

# the journal

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UN Collectors of Chicagoland, Inc.: meets the first Tuesday of each month, September through June, at the 55 West Monroe, Suite 2400, Chicago. An informal dinner gathering precedes the meeting. For time and place call Ben Cohen, 726-3555. The meeting starts about 7:30 pm. For information, write to Harry Collier, Box 1674, Chicago, IL 60690.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

In our April editorial we raised a few questions about our methods of collecting first day covers. While our collections make "interesting" museum pieces, they are a step or two removed from reality. They have been designed for something quite removed from the mail services for which all stamps, meters, and postal stationery are meant. They are, in fact, CTO's (cancelled to order), items which have a discounted value in other areas of collecting.

We wonder, then, whether as collectors we would make more sense to ourselves by collecting covers actually cancelled on the first day of use or issue and forwarded through the mail system. Is there not something absurd about an envelope bearing a neatly cancelled stamp but no address? Are not such oddities usually found in the "dead letter" sections of post offices?

The cancellation of stamps brings to mind a practice or two that ought to be reexamined by UNPA. Currently the circular first day cancellation is applied to the center of a block of stamps. The cancellation does not actually "tie" the stamps to the envelope.

We offer three possible remedies to this problem. One solution is to employ a larger cancellation that touches all stamps and the envelope as well. Another solution is to reintroduce the style of hand cancelling device used until November, 1977. This was quite suited to cancelling blocks and tying them to the covers. Still another solution is to affix the blocks of stamps in such a way as to permit the present cancelling device to be used twice, at each side or at top and bottom, to cancel two stamps at a time and tie them to the envelope.

Lastly, we bring up the placement of stamps on covers. Until last year the UNPA-prepared Geneva cachet combo covers bore the stamps affixed in numerical order. Recently these covers have had the lower value affixed to the corner position and the higher value to its left, in reverse order. UNPA notes that the reason for this is that often enough covers sent through the mail incur damage to the upper right corner, damaging the costlier stamp if it is placed there. The logic escapes us. Any stamp damaged on a FDC will render the cover worthless by current standards. In replacing damaged covers UNPA would, of course, be replacing all stamps on a combination cover. It seems more logical to us to affix the stamps in sequence on the covers. The souvenir sheets and souvenir cards always feature the stamps in numerical order. We hope to see the same for the prepared covers.

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 30 NOVEMBER**

### COVER

Pictured left to right on the cover are a current Swiss service stamp for WHO headquarters in Geneva; the first UN stamp to promote the organization as one of its agencies; and the most recent UN issue, this one highlighting one of the major accomplishments of WHO, the eradication of smallpox. Richard Powers's article on WHO looks at the organization from a historical and philatelic perspective, perhaps introducing to some of our members the fascinating field of UN agency or service stamps.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

United Nations Philatelists commences a new year with a new "management team." Though I have been part of past teams, this is my first as your president. This means that instead of being a follower, I now assume a leadership role. In this capacity I would like to set a course for UNP that will not only strengthen our organizational structure but also allow our society to continue to be a helping hand to each of us as philatelists, whether we simply collect new issues or obscure postal history, maintain a simple album or study the complexities of specialization.

Perhaps first we should examine our reason for being. I think it fair to say that the founders were looking for a democratic means to voice their concerns regarding all aspects of United Nations philately and to promote these concerns for the benefit of the whole UN philatelic community. I consider the primary goals as meetings, publications, and exhibitions, which can be summarized as communication.

It was the desire of the founding Board of Directors to have at least two meetings each year. One was to be a convention and the second a Board Meeting. This is a very ambitious goal when compared to those of most other collecting groups. I support this goal fully, for I view it as allowing collectors an opportunity to "verbalize" our hobby on a person-to-person basis.

The most important, perhaps, of our goals is our publications, at least as far as our general membership and the philatelic community at large are concerned. Publications are lasting and give an opportunity for those of us with special knowledge to share it with others, be it through The Journal or through a special study.

Exhibitions are also important. This is our means to present United Nations philately and all that it comprises. Ours is a "non-country," sometimes an out-cast in the polarized "classic" philatelic community. Though some progress has been made in recognition of UN philately, much more must be done. I believe we are in one of the most inspiring collecting fields possible, a field that continues to be challenged by current day events. Public display is one of the best means available to educate others on the merits of UN philately.

As your president, I would like to see our management team continue supporting these goals in a positive way. We cannot do it alone. UNP is all of us and we can and should take part as opportunity permits. Together we can make United Nations Philatelists the respected voice in United Nations collecting, not only nationally but also worldwide as we coordinate activities with similar groups in other countries.

