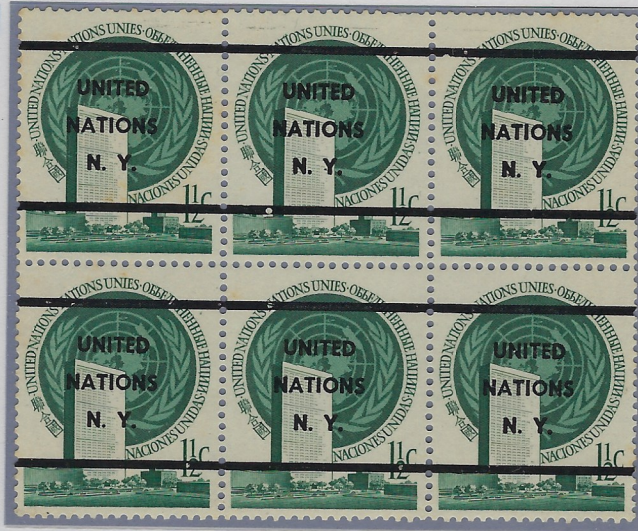


1½¢ precancel

Of the first printing of 4,000,000 1½¢ stamps, 500,000 copies were precancelled by letterpress at Dennison and Sons, Long Island City, New York, using two different plates. It was the only United Nations stamp ever precancelled. It was never sold to the general public by the U.N. Postal Administration, but was used for bulk third class mailings to the general public by certain organizations and by the U.N. Postal Administration between September, 1952 and January, 1958. In 1952, the third class rate was 2¢ for the first two ounces, but a bulk mailing rate of 1½¢ was applicable to specially authorized mailings of identical pieces presorted by destination and amounting to a minimum of 20 pounds or 200 pieces at a time.

Mint precancels

A few genuine mint stamps (with full gum) exist, but are scarce, such as the mint block of six above and the mint marginal inscription block of four below.



This mint marginal inscription block of four is from an upper pane, as shown by the plate scratches in the right margin.

Used precancels (off cover)



A few genuine used multiples exist, such as the pair above. According to Gaines*, the largest documented genuinely used precancel multiple is a block of eight stamps found in Europe and removed from a large UNPA envelope.

Used precancels (on piece)

The following "cut squares" were taken from some of the various mailings of the 1½¢ precancel. (Complete covers are shown later in this frame.)



*United Nations Philately, edited by Arleigh Gaines, 1980 (with annual supplements), R. & D. Publications, New York, NY.

Precancel forgeries

Many forged copies of the precancelled stamp exist, with many having been made by the photo-offset method of printing and some by lithography. While some forgeries are crude and can be detected easily, others are almost identical to the genuine stamp. Some forgeries exist on other than the first printing. The Philatelic Foundation examined some of the many forgeries in 1958 and announced that each of the individual positions on the post office panes can be identified by "plating".

Characteristics of genuine and forged precancels

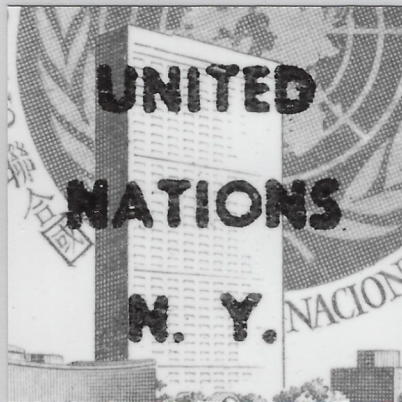
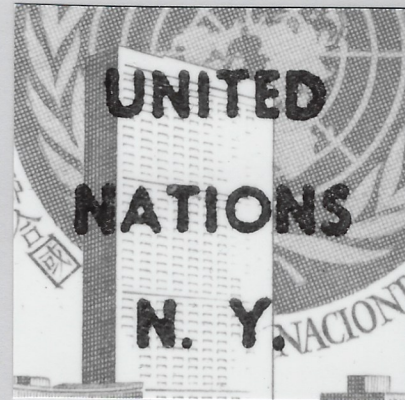
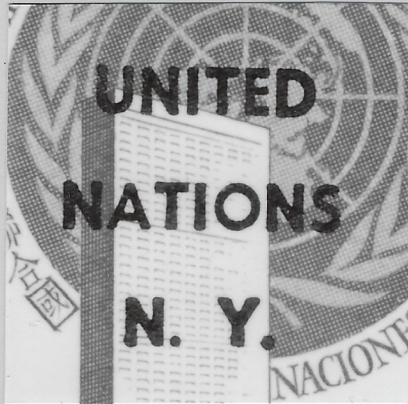


