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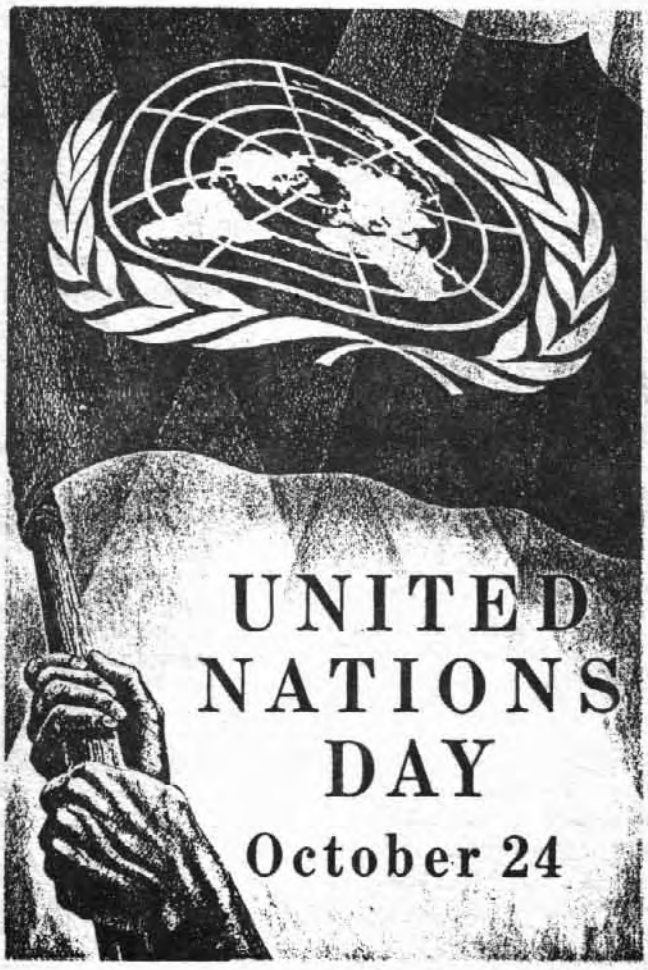

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

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COVERS

Front: United Nations Day Poster from 1953 reproduced on post card issued by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations. Will the United Nations flag be the 160th flag to appear on next year's flag set? President's Reagan United Nations Day message from 1987 appears on the inside front wrapper.

Back (Outside): 1988 United Nations Flag set issued on September 15, 1988.

Back (Inside): Journal Auction #9.

NEW MEMBERS

John Boylan, Wallingford, CT
Paul J. Calhoun, Bronx, NY
Ronald James, Delanco, NJ

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BUY, SELL and TRADE

BUY: Pre-1950 Swiss-Agencies frank covers and "better" early conferen covers especially League of Nation Please send photocopies. Alex Bereso 458 Woodrow St., Daly City, CA 94014

Journal Deadlines

Contributors and advertisers are asked to respect the following deadlines for submission of material for the Journal to the editor in Basel. Advertisers need only reserve space by this deadline. Final advertising copy (camera-ready) may be submitted directly to the assistant editor in Chicago up to thirty days later.

Issue	Deadline
December	October 15
February	December 15
April	February 15
June	April 15
August	June 15

Prices for Display Advertisements

Prices good through October 1988

1 page: $30
1/2 page: $18
1/4 page: $11
1/8 page: $ 7

President's Message

By B. Clement, Jr.

Welcome to our new officers and directors. I look forward to working with all of them over the next two years. Please refer to their addresses in the Journal masthead. Feel free to contact any of them with any thoughts you might have on promoting United Nations Philatelists or U.N. philately.

We hope to have another major U.N. exhibition at the National Stamp Show in New York City in November. If you exhibited last year, I urge you to exhibit again. If you did not (or never have), please give it consideration. We would welcome your contribution. If you plan to exhibit or are just thinking about it, please write to our Exhibition Chairman:

Bernie Kosmoski
458 Madison Hill Road
Clark, N.J. 07066.

