

# 75 Treasures

Celebrating Israel at Seventy-Five



David Matlow





## **Israel is a Treasure.**

It is fitting then that we celebrate Israel's 75th birthday with seventy-five treasures.

A treasure, of course, is not limited to something that is extremely valuable. It is also something that is meaningful and special.

I have many treasures of this kind in my large collection of memorabilia focussing on Theodor Herzl, Zionism and the history of Israel. Each week in my "Treasure Trove" segment in the Canadian Jewish News, I take one piece from my collection and tell a short story about it. They weave together our story: of the Jewish experience outside of Israel and the longing for a Jewish homeland in it.

I have curated 75 of these stories and included them in this book. They tell of a dream that sustained us for two thousand years, of the Jewish people's need for a safe haven, of the tremendous work and sacrifice that went in to making that dream a reality, of its ultimate realization with the proclamation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, and of the continuing story.

We are all participants in that continuing story. Living at a time when we can freely return to our Jewish homeland (something our grandparents for 100 generations prayed for) comes with a huge responsibility. Just because we now have the treasure doesn't mean it can't be lost. It is our job to make sure that doesn't happen.

Consider the fact that a treasure that is chipped or dented, not in perfect shape and even tarnished, is still a treasure.

When you look through this book, please ask yourself what more you can do to keep the treasure that is Israel safe and strong. What will the page that documents your contribution to this continuing story look like?

I hope you enjoy this treasure hunt through history.

To the treasure that is Israel, happy 75th birthday. Yom Haatzmaut Sameach.

David Matlow



# The Dream



The Western Wall is seen on this stereoscopic card with a picture (actually two pictures—you're not seeing double) capturing how “the outer wall of Solomon’s Temple” appeared in Jerusalem in 1896. Produced by Underwood & Underwood, the largest publisher of stereoviews in the world—with an office in Toronto—it was designed to be placed in a viewing device called a stereoscope and appear as a three-dimensional image. The card’s reverse quotes Psalm 79 in English, French, German, Spanish, Norwegian and Russian: “How Long, Lord? Wilt Thou Be Angry Forever?” There are several hundred of these cards of Palestine, which enabled people to see the Holy Land at a time when a trip to the region was costly and difficult.

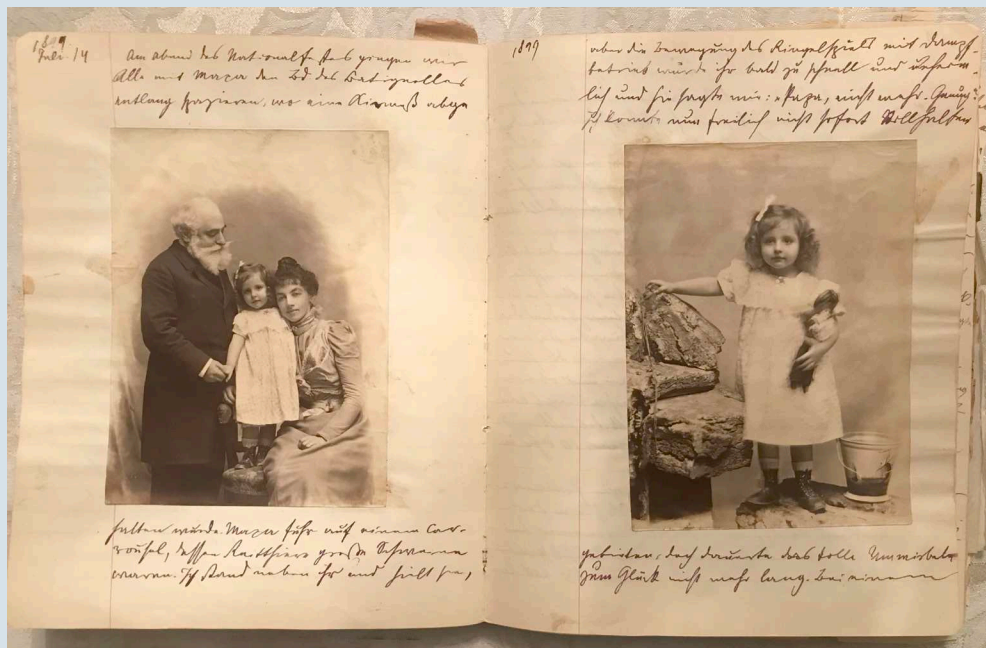
Theodor Herzl’s *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State), published on Feb. 14, 1896, set out the need for a Jewish state and a roadmap to make it happen. *An Attempt at a Modern Solution to the Jewish Question* was its subtitle—the “question” being antisemitism. Herzl was gravely concerned with the future of the Jews of Europe and correctly anticipated the looming great danger. The book propelled him to create and lead the Zionist movement that led to Israel’s independence in 1948. This pamphlet was published in Poland in 1946 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Herzl’s book.







The First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, Switzerland, from Aug. 29-31, 1897, with 208 delegates from 17 countries and 26 members of the press in attendance. Adopted there was the Basel Program, which set the goal of the newly established Zionist movement to be “to secure for the Jewish people a publicly recognized, legally assured homeland in Palestine.” Theodor Herzl convened it as a parliament of a state in creation: “In Basel, I created the Jewish State,” he proudly declared—and insisted all delegates wear tuxedos for the occasion, as depicted in this postcard. There were 22 Zionist Congresses across Europe prior to Israel’s independence, but they’ve been exclusively in Jerusalem since 1951.



Max Nordau (1849-1923) was a prominent physician, author and social critic who worked with Theodor Herzl to found the Zionist movement and organize the early Zionist Congresses. While speaking out against antisemitic stereotypes, he coined the term “Muscular Judaism” to promote mental and physical strength, agility and discipline, qualities he believed were necessary for the national revival of the Jewish people. He was also a family man who kept a diary describing the life of his daughter Maxa from the day of her birth on Jan. 10, 1897. She grew up to become a notable painter. Max Nordau died in Paris—three years later, he was reburied in Tel Aviv.





“Hatikvah” (“The Hope”) was written in 1878 as a nine-verse poem by poet Naphtali Herz Imber. Each verse spoke to the Jewish desire to be free in our homeland. Imber moved from Ukraine to Palestine in 1882—where he read his poem to great acclaim from the early pioneers. The source of the tune is disputed, but it’s generally attributed to Samuel Cohen: in 1888, he composed a melody based on a Romanian folk song “Cart with Oxen,” which itself was based on “Die Moldau” by Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. “Hatikvah” was not officially ratified as Israel’s anthem until 2004—some 56 years into the life of the state—but it had already spent a century representing the yearning for a Jewish homeland, and the realization of that hope.



The Book of Micah contains a prophecy that every man shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid. That image is reflected in this Rosh Hashanah card from 1914, which depicts two members of a farming community in Palestine, as a place free from fear was the vision for the Jewish homeland. The biblical phrase was used more than 50 times in correspondence by George Washington, including in his famous 1790 letter to the Jews of Newport, Rhode Island—which confirmed the new nation’s commitment to religious liberty and civil equality for its Jewish citizens. Martin Luther King, Jr., also cited this passage in his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, which described the future he foresaw.





The Flag of Zion and the Zionist movement was among those given away by tobacco companies between 1911 and 1916 to encourage smoking, especially by women: the printed fabrics included in cigarette packages could be sewn into quilts. The flag's earliest version was designed by Boston's Rabbi Jacob Askowith in 1891 for the B'nai Zion organization. It flew at the Second Zionist Congress in Basel in 1898, and was brought to Montreal one year later to be displayed at a Zionist event. After Israel's independence, the State's founders debated what flag the country should have, and suggestions were sought from within the country and around the diaspora. In the end, in November 1948, the flag of the Zionist movement became the flag of Israel.



Kaiser Wilhelm II, the German emperor, visited Jerusalem from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4, 1898, in what was the focal point of his tour of the Holy Land. The arrangements for the visit were entrusted to the Thomas Cook travel agency, who set up a 230-tent camp for the Kaiser and his entourage. To ensure that Wilhelm II's carriages could enter the Old City, a portion of the wall at the Jaffa Gate was removed—a gap that exists to this day. While in Jerusalem, he dedicated the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, donated funds for the purchase of the land on which the Bikur Holim Hospital was built, visited the German Colony (which is pictured in this postcard) and received a Zionist delegation led by Theodor Herzl.





Altneuland (“Old-New Land”) is a utopian novel by Theodor Herzl, first published in October 1902. The author shares his vision of the New Society to be built in the ancient land, and he anticipates a vigorous democracy, communal farming, free health care and education, equal rights for all, a seven-hour work day and scientific developments that benefit the world. Herzl’s title was translated (by Nahum Sokolov) as Tel Aviv—the city is named after the book. This 2015 edition includes Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, Amharic and English translations in a volume published by Noar HoOved VeHaLomed (“Working and Studying Youth”): it’s an Israeli movement with young Jewish, Arab and Druze members who are dedicated to the equality of human value, democracy, Zionism, peace and social justice.

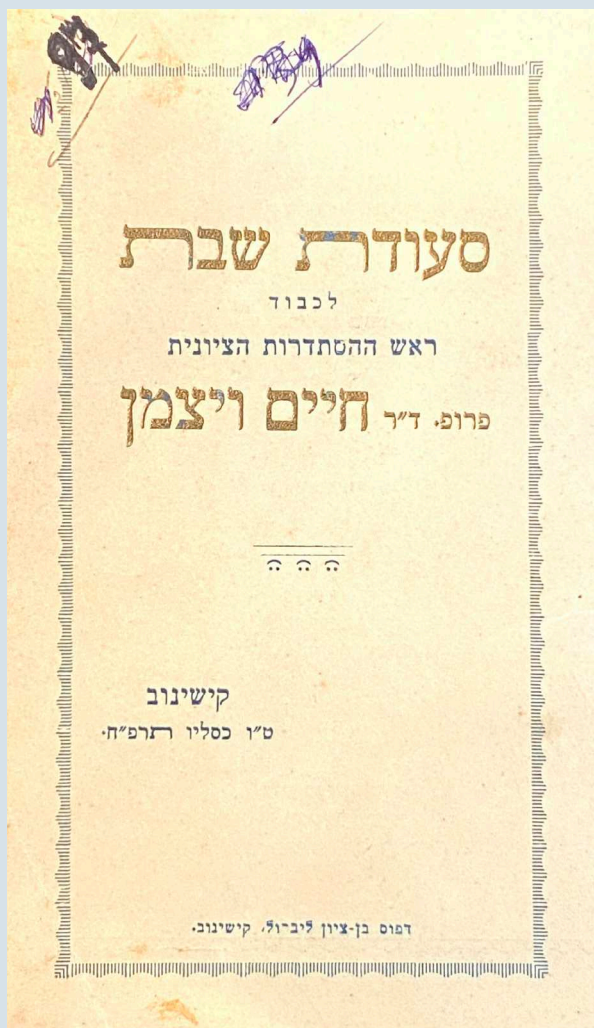
The Jewish Territorial Organization was founded in 1905 under the leadership of British author Israel Zangwill. It was dedicated to “obtaining a large tract of territory (preferably within the British Empire) wherein to found a Jewish Home of Refuge.” Could you imagine the Jewish state in a different location than where it’s located now? Alaska, Angola and Australia all had areas investigated as possibilities. The obviously unsuccessful effort faded away by the time Zangwill died in 1926. This humorous postcard, which depicts the Territorialists scanning the globe for a home, was drawn by Menachem Birnbaum—a Viennese-born artist, and the son of Nathan Birnbaum, the man who coined the term Zionism. Menachem perished in Auschwitz.







Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934), pictured here on Israel's 10 lira banknote from 1970, was a poet who wrote primarily in Hebrew. Ukrainian born, he earned the status of "national poet" for his depiction of Jewish life in exile—and descriptions of the future in which we controlled our own destiny. "City of Slaughter" was written after the 1903 Kishinev pogrom, in which 47 Jews were murdered: it reflects Bialik's bitterness about the absence of justice, and it's also critical of those who didn't act to defend themselves. Today, his surname is still famous thanks to a distant relative, The Big Bang Theory star and Jeopardy co-host Mayim Bialik, a modern Orthodox Jew and very public supporter of Israel.



