

# 1993 YEREVAN'93 INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION STAMP (aka GARNI) AND ITS 1994 OVERPRINTS

**Purpose & Scope:** This is a traditional Two-Frame exhibit showing the production and use of the 10 ruble denominated stamp put into circulation on March 25, 1993. It is most known by the name Garni as it depicts Temple of Garni built in 76 AD. Due to currency change from Russian ruble to Armenian dram, on September 10, 1994 the stamp was uprated to 40 dram with overprints in two colors reflecting new postal rate and currency. Shown are three formats in which the stamps were issued: sheet, mini-sheet and Deluxe Block, and the imperforated stamp is shown in a block of four. The overprinted stamps are shown in full sheet formats.

**Treatment:** All three formats of the original stamp are shown in separate sections following the traditional approach. No preproduction items exist. Production material includes approved artist's sketches, hand marks for color separation, approval for printing by the Minister of Communications. Color and final proofs are non-existent, per the stamp printing Publishing Commercial Firm "Namakanish" and the artist himself.



Each overprint is shown in a separate section as full sheets. Major errors and permanent minor flaws are presented by single stamps.

The exhibit concludes with examples of domestic and foreign use. No documents regarding postal rates and their change in 1993 - 1995 were found in either Ministry of Communication or the State Central Archives. Because of that, no information on postal tariffs is available, and it is hard to determine whether some covers were overpaid or underpaid. The stamp was removed from circulation in 2007.

Some rare and unique items are enclosed in a **double-line red border**.

**Background/Importance:** In the first years of its existence the Republic of Armenia was under blockade from all sides. The shortage of electricity and heating dictated the artist to create all his designs by hand, cutting letters and numbers from paper and gluing them onto final design artwork. The Garni stamp was overprinted with new rate to fill the gap between demand and supply. Only one set of stamps was previously issued with new rate and it did not have a 40 dram denomination. It also commemorate two philatelic events, ARMENIA'94 and joint Armenia - Argentina HAYARFILTS'94 exhibitions.



## Plan:

- I. The Stamp (10 ruble)
  - A. Sheet Stamp
  - B. Mini-sheet
  - C. Deluxe Block
2. The Overprints (40 drams on 10 rubles)
  1. Red (ARMENIA'94)
  2. Blue (HAYARFILTS'94)
3. First Day Cover
4. Postal Use
  1. Domestic
  2. CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)
  3. Foreign

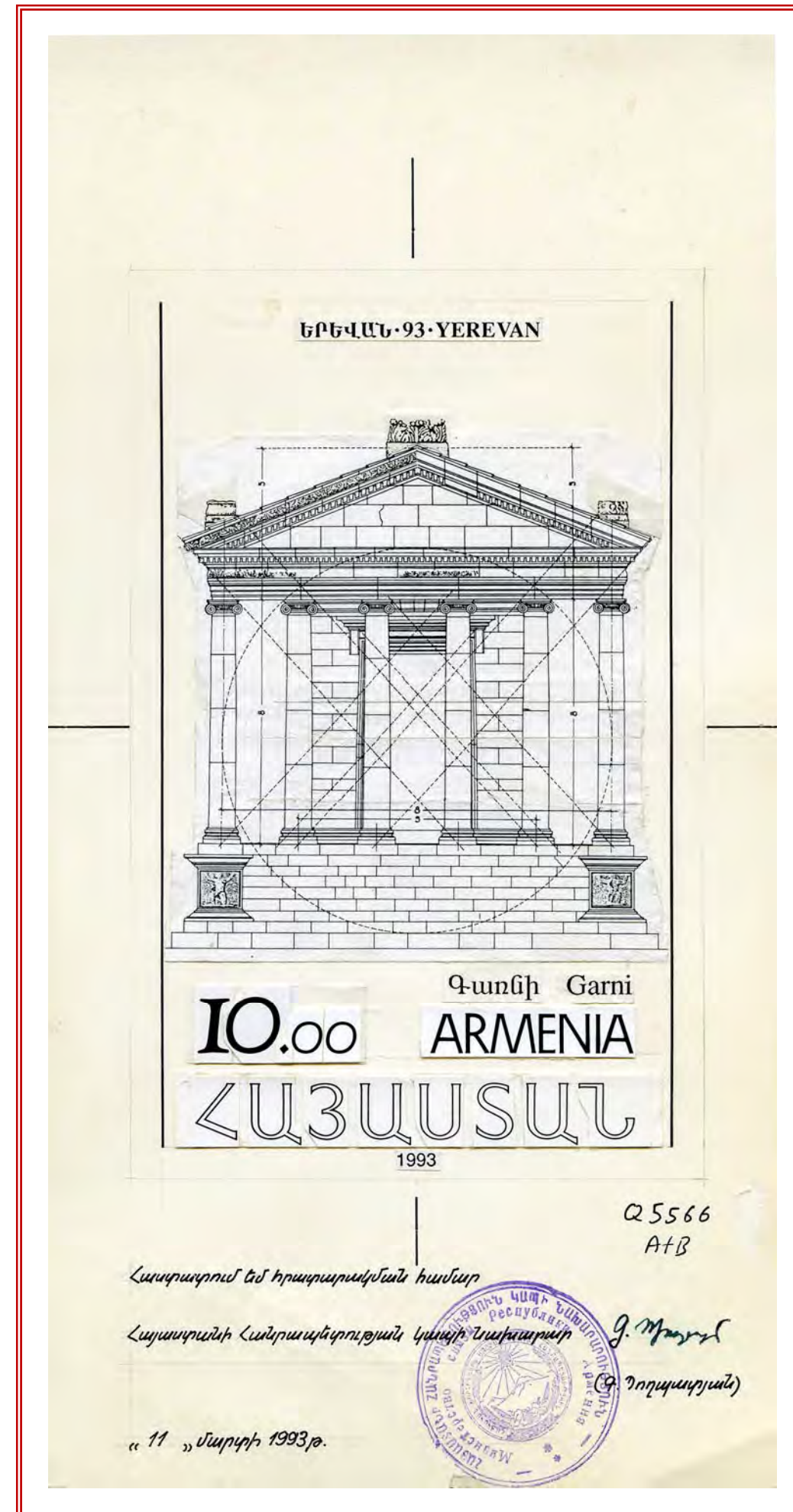
## 1. The Stamp A. Sheet Stamp

### Production data:

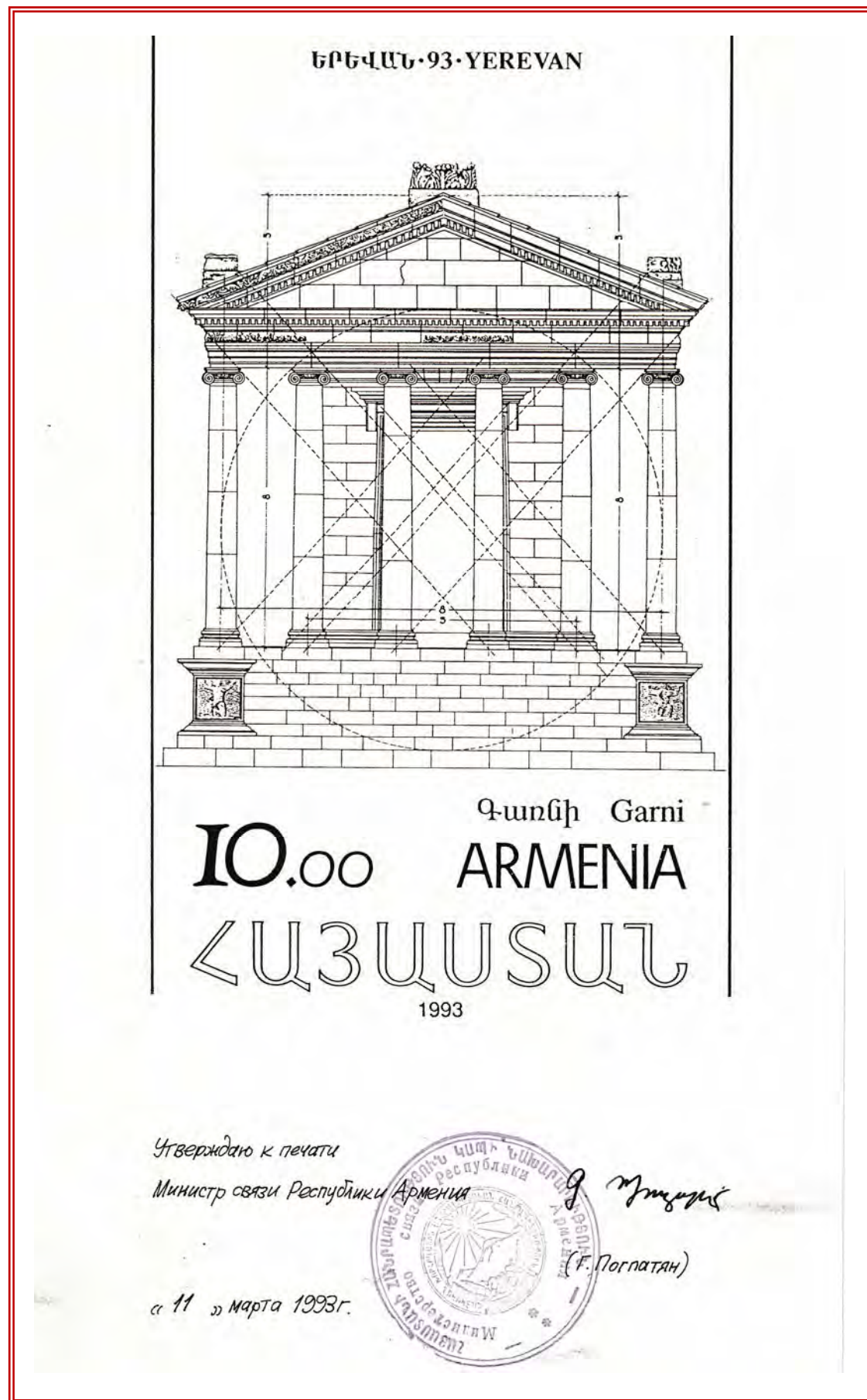
Printer: The House of Questa  
 Format: Offset, pane of 50  
 Plates: 1A1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B1B  
 Perforations: 14 ½  
 Designer: Harutyun Samuelian, Publishing Commercial Firm "Namakanish"  
 Quantity: 140,000 (2,800 sheets)

Original design of the stamp presented for approval.  
*Unique item.*

On March 11, 1993 Minister of Communication Grigor Pogpatyan approved the artist's artwork for production.



