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From the President
Our Society's 2014 annual meeting will be held at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in Oaks, Pa. on Saturday, April 5 in the afternoon. A time and room has not yet been assigned, however, this information will eventually be listed on the show website: www.pnse.org. The show runs April 4 – 6 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, which is about 20 miles NW of downtown Philadelphia, not far from King of Prussia. As always, we need member exhibits so please try to participate. An application can be downloaded from the show website.

Bob Stuchell
The Obligatory Semi-Postal Stamps of Lebanon, 1945-49
Bernd-Dieter Buscke < Bernd-Dieter.Buscke@gmx.de >

**THE OBLIGATORY POSTAGE STAMPS FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY**
These semi-postal stamps for the Lebanese Army were issued first in April of 1945. For this purpose, 30 centime droit fiscal stamps of the Cedar tree design were overprinted. The upper part of the overprint, in violet or blue ink, bore the phrase “Army Stamp” (طابق الجهد); in the middle, an image of the President’s summer residence at Beit al-Din, and at the bottom a surcharge of 5 piastres, all in Arabic (RA1). The use of these stamps ended in March of 1947.

The use of these 5 piastre Army semi-postals was required on all letters, domestic and foreign, including post cards. At first they were cancelled with block cancels (Fig. 1) or sometimes an informal cancel (Fig. 2), while the regular postage stamps were cancelled with the usual town CDS. After August of 1945, these semi-postals were also cancelled with the regular town CDS. Up to 85% of these stamps were placed on the backside of the envelope, but one occasionally finds letters with the semi-postal on the front.

Uncatalogued semi-postal use: 5p on 1.20 p violet and 5p on 3p rose carmine.
One example not listed in any catalog is a deep-violet droit fiscal stamp of 1,20 piaster value, bearing the Beit al-Din overprint, the 5 piaster surcharge expressed with Latin and Arabic five (٥، o), but lacking the word piasters (٥، و٥٣) at the bottom, and without the “Army Stamp” inscription at the top (fig 3).

Their use is seen on what appear to be domestic charity and donation request letters, but also letters to India and the USA, during June and July of 1945.

THE OBLIGATORY POSTAGE STAMPS FOR PALESTINE RELIEF

The 1948 United Nations resolution to divide the population of Palestine into Jewish and Arab sectors, led to the establishment of the State of Israel on 15 May 1948. Hostilities between Israel and the Arab states immediately ensued, ending finally with an armistice in March 1949. Large numbers of Muslim and Christian Palestinians became refugees, seeking shelter in the neighboring Arab countries, especially Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. The refugees were settled in refugee camps, most still crowded with refugees even today after three generations. The Arab governments needed to raise funds to pay the expenses for running these camps, to provide food and clothing, drinking water, and schools. This was an enormous undertaking, and issuing obligatory postage stamps was one of several methods used.

Prior experience with the Army semi-postals was duplicated for the Palestine Relief issue. The surcharge was 5 piastres and the stamps were required for use on all letters, domestic and foreign, and for post cards. As with the Army stamps, 85% of the Palestine Relief stamps are found on the backside of envelopes (as the regulations required), though some were applied on the front alongside the regular postage stamps.

In May 1948, the first stamps overprinted were the Army Stamps which were still in use, but now would be superceded by the Palestine Relief series. RA2 is an Army Stamp semi-postal which was transformed into one for Palestine Relief: the Army Stamp phrase was annulled by a double black line, and the phrase “Palestine Stamp” (طابع فلسطين) added above.
Fig. 4. June 1948 cover to Vienna, Austria, where the brown censor tape was applied. The semi-postal stamp RA2 is applied incorrectly on the front. (courtesy of Gary Theodore)

By August of 1948, five other values of droit fiscal stamps were overprinted with an altered phrase, “Palestine Tax” (ضرعية فلسطين): 25c dark blue (overprinted in red), 30c brick red (overprinted in blue), 60c ultramarine (overprinted in brown), 3 pia. rose (overprinted in blue), and 15pia. blue (overprinted in red-brown). The rest of the overprint design remained unchanged. Beit al-Din residence, 5 piaster surcharge in Arabic (RA3-7). The initial practice of canceling the semi-postals with pen or block cancels was changed in February 1949 to using the normal town cancels (compare Fig. 5 to Fig. 6).