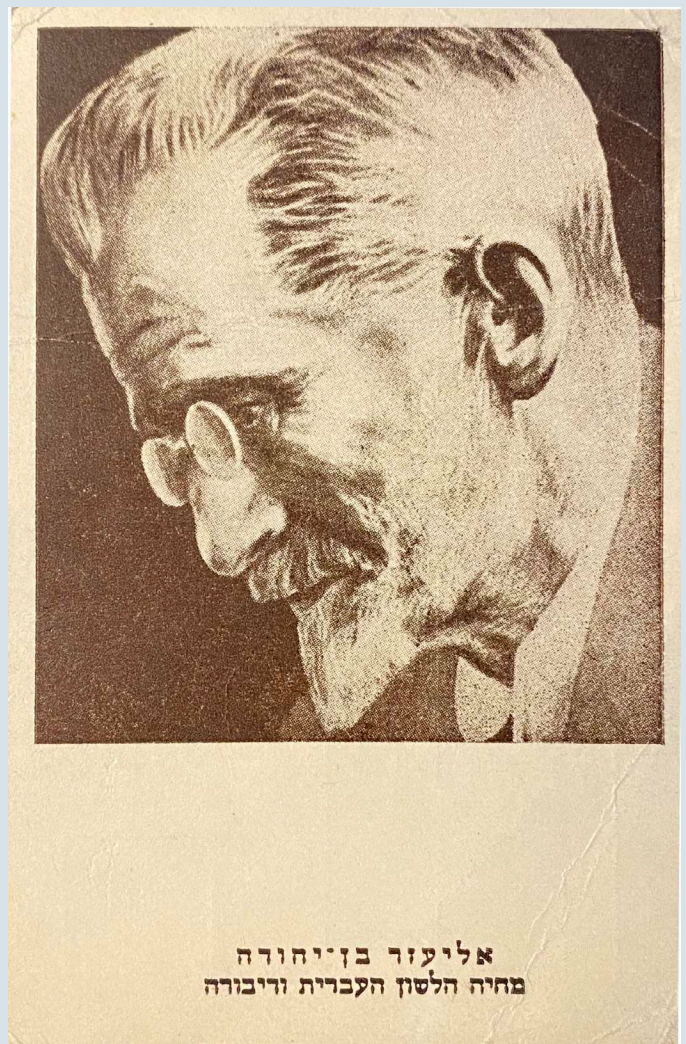
Chaim Weizmann was the guest of a December 1927 Shabbat dinner hosted by the Jewish community of Kishinev, Moldova—the site of a vicious pogrom 24 years earlier. As a chemist, Weizmann developed a fermentation process that turned a bacterium into acetone, an essential component in explosives which was in short supply during the First World War. The process was critical to the Allied war effort, which gave him access to senior British government leaders. Weizmann used these relationships to facilitate the issuance of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the British government's statement in favour of the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. Weizmann, who was previously president of the World Zionist Organization, became Israel's first president in 1949, the same year the world renowned Weizmann Institute of Science was renamed in his honour.





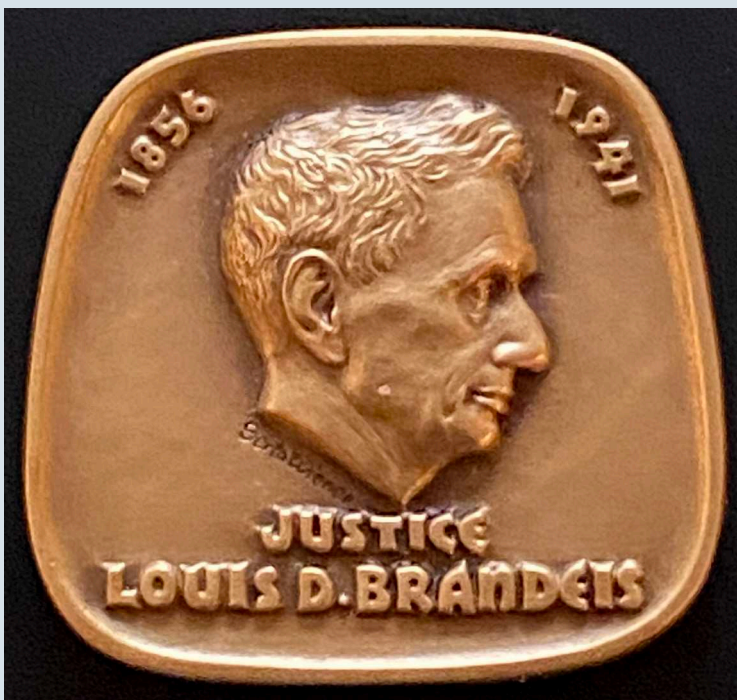
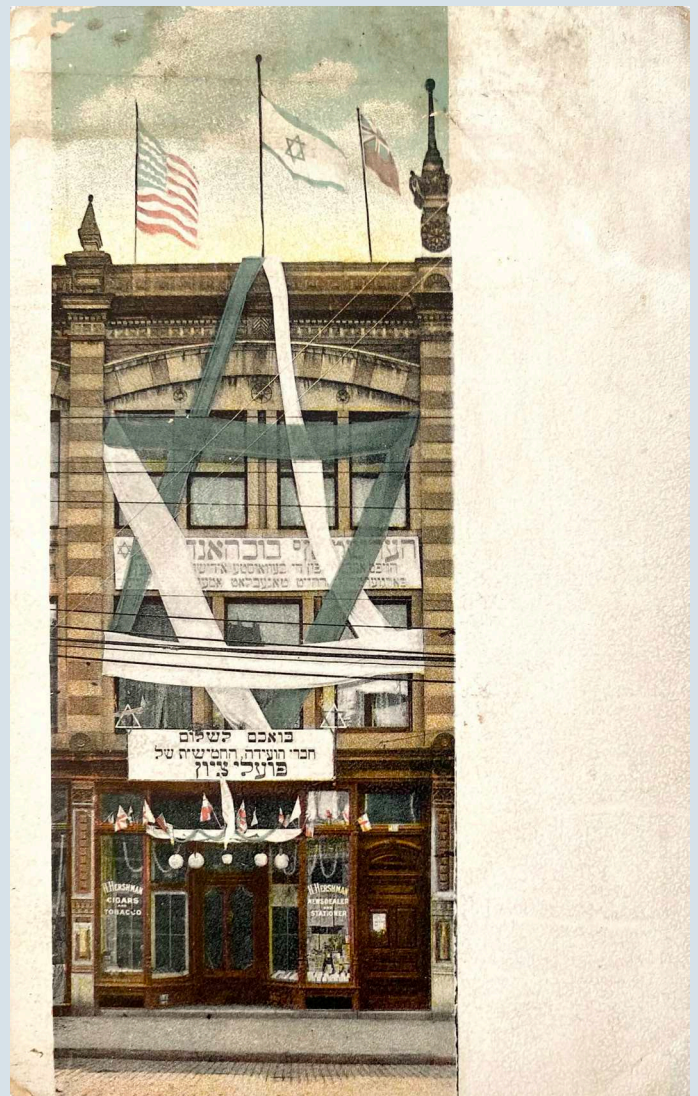
Ze'ev (Vladimir) Jabotinsky, pictured in discussions at the 18th Zionist Congress in Prague in 1933, was a writer, translator (he translated Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven* into Russian and Hebrew) and founder of the Jewish Legion (soldiers who fought for the Allies in World War One) and the Betar movement. In 1925, he founded the Zionist Revisionist movement, which called for the immediate establishment of a Jewish State. Twelve years later, Jabotinsky was named commander of the *Irgun Tzvai Leumi*, the military arm of the movement. He died on August 4, 1940, while visiting a Betar summer camp in New York. And his wish to be buried in the Jewish State was fulfilled in 1964, by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858-1922) died a century ago on Dec. 16—but his legacy lives on in the Hebrew language. Motivated to reject the diaspora lifestyle and establish a means for Jews from all backgrounds to communicate, he set out to make Hebrew the language of everyday communication. Despite complaints by some that the holy language should not be used for mundane purposes, he compiled its first modern dictionary. It required coining many words from relevant sources (for instance, ice cream is *glida*, from the Aramaic word for “frost”). No other examples exist of a language without any native speakers becoming a national language. This postcard from the 1920s with his picture describes Ben-Yehuda as “the reviver of the Hebrew language and its use.”





Labour Zionism (Poale Zion) envisioned a progressive society constructed in Palestine by a Jewish working-class—one which could also serve as a new model for humanity. At its fifth North American convention, held in Montreal in 1910, delegates resolved to establish a secular Yiddish-based school system across North America. This postcard shows the newspaper and tobacco store of Henry (Hirsh) Hershman on the Main (St. Lawrence Blvd.), which was festively decorated to welcome delegates. Hershman also opened Montreal’s first Jewish library in his house—as the precursor to the Jewish Public Library—along with being a pioneer of the Jewish press, and a founder of the Peretz School and the Canadian Jewish Congress.



Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941) was the first Jewish justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to his appointment, he was the “People’s Lawyer” due to his cases against powerful corporations, monopolies and public corruption, often without pay. He became a passionate Zionist in his 50s, bringing organizational efficiency and increasing fundraising capability to the new movement, while attracting new members drawn to his passion and personality. A leader of the American Zionist movement from 1914 to 1921, he left half the residue of his estate to the cause. Brandeis used his influence to secure President Woodrow Wilson’s support of the Balfour Declaration, which was a critical step in the British Government issuing it. Brandeis University, named in his memory, was founded in 1948.



הקונגרס הציוני ה"ב בבזל, תש"ז  
22<sup>nd</sup> ZIONIST CONGRESS, BASLE 1946

**DELEGATE'S TICKET**

תעודת ציר

No. 288 מס'

ADMITTING

*Mr. Paard Trager*

*גאב טראגר*

למר  
(למרת)

of

Elected within the  
Electoral Area

*Germany*

*גרמניה*

נבחר במחוז  
הבחירות

*[Signature]*  
מזכיר ההנהלה  
SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE



*[Signature]*  
ראב בית דין הקונגרס  
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS COURT

The 22nd Zionist Congress was held Dec. 9-24, 1946, in Basel, Switzerland. It was the first one following the Second World War, but the absence of the large European delegations from prior Congresses was devastating, as so much of European Jewry perished in the Holocaust. The Congress discussed an urgent matter: the British keeping the gates of Palestine closed to Jewish immigration, including Holocaust survivors. Delegates discussed ways to struggle against the British to bring forward the establishment of a Jewish state and adopted the plan approved at New York's Biltmore Hotel in 1942 whose call was that "Palestine be established as a Jewish Commonwealth integrated in the structure of the democratic world." Israel was established 17 months later.





Alfred Dreyfus was a Jewish officer in the French army who in 1894 was wrongly convicted of spying for Germany. His conviction and later exoneration became known as the Dreyfus Affair, a miscarriage of justice rooted in antisemitism, which divided France. Imprisoned on Devil's Island for five years, Dreyfus was convicted again in a second trial, and ultimately pardoned. He was exonerated in 1906 and reinstated in the French Army, in which he served through the First World War. The yellow jersey worn by the leader of the Tour de France is related to the Dreyfus Affair—as the bicycle race was founded in 1903 by the anti-Dreyfus sports paper, L'Auto. Here is Dreyfus with his children.



