



# UNOstamps Newsletter

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edited by Maxim van Ooijen

## Introduction

This is the eighteenth issue of the UNOstamps Newsletter. It contains the newest additions to the UNOstamps website, news from the UN and the monthly quiz. There is also room for your comments.

Don't hesitate to give me your opinion on the Newsletter. Please send in comments, suggestions or even compliments. Remember you don't have to wait for the next issue to visit UNOstamps at [www.unostamps.nl](http://www.unostamps.nl). And leave a message in the guestbook while you're there.

The first month of 2009 is now history. And what a historical month it was: a new president in the United States, parties, meetings, and the first stamp show of the year. Also a new book has been published on the history of patient transport ambulances in the Westland (my part of the country).

My grandfather, who had a garage, transported patients from our village to the hospitals in Delft and The Hague from 1941 to 1957. For the first time part of this history has been written down. In the chapter on my grandfather some photos and documents are published that are in the old family album.

The photo here from 1935 shows my grandfather behind the wheel of a Minerva 32 pk, built in 1927, in front of the garage. The garage is still there, although the building has been altered over the years. My cousin is now the proud owner.



The rest of this Newsletter contains a lot of UN news, some new additions to my collection and a new quiz. I hope you enjoy reading it. And don't forget to visit the website!

## New additions to UNOstamps in January 2009

One new country was added to the website this month, bringing the total to 80 countries. Another milestone. Also there is one new person, one new subject and six small sheets from Niger. A special addition to the site and collection is the new UN stamp catalogue. Furthermore there are seven new images of UNPA Blue cards.

## Belgium

The Kingdom of Belgium has a long history and for a large part combined with the Netherlands. Independence for the country came in 1830 (actually we say it was 1839...). Belgium has issued a lot of UN related stamps since 1930 and in 2009 we expect among others a beautiful sheet on World Heritage. Special men-

tion has to be made of the stamps issued in 1958 at the UN pavilion at the World Exhibition (Expo 58). They have a special place in the philatelic history of the United Nations. Almost all Belgian stamps up to 2007 can be found on the website. In February stamps from 2008 will be added.



### Paul-Henri Spaak

Paul-Henri Spaak (1899-1972) was a Belgian statesman and socialist leader. Before the war he was a delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations five times. In national politics after the war, he was Prime Minister two times and Foreign Minister.

Spaak also had a distinguished international career. He was head of the Belgian delegation to the San Francisco Conference and to the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. He was elected vice-chairman of this Commission. On 16 January 1946 he was elected **first President of the General Assembly** of the United Nations.

At the United Nations, Paul-Henri Spaak is remembered for addressing the delegation of the Soviet Union during the third General Assembly in Paris with the words: "Messieurs, nous avons peur de vous" (Sirs, we are afraid of you).

### World Heritage - Belgium

Every country that has World Heritage sites within its borders gets its own page on UNOstamps. It lists those sites that have been put on stamps. Belgium is the ninth country on the website, after Netherlands, Solomon Islands, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Austria, Suriname, Portugal and Seychelles.

Three sites are presented here: Flemish Béguinages, La Grand Place (Brussels) and The Four Lifts on the Canal du Centre and their Environs (La Louvière and Le Roeulx, Hainault).



### New sheet images

At the annual stamp show in Loosdrecht I found the six small sheets that Niger issued in 2001 (although the stamps have the year 2000 on them) for the 125th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. You are never sure that these stamps were really issued by the country or were sold there, but they are listed in the catalogue, so I have bought them. One of the six sheets is shown here.



