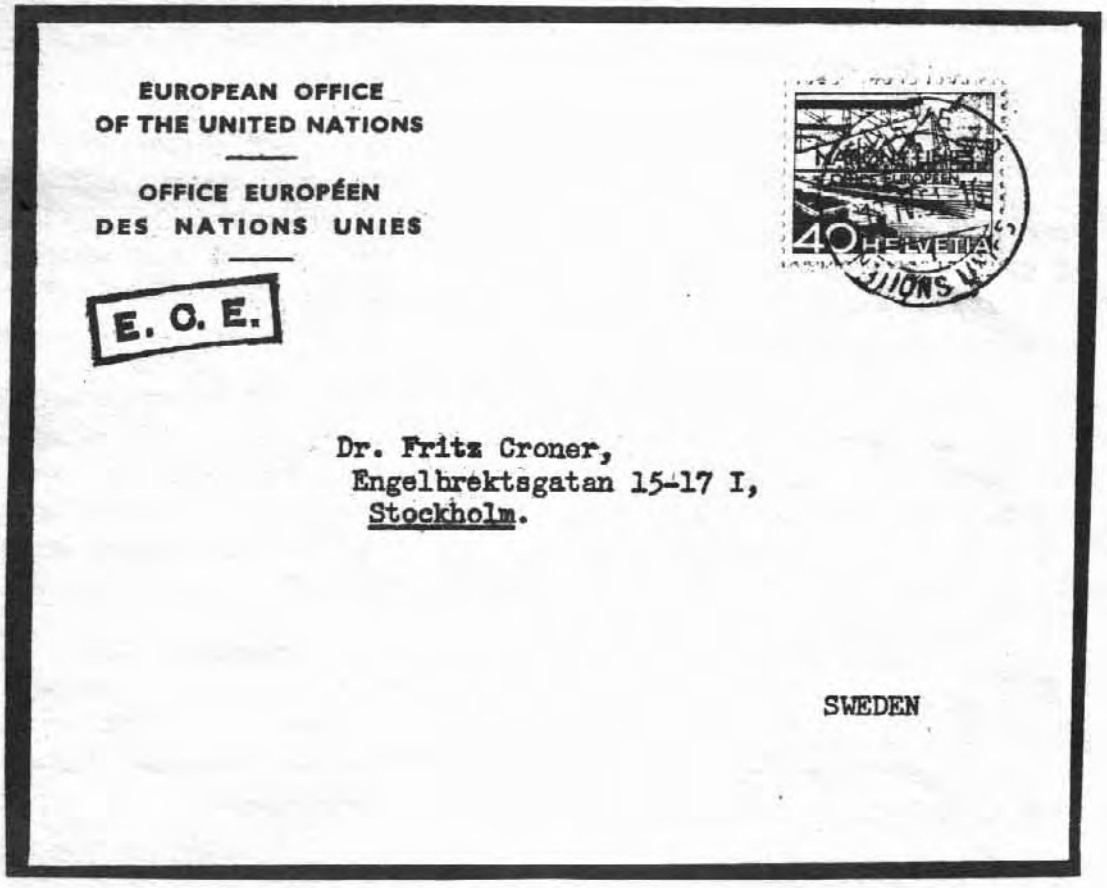
the journal
OF THE UNITED NATIONS PHILATELISTS, INC

Volume 21
Number 1
February 1997
Whole Number 116

50TH ANNIVERSARY
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE
1947-1997



FIFTY YEARS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Journal of United Nations Philatelists

Affiliate #71 of American Philatelic Society
A unit of the American Topical Association
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Correspondence concerning replacement copies of recent issues which failed to arrive in the mail or back issues, should contact the Production Manager: Alex Bereson, 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131. Back issues cost US$0.75 plus postage (US addresses: $0.50; Canada: $0.75; others: $2.00 airmail).

The Journal (ISSN 0164-6842) is published bi-monthly by United Nations Philatelists, Inc. (UNPI), 18 Portola Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131. First class postage is paid at the United Nations, New York.

UNPI is an organization of philatelists devoted to the collection, study and exhibition of the issues of the United Nations Postal Administration, the postal history of the U.N., the issues and postal history of its branches, specialized agencies and forerunners, as well as world-wide topical issues that call attention to the U.N., its agencies and programs. The annual domestic dues of the UNPI are US $15.00, of which US$14.00 applies to the subscription to ***The Journal***.

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

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Prices for Advertisements

1 page - $40, ½ page - $20, ¼ page - $15
Run an ad in five consecutive issues, get the sixth one free. Please make checks payable to the United Nations Philatelists, Inc. and mail them with the photo-ready copy to the Editor.

Reprinting

Permission to reprint articles published in this journal is granted to other philatelic journals as long as the source of the article is properly cited. The Editor would appreciate a copy of the reprint.

