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Volume 30

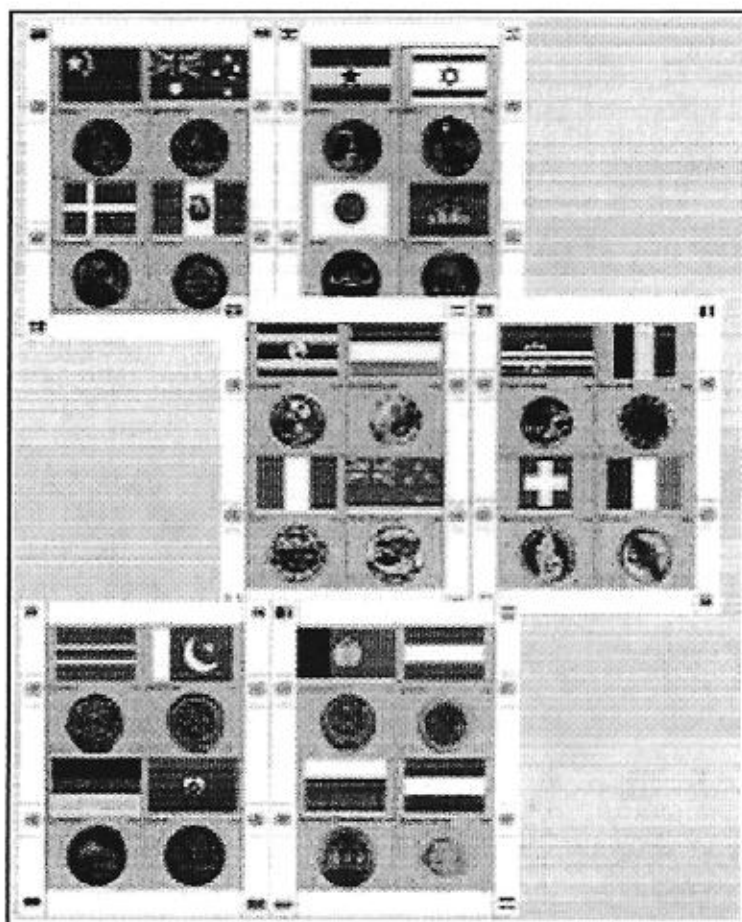
Number 6

December 2006

Whole Number 175

journal

OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS, INC



**2006 UNITED NATIONS  
FLAG AND COIN SERIES**

# The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

Affiliate #71 of American Philatelic Society

A unit of the American Topical Association

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Back issues cost US \$0.75 plus postage (US addresses: \$1.11; Canada: \$2.52; others: \$3.36 air-mail). Orders for earlier back issues should go to the UNP Archivist: Anthony Dewey, 157 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105-3931.

**The Journal** (ISSN 0164-6842) is published bi-monthly by United Nations Philatelists, Inc. (UNPI), 118 North 14th Street, Clear Lake, IA 50428. 1st class postage is paid at the United Nations, New York.

UNPI is an organization of philatelists devoted to the collection, study and exhibition of the issues of the UNPA, the postal history of the UN, the issues and postal history of its branches, specialized agencies and forerunners, as well as world-wide topical issues that honor the UN, its agencies and programs.

The annual domestic dues (effective January 2004) of the UNPI are US\$22.00, of which \$21.00 apply to the subscription to **The Journal**.

Unless otherwise stated, catalogue numbers are from the latest edition of the **Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue** (Scott). (Lindner) refers to the **Lindner United Nations Catalogue** (1976) and (Gaines) indicates **United Nations Philately** by Arleigh Gaines.

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## Reprinting

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## Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this journal are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor, UNPI Officers or club members.

## Cover Illustrations

**Front cover:** 2006 UNPA Flag and Coin Series.  
**Rear cover:** The Way to SANDICAL 2007 -  
UNP Annual Meeting January 27, 2007.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

### A Look Ahead to the 2007 UNPA Program and the 2007 UNP Annual Meeting in San Diego

By October 2006 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) had announced a tentative schedule of stamps for 2007. If the schedule, which appears on page 2 of this issue, holds, there will be seven commemorative issues, four of which are continuing series: Flag Series (February 2nd), Endangered Species (March 15th), Coin and Flag Series (May 3rd) and World Heritage Series - South America (August 31st). That leaves three sets, IAEA - 50th Anniversary of the Atomic Energy Agency (July 27th), UPU - Universal Postal Union (September 6th) and World Space Week (October 4th), which have new themes and are not part of continuing series.

The flag series will add the flags of the four most recent members to the General Assembly (East Timor, Switzerland, Tuvalu and Montenegro). This series of stamps began in 1980 with Scott UNNY #325. Presumably these will be the last entries of this series as the UNPA launched in October 2006 an entirely new series of stamps picturing both the flag and a typical coin of each member.

The Endangered Species Series has been issuing an annual issue since 1993. As usual the UNPA will release four stamps for each office as well as an annual collection folder, three maximum cards and a limited edition silk first day cover.

The current World Heritage series began in 1997 with the Terra-cotta Warriors and are distinguished by the emission each year of six single stamps and three prestige booklets. This year an entire continent - South America - will be honored.

Only one definitive is currently planned: the 75¢ stamp with a peacekeeping theme for New York, which covers the international post card rate to all countries, except for Mexico and Canada, for which the price is 55¢. This stamp will be issued on February 3rd, along with a new 75¢ air letter and a 39¢

prestamped envelope in two sizes: regular and large (size 10). The envelopes will cover the current first class domestic rate.

