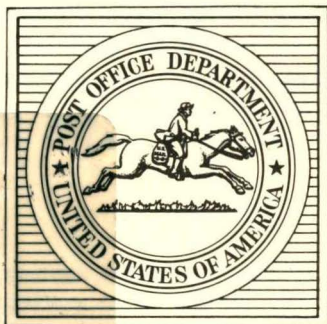




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# GUIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

(Issued January 1959)

IS-9

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A PUBLICATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
THIRD EDITION ISSUED  
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*For free copies of this booklet, write to:*

The Special Assistant to the  
Postmaster General  
Post Office Department  
Washington 25, D.C.



Office of the Postmaster General  
Washington 25, D. C.

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August 31,

The postage stamps of a nation are a picture gallery of its glories. They depict in miniature its famous men and women, the great events of its history, its organizations, its industries, its natural wonders.

Stamp collecting, consequently, has distinct educational values. No one can pursue this hobby intelligently without developing a greater knowledge of his national heritage.

This publication, prepared by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the Post Office Department, defines the policy of the Department's stamp program.

ARTHUR E. SUMMERFIELD,  
*Postmaster General*

## CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A seven-member Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of prominent philatelists and designers and a representative of the United States Information Agency was established on March 26, 1957, "to advise the Post Office Department on subject matter, design, production, and issuance of postage stamps with the most appropriate and appealing themes." Its members are:

WILLIAM H. BUCKLEY  
Art Directors Club of  
New York

•

ARNOLD J. COPELAND  
The Westport Artists

•

BERNARD DAVIS  
Director, National Phil-  
atelic Museum

•

SOL GLASS  
President, Bureau Issues  
Association

H. L. LINDQUIST  
Chairman of the Na-  
tional Federation of  
Stamp Clubs

•

ERVINE METZL  
Society of Illustrators

•

ABBOTT WASHBURN  
Deputy Director, United  
States Information  
Agency

The Post Office Department liaison with the Committee is L. Rohe Walter, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General.

Messrs. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Director of the Division of Philately in the Office of the Special Assistant to the Postmaster General; Robert E. Fellers, former Director of Philately; and Donald R. McLeod, Chief, Division of Engraving and Plate Manufacturing, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, are ex officio members of the Committee.

## TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S MAIL

The American people send and receive an ever-growing volume of mail, totaling over 61 billion pieces a year, including about a billion parcels. This is two-thirds of the world's mail.

In doing so, they annually use approximately 24 billion adhesive postage stamps, 2½ billion stamped envelopes, 3 billion postal cards, and 28 million air letter sheets. This postage costs users over \$1 billion.

About \$1¼ billion is also now spent during the year for permit mail where the postage payment is indicated by the printing of an indicia.

## MAIL VOLUME INCREASES YEARLY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Mail Volume Per Capita</i>
1886	60 pieces
1957	350 pieces
1980 (est.)	700 pieces



## *Adhesive Postage Stamps*

Adhesive postage stamps were adopted by the United States in 1847 for the prepayment of postage on mail matter.

Under the law, the Postmaster General has authority to revise the designs of stamps and to issue special stamps.

United States adhesive postage stamps may be classified in five groups:

1. *Regular Stamps*, ranging in denomination from one-half cent to five dollars, are kept in constant supply in the Nation's post offices and redesigned at intervals. Portraits of former Presidents and other prominent persons in American history and national shrines are traditionally the subjects of these stamps. The 18 regular stamps now in use were issued in 1954-56.



4-cent Abraham Lincoln  
regular stamp issued  
November 19, 1954.  
0.75×0.87 inches.

2. *Memorial Stamps* are infrequently issued to honor an American official who dies in office.



2-cent Harding Memorial  
stamp issued September 1,  
1923. 0.75×0.87 inches.

3. *Air Mail Stamps*, first issued in 1918, are used to prepay domestic and international air mail postage. The history of aviation and air mail developments are usually pictured on these stamps.



25¢ Air Mail Stamp issued November 1, 1946. 0.84×1.44 inches.

4. *Special Stamps* are used only to prepay fees for special services other than regular or air mail postage.



30¢ Special Delivery Stamp issued September 3, 1957. 0.84×1.44 inches.

5. *Commemorative Stamps* were first issued on the occasion of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Since then, nearly every event of importance in which the Government has participated by Act of Congress, including statehood anniversaries, has been recognized by commemorative postage stamps. In addition, many stamps have been issued to commemorate other important events and persons associated with the development and ideals of the Nation.



**“Champions of Liberty”** commemorative stamps, printed in three colors, are issued to honor foreign leaders and fighters for liberty throughout the world. The first stamp in this new series honors the late President of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay.

Since 1893, the United States has issued 369 commemorative stamps, through August 31, 1957.



8-cent “Champion of Liberty” Magsaysay stamp, issued August 31, 1957. 1.11×1.36 inches.

