

***The Oriental Travels of Julius Bolthausen***

***Mail Robbery between Jaffa and Jerusalem 1912***

***An Introduction to Levant Perfins***

***Air Mail Service in French Cilicia 1920***

***Italian Military Provisional Postmark Smyrna 1922***

***The Kingdom of Kurdistan 1922-24***

***Photographs of the old General Post Office of Jerusalem***

***The 2012 Palestine Christmas Stamps***

***World Cultural Heritage Destroyed: Palmyra***

***Book Reviews: Tripoli (Bassil) / Jérusalem Poste Française (Livnat)***

***Archive: Official Gazettes of Palestine 1919/1920***

**THE MIDDLE EAST PHILATELIC BULLETIN**

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# The Oriental Travels of Julius Bolthausen

## Part 1: The Picture Postcards

by Tobias Zywietz

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Recently I got hold of a small inconspicuous pamphlet, a travel brochure of Solingen<sup>1</sup> entrepreneur Julius Bolthausen: “*Programm der Orientfahrten 1909*” (programme for oriental trips 1909). Over 32 pages there's a lot of interesting material on tourism to the Orient at the beginning of the 20th century: besides descriptions of travel routes there are reports, pictures, and testimonials from previous journeys. Such a prospectus was probably published each year from 1902, in addition Bolthausen also published several more extensive books.<sup>2</sup>



Figs. 1 & 2: Front and back of the Bolthausen travel brochure „*Programm der Orientfahrten 1909*“

<sup>1</sup> [Solingen](#) is a city in Germany's Rhineland, just North of Cologne, famous for its premium steel industry.

<sup>2</sup> See bibliography at the end of this article (p. 8).

**Julius Bolthausen** (pictured here in 1910, source: *Delcampe, Fig. 3*) was born in 1868 in Gräfrath, today part of the city of Solingen, and died in 1947 in Solingen. He was a teacher and from 1904 a tour operator and is considered a pioneer of cycling travel and tourism at the turn of the century. From 1891 Bolthausen undertook cycling tours throughout Europe and published numerous reportages. He was a much honoured member of the *Deutsche Radfahrer-Union* (German Cyclists' Association), in 1894 he founded the *Wanderfalke* club to promote cycle tourism and organised group tours for cyclists, usually as a combination of travelling by ship, railway and bi-cycle: Spain, Italy and Algeria were visited.



From 1902 he organised educational trips primarily for teachers and clergymen to Egypt and Palestine, but later also to India. In 1903, having gained leave of absence from the Ministry of Education, he prepared more trips to the Orient. In 1904 further leave was rejected and he had to retire from civil service. During World War I, Bolthausen unsuccessfully volunteered for the Turkish army. By the 1920s he restarted his travel business, now operating from Cologne.

In total Bolthausen organised 83 trips: 62 before World War I and a further 21 from 1924 onwards. In 1931/1932 he closed his business due to old age and returned for his retirement to Solingen.

*"Julius Bolthausen is a personality, that impressively represents the outwardly at the opening of Germany since the late 19th century."* (Findbuch Nachlass Bolthausen, Stadtarchiv Solingen, p. III, edited by Hartmut Roehr).

Julius Bolthausen was, like his sons Julius (1913-?) and Arthur (1897-1981) a member of the NSDAP. Arthur Bolthausen was involved, as adjutant of the Solingen borough leader, in the murder of local journalist Max Leven in 1938; he was sentenced in 1949 for complicity to two years imprisonment.



Fig. 4: The Bolthausen family in 1907: Emilie, Julius sen., [?], Arthur (source: 1909 brochure, p. 1)

**Erste deutsche Lehrerfahrt nach Aegypten — Palästina**  
August—September 1902. Solingen. H. Grobden. 8° 37 S.  
2 Karten.

Lehrer J. Bolthausen in Solingen theilt den Theilnehmern an der projectirten vierzigtägigen Excursion nach Triest, Patras, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haifa, Karmel, Nazareth, Tiberias (eventuell Damaskus), Port Said, Cairo, Alexandrien, Athen, Smyrna, Constantinopel, Wien in Form eines Handbüchleins alles Wissenswerthe über ihre Tour mit, die ca. 800 M. kosten soll und als erste einer fortlaufenden Reihe ähnlicher Orientausflüge deutscher Lehrer geplant ist. Doch behandelt das Büchlein nicht die endgiltig gewählte Zufahrtlinie, sondern die ursprünglich projectirte über Genua, Neapel. Davon abgesehen, stellt es zugleich das Reiseprogramm dar. Beigegeben ist eine Münztabelle sowie praktische Winke verschiedener Art, ferner ein Routenkärtchen und eine Weltkarte mit den Linien des Norddeutschen Lloyd. Wir wünschen dem Unternehmen besten Erfolg und würden es freudig begrüßen, wenn die Idee auch bei der österreichischen Lehrerschaft Nachahmung finden würde. Sgr.

#### Kurze Mittheilungen.

L. Am 24. Juli kam unter Führung des Lehrers Bolthausen die erste, und am 20. August die zweite Reisegesellschaft deutscher Lehrer in Haifa an. Letztere fuhr noch am gleichen Tage nach Nazareth, um von dort am 21. August Tiberias und die deutsche katholische Niederlassung bei 'Ain el-Tabgha am See Genezareth zu besuchen. Am 22. August gingen sie von dort wieder über Tiberias und Nazareth nach Haifa zurück. Trotz des sehr starken Marsches dieses letzten Tages nahmen die Reisenden noch am Familienabend im deutschen Verein teil und griffen lebhaft in die Unterhaltung ein.

— Am 19. August 1903 fuhr der Dampfer des Österreich.

**Orient-Studienfahrt.** Herr Jul. Bolthausen in Solingen reist folgendes mit: Aegypten und Palästina werden auch im Jahre 1907 das Ziel mehrerer Studienfahrten bilden. Die 20. Reise beginnt am 16. März in Genua und führt über Neapel, Corinth, Athen, Smyrna, Rhodos, Beirut, Damaskus, See Genezareth durch Galiläa nach Jerusalem, woselbst die Teilnehmer während des Osterfestes weilen, und weiter nach Unter- und Oberägypten bis Luxor-Affuan. Wer nicht die ganze Tour mitmachen will, kann eine der im Programm vorgesehenen Teiltouren wählen. Die Sommerreisen beginnen am 10. Juli, 8. August und 19. September. Kleine Separatdampfer werden nicht benutzt, sondern fast ausschließlich die großen Schiffe der regulären Linien des Norddeutschen Lloyd, n. a. die Salondampfer „Therapia“, „Schleswig“ und „Hohenzollern“. Sämtliche Fahrten, an denen auch Nichtlehrer teilnehmen, werden von dem Veranstalter dieser Studienreisen, Herrn Jul. Bolthausen in Solingen, persönlich geleitet. Ausführliche Programme werden auf Anfrage kostenfrei zugesandt.

Three examples of contemporary reports and adverts:

Fig. 5: Oesterreichische Monatsschrift für den Orient, 1902 (left)

Fig. 6: Mittheilungen und Nachrichten des Deutschen Palaestina-Vereins, 1903 (top right)

Fig. 7: Schlesisches Pastoralblatt, 1907 (bottom right)



Even in 1929, Bolthausen still offers these cards in an advertisement in a Swiss female teachers' newspaper "Schweizerische Lehrerinnenzeitung" saying that "*All travellers will receive a series of 70 water-colour cards (6 Mark) of the locations to be visited to choose from.*"

# Verzeichnis

der 106 Aquarellkarten des Kunstmalers **Perlberg**, der 1898  
den Deutschen Kaiser auf seiner Palästinafahrt begleitete.

## A. Palästina-Syrien.

1. Aussicht auf Jaffa.	6. Klagemauer d. Juden.	11. See Genezareth.
2. Blick auf Jerusalem.	7. Bethlehem.	12. Damaskus.
3. Garten Gethsemane.	8. Taufstelle am Jordan.	13. Baalbek.
4. Die Grabeskirche.	9. Abend am Toten Meer.	14. Beirut.
5. Die Grabkapelle.	10. Nazareth.	

## B. Aegypten.

15. Alexandrien.	21. Pyramiden v. Gizeh.	27. Zweiter Katarakt.
16. Port Said.	22. Sphinx.	28. Tempel von Kom Ombo.
17. Suez.	23. Tempel von Luxor	29. Tempel von Abû Simbel.
18. Blick auf Kairo.	24. Memnonssäulen.	30. Wüste Sahara.
19. Straße in Kairo.	25. Tempel von Karnak.	
20. Abend am Nil	26. Insel Philae.	

## C. Türkei, Griechenland, Italien, Algier, Tunis etc.

31. Konstantinopel.	40. Rom: Colosseum.	50. Kairouan.
32. Bosporus.	41. „ Via Appia.	51. Oase Biskra.
33. Dardanellenschloß	42. „ Campagna.	52. El Kantara.
34. Smyrna.	43. Messina	53. Timgad.
35. Athen.	44. Syrakus	54. Konstantine.
36. Korfu.	45. Taormina.	55. Algier.
37. Rom: Forum roman.	46. Palermo.	56. Marokko.
38. Rom vom Palatin aus.	47. Malta.	57. Tanger.
39. Rom: Peterskirche und Engelsburg.	48. Tunis.	58. Gibraltar.
	49. Carthago.	

## D. Dalmatien.

59. Zara. 60. Sebenico. 61. Cattaro. 62. Ragusa. 63. Cetinje. 64. Spalato.

## E. Palästina — Neue Serien.

65. Jerusalem: Via Dolorosa.	68. Jerusalem: Omar-Moschee.	
66. „ Oelberg.	69. „ Grab Maria's.	
67. „ Erlöserkirche.	70. „ Turm Antonia.	
71. Marienbaum.	77. Berg Karmel.	83. Marienbrunnen.
72. Moses-Quellen.	78. Berg Tabor.	84. Goldenes Tor in Jerusalem.
73. Berg Sinai.	79. Bethanien.	
74. Serbal.	80. Kloster Mar Saba.	85. Ort der Bergpredigt.
75. Katharinen-Kloster am Sinal.	81. Jericho.	86. Teich Bethesda.
76. Inneres des Katharinen-Klosters.	82. Tal Josaphat.	87. Damaskus-Tor.
		88. Marienkirche in Jerusalem.

## F. Indien.

89. Taj Mahal.	91. Calcutta.	93. Darjeeling (Himalaya).
90. Benares am Ganges.	92. Bombay.	94. Colombo (Ceylon).



## G. Aegypten — Neue Serien.

95. Tempel von Edfu.	101. Felsentempel von Beni Hassan.	
96. Moschee Kait-Bey in Kairo.	102. Tempel von Kalabschch.	
97. Ramesseum zu Theben.	103. Tempel von Maharraka.	
98. Obelisken von Karnak.	104. Korosko am Nil.	
99. Tempelhof von Medinet Habu.	105. Derr el Bachri.	
100. Tal der Königsgräber in Theben.	106. Esneh (Tempel).	

Pro Stück 10 Pfg., 50 Stück nach Wahl 4 Mark, die 106 Karten zusammen 8 Mark (incl. Porto). Aus dem betr. Ort, falls derselbe auf der Orientfahrt berührt wird, zuadressiert, pro Karte 10 Pfg. für Frankierung.

**Jul. Bolthausen, Solingen.**



**Fig. 8:** 106 picture postcards with Perlberg motifs are advertised on page 28 of the 1909 Bolthausen brochure.


**Der Orient**


---

und die

---


**Mittelmeerländer**


in farbigen Postkarten  
 nach Aquarellen der bekannten Kunstmaler  
 Perlberg & Wuttke.  
 Vorzugspreis pro Stück 8 Pf.

Bei jetzt erschienenen 148 verschiedenen Ansichten.  
 Preis der ganzen Serie 11 Mark; 70 Stück nach  
 Wahl 5 Mark.

Zu beziehen durch  
**Jul. Bolthausen, Orient-Reisebureau, Solingen.**

---

1898/99  
 78

**Fig. 9: Advert appearing on a card, dated 1910 or after: 148 picture postcards with motifs by Perlberg and Wuttke are offered.**

Source: Ebay

Postcards depicting Perlberg paintings can be found commercially by the thousands. On Ebay and Delcampe alone there are at any point in time hundreds of such offers to be found. The cards are predominantly prints of Munich-based publishing house “CA & Co.” from different series, often printed over many years, particularly with motifs of the Holy Land. There are cards with different

inscriptions also with other publishers: his Egyptian motifs were published by “R. & J.D.”

Perlberg not only painted Levant motifs: he had cards with German designs such as castle Hohen-zollern published by Junging, Ulm, and “E S D.” Cards with Wuttke motifs were published also by “CA & Co.,” amongst other publishers. They are, in relation to the Perlberg cards, much rarer to find.

The painter **Friedrich Perlberg** was born in Nuremberg in 1848 and died in Munich in 1921. Art encyclopaediae describe him as a German landscape and architectural painter with his principal place of work in Munich. After travelling in Egypt, Perlberg followed in the Emperor's entourage to Palestine in 1898, but is better known for his motifs from Spain and Italy. Perlberg's Palestine watercolours were published in two volumes: “Bilder aus dem Heiligen Land” (1900) and “Das Heilige Land in Wort und Bild” (1909/1924).

**Carl Wuttke** was a pre-impressionistic German landscape and architectural painter, born in Trebnitz (Silesia) in 1849, he died in Munich in 1927. He is primarily known for his Italian motifs, but also painted extensively on his many travels around the world.



Fig. 10: Jerusalem: Grave of the Virgin Mary.  
Perlberg painting on a picture postcard  
published by CA & Co., Munich.  
Source: Ebay



Fig. 11: Jerusalem: David Street.  
Wuttke painting on a picture postcard  
published by KJM  
Source: Delcampe



As far as it's known Bolthausen did not print the cards he offered himself, but had overprints arranged onto commercially available cards of publisher CA & Co., Munich.

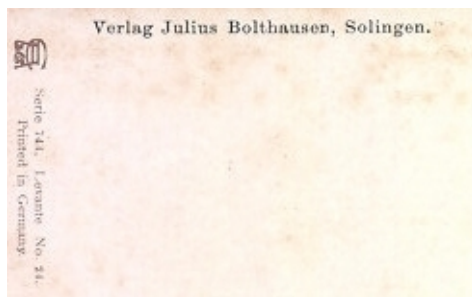


Fig. 12

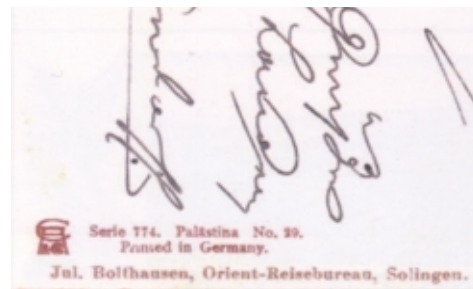
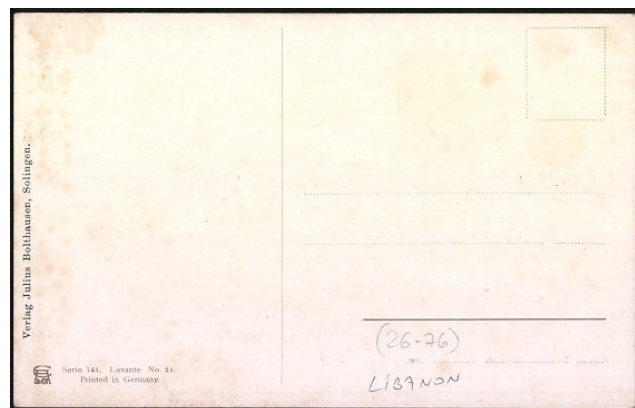


Fig. 13

Amongst hundreds of Perlberg and Wuttke cards on offer at Ebay and Delcampe, I only found one postcard (in unused condition) with the additional imprint “*Verlag Julius Bolthausen, Solingen.*” (Fig. 12). The second card I saw (quite by accident) in an issue of Holy Land Postal History, here the imprint says “*Jul. Bolthausen, Orient-Reisebureau, Solingen.*” (Fig. 13, used card, postmark: Jaffa 1, 26.07.1910).

Are these Bolthausen cards really so rare? Maybe others were sold without an additional imprint? But this seems rather unlikely; of course I may have overlooked some, as not all sources show the reverse of cards.

Therefore to end this concise treatise, an appeal: Do you know of Perlberg or Wuttke postcards with a Bolthausen imprint? I'd be grateful to receive further information and pictures. The complete 1909 Bolthausen travel brochure will soon be available on my website.



**Figs. 14 & 15: Front and reverse of a Perlberg card with Bolthausen's imprint: Beirut with Mount Lebanon, published by C.A. & Co., Munich.  
Source: Delcampe**

*This article deals only with Bolthausen's postcards. A soon-to-be-published second article will deal with the “Caiffa Bisects”: in the spring of 1908, the Austrian Postmaster of Caiffa (Haifa), against all rules, bisected 10-Centimes and 20-Paras stamps at the request of Bolthausen and cancelled them. Join me for an exciting story!*

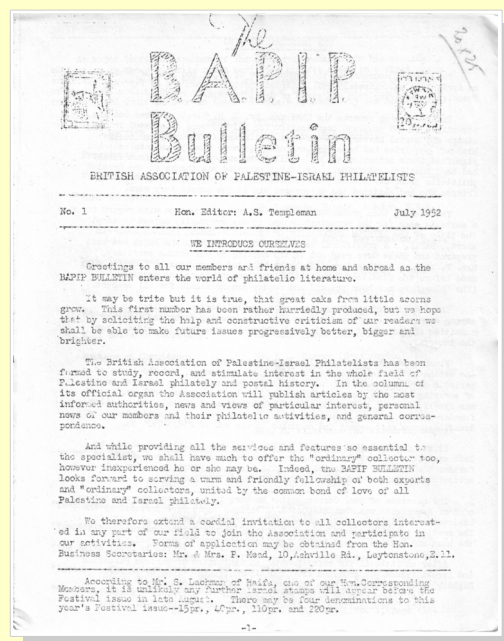
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- German Wikipedia articles: [Julius Bolthausen](#), [Friedrich Perlberg](#), [Carl Wutke](#).

## Did you know ...?

... that when the first issue of the BAPIP Bulletin, the journal of the British Association of Palestine-Israel Philatelists, appeared in July 1952, most consumer goods, including food, clothes, soap, and paper, were still rationed.

Petrol rationing ended in May 1950, sugar in September 1953, but many other goods, including the paper needed to print an amateurs' newsletter, stayed rationed until July 1954.





## The Mail Robbery between Jaffa and Jerusalem in March 1912

by Tobias Zywietz

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Due to the so-called “capitulations”<sup>1</sup> the Ottoman Empire had to reluctantly allow European powers (among other privileges to foreigners and foreign companies) to operate post offices on its territory. These postal services were in actual fact all but tolerated and that also only in port cities, and even there, the Ottoman authorities did everything to obstruct these unwanted rivals.<sup>2</sup>

The political weakness of the *Sublime Porte* gave the imperialist states the opportunity to enforce these privileges by threats of violence and economic sanctions over many decades, and even to expand them at will. Only after the outbreak of the First World War and the related political resurgence of the Ottoman Empire as an ally of Germany and Austria, the government in Constantinople was able to unilaterally repeal these “capitulations” from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1914.<sup>3</sup> When the Ottoman government once again demanded the closure of the foreign post offices in September 1914, the European powers had to obey.<sup>4</sup>

Jerusalem was the only city in the country’s interior (i.e. not a port city), in which such foreign post offices operated: Austria (Lloyd Austriaco agency: 1852, k.k. post office: 1859), France (1890), Germany (1900), Russia (ПОПНТ post office: 1901) and Italy (1908). All this foreign mail traffic to and from Jerusalem went exclusively through the port city of Jaffa.

However, the railway line between Jaffa and Jerusalem, operated by French railway company “Société du Chemin de Fer Ottoman de Jaffa à Jérusalem et Prolongements” was prohibited from transporting mailbags of foreign offices due to specific terms in its licence charter.<sup>5</sup> A first leg from Jaffa to Ramle opened on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1891 and the first train travelled the whole distance on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1892. The official opening of the line took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1892. Patera explains:<sup>6</sup>

*Although the two aforementioned cities [Jerusalem and Jaffa] have been linked by a single-track railway for a distance of about 87 km since 1892, the now four foreign post offices could not benefit from this means of transportation. The Turkish government forbade the railway company specifically to transport foreign mailbags. As a result of this ban, the administrations of the foreign post offices were forced to have the mail consigned to them in Jerusalem conveyed by rental coaches to Jaffa.*

Father Schmitz describes the situation in 1913 as follows:<sup>7</sup>

*As I said above, only the Turkish Post is linked by means of trains with Jaffa and therefore to the European mail. All foreign post offices have to maintain their traffic through daily coach*

1 The term is somewhat misleading: the Ottoman *kapitülâsyon* / قاپيتولاسيون or *ahidnâme* / 'ahdnâme / عهدنامه generally describe trade and other international treaties. These were drafted in chapters (*capitule*).

2 Lindenberg, 1926, p.15: “It also banned its own subjects in 1900 from using them [foreign post offices], [...]” See also Hoexter/Lachman, 1958, p. 1051, for the ban of selling stamps outside the post offices, as well as Pollack, 1957, pp. 805–807.

3 Lindenberg, 1926, p. 16. Under international law, these treaties actually persisted until the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne.

4 Livnat, 2015, p. 288.

5 Confer Schmitz, 1914, p. 26, Lindenberg, 1926, p. 15, Pollack, 1957, p. 805 ff.

6 Patera, 1992, p. 30.

7 Schmitz, 1914, pp. 28–29.

rides and these rides are neither easy nor non-hazardous, particularly in winter. The strong rains make the street from Jaffa to Jerusalem often almost impassable. The draught animals have always to be changed half way. As some stretches are almost uninhabited and full of hiding places, and as most rides happen at night, every stage coach is always accompanied by an armed kavass for security reasons. Even so several sporadic robberies have occurred over the years. Just two years ago there was a successful robbery of an Austrian coach. The kavass was shot from a dark hiding place and the coach was plundered, only later a significant part of the loot could be recovered. In order to reduce the costs of these coach journeys, the German, French, Russian, and Italian post offices have decided to undertake these rides jointly with costs shared,<sup>8</sup> and it seems that this alliance of four is permanent, because it brings great benefits to each partner.

This description made me curious to find out more about this robbery. In several philatelic articles the events are only mentioned briefly,<sup>9</sup> in others contemporaneous newspaper reports are simply quoted.<sup>10</sup> I found one article in a German newspaper describing the incident in greater detail:<sup>11</sup>

### *Mail Robbery between Jaffa and Jerusalem*

*During the night of 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March – as we have already told our readers in brief – the Jaffa-Jerusalem stage coach was attacked by a band of about 20 Maghrebinians (Arabs).<sup>12</sup> As usual on the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7 o'clock (punctual to the timetable) two mail coaches, one from the Austrian Post, the other from the Franco-German-Russian Post, took off from Jaffa, the Austrian coach drove ahead. Approximately 7 km from Jaffa, near the village of Safirije,<sup>13</sup> the band of robbers laying in an ambush suddenly opened well-aimed fire on the Austrian coach that drove ahead. Two of the three horses draughting the coach collapsed dead at once, the accompanying Austrian Post kavass<sup>14</sup> was killed by the first shots, the coach driver escaped. The second, Franco-German-Russian coach, accompanied by a Russian postal kavass drove at a gallop past the Austrian coach on the side facing away from the attack while the kavass fired from his two revolvers onto the attackers. In passing, one of the three horses was shot and broke down after being swept along several hundreds of metres. The kavass and the driver jumped immediately off the coach box, cut the ropes of the fallen horse and chased away in a gallop, trailed by further shots from the robbers that didn't cause any more damage.*

*In the nearest village Ramleh the kavass reported the incident to the mudir (community leader) who immediately sent two policemen on foot to the crime scene. They returned after two hours with the message, that the Austrian Post's kavass and a Turkish policeman were found dead near the burgled Austrian stage coach. As it turned out later, after the first shots four policemen from near-by rushed to the scene to drive off the robbers. But they had to give way to the superior might after one policeman was killed, the others fled. Of the contents of the Austrian stage coach the robbers took away 10 ordinary parcels and 1 insured parcel with a declared*

8 Lindenbergh, 1926, pp. 15–16: “[...] the German, French, Russian, and later the Italian post office together used one stagecoach belonging to a Turk which travelled daily between Jaffa and Jerusalem. The Austrian post office made use of a coach by itself.” According to p. 27, *ibid.*, the Italian post office had at first been refused from participating.

9 See e.g. Eberan von Eberhorst, 1914, p. 22.

10 See reports in *The Holy Land Philatelist*, 1958, p. 1052.

11 *Deutsche Verkehrs-Zeitung*, 1912, pp. 258–259.

12 The German text says “Moghrabiner (Araber)”. The British Consul (see *The Holy Land Philatelist*, 1958, p. 1052) speaks of Algerian robbers under their leader Sheikh Ahmed.

13 The village Safirijeh or al-Safiriyya / السافرية is about 10 km South-East of Jaffa. The British Consul (see *The Holy Land Philatelist*, 1958, p. 1052) speaks of the village Beit Dejun, i.e. Bayt Dajan / بيت دجن, about 2 km West of Safirije. This would then just about confirm the distance of 7 km specified in the report.

14 According to Eberan von Eberhorst, 1914, p. 22, the kavass killed was called Omar Jakub Wahbe.



value of 300 Francs,<sup>15</sup> the ordinary letter mail was found untouched.<sup>16</sup> Only the presence of mind of the Russian Post's kavass is to thank for the German-French-Russian Post escaping looting.

This raid shines anew a light on the insecurity of the road from Jaffa to Jerusalem, on which the foreign post offices need to operate. It is not for the first time that the post was endangered there. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1907 at Ramleh, very close to the current crime scene, an attack by a 10-strong mounted band armed with rifles and sabers was attempted on the combined Franco-German-Russian and the Austrian postal coaches. The attack was repelled without people being harmed or mail getting lost. The insecurity of the highway is caused by its very poor quality, in wet weather it is often muddy. During the night of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> January a mail coach got stuck near the village Kubbab<sup>17</sup> in a hole caused by previous rainfall highly softening the street; it could not escape from the morass. The post-bags had to be loaded onto the three remaining coaches and their hoods partly tied. During this operation a post-bag must have been lost because a German bag was missing on arrival in Jerusalem. This bag was returned by an Arab woman in undamaged state only on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, after a reward was advertised for its recovery.

These events let the request of the involved administrations appear justified: that the Turkish railway Jaffa to Jerusalem gets opened for the secure transport of their mail, which is ruled by the licence charter. Until then, the postal authorities have to make do, and to use each such event to urge the Turkish Government to improve the road and its safety.

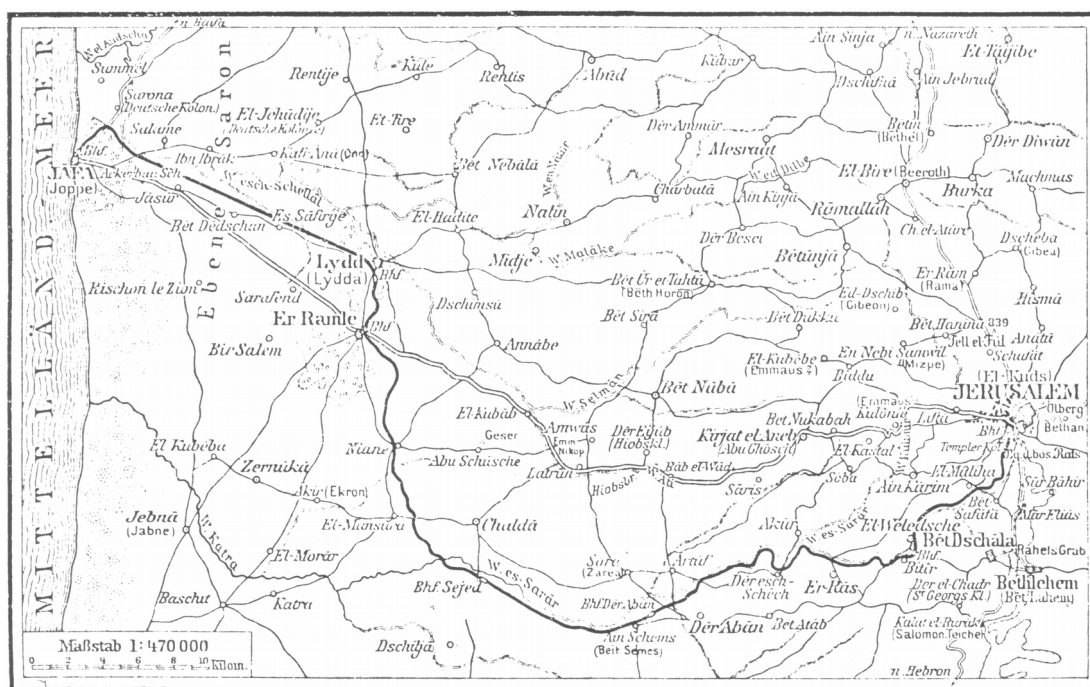


Fig. 1 : Detail from a map of the railway line between Jaffa and Jerusalem, showing some of the places mentioned.<sup>18</sup>

15 According to a newspaper report in *Haor* on 1.04.1912 (cited in *The Holy Land Philatelist*, 1958, p. 1052) cash worth a total of 30,000 French Francs is involved, the British Consul speaks about 750 British Pounds.

16 According to a newspaper report in *Haeruth* on 10.04.1912 (cited in *The Holy Land Philatelist*, 1958, p. 1052) five of the robbers were arrested. Coins worth 1,400 French Francs (140 Semi-Napoléon) and the watch of the Austrian kavass were seized. The departure of the mail coaches from Jaffa was temporarily postponed to 12 o'clock noon.

17 This refers to al-Qubab / القباب about 10 km South-East of Ramle towards Latrun, not Kubebe / al-Qubeiba / القبية further East.

I have found a few photographs showing the different coaches at various times:

- *Fig. 2:* This photograph (dated to after 1908)<sup>19</sup> shows the Austrian postal wagon (with the inscription “K.K. ÖST. POST”) to the left and (perhaps) the collective carriage of the other offices to the right.
- *Fig. 3:* This photograph, dated to 1890, shows a different Austrian wagon.<sup>20</sup>
- *Fig. 4:* On a photograph of the German post office (dated to 1905 to 1912)<sup>21</sup> there’s another wagon as well as an armed kavass.
- *Fig. 5:* The original caption reads: “This photo taken in 1912 shows the Austrian mail coach on its way from Jerusalem to Jaffa, just passing a famous landmark (which still stands): A fountain built over the graveyard of Abu Nabbut, a former Pasha.”<sup>22</sup>

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18 Origin unknown; source: Steichele, 1978, p. 1806=1030.6.

19 Photograph from the book *The Alexander Collection*, p. 78. There are no picture credits, the caption simply reads: “Austrian Post near Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem.”

20 Hoexter/Lachman, 1958, p. 1048 (without picture credits). Original caption: “The open mail carriage arrives from Jaffa at the Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem (about 1890). The building, behind the Jaffa Gate, still exists.”

21 Lindenberg, 1926, p. 28 (with original caption). Since Italy is not mentioned, the recording time should be before the 1912 robbery, but after relocation of the post office to the building of the Anglo-Palestine Bank in 1905. The same photo is shown by Pollack in The Holy Land Philatelist, no. 68/69, 1960, p. 1372.

22 Photograph from The Holy Land Philatelist, p. 225 (without picture credits). The fountain or *sabil* / سبيل أبو نبوت was built around 1815 by the then governor of Gaza and Jaffa, Muhammad Abu Nabbut.





Fig. 2: The Austrian post office in Jerusalem, the left wagon shows the inscription “K.K. ÖST. POST”



Fig. 3: The open mail carriage arrives from Jaffa at the Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem (about 1890).





