

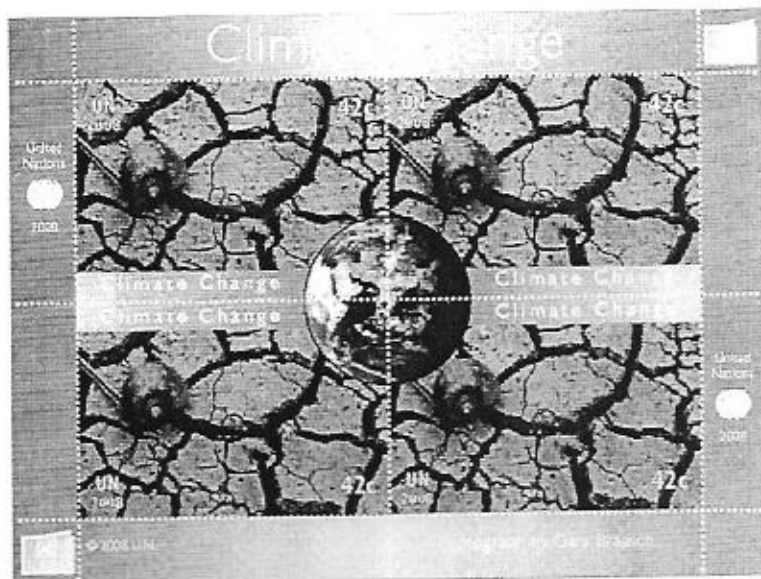
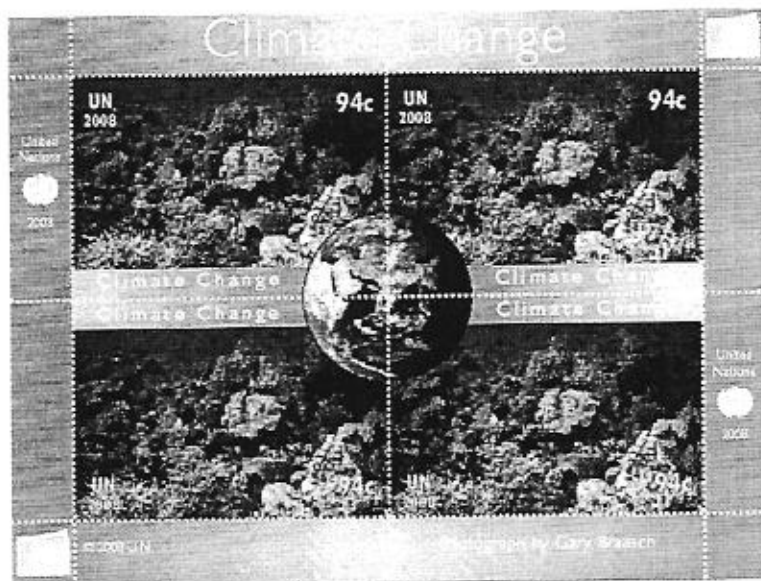
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Volume 32
Number 6
December 2008
Whole Number 187

journal

OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS, INC



CLIMATE CHANGE UN NEW YORK

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

www.unpi.com

Affiliate #71 of American Philatelic Society

A unit of the American Topical Association

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Inquiries concerning replacement copies of recent issues which failed to arrive in the mail or back issues from October 2008, should go to the Production Manager: Jim Matyasovich, 712 Meadowbrook Lane, Orange, CA 92865 or at jimmaty@socal.rr.com. Back issues cost US \$0.75 plus postage (US addresses: \$1.34; Canada: \$3.92; others: \$4.80 airmail). Orders for earlier back issues should go to the UNP Archivist: Anthony Dewey, 157 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105-3931. *The Journal* (ISSN 0164-6842) is published bi-monthly by United Nations Philatelists, Inc. (UNPI), P.O.Box 146, Morrisville, PA 19067. Members should receive issues via first class mail about the 15th of the month.

UNPI is an organization of philatelists devoted to the collection, study and exhibition of the issues of the UNPA, the postal history of the UN, the issues and postal history of its branches, specialized agencies and forerunners, as well as world-wide topical issues that honor the UN, its agencies and programs.

The annual domestic dues (effective January 2009) of the UNPI are US\$24.00, of which \$23.00 apply to the subscription to *The Journal*.

Unless otherwise stated, catalogue numbers are from the latest edition of the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* (Scott). (Lindner) refers to the *Lindner United Nations Catalogue* (1976); (Gaines), *United Nations Philately* by Arleigh Gaines; (Zumstein), *Spezialkatalog über die Briefmarken der Schweiz* (1992).

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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

1546 Thomas Radzuweit.....Bonn, Germany
1547 Ron Klimley.....Tampa, FL
1548 Chen Chiang Feng.....Shenzhen, China

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: UNNY minisheets featuring Climate Change. **Rear cover:** UN Geneva and Vienna minisheets featuring Climate Change.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Journal of United Nations Philatelists Receives Vermeil Award in Literature Competition at STAMPSHOW 2008 in Hartford



Figure 1: Medal awarded to the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists* by the A.P.S. Writers Unit at STAMPSHOW 2008.

In an effort to increase the visibility of UNP on the national stage of philately, it was decided to submit Volume 31 (2007) of the *Journal of United Nations Philatelists* to the literature competition of STAMPSHOW 2008, which was held August 14th-17th at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. This is the yearly national show sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, which features the World Series of Philately - the competition between the grand award winners from thirty-one regional shows held between August 2007 and June 2008. As winner of the grand award at Colopex 2008 (Columbus, Ohio), UNP-President Anthony Dewey qualified to

participate with his entry: *First UN Issue 1951*.

Prior to this show the *Journal* had competed in the literature competition at Chicagopex 1997. A report of the evaluation appeared in the February 1998 issue of the *Journal* (page 1). Four years later the *Journal* competed at STAMPSHOW 2001 in Chicago. A report appeared in the December 2001 issue (page 2). Most recently the *Journal* participated in the competition at SESCAL 2003 in Los Angeles as reported in the December 2003 issue (page 2). Here the detailed evaluation of the *Journal* by the jury was outlined. The rating was 74%. At all three shows the *Journal* received silver awards.

I am pleased to report that the *Journal* received a better rating - 79% - at STAMPSHOW 2008. Thirty-five periodicals participated in the literature competition. Ten received gold awards. These periodicals received ratings of 85% or higher. Twelve (including the *Journal*) received vermeil awards. These had ratings of 75-84%. Six points separated the *Journal* from a gold award. Twelve received silver awards as they had ratings between 65-74%. One received a silver bronze award (60-64%).

The medal awarded to the *Journal* by the A.P.S. Writers Unit appears in Figure 1.

I would like to share with you the ten quantitative assessments. The first four categories relate to the philatelic aspects of the publication and count for 45% of the evaluation. The next three categories assess the quality of the authorship with a weight of 40%. The final three categories evaluate the editorial and publishing aspects of the product. These latter criteria have a weight of 15%

Category	Rating/Maximum
Philatelic Aspects (45%):	
Originality	7/10
Significance	4/5
Research	7/10
Provision of Member Service	16/20
Authorship Aspect (40%):	
Organization	12/15
Clarity of Expression	12/15
Treatment	7/10
Editorial & Publishing Aspect (15%):	
Presentation, Layout	4/5
Paper and Binding	5/5
Freedom from Typos	5/5
Total	79/100

Compared to the evaluation from SES-CAL 2003, the judges noted improvement in organization, treatment, presentation and paper/binding with decline only in research.

The judges made two specific comments. They found the periodical involved an "ambitious program well served by three regular contributors". They would like to see improved illustrations with possibly the addition of color.

Taken individually, the philatelic aspects received a rating of 34/45 or 76%; the authorship aspect received 31/40 or 78%; the editorial or publishing aspect received 14/15 or 93%. According to the judges, in order to receive a gold award, the *Journal* will have to strive for improvements in originality, research, organization and clarity of expression. And more diversity in authorship and a bit of color would not hurt. In the language of the U.S. Open Tennis Championship, "the ball is in our court".

The editorial office awaits your contributions to our *Journal*.