Not to be overlooked is the important fact that we would not even exist were it not for the United Nations Organization and its Postal Administration. It is my desire to see a strengthened dialog between our organizations, which will benefit us all. Again, it is the all-important communications that is our cornerstone. With the coordinated support of us all, we should make great gains in our chosen hobby.

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A correction is in order for a picture caption on page 107 of the June, 1982 issue of The Journal. Audrey Harter is incorrectly identified as Ruth Miller. Our apologies for the error and regrets that space did not permit more photo coverage of CIAPEX.

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## A SHORT POSTAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

By Richard Powers

One of the results of the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945 was the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO). Its goal is to raise the health of all peoples to the highest possible level. Specifically it undertakes worldwide programs for the advancement of health and coordinates biomedical research. An example of such worldwide cooperation in health research is a special program into the study and eradication of six widely spread tropical diseases (among which are malaria, leprosy, sleeping sickness and snail fever). One of its successes is the complete eradication of smallpox a few years ago.

An interim commission was established at a conference in New York in June 1946. It drafted a constitution, which came into effect on 7 April 1948 after ratification by 26 nations. As a result 7 April is now celebrated as World Health Day.

As early as November, 1946, WHO staff members began establishing the world headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. On 24 June 1948 the first World Health Assembly took place. On this date also began the postal history of WHO as a stamp issuing entity with the appearance of nine Swiss stamps overprinted with the legend "Organisation Mondiale de la Santé," the official title of the WHO in French. Figure 1 shows a first day cover (FDC) bearing eight of the nine overprinted stamps (Gaines #1-5, 17, 19, 22) on WHO Interim Commission stationery. (The missing stamp is the five-franc denomination (Gaines #24).) The cancellation notes that this is the first World Health Assembly.

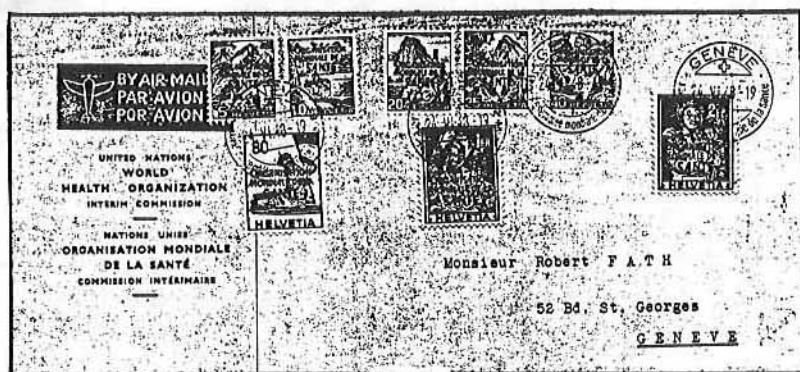


Fig. 1

First day cover of the WHO issues from 1948, except for the 5 fr denomination.

Complimentary stamps were issued within two years (Gaines #6-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25), on 1 February 1950. Figure 2 shows a Swiss PTT collection sheet, #126, which depicts two of these issues (Gaines #23 and 25) with the characteristic postmark on the day of issue of the European Office of the United Nations in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the home of the WHO in those days. Figure 3 is an example of service usage in 1950 of the 80-centime stamp (Gaines #17) on a cover to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. Appearing on the envelope are a boxed cachet O.M.S. in black and in the lower left corner in red the letters BP - OMS, which presumably indicates the office of

origin (Bureau de Personnel de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé - Personnel Office of the WHO). However, WHO stamps are often seen cancelled with the Geneva-Depot hand cancellation as can be seen in Figure 4 on a special delivery cover mailed in 1950 with 5, 15 and 70 centime stamps (Gaines #6, 8 and 16).



Fig. 2 Swiss PTT collection sheet #126 cancelled on day of issue.

