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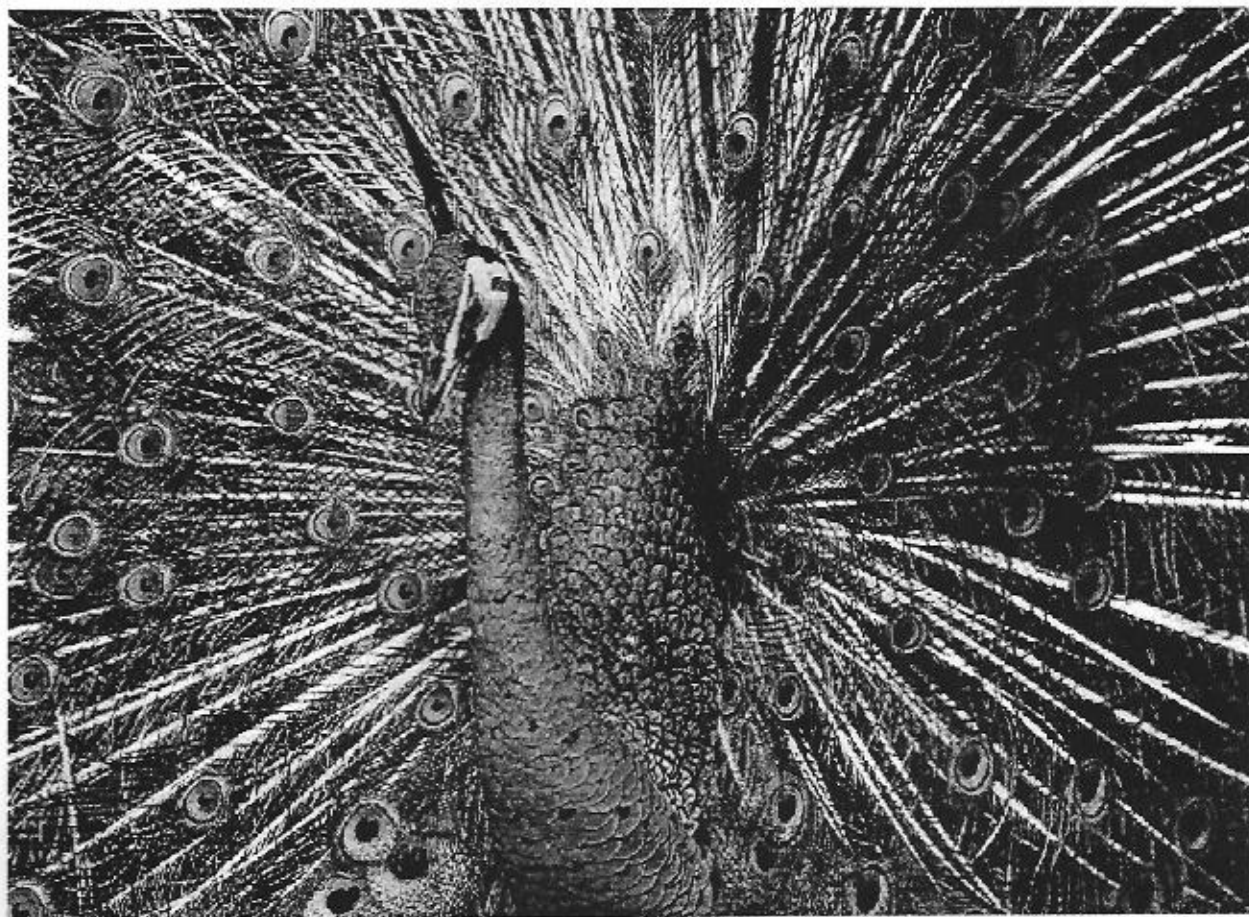


Volume 25
Number 1
February 2001
Whole Number 140

journal

OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS, INC.

25-1



140

**2001 UNITED NATIONS
ENDANGERED SPECIES SERIES**

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

Affiliate #71 of American Philatelic Society

A unit of the American Topical Association

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UNPI is an organization of philatelists devoted to the collection, study and exhibition of the issues of the United Nations Postal Administration, the postal history of the U.N., the issues and postal history of its branches, specialized agencies and forerunners, as well as world-wide topical issues that honor the U.N., its agencies and programs. The annual domestic dues of the UNPI are US\$15.00, of which US\$14.00 apply to the subscription to **The Journal**.

Unless otherwise stated, catalogue numbers are from the latest edition of the **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue** (Scott). (Lindner) refers to the **Lindner United Nations Catalogue** (1976) and (Gaines) indicates **United Nations Philately** by Arleigh Gaines.

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New Members

1438 Adel Maksad.....Providence, R.I.

Reprinting

Permission to reprint articles published in this journal is granted to philatelic journals as long as the source of the article is properly cited. The Editor would appreciate a reprint copy.

Cover Illustrations

Front cover: Green Peafowl, which graces the Geneva stamp in the 2001 Endangered Species series. **Rear cover:** Deluxe proof of French stamp commemorating the 1951 UN General Assembly Session in Paris.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all. This is my first message in the new millennium and I wish you all health and happiness in 2001. This year promises to be quite exciting for UN collectors. Our annual UNP Convention is set for August 2001 in conjunction with the **STAMPSHOW** exhibition sponsored by the American Philatelic Society (APS) slated for Chicago. As Chicago is the home of our oldest active chapter, the UN Collectors of Chicagoland, we hope to have a gala celebration in the "Windy City" in honor of the United Nations Postal Administration's (UNPA) fiftieth anniversary. Our very own UNP Exhibits Chairman, Tony Dewey, has got some great ideas and activities under development, and with the expertise of our local representative, Charlie Berg, a veteran exhibition manager, the show promises to be our finest in years. I have said it before and I will say it again: If you can find a way to attend the show, do it! It is one of the most enjoyable aspects of our hobby, and provides a venue for collectors to meet face to face, share their knowledge of UN collecting, and yes, it often provides a means of acquiring material for our collections from fellow enthusiasts. So mark your calendars. [Editor's Note: North American members will receive automatically application blanks and information about exhibiting at **STAMPSHOW** in August in Chicago during the UNP Annual Meeting with this issue of the *Journal*.]

On another note, our able editor, Dick Powers, is busy working on our next monograph by author Duane Lamers. [Editor's Note: This monograph is scheduled to be sent with this issue of the *Journal*.] Many will recall Duane's previous efforts on identifying the various printings of the "later" definitives (later definitives being those issued after the original eleven definitives and four airmails of 1951). As your president, I am proud of the quality of research our members have been so diligently pursuing

and sharing with us over the years. The authors are to be commended for their efforts. Over the next couple of years we will see some additional exciting works published by our little organization. So stay tuned and be sure to send your renewal fees to our secretary to ensure continued receipt of the *Journal* and monographs. And if you have any suggestions for how we, your board of directors, can better serve the membership, feel free to drop me a line with your ideas.

Best wishes for 2001 and beyond.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

In the December issue of the *Journal* I was unable to provide much information about the UNPA stamp program for 2001. Gradually this situation is changing. On the next page you will find a preliminary program for the year.

In addition to the anticipated issue to appear in October celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA), there will be a continuation of the Endangered Species Series in March. The flag stamps for eight additional Member States will appear in May as will definitives and stationery for the New York office in the wake of postal rate changes in the United States. The current monetary reform in the European Union will undoubtedly force the UNPA to issue new definitives in Euros for the Vienna office soon. The World Heritage Series honors Japan in August.

This leaves room for commemorative series honoring the International Year of Volunteers (March) and a series on the theme Climate Change (November). I hope to publish comprehensive articles on these topics this year. I would appreciate contributions from members either in the form of complete articles or illustrative material

2001 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of January 1, 2001 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)

February 1

Endangered Species

34¢, F.s. 0,90, S 7/Euro 0,51

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

Set of 3 maximum cards.

2001 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder

March 29

International Year of Volunteers

34¢, 80¢, F.s. 0,90, F.s. 1,30, S 7/Euro 0,51, S 13/Euro 0,94.

(6 Sheets of 20 stamps.)

Souvenir Card

May 25

2001 Flag Series

8×34¢

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

Definitive stamps and Stationery

7¢, 34¢

(2 Sheets of 20 stamps.)

34¢ pre-stamped envelope (small and large)

55¢ postal card, 60¢ air letter

August 1

World Heritage - Japan

34¢, 60¢, F.s. 1,20, F.s. 1,30, S 6.50/Euro 0,47, S 7/Euro 0,51

(6 Sheets of 20 stamps)

{3 Prestige Booklets with 12×(5¢,15¢,F.s. 0,10, F.s. 0,20, S 1/Euro 0,07, S 2/Euro 0,14)}

October 9 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Postal Administration

(To be announced.)

