

## The 1966 United Nations European Caravan

**PURPOSE & SCOPE:** This exhibit provides the viewer with an account of the of the 1966 United Nations European Caravan.

**TREATMENT:** The history of United Nations promotional caravans or tours begins in 1965 with a United Nations Mobile Exhibit in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the U. N. The caravan proved so successful a follow up was planned for 1966 covering Europe. A total of eighteen countries were visited during 1966 beginning in Belgrade on August 19/20 and ending in Turin on November 9/11.

The exhibit begins with a brief look at the 1965 event followed by three sections which illustrate the 6,000 miles covered by the caravan as it made its way across Europe. This is done in order to show the actual path that the caravan took as well as the various cancels used at each stop.

The exhibit ends with a brief section devoted to the caravan stop in Saarlouis, Germany on May 6/7, 1967. This stop was arranged during the 1966 caravan by members of the Saarlouis stamp club and as a result the cancel used in 1967 was identical in form to those used during the 1966 caravan.

**PERSONAL STUDY & RESEARCH:** Personal study over the past 10 years has led to a better understanding of how and when cancelled cards were processed through the United Nations Postal system as well as the origins of several of the publicity items created utilizing the official publicity photos.

**CONDITION & RARITY:** The material shown was chosen specifically for condition and scarcity. Much of the material included, especially the official publicity photographs from the United Nations and several of the cancels shown exist in populations of fewer than ten. As a result, this exhibit could not be duplicated.

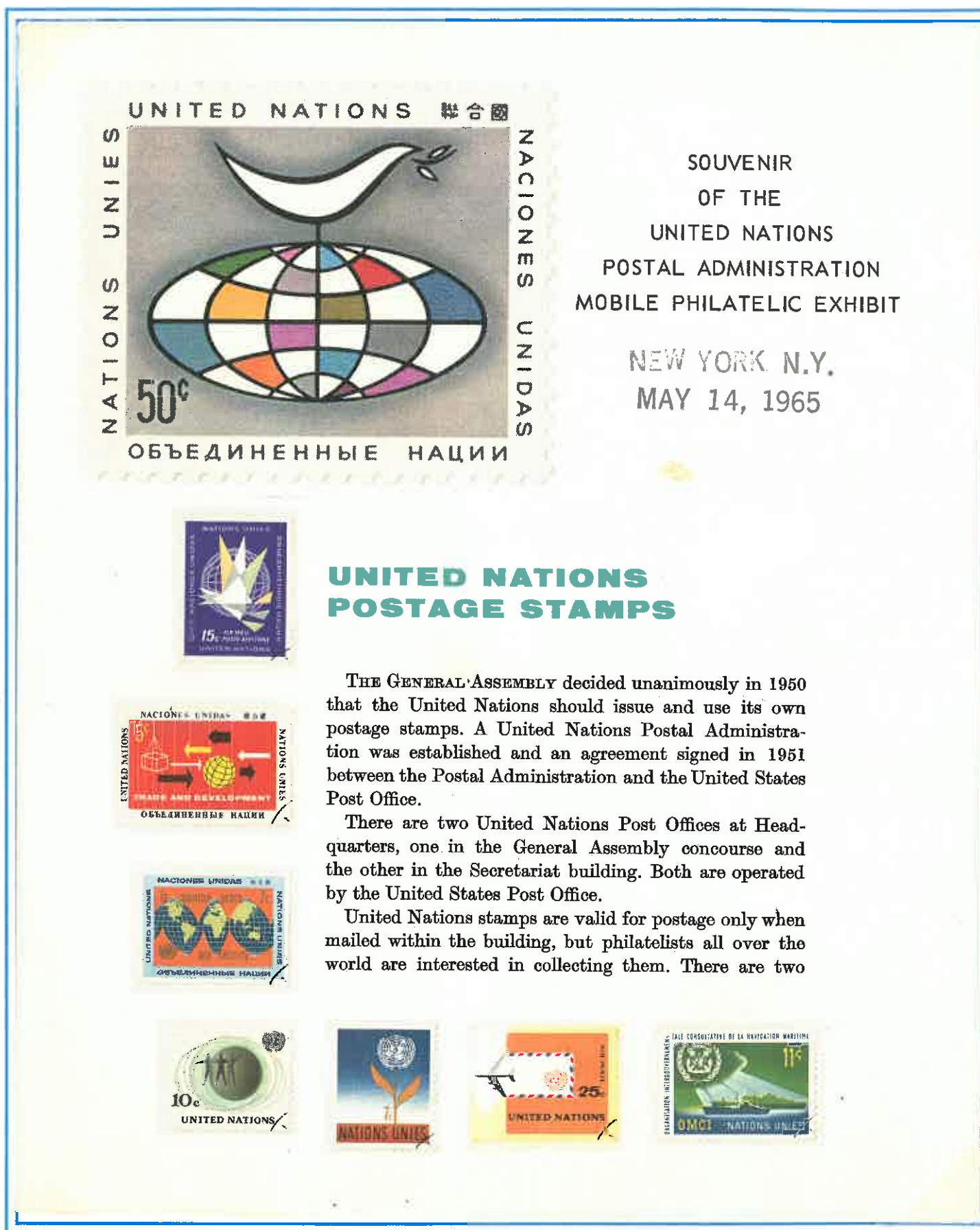
Items of significance are highlighted by a double line blue border.

### The 1965 United Nations Mobile Philatelic Exhibit

The first mobile tour of the stamps of the United Nations took place in 1965 in the United States. The exhibit, which was first suggested by UN Under Secretary David B. Vaughn, was conceived as a promotional event in support of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the U. N. The tour began in New York on May 14, 1965 and ended in San Francisco on June 22, 1965. Twelve additional cities were visited along the way.

### New York N.Y. - May 14, 1965 Souvenir Brochure

At each stop a brochure which gives a brief introduction to the stamps of the U.N. was made available to visitors, however this was limited to one brochure per person. At each stop a unique rubber hand stamp was used and the brochures used were overprinted indicating that they were a souvenir of the mobile exhibit. This mobile tour did not receive a great deal of advance publicity and that fact coupled with the limited distribution has led to few having survived.



### UNITED NATIONS POSTAGE STAMPS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY decided unanimously in 1950 that the United Nations should issue and use its own postage stamps. A United Nations Postal Administration was established and an agreement signed in 1951 between the Postal Administration and the United States Post Office.

There are two United Nations Post Offices at Headquarters, one in the General Assembly concourse and the other in the Secretariat building. Both are operated by the United States Post Office.

United Nations stamps are valid for postage only when mailed within the building, but philatelists all over the world are interested in collecting them. There are two