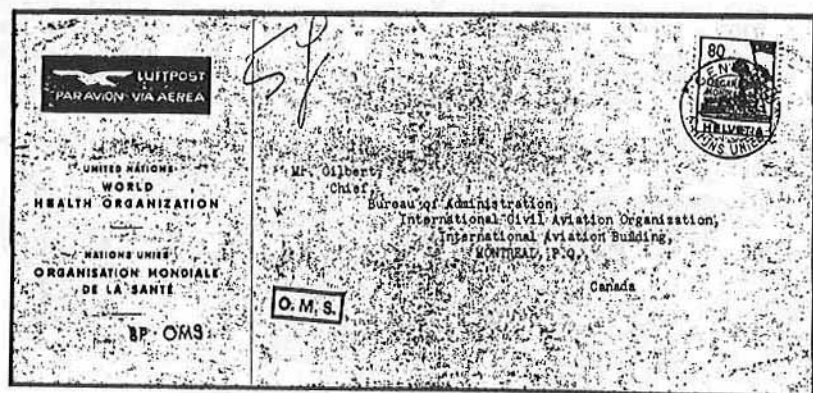
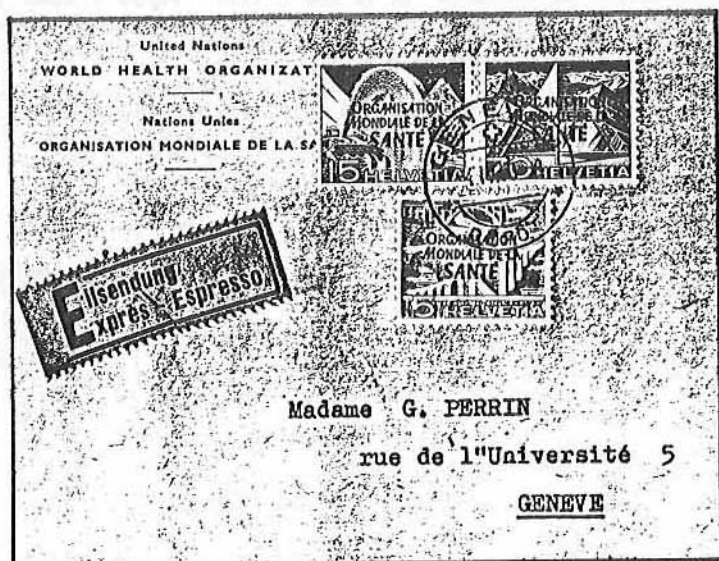


Fig. 3 Service usage of the 80 centime (Gaines #17) stamp.

The last of the overprinted Swiss stamps became invalid for postal use on 30 April 1958, approximately six months after the appearance of the first definitive stamps printed exclusively for the use of the WHO by the Swiss PTT. These stamps (Gaines #26-31) can be seen in Figure 5 on an official FDC with the appearance for the first time of a cancellation bearing the name (in French) of the WHO instead of the United Nations. Three years later, on United Nations Day, 24 October 1960, this series was continued with three additional values (Gaines #32-34).

In anticipation of the malaria eradication campaign of the WHO, the Swiss PTT issued the 1960 50-centime stamp (Gaines #34) overprinted with the legend





**Fig. 4** Special delivery service cover with Geneve-Depot cancellation.



Fig. 5 First day cover of Gaines #26-31.



"Eradication du Paludisme" on 19 March 1962. Figure 6 shows this stamp cancelled on World Health Day, 7 April 1962, the kickoff day for this campaign with a special one-day only cancellation. This campaign was also reflected in the meter cancellation of the WHO in Geneva. Figure 7 shows such a meter cancellation on the first day of issue on official WHO stationery. Incidentally, similar meter cancellations appeared simultaneously on the correspondence of all of the regional offices of the WHO, which are in New Delhi (India), Alexandria (Egypt), Manila (Philippines), Brazzaville (Congo), Copenhagen (Denmark), and Washington, D.C. as well as in the New York office.

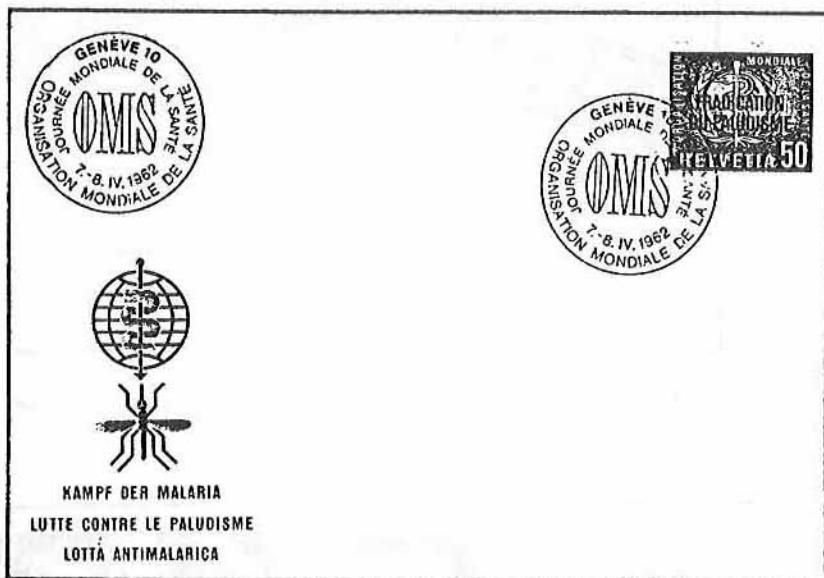


Fig. 6 World Health Day cancellation in 1962 on Gaines #35.



