

Control numbers



Four different typfaces were used by De La Rue to print the control numbers of the 1¢ stamp — (top row, left to right) type 1 (15,000 panes) and type 2 (3,000 panes); (bottom row, left to right), type 3 (36,000 panes) and type 4 (46,000 panes).



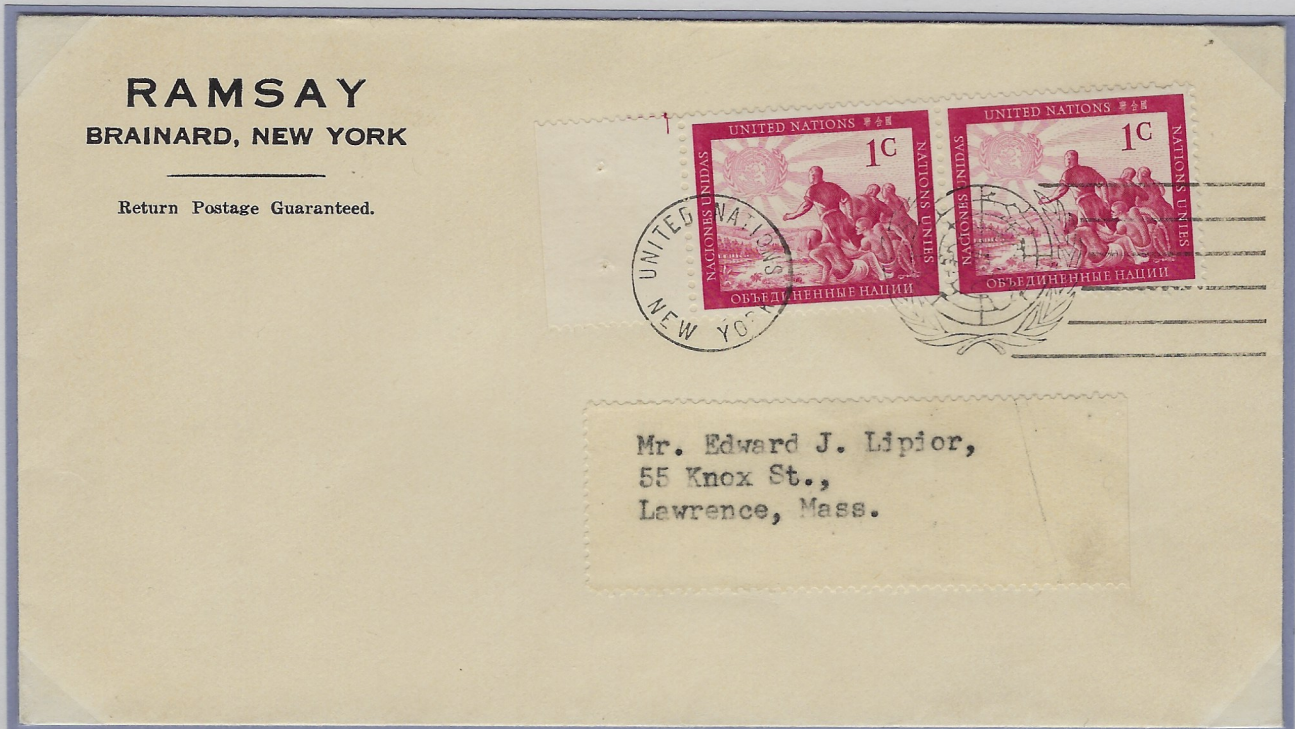
Second printing: Issued July, 1958; 2,000,000 issued. The paper is of three types: slight fluorescence (Group II) (left), medium fluorescence (Group IV) (middle) and fluorescent (Group V) (right). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



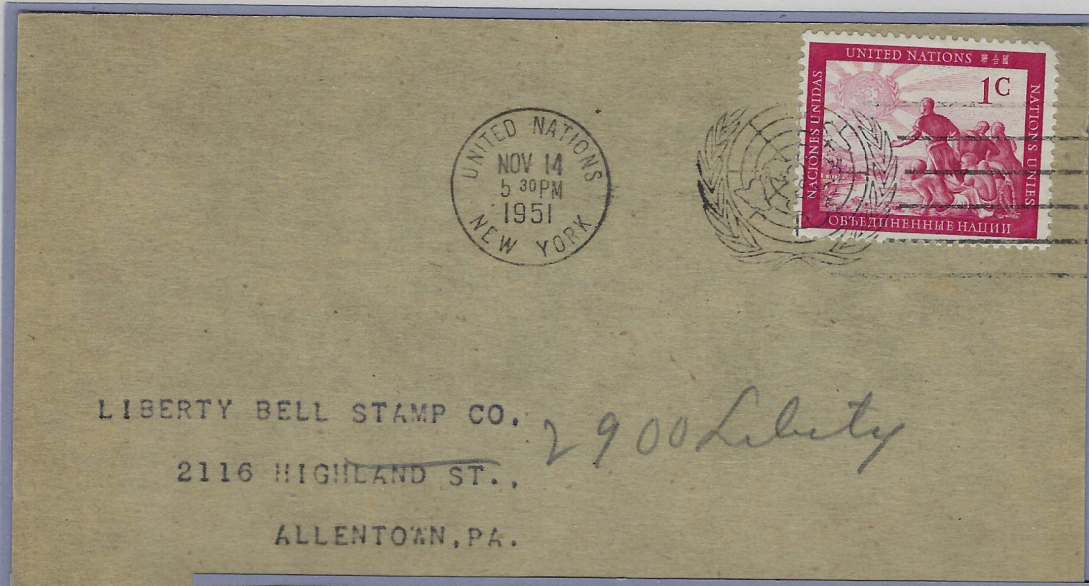
Third printing: Issued July, 1961; 1,000,000 issued. The paper is of high fluorescence (Group VI). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.

