

## Banks in erez – Yisrael

Eretz Yisrael was the Hebrew name of Palestine prior to the establishment of the state of Israel. This exhibit takes the viewer through covers of banks operating in the Holy Land in the first half of the twentieth century. Many of these banks were branches of large European and Middle Eastern banks. Others were small family banks, a number were established by German Jew as well as by people who came from various countries. Many were swallowed later by larger banks. This exhibit demonstrates the importance of the banking industry in the creation of the upcoming Jewish state.

Agrobank 1 cover  
Discount Bank 2 covers  
Ellerns Bank 2 covers  
Feuchtwanger Bank 2 covers  
Hapoalim Bank 2 covers  
Hoffnung Bank 2 covers  
Japhet and Co. Bank 1 cover  
Kedem Credit Bank 2 cover  
Klinger Bank 2 cover  
Kupat Am Bank 2 cover  
Palestine Industrial Bank 2 covers  
Palestine Mercantile Bank 2 covers  
Mizrahi Bank 2 covers  
Polska Kasa Opieki Bank 1 cover  
Sharon Bank 1 cover  
Zerubabel Bank 2 covers

### Bibliography

The financial Intuitions in Israel by  
Dr.Meir Heth, 1966 2ed Edition,  
Jerusalem.

Banking in Israel Historical Survey by Dr.  
Meir Heth, 1944, Jerusalem.

15/5/48  
Messrs.

Ellern's Bank Ltd.

P.O.Box 256

H A I F A .  
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Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Agrobank was founded in 1931 and was first called The Bank of Agriculture and Construction in Eretz Yisrael. In 1935 the name was changed to Agrobank and in 1956 the name was changed again to Agrobank Israel Latin America and again in 1959 to The Bank of Industry and Commerce. In 1971 it was merged with Savings and Loans Tel Aviv Jaffa and was named Industrial Bank. Registered cover from Agrobank in Tel Aviv to the Coffeehouse/bar Ginati. 3 JNF stamps valued at 25 Agorot tied to cover allowed as legitimate postage from May 15 1948 to May 22 1948, before Israel issued its official postage stamps using interim cancels (Minhelet Ha'am postage) in Tel Aviv..

**AGROBANK**  **אגרו בנק**  
INTERNATIONAL & BUILDING BANK FOR PALESTINE  
P.O.B. 161 Tel. 4244-5 **אגרו בנק** 161 סלסון 4244-5  
Tel-Aviv

REGISTERED.



