

# PALESTINE

For the Beginner, the General Collector, the Student, and  
the Specialist.

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# PALESTINE.

To the Beginner and the General Collector: Do you want an interesting and an easy country to collect? Look at the catalogues: Palestine is now shown in a manner that makes collecting easy; its once difficult and puzzling overprints are illustrated so as to be recognised and separated with a minimum of trouble, and if you ignore some half-dozen varieties of perforation and overprint, a thoroughly representative collection of either unused or used can be got together for a very few pounds.

To the Student and the Specialist: Do you want a country that will tax your powers of observation and your skill to the very limit, that will give you a field for research that no other country in the world can equal, that offers transfer, plate and overprint varieties by the hundred, corrections and retouches by the score? Palestine and its neighbour Trans-Jordan will satisfy your utmost desires. Do you want rarities? So far as actual numbers that ever existed or are known to exist govern this much abused word, Palestine and Trans-Jordan furnish at least a dozen examples by the side of which Post Office Mauritius, "Penoe" errors and Cape woodblocks and their errors are common. And yet any one of them might be picked out of the ordinary dealer's stock at the price of a few shillings, because the countries are still in their infancy and the general collector and dealer have not deemed them worth attention.

Are you sentimental? Think of the memories of Biblical and Crusading days aroused by seeing such postmarks as Hebron (David's capital), Gaza of the Philistines, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Tiberias, Safed (the traditional "city set on a hill"), and all the other well-known names between

Dan and Beersheba, Acre (until quite recently still called St. Jean d'Acre); an almost endless list of names of places on each side the Jordan, presents itself to the imagination, recalling days of unsophisticated childhood.

I am often asked why I, who have been a philatelic student for nearly fifty years, should confine myself to two such "uninteresting" countries as Palestine and Trans-Jordan, countries which to the enquirer present no philatelic attraction. The few lines you have just read give my answer.

### POSTAL HISTORY.

Before the war Palestine formed part of Turkey in Asia, and its stamps were the ordinary issues of the Turkish Empire. Turkish misrule did not encourage commerce or correspondence, and Ottoman stamps with Palestine cancellations are not easy to find, but may occasionally be picked up in dealers' stock books of Turkey at the ordinary rates and are well worth the hunting. Then, in 1852 and 1854 Austria opened Consular post offices at Jerusalem and Jaffa respectively, but it was not until 1867 that special stamps were issued for the service. Austria's example was followed by other European powers in the succeeding years.

Copies of all "Levant" issues of the European states, including Great Britain, should be purchased wherever possible in used condition when they bear the desired postmarks, and should form part of every specialised collection of Palestine.

During the war soldiers' letters were carried free of payment, parcel post and registration fees were paid by means of British stamps, and the correspondence of our Indian

forces was prepaid by contemporary Indian stamps over-printed I.E.F.

In this respect a warning is offered against buying stamps with cancellations dated 1915 and 1916. Quite recently I was asked a ridiculously high price for a set of I.E.F. stamps postmarked with the usual F.P.O. and number cancellation found on these stamps dated 1915, because " they were used in Palestine," an obvious untruth, because the Auckland Regiment crossed the Egyptian-Palestine border at Rafah (Rafia on modern maps) at 6.15 a.m. on 9th January, 1917, and it is quite certain that no letters were written by allied British troops and posted in Palestine before that date. I myself have half a dozen covers from letters written by Turkish officers commanding units at Hafir (the most advanced Turkish post on the border-line) and Beer-sheba, prepaid with Turkish stamps current at the time all over Turkey, and postmarked 1915 and 1916.

#### THE STAMPS.

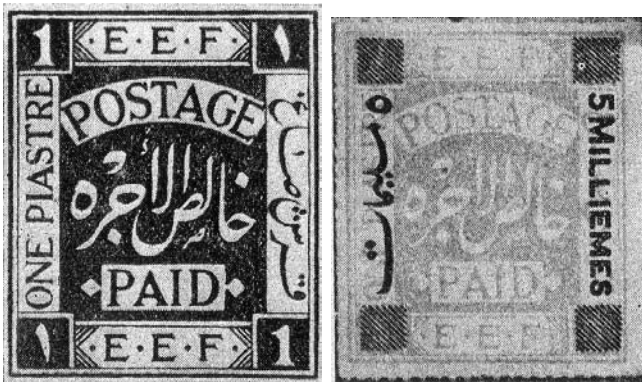


ILLUSTRATION 1

ILLUSTRATION 2

General Sir Edmund (now Lord) Allenby made his state entry into Jerusalem on 11th December, 1917, and at once

the need for a proper organisation of the postal service became apparent.