The United Nations Postal Administration did not report this printing until March, 1966 — three years after the stamp was taken off sale.

Postal usages

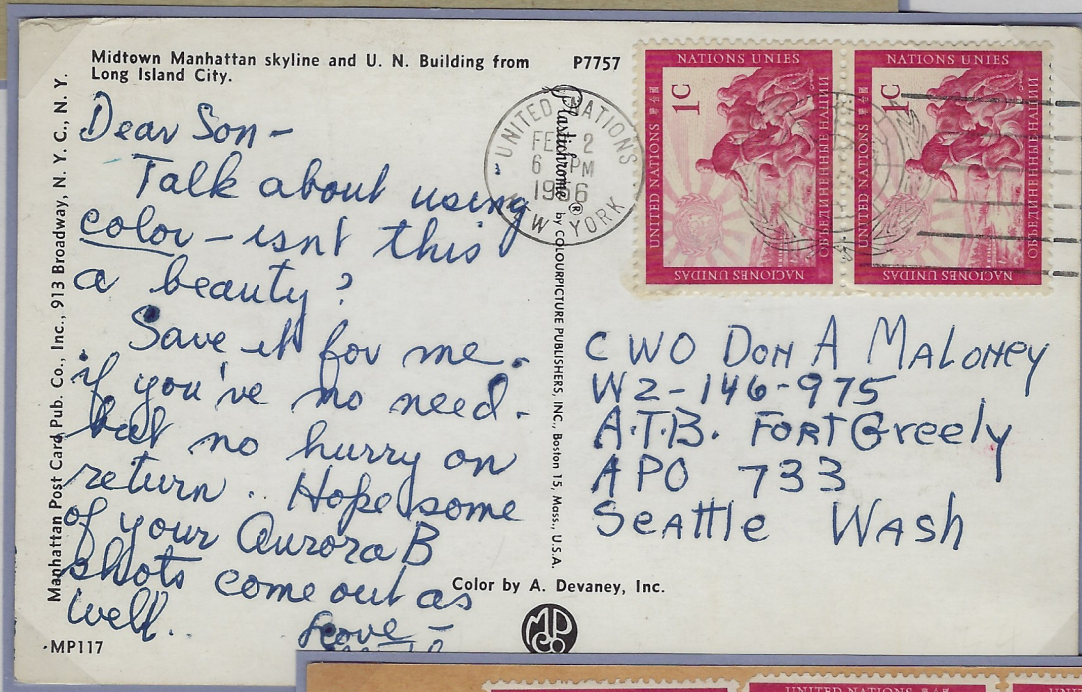


A pair of 1¢ stamps paid the third-class rate of 2¢ for the first two ounces, in effect when the stamp was issued until July 31, 1958.



A 1¢ stamp paid the domestic post card rate in effect when the stamp was issued until December 31, 1951.

The rate for a domestic post card was 2¢ from January 1, 1952 until July 31, 1958.

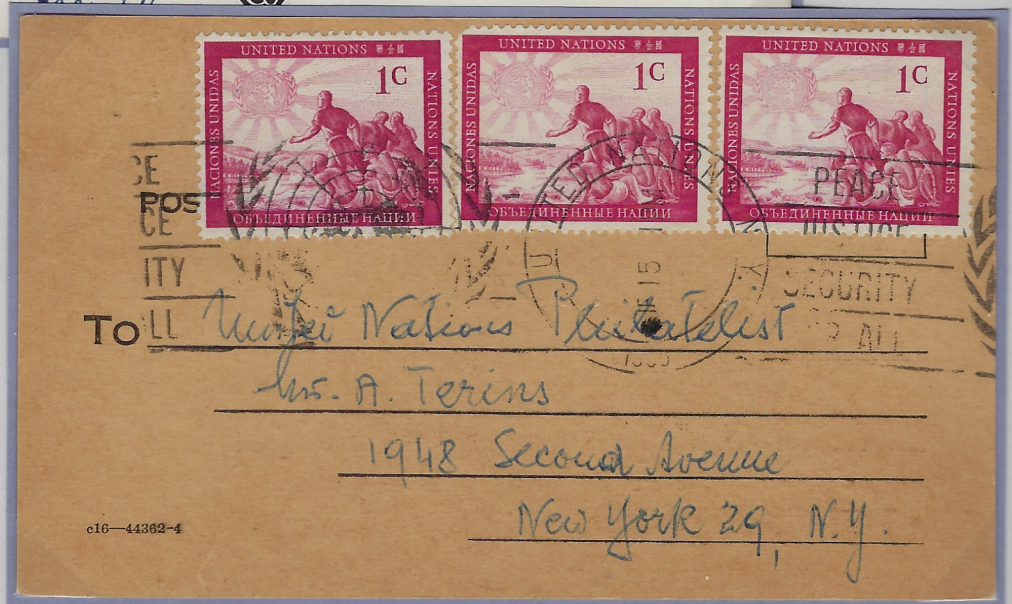


Manhattan Post Card Pub. Co., Inc., 913 Broadway, N. Y. C., N. Y.

