

**THE**

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## THE RENEWAL OF ISRAEL'S MINT PATTERNS



**FEATURING:**

AN EN GEDI RING AND MATTATHIAS ANTIGONUS COINS by Dr. Yoav Farhi

RUTH GRUBER: JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME MEDAL by Mel Wacks

DELIVERED BY PLANE by V. A. Bernshtam

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## DELIVERED BY PLANE

By V.A. Bernshtam, V.P. and P.V. Florensky

Collectors sometimes come across the most unexpected things. In the picture we see an old postal receipt with an image of an airplane and text in Yiddish. The inscriptions and the image of the aircraft are made in black print. The stamp of the Society of Aviation and Aeronautics of Ukraine and Crimea (SAAUK) is on the receipt. This receipt is a reminder of the first steps of airmail in the Ukraine.



Image of receipt

SAAUK was a voluntary, defense-patriotic orientated association of amateur pilots, which was founded in Kharkov and existed in the Ukraine between 1923-1925. The society led gliding clubs, organized lecturer training,

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held lotteries in favor of aircraft and glider construction, and published the «Воздушный флот» (“Air Fleet”) magazine.

Among the members of the society were Sergei Korolev, a lead Soviet rocket engineer and spacecraft designer; Stepan Grizodubov, a Russian and Soviet pilot, aircraft designer, and one of the pioneers of Russian aviation; and Mikhail Gurevich, a Soviet aircraft designer who co-founded the Mikoyan-Gurevich military aviation bureau along with Artem Mikoyan (MiG). The Society contributed to the creation of the Central Aeroclub in Kharkov, the Kharkov Aviation School, the Kiev School of Glider Instructors, 72 gliders and 97 aircraft modeling groups.



Map of air routes

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In 1923, the society became a co-founder of Ukrvozdukhput (Ukrainian Society of Airways), a company that was engaged in the transportation of passengers, mail and cargo. The figure above shows a map of air routes of the Ukrvozdukhput company.



Receipt shown again for reference

Consider now the Yiddish text on the receipt. At the top of the receipt is an inscription in Yiddish “Delivered by Air”. Under this inscription are the names of three newspapers published in the USSR in Yiddish. The first shown on the right is Der Emes (דער עמעס) (Pravda, Truth) - a Soviet Jewish newspaper in Yiddish, published from 1918 to 1939. The newspaper was the central organ of the Yevseksiya until its liquidation in 1930. Yevseksiya, an abbreviation for the

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Jewish section, was the Jewish section of the Communist Party of the USSR. This section was created in the autumn of 1918 to carry the communist ideology to the Jewish masses. The same sections were created under the communist parties of the Ukraine and Belarus. The newspaper later became, the organ of the Council of Nationalities of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR.

The second mentioned newspaper is Vecker (וועקער Alarm clock) a Minsk newspaper, which was first published as a newspaper of the Bund, and then of the Belarusian Yevsektsiya. The third mentioned newspaper is Komfon (אָפּן אַקעשיטסינאָם Communist Banner), published by the Yevsektsiya of the Ukraine.

The last line of the receipt indicates the cost of delivery of the above-mentioned newspapers - 50 rubles.

To summarize, the receipt described by us, tells us about the first steps of airmail in the Ukraine and about the work of the Yevsektsiya for the communist education of Jews in the USSR. □