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HUMAN RIGHTS

EDUCATION DECADE 1995-2004

# The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

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## Reprinting

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## Cover Illustrations

**Front cover:** UNPA commemoratives honoring the Human Rights Education Decade (1995-2004). **Rear cover:** Joint FDC issued by the UNPA (Geneva), LaPoste(France) and Posteitaliane honoring Road Safety on World Health Day 2004.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### SESCAL: Essen, Ebay and the Brookman Catalog

I attended SESCAL (Stamp Exhibition of Southern California) in Los Angeles on Saturday October 2nd to fill in some gaps in recent UN stamps from the UNPA stand and to search for treasures from dealers.

When I approached the UNPA stand, I noticed that they had on display for sale a UNNY generic personalized sheet. The clerk, who knows me well, asked me if I was interested in an Essen version of the sheet. I asked: "How much?" A bit taken aback, he replied that everything he sells is at "face value". I was surprised that the Essen sheet, which was issued in June and "sold out" in Essen, was still on sale at SESCAL in October as it had been in Sacramento at Stampshow in August. In neither case was the Essen sheet on display. At Sacramento I happened to ask if they had any generic personalized sheets for sale. The response was that they had two types: the old one (New York) and the new one (Essen). In Sacramento they had about 15 for sale. In Los Angeles they had at least 20 when I saw the stack 26 hours after SESCAL had opened.

On the very day that I bought two sheets for \$14.95 per sheet at SESCAL, the Essen sheet brought \$62 on eBay. The opening bid had been \$50. Three people battled for the Essen sheet on eBay.

Hearsay information has it that the eBay seller (from now on referred to as eBayman) had bought about 40 of the Essen sheet somewhere. He told me himself that he had bought 75 Hong Kong sheets in Hong Kong.

Further hearsay has it that the UNPA chief plans to attend Pacific-Explorer 2005 World Philatelic Exhibition in Sydney, Australia (April 21-24, 2005). eBayman plans to tag along. Stay tuned to see if another generic personalized sheet will be issued.

Now word has filtered back from the East Coast that the UNPA has decided to add generic personalized sheets in special Show versions to its inventory for sale by mail be-

ginning with a few Essen sheets still available in New York. This item appears in the UNPA *Philatelic Bulletin* No. 73.

During my tour of the dealers at SESCAL, I ran into eBayman himself. At his booth was the owner/publisher of the Brookman Catalog (from here on referred to as Brookman-man). eBayman was hassling Brookman-man for dropping the UN listings in the new Brookman catalog. Brookman-man said that UN prices had been unstable recently (buy prices have shot up from 50% face to 70%). He did not know what prices to use for the UN section. So he dropped it! (I cannot imagine that this omission from the Brookman Catalog is good for UN Philately. Dealers do not like to handle material for which there is no price in Brookman.)

One of the items that I planned to ask about at the UNPA stand was the new joint UNPA-USPS souvenir card honoring Indigenous Art, which was issued in New York on September 28th. (There was an announcement in the September 27th issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, page 12.) Believe it or not, the UNPA stand had this item (again not displayed for sale) in a stack of about ten on a back table. It is very expensive - \$7. It is smaller than a normal UN souvenir card. In addition to a US and UN stamp canceled on September 28th, it bears a silk-like image of a butterfly attached to the card. This apparently is a follow-up to the recent issuance of special FDCs for the Endangered Species stamps with a silk cachet.

Has anyone noticed the announcement in a recent issue of *Linn's* (October 4th - page 46)? Apparently the UNPA made a profit for the first six months of this year. This was the first net profit since 1994. The reason given for the new profitability was lowered operating costs after a restructuring of the UNPA and new marketing initiatives, such as personalized stamps.



## THE FINAL UNPA ISSUES OF 2004: HUMAN RIGHTS, DISARMAMENT AND SPORT 2005

By Richard Powers

### Human Rights (Education Decade 1994-2004)

On October 14, 2004 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued a set of six mini-sheets of eight commemorative stamps featuring the theme "Human Rights: Education Decade 1995-2004".

The World Conference on Human Rights in the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (1993) stated that human rights education, training and public information were essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace. The Conference recommended that States should strive to eradicate illiteracy and should direct education towards the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It called on all States and institutions to include human rights, humanitarian law, democracy and the rule of law as subjects in the curricula of all learning institutions in formal and non-formal settings.

Pursuant to a suggestion of the World Conference, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 49/184 of December 23, 1994, proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on January 1, 1995 the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. The UNPA commemorates the completion of this important decade with the issuance of six mini-sheets.

The stamps were designed by Yuri Gevorgian, who was born in Armenia but has emigrated to the USA. Each of the mini-sheets includes a statement by the artist concerning each of the paintings. The individual designs appear on the front cover of this issue of the *Journal*.

### 37¢ - Prisons

We recognize steel bars and concrete walls but there are many kinds of prisons. Repression of creativity, ethnicity, culture - these things can kill our spirits. In the scene the men and women struggle to escape the forces that restrict their freedom. The woman bundles her child and flees towards a better future. One man is so tired of fighting, he can hardly go on. His leg fails him, but he holds onto the blue rose, his inspiration, to keep him on his feet. Another has fallen, but he remembers the hope that encouraged him to make the attempt in the first place. Behind the bars, the prisoners cheer them and also remind them not to forget those left behind.

### 70¢ - Justice

Real freedom is marked by the presence of justice. We regard the value of our individuality by the law recognition's of our humanity, its fairness and its equal application to all. The woman holds the boy close and looks forward to the day when he can stand up as a free man. Others tend to their fallen companion and close their eyes as if in prayer to the solemn promise of punishment to those who do evil. The scales of justice measure everyone the same.

### F.s. 0,85 - Peace

When we are at peace, our minds relax and we open them to other thoughts besides survival and despair. We can express who we are, what we want, what we value and what we love. The woman poses with all her fruit, her offering of love, while the artist paints how he feels about her. Another woman seeks his attention with her flower. The man and woman express their passion

in the silence of their time together. We do not have to speak to be heard. We do not have to touch to be felt in the heart of another.

#### **F.s. 1,30 - Choice of future**

One of the great blessings of freedom is our ability to choose our futures. We can love whom we want, how we want and we can marry who we want. The man and woman are grateful for the children beside them. They can be together on their own land behind a fence that guarantees them privacy. Pomegranates grow in the window of the house they share. The children are both the source of their inspiration, the blue rose and the promise of tomorrow that comes from it. The boy and girl cultivate their own garden of hope. Its flowers are tiny and precious.

#### **€ 0,55 - Life without Hate**

Before we can begin a new life, we must allow ourselves to heal. We have to let our souls breathe a little. Free people do not have to forgive their oppressors, but they must learn to live without the hate that spurred them for so long. They open themselves to a fresh, new world of beauty and peace. Their dream has become real, and they take their first steps in it.

#### **€ 1,25 - Freedom to Protest**

Once we become secure in the protections of freedom, we can be at peace to enjoy one another. Man and woman exchange pomegranates, the fruit of themselves and dream of love. Another couple holds a blue rose, their inspiration, and are glad to be together in the moment. Smiling at her bouquet, the woman knows that romance will be in her life one day. She must be patient and hope. Even if we disagree, even if we are angry, we can protest without violence or fear of violent reprisal.

### **Disarmament**

On October 15th the UNPA issued a 37¢ definitive stamp honoring disarmament. The design appears below.



The United Nations works for disarmament and the security and welfare of children by:

- Promoting disarmament education in a culture of peace, and supporting the hopes of young people for a safer world with no weapons of mass distraction, reduced proliferation of small arms and the complete elimination of landmines;
- Cooperating with civil society engaging in raising awareness among youth and children through information and education programs on disarmament, conflict resolution and peace;
- Engaging children through schools and youth groups in support of community-wide weapons collection and weapons for development programs.

