

A Different Type of Postage Due Israel Compulsory 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
7/1/1940	15m	7/1/1953	80pr
10/1/1948	25pr	2/1/1954	100pr
2/1/1952	40pr	12/5/1956	150pr
4/1/1952	60pr	12/1/1958	180pr

As shown on the cover below forced registration generally has the following elements - Posted in foreign country, opened by Israeli censor or customs, Israeli registration label, Israeli to pay hand stamp, use of Israeli postage due stamps.

