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MICKEY MOUSE WAVES HIS MAGIC WAND ON NEW POSTAGE STAMPS

WASHINGTON, DC — Sorcerer Mickey Mouse gave the audience attending the “Washington 2006 World Philatelic Stamp Exposition” a sneak peak of the upcoming The Art of Disney: Magic stamps, which will be issued in 2007.

In 2004, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first in the series of stamps entitled The Art of Disney. That year, Friendship was the theme and it featured 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. The third in the series was The Art of Disney: Romance featuring Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse, Lady and the Tramp, Belle and the Beast, and Cinderella and Prince Charming, issued just this year. The surprise announcement of the fourth in the series came on April 21 as well, only this time the theme is Magic.

“The U.S. Postal Service and Disney have enjoyed a collaborative partnership that has produced a magical series of beautiful stamps,” said Wendy Hocking, Secretary, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service. “Today, the magic continues and comes center stage at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Stamp Exposition, as we unveil one of the four new The Art of Disney: Magic stamps that will be issued by the Postal Service next year.”

During the Washington, DC, World Philatelic Exhibition, www.washington-2006.org, May 27-June 3, visitors can see \$40 million worth of the world’s rarest stamps, have stamp collections valued and witness multi-million dollar stamp auctions. Families can get a jump-start on stamp collecting by buying stamps from the only location on the planet selling stamps from 135 countries under one roof.



One stamp image (of the set of 4), was previewed at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition-The Art of Disney: Magic. Unveiling this new stamp was Wendy Hocking, Secretary, Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service; and Sorcerer Mickey Mouse.

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 142 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 \$69 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 206 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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