The 50th anniversary of the IAEA serves as the theme of the three-stamp set which will be released on July 27th in sheets of twenty stamps. The UPU will be honored on September 6th with a three-stamp set issued in sheets of 10 stamps. On October 4th World Space Week will be commemorated with three mini-sheets of six stamps and three souvenir sheets.

If any member is interested in writing an article tackling any of these topics, please drop me a line or send me an e-mail, so that I can offer my enthusiastic support and devote my own creative energies to other projects.

### UNP MEETS AT SANDICAL 2007 WITH UNPA PARTICIPATION

The UNP will hold its 2007 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting on the second day of SANDICAL 2007 Saturday January 27th. There is no admission fee. The Annual Meeting will begin tentatively at 10:30am at the show, which will be held at the Al Bahr (Masonic) Shrine Center in San Diego, California. A map of the San Diego area appears on the back cover of this issue of the *Journal*. The center is located at 5440 Kearny Mesa Road and is situated less than ten miles northeast from downtown San Diego and from the San Diego International Airport. Members are encouraged to seek out the UNP Booth to find out the exact location of the meeting and to verify the time.

I plan to organize an informal "Show and Tell" session for the Annual Meeting. Please let me know if you would like to make a presentation.

Be sure to bring your want list of current UNPA products as it will have a representative at SANDICAL.

## 2007 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of November 1, 2006 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)  
See the UNPA World Wide Web Site at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA>>

- February 2**                      **New York Postal Stationery**  
39¢ standard and legal-sized pre-stamped envelopes, 75¢ air letter  
                                 **New York Definitive**  
   75¢  
   (1 sheet of 20 stamps)  
                         **Flag Series (East Timor, Tuvalu, Montenegro, Switzerland)**  
   39¢  
   (1 sheet of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 stamps)
- March 15**                      **Endangered Species**  
   39¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55  
   (3 sheets of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 se-tenant stamps.)  
Set of 3 maximum cards and 2007 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder  
   FDC with Silk Cachet
- May 3**                      **Coin and Flag Series**  
   39¢, F.s. 0,85, € 0,55  
   (3 mini-sheets of 8 stamps)
- July 27**                      **50th Anniversary of IAEA**  
   39¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55  
   (3 sheets of 20 stamps)
- August 31**                      **World Heritage - South America**  
   39¢, 84¢, F.s. 1,20, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55, € 1,25  
   (6 sheets of 20 stamps)  
   {3 Prestige Booklets with 12×(24¢, 39¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,25, € 0,30 )}
- September 6**                      **UPU - Universal Postal Union**  
   39¢, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55  
   (3 sheets of 10 stamps)
- October 4**                      **World Space Week**  
   39¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55  
   (3 mini-sheets of 6 stamps)  
   Souvenir sheets  
   \$1.00, F.s. 3,00, € 2,10  
   2007 Annual Collection Folders (New York, Geneva, Vienna)



## 2006 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of November 1, 2006 but subject to changes of date of issue and denomination.)

See the UNPA World Wide Web Site at <<http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA>>

**January 9**

### **Surcharged Postal Stationery**

39¢ standard and legal-sized pre-stamped envelopes (revalued 37¢ envelopes issued in 2003)

75¢ aerogram (revalued 70¢ aerogramme issued in 2001)

**February 3**

### **Indigenous Art**

37¢, F.s. 1,20, € 0,55

(3 sheets of 6 stamps)

### **Geneva (Hologram) and New York Definitives**

S.f. 1,30, 25¢

(2 sheets of 20 stamps)

**March 6**

### **Personalized Stamps**

1 sheet of 10 (international) stamps and 10 vignettes @ 84¢ with 5 different designs

1 sheet of 20 (domestic) stamps and 20 vignettes @ 39¢ with 5 different designs

**March 16**

### **Endangered Species (Orchids)**

39¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,55

(3 sheets of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 se-tenant stamps.)

Set of 3 maximum cards and 2006 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder

FDC with Silk Cachet

**April 10**

### **Personalized Stamps - War and Peace**

1 sheet of 10 (international postcard rate) stamps and 10 vignettes @ 75¢ with 1 design

**May 27**

### **Day of Families**

39¢, 84¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,30, € 0,55, € 1,25

(6 sheets of 20 stamps)

Souvenir Card and special Washington 2006 Souvenir Card

**May 28**

### **Washington 2006 Personalized Stamps**

1 sheet of 10 (international) stamps and 10 vignettes @ 84¢ with 5 different designs

**June 17**

### **World Heritage - France**

39¢, 84¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,30, € 0,55, € 0,75

(6 sheets of 20 stamps)

Special France-UN Joint Issue Folder with two maximum cards and two covers

{ 3 Prestige Booklets with 12x(24¢, 39¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,25, € 0,30 ) }

**September 21**

### **My Dream for Peace One Day (3rd series out of 3)**

39¢, 84¢, F.s. 0,85, F.s. 1,20, € 0,55, € 1,00

(6 sheets of 20 stamps)

### **Berlin Personalized Stamps**

1 sheet of 10 (international) stamps and 10 vignettes @ 84¢ with 5 different designs

**October 5**

### **Coin and Flag Series**

39¢, F.s. 1,00, € 1,00

(3 panes of 8 stamps)

Collection folder

2006 Annual Collection Folders (New York, Geneva, Vienna)

## 2006 SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

**January 3**

### **International Year of Deserts and Desertification 2006**

## NEW UNITED NATIONS COIN AND FLAG SERIES

By Richard Powers

On October 5, 2006 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued the first installment of a series of stamps each displaying the flag and a coin from all the 192 members of the United Nations. This year the first twenty-four members selected appear distributed among three mini-sheets (one for each for the post offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna) each containing eight stamps. The mini-sheets appear on the front cover of this issue of the *Journal*. Although the flags of 191 members have already appeared on UNNY stamps, this series lets the UNPA update the national flags which have changed since the original flag series began in 1980.