ONE MEMBER'S VIEW OF THE 2008 UNP ANNUAL MEETING AT THE APS STAMPSHOW IN HARTFORD

By Richard Powers

Four days in August 2008 provided UNP members ample occasion to interconnect during the Annual Meeting at the APS STAMPSHOW in Hartford, Connecticut. For a nationwide organization such as UNP, such occasions for members to "network" are few and far between. The following is a summary of my personal impressions of the Annual Meeting which took place on Saturday afternoon August 16th as well as life at the UNP stand and after (show) hours get-togethers in restaurants as well as sights on the show floor.

At the UNP meeting members were present from California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Canada and Germany. The major activity during the session were the five oral presentations.

Clem Clement opened the show with his talk "The United Nations and New England", which featured philatelic and Cinderella items relating to UN activities in New England.

This was followed by Larry Fillion's presentation of "The United Nations Eradication of Malaria 4¢ Commemorative".

Then Mike Krejci showed the first reported cover from "The International Educational Cinematographic Institute of the League of Nations". This cover bears a stamp with perfins (perforated initials) of the Institute, which is the first reported UN-related agency to have prepared stamps for official correspondence with perfins.

Brian Reiser discussed "Highlights of My 60+ Years of Collecting UN and its Forerunners". Figure 1 shows some of the

attendees gathered around Brian's display of classic League of Nations counterfeited material.

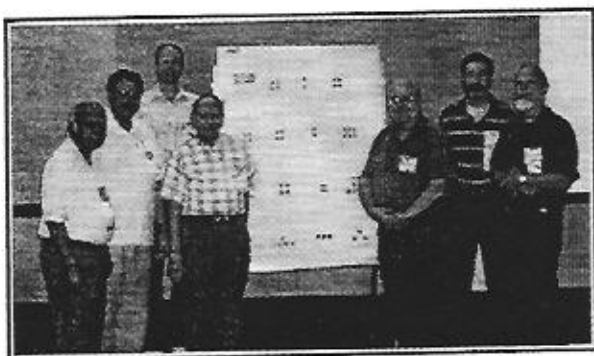


Figure 1: Some of the Participants at the Show-and-Tell Portion of the 2008 Annual UNP Meeting at STAMPSHOW in Hartford. Gathered around Brian Reiser's Poster Display are from left: Ben Ramkissoo, Mike Krejci, Larry Fillion, Brian Reiser, Gerhard Czarnojahn, Tony Dewey, and Dick Powers.

I closed the program with my talk on "The Establishment of the UN Secretariat in New York City". This dealt with the construction and inauguration in 1951 of UN headquarters in New York beginning with the negotiations on site selection in 1946.

The UNP stand at STAMPSHOW served as a focal point to welcome visiting members as well as to spread the word about the fascinating aspects of United Nations philately. Figure 2 shows four members proudly stationed in front of the stand. The presence of the stand allowed us to recruit at least two new members, including one from Germany, who is an active member of UNOP, the sister UN club headquartered in Germany. Hopefully our stand in Hartford may ultimately inspire others to join.

On Thursday and Friday evening members gathered after show closure at 6:00 pm at local restaurants to reminisce about the sights and events of the day and the bargains bought or almost bought.



Figure 2: In front of the UNP stand at STAMPSHOW 2008 are from left: Dick Powers, Gerhard Czarnojahn, Clem Clement and Mike Krejci.

No nationwide stamp show would be complete without the presence of the United Nations Postal Administration. The UNPA stand was operated by Malli Hui, the UNPA Stamp Show Coordinator. When I visited the stand on the opening day of the show Thursday August 14th, I asked her if she had brought any special UN items for the show. She offered me the special Beijing Olympic Expo show card (Figure 3) which had been issued on August 8, the opening day of the Olympics. There was no connection with STAMPSHOW in Hartford, but timely nevertheless.

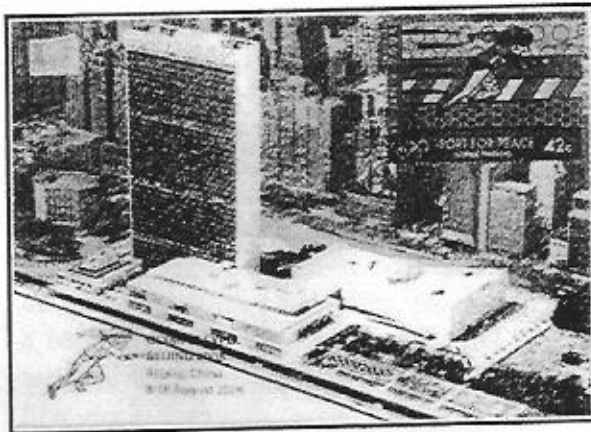


Figure 3: Olympic Expo show card

UNP BOARD MEETING AT STAMPSHOW - 2008

By B. Clement, Jr.

The UNP Board met at Stamp-Show-2008 at Hartford, Connecticut on Saturday, August 16. A quorum of the Board was present, with Tony Dewey, Clem Clement, Dick Powers, Larry Fillion and Michael Krejci attending.

Our membership has increased from 199 to 206 from last year, the first such increase in many years. The primary reason for the increase is believed to be our improved website.

The UNP Financial Report indicates that our finances are stable, but the Auction income of \$1000 per year is unlikely to continue. Postage has increased about \$2 per member per year since the last dues increase.

Our printer has quoted a very large increase in our printing cost, which would amount to about \$7.50 per member per year. Jim Matyasovich is getting a quote from a California printer, Mike Krejci is getting a quote from the printer of the Vatican stamp journal, and other possibilities may be pursued.

It was decided to increase the dues by \$2 per year, starting on January 1, 2009. This will cover the postage increase. Hopefully one of the alternative printing options will keep our printing costs under control.

In the discussion of printing the *Journal*, some other points were made:

1) There is a possibility that printing cost could be reduced by providing the copy in electronic format. In order to do so, Dick Powers would probably need a new computer, an ink-jet printer/scanner and better software. Larry Fillion will develop a proposal if we want to do this.

2) If costs would allow, printing some *Journal* pages in color should be consid-

ered.

3) If the *Journal* were available in electronic format, we could provide an electronic copy of the *Journal* to members on the website (with a password) rather than a printed copy. This option could be offered at lower dues. This electronic copy could be in full color, with expandable images.

4) Again, if electronic copy were available, a sample article from each issue of the *Journal* might be provided to everyone on the website.

The Auction was discussed. There will be one or more additional special auctions of Mayer material, with periodic regular auctions. Members may submit up to 10 lots with a minimum bid of \$10 to sell in these auctions. Also, getting donated material to auction will be encouraged to increase our income.

Future monographs were discussed. The possibility of having a Conference monograph provided just in electronic format was raised. No decisions were made about a monograph.

The Website was discussed. Larry Fillion has done an outstanding job. The website is a major factor in attracting new members.

Annual meetings were discussed. The 2009 meeting will be CHICAGOPEX, Arlington Heights, Illinois, in November 2009. The 2010 meeting will be held at WESTPEX, in San Francisco, California in April 2010. The 2011 meeting will be held at NAPEX, in Northern Virginia, in May 2011.

Exhibiting was discussed. Encouraging members to get involved by first developing one-frame exhibits was mentioned.

CLIMATE CHANGE

On September 18, 2008, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued six commemorative stamps and three prestige booklets on the theme "Climate Change".

The stamps were released in mini-sheets of four stamps in denominations of 42¢ (depicting a snail on parched earth), 94¢ (showing an underwater scene of Australia's Great Barrier Reef), F.s. 1,20 (picturing a polar bear hunting for food on dry ground near Barrow, Alaska), F.s. 1,80 (showing polar thaw in the Antarctic), € 0,65 (depicting a city skyline with billowing smokestacks) and € 1,15 (portrays tree stumps). As each mini-sheet pictures an image of the earth positioned at the center of the sheet so that one-quarter of the image appears on each of the four stamps, the four stamps differ slightly in design. Effectively twenty-four stamps were issued with distinct designs. The designs of the six mini-sheets appear on the covers of this issue of the *Journal*.

The booklets, consist of sixteen pages of text and six pages of four stamps each for a total of twenty-four stamps in each booklet. The stamps in the New York booklet bear denominations of 27¢ and 42¢; in the Geneva booklet, F.s. 0,35 and F.s. 0,50; in the Vienna booklet, € 0,30 and € 0,35.

In 1992, the world's leaders met in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the Earth Summit. Among the treaties they adopted there was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which has now been ratified by 191 countries and which remains the central reference point in global climate change policy. Five years later the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, and came into force in 2005.

