

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **ART MASTERPIECE, DREIDEL, SEVEN PRINCIPLES AND HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS FEATURED ON 2004 HOLIDAY POSTAGE STAMPS**

WASHINGTON – Customers will soon be able to add the warmth and joy of the holiday season to their mail when the U.S. Postal Service issues the 2004 commemorative Holiday postage stamps. The first-day-of-issue commemorative stamp dedication ceremonies, free and open to the public, will take place at four dates and locations: Christmas: Madonna and Child by Lorenzo Monaco, Oct. 14 in New York; Hanukkah, Oct. 15, also in New York; Kwanzaa, Oct. 16 in Chicago, and Holiday Ornaments, Nov. 16 in New York. The stamps will be available at Post Offices and philatelic centers nationwide the day following each dedication ceremony.

“The United States Postal Service is thrilled to help Americans celebrate this most festive time of year with such a wonderful variety of holiday stamps,” said S. David Fineman, Chairman of the presidentially appointed U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors. “These images capture the joy and excitement of this very special time of the year, and we’re delighted to share them as we enter the busy holiday mailing season.”

### **Christmas: Madonna and Child by Lorenzo Monaco, Oct. 14**

Depicting Monaco’s “Madonna and Child,” this year’s Christmas stamp will be issued at noon, Thursday, Oct. 14, at the Postage Stamp Mega Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St., New York. The stamp will be available at the show and New York City Post Offices that day, and available nationwide Oct. 15.

Formerly known as Holiday Traditional stamps, the Christmas stamps adorn millions of letters, greeting cards and packages each year. The stamp design is a detail of a tempera-on-panel “Madonna and Child” by Lorenzo Monaco. The panel dates from 1413 and is part of the Samuel H. Kress Collection at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Ariz. is the stamp designer and art director for this stamp.

Lorenzo Monaco was born Piero di Giovanni around 1370, probably in



Siena, Italy. In 1391, he professed vows as a monk of the Camaldolese Congregation of the Order of Saint Benedict at the monastery of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Florence, Italy. He also assumed a monastic name (Lorenzo Monaco means “Lorenzo the Monk”). Over the next few years, Lorenzo became known as an artist of exceptional talent and skill; he did exquisite illuminated manuscripts, miniatures in choir books, paintings on panels and more.

Lorenzo moved out of the monastery in the late 1390s and established his own workshop, though he kept his connection with the monastic community and remained a monk for the rest of his life. His paintings continued to depict traditional Christian themes. By the turn of the century, Lorenzo was one of the leading artists in Florence. Today his works — notable for their graceful lines, decorative details, and rich colors — are considered some of the finest examples of late medieval European art. He died around 1425 and was buried at Santa Maria degli Angeli.

### **Hanukkah, Oct. 15**

The Hanukkah stamp dedication will take place at noon Friday, Oct. 15, during the Postage Stamp Mega Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St., New York. The stamp will be available at the Mega Show and New York City Post Offices that day, and available nationwide Oct. 16.

Stamp art director Ethel Kessler combined two elements in her design: the type in the background, designed by Greg Berger, and the photograph of the dreidel, made by Elise Moore. The dreidel is from the collection of Rabbi Lennard and Dr. Linda Thal, who purchased it in Jerusalem.

Hanukkah is a joyous yearly festival spanning eight days and nights that is celebrated by Jews around the world. The holiday commemorates the successful Jewish revolt led by Judah Maccabee against the oppressive government of Antiochus IV in 165 B.C.

Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for “dedication.” Tradition relates how a miracle took place during the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem, which had been desecrated: The remaining supply of sacramental oil, thought to be enough for only one day, burned for eight.

The eight days and nights of Hanukkah begin on the 25th of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar (in November or December). Today, family members gather each night during the festival to light candles on a special candleholder called a menorah.

Other Hanukkah traditions include singing, the exchange of gifts and the spinning of the dreidel, a four-sided top. Dreidels commonly bear a Hebrew letter on each side, the first letters of a phrase meaning, “a great miracle happened there.” Children typically use chocolate gelt (coins) to make a bet on the outcome of each spin of the dreidel.

### **Kwanzaa, Oct. 16**

The Kwanzaa stamp will be dedicated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, in Chicago at the DuSable Museum of African American History, Illinois Black Legislature Auditorium, 740 E. 56th Place. This stamp goes on sale nationwide Oct. 17.

Art director Derry Noyes and stamp artist Daniel Minter strove to create a design that appropriately balances formality with a celebratory, festive mood. The seven days of Kwanzaa, and the seven principles they signify, are represented by seven figures in colorful robes.