# 1. The Stamp



It remains mystery why would Minister of Communications approve the design for the second time, this time in the Russian language, when all state departments and agencies were obligated to use Armenian as official language for state business..

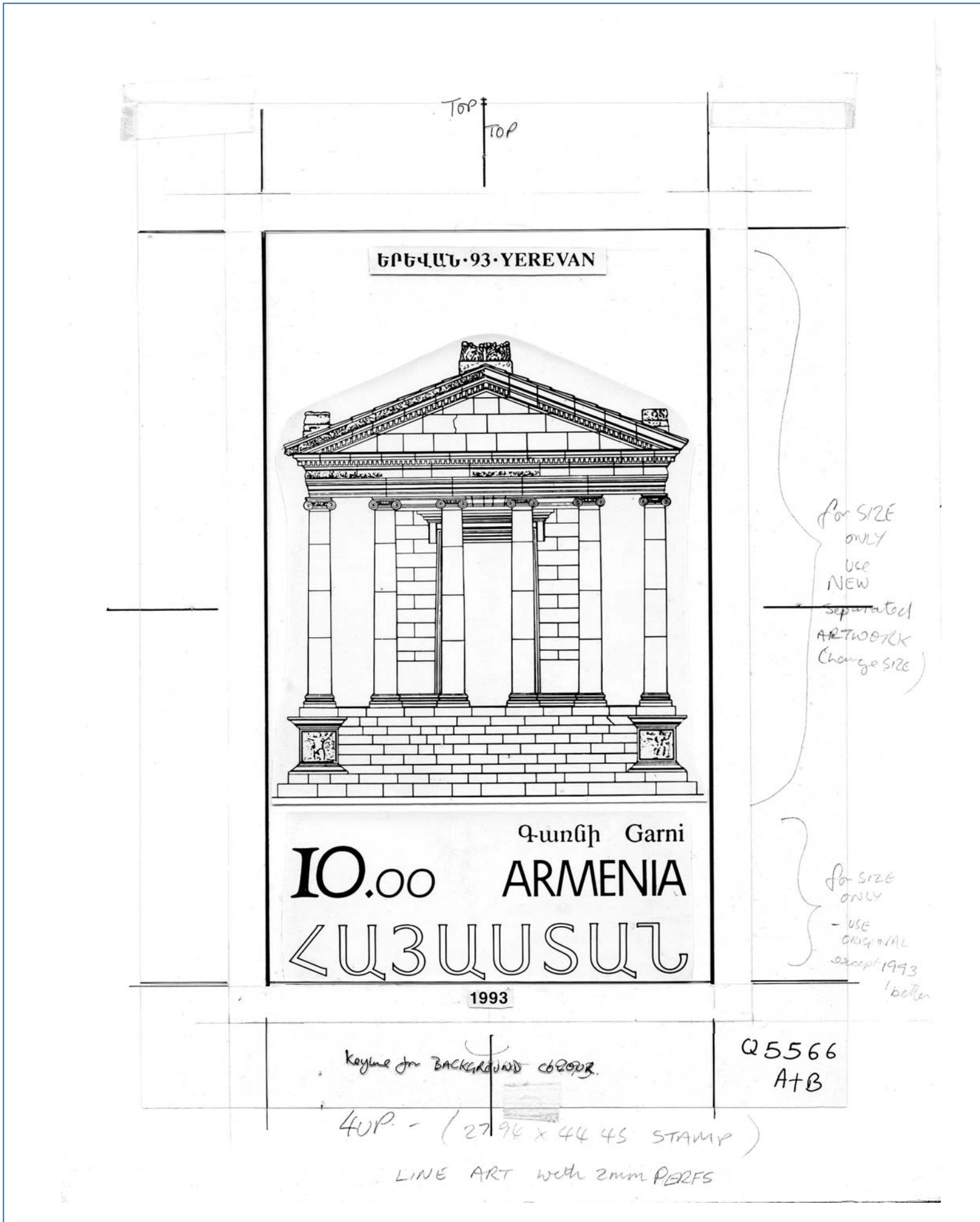
# A. Sheet Stamp

Instructions to printer. Part A (inlay)

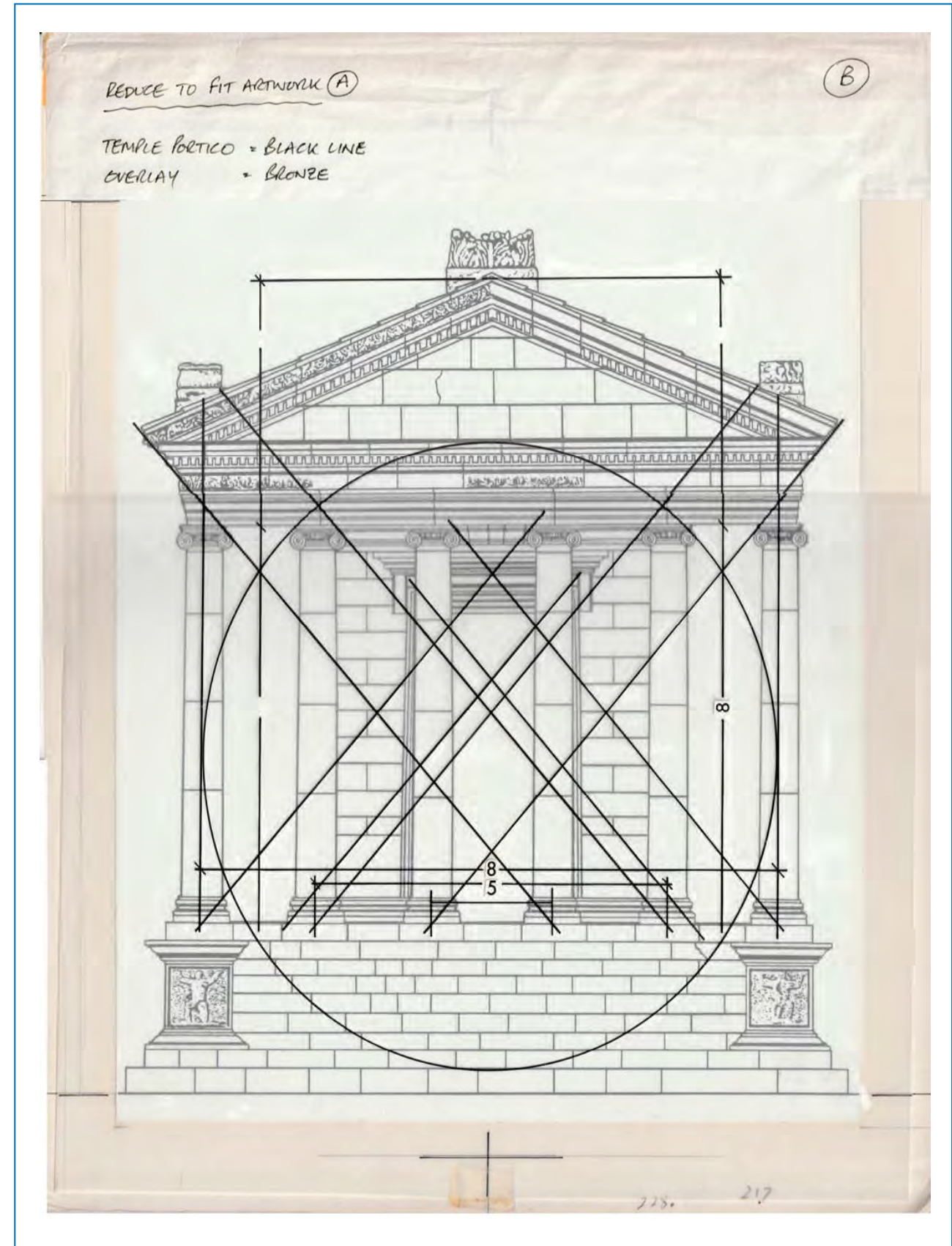


# 1. The Stamp

# A. Sheet Stamp



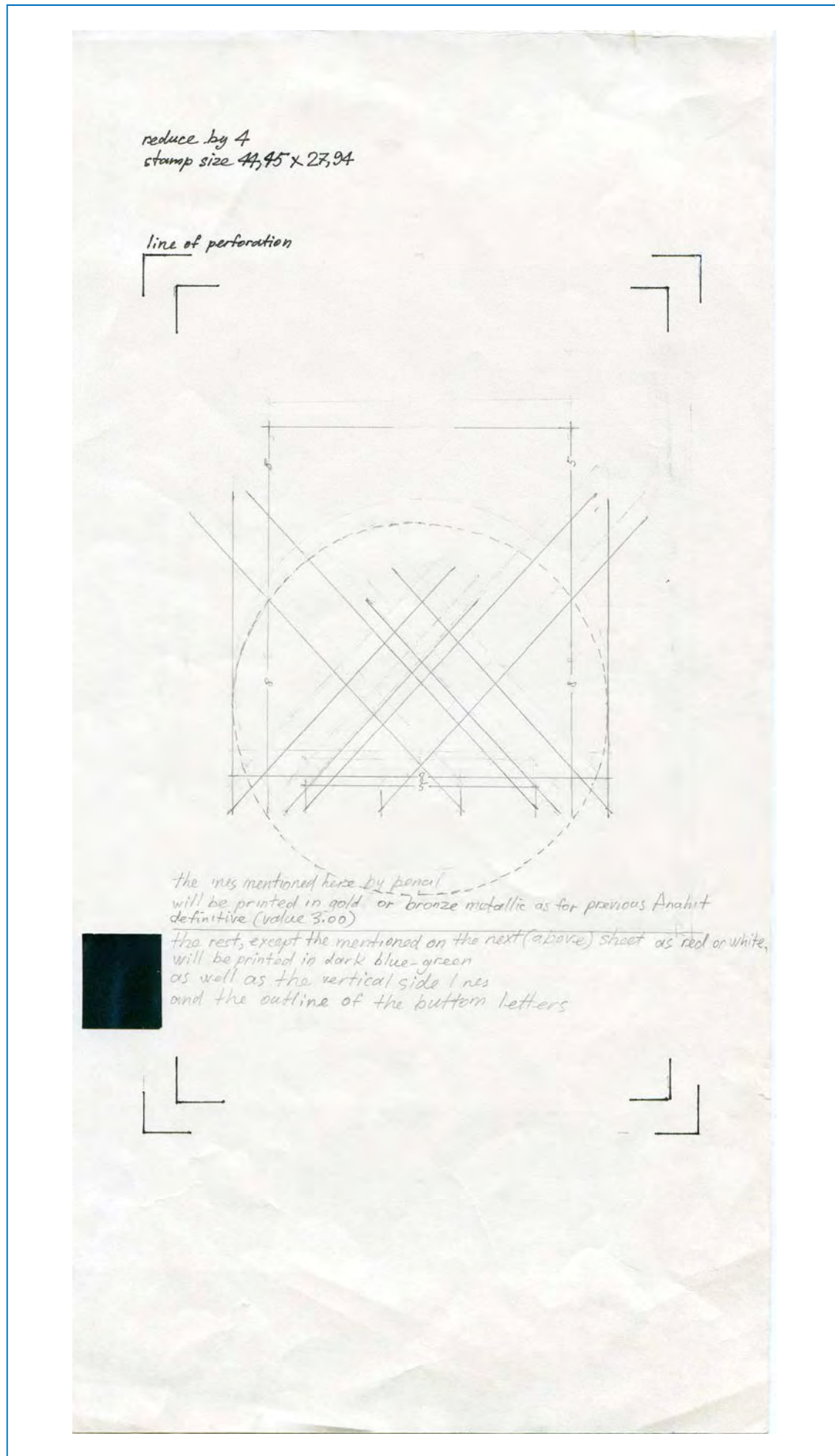
Instructions to  
printer, Part A  
(main design)



