

Overview of printings



Production details

H. Woyty-Wimmer was the designer; H. Woyty-Wimmer and B.S. Cresser were the engravers. The stamp was line-engraved (brown) and was perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally by 13 vertically.

Printings



Right margin perforated (left pane)

Right margin imperforate (right pane)

First printing: Issued November 16, 1951; 1,000,000 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 extra albino control number impression 026 under the 027, caused when the previous sheet was stamped with the number 026.

'Open 2' variety



"Open 2" variety

The base of the numeral "2" in "20c" originally was engraved open and is referred to as the "open 2" variety. During the beginning of the press run, ink began accumulating in the corner of the base of the "2" and eventually started smearing into the numeral as the printing continued, forming an uneven line of variable length and referred to as the "partially open 2" variety. Wishing to have a clean line, the printers at De La Rue decided to engrave a line at the base of each numeral "2" of the plate, giving the "closed 2" variety — which occurs on the majority of the first printing and on all subsequent printings.



"Partially open 2" variety



"Closed 2" variety



"Open 2"



"Partially open 2"



"Closed 2"

A 20c stamp with the "Open 2" variety, along with a 1c stamp, paid three times the air mail letter rate of 7¢ per ounce, in effect from August 1, 1958 until January 6, 1963.



Printing varieties



Plate calculations

During plate preparations, the plate-maker made calculations for positioning the impressions on the plate. These calculations, consisting of numbers and letters, were lightly scratched on the plate and appear in reverse in the left margin of left panes opposite stamp numbers 1 and 6. Usually, most if not all of the calculation was trimmed off.

The calculations consist of the mirror image of the lower part of "D = 5 + 1 + 5 = 365.7...".

Perforation error



A pre-perforating paperfold was unfolded after the pane was perforated, but before it was trimmed, resulting in zig-zag perforations.

Trimming error



A block from a right pane with a wide right margin, showing part of a cycloidal strip, a color band 14.7 mm in width which was engraved on the plate, but trimmed off in most cases.