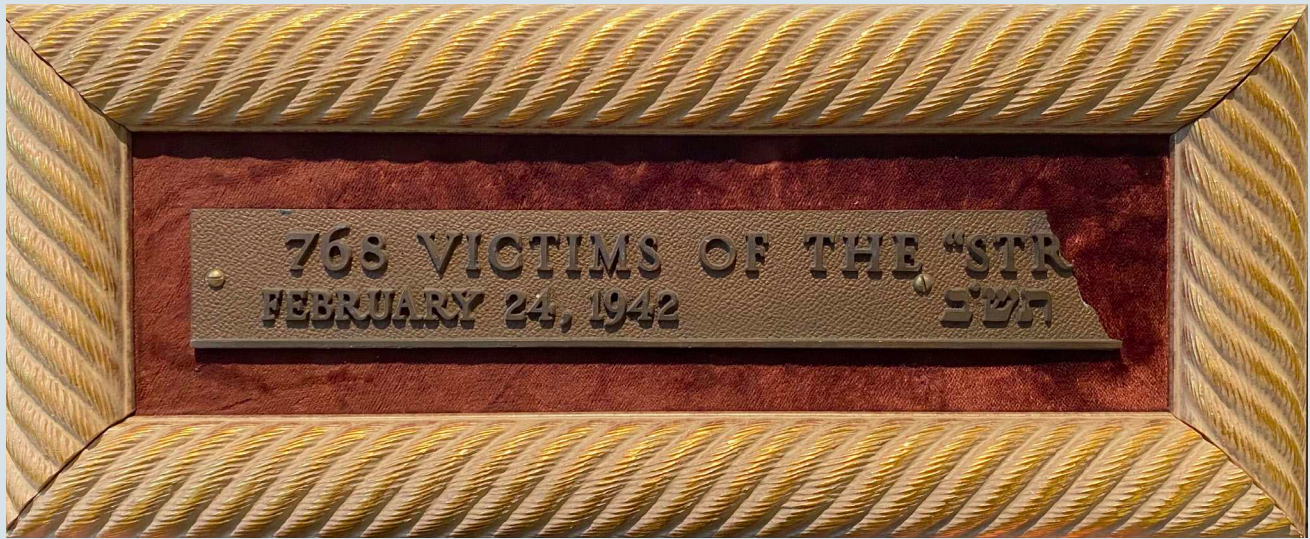


The Romance of a People historical pageant was performed before 125,000 people at Chicago’s Soldier Field on Jewish Day at the 1933 World’s Fair. With its depiction of 4,000 years of Jewish history from Abraham to the pioneers in Israel, the event was a fundraiser to resettle German Jews in Palestine. To ensure a large audience, organizer Meyer Weisgal included schools and youth groups among the 6,000 performers—rightly concluding that parents and grandparents would attend. The show helped raise the profile of Zionism in Chicago and unified its Jewish community. After a four-day run at New York’s Polo Grounds was rained out, it ran for 20 performances at an indoor location instead and raised an additional \$100,000 for German Jewry (the equivalent of \$2.1 million today.)

Pupier was a French chocolatier that included trading cards with its products. In 1938, they depicted scenes from countries including Palestine featuring religious sites, views of Jerusalem, a map and a Zionist flag. Another card depicted the camp at Ben Shemen: founded in 1927, and still running to this day, the youth village and agricultural school counted Shimon Peres among its students. The back of this card—remember, this was 1938—calls it “a Jewish colony for children, located on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, where a number of young German Israelites are grouped together, having left Germany as a result of political events.” One can’t help but wonder if the “political events” detracted from anyone’s enjoyment of the chocolate.







The Struma, a cattle boat, left Romania in December 1941 with nearly 800 Jewish refugees bound for Palestine. But, when the engine failed, it was towed to Istanbul. Great Britain urged the Turkish government to prevent the ship from leaving—in order to limit immigration to Palestine—and Turkey wouldn't allow the passengers to disembark. For two months, the ship sat with the stranded passengers (including 100 children) who shared limited food and poor sanitation facilities. Determined to break the impasse on Feb. 23, 1942, Turkish authorities towed the hobbled ship into the Black Sea and abandoned it. The next morning, it was torpedoed by a Russian submarine—and only one person survived. The Struma's sinking led to widespread international protest against Britain's restrictive policy on immigration into Palestine.



Work und Weg (Work and Way) was an exhibition that opened on September 1, 1940 at the Youth Aliyah school in Vienna. The exhibit showcased the skills of the students who were preparing (hoping) to leave Austria to engage in manual work in Palestine. It offered an extremely rare opportunity for Viennese Jews to attend a cultural event which the Nazis otherwise prohibited. The Youth Aliyah organization had three foundational elements—work, study and communal life. By the end of World War Two it succeeded in rescuing 15,000 children from Nazi Germany and Austria. This is a small advertisement (note the map of Israel in the background) with “Work and Way” signaling that agricultural work was the path to leaving Austria at this most perilous time.





Henrietta Szold (1860-1945) had her *yahrzeit* become the date of Mother's Day in Israel. The suggestion was made to a children's newspaper by 11-year-old Nechama Frankel in 1951. Baltimore-born Szold was the founder of America's women's Zionist association, Hadassah, which brought modern medicine to Palestine starting in 1913. Four years later, she visited Toronto to inspire Hadassah's expansion in Canada. Szold also ran Youth Aliyah, which saved thousands of children during the Holocaust and helped resettle thousands of young survivors after the war. She is thought of as a mother figure even though she had no children of her own. (Israel's Mother's Day became Family Day in the 1990s—it's celebrated on 30 Shevat.)

*We Will Never Die* premiered at Madison Square Garden on March 9, 1943, with two performances before an audience of 40,000. Written by Ben Hecht with music by Kurt Weill, and produced by Billy Rose, its purpose was to make America do something to stop the destruction of European Jewry—which was well underway. "These are the 2 million Jewish dead of Europe today," the show began. "The 4 million left to kill are being killed, according to plan." After the debut, it was performed in five other cities, including before Eleanor Roosevelt in Washington, D.C. According to historian Rafael Medoff, the dramatic pageant helped shatter the curtain of silence surrounding the Holocaust, by drawing attention to a crisis that much of the mainstream news media were ignoring.



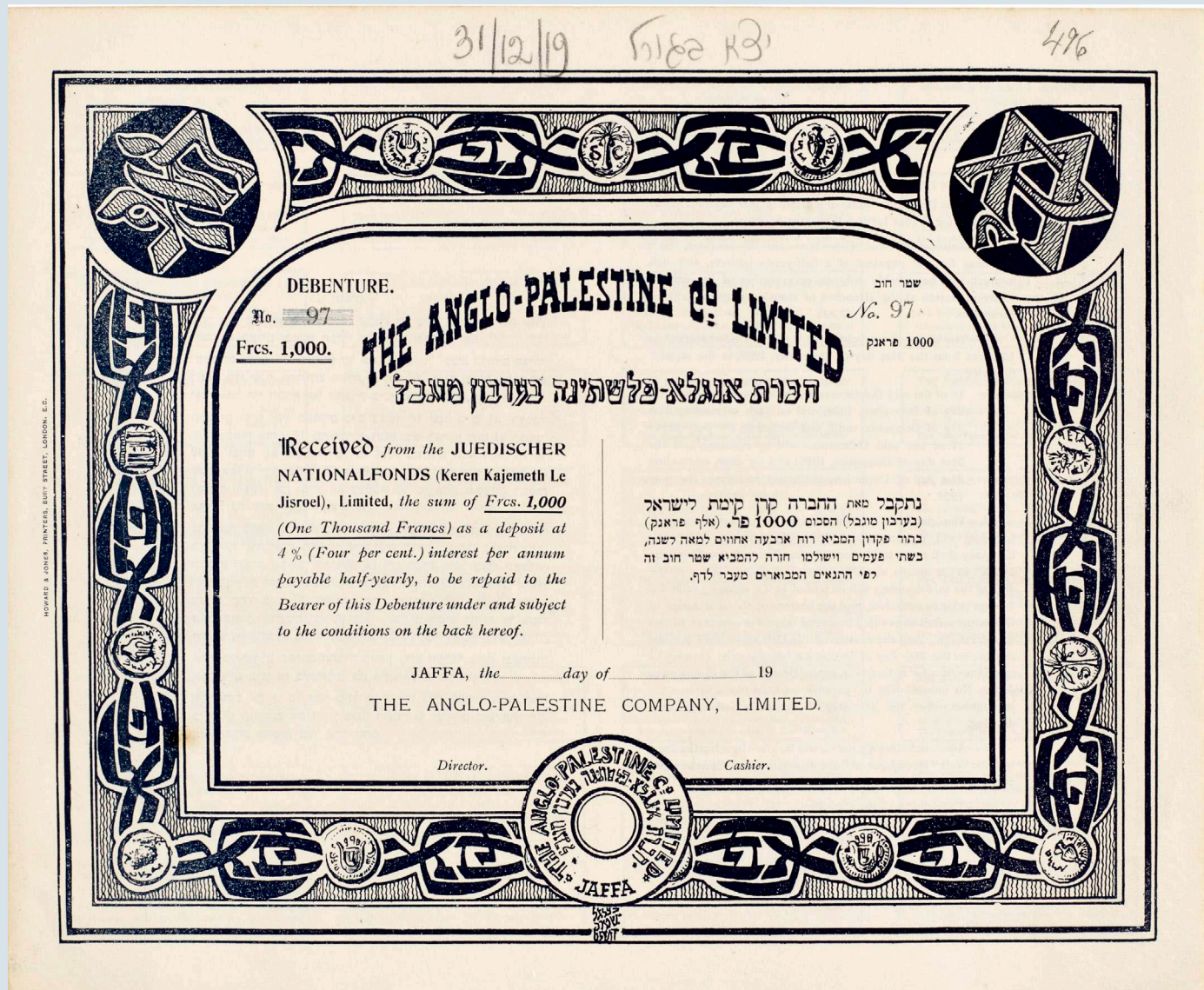




George Meltz was born in Toronto as the youngest of 10 children to Nathan and Rachel Meltz. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in September 1940, and shipped out to England one year later. It was there that he married Trudy Lewis of London, and trained for Operation Overlord—the invasion of Nazi occupied Western Europe. It was on D-Day, June 6, 1944, that Bombardier George Meltz was one of 160,000 Allied troops who stormed the beaches of Normandy. One month later he was killed by a sniper at age 25, and was buried at the Canadian Military Cemetery at Juno Beach, France. On his gravestone is written “HE DIED SO JEWRY SHALL SUFFER NO MORE.”



# The Building



Ahuzat Bayit (“homestead”) was a group seeking to form an urban community outside of Jaffa in 1906, which approached the Jewish National Fund for a loan to purchase land. The JNF were supportive but for one problem: local laws prevented it. The Anglo-Palestine Company, formed four years earlier to fund settlement and development initiatives, determined the loan was too risky, but came up with a plan: the JNF loaned 300,000 French francs to Anglo-Palestine, which issued a series of 300 bonds against the loan, at 1000 francs each. Anglo-Palestine loaned the funds back to the founders of Ahuzat Bayit, which became the original name of Tel Aviv. The proceeds allowed 60 residents to build homes, while the Anglo-Palestine Company became Israel’s largest bank: Bank Leumi.





Jewish National Fund was founded on Dec. 29, 1901, by resolution passed at the Fifth Zionist Congress. Herman Schapira, the German-Jewish mathematician who had the idea for a national fund to purchase land with, did not live to see his proposal become reality. He also had the idea for the iconic blue charity box or pushke which became a trademark for generations—and its leading money-raising tool. As a result, when Israel was established in 1948, 233 of the 305 communities in the new state were on land bought by the JNF. Thanks to its work, it's the only country in the world to have more trees at the end of the 20th century than at the beginning. (The pictured Blue Box is 100 years old.)





Keren Hayesod (Palestine Foundation Fund) was established in 1920 in London, England, to finance the Zionist movement’s work to bring about the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. Leading figures from Chaim Weizmann to Ze’ev Jabotinsky were involved in its fundraising efforts. Keren Hayesod helped raise the seed money to establish the Hebrew University and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. It also helped develop the Haifa Bay suburbs to settle German Jewish refugees in the 1930s, and established dozens of communities to house the waves of immigrants after Israel’s creation. It continues to serve as a link between the people of Israel and Jewish communities around the world. This plaque recognizes a contribution made 100 years ago.

