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## **BROADWAY LEGEND MOSS HART COMMEMORATED ON US POSTAGE STAMP**

WASHINGTON – Award-winning dramatist and director Moss Hart was honored today when the U.S. Postal Service issued a new commemorative postage stamp recognizing his life and accomplishments. The stamp design features a painting by Tim O'Brien, based on a photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt showing Hart in Times Square. The first-day-of-issue ceremony took place at the Rosenthal Pavilion of the Kimmel Center, New York University, New York, just one day after the 100th anniversary of Hart's birth.

"The Postal Service is proud to honor Moss Hart, one of the legends of the golden age of Broadway," said John Walsh, presidentially appointed Vice-Chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, who dedicated the stamp. "As a screenwriter and director, he captured America's optimistic spirit to the delight of audiences then and now."

Also participating in the ceremony were David Solomon, Vice President, Area Operations, New York Metro Area, U.S. Postal Service; Hart's widow, actress Kitty Carlisle Hart; Hart's son, Christopher; Dr. John Sexton, President, New York University; and John Guare, American Playwright. Dr. Catherine Hart, Moss Hart's daughter, attended as an honored guest.

"Moss loved the theater, and gave so much of himself as a writer, director and producer," said Kitty Carlisle Hart. "On behalf of my family and myself, we are thrilled that Moss' talent and hard work have been recognized by this stamp."

A gifted playwright, Hart wrote a series of sparkling comedies in the 1930s with the noted playwright and director George S. Kaufman. Also a brilliant director, Hart staged one of the most dazzling musicals of his era, *My Fair Lady*. A witty and charming personality who embodied the glamour of Broadway, Hart penned what many consider the best theatrical memoir ever written—*Act One*—that concludes in 1930 with the success of *Once in a Lifetime*.

While known primarily for his collaborations, Hart also won fame as a solo playwright. Of the plays he wrote without a co-author, the witty backstage comedy *Light Up the Sky* (1948) is considered his best. Often revived, it remains a favorite with contemporary audiences.



On Dec. 20, 1961, Hart suffered a fatal heart attack in Palm Springs, CA, where he and his family had recently moved from New York City. Just a few months earlier, he had delivered the eulogy at the funeral of his friend and theatrical mentor, George S. Kaufman.

To see the Moss Hart stamp and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop) and click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free phone order at 1-800-STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items is also available at the Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). Beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office are available at [www.postalartgallery.com](http://www.postalartgallery.com).

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 141 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 \$68 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 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

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