

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW U.S. SILVER COFFEEPOT STAMP
IS COLLECTORS' CUP OF TEA

MILWAUKEE – Featuring a simple and elegant illustration, the new three-cent Silver Coffeepot definitive stamp was issued today at the MILCOPEX Stamp Exhibition in Milwaukee, WI. The stamp is part of the U.S. Postal Service's American Design postage stamp series.

"We are very excited about adding this beautiful silver coffeepot stamp to our American Design series," said David Failor, U.S. Postal Service Executive Director of Stamp Services.

"It's another wonderful example of American craftsmanship that reflects the spirit of our country." The stamp, illustrated by freelance artist Tania Lee, features a watercolor and gouache painting of a pear-shaped silver coffeepot with a carved wood handle. It was made circa 1786 in Philadelphia and acquired by The Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1986.

Joining Failor at the ceremony were Robert J. Mather, Show Chairman of MILCOPEX 2005; Kimberly J. Peters, Postmaster of Milwaukee, WI; Tania Lee, Silver Coffeepot Stamp Artist; and Joan Houlehen, Art Consultant and Partner of A. Houberbocken, Inc.

Keeping with the sophistication of the silver coffeepot, the Grand Ballroom of the Four Points Sheraton was turned into an upscale coffee house. Guests enjoyed the ceremony seated at café tables draped in white linen while waiters in black-tie served gourmet coffee in silver coffeepots. Local artist, Sheri Williams Pannell sang "Black Coffee" and led the "Java Jivers" in performing other coffee-related songs. Background jazz music was played by Two Guys and a Bassist before and after the ceremony. Art Consultant, Joan Houlehan, displayed a selection of her antique silver coffeepots.



The elaboration of social life and the enormous popularity of tea, coffee and chocolate in the late 17th and 18th centuries contributed to the demand for household silver. Each major American city boasted its own famous silversmiths who crafted made-to-order household utensils that were beautiful as well as useful. Silver proudly proclaimed the wealth and social status of the owners, and served also as a means of storing savings in the days before banks.

Fine proportions and excellent craftsmanship were hallmarks of American silverwork, which in large measure was simpler than the more ornate silver favored in Europe. The coffeepot depicted on the stamp was made by Philadelphia silversmiths Joseph Richardson, Jr. (1752-1831) and Nathaniel Richardson (1754-1827). It may have been presented to Margaret Rawle on the occasion of her marriage to Isaac Wharton in 1786. Margaret Rawle's initials are engraved on the body of the coffeepot but do not appear in the simplified painting on the stamp.

Joseph Richardson, Jr., and his brother Nathaniel came from a long line of noted silversmiths and worked together as partners from 1777 to 1790. Both the Rawles and the Whartons were prominent Philadelphia families.

With the issuance of the five-cent American Toleware stamp in 2002, the Postal Service launched a new series of definitive stamps featuring examples of the rich diversity of American design. (Definitive stamps are regular issues of postage stamps, usually sold over long periods of time.) The American Design series showcases objects from various regions, eras and ethnic cultures that combine utility with beauty, and function with form. It replaces the long-running Transportation series, which was issued from 1981 through 1995. The American Design stamps will range in denomination from one- through 10-cents: The five-cent American Toleware stamp in 2002; the 10-cent American Clock and the one-cent Tiffany Lamp stamps were issued in 2003; the four-cent Chippendale Chair and the two-cent Navajo Jewelry stamps were issued in 2004.

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 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.

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 800-STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at www.usps.com/shop. They 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:

SILVER COFFEEPOT POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
PO BOX 5066
MILWAUKEE WI 53201-5066

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 October 15, 2005.

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 800-STAMP-24 or writing to:

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

First day covers remain on sale for at least one year after the stamp's issuance.

Since 1775, the Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering 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 \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The 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.