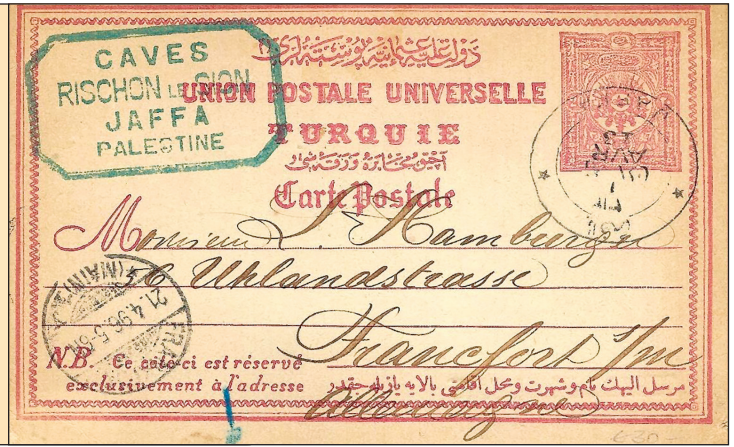


Ottoman Mail Service for Inhabitants of Jewish Agricultural Settlements in the Holy Land: 1882-1918

Ed Kroft KC FRPSC FRPSL



1. INTRODUCTION

(a) Jewish Agricultural Settlements – Overview

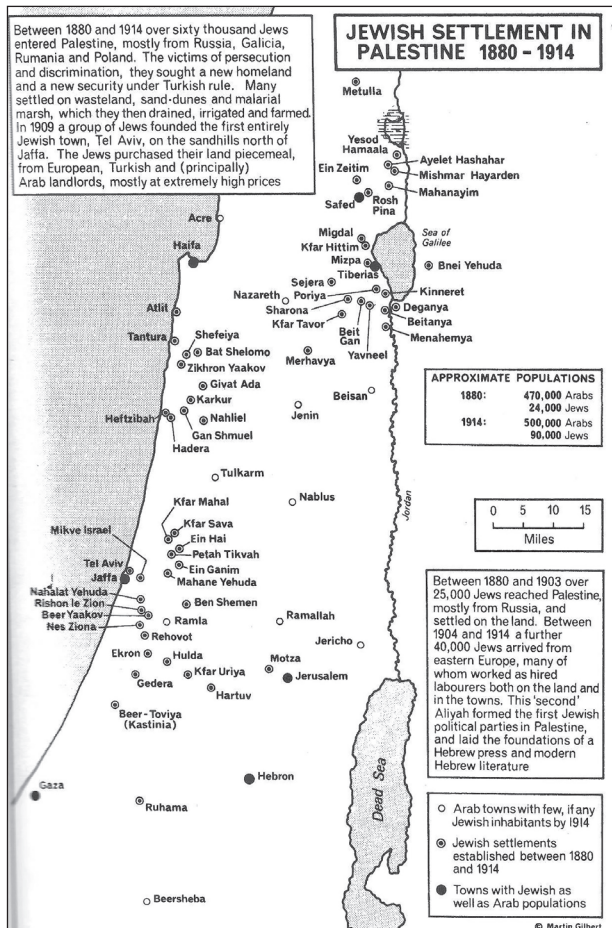


Exhibit 1: Map of the Jewish Agricultural Settlements

Ottoman post office located in a major center such as Jaffa, Tiberias, Safed, Haifa (Caiffa), Jerusalem and Nazareth. Postal rates were those applied in the Ottoman post offices of these major centers².

The Ottoman post offices in these major centers provided additional services and handled the taxation of any underpaid incoming mail and the processing of parcels conveyed to the post office. The registration of mail was, at times, done at the Ottoman post office located in one of the five Jewish agricultural settlements, though it was principally done at an Ottoman post offices located in one of the major centers.

Before World War I, mail from the Jewish agricultural settlements did not generally bear censorship tape or markings reflecting the opening of mail. Postal regimes inspected mail as needed. However, mail sent during World War I bears evidence of inspection and censorship. Ottoman censorship was done in Jaffa, Haifa, Jerusalem, Safed and sometimes in Beirut. No censorship function was performed at any time in the Jewish agricultural settlements.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Zvi Aloni

BETWEEN 1882 AND 1918, approximately forty Jewish agricultural settlements were established in the Holy Land located in the Ottoman Empire. The map of Martin Gilbert¹ shows the location of these Jewish agricultural settlements and the nearby major centers.

These Jewish agricultural settlements were often located in isolated areas. Travel to larger population centers occurred by wagon or even on foot. Therefore, it was essential for the inhabitants that they develop reliable means for communication both with other communities in the Holy Land and with the rest of the world.

Mail between these Jewish agricultural settlements and third parties evolved for commercial and personal reasons. These settlements grew grapes, oranges and grains and the export of these products, including wine, was needed for their economic survival. Most of the settlers had come to the Holy Land from eastern Europe because of political persecution and desperately wanted to keep in touch with family members and friends who had stayed behind or had emigrated to the United States and other parts of Europe.

(b) Ottoman Post Offices in Five Jewish Agricultural Settlements

For a limited period, there was an Ottoman post office only in five of the settlements: Rishon Le Zion, Petach Tikvah, Rosh Pinah, Rehovot and Zichron Yaakov.

