

APRIL 26 | 27 | 28

WESTPEX
2024



CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
Guest Societies

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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Schuyler Rumsey Auction begins April 25, 2024

www.westpex.org

San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel
Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 1800

WESTPEX, April 26-28, Salutes the UPU

The 64th annual WESTPEX show will be held April 26-28 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA, just a mile south of the San Francisco International Airport.

The show's bourse will include more than 70 national and international dealers in stamps, postal history and stationery and supplies, filling the bourse with items desired by general collectors, specialists and exhibitors. The show will once again have a large four day auction by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions with a large number of lots ranging from single items to large collections which will be available for pre-auction viewing.

This is a World Series of Philately exhibition with the Grand Award winner eligible for the next Champion of Champions competition. This open exhibition will feature over 250 frames of exhibits, and participation by the Royal Philatelic Society London, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, Colombia Panama Philatelic Study Group, Canal Zone Study Group and the American Philatelic Society with a Town Hall Meeting.

Numerous specialty societies, clubs, and study groups also will hold a variety of meetings and seminars during the three-day event.

The WESTPEX sponsored Youth Area will include free stamps and supplies for young collectors, and a Boy Scout Merit Badge program is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th.

You will not want to miss this 64th annual WESTPEX Stamp Show. Show hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 10 to 3.

\$5 Admission is good for all three days, and children under 15 are admitted free with adult. Complete show details, reservations, schedules, and theme story will be available at www.westpex.org.

Saluting the UPU

2024 WESTPEX has chosen for its Show Theme, the 150th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, UPU. While not the usual WESTPEX local theme, it is concretely philatelic, and WESTPEX is dedicated to enhancing and to enlightening the 'world via stamps' to stamp hobbyists, scholarly philatelists, philatelic enthusiasts and the public.

"The World Via Stamps": That in a nutshell explains the guiding principle and purpose of the UPU, initially founded as the General Postal Union.

While mailing one's utility bill payment, credit card payment, birthday card or wedding invitation may only mean a stamp and a readable address, with the correct ZIP+4 Code, that only works within a single nation, a nation with an established postal system.

But, people, anywhere and everywhere, want and need to correspond beyond borders, across vast oceans, over mountains, transferring rivers, and through lands distant from the mail drop. So, How?

Before the UPU, it was a matter of each independent national postal authority to negotiate specific postal treaties with other countries, and that required a distinct treaty with each nation, and only through time consuming negotiations, and none with the similar conditions. Added, for example, was the various routes and carriers plus entry ports or departure ports. The heavily used North Atlantic shipping lanes were numerous, and each carrier had to deal with several differing national postal authorities, as well as incur the cost.

In 1863, even during the tragic American Civil War, the Postmaster General Montgomery Blair (1813-1883 and on US Scott #C66) called for an international conference, which met in Paris, France. While the delegates drafted principles for international postal cooperation, they failed to draft an agreement. But the first bold step had been taken toward international cooperation.

With the surprising victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, the newly created united Germany and its Postmaster General Heinrich von Stephan (1831-1897) called for another international gathering, which was held in Bern, Switzerland; it successfully concluded the Treaty of Bern, October 1874, creating what is now named the Universal Postal Union, UPU.

With the decades since, various changes have occurred to the original decisions, yet, in principle postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail and each country should retain all the money paid for international postage. The UPU provides that stamps from member nations are accepted along the entire international route.

Changes and regulations over the century and half have been added; for example, in 1906, prisoners of war mail would be free postage. In 1929, the first air mail regulations were approved. In 1952, Aerogrammes were accepted.

In 1947, the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations. It has six official languages: French, English, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. All U.N. nations are welcomed to join. As of 2024, the UPU has 192 member nations.

Across oceans and seas, over mountain ranges, along rail and air routes, even on dirt or gravel roads, through jungles and vast deserts, or even by packed animal, one can mail a letter to any destination on this world, truly a "world via stamps", thanks to the UPU.

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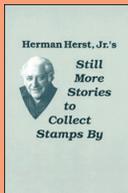
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