

unusual for a postal card. One of just 4 known solo uses of the \$1 stamp, of which this is one of two paying an exact rate is included.

Reflecting the international scope of the UN, covers destined for all inhabited continents (except Antarctica) are shown. As the stamps were only valid from the UN headquarters in New York, virtually all covers originate from there. This exhibit does include a number of covers originating from various locations around the world, but forwarded through the UN, using UN postage.



A solo 2¢ stamp is shown paying the printed matter rate on a cover to Hong Kong. An airmail cover to Guatemala is franked with a solo 10¢ definitive stamp – prior to the issue of the corresponding airmail stamp two days later. A postcard to Finland is shown franked with a solo 15¢ stamp paying the letter rate prior to a separate rate for cards. And, a letter sent to Cambodia, transiting Saigon, Vietnam, franked with a solo 25¢ airmail stamp is among the highlights.

Research

This collector has made contributions to the knowledge of this issue, particularly regarding the precancel. A census of the precancel covers conducted by this exhibitor has yielded much new information about their use. Discoveries and contributions are reflected by updates to the Gaines catalog and in articles in the UNP Journal.

Recent Changes and Additions

This edition of the exhibit was entirely re-written for INDYPEX 2004. The addition of approximately 45 pieces from the UN archive sale, as well as specimen, photo essays (believed to come from the personal holdings of a member of the stamp selection committee), and other pre-production material, completes the traditional treatment of this set of stamps.

The use of double-wide pages allows the many business-sized envelopes to be shown horizontally. An additional benefit of the oversized pages is that more covers could be shown in less space. A number of new covers have been added and others have been replaced with better

examples.

After many years of searching, I finally added a solo use of the 50¢ stamp to my collection. The cover, from a non-governmental organization, demonstrates the double weight airmail rate to Australia. The cover is one of just four legitimate non-philatelic uses known to this expert. The exhibit now includes a solo use of each stamp.

References

United Nations Regular and Airmail Postage Stamps 1951-1966

Ramón Goodey (1976)

While almost 30 years old, this remains the definitive study of the First Issue. In three sections, 249 pages in loose-leaf binder format

United Nations Philately

Arleigh Gaines, ed.

1980 R&D Publications, Inc., w/supplements (3 times a year until October 1997)

A massive UN catalog, it contains a summarized and updated version of the above publication. It includes corrections and new discoveries since Goodey's book was published. Pages of interest are 1 through 20.6. In loose-leaf binder format.

The Journal of The United Nations Philatelists

UNP, Inc. (Issued 6 times per year)

- “New Discoveries and Mysteries for UN Tenth Anniversary Precancel Covers” by Anthony Dewey. August 2004: Volume 28, No. 4, Whole No. 161, pp. 4-9.
- “A Survey of Some United Nations First Issue Postal History” by Richard Powers. December 2001: Volume 25, No. 6, Whole No. 145, pp. 9-15.
- “Fake De La Rue ‘Specimen’ Stamps Revealed” by Anthony Dewey. February 2001: Volume 25, No. 1, Whole No. 140, pp. 14-17.
- “First Issues: The Imperforate 15¢ Airmail” by Anthony Dewey. April 1997, Volume 21, No. 2, Whole No. 117, pp. 6-10.
- “First Issues: Catalog Updates & A New 6¢ Airmail Freak” by Anthony Dewey. August 1996, Volume 20, No. 4, Whole No. 113, pp. 6-7.

The United Nations Archives, November 18-21, 2003

Steven C. Frumkin, ed.

Greg Manning Galleries

The heavily illustrated catalog of the archive sale. First Issue material is covered in the first 88 lots, pp. 1-21.



FIRST U.N. ISSUE 1951



SYNOPSIS FOR: ARIPEX 2005

On March 28, 1951 an agreement between the United States of America and the United Nations was signed establishing the United Nations Postal Administration, the first and only postal service operated by an international organization. Postage issued by the UNPA would be valid only from the UN headquarters in New York and subject to the rules and regulations of the United States Post Office Department.

Exhibit Objective

This exhibit is a detailed traditional treatment showing the development, production, and use of the eleven definitive and four airmail stamps, including the precancelled 1½¢ stamp, known collectively as the First Issue of the UN.

Organization

The job of printing the stamps was split between two firms, Thomas De La Rue and Co., Ltd., London, England and J. Enschedé en Zonen, Haarlem, Netherlands. While the definitive stamps in this issue would have the same dimensions and use the same gauge perforations, the stamps printed by De La Rue would have a horizontal format while the Enschedé issues would be oriented vertically. Additionally, production characteristics such as sheet layout, perforation methods, paper and ink types, and marginal markings differed between the two printers. Because of their larger size, the airmail stamps printed by De La Rue had a completely different layout altogether.