Instructions to printer, Part B. Reduced copy, the original is behind the sheet (too large to display)

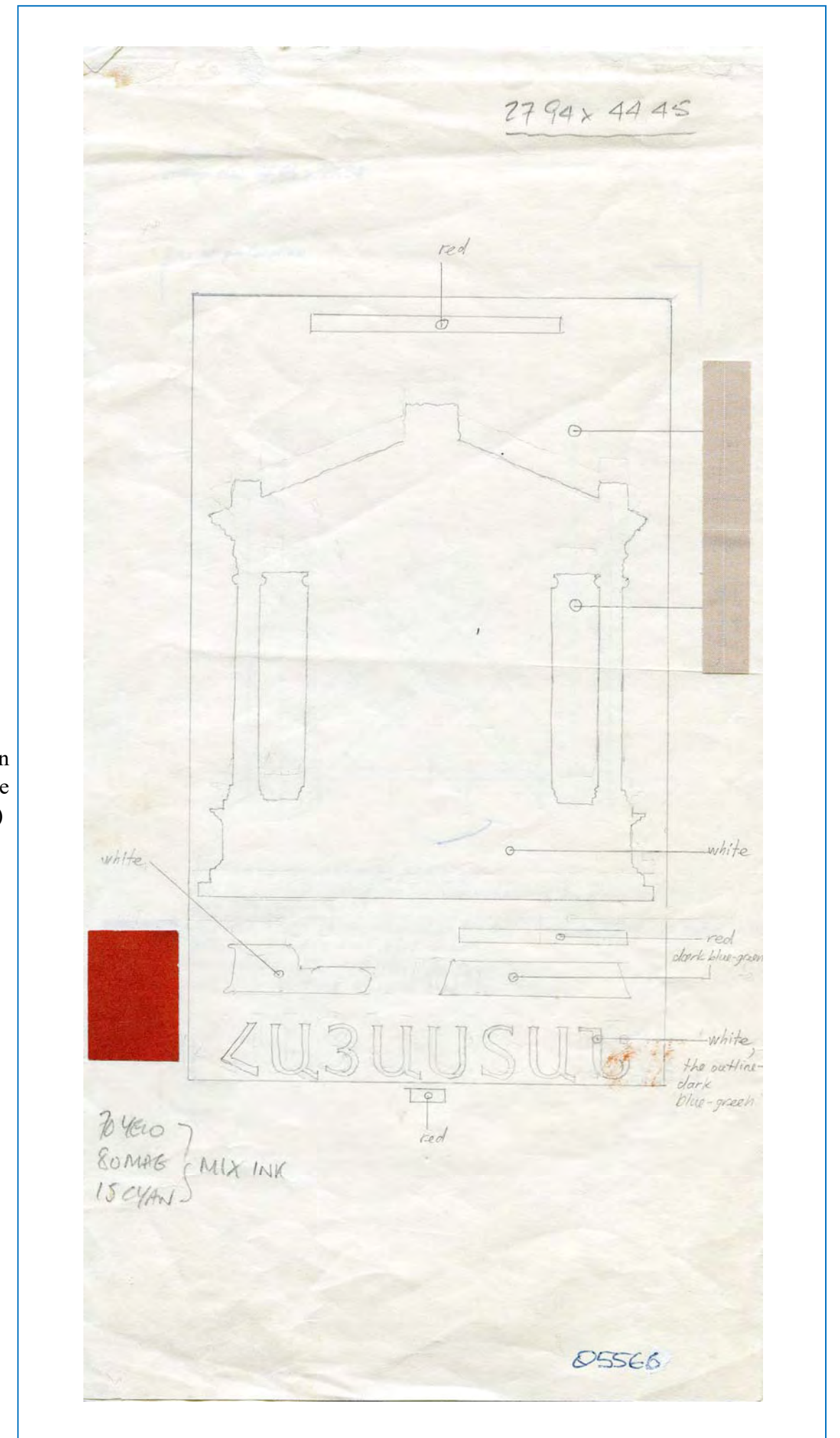
# 1. The Stamp

Instructions to printer regarding the lines shown on this page. Originally they were supposed to be printed in gold or bronze metallic, but later were printed in red.



# A. Sheet Stamp

Color separation instructions to the printer (base stamp)



# 1. The Stamp

# A. Sheet Stamp



Imperforated right lower corner block of four with printer's name.

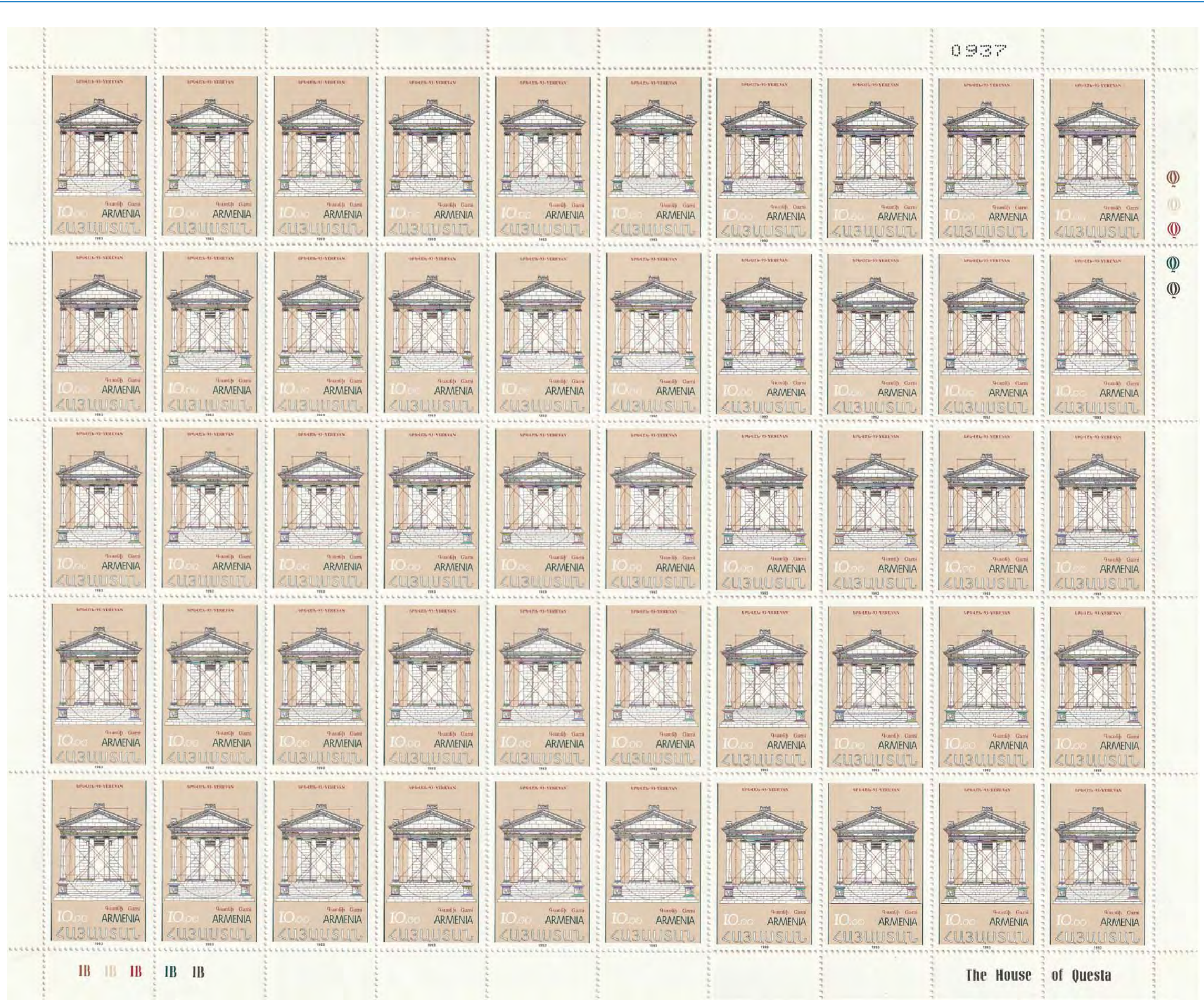


Only 2,000 stamps were issued imperforated. Until today imperforated stamps were found only on plate IA IA IA IA IA, which was reflected in E. Kurginian's catalog.

Full sheet of 50, plate number IA IA IA IA IA.