Genuine precancel

- printed by letterpress, usually leaving a debossing (raised letters and especially periods on the reverse)
- generally well-formed, square-edged letters
- even distribution of the black ink

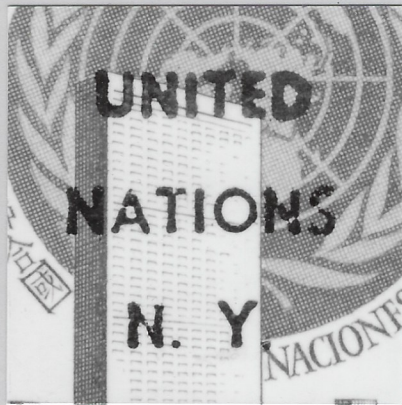
Forged precancel

- printed by photo-offset (or lithography) and usually smooth on the reverse (some forgeries have debossing added by hand)
- generally deformed and/or rounded corners on letters
- uneven distribution of the black ink

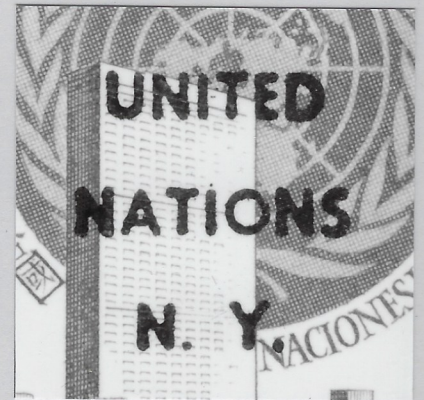


Some forgeries are very crude and can be spotted easily, having letters with very rounded edges. The black ink is very unevenly printed and the letters and horizontal bars are flat and not raised as on genuine examples.

Other forgeries are near-perfect. There is no debossing on the reverse, but the stamp is from the third printing (medium fluorescence). All genuine precancels were made on stamps from the first printing (no fluorescence).



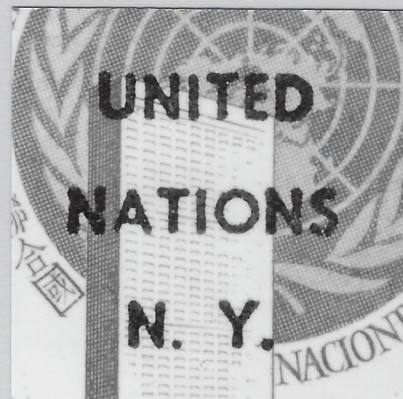
In many forgeries, the letters are deformed and/or rounded. In this forgery, the left side of the letter "U" in "UNITED" is thicker than the right side.



In this forgery, there is a curve in the letter "T" of "UNITED" and the right top of the letter "T" in "NATIONS" is shorter than the left top.



The forged precancel overprints on this marginal inscription block of four exhibit the thicker left side than right side of the letter "U", a curve in the top of the "T" in "UNITED" and a shorter right top than left top of the letter "T" in "NATIONS".



All precancels with inverted overprints, doubled overprints, and double overprints (with one inverted) are forgeries. Examples are shown below.



Forged inverted overprint



Forged double overprint (small shift)



Forged double overprint (moderate shift)



Forged double overprint (one inverted)

Definitive stamps (vertical) – Enschedé

Precancel stamps on United Nations service covers

Few complete covers with the precancel stamp have survived. It is estimated that only 1000–2000 covers still exist. About 361,700 precancels (of the 500,000 overprinted) were used in eight mailings, most likely consisting of several smaller mailings, as listed in the following table:

MAILING #	DATE	QUANTITY	GAINES* COVER TYPES
1	September, 1952	100,000	A, B, C
2	May, 1953	70,000	D, (E) [†]
3	April, 1954	27,000	(E), (F)
4	May, 1955	23,000	F, G, H, I, (J)
5	September, 1955	7,500	I, J
6	October, 1955	53,000	I, J
7	November, 1956	49,600	(F), K
8	January, 1958	31,600	L

[†]The notation () above indicates that more research is needed.

For several of the types listed above, several sub-types have been discovered.

