוסחת בסכום של \_\_\_\_\_

registered at the Office of \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ Under No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 רשום במשרד הדואר ב \_\_\_\_\_ ביום \_\_\_\_\_ מס' \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by M. \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 נשלח ע"י \_\_\_\_\_

and addressed to M. \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 מיועד ל (הכתובת המלאה) \_\_\_\_\_

(full address) \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned { an insured letter, a registered letter, an insured parcel } addressed as above & posted at \_\_\_\_\_  
 המ undersigned { המזכיר המזכיר, המזכיר, המזכיר } \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_

was duly delivered on the \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 נמסרה (ה) לתעודת (ה) ביום \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 חתימה (2) \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Nature of article, letter, sample, printed paper, etc. Office of origin; date of posting at this office:  
 No. of registration at this office. \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Note:— This advice must be signed by the addressee and then sent by the first mail to the address shown on the other side.

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הדואר הממלכתי

Figure 100



Figure 101

## From Besieged Jerusalem to the Isolated Negev and Back

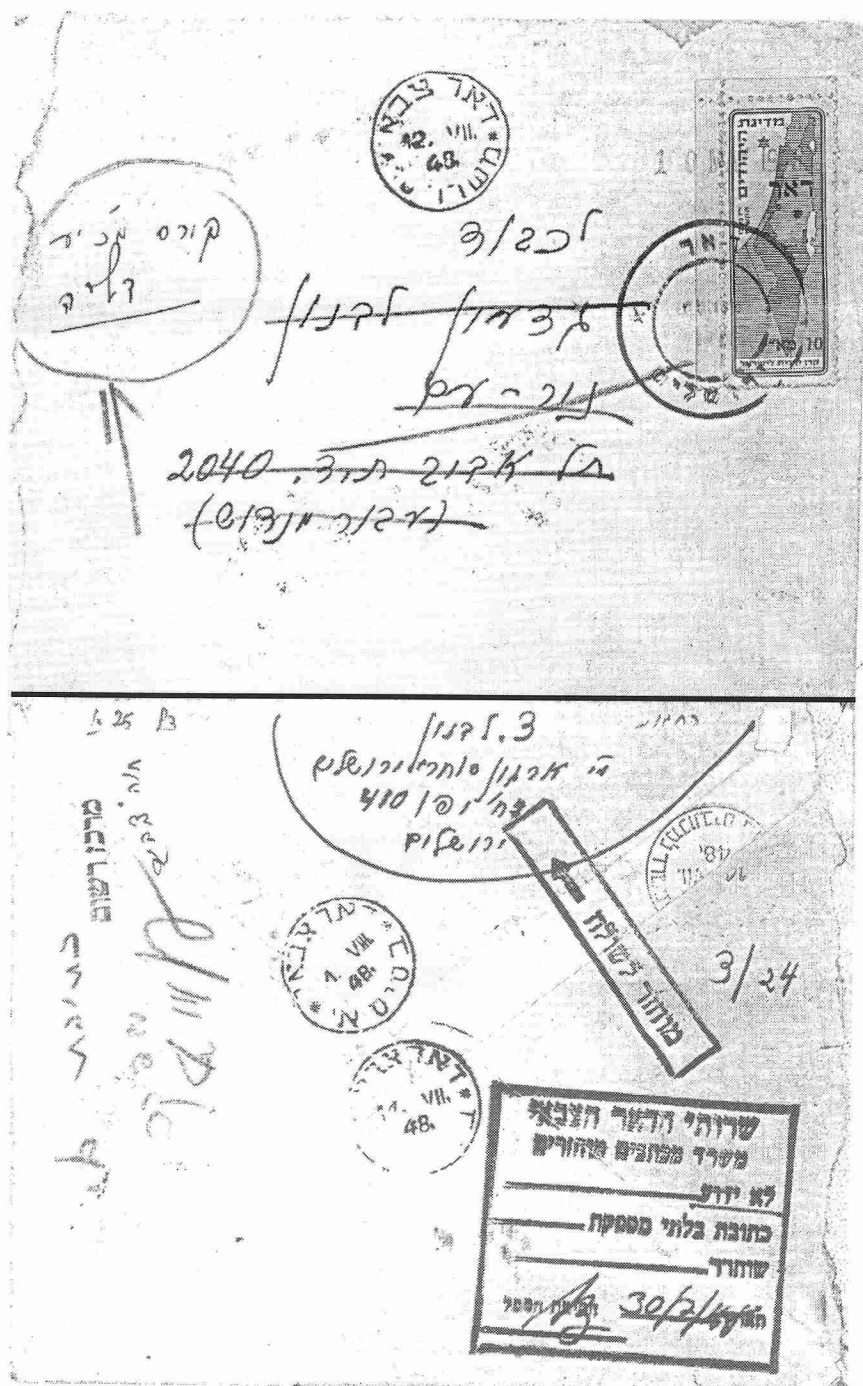
(Z. Aloni, Shoham)

