



'PEACE'



Display and presentation
by Grace Davies FRPSL

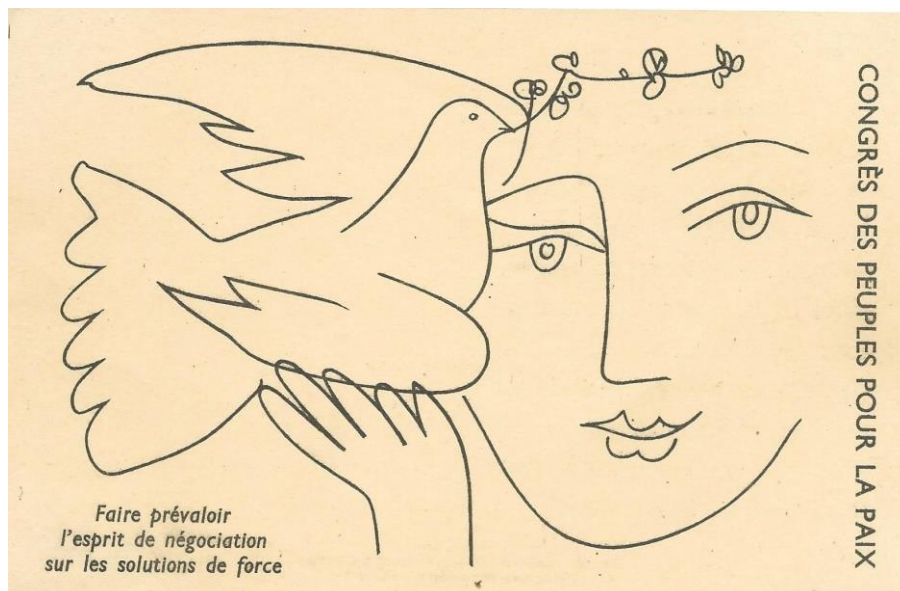
The Royal Philatelic Society London
Thursday 2nd December 2021

Foreword by David Beech MBE FRPSL

INFLUENCE OF PICASSO ON STAMP DESIGNS



Picasso had painted doves since a child. Later, as a successful artist in Paris he offered this painting to the French Communist Party for their forthcoming first Peace Conference in 1949. Shown here on an original postcard sent from that conference with an appropriate message of hopes for peace.



Postcard showing an example of many such drawings by Picasso. Similar images are described in catalogues as 'After Picasso'.

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FONTS:

Titles: *LUCIDA HANDWRITING, BOLD, size 14, colour= blue/accent 1/darker 50%*

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DEDICATION

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of Christine Earle FRPSL who died of Covid-19 in January 2021.

As a thematic collector, exhibitor and judge of the highest standing, I also remember Christine for her warmth, humour and helpfulness. She judged my small exhibits many times and her positive criticisms were as helpful as her praise.

It was Christine who first encouraged me to join the Royal Philatelic Society London because she said I would love it. The last time I spoke to her she said in her enthusiastic way that she would love to give the vote of thanks after this display. That was not to be and I feel her passing with a great sense of loss.

THE AUTHOR



Grace Davies' parents, Alfred and Malie Roth, were refugees from Austria in 1939 and at the time of her birth her father was interned on the Isle of Man. The new baby born in safety was named after Grace Beaton, the International Secretary of the War Resisters' International which had helped her parents and sister come to England. Alfred and Malie had been active idealists as a young couple in Vienna and in England they joined socialist and pacifist groups meeting many of the notable figures of the time. Grace and her sisters grew up in an atmosphere in which pacifism and political discussion were taken for granted.

The establishment of the welfare state just after the war was enormously important to the whole family and all four girls were able to have a good state education. Grace collected stamps as a child and how the Peace collection came about is described in 'Growth of a Collection'.

Grace lives in Lewes, county town of Sussex. She has two sons and five grandchildren divided between Sussex and the Netherlands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, my thanks go to our Past President, Richard Stock, for inviting me to give this display and presentation and to his successor Peter Cockburn for taking me into his programme after Covid-related delays. I appreciate the opportunity to wave the flag in my own way for thematic philately and take pleasure in sharing my collection. I am enormously grateful to Ben Palmer and Greg Spring of Cavendish Auctions for their sponsorship and production of this brochure.

David Beech has long wanted me to write a book about my collection and although I was not willing to make that commitment, he encouraged me to think of this brochure as more than just a handout and to write 'for posterity'!

Finally, my sincere appreciation goes to David Beech and Barrie Wright – AKA my friendly proof readers – who not only had the patience to check the text for errors but also made many helpful suggestions.

I hope my efforts have justified their faith in me.

FOREWORD

Many will be surprised that I have been invited by Grace Davies to contribute this foreword to the printed meeting notes accompanying her display. I have never been a thematic philatelist and have struggled to fully appreciate the discipline, be it in collecting or exhibition presentation. It is an important approach to many aspects of life not to have a closed mind and while I have and continue to struggle with the thematic concept, Grace's collection and approach have served as a testing ground for me.

I have had the privilege to discuss her collection and approach on many occasions and can only admire her discipline and resolve to achieve. For my education, I travelled in 2019 with a small group to the 9th European Championship for Thematic Philately, held in Verona at the 133rd *Veronaphil* exhibition, where I was able to view many leading exhibits and discuss them with noted thematic philatelists. This was a privilege.

Grace has carefully described in these notes, as an encouragement to others and as a matter of record, the journey in her subject of Peace – it shows what can be done.

David Beech MBE FRPSL

September 2021

The Bloemfontein Post.



SPECIAL.



PEACE

Officially Declared.

DETAILS LATER.

1st June 1902 - Declaration of Peace by the Bloemfontein Post with Army Post Office cancel dated the day after the Treaty of Vereeniging.

PEACE - THE GROWTH OF A COLLECTION

INTRODUCTION

Peace is an abstract idea, which can be interpreted and illustrated in different ways. My collection and this display include a wide range of material aiming to show something of interest for even the most hardened traditional collectors and postal historians. Hopefully, too, any reader thinking 'Peace! How can one make a collection on that?' will understand that it is possible to interpret any theme in any way.

This is the message I would like the viewer or reader to take away: that yes, if there is the interest and inclination one *can* make a collection based on any subject even an abstract idea as I have done with Peace.

This collection is not about competition, it has followed no rules and the best way I can describe its development over thirty-five years is that like Topsy, it 'just grow'd'.

HOW I STARTED

The joy of a thematic collector is in being able to search for and gather together any type of material he or she wishes as long as it relates to the theme. Many thematic collections start in quite a simple way, often with largely modern stamps, and then over time develop differently according to the style, pocket and particular interest of the individual collector.

I suppose this is how my collection started but it was definitely not planned. This is what happened.

I had collected stamps as a child and like many young people abandoned the hobby in my teens. However, when years later my younger son showed an interest in stamps, I joined Burgess Hill Philatelic Society as he was too young to do so in his own right. That was a fateful move! At a club auction one day, the auctioneer called out 'New Zealand Peace Set'. Believe me when I say that I had no idea what that was. But having grown up in a pacifist family the word peace rang an immediate chord and as I happened to be holding the bidding card, I shot it up; thus, I acquired a page of stamps for £1. What was I to do with it? In the

end, it went in the back of my son's folder of ships and GB. Subsequently, when we looked through packets together, I would notice and start to take out odd stamps with the word PAX or a picture of Gandhi or a dove and the more I found the more I noticed. I was spending just pennies until we went to our first stamp fair and I paid £6 for a United Nations International Year of Peace mini-sheet; that was a big deal then! Something was happening but I did not quite know what.

Then a dealer in Brighton whom we had started visiting phoned to say he had something of interest and thought I should come down to the shop. Almost as an afterthought he suggested that I brought my cheque book. I nearly didn't go but of course I did. When I got to the shop the dealer asked me to wait a moment while he went to the safe! I felt like leaving but of course I did not. The dealer came back with the 1945 Swiss Peace Set mint and I looked at it for a long time. I had a young family and not much money to spare. I knew my husband would not object but would it be right for me to start a new, possibly expensive, hobby? But there was not really a choice; I bought the set, added it to the small collection at the back of my son's folder and the next day bought myself a stamp album.

I had started a collection on the theme of Peace, and I had no idea where it would lead me.

1986 was the International Year of Peace. It seemed obvious to me that although I did not know how to do it, I should enter 8 pages in the upcoming club competition. This forced me to think about what the word peace really meant and the different ways it could be used, which created a plan for the exhibit. I came second, I thought because the judge was intrigued by the subject but probably because I had bonus points as a beginner!

I was hooked.

THE STRUCTURE

The basic structure I created for that first exhibit has not changed much over the years. So, we can usefully return to that first question in 1986: what does the word peace mean? The obvious answer is the cessation of war. But does that mean just the turning point of the end of a war, what we could call a truce? Of course not, peace lasts longer than that. Which moves us on to thinking of peace as the opposite of war, as a state of peace that can last a short or long time and I call it the Absence of War, peacetime.

