

55th Council Session - League of Nations

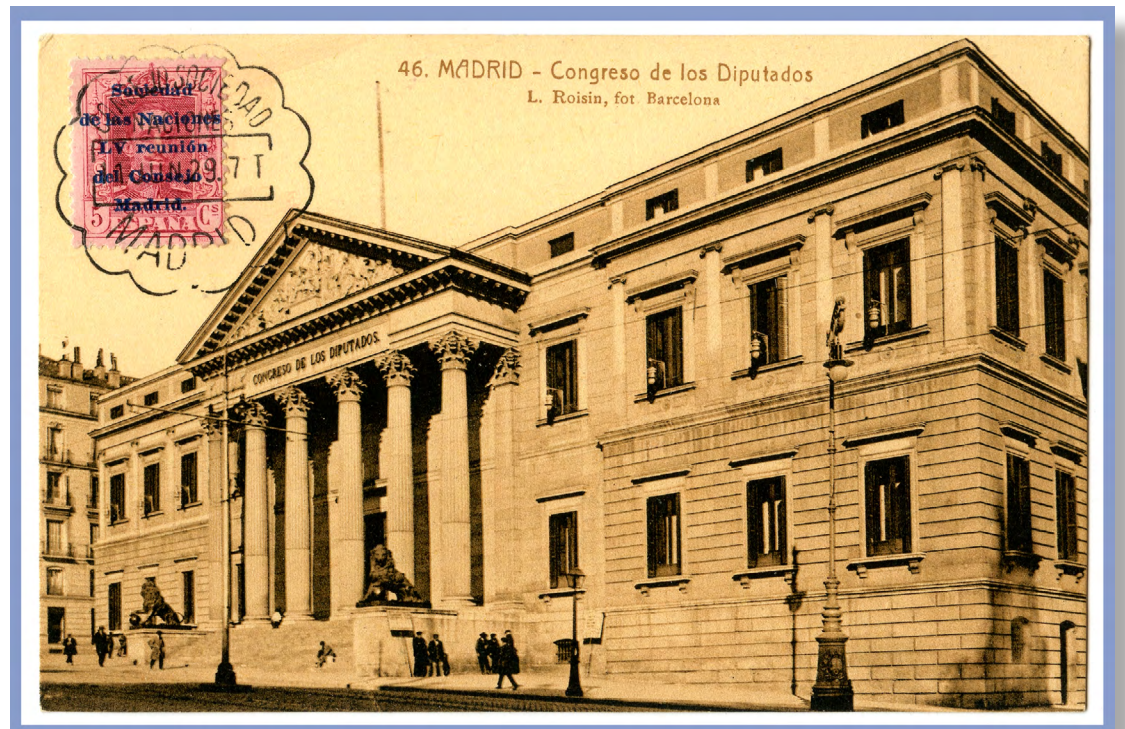
Madrid, Spain - 10-16 June, 1929

The League of Nations' administrative structure included a Council which discussed which issues should be presented to the General Assembly. Council sessions were normally held in Geneva but in several instances, other cities hosted sessions. Madrid, Spain was the site of the 55th session and the Spanish postal system honored the meeting through a set of overprinted stamps publicly available and valid for use only during the period of 10-16 June, 1929.

**Sociedad
de las Naciones
LV reunión
del Consejo
Madrid.**

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Overprint colors - red and black (1.5x original size)



Meetings took place in the Madrid Palace of Justice



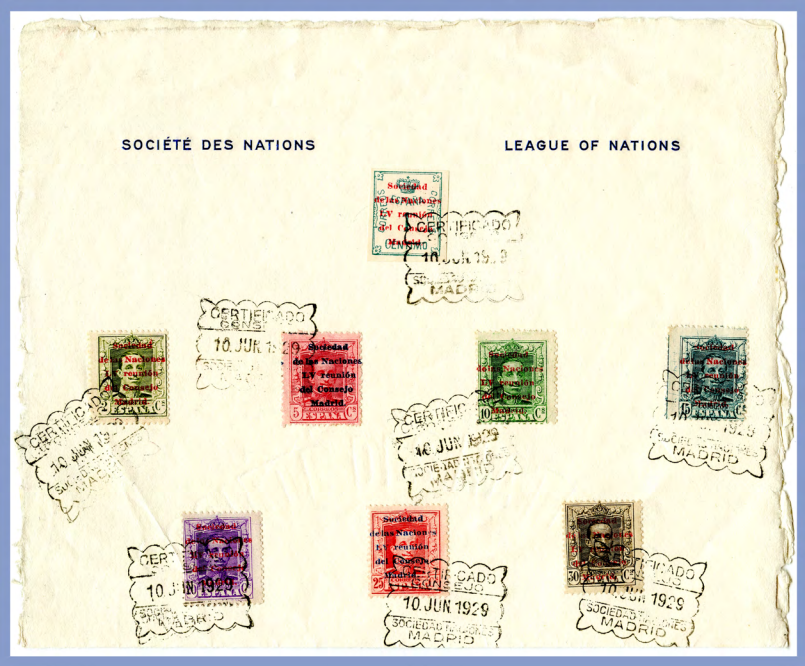
1, 2, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40c
and 1 Peseta overprinted
in red, 5, 25, 50c, 4, 10
Peseta and 20c Express
overprinted in black.



