

Members of the Universal Postal Union and Their Join Dates

Special Acknowledgement. A large portion of the following information is taken from *UPU Specimen Stamps*, written and published 1988 by James Bendon. He has most graciously given the UPSS permission to extract portions of his book for this website, and to amend and alter that information to suit the particular needs of this UPSS endeavor. For this generosity, the UPSS, and collectors of postal stationery, are most grateful. Some information, such as the list of current UPU members, was taken from the UPU website, and other sources.

The 192 members of the Universal Postal Union are listed below in alphabetical order, with the date of membership. Members are the Vatican City and the 193 UN members except Andorra, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. By virtue of article 23 of the UPU Constitution, dependencies of UPU member states are covered by their membership, but there are two exceptions: the British Overseas Territories have a joint membership, separate from that of the United Kingdom, and Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten have a joint membership, separate from that of the Netherlands. These members were originally listed separately as "Colonies, Protectorates, etc." in the Treaty of Bern of 1874 and the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union of 1964 grandfathered them when membership was restricted to sovereign states. Territories covered by a sovereign member state are listed under that country.

Before 10 July 1964, states became members of the UPU by ratifying the latest version of the Treaty of Bern. After that date, states now become members by ratifying the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union, which incorporated the Treaty of Bern and added provisions to it. In 1964, states that had become members of the UPU by ratifying the Treaty of Bern were deemed to have ratified the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union.

The join dates shown are generally those of the independent country and/or latest name for the country, according to the UPU. In some cases, especially following WW II, some defeated or countries that regained previously lost independence rejoined the UPU, and the latest dates are shown. A name in parentheses is a predecessor name of the country. Following this list is a compilation of many former names of countries, with their start and end dates. Lastly is a compilation of special arrangements made with the colonial powers, and large countries such as China.

Current UPU Member Countries (June 2014)

Afghanistan	1 April 1928
Albania	1 March 1922
Algeria	1 October 1907
Angola	1 March 1977
Antigua and Barbuda	20 January 1994
Argentina	1 April 1878
Armenia	14 October 1992
Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten [note 1]	1 July 1875
Aruba	
Curaçao	
Sint Maarten	

Australia	1 October 1907
Norfolk Island	
Austria [Note 2]	1 July 1875
Azerbaijan	1 April 1993
Bahamas	24 April 1974
Bahrain	21 December 1973
Bangladesh	7 February 1973
Barbados	11 November 1967
Belarus [Note 3]	13 May 1947
Belgium	1 July 1875
Belize	1 October 1982
Benin	27 April 1961
Bhutan	7 March 1969
Bolivia	1 April 1886
Bosnia and Herzegovina	26 January 1993
Botswana	12 January 1968
Brazil [Note 4]	1 July 1877
Brunei Darussalam	15 January 1985
British Overseas Territories	1 April 1877
Anguilla	
Bermuda	
British Indian Ocean Territory	
British Virgin Islands	
Cayman Islands	
Falkland Islands	
Gibraltar	
Montserrat	
Pitcairn Islands	
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	
Dependencies of St Helena	
Ascension	
Tristan da Cunha	
Turks and Caicos Islands	
Bulgaria	1 July 1879
Burkina Faso [Note 5]	29 March 1963
Burundi	6 April 1963
Cambodia	21 December 1951
Cameroon	26 July 1960
Canada	1 July 1878
Cape Verde	30 September 1976
Central African Republic (Ubangi-Shjari)	28 June 1961
Chad	23 June 1961
Chile	1 April 1881
China [Note 6]	1 March 1914
Hong Kong [Note 7]	
Macao	
Colombia	1 July 1881
Comoros	29 July 1976
Congo, Democratic Rep. of the [Note 8]	1 January 1886]
Congo, Republic of (French Congo)	5 July 1961
Costa Rica	1 January 1883
Ivory Coast	23 May 1961
Croatia	20 July 1992
Cuba	4 October 1902
Cyprus	23 November 1961
Czech Republic	18 March 1993
Denmark	1 July 1875
Faroe Islands	
Greenland	
Djibouti	6 June 1978
Dominica	31 January 1980
Dominican Republic	1 October 1880