I would like to thank Dave Martin for the fine job he has done as Auction Chairman over the last two years. Dave has chosen to pass the reins over to someone else. If you would like the job, please let me know.

Editor's Message

Greetings from London

By Richard Powers

For years I have been enviously eying the pictures of service letters originating from the first United Nations General Assembly Session in London in 1946, which one can find in the Gaines' Catalog in the Forerunner Section. Occasionally such items come up for auction, particularly in Europe, but the prices have now reached astronomical limits particularly in Germany. It has long been my naive hope that if I could just spend a long weekend in London browsing the stamp dealers, I would be able pick up some interesting bargains. In general, prices in London for much United Nations material are much more reasonable than on the Continent.

A few weeks ago I was able to arrange such a long weekend. Within a few hours of my arrival in London, I was already scouring the West End area, particularly the area between Covent Garden and the Strand. On my last trip to London about three years ago I had stumbled across the International Stamp Centre, a block or so from Covent Garden. It was a large building in which nearly twenty dealers had taken up residence. Since I had found some interesting material at that time, I decided to head back there. Alas I was two months too late. I later learned that the last dealer had been forced out just recently because of rocketing rents in Central London. Apparently the days of casually dropping by a stamp dealer in London are nearly over. Most of the survivors have been forced to go into mail order business out of their homes and to attend dealer bourses on Saturdays. I found two in London, which are open nearly every week. One is on Bedford Street a couple blocks from Covent Garden; the other in London Bridge Railway Station. Altogether I found about fifteen dealers at these weekly bouses. Few had much United Nations material. But most were willing to chat with the visiting "Yank" and I came away with the feeling that if I were persistent enough some things would turn up. One dealer admitted to having some League of Nations vignettes lying somewhere around the house. Another conceded that he had a League of Nations Conference cover just the other week but it was already gone.

Did I find anything exciting? Not really. I visited most of the surviving shops in London. I found a few nice first day covers and an early London Stampex Blue Card for 50p, probably what the card cost in 1975. Catalog value is about 100 times more today.

Was it worth the trip from Basel? Definitely. I got to visit with a friend that I have known from my days in Paris at the beginning of the seventies. We saw the musical Les Miserables together and made the rounds of London and

Oxford museums and saw an exciting Cezanne exhibit at the Royal Academy of Art. And I met Ron Howard.

Ron Who? No, not the director! When you read the Vice-President's Message in this issue you will see that Ron Howard is the treasurer of the UNSG, the British U.N. Collectors' Group. He is also co-editor of their journal, along with R. Goodey, the specialist in the first definitive set of the U.N. and author of the excellent monograph on this topic.

I learned from Mr. Howard that UNSG has about one hundred members. They issue their roughly twenty-four page journal quarterly. They hold meetings monthly in London. Every two years they have been actively supporting UNPA Geneva visits to Stampex in London with manpower. They have even helped to design the blue card cachets and the British Post Office show cancels. Since I have been participating in their yearly auctions of specialized U.N. material for years now, I decided to make the big plunge and become a member. The price is seven pounds sterling for delivery outside the Common Market. (Yes, both the U.S. and Switzerland are outside the European Common Market! But the Swiss are getting nervous about 1992, when all internal customs barriers within the Common Market will in principle disappear.)

I have already picked out my next city to visit. West Berlin! I will be attending the Annual Meeting of UNOP, the largest U.N. Collectors' Group in the world with more than 500 active members. (UNP has a bit over 300, the last I heard!) I will also be participating in the Exhibition associated with the 89th German Stamp Collector's Day from October 14th through the 16th. UNPA Vienna will also attend and issue a White Card. Those of you who send me articles for the Journal before I leave for Berlin, will receive acknowledgements via UN Headquarters in Vienna with a show cachet. Hopefully some of you will take advantage of this bribe to begin or to continue contributing articles. The cupboard is getting bare. This issue had too many articles by officers and the editor.

