

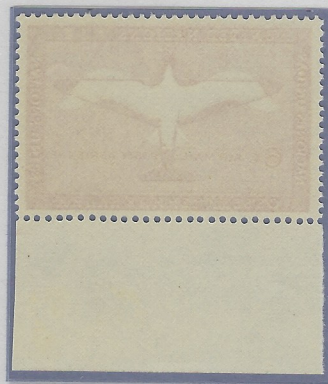
Stamps issued



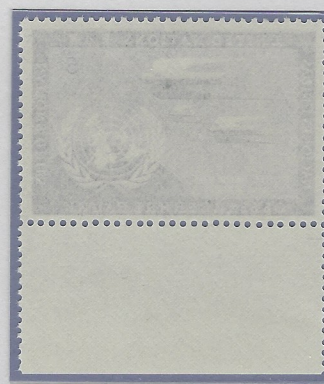
Paper and Gum

The air mail stamps were printed by De La Rue using a British paper made of 25% rag, 40% chemically bleached wood and 35% esparto (a coarse grass grown in Spain and Algeria). The paper was unwatermarked.

The paper was gummed by De La Rue before printing, using Gum Arabic which varies in colour from almost white to a dark cream and which has a "cracked" surface.



Gum Arabic (creamish)



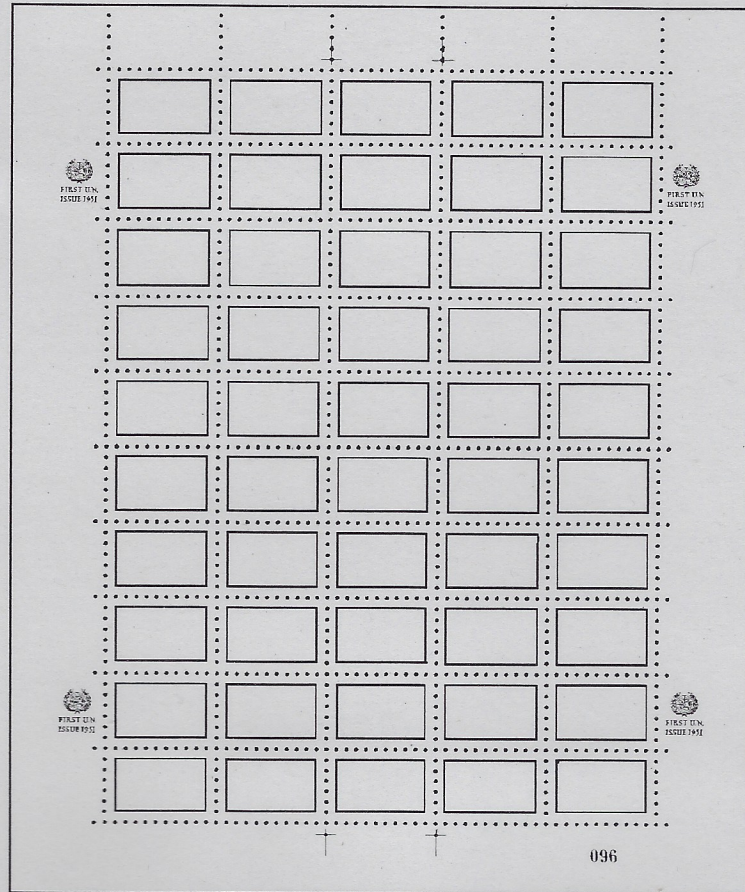
Gum Arabic (almost white)

Sheet layout

The air mail stamps were printed on pre-gummed unwatermarked paper in press sheets of 50 stamps. When perforated and trimmed, these sheets became the post office panes.



Perforation Guide Marks were used to align the sheets on the perforators to achieve good centering. Four different styles were used on the air mail stamps.



Marginal inscriptions appear twice on the left and twice on the right of each post office pane of 50 stamps.

Perforations appear as shown in the diagram for the first printing of each value; in all later printings, all margins were perforated.

Control Numbers were applied by De La Rue in sequences of 001–100 in the lower right corner of the panes to make inventory checking simpler. Of the four typefaces used by De La Rue on the definitive issues, only types 1, 2 and 3 were used on the first printings of the air mail stamps (a fifth typeface was used on the second printing of the 15¢ air mail stamp). After December, 1954, control numbers were no longer used.