# 1. The Stamp

# A. Sheet Stamp



While trying to obtain these imperforated stamps on IA IA IA IA IA plate exhibitor found an imperforated block of four on plate IB IB IB IB IB.



Mr. Kurginian was contacted and expressed his congratulations on such a find. So far, **it is the only recorded example.**



Full sheet of 50, plate number IB IB IB IB IB.

**Production data:**

Printer: The House of Questa

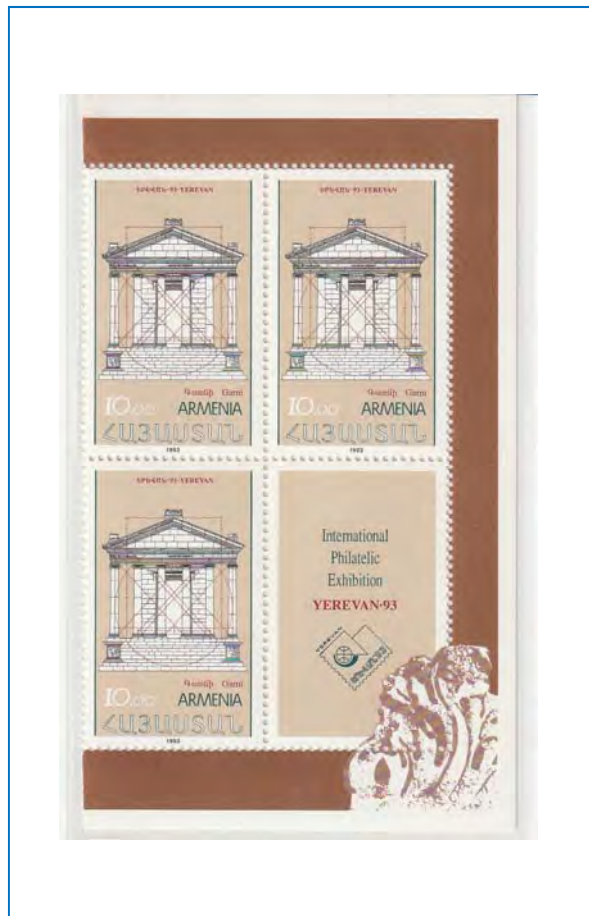
Format: Offset, Mimi sheet of 6 + 2 labels

Perforations: 14 ½

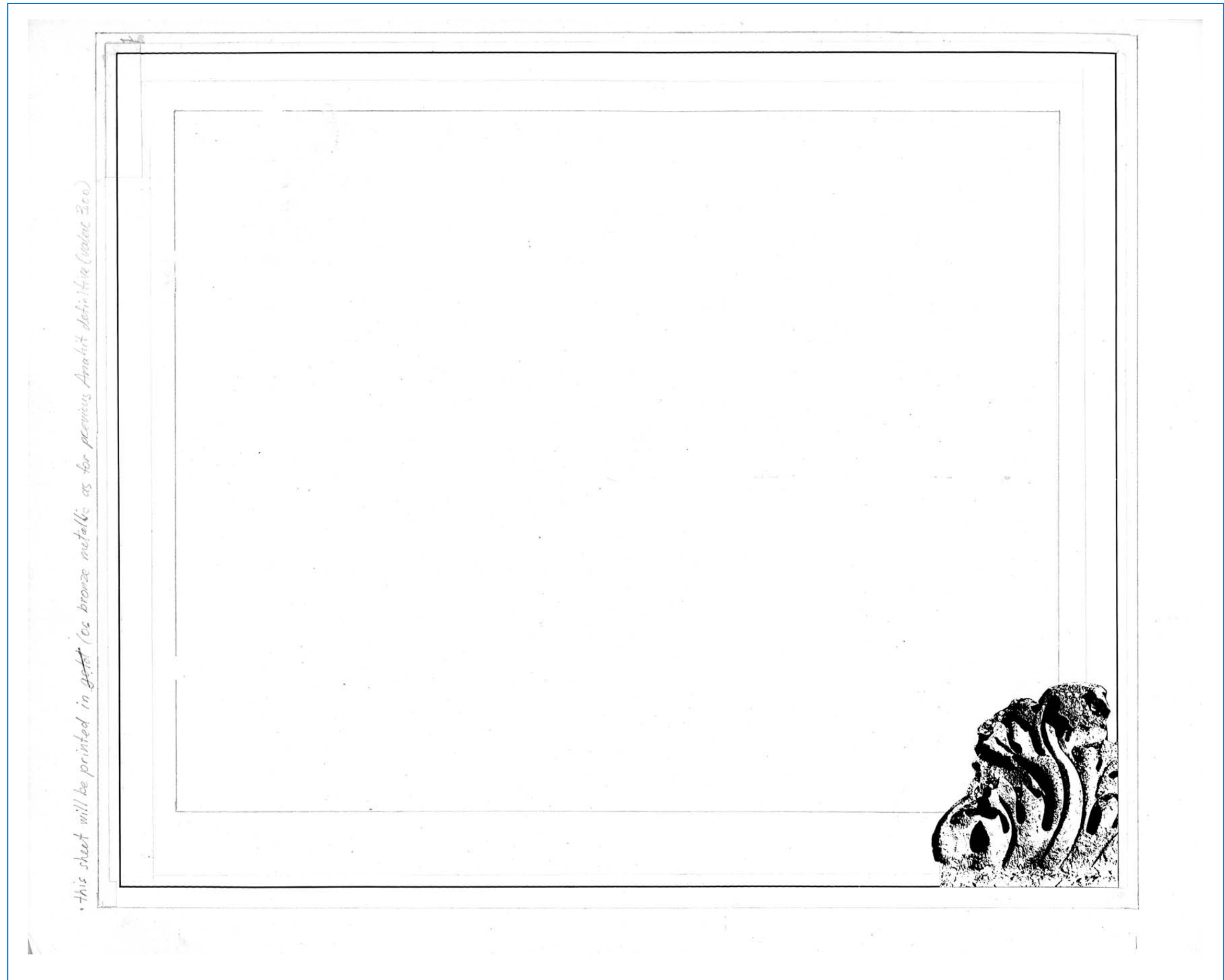
Designer: Harutyun Samuelian, Publishing Commercial Firm "Namakanish"

Quantity: 50,000

Original artist design of the mini sheet with the lower right element of the mini sheet.

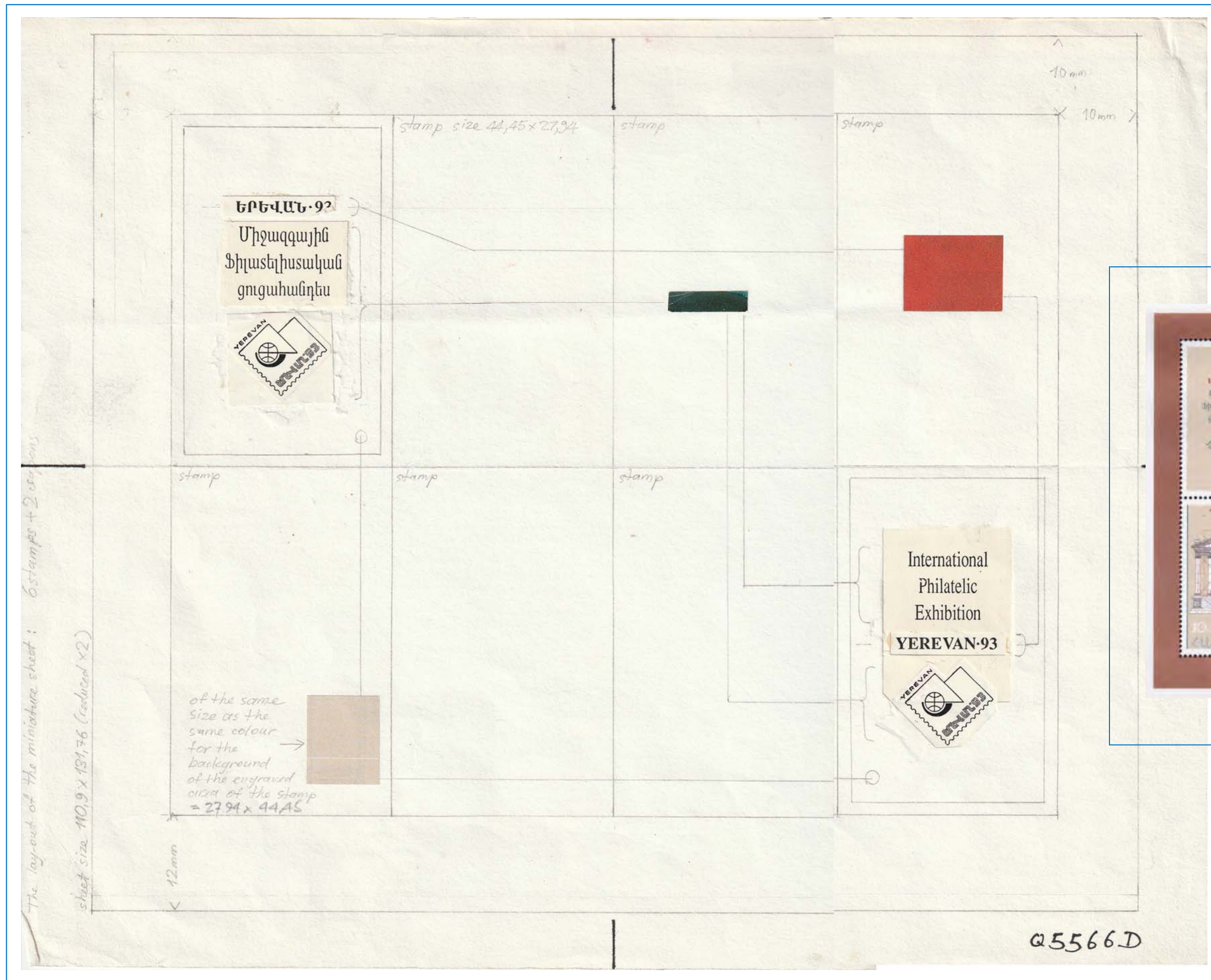


Right block of four of the mini sheet with artist's designed element.



# 1. The Stamp

## B. Mini-sheet



Left: Original artist design of the mini sheet with instructions to the printer.



