Members of the Universal Postal Union and Their Join Dates

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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)**

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<td>Turks and Caicos Islands</td>
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<td>Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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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 Niuafo’ou) ............ 26 January 1972
Trinidad and Tobago ......................... 15 June 1963
TUINSIA .................................................. 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 ................................................... 1 July 1880
Puerto Rico ...........................................
American Samoa ................................
United States Virgin Islands .................
Northern Mariana Islands

Uruguay ................................................ 1 July 1929
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 March 1973
Aden (South Yemen) ......................... 1 April 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 (Republic of the Congo) .... 15 Nov 1908 – 1 Jul 1960
Br. Central Africa (Nyasaland) ..............
Br. East Africa (Kenya) ........................ 1 Dec 1895 – 27 Oct 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
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) ........ 1 Apr 1885 – 30 Mar 1973
German East Africa (Tanganyika) .........
German Democratic Rep. (Germany) ...... 1 Jul 1960 – 27 Oct 1971
Hawaii, Kingdom of (USA) .................... 21 Mar 1885 – 4 Jul 1989
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 1882 – 1 Jun 1910
Niger (to French West Africa) ............. 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 June 1910
Pahang (to Malaysia).......................... 1 April 1915 – 17 January 1958
Palestine (Israel)............................ 5 October 1923 – 24 December 1949
Penang (to Malaysia)......................... 1 April 1877 – 17 January 1958
Perak (to Malaysia).......................... 1 April 1915 – 17 January 1958
Perlis (to Malaysia).......................... 1 January 1916 – 17 January 1958
Persia (Iran)................................ 1 September 1877 – 29 January 1935
Portuguese Guinea (Guinea-Bissau) ....... 1 July 1877 – 30 May 1974
Queensland (to Australia) ................. 1 October 1891 – 1 October 1907
Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)......................... 1 March 1901 – 31 July 1981
Selangor (to Malaysia)....................... 1 January 1895 – 16 September 1963
Somaliland Protectorate (Somalia) ......... 1 December 1895 – 1 October 1960
South African Republic [Note B4] ........... 1 January 1895 – 31 May 1902
Southern Nigeria (to Nigeria) [Note B2] ... 1 January 1900 – 1 January 1914
Southern Rhodesia (Rhodesia) .............. 1924 – 31 October 1963
South West Africa (Namibia) ............... 1 October 1920 – 27 October 1966
Tanganyika (Tanzania) ....................... 23 October 1922 – 29 March 1963
Tasmania (to Australia)...................... 1 October 1891 – 1 October 1907
Transvaal (to South Africa) ................ 1 January 1895 – 1 June 1910
Trengganu (to Malaysia) ..................... 1 July 1928 – 17 January 1958
Ubangi-Shari (Central African Rep.) ...... 1 July 1876 – 28 June 1961
Upper Senegal and Niger (to French Sudan, then Mali) .... 1904 – 1920
Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) ................. 1 July 1876 – 29 June 1963
Victoria (to Australia)....................... 1 October 1891 – 1 October 1907
Western Australia (to Australia) .......... 1 October 1891 – 1 October 1907
Yugoslavia ..................................... 24 December 1921 – 27 April 1922

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.
10 Originally joined on 7 July 1922 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
11 Ratified as Austria-Hungary.
12 Ratified as the Irish Free State.
13 Ratified as the Korean Empire.
14 Originally joined on 1 October 1921 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
15 Originally joined on 1 January 1922 prior to Soviet occupation in 1941.
16 Ratified as the Federation of Malaya 1 April 1915, comprising Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor.
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).
18 Ratified as the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.
19 Ratified as the Saudi Arabia (1926) Kingdom of Nejd and Hejaz.
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.
23 Ratified as the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway.
24 Ratified as Tanganyika, united with Zanzibar 26 April 1964, and changed name to Tanzania 29 October 1964.
25 Ratified as the Ottoman Empire.
26 Ratified as the Ukrainian SSR.
27 The United Arab Emirates consists of Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm Al Qiwain.
28 Ratified as the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen.

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.

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.
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 January 1914 to form the single country of Nigeria.
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 July 1879, and dissolved 1 July 1956.
The membership of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and British Colonies, 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 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 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 Iul 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 Iul 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 Cochin China, 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
The Chinese province of Manchuria was nominally independent.

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 he 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, Eloboey 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 I Aug 1904, transferring to ‘US Possessions’ I Jul 1940. In 1979 the territory reverted to the Republic of Panama.