

Authoring World Peace

International Delegates and the United Nations Charter

Historical Background

The League of Nations' unsuccessful attempts to maintain world peace resulted in World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with representatives of embattled and occupied European countries, laying the groundwork for our postwar world. Those meetings led to a United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) in San Francisco with the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China agreeing to co-sponsor the event. With representatives of 50 nations attending, development of a document to ensure world peace ensued, resulting in the "United Nations Charter". The signing of the "Charter" provided a new hope for a world suffering the results of a global war and a new peace organization appeared in the form of the United Nations.

Scope

This exhibit focuses on the authors of the United Nations Charter. The exhibit begins with Roosevelt's four freedoms, used as the basic tenets of the document. The exhibit further introduces the venue, members of the international delegations and the 'Charter' they produced on the road to a new world peace.

Material Availability

The variety of philatelic elements include photo essays, die proof, definitive issues, airmail issues, coil strip, printings, souvenir sheetlet, margin inscription, plate block, paper fold error, first day covers, postage meters, examples of forwarding fee, domestic and international destinations, rates and services. Due to the conference's brevity (25 April - 26 June), official 'delegate mail' is relatively scarce. Attention is drawn to corner cards reflecting the fledgling organization's official stationery. Service covers from conference delegations (14 recorded) or representatives (3 recorded), are seldom available and although highly sought after, rarely obtainable. Of these coveted examples, four are included in this exhibit (two delegation, one representative and one security detail). Philatelically inspired items are minimized and commercial usages are favored. As most delegates are not represented in philately, an effort was made to include all who are, to the knowledge of students of this area.

Highlights (matted in dark blue)

- Essays of rejected design for Roosevelt commemorative issue (only recorded example)
- Die Proof for U.N.N.Y. 5¢ commemorative issue (numbered example)
- 'San Francisco Welcomes the United Nations' postage meter on cover (4 recorded examples)
- Service cover from South African Delegation to UNCIO (2 recorded examples)
- Service cover from Belgian Delegation to UNCIO (3 recorded examples)
- Hotel cover from Iranian Delegate (2 recorded examples)
- Service cover from Peruvian Delegation to UNCIO (2 recorded examples)
- University Press cover to UNCIO (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by Syrian UNCIO Delegate (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by Chinese UNCIO Delegate (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by full Cuban UNCIO Delegation (only recorded example)
- Service cover from U.S. Marine Security Detail at UNCIO (only recorded example)

References

United Nations Primer, Key to the Conferences - Sigrid Arne, 1945, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., N.Y.
United Nations Philately - Arleigh Gaines, 1980, R.&D. Publications, N.Y.