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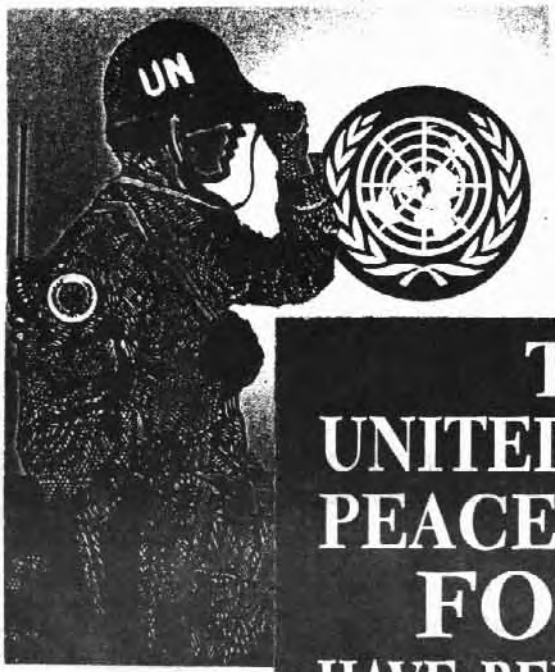

THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE

1988

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

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JOURNAL DEADLINES

Deadlines for submission of material for the Journal to the editor is the 15th day of the second month before the date on the issue: e.g., for August the deadline is June 15. Advertisers need only reserve space by this deadline. Final advertising copy (camera ready) may be submitted directly to P.O. Box 1674, Chicago, up to thirty days later.

PRICES FOR DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Prices valid only for camera-ready copy. Prices good through February 1989: 1 page, $30; half page $18; quarter page $11.

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COVERS

Front: Portion of the Design Used for the United Nations stamps issued on March 17, 1989 Honoring the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize Received by the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces.

Back(Outside) UNESCO "Documents Philateliques" Courtesy of the French PTT.

Wrapper Back: New United Nations Postal Stationery issued March 17, 1989.

NEW MEMBERS

Roberto Maldonado, Carolina, P.R.
Frederick Skvara, Bridgewater, NJ

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The United Nations Peacekeeping Troops

UNPA Press Release - Vienna

[Editor's Note: The press release was translated from the German by the Editor. Hence the translated quotes from the Secretary-General may not be precisely his original English text.]

On December 10, 1988 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the United Nations Peacekeeping Troops. UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar accepted this prize in the Auditorium of the University of Oslo.

This was the eighth time that the Peacekeeping activities of the United Nations, its Organizations and its personnel have been selected by the Nobel committee. It is a recognition of the contribution that the multinational "Blue Helmets" have made in the past forty years in safeguarding peace in different conflict areas.

In the words of the Nobel Prize Committee, "The United Nations Peacekeeping troops have contributed under extremely difficult conditions to the relaxation of tension, in areas where a cease-fire had been arranged, but a peace treaty had not yet been negotiated". They embody the will of the community of nations to achieve peace through negotiation. Although the causes for conflict still exist, the Peacekeeping troops have contributed to tne non-escalation of such conflicts. According to the declaration, this has strengthened the influence of the world organization in international politics and increased its credibility.

As the spokesman for the Nobel Prize Committee admitted during the announcement of the decision at the end of September in the Norwegian capital, it was the intention of the Committee to enhance the prestige of the United Nations by awarding the prize to the Peacekeeping troops.

UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar explained during the announcement ceremony that the Nobel Prize Committee had recognized that "the search for peace is a universal responsibility, which touches all nations and peoples of the earth". The most recent success of the United Nations had not just simply fallen out of a clear sky; it was more the result of long years of hard work. Not least of all the receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize served to honor the idealism of all, who have served this organization and, above all, who have contributed and still contribute with their courage and readiness to sacrifice.

At the present time there are seven Peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. Four are in the Middle East: the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Iran/Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

The three others are: the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). Two of these were created in 1988: UNGOMAP to support the carrying out of the Geneva Accords for Afghanistan and UNIIMOG to supervise the cease-fire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

During the Nobel Prize Awards ceremony in Oslo the Secretary-General maintained in his speech that the awarding of the prize for the peacekeeping measures of the United Nations paid tribute to an idea of impressive originality and power and that those who were honored were those who had made this idea a reality. "It also honors the Peace soldiers, who number approximately one-half million young men and women from 58 countries. 733 "Blue Helmets" have given their lives in the service of peace", said the UN Secretary-General. He pointed out that the tool, which we call Peacekeeping, assigns soldiers as servants of peace instead of instruments of war. It has introduced the principle

of non-violence into the military field. It represents an honorable alternative to conflict and a means of reducing conflict and tension so that a solution can be sought through negotiation. Never before in history have military forces been assigned throughout the world, not to wage war, not to conquer and not to serve the interests of a power or of a group of powers but to prevent conflict between peoples. "The Peacekeeping operations symbolize the commitment of the world community to peace and represent the non-political expression of this commitment. The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize gives new hope and strengthens this extraordinary promising concept", concluded Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Auf Wiedersehen Basel

By Richard Powers

By the time that you are reading these lines, I shall be in the throes of packing and filling out change-of-address forms. I plan to be back in Pasadena about the beginning of May. However, I will not necessarily be back at the old address. During this time of transition, which may last a few months, you should continue to send your contributions to the Journal to the President Clem Clement, as I hope you have been doing since March 15th.