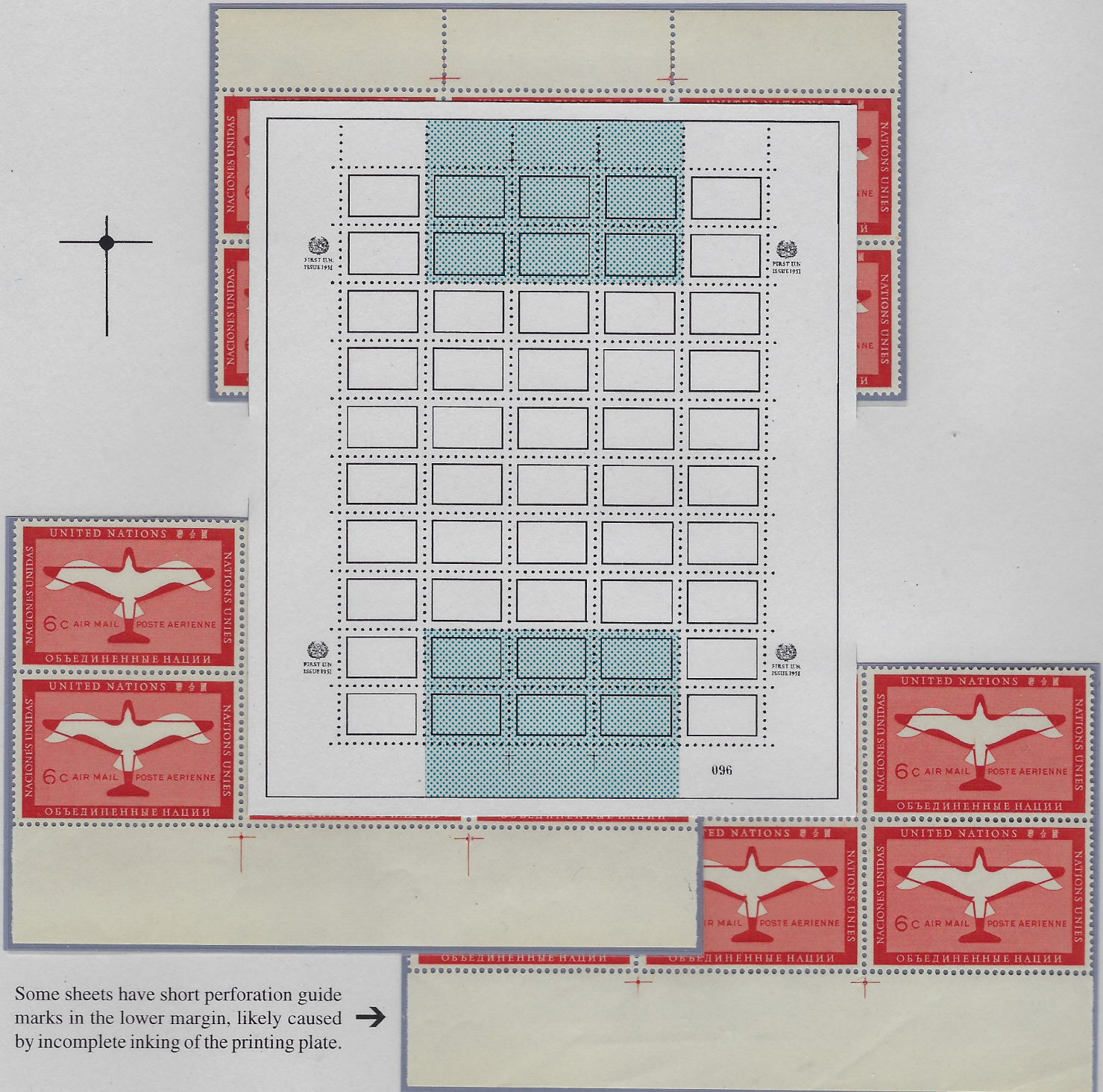


Perforation Guide Mark Types

De La Rue used perforation guide marks to obtain good stamp centering. The guide marks, consisting of a printed cross with a dot at the intersection of the lines, and engraved by hand in the plate, appear in the upper margin (above and to the left and right of stamp #3) and in the lower margin (below and to the left and right of stamp #47) of each pane. The dots were punched by hand so that the sheets could be mounted on the pins of the perforators. There are four types of guide marks on the De La Rue air mail issues.