Fig. 4: The collective mail carriage of the German, French and Russian Post in front of the German post office in Jerusalem. To the fore there's the armed kavass.



Fig. 5: The Austrian mail coach passing Sabil Abu Nabbut just East of Jaffa in 1912.



## An Introduction to Perfins of the Levant

by Dick Scheper

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What first attracted me to the perfins from the Ottoman territory was the fact that the same perfins (perforated initials) can be found in stamps of the Levant issues of different European countries as well as in stamps of the Ottoman Empire. Today 55 different perfin patterns are known to have been used by companies in the Ottoman Empire. In this article I intend to write only some general notes about the use of perfins in the Ottoman Empire.



Fig. 1: Perfins O.C.M. of Oriental Carpet Manufacturers Ltd. in Smyrna, on a registered letter to Switzerland.

As the use of postage stamps increased, the problem of protecting stamps from theft by both the post office authorities and by employees of large commercial houses increased proportionately. Stamps had been removed from the mail in transit by dishonest postal clerks and stolen by employees from large firms, either for resale or for personal use.

In 1868 in Great Britain, a Mr. Joseph Sloper invented a machine to perforate stamps with a design or with perforated initials, now called perfins. The advantages to be gained in the protection of

postal accounts were soon apparent and the practice of using perfins eventually spread to continental Europe. By 1880 stamps with perforated initials were in use by many firms all over Europe. It was only logical then that large European firms continued this practice when they opened their branches in Constantinople and in other towns of the Ottoman Empire. See *fig. 1* for an example of perfins in Austrian Levant stamps.

In the nineteenth century Constantinople had grown well beyond the limits of the walls of the former capital of the Eastern Roman Empire: Byzantium. The old town within the triangle of walls was named Istanboul (Stamboul), but the main trading and residential centres were now situated on the opposite side of the Golden Horn, in the former Genoese and Venetian quarters of Galata and Pera, where a large modern city was developing and where a growing number of European firms had their office buildings.

Very large firms, for instance important banks like Wiener Bank-Verein<sup>1</sup> and Crédit Lyonnais, sent their mail to customers in many different countries. These firms offered their mail to the foreign post office where they expected to get the best service for delivering the mail fast and accurately to the addressee. So the mail to Austria was usually brought to the Austrian Levant post office, while the mail to France was usually offered to the postal clerks of the French Levant post office. Of course the mail through the Austrian Levant post office had to be franked with Austrian Levant stamps and the mail through the French post office should be franked with French Levant stamps. That is the reason why we can find the same perfin in Levant postage stamps of different European countries (*fig. 2*).

For letters to addressees in Ottoman towns without a foreign post office, the mail had to be franked with postage stamps of the Ottoman Empire. That's why many perfins, which are known in Levant stamps of different countries, can also be found in stamps of the Ottoman Empire or Turkey.



*Fig. 2:* Perfin **BIO** of **Banque Impériale Ottomane**, Constantinople, in Levant stamps of Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria, and Germany.

Sometimes the perforated initials of the perfin user are combined to form a monogram. That is the case for the perfins of the well known French bank Crédit Lyonnais (*fig. 3*).



*Fig. 3:* Perfin **CL** monogram.

<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1869 as “k. k. privilegierter Wiener Bankverein” with its headquarters in Vienna’s Schottengasse. One of the forerunners of today’s Bank Austria. (*editor*)

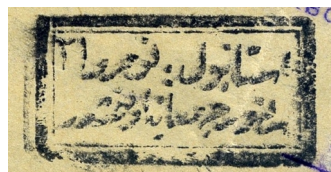
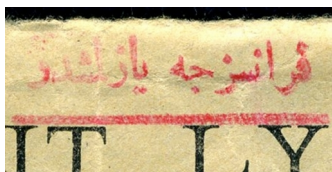


Finally I would like to show this 'CL' monogram perfin of Crédit Lyonnais on a cover franked with two stamps of the Ottoman Empire and addressed to Zurich in Switzerland (fig. 4).



Fig. 4: Cover with perfin of Crédit Lyonnais, Constantinople, sent to Zurich on 10.03.1915.

The front of the cover shows one red and one black rectangular cachet while there is also a large red seal on the reverse, all in Ottoman script. The black cachet and the seal both are marks of censorship in Istanbul. The red cachet on the front is a private mark of the sender, saying that the letter is in French. To let the letter pass censorship it was the sender's duty to state the language on the cover.

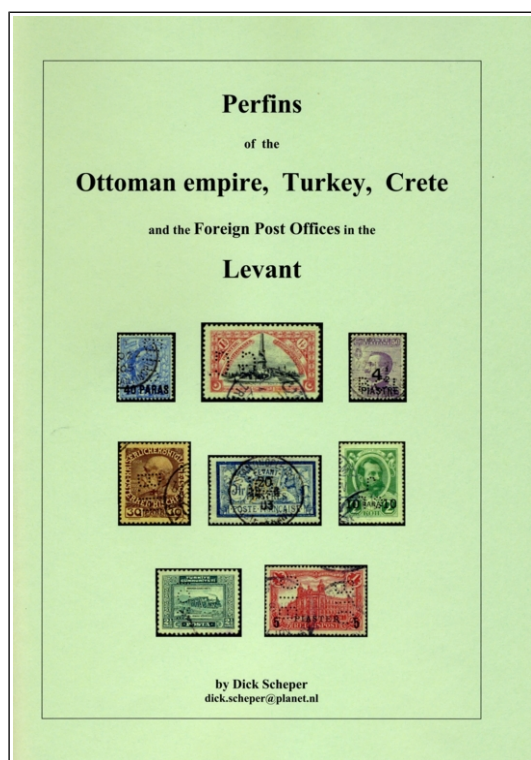


Figs. 4a, 4b, and 5a: Handstamps "fransızca yazılmıştır" (written in French) and "sansürce muayene olunmushtur" of İstanbul Censor 21 or 31; red İstanbul censor seal.





Fig. 5: Reverse of the Crédit Lyonnais cover with the red censorship seal.



Questions about the article and any other question the reader may have about Levant perfins are very welcome and can be sent to my email address: [dick.scheper@planet.nl](mailto:dick.scheper@planet.nl).

#### Editor's Note

Dick is the author of a book on Ottoman perfins, published in 2009: "*Perfins of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey, Crete and the foreign post offices in the Levant.*" The book (70 pages, A4, colour) is out-of-print. Even Dick hasn't got any copies left, but one might still find it on the second-hand market.





## Air Mail Service in French Cilicia 1920

by Jean-Bernard Parenti, Académie de Philatélie  
(translated by Richard B. Rose)<sup>1</sup>

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After almost a century, the subject of the Cilicia air mail post remains enigmatic for aero-philately and collectors of this region. The total absence of any known covers and the rarity of the air mail stamps still fosters all manner of suppositions. The only known covers are fabrications, and the numerous legends associated with these souvenirs only fan the flames of the air mail post myth.

However, I think I can clear up the mystery of this supposed air mail service, thanks to the evidence of archival documents and the accumulation of various articles published on this subject over the past 75 years.

The story begins in the summer of 1920 in Cilicia, while fierce combat is underway between French and Kemalist forces. The French-occupied city of Adana is almost surrounded; the telephone lines have been cut, as has the railway line linking the city to the port of Mersine. Only the wireless T.S.F. (*télégraphie sans fil*) enables the military post at Adana to remain in contact.

The situation is such that General Dufieux proclaims a state of siege on 4<sup>th</sup> July. An article by L. A. Chaintrier<sup>2</sup> lays out the consequences for the postal service:

*Beginning on 7<sup>th</sup> July, Lt. Georges de Perrien, special secretary to Col. Brémont, administrative chief in Cilicia, pursuant to an order from the same, took the necessary arrangements to transmit mail from the garrison troops and their dependants on military planes.*

*This required the Trésor & Postes service, by order of Col. Brémont, to fabricate a cachet consisting of three words in three lines, POSTE PAR AVION, inside a frame. This cachet was to be applied on all prepaid letters collected by the post office.*

*The actual air service turned out to be of only slight utility as just three trips actually occurred during the blockade (which lasted until 20 August), and only two afterwards. [...]*

*The first postal flight occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1920, and flew from Adana to Mersine.*

*The second postal flight was on 29<sup>th</sup> July, from Adana to Aleppo and Beirut.*

*The third postal flight left from Adana to Mersine on 17<sup>th</sup> August. Mail addressed to France was passed off to the battleship Provence, commanded by vice-admiral Bon.*

*The fourth postal flight took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, destined from Adana to Mersine, whose mail destined for France was taken by the battleship Waldeck Rousseau, commanded by vice-admiral Mornet.*

*The fifth and final postal flight flew from Adana to Mersine on 28<sup>th</sup> August, the same battleship handling mail bound for France.*

*I should add that a plane carrying mail was destroyed by a Turkish artillery shell while still on the airfield at Adana, just as the pilot was preparing for take-off.*

1 Editor of *The Levant*, the journal of the Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society. (editor)

2 Chaintrier, 1939, p. 746. Chaintrier is also author of the sketches to distinguish genuine fake copies, first in 1938 in *The Field Aero*, other designs have emerged in *World Stamp Digest* in February 1940.

This article, so very precise and historically accurate, led readers to assume the legitimacy of this postal air service.

However, certain points can now be challenged in light of the military archives deposited at Vincennes with the Historical Service of the Ministry of Defense. These archives make available a day by day account of the siege of Adana,<sup>3</sup> which weaken the accepted version. For instance, one finds absolutely no trace of these mail flights on the dates given by the article, and in a besieged city, the implementation of an air convoy or air drops would most certainly be mentioned.

no 136  
Cote

Monsieur le gouverneur militaire  
du Tarnopol de Mersine

Suite à ma note no 114 du 29/6/20  
j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance  
que conformément à l'ordre de notre  
chef service nous approuvons les lettres  
destinées pour Adana par le tarif d'avion  
soit par 10 piastres à la place du  
tarif ordinaire de 1 piastre 75 %.

Le public accepte sans plainte  
ce tarif si cher, croyant que ses  
lettres sont vraiment expédiées par avion  
mais malheureusement jusqu'à présent  
nous n'avons pas pu encore les expédier.  
Malgré qu'Adana nous envoie  
régulièrement toute sa correspondance.  
Actuellement nous n'avons  
d'autre source de recettes que le guichet

de lettres, car les services des mandats  
et colis postaux sont suspendus et les  
communications télégraphiques sont interrompues.  
Pour pouvoir assurer les dépenses  
mensuelles de notre établissement nous  
sommes obligés de mettre en vigueur  
le tarif d'avion.

En vue de favoriser les habitants  
de Mersine nous vous prions de nous  
autoriser à expédier au moins par  
chaque avion un courrier aux  
frais de 5 Kilogrammes.

Nous avons en souffrance  
plusieurs 2-3 tonnes de courriers arrivés  
de l'Europe par paquets, mais  
n'ayant plus le moyen de les expédier  
nous n'y pensons plus.

Si par force majeure  
il est même impossible d'expédier  
par chaque avion un paquet de  
lettres pesant 5 Kilogrammes. prière  
de vouloir bien me donner  
ordre de ne pas accepter à nos  
guichets des lettres destinées pour  
Adana.

Fig. 1: Official copy of note (dated 1 July 1920) from the Director of Postes at Mersine to the military governor stating that letters bearing the higher air mail rate postage will, nonetheless, not be sent by air.

For 20<sup>th</sup> June, the report mentions that:

*The entire army of Cilicia has only two planes, both frayed and overtaxed. One was about to explode when it crashed yesterday about 6 km from the city. [...] The other makes frequent flights just to reconnoitre enemy positions.*

On 19<sup>th</sup> July, one reads:

*An American major of the YMCA, flying from Adana to Mersine, was deputed to drop the mail pouch while passing over Tarsus, as usual.*

Then:

*A SPAD<sup>4</sup> plane was destroyed when the flying field was bombarded on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.*

3 I refer to a 43-page document related to the siege of Adana, from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> August, written up by a naval information officer: Cote 20N 1375.

4 The plane's manufacturer, SPAD stands for *Société pour L'Aviation et ses Dérivés*, owned by Louis Blériot. (editor)



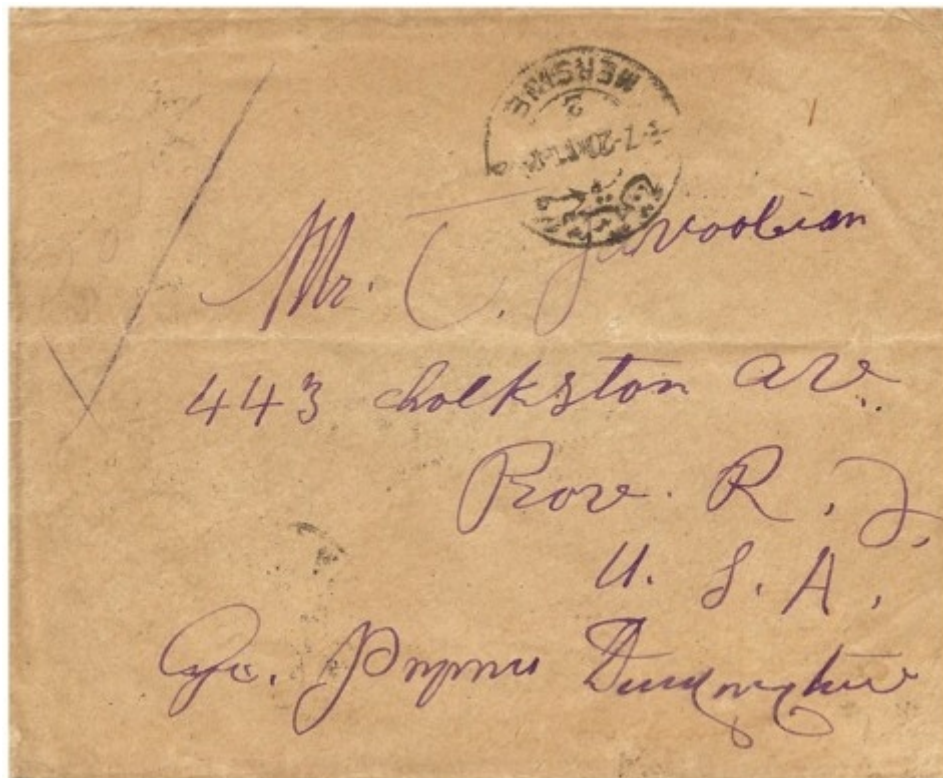


Fig. 2: Letter from Adana dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 1920, destination Providence, Rhode Island, USA, paying the 10 piastre rate. Note the manuscript marking "Par Avion" on the front and the arrival date stamp of 6<sup>th</sup> July 1920. Despite the 10 piastre postage, the letter travelled by train from Adana to Mersine. Before the start of the siege of Adana (4<sup>th</sup> July), the rail line between the two cities was in operation, but the train was regularly sabotaged, hence the long duration of the journey.

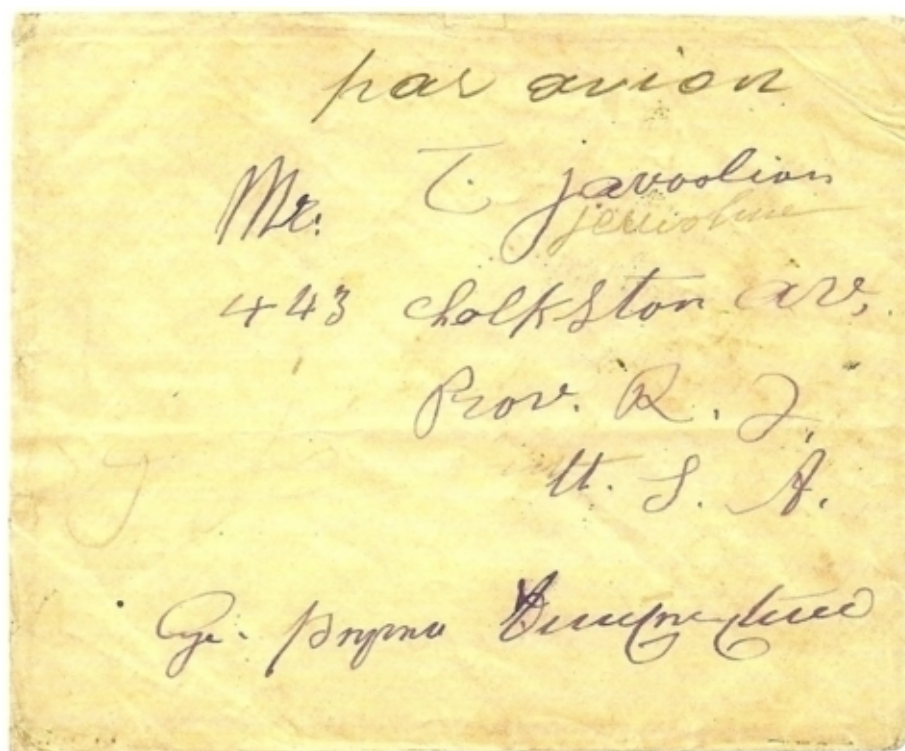


Fig. 3: Letter from the same correspondent to the same destination from Adana dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 1920 (the day after the proclamation of a state of siege). Postage of 10 piastres affixed, along with handwritten notation "Par Avion" on backside.

The arrival date stamp is 7<sup>th</sup> July 1920. This letter was probably put on the last train leaving for Mersine.



From these bits of evidence, one may conclude that if this information casts doubt on the existence of such flights, other sources imply that air mail postal service was on the point of being operational, but was never realised due to the fighting.

In support of this, I uncovered a letter in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This letter, addressed by the Director of Postes at Mersine to the military government of the Sanjak of Cilicia, confirms that an air mail postal service, open to the civilian population, had been established:<sup>5</sup>

*Sir:*

*Pursuant to my note no. 174 of 29/VI/20, I have the honour to bring to your attention that, conforming to the order of our Chief of Service, we will charge letters destined for Adana by the Air Mail rate, namely, 10 piastres, instead of the ordinary rate of 1 piastre 75 centimes.*

*The public accepts this high postage rate without complaint, believing that their letters are indeed being delivered by air mail, but unfortunately at present we do not have the means to do so, even though Adana sends all its correspondence to us [to be put into the general mail stream].*

*The fact is that we have no revenue source other than counter<sup>6</sup> receipts for mail, since money order and parcel service has been suspended and telegraph communications are often interrupted. Thus, in order to be able to maintain the monthly expenses of our operations, we are obliged to put into effect this air mail rate.*

*As a way to placate the residents of Mersine, we ask you to authorise us to send a mail sack of at least 5 kilos for each flight. We have in the pipeline [being held up] almost 2–3 tonnes of mail coming from Europe by steamer [ship] but, no longer having the means to ship them [to Adana], we can think of no alternative.*

*If, by force majeure, we cannot even send a mail bag of 5 kilos on each flight, we request that you provide us with the order to stop accepting at our [post office] counters any mail for Adana.*

In sum, the provisioning of the besieged outpost by the few aircraft flying back and forth between Adana and Mersine is more important than sending mail.

Despite some historical inaccuracies,<sup>7</sup> an article by J. Le Pileur<sup>8</sup> sheds some light on the production of the cachet POSTE PAR AVION and its application on postage stamps:

*[...] A postal memo stipulates that this surcharge is to be applied to one of the two stamps [set aside for this service] [...] and only after the postal clerk has cancelled the letters [...]*

*A sheet of fifty 2 piastre stamps and another sheet of fifty 5 piastre stamps had been reserved for eventual surcharging: it appears that these stamps were not entirely used up. [...]*

*The wooden cachet for surcharging the stamps was destroyed on 30<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>9</sup>*

5 Diplomatic Archives kept at Nantes: Cote Cilicie, carton 147.

6 Rose translated “guichet” as window, but counter is more appropriate. (*editor*)

7 The state of siege was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> July, not 14<sup>th</sup> July as Le Pileur states.

8 Le Pileur, 1948, pp. 66–68.

9 Regrettably, Le Pileur cites no sources for his information, and merely repeats what has already appeared in *Aero Field* (1938) and *World Stamp Digest* (1940).

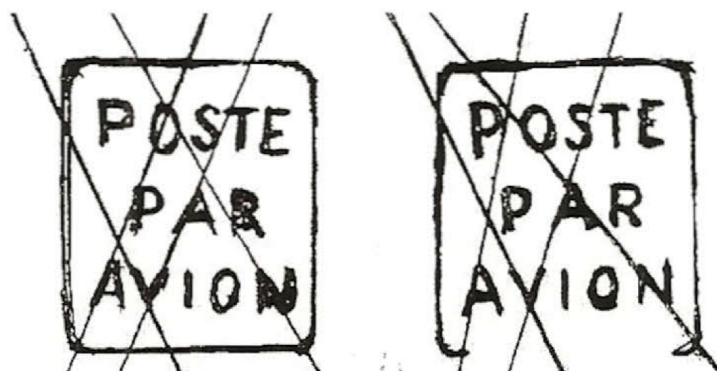


Fig. 5: Sketches prepared by J. Le Pileur following designs by L. A. Chaintrier.  
Left: Authentic surcharge. Right: False surcharge.



Fig. 4: Letter from Mersine to Adana, bearing the interior rate of 70 paras, or 1.75 piastre.

In addition, a letter addressed to the Brussels merchant Willy Balasse, May 1936, by a flier who had participated in the operations in Cilicia, gives us a few more details:<sup>10</sup>

*This surcharge was ordered by the [Military] Post at Adana,<sup>11</sup> which produced the wooden cachet to surcharge 2 and 5 piastre [postage stamps]. Only two half-sheets of fifty stamps of each value were to be used. [...]*

*After seeing the success of these Adana [air mail] stamps, some postal workers in Aleppo [in*

10 Letter written by Capt. Garsonnin concerns placing four Cilicia air mail stamps for sale at an auction of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1936. The writer requests that the stamps be withdrawn from the sale as he considers them to be forgeries. Source: archives of Jean-François Brun.

11 In contrast to Chaintrier, who indicates that Brémond authorised the production of the cachet, Garsonnin places the initiative with Trésor & Postes.



*Syria, also occupied by France at this time] conceived of making a similar cachet, which they used not only to surcharge 2 and 5 piastre stamps, but all the stamps in use at that time, even fiscal stamps. One can tell the difference between the official Adana cachet the false one of Aleppo.*

The presence of fake POSTE PAR AVION overprints additionally complicates the origin of the two stamp values. For over ten years, various stamp catalogues have listed up to four values overprinted.<sup>12</sup> One should note that the 1930 Champion Air Mail catalogue insists that only the 2 and 5 piastre stamps ever received the surcharge POSTE PAR AVION.

An anecdote on this subject only adds to the confusion over these stamps. Over thirty years ago in his capacity as a philatelic expertiser, Jean-François Brun had his contrary conclusions challenged by the owner of the two stamps concerned. This owner pronounced that:

*These stamps are authentic, as I was the one who produced them. As there was no longer one [available], my superior (in the military) asked me to make a cachet. So I took the leg of a chair and carved out this cachet, so of course they're genuine.*

This story concerns the same type of overprint which Champion had in his possession and which were referenced in his 1922 catalogue; lamentably they were later revealed to be fakes.



Fig. 6: Fake surcharges first included by Champion in his 1922 catalogue, later withdrawn in the 1929 edition. Images from Jean-François Brun.



Fig. 7: Authentic surcharged stamps, Scott C1–2, S.G. 116–7, Michel 96–7. From a Boule auction.

<sup>12</sup> Stanley Gibbons lists: 2 piastres on 15 centimes; 5p on 40c, 10p on 50c, and 50p on 1 franc.



Fig. 8: Letter from Mersine (12.07.1920) to Adana (16.07.1920), i.e. during the siege, bearing the a horizontal strip-of-two of the regular "O.M.F. Cilicie" stamps of 5 Piastres, total franking: 10 Piastres.

There seems little doubt that an air mail service between Mersine and Adana was in the planning stage in June 1920 but never was implemented, due to the fighting. Further, one may question the issuance of the two surcharged stamps with values of 2 and 5 piastres as these do not correspond with any of the postal rates in effect, and were for an air service surrounded with risks.

The existence of these two values remains a mystery as we have found no record either of the



stamps or the air mail flights in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Historical Service of the Ministry of Defence. Allowing Chaintrier's testimony, one could entertain the hypothesis that these air mail stamps were produced to satisfy the demand of collectors, or to generate revenues for the military administration. After all, according to Chaintrier, it was the chief of administration services in Cilicia, Col. Brémont, who ordered the production and use of the air mail cachet.

In this respect, I learned that Col. Brémont had not infrequently used the sale of postage stamps as a revenue source in his district. His military record<sup>13</sup> contains a report from an inquest into the budgets of the Cilicia administration, in which Brémont is reprimanded for using postal revenues in a high-handed and non-transparent manner to cover expenses in his region.

Thus, nearly a century after these events, certain aspects remain in the shadows. While the issue of these stamps seems likely, the hope of finding a flown letter franked with them is pure utopia.<sup>14</sup>

### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Jean-François Brun who allowed me to consult his archives and his background details.

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15 Used here by kind permission of Mr. Rose. Changes have been made in coordination with the author. (editor)

## The Provisional Postmark of the Italian Military Post Office in Smyrna in 1922

by Jürgen Glietsch<sup>1</sup> (AIJP, translated by Tobias Zywiets)

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To fully understand the documents shown below, one needs to consider the historical events of that time.

After the armistice with Turkey of 30<sup>th</sup> October 1918, an Italian warship brought a military unit from the Dodecanese to Smyrna<sup>2</sup> on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1918. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1919, the military post office number 171 became operational. It was clear from the outset that, due to the very small presence of Italian troops, this post office was intended almost exclusively for civil postal services. It remained open until June 1923.

Frowned upon by the Italians, strong Greek forces landed in Smyrna between 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 1919. In the *Treaty of Sèvres*,<sup>3</sup> signed on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1920 but never ratified by either the still existing Sublime Porte in Constantinople nor the revolutionary government under Kemal Pasha<sup>4</sup> in Ankara, the province of Smyrna was granted to Greece: about 70% of the local population were Greeks. However, Greece was not satisfied and wanted to conquer more areas of Turkey. Initially it succeeded.

Once the Turkish revolutionary movement managed to find international support, the situation turned in the summer of 1922. On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 1922, the Greek front was breached and the bulk of the Greek army was captured, including its commander-in-chief. The remaining troops fled in disarray towards the coast. In early September the army of Kemal Pasha reached Smyrna and occupied both city and port. Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September Smyrna was gripped by a devastating blaze, which claimed many lives and reduced most of the city to rubble and ashes.

The building in which the Italian Military Post Office 171 was housed was destroyed together with its fixtures and fittings. So far no cover from after the fire has been found that shows the postmarks or registration labels used beforehand. Within a few days the post office was operational again.

A postcard written on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1922 by an Italian priest in Smyrna to the prior of the monastery of San Domenico in Trino Vercellesi (arrival postmark: 05.10.1922) is evidence for that (Fig. 1).<sup>5</sup> The sender makes direct reference to the events of the previous days:

*What we have seen and suffered in these days is terrible. The fire has completely destroyed Smyrna, only by a miracle our church and rectory remained intact. However, we were plundered and robbed of everything.*

The card is franked with two Italian stamps: a 10 Centesimi stamp from the “Leoni” series and a 40

1 The author is president of Germany's *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Italien* and former editor of its journal “Italien-Rundschau.” The current article is revised from the original version of 2004.

2 Today's İzmir.

3 See also on Wikipedia: [Treaty of Sèvres](#), [Greco-Turkish War \(1919-22\)](#), [Turkish advance on Smyrna](#), [Greek landing at Smyrna](#), [Occupation of Smyrna](#), [Great Fire of Smyrna](#), [Liberation of İzmir](#).

4 Mustafa Kemal, later called Atatürk.

5 See next page. Image taken from Chesne Dauphiné, 1989.



Centesimi stamp from the “Michetti” series. The cancellation was carried out with a three-line postmark “R. POSTE / ITALIANE / SMIRNE” without specifying a date (Fig. 2). This card and thus the hitherto unknown canceller first appeared in 1976 at a stamp auction in Zurich. The canceller is obviously composed of type sorts from a type case. The mark was struck in violet ink.

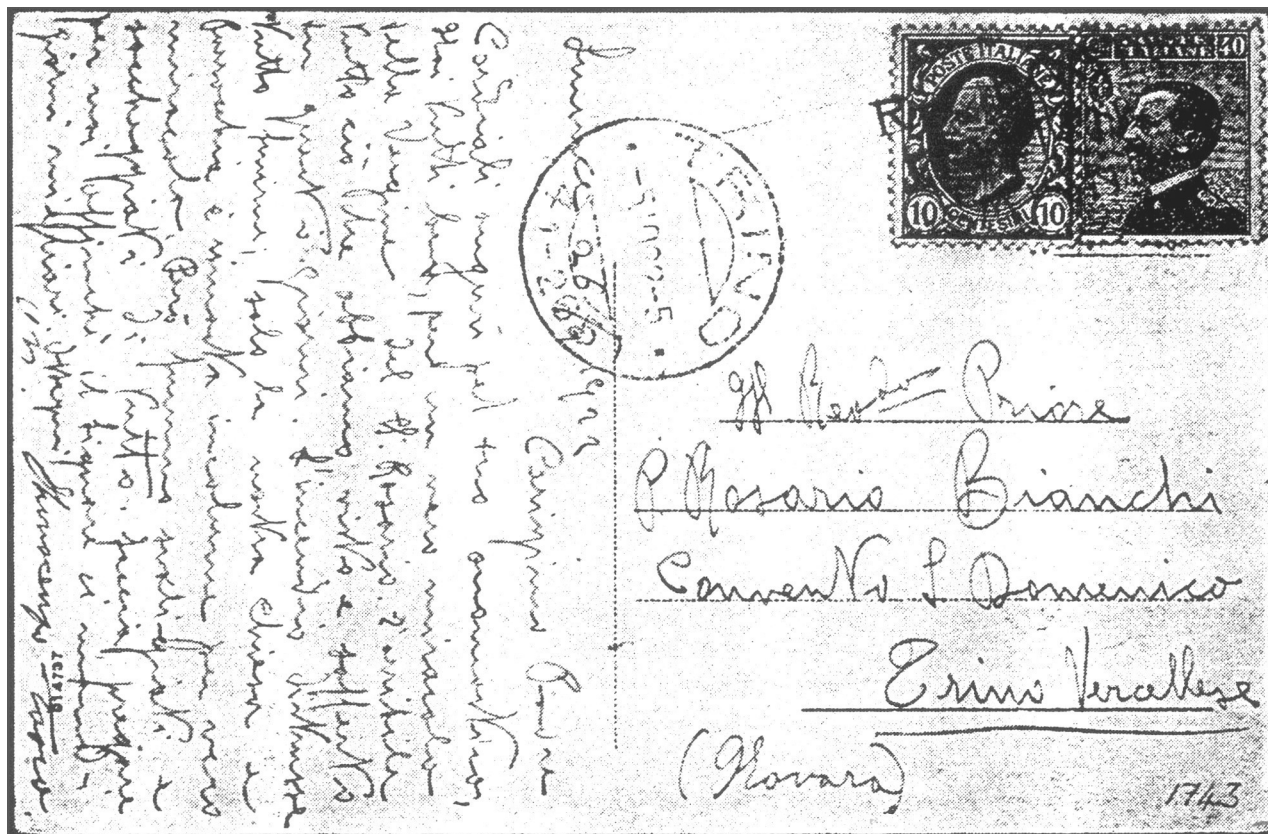


Fig. 1: A postcard, written on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1922, with the provisional cancellation.



