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100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF U THANT

(1909 - 1973)

Third Secretary-General of the United Nations (1961-1971)

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Editor: Richard Powers

Production Manager: Jim Matyasovich

Correspondence regarding editorial content should be sent to the Editor: Richard Powers, 2445 East Del Mar Boulevard #422, Pasadena, CA 91107-4871.

Changes of address should go to the UNP Secretary: Blanton Clement, Jr., P. O. Box 146, Morrisville, PA 19067.

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Cover Illustrations

Front cover: Postcard featuring U. Thant (UN Office of Public Information). **Rear cover:** UNNY minisheet for U Thant 100th Anniversary.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

A Look Ahead at the 2009 Stamp Program

By November 2008 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) had announced a tentative schedule of stamps for 2009. If the schedule, which appears on page 2 of this issue, holds, there will be nine commemorative issues, four of which are continuing series: the Endangered Species Series (March 5th), World Heritage - Germany (May 7th), the Coin and Flag Series (August 6) and Indigenous People (October). That leaves three sets, which have new themes and are not part of continuing series. These include the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of the third United Nations Secretary-General U Thant (February 6th) (on page 3 of this issue of the *Journal*), the Economic and Social Council (June 5th) and UN Millennium Goals (September 25th). Two more stamps will be issued noting the 30th Anniversary of the UNPA in Vienna (August 6th) and the 40th Anniversary of the UNPA in Geneva (October 2nd) in personalized sheet format.

The Coin and Flag set is the fourth installment of a series that is scheduled to last eight years, assuming that there are no new members of the United Nations in the meantime. In each year the UNPA releases three mini-sheets each of which displays a coin and the flag of eight member states, totaling twenty-four nations per installment.

The Endangered Species Series has been an annual issue since 1993. As usual the seventeenth set in this series will be released by the UNPA in the form of four stamps for each office as well as an annual collection folder, three maximum cards and a limited edition silk first day cover.

The World Heritage set honoring Germany will undoubtedly consist of the normal six stamps as well as three prestige booklets. This series began in 1997 with a set that honored the Terracotta Warriors of China. Later sets have honored Austria (1998), Australia (1999), Spain (2000), Japan (2001), Italy

(2002), the United States (2003), Greece (2004), Egypt (2005), France (2006) and Latin America (2007). The year 2008 was the first year that did not see a World Heritage set.

The Indigenous People series of three minisheets of six distinct stamps began in 2003 with the art of Latin America and reappeared in 2005 with the art of Europe and 2006 with the art of Africa.

Four new definitives are currently planned for the office in New York. The designs of three of these stamps appear on page 4 of this issue of the *Journal* and will be issued February 6th. In October an additional definitive on the theme "International Day of Non-Violence" will be issued. New postal stationery for UN Vienna and UN Geneva are planned for May 7th. If, and when, the USPS changes domestic rates, new UNNY stationery will undoubtedly be issued.

For the present at least five personalized sheet will appear. One will be issued in Essen, Germany in conjunction with IBRA 2009 on May 7th. Two personalized sheets will be released on June 5th for use by visitors to the New York UN headquarters in domestic and international denominations. Personalized sheets will be issued honoring the 30th and 40th anniversaries, respectively, of the UN post offices in Vienna and Geneva.

If any member is interested in writing an article tackling any of these topics or any other subject, please drop me a line or send me an e-mail, so that I can offer you my enthusiastic support and devote my own creative energies to other projects. In either case, it is crucial that the contents of this *Journal* contain contributions from as many members as possible in order to guarantee that the articles of this periodical represent the vast range of interests of its members. This is hard to achieve when many issues represent contributions of only two or three authors. I look forward to receiving your article.

2009 UNITED NATIONS STAMP PROGRAM

(As of December 15, 2008 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 6 | 100th Anniversary U Thant
94¢, F.s. 1,30, € 1,15
(3 sheets of 20 stamps)
New York Definitives
1¢, 9¢, 10¢,
(3 sheets of 20 stamps) |
| March 5 | Endangered Species
42¢, F.s. 1,00, € 0,65
(3 sheets of 16 stamps with 4 blocks of 4 se-tenant stamps.)
Set of 3 maximum cards and 2009 Endangered Species Annual Collection Folder
FDC with Silk Cachet |
| May 7 | World Heritage - Germany
42¢, 94¢, F.s.1,00, F.s. 1,30, € 0,65, € 1,40
(6 sheets of 20 stamps)
Three Prestige Booklets
{3 Prestige Booklets with 12×(26¢, 42¢, F.s. 0,20, F.s. 0,50, € 0,30, € 0,35)}
Postal Stationery for Geneva and Vienna
Personalized Sheet (Vienna) - IBRA in Essen
(sheet of 10 stamps with se-tenant labels) |
| June 5 | Economic and Social Council
42¢, 94¢, F.s.1,00, F.s. 1,80, € 0,55, € 0,75 and a souvenir card
(6 sheets of 20 stamps)
Personalized Sheets (New York)
(sheets of 20 stamps - domestic, 10 stamps - international) |
| August 6 | Coin and Flag Series
42¢, F.s. 0.85, € 0,65
(3 mini-sheets of 8 stamps)
Coin and Flag Collection Folder
Personalized Sheet (Vienna) - UNPA Vienna 30th Anniversary
(pane of 10 stamps with se-tenant labels) |
| September 25 | UN Millennium Goals
42¢, F.s. 1.80, € 1,15
(3 panes of 8 designs) |
| October 2 | NY Definitive - International Day of Non-Violence
(1 sheet of 20 stamps)
Personalized Sheet (Geneva) - UNPA Geneva 40th Anniversary
(pane of 10 stamps with se-tenant labels) |
| October | Indigenous People
42¢, F.s. 1,30, € 0,65
(3 panes of 8 designs)
2009 Annual Collection Folders (New York, Geneva, Vienna) |

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF U THANT

By Richard Powers

On February 6, 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued three commemorative stamps noting the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations: a 94¢ stamp for use at United Nations Headquarters in New York City (Figure 1), a F.s. 1,30 stamp for Geneva (Figure 2) and a € 1,15 stamp for in Vienna (Figure 3). The stamps display three different photographs of U Thant and are issued in sheets of twenty stamps with a double size image of the photograph in the selvage on the right side of the sheet. An image of the complete UNNY sheet of stamps appears on the rear cover of this issue of the *Journal*.

U Thant was chosen to head the world body after Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in an air crash in Africa en route to the Congo in September 1961 and served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971.

U Thant was born in Pantanaw, Burma on January 22, 1909.



Figure 1: 94¢ UNNY stamp.



Figure 2: F.s. 1,30 UN Geneva stamp.



Figure 3: € 1,15 UN Vienna Stamp

At the time of his appointment as Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations on November 3, 1961, he had been Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador (1957 -1961). During that period, he headed the Burmese delegations to the sessions of the General Assembly and in 1959, he served as one of the Vice- Presidents of the Assembly's fourteenth session. In 1961 U Thant was Chairman of the United Nations Congo Conciliation Commission and Chairman of the Committee on a United Nations Capital Development Fund.

His appointment was unanimously approved by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, to fill the unexpired term of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. He was later unanimously appointed on November 30, 1962 for a full term of office ending on November 3, 1966, and reappointed for a second term as Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly on December 1966 on the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council (Resolution 229 - 1966). His term of office continued until December 31, 1971.

He died on November 25, 1974 after a long illness.

Reference

www.un.org/overview/SG

UNNY ISSUES THREE NEW DEFINITIVES

By Richard Powers

On February 6, 2009 the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) issued three new definitives for use at UN Headquarters in New York City. The stamps picturing various roses were designed by Jaime Arredondo, whose name appears in the lower right-hand corner of the stamp.

The 1¢ stamp (Figure 1) depicts a "Cielo Rosado" (Rosy Sky) blossom and replaces the "Child with dove" stamp (Scott #727), which was issued in 1998.



Figure 1: 2009 UNNY 1¢ definitive.

The 9¢ stamp (Figure 2) depicts a "Rosa de Sangre" (Blood Rose) blossom. The last 9¢ definitive had pictured a rose-like design surrounding the UN wreath (Scott #269). It was issued in 1976 and withdrawn in 2002.

The 10¢ stamp (Figure 3) depicts a "Espíritu de Mujer" (Spirit of a Woman) blossom. The last 10¢ definitive stamp (Scott #644) had pictured a "Dove of Peace". It was issued in 1994 and withdrawn from sale in 2003.



Figure 2: 2009 UNNY 9¢ definitive.