Messrs,

"CAFE GINATI YAM" Ltd.,

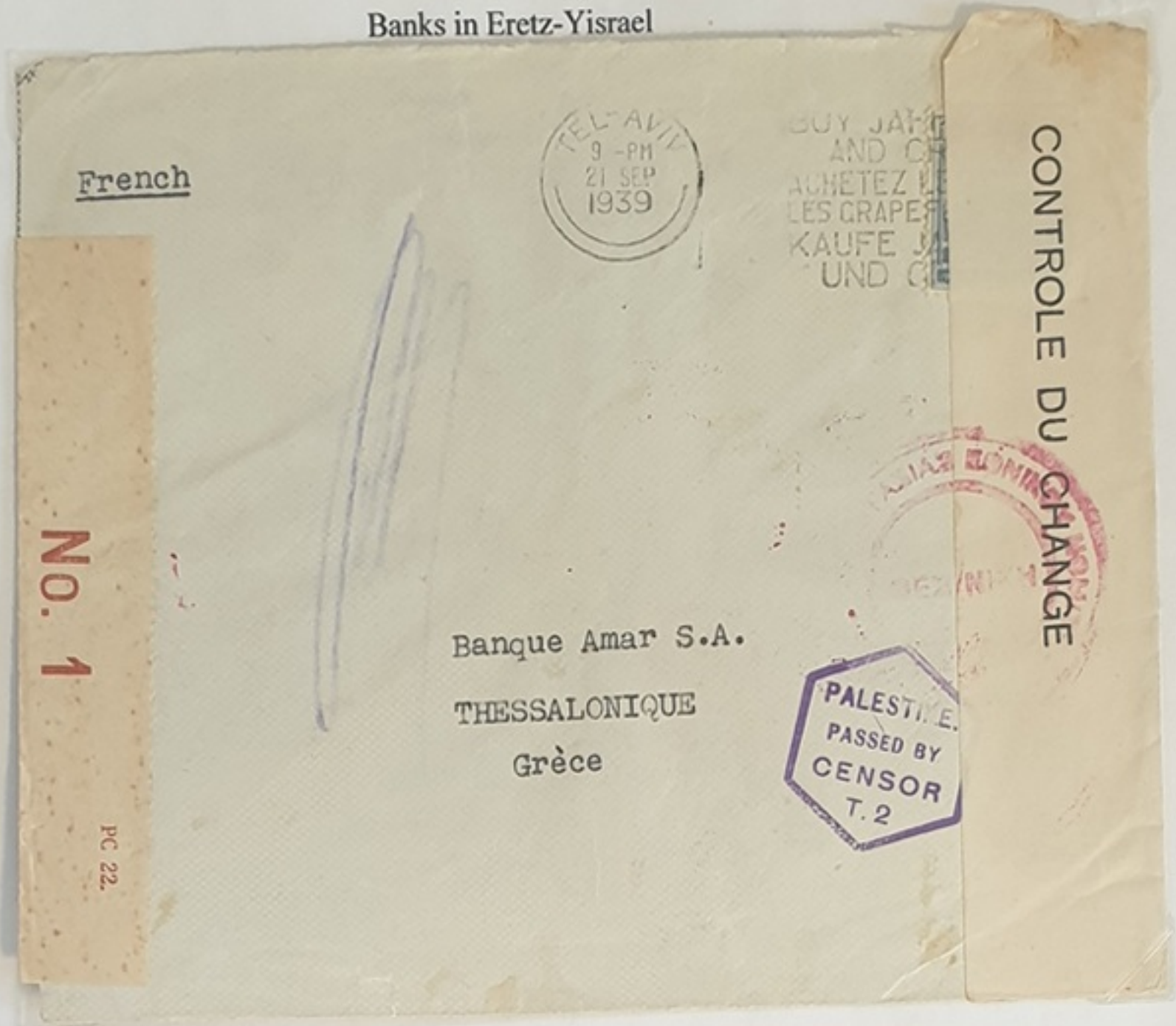
86/88 Herbert Samuel Quay,

TEL-AVIV.  
=====

**R** TEL-AVIV  
No 6735



Censored cover from the Palestine Discount Bank sent September 21<sup>st</sup> 1939 to Bank Amar in Thessaloniki Greece. Stamp hard to see under Greek censor. Value of 15 Piaster. Other side has British censor. Leon Recanati founder of the Discount Bank was born in Thessaloniki.



Express censored cover sent August 17<sup>th</sup> 1943 from the Palestine Discount Bank in Tel Aviv to Bank Mellie in Teheran, Iran during W.W.II all mail was opened by a censor to assure no subversive matters was being passed into the wrong hands. Uses 9 stamps totaling 45 Piasters.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Ellern's Bank was owned by the Ellern family. The Bank opened branches in Natanya and in Ramat Gan. Example of an airmail metered mail cover using 100 Agorot meter and a 400 Agorot stamp. Mailed on February 25, 1959.



The Ellern's bank was established by a German Jewish family and Bank Leumi overtook it in 1967. Example of a registered express cover using 4 stamps totaling 80 Agorot. Sent from Haifa on July 26, 1951 to Tel Aviv.

The Feuchtwanger Bank Ltd. founded in 1934. Airmail letter using 2 stamps totaling 80 Agorot sent to New York. A general bank of business and commerce. This was a small family bank owned by German Jewish immigrants. In 1938 I.L. was added to the Bank's name. The bank had branches in Tel Aviv and in Jerusalem.



Mrs. Hilde Schulhoff,  
730 West 183 Street,  
New York City.

U.S.A.

German written.

Airmail cover sent from Helsinki to Tel Aviv on 20.8.51 using metered mail. 3000 Finnish markka. In 1959 I.L. Feuchtwanger was purchased by Israel America Company and The Sahar Company. The Government seized Feuchtwanger's bank in 1967 and two directors were incarcerated.



I.L. Feuchtwanger Bank Ltd.,

Tel-Aviv./Israel

A B  
NORDISKA  
FÖRENINGSBANKEN

J21. 6. 51. 25.000



Bank Hapoalim Ltd. is a public company on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. This registered cover was mailed from the bank headquarters in Tel Aviv on March 29 1953 to the branch in Holon arriving on the same day. Using 4 Tete-beche stamps valued at 90 Agorot in addition to 20 Agorot metered mail. Many savings and loans were merged into Bank Hapoalim.

As a result of a banks' share crisis in 1983 the control of Bank Hapoalim was temporarily transferred to the government. This registered cover was sent on December 3 1957 from Bank Hapoalim Pardes Hanna branch cover went through Tel Aviv on December 4 1957 arriving at the Nes Ziona branch December 5 1957 using 250 Agorot stamp.



Written in English.



U.S.A.

Messrs.  
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.  
59, Wall Street  
NEW YORK.

תעודת דואר

10720



Hoffnung's Bank Ltd. Founded in 1935 by the Hoffnung family. This was a small family bank in Haifa. The bank was sold in 1955 to the Meir Brothers. Censored air mail cover mailed from Hoffnung's Bank in Haifa on March 13 1949 to a Wall Street company, using 2 Doar Ivri stamps totaling 70 Agorot.

Written in English.



U. S. A.

Messrs.  
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.  
59 Wall Street  
NEW YORK.



In 1955 the Hoffnung's Bank Ltd became the Export Bank later was merged into The International Bank. Censored air mail cover from Haifa to New York, mailed September 1950 with 2 stamps totaling 80 Agorot. Name change from Doar Ivri to Israel postage on Israeli stamps.

