

EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

TOWARD UNITED NATIONS

THE FIVE CENT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF 1945

Historical Background

The League of Nations was unsuccessful in maintaining world peace and World War II became a reality in 1939. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with leaders of the embattled and occupied countries during this period, he laid the groundwork for our postwar world. The results of those meetings led to the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) which took place in San Francisco from 9 April through 26 June 1945 and was attended by fifty nations. This postage stamp, designed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was issued to commemorate and be used on mail from the conference.

Scope

This stamp issue was assigned a 5¢ value (the foreign surface rate) to promote this fledgling organization with a political statement to nations who had not originally agreed to become members. This exhibit focuses on the development and use of this single commemorative stamp from the design phase to domestic as well as foreign destinations as was the original intent. The exhibit is organized:

1. Design
2. Domestic and Territorial Use
3. Foreign Destinations by rate (surface and airmail) based on continental destination

Rates within the U.S., to North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia as well as Special Delivery and Registration special services are included. Examples to every country in the world does not serve a purpose in this exhibit and therefore, single examples of each rate and continental destination per U.S. Postal Guidelines are included. U.N. related destinations or multiple franking covers are preferred when selecting a cover to represent each rate.

Material Availability

Design material is exceptionally rare and the only recorded pieces are included in this exhibit. Due to the brevity of the conference (9 April - 26 June 1945), official mail from the conference is relatively scarce (33 covers recorded). Of those, covers franked with this issue from national delegations (four recorded) are seldom available and although highly sought after, rarely obtainable. Of these four recorded delegation covers, one is included in this exhibit - the only recorded example from the U.S. Delegation. Three covers bearing the issue on personal delegate mail are recorded and two are in this exhibit (Canada and Iran).

Attention is drawn specifically to U.N. related destinations such as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration or Refugee camp destinations and other unusual usages. Philatelically inspired items are minimized and commercial usages make up the majority of pieces.

Highlights

- Photo Essay of rejected design
- Photo Essays of rejected designs mounted on U.S. Government watermarked paper
- Small Die Proof of final design
- First Day Cover (unofficial city) signed by the Iraqi UNCIO Delegate
- Registration use by Canadian military personnel using U.S. APO services
- 'Forwarded in Pouch' diplomatic usage to UNRRA Refugee Camp Nuseirat
- Hotel covers from Iranian and Canadian UNCIO Delegates
- Service cover from U.S. Delegation at the UNCIO

References

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