Ecuador	1 July 1880	Luxembourg	1 July 1875
Egypt [Note 9]	1 July 1875	Macedonia	12 July 1993
El Salvador	1 April 1879	Malagasy Republic (Madagascar)	2 November 1961
Equatorial Guinea	24 July 1970	Malawi (Nyasaland)	25 October 1966
Eritrea	19 August 1993	Malaysia (Malaya) [Note 16]	17 January 1958
Estonia [Note 10]	30 April 1992	Maldives	15 August 1967
Ethiopia	1 November 1908	Mali (French Sudan) [Note 17]	21 April 1961
Fiji	18 June 1971	Malta	21 May 1965
Finland	12 February 1918	Mauritania	22 March 1967
France	1 January 1876	Mauritius	29 August 1969
French Overseas Departments		Mexico	1 April 1879
French Guiana		Moldova	16 November 1992
Guadeloupe (plus Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin)		Monaco	12 October 1955
Martinique		Mongolia	24 August 1963
Réunion		Montenegro (Yugoslavia)	26 July 2006
Mayotte		Morocco	1 October 1920
Saint Pierre and Miquelon		Mozambique	11 October 1978
Territories coming within the UPU's jurisdiction by virtue of article 23 of the UPU Constitution		Myanmar (Burma)	4 October 1949
French Polynesia (including Clipperton Island)		Namibia (South West Africa)	30 April 1992
French Southern and Antarctic Lands		Nauru	17 April 1969
New Caledonia		Nepal	11 October 1956
Wallis and Futuna		Netherlands	1 July 1875
Gabon	17 July 1961	New Zealand (including the Ross Dependency)	1 October 1907
Gambia	9 October 1974	Cook Islands (Free Association with New Zealand)	
Georgia	1 April 1993	Niue (Free Association with New Zealand)	
Germany	1 July 1875	Tokelau Islands	
Ghana (Gold Coast)	10 October 1957	Nicaragua	1 May 1882
Greece	1 July 1875	Niger	12 June 1961
Grenada	30 January 1978	Nigeria (Northern Nigeria & Southern Nigeria)	1 January 1914
Guatemala	1 August 1881	Norway [Note 18]	1 July 1875
Guinea	6 May 1959	Oman (Muscat & Oman)	17 August 1971
Guinea-Bissau (Portuguese Guinea)	30-May-1974	Pakistan	10 November 1947
Guyana	22 March 1967	Panama	11 June 1904
Haiti	1 July 1881	Papua New Guinea	4 June 1976
Honduras	1 April 1879	Paraguay	1 July 1881
Hungary [Note 11]	1 July 1875	Peru	1 April 1879
Iceland	15 November 1919	Philippines	1 January 1922
India	1 July 1876	Poland	1 May 1919
Indonesia (Netherlands East Indies)	1 Jan 1922	Portugal	1 July 1875
Iran (Persia)	1 September 1877	Qatar	31 January 1969
Iraq	22 April 1929	Romania	1 July 1875
Ireland [Note 12]	6 September 1923	Russia	1 July 1875
Israel (Palestine)	24 December 1949	Rwanda	6 April 1963
Italy	1 March 1957	Saint Kitts and Nevis	11 January 1988
Jamaica	29 August 1963	Saint Lucia	10 July 1980
Japan	1 June 1877	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 February 1981
Jordan	16 May 1947	Samoa	9 August 1989
Kazakhstan	27 August 1992	San Marino	1 July 1915
Kenya (British East Africa)	27 October 1964	St Thomas & Prince	22 August 1977
Kiribati	14 August 1984	Saudi Arabia [Note 19]	1 January 1927
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	6 June 1974	Senegal	14 June 1961
Korea, Republic of [Note 13]	1 January 1900	Serbia [Note 20]	18 June 2001
Kuwait	16 February 1960	Seychelles	7 October 1977
Kyrgyzstan	26 January 1993	Sierra Leone	29 January 1962
Laos	20 May 1952	Singapore [Note 21]	8 January 1966
Latvia [Note 14]	17 June 1992	Slovakia	18 March 1993
Lebanon	15 May 1946	Slovenia	27 August 1992
Lesotho	6 September 1967	Solomon Islands	4 May 1984
Liberia	1 April 1879	Somalia (Italian Somaliland & Somaliland Prot.)	1 April 1959
Libya	4 June 1952	South Africa [Note 22]	22 August 1994
Liechtenstein	13 April 1962	South Sudan	4 October 2011
Lithuania [Note 15]	10 January 1992	Spain	1 July 1875
		Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	13 July 1949

Sudan	28 July 1956
Suriname	20 April 1976
Swaziland	7 November 1969
Sweden [Note 23]	1 July 1875
Switzerland	1 July 1875
Syria	15 May 1946
Tajikistan	9 June 1994
Tanzania [Note 24]	29 March 1963
Thailand (Siam)	1 July 1885
Timor-Leste	28 November 2003
Togo	21 March 1962
Tonga (including Niuafu'ou)	26 January 1972
Trinidad and Tobago	15 June 1963
Tunisia	1 July 1888
Turkey [Note 25]	1 July 1875
Turkmenistan	26 January 1993
Tuvalu	3 February 1981
Uganda	13 February 1964
Ukraine [Note 26]	13 May 1947
United Arab Emirates [Note 27]	30 March 1973
United Kingdom	1 July 1875
Guernsey	
Isle of Man	
Jersey	
United States of America	1 July 1875
Territories coming within the UPU's jurisdiction by virtue of article 23 of the UPU Constitution	
Guam	
Puerto Rico	
American Samoa	
United States Virgin Islands	
Northern Mariana Islands	
Uruguay	1 July 1880
Uzbekistan	24 February 1994
Vanuatu (New Hebrides)	16 July 1982
Vatican City	1 June 1929
Venezuela	1 January 1880
Vietnam	20 October 1951
Yemen [Note 28]	1 January 1930
Zambia (Northern Rhodesia)	22 March 1967
Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	31 July 1981