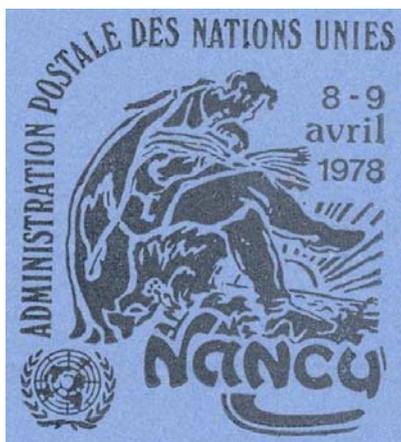
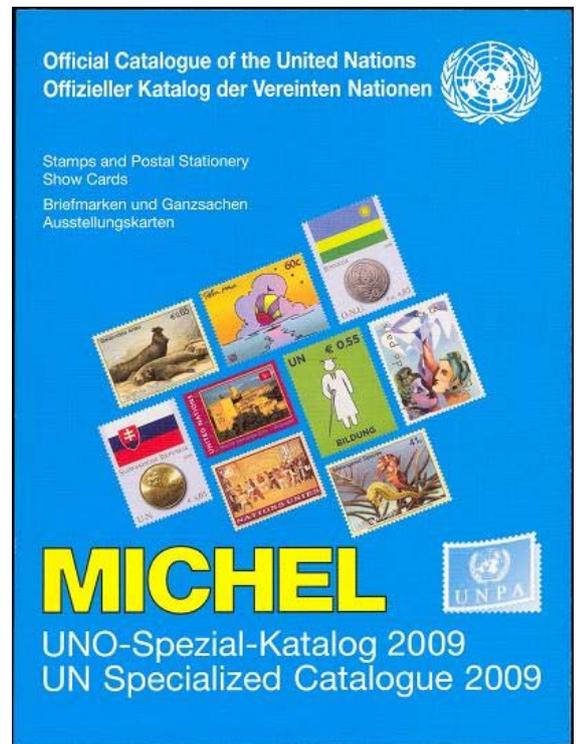
## New catalogue

The UN Postal Administration has assigned the right to publish the *Official Stamp Catalogue of the United Nations* to Schwaneberger Verlag in Germany. It is the publisher of the Michel catalogues.

The catalogue contains the stamps from the offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna, including the exhibition cards, First Day Covers, annual folders, postal stationery, etc. Furthermore there are the stamps issued by the Netherlands, France and Switzerland for the International Court of Justice, UNESCO, ILO, BIE, WHO, IRO, WMO, UPU, ITU and WIPO. Also listed are the League of Nations stamps.

Finally there are the issues for the interim administrations for West New Guinea (including the four printing varieties and stationery), Kosovo and East Timor. At the end of the catalogue you will find the Expo 58 stamps from Belgium.

The catalogue will be issued every year and, although expensive (but so are all catalogues from all publishers), I think it is a must for every UN stamp collector!



## New blue cards

In Loosdrecht I found seven blue cards that I haven't seen before: Nancy 1978, Frankfurt am Main 1978, Skara 1980, Helsinki 1980, Gothenburg 1981, Marseille 1983 and Turin 1991.

These images are on the website and in the coming months I hope to add the rest of the collection.

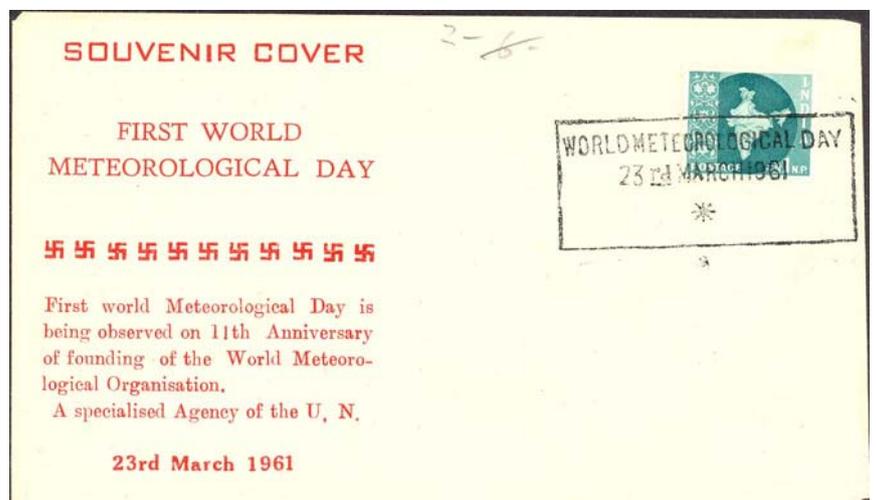
I would like to ask the help of the readers of the Newsletter. The special postmark on the card issued in Nancy in 1978 shows a statue (?) of a man reading a book. I have not found the name of the statue (if it is one). Who can help me here?

