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Fifty Years of United Nations Peacekeeping

125

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Editor: Richard Powers
Production Manager: Greg Galletti
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Correspondence regarding editorial content should be sent to the Editor: Richard Powers, 2445 East Del Mar Boulevard #422, Pasadena, CA 91107-4871.

Changes of address should go to the UNP Secretary: Blanton Clement, Jr., 292 Springfield Terrace, Yardley, PA 19067-3421.

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Cover Illustrations

Front cover: Cover from an observer for the UN Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine dated October 28, 1948. **Rear cover**: Souvenir sheets issued by the UNPA featuring the theme "Rainforests" honoring the 50th anniversary of the World Health Organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I Survived the Stampede at the MEGA EVENT (Anaheim)

For three of the past four years the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA), the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) have sponsored the West Coast MEGA EVENT at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim. Last year's break in the series resulted from the USPS participation in PACIFIC '97. This year's four-day show began June 18th.

This year the main attraction was the release on the opening day by the USPS of the bi-colored reprints of the Trans-Mississippi Stamps on the occasion of the centennial of the original issue. (In honor of the $1 Western Cattle in Storm stamp, the USPS referred to the show as the Stampede!) However, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) produced its own philatelic spectacular by releasing on the second day of the show its colorful Rainforest series. (Rumor has it the UNPA delayed the release from the original April date to June 19th to accommodate the organizers of Juvalux '98, a youth and postal history exhibition in Luxemburg. In any case it benefitted MEGA EVENT - Anaheim, as well.)

Few venues offer more visitor friendly facilities than the Anaheim Convention Center. The well-lit and spaciously separated booths allowed visitors to conveniently browse the dealer offerings. This year about one hundred dealers participated, of which about half were from outside the Southland (Southern California). Approximately twenty postal administrations were represented, either directly like the UNPA or indirectly by representatives. Next to the commercial area were approximately two hundred frames of exhibited material.

In one corner of the exhibition hall the organizers set up a theatre to accommodate an audience of about four hundred persons. Fifteen minutes before the USPS first day ceremony began, the hall was already overflowing. I was one of the more than two hundred attendees forced to view the ceremonies standing. Fortunately the thrity-minute program was entertaining. Once the souvenir programs containing the Trans-Mississippi souvenir sheet were distributed, attendees left contentedly and eager to examine dealer wares.

The next day about one hundred fifty people attended the UNPA program. Speakers included ASDA and APS representatives. The main speaker was Robert Stein, the Head of the Graphic Design Unit of the UNPA. He serves as liaison between the artist and the UNPA. He is responsible for adapting the original art to a form appropriate for a stamp. I suspect that the pop-surrealist art that Rick Garcia created for the Rainforests issue must have been a challenge. At the end of the program each attendee received a C-folder containing singles of the Rainforests stamps tied by a UNNY first day cancel. The UNPA also issued a souvenir card bearing a printed show cachet (shown above) honoring the Anaheim show. Presumably the palm trees in the cachet were meant to evoke Southern California.

Apparently the USPS plans to continue this series of shows indefinitely. It will organize a similar affair next year. Its next major project will be **World Stamp Expo 2000**. This show will take place in Anaheim from Friday July 7, 2000 until Sunday July 16th. The USPS promises that this show will feature new products and priceless exhibits from over one hundred postal admionistrations and more than two hundred dealers. In contrast to the regular MEGA EVENTS in Anaheim, there will be a "serious" international philatelic exhibition. As a result the UNP Board of Directors has tentatively agreed at PACIFIC '97 to hold the UNP Annual Meeting in 2000 at World Stamp Expo 2000. See you there?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As editor of ***Linn's***, I've heard from several members of your group, expressing the hope that ***Linn's*** will revive, as soon as possible, the monthly United Nations column so capably written by Ron Ginns (aka Arleigh Gaines) until his untimely death a few months back.

While our news coverage of United Nations stamps continues weekly, we've decided to wait a while, before making a decision about restoring the monthly column. In the meantime, we would welcome submissions from members of your group on UN-related subjects, for possible publication in ***Linn's*** as space becomes available. We're extending this invitation in the hope of beginning the search through which we might eventually locate a new UN columnist.

Would-be contributors should recognize that ***Linn's*** articles should inform the specialist, but it should also reach out to collectors who are not presently interested in UN philately.

We have a pamphlet offering useful guidelines for prospective writers. I'll be happy to send one to any member of your group who sends me an addressed, stamped business-size envelope.

Michael Laurence, Editor-Publisher
Linn's Stamp News
P.O.Box 29
Sidney, Ohio 45365-0029

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A volunteer to store three to four cartons of ***Journal*** back issues, which are already sorted is sought. Duties include sending back issues on request to club members. Very minimal effort is involved. Please contact: Alex Bereson, 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131 or **bereson@ix.netcom.com.**

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

E-Mail Addresses

If you would like to have your e-mail address published periodically in the ***Journal***, please send the Secretary an e-mail at **blanton.clement@mcione.com**. You might also give a brief summary of your collecting interests, if you would like that shown in the listing.

SHOW AWARDS

UNP-member Jack Mayer received the Grand Award for a single frame exhibit at **Pipex 98**, a regional show sponsored by the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, which consists of philatelic clubs in Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The exhibition took place in Vernon, British Columbia May 8th-10th.

Jack received the grand award and a silver award for his exhibit **UN Information Office 1942-1945**. He also received a silver award for his other single frame exhibit: **UN Conference on International Organization - 1945**. Both of these exhibits are sections of his exhibit: **Genesis of the United Nations**, which is a work in progress concerning the founding of the United Nations.

Six weeks earlier two UNP-members participated in **Mannpex 98**, which was sponsored by the Manchester Philatelic Society and took place in Manchester, Connecticut March 21st through the 22nd.

Anthony Dewey received a gold award for his exhibit: **Swiss Official Stamps of the UN**. Greg Galletti, exhibiting under the name of his firm World Forum Philatelist, was awarded a vermeil award for his exhibit: **Les Timbres SdN et BIT** (The Stamps of the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization).

RAINFORESTS

From a UNPA Press Release

On June 19, 1998, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a set of three commemorative stamps and three souvenir sheets on the theme "**Rainforests**" in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO). The stamps appear on the rear cover of this journal.

Four policy orientations currently provide the framework for WHO's work:

- Integrating health and human development in public policies;
- Ensuring equitable access to health services;
- Promoting and protecting health;
- Preventing and controlling specific health problems.

Within this framework and in performing its technical role, WHO acts as the directing and coordinating authority on international health. It is an advocate for health and for developing concrete strategies to solve health-development challenges such as the control of malaria; the elimination of other diseases, such as poliomyelitis; the promotion of safe motherhood, child survival and healthy nutrition; and the provision of safe drinking water and hygienic living environments, especially in the least developed countries. In undertaking its multifaceted role, particularly in the field of collecting and sharing information and knowledge on health, increasing focus will turn to the tropical forests. Plants have always been a treasurehouse of potential new drugs, but emphasis has now turned to tropical rainforest plants as opposed to the temperate-zone plants which previously provided many of the major plant-derived drugs. Scientists from developing-countries are becoming more active in plant-derived drug development. Formal cooperative efforts between them and researchers from developed-countries continue to grow.

Out of the world forest cover of 13 million square miles, nearly 7.5 million square miles are situated in developing countries. These forest resources, found mostly in tropical and subtropical climatic zones, are often grouped together under the generic term "tropical forests".

The broad spectrum of forests is characterized at one end by various humid forest formations in the equatorial core zones such as the Amazon region, West Africa and the Congo Basin and the South-east Asian Pacific region. These formations are often referred to as "rainforests". In terms of their species, composition, structure and ecological dynamics, they may vary considerably from one ecozone to another. The "equatorial rainforests" merge - in varying geographical patterns shaped by altitude and climate conditions - into forests that differ in many aspects. These are the "closed" tropical and subtropical formations, characterized by a remarkable richness of plant and animal life. Yet in most cases they are also transitional formations, in the sense that they extend into the tropical and subtropical dry regions, where we find predominantly "open" and less diverse tree and bush populations. At the other end of the spectrum, the last border onto open savannahs or even forms of vegetation and landscape with little or no woody plants and trees, i.e. semi-desert or desert.

This set marks the third time that the UNPA has featured forest themes on its stamps. In 1960 it commemorated the Fifth World Forestry Congress in Seattle by issuing two stamps Scott UNNY #81 and 82. In 1988 the survival of the forests was marked by the issuance of six stamps UNNY 522-3, G 165-6 and A80-1.

THE EARLY YEARS OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING

By Richard Powers

The framers of the United Nations Charter were eager to avoid the inability of the League of Nations to act against threats to peace, breaches of the peace and acts of agression. According to Article 42 of the Charter, if the Security Council concludes that if all measures not involving the use of armed force were inadequate, "it may take such action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or secure international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade and other operations by air, sea or land forces of Members of the United Nations".