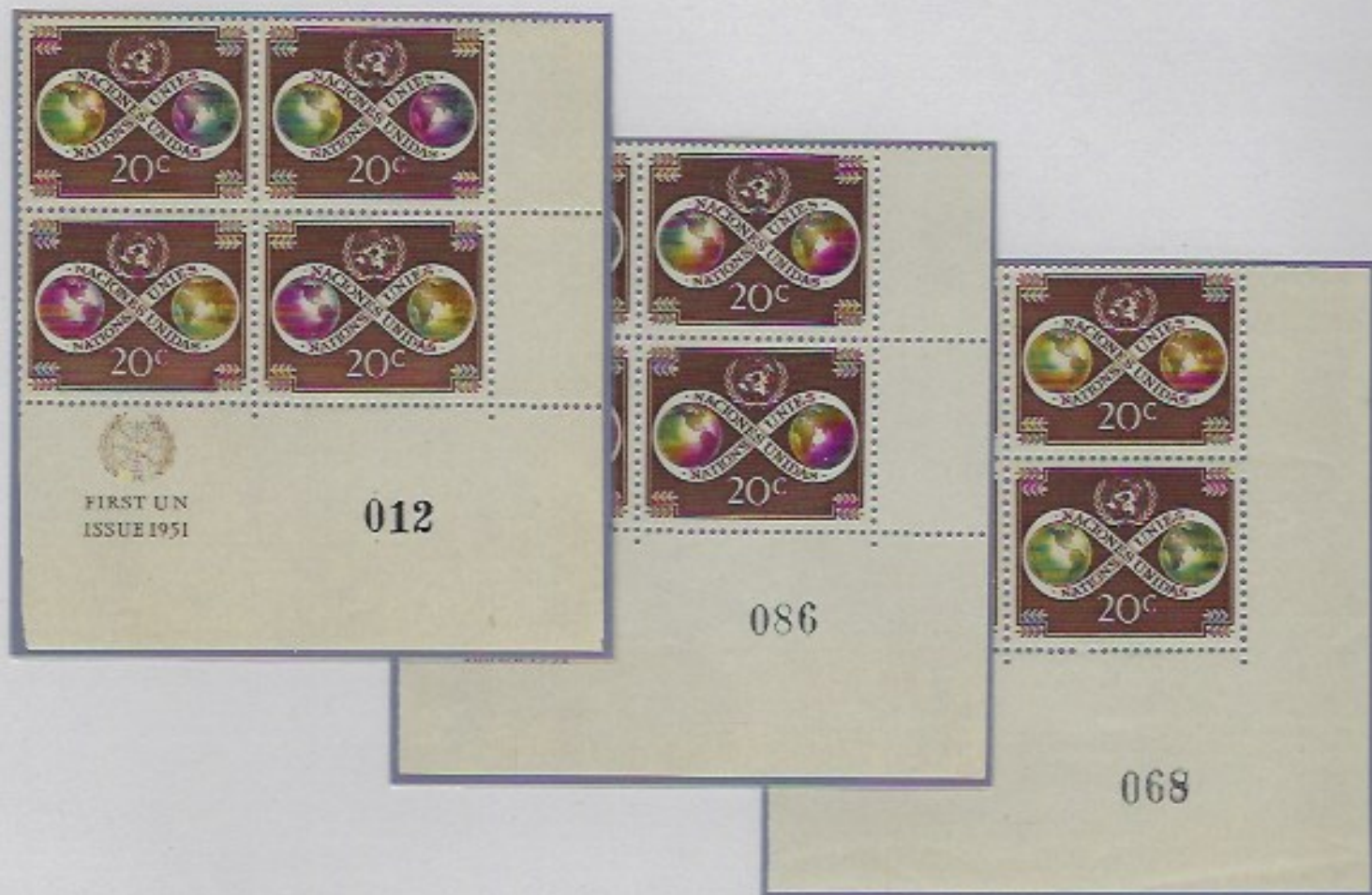
Also note the erased and corrected control number.

Trimming error



Normally, left and right margins are each 17 mm wide. This block, from a right pane, was mistrimmed, resulting in a 26 mm wide left margin and an 8 mm wide right margin.

Control numbers



Three different typofaces were used by De La Rue to print the control numbers of the 20c stamp — (left to right) type 1 (13,200 panes), type 3 (3,200 panes) and type 4 (3,600 panes).



Second printing: Issued February, 1957; 100,000 issued. The paper shows medium fluorescence (Group IV). The ink color has a blackish tinge compared to the third printing. All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



The area of the plate containing the United Nations emblem in the marginal inscription was underinked, resulting in a very light impression.



Third printing: Issued June, 1957; 600,000 issued. The paper shows medium fluorescence (Group IV). The ink color has a yellowish tinge compared to the second printing. All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



Fourth printing: Issued May, 1962; 400,000 issued. The paper is of two types: high fluorescence (Group VI) (left, above) and mottled (Group VIII), with dull fluorescence (right, above). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.

Plate flaws

The first through third printings were printed using Plate 1, while Plate 2 was used for the fourth printing.



On right panes of the first through fourth printings, a small line can be seen in the lower margin under the lower left marginal inscription below the "T" of the word "ISSUE". This example is from the fourth printing.

Postal usages



This letter, mailed on May 6, 1957 (backstamp) includes postage of 15¢, the airmail rate to Europe when the stamp was issued until April 30, 1967 and 55¢ registry, in effect from November 1, 1953 until June 30, 1957.

