Can you help?
I am looking for two lists of information, which I wonder if any member can provide, or put me in touch with where I could obtain them from:-

1:- A full list of First Day Covers that were produced and issued by the U.S.A. based B’nai Brith Philatelic Services. I believe they may have started in the mid 1970’s to approximately 2004.
Although I have the above cover from 1966 and was told that this was the first cover that they issued it does not state B’nai Brith Philatelic Service on it !? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

2:- For certain issues from Israel, Israel Post issue that particular stamp issue in a “menu” type folder. The folder is either plastic covered, or it is sometimes covered in a baize/velvet effect. Inside the folder is usually the mint set of stamps, and a Souvenir Leaf, along with the Israel Post information leaflet.
If it is a joint issue, then it will also have the joint issues stamps from that particular country too.
Here are some examples:-
I have a few of these folders, but I am missing many.
I would like to know if there is a list of which issues these folders were issued for and would like to try and attempt to fill my gaps. I don’t see these folders listed in any catalogues though.
Yet again, any information would be greatly appreciated.
Gary
JUDAICA THEMED “ZAZZLE” STAMPS

BY

GARY S. GOODMAN

In the United States, residents are able if they wish, to have their own personalised designed stamps printed by a company called Zazzle.com. Provided the design is not offensive or it is not advertising something, then it is usually acceptable.

Judaica themed stamps seem to be very popular, with stamps designed for Barmitzvahs, Batmitzvahs, and Weddings — to be used on the invitations that are posted out.

Other Judaica themes have been used on the stamps including the festivals of Hanukkah and Passover for example. Even Maimonides has appeared on a Zazzle stamp. When looking at the designs that have already been printed, you’ll find well over 2,000 in the Judaica category.

As a stamp collector from “across the pond”, I have always admired these stamps, but have never been able to locate any with stamp dealers. If anyone knows of stamp dealers that sell these stamps, I would be grateful if you could tell me.

Likewise, I find it almost impossible to obtain any of these Judaica themed stamps in postally used condition too. Are there any members in the society that collect these? Or know of where I can purchase the Judaica themed Zazzle stamps from?

Incidentally, as an overseas collector, I was unable to purchase any of their designs from the Zazzle website — as you have to be a resident in the U.S to purchase them. — But then, I would only be able to purchase complete sheets, if I could.

Surely there must be Judaica collectors like myself, who would be interested in collecting these too?

However, you may be interested to know, that with the help of a resident in the U.S. he was able to order a personalised design that I wished to have printed.

I wanted to see if, the design depicted on the next page, at the bottom of the article would be accepted or not.

As you can see illustrated, it is G-d’s name in full. A similar design using this lettering in full, was withdrawn from South Africa in 1987, when they tried to issue a stamp with this wording.

As you may recall, it was the South Africa famous Bible stamp, which was actually sold in error in a few post offices for a few hours. Via Zazzle, and my U.S. friend, I managed to get 6 sheets printed of each of the 3 values,
back in 2008. The design was amazingly accepted, but I noticed that the design did not then go on their website for general sale.

My next challenge, is to try and post some of these in the mail in the U.S. back to myself in the U.K. Of course, what will be even more interesting is sending some in the mail from the U.S. to an Israel address, and also to an address in Egypt, or Syria!—Or to see if they are “Returned To Sender”!!.

JUDAICA CONNECTION WITH TITANIC ISSUE
REPORTED BY ISSIE BAUM

The Titanic has been commemorated over the years in hundreds of issues from almost every country in the world and I have been hard pressed to find a Judaica related item in this vast array of Titanic issues.

Finally, with the recent issues commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, one item stands out as a bona fide Judaica item.

The Grenadines of St. Vincent - Mayreau Island has issued a souvenir sheet which shows in the single stamp Captain Edward J. Smith, the Captain of the Titanic.

But to the left of the stamp forming part of the background of the souvenir sheet is a reproduction of the New York Herald Tribune newspaper, presumably dated 1 or 2 days after the disaster - the date is not clear. And on the first page are photographs of some famous individuals who went down with the ship. Clearly seen in the bottom row of portraits in the middle is Isidor Strauss, who
together with his wife Ida perished in the disaster.

Isidor Straus (February 6, 1845 – April 15, 1912), a German-American, was co-owner of Macy's Department Store with his brother Nathan. He also served briefly as a member of the US House of Representatives.