This is a well-covered field, in literature and art as well as in philately. However, the beginning and continuation of peace does not only relate to war. Surely it can apply to the ending and absence of anything that is its opposite. Bear with me here: 'Phew! Peace at last!' – how often would you my readers recognise this when noisy children have been put to bed, when road works outside the house have ended, when the last fireworks on November 5th have gloriously and noisily exploded? And so on. Peace is also a state of ongoing calm and quiet; for example, we often use the word peaceful to describe gentle sea and countryside

landscapes. I noted that several post-war stamp issues such as Canada 1946 show peaceful agricultural scenes.

So having explored these thoughts and accepted that the word peace could be used in a variety of different ways, it followed that relevant philatelic material was to be found 'all over the place'. In the early days eager dealers seeing a potential new customer might ask what I collected or was looking for; the reply 'Peace' usually resulted in a shake of the head and a 'sorry but we've nothing on that' sort of reply. Of course, they often did, and I learned to sit down and look through boxes – and boxes – and boxes. Ah, here is something: Esperanto – language of world peace; or Peace Bridge; or Peace Congresses. Slowly I gathered material and created sections for it to fit into. I am forever grateful to the dealers who took an interest in helping me in those early days.

In May 1994 I was invited to give a half-evening display to my local Burgess Hill club. I was so impressed by this opportunity that I photocopied all sixty pages with text and had it ring-bound! Black and white (no colour scans then) and still largely stamps it looks very immature now, but I was proud of it at the time and critically, it gave me a taste for displaying to clubs – for sharing my collection – which has never left me.

AFTER THE END OF WAR

When it came to it, starting with post-war material was natural. Peace at the end of war is what we think of first and there is plenty to be found.

The illustration on page 6 is a poster announcement by the Bloemfontein Post: 'PEACE Officially Declared' with postmarks dated 1st June 1902, the end of the Boer War. It is slightly flamboyant and I like it as a frontispiece to a display. There were no commemorative stamps issued as far as I could tell but some other interesting items appeared.

Peace issues came after World War One however, with stamps, postcards and covers from many countries including Switzerland, New Zealand, the Bahamas and my favourite, Japan. When Japan issued its stamps on 1st July 1919 it also produced two beautiful woodcuts on postcards sold in their own special envelope – linking satisfyingly with my interest in art.

Not surprisingly, it seemed that the stamp world went into overdrive after World War Two. As I considered this section, two things clarified in my mind: firstly, that I needed to be more selective so I decided to only buy items that gave me personal pleasure for some reason or that I would be happy to display (or that was suitable for an exhibit but that is a different matter altogether); secondly, that Victory does not necessarily mean Peace. To understand this, we only have to look at recent news, but I still get offered or am tempted by victory material and have to be firm. There are one or two notable victory exceptions which can be seen later and are only included because without doubt they also mark peace at the end of war.

PEACE CONFERENCES AND TREATIES

After every war there is a lot to do before peace can properly be restored, and often it never is or does not last. The work that is needed takes place in peace conferences; if they are successful, they will conclude in a peace treaty such as the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. If they fail, such as the 1932 League of Nations–led Disarmament Conference, there will be no treaty. And make no mistake, most treaties are a compromise and do not satisfy all parties and many break down altogether afterwards.

Here was another critical moment. I realised that I had to be absolutely clear that this is a philatelic collection and not a political treatise! When I display to clubs, I sometimes spell that out and as far as possible I do not get drawn on politically driven (and sometimes provocative) questions and comments.

TOWARD UNITED NATIONS

As the years passed and the collection grew, I noticed a trend in the next three sections: that the Peace Movement, The League of Nations and the United Nations were all important multi-national organisations created to prevent war yet unable to achieve their aims. I decided to put together a one-frame competitive exhibit on this train of thought, not my first exhibit but the most serious. The title comes from the US stamp issued on the 25th April 1945 when representatives of fifty nations met in San Francisco to create the United Nations Charter, which begins: “We, the peoples of the United Nations. . .”. I like to read out the Charter preamble if there is time, it is ‘one hell of a brief’ and still relevant today.

The Peace Movement has been familiar to me since childhood but overall, apart from some interesting ephemera, it has been a difficult subject to collect. However, many peace organisations produced labels to promote their work so here was a chance to introduce Cinderella items.

The League of Nations has been much easier, plenty of material and I enjoyed collecting all the stamps. My interest in art and Eric Gill led me to the League of Nations Union. I have seen and admired Gill’s sculptures and letter-work and the little display in the British Museum in 2011 of his designs for the GB 1937 ½d and 4d stamps and the 1/- label for the League of Nations Union was a delight. It was thanks to the late Francis Kiddle and his brother Charles that I was able to form a small collection of League of Nations Union material. I am missing some of the stamp books one of which Charles illustrated in an article but admitted he had never seen. A recent article in *The Cinderella Philatelist* brought appreciation but no new information. Disappointing but that is the fun of this hobby and the chase!

By then, I was not only including Cinderella material but also more ephemera, which can be fascinating and sets so many stamps and covers into context. For example, a lovely find but what a sad letter at the end of Frame 6, the Trustees of the League of Nations Union acknowledging the League's failure and asking for support for its replacement, the emerging United Nations. It was like an echo of thirty years before, when the International Peace Bureau in Berne, which had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910, had to accept that the world was at war and changed its direction from trying to preserve peace to working for prisoners of war for many years until finally disbanded in 1959.

I do not collect United Nations material per se, of which there is a vast amount, but only that which I feel is specifically relevant to what I want to say or show at any given point in time. I enjoy original artwork when it has become available and the UN is quite fruitful in this respect. The United Nations headquarters is a purpose-built building in New York which opened to its secretariat in 1950 and the General Assembly in 1952. When I discovered that the very first meeting of the new assembly was in London in January 1946, I was happily diverted into finding out what happened in between, and all the interim locations can be seen on Frame 7.

PEACE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER IDEAS

Up to this point the collection had been profoundly serious, hopefully of interest and thought provoking, but not likely to lift one's spirits after listening to the news. However, it did not take long to discover plenty of other material that was not directly linked to war. This grew into what I call 'Peace Associated with Other Ideas' and as with my collection from the beginning, its shape was determined randomly by material found and developing it has been an enjoyable journey.

My first find, perhaps surprisingly, was the Peace, Justice and Human Rights issue of Sierra Leone in 1968, the International Year of Human Rights; these were the second self-adhesive stamps in the world (the first were Tonga in 1963). The stamps are the shape of Africa and the paper they adhere to is purple backed with diamonds! All very jolly. More serious Peace and Justice stamps followed and made me acknowledge that thematic or not, I love collecting stamps, sets of them, which formed an increasing part of the collection. The St Vincent stamps show the allegorical figures of Peace and Justice at an altar, the design of the seal of the colony, and I have them all. Well, almost; I have the first rose red 5/- mint stamp issued in 1880; the 'used' version has a forged postmark with an RPSL certificate to prove it which fills the gap nicely.

Peace and Human Rights; Peace and Prosperity; Peace and Work; Food for Peace; Education for Peace; Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and of the Seabed; Atoms for Peace and so on. Many of the stamps commemorate particular events or campaigns and we see here a recognition that peace has requisites to exist at all and to survive. When countries and their populations are depressed by poverty, hunger, sickness, ignorance and exploitation they have little to

lose by war and think they maybe have something to gain. Conversely, communities living in educated comfort generally do not want to risk losing what they have.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON

The reader might have noticed my reference to an RPSL expert's certificate, and I had better divert here to say that in 2011 I became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Suddenly I was meeting experienced and serious collectors in the heart of philately which was wonderfully stimulating. Some of them invited me to display to their clubs so I had to make an extra effort not to let them and myself down. The best way to describe the overall effect of membership is to say that it 'upped my game'. Five years later I was astonished and proud to be nominated and accepted as a Fellow. It is fair to say that this affected my view of the collection and was an important stage in its growth.

SYMBOLS OF PEACE

Let us go back to the St Vincent issue with its two allegorical figures. There is plenty of material showing the allegorical figure of Peace, often issued either when a country is anxious (France 1932), hopeful (Spain 1873) or celebrating (Australia 1946). It is worth noticing that the figure is always female, almost always holds an olive branch and only occasionally holds a dove. It took me a long time to recognise this and my thoughts on the subject of the dove led to my conclusion that in truth the bird is not the main symbol of peace as we know it. The key symbol is the olive branch. Once this idea entered my thinking it was obvious. Think of the language: for example, we hold out an olive branch as a peace gesture. When Noah sent out a raven which did not return and then a dove which came back with a twig in its beak, it was not the bird but the olive branch that was proof of land and gave hope. So my thesis is that the dove or pigeon (same species) is the carrier – of our hopes and fears. Immediately, everything falls into place and there are plenty of stamps and covers showing the bird bringing post, human rights etc and yes, the olive twig for peace. Many stamps just illustrate the olive, and the symbolism is clear. But as we also see illustrations of the dove escaping from the chains of war or encircling the globe or on its own the dove has become universally recognised as a peace symbol in its own right.