November 8

Climate Change

34¢, F.s. 0,90, S 7/Euro 0,51

(3 Sheets of 24 stamps with 6 se-tenant strips of 4)

2001 Annual Collection Folders

2001 Flag Series Folder

2001 SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

February 5

International Year of Volunteers

VISUAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2000 UNP ANNUAL MEETING AT WORLD STAMP EXPO IN ANAHEIM

Text by Richard Powers
Photos by Tony Dewey



Above: 2000 United Nations Philatelists Board of Directors Meeting early Saturday morning July 15th at the Anaheim Convention Center during **World Stamp Expo 2000**. Counterclockwise from right are UNP-President Greg Galletti, Treasurer Larry Davidson, Secretary Blanton Clement, Jr. and *Journal* Editor and Board Member Richard Powers.



Above right: Featured speaker Robert Stein, Head of the United Nations Postal Administration Graphic Design Unit showing proofs of the UN 55th anniversary issue during the UNP Annual Meeting Saturday afternoon July 15, 2000.



Right: UNP Secretary Blanton Clement, Jr and Editor Richard Manning the luxurious UNP Information Booth at World Stamp Expo.

THE 2001 UNITED NATIONS ENDANGERED SPECIES SERIES

From a UNPA Press Release

On February 1st of this year the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued its ninth set of twelve stamps depicting endangered species of fauna. The purpose of these stamps is to publicize the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which was signed in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1971. As of 1998 the convention had a membership of 139 nations. The Government of Switzerland serves as the depository of the Convention.

The aim of the Convention is to ensure that international commerce does not threaten the survival of species of wild animals and plants in recognition of the fact that unrestricted exploitation is the second major threat to the survival of some species, the first being the destruction of their habitat. For this purpose, species of wild animals and plants are listed in three appendices to the Convention. Appendix I concerns species where international trade is prohibited except under exceptional circumstances. Appendix II handles species where trade is controlled. Appendix III lists species where international trade is restricted from certain countries.

The 2001 Endangered Species



Tremarctos ornatus: The spectacled bear is a medium-sized, largely herbivorous bear which weighs on average 150 to 200 lbs. It can be found in the Andean mountain ranges in a number of South American countries. The total population of this Appendix I species may number more than 18,500 but only

small populations are widely scattered throughout its range.



Anas laysanensis: The Laysan duck is found only on Laysan Island, a 900-acre island in the Hawaiian archipelago. Like a number of endemic waterfowl of Hawaii, it has lost its ability to fly long distances, since it does not migrate. In 1993 a drought period brought the wild population of this Appendix I bird to only 150 specimens.



Proteles cristatus: The aardwolf is closely related to the hyena. It eats almost exclusively harvester termites, which it licks from the soil with its tongue. This Appendix III mammal is widespread throughout southern Africa and can also be found in southern Egypt and along the coast down to Tanzania.



Trachypithecus cristatus: The Appendix II silvered leaf monkey can be found in Indonesia, Cambodia and the southern parts of Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Laos. It has a body length of 1½ to 2 ft long and a tail which extends another 8 inches. It lives in troops of 12 to 25 animals.



Felis lynx canadensis: The North American lynx is a solitary hunter. Its long lustrous coat makes it very popular for the fur trade. Currently trade is well controlled and no longer threatens this Appendix II species.



Geochelone elephantus: The Galapagos (giant) tortoise can have a shell more than 3 feet long. This Appendix I species used to occur on the Galapagos islands in incredibly large numbers but were slaughtered for food. Only a few viable populations remain.



Pavo muticus: The green-necked peafowl was once widespread throughout South-East Asia. It is believed to be extinct in Malaysia and probably only 300 species of this Appendix II bird survive in Thailand.



Lepilemur spp.: The sportive lemur is a medium-sized animal with a body length of 1 foot found only in the forests of Madagascar. The main threat to this Appendix I species is habitat destruction.



Phalanger maculatus: The spotted cuscus can be found in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and on the Cape York Peninsula of Australia. This Appendix II marsupial is threatened by the pet trade.



Pharomacrus mocinno: The resplendent quetzal is the national symbol of Guatemala. The main threat to this Appendix I bird is the destruction of its favorite habitat, the moist rainforest.



Heloderma suspectum: The poisonous Gila monster lives in dry deserts in the southern United States and northern Mexico. The main threat to this Appendix I species is encroachment of human populations.



Colobus guereza: The mountain guereza occurs in the forests of southern Cameroon and Ethiopia as well as the northern parts of Tanzania, Congo and the Republic of Congo. This Appendix II monkey is under threat because of deforestation.

UPU'S INTERNATIONAL STAMP DESIGN COMPETITION TO PROMOTE THE UN YEAR FOR DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

From a UPU Press Release

A simple drawing of children in a communication circle around the world by a young art student from Slovenia has won the Universal Postal Unions (UPU) international stamp-design competition to promote the United Nations Year for Dialogue among Civilizations. The winner and three semi-finalists were chosen from entries received from twenty-eight countries. More postal administrations of the UPU member countries have indicated that they will issue postage stamps to commemorate the UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations in 2001.

The children in the winning entry represent the four main races of the world: north, east, south and west. Through the use of letters, parcels and telephones, the design (Figure 1) emphasizes the importance of communication among people; while at the same time highlights the role of the post.

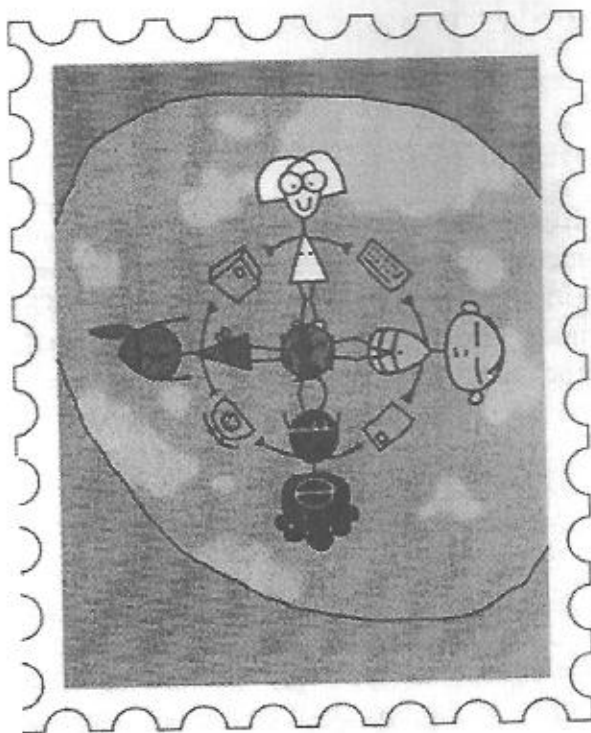


Figure 1: Winning Design - Slovenia.

The winner, 27 year old Urska Golob, comes from the small town of Slovenj Gradec in Slovenia. She will graduate from the University of Maribor in Slovenia this year, and although she has worked as a designer for the past four years, this is her first stamp design.

The three semi-finalists come from India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Poland. The design (Figure 2) of 45 year old Subash E. Pawar of India depicts two "inverted commas" indicating two faces in black and white that represent heart-to-heart communication between Eastern and Western cultures.

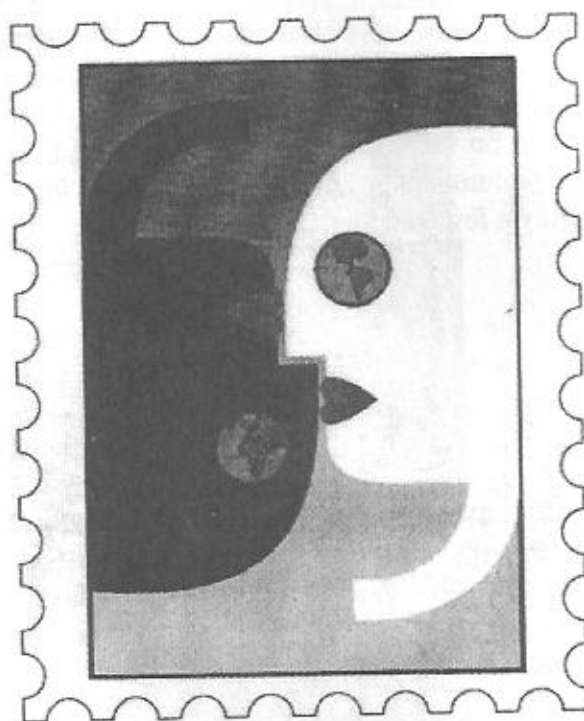


Figure 2: Semi-Finalist - India.

