

SYNOPSIS

SEVENTY YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE

UNITED NATIONS POSTAL STATIONERY

Abbreviations: NY-New York Office, G-Geneva Office, V-Vienna Office; UX-Postcards, U-Pre-stamped envelopes, UXC-Airmail postcards, UC-Airmail pre-stamped envelopes and Aérogrammes; A-Large, a/b/c-Reprints; p–page; issued/sold: yyyy.mm.dd. Scott Catalog was used for numbering.

Purpose: The exhibit presents Postal Stationery (PS) (Postcards, Pre-stamped envelopes, Airmail postcards, Airmail pre-stamped envelopes and Aérogrammes) issued by United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) since the first until the last one during the first 70 years of activity. UNPA is postal agency of the United Nations (UN). The issuing day was considered from catalogs [1-4] and from cancel day on PS's I have in my collection.

Organization: The exhibit is organized presenting mint UN PS chronologically as a single issuing country [1-4]. It starts with first “2 ¢ Headquarters Postcard” 1952.08.18 (p 2) and ends with “49 ¢ UN Headquarters and Emblem + 6 ¢ Surcharge Envelope” 2019.02.01 (p 112). The exhibit is revised, updated, developed, new, and completed all times. The UNPA was established at NY inaugurated 1951.10.24 and started issuing postage stamps [5]. The first PS was on 1952.07.18. The G started to issue postage stamps and PS on 1969.10.04 [6]. The V issued the first postage stamp on 1979.08.24 and PS on 1982.04.28. I have been interested in PS (having value stamps printed on them) [6]. It has more information than a postage stamp. It presents more varieties as of adhesives and exposes new paths. PS is older than the adhesive stamps [6].

Exhibit Flow and Balance: All PS's are my property. The exhibit is comprised of the most complete collection of UNPA PS including new issues, reprints, and revalued ones. I am the first, second, or third owner. It contains PS from the cheapest “4 ¢ Wing Airmail Postcard” (p 4) to the most expensive “4 ¢ Wing + 1 ¢ Airmail Postcard” (p 7). The observer should plan to read the exhibit in a left to right fashion and from top to bottom for each page. It is recommended to start with the Title page (p 1) and to continue to the last page (p 112). The plan is to go slowly to the pages, to see the date, and PS name. Every item is presently to be seen entirely: paper, color, shade/s, cachet/text, and imprinted stamp or additional value if any. Under PS is added description of the image on the backside if any. The exhibit was mounted in my 50 years of UN collecting, it was hard being in Europe. I attended many stamps shows in USA between 1974 to 1977, bought some from recognized stamp dealers and directly from NY/G/V. The exhibit contains 218 PS's, starting with a “NY Postcard” 1952.07.18 (p 2) and ending with a “NY Revalued Envelope” 2019.02.01 (p 112).

Importance: The UN is considered the preeminent international civil service organization worldwide. All independent countries of the world are UN members: 193 countries out of 233 countries and territories, with a population of 7.2 billion out of 7.7 billion on the Earth. The Post of such number of people over the Globe is very important. It bears messages of Peace and other necessarily to maintain it, to help people for a better life, and for understanding each other. A main part of this service is made by PS's. PS bears pictures of UN Headquarters of NY/G/V, symbols of Peace, Freedom, Fight Against Hunger, understanding, and much more. These are of extreme importance for the people and the world.

Knowledge and Personal Study: This exhibit started in 1972, I bought first postage stamp and postcard issued by NY. Additional items were added when I went to USA, at Notre Dame University as a Fulbright-Hays scholar in 1974. The presented PS's have been extraordinary difficult to acquire, most of the UNPA activities were not well documented, and very few information of the reprints exists and have survived. I had to go in Stamp Shows across the USA to find the difficult rare and scarce ones. I studied philatelic magazines to get the knowledge about the issues. I had to watch when new revalued ones appeared on the market.

Condition and Rarity: All items are in pristine and excellent condition. Full care was given to every PS. The reprints are in very limited number, so they are very rare. The revalued items are much rare, the sell day was not announced in advance. It was very hard to find and buy them. Some PS's have more than one reprint, so mint copy number of an issue may be extremely small, hard to find and the price on the market is exploding. I have a story for almost any PS. I mention just a few:

-“10 ¢ Emblem and Birds Airletter” 1952.07.29 (p 2) did not have “Aérogramme” text on it. A new one was printed with this word and issued 1954.08.09 (p 4).

-“4 ¢ Wing + 1 ¢ Surcharge Airmail Postcard” 1959.06.08 was not announced in advance (p 7).

-“8 ¢ Emblem Airmail Envelope S1 (2nd printing)” 1967.01.23 had new postal rate when issued (p 16).

-“11 ¢ Bird Aérogramme (4th printing)” 1967.01.23 had new postal rate when issued (p 16).

-“5 ¢ Weathervane Envelope S1 (2nd printing)” 1968.01.23 had new postal rate when issued (p 17).

-“44 ¢ Cherry Blossom Envelope” L/Sd 2010.06.06 (p 97) was revalued by “1 ¢” 2012.01.23 (p 101).

-“49 ¢ UN Headquarters and Emblem Envelope” L/Sd 2017.04.13 (p 109) was revalued twice by “1¢” 2018.05.23 (p 110) and by “6 ¢” 2019.02.01 (p 112).

Highlights: Highlights are any reprint and revalued PS. Most attractive are mentioned in the following table:

p	PS / Printed	
2	10 ¢ Emblem and Birds Airletter / 100,000	15 11 ¢ Globe Air Postcard (3 rd print) / 339,500
9	10 ¢ Flag Aérogramme (2 nd print) / 155,000	16 11 ¢ Bird Aérogramme (4 th print) / 200,000
10	11 ¢ Bird Aérogramme (2 nd print) / 200,000	96 98 ¢ Jet Plane Aerogramme / 25,000
14	11 ¢ Bird Aérogramme (3 rd print) / 200,000	97 44 ¢ Cherry Blossom Envelope L / 23,000
15	11 ¢ Globe Air Postcard (2 nd print) / 176,000	97 44 ¢ Cherry Blossom Envelope L / 20,000

References

- [1] *Scott Postal stationery Catalog*, United Nations, New York, Geneva, Vienna Section.
- [2] Arleigh Gaines, *United Nations Catalog*, Postal Stationery Section.
- [3] *UNPA New York, Geneva, Vienna Fliers*.
- [4] *Fascination – The Philatelic Journal for Collectors – UNPA – Vienna*.
- [5] Norris G. Robinson, *Postal History of the United Nations*, Editors: Natalina Robinson, Nans Paikert, Hans H. v. Renesee, New York/Cologne, 1985, p. 56–60.
- [6] Rodney L. Mott, *What do you know about Postal Stationery*, UPSS, 1945, Published by The United Postal Stationery Society, Bloomington, Il, USA, February 1976.
- [7] *Richard Borek Briefmarken Katalog, Vereinte Nationen, 1986/87*, 63 Jahrgang, Hans H. v. Renesee editor, Verlag Richard Borek, Braunschweig, p. 58–67, 114–115.
- [8] *UN Philatelic and Numismatic Catalog and Handbook*, 6th edition, Wolf Hanke editor, Lindner Falzlos publisher, Lindner, Schomberg, 1976, p. 157-166, 495-523.

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