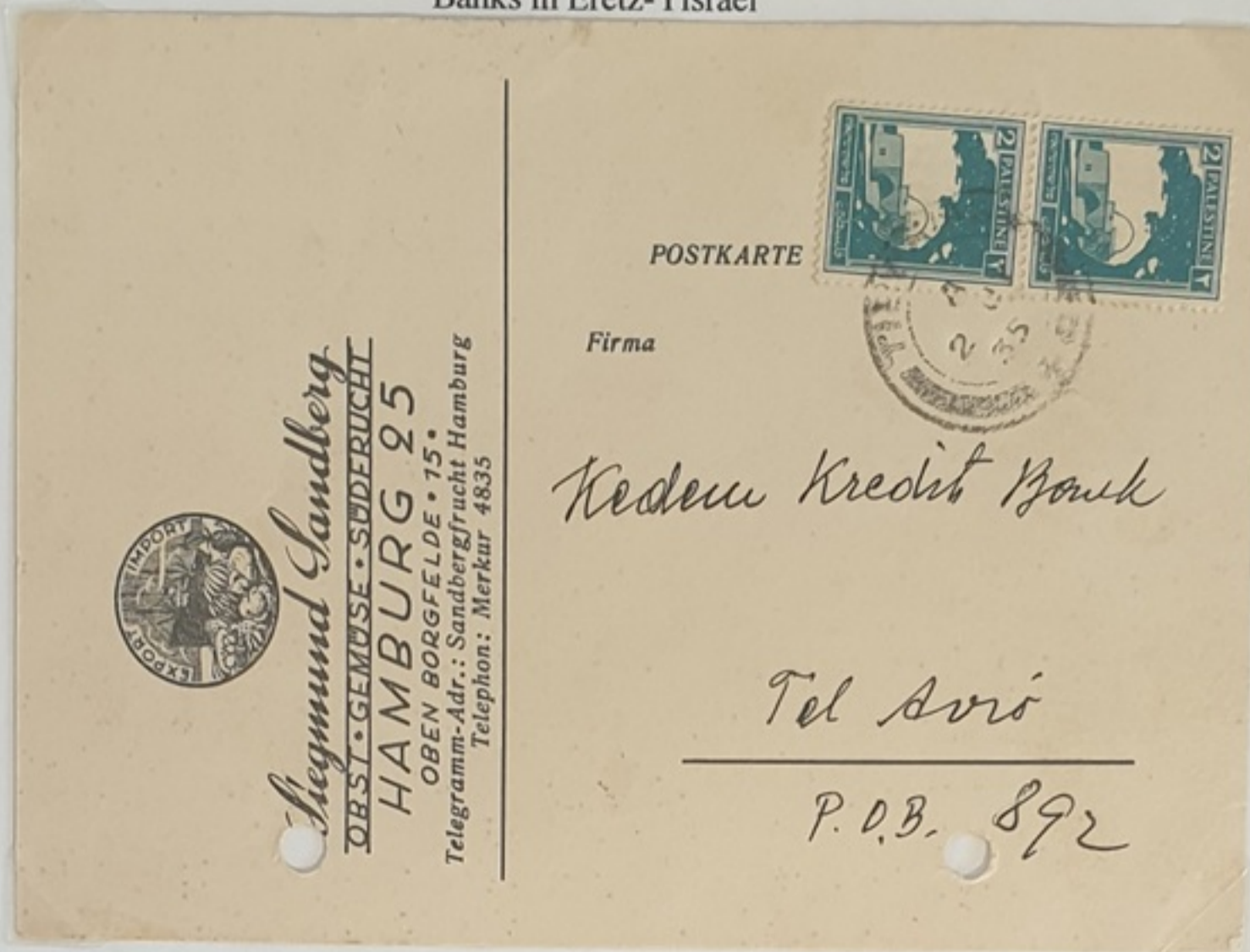
Jacob Japhet & Co. was a small private bank, started by a German Jew. Later Jacob's son became Bank Leumi CEO. The bank was founded in 1933 and in 1970 was controlled by Hapoalim (Workers) Bank. In 1975 the American Israeli Bank took it over.

Airmail cover sent November 15<sup>th</sup> 1958 from the Japhet Bank in Jerusalem to Bankers Trust Company in New York. Uses a 400 Agorot stamp to pay overseas rate.



Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Kedem Credit Bank LTD founded in 1926. Postcard was printed in Hamburg and mailed from Tiberias to Tel Aviv on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1935. 2 stamps of 2 Piasters tied to card to cover rate. Customer complaining to the bank about a difference in the account.