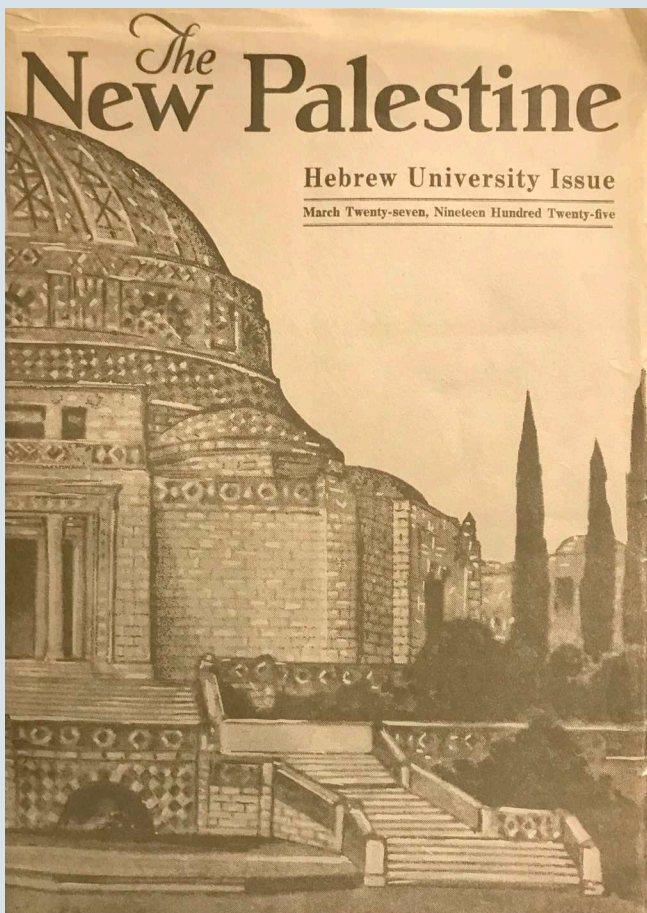


“The Hoachooza Plan” enabled individuals to form company syndicates that purchased real estate in the Land of Israel: to form a new colony, hire local Jewish labourers to build the village and prepare the land, then settle on it five years later—when it was ready. In the process, shareholders avoided the difficulties of house building and pioneer farming, and continued to accumulate capital. From 1908 to 1934, Achooza (estate) land purchasing companies were formed across the United States, and in Winnipeg and Montreal. Israeli cities including Herzliya, Afula and Ra’anana were founded through this system. This share certificate, from 1921, was for an Achooza formed in Chicago.





Jaffa oranges (also known as shamouti) are sweet and practically seedless, with thick peels easily removed from the fruit. This type of orange was developed in the 1850s by Arab farmers outside the city of Jaffa: its tough skin made them especially suitable for export, which initially was through the port in Jaffa—hence the name. The early Zionist pioneers brought with them modern scientific methods of planting and cultivation, which turned this fruit into an important industry. By 1939, Jewish and Arab owned orchards covered 75,000 acres, employed 100,000 workers and exported 15 million cases. In the 1950s and '60s, the Jaffa orange became a symbol of Israel and its main export. This ad for the “Lord” brand is from 1927 (We expect the fruit had a heavenly taste.)



The New Palestine was published by the Zionist Organization of America, which commemorated the April 1925 dedication of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with this 175-page edition (“An event of outstanding importance in Zionist and Jewish history”). The editor was Meyer Weisgal: in 1930, at the request of Canadian community leader and philanthropist Rose Dunkelman—founder of the Balfour Beach cottage area—he moved to Toronto for two years to become editor of The Jewish Standard. It was a pro-Zionist periodical founded to counter an anti-Zionist one, The Canadian Jewish Review.





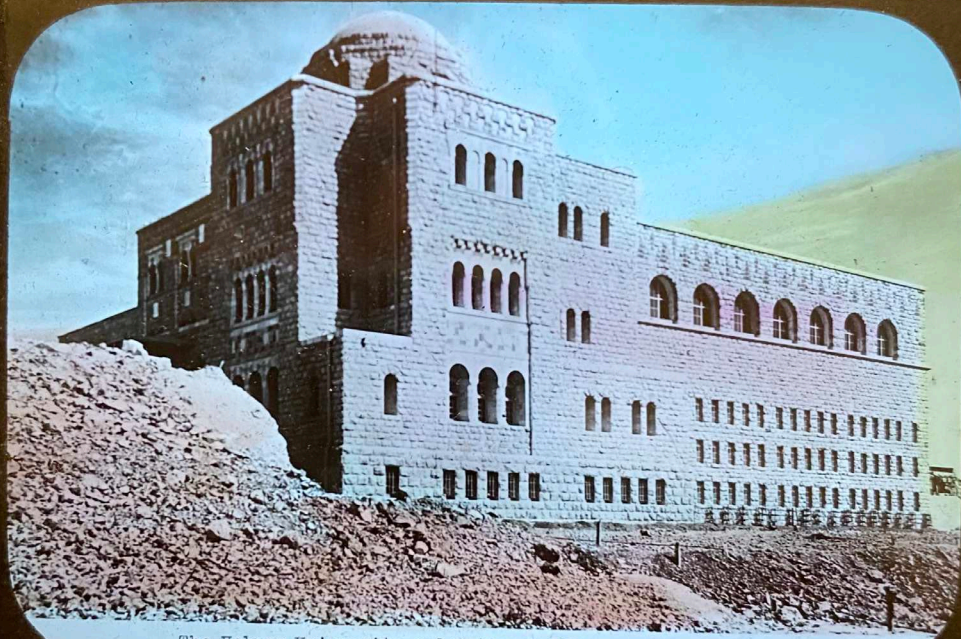
Joseph Trumpeldor (1880-1920) was a Zionist national hero who died with seven others defending the Tel Hai village in the Upper Galilee. The town of Kiryat Shmona (“City of Eight”) is named after these eight heroes. Born in Russia, he lost his left arm in the Russo-Japanese war. After later moving to Palestine, he served in the Zion Mule Corps, an all-Jewish unit in the British Army in the First World War. “It is good to die for our country,” Trumpeldor reportedly said after being fatally shot defending Tel Hai—a quote that appears on this medal minted in 1970 for the Medallic History of the Jewish People. Betar—the Revisionist Zionist youth movement—is an acronym for Brith Yoseph Trumpeldor (“The covenant of Joseph Trumpeldor”). Betar was also the last Jewish fort to fall in the Bar Kokhba revolt of 136 C.E.

Avshalom Feinberg (1889-1917) was a founder of NILI (Hebrew initials for Netzah Yisrael Lo Yishaker—“The eternal one of Israel will not be false”). It was an underground spy ring which helped the British liberate Palestine from the Turks in the First World War. The NILI network provided the British secret service with important strategic information, including the location of Sinai water resources and desert routes. Returning from a trip to Egypt to share information with the British, Feinberg was killed by a Turkish soldier. His fate was unknown until after Israel captured the Sinai in 1967 when an elderly Bedouin directed an IDF officer to a large palm tree—which grew in the desert from dates Feinberg carried in his pocket when he died.





**CHARLES POTTER - 16 Adelaide West - TORONTO**



The Hebrew University and National Library, Jerusalem.

The National Library of Israel was founded in 1892 in Jerusalem as the Midrash Abarbanel Library. It moved to the Mount Scopus campus of the just opened Hebrew University as the renamed “Jewish National and University Library” in 1925—the year the picture in this “magic lantern” slide was taken. When the campus was cut off from the rest of the city in 1948, the collection was smuggled into other areas of Jerusalem: 12 years later, it was reunited with the dedication of a new facility on the University’s Givat Ram campus. A new building near the Knesset will hold over 5 million books when it opens in 2023. The library will continue to fulfill its mission to collect and preserve the knowledge, heritage and culture of Israel and the Jewish people, and endow these treasures to this and future generations.





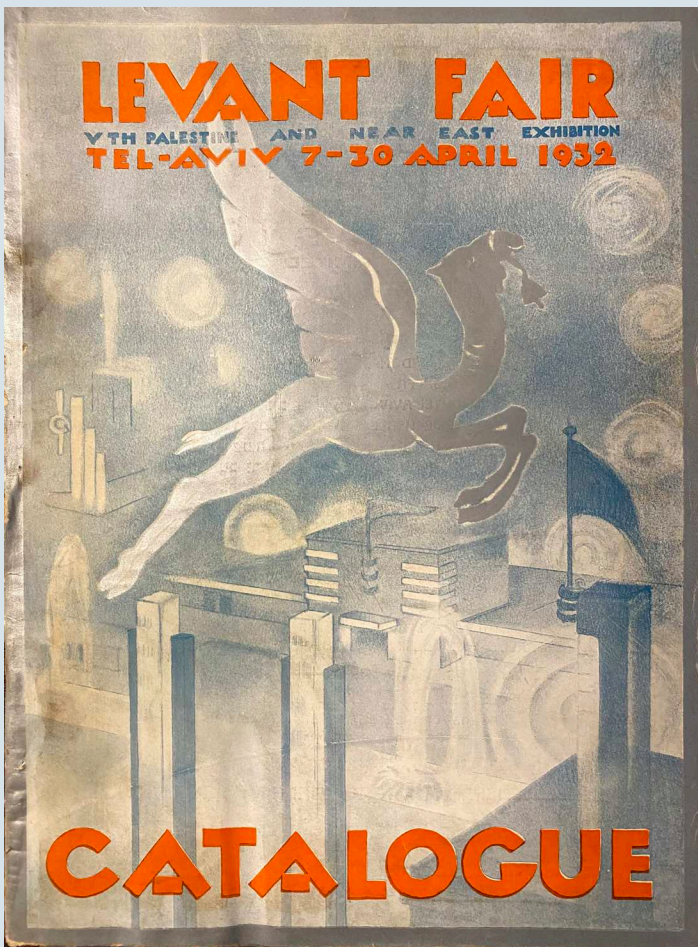
Ein Harod is a kibbutz (communal farm) founded in 1921 by Russian pioneers in northern Israel. Four years later, it was the centre of the kibbutz movement. Its members continue to live the kibbutz way of life, sharing the burden of working in its fields, industry, dairy barn and stables. This “magic lantern” slide is one of a 1920s Palestine series made by Toronto’s Charles Potter company, which also sold optical equipment and mathematical instruments. It depicts the bringing of the first fruits (bikkurim), part of the celebration of the holiday of Shavuot, which in the days of the ancient Temple—and in this picture—consisted of the land’s seven species: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.



King David Hotel opened in Jerusalem in 1931 with construction financing provided by wealthy Egyptian Jews and the National Bank of Egypt. Since then, it’s hosted emperors, kings and many world leaders including seven U.S. presidents. During the British Mandate, the south wing of the hotel served as the British administrative and military headquarters. In a controversial operation, on July 22, 1946 the Irgun military group bombed the hotel, resulting in 91 deaths. Multiple scenes of the movie Exodus were filmed here, including Ari Ben Canaan (Paul Newman) lunching on the terrace overlooking the Old City. And stickers like this one were affixed to luggage by visitors during the Golden Age of Travel.

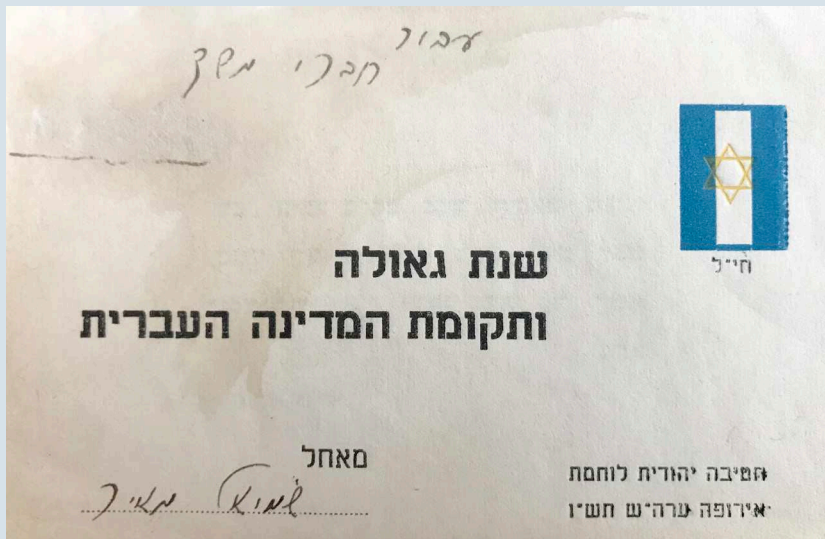


The B'nai B'rith Palestine Housebuilding Fund was established in 1924 to build communities for immigrants. The Fund purchased 25,000 dunams of land in Western Jerusalem and developed the neighbourhood now called Bayit Vegan (house and garden). Conceived as a utopian community where all classes of people would work and contribute to the success of the cooperative venture, the area is now an affluent suburb with only the synagogue's name as a reminder of its origins. The B'nai B'rith organization was founded in 1843 in New York as a Jewish service organization. In 1888, it recognized its first lodge in Israel which opened Jerusalem's first free public library (the nucleus of today's National Library of Israel), kindergartens and orphanages and built homes and communities for new immigrants.



