

Israel Second Postage Due Issue – 1949 to 1953

In late 1949, the Israeli Post Office decided to replace the provisional Dmei Doar דמי דואר overprint issue. Otto Wallish, who had designed several of the early Israeli stamps, presented a simple design of a large numeral in a medium sized rectangular stamp. The name of the country is in the three official languages: Hebrew, English, and Arabic. In Hebrew are the words דואר מיד (mail fees). The six denominations are each in a different color. The stamps' first day of issue was December 25, 1949. The set was superseded by the third postage dues (the running stag issue) on November 30, 1952, even though we see them in use through 1953. The set was used through four different rate periods that saw the letter rate increase from 15 to 45 pruta, with similar raises in other rates.

Postage due paid both the shortage and the respective penalty that was charged when an incorrect rate was used. The determination of the postage due on most domestic mail was a relatively simple matter. The shortage was doubled and that was the amount collected. Some printed matter mail was treated differently. If the sender guaranteed return postage if undelivered, that alone was collected with no penalty. Postage due stamps were used to collect this. On incoming mail from other countries it was a bit more complicated. The sending country would determine the shortage and tack on an equivalent amount as a penalty. This would be converted to Swiss gold francs, an international standard. The receiving country would convert the gold francs to their currency and collect and keep the fee. The postage due stamp(s) were, in a sense, a receipt for the amount collected.

This exhibit is equally divided between domestic and incoming covers. The focus for the domestic covers is on the rate periods and showing how the postage due fee was determined. The focus for the incoming covers is on the variety of sending countries and where possible showing how the postage due was determined.



While probably a philatelic creation, this cover shows a genuine use of all six of the 2nd postage due stamps (4 with tab). Mailed from Ben Shemen on 28 January 1952 to Kfar Ata, two days before a rate change. The 21 pruta in postage is 59 pruta short of the express registered letter rate of 80 pruta. 117 pruta in postage due is applied one pruta short of what should have been the fee of 118 pruta.