



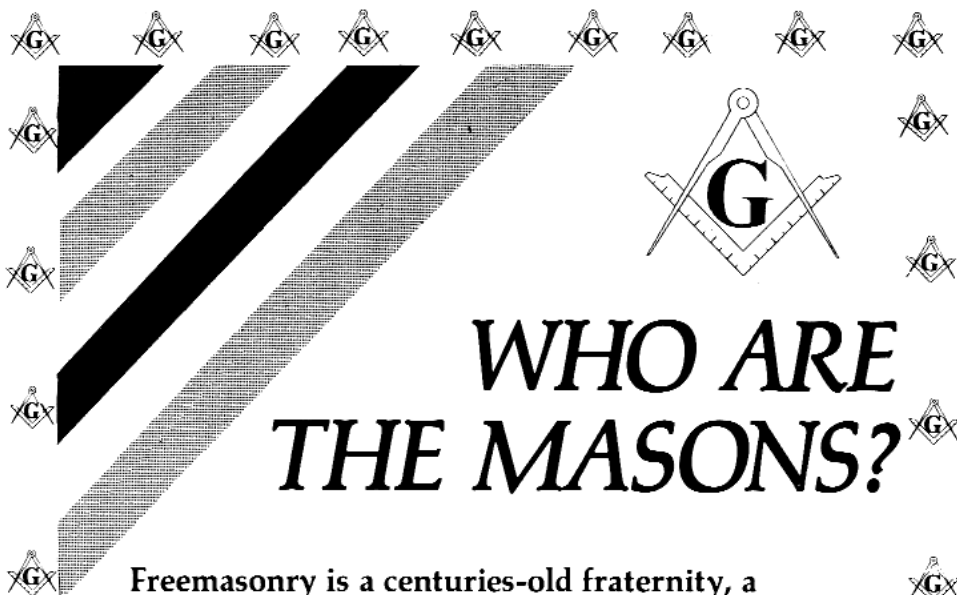
The Masonic Philatelist

A QUARTERLY

VOL. 42

DECEMBER 1986

NO. 4



WHO ARE THE MASONS?

Freemasonry is a centuries-old fraternity, a brotherhood, a way for people to work together and live together in harmony. New York and Freemasonry have been good friends for a long time.



The MASONIC PHILATELIST

VOL. 42

NO. 4

DECEMBER 1986

DR. IRWIN M. YARRY
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DR. ALLAN BOUDREAU
PUBLISHER

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* * * *

The Masonic Stamp Club of New York was organized in 1934 for the purpose of encouraging research and study in Masonic Philately, and to establish bonds of good fellowship among Masons who are stamp collectors. The need for the organization has proved itself through the years with its ever-increasing membership and the formation of other Masonic stamp clubs in the United States.

ON THE COVER

Our cover features an item from the newspaper announcements that are appearing in newspapers throughout New York State as a part of the efforts of our Grand Master, W. W. Robert C. Singer, to communicate with all our neighbors so that the purpose and goals of our Masonic fraternity might be better understood and appreciated. Our back cover also includes copy from this campaign.

The Grand Lodge of New York has also published a new brochure "Q&A, Answers to Questions about the Masonic Fraternity" and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York will send a copy of this attractive and informative brochure to any member who sends in a #10 SASE to The Secretary, MSCNY, Box 10, Masonic Hall, 46 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10010.

Regular meetings, 2:00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday each month except July and August at:

The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016
Phone (212) 683-0559

Please Address All Communications To The

MASONIC STAMP CLUB OF N.Y.

MASONIC HALL - Box 10
46 West 24th St.
New York, N.Y. 10010

State of the Club Report



Nicholas Batalias
President

Some months ago, in March 1986, when I last reported on the State of the Club, I received a prompt response from Bro. Vic Fabian in Auckland, New Zealand. I do hope that this message brings forth many additional responses from our members throughout the world.

The annual ASDA National Stamp Show at the 7th Regiment Armory in New York City was a great success. The Masonic Stamp Club booth was manned by Brothers Yarry, Kane, Batalias and Boudreau and many members of the Club, and prospective members, signed the register and spent some time visiting. The new location in the Armory provided much more aisle space and everyone seemed to agree that the move was for the better.

Enclosed with the September issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST was a 1987 DUES NOTICE and I am please to report that some 200 of our members have sent in their 1987 dues. How about the rest of you? Please send in your 1987 dues today and save us the expense of time and postage that a special follow up dues reminder will cost.

We are planning to have the Master of Philately Degree on May 6, 1987 during the regular session of the Grand Lodge of New York. We hope that you will plan to attend and, if you have received the Master of Philately Degree, join in and help the degree team. If you have not yet received the degree you are in for a very enjoyable experience.

As always, our editor is seeking quality items regarding Masonic Philately to include in our magazine and I ask each member to make the effort to contribute. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Share your expertise with your brother philatelists. Tell us what you are collecting, where you are exhibiting your collection, how you got started with Masonic philately, and anything else that you think the other club members would find interesting and Dr. Yarry will try to include it in the MASONIC PHILATELIST.

And please try to interest others in the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. We always need new ideas, new concepts, and the fresh view and interests that come from new members.

Bro. Warren Simpson has written, asking if we will consider putting the Master of Philately Degree on in the New England Area to accommodate members who cannot get into New York City. Let's hear from the New Englanders. The Club Officers are ready to help with this. Can some member in New England work out the local arrangements? Can we get enough members to participate? Perhaps other areas would also like to work out a similar program? Let's all make an effort to promote Masonic Philately.