Cover Illustrations

Front cover: Early service cover from the Economic Commission for Europe.
Rear cover: New definitives and flag stamps issued February 12, 1997 by the UNPA.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

UNPI Annual Meeting at Pacific '97

For eleven days beginning Thursday May 29, 1997 the eyes of the philatelic world will be focussed on San Francisco, which will be the venue for the upcoming international philatelic exhibition Pacific '97. Pacific '97 is this decade's once-every-ten-years major international show that is held in the United States.

The seventh issue of the *Pacific '97 News* announces that as of mid-December 182 dealers have reserved table space and the postal administrations of 110 countries will be represented. Society meetings and seminars are being organized for 124 organizations.

I hope that you will keep two hours free beginning Friday May 30th at noon to attend the 1997 Annual Meeting of United Nations Philatelists at Pacific '97 at the Moscone Convention Center in downtown San Francisco.

The highlight of the program will be a second round of the "Show and Tell" presentations that were so well received at CAPEX '96, where UNPI held its last Annual Meeting. I would like to ask all members who plan to attend the San Francisco meeting to consider preparing a ten to fifteen minute talk about their favorite items. There will be an overhead projector available for 8½"×11" transparencies, which can be made with a photocopier.

In the January 6, 1997 issue of ***Linn's Stamp News***, Michael Baadke in his column ***Refresher Course*** (page 48) discussed what one might expect at a local stamp club meeting. He mentions that during some club programs members "describe where and when they obtained the item, where it is from and what purpose it served and what qualities about it make it a special collectible". This is exactly what I have in mind. This will be a splendid opportunity to share your philatelic treasures with an appreciative audience.

But presentations need not be restricted to well-researched items. I would like members to bring items about which they have questions. An equally interesting presentation can be organized around items about which you have questions. What better place can there be to find out more about your own UN-related items than at the Annual Meeting of United Nations Philatelists?

I would appreciate it if would-be contributors would contact me with the titles of their presentations so that I can organize a preliminary program, which I plan to publish in the April issue of the *Journal.*

In closing let me point out to budget-minded out-of-town collectors, who prefer to save their funds for buying stamps, that it is not necessary to stay in an expensive downtown hotel in San Francisco. During Westpex '95 I stayed in a Motel 6 in Hayward (and commuted the 25 miles) for less than $30 a night. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) makes commuting painless and a lot cheaper!

U.N. STAMP PROGRAM

February 12 **Flag Series**
8 × 32¢ stamps
(Sheets of 16 stamps)
Definitives
8¢, 55¢, S.f. 0.10, S.f. 1.10, S 5, S 6
(Sheets of 20 stamps)
Postal stationery
2 × 32¢ envelopes (different sizes)
50¢ aerogram

March 13 **Endangered Species**
4×32¢, 4×F.s. 0.80, 4×S 7 stamps
(Sheets of 16 stamps)
Set of 3 maximum cards
1997 Endangered Species Collection Folder

May 30 **Earth Summit**
32¢, F.s.0.45, S 3.50 stamps
$1, F.s.1.10, S 11 souvenir sheets

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Twenty Years of UNP

Here we are and it is already the twentieth year of United Nations Philatelists. Whoop-De-Doo!. Has anyone else among our membership taken notice of this signpost, except yours truly?

I assume that most of you have an appreciation of historic events, including this milestone in our continuing growth. So in honor of our Twentieth Anniversary please allow me to repeat this short piece from Vol. 1, No. 1 of ***The Journal*** **of United Nations Philatelists.**

"This organization is built upon the knowledge and efforts of its membership. It is our aim to unite UN collectors and to form a strong club to be recognized and appreciated. To do this we need the cooperation of each and every member -- to submit articles for publication, to exhibit and/or to just plain get involved."

Gustave Knoeckel
First UNP President
August 1977

It continues to amaze me that our group is still alive and vital after all these years! We have seen our own upheavals. UN philately has undergone fundamental changes since that embryonic beginning in 1977, as has philately in general.

One example comes to mind. Who would have thought that the UNPA would ever issue a booklet of stamps? What about the mini-sheet frenzy of the past few years? Hopefully this will provide a fertile field for the philatelists of the future.

I believe that we have much to look forward to as we begin our next twenty years. This philatelic future is ours to claim if we are willing to let it continue by our personal involvement at whatever level we choose.

In closing, I would like to ask each of YOU to work with me and all the officers toward our common goal of assuring UN philately a successful future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enclosed you will find a photocopy (Figure 1) of the back side of UNNY #3, the first two-cent definitive. Note the numeral "2" printed in red in the lower left corner. It is not in the issued color and appears to be under the gum.

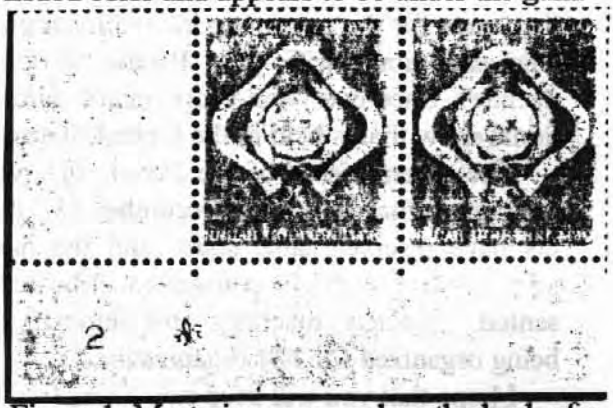

Figure 1: Mysterious numeral on the back of a MI block of UNNY #3.