Observer states and territories

Palestine	Special observer status to the UPU since 1999
Gaza strip	mail was delivered through Israel until 2010
West Bank	mail delivered through Jordan since 2008

States, territories and entities not participating in UPU activities

Andorra	mail routed through France or Spain.
Marshall Islands	mail transport handled by U.S.P.S.
Micronesia	mail transport handled by U.S. P.S.
Palau	mail transport handled by the U.S.A. P.S.
Order of Malta	mail routed through Italy and additionally its stamps are accepted by 56 UPU members

States with limited recognition

The following need to have their mail routed through third countries as the UPU will not allow direct international deliveries.

Northern Cyprus	mail routed through Turkey
Kosovo	mail routed through Serbia
Abkhazia	mail routed through Russia

South Ossetia	mail routed through Russia
Nagorno-Karabakh	mail routed through Armenia
Transnistria	mail routed through Moldova
Sahrawi Republic	mail routed through Algeria
Taiwan (Rep. of China)	member 1 March 1914 – 13 April 1972
	Mail addressed to Taiwan is routed through a third country. [Note A1]

Former member countries of the UPU

In the course of history a number of member countries of the UPU saw their membership lapse, due to political changes. Where there was an immediate successor state, membership would normally devolve to that state. In other cases membership lapsed. The following is a partial list.

Abu Dhabi (to United Arab Emirates)	30 Mar 1963 - 30 Mar 1973
Aden (South Yemen)	1 Apr 1937 - 28 Jan 1968
(Yemen People's Democratic Republic)	..... 30 Nov 1970
Basutoland (Lesotho)	28 Oct 1896 – 6 Sep 1967
Bechuanaland Protectorate (Botswana)	1 Mar 1901 – 12 Jan 1968
Belgian Congo (Congo Republic)	..... 15 Nov 1908 – 1 Jul 1960
Br. Central Africa (Nyasaland)	.....
Br. East Africa (Kenya)	..... 1 Dec 1895 – 27 October 1964
Br. Guiana (Guyana)	..... 1 Apr 1877 – 22 Mar 1967
Br. Honduras (Belize)	..... 1 Jan 1879 – 1 Oct 1982
Brunei, British	..... 1 Jan 1916 – 14 Jan 1985
Burma (Myanmar)	..... 1 Apr 1937
Cape of Good Hope (to South Africa)	..... 1 Jan 1895 - 1 Jun 1910
Congo Free State (Belgian Congo)	..... 1 Jan 1886 – 15 Nov 1908
Congo Republic (Zaire)	..... 1 Jul 1960 – 27 Oct 1971
Czechoslovakia [note B1]	..... 28 Oct 1918 – 1 Jan 1993
Dubai (to United Arab Emirates)	..... 1 Apr 1948 – 30 Mar 1973
East Africa & Uganda	
Fernando Po (Equatorial Guinea)	..... 1 May 1877 – 24 Jul 1970
French Congo (Republic of the Congo)	.... 1 Jul 1886 – 5 Jul 1961
French Sudan (Mali)	..... 1 Jul 1876 – 21 Apr 1961
Fujeira (to United Arab Emirates)	..... 10 Sep 1964 – 30 Mar 1973
German East Africa (Tanganyika)	.....
German Democratic Rep. (Germany)	..... 1 Jun 1973 – 3 Oct 1990
Gold Coast (Ghana)	..... 1 Jan 1879 – 10 Oct 1957
Hawaii, Kingdom of (USA)	..... 21 Mar 1885 – 4 Jul 1898
Italy, Kingdom of	..... 1 Jul 1875 – 1944
Johore (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Jul 1928 – 17 Jan 1958
Kedah (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Jan 1916 – 17 Jan 1958
Kelantan (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Jan 1916 – 17 Jan 1958
Kenya & Uganda (to Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika)	..... 1902
Labuan (to North Borneo)	..... 1 Apr 1877 – 1 Feb 1891
Lagos [Note B2]	..... 1 Jan 1879 – 1 Jan 1900
Leeward Islands [Note B3]	..... 1 Jul 1879 – 1 Jul 1956
Malacca (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Apr 1877 – 17 Jan 1958
Natal (to South Africa)	..... 1 Jul 1892 – 1 Jun 1910
Negri Sembilan (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Apr 1915 – 17 Jan 1958
Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia)	.. 1 May 1877 – 27 Dec 1949
Newfoundland (to Canada)	..... 1 Jan 1879 – 1 Apr 1949
New Hebrides (Vanuatu)	..... 1 Mar 1911 – 16 Jul 1982
New South Wales (to Australia)	..... 1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907
Niger Coast Protectorate [Note B2]	.... 12 May 1893 – 1 Jan 1900
North Borneo (to Malaysia)	..... 1 Feb 1891 – 16 Sep 1963
Northern Nigeria [Note B2]	..... 1 Jan 1900 – 1 Jan 1914
Northern Rhodesia (Zambia)	..... 1 Jul 1930 – 22 Mar 1967
Nyasaland (Malawi)	..... 6 Jul 1907 – 25 Oct 1966
Oil Rivers Protectorate [Note B2]	.... 15 Jun 1885 – 12 May 1893
Orange Free State [Note B3]	..... 1 Jan 1898 – 31 May 1902