*Siegmund Sandberg*  
 OBST • GEMÜSE • SÜDERFRUCHT  
 HAMBURG 25  
 OBEN BORGFEELDE • 15 •  
 Telegramm-Adr.: Sandbergfrucht Hamburg  
 Telefon: Merkur 4835

POSTKARTE

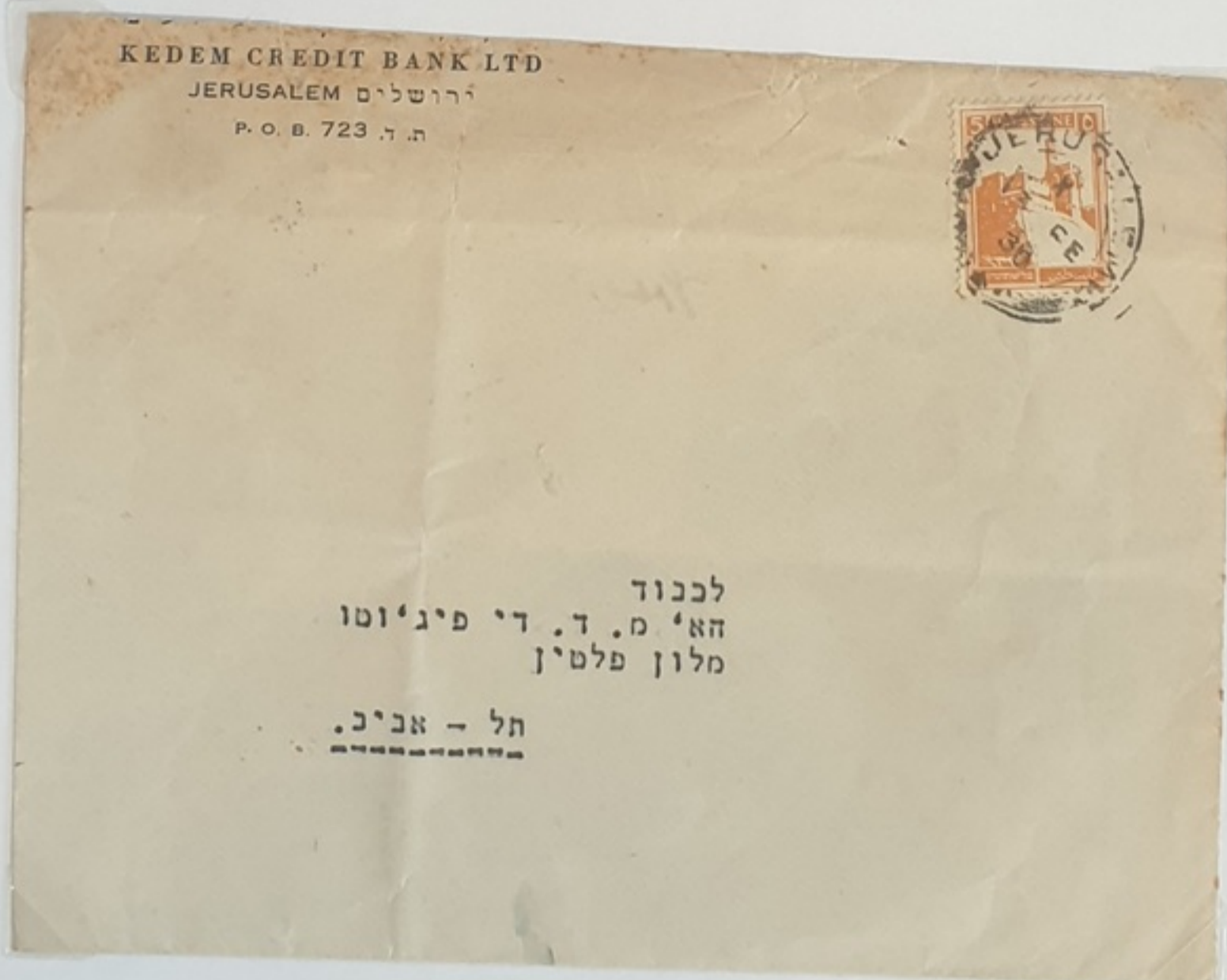
Firma

*Kedem Kredit Bank*

*Tel Aviv*

*P.O.B. 892*

Credit Fund of Eretz Israel changed its name to Kedem Credit Bank in 1934 and the name was changed in 1938 to Kedem Credit Civic Bank and was changed again in 1941 to Kedem Civic LTD. Cover mailed from the bank in Jerusalem on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1936 to Tel Aviv arriving February 14<sup>th</sup>. 5 Piaster stamp to pay local rate. Back of cover is used to calculate figures. The bank operated in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