Bulk mail rates (1.5¢/piece or 14¢ per pound as of July 1, 1952 until December 31, 1958) were applicable to specially authorized mailings of identical pieces of mail in bulk lots amounting to a minimum of 20 lbs or 200 pieces mailed at one time, instead of the 2¢ rate normally used for "circular" type letters. All service covers used for official mail were marked either in printing or by rubber stamp "SEC. 34.66, P.L. & R." (Section 34.66, Postal Laws and Regulations).

Type A


Type A (used in the first mailing) has the indicia "Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R." (*upper right*), which is 33 mm long. The corner card (*upper left*) has a short last line (22 mm).

Type B


Type B (used in the first mailing) has the same corner card as Type A, but the indicia "SEC. 34.66 P.L. & R." is in small capital letters compared to Type A and is only 24–25 mm long.

The precancel has an 8 mm shift to the left of the precancel overprint, probably caused by sheet slippage during the printing. This extreme shift is not listed in Gaines catalog.

On this type B cover, the postal marking indicates that 2¢ postage is due, for redirection of the letter. The cover is backstamped Chico, Calif. with the date OCT 23, 1952.

UNITED NATIONS  NAT
NEW YORK

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANT
ATTENTION U.S.A. POSTMASTERS, O
has removed and new address is
sender on Form 3547, postage for whic
In case of removal to another post offic
the addressee but hold the matter and sta
the amount of forwarding postage requir
will promptly furnish.

UNITED NATIONS  NAT
NEW YORK

RETURN POSTAGE
ATTENTION U.S.A. POSTMAS
has removed and new addr
sender on Form 3547, postage
In case of removal to another
the addressee but hold the matte
the amount of forwarding postag
will promptly furnish.

UNITED NATION

RETURN
ATTENTION U.S.A.
has removed and
sender on Form 35
In case of removal
the addressee but h
the amount of forw
will promptly furnis

ONS UNIES

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.

7: If addressee known, notify is guaranteed. do not notify on Form 3547 which sender



R O - D K TRUMAN
205 CRESCENT AVE
LEONIA N J

NATIONS UNIES

SEC. 34.66 P.L. & R.

ARANTEED
RS, ONLY: If addressee is unknown, notify which is guaranteed. office, do not notify and state on Form 3547 required, which sender



MISS DOROTHY MEAD
3100 WISCONSIN AVE N W
APT 105
WASHINGTON D C

S NATIONS UNIES

SEC. 34.66 P.L. & R.

EW YORK

POSTAGE GUARANTEED
POSTMASTERS, ONLY: If addressee address is unknown, notify postage for which is guaranteed. another post office, do not notify the matter and state on Form 3547 postage required, which sender



POSTAGE DUE, 2 CENTS

REASON CHECKED:
Unclaimed _____
Unknown _____
For better address _____
Moved, left no address _____
No such office in state _____
000190155 50 100P
AMES WELLS
544 W 6TH ST
CHICO CALIF