The Levant Fair was an international industrial trade exposition during the 1930s in Tel Aviv—in 1934, it hosted 820 international companies and 600,000 visitors. The fair incorporated the local industrial exhibitions first organized in 1923 by Alexander Yevzerov (1894-1973), a Siberian Zionist who immigrated to Palestine with the vision of making Israel an industrial powerhouse. He established Mischar ve Taasya (Trade and Industry Publishing and Exhibition Co.) to organize these fairs, publish economic magazines (like this one) and promote buying local products (totzeret haaretz). Yevzerov built the Binyanei HaUmah national conference center in Jerusalem in 1950, to make Israel's capital a center for commerce, industry and culture. Yevzerov also changed his name to Ezer, meaning help—something which he certainly did.





The Jewish Brigade of the British Army was the source of this 1945 Rosh Hashanah card from a Palestinian soldier wishing for a year of redemption and restoration of the Jewish state. During the Second World War, about 30,000 Jewish volunteers from Palestine served with the British forces: 700 were killed. Flying the Zionist flag, the brigade fought in Italy from March 1945 until the German surrender in May. The soldiers also helped organize displaced persons camps for Holocaust survivors and assisted the illegal immigration of Jewish refugees to Palestine. Brigade veterans served with distinction in the Israel Defence Forces and 35 rose to the ranks of general.

Dov Gruner was a member of the Irgun, the pre-state Jewish paramilitary group that operated in Palestine during the British Mandate. Gruner joined the Irgun after serving in the British army fighting the Nazis. He was wounded in a raid against a police station, captured and charged. His trial before a British military court began on January 1, 1947. Gruner refused to recognize the authority of the court because the British betrayed their commitment to help establish the Jewish homeland, saying “there is no power in the world which can sever the tie between the Jewish people and their one and only land.” Refusing to offer a defence or accept any commutation, on April 16, 1947 Gruner was hanged in Acre prison together with three colleagues. He was 35.





Kofer HaYishuv (literally the “Jewish Settlement Ransom”) was a special fund established by the Vaad Haleumi or Jewish National Council in 1938 to finance the protection of the Jewish communities before Israel’s independence. Created in response to the Arab Revolt of 1936-1939 and the Jewish population’s concern that the British were not doing enough to protect them, the fund raised money by imposing indirect taxes on products such as cigarettes, oil, wine, radios and public transportation. The amounts collected were used to train soldiers, establish defence units, build fences, construct security routes and build “tower and stockade” settlements. The tax was paid voluntarily, and in return the payor received a stamp such as this one which depicts a tower and stockade outpost, a form of prefabricated fortress.



“Gift from Israel” is inscribed on the base of this etrog holder, whose green colour was typical of the metal crafts that became a tourist favourite in the 1950s and ‘60s. Maurice Ascalon, a Hungarian immigrant, developed the chemical process that created the green patina that gave these items an aged, archaeological look. Before regular steamship service from New York to Palestine started in 1867, the etrogs (citroen) used in North America for the Sukkot holiday came from Corsica, the Caribbean and the United States. Within a decade, the first etrogs from the Land of Israel arrived in New York. Since then, most etrogs sold in North America come from Israel—and they often end up in holders like this one.





The Kova Tembel (whose exact translation is “dunce cap”) was the symbol of Israeli pioneers from the beginning of the 20th century until the 1970s. Some think the word tembel is a derivation of Templar, a Christian sect active in Israel over a century ago, whose members wore similar hats. Tembel is also the Turkish word for lazy—although the early Jewish pioneers wearing them were anything but. The cap fell out of style, but its influence was immortalized in a 2017 fashion exhibit at New York’s Museum of Modern Art.



# The Realization



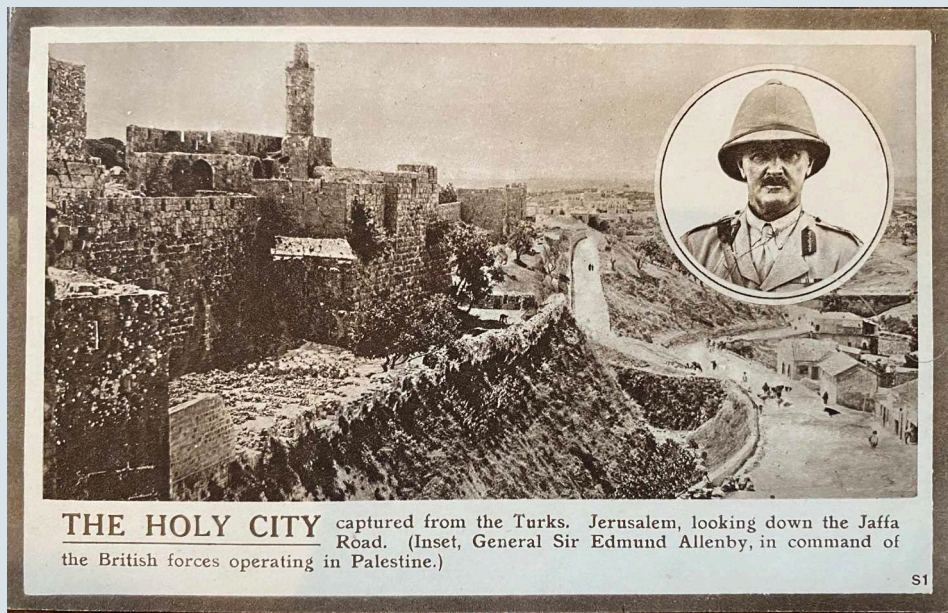
The Balfour Declaration of Nov. 2, 1917, was the British government's statement of public support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. (This image appeared in a school workbook.) It was a hand-delivered letter from foreign secretary Lord Arthur Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild, president of the English Zionist Federation. Rothschild said the Declaration was the most momentous historical Jewish occasion in 1,800 years: for the first time since the Roman dispersion from Palestine in 70 A.D., aspirations for a national home were recognized. The declaration was celebrated across the world—children were named Balfoura, and a cottage area north of Toronto was named after it: Balfour Beach.



נאום מנהל הגימנסיה לכבוד בלפור  
Address of Director of Gymnasium in honour of Balfour

The Balfour Declaration was the Nov. 2, 1917, statement of the British Government that it views “with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” Lord Arthur Balfour, the author of those words, toured Palestine in 1925 at the invitation of Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann. He attended the ceremonial opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was welcomed throughout his tour with great honour and ceremony by the Jewish population—including at Tel Aviv’s Gymnasium Hebrew school, which is depicted in this postcard. But the Arab population greeted Balfour with strikes and protests; after Palestine, he traveled to Damascus where he was greeted by a hostile crowd of 6,000. A riot ensued. Fearing for his safety, Balfour ended his trip to Syria early, and returned home.





General Sir Edmund Allenby (1861-1936) commanded the British Army's Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. He led the conquest of southern Palestine including Gaza and Beersheva before capturing Jerusalem in December 1917, which ended nearly 500 years of Ottoman or Turkish rule. When he arrived in Jerusalem, Allenby rode his horse to the Jaffa Gate, then dismounted to enter the Old City on foot out of respect for the holiness of the site—in contrast to Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm who in 1898 rode into the city on a white horse. Allenby worked with Jerusalem's community leaders to ensure that the religious sites of all faiths were protected. Allenby Junior Public School in Toronto's Lawrence Park neighbourhood, which opened in 1931, is named in his honour.

<p><b>אלפרד גינסבורג</b>          עם התזמורת  <b>פרשקו-זומרפלד</b>  <b>ALFRED GINSBURG</b>          with the  <b>FERSZKO-SOMMERFELD-BAND</b></p>	<p><b>מדליין את לינדר</b>          זוג הרקדנים המפורסמים בתכנית חדשה  <b>MADELEINE &amp; LINDER</b>          THE FAMOUS DANCE COUPLE IN A NEW PROGRAMME</p>
<p>NIGHTLY FROM 8 P.M. <b>ערב, ערב, ערב</b> מועד</p>	
<p><b>HOTEL</b>  <b>SAN-REMO</b>          ON THE SEA SHORE</p>	<p><b>מלון</b>  <b>סן-רמו</b>          על שפת הים</p>
<p><b>האחים פופוף</b>          אמני מכוניות  <b>POPOFF BROS.</b>          DUO ON MOUTH-ORGANS</p>	<p><b>ברברה סיל</b>          הרקדנית הידועה  <b>BARBARA SIL</b>          THE CHARMING DANCER</p>
<p>DAILY <b>GARDEN-CONCERT</b> FROM 6-7 <b>משעה</b> <b>בגן קונצרט</b>          EVERY SATURDAY &amp; SUNDAY: TEA DANCE WITH FULL SHOW - <b>בכל שבת ויום ראשון תה-דקוד עם תכנית מלאה</b></p>	

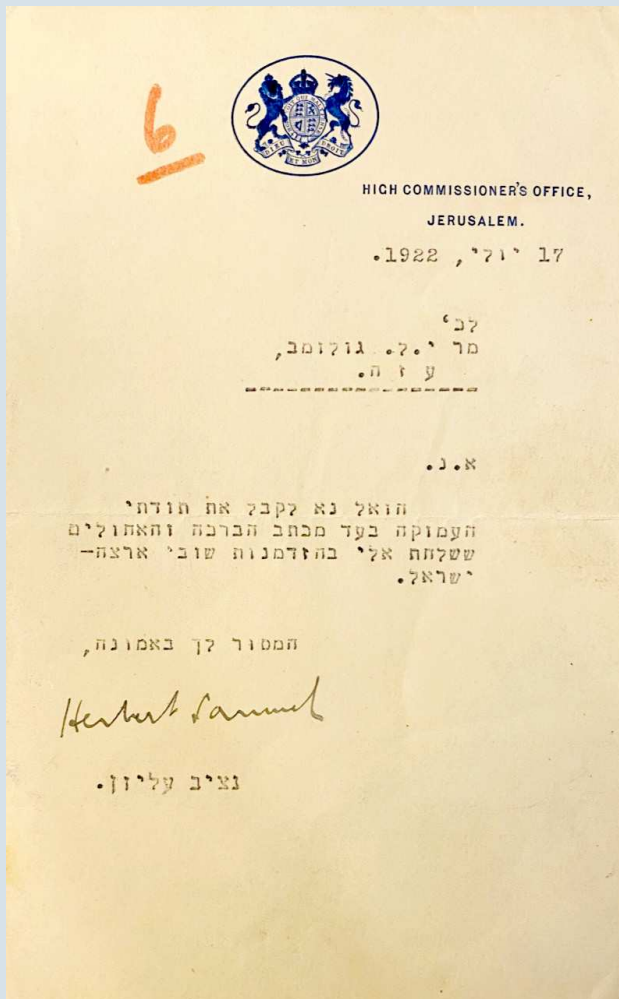
The San Remo Resolution of April 25, 1920, saw the victorious allies in the First World War (Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan) commit to “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,” confirming the pledge made by the British Government in the Balfour Declaration. The resolution required the allied countries to pick one “Mandatory” to put this commitment into effect. The League of Nations selected Britain in 1922, thus creating the British Mandate as a temporary trust to facilitate the establishment of the Jewish national home. It was such a momentous event that a posh seaside resort in Tel Aviv took the name, San Remo.