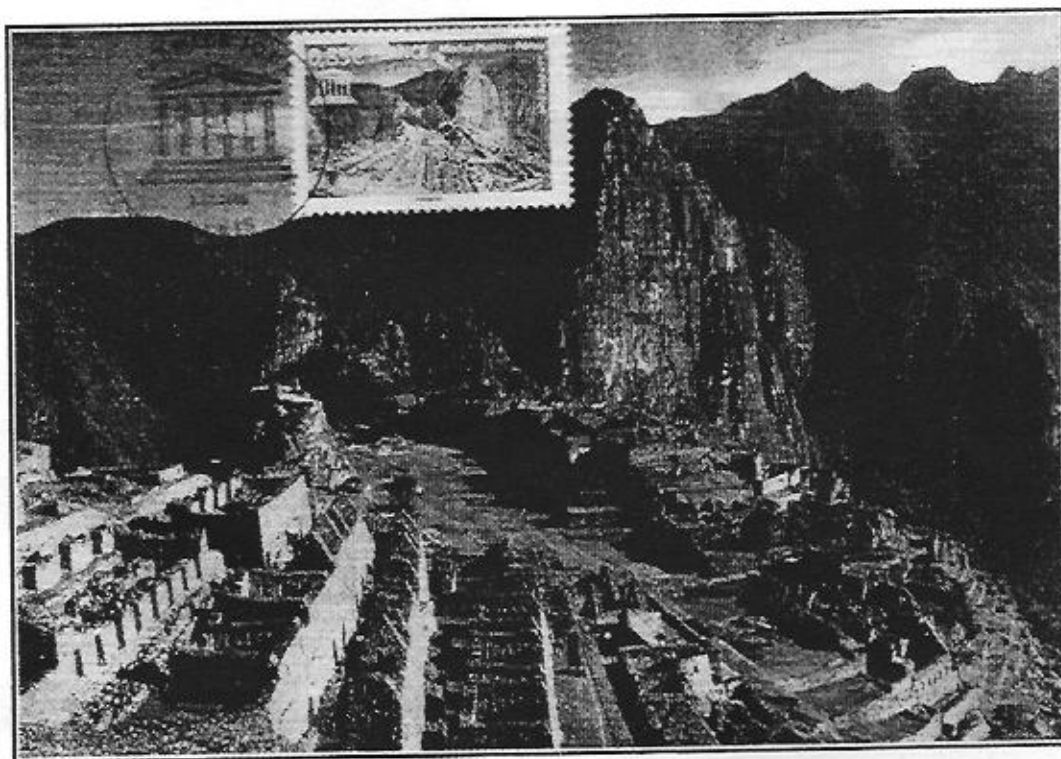
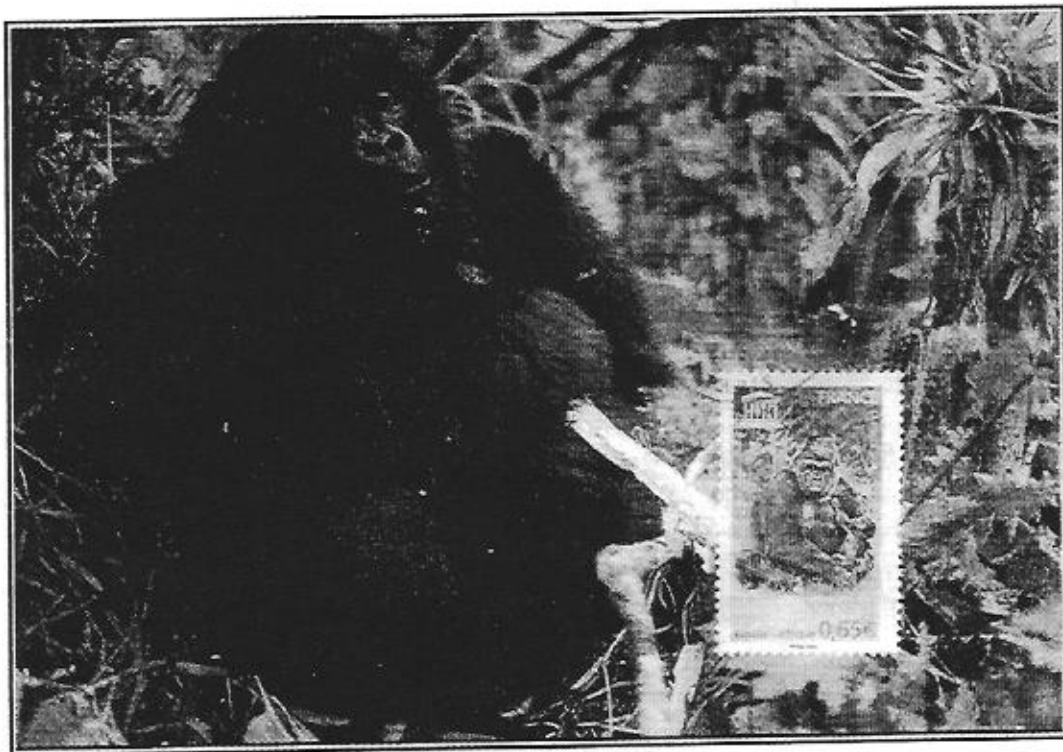


Figure 3: 2009 UNNY 10¢ definitive.

None of these denominations pay for any existing United States Postal Service (USPS) tariff by themselves and correspond to make-up rates.

LA POSTE ISSUES TWO NEW SERVICE STAMPS FOR UNESCO

By Richard Powers



On December 3, 2008 the French Post Office (La Poste) issued two more service stamps for use at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The € 0,65 stamp on maximum card (above) pictures an African gorilla; the € 0,85 stamp (below) pictures Machu Picchu in Peru. The two maximum cards were produced by Éditions Jean Farcigny in collaboration with UNESCO.

A 1946 REUSED ENVELOPE LINKING THE UNRRA OFFICES IN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES

By Richard Powers

During and just after World War II paper was a precious commodity. In the United Kingdom the public was urged to reuse envelopes. Figure 1 shows a British service envelope used by the Antwerp, Belgium office of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). It was mailed to the Communications Officer at the UNRRA Administrative Base in Haaren, Netherlands. In the top left corner of the envelope is the message:

WAR ECONOMY
OPEN by slitting top edge
RE-USE with Economy Label

This envelope which bears a date of No-



Figure 2: 1946 (receiving?) cancel of the UNRRA Canteen and Welfare Supplies Unit in Haaren, Netherlands.

vember 10, 1946 was not reused but bears an interesting cachet (Figure 2) of the UNRRA Canteen and Welfare Supplies Unit, probably used as a receiving mark in Haaren. This

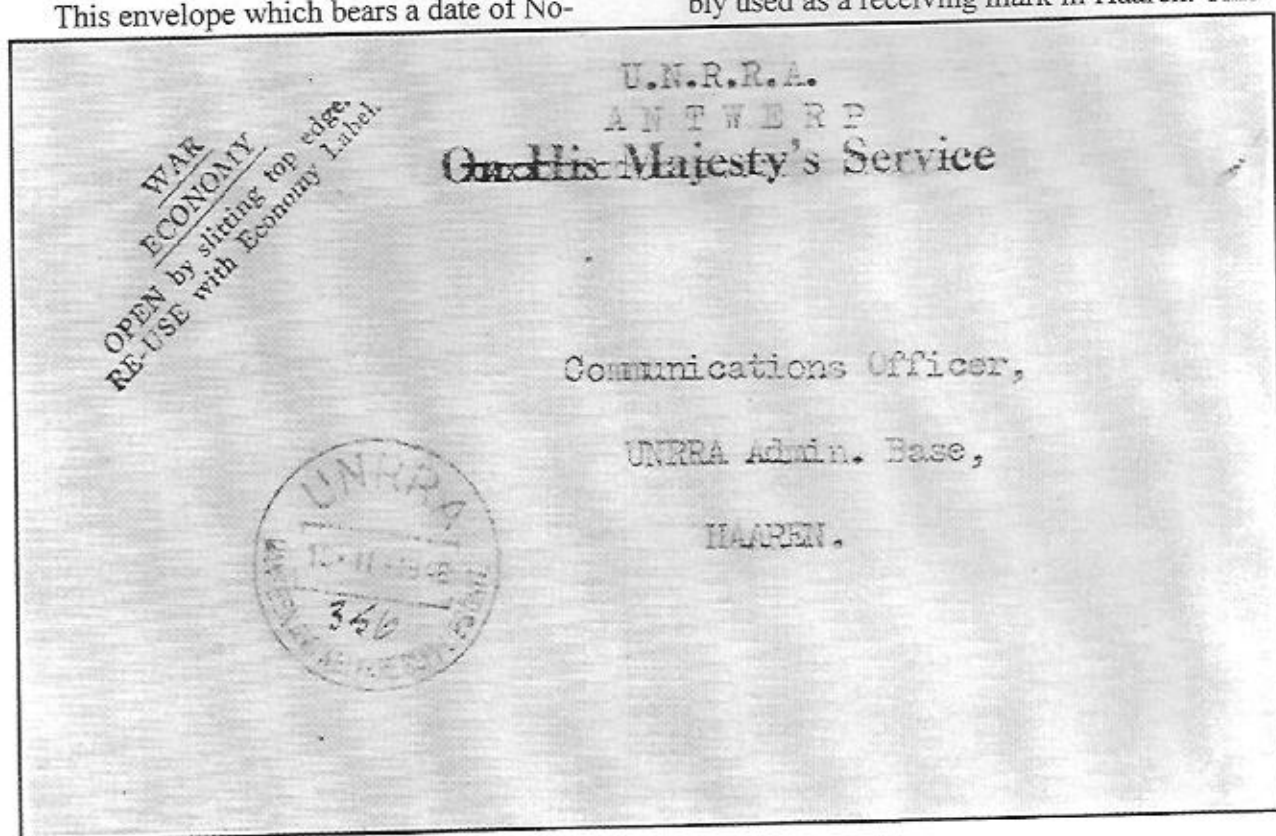


Figure 1: 1946 service cover from the UNRRA in Antwerp to the UNRRA in Haaren with a legend in the upper left hand corner encouraging reuse of the envelope in support of the war effort.

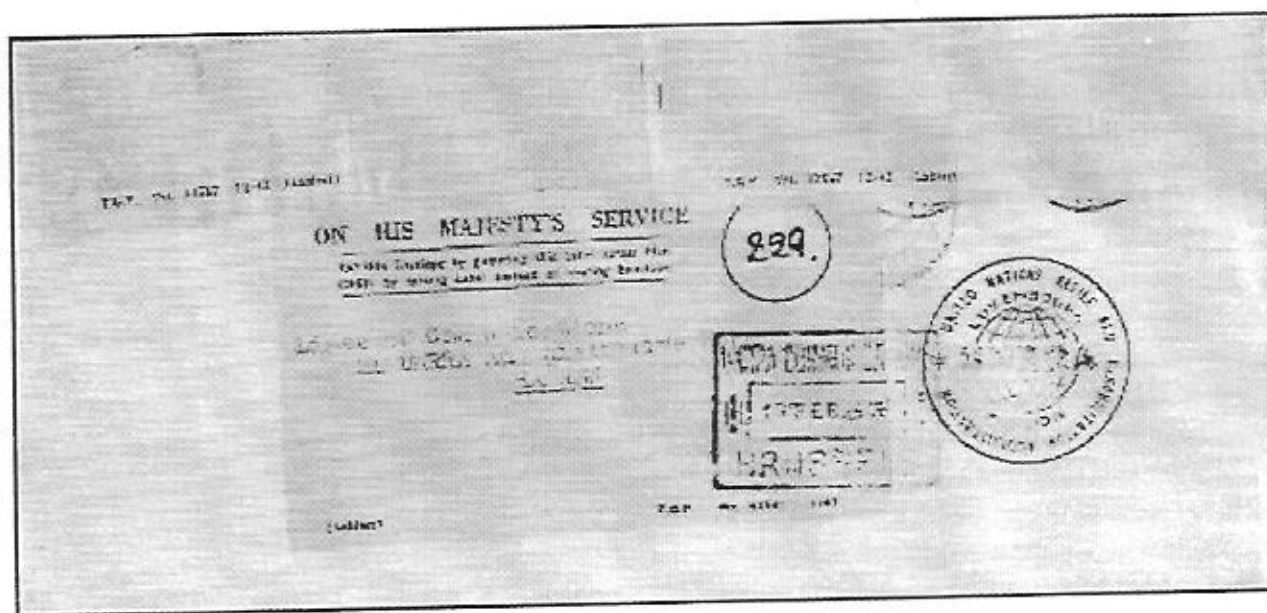


Figure 3: 1946 reused service cover from the UNRRA Communications office in Brussels, Belgium to the UNRRA Administrative Base in Haaren, Netherlands with sealing labels closing the top of the envelope.

