WELCOME TO
THE JUDAICA THEMATIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 25

DECEMBER 2007

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS:-
As from now, my e-mail address has changed to the following:-
garygoodman@talktalk.net
and/or
judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

NEW MEMBERS:-
Welcome to the following new members:-
032:-
Anonymous.
Florida,
U.S.A.
Interests:- Judaica themed stamps.

033:-
Joel Grebin.
Florida,
U.S.A.
Email:- joelgrebin@yahoo.net
Interests:- Postmarks, US event covers, First Day Covers and stamps. – Collector of over 40 years.

We now have 33 members, of which 15 are members of the American Topical Association.

JUDAICA THEMATIC SOCIETY PRODUCES ITS FIRST COVER!
I had this idea, of producing our own exclusive Judaica Society First Day Covers, for certain Judaica related stamp issues.
I thought that the U.S.A. Hanukkah issue would be an ideal issue to produce a cover.
I was fortunate to be able to get one of the leading cachet makers from the U.S.A. to commission and design a cover exclusively for the Judaica Thematic Society.
I had my ideas for artwork and wording, and with the cachet makers expertise, have been able to come up with an attractive design, include Society wording, and produce a limited edition of 20 covers.
Hopefully, by the time of the next newsletter, I will have received these covers from “across the pond”, and be able to give you full details of who designed them etc, their price, and hopefully an illustration of the cover. I am hoping, that if and when the U.S.A. issue other Judaica related stamp issues, that “we”, the society will continue, with cover Number 2 etc.,

The covers will be sold on a strictly first come first served basis. With 33 members and only 20 covers, hopefully all the covers will be sold. From just speaking to a few members in the U.K. I have already got provisional orders, - and that is without knowing the final selling price of them!. If anyone is interested then please let me know. If you order now, you can even order the same limited numbered cover, for any future covers that “we” produce too. (Provided I know now that you want all future covers.)

HANUKKAH 2007 FROM THE U.S.A.
Yet again, the U.S.A. have issued a Hanukkah stamp. The stamp depicts a Dreidel (spinning-top), and is the same design as 2006, (and 2004 too). The only difference this year is of course the postal rate change from 39c to 41c. Also, the year depicted is obviously shown as 2007. Like all Judaica stamp collectors, I always look forward to seeing the U.S. issue a Hanukkah stamp – and personally I find the colourful array of First Day Covers available from all the cachet makers amazing.

However, I am surprised that the U.S have continued with this issue over the years. If you read the stamp polls that are collated by Linn’s Stamp Weekly, or the USPS, this issue is never in the Top 8. – But then again, maybe the wrong people vote. I am sure if they asked us Judaica Collectors for the Top 3 U.S. stamps, I am sure most of us would include the Hanukkah stamp.!

I was very interested to come across recently, printing figures for the Hanukkah stamp over the years:-
1996 – Menorah – 32c – 103.5 million. (Joint-Issue with Israel)
1999 – Menorah – 33c – 33 million.

2004 – Dreidel – 37c – 60 million
2006 – Dreidel- 39c – 40 million
Initially 50 million stamps have been printed for this year's Hanukkah issue. I believe they are being careful with this year's print run, because there is definitely a postal rate increase in early 2008 – and the USPS don't want any stamps returned from the individual post offices, to be destroyed – which is all expense to the USPS.

It would be interesting to know what the approximate/average print run is for the other U.S. 2007 issues in general. – It would probably make interesting figures to compare.

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ISSUES.**
The following countries have all issued Holocaust Remembrance stamps in October:-
- Antigua & Barbuda – 1 sheetlet of 8 x $1.40
- The Gambia – 4 sheetlets each with 8 x D14
- Grenada – 4 sheetlets each with 8 x $1.40
- Palau – 1 sheetlet of 8 x 50c
- St.Vincent & The Grenadines – 1 sheetlet of 8 x $1.40
- Bequia – 1 sheetlet of 8 x $1.40
- Canouan – 1 sheetlet of 8 x $1.40
- Mustique – 1 sheetlet of 8 x $1.40

I will let you decide whether the above are “collectable” or not. However, I would like to see and have copies of all the above in commercially used condition on envelopes!

**ARTICLE IN TOPICAL TIME**
Members of the American Topical Association will have seen an article that I submitted in their magazine Topical Time. (with illustrations).
For the Judaica Thematic Society members that do not belong to the ATA, I have reprinted my article below.
For the publication the editor decided to change my original title to “Judaica Is Worldwide”. Otherwise the article is basically the same.

