

# The Oceanographic Institute and Museum of Monaco

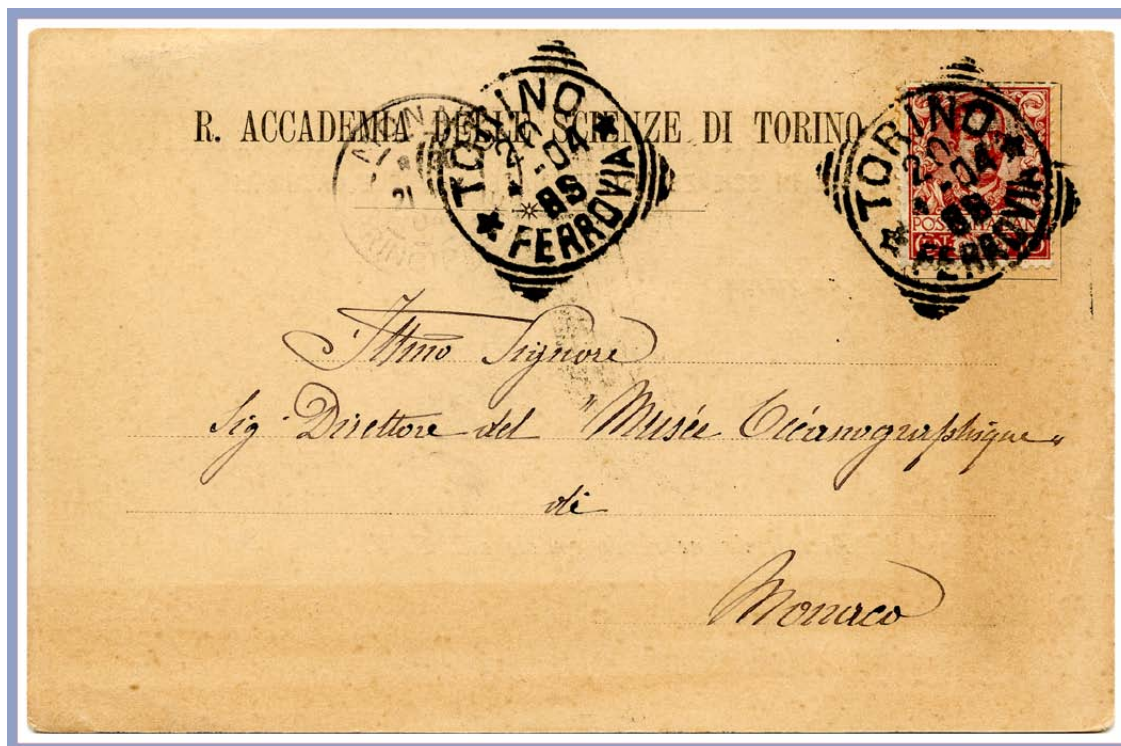
## The First 50 Years - 1910-1960

This thematically styled exhibit explores the origins and activities of the Oceanographic Institute and Museum. As the first ocean institute of its kind, it was founded in 1899 by Prince Albert I (1848-1922) of Monaco and inaugurated in 1910. Institute and Museum research helps mankind to better protect, understand and benefit from oceanic environments.

Exhibit development is chronological from the popular display at the 1889 Paris Exposition to modern day exhibits and events.



Prince Albert I



Post card from the Torino Royal Academy of Science  
Torino, Italy to Monte Carlo, Monaco, 20 April 1904

Notice of receipt of the 'Bulletin of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco'  
**Earliest recorded mail to the Oceanographic Museum (in the royal palace)**

### Exhibit Plan

1. The Legend of a Prince's Fascination
2. Prince Albert's Interest in the Oceans
3. Prince Albert's Ships
4. The Palace Collection
5. Building a New Home
6. The Institute's Offices
7. Institute Research
8. The Aquarium and Exhibitions
9. Public Identity
10. International Cooperation
11. Epilogue - The Institute Today