The exhibit is therefore divided into three sections:

- I. Regular Issues by Enschedé
- II. Regular Issues by De La Rue
- III. Airmail Issues by De La Rue

With each section organized as follows:

- A. Introduction
 1. Stamps & Printing Volumes
 2. Print Sheet Layout
 3. Perforation Guide Marks
 4. Cutouts (Enschedé issues only)
 5. Control Numbers (De La Rue issues only)
 6. Gum Type (Enschedé only)
- B. Study of Each Value
 1. Pre-production material
 2. Printings
 - a. The stamp
 - b. Cutout varieties & errors (Enschedé)

- c. Printing varieties & errors
 - d. Perforation varieties & errors
 - e. Trimming varieties & errors
 - f. Control Number varieties & errors
 - g. Significant plate varieties
3. Usages

Presentation

There is a fair amount of text in this exhibit. This is especially true in the descriptions for each printing. I have used capital letters to identify them (e.g. “FIRST PRINTING”, “SECOND PRINTING”, etc.) so that you may readily find/verify each.

If there is something noteworthy about an item, that statement is made to stand out by being separated from the main text by a blank line. If the information is particularly interesting, that statement will be italicized. Italics are also used to highlight auxiliary, but interesting information. When the information is important besides being interesting, that text will be highlighted with bold type.

Key items in the exhibit are highlighted by a blue border and may be accompanied by a caption in bold type. Important items that do not merit such treatment will be identified by the use of bold text alone.

In following the sequence of essays & proofs, stamps, varieties, and uses dictated by the Traditional format, the “good stuff” will not always fall into the middle two rows. Highlights are interspersed throughout the exhibit - from the top row through the bottom row. I promise that it will be worth standing on tip-toe and crouching down!

About the Stamps

The sale of the UN archives in 2003 presented an unprecedented opportunity for collectors – one which did not escape this exhibitor. Included in this exhibit are the majority of the die essays, color trials and proofs available for the First Issue from that sale. Even so, such ma-

material is far from plentiful. Most of the items shown are unique.

Even among the archive items there are a few standout pieces. For the 1½¢, 2¢, 3¢, 50¢ and \$1 stamps “color trials” of the finished die in the colors of the issued stamps are indeed true die proofs. A pair of impressions of the 5¢ stamp sold as color trials are, in fact, alternate, but unused, die engravings - known to collectors, but never before seen. The original pencil drawing of the 20¢ stamp, from which the guide plate for the pantograph engraving machine was made, is shown. The upper left margin block of the 20¢ stamp includes the plate calculations, all but trimmed off issued panes. Unfortunately, Greg Manning broke up the pane without consulting a First Issue specialist and some of the plate calculations are on another block (yet to be obtained by this collector).

While the archive sale provided a windfall, over the last 20+ years I have managed to obtain a number of pre-production pieces: preliminary artwork for the 1½¢ and 50¢ stamps by designer Leon Helguera, an imperforate corner block of 4 from the printer’s proof sheet for the 1½¢ stamp, a rejected essay by artist Olav Mathiesen for the 5¢ issue, the MI block of 6 from a printer’s “make ready” sheet for the 10¢ definitive stamp, a De La Rue sample card of First Issue specimen stamps, a trial color proof of the 25¢ stamp, die proofs on card for the 6¢, 10¢, and 15¢ airmail stamps, an imperforate margin block (4) from a printer’s proof sheet for the 6¢ airmail, a margin single from a printer’s proof sheet for the 15¢ airmail (one of just 7 copies known), and a preliminary drawing for the 15¢ and 25¢ airmail stamps. *Note: full imperforate proof sheets of the 10¢ and 25¢ airmail stamps exist, still intact.*

Also shown are stamp-sized photo essays and photo essays annotated by the designer/artist. The small photos were used by the stamp selection committee to envision

how the artists’ designs would translate to the stamp medium. As such, they illustrate an important aspect in the selection and production of these stamps.

The stamps of the First Issue are traditionally collected in margin blocks of 4 or greater since perforations and marginal markings (e.g. cutouts, control numbers, and perforation guide marks) are critical in identifying the printings. With the exception of the 5¢ UNICEF issue, all stamps of the First Issue were reprinted. Using perforations, guide marks, cutouts, ink and paper color and paper fluorescence, the various printings can be distinguished. The scale devised by Ramón Goodey is used to indicate the level of fluorescence of the stamp paper. All printings of the First Issue are represented in this exhibit.

Until February 1955, the UN required printers to apply counting numbers in the margin of each pane. The “Control Numbers” were used as an inventory control device. While Enschedé used a single typeface throughout their use, De La Rue used five distinct typefaces. According to Ramón Goodey, the author of the definitive study of this issue, the rarest control number errors are the doubled numbers. This exhibit includes two examples: a doubled 042 on the 3¢ issue and the only recorded double number (041) on the 15¢ stamp. Examples of the equally elusive inverted control numbers are included for the 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, and 25¢ definitive stamps.