I think that I will miss Basel, Switzerland and Europe (in that order). I guess that I shall have to arrange another stay in a few years. See you in Chicago for Memorial Day (maybe?)!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By B. Clement, Jr.

Flash! The United Nations Philatelists will hold its 1989 Annual Meeting at COMPEX, in Chicago, during the Memorial Day weekend. The meeting will be held at 1PM on Saturday May 27th. Make plans now to attend.

We plan to have a competitive United Nations stamp exhibit at COMPEX. If you would like to exhibit, write to the following address:

Charles Berg #911
4800 South Lake Park Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615

With the reorganization of the Universal Postal Union Collectors, I am sorry to announce that Norma McCumber has resigned as chairman of our UPU Study Unit. The effort that Norma put into organizing the Study Unit is appreciated. UNP considers the UPU to be a very real part of UN collecting, and will continue to have UPU features in the Journal. If another UPU collector would like to chair the Study Unit, please write to me.

Those interested in becoming members of the UPU Collectors may request an application by sending an addressed, stamped No. 10 envelope to the following address:

Universal Postal Union Collectors
Box 607117
Orlando, FL 32860-7117

SPRING MEETING OF THE WESTERN ARM

By Alex Bereson

The next meeting of the West Coast Chapter of the UNP - the "Western Arm" - will take place at Westpex on Saturday April 22, 1989 between 11 AM and 1 PM at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. The hotel is located at Geary and Van Ness Streets in San Francisco. We will elect new officers, have a show and tell and do some trading. All UNP members in the San Francisco Bay are particularly encouraged to attend.

FORERUNNERS OF SWISS PTT COLLECTION SHEETS

By Richard Powers

February 1, 1944 is an important date for philatelists interested in the Swiss Official stamps issued for use by affiliated and forerunner organizations of the United Nations. Before this date stamps overprinted for use by the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva could not be sold to the public in uncancelled form. They could be sold in cancelled form either already attached to paper or unattached in mint never hinged condition. This rule is still in effect at the International Court of Justice in the Hague for Dutch official stamps.

As a result stamps which were no longer on sale as of February 1944 are extremely expensive uncancelled. The Gaines Catalog lists Scott #303, the orange 5-centime stamp, as going for $100 mint but only $0.30 used. The fact that 150,000 of these stamps were printed indicates that the rules were reasonably well observed in Switzerland. Few mint stamps slipped out the back door. Those that did came mostly via UPU channels, via PTT offices throughout the world, which received mint samples from the Swiss PTT for identification purposes.

Figure 1 shows a complete set of the first twelve stamps overprinted for use by the League of Nations attached to a blank sheet of paper and cancelled on February 15, 1923 less than six months after the stamps were officially released for use by the League. Such items are known as favor items as presumably they

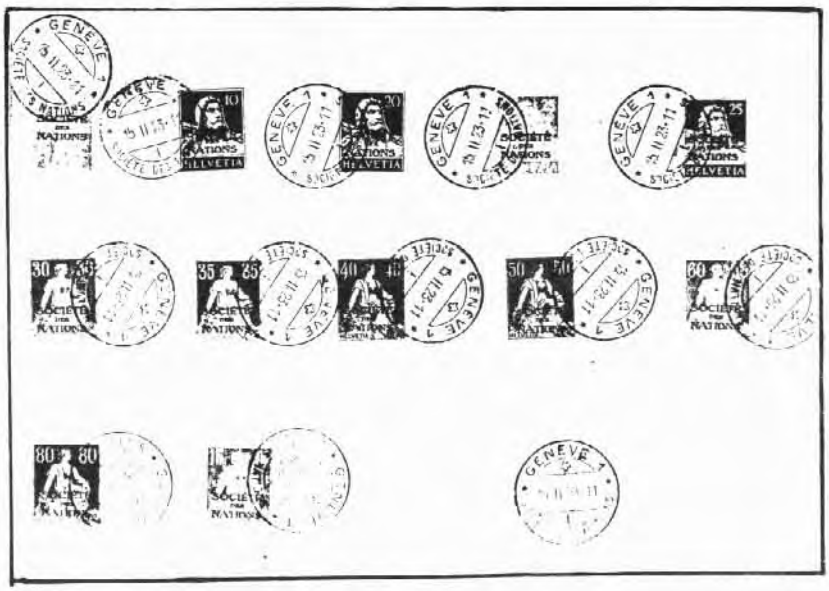


Figure 1: Collection Sheet on blank paper for early League of Nations stamps.

