

# Atlantic Meeting

## Roosevelt and Churchill in Newfoundland - 1941

### Exhibit Scope

This exhibit documents the top secret '*Atlantic Meeting*' in 1941 between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill. Beginning with the political circumstances and events leading to the meeting, its preparation, attendees, travel, a date and the site follow. The exhibit ends with the 'joint statement' outlining war and peace aims and 26 countries signing the '*Declaration by United Nations*'.



### Subject Background

Both Roosevelt and Churchill expressed concern to world leaders and the League of Nations regarding the political aims and territorial expansionist ideals of Adolph Hitler to no avail. Although Hitler's annexation of German speaking areas within neighboring countries was alarming, the invasions (Italy and Japan had done so earlier) triggered the need for the secret meeting and the resulting 'joint statement'. Commonly known as the '*Atlantic Charter*', the 'joint statement' acted as a rallying point for the remaining free nations.

**Historical Note** - The term 'united nations' may be confusing as the '*Allied Powers*' referred to themselves as the 'united nations' as early as 1942, long before the United Nations organization was founded. These 26 countries agreed with the principles outlined in the 'joint statement' and joined forces to fight Germany, Italy and Japan by formally declaring their alignment and mutual support.

### Challenge

Mail to or from this top secret meeting consists of the only recorded ship cover displayed. A wide variety of elements and scarcer materials increase the challenge factor throughout the exhibit.

### Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically from the fall of Poland to the signing of the '*Declaration by United Nations*' by the allied powers. Events are outlined in the exhibit plan chronologically (date range top right of page) and presented using related material to illustrate each subject.

### Exhibit Plan

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Storm Clouds Gather      | (Introduction - Annexation of Austria and Sudetenland)                            |
| 2 Catalyst for Action      | (The fall of Poland, European nations, France and Battle of Britain)              |
| 3 Political Climate Change | (Axis Tripartite Pact, Inter-Allied Information Center and Peacetime Draft)       |
| 4 A Plea and a Plan        | (Churchill's request for American assistance and Roosevelt's reaction)            |
| 5 A New Hope               | (Declaration of St. James Palace and preparations for a top secret meeting)       |
| 6 Underway                 | (Churchill's voyage west and Roosevelt's voyage north)                            |
| 7 The First Summit         | (Attendees, goals of the meeting and discussions)                                 |
| 8 Homeward Bound           | (The journey home and resulting 'joint statement' public announcement)            |
| 9 A New Horizon            | (Confirmation of the 'joint statement' in a formal Declaration of United Nations) |

### What is not here

British & Canadian ships did not include the ship's name on wartime mail (1939-1945). No identifiable covers from H.M.S. Prince of Wales are known to exist (commissioned 19 Jan 1941, lost 10 Dec 1941).

## Subject Knowledge

The story-line begins with the meeting's planning and major events arranged by date and is illustrated with diverse philatelic elements chosen to demonstrate specific story-line details and balance presentation.

## Philatelic Knowledge

Descriptions of philatelic items demonstrate knowledge of philately in general and include rates, rarity or other information as appropriate. Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions of philatelic elements.

## Philatelic Elements

Elements include: definitive, commemorative and airmail issues, semi-postals, revenues, double impression, plate number, margin inscriptions, block, se-tenant pair, gutter pair, printing and paper varieties, overprints, forgery, booklet cover, pane advertising tab, illustrated postage meter, local, domestic, international, surface and airmail rates, postage paid, certificate of mailing, registration, ship wireless receipt, return to sender and suspended service markings, ship, commemorative and mute cancellations, censor markings, service mail, A.P.O. and penalty mail, commissioning and patriotic cachets, designer signature and official souvenir cover.

## Condition and Rarity

Items are selected with condition in mind. Those with a higher degree of difficulty of acquisition, due to availability, rarity, and/or importance, are matted in dark blue.

- Double impression and missing border Greek issues depicting Roosevelt.
- Service cover from the League of Nations temporary Princeton office, **4 recorded**.
- BEP sheet with photo essays of unaccepted designs of 2¢ United Nations issue, **Only recorded example**.
- BEP sheet with photo essays of unaccepted designs of 3¢ Roosevelt issue, **Only recorded example**.
- Certificate of mailing from U.N. Post Office using 1¢ U.N. definitive issue, **2 recorded**.
- Service cover from Japanese regional office, **2 recorded**.
- **U.S.S. Augusta cover mailed aboard ship the day the Atlantic Charter was announced, 1 recorded.**
- Cover to Prime Minister Churchill during Arcadia conference.
- Rarity factors in the exhibit are determined from:
  1. Articles, catalogs and monographs of U.N. philatelic societies
  2. Census, domestic/foreign exhibits, web sites and personal research



U.S.S. Augusta cover

## Research

Research with U.N. specialty collectors world-wide since 1975 has determined material types and scarcity. Exhibitor contributes League of Nations and U.N. related research, images and articles to the UNPI 'Journal', 'U.N. Conference Catalog', as well as the Gaines U.N. catalog when it was active.

## Souvenirs

Souvenir commemorative cachet envelopes were printed by order of President Roosevelt for ship crews. U.S.S. Arkansas, U.S.S. Tuscaloosa and U.S.S. Augusta used commemorative cancellation devices on these envelopes after the fact. As family heirlooms, they're difficult to find (2 examples in this exhibit).

## Exhibit Literature References

- *Atlantic Meeting, An Account of Mr. Churchill's Voyage in H.M.S. Prince of Wales in August 1941*, H.V. Morton, 1943, Dodd, Mead and Co., London, G.B.
- *The First Summit*, Theodore A. Wilson - editor, 1991, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas
- *The Journal* (of UNPI) articles: Vol. 20 #3, pages 4-7; Vol. 20 #5, page 3; Vol. 29 #2, pages 16-18
- *Atlantic Charter*, Wikipedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic\\_Charter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Charter)
- *United Nations History*, U.N. - <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/index.html>