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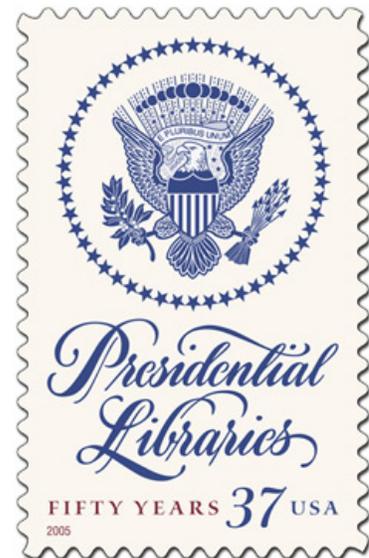
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PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES TO BE CELEBRATED ON STAMP
AUG 4 THROUGH SPECIAL DEDICATION CEREMONIES AT ALL 12 LOCATIONS

WASHINGTON -The U.S. Postal Service will celebrate Presidential Libraries with a commemorative postage stamp to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. The Aug. 4 First-Day-of-Issue dedication ceremonies will take place at all of the nation's 12 Presidential Libraries and Museums. The new stamp recognizes the libraries' role in preserving and extending access to Presidential materials while recounting the lives and times of many of our nation's Presidents.

"Presidential Libraries, as democratic institutions, are critical to an open society in that they allow Americans access to papers and other materials not available thorough traditional libraries," said Postmaster General John E. Potter. "The U.S. Postal Service is proud to honor their importance and is encouraging Americans to visit these national treasures."

The stamp, designed by Howard E. Paine, bears an image of the Presidential seal reproduced in gold against a crème colored background. The type, produced in hand calligraphy by Julian Waters, reads: "Presidential Libraries Fifty Years 37 USA."



The nation's 12 Presidential Libraries house materials generated during the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton (Library addresses and web sites below).

From California to Massachusetts, Texas to Michigan, Presidential Libraries span the lower 48 states and offer great destinations for family vacations. In addition to finding out about the responsibilities of the executive office, children and adults can identify with our nation's chief executives as they learn about their childhoods and their lives before the White House years. Rich photographic archives show the Presidents with their family members in the context of their times, helping visitors to understand the era in which each President lived.

Each library is a working archive of presidential papers, enhanced by a museum, which offers public programs on topics ranging from Caroline Kennedy's doll collection to World War II. Only one museum is located separately from its library: The Gerald R. Ford Museum is in Grand Rapids, MI; the library is in Ann Arbor. Stamp dedication ceremonies will take place at both locations.

Articulating the need for a safe, accessible archive for the materials of each administration, President Franklin Roosevelt said that a repository was needed to "bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men and women in the future..." In 1939, Roosevelt pledged part of his Hyde Park, NY, estate for the construction of a library and museum for his own Presidential papers. Roosevelt observed that the lessons of the past would allow the citizenry to "...gain in judgement in creating [the] future."

Since then, Presidential libraries have been established in the home state of each President. Funds to build the libraries come from private sources, while the National Archives and Records Administration-as part of the federal government-provides for their maintenance and operation.

Inspired by Roosevelt's example, the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955 enabled Presidents to donate their materials to the federal government for preservation and public access. Presidents, however, were still considered the sole owners of the materials generated during their Presidencies and were not required to turn over their records.

The Presidential Records Act of 1978 went further and defined as the property of the United States Government all statutory, constitutional, and ceremonial papers generated during a President's completed term in office and placed the records under the custody of the Archivist of the United States. The 1978 act further established that the Presidential Library System should continue as the repository for subsequent Presidential records.

To see the Presidential Libraries stamp and other images from the 2005 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 800-STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items is also available at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop. Beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office are available at www.postalartgallery.com.

Since 1775, the Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 142 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 \$69 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 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year-and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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Presidential Library and Museum Locations and Web Sites (As of January 2005)

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
College Station, Texas 77845-3906
<http://www.bushlibrary.tamu.edu>

Jimmy Carter Library & Museum
Atlanta, Georgia 30307-1498
<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org>

William J. Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1213
<http://www.clinton.archives.gov>

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library & Museum
Abilene, Kansas 67410-2900
<http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov>

Gerald R. Ford Library
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2114
<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov>

Gerald R. Ford Museum
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353
<http://www.ford.utexas.edu>

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum
West Branch, Iowa 52358-0488
<http://hoover.archives.gov>

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum
Austin, Texas 78705-5702
<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>

John F. Kennedy Library and Museum
Boston, Massachusetts 02125-3398
<http://www.jfklibrary.org>

The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace
Yorba Linda, California 92886-3903
<http://www.nixonfoundation.org>

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum
Simi Valley, California 93065-0600
<http://www.reagan.utexas.edu>

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
Hyde Park, New York 12538-1999
<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu>

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798
<http://www.trumanlibrary.org>