wrong

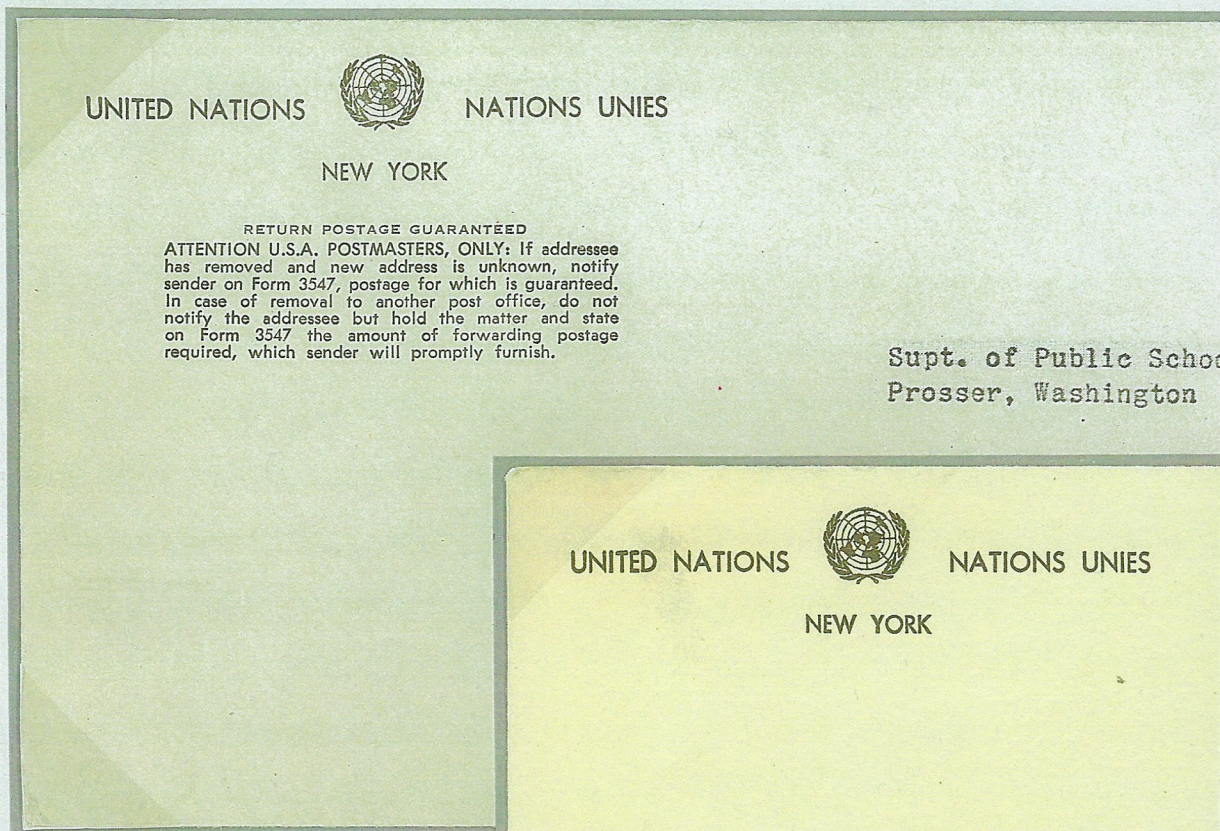
Gone

Definitive stamps (vertical) – Enschedé

Type C

Type C (used in the first mailing) has the same indicia as Type A, but the last line of the corner card is 50 mm long instead of 22 mm.

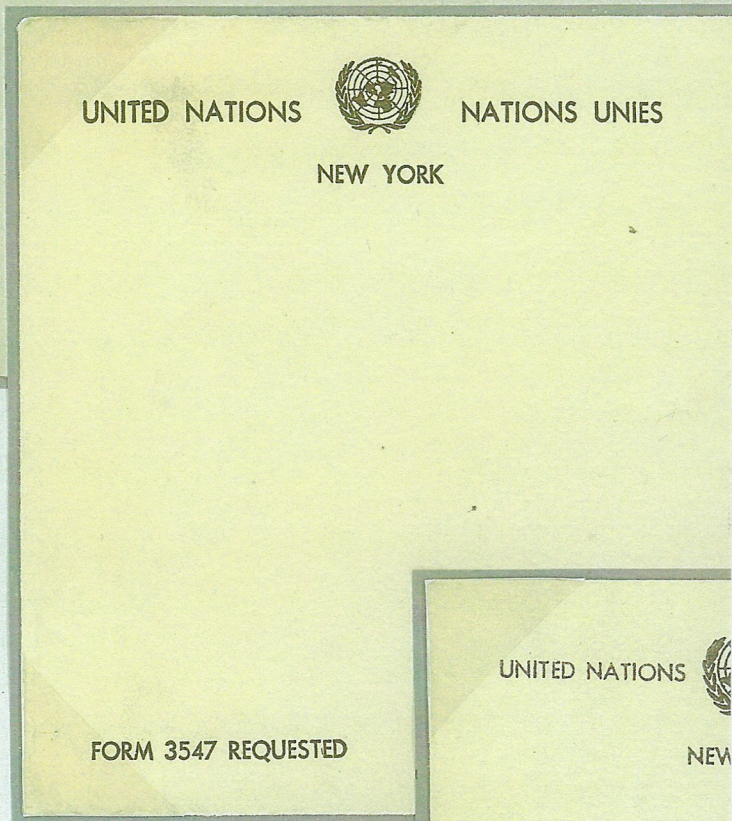
The titles and addresses on this mailing were printed in two stages. First, the title was applied, then the address was printed in a second run. Some covers show a misalignment of the two parts. Some covers of this mailing also show the incorrect title "Librabian".



Type E

Type E (probably used in the second and/or third mailing) has "FORM 3547 REQUESTED" printed in the lower left corner. The indicia is 34 mm long with an extended "&".