The stamps printed by Enschedé feature a cutout in the margin used by the Dutch P.T.T. as a security control device. A different cutout was used for each printing. All cutouts used for the First Issue are shown in this exhibit. This includes examples of the “Heart” cutout (both large and small varieties) of the 1½¢ 3rd printing, where almost all of these were trimmed off. One of the two recorded copies of the large heart in the upper margin is shown. Other highlights include the “Keystone” cutout of the 50¢ 3rd printing, a doubled “Spade” cutout of the 1½¢ 2nd printing, and the “regular L” (reversed) cutout from the 1st printing of the 1½¢ stamp.

The 3¢, 15¢ and 25¢ stamps depicting the UN flag were printed by two separate processes (photogravure and intaglio) in two passes. Mis-registration and slip-page of the sheet during the second (intaglio) pass, when the frame was printed, caused the popular “flag shifts”. While a copy of the full “half-mast” variety of the flag shift on the 3¢ stamp still eludes this collector,

Many of the pre-production items shown in this exhibit were used to illustrate the Goodey book and the Gaines catalog.



unused alternate engravings on card



the exhibit includes a corner margin block of four with a major downward shift. A single 3¢ stamp exhibiting the largest upward shift, thus reported, is also shown. Single copies of the 15¢ and 25¢ stamps exhibiting the largest reported downward shifts are included, as well. A corner margin block of 4 of the 25¢ stamp with a major upward shift is shown, as is a single with a downward shift on commercial cover.

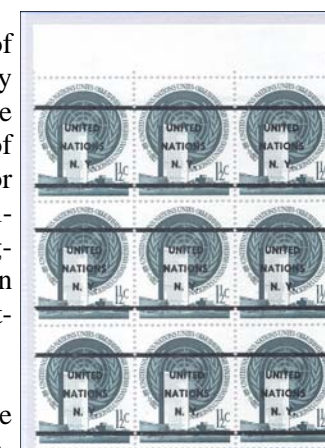
The Prussian Blue color error of the 5th printing of the 15¢ airmail stamp was caused when vermilion red was omitted from the ink mixture. A corner margin block of 6, a used single and a single used on cover are shown in this exhibit.

Plate numbers, although etched into the plates, rarely showed up on the panes sold to the public. The plate numbers were in a section of the plate which was not normally inked and usually trimmed from the printed sheet when cut into panes. Examples of all known plate numbers are shown in this exhibit: “PL5” on the 2¢ 5th printing and “PL2” on the 5th, 6th, and 7th printings of the \$1 issue.

The only service stamp issued by the UN was created by overprinting the 1½¢ stamp of the First Issue. This exhibit includes the largest mint block (9) of the precancel stamp known outside of the UN postal museum in Geneva, two mint MI control number blocks of 4 (one from an upper pane and one from a lower pane), and a used block of 4.

While only a fraction of the precancel covers in my collection are shown, those included represent some of the most significant and/or scarce. Covers are identified by the types designated by Arleigh Gaines in “United Nations Philately.”

Since the mailings were 3rd class bulk rate material, the stamps and covers were not intended to receive any postal markings. The Type A cover from the 1st mailing bears a forwarding postmark dated October 13,



1952 - the earliest recorded usage. A Type I cover, representing the 5th mailing, is one of 5 precancel covers known where the stamp is “tied” to the envelope with a misplaced forwarding cancel. Another Type I cover is one of 3 known to a foreign destination. The Type D cover, representing the 2nd mailing, is one of 5 recorded for this type.

Covers

It is my philosophy that the role of covers in a Traditional exhibit is a) to show the stamps used as intended to demonstrate why they existed and b) to show how they were actually used by the public. That they should also be interesting, unusual, and significant is an added bonus of those shown here.

Covers included in this exhibit show the use of the stamps while they were on sale from the UNPA. (The last of the First Issue to be removed from sale was the 1½¢ stamp on March 14, 1967.) While these definitive and airmail stamps were the workhorse issue for the UN, low printing volumes coupled with large philatelic sales and heavy use of meters for official mail, contribute to a paucity of non-philatelic covers. Many of the examples included in the exhibit are on official UN stationary, often addressed to government officials and UN dignitaries.

As postal rates changed over the sale period, primary use for some stamps changed. In many cases, covers show a solo use or multiple use of just one stamp. A wide variety of rates are included: domestic (US) letter and post card rates, air mail, registered, insured, certified and special delivery, as well as international letter and post card surface rates, air mail, registered, and printed matter.

The exhibit includes two examples of the 1¢ stamp paying the penny postcard rate, which increased to 2¢ just 69 days after the stamp was issued. The 3¢ flag stamp is shown paying the transient 2nd class rate, a use that would challenge most “Prexie” and “Liberty” series collectors. A single 15¢ flag stamp is shown added to a 2¢ postal card to pay the certified fee –

Imagine the challenge of collecting postal history of the Prexie or Liberty US series if restricted to uses from/through just a single post office in mid-town Manhattan.



1¢ stamp used on certificate of mailing