Orange River Colony [Note B3]	24 May 1900 – 1 Jun 1910	10 Originally joined on 7 July 1922 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
Pahang (to Malaysia)	1 Apr 1915 – 17 Jan 1958	11 Ratified as Austria-Hungary.
Palestine (Israel)	5 Oct 1923 – 24 Dec 1949	12 Ratified as the Irish Free State.
Penang (to Malaysia)	1 Apr 1877 – 17 Jan 1958	13 Ratified as the Korean Empire.
Perak (to Malaysia)	1 Apr 1915 – 17 Jan 1958	14 Originally joined on 1 October 1921 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
Perlis (to Malaysia)	1 Jan 1916 – 17 Jan 1958	15 Originally joined on 1 January 1922 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
Persia (Iran).....	1 Sep 1877 – 29 Jan 1935	16 Ratified as the Federation of Malaya 1 Apr 1915, comprising Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor.
Portuguese Guinea (Guinea-Bissau)	1 Jul 1877 – 30 May 1974	17 Republic of Mali has had a succession of names: Upper Senegal (1879-1890), French Sudan (1890-1899), divided into two parts, Middle Niger and Upper Senegal (1899-1902), Senegambia and Niger (1902-1904), Upper Senegal and Niger (1904-1920), and French Sudan (1920-1958), Sudanese Republic (1958-1960).
Queensland (to Australia)	1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907	18 Ratified as the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.
Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).....	1 Mar 1901 – 31 Jul 1981	19 Ratified as the Saudi Arabia (1926) Kingdom of Nejd and Hejaz.
Sarawak (to Malaysia)	1 Jul 1897 – 16 Sep 1963	20 Founding member 1 Jul 1875. Replaced by, and ratified as the Serbia and Montenegro Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 24 Dec 1921. Independent again 18 June 2001.
Selangor (to Malaysia).....	1 Apr 1915 – 14 Jun 1961	21 Singapore joined 1 April 1877, and on 16 September 1963 combined with other states to form Malaysia. It became independent again 8 January 1966.
Siam (Thailand)	1 Jul 1885 – Jun 1939, Sep 1945 – May 1949	22 Formed from Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal 1 June 1910. Expelled from UPU 1979 to 1981, and from 1984 to 22 Aug 1994.
Sharjah (to United Arab Emirates).....	10 Jul 1963 – 30 Mar 1973	23 Ratified as the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.
Somaliland Protectorate (Somalia)	1 Dec 1895 – 1 Jul 1960	24 Ratified as Tanganyika, united with Zanzibar 26 April 1964, and changed name to Tanzania 29 October 1964.
South African Republic [Note B4].....	Jan 1895 – 31 May 1902	25 Ratified as the Ottoman Empire.
South Australia (to Australia)	1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907	26 Ratified as the Ukrainian SSR.
Southern Nigeria (to Nigeria) [Note B2] .	1 Jan 1900 – 1 Jan 1914	27 The United Arab Emirates consists of Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujeria, Ras Al Khaima, Sharjah, and Umm al Qiwain.
Southern Rhodesia (Rhodesia).....	1924 – Oct 1964	28 Ratified as the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen.
South West Africa (Namibia)	1920 – 27 Oct 1966	A1 The Republic of China joined the UPU on 1 March 1914. After the People's Republic of China was founded, the Republic of China continued to represent China in the UPU, until the UPU decided on 13 April 1972 to recognize the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate Chinese representative. This results in International Reply Coupons not being available not Taiwan.
Straits Settlements (to Malaysia)	1 Apr 1877 – 17 Jan 1958	B1 Czechoslovakia was partitioned into Slovakia, and Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945. After WW II it reunited. Slovakia and the Czech Republic each ratified the UPU treaty upon the latest breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993,
Tanganyika (Tanzania)	23 Oct 1922 – 29 Mar 1963	B2 Oil Rivers Protectorate changed its name 15 June 1885 to Niger Coast Protectorate, and on 1 January 1900 was renamed Southern Nigeria. It combined with Lagos 1 May 1906, and combined 1 January 1914 with Northern Nigeria to form the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria. Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria combined 1 Jan 1914 to form the single country of Nigeria.
Tasmania (to Australia).....	1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907	B3 The Leeward Islands comprised, and issued stationery concurrently with, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher & Anguilla, and British Virgin Islands. It was formed 1 Jul 1879, and dissolved 1 July 1956
Transvaal (to South Africa).....	1 Jan 1893 – 1 Jun 1910	
Trengganu (to Malaysia).....	1 Jul 1928 – 17 Jan 1958	
Ubangi-Shari (Central African Rep.)....	1 Jul 1876 – 28 Jun 1961	
Umm Al Qiwain (to UAE).....	29 Jun 1964 – 30 Mar 1973	
Upper Senegal and Niger (to Fr. Sudan, then Mali)....	1904 - 1920	
Upper Volta (Burkina Faso).....	1 Jul 1876 – 29 Mar 1963	
Victoria (to Australia).....	1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907	
Western Australia (to Australia)	1 Oct 1891 – 1 Oct 1907	
Yugoslavia	24 Dec 1921 – 27 Apr 1992	