Guest Editorial

Miniature Sheet Sellout: Save the Forest

By Wolff Hanke
(Translated by Richard Powers)

[Editor's Note: The following article first appeared in the August 1988 issue of Unopost and is reprinted here with the permission of the editor. During the years 1972-1974 Mr. Hanke was the publisher of the newsletter UNO-Philatelie, one of the forerunners of Unopost. Below are that his views concerning the recent sell-out of the U.N. mini-sheet.]

Recently in the philatelic press numerous articles have appeared concerning the miniature sheets issued by the UNPA in March of this year honoring the theme "Save the Forest". Often the conclusion drawn (incorrectly) is that one is better off collecting Liechtenstein.

The chief mistake on the part of the UNPA was that it projected the anticipated demand for this stamp based on that appropriate for sheets of fifty stamps. One overlooked the fact that the miniature sheet consists of six pairs of stamps and that, in such a case, the collector, who normally orders through his subscription account only one set, was compelled to buy a vertical pair, in addition to the set of singles. The design is only 100% complete, when the pair of stamps remain attached to each other.

Among other collectors, perhaps 30% to 40% were interested in having a complete miniature sheet in their collection because the stamps provide a unique documentation of the three types of forests that exist in nature: leafy or deciduous forest (U.N. Vienna), fir-pine or coniferous forest (U.N. Geneva) and the tropical rain forest (U.N. New York). It was not taken into account that many non-U.N.-collectors would also be interested in this theme. In particular thematic collectors interested in "Nature" or "Environment" are attracted by this issue.

In summary one can easily say that even doubling the stamps issued would

not have satisfied the demand by all interested collectors. Since the UNPA should be concerned not only with its own subscribers but also with all potentially interested collectors, it should have issued at least two and a half times the normal amount as a first effort.

Since the establishment of the UNPA there has never been a situation where an entire issue was sold out on its first day of issue and that one had not arranged to have "reinforcements" (additional stamps) on the way.

It would have been better for the prestige of the UNPA and for that of the U.N. in general, to have prepared an appropriately large reprint and to have delivered these in September with the Flag issue. Of course, one could have delayed the previously announced date of issue of the Flag set by a week or two.

U.N.P. Annual Meeting

By B. Clement, Jr.

The 1988 Annual Meeting of United Nations Philatelists was held at Stamp Expo California in Anaheim August 19th through 21st. Having meetings throughout the country is part of the tradition of U.N.P. By doing this, we are taking U.N.P. to our members and introducing U.N. stamp collecting to collectors in that area.

U.N.P. had a table at the show, where we sold our literature and answered questions from passers-by on what U.N. philately is all about. It's a small world, as demonstrated by our meeting Michael Goodman from Great Britain at the table on Friday. Mr. Goodman was in California on vacation and is a friend of U.N.P. member Bill Barnes of Great Britain. We were selling Barnes' monograph Britain, the League and the U.N. at the table.

At the table on Friday, we were treated to seeing some gems from U.N.P. member Harry Futoran's collection. Harry's numerous varieties of 1 1/2 cent precancels on cover were fascinating.

At our meeting on Saturday, we members were out-numbered by non-members. This is good, since we introduced U.N.P. and the diversity of U.N. philately to them. Clem Clement showed a number of pages from his collection to the group, discussing the postal history of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its predecessor organizations, such as the League of Nations. We had a good discussion on how to get started and how to build a U.N. stamp collection.

Southern California had beautiful weather for our meeting, with warm sunny days and cool nights. It was good to get together. Those of you who could not attend missed a good time.

UNP Election Committee Report

Ballots received: 197
(Discrepancies in vote totals are due to spoiled (void) ballots.)