Actually of the 191 flags which have already appeared on UN flag stamps, many are already redundant or out-of-date. In 1993 Czechoslovakia (Scott UNNY #355) broke up into the Czech Republic (#725) and Slovakia (#720). In 1990 the Federal Republic of Germany (#451) and the German Democratic Republic (#539) reunited. In 1990 Yemen (#532) and Democratic Yemen (#500) united. Thus, as of 2006, these 191 flags represent only 188 countries. Since the first flag series was last issued in 2001, four new members have obtained UN membership: Tuvalu (2000), Timor Leste (2002), Switzerland (2002) and Montenegro (2006). This brings the total up to 192. The flags of these four will appear on normal flag stamps in early 2007.

Several members have changed their name and/or boundaries: Burma became Myanmar. Byelorussia became Belarus in 1991. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (#456) was replaced by the Russian Federation in 1991. Yugoslavia (#333) was replaced by the Republic of Serbia in 2006.

Each stamp pictures the flag and a coin. Presumably this series will be issued over a period of eight years, assuming no new members are added to the United Nations. This multi-year series will be in addition to the Endangered Species series and the Indigenous Art se-

ries, which generally appear each year. Each stamp will have a UN logo in the adjacent selvage so that a tab single of each stamp can be had by buying a single sheet.

Each stamp in the New York sheet bears a denomination of 39¢. The eight countries honored and the coin shown include:

Country	Coin
China	1 yuan
Australia	1 Australian dollar
Russian Federation	1 ruble
Mexico	10 pesos
Ghana	50 cedis
Israel	10 agorot
Japan	10 yen
Cambodia	200 riels.

Each stamp in the Geneva sheet bears a denomination of S. Fr. 0.85. The countries whose flags and coins are depicted include:

Country	Coin
Uganda	500 Ugandan shillings
Luxembourg	1 euro
Italy	1 euro
New Zealand	1 New Zealand dollar
Cape Verde	20 escudos
Belgium	1 euro
Switzerland	2 Swiss francs
Lebanon	500 Lebanese pounds.

The stamps in the Vienna sheet bears a denomination of € 0.55. The eight countries honored and the coins shown include:

Country	Coin
Gambia	1 dalasi
Pakistan	1 Pakistani rupee
Germany	50 Euro cents
Haiti	50 centimes
Afghanistan	2 afghani
Austria	1 euro
Denmark	20 kroner
Netherlands	1 euro.

### Reference

[www.un.org/overview/unmember](http://www.un.org/overview/unmember)

## WHOSE CORNER CARDS?

Jean-Louis Emmenegger, Blanton Clement, Jr and I are interested in identifying the groups or organizations behind these corners. They appeared at various times on first class letters mailed at the UNNY. They are probably either stamp dealers or philatelic groups. Figures 1 and 2 show corner cards from the UN Philatelic News in Hollis, NY (1957-1960) and later in Williston, NY in 1961.

**UNITED NATIONS PHILATELIC NEWS**  
109-09 202nd STREET, HOLLIS 12, N. Y.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Figure 1: Corner card from 1960 UN cover.

**UNITED NATIONS PHILATELIC NEWS**  
86 LEHIGH ST., WILLISTON PARK, N. Y.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Figure 2: Corner card from 1961 UN cover.

A 1958 cover (Figure 3) bears the corner card of the United Nations Philatelic Information Committee in New York City.

**UNITED NATIONS PHILATELIC**  
INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
TIMES SQUARE STATION  
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

Figure 3: Corner card from 1958 UN cover.

Can anyone supply any information about the World Federation of United Nations Topical Philatelists, also known as UNTOP? In Figure 4 is the return address from a mailing label used in the 1970s to send printed matter from Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Dr. Korn **WORLD FEDERATION OF**  
**UNITED NATIONS TOPICAL PHILATELISTS — UNTOP**  
BOX 35 REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO 43068, U. S. A.  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Figure 4: UNTOP Mailing label in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Does anyone know anything about the Club of UN Collectors, also known as CUNC? In

Figure 5 is the corner card from a cover sent from the UNNY 1975. This return address is known as early as 1974. In 1973 the club had a return address in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

**CLUB OF UNITED NATIONS**  
**COLLECTORS**  
P. O. BOX 400  
MADISON SQUARE STA.  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

Figure 5: Corner card from 1975 CUNC cover.

## FINAL UNSU REVIEW ISSUE

In an article in the October 2005 issue (page 10) of the *UNP Journal* it was mentioned that the last issue of the *UNSU Review* was thought to be April-May-June 1979. In an April 2006 *Journal* Letter to the Editor (page 10) this was pushed back to the January-February-March 1981 issue (Vol. 18C). In response to my call for additional information to this Letter to the Editor, UNP -members Jeffrey Beller and Jim Gerson sent e-mails reporting that they believe the last issue was Vol. 19B, which was released in October-November-December 1981.

## UNP SPECIAL AUCTION #5 PRICES REALIZED

Amount Realized \$3325.90

Lots Sold 40/66 (61%)

Lot#	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot#	Price	Lot#	Price
1	\$110	3	\$325	5	\$160	7	\$120
8	\$100	9	\$100	15	\$200	16	\$22.50*
21	\$200	22	\$46	23	\$36*	25	\$60
27	\$180*	28	\$140	29	\$5.40*	31	\$35
32	\$20	33	\$30	34	\$40	35	\$100
36	\$30	37	\$100	38	\$30	39	\$75
40	\$150	41	\$60	42	\$150	43	\$40
44	\$20	46	\$29	50	\$22	54	\$10
55	\$525	56	\$90	58	\$20	59	\$25
60	\$20	64	\$30	65	\$30	66	\$40

\*Lot sold after auction deadline.