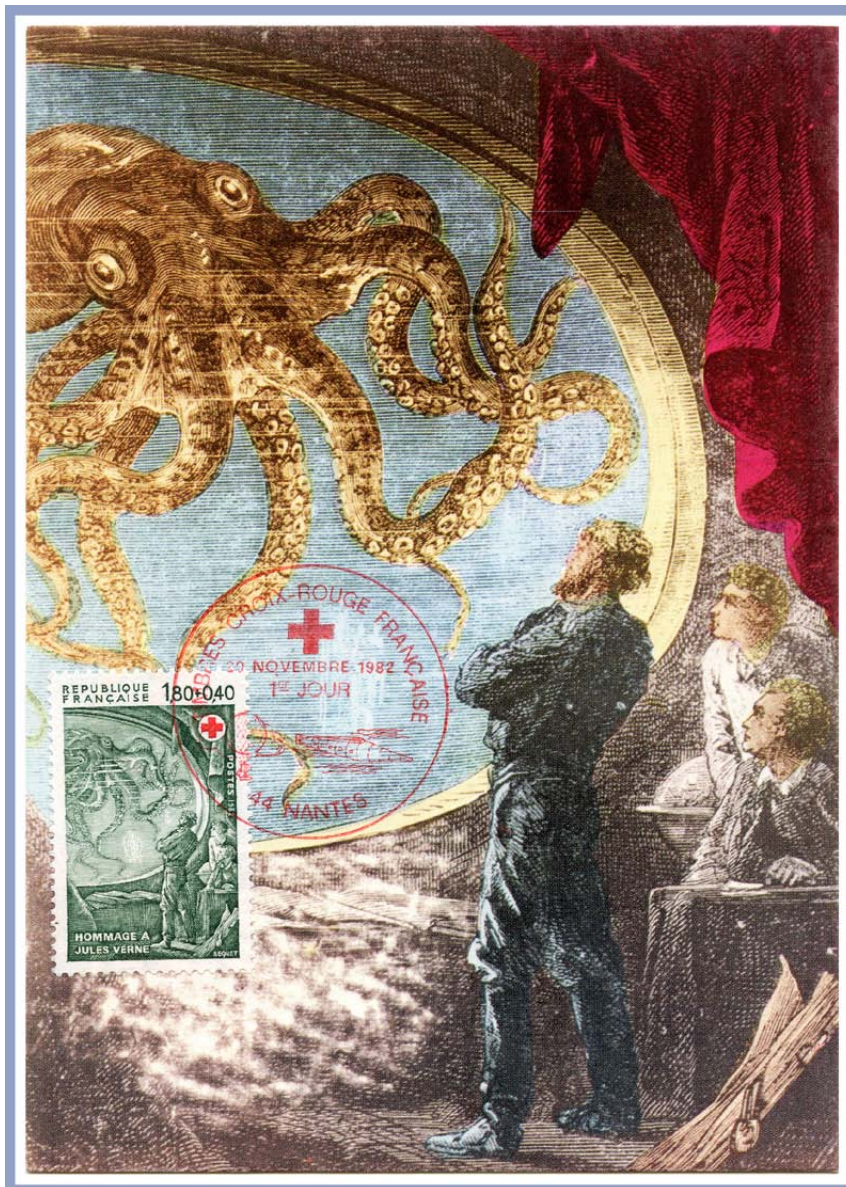
**Unusual items have bold, italicized descriptive text and red matting.**

# 1. The Legend of a Prince's Fascination

Only a Myth

Legend has it that Prince Albert I was enamoured of the sea, and the life hidden beneath it, as a result of reading the Jules Verne (1828-1905) novel '20,000 Leagues under the Sea' as a very young boy.

Jules Verne, French author  
Color registration matrix in selvage  
with gutter perforations in left margin

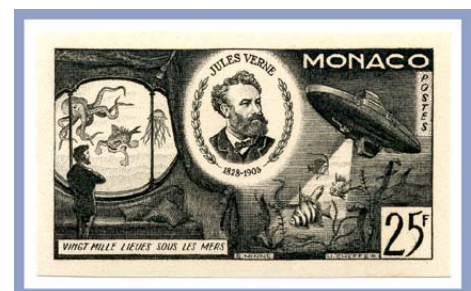


View from the Nautilus observation port  
First Day of Issue maximum card for semi-postal issue



Scene from "20,000 Leagues under the Sea"

'20,000 Leagues under the Sea' was published in 1870 when the Prince was 22 years old. The legend therefore cannot possibly be true.



