

Atlantic Meeting - 1941

Exhibit Purpose and Scope

- This exhibit documents the top secret '*Atlantic Meeting*' in 1941 between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill.
- Included are people, political circumstances, events, preparations, attendees, travel, dates and sites leading to the meeting and immediately thereafter.



Atlantic Meeting

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, Benito Mussolini and Hideki Tojo to no avail. Although Hitler's annexation of German speaking areas within neighboring countries was alarming (Italy and Japan had also invaded neighbors), later 1939-1940 invasions triggered the need for the secret Atlantic meeting followed by the Washington D.C. conference.

Historical Notes

- The Allied Powers referred to themselves loosely as the 'united nations' as early as 1941.
- Souvenir envelopes were printed by order of President Roosevelt for use by ship crews with commemorative cancellations applied after the fact. As family heirlooms, they're difficult to find (2 examples).

Challenge

Mail related to many events and organizations is either not recorded or quite scarce and a major acquisition challenge. A thematic approach allows documentation through mail of the period. Official service mail, of some organizations, is only recorded outside of period (ie. 1943) and included as appropriate.

Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically from the French Armistice (June) to signing of the '*Declaration by United Nations*' by the Allied Powers (January). Events are outlined in the exhibit plan chronologically.

Exhibit Plan

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|---|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Catalyst for Action | (Churchill's Plea, the fall of France, and the Battle of Britain) |
| 2 | A Grand Plan | (Churchill's request for American assistance and Roosevelt's reaction) |
| 3 | A New Hope | (Churchill and Declaration of St. James Palace; Stalin and Anglo-Soviet Agreement) |
| 4 | A Secret Destination | (Preparations for a top secret meeting and subsequent conference) |
| 5 | Rendezvous | (Churchill's voyage west and Roosevelt's voyage north) |
| 6 | The First Summit | (Attendees, goals of the meeting, discussions and the Atlantic Charter) |
| 7 | Homeward Bound | (Announcement of the Atlantic Charter and the journey home) |
| 8 | A Forced Hand | (War touches a neutral nation's ships and a surprise attack) |
| 9 | New Horizons | (Confirmation of the Atlantic Charter in a formal Declaration by United Nations) |

What is not here

British and Canadian ships did not include the ship's name on wartime mail (1939-1945). No identifiable mail from H.M.S. Prince of Wales is known to exist (commissioned 19 Jan 1941, lost 10 Dec 1941). 1 cover addressed to H.M.S. Prince of Wales (ship lost before delivery) is property of a New Zealand collector.

Subject Knowledge

Thematic research for the time period, personalities and events presents lesser known information on a variety of subjects. The secret meeting planning, people and major events included encompass a complete storyline. Diverse philatelic elements are chosen to demonstrate specific story-line details and to balance presentation. Materials from the period contribute to and reflect the storyline as closely as possible.

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 and the story-line is illustrated with a variety of diverse philatelic elements to demonstrate subject details and balance presentation.

Philatelic Elements

Elements include common items such as definitive, commemorative and airmail issues, semi-postals, revenues, and postage rates to more uncommon items such as forgery, booklet cover, pane advertising tab, illustrated postage meter, postage paid, certificate of mailing, registration, ship wireless receipt, return to sender and suspended service markings, cancellation types, censor markings, and/or rare items such as service mail.

Condition and Rarity

Items are selected with condition in mind. *Previous jury comments indicated there were no 'rare' or 'unique' items in the exhibit - among others, the following list should be considered.* Those with a higher degree of difficulty of acquisition, due to availability, rarity, and/or importance, are matted with yellow.

- Service cover from the League of Nations Princeton temporary office, N.J., USA, 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 the League of Nations regional Tokyo office, 2 recorded.
- French identity card for foreigners with Nansen Russian Refugee revenue stamps, <10 reported.
- Service cover from the Monetary and Economic Conference, London, 3 recorded.
- **U.S.S. Augusta cover mailed the day the Atlantic Charter was announced, *Only recorded example.***
- Commercial cover to Winston at Arcadia Conference, Washington, 4 recorded.
- Australian 1945 'Peace' issue on un-watermarked paper, not regularly issued - 1 sheet printed.
- Commercial cover with promotional welcoming postage meter, San Francisco, 4 recorded.
- United Nations Conference on International Organization, U.S. Military Police - 2 recorded.

- 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.

Research

Research with specialty collectors world-wide since 1975 on material types and scarcity in the cases of those more difficult to acquire. Exhibitor contributes articles, images, census information, etc. to the United Nations Philatelists, Inc. 'Journal'.



U.S.S. Augusta - 14 August 1941

Exhibit Literature References

 (Links valid as of 3 June 2023)

- *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