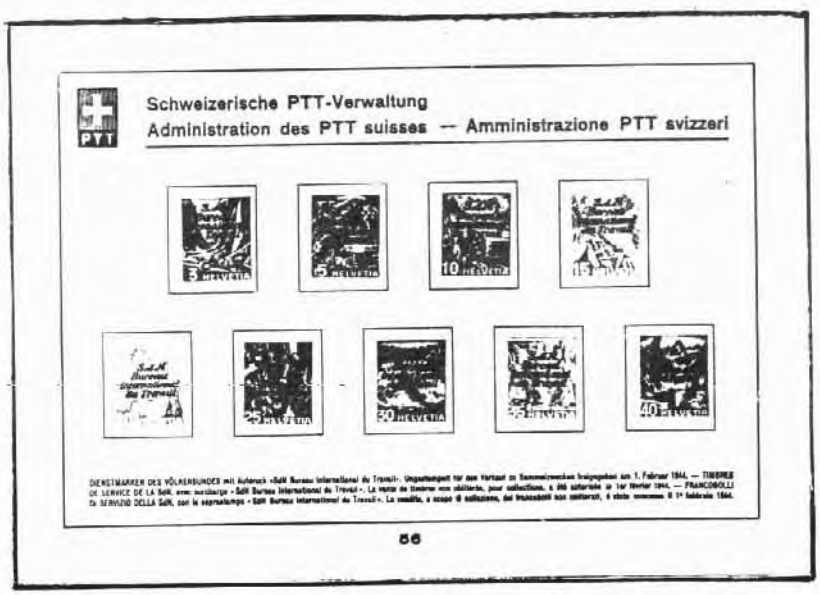


Figure 2: Normal Collection Sheet #56.

Sheets cancelled on February 1, 1944 are said to have "first day cancels", although some of the overprinted stamps existed since 1936. But this was the first day that they were available to the public unused. However, older official PTT collection sheets with League of Nations and ILO stamps do exist!

Recently I came across some unnumbered PTT collection sheets dating from 1942 bearing most of these stamps. Figure 3 shows a sheet #56 forerunner. It bears the same denominations as sheet #56 and in approximately the same format. The difference is that the sheet is an unnumbered PTT collection sheet first available in the 30's and the stamps are those actually existing at the time of the cancellation June 5, 1942. According to Charles Misteli in his book "Etude sur les Timbres-Poste et Oblitérations de la Société des Nations, du Bureau International du Travail et des Conférences Internationales" (Study on the Postage Stamps and Cancellations of the League of Nations, the International Labor Office and International Conferences", which was published in 1943, the reddish brown 10-centime stamp Scott #3060A was not issued until 1943. The stamp that appears on the forerunner sheet is actually the dark brown 10-centime stamp Scott #3060, which was issued on March 2, 1942. In fact this may have stimulated the preparation of this collection sheet, which was cancelled only three months after #3060 and 3061 were first issued.

What makes this forerunner interesting is that #3060 was never sold mint to the public. (Gaines lists it at $150 mint.) Thus it has to be an official PTT item and not a concoction by a collector. I sent the publishers of the Gaines Catalog a photocopy of the collection sheet. The response was as follows:

> "(The 1942 collection sheet is) new to me, but I would not be surprised if (the) Swiss PTT sold them that way (à la PCIJ/ICJ cards from the Dutch PTT). The SdN Cancel on an ILO stamp is consistent with philatelic usage. Unless a forger were very clever, he would not have observed this."
> (signed) Arleigh Gaines.

A forerunner of sheet #58 appears in Figure 4. It differs in format from the standard 1944 model in that in addition to bearing Scott 3028, 29 and 30 (all grilled), it also has a 90-centime 3027 (grilled). This stamp was also never sold to the public unused, either grilled or ungrilled. Hence it is not found cancelled on the 1944 collection sheets. The date of cancellation is also June 5, 1942.

A League of Nations forerunner sheet #53 appears in Figure 5. In addition to bearing 2022 (grilled), 2023a and 2024 (grilled), which normally appear on the 1944 collection sheet, it also has an 80-centime 2025a and a 1-franc 2026 (grilled). The latter was never on sale to the public unused and hence never appears cancelled to a 1944 collection sheets. The former was available to the public only in grilled form beginning in 1944. Hence at the time the forerunner collection sheet #53 was cancelled, only the 80-centime stamp with ungrilled gum existed. This sheet was also cancelled barely three months after the 1-franc grilled stamp was issued overprinted for use by the League of Nations.

In Table I is a summary of some of the forerunner sheets, which I have come across. Readers are encouraged to contact the author if they come across others. It would be interesting to determine the earliest cancellations for each issue found on PTT collection sheet.

Table I: Forerunner Collection Sheets

Sheet No.	Scott Cat. #	Cancel Date
52	2047-48,50,52-55,68,69	June 5, 1942
53	2022,23a,24,25a,26	June 5, 1942
54	2031-34	June 5, 1942
55	2065-67	June 18, 1942
56	3038-39,41,43-47,60,61	June 5, 1942
57	3018,19a,20,21a,22	June 5, 1942
58	3027-30	June 5, 1942
59	3057-59	June 18, 1942

NEW INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE STAMPS

ON OCTOBER 24, 1989

For the First Time Even Mint?

By W. Put

[Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Journal of the Dutch United Nations Collectors Group VNVE in December 1988. It has been translated from the Dutch by the Editor, who assumes full blame for mangled tenses.]

The existing official stamps for use by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are out-of-date; the stamp denominations are no longer current and above all a large number of them still bear the portrait of Princess Juliana. (Editor's note: Queen Beatrice is now head of state.) Recently the PTT of the Netherlands announced that the three service stamps planned for 1988 have been delayed. This was sufficient reason for me to contact Mr. Glas, the director of the division of postage stamps and philately.

Mr. Glas revealed that the planned first day of sale for these three service stamps will be October 24, 1989; of course this is United Nations Day.

