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World Space Week

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Table of Contents December 2007

Message from the Editor.....	1
Fiftieth Anniversary of Space Age, R. Powers.....	3
The Future in Our Hands. Personalized Sheet.....	5
Arizona Subjects on UN Stamps, R. VanGorder..	6
First 30¢ Definitive: UNNY #92, D. E. Lamers..	10
Temporary International Presence in Hebron II, R. Powers.....	13
UNMISSET Peacekeeping Air Letter, R. Powers..	14
Prices Realized UNP Special Auctions #8 & 9..	15
2007 UN Stamp Program.....	16
Early UN Postal History (1943), R. Powers.....	17
Index - Volume 31.....	21

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.

New Members

1524 Roseann Mestell.....	Ringwood, NJ
1525 George Cvejnovich.....	Miami Shores, FL
1526 Jonathan Bloom.....	N. Falmouth, MA
1527 William Mahaffey.....	Upper Sandusky, OH
1528 David LaMantia.....	Canton, OH
1529 Robin Mason.....	Falmouth, ME

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor, UNPI Officers or club members.

Cover Illustrations

Front cover: Overprinted UNNY souvenir sheet honoring World Space Week. **Rear cover:** UNNY 90¢ definitive, standard size 41¢ pre-stamped envelope and 90¢ air letter issued August 9, 2007.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The UNPA in New York Revises Its Mailing Policy

On September 6, 2007 the remarkable certified letter from the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) in New York in Figure 1 arrived at my home in Pasadena. A roller cancel ties the \$5.21 in postage [from left Scott UNNY #753 (\$5) and #729 (21¢) definitives]. The PVI (postage value indicator) label shows that the letter left the UN post office (Zip code 10017) on August 31st.

Inside the envelope was a letter from the UNPA dated August 31st. The letter reads as follows:

"Following a review of its operations and procedures the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) has revised its mailing policy. The new policy is based on the fact that UNPA was not established as a postal administration for all operations. Instead UNPA's activities relate primarily to designing, arranging for printing and issuing stamps for philatelic purposes.

The relevant agreements between the United Nations and the United States do not provide for the UNPA to offer to the general public express or priority mail or any other special postal service.

The UNPA is not a fully fledged postal op-

eration. Consequently and, bearing in mind the limited resources available to UNPA, with immediate effect:

- UNPA will only accept first class mail.
- UNPA will no longer accept express or priority mail and other specialized mail service.
- Mail lodgings will be limited to 100 pieces at any given time.
- All mail to be hand-carried from the point of entry of the UN complex to the post office box provided by UNPA in the General Assembly lobby.
- All mail brought into the building will require regular safety and security screening. This includes x-raying of individual items to be mailed. In some cases mail pieces may be opened for visual inspection.
- Letter mail items are to be placed in the posting boxes located at the UNPA post office.
- The UNPA will exercise its right to refuse acceptance of mail that is not presented in accordance with the new procedures."

United Nations Postal Administration
New York

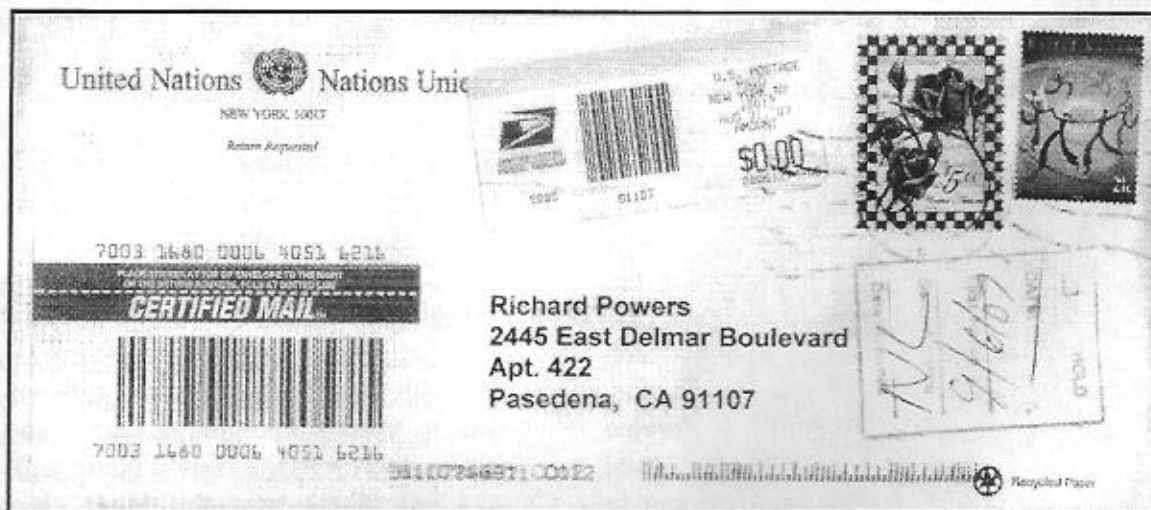


Figure 1: 2007 certified service cover from the UNPA in New York containing press release announcing revisions in UNPA mailing policy.

Apparently this letter was sent to me in my capacity as editor of the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists*. In the September 24th issue of *Linn's Stamp News* Denise McCarty reported, in a front page article, that the *Linn's* had received the same letter and reported reactions by several dealers, who sell UN stamps and auction houses, who use UN stamps for mailings catalogues.

My first reaction to this letter was quite personal. Each December I have been sending around thirty Christmas cards stamped with UN postage to the UN post office (UNPO) in New York for forwarding to friends throughout the world for more than twenty years. Most of my correspondents take note of the UN stamps and their inherent message. Some even send me back the stamps for my collection. Otherwise it is very difficult to obtain postally used UN stamps with any cancel other than a first day cancel. Clearly this tradition does not violate either the first or third new guideline. I send my cards by first class mail and I send around ten cards per mailing to the UNNY.

Unfortunately one could interpret guideline 4 as requiring me to personally deliver (hand carry) my mail to the UNNY. It is my hope that this guideline applies only to mail sent to the UNPA for forwarding. I have been sending my mail to the UNPO.

One might be led to wonder what has provoked this change in policy. By restricting the actual use of UN postage on mail, is the UNPA really only responding to the realities of its "limited resources". Or is this new policy an effort to discourage the use of UN stamps for postage? Unfortunately for the UNPA and its mother organization the UN, the money received for any UN stamp, which performs actual postal duty, must be forwarded to the United States Postal Service (USPS), which actually performs the postal services. Is the UNPA effectively trying to demonetize its postal issues by restricting postal use of UN stamps to first class items

personally delivered to UN headquarters. This entails that the deliverer as well as the item would have to pass security checks en route to the UNPA postal mail boxes located in the General Assembly building.

One would hope that the UNPA will soon realize that such revisions in a mailing policy that has existed for more than fifty-six years may not be the medicine that the doctor ordered to cure its apparent financial woes.

I am somewhat troubled by the statement by the UNPA that its principal mission is "designing, arranging for printing and issuing stamps for philatelic purposes". Note the use of the word philatelic instead of postal. Is the UNPA trying to tell us that its mission is to produce stamps for collectors to put away and not use?

According to Ramon Goody in *A Study of United Nations Regular and Airmail Postage Stamps 1951-1966*, "the idea of the United Nations engaging in postal activities was first brought forward in 1946 by the then United Nations Assistant Secretary General Benjamin Cohen. It was discussed on an informal basis during meetings of the United Nations Secretariat held at Hunter College, New York, which was the temporary headquarters of the Secretariat at that time... In July (1947), the Argentinean delegation to the United Nations requested that the matter of a Postal Service be included in the Agenda of the second session of the General Assembly. In its draft resolution, the delegation considered it desirable to establish a United Nations Postal Administration for the purpose of providing postal facilities for the organization, which would include the issuance of its own postage stamps, for use through any United Nations Post Office and for sale to collectors. One of the main objectives of issuing its own stamps was to spread knowledge about and create public interest in the United Nations."