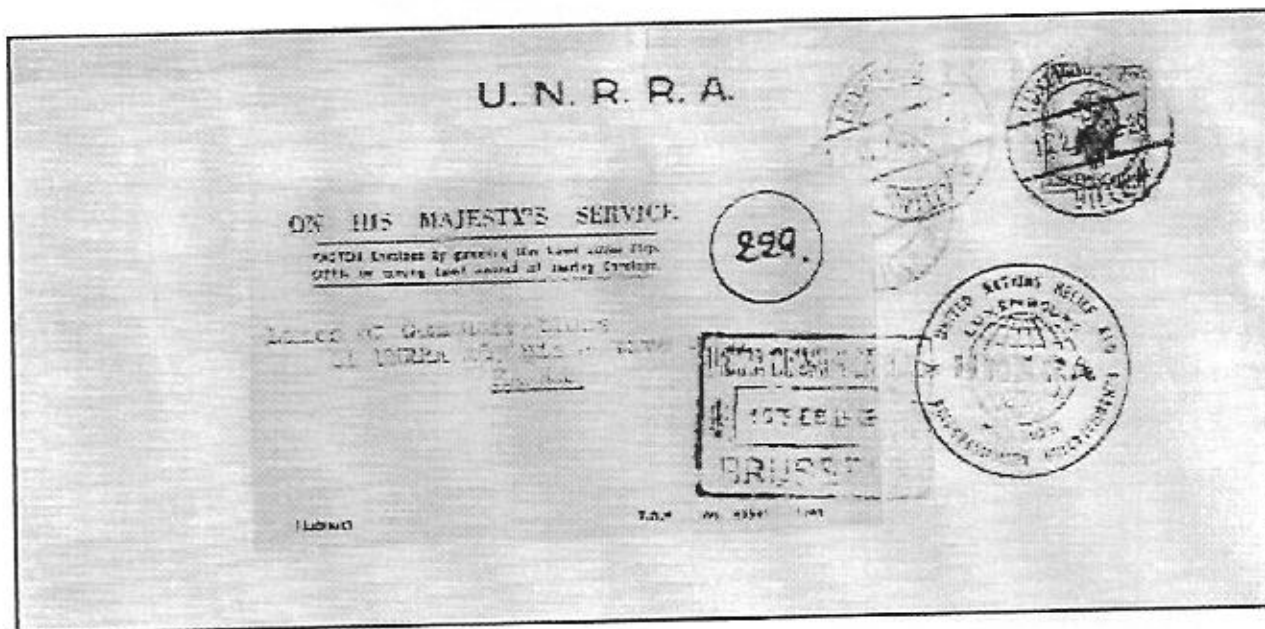


Figure 6: 1946 reused UNRRA service cover in Figure 3 to the Administrative Base in Haaren, Netherlands with sealing labels folded back to reveal the Luxembourg stamp canceled in Luxembourg City above the origin cachet of the Luxembourg Mission of the UNRRA originally sent to the UNRRA Communications office in Brussels, Belgium.

cachet is not reported in the Gaines Catalogue, but on page 1283 the editor mentions that at the Seminary in Haaren, one established the Administration of the Mobilization and Training Base in February 1945. Incoming covers with daters are known. No mention of an office in Antwerp is made.

Figure 3 shows a 1946 reused UNRRA service cover linking UNRRA offices in the Benelux countries: Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. As per the War Economy instructions, this cover has been sealed with economy labels and was sent from the UNRRA Communications Unit in Brussels to the following address typed on a British service address label:

Lines of Communications
31 UNRRA Administrative Base
Haaren

The label is tied by a black dispatching mark (Figure 4) from the UNRRA Brussels office dated February 19, 1946. This mark does not appear in Gaines but does appear on page 71 as BELG-DSP1 in the UNP Monograph by Blanton Clement, Jr., and Jack Mayer entitled *Receiving, Dispatching, Free Frank & Bar Code Marks and Labels of the United Nations, its Agencies & its Predecessors*.



Figure 4: Dispatching mark of the UNRRA Communications Office in Brussels.

To the right of the dispatching mark is a round origin cachet (Figure 5) of the Luxembourg Mission of the UNRRA.

Figure 6 shows another view of the cover with the sealing labels folded back, which shows a generic corner card of the UNRRA and a 1½ franc Luxembourg stamp (Scott #240) postmarked in Luxembourg City on February 13, 1946.



Figure 5: Origin cachet of the Luxembourg Mission of the UNRRA.

Evidently the envelope began its journey in Luxembourg in February 1946 when it traveled to Brussels. Underneath the address label one can read the following address:

UNRRA Communications Centre
18 Grand Place
Bruxelles.

According to Gaines, the Luxembourg office had a staff of about four people and primarily used U.S. and United Kingdom diplomatic pouch. This cover bearing a Luxembourg stamp is evidently an exception. The Brussels office had about twenty personnel at peak strength and handled communications. It generally used U.K. diplomatic and military postal service.

Six days after the envelope was sent from Luxembourg, it was reused by the Brussels office. I suspect that the number 229 contained in a circle on the mailing label indicates that the letter went by diplomatic pouch via route 229. The destination was Haaren, just the same as the cover in Figure 1. Thus within a week the envelope made the rounds of the three Benelux countries.

UN CARTOGRAPHY SEMINAR: Elsinore, 1965

By B. Clement, Jr.

A service cover from the UN Inter-Regional Seminar on Application of Cartography for Economic Development, held in Elsinore, Denmark, in October 1965, has been discovered. This cover, with a Corner Card for the Seminar Secretariat, is shown in Figure 1. The cover, mailed to the UN at Geneva, is franked with a Danish stamp (Scott #419) and postmarked Helsingør (Danish for Elsinore) October 11, 1965.

The return address, in pen on the back, is shown in Figure 2. The sender is J. Wiseman, who is staying at the Prins Hamlet Hotel in Elsinore. The Corner Card address (for the secretariat) is the Geodetic Institute in Copenhagen. That address has been marked out by the sender to avoid confusion.

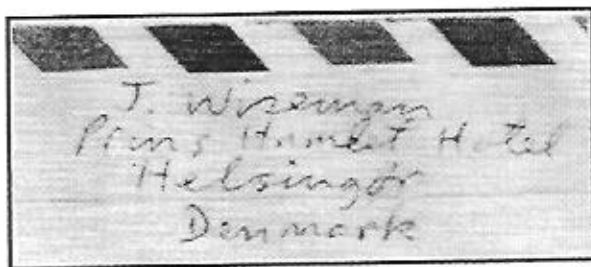


Figure 2: Return address on rear of cover in Figure 1.

References to the seminar were found on the Internet and in the 1965 United Nations Yearbook, but the exact dates of the seminar are not given. The Yearbook gives the date as October 1965. There was a 2nd UN Seminar with the same name held in Humleback, Denmark May 15-June 10, 1967.

As noted in the name of the hotel, Elsinore is famous as being the site of Shakespeare's play, Hamlet. The play takes place in Kronborg Castle, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As you can see, the postal history of UN conferences not only involves the use of special cancels or cachets, but the use of special conference corner cards, which is the only distinguishing feature of this cover. Please let us know if you find such a corner card which may be at yet unknown to UN philately.

References

1. <http://tidsskrift.dk/visning.jsp?markup=&print=no&id=72462>
2. *Yearbook of the United Nations 1965*, Columbia University Press

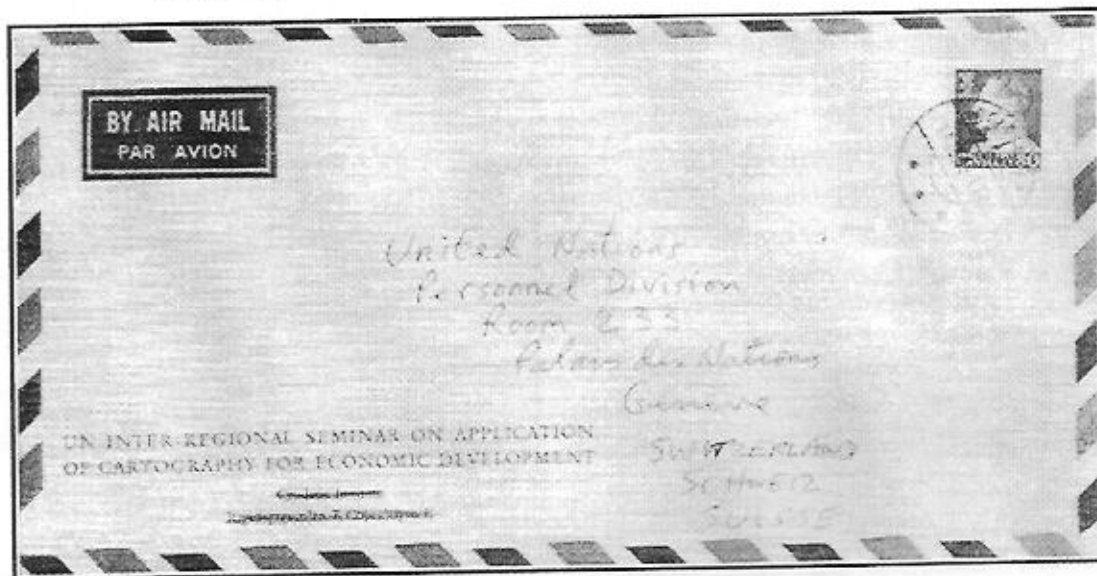


Figure 1: 1965 service cover from the UN Inter-Regional Seminar on Application of Cartography for Economic Development in Elsinore, Denmark

FOURTH WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

Dehra Dun, India, 1954

Special Congress Cancels

By B. Clement, Jr.

