U.N. PARIS GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

1948 and 1951

After World War II, the work of reassembling Europe and addressing larger issues of refugees, human rights, and atomic weapons, continued unabated. The newly formed United Nations' third session of the General Assembly met in Paris, France, from 3 September through 12 December 1948 in the Palais de Chaillot. Again, from 6 November 1951 through 8 February 1952, the same site was used for the sixth session with many of the same issues on its agenda.

During these periods, more than half of the personnel assigned to the United Nations Secretariat were relocated to Paris. With them came the need for postal service, much of it arranged through the French postal system.

Exhibit Scope

This exhibit documents the temporary postal facilities inside and outside the Palais used during these proceedings as well as the people and issues of the meetings.

Original research is used throughout and this is the most comprehensive showing of this period of United Nations development to date. Covers with cornercards are the only verification for official mail which originated from temporary post offices within the Palais de Chaillot. Important items have dark blue mattes.

Exhibit Plan

1948
    Conference and Postal Issues
    General Assembly Agenda
    Advance Party
    Delegates
1951
    Conference and Postal Issues
    General Assembly Agenda
    Advance Party
Postal Markings, Machines and Meters

Exhibit Highlights

Postal issues of September, 1948 and November, 1951. Featuring:

Signed artist die proofs from soft master die (fewer than 15 recorded).
Deluxe proofs from hardened master die presented to delegates.

Advance party - prior to Assembly, August, 1948. Featuring:

Service cover mailed before Assembly started (only recorded example).

Delegate postal service, January, 1952. Featuring:

Delegate stationery of Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt mailed at Palais post office (only recorded example).

Advance party - prior to Assembly, November, 1951. Featuring:

Service cover mailed before Assembly started (only recorded example).

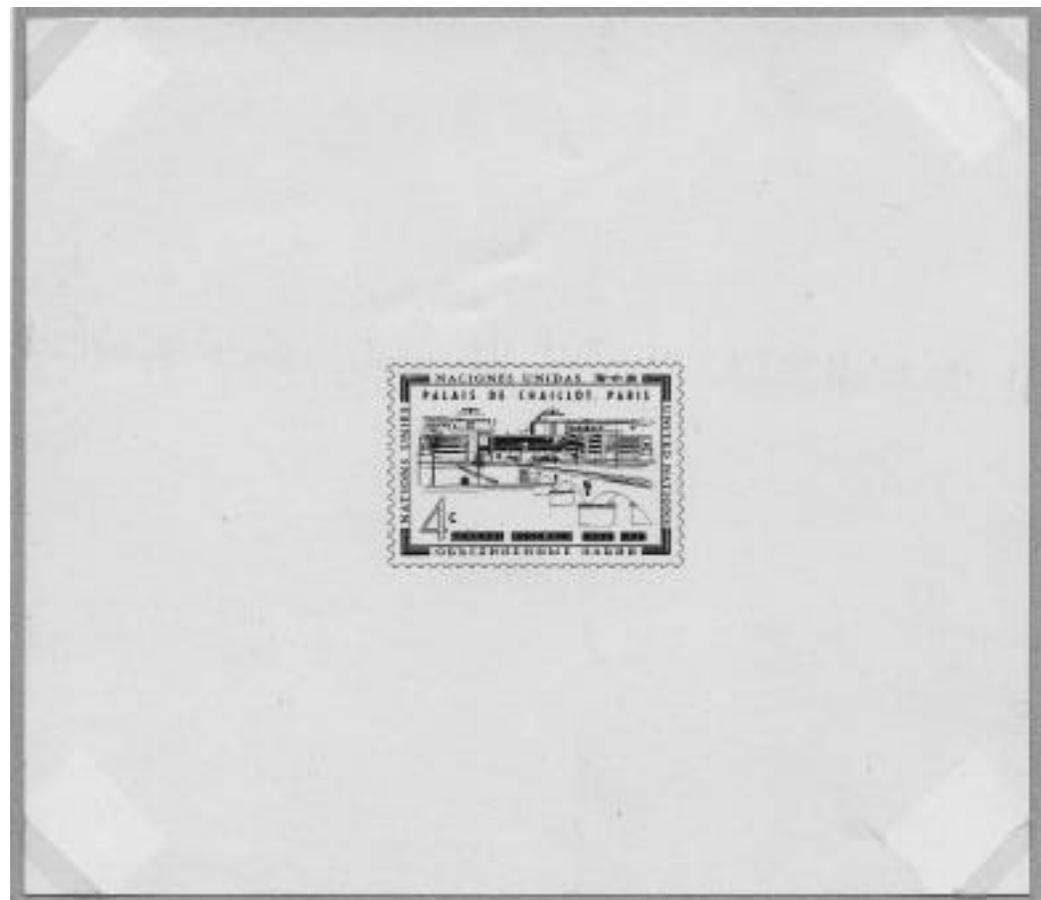Assembly post offices offered meter franking machines. Featuring:

All meter machine numbers on cover or tape (relatively scarce).

Photographic essay of unaccepted design for 1960 commemorative issue

Mast in 'C' of Chaillot

Mast in 'H' of Chaillot