

Wells Family United Nations Stamp Collection  
MSS. Coll. No. 200  
2 linear feet

**History**

The United Nations was established in 1945 to promote international cooperation and today counts most of the nations of the world as members. The UN is headquartered in New York City but also has offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Nairobi, Kenya, and Vienna, Austria.

The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) was created in 1951 to issue official U.N. stamps and stationary. The first stamps were issued by the UNPA that same year. Over the decades, interest in the collection of U.N. stamps has increased tremendously, to over 3 million per year in the 1970s. Print runs of U.N. stamps today are more on the order of 400,000 units

**Scope and Contents**

The collection consists of sheets of commemorative UN postage stamps issued between 1983 and 2009, First Day Covers (colorful UN-issued envelopes with cancelled stamps) issued between 1969 and 1991, and UN postal cards issued between 1989 and 1996. Also included are commemorative philatelic collection cards from 1972 to 1994. The materials, which were issued for use within the United National Postal system, are housed in 10 three-ring binders and were issued by UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

**Provenance**

The materials were personally collected by retired St. Lawrence University Government Professor Robert Wells. The collection is given by Dr. Wells, his wife Patricia and their children, and are given in honor of Martha Finch, SLU class of 1983.

**Series 1—United Nations Postal Administration Philatelic Collection Cards**

**Box 1**

UNPA Philatelic Collection Cards 1972-1994. Each card includes postal cancellation

**Series 2—Un cancelled UNPA stamps**

UNPA postage stamps in sheets 1983-2009. (part of one binder also contains First Day Covers, 1992-1993)

**Series 3—First Day Covers, 1969-1991; UN Postal Cards, 1989-1996**

**Box 2**

First Day Covers, Geneva, 1969-1991  
First Day Covers, New York, 1980-1992  
First Days Covers, Vienna, 1979- 1991  
First Day Covers, New York, Geneva, Vienna, 1992-1993  
First Day Covers, NY, Geneva, Vienna, 1994  
Maxicards and UN Postal Cards, 1989-1995