3-cent Atoms For Peace commemorative stamp, issued July 28, 1955. 0.84×1.44 inches.



## COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

- From their inception in 1893, commemorative stamps have differed from regular stamps.

The latter are issued for everyday use over indefinite and lengthy periods of time with their designs usually limited to portraits and national shrines.

Commemorative stamps, on the other hand, are usually printed in limited quantities of 120 million or less. They normally remain on sale in the Nation's post offices for a relatively short period of time, usually 6 months to a year, depending on their popularity.

Since commemorative stamps honor a wide variety of individuals and events that are part of the Nation's heritage, the subject matter for their design is practically unlimited.

The Post Office Department now issues approximately a dozen commemorative stamps a year, normally arranged 50 stamps to a sheet.

All ideas for the subject matter for these stamps are carefully studied by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee before its recommendations for the Post Office Department's commemorative stamp program are submitted to the Postmaster General for final approval.

By law, the Postmaster General has the exclusive and final authority to determine which postage stamps shall be issued. Therefore, further legislation is not necessary.

## **STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS**

As a special service to individuals, organizations, and groups who may wish to

submit ideas for a commemorative postage stamp to the Post Office Department, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee adopted a set of criteria on August 30, 1957, to govern their issuance.

The seven criteria listed below should be helpful to individuals or groups interested in sponsoring a commemorative stamp. These criteria now serve as the basis for the recommendations on commemorative stamps made by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to the Postmaster General.

1. No living person shall be honored by portrayal on any United States postage stamp.
2. No American citizen may be honored by a United States commemorative postage stamp until at least 25 years after death.
3. Commemorative postage stamps honoring individuals preferably will be issued on the anniversaries of their births.
4. Events having widespread national appeal and significance may receive consideration for issuance of commemorative postage stamps.
5. Commemorative postage stamps shall be issued on even date anniversaries, starting with the 50th year and continuing at 50-year intervals.

6. Commemorative postage stamps shall not be issued to honor a fraternal, political or religious organization, a commercial enterprise, or a specific product.
7. Commemorative postage stamps will not be considered appropriate for organizations whose funds are supplied in whole or in part by voluntary contributions. (The use of poster stamps sold by philanthropic organizations to raise funds, as well as postal slogan cancellations, are more useful in arousing public interest.)

Individuals or organizations sponsoring suggestions for commemorative postage stamps meeting the standards outlined above, should present their requests in writing to the Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., preferably 18 months in advance of the proposed date of issuance of the stamp requested. This permits consideration by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, and sufficient time for design and production if the stamp is approved. Subject matter or proposed designs may accompany requests but the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee reserves the right to approve a design of its own choice. No duplicate presentations should be made to members of the Committee.



# TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

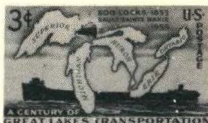
**Samuel Gompers, issued**  
**January 27, 1950. 0.85×0.98**  
**inches.**



**Women In Armed Services, issued**  
**September 11, 1952. 0.84×1.44**  
**inches.**



**Soo Locks, issued June 28, 1955.**  
**0.84×1.44 inches.**



**Lewis and Clark, issued**  
**July 28, 1954. 0.84×1.44**  
**inches.**



**United States Flag, issued**  
**July 4, 1957. 0.84×1.44**  
**inches.**



## TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

United States Flag, issued  
July 4, 1957. 0.84×1.44  
inches.



Air Force, issued  
August 1, 1957.  
0.84×1.44 inches.

LaFayette, issued  
September 6, 1957.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



Religious Freedom,  
bition, issued April 17, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



Brussels International Exhi-  
bition, issued June 12, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



## TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS



**Minnesota Statehood,**  
issued May 11, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



**Gunston Hall,**  
issued June 12, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



**Mackinac Bridge,**  
issued June 25, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



**Atlantic Cable,**  
issued August 15, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.



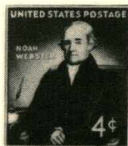
**Lincoln-Douglas Debates,**  
issued August 27, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.

## TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

**Journalism and Freedom of  
the Press, issued September  
22, 1958. 0.84×1.44 inches.**



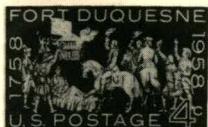
**Overland Mail,  
issued October 10, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.**



**Noah Webster,  
issued October 16, 1958.  
0.85×0.98 inches.**



**Forest Conservation,  
issued October 27, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.**



**Fort Duquesne,  
issued November 25, 1958.  
0.84×1.44 inches.**

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# postage stamps

of the  
**UNITED  
STATES**

1847-1957

A Publication of the  
Post Office Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

P. O. D. Publication 5

A valuable reference book, "Postage Stamps of the United States, 1847-1957," describing and illustrating all United States postage stamps issued in a one hundred and ten year period is available from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., in paper cover for \$1.00 a copy. A 1958 supplement will be made available later this year.

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