**ISRAEL IS JUDAICA - BUT JUDAICA IS NOT ISRAEL**

**BY**

**GARY S. GOODMAN**
Collecting Israeli stamps can be interesting, educational and fun. In fact the Jewish religion, history and culture are all recorded in miniature on stamps. Israel constantly brings out issues to commemorate festivals, and they regularly bring out an issue for Hanukah – The Festival of Lights. Their 1996 issue depicted the lighting of the candles, and it was unique for a number of reasons. It was the first self-adhesive stamp to be issued by Israel. Another first, was that it was the first joint issue with the United States Of America. The U.S.A. issued the identical stamp at the same time, the only difference being that the value was in cents and not in shekels. The U.S.A Hanukah was so successful that the stamp has been re-introduced a number of times since. Obviously amended with the rising postage costs over the years. In the latter years, the design has even changed.

The Bible, Holocaust, Synagogues and Jewish Life, have all appeared on Israeli stamps over the years, to name but a few.

It may be no surprise to find these Judaica themes on Israel’s stamps, but to find them on stamps from all over the world is amazing.

Jews and their religion have appeared in some form or another on many stamps from all over the world. It is surprising which countries have issued stamps depicting a synagogue. In 1968 India released a stamp depicting Cochin synagogue, commemorating its 400th Anniversary.

Touro synagogue, the oldest existing synagogue building in the United States, in Newport, Rhode Island, appeared on a U.S.A. stamp in 1982.

Vienna City synagogue appeared on an Austrian stamp in 1976.

France released a stamp in 1988 depicting the synagogue in Paris which is situated on the Rue De La Victoire.

Other synagogues to appear on stamps include the Grand in Brussels, on a Belgian stamp; a Sofia synagogue in Bulgaria to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the settlement of the Jews in Bulgaria; Barbados also issued a stamp depicting Bridgetown
synagogue which dates back to 1654. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1831 and re-dedicated in 1833. Bridgetown synagogue represents the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere and adjoins the Jewish cemetery.

Hungary released a stamp in 1947 depicting Dohany synagogue in Budapest, whilst Tykocin synagogue, which was originally built in 1642 appeared on a stamp from Poland in 1984.

Other countries that have issued stamps depicting synagogues include Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Raoul Wallenberg, the famous humanitarian who saved 100,000 Jews from the Nazis, has appeared on stamps from various countries including the U.S.A. and Argentina. Guyana commemorated Raoul Wallenberg by dedicating a limited edition of 300 sets of their Flowers issue, by overprinting them with “Raoul Wallenberg, hero of the Holocaust”.

There are also some scarce Judaica stamps to be found. One of these is the 1987 “Bible Society” issue from South Africa. A 40 cents value showing the inscription “the word of God” in various languages including Hebrew, was prepared but due to objections by the Jewish religious leaders that the name of God would be dishonoured by being postmarked, and possibly be thrown in the bin, instructions were given for the withdrawal before issue, and all the stamps were recalled. However, isolated examples are known to have been sold to the public and some used examples have also been reported. An unused mint stamp is valued at £550, whilst a used copy would be worth £650. However they are very scarce. Even Stanley Gibbons who list it and value it in their catalogue do not have them readily available.

Another Judaica related rare stamp was issued by Bangladesh in 1993 to commemorate the Palestinian Freedom Fighters, but some of the stamps depict the word “Terrorist” instead of Freedom Fighter in Arabic by mistake. The stamp was withdrawn one hour after going on sale.
The 300th Anniversary of the Danish Jewish Community was commemorated in 1984 when Denmark released a stamp marking this notable landmark. The stamp depicted a very familiar Friday night scene, of a woman lighting the Sabbath candles and the table set for Sabbath, with a cup of wine, and loaves of bread covered with the Challah cloth.

Armenia has issued some very interesting Judaica related stamps. In 1992, they issued a souvenir sheet depicting Mount Ararat, the site where Noah’s Ark came to rest and a rainbow. This issue is quite scarce as the souvenir sheet was very limited and only a small quantity produced. It was tremendously popular with the Armenians. The following year Armenia issued another souvenir sheet depicting a painting of Noah’s descent from Mount Ararat by Hivhannes Aivasovsky. This issue is quite interesting as it actually depicts Noah, and not many stamps seem to commemorate him. In 1995 Armenia issued another souvenir sheet, simply showing Mount Ararat.