The design (Figure 3) of 40 year old Vazirian-Ali of the Islamic Republic of Iran also represents the eastern and western civilizations. On the right is an angel that represents religion and on the left contemporary art symbolizing the modern world.



Figure 3: Semi-Finalist - Islamic Republic of Iran.

The winner from Poland, 48 year old Buszewicz Maciej, used a branch a acacia leaves to illustrate that the people of the world are leaves of one tree (Figure 4). The many colors of the leaves link the multitude of cultures, religions and traditions without any specific references.



Figure 4: Semi-Finalist - Poland.

All four designs were submitted to the UPU's international stamp-design competition after having won national competitions called by the postal administrations of the respective countries. The four finalists were

selected by a Jury that included a Swiss designer and a Swiss artist, a representative from the Swiss National Federation of Philately, a representative of the Swiss Post Office as Switzerland is the host country for the UPU, a representative from the United Nations, and a representative from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran who originally proposed the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The winner chosen during the General Assembly of the UPU's World Association for the Development of Philately in Madrid, Spain.

The UPU has also decided to reflect the UN Year of Dialogue among Civilizations in its international letter-writing competition for 2001. Children from across the world are invited to "write a letter to somebody about their friendship and differences". Entries from young people up to the age of 15 must reach the UPU's International Bureau in Bern, Switzerland by April 30, 2001.



UPU CONGRESS IN ABIDJIAN, IVORY COAST IN 2004

One of the last acts of the 22nd UPU Congress, which took place in Beijing, China in 1999, was the selection of Abidjian, Ivory Coast as the site of the 23rd Congress in the year 2004. This will be only the second time in the 125-year history of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) that the Congress has been held in Africa. In 1934 the 10th Congress was held in Cairo, Egypt.

The UPU Congress meets every five years, with participation by delegates from each of the 189 member countries.

UN-MILITARY CORNER

The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor - UNTAET

By J.-L. Emmenegger

As mentioned in the June 2000 issue of *The Journal* (page 3), the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) has issued two stamps for use in East Timor. I can show two service covers bearing the international denomination. The stamp is labeled "Int."

Figure 1 shows a cover on UNNY stationery sent by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Sergio Vieira de Mello, using the new stamp on the reported

first day of usage April 29, 2000. Earlier reports had indicated that the first day of issue would be April 21st. The postmark, apparently a hand cancel, consists of a pictorial cancel from Dili and includes a reference to UNTAET.

Figure 2 shows a service cover sent by the Australian Police Detachment of UNTAET with a special corner card displaying the UN logo and the Australian flag. The cover bears a normal townmark from Dili. The date appears to be May 20, 2000.

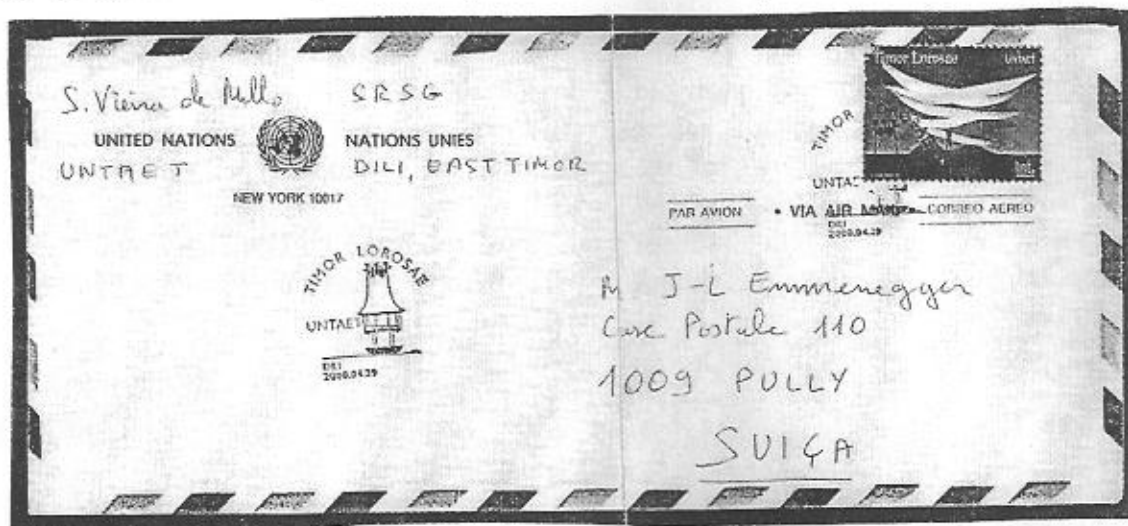


Figure 1: Service cover bearing new UNTAET-East Timorese stamp postmarked on first day of usage.



Figure 2: Service cover from the UNTAET Australian Police Detachment in Dili, East Timor.

The United Nations Mission in the Former Soviet Union - UNMOT

The UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) was conducted from December 1994 to May 2000. Its mandate expired on May 15th. It is currently under liquidation. Observers from many countries were involved in this peacekeeping mission.

Figure 1 shows a registered official envelope sent from Dushambe by a Danish major, probably in the early '90s. The stamps used, which had been issued by the

Soviet Union (CCCP), have been overprinted "Tajikistan" and revalued.

Figure 2 shows a registered official cover bearing a slightly different corner card. It seems to have been postmarked in Dushambe on February 5, 1998 and bears stamps issued by Tajikistan. It was sent by a Swiss major, who was acting as Senior Medical Advisor at the clinic in Dushambe. Note the special circular cachet.

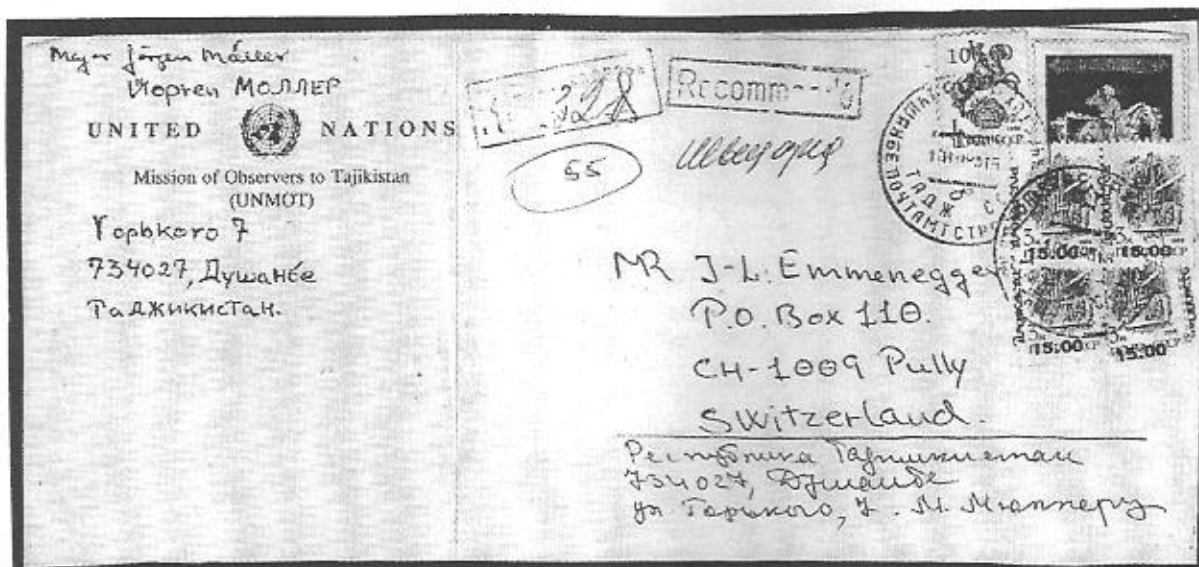


Figure 1: Registered service cover from UNMOT bearing overprinted Soviet Union stamps.



Figure 2: Registered service cover from UNMOT bearing stamps from Tajikistan.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE

By B. Clement, Jr.

The Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Seattle, Washington from November 30 through December 3, 1999. Unfortunately the meeting was marred by protests which turned violent, resulting in much property damage. As a result, the postal history of the conference remains somewhat obscure.

Thanks to Jack Mayer, who lives nearby, we have some postal items showing the preparations for the conference. The first is a letter from the Mayor of Seattle to Seattle Business Owners. Figure 1 shows a letter dated October 29, 1999 sent by the Mayor about the conference. Figure 2 shows the cover in which the letter was mailed.

