



WORLD FEDERATION
OF
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS



FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE
DES ASSOCIATIONS POUR LES
NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANS ERNI
A FUTURE FOR REFUGEES

The World Federation of United Nations Associations announces with great pride an exceptional contribution to the collaborative worlds of art and philately by one of the greatest artists of our time, Hans Erni. Hans Erni, Swiss master of paintings, sculptures, lithographs, frescos and murals, has created a magnificent charcoal drawing exclusively for the WFUNA first day cover and lithograph to accompany the United Nations stamp issue of 29 May 1984 on the theme "A Future for Refugees". The six stamps of this very important and unusual stamp issue were adopted from six paintings specially created by Hans Erni.

It is at the invitation of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, that Mr. Erni has created six outstanding paintings for this stamp issue. It is only the second time in its history that the United Nations Postal Administration has commissioned a world famous artist to create stamps exclusively for the United Nations.

For more than four decades, Hans Erni has enjoyed an international reputation as one of the most brilliant and versatile artists of the 20th century. In his native Switzerland, Erni, who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, is the nation's most popular artist. His works have been exhibited throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and North America, and are included in major museum collections and public buildings around the world. The most extensive collection of his works is housed in the four-year-old Hans Erni Museum, part of Lucerne's vast Swiss Transport Museum, the biggest in Europe. This collection spans more than a half century of Erni's works and includes more than 400 of his oil, tempera and acrylic paintings; sculptures; lithographs; drawings; engravings; etchings and ceramics.

A versatile and prolific artist, Erni has created original lithographs and etchings to illustrate more than 200 books, has designed scenery and costumes for four operas, created medals for the Swiss mint and designed more than 30 postage stamps for Switzerland and Liechtenstein. In addition to his artistic accomplishments, Erni has played hockey, won a ski championship, was a pole vaulter, and has piloted airplanes. He has also authored three books based on his experiences on research expeditions that explored Mauritania, Guinea, Senegal, India and Israel, and written and lectured extensively on art theory.

Mr. Erni's charcoal drawing that is reproduced on the WFUNA first day cover and lithograph is his second contribution to the WFUNA Philatelic Programme, the first being for "World Communications Year" in 1983. His drawing, "A Future for Refugees" is a powerful image of strength, beauty, and sensitivity. In Erni's characteristic neo-classical style, a large male body wraps himself around and shelters a mother and child as his massive hand delicately touches hers. The voluminous figures huddle together barely contained within the borders of the paper. It is a forceful composition projecting a message of seriousness and warmth and hope.

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CABLE ADDRESS WFUNA UNATIONS NEWYORK

CENTRAL OFFICE: C/O PALAIS DES NATIONS, 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND - CABLE ADDRESS WORFEDUNA GENEVA

The Federation is offering Hans Erni's spectacular charcoal drawing in a limited edition of 1000 lithographs. The lithographs will measure 8 1/2 x 11 inches, will be done on pure rag, Arches paper, and will be individually numbered.

HANS ERNI HAS VERY GRACIOUSLY CONSENTED TO HAND SIGN EACH OF THE 1000 LITHOGRAPHS INDIVIDUALLY.

TAG DER WFUNA

For the third time in WFUNA's history, WFUNA will be honored with an official governmental postal cancellation. The Fifth International Stamp Fair in Essen, Federal Republic of Germany has dedicated 31 May 1984 as the "Day of WFUNA". The Federation is most grateful for this special recognition of its contribution to UN Philately. In honour of this occasion, WFUNA is offering the Hans Erni cachet with a special text, and a DM 0.80 stamp from the Federal Republic of Germany, which will be cancelled with the special "Tag Der WFUNA" cancellation on "The Day of WFUNA", 31 May 1984 at the "Internationale Briefmarken Messe" in Essen.

The funds derived from the sale of the Federation's philatelic items are used to help finance the Federation's work in promoting public understanding of the United Nations. Like the United Nations which it serves, WFUNA is a federation of United Nations Associations from some eighty countries. In addition to organizing seminars and other information programmes, WFUNA, as an accredited consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO and ILO, attends the meetings of these organizations and presents the views of the Federation's members.

For further information, contact Mrs. Annabelle Wiener, Director at UN Headquarters, WFUNA, Room DC1-1177, United Nations, New York, New York 10017.

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A FUTURE FOR REFUGEES
WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS · FIRST DAY OF ISSUE · EINE ZUKUNFT FÜR FLÜCHTLINGE · WFUNA CACHET

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PHILATELIC PROGRAMME

The World Federation of United Nations Associations produces special first day covers to accompany each issue of United Nations stamps, from the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria.