There are other symbols of peace but one which caught my interest is the Peace Rose. Originally in the collection under Peace as a Name, the rose has a remarkable story outlined in the book 'For Love of a Rose' by Antonia Ridge. Bred in France in the 1930s, budwood was sent for safety to the USA at the beginning of World War Two. Highly acclaimed by rose growers there, it was ceremonially named Peace by the American Rose Association in September 1944 with the statement: *We are persuaded that this greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire – PEACE*". Thus, by being in the right

place at the right time and worthy of the accolade, Rosa Peace became a much-loved symbol worldwide.

The story is illustrated in my exhibit 'Story of the Peace Rose' which was created in an idiosyncratic way – I had almost no material on the subject at the time! I was thinking of a new exhibit on peace conferences which I would call 'Shaking Hands'; I had some items and knew there was plenty more available. A good sound subject of political interest. But at the time the Iraq war was raging and the situation depressing. Suddenly I changed my mind, I needed a cheerful subject. When I thought about the Peace Rose, I had one page with two stamps and a plant label so I headed to Thematica in London thinking that if I could not find suitable material, I would abandon the idea. I found nothing useful, but I could not let the idea drop. Over two or three years I managed to collect enough to put the exhibit together which because of its general interest became the basis of a PowerPoint presentation that I could also show to non-philatelic societies. (Some of these groups asked if I had another presentation and as the Nobel awards are of general interest, I created another PowerPoint presentation on the Nobel story. Both of these are firmly based round the exhibits.)

PEACE AS A NAME

The rose was and is a symbol and Peace is its name. This section has been a delight to collect, not too serious and with constant surprises: the Pax airship in Paris, Peacehaven in Sussex, La Paz in Bolivia (incidentally the highest administrative capital in the world) and in Canada the River Peace, Peace River, the Peace Garden and Peace Tower; it started when I came across a cover with 13 x 13c US stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of the construction between the US and Canada of the Peace Bridge across the River Niagara.

We learn all the time. Certainly, I did not know that Tien-An Men means Gate of Heavenly Peace until a Chinese dealer told me; fascinated by the stamps issued by the new Republic of China from 1950 I started to collect them all. There were five initial printings of the first issue and the difference was mainly in the clouds, so I was amused to find myself peering at them with a magnifying glass for identification. For many years from the first celebratory issue in 1949, commemorative 'originals' were produced for the post and then 'reprints' for collectors. The price differences are significant, so I quickly learned to recognise the clear but small differences in design detail, but I never became competent at measuring perforations!

MISCELLANEOUS

It was inevitable that I had items that did not fit in anywhere obvious or of which I did not have enough to create a new section but that does not mean that the contents have no interest. Esperanto fits in here, and a beautiful piece of genuine North Korean artwork with

the issued peace propaganda stamp on a commercial cover. Maybe more important are the 1947 and 1949 issues from Japan illustrating the country's response to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I have given a home here to my latest acquisition – a lovely Red Cross Free Mail stamp of 1870, on piece with a clear Lausanne postmark and date. I have had the stamp mint and damaged for many years and am delighted to be able to replace it for the opening of my display.

An unassuming item here is one of my favourites. It represents the Christmas message on a little brown commercial envelope with a December 1973 Belfast postmark which includes the legend 'the Perfect prEsent At Christmas for Everyone'. The words are printed vertically with the capital letters aligned to read downwards the word PEACE. It must have meant a great deal at that time in Northern Ireland and surely does now.

PEOPLE

I suppose I am what is loosely described as a 'people person' so it is not surprising that from the very beginning I was attracted to individuals who were relevant in some way to my subject. A card that I saw in a bookshop window and persuaded the reluctant shop owner to give to me has a quote from the physicist Albert Einstein: "*Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding*". Mahatma Gandhi, who might have been awarded the Nobel Peace prize after India's Independence if he had not been assassinated, has an interesting if sometimes painful story. His relevance here is the development of a successful method of non-violent protest, which Martin Luther King, who did receive the Peace Prize in 1964, travelled to India to study.

ALFRED NOBEL AND THE PEACE PRIZE

It did not take long to realise that many stamps illustrated Nobel Peace Laureates. While I collected material to illustrate them it was natural to include the background story of Alfred Nobel himself. Thus began a section which became a collection in its own right.

My first attempt at a 16-page exhibit on this subject, called 'Gift to the Nations' was in 2007. Nobel was Swedish so I was surprised many years later to find that my one frame now titled 'Alfred Nobel, his Life and Legacy' was the only entry on the subject at Stockholmia in 2019! The exhibit outlines Nobel's life, his remarkable will and the first year of its implementation and awards in 1901.

Alfred Nobel left money for five prizes. Four of them were to be administered and awarded in Stockholm, Sweden. The fifth was the Peace Prize which he specified should be dealt with

in Oslo, Norway. Award ceremonies in both countries are prestigious affairs always held on 10th December, the anniversary of Nobel's death. In Sweden, presentations are made by the King, in Norway in the presence of the royal family. The prize money is considerable but equally significant is the international attention and support the award offers. The Peace Prize is the only one which may be awarded to organisations.

My trip to Stockholm in 2019 was a wonderful opportunity to explore Nobel's story there and inspired by that I had booked a trip to Oslo for 2020 which sadly had to be cancelled owing to Covid-19.

NOBEL LAUREATES

What a start the prize had! The first peace award in 1901 was to go to Henri Dunant for the founding of the Red Cross, a worthy cause one might say. But many protested that "*the Red Cross does not promote peace; rather it humanises the face of war*". Oh dear! I imagine that members of the new Nobel Committee must have wished they had not taken on this role. However, the problem was solved by their selecting Frédéric Passy, a bona-fide peace activist, to share the prize.

From this first award in 1901 until the first world war most of the awards went to peace activists, individuals and organisations working to prevent war; thus, Bertha von Suttner, the International Peace Bureau Berne and Fredrik Bajer. The only award during World War One was to the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1917; the same happened in World War Two in 1944 and is an excellent example of how the Prize gave not only serious funds to an organisation vital at the time but also a high global profile.

Between the two wars, politicians were recognised. Active pacifists had not managed to prevent war but after the Treaty of Versailles politicians were busy trying to implement its terms and to create stability in Europe. Some were recognised, Woodrow Wilson immediately after the Treaty for the founding of the League of Nations. And then worthy of note were the awards in 1925 to our own Austen Chamberlain and in 1926 to Aristide Briand and Gustave Stresemann for their roles in the 1925 Locarno Conference and Treaty.

After World War Two everything changed. If neither pacifists nor politicians could prevent war what was needed? The consequences of war were always so awful that giving up was not an option. So, the United Nations with its six main organs and sub committees committed to working globally for a better world won Nobel recognition for its key players such as UNICEF, the Peace-keeping forces, the UN Refugee Agency (twice), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the UN itself in 2001. Politicians were not ignored (note Mandela and Obama) but we see Rigoberta Menchu Tum awarded for her work with the indigenous people of her native Guatemala, Al Gore for his warning message on Climate

Change and in 2014 young Malala Yousafzai for her campaigning on education which nearly cost her her life.

My final word here is on the Peace Award in 1998 to David Trimble and John Hume for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. I wrote to them both and with his signed photograph, John Hume sent me a handwritten letter. In it he says: *"I was obviously very honoured to receive the Nobel Peace Prize and I saw it not just as an award to myself but as a strong statement of international support for the peace process and of course sympathy for the people of N. Ireland, particularly since it came from such an internationally respected body as the Nobel Institute"*. There you have it.

CONCLUSION

I hope that the story of my collection from zero in 1985 will resonate with some readers and be of interest to others. As I have said, I became a Fellow of the Royal in 2016. In 2019, I was asked by then President Richard Stock to give a 5pm presentation. Assuming the Coronavirus pandemic does not prevent it, this will be an honour and a pleasure, and I have assembled twenty frames to display. The following pages speak to those frames and I hope that in the spirit of this article it will seem that I and my collection have come of age.

FRAME 1 - CESSATION OF WAR - AFTER THE BOER WAR AND WORLD WAR 1

The **Boer War** (1899 – 1902) ended with the Treaty of Vereeniging on 31st May 1902. This eventually led to the Union of South Africa within the British Empire in 1910. The small group of items shown here gives just a nod to that occasion and its importance.



