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AMERICAN DESIGN SERIES ADDS CHIPPENDALE CHAIR STAMP

**Postal Service's new 4-Cent Definitive Stamp dedicated at
Postage Stamp Mega Event Attended By Preeminent Antiques Experts,
Leigh and Leslie Keno**

WASHINGTON – A first-day-of-issue ceremony for the 4-cent Chippendale Chair Definitive postage stamp was held today at the American Stamp Dealer's Association (ASDA) Postage Stamp Mega Event in New York City.

"The American Design series reflects the rich diversity of American design, showcasing objects from various eras, regions and ethnic cultures that combine utility with beauty and function with form," said Vinnie Malloy, New York District manager/postmaster, U.S. Postal Service, who dedicated the stamp.

Joining Malloy at the first day ceremony was Elizabeth Pope, president, American Stamp Dealer's Association; Leigh Keno and Leslie Keno, antique experts and co-hosts of "Find!", a weekly home design and collectibles series on PBS; and Raschelle Miley, marketing director, New York District, U.S. Postal Service.

The Chippendale style of furniture was named for the English cabinetmaker Thomas Chippendale (1718-1779), whose book "The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director" (1754) influenced furniture design on both sides of the Atlantic. His works were known for their carved decorations and elaborate chair backs. In America, the style varied by region, with Philadelphia artisans producing the most extensively ornamented furniture.

Made of mahogany, the Chippendale chair depicted on the stamp features artist Lou Nolan's stylized treatment of a Chippendale side chair, or chair without arms. The artist based his design on a chair that is part of the collection of decorative arts in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., while the colors Nolan used for the wood and seat cover give the stamp design a contemporary feel.

The intricately patterned back of the chair features spiral ornaments called scrolls as well as carvings of a tassel and a shell. Another shell decorates the front of the seat.



This exquisite chair has graceful cabriole, or curved legs. Not shown on the stamp are the claw-and-ball feet, which resemble the claws of an animal grasping a sphere.

Commenting on the Chippendale chair, Leigh Keno noted, "In this interpretation, the artist has captured the essence of the chair – the graceful ears of the crest rail, the pierced splat and the projecting knees of the cabriole legs. Certainly, chairs such as this one were made to sit in, but they were also made to be admired." Leslie Keno added, "The wonderful thing about a Chippendale chair is that one can imagine someone perched upon it centuries ago! We should be proud that such beautiful objects were made here over two hundred years ago and that they have survived for us to enjoy today."

The new American Design series began in May 2002 with the 5-cent American Toleware stamp, followed by American Clock (2003) and Tiffany Lamp (2003). Reflecting the rich diversity of American design, the series showcases objects from various areas, regions and ethnic cultures that combine utility with beauty and function with form. The new series replaces the long-running Transportation series, issued from 1981 through 1995. The stamps in the American Design series vary in denomination from one cent through ten cents.

To see the Chippendale Chair stamp and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop and click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog are available by toll-free phone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items are also available at the Postal Store, www.usps.com/shop, and www.postalartgallery.com offers beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.