Have you ever seen anything like this? Any information would be appreciated.

Don Bakos
Sunnyvale, California

Yes, I have seen such numerals printed on the back of UN stamps. I believe they were put there by a UN-specialized dealer to identify the printing. Since the lower selvedge is imperforate, it could be any of the first three printings.

I have a MI block of ten with a diamond cut-out, which suggests that it is the second printing. I say "suggest" because the cut-out on my block has remarkably smooth edges (a forgery?), whereas most cut-outs tend to have slightly jagged edges. My block has an identical numeral "2" and a trident-shaped symbol in the same color somewhat reminiscent of the Boy Scouts emblem.

About twenty years ago a First-Issue specialist told me who the dealer was. I believe my source of information was the late Dr. Robert Kvarnes. I hesitate to name the dealer, unless I can confirm my information. Can anyone complete the above picture?

The Editor

FIFTY YEARS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

By Richard Powers

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) is currently marking the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) with commemorative slogan cancels at its offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna since January 2, 1997. These appear on the cover of this issue along with a service cover from the ECE headquarters at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (as indicated by the origin cachet) on United Nations European Office (UNEO) stationery. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a regional commission concerned with the economic well-being of Europe and consists of European UN members as well as Switzerland, Canada and the United States. Figure 1 shows a service cover from the U.S. Representative to the ECE stationed in Switzerland near headquarters. The cover was sent on June 24, 1948 barely a year after the ECE was established on March 27, 1947.

The ECE is only one of five such regional economic commissions. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is only one day younger than the ECE and is headquarted in Bangkok, Thailand. The Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), created the following year on March 5, 1948, is headquartered in Santiago, Chile. Twenty years later on April 29, 1968, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was organized with headquarters at Africa Hall in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Five years later ECOSOC established the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) on August 9, 1973 in Beirut, Lebanon. During the civil war in Lebanon, it was moved to Bagdad, Iraq.

Much of the work of the ECE is carried out by subsidiary committees, whose titles nicely reveal the principal concerns of the ECE. These include the Committee on Agricultural Problems, the Chemistry Industry Committee, the Coal Committee, the Conference of European Statisticians, the Committee on Electric Power, the Committee on Gas, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, the Inland Transport Committee, the Steel Committee and the Committee on the Development of Trade.

Figure 1: Service cover from the U.S. Representative to the ECE.

The UNPA has honored the ECE three times with stamps. The first set (Scott UNNY #71-72) was issued in 1959. The 25th Anniversary of the ECE was commemorated in 1972 with two stamps (UNNY #231 and G #27). The work of the ECE addressing environmental concerns was honored in 1991 with three se-tenant blocks of fours (UNNY #584-7, G #195-198 and A #110-113).

THE UNITED NATIONS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

By Dan Gapinski

Prologue

While pawing my way through the foreign cover boxes of a dealer at a small bourse in Des Moines, I came across the Korean FDC of Scott #316 pictured in Figure 1. "The UN Memorial Cemetery." "Gee", I mused, "I've never heard of that." Since the topic interested me, the cover was attractive and the price ($1.00) was right, I added it to my pile of covers.

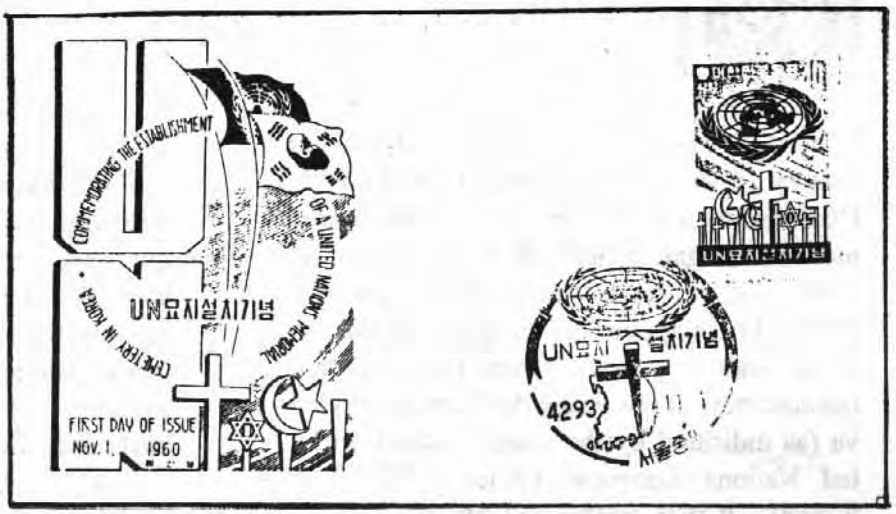

Figure 1: Korean FDC honoring the UNMCK.