The ground rules for the use of force by the United Nations were the concern of the Military Staff Committee, which first met on February 4, 1946. The creation of such a committee is treated in Article 47, which declares the duty of this committee is to "advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament". The Military Staff Committee consists of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council plus, upon invitation, other Members, which might facilitate the execution of the Committee's responsibilities. Fig. 1 shows a cover from the U.S. Representative on the Military Staff Committee postmarked in 1948. On April 30, 1947 this committee issued a report on the general principles enunciated in Article 43, which proclaims that "all Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance and facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security."

According to the Secretary-General Trygve Lie, "all five members agreed on three important points. They agreed on the desirability of establishing these forces promptly. They agreed that the five Great Powers should contribute initially the major part of these forces. They agreed upon overall international command of these forces during their period of employment by the Security Council.

There were important points on which the Powers could not agree. They failed to agree where the forces should be based while awaiting call. They also failed to agree on the size and strength of the forces, and as to whether

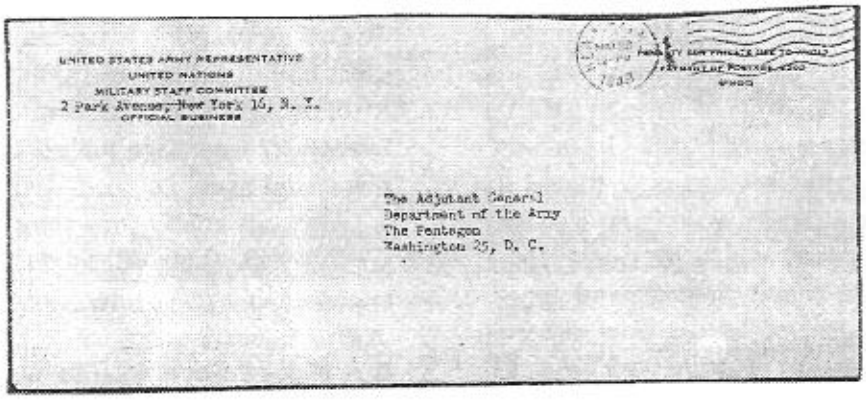

Figure 1: 1948 cover from the U.S. representative on the Military Staff Committee (Courtesy of the Gaines Catalog).

each of the five Powers should be asked for contribution of land, sea and air forces that would be equal in strength and composition, or merely comparable with each other".

At the same time conditions in Palestine were rapidly evolving into a situation where a military presence of the United Nations might appear appropriate. On April 2, 1947 the United Kingdom called for a Special Session of the General Assembly to take steps to allow the UN to assume the mandate responsibility in Palestine assumed by the United Kingdom in 1922.

The Special Session of the General Assembly opened on April 28th as indicated by the philatelic cover pictured in Figure 2. The specific purpose of the Session was to form a committee, "whose duty was to prepare material for consideration in the next regular session of the General Assembly concerning the government of Palestine". (1) The General Assembly established on May 15th the Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) Figure 3. The Committee organized public hearings in Jerusalem (Figure 4) and produced a proposal for the partition of Palestine into separate independent states for Jews and Arabs with an international regime for Jerusalem on August 31, 1947. The General Assembly approved this plan on November 29th. The implementation of this plan was in the hands of the Security Council.

The first meeting of the UN Palestine Commission, consisting of representatives from Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Panama, Denmark and the Philippines took places in Lake Success on January 9, 1948. One of the early issues addressed by this Commission was the question of an International Armed Force for Palestine. It was assumed that after the termination of the mandate on May 14, 1948, the British Army would gradually relinquish the duty of keeping

Figure 2: Philatelic cover marking the first Special Session of the General Assembly, which dealt with the Palestine issue.

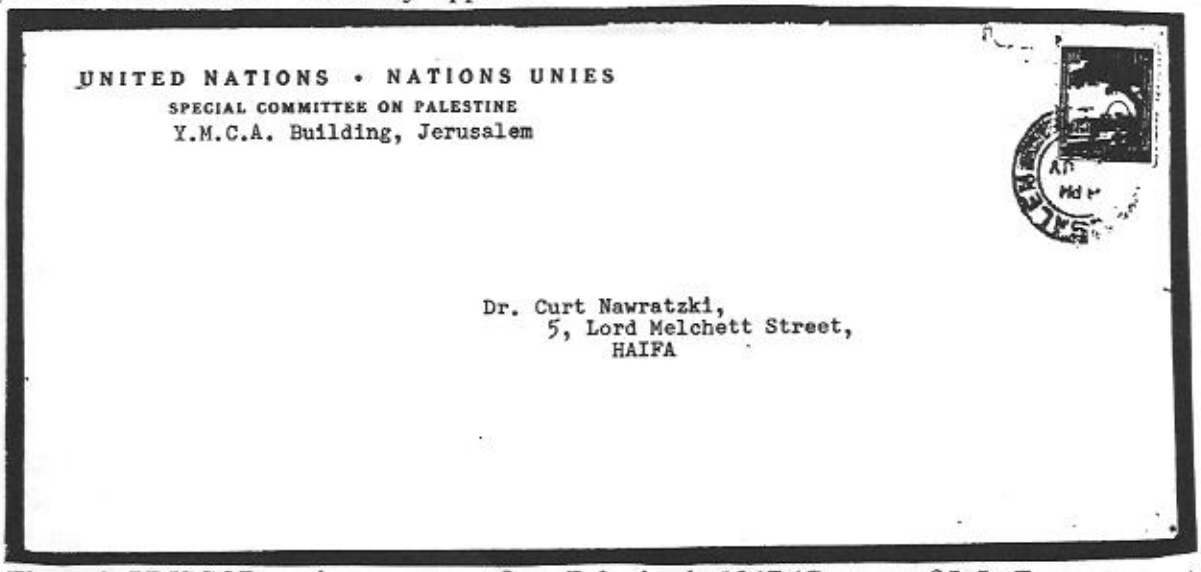

Figure 3: UNSCOP service cover sent from Palestine in 1947 (Coutesy of J.-L. Emmenegger.)

order and ensuring security in Palestine. Since the Arab and Jewish police forces and militias would be more or less in a developing stage, the United Nations Secretariat produced a working paper (2) on February 3, 1948 which suggested that an effective foreign force would be needed to assist in the maintenance of law and order. The Commission did agree that a few policemen would be needed for its own security.

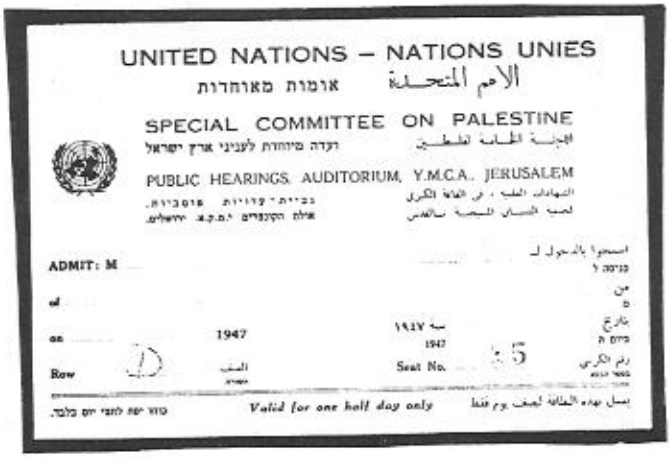
UNITED NATIONS – NATIONS UNIES
الامم المتحدة
אומות מאוחדות
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
PUBLIC HEARINGS. AUDITORIUM. Y.M.C.A., JERUSALEM
ADMIT: M
1947
Row D
Seat No. 35
Valid for one half day only

Figure 4: Pass to UNSCOP hearing in Jerusalem in 1947.

As the date for the termination of the British Mandate neared, the Commission began to recommend to the Security Council that the only way of implementing the decision for partition was through the use of a strong military force. Hope for a peaceful settlement remained strong in the Security Council.

On April 17th the Security Council called for a truce between Jewish and Arab forces and on April 23rd created a Truce Commission composed of the consular officers in Jerusalem of Belgium, France and the United States. Figure 5 shows a cover from this commission with the French consular postmark of May 6, 1948.

Within twenty-four hours of the termination of the British Mandate, the state of Israel was created (May 14th), the post of Mediator for Palestine was established by the General As-

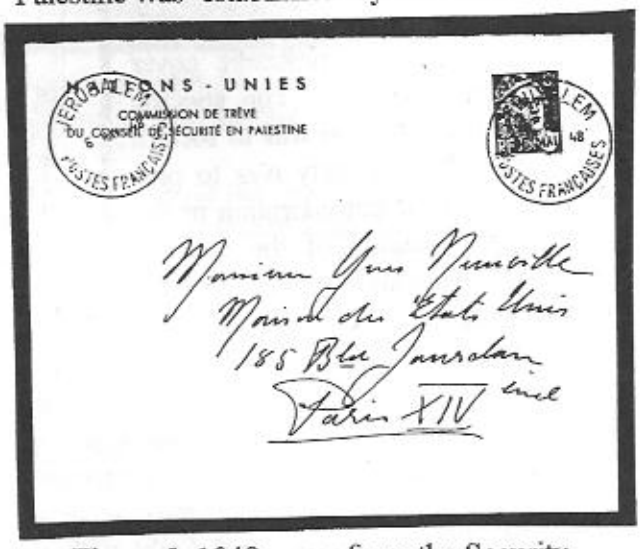
NS - UNIES
COMMISSION DE TRÊVE
DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ EN PALESTINE
JERUSALEM
POSTES FRANÇAISES
48
Monsieur Yves Pomerolle
Ministre des Etats Unis
185 Rue Jaurès
Paris XIV

Figure 5: 1948 cover from the Security Council Truce Commission in Jerusalem (Courtesy of J.-L. Emmenegger).