Notes:

- 1** These three entities are constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, but have a joint UPU membership separate of that of the Netherlands. Prior to the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on 10 October 2010, Aruba and the then-Netherlands Antilles shared a common UPU membership. Upon dissolution, Curaçao and Sint Maarten became constituent countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, now collectively known as the Caribbean Netherlands, became part of the Netherlands proper.
- 2** Ratified as Austria-Hungary.
- 3** Ratified as the Byelorussian SSR.
- 4** Ratified as the Empire of Brazil.
- 5** Ratified as the Upper Volta.
- 6** China was originally represented by the government of the Republic of China from 1914 to 1972. Since 13 April 1972, UPU has shifted its recognition to the government of People's Republic of China.
- 7** Hong Kong was part of the British Overseas Territories joint membership from 1 April 1877 to 1 July 1997. Hong Kong continues to participate in the Universal Postal Union after the transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to China on 1 July 1997.
- 8** Ratified as the Congo Free State. It became a Belgian colony named the Belgian Congo in 1908. Upon independence in 1960 it took the name Republic of the Congo. It was changed to Zaire in 1971, and to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1971.
- 9** Ratified as the Khedivate of Egypt

- B3** The Orange Free State acceded to the Postal Convention of Vienna in 1898, and a year later also acceded to that of Washington. The state was dissolved at the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. Membership did not lapse but was absorbed into the British South African membership as the Orange River Colony. Joined the other southern African states to form the Union of South Africa 1 June 1910..
- B4** The South African Republic was a member from 1895 until its dissolution at the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. It was renamed Transvaal 31 May 1902. UPU Membership did not lapse but was absorbed into the British South African membership as Transvaal.

Colonies, Protectorates, Associations, Occupations, and Geographical Groupings

BRITISH COLONIES

The membership of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland includes Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. The general term 'British Colonies' is inclusive of Protectorates.

1 Jul 1876: British India admitted to membership. There was a precedent for this (in the International Telegraph Union) and the other Colonial Powers followed suit in 1876-77, expanding the UPU to include dependent territories.

1 Apr 1877: Separate membership for "British Colonies", a group comprising Bermuda, Ceylon, British Guiana, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Labuan, Mauritius, Straits Settlements and Trinidad.

1 Jul 1878: Additional membership for Canada; the nine colonies remained in membership as "Other British Colonies".

1 Oct 1891: Additional membership for "British Colonies of Australasia"

1 Jan 1899: "British Colonies" resumed status of a separate country. "British Colonies & Protectorates in South Africa" organized as a group. It was considered a separate member when given its own vote 1 Oct 1907.

1 Oct 1907: Commonwealth of Australia as separate member, continuing the "British Colonies of Australasia" membership. New Zealand a separate member, with vote assigned to it from "Other British Colonies".

At the 1924 Stockholm Congress, status of independent States recognized for British Indian Empire and the self-governing Dominions of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. The vote exercised as "Other British Colonies" left unassigned.

1 Jul 1940: "British Colonies" renamed "British Overseas Territories, including Colonies, Protectorates and Mandates exercised by the Government of the UK". This was amended post-war to the UN-style "Territories under Trusteeship". In 1962 the wording was further altered to "Overseas Territories for whose international relations the Government of the UK is responsible". \

These "British Overseas Territories" comprised, in 1988: Anguilla, Ascension, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory (including Graham Land, South Shetlands, South Orkneys), British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands & Dependencies (South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands),

Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, and Turks & Caicos Islands. Membership for British Antarctic Territory dates from that of Falkland Islands & Dependencies (1 Jan 1879), but this colonial unit was not actually formed till 3 Mar 1962.

BRITISH COLONIES OF AUSTRALASIA

1 Oct 1891: The membership "British Colonies of Australasia" included New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia plus New Zealand and Fiji.

