

The background of the image features a white central area with abstract green geometric shapes on the left and right sides. These shapes consist of overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of green, ranging from light to dark. The overall design is clean and modern.

**UPU**

**UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION**

# **Military Pacts**

**NATO (30)**

**SEATO (8)**

# Financial Pacts

**G7 (7 members)**

**G20 (18 members)**

**UPU was  
established  
in 1874**

**HQ in Berne  
Switzerland**

- ▶ The origin of the UPU is lost in the midst of time. In ancient lands such as China, Persia, Egypt and Greece, the communication system was by word of mouth.

- ▶ Writing communication was based on relay points stationed along the much traveled highways. This “postal system” monopoly was the privilege of Kings and Monarchs.

As social life developed under the stimulus of the guilds and merchants, individuals were allowed to communicate with one another by means of couriers of princes and monasteries.

This rudimentary system lasted until the end of the Middle Ages.

With the advent of printing and the discovery of new worlds and the consequences of that event, relations between nations extended.

Thus communications steadily increased.

Under the pressure of these needs  
a postal system was developed.  
Later in the 16<sup>th</sup> century it began  
to extend beyond national borders.

Franz von Taxis created a postal  
system operating in several  
European States.

Later, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century  
it definitely became a  
public service and gradually  
assumed its present form.

International postal communications were originally governed by bilateral agreements which answered the particular needs of each country. These agreements involved a great many different rates and needs.

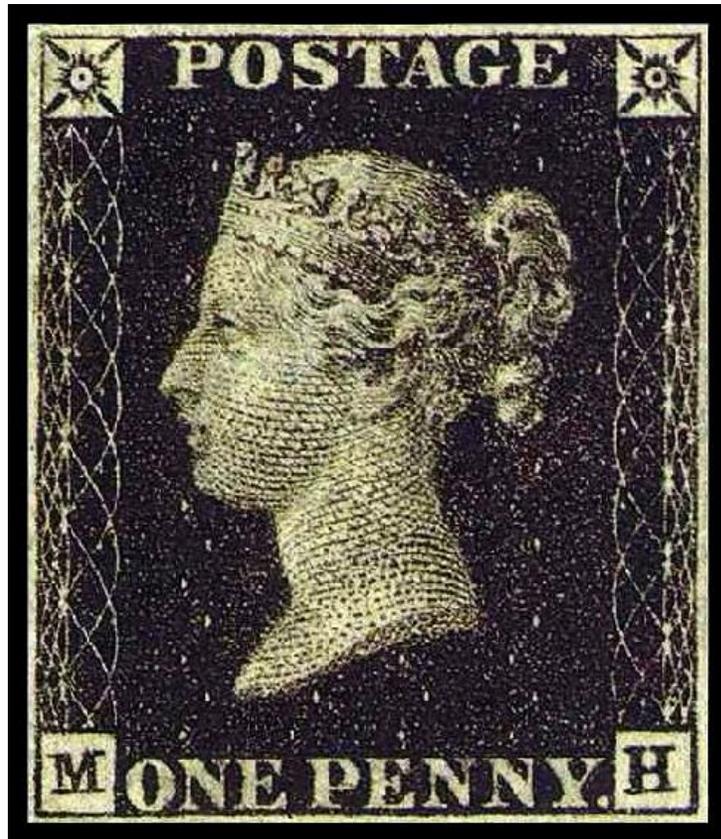
The advent of steam navigation and the railway brought about a change in the postal system. The administrations began to realize that if international communication were to keep pace with these new means of transport...

... formalities would  
have to become  
standardized  
and reduced.

Great Britain took the first step  
in that direction in 1840.

On the proposal of Rowland Hill  
the rate for internal postage  
was reduced to a penny.

This led to the creation of the first postage stamp in 1862.



Postmaster General of the United States, Montgomery Blair, took the initiative of convening the first international meeting with a view to establish a *common postal agreement*.

The conference, which met in Paris on 11 May 1863, was attended by delegates of 15 European and American countries.

Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Hanseatic Towns, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, the Sandwich islands, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America.