World War One (1914–1918) ended on 11th November 1918 with the Armistice Day truce. The Versailles Treaty was signed on 28th June 1919 and Japan was the first country to issue commemorative stamps on the 1st July. The fine set of four stamps was produced by two different designers but all show the symbolic dove which is unusual in design. The issue coincided with the Year of the Ram so many of these items have the splendid red ram cancels – occasionally purple, as on the high value stamp on page 6, possibly from an appointed 3rd class Post Office.

On the same day the post office issued two postcards with beautiful woodcut illustrations, one of a girl releasing a dove (*left*) and the other showing peacetime agriculture. The cards in their own special envelope were sold out by 10 am on the first day and rapidly re-issued.

Switzerland followed on 1st August. As well as three stamps, a postal stationary card for the low value was issued and can be seen here in four forms: mint, cancelled to order, postally used and cancelled in Basel with the set of three stamps affixed – philatelic but attractive.

New Zealand's set of six stamps arrived on 27th January 1920 and is one of the rare exceptions to the rule against including victory material in this collection. The set is described as Victory but as well as the lion of victory three of the stamps show the allegorical figure of Peace and the set was clearly issued to mark the end of the war.

A month later on 1st March 1920, the Bahamas issued its five-stamp set 'Peace Celebration'. The early registered cover is addressed to Oswald Marsh, a stamp dealer who was known to have had a business in Norwood, SE19 from 1905 – 1939.

The August 1919 Pigeongram on Page 12 is a very scarce item. The Australian cover on the final page is unusual with its 1920 roller cancellation exhorting the public to 'Finish the Job, Buy Peace Bonds', thus acknowledging the need to recover from the high cost of war.

FRAME 2 -CESSATION OF WAR - AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR



The Second World War 1939 - 1945 had two celebrated endings, VE Day and VJ Day.

The first, Victory in Europe Day, was on 8th May 1945 which is marked in this display by a delightful Airgraph sent the day before as

'Great War Peace Stakes Result':

1. *ALLIES - Gaining headway, leading all the way, finished strong*
2. *ITALY - Hesitated, faltered, did not finish*
3. *GERMANY - Badly trapped, bumped, ran madly, knocked out*
4. *JAPAN- Stumbling, unable to catch winner, very much hampered, still running out.*

Switzerland was ready and on 9th May issued its beautiful Peace set of 13 stamps. The fine design and engraving of the 5 Fr (*above*) is by Swiss Karl Bickel.

The history of the war is well known. Suffice it to say that after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrendered in August with the official signing of surrender on the USS Missouri on 2nd September, known as Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. My inclusion of the commemorative cover is the most important exception to my rule against victory items. The Philippine stamps are all overprinted Victory but in this case the occasion definitely marks the end of the world war with its possibility of peace and so needs to be included. It is worth noting the cover from HMAS Shropshire, one of the many ships of the Allied Fleet observing the official surrender. The frame continues with 1946 issues from Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain.

The New Zealand set is special for having started my collection. Note the artwork. The stamps were designed by James Berry and I show a fine pencil drawing based on Lake Matheson, used in the issued set for the ½d stamp. But in a way the first sketches on scrappy tracing paper are more exciting. These are the artist's version of brainstorming, Berry's initial sketches at the beginning of the design process.

Great Britain features rarely in this collection so it is good to be able to include the 1946 set of two stamps called 'Peace and Reconstruction'. Note the penultimate page where - feeling like a vandal - I had opened the cover 47 years after it had been posted to the US on the first day of issue and returned to the sender!

FRAME 3 - PEACE CONFERENCES AND TREATIES



After almost every war there is a great deal of political work to be done and this usually takes place in peace conferences. They are not always successful; some struggle and fail, some stop and restart a few times before limping on but those in which the parties manage to reach a settlement can conclude the conference with a treaty. Even so, not all treaties

can maintain the brokered peace and some break down entirely. This frame shows a selection of the type of material available to illustrate this aspect of the peace process.

First is an invitation to view a painting of members of the 1856 Paris Peace Conference which ended the Crimean War. Then in 1902 the Treaty of Vereeniging ended the Boer War in South Africa. Three years later in 1905 the Treaty of Portsmouth formally ended the Russo-Japanese war. The conference was called by President Theodore Roosevelt for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906.

Settlement after the First World War required several conferences and treaties over about four years. The first and best known was Versailles (*above*) - out of its treaty on 28th June 1919 came the League of Nations - followed by the Treaty of St Germain-en-Lay on 10th September 1919 and four more until the final Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923.

Even then, Europe remained insecure and the main aims of the Locarno Conference in 1925 was to guarantee European national borders, to demilitarise the Rhineland and start a process of bringing Germany into the League of Nations. However, the 1932 League of Nations-led Disarmament Conference in Geneva failed entirely as did the League itself and in 1939 the world was at war again.

The second world war ended with the 1946 Paris Peace Conference and Treaty in February 1947. In September 1951 the Allies and Japan signed the San Francisco Treaty; the terms were acknowledged the following year by China and Japan in the Asia and Pacific Ocean Treaty which was signed by forty-eight countries and officially ended WW2 in the region.

Minds then turned back to Berlin with hopes of increasing European security by a treaty with a united Germany but the Four Power Conference failed and the division of Germany into East and West remained until 1990.

FRAME 4 - EXHIBIT: 'TOWARD UNITED NATIONS'



I have often had to correct helpful editors and competition organisers who have added an 's' to my title but one can see that Toward in the exhibit title is not a misspelling and here (*left*) is the stamp to prove it! It was issued on the first day of the meeting of the fledgling United Nations in San Francisco, to start drawing up its Charter. This document, which finally went into effect on 24th October 1945, starts: "*WE, THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind*". Seventy years later the UN is still in existence so despite its failures and limitations it can be said to have fared better than its predecessors. But why was it created in the first place; what had happened previously?

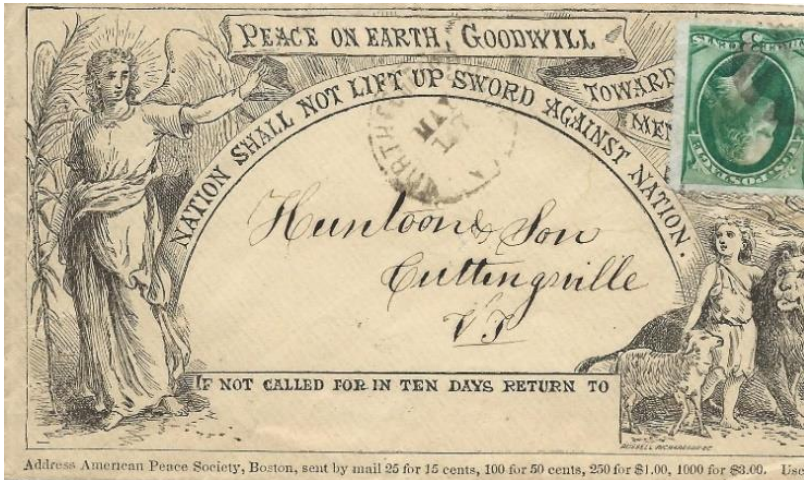
There have been attempts to prevent war for centuries, developing in the 19th century into a movement formed of individuals and organisations whose main focus was to maintain peace. As with many organisations, these small groups gradually merged into larger ones and then national peace congresses. From there it was natural to 'go global' and out of the 1891 Congress in Rome came the International Peace Bureau, Berne. This gave the peace movement a significant status and in 1910 the Bureau was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for its work. But its achievements could not be sustained and with the onset of war in 1914 it accepted failure and concentrated on humanitarian work with prisoners of war.

During the war the US President Woodrow Wilson and his chief adviser Edward House drew up plans for an international league of nations; the idea was that bringing national leaders together would surely prevent another war. Their proposal was accepted and the League of Nations was created by covenant in the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919. The League struggled from the beginning, partly it is thought because the United States refused to join. Whatever the reason, it failed in its main purpose and in 1939 Europe and then the world was at war again.

This time the world leaders were Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin who met to plan a post-war future in which the horrors of war could not be repeated and they came up with the same idea with a different name: United Nations.

This exhibit traces these events, not to describe the three organisations and events in themselves but to tell the story of their roles in the thread of history, of success and failure; it is a process of illustrating my thoughts. It takes us just to the beginning of the United Nations – Toward United Nations – and for the rest, history will be left to judge.

FRAME 5 - THE PEACE MOVEMENT



This and the following two frames expand the story of the exhibit on Frame 4.

The peace movement was active with literature, lectures and meetings for publicity and bringing like-minded people together. Note the 1842 letter on page 3 in which the secretary of the London office of the Peace

Society expresses in the most courteous language of the day his regret that a local branch has not paid an outstanding bill of £1.17.6d. *Plus ça change!*

Page 4 has two fine postal stationary cards from Geneva, issued in 1912 for the 19th Peace Congress there and overprinted on the reverse in 1926 for the 25th Congress. The label on the latter quotes Frédéric Passy: (*transl*) 'Utopia is the dream of today and the reality of tomorrow', epitomising the optimism of idealists – how else would they carry on?

