NEW MEMBER:-
093:-
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INTERESTS:- My specialty is synagogues, in stamps, on postcards, in coins/medals, and in cancellations, though I do collect other Judaica themed stamps and postmarks if they strike my fancy.

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DISCUSSION GROUP
At Yahoo Groups Judaica topical philatelists already for 7 years have a discussion group jphilately

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jphilately/

Here several dozens of stamp collectors around the world asking questions, share information about new issues, finding specific material, posting their articles and pictures.
All Judaica stamp collectors are welcome to register and participate.
From:-
Vitaly Charny
Birmingham, AL. USA
vcharny@aol.com

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PLEASE NOTE:- As the compiler of the Newsletter, I feel that I must comment on the above ad, by a member.
I feel that I must warn the members of the Judaica Thematic Society, of the security of these discussion group sites.
As there seems to be no control as to who is a member of these sites, any personal information given in these groups is not recommended.
– as you don’t actually know, who is going to receive your
information given to the group.
(From Gary)
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ADDITIONAL ROMANIA-ISRAEL JOINT ISSUE
INFORMATION
BY CHARLES WILDSTEIN

The Romanian joint issue was sold by the Israeli philatelic services, at a little charge over face. Only sold in complete sheetlets of 10 stamps, with tab on left and right side [the Israeli only on left side] also a mini-sheet of two stamps, different perforation between stamp and tab.
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MONACO JUDAICA RELATED ISSUE
BY CHARLES WILDSTEIN

Monaco issued a stamp, on Friday 4th December 2009 dedicated to the ASCAT philatelic prize awarded this year to William H. Gross (The owner of "House of Zion" confirmed that he was Jewish), Great US philatelist and philanthropist. His name is on the stamp.

Also on this date, they issued a stamp to commemorate the 150 anniversary of Gustav Mahler. Incidentally, Austria will commemorate Mahler in July 2010, with an issue.

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NETHERLANDS JUDAICA RELATED ISSUE
BY CLAUDE WAINSTAIN
Issued on July 14th, 2009
stamp "When you sing you begin with do re mi" on the souvenir sheet of "Music in the Netherlands"
details on https://collectclub.tntpost.nl/pages/content/s1/10220000000068-2-1000000001651.aspx
This song is from "The Sound of Music" Broadway show, music by Rodgers and lyrics by Hammerstein, both Jewish.

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MARSHALL ISLAND JUDAICA RELATED ISSUE
BY CLAUDE WAINSTAIN
Marshall Island July 13, 2009 stamp showing Double Eagle II air balloon

The crew were: Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman. Newman's father explained that for this air trial, his son wore a tee-shirt with the Hebrew words "Mazal Tov". "This is why their flight succeeded", he said. Larry Newman was also the one chosen to sleep in the historical bed in which Charles Lindbergh slept, kept at the Paris US Embassy. "I told you that Jewish luck is the most powerful", he added. I suppose that the "Double Eagle" balloon shown on the stamp is not the Double Eagle I (without Larry Newman), but the Double Eagle II (with Larry Newman) but anyway, the artist who painted the whole set is Howard Koslow, and he seems to be perfectly Jewish.

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Claude Wainstain also informs us that next November 2010 there will be a joint issue between Israel and the Vatican. The exact issue is unknown at present.

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Tonga Marks the Holocaust With Postage Stamp Tribute

By Daniel Keren

One of the more interesting Judaica stamp issues released in 1995 was the recent series from the Kingdom of Tonga that paid tribute on October 20th to both the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Organization and the End of World War II.

Located in-between Hawaii and New Zealand in the isolated vastness of the Pacific Ocean is the sole remaining Polynesian monarchy. And the 110,000 Tongans (most of whom are pure Polynesians) are fiercely proud of their long history of independence.

One might wonder why Tonga chose to honor the U.N. by including a strip of three stamps that recalls the Jewish children who suffered in the Nazi concentration camps and children of Holocaust survivors who are today flourishing in the Jewish state of Israel.

The Jewish Philatelic Connection
The answer can be found in the 15-year-long relationship between the postal officials of the Kingdom of Tonga and its philatelic agent, the British-Jewish stamp dealer Alan W. Benjamin. Since 1980, he has helped Tonga organize its stamp program, regularly visiting the Polynesian nation.

Benjamin was very keen to include the Holocaust as one of the subjects in a series of stamps that would emphasize both on one side, the horrors of World War II, and on the other side, the benefits of a sustained peace made possible by the global activities of the United Nations Organization.

Benjamin assisted Kevin McGee, the stamp designer, by providing him with photographs obtained from the Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library in London. He specifically asked the artist to isolate a group of young children that was part of a larger photograph taken by Soviet forces showing a group of survivors at the Auschwitz concentration camp shortly after its liberation in January of 1945.

The Original Concept Was To Depict the Hora Dance

Originally Benjamin wanted the stamp showing the children of survivors “to show a group of children dancing the hora, a popular Israeli folk dance. But, despite contacting numerous Jewish agencies, no suitable photos could be found and I had difficulty in explaining what I wanted to a non-Jewish artist.”

Therefore, a compromise was established that depicted a group of happy children under a canopy of blue and white balloons. Two of the four boys in the group of happy children of survivors now living in peace in Israel are seen clearly wearing kipot.