Fig. 2: The provisional postmark of the Italian military post office in Smyrna in 1922.<sup>6</sup>

In recent years, a few more covers with this unusual mark have surfaced.<sup>7</sup> At a specialised French postal history auction I purchased a letter with this provisional mark (Fig. 3). The franking consists of a vertical strip-of-three of 40 Centesimi “Michetti” stamps. This corresponds to a letter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight band,<sup>8</sup> which due to the dimensions of the envelope (20×13.5 cm) seems plausible. On my cover the mark is struck twice in violet. Here one can recognise some details that were not so clear to me from the depictions in literature:

<sup>6</sup> As depicted by Dinslage, 1996, p. 195.

<sup>7</sup> In 2000 Chesne Dauphiné describes a cover with the same sender and recipient as with my cover (fig. 3).

<sup>8</sup> According to the Italian foreign tariff regulations of 01.01.1922: letters up to 20 g cost 80 Centesimi, each additional 20 g costs 40 Centesimi.





Fig. 3: A letter with the provisional cancellation from Smyrna to Amsterdam (Netherlands).

- on the left to the left stamp three horizontal lines are clearly visible, indicating the use of sorts from a type case
- in the top line after the letter “R” there’s a comma (not a dot)
- in the bottom line are the decorative elements right and left next to the word “SMIRNE”

According to current information this provisional cancel is known on 1 postcard, 3 or 4 letters and 2 cut-outs. Since the mark does not contain a date and the letters bear no transition or arrival marks, exact dating of the letters and cut-outs<sup>9</sup> is not possible. The period of use can, however, only have amounted to 2 or 3 weeks.

At the beginning of October, a “normal” postmark was already in use (*fig. 4*), which, however, differs significantly in shape from those used prior to the fire at the Military Post Office 171 in Smyrna. That new canceller is described in literature with the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1922 as the earliest date of use.<sup>10</sup> I have the mark dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 1922 on a postcard written on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1922 in Smyrna (*fig. 5*). The postmark is struck twice, but each time quite weak. However, the shape and date of the postmark can be clearly identified.



Fig. 4: The new postmark of Military Post Office 171 in Smyrna.

<sup>9</sup> In 1989 Chesne Dauphiné describes a large cut-out with 3×10 C. Leoni and 50 C. Michetti, sent to Dresden.

<sup>10</sup> See Buzzetti, 1980, p. 233.





Fig. 5: Picture postcard from Smyrna dated 5-10-22 with the new postmark dated -7.10.22.

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## The Kingdom of Kurdistan 1922–1924

by Rainer Fuchs (FRPSL, AIJP)<sup>1</sup>

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If you wonder about a “Kingdom of Kurdistan”: yes there was such a state, albeit briefly.<sup>2</sup> In this short period of time, i.e. September 1922 to July 1924, four stamps were issued. If you never heard about these stamps, no wonder: they are neither catalogued by MICHEL nor by any other standard catalogue. To make matters worse, these stamps are only very rarely found in the philatelic trade.

Since the start of the current crisis Kurdistan has been in the news almost every day. Actually the area of Kurdistan has not settled down for many decades. The political and geographical characteristics of the region do complicate the situation considerably: boundaries are interpreted differently and the Kurdish people are scattered across several countries, i.e. the autonomous “Region Kurdistan Iraq,”<sup>3</sup> Iran, Syria, and Turkey. These geopolitical realities, at least as a necessary background, cannot be disregarded in order to understand historical aspects surrounding this issue.



Figs. 1 & 2: Maps of Kurdish settlement areas and the “Kingdom of Kurdistan.”<sup>4</sup>

### The Story behind the Stamps

The stamps were issued in 1923 by Sheikh Mahmoud al-Barzanji<sup>5</sup> for use in his “Kingdom.” The province of Sulaimaniyah<sup>6</sup> was the only Kurdish province remaining under direct control of the British and was not integrated into the newly founded independent Kingdom of Iraq. Sheikh

1 German versions of this article were originally published in *Michel Rundschau* and *Türkei-Spiegel*.

2 See Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom\\_of\\_Kurdistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kurdistan).

3 Kurdistan Region Iraq (Kurdish: هەرێمی کوردستانی عێراق / Arabic: إقليم كردستان العراق).

4 Source: Wikimedia Commons. Fig. 1 is a cropped version.

5 Mahmud Barzanji (1878–9.10.1956); see Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmud\\_Barzanji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmud_Barzanji).

6 Up until recently Kurdistan consisted of three provinces: Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaimaniyah. In 2014, Sulaimaniyah province was divided into the new provinces of Sulaimaniyah and Halabja.



Barzanji was appointed by the British as Governor of “South Kurdistan” in 1918. Shortly thereafter, however, he was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison for his political and military machinations.<sup>7</sup>

Under pressure from Kurds and in fear of increasing Turkish influence in Northern Iraq, Barzanji was returned from exile in 1922. He took advantage of this opportunity and on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1922 declared, without authorisation, the Kingdom of Kurdistan, with himself as King “Mahmud I.”



Fig. 3: Contemporary photo<sup>8</sup> of Sheikh Mahmoud Barzanji in Kurdish national clothing with the usual curved dagger which is symbolically depicted on the stamps shown below.



Fig. 4: A 19<sup>th</sup> century Kurdish jamana or khanjar. These were often made of silver and richly decorated depending on the rank of the wearer.<sup>9</sup>

From 1922 Barzanji organised a public administration, including a postal service. For that purpose a series of four stamps was created. It is believed that three of them acted as postage stamps and the fourth was used as a revenue stamp. Due to the high values of some of these stamps, the author doubts this attribution. The domestic letter rate within Iraq at that time was 2 Annas, an overseas

<sup>7</sup> For these circumstances there are differing sources: some cite capital punishment converted to imprisonment, others report of a forced exile to India.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Wikimedia Commons.

<sup>9</sup> Jamana or khanjar, depending on the language or dialect. Source: LionGate Arms & Armour, Inc.

letter cost 3 Annas. It is likely that the tariff within the Kingdom of Kurdistan was at a similar level. Since the Kingdom of Kurdistan was not a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) or had agreed any postal treaties with other countries, these stamps could not be used for international communication. The denomination is in Indian currency, *Rupee* and *Anna*,<sup>10</sup> at the time widely used in Iraq and Kurdistan.

The following stamps are known according to the few existing articles written about this issue. The author has not yet seen all the stamps and their variants:

Denomination	Colour
1 (١) Anna	green (shades)
8 (٨) Annas	green (shades) purple magenta
1 (١) Rupee	magenta
5 (٥) Rupees	red

The 1 (١) Anna stamp is reported to exist with an inverted Arab numeral 1 (١) and the pair of stamps shown below gives the impression that the Arabic numeral is indeed printed upside down. But it is also possible that due to the very crude quality of printing, this was assumed by mistake. Future research needs to provide more clarity.

It is totally unclear why the 8 (٨) Annas stamp appears in three different colours and whether these individual colours possibly indicated different uses, i.e. for postal or fiscal charges.

### Examples of known Stamps



Fig. 5: 1 (١) Anna.



Fig. 6: 8 (٨) Annas.



Fig. 7: 1 (١) Rupee.



Fig. 8: 5 (٥) Rupees.

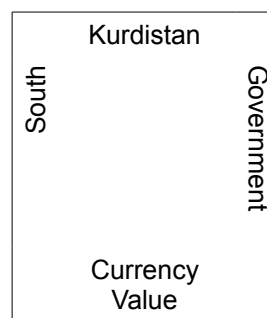
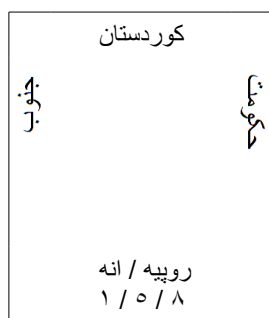
The four values have a common design: an Arabic inscription goes around the top saying "Government of South Kurdistan."<sup>11</sup> The centre depicts two crossed Kurdish daggers. At the bottom there's the currency and denomination (*figs. 9 and 10*).

The stamps were produced in a rather crude form of letterpress on ungummed coloured paper. The separation is in rough line-perforation L12. There's no information on the size of sheets or the print-run.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Rupee = 16 Annas = 64 Paise = 192 Pies.

<sup>11</sup> Hikûmet Kûrdistân Cenûb.





Figs. 9 and 10: Schematic representation of the arrangement of the inscriptions.

The stamps were in use only for a short period of time. The author is not aware of the existence of any complete covers or documents with these stamps. Even blocks are hardly known: the author is familiar with one horizontal pair (fig. 11).<sup>12</sup>



Fig. 11: Horizontal pair of 1 (١) Anna stamps with (presumably) inverted Arab cypher ١ and manual obliteration. Above that there's a cancellation looking like a postmark, but both could not be identified despite my best efforts.



Fig. 12: 8 (٨) Annas, used. Described as: "1923 8a yellow green overprinted for revenue use with m/s cancellation."<sup>13</sup>



Fig. 13: 5 (٥) Rupees, mint. Described as: "Kurdistan: 1923 first stamps produced by Sheikh Mahmoud during the short lived independent Kurdish kingdom, scarce."<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Choudhury shows a strip of three, origin unknown.

<sup>13</sup> Source: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. Sale 689, lot 671. Sold for £220.

<sup>14</sup> Source: Grosvenor Philatelic Auction. Auction 92, lot 2892. Sold for £1.400.

### The End of the Kingdom of Kurdistan

The British did not recognise the Kingdom of Kurdistan and acted according to their counter-insurgency strategy with so-called “rule by bomb”: the Royal Air Force (RAF) bombed the town of Sulaimaniyah several times prompting large sections of the population to flee.

In July 1924, the British re-conquered the town on a permanent basis. Barzanji was stripped of all his offices and the “Kingdom of Kurdistan” was integrated into Iraq. Subsequently, Barzanji fled to Iran. In later years, he came back to Iraq where he died in Baghdad on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1956.



Fig. 14: five stamps shown on the Zenonas Žabauskas' "Philatelic Geography" website.

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## The Old General Post Office of Jerusalem on Historical Photographs

by Tobias Zywietz

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During my philatelic research work I recently became aware of an image collection in the US Library of Congress: the “*G. Eric and Edith Matson Photograph Collection*.” The focus of the more than 23,000 images, mostly film negatives and glass plates, is Palestine in the period from 1898 to 1946. The collection draws on the archives of the companies *American Colony (Jerusalem) Photo Department* (1898–1940) and its successor *Matson Photo Service* (from 1940). Among the photographers known by name are Elijah Meyers (founder of the Photo Department), Erik and Lars Lind, Furman Baldwin, John David Whiting, Lewis Larsson, Najib and Jamil Albina and Gästgifvar Eric Matson (who took over the company and its archives in 1940).

Unfortunately there are relatively few pictures on the subject of postal services and facilities: most topical images relate to then newly opened General Post Office in Jerusalem in 1938. In this series, I’d like to present some of the pictures, starting with depictions of the old General Post Office building of Jerusalem on Allenby Square, the intersection of Jaffa Road and Sultan Suliman Street.



Fig. 1: The Jerusalem General Post Office in August 1920.



Figs. 1a and 1b: Details showing the signs above the entrance and part of the advertising board.

The first image (unfortunately severely damaged on the right) dates from August 1920. Note this interesting detail: on the notice or advertising board to the right of the entry there still hangs a poster for “The Leipzig Spring Fair 1920.” One also notes that the Arabic in the left sign says “بوسطة” rather than “دائرة البريد” or the now common “مكتب بريد”.

In the second photograph we look down Jaffa Road in 1937, while the third picture shows queues during the riots of August 1929.

In the last two photographs from the Matson collection the building was already a *YMCA England* hostel: the opening ceremony took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1941, with the attendance of General Wilson. So these two pictures must have been taken after that point in time. We clearly see that the *Rotary Club of Jerusalem* resided in the building for a period, alongside the *YMCA*.



Fig. 2: The General Post Office of Jerusalem in 1937 with a view down Jaffa Road.





*Fig. 3: People queuing in front of the General Post Office in Jerusalem during the riots of August 1929.*



*Fig. 4: The old Jerusalem post office building, used since 1941 as a hostel of YMCA England.*

# Opening of New Jerusalem Hostel

## GEN. WILSON'S PRAISE FOR Y.M.C.A. WORK

"War is a strain on everybody, and the Y.M.C.A. Hostel is an infinite power of good in relieving it," said General Sir Henry M. Wilson, the G.O.C., in opening the new Y.M.C.A. hostel in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon.

Thanking the Y.M.C.A. on behalf of all ranks in Palestine, Trans-Jordan and Syria, General Wilson stressed the fact that the organization was a powerful factor in maintaining the morale of the men.

The new hostel is housed in the old Post Office building, whose demolition has been postponed for the duration and which was "transformed almost by a miracle within four weeks" in the words of Mr. J. Massey, of the English National Council and General Secretary of the British Y.M.C.A. in the Middle East.

Mr. Massey also thanked Mr. Miller, General Secretary of the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A., who helped establish the new hostel, and the District Commissioner, the Mayor, the Town Clerk and members of the Municipality for their cooperation.

Following a prayer by Senior Chaplain Basham, guests, who included Y.M.C.A. representatives from Australia and New Zealand and the Church Army, enjoyed the first tea to be served at the new hostel.

Visitors included Lady MacMichael; the Chief Secretary and Mrs. Macpherson; Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Pinkerton; Mr. E. Keith-Roach; Mustafa Bey Khalil; Mrs. J.H.H. Pollock; Mr. Badcock; Mr. and Mrs. C. Steger; Mr. Blatchford; representatives of the H. and Army Officers. Messages were received from the South African Y.M.C.A.; the Salvation Army and the Catholic Women's League in England.

Fig. 5: Report from the Palestine Post, 28.10.1941.



Figs. 6 and 6a: The building as a YMCA hostel and base of the Rotary Club of Jerusalem.

The last picture is not from the Matson Collection at the Library of Congress: I found it in Proud's 2006 edition of his postal history of Palestine. From the caption "shortly after his arrival" one can deduct that it was taken in early July 1920, as Samuel<sup>1</sup> had arrived in Jerusalem on 30<sup>th</sup> June to assume office as High Commissioner on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, 1st Viscount Samuel, GCB, OM, GBE, PC; 6.11.1870–5.02.1963; first High Commissioner of Palestine, 1.07.1920–30.06.1925.





*Fig. 7: The High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, inspecting the Post Office at Jerusalem shortly after his arrival in Palestine.*

The building, which became the Ottoman post office in 1908,<sup>2</sup> just like the Convent of the *Soeurs de Marie Reparatrice* adjacent to the East,<sup>3</sup> was severely damaged in the 1948 war and was later demolished. Tragically it was positioned just off what then became no-man's land (see *fig. 10*). The place was recreated at a later point and is now called Army Square. The building opposite, originally built for Barclays Bank, still exists today. Maps from the 1920s clearly show the building labelled as “دائرة البريد” or “G.P.O.”



*Figs. 8 & 9: Details of the 1925 Survey of Palestine town map, and a 1920s Arab map.*

<sup>2</sup> Glassman, 2001, pp. 266/267 and 289/290. I noted that Glassman mixed up the sites of this building with its predecessor (1904–1908) on his map on p. 289, though his text on p. 266 and the map on p. 267 are correct.

3 Hasson, 2010.



Figs. 10 & 11: Detail from a 1961 American map (US AMS) and the area today (OpenStreetMap).

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[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world\\_cities.html?p=print#J](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world_cities.html?p=print#J)
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## The 2012 Christmas Stamps of the Palestinian National Authority

by Tobias Zywietz

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Palestine has issued Christmas stamps fairly regularly since 1995, and such an issue was also planned for 2012. These Christmas stamps show several peculiarities. Among other things, they were released in only spring 2013 and one of the three values shows multiple very stark design variations.

The set consists of three values (20, 250, and 600 Fils) and a block (1,000 Fils). The stamps of this series (*Zobbel 273– 278*, *figs. 1–6*):



*Zobbel 273.*

*Zobbel 274.*

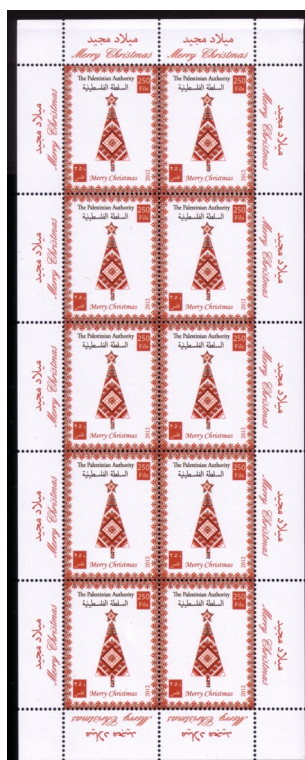
*Zobbel 275.*

*Zobbel 276.*

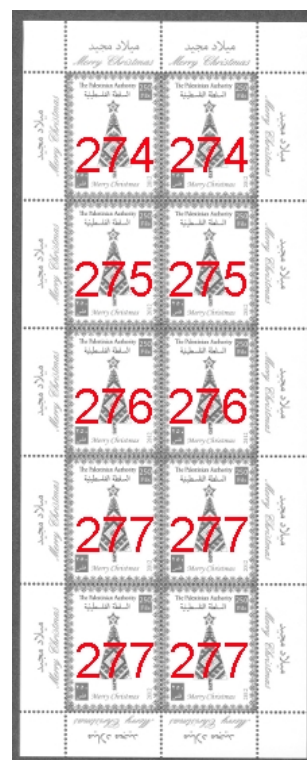
*Zobbel 277.*

*Zobbel 278.*

On the stamps for 20 Fils (*Zobbel 273*), a supplementary value after an increase in postage rates, and 600 Fils (*Zobbel 278*) there's not much to see, but I show the 250 Fils stamp four times (*figs. 2–5*), because each sheet-of-ten (*figs. 7–8*) of this value bears four different versions of that stamp:



*Fig. 7.*



*Fig. 8.*

One can determine the plate varieties with the naked eye. These are the four types in detail:

- field positions 1 and 2: stroke top left and bottom right, thick ornamental line, three blots at the trunk
- field positions 3 and 4: stroke top right and bottom right, thick ornamental line, three blots at the trunk
- field positions 5 and 6: stroke top right and bottom right, thin ornamental line, three blots at the trunk
- field positions 7 to 10: stroke top right only, thin ornamental line, two blots at the trunk

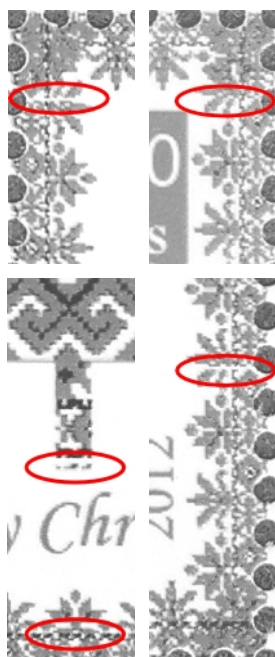


Fig. 9: Zobel 274.

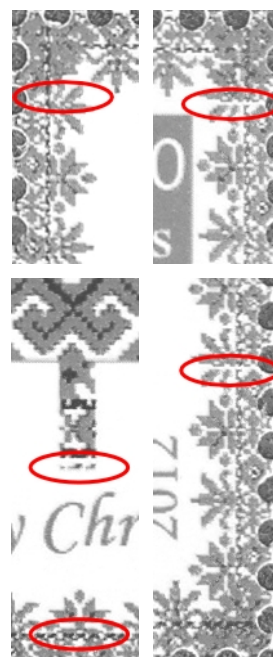


Fig. 10: Zobel 275.



Fig. 11: Zobel 276.



Fig. 12: Zobel 277.



The stamps, like most Palestine issues in recent years, were printed in Bahrain by *Oriental Security Printing Solution*. The print run is 50,000 stamps (i.e. 5,000 sheets-of-ten) and just 2,000 copies for the accompanying block. Subsequently, these quantities exist for the four variations of the 250 Fils stamp:

- *Zobbel 274* (field positions 1 and 2): 10,000
- *Zobbel 275* (field positions 3 and 4): 10,000
- *Zobbel 276* (field positions 5 and 6): 10,000
- *Zobbel 277* (field positions 7 to 10): 20,000

How could such a number of design varieties appear? In an era of fully digital design, pre-press and printing processes one should assume that each stamp must be identical. All the sheets I examined have the exact same characteristics, but I cannot definitively exclude that there may be others. Depending on the preferred philatelic definition these varieties can be regarded as (primary) plate errors (Tröndle 1978, MICHEL catalogue definition) or printing errors (Häger 1973, Arnau 1973), or both (Grallert 2000).

Germany's MICHEL catalogues do not list these varieties; if they were noted at all, MICHEL ignores them as not worthy of inclusion. There are of course different standards and benchmarks for a non-specialised overseas catalogue as opposed to e.g. MICHEL's specialised catalogues of Germany (*"Deutschland Spezial"*). Unfortunately, this is also true for other features occurring on Palestinian stamps: one of the reasons why I had to introduce my own numbering system on my website.

The sheets have, incidentally, also a faint bluish-grey shading that does not quite reach the upper margin. But this is of no significance to the stamps themselves.

And why was this set of Christmas stamps released on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013? Depending on who you ask it's always someone else to blame: either the Israelis have delayed the consignment from the printers, i.e. simply letting it lay around out of chicanery, or Israel demanded heavy import duties that *Palestine Post* had to raise first; or it was the rampant bureaucracy of the Palestinian Authority and its problems to efficiently coordinate between the Ministries of Post and of Finance, and the President's Office.

The delay can be documented philatelically, at least in an indirect way: on the one hand the FDC states "*2012 ميلاد مجيد / Merry Christmas 2012*" (fig. 14), but on the other hand the inscription of the first day special postmark (fig. 13) gives both years:

Fig. 13: Special first-day canceller.

دولة فلسطين  
State of Palestine  
2012 ميلاد مجيد  
Merry Christmas 2013  
24-12-2012





Fig. 14: First-day cover.

I already mentioned that a block forms part of this issue: it contains a stamp denominated at 1,000 Fils (*Zobbel Bl. 33* with stamp *Zobbel 279*). Due to its elegance and grace I must show it here (*fig. 15*). Unfortunately I could not identify the painting or its painter, but it's unlikely to be David Roberts.



Fig. 15: Palestine's Christmas block 2012 (*Zobbel Bl. 33*).



## World Cultural Heritage Destroyed Part 1: Palmyra

by Dietrich Ecklebe (AIJP)<sup>1</sup>

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Such or similar headlines appear in almost every newspaper every day for months now. In television reports masked members of “Islamic State” destroy millennia-old works of art with pickaxes and other tools.

The destruction of *UNESCO World Heritage Sites*<sup>2</sup> is nothing new. During the Yugoslav Wars following that state’s breakup Dubrovnik was bombed. The Taliban blew up the Buddhist sacred site of Bamiyan in Afghanistan. Islamists destroyed precious manuscripts in Timbuktu (Mali) and the Syrian city of Aleppo fell victim to bombardment by Assad’s troops. But the atrocities of “Islamic State” surpass anything seen before.

One can only hope that Palmyra and Bosra are spared.<sup>3</sup> For Nineveh and Hatra any help comes too late now. Furthermore “Islamic State” sells antiques on a large scale in order to finance its war. As the artworks from the places described here are not for sale under regular circumstances, one has to conclude that there are very wealthy people who finance “Islamic State” and thus the death of thousands of innocent people just to be able to store ancient art in their own vaults. It’s laudable that UNESCO wants to ensure that such crimes are to be punished as war crimes.

The barbaric terrorist campaign of “Islamic State” is not only directed against the people of the Middle East but wants to wipe out the history and traditions of entire peoples through the destruction of cultural monuments that belong to the great works of mankind. The fanatics of “Islamic State” justify this by “holy war” (*jihad*) that is called for in the Qur’an.

They simply overlook that Mohammed already admitted other religions and guaranteed their members freedom of belief. Jews and Christians were regarded “people of the book,” like Muslims. All three religions worship the same persons, like Abraham, and Islam considers Jesus a prophet. The first Caliphs, the successors of Mohammed, created the “house of peace” concept with a protective status for non-Muslims, because it was recognised that a coexistence of Muslims with non-Muslims was a necessity.<sup>4</sup>

Today’s Islamists, however, have moved away from these findings and teachings of the Qur’an and of early Islam. They call for *jihad* so as to find an explanation for their terrorism and to win new followers. The last few decades have brought about several of these islamist movements, “Islamic State,” currently covers Iraq and Syria with a campaign of destruction. All dissenting people are mercilessly persecuted or killed. This surpasses in its brutality all other such movements by far. They stop at nothing, not even the destruction of the Middle East’s cultural heritage.

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1 Translation by Tobias Zywiets. The original German article was published in the July edition of “philatelie.” Reprinted with kind permission of both author and “philatelie.”

2 See references in Further Reading.

3 The original German article was written in May 2015.

4 In Arabic *dār as-salam*, or more common *dār al-islam* / دار الإسلام mean countries where Muslims can practice their religion as the ruling sect and where other religions are to be tolerated; its antonym is “house of war” or *dār al-harb* / دار الحرب. The *dhimma* / ذمة is the protected status of non-Muslims. See also Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisions\\_of\\_the\\_world\\_in\\_Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisions_of_the_world_in_Islam).

## Palmyra – Metropolis of the Desert

Only one generation after the fall of Hatra<sup>5</sup> another desert city, Palmyra, rose to become the centre of trade in the Western Desert. Similar to Hatra, a mixed culture had developed. The buildings were in Greco-Roman style, but the Arab rulers wore Parthian horsemen costume. Palmyra was of great strategic importance as this oasis town lay at the crossroads of important trade routes from the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia and from the mountains in the North to Damascus. Trade enriched the inhabitants of the town and made some magnificent buildings possible.

The oasis had been settled as early as the Neolithic period. Ancient authors described the city under its first name: Tadmor.<sup>6</sup> When the Romans invaded areas of the Near East in the last century B.C.E., the city had trade relations as far afield as Iran and India. Its merchants could be found even in Europe. The Romans had manifest interests in Palmyra, but General Pompejus forwent the integration of the city into the Asian province of Syria: the trade links and diplomatic relations of the city were regarded as more important and useful to Rome; especially in the light of the long-standing feud with its Eastern neighbours, the Parthians. Palmyra greatly benefited from this situation and was soon wealthy enough to build large temples.

The first new temple was built in 32 C.E.: the Temple of Bel (Baal), the national shrine of Palmyreans, is located directly on the grand boulevard. The square temple area, each side with a length of 200 metres, is surrounded by an eleven metre high wall giving access only through a gateway on the Western side. The interior is lined with two-aisled colonnaded halls. The colonnades were added only at around 100 C.E. Access to the temple was allowed only for priests and the city's rulers. The *cella* housed the statue of the supreme god Bel and the gods Yarhibôl and Aglibôl. This divine triad was offset by an imperial triad with Emperor Tiberius and his two sons Drusus and Germanicus. They were considered companions of the gods. A powerful way for the Romans to manifest their conquest of the city.



Figs. 1 & 2: The reconstructed *cella* of the Temple of Baalshamin with its magnificent reliefs.

The Temple of Baalshamin (*fig. 1*) is situated outside the centre of the city. Construction started about 20 C.E., but it took until 131 C.E. to get the temple complex completed and consecrated. The temple contains a small rectangular *cella*, which is surrounded by columns. The dimensions of the temple amount to 15 metres in length and 10 metres in width. The significance lies in the fact that the finds of the excavations allowed the *thalamos*, i.e. the interior hall, to be reconstructed. The rear wall of the *cella* resembles a stage set. The iconographic system is clearly of cosmological nature. On a cornice seven busts representing the planets are framed by eagles, symbolising the sky (*fig. 2*).

The layout of the city corresponds to neither Hellenistic nor Roman archetypes. The direction of the main road is aligned to the course of the *wadi*. The Great Colonnade is central to the boulevard and about 1,100 metres long. It consists of three sections that are not straight, but curved. Where the

5 The original article deals with Assur, Niniveh, Hatra, Palmyra, and Bosra. The chapter on Palmyra in this issue will be followed by the other chapters in the next issues.

6 The modern name in Arabic is again Tadmor / تدمر.



side roads meet the main boulevard, there is a *tetrapylon*. But that term is not entirely correct: although there are four roads, it has only three thoroughfares; so the term *tripylon* would be correct. This monument is often referred to as the Triumphal Arch of Hadrian, who visited Palmyra in 129 C.E. The boulevard was only built around 220 C.E., though.



Figs. 3–5: At the tetrapylon the streets of Palmyra cross.

The colonnades begin at this *tetrapylon*, which are, including the side roads, 1,550 metres long. As they were erected on both sides of the streets, their total extent comes to 3,300 metres. The columns are 9.5 metres in height and are spaced to a distance of 3.5 metres from each other (figs. 3–8). In total there were 860 to 880 of such columns once, only a part of which are still standing erected today. Each column has a corbel on which once stood the sculpture of a benefactor of the city (fig. 8). Since these sculptures were made of bronze, later rulers have melted down the precious metal.



Figs. 6–8: The Great Colonnades once consisted of nearly 900 columns.

Right next to the market square in the ancient city centre there lies the Roman theatre (fig. 9). Its seating rows are arranged in the semi-circular Greek style. It was built in the second century. In ancient times there was no theatrical scenery or backdrop. The play was performed on a square in front of a stone wall, the *proscenium*. The theatre is so well preserved that it can be played in even today. Regular folklore events take place here every year in April (fig. 10).



Figs. 9 & 10: In the ancient theatre of Palmyra folkloric events took place every April.

The art of sculpture has been significant in Palmyra, with clear parallels to sculptures from Hatra. In the *necropoleis* to the south west of the city, there were numerous funeral towers that were later replaced by funeral temples. Some family tombs were built underground and had rooms to conduct funerals. Busts of the deceased were modelled and then mounted on consoles in the walls. Among the masterpieces of Palmyrenean sculptures there is a statue nicknamed “The Beauty of Palmyra” (fig. 11). This degree of perfection is unique when it comes to the realism of the portrait.

There are different interpretations of the relief depicting two women with a dog: scientists disagree on whether the goddesses Astarte and Tyche (fig. 14) are represented, or whether it is the grave stone of Queen Zenobia.



Figs. 11–14: The perfected beauty of sculptures and reliefs from Palmyra.

The downfall of Palmyra was provoked by the city’s rulers themselves. Vis-à-vis Rome, Palmyra could act in a relatively autonomous way. When the Romans suffered a crushing defeat in the wars with the Iranian Sassanids, even Roman Emperor Valerian was taken into captivity. Palmyra’s ruler Odaenathus, also commander of the Roman troops, was able to achieve a victory for the Romans. In gratitude, he was appointed commander of the Roman troops in the East. Soon he had restored the old balance of power.

After Odaenathus fell victim to assassination, his son Vaballathus assumed power in Palmyra, but only ostensibly; de facto his ambitious and unbridled power-hungry widow Zenobia (fig. 15) ruled the city. They conquered all of Syria, Egypt and large parts of Asia Minor around 269 C.E. The Romans only intervened when she had coins minted depicting his son alongside the Roman Emperor (figs. 16 & 18). This slight sparked a military campaign leading to the downfall and destruction of Palmyra in 271 C.E.



Figs. 15–17: Queen Zenobia had coins minted with the image of her son causing the downfall of the city.



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## Further Reading

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- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/> ; details on Palmyra (with news): <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/23>.
- BBC News: *Palmyra's Temple of Bel destroyed, says UN*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34111092>.