Post offices there were already in plenty, stamps there were none, and in order to prevent a flood of overprinted and surcharged stamps, " Occupation " and such-like provisionals, both British and French, the Director of Army Postal Services of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Colonel Peter Warren, C.M.G., O.B.E., requested the Egyptian Survey Office to undertake the designing and printing of stamps of the value of 1 piastre. Three sketches of suggested designs were submitted by J. H. Rowntree, of the Survey Office, and the one chosen, the now familiar one shown in illustration 1, was reproduced under that gentleman's direction by photo-lithography. Four ferroprussiate proofs of the final negative were sent to the D.A.D.A.P.S., G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, and approved, one of which survives and is in my own collection. Plate, or in this case, transfer, proofs were pulled in the usual manner, but no impressions were retained by the Survey Office. One complete sheet, printed in milky blue on thick white smooth paper, almost cardboard, does, however, exist. It is without watermark and imperforate, Control A 18.

The first printing was in indigo and consisted of 200 sheets (24,000 stamps), each sheet containing twelve horizontal rows of ten stamps. The paper was watermarked with the Royal Cypher in column and was supplied direct from Somerset House, London. It was without gum and the stamps were supplied in that condition. They were not at first sold over the post office counters, but were affixed by the clerks to such letters as were handed in, a very nasty brown gum being used. The stamps were rouletted 20 by the machine which had been then recently used for the first

issues of Hejaz which had been produced at the same Survey Office. The stamps were first put on sale at Jerusalem and Jaffa on 10th February, 1914. Subsequent printings followed immediately, the colour being less intense, now known as " deep blue " and " blue," easily distinguishable from the indigo, and the total number bearing the Control A 18 was 1,948 sheets (233,760 stamps). Three transfers were used for their printing. One piastre was the overseas letter rate, and the stamps were intended as much for the use of the civil population as that of the military, and it was soon found that there was also a need for a local as well as an overseas stamp. Consequently the 1p. was surcharged 5 milliemes (Illustration 2). Sheets were printed in cobalt blue and overprinted with the Arabic and English indication of that sum at the left and right sides respectively, reading downwards in both languages so that the bottoms of the characters opposed each other, the correct way to print Arabic (and Hebrew) and English, when printed vertically, as Arabic is written from right to left, just the reverse of English.

The four corners were obliterated by sixteen lines in each, all running downwards from left to right. The total number printed was 419 sheets, 50,280 stamps. The watermark was as before, and the stamps were without gum and rouletted 20. They were issued for use on 16th February, 1918. Further supplies were printed in ultramarine (shades) on the same watermarked paper supplied from Somerset House already gummed. The Controls C 18 B and D 18 C, and the dates of issue and numbers were:—

C 18 B : 5 March 1918, 463 sheets, 55,560 stamps.

D 18 C, 13 May 1818, 451 sheets, 54,120 stamps.

Four transfers were used for printing the stamps and eight for the surcharge, these latter, like the stamps themselves, being done by photo-lithography.

Sheets with Control B 18 A show the error MILLILMES on the tenth stamp in the first horizontal row; later sheets from one transfer have the defective Arabic on No. 11 in the first horizontal row, and also the open 5 on No. 97. There are also some other varieties to be found in the different transfers.

The supply of the 1p. stamps did not last more than ten weeks, and further quantities were printed in ultramarine (shades) during March, April and May, of the same year. All had the Control C 18 and the total number printed was 338,880 stamps. Four transfers were used, as mentioned above, and it was, in fact, on sheets of the 1p. already printed that the surcharges were made, the 5th March being the date of first issue.