Disarmament at the United Nations contributes to the security of children through various means, such as UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative for Children

and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Mine Action Service. The Department for Disarmament Affairs coordinates its efforts with those offices and agencies and makes a direct contribution to the effort through advocacy, information and education for balanced military spending, the end of nuclear dangers, a curb on illegal gun trading and the elimination of landmines.

The stamp was designed by Michel Granger of France. It contains the silhouette of a child, upon whom is superposed the image of a rifle. In the background is the motto in several languages: Books not Guns. This motto transmits the idea that children who are involved in conflict with guns should be in schools being educated.

### Sport 2005

On November 3, 2003, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 58/5, "Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace". It proclaimed 2005 as the International Year for Sport and Physical Education and invited Governments, the United Nations and its funds and programs, the specialized agencies, where appropriate, and sport-related institutions to promote the role of sport and physical education for all when furthering their development programs and policies, to advance health awareness, the spirit of achievement and the bridging of cultures and to entrench collective values.

In resolution 58/6 of November 3rd, "building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", the General Assembly urged Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, held in Athens, Greece, from August 13th through 29th. It also called for Member States to cooperate with the International Olympic

Committee in its efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic period.

In response to these resolutions, the UNPA, the Swiss Post Office and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland have decided collectively to issue a stamp on November 23rd. Six more designs by the same Swiss artist Roland Hirter with the same design theme will be issued by the UNPA in April 2005 to commemorate the International Year of Sport, which completes a set of seven stamps for this topic.

The design of the F.s. 1,80 stamp appears below. It portrays three persons engaged in sporting activities. Mr. Hirter was particularly interested in converting movement into artistic design. His use of graduated repetitions and un-sharpness of movement help to create a dynamic, sporty presentation of figures for the stamp designs.

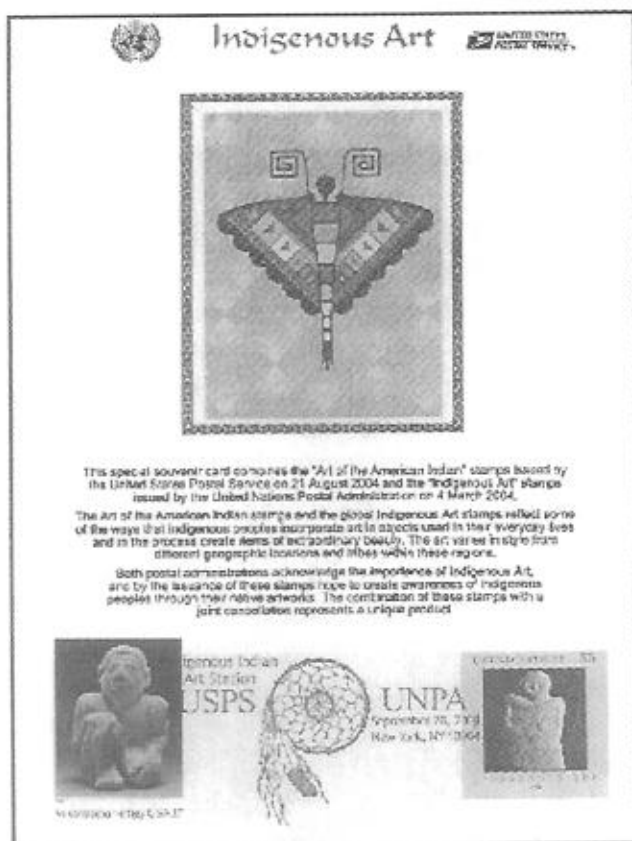


In addition to the normal official UN FDCs, a special first day cover for the Sport 2005 stamp issue has been prepared jointly by the UNPA, the Swiss Post and the IOC. The cover, which was also designed by Mr. Hirter, bears three Sport 2005 stamps canceled with the postmarks of all three participants in this stamp issue in Geneva and Lausanne. Presumably these stamps are valid for postage throughout Switzerland as well as at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

## SPECIAL UNPA ITEMS

### Joint UNPA-USPS Souvenir Card

On September 28th the UNPA and the USPS issued jointly a souvenir card honoring their recent stamps dedicated to the "Art of the American Indian" issued by the USPS on August 21st and by the UNPA on March 4th. This card bears a silk cachet depicting a colorful butterfly. It can be ordered from the UNPA for \$7. The card is pictured below.



### 25 Years - UNPA Vienna

On June 29, 1979, a special agreement between the Republic of Austria and the UN was signed in New York, regulating the postal services in the Vienna International Center. Thus, the UNPA was allowed to issue stamps and postal stationery in Austrian schillings.

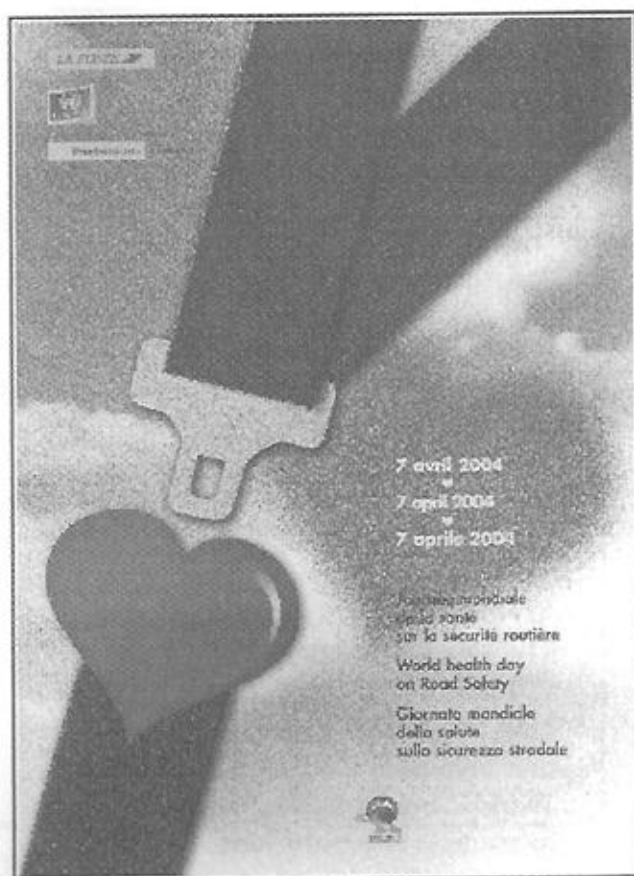
On August 24, 1979 the third UN Office was inaugurated in "Vienna-Donaupark". This date is the birthday of the UNPA in Vienna.

For the 25th anniversary on August 24, 2004, the UNPA Vienna issued a postcard with gold stamping and a special cancellation.



### Road Safety - Special Folder

A special folder containing the three stamps of the "Road Safety" issued jointly by the postal administrations of France, Italy and the United Nations office in Geneva. The folder, which appears below, contains mint copies of the three stamps as well as single FDCs. A jumbo joint FDC is also included. This is pictured on the back cover of this issue of the *Journal*. It costs €14 (or about \$17).





## THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE UN PREPARATORY COMMISSION - LONDON 1945

Richard Powers

I recently bought on eBay a copy of a book entitled *United Nations Documents 1941 - 1945*, which was published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs in 1946. The book had been part of the Reference Collection of the Legal Department of the United Nations. It contains the text of published documents resulting from several United Nations-related conferences, including:

- Declaration of Solidarity of the United Nations - London, June 12, 1941;
- Atlantic Charter - August 14, 1941;
- Inter-Allied Declaration of Adherence to the Atlantic Charter, September 24, 1941;
- United Nations Declaration - Washington, January 1, 1942;
- Lend-Lease Agreement - February 1942;
- Moscow Conference Communiqué - November 1, 1943;
- UNRRA Constitution - November 1943;
- Teheran Conference Declaration - December 1, 1943;
- Cairo Conference Communiqué - December 1, 1943;
- ILO Conference Declaration - Philadelphia, May 10, 1944;
- UN Monetary and Financial Conference - Bretton Woods, July 1-22, 1944;
- Dumbarton Oaks Conversations on World Organization, August - October 1944;
- International Civil Aviation Conference, Chicago, December 7, 1944;
- Crimea Conference Report - Yalta, February 11, 1945;
- San Francisco Conference: UN Charter, World Court Statute, Preparatory Commission Agreement - June 26, 1945;
- Berlin Conference Report - Potsdam, August 2, 1945;
- FAO Constitution - Quebec, November 1945;
- ILO Resolution Relating the UN and the ILO - Paris, November 1945;
- UNESCO Constitution - Paris, November 16, 1945;
- Proposals for International Conference on Trade and Employment, December 6, 1945;
- Moscow Conference Communiqué - December 1945.

A few months ago I came across an interesting cover (Figure 1) postmarked in London on October 1, 1945 bearing a rubber-stamped cachet of the Council of Foreign Ministers at Lancaster House and addressed to the UN Preparatory Commission at Church House in London. This book proved to be very useful in understanding the background of this cover.

The Council of Foreign Ministers was established during the Big Three Conference at Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin, which opened July 17, 1945 and closed August 1st. Figure 2 is a philatelic cover commemorating this conference and bears a Washington cancel on the closing day of the conference. Present were President Harry S. Truman of the USA, Generalissimo Joseph V. Stalin of the Soviet Union and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain. They were accompanied by their foreign ministers: Mr. James F. Byrnes, Mr. V. M. Molotov and Mr. Anthony Eden.

The Council was to consist of the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, China, France, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Council would normally meet in Lon-



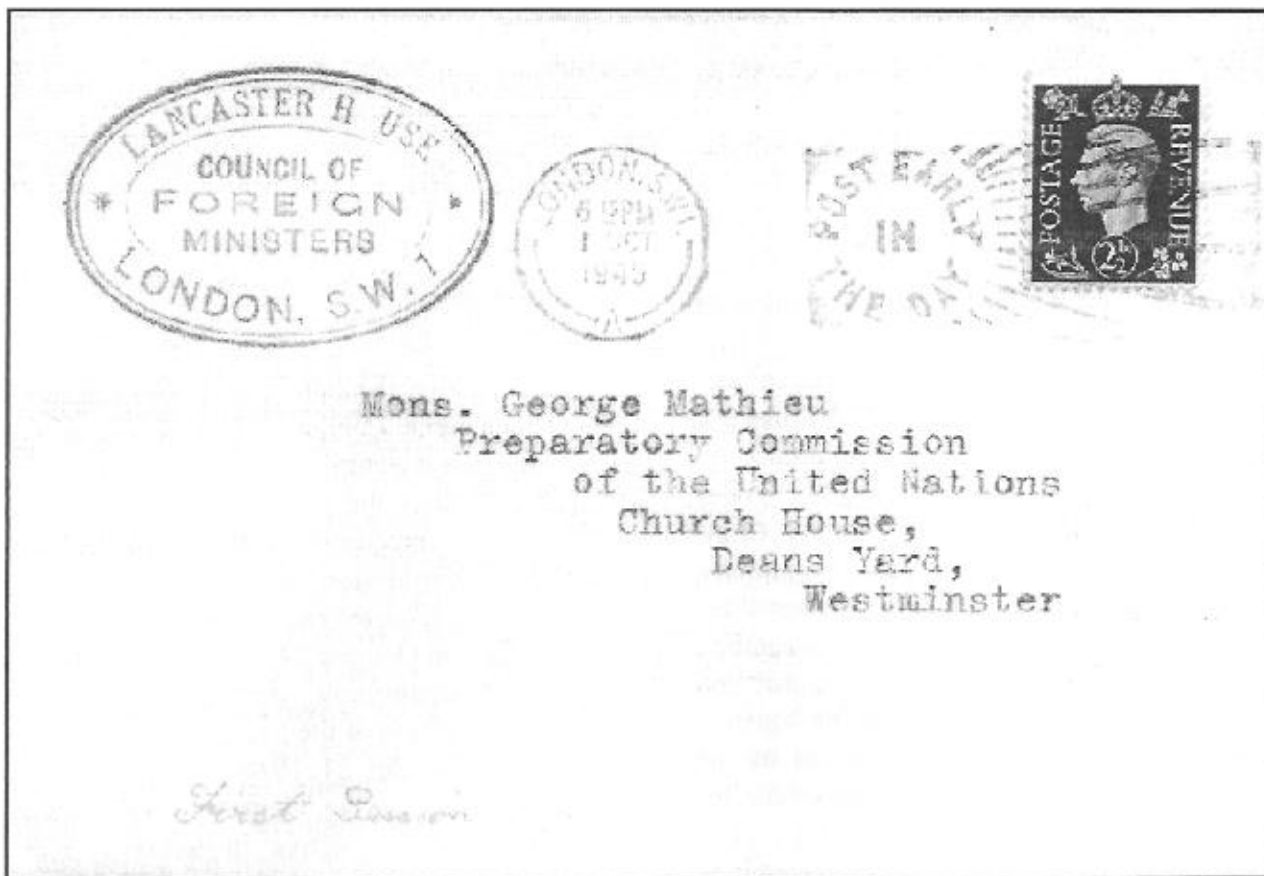


Figure 1: 1945 cover from the Council of Foreign Ministers to the United Nations Preparatory Commission in London.