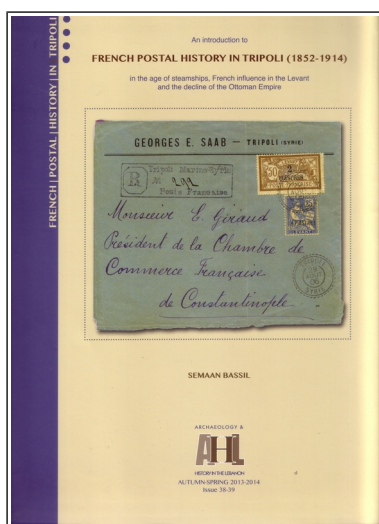
Fig. 18: Obvers and revers of an Antoninianus depicting Aurelian with Vaballathus, minted in Antioch in 270/272 C.E., the inscription reads: IMP AURELIANVS AVG / VABALATHVS V[ir] C[onsularis] R[ex] IM[perator] D[ux] R[omanorum].<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Source: Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AURELIANUS\\_RIC\\_V\\_381-795833.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AURELIANUS_RIC_V_381-795833.jpg).  
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<http://www.cngcoins.com>. (editor)

## Book Reviews

### Semaan Bassil: *An Introduction to French Postal History in Tripoli (1852–1914)*

*reviewed by Rainer von Scharpen, AEP / AIJP, Copyright ©2015*



*Semaan Bassil: An Introduction to French Postal History in Tripoli (1852–1914) in the Age of Steamships, French Influence in the Levant and the Decline of the Ottoman Empire. Preface by Robert Abensur (president of “L’Académie de Philatélie”).*

*178 pages, mainly coloured illustrations, A4. Beirut 2013/2014. Price: 65 €.*

*Orders: The Lebanese British Friends of the National Museum.*

[www.ahlebanon.com](http://www.ahlebanon.com)

In 2009 the author [Vice Chairman and General Manager of Lebanon’s *Byblos Bank*] already published a first book on the postal history of Lebanon, namely on the French post office in Beirut. His new publication deals with the second and considerably less significant post office which France had established on the territory of present-day Lebanon. This is of course “*Tripoli de Syrie*,” which should not be confused with “*Tripoli de Barbarie*” in today’s Libya. The office was opened in 1852 in connection with the expansion of the French shipping lines serving the coast between

Constantinople and Alexandria, and it was closed at the outbreak of World War I. Tripoli had the peculiarity that there were two post offices: one in the marshy and unhealthy harbour – “*Tripoli Marine*” – and one in the town itself, about 3 km inland – “*Tripoli Ville*.” The volume of mail was much lower here and is as a consequence much rarer than that of neighbouring Beirut.

The great economic importance of Lebanon for France is explained by the fact that the country was an important supplier of, in particular, raw silk, as well as soap and agricultural products in exchange for sugar, coffee, textiles and finished goods. At the same time France assumed the role of the protecting power of the Christians living in the Middle East. Only with the cognisance of this economic and cultural background can one properly understand and assess the covers Bassil presents in his work.

Bassil intensively studied countless documents, statistics and maps as well as diplomatic correspondence in archives and libraries in France, the US, Turkey, and Lebanon. These documents and their analysis serve to substantiate and illustrate the introductory chapters, which are dedicated to the history of Tripoli, the development of postal communications and shipping lines on the Syrian coast, the interdependence of the postal service with the state shipping company *Messageries Maritimes* and the local French Vice-Consulate. They portray the (often more or less considerate) attempts of the Ottoman Empire to undermine or to entirely prevent the activities of the French on their soil. Covers are repeatedly inserted to illustrate developments and to reflect specific social conditions, such as trade relations, &c. Senders and recipients are given a closer look and are examined in detail and questioned as to their background. Special attention is paid to the *diaspora*, i. e. Lebanese emigrants living above all in America, but also in Australia and Africa.

The purely philatelic side of the topic is not neglected either: separate chapters are dedicated to the stamps and postmarks in use, which are presented and explained by means of exquisite documents. Without exception, these are of the highest quality and rarity.



Contemporary postcards, engravings and maps abundantly adorn the publication and make it a feast for the eyes. If you belong to those who love beautiful books which at the same time convey a wealth of knowledge and information, you will be thrilled by this work! A chapter of French postal history about which little has been known is illuminated here with great expertise. An extremely commendable and successful endeavour!

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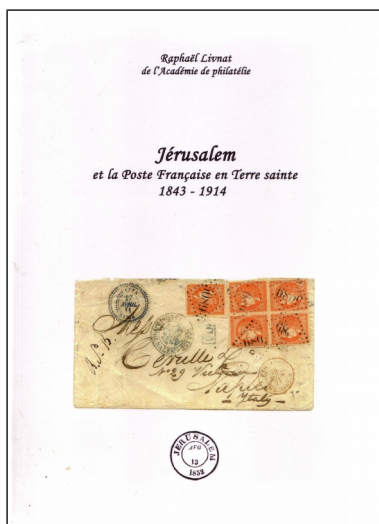
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## Book Reviews

### Raphaël Livnat: Jérusalem et la Poste Française en Terre Sainte 1843–1914

*reviewed by Rainer von Scharpen, AEP / AIJP, Copyright ©2015*



*Raphaël Livnat: Jérusalem et la Poste Française en Terre Sainte 1843–1914. [Jerusalem and the French Post in the Holy Land 1843–1914].*

397 pages. glossy paper with b/w and colour illustrations, A4.

Price: 65 € (72 € incl. of p&p within the EU). Orders: Raphaël Livnat, 14, Rue Paul Lafargue, 92800 Puteaux, France. [livnar@hotmail.fr](mailto:livnar@hotmail.fr)

The author has intensively worked his way through the archives of the French Foreign Ministry, the Consulate General in Jerusalem, the Postal Museum in Paris and the holdings of the French National Archives in search of documents, correspondence and reports that give first-hand information on the establishment and operation of the French post offices in Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land. Along the way he came across quite a few enlightening details on the operation of the foreign post offices of Austria, Germany, Russia and Italy, as well as the Turkish Post.

When France opens a consulate in Jerusalem in 1843, an own courier service is established. In 1846 the private mail service run by Santelli and Micciarelli takes over the conveyance of correspondences to the post office in Beirut. The decisive change comes about in 1852 with the simultaneous establishment of a French shipping agency and a post office in Jaffa, which is henceforth responsible for the forwarding of correspondence arriving from Jerusalem by messenger service; Santelli is appointed manager of this office.

In the early years, the privately run postal agency in Jerusalem cancels all outgoing mail with a simple one-line postmark, and from 1858 to 1880 with a very distinctive canceller known as Jerusalem Cross (*croix-potencée de Jérusalem*). The post officer in Jaffa then franks and cancels the letters. When Santelli dies in 1880 the Jerusalem agency closes and does not resume service until 1900 as a post office in its own right. In 1906 a third French post office joins in in Caiffa (present name: Haifa). At the outbreak of World War I all offices close on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1914.

The individual chapters of this eventful chronicle are divided according to periods relevant to postal history. The story is not told chronologically, but documents are reproduced (as colour scans or photocopies) with concise remarks tracing the evolution. The explanations are supplemented by suitable high-quality images of covers which every so often are extremely rare.

An impressive amount of previously unpublished facts and enlightening details is interspersed in the presentation of the documents, such as the tariffs of the private messenger service between Jaffa and Jerusalem – curiously enough the fee from Jerusalem to Jaffa was twice as high as that in the opposite direction – an overview of the cancellers prior to the Jerusalem Cross mark, a list of post office managers and their periods of service, comments on the connections with other French overseas post offices abroad such as Aleppo, Gallipoli or Varna, background information on the establishment of the post office Tripoli Ville which was opened due to the initiative of the local mayor – there is absolutely no parallel in the history of foreign post offices in the Levant – and eventually records and figures on the shipping lines of the Austrian Lloyd.



On the basis of irrefutable documentary evidence, the author can put an end to a legend that has stubbornly persisted through the ages: there have never been any written agreements between the Sublime Porte and European powers, there were no “capitulations” which allowed or regulated the establishment and operation of foreign post offices. Documents pertinent to this age-long dispute make up a large part of the book.

To collect material for his book, the author spent four complete years doing research in archives and libraries. It is rather unlikely that within four days a reader can digest all the information the volume provides.

### Bibliographic Record

Livnat, Raphaël: Jérusalem et la Poste Française en Terre Sainte 1843–1914. – Puteaux: Livnat, 2015. – 397 p. : ill. ; 30 cm (pbk.)  
ISBN: 978-2-9552463-0-6 : 65€  
Index. – Bibliography.

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# Autumn 2015

*This special section of the Bulletin provides reprints of long-lost or forgotten journal articles, booklets or books with sparse annotations. These are not fully fledged and meticulously researched philatelic articles.*

*This first instalment features clippings on postal history, rates and the operation of the postal services after the occupation of Palestine by British and allied forces in 1917/1918. The Official Gazettes feature administrative notifications, statutes, orders, regulations, proclamations, and related announcements, made by the military and later civilian administration.*



## Postal History and Related Notices from the Official Gazettes for Palestine Part 1: 1919/1920

*compiled and annotated by Tobias Zywietz*

Copyright © 2015<sup>1</sup>

In the following I present the first part of a series listing and displaying all postal history related items found in the Official Gazettes covering Palestine from 1917 to 1948.

As I have not had access to complete runs of “The Palestine News” so far, I start in July 1919 with cuttings from the “Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South).” At the time *Occupied Enemy Territory Administration (South)* encompassed just Palestine itself.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1920 the British civil administration under High Commissioner Sir Herbert Samuel took over from the military administration of *O.E.T.A. (South)*. At that point the “Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South).” became “Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine.”<sup>2</sup> The areas covered from then on are the later mandated territories of Palestine and Transjordan.<sup>3</sup>

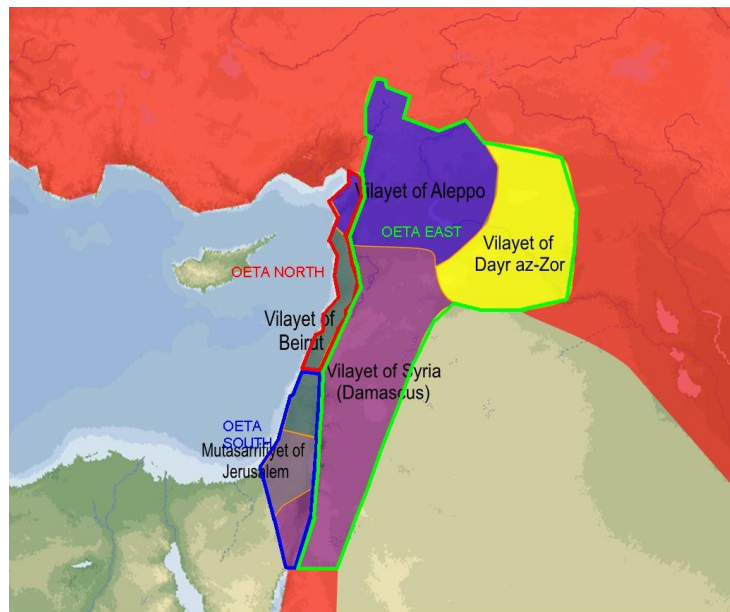


Fig. 1: Occupied Enemy Territory Administration Sectors, 1918.<sup>4</sup>

1 Copyright extends to the compilation, arrangement, transcription, annotation, and the additional illustrations (covers). The original texts are public domain. Note that images are placed where layout allowed it.

2 There were no Gazettes during the transition period: issue no.23 of 16.06.1920 is followed by no. 24 of 25.07.1920.

3 From August 1920. Transjordan was part of the Arab Kingdom of Syria until the fall of Damascus to French troops in July 1920. High Commissioner Samuel took control of Transjordan in August, eventually creating an Emirate in 1921. Transjordan was not formally joined to Palestine until establishment of the League of Nations Mandate in 1923. See e.g. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_Mandate\\_for\\_Palestine\\_\(legal\\_instrument\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Mandate_for_Palestine_(legal_instrument)).

4 Source: Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OETA\\_Syria.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OETA_Syria.png)

### Official Gazettes for Palestine

During the British and Allied Occupation of Palestine (1917–1920) and the subsequent British civil administration (1920–1923) and the League of Nations Mandate (1923–1948) administrative notifications, statutes, orders, regulations, proclamations, and related announcements were published “*by authority*” in official newspapers. The English editions<sup>5</sup> were published as follows:<sup>6</sup>

1.	The Palestine news : the weekly newspaper of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force of the British Army in occupied enemy territory	Cairo, later Jerusalem (weekly)	1918–1919	No. 1 (17.03.1918) – no. 72 (17.07.1919)
2.	Official gazette O.E.T.A. (South)	Jerusalem (fortnightly)	1919–1920	No. 1 (15.07.1919) – no. 23 (16.06.1920)
3.	Official gazette of the government of Palestine	Jerusalem (fortnightly)	1920–1932	No. 24 (25.07.1920) – no. 313 (16.08.1932)
4.	The Palestine gazette	Jerusalem (fortnightly, later more often)	1932–1948	No. 314 (25.08.1932) – no. 1654 (18.03.1948) <sup>7</sup>

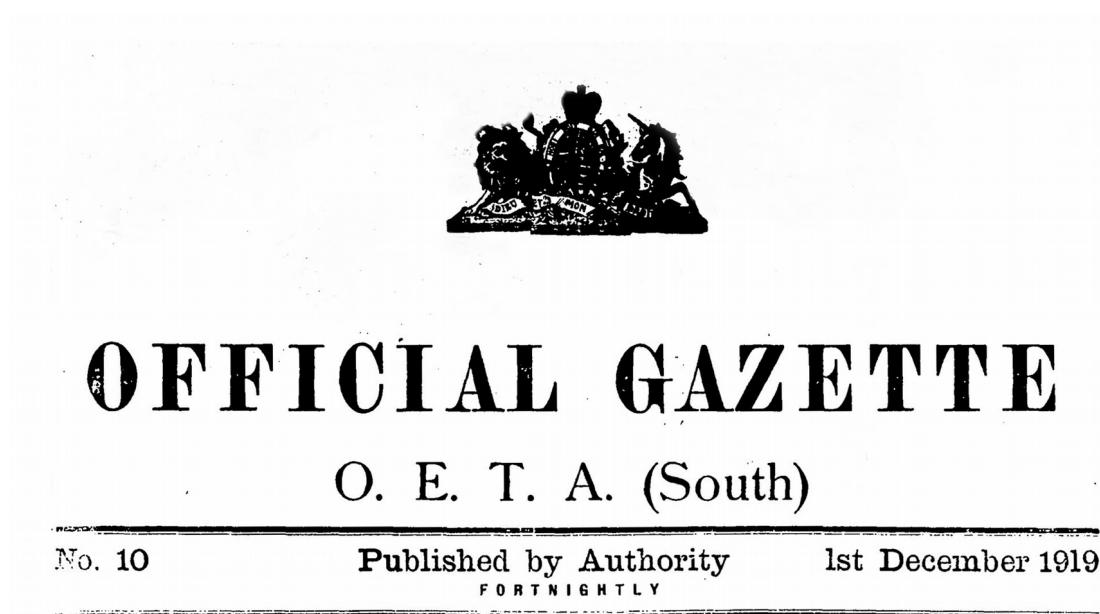


Fig. 2: Masthead of Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), no. 10, 1.12.1919.

One notes that the coat of arms, fonts and layout changed variously as several different printers (Franciscan Monastery, Nile Mission Press) were used.

<sup>5</sup> Hebrew and Arabic editions do exist, but not for all periods, e.g. חדשות מהארץ / חדשות הקדושה is listed for 4.04.1918–10.04.1919 by Yale University Library.

<sup>6</sup> See Sources section. Note that libraries list their actual holdings, i.e. usually bound annual volumes. These do not always reflect a change in title occurring during a year.

<sup>7</sup> The British Library lists the last issue as number 1655.



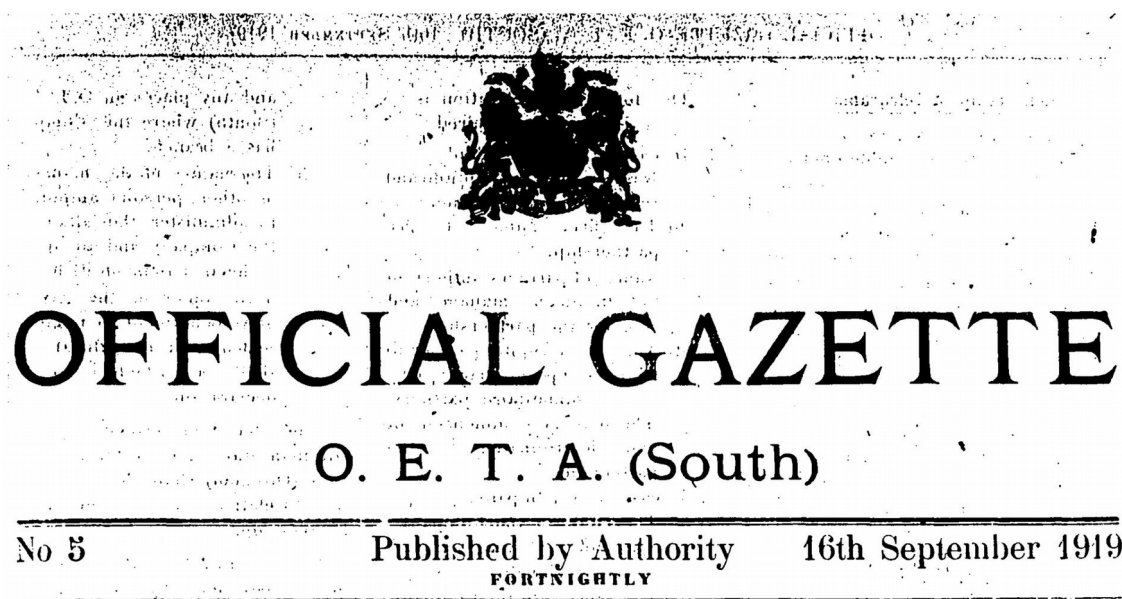


Fig. 3: Masthead of Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), no. 5, 16.09.1919.  
One notes that the coat of arms, fonts and layout changed variously as several different printers (Franciscan Monastery, Nile Mission Press) were used.

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/digital-collections/arabic-and-middle-eastern-electronic-library>.
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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OETA\\_Syria.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OETA_Syria.png) Attribution: Busterof666. Licence: [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license](#).
- Bibliographic record of *The Palestine news*: [http://explore.bl.uk/primo\\_library/libweb/action/display.do?tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01013918427](http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/display.do?tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01013918427) (dates listed here: 17.03.1918–17.07.1919),  
<http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/OXVU1:oxfaleph014582441> (dates listed here: 7.03.1918–10.04.1919),  
<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/8334156> (dates listed here: no. 1 7.03.1918–no. 58 10.04.1919),
- Bibliographic record of *Official gazette O.E.T.A. (South)*:  
<http://sesame.library.yale.edu/fedoragsearch/ameelview?pid=agaz:41111>.
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[http://explore.bl.uk/primo\\_library/libweb/action/display.do?tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01012095190](http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/display.do?tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01012095190),  
<http://sesame.library.yale.edu/fedoragsearch/ameelview?pid=agaz:16845>.
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- Various Wikipedia articles and further Internet resources, The London Gazette, et al.



## 15.07.1919: British Money orders

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No. 119.

**PUBLIC NOTICE.**

It is notified for information that on and after 1st August.1919. British Postal Orders will not be sold to or cashed for civilians, and that it will be necessary, therefore, for individuals desirous of transmitting or receiving money through the medium of the O.E.T.A. Postal Administration to do so through the Money Order Service.

A.W. MONEY,  
Major-General,  
Chief Administrator.

H.Q., O.E.T.A.(S).  
JERUSALEM 14th June 1919.

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A.W. MONEY,  
Major-General,  
Chief Administrator.

H.Q., O.E.T.A.(S).  
JERUSALEM 14th June 1919.

Doc. 1: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no 1 (15.07.1919), p. 1.

Sir Arthur Wigram Money (pictured),<sup>8</sup> 1866/1867–1951<sup>9</sup>, C.S.I. (1916), K.C.B. (1917), K.B.E. (1919), Major General, 25.03.1918,<sup>10</sup> temporary Governor of O.E.T.A. (S) (1918), Chief Administrator O.E.T.A. (S) (1918/1919). Commission relinquished 9.08.1919,<sup>11</sup> retired 3.03.1920.<sup>12</sup>  
Karl Sabbagh notes:<sup>13</sup>

*"Other British officials,<sup>14</sup> even at this early stage, predicted long-term disastrous consequences from pursuing the idea of a Jewish Palestine. Major General Money, the Chief Administrator, wrote to Whitehall: 'I am convinced that any such policy as giving the Jews a preferential share of the government of Palestine in the near future would be disastrous [and] would react powerfully and most unfavourably on the Arabs all over the British Empire.' Major General Money was attacked by the Zionists for his reluctance to decree that official paperwork, from stamps and railway tickets to government notices, should be printed in Hebrew, even though some of the minority Jewish population had lived quite happily in Palestine for generations, speaking Arabic rather than Hebrew. Major General Money was eventually relieved of his duties as Chief Administrator at the insistence of the Zionists who claimed he was anti-Semitic. Shortly afterwards, Hebrew became an official language."*



- 8 Detail from a group photo taken in Baghdad in 1917. Source: *Wives and sweethearts : love letters sent during wartime* / Alastair Massie and Frances Parton. London: Simon & Schuster, 2014. 303 p. ISBN: 9781471102646.
- 9 Sources for dates of birth and death: <http://www.queenslandfamilytrees.com/getperson.php?personID=I13813&tree=5> and <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F37766> and [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\\_Wigram\\_Money](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wigram_Money).
- 10 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 12.04.1918, p. 4545. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30632/supplement/4545>.
- 11 Source: The London Gazette, 22.08.1919, p10726. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31520/supplement/10726>
- 12 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 2.03.1919, p.2570. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31803/supplement/2570>
- 13 Sabbagh, 2006, p. 134.
- 14 Other than Chief Political Officer to General Allenby, General Gilbert Clayton.



## 15.07.1919: Personnel Changes

Postal Services.	Postal Services.
Captain Fosbraey, M.C., D.C.M. (Relinquished.)	Captain Fosbraey, M.C., D.C.M. (Relinquished.)
Major Hudson - (Attached)	Major Hudson - (Attached)

Doc. 2: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 1 (15.07.1919), p. 2.

Captain Andrew David Fosbraey, 1 S. African Signals, officer in Mounted Brigades, 1st H.Q., invalided 19.12.1916.<sup>15</sup> Temporary Captain, Army Signals 27.06.1917,<sup>16</sup> Corps of Royal Engineers 7.12.1917,<sup>17</sup> awarded Military Cross, South African Field Post and Telegraph Corp. 22.08.1918.<sup>18</sup> He relinquished his position on completion of service 7.11.1919.<sup>19</sup> No record for Distinguished Conduct Medal.

No further details for Major N. W. Hudson, M.C. Postmaster General for Palestine, July 1920.<sup>20</sup>



Fig. 4: Postcard to Egypt 1.07.1918, franked with 5m (SG no. 4).

Postmark: **ARMY POST OFFICE / SZ 44 / A / 1 JY / 18** (Sacher XXX). Very faint censor mark, likely **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 2** (Sacher QA13, Firebrace PCC2/2).

15 Source: The Kaiser's Cross, <http://www.kaiserscross.com/40117/59401.html>.

16 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 22.11.1917, p. 12109.  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30394/supplement/12109>

17 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 6.12.1917, p. 12770.  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30415/supplement/12770>

18 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 22.08.1918, p. 9800.  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30857/supplement/9800>

19 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 30.12.1919, p. 16106.  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31710/supplement/16106>

20 See Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 29 (15.10.1920), p. 5.

## 15.08.1919: Postage, Parcel, Telegraph and other Rates

**POSTAL & TELEGRAPH INFORMATION.****Office Hours for public Business**

All Offices. (except Haifa for present). } Monday to Friday 8. 0. am. to 12 noon & 1. 30 pm. to 5. 0. pm.  
 } Saturday & Sunday 8. 0. am. to 12 noon.

**POSTAGE RATES**

	For places in O. E. T. A. (S).	For Egypt and other Countries.
<b>Letters</b> {	5 milliemes for first 30 grams.	1 Pt. for first 20 grammes.
	3 „, for each addtl. 20 „	6 mlins. for each addtl. 20 grms.
<b>Postcards</b>	3 milliemes.	4 milliemes.

Registration fee 1 Pt. in addition to postage specified above.

<b>Parcels:-</b>	3 lbs. 4 Kilo or under	Over 3 lbs or 4 kilo Up to 7 lbs or 3 „	Over 7 lbs & under 11 lb.
For Palestine	2 Pt.	3 Pt.	4 Pt.
„ Syria	4 „	6 „	8 „
„ Egypt	---	---	9 „
„ Untd. Kingdom	14 „	16 „	18 „

**TELEGRAPH RATES.**

For Palestine 1 Pt. for 2 words or portion thereof. Min. charge 4 Pt.  
 „ Egypt 2 Pt. for 2 words or portion thereof. Min. charge 8 Pt.  
 „ U. K'dom { 5 Pt. 3 mil. per word Ordinary rate.  
 { 2 Pt. 7 mil. „ „ Deferred rate.

**MONEY ORDERS**

Issued up to £40 limit to all except Enemy Countries.  
 Commission. For each £1. or part thereof 1 Pt.

**POSTAL ORDERS.**

Issue suspended for present.

N.B.— Detailed information not included in the above may be obtained on application at any Civil Post Office.

**TELEGRAPH OFFICES.**

The following offices are now open for the acceptance and delivery of private telegrams:-

JERUSALEM	RAMLEH	HAIFA	TIBERIAS
HEBRON	GAZA	ACRE	
JAFFA	TULKERAM	NAZARETH	



**POSTAL & TELEGRAPH INFORMATION.****Office Hours for public Business**

All Offices. (except  
Haifa for present)

Monday to Friday 8. 0. am. to 12 noon & 1. 30 pm. To 5. 0. pm.  
Saturday & Sunday 8. 0. am. to 12 noon.

**POSTAGE RATES****Letters****Postcards**

For places in O. E. T.A. (S).	For Egypt and other Countries.
5 milliemes for first 30 grams. 3 „ for each addtl. 20 „	1 Pt. for first 20 grammes. 6 mllns. for each addtl. 20 grms.
3 milliemes	4 milliemes.

Registration fee 1 Pt. in addition to postage specified above.

**Parcels:—****For Palestine**

„ Syria

„ Eygypt

„ Untd. Kingdom

3 lbs, 1 Kilo or under	Over 3 lbs or 1 kilo Up to 7 lbs or 3 „	Over 7 lbs & under 11 lb.
2 Pt.	3 Pt.	4 Pt.
4 „	6 „	8 „
---	---	9 „
14 „	16 „	18 „

**TELEGRAPH RATES.****For Palestine**

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„ U. K'dom

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The following offices are now open for the acceptance and delivery of private telegrams:—

JERUSALEM  
HEBRON  
JAFFA

RAMLEH  
GAZA  
TULKERAM

HAIFA  
ACRE  
NAZARETH

TIBERIAS

Doc. 3: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 3 (15.08.1919), p. 6.

Note 1: Inland letter rate is stated as “5 milliemes for first 30 grams.” This was amended in the Gazette for  
1.10.1919 to “5 milliemes for first 20 grams.”

Note 2: “For places in O. E. T.A. (S).” rather than “Places in the Occupied Districts” (as on 1.10.1919).



Fig. 5: Single franking of 2p, SG no. 11, on a registered letter to Boston. Stamp cancelled by **ARMY POST OFFICE / S.Z.2 / [?] / 20 JA / 19**, registration label **O.E.T.A-E.E.F. / JERUSALEM / B / 20 / JA / 19** (Sacher A7). On reverse: **FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1 / A / 21 JA / 19**, **FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1 / A / 22 JA / 19**, censor handstamp **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 1** (Firebrace PCC1/1), and two arrival marks from Boston (26.02.1919). Source: Ebay.



Fig. 6: Overseas letter destined for New York with pair of SG no. 9: 2x5m = 10m. Postmark **O.E.T.A-E.E.F. / JERUSALEM / A / 1 FE / 19** (Sacher A6) and censorship marking **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 3** (Sacher QA15, Firebrace PCC3/5).



## 1.09.1919: Food Prices

**ECONOMICS****TABLE OF COMPARATIVE FOOD PRICES  
IN O. E. T. A. DISTRICTS.**

Prices : -  
P.T. per rotl.

WEEK ENDING. 16 - 8 - 19.

	JERUSALEM	JAFFA	HAIFA	JENIN	NABLUS	SAFED	TIBERIAS	NAZARETH	TULKERAM	GAZA	BEERSHEBA
Almonds . . . . .	30	—	28/30	12	30	30	30	30	30	11	12
Beans (Bread) . . . . .	—	—	—	—	6	4	2½	4·3	5	7	—
„ (Haricot) . . . . .	19½	8	16½/22	—	16	21	20	—	20	—	—
Butter . . . . .	85/95	66/67	—	72	74	60	60	72	84	78	72
Cheese . . . . .	50/60	24	36/60	20	—	32	30	20	24	42	48
Coffee . . . . .	32/48	41/48	41	42	40	43	48	48	50	54	50
Eggs (each) . . . . .	·6	·6	·6½	·5	·5	·6	·5	·3	·5	2	·5
Wheat . . . . .	9½	7½	6	7	7	8	6	5·3	10	10	8
Barley . . . . .	5	5	3½	4	3	2½	2½	3	4·5	6	4
Lentils (Native) . . . . .	7/12	6/7	6½	7	7	4½	7½	5·5	6	8	14
„ (Egyptian) . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	18
Lupins . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6
Durra (Native Millet) . . . . .	6	4	4	4	3	3½	2	—	5	7	—
Meat (Beef) . . . . .	54	—	48	30	—	33	24	27	—	—	36
„ (Mutton) . . . . .	50	48	60	42	45	33	36	40	48	36	48
„ (Goat) . . . . .	45	42	—	36	39	33	30	33	30	30	42
Milk . . . . .	12	12	6/7	1·5	3	4½	6	3	6	—	6
Olives . . . . .	—	—	—	10	—	—	7½	—	10	—	15
Olive Oil . . . . .	42	43/48	40/42	48	40	36	46	36	40	44	48
Onions . . . . .	4	3	1½	2	2·5	2	3	2	2	4	6
Peas (Native) . . . . .	—	4/5	7	—	—	4	3½	4	10	—	—
Potatoes . . . . .	15	16	12	12	8	—	12	12	15	—	18
Rice . . . . .	13	12½	12/13	15	14	13½	14	12	14	12	15
Salt . . . . .	4½	4/5	3½	6	5	5	6	4	5	4·25	3
Sesame Oil . . . . .	50/52	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	60	50	50
Soap (Local) . . . . .	38	33½	30/37	42	36	40	42	36	42	30	45
„ (Egyptian) . . . . .	24	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	30	26
Sugar (Loaf) . . . . .	34	—	27	—	—	32	28	—	—	40	36
Sugar (Soft) . . . . .	24/23	28½	26	30	26·5	27	25	26	26	40	30
Tomatoes . . . . .	5½	2	3	3	1·5	3	4	—	1·5	2	5
Tibben . . . . .	—	—	—	·4	—	—	—	—	·4	·9	—

Doc. 4: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 4 (1.09.1919), p. 3.

Note: During 1919 such official price surveys were a regular feature.



Fig. 7: Letter to Cairo, postmark: O.E.T.A. E.E.F. / JAFFA 6 MY / 19 (Sacher A7).

Franking: SG no. 10: 10m.

Censor mark **PASSED / CENSOR / A** (Firebrace CCC7).





