

# United Nations Conference on International Organization

San Francisco, 25 April - 26 June, 1945

## Historical Background

The League of Nations, formed in 1920 as a result of World War I, was unsuccessful in maintaining its aim of world peace and in 1939, World War II became a reality. President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with leaders and representatives of the increasingly embattled and occupied countries of Europe and laid the groundwork for our postwar world through agreements and promises of assistance. The results of those meetings led to the United States proposing a United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) during a meeting in the Crimea. San Francisco was chosen as the venue during that Yalta meeting and the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China agreed to sponsor the event. With 50 nations attending, the signing of the 'United Nations Charter' took place and a new hope for a developing world appeared in the form of the United Nations.

## Scope

This exhibit focuses on the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) of 1945, beginning with Roosevelt's four basic freedoms and the meeting in Yalta (the Crimea) leading to the conference. The exhibit introduces the venue, related commemorative postage stamp issues, delegates as well as official 'service mail' from the conference and delivery of the organization's charter for safe-keeping to the 'White House'.

## Material Availability

A variety of materials tell the story. Among the philatelic elements included are an essay, photo essays, die proof, specimen, adhesive stamps, souvenir sheetlet, printings, watermark, overprints, double impression, plate block, coil strip, first day cover, postage meters, examples of usages and rates. Due to the conference's brevity (25 April - 26 June), official 'delegate mail' is relatively scarce. Attention is drawn to corner cards reflecting the fledgling organization's official stationery. Service covers from conference delegations (15 recorded) or representatives (3 recorded), are seldom available and although highly sought after, rarely obtainable. Of these coveted examples, four are included in this exhibit (two delegation, one representative and one security detail).

Philatelically inspired items are minimized and commercial usages are used throughout the exhibit.

## Highlights (matted in dark blue)

- 'San Francisco Welcomes the United Nations' postage meter on cover (4 recorded examples)
- Essay of rejected design for U.S. 5¢ commemorative issue (only recorded example)
- Service cover from South African Delegation to UNCIO (2 recorded examples)
- First Day Cover signed by Chinese UNCIO Delegate (only recorded example)
- Service cover from Peruvian Delegation to UNCIO (2 recorded examples)
- Hotel covers from Iranian Delegate (2 recorded examples)
- Service cover from U.S. Marine Security Detail at UNCIO (2 recorded examples)

## References

United Nations Primer, Key to the Conferences - Sigrid Arne, 1945, Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., N.Y.  
United Nations Philately - Arleigh Gaines, 1980, R.&D. Publications, N.Y.