

The Charter of the United Nations

A Document for World Peace - San Francisco, 1945

Exhibit Purpose and Scope

This exhibit explores the history of the *Charter* of the United Nations by employing thematic elements alongside postal history of the 'World Peace Conference of 1945' in San Francisco.

The *Charter* of the United Nations supports a desire for world peace through personal freedoms and cooperation between the world's countries. Its philosophical roots lie in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'Four Freedoms' speech to the U.S. Congress in January 1941.

From 25 April through 26 June 1945, San Francisco hosted the Conference on International Organization. Delegates from fifty nations attended, presenting proposals and recommendations for inclusion in the *Charter's* text. They debated the merits of each subject and in the end, authored a great new instrument to promote world peace - the *Charter* of the United Nations.

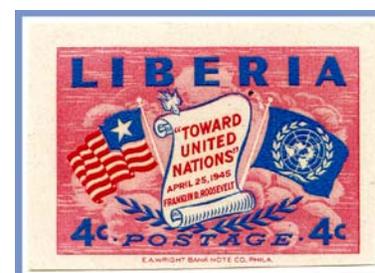
Exhibit Plan

1. The Road to Peace
 - *Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms*
 - *The Road to San Francisco via Yalta*
 - *San Francisco Welcomes Participants*
 - *Delegates*
2. The Instrument of Peace
 - *Authoring the Charter's Chapters*
 - *The Charter*
3. Realizing the Dream
 - *Signing the Charter*
 - *Safeguarding the Charter*

1.

Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms

The 'Four Freedoms' of speech, religion, from want and hunger and from fear, are the founding tenants of the *Charter*.



Gummed Imperforate Proof

"In future days, which we seek to secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is the freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world. The third is the freedom from want - which translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear - which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor - anywhere in the world." - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Photo Essays mounted on U.S. government watermarked paper
Only recorded example

Philippines



Carlos P. Garcia

France



Alphonse Juin

Norway



Trygve Lie

United States



Cordell Hull

Syria



Nazem Al-Koudsi

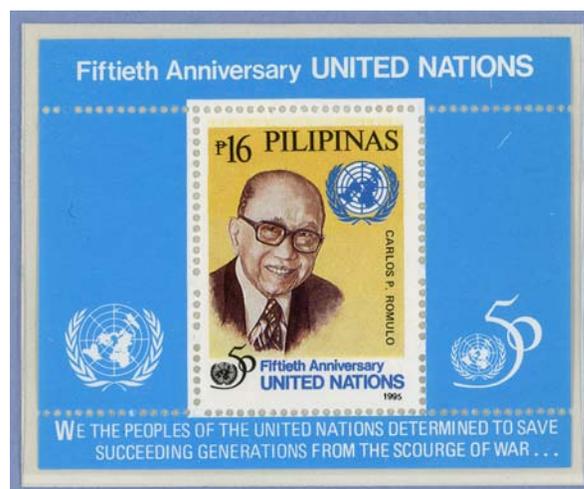
287 delegates from fifty countries participated in drafting and writing the *Charter*.

Peru



Manuel C. Gallagher
Arturo García
Victor Andrés Belaunde
Luis Fernán Cisneros
Pedro G. Beltrán