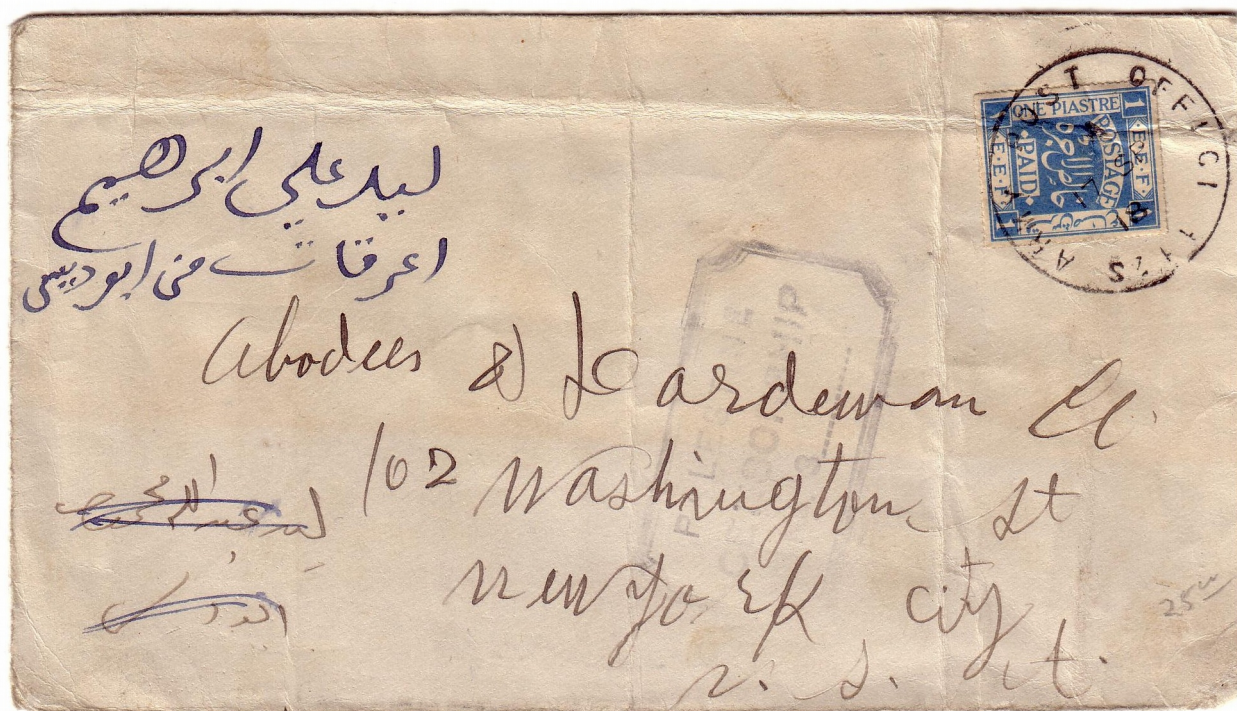


Fig. 8: Letter to New York with 1p (SG no. 3), cancelled with **ARMY POST OFFICE / SZ 44 / A / 17 SP / 18** (Sacher A2). Censorship marking: **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 3**..... (Sacher QA16, Firebrace PCC3/6).

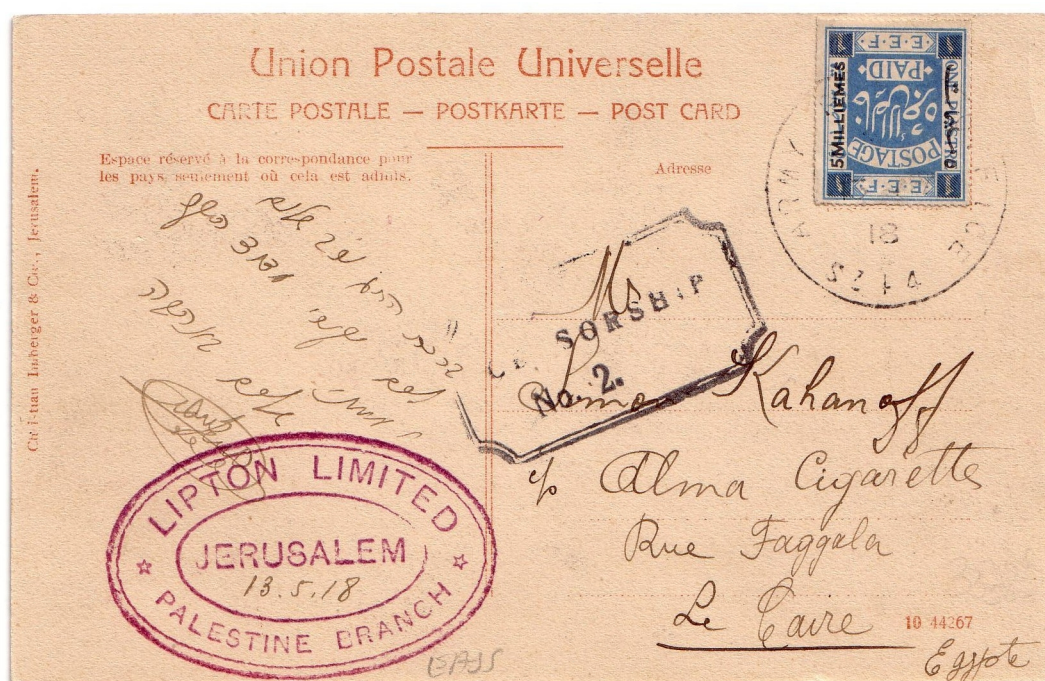


Fig. 9: Picture postcard of the Nativity Church Bethlehem, dated 13.5.18, with 5m franking (SG no. 4) sent to Cairo. Cancellation: **ARMY POST OFFICE / SZ 44 / [B?] / 13 MY / 18** (Sacher A2), i.e. Jerusalem. First day of issue for the second print (D18C) was 13.05.1918. Censorship marks: **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 2**. (Sacher QA13, Firebrace PCC2/2).

# 1.09.1919: Telegraph Service at Nablus PO Telegrams to O.E.T.A. West, East & Egypt

## TELEGRAPHS

NABLUS Post Office is now open for the acceptance and delivery of Public Telegrams.

Telegrams for O. E. T. A. (W), O.E.T.A.(E) and Egypt are accepted entirely at sender's risk and no enquiry can be made as to their disposal nor can claims for reimbursement of the charges be considered.

W. R. Hay Lt R. E.  
for Major R. E.  
G. H. Q. Sigal Officer,

## TELEGRAPHS

NABLUS Post Office is now open for the acceptance and delivery of Public Telegrams.

Telegrams for O. E. T. A. (W), O.E.T.A.(E) and Egypt are accepted entirely at sender's risk and no enquiry can be made as to their disposal nor can claims for reimbursement of the charges be considered.

W. R. Hay Lt R. E.  
for Major R. E.  
G. H. Q. Sigal Officer,

Doc. 5: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 4 (1.09.1919), p. 4.

Notes: "Sigal" should read "Signal." O.E.T.A. South = Palestine.

O.E.T.A. West = (most of) Lebanon, Latakia, and Alexandretta. O.E.T.A. East = Syria and Transjordan.

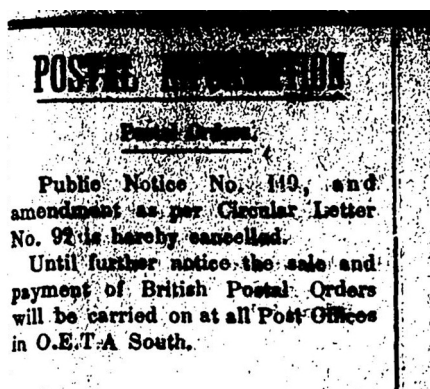
William Ross Hay,<sup>21</sup> M.B.E., R.E., born 2.04.1883, married, Harwich, enl. as Sapper, Royal Engineers 10.10.1914. L. Corporal 14.10.14, II. Corporal 1.11.1915, I. Corporal 29.10.1915, Corporal 10.11.15, a/Sergt. 5.02.1916, Sergt., at 8<sup>th</sup> Corps., HQ Signal Corps. 8.03.1916, Discharged for Commission at Government of Palestine, 14.06.1917, Commissioned 2nd Lieut. at Government of Palestine, Jerusalem, 15.06.1917. Temp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., Lieut. from 1.06.1916 (19.04.1917),<sup>22</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Punjabis (attached to Indian Army Reserve of Officers), 31.07.1917,<sup>23</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Punjabis, acting Captain while commanding a company, 20.07.1917 to 7.12.1917.<sup>24</sup> Temp. Lieut. from 15.12.1918,<sup>25</sup> Captain, Indian Army, 3.07.1919.<sup>26</sup> Temp. Captain (whilst so employed), 4.07.1919.<sup>27</sup> Discharged as Captain William Ross Hay, M.B.E., R.E., Palestine Posts & Telegraph Engineering Branch, G.P.O. Jerusalem, 11.05.1922.



- 21 For all further details, except where otherwise referenced: [http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:r\\_NviwUwwUJ:www.ebay.com/itm/4-awards-to-Capt-William-Ross-Hay-MBE-Royal-Engineers-1914-22-documented/121636812920/%3Ful%3DCO+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=u](http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:r_NviwUwwUJ:www.ebay.com/itm/4-awards-to-Capt-William-Ross-Hay-MBE-Royal-Engineers-1914-22-documented/121636812920/%3Ful%3DCO+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=u).
- 22 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 18.04.1917, p. 3718. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30024/supplement/3718>.
- 23 Source: The London Gazette, 26.01.1918, p. 1235. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30494/page/1235>.
- 24 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 4.02.1919, p. 1808. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31162/page/1808>.
- 25 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 27.01.1919, p. 1332. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31145/supplement/1332>.
- 26 Source: The London Gazette, 13.01.1920, p. 565. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/31730/page/565>.
- 27 Source: Supplement to The London Gazette, 27.08.1920, p. 8838. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/32033/supplement/8838>. Date corrected to 1.07.1919 in Supplement to The London Gazette, 15.12.1920, p. 12370. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/32164/supplement/12370>.



## 1.10.1919: British Postal Orders

POSTAL NOTIFICATIONPostal Orders.

Public Notice No. 110, and amendment as per Circular Letter No. 92 is hereby cancelled.

Until further notice the sale and payment of British Postal Orders will be carried on at all Post Offices in O.E.T.A South.

Doc. 6: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 5.



Fig. 10: Commercial cover of the Anglo-Palestine Company, sent registered to England, there redirected from Shortlands (Bromley) to Ilfracombe (Devon).

Franked with the 2p overprint of September 1920 (SG no. 22), cancelled with **JERUSALEM / 5 AU 21** (Sacher B1 or B2). Registration label: **R / JERUSALEM / No. 1143** (Sacher RE) with manuscript "7" in red. Postmarks on reverse: **REGISTERED / LONDON / 17 AU 21** (red), **SHORTLANDS / BROMLEY.KENT / 18 AU / 21**, and **REGISTERED / PADDINGTON [...] / 18 AU 21 / M.**





Fig. 11: Registered cover (domestic rate) with SG no. 5 (two pairs), no. 6 (strip of three) and no. 9 (vertical pair). Total: 20m. Postmark **O.E.T.A-E.E.F / JERUSALEM / B / 23 DE / 18** (Sacher A6), five strikes on front, one on back, plus strike on the registration label (Sacher RB, altered in pencil from 66 auf 366). Censor mark **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 1**. (Firebrace PCC1/1, pictured but not listed by Sacher). On reverse transit marks at Jerusalem **FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1 / 25 DE 18** (type L) and Cairo **ARMY POST OFFICE / S.Z. 10 / 26-DE-18** (type D) as well as civil arrival mark **CAIRO / R / 26.XII.184.-PM**.



Fig. 12: Registered cover with 1m, 2m, and 2p (SG nos. 5, 6, and 11), total= 23m. Cancelled by **O.E.T.A-E.E.F / JERUSALEM / B / 20 JA / 19** (Sacher A6), three strikes on front, one on back, plus strike on the registration label (Sacher RB, altered in pencil from 70 to 270). Censored with marking **PALESTINE / CENSORSHIP / No. 1**. (Firebrace PCC1/1, pictured but not listed by Sacher). On reverse side transit postmark of Jerusalem **FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1 / 21 JA 19** (type L) and London (red fragment) **REGISTERED / LONDON / 38 / [?] FE [...]**.



## 1.10.1919: Newspaper Registration and Rates

**POSTAL INFORMATION****Public Notice.**

Public Notice No. 149, and amendment as per Circular Letter No. 92 is hereby cancelled.

Until further notice the sale and payment of British Postal Orders will be carried on at all Post Offices in O.E.T.A. South.

**NEWSPAPERS.**

Any publication coming within the following description can, upon payment of an annual fee of P.T. 25, be registered at the General Post Office, Jerusalem, for transmission by inland post as a newspaper:-

- (a) The publication must consist wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements.
- (b) It must be printed and published in Palestine.
- (c) It must be published in numbers at intervals of not more than seven days.
- (d) The full title and date of publication must be printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of the title and the date at the top of every subsequent page. This regulation applies also to "Table of Contents" and "Indices."
- (e) Any supplement issued with the newspaper must consist wholly or in great part of matter like that of a newspaper, or of advertisements, printed on a sheet or sheets, or a piece or pieces of paper, put together at some one part of the newspaper, whether gummed or stitched up with the newspaper or not, or wholly or in part of engravings, prints or lithographs illustrative of articles in the newspaper; it must in

any case be marked with the newspaper and have the title of the newspaper printed at the top of every page, or at the top of every sheet or side on which any engraving, print or lithograph appears. The supplement or supplements issued with any number of a registered newspaper may not exceed the newspaper itself in size or weight.

The Post office cannot regard a document as a supplement merely because it is printed under that title. A separate document intended to be used for separate purposes is not a supplement to a newspaper.

Almanacks, although they are documents to be used for separate purposes, will, for the payment, be regarded as supplements provided that they are in all other respects in conformity with the regulations (see (e) above).

For example, documents of the following descriptions if enclosed in copies of registered newspapers render them inadmissible at the newspaper rate of postage:-

1. Any document not printed by the responsible printer of the paper, such as an advertisement sheet printed for an advertiser and sent to the publisher of the newspaper for distribution with it.
2. A contents bill, an advertisement sheet with an order form attached, or a proposal or enquiry form.
3. Any document drawn up in the form of a direct personal communication to the recipients, such as a printed circular in the form of a letter purporting to be addressed by an advertiser to the person by whom the newspaper in which it is enclosed is received.

The prepaid rate of postage on copies of publications registered for transmission at the Inland Newspaper Rate, including any supplements thereto, is one Millieme for every copy not exceeding 100 Grammes in weight, with a further charge of one Millieme for every additional 100 Grammes or fraction of 100 Grammes.

The rate applies to single copies of newspapers only. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each copy will be liable to the same postage as if it had been posted separately. But in no case will a

packet of such copies be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a Letter or Printed Paper of the same weight.

A copy or a packet of copies posted unpaid or under-paid is chargeable on delivery with double the deficiency at the Newspaper Rate.

Every copy should be so folded and covered (if posted in a cover) as to permit the title to be readily inspected.

Every copy or packet of copies must be posted either without a cover, or in a cover, open at both ends, which can easily be removed for the purpose of examination.

No copy of a newspaper sent by post at Newspaper Rate may bear anything (not being part of the newspaper) except the name, address and description either of the sender or of the addressee or both, with index or reference numbers and letters; the words "With Compliments"; a request for return in case of non-delivery; the title of the newspaper, and a reference to its registration for transmission by post; and a reference to any place in the newspaper to which the attention of the addressee is directed, the same regulations apply to any cover enclosing a copy of a newspaper.

No unregistered publication, and no article which is not part of a publication registered as a newspaper or a supplement thereto, may be enclosed in any packet sent at the Newspaper Rate.

No supplement to a publication registered as a newspaper is admissible at the Newspaper Rate unless it be sent through the post with the publication to which it is a supplement.

If any of the foregoing rules is infringed the packet is charged either as an underpaid Printed Paper (if admissible at that rate), or an underpaid Letter, or is transferred to the Parcel Post and charged with a fine of 5 Milliemes in addition to any deficient Parcel Postage, whichever involves the lower charge.

No copy or packet of copies may weigh more than 1 lb., or exceed 2 ft. in length, or 1 ft. in width or depth.

**NEWSPAPERS.**

Any publication coming within the following description can, upon payment of an annual fee of P.T. 25, be registered at the General Post Office, Jerusalem, for the transmission by inland post as a newspaper:-

- (a) The publication must consist wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements.

- (b) It must be printed and published in Palestine.
- (c) It must be published in numbers at intervals of not more than seven days.
- (d) The full title and date of publication must be printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of title and the date at the top of every subsequent page. This regulation applies also to "Table of Contents" and "Indices."
- (e) Any supplement issued with the newspaper must consist wholly or in great part of matter like that of a newspaper, or of advertisements, printed on a sheet or sheets, or a piece or pieces of paper put together at some one part of the newspaper, whether gummed or stitched up with the newspaper or not, or wholly or in part of engravings, prints or lithographs illustrative of articles in the newspaper ; it must in every case be published with the newspaper and have the title newspaper printed at the top of every page, or the top of every sheet or side on which any engraving, print or lithograph appears. The supplement or supplements issued with any number may not exceed the newspaper itself in size or weight.

The Post office cannot regard a document as a supplement merely because it is printed under that title[.] A separate document intended to be used for separate purposes, is not a supplement to a newspaper.

Almanacks, although they are documents to be used for separate purposes, will, for the payment, be regarded as supplements provided that they are in all other respects in conformity with the regulations (see (e) above).

For example, documents of the following descriptions if enclosed in copies of registered newspapers render them inadmissible at the newspaper rate of postage viz :-

1. Any document not printed by the responsible printer of the paper, such as an advertisement sheet printed for an advertiser and sent to the publisher of the newspaper for distribution with it.
2. A contents bill, an advertisement sheet with an order form attached, or a proposal or enquiry form.
3. Any document drawn up in the form of a direct personal communication to the recipients, such as a printed circular in the form of a letter purporting to be addressed by an advertiser to the person by whom the newspaper in which it is enclosed is received.

The prepaid rate of postage on copies of publications registered for transmission at the Inland Newspaper Rate, including any supplements thereto, is one Millieme for every copy not exceeding 100 Grammes in weight, with a further charge of one Millieme for every additional 100 Grammes or fraction of 100 Grammes.

The rate applies to single copies of newspapers only. If two or more copies are sent in a single packet, each copy will be liable to the same postage as if it had been posted separately. But in no case will a packet of such copies be chargeable with a higher rate than that chargeable on a Letter or Printed Paper of the same weight.

A copy or a packet of copies posted unpaid or under-paid is chargeable on delivery with double the deficiency at the Newspaper Rate.

Every copy should be so folded and covered (if posted in a cover) as to permit the title to be readily inspected.

Every copy or packet of copies must be posted either without a cover, or in a cover, open at both ends, which can easily be removed for the purpose of examination.

No copy of a newspaper sent by post at Newspaper Rate may bear anything (not being part of the newspaper) except the name, address and description either of the sender or of the addressee or both, with index or reference numbers and letters; the words "With Compliments"; a request for return in case of non-delivery; the title of the newspaper, and a reference to its registration for transmission by post; and a reference to any place in the newspaper to which the attention of the addressee is directed, the same regulations apply to any cover enclosing a copy of a newspaper.

No unregistered publication, and no article which is not part of a publication registered as a newspaper or a supplement thereto, may be enclosed in any packet sent at the Newspaper Rate.

No supplement to a publication registered as a newspaper is admissible at the Newspaper Rate unless it be sent through the post with the publication to which it is a supplement.

If any of the foregoing rules is infringed the packet is charged either as an underpaid Printed Paper (if admissible at that rate), or an underpaid Letter, or is transferred to the Parcel Post and charged with a fine of 5 Milliemes in addition to any deficient Parcel Postage, whichever involves the lower charge.

No copy or packet of copies may weigh more than 2lbs., or exceed 2 ft. in length, or 1 ft. in width or depth.

*Doc. 7: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 5.*

*Image reduced. Note: These regulations follow closely British precedent.<sup>28</sup>*

28 Post Office Act 1908 (1908, ch. 48), especially sections 20 & 21: [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) ; or: Post Office Glasgow Directory for 1920-1921, General Post Office [suppl. after p. 1704], pp. 5-6: <https://archive.org/stream/postofficean192021glas/page/4/mode/2up/search/newspaper>.



## 1.10.1919: Postage Rates

**Amedments & Additions to Postal Information  
published in Gazette No. 3**

**LETTERS ETC. POSTAGE RATES ETC.,****FOR CIVILIANS CORRESPONDENCE IN O.E.T.A. (S.)**

	For places in the Occupied Districts.	For Egypt and Other Countries.
<u>Letters.</u>	5 Milliemes for the first 20 grammes. 3 Milliemes for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof.	1 P. T. for the first 20 grammes. 6 Milliemes for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Postcards.</u>	3 Milliemes	4 Milliemes.
<u>Newspapers.</u>	1 Millieme per number or copy.	2 Milliemes for the first 50 grammes. 2 Milliemes for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Printed Matter.</u>	1 Millieme for each 50 grammes. 1 Millieme for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.	2 Milliemes for the first 50 grammes. 2 Milliemes for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Commercial Papers.</u>	1 Millieme for the first 50 grammes. 1 Millieme for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof. (Minimum charge 2 Milliemes)	1 P. T. for the first 250 grammes. 1 Millieme for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Samples.</u>	1 Millieme for the first 50 grammes. 1 Millieme for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof. (Minimum charge 2 Milliemes)	4 Milliemes for the first 100 grammes. 2 Milliemes for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Registration.</u>	A fee of 1 P. T. in addition to the postage specified above will be charged if registration is required.	

\* Only newspapers, etc., published in Palestine and registered at the Post Office as a newspaper can be forwarded at this rate. Full particulars as to conditions of registration can be obtained at the Post-Office Jerusalem.

**Amedments & Additions to Postal Information  
published in Gazette No. 3**

**LETTERS ETC. POSTAGE RATES ETC.,****FOR CIVILIANS CORRESPONDENCE IN O.E.T.A. (S.)**

	For places in the Occupied Districts	For Egypt and other Countries.
<u>Letters.</u>	5 Milliemes for the first 20 grammes. 3 Milliemes for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof.	1 P. T. for first 20 grammes. 6 Milliemes for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof.
<u>Postcards.</u>	3 Milliemes	4 Milliemes.
<u>Newspapers.*</u>	1 Millieme per number or copy	2 Milliemes for the first 50 grammes.

		2 Milliemes each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<b>Printed Matter.</b>	1 Millieme for each 50 grammes. 1 Millieme each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.	2 Milliemes for each 50 grammes. 2 Milliemes each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<b>Commercial Papers.</b>	1 Millieme for first 50 grammes. 1 Millieme each additional 50 grammes or part thereof. (Minimum charge 2 Milliemes)	1 P. T. for first 250 grammes. 2 Milliemes for each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<b>Samples.</b>	1 Millieme for first 50 grammes. 1 Millieme each additional 50 grammes or part thereof. (Minimum charge 2 Milliemes)	4 Milliemes for each 100 grammes. 2 Milliemes each additional 50 grammes or part thereof.
<b>Registration</b>	A fee of 1 P. T. in addition to the postage specified above will be charged if registration is required.	

\* Only newspapers, etc., published in Palestine and registered at the Post Office as a newspaper can be forwarded at this rate. Full particulars to conditions of registration can be obtained at the Post Office Jerusalem.

Doc. 8: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 6.

Note 1: "Amedments" should read "Amendments."

Note 2: "Places in the Occupied Districts" rather than "For places in O. E. T. A. (S)." (as on 15.08.1919).



Fig. 13: Postcard to Italy, 30.06.1921, franked with 2x2m (SG no. 6), total: 4m. Postmark: JERUSALEM / 30 JU / 21 (Sacher B4).



## 1.10.1919: Parcel Postage Rates

Postage Rates etc., For Civilian Correspondence in O.E.T.A (S)PARCELS.

DESTINATION	3 lbs or 1 kilo or under.	Over 3 lbs or 1 kilo and up to 7 lbs or 3 kilos.	Over 7 lbs or 3 Kilos and up to 11 lbs or 5 Kilos.
For SYRIA.	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.
O.E.T. (EAST)	4	6	8
O.E.T. (WEST)	6	8	10
EGYPT.	9	9	9
UNITED KINGDOM.	9½	12½	15½
OTHER COUNTRIES.	Rates of postage on Parcels for Other Countries can be obtained on application to any Post-Office.		

Postage Rates etc., For Civilian Correspondence in O.E.T.A (S)PARCELS.

DESTINATION	3 lbs or 1 kilo or under	Over 3 lbs or 1 kilo and up to 7 lbs or 3 kilos.	Over 7 lbs or 3 Kilos and up to 11 lbs or 5 Kilos.
For SYRIA	P.T.	P.T.	P.T.
O.E.T. (EAST)	4	6	8
O.E.T. (WEST)	6	8	10
EGYPT.	9	9	9
UNITED KINGDOM.	9½	12½	15½
OTHER COUNTRIES.	Rates of postage on Parcels for Other Countries can be obtained on application to any Post-Office.		

Doc. 9: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 6.  
"iu" should read "in."

## 1.10.1919: Money Orders: amounts and commission

MONEY ORDERS.AMOUNT.

Money Orders are issued up to £20 and £40 according to country of destination.

A list of countries to which the Money Order Service extends can be seen at any Post Office.

COMMISSION.

For each £.E. 1 or part thereof  
1 Piastre Tariff.

MONEY ORDERS.AMOUNT.

Money Orders are issued up to £20 and £40 according to country of destination.

A list of countries, to which the Money Order Service extends can be seen at any Post Office.

COMMISSION.

For each £.E. 1 or part thereof 1 Piastre Tariff.

Doc. 10: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 6.

## 1.10.1919: List of Post Offices

**POST OFFICES.**

Post Offices are now open at the undermentioned places for the transaction of the following classes of business:—

- (a) Acceptance and Delivery of ordinary and registered correspondence.
- (b) Inland and Foreign Parcels Post.
- (c) Inland and Foreign Telegrams.
- (d) Inland and Foreign Money Orders.

ACRE	HEBRON	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	JAFFA	RAMLEH
GAZA	JERUSALEM	TULKERAM
HAIFA	NABLUS	TIBERIAS
	SAFED.	

**POST OFFICES.**

Post Offices are now open at the undermentioned places for the transaction of the following classes of business:—

- (a) Acceptance and Delivery of ordinary and registered correspondence.
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ACRE	HEBRON	NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM	JAFFA	RAMLEH
GAZA	JERUSALEM	TULKERAM
HAIFA	NABLUS	TIBERIAS
	SAFED.	

Doc. 11: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 6 (1.10.1919), p. 6.

## 1.11.1919: Hebrew Telegrams in Latin Script

**POSTS and TELEGRAPHS****HEBREW TELEGRAMS**

Public telegrams in the Hebrew language may now be accepted for delivery to addresses within O. E. T. A. (S.)

Such telegrams must be written in Latin characters and will not be accepted for transmission outside O. E. T. A. (S.)

of  
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of  
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**POSTS and TELEGRAPHS****HEBREW TELEGRAMS**

Public telegrams in the Hebrew language may now be accepted for delivery to addresses within O. E. T. A. (S.)

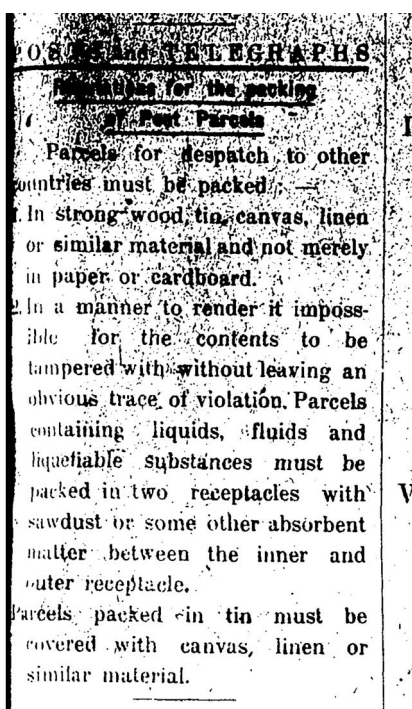
Such telegrams must be written in Latin characters and will not be accepted for transmission outside O. E. T. A. (S.)

Doc. 12: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 8 (1.11.1919), p. 4.





## 16.11.1919: Packing of Parcels

**POSTS and TELEGRAPHS****Regulations for the packing of Post Parcels**

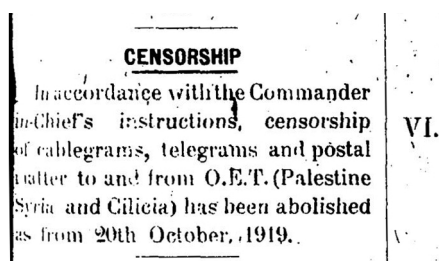
Parcels for despatch to other countries must be packed : –

1. In strong wood, tin, canvas, linen or similar material and not merely in paper or cardboard.
2. In a manner to render it impossible for the contents to be tampered with without leaving an obvious trace of violation. Parcels containing liquids, fluids and liquefiable substances must be packed in two receptacles with sawdust or some other absorbent matter between the inner and outer receptacle.

Parcels packed in tin must be covered with canvas, linen or similar material.

Doc. 13: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 9 (16.11.1919), p. 5.

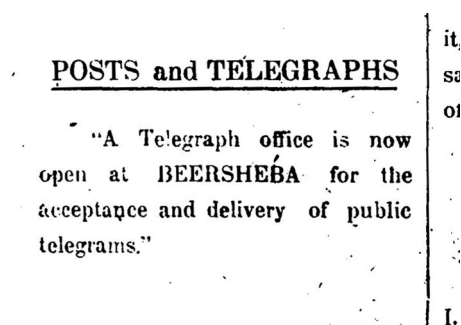
## 16.11.1919: Abolition of Censorship

**CENSORSHIP**

In accordance with the Commander in-Chief's instructions, censorship of cablegrams, telegrams and postal matter to and from O.E.T. (Palestine Syria and Cilicia) has been abolished as from 20th October, 1919.

Doc. 14: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no. 9 (16.11.1919), p. 5.

## 16.12.1919: Telegraph Service at Beersheba PO

**POSTS and TELEGRAPHS**

"A Telegraph office is now open at BEERSHEBA for the acceptance and delivery of public telegrams."

Doc. 15: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 1. 1919, no.11 (16.12.1919), p. 2.

## 1.01.1920: Insufficiently addressed Telegrams

<b>POSTS and TELEGRAPHS</b>	
<b><u>Insufficiently Addressed Telegrams.</u></b>	op of
It is notified for information that the use of a proper name, followed by the name of a town, is not sufficient to ensure the delivery of a telegram and that, after 31st January 1920, any telegrams for addresses that are not registered or for persons whose postal address is not clearly indicated, will be treated as undeliverable.	vic an an ac O.I - car Ofi

**POSTS and TELEGRAPHS****Insufficiently Addressed Telegrams.**

It is notified for information that the use of a proper name followed by the name of a town, is not sufficient to ensure the delivery of a telegram and that, after 31st January 1920, any telegrams for addresses that are not registered or for persons whose postal address is not clearly indicated, will be treated as undeliverable.

Doc. 16: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 12 (1.01.1920), p. 4.

## 1.01.1920: Telegraph Service at Ramallah PO

<b><u>Ramallah Post office</u></b>	
RAMALLAH Post Office is now open for the acceptance and delivery of public telegrams.	
Money Order Service to Cilicia	

**Ramallah Post office**

RAMALLAH Post Office is now open for the acceptance and delivery of public telegrams.

Doc. 17: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 12 (1.01.1920), p. 4.

## 1.01.1920: Money Order Service to Cilicia

<b><u>Money Order Service to Cilicia.</u></b>	ad (A Nc
A reciprocal Money Order Service with Cilicia has been arranged and sums not exceeding L.E. 40 in any one Money Order can now be accepted at all Civil Post Offices in O.E.T. (South).	in wi O. re: sh Of to
Full particulars of the service can be obtained at any Civil Post Office on application.	