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

At the end of 1949, another stamp was put into service (RA8) when the Palestine Tax design was overprinted in black on a 10 pia. red droit notarial stamp, but which had already been overprinted with the phrase “Judicial Stamp” (طابع قضائي). Sometimes “Palestine Tax” (ضرعية فلسطين) is printed directly over “Judicial Stamp” or the earlier phrase survives beneath the new one (Figure 7a & b).
The 3 piastres droit fiscal stamp was put to use again in November of 1948, this time with the same "Palestine Tax" over-print but in straight, not cursive script, and sur-charged five piastres, in Arabic numerals (RA9). Two color varieties are found, deep red and rose carmine. The overprints are in two colors, the Palestine Relief title in black, and the new 5 piastre value and Beit al-Din palace in violet.

A postcard from Beirut to Switzerland bearing this stamp is illustrated in Figure 8.

This same underlying droit fiscal stamp without the "Palestine Aid" inscription was also used to pay the obligatory tax. The postage for a letter (Fig. 9) to Angers, France, was actually paid by this revenue stamp which, for some reason, was accepted for use as a regular postage stamp. The 5 piastre fiscal stamp does not pay the Palestine Aid tax, but the

regular postage rate; altogether a very unusual cover.

Figure 9
In fact, off cover (see the color illustrations on the first page of this article), this is a fiscal stamp, not a Palestine Relief tax stamp. Only its appearance on a letter indicates its use as a Palestine Relief tax stamp.*

Figure 10
The last semi-postal for Palestine Relief was issued in May 1949. The same underlying deep red 3 pia. droit
fiscal stamp was used again, already overprinted in violet with the Beit al-Din residence, and with the 5 pia. surcharge in Western and Arabic numerals (as in Fig. 3) and without an additional piastre (قروش), the "piastres" of the underlying stamp being visible (Fig. 10). The "Palestine Tax" (فلسطين ضريبية) inscription was applied in black. This late version is seldom seen.

The requirement for the general use of these semi-postals ended on 31 December 1949.

The author has acquired and seen a great number of covers bearing the Lebanon Army and Palestine Relief stamps, and presents here a reasonable time frame during which each stamp is found on cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Michel (2013 ed)</th>
<th>Scott</th>
<th>Gibbons</th>
<th>Earliest Use</th>
<th>Latest Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5p on 30c red-brn Army</td>
<td>Z1</td>
<td>RA1</td>
<td>T289</td>
<td>11 iv 1945</td>
<td>19 iii 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 1.20 p violet * no inscription</td>
<td>Z1a</td>
<td>not listed</td>
<td>not listed</td>
<td>7 vi 1945</td>
<td>July 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 30c red-brn</td>
<td>Z2</td>
<td>RA2</td>
<td>not listed</td>
<td>14 vii 1948</td>
<td>1 x 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 25c drk blue</td>
<td>Z3</td>
<td>RA4</td>
<td>T338</td>
<td>16 xii 1948</td>
<td>20 iv 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 30c red-brn</td>
<td>Z4</td>
<td>RA5</td>
<td>T339</td>
<td>5 iv 1949</td>
<td>21 vi 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 60c ultra</td>
<td>Z5</td>
<td>RA6</td>
<td>T340</td>
<td>16 v 1949</td>
<td>14 vii 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 3p rose</td>
<td>Z6</td>
<td>RA7</td>
<td>T341</td>
<td>23 x 1949</td>
<td>21 vi 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 15p blue</td>
<td>Z7</td>
<td>RA3</td>
<td>T342</td>
<td>18 vii 1949</td>
<td>6 xii 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 10p red</td>
<td>Z8</td>
<td>RA8</td>
<td>T343</td>
<td>28 x 1949</td>
<td>30 xii 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 3p deep red</td>
<td>Z9a</td>
<td>not listed</td>
<td>T344</td>
<td>26 xi 1948</td>
<td>19 vii 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 3p carmine</td>
<td>Z9b</td>
<td>RA9</td>
<td>T344b</td>
<td>7 vi 1949</td>
<td>20 x 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 3p drk red * no inscription</td>
<td>Z9aF</td>
<td>not listed</td>
<td>T344a</td>
<td>26 ix 1948</td>
<td>28 vi 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5p on 3p drk red</td>
<td>Z10</td>
<td>RA10</td>
<td>T345</td>
<td>15 v 1949</td>
<td>21 vi 1949</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These stamps are a semi-postal only if used on cover or off-cover bearing a postal cancellation. Cancelled in ink or by any non-postal marking, or unused, they are revenue stamps, as listed in the following catalogs of Lebanese revenue stamps:
5p on 1.20 p violet = Duston section AG, no. 146, and McDonald section Indep. Rep., no. 3
5p on 3p drk red = Duston section AG, no. 151, and McDonald section Indep. Rep., no. 6