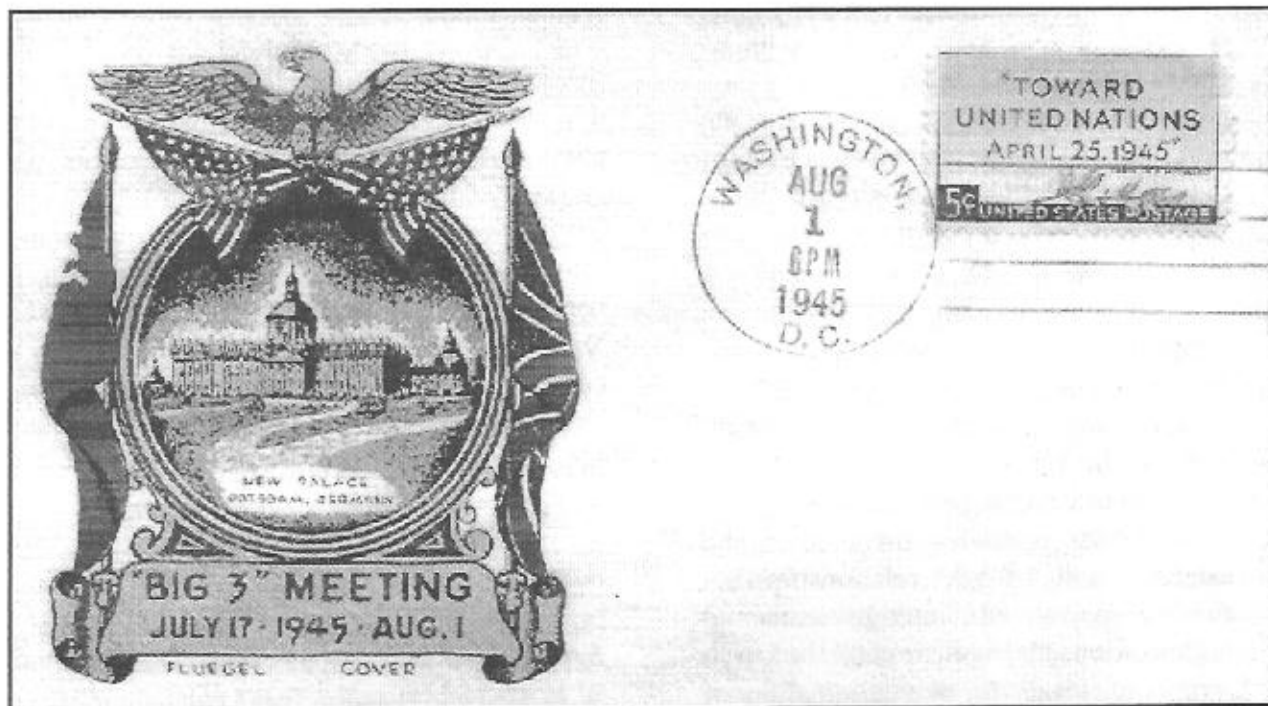


Figure 2: Philatelic cover honoring the Potsdam Conference in July 1945.

don, where it would establish a Secretariat. The first meeting of the Council was to be no later than September 1, 1945.

Its first task was to draw up and to submit to the United Nations, treaties of peace with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland and to propose settlements of territorial questions outstanding on the termination of the war in Europe.

With the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 at the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO), it was decided to establish the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. Its purpose was to make provisional arrangements for the first sessions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Trusteeship Council, for the establishment of the Secretariat and for the convening of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Commission was to have one representative from each Government signatory to the Charter.

Specifically the Commission was to:

- convoke the General Assembly to its first session in London;
- prepare the provisional agenda for the first sessions of the principal organs of the United Nations and prepare documents and recommendations relating to all matters on these agenda;
- formulate recommendations concerning the possible transfer of certain functions, activities and assets of the League of Nations, which were considered desirable for the United Nations to take over on terms to be arranged;
- examine the problems involved in the establishment of the relationship between specialized inter-governmental organizations and agencies and the UN;
- issue invitations for the nomination of candidates for the International Court of

Justice, in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court;

- prepare recommendations concerning arrangements for the Secretariat of the United Nations and
- make studies and prepare recommendations concerning the location of the permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

The seat of the Preparatory Commission was located in London. The Commission had its first meeting in San Francisco immediately after the conclusion of the UNCIO. The Executive Commission was to call the Commission into session again as soon as the Charter came into effect. This took place on October 24, 1945.

The Commission ceased functioning upon the election of the Secretary-General of the UN on January 21, 1946.

According to the Gaines' Catalog, the Commission was active in London from August 16, 1945 through the end of the year.

The exact nature of the cover in Figure 1 is unclear, but it is highly likely that it was philatelically inspired. An (almost) identical cover appears in the Monograph (page 39) by W. J. Barnes entitled *Britain, the League and the U.N.* During the past twenty years I have probably seen a third similar cover in Germany suggesting that maybe a few more are in circulation. But even if the cover was philatelically inspired, it is still a fascinating souvenir of an important early era in United Nations Philately, June 1945 through December 1945, between the UNCIO and the first General Assembly, for which very little official philatelic documentation exists.

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W.J. Barnes, *Britain, the League and the U.N.*, (Cologne: UNOP e.V., 1987).

# HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES COMING FROM GERMANY

Richard Powers

In the December 1993 issue of the *Journal* (page 70) there appeared an article on Fridtjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees of the League of Nations. After his death, the League set up in October 1933 the High Commission for Refugees (Jewish and Other) coming from Germany as a result of the entry into power of Adolph Hitler in Germany. The proclamation of the Nürenberg Aryan Law, defined non-Aryans (particularly Jews and Gypsies) as second-class citizens, causing an exodus of thousands of people beginning in early 1933. Figure 1 shows a service cover from the Delegation in Germany of the High Commission for Refugees to the main office in Geneva postmarked February 1931, which undoubtedly was already dealing with applicants for emmigration, who were anticipating the events of 1933.



Figure 1: 1931 service cover from the Delegation in Germany of the High Commission for Refugees to High Commission Headquarters in Geneva.

The Plebiscite in the Saar Region and the subsequent return of the Saar to German control in 1935 caused even more people to leave Germany. Figure 2 shows a 1931

service cover from the Secretariat of the Government Commission of the League of Nations in the Saar to the International Nansen Office for Refugees in Geneva.



Figure 2: 1931 service cover from the Government Commission in the Saar to the International Nansen Office in Geneva.

In the article on Nansen, the history of this High Commission was mentioned beginning in July 1936. I have now come across a report published by the Office of the High Commissioner in London presenting a summary of the Third Meeting of the Governing Body of the Commission, which took place November 1-2, 1934 in London. The report also includes a short history of the Commission during its first year of activities and completes the modest account in the 1933 Nansen article mentioned above.

Unlike other League Commissions, the High Commission for Refugees Coming from Germany was an autonomous body. The Council of the League named the High Commissioner and invited a number of countries to name representatives to constitute the Governing Body. The Council advanced the sum of S.f. 25,000 as a loan for the initial administrative expenses. These steps having been done, the new institution was left to organize itself and to determine the scope of its activities.



The first High Commissioner, Mr. James G. McDonald of New York, was named on October 26, 1933. Within six weeks of that appointment, the first meeting of the Governing Body was held in Lausanne, with representatives of twelve Governments present: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and Uruguay. Later Yugoslavia was added to the Governing Body.

The Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, representative of Great Britain, was elected Chairman of the Body and His Excellency M. Alberto Guani, Minister of Uruguay, was named Vice-Chairman. Figure 3 shows a postcard with a sketch of Viscount Cecil by the caricaturist Oscar Lazar made in the early 1930s.



Figure 3: Commission Governing Board President Viscount Cecil of Great Britain.

A Permanent Committee, composed of these two and the High Commissioner, ex officio, and the representatives of Belgium, France and Holland, was set up to act as an executive for the larger body. An advisory Council was created, comprising representatives of Jewish organizations and communities, of non-Jewish organizations and of international bodies which deal with particular classes of the refugees.

At the first meeting of the Governing Body the High Commissioner indicated that it was clearly undesirable that his office should undertake direct relief work; that to attempt to do so would necessitate the building up of a large staff and involve considerable overlapping with the private organizations already engaged on this task. It was also made clear that the High Commissioner should not attempt to be the clearing-house for the large funds essential for the work of relief and resettlement.

It was agreed the function of the High Commissioner's office should be threefold:

- the conduct of negotiations with Governments;

- the co-ordination of the work of the private relief and emigration organizations;

- the personal participation of the High Commissioner in the efforts being made by the fund-raising work of the private bodies.

Among the information revealed during the third meeting of the Governing Board, was the fact that since March 1933 about 22,000 had gone overseas and several thousand more resettled permanently in European countries. Of the emigrants only 80% were Jewish. Among the others were political refugees. The largest numbers of emigrants went to Palestine initially at the rate of 10,000 per year.

The High Commission oversaw the expansion of retraining activities for displaced persons as well as obtaining permits to work and to reside outside Germany. The High

Commission also tried to facilitate the transfer of capital from Germany.

Figure 4 shows a service cover with printed corner card sent by the High Commission for Refugees coming from Germany to the Administrative Director of International Nansen Office for Refugees in Geneva postmarked August 28, 1937 in London.