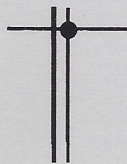
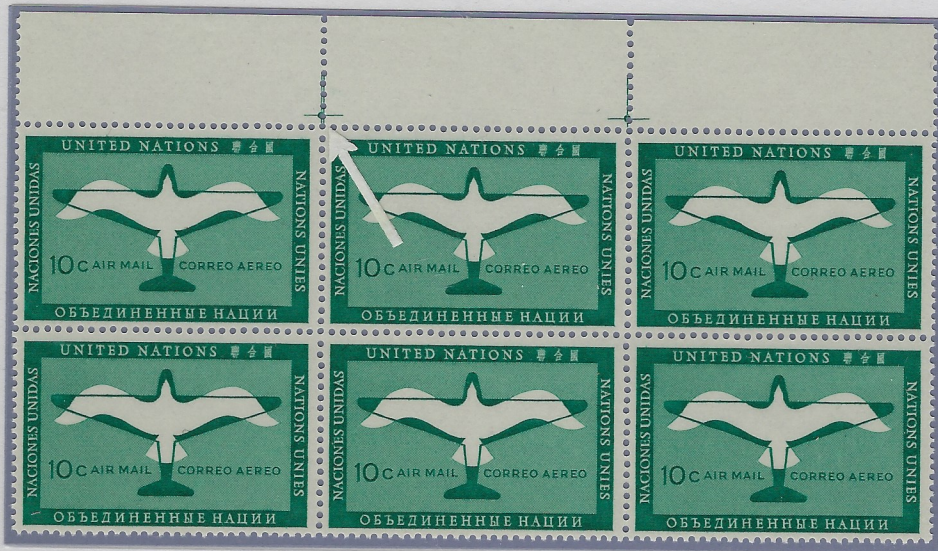
Printing Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6¢	H	H	—	—	—	—	—
10¢	J	J	J	J	J	L	—
15¢	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
25¢	H	H	H	K	—	—	—

Type H



Some sheets have short perforation guide marks in the lower margin, likely caused by incomplete inking of the printing plate. →

Type J



This mark is the same as type H, except that the upper left mark has an extra vertical line as shown in the diagram. It is believed that the second vertical line was engraved in error, and when the mistake was discovered, a second line was engraved in the correct position.



Type K



This mark is the same as type H, but with an additional 2 mm diameter circle, set back from the central dot and having an extra horizontal line, forming a cross within the circle. This mark occurs only on the fourth (and final) printing of the 25¢ air mail stamp.



Type L



This mark is the same as type K, except that the upper left mark has an extra vertical line incorrectly engraved, as in type J. A very faint second vertical line appears within the circle, about 0.25 mm out to the left from the correctly engraved vertical line.



Proof

This lower left imperforate block of four stamps, on gummed paper, is part of a printer's plate inspection proof. The full sheet from which it was cut had a trimmed lower margin, which removed the control number.



Overview of printings



First printing



Second printing

Production details

Ole Hamann, Denmark, was the designer; B.S. Cresser was the engraver. The stamp was recess printed (line engraving) in brick red. The perforation was 14 horizontally by 14 vertically.

Printings

First printing: Issued December 14, 1951; 2,000,000 issued. The paper used is non-fluorescent (Group I). The top margin is perforated, the bottom margin is imperforate, and side margins are imperforate with one perforation extending into the selvedge. Control numbers (001–100) are printed in the lower right margins of panes.



Printing errors



Offset of stamps probably caused by wet sheets being placed together, face to face.

A partial offset of the printing on the gum side, probably caused by a slip sheet not being inserted properly between freshly printed sheets during printing and thus failing to absorb wet ink from the previous sheet. This variety is not listed by *Gaines*.

Perforation error



Extra perforations in the lower margin, probably caused by the sheet not being positioned properly in the perforating machine.

Air mail stamps – De La Rue

Trimming errors

Usually the panes were trimmed giving a 16 mm top margin and an 18 mm bottom margin. In the mistrimmed pane immediately below, the top margin is only 1 mm and the bottom margin is 33 mm — probably a unique pane. There are also partial imprints of the stamp design around the lower right marginal inscription, likely from contact with another wet pane.