I fail to see how this latter objective is served by restricting UN stamp usage in the hope that UN stamps stay out of circulation.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPACE AGE

By Richard Powers

On October 25, 2007 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued six commemorative stamps in a mini-sheet format of six stamps each in denominations of 41¢, 90¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, €0,65 and €1,15 as well as three souvenir sheets containing a single stamp in denominations of \$1.00, F.s. 3,00 and €2,10. An additional version of the UNNY souvenir sheet appears on the cover of this issue with an overprinted space shuttle and the text "World Space Week - 4-10 October 2007". These ten items honor the fiftieth anniversary of the space age, which began with the launching by the USSR of Sputnik on October 4, 1957. The USA joined the space age on January 31, 1958 with the successful launch of Explorer I after the failure to launch Vanguard in December 1957.

The UNPA issued on October 4th a special generic personalized sheet using the theme World Space Week in the selvage and containing ten stamps of €0,65 with 5 designs and 10 labels with the UN logo in black.



Figure 1: \$1 souvenir sheet.

The United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna provides the overall global coordination of World Space Week. This UN office is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. It serves as the secretariat for the General Assembly's only committee dealing exclusively in the peaceful uses of outer space.



Figure 2: Minisheet of 6x41¢ stamps.



Figure 3: Minisheet of 6x90¢ stamps.



Figure 4: F.s. 3,00 souvenir sheet.



Figure 5: Minisheet of 6x F. s.1,00.



Figure 6: Minisheet of 6x F.s.1,80 stamps.



Figure 7: €2,10 souvenir sheet.



Figure 8: Minisheet of 6x €0,65 stamps.

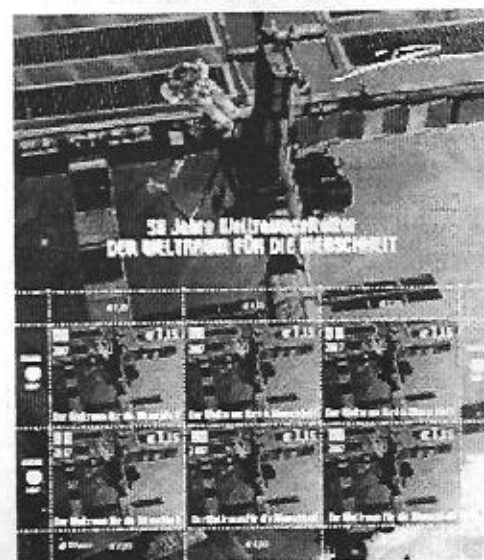


Figure 9: Minisheet of 6x €1,15 stamps.

The souvenir sheets for the UN offices in NY, Geneva, and Vienna appear, respectively, in Figures 1, 4 and 7. The minisheets appear in Figures 2 and 3 for NY, Figures 5 and 6 for Geneva and Figures 8 and 9 for Vienna. All six minisheets bear the legend UNOOSA above the UN logo and the year 2007 below the logo in the four selvage tabs adjacent to the stamps in the first and third columns.

The generic personalized sheet commemorating World Space Week 2007 appears on the following page in Figure 10.

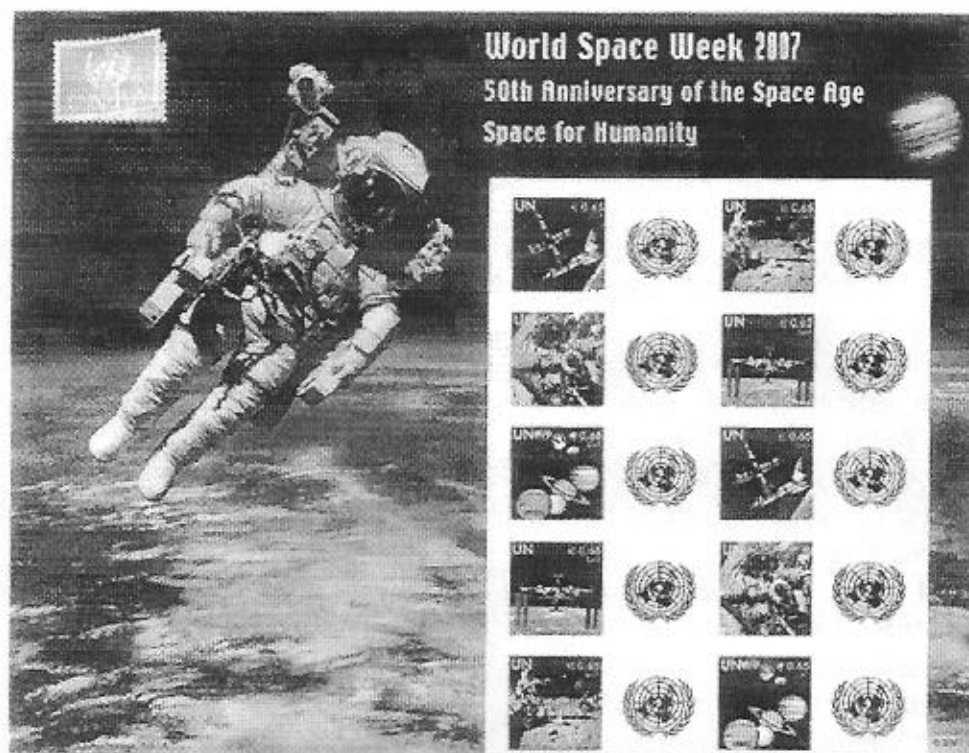
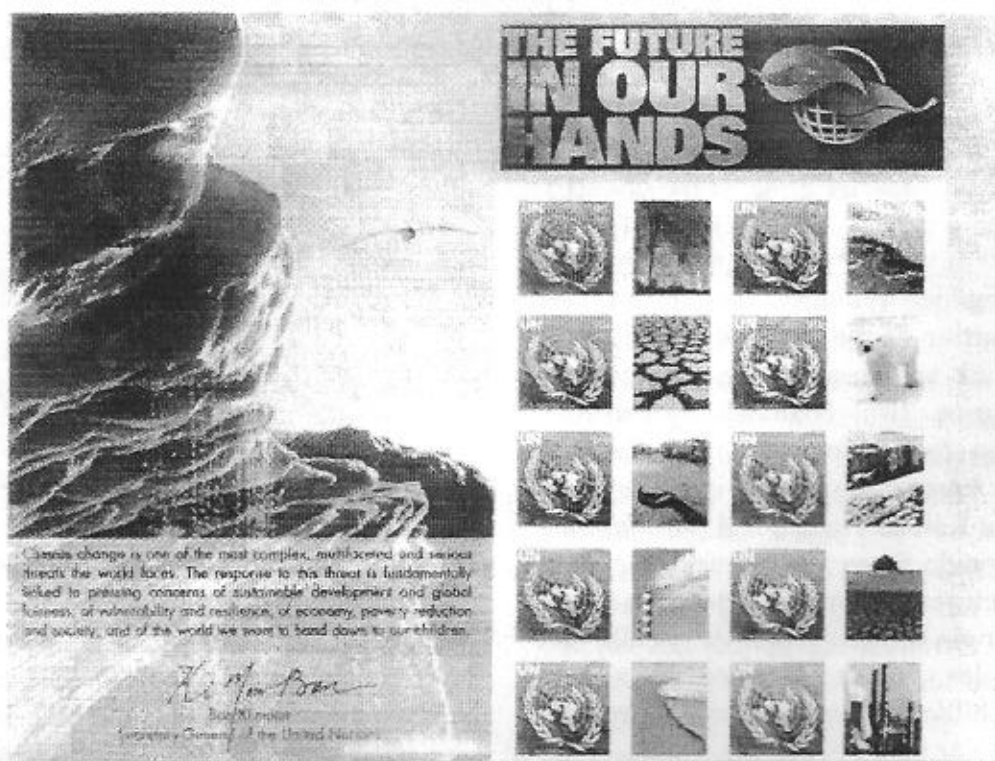


Figure 10: Generic personalized sheet issued October 4, 2007 in honor of World Space Week.

THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS



Generic personalized sheet issued September 24, 2007 in honor of Event on Climate Change.

ARIZONA SUBJECTS ON UNITED NATIONS STAMPS

By Rick VanGorder

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) depicts a variety of subjects reflecting the international nature of its parent organization, the United Nations (UN). But various stamp subjects can be connected to specific nations and I have found that in the case of the United States, to specific states. Since I live in Arizona (AZ) and have an AZ stamp collection I pay particular attention to stamps of other countries that have a connection to my state of residence. The UNPA has produced a dozen stamps depicting subjects with an AZ connection. All but one of these are animals and plants from the Endangered Species series started in March of 1993. The one stamp that isn't an organism is the first issued by the UNPA.

