Postal History of the Palestinian National Authority
The Postmarks & Registration Markings
An exhibit by Tobias Zywietz, Neulingen, Germany
http://www.zobbel.de/stamp/pna_intro.htm

This research into the stamps and registration markings of the Palestinian Authority is based largely on my own and fellow collector Thomas Schubert's analysis of several thousand covers. A few other collectors (mentioned on the pages itself) are contributing additional information and illustrations. Besides numerous philatelic documents, often created by traders such as Wallach, Qurquti, Dajani, and Kawar, research is largely based on correspondence initiated by myself, Mr. Schubert and Jan R. Blok, several thousand covers from a business correspondence and the continuous registration of covers in the international marketplace (e.g. eBay, conventional auctions, and dealers).

There is almost no relevant literature on the subject by other authors, just Professor Phillips (Canada), who is cooperating with me, has published a general postal history that has however neglected postmarks and registration markings to a large extent. The classifications of the two collection areas created by me and Mr. Schubert has been published in the journals of the relevant German and international philatelic societies and study groups.

The exhibit, which previously was only shown at national level (Rank 2 "Euregio Egrensis" at Schleiz, April 2012) consists of two main pages and several additional auxiliary and informational pages. The language of the exhibit is English as the interested public is to be found almost exclusively in non-German speaking countries. To create and maintain the pages in two languages has proved rather impractical, especially due to the large number of changes and updates. The following description is current as of January 2012.

Post Offices and Postmarks (pna_11.htm)

The page starts with a fairly short technical introduction followed by a classification of postmark types created in cooperation with fellow collector Thomas Schubert. A map of the country with the marked locations of post offices is accompanied by a list of these linked directly to the individual entries of the offices and their marks in alphabetical order. An additional link directs to a list of all places in Palestine and their population numbers (s.a. below under pna_18.htm).

For each postal place there's the principle Latin spelling and due to the nature of the Arab language and script all relevant variants, the assignment to the governorate (province), the population figure according to the most recent census, postcode, post office code and number, opening date of the post office or its predecessor office. The location entries are enriched with maps, geographical coordinates, links to Wikipedia, a few individual photographs of post offices (mostly situated in town halls or local administrative buildings) as well as brief descriptions of the development and current situation.

This is followed, sorted by stamp types, by the individual postmarks: included are besides a depiction of the postmark itself, the mark's inscriptions, type, dimensions and dates of use. Where possible individual marks are assigned to local sub post offices (e.g. in Gaza). However, most major cities have only one post office.

Concluding this pages is a summary of the special handstamps and other dated and undated cachets.

Registration Labels and Markings (pna_11.htm)

The second main page of the exhibit is structured similar to the first: after a more detailed introduction, the individual types of registration labels and markings are classified. An excursion describes and shows avis de réception markings, a unused form and cover, and a registration receipt.

A map of the country with the marked locations of post offices is accompanied by a list of these linked directly to the individual entries of the offices and their markings in alphabetical order. For each postal place there's the principle Latin spelling and all relevant variants, the assignment to the governorate (province), and the population according to the most recent census.

Since research into the use of registration markings is still in an early stage, this page shows (unlike with the postmarks) all examples individually as they are registered by myself and a small number of cooperating fellow collectors: besides a depiction and details of the inscriptions the type is specified, as well as postmark date of the cover, the postmark number and of course the registration number. At a later stage the listing will be changed into summarizing by dates of use.

Additional pages:

- **Population Statistics (Villages, Towns, and Governorates) (pna_18.htm)**
  Grouped by governorate (province) and sorted into categories above and below 2,500 inhabitants, all localities with their population figures are shown. Data is derived from the two censuses and intermediate extrapolations.
- **PNA Meter Marks (pna_15.htm)**
  A summary of known machine cancellers and essays, mainly illustrations as research in this field is at its infancy.
- **Postal Stationery, Forms, and Miscellanea (pna_40. htm)**
  An overview of known postal and official forms and stationery.
- **Postal Statistics (pna_19.htm)**
  Official postal statistics taken from publications of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.
- **Postal Rates and Charges: Tariff 2004 (pna_17.htm)**
  The current postal tariff with the main charges selected and translated from the official postal tariff (the original document is linked directly). Summaries of previous tariffs are also linked.
- **Concise List of Books and Articles (lit.htm and lit_10.htm)**
  Bibliography of monographs (around 300 entries) and journal articles (around 6,000 entries) relating to the entire field of Holy Land and Palestine philately.
- **Links & Organisations: Collectors' Societies, Study Circles, Websites, &c. (org.htm)**
  A list of links to relevant philatelic organizations and publications, with a focus on currently active German and international study groups and clubs.
- **Log of Changes and Additions (changes.htm)**
  A log of all changes to the website and its pages, with a facility to be alerted automatically by e-mail.
- **Impressum/Imprint (impress2011.png)**
  An imprint according to German law.