Jules Verne bust  
Imperforate

## 2. Prince Albert's Interest in the Oceans

## Expeditions and Exposition

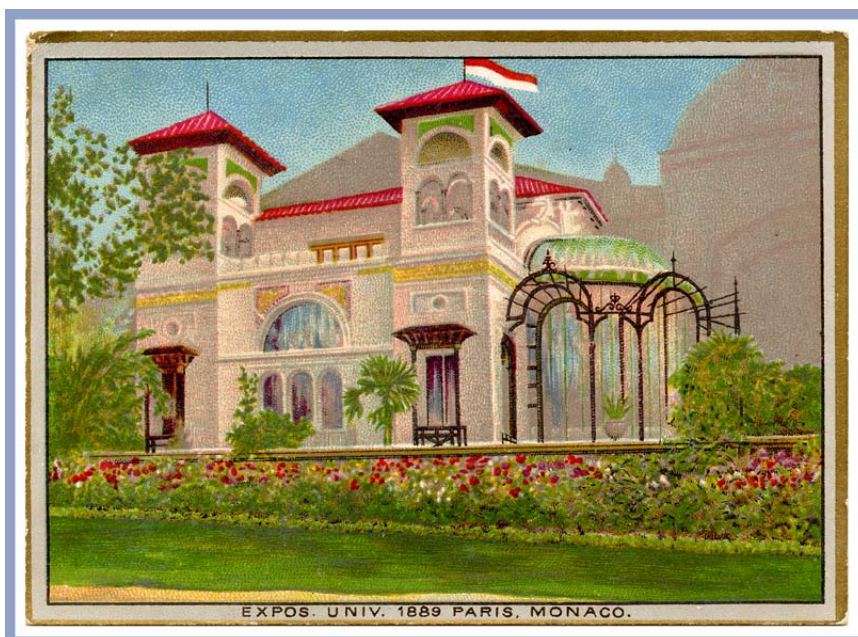
After French military and maritime training, Prince Albert I began his scientific expeditions in 1885. As a navigator and an early pioneer in the science of oceanography, he devoted most of his life to the study of the oceans and marine life forms.



Prince Albert I  
The Navigator

Monte Carlo, Monaco to  
Neuilly-am-Seine, France  
30 December 1922  
European surface letter  
rate 25 centimes

**Mourning cover on the  
26 June 1922 death  
of the Institute's founder  
Prince Albert I  
(Institute stationery)**



Monaco pavilion at the 1889 Universal Exposition in Paris  
Official chromo souvenir card with gold gilded border

Monaco  
Coat  
of arms



During the Universal Expo of 1889 in Paris, France, Prince Albert's marine life collection was displayed in the pavilion of Monaco. It generated great visitor interest. It was then that he decided to build a museum dedicated to oceanography.

### 3. Prince Albert's Ships

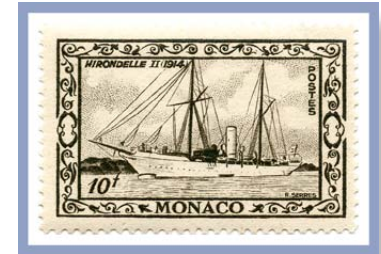
Prince Albert I sailed the Mediterranean on highly sophisticated vessels. His ships were converted yachts - the Hironde I, Princess Alice, Princess Alice II and Hironde II.



Hironde I (1870)



Prince Albert I with yachts  
Hironde I and Princess Alice



Hironde II (1914)



Prince Albert I of Monaco and his yacht Hironde II  
Vintimille Marseille to Remizemont, France, 14 November 1905  
Printed by Imp - Imbert & Cie - Grasse - Nice - 804  
Déposé Edition Maison Modele - Monte Carlo

He also explored arctic waters.



Prince Albert I in Spitsbergen  
with yacht Princess Alice II



Hironde II in the Arctic Sea



Prince Albert I demonstrates  
the onboard laboratory

## 4. The Palace Collection

The Oceanographic Institute and Museum initially resided in a large section of Monaco's royal palace before all of the specimens and instruments were transferred to the current museum building.



Royal Palace of Monaco



Collecting specimens at sea



Monte Carlo, Monaco to the University of California Berkeley, California, USA  
11 October 1909, Received 24 October  
International surface letter rate 25 centimes

Letterhead type 1 ———— [fancy fleuron]

**Earliest recorded mail from the Museum**

## 5. Building a New Home

## The New Museum



Setting of the first corner stone  
Date of printing, 4 March 1999



1910 Inauguration Celebration label



Oceanographic Institute, *Deluxe Sunken Die Proof in issued color, airmail issue of 1947*

## 6. The Institute's Offices (Monaco)

## Laying the Foundation for the Future



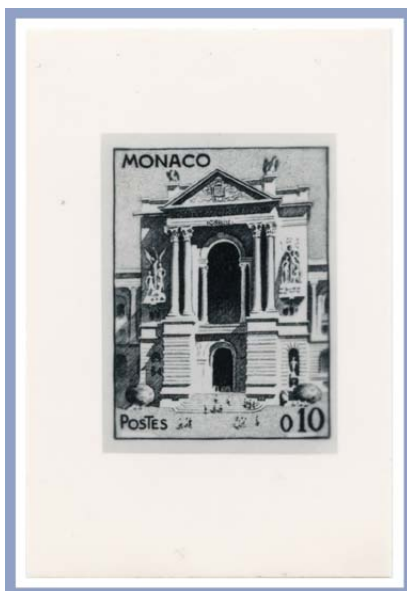
Issue of 1922  
Light Ultramarine  
Variety



