

TOWARD UNITED NATIONS

THE FIVE CENT COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF 1945

Exhibit Focus

This special study documents the stamp issue's design and postal use. Material is organized to present examples from the production process, followed by domestic destinations and postal services, further subdivided by rates in chronological order (rate table) and international destinations by continent.

Examples of all rate types are included. United Nations related origins or end destinations as well as covers with multiple franking of the stamp are preferred.

Historical Background

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt championed a new world peace organization to replace the League of Nations. World nations agreed to an international conference to be held in San Francisco and a postage stamp issue was planned to commemorate the event. Intended as a postal ambassador for the fledgling organization, the stamp was assigned a 5¢ value, the first class surface rate to foreign destinations.

Various designs were rejected and on 3 April, Roosevelt suggested the wording "Toward United Nations, April 25, 1945", with a simple border and the words over a laurel branch. Roosevelt died two weeks before the conference began and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing added his name to the design as the quote's author.

Postal significance of this stamp bears special mention for its impact on publicizing the formation of an international organization seeking peace for mankind. No single nation's issue compares to the social message of this simple design.



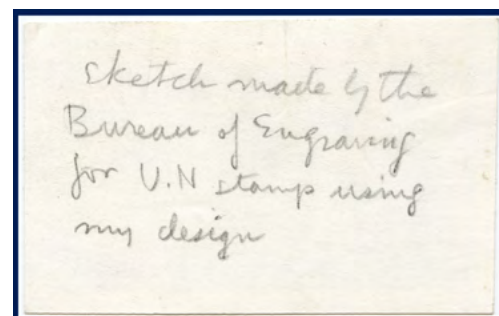
Photo essay by designer Leon Helguera
Only recorded example

Postal Rates 1945 - 1949

Domestic	2/45	10/46	1/49
First Class (per 1 oz.)	3¢	-	-
3rd Class (< 2 oz.)	1.5¢	-	2¢
4th Class (per 1 oz.)	1¢	-	-
Special Treaty (per 1 oz.)	3¢	-	-
Airmail			
Letter (per 1 oz.)	8¢	5¢	6¢
Post/al Card	8¢	5¢	4¢
APO/FPO (per 1/2 oz.)	6¢	-	-
Territory (per 1/2 oz.)	15¢	5¢	-
Special Services			
Insurance (< \$5 value)	3¢	-	5¢
Special Delivery	13¢	-	15¢
Registration	20¢	-	-
International			
Surface (< 1 oz.)	5¢	-	-
Diplomatic Pouch	5¢	-	-
Return Mail	0¢	-	-
Airmail (per 1/2 oz.)			
N. America	8¢	10¢	-
Supplemental	7¢	-	-
S. America	20¢	10¢	-
Europe	30¢	15¢	-
Africa	60¢	25¢	-
Asia	70¢	25¢	-

Highlights

Essays, small die plate proof, delegate signed unofficial FDC, auxiliary markings, return to sender, U.N. related and unusual international destinations. Items of special interest are described with italic text or matted dark blue.



Designer's manuscript note
(reduced scan of rear)