A few examples are shown of the many Peace envelopes produced in the mid-19th century. The most well-known are by J. Valentine of Dundee and from the American Peace Society (*above*). Cinderella items are included and here we see a selection of labels: on the first page to illustrate a few Peace organisations and in the centre of the frame are two sheets of Peace labels produced in 1914 by Wentz for the Peace Society of America. Each set was printed in three sheets of different colourways and priced at 10c per set of 16 labels. The two covers to and from the International Peace Bureau illustrate the failure of the Bureau to prevent war and its transition to work for war's victims – poignantly representing a tragic part of history.

Finally, note the personal items at the end of the frame. Many years ago, I was offered a 1934 envelope with the printed legend (*transl*) 'Brotherhood of Peace and Reconciliation'. On arrival I saw that the cover was from the War Resisters' International, the organisation which had helped my refugee parents come to England in 1939. The addressee was Grace Beaton, International Secretary of the WRI and I was named after her. The original photograph shows a meeting of the WRI in Austria in 1928 and in the front row are my father and Grace Beaton. This page well illustrates the peace movement in action. Then very recently I came upon the greetings telegram! Dated on my birth date it is from Grace Beaton to my mother and the new baby (me). Nothing to do with philately but surely worth including with the previous page.

FRAME 6 - LEAGUE OF NATIONS



Here we see the second international attempt to bring nations together to prevent war: the League of Nations. During World War One the US President Woodrow Wilson

drew up his famous Fourteen Points outlining his proposals for a post-war settlement; the only one to be accepted was his proposal for a league of nations which came into force with the Versailles Treaty of June 1919. Later that year he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize *'For his crucial role in establishing the League of Nations.'* Despite this the United States of America never joined the League.

This frame shows the early venue, the Palace of Geneva renamed Palais Wilson after Wilson died in 1924, and the new Palais des Nations completed in 1935 to embody 'the peaceful glory of the 20th century'. The two first presidents are shown and the first 1922 Swiss Issue overprinted Société des Nations for use only by officials of the League.

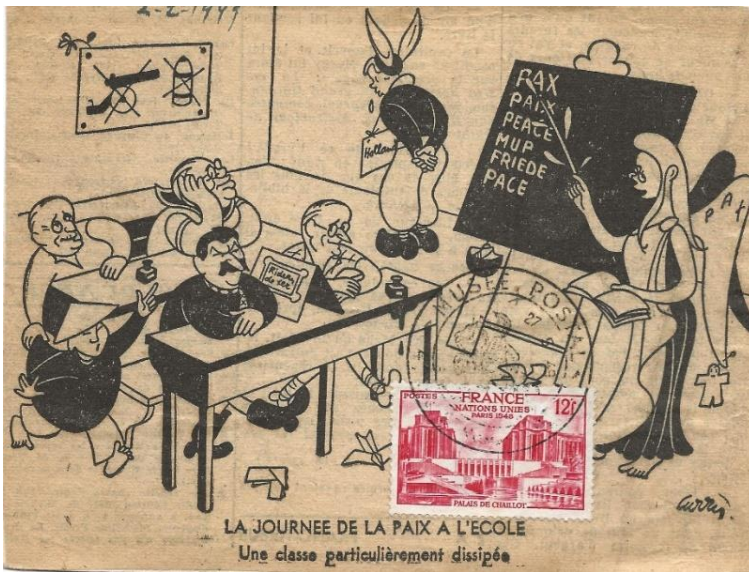
The 1932 sheet of disarmament labels is a nod to the failed disarmament conference; Sean Lester in his role as Secretary General from 1940-46 oversaw the closure of the League of Nations and the transfer of its funds to the new United Nations.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

Edgar Algernon Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 1st Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, known as Lord Robert Cecil from 1868 to 1923, was a British lawyer, politician and diplomat who was passionate about the League of Nations and gave up a diplomatic career to work for its success through the foundation of the League of Nations Union. In 1939 poster stamps were produced by the British Poster Stamp Association to commemorate the League's 21st anniversary. There were five values; the blue 1/- value (*above*) was designed by the talented artist Eric Gill (who had tried for some time to design for the Royal Mail with very limited success). The mission statement on the reverse of the membership card shown says: "A strong, united, well-informed public is the only way to make the LEAGUE OF NATIONS an effective LEAGUE OF PEOPLES".

In November 1943 the Trustees of the Union led by Viscount Cecil wrote to Lord Harlech stating their opinion that in view of the Failure of the League of Nations the country needed encouragement to support the new project approved at the Moscow Conference: a United Nations. And so the frame ends as did the world, looking 'Toward United Nations'.

FRAME 7 - THE UNITED NATIONS



I include the United Nations because of its purpose and many of its activities. However, I made a deliberate decision not to collect all UN material – of which the UNPA produces a vast amount – but only those items of particular interest.

The pages on this frame illustrate the very early days of the UN, from its first meeting in April 1945 in San Francisco. It shows the different venues of the General Assembly

meetings, from London in January 1946 until their establishment in purpose-built headquarters in New York in 1952. (*Palais de Chaillot 1948, above*)

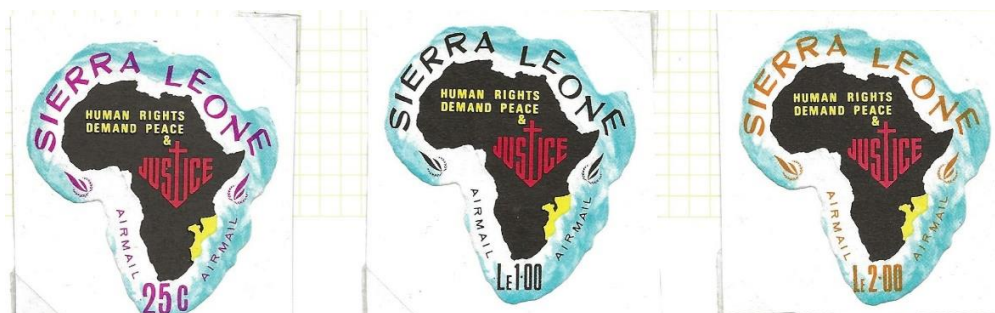
The flag of the United Nations, designed (emblem only) by Donal McLaughlin, was adopted in December 1946; it is made up of the official emblem of the United Nations in white on a blue background. The olive branches are a symbol for peace surrounding the globe which represents all the people and countries of the world.

The first United Nations stamps were issued in New York in October 1951; the airmail stamps followed in December. The main European office for the United Nations is in Geneva in the Palais des Nations where stamps were issued from 1969. The International Centre for the UN in Vienna opened in 1979 and issued stamps the same year. In 1996 a UN office opened in Nairobi as its official HQ in Africa

The first Secretary-General was Trygve Lye (1945 –53) who oversaw the move of the Secretariat into the new building. He was succeeded by Dag Hammarskjold (1953–61) who did much to extend the powers of the Secretariat. He died in a plane crash in 1961 and was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1962 – the only posthumous Nobel award.

The United Nations has six main organs (not shown here) which are: The General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council; the Secretariat; the Economic and Social Council; the Security Council; the International Court of Justice. It has been in existence for more than seventy-five years, working to maintain peace and to improve the lot of mankind with mixed success. The United States is a member but does not always accept its authority; nor do many other countries who prefer to stick to their own agendas. However, the fact that the UN is still in existence is perhaps testimony to the need for its ongoing role.

FRAME 8 AND 9 - PEACE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER IDEAS



In this frame we start to move away from the direct link of peace with war and the mood becomes lighter. Here we see material that in summary shows what conditions are needed for stable and healthy populations in which peace is possible: human rights, justice and freedom; food and education; work, trade and prosperity; and peaceful uses of the resources we have such as the sea, space and atomic energy. The 1968 Sierra Leone stamps (*above*) – ‘*Human Rights demand peace and Justice*’ – were only the second self-adhesive stamps issued (after Tonga in 1963).

Of special interest are the 1914 GB Peace and Commerce stamps on page seven; they are in fact essays. They were designed by the renowned British stamp designer Bertram McKennal and are most likely early photogravure trials by the Rembrandt Intaglio Printing Co as a suggested new method of printing.

In 1953 President Eisenhower gave a speech to the UN General Assembly which he titled ‘Atoms for Peace’. His speech led to an international conference in 1955 and the creation of the International Energy Authority (IEA) in 1957; the title stuck and thereafter the conferences were all called Atoms for Peace Conferences. Stamps and cancellations are widely available and here we can see a presentation envelope with its covering letter from the US Foreign Service to diplomats around the world.