Two weeks later the emblem of the UN caught my eye in one of the display cases at an antique mall in Mason City. Money exchanged hands ($30.00) and the UN Korean War medal in Figure 2 was mine. I particularly like the wording inscribed on the obverse "For service in defence of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations".

A visit to the World Wide Web courtesy of the reference librarian at the local public library produced a reference to a travel guide which yielded the address of the nearest (*in* Chicago) Consulate General of the Republic of Korea.

I wrote a nice letter to the consulate asking for information and photos on the UNMCK for an article for the ***Journal***. In view of the philatelic and well as historic nature of the article, I requested that they use official stationery bearing the corner card of the UNMCK, when they responded.

Two weeks later a nice size envelope (Figure 3), which had been pouched with the rest of the information to finish the article, arrived in the mail.

Figure 2: UN Korean War Medal.

The Cemetery

Here lie the dead of 2299 heroic warriors who gave up their lives to uphold peace and freedom and to defend the principles of the United Nations Charter. The United Nations Memorial Cemetery (UNMCK) in Daeyon-dong, Pusan, Korea is unique in that no other cemetery in the world specifically commemorates the fallen soldiers of the United Nations. It occupies 35.62 acres and was established by the United Nations Command

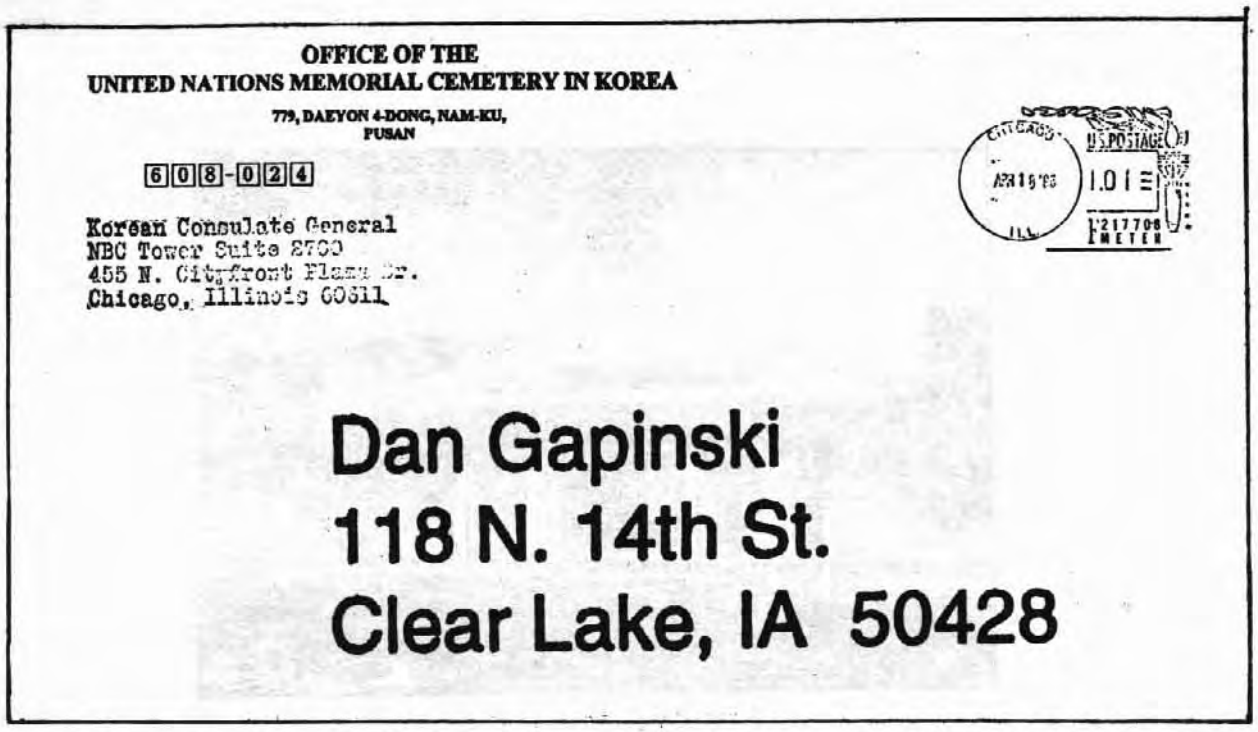

Figure 3: Cover from the Korean Consulate General in Chicago on UNMCK Stationery.

on January 18, 1951 when the first interments were made. The earthly remains of its dead were transferred from six other cemeteries throughout Korea. It was dedicated on April 5, 1951. The main gate of the Cemetery is shown in Figure 4.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea adopted a resolution on November 17, 1955 expressing gratitude and paying high tribute to the United Nations troops which fought in Korea. The resolution recommended that the government propose to the United Nations General Assembly that the establishment of a permanent United Nations memorial cemetery be approved. The General Assembly decided on December 12, 1955 to establish and maintain the UNMCK in honor of those who fell in Korea.

