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THE BALE LISTING OF THE LONDON II (WATERLOW) PLATE BLOCKS

Drs. A. Kaplanian and Jacques Kaufmann, Netherlands

The Bale Palestine catalogue lists all the corner and control plate blocks of the Mandate issues. In the latest 1996 edition, the listing is found on pages 111 through 117. The typographed issue through the London I Somerset printing do not exist with plate control numbers. Therefore, their listing is for the four corner blocks of the complete sheet.

millieme through 2 piastre. The 5, 9, 10 and 20 piastre values show a different pattern, for the sheets of these values were cut in half first before the overprinting was applied. That is why these sheets have a blank intersecting gutter, while the lower values have a gutter with four horizontal lines in the stamps' color. Also the plate numbers are above

to the exact description and is confusing to the collector of these plate blocks.

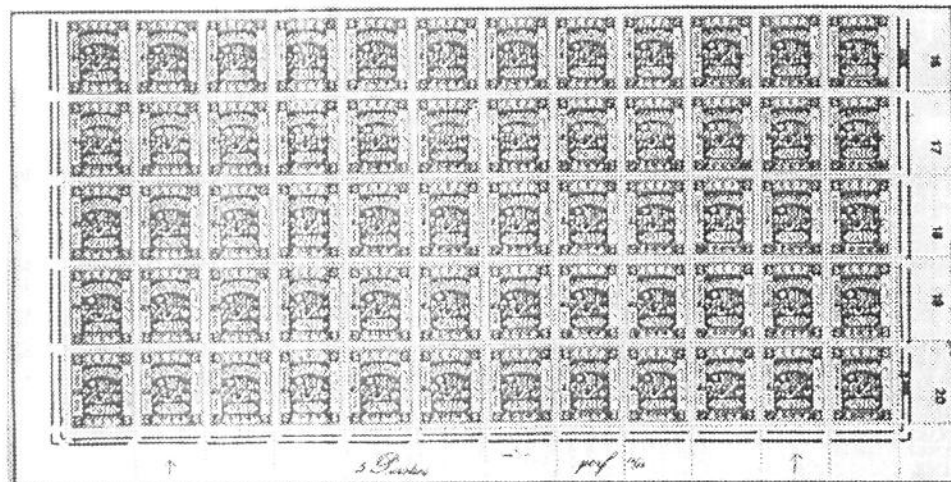


Figure 1. The last five rows (16-20) of the lower half sheet showing the absence of the plate block number under stamps in position 230 and 239.

When we come to the London II sheets, we see that these carry the plate number "1" in a small square in the color of the printed stamp. This plate block number appears above stamps number 2 and 11 and under stamps number 230 and 239 in the sheet of 210 stamps. But this is true only for the values of 1

stamps number 2 and 11 and below number 110 and 119 in the upper (half) sheet, and above number 122 and 131 in the lower (half) sheet. No plate numbers are found under the last row of the lower sheet (Figure 1).

Furthermore, because the full sheet was cut in half before adding the overprint, we usually find the plate number under stamps 110 and 119 and above 122 and 131 cut in half (Figure 2). David Dorfman in his book "The Postage Stamps of Palestine, 1918-1948" on page 61 gives a clear illustration of the eight corner blocks of the upper and lower (half) sheets of the 9 piastres stamp.

Unfortunately, when we look at the Bale catalogue, we see that the listing of these blocks does not correspond with the reality of this information, for it follows the four classifications of "upper left and right" and "lower left and right" for all the plate blocks including these four higher values without making any distinction between them and the lower values. This of course does not do justice

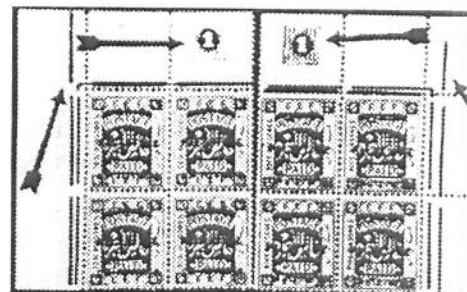


Figure 3.