Freemasonry In Israel

It is difficult to determine when Freemasonry commenced to function in the Land of Israel. According to tradition, there were Masonic Lodges at the time of the erection of King Solomon's Temple, and in the Masonic world, Jerusalem is still regarded as the birthplace of Freemasonry.

But, passing over the long period that has elapsed since ancient time, and basing our findings on the descriptions of travelers who visited Palestine in the preceding century, it is clear that there were Masonic Lodges in this country at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is definitely known that there was a Masonic Lodge in Jaffa, founded by Freemasons among the French engineers who built the railway from Jaffa to Jerusalem, about seventy years ago, its first Master being one Gustav Milau. Local residents, both Arabs and Jews, were accepted to this Lodge which was founded in 1891 and called "Le Port du Temple de Solomon." In 1906, its name was changed to "L'Aurore", and it is still in existence.

Since then many more Lodges were established in Palestine working in diverse languages: Hebre, French, English and Arabic. They owed allegiance to different Grand Lodges including those of Egypt, Scotland, England, France and Germany.

The process of uniting these many different Lodges began on January 9, 1932, when seven of them formed themselves into the Independent Grand Lodge of Palestine. The Jewish, Moslem and Christian brethren belonging to these seven Lodges, which had until then worked under different jurisdictions, foresaw that whatever form the government of the country might assume during its development, it was destined to become a sovereign state. Moreover, this country, where the idea of Freemasonry was born, and the first Masonic Temple was built, this land which was the cradle of those religions that gave Freemasonry its sublime precepts of morality and justice - it was incredible that it should not have its own Grand Lodge.

The second stage of the process of consolidation, that of affiliating the individual Lodge or groups of Lodges to the New Grand Lodge, then followed. Then came the third stage, the uniting of all the Lodges in the country, without exception, under the banner of the Grand Lodge of the State of

Israel. The solemn ceremony of the erection of the united Grand Lodge took place on October 20, 1953, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and this date constitutes a turning-point in the activities of the Masonic Order in this country.

The Grand Lodge now maintains fraternal relations with 104 regular Grand Lodges throughout the world, namely, 49 in the U.S.A., 10 in Europe, 8 in Canada, 7 in Australia and New Zealand, 13 in Central America, 15 are in South America and 2 in Asia.

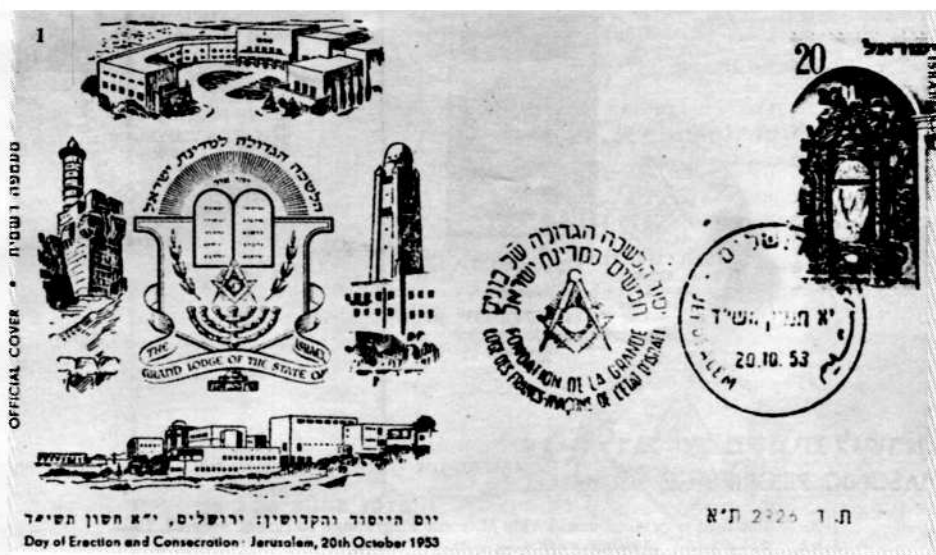
There are few Grand Lodges in the world that enjoy so large a number of recognitions, and the fact proves the respect and faith accorded to our Order in Israel by the great Masonic world. The number of Lodges in Israel today is 53 with a total of some 3,000 brethren in good standing. There are 34 Lodges working in Hebrew, 6 in English, 3 in Arabic, 2 in French, 7 in German and 1 in Roumanian. True to the basic principles of Freemasonry, the Order in Israel does its best to translate precepts into practice.

In a country inhabited by people of various religions, Grand Lodge considers it among its primary duties to foster friendship and mutual understanding between all of them. Jews, Moslems, Christians and Durzes sit together in the Lodges and also meet outside the Lodge in an atmosphere of understanding, friendship and brotherhood. Expression to the sublime idea of brotherhood and friendship among nations was given by Grand Lodge in its Seal, which consists of the Shield of David, the Cross and the Crescent.