The 4th World Forestry Congress was held in Dehra Dun, India December 11-22, 1954. A special stamp, in blue, was issued December 11, 1954 for the Congress. A special cancel used at the congress is shown in Gaines, Page 1447, as 1954/2. Gaines notes that there are three cancels, I, II, and III.

I have been searching for these cancels for many years, and have finally found them, thanks to e-Bay. e-Bay over the years has been a good way to find long hidden treasures from all over the world.

When I finally found all three of these cancels, and compared them, I was in for a surprise. Normally one would expect that if a cancel comes in several numbers, that they would be identical except for the number. In this case, there are significant differences in the three cancels.

All three cancels are in Hindi. However, Cancel No. I, shown in Figure 1, has the English "No." before the Roman numeral "I". Cancel No. I is 32 mm in diameter. The Indian stamp (Scott #253) was issued in honor of the 4th World Forestry Congress.



Figure 1: Cancel No. I

Cancel No. II, shown in Figure 2, has several differences. The most obvious difference is the size. The cancel is 21.5 mm in diameter. The two lines across the inner circle are missing, and there is a line of text above the date. Also, "No." is replaced by a Hindi character.



Figure 2: Cancel No. II.

Cancel No. III is shown in Figure 3. This cancel is similar to Cancel No. I, but has differences. The cancel is 33 mm in diameter, and has the two lines across the inner circle just as in Cancel No. I. "No." is represented by a Hindi character. Also, the spacing of characters around the circle is different. There is very little space between the Hindi words.

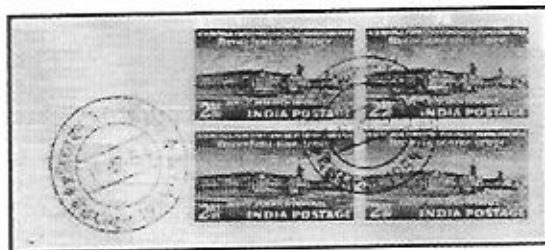


Figure 3: Cancel No. III

UN Postal History continues to be written. What can you add to the story?

UN PEACEKEEPING IN CAMBODIA

By Richard Powers

In one of the most complex operations, the United Nations in Cambodia oversaw a transition that led to the restoration of civil rule after years of civil war and foreign intervention.

After the intervention in Cambodia by Viet Nam in December 1978, the General Assembly in 1979 called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, non-interference by other States in the country's internal affairs and self-determination for the Cambodian people. It also appealed to all States and national and international organizations to render humanitarian relief to the civilian population.

In 1988 the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly that he had formulated a number of specific ideas for a settlement framework and that he had asked his Special Representative to visit the region and present these ideas to the four Cambodian parties and States concerned.

The Secretary-General's proposals gave momentum to the negotiations. The first face-to-face talks among the Cambodian parties took place in Jakarta in April 1989. Viet Nam announced the withdrawal of its troops from Cambodia. In July and August 1989, the parties and seventeen countries attended the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

In November 1989 the five permanent members of the Security Council agreed on a draft text on Cambodia which covered a proposed mandate for a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; withdrawal, cease-fire and related measures; elections; repatriation of refugees; and principles for a new constitution.

On May 1, 1991 a cease-fire went into effect in Cambodia, following an appeal by the Secretary-General and the Foreign Ministers of France and Indonesia. On October 16, 1991 by Security Council resolution 717

(1991) the Security Council established an advance mission, the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to assist the Cambodian parties in maintaining the cease-fire during the period prior to the establishment and deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

On October 23, 1991, the parties signed in Paris the Agreements on the Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict: a peace treaty to end the conflict and prepare the country for elections. The Agreements assigned to the United Nations an unprecedented role. The UN was to set up an operation, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which would supervise the cease-fire, the end of foreign military assistance and the withdrawal of foreign forces; regroup, canton and disarm all armed forces of the Cambodian parties and ensure a 70% level of demobilization, control and supervise the activities of the administrative structures, including the police, ensure and respect of human rights and organize and conduct free and fair elections.

In February 1992, the Security Council authorized the establishment of UNTAC, which was to comprise between 15,000 and 20,000 UN personnel, including human rights, civil administrative and military components, as well as a police component of some 3,600 police monitors.

The deployment of UNTAC began officially on March 15, 1992, with the arrival in Phnom Penh of the Head of UNTAC, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia. UNAMIC was absorbed by UNTAC at this time. The first contingent of UNTAC's military component had also arrived and by early May, some 4,000 UN personnel, including 3,600 troops, were in

place. At its peak, UNTAC numbered over 21,000 military and civilian personnel from more than 100 countries.

A major step towards normalization occurred with the elections of May 1993. Twenty parties took part in the elections. UNTAC oversaw the electoral campaign and registration of voters, as well as the elections. Over 4.2 million people - nearly 90% of the registered voters - cast their ballots to elect a Constituent Assembly. In September 1993, the Constitution was proclaimed and a new government, led by two prime ministers, were inaugurated. This ended the mandate of UNTAC.

At the end of World War II French Indo-China consisted of modern day Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. A map of Cambodia in southern Indo-China supplied by the United Nations appears in Figure 1.

Figure 2 shows a UNAMIC service cover mailed to a local address within Cambodia

(Kampuchea - Cambodia in the Khmer language). The cover is postmarked in P(?)uk-laak, Kampuchea on March 12, 1992 a few days before UNAMIC was absorbed by UNTAC. The cover bears a 25 riel Cambodian stamp (Scott #1160) honoring the Spanish International Stamp Exhibition Espamer 91.

Figure 3 shows a UNTAC service cover postmarked in Phnom Penh on July 29, 1992 with a 2.50 riel meter cancel. It bears a 5 riel Cambodian stamp (#1203) honoring its anticipated participation in a 1994 World Cup Soccer Championships in the USA. The cover bears the return address of the UNTAC force commander Lt. General John Sanderson of Australia at UNTAC HQ (Wat Phnom).

References

www.un.org/Depts/dpko/co_mission/untac
www.peacekeepers.asn.au/missions/unamic-untac



Figure 2: 1992 UNAMIC service cover.

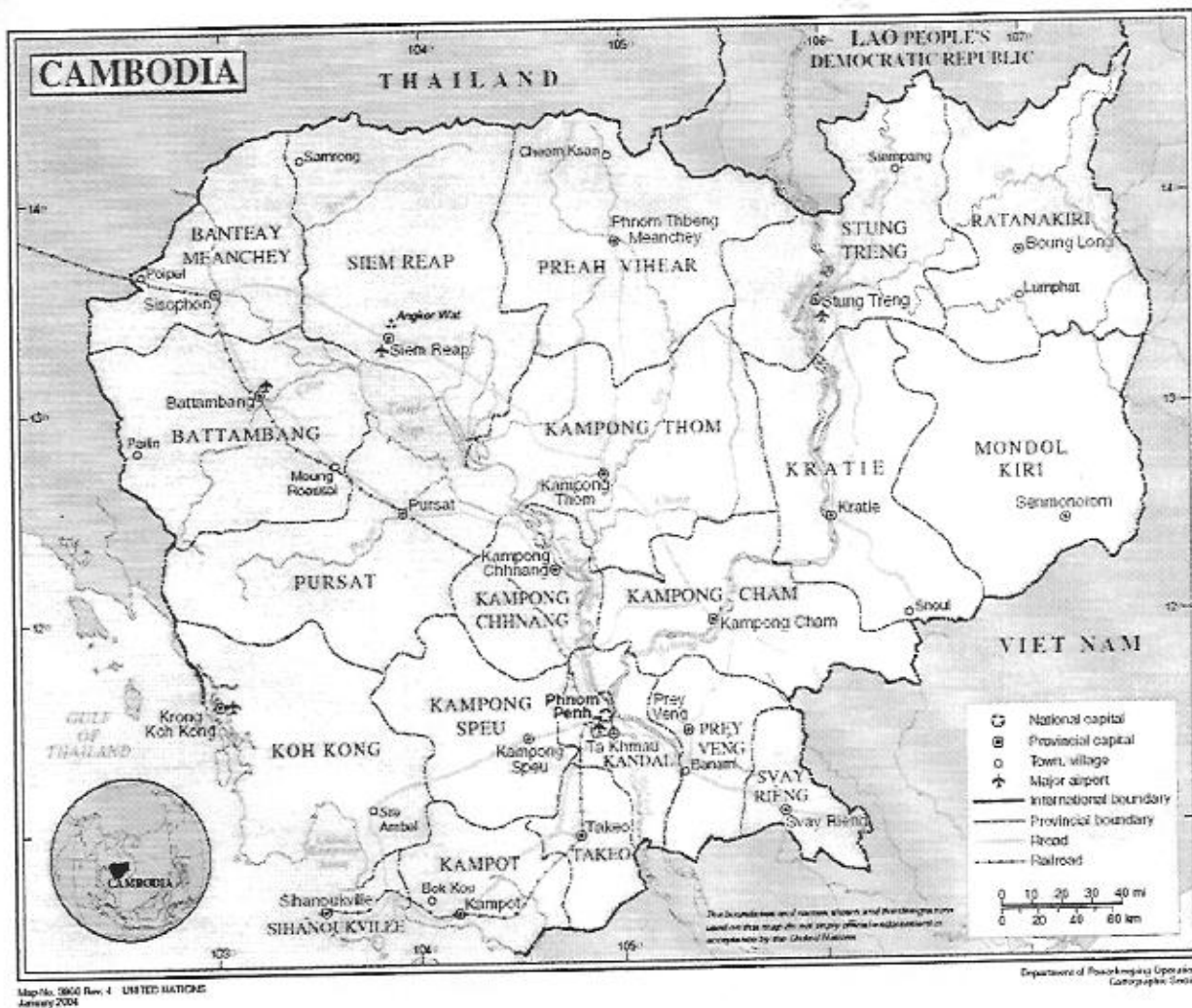


Figure 1: Map of Cambodia (Kampuchea) (courtesy of the United Nations - 2004)