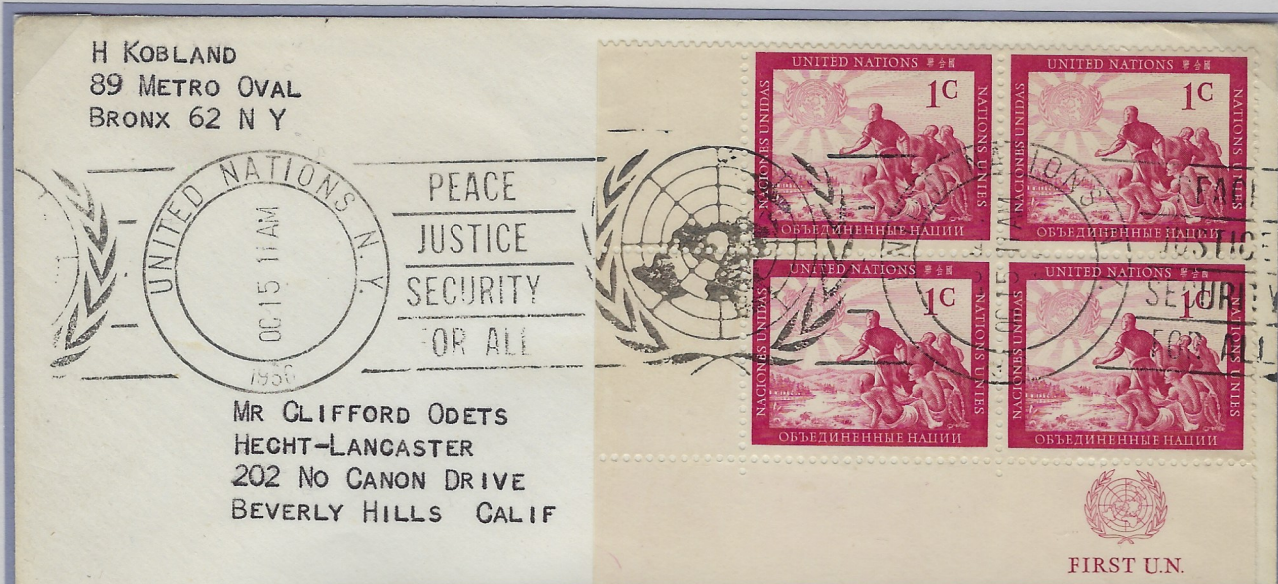
Color by A. Devaney, Inc.

MP117

This post card, postmarked on June 15, 1959, paid the domestic post card rate of 3¢, in effect from August 1, 1958 until January 6, 1963. The rate for a post card then became 4¢.



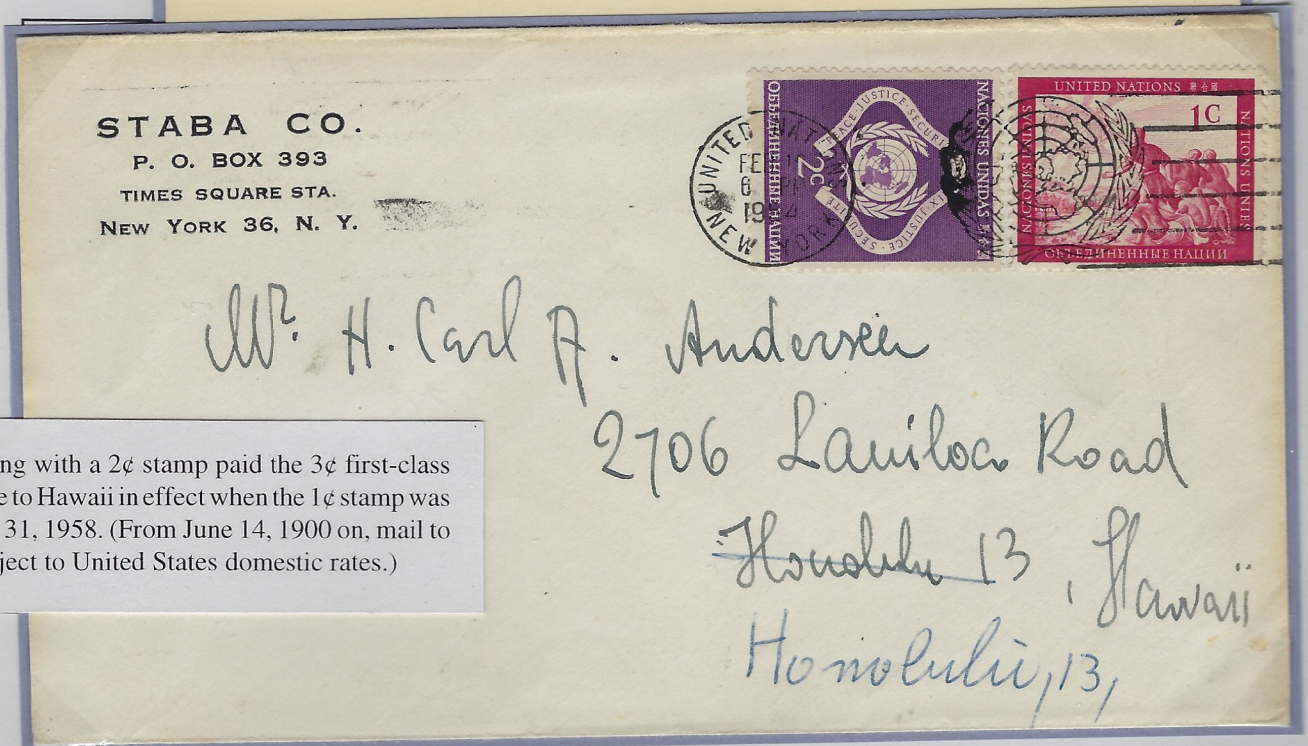
c16-44362-4



The 4¢ first-class surface letter rate in effect from August 1, 1958 until Jan. 6, 1963, was paid using a marginal inscription block of four.