A few years ago I purchased a roughly opened cover which looked quite ugly with a lot of red crayon marks. It was decorated with many army postmarks and cachets, which after a short research revealed an interesting story of a letter sent from besieged Jerusalem to the isolated Negev and back (Fig. 102).

The letter was sent from Jerusalem on May 10, 1948, franked with a 10 Mil Jerusalem stamp of the first printing, **blue on white paper** (the overprint of this variety was made on JNF Kaplove No 921 and not on the regular 924). The letter was addressed to G. Levanon, Nir Am, P.O.Box 2040, Tel Aviv. It was a regular procedure that settlements in the Negev used to have post boxes in Tel Aviv, and the mail was collected from there. The letter was detained in Jerusalem till the First or Second Convoy left with mail for Tel Aviv and the rest of the country on the 18 or 21 of June, respectively. The letter was directed to the post box and was flown to the airfield near Kibbutz Ruhama, somewhere between June 18 and July 10. They were the airplanes of "Air Service" which delivered mail to the Negev settlements and back, as from June 10 the Negev was totally cut off, and no convoys could pass through until July 31.

The search for the addressee began: Somebody wrote on the cover "Kurs





*Figure 102*

Mackim, Dalia", and the letter was sent back to Tel Aviv, receiving on the obverse the army postmark of "Misrad 10" dated July 12, 1948 as a dispatch. On the reverse of the cover, we can see "Basis Alef" and, "Returned letter office" postmarks of July 14. "Basis Alef" and "Returned Letter Office" were located at the same place, at 121 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv. The main task of the "Returned Letter Office" was to investigate and redirect mail to addressees or to decide if undeliverable mail was to be returned to the sender.

On July 14th somebody in the "Returned Letter Office", wrote with red crayon that "Kurs Mackim, Dalia" was an insufficient address, and on July 30th a decision was made that the addressee was unknown and that the letter should be returned to the sender after being so marked. The letter was then transferred to "Basis Alef" postmarked August 1st, and (probably) flown back to Jerusalem, as the army continued to despatch its mail by air till Aug. 2nd.

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- 1.1.2000: "Nazareth 2000, Millennium Year, Rotary District 2490 Israel", Nazareth\*.
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- 18.1.2000: "35 years to the execution of Eli Cohen Z.L. in Damaskus", Jerusalem.
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- 15.2.2000: "Peace 2000, Pilgrimage to the Holy Land", Jerusalem\*.
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- 21.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Jerusalem.
- 23.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Jerusalem.
- 24.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Mount of Beatitudes.
- 24.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Tabgha.
- 25.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Nazareth.
- 26.3.2000: "Pilgrimage of the Pope to Israel", Jerusalem.
- 12.4.2000: "1925-2000 the Hebrew University of Jerusalem", Jerusalem.
- 3.5.2000: "Memorial Day, 2000", Jerusalem\*.
- 3.5.2000: "Land of Three Religions", Haifa\*.
- 3.5.2000: "Johann Sebastian Bach", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*.
- 3.5.2000: "International Communications Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*.
- 3.5.2000: "Endangered Species", Arad\*.
- 3.5.2000: "'LIBI' - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defence", 20th anniversary, Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 22.5.2000: "The Stamp Show 2000/Greetings from Israel's Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 24.5.2000: "The Open University - 25 Years", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 25.5.2000: "Hodayot, Religious Youth Village 50 Years", Tiberias.
- 28.5.2000: "Be'er-Sheva Stamp Exhibition", Beer-Sheva.
- 31.5.2000: "Together in Hope/40 Years of Lions Israel", Jerusalem.
- 31.5.2000: "Inauguration of the Palmah Museum", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 1.6.2000: "ERP Second Conference/Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel", Haifa.
- 20.6.2000: "80th anniversary of the Haganah - Inauguration of the Haganah Museum in Geuara", Yoqneam Illit.