The UN has been involved in many recent initiatives concerning climate change. On September 24, 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a high-level event on climate change in New York at the opening of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly to promote discussion among world

leaders on how to address climate change. In December 2007, the United Nations held a Climate Change Conference in Bali, which convened the parties in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in March 2008 talks continued in Bangkok.

The renovation of the United Nations Headquarters in New York is a direct contribution to the global efforts on climate change by making it more energy-efficient. The year 2008 has been proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly to be the International Year of Planet Earth.

Figure 1 shows a registered cover from the Second World Climate Conference which took place in Geneva from October 29 through November 11, 1990. A detail of the conference cancel appears in Figure 2.



Figure 1: 1990 registered cover with commemorative cancel from the Second World Climate Conference in Geneva.



Figure 2: Commemorative cancel from 1990 World Climate Conference in Geneva.

THE XXIVTH UPU CONGRESS IN GENEVA

By Richard Powers

The twenty-fourth Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) took place from July 23rd through August 12, 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland at the International Conference Center in Geneva (CICG). Originally this Congress had been planned to take place in Nairobi, Kenya. However, political unrest last year caused the UPU to move the Congress to Geneva early in 2008. (See the article in the August issue of the *Journal*, page 21.)

Thanks to my membership in the Germany-based United Nations collectors group UNOP, I am able to share with you a couple of items which document this Congress. Figure 1 shows a cover sent to me on the closing day of the Congress on Congress stationery and bearing a Congress cachet in black. The cover, which contained an eight-page special edition (08/2008) UNOP journal UNOPost, bears a UPU 180-centime service stamp (Scott 9016) tied by the cancel of the venue (CICG) where the Congress was held.

In addition to this cover, I received a special postcard honoring Doha, Qatar as the applicant city of the 25th Congress to be held in 2012. Figures 2a and b show both

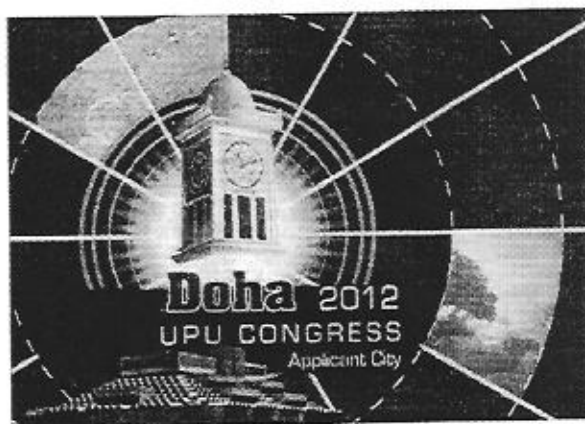


Figure 2a: Picture postcard honoring Doha, the Applicant City of the 2012 Congress.



Figure 2b: Address side of Doha postcard.

sides of this postcard, which bears a current Swiss stamp tied by the postmark of the CICG and a UPU Congress cachet in red.

On July 23rd, the Swiss post office issued a commemorative stamp honoring the Congress and picturing the Congress venue. The stamp appears in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Swiss stamp honoring the 24th UPU Congress in Geneva in 2008.

One of the actions of the Congress was the approval of a new design of the International Reply Coupon (IRC), which will be released on January 1, 2009. Figure 4 shows a specimen of this IRC taken from the website of the UPU (www.upu.int).

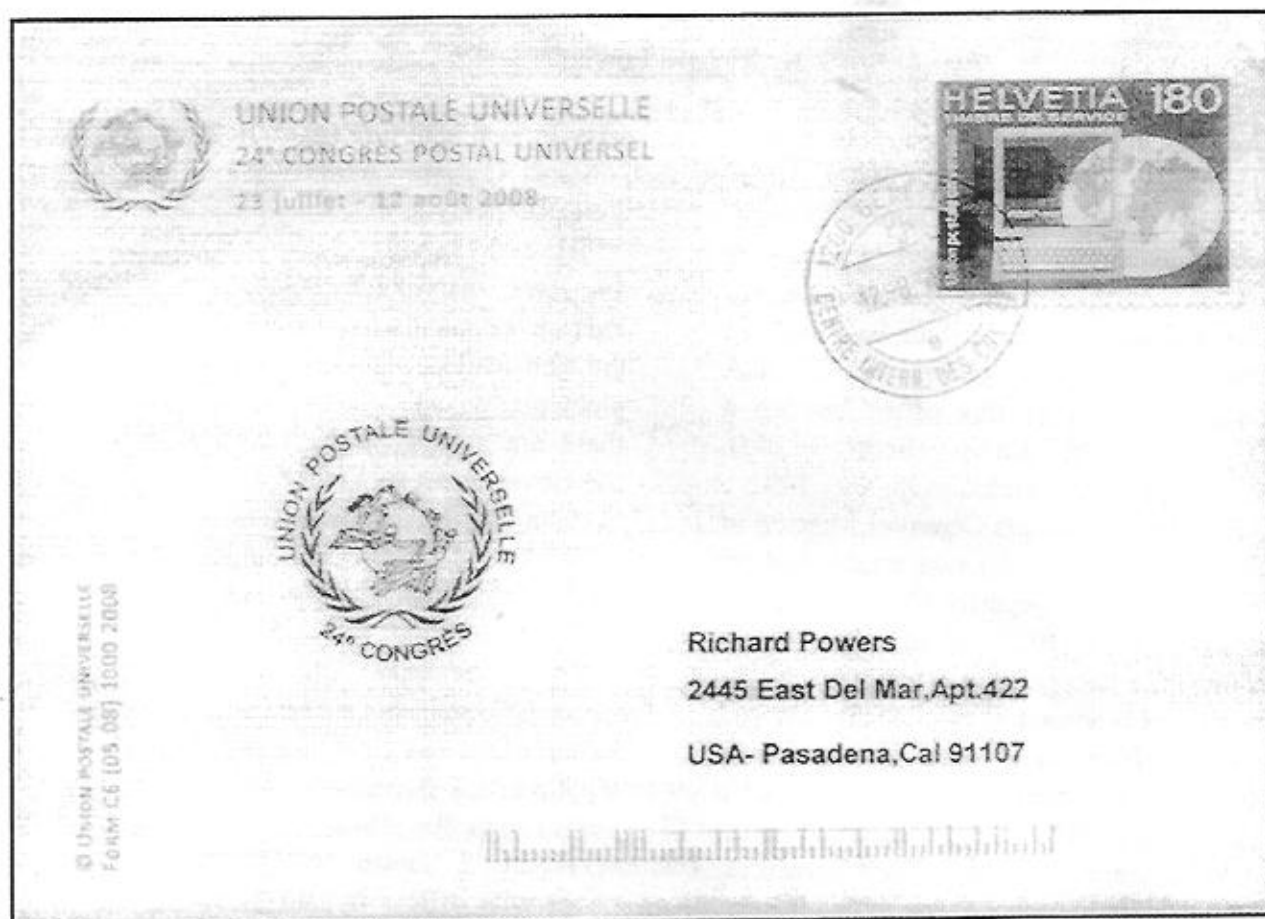


Figure 1: Cover prepared by UNOP on official stationery of the 24th UPU Congress in Geneva on the last day of the Congress August 12, 2008. The cover bears the origin cachet of the Congress (in black) and a 180-centime UPU stamp (Scott 9016) tied by the postmark of the Congress venue, the International Congress Center in Geneva (CICG).



Figure 4: Specimen of 2009 International Reply Coupon.

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR

By Richard Powers

As was mentioned in the article on UN Peacekeeping Operations in Central America, which appeared in the October issue of the *Journal* (page 18), the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) established a liaison office in San Salvador, El Salvador. Figure 1 shows an ONUCA service cover from this office bearing a 1990 Salvadoran stamp (Scott #1240). ONUCA's mandate ended in January 1992.

The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) was established on May 20, 1991 by Security Council Resolution 693 (1991). Its mandate was to verify the implementation of all agreements between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) aimed at ending a decade-long civil war. The agreements involved a cease-fire and related measures, reform and reduction of the armed forces, creation of a new police force, reform of the judicial and electoral systems, human rights, land tenure and other economic and social issues. After the armed conflict had been formally brought to an end in December 1992, ONUSAL verified elections which were carried out successfully in March and April 1994.