Generally speaking, these five post offices operated on a limited basis with postage stamps and postmark hammers. Mail of the inhabitants of each of these five settlements (and surrounding settlements) was brought to and picked up from each of the five post offices and was delivered to the



Exhibit 3: 20 para postcard rate to Perugia Italy. Postmarked October 22, 1914. Arrival November 4, 1914.

c) Scope of this Article

This article describes mail service of the Ottoman Empire in Holy Land from these isolated Jewish agricultural settlements between 1882 and 1918. Mail from (and to) the Jewish agricultural settlements is rare because the population of these settlements was very small during the relevant period³ and, in some cases, few, if any, covers have been reported.

This article uniquely handles this topic as none have done before. It first shows examples of mail from the Ottoman post office established in each of the five Jewish agricultural settlements and the postmark each used.

The article then shows mail from some Jewish agricultural settlements which had no post offices but which used the Ottoman post office services in Jaffa, Haifa (Caiffa), Tiberias, Safed, Merdjaoun or Nazareth to handle the mail. These settlements included Metula, Yavne'el (Jemma), Milhamie, Migdal and Kineret.

The article concludes by showing an example of mail sent in 1918 or early 1919 from each of the five settlements in which Ottoman post offices had operated before their closure during the late stages of World War I.

Various sources contain some commentary about aspects of the Ottoman mail service related to the Jewish agricultural settlements⁴. There is no attempt to comprehensively repeat what may also be found in these sources or to comprehensively show as many examples of mail sent from each of the Jewish agricultural settlements.

Limited examples of mail from or to Jewish agricultural settlements can be found in various sources such as the 2022 monograph by Zvi Aloni and Joseph Hackmey⁵, various websites⁶, the article by Eddie Leib in Volume 89-90 of the *Holy Land Postal History Journal*⁷, Steichele's *Handbook of Holy Land Philately*⁸ and my articles in the *Israel Philatelist*⁹ and *The Levant*¹⁰.

2. COMPETITION BETWEEN OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND FOREIGN POWERS TO PROVIDE POSTAL SERVICES FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE JEWISH AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE HOLY LAND

During specific periods, Ottoman post offices competed with other post offices for the postal business of Jewish agricultural settlements and ultimately prohibited any competition as of October 1, 1914 after World War I began. These competitors were post offices established by Austria, Germany, France, Russia and Italy and permitted under Capitulations treaties concluded with the Ottoman Empire. Collectors will see mail sent from Jewish agricultural settlements that bears postage stamps, postmarks and auxiliary markings from either the post offices of the Ottoman Empire or from the post offices of these other countries.

The inhabitants of the Jewish agricultural settlements often preferred the use of foreign post offices over the Ottoman post offices for a number of reasons. The foreign post offices tried to reduce postage and auxiliary costs for the inhabitants. The German and Austrian post offices permitted the use of free postal services ("free mail") between Jaffa and various settlements. Some foreign postal administrations bonded together to share services to cut costs for themselves and the inhabitants (e.g. provided transport/diligens service to the major centers and had a postmaster serving more than one foreign postal administration).

Inhabitants of the Jewish agricultural settlements regarded the Ottoman postal system as inconvenient and inefficient. The Ottoman post offices also discouraged and, at times, prohibited the expression of Jewish nationalism expressed through the use of Hebrew "postmarks" and auxiliary markings on mail. By contrast, the Austrian post offices in Rishon Le Zion, Petach Tikvah,

Zichron Yaakov, Yavne'el (Jemma) and Hadera permitted the use of local Hebrew labels (including those of the Jewish National Fund) and Hebrew cachet markings on mail. This is discussed in greater detail in sources mentioned in the endnotes¹¹.

(a) Pre 1903

The competition first occurred before 1903 once a Jewish agricultural settlement had been established and before the opening of any Ottoman post office in that settlement. It became necessary for the major center closest to that settlement to provide postal services to its inhabitants. Mail had to be conveyed to and from that major center by a local carriage/diligens service or on foot.

The following major centers had Ottoman and, in certain cases, foreign post offices during the relevant periods as of the dates shown below:

Jaffa: Ottoman (1866), French (1852), Austrian (1862), Russian (1862), and German (1898). Jaffa was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides as of 1884 as accepting regular and registered mail for local and international destinations. *Exhibit 2*.

Jerusalem: Ottoman (1852), Austrian (1859), French (1900), German (1900), Russian (1901) and Italian (1908). Jerusalem was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides as of 1865 onward.

Haifa (Caiffa): Ottoman (end of 1860's), Austrian (1854), French (1906) and Russian (1906). Haifa was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides of 1869 onward and the office functioned until September 23, 1918.

Tiberias: Ottoman (1884). Tiberias was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides of 1884 onwards as accepting regular and registered mail for local and international destinations. The office functioned until late September 1918.

Safed: Ottoman (1884). Safed was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides of 1884 onward and accepted ordinary and registered mail to all destinations. It handled parcels and insured mail from 1903 onward. The post office functioned until late September 1918.

Nazareth (Nasre): Ottoman (1884), Austrian (1906). Nazareth was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides as of 1884 onwards as accepting regular and registered mail for local and international destinations. This was a major Ottoman post office and, as of 1899, also handled parcel post.

