

# TOWARD UNITED NATIONS

## THE FIVE CENT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF 1945

### *Synopsis*

This special study documents the issue's design and facets of its postal use as a tool to publicize the United Nations. Material is organized in production order followed by domestic and foreign destinations - arranged by service type, geographic destination and rate. Official UNCIO service mail ends this presentation.

### *Historical Background*

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed a new world peace organization to replace the League of Nations. World nations agreed to an international conference to be held in San Francisco and a postage stamp issue was planned to commemorate the event.

Intended as a postal ambassador for the fledgling organization, the stamp was assigned a 5¢ value, the first class surface rate to foreign destinations. Various designs were rejected and on 3 April, Roosevelt suggested the wording "Toward United Nations, April 25, 1945", and a simple border with the words over a laurel branch. Roosevelt died two weeks before the conference and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing added his name to the design as the quote's author.

Items presenting a special challenge in acquisition are matted in dark blue

### *Highlights*

Essays, small die proof, FDC and UNRRA items are of special interest. Delegation use (service mail) is of exceptional interest - only four examples bearing this issue recorded. The single U.S. Delegation cover is included.

### *Postal Rates (2/45 - 12/49)*

Domestic	2/45	10/46	1/49
Surface (per 1 oz.)	3¢	-	-
Airmail (per 1 oz.)	8¢	5¢	6¢
APO/FPO (per 1/2 oz.)	6¢	-	-
Territory (per 1/2 oz.)	15¢	5¢	-
Special Delivery	13¢	-	15¢
Registration	20¢	-	-
International	2/45	10/46	1/49
Surface (< 1 oz.)	5¢	-	-
Airmail (per 1/2 oz.)			
N. America	8¢	10¢	-
S. America	20¢	10¢	-
Europe	30¢	15¢	-
Africa	60¢	25¢	-
Asia	70¢	25¢	-



Boston, Ma. to San Francisco, Ca., 2 May 1945, 2/45 domestic airmail rate 8¢ per oz.  
Adressed to Commander Harold Stassen, U.S. Delegate to the UNCIO Conference