Philippines



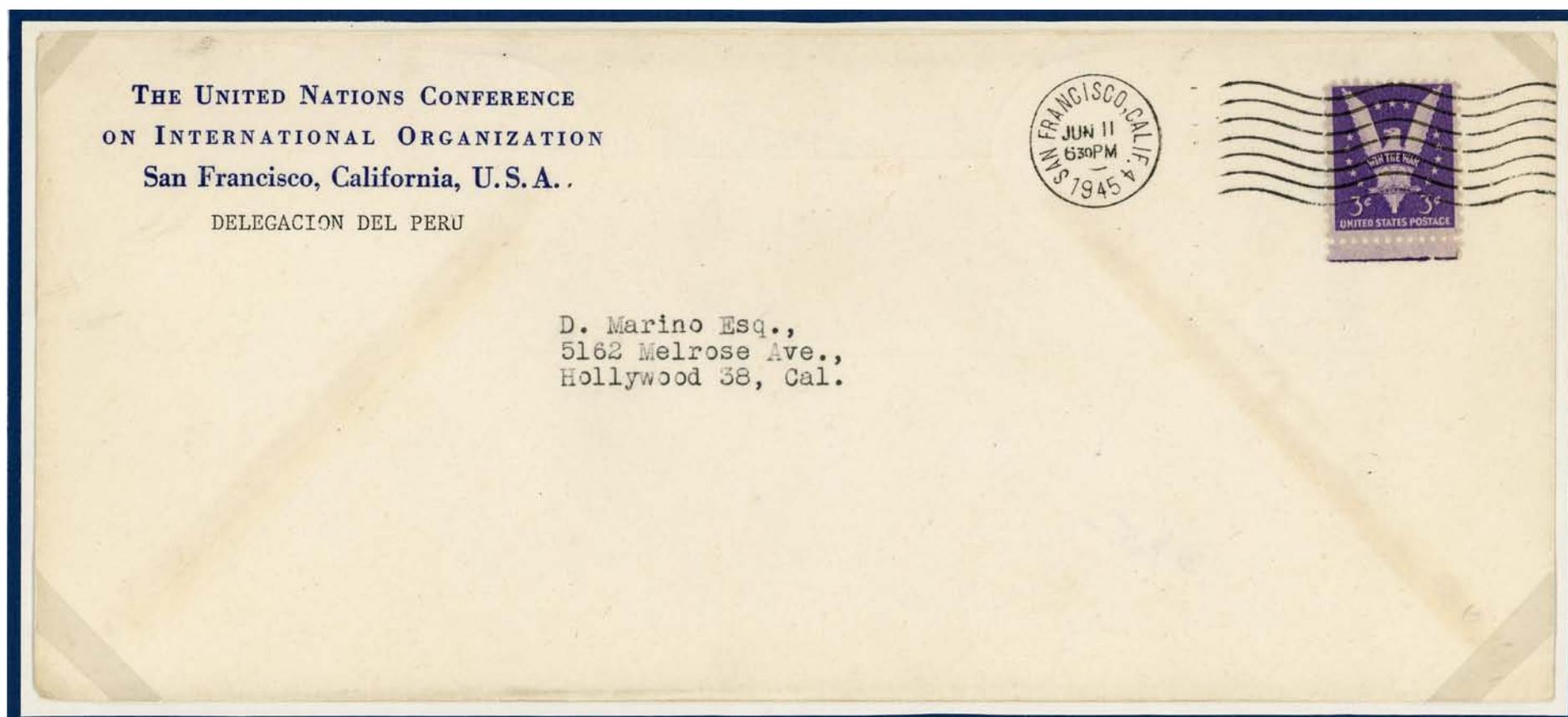
Carlos Romulo

Uruguay



Jose Serrato

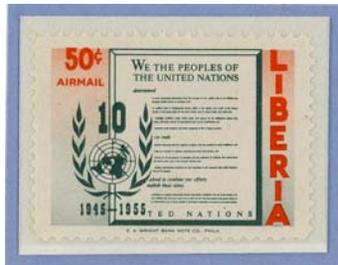
All signatories depicted on postage stamps are included in this exhibit.



Conference service cover of the Peruvian delegation, San Francisco to Hollywood, Ca., 11 June 1945, domestic first class letter rate (3¢ per oz.)