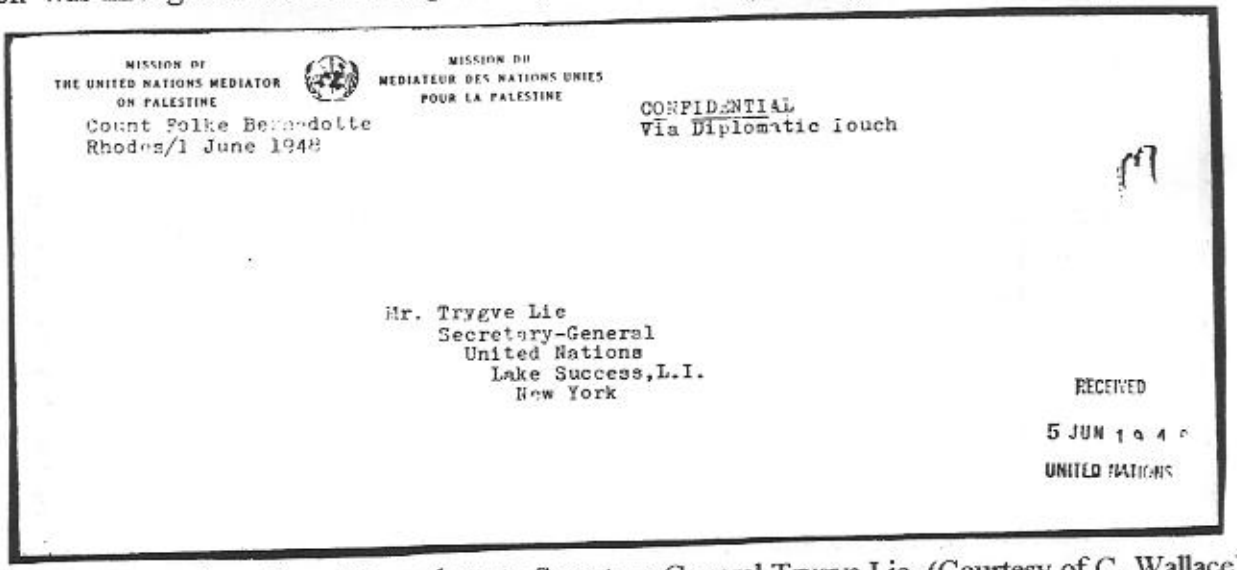
MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIATOR ON PALESTINE
MISSION DU MEDIATEUR DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA PALESTINE
Count Folke Bernadotte
Rhodes/1 June 1948
CONFIDENTIAL
Via Diplomatic Touch
Mr. Trygve Lie
Secretary-General
United Nations
Lake Success, L.I.
New York
RECEIVED
5 JUN 1948
UNITED NATIONS

Figure 6: Cover from Count Bernadotte to Secretary-General Trygve Lie. (Courtesy of C. Wallace)

sembly (May 14th) and Egypt, followed by Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan sent units into Palestine (May 15th). Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden was appointed Mediator on May 20th. A cover from his office in Rhodes appears in Figure 6 dated June 1, 1948 sent to the United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie.(3) A cease-fire agreement was accepted by all parties on June 11th.

The first proposal for a United Nations peace force, as distinct from the armed forces intended under Article 43 for enforcement purposes, was made by Trygve Lie during a Commencement Address given at Harvard University on June 10, 1948.(4) At a press conference on June 16th, the Secretary-General indicated that he was thinking of a force of a 1000 to 5000 men. It was seen as a guard force, which could be made available to all organs of the UN, such as the Trusteeship Council. Simultaneously the U.S.S.R. proposed to the Security Council that a force of military observers from Permanent Members be created. This proposal was rejected.

In fact "the members of the Security Council's Truce Commission - the U.S.A., France and Belgium. - supplied ninety-three military observers and military and naval equipment and personnel for use in the supervision of the truce." (A cover sent by an American member of this group to his mother in California appears on the cover of this ***Journal***. The enclosed letter appears in Figure 7. It gives interesting insights into the exact nature of the work of these observers. Long days of not much to do. Yet the observers were constantly aware that the cease-fire could easily end. His comments referring to dinner as "rump of camel" suggests that he was not immune to culture shock.)

"A unit of fifty men, members of the United Nations Security Guard, reinforced by other Secretariat members, volunteered for service in Palestine. Forty other members of the Secretariat were dispatched to assist the Mediator in various capacities".(5) Covers sent home from members of the Secretariat often bear the corner card of the President of the General Assembly in Lake Success as shown in Figure 8. This was the beginning of the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine** (UNTSO).

Soviet criticism of the Secretary-General in the Security Council on July 7th and 15th, for sending fifty UN guards to Palestine foreshadowed constitutional objections it would later advance against a UN Guard Force. In the opinion of Jacob Malik, the Soviet representative, "the Secretariat should confine itself to the dispatch of clerical, technical and subsidiary staff but not of sentries or armed guards".(6)

On September 17th the UN Mediator Count Bernadotte of Sweden and Colonel André Sérot of France were assassinated in Jerusalem. They were the sixth and seventh UN representatives murdered in service to the UN in Palestine. The first to be killed was Thomas Wasson, American Consul in Jerusalem and member of the Truce Commission. The work of the Mediator was assumed by the American Dr. Ralph Bunche. A cover postmarked December 29, 1948 from the office of the Disaster Relief Project of the UN Mediator sent from Beirut, Lebanon appears in Figure 9.

Trygve Lie's proposal for a UN Guard was not considered by the General Assembly until April 1949. When it became clear that the many of the major Powers would not accept even a peaceful force with no powers of compulsion, the Secretary-General revised his plan to create a Field Service of 300 normally unarmed persons to increase the technical efficiency of the Secretariat in servicing UN field missions. This proposal was accepted by the Assembly on November 22, 1949.

Future military operations, such as in Korea in 1950, would be manned exclusively by national contingents assigned from the armed forces by Member States. For more information concerning the above events the reader is encouraged to refer to the work of Chamberlin et al (7) and the "Public Papers of the Secretaretaries General of the United Nations" edited by Crocker and Foote. (8)

Tiberias, Israel
29 October '48
0800z

Dear Mother,

Here I am again, on duty in our radio-truck, and with not too much to do. Things are popping now, but we are all right. If ever this war starts again they will give us ample time to clear out, but let's hope that it doesn't start.

I got a letter from Virginia the other day with a picture of her in it. She sure seems to have improved in looks since I last saw her. And Marty is still working out.

At the moment I am really busy; you can tell by the way this writing slants. Everytime I get a message I have to take this letter out and type it. When I put it back in You see what happens.

Since I have started this letter I have sent out three urgent messages and recieved one. Phew! Well I'll try again to finishiit.

I haven't got a letter from you for I don't know how long, but it may happen that there is one for me in Haifa; you see once a week someone goes in to Haifa to get our mail.

If we get our American mail to Haifa before monday it goes out by courier then, but if we don't then I just sent it by Jew mail, but you havenT told me which is faster.

I may be able to get to go to Beirut in the next two weeks. I am going to buy the place out. I want to get some luggage, some shoes, a watch, a robe or two, and I dont know what else.

We'll see if there is anything I can get you. I will ask Jamgotchian to go to Damascus with me to buy most of the stuff.

Please tell Carl to send me some clippings of what they are writing about Palestine. I would like to know too.

They are going to send me home(New Jersey) January the first, so be expecting me to come home on leave about then.

The weather is warm, and I still go swimming here. Our hotel is changed now, and it is right off the lake. It costs us six bucks per day, and that ain't hay. It is really class, but I don't think it is worth what we pay. Oh, well if they say we have to\spend all of our fifteen dollars a day to live on we have to. But I am still saving some money. I don't want to send it home because there is so many things in Beirut that are cheap to buy. We'll see if I save any when I get home. Since I've been here I have been paid eight hundred dollars, but I have spent over half already. Don't ask me where, it just goes. But I am still saving an enormous amount. Does Daddy still not believe me?

I must close to go eat dinner now. I think we are having camels rump a la juden.

Love to All,

Bob

Figure 7: Letter sent home in October 1948 by an American UN observer in Palestine.