Type D is very similar to Type E, but the indicia is 32.5 mm long with a normal "&".



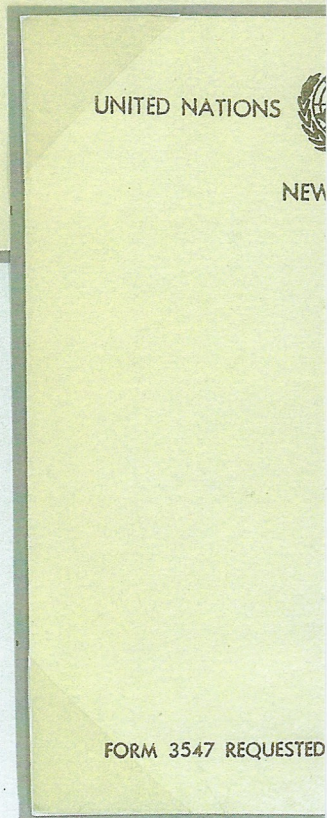
Type F

Type F1 (used in the fourth mailing and possibly the seventh mailing, and less likely the third mailing) has an ungummed left flap (as viewed from the back of the envelope) with the words "CENT A POST" in a circle. On some covers, the letters "R" and/or "T", for "registered trademark" flank the circle. The words "PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION" are printed on the envelope's back left edge.



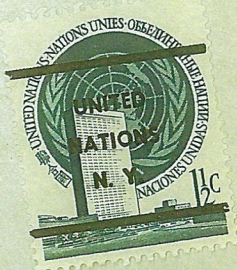
PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION

Type F2 (not shown) is similar to Type F1, except that the ungummed flap opens from the right side of the envelope (as viewed from the back).



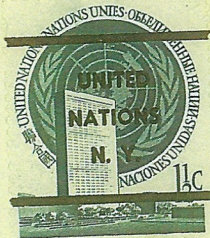
1 1/2¢ stamp

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.



2614

SEC 34.66 P.L. & R.



MR SIMON DANNENBERG
8 MARSHAL RD
YONKERS N Y
E-5-52

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.



NATIONS UNIES

YORK



MISS KATHARINE HARRINGTON
1884 MASSACHUSETTS AV
LEXINGTON 73 MASS

Definitive stamps (vertical) – Enschedé

Type F1(m)

Type F1(m) (used in the fourth and perhaps, but less likely, in the third mailing) arose when some of the Type F1 envelopes were franked originally with U.S. postage by a Pitney Bowes meter at the Columbia University Press, which handled U.N. publications.

As the U.N.'s bulk mailing permit was valid only at the U.N. Post Office, and U.N. postage was required, the metering was in error.

On these covers, a blank paper tape was placed over the meter, and the precancel was affixed over the tape. The meters underneath were rubber-stamped

(a) "NO REFUND" (cover at right),



(facsimile of meter and overprint)