Mini sheet as printed.



# 1. The Stamp

## C. Deluxe Block

### Production data:

Printer: The House of Questa

Format: Offset, carton paper

Perforations: Imperforated

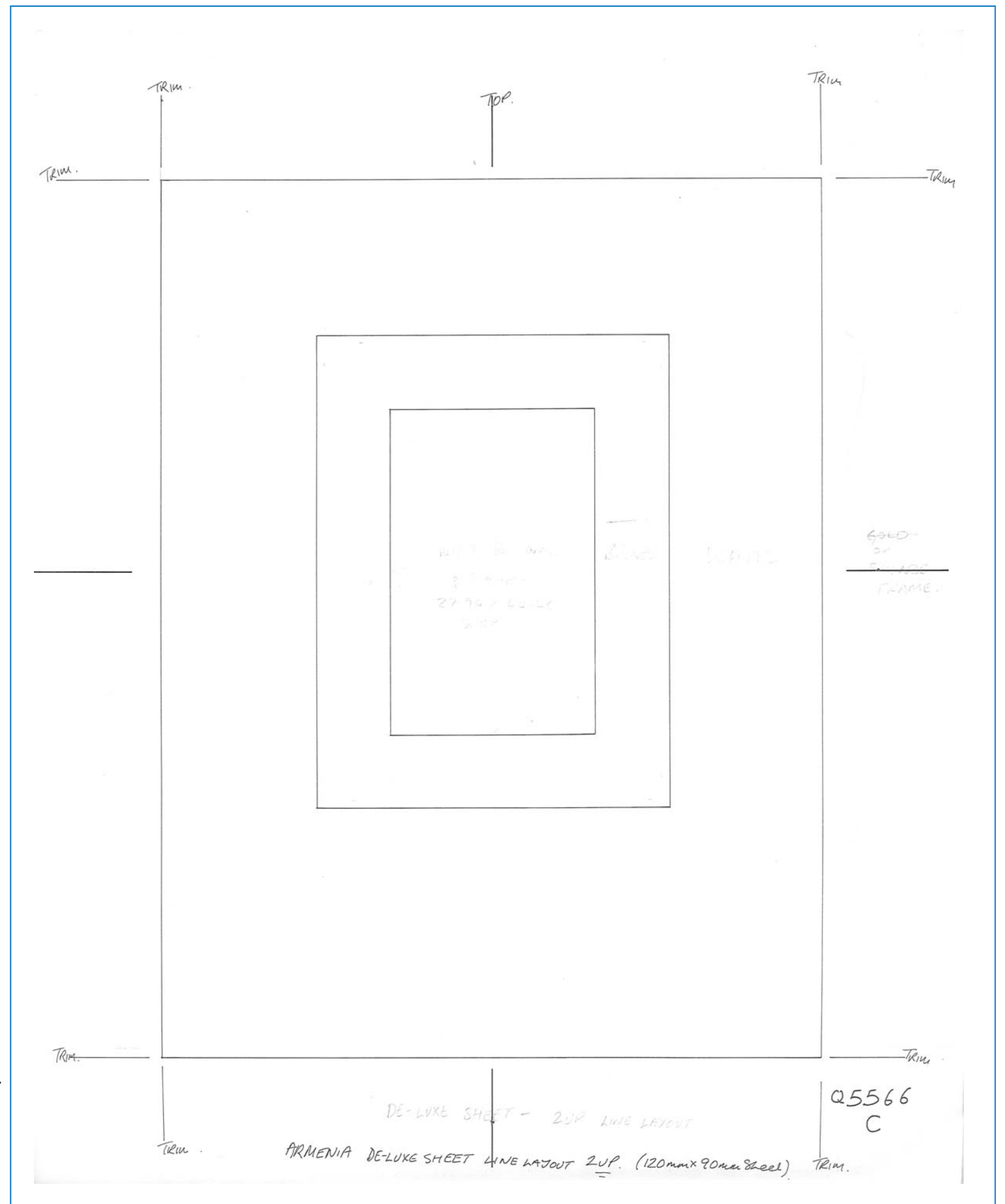
Designer: Harutyun Samuelian, Publishing  
Commercial Firm "Namakanish"

Quantity: 1,000



Deluxe sheet as printed.

Left: Original artist design of the Deluxe block with instructions to the printer. Reduced copy; original behind the page (too large to fit).



## 2. The Overprints

## A. Red (Armenia'94)

Major errors



Inverted overprint.  
Only 50 exist.



Mirrored image of the overprint.  
Only 50



Broken 0



Half-printed 9



Minor Flaws (permanent)