Definitive stamps (horizontal) - De La Rue

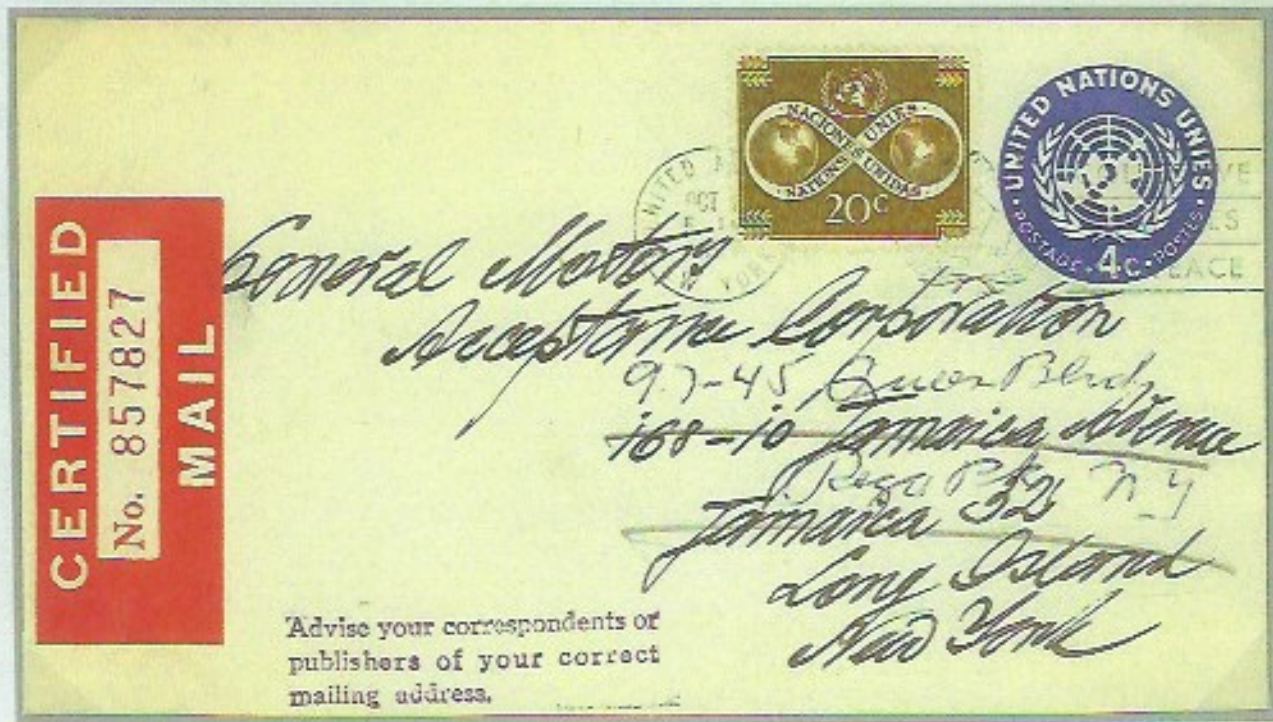
Postal usages



MR.
23/
CHL
TAIF
FR

Postage of 26¢ included 6¢ for the air mail letter rate (in effect when the stamp was issued until July 31, 1958), and 20¢ for special delivery — not greater than 2 pounds — (from January 1, 1952 until June 30, 1957).

