

The *Charter* of the United Nations

A Document for World Peace - San Francisco, 1945

Exhibit Scope

This exhibit focuses exclusively on the *Charter* of the United Nations, its development - based on Four Freedoms ideals, purpose, writing, delegates involved as well as the signing and safeguarding of the document.

Historical Background (Subject Knowledge)

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid groundwork for the 1945 World Peace Conference in San Francisco officially known as the *United Nations Conference on International Organization*. Development of a document to guide the new peace organization was the task of the representatives of 50 nations attending the conference. The United Nations *Charter* would become the most important document of its time.

Philatelic Knowledge

Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions of philatelic elements to demonstrate knowledge of philately and includes information on stamps, cancel devices, rates, rarity or other justified information as appropriate.

Condition and Rarity (Challenge)

Covers are selected for best condition, bearing in mind service mail is seldom pristine. Folds, creases, nicks, small tears or missing corners are indications of actual transit through the mail systems of the time and place.

Challenge for this area is high as many items are either scarce or unique. Due to the conference's brevity (25 April - 26 June 1945), official service mail is very scarce and rarely obtainable. Attention is drawn to the U.S. State Department pre-printed conference stationery with corner card text as well as special stationery printed by individual countries for use by the delegations sending official service mail. Of these coveted examples, four examples of official delegation mail on State Department stationery and one on special Chinese stationery are included in this exhibit along with three unique FDCs signed by Charter signatories. Key items are matted on dark blue.

Philatelic Elements

A wide variety of philatelic elements includes photo essays, die proof, imperforate, coil strip, printings, plate numbers, margin inscription blocks, varieties, definitive and airmail issues, souvenir sheets, first day covers, postage meters, examples of forwarding fee, domestic and international destinations, penalty mail, first class and airmail rates as well as return to sender services. Commercial or service usages are included wherever possible.

Highlights (matted in dark blue)

- Essays of rejected designs for Roosevelt commemorative issue (only recorded example)
- Serialized Die Proof for U.N.N.Y. 5¢ commemorative issue (in issued color)
- 'San Francisco Welcomes the United Nations' postage meter on cover (four recorded examples)
- Service cover from Chinese Delegation to UNCIO (three recorded / only special delivery mail)
- Service cover from Lebanese Delegation to UNCIO (only recorded example / only postage free)
- Service cover from United States Delegation to UNCIO (only recorded example)
- Service cover from South African Delegation to UNCIO (two recorded examples)
- University Press cover to UNCIO (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by Chinese *Charter* Signatory (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by Syrian *Charter* Signatory (only recorded example)
- First Day Cover signed by Cuban *Charter* Signatory and delegation members (only recorded example)
- Service cover from U.S. Military Police Security Operations at UNCIO (two recorded examples)

(Rarity determined from U.N. literature, census research of the exhibitor and the United Nations Philatelists)

Literature References

United Nations Primer, Key to the Conferences - Sigrid Arne, 1945, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., N.Y.

United Nations Philately (Forerunner section pgs 931-933) - Arleigh Gaines, 1980, R.&D. Publications, N.Y.