Votes cast for:

President:
Blanton Clement, Jr. 191

Vice President:
Clay Wallace 191

Secretary:
Jeffrey Beller 190

Treasurer:
Charles Berg 191

Directors:
Don Bakos 214
Julius Lokin 140
Franklin Silverman 159

Report submitted by

Harry W. Collier, Jr.,
Chairman (signed)
Curtis Clemmer
Rudolf Waldukat (signed).

Vice President's Message

By Clay Wallace

With my recent election to the post of Vice-President of the UNP, I have been doing some thinking about the role I would like to play in our organization. Vice-President is often associated with a "do-nothing" job, unless the President becomes unable to continue in his elected capacity. I would like to do more than that. I have a few suggestions regarding the evolving nature of our organization and I would like to see others with additional ideas to write to me. If your idea or suggestion should be passed along to our Directors or President, I promise to do so.

First of all, I would like to see more exchange of information between the four principal United Nations collectors organizations. You can do this by joining the UNSG (the United Nations Study Group in England) or the UNOP (the German-language UN club) or the VNVE (the Netherlands-based United Nations-Europa group). Their addresses appear at the end of this letter. Each offers a high quality publication and hundreds of nice lots at auction once a year.

The UNSG Bulletin appears quarterly and has the advantage of being in English. Dues is 9.00 Pounds Sterling (airmail), but may be paid in U.S. Dollars at the current exchange rate.

While UNOP's UNOPost is written in German, most articles are well illustrated. Their auction contains some of the choicest UN material available each year. Most of the lots are illustrated. Dues is $30 this year.

The VN-VE Bulletin is written in Dutch. Since this language has roots in low German as does English, it is relatively easy to decipher the text, particularly if one has studied a bit of German. The VN-VE had its first auction this past spring and plans to make it a yearly event.

By joining these three organizations each of us can keep on the forefront of UN philately. I have also written the memberships of each of these organizations, inviting them to join UNP.

My second suggestion is to better coordinate the major auctions of these UN collectors clubs. If UNOP would always try to stage theirs in the fall, between September 1st and December 15th, and UNSG would always try to stage theirs in the winter, say between December 16th and March 31st, and UNP would always try to stage theirs in the spring, say between April 1st and June 30th, we could all participate without "auction overlap" which occurred this year when UNSG and UNP both held one in the spring. One can readily see the consequences of the overlap.

Once again, I urge each and every one of you to join one or more of these worthy organizations. The rewards far outweigh the modest costs.

---------UNSG----------
Mr. Ron E. Howard
Hon. Treasurer UNSG
16 Effingham House
Kingsnympton Park
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT2 7RU
England

---------VNVE----------
Mr. C. H. v.d.Vlugt
VN-VE
Dorpsweg 151 B
NL-3082 LJ Rotterdam
The Netherlands

---------UNOP----------
Mr. Michael Leck
UNOP
Wersch 31
D-5203 Much
German Federal Republic

UNPA News

The Ninth But Not the Last Flag Set

By Richard Powers

On September 15th the United Nations Postal Administration issued its ninth group of sixteen stamps in the "Flag Series". This time around the countries honored were Spain, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Yemen, Cuba, Denmark, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar, Zaire, Norway, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia, Samoa and Belize.

Since there are only 159 members of the United Nations at this time, there will only be fifteen candidates to fill the sixteen slots for the 1989 issue. The remaining members are Algeria, Brunei, Cyprus, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Kampuchea (Cambodia), Lesotho, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, St. Christopher and Nevis, South Africa and Syria. There has been plenty of speculation about how the UNPA will fill the empty space, assuming that the present format of four mini-sheets of sixteen stamps each honoring sixteen member nations is maintained. My favorite would be to add the United Nations flag to complete the set, particularly since it is no longer featured on any UNNY definitive stamp currently on sale. A more provocative rumor suggests that either Namibia or the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) might fill the sixteenth slot.