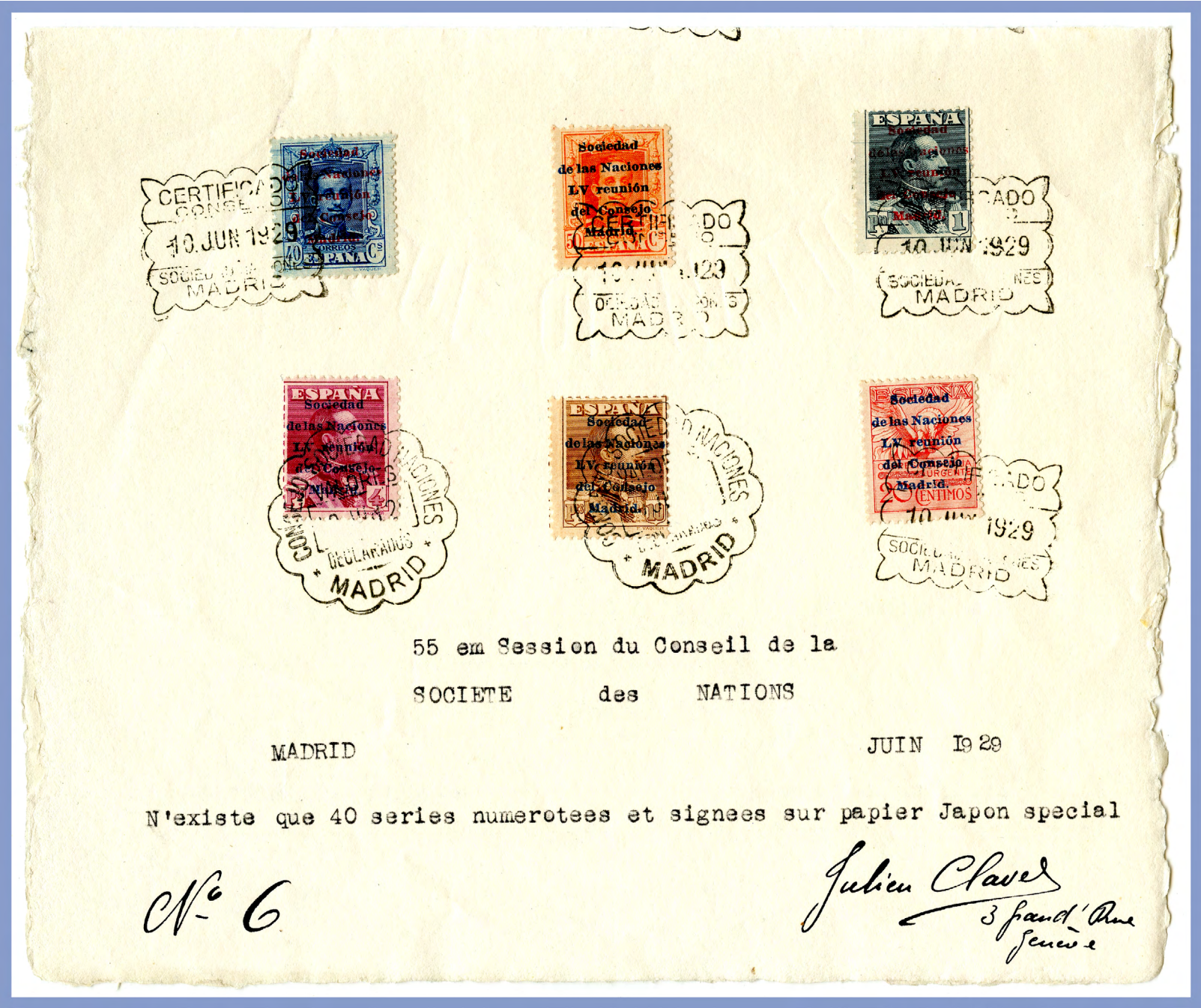
Council Session Purpose

The 55th Council session focused on the general treatment of minorities after World War I ended. Concerns originated from reports that ethnic populations within revised national boundaries were discriminated against when seeking work, in social events or politics. Many reports were valid but some were generated as a means to advance social and political agendas. Hundreds of claims were presented of which half were accepted for investigation between the years of 1920 and 1937.

A limited edition souvenir sheet was made for attendees
Number 6 (manuscript) of an edition of 40
on special Japanese paper signed by Julien Clavel



Reduced image of top of document (page too large to mount unfolded)



Commemorative Usage

Between 10 and 13 June, fewer than 20 covers were sent registered. Stamps were available within the meeting from 10-16 June from the small special post office for use by delegates, secretaries and journalists.