## A 1928 PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS GOVERNING COMMISSION FOR THE SAAR TERRITORY

By Richard Powers

In the February 1998 issue of the *Journal* (page 6) I published an article on the League of Nations Trusteeship of the Saar Territory. Among the philatelic documentation, which appears in this article, is a travel visa (page 10) issued by the Saar Governing Commission, which was established and operated by the League of Nations from 1920 to 1935. One interesting feature of this travel visa is the fact that it bears a fiscal stamp issued by the Governing Commission in 1931, which paid the visa fee of 5 francs.

This stamp is listed as C8 in *Katalog der Stempelmarken von Deutschland, Vol. VI - Saargebiet* (1981) by Martin Erler and John Norton.

I recently came across a complete 24-page passport issued by the Governing Commission for use by persons of German nationality residing in the Saar Territory, which was under the protection of the French government. It contains three of the yellow 5-franc stamps as well as three purple 20-franc stamps (C11) and one dark blue 20-franc stamp (C13). The cover of the passport appears in Figure 1. The coat of arms of the Saar Territory under the trusteeship of the League of Nations (1920-1935) appears at the top of the cover.

The passport was issued to a man born in 1887, a tax man by profession residing in St. Wendel, Saar on July 16, 1928. At that time he paid 25 francs (one yellow 5-franc stamp plus one dark blue 20-franc stamp). On May 6, 1930 he paid an additional 20 francs (one purple 20-franc stamp) for a two-year extension. He also paid an additional 5 francs for a travel visa to France, which required a 5-franc stamp and was valid for 90 days. On May 30, 1932 he paid an additional 20 francs (purple stamp) for an additional two-year extension -valid until May 30, 1934. On August 28, 1933 he obtained a

second travel visa valid for ninety days for travel to France and received a third 5-franc stamp. On August 3, 1934 he got an additional two-year extension of the passport, which necessitated another purple 20-franc stamp. During this six-year period he traveled to Austria (1932), Switzerland (1930) and Italy (1931 and 1933). Presumably after the Saar Plebiscite on January 13, 1935, which favored the return of the Saar to Germany by 90% of the voters, the passport bearer received a normal German passport.



Figure 1: Cover of 1928 passport issued to a Saar resident by the League of Nations Governing Commission.

Figure 2 shows pages 4 and 5 of the passport. Page 4 has a message from the President of the Governing Commission and



the Director of Police Affairs requesting “authorities in charge of maintaining order to let the passport bearer to pass freely.” At the bottom is a violet cachet of the Department of the Interior of the Saar Territory Governing Commission. Page 5 shows the two two-year extensions of the passport, obtained in 1930 and 1932. Each is accompanied by a purple 20-franc fiscal stamp. Each stamp has the text: “Regierungskommission des Saargebiets” (Saar Territory Governing Commission) and “Gebührenmarke” (fiscal stamp).

Figure 3 shows a blue seal placed on the rear cover of the passport with a clear strike of the coat of arms of the Saar Territory. The seal ties the cord binding the passport pages to the cover. The legends in French and German have the text: “The Department of Public Safety of the Governing Commission of the

Saar Territory in Saarbrücken”.



Figure 3: Seal of the Governing Commission tying the passport binding cord to its cover.



Figure 2: Page 4 (left) of the Saar passport bears a violet handcancel of the Department of Interior of the Governing Commission. Page 5 bears the passport extensions obtained in 1930 and 1932 with the two 20-franc (purple) fiscal stamps.

## UN STAMPS: "BY FAR ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLLECTOR'S SPECIALTIES WHATEVER"

By Wolfgang Maassen

[Translated by Richard Powers from an article which was published in the May 2006 issue of the *Philatelie*, the journal of the German Philatelic Society (BDPh).]

[Author's Note: The Swiss collector, who wrote this in the recent *Festschrift zum 50jährigen Jubiläum der UNOP* (Monograph Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of UNOP) the International Club for United Nations Philately of the German Philatelic Society is Urs Hobi. In his article he complains of the pain caused UN collectors by the increasing errors and missteps of the UNPA. He speaks of a long-term love-hate relationship as well as the joys, of which no one can deprive him. His trip to UNO-City in Vienna to visit the UNPA-Chief Anne Koperger was meant to enlighten her and draw certain issues to her attention.]

"UN stamps are really among the most special objects that philately has to offer" opines Urs Hobi in his article. He certainly must know this because he began as a 13-year old in 1979 to discover the charm of these stamps. But he also describes at the end of 1990 the alleged refusal by the UNPA in Geneva to accept UN-stamps for postage, because, according to a declaration, such stamps originate from the "Gray Market" and were counterfeit. Behind the scenes apparently this concerned accumulations of stamps, which drove the market price down and had put the UNPA in Geneva in a difficult situation, now suddenly having to accept for postal use stamps it had already assumed to be income in previous years.

"For me UN philately lost its attraction", complained Urs Hobi and this began to play out in 2003 because of the presumed franking invalidity of UN-Geneva stamps. He finds proof of this by looking at the whole-

sale price of UN-Geneva stamps, which has dropped to below 10% face value.

The UNPA, when asked about this situation, sees this above all as a misunderstanding, since the use of UN-Geneva stamps remains assured as it always has. "Mail bearing UN-Geneva stamps in Swiss francs are sent and delivered everyday. The same situation exists not only for Swiss and Austrian stamps but also for stamps in \$US issued for use in New York", confirmed Anne Koperger, the UNPA Chief in Vienna to the author.

