

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28, 2006

Contact: Community Relations
202-268-2155
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**SAILING INTO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU,
THE NEW SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN POSTAGE STAMPS**

TICONDEROGA, NY - New postage stamps commemorating the 400th anniversary of the explorations of Samuel de Champlain in 1606 were jointly issued by the U.S. Postal Service and Canada Post in Washington, DC, and Ticonderoga, NY. The Samuel de Champlain 39-cent stamps are available only in these locations today, and will be available nationwide tomorrow, May 29.



"Samuel de Champlain is a true inspiration to us all," said Tom Day, Senior Vice President, Government Relations, U.S. Postal Service, who dedicated the stamps. "He made his reputation traveling on international voyages and geographic quests, so it seems fitting that an image depicting one of his explorations continues to travel on a postage stamp."

Joining Day in dedicating the stamp in Ticonderoga were Congressman John M. McHugh, New York's 23rd District, U.S. House of Representatives; Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, 114th Assembly District, New York State Assembly; Nicholas Westbrook, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Advancement, Fort Ticonderoga; and John J. Phelan, Lead Plant Manager, Albany District, U.S. Postal Service.

"The true spirits of partnership and friendship are reflected in this Samuel de Champlain stamp being dedicated today," said Congressman McHugh (R-NY). "Indeed, Champlain was a pioneer who influenced the direction of America, as the course he charted led to alliances that

significantly impacted the freedom and future of our great nation. I am honored to be here today as we pay tribute to the great achievements of Samuel de Champlain, and am particularly pleased that we are doing so in partnership with our neighbors to the north."

In Washington, DC, Stephen M. Kearney, Vice President, Pricing and Classification, U.S. Postal Service, was joined by Gordon Morison, Chief Executive, Exhibition Committee, Washington Philatelic Exhibition; David E. Failor, Executive Director, Stamp Services, U.S. Postal Service; William A. de Laat, Counsellor (Public Safety and Border Security), Canadian Embassy/Ambassade du Canada; and Robert Waite, Senior Vice President Communications and Stakeholder Relations, Canada Post.

A skilled cartographer, Samuel de Champlain (c.1570-1635) played a key role in French exploration of North America. In 1606, he accompanied lieutenant governor Jean de Biencourt de Poutrincourt on a mission to explore southward along the Atlantic coast. Beginning in Port Royal in what is now Nova Scotia, the expedition reached as far south as modern-day Cape Cod. Remembered as a remarkable draftsman, Champlain created highly detailed maps and drawings and wrote numerous accounts of his travels, including descriptions of his encounters with local tribes. His works document the cultures and geography of the East Coast of North America during the early 17th century, and his maps are considered the first scientific documents relating to Canada.

Closely involved with French interests in North America for three decades, Champlain is also credited with the founding of Quebec in 1608. Later, he also traveled inland, exploring the lake that still bears his name and journeying as far west as Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay, part of Lake Huron.

Each stamp depicts a scene of a French sailing ship exploring the coastline of North America and was designed by the design firm Fugazi of Montreal, Canada, and illustrated by Martin Côté. The art director for the stamp was Alain Leduc, Manager, Stamp Products, Canada Post. The designer and art director for the souvenir sheet was Terrence W. McCaffrey, Manager, Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service.

The Samuel de Champlain 39-cent pane of 20 stamps (item number 459200 - \$7.80) is

available at Post Offices and Philatelic Centers nationwide tomorrow. The souvenir sheet features two of each, two 51-cent Canadian stamps and two 39-cent U.S. stamps (item number 568300 - \$1.75), and is available only at USPS.com. There are seven philatelic products available for this stamp issue:

- ~~USA~~ USA First-Day-Cover - \$0.77 (459261)
- ~~Digital Color Postmark First-Day Cover~~ Digital Color Postmark First-Day Cover - \$1.50 (459265)
- ~~Uncut Press Sheet (Souvenir Sheet)~~ Uncut Press Sheet (Souvenir Sheet) - \$10.50 (568384)
- ~~Pane of 20 w/Digital Color Postmark First-Day-Cover~~ Pane of 20 w/Digital Color Postmark First-Day-Cover - \$9.30 (459299)
- ~~Pane of 20 & First-Day-Cover~~ Pane of 20 & First-Day-Cover - \$8.57 (459293)
- ~~Joint First-Day-Cover~~ Joint First-Day-Cover - \$4.25 (568362)
- ~~Joint Single US/Canadian First-Day-Cover~~ Joint Single US/Canadian First-Day-Cover - \$1.27 (459262)

To see Samuel de Champlain 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 60 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase only Item 459200 at their local Post Office, and both Items 459200 and 568300 by telephone at 1-800-STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at www.usps.com/shop.

The Postal Service is permitted to use the Canada Post postmark to cancel the jointly issued Canada Post The 1606 Voyage of Samuel de Champlain stamps present on independently produced covers, provided that the cover also bears U.S. postage equal to the current First Class Mail rate.

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:

For USA Postmark Only:

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN USA POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS
PO BOX 92282
WASHINGTON, DC 20090-2282

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN USA POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
169 CHAMPLAIN AVE
TICONDEROGA, NY 12883-9998

For Canadian Postmark Only:

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN CANADIAN POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS
PO BOX 92282
WASHINGTON, DC 20090-2282

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN CANADIAN POSTMARK
POSTMASTER
169 CHAMPLAIN AVE
TICONDEROGA, NY 12883-9998

For Both USA and Canadian Postmarks:

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN USA AND CANADIAN POSTMARKS
POSTMASTER
SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS
PO BOX 92282
WASHINGTON, DC 20090-2282

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN USA AND CANADIAN POSTMARK
POSTMASTER

169 CHAMPLAIN AVE
TICONDEROGA, NY 12883-9998

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 July 27, 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 United States Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency that visits more than 144 million homes and businesses every day, the Postal Service is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. It 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 \$70 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 U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume-some 212 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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