The attempts made to improve the service, by applying uniform principles in the bilateral agreements, could not meet the growing needs arising from the rapid development of international relations.

Heinrich von Stephan, a senior official in the postal administration of North German Confederation, drew up an outline for a plan for a postal union of civilized countries. In 1868 he proposed to his Government that the plan be presented to a Plenipotentiary Conference, which at the invitation of the Swiss Government, met at Berne on 16 September 1874.



Delegates from 22 countries  
met which resulted in  
the signing of the  
1874 Treaty of Berne.

This treaty established the first collective Convention governing the international postal service and founded the *“General Postal Union.”*

The treaty went into force on 1 July 1875.

In 1878, in view of the numerous accessions which had taken place since the force of the Treaty of Berne, the name was changed to the “Universal Postal Union.”

The fundamental rules introduced by the Treaty of Berne:

- I) A single postal territory for the exchange of letter-post items;
- II) Freedom of transit within the territory of the Union;
- III) Standardization of the charges to be collected. NOTE-The 1989 Congress of Washington changed this, the established charges are now only guidelines.
- IV) Abolishing the sharing of charges for letter-post items between the origin and destination, each administration retaining the charges it collects.
- V) The institution of an arbitration procedure to settle disputes.
- VI) The creation of a Central Office (the International Bureau).
- VII) The establishment of periodic meetings.

**These rules appear in the UPU  
Constitution adopted in Vienna  
in 1964.**

**UPU**  
**192**  
**Countries**



# **Member Countries**

**Must be a  
UN Member**



# **Four Bodies of the UPU**

**The Congress**

**The Council of Administration**

**The Postal Operations  
Council**

**The International Bureau**

# THE CONGRESS

- ▶ The Congress is the supreme authority of the UPU and meets every four years.

# THE CONGRESS

▶ The UPU Congress is attended by delegates of the member countries.

Authorized observers and ad hoc observers.

UPU international Bureau staff and interpreters.

# UPU



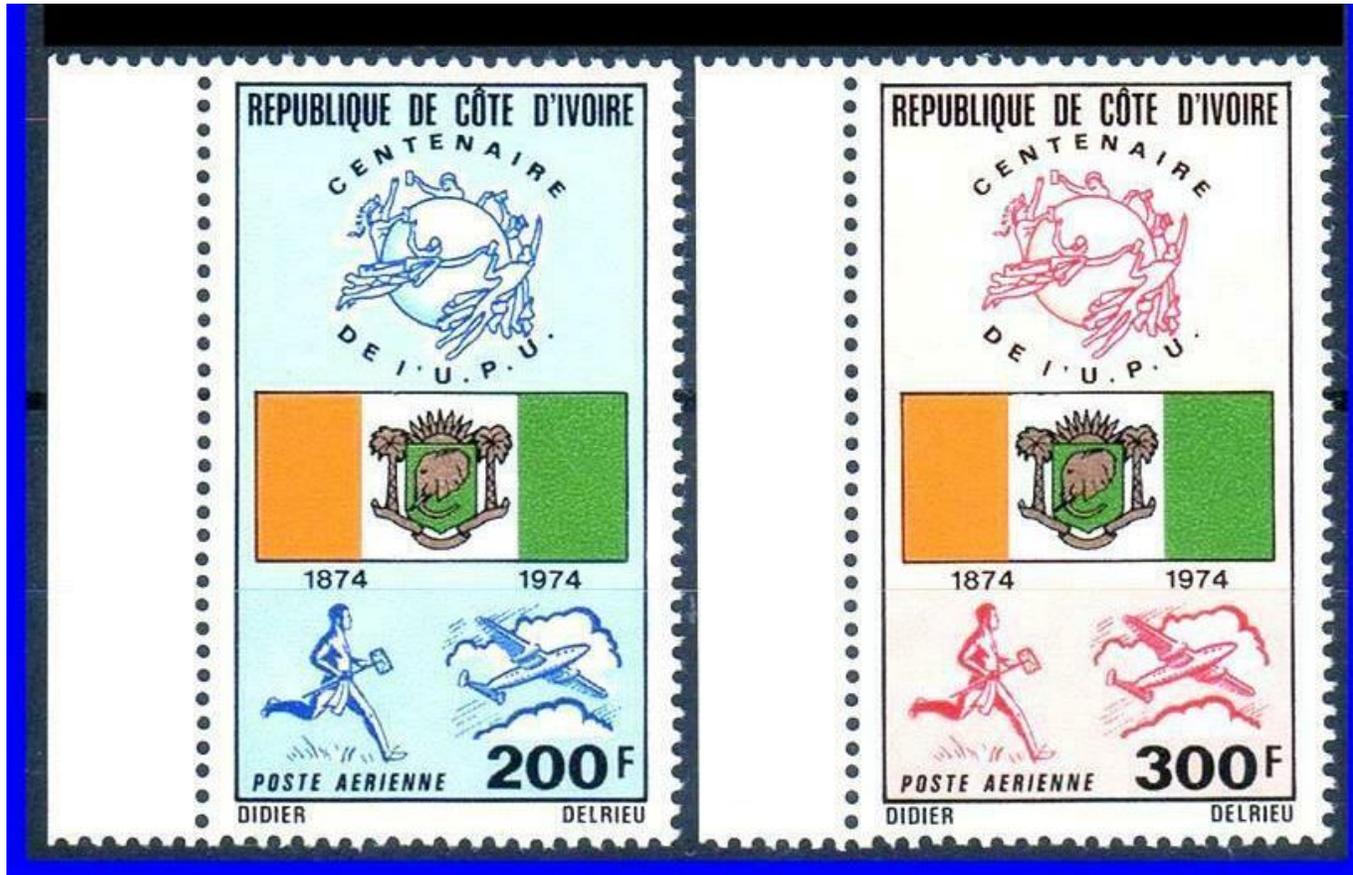
# COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