A study of the different transfers is a most interesting one, and numerous flaws and varieties may be found, most of them constant all through the several printings, while some few retouches may be discovered. Two stamps were obviously not sufficient for the postal needs of the population of such a country as Palestine, and Somerset House, London, was at once asked to provide a series of eleven values from 1 millieme to 20 piastres (in English currency approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 4/-). The work was commenced at once, and on the 16th July, 1918, five of the ordered values, 1, 2, 4 milliemes and 2 and 5 piastres, were put on sale.

The design is similar for all values and is a very close copy of the original 1 piastre produced in Egypt (Illustration 3). Although the designer of that stamp was so modest that in



his own words “ the design was purposely made as simple as possible, with a view to preventing it being used, for the final issue,” the home authorities evidently deemed it good enough, not “ for the final issue,” but for imitation. Mr. Rowntree is evidently no stamp collector, or he would have known that “ permanent ” and “ final ” issues are generally superseded as soon as the issuing country finds sales decreasing substantially. The size is the same for all values, viz., 19×23 m.m.



ILLUSTRATION 3

At intervals to December 27th, other values appeared, the whole series being completed on that date. The size of these six values is uniform, but slightly smaller than the one of the first five, namely  $18 \times 21\frac{1}{2}$  m.m. All values are on paper watermarked Royal Cypher in column, and are perforated  $15 \times 14$ . The Arabic inscription of value reads downwards on all values except the 1, 9, and 20 piastres, these three having it upwards, which is in fact correct, and follows the original.

All the foregoing stamps were issued under the Military Administration and were available for use not only in Palestine, but also in large parts of Syria, in the country across the Jordan, and in some parts of Egypt. With Egyptian postmarks they are not uncommon, but copies with small out-of-the-way Syrian town postmarks or those of Trans-Jordan towns, are difficult to find and some of them are of very great rarity.

ILLUSTRATIONS 4 and 5. TYPICAL EXAMPLES.



SETTING 1.

SETTING 2.

CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

Great Britain received a Mandate for Palestine under the Peace Treaty and the first High Commissioner (Sir Herbert Samuel) took up the reins of office on 1st July, 1920, and on the 1st September, 1920, the stamps of the last issue, with some new printings, were put on sale with the name of the country, Palestine, overprinted in Arabic, English and Hebrew, in black on all values except the 1 piastre, on which value it was in silver. (Illustrations 9 and 5).

There were two distinct settings of the overprint. Setting 1 was type-set in two horizontal lines of 12 units each, and from each of these lines casts were made and 20 of these casts arranged vertically, with a gutter gap after the first 10, to cover the complete sheet of 240 stamps at one printing. Although the plate contained 10 of each line, they were not arranged 1, 2, 1, 2, and so on, but seemed to have been put together indiscriminately by the printers, the Orthodox Greek Convent at Jerusalem, who probably thought, either that all the units were alike, or, that the arrangement was immaterial. As a matter of fact the upper pane contained six of the first line and four of the second, and the lower pane the reverse.



PAIR OF 2p. THE RIGHT HAND STAMP  
SHOWING THE TRANSPOSED HEBREW.  
ILLUSTRATION 5a.

This setting was done very badly, the first stamp in it having an Arabic Z instead of a T, and the 23rd having the three characters in the second group of Hebrew transposed, that is the “dashes” were the last in the row (i.e. on the left) instead of between the two other characters. (Illustration 5a). These errors were discovered within a very short

time of the stamps being put on sale, perhaps within a few minutes, and the first, eleventh, and twelfth vertical rows of the sheets were torn off for destruction. There was no need to tear off the twelfth vertical row because of any errors in it, or at any rate because it contained any errors or faults greater than any of the other nine rows, but it had to accompany the eleventh row. It was, however, sold when stocks were getting low, and it is possible even to-day, to pick up complete strips of ten and even twenty of certain values. Copies of both the errors are known, both unused and used, but are really scarce, not more than about 25 examples of all values, 2, 5, 9, 10, and 20P., having so far turned up, and not a single copy of either error on any value below the 2P. has so far been found. No. 133 in each sheet had a "B" instead of the second E in Palestine, but as this error was in one of the destroyed rows, and moreover occurred only once in the sheet instead of 10 times as did each of the others, the owner of r copy on any value may consider that he (or she) is in possession of one of the rarest errors in the whole of the stamp world. Up to date I have seen two copies on the 2P. and one on the 9P., only, all told. It must not be confused with the same error found on the 2nd Setting, which far as the " B " itself is concerned is similar, but in every other respect differs materially, and on some values is quite common.