This article first appeared in Türiep-Spiegel 1/2013, as "Die Zwangszuschlagmarken Libanons 1945-1949". Translation by R. B. Rose. Thanks also to Mr. Gary Theodore, who contributed to this article images from his exhibit of Lebanese Palestine Aid covers.
Ottoman Censor Markings during World War I: Vilayet of Beirut

This is the second of a series of articles on Ottoman censor markings. The first section (Syria) appeared in the May 2013 issue (vol. 7, no. 2).

Beirut Vilayet Post office censor units located in the Beirut Vilayet during World War I are now in the current countries of Syria (Merkab), in Lebanon (Brieut, Aley, Tripoli, Sidon, Baalbek, and Baaabda), Israel (Haifa and Acra), and Palestine (Ben Saab, Nablus, and Nazareth).

Lebanon

Beirut Vilayet

Beirut (Beyrut, Beyrouth) was the administrative capital of the Beirut Vilayet, which during WW I included part of northern Palestine. Today it is the capital city of Lebanon.

At the start of WW I the autonomy of Lebanon was revoked and the area was given equal status with the other provinces. The 27th Infantry Division and a few battalions of gendarmerie were organized to provide central defence and security services and also to supervise the inaugurated postal censorship. The area of operation was Lebanon and Palestine, not including the Jerusalem region.

Initially the German military supervised mail censorship until the Turkish military took over in March 1915. The total responsibility, with the establishment of censor commissions, consisted of linguists and trustworthy personal.

The same censorship procedure was used there as in the rest of Turkey, but Beirut was classified as a Central Office, so mail to overseas destinations was not required to be sent to Constantinople for final censorship.

Beirut Central Office

Beirut Post Office Censor Unit

This cover to Hungary is dated March 10th, 1915. It has been censored by both the German and Turkish censor. This suggests that the German military were involved in civilian mail censorship other than in Constantinople.

A rectangular cachet was applied in black after Turkish censorship. (BEYRUT) MUANJENE EDILMISTIR I, which translates (BEIRUT) IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED I.

A single line cachet was applied in violet after German censorship. UPERPRUFT, which translates CHECKED.

This cover is dated January 4th, 1915. It was sent from Bethlehem to Chile. As the correspondence was in Spanish and going overseas, it was forwarded to Beirut for censoring. After censorship, a rectangular cachet was applied in black (BEYRUT) MUANJENE EDILMISTIR 2, which translates "It has been examined 2." As only two cachets were applied in this first period, it can be presumed that there were only two censors.

After the start of World War I, there was not very much mail coming into Beirut and the Ottoman Empire from neutral countries, but what there was had to be censored.