(b) 1903 to September 30, 1914

From 1903 to September 30, 1914, a few Jewish agricultural settlements had both an Ottoman post office and an Austrian or German post office; Rishon Le Zion (Austrian and German), Petach Tikvah (Austrian) and Zichron Yaakov (Austrian). Alternately, there may have been no local foreign or Ottoman post office in the settlement so the pre-1903 scenario persisted. Local mail was conveyed to and from the major centers where it was processed by either an Ottoman post office or possibly by a foreign post office. *Exhibit 3*.

(c) October 1, 1914 to Closure During World War I in 1917 or 1918

After October 1, 1914 and until their closure during World War I, only Ottoman post offices had a monopoly for handling mail of all the Jewish agricultural settlements in Palestine. The foreign post offices were closed and were not permitted to operate either in any Jewish agricultural settlement or in any of the major centers.

3. OTTOMAN POSTAL RATES DURING THE RELEVANT PERIODS¹²

(a) Basic rates for mail to domestic locations: (40 paras = 1 kuruş/piaster)

- Printed Matter single weight – 5 para
- Postcard – 10 para
- Letter single weight – 1 kuruş (piaster)
- Registration – 1 kuruş (piaster)

On July 8, 1915, domestic mail became subject to a compulsory Orphans War Tax:

- Cards and letters – 10 para
- Registered letters and cards, parcels – 20 para Orphans War Tax was in place for domestic mail until February 6, 1919

(b) Basic rates for mail to foreign destinations (40 paras = 1 kuruş/piaster)

- Printed Matter – 10 para
- Postcard – 20 para
- Letter single weight – 1 kuruş (piaster)
- Registration – 1 kuruş (piaster)
- Rates increased in July 1916 by 10 para
- Rates increased again as of January 1, 1918
- Foreign mail was not subject to compulsory Orphans War Tax

4. THE FIVE JEWISH AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS WHICH HAD OTTOMAN POST OFFICES DURING LIMITED PERIODS

(a) Rishon Le Zion (Aioun Cara) – Founded July 31, 1882

- Ottoman PTT Guide: yes. This office was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides of 1909 onward as accepting regular mail only for local and international destinations.
- Ottoman Post Office Postmark: September 1903 to November 1917
- Registered Mail Service: yes
- Parcel Post: yes
- Austrian Post Office: Operated as of early 1903 to September 30, 1914
- German Post Office: Operated as of September 1903 to September 30, 1914
- Population (est.): 531(1898), 900(1909), 1425(1914)

(i) Pre-September 1903

Exhibit 2: (See Page 4, Title) 20 para postal stationery card from Jaffa with blue boxed octagonal marking alongside. Written in Rishon April 10, 1896 and postmarked in Jaffa on April 15. Sent to Frankfurt with arrival postmark on April 21.

(ii) September 1903 – September 30, 1914

Exhibit 3: (See Page 4) Aioun Cara Postmark



(iii) October 1, 1914 – November 1917



Exhibit 4: Postmarked February 2/17. Beyrouth censorship crescent under Istanbul censorship cachet. 20 para – Shortpaid PC foreign rate of 30 para as of July 1916 – Latest known usage of postmark



Exhibit 5: August 9 1916. Front of postal stationery 20 para envelope used as a postcard. Registered in manuscript, “Recommandee No 256” at top left.

Franked 1 kuruş and 30 para (70 para) to pay 20 para concessionary letter rate and 50 para registration. Mail to Bulgaria (Sofia) had preferential rate as of November 4, 1914 when Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

Perhaps a unique piece from Jewish agricultural settlements. Cancelled by Aioun Cara Ottoman date stamp. Mailed to Sofia. Redirected to Sarajevo 10.9.1916. Censored in Beirut, Constantinople and Bulgaria

(b) Petach Tikvah (Petah Tikwa) – Founded 1882

- Population(est.): 802(1898), 1600(1909), 1600(1910), 1600(1911), 3280(1914), 3600(1915)
- Ottoman PTT Guide: not listed
- Ottoman Post Office Postmark: July 1910 – November 1917
- Registered Mail Service: yes
- Parcel Post: no
- Austrian Post Office: As of late 1903 to September 30, 1914

(i) Pre-July 1910

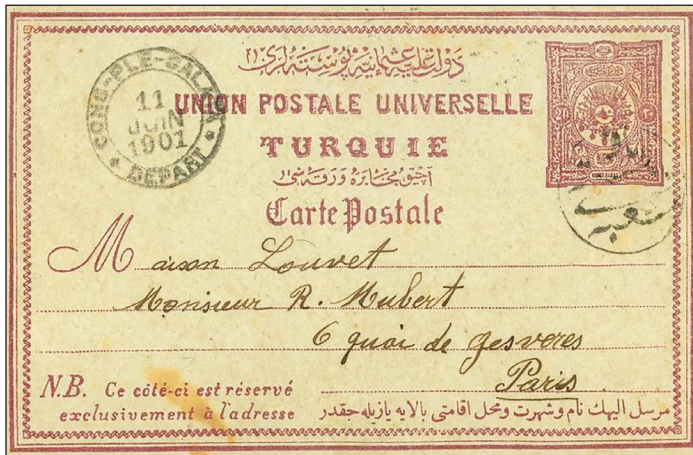


Exhibit 6: Petah Tikva – 29 Mai 1901 imprinted 20pa pc written in Petah Tikwah cancelled "JAFFA POSTA SHUBESI" – branch post office. Message by S. Lifschitz in French requesting a priced catalogue for grains, mailed to Paris, Galata – Depart 11.6.1901 transit. Very rare postmark on outgoing mail