1 Oct 1907: With the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia (on 1 Jan 1901) and the Dominion of New Zealand (26 Sep 1907), these became two separate members in their own right, superseding the above. Fiji was represented as a British Colony. From 1 Oct 1925, Australia and New Zealand were regarded as non-colonial independent states.

Australia included Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island and Papua (British New Guinea). Territories under subsequent Australian administration are: Cocos (Keeling) Islands (transferred 23 Nov 1955); Christmas Island (1 Oct 1958); and Australian Antarctic Territory (7 Feb 1933). From 1920 Australia also administered the mandated territories of (former German) New Guinea and Nauru until their independence.

New Zealand included the Cook Islands, Aitutaki, Penrhyn Island, Niue, Tokelau and Ross Dependency. It also administered Western (former German) Samoa from 1920 until independence on 1 Jan 1962. Since then, New Zealand has continued to be responsible for Samoan international postal relations.

BRITISH COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Represented at the 1897 Congress, with formal membership as a group on 1 Jan 1899. Represented again in 1900 and 1906, but membership replaced on 1 Jun 1910 by newly formed Union of South Africa.

Basutoland and Swaziland were represented by the Union of South Africa until they became separate members upon independence (Basutoland, renamed Lesotho 4 Oct 1966; Swaziland 6 Sep 1968).

South West Africa was represented by South Africa from 1920. From 27 Oct 1966 (as Namibia) it was an indirect member "under UN responsibility" until its independence 21 Mar 1990.

The Union of South Africa became a Republic 31 May 1961 and left the Commonwealth. Its membership in the UPU was terminated at the 1979 Congress. It rejoined 19 Jun 1981, but was expelled again at the 1984 Congress, and finally readmitted in 22 Aug 1994.

CHINA

1 Mar 1914: China's membership was said to "include Mongolia, Sinkiang and Tibet". Between 1921 and 1945 China refused to accept that Mongolia had become an independent state and treated Mongolian stamps as invalid for foreign postage. Mongolia was so isolated that it did not formally join the UPU until 24 Aug 1963, though in practice adhering before then with Soviet Russian technical assistance.

China has in historical times competed with Russia for mastery of its Province of Sinkiang. Inclusion in its UPU membership was probably intended to make its sovereignty clear.

China's inclusion of Tibet was likewise political, the country being independent since 1912. Tibet never joined the UPU and its stamps were of local status. It was absorbed into China by conquest in 1950.

The Republic of China's representation at the UPU was, after 1949, located in Taiwan. It was replaced on 13 Apr 1972 by delegates from the mainland People's Republic, though Taiwan appears to continue its international postal obligations notwithstanding.

DANISH COLONIES

1 Jul 1875: Denmark's membership included Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

1 Sep 1877: Extra membership for "Danish Colonies" now covered Greenland and Danish West Indies (the latter termed Danish Antilles at 1909 meeting).

Colonies membership lapsed during 1917-18 following cession of Danish West Indies to the US (as the Virgin Islands) on 31 Mar 1917. It was renewed until the end of 1921 to cover Greenland, Iceland having become a separate member 15 Nov 1919.

"Danish Colonies" membership then lapsed, with Greenland and the Faroes represented by Denmark.

DUTCH COLONIES

1 May 1877: Separate membership for "Dutch Colonies", composed of three territories: (1) Netherlands East Indies; (2) Dutch Guiana (Suriname); (3) Netherlands Antilles (Curacao). In the International Bureau chronological list these were three separate memberships, but apparently functioned only as one. From 1 Oct 1907 "Dutch Colonies" had an extra vote for "Netherlands East Indies".

1 Jan 1922: Netherlands East Indies a full member; "Dutch Colonies" became "Dutch Colonies in America" (Netherlands Antilles and Dutch Guiana), renamed "Curacao and Suriname" at 1934, 1939 and 1947 Congresses.

3 Sep 1948: Curacao renamed Netherlands Antilles.

20 Sep 1948: Netherlands East Indies renamed Indonesia.

On 27 Dec 1949 membership for independent Indonesia replaced (Dutch) Indonesia. On 20 Apr 1976 Suriname took out independent membership as the "Republic of Suriname".

Currently no extra membership remains, as the "Netherlands Antilles & Aruba" formed 1 Jan 1986 became integrated with the Netherlands as "special municipalities" of the "Caribbean Netherlands"

FRENCH COLONIES

1 Jan 1876: France's membership included Algeria.

1 Jul 1876: As *quid pro quo* for the membership of British India, "French Colonies" became a member separate from France.

Officially, this date applies to all colonial territories then existing or formed subsequently. "French Colonies" included Cochinchina, but the subsequent adherence of Cambodia and Tonkin (1 Jan 1878) and Annam (1 Apr 1886) led to a separate membership for "French Indo-China" on 1 Jan 1899 and renaming "Other French Colonies". The Regency of Tunis was in separate membership from 1 Jul 1888 and renamed "Tunisia" from 1 Oct 1907. Algeria became a separate member on 1 Oct 1907, as did French Morocco on 1 Oct 1920.

