

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MICKEY MOUSE, MINNIE MOUSE AND OTHER DISNEY
CHARACTERS GET ROMANTIC ON NEW POSTAGE STAMPS**

ORLANDO, FL - True love is a wish that every heart makes, and the U.S. Postal Service has granted that wish with the help of a few beloved Disney characters. *The Art of Disney: Romance* postage stamps feature Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse; Lady and the Tramp; Belle and the Beast; and Cinderella and Prince Charming. They'll add a dash of romance to your cards and letters. These stamps were issued during the kick-off of the 13th annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival at Walt Disney World Resort. Available only in Lake Buena Vista, FL today, *The Art of Disney: Romance* stamps will be available nationwide tomorrow, April 22.

"We decided to take our cue from one of the most celebrated couples of all time - Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse," said Jo Ann Feindt, Vice President, Great Lakes Area Operations, U.S. Postal Service, who dedicated the stamps. "Their commitment to each other over the years has taught us not to play by the rules, but to play by the heart. Our heart tells us that this will not be the last set in the Art of Disney series. We will issue one more next year, now that's love."

Joining Feindt in dedicating the stamps were Al Weiss, President of Worldwide Operations for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, some classic Disney characters featured on the stamps and larger-than-life, seven foot topiary images of the stamps made from fresh flowers and plants.

"All of us at the Walt Disney World Resort - and at our vacation destinations around the world - are delighted to dedicate this new set of stamps featuring some of Disney's most beloved characters," said Weiss. "The stamps not only celebrate the enchantment of true love, they spread the joy and magic of these classic Disney characters even wider."

The Art of Disney: Romance self-adhesive 39-cent stamps, available in panes of 20, feature world-famous Disney couples in four stamp designs telling their own romantic tale.

Cinderella and Prince Charming: Everyone dreams of living a rags-to-riches fairy tale and dancing with that special someone. As Cinderella and Prince Charming learn, one waltz can lead to a moment of realization: "So this is love."

Beauty and the Beast: This is the evening the Beast has awaited, but can he tell Belle of his love? He knows his heart, but does she yet know her own? These two are as uncertain as they are hopeful-emotions and a tale "as old as time."



Lady and Tramp: First dates can be full of risks-and ordering spaghetti only complicates matters. Fortunately for Lady and Tramp, a plate of pasta leads to a memorable kiss, turning a simple dinner out into a wonderful "Bella Notte."

Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse: Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse have been sweethearts for many years, yet they still have that first blush of romance. Seeing this celebrated couple, we can all take heart; they prove that sometimes the course of love can indeed run smooth.

The Disney relationship with the U.S. Postal Service began in the summer of 1918 when Walt Disney sorted and delivered mail in the Chicago Post Office. Next, Mickey Mouse worked for the Post Office when he starred in the 1933 animated short "Mail Pilot." The achievements of Walt Disney were first recognized on a stamp in 1968. On the stamp, a parade of children, hand-in-hand, appear from a tiny castle to surround a portrait of Walt Disney. The children, representing many nations of the World, are garbed in native costume.

In 1998, a "Snow White" stamp was issued as part of the Postal Service's "Celebrate the Century" stamp series that highlighted the most memorable and significant people, places, events and trends of each decade of the 20th century. In 1937, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" premiered as the nation's first feature-length animated film. The movie classic was comprised of 240,000 separate drawings and won a special Academy Award(tm) for Walt Disney.

The Art of Disney: Friendship stamps issued in 2004, the first in the current series, honored friendship as it appears in the art of Walt Disney featuring Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Donald Duck and a host of Disney friends. The Art of Disney: Celebration stamps issued in 2005 were the second in the series and featured Mickey Mouse and Pluto; Alice and the Mad Hatter; Ariel and Flounder; and Snow White and Dopey. Each time, U.S. Postal Service art director Terrence McCaffrey joined with the Disney team including artist Peter Emmerich and creative director Dave Pacheco in designing the stamps.

The Art of Disney: Romance 39-cent pane of 20 stamps (\$7.80) and the set of 20 24-cent stamped postal cards with all four designs (\$9.95) are available at Post Offices and Philatelic Centers nationwide tomorrow. For Disney memorabilia fans, there are a host of other collectibles, including:

- A set of four 8 x 10 inch stamp-affixed Disney Prints, depicting each of the stamps, for \$14.95,
- A Disney Digital Color Cancellation Keepsake, which includes four first-day cover envelopes with one each of the stamps for \$13.80 and, a
- "Disney Let's Write a Letter Book" which includes stationery and 8 stamps, for \$14.95.

To see *The Art of Disney: Romance* stamps visit the online Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop. Current U.S. stamps and stationery, as well as a free catalog, are available by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. In addition, a selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available at the online Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop. Custom-framed prints of original stamp art 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 1-800-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:

The Art of Disney: Romance COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS
POSTMASTER
10401 POST OFFICE BLVD
ORLANDO FL 32862-9998

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 May 20, 2006. 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-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 and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 144 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week 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 half of the world's mail volume - some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, usps.com, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.

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