The UNESCO World Heritage stamps issued April 18, 1984 began with New York Scott #421 showing the Grand Canyon. AZ is the Grand Canyon State as the entire geo-



logic/geographic province is within the northern portion of the state. It consists of a National Park and is surrounded by two National Forests, two National Monuments, three Indian reservations and two National Recreation Areas. The canyon is the result of uplift of the Kaibab Plateau and down-cutting of the Colorado River and numerous prehistoric and current tributary streams over the past five or six million years. It is 6000 feet deep, 13 miles wide, is 280 miles long and reveals 1.7 billion years of earth's geologic history (give or take 100 million years).

The rest of the UNPA stamp subjects with an AZ connection are part of the Endangered Species series, beginning in March

1993 with Geneva #229 showing the peregrine falcon. Peregrines are native to most of the United States and not unique to AZ. The state offers numerous locales for these birds that prefer cliffs, ledges and tall buildings for their nests. There are abundant prey species, primarily city pigeons (rock doves), for these



falcons that are known to dive at speeds of 200 miles an hour, making them the fastest birds on earth. They have recovered significantly in AZ and across the country since DDT, which damaged their eggs, is no longer available in the food chain.

Also issued in March 1993 was Vienna #146 showing the grey wolf. Arizona has historically been home to the subspecies Mexican grey wolf. These canids were reintroduced in southeastern AZ as well as New



Mexico and Mexico. The success of the reintroduction program is still not assured due to continued illegal shooting of the wolves by ranchers and other persons. But small packs of the wolves are established and time will tell if these predators can again call AZ home.

In March 1994 the UNPA issued Vienna #162 showing the endangered ocelot. This small cat historically lived in AZ but currently does not and there are no plans for its rein-

roduction here. Efforts are being directed to establishing populations in Texas, New Mexi-



co and the Rio Grande River region of Mexico. (The ocelot is also shown on the UNPA Rainforest issue of June 1998, Vienna #240 and the accompanying souvenir sheet #241.)



In March 1995 the UNPA issued New York #658 showing the American Bald Eagle. Our national bird ranges over much of the



western continent from Alaska to Mexico and there are two populations found in AZ. One lives in the depths of the Grand Canyon part of the year where it feeds on the trout stocked in the Colorado River. The second population nests along the manmade lakes and adjacent rivers in the Sonoran Desert (southern AZ). As I write this the bald eagle has been removed from the Endangered Species List but some conservationists in AZ are not happy

about this as the Sonoran Desert population remains small and vulnerable to habitat loss, nesting interference and being shot for the amusement of irresponsible gun owners.

The March 1996 issue of New York #675 depicts the saguaro cactus, Arizona's state plant and flower. The saguaro is the second



largest cactus on earth and the largest native to the United States. Most are found in AZ with overflow into California along the Colorado River and northern Mexico. The saguaro lives approximately 200 years and can grow to 45 feet in height. It begins to grow arms and becomes sexually mature around the 65th year of life. The flowers open for 24 hours, primarily at night, and are pollinated by bats, bees, birds and insects. The fruit mature in June and July and contain thousands of seeds not much bigger than the period at the end of this sentence. Of these, maybe one or two will ever grow to adulthood. The fruit are collected by the O'odham Indians of the desert and eaten raw or boiled to make syrup. The saguaro is listed as endangered but botanists are not sure about this. It is known that the nature of the Sonoran Desert's vegetation has changed during the 20th century so there are fewer saguaro but reproduction and growth are healthy among these sentinels of the desert.

The March 1997 UNPA issue of New York #702 and 703 shows the black footed ferret and the cougar/mountain lion. Black-footed ferrets live in several western states. Prairie dogs are their primary food source. As ranchers and developers have exterminated the prairie dogs (they can be a nuisance) the ferrets have died out from lack of food. Cap-



tive breeding and reintroduction programs are now underway, including a population in northern AZ west of Flagstaff and Williams. The area has a healthy population of prairie dogs and the reintroduction program is going well.

The cougar or mountain lion is resident to many states and AZ has desert and mountain populations. The big cats are the top predators in their home ranges feeding mostly on



deer and desert bighorn sheep. The cats are elusive and rarely seen in the wild so it is difficult to determine how many there are in a given area. However it is known that habitat loss and illegal hunting negatively impacts the population resulting in the endangered designation.

In March 1998 Vienna #236 was issued showing the burrowing owl. The six inch tall, long legged predators live in prairie dog burrows, are insect eaters which makes them invaluable in farming areas. Unfortunately today's mega-agriculture obliterates the burrows the owls need for living and nesting. Add to this the growth of housing developments in the desert and the owls have become endangered. Several conservation groups are operating successful relocation programs for the

birds so there is hope for the growth of the population in AZ.

The June 1998 Rainforest issue (New York #735 and the accompanying souvenir sheet #736) shows the jaguar. Arizona does not



have any rainforests but historically it was home to jaguars. These big cats range from the tip of South America north through Central America and Mexico. The Mexican population was known to come into what would later become southern AZ. No jaguars had been sighted in the state since the 19th century and they were forgotten as a native species. But the 21st century has brought a major surprise for Arizonans: Jaguars are back! Two cats have been seen in the state and signs of their visits have been found so AZ may again become the northern limit of their range.

In 2001 the UNPA changed the issue date to the Endangered Species stamps from March/April to February. New York #791 shows the Gila monster which is found throughout two-thirds of the state. The painting shows an intensely colored banded Gila



monster (there is also a reticulated variety) which is not accurate as the lizard is dull black and salmon or peach pink. Gila monsters aren't monsters, even though they pro-

duce venom (only one recorded death from a bite and that man was quite intoxicated), and we actually don't know how many there are as they spend most of the year in hibernation. The lizard emerges in the spring to eat, drink and mate then returns to its burrow until the next year. The tail is a fat reservoir which supplies energy during its eight- to nine-month sleep. The Gila monster is endangered due to loss of habitat to agriculture and housing developments throughout its range.

In April 2002 the UNPA returned to the previous release schedule for the Endangered Species stamps and showed the Bighorn Sheep on New York #819. There are two



varieties of this animal: the mountain bighorn and the desert bighorn which is found in AZ and southern California. These large herbivores live in isolated bands dominated by a mature ram, his harem of ewes and growing lambs. They travel great distances through the mountains in the Sonoran Desert seeking food and water. The Grand Canyon population is mobile as well and will travel the 5000 to 6000 feet between the Colorado River and the canyon rims seeking food and shady rest areas. The sheep are endangered due to dwindling food supplies, fewer water sources in the desert and isolation of populations which adversely affects genetic variation among them.

Also in April 2002 Vienna #311 was issued showing the Sonoran Green Toad. This amphibian lives in the Sonoran Desert of south central AZ and south of the border in Mexico. Like all desert toads the animals spend most of their lives buried in a mucous



sack that preserves their water supply as they hibernate. When the monsoon rains of July are heavy enough, the water seeps through the soil and melts the mucous sack, waking the toads who then dig their way to the surface. For a few weeks they eat, drink and mate then dig into the desert soil, secrete a new mucous sack and return to hibernation until the next monsoons arrive the following year.

In January 2004 the UNPA issued New York #858 showing the American Black Bear. These omnivorous animals are found



throughout the United States. In AZ they live in the desert mountains, the central highlands and on northern Arizona's Colorado Plateau. Whereas some parts of the country have too many bears Arizona's populations are small and isolated with habitat loss the major threat to their continued survival.

No other AZ subjects have been depicted on UN stamps since 2004. The 180 endangered species stamps issued since 1993 include 7% that are found in AZ. It is sad that these stamps highlight plants and animals that are endanger of becoming extinct at the hand of man instead of organisms that have bounced back from the brink of extinction. Hopefully the UNPA will someday be able to issue stamps that picture the latter group.

THE FIRST THIRTY-CENT DEFINITIVE: UNNY #92

By Duane E. Lamers

In 1961 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) released its first thirty-cent definitive (UNNY #92), perhaps to respond to the need for such a stamp to cover the Special Delivery rate in effect at the time. The postal administration contracted with the Swiss firm Courvoisier, a leading printer in the photogravure process, noted for the high quality of its work. As we would soon see, it was also very good at making reprints virtually indistinguishable from the original orders it produced, giving the specialist a most difficult time in attempting to identify and collect them.

