

THE

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## IS THE “GOD ON WINGED WHEEL” YEHUD COIN



### A DEPICTION OF EZEKIAL'S VISION?



**FEATURING:**

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## BADGES OF ISRAELI EXHIBITIONS IN THE USSR

By Dr. Vladimir Bernshtam

The history of Israeli exhibitions in the USSR began long before establishing the State of Israel. In the summer of 1923, a delegation from the Jewish Labor Federation (Histadrut) in Mandate Palestine was sent to Bolshevik Moscow to participate in the All-Russian Agricultural and Handicraft Industrial Exhibition (Fig. 1 and 2). The Palestinian pavilion was decorated with red and blue-white flags. The delegation was led by the Histadrut chairman and the future first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion.

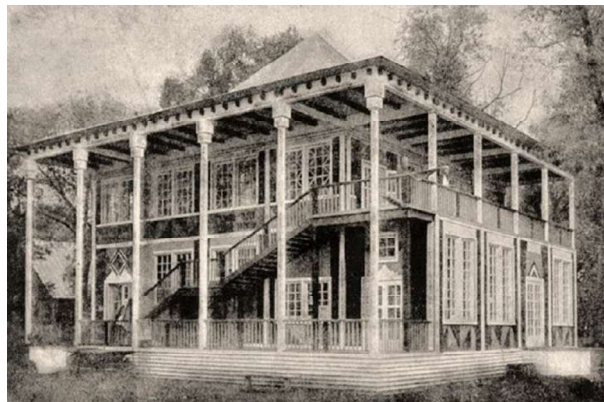


Fig. 1: The building that housed the Jewish Pavilion at the All-Union Agricultural and Handicraft Industrial Exhibition. Moscow. 1923.

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Fig. 2: Soviet token dedicated to the 1923 exhibition.

Inscription on the token: “In memory of the First All-Russian Agricultural and Handicraft Industrial Exhibition. USSR 1923”.

The next exhibition of agricultural products from Jewish settlements in Eretz Israel was held in Moscow in January 1944. As far as the author knows, there were no badges dedicated to the participation of Palestinian Jews in these two exhibitions.

Relations between Israel and the USSR were not simple. After the 1956 Sinai Campaign, the Soviet Union severed all trade relations with Israel, and during the Six-Day War in 1967, it also broke off diplomatic relations. This situation persisted until 1991. Before the break in diplomatic relations, Israel participated in three international exhibitions held in the Soviet Union. Special badges were made in Israel for these exhibitions.

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The International Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment took place in Moscow in May 1966. Companies from 20 countries presented their equipment and machines at the exhibition. Thirty-six Israeli companies showcased their products. On May 26, the exhibition hosted Israel's National Day.



Fig. 3: Logo of the International Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery and Equipment.

For this exhibition, two types of badges (Figures 4 and 5) were produced in Israel. The badge of the first type, measuring 2.5x1.5 cm (Figure 4a and 4b), was made of yellow and silver-colored metal. Along the perimeter of the badge is an inscription in Russian: “Exhibition of Agricultural Machinery in Moscow” and ISRAEL 1966.

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Left to right: Fig. 4a and 4b and Fig. 5

From August 8 to 15, 1966, the XIII World Poultry Congress and an exhibition of new industry equipment, various bird breeds, vitamin supplements, vaccines, processing and feed industry complexes, as well as designs and models of poultry buildings and structures, took place in Kyiv. Thousands of specialists from various regions of the USSR attended the exhibition. The proceedings of the 13th Congress were published in Russian, English, French, and German. Israel also had a pavilion at the exhibition. Badges made of white and yellow metal, measuring 2.5x2.5 cm, were produced for the exhibition (Fig. 6). The badge has an inscription in Russian: “Kyiv 1966 International Poultry Exhibition Israel”.

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Fig. 6

From May 16 to 26, the international food industry exhibition 'INPRODMASH-67' was held in Moscow. Around 650 companies and organizations from 21 countries, including Israel, participated in the exhibition. On May 23, Brezhnev, Kosygin, and other members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government visited the exhibition. They toured all the pavilions except the American one. For the exhibition, Israel produced a badge in white and yellow metal, with a diameter of 2.3 cm (Fig. 7). Along the perimeter of the badge there is an inscription in Russian: "INPRODMASH MOSCOW-67 ISRAEL". A special keychain was also made (Fig. 8).

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Fig. 7



Fig. 8

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Since 1977, the Moscow International Book Fair has been held in the capital of the Russian Federation. Until 1997, the fair took place every two years. Since 1997, it has been held annually. Israel took part in every book exhibition. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Moscow book fairs were the only semi-legal channel through which Israeli literature, including Russian-language books and Hebrew study materials, entered the USSR. Hundreds of books were taken from the Israeli stand by visitors, with the silent approval of the Israeli delegation members stationed there. Dozens of people stood and sat by the stands, reading the books. The author knows badges from the Israeli pavilion at the Moscow International Book Fairs in 1977, 1979, 1983, and 1985 (Fig. 9). The diameter of the badges is 2 cm. The badges feature an inscription in Hebrew, "International Book Fair," along with the year according to the Hebrew calendar, and in Russian, "Moscow" and the year of the exhibition. The author is not aware of a badge from 1981. The badges from 1979 and 1985 were produced in both silver-colored and yellow metal. For the 1985 exhibition, a keychain with a diameter of 3 cm was also made (Fig. 10).



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Fig. 9



Fig. 10

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At the Moscow International Book Fairs, the U.S. pavilion featured books from the “Association of Jewish Publishers of the USA”, which utilized the traditions and history of the Jewish people. These books, like those from Israeli publishers, attracted great interest from Soviet Jews. For the 1981 exhibition, the Association produced a special round badge with a diameter of 3.5 cm (Fig. 11). Along the perimeter of the badge there is an inscription in Russian: “Association of Jewish Publishers of the USA”.



Fig. 11

In conclusion, the author kindly asks readers who have information about other badges related to Israeli exhibitions in the USSR, or additional information about the badges described here, to share it with the author at: [fnbern@gmail.com](mailto:fnbern@gmail.com). The author thanks them in advance for this. 📧

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