Postage of 75¢ was rec
The postage was overp



UNITED NATIC

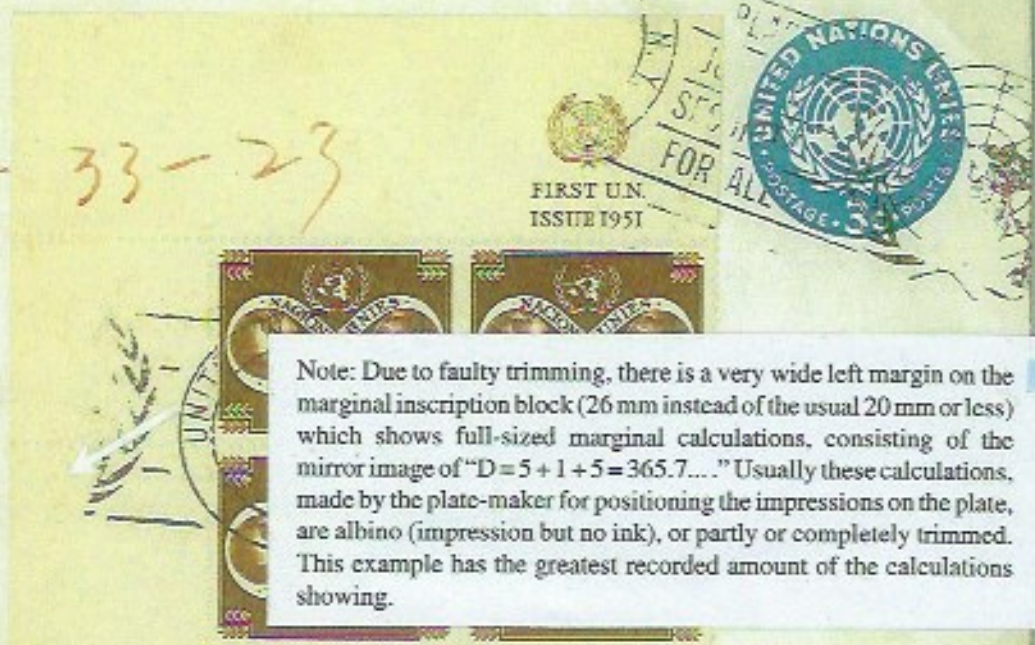
PL

The 4¢ postage of the envelope was the first-class (surface) letter rate per ounce from August 1, 1958 until January 6, 1963, while the 20¢ stamp covered the charge for certified mail, in effect from July 1, 1957 until March 25, 1966.

The 20¢ stamp overpaid

VIA AIR MAIL

1 Point 1-33-23
 K.K. LIM
 3 LANE, SECTION I
 NGSHAN RD (N)
 PEI, FORMOSA
 EE CHINA



required to cover three times the international air mail letter rate of 25¢ per 1/2 ounce to Asia, in effect when the stamp was issued until June 30, 1971. and by 8¢.

NS  NATIONS UNIES
 NEW YORK



PHILATELIC MAIL
 PLEASE DO NOT BEND OR USE CORD

"AIR MAIL"

C. B. Price, Jr.
 111 E. Main St.
 Louisville 2
 Kentucky

"AIR MAIL"

by 2¢ three times the air mail letter rate of 6¢ per ounce, in effect when the stamp was issued until July 31, 1958.

Overview of printings



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 (grey) 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; 1,000,000 issued. The paper is non-fluorescent (Group I). The top and bottom margins are imperforate (with one perforation extending into the selvage); 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.

Flag shift varieties

The 15c 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 grey. 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 right



Flag shifted to the left

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.



"Double Flag Line" variety

The white line passes close to the flagpole, appearing to give it an extra halyard line.