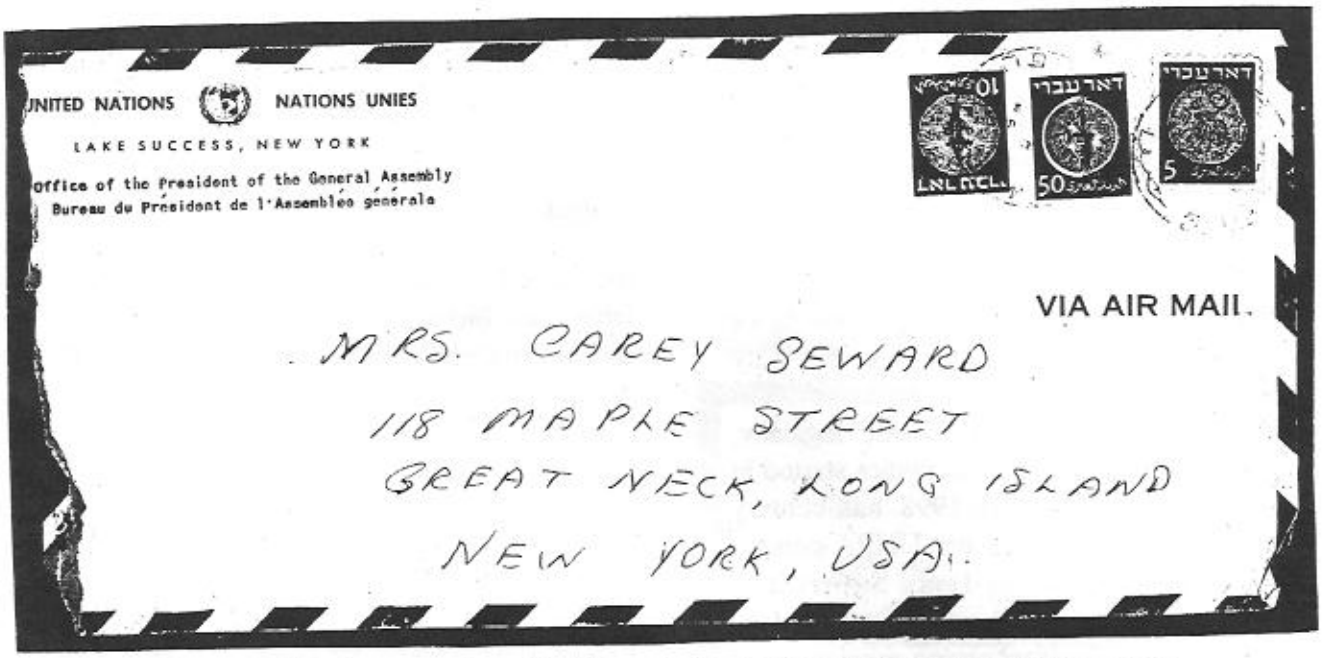

Figure 8: Service cover from UN Secretariat staff member bearing Israeli stamps.

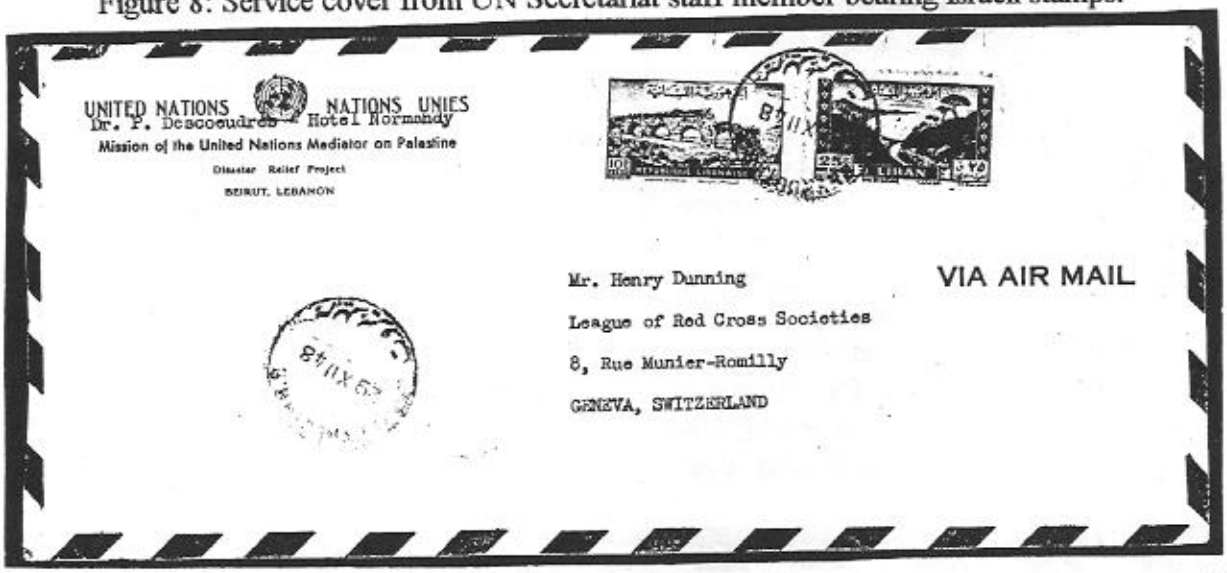

Figure 9: 1948 cover sent by the Disaster Relief Project of the United Nations Mediator in Palestine from its Beirut, Lebanon office.

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(3) Clayton Wallace, *Journal of United Nations Philatelists* **vol. 15-6**, 85, 1981.

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UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS DATING BACK TO 1947

By J.-L. Emmenegger

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has announced a stamp issue in its 1998 program to commemorate the fifty years of UN-Peacekeeping activities.

A fiftieth anniversary means, logically, that the UN-Peacekeeping activities started in 1948, to make the 1948-1998 half-century period. We assume that the UNPA considered the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organization** (UNTSO) operation to be the first "large-scale" peacekeeping mission organized for securing peace in a war-torn area. UNTSO was also, its appears, a more media-visible mission than earlier ones, which were more discreetly diplomatic. But which operations conducted by the UN occurred before UNTSO in 1948? The first UN peacekeepers were four Australians operating in Indonesia (1).

The UN in Indonesia

Just over fifty years ago at 8:15 AM on Sunday September 14, 1947, four Australian military officers stepped onto a Royal Australian Air Force plane to fly to Batavia, then the capital of the Dutch-controlled Netherlands East Indies. (Today Batavia is known as Djakarta, the capital of Indonesia.) Two hours later, they arrived at Djakjakarta, the capital of the breakaway Indonesian Republic. These four officers were Australia's first and probably the world's first United Nations peacekeepers.

These four Australian UN-peacekeepers were: Major D.L. Campbell, Squadron Leader L.T. Spence, Brigadier L.G.H. Dyke and Commander H. Chestermann. They were part of the **United Nations Good Offices Committee** (UNGOC), which also had Belgian and American observers. Besides the UNGOC, the UN also set up, in July 1947, the **Consular Commission**.

The following day, the four Australians entered history as the first peacekeepers to serve on the field. Over sixty more Australians were to serve as UNGOC-observers in Indonesia until 1949, when the UNGOC mission was terminated. On December 27, 1949, Indonesia achieved full independence.

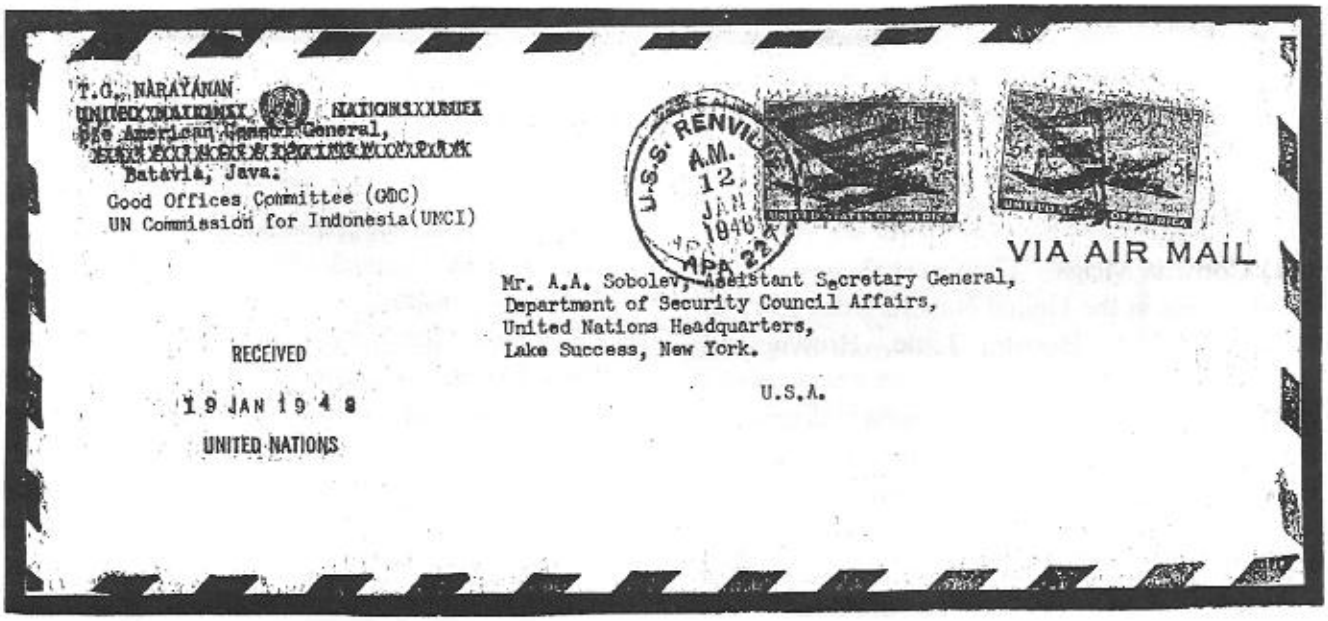

Figure 1: Service cover from the UNGOC on board the U.S.S.Renville in Batavia harbor in 1948.