The pane to the right has been trimmed askew. →



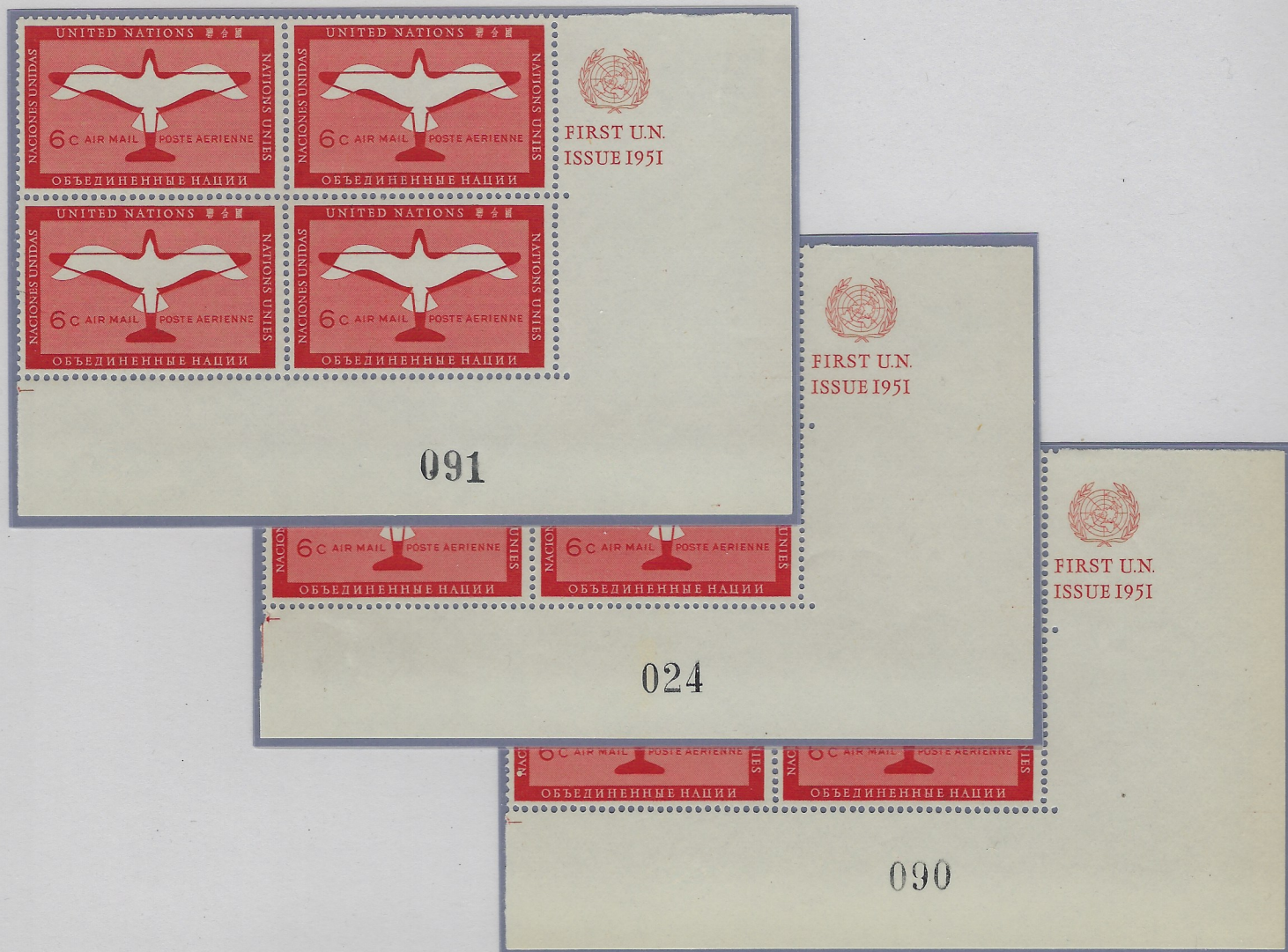


FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951

Control numbers



De La Rue used three different typefaces to print the control numbers of the 6¢ airmail stamp —
 (left to right) type 1 (36,000 panes) — numerals well proportioned, clean and sharp;
 type 2 (1,600 panes) — the base of the “2” is a straight line; and
 type 3 (2,400 panes) — numerals similar to Type 1, but smaller and thinner.



Control number errors

The control number was erased and corrected when a number out of sequence or a number over 100 was applied in error.



The control number has been applied under stamp #49 instead of stamp #50, an unlisted error. Also note the short perforation guide marks in the lower margin, likely caused by incomplete inking of the printing plate.





FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951

A small number of sheets have an additional "Typeface 3" control number in the lower left margin. These were applied first, but the printer, realizing the mistake, corrected this by adding a new number (Typeface 1 in this case) in the lower right corner of the sheets.

Occasionally, the control number in the lower left corner was erased and corrected, usually, as in this case, when a number over 100 was printed in error.

Usually, the control number in the lower right corner is in typeface 1, 2 or 3. Here, the lower right control number is in typeface 4, possibly a unique item. (Note the right side of the digit "0" is thin and has a straight outer edge.)

Control number forgery

The number applied in the lower left is a forgery. The ball of the lower left part of the "9" is the wrong shape, and the ink is a sooty black colour.