Perforation error

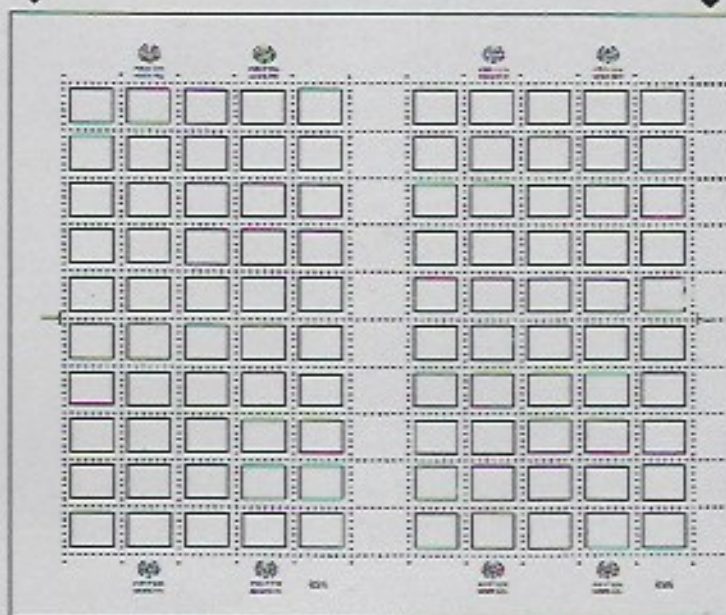


A number of press sheets were fed into the perforation machine backwards (i.e., the sheets were fed left side first rather than right side first), resulting in the left margin of the sheet being imperforate and all other side margins being perforated. (Normally the left side of the sheet is perforated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