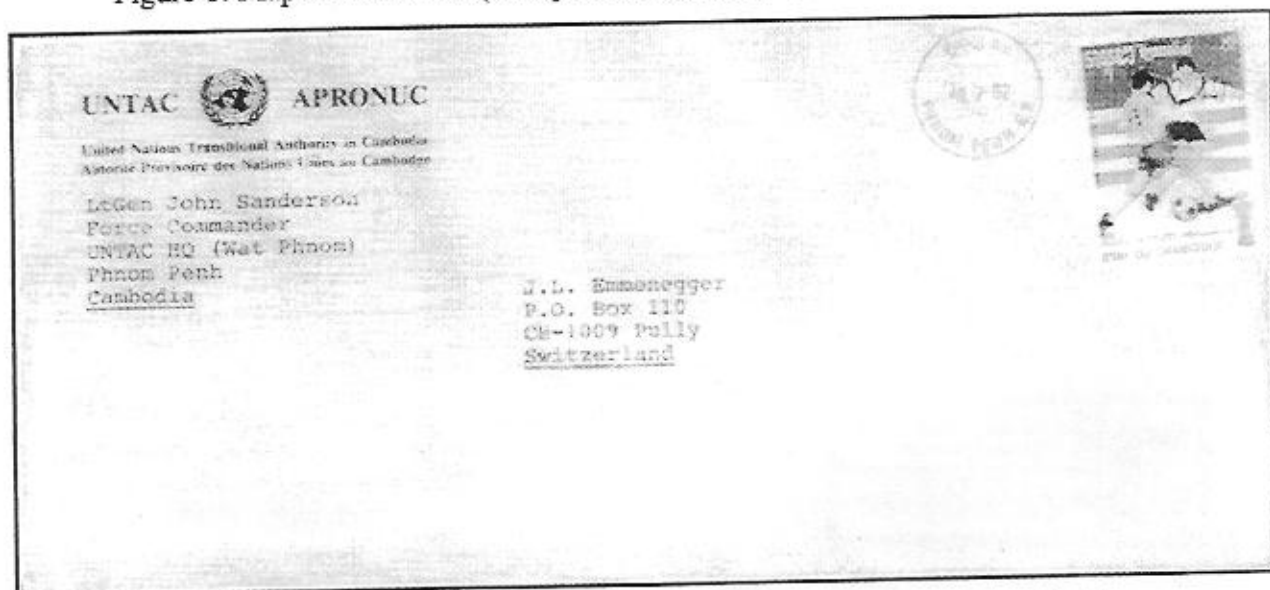


Figure 3: 1992 UNTAC service cover from UNTAC HQ in Phnom Penh.

SONDERPOSTAMT REGISTRY LABELS USED AT UN CONFERENCES IN AUSTRIA AND GERMANY

By B. Clement, Jr.

Sonderpostamt ("Special Post Office" in German) is a generic name for a Special Post Office set up for a conference or other event. The term has been observed on Austrian and German Registry Labels for nine different UN or UN Agency Conferences in the 1957- 1993 time frame. This article lists those observed and requests readers to help find others.

Seven of the nine Sonderpostamt labels observed were used in Vienna. The earliest one is on the 1st International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference (October 1-23, 1957) cover shown in Figure 1. The label on this cover, seen in Figure 2, is designated Vienna Type 1.

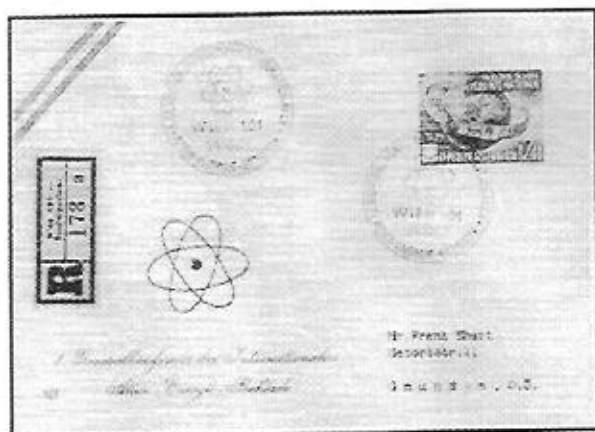


Figure 1: 1957 1st IAEA General Conference cover from Vienna.

The second Vienna example is for the 6th IAEA General Conference (September 17-28, 1962) cover shown in Figure 3. The label on this cover, seen in Figure 4, is designated Vienna Type 2.



Figure 2: Detail of Registry Label from the 1957 1st IAEA General Conference.



Figure 3: 1962 6th IAEA General Conference cover from Vienna.



Figure 4: Detail of Registry Label from the 1962 6th IAEA General Conference.

The third Vienna example is the cover illustrated in Figure 5. This is from the UN Conference on Science & Technology for Development (Aug. 20-31, 1979). The label on this cover, shown in Figure 6, is designated Vienna Type 3.



Figure 6: Detail of Registry Label from 1979 UN Conference on Science and Technology.

The other Vienna observations are listed below:

UN Conference on Law of Treaties, March 26- May 24, 1968, Label: Vienna Type 3;

World Assembly on Aging, July 26-August 6, 1982, Label: Vienna Type 3;

Exhibition for 2nd UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, August 9-21, 1972, Label: Vienna Type 3;

UN World Conference on Human Rights, June 14-25, 1993, Label: Vienna Type 3.

Another Sonderpostamt label was found on the cover in Figure 7. This is for the 34th Session of the UN Committee on Outer Space, held in Graz, Austria, May 27- June 7, 1991. The label is shown in Figure 8.



Figure 7: 1991 Conference Cover from the UN-Conference on Outer Space in Graz.

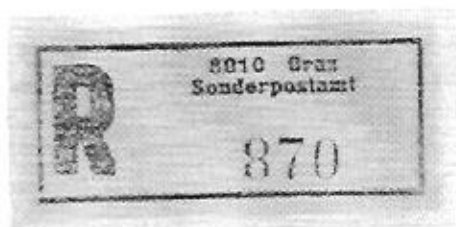


Figure 8: Detail of Registry Label from the 1991 UN Conference on Outer Space.

Lastly, a Registry Label with a "Sonderpostamt" stamped imprint is seen on the cover in Figure 9 and detail of the registry label in Figure 10. This is from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/IAEA International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter Studies, held in Braunschweig, Germany, December 6-10, 1976.

In all, it is estimated that about fifty to

sixty different UN or UN Agency Conferences in Austria and Germany have had Special Post Offices with Conference Cancels. At least two of these used special registry labels with the name of the conference: the 4th UPU Congress, held in Vienna in 1891; and the 15th UPU Congress, held in Vienna in 1964. Regular post office registry labels have been observed for a number of others. Since 1987, there have been a number of Vienna conferences which were served by the UN-Vienna post office, which used the regular UN-Vienna registry label.



Figure 9: 1976 Conference Cover from the FAO/IAEA Symposium in Braunschweig.

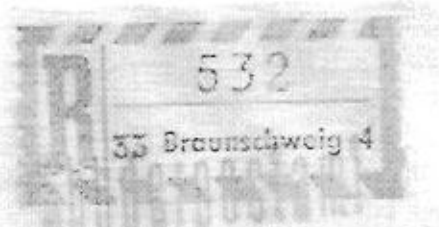


Figure 10: 1976 Registry Label from the FAO/IAEA Symposium in Braunschweig

Readers are asked to look at covers they have from UN or UN Agency Conferences held in Austria and Germany and report any other examples of Sonderpostamt Registry Labels. Perhaps some of our Austrian or German members can help. Your information will make the future UNP monograph of UN Conferences more complete.

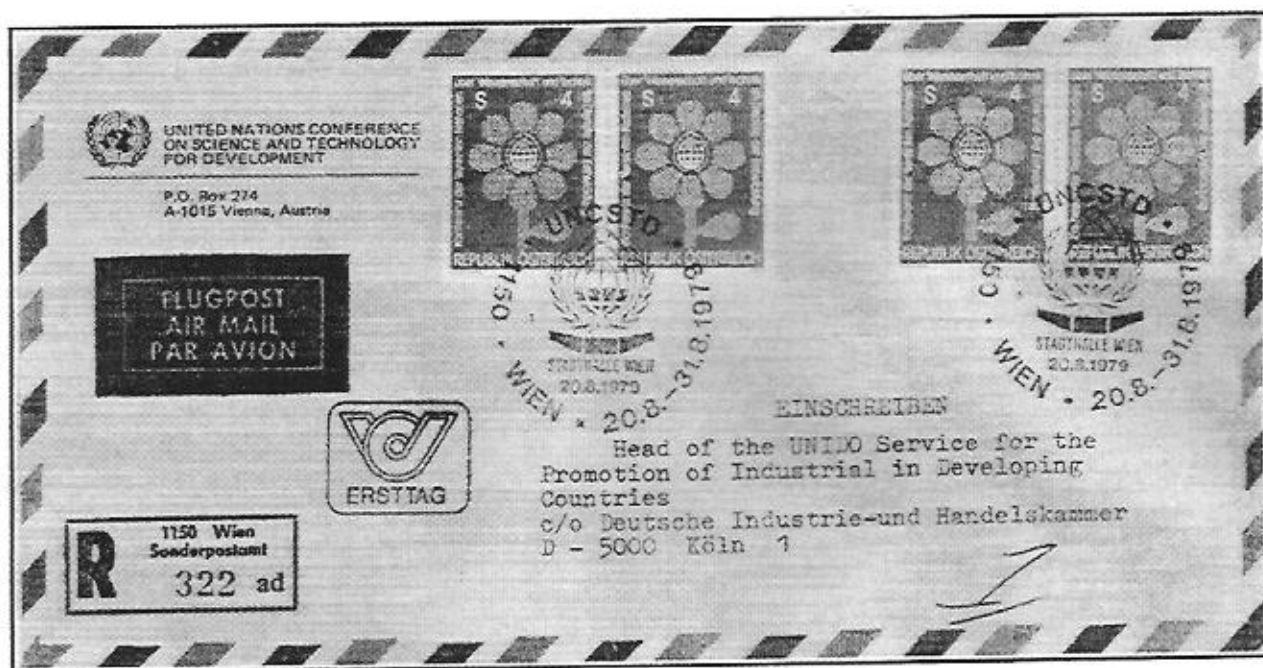


Figure 5: 1979 registered cover bearing a Vienna Type 3 label postmarked on the the first day of the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development In Vienna.