Using current postal tariffs, the following provisional schedule for issuing stamps is anticipated:

Date of Issue	Denomination
October 15, 1989	55ct
	75ct
	Dfl 7.00
1990	65ct
	Dfl 1.00
	Dfl 1.50
	Dfl 5.00

The original plan for eight stamps has now been changed to seven stamps.

The five and seven Dutch florin stamps will be printed using the flat plate process (sheets of 25 stamps), while the other denominations will probably be printed with a rotary press (sheets of 100 stamps).

During the international stamp exhibition Filacept in the Hague in October 1988 the Postal Museum displayed in its Court of Honor "provisionally approved designs". Mr. Glas mentioned that this provisional approval came from the management of the PTT.

The sketches are now being judged at the Court. If the Court has any remarks, the designs will be adjusted and the proposal will have to be reconsidered by the management of the PTT.

The low values depict (Figure 1) the Peace Palace, the home of the I.C.J., with a palm branch of peace like in the emblem of the United Nations. The photo of the Peace Palace, which was

Figure 1: Proposed design for the low values of the the new series of official stamps issued by the PTT of the Netherlands for use by the I.C.J.

used for the design, was taken by Onno Meeter.

The design for the high values (Figure 2) depicts the sun shining on a Greek column and a palm wreath. This design bears the motto of the I.C.J. "Sol justitae illustra nos" (the sun of justice inspires us). Both designs are by Walter Nikkels.

Because the designs are not completely approved, the PTT has not yet issued illustrated announcements. Therefore I was forced to take photos myself of the designs displayed by the Postal Museum at Filacept. The figures, which we show here, are still tentative. The final designs can still vary somewhat.

In various publications one can read that the new service stamps will also be available mint for collectors. Mr. Glas confirmed to me that this is indeed likely but has not yet been approved. If mint stamps are to be made available, they will still not be valid for posting personal mail and all mail bearing such stamps would have to be charged with postage due. To my question whether it is technically possible to check this (consider automatic mail handling) came a negative reply.

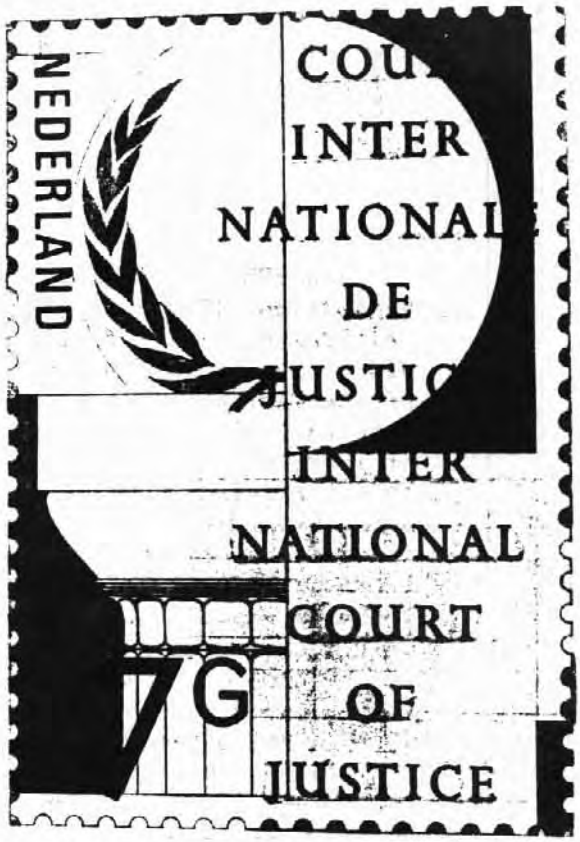


Figure 2: Proposed design for the high values.

UPU Official Stamp 1989

Swiss PTT Press Release

One more value has been added to the series of Swiss official stamps, started in 1976, which feature the Universal Postal Union's main activities. This time the subject is Express Mail Service (EMS), which has been developed in recent years. The design (Figure 1), which was created by the Basel graphic artist Burkard Waltenspül, depicts an express letter bearing a world map, which illustrates the global coverage of EMS. The stamp denomination is 1.40 SFr, which corresponds to the tariff for an overseas (outside the European Postal Union - CEPT) letter weighing less than 10 g (1/3 ounce). The first day of sale was March 7, 1989. The Swiss PTT issued an official FDC, a souvenir folder #247 and a collection sheet #401.

Figure 1: Official FDC of new UPU stamp.

IGNORANCE OR INDIFFERENCE

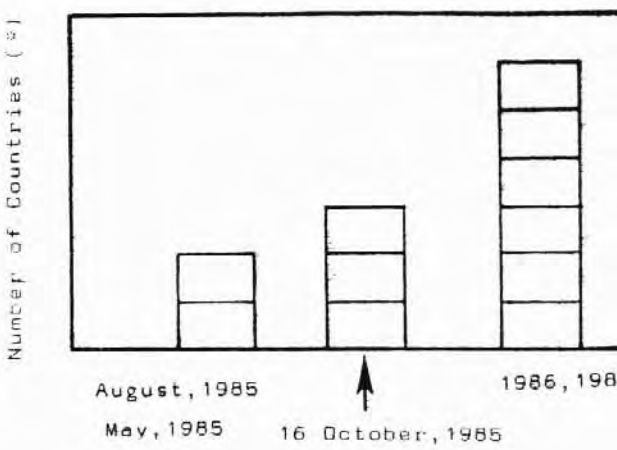
By Jacob Kleiman

In 1985 the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Since more than 150 countries are members of the FAO, some of them naturally commemorated this important event on stamps. At least eleven countries issued stamps on this occasion. Table I summarizes the available data on the countries and dates of release of the above mentioned issues. It is quite difficult, however, for an unprepared collector to find out the real birthdate of the FAO from the information on most of the stamps. Moreover, the information on some of the stamps is wrong or at least misleading.