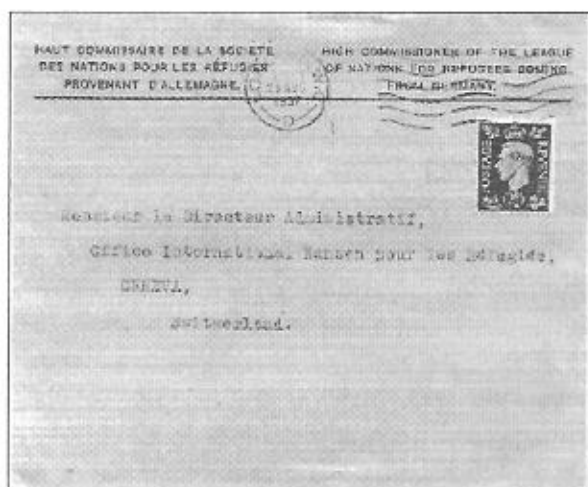


Figure 4: 1937 service cover with printed corner card from the High Commission.

Figure 5 shows a service cover with a rubber-stamped corner card postmarked December 13, 1938.



Figure 5: Service cover with rubber-stamped corner card of the High Commission.

At the time that the Third Meeting of the Governing Board occurred, the headquarters

of the Commission was located in Sentinel House on Southhampton Row in London.

According to an article by Hubert Brender, which appeared in the 1993 (#2-3) issue of *UNOPOST* (page 32) the League of Nations General Assembly decided that the International Nansen Office for Refugees with headquarters in Geneva and the High Commission for Refugees Coming from Germany headquartered in London should unify their activities on December 31, 1938 and to handle all refugee affairs without distinguishing countries of origin with headquarters in London. A new High Commissioner was appointed effective January 1, 1939. This was Sir Herbert Emerson from Great Britain. Emerson selected as his Deputy High Commissioner, Gustav Kullmann from Switzerland, who had been working at the League of Nations Secretariat in Geneva. His predecessor was Major General Sir Neil Malcolm from Great Britain, who had been named High Commissioner by the League of Nations in 1936.

The new High Commissioner was expected to remain in permanent contact with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees (IGCR), which had been organized at a Conference in Évian, France in July 1938 by thirty-one of the thirty-two nations, which participated in this conference. The headquarters for the IGCR also was established in London.

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## THE SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Geneva 1926

By B. Clement, Jr.

The Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations was held in Geneva September 6-21, 1926. Below are portions of an eight-page letter from an American visiting Geneva during that Assembly, with some of his observations. The letter was written by Vernon P. Helming, who was at the American University of Beirut in modern-day Lebanon to his sister in Northfield, Minnesota.

Geneva, Switzerland  
September 14, 1926

Dear Ruth,

Blatelford and Klein (about whom Father can tell you) met me in Lausanne on Saturday, and we have moved down to the end of the lake so as to be closer to the center of activity of the Seventh Assembly of the League...

I was to visit a meeting of the League Assembly on Saturday (we had reserved seats), but the Friday session when the German delegates first took their places seems to have been too much for them and there was no session...In the afternoon we attended a meeting of Committee Four (I think...), and heard part of a discussion on the question of Opium and other Dangerous Drugs. It was worth describing.

It was held in the League Secretariat Building, which was originally a large and tolerably ugly hotel called the National. [Editor's Note: A picture of this hotel appears in the December 1992 issue of the *Journal*, page 82 on a postcard bearing a League of Nations stamp.] The room was about thirty by sixty feet (probably more) done in yellow marble or imitation marble with maroon hangings at the doors. It was

simple and pleasant, and looked out on one side over a garden onto the lake. The members sat in and about a square of tables at one end of the room; I suppose there were sixty of them. Interpreters & stenographers and secretaries (men & women) flitted about from delegate to delegate on the outside of the square during the entire proceedings, and many of the same calling worked away industriously inside the square. We (Uncle Ambrose and I) and some sixty or seventy or more of us, looked on from a raised section at the other end of the room.

It took a long time for everyone to settle. Then the chairman, a fat and genial old Frenchman, tinkled a little bell to stop the talking and commotion, and asked the delegates in French to compose themselves for a photograph, which was shortly taken. Then he tinkled the bell again, announced that the meeting was opened, welcomed the German delegates upon their first appearance in the sessions of the committee with a very brief, cordial speech, and called upon the leader of the German group. This gentleman arose and bowed, then sat down again while an able and well-appearing young Englishman (conspicuous by his tuxedo) interpreted the speech of welcome in simple, accurate English. Then the head German delegate stood up and replied very briefly in excellent French, again in a very cordial, unaffected manner. Messrs. Briand and Stresemann have set the League an example which it (fortunately) seems unwilling to forget. This German delegate to the committee is a very fine looking tall, straight, thin, with fine, deep-set eyes and thick gray-black hair.

Now the chairman called upon Count Sato of Japan who spoke at some length in French, dealing with the Japanese attitude



towards the Opium question. He said the Japanese government had taken systematic steps to limit trading in opium with considerable success; he commented very favorably on a report presented by a sub-committee instructed to draw up a convention to be adopted by the nations; he remarked that, much as he had admired the reasoned, succinct speech of Lord Cecil at the last meeting, he and his government could not altogether agree with it.

After the perfunctory applause (which followed all speeches except the first two, which were far better received), his speech was translated into English and the Chinese delegate was called upon. He regretted to say that, due to its vast size and serious political disturbances, China was unable to present its national report as the other nations had done, but he assured the committee that it would be presented in due course. He confessed that, despite the efforts of the central government, there was doubtless much trading in opium still going on in China. He gave a summary of the plan for Anti-Drug Week, organized by the Chinese National Association or the Abolition of Opium & Dangerous Drugs to stimulate public opinion against doping...

...A representative of the Croat-Serb-Slovene state rather made an ass of himself by giving the assembly a sales talk on opium raised in his state, remarking that, although it was never used by the "tenacious, hard-working peasants", it was in considerable demand in Germany, Switzerland, England, and France where its superior quality was recognized. He was in favor of announcing to the Orient that Europe wanted no Eastern opium since his country...supplies enough to take care of the medical and scientific requirements of the continent. A few eyebrows were raised at his long harangue, a few delegates smiled oddly... but for the most, they endured it

calmly and patiently. Lord Cecil left his place once and swooped over to the chairman during a speech... He is tall, stoop-shouldered man with a bald band upon the top of his head, and a large brow and nose to his rather pleasant, unperturbed face. [Editor's Note: For a sketch see this issue of the *Journal* page 10.] I thought him superior of most of the others in the room (with the possible exception of the German). So great nations (especially Britain) are represented by men of outstanding ability and experience, who seem to tower over the others in a more or less benign fashion. Government in England (and in France for all I know to the contrary) attracts the best men, and not the most avaricious as it is with us...

There is a considerable amount of more or less reasoned pessimism in Europe regarding the League of Nations but here in Geneva, people take it very seriously. There is not much display about it: a few flags on the great hotels where the delegations are housed, and rather an unusual number of fine cars in the streets. We saw Herr Stresemann on his front porch one day, and he didn't seem much impressed with himself. I haven't seen any others of the famous three or four. Friday's events were very encouraging, and, although the press in Europe is still sleeping to a degree, the Seventh Assembly goes slowly ahead breaking rocks in spite of it...

Your affectionate little brother,  
Vernon

Mr. Helming's letter is full of such interesting detail. A search on the Internet indicates that Vernon P. Helming is a Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Massachusetts. Since his letter clearly demonstrates his flair for English, I assume that the letter writer and the professor are one and the same.

## THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

By Richard Powers

The conflict in Sierra Leone dates from March 1991 when fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched a war from the east of the country near the border with Liberia to overthrow the government. With the support of the Military Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Sierra Leone's army tried at first to defend the government but, the following year, the army itself overthrew the government.

Despite the change of power, the RUF continued its attacks. In February 1995, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed a Special Envoy, Mr. Berhanu Dinka (Ethiopia). He worked in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and ECOWAS to try to negotiate a settlement to the conflict and return the country to civilian rule.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held in February 1996, and the army relinquished power to the winner, Alhaji Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. The RUF, however, did not participate in the elections and did not recognize the results. The conflict continued.

Special Envoy Dinka assisted in negotiating a peace agreement in November 1996 between the Government and RUF known as the Abidjan Accord. The agreement was derailed by another military coup d'état in May 1997. This time the army joined forces with the RUF and formed a ruling junta. President Kabbah and his government went into exile in neighboring Guinea.

A new Special Envoy, Mr. Francis G. Okelo (Uganda) and other representatives of the international community tried, but failed, to persuade the junta to step down. The Security Council imposed an oil and arms embargo on October 8, 1997 and authorized ECOWAS to ensure its implementation using ECOMOG troops.

On October 23rd, the ECOWAS Committee of Five on Sierra Leone and a delegation representing the chairman of the junta held talks at Conakry and signed a peace plan which, among

other things, called for a cease-fire to be monitored by ECOMOG and - if approved by the Security Council - assisted by UN military observers. On November 5th, President Kabbah issued a statement indicating his acceptance of the agreement, and stated his Government's willingness to cooperate with ECOWAS, ECOMOG, the United Nations and UNHCR in the implementation of their respective roles. Although the junta publicly committed itself to implementing the agreement, it subsequently criticized key provisions and raised a number of issues, with the result that the agreement was never implemented.

In February 1998, ECOMOG, responding to an attack by rebel/army junta forces, launched a military attack that led to the collapse of the junta and its expulsion from Freetown. On March 10th, President Kabbah was returned to office. The Security Council terminated the oil and arms embargo and strengthen the office of the Special Envoy to include UN military liaison officers and security advisory personnel.

In June 1998 the Council established the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) for an initial period of six weeks. (This action was mentioned in the June 1999 issue of *The Journal* (page 11) in J.-L. Emmenegger's column *UN-Military Corner*.) The Secretary-General named Special Envoy Okelo as his Special Representative and Chief of Mission. This mission monitored and advised efforts to disarm combatants and restructure the nation's security forces. Unarmed UNOMSIL teams, under the protection of ECOMOG, documented reports of on-going atrocities and human rights abuses committed against civilians.

Fighting continued with the rebel alliance gaining control of more than half the country. In December 1998 the alliance began an offensive to retake Freetown and in January 1999 overran most of the city. All UNOMSIL personnel were evacuated. The Special Representative and the Chief Military Observer continued performing their duties, maintaining close

contact with all parties to the conflict and monitoring the situation. Later the same month, ECOMOG troops retook the capital and again installed the civilian government, although thousands of rebels were still reportedly hiding out in the surrounding countryside.

In the aftermath of the rebel attack, Special Representative Okelo, in consultation with West African states, initiated a series of diplomatic efforts aimed at opening up dialogue with the rebels. Negotiations between the Government and the rebels began in May 1999 and on July 7th all parties to the conflict signed an agreement in Lomé to end hostilities and form a government of national unity. The parties to the conflict also requested an expanded role for UNOMSIL. On August 20th the UN Security Council authorized an increase in the number of military observers to 210.

On October 22, 1999, the Security Council authorized the establishment of UNAMSIL, a new and much larger mission with a maximum of 6,000 military personnel, including 260 military observers, to assist the Government and the parties in carrying out provisions of the Lomé peace agreement. At the same time, the Council decided to terminate UNOMSIL.

To head the new mission, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji (Nigeria) as his Special Representative in Sierra Leone. Mr. Adeniji assumed his functions on December 11, 1999.

On February 7, 2000, the Security Council, (Resolution 1289) decided to revise the mandate of UNAMSIL to include a number of ad-

ditional tasks. It decided to expand the military to a maximum of 11,000 personnel, including the 260 military observers already deployed. The Council also authorized increases, in the civil affairs, civilian police, administrative and technical components of UNAMSIL, as proposed by the Security-General.

The Security Council again increased the authorized strength of UNAMSIL to 13,000 military personnel, including the 260 military observers by its resolution 1299 of May 19, 2000. On March 30, 2001, a further increase was authorized to 17,500 military personnel, including the 260 military observers. The Council took this decision by its resolution 1345, and by the same resolution, approved a revised concept of operations.

Special aerograms used in 2003 by Pakistani military in Freetown have been observed. Figure 1 shows one bearing the cancel of the Sorting Office of SALPOST dated May 16, 2003 as well as a blue FREE MAIL cachet of the UN with a reference to UNAMSIL in F/town. A violet third cachet in Urdu, the Pakistani language, reads United Nations Post / Postage Prepaid. The aerogram bears a receiving cancel on the back in Model Town on May 18th(?). This aerogram has been observed used by troops from Nepal and Bangladesh in 2002.

## Reference

Peace and Security Section of the Department of Information in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, (New York: United Nations, 2004)

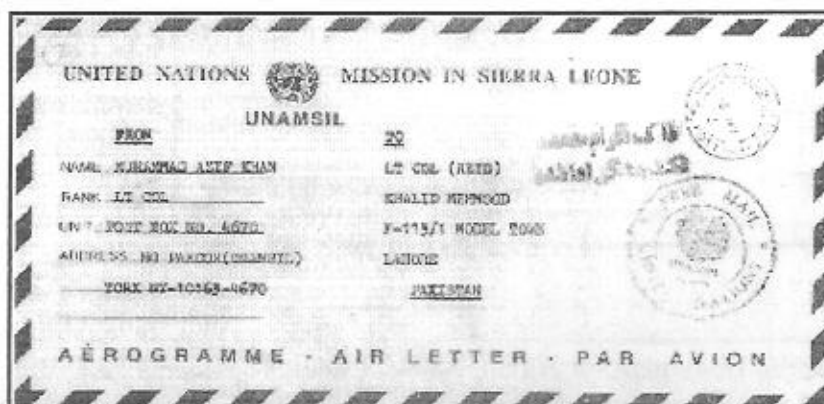


Figure 1: 2003 UNAMSIL aerogram from Pakistani officer in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



# PHILATELIC DOCUMENT AND FIRST DAY NOTICE FOR 2003 UNESCO STAMPS

By Richard Powers

In the October issue of the *Journal* (page 19) there appeared a proof of the new UNESCO stamps issued in December 2003 honoring Lapland and the Resurrection Church in St. Petersburg. Towards the end of August I was able to order by mail from the French post office (La Poste) the corresponding Philatelic Document (Figure 1) and the First Day Notice (Figure 2). The former costs €4,18 for deliveries outside the European Union; the latter costs €1,67. A euro is currently about \$1.20. La Poste accepts Visa and Mastercard credit cards.

The Philatelic document bears copies of the two stamps tied by a blue first day cancel of December 6, 2003. The document also bears a black proof of the Lapland stamp and a brown proof of the Resurrection Church stamp. Next to the proofs is an image of an equestrian statue of Peter the Great which is dated 1782. A short commentary on Lapland and the Resurrection Church completes the philatelic document, which is produced by the Imprimerie des Timbres-Postes (French Stamp Printer).

