

## Exhibit Synopsis

# 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

During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with representatives of the embattled nations. Those meetings laid groundwork for the 1945 World Peace Conference in San Francisco officially known as the *United Nations Conference on International Organization*. (The name is confusing as the Allies referred to themselves as the 'United' Nations against the Axis powers as early as 1942, long before the U.N. was actually founded.) The 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.

### Material Availability

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.

Due to the conference's brevity (25 April - 26 June 1945), official service mail is very scarce. 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.

Delegation mail (fourteen nations recorded), although highly sought after, is rarely obtainable. 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.

### 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 is 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.