(b) "STAMP VALUE REFUNDED" (cover at right),



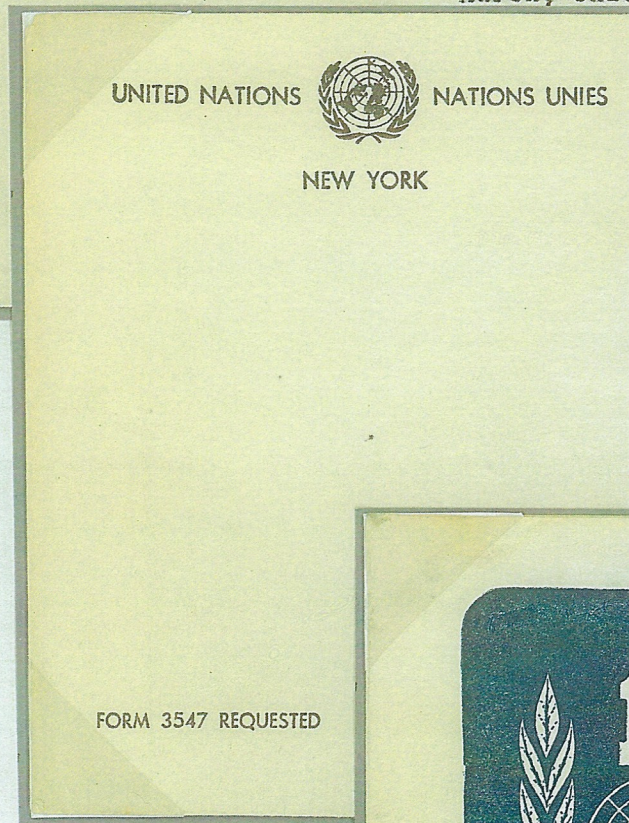
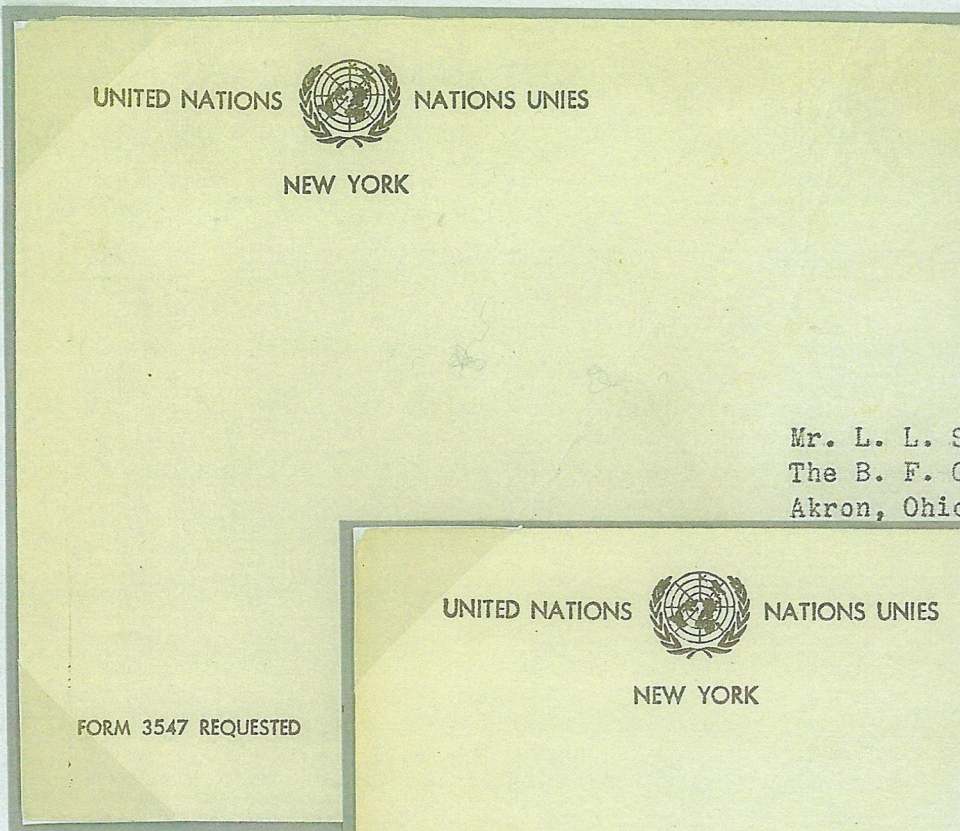
(facsimile of meter and overprint)

or (c) are without any stamping.

Type G

Type G (used in the fourth mailing), displays a large blue Tenth Anniversary commemorative cachet. There is an ungummed right flap (as viewed from the back of the envelope) which shows the words "PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION".

PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION

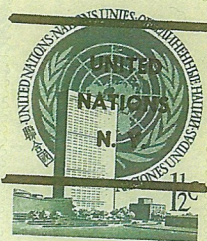


Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.



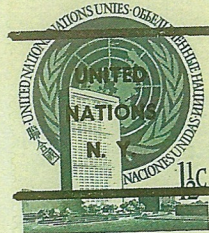
Smith, Treas.
Rodrich Co.

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.



MR. PAUL REUTER-LORENZ.
MGR ADV & MARKET DEVELOP DIV

SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.



MISS E S ISAACSON
8 WEST 30 ST
NEW YORK 1 N Y

Definitive stamps (vertical) – Enschedé

Type H

Type H (used in the fourth mailing) displays a smaller U.N. Tenth Anniversary cachet than Type G. There is an ungummed left flap (as viewed from the back of the envelope) with the words "CENT A POST" in a circle. Sometimes the letters "R" and/or "T", for "registered trademark" flank the circle. The words "PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION" are printed on the envelope's back left edge.