Re-Issue of 1923



Deluxe Proof in issued color, commemorative issue of 1949



Photographic essay  
Overall image of the  
building approximates the  
issued stamp but the final  
design is taller and narrower



Street entrance  
to the Institute  
and Museum



Entrance facade to the Institute and Museum  
Airmail value, block of four

## 6. The Institute's Offices (Monaco)

Service Mail of Monte Carlo

The Institute and Museum used special stationery with a printed corner card depicting the ship *Hirondelle I* with the Coat of Arms of Monaco.

Monte Carlo, Monaco  
to the  
Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D.C., USA,  
3 May 1921  
International surface  
letter rate 50 centimes

Letterhead type 2  
[simple bow fleuron]



Monte Carlo, Monaco to Scripps Institute of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, USA  
12 November 1941, International surface post card rate 1.50 Francs



## 6. The Institute's Offices (France)

## Home of the Oceans



Home of the Oceans  
Paris, France  
and  
Oceanographic  
Institute, Monaco

*First Day of Issue  
4 May 1981  
Maximum card  
for stamp issue  
honoring the  
Monte Carlo and  
Paris offices*

The Institute is comprised of two organizations; the 'Oceanographic Museum' in Monaco and the 'Home of the Oceans' in Paris, France.



Paris Office  
Sunken Die  
Trial Color Proof  
(brown)

*Airmail issue  
of 1949 in  
issued  
carmine color*

The office in Paris was inaugurated in January 1911 and it plays host to many international conferences on the world's ocean resources.



## 6. The Institute's Offices (France)

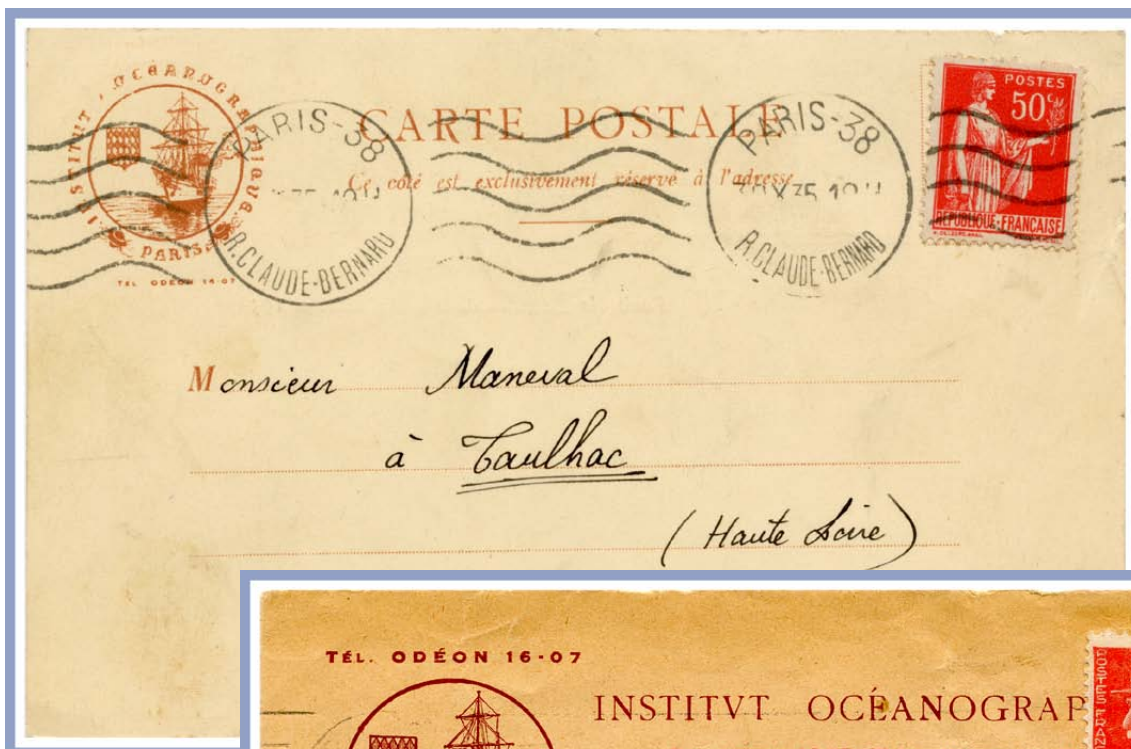
Service Mail of Paris

Illustrated card from  
Francis Bernard,  
Entomology Assistant  
in the Paris office