Israel and Tonga have for many years enjoyed good diplomatic relations. Although His Majesty King Taufa’ahau Tupou IV has only once visited Israel, his son, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Tupouto’a has become a regular visitor to Israel in both private and official capacities. The Crown Prince serves his father as Tongan Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Crown Princes’ Strong Interest in Jewish Subjects

Benjamin can testify to the Crown Prince’s strong interest in Jewish subjects. Having visited His Royal Highness’s personal library, he noted numerous books on various Jewish topics, including volumes on different tracts of the Talmud.
It was thus with confidence, that Benjamin when proposing to include the Holocaust as part of the Tongan stamp salute honoring the establishment of the United Nations and the End of World War II, knew he could count on the sympathetic support of the Crown Prince in gaining the consent of the Kingdom’s government for the release of the postage stamps.

Benjamin as a Jew has found out that while there are no synagogues in the Kingdom of Tonga to serve any Jews who would care to vacation in the Polynesian nation, the first Jew recorded to have settled in Tonga was a Young Samuel Bloomfield.

Establishing a “Jewish” Dynasty in Tonga

Bloomfield, along with two companions departed from Boston, Massachusetts sometime around the middle of the 19th Century in an effort to seek their fortune. The trio settled in Fiji, but, after a short while Bloomfield decided to go on his own to Tonga and become a trader.

He settled in the Kingdom sometime in the 1860’s and married the daughter of a local chief. He quickly became a trusted member of Tonga’s Royal Court, eventually rising to the post of official interpreter at both the Royal Court and in the Kingdom’s legal courts. When Tonga and the United States signed a Treaty of Friendship in 1888, Samuel Bloomfield served as one of the official signatories.

Although none of Bloomfield’s descendants were Jewish according to Jewish law, they were proud of their ancestry. Approximately 200 Tongans today bear the last name Bloomfield. Many like their Jewish ancestor have taken up government positions. Paul Bloomfield is Tonga’s current Secretary of Education, the kingdom’s top-ranking civil service post in the education ministry.

“My Son the Doctor”

Paul Bloomfield takes a strong interest in Israeli affairs and enjoys reading the Jewish press whenever possible. Among the Jewish traditions important to him has been that of study. He is proud that his daughter is a lawyer and that his son is a doctor.

Although, Bloomfield has never visited Israel, it is one of his goals in life. Benjamin reports that amongst the Tongan community, the Bloomfields and their immediate relations are referred to quite openly as Tongan Jews. A term that is considered a compliment.
(Editor’s Note: The above article was originally published in the “News from the Stamp Den,” a Judaica philatelic column, written by Mr. Daniel Keren in the Algemeiner Journal, a weekly newspaper published in New York. Mr. Keren wrote numerous philatelic articles for the general stamp collecting press, including a Judaica column that appeared for a few years in the Scott Stamp Monthly magazine. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, NY)

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Our grateful thanks to the author Daniel Keren, for allowing us to reproduce his article. – Gary.

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JUDAICA ISSUES BY CHARLES WILDSTEIN
Belgium has issued on 31/08/09 a sheetlet of "postal cars". A Citroen is featured on two of the 5 stamps and in the margin of the sheetlet. Two sets per sheetlet, price 5.9 Euro.

Poland has issued on 28/08/09 a set of four scientists. One of them Ludwik Hirszfeld, born to Jewish parents, but converted to Christianity. Contrary to some other converts his name does not appear on Jewish scientists list.

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JUDAICA HISTORICAL JOURNALS FOR SALE
I have a few duplicate journals for which I’d like to find a good home. I will price them modestly, as I already have a duplicate copy for myself and hope someone else can make use of the few items.

They are as follows:
JHPS (Judaica Historical Philatelic Society) – Philatelic Judaica Journal -
Vol. 2, #’s 1(Mar/65), 4(Nov/65) (x2), 5(Mar/66) (x2), & 6(Jun/66) (x2)
Vol. 3, #’s 2(Dec/66), 5(Oct/67), 6(Dec/67)
Vol. 4, # 1(Mar/68) (x2)
Vol. 6, # 2(Jun/70) (x2)
Vol. 14, #’s 2(Jun/78), 3(Sep/78), 4(Dec/78)
All are Originals – not reprints – very clean and nice condition!
If anyone who is interested they may contact me at vsilver01@gmail.com or 314-283-1365. I will ship to any destination at cost (book mail rate if possible or other as buyer wishes).

Kindest Regards,
Vic Silver
SIP LM #726, APS #140303
Chesterfield, MO 63017
U.S.A.

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NEW ISSUES FROM VITALY CHARNY
Expected Judaica from Hungary in 2010:
HUNGARY Feb 5, 2010 Izidor KNER (1860-1935), publisher 150th Birth Anniversary
HUNGARY Sep 6, 2010 Synagogues in Hungary, part 2 (2 stamps)

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2010 AND THE JUDAICA THEMATIC SOCIETY
Firstly, may I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and all the very best for 2010.
I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed articles and information for the Newsletters throughout the year.
It is you, the members that make the Newsletter interesting and informative, with your articles, and news items.
If every member just sends in one article, we would then have enough articles for a year!.

My ambition for the Society for 2010 is to set up a website.
Of course, this will only be possible, if we get a sponsor for the site, and hopefully someone, with the experience to design the site too, if possible.
If anyone has a business (non-philatelic) that would like to sponsor the website – or knows of anyone that would like to sponsor the site. Then I would very much like to hear from you.

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