



POSTAL NEWS

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CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR RETIRES

WASHINGTON – Dr. C. Douglas Lewis, chair of the committee that recommends subjects for United States Postage Stamps, will depart after nearly 26 years of dedicated service, Postmaster General John E. Potter said today. Lewis was instrumental in recommending almost 2,500 postage stamp subjects from more than one million suggestions during his tenure with the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

"Dr. Lewis' credentials as an authority on international art history, coupled with his distinguished career as Curator at the National Gallery of Art, has made the U.S. Postal Service's stamp program second to none," Potter said. "His selfless and tireless work with the Committee is evidenced by the Christmas Madonna and Child, numerous paintings and sculpture art masterpieces, and the recent Masterworks of Modern American Architecture stamps."

"It has been a continuing honor to collaborate with many members of the Committee, both past and present, in our efforts to bring more images of American history, art, and culture to the Postal Service's stamp program," said Lewis, who will retire to Liberty, MS, to restore his family home, located a few hours northwest of New Orleans.

Postmaster General William F. Bolger appointed Lewis to the Committee in 1979. In 1985 Lewis was appointed Vice Chair and served as Design Subcommittee Chair for 20 years. He was appointed Chair of the full Committee in 2004.

Born in Centreville, MS, Lewis earned his bachelors, masters and PhD degrees in Art History from Yale University. He also holds bachelors and masters of arts degrees from Clare College of Cambridge University, England. He was Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, from 1968 to 2004, and a recipient of the Copley Medal from the National Portrait Gallery. Lewis has also authored three books on Italian Architecture, and has held numerous fellow awards and advisory positions at museums and cultural institutions around the world.

Ron Robinson, a member of the Committee since 1993, will succeed Lewis as Chair when the Committee reconvenes in January for its quarterly meeting.

Established in 1957, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee receives more than 50,000 suggestions for stamp subjects annually. It is responsible for reviewing suggestions and making subject and design recommendations to the Postmaster General.

The members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Postmaster General. The Committee is currently composed of 15 members whose backgrounds reflect a wide range of educational, artistic, historical and professional expertise. All share an interest in philately and fulfilling the needs of postal customers.

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.

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