

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DECORATE WITH FESTIVE *HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS* U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS
U.S. Postal Service will issue joyful stamps on Nov. 16

WASHINGTON – Happy memories of lights, tinsel and other favorite Christmas-tree decorations are warmly evoked in the upcoming *Holiday Ornaments* commemorative postage stamps. Each of the four stamps features a richly colored painted glass Santa ornament. The stamps will be issued at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, as part of the Lord & Taylor Holiday Window Unveiling at their flagship location, 424 Fifth Ave., New York City.

“Santa Claus is coming to your town this year,” said John Nolan, Deputy Postmaster General, U.S. Postal Service, who will dedicate the stamps. “The visit of Jolly Old Saint Nicholas continues to make children’s eyes twinkle. These stamps, featuring painted glass Santa ornaments, will brighten every envelope and package, with the hope of delivering something good for everyone on your list.”

The *Holiday Ornaments* stamps feature photographs by Sally Andersen-Bruce, and were designed by Derry Noyes.

The ornaments pictured on the stamps were made in Lauscha, Germany, in 1999 for D. Blümchen & Company of Ridgewood, NJ were hand-painted by designer Diane Boyce.

Christmas trees and decorations began as a German tradition and, originally, the decorations were edible treats such as fruits, nuts and cookies. In the mid-19th century, glassblowers in Lauscha began creating colorful molded glass ornaments. Their designs included bells, trumpets, stars, angels and Santas, as well as glass versions of the familiar food decorations. During Queen Victoria’s reign, trees with glass ornaments became popular in England, and by the 1890s the glass ornament tradition had spread to the United States.

After World War II many Americans preferred mass-produced decorations made from modern materials, but in the 1980s there was a revival of interest in old-fashioned glass ornaments. Today glassblowers in Germany use antique molds to create new ornaments with traditional designs.

Santa Claus continues to be a favorite subject for Christmas-tree ornaments. The story of Santa started with Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop in Asia Minor. Saint Nicholas was considered a generous gift giver and protector of children, and over time his reputation flourished



throughout Europe. Eventually the legend of Saint Nicholas became intertwined with the Christmas holiday. When the Dutch landed in the New World in 1624, they named Saint Nicholas—Sinterklaas in Dutch—as their patron. In America the Dutch legend of Sinterklaas merged with the English tradition of Father Christmas, creating the character that we know today as Santa Claus.

In addition to the 2004 *Holiday Ornaments* stamps, the *Madonna and Child*, *Hanukkah*, *Kwanzaa*, the 2003 *Holiday Music Makers* and the *Eid* stamps are available for purchase for the holidays. To see the *Holiday Ornaments* stamps, visit the Postal Service Web site and open this news release at www.usps.com/communications/news/stamps/welcome.htm.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free telephone order at 1-800-STAMP-24. A selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available at the online Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop. In addition, custom-framed prints of original stamp art are available at 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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TECHNICAL DETAILS (Pane of 20)

Issue:	<i>Holiday Ornaments</i>
Item Number:	566400
Denomination & Type of Issue:	37-cent Special
Format:	Pane of 20 (4 designs)
Series:	<i>Holiday</i>
Issue Date & City:	November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199
Designer:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Photographer:	Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT
Art Director:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Typographer:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Modeler:	Donald H. Woo
Manufacturing Process:	Gravure
Engraver:	Southern Graphics Systems.
Printer:	Sennett Security Products (SSP)
Printed at:	American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI
Press Type:	Rotomec 5, 3000
Stamps per pane:	20
Print Quantity:	140 million stamps
Paper Type:	Pre-phosphored, Type II
Adhesive Type:	Pressure-sensitive
Processed at:	Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA
Colors:	Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black
Stamp Orientation:	Vertical
Image Area (w x h):	0.76 x 1.04 in./19.30 x 26.41 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	0.91 x 1.19 in./23.11 x 30.22 mm

Full Pane Size (w x h): 5.46 x 5.8125 in./138.68 x 147.63 mm
 Plate Size: 320 stamps per revolution
 Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four (4) single digits
 Marginal Markings: © 2003 USPS • Plate block numbers (4 per pane) •
 Price • Plate position diagram • 4 Barcodes on back
 Catalog Item Number(s): 566420 Block of 4 — \$1.48
 566430 Block of 10 — \$3.70
 566440 Full Pane of 20 — \$7.40
 566463 First Day Cover — \$3.00
 566493 Full Pane w/FDC — \$10.40

TECHNICAL DETAILS (Double Sided Convertible Booklet of 20)