A 1¢ stamp was used to make up the 4¢ domestic post card rate which came into effect January 7, 1963 (nine days after this card was mailed) and lasted until January 6, 1968.



A 1¢ stamp, along with a 2¢ stamp paid the 3¢ first-class surface letter rate to Hawaii in effect when the 1¢ stamp was issued until July 31, 1958. (From June 14, 1900 on, mail to Hawaii was subject to United States domestic rates.)

Overview of printings



First printing



Second printing



Third printing

Production details

Ole Hamann, Denmark, was the designer; B.S. Cresser was the engraver. The flag and sky (U.N. blue) were printed first by photogravure; the five-language border and flagpole (carmine) were printed last by line engraving. The perforation was 12½ horizontally by 13 vertically.

Printings



Right margin perforated (left pane)

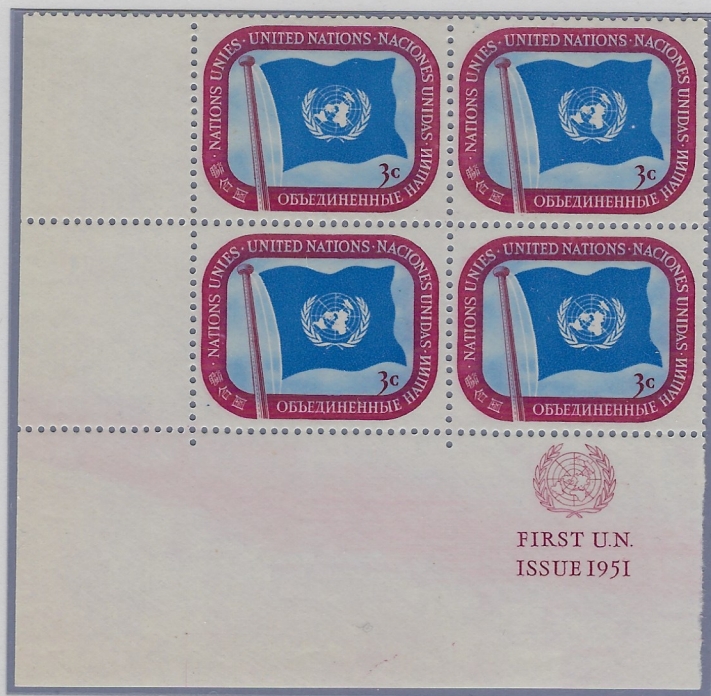


Right margin imperforate (right pane)

First printing: Issued October 24, 1951; 6,000,000 issued. The paper is non-fluorescent (Group I). The top and bottom margins are imperforate (with one perforation extending into the selvedge); left margins of panes are perforated, while right margins are either perforated (left panes) or are imperforate (right panes). Control numbers (001–100) are printed in the lower right margins of panes.

Note the different shades of blue in the two blocks.

Printing varieties



"Pink Paper" variety

The pinkish tinge is probably due to inadequate plate wiping.



Ink smear

A pronounced ink smear appears along the bottom edge.



"Offset" variety

A pair of stamps showing a slight offset of the carmine printing on the gum side of the stamp.



"Paperfold" varieties

A paperfold caused a white line in the flag in the upper right stamp (*above*) and in the lower stamps (*right*). The folds were subsequently flattened out, as there is no line in the language border, which was printed last. This variety is not listed by Gaines.

Doctor blade flaws

The doctor blade, a part of the printing machine, is held in close contact with the revolving printing plate, thus removing the ink from the non-printing surface. The variety or white line is caused by a small piece of foreign matter becoming lodged between the plate and the blade, resulting in some ink being removed by scraping not only from the plate surface but also from the plate design.



"Cut Flag" variety

The white line appears to cut the flag into two parts. The line usually extends over two or more stamps.



"Double Flag Line" variety

The white line passes close to the flagpole, appearing to give it an extra halyard line. Note the various positions of the "double flag line"; they were not constant.