The Council ensures the continuity of the UPU's work between Congresses, supervises its activities and studies regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues.

# POSTAL OPERATIONS COUNCIL

This Council is the technical and operational mind of the Union and consists of 48 member counties, elected during Congress.

# UPU



# THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

- ▶ Fulfilling a secretarial function, this Bureau provides logistical and technical support to the UPU's bodies.

# UPU



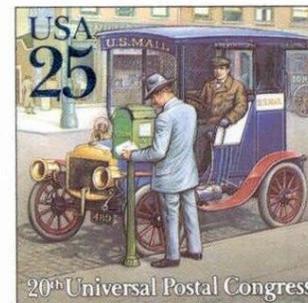
# UPU

## 20<sup>th</sup> Universal Postal Congress

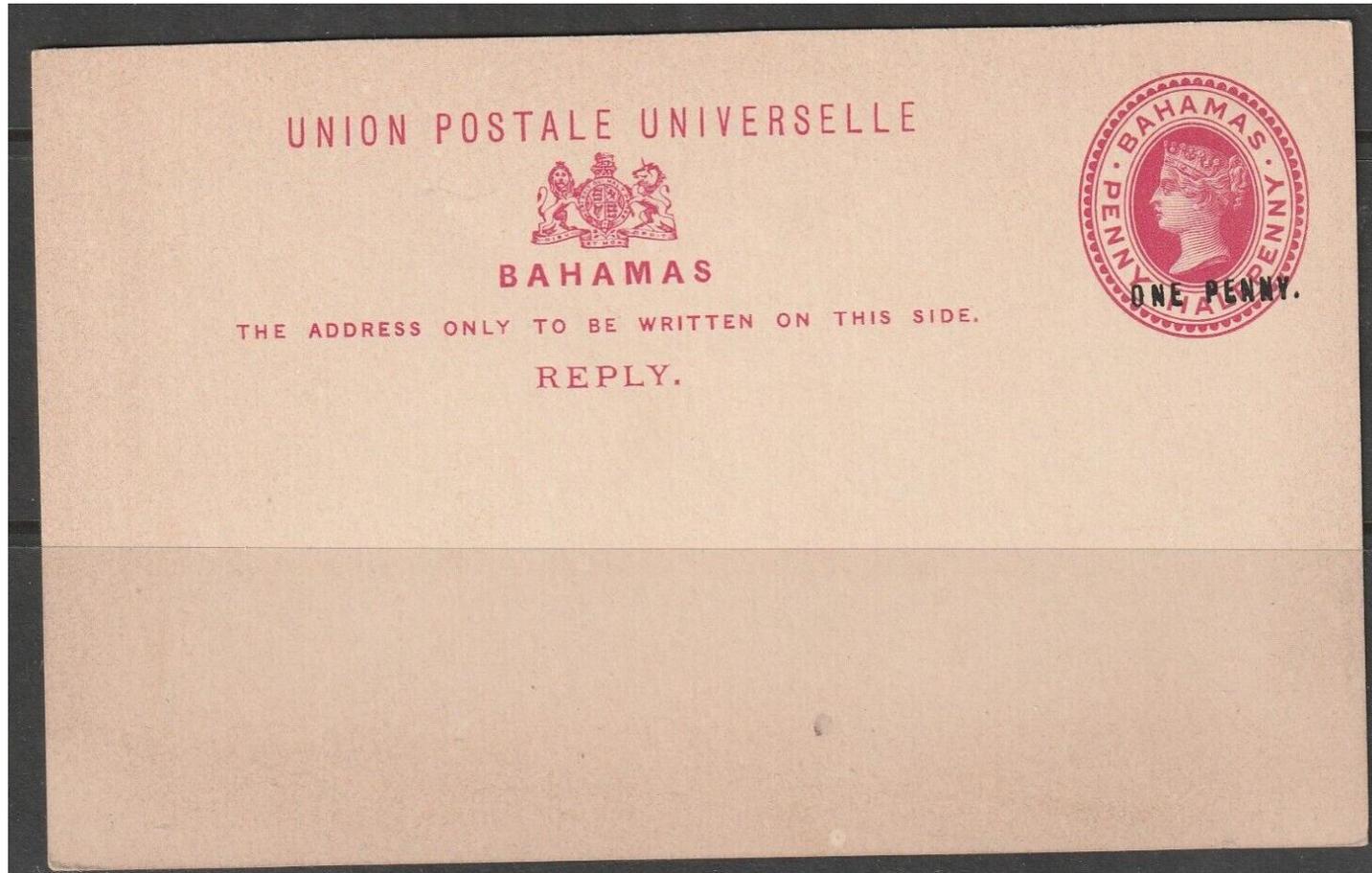


A review of historical methods of delivering the mail in the United States is the theme of these four stamps issued in commemoration of the convening of the 20th Universal Postal Congress in Washington, D.C. from November 13 through December 14, 1989. The United States, as host nation to the Congress for the first time in ninety-two years, welcomed more than 1,000 delegates from most of the member nations of the Universal Postal Union to the major international event.