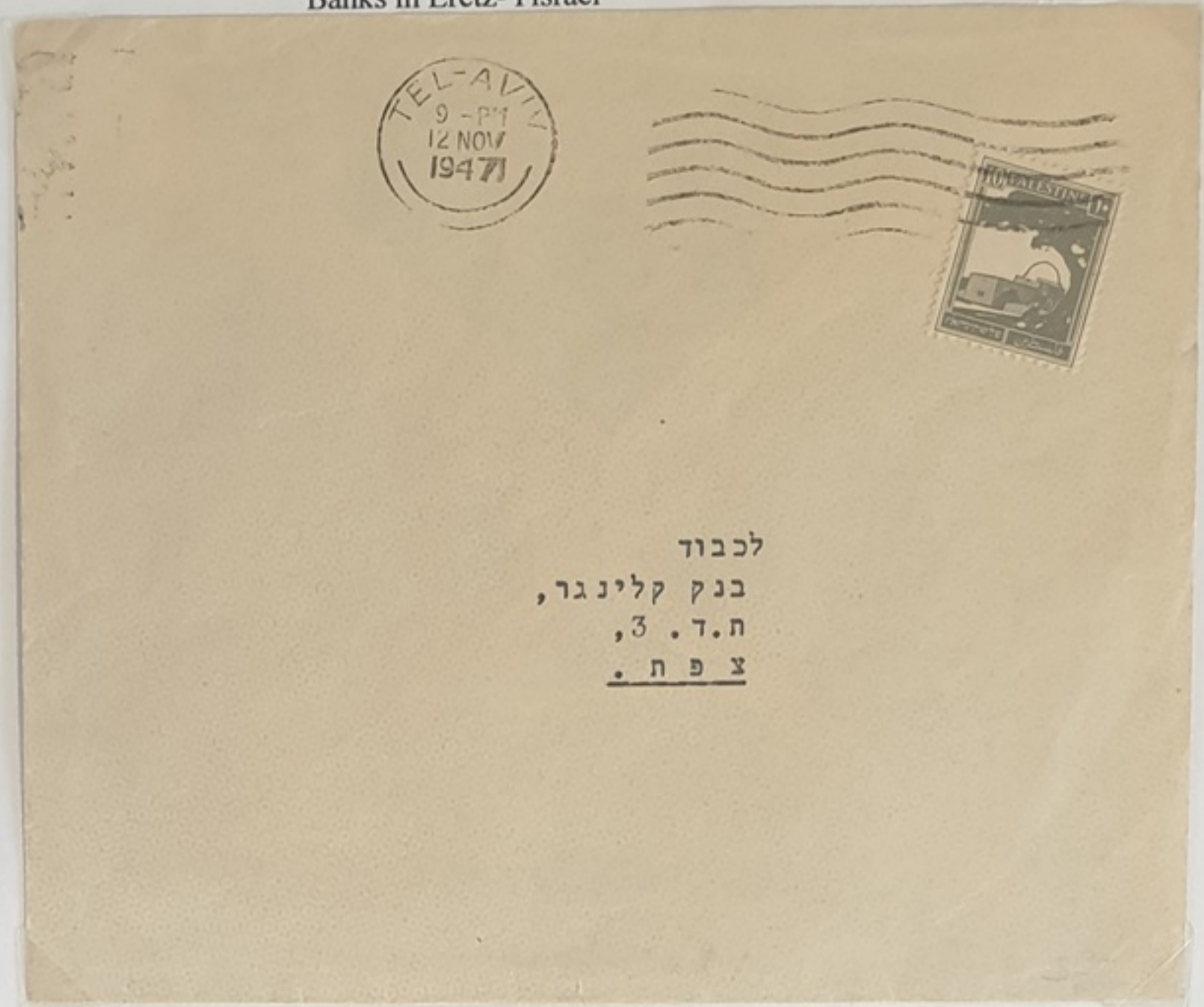


KEDEM CREDIT BANK LTD  
 ירושלים JERUSALEM  
 ת.ד. 723 פ.ד.ב. P.O.B.

לכבוד  
 הא' מ.ד. די פיג'וטו  
 מלון פלטיין  
 תל - אביב.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Klinger Bank founded 1922, was named The First Steel and Klinger Bank, and changed its name to Klinger Bank in 1932. The Klinger family was from Safed. Cover was mailed to Safed from Migdal Insurance Co. on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1947 from Tel Aviv. 10 Piaster stamp tied to cover to pay local postage rate.



לכבוד  
בנק קלינגר,  
ח.ד. 3,  
צפח.



