

The Oceanographic Institute and Museum of Monaco

Exhibit Scope

This thematic style exhibit presents the history and purpose of the Oceanographic Institution and Museum of Monaco. It uses various thematic elements including official service mail to enhance the story line.

Historical Background (Subject Knowledge)

Life in our planet's oceans are often great mysteries to mankind, hiding many strange and improbable wonders. Undersea explorers have made many important discoveries, but no explorer's efforts were more prolific or inspiring than those of Prince Albert I of Monaco (1848-1922). His founding of the Oceanographic Institute and Museum of Monaco was the first effort to systematically study the world's oceans. It has been one of the most generous acts on behalf of mankind to the benefit of our oceanic environments.

Philatelic Knowledge

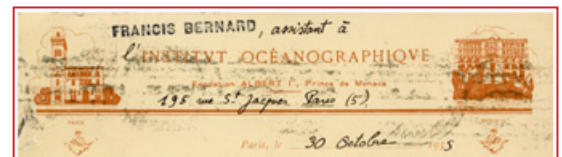
Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions to demonstrate knowledge of philately. Information on official service mail from the offices in Monte Carlo, Monaco as well as Paris, France is included. The standard notes on rates, rarity or other information, as may be appropriate, accompanies individual items.

Condition and Rarity (Challenge)

Covers are selected for best condition, bearing in mind commercial mail is seldom pristine. Folds, creases, nicks, small tears or missing corners are indications of actual transit through the mail systems of the time. The challenge factor for this area is reasonably high as a number of items are scarce or the only recorded example and reproducing this exhibit would be quite difficult.

Philatelic Research

This exhibit is the product of study over 40+ years of collecting material related to the League of Nations and non-governmental international organizations to benefit mankind.



Illustrated official service post card

Philatelic Elements

In addition to relevant postage stamps of various types, additional philatelic elements include photographic essay, sunken die proof, deluxe proof, specimen, imperforate, printing varieties, machine slogan cancel, maximum card, chromo card, celebration label, mourning cover, conference cover and official service mail among others.

Highlights (matted in dark red)

- Earliest recorded example of mail to the original museum in the royal palace. (page 1)
- Mourning cover on the death of Prince Albert I on official Institute stationery. (page 3)
- Earliest recorded example of official service mail from the Institute. (page 8)
- Illustrated official service post card from the Institute's Paris office. (page 11)

Rarity is determined from personal research of the exhibitor, published articles, philatelic and museum exhibits as well as personal correspondence with other collectors.

Literature References (web links valid as of 10 Dec. 2018)

- 1 *Monaco's International Bureaus*, Richard Powers, The Journal (of UNPI) : Vol. 19 #6, pages 5-7.
- 2 *Oceanographic Museum of Monaco*, <https://www.oceano.mc/en>
- 3 *Oceanographic Museum of Monaco*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceanographic_Museum_of_Monaco