This cover is dated 30th December 1914. It was posted in the United Stated, addressed to Beirut. After consoring, the letter was re-sealed with a white label which was printed in both Arabic and French DIRECTION POSTALE BEIRUT. Only five covers are known with this sealing label.
Beirut Vilayet

Beirut Military Censor Commission

During March 1915, a military censor commission was established within the Beirut post office by the Turkish military. A star and crescent cachet was applied in black after censorship. BEYRUT ASKERI SANSUR HEY'ETI, which translates BEIRUT MILITARY CENSOR COMMISSION. There are two different cachets known, one which has the five-pointed star shaded in the left segment, the other has the five pointed star shaded in the right segment.
Beirut Vilayet
Beirut Post Office Censor Unit

This cover is dated November 3, 1914, posted in Galata, Constantinople, to Beirut, where it was opened for censorship. After censoring, the cover was re-sealed with a white label, which has printed in both Arabic and French "DIRECTION POSTALE BEIRUT". The label is tied to the cover with an unusual circular negative cachet which reads "M 1" and adjacent, the dated Beirut postmark of November 17th, 1914. The conclusion is that this is an early form of censorship. This cover is part of the R. Stuchell collection.
Beirut Vilayet

Beirut Post Office Censor Unit

This cover is dated April 8th, 1915, sent from the United States, addressed to Jerusalem. On receipt in Beirut it was opened for censorship. After censoring, the cover was re-sealed with a white label which has printed in both Arabic and French “DIRECTION POSTALE BEIRUT”. This cover is part of the R. Stuchell collection.
A star and crescent cachet was applied in black after censorship. In the star MUAYENE OLUNMUSTER, which translates IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED and in the crescent BEYRUT ASKERI SANSUR HEY'ETI which translates BEIRUT MILITARY CENSOR COMMISSION.

Aley Military Censor Commission

Aley is situated in the mountains to the east of Beirut. It was an important town in World War I, as it controlled the railway and road systems between Beirut, Baalbek and Damascus.

A star and crescent cachet in black was applied after censorship. In the star MUAYENE OLUNMUSTER, which translates IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED and in the crescent ALEY ASKERI SANSUR HEY'ETI, which translates ALEY MILITARY CENSOR COMMISSION.
Beirut Vilayet

Beirut Post Office Printed Matter Censor

Within the Beirut Post Office office there was a special unit for censoring mail sent at the printed matter postal rate i.e. newspapers and unsealed letters. After censoring black cachets were applied (BEYRUT) MUANJENE EDILMISTIR No. 1 or 2 which translates (BEIRUT) IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED: No. 1 or 2.
Syria
Beirut Vilayet

Merkab Post Office Censor Unit

Merkab is located south of the port of Banyas in central Syria.

This cover addressed to Beirut was sent from Cadmous, an inland town between Banyas and Hama. The contents were censored in Merkab, where a rectangular cachet was applied in black which reads MERKAB: SANSURCE MUAYENE EDILMISTIR, and translates MERKAB: IT HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY THE CENSOR.

The rest of the Beirut Vilayet and the Jerusalem area will be offered in future issues.
The Dobrudja is that featureless territory east of the Danube River and west of the Black Sea. The area was lost by Ottoman Turkey during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-8, and was then divided by the Bulgarians and Romanians. During the First World War the Dobrudja was invaded by the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey) on September 1, 1916. In a week the Romanians and their Russian allies were driven out of Southern Dobrudja, which had been Bulgaria until the close of the 2nd Balkan War, August 10, 1913. Bulgaria immediately re-annexed that area.

In another six weeks the Central Powers occupied the Constanta (Kiustendje) - Cernavoda area, which contained the valuable railroad line between those cities and the railroad bridge at Cernavoda. During the rest of 1916 Romanian and Russian defenses were swept away by the advancing Central Powers troops, mostly Bulgarians and Turks. The Romanians and Russians fled across the Danube to Braila, and were quickly followed by the Central Powers troops. The Bulgarians were unable to cross the Danube delta into Russian Moldavia and Bessarabia due to the weather and geography of the Danube delta.

The war between the Central Powers and the Romanians, whose Russian allies became less and less effective, gradually wore down, and the Romanians concluded peace with the Central Powers by the Treaty of Bucharest, May 7, 1918. By this time the four central powers were involved in a series of territorial and other disputes. The Bulgarians demanded that they be given all of Northern Dobrudja. The Austrians demanded they be given territory in Serbia occupied by the Bulgarians, the Germans demanded economic concessions from the Romanians (which they were given), and the Turks, feeling abused by the misuse of their three Army Corps sent to Europe, demanded that the Bulgarians return to them Ottoman territory ceded to Bulgaria in October of 1915.