Two recorded examples of Peruvian delegation mail

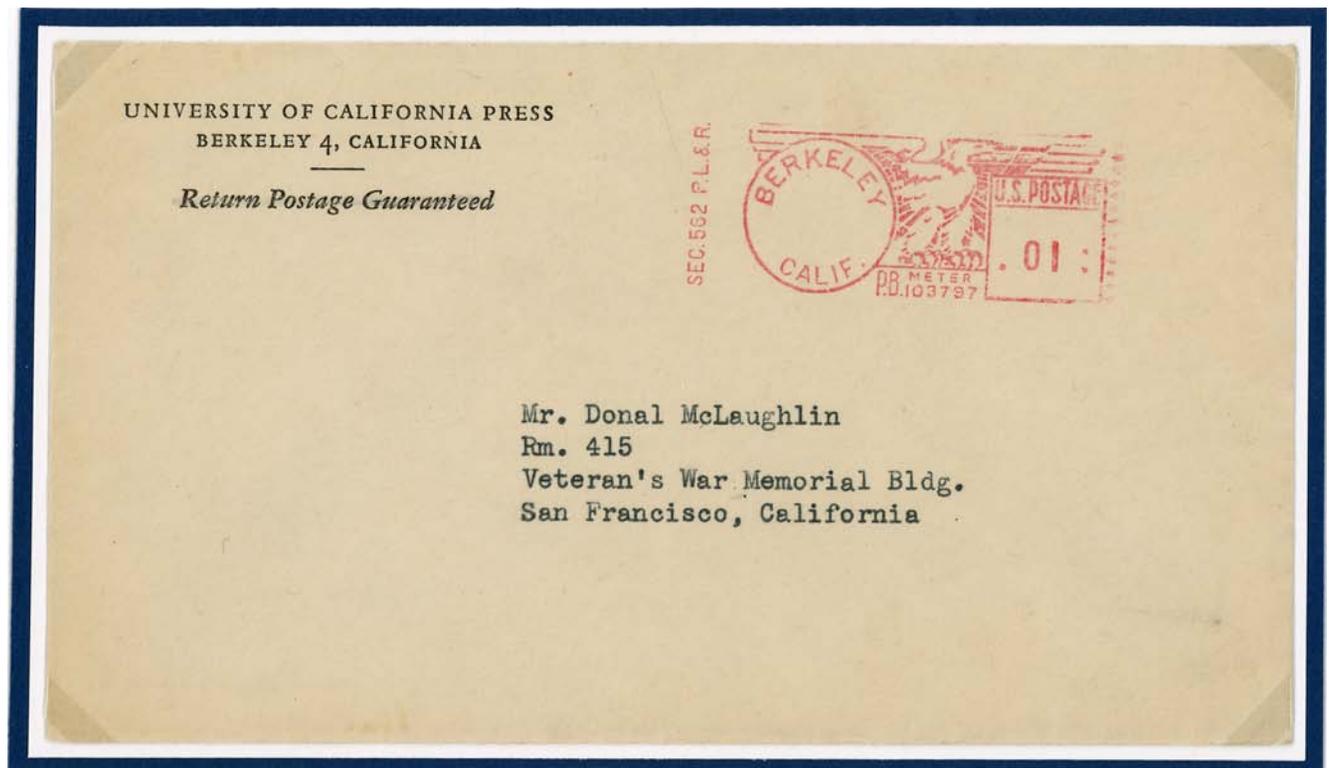
The University of California, located in the San Francisco area, maintained a printing facility and did not have any projects at the time. The University of California Press was assigned the task of printing draft copies as well as the final versions of the *Charter*.