Fig. 7 World Health Day cancellation of the anti-malaria campaign meter.

Eventually, in 1966, the WHO moved into its own new headquarters building in Geneva as indicated in Figure 8 with a special cancellation used only on the day of the formal dedication, 7 May.

Down through the years the WHO has issued special quinquennial cancellations beginning with its 20th anniversary in 1968. Figure 9 shows a special cover cancelled on the first day of usage of this cancellation, 18 January 1968.



Fig. 8

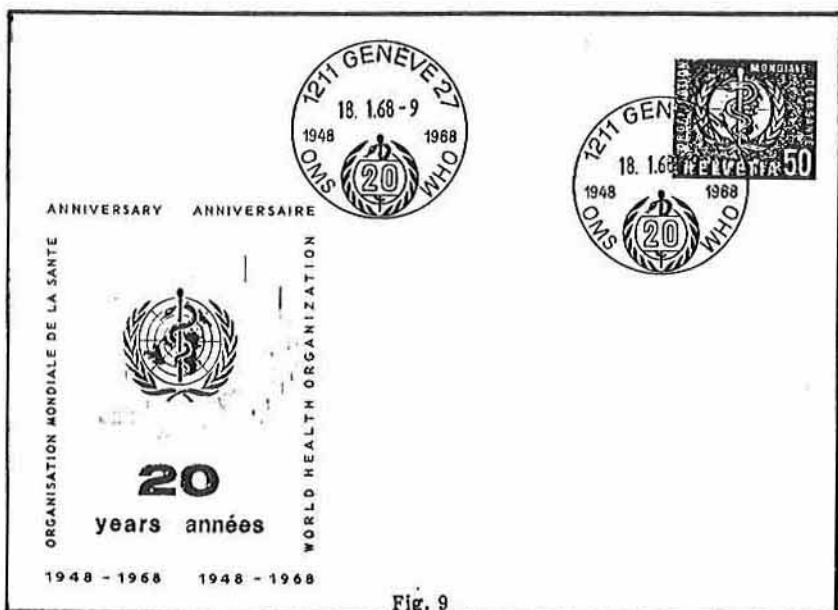


Fig. 9



Fig. 10 First day cover of the most recent WHO stamps (Gaines #36-39).

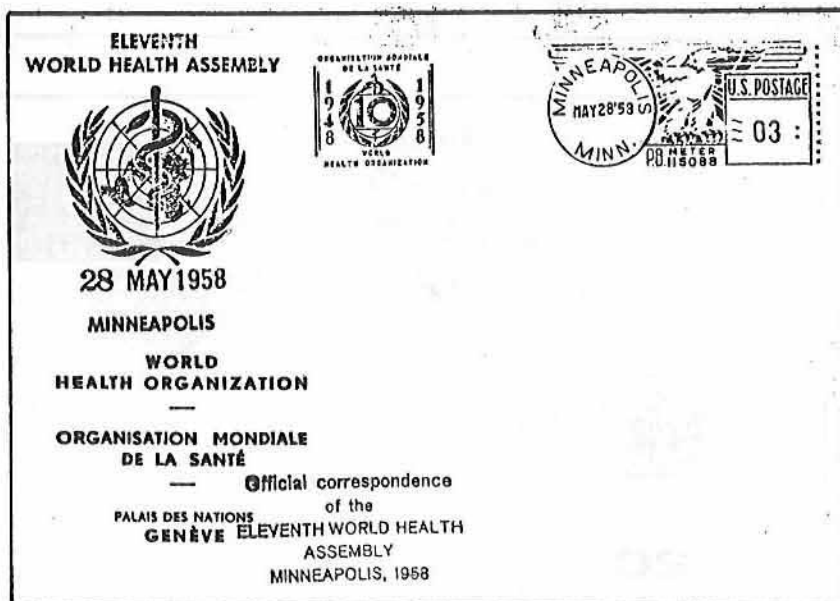


Fig. 11 Service cover cancelled with tenth anniversary meter on the opening day of the eleventh World Health Assembly.

The most recent of the WHO postage stamps belong to a series issued 13 February 1975, a first day cover of which appears in Figure 10.

But the stamps issued for the WHO office in Geneva reflect only a portion of the postal activity of the WHO. There are numerous other items of postal history which indicate the activities of this international organization.

First there are the yearly World Health Assemblies, which are usually but not always convened in Geneva. For example the 11th assembly was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In Figure 11 is pictured a service cover stamped with a special WHO 10th anniversary meter cancellation on the first day of the conference, 28 May 1958.