League of Nations service envelope, Madrid, Spain to Geneva, Switzerland

Mailed 15 June, 1929, Arrived 17 June, 1929 - Airmail Registration service with rectangular registration special cancellation

This cover with stamps from the overprinted series is a souvenir sent by a meeting participant (although an Express stamp was used, the service was not rendered)



League of Nation service envelope, Madrid to Santiago, Spain, 14 June 1929, without registration label.
Complete issue of 14 values

Service Usage

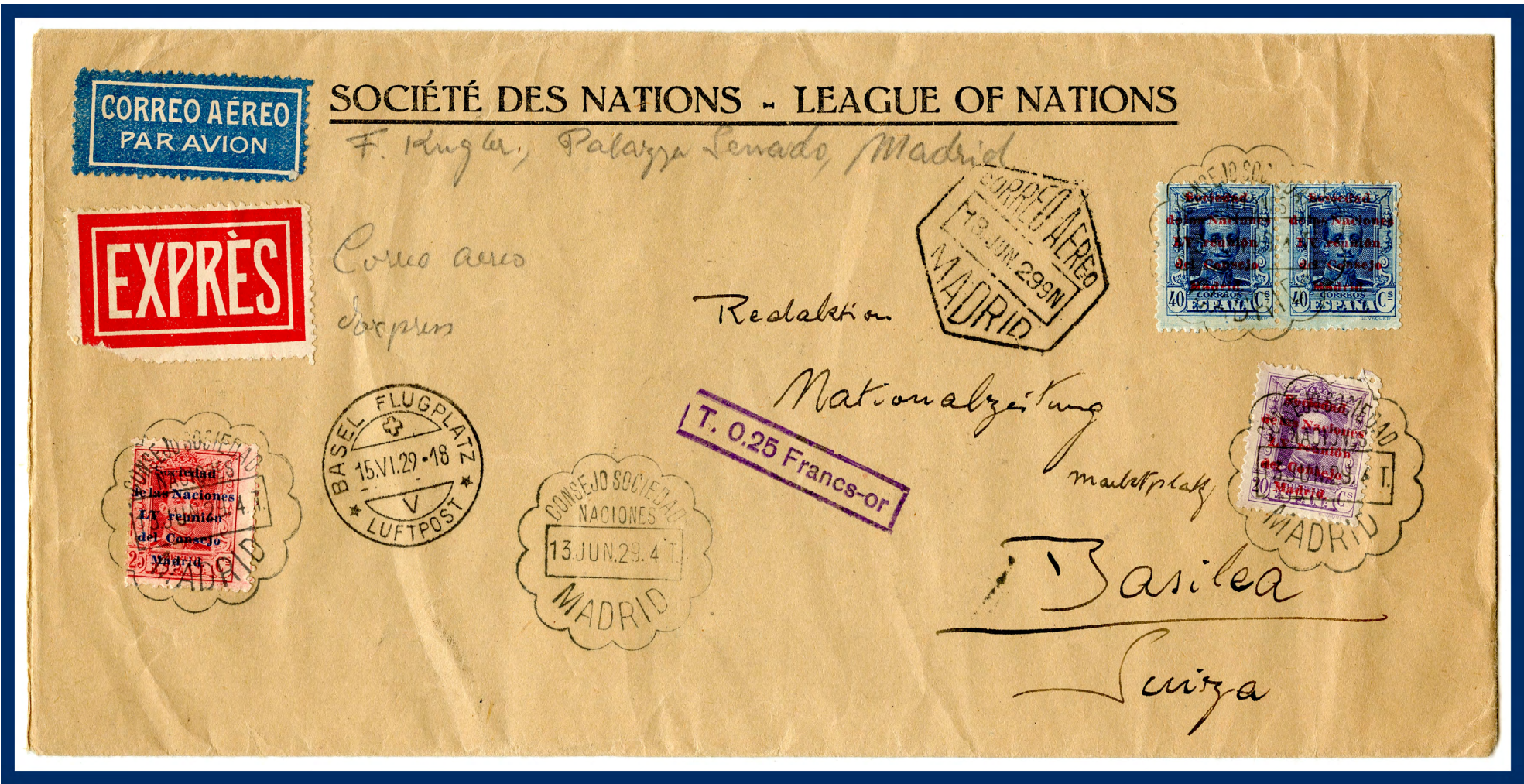
Two cancellation types were used, a rosette for normal and certified mail and a fancy rectangle for registered and Express mail. Special service labels for inland (Madrid-Central) and foreign (Madrid-Senato) destinations were also used.



Rosette Postmark



Rectangular Postmark



League of Nation service envelope, Madrid, Spain to News Section of the 'National Newspaper' on Market Place, Basel, Switzerland
Mailed 13 June 1929, Via Paris, France 15 June, Arrived Basel 15 June, 1929 - Airmail (80c+50c) Express service (20c) with rosette special cancellation
Marked 25 centimes postage due - no evidence of fee collected as postage due for League of Nations mail was only assessed when mail was addressed to a private person
Service usages, such as this example, are exceedingly scarce based on market availability



Picture postcard from Madrid Series, #60 The East Park
Rosette postmark dated 11 June 1929



League of Nations service envelope, Madrid to Toledo, Spain
Mailed 15 June, 1929, Arrived 14 June, 1929
Domestic letter, rectangular registration special cancellation