



INSIGHT

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A Century of Service

The Jewish Institute of the Blind

Stamp Issued Honoring the Jewish Institute for the Blind

"The Jewish Institute for the Blind was founded 100 years ago as a refuge for those blind children who needed a place to learn and develop," explains Israeli Minister of Communications Reuven Rivlin. "Today the Institute is not a refuge but a stepping stone to full integration into society."

Celebrating a century of service to the blind and partially sighted population of Israel, Rivlin praised the Institute at a ceremony honoring the issue of a stamp by the Israeli Philatelic Service. "It is only appropriate that the stamp is imprinted with the word 'Israel' in Braille, and it is a nice expression of our admiration for the people we are honoring today," Rivlin added. In addition to being the first stamp imprinted with Braille, the stamp pictures the Institute, a Jerusalem landmark. The stamp recently was cited for originality as well as aesthetics.



Historic photograph of a blind student in the early days of the Institute learning to read the map of the land of Israel. The photo was taken by David Rubinger, one of Israel's most well known photographers and presented courtesy of Yediot Ahronot archives. When Rubinger heard of the Institute's centennial, he sent the photograph to the JIB as a memoir. Perhaps the educational tools and technologies are changing, but the love and personal attention to each student at the Institute has remained its trademark for 100 years.