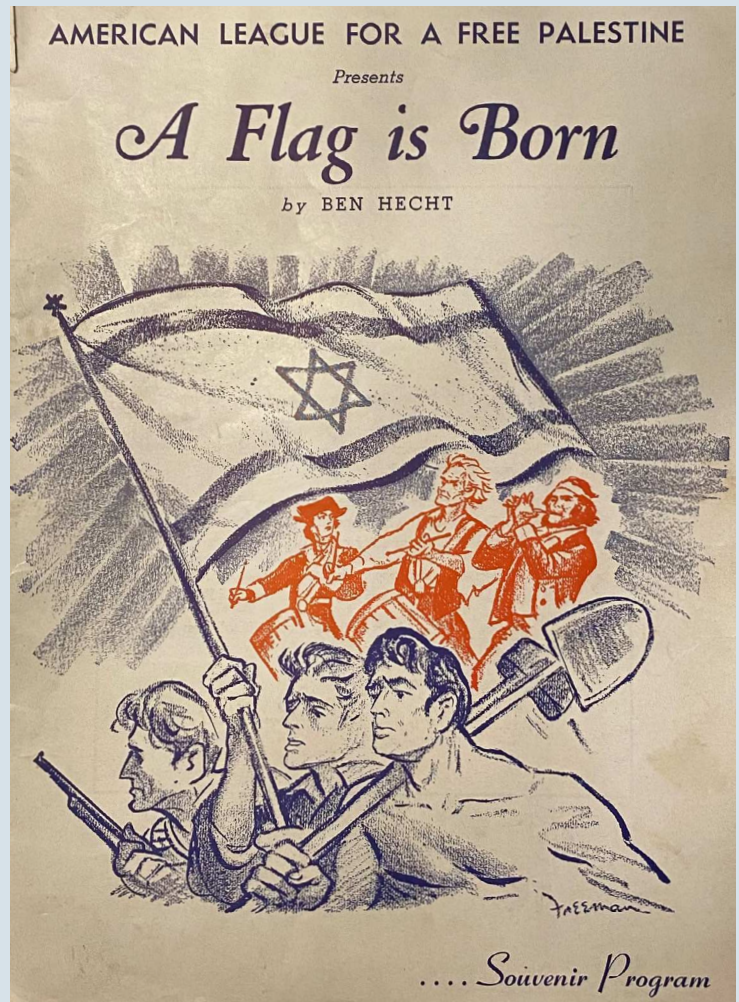
July 24, 1922 is the date when the League of Nations—predecessor to the United Nations—resolved to establish the British Mandate, which gave recognition “to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country.” Great Britain became responsible for preparing conditions “as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home.” The resolution was unanimously approved by all 51 member nations (all League resolutions required unanimity). It implemented the agreement reached at the San Remo conference two years prior, commemorated on this 1920 Dutch-minted medal, which depicts a hammer-wielding modern pioneer meeting an ancestor from the time of the destruction of the Second Temple.





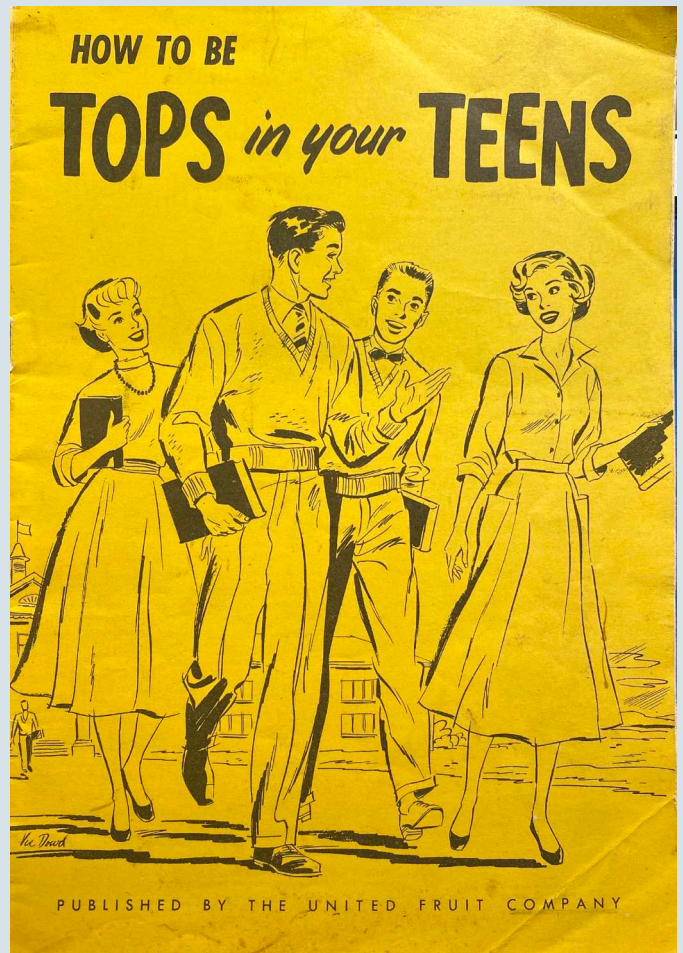
Herbert Samuel (1870-1963) was England's Postmaster General in January 1915 when he prepared a memorandum to the British Cabinet called The Future of Palestine. It proposed that the British conquer it to establish a Jewish centre to be part of the British Empire.. Samuel was Jewish and a Zionist. In 1920, Britain appointed him the first High Commissioner for Palestine, putting him in charge of administering the territory. His appointment was controversial as Zionists saw him as the first step in the formation of the Jewish national home, and the Arab population was critical for the very same reason. This letter from Samuel in Hebrew (one of the three official languages for the territory he recognized) gives thanks for the warm wishes received on his return to Israel.

A Flag is Born, a play written by Ben Hecht, opened on Broadway on Sept. 4, 1946, and ran for 120 performances with a cast that featured a 22-year-old Marlon Brando. It was presented by the American League for a Free Palestine, whose ambitions were patterned after the Spirit of 1776 - as reflected in this programme cover. The production raised \$1 million, which helped to purchase a ship to transport Holocaust survivors: the S.S. Ben Hecht was intercepted by the British on March 8, 1947, and its 600 passengers and 21 crew members were sent to a detention camp in Cyprus. But it also helped to turn public opinion against the British administration, which led to the creation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. Now that's a successful show.





United Fruit Company, now known as Chiquita Brands International, was once controlled by Sam "the Banana Man" Zemurray (1877-1961). In the 1920s, this New Orleans-based banana importer donated \$500,000 to the Jewish Agency, and another \$700,000 to build a power plant in Palestine. After the Second World War, Zemurray arranged for the purchase of illegal immigrant ships and arms. Later, at Chaim Weizmann's request, he used his influence in South American countries to encourage them to vote in favour of the UN Partition Resolution. The term "banana republic" (coined by O. Henry in 1901) referred to politically unstable countries dependent on the exportation of resources such as bananas that were exploited by companies like United Fruit. This 1953 United Fruit publication encourages a healthy lifestyle—in part through eating bananas.



# HOW TO BE TOPS in your TEENS

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY

THE WORLD FAMOUS NAME IN TEA

OBTAINABLE EVERYWHERE

LATE Edition

## THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM  
MONDAY, December 1, 1947

PRICE: 30 MILLS  
VOL. XXIV, No. 617

**Column One**  
By David Courtney

**FIRST HAPPY DAY FOR REFUGEES**

It is a happy day for the Jewish Agency, for the first time in its history, it has a large number of Jewish refugees who have been accepted for admission to the Jewish state. The Jewish Agency has been successful in securing the admission of 10,000 Jewish refugees to the Jewish state. This is a great achievement for the Jewish Agency, and a great relief for the Jewish refugees who have been waiting for a long time for a chance to return to their homeland.

### YISHUV CELEBRATES JEWISH STATE DECISION

In the towns and villages of Jewish Palestine, the U.N. decision was greeted with exultation and merrymaking almost continuously from before dawn till after dusk yesterday.

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

**REJOICING IN JERUSALEM**

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

**JERUSALEM DRESSED IN BLUE AND WHITE**

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

**4 Dead In Syrian Rioting**

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

**ICE-CREAM FOR ALL IN TEL AVIV**

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

**7 Jews Murdered**

The Jews had been had been attacked with a number of Jews killed, and with the national institutions, that is, a victory, after about yesterday they did not vary the general spirit of rejoicing.

The Partition Resolution to split Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 29, 1947. Jerusalem wasn't named in either state—instead, it was subject to a special international regime. As proposed, one percent of the citizens of the Arab state, 55 percent of the Jewish state and 49 percent of the internationalized Jerusalem would be Jewish. Supreme Court of Canada Justice Ivan Rand was one of the members of the UN committee that recommended the plan, while Lester Pearson—then a Canadian diplomat and later prime minister—was instrumental in securing a compromise in favour of the partition. The Jewish side accepted partition with celebrations, while the Arabs rejected it and started a war to prevent its implementation.





The Partition Resolution passed by the United Nations on Nov. 29, 1947, called for the creation of a Jewish State and the end of the British Mandate. The British then started to wind down their administrative duties including ending postal services in April 1948. But, to ensure the public would still be able to send and receive mail, the provisional Jewish government in Palestine improvised and authorized the use of pre-existing Jewish National Fund stamps (overprinted with the word “Doar” or post) as valid postage stamps. These are two JNF stamps—one depicting the partition map of the independent Jewish state and the other the Negev water pipeline—which were used to send mail and postmarked by Minhelet Ha’am (People’s Administration). Israel issued its own stamps right after independence.

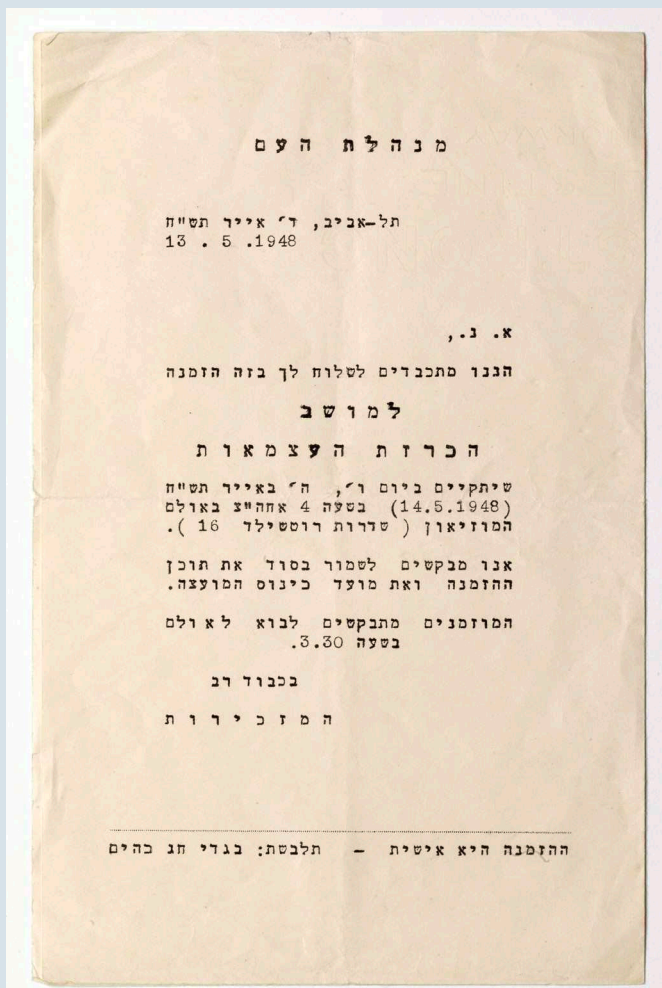


Nathan Alterman (1910-1970) was born in Warsaw and moved to Tel Aviv when he was 15. He was a poet and weekly columnist for the Labour Movement’s newspaper, Davar, who David Ben-Gurion referred to as “the conscience of the nation.” Responding to Chaim Weizmann’s warning that “the state will not be given to the Jewish people on a silver platter” on Dec. 19, 1947 Alterman published his poem “Magash HaKesef” (“The Silver Platter”), which captured the sacrifice necessary to create the state. In it, two battle weary soldiers declare: “We are the silver platter on which the Jewish state was given,” words repeated annually on Israel’s Remembrance Day. Alterman is honoured by appearing on the 200 shekel banknote.