However, it may be premature to anticipate filling in this hole. Perhaps another member will join the United Nations before September 1989 rolls around. Among the remaining countries, which still are not members of the United Nations, are Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Vatican City, North and South Korea. The first two have periodically held referenda to check public sentiment concerning membership. The results have always been negative. Although both nations actually are members of seven United Nations specialized agencies (International Court of Justice (ICJ), Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and European Economic Commission (ECE)), neither has taken the final step of requesting United Nations membership. Traditionally the main argument against membership has been a conflict with the neutrality of these two nations.

Now it appears that Liechtenstein is having second thoughts. The following was taken and translated from an article published in the Basler Zeitung of July 9, 1988.

In May of this year the government of Liechtenstein published a report attempting to sway public opinion in favor of membership. Currently this principality has 26,000 residents and has traditionally (since World War I) allowed its neighbor to the west Switzerland to handle its foreign affairs (including postal and customs matters). Perhaps this was the result of its rejection by the League of Nations in 1920 of its application for membership. Liechtenstein's lack of an army was cited as a barrier to its full participation in League of Nations deliberations. Gradually though Liechtenstein has managed to assert itself. It joined the Council of Europe in 1978 and has been active in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe since 1975.

In the 60-page report the government justifies its interest in UN membership as a completion and establishment of Liechtenstein's own sovereignty as an independent nation. It points out the virtual universality of the United Nations and the importance of international solidarity in the further development of Human Rights and the regulation of currency matters. As a trump card, the government has even expressed the opinion that the current constitution does not require consultation with the voters as far as United Nations membership is concerned. So whether or not the voters like it, Liechtenstein may be joining the United Nations in the near future.

UNPA News

UNPA Plans for 1989

By Richard Powers

The August issue of Unopost provides a glimpse into the future of UNPA plans for 1989. Since no official press releases have been made, it is possible that this list is still tentative. However, I suspect that the subjects are firmly decided.

January 27th - **World Bank:**
The last time that the World Bank was so honored by the UNPA was in 1960, when two stamps were issued for use in New York. This time there will be six stamps and a souvenir card.

March 17th - **International Trade Center:**
This center run jointly by GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) and UNCTAD (United Nations Commission on Trade and Development) has never before appeared as the topic of a United Nations stamp although it has been in existence for twenty years. There will be three stamps issued.

- **UNNY 45-cent definitive stamp:**
This stamp is being issued to handle the airmail overseas rate for 1/2 ounce.

- **UNNY 39-cent aerogramme:**
This airletter sheet will replace the 30-cent one which was first issued in 1982 and then surcharged in 1987 with a six-cent surtax.

- Two **UNNY 25-cent envelopes:**
These are needed to cover the new first class domestic rate and will replace the old 22-cent envelopes issued in 1985. These envelopes will cost thirty cents apiece.

- Five **UNNY 15-cent postal cards:**
The new domestic rate postal cards will replace the old thirteen-cent card issued in 1982 and which has been insufficient to cover the 1984 increase to fourteen cents for four years. It is interesting to note that it took the UNPA twenty-one years to issue its first five domestic rate postal cards (1951-1973) and it did not even bother to update the current card when the rates changed in 1984. Suddenly there is a need for five new cards all at once. In view of the fact that domestic postal card rates in the U. S. have gone up four times in the past eight years, the useful lifetime of these cards may be quite limited. Incidentally the set will cost $1.00 (twenty cents per card).

- Five **UNNY 36-cent postal cards:**
The new international airmail postal card rate will be satisfied by these new postal cards. Presumably the old 28-cent card issued in 1982, which has recently seen use by the UNPA to carry messages to customer account holders in the U. S. (even though the rate was only fourteen cents!), will be retired. The price per card will be forty-one cents.

April 4th - **World Weather Watch:**
The UNPA will issue six more stamps and a souvenir card in honor of this WMO (World Meteorological Organization) program, which has been in existence since 1968. At that time two stamps were issued for use in New York.

June 7th - **Ten Years UN Vienna Office:**
Six stamps will appear to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Vienna International Center, the current home of the United Nations in Vienna.