discussing a paper  
on Chalcidien  
parasites he was  
about to publish

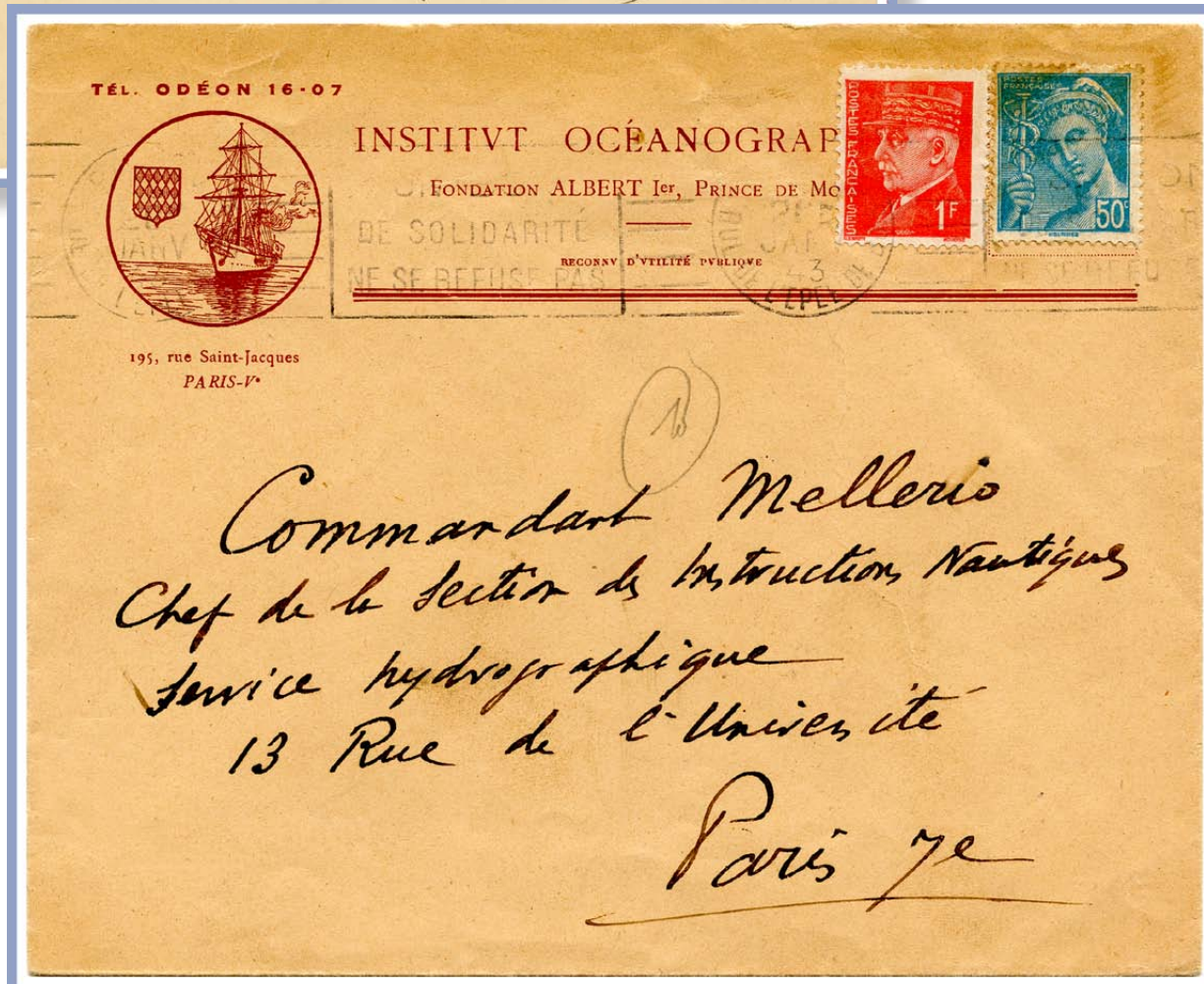


Copy of card's  
message side



Paris to  
Taulhac, France  
30 October 1935  
Domestic  
post card rate  
50 Francs

Only recorded  
example of an  
illustrated service  
post card



Paris, France  
local delivery  
20 January 1943  
Local letter rate  
1.50 Francs

Letter to School  
for Hydrographic  
Services

Letterhead Type I  
[Single line  
no fleuron]

Prince Albert I promoted research by the foundation's museum and laboratories which benefitted other sciences beyond only oceanography. His research with sea anemones for instance contributed directly to discovery of anaphylaxis by Charles Richet in 1902.