On November 6, 1959 a formal agreement between Korea and the UN was signed and the administration of the Cemetery was assumed by the UN on March 31, 1960. Under the terms of the agreement the land on which the Cemetery stands was granted to the UN without charge in perpetuity as a permanent tribute to the sacrifices made in the Korean conflict.

During the period between 1951 to 1954 the remains of approximately 11,000 men of the United Nations forces were gathered there. Today only 2299 graves remain. (Australia - 281, Canada - 378, France - 44, the Netherlands - 117, New Zealand - 34, Norway - 1, the Republic of Korea - 36, South Africa - 11, Turkey - 462, the United Kingdom - 884, the United States - 36, Unknown Soldiers - 4, Non-combattants - 11). The remains of military personnel from Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Greece, Philippines, Thailand, and the majority of the soldiers from the U.S., France and Norway were repatriated to their homelands. The layout of the plots and Symbolic Area is illustrated in Figure 5. Twenty-two nations are represented with some sharing plots. Each area has bronze plaques and national flags flying. The graves are marked with a plaque bearing information on the deceased.

Various other memorials and additions were added through the years. The Turkish Brigades have placed two memorials in the UNMCK with the most recent being dedicated to their fallen in June 1960. A memorial to the Greek Expeditionary Force was dedicated to the west of the Symbolic Area in early 1961. A Commonwealth Forces me-

Figure 4: The Main Gate of the UNMCK

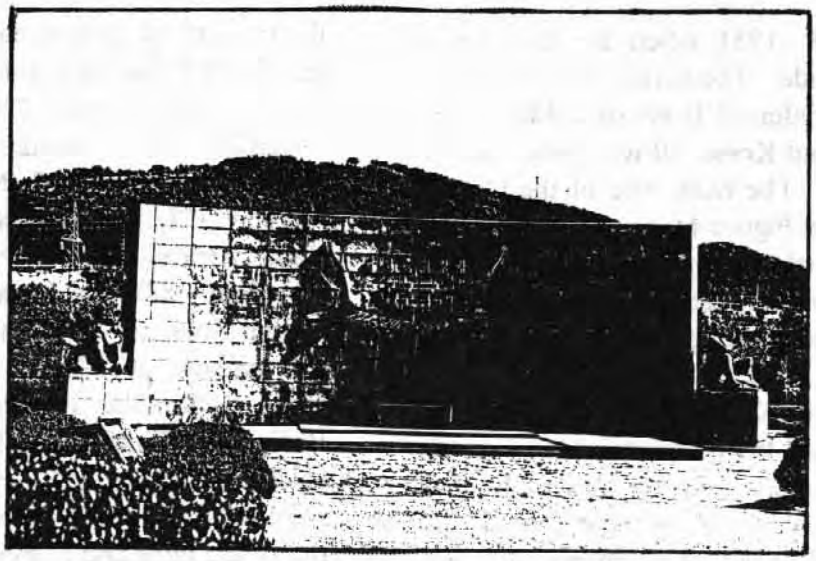

Figure 6: Special Memorial to the Fallen of Non-Korean United Nations Forces.

morial to the fallen missing-in-action was dedicated in May of 1965. The Republic of Korea, in 1978, dedicated a special memorial to the 37,895 members of the United Nations Forces, who gave their lives in the Korean War (Figure 6). Enshrined within are the Rolls of Honor with the names of all the fallen, except those from the Republic of Korea.

The United Nations inaugurated a Memorial Service Hall on August 21, 1964. It was designed and constructed by Korean architects. The design reflects the various religious faiths represented by the fallen.

The United Nations constructed a Memorabilia Hall, an administration building and a utilities building in 1968. The main gate was built in 1966.

Many trees, shrubs and works of art have been donated by governments, organizations and private individuals through the years.

Since February 16, 1974 the administration of the UNMCK has been handled by the Commission for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery. It is made up of representatives from eleven countries whose fallen remain there. They, in turn, appoint the Custodian of the Cemetery.

Every year more than 300,000 visitors visit the Cemetery. If you should be among the fortunate, please send me a postcard.

