

EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

Conference on International Organization

Founding of the United Nations in San Francisco - 1945

Historical Background:

As World War II wound to a close, the time had come to form a permanent world organization dedicated to the Four Freedoms that President Roosevelt expressed in a speech to the U.S. Congress on January 6, 1941. Countless meetings had been held by various representatives of the over-run nations, by Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and Chiang Kai-shek. The proposed Charter was developed at the previous Dumbarton Oaks Meetings. On April 25, 1945, the opening session of the Conference on International Organization commenced with The Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. The Secretary of the Conference was Mr. Alger Hiss.

Scope:

Various aspects of the Conference are covered, commencing with planning and followed with the U.S. commemorative stamp issue, location, attendee representatives, the Charter and its printing, the signing, and incoming and outgoing mail. These events are covered by relevant stamps and covers.

Material Availability:

Very few covers from this Conference have survived, though many collectors have searched. Several in this exhibit are unique. Surprisingly, very few countries issued stamps picturing their representatives at this world event. The United Nations did honor their birth by several postal issues as shown including several printing varieties.

Philatelic Elements:

The pages of this exhibit display various philatelic elements of interest. Included are: die proof, perforate and imperforate issues, commemorative and memorial issues, postal plate or sheet margin markings, printing varieties, cancel devices/postal imprints, postage meter imprints, official stationery, and various rates.

Highlights include (with dark blue matte):

United Nations Conference Committee service cover (page 1)
Serialized die proof in issued color (page 5)
Official Argentinian delegation service cover (page 6)
Official Belgian delegation service cover (page 12)
Official service cover mailed on last day of Conference (page 12)

References:

A Chronology and Fact Book of the United Nations 1941-1978
Waldo Chamberlin, Thomas Hovet, Jr., and Erica Hovet, 1978, Oceana Publications Inc., NY
OAT and AV2 Markings
Murray Heifetz, 1997, American Air Mail Society
United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog
Joel A. Hawkins & Richard Stambaugh, 1994, 2nd Edition, Published by authors, Arizona
United Nations Philately
Arleigh Gaines, 1980, R.&D. Publications, NY