April 1948 was declared Freedom Month by America's United Jewish Appeal in support of its US\$250 million campaign in the month before Israel's proclamation. UJA Chairman Henry Morgenthau Jr. noted the long and historic association between April and freedom both in Jewish and American history including the holiday of Passover, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the first shot in the American Revolution and the convening of the first US congress in 1789. The campaign funded aid to 250,000 displaced Jews and relief and rehabilitation for another 1,000,000 Jews in Europe and immigration and retraining for newcomers to Israel. A campaign ad declared "This is a campaign to decide the DESTINY of a whole people! You are writing history. Write it BIG- as big as this dream come true."



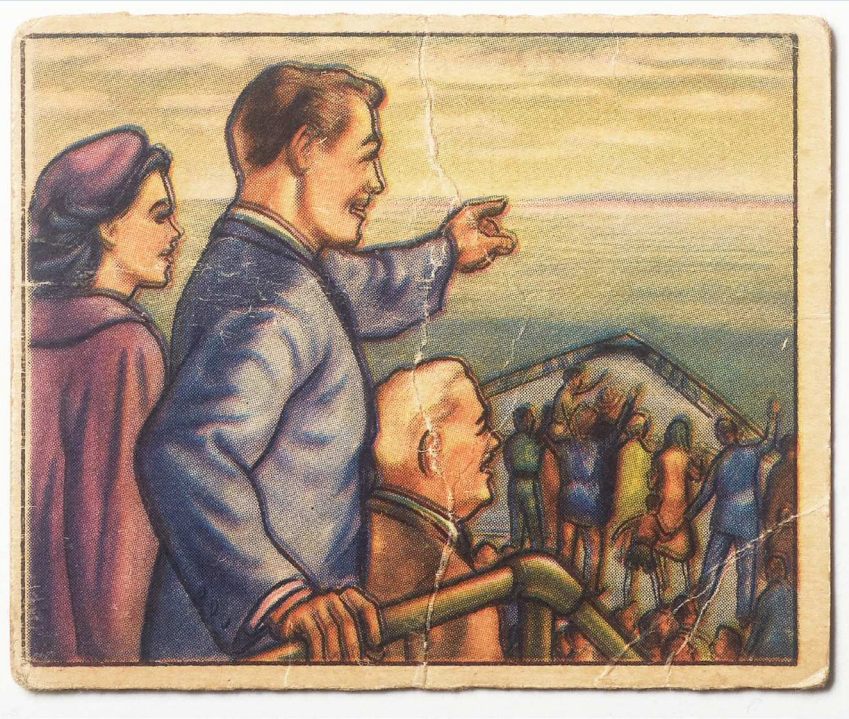
November 29, 1947 was when the United Nations voted to partition Palestine to create separate Jewish and Arab states. The British decided to end their mandate on Saturday, May 15, 1948, but the State of Israel was declared before sundown the night before, by David Ben-Gurion. The invitation to the Declaration of Independence ceremony—the most momentous Jewish event in 2,000 years—was a plain piece of folded printed paper delivered by bicycle courier. Guests were invited to the Tel Aviv Museum, but asked to keep it a secret. Great excitement was combined with fear, as all in attendance knew a long, hard fight to protect the Jewish state would follow.





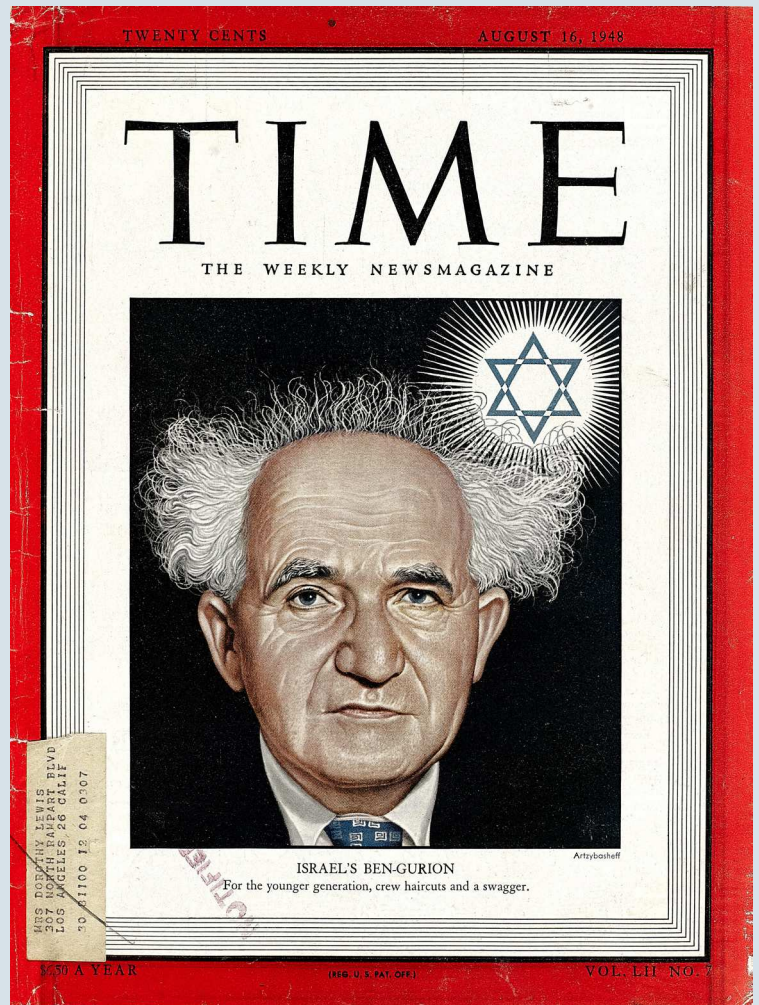
Israel’s first postage stamps said Doar Ivri (Hebrew post) because they were printed before the country’s name was known. Never before had a state prepared its first stamps without knowing the name it would eventually adopt. Prepared in secret because doing so was illegal while the British were still in the country, they feature ancient Hebrew coins to emphasize the connection of the Jewish people to its ancestral homeland. Tabs were added on the bottom row of each sheet to translate the coin’s inscription (this coin is from the second year of the first rebellion [against the Romans, 66 to 70 CE] and says “shekel of Israel, holy Jerusalem”). Israel was declared on Friday May 14 and on Sunday post offices sold these stamps. It was the first tangible sign that the Jewish state had been born.

“Land of Promise” was part of the Wild Man trading card series produced by the Bowman Gum Company in 1950. The set recorded the story of humanity from cavemen and Vikings to falconry and civil aviation. (One card and one piece of gum cost a penny.) A total of 72 cards were issued, including this one with this text on the back: “We live in an age of stirring events, one of which is the founding of the new nation of Israel. Thousands of Jewish people, many of whom suffered terrible persecution during World War II, are returning to Palestine, their ancestral home. By work of hands and brain, they are determined to build an Israel worthy of its glorious heritage.” Now this card is a keeper.





David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) appeared on the Aug. 16, 1948 cover of Time, which reported on his first three months as Israel's prime minister. "In their long and brilliant history the Jews have displayed great genius for religion, ethics, husbandry, commerce, literature, music and art. The one skill they have never shown as a people is a talent for politics," concluded the article. "That is the talent they need now. Perhaps the Israeli has it." Ben-Gurion ended up in office for 15 years (with a short break in the mid-'50s) and lived on Kibbutz Sde Boker until his death, after which a university was named in his honour. And the printed premonition proved right in the end: Ben-Gurion was named one of Time's 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century.



Golda Meir served as Israel's fourth prime minister, from 1969 to 1974. Born in Kiev on May 3, 1898, and raised in Milwaukee, she trained as a teacher. But after becoming a staunch Labour Zionist, she moved to Palestine in 1921—a condition of marriage Golda required of her husband. She was one of two women who signed Israel's Declaration of Independence ("After I signed, I cried"). As the country's first ambassador to the Soviet Union, she was mobbed by thousands of Jews when attending high holiday services in Moscow. As foreign minister, she met President John F. Kennedy, as depicted in this drawing. "We can forgive [the Arabs] for killing our children," she said. "We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children."





Night of Stars was an annual benefit performance by New York’s film and entertainment industry to raise much needed funds for the development of Eretz Yisrael and refugee relief and rehabilitation. The first production was in 1934, before a crowd of 45,000 at Yankee Stadium—donated for the evening by team owner Col. Jacob Ruppert—with proceeds sent to help German Jewry. Macy’s department store owner Nathan Strauss was the key driver behind the event, which inspired large-scale fundraisers by the U.S. Army and Navy, the Red Cross and others. This program is from the 1948 performance, the first after Israel’s independence.

Haggadat Ha’atzmaut (or the Independence Day Haggadah) was commissioned by the State of Israel in its early days as a way to celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut within a traditional Jewish framework. This edition from 1952 combined the structure of a Passover seder, and the Zionist spirit, to tell the story of soldiers and civilians defending and building the new country—plus the history of immigration, resistance to the British, and the declaration of independence. But after 10,000 copies were printed, it roused fierce opposition due to the secularization of the Passover liturgy, and the absence of God from the story. In response, prime minister David Ben-Gurion halted further distribution of the book.







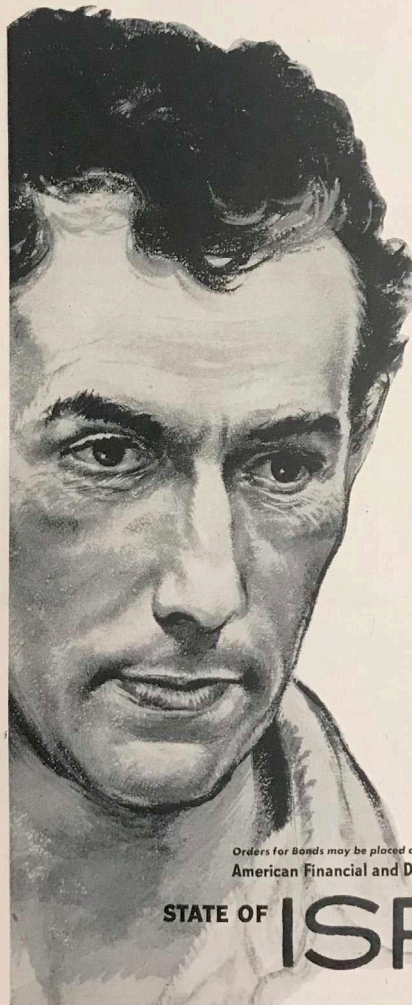
Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) was the leading political artist in the Second World War, who produced hundreds of anti-Nazi illustrations and cartoons in support of the Allied war effort. Born in Poland, he moved in 1940 to Canada from Britain, before continuing to New York. Hitler allegedly put a bounty on his head, leading Eleanor Roosevelt to say, "This is a personal war of Szyk against Hitler, and I don't think Mr. Szyk will lose this war!" After the war, he used his pen in support of social justice causes in the U.S. and the fight for the creation of the State of Israel. This is the cover of a stamp album that Szyk drew in 1948 for his series on the Visual History of Nations.



# The Continuing Story

## *men died*

### SO THESE BONDS COULD BE BORN



Bonds are pretty much alike physically.

But when a bond is made of courage and signed with blood, it deserves special attention. And so do the people behind it.

Today, the people of Israel live vigorously, proudly, vibrantly—their country, like the United States, conceived in the passion of liberty. Yet the Israelis do not want to hug this freedom to themselves.

They want to share it with others—with 600,000 more of their people, now homeless in other lands.

To absorb them, the country's industrial enterprises *must* be expanded. These incoming thousands must have a fruitful life as hard-working members of a freedom-loving community.