**Money Order Service to Cilicia.**

A reciprocal Money Order Service with Cilicia has been arranged and sums not exceeding L.E. 40 in any one Money Order can now be accepted at all Civil Post Offices in O.E.T. (South).

Full particulars of the service can be obtained at any Civil Post Office on application.

Doc. 18: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 12 (1.01.1920), p. 4.



# 1.02.1920: Poundage Rates on British Postal Orders

POSTS and TELEGRAPHS				
Poundage on British Postal Orders.				
Commencing on the 25th. instant, the following will be the rates of poundage and the amounts to be charged for British Postal Orders sold to Civilians in Palestine.				
Poundage		Total Charge including poundage in column 2.		
British Face Value	Milliemes	P.T.	Mill.	
1/—	6	5	4	
2/—	6	10	3	
3/—	6	15	2	
4/—	6	20	1	
5/—	6	24	9	
10/—	6	49	3	
15/—	6	73	7	
20/—	9	98	4	
Ref. 9036—Q of the 8—1—20				

## POSTS and TELEGRAPHS

### Poundage on British Postal Orders

Commencing on the 25th. instant, the following will be the rates of poundage and the amounts to be charged for British Postal Orders sold to Civilians in Palestine.

Poundage		Total Charge including poundage in column 2.	
British Face Value	Milliemes	P.T.	Mill.
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3/—	6	15	2
4/—	6	20	1
5/—	6	24	9
10/—	6	49	3
15/—	6	73	7
20/—	9	98	4

Ref. 9036—Q of the 8—1—20

Doc. 19: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 14 (1.02.1920), p. 7.

Note1: "25th" could read "28th."

Note 2: "colnmn" should read "column."



## 1.05.1920: Compensation for Loss of Registered Mail

**Posts & Telegraphs****Compensation for the loss of Registered Correspondence.**

All postal matter in O. E. T. A. (S). is accepted entirely at "senders risk", and the Administration accepts no responsibility in respect of any article or packet, whether forwarded by registered or unregistered post.

In certain circumstances, however, and with the exceptions quoted below, compensation not exceeding the amounts shewn will be paid in respect of the **total** loss by the Post Office of a registered packet. Such compensation is given only as an act of grace and at the discretion of the Director of Posts & Telegraphs.

**Limits of Compensation in respect of Registered Articles totally lost****in transit.****Maximum amount of compensation payable.**

- (a) On correspondence posted in Palestine for addresses in Palestine. 500. P.T.
- (b) On correspondence posted in Palestine for other countries or posted in other countries for addresses in Palestine. 200. P.T.

No compensation will be paid in respect of (a) any correspondence or articles forwarded by unregistered post, (b) any correspondence or articles forwarded by registered book post, (c) any packets, whether registered, or unregistered, containing coin, paper money, bank notes, etc., (d) the partial loss of the contents of a registered packet.

Persons despatching articles, etc, by registered post are advised to use strong covers and to seal the letters or packets with sealing wax, using a special impression or mark.

It should be clearly understood that the foregoing limits regarding compensation are due solely to the present transport conditions prevailing between Palestine and other countries. Every effort is made by the Postal Administration to ensure the safe transmission of postal matter and the registered post is, in any circumstances, the most reliable means of transmitting packets of value.

Ref. PT/32  
of the 20-4-20.

**Posts & Telegraphs****Compensation for the loss of Registered Correspondence.**

All postal matter in O. E. T. A. (S). is accepted entirely at "senders risk", and the Administration accepts no responsibility in respect of any article or packet, whether forwarded by registered or unregistered post.

In certain circumstances, however, and with the exceptions quoted below, compensation not exceeding the amounts shewn will be paid in respect of the **total** loss by the Post Office of a registered packet. Such compensation is given only as an act of grace and at the discretion of the Director of Posts & Telegraphs.

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- (a) On correspondence posted in Palestine for addresses in Palestine. 500. P.T.
- (b) On correspondence posted in Palestine for other countries or posted in other countries for addresses in Palestine. 200. P.T.

No compensation will be paid in respect of (a) any correspondence or articles forwarded by unregistered post, (b) any correspondence or articles forwarded by registered book post, (c) any packets, whether registered, or unregistered, containing coin, paper money, bank notes, etc., (d) the partial loss of the contents of a registered packet.

Persons despatching articles, etc, by registered post are advised to use strong covers and to seal the letters or packets with sealing wax, using a special impression or mark.

It should be clearly understood that the foregoing limits regarding compensation are due solely to the present transport conditions prevailing between Palestine and other countries. Every effort is made by the Postal Administration to ensure the safe transmission of postal matter and the registered post is, in any circumstances, the most reliable means of transmitting packets of value.

Ref. PT/32  
of the 20-4-20.

Doc. 20: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 20 (1.05.1920), p. 2.





Fig. 14: Cover from Safed to New York. Postmark: **SAFED / O E T A / X / 15 JY 19** (Sacher 4).  
 Franking: pair of 5m (SG no. 9) = 10m.



Fig. 15: Registered letter addressed to an officer in "1st Echelon EEF" (at the time near Haifa), franked with a vertical pair of SG no. 14, i.e. 2 x 10p = 200m. Postmark: **O.E.T.A-E.E.F / JERUSALEM / B / 23 JA / 19** (Sacher A6). No censorship marks. Registration label (Sacher RB) with violet handstamp V. On reverse: arrival mark **FIELD POST OFFICE / GM1 / 24 JA 19**.

A registered letter would have cost only 1½p; without any obvious reason this letter was overpaid by over twelve times that charge! The registration label had the postmark applied while on cover, not as usual beforehand. A real oddity, maybe philatelically inspired?

## 1.05.1920: Sunday Telegrams for Egypt and the Sudan

POST OFFICE NOTICE.Sunday Telegrams for Egypt  
and the Sudan.

In consequence of the doubling of rates for all telegrams dealt with in Egypt and the Sudan on Sundays, the charges for telegrams handed in for transmission to those countries on Sundays (from 2nd May inclusive) will be as follows:—

To Egypt P.Ts. 2 per word with a minium charge of P.Ts. 16.

To Sudan P.Ts. 3 per word with a minium charge of P.Ts. 24.

The rates for cablegrams will not be affected.

Ref. PT/34/1  
of the 22/4/20.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.Sunday Telegrams for Egypt and the Sudan.

In consequence of the doubling of rates for all telegrams dealt with in Egypt and the Sudan on Sundays, the charges for telegrams handed in for transmission to those countries on Sundays (from 2nd May inclusive) will be as follows:—

To Egypt P.Ts. 2 per word with a minium charge of P.Ts. 16.

To Sudan P.Ts. 3 per word with a minium charge of P.Ts. 24.

The rates for cablegrams will not be affected.

Ref. PT/34/1  
of the 22/4/20.

Doc. 21: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 20 (1.05.1920), p. 2.  
Note: "minium" should read "minimum."



## 1.05.1920: Poundage Rates for Inland Money Orders

PUBLIC NOTICEInland Money Orders—Rates of Poundage.

Commencing on May 1st 1920, the rates of poundage on ordinary INLAND MONEY ORDERS (i. e. Money Orders handed in to Post Offices in Palestine for payment in Palestine) will be as follows:—

For sums not exceeding £E. 1. P.T. 2

"	"	above	£E.	1.	and not exceeding	£E.	5	3
"	"	"	£E.	5	"	£E.	10	4
"	"	"	£E.	10	"	£E.	20	6
"	"	"	£E.	20	"	£E.	30	8
"	"	"	£E.	30	"	£E.	40	10

No single Money Order can be issued for the sum exceeding £E. 40.

No order may contain amounts less than 5 millimes.

Ref. PT/51/5  
of the 16/4/20



**PUBLIC NOTICE****Inland Money Orders—Rates of Poundage.**

Commencing on May 1st 1920, the rates of poundage on ordinary INLAND MONEY ORDERS (i. e. Money Orders handed in to Post Offices in Palestine for payment in Palestine) will be as follows:—

For sums not exceeding £E. 1. P.T. 2

„ „	above	£E.	1	and not exceeding	£E.	5	3
„ „	„	£E.	5	„ „	£E.	10	4
„ „	„	£E.	10	„ „	£E.	20	6
„ „	„	£E.	20	„ „	£E.	30	8
„ „	„	£E.	30	„ „	£E.	40	10

No single Money Order can be issued for the sum exceeding £E. 40.

No order may contain amounts less than 5 milliemes.

Ref. PT/51/5

of the 18/4/20

Doc. 22: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 20 (1.05.1920), p. 2.

**1.06.1920: Postage Rates for Foreign Parcel Post (new countries)****Posts and Telegraphs.****Foreign Parcel Post**

Parcels can now be accepted for transmission to the undermentioned countries at the rates shewn.

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Rates of Postage</u> <u>Parcels not exceeding</u>		
	3 lbs P.T.	7 lbs P.T.	11 lbs P.T.
AUSTRIA	14	14	14
BULGARIA	17	17	17
COREA	15	17	17
GERMANY	16	16	16
HUNGARY	16	16	16
ROUMANIA	17	17	17
* TANGANYIKA TERRITORY (a)	24	24	24
(b)	34	34	34
TCHEKO SLOVAKIA	16	16	16

\* List of places to which the service extends can be seen at the Post Office

The rates to the following countries have been amended as follows:—

CEYLON	11	14½	18
DUTCH GUIANA	21	22	24
JAPAN (including Formosa and Manchuria)	15	17	17

Ref. P.T./4/1  
of the 14-5-20

**Posts and Telegraphs.****Foreign Parcel Post.**

Parcels can now be accepted for transmission to the undermentioned countries at the rates shewn.

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Rates of Postage</u> <u>Parcels not exceeding</u>		
	3 lbs P.T.	7 lbs P.T.	11 lbs P.T.
AUSTRIA	14	14	14
BULGARIA	17	17	17
COREA	15	17	17
GERMANY	16	16	16
HUNGARY	16	16	16
ROUMANIA	17	17	17
* TANGANYIKA TERRITORY (a)	24	24	24
(b)	34	34	34
TCHEKO SLOVAKIA	16	16	16

\* List of places to which the service extends can be seen at the Post Office

The rates to the following countries have been amended as follows:—

CEYLON	11	14½	18
DUTCH GUIANA	21	22	24
JAPAN (including Formosa and Manchuria)	15	17	17

Ref. P.T./4/1  
of the 14-5-20

Doc. 23: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 22 (1.06.1920), p. 5.

## 16.06.1920: Rates for British Postal Orders

**Posts and Telegraphs****British Postal Orders.**

Commencing on the 1st June the charges for British Postal Orders will be as follows:—

<u>Face Value.</u>	<u>Charge including poundage.</u>	
	P.T.	Mills.
1/—	5.	4
2/—	10.	3
3/—	15.	5
4/—	20.	4
5/—	25.	2
10/—	49.	6
15/—	74.	0
20/—	98.	7

**Posts and Telegraphs****British Postal Orders.**

Commencing on the 1st June the charges for British Postal Orders will be as follows:—

<u>Face Value.</u>	<u>Charge including poundage.</u>	
	P.T.	Mills.
1/—	5.	4
2/—	10.	3
3/—	15.	5
4/—	20.	4
5/—	25.	2
10/—	49.	6
15/—	74.	0
20/—	98.	7

Doc. 24: Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South), 2. 1920, no. 23 (16.06.1920), p. 5.

Note: "British" should read "British."

## 25.07.1920: Changes of Designation

**Changes of  
Designation**

Occupied Enemy Territory Administration is now The Government of Palestine, and its Headquarters, Government House, Jerusalem.

Military Governors are entitled District Governors.

As from 1st July 1920 and until further orders, the postal address of O.E.T.A. (S), Cairo, will be:—

"Palestine Agency,"

6 Midan Soliman Pasha,  
Cairo.

The office of the Port Control Officer Jaffa will now be known as the Department of Ports & Lights and will henceforth be treated as a separate Department.

Government House,  
Jerusalem.

20/7/20

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The office of the Port Control Officer Jaffa will now be known as the Department of Ports & Lights and will henceforth be treated as a separate Department.

Government House.

Jerusalem.

20/7/20

Doc. 25: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 24 (25.07.1920), p. 2.





# OFFICIAL GAZETTE

OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

№ 24

Published by Authority 25th July  
FORTNIGHTLY

1920

Fig. 16: Masthead of no. 24, 25.07.1920.



# OFFICIAL GAZETTE

OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

GAZETTE No. 31 DATED 15th; NOVEMBER, 1920.

Fig. 17: Masthead of no. 31, 15.11.1920.

## 25.07.1920: Appointment of High Commissioner

**Appointments**

The Right Honourable Sir Herbert Samuel, P.C., G.B.E. assumed office as and from the 1st inst. as His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner for Palestine, with the charge of establishing a Civil Government in the place of the Military Administration.

The High Commissioner has made the following appointments:-

**Civil Secretary** — Mr Wyndham Deedes, C.M.G., D.S.O.

**Legal Secretary** — Mr Norman Bentwich, M.C.

**District Governor of Jerusalem** — Mr Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., C.B.E. As Mr Wyndham Deedes is at present on leave, the post of Civil Secretary will be temporarily occupied by Mr Ronald Storrs.

**Military Secretary & Aide de Camp** — Captain Lord Edward Hay.

**Private Secretary** — Mr J.P.K. Groves.

**Assistant Private Secretary** — Mr M. Nuroch.

Other appointments will be announced in due course.

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**Military Secretary & Aide de Camp** — Captain Lord Edward Hay.

**Private Secretary** — Mr J.P.K. Groves.

**Assistant Private Secretary** — Mr M. Nuroch.

Other appointments will be announced in due course.

Doc. 26: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 24 (25.07.1920), p. 2.



Fig. 18: Letter to Aleppo, Syria, in O.E.T.A. (North) but part of "occupied districts", 15.03.1920. Franked with 5m (SG no. 9) as the tariff demands.



## 25.07.1920: Official Time is Cairo Observatory Time

**NOTICE.**

Residents in Jerusalem who have hitherto been puzzled as to what actually is the correct time or possibly confused by the apparently irregular chiming of clocks throughout the day in various parts of the city, will be pleased to know that arrangements have now been made whereby the timing of the city will be placed on a more satisfactory basis.

At 12 noon daily, Cairo Observatory time (the standard time for Egypt and Palestine) is signalled by telegraphs to Jerusalem. A clock which records this time has been placed in a conspicuous position in the Public Hall of the Post Office and as it can be easily seen from the street one has only to glance in through the Post Office door in order to be able to regulate one's watch.

It is to be hoped, now that facilities for correct time-keeping are available, that either persons responsible for regulating public clocks (more particularly those of the striking variety) will ensure that they maintain standard time, or that the authorities will have inaccurately chiming clocks stopped altogether, on the ground that they constitute a public nuisance.

Jerusalem,  
15th July 1920.

**NOTICE.**

Residents in Jerusalem who have hitherto been puzzled as to what actually is the correct time or possibly confused by the apparently irregular chiming of clocks throughout the day in various parts of the city, will be pleased to know that arrangements have now been made whereby the timing of the city will be placed on a more satisfactory basis.

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Jerusalem,  
15th July 1920.

Doc. 27: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 24 (25.07.1920), p. 4.



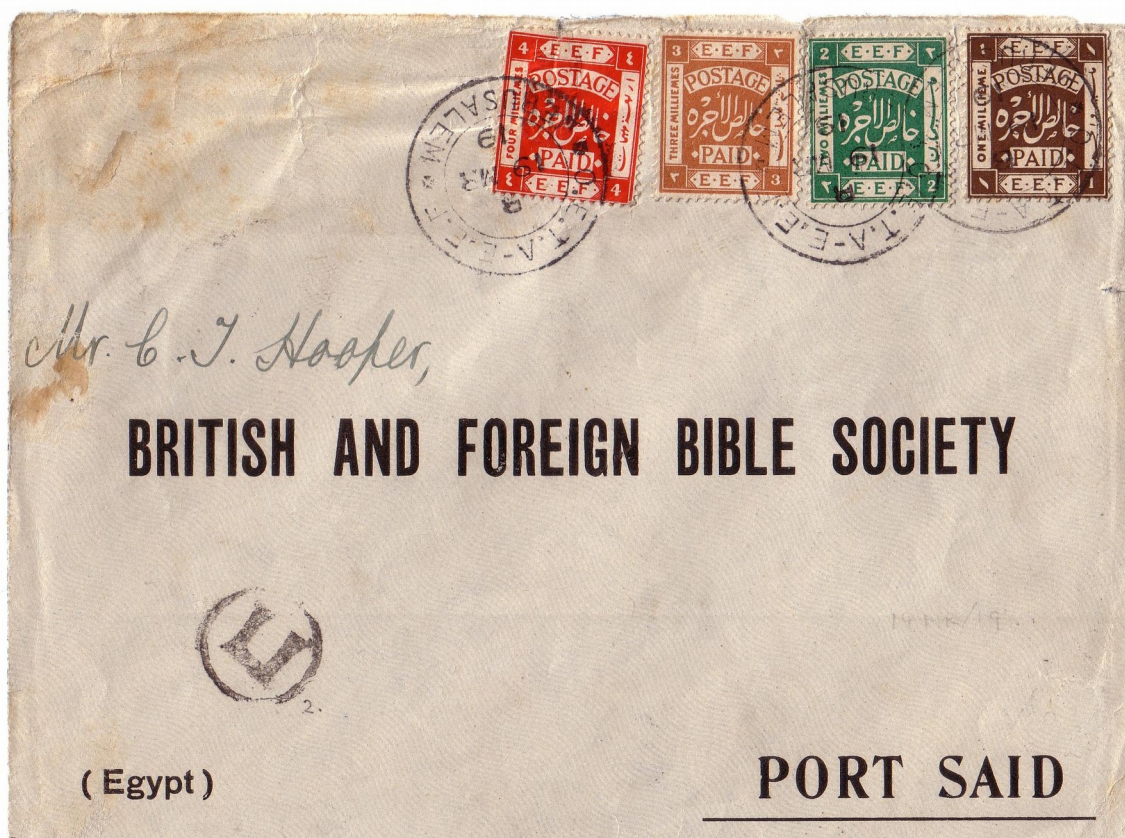
Fig. 19: The High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, inspecting the Post Office at Jerusalem shortly after his arrival in Palestine.

(Origin unknown, source: Proud, Edward B.: The postal history of Palestine and Transjordan, p. 108)





**Fig. 20:** Postcard to Germany, 11.08.1921, franked with 4m (Jerusalem III overprint, SG no. 50).  
Postmark: **JERUSALEM / D / 11 AU / 21** (Sacher B4).



*Fig. 21: Letter to Port Said with franking of 1, 2, 3 und 4m (SG nos. 5, 6, 7, 8), total: 10m.  
Cancel: **O.E.T.A-E.E.F / JERUSALEM / B / 19 MR / 19** (Sacher A6). On reverse transit marking Port Said  
**ARMY POST OFFICE / A / SZ 22 / 22 MR / 19** and civil arrival mark **PORT SAID / F / 22.III.19 12-**.  
Egyptian censor mark on front, unknown mark on reverse side.*



## 1.09.1920: Telegraphic Addresses of Governorates

Further to 15035/P of 9/8/20 the telegraphic addresses of the Governorates under the revised nomenclature in the reorganization of the Civil Government of Palestine, will be as follows:—

<u>District.</u>	<u>Telegraphic Address.</u>
Jerusalem Distrct.	DISGOV JERUSLEM
Galilee „	„ GALILEE
Phoenicia „	„ HAIFA
Samaria „	„ NABLUS
Jaffa „	„ JAFFA
Gaza „	„ GAZA
Beersheba „—	„ BEERSHEBA

These instructions are issued in order to avoid confusion in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Government House

Jerusalem 19/8/20.

Ref. 10536/P.

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Galilee „	„ GALILEE
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Samaria „	„ NABLUS
Jaffa „	„ JAFFA
Gaza „	„ GAZA
Beersheba „—	„ BEERSHEBA

These instructions issued in order to avoid confusion in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Government House

Jerusalem 19/8/20.

Ref. 10536/P.

Doc. 28: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 26 (1.09.1920), p. 3.



## 1.09.1920: Parcels from USA to be claimed within 30 days

**Posts and Telegraphs.****Parcels from the United States  
to be claimed within 30 days.**

At the request of the United States Postal Administration it has been arranged that parcels from that country will not be retained at offices of destination in Palestine for more than 30 days from the date of issue of the arrival advice notes to the addressees.

Any parcel which is on hand at the expiration of 30 days from the date of issue of the first notification of its arrival will be returned to the office of origin.

Addressees of parcels from the United States are advised to make such arrangements as will ensure their parcels being claimed within the prescribed period.

Ref. P.T./8.  
of the 17/8/20.

**Posts and Telegraphs.****Parcels from the United States  
to be claimed within 30 days.**

At the request of the United States Postal Administration it has been arranged that parcels from that country will not be retained at offices of destination in Palestine for more than 30 days from the date of issue of the arrival advice notes to the addressees.

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Addressees of parcels from the United States are advised to make such arrangements as will ensure their parcels being claimed within the prescribed period.

Ref. P.T./8.  
of the 17/8/20.

Doc. 29: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 26 (1.09.1920), p. 6.  
Note: "Parcerls" should read "Parcels."



Fig. 22: Registered letter to Switzerland, 1.02.1919. 4x4m (SG no. 8) +1 stamp removed. Possible tariffs:  
10m foreign letter rates + 10m foreign registration = 20m (removed: 4m).  
10m foreign letter rates + 6m for additional 20g + 10m foreign registration = 26m (removed: 10m)



## 1.09.1920: Postage Rates: modifications

<u>PALESTINE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.</u>	
<u>Modification of Rates.</u>	
On and from 1st September next the Rates for Inland Letters, Postcards, Commercial Papers, Printed Matter (except Newspapers), Parcels and Telegrams will be as follows:—	
LETTERS	5 milliemes 20 grammes 3 milliemes each additional 20 grammes. Rate unchanged.
POSTCARDS	4 milliemes each.
COMERCIAL PAPERS SAMPLES PRINTED MATTER (except NEWSPAPERS)	} 2 milliemes for each 50 grammes or part thereof.
PARCELS	
TELEGRAMS	5 milliemes per word with minimum of 5 PTs. per telegram.
The Foreign Rates for each of the above items will remain unaltered but, from the date quoted, the charges for all postal matter, except parcels to Syria (E. & W.) and Cilicia will be the same as those for Egypt.	
Gl.	

PALESTINE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHSModification of Rates.

On and from 1st September next the Rates for Inland Letters, Postcards, Commercial Papers, Printed Matter (except Newspapers), Parcels and Telegrams will be as follows:—

LETTERS	5 milliemes 20 grammes 3 milliemes each additional 20 grammes. Rate unchanged.
POSTCARDS	4 milliemes each.
COMERCIAL PAPERS SAMPLES PRINTED MATTER (except NEWSPAPERS)	} 2 milliemes for each 50 grammes or part thereof
PARCELS	
TELEGRAMS	5 milliemes per word with minimum of 5 PTs. per telegram.
	Not exceeding 3 lbs. 2 PT
	Exceeding 3 and not exceeding 7 lbs. 4 PT
	Exceeding 7 and not exceeding 11 lbs. 6 PT

The Foreign Rates for each of the above items will remain unaltered but from the date quoted, the charges for all postal matter, except parcels to Syria (E. & W.) and Cilicia will be the same as those for Egypt.

Gl.

Doc. 30: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 26 (1.09.1920), p. 6.

## 16.09.1920: Opening of Jenin Post Office

**Posts & Telegraphs.**

JENIN Post Office is now open for the Sale of Stamps, Registration of Correspondence, Parcel Post, Sale and Payment of Money Orders, and the Acceptance and Delivery of Public Telegrams.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday	}	8.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.
to		and
Friday	}	3.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m.
Saturday		8.0 a.m. to 12 noon.
and	}	
Sundays		

W. HUDSON  
Postmaster General.

Ref. T. 40/16.  
of the 3/9/20.

**Posts & Telegraphs.**

JENIN Post Office is now open for the Sale of Stamps, Registration of Correspondence, Parcel Post, Sale and Payment of Money Orders, and the Acceptance and Delivery of Public Telegrams.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday	}	8.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m.
to		and
Friday	}	3.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m.
Saturday		8.0 a.m. to 12 noon.
and	}	
Sundays		

W. HUDSON  
Postmaster General.

Ref. T. 40/16.  
of the 3/9/20.

Doc. 31: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 27 (16.09.1920), p. 5.  
Note: "3.0 a.m." should read "3.0 p.m."



# OFFICIAL GAZETTE

OF THE

## GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

№ 33

Published by Authority 15th December  
Fortnightly

1920

Fig. 23: Masthead of no. 33, 15.12 1920.



## 1.10.1920: Use of Official Languages

### NOTICE.

#### **Magistrate's Court Safed**

An action has been raised at the instance of the Anglo Palestine Co. Ltd. of Safed against Hakhem Yussef Konnovitch of Safed for the sum of 9644 P.T. with interest thereon at 9%. The address of the said Hakham Yussef Hannovitch is unknown.

NOTICE IS HERECY GIVEN THAT unless the action be contested within one month from the publication of this Notice judgment will be given by the above mentioned Court in absence

Jerusalem,  
September 16th, 1920.

### Use of Official Languages.

1. English, Arabic and Hebrew, are recognised as the official languages of Palestine.
2. All Government Ordinances, official notices and forms will be published in the above languages. Correspondence may be addressed to any Government Department in any one of these languages. Correspondence will be issued from Government Departments in whichever of the languages is practically convenient.
3. Telegrams may be sent in any of the three languages, but if in Hebrew, they must be written in Latin characters, it not being practicable at present for the Post Office to transmit telegrams in Hebrew characters.
4. All Railway and road notices will be in the three languages.

5. In Municipal and Rural areas, where there is a considerable Jewish population, the three languages will be used in the Offices of the District and Sub-District Governors, of the Municipalities and of other official bodies, in the same manner as in the Government Departments. Such Districts will be termed Tri-Lingual Areas. They will be specified by the High Commissioner. The present Tri-Lingual Areas are: Jerusalem City, Jaffa Town and District, Ramleh Town and Sub-District, Haifa Town, Zummarrin Sub-Districts, sub-Districts of Tiberias and Safed. Other areas may be added from time to time, the guiding principle being the presence of a proportion of not less than 20% of Jews in the population of the area. In districts which have not been declared to be Tri-Lingual Areas, Arabic alone, or both English and Arabic, may be used as is convenient; provided that nothing in this order shall prevent the use of Hebrew if the occasion requires.
6. In the Courts of Law and Land Registries of a Tri-Lingual Area, every process, every official copy of a judgment, and every official document shall be issued in the language of the person to whom it is addressed; and written and oral pleadings shall be conducted in any of the three languages. The Legal Secretary may from time to time issue rules restricting the languages of pleading in any Court or classe of Courts outside the Tri-Lingual Areas.

In a Tri-Lingual Area the public notary of the Court shall, and in any other area he may, accept a declaration and register a document in any of the three official languages.

**Use of Official Languages.**

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*Doc. 32: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 28 (1.10.1920), p. 5.*

**15.10.1920: Appointments****Appointments**

The High Commissioner has been pleased to make the following appointments to the Staff of the Government of Palestine.

**Department of Posts & Telegraphs.**

Mr N.W. Hudson, M.C.  
Mr W Foster;  
Mr W. R. Hay  
Mr J. L. Price

**Department of Ports and Lights**

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**Department of Posts & Telegraphs.**

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Mr W Foster;  
Mr W. R. Hay  
Mr J. L. Price

*Doc. 33: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 29 (15.10.1920), p. 5.*





## 15.11.1920: Appointments

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. A. C. Wollaston.  
Mr. G. H. Webster.  
Mr. C. V. Close.  
Mr. T. Heavens.  
Mr. D. G. Kennedy.

DEPARTMENT OF SUBVEYS

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.

Mr. A. C. Wollaston.  
Mr. G. H. Webster.  
Mr. C. V. Close.  
Mr. T. Heavens.  
Mr. D. G. Kennedy.

Doc. 34: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 31 (15.11.1920), p. 4.



Fig. 24: Printed matter to the USA, 9.08.1920, franked with 2m (S.G. no. 6).  
Postmark: O.E.T.A-E.E.F. / JERUSALEM / 9 AU / 20 (Sacher A6).

## 15.11.1920: Opening of Mejdel and Petah-Tikvah Post Offices

**POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.**

Post Offices are now open for public business at MEJDEL and PETAH-TIKVAH (Mulebbis).

**Business transacted:-** Sale of Stamps Registration of Correspondence, Parcel Posts, and the Issue and Payment of Money Orders and Postal Orders.

**Office Hours**

Mejdel		Petah-Tikvah	
Mondays	8.0 am. to 1.0 pm.	Mondays	8.0 am. to 1.0 pm.
to	and	to	and
Fridays	3.0 pm. to 5.0 pm.	Fridays	3.0 pm. to 5.0 pm.
Saturdays		Saturdays	
and	8.0 am. to 1.0 pm.	and	
Sundays		Sundays	closed

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Post Offices are now open for public business at MEJDEL and PETAH-TIKVAH (Mulebbis).

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Saturdays		Saturdays	
and	8.0 am. to 1.0 pm.	and	
Sundays		Sundays	closed

Doc. 35: Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine, 2. 1920, no. 31 (15.11.1920), p. 23.



*to be continued ...*



## Recent Philatelic Journals

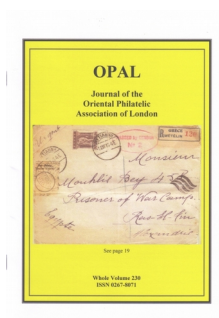
*This is a selection of articles related to the Middle East from recent philatelic journals. Usually these journals are only available to members of the respective societies.*

*Where available I have listed the price at which the society provides individual journals to non-members. Please enquire with the individual society for any conditions of supply.*

*Contact details are listed in the Web Guide.*

### OPAL Journal 230 – November 2013

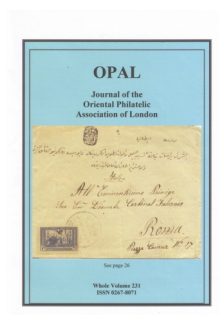
*Oriental Philatelic Association of London, English, A5, mostly b/w, –*



- J. Garton looks at the Constantinople city post 1869–1884 (2–8).
- J. N. Davies studies British Levant postal marking (9–13).
- A. Menelaou summarises the postal history and stamps of Cyprus until independence in 1962 (14–18).
- K. Tranmer shows World War I P.O.W. covers (19–23).
- J. Garton reports on Turkish censor marks used in Syria during World War I [revised reprint from *The Levant*, 2013] (24–30).
- P. Longbottom adds the Nezib (Aleppo) PO Censorship Unit mark to his collection of Turkish censor marks (31).
- R. Fuchs studies the 1967 Iraqi provisional Flood Relief obligatory tax stamps (32–37).
- W. J. J. Pijnenburg shows “T” overprints used in Smyrna (38–40) with P. Longbottom adding examples of “T”-stamps from his collection (41–42).
- A. Birken argues for a reconsideration of the Tughra printing process in reply to M. Basaran’s article in OPAL 229 (42–46).
- L. Martinoja shows a 1920 registered and censored cover from Adana to İstanbul with mixed franking of French Levant “T.E.O” and Turkish “T.E.O / Cilicie” overprint stamps, as well as E.E.F stamps. (46–47).
- G. Mark comments on aspects in the late Bill Robertson’s book on Free French censorship in Syria & Lebanon regarding “B.C.M.” and “B.P.M.” markings. (47–48).