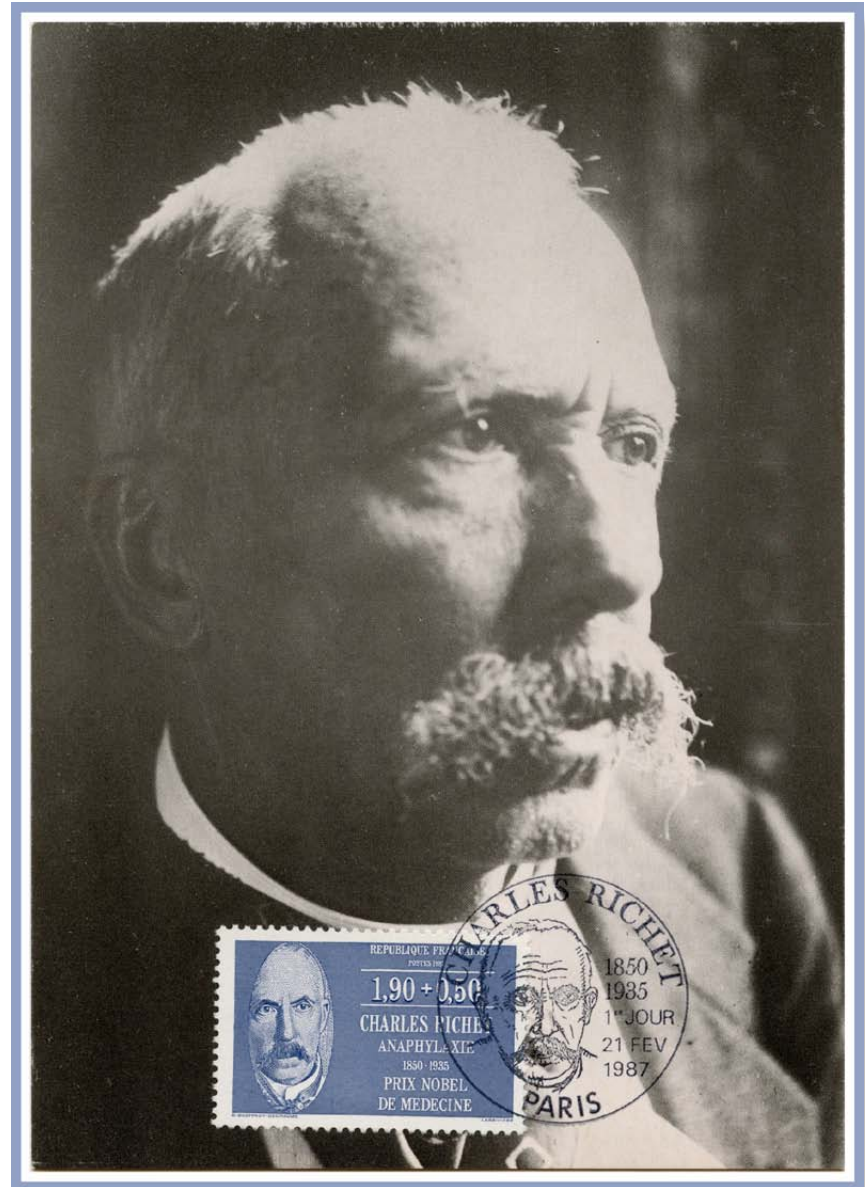
Prince Albert I and yacht Alice II  
Sheet control number



Discovery of anaphylaxis  
Charles Richet & Paul Portier



Collecting specimens at sea



Charles Richet, discoverer of Anaphylaxis  
First Day of Issue Maximum Card, semi-postal issue of 1987



Coordinated research with International Atomic Energy Agency for radioactivity's presence in the earth's oceans

# 8. The Living Museum and Exhibitions

## A Giant Aquarium

The base of the building contains an open ocean aquarium. The aquarium includes all types of sea life. Microscopic animals, marine invertebrates as well as tropical fish.