Minter created his illustration from a linoleum block print and then added vibrant, carefully chosen colors using computer software.

“I wanted to incorporate the colors of the pan-African flag: black, red and green, to bring a more festive flavor to the image,” he said. “I added the colors gold, yellow and blue to the robes.”

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African American holiday that takes place over seven days from December 26 to January 1. It draws on African traditions and takes its name from the Swahili phrase for “first fruits.” Its origins are in harvest celebrations that occurred in ancient and modern times in various places across the African continent.

These traditions were synthesized and reinvented in 1966 by Maulana Karenga as the contemporary cultural festival known as Kwanzaa. The U.S. Postal Service issued its first Kwanzaa commemorative stamp in 1997.

The holiday is intended to be a celebration of seven principles — unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith — based on values prevalent in African culture.

### **Holiday Ornaments, Nov. 16**

The Holiday Ornaments stamps will be issued at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, as part of Lord and Taylor’s Holiday Window Unveiling at 424 Fifth Ave. in New York City. The stamps will be available at the event and New York City Post Offices that day, and available nationwide Nov. 17. The ornaments were made in 1999 in Lauscha, Germany, for D. Blümchen & Company of Ridgewood, NJ, and were hand-painted by designer Diane S. Boyce.

The four stamps feature photographs by Sally Andersen-Bruce, and designed by Derry Noyes, feature painted glass Santa ornaments. Nestled in tissue paper, these shiny Santas evoke happy memories of lights, tinsel and other favorite Christmas tree decorations.

Christmas trees began as a German tradition and were originally adorned with edible treats such as fruits, nuts and cookies. In the mid-19th century, glassblowers in Lauscha, Germany, began creating colorful molded glass ornaments for trees. Their designs included bells, trumpets, stars, angels and Santas, as well as glass versions of the familiar food decorations. During Queen Victoria’s reign, Christmas trees with glass ornaments became popular in England, and by the 1890s the glass ornament tradition had spread to the United States.

After World War II many Americans preferred mass-produced decorations made from modern materials, but in the 1980s there was a revival of interest in old-fashioned glass ornaments. Today glassblowers in Germany use antique molds to create new ornaments with traditional designs.

Santa Claus continues to be a favorite subject for Christmas-tree ornaments. The story of Santa started with Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop in Asia Minor. Saint Nicholas was considered a generous

gift giver and protector of children, and over time his reputation flourished throughout Europe. Eventually the legend of Saint Nicholas became intertwined with the Christmas holiday. When the Dutch landed in the New World in 1624, they named Saint Nicholas —Sinterklaas in Dutch — as their patron. In America the Dutch legend of Sinterklaas merged with the English tradition of Father Christmas, creating the character that we know today as Santa Claus.

In addition to the above stamps, the 2003 Holiday Music Makers and the Eid stamps continue to be available for purchase this holiday season. 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 46 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.

### **How to Order the First-Day-Of-Issue Postmark**

Customers have 30 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, by telephone at 1-800-STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). For the Christmas: Madonna and Child by Lorenzo Monaco, Hanukkah and Holiday Ornaments stamps, customers should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others) and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

POSTMASTER  
SPECIAL EVENTS UNIT  
421 8TH AVE RM 2029B  
NEW YORK NY 10199-9998

For the Kwanzaa stamp, customers should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others) and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

POSTMASTER  
433 W HARRISON ST 2ND FLOOR  
CHICAGO IL 60699-9998

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by Nov. 15 for the Christmas: Madonna and Child by Lorenzo Monaco stamp; Nov. 16 for the Hanukkah stamp; Nov. 17 for the Kwanzaa stamp and Dec. 17, 2004 for the Holiday Ornaments stamps.

### **How to Order First Day Covers**

Stamp Fulfillment Services also offers first day covers for new stamp issues and Postal Service stationery items postmarked with the official first day of issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number

and is offered in the quarterly USA Philatelic catalog. Customers may request a free catalog by calling 1-800-STAMP24 or writing to:

INFORMATION FULFILLMENT  
DEPT 6270  
US POSTAL SERVICE  
PO BOX 219014  
KANSAS CITY MO 64121-9014

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### **CHRISTMAS: MADONNA AND CHILD TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Christmas: Madonna and Child by Lorenzo Monaco  
Item Number: 673400  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special  
Format: Double Sided Convertible Booklet of 20 (1 design)  
Series: Holiday  
Issue Date & City: October 14, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Artist: Lorenzo Monaco, painting from the Samuel H. Kress Collection at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.  
Designer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ 85258  
Engraver: N/A  
Art Director: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ 85258  
Typographer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ 85258  
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran  
Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint "USPS"  
Printer: Ashton Potter USA Ltd. (APU)  
Printed at: Williamsville, NY  
Press Type: Mueller Martini, A 74  
Stamps per Booklet: 20  
Print Quantity: 776.4 million stamps  
Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: Ashton Potter USA Ltd. (APU)  
Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.77 x 1.050 in./19.558 x 26.67 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.91 x 1.19 in./23.114 x 30.226 mm  
Booklet Size (w x h): 2.38 x 5.76 in./60.452 x 146.304 mm  
Plate Size: 880 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four (4) single digits  
Marginal Markings:  
Stamp Side: "© 2003 USPS" • Plate Numbers • "Peel here to fold" •  
Cover Side: "© 2003 USPS" • "Twenty 37-cent First-Class Self-adhesive stamps" • Price •  
Barcode  
Catalog Item Number(s): 673440 Double Side Book of 20 — \$7.40  
673461 First Day Cover — \$0.75

### **HANUKKAH TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Hanukkah  
Item Number: 566600  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent special  
Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)  
Series: Holiday

Issue Date & City: October 15, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Designer: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD  
Art Director: Ethel Kessler, Bethesda, MD  
Typographer: Greg Berger, Bethesda, MD  
Photographer: Elise Moore, Bethesda, MD  
Engraver: N/A  
Modeler: Donald Woo  
Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint "USPS"  
Printer: Banknote Corporation of America, Inc./SSP  
Printed at: Browns Summit, NC  
Press Type: Man Roland, 300  
Stamps per Pane: 20  
Print Quantity: 60 million stamps  
Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.77 x 1.05 in./19.56 x 26.67 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 091 x 1.19 in./23.11 x 30.23 mm  
Full Pane Size (w x h): 5.55 x 5.76 in./140.97 x 146.30 mm  
Plate Size: 300 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four (4) single digits  
Marginal Markings: "© 2003 USPS" • Price • Plate position diagram • Plate numbers (4 per pane) • 4  
Barcodes on back  
Catalog Item Number(s): 566620 Block of 4 — \$1.48  
566630 Block of 10 — \$3.70  
566640 Full Pane of 20 — \$7.40  
566661 First Day Cover — \$0.75  
566693 Full Pane w/FDC — \$8.15

## **KWANZAA TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Kwanzaa  
Item Number: 566500  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special  
Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)  
Series: Holiday  
Issue Date & City: October 16, 2004, Chicago, IL 60607  
Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Illustrator: Daniel Minter, Portland, ME  
Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Engraver: N/A  
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran  
Manufacturing Process: Offset/Microprint "USPS"  
Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.  
Printed at: Williamsville, NY  
Press Type: Mueller Martini, A 74  
Stamps per Pane: 20  
Print Quantity: 60 million stamps  
Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.  
Colors: Black, Hexachrome Cyan, PMS 1788 (Red), PMS 109 (Yellow), PMS 143 (Orange), PMS 355 (Green)  
Stamp Orientation: Horizontal  
Image Area (w x h): 1.05 x 0.77 in./26.670 x 19.558 mm

Overall Size (w x h): 1.19 x 0.91 in./30.226 x 23.114 mm  
Full Pane Size (w x h): 5.76 x 5.5 in./146.304 x 139.7 mm  
Plate Size: 320 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by six (6) single digits  
Marginal Markings: © 2003 USPS • Price • Plate numbers in four corners of pane  
Plate position diagram • Barcodes in four corners on back of pane  
Catalog Item Number(s): 566520 Block of 4 — \$1.48  
566530 Block of 10 — \$3.70  
566540 Full Pane of 20 — \$7.40  
566561 First Day Cover — \$0.75  
566593 Full Pane w/FDC — \$8.15