### OPAL Journal 231 – March 2015

*Oriental Philatelic Association of London, English, A5, mostly b/w, –*



- M. Lovegrove shows two covers addressed to BBC bureaux in Jeddah (2001) and Katmandu (2002) with “CHECKED” marks believed to refer to a threat about Anthrax spores, asking for more details (2–3).
- Letters to the Editor: T. Hacking enquires about the 1921 Ain Tab overprints (Aleppo province) (3).
- M. Whittaker questions the authenticity of a photograph showing Osman Nuri Pasha on a 1919 postcard “Gruss vom Shipka-Pass” (4–5) and studies forgeries of Bulgaria’s “Shipka”-stamp (17–18).
- K. Giray studies “T”-overprints on stamps used at various post offices for Postage Due purposes (6–14).
- M. Whittaker looks at cover with Turkey’s 1941/42 National Defence Fund stamps (14–16).
- W. J. J. Pijnenburg studies the 1868 Ottoman Market Fee revenue stamps (18–21) and also shows omissions and errors in the 2008 İSFİLA Turkey catalogue regarding the 1865/1868 Duloz/Dulos issues (22–26).
- J. Garton continues his study of Turkish censor marks used in Syria during World War I with Beirut Vilayet [revised reprint from *The Levant*, 2014] (26–49).

**OPAL Journal 232 – September 2015***Oriental Philatelic Association of London, English, A5, mostly b/w, –*

## Queries:

- A lead on a query in OPAL 231 on the attribution two persons on a 1917 Turkish money stamp as Enver Pasha and Kaiser Wilhelm II (2).
- J.-B. Parenti shows a 1921 philatelic cover (Trésor & Postes 506, addressed to a stamp trader in Vienna) with two 1917 Turkish money stamps in addition to the regular French stamp (3).
- K. Giray's article on "T"-overprints in OPAL 230 (3).
- M. Fulford queries on the use of a custom revenue stamps instead of NDF stamps, and shows a cover from July 1941 (4).
- S. Tiffney and J.-B. Parenti provide references for the 1921 Ain-Tab overprints (5–6).

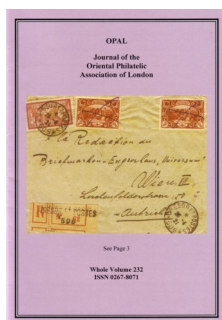
T. Hacking writes on 1898 Thessaly stamps and their forgery (7–26).

B. Orhan reports on the 1922 Akpınar Provisionals used by 16<sup>th</sup> Division of VI<sup>th</sup> Army Corps [Akpınar is a village in Bayat district in Afyonkarahisar province] (27–33).

O. Graf writes on Ottoman postal history in Albania (34–46).

## New queries:

- On Turkish Postage Dues 1868–1872, 1p (S.G. D73A) (47–48)
- R. Malim ask for identification of a postmark from 1900 with a presumed inscription "Constantinople Steam Ship Co. Ltd." (48)
- Postmarks "Salonique / 8" and "IPEK" (49).
- The question of the first Ottoman Airmal Flight is put: 8.02.1914 Prens Celaeddin (Constantinople to Cairo), 16.12.1918 (service to Germany), or 7.02.1922 (Antalya to Akşehir).

**BAPIP Bulletin 170 – November 2014***Holyland Philatelic Society, English, A4, colour, £5-00*

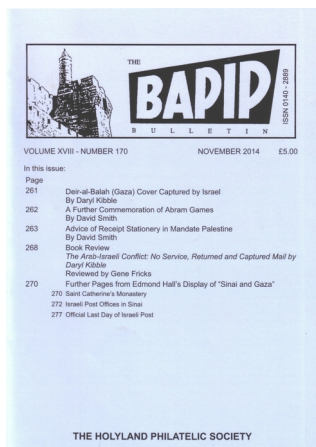
D. Kibble shows a Deir el-Balah (Gaza strip) cover captured by Israel with marks: Deir El Balah 31.10.1956 and Tel Aviv 27.02.1957 (170–171).

D. Smith studies Advice of receipt stationery of Mandate Palestine, i.e. forms P.T. 506 and 520 (263–267).

G. Fricks reviews D. Kibble's book "The Arab-Israeli conflict : no service, returned and captured mail" (268–269).

E. Hall's display of "Sinai and Gaza" is continued with sections on:

- Saint Catherine's monastery (270–271),
- Israeli occupation post offices on the Sinai, 1967–1989 (272–276), and
- official last days of Israeli post offices in the Gaza Strip (277–280).

**BAPIP Bulletin 171 – May/June 2015***Holyland Philatelic Society, English, A4, colour, £5-00*

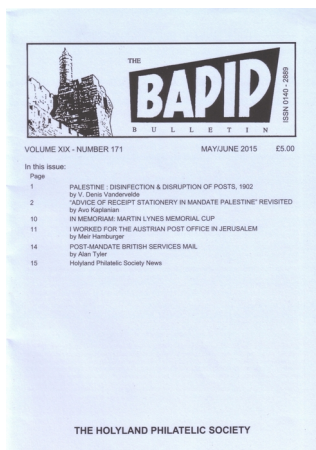
V. D. Vandervelde reports on a contemporary Dutch newspaper article on the 1902 cholera outbreak in Gaza and the disruption to mail and trade (1).

A. Kaplanian presents Advice of Receipts forms of the Mandate era, furthering the article of D. Smith in BAPIP Bulletin 170 (2–9).

"I Worked for the Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem" by Meir Hamburger [reprint without any illustrations, from The Holy Land Philatelist, no. 8, 1955, pp. 224–226] (11–12).

A. Tyler reports on British Fleet Mail cancels used at Haifa after the end of the civilian British Mandate postal service in May 1948 (13–14).

In society news: HPS searches for a new secretary and editor (15).







### Türkei-Spiegel 111 – 1/2015

*Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, German, A5, colour, €5-00*

- H. Andrasch continues his look at the German post offices in Turkey, concentrating on Palestine (6–11).  
 C. R. Catherman presents a letter by I. H. T. Okday describing the postal situation in Yemen after the First World War, 1919–1926 [reprint from *The Levant*, Vol. 7, no. 6] (12–14).  
 R. Fuchs shows a 1931 cover from Berlin to Basrah “Received by Overland Mail” [reprint from *MICHEL Wertvolles Sammeln*, no. 1, 2014] (15–20).  
 T. Zywiez starts a series on varieties of PNA stamps: Christmas 2012 (21–25).  
 A. Birken prepared a *liste de concordance* between Michel and İSFİLA for the Ottoman period, MiNr. 1–689 (26–40).

### Türkei-Spiegel 112 – 2/2015

*Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, German, A5, colour, €5-00*



- W. Weber presents a thematic study on Saint Nicholas of Myra (4–9).  
 A. Birken looks at the history of Oman and the similarities of the postmarks of Amman and Oman (10–14).  
 R. Fuchs presents a 1927 cover from Muscat (Oman) to England via Overland Mail Baghdad–Haifa (15–17).  
 T. Zywiez continues his series on varieties of PNA stamps with the 1999 Christmas block (18–23).  
 A. Birken gives an in depth introduction to the Ottoman-Arabic alphabet (24–31).  
 A. Birken shows three taxed covers from Turkey (1865, 1905, 1913) (32–36).  
 G. Herlt reports on Ottoman state enterprises as an economic factor during World War I [reprint from *Der Neue Orient*, 1. 1917, no. 1] (37–43).  
 R. von Scharpen reviews two new books on Lebanese postal history:
  - Seeman Bassil: “*Introduction to French Postal History in Tripoli (1852–1914)*...” (44–45).
  - Bernardo Longo: “*Gli Anulli Postali Libanesi 1918–1945 = The Lebanese Postmarks 1918–1945 = Les Cachets Postaux Libanais 1918–1945*.” (45–47).

### Türkei-Spiegel 113 – 3/2015

*Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, German, A5, colour, €5-00*



- H. Gerzabek looks at Austrian Levant entires (3–12).  
 T. Zywiez unearthed a 1913 article by a catholic priest on the postal situation in Palestine, describing especially the fierce competition between the Ottoman and foreign postal services: “*Das Postwesen in Palästina*” by Father Ernst J. Schmitz [reprint from *Das Heilige Land*, 58. 1914, no. 1] (13–22).  
 A. Birken looks back 100 years at the mass-murder of the Armenians and presents a map showing the distribution of ethno-linguistic groups at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in (what is today) Turkey, Northern Syria and Northern Iraq (23–27).  
 A. Birken studies the forms of stars in Ottoman era flags, insignia, and stamps (1916 star and crescent overprints) (28–29).  
 R. Fuchs studies the few philatelic remnants of the Kingdom of Kurdistan which existed between 1922 and 1924 (30–36).  
 T. Zywiez shows photographs of the Jerusalem General Post Office in the 1920s, and the building as YMCA hostel during World War II (36–38).

**Türkei-Spiegel 114 – 4/2015***Arge Osmanisches Reich/Türkei, German, A5, colour, €5-00*

F. P. Katz and K. Ertem researched the life and works of Şevket Vahdeti (1833–1871), the designer of the Duloz-stamps [translated by A. Birken; reprint from Collector's Club Philatelist] (8–17).

R. Fuchs presents his new research into Iraqi Railway stamps [reprint from Michel-Rundschau 4-Plus/2015, pp. 56-68] (18–25).

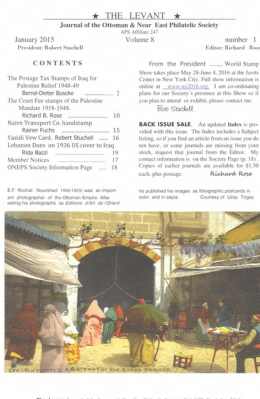
J. Warnecke shows two auction lots: notification forms of the German post in Constantinople, mailed by Ottoman post (26–27).

A. Birken briefly portraits Ottoman General Mehmet Ali Paşa (Mehmed Ali Pasha), born in Germany as Karl Détroit (28–29).

W. Weber writes on Cyme (Kûym, today Nemrut Limani), capital of Aeolis in antiquity (30–37).

A. Birken revisits two events from 1915: Bulgaria enters the war against Turkey, and Turkish troops advance on the Sinai (38–43).

New postal rates in Turkey from 3.08.2015 (44).

**The Levant Vol. 8, No. 1 – January 2015***Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society, English, A4, mostly b/w, US-\$ 1-50*

U. Togay shows a postcard depicting a Constantinople bazaar scene by photographer E. F. Rochat (1).

B.-D. Buscke studies Iraq's 1948/49 tax stamps for Palestine Relief [reprint from Türkiye-Spiegel 104] (2–8, 20).

R. Rose presents a study of Mandate Palestine Court Fee stamps 1918/48 (9–14).

R. Fuchs reports the discovery of a new 1934 Nairn Co. publicity hand stamp for the Haifa—Beirut—Baghdad Overland Mail (15).

R. Stuchel shows a 1914 postcard depicting the Yezidi's sanctuary at "Schehadi", i.e. Lalish, near Shekhan in Nineveh province, with the tomb of Sheikh Adi ibn Musafir (16).

R. Bazzi shows a 1936 cover from Los Angeles to Beirut, taxed and forwarded to Jaffa and Baghdad with Iraqi sealing strip "Found open or damaged and officially secured" (19).

**The Levant Vol. 8, No. 2 – May 2015***Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society, English, A4, mostly b/w, US-\$ 1-50*

R. Fuchs studies the postal rates for Baghdad—Haifa Overland Mail from Kuwait (22–24).

C. R. Catherman's Q&A section (24–27, 36) deals with these topics:

- a blue overprint "deir seadat" on a 1884 2 para newspaper stamp,
- a round label with presumably شل (shekel) in the centre,
- a 1917 2 Mils imperforated fiscal stamp "A.D.P.O." (Administration du Dette Publique Ottomane),
- purported trial overprints for the 1911 Macedonian tour of Sultan Mehmet V,
- 1876 İstanbul water well tickets,
- an unknown overprint on a 20 para stamp,
- Ottoman consulate revenue stamps valid throughout Bulgaria reading "bulgar sathina mahsusdu,"
- presumably bogus additional overprints on Russian Levant "РОПНТ"-stamps.

J. Seal: "The Fez is decreed away," a chapter from his book "A Fez of the Heart" (28–29).

M. Tolmachewa reviews Amy Singer's book "Charity in Islamic Societies" [reprint from Intern. Journal of Middle East Studies, 2012] (29–31).

R. Bazzi shows a 1909 cover from Beirut (Austrian Post) to Alexandria, rejected there as printed matter and forwarded and taxed in Egypt (35).



**The Levant Vol. 8, No. 3 – September 2015**

*Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society, English, A4, mostly b/w, US-\$ 1.50*



G. Diffen studies the Australian military campaign at Gallipoli [reprint from *Spink Insider*, no. 201/2015] (38–44).

B. Tatham catalogues postal stationery of Eastern Rumelia & South Bulgaria 1878–1885 (45–50).

G. Todd shows an 1878 offer by Alfred Glavany (Constantinople) and Otto Böhlen (Berne) on Liannon local stamps (51).

C. R. Catherman's Q&A section answers a query from May by reprinting R. Barnes' article "*The bogus POIuT/ROPiT issue of 1918*" from The Circuit (ISWSC) (52).

R. Rose reports on his visit to İstanbul incl. the postal museum, and İSFİLA and Burak offices (55).

According to AGM minutes (pp. 37 & 56) the society will make "The Levant" available online. Access will be password-protected for ONEPS members only, although a few back-issue will be made available for free.

**The Israel Philatelist – Winter 2015 – 66. 2015, No. 1**

*Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.95*



R. B. Rose writes to the editor on a 1917 2 Mils imperforated fiscal stamp "A.D.P.O." (Administration du Dette Publique Ottomane) (6) and also provides a substantial article on Mandate Court Fee stamps 1917–1928 (8–12).

Thematic pieces include: G. Phillipson on Albert Ballin, a German shipping entrepreneur (14–16), J. Spector on Poland in the Holocaust (22–25), G. Eisen on Jewish Nobel laureates (26–29), P. Baer on Mendel Kremer, a pharmacist in Ottoman Jerusalem [reprint from *Israel-Philatelie* 24] (33–35).

E. Kroft shows a 1948 “letter of guarantee” with 60×500 Mils Israeli revenue stamps + 50×1000 Mil Israeli postage stamps (Doar Ivri) (17).

J. Wallach presents part 1 of a study on forwarding between Arab states and Israel via London's G.P.O. at King Edward Street (18-19).

D. Simmons' two-frame exhibit on UNIFIL continues with its second part (20–21).

M. Richmond presents part 3 of his study of Mandate era postmarks of Palestinian small towns: Beit Jala—Ein Karim (40–42).

F. Adams shows his 3-page exhibit on UNSCOP (49–51).

G. Theodore presents Jerusalem "Postage Paid" cancels of 1920 (52–53,57).

**The Israel Philatelist – Spring 2015 – 66. 2015, No. 2**

*Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.95*



J. Billion writes to the editor on a Haifa machine cancel with error: both a 1945 and a 1946 date is shown on the same strike (4).

Thematic pieces include: G. Eisen on the 1963 Rivonia trial (Nelson Mandela) (6–11), J. Spector on Poland in the Holocaust (part 2) (16–18), M. Fock on Ferdinand I of Sicily & Naples' claim to the title "King of Jerusalem" (24–25), J. Billion on a Jerusalem professor's cachets (1920s): "Joseph Cohen, P.O. Box 6, Jerusalem" (25), M. Zelenietz on birds on Israeli stamps (part 3) (48–50).

J.-P. Danon studies the Doar Ivri booklet of 1949 (12–14).

J. Wallach presents part 2 of a study on forwarding between Arab states and Israel via London's G.P.O. at King Edward Street (20-22).

M. Fock on pre-philatelic covers from Palestine to the USA [reprint from HLPH 123/124, 2013] (26–27).

E. Kroft present part 1 of a study on parcel post & parcel cards in the Holy Land, 1882–1954 (30–33).

D. Simmons' two-frame exhibit on UNIFIL continues with its third part (38–41).

M. Richmond presents part 4 of his study of Mandate era postmarks of Palestinian small towns: El Affule [sic!]—Even Yehuda (46–47).

**The Israel Philatelist – Summer 2015 – 66, 2015, No. 3***Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., English, A4, colour, US-\$ 4.95*

In Letters to the Editor, Y. Leheavy writes about “Professeur Cohen” (4), which is then followed by a short article (6–7).

R. S. Hermann writes on collecting Israel foreign mails of 1948/1949 (8–11).

M. I. Fock reports on the Austrian Lloyd agency in Jerusalem (1852–1859) and its postmark “Agencia del Lloyd Austriaco / Gerusalemme” (14–15).

N. Zankel shows a 1922 cover taxed with a “late fee” of 2 Millièmes (franked with 15m instead of 13m). Late fees were imposed for handing in letters after the regular counter’s official closing time for specific despatches (18).

D. Simmons (†) continues his series on UNFIL with part 4 (20–22).

D. A. Chafetz reports on the 1st April 1933 airmail flight Jerusalem–Rome (24)

J. Wallach continues his series on London forwarding between Israel and Arab states (24–25).

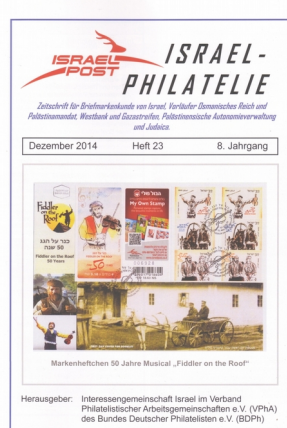
I. Osterer looks at the designer of Israel’s 1965 “Festival” stamps.

R. B. Pildes shows proofs of cancellers by Palestine Emergency Deliveries Inc. of New York.

H. I. Salman with J. I. Spector and E. Helitzer write on Dr. Moshe Wallach and his Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem, showing also some Ottoman postal forms (36–40).

B. Weier shows a 1947 “economy use” cover (53).

A. Harris reports on 1980s Israel Revenues “Tree & Waterpipe” (54–57).

**Israel-Philatelie 23 – December 2014***IG Israel, German, A4, colour, –*

U. Zahn continues his series on popes in the Holy Land with Francis’ 2014 visit, showing also the PNA stamps issued on the occasion (4–7).

T. Zywiets starts a series on varieties of PNA stamps with the 2012 Christmas issue (8–9).

Thematic pieces include:

- U. Zahn on a censored Israeli cover of 1957 (10–11).
- H.-P. Förster on FAO stamps, centring on the 1963 Israeli issue (11–13).

**Israel-Philatelie 24 – April 2015***IG Israel, German, A4, colour, –*

U. Zahn looks at travelling by ship to the Holy Land in Ottoman times (8–15).

Thematic pieces include:

- R. Spieß on plants involved at Sukkot (4–7).
- P. Baer on Mendel Kremer, a pharmacist in Ottoman Jerusalem (16–18).
- S. Göllner on Litzmannstadt (Łódź) ghetto post (22–23).

T. Zywiets continues his series on varieties of PNA stamps with the 1999 Christmas block (19–21).





### Israel-Philatelie 25 – September 2015

*IG Israel, German, A4, colour, –*

- R. Spieß presents his thematic collection on Holy Land plants (4–15).  
 T. Zywiets unearthed a 1913 article by a catholic priest on the postal situation in Palestine, describing especially the fierce competition between the Ottoman and foreign postal services: “*Das Postwesen in Palästina*” by Father Ernst J. Schmitz [reprint from *Das Heilige Land*, 58. 1914, no. 1] (16–20).  
 T. Zywiets reports in a first part on Julius Bolthausen’s travel tours about the picture postcards by Perlberg and Wuttke (21–25).  
 H.-P. Förster shows illustrated Israel fieldpost cards from the 1973 war (28–32).  
 A printer’s error in issue 24 is corrected: the PNA 1999 Christmas blocks are now shown in full (32).



### Doar Ivri 33 – January/April 2015

*Cercle Français Philatélique d’Israël, French, A4, colour, –*

- C. D. Abravanel shows three covers speedily delivered: a 1902 postcard from Haifa–France, a 1932 card Leipzig–Tel Aviv, a 1939 letter Paris–Haifa (5).  
 M. Daniels studies the printing dates on Israel’s 1960/61 definitives (10–20).  
 C. D. Abravanel shows an illustrated postcard commemorating the visit of the German Kaiser Wilhelm II to the Holy Land in 1898 (20).  
 R. Ezraty starts a series on the history of postal services in Jerusalem, covering (rather briefly) Ottoman, Foreign, and British Mandate services (21–27).  
 J.-P. Danon reviews Yvert & Tellier’s 2015 Middle-East catalogue “*Timbres d’Asie : Moyen-Orient de Aden à Yémen*” (31).  
 A 1941 cover from Jerusalem to Tunis with multiple censors marks, redirected to Lisbon and returned to Jerusalem is shown anonymously ([32]).



### Doar Ivri 34 – May/August 2015

*Cercle Français Philatélique d’Israël, French, A4, colour, –*

- C. D. Abravanel shows covers from Israel to “exotic” destinations (16).  
 J.-P. Danon studies Israeli 1949 stamps booklets with “Doar Ivri”-definitives (18–22).  
 R. Ezraty continues his series on the history of postal services in Jerusalem, showing (with little explanation) some covers and postmarks of the Mandate era, turning then to the 1948 transition and Israeli periods. (23–27).  
 In Letters to the Editor, A. Varna shows a cover from Jerusalem to Ramle, franked with a block-of-four of 3 Millièmes EEF stamp, cancelled on 7.01.1919 with the regular “O.E.T.A-E.E.F. Jerusalem” postmark (28).  
 J. Renollaud shows a 1799 British passport, issued on board S.M.S. Tigre at Constantinople ([32]).



### Doar Ivri 35 – September/December 2015

*Cercle Français Philatélique d’Israël, French, A4, colour, –*

- M. I. Fock shows Santelli & Micciarelli forwarding covers from the 1850s (6–7).  
 R. S. Hermann shows covers of Israel foreign postal relations during 1948/1949 (8–18).  
 M. Daniels reports on printing dates of Israel’s definitive series “Coat of Arms” (20–26).  
 B. Boccara shows a 1948 cover from Hadassah hospital on Mt. Scopus (34–35).  
 C. D. Abravanel shows three postcards depicting the “Sublime Porte,” i.e. Bâb-ı Âli gate (35).  
 C. D. Abravanel reports on a notice in the “*Gazette Nationale*” of 22.05.1799 on Napoleon’s campaign in Syria. A cover from that campaign (9.03.1799, Jaffa to Egypt) is shown on page ([32]).

## Small Ads

*Any reader can place an ad in this section for free.*

*I offer a box number service for people not wanting their name, address or e-mail displayed. In such cases please reply to the Editor citing the number of the ad.*

*Small ads that are not purely of a private nature, i.e. organisations and commercial dealers, are marked by an **H** according to German advertisement regulations.*

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/001

### Overland Mail Baghdad–Haifa Iraq Railway Stamps 1928–1942 Iraq-Flood Relief Surcharges of 1967

Advanced research collector and exhibitor is interested in exchange of information, philatelic and historical material, photos, etc. related to the mentioned areas as well as purchase of interesting items missing in my collections.

Additional information required information can be found on my award winning websites:

<http://fuchs-online.com/overlandmail>  
<http://fuchs-online.com/iraq>

Replies to:  
Rainer Fuchs  
[rainer@fuchs-online.com](mailto:rainer@fuchs-online.com)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/004

### Palestine Mandate 1918–1927

To complete and illustrate my article series on official postal announcements I'm looking for covers, cards, forms and images thereof, showing:

- rare usage of stamps
- postal rates
- rare destinations
- stamp combinations
- unusual franking
- postal forms
- telegramme forms

from the pre-Pictorials era.

Replies to:  
Tobias Zywiets  
[zobbel@zobbel.de](mailto:zobbel@zobbel.de)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/003

### Stamp Exchange Middle East Duplicates

Want to make a stamp exchange of my Middle East duplicates for your Middle East Duplicates. Can do by want list or scans.

Replies to:  
Richard Barnes  
[rtbarnes@shaw.ca](mailto:rtbarnes@shaw.ca)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/011

### Ottoman Cancellations

I exchange my duplicate Ottoman Cancellations for similar items. Exchanges could be based on ratings as in the Coles & Walker catalogue. Please contact me to receive some indicative scans.

Replies to:  
George Stasinopoulos  
[stassin@cs.ntua.gr](mailto:stassin@cs.ntua.gr)



Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/002

### Looking for pro-Palestinian Slogans

I am looking for postal slogans in support of the Palestinian people and the refugees. I have a small collection of these and there are probably more available. Can you help me out?

Replies to:  
Lawrence Fisher  
[Lf.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:Lf.stamps@gmail.com)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/013

### Turkish Occupation of Thessaly

Collector is interested in any postal history material related to the Turkish occupation of Thessaly 1897–1898.

Exchange of information is also highly welcome.

Offers to:  
Otto Graf  
[otto@skanderbeg.net](mailto:otto@skanderbeg.net)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/010

### Persia & Yemen Postal History

Collector of Postal History of Persia (before 1930) and of Yemen (before 1945) wishes to purchase interesting items.

Replies to:  
Bjorn Sohrne  
[bjornsohrne@gmail.com](mailto:bjornsohrne@gmail.com)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/007

### THAMEP : The Holy Land and Middle East Philatelic Magazine

For research purposes I'm looking for originals or photocopies of issues of this journal, published by Mr. E.H. Moshi of the Mosden (Moshi/Denfield) stamp company in 1957/1958.

Replies to:  
Tobias Zywiets  
[zobbel@zobbel.de](mailto:zobbel@zobbel.de)

H – Gratis-Anzeige 01/008

## Doar Ivri

Revue du CFPI

(CERCLE FRANÇAIS PHILATÉLIQUE D'ISRAËL)



« Doar Ivri » is the 32 page, full colour (A4), award winning, quarterly journal in French of the **Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël (C.F.P.I.)**, founded in 2004, and covers all aspects of Holy Land philately and Judaica. Ask for a free sample copy (PDF) or visit our website:

[www.cfpi-asso.net](http://www.cfpi-asso.net)

Replies to:  
Jean-Paul Danon  
[president.cfpi@cfpi-asso.net](mailto:president.cfpi@cfpi-asso.net)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/015

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The award-winning, non-commercial website

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H – Gratis-Anzeige 01/009

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H – Gratis-Anzeige 01/006

## OMAN STUDIES CENTRE

### for Documentation and Research on Oman and the Arabian Gulf

The Oman Studies Centre is pooling resources on Oman and the Gulf to support research on Oman and to provide advisory services. In addition to the Oman Library with books, maps, and documents, the information pool includes special collections such as a philatelic collection and a numismatic collection.

For our philatelic collection we buy stamps, postal history, stationery, and documents in the following areas:

- India used in Muscat and Gwadar
- Pakistan used in Muscat and Gwadar
- British Post Office in Muscat
- Muscat & Oman, Sultanate of Oman
- "rebel stamps" State of Oman and Dhufar

We currently also buy early postcards of Oman (pre-1970) and Muscat quarter Anna varieties to complete collections that will result in the publishing of specialised catalogues in these two fields.

We have extensive holdings of duplicate material in all fields and are willing to sell or exchange for other Oman material. Enquiries are welcome.

Replies to:

Oman Studies Centre, Berlin Office, Kronenstr. 69, 10117 Berlin, Germany  
[collections@oman.org](mailto:collections@oman.org)



Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/012

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Oman Yemen (combined), any, used  
Scott 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118, any, used  
(S.G.: same numbers)

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H – Gratis-Anzeige 01/014

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Daryl Kibble

[kibbled@bigpond.com](mailto:kibbled@bigpond.com)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/005

**Palestine World War I**

For research purposes I'm looking for originals or photocopies of issues of

**The Palestine News**

This was the weekly military newspaper of EEF and OETA(S), published in Cairo in 1918/1919.

Replies to:

Tobias Zywiets

[zobbel@zobbel.de](mailto:zobbel@zobbel.de)

Private Gratis-Anzeige 01/016

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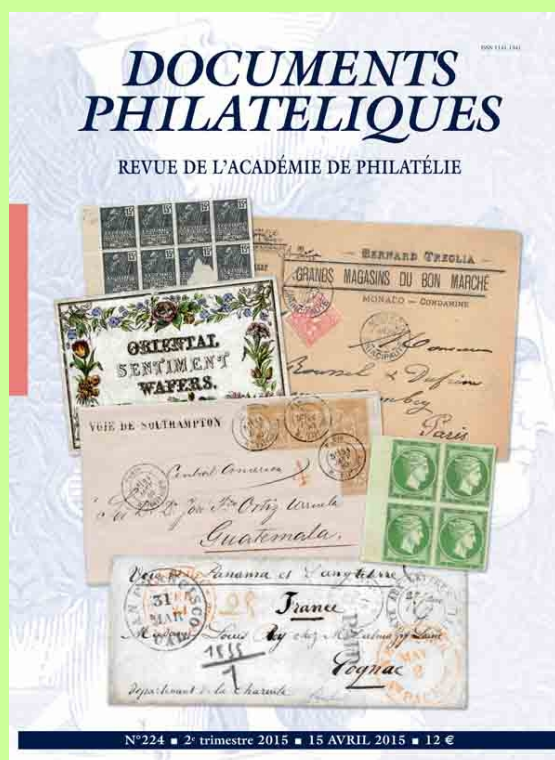
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## The Oriental Philatelic Association of London



The Oriental Philatelic Association of London was founded in 1949. Its remit is very broad both geographically and historically as it covers all philatelic aspects of post within the former Ottoman Empire and all its myriad successor states. Nevertheless many members specialise in one small area. Over one third of our membership of over 150 lives abroad, with a particular large number in the USA.

OPAL publishes a couple of journals per year along with a couple of newsletters. Both publications are also used to answer members' queries. If our extensive library can't help with queries, then our membership invariably contains someone who can help, however specialised or esoteric. There are informal meetings held in various UK locations as well as our annual get together for our AGM.

Membership costs presently £5 per annum. Further details can be found on and contacts can be made via OPAL's website: [www.mclstamps.co.uk/opal/opalhome.html](http://www.mclstamps.co.uk/opal/opalhome.html).

