

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AND SWEDEN POSTEN RECEIVE AWARD FOR
THE JOINT ISSUANCE OF THE 2005 GRETA GARBO
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP**

WASHINGTON—Nearly 71 years after Greta Garbo (1905-1990) won her first award, she is still a worldwide sensation. The International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors voted the Greta Garbo commemorative stamp the "Best Overall Joint Issue of 2005." This joint issuance by the U.S. Postal Service and Sweden Posten was among a selection of 31 joint issues released in 2005. Each issuance was voted on by 48 postal administrations representing 40 countries.

"We are pleased to learn of this prestigious award for our joint issue stamp with Sweden Posten," said David Failor, Executive Director of Stamp Services, U.S. Postal Service. The collaboration of our two postal administrations resulted in a postage stamp that has been recognized around the world for its classic beauty and design."



The U.S. Postal Service's 37-cent stamp was released on September 23, 2005 at New York City's Scandinavia House, the Nordic Center of America. Across the Atlantic, Sweden Posten issued its Greta Garbo stamp at the Sweden Postal Museum in Stockholm, Garbo's birthplace.

Both stamps, issued in the year of her 100th birthday, are engravings based on a 1932 photograph of the silver screen icon taken during the filming of *As You Desire Me* by renowned portrait photographer Clarence Sinclair Bull. He considered Garbo's face " . . . the most inspirational [he] ever photographed." The U.S. stamp design was by Carl T. Herrman and engraved by Piotr Naszarkowski. The Swedish stamp was designed by Gustav Malmfors and engraved by Lars Sjöblom.

The following text appeared on the selvage: Greta Garbo (1905-1990) was born in Sweden and became one of the greatest stars of the silver screen. Transitioning from silent films to the sound movies of Hollywood, Garbo captivated audiences with her seductive voice which enhanced the acting style and beauty that made her a legend.

To see or purchase the Greta Garbo commemorative stamp and other collectable items, visit the Postal Store at usps.com/shop. The U.S. Postal Service printed 40

million stamps which will remain on sale until September 23, 2006. There are five philatelic products available for this stamp issue:

- ?? First Day Cover (single) \$0.75, (Item 458461).
- ?? First Day Cover Joint Cover (1 USA plus 1 Sweden) \$2.25, (Item 458462).
- ?? Digital Color Postmark Cover (USA) \$1.50, (Item 458465).
- ?? Cancellation Keepsake (DCP cover/pane) \$8.90, (Item 458499).

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 usps.com/shop.

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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