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 \* This is used also as special postmarks for the F.D. of the corresponding stamp issue.





Fig. 103: Special cancellations used in the last period

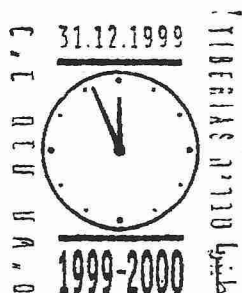
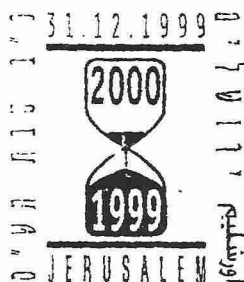


Fig. 103 (continued): Special cancellations used in the last period



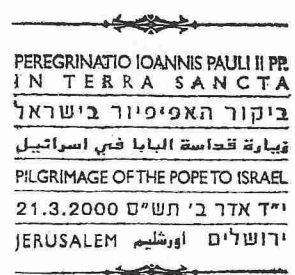


Fig. 103 (continued): Special cancellations used in the last period



Fig. 103 (continued): Special cancellations used in the last period





3.5.2000: International Communication Day – Cellular communication (2.30); Memorial Day 2000 – The monument for the fallen Jewish volunteers to the British Army in WWII (1.20); Endangered species (WWF) – Blanford's fox (4x1.20) – issued in ornamented minisheets of 8 composed of two blocks of 4 with gutter between (Fig. 105); Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750, 5.60); Land of three religions (3.40).