Setting 2, which followed Setting 1 within a few days, was also type-set. Casts were again taken from one horizontal row of twelve units, this quantity of type evidently being all the printers possessed, which even they considered fit to use, and twenty of them arranged to make up a plate. The twenty were not locked together permanently, and during about ten days work the operators managed to re-arrange the rows in three different ways, certain varieties, the " B "

error, etc., serving as “ Key ” stamps and giving an easy method of defining the “arrangements.” Then the first arrangement, “ A,” was taken the, the “ B ” and some other prominent varieties removed, and a fresh printing of some values made, this being known as “A corrected,” in which, by some unexplained means the “ Z ” error of Setting 1 took the place of the “ B ” error. Then in evident desperation the printers made a last try, took what they considered the best rows and added some entirely new ones making altogether five different settings of Setting 2. This sounds a bit complicated, but a little study will make it clear. All values were overprinted from one or other of the arrangements of Setting 2, all perf. 15×14, and the 2, 3 and 5M., perf. 14.



ILLUSTRATIONS 8 and 6

The best efforts of the printers were not considered good enough, and they were instructed to make a fresh overprint altogether, and on 22nd September, 1920, the first values appeared with what is now known as the 10m.m. overprint, that, being the measurement of the Arabic word, the old one being only 8m.m. long. (Illustration 6). All the

characters were, in reality, somewhat larger than those of the first overprint, but the type was almost as bad. The whole plate was built up from printers' type, in two panes of 120 units each, from which casts were taken, the spacing of the characters and the vertical alignment of the three lines varying throughout each pane and as the two halves of the plate were not permanently fastened together, we get sheets with plate A over plate B, the more usual way, although the proof sheet shows the reverse, and plate B over plate A. The " B " error does not exist on any sheet of this issue.

All values from 1M. to 5P. were overprinted, all values were perf. 15 × 14, and the 1, 2, 4, 5M., both light and deep orange, and the 1P. and 5P., perf. 14.



ILLUSTRATION 7.

Again the appearance did not please the authorities, and a further attempt was made, a trial overprint on three values only, 1M., perf. 14, 3M., perf 15 × 14, and 5M. deep orange, perf. 14, coming out on 6th December, 1920 (Illustration 7), and being withdrawn after a few months use.

This time the overprint was set up in a horizontal strip of six, from which casts were made and a plate built up, so that each of the six types appears 40 times in a complete sheet, No. 2 in each six having the Hebrew dashes inverted, that is points upwards instead of downwards, No. 111 in the sheet has a "B" instead of the second "E" in Palestine. There are many other really interesting varieties of the overprint throughout the sheet.

In the Spring of 1921, the printers obtained some new type, and from this and the best of the old, they re-set the whole inscription, the two groups of Hebrew being uniformly spaced all through the sheet, and the characters generally being sharp and of good appearance. (Illustration 8). All values were overprinted, all perf. 15 × 11. and the 1M. and 20P., perf. 14, the two latter items, in unused condition particularly, equalling in rarity some of the world's most prized stamps. Fortunately rarity does not always govern price, fashion and advertisement have more to do with market value than merit.



ILLUSTRATION 9.

Still the post office heads were not satisfied and Somerset House was asked to take the matter in hand. As before, everything had to be done in a hurry, the printers did their best and the first values, the stamps themselves a new printing, but from the original plates, with the English word in sans-serif type (Illustration 9), were put on sale in October, 1921, making ten different overprints in about a year's time, the last having nearly as many defective characters as the first. This time the overprint was set up in a block of twelve, in two horizontal rows of six, which was repeated throughout the sheets, and each twelve having that number of more or less easily distinguishable types.

PLATE A.

PLATE B.