The stamp was printed five times for use during its lifetime of over fourteen years, first appearing June 5, 1961 and disappearing from the sales counters at the end of the day January 9, 1976, at which time it was replaced by a new design.

In order to identify each of the printings, one can use successfully a small desk lamp with an incandescent bulb. A fluorescent fixture will work as well. A higher-power magnifying lens and a source of ultraviolet (uv) light or blacklight will be very useful. Full descriptions given below include findings revealed by the use of the magnifying lens and blacklight. The ultimate challenge is to identify single stamps, not likely unless one has an accumulation of singles that include more than one printing. It is best to attempt an examination of blocks of stamps.

92.1: Note: there are two papers used in this printing:

Paper A produces a soft sheen over the entire paper and ink, including the inscriptions that are found in the border and against the

gray background and also in the small black flags. The inscriptions and emblem are virtually impossible to see against the background. The other flags have a matte finish.

This paper tends to be more gray-white in appearance when compared to the other paper used in this printing.

The gum is a light cream shade with a soft almost matte finish. Some specimens exhibit horizontal lines that appear to be the result of uneven application of the gum. There is a fine crazing or cracking found in the gum as well.

Paper B has a lower sheen. It tends to be a shade whiter in color, but storage conditions of specimens over four decades may result in darkening of the paper.

The paper itself has an almost matte finish compared to the other paper, which may explain why the gray background is almost matte compared to the gray background on Paper A.

The gum is darker in shade and has a finish that is more glossy than the gum of Paper A. No specimens of this paper so far have been found with horizontal gum skips.

It is possible that shade differences in the gum result from the thickness of the coating rather than from any qualitative difference.

To see the paper characteristics noted above, it is necessary to vary the distance of the stamp or block from the light source and also to vary the angle of the subject to the light. One should keep doing this until the characteristics are seen. Even if one is viewing a specimen of an unknown printing, differences between matte and shiny surfaces

will become apparent and the viewer will become adept at bringing these features to prominence.

As noted above the two papers are quickly distinguished by the satin sheen found on the background gray or the lack of it, the difference in shade and sheen of the gum, and perhaps the color of the paper as seen on the front. It is best to work with specimens having attached selvage in order to note these differences.

Features common to stamps printed on both paper varieties:

The green flags are closer to olive in color.

All flags except the yellow appear to have a matte finish with some glossy highlights.

The black inscriptions and black flags do not stand out against the gray background.

UV light reveals paper without fluorescent specks but the gray background becomes tan or even rose in color. Some specimens have been found with a bright fluorescent rose color and fluorescence around the marginal inscription (MI) and all black ink.

92.2: The paper has a very slight sheen, almost matte.

The gray background has this very slight sheen. Paper A of 92.1 has considerably more sheen while Paper B is more truly matte. Thus, the gray background of this printing is between the glossy gray of Paper A and the matte finish of Paper B.

The black inscriptions in the border and on the gray background have a very slight gloss or prominence against the background. Careful manipulation of specimens under a desk lamp may be necessary in order to recognize the slight difference between the sheen of the gray and the black. Developing the ability to recognize these differences will preclude the need to use higher-power magnification to view the color dots in the orange flag.

The green flag retains the olive shade of the first printing.

Under magnification the orange flag appears to be composed of discrete squares with rounded corners, arranged in a bias pattern. This pattern is very much disturbed or scrambled on the first printing although one can see an occasional example of it there.

The gum has the same satiny sheen and color as the original and retains the fine crazing.

The paper again is without colored or fluorescent security specks.

The gray background retains its color this time under UV light.

Some panes or LL inscription blocks have been found with an ink smear in the outer ring of the UN emblem, between the one- and two-o'clock position appearing as an extra continent south of Australia. It is thought that this smudge is found only on the right pane of the two panes that constitute the original sheet.

One should take into account all the above descriptors in judging specimens as belonging to this printing.

92.3: The paper and all ink exhibit a matte finish.

The green ink is brighter, having more yellow in its composition, and the orange ink seems a bit more vibrant.

The orange flags do not exhibit the bias pattern as seen in the second printing under magnification.

The gum matches that of the earlier printings in color and sheen.

There are gold specks in the paper, seen in UV light, and the gray background retains its color, as in the second printing.

92.4: The paper exhibits the same soft sheen found on Paper A of the first printing, with the same sheen found on all the inscriptions and on the black flags.

The other flags are matte with occasional shiny spots.

The olive green has returned, but the orange has become peach in shade and exhibits the bias pattern.

The gum is shinier than found on any other printing. In an accumulation of gummed specimens, those from this printing are readily identifiable.

The paper contains gold security specks.

92.5: The paper is again matte and whiter than the earlier printings.

All inks have a matte finish. The green is closer in shade to that of the third printing while the orange becomes peach, with the bias pattern appearing here again.

The gray background is the lightest shade seen.

The gum is midway in gloss between the fourth and the earlier printings.

The paper contains the gold security flecks, and the red flag becomes crimson in UV light, peculiar to this printing. The paper also appears translucent in this light as well.



Figure 1: Lower-right inscription block of UNNY #92.5 (fifth printing) with seven perforations in the lower selvedge.

The wide upper and lower selvedge of the fifth printing contain six extra perforations (Figure 1). This feature is unique to this printing. All earlier printings had a single perforation in the upper and lower selvedge (Figure 2).

To identify printings in an accumulation of single stamps or blocks, divide specimens according to the shade of the green flag.

An olive shade of green indicates stamps from the first, second, and fourth printings. The fourth is distinguishable by the peach color in the orange flags. The second is identifiable by the bias pattern of dots in the orange flag or by the slightly higher gloss seen in the black inscriptions and UN emblem against the gray background. The first will have no detectable difference in the sheen of the black inscriptions against the gray background, in addition to the olive flag.

A more vibrant shade of green indicates stamps from the third and fifth printings. The third printing will also have a flag in a more vibrant shade of orange, while the fifth printing will have a flag in a pale orange or peach shade.



Figure 2: Lower-right inscription block of an early printing (first through fourth) with one perforation in the lower selvedge.

TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN HEBRON II

By Richard Powers

The first mission of the Temporary International Presence in the City of Hebron (TIPH-I), a civilian observer group, was established in 1994, after Baruch Goldstein shot and killed 29 praying Palestinians in the Ibrahimi Mosque/Cave of Machpela. The United Nations Security condemned the massacre in Resolution 904 and called for a temporary international presence in Hebron. Yasser Arafat announced that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) would withdraw from any further peace negotiations with Israel unless they agreed to international observers in the city of Hebron.

On March 31, 1994 representatives of the PLO and Israel signed an agreement asking Italy, Denmark and Norway to provide support staff and observers for a Temporary Presence. Its main mandate was to assist in promoting stability and restoring normal life in the city of Hebron.

The TIPH mission was set up on May 8, 1994 and lasted three months. A article of TIPH-I appeared in the October 1995 issue of the *Journal* (page 8).

On September 28, 1995, the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II and Taba) was signed and called for a partial redeployment of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) from Hebron. Moreover, it called for another TIPH to be established during the redeployment of the IDF from the city.

On May 12, 1996 the second TIPH was set up, consisting of only Norwegian members and under the condition that it would be replaced by a new TIPH-II mission upon the IDF's redeployment from parts of Hebron. Subsequently the mission operated until the partial Israeli redeployment from Hebron, which was set up in the Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron on January 17, 1997.

On January 30, 1997, six participating countries - Norway, Italy, Denmark, Sweden,

Switzerland and Turkey - signed a Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with the Agreement on TIPH-II in Oslo. On February 1, 2007 TIPH-II celebrated its tenth year of operation.

Figure 1 shows the front of a service cover sent from the office of the Commander of the Italian Contingent of TIPH-II, postmarked in Hebron on March 18, 1998. The cancel ties a 350 fils stamp of the Palestinian Authority (Scott #66). The cover bears the cachet of the Italian Contingent on both sides of the cover. The reverse side (Figure 2) bears the return address of the Italian Commander and the receiving cancel in Arcore, Italy.



Figure 1: 1998 service cover sent by the Italian Contingent of TIPH-II mission in Hebron.



Figure 2: Reverse of TIPH-II cover.

