

Synopsis of Exhibit

# The 1968 United Nations 6¢ Headquarters Issue

UNExpo 2017  
Bellefonte PA  
October 27-28, 2017

*Scope: This FDC exhibit focuses on the 6¢ Headquarters stamp and includes cachet production material as well as the damaged ventilator error mint and on cover.*



## Exhibit Plan

- The stamp
- The damaged ventilator error
- Official United Nations FDCs
- Traditional servicer FDCs
- In-period commercial use

## Selected Highlights

- FDC signed by the stamp designer
- ArtCraft cachet production material
- HD/HP cachet by Ralph Dyer
- Damaged ventilator error on FDC
- Damaged ventilator error commercial cover large multiple

### Historical Background

The 6¢ Headquarters stamp was issued to meet the new first class surface rate of the United States Postal Service. Per agreement letters posted at the United Nations were required to pay the same rate as the prevailing U.S. service. The new rate in the U. S. had changed effective January 7, 1968. The first day of sale was May 31, 1968 and the stamp remained on sale until January 17, 1973.

### Purpose and Scope

This exhibit is a detailed look at the stamp and its first day covers.

### Treatment

The exhibit begins with a brief look at the stamp including two different first day ceremony programs. Included here is also a cover signed by the designer of the stamp, Olav S. Mathiesen of Denmark.

Next is a section devoted to the "Broken Ventilator error which appears only on one pane of the stamp at position 15. As a result, this is a relatively scarce plate flaw to locate, especially on cover.

Following that are first day covers beginning with official United Nations cachets then covers serviced by traditional FDC servicers. In this section, there is scarce cachet production material including artwork and the ArtCraft printing plate. Also included scarce destination FDC to Portugal and Capetown South Africa.

The exhibit concludes with in-period commercial use of the stamp.

### Importance

The importance of this stamp lies in two specific characteristics. First was that it was issued as a definitive to meet the current first class surface rate. Typically, mailers utilizing the United Nations Post Office used one or more of the commemoratives stamps which were often issued. As a result, in period commercial use of this stamp is difficult to locate. Second is the scarce plate flaw which is found in just one position on the sheet. Because of this it is a challenging variety to find used on cover. In this exhibit, there are two such examples.

### Knowledge, Study & Research

Study of this issue has led to the discovery of several difficult to find examples of the error on both FDC and commercial cover.

### Rarity & Condition

Items included in this exhibit are in the best condition possible and include scarce items such as a large multiple of the "Broken Ventilator" error on commercial cover as well as cachet production material.

### References

[Arleigh Gaines ed.; United Nations Philately; New York, NY; R&D Publications; 1980.](#)

[Lindner Falzlos-Gesellschaft ed.; 1972 United Nations Stamp Catalog; Germany; Lindner Publishing; 1972.](#)

[Lindner Falzlos-Gesellschaft ed.; UN Philatelic and Numismatic Catalog and Handbook 6<sup>th</sup> edition; Germany; Lindner Publishing; 1976.](#)

A significant recent addition to this exhibit is the cachet production material from ArtCraft including both artwork and the printing plate.