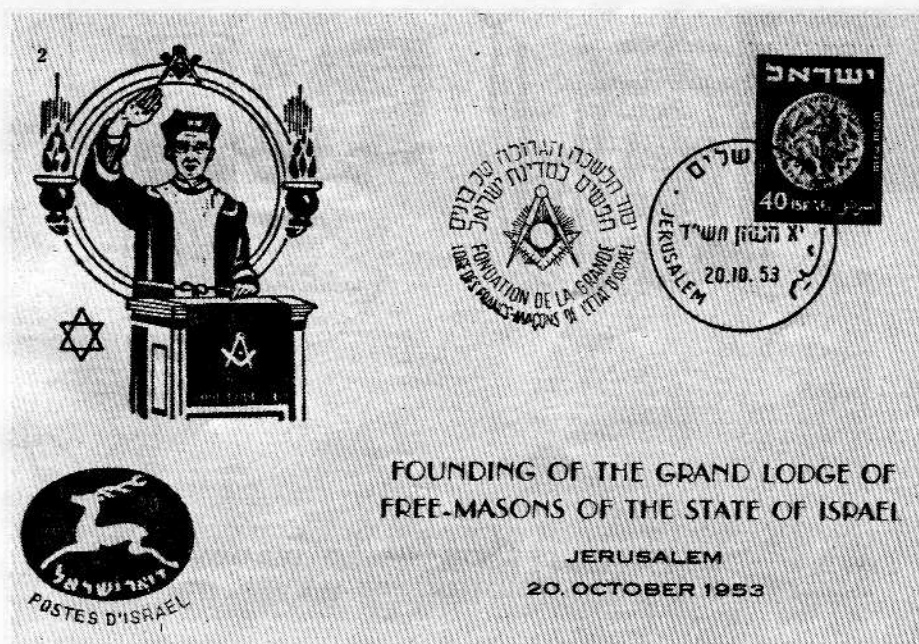
An additional expression of the respect paid to each religion is the fact that the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Koran lie in the Lodge altars and on which candidates take their obligations on the respective good book which individually hold dearest to themselves. In the field of charity, Grand Lodge maintains an Old Aged Home in Nahariya where aged brethren find a home in comfort and pleasant quarters. Grand Lodge also supports various philanthropic institutions and cares for the rehabilitation of needy immigrant brethren.

A mutual Insurance Fund was founded by Grand Lodge in 1958 and it numbers now over 2,000 members. This fund provides, against a small annual premium, the family of a deceased brother an amount of IL. 2000.

Covers from the Collection of Bro. Warren L. Ehrig



1. The official Masonic cover, to commemorate the founding of the Grand Lodge of Israel, October 20, 1953.



2. An interesting unofficial cover, same event.

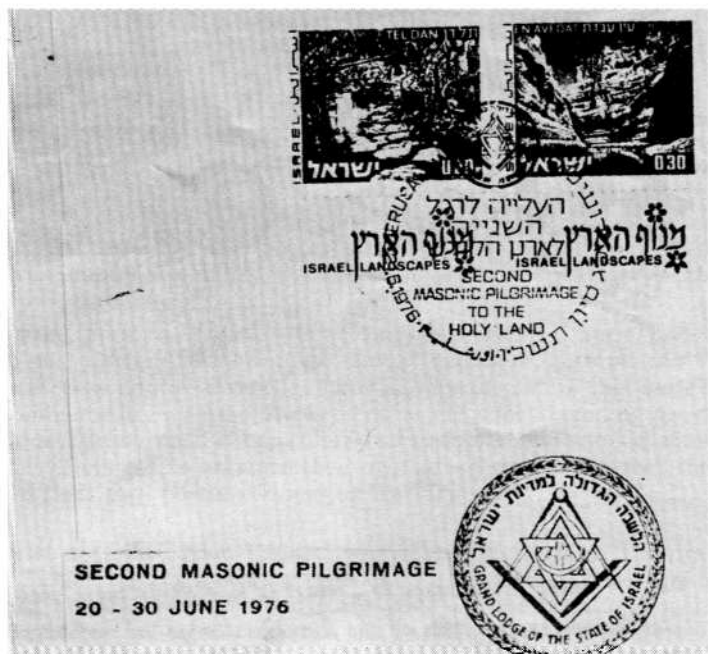


3. The first organized world wide Masonic Pilgrimage to Israel, July 22, 1959.
- 3A. Same event, plain post office cancelled envelope.



4. 26th Conference of European Grand Commanders, A.A.S.R., the host, the Supreme Council of the 33° for Israel, June 21, 1976.