By adopting resolution 693 (1991) of May 20, 1991, the Security Council decided to establish ONUSAL "to monitor all agreements between the two parties, whose initial mandate in its phase as an integrated peacekeeping operation will be to verify the compliance by the parties with the Agreement on Human Rights signed at San José on July 26, 1990". At that stage, the tasks of the Mission included actively monitoring the human rights violations; promoting human rights in the country; making recommendations for the elimination of violations, and reporting on these matters to the Secre-

tary-General and, through him, to the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

By its Resolution 729 (1991) of January 14, 1992, the Security Council decided to enlarge the mandate of ONUSAL to include the verification and monitoring of the implementation of "all the agreements once these are signed" at Mexico City between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN, in particular the Agreement on the Cessation of the Armed Conflict and the Agreement on the Establishment of a National Civil Police.

By Resolution 832 (1993) of May 27, 1993, the Security Council decided to enlarge ONUSAL's mandate to include observation of the electoral process and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to this effect.

Figure 2 shows an ONUSAL service cover with offices in San Salvador, El Salvador sent to Vienna, Austria by pouch mail to the post office of the United Nations headquarters in New York City. A 1991 50¢ UNNY stamp (#591) was applied and postmarked on April 30, 1993. Apparently ONUSAL had headquarters in the Torre VIP del Hotel El Salvador (VIP Tower of the Hotel El Salvador).

After ONUSAL completed its mandate on April 30, 1995, a small group of United Nations civilian personnel - known as the United Nations Mission in El Salvador (MINUSAL) - remained in El Salvador to provide good offices to the parties, to verify implementation of the outstanding points of the agreements and to provide a continuing flow of accurate and reliable information.

Reference

www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/co_mission/onusalmandate

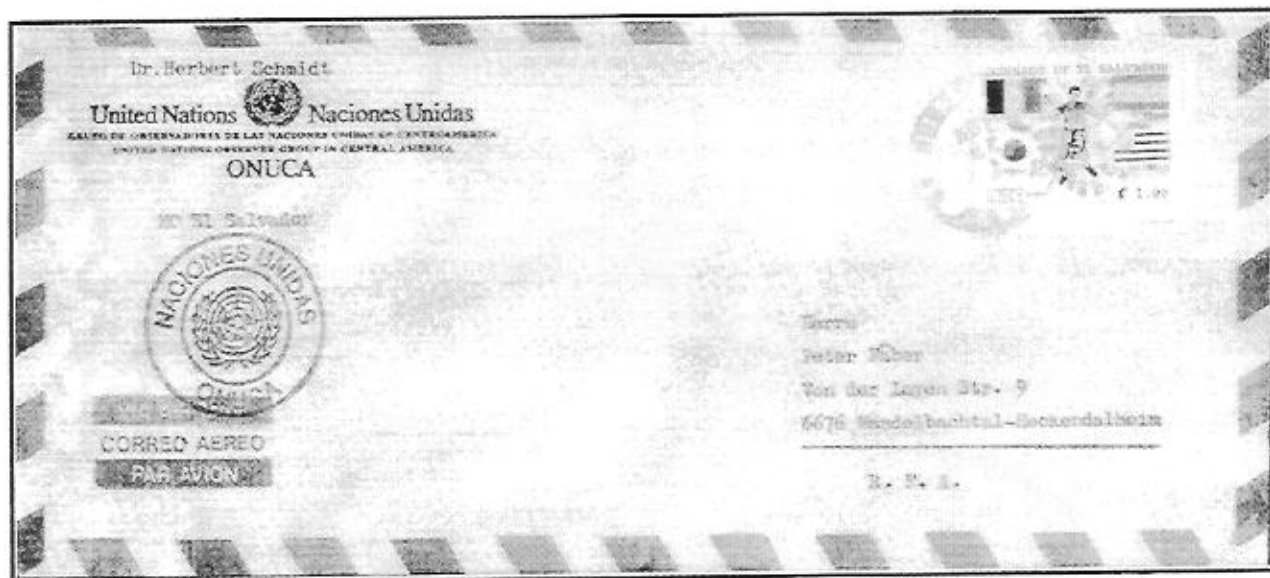


Figure 1: November 1990(?) ONUCA service cover bearing a ONUCA hand-stamped cachet in the lower left corner from the Liaison Office in El Salvador mailed to the Federal Republic of Germany.

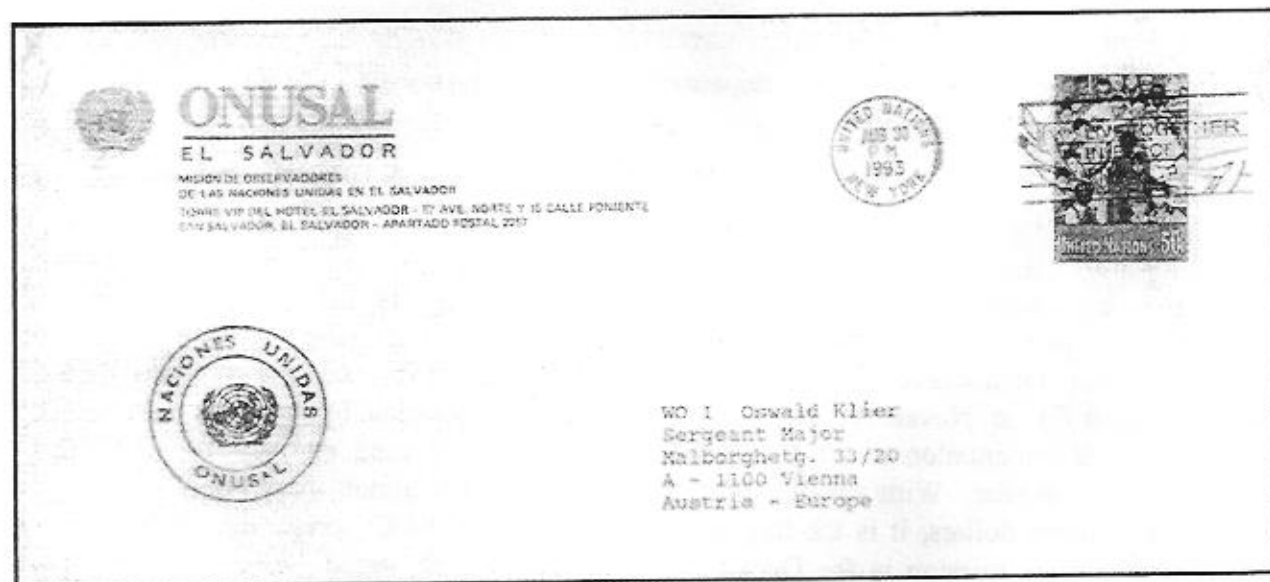


Figure 2: 1993 ONUSAL service cover bearing a ONUSAL hand-stamped cachet in the lower left corner to Vienna, Austria sent by pouch to the United Nations Post Office in New York from which it was forwarded bearing a 50¢ UNNY stamp (Scott #591).

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (MONUC)