Quick links to these new additions can be found on the page 'New on this website'.

## Recent finds

Apart from the stamps from Niger and the Blue cards, I bought a lot of envelopes with special UN related cancellations. I am not sure how to present them in the future on the website, because there is no real complete catalogue available that lists special or commemorative postmarks.

One of the envelopes is this from India for World Meteorological Day 1961. I don't know how many copies of these cover were issued, but I am always amazed that these things end up on my side of the world.



In the near future I hope to show you the stamps I have ordered from the philatelic services of Barbados, Namibia and Papua New Guinea and the coins from Australia issued for the International Year of Planet Earth and International Year of Astronomy.

## United Nations News

### Voicing optimism, Ban congratulates US President on inauguration

21 January 2009 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today, "with great optimism," congratulated Barack Obama on his inauguration as the new President of the United States, stressing that America and the Organization share a number of common goals.

Challenges - such as economic turmoil, climate change, peace and security issues such as disarmament and non-proliferation, and the food, energy and development crises - are global in scope and "require strong and collective responses," Mr. Ban said in a statement.

In Mr. Obama's inaugural address yesterday, he "was explicit in committing his administration to tackling all of these problems, urgently and decisively," speaking of the need to tackle global warming, promote clean energy and cooperate with developing nations.

"This is also the work of the United Nations. Our goals are shared," the Secretary-General stated. "Together, America and the United Nations can look forward to a new era of strong and effective partnership, delivering the results and the change we need."

*(source: UN Press Release / photo: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets with Barack Obama during the presidential campaign, 2 February 2007, UN Photo 138968, Evan Schneider)*



### Starring role for UN in new documentary premiering in New York

21 January 2009 - A new film casting the work of the United Nations in the starring role has its world premiere today at the Organization's Headquarters in New York.

"Planet UN" is a documentary featuring the world body at the beginning of the 21st century as it takes on the enormous challenges threatening global stability today and in the future.

The film calls for an unprecedented and concerted global effort to confront threats such as food and energy shortages, climate change, terrorism, nuclear threats and the collapse of the international financial system among others.



"Through the exploration of three major themes: peacekeeping, development and human rights, this film presents a look at the UN as it works to confront the challenges of this century," UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyoo Akasaka told a news conference ahead of tonight's premiere.

In addition to academic and diplomatic dignitaries, including Noam Chomsky, the documentary highlights interviews with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon along with a number of other senior UN officials.

The 52-minute film is directed by French documentary-maker Romuald Sciora, who created four television shorts in 2006 called the Glass Building, which included footage of former Secretaries-General reminiscing about the 60-year history of the world body.

Underscoring the need to create awareness of the UN, Mr. Sciora said, "In the West we really don't know

what the UN is doing for the population of particular countries. In some countries the UN is the only thing that is helping them on a daily basis."

In a bid to reach a wider audience, a Marvel comic strip is planned for publication with action heroes, such as Spiderman and Batman, appearing in scenes focusing on the work of the UN.

"You'll find this refreshing and lively in terms of how the UN is portrayed in a very genuine way," said Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships.

A book with the same name published by Le Monde Diplomatique and Harper's Magazine is also slated to accompany the film along with a DVD.

*(source: UN Press Release / photo: Romuald Sciora, UN Photo 290853, Mark Garten)*

## First-ever trial at International Criminal Court, on use of child soldiers, opens

26 January 2009 - Legal history was made today in The Hague, the Netherlands, when the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was mandated to try war crimes beginning in 2002, put its first suspect taken into custody, a Congolese warlord accused of recruiting child soldiers, on trial.

The case of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo represents not only the debut proceedings of the ICC but also the first trial in the history of international law to see the active participation of victims in the proceedings, among which will number child combatants.

In today's proceedings, a plea of not guilty was entered by Mr. Lubanga, the founder and leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots in the Ituri region of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

He is accused of a series of war crimes, including conscripting and enlisting child soldiers into the military wing of his group and then using them to participate in hostilities between September 2002 and August 2003.