That is what these Bonds of Israel are all about—to help this valiant nation make a place in the sun of liberty for 600,000 more productive people. The kind of people who have already pushed back the desert and created miracles of modern agriculture and industry.

Every time you invest in a State of Israel Bond, you invest in far more than 3½% interest. You also invest in the dignity of man and in the future of democracy.

Further information, particularly financial information, is contained in the Registration Statement filed with the Commission and in a more complete Prospectus which must be furnished to each purchaser and is obtainable from the undersigned.

Orders for Bonds may be placed at, and Prospectuses obtained from:  
American Financial and Development Corp. for Israel

STATE OF **ISRAEL** BONDS  
120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y.



Israel Bonds were featured in an advertisement for the first time in *Life*, a magazine published weekly from 1883 to 1972. At a time of financial and political crisis, these raised much-needed capital “to help this valiant nation make a place in the sun of liberty” for 600,000 fellow Jews left “homeless in other lands.” After being introduced by David Ben-Gurion at a Madison Square Garden rally, 700,000 subscribers bought \$145 million worth in the first three years. (More than US\$48 billion have been sold to date.) As stated in this ad, with every purchase “you also invest in the dignity of man and in the future of democracy.”





El Al, Israel's national airline, made its maiden international flight in July 1949. Before its formation, the brand name (taken from the book of Hosea meaning "to the above") was used on a flight to return Israel's first President, Chaim Weizmann, from Geneva as an embargo required Israel to convert a military transport to a civilian plane. The airline code LY is derived from Lydda, the prior name for Lod, where Ben Gurion Airport is located. Between 1949 and 1951, El Al carried over 160,000 immigrants to Israel from Yemen, Iraq and the South Arabian peninsula as part of Operation Magic Carpet and Operation Ezra and Nehemiah. There was a time when airline passengers received a travel bag like this with their printed plane tickets.



Paul Newman played Ari Ben Canaan in the 1960 film adaptation of Exodus, based on the 1958 historical novel by Leon Uris (short for Yerushalmi—from Jerusalem) that topped the New York Times bestseller list for five months. The depiction of Jewish empowerment, at a time of high levels of antisemitism and discrimination, led to the book's success. David Ben-Gurion's review: "As a literary work it isn't much, but as a piece of propaganda, it's the best thing ever written about Israel." The movie was filmed on location in Israel and Cyprus, and won one Academy Award for best original score. Pat Boone later added words to the instrumental theme—which became his hit song "This Land is Mine."





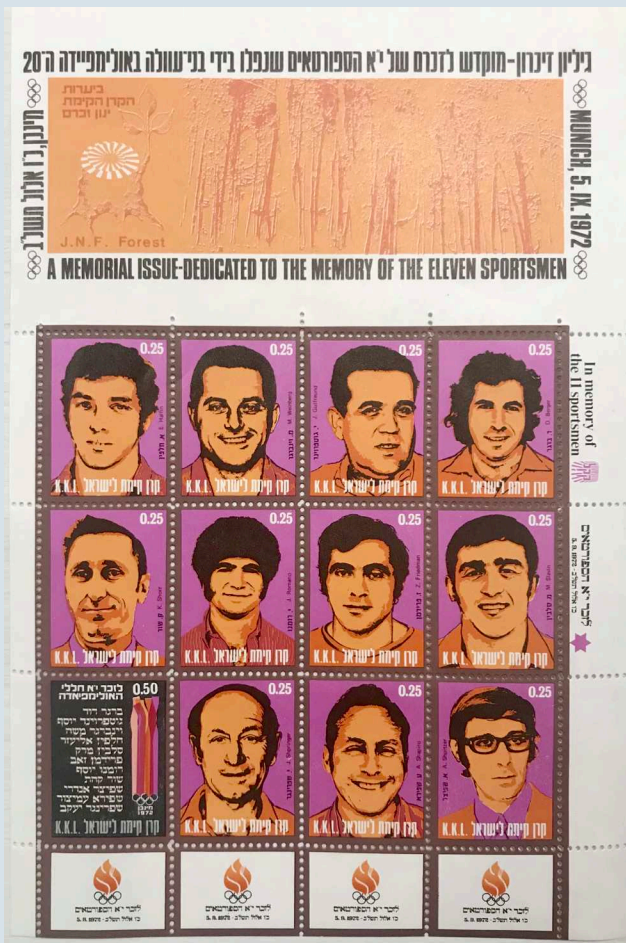
Expo 67 featured pavilions from 72 nations including Israel, as part of celebrating Canada’s centennial. With the permission of the Israeli government, its Pavilion showcased one of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Judean desert caves. These scrolls rarely left the country, but bringing one to Montreal helped promote the connection of the land to the Jewish people, contrary to the claims of Israel’s neighbours. After the Six Day War in June, the pavilion became extremely popular—doubling its expected attendance to 5.5 million before the fair closed on Oct. 29, 1967.

Yitzhak Rabin and Moshe Dayan were Israel’s Chief of Staff and Minister of Defence at the time of a miraculous military victory. The Western Wall of the ancient Temple had been inaccessible to Jews since 1948, as the Old City of Jerusalem was under Jordanian administration. That changed on June 7, 1967 when Jerusalem was reunited. When the war ended after six days, Israel controlled three times as much territory as it had before. Rabin was given the honour of naming the conflict: War of the Daring, War of Salvation and War of the Sons of Light were all considered. He chose The Six-Day War as it evoked the wonder of the six days of creation.





“Free Soviet Jews” was expressed on this pin as part of the international effort to free Jews caught behind the Iron Curtain. The movement started after Israel’s miraculous victory in 1967’s Six Day War, when a number of Russian Jews applied to move to Israel. Their applications were refused, and these “refuseniks” were persecuted for merely making the attempt. A cry for Russia to let our people go to Israel was expressed through press releases, signs, banners, protests and rallies—including an annual one on Simchat Torah. “The 35s” (a group of Canadian women around that age) specialized in gaining media attention for the cause until the Iron Curtain fell in 1991. At that time, said Wendy Eisen, a Canadian leader in the movement: “One million Jews began their 2000-year journey home... to burst brilliantly onto the landscape of Jewish history.)



The 1972 Summer Olympics were held in Munich, Germany, during which 11 Israeli athletes were murdered by Palestinian terrorists. ABC sportscaster Jim McKay delivered the tragic news to audiences across North America: “When I was a kid my father used to say ‘Our greatest hopes and our worst fears are seldom realized.’ Our worst fears have been realized tonight. They have now said there were 11 hostages; two were killed in their rooms this morn—yesterday morning, nine were killed at the airport tonight. They’re all gone.” International Olympic Committee president Avery Brundage insisted the games go on. But the surviving members of the Israeli team returned home to grieve.



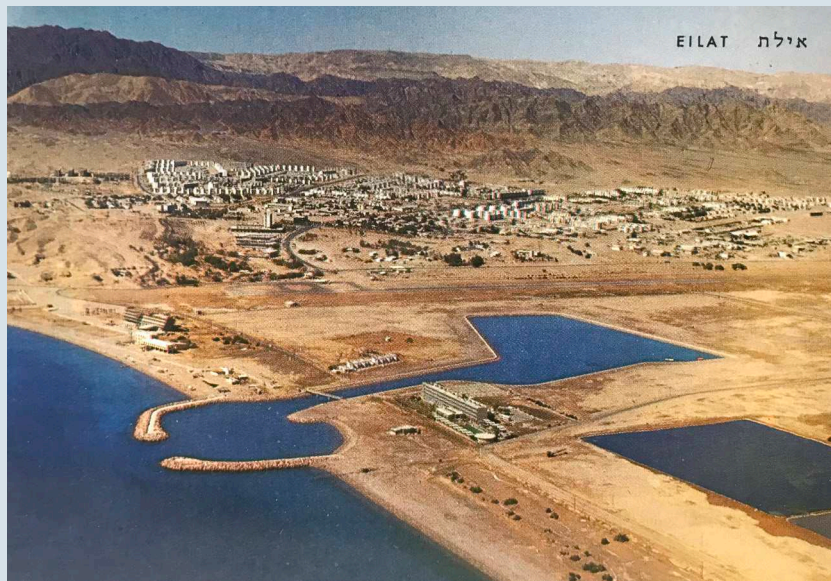


The Yom Kippur War started on October 6, 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated surprise attack against Israel. Within hours, Israel's defence lines along the Suez Canal and on the Golan Heights were broken, and defence minister Moshe Dayan feared the destruction of Israel itself. Only with great heroism was disaster averted, with the staggering cost of over 2,500 Israeli soldiers dead and 7,200 injured. Israeli artist Yossi Stern accompanied the Jerusalem Brigade during the war. His folio of drawings, presented to supporters of the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers in Israel, included this message from Israel's president Zalman Shazar: "Let us hope that killing will stop forever and that we shall see our land living in peace and security."

Operation Thunderbolt gave Israel a chance to demonstrate the lengths it will go to save Jewish lives. July 4, 1976 was when 100 Israeli commandos in three airplanes rescued 102 hostages at the Entebbe Airport, 3500 kilometers away. They were on an Air France flight from Tel Aviv to Paris, which was hijacked on June 27 by Palestinian terrorists aided by two German terrorists, and routed to Uganda. The terrorists threatened to kill the hostages if their demands for the release of prisoners weren't met. Three hostages died in the operation, along with one Israeli soldier—Jonathan Netanyahu, brother of Benjamin. This medal commemorates the daring rescue with a quote from Psalms 91: "Surely he shall deliver thee."







The city of Eilat was nothing but a police station in a place called Um Rash-Rash when it was captured by the Israeli army in the last operation of the War of Independence on March 10, 1949. This important victory without a battle extended Israel to the Gulf of Aqaba and gave it a shipping route through the Red Sea. A makeshift flag—made out of a bedsheet with two stripes made of ink and a Star of David from a first-aid kit—was hoisted to signify the victory. This postcard shows Eilat shortly after its lagoon opened in 1967. Anyone who’s visited the luxury hotels and tourist attractions in the past half-century knows how much the city has changed.



“State of Israel Proclaimed” was the headline in The Grand Rapids Press featured on the back of this trading card, which added that the proclamation “sets up the first Jewish nation in the world since 70 A.D.”. In 1954, Topps diversified from its sports card business to issue the 156 card Scoops series which included this card and showcased other historical global moments including the San Francisco earthquake, the opening of the Panama Canal, the Dionne quintuplets and the fall of Troy to the Greeks. Including the new State of Israel in this series reflects the importance of this momentous historical event and fascination with the revival of Jewish sovereignty, which was true in 1954 and remains true today on Israel’s 75th birthday.





Srulik is the creation of Kariel Gardosh (1921 - 2000), known by his pen name Dosh, who was a political cartoonist, journalist, author and illustrator. Dosh immigrated to Israel from Hungary after surviving the Second World War. Srulik (once a popular nickname for boys named Yisrael) is a cartoon character of a young sabra (Israeli born) boy who first appeared in 1951. He is a visual representation in human form of Israel and the Jewish people in their homeland, wearing a kova tembel (pioneer's hat), biblical sandals and shorts, and standing proud and strong. Srulik is the antithesis of the antisemitic caricatures historically drawn of Jews, and has been described as an icon of Israel in the same way that Uncle Sam symbolizes the United States.





Musical postcard depicting the Declaration of Independence ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum (May 14, 1948) with a recording of the National Hymn, Hatikva. 45 rpm record on cardboard produced in Israel (early 1960s).

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## About the Author

David Matlow is a lawyer at Goodmans LLP in Toronto. He owns the world's largest private collection of Theodor Herzl memorabilia (over 6,000 items) which he has exhibited across Canada and the United States and shares in his weekly column in the Canadian Jewish News (<https://thecjn.ca/arts/treasures>). David speaks regularly to schools, synagogues and other groups about Herzl and his continued relevance hoping to inspire people to keep Herzl's dream alive, and work towards its completion.

More information about David and his collection is available at <https://herzlcollection.com>





מזל טוב - מדינה

