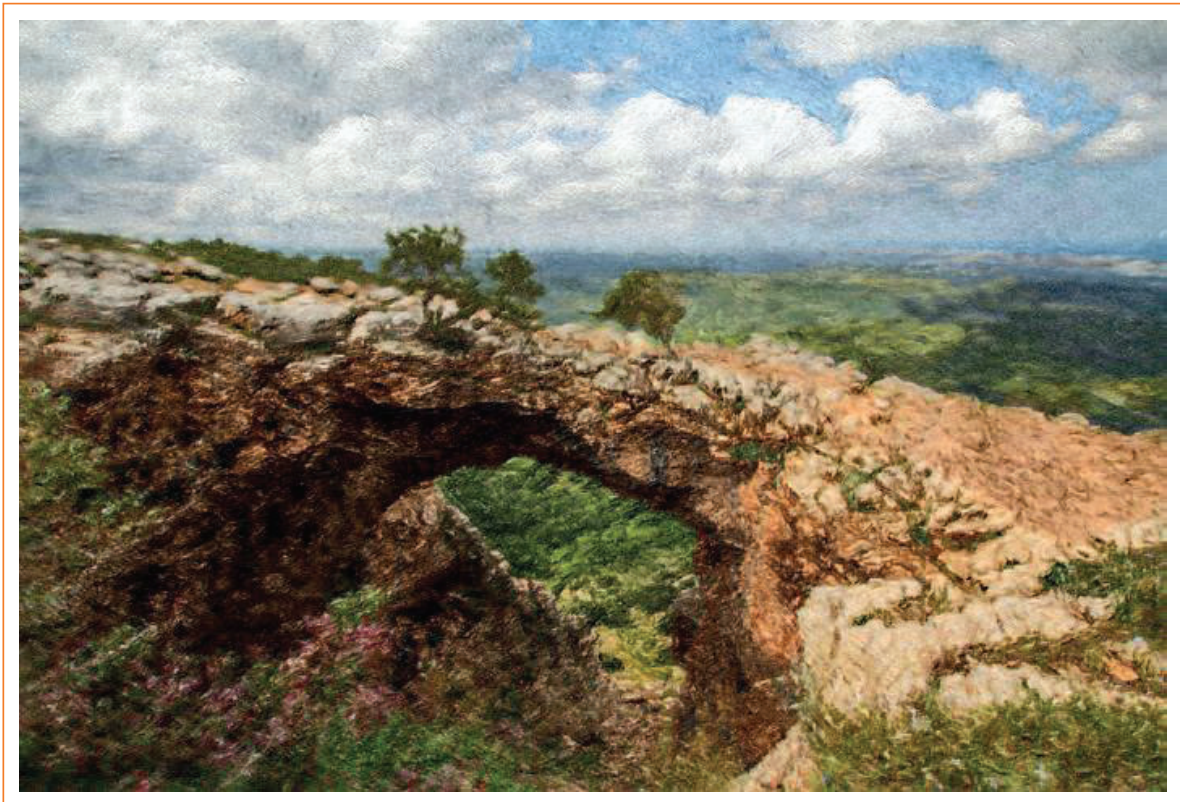


# Artzot HaGalilee

Vol. 1, JUNE 2022



Editor: **Dr. Ofira Gruweis Kovalsky**

 **ZEFAT  
ACADEMIC COLLEGE**

Research Center for Cultures and Communities in the Galilee



# Artzot HaGalilee

---

Vol. 1, June 2022



**Research Center for Cultures and Communities in the Galilee**  
**Zefat Academic College**

**Editor**

Dr. Ofira Gruweis Kovalsky

**Editorial Board:**

Prof. Esica Marks

Prof. Yinon Shivtiel

Prof. Nimrod Shatil

Dr. Nicola Yozdgof Orbach

Prof. Itamar Theodor

# Contents

Introduction	7
<b>Ofira Gruweis Kovalsky</b>	
<b>Articles</b>	
Municipal Politics in Acre in the First Years of Statehood, 1948-1951	11
<b>Nadav Heidecker</b>	
The Passover “Hilula”: On the origin and meaning of a forgotten Safed tradition	41
<b>Reuven Gafni</b>	
“Galilee as a Christological space in the Gospel according to Matthew”	61
<b>Alon Deutsch</b>	
The Galilee is not Upper: The Representation of the Galilee on Israel stamps	89
<b>Ido Zelkovitz, Yechiel Limor</b>	
The Arab Offensive Tunnel from Zefat (Safed) during the War of Independence	113
<b>Yinon Shivtiel, Omar Zidan, Oren Zingboym</b>	
<b>Book Review</b>	137
Abstracts	152