At the time Northern Dobrudja was officially under German military occupation, although much of the local administration was Bulgarian and the Bulgarians ran the postal and civil censorship systems as branches of the Bulgarian system.

By the Treaty of Bucharest the Bulgarians obtained a small strip of territory lost to the Romanians by the Treaty of Berlin in 1878, plus another minor strip north of that area. The Central Powers
transferred to the defeated Romanians Russian Moldavia and Bessarabia, which had been ceded to the Central Powers by the Russians in March of 1918, by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. All political maneuvering was unable to resolve the various competing claims, so the Central Powers had the Romanians transfer the Northern Dobrudja to a four-party condominium jointly controlled by Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey. It is not clear whether the government of the condominium was ever made effective. On May 22, 1918, the Central Powers agreed to transfer Northern Dobrudja to Bulgarian sovereignty, the Bulgarians agreeing to meet Turkish territorial demands in Thrace. This tentative agreement was finalized by the Berlin Protocol of May 25.

All of this was for naught, as Bulgaria surrendered to the Allies on September 29, leaving the war at noon September 30. Thus, the Bulgarian regime in Northern Dobrudja lasted perhaps five days. Bulgarian administration proceeded to collapse, leaving government function in the hands of the German occupation regime.

Invalidation of German Levant Postage

Robert Stuchell  <rstuchell@msn.com>

This cover from 1910 was handed in to a Servicul Maritim Romanian vessel while it was stopped in Constantinople en route from Alexandria (Egypt) to Constanta (Romania). There is a faint red hand stamp at lower left which reads “Via Constantza”. The letter is double weight and the sender affixed two piasters German Levant postage.

Under UPU regulations, if a vessel is in port when a letter or postcard is turned in, it is required to be franked with the stamps of the country in whose waters the vessel is located. The German Levant postage was not recognized by the ship’s clerk as Turkish, so he outlined the stamps in blue crayon to indicate that they were invalid. A ship cancel “Alexandria-Constanta” was applied to the envelope. The circled “T” postage due marking was most likely applied in Constanta. The letter then travelled overland to Great Britain. Upon receipt in London on Sept. 17, a double deficiency of eight pence was indicated (2 ½ d + 1 ½ d = 4 d x 2 = 8 d). After the UPU Congress of Rome in 1906, the second weight step was often at a discount to the first rate.

An unusual example of how foreign post office stamps fared in the Ottoman Empire.
The Macedonian Campaign, a Post Card Reminder

Carl Barna  <cbarna@hotmail.com>

Macedonia has been called one of the 'forgotten fronts' of WWI, a front without a strategy. At war's end, there were no monuments erected in Britain or France to remember their Army of the Orient. Yet, men died there, and they died by the thousands, more from disease than by enemy action. Numbered among the fallen was Captain Higgins of the British Army Veterinary Corps – horses still comprised a vital part of military transport then. Killed on 25 October 1918, just days before the Armistice, he lies buried with over 1,300 of his countrymen in Dorian Military Cemetery, a small corner of a “foreign field that is forever England.”

The postcard is a poignant reminder of the human tragedy of war. The card was posted in late 1922 by Captain Higgins’ father, the Rev. A. A. Higgins, who went to Salonika to visit the grave of his son. Rev. Higgins appears to have been chaplain to the Anglican community in Dresden, most likely consisting of British soldiers occupying Germany after WW I.

The Greek post card illustrates the Church of the Twelve Apostles in Salonika and was addressed to a correspondent in the USA. It also offers details of the cost of living in Germany after the war, and the inflation that would soon bring the country close to economic ruin.

