

Synopsis

Usages of the Israel 2nd Postage Due Issue – 1949 to 1953

In late 1949, the Israeli Post Office decided to replace the provisional Dmei Doar ראוּד ימד overprint postage due 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 ראוּד ימד (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 The set was superseded by the third postage dues (the running stag issue) on November 30, 1952, even though we see them on mail through 1953. The set was in use through three different rate periods (Rate periods 2 to 4) that saw the letter rate double from 15 to 30 pruta, with similar raises in other rates. The exhibit has examples from each of these rate periods and provides some unusual usages.

Major Postal Rates 1948-1953 (rates in pruta)

Rate Period	Dates	Letter Rate	Printed Matter Rate	Post Card Rate	Registry Fee	Express Fee	Comment
II	10/1/48 1/31/52	15	5	10	25	40	2 nd issue begins 12/25/49
III	2/1/52 3/19/52	20	10	15	40	60	7 week period
IV	3/20/52 5/31/53	30	15	20	60	90	3 rd issue begins 11/30/52

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 gold francs or centimes, an international standard. The receiving country would convert the gold centimes to their currency and collect and keep the fee. The postage due stamp(s) were, in a sense, a receipt for the amount collected. An interesting area of research is to determine the conversion rate from the gold francs or centimes and determine the approximate date that changes in these rates occurred. The creator of this exhibit has been unable to find any reference to the setting of these rates and has calculated from a look at approximately 80 covers in his possession or from auction catalogs that for the period of the 2nd issue the conversion rate was 120 pruta to 1 gold franc or 100 gold centimes at the start of the use of the 2nd issue in

December of 1949 and changed around March of 1952 to 333 pruta to one gold franc or 100 centimes.

Conversion Rate for Incoming Postage Due

Dates	Conversion rate Pruta to gold francs	Conversion rate pruta to gold centimes
November-December 1949 through mid March 1952	120:1	1.2:1
Mid March 1952 through 1953	333:1	3.3:1

This exhibit is 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 and the conversion from gold francs or centimes to pruta. The exhibit also contains a few forced registration covers. When postal authorities detected that there was something of value (usually money) in a letter mailed to Israel, they would register the letter in order to protect its delivery. The receiver would have to pay this registration fee, which was done with postage due stamps.

References

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