AN EARLY LEAGUE OF NATIONS SERVICE COVER FROM SINGAPORE

By Richard Powers



Figure 1: 1922 cover from Singapore to the League of Nations Health Section in Geneva bearing twice assessed Swiss postage due stamps on service stationery.

I recently stumbled upon on eBay a doubly interesting 1922 League of Nations cover from Singapore, which at that time was part of the British colony Straits Settlements. The double interest lies in the elaborate franking on the cover as well as the country of origin.

The cover, which appears in Figure 1, bears a generic embossed corner card of the League of Nations on the rear (Figure 2). In the upper right hand corner are two Strait Settlements stamps: a 5c (Scott #186) and 1c (#179) tied by a Singapore cancel dated December 16(?), 1922. The cover is addressed to Mr. Norman White, c/o Health Section, League of Nations, Geneva. The sender was uncertain as to whether Dr. White, Chief (League) Epidemic Commissioner would be at the League and, hence, wrote in the upper left corner "Kindly forward".



Figure 2: Embossed League of Nations corner card from rear of cover in Figure 1.

The letter reached the League post office on January 22, 1923, where it was assessed 40 centimes postage due. A vertical pair of 20-centime Swiss postage due stamps (#J40) was affixed to the top of the envelope and tied by a pair of League of Nations postmarks.

Apparently it was determined that Dr. White could be found at the Hotel Richmond (also in Geneva) as indicated by the pencil notation at the bottom of the cover. As a result the vertical pair of postage due stamps were marked "Annulé" and the cover was forward to a second Geneva post office "Distr. Lett", where a horizontal pair of similar 20-centime stamps postage due stamps postmarked the following day January 23rd. It seems the postage due payment must have been collected by the specific post office that delivers the letter.

There are two handwritten inscriptions in pencil on the cover. The large one covering the address appears to be the assessment of postage due: a large "40". In the upper left corner is a similar blue notation, which appears to be a "40" upside down. Presumably each Swiss post office was required to note the postage due.

In my thirty years of collecting League of Nations cover, I have personally seen only one other League cover bearing postage due stamps. This was a cover from the Refugee Settlement Commission in Athens and which appears in an article in the October 1994 issue of the *Journal* (page 9). Apparently postage due was to be collected only if the letter were addressed to a private party at the League. Otherwise the League was not billed for underpaid incoming mail.

In the August 2001 issue of the *Journal* (page 6) I published an article on the League of Nations presence outside of Geneva. Figure 8 shows a 1936 service cover from the Advisory Committee of the Health Organization of the League of Nations in Singapore with its own distinctive corner card. The League of Nations established the Eastern Bureau of the League Health Organization in Singapore on March 1, 1925, approximately two years after the cover here was posted in Singapore to the Health Section. For more details, see the article in the October 2008 issue of the *Journal* (page 13). I am unaware of any permanent presence of the League in Singapore before that time.

However, the League was involved in health issues arising from typhus and relapsing fever epidemics since March 1920. An effective campaign was organized and co-ordinated, culminating in the European Health Conference at Warsaw in March 1922. I suspect that this 1922 cover might relate to preliminary contacts which led to the establishment of the Eastern Bureau of the Health Organization of the League of Nations in Singapore two years later.

References

Myers, Denys F., *Handbook of the League of Nations - Student Edition*, (World Peace Foundation, Boston, 1935), p212.

THE HARBIN RUSSIANS AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By Richard Powers

An interesting cover, sold on e-Bay in October 2008 for \$615, provides much insight to the relations of China, Russia and Japan in the decade before World War II broke out. Figure 2 shows a registered 1932 cover mailed in Harbin, Manchukuo to Mr. John Cailor, whose occasional address was at the Palace Hotel in Shanghai c/o the League of Nations Secretariat in Geneva. The cover passed through Tokyo in November 1932 and arrived in Geneva via Canada on December 12th at 9:00am. Two hours later it was received at the League of Nations. The two Swiss receiving cancels in Geneva on the rear of the cover are shown in Figure 2. In the center of the rear of the cover is a violet origin cachet in Chinese characters and in old pre-revolution Russian (Cyrillic) alphabet. The legend in the center is the city name Harbin. The American Philatelic Society Translation Committee reports a literal translation of the outer circular legend as: "Committee for the Association of Russian Exiles". A reasonable update of this legend is probably "Russian Emigrants Committee". A detail of this cachet appears in Figure 3. These Russians are known as Harbin Russians.

At the time Harbin and surrounding Manchuria was occupied by Japanese troops, who had installed Henry Pu-Yi, the Last Emperor of China, to be a puppet head of state of Manchukuo, as named by the Japanese. He appears on two of the Manchukuo stamps (Scott #17) next to a third stamp (#11) picturing the Pagoda of Liaoyang. The 1987 film "The Last Emperor" won an Oscar for the Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci and portrays the life of Pu-Yi from birth through his reign as the last emperor of China before the establishment of the Chinese Republic and later as Emperor of Manchukuo prior to his imprisonment by the



Figure 3: Detail of the cachet of the Committee for the Association of Russian Exiles in Harbin, Manchukuo from the rear of the cover. (Image courtesy of Phillip Newby).

Chinese Communists after World War II.

The first generation of Harbin Russians were mostly the builders and employees of the Chinese Eastern Railway (CER). They moved to Harbin in order to work on the railroad. At the time Harbin was not an established city. It was almost built from scratch by the railroaders and early settlers. The railroad route through Harbin, Manchuria, China allowed a more direct route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad to Vladivostok from Moscow. Ultimately, when this route no longer was available, the Russians constructed a route to Vladivostok, which remained entirely in Russia.

After the Russo-Japanese War, while many Russians left Harbin, a lot of long-time residents decided to stay. By 1913, Harbin had become an established Russian colony for the construction and maintenance work on the CER.

In the early 1920s, Harbin had a total population of about 500,000, of which 120,000 were Russians and another 18,000

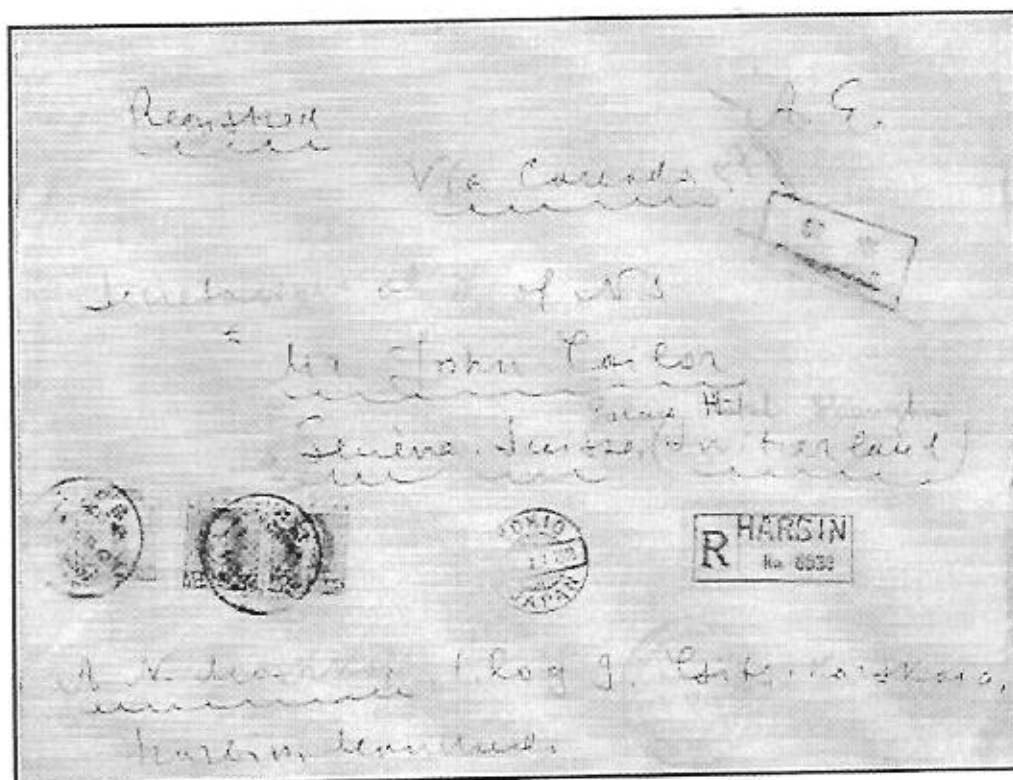


Figure 1: 1932 Front of cover from Russian refugee group from Harbin, Manchuria to the League of Nations Secretariat via Canada showing the group cachet. (Image courtesy of eBay.)

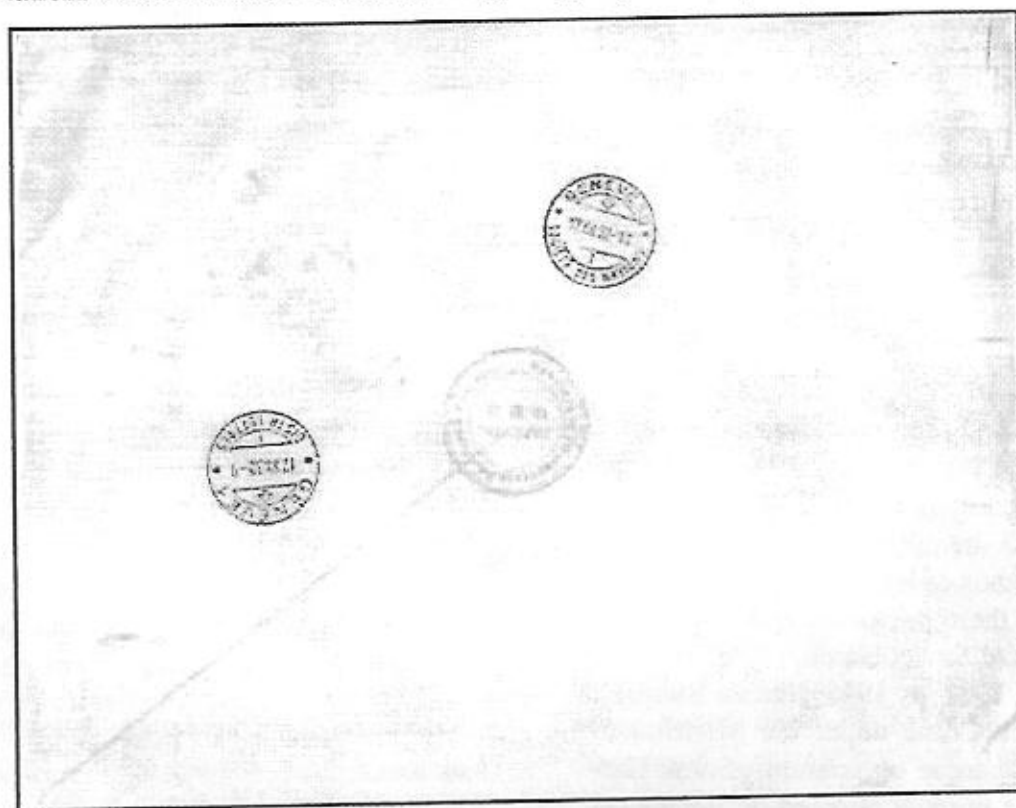


Figure 2: Rear of cover showing League receiving cancel in Geneva and the group cachet.

were Russian Jews. This Russian settlement in China had been swelled by the influx of White Russians, who fled the Motherland after the Bolsheviks came to power in the wake of the Russian Revolution and ensuing Civil War.