Figure 1 shows a service cover (postmarked on January 12, 1948) used by a member of the Secretariat Staff working with the UNGOC meeting on board the U.S.S. Renville, in Batavia harbor. The truce agreement between the Netherlands and Indonesia was signed five days later on January 17th aboard this ship.

The UN in the Balkans

On December 19, 1946, the United Nations Security Council established a **Commission of Investigation**, composed of one representative of each Council member in 1947, to study the situation in the region occupied by Albania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece. The investigation was conducted in Northern Greece in early 1947 and a report was submitted.

Figure 2 shows a philatelic cover bearing three stamps (Scott #561-3) issued by Bulgaria in February 1947 commemorating the return to peace in Europe. The cover bears the conference cancel (dated March 29, 1947) of the Commission meeting in Sophia, Bulgaria, which actually took place March 26th through the 28th. Figure 3 shows a cover addressed to Mr. John Hood, member of the Australian delegation to the UN Investigation Commission. The conference cancel was applied as a receiving cancel.

Figure 2: Philatelic cover bearing the conference cancel of the Investigation Commission meeting in Sophia

UN Security Council Resolution No. 109 on October 21, 1947 established the **United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans** (UNSCOB) and called upon Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to provide no aid to guerilla forces within Greece. UNSCOB functioned until December 7, 1951. In Figure 4

Figure 3: Conference cancel used as receiving cancel on letter to delegate.

is a UNSCOB service cover sent from Salonika, Greece to a New York address. The green rectangular cachet next to the corner card was applied by a Greek censor.

Reference

(1) **The First United Nations Peacekeepers were Australians** by Dr. Peter Londey, in ***Wartime Magazine***, No. 1, November 1997.

Figure 4: UNSCOB service cover.

SPECIAL CANCELLATION OF THE UNPA-GENEVA HONORS THE (RE)OPENING OF THE PALAIS WILSON

By Richard Powers

On the occasion of the official (re)-opening of the Palais Wilson by the President of the Swiss Confederation Flavio Cotti, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan and the High Commissioner of Human Rights Mary Robinson, the UNPA used a special cancellation on June 5 and 6th. On June 5th the Palais Wilson became the "House of Human Rights" as the Headquarters of the High Commission of the United Nations for Human Rights.

The special cancellation (Figure 1) pictures the facade of the Palais Wilson. This historic building served as the original Palais des Nations of the League of Nations, which had bought and transformed the Grand Hotel National into its headquarters shortly after the Treaty of Versailles. The Secretariat remained there until the League

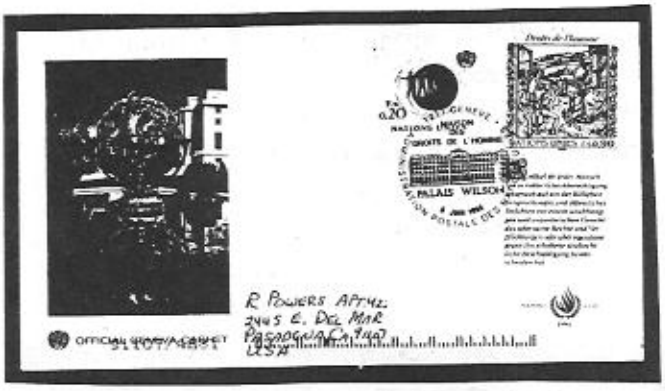

Figure 1: Special cancellation noting the opening of Human Rights House in Geneva in the Palais Wilson.

opened its new headquarters building in 1938. The latter building is now known as the Palais des Nations and serves now as the European Headquarters of the United Nations. The original Palais des Nations was renamed the **Palais Wilson** in honor of President Woodrow Wilson, who is considered by many to be the Father of the League of Nations. Figure 2 shows the same view of the facade of the Palais Wilson as appears in the special cancel. In the foreground one can see the plaque donated by the City of Geneva honoring President Wilson as the "Founder of the League of Nations".

Figure 2: Postcard displaying the facade of the Palais Wilson.

After the League Secretariat moved to the new Palais des Nations, the Palais Wilson still served as home for at least three League of Nations (and later United Nations) specialized organizations: the International Education Bureau (B.I.E.), the International Telecommunications Union (I.T.U.) and the International Refugee Organization (I.R.O.)

The earliest philatelic documentation of the term **Palais Wilson** that I have seen is the handstamped cachet which appears on the rear of the B.I.E. cover postmarked December 31, 1940. The cover is also interesting because it bears a wine-colored Pestalozzi label during the first month of its use by the B.I.E. The labels were sold to publicize and support the Intellectual Aid Program to Prisoners of War interned in Switzerland during World War II.

Figure 3: 1940 B.I.E. service cover showing **Palais Wilson** in handstamped cachet.

After the war the I.T.U. moved in 1948 from Bern to the Palais Wilson, where it stayed until it moved into its own Headquarters Building in Geneva in August 1983. Figure 4 shows a cover postmarked October 1, 1951, the first day when the name **Palais Wilson** appeared in the townmark.

The I.R.O. was created as a temporary agency on August 20, 1948. Its liquidation came to an end in September 1953. Service covers from the Palais Wilson are known from late 1951. The cover in Figure 4 was postmarked November 13, 1951.

In the summer of 1994 during a trip to visit the United Nations in Geneva, I tried to make a side trip to the Palais Wilson. Much

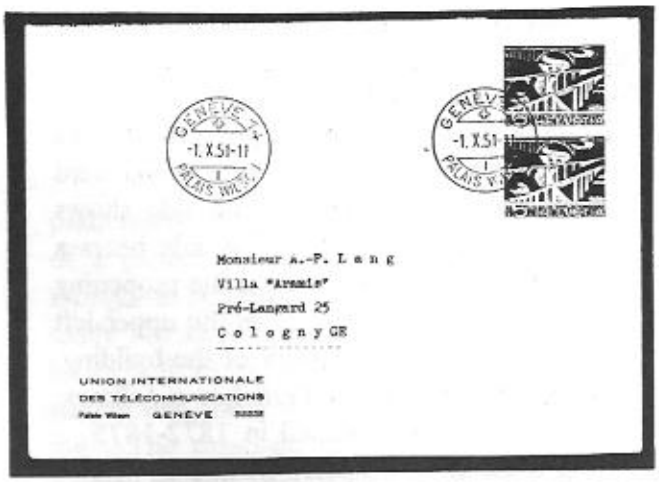

Figure 4: I.T.U. cover canceled on the first day of use of the Palais Wilson cancel.

to my dismay, I found it to be cordoned off to the public in the aftermath of a fire. Apparently much of the damage to the building was due to water damage during the efforts to extinguish the fire. At the time the future of the Palais Wilson was in doubt as a result of the fiscal problems of the United Nations. I am relieved to see that the Palais Wilson has now been officially reopened and is serving again as an active component of the United Nations.

Figure 5: 1951 I.R.O. service cover from the Palais Wilson.

Now for those of you who found out too late about the cancellation celebrating the reopening of the Palais Wilson in order to service your own covers, the UNPA in Geneva has prepared for you a special souvenir card pictured in Fig. 6. The picture side shows the Palais Wilson. The address side bears a Sf 1.40 definitive cancelled on the reopening day with the special cancel. In the upper left hand corner is a brief history of the building. The translation from the French is as follows:

> The building erected in 1872-1875 on a piece of property owned by the City of Geneva and transformed in 1905. It was the headquarters of the League of Nations from 1920 to 1937. It was renamed the Palais Wilson in 1924 in honor of the American President Wilson. Today it is the property of the Swiss Confederation, which entirely restored it in 1998.

The card can be ordered from the UNPA for $1.41 per card plus $2.50 postage per order (not per card). The UN accepts checks written on American banks. For additional information or to order the card, contact:

United Nations Postal Administration
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Telephone: (41 22) 917 3811
http://www.un.or.at.unpa/index.html

Figure 6: New UNPA Geneva souvenir card marking the reopening of the Palais Wilson .

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

As part of its 50th Anniversary celebration, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) sponsored a special handstamp for **Safer Shipping and Cleaner Oceans** that was available from May 11th-June 10th.

A souvenir cover (Fig. 1) cancelled with this handstamp and dated May 11, 1998, the first day of the Maritime Safety Committee's session, was prepared by the IMO. It is available from the

United Nations Study Group
86 Liverpool Road
Ashton in Makerfield
Wigan WN4 9LP, England

at £1.00 each, post free in the UK. (Editor's note: I imagine if you sent $2.00 in bills (not checks), you might be able to get one if there are any left).

Fig. 1: IMO 50th Anniversary souvenir cover.

NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD SUBJECT: THE SECOND DOLLAR DEFINITIVE

By Duane E. Lamers

Over the past decade or so, those interested in the subject have devoted considerable time to clarifying the distinctions between the first two printings of the second $1 definitive stamp (Scott # 150) of the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA), first released in 1966. The stamp was finally withdrawn from circulation at the time of its fifth printing early in 1978.

Early on it became obvious that the last two printings can be rather easily distinguished from the first three by the overall glossy appearance of the stamps. The early printings possess a matte finish in the upper half of the stamps, against which the rather glossy denomination stands out. All one has to do to view this distinction is to hold stamps at an angle to a light source and look for the matte or glossy finish. The distinction between the final two printings is easy with mint stamps: the final printing has a very thick, glossy and somewhat pitted gum while its predecessor has the more satiny smooth gum seen on the first three releases. In addition, the marginal inscription is more aqua in shade in the final run compared to the dark green of the fourth and of the first two printings.

The third printing is fairly easy to detect, too. This is the first printing to have the lighter or aqua shade in the marginal inscription, the only readily detected distinction this printing has from its two predecessors.

The problem has always been the distinguishing of first-printing samples from the second printing. For quite some time interested collectors were advised to use a high-powered magnifying glass to look for the presence or absence of a distinctive pattern of color dots in the upper left corner of stamps, particularly those from the upper left corner of a pane. An upper left MI4 block was thought to be ideal for this. If one found virtually the same clarity of the pattern in the lower left or right MI4 blocks, it was assumed that these were from the same printing. The presence of some "fuzziness" or blurred appearance of the color dots in the upper blocks and in the lower was taken to be an indication that the specimens were from the second printing. There was one added distinction, revealed by uv light: the first printing gum was bluish and more fluorescent compared to the duller, creamier gum of the second. This was noted during an examination of UNPA archival copies of panes of these two printings.

Recently more attention has been given to other stamps in other positions in a pane. The result was not encouraging. There did not seem to be any consistency to this color dot pattern in a pane. Some stamps in the middle of the pane might have or totally lack this pattern in the upper left corners. Variations could be seen in moving left to right across a row of stamps or from top to bottom. Thus, getting out the magnifying glass now seemed to be a worthless exercise.

When in doubt, one should go back to some of the more fundamental, less elaborate techniques for identifying printings. That is the principle, which should have been honored more closely from the start. It seems to offer the best system for distinguishing between the first two printings of #150. So, we finally took some of our own advice. We used the uv lamp to sort out panes and blocks from the first two printings based on the appearance of the gum. Then we compared specimens from one pile with those from the

other by backlighting them against the edge of the uv light holder. It was apparent that, except for one MI6 block, stamps from the alleged second printing exhibited more of a greenish tone rather than aqua. (The remaining MI6 block was on a very creamy shade of paper and had gum characteristics in uv light of the first printing. It is possible that the paper color itself could have rendered the ink a more greenish shade.) By the way, it is not necessary to backlight with a uv lamp. Any type of light is acceptable if it can reveal the differences in color.

With these facts in mind, a revision of the notes in the Gaines catalog seems in order and the following is suggested:

> Separate MI blocks based on the presence or absence of gloss in the upper half of the stamps. Those without gloss except on the denomination are from the first three printings. The remainder are from the last two printings.
>
> Blocks lacking the gloss but having an aqua rather than green margin inscription are from the third printing.
>
> Backlight the remaining blocks. Those with a more greenish shade are from the second printing. Use a uv light to confirm your findings: bluish gum is the first printing; creamy gum is the second printing.
>
> For blocks with an overall glossy appearance in the upper half of the stamps: examine the MI and gum. An aqua-colored MI and high gloss gum indicate the fifth printing. Except for the gloss, the fourth printing more closely resembles the first two printings.

Readers are invited to re-examine their material with the above notes in mind. As contributing editor to the Gaines catalog on matters pertaining to stationery and the post-First Issue definitive, this writer is willing to offer assistance to collectors desiring a professional opinion. Single stamps and those without gum pose more of a challenge, but their identity often can be determined nonetheless. Contact this writer for more details at the following address:

Duane E. Lamers
5677 Cliffside
Troy, Michigan 48098

MEMENTOS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY - LONDON 1946

By Clayton Wallace

In 1997 I acquired the cover (Figure 1) posted in London on January 17, 1946, without a London 1945 United Nations slogan cancel. To refresh your memory, the normal period of this slogan was December 1, 1945, through January 19, 1946.

Several things make this a very interesting cover. First, it has a "United States Delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations" corner card. Inside was a letter from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in which she declined an invitation to visit a dress manufacturing business. The initials "O.B." in the upper right hand corner probably stands for "Official Business". Second, the cancellation machine used is LONDON W.1 "A", and exhibits the "Universal" wavy lines cancellation. This machine had been listed in the 1990 edition (actually written in 1988) of our London slogan book as "possibly" having used the slogan. Apparently, it was not fitted with a London slogan, at least during the General Assembly period. More than one machine may have been available to the delegates.

What is also evident is the United States Delegation to the U.N. had at least two types of special stationery printed; one for the Pre-

Preparatory Commission (Figure 2) and one for the actual General Assembly. It is possible that other delegations may have had similar stationery printed, but they remain undocumented. In ***Postal History of the United Nations*** (1985), Norris G. Robinson states, "quite a number of governments used the U.N. stationery or the League of Nations stationery."

The Barnes, Merriman, Wallace ***London 1945 United Nations Slogan Cancellation*** book is currently undergoing a major revision. If you have any new information or interesting covers, please drop me a line. I am also interested an in inventory of your collection, no matter what its size. All contributors will be acknowledged. I can be reached at Brightware; 1750 Montgomery Street; San Francisco, CA 94111 USA, or over the Internet: wallace@brightware.com.

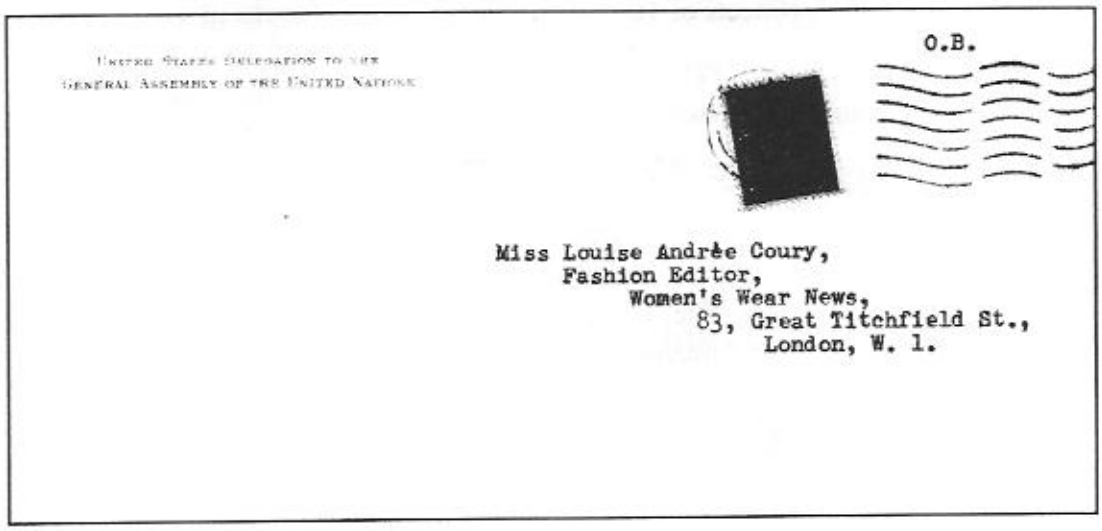

Figure 1: Service cover of the United States Delegation to the General Assembly.

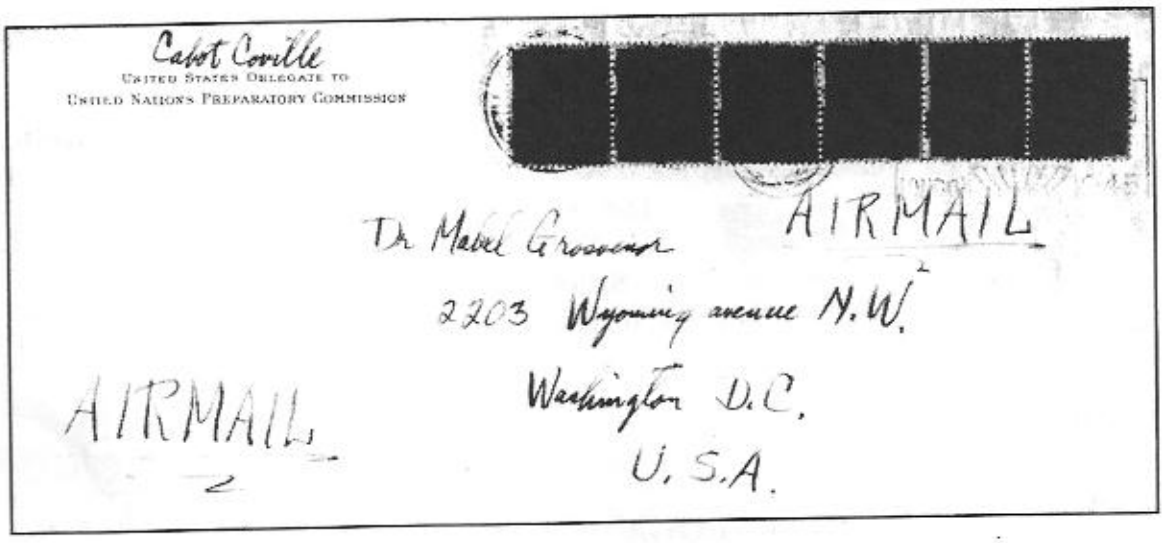

Figure 2: Service cover of a United States Delegate to the United Nations Preparatory Commission bearing a December 23, 1945 LONDON W.1 "C" London slogan and three London W.1 "10" hand stamps.