By Richard Powers

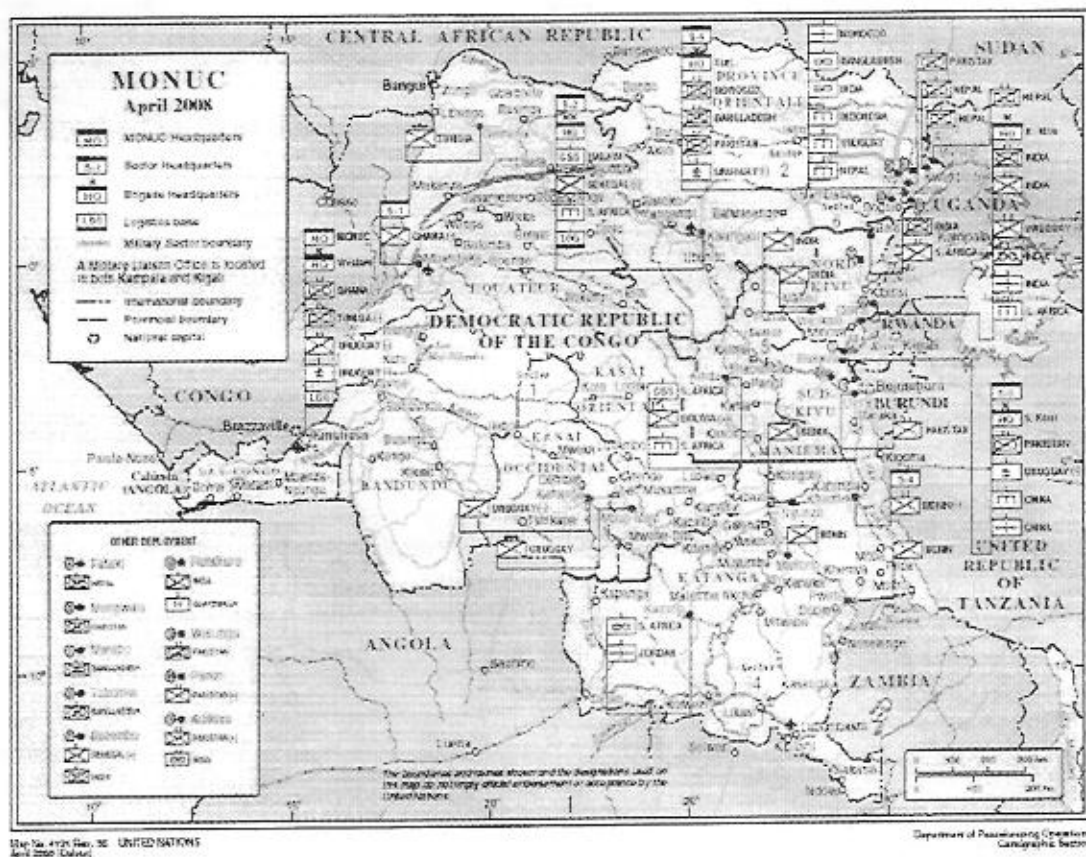


Figure 1: MONUC operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo as of April 2008 with headquarters in Kinshasa.

The United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) in November 1999 to facilitate the implementation of the Lusaka Accord signed that year. With a budget exceeding one billion dollars, it is the largest and most expensive mission in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO). As of July 2006 the mission consisted of 17,600 uniformed personnel from 58 countries. Figure 1 (above) shows the locations of military personnel in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which was formerly

the Belgian Congo and later named Zaire for a while. This mission should not be confused with the mission known as the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC), which was formed on July 14, 1960 and continued for almost four years. Figure 2 shows an ONUC service cover bearing a meter cancel dated June 5, 1961 in Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) to Miss Betty Miller of East Rochester, N.Y. The enclosed letter on service stationery acknowledges receipt of reading material that Miss Miller had shipped to UN personnel in the Congo. For more informa-



Figure 2: 1961 ONUC service cover with meter cancel from Leopoldville

tion concerning ONUC, see the article in the October 2001 issue of the *Journal* (page 11).

Eighty percent of MONUC's military and police personnel are deployed in eastern DRC, where Congolese and foreign militias continue to fight more than three years after the civil war ended.

MONUC's mandate can be broken down into four phases: Phase 1 involved forcibly implementing the cease-fire agreement.

Phase 2 involved its monitoring and the reporting of any violations through the proper channels. Phase 3, in progress as of 2006, centered on the disengagement, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) processes. Phase 4, also underway in 2006, included the facilitating the transition towards the organization of credible elections.

MONUC's headquarters are located in Kinshasa (DRC) and has maintained Military Observer Teams in Kampala, Uganda and Lusaka, Zambia. Figure 3 shows portions of a letter from Lusaka sent in a plain white envelope on June 13, 2000 (Figure 4) bearing K1000 (Scott #864a, above) and K500 (#798) Zambian stamps. As the letter explains, the observer team still had no rubber stamp for marking its mail but did furnish one from the Joint Military Commission with whom MONUC works.

References

www.monuc.org/News.aspx?news
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/monuc/el ec.pdf

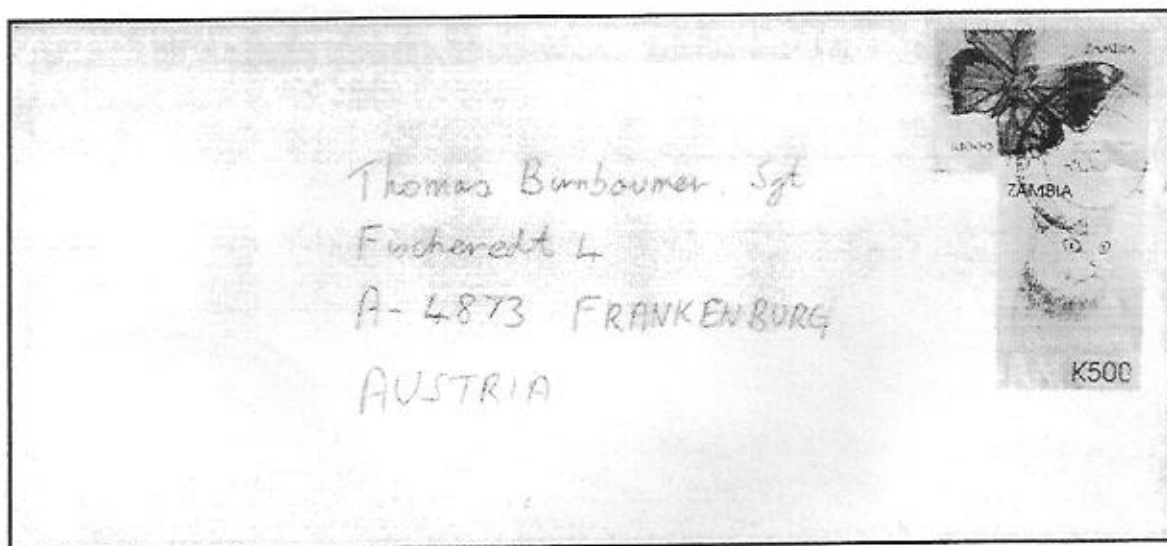


Figure 4: Cover associated with the MONUC letter in Figure 3 mailed June 13, 2000 in Lusaka, Zambia to Frankenburg, Austria.

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES



UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
MISSION DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES AU CONGO

MEMORANDUM

To: Thomas Birnbaumer.Sgt Fischeredt 4 A - 4873 FRANKENBURG Austria	From: Lt Col A D JOHNSTON ACOS JMCMPs Lusaka
Fax Nos:	Fax No: 260 1 253389 /260 1 255777 Mobile: 260 1 794103 E-Mail: adjinlus@coppernet.zm
Subject : STAMPS ETC FROM UN PEACEKEEPERS	
Date: 7-Jun-00 Reference : Your letter of May 00	

1. Thank you for your letter of a few weeks back. I apologise for the delay in replying, however, the situation in the Mission is quite busy at present.
2. Unfortunately, as this is a new mission we do not yet have a MONUC stamp - the letterhead to this document is the nearest which we have.
3. However, as a consolation, please find the stamp of the Joint Military Commission - this is the African organization with whom we work in our search for a peaceful solution to the Congo's problems.
4. Best regards - I have returned one of your dollar bills - as postage is cheap!

A D JOHNSTON
Lt Col
ACOS JMCMPs



Page 1 of

Figure 3: Service letter from MONUC mission in Lusaka, Zambia

1926 LEAGUE OF NATIONS PRESENCE IN IRAN

By Richard Powers

Recently I came across an Iranian cover on League of Nations service stationery, which may give insight into League activities in Iran during the 1920s. Figure 1 shows the cover which bears six Iranian stamps: five 1-centime stamps (Scott #667) and one 10-centime stamp (#672) tied by (Is)faha(n) (Départ) cancels with illegible dates. On the rear is a Tehran transit cancel - Teheran (Arrivée) - with the date (Figure 2) according to the Iranian calendar 23 - 1 - (13)05 (April 13, 1926). The cover was sent to Dr. H. T. Fernald at the Massachusetts Agricultural College Experiment Station in Amherst. The return address is simply a handwritten first line (giving either a name or street address) followed by Tehran, Persia via Russia.



Figure 2: 1926 Tehran Transit Cancel.

I presume that the writer's permanent address was in Teheran and he was temporarily in Isfahan, which is located 400 km to the south.

Possible League Activity of Cover

In the 1920s opium was cultivated and prepared in eighteen of the twenty-six provinces in Iran with Isfahan, one of the main centers. The cultivation of the poppy was more profitable than that of cereals and it was easily turned into ready cash immediately, much as is happening in neighboring Afghanistan today. In 1923 Iran declared its willingness to the international community to participate in a program of substitution of other crops for poppy. The League of Nations appointed a Commission of Enquiry to study poppy cultivation and its partial replacement by other crops. The Commission arrived in Tehran in March 1926 and after a stay of ten weeks, made the following recommendations:

1. Iran should allow three years to improve its economic condition;
2. More efficient controls on the production and distribution of the drug (for medical purposes) should be implemented;
3. After three years opium production would be reduced by an annual rate of 10%.