Reference

www.tiph.org/en/about_TIPH

UNMISSET PEACEKEEPING AIR LETTER

By Richard Powers

Apparently an official United Nations air letter has been issued for use for peacekeeping operations in Timor Leste (East Timor). Figure 1 shows the front side of an air letter bearing a cachet (UNMISSET - Darwin) of the Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia liaison office of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET). A similar cachet for UNMISSET - Dili appears in an article which appeared in the February 2005 issue of the *Journal* (page 15). A commemorative postmark, which pictures Darwin, dated October 29, 2003 ties two Australian stamps: 40c (Scott #) and A\$1.45 (#). The city of Darwin lies on the Timor Sea just opposite Dili, the capital of East Timor.

The air letter has the basic size of UN peacekeeping air letters in use since 1974 (Gaines Type #4). One major difference is the location of the return address, which appears on the rear of the new air letter (Figure 2) instead of the upper left-hand corner of

the Type 4 air letter. (The lack of a filled-in return address suggests the philatelic nature of this air letter.) Another difference is the presence of a large white UN logo underlying the destination address on the right side of the front of the air letter.

Similar air letters have been reported by UNP-member Jean-Louis Emmenegger used in Dili, East Timor. One is similar to the air letter used by the 1st Japan Engineer Group of UNMISSET, which appeared in October 2005 issue of the *Journal* (page 12), except for the absence of the UN logo on the right side.

According to the recipient of the cover in Figure 1, who is a UNITAR staff member in Geneva, these air letters were originally printed for use by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). It continued to be used by UNMISSET until May 2005, when it was replaced by the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL). An article con-



Figure 1: 2005 UNTAET air-letter front bearing a cachet of the Darwin Office of UNMISSET postmarked in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia..

cerning this operation in East Timor appeared in the June 2007 issue of the *Journal* (page 16).

The dates of use of this air letter sheet are currently unknown. UNTAET began its

work in October 1999. I can document its use only in 2003. Readers are encouraged to report to the Editor any other dates and places of use and air letter formats.

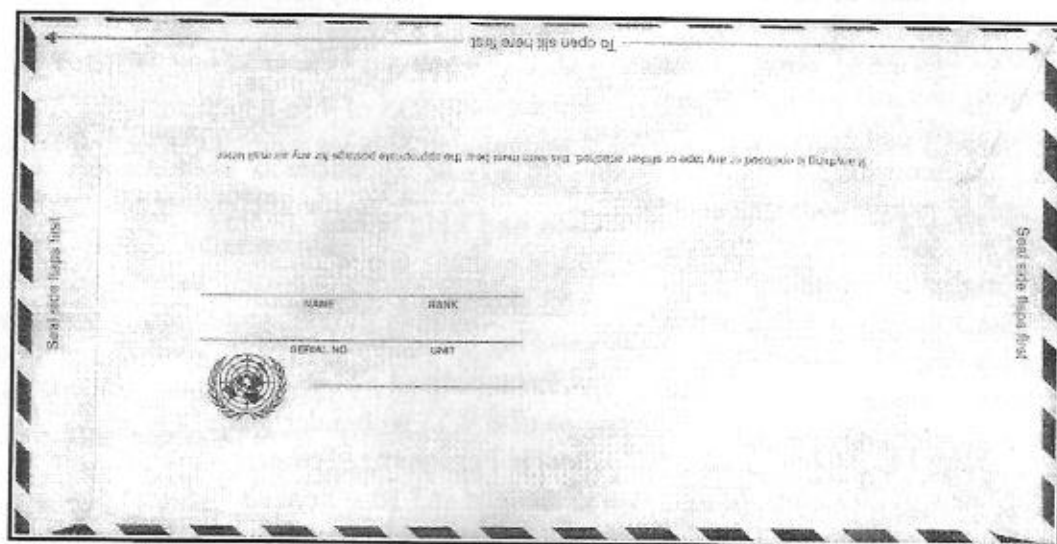


Figure 2: Rear side of air letter in Figure 1.

UNP SPECIAL AUCTION #8 PRICES REALIZED

Amount Realized \$2627.3001
Lots Sold 63/77 (81%)
UNP Share \$278.38

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
1	\$80	2	\$80	3	\$275	4	\$350
5	\$13.50	6	\$20	7	\$18	8	\$13.50
9	\$22.50	10	\$40	11	\$36	12	\$13.50
13	\$20	14	\$150	15	\$22.50	16	\$180
17	\$16	18	\$19	19	\$120	20	\$100
21	\$100	22	\$100	23	\$150	24	\$150
25	\$22.50	26	\$9	27	\$7.20	29	\$15
30	\$36	31	\$60	32	\$40	33	\$40
34	\$20	35	\$20	36	\$10	37	\$7
38	\$5.40	39	\$29	40	\$5	41	\$15
45	\$10	46	\$9	48	\$12	49	\$12
50	\$0.90	51	\$0.90	52	\$0.90	53	\$0.90
54	\$0.90	55	\$0.90	59	\$9	60	\$10
61	\$5	64	\$6.30	66	\$7	68	\$25
70	\$10	71	\$9	72	\$15	74	\$8
75	\$12	76	\$12	77	\$20		

UNP SPECIAL AUCTION #9 PRICES REALIZED

Amount Realized \$1384.00
Lots Sold 41/64 (64%)
UNP Share \$216.88

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
2	\$8	9	\$15	10	\$10	11	\$15
12	\$12	13	\$12	14	\$16	15	\$31.50
16	\$25	17	\$22.50	18	\$150	19	\$150
20	\$22.50	21	\$125	22	\$27	23	\$26
24	\$47	26	\$100	27	\$24	28	\$47
29	\$47	30	\$50	39	\$27	40	\$8
41	\$8	42	\$20	44	\$12	45	\$18
46	\$160	47	\$20	50	\$12	51	\$10.80
53	\$7.20	54	\$80	55	\$12	57	\$12
58	\$12	59	\$16.20	60	\$35	62	\$21
64	\$9						



2007 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of November 1, 2007 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)

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

February 2 Flag Series (Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Montenegro, Switzerland)

39¢ (1 sheet of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 stamps)

March 5 Japanese UN Mission Personalized Sheet

(1 sheet of 10 stamps of 84¢ -available to subscription account holders)

March 15 Endangered Species

39¢, 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 2007 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder

FDC with Silk Cachet

May 3 Coin and Flag Series

39¢, F.s. 0,85, € 0,55

(3 mini-sheets of 8 stamps)

Coin and Flag Collection Folder

Essen Personalized Sheet

(Sheet of 10 stamps of € 0,55 with 5 designs)

May 14 2007 Generic Personalized Sheets

(Sheets of 20 stamps of 41¢ with 5 designs and 10 stamps of 90¢ with 1 design)

Revalued New York Postal Stationery

41¢ standard and legal-sized pre-stamped envelopes (revalued 37¢ envelopes issued in 2003)

90¢ air letter (revalued 70¢ air letter issued in 2001)

June 1 Peaceful Visions

39¢, 84¢, F.s. 1,20, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55, € 1,25, Souvenir Card, Personalized Sheet

(6 sheets of 20 stamps, 1 sheet of 10 stamps of 84¢ with 1 designs)

August 9 World Heritage - South America

41¢, 90¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55, € 0,75

(6 sheets of 20 stamps)

{3 Prestige Booklets with 12x(26¢, 41¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,25, € 0,30)}

New York Postal Stationery

41¢ standard and legal-sized pre-stamped envelopes, 90¢ air letter

New York Definitive - Peacekeeping

90¢ (1 sheet of 20 stamps)

September 3 Revalued Vienna Postal Stationery

€ 0,65 postal card and pre-stamped envelope (revalued € 0,55 stationery issued in 2004)

€ 1,40 prestamped envelope (revalue € 1,25 prestamped envelope issued in 2004)

September 6 UPU - Universal Postal Union (joint UN-UPU issue)

90¢, F.s. 1,80, € 0,75, joint silk cover with UPU

(3 sheets of 10 stamps)

September 24 Personalized Sheet for High Level Event on Climate Change

(Sheet of 10 stamps of 90¢ with one design)

October 4 Personalized Sheet for World Space Week

(Sheet of 10 stamps of € 0,65 with 5 designs)

October 25 Space for Humanity - 50th Anniversary of the Space Age

41¢, 90¢, \$1.00, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, F.s. 3,00, € 0,65, € 1,15, € 2,10

(6 mini-sheets of 6 stamps and 3 souvenir sheets)

2007 Annual Collection Folders (New York, Geneva, Vienna)

THE JOURNAL OF UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS Vol. 31 #6 DECEMBER 2007

EARLY "UNITED NATIONS" POSTAL HISTORY (1943)

By Richard Powers

Although the United Nations, as we know it today, did not exist before the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) in San Francisco in 1945, I enjoy finding items of postal history associated with forerunners of the UN. One can trace the term United Nations to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to describe the anti-Axis coalition, commonly known as the Allied Powers, which released the so-called "Declaration By United Nations" on January 1, 1942 after the United States was drawn into World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The earliest use of the term "United Nations" that I can philatelically document appears on the cover from the United Nations Information Office (UNIO), which appears in Figure 1. This office was organized by the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Greece

India, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, the United States and Yugoslavia as well as representatives of the governments in exile of France and Denmark, which provided information on war progress. Before November 4, 1942 this office was known as the Inter-Allied Information Center. The UNIO was absorbed by the United Nations on February 28, 1946 and became known as the UN Department of Public Information.