(ii) July 1910-September 30, 1914

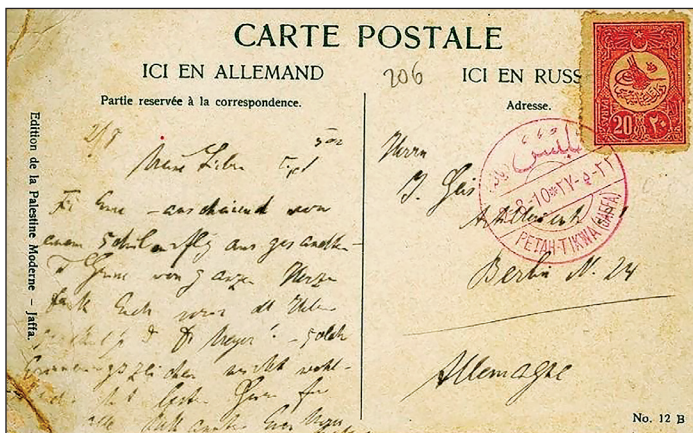


Exhibit 7: red clear postmark dated 2.8.40 – very early use. 20 para postcard rate to Berlin – Germany

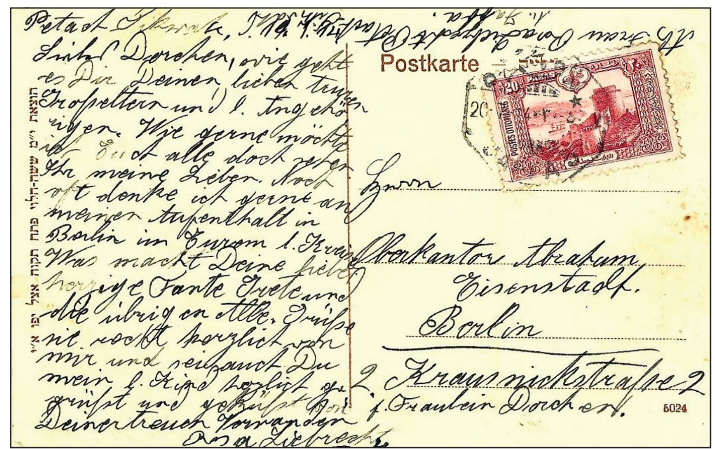


Exhibit 8: 20 para postcard rate to Berlin, Germany. Postmarked in Jaffa rather than in Petach Tikvah even though local postmark still in use –likely mailed in Jaffa. Back of postcard has an image of the settlement

(iii) October 1, 1914 – November 1917

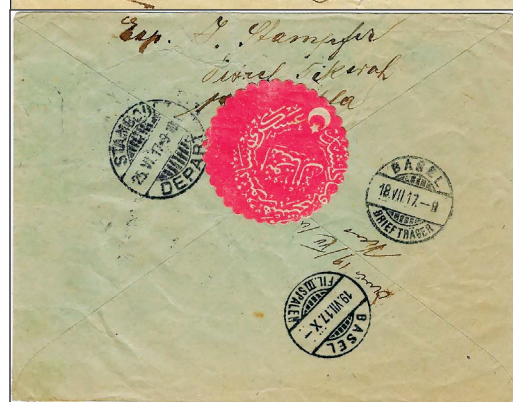


Exhibit 9: Registered to Basel Switzerland. May 28 1917. 100 para consisting of 50 para letter rate per 20 grams and 50 para registration fee. Arrival August 18 and 19 1917. Transit Constantinople June 25 1917 Censored – markings on front

(c) Rosh Pinah (Rosch Pinah) – Founded 1882

- Population(est.): 315(1898), 450(1900), 800(1909), 800(1910), 700(1914), 1000(1918)
- Ottoman PTT Guide: Listed as of 1909 onwards as

- accepting mail for local and international destinations
- Ottoman Post Office Postmark: 1909(?) – September 26 1918
- Registered Mail Service: no
- Parcel Post: no

(a) Pre 1909



Exhibit 10: M. Neiger Pharmacie – imprinted envelope mailed Registered SAFED (PM4) full postmark Nov 14 95 in Blue tying 2x1 piastre Turkish stamps to back of cover. RECOMMANDEE boxed registered cachet (1 cover recorded and manuscript 1323) mailed to London arrival 27 NO 95 on back which also shows a wax seal

(ii) 1910 – September 30, 1914



Exhibit 11: 20 para postcard with Ottoman Postmark dated October 7, 1911 to Rishon Le Zion. Cachet “Schwartz-Commissioner Rosh Pinah” – a de facto messenger service as Schwartz delivered funds for Baron Rothschild