The reader might wonder how to differentiate between the two upper plate blocks, i.e. above stamps 2 and 11 and those of the lower plate blocks of the sheet, i.e. above stamps 122 and 131. The answer is simple. First, the upper blocks have the plate number "1" in full while those of the lower sheet are usually cut in half. But this is not always the case as some of the 5 and 10 piastres values are found complete and uncut in half (see Figure 3). And secondly, the block line surrounding the sheet parallel to the Jubilee line in the stamps' color will be seen cornering the left and right sides of the blocks

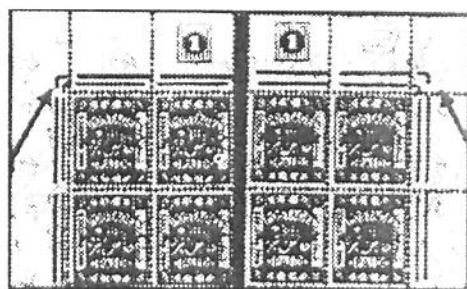


Figure 4.

in the upper sheet (thus stamps 1 and 2 plus 11 and 12 (see Figure 4), while this line will go in a vertical straight line in the lower sheet (thus stamps 121 and 122 plus 131 and 132) (see Figure 3).

What we would like Mr. Bale to do when it comes to listing the plate blocks of the London II issue is the following:

1) Keep the listing of the 1m through the 2p stamps unchanged as

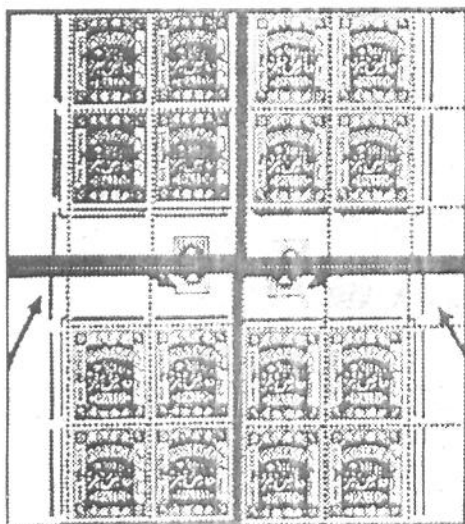


Figure 2.

Perf. 14

No.	Upper (half) sheet				Lower (half) sheet	
	upper left	upper right	lower left	lower right	upper left	upper right
82 5p. purple	80	75	80	75	75	75
82a 9p. bistre	---	---	---	---	---	---
83 10p. turq.	330	300	300	300	300	300
84 20p. bright violet	1500	1450	1400	1400	1400	1400

Perf. 15x14

No.	Upper (half) sheet				Lower (half) sheet	
	upper left	upper right	lower left	lower right	upper left	upper right
86 5p. purple	260	285	260	260	250	250
87 9p. bistre	300	310	300	310	300	300
88 10p. turq.	190	200	190	190	190	200
89 20p. bright violet	500	550	500	500	500	500

listed on page 114 of his catalogue. This listing will be for the stamps with Bale chronological numbers 71 thru 81b.

stamps, i.e. Bale numbers 82 through 84 (perf. 14) and Bale numbers 86 through 89 (perf. 15 x 14) listed above.

2) To list the four higher value

SAFAD LOCAL UPDATE

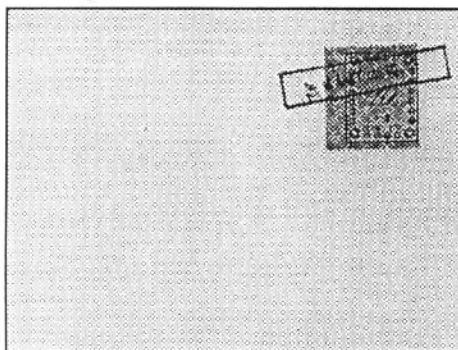
Robert J. Cohen
New York

In 1995 an excellent reference book on the Safad Local Stamp of May 4 through 15, 1948 by A. Ben David came on the market. This monograph sheds light on this scarce stamp. I especially liked the historic background that led up to the issuance of the Safad stamp. Also the characteristics for plating the setting and position in the sheets was very valuable, as were the characteristics of the forgeries currently on the market.

I became interested in the Safad stamp because of its unique status. It truly should be listed as Israel #1, since it was ordered printed by the Hagana, the military organ of the soon to be State of Israel. The other local issues for Jerusalem, Rishon Le Zion and Nahariya, were authorized by the local municipalities to supplement local services.

Mr. Ben David made comment on pages 88 and 111 suggesting that

only the first setting was available on May 4, 1948 and the second setting was introduced on May 6, 1948. This is an error. Both the first and second settings were available in Safad on May 4. Also white glue along with brown glue was available on May 4.



I illustrate one of two May 4, 1948 Safad first day covers, I know of. I'm sure more exist. I conferred with two of the most informed Israeli philatelists, George Muentz and Yacov Tsachor about the possibility of setting two, first day covers. Both said without reservation that the second setting stamps were available on May 4, and second setting first day covers were genuine. The illustrated May 4, first day cover bears a second setting, Type six stamp from position

five. The cover originated from the collection of Dov Geiger, commissioner for postal services in the town of Safad during the siege.

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