

TOWARD UNITED NATIONS

THE FIVE CENT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF 1945

Synopsis

This special study documents the issue's design and postal use. Material is organized in production order followed by domestic and foreign destinations; arranged by service type, geographic destination and rate in chronological order. Examples of all rates are included and U.N. related destinations or multiple franking covers are preferred. Official UNCIO service mail ends this presentation.

Historical Background

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed a new world peace organization to replace the League of Nations. World nations agreed to an international conference to be held in San Francisco and a postage stamp issue was planned to commemorate the event.

Intended as a postal ambassador for the fledgling organization, the stamp was assigned a 5¢ value, the first class surface rate to foreign destinations. Various designs were rejected and on 3 April, Roosevelt suggested the wording "Toward United Nations, April 25, 1945", and a simple border with the words over a laurel branch. Roosevelt died two weeks before the conference and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing added his name to the design as the quote's author.

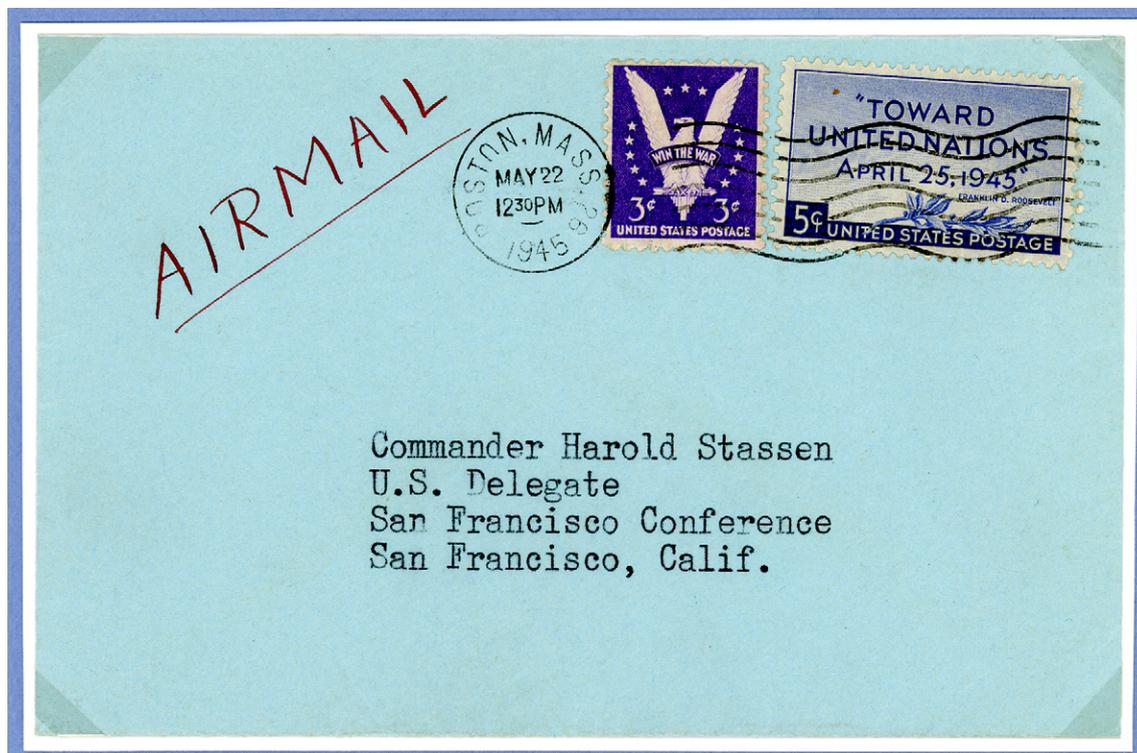
Items presenting a special challenge in acquisition are matted in dark blue

Highlights

Essays, small die proof, signed FDC and UNRRA items are of special interest. Use by delegations (service mail) is of exceptional interest as only four examples bearing this issue are recorded. The single recorded U.S. Delegation cover is included.

Postal Rates (2/45 - 12/49)

Domestic	2/45	10/46	1/49
Surface (per 1 oz.)	3¢	-	-
Airmail (per 1 oz.)	8¢	5¢	6¢
APO/FPO (per 1/2 oz.)	6¢	-	-
Territory (per 1/2 oz.)	15¢	5¢	-
Special Delivery	13¢	-	15¢
Registration	20¢	-	-
International	2/45	10/46	1/49
Surface (< 1 oz.)	5¢	-	-
Airmail (per 1/2 oz.)			
N. America	8¢	10¢	-
S. America	20¢	10¢	-
Europe	30¢	15¢	-
Africa	60¢	25¢	-
Asia	70¢	25¢	-



Boston, Ma. to San Francisco, Ca., 22 May 1945, 2/45 domestic airmail rate 8¢ per oz. Addressed to Commander Harold Stassen, U.S. Delegate to the UNCIO Conference