On September 8, 1920 the Chinese Republic announced that it would no longer recognize the Russian consulates in China. On September 23rd China ceased contacts with representatives of Imperial Russians and deprived Russians of extraterritorial rights. Overnight Russians in China found themselves stateless. Shortly afterward the Chinese government took over control of the institutions in Harbin, such as court, police, prison, post office and some research and educational institutions.

In 1924, an agreement was signed in Beijing regarding the control of the CER. The agreement stated that only Soviet and Chinese citizens could be employed by the CER. This meant that the Harbin Russians had to choose not only their nationality, but also their political identity. Many Harbin Russians took Soviet citizenship for patriotic reasons. However, there were also Harbin Russians who remained stateless and eventually lost their jobs with the CER. Gradually, the national and political identity of the Harbin Russians split the group into two opposing sides.

In the fall of 1931 the Japanese occupied Manchuria, and turned it into the puppet state of Manchukuo. In 1935 the Soviet Union sold its share of the CER to Japan via Manchukuo. In the spring and summer of 1935, thousands of Harbin Russians went on trains with their passports and belongings and left for the Soviet Union.

From 1932 to 1945 Harbin Russians had a difficult time under the Manchukuo regime of Japanese occupation. Some Harbin Russians initially rejoiced on the arrival of the Japanese, hoping that the Japanese

would help them in their anti-Soviet struggles and provide protection from the Chinese, who were desperately trying to restore their sovereignty of Harbin.

In December 1931 the League of Nations established a Commission of Inquiry on the issue of Manchuria. In November and December 1932 the main role of the League of Nations in this region was to arrange a truce and buffer zone along the railroad and around Harbin. During this time League staff members tended to set up residence in Shanghai.

Eventually many Harbin Russians, who were not inclined to go to the Soviet Union, moved to other cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Qingdao and eventually left China.

In an article in the April 1993 issue of the *Journal* (page 14), Clayton Wallace provides a probable continuation of the Harbin Russian saga. During 1949-1951 the International Refugee Organization (IRO) arranged with the Philippine government for the use of a camp in Guinan (United Nations Evacuation Center), which housed many White Russians from Shanghai.

In 1945, after the Soviet Army occupied Harbin, the Soviets sent all those Harbin Russians, whom they identified as White Guardists and those who had collaborated with the Japanese authorities to labor camps.

After 1952, the Soviet Union initiated a second wave of repatriation of Harbin Russians. By the mid-1960s virtually all Harbin Russians had left Harbin.

In conclusion I appreciate the efforts of Clem Clement in soliciting the help of the Translation Committee of the APS.

Reference

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbin_Russians
Walters, F.P., *A History of the League of Nations*, Oxford University Press, London, 1952.

FAO CONFERENCE DISCOVERY

International Rice Commission - Rangoon, 1950

By B. Clement, Jr.

The International Rice Commission (IRC), a part of FAO, held its 2nd Session in Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar) February 6-11, 1950. Just discovered is a special cancellation and registry label from that meeting, previously unknown to UN Philately. Illustrated in Figure 1 is a registered cover from that session. The cover is franked with Burma Scott 116-121, a set of stamps for the 75th Anniversary of UPU. It is postmarked with three strikes of a violet rectangular cancel for the IRC session, dated February 11, 1950. The special registry label applied is a blank label (with a border and "R 33" printed in blue) with the following hand printed inscription in red pen: "INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION Post OFFICE BURMA= RANGOON".



Figure 1: Cover from Second International Rice Commission in Rangoon, Burma.

This is not the only IRC special cancel known. The 4th Session of the IRC, held in Tokyo, Japan, had a special cancel, listed in Gaines, page 1447, as 1954/1. This cancel is shown on the cover in Figure 2. This is a first day cover of Japan Scott 604-5, two stamps issued by Japan on October 13, 1954 to honor the 75th Anniversary of Japan joining the ITU. The 4th Session of the IRC was held October 4-19, 1954. Gaines says the cancel had been

observed on October 18, so we can add October 13 to the observed dates.



Figure 2: Cancel from 4th International Rice Commission in Tokyo, Japan.

Because world rice production was stagnating, the FAO Conference in 1948 agreed to form the International Rice Commission, which became operational January 4, 1949, with 12 members. Today there are 62 members from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America and Oceania. The purpose of the International Rice Commission is to promote national and international action in matters relating to the production, conservation, distribution and consumption of rice¹.

To date twenty-one sessions of the Commission have been held. In recent years, sessions have been held every four years, the most recent one being in Chicalayo, Peru (May 3-5, 2006). The first five sessions are as follows:

- 1st Bangkok, Thailand March 7-16, 1949
- 2nd Rangoon, Burma February 6-11, 1950
- 3rd Bandung, Indonesia May 11-16, 1952
- 4th Tokyo, Japan October 4-19, 1954
- 5th Calcutta, India November 12-19, 1956

A complete list of IRC Sessions can be found in Reference 1. Perhaps there is more postal history of the IRC Session, waiting to be discovered. Let us know what you find.

Reference

- 1. www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpc/doc/field/commrice/pages/commission.

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ILO (Gaines Pages 1031-74)

Lots 1-15: ILO Service stamps on small ILO CC covers, condition is excellent unless noted.

SL is Slight Fold

1. 309, 20c to Bern 1924, SL, MB \$15
2. 3010, 20c to Bern, 1930, MB \$25
3. 3013, 30c to Vienna, 1930, MB \$20
4. 3014, 30c to Vienna, 1925, SL, MB \$50
5. 3016, 40c to Zurich, 1931, SL, Reg. Label, MB \$15
6. 3019, 60c to Lisbon, 1938, slight tattered at bottom, Reg. Label, MB \$25
7. 3020, 70c to Vienna, 1927, Reg. Label, MB \$50
8. 3053, 20c to Bern, 1939, MB \$25
9. 3054, 30c to Lisbon, 1938, MB \$20
10. 3033, 10c to Geneva, 1935, back flap missing, MB \$15
11. 3034, 20c to Zurich, 1936, MB \$20
12. 3040, 10c to Geneva, 1939, MB \$12
13. 3042, 20c window, 1941, MB \$12
14. 3064, 10c to Geneva, 1943, MB \$12
15. 3077, 1.20 fr. to UN-NY, MB \$25

Lots 16-18 are covers from ILO Conferences

16. Geneva 1928, small Conference CC cover, to Copenhagen, forwarded to NY, MB \$50↓



17. Paris 1945, #10 Conf CC cover to Geneva, Reg. Label, MB \$20

18. Prague 1937, small mailed cover with Czech overprinted stamps for Governing Council session, special cancel 1937/1 (b), registry label, MB \$25

Lots 19-23 are used ILO Service stamps

19. 3080-82, 3,5,10 fr., F-VF, MB \$15
20. 3082, 5 fr. Margin pair, VF, MB \$15
21. 3074, 80c, corner block - 6, VF, MB \$5
22. 3077, 1.20 fr, corner block - 6, VF, MB \$8
23. 3090, 40c, block-6, VF, MB \$12

ILO & SdN Service Stamp Specimens

24. 3047, VF, LH, MB \$25↓



25. 3049-52, VF, LH, MB \$110
26. 3050-51, VF, LH, MB \$50
27. 3053 & 3056, VF, H, MB \$40
28. 2056, F (off center), NH, MB \$50
29. 2057, 2059, 2060, VF, H, MB \$75
30. 2067, pair, VF, M, MB \$75

UNESCO Service Stamps - France

31. 201-3 Imperf Singles with margins, VF NH, MB \$35
32. 204-5 Imperf Singles with margins, VF NH, MB \$25
33. 2012 Imperf pair with margin, VF NH, MB \$20
34. 2027-28 Imperf trial color strips of 3, VF NH, MB \$60

Brussels Fair-Expo 58 (Gaines p. 1635-38)

35. Imperf plate proofs, ungummed, with #'s on back, set of 16, MB \$225

36. Type A FDC, entire set on one official cachet cover, MB \$40
 37. Specialized collection of UN-Brussels Fair, 33 covers and set of mint stamps, including different cancels, cachets, CC's, Relais card, commercial uses, etc. MB \$50

UN Forerunner Meter Proofs & Essays (Gaines p. 940)

38. Essay of 'World City' meter shown at left top of p.940, sent to Trygve Lie at Church House, MB \$100↓



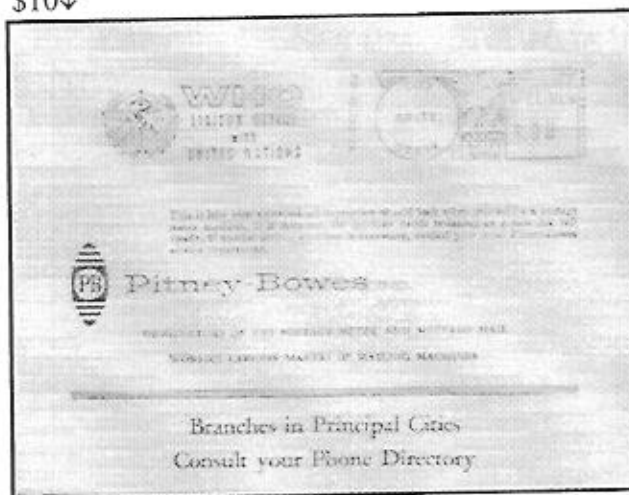
39. Essay of UN meter PB 113049 Stamford, Conn., Apr. 4'46, MB \$50
 40. Test Pull, Slogan IIP, City, State, Mar 1 '46, PB 000000, one of 3 copies known, MB \$200