5

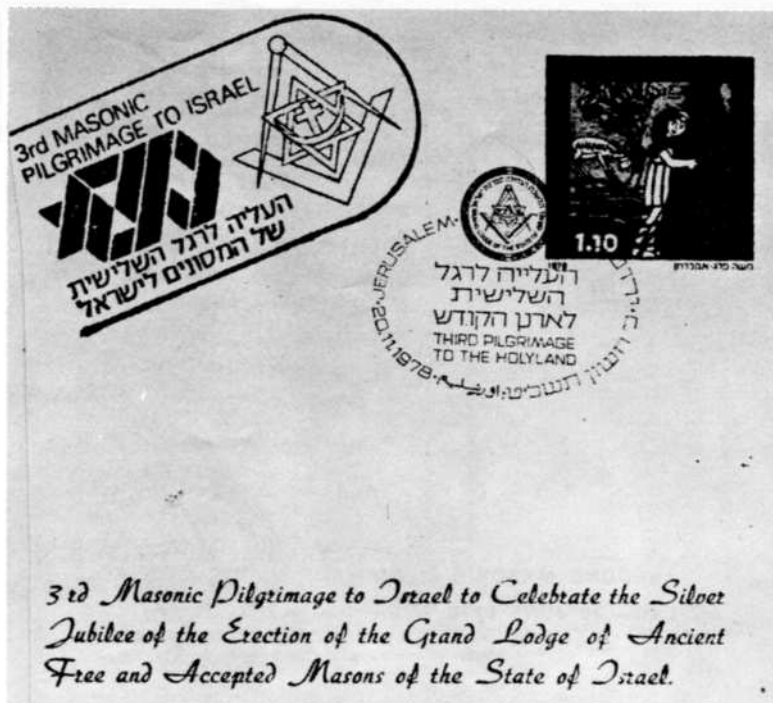


5. Same date, second world wide Masonic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



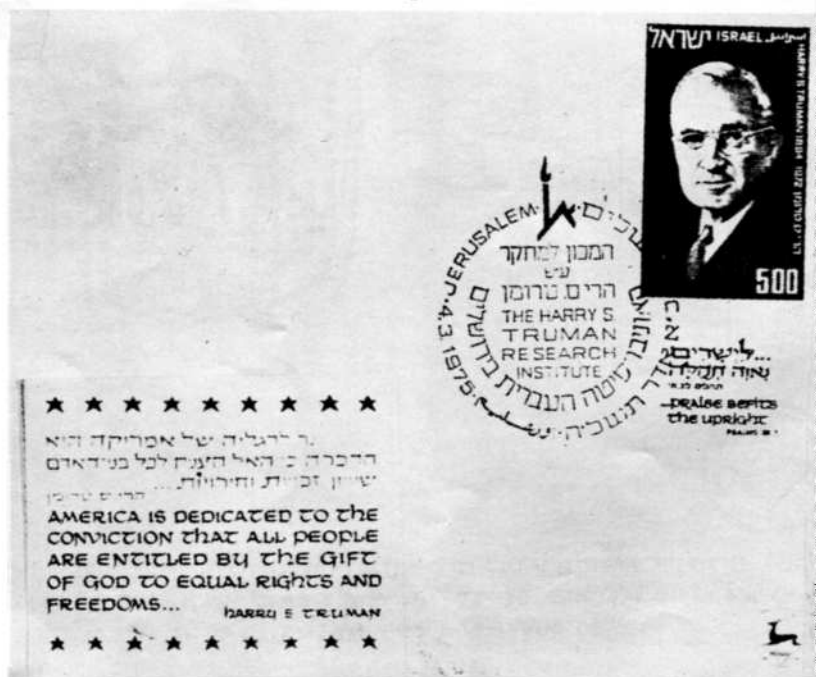
6. The official cover, the Third Pilgrimage, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Grand Lodge of Israel, November 20, 1978.

7



7. Same event, interesting unofficial cover.

8



8. First day cover of the Truman stamp, March 4, 1975.

The Forerunner Post Offices Of Israel

**By Howard J. Lasker
Washington Lodge #85**

The Forerunner Period of Israel postal history is one of the most fascinating periods in all of philately. The postal situation that existed in pre-World War I Palestine was unique and unlike any other, anywhere else in the world.

Palestine, prior to W.W.I, was part of the Turkish Empire, and was served by Turkish post offices. These were extremely inefficient, corrupt, and untrustworthy. This was very annoying to the major European powers that were heavily engaged in commerce in Palestine. As a result, the European trading nations exerted pressure upon Turkey until it capitulated to their demands and granted them extraterritorial privileges to organize their own governmental services, including the operation of their own postal services on Turkish soil.

A series of Capitulation Treaties were signed by Turkey. The first was with Russia in 1774, and in the following year, one with Austria. These were followed by treaties with France, Germany, and Italy. Five European nations operating their own postal systems, all competing with the Turkish postal system, created a situation unique in the history of philately.

Rivalries gradually developed in Palestine out of the endeavor of the individual post offices to induce people to use their respective facilities. Each of the postal services gradually invented promotional devices which were aimed at the public and which were intended to lure business away from the other postal systems. Let us look briefly at how the various postal administrations promoted their services.

Austria established its first post office in Jerusalem in 1852 and in Haifa and Jaffa two years later. They were extremely efficient. They used the Lloyd Steam Navigation Company to carry the mail across the Mediterranean. This was the fastest method available and therefore, they carried a good proportion of the Holy Land mail to the western end of the Mediterranean. In efforts to increase this proportion, they set up boxes along the route from Jerusalem to Jaffa to collect after hours mail from the small settlements along the way. They created a system of carrying the internal mail of the settlers in certain settlements such as Petah Tikvah, Rishon LeZion, etc. without cost, under condition that the settlers give all their foreign mail, which was considerable, to them.

Russia opened its post offices in Jaffa and Jerusalem in 1856. They were most inventive in their effort to increase their share. In Jerusalem, with its large Jewish population, they installed a Jewish postmaster. When the time came for the Jewish charity organizations to send thousands of letters of solicitation to Eastern Europe, this postmaster mailed these letters without receiving any money at that time. He collected the postage as the contributions arrived from Europe.

France established its first post office in Jaffa in 1852, Jerusalem in 1900 and Haifa in 1906. They did very little promotional work. However, they too, like Austria ran a very efficient steamship line, originally called "Messageries Imperiale" and in 1871 changed to Messageries Maritime". The French almost automatically received all mail for France, England, Holland, and Belgium.

Germany opened its first post office in Jaffa in 1898 and its second in Jerusalem in 1900. To facilitate the posting of letters, they installed letter boxes all the way between Jaffa and Jerusalem. In 1908 they introduced stamps overprinted in French currency and combined with this a slightly lower rate for packages.

Italy opened its only post office in Jerusalem in 1908. They relied on the Catholic clergy and tourists for their business. However this never amounted to too much.

Turkey tried to compete with the foreign powers but was not too successful. People preferred the well organized foreign post offices to the unreliable Turkish postal services. In an attempt to increase the use of their own postal facilities, at the end of the 19th century they forbade their people to use the foreign posts. However this measure was ineffective and unpopular. In an attempt to decrease the efficiency of the mail service of the foreign powers, they were not permitted to use the Turkish railways for the transport of mail bags. They then introduced a special low rate for mail carried from one Turkish port of another, such as from Jaffa to Beyrouth. It was about half the ordinary domestic rate. Also, as a real inducement they sold their stamps at a discount. When a person bought stamps for five Turkish pounds, he received additional stamps in the value of one Turkish pound free.

