

## Synopsis

### **A Different Type of Postage Due Israel Compulsory Registration**

You are going through a box of covers at a local stamp show when you come across a cover that makes no sense. It was mailed from New York to a town in Israel and contains a Haifa registry label. Why would an American cover contain an Israeli registration label you wonder? Welcome to the world of 'forced registration'

One of the most unusual and interesting uses of postage due stamps in Israel was to pay registration fees for envelopes sent to Israel from other countries. Postal regulations required that envelopes that were found to contain items of value (cash, cheques, jewelry, etc.) were to be registered with the registration fee paid by the recipient. This occurred most often when incoming mail was subject to censorship during periods of war (War of Independence and the Suez Crisis of 1956). The censor upon finding the items of value would reseal the envelope and apply a registration label. A To Pay hand stamp was applied for the registration fee. The most common incidence of compulsory or forced registration was on charity mail. Compulsory registration ensured the safe delivery of the contents and also assisted in the collection of appropriate customs fees and provided some control over the flow of currency. Israel seems to be the most common venue for this service, but it has also been seen on covers from England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Malta, etc. In general, compulsory registration in Haifa and Tel Aviv was at double the registration fee (fee + penalty) and in Jerusalem at no penalty (only the registration rate). However, this was not always consistent.

The exhibit contains examples of forced registration from mandate period through the 1950's and concludes with two items from the early 70's. It contains mail from several different countries, charity and general mail, use of non-postage due stamps, top of pile, etc. We can also see the progression of registry rates through the period according to this chart. The exhibit has examples from 6 of these periods (shown in bold).

Date	Registry Fee	Date	Registry Fee
<b>5/16/1948</b>	<b>15m</b>	<b>7/1/1953</b>	<b>80pr</b>
<b>10/1/1948</b>	<b>25pr</b>	<b>2/1/1954</b>	<b>100pr</b>
2/1/1952	40pr	<b>12/5/1956</b>	<b>150pr</b>
<b>4/1/1952</b>	<b>60pr</b>	12/1/1958	180pr

The exhibit took about ten years to accumulate

Highlights of the exhibit include:

A Mandate Palestine example of forced registration

A 1<sup>st</sup> Postage due forced registration cover

Top of Pile , Postage Due Cover

A forced registration cover from Hong Kong

Forced registration of a double postcard

Use of general issues instead of postage due issues

Post 1960 example of forced registration

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