September 9th - **1989 Flag Series:**
We know fifteen of the sixteen flags to be pictured on this last issue of the series begun in 1980. Who will be the sixteenth?

November 17th - **Human Rights:**
The UNPA will repeat the theme being used for the last issue of 1988 for its finale in 1989. Perhaps it is returning to the tradition maintained in its earlier years. Yearly from 1952 until 1958 the holiday season saw the issuance of Human Rights stamps, many of which were used on greeting cards.

Conference News

By B. Clement, Jr.

The 24th session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in Paris at UNESCO Headquarters from October 20th until November 21st in 1987. A special cachet or imprint shown in Fig. 1 has been observed on UNESCO mailings related to the conference.

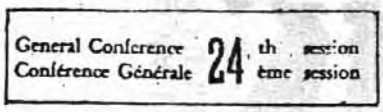

Figure 1

The Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union met in Bern, Switzerland from April 18 to May 5, 1988. A special cancellation, used for the session, was shown in the Editor's Message in the August Journal.

The 41st World Health Assembly was held in Geneva May 2-13, 1988. Fig. 2 shows the special postmark used at the assembly.

Figure 2

The 75th session of the International Labor Conference was held June 1-22, 1988. Fig. 3 illustrates the special cancel and Fig. 4, the imprint used at the session.

The 32nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency was held September 19-23, 1988 in the Austria Center Vienna conference center. UNPA Vienna used a special cancellation shown in Fig. 5 for the meeting.

Figure 3

Figure 4

The annual meeting of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and associated agencies is held every third year in a city away from their Washington, D. C. headquarters. The 1988 meeting was held in West Berlin September 27-29. West Berlin issued a special stamp honoring the meeting on August 11, 1988 (Fig. 6). A special cancellation was probably used during the meeting.

Figure 5

Figure 6

The Universal Postal Union Consultative Council for Postal Studies will be holding its annual session in Bern from October 17 to November 4, 1988. A special postmark has been used at many of the previous sessions and may appear again. Perhaps our Editor can visit Bern again during this meeting. (Editor's Note: Sounds like a good idea to me if I have recovered from my visit to Berlin October 14-16 to attend the annual UNOP meeting.)

World Telecommunications Day

Omnibus Issue for the ITU?

Each year May 17th is denoted as World Telecommunications Day. For the twentieth such celebration the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) proclaimed this year's theme to be the "Transfer of Technology". To advertise this program, the ITU prepared two model stamps inscribed "NATION" and distributed the design to postal administrations in hopes that each of its member nations would issue such stamps. Figure 1 shows the two suggested formats for such a stamp.

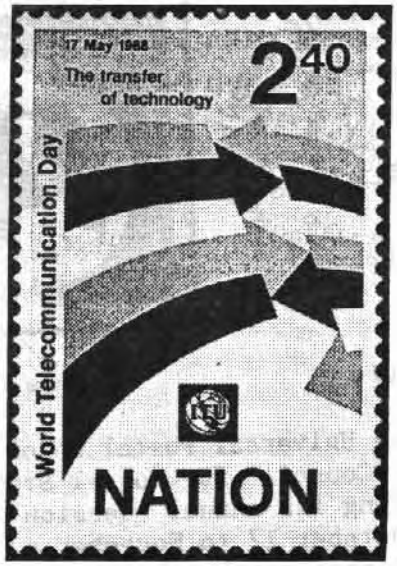

Fig. 1: Suggested Formats for World Telecommunications Day 1988 Stamps.

According to an article by Herbert Judmaier, which appeared in the July 15, 1988 issue of the Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung at least two countries complied. Gabon chose the vertically formatted version and Wallis and Futuna selected the horizontal format, both with slight modifications to the original design.

Fig. 2: Stamps Issued by Gabon and Wallis and Futuna in Honor of World Telecommunications Day 1988.