Philip Longbottom, OPAL secretary, email: [prlongbottom@aol.com](mailto:prlongbottom@aol.com)

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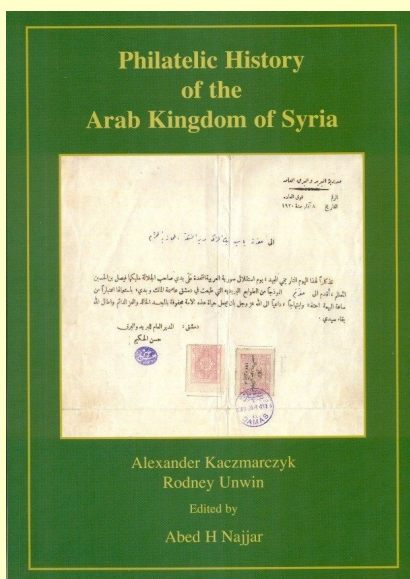
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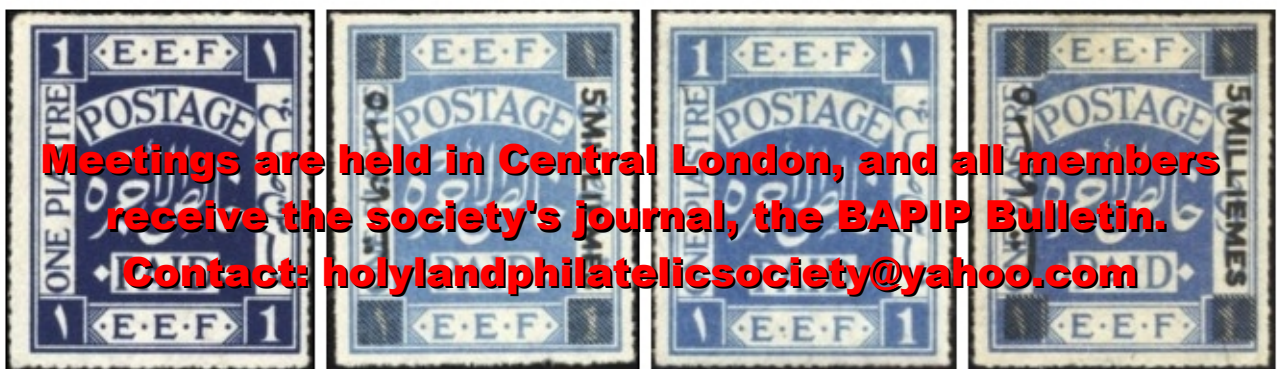
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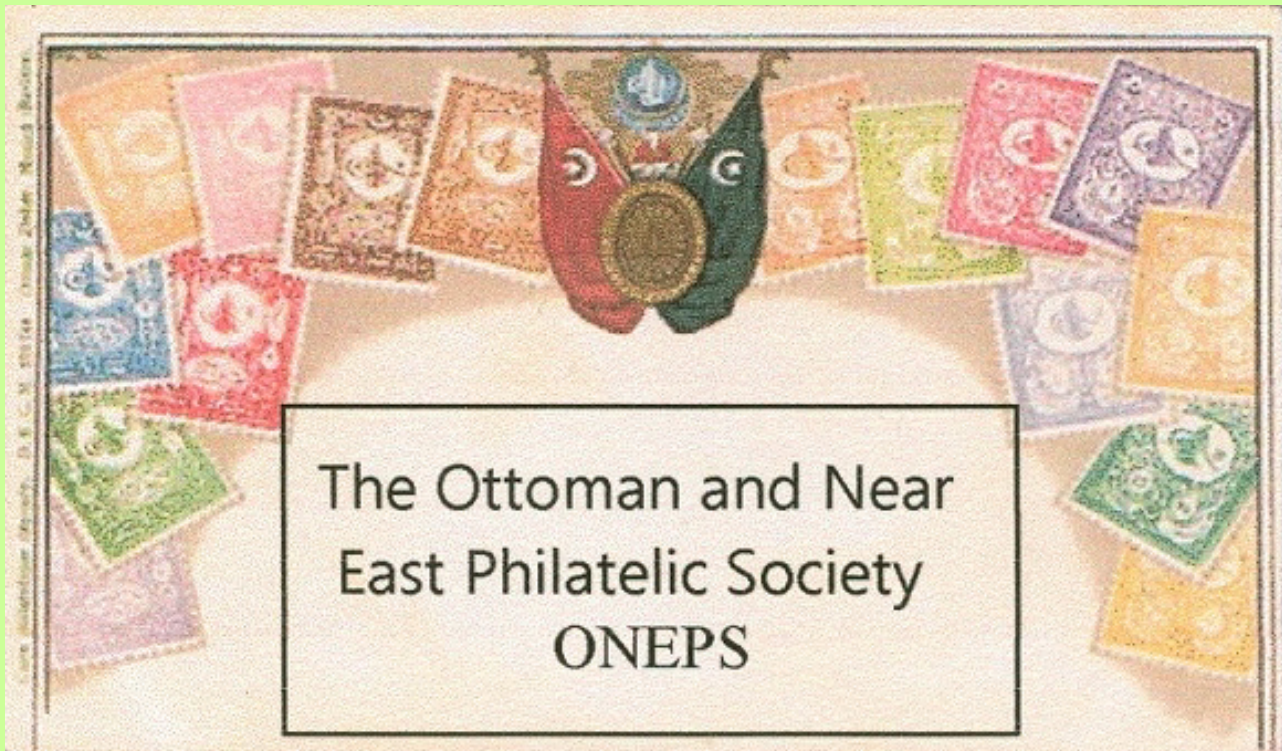


**Meetings are held in Central London, and all members receive the society's journal, the BAPIP Bulletin.**

**Contact: [holylandphilatelicociety@yahoo.com](mailto:holylandphilatelicociety@yahoo.com)**







*The Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society (ONEPS) promotes the collection and study of postage and revenue stamps, stationery, and postal history of the Ottoman Empire, the Republic of Turkey, and Ottoman successor states, including the Near and Middle East, Egypt, Arabia, and the Balkans.*

*Our journal, "The Levant," is published three times a year, and an index to all articles is posted on our website: [www.oneps.net](http://www.oneps.net).*

*Membership in the society opens the door to a philatelic community with a wide range of interests, including Turkey, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Armenia, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania, philatelic and political history, postal administration, stamp authentication and forgeries, picture post cards and postal ephemera.*

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# **AROS**

## **Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V.**

### **Study Circle Ottoman Empire/Turkey**



Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei (AROS) ist eine Vereinigung der Türkei-Philatelisten. Ihr Ziel ist die Verbreitung und Vertiefung des Wissens über die Briefmarken und Postgeschichte des Osmanischen Reichs und der Türkei sowie der Nachfolgestaaten des Osmanischen Reichs von Albanien bis Jemen, soweit hierfür im BDPh keine eigenen Arbeitsgemeinschaften bestehen.

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**[www.arosturk.org/aos.htm](http://www.arosturk.org/aos.htm)**

## Editorial

by Tobias Zywietz ([mep-bulletin@zobbel.de](mailto:mep-bulletin@zobbel.de))  
 Publisher & Editor, *The Middle East Philatelic Bulletin*

### The Mission

*The Middle East Philatelic Bulletin (MEPB)* is intended as a platform to publish research, reports, comments and enquiries on all aspects of Philately, i.e. Stamps, Stationery, Postal History, Social Philately, Topical (or Thematic) Philately, concerned with countries of the Middle East: the Arabian peninsula, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Iraq and North Africa. I also like to cover further related collecting areas like Deltiology (postcards), Philography (autographs), Numismatics (coins), Notaphily (banknotes), and Erinnophily (cinderellas and ephemera).

*MEPB* will pursue a policy of political and religious impartiality and neutrality. We believe in tolerance and understanding amongst philatelists and collectors. We are open-minded and respect the views and convictions of our readers and contributors. Contributions should always be true to these guidelines and any opinions expressed by individual authors in their articles shall not necessarily be regarded as the opinions of this Bulletin or its Editor.

The previous paragraph gives you some indication why I created this new journal at this specific point. I'd rather not expand on what exactly triggered my decision, but it was just the last event on concerns I've had for a long time.

### Old Structures

I have written extensively on Palestinian Postal History, especially on postmarks and registration labels, publishing on my website and in several philatelic journals, in both German and English. I regard the existing societies as a wonderful way to assemble and inform philatelists about their collecting interests. I am member of several philatelic societies, including:

- Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL) *UK*
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich / Türkei (AROS) *Germany*
- Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society (ONEPS) *USA*
- Egypt Study Circle (ESC) *UK*
- Holyland Philatelic Society (HPS-BAPIP) *UK*
- Society of Israel Philatelists (SIP) *USA*
- Interessengemeinschaft Israel (IGI) *Germany*
- Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël (CFPI) *France*

But there are manifold concerns and problems with the current structures:

- most of the societies are haemorrhaging members, mainly due to old-age, and some already have less than 100 members
- most societies find it very hard to attract new members, or even to fill vacant officer posts
- each society has a quality journal in its own right, but often specialising in their specific fields only, and supported by only a very small number of authors
- some societies don't even have a website, and they do not actively use social media
- membership is not free: the printed journals and other services do cost money, but membership fees are a hurdle for a younger generation with the experience that everything on the Internet is free
- there's resistance in some societies to modernise and make use of new opportunities
- some societies do not make their journal available in electronic form, even to their own members<sup>1</sup>

I could go on... Basically I think that specialist societies are not the best way to bring together like-minded philatelists and collectors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are of course internet forums (and lots of them, also a problem), mailing lists and newsgroups where collectors meet and discuss. Some lack focus and (I must say) purpose. Many forums are too broad in the spectrum they cover, and newsgroups are often too limited and specialised.

### Building Bridges

*MEPB* is intended to build bridges between these old and new, less formal structures: an ambitious journal, free to download, with an editor seeing to scope and focus, animating existing and new authors, connecting and networking.

I am primarily collecting Palestine. My speciality lies with the Postal History of Palestine since 1994, but I have a wide range of other interests. On my (award-winning) website "A Short Introduction the Philately of Palestine" I cover most areas of Palestine from 1914 to today.

<sup>1</sup> OPAL recently decided to take that step: their journal will be provided as PDF (in addition to the printed version) to its members in the future.



### The Contents of this Issue

After these preliminaries, I'd like to expand a little on the articles I selected for this launch issue:

**Bolthausen's Picture Postcards:** I stumbled on the Bolthausen story after buying a small booklet on Ebay: it showed a cover with stamps and postmarks from several Jerusalem post offices. My interest in the Ottoman post and the foreign posts operating prior to the First World War was further encouraged when reading a 1913 German article that had been translated and republished in F.W. Pollack's *Holy Land Philatelist* in 1960: Father Schmitz vividly described the fierce competition between all these postal services in Jerusalem. Pollack, incidentally, used a Bolthausen cover to illustrate Schmitz's article.

Whilst researching the Bolthausen covers and cards, I found references to Bolthausen's activities surrounding Austrian bisects in 1908. A second Bolthausen article, due for the next issue of *MEPB*, will present all the information about his philatelic shenanigans! The 1913 Schmitz article will be featured in the *Archive Section* of one of the next issues.

**The 1912 Mail Robbery:** Father Schmitz's remarks about that robbery instigated my research in the circumstances; and again we're basically dealing with the rivalry of the Ottoman and the foreign posts. I also found references to the robbery in an article by the late Andreas Patera which lead to the very detailed contemporaneous report in a German newspaper. Pollack's *Holy Land Philatelist* provided further material on the story.

*Dick Scheper* gives a concise introduction to **Perfins of the Levant**, a much neglected field of philately. This nicely illustrated piece builds on his 2009 out-of-print book. With the kind help of Dr. Andreas Birken we could finally make sense of the (censor) markings.

*Jean-Bernard Parenti's Air Mail Service in French Cilicia* is a well-researched and sourced article I enjoyed reading when it was first published in *The Levant* in 2012. Sadly, the illustrations printed then were of such a poor quality, that they were rendered totally useless for the reader. The story was not only intriguing new research into this difficult episode, but also worthy to be brought to the attention of a larger audience—together with high-quality illustrations. After gaining the rights to use *Richard Rose's* translation, M. Parenti provided all the illustrations to me as well as the original French article from *Documents Philatéliques*. Together with the author, I made some changes to the piece, bringing the translation and layout more in line with the original text.

*Jürgen Glietsch's* study on the use of the **Italian Military Provisional Postmark in Smyrna** came to my attention while trawling through the monthly listings of new German philatelic literature in the BDPH's journal *philatelie*. Originally published in 2004, the author had updated his article, and consented to its translation. Glietsch works primarily on Italian post offices in the Levant, so we can hopefully expect more articles on this topic in the future.

*Rainer Fuchs* is a good philatelic friend of mine: one of his main areas of research is the Overland Mail Haifa to Baghdad, where his interests (like Iraq) and mine (i.e. Palestine) meet. Fuchs publishes regularly in both German and English: *London Philatelist*, *MICHEL-Rundschau*, *Türkei-Spiegel*, *philatelie*, to name just a few. He also operates a website around his Overland Mail research. The article about the **Kingdom of Kurdistan** stamps had been published in German recently; I added a few further illustrations and remarks.

My article with photographs of the **Old General Post Office of Jerusalem** came about rather by chance: in the journal of the *Deutsch-Palästinensische Gesellschaft* (German-Palestinian Society) I saw a picture of fleeing women and children during the Nakba credited to a picture collection in the *Library of Congress*. When I checked out the website I found a number of pictures relating to postal buildings; a bit of further research brought about this concise by well illustrated article.

Future articles using images from the *Matson Collection* will feature the Nablus post office building, the 1938 raid on the Bethlehem post office, the printing process of the Jerusalem I overprints at the Greek Convent Press in August 1920, and the opening of the new General Post Office building in Jerusalem in 1936.

**The 2012 Christmas Stamps of the Palestinian National Authority** is part of a series resulting from the cataloguing work undertaken for my website. Further articles will deal with more PNA stamps and blocks with remarkable features or errors.

*Dietrich Ecklebe's* article **World Cultural Heritage Destroyed** not only covers Palmyra but also Assur, Niniveh, Hatra, and Bosra. I decided to produce only the chapter on Palmyra for this edition of *MEPB* due to the recent events there, but also because of the time consumed by preparing the translation of the other chapters. The article's remainder chapter will be published in the next issue of *MEPB*.

*Rainer von Scharpen* contributes two topical book reviews already published in German: **Bassil's Introduction to French Postal History** in Tripoli, and **Livnat's Jérusalem et la Poste Française**. Rainer is a profuse reviewer of philatelic literature for German journals.

Set apart from the other philatelic articles is the **Archive Section**, in which I'd like to publish (either as facsimiles or as transcripts, or both) documents pertinent to postal history and philately of the Middle East. These will therefore, apart from the necessary introductions, be only sparsely annotated.

In this issue I start a series on postal and related notices from the Official Gazettes of Palestine: part 1 features clippings from *Official Gazette O.E.T.A. (South)* (1919/1920) and the *Official Gazette of the Government of Palestine* (1920). This series will be continued for some time, but there will be plenty of space for other material in future issues of *MEPB* as well.

### Advertisements

I gave all persons showing an interest and registering their e-mail-address with me the chance to place a free advert in this issue. Sadly only very few took up this opportunity, even after having been notified several times. I can only hope that in future issues more people will be using this service.

I have to stress that all the adverts are published free-of-charge. I do not pursue any financial objectives with this journal: I do not pay for articles, I do not charge for adverts. Apart from the considerable amounts of time I spent creating the journal, I have had no costs to cover at all.

### Printed Copies

There will not be a printed version of *MEPB*. I looked into the costs and practicabilities, postage and packing, &c., and very quickly dropped any ideas about having the journal printed. The joy of an electronic-only magazine is that considerations about the number of pages, page-size, and use of colour just do not matter. I can just tack on a few more pages when I see fit and change fonts or layout at will.

### Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank all contributors and all those aiding and encouraging me in the creation of this journal. The list would be too long to print here, so I name only two non-philatelists, who, as native speakers, helped me with proofreading and gave advice on style of writing: Lonnie and Colin.

Several organisations gave me permission to reprint articles from their journals and archives. One person I have to especially thank is Barry D. Hoffman, copyright owner of F.W. Pollack's *The Holy Land Philatelist*.

*Many thanks to all!*

### Contributions

I will consider any article of quality for potential inclusion: be it a large article with original research, a small piece looking at a particular aspect, a concise description of an interesting cover, or a long-forgotten piece of research rediscovered. It can be original writing, or material already published. I will advise and help with

anything offered. Translation into English can be arranged, and any changes are closely coordinated with the author.

If you think you can contribute to the journal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A few guiding words on style and some necessary technical aspects:

- Articles should be submitted as plain text (TXT), rich text (RTF), Word (DOC, DOCX), LibreOffice/OpenOffice (ODT), or Adobe Acrobat (PDF).
- Images should be submitted as JPEG/JPG or PNG files, separate from the text. The resolution of images should ideally be 600dpi, but lower resolutions (300dpi) are acceptable as well.
- I welcome layout suggestions, but the *MEPB* uses a specific page layout and fonts, which limits its flexibility to some degree.
- Rights to texts and images not belonging to the author should be cleared, or at least be flagged-up, so that I can deal with any such incidents.

If in doubt: just ask! I will strive to resolve any such occurring issues.

### In the Next Issue

I hope to include these articles, and more, in Issue 2 of *MEPB*, due in April 2016:

- Bolthausen II: the 1908 Bisects of Caiffa
- Rainer Fuchs on Iraqi Railway stamps and booklets
- The overprinting of Palestine's Jerusalem I issue in August 1920 (Matson Collection)
- Avo Kaplanian on Jordanian registration envelopes
- Edgar Karl Haberer on Austrian donation vignettes "Jerusalem pilgermarke"
- The Raid on the Bethlehem post office in September 1938 (Matson Collection)
- Rainer von Scharpen reviews Longo's *Gli annulli postali libanesi 1918-1945*
- Dietrich Ecklebe continues "World Cultural Heritage Destroyed" with Assur, Nineveh, Hatra, and Bosra
- PNA Issues: Gaza Freedom Fleet 2011
- Archive Section: Official Gazettes of Palestine 1921-1923

**Please come forward with your articles,  
research, or images!  
*MEPB* needs interesting new material!**



## WEB GUIDE

A demonstratively incomplete, in some cases out-of-date, selection of websites and contacts relevant to philatelists and postal historians of the Middle East, and beyond. Inclusion here of a website does not imply an endorsement of it, its creators, or its contents.

The editor welcomes suggestions for corrections or further pages to be added.

### MIDDLE-EAST PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL) <i>UK</i> .....	<a href="http://www.mclstamps.co.uk/opal/opalhome.html">www.mclstamps.co.uk/opal/opalhome.html</a>
The Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society (ONEPS) <i>US</i> .....	<a href="http://www.oneps.org">www.oneps.org</a>
Filatelistische contactgroep van de Islamitische wereld (FCIW) <i>Netherlands</i> .....	<a href="http://www.pv-al-barid.com">www.pv-al-barid.com</a>
The Holyland Philatelic Society (HPS) <i>UK</i> .....	<i>no website, info at:</i> <a href="http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/org.htm#BAPIP">www.zobbel.de/stamp/org.htm#BAPIP</a>
<i>T. Zywiets: Cumulative Index to the BAPIP Bulletin</i> .....	<a href="http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/lit_09.htm">www.zobbel.de/stamp/lit_09.htm</a>
Society of Israel Philatelists (SIP) <i>US</i> .....	<a href="http://www.israelstamps.com">www.israelstamps.com</a>
Israel Philatelic Federation (IPF) <i>Israel</i> .....	<a href="http://english.israelphilately.org.il">english.israelphilately.org.il</a>
Cercle Français Philatélique d'Israël (CFPI) <i>France</i> .....	<a href="http://www.cfpi-asso.net">www.cfpi-asso.net</a>
Vereniging Nederland-Israël Philatelie (NIP) <i>Netherlands</i> .....	<a href="http://www.ver-nip.nl">www.ver-nip.nl</a>
Interessengemeinschaft Israel (IGI) <i>Germany</i> .....	<a href="http://www.ig-israel.de">www.ig-israel.de</a>
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei (AROS) <i>Germany</i> .....	<a href="http://www.arosturk.org/aos.htm">www.arosturk.org/aos.htm</a>
Centro Filatélico Argentino Israelí (CEFAI) <i>Argentina</i> .....	<i>sample journals:</i> <a href="http://www.slideshare.net/CEFAI">www.slideshare.net/CEFAI</a>
Emirates Philatelic Association (EPA) <i>UAE</i> .....	<a href="http://www.epa.ae">www.epa.ae</a>
Bahrain Philatelic Society (BPS) <i>Bahrain</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:mohdhjanahi@hotmail.com">mohdhjanahi@hotmail.com</a>
Kuwait Philatelic & Numismatic Society (KPNS) <i>Kuwait</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:kp-ns@hotmail.com">kp-ns@hotmail.com</a>
Qatar Philatelic Club (QPC) <i>Qatar</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:qstamps@qatar.net.qa">qstamps@qatar.net.qa</a>
Saudi Arabian Philatelic & Numismatics Society (SAPNS) <i>Saudi-Arabia</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:saudistamps@gmail.com">saudistamps@gmail.com</a>
Iraq Philatelic Society (IPS) <i>Iraq</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:naderqnb@yahoo.com">naderqnb@yahoo.com</a>
Iraq Philatelic Federation (IPF) <i>Iraq</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:iraqphila.num.society@gmail.com">iraqphila.num.society@gmail.com</a>
Federation of Turkish Philatelic Associations <i>Turkey</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:katia@tnn.net">katia@tnn.net</a>
Egypt Study Circle (ESC) <i>UK</i> .....	<a href="http://egyptstudycircle.org.uk">egyptstudycircle.org.uk</a>
Egyptian Philatelic Society (EPS) <i>Egypt</i> .....	<i>no website, contact:</i> <a href="mailto:egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com">egyptianphilatelicsociety@gmail.com</a>

### GENERAL PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL) <i>UK</i> .....	<a href="http://www.rpsl.org.uk">www.rpsl.org.uk</a>
The RPSL Specialist Society Journal Index.....	<a href="http://www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue.asp">www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue.asp</a>
The Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd. (ABPS) <i>UK</i> .....	<a href="http://www.abps.org.uk">www.abps.org.uk</a>
Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh) <i>Germany</i> .....	<a href="http://www.bdph.de">www.bdph.de</a>

### RELATED PHILATELIC WEBSITES

Wikipedia: Stamps & PH of Palestine.....	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_history_of_Palestine">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_history_of_Palestine</a>
Wikipedia: Stamps & PH of the Palestinian National Authority.....	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_the_Palestinian_National_Authority">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_the_Palestinian_National_Authority</a>
<i>T. Zywiets: A Short Introduction To The Philately Of Palestine</i> .....	<a href="http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/pal_ine.htm">www.zobbel.de/stamp/pal_ine.htm</a>
<i>R. Fuchs: Overland Mail Baghdad Haifa Pages</i> .....	<a href="http://fuchs-online.com/overlandmail">fuchs-online.com/overlandmail</a>
<i>R. Fuchs: Iraq Railway Stamps</i> .....	<a href="http://fuchs-online.com/iraq">fuchs-online.com/iraq</a>
<i>R. Fuchs: Discussion Forum</i> .....	<a href="http://fuchs-online.com/forum/">fuchs-online.com/forum/</a>
<i>D. Smith: Postal History of the Levant and other overseas post offices</i> .....	<a href="http://stamps.endfield.org.uk">stamps.endfield.org.uk</a>
<i>Elie I. Mourad: Lebanese Philatelic Archives</i> .....	<a href="http://www.tecc-systems.com/lebphila.com/issa/phila2.shtml">www.tecc-systems.com/lebphila.com/issa/phila2.shtml</a>

Arab Gulf and Yemen Stamp Group.....*newsgroup:* [groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/arabgulfyemenstampgroup](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/arabgulfyemenstampgroup)  
 Arabian Gulf Philately.....*newsgroup:* [groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/arabiangulfphilately](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/arabiangulfphilately)  
 Mahdi Bseiso: Stamps of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.....[www.jordanstamps.com](http://www.jordanstamps.com)  
 Peter Michalove Ottoman and Turkish postal history.....(<http://sites.google.com/site/pamichalove>)  
 Rod Collier: Varam Stamps.....[sites.google.com/site/varamstamps](http://sites.google.com/site/varamstamps)  
 Ioannis Stantzopoulos: Ottoman and Turkish Post stamps online cross-reference catalog and Ottoman Post offices (1863–1924)  
 .....[www.yanstan.com](http://www.yanstan.com)  
 Uzay Togay: Turkish Postal History – An International Philatelic Community.....[www.turkishpostalhistory.com](http://www.turkishpostalhistory.com)  
 Thomas Johansen: Arabian Gulf States Postal History Quartely.....(subscription journal) [arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com](mailto:arabiangulfphilately@gmail.com)  
 Websites: [www.emirates-stamps.com](http://www.emirates-stamps.com) / [www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com](http://www.abu-dhabi-stamps.com) / [www.bahrain-stamps.com](http://www.bahrain-stamps.com) / [www.dubai-stamps.com](http://www.dubai-stamps.com) /  
[www.kuwait-stamps.com](http://www.kuwait-stamps.com) / [www.oman-stamps.com](http://www.oman-stamps.com) / [www.qatar-stamps.com](http://www.qatar-stamps.com)

## OFFICIAL PHILATELIC OFFICES & POST COMPANIES

Palestine Post Philatelic Office.....[www.palpost.ps](http://www.palpost.ps)  
 Israel Post Philatelic Service.....[www.israelpost.co.il](http://www.israelpost.co.il)  
 Emirates Post Stamp Club.....[www.epg.gov.ae](http://www.epg.gov.ae)  
 Qatar Philatelic Bureau.....[www.qpost.com.qa](http://www.qpost.com.qa)  
 Bahrain Philatelic Bureau.....*no website, contact:* [stamp@bahrain.gov.bh](mailto:stamp@bahrain.gov.bh)  
 Oman Post Philatelic Services.....*no website, contact:* [philatelic@omanpost.om](mailto:philatelic@omanpost.om), [hildpt@omanpost.om](mailto:hildpt@omanpost.om)  
 Kuwait Philatelic Bureau.....*no website, contact:* [philatelic@mockw.net](mailto:philatelic@mockw.net)  
 Egypt Post .....[www.egyptpost.org](http://www.egyptpost.org)  
 Iraq Philatelic Bureau .....*no website, contact:* Box 2450, Baghdad, Iraq  
 Jordan Philatelic Bureau .....[www.jordanpost.com.jo](http://www.jordanpost.com.jo)  
 Lebanon - Libanpost .....[www.libanpost.com.lb](http://www.libanpost.com.lb)  
 Libya Philatelic Service.....*no website, contact:* P.O.Box 91616, Tripoli, Libya  
 Morocco - La Poste Marocaine .....[www.bam.net.ma](http://www.bam.net.ma) ([www.philatelie.ma](http://www.philatelie.ma))  
 Saudi Arabia Post.....[www.sp.com.sa](http://www.sp.com.sa)  
 Syria Post .....[www.syrianpost.gov.sy](http://www.syrianpost.gov.sy)  
 La Poste Tunisienne: Centre de la Philatélie.....[www.poste.tn](http://www.poste.tn)  
 Yemeni Stamp Shop .....[www.e-stamps.post.ye](http://www.e-stamps.post.ye)

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Cedarstmap (Beirut) *Lebanon*.....[www.cedarstamps.com](http://www.cedarstamps.com)  
 İsfila: İstanbul Filateli ve Kültür Merkezi A.Ş. (İstanbul) *Turkey*.....[www.isfila.com](http://www.isfila.com)  
 A. Karamitsos (Thessaloniki) *Greece*.....[www.karamitsos.com](http://www.karamitsos.com)  
 Balkan Phila (London) *UK*.....[www.balkanphila.com](http://www.balkanphila.com)  
 Negev Holyland Stamps (Trenton, NJ) *USA*.....[negev.stampcircuit.com](http://negev.stampcircuit.com)  
 Romano House of Stamp Sales Ltd. (Tel Aviv) *Israel*.....[www.romanoauctions.com](http://www.romanoauctions.com)  
 Tel-Aviv Stamps (Y. Tsachor) Ltd. (Tel Aviv) *Israel*.....[www.telavivstamps.com](http://www.telavivstamps.com)  
 House of Zion (Redwood City, CA) *USA*.....[www.houseofzion.com](http://www.houseofzion.com)

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 SCOTT – Amos Advantage Publishing (Sidney, OH) *USA*.....[www.amosadvantage.com/scottonline](http://www.amosadvantage.com/scottonline)  
 MICHEL – Schwaneberger Verlag (Munich) *Germany*.....[www.briefmarken.de](http://www.briefmarken.de)  
 BALE – Chariot Global Marketing Ltd. (Ramat Gan) *Israel*.....[www.bale-catalogue.com](http://www.bale-catalogue.com)  
 İSFILA (İstanbul) *Turkey*.....<http://www.isfila.com>  
 Yvert & Tellier (Amiens) *France*.....[www.yvert.com](http://www.yvert.com)



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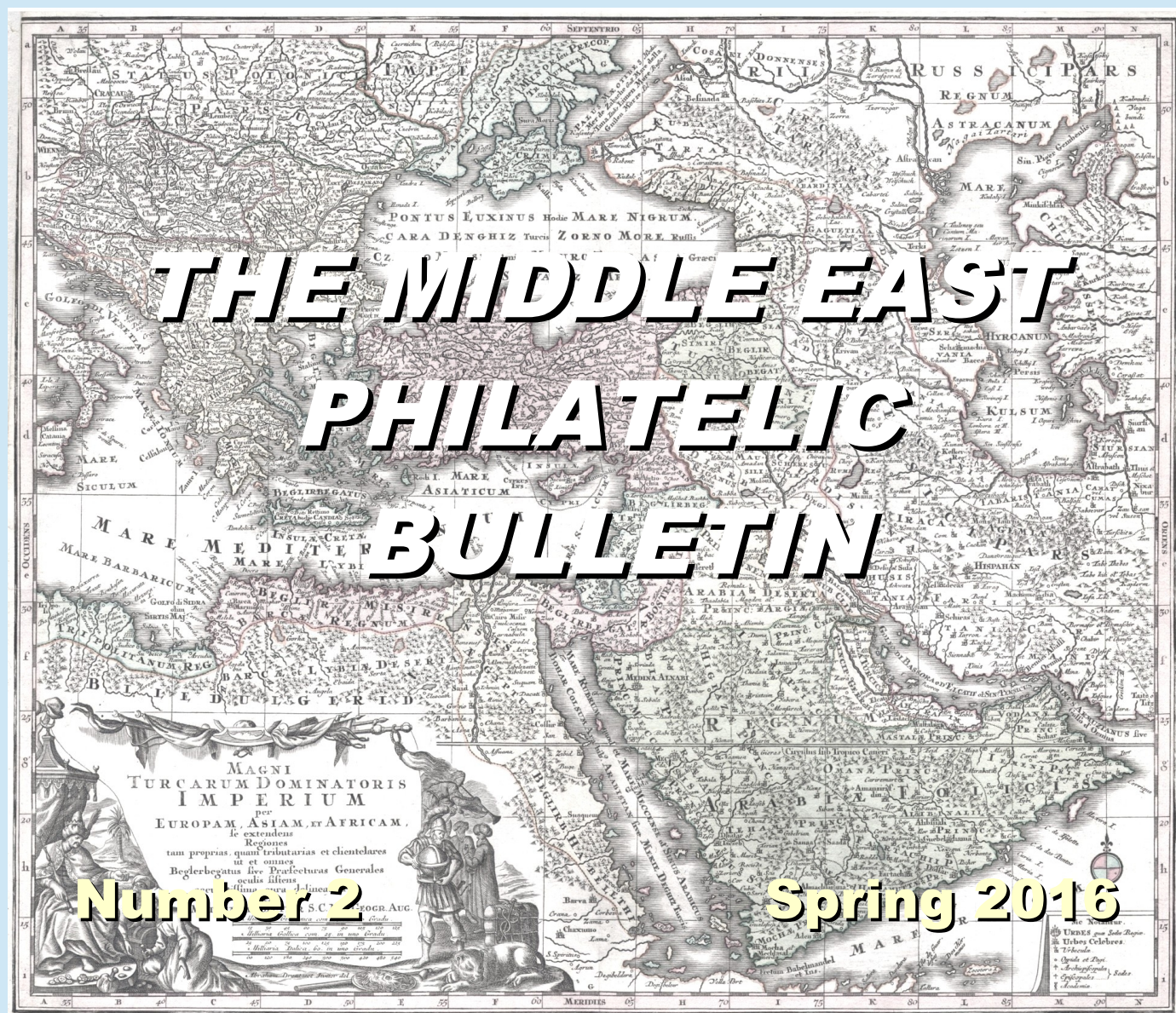
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### **Articles in Preparation:**

***Palestine "Jerusalem I" Overprinting in August 1920***

***Iraqi Railway Stamps and Booklets***

***Jordanian Registration Envelopes***

***Austrian Donation Vignettes "Jerusalempilgermarke"***

***The Raid on the Bethlehem Post Office in September 1938***

***Book Review: Gli annulli postali libanesi (Longo)***

***World Cultural Heritage Destroyed: Assur, Niniveh, Hatra, Bosra***

***PNA Issues: Gaza Freedom Fleet 2011***

***Archive: Official Gazettes of Palestine 1921–1923***

***Review of Recent Philatelic Journals***