Dear W. Wood. Still have your kind letter before [me], but I have been down to Salonika and back to visit my eldest son’s grave at Dorian cemetery. He was captain in Royal Veterinary Services, Macedonian campaign. Things have greatly changed in Dresden since your mother’s visit. Tell her that butter is 2,000 marks a kilo, eggs 70 marks each, and prices still soaring. However, I like Dresden very much and my life as chaplain here is very agreeable. Remember me most kindly to Mrs. David G. Pratt. Yours sincerely, Rev. A. A. Higgins, DD.
Around the World in 80 Days! Almost
Yavuz Corapcioğlu  <ycorapcioğlu@gmail.com>

It was quite popular in the 19th century to send postal cards around the world. Shown here is a 1881-issue 20-para postal card mailed by J. G. Aristaghes, an employee at the Ottoman Post Office at Constantinople. It started its journey at Constantinople on April 12, 1881, and travelled through Bucharest April 14, Vienna April 16, Maricourt (?) April 17, Paris April 18, London April 19, New York May 1, San Francisco May 11, and finally made it back to Constantinople on June 30. It was registered with a one-piastre stamp.

Since it was addressed to the Director of Posts in each city, no stamp was affixed in each country to forward it to the next destination. Interestingly the card completed its journey around the world in 80 days, a tribute to the classic adventure novel by the French writer Jules Verne, published in 1873. In the story, Phileas Fogg of London and his French valet Passepartout attempt to circumnavigate the world in 80 days on a £20,000 (over £1,500,000 today) wager. This humble postal card made its trip in 1881, only 8 years after the novel was published. Certainly, it deserves the prize, don’t you think? Well, maybe a fraction of it!

The text seems to read: *Recevez mes respects. Voyez la boute je faire jouer le cours.*

“Please accept my thanks. Watch the drive I make travelling [around] the track.”

Some of the postal clerks along the way initialed after their country date stamp:

*Pour la Roumanie, Pour l'Austriche, Pour la France.*
Q. Subject: Mail from Manchuria to Turkey
My name is Sylvain Vivance, I am member of the "Amicale Philatélique de l'Hay-les-Roses and specialise in Manchuria under Japanese occupation (1932-45), known as Manchukuo. I introduced a collection of postal history of this state during the international exhibition of Paris in 2012. During World War II, parts of Russia were occupied by German troops. Due to this invasion, the mail from Manchukuo for Europe, which had customarily traveled along the Trans-Siberian railway, was forced to pass in transit via Istanbul. On some covers of this period, postage is charged at a higher Fen (Manchu cash) rate in comparison with the prior period, and I have a cover with the correct rate on which a tax was applied during its passage in Istanbul.
To your knowledge, did Turkey apply a transit "tax" to mails from the Eastern Asia?
Please respond to Carl Catherman and to Sylvain Vivance at – <choumingfu@wanadoo.fr>

Opening of Turkish Postal Museum

On 31 October 2013, the Turkish PTT (Posta Telefon Telegraf) opened the doors of its postage stamp museum in Ankara and showed off some of the many “treasures” that it had been storing in its depots for 173 years. The link to the story in the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet Daily News is -- www.hurriyetdailynews.com/postal-service-among-the-ottomans.aspx?pageID=238&nID=58372&NewsCatID=438
If this doesn’t work, just search for “hurriyetdailynews”, and on that webpage, search for “postal service among the ottomans” and you’ll find the article.
This new museum in Ankara specializes in displaying the stamps and stamp designs, while the Postal Museum in the old Main Post Office building in Istanbul (Sirkeci district) explores the postal system: uniforms, delivery boxes, and all the paraphernalia linked to the operation of the Turkish Post Office. Here are some highlights from the newspaper accounts.
The Turkish Post and Telegraph Ministry (PTT) celebrates 173 years of service with the inauguration of the national stamp museum in Ankara. A range of exhibitions across an assortment of media including digital touch screens rekindle historical events through a vast stamp spectacle since the first issue in 1863. The permanent exhibition has stamps from the earliest period, stamp designs, equipment and even short films.
The main exhibition room of the museum includes a touch screen desk allows visitors to journey through 100 years Turkish stamps, enriched by their stories. The PTT has thus far issued 4,404 stamps and in celebration of its 173th anniversary, it opened a museum to exhibit a grand collection of the stamps of Turkey. These stamps had been stored in archives since 1863 and it was time to unveil the history they encapsulate. The PTT knew from the beginning that a museum was needed, so it acquired a building from Ziraat Bank in 2010 and transformed it into a modern museum where the stamps are displayed in chronologic order to best portray historic events as they happened.
The museum spreads across a large area in a historical building which has now become a cultural center. The museum’s entrance displays 173 tools and objects that form part of the history of PTT, including antique telephones and the telegraph equipment.
Clothing is also displayed; a total of eight sets of clothing reveal a history of PTT employee fashion. “150 years of Turkish Stamps,” a temporary exhibition in honor of the museum’s opening, highlights Turkish art as it has been used as subject matter in stamps.
MEMBER NOTICES