(iii) October 1, 1914 – late September 1918



Exhibit 12: 3 fine strikes in Violet tying correct 50 para franking (including 10 para War Orphans Tax). Galata July 1918 arrival on back, censored

(d) Zichron Yaakov (Zamarin) – Founded December 1882

- Population(est.): 870(1898), 760(1909), 760(1910), 870(1911), 1000(1914), 1000(1915)
- Ottoman PTT Guide: Listed as of 1899 onwards as accepting regular mail only for local and international destinations
- Ottoman Post Office Postmark: September 1912 – end of September 1918
- Registered Mail Service: yes
- Parcel Post: no
- Austrian Post Office: no but local organization used Hebrew auxiliary markings and then shipped mail to Austrian Post Office in Haifa. Austrian Post in Haifa had been used since 1885

i) Pre-September 1912



Exhibit 13: 5.12.1898 The earliest recorded use of the UPU R cachet – Sent by “Les DEPOTS GENERAUX a ZICRON JACOB”. Posted in Haifa to Vienna, franked with 3pi Turkish stamps. Double weight: 1pi basic rate + 1pi additional weight + 1pi Registration fee all tied by HAIFFA 5.12.1898 postmark, cachet #650 – on front. Alexandria 7.12.98 transit postmark on back

(ii) 1913-September 30, 1914



Exhibit 14: 20 para postal stationery card to Vienna – showing 2 different line cachets including a Hebrew one! – July 6, 1914 violet postmark. Black bilingual Haifa postmark dated July 28, 1914

(iii) October 1, 1914 – late September 1918



Exhibit 15: Local postcard sent to Rosh Pinna franked 30 para to pay the 20 para postcard rate + 10 Para War Orphans tax. Cancelled by "Zamarin" 18.2.1916 octagonal black postmark, alongside oval negative seal censor cachet of Haifa "Haifa Passed Censor 1915". Transit "SAFED 2" 20.2.916.

(e) Rehovot (Rehoboth) – Founded March 6, 1890

- Population(est.): 281(1898), 280(1900), 600(1909), 600(1910), 1070(1914), 1100(1915), 1200(1918)
- Ottoman Post Office: September 1910 – November 1917
- Ottoman PTT Guide: not listed
- Registered Mail Service: yes
- Parcel Post: no
- Austrian Post Office – inhabitants forwarded mail to the Austrian post office in Rishon Le Zion

(i) Pre-September 1910

The inhabitants of Rehovot used the Austrian Post because of its "free mail" service to and from Jaffa and other Jewish

agricultural settlements within the Jaffa district (Rishon Le Zion, Gedera, Nes Ziona). The Ottoman post office was opened in Rehovot to compete with the Austrian Post. I have not seen reported examples of mail taken to Jaffa from Rehovot for handling by the Ottoman Post Office in Jaffa. By contrast, there are reported examples of mail that was sent through Jaffa and later through Rishon Le Zion to Jaffa.

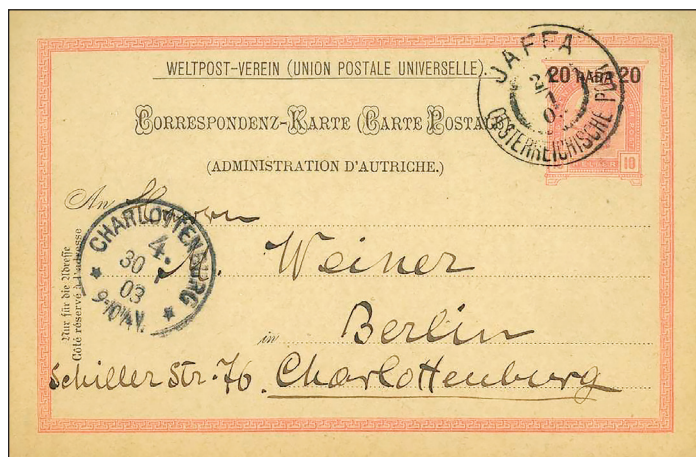


Exhibit 16: 21.1.1903 Austrian Levant 20 para imprinted postcard to Berlin. Message in Hebrew by Israel Teller, First Aliyah author and teacher in Rehovot. Written in "REHOBOT Be'ereetz Hakodesh (in the Holy Land)", via Austrian Post in Jaffa and postmarked "JAFFA OESTERR... POST". Berlin arrival – postmark 30.1.1903

(ii) September 1910 – September 30, 1914



Exhibit 17: Violet postmark 21-04-12. 1pi letter rate to Braila, Romania. On back, transit PORT SAID 27 IV 12, arrival BRAILA 6 MAI 12



(iii) October 1, 1914 – November 1917



Exhibit 18: October 16, 1916 to Berlin. Appears shortpaid by 10 para (20 para instead of 30) as the rates changed on July 14, 1916. Censor markings are apparent on the face of the card

5. SOME OF THE JEWISH AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS WHICH WERE SERVICED BY OTTOMAN POST OFFICES IN MAJOR CENTERS

(a) Metula (Merdjaoun)- Founded 1896

- Population(est.): 233 (1898), 300 (1914)
- Serviced by the Ottoman Post Office in 1884 (Merdjaoun) – late September 1918
- Ottoman PTT Guide: Merdjaoun was listed in the Ottoman PTT guides of 1884 onwards as accepting regular mail for all destinations.
- Registered Mail Service in Merdjaoun: As of 1899