The second item is a brochure mailed by the Seattle Host Organization for the conference, shown in Figure 3. The addressee was unknown, so that the brochure was returned. As a result, this postpaid brochure received a nice "Return to Writer" postmark, dated December 1, during the conference.

My attempts to get a conference postmark were unsuccessful, my covers being returned bearing a regular Seattle machine cancel. I am sure that this was because non-essential mail deliveries to the confer-

ence were greatly curtailed by all the turmoil.

It turns out, however, that there was a special conference postmark, as reported by our sister journal UNOPost published in Germany. This cancel is shown in Figure 4.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
STATION

NOV 30 1999

Seattle Washington 98101

Figure 4: WTO Conference cancel.

There also was a cacheted cover for the conference, as shown in Figure 5. Part of the franking on the cover (in addition to regular postage stamps) is a PVI label, with the town name UNIT CITY; this PVI may have been established for the conference postal station.

Items from the Seattle conference are likely to be very difficult to find and will be much sought after by collectors of recent United Nations postal history. If anyone has other postal or philatelic items from the conference, please let us know about them.

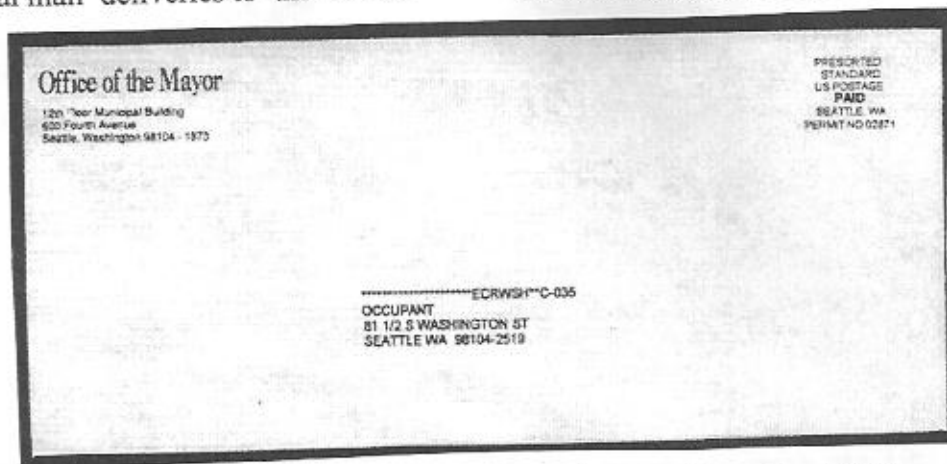


Figure 2: Cover sent to Seattle Business Owners discussing WTO.

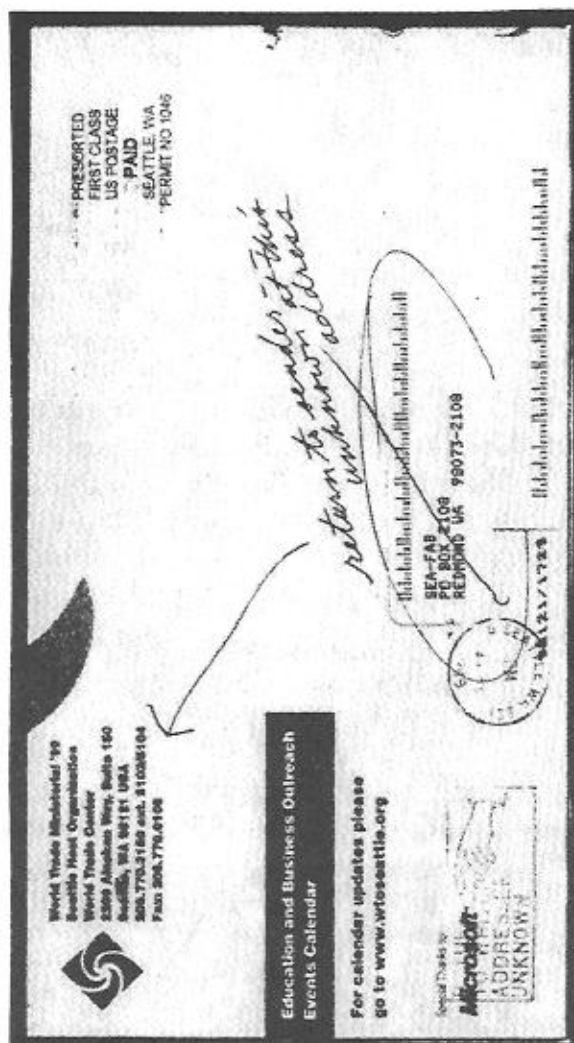


Figure 3: Cover returned to Host Organization during the WTO Conference.



Figure 5: Service cover from the WTO Conference in Seattle.

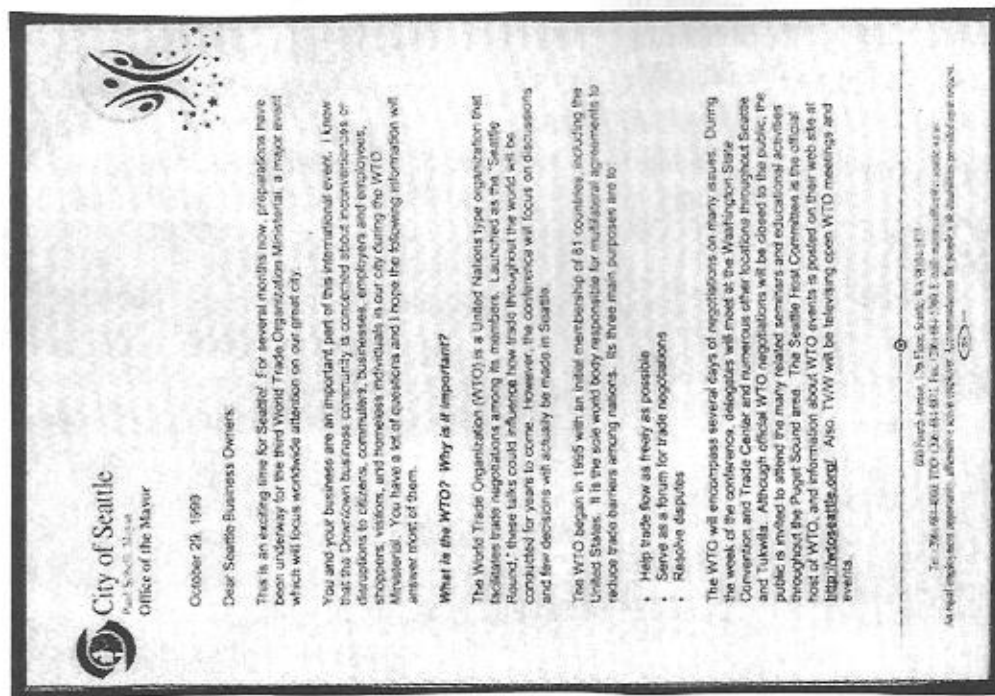


Figure 1: Letter from the Mayor to Seattle Business Owners.

VERIFIED MARKINGS OF THE UNPA

Help Requested from Members

By B. Clement, Jr.

For at least thirty years, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has used a "dispatching mark" on the back of covers used to fill stamp orders. This mark reads "United Nations Postal Administration Verified" with or without various letters or numbers. Presumably the "Verified" meant that it had been verified that the order had been filled and was in the envelope. These letters or numbers probably designated the order clerk or the station at which orders had been filled.

As UN stamp collectors, many of you have probably ordered stamps by mail from the UN since 1951. Hopefully many of you still have the covers used by the UNPA to fill your order. If you look on the back on many of these covers, you will find one or more strikes of the dispatching marking "United Nations Postal Administration Verified", which had a width of about 42 to 47 mm. Starting in about 1972 to date, a larger marking "Verified United Nations Postal Administration", 65 to 69 mm wide, has been used.

Your assistance is requested in collecting information on the types, years and colors of these markings. Please refer to the following listing and see if you can add to the information.

Types without a letter or number

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED

Figure 1: D in ADMINISTRATION is under the E in UNITED, width 47mm.

Observed: Black, Red-violet, Red -
1959, 65, 66, 67

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED

Figure 2: D in ADMINISTRATION is under the left side of D in UNITED, width 43 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Red-violet -
1961, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 81

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED

Figure 3: D in ADMINISTRATION is under right side of D in UNITED, width 43 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Red-violet -
1960, 65, 66, 67, 69

Types with Number

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 1

Figure 4: No. 1, width 43 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Red-violet - 1953, 55, 56

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 2

Figure 5: No. 2, width 42 mm.

