



Historians' Colloquium

ACHIEVING “A SINGLE POSTAL TERRITORY”: A GLOBAL PROMISE – PAST AND PRESENT

PROGRAMME

1 and 2 February 2024
Berne, Switzerland



DAY 1 – Thursday, 1 February 2024

9.00–9.30

OPENING CEREMONY

Masahiko Metoki, Director General, UPU International Bureau
Representative of La Poste Group, France

SCIENTIFIC INTRODUCTION

Léonard Laborie, CNRS, UMR Sirice, France

9.30–11.00

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 1

PRE-1874: GLOBAL TRAFFIC AND POSTAL REFORMS

Chair: **Pascal Griset**, Sorbonne Université, UMR Sirice, France

Governance and power in the transatlantic postal system: the organization of the postal service in the Spanish Empire in the 18th century

Rocío Moreno-Cabanillas, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

The capitalist and colonial logics of Rowland Hill's postal reforms: terra nullius, uniform pricing, and “conveyance at the lowest rate”

Charli Muller, New York University, United States of America

The throne and the world: from bilateral postal treaties to Brazil's entry into the Universal Postal Union (1840–1877)

Pérola Goldfeder, Ouro Preto Federal University and Minas Gerais State University, Brazil

The Universal Postal Union: a pioneer and template for multilateralism

Diego Avaria, Universal Postal Union, Switzerland

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

11.00–11.15

COFFEE BREAK

11.15–12.15

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 2

THE FOUNDATION OF THE UPU AS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION. STRENGTHENING OR FIGHTING BACK (INFORMAL) IMPERIALISM IN THE 19TH CENTURY?

Chair: **Sandrine Kott**, Université de Genève, Switzerland

European post offices abroad: the UPU between Ottoman complaints and power politics

Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi, Istituto di studi storici postali "Aldo Cecchi", Prato, Italy

The hidden parts of historic relations: the founding of the Universal Postal Union and Türkiye's membership

Mehmet Şükrü Yaman, Turkish Post Corporation, Türkiye

Struggles with globalization: the integration of Japan into the UPU in the late 19th century

Ririko Honda, Keio University, Japan

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

12.15–13.45

LUNCH BREAK

13.45–14.30

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 2 (cont.)

THE FOUNDATION OF THE UPU AS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION. STRENGTHENING OR FIGHTING BACK (INFORMAL) IMPERIALISM IN THE 19TH CENTURY?

Chair: **Andrea Giuntini**, Università degli studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italy

“The comity of nations”: the Chinese Post Office, the Universal Postal Union, and the abolition of “alien post offices”, 1843–1923

Lane Harris, Furman University, United States of America

Between a desire for cooperation and imperial rivalry: the German, Indo-British and French post offices in Zanzibar (1875–1904)

Camille Avrillas, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

14.30–15.30

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Workshop 1

THE UPU'S PAST: WHAT COMES NEXT? SOURCES AND METHODOLOGIES

Chair: **Muriel Le Roux**, IHMC/CNRS/ENS, France

The traces left behind: an appraisal of the archival heritage of the Universal Postal Union in the European archives

Anna Batzeli, Luke Davis and Marta Musso, Archives Portal Europe

The Directors (General) of the Universal Postal Union 1874–2024

Bob Reinalda, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands

 Montgomery Blair Hall

Workshop 2

PHILATELY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Chair: **Benjamin Combes**, Universal Postal Union, Switzerland

Philatelists: witnesses and agents of the first globalization (1860–1914)

Yves Drolet, Académie québécoise d'études philatéliques, Canada

Safeguarding the added value of the postage stamp within the UPU's "single postal territory"

Maria Libera, former UPU staff member, Worldwide Philatelic Observatory, Progress Market Research, Tunisia

Beyond philately: stamps and the iconography of globalization

Yorim Spoelder, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany/University College London

15.30–15.45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.45–16.45

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 3

THE TRANSNATIONAL MAKING OF NATIONAL POSTAL SERVICES

Chair: **Éric Godelier**, École Polytechnique, Université Paris-Saclay, France

How the Universal Postal Union shaped postal policy in the United States, 1874–1913

Richard R. John, Columbia University, United States of America

Transnational influence on the development of United States parcel post

Stephen A. Kochersperger, United States Postal Service,
United States of America

Postal universalization: transformation of the space and time imaginaries in the second half of the 19th century in Argentina

Mónica Farkas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina/Universidad de la República, Uruguay

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

16.45–18.00

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 4

POSTAL POLITICS

Chair: **Matthieu Gillibert**, Université de Fribourg, Switzerland

Decolonization and postal politics: sovereignty and the stamps of pseudostates in sub-Saharan Africa, c.1961-1980

Gary Baines, History Department, Rhodes University, South Africa

Macro-, micro- and long-term perspectives to the UPU: the three dimensions for international harmonization

Hideki Sato, Faculty of Economics and Management, Kanazawa University, Japan/London School of Economics and Political Science

Airmail in revolutionary Cuba: between embargo and bypass routes (1960s and 1970s)

Etienne Morales, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3, UMR CREDA, France

Delivering diplomacy: the Universal Postal Union's role in a post-Westphalian global order

Rajeev Venugopal, Canada Post Corporation, Canada

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

18.15–20.15

RECEPTION

DAY 2 – Friday, 2 February 2024

9.00–10.30

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 5

REGIONALIZING POSTAL COOPERATION – WHY AND HOW?

Chair: **Christiane Berth**, University of Graz, Austria

The Central European postal union: debates around world postal unification following the collapse of Austria-Hungary (1918–1929)

Gabriel Godeffroy, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France/
Hildesheim University, Germany

A replacement for the Universal Postal Union? The European Postal and Telecommunications Union of 1942 and its relations to the UPU

Sabrina Proschmann, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany

Origins of the European Postal Union: the 1946 Franco-Italian postal agreement

Valentina Vardabasso, Université d'Angers, France

The Arab Postal Union, three quarters of a century on from its foundation in 1952. Overview of a specialized Arab organization and its cooperative relationship with the Universal Postal Union

Mohieddine Hadhri, Université de Tunis, Tunisia

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

10.30–10.45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10.45–12.15

 Heinrich von Stephan Hall

Session 6

THE UPU MATERIAL WORLD: ON STAMPS, ENVELOPES AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Chairs: **Kristian Sund**, Roskilde University, Denmark
José Anson, Universal Postal Union, Switzerland

UPU specimen stamps and the world's postal museums: an accidental history

Daniel A. Piazza, Smithsonian Institution, National Postal Museum,
Washington, D.C., United States of America

The UPU and the standardization of the envelope in the 1960s: towards a universal language of mail

Sébastien Richez, Comité pour l'histoire de La Poste (CHP),
Groupe La Poste, France

"Nothing can replace the Post" – electronic mail and the UPU in the 1980s

Christian Franke, Universität Siegen, Germany

OPEN Q&A AND DISCUSSION

12.15–13.00

SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS

Muriel Le Roux, IHMC/CNRS/ENS, France
Léonard Laborie, CNRS, UMR Sirice, France

CLOSING CEREMONY



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