12 May 1931: French-mandated Syria and Lebanon both declared their adherence, merging in 1935 as "Levant States under French Mandate". In the International Bureau chronological list, each entity is counted as a separate membership, despite their indirect nature.

At the 1947 Congress, delegates represented France, Algeria, Indo-China and a group entitled "Other Overseas Territories of the French Republic and Territories administered as such". At the end of 1948 this group comprised: (1) French Indian Settlements; (2) French West Africa (Dahomey, French Guinea, French Sudan, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta); (3) French Equatorial Africa (Chad, Gabon, Middle Congo, Ubangi-Shari); (4) Madagascar & Dependencies and French Somali Coast; (5) St. Pierre et Miquelon; (6) New Hebrides Condominium; (7) UN Trust Territories (Cameroon, Togo); (8) Autonomous Post Office of French-occupied Saar.

During 1949 French Indo-China was divided into three states: Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. By 20 May 1952 all three had separate independent memberships and "French Indo-China" lapsed. Algeria, as a member country, regularized its position as an independent sovereign state 28 May 1964.

In 1957 the official designation for "Other Overseas Territories" became "Territories represented by the French Office of Overseas PTT".

22 Dec 1977: The group waived its status as a member country, while keeping the territories within UPU jurisdiction. At present these French Overseas Territories comprise: (1) French Polynesia; (2) French Southern & Antarctic Territories; (3) New Caledonia; (4) Wallis & Futuna Islands; (5) Scattered islands in the Indian Ocean (non stamp-issuing), all with original membership date 1 July 1876 of "French Colonies". The Territorial Community of Mayotte is dated similarly. The present French Overseas Departments, with membership date 1 Jan 1876 (of France) are: (1) French Guiana; (2) Guadeloupe; (3) Martinique; (4) Reunion; (5) Territorial Community of St Pierre et Miquelon.

The 1906 Congress considered Andorra as belonging to the UPU and the responsibility of Spain. Since the 1929 Congress, this territory is designated as "served by the French and Spanish postal administrations"

France represented Monaco from 1 Apr 1879 until that country's independent membership on 12 Oct 1955.

GERMANY

Bavaria and Wurttemberg were never separate members of the UPU but had contact through the German Imperial Post Office.

Though the additional membership for the German Democratic Republic came into being in 1973, this territory was, with the

present Federal Republic, considered a founder member of the UPU.

GERMAN COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES

1 Jun 1887: German Cameroons in membership, followed by other Protectorates during 1888-99.

1 Jan 1899: Membership for "German Colonies".

1 Oct 1907: Split into two memberships: (1) German Protectorates in Africa; (2) German Protectorates in Asia and Australasia. By the 1920 Madrid Congress, both memberships had lapsed because of the War; and they left the UPU in 1921.

ITALIAN COLONIES

1 Jul 1904: Adherence of Benadir (Italian Somaliland) and Eritrea, represented by Italy, and at the 1906 Congress as "Italy and Italian Colonies".

1 Oct 1907: Formal membership of "Italian Colonies". Territories acquired subsequently, such as Libya 18 Oct 1912, are officially dated thus.

1 Jul 1940: "Italian Colonies" split into two memberships: (1) "Italian East Africa", i.e. Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Ethiopia; (2) "Other Italian Colonies and Possessions". Both left the UPU 1 Jul 1948.

1 Apr 1959: "Territory of Somalia under Italian Administration" admitted as member, succeeded on 1 Jul 1960 by Republic of Somalia, formed from Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland. On Ethiopia, International Bureau documents are at variance. One shows the original membership terminating 1937 and resuming 1945 (Italian East Africa having joined 1940). Another dates the resumption from 5 May 1941 (the Emperor's restoration), with an indirect membership "1936 to 1941 under Italian occupation".

JAPANESE DEPENDENCIES

1 Jun 1877: Japan's membership included Post Offices in China and Korea and (after annexation 18 Apr 1895) the territory of Taiwan (Formosa).

Although the Empire of Korea had sent delegates to the 1897 UPU Congress, it was not formally admitted as a member until 1 Jan 1900. The territory's postal service was taken over by Japan on 1 Apr 1905 and the country annexed as Chosen colony 29 Aug 1910.

Japan's membership also covered Post Offices in Manchuria, the Chinese Eastern Railway Zone and the Kwantung Leased Territories.

1 Jan 1922: Japan acquired two extra memberships in consequence: (1) 'Chosen'; (2) "Other Japanese Dependencies". The latter lapsed 1 Jul 1948.

The Chosen membership was overseen by Allied military representatives after the Second World War. It was resumed by the Republic of Korea (South Korea) 17 Dec 1949; in addition (6 Jun 1974) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) became a member.

The Chinese province of Manchuria was nominally independent

1932-45 as Manchukuo. It was probably represented de facto by Japan, but confirmation has not been found.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES

Portugal's membership includes the Azores and Madeira.