UNITED NATIONS
New York

PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION



INGRID McFAD
551 GRAND ST
REDWOOD CITY

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Type I

Type I (used in the fourth, fifth and sixth mailings) was made using UNESCO stationery. The indicia "SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R." was added with a rubber stamp, of which there were two types — with and without a comma after "34.66". The rubber stamp ink color varies from rose red to bluish-purple. Since precancels were never sold to the public, the U.N., in 1955, offered collectors a chance to get a cover with a precancel if they sent a gummed self-addressed label to receive promotional literature which offered subscriptions to the UNESCO Courier, the UNESCO Chronicle and information about United Nations postage stamps.

Four varieties of the corner card have been identified:

Type I1 (*right*) in which the "A" in "NATIONS" in the corner card has a pointed top.

A

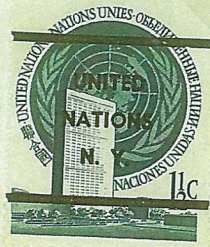
Type I1

The bulk mailing rate of $1\frac{1}{2}\phi$ could not be used on this Type I1 cover sent to Canada. In 1955, the first-class surface letter rate to Canada was 3ϕ , as allowed by the Special Postal Treaty with Canada, so an additional precancel stamp was added. (The 3ϕ rate was the same as the domestic rate.) Precancel usage to countries outside of United States is seldom seen.

UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

1 1/2¢ stamp

Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R.



DEN
CALIF



NS



R. D. Mitchener,
404 Elgin St.,
Ottawa,
Ontario,
Canada.

SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.

UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Type I2 has a corner card with the lines closer together compared to the corner card on Type I1 covers. The "A" in "NATIONS" is square-topped. Many of the letters (e.g., the "I" in "NATIONS") are poorly formed. Also the indicia is slightly shorter than on Type I1 covers. Covers are unwatermarked.

To *Herb Launder III*

UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Type I3 has a corner card in which the "A" in "NATIONS" is square-topped. The ungummed right flap (from the back of the envelope) bears the words "PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION". The cover is fluorescent under ultraviolet light, and is unwatermarked.

A

PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION

The precancel overprint is shifted very low.

This cover type has been authenticated by Gaines, but is not listed in his catalog.

UNESCO
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Type I4 has a corner card in which the lines are slightly longer than on previous types. The "A" in "NATIONS" is square-topped. The back flap of the envelope is pointed, compared to the rounded flaps of the previous types. The cover is neither fluorescent nor watermarked.

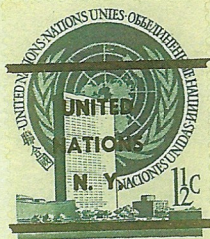
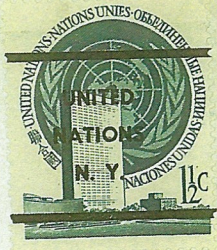
A

The precancel overprint is shifted very high and to the left.

This cover type is not listed in Gaines catalog.

1 1/2¢ stamp

. & R.



J. n. Clarkson Jr
Box 58

SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.

NS



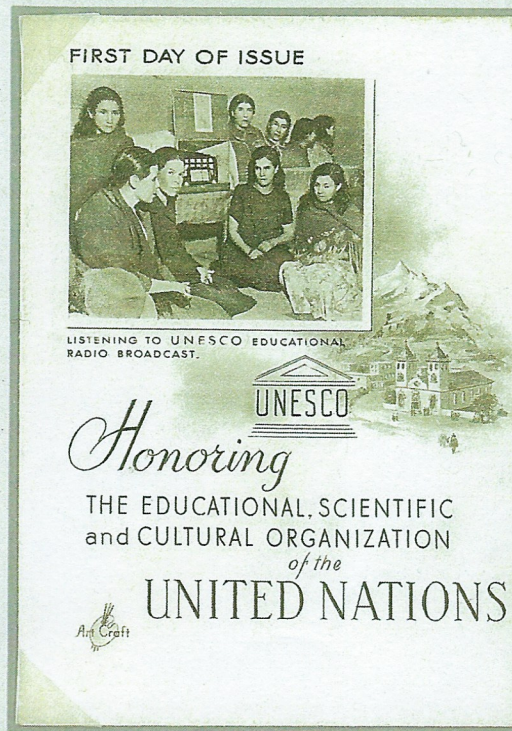
Mr. J. L. Blackburn
211 Spencer Road
asking Ridge, N. J.

SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.

Definitive stamps (vertical) – Enschedé

Type J

Type J (used in the fifth, sixth, and possibly fourth mailings) consists of commercially cacheted covers; all that have been observed are addressed to officials at American colleges, indicating that perhaps these covers were part of a special official mailing. The indicia is the same as on type I covers and exists both with and without a comma after "34.66".



Bancroft Beatley
Chief Executive
Simmons College
Boston, Mass.

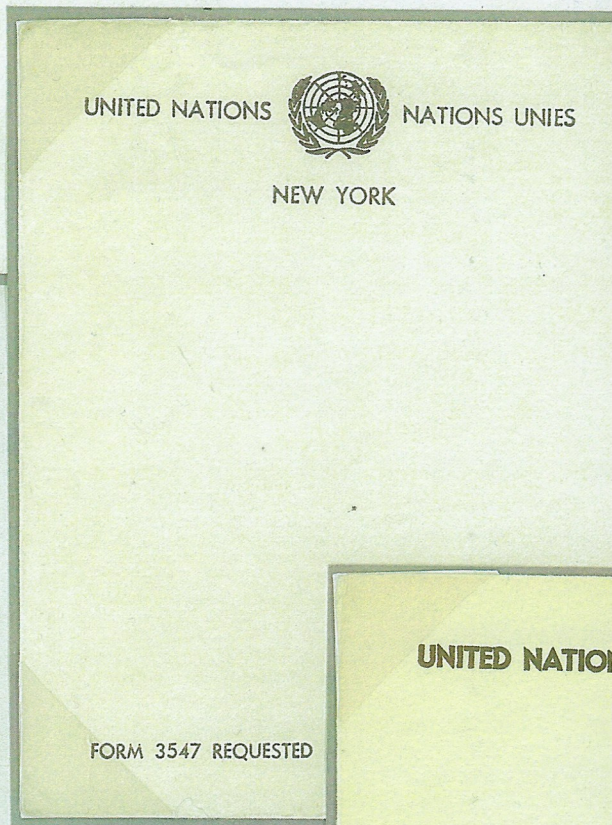
SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.

Type K

Type K1 (used in the seventh mailing) has "Blk. Rt." (for Bulk Rate) replacing the indicia "SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R." in the upper right corner. There is an ungummed left flap (as viewed from the back of the envelope) with the words "CENT A POST" in a circle. The letters "R" and/or "T", for "registered trademark" flank the circle. The words "PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION" are printed on the left edge of the envelope's back.



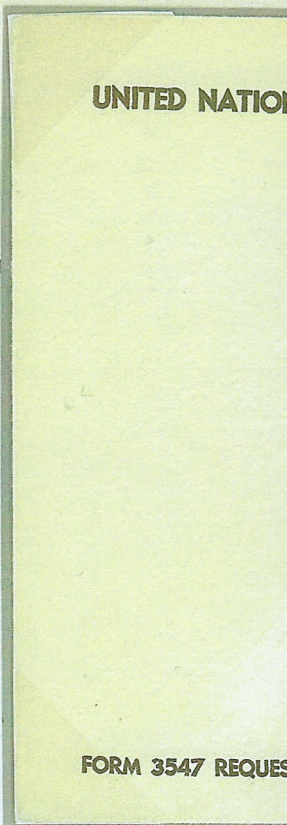
PULL OUT END FLAP FOR POSTAL INSPECTION



Type L

Type L (used in the eighth mailing) has no text near the stamp to show the rate class allowing the use of the 1½¢ rate instead of the 2¢ rate normally used for "circular" type letters. There is an ungummed right flap (as viewed from the back of the envelope) which shows the words "PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION".

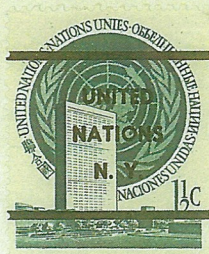
PULL OUT FOR POSTAL INSPECTION



1 1/2¢ stamp



Blk. Rt.



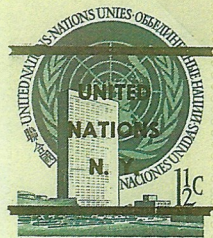
MRS W T HEDGCOCK
393 - 31ST ST S E
CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA

1-414



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK



Mrs. Kathryn Brougham
720Chillum Rd.
Hyattsville, Md.