

Synopsis for "Ottoman Mail Service for Inhabitants of Jewish Agricultural Settlements in the Holy Land: 1882-1918"  
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The history of the Jewish agricultural settlements in the Holy Land is of great interest to many diverse groups. The topic is important to people who live in the Holy Land. Jews around the world who read about or study this area are interested in learning about their roots and about the hardships and successes of their ancestors who lived in the Holy Land. Settlers in the agricultural communities used mail to create and maintain important social and commercial lifelines and commercial relationships with relatives, friends, business associates and customers.

Postal history enthusiasts view the study of the mail service from these Jewish settlements as one of the most significant areas of Holy Land philately during the so-called Forerunner period that roughly ended at the end of World War I. Details of the relevant rates, routes, scarce markings and the operation of the limited Ottoman mail service have interested collectors of Forerunner Holy Land postal history, including those who collect Ottoman postal history. All eagerly try to find mail sent from these scarcely populated villages to destinations within and outside the Holy Land.

This article accurately tells the interesting story of the Ottoman mail service from the Jewish agricultural settlements established between 1882 and 1918. Unlike other limited articles about this topic, this piece tells the story of the Ottoman mail service from the agricultural Jewish settlements in greater detail and without description of mail service through the postal systems of other foreign powers in the Holy Land (Austria, Germany). The article shows examples of material from five principal agricultural settlements which had a dedicated Ottoman post office and how other agricultural settlements used the Ottoman post offices in other cities to send mail.

The Ottoman mail service for five principal settlements was chosen as the principal focus for the article because of the rarity of the postal history and the complexity of the topic. An article on the mail service from each of the Jewish settlements sent through the postal systems of other foreign powers in the Holy Land is properly the subject of separate articles. For example, I wrote articles about the mail service from each of the Austrian, Ottoman and German post offices located in only the Jewish settlement of Rishon le Zion.

This article clearly states and achieves its objectives. It has been organized so that it can be easily followed with the benefit of many titles and subtitles to show the progression of the

story. The article contains endnotes with detailed references and a bibliography within such endnotes. They illustrate the article's completeness. My own research, discoveries and analysis are found throughout both the text and the endnotes. In order to prepare this article, I required knowledge of various languages and historical and philatelic research skills to properly identify and best describe the rare material shown.

Finally, the article shows clear and colourful illustrations of gems of Holy Land philately, with all descriptive material comprehensively researched. The narrative and descriptions use an appropriate print size and font so as not to distract the reader from material being shown.

I hope that you find this interesting article easy to follow and of interest. Thank you.