But the "child" seems already to have fallen down the well. Speculation by collectors and dealers, an increasingly prolific stamp program and then, as a result, the continued decline in catalog prices, have left many disappointed collectors out in the rain. They have given up their formerly beloved specialty.

This can be seen from the UNOP Membership figures. In the good old days - during the 1980s - UNOP had nearly 1000 members. Today it has only 207. To be sure this is not small compared to other affiliated groups of the German Philatelic Society. Yet the decrease is, nevertheless, significant.

Similarly decisive and persistently affecting the specialty was a development in 2003. Urs Hobi looked back from the point of view of a resident of Geneva. "I find that the postal tariffs were changed for dubious reasons. Although the postal contract remained in effect for over 50 years, something was wrong. Unfortunately we know

today that this development was the beginning of the end of the UN Postal Administration in Geneva. The entire UNPA in Geneva including even the sales counter was shut down by the decision for closure at the end of August 2003.

Now this assertion is not completely true, because since 2003 in Geneva the office of the UNPA with three staff members continues to operate next to the UN-Geneva philatelic sales counter. However, it is true that since 2003, as confirmed by Ms Koperger, that there has been no increase in the number of personnel of the UNPA in Vienna, although it now has taken over the duties of servicing the former customers of UNPA-Geneva. Expressed in numbers: in the good old days, there were about 25 staff members assigned to Geneva and only 30 in Vienna. Today there are only 15 staff members to service the two offices. Thus there is more work for fewer staff. As a collector, one is less aware of the difficulties associated with such consolidation. UNPA-Vienna had been responsible for serving Germany, Austria and the east European nations. Now it also has to handle the French, Italian and Spanish markets. The ability to speak five languages (including English for the east European market) has become a requirement for the job.

Ms Koperger, when asked about this and other developments, also saw the hidden difficulties, which first led to the dilemma. She points out the high average age of customers, who are increasingly giving up their hobby because of their age and also year after year the decreasing number of dealers, who handle UN stamps. Out of necessity, the UNPA began to produce and to distribute its own journal. "This is our Marketing Journal, where one can find all sorts of information", boasted Ms. Koperger proudly. She sees this as a reaction to the altered business reality. She places great expecta-

tions presently in the new Internet-Website, which in different languages informs visitors of UN philately and where one can directly order stamps. In a short time, UNPA has obtained 50 new clients.

It was here that the issue of which would come first: the chicken or the egg, that is, whether one was required for the development of the other or vice-versa, was left unclear.

Undoubtedly there is a relationship between the stamps being issued and the collector and dealer situations, which presently adds to the problem. As in any previously good partnership, it is not just one side that does nothing and lets the other develop a solution and/or even guilt.

According to Ms Koperger, one wants to retain traditional activities of the UNPA the way it used to be, even though its budget has been severely reduced. For example, the operation of UNPA sales stands at stamp shows has been entrusted to Léone Caola-Madzia. She is known to collectors for her bubbly personality and her energy. At every major show she manages to make herself available to all collectors. She knows the preferences and concerns of her clients and helps, whenever her help is requested. Special requests are absolutely no problem as long as they are possible.

### **The New York Problem**

One cannot deny the fact that the UNPA in Vienna and Geneva are under the control of the "Big Brother", the UN in New York. They depend on New York because the Administration there is in charge of all three offices. In New York all decisions are made. Such decisions do not always conform to the realities of the European market. Ms Koperger knows "We are in Europe", alluding, rather hesitantly, to the fact that the preferences and desires of European collectors can be completely different. The UNPA



in New York follows the American market, where collectors tend to be more casual, buying only what interests them, whereas European collectors prefer to be new issue subscribers to insure completeness. The difference can be expressed with figures, relating to the new issue stamps. A complete set can cost up to \$50, although the Europeans have no influence as to the topic or the denominations.

In New York one prescribes FDC sizes and combinations, - for example for souvenir sheets - which frequently do not conform to standard European envelopes and do not even fit in albums. Even the overproduction of certain year sets can be traced back to certain managers in the US Headquarters; again Europeans have no input for these decisions.

In New York, the themes of the new stamps are decided and series run on as long as justified by public interest. Vienna and Geneva have absolutely no influence on even the choice of artists. Nor on the format and size of the stamps. In the USA bigger is better; in Europe smaller is better. However, the printing of the stamps is contracted out on a world-wide basis.

And so it was that the UNPA-New York decided to sell off its archives. In Europe the tendency is to preserve such valuable and unique items. As a result in Geneva there is the UNPA postal museum, which is worth seeing and visiting and in which, in spite of the recent sale, there is still much to admire and new things to discover. Wolfgang Wagener, the head of UNOP, confirms this with his own recent research of League of Nations material.

It was also the UNPA-New York, which bowed to the demands of the People's Republic of China to prohibit the release of a stamp on the theme "Peace" with the flag of Taiwan, even though the stamps had already been printed and had been distributed to the

press. Peter Torelli (Geneva) and Anne Koperger (Vienna) were obliged to retrieve the stamps already distributed to the press; their own thoughts on resolving the matter were not sought.

The dependence in marketing matters by "Big Brother" in New York has been cushioned by the recent appointment of the new contact partner in New York, Robert Gray, a former postal official for the Australian post office. Ms. Koperger is trying, together with her marketing assistants Clarissa Fürsinn and Léone Madzia, to make the best of a bad situation. She knows, however, that there lies a hard road ahead.

### **The Future is open**

Before the question was posed, Ms. Koperger lost no time in giving five good reasons why it pays to collect the stamps of the United Nations:

- Because UN stamps are beautiful;
- Because they carry the message of the United Nations;
- Because the themes of the stamps are always UN themes, which are transformed by international shapes;
- Because they are offered in three currencies and hence have different style;
- Because the UN uses its own post office and does not just produce stamps for collectors.