Argentina has surprisingly marked a number of notable Jewish landmarks on their stamps. In 1990 they issued stamps commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Jewish immigration and settlement to Argentina, whilst in 1998 they released a stamp for Israel’s 50th Anniversary. This stamp depicts numerous Stars of David. This was shortly followed by another Judaica related stamp, a commemorative mural depicting Hebrew and Spanish words on the stamp. It is very strange to see Hebrew words on an Argentinian stamp.

Australia have also released their share of Judaica related stamps. In 1965, they commemorated an issue depicting General Sir John Monash, a military hero and an ardent Zionist. In 1967 the Australian Christmas issue depicted Stars of David. Their Christmas issue of 1983 was designed by an 11-year-old Jewish student called Justine Jacobi. The 1970 issue also had a Judaica connection. Five stamps depicted “The landing of Captain Cook in Botany Bay”, a painting by Emmanuel Philip Fox, an Australian Jew. In 1988 Australia released a religion stamp of “Living Together”. The stamp depicted a church, mosque and a synagogue with a Star of David.

Marilyn Monroe also appears in the Judaica collection. In fact she has appeared on
many countries stamps including the U.S.A. and Antigua and Barbuda. The connection of course is that she converted to Judaism when she married playwright Arthur Miller.

Many countries have commemorated the Holocaust on their stamps, including Albania in 1999, whilst Canada in 1995 issued a set entitled “50th Anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps”. East Germany too, has issued stamps connected to the Holocaust, with stamps depicting concentration camp victims. In 1963 they also issued a set depicting sportsmen concentration camp victims.

The Holocaust is probably summed up simply by the 1982 San Marino issue entitled “Commemoration of the Holocaust – For Refugees” which shows a young person behind barbed wire.

Other famous Jewish people to appear on stamps include Austrian Otto Bauer, a writer and politician who appeared on an Austrian stamp in 1981 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of his birth. In 1991 Austria issued another stamp showing Jewish born Bruno Kreisky, a Chancellor of Austria.

Eleanor Roosevelt, patron of Israel Youth Aliyah, appeared on an Ethiopian stamp in 1964. Infact she has appeared on stamps from other countries including France and the U.S.A.

In 1982, both France and Vatican City issued stamps depicting St. Theresa of Avila. It is said that she had a Jewish grandmother!.

Space also has its Judaica connections. In 1969 Romania issued a stamp to commemorate the space link-up of Soyuz capsules. The Soyuz 5 was manned by Boris Volynov – a Jew.

Unfortunately tragedies in space have also been commemorated. Hungary in 1986 issued a souvenir sheet titled “In Memoriam” for the space disaster Challenger. Amongst the astronauts killed was a Jewish woman astronaut Judith Resnik.

Yet again in 2003, when the space shuttle Columbia crashed, another souvenir sheet was issued. This time amongst the astronauts lost, was another Jewish astronaut, Ilan
Ramon.

Other countries too, have issued stamps relating to these disasters.

Even unusual sets can appear in a Judaica collection, such as the Disney set of 1989 by Antigua and Barbuda. One of the stamps depicts the Disney character Goofy, who is seen printing stamps on a printing press. But in the corner of the stamp can be seen a copy of the 1959 Israel stamp depicting a printing press.

The Judaica theme can be summed up in one issue, and that is the 1998 issue from Venezuela, which consisted of a souvenir sheet of ten stamps. The stamps depicted all Judaica related themes and symbols, including a Menorah (a seven branched candlestick), Moses and the Ten Commandments, David and his harp, a Rabbi blowing the Shofar (a ram’s horn), David Ben Gurion, the Knesset, and Theodore Herzl.

The above collection is by no means complete. But hopefully it gives you an insight as to what it may entail if you collected such a topic.

The above surely proves that although ISRAEL IS JUDAICA – JUDAICA IS NOT ISRAEL!.

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MEMBER’S ADVERTS:-

WANTED:-
"Judaica In Philately – An Annotated Checklist” By Isaac Borodinsky.
Contact:- Keith Newbitt at email:- judithamy2@aol.com

A member has recommended the following friendly stamp dealer:-
Martin Farber Stamps
Email:- MFarberStamps@aol.com
PO Box 579
Lady Lake
Florida 32158
U.S.A.
He specialises in France and Colonies, Scandinavia, Cuba.
Part of his stock is available on www.zillionsofstamps.com
Dealer search Martin Farber.

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WANTED:-
ARTICLES - JUDAICA INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR FORTHCOMING
NEWLSLETTERS – PLEASE SEND TO:- judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net
(Thanks!)

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