“THIS TIME OF YEAR”
Around this time of year it is Easter – and usually coinciding with this is the Jewish festival of Passover.
At Passover, we read the story of the Children of Israel as they left Egypt. This is read from a book called the “Haggadah”.

The Israel Philately Society in Israel, published a couple of years ago, a “Haggadah”. All the illustrations in the book are cleverly depicted with postage stamps from all over the world. It is an excellent publication, which I believe is still available. The only problem with the publication is that as it is all in Hebrew, it is very hard for anyone that does not understand Hebrew fluently, to decipher why some of the stamps are included and illustrated in the book. But nevertheless, as a Judaica collector, it is well worth having a copy of this publication on your bookshelf.
The Israel Philately Society website is www.israelphilately.org.il
If anyone has a copy, and can tell me why certain stamps are included, I would be grateful for their help – I can send a list of the “mystery stamps”. 

MORE ON REMBRANDT
Member Ed Kolodny, has kindly informed me that for more information on Rembrandt and the Jews, - A book was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2003, called “Rembrandt’s Jews” by Steven Nadler. It sounds very interesting. – Has anyone read it, and able to do a book review on it?.

INTERESTING NEW ISSUES
France issued on 18th January 2007 a single 0.54e value stamp commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day. The stamp depicts a yellow Star of David, a white tree and a green background.
On 1st March 2007, Germany issued a stamp commemorating the Munich Jewish Centre. This 0.55e value stamp depicts the façade of the Haupt Synagogue. This German issue, like so many of its issues in recent years, is printed in sheetlets of 10.

I find it quite amazing that these two countries where high anti-semitism is taking place at present, (You only have to read about it, in publications such as the Jewish Chronicle), are still able to issue Judaica related stamps, depicting “Judaica signs”.

BE AWARE!!
Finding dealers that stock just Judaica material, or just have Judaica price lists, or auctions, can be hard to find.
But once found, it can be very exciting going through their particular list or catalogue, for that relevant Judaica item that you have been looking for.

However, a word of warning. I have personally found, that a Judaica only list, or a Judaica only auction, can often be a good disguise for over inflated prices. This was confirmed, yet again last week when I received a very informative Judaica auction list from the U.S.A. – No complaints what-so-ever regarding the content of the auction. BUT I noticed that a 1988 issue from Iran for the Intifada, - a typical anti-Israel set – depicting the Star of David and the Map of Israel, in a strip of four different stamps was in this auction for a starting price of $18. This is crazy, as there are infact Five different stamps in the strip in this complete set not Four – and is currently selling for around $8.
I know that Iranian stamps have increased in value over the past twelve months, due to the lack of availability, with many collectors, and dealers maybe, buying up stocks. But if you look hard enough, Iranian stamps are still available.

It is simply a case of “Buyer Beware” – just because they are in a specific Judaica auction, or list, does not always mean that they are all bargains!.

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