New Swiss Service Stamps

By Richard Powers

On September 13th the Swiss post office issued two more service stamps for use by United Nations Organizations in Geneva on mail posted from their grounds. The International Labor Office (ILO) now has a 90-centime denomination in its current five stamp series Man and Arbeit, which first appeared in 1975. The design depicts a welder at work and a laboratory technician. Figure 1 shows this stamp on an official first day cover along with a blow-up of the stamp. This stamp will serve for use on first class mail weighing less than 20 grams (2/3 ounce) to other CEPT (European Commission for Post and Telecommunications) member countries.

Fig. 1: First Day Cover of New 90-Centime Stamp for Use by the ILO in Geneva.

On the same day a 1.40 Sfr stamp was issued for use by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The design bears a symbollic representation featuring what appear to be cables (presumably fiber optical conductors). The denomination corresponds to the overseas (ouside of CEPT countries) airmail rate for letters weighing less than 10 grams (1/3 ounce). Figure 2 shows this stamp on an official first day cover along with a blow-up of the stamp.

Philatelic agencies in post offices in major cities throughout Switzerland will be selling serviced first day covers as well as collection sheets and souvenir booklets with unused or first day cancelled stamps already affixed for a limited time.

Fig. 2: First Day Cover of the New 1.40-Franc Stamp for use by ITU.

The next Swiss service stamp for a United Nations-related organization is scheduled for March 7, 1989. A 1.40 Sfr stamp will be issued for use by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in its headquarters in Bern.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call for Submission of Lots for the VNVE 1989 Auction

This year the auctions of UNP, UNSG (United Nations Study Group - London) and the VNVE (Verenigde Naties en Verenigd Europa - Rotterdam) were held at almost the same time. As we at the VNVE have a quarterly magazine and have to publish dates well in advance, we have already set a date for our 1989 specialized auction of United Nations and Europa material. This time, it will be much earlier in the year so that it will not conflict with other similar auctions. Our deadlines are as follows:

Closing Date for Accepting Lots:
December 15, 1988
Mailing of Catalogues:
January 31, 1989
Closing Date for Bids:
March 15, 1989.

As you know, our auction is open to members of all United Nations philatelic societies throughout the world. This includes UNP members.

Your members can offer us material for auctioning by sending us a statement listing a lot number, description and a minimum price in Dutch florins (Dfl) or in United States dollars (US$). We will inform them immediately what will be accepted. UNP members can also ask for our catalog.

Correspondence with regard to the auction should go to the auction manager:

Mr. A. Ritmeester
Ternatestraat 20
2612 BD Delft
Netherlands.

Best regards,
(Signed) Willem Put
U.N. Coordinator VNVE
Rotterdam
Netherlands

Einstein and The League of Nations

What the "White Wind" Blew My Way

By Richard Powers

I love to poke around flea markets around the world. In Zürich there is actually a philatelic flea market in "Der Weisse Wind" (The White Wind) restaurant which takes place almost every Saturday afternoon of the year except for a two-month summer hiatus in July and August and an occasional holiday.

The sellers are mostly stamp collectors or very part-time dealers. The majority of them come week after week so that one soon gets to know if any of the faces at a given afternoon's session are new and who might have some boxes of covers that one has not already pawed through. Frequently sellers vend their wares to one another so that from one week to the next, the correlation between boxes and owners may change.

After years of practice I have developed fairly efficient methods for scanning a box of covers. During the first pass I concentrate on the upper right-hand corner for interesting candidates in the field of United Nations-related material. If that technique fails to yield potential material to buy, I switch over to the upper left-hand corner for interesting return addresses (corner cards). Recently I have begun paying more attention to the destination.

A few months ago I came across the following fragment of a cover pictured in Figure 1. It bears a 30-centime Swiss stamp overprinted for use by the League of Nations (Société des Nations) postmarked on March 9th, 19(2?)6 in Geneva. Normally I would have ignored the cover, which carries a League of Nations return address, because it is not in very good condition with numerous folds and stains and the postmark is not very legible. But what attracted my interest was the addressee name: Monsieur le Professor Einstein in Berlin. As a red-blooded physicist myself I felt compelled to rescue the cover, which was apparently addressed to one of my heroes, the man Albert Einstein, who taught us that Energy = mass times the velocity of light squared ($E = mc^2$).