A whole frame is given over to the St Vincent Peace and Justice stamps, introduced in 1880 with a high value 5/- stamp. It was a striking new design in which the allegorical figures of Peace and Justice are seen at an altar. With its surround this is the Seal of the Colony of St Vincent. If one ignores perforations, watermarks and colour shades this small collection from 1880 to 1965 is almost complete and includes revenue stamps and specimens. Missing is a genuinely used 1880 stamp but one with a forged postmark (and RPSL reference number) is shown here. Note the delightful miniature painting by designer Michael Goaman on the final page.

FRAME 10 - SYMBOLS OF PEACE - THE ALLEGORICAL FIGURE

The allegorical figure can be seen widely throughout the collection but she merits a full frame of her own. Note that the figure is always female, always holds an olive twig or branch and sometimes (in more modern issues) also a dove.



These designs often represented the times: the France 1932 Type Paix de Laurens is a good example. Europe was in a state of great political uncertainty and it can be no coincidence that 1932 was also the year of the failed League of Nations Disarmament Conference. In contrast, the 1873 Spanish stamps (*left*) were issued optimistically at the beginning of a very short republic and ended with the republic a year later.

Peace and Commerce were often closely aligned as in the well-known French Type Sage of 1876-7. The design was chosen by competition after the Franco-Prussian War. Yugoslavia also used the Angel of Peace in its 1919 post-war stamps.

An odd little collection shows some of the Seebeck designs of the 1890s. William Seebeck was a prolific producer of stamps which he sold to South American countries at terms favourable to him. One page shows a complete set of brown die proofs and the 1896 definitive stamps of El Salvador. There are also essays for Honduras and Nicaragua.

In Toronto, Canada there is a Sculpture called Shrine Peace Memorial presented by the Ancient Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine to Canadians in 1930 at the time of their National Exhibition to commemorate over a century of peace between their country and the USA. The splendid angel holds aloft two olive branches and the text on the curved plinth reads '*Peace be on you - on you be the Peace*'.

The French stamp of 1945 with Marianne urging on resistance fighters might seem an odd inclusion until one looks at the two signed proofs which show the Angel of Peace. These were two of 13 designs submitted and not adopted.

In 1967 I was fortunate to be living in Montreal at the time of World Expo. Peace, Justice, Truth and Fraternity were the themes of the United Nations Pavilion and here we see the UN stamp illustrating the sculpture of Peace, holding an olive branch *and* dove. As does the seated figure in the 1938 Czech stamps on the final page.



FRAME 11 AND 12 - EXHIBIT: 'THE DOVE AND OLIVE BRANCH - SYMBOLS OF HOPE AND PEACE'



My interest in exhibiting competitively was strictly as a 'one-framer' until the time came to enter for the British Thematic Association Cup; in those days the entry requirement was for two frames and there was no doubt that I could or should not avoid this any longer. The experience of extending the existing one frame exhibit on the subject was surprisingly satisfying – and it was gratifying to win the cup!

Thematic exhibits need a story; here it is how a bird and a twig came to be symbols of Peace recognised as such worldwide and how their messages have been illustrated in many different ways in philately. Two figures have been key to this development. The first was the Old Testament figure of Noah who, finding himself stranded in floodwater, sent first a raven and then a dove to find land. The raven never returned but the dove came back with a twig of olive in its beak. At this point I realised that I should extend the commonly held view of these as symbols only of peace; in this story the dove is the bringer of hope, it is the twig which shows the existence of land.

This new perspective widens the story as it became increasingly clear that the dove, the pigeon, is a carrier. It brings the post – good or bad news is vital – human rights, freedom and yes, also peace. So its more powerful role is as a carrier is although it *has* become accepted as a peace symbol in its own right. But the olive branch is always able to stand on its own. Look at the allegorical figure of peace: occasionally she holds a dove but always and usually only a twig of olive. To hold out an olive branch is to offer conciliation. And so on.

The other figure key to this story is Pablo Picasso. He had painted pigeons since a child in Spain and continued to do so in Paris where in 1949, as an established artist, he offered one of his paintings to the French Communist party for its first Peace Conference poster. Note the beautiful postcard sent from that event on page 17. The image was used the following year by China for its Peace Campaign issue and frequently since for stamps and postmarks. Other simpler designs are often described by Stanley Gibbons as 'after Picasso'.

Finally, note the little dove (*title page and above*). Sam Hartz frequently designed stamps for the United Nations but this design, although also commissioned, was not approved, it seems for political reasons.

FRAME 13 - EXHIBIT: 'STORY OF THE PEACE ROSE'



This exhibit tells a remarkable story first brought to wide attention in 1965 by Antonia Ridge in her book 'For Love of a Rose'. Antonia stayed for six months in the home of the Meilland family who bred the rose and in her rather sentimental style tells lovingly of the family background as rose breeders, of young Francis Meilland who created the rose #3-35-40 in 1935, how at the onset of World War 2 budwood was sent

to the USA where it was successfully trialled, named Peace and became an international symbol - and then for decades the most popular garden rose.

Having read the book, it was possible to expand the story and bring it up-to-date. My research in 2007 included a day with the Mayor of Chamboeuf where Antoine Meilland was born, an overnight visit to the current Meilland rose breeding centre near Lyons and email contact with Francis' son Alain and other rose growers relevant to the story. A striking discovery was how families of hybridisers inter-married and continued their rose breeding with a passion for generations - and still do.

Finding enough material to tell the story in an exhibit while following thematic rules was slow and difficult and the viewer will see that the material is not of the highest philatelic standard. However, the story is special and the pages generally give pleasure - which is enough now that the exhibit is no longer being judged.

The story starts near Lyons at the end of the 19th century and ends with the legacy of the rose as a breeding parent of many if not most of our best roses. It has several names: Madame A Meilland in France; Gloria Dei in Germany; Gioia in Italy and Peace in the US, UK, Sweden, and Norway. However, it is widely known by the name Peace.

The rose's success in the USA in 1944 was partly a matter of timing and one might have expected its popularity to lessen over the years. But in 1954 it was estimated that 30 million plants were growing worldwide and in 1995, the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and the end of the war, there was a massive resurgence of interest and plantings in parks and gardens; the plant label (*above*) is an example of that - and now a very scarce if not rare item. Rosa Peace is not as sturdily healthy as it used to be. However, anyone who has ever grown Peace speaks of it with special affection.

Enjoy.

FRAME 14 - PEACE AS A NAME - GENERAL



This frame starts with the Peace Bridge which spans the Niagara River between the USA and Canada for a reason: it was finding a US cover with thirteen Peace Bridge stamps which gave me the idea of a section 'Peace as a Name'. It has been a fun and varied section to collect – and not easy to decide what to leave out.

For example, the page on the River Peace with a map has been chosen over the Commercial Airways first flights to and from the town Peace River because of the river's importance as a route through to the Arctic. The Pax Airship has a tragic story: built by Augusto Severo, a Brazilian in Paris, it crashed on its maiden flight over the city in 1902 killing Severo and his mechanic. La Paz, the city in Bolivia, is distinguished by being the highest administrative capitol in the world. And anyone who knows the coastal town of Peacehaven in Sussex will agree that these postcard images are very romanticized!

A satisfying part of this section is formed of hotels, a small selection shown in the lower half of the frame. Many new hotels were built around the turn of the 19th century when the advent of the railways made tourism and adventurous travel a rapidly expanding business. The travellers needed hotels and plenty of good ones, large and often luxurious. Most are in Europe although the famous Peace Hotel in Shanghai is included. A favourite example is the Grand Hotel e la Pace in Montecatini Terme, Italy for its plain brown cover. Note the route on the Queen Mary and the forwarding addresses – for sure American Mr Noble was on the Grand Tour. Times change and stay the same: when I visited in 2014 and was allowed to look around, in an otherwise empty dining room it was a Russian family having a late and luxurious breakfast!

It has not been possible to establish, although one can speculate, why some hotels were given this name. And they are not all grand, a few are very modest. Of great interest is the hotel on the final sheet of this frame. The 1903 postcard (*above*) shows a rural scene in Liernolles, France. In front of a modest building with Hotel de la Paix clearly painted on the side are a group dressed as if in their Sunday best. Above the front door one can see HOTEL and where the rest of a name has been overpainted. Unfortunately, I had no reply to a questioning letter to Liernolles and have no knowledge about this building and its apparent re-naming.

FRAME 15 - PEACE AS A NAME - TIEN-AN MEN



My discovery that Tien-An Men means Gate of Heavenly Peace added an extra dimension to this section when I started to collect all the stamps illustrating the Gate. The well-known

Tien-An Men Square is named after the gate which was built in Beijing in 1415 as an entrance to the Forbidden (Imperial) City. When the gate was restored in 1615 the enormous square was added and has been the site of all significant events since.

On 1st October 1949 the new People's Republic of China was proclaimed in Tien-An Men Square. A week later stamps were issued to commemorate the first session of the Chinese People's Political Conference with a celebratory design of fireworks exploding above the Gate. From the beginning of the Republic its commemorative stamps were issued in two formats, as originals and reprints in which a printed detail shows the difference. Some of the stamps were issued in regions such as North-East China but as far as possible the arrangement of the frame is chronological.