At the time that I was ordering the above items, I came across two very interesting items in the catalog of La Poste. One is a set of pre-stamped envelopes and accom-

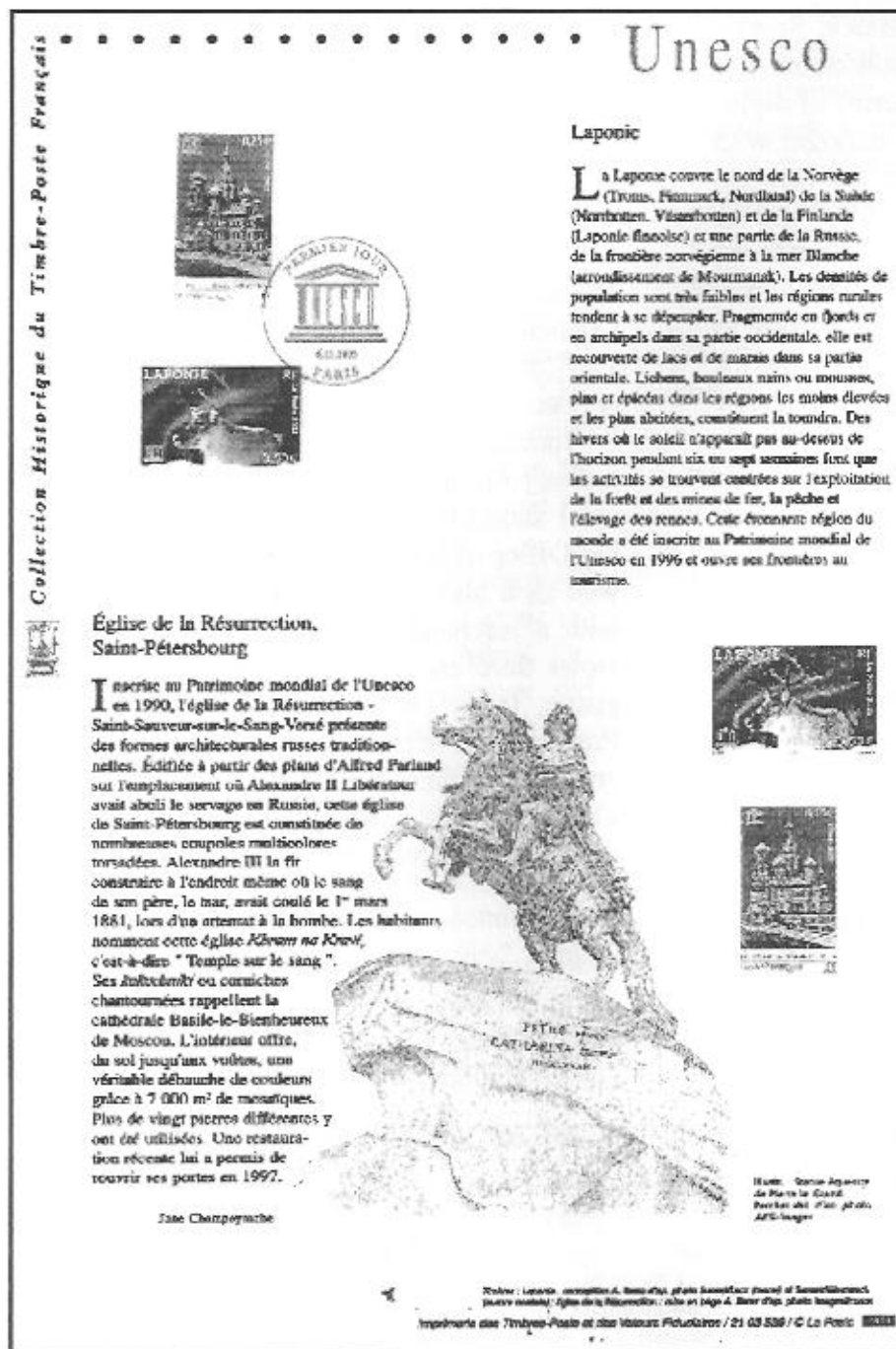


Figure 1: Philatelic Document for 2003 UNESCO stamps honoring Lapland and Resurrection Church in St. Petersburg.



Figure 2: First Day Notice

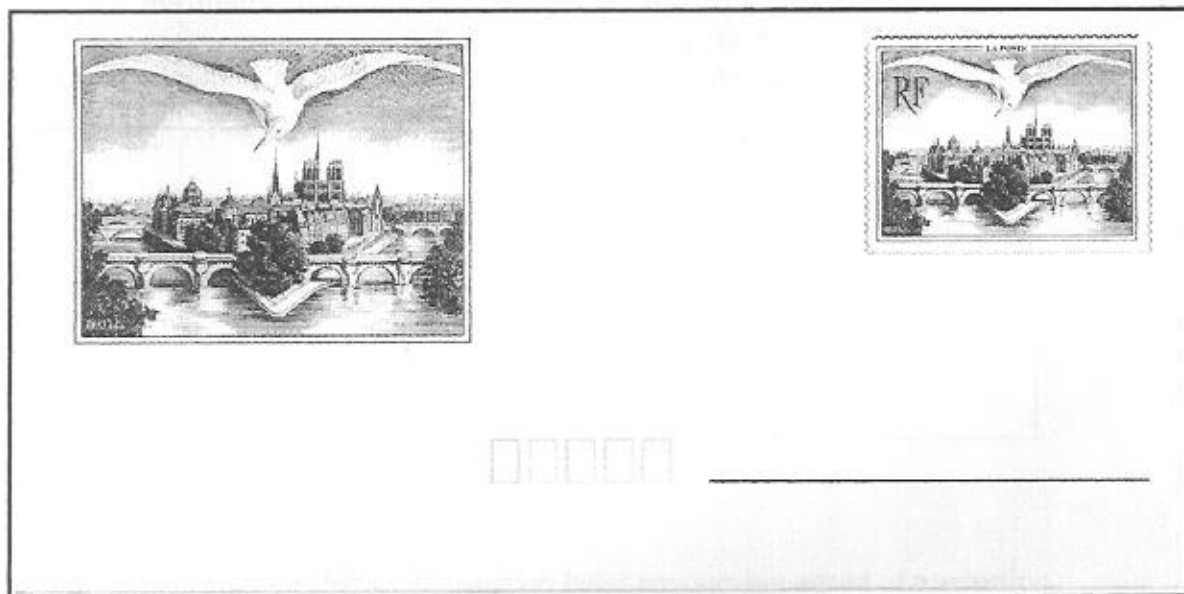


Figure 3: New non-denominated pre-stamped envelope bearing the design of the 1947 UPU Congress (C22) commemorative valid for airmail service from France to anywhere in the world.

panying cards entitled Paris: Lieux touristiques (tourist places). The envelopes are meant for first class mail within Europe and portray non-denominated versions of five beautiful French stamps issued in the 1940s: the 1947 UPU Congress set (Scott #581-4) and the 1947 semi-postal stamp B217 portraying Notre Dame Cathedral. Each envelope bears a postal vignette which is a "reissue" of the original stamp in the upper right corner as well as enlarged version of the stamp in the upper left corner. The matching card has an enlarged version of the stamp in the upper left corner.

The other set entitled Paris: vues d'avion (aerial views) contains five prestamped envelopes and matching card meant for airmail service anywhere in the world. The stamp designs reproduce five classic French airmail stamps: C14, C15, C22 (UPU Congress), C27, C28 (CITT Conference). Figure 3 shows the envelope bearing the design of the old 500 fr UPU Congress.

Each of the ten envelopes with matching card cost €1 which is currently about \$1.20 for delivery outside the European Union. Inside the European Union the buyer also has to pay the value added tax which €0,20 per envelope.