לכבוד  
בנק קלינגר,  
367  
303

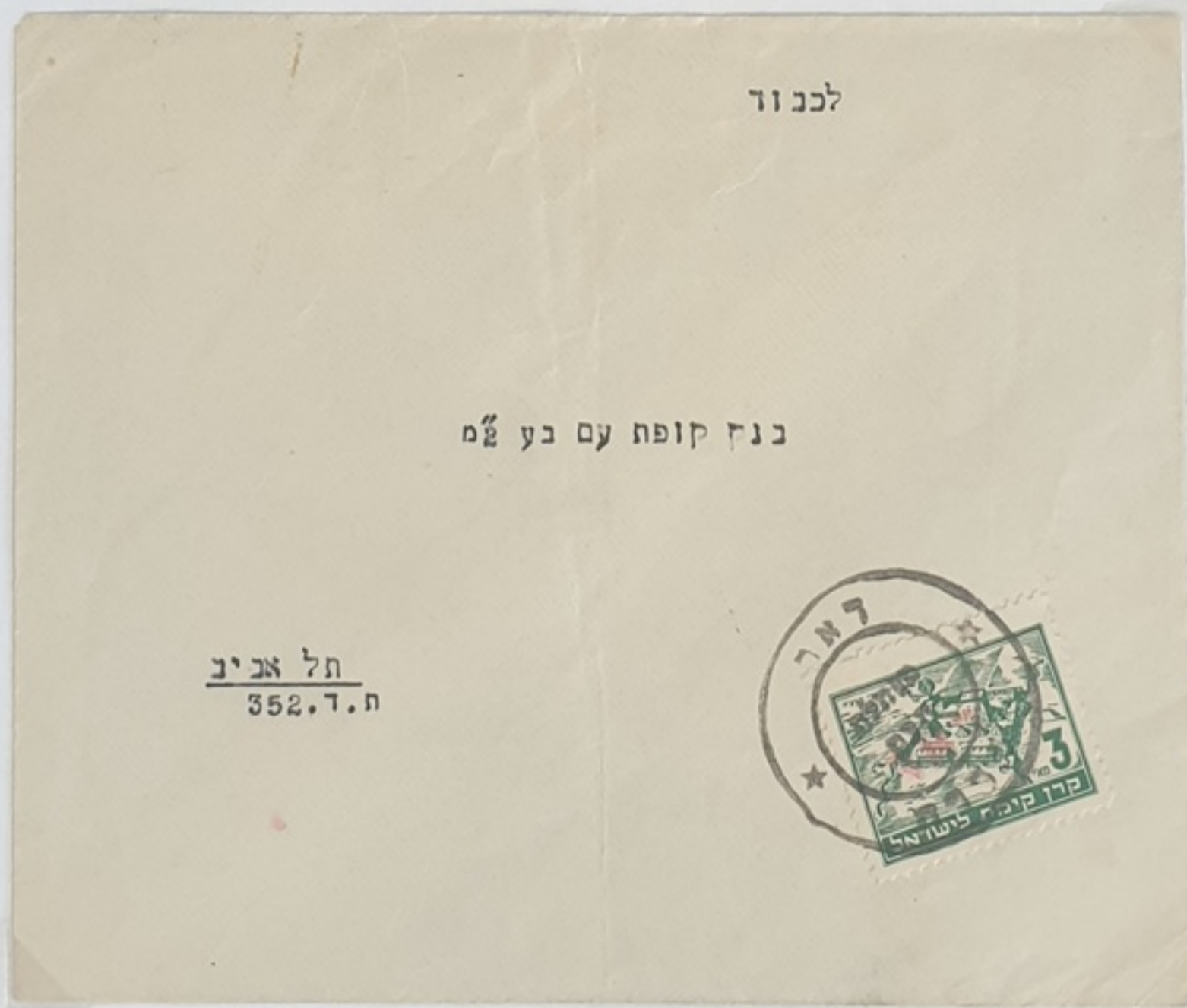
ר ש ו ם

במקרה של אי מסירת אגרת זאת תוך 5 ימים,  
בא להחזירה לשולחיה.

The Klinger Bank became The Credit Bank Le-Israel in 1961 and was disbanded in 1967. Registered cover from Discount Bank to Klinger Bank. Mailed from Haifa on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1948 arriving Safad 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 2 Doar Ivri stamps of 5 Agorot to cover rate.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Kupat-Am Bank  
founded in  
1918.  
Registered cover  
from Kupat-Am  
Bank Jerusalem  
sent November  
15<sup>th</sup> 1946 to  
Rabbi Englander  
arriving  
November 17th.  
5 stamps  
totaling 25  
Piasters tied to  
cover. Letter  
was refused as  
indicated on the  
front and back.



In 1939 was  
Changed from a  
cooperative to a  
bank. Registered  
cover mailed  
from the  
Holland Union  
Bank. Cover  
sent to Kupat-  
Am Bank Ltd in  
Tel Aviv from  
Gedera during  
the interim  
period in 1948  
using a Gedera  
cancel.