In January 1950 came the issue of the familiar little definitive stamps with the Gate and a ceremonial column (Huabiao) with clouds above. The clouds are important as there were five very similar printings of this issue, the last in April 1951 and in each there is a slight variation in the cloud design. The 6th and 7th printings in 1954 and 1955 are of a different style and colouring.

In a complete contrast of style, in July 1950 large red stamps were produced to commemorate the founding of the Republic the year before (*originals above*); they show Mao Tse-tung and the national flag above the gate. The differences between the originals and reprints are in the collar button and perforations.

A year after the official establishment of the Republic, a national emblem was adopted and illustrated on stamps issued 1st October 1950 showing an encircled gate and flag.

Finally, the penultimate page is of particular interest as it shows Chinese postal stationary used in Tibet after the Chinese invasion; all three covers are from seemingly different senders in Lhasa to Radio Nepal in Kathmandu – presumably posted to a collector as holding the sealed envelopes to the light does not reveal writing inside.

FRAME 16 - MISCELLANEOUS



The mixed selection in this frame contains items that don't fit easily into any particular section – or at least not yet.

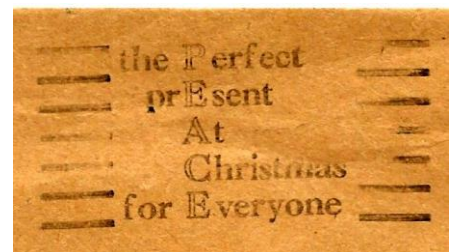
A good example is this painting and stamp from North Korea entitled 'Peace Propaganda for International Solidarity with Peace Loving Peoples of the World'; we see the dove carrying an olive branch which would fit naturally into Symbols of Peace. There is plenty of material available to form a section on Peace Propaganda but most of it is not appealing so as the main point of this Korean page is the beauty and rarity of the items it stands best on its own.

The Red Cross Peace stamp (*on front cover*) cancelled in Lausanne is a rare early usage.

Similarly, note the two Japanese pages dealing with the political aftermath of the two atomic bombs. In 1947 Japan inaugurated a new constitution outlawing war as a means of settling disputes. Its commitment is spelt out clearly: *"We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time . . . and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world"*. Two years later stamps to mark the establishment of an International City at Nagasaki were illustrated with doves and these two pages mark an important point in world history.

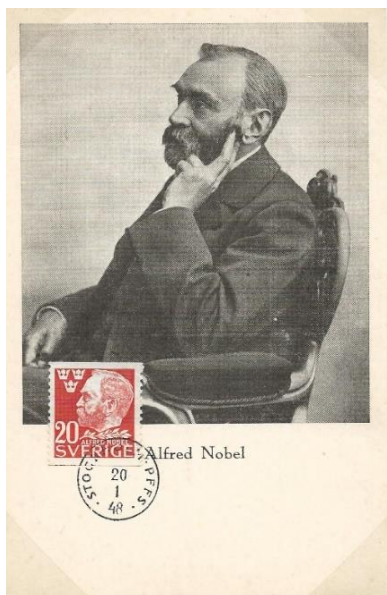
The scarce Peace Jubilee page tells a fascinating story of a talented musical entrepreneur!

A personal favourite is the plain envelope to Northern Ireland on the Christmas page. 1993 was during the peace process leading to a ceasefire in 1994 and the postmark, 14th December, was the day before the Downing Street Declaration. The faded postmark legend of poignant optimism reads vertically 'the Perfect prEsent At Christmas for Everyone' – PEACE.



There are many notable people who did not receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known as Mahatma (Great Sage) Gandhi pioneered the method of peaceful protest (which Martin Luther King later used). It is likely that he would have been awarded the prize the year after India's Independence for which the stamps were issued, if he had not been assassinated. The mourning cover from Bombay to Rye was a lucky find and ends the frame.

FRAME 17 - EXHIBIT: 'ALFRED NOBEL AND HIS LEGACY'



Quite early on I became interested in people who were linked one way or another with peace. Many of them were Nobel laureates which led me to consider what sort of a man Nobel was that he is known for developing lethal explosives yet left most of his fortune “for the benefit of mankind”. So this exhibit looks at the life and legacy of Alfred Nobel ending with the first awards in 1901 for: Physiology/Medicine; Chemistry; Physics; Literature and Peace. The first four are all administered in Sweden and in 2019 I was fortunate enough to go to Stockholm. Sadly, a planned 2020 trip to Oslo in Norway where the Peace Prize is administered fell victim to Covid-19 – a historical note!

Nobel was a solitary figure who never married nor had a permanent home – during his lifetime he was called ‘Europe’s Richest Vagabond’. One of his closest relationships was with Bertha Klinsky who worked briefly for him in Paris before eloping with her aristocratic lover to become Baroness von Suttner and a Nobel laureate in 1905. She was an active writer and pacifist who may have encouraged Alfred to include a Peace Prize in his will.

Nobel’s will (*transl. inside back cover*) is a remarkable short, hand-written document setting out simply his wishes and who should implement them. His family was not happy and he had not consulted the various organisations so the will took three years to prove but in 1900 the Nobel Foundation was established and the first prizes awarded in 1901. Nobel was very clear about his intentions: the awards should go ‘*to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind*’.

The final page on this frame shows all the first laureates of 1901 and thereafter in the main collection only the peace laureates are illustrated. Nobel’s brief for the recipient of the Peace Prize was: ‘*the person who shall have done the most and best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses*’. We shall see later how this came to be interpreted.

From the beginning the prize caused controversy. In 1901 it was to go to Henri Dunant for the founding of the Red Cross, a worthy cause one might say. But then others pointed out that ‘*The Red Cross does not promote peace, rather it humanises the face of war*’. Very difficult for the Nobel Committee – and in fact the peace prize has remained the most controversial – but they solved the problem in that first year by sharing the prize with Frédéric Passy, a bona fide peace activist. These highly regarded and financially rewarding awards have continued with very few interruptions to the present day.

FRAME 18 - NOBEL EPHEMERA AND PEACE LAUREATES 1901 - 1919



The items on the pages of the final three frames elaborate on the Nobel story unrestricted by the rules of an exhibit. Postcards show where Nobel was born in Sweden and travelled to Russia with his family as a young boy. His father was a talented chemist and businessman there; after his death the Nobel brothers and their colleagues took a dramatic role in developing the Baku oil industry

A favourite item is a letter from the Finnish wife of a Nobel worker in Baku. As is common in the oil industry, wives usually went back to their home countries for the summer; this wife stayed in Baku in 1910 and describes the 'goings on' of the husbands left behind. She also makes very interesting comments about the conditions of Nobel workers and their families confirming that employees of the Nobel Company were well looked after. Alfred Nobel was an astute and successful businessman.

With a few exceptions such as the politician Theodore Roosevelt most of the laureates before the first world war were pacifist individuals or organisations working specifically to prevent war. They failed and during World War 1 prizes were suspended except to the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1917 - and the same in 1944.



The award brings a large amount of money and a great deal of publicity to the recipient, both particularly valuable for the Red Cross during wartime. The main work of the International Committee was for Prisoners of War under the Geneva Conventions and its workload was such that it had to be shared with the Danish Red Cross which took on responsibility for the Eastern front.

Here it is worth noting that only the Peace Prize can be awarded to organisations; the other prizes can only be awarded to individuals. Thus, it was possible for the International Peace Bureau Berne to receive it in 1910.

During the war Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA, had been working on his famous Fourteen Points for a post-war settlement. However only one, the setting up of a League of Nations, was accepted and came into force in July 1919. Later that year Wilson was awarded the Peace Prize for that achievement. Yet the United States never joined the League which it is felt largely contributed to its failure.

FRAME 19 - PEACE LAUREATES 1921 - 1969



In this frame we see a change of mood. Pacifists have not been able to prevent war and many of the awards in the 1920s and 30s went to politicians trying to deal with the aftermath of WW1 and to create stability in Europe. Jane Addams was not a politician but was a very practical activist – and only the second woman to be awarded the prize. Joseph Chamberlain is included as one of the few British peace laureates.

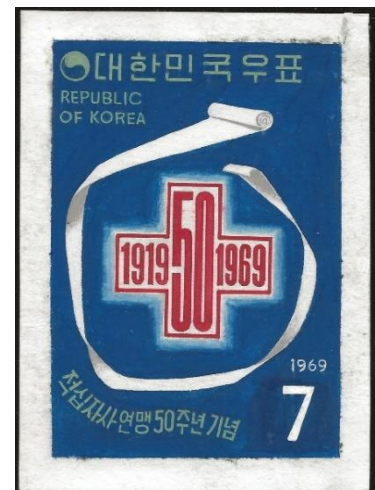
The 1936 telegram is from former President Saenz Peña, father-in-law of Saveedra Lamas, to the Ambassador in Stockholm referencing the Nobel award event three days before.