The above conditions existed until the outbreak of World War I in 1914. All European powers were so busy with the struggle, and Turkey remaining neutral during the first phase of the war, was able to take steps to force the closing of foreign post offices. Both sides were trying to draw Turkey in on their side, so couldn't take a strong stand against the Turks abolishment of their postal services. Thus Turkey was able to close all foreign post offices on September 20, 1914. Thus ended a most unique postal situation, nowhere else repeated, a situation that created many diversified stamps, cancellations, transit marks, arrival marks, private labels and cachets — a never ending field for the collector.

As we all know, at the close of World War I, the Ottoman Empire was dismembered. Palestine, which had been occupied by the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces of the British army, was mandated by the League of Nations to Britain. Britain held this mandate until World War II. During this period, the British Mandate government was not very prolific in its issuance of postage stamps.

The first stamps issued were by the British Military Occupation Forces in 1918. The first issue of the mandate government was a local overprint of the E.E.F. issue in 1920 by the British Mandate civil administration under the First High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel. These stamps were overprinted for them by the Greek Orthodox Covent in Jerusalem, the overprint being the name Palestine in the three official languages, Hebrew, English, and Arabic. In 1921, there was a new printing of these overprinted stamps by Somerset House, London and in 1922 again a new printing of them by Waterlow and Sons, London.

These overprinted stamps were in use until 1927 when due to the change in currency from one based on the Egyptian pound to Palestinian money, they issued the well known pictorial issue. These stamps remained in use until the end of the British Mandate in May 1948.

If there had been an orderly transition from the British Mandate postal authority to the newly created State of Israel postal authority, this would end the history of the Israel Forerunners. However, this did not happen. So again we have another extremely fascinating period in philatelic history, which is known as the Interim Period.

The British Government did not wait for the new State's postal administration to take over. Instead, they issued an order to their postal employees to close down operations and remove all postage stamps and cancelling devices in April. If this were allowed to happen, there would have been chaos in the postal system of the newly created state.

To prevent this, the Jewish Agency and National Council, countermanded the British directive and ordered all employees to remain at their posts until the new state was born. They were also told that stamps of K.K.L. (Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael) and provisional postmarks of the "Minhelet Ha'am" (peoples administration) would be supplied to them for use. These arrangements were put into operation. Stocks of K.K.L. stamps, which up to then had been used for charitable contributions, were taken to the main post offices in Haifa and Tel Aviv and were overprinted by means of rubber stamps with the Hebrew word "Doar" meaning "Post". There were a number of different issues overprinted and so a good variety of these stamps were created.

Owing to the isolation of Jerusalem, it was not possible to deliver the same stamps as used in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Instead, the local J.N.F. office supplied stocks of their latest K.K.L. issue, a stamp depicting the map of Israel with the boundaries as approved by the U.N. These were printed in three colors and had the "Doar" and value overprints typographed on them. They were three different printings of these. These stamps were on sale until June 20, 1948 when the first issue of Israel's stamps were brought into the city.

Various other cities, cut off by Arab attacks from the rest of the country, improvised with the facilities available, printing their own stamps, over-printing mandate stamps, delivering the mail by armored car, by boat, etc., making this brief period one of the richest in philatelic history.

Rishon Le Zion was isolated during the Arab war, being surrounded by Arab settlements. On April 5, 1948, a daily express mail service to Tel Aviv was organized by use of an armored car. It was driven by a former R.A.F. pilot who was paid the sum of one pound per run. On April 16th this mail service was extended to deliver mail back from Tel Aviv. Since the main road between the two cities was under Arab control, the route taken, varied from day to day. On April 20th, the service was extended to Nachlat Yehuda. For use in this service, special stamps were printed, depicting an armored car. The rate was 40 mils. per letter. On May 2, 1948, the first day when the postal service was taken over by the "Minhelet Ha'am", the Rishon local council resolved to terminate its emergency service on May 6th.

Nahariya, in common with other settlements of the Western Galilee, was completely isolated by land from the rest of the country as soon as war broke out. The local council of Nahariya took control of communications and arranged for mail to be sent to Haifa by means of a small fishing boat, charging a special fee of 10 mils.

for the service. Special cancellations were prepared and used when the fee was collected. On incoming mail, 10 mil. municipality revenue labels were fixed and postally cancelled, to help defray the cost of delivery. When the road communications were re-established on the 25th of April, specially printed stamps were put into service and were used until June 1948.

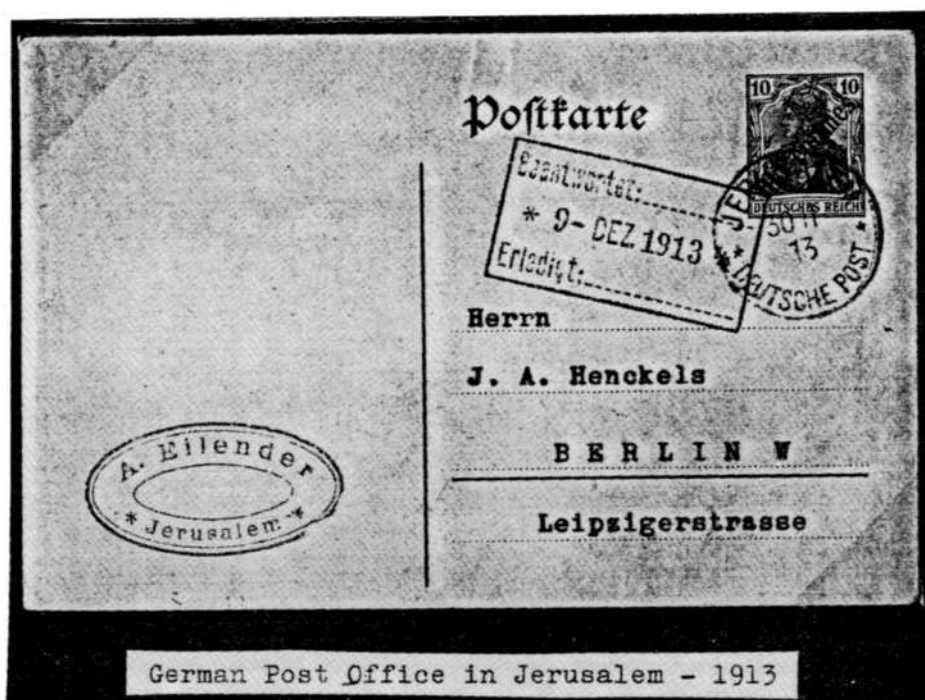
In Safad, when the British Mandate government left the city on April 16, 1948, the Haganah took control of the Jewish section of the city. As there were no postage stamps available, the officer in charge ordered the issue of envelopes designed for use as entires, but instead they used the same plates for the issue of stamps. They were printed on the blue wavy lines of the envelope linings. These stamps were on sale from the 4th to the 16th of May 1948. The total printing was only 2,200 stamps, making them among the rarest of this period.

