

# THE PERFIN OF PALESTINE by Ray Crow

During the period of British mandate in Palestine (1923-1948), there were two users of Perfins on stamps issued under the mandate. The more prolific user was the Anglo-Palestine Company (now known as the Bank Leumi Le-Israel). The other user was the Keren Kayemet l'Israel (Jewish National Fund).

The Anglo-Palestine Company used the Perfin A.P.C. (Figure 1) at its offices in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jaffa. It was also used (on Lebanese stamps) at the firm's office in Beyrouth. The Keren Kayemet used the pattern KKL (perforated in Hebraic characters (Figure 2), only at its office in Jerusalem.



← Figure 1



Figure 2 →

The A.P.C. Perfin generally was perforated at an angle. Due to variation in the way the stamps were inserted into the Perfin device, they may be found with the Perfin in any one of eight different positions. In his article of 1975 (see bibliography below), Dr. Werner Hoexter worked up a detailed classification of the A.P.C. Perfin positions by stamp issue and city of use. Hoexter's table was expanded slightly in a follow-up article by Marvin Siegel (see bibliography). The expanded table is reproduced in Figure 3. The position designations in the table are as follows (viewing the stamps from the front): A - normal, down; B - normal, up; C - normal, up (stamp inverted); D - normal, down (stamp inverted); E - reversed, down; F - reversed, up; G - reversed, down (stamp inverted); H - reversed, up (stamp inverted).

The KKL Perfin of Keren Kayemet l'Israel is generally found in a perpendicular position. Dr. Hoexter lists the positions of this Perfin as follows (viewing the stamp from the front): A - normal, down; B - normal, up; C - reversed, up; D - reversed, down. A table prepared by Siegel, showing the number of stamps reported in each Hoexter position, is reproduced in Figure 4.

Siegel states that the information in his article is based on an accumulation of

Perfined pictorial stamps of Palestine bought by him, which had been formed by a collector, now deceased, who had been employed for over 20 years by a Jewish organization in New York which received a great deal of mail from the Jerusalem office of Keren Kayemet l'Israel. Siegel's research in this material indicates that the Jerusalem KKL office Perfined "at least some if not all of their stamps during the period 25 August 1927 until 6 December 1927."

Siegel adds that "as far as relative rarity is concerned, I would have to consider 3 & 4 mil which do not appear in (Hoexter's) listing and only ONCE each in mine, as being the rarest."

Issue and Values	POSITIONS							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Somerset House								
2pi	JR			+	JR		+	
Waterlow								
Issues								
Plate A								
1m	JR				+			
3m	+				+	+		
4m						+		
5m	JA			+			+	
6m							+	
7m	JA				JR	JAJR		+
8m	JAJR				JR			+
13m	+	+	+	JR		JR	+	
2pi	+		+	JR	+		+	
2pi ochre				JR				
Plate B								
1m	JR	HA			JAJR			
2m	JR	HA	HA				+	+
3m	HA	+	HA	JR		JA	+	HA
4m	+	JR						
5m	JRJA	HA	+	JRJA	+	HA	+	HA
7m				TA	JR			
13m	JA	+	+	JR		+	JR	+
2pi	+	JR						
Pictorials								
Thin paper								
2m	TA				JR			JR
3m	JRTAJA			TA	JRJA	+	TA	
4m rose					JR			
5m	JR		+		JRTA			JRTA
7m scarlet	JA			TA	+	+		TAJA
8m brown				JRTA	JATA			
10m				JRTA	JR			
13m ultra.	+				JATA			TA
20m	JR			JR				
Ribbed paper								
2m	TA				JR			JRTA
3m	TA			TA	TA			
4m rose	TA							
5m	JR			JRTA	JR			JRTA
6m	JRTAJA							+
7m scarlet	JRTA	JRTA		JRTA	JR			JATA
7m violet	JRTA							
13m ultra.	JATA	HA		TA	TA			JATA
15m ultra.	JR							
20m	JR				+			+

(JR=Jerusalem, JA=Jaffa, TA=Tel Aviv, HA=Haifa)  
 (+ indicates position known, but postmark indistinct)

Figure 3  
 (continued next page)

THE PERFINS OF PALESTINE (CONTINUED)

The Hoexter and Siegel articles make it clear that the KKL Perfin is very scarce. In fact, Siegel states, "in all the years I have collected, seen, discussed, bought and sold Mandate stamps, I had seen only 2 or 3 of these Perfins. I happened to have been extremely lucky in purchasing this very large assemblage; which I can safely say is the largest group of these in existence ANYWHERE and I must confirm Zodiac's (catalog) valuation of 'from \$30 (each).'"

Any member of the Perfins Club who can add to the information given in this article is urged to submit such data to the editor.

This article does not represent original research by the writer, but is a compilation of data from two 1975 articles appearing in the Israel Philatelist and one by David Stump in an earlier issue of the Perfins Bulletin.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hoexter, Dr. Werner, "Palestine Perfins," Israel Philatelist, June 1975
- Siegel, Marvin, "Additional Notes on Palestine Perfins," Israel Philatelist, December 1975
- Stump, David C., "Palestine Perfins," The Perfins Bulletin (issue date not available)

Figure 4 →

KKL PERFINS: SHOWING NUMBER OF STAMPS IN EACH HOEXTER POSITION. ALL DATES 1927.				
Value	A.	B.	C.	D.
3 mil		1 21 Oct.		
4 mil	1 X			
5 mil	4 Aug-December			2 X
7 mil	19 7-17 Nov.	25 27 Nov.	24 25-27 Nov.	15 17-27 Nov.
8 mil	1 23 Nov.	3 3 Nov.	7 24 Nov.-6 Dec.	
10 mil	7 25 Aug.-27 Nov.	31 17-25 Nov.	34 17-27 Nov.	2 21 Oct.
20 mil	1 17 Nov.	2 X	6 23 Sept.-21 Oct.	3 1 Nov.
50 mil	7 23 Sept.-29 Nov.		2 21 Oct.	9 Sept.=29 Nov.
100 mil	8 25 Aug.-6 Dec.	5 17 Nov.	4 1-11 Nov.	8 Aug.-6 Dec.

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PERFIN COVER OF THE MONTH

This month's choice is a catapult cover from the North German Lloyd Steamship Company's "S.S. Bremen," which is franked with two U.S. 10-cent values (Scott #642) bearing the Perfin of the steamship company (N89), shown in the inset. Catapult mail was an experiment of the late 1920's in which airplanes were launched by catapult from ships several hundred miles from their destination port as a means of speeding the mail. The first catapult mails were from the French liner "Ile de France," but the best known ones were from the North German Lloyd's "Bremen" and "Europa." (cover from collection of Edwin C. Haack)