In 1944 during WW2 the only recipient again was the International Committee of the Red Cross (*above*). With experience gained from WW1, the Committee now had more systems in place to help prisoners of war and military personnel in the field such as for correspondence, parcels from home and a Missing Persons Bureau.

After the war and creation of the United Nations many politicians who threw their skills and energies behind this new organisation were recognised. One of these was the African-American politician Ralph Bunche who was instrumental in achieving an armistice in the Palestinian conflict in 1949 for which he was awarded the peace prize in 1950. The large brown envelope is from the Nobel Committee to Bunch notifying him of his award and the adjacent page shows a letter of authentication by his secretary's sister in England, dated 39 years later! Dag Hammarskjöld as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations also used all his talents for its success. He had been nominated for the peace prize in 1961 when he died in a plane crash and his is still the only posthumous Nobel award.

In 1952, Dr Albert Schweitzer, musician, theologian, doctor and humanitarian best known for his work in Gabon was a much admired and loved international figure and his peace award was commemorated around the world; one could collect pages of stamps and I have quite a few. But here I show a press photo of Schweitzer, his wife and the Chairman of the Nobel Committee at the Nobel ceremony in Oslo just before he gave his acceptance speech. 1963 was the Centenary of the Red Cross, celebrated in stamps around the world, even in Great Britain. It was the fourth award acknowledging the importance of the Red Cross and the International Committee, this time shared with the League of Red Cross Societies (*artwork, right*). 'Peace through Humanity'.

Since WW2 we have seen changing attitudes towards how to prevent war reflected in the Peace Awards. Many recognised the need to make more fundamental improvements to the human condition to avoid war than first pacifists and then politicians had been able to do, which leads us into the final frame.



FRAME 20 - NOBEL LAUREATES 1970 - 2014

Norman Borlaug was a geneticist and plant pathologist who developed new strains of wheat 'to feed the hungry of the world'. He received world-wide recognition and the Nobel Peace prize in 1970. The reasons for this and similar awards on this frame might not fit Nobel's specifications for the Peace Prize but his general requirement – let us be reminded here – that the awards go to those '*who, during the preceding year, shall have done the best and most work for the benefit of mankind*' covers them all. There were still some awards to

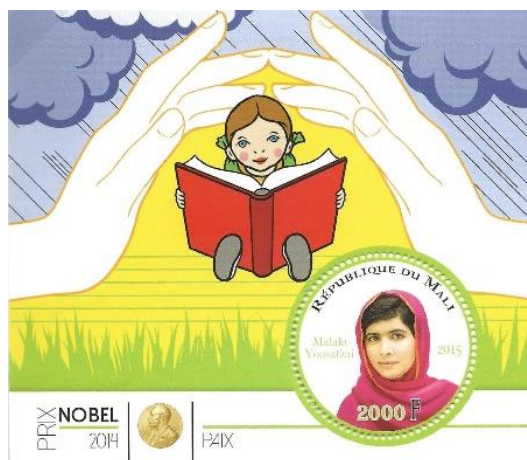


politicians; with fighting ubiquitous, political attempts to resolve conflict needed recognition and support. None more so than in the Middle East when in 1978 Sadat, Begin and Clinton reached agreement whereby Egypt was the first Arab country to recognise Israel.

Electing a recipient for the Peace prize was often controversial such as Mother Teresa's award in 1979. Many said that as a Roman Catholic against contraception she contributed to the suffering which she worked to alleviate. We need to remember also that Nobel asked for recognition of efforts '*during the preceding year*'. There was no stipulation for the future – how could there be?

The award to Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk in 1993 for the ending of apartheid was a political highlight. Only one year later Mandela became president of South Africa and was a revered figure until his death in 2013. In recent years we have seen the prize shared between an organisation and its director: the United Nations and Kofi Annan in 2001; the International Atomic Agency and Mohamed ElBaradei in 2005 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Albert (Al) Gore in 2007, this latest for 'informing the world about the dangers of climate change' – it could not be more relevant now!

Also topical because of the situation in Afghanistan at the time of writing, the last word in this display goes to Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl shot for campaigning for education. It is easy to be dismissive of modern commemorative mini-sheets but they are often the only way of illustrating recent laureates. And take a closer look at this image. A little girl sits reading a big book in a pleasant setting under a



stormy sky from which she is protected by large gentle hands. With a good photo inset of Malala and the legend NOBEL PRIX 2014 and PAIX, this little mini-sheet from the Republic of Mali illustrates everything that is needed. Which is surely the point of it all.

HISTORICAL NOTE: As this brochure is going to print, COP26 (the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) is about to start in Glasgow to try and solve the acknowledged global climate crisis. When Al Gore was trying to persuade the world to accept the idea of climate change at the beginning of the century he was ridiculed by many. No longer, and it seems appropriate to insert the text from the Norwegian Nobel Committee at the time of his award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 which raised his profile and gave his views international support.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2007

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2007 was awarded jointly to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change."



Climate Change will Increase the Danger of War

By awarding the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and former US Vice President Al Gore Jr., the Norwegian Nobel Committee called special attention to their efforts to obtain and disseminate greater knowledge concerning man-made climate changes and the steps that need to be taken to counteract those changes.

The IPCC was established in 1988 by the UN General Assembly. The first four main reports submitted by the Climate Panel between 1990 and 2007 were based on a coordinated program of research by several thousand experts in over a hundred countries. The reports stated that climate change is accelerating, that the changes are to a significant extent man-made, and that the need to adopt counter-measures is urgent if we are to prevent a global climate crisis from arising in the near future and threatening the basis of human life.

According to the IPCC, there is a real danger that the climate changes may also increase the danger of war and conflict, because they will place already scarce natural resources, not least drinking water, under greater pressure and put large population groups to flight from drought, flooding, and other extreme weather conditions.

Testament

Jag undertecknad Alfred Bernhard Nobel förklarar härmed efter moget betänksamt men yttersta vilja i afseende på den egendom jag vid min död kan efterlemnna vara följande:

Äfven alla min återstående ^{realiserbar} förmögenhet förfogad på följande sätt: Kapitalen, af utredningsmännens realiseradt till säkra värdepappers, skall utgöra en fond hvars ränta årligen utdelas som prisbelöning åt dem som under det förlöpne året hafva gjort minsta ligheten den största nytta. Räntan delas i fem lika delar, som tillfalla: en del den som inom fysikens område har gjort den vigtigaste upptäckt eller uppfinnning; en del den som har gjort den vigtigaste kemiska upptäckt eller förbättring; en del den som har gjort den vigtigaste upptäckt inom fysiologiens eller medicinens område; en del den som inom litteraturen har påbörjat det utmärktaste i idealiskt riktning; och en del som kan ha verkat mest eller bäst på folkens förbättring och oförhoffande eller minskning af ständigt armare samt hejlande och öppnande af fredskongresser. Priser för fysik och kemi utdelas af Svenska Vetenskapsakademien; för fysiologiska eller medicinska arbeten af Carolinska Institutet i Stockholm; för litteratur af Akademien i Stockholm samt för fredsfördraget af Norska Stortinget. Det är min uttryckliga vilja att vid prisutdelningarna icke afseende på faste vid någon slags nationalitetstillhörighet såvida att den värdigaste erhåller priset om Stortinget har i Skandinavien eller ej.

Detta testamente är hithills det enda giltiga och upphäver alla mina föregående testamentariska bestämmelser om sådana skulle förefinnas efter min död.

Ästfälligt anordnar jag såsom förande min uttryckliga önskan och vilja att efter min död prälsädrarna uppkäras och att sedan detta skett och tydliga döds-testen af kompetenta läkare intogs och läst förlämnas i så kallad cremationsugn.

Paris den 27 November
1895

Alfred Bernhard Nobel

Svenska Dagbladets
Bild-Arkiv

Svenska Dagbladets
Bild-Arkiv

Photograph of key part of the final will of Alfred Nobel, 27th Nov 1895

(Translation)

THE WILL

“The whole of my remaining realizable estate shall be dealt with in the following way: the capital, invested in safe securities by my executors, shall constitute a fund, the interest on which shall be annually distributed in the form of prizes to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind. The said interest shall be divided into five equal parts, which shall be apportioned as follows: one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics; one part to the person who shall have made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency; and one part to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses. The prizes for physics and chemistry shall be awarded by the Swedish Academy of Sciences; that for physiological or medical works by the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm; that for literature by the Academy in Stockholm, and that for champions of peace by a committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Storting. It is my express wish that in awarding the prizes no consideration whatever shall be given to the nationality of the candidates, but that the most worthy shall receive the prize, whether he be a Scandinavian or not.”

Paris, November 27, 1895.



Translation of key part of the final will of Alfred Nobel, 27th Nov 1895



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