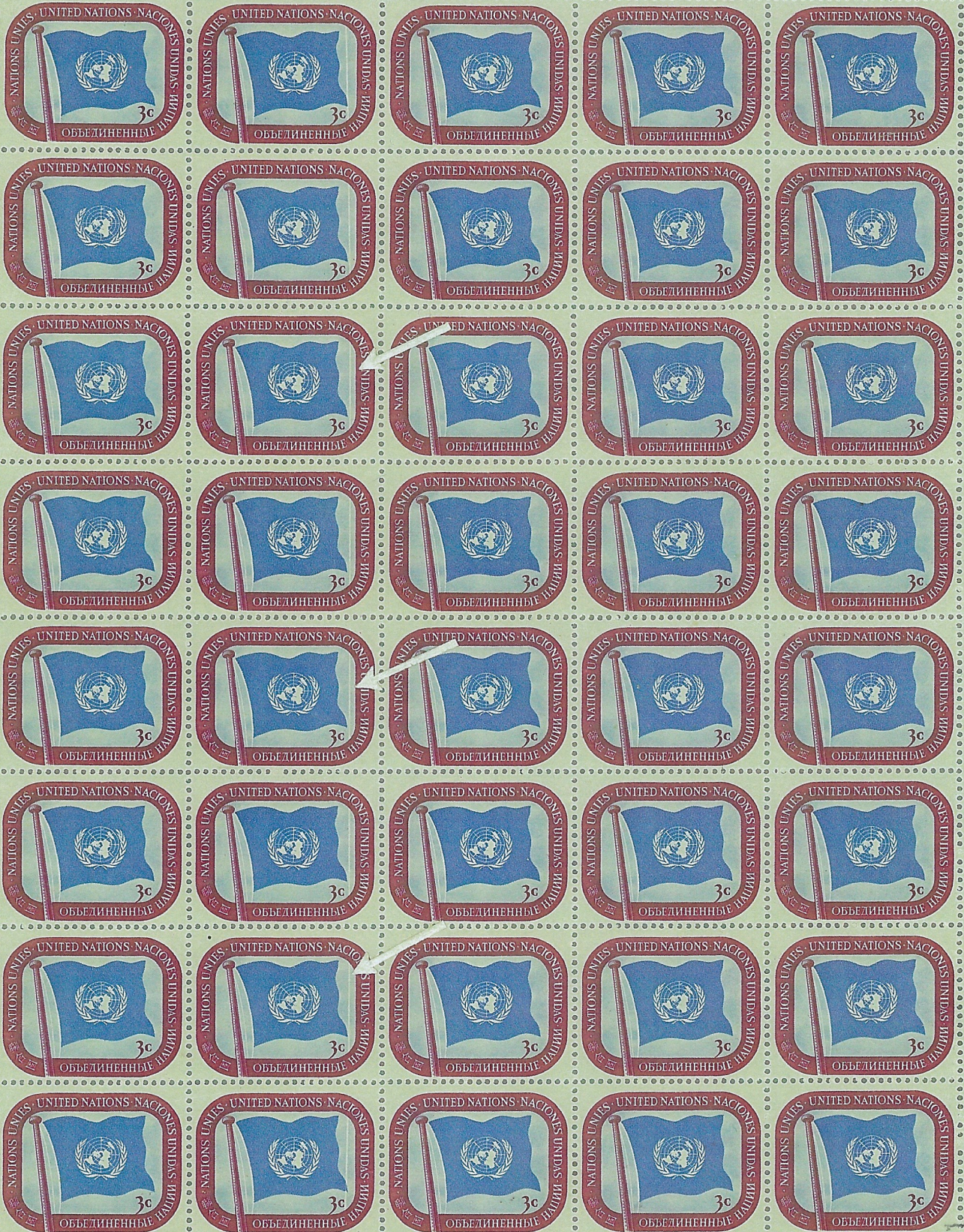
Below is a complete pane showing the "Cut Flag" variety, extending from the top to the bottom of the pane.



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Flag shift varieties

The 3¢ stamp was printed using two plates — one for each of the two colors. The first plate used was the photogravure plate, which printed the flag and sky in U.N. blue. Then the recess plate (line engraving) was used to print the five-language border and flagpole in carmine. Shifts occurred during the printing runs if the two runs were not properly registered. Stamps are known with the flag shifted up, down, to the left and to the right.