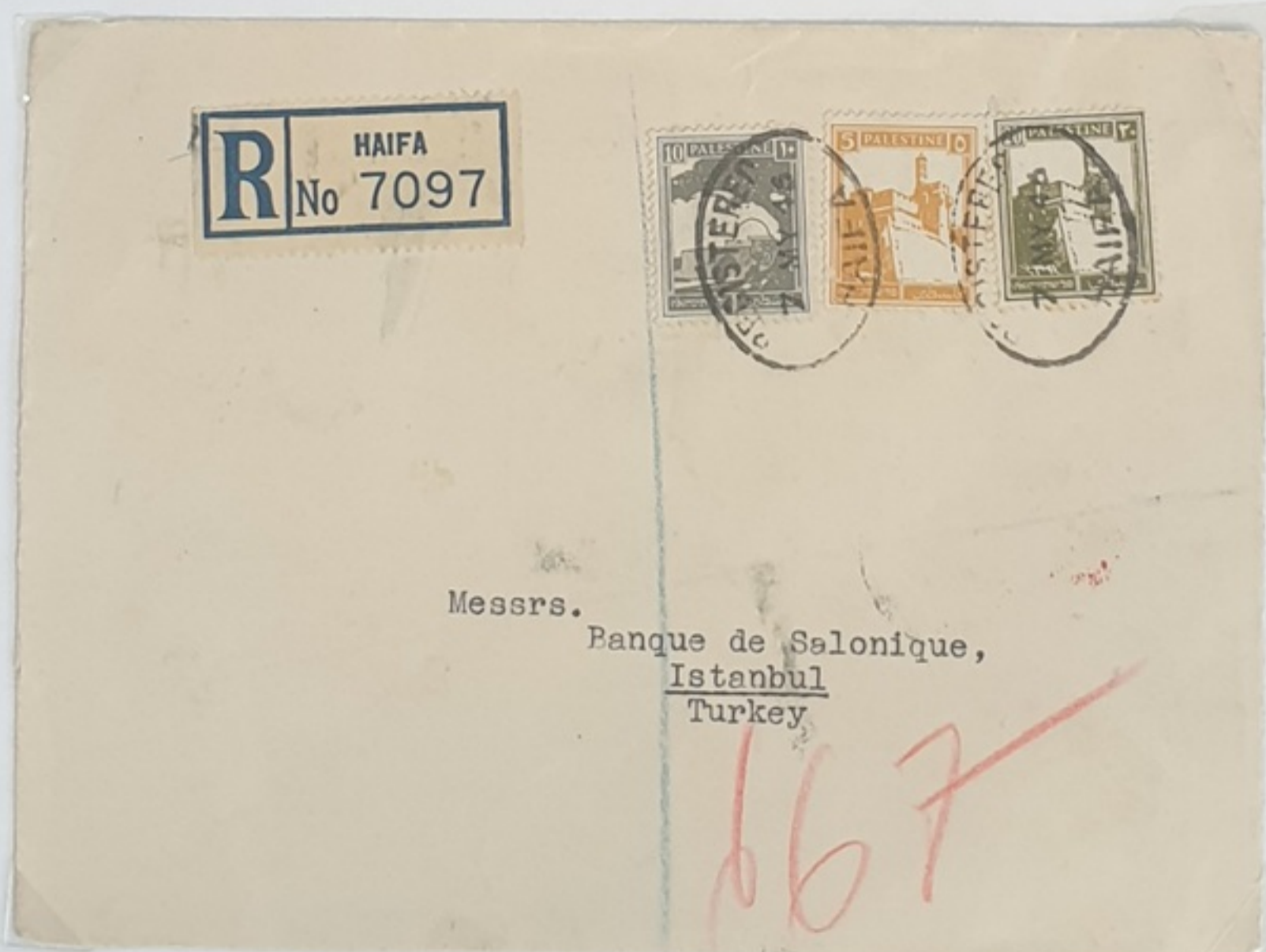
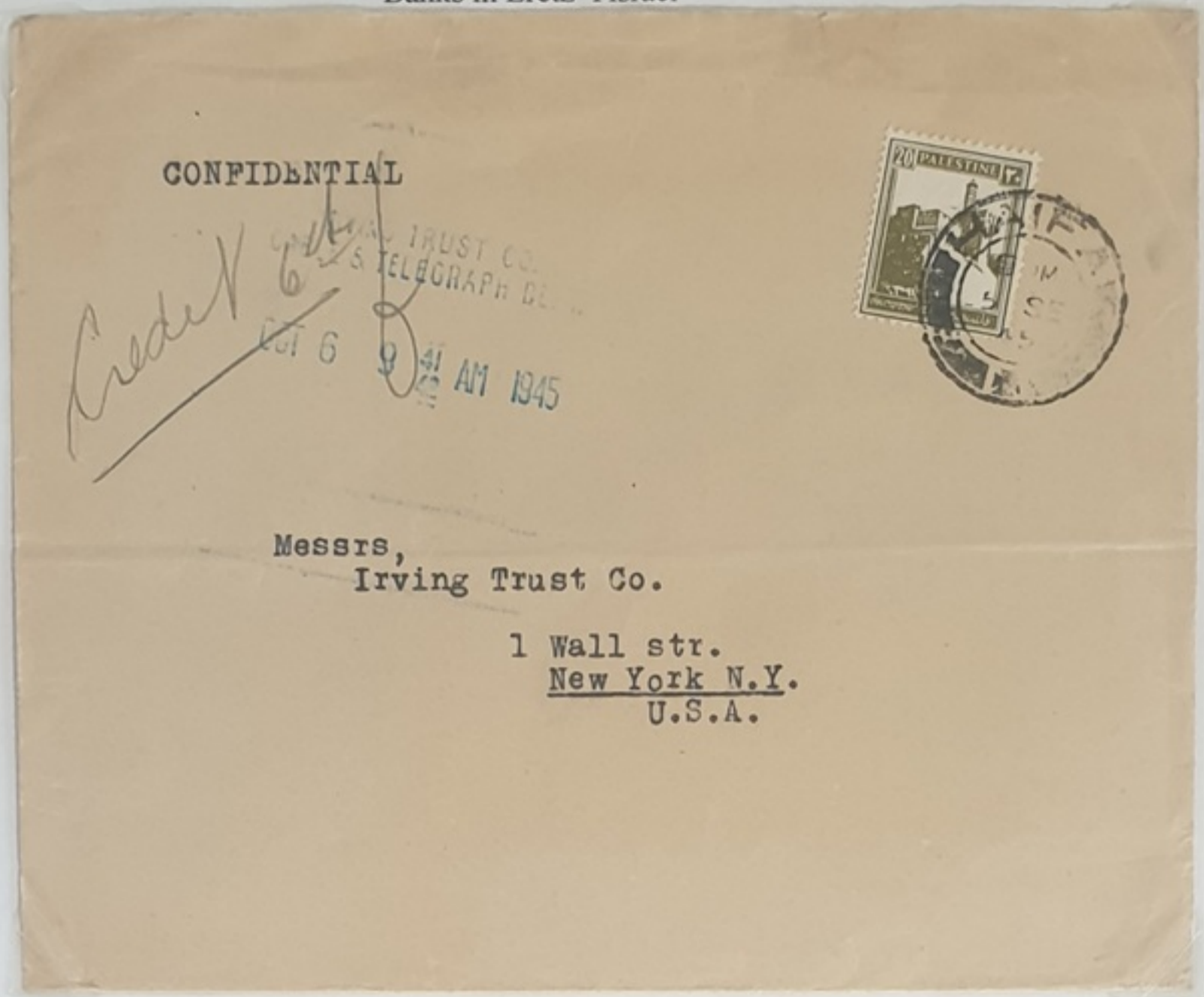
The Palestine Industrial Bank LTD. founded in 1933, first it was a cooperative society. Post card censored and mailed on January 29<sup>th</sup> 1942 from the Egyptian Syrian Lebanese Bank in Beyrouth to the Palestine Industrial Bank in Tel Aviv arriving on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 7.5 Piaster stamp paid rate. A bank transfer written in French for a large sum of money.