Observed: Red violet - 1956

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 3

Figure 6: No. 3, width 42 mm.

Observed: Red violet - 1953, 56

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 4

Figure 7: No. 4, width 42 mm.

Observed: Red-violet - 1952

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 5

Figure 8: No. 5, width 42 mm.

Observed: Black - 1957, 58, 59

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 6

Figure 9: No. 6, width 42 mm.

Observed: Red-violet - 1952

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
NO. 7

Figure 10: No. 7, width 42 mm.

Observed: Black - 1953

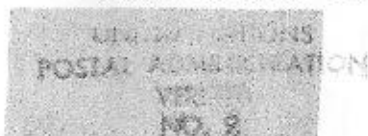


Figure 11: No. 9, width 43 mm.

Observed: Red-violet - 1953

Types with Letter

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
A

Figure 12: Letter A, width 47 mm.

Observed: Red, Red violet - 1964, 76, 82, 85

UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION
VERIFIED
B

Figure 13: Letter B, width 47 mm.

Observed: Black - 1970

Types with "Verified" first without a letter or a number

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 14: I in Nations under far right side of D in Verified, D in Administration very slightly to right of D in United, legend 68×11.5 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Violet-pink -
1972, 73, 74, 76, 79

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 15: I in Nations under right side of D in Verified, D in Administration under the left side of D in United, legend 67×13 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Blue, Violet-pink -
1972, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83,
85, 89, 93, 94, 98.

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 16: I in Nations under right side of D in Verified, D in Administration very slightly to the right of D in United, legend 66×11 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Pink, Violet-black -
1976, 79, 84, 90, 94, 96

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 17: I in Nations under far right side of D in Verified, D in Administration under the right side of D in United, legend 66×11 mm.

Observed: Black, Red - 1970, 72, 73, 74, 77, 84

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 18: I in Nations under right side of D in Verified, D in Administration somewhat to the left of D in United, legend 67×11 mm.

Observed: Black, Red, Blue, Red-violet -
1974, 79, 85, 95

VERIFIED
UNITED NATIONS
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Figure 19: I in Nations under far right side of D in Verified, D in Administration slightly to the right of D in United, D's are more rounded than in Figure 14, legend 67×11 mm.

Observed: Black, Red - 1972, 76, 79

If you have an unlisted type (different numbers or letters or different letter spacing), please photocopy and send it to me with the color(s) and years(s) observed. If you have different colors or years than those listed, please send me these data. This information will be used in making the listings more complete in the upcoming UNP monograph, *Dispatching and Receiving Markings of the United Nations, Its Agencies and Its Predecessors*. Your contribution will be acknowledged in the monograph.

FAKE DE LA RUE "SPECIMEN" STAMPS REVEALED

By Anthony F. Dewey

Last February, while scanning the Ebay listings for UN material, the heading "United Nations Overprinted Specimen NH" caught my attention. Clicking on the entry for lot #257631336 revealed that the "Specimen" stamps being offered were a set of the 3¢ and 8¢ Security Council commemoratives issued on UN Day in 1957 (Scott #55-6).



Scott #56

The minimum bid was set at \$14.99 and with two bids recorded the price was up to \$18.50. The seller identified as "Schuylerac" listed his/her location as "NY, United States" and had a very respectable rating of 1141 (positive feedback messages posted by buyers). Under the heading for "Description" the seller posted "See photo. Photo tells all." It surely did. The photo revealed the pair of stamps to be common fakes.

Nutmeg Mail Auctions Sale No. 23, which closed January 27, 2000, included 34 lots of UN material and 13 additional lots of UNTEA items. Some very impressive material was offered including imperforate MI6 blocks of (Scott) C11 & C12, imperforate single copies of the 8¢ International Banking issue (Scott #87) and the 11¢ UNICEF issue

(Scott #163a), and an essay of the 7¢ airmail issue. Also offered were six lots of UN "Specimen" stamps. Listed by Scott numbers, the stamps offered were #19-20, 21-22, 51-53, 55-56, 57-58, and C1-4. Estimated



Scott #21



Scott #52



Scott #58

values ranged from \$100 for #55-56 and 57-58 to \$250 for the set of C1-4. One stamp



Scott #C4

from each lot was pictured in BLACK AND WHITE, and authenticity of the "Specimen" was assured by the inclusion of "...Original Letter from De La Rue Accompanies..." in the description of each lot. Despite such reassurances all of the "Specimen" were fakes.

The Ebay lot closed only 3 days after being posted and was sold to the high bidder for \$18.50. That only two persons bid on the lot may indicate that most people recognized the stamps for the fakes they were. After being informed of the true nature of the "Specimen" stamps offered in its mail sale, Nutmeg Stamp Sales took the honorable route and withdrew the lots.

Despite the fact that these fakes have been known almost from the moment that they appeared, they continue to show up on the market and are bought by unknowledgeable collectors. That the forgeries are often accompanied by a "letter of authenticity" compounds the issue. The most recent article in The Journal pertaining to the fake "Specimen" stamps appeared 22 years ago, so a review of the subject is long overdue.

About Specimen Stamps

Specimen stamps, as the name implies, are samples that are not intended to be used for postage, but which are distributed for other reasons. Some specimens are given to

dignitaries as gifts. Others are distributed for publicity purposes, such as those provided to the press. A printer may also provide specimens to potential customers as examples of the company's work. Printers also keep specimen copies in their own archives as part of records of past and current business. Regardless of the purpose for which specimen stamps are created, they usually are prepared in small quantities corresponding to the need.

The most common specimens are those provided by one postal administration to another as examples of their valid postage. These are commonly called UPU specimens because member nations of the Universal Postal Union were required to provide copies of their stamps to each other (via the UPU) starting in 1878. Many nations complied by distributing their stamps overprinted with the word "specimen" (or the equivalent in their native tongue), while other countries, such as the USA, provided uncanceled stamps without any markings. The practice of marking specimens as such had largely ceased by 1948.

Most countries mounted the sample stamps in books and stored them in their archives. A few nations, such as Madagascar, are known to have "canceled" the specimens in their books with a special stamp. Some of these specimens have come on the philatelic market as countries have purged their archives or sold archived material to raise hard cash for the government coffers. Others come to us by other means such as theft or as the spoils of war.

A Background History of the De La Rue UN Fakes

The first mention of the De La Rue UN "Specimen" stamps in the philatelic press came in the April 15, 1968 edition of Herb Conway's weekly column "United Nations

Commentary", a feature of *Linn's Stamp News*. In a story about Waterlow & Sons "Specimen" stamps, Conway mentions that "Similar specimens are in existence of the UN stamps printed by Thomas De La Rue..." and continues "These have only the word 'SPECIMEN' in purple indelible ink, once on each stamp."

A year later, in his column dated April 14, 1969, Conway reports the sale to dealers of "...certain issues of 1951-57 printed for the UNPA by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., of London...by a large New York wholesale and new issue firm." The overprinted stamps available for sale were reported by Herb as Scott #19-22, 51-53, 55-58, and C1-4. I have in my collection an undated copy of a sales flyer by J. & H. Stolow, Inc. which offers "Specimen" stamps corresponding to the list in Conway's column. Each of the commemorative issues was offered at \$8.95 and the four airmail stamps were priced at \$17.50 each. The text on the flyer reads:

"SPECIAL OFFER! As we have but a small quantity of the following stamps, we cannot list in our regular forms, even on a one-to-a-customer basis, we are offering separately herewith on this special order blank which is being sent to a small part of our dealer mailing list....Accompanying each of the De la Rue stamps will be a photo offset copy of a letter certifying the specimen impressions. All items below are offered subject to prior sale on a strictly first come first served basis. United Nations stamps Overprinted "Specimen" De La Rue Printings: Hand-stamped in purplish blue, all stamps without punched holes...The prices shown are our net wholesale prices based on our cost, averaged over all stamps. We have not attempted to indicate retail price for the items."

By June doubts and suspicions were beginning to rise. Wolfe Hanke, editor of *United Nations Philatelic and Numismatic Catalog and Handbook*, published by Lindner, declined to include the "Specimen" stamps in the 1969 edition of the catalog, expressing grave reservations about their authenticity. Copies of #21-22 sent by Conway to De La Rue for examination, were returned accompanied by a letter by Mr. L. H. Richardson in which he stated that "all that he could confirm was that the stamps themselves were genuine, apart from the word 'Specimen'." Conway also states in his August 25, 1969 column that De La Rue did not sell UN stamps to any party other than the United Nations and that the quantity of "specimen" stamps produced is "extremely limited, in accordance with UN instructions." He also reports that Richardson added that the quantity then appearing on the market conflicted with the number of Specimen stamps produced.

