

# Hilton Hotel's International Development and Tourism

## Objective of the Exhibit

The objective of the exhibit is to highlight Hilton Hotel's contribution to international travel and economic development outside the United States including twelve countries that have issued stamps featuring their Hilton Hotels. After World War II, these nations, some post-colonial, proudly advertise their latest hotels in the new world order through international trade and tourism.

## Scope of the Exhibit

This exhibit showcases every postage stamps, souvenir and miniature sheets ever issued after Conrad Hilton's expansion of his hotel empire outside the United States with the formation of Hilton Hotels International. Starting with Istanbul Hilton in 1955, Hilton developed and operated many of the first five-star hotels in national capitals and major cities around the globe. First day covers, anniversary covers, postcards and corner cards from 1955-2016 are also included in the exhibit.



Hilton Hotel Istanbul postcard circa 1955

## Conrad Hilton: World's Foremost Innkeeper

Had Conrad Hilton (1887-1979) been a stamp collector, he would have been pleased with the thirteen stamps issued depicting nine of his eponymous hotels during his lifetime. After his death in 1979, another ten stamps were issued featuring four additional hotels. A total of 23 stamps including two souvenir sheets and two miniature sheets each featuring a Hilton Hotel were issued in 12 countries between 1955 and 2016.

Although not known as a stamp collector, Conrad who founded the Hilton Hotels Corporation was arguably the most successful hotel collector and operator of the 20th century. His first hotel in Cisco, Texas in 1919 was purchased for \$5,000. His later purchases included the Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco, the Palmer House in Chicago, the Plaza Hotel and the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. In 1954, Hilton acquired the Statler Hotels chain for \$111 million which was the largest real estate transaction in history at the time.