In the three cities of Affula, Nahalal, and Tiberias ample supplies of the British Palestine Mandate stamps remained. These were overprinted by the local postmasters with the words "Emergency Post" in Hebrew, together with the name of the appropriate town.

These are the main issues of the period. There were many other improvisations and minor issues. The urgency of the situation, the lack of time for preparation, and the war that they were forced to fight against overwhelming odds, put so much pressure on the provisional government, that many errors, varieties, etc. were produced during this period, making it a most interesting and challenging one for the collector.

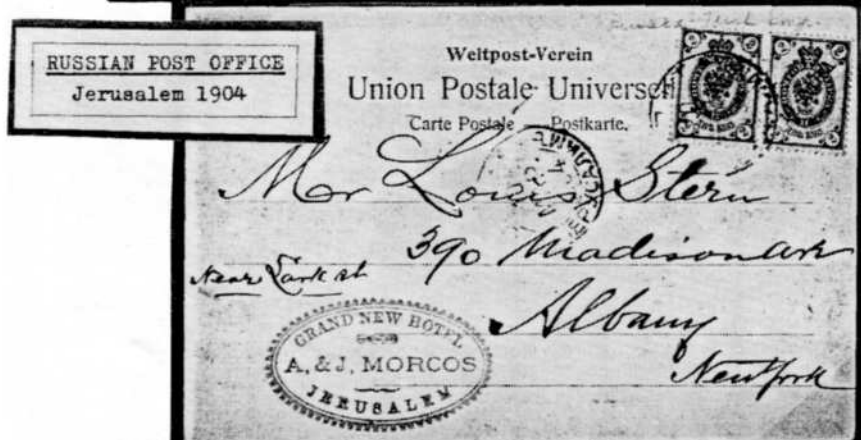
**THIS IS NO TALL TAIL
JUST A SHORT ONE!
TO SAY
PLEASE GIVE
A DONATION
TO THE
BROTHERHOOD FUND**







Letter from Samuel Salant, Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem to Sulzbuerg, Germany, posted Feb. 5, 1900. It was back-stamped in Sulzbuerg on Feb. 15th, undelivered and returned to Jerusalem on Feb. 23rd. It made the round trip in just 18 days.



Viewcard sent from the Russian Post Office at Jerusalem on March 10, 1904 to Albany, N.Y., U.S.A. Card bears the cachet of A. & J. Morcos, Grand New Hotel, Jerusalem.

ITALIAN POST OFFICE
Jerusalem



Registered cover sent from Venice on April 13, 1910. Transit cancelled in Brindisi, April 15, 1910. Backstamped on arrival in the Italian Post Office in Jerusalem April 19, 1910, six days after being mailed.



RETURN TO
FRIENDS' MISSION,
Ramallah, Jerusalem, Palestine,
IF NOT DELIVERED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

FRENCH POST OFFICE
Jerusalem 1912



This letter was posted from the French Post Office in Jerusalem on June 29, 1912, arriving in Worcester, Mass., July 17, 1912.

TURKISH POST OFFICE
"Jerusalem 6"

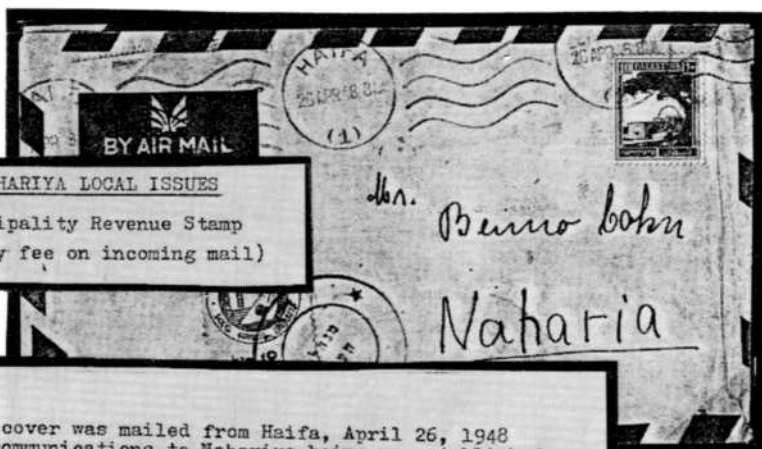


Turkish postcard cancelled with one of two types of the "Jerusalem 6" obliterator and dated March 18, 1914. This style is known to have been in use between November 1913 and June 1915.



