# A STUDY OF THE U.N. CHAGALL WINDOW ISSUE

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In his stained glass window design, Marc Chagall portrays life with its many aspirations and problems:

"These colors and these forms must show, in the end, our dreams of human happiness as we conceive it today. On the right-hand side of the panel, you will see mankind, with its yearning for peace, its prophets and its victims. On the left, above and below, are depicted motherhood and the people who are struggling for peace. The main thing is not to see it but to feel it." - Marc Chagall



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#### Imperforate sheet

#### **EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS**

This exhibit contains relevant and unique design and proof materials from the official United Nations Postal Administration archives. Much of the material included in this exhibit (ex Mayer) is the definitive collection of this issue and also serves as the information source for other philatelic references. Key items, highlighted in this exhibit with a **deep red border** include:

- Miniature sheet Imperforate; Photographic essay; Black, Color Composite, and Color Corrected Positive Transparencies; Artist and Printer Models; Unissued Sheet; Color Mis-registration; Missing Colors; Double Impressions; Mis-cuts
- Single stamp Essay and final Color Positive Transparencies; Artist Model; Printer Die Essay; Plate Proof Block; Part Imperforate Variety; Signed First Day Cover

#### TIMELINE

**September 1961.** The concept of the "In Memorium" stained glass emerged following the untimely death of U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammerskjöld in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia while on a peace mission.

**September 17, 1964.** Formal dedication of a window designed by Marc Chagall and donated jointly by him and members of the Secretariat to the United Nations organization. Located along the east all of the lobby of the U.N. Secretariat building's ground floor, window measures 12' 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" by 15' 8".

**September 1966.** Announcement in the *New York Post* that Marc Chagall would be the first artist honored in a series of U.N. postage stamps featuring artists.

**November 1967.** Miniature sheet of six 6c (36c) and a single 6c commemorative stamp issued.

### **EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION & RESEARCH**

This exhibit describes the development, production and usage of this commemorative postal issue. The organization is in the same sequence as the development was undertaken:

- 1. Introduction/Timeline
- 2. Background of "In Memorium"
- 3. Miniature sheet depicting the complete issue
  - 3.1 Design (including proposed 5¢ issue)
  - 3.2 Production (including varieties)
    - A.Paper
    - B.Gum
    - C.Printing
    - D.Color
    - E.Perforation
    - F.Cutting
  - 3.3. First Day of Issue
  - 3.4 Postal Use
- 4. Single Stamp depicting a detail of main design
  - 4.1 Design
  - 4.2 Production
  - 4.3 First Day of Issue
  - 4.4 Postal Use