The matter appears to have been put to rest until 1978 when Ramon Goodey published part 3 of *United Nations Regular and Airmail Postage Stamps 1951-1966*. This section, which covers the air mail stamps of the UN First Issue printed by De La Rue, addresses the issue of the "Specimen" stamps. Goodey worked very closely with De La Rue in obtaining accurate information about this issue. Regarding the letter attesting to the authenticity of the overprint, Ray writes, "The printers know nothing of this letter which is written on official De La Rue notepaper, or the 'specimen' stamps. The overprint was probably applied privately by someone who has a genuine De La Rue 'SPECIMEN' rubber stamp in their possession...Thus, these United Nations airmail 'Specimen' stamps any others with the overprint must be considered forgeries."

That same year in the May issue of *The*

Journal of the United Nations Philatelists
Ben Cohen and Arleigh Gaines published the results of their investigation into the matter. As it turns out, the overprint was, in fact, an authentic De La Rue stamp. Also, the signature on the letter which often accompanied the "Specimen" stamps was indeed that of a director at the De La Rue firm, albeit one who was leaving the company at the time of the letter. However, they also ascertained that "This overprint never was applied to any UN issue by De La Rue." Like Goodey, they concluded that the UN stamps with the purple "Specimen" overprint were fakes created by someone with access to an authentic De La Rue rubber stamp "or a good reproduction of it." These conclusions have been repeated in *United Nations Philately*, the definitive UN catalog published by Arleigh Gaines.

Genuine "Specimen" Stamps

A few genuine "Specimen" examples of United Nations stamps printed by De La Rue do exist and may be easily distinguished from the fakes. Gaines listed these in *United Nations Philately* and a number are pictured therein. Shown on page 2 of the catalog is a page of UN specimen stamps from a specimen book containing stamps of many countries. The seven stamps on the page, all from the First Issue, are the 1¢, 3¢, 10¢, 15¢, and 20¢ definitive stamps (#1, 4, 6, 7, and 8) and the 10¢ and 25¢ airmail stamps (C2 and C4). The overprint, applied by rubber stamp in red ink, measures approximately 10 mm wide and varies between 1.5 mm and 1.8 mm high, depending on which letter is measured. Some variance is also due to the amount of pressure that was applied.

Authentic specimens are also known mounted in a small green leather-bound presentation book from De La Rue.

Stamped in gold on the cover with the name of the firm and a decorative border, the book presents a brief history of the printer and lists a number of its accomplishments, including printing some of the First Issue stamps for the United Nations. Before and after the glossy pages containing the company's story are some quadrilled pages separated by tissue. A number of these pages bear samples of the stamps produced by the renowned security printer. On one of the pages are mounted several UN stamps overprinted "specimen".

The stamps on the page include a pair of the 10¢ and two copies of the 20¢ definitives, as well as a pair of the 6¢ and a single copy of the 15¢ airmail stamps of the First Issue. A pair of the 3¢ blue Human Rights issue of 1953, a pair of the 8¢ green Human Rights issue of 1954 and a single 8¢ carmine red International Telecommunications Union issue of 1956 are also on the page. On these specimens the overprint is different than that used on those from the specimen book. Here, the overprint measures 13 mm wide and 2 mm high and was applied with purple ink. The stamps are attached to the page using their own gum and a few are "tied" to the page with the overprint.

In their 1978 article Cohen and Gaines state that proofs for C1-C4 as well as numbers 29 and 30 were known overprinted "specimen". Noting that only one of each had been observed these are described as being singles cut from imperforate sheets and pasted on card. While proofs on card are listed in *United Nations Philately*, none include a "specimen" overprint.

Should any reader have additional information regarding authentic or forged UN "Specimen" stamps created by De La Rue, please contact the author. Any new information provided will be shared with the UNPI membership through this journal and will be acknowledged.

A SLICE OF LIFE OF A UNTAG POSTMASTER

By Richard Powers

Namibia is a territory located northwest of South Africa and west of Botswana. Before World War I it was a German colony. After the war, it was administered by South Africa under a League of Nations mandate. The United Nations General Assembly terminated this mandate in 1966 and assumed direct responsibility for this territory. But it took more than twenty years before South Africa agreed to relinquish control over the territory.

On December 22, 1988 an agreement was reached between Cuba, Angola and South Africa linking withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola (United Nations Angola Verification Mission - UNAVEM) with Namibian independence. On February 16, 1989 the Security Council approved a resolution creating UNTAG. Initial elements of the UN personnel arrived in March 1989 with the Transition beginning April 1, 1989. An election was held on November 7, 1989 for a Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution and organize a new government. March 21, 1990 was declared to be Independence Day. UNTAG staff left by March 30th.

At World Stamp Expo in Anaheim, I came across the colorful cover shown in Figure 1 from the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG) plastered with fourteen stamps from South West Africa. It was postmarked in Windhoek on July 13, 1989. The cover was apparently sent to an American stamp collector by the Postmaster of UNTAG, as indicated by the enclosed letter. The following is an edited letter describing life in Namibia during this transition time.

July 13, 1989

Dear Forrest!

I'm sorry to let you know that there is now a Congo Military Observer here in Namibia. So you probably wonder

who I am. When I first found your letter, I thought that you were probably a stamp collector. Therefore I opened your letter because I am the Postmaster at the Military Section of UNTAG. I decided to write you because it sounded (that it might be) interesting (for you) to hear from an "old soldier". So here is a little bit about myself.

I'm a sergeant from the Danish contingent. I am twenty-two years old. This is my first mission in the service of the United Nations but probably not the last one because it's a nice feeling to help another country to peace. The only bad thing about being in another country so far away is that it is a long way to your loved ones. But then it helps (to receive) a lot of nice letters from back home. I have volunteered for six months here in Namibia. I am going back on the 19th of September. So I have got only sixty-nine days (left). Then I (will) go back to Denmark to serve until I am forty-five years old. Then I will retire and maybe (take) a civilian job.

The country Namibia is a very nice country. It's a very hospitable country. You can talk to all the persons you meet in the street of Windhoek, which is the biggest town in Namibia. When you go out shopping in Windhoek, you will soon find out that many things are very cheap. But all the important stuff is very expensive. If you have a nice dinner in a big restaurant with three courses and a good bottle of red wine, you will pay about \$15. That is very cheap.

I will stop for now. I hope that I will hear from you again.

Kindly,

Karsten Terkildsen



Figure 1: Service cover bearing South West African stamps sent by the UNTAG Postmaster to a stamp collector in the United States. The following year Namibia began to issue its own stamps.

SPECIAL WIPA OVERPRINT ON OUR WORLD STAMPS FOR UN-VIENNA

Have you checked your MI4s of the **OUR WORLD** 2000 stamps issued for UN-Vienna? To commemorate the *Wiener Internationale Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung* (WIPA 2000), which was held in Vienna from May 30th through June 4th, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) overprinted the WIPA 2000 logo near the four corners of the sheets of the S 7/Euro 0,51 and S 8/Euro 0,58 denominations of the Our World 2000 stamps. The corresponding corners of the UN-Geneva and UNNY stamps are blank. The logos appear to have been printed as part of the design at the time the stamps were printed and not added later as an overprint.



UN CONFERENCE NEWS

By B. Clement, Jr.

The 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France from October 26 through November 17, 1999. A special hand cancel, shown in Figure 1, was used at the conference.



Figure 1: UNESCO conference cancel.

A session of the UPU Postal Operations Council was held at UPU Headquarters in Bern, Switzerland from May 1 through May 12, 2000. The special cancel, illustrated in Figure 2, was used for the session.



Figure 2: UPU Postal Operations Council cancel.

The 53rd World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland May 15-20, 2000. The usual special cancel was used, as seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3: World Health Assembly cancel.

The 88th session of the International Labor Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland from May 30 to June 15, 2000. The special cancel, shown in Figure 4, was ap-

parently used on the day before the conference officially opened.



Figure 4: International Labor Conference cancel.

UNCTAD X, the 10th session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, was held in Bangkok, Thailand February 12-20, 2000 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. The conference cancel appears in Figure 5a; the imprint for the center, in Figure 5b.



Figure 5a: UNCTAD X conference cancel.

แปล: ศูนย์การประชุมแห่งชาติสิริกิติ์ 10342

QUEEN SIRIKIT NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

Figure 5b: Conference center imprint.

