MORE ON PALESTINIAN POLICE COVERS

I have obtained two more Palestine Police items.

1 — A specially designed cover stating the “Old Comrades Association” (South Midlands Branch) – with a circular special handstamp dated November 25, 1967.

2 — Another cover, of similar design, but issued a year later, with a November 30, 1968 postmark. The special handstamp is rectangular, depicting the Dome of the Rock. Another interesting addition to this cover, is the signature in the bottom left corner, possibly a G.S. Harding – but who he is, is another mystery to go along with the Palestine Police South Midlands Branch!

According to member John Embrey, no other Special Event Postmarks for the Palestine Police, were issued between 1963 – 1971.

— Gary Goodman.

I have seen other similar cachets as well as a specially printed cover which appeared on ebay recently.

The British set up in the Palestine Police Force which was active from 1917 until 1947 when their Mandate ended. Veterans formed an “old boys” or “Comrades” organization with branches throughout the UK as well as in some Commonwealth countries. From time to time, I would assume on certain anniversaries, commemorative covers and special cachets or date stamps were produced.

— Hilton Israelson

The cover is interesting but I think the answer is far less complicated than you suspect.

Surely it represents a branch of those who had previously served in the Palestine Police force which presumably ceased to exist after May 1948, but which would have been made up of British members who had served during the mandate period. Like an ex-service man’s organisation.

There is nothing suspicious about this. There was and is an organization called the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association and their South Midlands branch is located in Faringdon, Oxon.

I presume that they arranged to have a special postmark 20 years after the end of the mandate, or the 20th anniversary of the birth of the state of Israel, in 1968.

— Raymond Hart

Member Peter Keeda, found an interesting and informative website, regarding the Palestine Police.

http://www.wyevalley.worldonline.co.uk
The Netherlands are issuing a sheetlet of stamps on August 22 to Bond Heemschut. One of the stamps clearly depicts the restored Groningen synagogue. There is a presentation pack, with a different pane layout.

Bond Heemschut is the oldest private organization for protecting heritage in the Netherlands, and in 2011 is celebrating its centenary.

On 5th May, 2011, the United Nations Postal Administration, issued a personalised sheet, for use at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria.

One of the stamps on the sheet depicts a painting titled La Pioggia, Stadt unter dem Regen by Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The sheetlet would prove quite costly, as this is the only Judaica themed item on the sheet.

Gibraltar and Israel are collaborating on a joint issue. Israel's stamp is being issued in July. Gibraltar's has been delayed in production for a month or two as the country seems to be pouring much of its philatelic effort into stamps commemorating the upcoming visit by Prince Williams and his new bride.

Israel has announced that it will be participating in a joint issue with India.


A commemorative cover and special handstamp was sponsored by a member of the synagogue. The cover was never intended for sale, and was only given to its members. Therefore the special handstamp itself, seemed to have a very limited usage.

Although I was not aware of anyone producing commercial covers with this handstamp at the time, they do exist.

I have recently obtained, via a dealer in Europe a 16.5cm x 9.5cm cover with a computer generated colour design on a white envelope. The cover does have a typed address which has been removed for illustration purposes. Very few collectors were aware of this anniversary, or usage of a special handstamp.

80th ANNIVERSARY HOLLAND PARK SYNAGOGUE COVER


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Claire Specht Fejes

Does anyone have evidence that Claire Specht Fejes is of Jewish heritage?

She was a very successful Alaskan painter and sculptor.

She is listed in Borodinsky’s annotated publication on Judaica in Philately. However, she is not included on any other list of Jewish artists that I could find on the web.

Gene Eisen
eisens@nc.rr.com

New Members

#110
Jonathan Becker, USA
jbecker@u.washington.edu

Collecting Interests:
Mostly specifically related to WWII havens from the Holocaust. But now also have a new interest in Jewish POW’s of WWI from both sides.

#111
Lawrence M. Katz.
288 Elm Grove Avenue,
Providence, RI 02906
U.S.A.

Please send in Judaica articles and stories for consideration in future newsletters.

There is limited space for advertising. Interested parties should contact garygoodman@talktalk.net for more information.

— Gary Goodman

Missing Members

The following society members have email addresses that are not current.

042 – John Mogholm – Norway
082 – Avraham Ofek – Netanya
089 – Mark Vainer – U.S.A.

If anyone knows a current email address for John, Avraham or Mark, please let me know –

Thanks – Gary

Further Question About the Portuguese Issue

Thanks for publishing my question about the Portuguese stamp and for the quick and thorough response!

One question remains though — why would Portugal put this on one of their stamps, particularly part of a set that deals with Jewish heritage in Portugal? I’ve now read through other background information online, and can see no link between the Barcelona Hagaddah and Portugal.

The book was produced in Barcelona which is in eastern Spain, nowhere near Portugal and it appears to be in the collection of the British library. There is no reference that I saw to it passing through Portugal or being produced by Portuguese artists.

Ellis Bromberg
brombere@matc.edu

The Barcelona Hagaddah is considered one of the finest examples of Jewish art and as such the Portuguese postal authorities may have decided that since it was created in the Iberian peninsula, it is representative of the kind of Sephardic manuscript work that existed in Portugal whose Jews were expelled in 1496. Only about thirty Hebrew examples of Portuguese origin survive from the period up to 1496, when Jews were expelled or forcibly converted.

There is also a chance that the Barcelona Hagaddah at one time had Portuguese provenance or that part of the manuscript was on loan to a Portuguese museum at the time.

Perhaps one of our members can supply more information to this riddle.

Society Hanukkah Covers

As many members know, the Judaica Thematic Society creates a limited numbered edition of 20 Hanukkah covers allocated to members who have a standing order for them.

Due to the passing of one of our members, there is now one vacant position on the standing order list.

Preference will be given to a member willing to take any back society covers, if and when they become available from the deceased member’s collection. For further details contact judaicathematicsociety@talktalk.net

— Gary Goodman