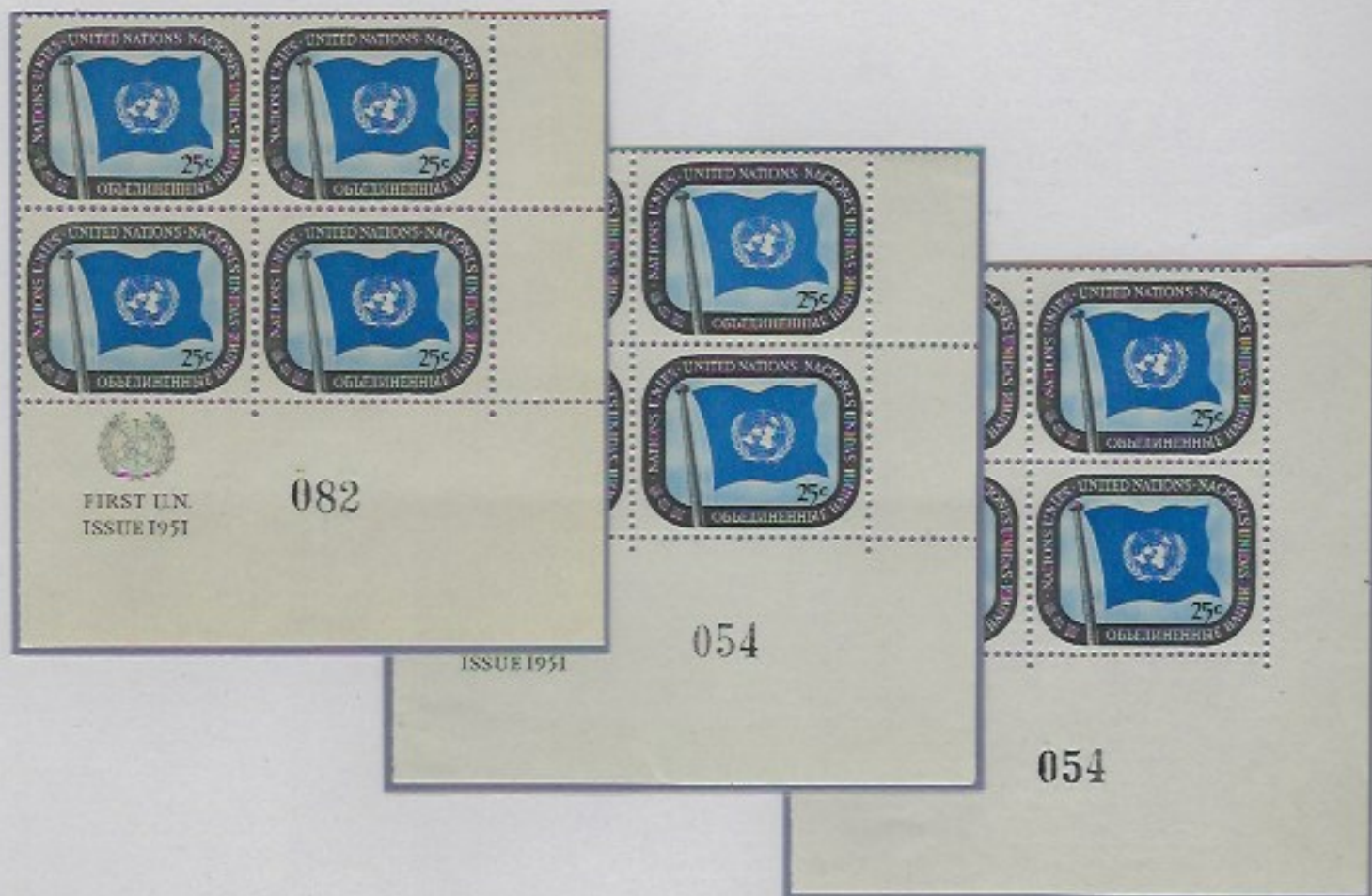


Trimming error



Normally, left and right margins are each 17 mm wide. This block, from a left pane, was mistrimmed, resulting in a 25 mm wide left margin and an 9 mm wide right margin.

Control numbers



Three different typefaces were used by De La Rue to print the control numbers of the 25c stamp — (left to right) type 1 (14,200 panes), type 2 (1,600 panes) and type 4 (4,200 panes).



Second printing: Issued November, 1956; 100,000 issued. The paper shows slight fluorescence (Group II). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



Third printing: Issued June, 1957; 600,000 issued. The paper shows medium fluorescence (Group IV). All margins are perforated. There are no control numbers.



Fourth printing: Issued May, 1962; 400,000 issued. 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.

Plate flaws

The first printing was made using original recess plate (grey) and photogravure plate (blue) — both plate 1; the second and third printings used recess plate 2 and photogravure plate 1; the fourth printing used recess plate 2 and photogravure plate 2.



On left panes printed with recess plate 1 and 2, a faint horizontal line can be seen left of the top of the right marginal inscription. On left panes printed with recess plate 2, a faint horizontal line can be found left of the letter "I" of the word "ISSUE" in the lower right marginal inscription. This example is from the third printing.



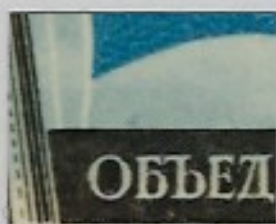
On left panes printed with photogravure plate 1, there is a retouch in the flag above the U.N. emblem on stamp #3. This example is from the second printing.

On left panes printed with photogravure plate 1, there is a small retouch in the flag above the figure "5" of "25c" on stamp #32. This example is from the second printing.

Right panes of the fourth printing, which were printed using photogravure plate #2, exhibit the following plate flaws:



There is a small retouch in the sky above the first "E" of the Russian inscription on stamp #9 and a small line in the sky to the right of the flag on stamp #10.



On stamp #29, there is a small retouch in the sky above the first 'b' of the Russian inscription.

"Cloudy Sky" variety

The right panes of the fourth printing, which were printed using photogravure plate #2, show a weak or blotchy sky on many of the stamps, especially on stamp #39.



Postal usages



This letter was mailed on December 31, 1951, the last day that 25¢ paid the registry fee for indemnity of no more than \$5.00. Additional postage of 6¢ covered twice the 3¢ first-class rate per ounce in effect when the stamps were issued until July 31, 1958.



Mailed on March 14, 1960 (from the backstamp), this letter includes 54¢ in postage which paid the 4¢ first-class (surface) letter rate in effect from August 1, 1958 until January 6, 1963 and 50¢ for registration with indemnity no greater than \$10. in effect from July 1, 1957 until August 14, 1961.



Mailed March 16, 1960 (from the backstamp), the 65¢ in postage, including the 25¢ stamp, paid 15¢ for the international air mail letter rate to Europe. in effect when the 25¢ stamp was issued until April 30, 1967, and a 50¢ registry fee, in effect from July 1, 1957 until August 14, 1961.