## ABSTRACTS

---

### Municipal Politics in Acre in the First Years of Statehood, 1948-1951

Nadav Heidecker

This article discusses the birth of the municipality in the city of Acre following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Hitherto a predominantly Arab city, Acre became a mixed city following the Palestinian exodus and a wave of Jewish immigration. However, despite the sizable Jewish community, Acre, like other Arab-majority cities in the newly established Jewish State, was placed under military rule. The article examines archival material to sketch out the local power struggles in Acre until the lifting of the military rule in the city and the election of its first mayor in October 1951, and explores the intricate interrelations between the local actors and the central government. Acre thus serves as a case study for an analysis of the tactics used by Mapai, Israel's then-ruling party, to combat its political rivals in the Arab sector – most notably the Israeli Communist Party – and exert its hegemony over Israel's Arab minority.

**Keywords:** municipalities, Acre, Arabs in Israel, politics, elections

# The Passover “Hilula”: On the origin and meaning of a forgotten Safed tradition

Reuven Gafni

The Sephardic Safed synagogue, known as “The White Tzaddik”, was founded several hundred years ago, and for generations has gathered around it a considerable number of local sacred traditions and memorials. Beginning in the 1830s, a new tradition was added, with the establishment of a unique local memorial-celebration (“Hilula”), held on the site every year on the second day of Passover.

The local gathering – which due to its occurrence during Passover has almost no parallel at other sites – was held in the synagogue for the following hundred years at least, and probably even until the middle of the 20th century. Its brief descriptions are scattered throughout contemporary Hebrew and Galilean literature, although these do not detail the origins of the gathering or its meaning.

In this short article, I seek to review the various descriptions of this forgotten tradition, and to suggest two possible connections between it and the beginning of the activity of the Abu family in the synagogue, as well as another Ashkenazi tradition, which was practiced in the synagogue for several years in earlier times.

**Keywords: Safed, Meiron, synagogue, tradition, memorial, Passover, Hilula**

## “Galilee as a Christological space in the Gospel according to Matthew”

Alon Deutsch

Jesus' early ministry took place in Galilee. In its surroundings, he gathered followers, gave sermons, performed miracles and aggravated the Jewish authorities. This chapter of his earthly life stands between two central narratives that shape his “biography”: the infancy story and his Passion. Each of these chapters was designed in order to shape his identity as the *Christos*, i.e., the Messiah. In this paper, I will examine the importance of the Galilee in the Matthean theology as a place in which Jesus' identity, both as a Messiah and as a deity, is revealed. This disclosure is gradually revealed by Matthew throughout the description of Jesus' journey in Galilee and its villages. It reaches its climax in the transfiguration scene on top of a mountain during which God proclaims him to be his beloved son. In the course of this narrative, Matthew is able to stress the Christological significance of Galilee throughout the Gospel. In order to show this, I will examine the title *Kyrios* (Lord) that served as the religious title by which his disciples and others addressed Jesus. In addition, I will shed some light on Jesus' transfiguration as a theophanic scene that draws its influence from biblical stories that portray the appearances of God to his people. In doing so, I wish to demonstrate that the Matthean Christology sought to ascribe a crucial role to Galilee. It was in this landscape that Jesus' divinity was revealed in its full glory.

Keywords: **Galilee, Lord, miracles, transfiguration, theophany**



# The Galilee is not Upper: The Representation of the Galilee in Israeli stamps

Ido Zelkovitz, Yechiel Limor

Stamps are ostensibly a receipt for payment for sending a letter or other postal items. But stamps are not just simple receipts for monetary payment. Stamps are official government documents, and countries issue stamps for a variety of purposes, including marking festivals, jubilees and national and international events, commemorating personalities, cultivating social goals, promoting tourism, perpetuating cultural heritage and more. Being official government documents, the stamps therefore reflect the positions of the government and the ruling hegemony.

Stamps are an important research field because, as a communications medium, they are one of the tools for producing and shaping national collective memory and are showcases for the country, through which it can determine what it wishes others to see of itself.

This article focuses on the use of postage stamps as a multidimensional political and social propaganda medium, both for intra-state and inter-state purposes. The test case is the representation of the Galilee on stamps issued in the State of Israel from its establishment in 1948 until the end of 2021. There is special interest in this topic, not only because of the many holy sites of Judaism and Christianity located in the Galilee, but also, perhaps mainly, due to the geo-strategic importance of the area to the national security of the State of Israel.