I speculate that this 1926 cover to an Agricultural Research Station in the USA may have been part of the effort to find an appropriate crop substitute for the poppy.

Reference

www.iranica.com; www.payvand.com

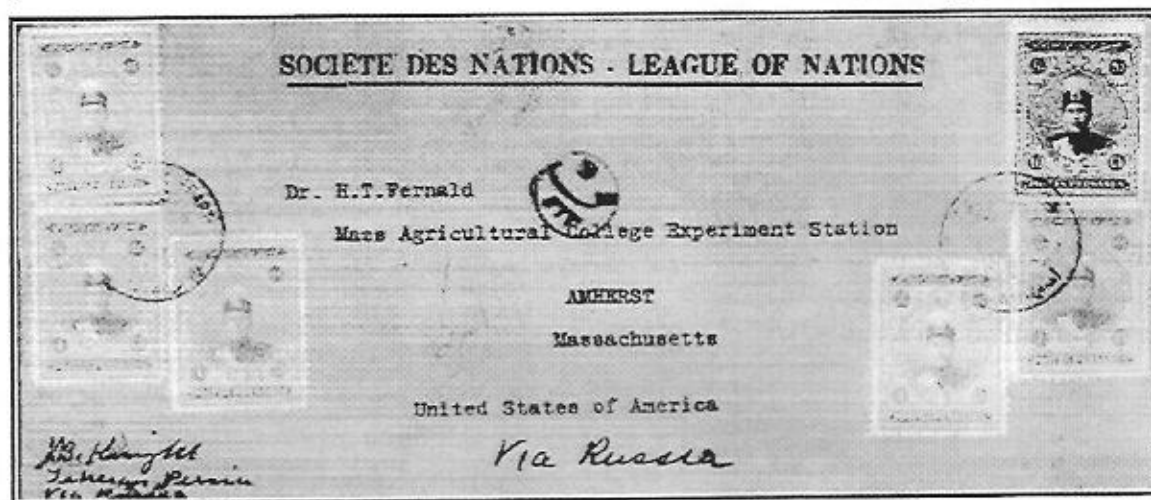


Figure 1: 1927 League of Nations service cover mailed in Isfahan(?), Iran to the Massachusetts Agricultural College Experiment Station in Amherst.

LIFE IN A 1945 UNRRA REFUGEE GROUP IN PALESTINE

By Richard Powers

An airletter can provide an intriguing insight into the life of the writer. This is well demonstrated by the airletter sent by a UNRRA staff member working with a Refugee Group in Nuseirat, Gaza, Palestine in 1945 shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: 1945 Censored service airletter sent via OAS (On Active Service) by British Field Mail from Nuseirat, Gaza, Palestine to Albany, New York.

The airletter was sent as official British mail (OAS - On Active Service) to Albany, New York and bears two 2½ pence British stamps (Scott #262) tied by Field Post Office cancels. In the lower left corner is a Censor's mark No. 8811 associated with an Army Post Office #4 postmark dated May 20, 1945.

Two pages of the three-page message dated May 15, 1945 appear in Figure 2, where the return address is given as:

Eleanor Ault
UNRRA Refugee Group
Nuseirat
Gaza

Palestine.

Nuseirat is located near Gaza City in the north of Gaza (see UNRWA map in the August 2008 issue of the Journal - page 7). The message is written by a staff member to an acquaintance in Albany, New York and provides a charming view of life working with the UNRRA Refugee Group in Nuseirat. The note begins:

Dear Rhoda,

Please note new address and kindly use unless you hear of another one. As usual there is some commotion about our APO (U.S. Army Post Office) number and now I guess we no longer have it. Life is peculiar. (I) can't remember when I last wrote to you but it must have been ages ago. Did I tell you all about my leave through Syria, Trans-Jordan, etc., etc.? It was perfect. Then I took on a new job - the orphan boy project. Great big brutes of 15-18 years old. Someone had had the idea that they should be treated such and such. Well, they were getting everything they wanted and more and I know that they were laughing behind our backs. A fancy nautical school had been arranged for them, special meals, etc. Well - in two weeks I had completely tossed everything to the winds. I moved them out of the only good building in camp and put them in tents. Each one now has a job and by gum he isn't petted for one minute. During the final week I had to knock one of them out when they were having a knife fight. Didn't know my own strength. The building they were in has been turned

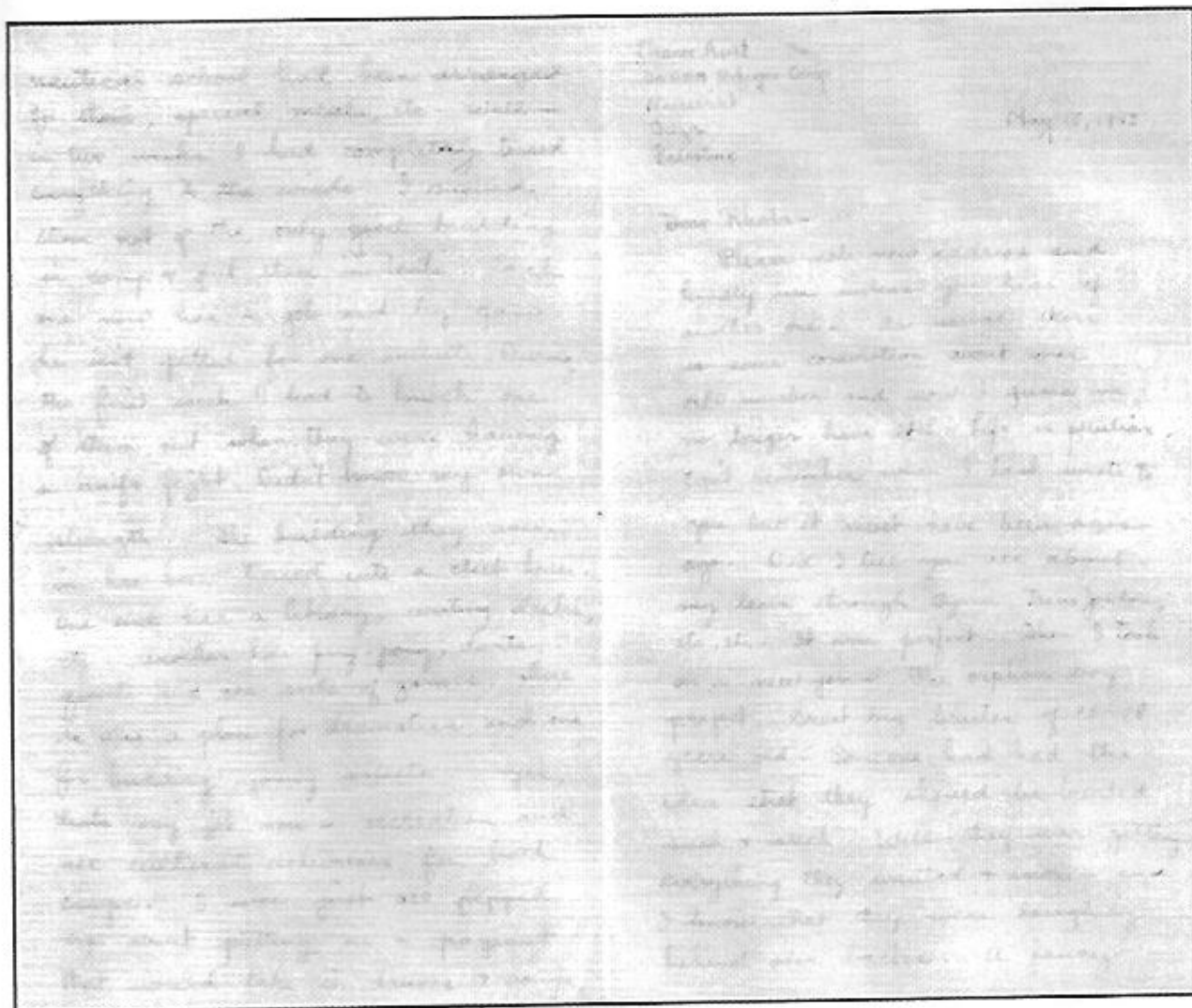


Figure 2: Portion of 1945 airletter message sent by a staff member at the UNRRA Refugee Group in Nuseirat, Gaza, Palestine

into a club house. One end has a library, writing desks, etc. Another has ping-pong, darts, quoits and all sorts of games. There is also a place for dramatics and one for budding young artists. Yes, that's my job now - recreation and all cultural activities for both camps. I was just all pepped up about putting on a pageant that would take in dance and song traditions and so on from all the islands, when I got dumped in the hospital. Nothing serious. Just some pains in the middle.

