



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2008

Media Contact: Roy Betts
(O) 202-268-3207
(C) 202-256-4174
roy.a.betts@usps.gov

George B. Flood
(O) 212-330-5141
(C) 908-477-0404
george.b.flood@usps.gov

usps.com/news
Release No. 08-108

Dazzling Nutcrackers to Transform the Holidays *2008 Holiday Stamps Entertain and Inspire*



To obtain high-resolution images of the stamp, e-mail roy.a.betts@usps.gov

NEW YORK — What do Santa, a king, military captain and drummer all have in common? They'll be home for the holidays. The U.S. Postal Service dedicates the *Holiday Nutcrackers* commemorative stamps Thursday during the Fall Postage Stamp Mega Event at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"We're pleased to add the Nutcrackers to our stamp program," said Susan M. Brownell, vice president, Supply Management, for the United States Postal Service. "As these charming little treasures start to land in mailboxes around the country, they're sure to add a glimmer of sparkle to the holiday season."

Nutcrackers have been around for centuries. During the winter holiday season, nutcrackers of all shapes and sizes are familiar sights in toy stores, under Christmas trees, on mantelpieces, on book and magazine covers, and in performance venues. This year, they will dazzle hearts while traveling on billions of cards, letters and packages that will be delivered this holiday season.

Four eye-catching nutcracker designs are featured on the stamps. Santa or "Father Christmas" has a lantern in one hand and a snowflake-topped staff in the other. There is a gold and ruby-crowned king, a yellow-jacketed military captain, and a green-garbed drummer with a red drum.

These nutcrackers were custom-made for the U.S. Postal Service by Glenn A. Crider of T.R.C. Designs, Inc., of Mechanicsville, VA. Crider based the characters on sketches and notes provided by Sally Andersen-Bruce of New Milford, CT, who later photographed the completed nutcrackers for the stamps. The art director for the 2008 Holiday Nutcracker stamps was Derry Noyes of Washington, D.C.

In addition to the *Holiday Nutcrackers* stamps, four additional holiday stamps will be available nationwide as well: *Virgin and Child with the Young John the Baptist* stamp was also issued today; *Eid*, the Muslim Holiday stamp was issued Sept. 23; *Kwanzaa*, the celebration of family, community and culture; and *Hanukkah*, the Jewish Festival of Lights, stamps will be issued Oct. 24.

The Postal Service printed 2.171 billion holiday stamps: 1.486 billion *Holiday Nutcrackers*, 600 million *Virgin and Child with the Young John the Baptist*, 25 million *Eid*, 35 million *Kwanzaa* and 25 million *Hanukkah*.

The 42-cent *Holiday Nutcrackers* stamps go on sale nationwide today and also can be purchased online at usps.com.

#

Please Note: For broadcast quality video and audio, photo stills and other media resources, visit the USPS Newsroom at www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/welcome.htm.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

Holiday Nutcrackers Philatelic Fact Sheet Philatelic Products

There are six philatelic products available for this stamp issue:

- 571763, First-Day Cover Set of 4, \$3.20
- 678063, First-Day Cover Set of 4, \$3.20
- 678068, Digital Color Postmark Set of 4, \$6.00
- 678077, Nutcrackers Secret Puzzle Post Cards, \$7.95
- 678091, Ceremony Program w/4 Stamps, \$6.95
- 678099, Digital Color Postmark Keepsake, \$14.40

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 new stamps at their local Post Office, or at The Postal Store web site at www.usps.com/shop, or by calling 800-STAMP-24. 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:

Holiday Nutcrackers Stamps
Postmaster
421 Eighth Ave., Rm. 2029B
New York, NY 10199-9998

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 Dec. 27, 2008.

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