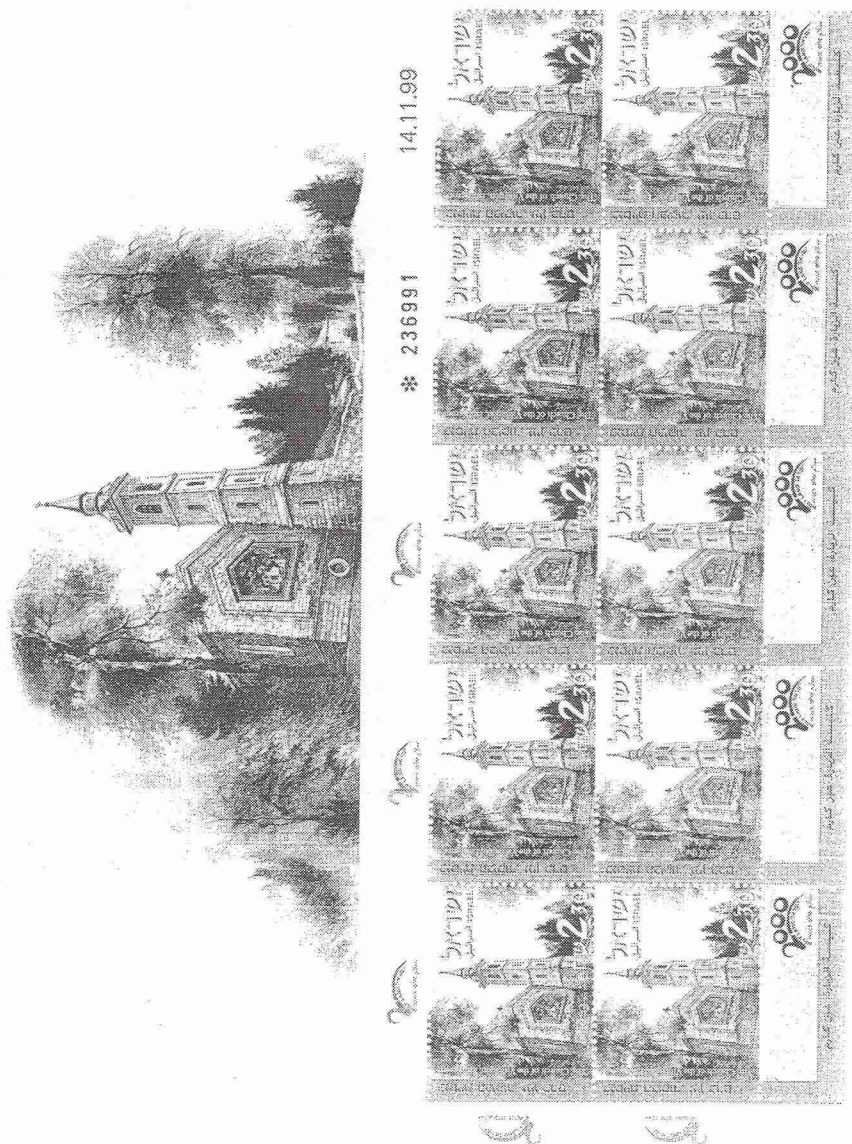


Figure 104





*Figure 105*

## The Holy Land Exhibits in the “London Stamp Show 2000”

*(Y. Rimon, Haifa)*

Having been spoiled by the amount, scope and level of excellence of the Holy Land exhibits in the Tel Aviv '98 exhibition we are back to “normal” in the “London Stamp Show 2000” in which only five Holy Land exhibits participated, one traditional and four Postal History collections.

The traditional exhibit of J. Schwartz, “Palestine 1917-1948” is a well known and well balanced exhibit and probably the only one of its kind which covers the whole Mandate period, from the first intervim time to 1948 including a strong section on the Pictorials which is missing in most Mandate traditional exhibits – A well deserved Gold medal.

In the Postal History section the exhibit by I. Karpovsky, “Holy Land Forerunners – Postal Services up to 1918” got a Gold medal. Previously he was awarded twice a Large Gold in Tel Aviv '98 and in Paris '99. This very strong

collection, despite having been improved since Paris by significant items from the Cihangir Collection, was judged very strictly by the Jury. This, however, gives it one more chance to be exhibited in the competition class in the future.

J. Wofchuck's exhibit, "Mail from the Holy Land, World War I, 1916-1920" is also a well known collection. It specializes in postal services of both warring sides in Palestine during WWI. It contains many registered letters from the Turkish, German, British (E.E.F.), Australian, and French units and continues into the First Interim Period and the Army Postal Services in occupied Palestine. It won a well earned Gold Medal.

Z. Alexander's exhibit, "British Palestine Postal History" was exhibited for the first time in this format. As often happens with a first time exhibit, even with a veteran, and experienced collector of the highest standards like Mr. Alexander, The treatment of the wide subject sometimes creates an imbalance. The collection contains exceptional material, especially of the T.P.O.'s (Travelling Post Offices) of the British army during WWI and the Military Administration period; with an improvement in the treatment it is sure to get much higher awards than the Large Vermeil awarded this time.

J. Slutzki's exhibit, "Palestine Rates and Routes, 1927-1948" is also a well known collection which became the model collection in its subject and has contributed a lot to our understanding of the later Mandate period Postal History. The profound research and excellent treatment and knowledge awarded this collection a Gold Medal.

It is hoped that Mr. Slutzki will continue his research and extend his collection also into the first Period of the Mandate, i.e. 1918-1927.

All in all, despite strict judgement in some cases of the Jury of the postal history section, the Holy Land collections fared very well in such large international exhibition like "London Stamp Show 2000": 4 Golds and 1 L.V. for the five collections exhibited.

We hope that this will encourage the collectors of our field and will lead to a greater participation of high level Holy Land collections in international exhibitions.



## Obituary

### Arie Ben David (1914–2000)

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Arie Ben David in Toronto on May 11, 2000 after a brief illness. Arie was a founding member of the World Philatelic Congress of Israel, Holy Land, and Judaica Societies (the W.P.C.), and for most of its years either the President or Editor of the Newsletter, and its guiding light.