According to the Gaines Catalogue, use of a Pitney-Bowes meter slogan at the UNIO has been reported to be as early as February 27, 1943. However, the earliest usage I can document is on the cover in Figure 1 dated May 10, 1943 from machine #109534. It bears the first meter slogan used by the UNIO:

In War and Peace
UNITED NATIONS.

Recently I came across an interesting cover

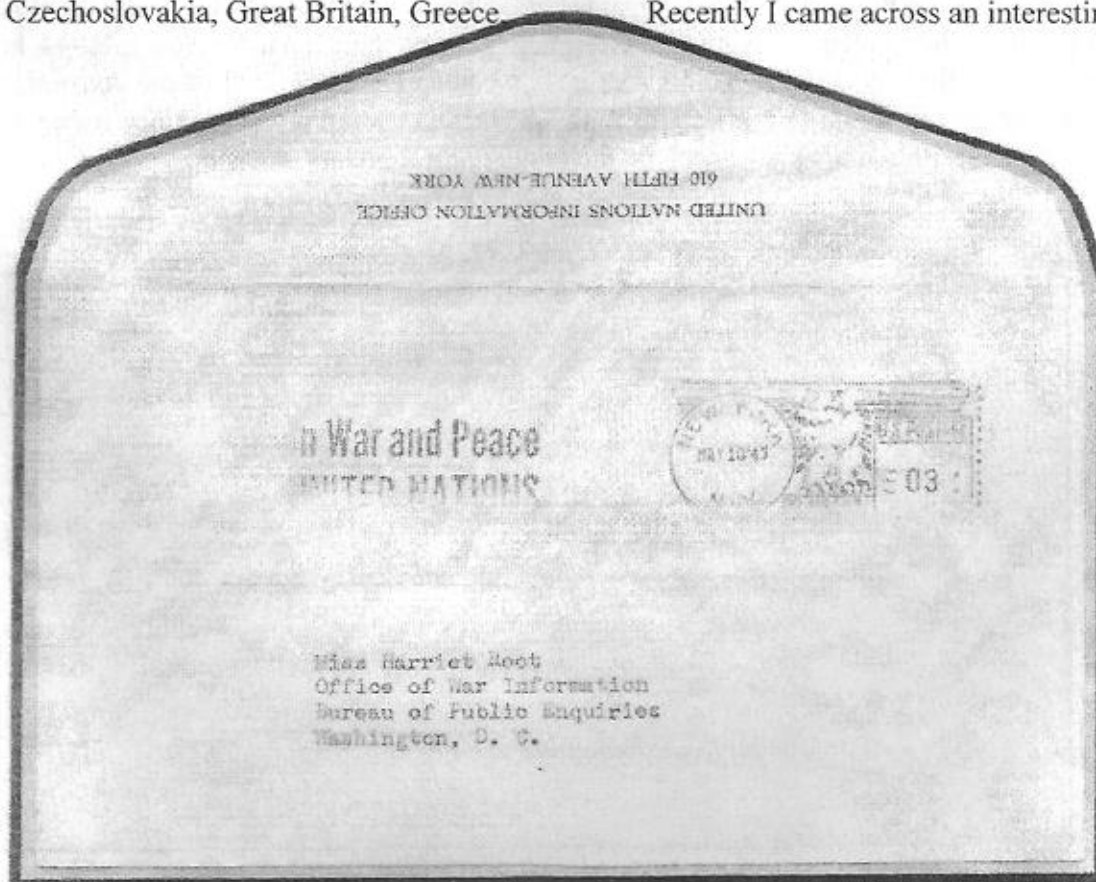


Figure 1: UNIO service cover with PB# 109534 dated May 10, 1943.

which testifies to the more martial activities of the UN. The cover bears the corner card of the

OFFICERS' SERVICE CLUB
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
HOTEL BURLINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The cover (Figure 2), postmarked on September 28, 1943 in Washington, contains a personal letter (Figure 3) on Service Club stationery sent by a military officer to his wife in Pasadena, California. The letter contains details, which seem typical for an officer, who is spending a few days on leave before heading to active service abroad. At the bottom of the stationery is the notation:

Under Auspices of RECREATION SERVICES, Inc.

Operating Agency for War Hospitality
Committee, Civilian Mobilization Division.

Another interesting aspect of the cover is the fact that it bears the 5¢ French commemorative from the Overrun Nations series (Scott #915) on the day of issue of this stamp and is in fact an unofficial (UNofficial?) first day cover, since the machine cancel is the

normal cancel of the Washington 23 post office. An additional 1¢ defense stamp (#899) was added to pay for airmail service.

In an article, which appeared in the June 1996 issue of the *Journal* (page 7), I reported a 1944 picture post card from the United Nations Service Center at the Capitol Park Hotel sent by an army private to a friend in Elkins, West Virginia. This card bore the enlistment number of the soldier and was sent Free. Presumably the letter in Figure 2 was eligible to be mailed postage free but the sender preferred to use the Overrun Nations stamp on its day of issue.

In principle 1943 covers should exist bearing corner cards of the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which had its first meeting in November 1943 in Atlantic City, New Jersey and the UN Conference on Food and Agriculture (FAO forerunner conference), which had its first preliminary meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia beginning in May 1943. I have reported a cover with the FAO corner card used in Washington in 1944 in the June 2005 issue (page 7) of the *Journal*, but not in 1943. Keep your eyes open for such early UN postal history.

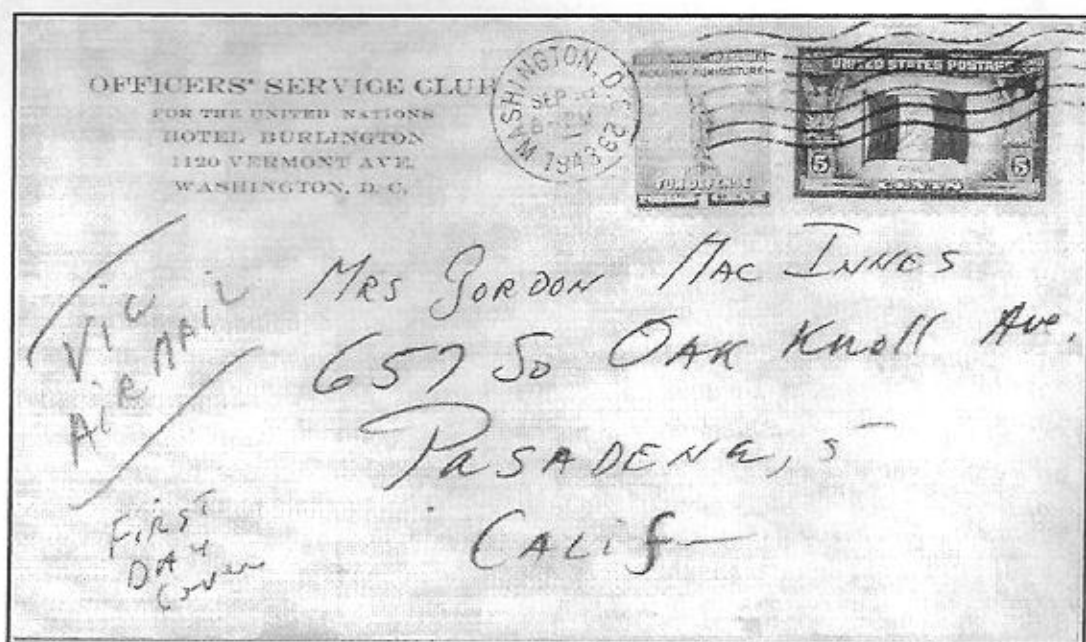


Figure 2: 1943 cover from the Officers' Service Club for the United Nations.