1998 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of July 1, 1998 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)

February 13

Flag Series

8 × 32¢ stamps.

(2 Sheets of 16 stamps with 4 se-tenant blocks of 4.)

Definitives

1¢, 2¢, 21¢, F.s. 2.00, S 6.50, S 9 stamps.

(Sheets of 20 stamps.)

March 13

Endangered Species

32¢, F.s. 0.80, S 7 stamps.

(Sheets of 16 stamps with 4 se-tenant blocks of 4.)

Set of 3 maximum cards.

Postal Stationery

S 13 prestamped envelope

May 20

International Year of the Ocean

32¢, F.s. 0.45, S 3.50stamps.

(Sheets of 12 stamps.)

Postal Stationery

21¢, 50¢, F.s. 70, F.s. 1,10, S 6.50 postal cards.

1998 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder.

June 19

Rainforests

32¢, F.s. 0.70, S 6.50 stamps.

(Sheets of 20 stamps.)

$2, F.s. 3.00, S 22 souvenir sheets.

Set of 3 maximum cards.

September 15

50 Years of Peacekeeping

32¢, 40¢, F.s. 0.70, F.s. 0.90, S 4, S 7.50 stamps.

(Sheets of 20 stamps.)

Souvenir card

October 27

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

32¢, 50¢, F.s. 0.90, F.s. 1.80, S 4.50, S 7 stamps

(Sheets of 20 stamps.)

Souvenir card.

December 4

Schönbrun Castle

32¢, 60¢, F.s. 0.70, F.s. 1.10, S 3.50, S 7 stamps.

(Sheets of 20 stamps)

3 Prestige Booklets.

1998 Annual Collection Folder.

1998 Flag Series Folder

NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

January 5 **International Year of the Ocean.**

June 1 **A Drug-free World - We Can Do It**

July 1 **50th Anniversary of the United Nations Women's Guild.**

August 3 **50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

TELECOM SHOWS ORGANIZED BY THE ITU OVER THE YEARS

By B. Clement, Jr.

Since 1971, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has been organizing international exhibitions and forums devoted to showing telecommunications technology in Geneva, Switzerland. These have been called **World Telecommunications Exhibition** or **TELECOM**. In its publicity the ITU says "Today, TELECOM is recognized as the Olympics of Telecommunications - everybody who counts in the telecommunications society attends TELECOM - from the leaders in manufacturing and industry, service providers and operators to governments." Since 1985, regional TELECOMs have also been held for Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Past and future TELECOM events are listed below, along with philatelic or postal recognition known to the writer. If readers are aware of other such material, information would be most welcome.

The first event **TELECOM 71** was held June 17-27, 1971. The first day of this event coincided with the close of the ITU conference **World Administrative Conference on Space Telecommunications**, which was held June 7th through July 17th. TELECOM 71 was marked by a special hand cancel used at the exhibition post office (Figure 1) and a Geneva slogan cancellation (Fig. 2).

Figure 1: Hand cancel for TELECOM 71.

The TELECOM 71 secretariat used stationery with a special corner card (Fig. 3), a label (Fig. 4) and origin cachet (Fig. 5) for the

Figure 2: Geneva slogan cancellation for TELECOM 71.

event. ITU meter machine 899, used a slogan cancel (Fig. 6) honoring TELECOM 71.

telecom 71

Secrétariat général TELECOM 71
16, quai de l'Ecole-de-Médecine
CH 1211 GENÈVE 4 (SUISSE)

Fig: 3: Secretariat corner card for TELECOM 71.

Figure 4: Label for TELECOM 71.

Figure 5: Origin Cachet for TELECOM 71.

Fig. 6: ITU meter slogan for TELECOM 71.

TELECOM 75 was held October 2-8, 1975. Again there was a special hand cancel

used at the exhibition post office (Figure 7), a Geneva slogan cancel (Figure 8) and an ITU meter slogan (Figure 9) used on machines 899, 9029 and 10998.

Figure 7: Hand cancel for TELECOM 75.

Figure 8:Geneva slogan cancellation for TELECOM 75.

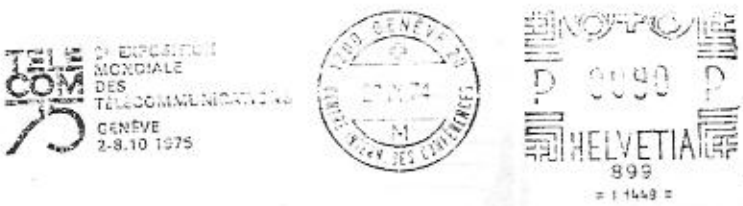

Fig: 9: ITU meter slogan for TELECOM 75.

TELECOM 79 was held September 20-26, 1979. The exhibition post office used a special hand cancel (Figure 10). The TELE-COM 79 Secretariat used stationery with a special corner card (Figure 11), label (Figure 12) and meter slogan (Figure 13) on machine 3388. The ITU also publicized the exhibition on its own stationery (Figure 14) and a meter slogan (Fig. 15) on machines 899 and 9029.

Figure 10: Hand cancel for TELECOM 79.

Figure 11: Secretariat corner card for TELECOM 79.

Figure 12: TELECOM 79 label.

Figure 13: TELECOM 79 meter slogan.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS
Place des Nations
CH-1211 GENÈVE 20

Figure 14: TELECOM 79 publicity on ITU stationery.

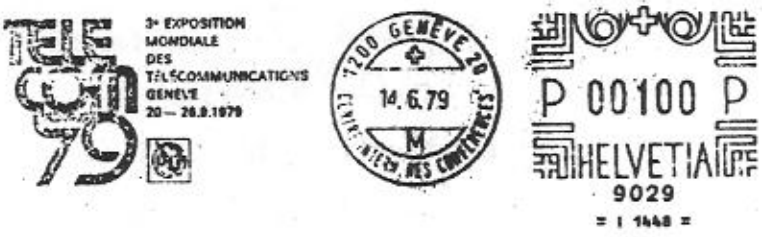

Fig: 15: ITU meter slogan for TELECOM 79.

Figure 16: Registered cover on ITU stationery marking TELECOM 83.

TELECOM 83 was held October 26 - November 1, 1983. A complete cover is displayed in Figure. 16 showing the special hand cancel used at the exhibition post office, label and ITU stationery publicizing the event. The Geneva slogan cancellation appears in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Geneva slogan cancellation for TELECOM 83.

TELECOM 87 was held October 20-27, 1987. Shown are the special post office hand cancel (Figure 18), the Geneva slogan cancel (Figure 19) and an ITU corner card publicizing the event (Figure 20).

Figure 18: Hand cancel for TELECOM 87.

Figure 19: Geneva slogan cancellation for TELECOM 87.

Figure 20: ITU stationery publicizing TELECOM 87.

TELECOM 91 was held October 7-15, 1991.

TELECOM 95 was held October 3-11, 1995 at Geneva's Palexpo (Palais des Expositions - Exposition Center). To honor this exhibition, Switzerland issued a special stamp, Scott #964 (Figure 21). A special hand cancel (Figure 22) was used at the exhibition post office.

Figure 21: Swiss stamp noting TELECOM 95.

Figure 22: Hand cancel for TELECOM 95.

TELECOM Interactive 97, dealing with the applications and services of the converging telecommunications, computing, broadcasting and entertainment industries, was held in Palexpo September 8-12, 1997. The exhibition post hand cancel is shown in Fig. 23.

Figure 23: Hand cancel for TELECOM 97.

TELECOM 99 will be held in Palexpo in Geneva October 8-17, 1999.

The World TELECOMs were so successful that organizing of regional TELECOMs began, with the first one being Asia TELECOM 85, held in Singapore May 14-18, 1985. Stationery with a special corner card was used by the secretariat (Figure 24).

Four years later **Asia TELECOM 89** was held. In 1983 **Asia TELECOM 93** took place at the Singapore World Trade Centre May 17-23, 1993. **Asia TELECOM 97** was held in Singapore June 9-14, 1997.

Fig. 24: Corner card for Asia TELECOM 85.

Regional TELECOMs began to be held in Africa the year after the first Asia TELECOM. **Africa TELECOM 86** was held in Nairobi, Kenya September 16-86. Kenya issued stamps Scott #380-3 to honor this exhibition. The secretariat used the corner card pictured in Figure 25.

Figure 25: Secretariat Corner Card for Africa TELECOM 86.

