

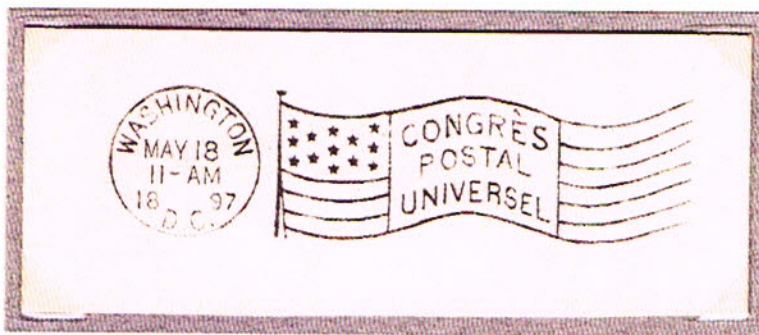
Philatelic “Gifts” to Members of the 1897 Fifth Congress of the Universal Postal Union

This exhibit displays the complete array of special specimen stamps, envelopes, and postal cards issued in 1897 and given to “Members” to celebrate the Fifth Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The Congress took place between May 5 and June 15, 1897 in Washington, DC. Prior Congresses were held in Bern, Switzerland; Paris, France; Lisbon, Spain; and Vienna, Austria-Hungary. “Members” were countries; and were represented at the Universal Postal Congress (UPC) by Plenipotentiaries. Records show that 125 sets were prepared – no more, no fewer. No evidence of “extras” or “remainders” exists.

The outline of the exhibit follows:

- The Congress & Its Post Office Branch
- 1897 UPC “Gifts”: Stamps, Postal Stationery, & the Box
- Timeline of Events
- UPC Overprints on “Ordinary” or Regular Stamps
 - Note on \$1 Perry Stamps
- UPC Overprints on Postage Due Stamps
- UPC Overprints on a Special Delivery Stamp
- UPC Overprints on Newspaper & Periodical Stamps
- UPC Overprints on Postal Stationery
 - Watermarks
 - Cutting Knives
 - Listing of UPC Stationery
 - Note on Amber-Manila Envelopes
- UPC One-Cent Envelopes
- UPC Two-Cents Envelopes
- UPC Four-Cents Envelopes
- UPC Five-Cents Envelopes
- UPC Postal & Paid Reply Cards
- UPC Overprint Variations
 - UPC Stamp Overprint Varieties
 - ✓ Tier I Variations
 - ✓ Tier II Variations
 - ✓ Combinations of Tiers I & II Variations
 - UPC Postal Stationery Overprint Varieties
 - ✓ Envelope Overprint Types A & B Examples
 - ✓ Overprint Plate Break Example
- Summary

The Congress & Its Post Office Branch



Postmark of the Fifth Congress of the Universal Postal Union

Applied at the UPC Branch Post Office during the Congress