The official date of birth of the FAO is October 16, 1945. The interested reader is referred to a number of articles on the creation and activities of the FAO in various philatelic reviews[1],[2],[3]. The FAO was the first U.N. agency to be formed after World War II. Actually, it came into being before the United Nations Organization itself. The U.N. came into existence officially only on October 24, 1945, the date when the Charter that had been signed in San Francisco in June of that year came into force, after having been ratified by the five "big powers" and a majority of the other signatory states.

Figure 1 is a bar chart showing the number of countries which issued such FAO commemoratives versus the dates of their release. Each block represents one country. As can be seen from Table 1 and Figure 1, only three countries issued stamps on the actual anniversary date, that is on October 16, 1985. Two countries released stamps in May and August of 1985. The majority of the countries, however, waited until 1986 or even 1987 to issue stamps.

Three of the countries that are listed in Table 1 and that issued stamps in 1986 and 1987 did not even bother to show the date of the FAO creation on the stamps. Only Niger and Panama, which issued sets in 1986 and 1987, respectively,



(*) - Each block represents one countr

Figure 1: Dates of Release of the 40th A niversary FAO Commemoratives.

gave the year of founding of the FAO. T other country that released its stamp 1987 is the Congo (Republique Populaire Congo), Figure 2. This stamp confus matters even more. As can be seen fr the inscription on the stamp, the year the creation of the FAO was "**1947**"!

[1] J. Kleiman, "Forty Years of UNFAO", American Philatelist, vol. 102 (Dec. 19 p. 1206.

[2] J. Kleiman, "Canada's Connection the UNFAO", The Canadian Philatel vol. 39 (1988) p. 427.

[3] J. Kleiman, "Forestry Programs of Food and Agriculture Organization", Journal of the United Nations Phila ists, vol. 11, (1988) p. 38.

But there is an exception. These labels refer to Title 39 U.S. Code, Section 500. This statute goes back to at least 1872. The statute was amended in 1938, which version remained in effect until August 31, 1961, when it was amended, approved September 2, 1961, effective September 1, 1961 (Congress isn't subject to the physical laws of nature).

Basically, the statutes provide that letters may be carried out of the mails when enclosed in a sealed envelope with "the amount of postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail is paid by stamps, or postage meter stamps, on the envelope", the stamps are cancelled and dated in ink by the sender. (Text of all the statutes referred to is found on the inside back cover of this issue.)

Of course, whether putting U.N. stamps on a card or letter satisfies the United States Postal Service (USPS) desire or the Congressional mandate that postage be paid, depends on the Postal Agreement Between the United States and the United Nations (Agreement). The Agreement provides for the establishment of a "United Nations Post Office Station" (UNPO) which is operated by the United States Post Office Department (USPOD, now the USPS). Separately, the UN is permitted to maintain a "separate agency", UNPA, "for the sale of United Nations postage stamps for philatelic purposes in response to orders received by mail." Agreement, Section 3(ii). [I found the agreement in the 1968 pamphlet United Nations Postage Stamps, issued by the UN.]

Unless I'm mistaken, however, the the UNPO is a strictly behind the scenes operation, and the counter where visitors and collectors purchase UN stamps at the UN is a philatelic sales window.

This is relevant because Section 3(i) of the Agreement provides as follows:

> "(i) The United Nations Post Office Station shall sell only United Nations postage stamps which shall be provided by the United Nations free of charge.... All revenue derived from such sales of United Nations postage stamps and from other services rendered by the United Nations Post Office Station shall be retained by the United States Post Office Department as full and complete compensation for performance of its obligations under the terms of this Agreement, except however, that the United States Post Office Department shall be reimbursed for performance of any postal services resulting from use of United Nations postage stamps sold for philatelic purposes under the provisions of sub-section (ii) of this section which are used as postage on mail matter posted at the United Nations Post Office Station by being paid an amount equal to the face value of any such stamps so used as postage."

The Agreement says nothing about letters carried out of the mail, but clearly the intent of the statute isn't being complied with if the stamps affixed are UN stamps purchased from UNPA and not from the UNPO.

Taking a look at the items illustrated, we note a few anomalies. First, the statute requires that the date of the letter or of its transmission or receipt be "written or stamped" (until September 1, 1961) or "endorsed in ink" (effective September 1, 1961) on the envelope. None of these covers is so dated, so none of them complies fully with the statute in any event.

Second, there is no requirement that a notice be placed on the envelope that it is carried in accordance with the statute. That is probably just a selling gimmick: after all, if the envelope were simply cancelled by someone who wrote the date across the stamps, would you buy it?

Third, the HaPoel label is dated 1961. Someone should look up the date of that show. When the statute was amended in 1961 it became Title 39, Section 901. If HaPoel was after August 31, 1961, the statutory reference is wrong!