Guess my dizzy or busy life finally caught up with me. No, I didn't get to celebrate V.E. day (Victory in Europe day - May 8, 1945). Heard it all over the radio. We'll celebrate when they get through with Japan.....

As ever,
Eleanor

It is interesting that the Gaines Catalogue does not mention a UNRRA group or mission in Palestine.

DISCOVERY OF 1929 ORIGIN CACHET OF WIPO FORERUNNER

By Blanton Clement, Jr.

The predecessor organization to WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, was BIRPI (Bureaux Internationaux Réunis pour la Protection de la Propriété Industrielle, Littéraire et Artistique), the International Bureau of the Union for Protection of Industrial Property. This office was located in Bern, Switzerland from 1893 until about 1963. Figure 1 shows a 1929 mailing tag from this office to Laboratories Mce Robin in Paris, France. Figure 2 shows the back of this tag.



Figure 1: Front of 1929 mailing tag sent to Paris from BIRPI in Bern bearing 20c and 30c Hasler meter #792 cancels.



Figure 2: Rear of above mailing tag bearing a BIRPI origin cachet and a supplementary 5c Hasler meter #792 cancel to pay a total of 55c.

The package was sent Registered (Recommandé) as a sample without value (Échantillon sans valeur). The total postage required was 55c (as indicated in blue pencil). Three oval BIRPI Hasler meter

#792 strikes in red were used to pay this (30c and 20c on the front of the tag, and 5c on the back). The front of the tag was postmarked with the usual "Bern 6 Kirchfeld" cancel on November 15, 1929.

Since the tag was plain, without a printed corner card of BIRPI, the sender is indicated by applying a black triple circle origin cachet on the back of the tag. The origin cachet, shown in Figure 3, reads "Union pour la Protection de la Propriété Industrielle - Bureau International - Berne". This origin cachet was previously unknown to UN philately.



Figure 3: Detail of the BIRPI origin cachet from the back of the mailing tag.

UN postal history from seventy-nine years ago (and more) is still being written as such discoveries are made and documented. If you have something that you think may be unknown to others, please let us know about it.

References

1. *UN Philately*, by Arleigh Gaines, p. 1409-1412
2. *Journal of UNP*, 27-6, 17
3. UNP Monograph, *Origin Cachets of the UN, Its Agencies and Its Predecessors*, June 2000, p. 150

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO/OMT) - ADDENDUM

By B. Clement, Jr.

My articles in the June 2007 and April 2008 issues of the *Journal* told of a new UN Specialized Agency, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and of its predecessor organizations. This adds to the postal history described in those articles.

Two additional items have been found for the Sixth UNWTO General Assembly held in Sofia, Bulgaria September 17-26, 1985. Figure 1 shows a cover mailed from the Assembly post office. There are two hand cancels. One postmark (Figure 2) refers to the Assembly, with the UNWTO symbol. The second cancel in the lower left corner shows the meeting hall (the same as shown on the FDC cachet in the April 2008 issue of the *Journal*).



Figure 1: 1985 Cover from 6th UNWTO General Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria.



Figure 2: Detail of UNWTO cancel.

The second item from the Sofia Assembly is the machine cancel in Figure 3 publicizing the Assembly. The two observed dates, August 28 and 30, 1985, were more than two weeks before the Assembly.



Figure 3: Sofia cancel publicizing the Assembly dated August 30, 1985.

A 1982 registered letter from the Afghan Tourist Organization to the WTO in Madrid is shown in Figure 4. On arrival at UNWTO, it was stamped with the blue receiving mark shown in Figure 5. This mark has been redrawn for clarity. With the help of Dick Powers and Jean-Louis Emmenegger, the line just below OMT-WTO-BTO was determined to be "EN-REGISTRE LE" which is French for "Registered on" (the date below). It is interesting that though UNWTO headquarters is in Spain, the Receiving Mark is in French, not Spanish.

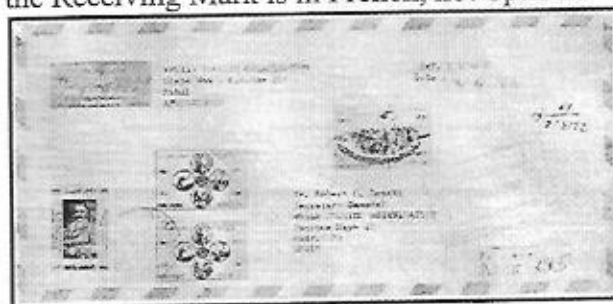


Figure 4: 1982 cover to UNWTO in Madrid.

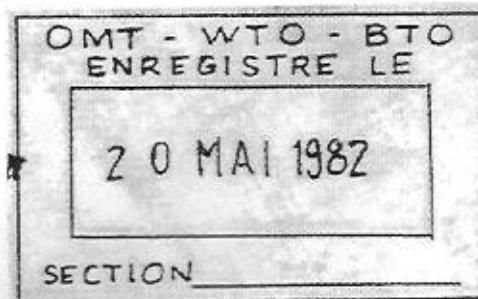


Figure 5: 1982 WTO receiving cancel.

Watch for other postal and philatelic recognition of UNWTO and its predecessors.

References

1. *Journal of UNP*, 31-3, 12-14, and 32-2, 16-18

SEVENTH WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS - BUENOS AIRES 1972

An Interesting Cover

By B. Clement, Jr.

Every six years, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) holds a World Forestry Congress. The Seventh such Congress was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina October 4-18, 1972. Here, in Figure 1, is an interesting, although philatelic, cover from that congress.

The envelope used bears the Corner Card of the Congress Secretariat. A portion of that corner card is shown in Figure 2. The corner card also has the Congress symbol to the left of this text, but most of it is covered by a Cinderella label for the Congress, as seen in Figure 3. This label has Congress symbol in pink, green, gold, and black.



Figure 2: Corner card of 1972 Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires.



Figure 3: Cinderella label from 7th World Forestry Congress.

A special postmark was used at the Congress post office, as shown in Figure 4. Examples of this postmark are on the cover for the first and last days of the Congress, and for October 14, the first day of the stamp issued for the Congress.

The commemorative Argentine stamp (Scott #978) issued for the Congress tied to the cover by a special first day cancel and a special Congress cancel, is seen in Figure 4.



Figure 1: 1972 cover commemorating the 7th World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires.

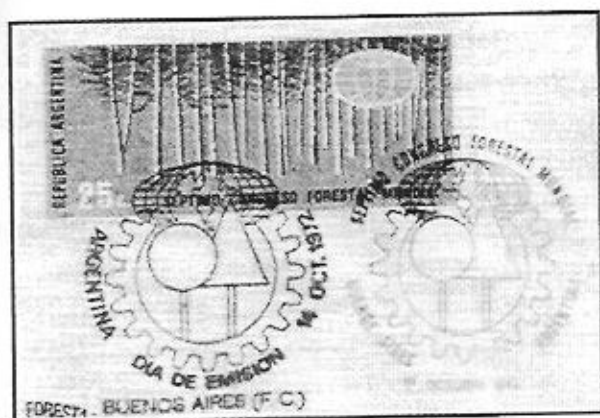


Figure 4: Commemorative congress stamp with first day cancel (left) and congress cancel (right), both dated October 14, 1972.

An International Exposition on Forestry and Allied Industries was held October 3-22, 1972 in conjunction with the Forestry Congress. The special postmark used at that Exposition on October 17th is illustrated in Figure 5.

Lastly, the cover bears the signature and imprint of the Congress President, Esteban Takacs, as shown in Figure 6.

The cover was undoubtedly prepared as a souvenir for a delegate to the Congress. I am

fortunate that it was saved, and finally ended up in my hands.