Position 4/7



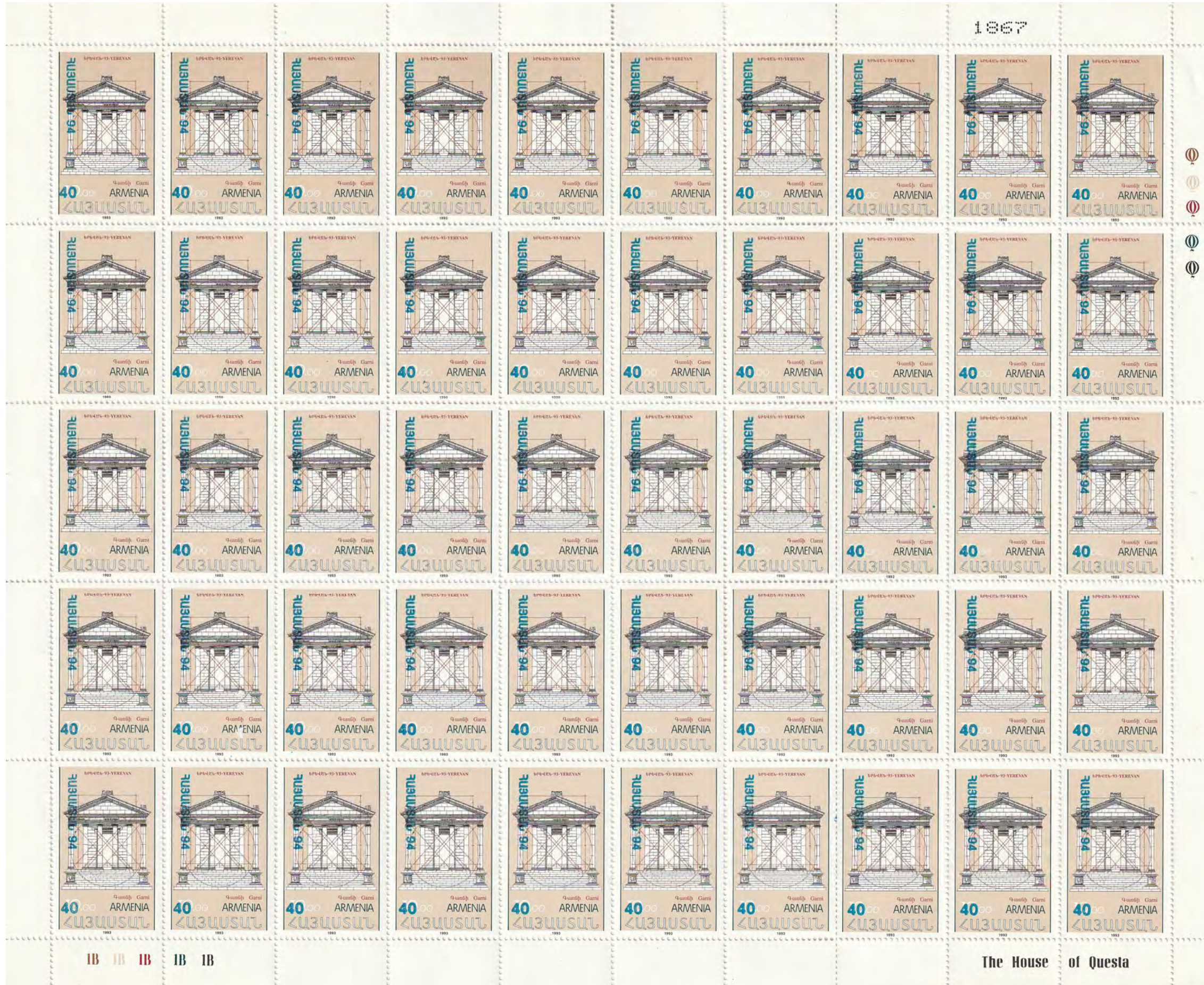
Brown dot at the  
left edge



The House of Questa

## 2. The Overprints

### A. Blue (HAYARPHILTS'94)



*Inverted overprint.*



*Mirrored image of the overprint.*

*Minor Flaws  
(permanent)*



*Position 5/3*

*Blue dot  
between  
U and U*



*Positions 5/6 - 5/8*



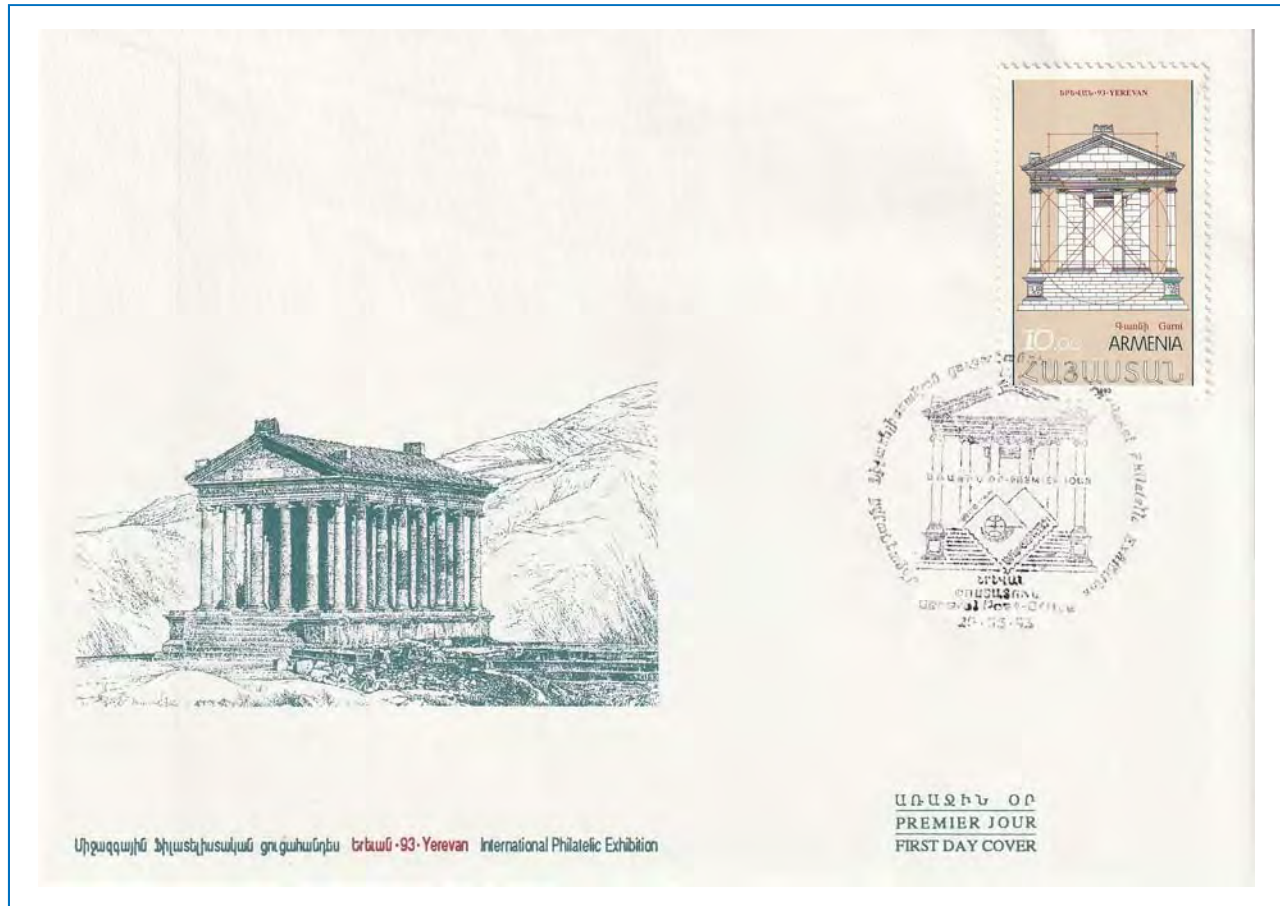
*Position 5/6 - blue dots over  
"9" and at the right perforation*



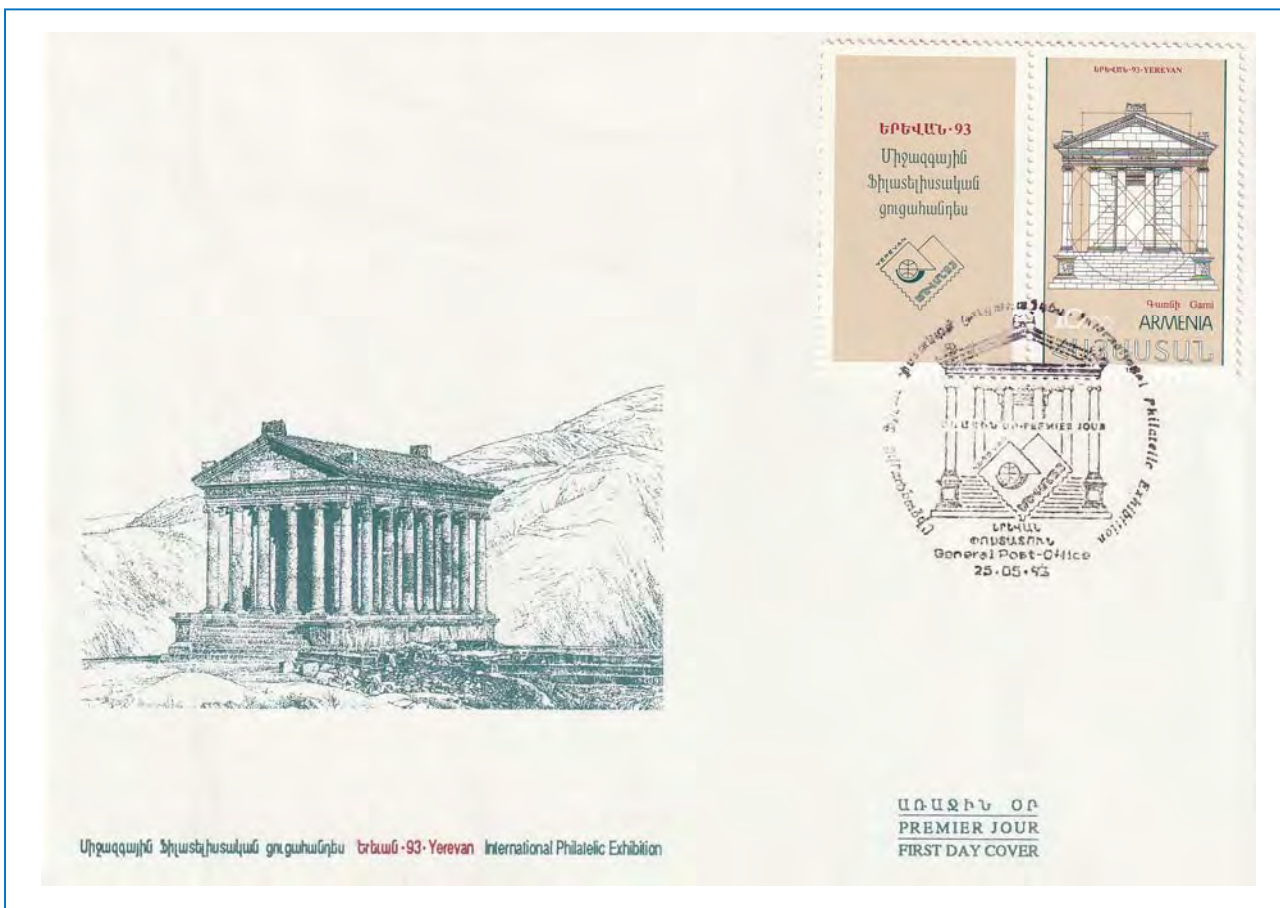
*Position 5/7 Blue dot in  
the base of the column*

**The House of Questa**

### 3. First Day Cover



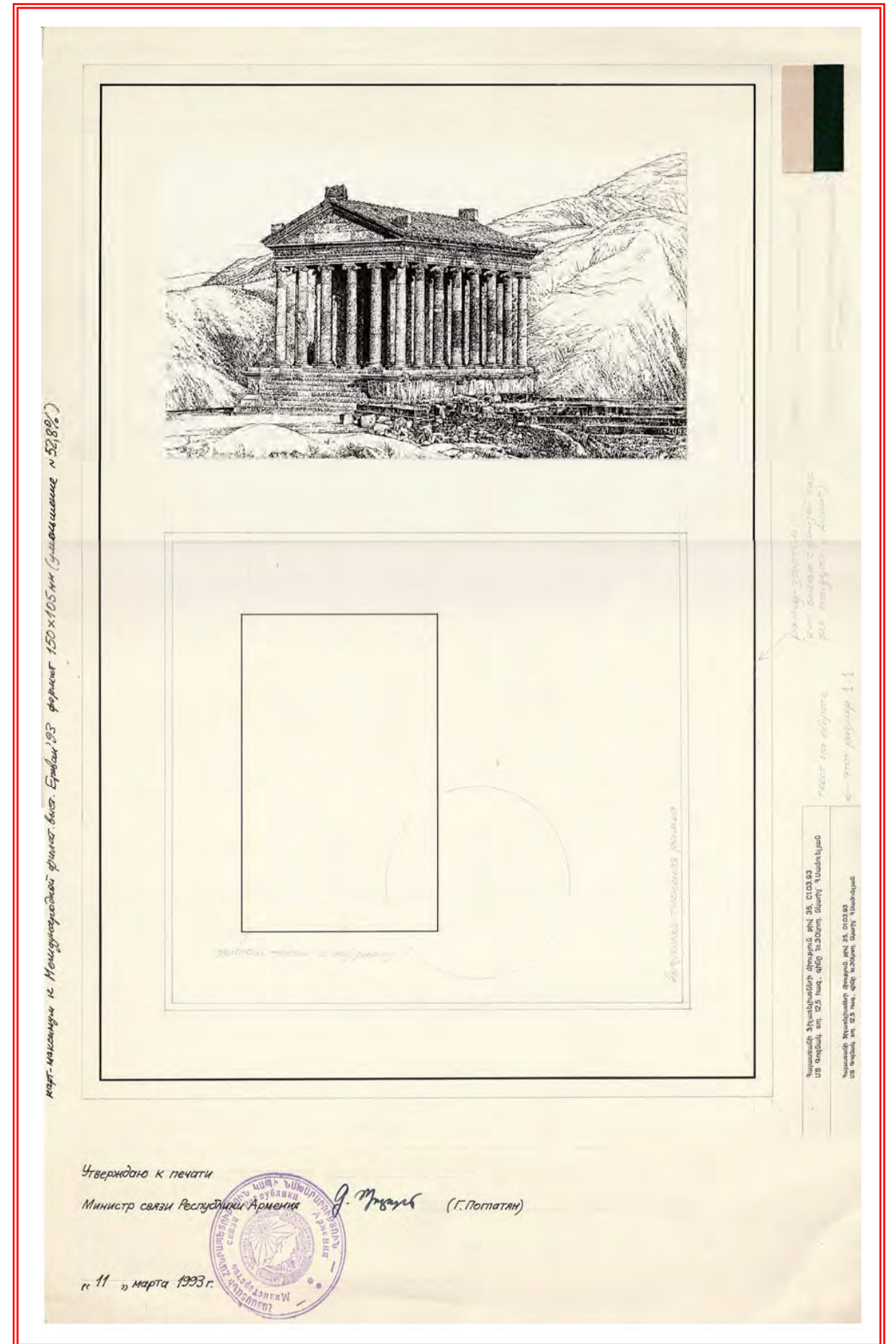
First Day Cover with single stamp.



Left: First Day Cover with stamp and label from the mini sheet (upper left position).