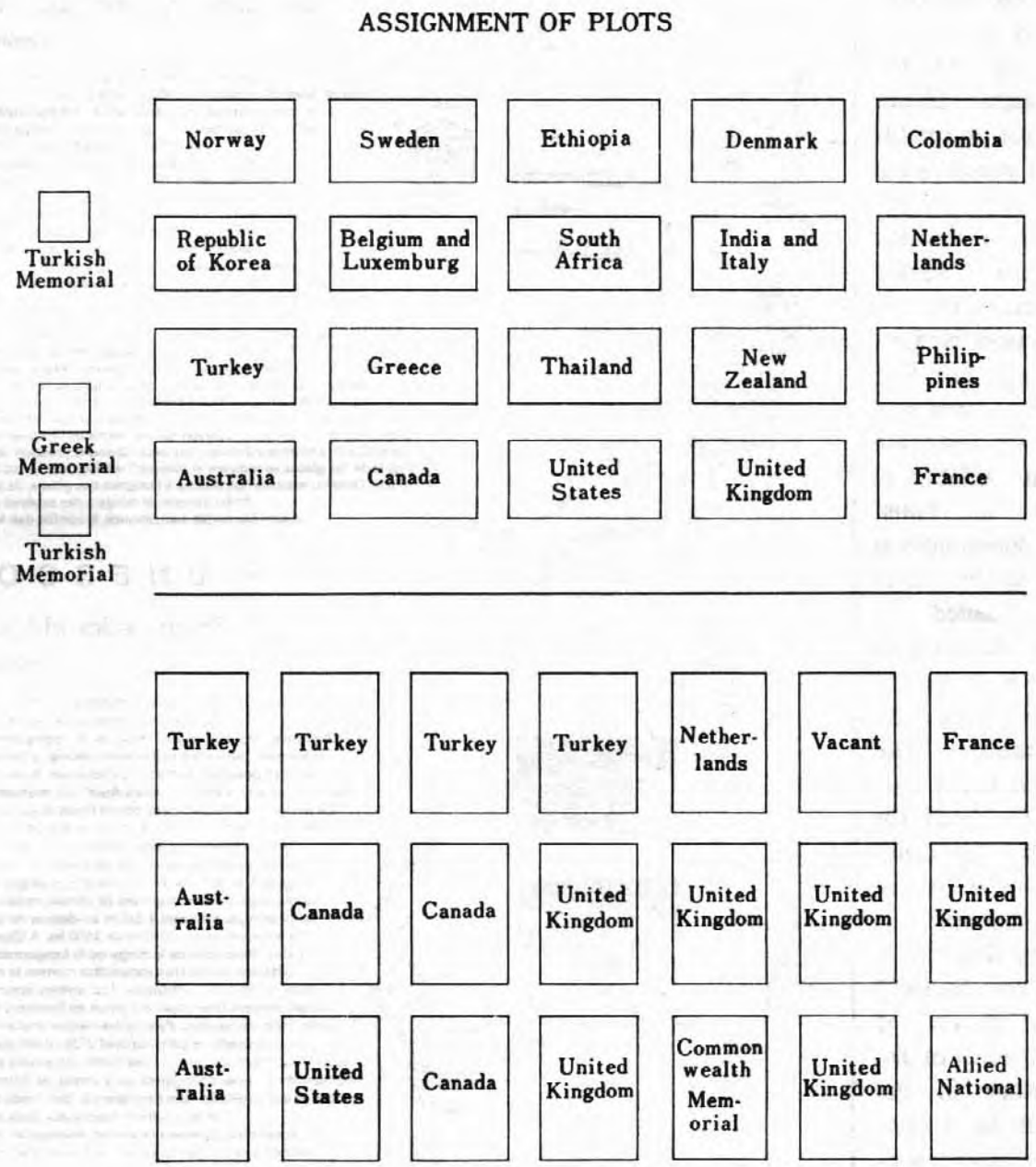

Figure 5: The Layout of Plots and the Symbolic Area.

TWO NEW WORLD HERITAGE STAMPS FOR UNESCO

By Richard Powers

On June 1, 1996 the French Post Office (La Poste) issued two more stamps honoring sites officially declared by UNESCO to be part of the World Heritage, places both man-made and natural worthy of preservation for future generations. The sites commemorated are the Uluru National Park in Australia (Fr. 3) and Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina (Fr. 3,80). As usual these service stamps are restricted for use at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The first denomination corresponds to the tariff for letters mailed in France with destinations to any of the members of the European Community (including France). The second denomination corresponds to the tariff for letters destined for other member nations in the European Postal Union.

Uluru was declared a biosphere reserve in 1977 and includes an area of about 330000 acres of aborigine territory in the center of Australia. It consists of vast sandy sections, dunes and an alluvial desert from which jut out imposing rock formations, the most famous of

Figure 1: Official Philatelic Document for 1996 UNESCO stamps.

which is called "Ayers Rock", which is pictured on the stamp. It is a monolith 6 miles in circumference which rises about 1000 feet above the level of the surrounding plain.

Los Glaciares National Park is located in the heart of Patagonia in Argentina and extends over an area of 1500000 acres. This high altitude lake region, which remained largely unexplored for a long time, was named a national park in 1937.