The designs for the WFUNA covers are also produced in numbered limited edition art prints, which are usually individually signed by the artist. This unique philatelic programme offers stamp collectors and art lovers alike the opportunity to acquire original designs by some of the greatest talent of our time.

The programme commenced with the presentation of an original watercolour by Salvador Dali to commemorate the Federation's Twentieth Anniversary in 1966. The original still hangs in the public area of the United Nations Building. Since then, many noted artists have contributed designs, among them being Marc Chagall, Alexander Calder, Hans Erni, William Gropper, Chaim Gross, Ole Hamann, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Dong Kingman, Joan Miro, Norman Rockwell, and Andy Warhol. It is truly an international programme with artists from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, the USSR, the UK and the USA.

Jacques Cousteau contributed a design to WFUNA for "The Law of the Sea"; Jessie Oonark, a seventy-seven year-old Inuit artist from the Northwest Territory of Canada did the WFUNA design for "Habitat"; Anne Morrow Lindbergh presented the Federation with a quotation to be used with the Ole Hamann design honouring "ICAO: Safety in the Air"; Garry Trudeau, the Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist of "Doonesbury" fame, contributed his design for the 1979 WFUNA Definitive cover; Muhammad Ali contributed the use of his painting and poem entitled "Freedom" to WFUNA to accompany the 1979 "Namibia" stamp issue; Gloria Swanson, the noted film artist, designed the Federation's cover and art print to accompany the UN stamp issue honouring the "United Nations Decade for Women", and Joan Miro contributed a design to the Federation to accompany the UN stamp issue of May 1980 honouring the "United Nations Peacekeeping Operation."

The late Princess Grace of Monaco contributed one of Her pressed-flower collages to WFUNA to accompany the UN stamp issue honouring the "United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy." Sophia Loren, the film actress, created two enchanting paintings for the Federation's first day covers and limited edition art print for the 1982 Flag Series. Elisabeth von Janota-Bowski, of the Federal Republic of Germany, proclaimed the leading commercial artist in Europe today, and has to her credit 25 postage stamps for the F.R.G., created a design for exclusive use on the WFUNA first day covers and limited edition art print for the 1983 Flag Series.

CABLE ADDRESS WFUNA UNATIONS NEWYORK

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Many have been repeat contributors. For example, the WFUNA cachet design for UNPA's 9 December 1983 issue marking the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is the third executed for the Federation by the renowned Austrian artist, Friedensreich Hundertwasser. His earlier designs were to accompany the UNPA issue honouring the UN Economic and Social Council in 1980 and in 1982 on the theme "Human Environment".

Hans Erni --- Swiss master of paintings, sculptures, lithographs, frescos, murals and stamp designs has created two extraordinary works for the Federation for exclusive use on its first day covers and limited edition art prints. The first accompanied the United Nations stamp issue of 28 January 1983 honouring "World Communications Year." The second is a magnificent charcoal drawing which accompanies the U.N. stamp issue of 29 May 1984 on the theme "A Future for Refugees". The six stamps of this very important and unusual stamp issue were adopted from six paintings specially created by Hans Erni. It is at the request of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, that Mr. Erni has created six outstanding paintings for this stamp issue. It is only the second time in its history that the United Nations Postal Administration has commissioned a world famous artist to create stamps exclusively for the United Nations.

WFUNA covers and art prints have the distinction of being the only semi-official items to be included in the permanent collection of the Philatelic Museum at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and they are on exhibition in the lobby of the General Assembly Building at United Nations Headquarters.

The work of selling and servicing these first day covers and art prints is carried on almost completely by a volunteer staff.

The Federation's first day covers are a means of taking a knowledge of the programmes and activities of the United Nations to an ever increasing and important section of the world's population, namely philatelists and art collectors. Through its Philatelic Programme, WFUNA is not only stimulating an interest in the United Nations, but also promoting a continued and more extensive awareness of its programmes.

The funds derived from the sale of the Federation's philatelic items are used to help finance the Federation's work in promoting public understanding of the United Nations. Like the United Nations which it serves, WFUNA is a federation of United Nations Associations from some eighty countries. In addition to organizing seminars and other information programmes, WFUNA, as an accredited consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO AND ILO, attends the meetings of these organizations and presents the views of the Federation's members.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Annabelle Wiener, Director, World Federation of United Nations Associations, Suite DC1-1177, United Nations, New York, New York, 10017, (212) 754-5610.

May 1984