Exhibit 19: 1910 Lebanon commercial imprinted stationery cover “Depots Generaux Metoula Merge-Ayoum” trilingual mailed to Russia. Franked 2x20 para. Postmarked Merdjaoun 24.12.1910. Back: transit BEYROUTH9 26.12.910 and arrival Odessa 24.12.10



Exhibit 20: 1913 blue bilingual circular date stamp – 20 para pc rate to Jaffa. Only 1 other example in blue. Written in Hebrew in Metula on 13 Schvat 1913 to the editor of HaHaklai publication about not having received any brochures after money was sent to the bank in Safed

(b) Kfar Tabor (Mescha) – Founded 1902



Exhibit 21: September 9, 1912 20 para (2 10 para Turkish stamps) on a post card to Romania. Incomplete Tiberiade postmark dated 20.9.912. Transit postmark HARLAU 9 OCT 912. Arrival postmark FRUMUSICA. Message in Yiddish to parents in Romania from “Mesha Pres Tiberiade Via Caiffa – Palestina” dated “Erev Yom Kippur” at noon

(c) Yavne'el (Jemma)- Founded 1902

- Serviced by Tiberias
- Population(est.): 400–450 (1911), 300–700 (1914)

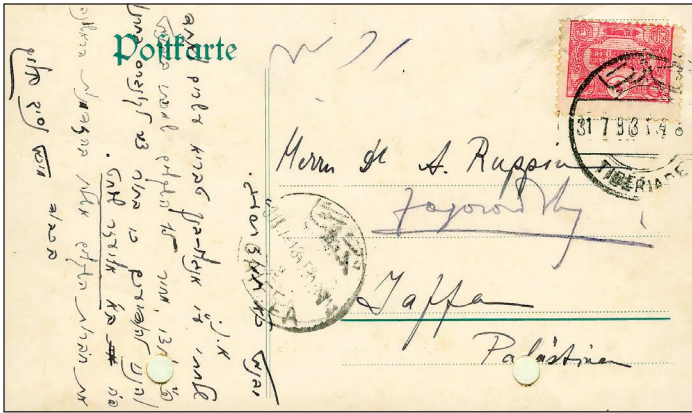


Exhibit 22: 20 para postcard rate. Tiberiade postmark dated 31.7.913. Message in Hebrew from "Yavneel" dated 26.7.1913. Mailed to Arthur Ruppin – Jaffa. Transit postmark CAIFFA 31.7.913

(d) Milhamie (Menachemia) – Founded 1902

- Serviced by Tiberias and Haifa
- Population(est.): 100 (1914)

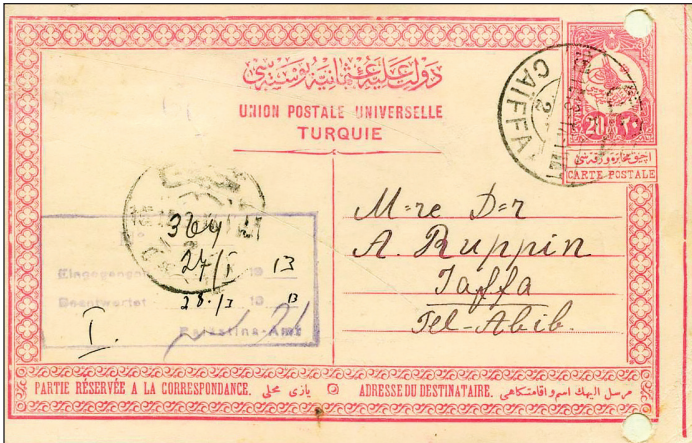


Exhibit 23: 20 para imprinted postcard cancelled by CAIFA 2 postmark dated 1.1.13. Message in Hebrew – return address "Milhamie pres Tiberias"

(e) Migdal – Founded 1910

- Serviced by Tiberias
- Population(est.): 50 (1914)

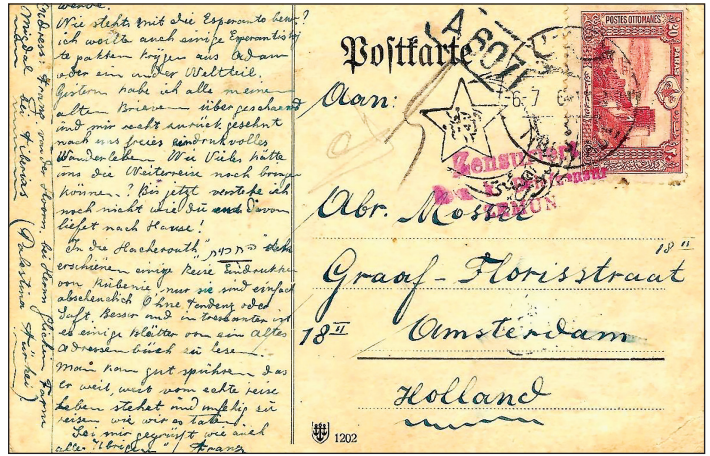


Exhibit 24: 20 para postcard rate postmarked July 6, 1916 to Holland. Just before the increase in the rate on July 14 to 30 para. Censored in Zemun. Reference to Migdal Farm on side of postcard