Examples of the WHO in action are found in Figures 12 and 13. In the former is a cover from the Ministry of Health in the Sudan, franked with an official stamp in 1958 on the part of the WHO Malaria Pilot Project in Sennar and addressed to WHO headquarters in Geneva. But WHO activities are not limited to exchanges with governmental agencies. It also consists of one-to-one correspondence with doctors throughout the world, such as is indicated by the cover in Figure 13 from a doctor and professor of internal medicine and endocrinology at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon addressed to WHO headquarters in Geneva.

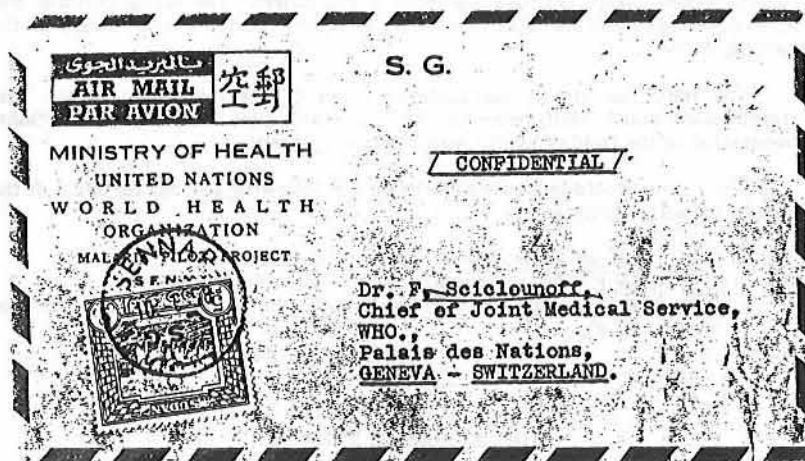


Fig. 12

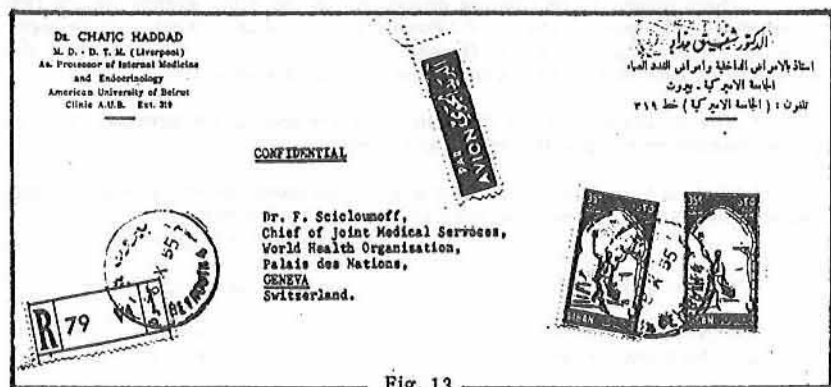


Fig. 13

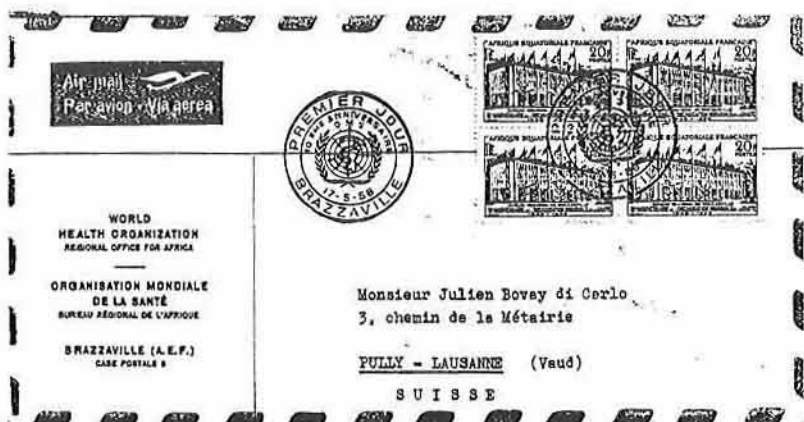


Fig. 14

WHO's international presence throughout the world is illustrated in Figure 14 by an FDC on official WHO stationery from the office in Brazzaville in the former French Congo (Afrique Equatoriale Française). The stamp pictures this regional headquarters for Africa and was issued on the tenth anniversary of the founding of WHO.

The WHO has clearly fulfilled the hopes of the organizers of the first international health conference in Paris in 1851 that one day international cooperation in the field of health would become a reality.

The author would like to acknowledge the following sources for some of the facts in the above article:

- a) United Nations Philately, Arleigh Gaines, Editor
- b) 1981 Borek Briefmarkenkatalog, H.H.v. Renesse, Editor
- c) Wissenswertes über die Vereinten Nationen, UN Information Service, Vienna (1979).

## QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

? There appear to be Chinese characters on the WHO agency stamps first released in 1975 (see article by R. Powers in this issue). What is their significance? Also, what is the significance of the letter-number combination also appearing on each of the stamps below the Chinese characters?

? Why do some issues of the Swiss PTT for special UN agencies carry an Italian inscription along with German and French?

? What do I need to pursue the study of fluorescent paper varieties? I have become interested after reading some articles in *The Journal*.

- Member Samuel Oppenheim

? Was the eight-cent Expo '67 definitive, #172, actually reprinted?

Members are invited to submit responses of any length to the above questions. So much the better that a response should itself be an article.

## THE TALE OF THE ERASABLE CACHET

It all started with a request from Jack Mayer. There was no budget for the UNP Convention to be held at CHICAGOPEX '82. Would United Nations Collectors of Chicagoland do some sort of souvenir cover or card to raise some money to fund the convention!

Flag Series first day covers from the 1981 and 1980 Conventions had seemed popular. Secretary Ron Hollinger already had inquiries from collectors wanting to know if there would be another UNP cachet for the Flag Series this year. So we made a phone call to a friend (who shall remain anonymous for reasons which shall become obvious) who agreed to service 20 sets of single stamp Flag Series FDC serviced and shipped to us. To save time and money it was agreed that he would obtain envelopes locally.

The artwork is done by Lori Galletti, sister of Greg, daughter of Treasurer Marcia Galletti, designer of popular past UNP cachets. Sunday the 17th. No artwork, no covers. Get on the phone and learn the artwork was mailed on Saturday, certified. The covers are ready and will be shipped via UPS on Monday, October 18. The show opens Friday, the 22nd.

Tuesday, the artwork arrives. Make reductions on copier, order type set for lettering to replace Lori's hand set press-type. Thursday, 4 p.m. Covers have arrived. Open package. Panic! The covers are on Eaton's Corrasable Bond! The cancellations, days or weeks old, can be erased with a soft pencil eraser. The cachet will be ERASABLE! HORRORS! Plan to push on, anyway.

Friday morning. The show opens. The printer starts the press run. Message: "Call Henry at Modern Impressions." Drop in on Henry. The cancellation is unstable, ink gets onto the press blanket and redeposits on the successive covers. It's a mess. STOP THE PRESS!

Monday: Call Gisela Gruenewald. Can UNPA replace the covers? Or will we have the world's first erasable FDC and cachet? Yes, it can be done. And, so, dear reader, you now have the opportunity to purchase the successor to the world's first erasable cachet and first day cancellation. This dandy souvenir of the UNP convention prepared by UNCC, is but \$1.25 by mail from Box 1674, Chicago, IL 60690 (checks payable to UNCC, please, and include a return address label, por favor). A few sets are available at \$20.00.



## NOTES

The gremlins who worked their devilment on the June issue (the missing cover illustration) returned for an encore in August. The cover illustration should have been a block of the one-cent stamp, not the one and one-half cent. The illustration does, however, depict a MI4 + 2 block.

Lebanon is much in the news, and J. L. Emmenegger, a frequent contributor to these pages, announces the publication of a 13-page article, "The Postal Facilities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)." Copies are available from the author for \$4.00. For particulars write to him at P. O. Box 230, CH-1009 Pully, Switzerland.



Above are pictured the new slogan cancellations in use as of 18 October, noted in the August issue.

The last UNPA issue for 1982, promoting the conservation and protection of nature, will appear 19 November. The issue marks the first time that a different design appears on each of the six values. Previously no more than three different designs were used.

APS will hold its Spring, 1983 meeting, sponsored by Oregon Stamp Society, Inc., in Portland 20-22 May as part of Pan Pacific Philatelic Exposition '83. For details contact Dr. Tony Wawrukiewicz, P. O. Box 4056, Portland, Oregon 97208.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 30 NOVEMBER**

ORCOEXPO '83 is slated for 7-9 January at the Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California. Billed as the largest philatelic exhibition on the West Coast, the show will center on the UPU theme for this year: World Communications Year. For more information contact: Louise van Ingen, P. O. Box 369, Placentia, California 92670.

Deadline for exhibit applications is 30 November.





The imprint for the Milan exhibition has been revised. Compare to the imprint shown on page 102 of the June issue.

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### WELCOME!

