

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2006

Contact: Community Relations
202-268-2155
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www.usps.com

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES COLLECTABLE STAMP SHEET REPRINTED
FROM ORIGINAL 1923 STAMP ENGRAVING TO COMMEMORATE WORLD'S
LARGEST STAMP SHOW**

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Postal Service commemorates the world's largest stamp show—the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition—by issuing the Washington 2006 souvenir sheet on Memorial Day. The commemorative stamp sheet contains reproductions of three historic United States postage stamps originally issued in 1923—the \$1 Lincoln Memorial, the \$2 U.S. Capitol and the \$5 Statue of Freedom that stands atop the Capitol's dome. They are produced from the original 1923 dies created by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and issued in their original denominations.



"The stamps we've selected remind Americans who we are as a nation," said Charles Bravo, U.S. Postal Service Senior Vice President, Intelligent Mail and Address Quality, who dedicated the stamps. "They are symbols of freedom, liberty and justice. The Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol, with its magnificent Freedom statue atop its dome, are to us great symbols of democracy."

The sheet will only be sold on-site at the Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, at the Washington Convention Center, May 29 through the closing of the show on June 3 at 6 p.m. ET. The sheet may also be purchased by calling 800-STAMP-24.

Joining Bravo in dedicating the stamps was Michael D. Dixon, Ph.D., President, Washington

2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, Inc., and Richard Scheaff, designer of the stamps.

Scheaff chose a circa 1900 gravure print of the Capitol for the selvage of the sheet, which features the following:

-  The \$1 Lincoln Memorial stamp was issued in Washington, DC, and Springfield, IL, February 12, 1923, to mark the 114th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. The stamp features an engraving by Louis S. Schofield, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.
-  The \$2 U.S. Capitol stamp was issued in Washington, DC, March 20, 1923. It features another engraving by Louis S. Schofield, based on a photograph of the East Front of the Capitol in the collection of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.
-  The \$5 Head of Freedom stamp was also issued in Washington, DC, March 20, 1923. Printed in red and blue, the stamp features a John Eissler engraving of the head of "Freedom"—the magnificent statue by American sculptor Thomas Crawford that stands atop the Capitol dome. This stamp is a favorite of collectors, who sometimes refer to it as the "America" (the word appears on the banner below the main design).

The stamp show is hosted at the Washington Convention Center. Here, visitors can see some of the world's rarest stamps worth a combined \$40 million. Children participating in the educational interactive "Kids Zone" will receive a free T-shirt and other giveaways. Admission is free. Visit www.washington-2006.org for more information.

How to Order First-Day-of-Issue Postmark

Customers have 60 days to obtain the first day of issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps by telephone at 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:
WASHINGTON 2006 WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION SOUVENIR SHEET
POSTMASTER
SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS

PO BOX 92282

WASHINGTON DC 20090-2282

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 28, 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 800-STAMP-24 or writing to:

INFORMATION FULFILLMENT

DEPT 6270

US POSTAL SERVICE

PO BOX 219014

KANSAS CITY MO 64121-9014

Philatelic Products

There are three philatelic products available for this stamp issue:

 Item 567362 - First Day Cover, \$10.50.

 Item 567368 - Digital Color Postmark First-Day Cover (Set of 3), \$11.33.

 Item 567384 - Uncut Press Sheet (6 up), \$48.00.

These products will be available while supplies last at postal stores, online at www.usps.com, and by telephone at 800-STAMP-24 (800-782-6724).

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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