OFFICERS' SERVICE CLUB
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
HOTEL BURLINGTON
1120 VERMONT AVE.

Sept 28, 1943

Barney,

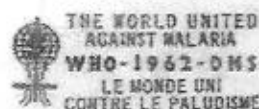
I am spending two days
in Burlington. Yesterday I
was with Bill Elliott for
the whole day and far into
the night (I will tell you the
whole story in a later
letter). Today I am seeing a
show "For Whom the Bell Tolls"
+ perhaps a play tonight but
I have to catch a train so don't
know if I will make it. Saw
Arthur Johnson & Ralph Stoll -
Save this envelope as it is
a first day cover -
With Good & Love

Gordon

Under Auspices of RECREATION SERVICES, Inc.
Operating Agency for War Hospitality Committee, Civilian
Mobilization Division.

Figure 3: Accompanying letter with Officers' Service Club Letterhead.

Looking for commercial covers with these meters



6671

THE WORLD UNITED AGAINST MALARIA
WHO-1962-OMS
LE MONDE UNI CONTRE LE PALUDISME



= 7 IV 62 = BRAZZAVILLE =



I am looking for commercial covers with the above meters. I am paying \$10.00 to \$50.00 or more depending on condition, destination, date and rate. I am also looking for other "The World United Against Malaria" campaign specialty items like proofs, essays, and errors from the 1962 campaign which 100+ countries participated in.

Please send items or photos with prices (or I can price) to malariastamps@yahoo.com or to Larry Fillion, 18 Arlington Street, Acton, MA, 01720, USA

INDEX

VOLUME 31 (2007)

Afghanistan

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA) 31-1, 12

Aichi, Japan

Types of Personalized Sheets 31-4, 14

Allied Control Commission

Germany 31-1, 13

Annual Meeting of the UN

San Diego 2007 31-3, 1

Arizona Subjects on UN Stamps

Assyrian Settlement in Syria

Aleppo 31-3, 20

Council of Trustees in Beirut 31-3, 18

Athens, Greece

UNESCO Symposium on Mafic Complexes 31-4, 20

Auction Results

UNPI Special Auction #6 31-1, 24

UNPI Special Auction #7 31-4, 24

UNPI Special Auction #8 31-4, 15

UNPI Special Auction #9 31-6, 15

UNPI 2006A 31-1, 19

Auctions

UNPI Auction 2007A 31-3, 23

UNPI Special Auction #7 31-1, 22

UNPI Special Auction #8 31-2, 22

UNPI Special Auction #9 31-4, 22

UNPI Special Auction #10 31-5, 22

Berlin

Chief-Custodian for United Nations' and Neutral Nations' Properties 31-5, 12

Berlin International Stamp Show

Personalized Sheet 31-1, back cover

Board Meeting

San Diego 2007 31-3, 1

Burundi

UN Operations in (ONUB) 31-4, 5

Census of UNP Members

Chief-Custodian for United Nations' and Neutral Nations' Properties in Berlin

31-5, 12

China

Double Registered cover (UNRRA) 31-4, 6

CITES

Endangered Species 2007 31-2, 2

Climate Change Event

Personalized sheet 31-6, 5

Club News

Annual Meeting - San Diego (2007) 31-3, 1

Donations 31-3, 8

Show Awards - San Diego (2007) 31-3, 2

Thirtieth Anniversary Monograph 31-2, 1

Website Launch 31-3, 6

Conference Cancels

Desertification Conferences 31-5, 4

ICAO Discoveries 31-2, 13, 31-3, 9

Peace Conferences in the Hague 31-5, 6

UNESCO Symposium on Mafic Complexes 31-4, 20

Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species (CITES) 31-2, 2

Corner Cards of Unknown Organizations

31-5, 19

Desertification

UN Conferences on 31-5, 4

Diplomatic Pouch Mail

Cover Markings 31-1, 6

Don Cossacks

Russian Refugee Relief 31-1, 7

Double Registered cover from China

31-4, 6

Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western

Sirmium

UN Transitional Administration

(UNTAES) 31-3, 15

East Timor

UN Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) 31-4, 4

UN Mission of Support in (UNMISSET) 31-4, 4, 31-6, 14

UN Transitional Administration in (UNTAET) 31-6, 14

E-bay and the Patriot Act

31-4, 1

Ebreichsdorf Stamp Swap Day

Cancel 31-1, 19

Economist (London)	
UN-related covers	31-1, 16
Endangered Species Series (2007)	31-2, 2
Epidemic Commission in Europe of the League of Nations	31-5, 10
Food and Agriculture Organization	
Villa Borghese Corner Card	31-1, 20
French Service Stamps (UNESCO) 2007	
Luang Prabang, Laos	31-4, 10
Serbian tiger	31-4, 10
Hague	
First Peace Conference - 1899	31-5, 6
Second Peace Conference - 1907	31-5, 6
Hebron	
Temporary International Presence in (TIPH)	31-6, 13
International Atomic Energy Agency	
Symposium - Athens (1974)	31-1, 20
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	
Conference Discoveries	31-2, 13, 31-3, 9
International Court of Justice (ICJ)	
Sixtieth Anniversary	31-4, 17
International Criminal Court (ICC)	
War Crimes in Congo and Darfur	31-4, 17
International Criminal Tribunal For the Former Yugoslavia	31-4, 17
International Labor Organization (ILO)	
Early Days in Washington	31-2, 14
International Maritime Organization	
Non-Philatelic C-folder	31-3, 10
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
Annual Meeting - Singapore (2006)	31-1, 12
Iran	
UN Missions in	31-5, 13
Iran-USA Claims Tribunal	31-4, 17
Korneuburg special cancel	31-1, 19
Kosovo	
Election Complaints and Appeals Sub-Commission	31-3, 21
UNMIK-OSCE Mission	31-3, 21
Laos	
Luang Prabang UNESCO site	31-4, 10
League of Nations	
Council of Trustees in Beirut	31-3, 18
Epidemic Commission in Europe	31-5, 10
High Commission for Russian Refugees	31-1, 6
League to Enforce Peace	31-1, 14
Letters to the Editor	31-3, 8, 31-5, 19
Membership Census	31-3, 7
Meter Cancell	
UNWTO	31-3, 12
Meter Slogans	
New Digital UNNY	31-1, 5
UN-related in the USA	31-2, 16
Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina	
Western European Union in	31-5, 18
Nairobi	
UPU Congress (2008)	31-1, 4
New Dehli	
ICAO Conference cancel (1948)	31-3, 9
Numphil 2005 cancel	31-1, 19
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)	
UN Mission in Kosovo	31-3, 21
Outer Space Affairs	31-6, 3
Patriot Act and E-bay	31-4, 1
Peace Conferences in the Hague	31-5, 6
Peaceful Visions	31-4, 2
Peacekeeping	
Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH)	31-6, 13
UN Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) in Croatia	31-1, 10
UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)	31-5, 13
UN Missions in Iran	31-5, 13
UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) OSCE Mission	31-3, 21
UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP)	31-1, 10
UN Mission of Support (UNMISSET)	31-4, 4, 31-6, 14
UN Office of Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)	31-4, 4
UN Office of the Secretary-General in Iran (UNOSGI)	31-5, 14

UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB)	31-4, 5	New French service stamps	31-4, 10
UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	31-1, 10	Symposium on Mafic Complexes-Athens	31-4, 20
UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)	31-6, 14	World Heritage Sites - South America	31-5, 2
UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES)	31-3, 15	United Nations	
Permit Slogans		Early Postal History (1943)	31-6, 17
UN-related in the USA	31-2, 16	Food and Agriculture Organization	
Permanent Court of Arbitration	31-4, 17	Villa Borghese Corner Card	31-1, 20
Personalized Stamps		Information Office (UNIO)	31-6, 17
Aichi Sheets	31-4, 14	Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)	31-4, 4
Berlin Stamp Show	31-1, back cover	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan	31-1, 12
Earthquake Sheet	31-4, 14	Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)	31-6, 3
Future in Our Hands	31-6, 5	Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)	31-4, 4
Generic 2007 Sheets	31-4, 3	Officers' Service Club	31-6, 18
Japan Sheets	31-4, 14	Peacekeeping	
Peaceful Visions 84¢	31-4, 2	Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH)	31-6, 13
Surprise 84¢	31-1 cover, 31-1, 1	UN Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) in Croatia	31-1, 10
Three Versions of 2005 Sheets	31-1, 10	UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)	31-5, 13
World Space Week 2007	31-6, 5	UN Missions in Iran	31-5, 13
Pouch Mail		UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	
UN Diplomatic Cover Markings	31-2, 6	OSCE Mission	31-3, 21
Return Receipt Card		UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP)	31-1, 10
UNRRA office in China	31-4, 6	UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)	31-4, 4, 31-6, 14
Rhodes		UN Office of the Secretary-General in Iran (UNOSGI)	31-5, 14
ICAO Conference cancels - 1954	31-2, 13	UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB)	31-4, 5
Russian Refugee Relief	31-1, 6	UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)	31-1, 10
Scott Catalog Numbers		UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)	31-6, 14
Assigned to 2006 UNPA issues	31-5, 20	UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES)	31-3, 15
Seniormesse special cancel	31-1, 19	Postal Administration	
Show Awards	31-3, 2, 31-4, 20, 31-5, 19	C-folder - IMO	31-3, 10
Stockerau special cancel	31-1, 19	Coin and Flag Series	31-3, 4
Taft, President William Howard		Definitive (75¢ UNNY)	31-4,
League to Enforce Peace	31-1, 14		
Timor-Leste			
UN Mission of Support (UNMISET)	31-4, 4, 31-6, 14		
UN Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL)	31-4, 4		
Tunis			
World Summit on Information Society	31-3, 8		
UNESCO			

Definitive \$1 (Scott #293)		Annual Meeting	
Third Printing	31-1, 3	San Diego (2007)	31-3, 1
Definitive 90¢ (2007)		Auction	
	31-6, back cover	UNPI Auction 2007A	31-3, 23
Endangered Species Issue	31-2, 2	UNPI Special Auction #7	31-1, 22
First 30¢ Definitive		UNPI Special Auction #8	31-2, 22
Five printings	31-6, 10	UNPI Special Auction #9	31-4, 22
Flag Series (2007)	31-1, back cover	UNPI Special Auction #10	31-5, 22
New Mailing Policy	31-6, 1	Auction Results	
Peaceful Visions	31-4, 2	UNPI Special Auction #6	31-1, 24
Program (2005) comparison with		UNPI Special Auction #7	31-4, 24
other postal administrations	31-5, 1	UNPI Special Auction #8	31-6, 15
Space Age	31-6, 3	UNPI Special Auction #9	31-6, 15
Stationery - Vienna (2007)		UNPI Auction 2006A	31-1, 19
	31-6, back cover	Balance Sheet	
World Heritage - South America		Fiscal Year 2006-2007	31-5, 11
	31-5, 2	Board Meeting	
Personalized Stamps		San Diego (2007)	31-3, 3
Aichi Sheets	31-4, 14	Donations	31-3, 8
Berlin Stamp Show	31-1 back cover	Membership Census	31-3, 7
Earthquake Sheet	31-4, 14	Thirtieth Anniversary Monograph	31-2, 1
Future in Our Hands	31-6, 5	Show Awards - San Diego (2007)	31-3, 2
Generic 2007 Sheets	31-4, 3	Website	
Japan Sheets	31-4, 14	Menu	31-3, 6
Peaceful Visions 84¢	31-4, 2	Universal Postal Union (UPU)	
Surprise 84¢	31-1 cover, 31-1, 1	Joint Issue with the UN	31-5, 3
Three Versions of 2005 Sheet	31-1, 10	Postal Congress - Nairobi (2008)	31-1, 4
World Space Week 2007	31-6, 5	Western European Union	
Specimens	31-3, 8	Activities in Mostar, Bosnia	
Stamp Program (2005)	31-5, 1	World Bank	
Stamp Program (2006)	31-5, 20	Annual Meeting - Singapore (2006)	
Stamp Program (2007)			31-1, 12
	31-1, 2, 31-2, 5, 31-3, 5, 31-4, 13,	World Heritage Site (UNESCO)	
	31-5, 9, 31-6, 16	Luang Prabang, Laos	31-4, 10
Stationery UNNY-Revalued	31-5, 16	South America	31-5, 2
UN-Vienna special cancellations		World Space Week 2007	31-6, 3
	31-1, 18	World Summit on Information Society	
UPU-UN Joint Issue	31-5, 3	Geneva (2003)	31-3, 8
World Heritage Issue		Tunis (2005)	31-3, 8
(South America)	31-5, 2	World Tourism Conference	
World Space Week 2007	31-6, 3	Manila (1980)	31-3, 14
Relief and Rehabilitation Administration		World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	
(UNRRA) in China	31-4, 6	General Assembly	31-3, 13
Scientific Committee on Effects of		History	31-3, 12
Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	31-1, 17	Meter cancels	31-3, 12
United Nations Philatelists (UNP)		Origin cachets	31-3, 12

Chapters of the UNPI

Midwest UN Collectors meets intermittently 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, 3011 White Oak Lane, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2513.

The Western Arm meets intermittently at San Francisco Bay area shows. Contact: Alex Bereson, 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131-1518

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

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

Prices for Advertisements

1 page (6½"×9") - \$40

½ page - \$20

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 Journal goes to print on the first day of the month preceding the issue month. The deadline for the February issue is December 20th. Material submitted for publication should reach the editor at least ten days earlier.

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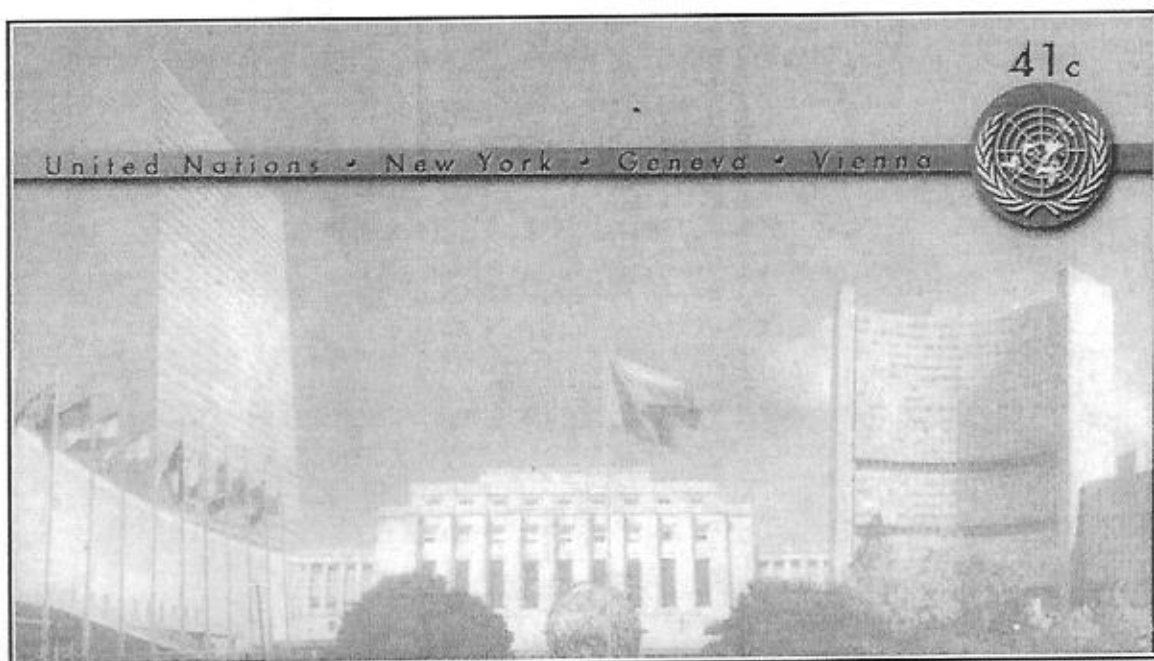
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