In June 2008, the Court decided to impose a stay of proceedings in the case because of non-disclosure of documents on the part of prosecutors but it reversed that decision this past November because the reasons for the stay had "fallen away."



Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale  
International  
Criminal  
Court

The hearings will be held before the Court's Trial Chamber I, before Presiding Judge Adrian Fulford of the United Kingdom and Judges Elisabeth Odio Benito of Costa Rica and René Blattmann of Bolivia, according to an ICC press release.

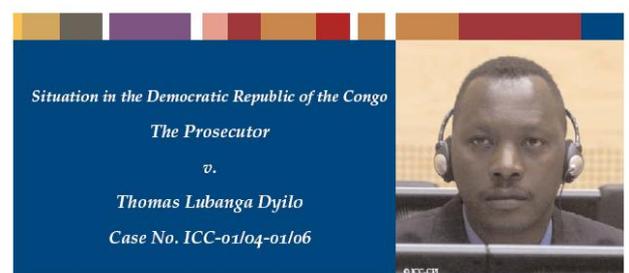
The ICC added that during the hearings, the Office of the Prosecutor, whose lead counsel is Deputy Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, will present a large number of the 1.671 documents which it has compiled in the case, as well as videos allegedly showing Mr. Lubanga in training camps in the company of recruits whose age seems to be below 15.

Established by the Rome Statute of 1998, the ICC can try cases involving individuals charged with war crimes committed since July 2002. The UN Security Council, the ICC Prosecutor or a State Party to the Court can initiate any proceedings, and the ICC only acts when countries themselves are unwilling or unable to investigate or prosecute.

Also today, Alan Doss, the Special Representative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in the DRC, launched an appeal to armed groups in the central African country to demobilize the child soldiers that they have continued to recruit and deploy.

Children's protection organizations estimate that around 3.000 children are still among the ranks of those groups, mostly in the eastern Kivu provinces.

*(source: UN Press Release / photo: ICC information sheet)*



## Quiz

For the seventeenth quiz a record number of eighteen people from fourteen countries sent in an answer. The question was: where is this stamp from? Two contestants answered South Africa and two answered Brazil. The right answer, however, is Ciskei. The stamp was issued for the International Space Year in 1992.

And the winner is: **Donata Ketvirytė** from **Lithuania**. The mint stamps will be in the mail very soon.

Sixty years ago, in 1949, the first UN related stamp issue from all over the world was realized. Almost every country and colony celebrated the birthday of the Universal Postal Union.



One stamp (from one of the 80 countries currently on the website) issued for the 75th anniversary of the UPU. I have erased the name of the country completely, but the over-print should make it very easy to find the right answer.

The question is:

**where is this stamp from?**

E-mail your answer to [info@unostamps.nl](mailto:info@unostamps.nl) before 1 March 2009. All correct answers will be entered in the draw. The lucky winner will receive a special philatelic prize. The prize consists of several mint UPU related stamps from **United Nations New York, Dominican Republic, Romania and South Africa** and these can be yours! Good luck! You can see the complete prize on the website.

## United Nations Agenda February 2009

21 International Mother Language Day

## Visitors count

Up to 31 January 2009 UNOstamps has been seen by 261 visitors other than myself. 11 of these visitors came from an unknown country. In January I could welcome for the first time visitors from **Bhutan, French Polynesia** and **Jamaica**. The total therefore rose to 101 countries. In 2009 people from 53 countries have passed by the website.

The top ten countries are (between brackets the results of 31 December 2008):

1. (3)	France	38	(8)	Italy	12
2. (1)	United States	29	7. (5)	United Kingdom	11
3. (2)	Netherlands	24	8. (7)	Germany	9
4. (4)	India	14	9. (9)	Belgium	8
5. (5)	Canada	12	10. (-)	Romania	7

## Next issue

Newsletter nr. 19 will be issued on 5 March 2009. If you have a comment that you would like to share with the other readers, please send it before 1 March 2009. To unsubscribe from the Newsletter, just send an e-mail to [info@unostamps.nl](mailto:info@unostamps.nl) with the subject 'unsubscribe'.