Arie was born January 13, 1914 in Czernowitz – then Austro-Hungary, Romania (Cernauti) after 1918, U.S.S.R. after World War II, and now part of the Ukraine. After the usual secular and religious schooling he spent time abroad with the local soccer team as a star player, then stayed in Haifa in 1932 to study at the Technion and to play for the soccer team there. Born Leopold Schuller, he changed his name to Arie Ben David in 1935. He remained in Palestine when the situation in Europe worsened, becoming President of the Maccabi Club in Tel-Aviv during World War II. He related how he took the team in 1947 to play in Cyprus against some Greek and Turkish teams. The British Commander of the Cyprus internment camps wanted a game and offered 1000 pounds sterling and expenses, but Arie offered a game free if permitted to play one game in the camps against an internee group. The commander would not agree.

After two years in Eritrea and two years in Vienna, in 1958 Arie and family immigrated to Toronto, Canada. Starting from scratch, he became a purchaser for Shopsy's Food stores, retiring in 1979.

A stamp collector since a small child, Arie had the best Safad collection ever assembled, and an excellent Herzl exhibit. He was instrumental in the founding of the W.P.C., and edited the W.P.C. newsletter almost from its inception. He was President of CAFIP\*. His monograph on Safad is definitive, and he arranged for the publication of many standard Holy Land volumes.

He will be missed, and the W.P.C. will never be the same without him.

*(Emil Dickstein)*

---

\*Editor note: He was also a member of many other Holy Land Societies, including the HLPB Society which he joined almost from its foundation and was awarded an Honorary Membership a few years ago.

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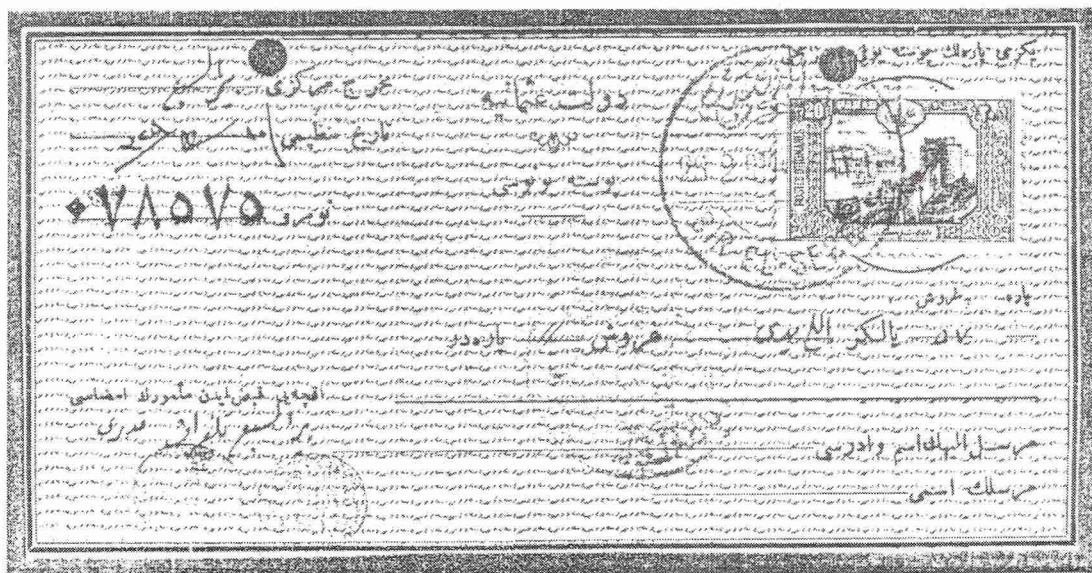


דמי חבר לשנה: \$18.00 לפי השער היציג ביום התשלום.

פרסומים של האגודה וכתובות להתכתבות, ראה בעטיפה הפנימית השניה

# תולדות הדואר של ארץ ישראל 81-82

בטאון רשמי של האגודה לתולדות  
הדואר של ארץ-ישראל



המחאת דואר עותמנית בת 55 גרוש שנשלחה מבאר שבע לירושלים ב-23 בפברואר, 1914  
Ottoman Postal Money Order for 55 Grush (Registration No. 078575) sent from Bir-El-Sebee on  
February 23, 1914 to Jerusalem (See article on p. 63).