Studying sea life habitats



Aquarium guests



Aquarium beneath building



Aquarium guests



Cream paper



White paper



Revised postal rate

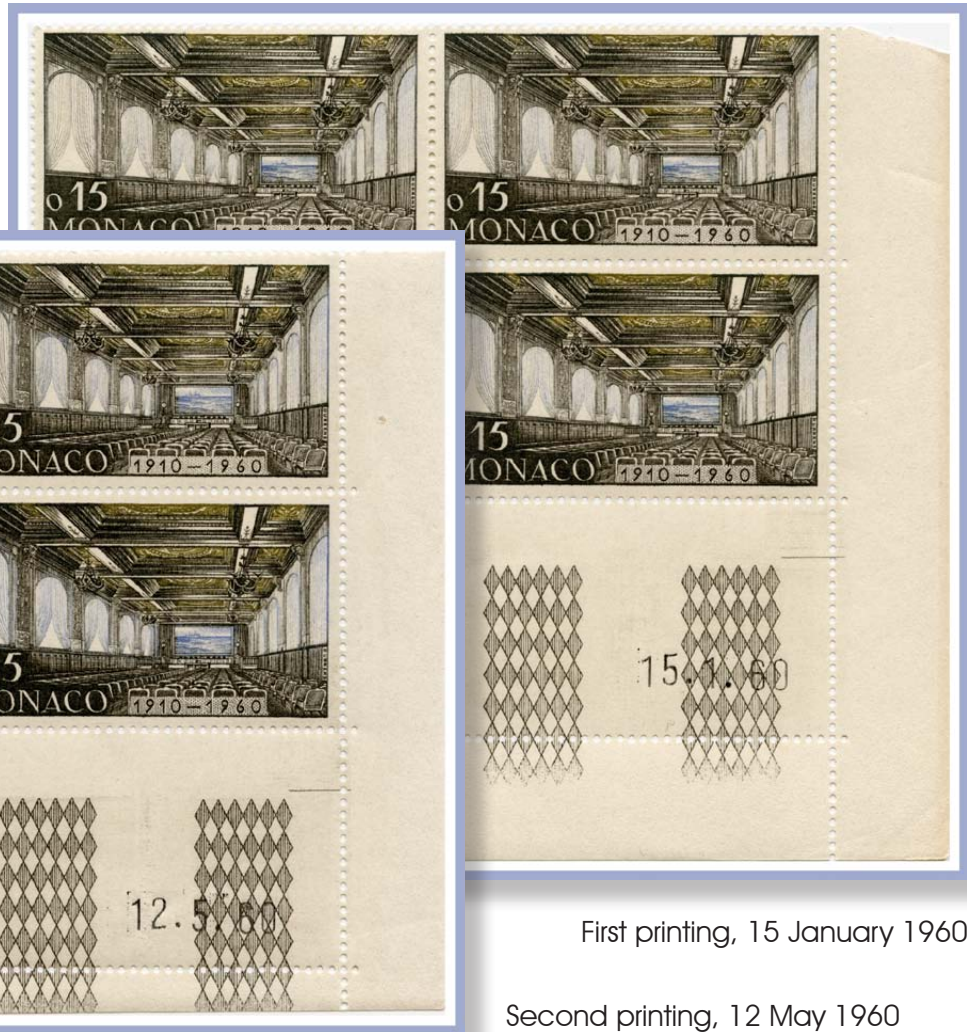


Revised postal rate

## 8. The Living Museum and Exhibitions

## History on Display

An indoor cinema provides films describing the status of efforts to enhance ocean environmental protection.



First printing, 15 January 1960

Second printing, 12 May 1960

Many of the special exhibitions discuss the history of the museum and oceanographic sciences. Displays present both historical and modern methods for underwater exploration.



Traditional and Modern Divers



Galeazzi's Turret  
1929



Klingert 1797 and Modern Diving Suits



Alexander the Great's  
Underwater Chamber & Bathysphere



Fulton's 'Nautilus' 1800  
and Modern Submarine

## 9. Public Identity

Jacques Cousteau became leader of the Institute in 1957. He continued the Institute's legacy of ocean research and exploration as an important member of the international community. His popularity with modern culture contributes to the museum's good reputation.



Research station for living and working under the sea



Research ship *Calypso*



Jacques Cousteau  
Semi-postal issue  
in two currencies  
Francs and Euros



Priority letter card valid for international postage

# 10. International Cooperation

# League of Nations and UNESCO

The Institute was the advisory group on world oceans for the League of Nations.