"Raised Flag" variety



"Lowered Flag" variety



Flag shifted to the left



Flag shifted to the right

Perforation errors



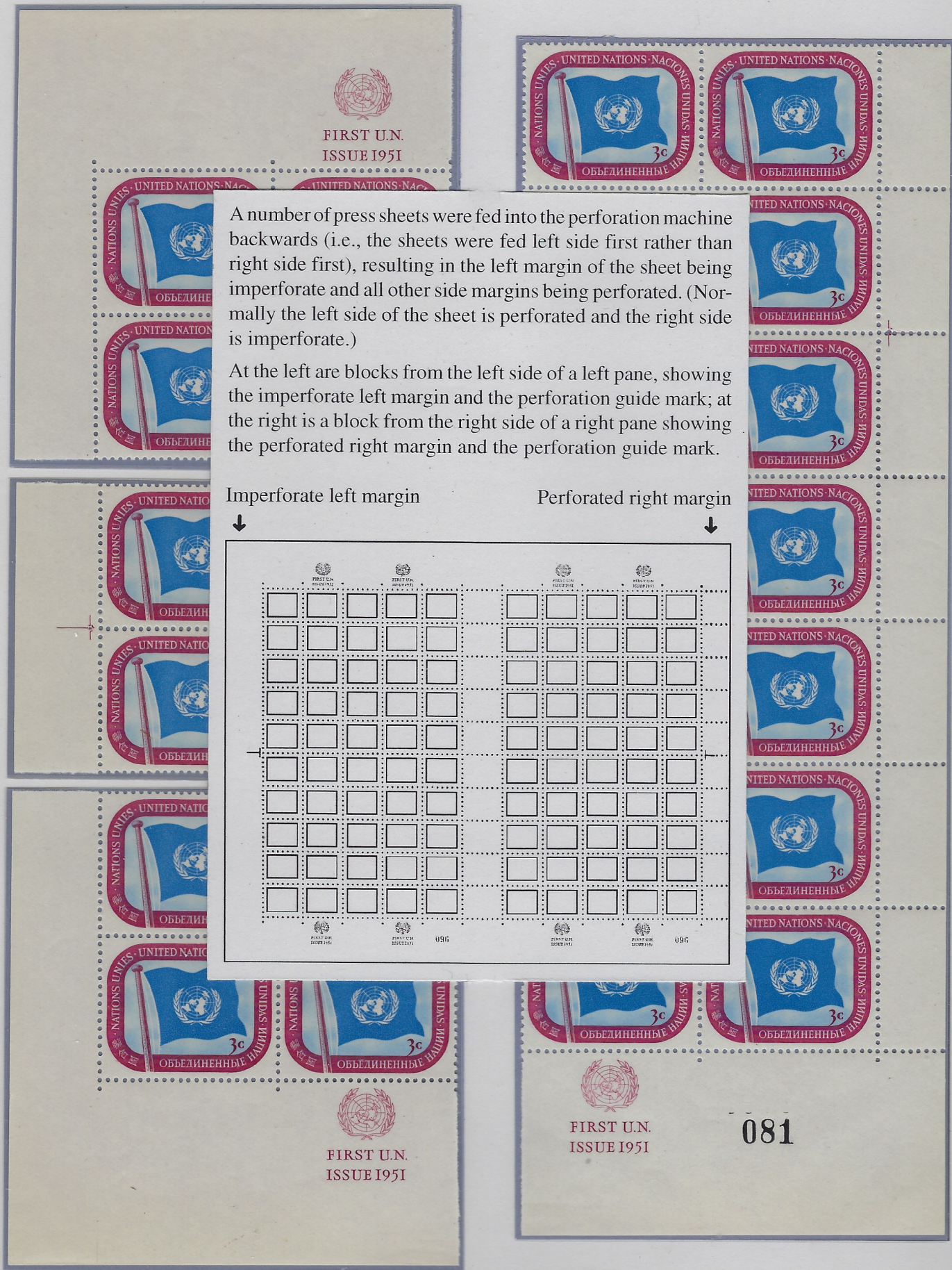
Extra horizontal perforations were caused when the pane was improperly aligned with the perforating machine.



A pre-perforating corner foldover, resulting in extra perforations, was unfolded before the sheet was trimmed.



Perforation error

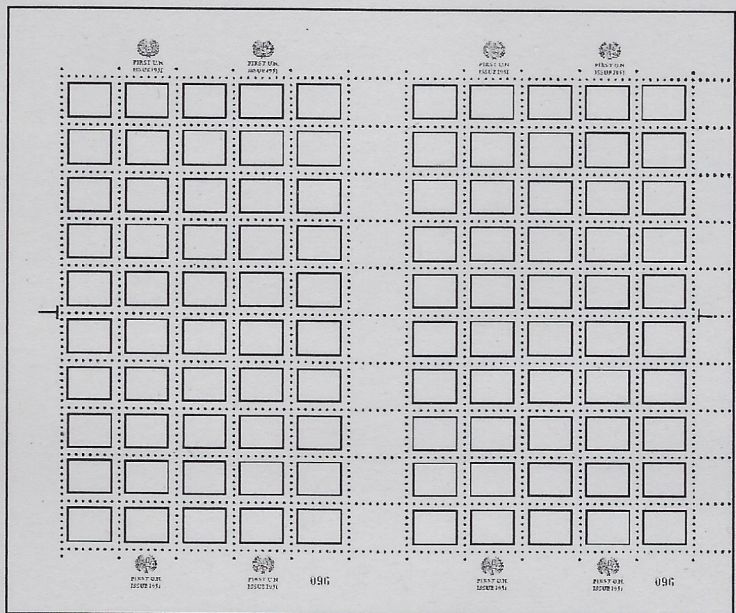


A number of press sheets were fed into the perforation machine backwards (i.e., the sheets were fed left side first rather than right side first), resulting in the left margin of the sheet being imperforate and all other side margins being perforated. (Normally the left side of the sheet is perforated and the right side is imperforate.)

At the left are blocks from the left side of a left pane, showing the imperforate left margin and the perforation guide mark; at the right is a block from the right side of a right pane showing the perforated right margin and the perforation guide mark.