Isidor Straus was born in Kaiserslautern in Germany. He was the first of five children of Lazarus Straus and his second wife Sara. His siblings were Hermine, Nathan, Jakob Otto, and Oscar Solomon Straus. In 1854 he and his family immigrated to the United States following his father Lazarus who immigrated two years before. They settled in Talbotton where Lazarus had opened a dry goods store.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War Isidor volunteered to serve for the Confederate States Army but was turned down. The governor explained that "there were not arms enough to equip the men, to accept boys as soldiers was out of the question." Isidor worked in his father's store for about 18 months. Isidor became the secretary to a group whose purpose was to bring cotton to Europe where it could be sold. The proceeds would be used to build blockade running ships. Although Isidor reached Europe, the enterprise never completed its mission. He remained in Europe for the remainder of the war. Isidor returned to the United States with $12,000 in gold he'd earned trading in Confederate bonds.

Following the war, the Straus family moved to New York City where Lazarus and Isidor formed L. Straus & Son, importers of crockery, china and porcelain. In 1874 brother Nathan, who by then had completed his education and joined the family firm, convinced Rowland H. Macy to allow L. Straus & Sons to open a crockery department in the basement of his store. The rest is history.

Traveling back from a winter in Europe, mostly spent at Cap Martin in southern France, Isidor and his wife were passengers on the Titanic when it hit an iceberg. Once it was clear the Titanic was sinking, Ida refused to leave Isidor and would not get into a lifeboat. Although Isidor was offered a seat in a lifeboat too, he refused seating while there were still women and children aboard. Ida insisted her newly hired English maid, Ellen Bird, get into lifeboat #8. She gave Ellen her fur coat stating she would not be needing it. Ida is reported to have said, "I will not be separated from my husband. As we have lived, so will we die, together." Isidor and Ida were last seen on deck arm in arm. Eyewitnesses described the scene as a "most remarkable exhibition of love and devotion."

Both died on April 15th when the ship sank. Isidor Straus' body was recovered by the cable ship Mackay-Bennett and brought to Halifax, Nova Scotia where it was identified before being shipped to New York. He was first buried in the Straus-Kohns Mausoleum at Beth-El Cemetery in Brooklyn. His body was moved to the Straus Mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx in 1928. Isidor and Ida are memorialized on a cenotaph outside the mausoleum, "Many waters cannot quench love - neither can the floods drown it."

The couple are portrayed in the 1953 film Titanic and the 1958 film A Night to Remember, in scenes
that are faithful to the accounts described above. In the 1997 film Titanic, the Strauses are briefly depicted kissing and holding each other in their bed as their stateroom floods with water, along with a deleted scene showing Isidor (played by Lew Palter) attempting to persuade Ida (Elsa Raven) to enter the lifeboat.

The rest is history.

NEW ISSUE FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Member David Cohen Paraira has informed us that, the Dutch postal authorities published a sheet of 10 stamps for inland post, on 24-09-2012, for the reopening of the Amsterdam "Stedelijk Museum".

On the stamps you see a drawing of the renewed building with details of 10 important art issues of the museum, one is from Roy Lichtenstein, "Opened fire". His name is written on the margin of the sheet.

JUDAICA DENMARK ISSUE

Following on from the article in the December 2012 Newsletter, I am pleased to say, that I have now located the Limited Edition First Day Cover that are signed by the designer of the stamp, and signed by the Chief Rabbi of Denmark.— And also of the Maximum postcard signed by the designer.

If anyone is interested in obtaining these items, then please contact me for further details.

Gary — garygoodman@talktalk.net
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Regarding items in the No 84 newsletter dated November 2012, I would just like to mention:-

The expressionist painter Feninger listed by Rabbi Isidoro Aizenberg is not Jewish. He fled Germany because his wife was partly Jewish.

Sarah Bernhardt's origin is certainly not Jewish, but at her time, it was very hype and fashionable to pretend to be Jewish in showbiz circles (theatre, musicals, movie). Charlie Chaplin also did this.

Actually, Sarah Bernhardt (Rosine Bernard) acted as if she was really involved, for instance she gave shows on behalf of the pogroms victims. She was called "The Wandering Jewess" in Brazil, and she said that "I intend that Christians should be better than we are".

Concerning the Henrich Heine stamp shown, with its legend "should he be included in a Judaica collection ?". The funny thing is that this very stamp’s issue was dismissed and millions were destroyed by the German post office, not because of the stamp itself, but because of the sheet margins, on which had been printed runic letters.

As you know, runic alphabet is a primitive Scandinavian alphabet that Nazis and Neo-nazis appreciate very much. Therefore this made a kind of scandal, and the whole issue had to be reprinted without these symbols.

When asked why he made this mistake, the designer said : I didn't want to put a cross on the edge of the sheet, knowing Heine was Jewish, so I put these runic symbols that I just found nice" .

Illustrated below the runic edge border which caused such a big trouble.

Claude Wainstain

A complete sheet of this issue with the runic letters, is available from Gary. Email:- garygoodman@talktalk.net if interested.

Articles and Information always welcomed for forthcoming newsletters