### **Holiday Ornaments TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Holiday Ornaments  
Item Number: 566400  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special  
Format: Pane of 20 (4 designs)  
Series: Holiday  
Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT  
Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Modeler: Donald H. Woo  
Manufacturing Process: Gravure  
Engraver: Southern Graphics Systems.  
Printer: Sennett Security Products (SSP)  
Printed at: American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI  
Press Type: Rotomec 5, 3000  
Stamps per pane: 20  
Print Quantity: 140 million stamps  
Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA  
Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.76 x 1.04 in./19.30 x 26.41 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.91 x 1.19 in./23.11 x 30.22 mm  
Full Pane Size (w x h): 5.46 x 5.8125 in./138.68 x 147.63 mm  
Plate Size: 320 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four (4) single digits  
Marginal Markings: © 2003 USPS • Plate block numbers (4 per pane) • Price  
Plate position diagram • 4 Barcodes on back  
Catalog Item Number(s): 566420 Block of 4 — \$1.48  
566430 Block of 10 — \$3.70  
566440 Full Pane of 20 — \$7.40  
566463 First Day Cover — \$3.00  
566493 Full Pane w/FDC — \$10.40

### **HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS DOUBLE SIDED CONVERTIBLE BOOKLET OF 20 TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Holiday Ornaments  
Item Number: 673200  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special  
Format: Double Sided Convertible Booklet of 20 (4 designs)  
Series: Holiday

Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT  
Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Modeler: Donald H. Woo  
Manufacturing Process: Gravure  
Engraver: Southern Graphics Systems  
Printer: Sennett Security Products (SSP)  
Printed at: American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI  
Press Type: Rotomek 5, 3000  
Stamps per Book: 20  
Print Quantity: 1.67 billion stamps  
Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA  
Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.76 x 1.04 in./19.30 x 26.67 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.91 x 1.19 in./23.11 x 30.22 mm  
Booklet Size (w x h) : 1.823 x 7.50 in /46.30 x 190.50 mm  
Plate Size: 288 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four (4) single digits  
Marginal Markings: "© 2003 USPS" • Plate Numbers  
On cover: "Holiday Ornaments" • "Twenty 37c Self-adhesive  
Stamps" • "4 different designs" • Price • Barcode  
Catalog Item Number(s): 673240 Ornaments Double Side Book of 20 — \$7.40  
673263 First Day Cover Set of 4 — \$3.00

## **HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS VENDING BOOKLET OF 20 TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Holiday Ornaments  
Item Number: 673300  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special  
Format: Vending Booklet of 20 (4 designs)  
Series: Holiday  
Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT  
Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Modeler: Donald H. Woo  
Manufacturing Process: Gravure  
Engraver: Southern Graphics System  
Printer: Sennett Security Products (SSP)  
Printed at: American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI  
Press Type: Rotomek 5, 3000  
Stamps per Book: 20  
Print Quantity: 200,990,000 stamps  
Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA  
Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black, PMS 193 (red)  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.72 x 0.832 in./18.28 x 21.13 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.87 x 0.982 in./22.09 x 24.94 mm  
Booklet Size (w x h) : 1.74 x 10.375 in /44.19 x 263.52 mm

Plate Size: 480 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "S" followed by five (5) single digits  
Marginal Markings: N/A  
On Cover "© 2003 USPS" • Plate Numbers  
"Holiday Ornaments" • "Twenty 37c Self-adhesive  
Stamps" • "4 different designs" • Price • Barcode  
Website address • Promotional text • USPS Logo  
Catalog Item Number(s): 673340 Ornaments Vending Book of 20 — \$7.40

### **HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ATM SHEETLET, CONVERTIBLE BOOK OF 18 TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Issue: Holiday Ornaments  
Item Number: 566900  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent, Special  
Format: ATM Sheetlet, Convertible Book of 18 (4 designs)  
Series: Holiday  
Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199  
Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT  
Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC  
Modeler: Avery Dennison, SPD  
Manufacturing Process: Gravure  
Engraver: Southern Graphics Systems  
Printer: Avery Dennison, (AVR)  
Printed at: AVR, Clinton, SC  
Press Type: Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)  
Stamps per Booklet: 18  
Print Quantity: 270 million stamps  
Paper Type: Nonphosphored, Type III  
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive  
Processed at: AVR, Clinton, SC  
Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black, PMS 4665 (Tan)  
Stamp Orientation: Vertical  
Image Area (w x h): 0.730 x 0.840 in./18.542 x 21.336 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.870 x 0.982 in./22.098 x 24.942 mm  
Full Booklet Size (w x h): 2.61 x 6.125 in./66.29 x 155.58 mm  
Plate Size: 5 books across x 6 books around (30 per press sheet)  
Plate Numbers: "V" followed by five (5) single digits  
Marginal Markings:  
Front: Plate numbers • "Peel here to fold" • © 2003 USPS  
Back: Text • Barcode  
Catalog Item Number(s): 566940 PSA ATM 18 — \$6.66  
566963 First Day Cover Set of 4 — \$3.00