(f) Kineret – Founded 1908

- Serviced by Tiberias
- Population(est.): 100 (1914)

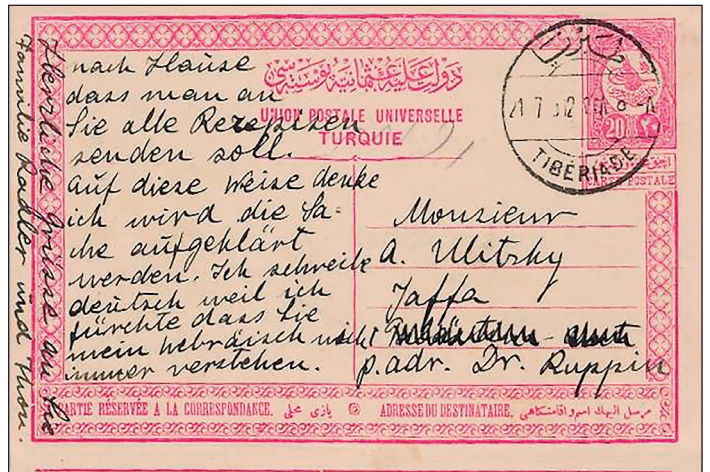


Exhibit 25: July 21, 1912 20 para imprinted Ottoman post card paying the domestic postcard rate to Jaffa. Postmarked Tiberias on July 21, the day after the card was written in Kineret (July 20) on the back



(g) Merchavia – Founded 1910

- Serviced by Haifa
- Population(est.): 100 (1914)

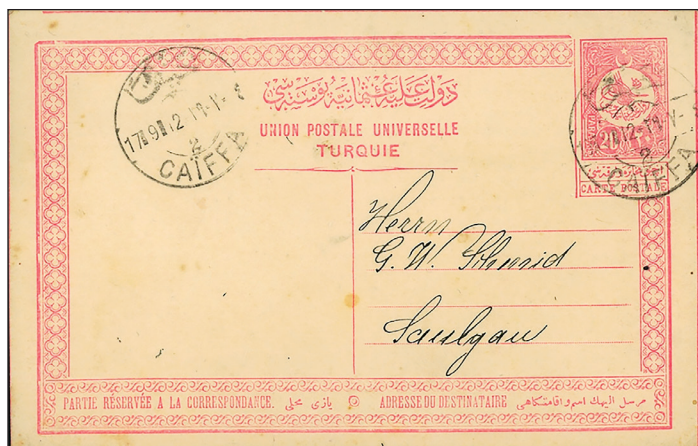


Exhibit 25: Haifa 17.9.12 Ottoman 20 para imprinted postcard via Ottoman Post CAIFFA2. Mailed to Germany by the Agronomist Louis Breisch who was working for the Jewish Colonies (Hulda Estate)

6. CONCLUSION: THE HANDLING OF THE MAIL OF THE JEWISH AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE OTTOMAN POST OFFICES

During late 1917 until the end of World War 1, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF), a British Empire military formation, occupied various locations in the Holy Land, including the Jewish agricultural settlements. Ottoman post offices were closed and the EEF set up temporary postal arrangements for civilians to send and receive mail. These arrangements generally involved the printing of postage beginning in February 1918 and the use of military post offices, mainly in Jerusalem and Jaffa, to handle the mail. There were no post offices established in any of the Jewish agricultural settlements. Mail sent to or from these settlements can be identified only from what is written on the front, back, or even possibly from the contents of the mail. An example for each of the five settlements in which Ottoman post offices had operated is shown below.

(a) Rishon le Zion

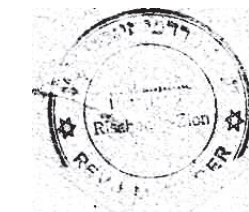


Exhibit 26: 5 mils on 1 piastre. cobalt-blue, tied by circular date stamp “FPO GM 12 MR 18” to prepaid envelope from “Rishon-le-Zion” (sender’s mark on reverse). Sent to Cairo with 2 different censor marks on front and arrival mark of March 14. A very rare prepaid letter with the largest recorded multiple of this stamp. Just 3 similar items recorded



Exhibit 27: Civilian Prepaid Mail: Stationery cover from Rishon Le Zion to Alexandria. 2x5m top marginal pair affixed tied by postmark FPO GM1 12 AP 18. Censored, Alexandria arrival 15 AP 18, redirected to Cairo arrival 16 AP 18

(b) Petach Tikvah



Exhibit 28: 1918 1pi deep blue, tied by Army Post Office SZ 45 (5 Mar 18) postmark on cover to Cairo Two different “Passed by Censor” markings (one “E.E.F. Base Censor”) – Cairo arrival postmark

(c) Rosh Pinah



Exhibit 29: Registered letter to Lucerne Switzerland via Safed. Postmarked May 16, 1919. Arrival June 9, 1919. Transit Egypt. 2 piastres pays foreign letter rate + registration fee. "Rosh Pinah" on backflap