Joining the ranks of UNP members within recent weeks are:

Courtland Lee, Michigan  
Frank Heckel, Jr., Pennsylvania  
Estelle Vest, Louisiana  
Joe Kemp, Oregon

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### THE FIRST ISSUE (COLUMN #4)

By Robert G. Kvarnes

#### Some Thoughts on Collecting the First Issue

For one serious stamp collector it seldom takes much exposure to the UN first issue (1-11, C1-4) before she or he is caught up by the fascinating features of this set of stamps. Designed to be the workhorses of the UN postal administration these "regulars" or "definitives" came to be the subjects and objects of many interesting and entirely uncontrived adventures with the result that the first issue has become one of the premier areas in modern philately. Control numbers and cutouts designed to provide control over the papers for the printers took on special significance to the collector as identifiers of specific printings. The UNPA's inexperience led to the ordering of unusually small quantities of some of the early reprintings (in several of the second printings the quantities of stamps ordered were 100,000, or only 1000 press sheets later cut into post office panes of 50 stamps). There are many other such incidents that highlight the history of the first issue.

I would like to say a few words about collecting this issue. Most of us are accustomed to collecting single stamps when we undertake to build a collection. Hence, we start our first issue collection with a set of singles. But once one has discovered that the 15 stamps of the first issue culminated eventually in 67 different printings, the dilemma begins to appear.

The UNPA on all of its panes of 50 stamps of all issues except the 1980 NIEO value for Vienna has an inscription seal on the selvage of one of the four

stamps near each corner. This complicates things for new collectors because one soon comes to the uneasy awareness that the basic unit for UN stamps may be a corner block of four stamps with the margin inscription and with the two selvages (U.S. plate block collectors are well aware of this configuration). So one wonders, if he wishes to collect representatives of all 67 printings, does he collect singles, margin singles, margin inscription singles or margin inscription blocks of four (MI4's)? Because of the fear of the venture becoming too costly, many will start by collecting singles with attached selvage (either margin or MI singles). It makes sense because they are not sure their interest will endure and they can get acquainted with the field rather inexpensively by collecting singles.

Everyone knows no one tells another how he should collect stamps, but I want to chance making a suggestion. This is especially pertinent to the collector who knows himself well enough to be sure, once he has become hooked on a philatelic field, that his interest will endure and expand. One of the lures of the first issue is to become sufficiently expert to be able to differentiate the printings of any particular denomination. There may be several determinants: type of perforation, shade of color, presence of control numbers or cutouts, and often enough degree of fluorescence under long wave ultraviolet light. One of the elements of the fascination with the first issue is an ever present awareness of increasing competence in differentiating the printings.

Where paper qualities help differentiate the printings (and there are many denominations where this is so) the collector wants the extra selvage to aid him. Often the extra selvage on a margin single is all one needs. However, some differentiations depend on marks on the selvage of one specific stamp or on a mark on a specific stamp itself. It is here where the wish to own the margin inscription blocks (MI4's or MI6's) asserts itself; and, consequently, most collectors who start collecting margin singles find themselves moving into collecting MI4's.

A note of the issue of cost. Most of us who develop philatelic specialties know that this requires spending a fair amount of money for certain items. Since most of us have to watch our pennies closely we tend to have a "mental budget." We feel we can spend so much a month on stamps without disrupting the family budget. The collecting of MI blocks of all the printings is an example where this type of financial planning is needed. Many of the MI-4 blocks can be purchased for less than a dollar. Many more cost in the range of \$3 to \$15. And a few, especially the 50¢ blocks, may cost more than \$100.

Even so, it is worth it. The prices quite well relate to the scarcity of the items. No more first issue items are being printed; and, as the saying goes, many first issue items are "disappearing into collections." One also has the pleasure of assembling a collection of clear-cut value. My hunch is that the day of speculation in the first issue is over. Now one must hunt for the desired items. Incidentally, a visit to BALPEX in Baltimore on Labor Day Saturday at noon found all the available chairs at all the booths occupied by intensely busy collectors. "The collectors are back" seemed to be the dealers' feeling. "The hunters are back" would be just as appropriate, especially in the area of the first issue.

My principal point in the above is to alert the singles collectors that they may, rather early in their collecting, begin hankering for MI blocks and to think carefully whether it might be economically wise to shift their collecting targets if their interests are changing.

#### Change of Subject

As mentioned, the first issue has many interesting features. Consider the triangle cutout on the fifth printing of the 1¢ value. It is the only printing of any of the denominations where the cutout appears in the same corner (LR) whether the block comes from an upper or lower pane. The Enschede press sheet

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

United Nations Philatelists commences a new year with a new "management team." Though I have been part of past teams, this is my first as your president. This means that instead of being a follower, I now assume a leadership role. In this capacity I would like to set a course for UNP that will not only strengthen our organizational structure but also allow our society to continue to be a helping hand to each of us as philatelists, whether we simply collect new issues or obscure postal history, maintain a simple album or study the complexities of specialization.