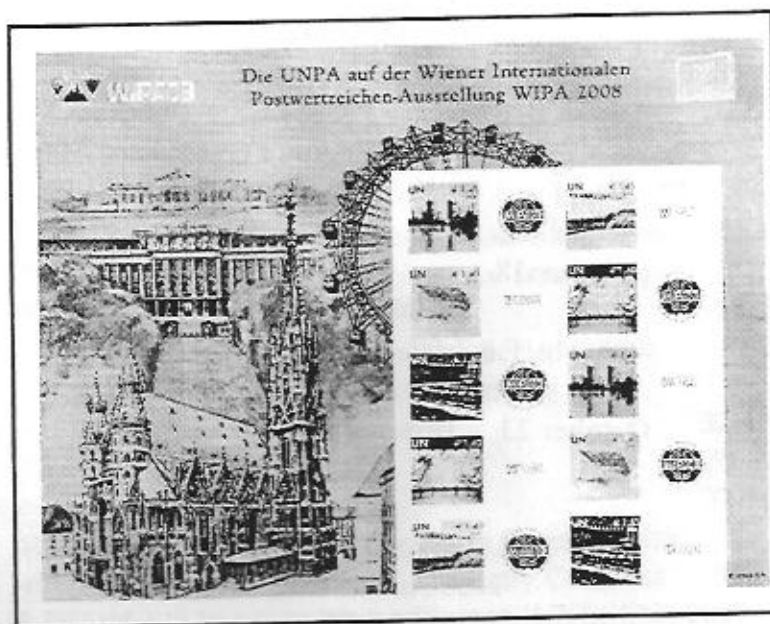
Figure 5: Cancel from 1972 International Exposition on Forestry and Allied Industries.



Figure 6: Signature and imprint of Esteban Takacs, the Congress President of the Seventh World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires in 1972.

UNPA ISSUES NEW PERSONALIZED SHEET FOR WIPA 2008

On September 18, 2008 the UNPA issued a new personalized sheet honoring the Vienna International Stamp Exhibition (WIPA 2008). The sheet appears on the right and consists of ten € 1,40 stamps with five designs and 10 labels with two designs. The selva of the sheet depicts St. Stephen's Cathedral and a portion of the giant Ferris wheel, known internationally as a landmark of Vienna, as well as the Gloriette of Schönbrunn Castle.



2008 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of November 1, 2008 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 27 **Remembrance and Beyond (joint UN-Israel issue)**

41¢, F.s. 0,85, € 0,65

(3 mini-sheets of 9 stamps)

January 28

Vienna Definitives

€ 0,10, € 0,15, € 0,65, € 1,40

(4 sheets of 20 stamps)

Joint Silk FDC from UNNY, UNGeneva, UNVienna and Jerusalem

March 6

Endangered Species

41¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,65

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

Set of 3 maximum cards and 2008 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder

FDC with Silk Cachet

April 18

Souvenir Cover - Pope visits UN/NY

1 stamp of 90¢ plus a dove label

May 8

Personalized Sheet for Essen Exhibition

(1 sheet of 10 stamps with five designs of € 0,65 and 10 labels with 2 designs)

May 8

Coin and Flag Series

41¢, F.s. 0,85, € 0,65

(3 mini-sheets of 8 stamps)

Coin and Flag Collection Folder

May 12

2008 Generic Personalized Sheets

(Sheets of 20 stamps of 42¢ with 5 designs and 10 stamps of 94¢ with 1 design)

Revalued New York Postal Stationery

42¢ standard and legal-sized pre-stamped envelopes (revalued 41¢ envelopes issued in 2007)

94¢ air letter (revalued 90¢ air letter issued in 2007)

June 6

Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons

42¢, 94¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55, € 1,40

(6 sheets of 20 stamps)

August 8 Sport for Peace - Games of the XXIX Olympics, Beijing China

Beijing Personalized Stamp Sheet

42¢, 94¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, € 0,65, € 1,30, \$1.25, F.s. 3,00, 2x€ 2,10, Personalized Sheet

(6 mini-sheets of 9 stamps, 4 souvenir sheets, sheet of 10 stamps of 94¢ with 1 design)

September 18

We Can End Poverty

WIPA 2008 Personalized Stamp Sheet

42¢, 94¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,80, € 0,65, € 0,75, Souvenir card, Personalized sheet

(6 sheets of 20 stamps, sheet of 10 stamps of € 1,40 with 5 designs)

October 23 **International Year of Planet Earth (Climate Change)**

42¢, 94¢, F.s. 1,20, F.s. 1,80, € 0,65, € 1,15

(6 mini-sheets of 4 stamps)

{3 Prestige Booklets with 12x(26¢, 42¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,30, € 0,35)}

2008 Annual Collection Folders (New York, Geneva, Vienna)

2008 SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

January 2

United for Peace (continuation of 2007 slogan)

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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 Tuesday 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.

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 editorial deadline for the February 2009 issue is December 20, 2008. Material to be submitted for publication should reach the editor at least ten days before this deadline.

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July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010

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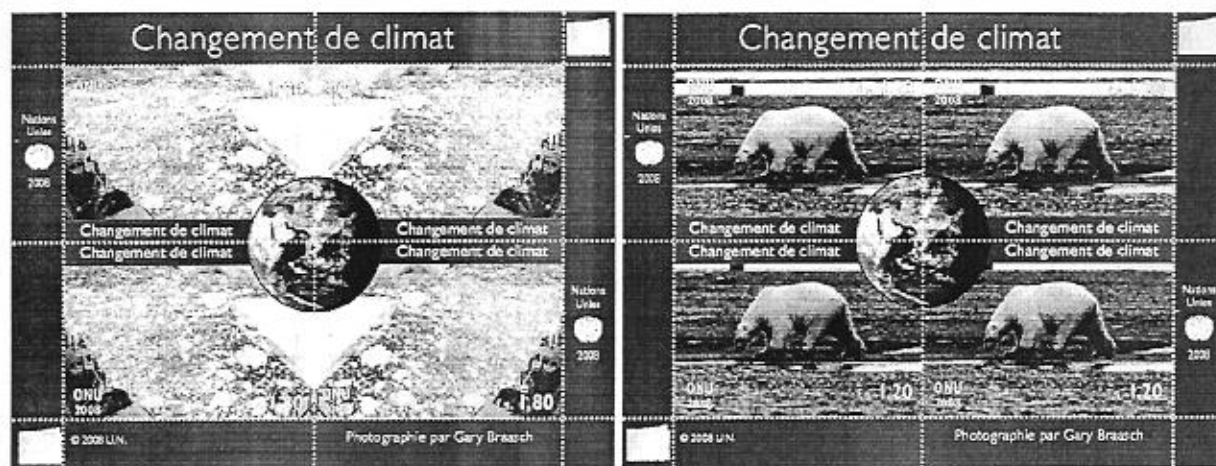
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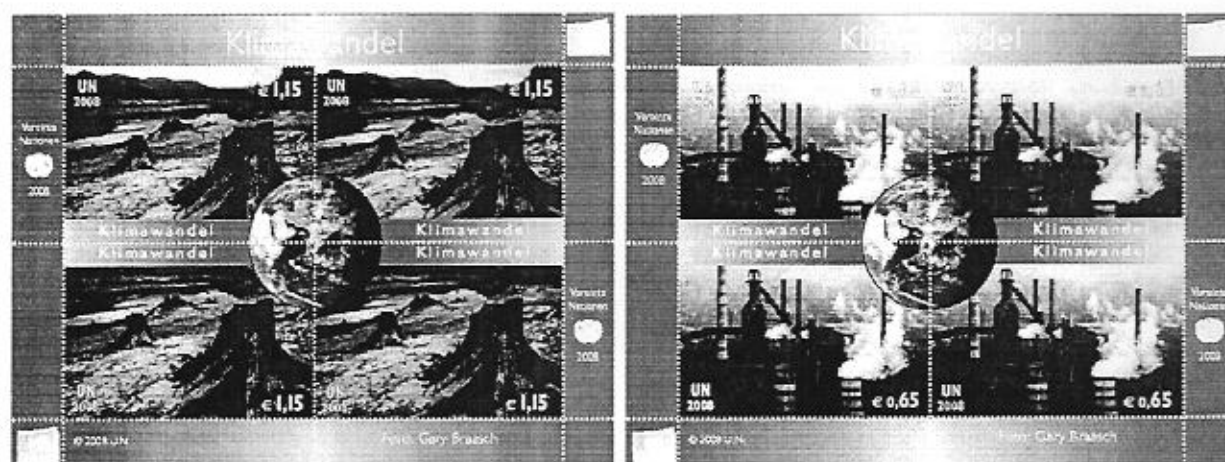
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