(d) Rehovot

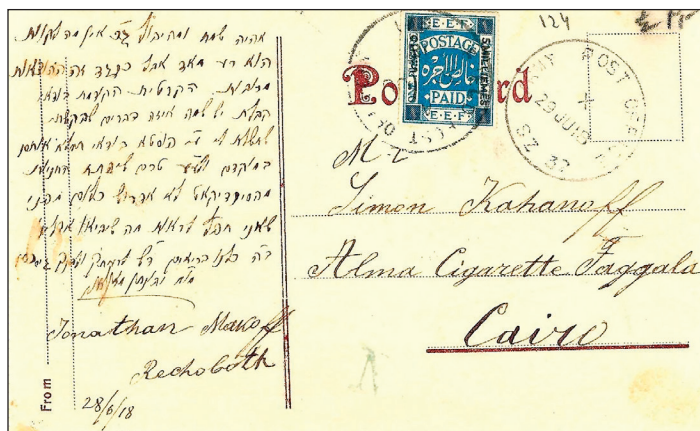


Exhibit 30: Civilian prepaid post card where 5 mils stamp affixed and date stamped at FPO GM1 after card posted at Jaffa APO SZ32 on June 29, 1918. Rehovot address of sender on the bottom of the card

(e) Zichron Yaacov



Exhibit 31: October 20 1918 to Cairo. Censored and postmarked APO SZ 57 (Haifa). Overfranked as 4 mils was the postcard rate. 1 piastre was the foreign rate for a single weight letter

ENDNOTES

1. Martin Gilbert, The Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 7th edition (1974), page 3. There are a number of maps showing the Jewish colonies in a variety of sources, including the Steichele book infra note 6.
2. See section 3 of the article regarding rates. See also Zvi Aloni and Joseph Hackmey, The Postal History of the Ottoman Post in the Holy Land: Rates, Routes and Postmarks (The Royal Philatelic Society of London, 2022); and Turhan Turgut, Postal History of the Ottoman Empire: Rates and Routes 1840-1922, (Alfa 2018)
3. The population statistics used in the article are a composite from a series of sources including the text by Salo Aizenberg, Postcards from the Holy Land: A Pictorial History of the Ottoman Era, 1880-1918 (2010), (The Society of Israel Philatelists pp.194-221). Aizenberg makes the following statement: "A final note about population estimates included throughout this book is necessary. Population figures are an important element of the history and the transformation of late Ottoman Palestine, and every effort has been made to meticulously research and present these statistics in this book. Unfortunately, there are no reliable sources of population data during the entire Ottoman era, as censuses were notoriously inaccurate and excluded or miscounted large portions of the population. Historians today arrive at estimates by manipulating the faulty census data and evaluating population statistics provided by geographers, prominent officials, travelers, guidebooks and other sources at the time. A review of this data quickly reveals that population figures are often contradictory and generally unreliable. As a result, the reader should assume that all population figures presented in this book are rough approximations."
4. The sources include the references referred to in notes 2 and 6. For excellent examples of the use of the Ottoman post offices by Jewish agricultural settlements, see Heinrich Koehler, Edition D'or, Vol 61: Holy Land – Turkish Post in Palestine 1851–1918 – The Itamar Karpovsky Collection (2022) and Itamar Karpovsky, Turkish Post in Palestine 1851–1918 <http://israel75.org.il/exhibits>. See also various Holy Land auction catalogs and articles by Zvi Alexander and Zvi Aloni in various exhibition catalogs in the 1990s and in Shovel magazine (2006) published by the Israel Philatelic Federation. I did 4 webinars for the Society of Israel Philatelists on "Jewish Settlements in Palestine 1870-1920" during 2021 and 2022 and I am writing a detailed book on the subject for the Society of Israel Philatelists. There were also articles written by Zvi Alexander and Zvi Aloni in various exhibition catalogs in the 1990s and in Shovel magazine (2006). See also Aizenberg, *ibid* at pp. 194-221
5. Aloni and Hackmey, *supra* note 2
6. Website of the Israel Philatelic Federation israelphilately.org.il, website of the Alexander Collection alexandercollection.org, website of the Society of Israel Philatelists israelstamps.com, website of Tel Aviv Stamps telaviv-stamps.com and website of Stamp Circuit stampcircuit.com
7. Eddie Leib, The Postal Services of the Jewish Colonies During the Ottoman Period" Holy Land Postal History Volume 89 (Winter/Spring 2002) pp. 318-372
8. Anton Steichele, The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918 Volume 2 (English Revised Edition-Norman Collins and Leopold Dickstein) 1991 pp.395-454
9. Ed Kroft, The Turkish Forerunner Post Serving the Inhabitants of Rishon Le Zion (Aïoun Cara) July 31, 1882-November 15, 1917, The Israel Philatelist (June 2010) pp.22-28; Ed Kroft, Austrian Post Office in Rishon Le Zion 1903-1914, The Israel Philatelist (February/April 2008) pp.58-64
10. Ed Kroft, The Turkish Post Serving Rishon Le Zion, The Levant: Journal of the Ottoman & Near East Philatelic Society. January 2011 (Volume 6, number 1) pp. 2-8
11. Kroft, Austrian, *supra* note 9; Leib, *supra* note 7
12. Aloni and Hackmey, *supra*, note 2; and Turgut, *supra*, note 2 ■