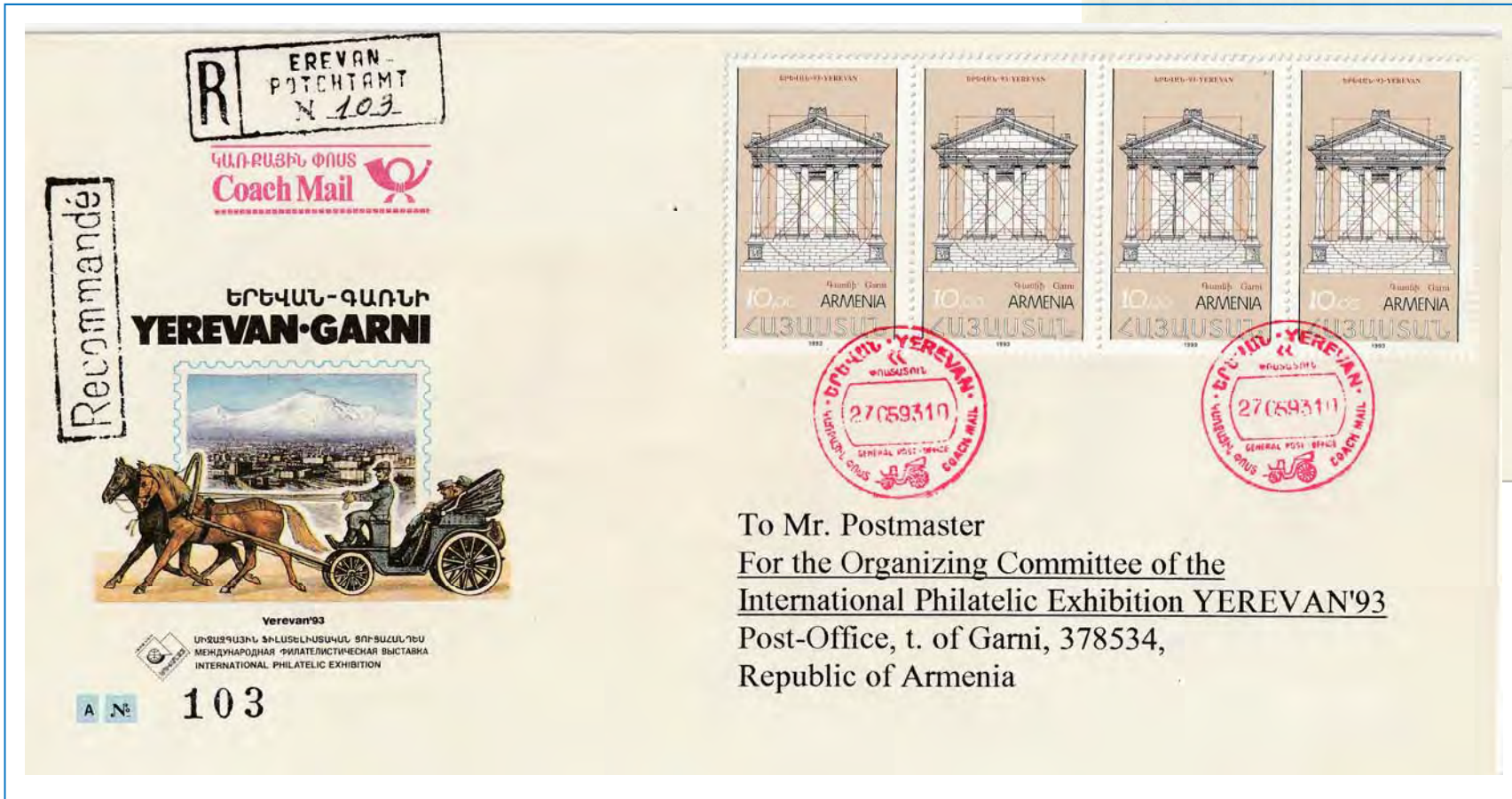
Right: Originally artist designed a maximum card; design was approved for printing by the Minister of Communications.

For reasons unknown, maximum card with this design was never produced; instead the design was used for the First Day Cover cachet.



Reduced copy, the original is behind the sheet (too large to display)

4. Postal Use  
A. Domestic



Registration coupon, front and back.

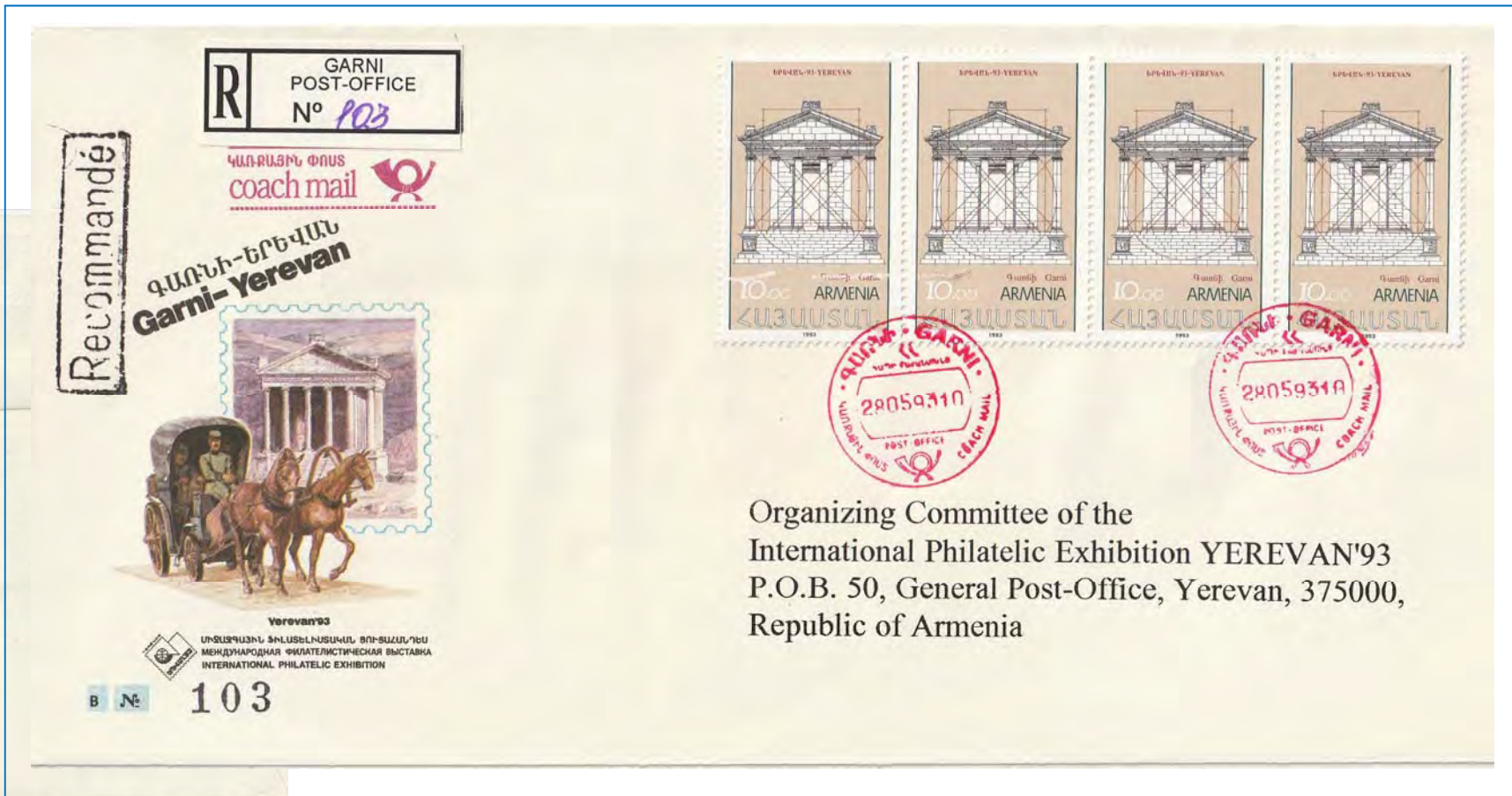
For the first time (and probably the last) coach mail route was established between Yerevan and Garni. There is no record retained as to how many numbered covers were sent both ways. The rate was established as 40 rubles one way overland.



Numerous unnumbered FDCs (not shown) appeared on the market. Whether they were legitimately issued or were prepared to satisfy the demand is still in research faze. Exhibitor have not seen the 001 number, and the biggest number seen is 137.



Registration coupon, front and back.



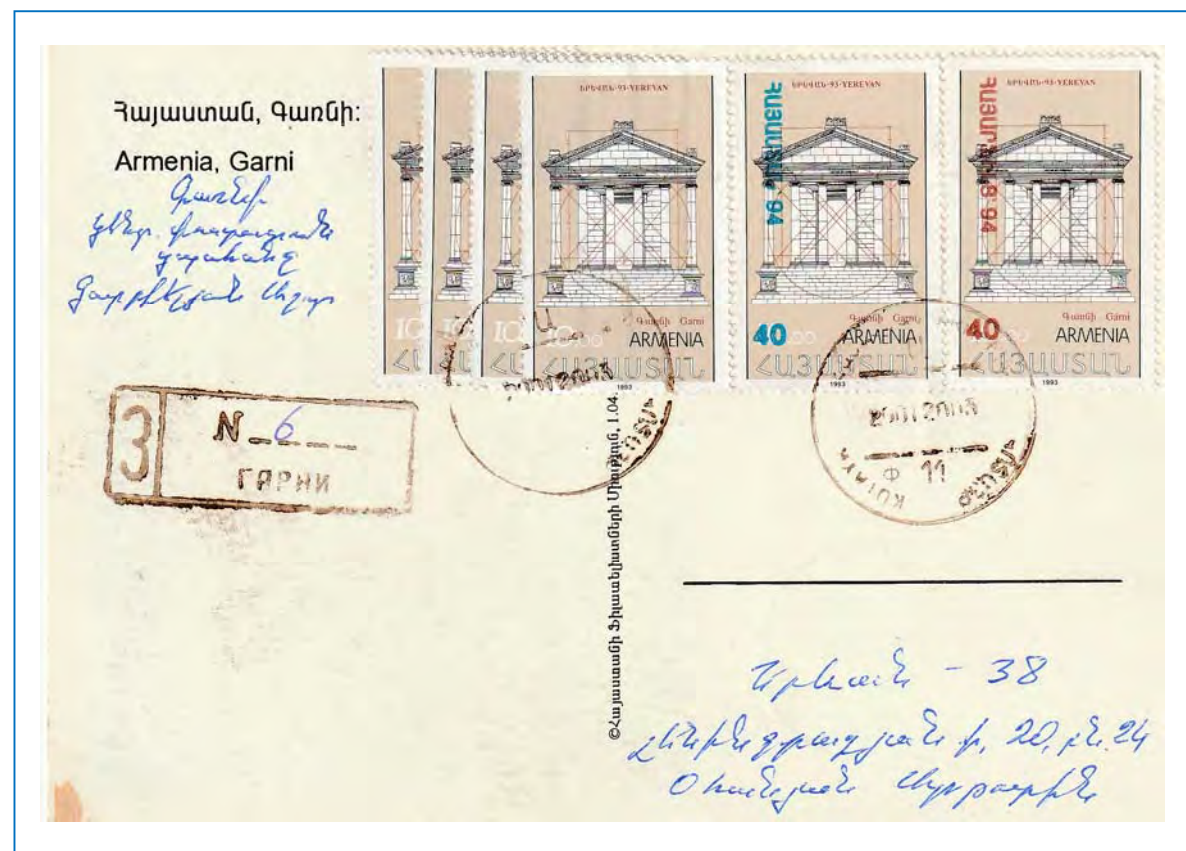
Organizing Committee of the International Philatelic Exhibition YEREVAN'93  
P.O.B. 50, General Post-Office, Yerevan, 375000, Republic of Armenia