Peter Michalove died on 9 December 2013. Peter's philatelic interests focused on all areas of modern Turkey, from maritime to airplane mail, and wrote several articles for The Levant. After learning of his serious prostate cancer, Peter returned to an early avocation, music composition, and enjoyed the good fortune of hearing his compositions performed.

Wanted: Naval League Revenues.
Perforated color essays, color essays, Immigration aid (red overprint), Matches (Black overprint), Documents, etc. Send description or images to:
Rolf Smith - 705 SE Sandia Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983. Tel: (772) 240-8937

Wanted: Ottoman registered mail
1900-1918 from or to Istanbul (incl. districts of Istanbul). Especially looking for covers with registration labels. Send illustrations and asking price to Peter A. Michalove: michalov@illinois.edu, 307 S. McKinley Ave., Champaign, Illinois. 61821 USA.

WANTED LISTS FILLED. Ottoman, Turkish Republic & Turkish Rep. of No. Cyprus. Very reasonable prices.
Rolf Smith - 705 SE Sandia Drive
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983. Tel: (772) 240-8937

FOR SALE Turkey & No. Cyprus stamps
Collection of 3000+ Turkey 1863-1991. 2010 Scott CV $18,000+ in two Scott albums, mostly MLH
Collection of 200+ Turkish revenues, McDonald CV $1575+ w/McDonald catalogue included
Collection of 45 Turkey in Asia (Anatolia), 2010 Scott CV $850+
Collection of ca. 120 Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus 1975-1984, 2010 Scott CV ca. $125
Will sell separately or together. For details and prices contact Carl Catherman < crcath@dejazzd.com >

Purchase Yemen & Persia material
I collect Yemen, all periods up till about 1950, stamps, covers and other documents postal or official, revenues, etc. I am very interested in purchasing such. I am also a collector of Persia & will purchase covers & ppc's from that area.
Bjorn Sohrne <bjornsahrne@gmail.com>
A WARD for BEST ARTICLE in The LEVANT, 2013

For his article on Ottoman Censor Markings during World War I: Part 1, Syria, the officers of ONEPS award Mr. John Garton a year’s subscription to The Levant. Thank you, John, for the beginning of a series of informative articles on Ottoman censor marks.

As you read this issue, note the number of short articles contributed by members. Material of this type is what this journal is designed to offer, and so I encourage readers to consider submitting information about any letters, cards, stamps, or photographs which provide a window into the societies of the Near East.

EDITOR

Membership dues

The date for payment of dues to the Ottoman and Near East Philatelic Society was 15 December. If you have not yet sent in your payment, this issue will be the last one you receive, so please send your dues to the Treasurer Mr. Nusair, or Mr. Fulford (for the UK) or Mr. Emirmahmutoglu (for Turkey). Details are provided on the next page.

Visit Our Website <www.oneps.net>

WEB SITE MOVE In past issues, I invited members to become more familiar with our website, which has moved from the ORG category to NET. You should adjust your bookmark settings accordingly, although existing links using <www.oneps.org> will be immediately and seamlessly sent to <www.oneps.net>.

UPDATE MEMBER INFORMATION I ask all our members to check the website and review your listing in the member pages. Are any corrections needed, and let us know what corrections you may might want made, such as email address, collecting interests? Or perhaps you have reconsidered your anonymity and now wish to be listed. Changes to member profiles should be sent to our webmaster, Marisa Galitz at mmgalitz@gmail.com. (with copies to Marwan Nusair and Rolfe Smith; see Society Page for contact information).