Stamps speak a language as an authentic energy binding peoples together, which does more than just provide propaganda and which reminds people that we live in one world, whose origins we must preserve for the future. Now more than ever, it would be more correct to say: it is more important than ever, to express these thoughts. The stamp collector can make his own contribution to this.



## UN NEW YORK RECEIVING MARK ON FLIGHT COVER

By B. Clement, Jr

In compiling the UNP monograph, *Receiving, Dispatching, Free Frank & Bar Code Marks and Labels of the UN*, I tried to make it as complete as possible. In some cases, there is obviously missing information. An example is UNNY REC-RE10, found on page 23 of the monograph. I had never seen this marking, but it was listed in the Lindner UN catalog (Note 2), so I included the illustration shown in Figure 1.

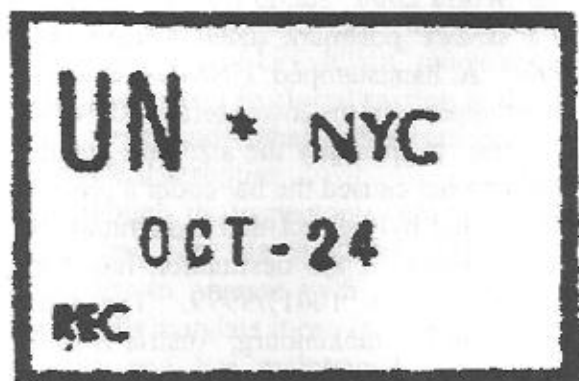


Figure 1: UN receiving mark REC-RE10.

I am happy to report that I have finally found an example, shown on the back of a 1957 UN Flight cover, as shown in Figure 2. I suspect that the receiving mark was used by the UN Post Office, since it is different than other UN New York receiving marks, and since the cover is addressed simply to: "Printed Matter, United Nations P.O., New York, NY". The marking on the cover is not as distinct as the catalog listing, but it appears to be the exact same date. I can now add its color Red and the date 1957 to the data on UNNY REC-RE10.

The front of the cover is shown in Figure 3. The cover was mailed from Berlin on October 23, 1957 for UN Day, 1957. It was supposed to be returned to the sender in 5 days, but the UN New York machine cancel is dated December 14, 1957.



Figure 2: Rear side of cover in Figure 3 showing receiving cancel in red.



Figure 3: 1957 UN Day Flight cover from Berlin.

I had not found this sooner because Flight covers are not one of my interests. If you have UN flight covers, you might look at them for this or other UN receiving marks. If you find anything, please let me know.

### References

1. *Receiving, Dispatching, Free Frank & Bar Code Marks and Labels of the United Nations, Its Agencies & Its Predecessors*, B. Clement and J. Mayer, (United Nations Philatelists, Morrisville, PA, 2003 and 2005) p.23.
2. *United Nations Philatelic and Numismatic Catalog and Handbook*, Wolff Hanke, (Lindner Falzlos Ges, KG, Schömburg, Germany, 1975) p. 249.

# UN MONITORING, VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION COMMISSION

By Richard Powers

The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) was created through the adoption of Security Council resolution 1284 of December 17, 1999. UNMOVIC replaced the former UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) and continues with the mandate to verify Iraq's compliance with its obligation to be rid of its weapons of mass destruction (WMD: chemical and biological weapons and missiles with a range of more than 100 miles) and to operate a system of ongoing monitoring and verification to ascertain that Iraq does not reacquire the same weapons prohibited to it by the Security Council. Information concerning UNSCOM can be found in the April 1996 issue of the *Journal* on page 4.

The UN Secretary-General appointed Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden to be the Commission's Executive Chairman. He served from March 1, 2000 until June 30, 2003. The Secretary-General has also appointed sixteen individuals to serve on the College of Commissioners of UNMOVIC which provides advice and guidance to the Acting Executive Chairman in the execution of his duties. On July 1, 2003 the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Demetrius Perricos as Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC.

In conformity with the UN Charter, the Commission's staff are selected on the basis of securing the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity, taking into consideration the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Commission's staff include weapons specialists, analysts, scientists, engineers and operational planners.

Unlike its predecessor, UNISCOM, the staff of UNMOVIC are UN employees. In addition to the Office of the Chairman with

executive, legal and liaison functions, UNMOVIC comprises four divisions (Planning and Operations, Analysis and Assessment, Information, Technical Support and Training) as well as an administrative service. The Commission maintains its headquarters at the United Nations in New York.

Figure 1 shows a cover sent by the Public Information Officer Mr. Ewen Buchanan to a military officer in Austria. It bears a 60¢ "Our World 2000" stamp (Scott #778) tied by a UNNY postmark dated December 1, 2000. A handstamped UNMOVIC origin cachet appears in the lower left corner of the envelope. Apparently the size and position of this cachet caused the bar coder a problem as indicated by the fact that the (initial) bar code in black of the destination has a zip code of the UN: 10017/9999. The actual destination in Frankenburg, Austria is in the lower right corner surrounded by a circle to the right of a giant notation To:. A second bar code in red appears in the upper right corner over the stamp. A New York forwarding cancel on the rear dated December 11, 2000 indicates that it took ten days to sort out the mistake.

Figure 2 shows a UN service cover mailed from UNMOVIC on September 21(?), 2000 bearing the same stamp as above and also with an Austrian destination. It was recently sold on ebay.

Figure 3 shows the rear of this cover with the personal cachet of Dr. Hans Blix to the left and receiving cancel of UNMOVIC dated September 20, 2000. I speculate that the date of reception may correspond to the date of reception of the original communication from the person (in Austria) initiating the correspondence. Presumably this cover is a response to this original communication.