So, why do it? Well, all the items that you show are obviously philatelic. From the U.N. Building to Rome for the VIII Summer Olympic Games? Obviously some group or individual made these up to sell to collectors. A. Terins is an possibility, but they are not listed in his catalog. The earliest sales materials from Terins that I have are about 1964. I would suggest Stanley Frankel, but I have his News Flash #2, dated 1967. Was he active in 1960 in this sort of stuff? Perhaps someone should ask him. I checked Richard Strite's U.N. Philatelic News for 1960 and there is no mention of any of these items. The handwriting on the postal card might be a clue as to the creator of this item.

I would suggest that you look at stamp periodicals of the period (Linns, *Western* Stamp Collector, Mekeel's, Stamps) to see if you can find any articles or ads offering such items.

The reference to "Sec. 20 U.S.Code" is meaningless, for United States Code is divided into 50 "Titles", each of which is divided into sections, and in any event the correct reference was to Title 39, Section 500, as shown on the label itself.

I consider such materials strictly souvenir material of no real philatelic interest. I wouldn't pay more than a dollar or so for any of them.

Ben Cohen
P.O. Box 1674
Chicago, IL 60690

METER NOTES

By Jack Mayer

A few miscellaneous meter items have crossed my path recently.

The first (Fig. 1) involves the meter #818 for use at the International Labor Office in Geneva. The earliest known date of usage was October 23, 1952. This cancel is nearly three years earlier: December 3, 1949.

The second (Fig. 2) is a copy of meter #478, which has been in use at the Universal Postal Union in Bern since at least May 22, 1947. This cancel seems to have been used earlier by a private company in Zürich in 1930. Does anyone have any information about this earlier user?

A new meter #12690 has been found operating through the post office of the Centre International des Conférences (International Conference Center) in Geneva. I have a number of different meters used by agencies at this post office. But this is the first time I have come across this number. It is dated October 17, 1973. Does any one know whose it is?

Recently I came across an interesting meter error date August 28, 1988 made with Pitney-Bowes machine #6. Apparently the date should have been July 28th. The correction has been made in the lower left hand corner on Pitney-Bowes machine #1. I have seen several of these and suspect that the UNPA made a large mailing and all (or nearly all) were incorrectly dated.

Figure 1: New earliest known date of usage for the ILO meter #818.

Figure 3: Another meter user (meter #12690) at the International Conference Center in Geneva?

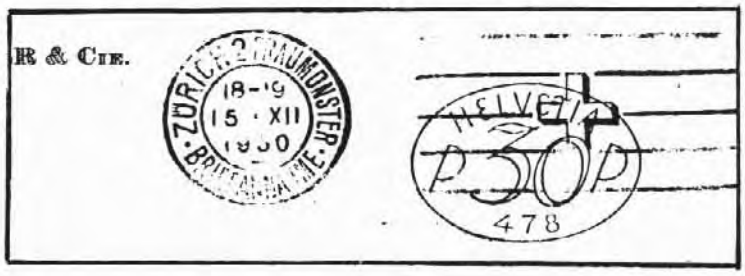


Figure 2: 1930 Usage of meter #478 (in Zürich?) now in use by the UPU in Bern.

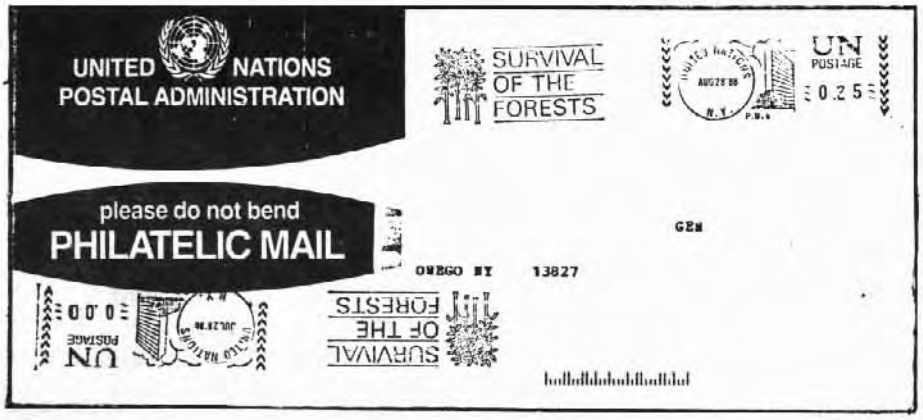


Figure 4: Meter date error on UNPA mailing.

MORE SWISS AUCTION RESULTS

By Richard Powers

As the January 1, 1989 deadline was drawing near for the Swiss value added tax (Warenumsatzsteur - effectively a sales tax) to be applied to the sale of stamps by dealers who gross more than S.Fr. 35000 (U.S.$23000) per year, Interphila AG in Wil, Switzerland held its last auction of the year. It took place on December 19th and 20th at the Zürich Casino located - as Zürich locals like to say - on the Swiss Riviera overlooking the Lake of Zürich. The ambience and the effective 6.2% hike in stamp prices anticipated in Switzerland beginning this year because of the new tax were conducive to high bids even on some United Nations-related material. This firm has a well-deserved reputation for ferreting out exotic and unique (Figure 1) U.N. items. This year was no exception. There were many interesting prices: some high; some low. The prices below do not include the 17% commission plus a flat S.Fr. 2 lotting fee and are given in S.Fr. At the time of the auction, the United States dollar was going for S.Fr. 1.53.