1 Jul 1877: "Portuguese Colonies" became a member, additional to Portugal. Officially this date applies to colonial territories then existing or formed subsequently.

1 Oct 1907: Split into two memberships: (1) "Portuguese African Colonies"; (2) "Other Portuguese Colonies".

1 Jan 1922: Renamed (1) "Portuguese Colonies in Africa"; (2) "Portuguese Colonies in Asia and Oceania".

At the 1934 Congress termed:

(1) "Portuguese Colonies in West Africa", which lapsed 11 Nov 1975. The group had been Angola, Cape Verde, Portuguese Guinea, St. Thomas & Prince, all now independent.

(2) "Portuguese Colonies in East Africa, Asia and Oceania". (These were Mozambique, Portuguese India to 1961, Macao and Portuguese Timor.) The word "Colonies" was replaced by "Territories" at the 1952 Congress and "Provinces" the following year.

From 22 Dec 1977 Portugal waived member-country status for this second group, while keeping the Provinces within UPU jurisdiction. Mozambique gained its own independent membership 11 Oct 1978 and the remainder left the UPU 28 Dec 1978.

From that date Portugal has represented Macao and Portuguese Timor. The latter has been termed East Timor by the UN since 1 Feb 1980. The UPU regarded East Timor as a "territory in a special situation", Indonesia having incorporated it as a province since 17 Jul 1976. After a civil war, it became the independent country of Timor-Leste on 28 November 2003.

POST OFFICES ABROAD

The Post Offices maintained abroad by Austria, British India, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States were UPU members as they opened, by virtue of the home-countries' memberships. For Great Britain, however, Gibraltar's membership dates from 1 Jan 1876, and British Post Offices in China and Japan (under Hong Kong administration) from 1 Apr 1877.

SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (Name of Russia 1918-1991)

Since 1 Feb 1944, the separate Republics of the USSR have had the nominal right to conduct their own foreign relations. In the UN, both Ukraine and Byelorussia had separate memberships; similarly, since 13 May 1947, these Republics had memberships in the UPU additional to the USSR.

The three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) had their UPU memberships terminated by the USSR in late 1940, following their incorporation as Union Republics. The USSR's attempt to revive these memberships at the 1947 UPU Congress did not succeed. The People's Republic of Tannu Tuva, nominally independent from 1921 but annexed by the USSR in 1944, was apparently never a formal member of the UPU.

SPANISH COLONIES

Spain's membership includes the Balearic and Canary Islands, and the Spanish Possessions in North Africa (Ceuta, Melilla, etc.).

1 May 1877: Extra membership for "Spanish Colonies", namely Fernando Po and Puerto Rico. In 1877 the Philippines was added 1 June and Cuba 15 June. Officially, territories subsequently acquired are dated back to 1 May 1877.

The 1906 UPU Congress considered Andorra as belonging to the Union and the responsibility of Spain. Since the 1929 Congress this territory is designated as 'served by the Spanish and French postal administrations.

At 1906 Congress, following cession (in 1899) of Philippines and Puerto Rico to the United States and Cuba's independent membership (1902), the remaining Spanish group was renamed "Spanish Establishments in the Gulf of Guinea". This comprised mainland Spanish Guinea (Rio Muni) and the islands of Fernando Po, Annobon, Elobey and Corisco.

1 Oct 1920: Separate membership for self-governing Spanish Zone of Morocco, which, with unified independent Morocco, became a member 15 Oct 1956 as successor..

1 Apr 1959: "Spanish Colonies" (title resumed from 1920 Congress) redesignated "Spanish Territories in Africa", namely Spanish Guinea and Spanish Sahara. They left the UPU 28 Feb 1976.

UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS AND TERRITORIES

11 Apr 1899: Following the military occupation of Cuba and the annexation from Spain of Guam, the Philippines and Puerto Rico (10 Dec 1898), a new group "United States Possessions" was considered a member of the UPU. (Eastern) Samoa was added to the group 8 May 1900.

1 Oct 1907: Formal (voting) membership given for the group, also absorbing Hawaii, which had been in separate membership since 1 Jan 1882.

31 Mar 1917: Danish West Indies acquired and added to the group as (US) Virgin Islands.

At 1920 Congress the group termed "US Island Possessions", then "US Island Possessions other than the Philippines" following the latter's separate membership 1 Jan 1922.

2 Apr 1947: Group renamed "Territories of the USA, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands", the latter consisting of the Caroline, Marshall and Mariana Islands, except Guam. Renamed "Territories of the USA" 1 Jul 1953; the group waived member-country status 1 Jan 1978, while keeping territories within UPU jurisdiction.

Panama Canal Zone was covered by US membership from 1 Aug 1904, transferring to 'US Possessions' 1 Jul 1940. In 1979 the territory reverted to the Republic of Panama.