

“My 5¢ Worth” : The 5¢ Commemorative Issue of 1945

By Fran Adams

President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with leaders of embattled nations during World War II and championed a new world peace organization to replace the League of Nations. The United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) was held in San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945 and attended by fifty nations. To publicize this event, a commemorative postage stamp was planned for the occasion.

Various designs were rejected and on April 3, President Roosevelt suggested the wording “Toward United Nations, April 25, 1945” as the design’s central element with a simple border and a small laurel branch (Figure 1). Roosevelt died two weeks before the conference began and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing added his name to the design as the quote’s author.

Intended as a postal ambassador for the fledgling organization, the stamp was assigned a five-cent value as an underlying political statement and issued on the first day of the conference (Figure 2). Five cents paid the foreign destination surface rate to all nations, including those that did

not originally agree to participate in the formation of a new international peace organization to replace the League of Nations.

Representing a conference where nations agreed on a code of international conduct, the postal significance of this stamp bears special mention for

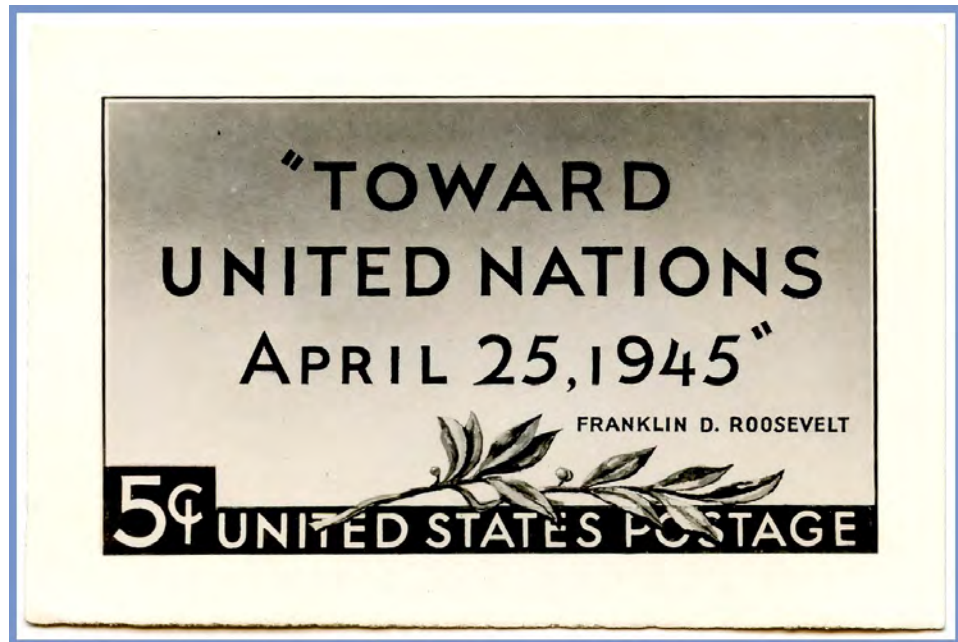


Figure 1 – Photo essay of approved design in grayscale
(Original size – 83mm x 54mm)



Figure 2: Plate block with first day of use cancel
San Francisco, CA; Station #57

for its impact on spreading the word of the formation of an international organization seeking peace for mankind. No single issue from any nation compares to the social message extended by this simple stamp that essentially affects the welfare of humanity.

In this series of articles we'll explore designs, destinations, postal rates (multiple copies for higher fees) and interesting examples such as special services and U.N. related (Figure 3) uses.

Letter rates during the 1940s time period:

	2/45	10/46	1/49
Domestic			
First Class (per oz)	3¢	-	-
Airmail (per oz)	8¢	5¢	6¢
APO/FPO (per 0.5 oz)	6¢	-	-
Territory (per 0.5 oz)	15¢	5¢	-

International	2/45	10/46	1/49
Surface (<1 oz)	5¢	-	-
Airmail (per 0.5 oz)			
N. America	8¢	10¢	-
S. America	20¢	10¢	-
Europe	30¢	25¢	-
Africa	60¢	25¢	-
Asia	70¢	25¢	-
Special Services			
Special Delivery	13¢	-	15¢
Registration	20¢	-	-

References:

1. Scott 928, Richard Powers; Journal of UNP, Vol 27 #3 June 2003, Pg. 20
2. FDR and Stamps of the US 1933-45, Brian Baur; Linn's, Pg. 318
3. US Domestic Postal Rates 1872-1999, Beecher and Wawrukiewicz
4. US International Postal Rates 1872-1996, Beecher and Wawrukiewicz



Figure 3: Boston, MA to San Francisco, CA, May 22, 1945
 Addressed to Commander Harold Stassen, U.S. Delegate
 Domestic airmail rate of 8¢