I imagine that the name of Hans Blix is quite familiar to all of you. The unsuccessful

efforts of his inspectors to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq piqued the impatience of the United States government. After the invasion of Iraq with the goal of removing Sadaam Husein from power, it was recognized that the UNMOVIC inability to find such weapons was due to the nonexistence of such weapons.

The Executive Chairman is required to report to the Security Council on the activities of UNMOVIC every three months. In accordance with the resolution establishing UNMOVIC, he must consult the College of Commissioners on written reports to the Council. Thus, the College of Commissioners of UNMOVIC meets at least four times a year in closed session to discuss the report and other organizational and operational activities.

Although its inspectors were withdrawn from Iraq in March 2003, UNMOVIC continues to operate with respect to those parts of its mandate it can implement outside of Iraq and has maintained a degree of preparedness to resume work in Iraq. It maintains a roster of more than 300 experts ready to serve and continues to conduct training. Details of its main ongoing activities are set out in reports to the Security Council.

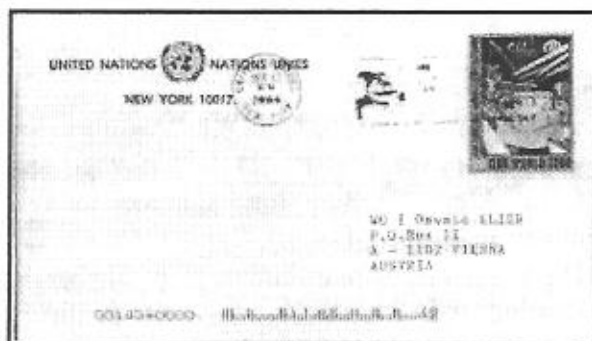


Figure 2: Front of 2000 UN service cover sent from UNMOVIC to Austria (courtesy of ebay).

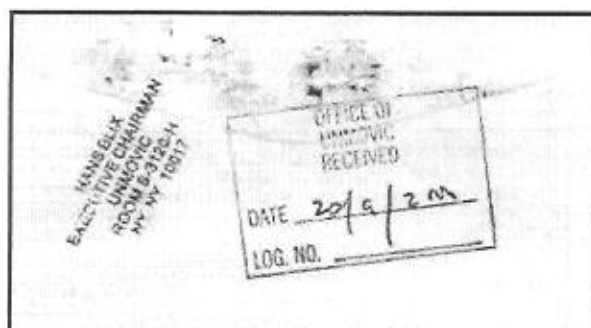


Figure 3: Rear of the above cover bearing the personal cachet of Dr. Hans Blix at UNMOVIC in New York (courtesy of ebay).

## References

[www.unmovic.org](http://www.unmovic.org)

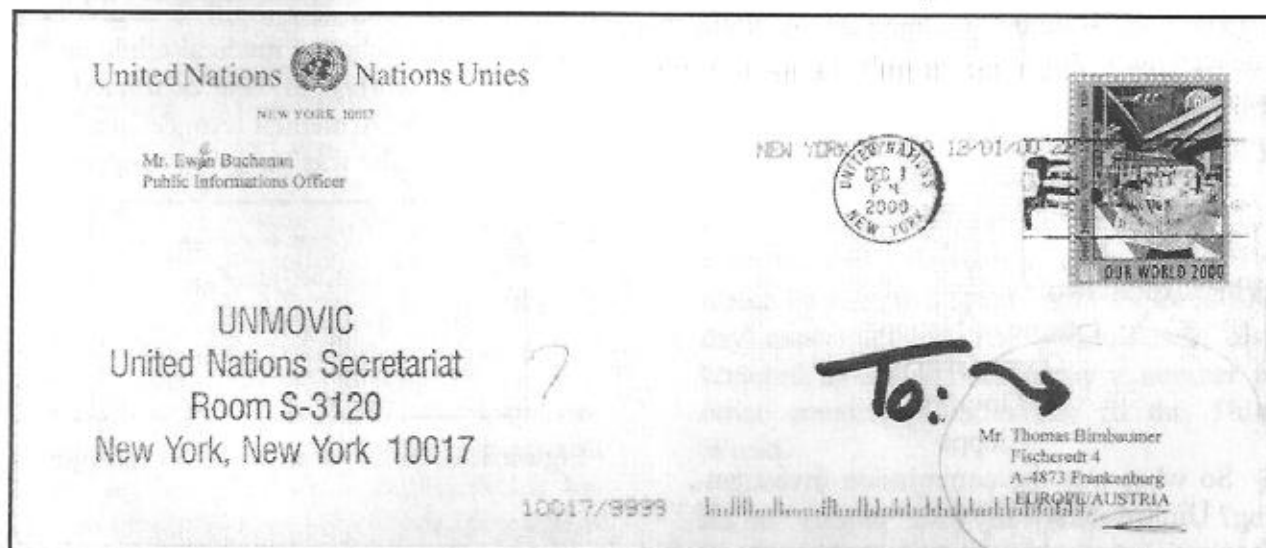


Figure 1: 2000 UNMOVIC service cover sent to Austria after the bar code was corrected.

# LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN ALEPPO

By B. Clement, Jr.

Newly discovered at Washington 2006 was the cover (Figure 1) which was sent from Alep (French for Aleppo; today's name, in Arabic: Halab), Syria February 22, 1924 to a Armenian-language publisher in Boston. It is franked with a 50 centimes French stamp overprinted 2.50 PIASTRES SYRIE (Scott #129). At the time Syria was a League of Nations mandate under France. From the summer of 1920 to December 1924, it was administered by France as two separate states: Aleppo and Damascus. On December 1, 1924, France reunited the two states as Syria.