081

ЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

008



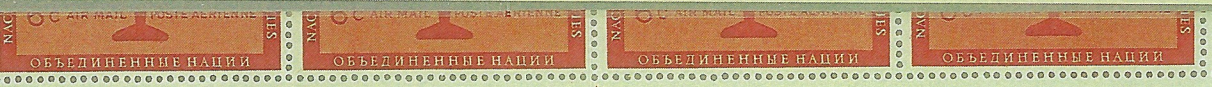
020



099



072



059



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951

Very rarely, a sheet was positioned upside down when the control number was applied, and the number appears inverted in the upper left corner, as on the sheet on the near right. Note the correctly printed control number "095" in the normal lower right position using typeface 2.

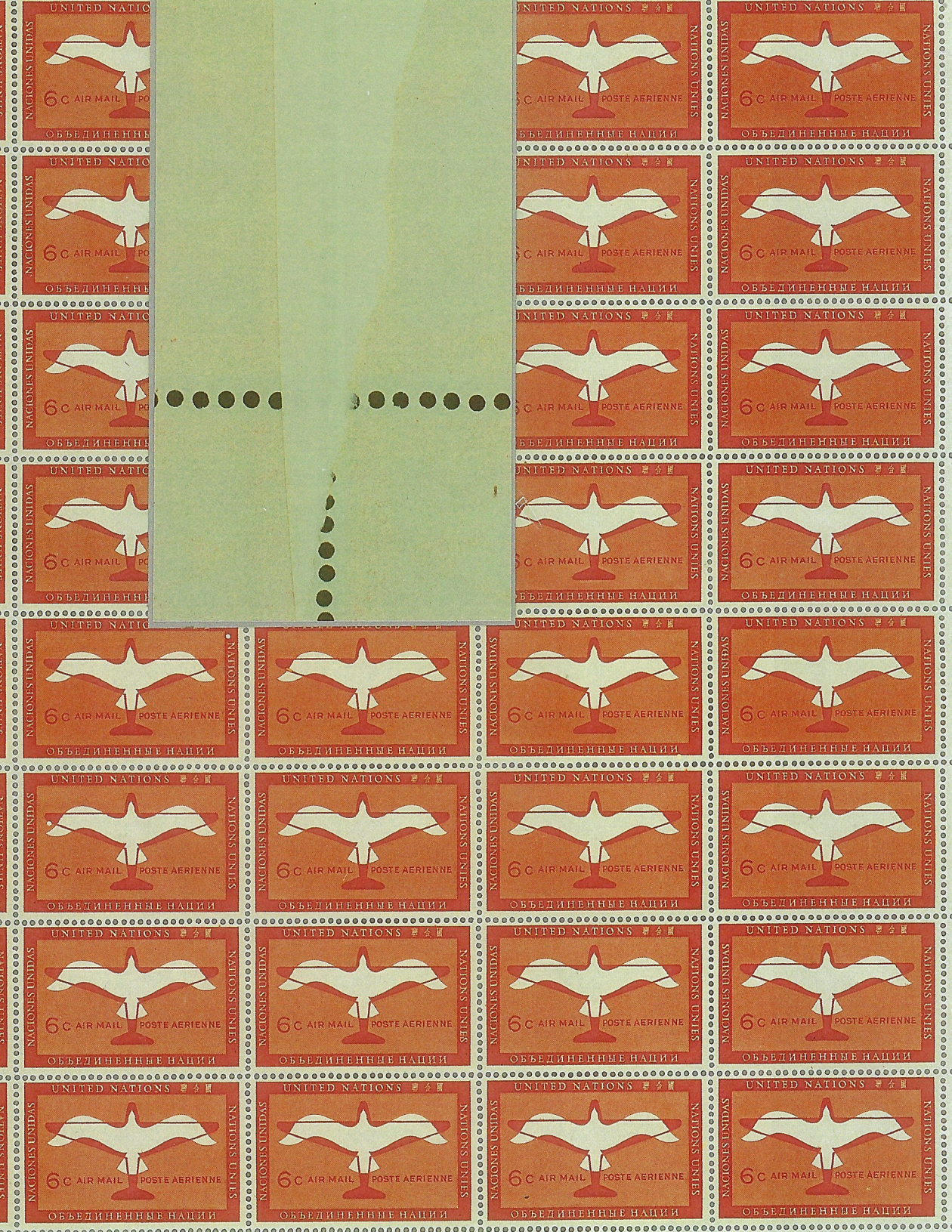
The pane on the far right shows a normal control number in the lower right corner, and an inverted control number in the upper left corner, applied in error and partially erased. It appears that the erasure caused the separation of perforations between stamps #1 and #2 and that a piece of scrap stamp paper was used to mend the separation. This sheet is probably unique.



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951



FIRST U.N.
ISSUE 1951

066



095