ILLUSTRATIONS 10 and 11

All values, perf.  $15 \times 14$  were overprinted, but by this time the printing plates had become so badly worn that Somerset House informed the Jerusalem Post Office that no further supplies could be printed from them and so Messrs. Waterlow & Sons were asked to prepare fresh plates



of similar designs. They did so, and in October/November, 1922, a set of 15 values appeared on Script watermark paper, all perf. 14, and the four high values also perf.  $15 \times 14$ . (Illustrations 10 and 11). This issue lasted for about five years. There was more than one printing, and shades of colour may be found of most values. Two overprint plates were used, and each contains many varieties. One sheet each of the 1M. and the 2P. received the overprint inverted, and one sheet of the 1M. double.

In 1927 a pictorial issue came out, the design being by J. Benor Kalter of the Zionist Commission. The stamps were printed by Messrs. Harrison & Sons on Script watermark paper, the values 2M. to 20M. were perf.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ , and the 50M. to 200M. perf. 14. The designs are not well done and some of the descriptions would apply equally well to other scenes as to the ones designated. Almost any book on the country gives better pictures than the ones on the stamps. The first printings were on thin paper with white transparent gum, later ones on thick paper with brown streaky gum, giving the appearance of ribbed paper; later ones again reverted to thin paper and white gum. One additional value, 15M. was added in 1932, and the colours of four values were changed. A few plate varieties may be found, but they are not obtrusive, and the latest impression show that the plates are very badly worn. There is one curiosity, and one I have not seen anywhere else. The first sheets of the new 15M. had the plate number (1) reversed at all four corners, but later ones have it corrected.

## POSTAGE DUES.

The first issue of Postage Due stamps (1 April, 1923) was typographed at Jerusalem. The paper was without watermark, and the stamps were perf. 11 by a line machine.

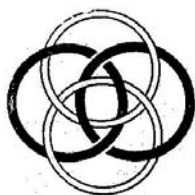
The design for each value (1, 2, 4, 8 and 15 Milliemes) was hand-drawn in a horizontal strip of five, from which casts were made for a plate (or plates) of 100 impressions, and there are, therefore, five types of each value. The sheets contained 200 stamps in two horizontal panes of 100 each. The plates themselves were nailed to the blocks in a very careless manner and some curious varieties of circles and crescents, caused by the jumping of the nail-heads, may be found.

It may also be noted that the lowest value has the English word in the plural, whilst the Arabic on all values is the same, " Mlimat ", which is correct only on the 4, 8, and 13M.

In December, 1924; a set of six values, five as before and a 5 piastres added, came into use. They were printed by Messrs. De La Rue; by the Step-and-repeat process, on Script watermark paper and perf. 14. The English reads correctly, but the Hebrew and Arabic at the sides both read downwards, which is not correct, as the tops of the Arabic face the bottom of the Hebrew. Some very nice plate varieties may be discovered.

In February, 1928, a set of eight values, all in Mils., and of similar design to the previous one, and printed in a similar fashion, on the same paper and with the same watermark, superceded them, and this time all the inscriptions are correct, so that there are rather more differences between the two issues than is apparent at a first glance.

Although the “ Due ” stamps were, from the first day of issue, used for their proper purpose, i.e., the payment of postage on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters, they were, also from the first day, used for the Cash on delivery payment, and some very large blocks of all values so used may be acquired. I have even seen a full unbroken pane of 100 stamps of the 5 piastres cancelled “ Jaffa Parcel Post ”!



# PALESTINE AND TRANS - JORDAN ONLY.

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I hold the finest stock in the whole world, from the commonest to the rarest, and can submit on approval

## COLLECTIONS

fully written-up and illustrated, containing unused and used copies, blocks, panes, complete and re-constructed sheets, with complete settings of the overprints, in value from a few pounds to several hundred pounds, and at attractive prices.

Want Lists ARE desired and receive full attention, they are not considered a nuisance.

I am always open to buy nice pieces, complete sheets or large blocks of the first 1P., and 5M. on 1P., or of the overprinted issues and the high values of the first issue of Trans-Jordan, and I particularly want the Levant issues of all European countries used in Palestine, either on or off cover.

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## MAJOR J. J. DARLOW

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