UN New York Meter Proofs & Essays (Gaines p. 602-5, 621)

41. Essay PD.19(a), on tape, (2 known, only one on tape), MB \$150
 42. Essay PD.1(b), on tape, (2 known, only one on tape), MB \$150
 43. Proof P.1(d), on card, OCT 20'51, PB3, MB \$50
 44. Proof P.1(e), on small cover, OCT 20'51, PB 3, SEC 562 PL&R, MB \$50
 45. Proof P.1(c), on small cover, SEP 28'50, PB 000000, City, State, MB \$40
 46. 1955 'Press Proofs', set of 12 of the 13 tapes listed (PP11 missing), MB \$120
 47. Counterfeit tapes, OCT 14'55 and Dateless, 11 different (Gaines lists only 6 of these as known), MB \$40

Other Meter Proofs

48. PB 000000 City State proof of slogan 'WHO Liaison Office with UN', 3/35/6 ?, MB \$10↓



49. PB 000000 Empty dater circle proof of slogan 'The United Nations Your Hope for Peace', MB \$10

First Day UN Meter Stamp (Gaines p.604-5)

50. Slogan 1 (a) Pitney-Bowes souvenir cover, mailed to Pitney-Bowes employee, with enclosed letter, Very nice, MB \$25
 51. Slogan 1 (b) iii, small unaddressed UN NY CC cover, Oct 25'51, MB \$15
 52. Slogan 1, set of 4 small plain covers, slightly age toned, with PB1, 2, 3, and 4. One cover (PB3) unaddressed, MB \$40
 53. Slogan 1P (d), PB3, Oct 22'51, with SEC.562 PL&R, small cover, with neat red pencil marking ('Over') on front, unaddressed, MB \$40

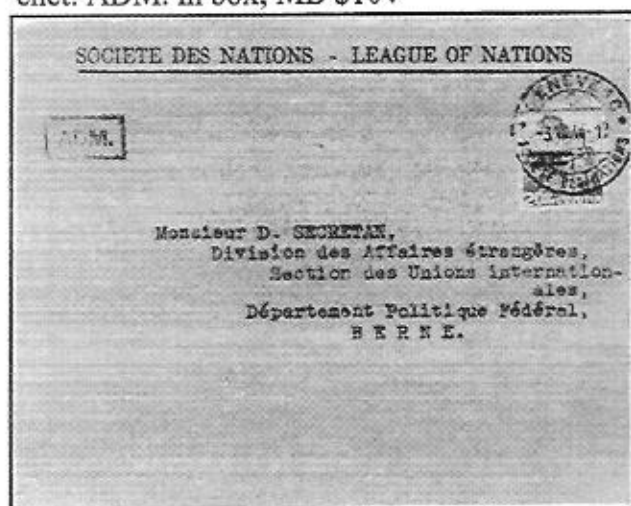
League of Nations (Gaines Pages 1001-28)

Lots 54-65: SdN Service stamps on small SdN CC covers(cvr), cards(cd) or wrapper(wrp).

Condition is excellent unless noted.

54. 202, 10c, 1925 cvr, to Geneva, MB \$10
 55. 2016, 5c, 1931 wrp, to Bern, MB \$15
 56. 2030, 7.5c, 1930 cd, to London, MB \$15
 57. 2017, 20c, 1932 cover to Bern, small tear on back flap, MB \$10
 58. 2019, 30c, 1925 cover to US, several small tears, MB \$15
 59. 208, 40c, 1924 cover to Vienna, fold across top (above CC), MB \$15

60. 2048, 5c, 1936 wrp to Zurich, MB \$15
 61. 2049A, 10c, 1939 cover to Geneva, Origin cachet: SI. In box, MB \$10
 62. 2051, 20c, 1944 cover to Bern, Origin cachet: ADM. In box, MB \$10↓



63. 2061, 20c, 1938 card to Prague, slight corner fold, MB \$15

SdN Conference covers

64. 6th Assembly, Sep. 8, 1926, on cd, MB \$15
 65. 1st Extraordinary Assembly, Mar. 12, 1926, on cd, MB \$15
 66. 20th Assembly, Apr. 8, 1946, on cacheted cvr, \$12
 67. Capitulations Conference, Montreux, Apr. 20, 1937, airmail cover to England, MB \$25

Swiss Service Stamps.

Lots 68-72: Accumulations, on album pages, stock sheets, etc., early to late, much duplication, probably include varieties, fakes, etc.

68. ILO used, approx. 200 stamps, MB \$100
 69. SdN used, approx 180 stamps, MB \$100
 70. BIE mint & used, approx. 40 stamps. MB \$15
 71. WHO used, approx. 50 stamps, MB \$30
 72. IRO used, 30 stamps (1 fr missing, only one 10c), MB \$80

Other Service stamps, as described (Lots 73-4)

73. SdN 2056, 3fr, VF used (gummed, LH), MB \$50
 74. IRO stamps, 601-8, Corner blocks of 4, MNH VF, MB \$175

UN-NY Postal Stationary

75. Gaines p. 321, Mailers Postmark on U1, UX1, and UXC1, VF, MB \$15
 76. 4¢ Air postal card with 1¢ Surcharge inverted on lower left, UXC2(b)vi, VF, MB \$30↓



77. 10¢ Air Letter, Printer's Sample, Dennison Type 1, UC2.1 (b), VF, MB \$30

Miscellaneous Postal History

78. ECOSOC, Chile 1951, Small Hotel CC cover to NY, Conference cancel & violet imprint, (Gaines p. 1491), MB \$25
 79. Let's make Philadelphia the UN Capital, 1945 Cinderella, Mint Bk-4 & single, MB \$10
 80. #10 UN Lake Success air cover with CC overprinted for ECLA, Santiago, Chile, mailed 1949 to UN at Lake Success, beautiful, MB \$20
 81. CCIF Technical Commission session Scheveningen, 1949 (Gaines p. 1238), small mailed cover with conference cancel & registry label, hole punch, MB \$20
 82. GATT Conf, Torquay, 1950, #10 cover to London, Conference oval registry cancel & registry label, cover water-stained, MB \$20

Saar Under SdN (Gaines p.1771-2)

83. Approximately 30 items including Swedish, British and Italian troop mail (mostly philatelic - a couple are non-philatelic uses), labels and vignettes pertaining to the Plebiscite, various slogan cancels, Plebiscite Commission covers, overprinted Volksabstimmung 1935 stamps on Registered cover, last day of Saar stamps validity cancel, Status Quo postcard, a mint ballot, and a few other postcards. Mixed condition with some better items. The collection could easily form the nucleus of a dedicated collection. Est \$500-\$600, MB \$200

Chapters of the UNPI

Midwest UN Collectors meets intermittently at shows in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska. Contact: Dorothy Green, 2200 36th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 or dotgreen@worldnet.att.net

UN Collectors of Chicagoland meets the second Tuesday of the month except in July and August at Stamp King, 7139 West Higgins Rd., Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Dr. Ben Ramkisson, 3011 White Oak Lane, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2513.

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FOR SALE: Massive collection. All key items included: NY#38, Vienna#7 - half sheet w, w/o MI, UNTEA, Swiss officials, souvenir sheets, MI4s, catalogues and more. \$2000. Henry Hersh; e-mail: hhnarfe@optonline.net; phone: (609)-581-2691 in Hamilton, New Jersey.

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1 page (6½"×9") - \$40

½ page - \$20

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Journal Deadlines

The Journal goes to print on the first day of the month preceding the issue month. The editorial deadline for the April 2009 issue is February 20, 2009. Material to be submitted for publication should reach the editor at least ten days before this deadline.

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157 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, CT 06105-3931
e-mail: afdewey@aol.com

Vice President: Brian Reiser
6516 Tucci Way
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e-mail: thebcgo@aol.com

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e-mail: malariastamps@yahoo.com

Director: Greg Galletti
P.O. Box 466, Mt. Airy, MD 21771-0466
e-mail: info@unstampz.com

Director: Michael Krejci
P.O. Box 510135, New Berlin, WI 53151
e-mail: mrejci@execpc.com

Director: Richard Powers
2445 East Del Mar Boulevard, #422
Pasadena, CA 91107-4871
e-mail: rjpowers@earthlink.net

Committee Chairmen

Archivist: Anthony Dewey
157 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, CT 06105-3931
e-mail: afdewey@aol.com

Auctions: Alex Bereson
18 Portola Dr., San Francisco CA 94131-1518
e-mail: bereson@comcast.net

Exhibits: Anthony Dewey
157 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, CT 06105-3931
e-mail: afdewey@aol.com

Webmaster: Larry Fillion
18 Arlington St., Acton, MA 01720
e-mail: malariastamps@yahoo.com

Publicity: Steven Scheibner
16-70 Bell Blvd, #219, Bayside, NY 11360
e-mail: unmaven@netzero.com



100th Anniversary U Thant

For our 200th, it is the centenary of the birth of U Thant, an Indian-born diplomat on 22 January 1909, U Thant was appointed by the United Nations General Assembly as the Secretary-General following the tragic death of the world Organization's second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, in September 1961. U Thant was immediately appointed as the third Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly for two consecutive five-year terms from 1961 to 31 December 1971.

U Thant was committed to the concept of peace through education and observed, "What we need in our education is a synthesis of ideas—spiritual and moral as well as intellectual—with the aim of producing a fully integrated human being who is inward looking, as well as outward looking who searches his own mind in order that his inner self may prevail at all times, and at the same time recognizes his obligations to his fellow men and the world around him, because while the world is suffering, his own is multiplying, and each of us has to recognize his essential kinship to every other member of the human race."