Imperforate left margin

Perforated right margin



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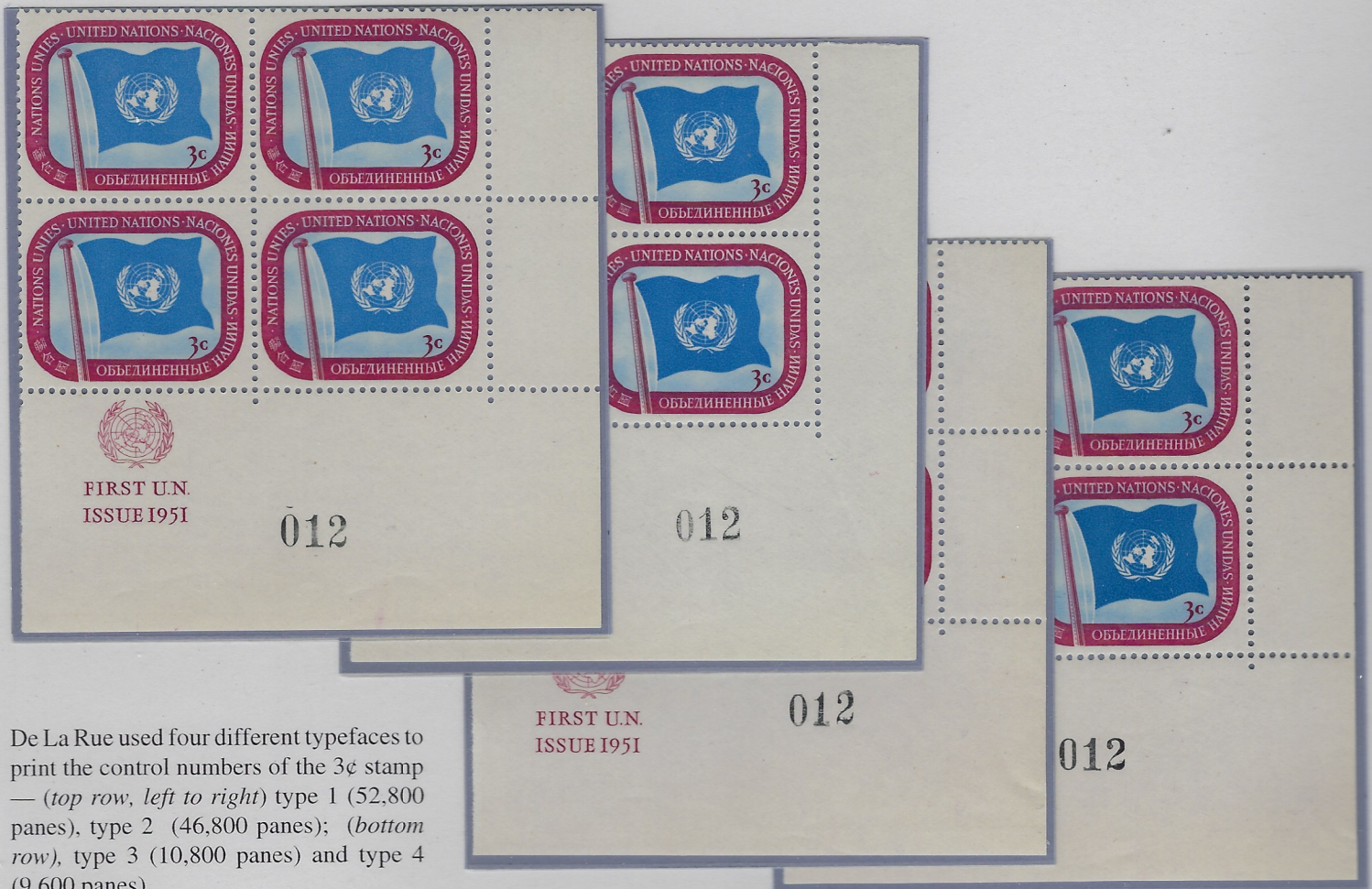
081

Trimming error

This block, from a mistrimmed right pane, shows part of the cycloidal strip, a band 14.7 mm in width engraved on the recess plate, which is trimmed on most sheets.



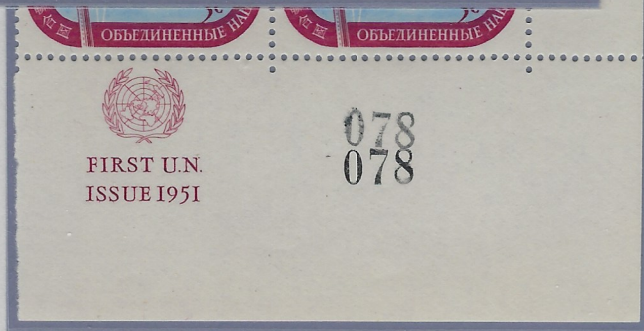
Control numbers



De La Rue used four different typefaces to print the control numbers of the 3¢ stamp — (top row, left to right) type 1 (52,800 panes), type 2 (46,800 panes); (bottom row), type 3 (10,800 panes) and type 4 (9,600 panes).