REVIEW FEATURES Then look at the other features and tell us what you like about them, what other features you’d like to see, and of course, areas that could be improved. Is there a need for a Classifieds column? Would you accept some advertising? Suggestions for links to other sites? Send your ideas to the President (see Society Page, p. 74 of this issue for contact information).

Bob Stuckell.
THE OTTOMAN and NEAR EAST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society was established in 2000 and is an affiliated organization with the American Philatelic Society. New members can join by sending a completed application plus appropriate dues to the Secretary (checks only in SUS payable to ONEPS). Applications can be obtained from the Secretary or downloaded from our website www.oneps.net.

Membership renewals should be sent directly to the Treasurer. Dues are payable by Dec. 15 each year.

USA, Canada, Mexico – USD $20.

UK - £17 to Mr. Michael Fulford, Ruth Cottage, Main Street, East Langton, Leics. LE6 7TW.

Turkey - €20 to our Representative in Turkey (see below).

All other countries - €20 or $25 to the Treasurer.

Our Treasurer has set up a payment option using Paypal. A fee of $1.50 should be added to take care of fees. Payments go to hejaz@tccincinnati.com. Members should indicate their name in the "note" area and mention that the payment is for ONEPS dues.

Subscription to The Levant is included in the cost of membership. Members who join in mid-year pay the annual dues and receive all issues of The Levant plus any special issues for the calendar year. Changes of address, email, etc. are to be sent to the Secretary.

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THE LEVANT is published three times a year and mailed at First Class Rates in the USA and Canada, and at Airmail Rates to Overseas members. Advertising Policy: Members are allowed free ads in The Levant's classified section. Formal advertisements and notices are charged $100 for a full page, $50 for a half-page, $30 for a quarter page. Camera-ready material is required. ONEPS reserves the right to reject and/or limit advertisements. Articles appearing in The Levant may be reprinted with the approval of the Editor, unless personal copyright by the author is claimed. Back issues can be obtained from the Editor for $1.50 each, plus postage.

Articles, Letters, Reviews, Announcements, Questions, and Information related to any aspect of Ottoman, Turkish, and Near East philately should be sent to the Journal Editor, Dr. Richard Rose. The next issue will appear only when YOU write up something about your collecting interests, or encourage another collector to do so. We also reprint articles, so please bring to the Editor's attention any article which has appeared in another journal or magazine (permission will be sought).

The Internet

Log on to our Society ONEPS Web page <www.oneps.net> and find links to The Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL), Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Türkei (AROS), and Tughra Net, the online link among collectors.

Pre-UPU Inland Rate Cover from Yemen

Peter Winders  < windersp@verizon.net >

This Yemen cover is franked with the first Yemen stamp issue of 1926 (Scott #1) and was sent from Hodeida to Sana'a. The stamp is cancelled with a Hodeida seal type postmark on the reverse side of the cover. The letter bears a Sana'a seal cancel receiving postmark on the front side of the cover. The 2½ bogsha stamp has a violet manuscript marking on the left dagger (Yemeni jambiya) blade portion of the stamp. This violet marking was used by the Hodeida post office to uprate 2½ bogsha stamps (the newspaper mailing rate) to 5 bogshas (the inland letter rate). From the first stamp issue of 1926 to the end of 1929, Yemeni stamps were only valid for domestic mail. Yemen became a member of the Universal Postal Union on January 1, 1930, and the first series of definitive stamps, printed in Berlin, was issued on that date for use on both foreign and domestic mail.
27th AUCTION
10th - 14th February 2014

We received many top-class consignments during the last weeks and we are happy to give you an insight to our auction in February.

Please have a look:
- OTTOMAN EMPIRE, Special catalogue
- BRAZIL, Special catalogue stamps, covers and collections
- ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS & STAMP MONEY, Special catalogue
- GERMAN STATES, attractive offer single lots and collections
- attractive collection offer e.g. OLYMPIA, ZEPPELIN, ANTARCTICA, GERMAN POST IN CHINA

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