Inscription at the top of this postmark suggests that it is the earlier of the types. It conforms to the style of the other Jerusalem 1-9 obl iterators in use from 1912-18.



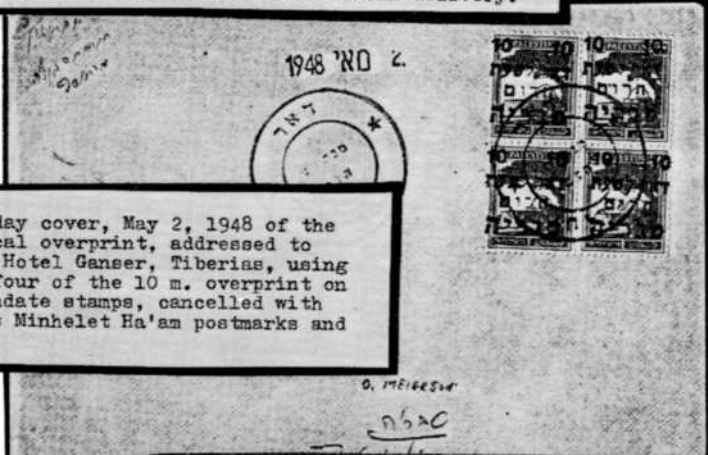


NAHARIYA LOCAL ISSUES

Municipality Revenue Stamp
(Delivery fee on incoming mail)

This cover was mailed from Haifa, April 26, 1948 the road communications to Nahariya being re-established on the previous day, April 25th.

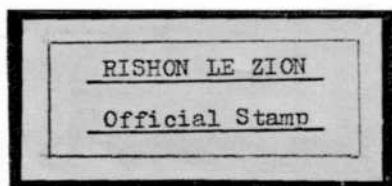
Upon arrival, as on all incoming mail, a municipality revenue stamp of 10 mils was affixed and postally cancelled, the charge being made to cover the cost of local delivery.



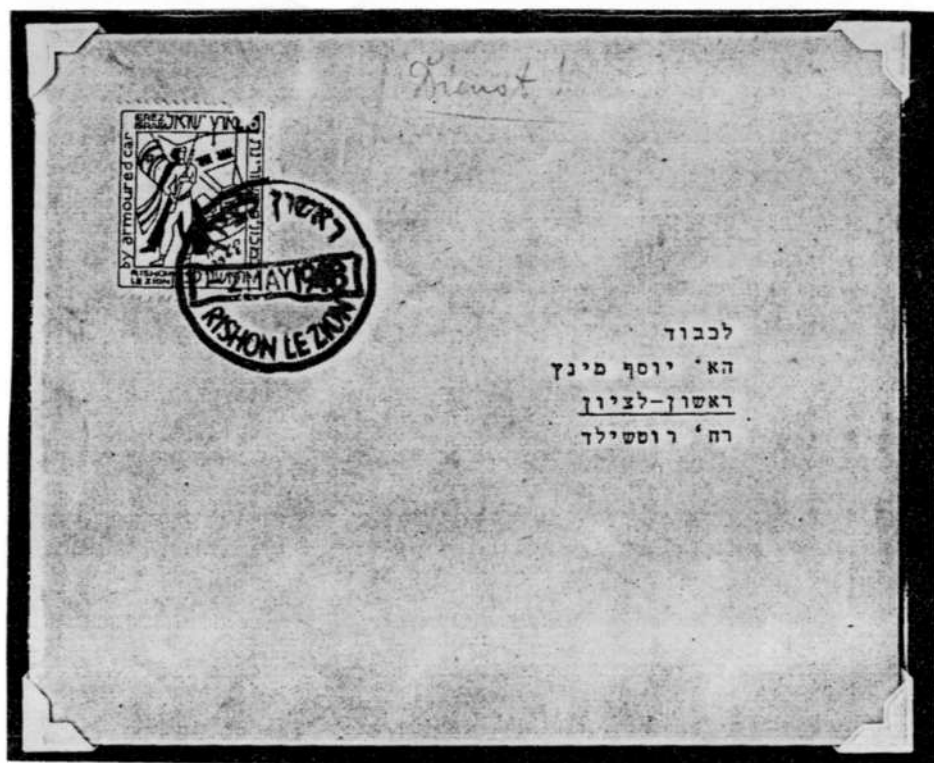
First day cover, May 2, 1948 of the Tiberias Local overprint, addressed to O. Meirson, Hotel Ganser, Tiberias, using a block of four of the 10 m. overprint on the 3 m. mandate stamps, cancelled with two Tiberias Minhelet Ha'am postmarks and date stamp.

TIBERIAS LOCAL

For some unknown reason, ample stocks of British mandate stamps were found in Tiberias, as well as in Affula and Nahalal. These were overprinted "Emergency Post" and were used.



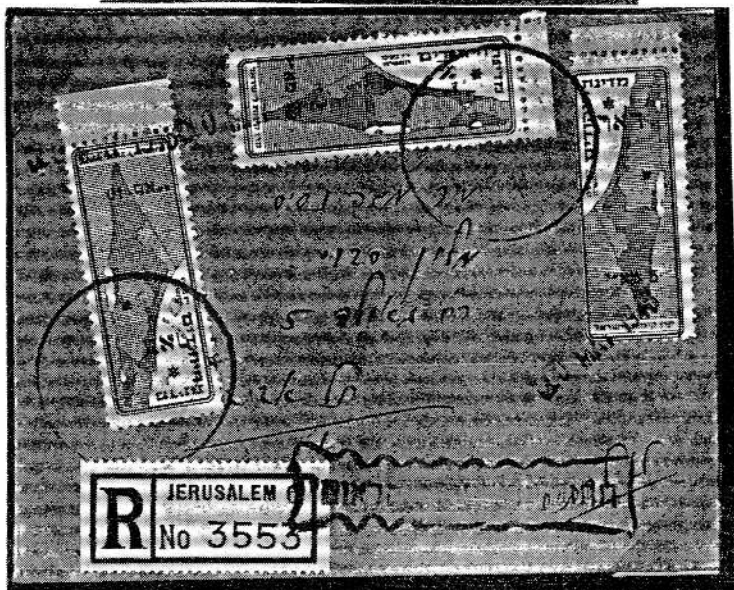
Official correspondence of the Local Council was carried free. The same stamps were used but the value was punched out. Three hundred of these stamps were punched and made available for official use.