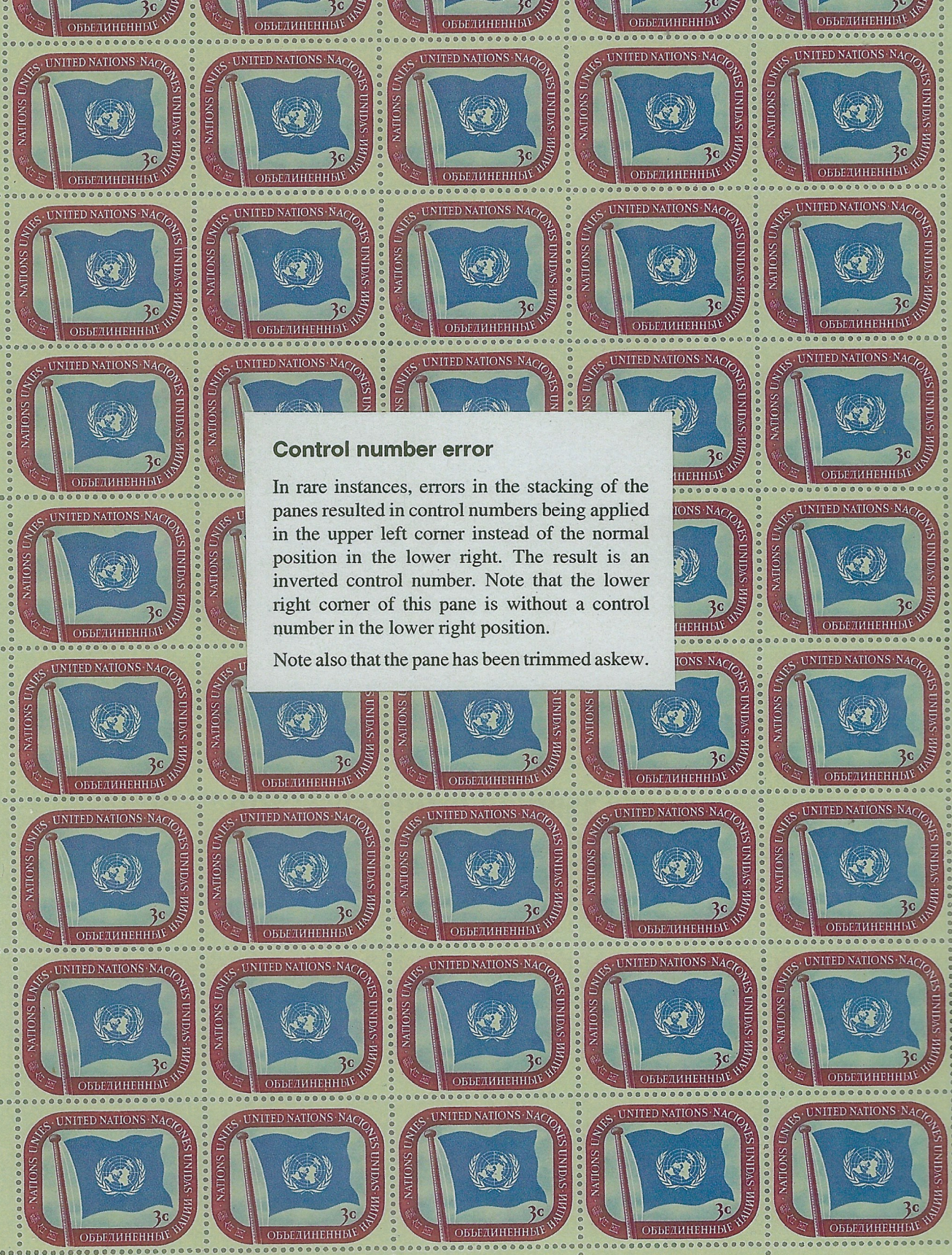


Control number errors



Occasionally, a control number was applied which was in the wrong sequence, or was a number over 100. Such numbers were erased and new ones were applied.

These marginal inscription blocks show double control number errors. The upper block shows the number "073" printed over the number "072", while the lower block shows a strong impression of the number "078" and a weaker impression of the same number above the first one.



Control number error

In rare instances, errors in the stacking of the panes resulted in control numbers being applied in the upper left corner instead of the normal position in the lower right. The result is an inverted control number. Note that the lower right corner of this pane is without a control number in the lower right position.

Note also that the pane has been trimmed askew.



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Forged control number errors



The block above shows an inverted control number which has been forged; the ink is grey instead of black and the digit "4" is 5.0 mm high instead of 4.5 mm. In the double control number forgery at the right, the upper "006" is a forgery — the upper and lower curves of the 0's are too thick.



Second printing: Issued February, 1961; 1,500,000 issued. The paper shows average fluorescence (Group V). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



Third printing: Issued April 6, 1962; 750,000 printed. The paper is of two types: high fluorescence (Group VI) (*left*) and mottled (Group VIII) with dull fluorescence (*right*). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.

Note the missing perforation holes in the upper selvedge of the block on the left, a variety not listed in Gaines catalog.

Plate flaws – Plate 1

The first printing was made using original recess plate (carmine) and photogravure plate (blue) — both plate 1.



This flaw appears on stamp #45 on the right pane of the recess plate. It exists, when it appears, in two different states. In state 1, (left), an elongated dot appears alongside a damaged border. In state 2, (right), the damaged border remains, but the dot has all but disappeared.



State 2 of the flaw also exists on the second and third printings which were made with recess plate 2. This example is from the second printing.

Some right panes of the first printing show no sign of the flaw, indicating that the fault occurred during the printing run.



This flaw occurs on the left pane of the recess plate. On stamp #50, there is a distorted "O" in the word "NACIONES" (left). On some panes, the flaw does not occur (right), indicating that the fault occurred during the printing run.



On the left pane of the photogravure plate, there is a retouch in the flag above the U.N. emblem on stamp #3 (left), and a small retouch in the flag above the digit "3" on stamp #32 (right).



On left panes of the photogravure plate containing the deformed "O", there is a white spot on the edge of the flag at the upper left on stamp #17.

Plate flaws – Plate 2

The second and third printings were made using new recess and photogravure plates — both plate 2.



On right panes of the recess plate, the second printing has one dot beside stamp #30 (left), while in the third printing, there are three dots in this location (right). On right panes of the photogravure plate, in both the second and third printings, there is a small retouch in the sky above the first "b" of the Russian inscription on stamp #29.



Stamp #9 on right panes of the photogravure plate in both the second and third printings has a small retouch in the sky above the first "E" of the Russian inscription. Stamp #10 shows a small line in the sky on the right side of the flag. This example is from the second printing.

"Cloudy Sky" variety

The right pane of the second and third printings shows a weak or blotchy sky on many stamps, especially on stamp #39. The weakness in the background was caused by insufficient care being taken when the photogravure plate was made. This example is from the third printing.