Intra-city (Yerevan) 1993 regular letter. Correct rate of 10 dram. Receiver cancellation on the back.



Right (2003) and above (2006): Domestic registered letters from Garni to Yerevan. Correct domestic rate for registered letter up to 20 gr (70 dram plus 50 dram registration fee).



Updated 2003 registered postcard. Correct rate was 85 dram. Receiver cancellation on the back.



Receiver cancellations for both covers on the back.

Registration coupon, front and back.



4. Postal Use



Left: 1993 cover to Frunze, Kirgizstan. 10 ruble stamp paid rate to CIS.



Right: 1993 registered letter to Moscow.. 25 ruble totaling stamps paid rate to CIS plus registration.

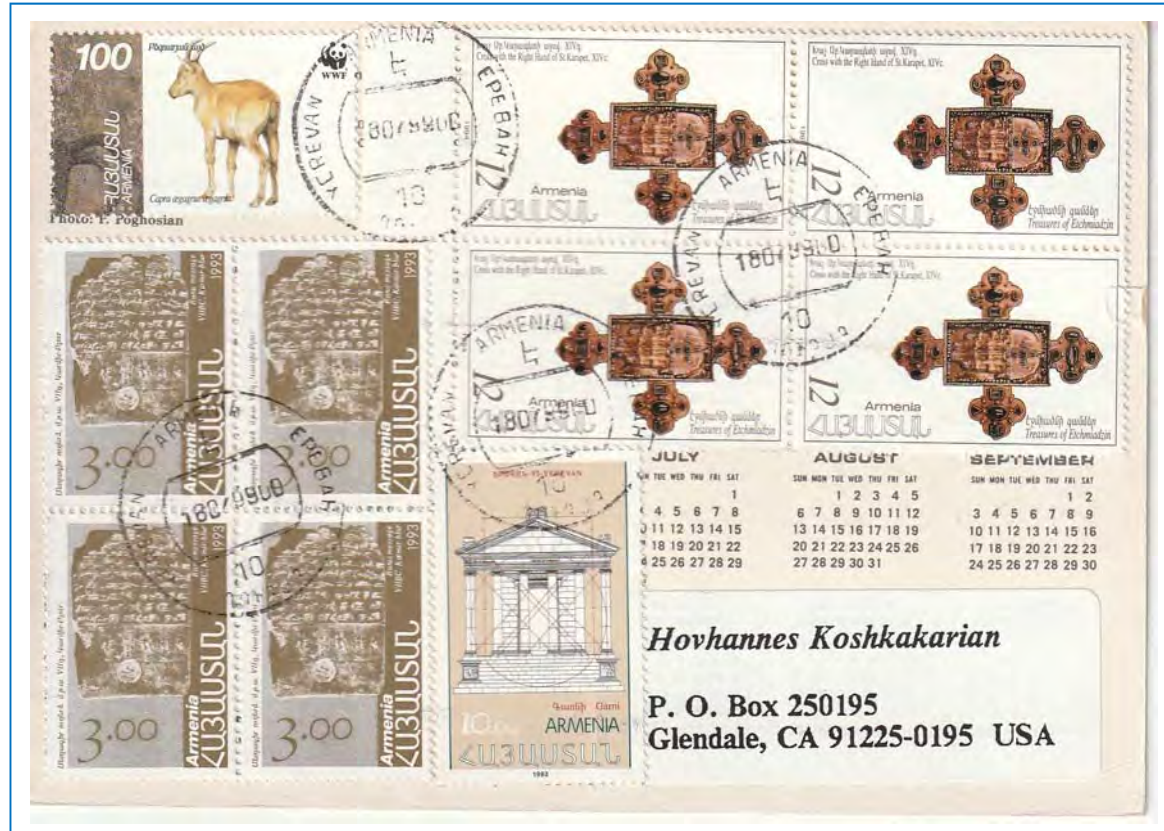
Side-by-side use of stamps with regular and inverted overprints on covers mailed from Maximaphilia Co. to the Armenian Embassy in Moscow. **Only two other examples of similar use of stamps has been reported.**



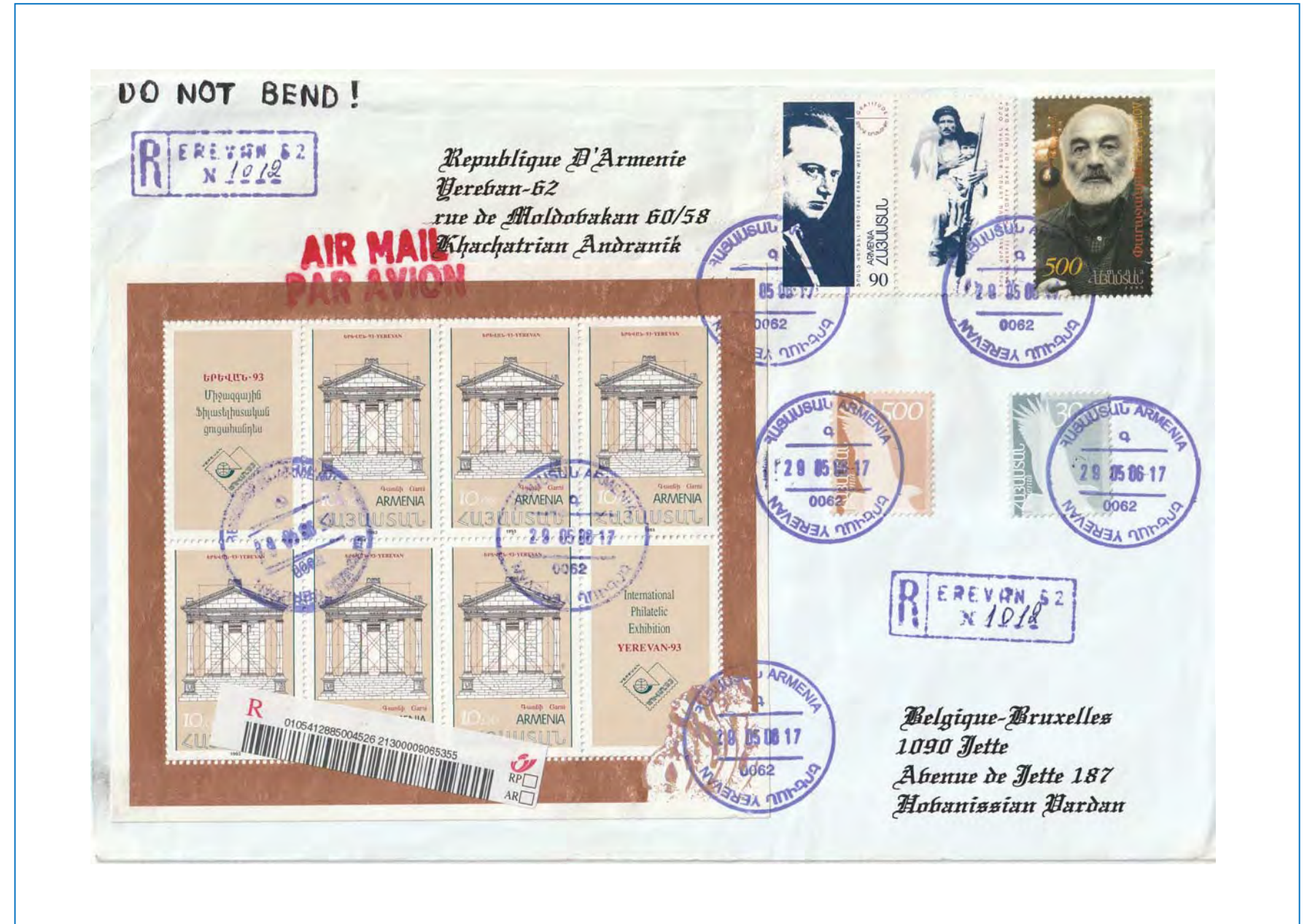
Left: 2001 cover to Moscow. Uprated by 60 dram. The correct rate for registered letter up to 20 gr to CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries was 270 drams



Right: 2001 cover to Moscow. Correct rate for registered letter up to 20 gr to CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries (270 drams)



1999 regular postcard to USA. Combined use. Correct rate for a postcard to foreign countries (170 dram)



2006 registered cover to Brussels, Belgium. Correct rate for registered letter up to 20 gr to foreign countries (350 drams plus 1,100 drams for registration)



1999 regular letter to Glendale, CA USA.. Correct rate of 250 drams for regular letter up to 20 gr to foreign countries is achieved by adding two stamps (40 and 90 drams) to the back of the cover (see scan at right)

In 2007 all HayPost CJSC ordered that all stamps valid for postal use must be inscribed with the word "Post." As that inscription never appeared on the stamps before, this decision put an end to the over-a-decade-old history of the Garni stamp.