**Keywords: Galilee, postage stamps, politics, social propaganda**

## The Arab Offensive Tunnel from Zefat (Safed) during the War of Independence

Yinon Shivtiel, Omar Zidan, Oren Zingboym

During Israel's War of Independence, the liberation of Zefat on 10.05.1948 was the result of military and civilian tactics and daring attacks, the testament to which is found in Haganah and Palmah testimonies and especially in stories drawn from the collective memory of the so-called "Zefat elders". From all the available evidence, there is no doubt that the brutal fight for the liberation of Zefat was accompanied by many tumultuous events which the Jewish civilian community had to endure. This test of intense emotions and existential anxieties was accompanied by great suspicion and tension between the old Yeshuv and the new Yeshuv, between the orthodox Jews and Palmah youth, and between Zefat residents protecting their city and the outsiders leading the military campaign.

One of the stories told by the elders, without any documented proof, was about the existence of a tunnel dug by the Arab residents close to Kharat el-Romana, the closest neighborhood to the Jewish quarter. The purpose of the tunnel, as they recall, was to mount a surprise attack on the Jewish quarter. This story had no known evidence and for decades was left as a simple tale in the collective memory.

In September 2020, the Israel Antiquities Authority conducted an archaeological excavation in Ashtam Square (Avraham Sadeh Square) which unearthed a cistern dating to the Ottoman period. The excavators were surprised to discover that the bottom of the cistern was breached from both sides, revealing parts of the tunnel. This surprising discovery

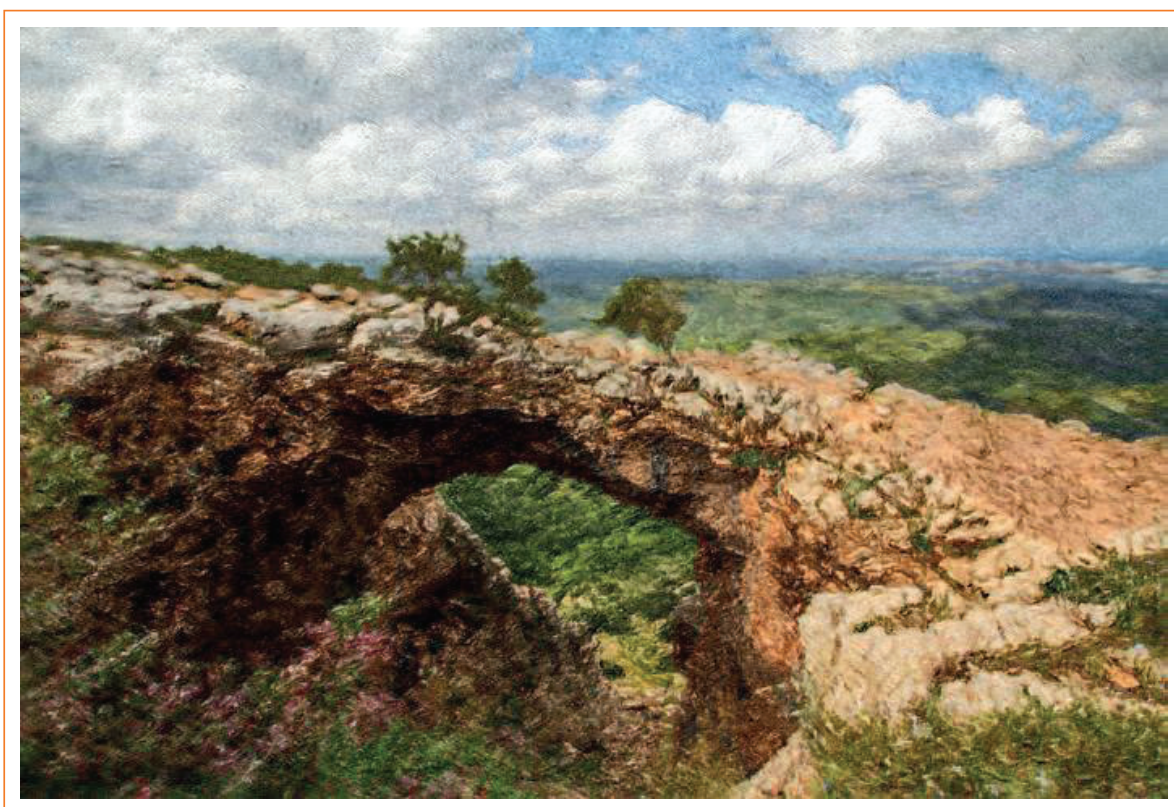
requires further comprehensive research, including locating historic documents which would corroborate the stories of the Zefat elders even more. In the article we will present the historical and archaeological evidence, turning this legend into reality.

**Keywords: offensive tunnel, War of Independence, Zefat, collective memory**



# ארצות הגליל

כרך 1, סיוון תשפ"ב



עורכת: ד"ר אופירה גראוויס קובלסקי