

# The French United Nations “General Assembly” Issues of 1951

**Purpose:** This is a traditional exhibit presenting the stamps issued by the French Government to commemorate the United Nations General Assembly meeting of 1951 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France.

**Background:** Before completion of the United Nations Headquarters complex in New York City, Paris hosted two sessions of the U.N. General Assembly (the third assembly in 1948 and the sixth assembly in 1951-52). Except for its first session in London, in 1946, the General Assembly has not met in any other location outside of New York. The sixth assembly convened on November 6, 1951 thru February 5, 1952.

## Exhibit Plan:

### Title Page

#### A. Pre-Production

- I. Rejected Design (Unadopted Commemorative)
- II. Rejected Design (Unadopted Airmail Issue)
- III. Artist Drawing
- IV. Artist Die Proofs - Unhardened Master Die
- V. Artist Die Proofs - Hardened Master Die  
Color Trial Proofs

#### B. Stamp Production

- I. Plate Proofs
- II. Issued Stamps
- III. Sheet Layout and Production

#### C. Stamp Usage

- I. First Day Usage
- II. Domestic Mail
  - a. Basic Services
  - b. Special Services
- III. International Mail
  - a. Surface
  - b. Airmail
- IV. Last Day Usage

#### D. Epilogue

- I. Late Usage

A blue border is used to emphasize exceptionally scarce or important items.

## A. Pre-Production

### I. Rejected Design (Unadopted Commemorative)

In normal practice during the late 1940's, design of a French stamp issue began with the Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones soliciting sketches of proposed designs from artists. A design then would be selected on the basis of the sketches, and the engraving process begun.

Possibly because of the brief time available, which was due to the lateness of the decision on Paris for the General Assembly site as a result of the construction of the new UN Headquarters in NY still not completed, the starting point for the design of the 1951 General Assembly issue was with a design proposed by Decaris showing a man and woman laborers with an inscription France Nation Unies Paris 1951.

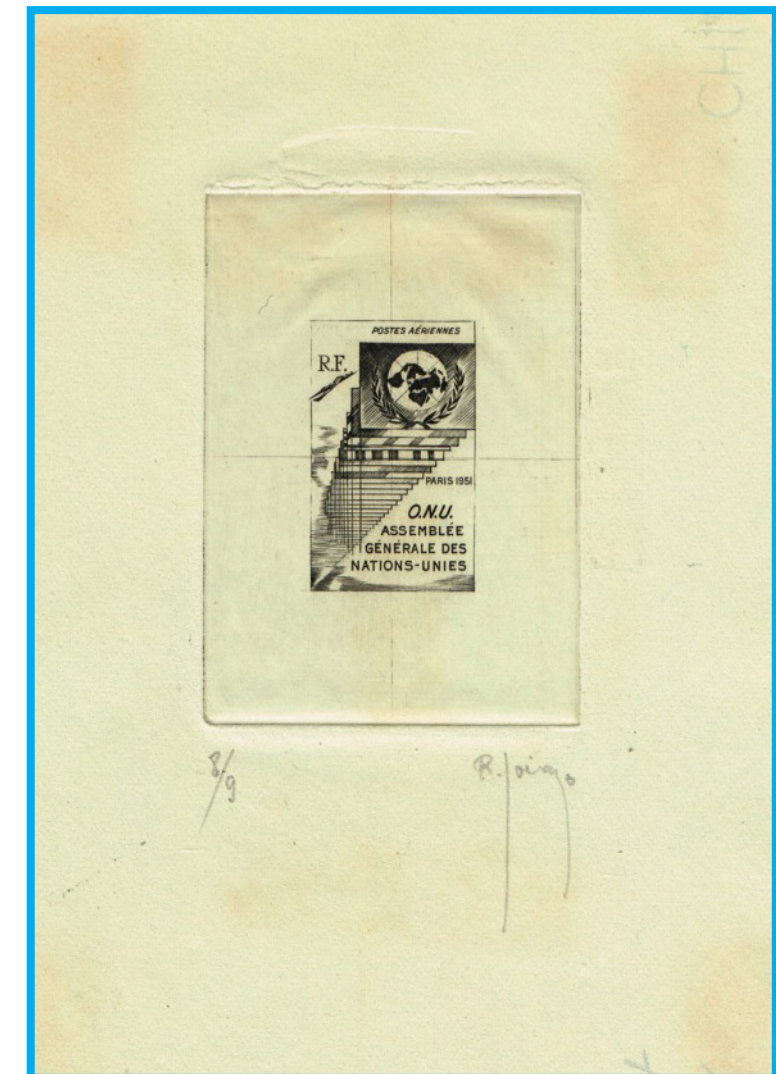


Sepia Inspection Proof (3 recorded - Gaines United Nations Philately [Gaines])

## A. Pre-Production

### II. Rejected Design (Unadopted Airmail Issue)

In addition to the commemorative issue, the French P.T.T also considered the release of an airmail stamp honoring the Assembly. The design, like the fore mentioned commemorative, was ultimately rejected although this design featured a much more “UN” theme with UN Emblem and text. Although the precise reason these essays were rejected has never been made public, a possible reason was that the stamp subject were not well-related to the “UN” theme or the General Assembly site, the Palais des Nations in Paris.



Textual Elements and additional Shading and Detail added (1 recorded - Gaines)