As usual La Poste has issued an Official Philatelic Document (Figure 1) which bears monocolored proofs of the stamps next to the actual stamps, which are tied to the document by a first day cancel. These cost Fr 22.39 (approximately $4.40) for deliveries outside France. A First Day Notice (Figure 2) without the proof bearing the stamp canceled on the day of issue costs Fr 10.78 (approximately $2.20). These items as well as mint stamps can be easily ordered using a credit card. More information can be obtained at the following address:

Service Philatélique de La Poste
18, rue François-Bonvin
F 75758 PARIS CEDEX 15
FRANCE

Dessinés
par Odette Baillais
Imprimés en offset

Timbres-poste de service UNESCO

Parc national Uluru - Australie
Uluru, déclaré réserve de la biosphère en 1977, s'étend sur une superficie de 132566 ha en terre aborigène. Au centre de l'Australie, ce parc national présente de vastes étendues sableuses, des dunes et un désert alluvial d'où surgissent d'imposantes formations rocheuses.
A 340 m au-dessus de la plaine s'élève "Ayers Rock", un monolithe de 9,4 km de circonférence, aux parois lisses et au sommet relativement plat. Ayers Rock est considéré par les Aborigènes comme un vaste sanctuaire. Des peintures rupestres témoignent d'une présence humaine qui remonte à 10000 ans. Autre curiosité géologique: les monts Olga, qui comprennent 36 dômes rocheux aux flancs abrupts s'élevant à 546 m au-dessus de la plaine, couvrent une superficie de 3500 ha.
A Uluru, les mammifères comme le dingo ou le kangourou roux côtoient les espèces introduites comme le renard roux, le lapin ou le chameau. Les reptiles australiens (varan, serpent brun royal et python de Ramsay) y sont également représentés. Patrimoine naturel d'une valeur exceptionnelle, le parc national d'Uluru est aussi un espace où l'homme a encore ses droits. On évalue à 80 le nombre de groupes aborigènes qui y vivent, se livrant à la chasse et à la cueillette. Afin de préserver leur mode de vie et leur culture, l'accès aux lieux sacrés considérés comme tels par les Aborigènes, et aux grottes à peintures rupestres a été interdit au public.

Parc national Los Glaciares - Argentine
Au cœur de la Patagonie (Argentine), s'étend, sur une superficie de 600 000 ha, le parc national des Glaciers. Cette région lacustre de haute montagne, classée "parc national" en 1937, est longtemps restée inexplorée. Charles Darwin, dans son *Voyage d'un naturaliste autour du monde* (1839), nous confie ses impressions: "Ces masses de neige, qui jamais ne fondent et qui paraissent destinées à durer aussi longtemps que le monde, offrent un spectacle noble et sublime...".
Quarante-sept glaciers mesurant jusqu'à 50 m de long, d'imposants cônes de granit comme le Fitz Roy et le Cerro Torre, des vents océaniques pouvant atteindre des vitesses de 200 km/h marquent ici la supériorité de la nature sur l'homme. C'est seulement en 1877 qu'un ingénieur, Francisco Moreno, découvrit un lac, au pied de la Cordillère, qu'il appela Argentin. Celui-ci reçoit en son lit un énorme glacier de 54 km de long avec un front large de 4 km. C'est là que se joue périodiquement un spectacle grandiose: le glacier, tel un barrage naturel, ferme un des bras du lac, entraînant la montée du niveau des eaux. Quand la pression devient trop forte, les glaces se rompent et libèrent 7 millions de mètres cubes d'eau.
Dans les espaces non soumis à l'emprise des glaces, de vastes forêts servent de refuge à des espèces rares: le cerf des Andes méridionales, le condor des Andes.

En 1961, La Poste a mis à la disposition de l'Unesco des timbres-poste de service. En dehors de la collection, ces figurines sont exclusivement réservées à l'affranchissement des objets déposés dans les boîtes aux lettres situées dans l'enceinte de l'Unesco, à Paris.

21 95 851 Reproduction interdite

IMPRIMERIE DES TIMBRES-POSTE ET DES VALEURS FIDUCIAIRES

LA POSTE

Figure 2: First Day Notice issued for the 1996 UNESCO stamps

SHOW AWARDS

A perusal of recent listings in **Linn's Stamp News** indicate that two United Nations related exhibits were honored at national philatelic exhibitions during the past few months.

At the Philadelphia National Show which took place in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania from September 27-29, 1996, Michelangelo and Angelo G. Giumanini shared a silver award for their thematic exhibit entitled ***Somalia 1950-1960 (UNO-Trusteeship)***.

At the Postage Stamp Mega-Event held in New York City from October 31 until November 3, 1996 UNP-member received a silver award for his exhibit entitled ***Swiss Official Stamps: UNEO and U.N. Agencies***.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: FIRST LADY OF THE WORLD

By Richard Powers

A few years ago I came across the first day cover pictured in Figure 1 in commemoration of Eleanor Roosevelt. The U.S. Post Office issued a stamp (Scott # 1236) the year following her death on November 7, 1962. The cacheted envelope was prepared by the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation. According to the accompanying letter written by Adlai E. Stevenson, a former ambassador to the United Nations and Governor of Illinois on behalf of this Foundation, its purpose was to perpetuate her interest in a number of fields including the United Nations. Even more interesting was the small envelope (Figure 2) tucked away inside the first day cover. It was sent by Mrs. Roosevelt in 1956 free under her franking privilege as widow of a U.S. President. The cover bears her rubber-stamped signature Anna Eleanor Roosevelt. Inside this envelope was the signed letter pictured in Figure 3. Spurred on by the statement of Governor Stevenson, I decided to do some research at the local Pasadena library to find out more about Mrs. Roosevelt's connection to the United Nations.