But must this be the same Professor Einstein? First I checked in the Marquis Who's Who in Science. Indeed Albert Einstein was professor of physics at the University of Berlin between 1914 and 1933, suggesting that perhaps he could have received this letter at his Berlin address in 1926.

But why would the League of Nations be carrying on correspondence with Professor Einstein? I found a credible explanation in the book by Hermann Weber Vom Völkerbund zu den Vereinten Nationen (From the League of Nations to the United Nations), which was published by the German Society for the United Nations in 1987 and distributed to all members of UNOP. "In the excitement of the first General Assembly (of the League of Nations) the Council established in January 1922 a 'Commission for the Organization of Intellectual Work', later renamed the 'Commission for Intellectual Cooperation'. Its twelve members (later in

SOCIETE DES NATIONS - LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Monsieur le Professeur Einstein,

5, Haberlandstrasse, 5

Berlin

Fig. 1: League of Nations cover addressed to Albert Einstein.

creased to fourteen) were intellectuals, chosen exclusively for their scientific work regardless of their nationality. Even women were eligible! Among members of this exclusive club were such internationally known personalities as the French philosopher Henri Bergson, who was the first Chairman, the Polish chemist and physicist Marie Curie, the Austrian psychotherapist Sigmund Freud, the British writer Aldous Huxley, the German physicist Albert Einstein and the American astronomer G. E. Hale. This commission was the only permanent branch of the League of Nations, in which citizens of non-member states were active." [Translated by the editor.] (The United States never joined the League of Nations.) I can only speculate that my cover was somehow the result of Albert Einstein's membership in this committee, which ultimately became UNESCO. As a result I treasure this cover more for its historical merit than for its philatelic value.

Military Mail Notes

Stephen F. Cohen

UNIFIL's (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) mandate was extended on January 29, 1988 for another six months. The following information is from the Secretary-General's (SG) Report on UNIFIL dated January 22, 1988. The SG reports that the force has still not been able to perform the tasks for which it was set up ten years ago. One of these was to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. Instead Israeli forces now control all of NorBatt and parts of the operational zones of the Finnish, Irish and Nepalese battalions. These include Naqoura, the headquarters of UNIFIL. Only the zones assigned to the forces from Ghana and Fiji are clear of any Israeli forces. But one wonders: How long? It is very shocking that Israel just overruns the U.N. forces and regains parts of Southern Lebanon, which it was ordered to leave ten years ago. Israel calls this a "Security Zone". According to Israeli authorities, this is a temporary arrangement.

There is now a "Force Mobile Reserve" - a combination site-mechanized company comprising elements from seven contingents: Fiji (27), Finland (15), Ghana (21), Ireland (17), Nepal (28), Norway (27) and Sweden (5). It has been deployed during periods of tension (Translation: when under attack) and has been used for special tasks such as when a battalion is under the threat of attack or in other danger. Thus it must be a mobile force so that it can move anywhere in areas controlled by UNIFIL in order to protect its troops, civilians and its property.

Every battalion has a small MP unit of less than twelve men attached to it.

UNDOF-Canada (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) has a new double-ringed cancel (Fig. 1). I am trying to find out the first day of usage. UNDOF Headquarters still uses a one-ring cancel (Fig. 2).

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

In Cyprus, the Swedish forces have pulled out as of October 8, 1987 and have not been replaced. One hundred Austrian and sixty Canadians will be part of an expanded battalion, which will replace the Swedish forces in their areas of operations.

UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observation Group in Pakistan) has a new commanding officer Brigadier General Parker from Ireland. He is an experienced U.N. hand, who has already been part of a few U.N. peacekeeping missions.

UNP Journal Auction #9

Closing Date: November 15, 1988

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