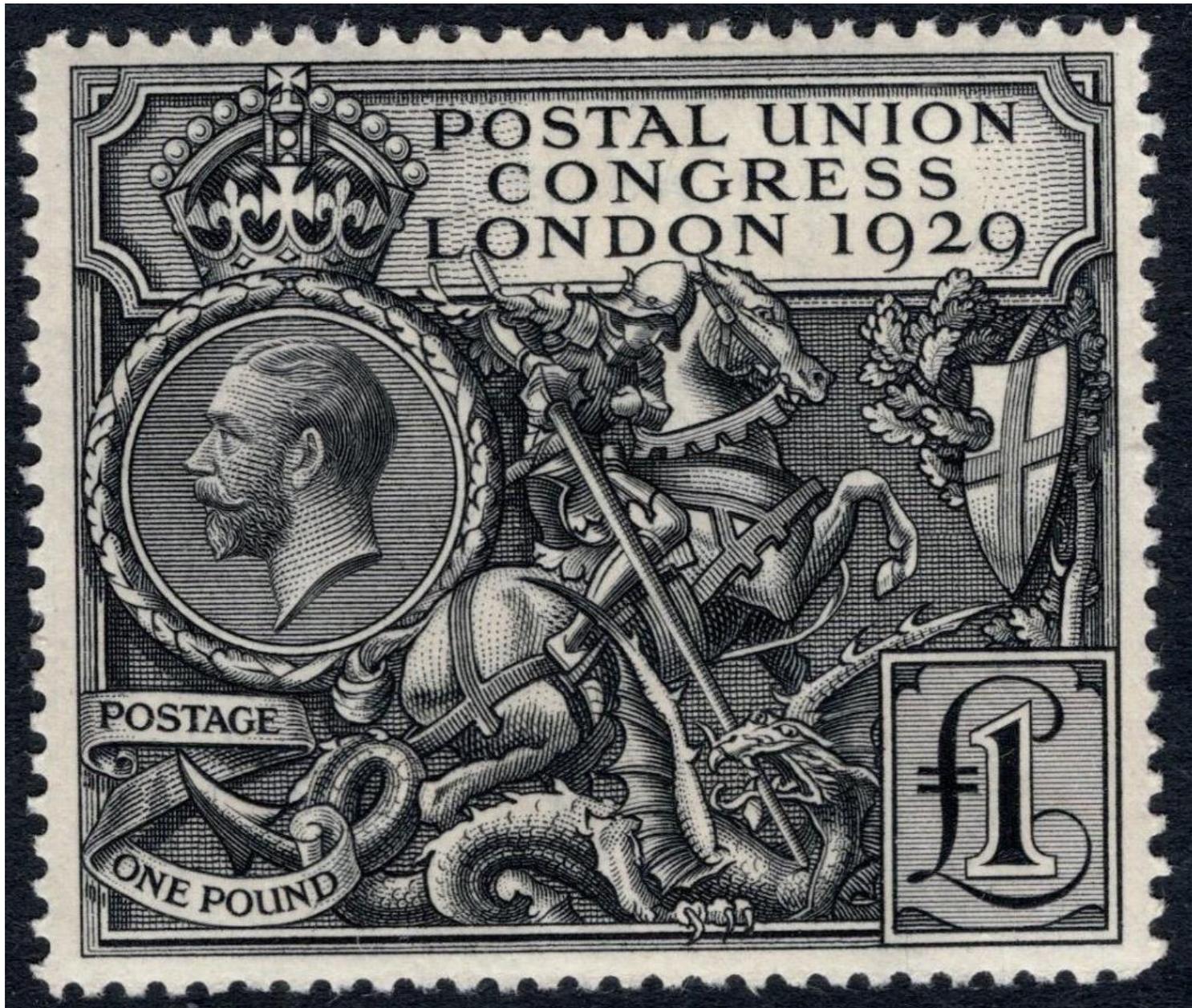
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# UPU







1950



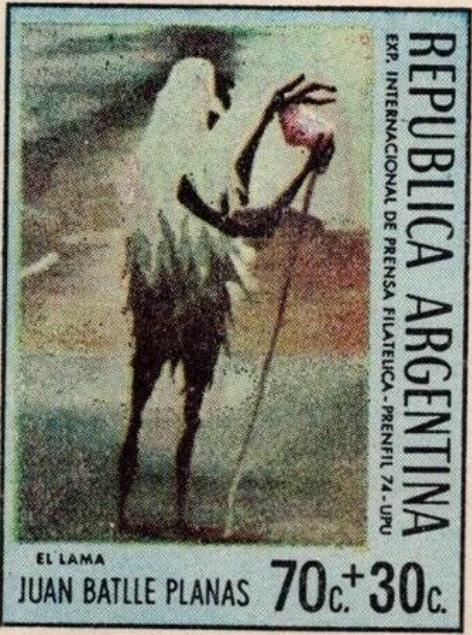
PRENFIL 74 - UPU

ARGENTINA

U P U



1874 - 9/X - 1974



CASA DE MONEDA - 1974



Reproducción del sello emitido por el Correo Argentino (Res. Nº 39 SC/74)  
en adhesión a PRENFIL 74

Nº 6516

\$ 10.-

**QUESTIONS?**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.