JUDAICA CATALOGUES – ARE THERE ANY?

When I started to collect Judaica as a thematic subject – I often wished that I had chosen a theme such as Motor Cars, or Animals instead. As there seems to be catalogues readily available on these type of subjects, - but nothing available on Judaica in this country.

However, from overseas sources, can be found an excellent range of Judaica catalogues. The following are catalogues which I use and can recommend. However, like with all catalogues, they quickly go out of date – as none of the following have been re-printed. (As far as I am aware.)

Judaica In Philately – An Annotated Checklist By Isaac Borodinsky
(By the Educational Fund of the Society of Israel Philatelists, 25113 Duffield Road, Beachwood, Ohio 44122, United States Of America.)
This paperback 11” x 8” 333 page publication was published in 2001. The text is clear and fully crossed-referenced.

In Section 1 it lists alphabetically “Jews On Stamps and Their Achievements”, giving a brief description of their achievement, and listing the countries of stamps that depict that person. Including the Year and their catalogue numbers of Michel, Scott and Yvert Tellier. There are also a few poor black and white reproductions of various stamps.
This is then followed, by a comprehensive listing of Jews On Stamps by Professions. – This amounts to 8 pages.
Then there are listings of Nobel Prize Winners. There are listings of Personalities In The Bible on stamps, along with Biblical Quotations, and Biblical Place Names, to name just a few. Other listings include Events in Jewish History, and The Holocaust Era.
A very useful listing, is the listings of Synagogues on Stamps, and also a section on the Hebrew Language on Stamps. Besides these specialised sections, there is then a full alphabetical listing by country, of all Judaica stamps issued – with catalogue numbers and descriptions. I found this book to be excellent value at $24. Throughout the book, it does not mention or list a single stamp from Israel. That is 333 pages of Judaica listings from all over the world except Israel. This proves that Judaica is not Israel!.

Another excellent publication is:-
The Encyclopedia of Philatelic Judaica – Volume 1 (By the late Benjamin J. Reuter.) – (Israel). Published in 2002 - This 417 page A4 paperback book, includes well over 3100 stamp illustrations, some of these are in colour. Also details of some 2800 concise biographies of Jews on Stamps. Stamp listings include Yvert, Michel, Scott and useful Gibbons catalogue numbers. Also included are special subjects including Nobel Laureates. There is also a fully comprehensive alphabetical listing of Jewish People on Stamps.

I cannot remember how much I paid for this publication – afterall, the quality remains when the price is forgotten. (Well, the saying is something like that!!)

There was also A4 New Issue updates, issued quarterly, by the author to keep the catalogue up to date.

Sadly, the author passed away, and there were no more updates. The author had planned to publish a Volume 2, of over 400 pages, which would have included alphabetical listings of the Bible, Synagogues, Holy Artifacts to name but a few. Also Stamp Designers, Printers, Olympic Medalists and War Heroes etc, were to be included, and the complete volume was to be fully Cross-Referenced.

Volume 3 was to have been of 700 pages, consisting of more than 2800 People, with various Biographies and their works. Unfortunately, Volumes 2 and 3 have not yet materialised. However, it was envisaged that the Reuter family would publish his works in his name. We will have to wait and see if this ever materialises.
I for one would not hesitate to purchase Volumes 2 and 3 if they are ever published.

Yet again, another excellent publication is:-
Catalogue Philatélique Mondial Judaica – By Alain Berrebi
(By the French-Israel Philatelic Society)
Published in June 2004, this 295 page A4 spiral bound catalogue, is entirely in French.
Listed alphabetically by country, each listing includes a Name, Category and Theme, as well as Yvert catalogue numbering.
As well as stamp listings, there are listings of Special Handstamps and Postmarks.
Yet again, another excellent publication. – It is just a pity from an Engliman's point of view that it is all in French!

Even though, Judaica catalogues are not readily available in the U.K. – as you can see from the above listing, they do exist!

How Useful Are Catalogue Numbers?
Maybe this may create some debate and correspondence, - and I would be interested in your comments.
With there being so many catalogue numbering systems used. Such as Yvert, Michel, Scott, and the U.K. numbering system of Gibbons. Is it not time to have just one universal stamp numbering system?.
Or dare I say it, do we really need to use catalogue numbers at all.

Whenever, I order stamps via mail order, I have nothing but hassle and problems when using catalogue numbers.
Either the dealer does not recognise the catalogue numbers of a particular publisher, or without knowing it, the catalogue numbers have changed, and I am sent stamps that don’t correspond with the original catalogue numbers.
I personally think that the best is to list fully the stamps that you require with the Country, Year, and a full description.
But amazingly, I have dealers that just cannot be bothered working from a description, and literally turn my business away, as I will not use Gibbons catalogue numbers.
Surely, a description is the best way, rather than a silly catalogue number, that we don’t always know, - especially if a stamp issue has only just been recently issued.
Some dealers, just cannot be bothered, and are turning business away. I usually find that these are the stamp dealers from the U.K. – as the dealers from the U.S.A. usually seem to be obliging.

No wonder the hobby is in the decline in the U.K.

ADDITIONS TO THE MEMBERS LISTS:-
(Interests omitted from previous list)
006:- S.W. Stuart Menzies.
   Email:- stuart@swsm.co.uk
   Interests:- Medicine – all areas
   History of Bible Translations.

NEW MEMBERS:-
007:- Raymond Hart. 41, Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey. KT7 0DJ.
   Tel:- 0208-972-9156
   Email:- hart24g@aol.com
   Interests:- Collects Great Britain, U.S.A., Netherlands, Belgium
   Germany, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, & Slovakia.
   Interested in Judaica Theme.

ANY ADVERTS, ARTICLES, STORIES, OPINIONS AND COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED FOR FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS.
THANKS.
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