Four years later **Africa TELECOM 90** was held in Harare, Zimbabwe December 4-9, 1990. Illustrated in Figure 26 is a special corner card used by the exhibition secretariat.

Figure 26: Secretariat corner card for Africa TELECOM 90.

Africa TELECOM 94 was held in Cairo, Egypt April 25-29, 1994. Egypt issued a special stamp, noting the event, which is shown in Fig. 27 with a special cancellation.

Africa TELECOM 98 has just occurred in Johannesburg, South Africa May 4-10, 1998.

The first regional TELECOM in the western hemisphere was **Americas TELECOM 88**, held in Rio de Janiero, Brazil. This exhibition was honored by a stamp issued by the host country Scott #2134. The stamp and first day cancellation are shown in Figure 28.

Figure 27: Africa TELECOM 94

Figure 28 Americas TELECOM 88.

Americas TELECOM 92 was held in Acapulco, Mexico April 6-11, 1992, which issued Scott #1723 to mark the event. The secretariat corner card appears Figure 29.

Americas TELECOM 96 returned to Rio de Janeiro, where it was held in the Riocentro June 10-15, 1996. Brazil issued a stamp, Scott #2591 for this exhibition, which is illustrated in Figure 30.

The only regional TELECOM held to date for Europe was **Europa TELECOM 92**, which took place in Budapest, Hungary October 12-17, 1992. Hungary issued Scott # 3360, which appears in Fig. 31.

Figure 29: Secretariat corner card for Americas TELECOM 92.

Figure 30: Brazilian stamp and first day cancellation marking Americas TELECOM 96.

Figure 31: Hungarian stamp and cancel honoring Europa TELECOM 92.

As can be seen, ITU's TELECOM exhibitions and forums have created a rich and varied philatelic story. Refer to TELECOM's website at **http://gold.itu.int/TELECOM/** to learn more about recent and future TELECOM events. This is just another of the philatelic stories that can be told about the programs and events of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Why don't you take one of your favorite areas of the UN, research it and write it up for our readers?

World Forum Philatelist

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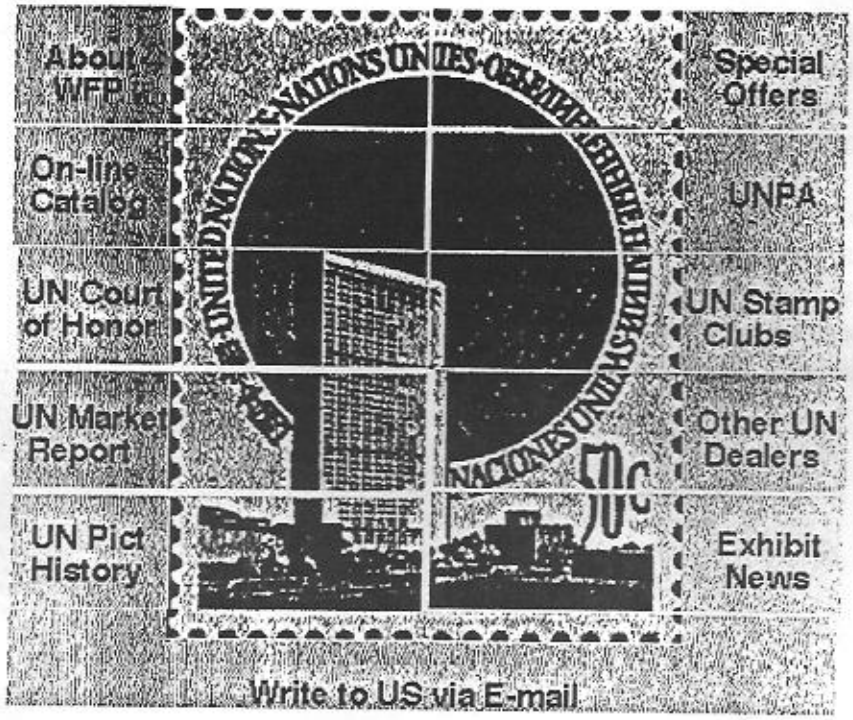
President WFP



UN CONFERENCE NEWS

By B. Clement, Jr.

World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The annual joint meetings of the Board of Governors of the World Bank and IMF were held in Hong Kong, China September 23-25, 1997. Four special stamps were used to com-memorate the meeting, one of the first UN-related conferences to be held in Hong Kong and certainly the first since Hong Kong became part of China. Hong Kong used a special postmark, which includes the conference symbol, at the conference (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Conference Cancellation of the Joint World Bank-IMF Board of Governors Meeting in Hong Kong in 1997.

BLUE CARD SALE

1975

#13	$7.00	#20	$6.00
#14	$6.50	#21D	$12.00
#15	$25.00	#22A	$11.00
#16A	$12.00	#22B	$11.00
#16B	$12.00	#23	$7.00
#17	$8.00	#25A	$6.50
#18	$7.00	#27	$5.50
#19	$7.00	#28	$8.00

#13 with additional UNSG imprint: $4.00
1975 complete set (#13-28): $100.00

1976

#29	$6.50	#38	$5.00
#30	$6.00	#39	$5.00
#32	$6.00	#40	$4.50
#33	$75.00	#41	$4.00
#34	$6.50	#42	$4.00
#35	$6.50	#43	$5.00
#36	$5.00	#44	$4.00
#37	$6.00	#45	$5.00

1976 complete set (#29-45): $100
Postage and insurance, $3.00 per order.
Charles C. Smith (UNP #117)
7801 Lake Sherwood Circle
Northport, AL 35473

Chapters of the UNPI

Midwest UN Collectors meets intermittently usually at shows in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska. Contact: Dorothy Green, 2200 36th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 or dotgreen@worldnet.att.net

UN Collectors of Chicagoland meets the second Monday of the month except in July and August at Stamp King, 7139 West Higgins Rd., Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Dr. Ben Ramkissoon, P.O.Box 606, Hindsdale, IL 60522-0606.

The Western Arm meets intermittently at San Francisco Bay area shows. Contact: Alex Bereson, 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA

Mid-Atlantic UN Collectors Club meets at shows in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Contact: Greg Galletti, MAUNCC, P.O. Box 466, Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0466

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Members are reminded that they may submit 2 philatelic advertisements per year for inclusion in ***The Journal*** free of charge. Neither should be more than about 5 lines. These will appear in the order received according to space available.

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The deadline for submission of material for publication is the first day of the month preceding the issue month. The deadline for the October issue is September 1st.

UNPI Officers and Board of Directors

July 1, 1998-June 30, 2000

President: Greg Galletti
P.O. Box 466
Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0466
E-mail: galletti@erols.com

Vice President: Murray A. Abramson
P.O.Box 61277
Durham, NC 27715-1277
E-mail: murray.abramson@duke.edu

Secretary: Blanton Clement, Jr.
292 Springdale Terrace
Yardley, PA 19067-3421
E-mail: blanton.clement@mcione.com

Treasurer: Larry Davidson
26-121 University Avenue East
Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 4J1, Canada
E-mail: ledavids@retirees.uwaterloo.ca

Director: Don Bakos (Past President)
P.O.Box 70263
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-0263

Director: Dan Gapinski
118 North 14th Street
Clear Lake, IA 50428
E-mail: gapinski@netins.net

Director: Jim Matyasovich
712 Meadowbrook Avenue
Orange, CA 92865-1322

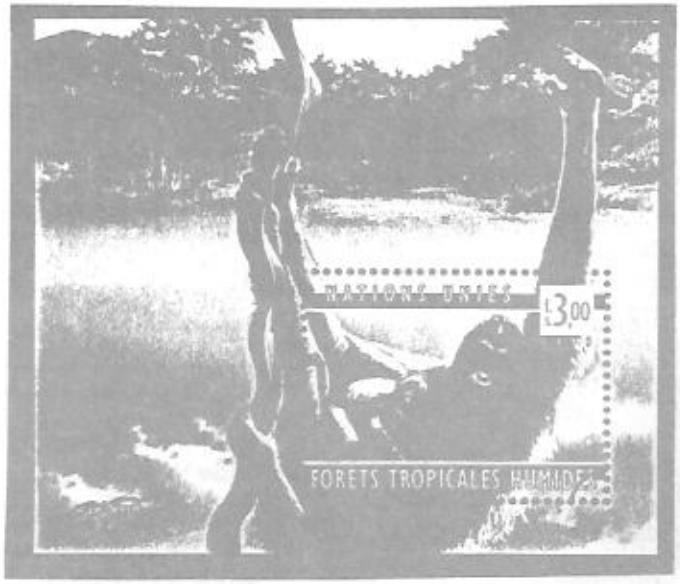
Director: Richard Powers
2445 East Del Mar Boulevard, #422
Pasadena, CA 91107-4871

Committee Chairmen

Exhibits: Greg Galletti
P.O. Box 466
Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0466
E-mail: galletti@erols.com

Auctions: Alex Bereson
18 Portola Drive
San Francisco, CA 94131-1518
E-mail: bereson@ix.netcom.com

Home Page Editor: Dennis Hamilton
P. O. Box 812785
Wellesley, MA 02181-0025
E-mail: who@tiac.net



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