The Palestine Industrial Bank LTD became a bank in 1938. This cover was mailed on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1948 from the Haifa branch located in the new business center Bobis House to a customer in Haifa. 5 Piaster stamp covered postage fees.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

The Palestine Mercantile Bank founded 1924 was affiliated with the Palestine Discount Bank Cover mailed September 5<sup>th</sup> 1945 from the Mercantile Bank in Haifa to the Irving Trust Co. in New York arriving October 6<sup>th</sup> 1945 using 20 Piaster stamp.



The Palestine Mercantile Bank was established by David Simblare and Saul Cohen. Registered cover mailed May 7<sup>th</sup> 1946 from Haifa to Istanbul Turkey arriving May 9<sup>th</sup> 1946. Using 3 stamps totaling 35 Piaster stamps. Cover passed by censor.

The Mizrahi Bank Ltd. was founded in 1925 by the Mizrahi Religious Zionist Movement. Air Mail Cover mailed from Prague on October 11 1937 to The Mizrahi Bank in Tel Aviv using a Ceskoslovensko stamp of 2 KC to cover rate. .



In 1969 The Mizrahi Bank was merged with The Workers Mizrahi Bank and was renamed The United Mizrahi Bank. Cover mailed from The Mizrahi Bank mailed from Tel Aviv on January 27 1933 to the Deutsche Bank in Berlin arriving February 1 1933 using 15 Piasters stamp.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Bank Polska  
Casa Opieki  
S.A. founded in  
1932, a Polish  
Bank in Israel.  
Purchased by  
Hapoalim Bank  
in 2003. It had  
branches in Tel  
Aviv and in  
Haifa. Cover  
mailed in Haifa  
February 15th  
1950 to a local  
business. 5  
Agorot Doar  
Ivri stamp used  
in covering local  
rate.



Established in 1934, its original name was Norwok et Eidlezak. The name was changed in 1936 to Bank Sharon Building and Commerce Ltd. In 1960 the bank was consolidated into the Mizrahi Bank. Cover travelled from Tel Aviv to Herzliyah on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1949. 3 stamps of 5 Agorot used for postage. On side is a JNF stamp which was not used.

Banks in Eretz-Yisrael

Zerubabel Bank founded 1932 started operating 1933. Registered cover Tel Aviv to Tiberias mailed December 21 1948 arriving December 22, using 2 Doar Ivri stamps totaling 40 Agorot. Served as a central cooperative society. The bank united scores of cooperatives and members. The first CEO was Rabbi Yishayahoo Shapira leader of Labor Zionist Orthodox Movement. Merged with a variety of other banks purchased in 1971 by Bank Hapoalim.



Registered cover from the Zerubabel Bank of Tel Aviv sent December 14 1948 to the Savings and Loans in Tiberias. Arriving December 16 1948, using 2 Doar Ivri stamps totaling 40 Agorot.