Figure 1: 1922 cover from Aleppo, Syria.

The interesting thing to me was the origin cachet on the back of the cover (Figure 2), which reads:

Société des Nations  
Commission  
D'enquête  
ALEP

Which, translated, is:

League of Nations  
Commission  
Of Inquiry  
Aleppo

So what was the commission investigating? Unfortunately, my own "inquiry" on the Internet, in my personal League library, and

in the Princeton University library, has come up dry. The most likely subject of inquiry, one in which the League had an interest, was treatment of Armenian refugees. Aleppo, in northwestern Syria near the border with Turkey, was the refuge for many Armenians, refugees from the Turkish Holocaust.



Figure 2: Cachet on rear of cover.

The cover bears the return address of Karen Jeppe (Figure 3), a Danish humanitarian, who began working with Armenian refugees in Turkey in 1903. Later, in 1921 she went to Aleppo where she knew many Armenian refugees had ended up. In 1921 she was asked to join the League of Nations committee for the release of Armenian women and children. With financial aid from the League, she built a children's home, a soup kitchen, a medical clinic and a dressmakers' workroom. She continued her work among the Armenian refugees until her death in 1935. She was buried in Aleppo.

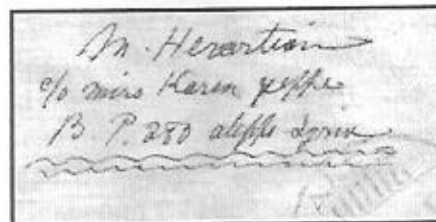


Figure 3: Return address of cover in Figure 1.

Aleppo is an ancient city, reputed to be



one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in the world. Over the centuries, it has been occupied by Amorites, Hittites, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Byzantines, Ottomans, and the French.

## References

*A Detailed Look at French Mandates....*, Richard Powers, *Journal of UNP*, 28-3, p. 6.

## WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY, TUNIS, 2005

By B. Clement, Jr.



Figure 1: FDC of commemorative stamp honoring the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis 2005

The UN-sponsored World Summit in the Information Society (WSIS) was held in two parts. The first part was held in Geneva December 10-12, 2003; the second part was held in Tunis, Tunisia November 16-18, 2005. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) had the lead managerial role in organizing the conference. The first part was hosted by the government of Switzerland, and the second part, by the government of Tunisia. The purpose of the summit was "to help narrow the digital divide between the countries of the North (developed) and the South (developing), and to establish a balanced and open information society".

No postal or philatelic recognition of the Geneva session is known, although time may yet reveal some conference postal history to us. The Tunis session was honored by a special stamp issued by Tunisia. Figure 1 shows a first day cover issued by the Tunisian Post for this stamp, with a special first day cancellation. The summit was also honored by stamps issued by a number of other countries, particularly in the Third World.

## References

1. [www.itu.int/ws/is/index](http://www.itu.int/ws/is/index)
2. [www.poste.tn](http://www.poste.tn)

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UNPA NY	United Nations Postal Administration P.O.Box 5900, Grand Central Station New York, N.Y. 10163-5900
UNPA Europe	Postverwaltung der Vereinten Nationen Postfach 900 Internationales Zentrum Wien A-1400 Wien-Vereinte Nationen Austria
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## A NEW LONDON 1945 UNITED NATIONS SLOGAN CANCELLATION VARIETY

Clayton Wallace

Just when you think you've seen it all, along comes something so amazing that I was stunned when it appeared in a recent auction catalog. It is so different; I had had a hard time classifying it. The postcard has the circular dater we are so familiar with, however, the red color is directly related to the red PAID and OFFICIAL PAID covers described in the square cancel section of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *The London 1945 United Nations Slogan Cancellation* book.

The postcard (Figure 1) is dated 2 JAN 1945 with POSTAGE PAID in the position where normally the London Office is identified in the circular postmark. This postcard was used in the prisoner of war post, and is designated as Army Form No. W3494.

The reason for the red color can be found

on page 29 of the *London 1945* book: "...which under the terms of a Universal Postal Union Convention, appeared in red (the Convention lays down that date stamps impressed on mail which is prepaid in cash 'shall be in a bright red color')." Of course, most of the POWs had no cash, so this was a free service for them, with the expense passed along to the Army and/or post office.

According to Wikipedia, the Stoneham camp (No. 614) in Eastleigh, Hampshire (Hants) was the home to many German prisoners of war. This postcard, dated 10 December 1945, is being sent to Fräulein Gretel Brüning in Germany.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *The London 1945 United Nations Slogan Cancellation* book can be found at:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/169400>.

PRISONER OF WAR POST  
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST

2 JAN 1945  
POSTAGE PAID

Army Form No. W.3494  
No. 614 P.O.W. Camp

ADRESSE

An Fräulein Gretel Brüning

Empfangsort Oberholzen bei Viehl  
Bezirk Köln/Rhein

Strasse bei Fam. Schütt

Land Germany

Absender  
Vor und Zuname Charles SOYCAUX  
Gefangenennummer 593822  
Lager-Bezeichnung Stoneham Camp  
Eastleigh  
No. 614 P.O.W. Camp (ay Hants)  
Great Britain

2142m 1/44 (88657) 45100/4747 10 million 12/44 M&C Ltd. 47-211

Figure 1: 1946 London United Nations Slogan Cancel on outgoing POW card.

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**The Western Arm** meets intermittently at San Francisco Bay area shows. Contact: Alex Bereson, 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131-1518

**Mid-Atlantic UN Collectors Club** meets at shows in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Contact: Greg Galletti, MAUNCC, P.O. Box 466, Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0466

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## UNP 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

January 27, 2007