An ICAO Conference on the Economics of Airports and Air Navigation Services was held at ICAO Headquarters on Montreal, Canada June 19-28, 2000. A special cancel, illustrated in Figure 6, was used for the conference. The Staff Association of ICAO, 999 University Street, Suite 8.30, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3C 5H7 (e-mail: stafica@icao.int) produced a specially cacheted envelope (Figure 7) which includes this cancel. Perhaps the cover is still avail-

able, if you contact them.



Figure 6: ICAO conference cancel.



Figure 7: Special ICAO conference cover.

UPU CONFERENCE DISCOVERY

By B. Clement, Jr.

A UPU Inter-Regional Seminar on Postal Activities was held in Copenhagen, Denmark May 19-31, 1969. A cover from this seminar with a previously undocumented origin cachet was found by diligent searching in a dollar cover box at **World Stamp Expo** in Anaheim. The cover is shown in Figure 1.

The cover has an origin cachet applied in black. It was mailed to England and bears the postmark of Copenhagen, Denmark on May 22, 1969 during the seminar. The slogan postmark is obviously about mailing a

letter in a mail box but does not seem to have a direct connection to the seminar. The slogan certainly adds to the interest of the cover, however.

Postal history of the United Nations and its agencies is still being made. This cover was discovered thirty-one years after the seminar and helps make UPU postal history more complete. You too can find something that will increase our knowledge of UN and UN agency postal history. Keep your eyes open and if you find something that does not seem to be documented, please let us know.

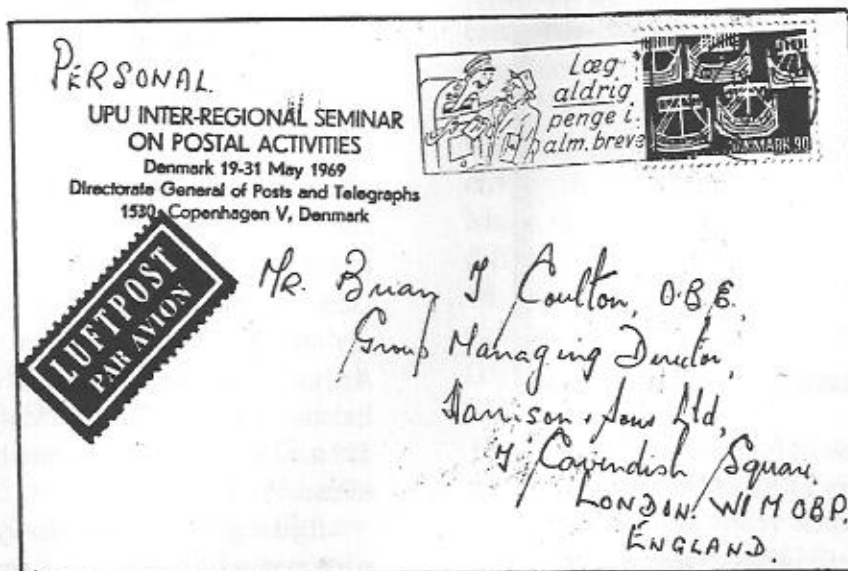


Figure 1: Service cover from UPU Inter-regional Seminar in Copenhagen in 1969.

FDR COLLECTED LEAGUE OF NATIONS COVERS

By Dan Gapinski

I enjoy our hobby with all its variations and collecting areas but sometimes a certain item which I find brings me a greater thrill, joy and fun than other items which I come across. Such is the case with the cover featured in this article.

I was at a recent stamp show in Omaha, Nebraska, going through a dealer's stock of Swiss covers, when I discovered a nice little League of Nations cover (Figure 1). It was priced at \$25, had a faint origin cachet on it and was addressed to the Secretary of State of the United States, Cordell Hull at the State Department in Washington, D.C. When I flipped the cover over to inspect the rear side, I was pleasantly surprised to see the famous notation "From the Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection", which the H. R. Harmer Auction firm had placed on many of the items which had formerly resided in the President's personal stamp collection. After years of reading countless articles about the "stamp collecting President" and how many collectors owned pieces from his collection, I now had one too. And I had paid only \$22 for this treasure.

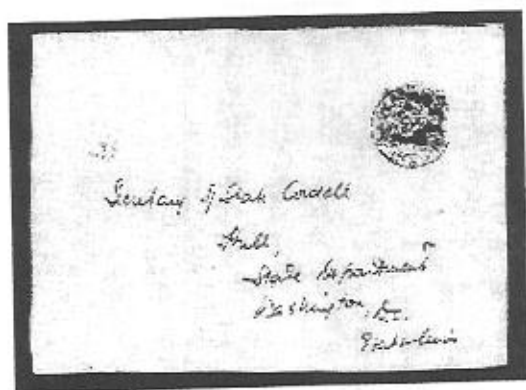


Figure 1: League of Nations cover addressed to Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

A side benefit of this purchase was the

enjoyment of seeing the interest in the eyes of my non-collecting friends as I recounted my trip to the stamp show and my fun-find, in response to typical inquiries about what I had done over the weekend. I also imagined FDR telling his aides and cabinet members: "If you get any interesting covers, save them for me." Of course the reply was: "Yes, Mr. President."

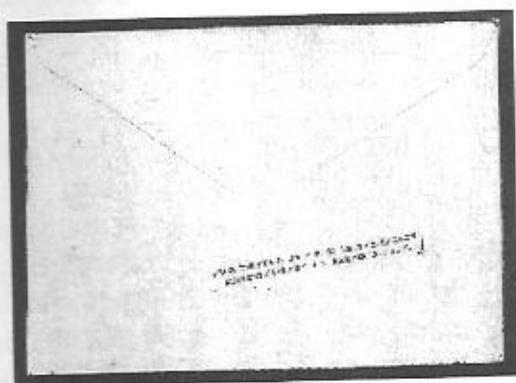


Figure 2: Reverse side of cover indicating provenance from the FDR collection as authenticated by H.R. Harmer, Inc., N.Y.

It was an additional thrill to put my copy of the newly published UNP monograph *Origin Cachets of the United Nations, Its Agencies and Its Predecessors* by Blanton Clement, Jr. to the test. In less than thirty seconds (no kidding!), I found what the boxed origin cachet "BSW" stood for. I first checked the Table of Contents on page 2 for the League of Nations (LON) Office in Geneva, found the correct page (5) and had my answer. It stood for the "Bureau of Mr. Arthur Sweetser, Director responsible for liaison with the United States. Clem sure did a nice job of making the monograph easy to use.

It just goes to show that you never know what you will find next. Keep on hunting!

UNPI 2001B AUCTION

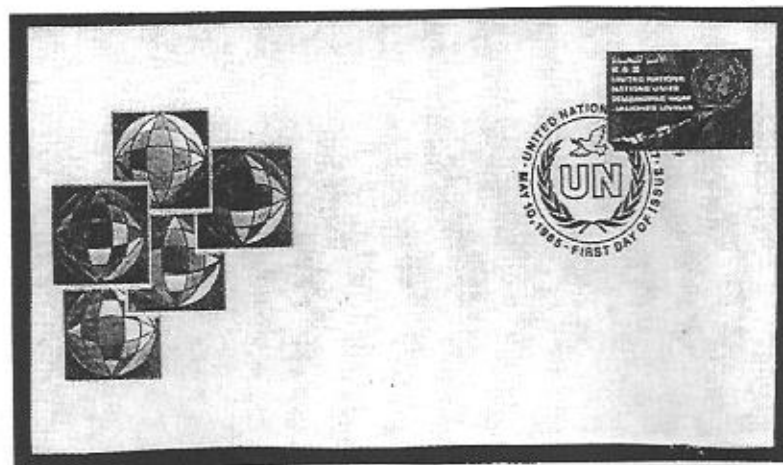
CLOSING DATE: March 10, 2001

**Please send bids to the
Auction Chairman: Alex Bereson
18 Portola Drive,
San Francisco, CA 94131
New e-mail: bereson@pacbell.net**

MAIL OR E-MAIL BIDS ONLY PLEASE. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