English



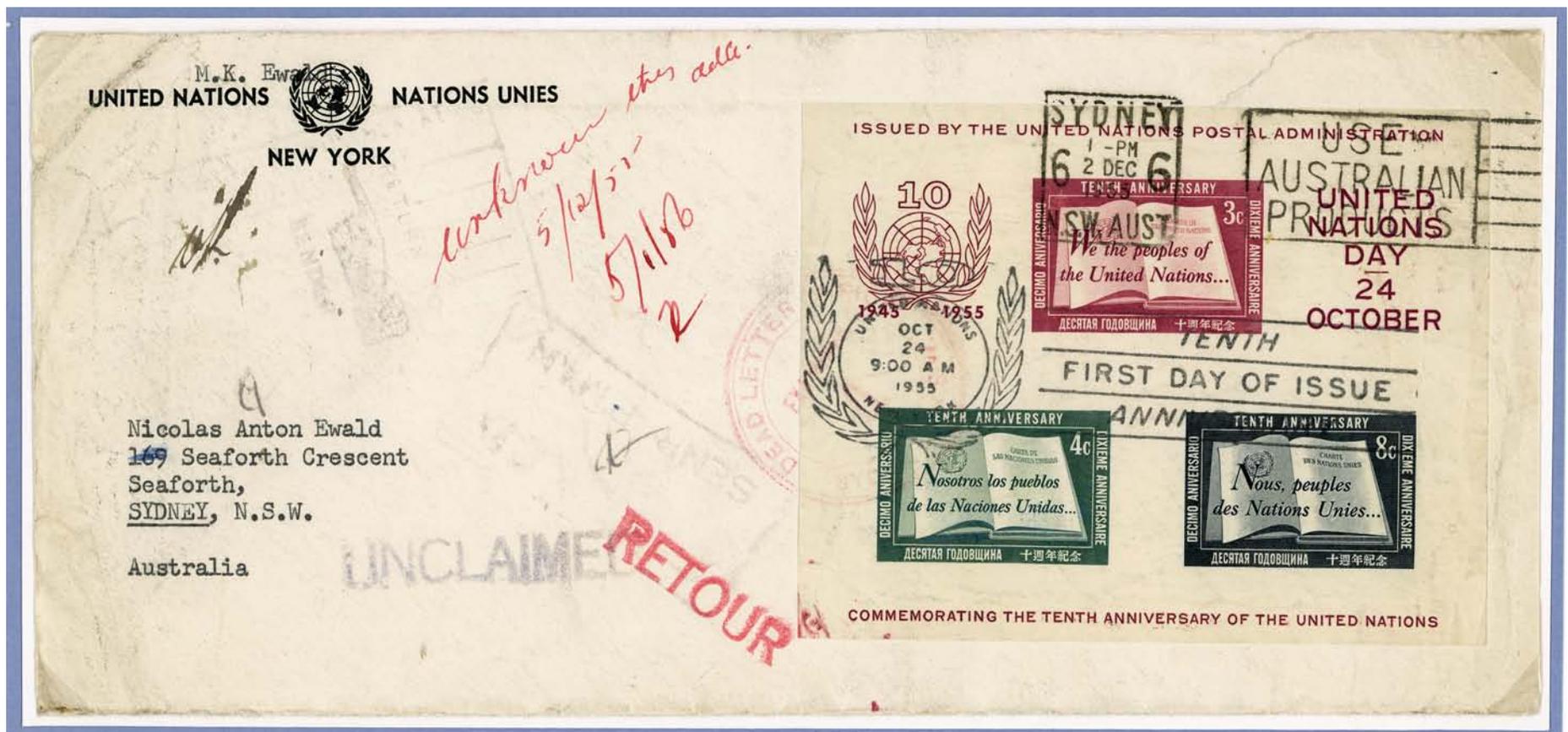
French



University Press to Graphics Chief at the Veteran's Memorial office, domestic third class bulk rate (1¢ per 2 oz.)
Pitney Bowes meter franking machine number 103797 leased to the University of California in 1944

Only recorded example

The complete text of the *Charter* was translated into the five official languages of the new organization; English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. Translation of the *Charter* into additional languages was completed sometime after the conference ended. New translations are made as new countries join.



Service cover New York, N.Y. to Sydney, Australia, 24 October 1955 (first day of issue - first printing), international surface rate (8¢ 1st oz. + 4¢ 2nd oz., 3¢ overpaid)
"Return to Sender", "Unclaimed", "Retour" and "Examiner - Dead Letter Office, Sydney, N.S.W." handstamp markings, "Unknown at this address" in manuscript

Delegates signing the *Charter* on behalf of their respective national governments, bound their nations to adhere to the new international guidelines for peace.

First Day of Issue cover

San Francisco, Ca., 25 April 1945

Cachet by 'China Assn., San Francisco'

V.K. (Vi-Kyuin) Wellington Koo (1887-1986)

Chinese delegate

U.N. Charter signatory

Only recorded example

The *Charter* needed to be ratified by national governments before it was declared a binding document on that nation. Nicaragua was the first nation to ratify the *Charter*.



