

**David Fineman
Chairman, USPS Board of Governors
Audrey Hepburn FDOI
June 11, 2003**

As you've heard from Karen [Imagawa] and Sean [Hepburn Ferrer], we are here today to do far more than simply dedicate a new postage stamp.

We are also here to honor the very special woman on that stamp. There's a certain appropriate irony in that.

Has anyone here ever seen the movie "Charade"?

It was Hepburn's biggest hit at the time it came out in 1963, and her co-star was Cary Grant, so it had real star-power.

It was a comedy and thriller at the same time, but the key to the movie was a rare stamp.

One critic went so far as to say "The glorious and sorrowful mysteries of philately may seem absurd to those who don't share the compulsion. But in 1963, Charade exalted and elevated stamp-collecting to the peak of its vogue."

So, a movie about a mysterious rare stamp starring a one-of-a-kind actress that "exalts and elevates" stamp-collecting... that's the best kind of film!

That's why I love these events.

I get the chance to step back and reflect on the larger picture of what the Postal Service means to the American people.

We know the power our stamps have in honoring and depicting the people and events in our history who have made this nation great.

We remind Americans of the special people, places and events that have defined our nation for more than 200 years.

And remind them we will – because this stunning image of Audrey Hepburn will travel on letters and packages to every single household in America and around the world.

That is the Postal Service's responsibility of universal service to every address, every day.

And we take that responsibility very seriously.

Every day, the men and women of the Postal Service are working hard to deliver the mail for all Americans, and they share my enthusiasm and pride in the strides we make to improve service every single day.

Audrey Hepburn also understood the importance of responsibility. In addition to her fabulous film career, she was a luminous and dedicated advocate on behalf of the world's children.

Through her efforts, she gave countless abused or suffering children hope and health – and these are very powerful gifts.

As Hepburn herself once said “I speak for those children who cannot speak for themselves, children who have absolutely nothing but their courage and their smiles, their wits and their dreams...”

We want those dreams to continue, so our stamp image, which features a portrait painted by Michael J. Deas, captures Hepburn’s beauty, her smile, and her indomitable optimism.

With this stamp, we are honoring Audrey Hepburn’s spectacular career, her remarkable life — and most importantly — her undeniable humanitarianism.

In a way, we are all like that elderly stamp collector in “Charade” who reluctantly surrenders the precious stamps he's briefly possessed. "For a few moments," he says, "they were mine. That is enough."

Well, for all too brief a moment, Hepburn was ours, to love and admire. That will have to be enough.

Today, in this small way, we have created a lasting tribute to this remarkable woman, and we are proud and honored to share her legacy of timeless beauty and endless compassion with Americans everywhere through this stamp.

Now, I’d like to ask the platform guests to join me in officially unveiling the Audrey Hepburn commemorative stamp.

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