1. The United Nations Fight for Freedom Office of War Information Poster 22"x28" authentic from 1942 folded as issued. with color flags of member states next to Statue of Liberty four small pin holes in four corner margins and 3" separation among bottom center seam not noticeable. Would look fantastic framed. MB\$25
2. SAME poster REPRODUCTION new in tube MB\$6
3. Designer autographed WFUNA FDC collection (17 different) mostly NY combos, some with Geneva/NY combos 1972-1979 era inc Handler, Kelen, Christian, Wiener, Groat, Bencsath, Olivera, Yamamoto, Oonark, Levy, Gomez, Eisenberg, Skunder, Roberts, Khalil f-vf MB\$34
4. 1985 \$3 NY definitive official Geneva cachet ERROR missing blue printing vf MB\$8 **PHOTO**
5. 1990 A.S. 4,50 Vienna Medicinal Plant official Geneva cachet ERROR missing ALL printing vf MB\$8 **PHOTO**
6. WFUNA FDCs TRIPLE cancels all complete sets (5) different 1983-4 Trade, Population, World Heritage, FAO Day, Refugees 1984 vf MB\$12
7. WFUNA FDC collection singles combos all different 1978-84 (57) FDCs all unaddressed vf MB\$20
8. League of Nations 1930 service #10 cover typed addressed to Maryland doctor 10c LoN overprint Swiss stamp; sharp Geneva SdN cancel and nice purple oval Baltimore "customs free" cachet f-vf MB\$15
9. #63 Janota Flags 1983 WFUNA mint lithograph with Certificate of Authenticity exc MB\$40
10. #65 Chaim Gross WFUNA mint lithograph with Certificate of Authenticity exc MB\$45
11. #69 Anthony Quinn WFUNA mint lithograph with Certificate of Authenticity exc MB\$175
12. #71 Marc Weiner WFUNA mint lithograph with Certificate of Authenticity exc MB\$25
13. #10 covers from UN offices and agencies; 159 covers, all with different corner cards or envelopes from 62 different countries MB \$35
14. #10 covers from UN offices and agencies. 64 covers, all with different corner cards or envelopes from 31 different countries MB \$15
15. 140 covers from UN offices and agencies, 122 #10 envelopes and 18 7"x9" envelopes from 26 different countries. Much duplication of corner cards but many different stamps from countries MB \$15
16. League of Nations Rural Hygiene Conference, Bandung-1937, on mailed cover Gaines 1937/3, page 1028, value \$225 MB \$25
17. Mystery Lot - smaller than usual - includes Herb Conway's "101 Articles", UNPI monograph, many souvenir cards and covers, easily worth MB\$20.

LOT PHOTOS

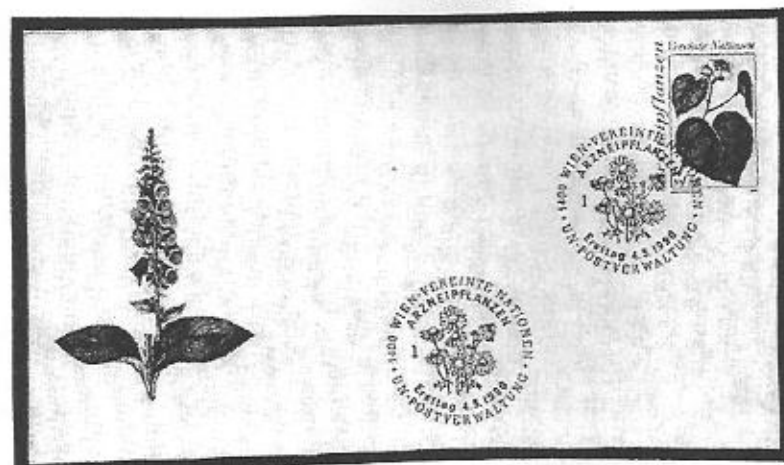


Lot #4 ↑

Lot #5 ↓

SHOW AWARDS

UNP-member Anthony F. Dewey came away with two awards at **Manpex 2000**, which was held April 29th and 30th last year in Manchester, Connecticut and sponsored by the Manchester Philatelic Society. His exhibit *First UN Issue, 1951* received a gold award. His other exhibit *Swiss Official Stamps for the UN* received both a show silver award and a silver pin from the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE).



UNP AUCTION 2000E PRICES REALIZED

Amount Realized \$893
Lots Sold 35/63 (55%)

UNP AUCTION 2000D PRICES REALIZED

Amount Realized \$1028
Lots Sold 13/33 (40%)

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
1	\$600	2	\$250	5	\$8	7	\$35
11	\$25	15	\$50	16	\$100	17	\$15
20	\$21	28	\$14	30	\$30	31	\$10
		32	\$20	33	\$50		

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
1A	\$18	6	\$34	7	\$13	8	\$19
11	\$10	12	\$10	13	\$13	16	\$15
17	\$50	19	\$50	20	\$26	22	\$50
25	\$24	26	\$8	27	\$14	28	\$25
29	\$18	30	\$28	31	\$22	32	\$24
33	\$28	34	\$13	35	\$18	36	\$36
37	\$16	38	\$20	47	\$80	55	\$19
56	\$24	57	\$17	58	\$42	59	\$19
60	\$17	61	\$44	62	\$29		

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

Member Advertisements

UNICEF Flag Unaddressed FDCs: Jumbo Cachet 1980 Complete and one 1981; 4 Regular Size 1980 FDCs; 4 Sheetlets 1980 Mint. Your offer please! Adel (401) 421-7549.

Disclaimer

All opinions expressed in this journal are the responsibility of the author and are not necessarily those of the Editor, UNPI Officers or the club membership.

Prices for Advertisements

1 page (6½"×9") - \$40

½ page - \$20, ¼ page - \$15

Run an ad in five consecutive issues, get the sixth one free. Please make check payable to the United Nations Philatelists, Inc. and mail it with the photo-ready copy to the Editor.

Journal Deadlines

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

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July 1, 2000-June 30, 2002

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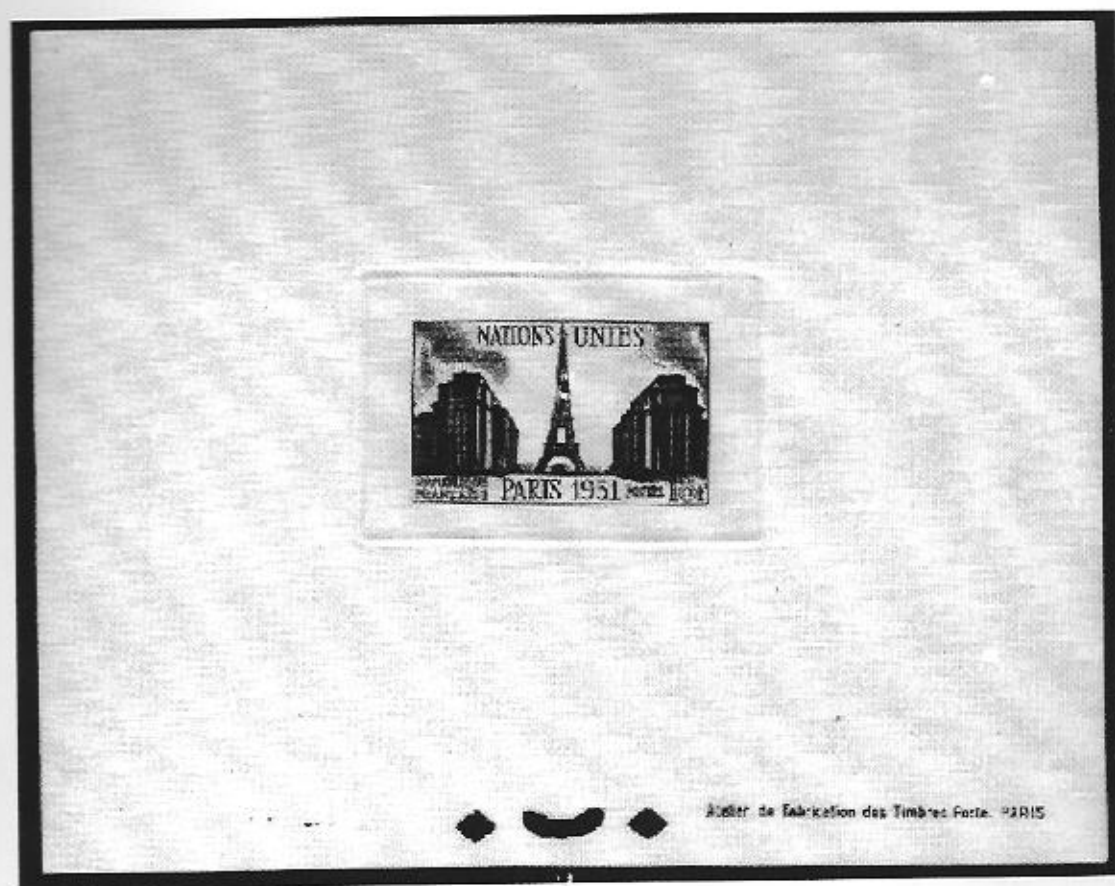
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PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

PARIS - 1951

THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL SESSION