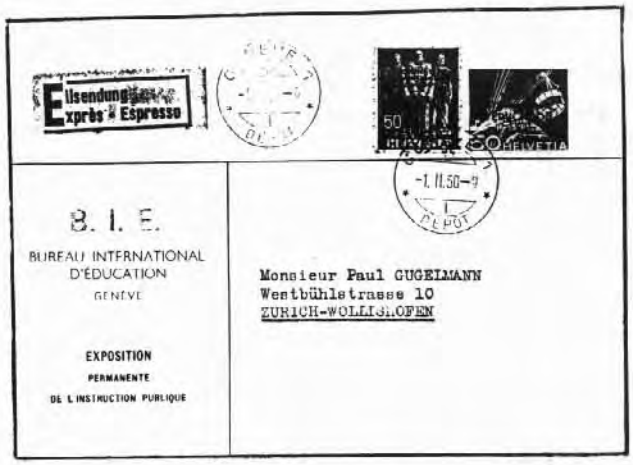


Figure 1: First Day Cover of Scott #4037 from Lot #629. It also bears an old 50-centime stamp #401 to make up the 1-franc special delivery rate.

Lot #	Description	Bid S.Fr.
626	Scott #5001-25, World Health Organization, cancelled (**)	180
629	Lot of 8 covers on International Education Bureau stationery of IBE issues (1944-1950) including FDC's of Scott #4033, 4037	240
633	Scott #7001-20, U.N.European Office MNH	350
637	Scott #6001-8, International Refugees Organization, MNH	160
639	Scott UNGen #61,62 25th Anniversary Miniature sheets, MNH	90
640	Scott UNGen #83,84 2 x Year of the Child Miniature sheets, MNH	75
645	Scott UNGen (1969-1987) complete in sheets of (mostly) 50 MNH	1700*
646	Scott UNGen (1969-1987) complete in sheets of (mostly) 50 used	1600
6045	5th UPU Postal Congress cancel on post card with Washington, D.C. postmark, May 24, 1897	650
6046	7th UPU Postal Congress cancel on official stationery with Madrid postmark, October 27, 1920	220
6050	UPU Preparatory Commission in Ottawa cancel on official stationery (addressed)	160
6064	Scott UNNY #C1-C4 plus prussian blue C3 MNH	130
6066	Scott UNNY #38, MNH	240
6067	Scott UNNY #85, MNH (26), Used (17) totaling 42 souvenir sheets	60
6068	Scott UNNY #278-79 25th Anniversary Miniature sheets, MNH	90
6069	Scott UNNY #310-11 2 x Year of the Child Miniature sheets, MNH	70
6080	Scott UNTEA 1,19, 1st printing, MNH	120
6081	Scott UNTEA 1,19, 1st printing, used	90
6082	Scott UNTEA 1,19, 2nd printing, MNH	90
6086	Scott UNTEA, 2nd, 3rd and 4th printings complete, MNH	225
6089	Scott UNTEA, 3rd, 4th printings complete, MNH	160
6090	Scott UNTEA, 3rd, 4th printings complete, cancelled (**)	170

* This lot went for about 25% face!

Questions and Answers
Appendix A

Full Text of Statutes:

The statute was originally passed in 1872 as follows: "That all letters inclosed in stamped envelopes (the postage-stamp in every case being of a denomination sufficient to cover the postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail) may be sent, conveyed, and delivered otherwise than by mail, provided that such envelope shall be duly directed and properly sealed, so that the letter cannot be taken therefrom without defacing the envelope, and the date of the letter or of the transmission or receipt thereof shall be written or stamped upon the envelope. But the Postmaster-General may suspend the operation of this section upon any mail-route where the public interest may require such suspension." 17 Stat. 312.

In 1938 the statute was amended, and read like this:

"All letters enclosed in envelopes with embossed postage thereon or stamps affixed thereto, by the sender, or with the metered indicia showing that the postage has been prepaid, if the postage thereon is of an amount sufficient to cover the postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail, may [1232] be sent, conveyed, and delivered otherwise than by mail, provided that such envelope shall be duly directed and properly sealed, so that the letter cannot be taken therefrom without defacing the envelope, and the date of the letter or of the transmission or receipt thereof shall be written or stamped upon the envelope. But the Postmaster-General may suspend the operation of this section upon any mail-route where the public interest may require such suspension." 52 Stat. 1231-1232.

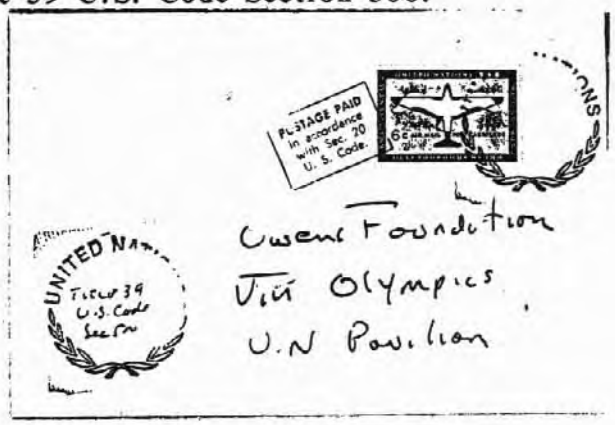
This statute remained in effect until August 31, 1961, when it was amended, approved September 2, 1961, effective September 1, 1961 (Congress isn't subject to the physical laws of nature), so that it now reads:

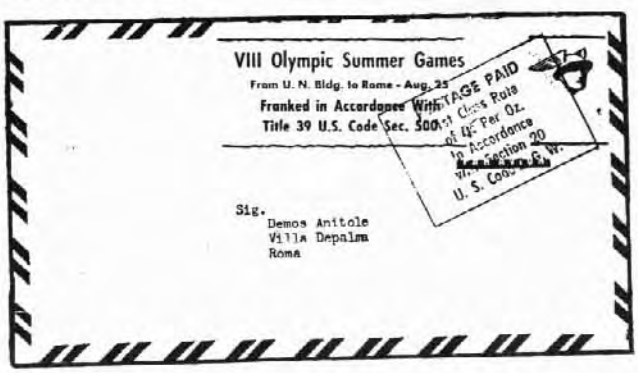
"Section 901. Letters carried out of the mail.

(a) A letter may be carried out of the mails when--
(1) it is enclosed in an envelope;
(2) the amount of postage that would be chargeable thereon if the same were sent by mail is paid by stamps, or postage meter stamps, on the envelope;
(3) the envelope is properly addressed;
(4) the envelope is properly sealed so that the letter cannot be taken therefrom without defacing the envelope;
(5) any stamps on the envelope are cancelled in ink by the sender; and
(6) the date of the letter, of its transmission or receipt by the carrier is endorsed on the envelope in ink.

(b) The Postmaster General may suspend the operation of any part of this section upon any mail route where the public interest requires suspension." 74 Stat. 586.

Privately carried letters and labels asserting carriage in accordance with Title 39 U.S. Code Section 500.





DOCUMENTS PHILATELIQUES Courtesy of the French PTT

A New UNECSO Collectible?

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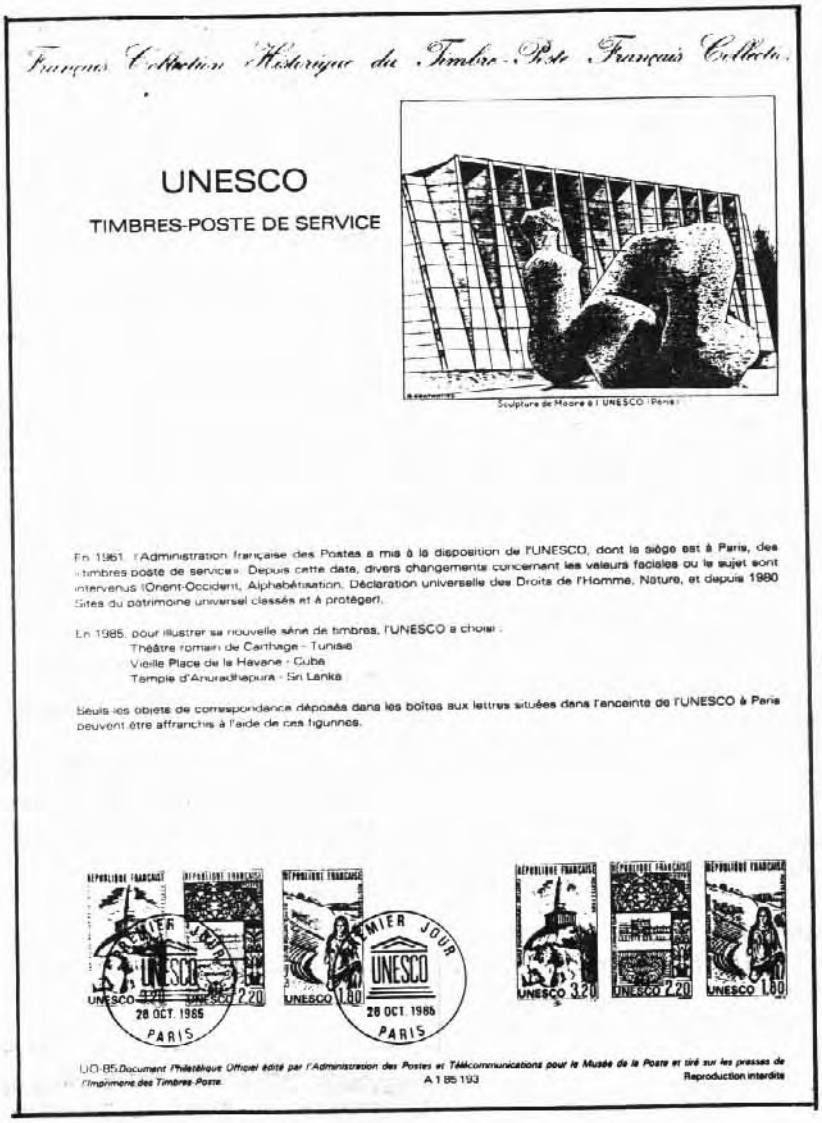

Since 1974 the French PTT has been producing "philatelic documents" for almost each new series of French stamps issued. These documents consist of a set of single stamps with a first day cancel and a monochromatic "proof" of the stamps printed with the original plates on the document by the Imprimerie des Timbres-Poste (Postage-Stamp Printing Office. In addition a short description of the stamp is included. According to the Yvert catalog, which gives a complete listing, such documents have been produced for the 1985, 1986 and 1987 UNESCO issues. The 1985 document is illustrated above.