Nicaragua



Mariano A. Vargas (1890-1949)
U.N. Charter signatory

Czechoslovakia



Jan G. Masaryk (1886-1948)
U.N. Charter signatory

Belgium

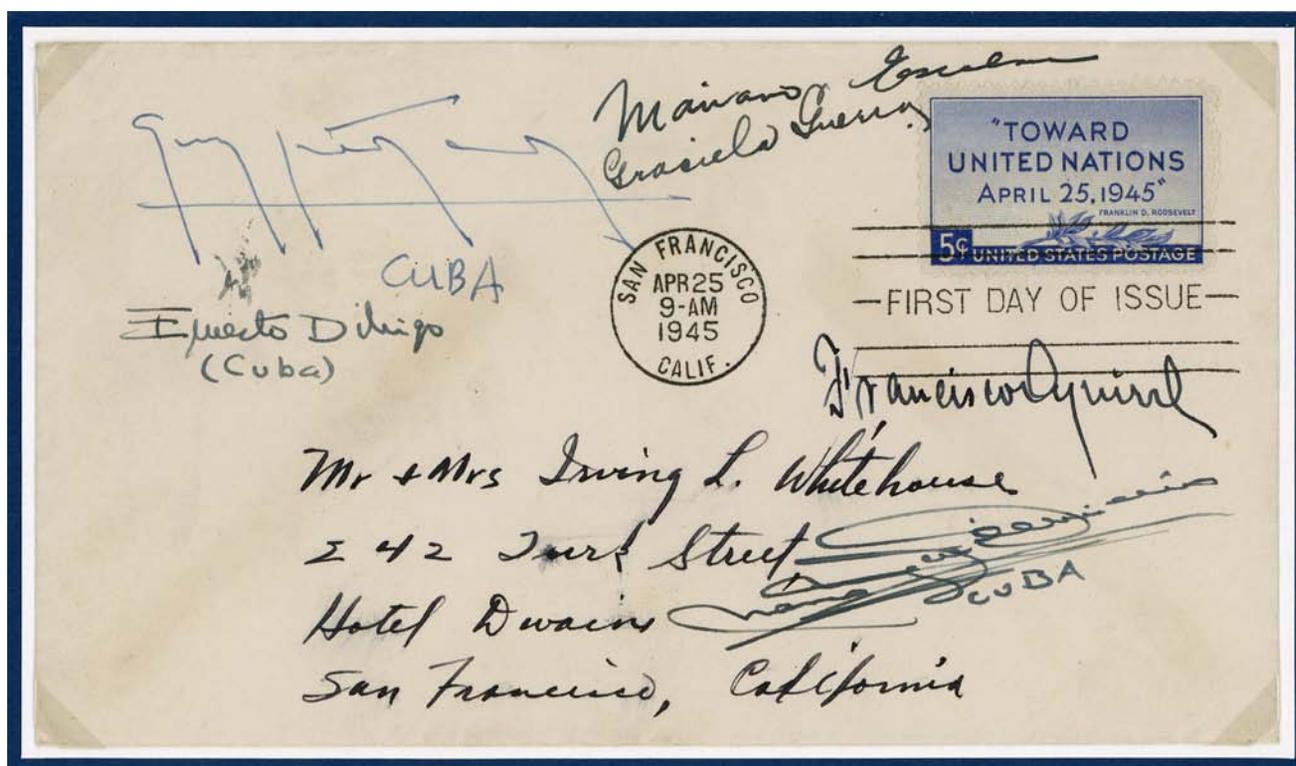


Paul-Henri Spaak (1899-1972)
U.N. Charter signatory

United States



Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. (1900-1949)
U.N. Charter signatory



Liberia



Clarence Simpson
(1896-1969)
U.N. Charter signatory

First Day of Issue cover
San Francisco, Ca., 25 April 1945
Signed by all six Cuban
Delegation members

Guillermo Belt y Ramirez (1905-1986)
U.N. Charter signatory

Only recorded example