

## **A Synopsis:**

### **The United Nations 1962 Housing Issue - A FDC Exhibit**

By Greg Galletti



*Un-adopted Artist Drawing*

## **TREATMENT**

### **Purpose:**

This is a First Day Cover (FDC) exhibit of the United Nations 1962 Housing and Related Facilities issue (Scott #100-101).

### **Organization:**

This FDC exhibit includes four chapters in order to present a thorough study of the stamp production and the various cachets designed for the issue. Included are an examination of the stamp design, production, cachet makers, first day covers, first day postmarks, and usages of the stamp issues.

## **IMPORTANCE**

The United Nations is the only international body that issues and uses its own postage stamps. UN stamps have, since 1951, provided a beautiful and lasting means of educating the public about the organization, its purpose, structure, activities, accomplishments, and future goals. UN stamps are truly the "world's postage stamps," admired by millions from all corners of the globe.

The 1962 Housing and Communities Development issue recognized the importance of providing a means of development of sustainable communities for countless millions of people throughout the developed and developing nations.

What makes this issue even more interesting is the fact that it employed a difficult 7-pass method of lithographic printing that resulted in a significant number of interesting color shift variations and omissions in the final production stamps. This variation, led to the need for a second printing, which is quite unusual for a UN Commemorative issue, and created an opportunity for scarce variations to eventually reach the marketplace to the excitement of the collecting community.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND PERSONAL STUDY**

This exhibit was first conceived in 2005, when, as a member of the United Nations Philatelists, I initially acquired a collection of housing material, from renowned expert, Greg Berryhill. Over the next decade, I acquired additional significant pieces including artist drawings, covers, and cachet production material, and have more recently been hunting for choice representative examples of domestic and international usages of the issues. In addition to acquiring choice material, I have performed original research on the printer, printing methods, and unearthed additional previously undocumented detailed issue specifications from the Harrison and Sons Archives through the British Library system. The results of this on-going search for material and research into the issue are embodied in the current exhibit.

### **CONDITION and RARITY**

This exhibit is comprised of arguably the largest single collection of the UN Housing issue errors, varieties, FDCs, and commercial mail. For several decades, I have befriended and corresponded with almost all of the influential philatelists worldwide with interest in the United Nations Philately. Some of the material presented in this exhibit has been extraordinarily difficult to acquire as most of the significant errors and varieties of the issues were culled from the initial stamp inventory by UN postal clerks, prior to sale of the issues to the public. In most cases, the exhibit provides the largest known color-variant shifts on record, in addition to several unique pre-production artist materials.

What is not presented in the exhibit? Unfortunately, at the time of the Manning sales of the UN Archives material (2003), I was not actively acquiring material for this issue. As a result, I do not currently own, nor do I know the whereabouts, of several important pre-production items including an imperforate block of 4, and a set of acetate mono-color films for each of the 7 color segment of the issues. Should these items re-appear in the philatelic marketplace, it is my intent to acquire them for my collection and exhibit.

### **HIGHLIGHTS: (Identified with a Blue border)**

1. Unique un-adopted Artists hand drawn artwork
2. Printers die proofs on card adopted and un-adopted designs
3. Guideline margin inscription single
4. Preprinted paper fold MI block 4
5. Largest recorded shifts of the red and red-orange colors
6. Largest recorded shifts of the black and brown colors
7. Largest recorded shifts of the yellow cover and all 5 known "Missing Color" varieties
8. Unique missing gold color error on cover
9. Unique Pair of Artcraft cachet proofs
10. Unique artist drawing for Artmaster cachet
11. Unique engraved printers plates for Artmaster cachets
12. Unique original hand draw sketch by Ralph Dyer for Dyer cachet
13. Unusual First day commercial use. Registered surface mail to Kyoto, Japan
14. Unusual third class commercial usage to Ohio
15. Unique UN Souvenir Folder bearing Housing issue tied by special imprint given to His Excellency Emperor, Haile Selassie by UN Secretary General

### **KEY REFERENCES**

1. Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, "U.S. International Postal Rates 1872-1996."
2. Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, "U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011."
3. Gaines, Arleigh "United Nations Philately," 1983-1998.