## AND THE WINNER IS...

By Richard Powers

Recently I came across a moderately interesting United Nations forerunner meter cover from Lake Success. It appears in Figure 1. The third class cover bears no date. The postage was 2¢. The corner card which requests a return with Form 3547 if the addressee has moved and left no forwarding address. Such envelopes were used for the Mailings A and B (as catalogued by Gaines), on which the 1½¢ precanceled stamp was used in October 1952.

The meter machine used was Pitney-Bowes #138421, which was used in the Sperry Building in Lake Success from early October 1948. The last day of use has been observed to be December 13, 1950. The slogan "UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL MAIL", used with the meter cancellation, was in use between January 12 and December 13, 1950. This was the year before the final move of the United Nations Secretariat from Lake Success to its present home in Manhattan in 1951.

What makes the cover particularly interesting is the presence of a letter inside which explains the purpose of the third class letter. It was by B(enjamin) Cohen, the Assistant Secretary General for Public Information,

who greeted the recipient with the expression "Dear Stamp Collector". The entire letter appears in Figure 2.

The letter congratulates the recipient on having correctly answered a question presented on the television program (over WBNT in New York) "U.N. Stamp Club". The prize was a selection of forty-eight stamps which come "from many countries where the United Nations is working to create a peaceful world." And after more than fifty years, the prize was still in the cover.

The stamps were exclusively European. They came from Austria(8), France(3), Germany(21), Great Britain(7), Hungary(3), Ireland(2), Italy(2) and the Netherlands(2). I recognized many familiar stamps in this mini-collection. The oldest stamp was issued in 1898; the newest, in 1945. According to my 1953 Scott Catalogue, forty-three of these stamps had the minimum value of 2¢. Forty years later, my 1993 Scott Catalogue gave forty-four stamps the minimum value of 15¢. As the change in minimum value essentially varies as a result of inflation, there was no significant change in value.

I suspect that the philatelic television



Figure 1: Third class 1950 UN meter cover from Lake Success with contents.



show was produced in order to encourage interest in UN stamps, which would begin to appear the following year. The fact that the stamps remained with the letter, suggests that either the recipient was so advanced that he already had the stamps in his album or that by the time the stamps arrived, he had lost interest in philately.

In retrospect I am sure that I would have been thrilled to have received this selection of messengers from abroad in 1950. But life was much simpler then. There were many fewer distractions: no television, no home computers, no Internet. Perhaps the United Nations Philatelic Administration should be reaching out via its website.

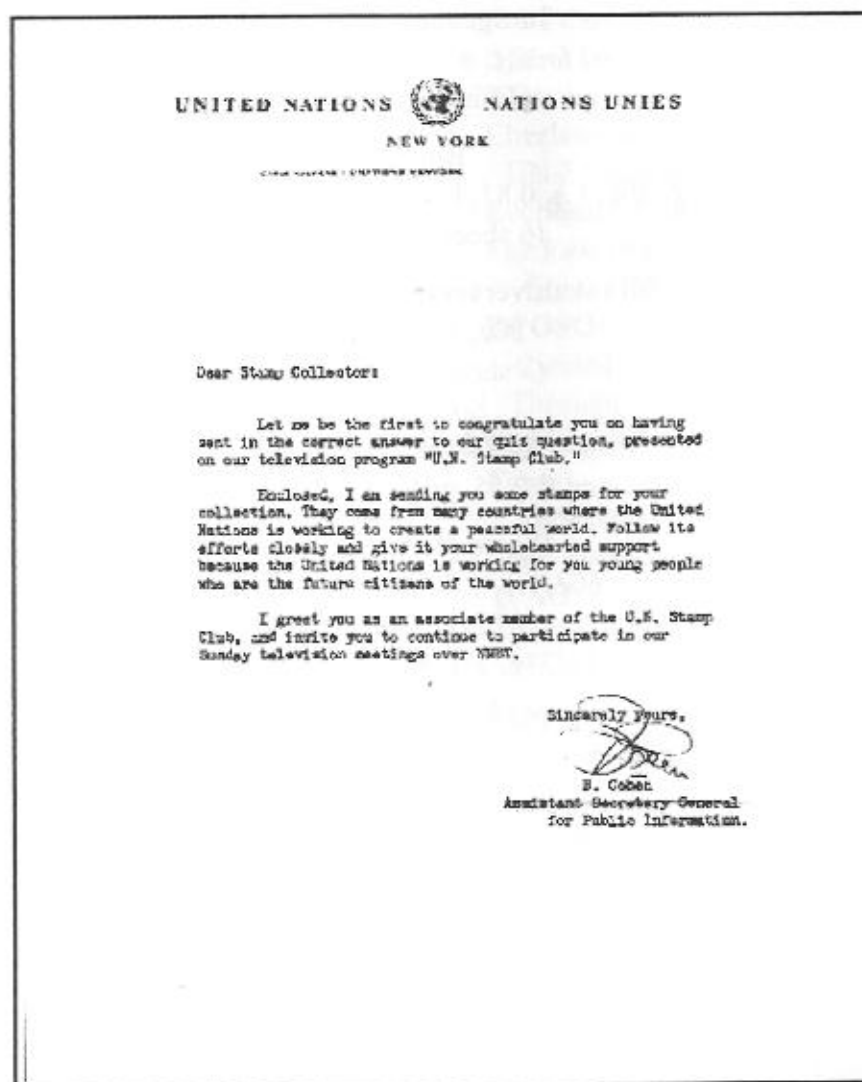


Figure 2: United Nations Public Information letter announcing award of a selection of stamps for responding correctly to a question posed on the "U. N. Stamp Club" televised on WNBT in New York City about 1950.

## 2004 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of November 1, 2004 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)

See the UNPA World Wide Web Site at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA>>

- January 29**                      **Endangered Species**  
37¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55  
(3 Sheets of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 se-tenant stamps.)  
Set of 3 maximum cards and 2004 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder
- Vienna Definitive**  
  € 0,55  
  (1 sheet of 20 stamps)
- March 4**                        **Indigenous Art - Europe**  
6×37¢, 6×F.s. 1,00, 6×€ 0,55  
(3 Sheets of 6 stamps)
- April 7**                        **Road Safety**  
37¢, 70¢, F.s. 0,85, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55, € 0,75  
(6 sheets of 20 stamps)
- June 3**                        **50th Anniversary of Japanese Peace Bell**  
80¢, F.s. 1,30, € 2,10  
(3 sheets of 20 stamps)  
Souvenir card  
**Postal Stationery**  
Postal card € 0,55, pre-stamped envelopes € 0,55, € 1,25
- August 12**                    **World Heritage - Greece**  
37¢, 60¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,30, € 0,55, € 0,75  
(6 Sheets of 20 stamps)  
{3 Prestige Booklets with 12×(23¢, 37¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,25, € 0,30 )}
- September 21** **My Dream for Peace One Day - Opening of the General Assembly**  
37¢, 80¢, F.s. 0,85, F.s. 1,20, € 0,55, € 1,00  
(6 sheets of 20 stamps)  
**Surcharged Postal Stationery**  
Postal cards F.s. 0,70 + 0,15, F.s. 0,90 + 0,10, F.s. 1,10 + 0,10
- October 14**                **Human Rights (Education Decade 1995 - 2004)**  
37¢, 70¢, F.s. 0,85, F.s. 1,30, € 0,55, € 1,25  
(6 sheets of 8 stamps)
- October 15**                **Disarmament Definitive**  
37¢  
(1 sheet of 20 stamps)
- November 23**            **Sport - 2005 (Joint issue with Switzerland)**  
F.s. 1,80  
(1 sheet of 20 stamps)  
2004 Annual Collection Folders

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**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 Ramkisson, 3011 White Oak Lane, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2513.

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