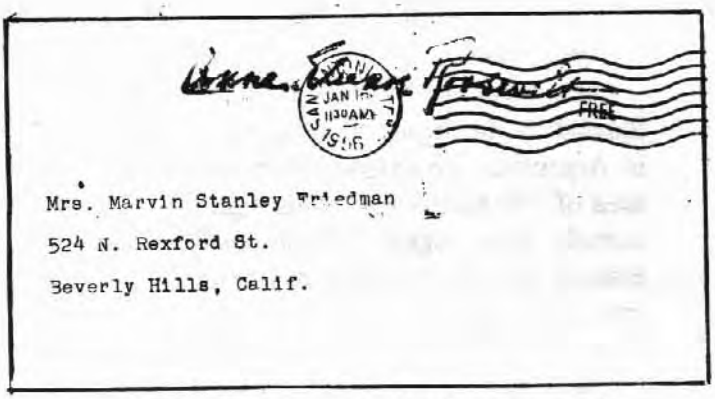

Figure 2: Cover sent free by Mrs. Roosevelt under the franking privilege granted presidential widows.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born on October 11, 1884 in New York City. She was active in educational, sociological and political affairs during her entire life. Her interest in the United Nations began as a U.S. Representative to the Conference on International Organization in San Francisco in 1945. She was appointed a U.S. Representative to the first United Nations General Assembly in December 1945. Figure 4 shows a cover bearing her typed name added to the printed

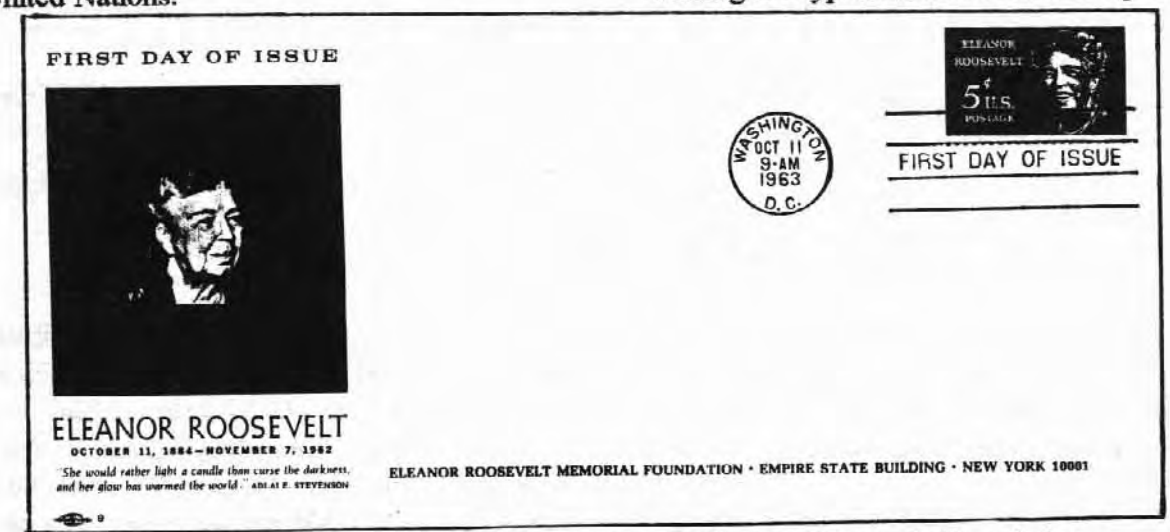

Figure 1: FDC of US #1236 prepared by the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation.

Chapters of the UNPI

Midwest UN Collectors: meets intermittently usually at shows in the Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska area. Contact Wilma Hinrichs, 4200 S.E. Indianola Road, Des Moines, IA 50320.

UN Collectors of Chicagoland, Inc.: usually meets the second Monday of the month except in July and August at Stamp King, 7139 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: Dr. Ben Ramkissoon, P.O.Box 606, Hindsdale, IL 60522-0606.

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

Eastern UN Collectors Club: meets at shows in the New York - New Jersey -Maryland area. Contact: Greg Galletti, Box 466, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Member Advertisements

WANTED: Lower right MI4 UNNY #11 1st printing with keyhole cutout and control number. Contact: R. Powers, #422, 2445 East Del Mar Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107

Members are reminded that they may submit two philatelic advertisements per year for inclusion in ***The Journal*** free of charge. Neither should be more than about five lines. These will appear in the order received according to space available.

Disclaimer

All opinions expressed in this journal are the responsibility of the author and are not necessarily indicative of the opinions of the Editor, UNPI Officers or the club membership.

Journal Deadlines

The deadline for submission of material for publication is the first day of the month preceding the issue month. The deadline for the April issue is March 1st.

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July 1, 1996-June 30, 1998

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