Perhaps first we should examine our reason for being. I think it fair to say that the founders were looking for a democratic means to voice their concerns regarding all aspects of United Nations philately and to promote these concerns for the benefit of the whole UN philatelic community. I consider the primary goals as meetings, publications, and exhibitions, which can be summarized as communication.

It was the desire of the founding Board of Directors to have at least two meetings each year. One was to be a convention and the second a Board Meeting. This is a very ambitious goal when compared to those of most other collecting groups. I support this goal fully, for I view it as allowing collectors an opportunity to "verbalize" our hobby on a person-to-person basis.

The most important, perhaps, of our goals is our publications, at least as far as our general membership and the philatelic community at large are concerned. Publications are lasting and give an opportunity for those of us with special knowledge to share it with others, be it through The Journal or through a special study.

Exhibitions are also important. This is our means to present United Nations philately and all that it comprises. Ours is a "non-country," sometimes an out-cast in the polarized "classic" philatelic community. Though some progress has been made in recognition of UN philately, much more must be done. I believe we are in one of the most inspiring collecting fields possible, a field that continues to be challenged by current day events. Public display is one of the best means available to educate others on the merits of UN philately.

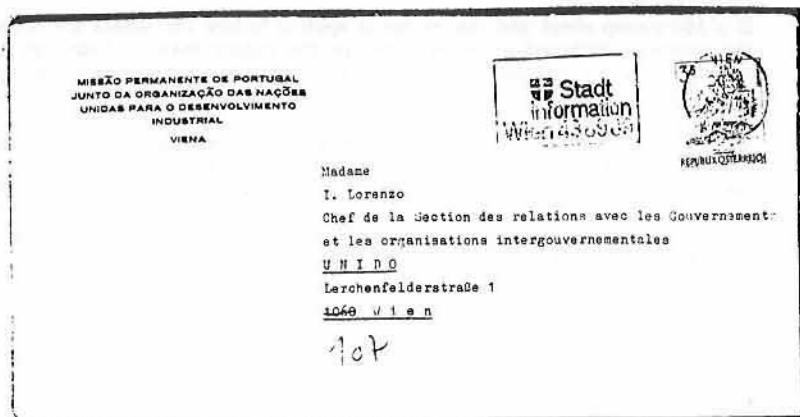
As your president, I would like to see our management team continue supporting these goals in a positive way. We cannot do it alone. UNP is all of us and we can and should take part as opportunity permits. Together we can make United Nations Philatelists the respected voice in United Nations collecting, not only nationally but also worldwide as we coordinate activities with similar groups in other countries.

Not to be overlooked is the important fact that we would not even exist were it not for the United Nations Organization and its Postal Administration. It is my desire to see a strengthened dialog between our organizations, which will benefit us all. Again, it is the all-important communications that is our cornerstone. With the coordinated support of us all, we should make great gains in our chosen hobby.

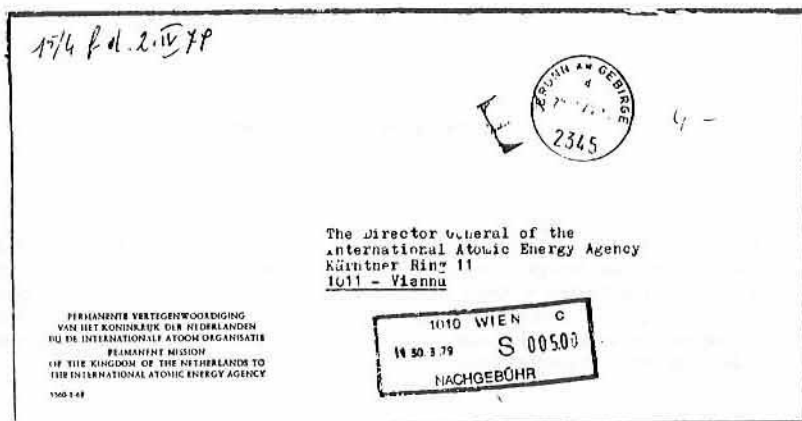
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A correction is in order for a picture caption on page 107 of the June, 1982 issue of The Journal. Audrey Harter is incorrectly identified as Ruth Miller. Our apologies for the error and regrets that space did not permit more photo coverage of CIAPEX.

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Envelope used by the Portugal delegate to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).



Envelope used by the Netherlands representative to the IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Note the postage due imprint applied at the 1010 WIEN post office, 30 March 1979, prior to the opening of the UNPA post office 27 August 1979.