Mr. Gordon G. Lill  
5513 - 32nd Street North  
Arlington 7, Virginia



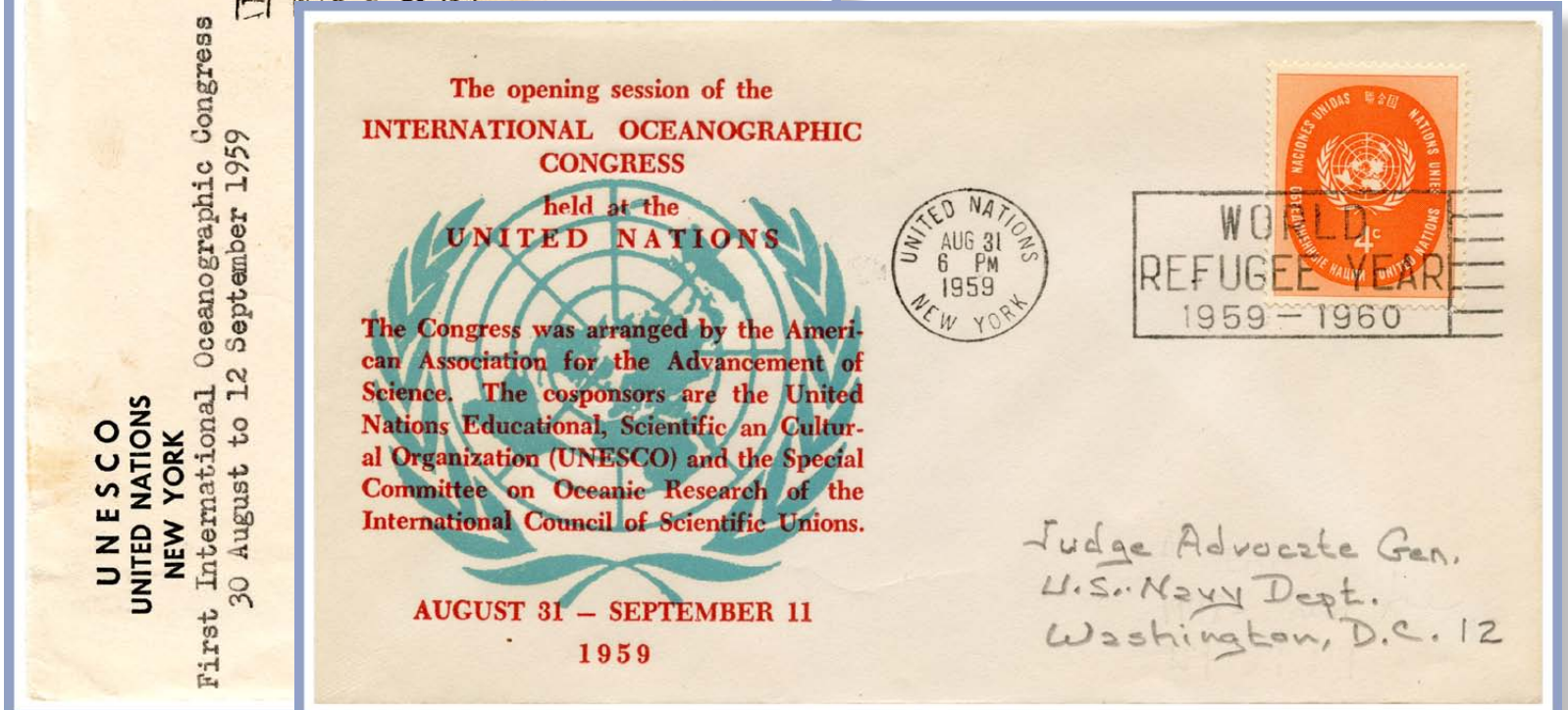
League of Nations  
Specimen (red)  
overprint

The First International Oceanographic Congress was sponsored by UNESCO.

United Nations, New York  
to Arlington, Virginia, USA  
2 September 1959

Domestic surface letter rate 4 cents  
21 cents overpaid as a publicity franking

United Nations, New York to Washington, D.C.  
31 August 1959, Opening day of the Congress



UNESCO  
UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK  
First International Oceanographic Congress  
30 August to 12 September 1959

The opening session of the  
**INTERNATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC  
CONGRESS**  
held at the  
**UNITED NATIONS**  
  
The Congress was arranged by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The cosponsors are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Special Committee on Oceanic Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions.  
  
**AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 11  
1959**

UNITED NATIONS  
AUG 31  
6 PM  
1959  
NEW YORK

WORLD  
REFUGEE YEAR  
1959-1960

Judge Advocate Gen.  
U.S. Navy Dept.  
Washington, D.C. 12

The Institute expanded over the years to include most oceans as well as coordinating with other organizations for issues affecting our oceans.



Prince Albert I Statue  
outside the Institute

Se-tenant



The Museum celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1960. A pictorial machine slogan cancellation device was used to commemorate the event.



Monte Carlo, Monaco to Washington, D.C., 5 March 1960  
Office of Origin handstamp as cornercard not normally used on official mail  
Machine slogan device for the 50th Anniversary  
(Foreign airmail letter rate 85 centimes)