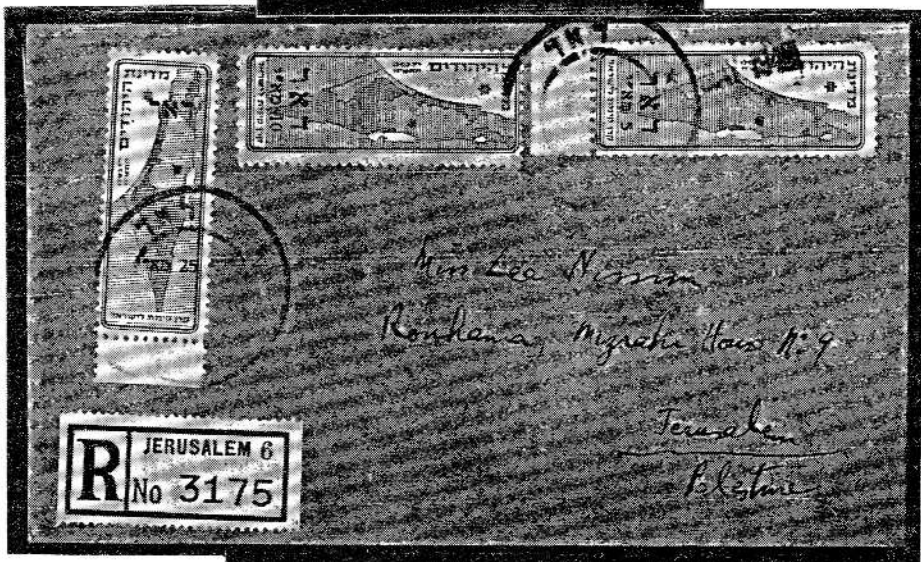
Official cover from the local Council, May 2, 1948, to Joseph Mintz, the official who was in charge of mail in Rishon Le Zion. The cover is back cacheted with the official stamp of the Local Council of Rishon Le Zion.

MINHELET HA'AM CANCELLATIONS

Jerusalem (Registered Covers)



First Issue, May 9, 1948



25 Mils - First Issue (May 9)
5 Mils, 10 Mils - Second Issue
(May 10, 1948)

MINHELET HA'AM CANCELLATIONS

R KARKUR
No 0916



ע"ר 1/15
315 ז.ב.
מ"ר-ב

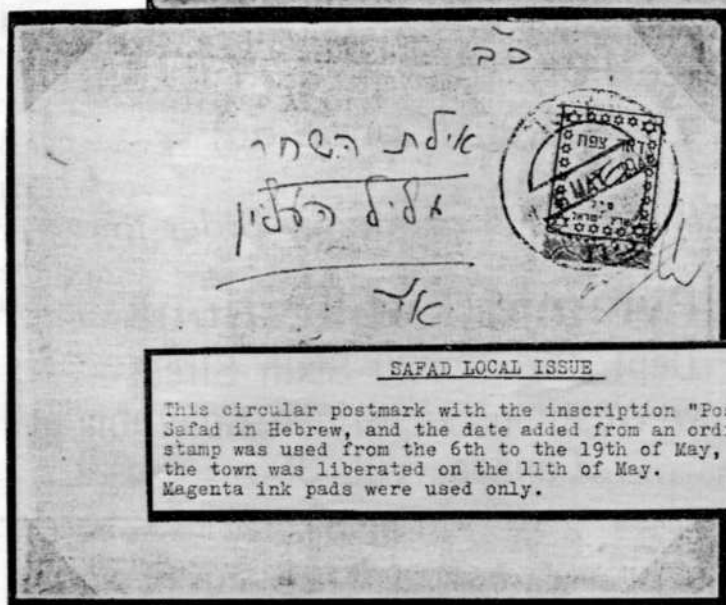
Karkur (Registered Cover)

Natanya (Registered Cover)



R NATHANYA
No 2737

315 ז.ב.
מ"ר-ב



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(United States and Canada)***



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The Masonic Stamp Club of New York

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MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO:

**Nicholas Batalias
27-05 Urban Place
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

WHAT DO THE MASONS DO?



Like many people, Freemasons try to live in accordance with high moral principles as good citizens. They don't claim to have a monopoly on these things, but they do join together in the Masonic fraternity and take a solemn oath to do them.

Everyone welcome

Freemasonry welcomes men from every denomination or creed, requiring only that they affirm their belief in a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry builds character. It insists that members in their daily lives practice their faith in God and their patriotism. They shape their lives in accordance with the best practices of civilized society, and they believe strongly in individual rights.

Support good causes

Freemasons provide more than \$1-million a day every year for charitable causes. These dollars go to support scholarships and medical research, hospitals for crippled children, facilities for those who have suffered severe burns or who have speech disorders or mental illness. Masonic groups also help people with serious eye problems and with respiratory difficulties. And they provide retirement homes for needy members, their wives and widows.

Mostly what the Masons do is to work at building a better world for all people.