Issue: *Holiday Ornaments*
 Item Number: 673200
 Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special
 Format: Double Sided Convertible Booklet of 20 (4 designs)
 Series: *Holiday*
 Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199
 Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
 Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT
 Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
 Typographer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
 Modeler: Donald H. Woo
 Manufacturing Process: Gravure
 Engraver: Southern Graphics Systems
 Printer: Sennett Security Products (SSP)
 Printed at: American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI
 Press Type: Rotomek 5, 3000
 Stamps per Book: 20
 Print Quantity: 1.67 billion stamps
 Paper Type: Pre-phosphored, Type II
 Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive
 Processed at: Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA
 Colors: Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black
 Stamp Orientation: Vertical
 Image Area (w x h): 0.76 x 1.04 in./19.30 x 26.67 mm
 Overall Size (w x h): 0.91 x 1.19 in./23.11 x 30.22 mm
 Booklet Size (w x h) : 1.823 x 7.50 in /46.30 x 190.50 mm
 Plate Size: 288 stamps per revolution
 Plate Numbers: "S" followed by four (4) single digits
 Marginal Markings: "© 2003 USPS" • Plate Numbers
 On cover: "Holiday Ornaments" • "Twenty 37c Self-adhesive
 Stamps" • "4 different designs" • Price • Barcode
 Catalog Item Number(s): 673240 Ornaments Double Sided Book of 20 — \$7.40
 673263 First Day Cover Set of 4 — \$3.00

TECHNICAL DETAILS (Vending Booklet of 20)

Issue: *Holiday Ornaments*
 Item Number: 673300
 Denomination & Type of Issue: 37-cent Special
 Format: Vending Booklet of 20 (4 designs)
 Series: *Holiday*
 Issue Date & City: November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199
 Designer: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
 Photographer: Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT
 Art Director: Derry Noyes, Washington, DC

Typographer:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Modeler:	Donald H. Woo
Manufacturing Process:	Gravure
Engraver:	Southern Graphics System
Printer:	Sennett Security Products (SSP)
Printed at:	American Packaging Corporation, Columbus, WI
Press Type:	Rotomek 5, 3000
Stamps per Book:	20
Print Quantity:	200,990,000 stamps
Paper Type:	Pre-phosphored, Type II
Adhesive Type:	Pressure-sensitive
Processed at:	Unique Binders, Fredericksburg, VA
Colors:	Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black, PMS 193 (red)
Stamp Orientation:	Vertical
Image Area (w x h):	0.72 x 0.832 in./18.28 x 21.13 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	0.87 x 0.982 in./22.09 x 24.94 mm
Booklet Size (w x h) :	1.74 x 10.375 in /44.19 x 263.52 mm
Plate Size:	480 stamps per revolution
Plate Numbers:	"S" followed by five (5) single digits
Marginal Markings:	N/A
On Cover:	"© 2003 USPS" • Plate Numbers "Holiday Ornaments" • "Twenty 37c Self-adhesive Stamps" • "4 different designs" • Price • Barcode Website address • Promotional text • USPS Logo
Catalog Item Number(s):	673340 Ornaments Vending Book of 20 — \$7.40

TECHNICAL Details (ATM Sheetlet, Convertible Booklet of 18)

Issue:	<i>Holiday Ornaments</i>
Item Number:	566900
Denomination & Type of Issue:	37-cent, Special
Format:	ATM Sheetlet, Convertible Book of 18 (4 designs)
Series:	<i>Holiday</i>
Issue Date & City:	November 16, 2004, New York, NY 10199
Designer:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Photographer:	Sally Andersen-Bruce, New Milford, CT
Art Director:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Typographer:	Derry Noyes, Washington, DC
Modeler:	Avery Dennison, SPD
Manufacturing Process:	Gravure
Engraver:	Southern Graphics Systems
Printer:	Avery Dennison, (AVR)
Printed at:	AVR, Clinton, SC
Press Type:	Dia Nippon Kiko (DNK)
Stamps per Booklet:	18
Print Quantity:	270 million stamps
Paper Type:	Nonphosphored, Type III
Adhesive Type:	Pressure-sensitive
Processed at:	AVR, Clinton, SC
Colors:	Magenta, Yellow, Cyan, Black, PMS 4665 (Tan)
Stamp Orientation:	Vertical
Image Area (w x h):	0.730 x 0.840 in./18.542 x 21.336 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	0.870 x 0.982 in./22.098 x 24.942 mm
Full Booklet Size (w x h):	2.61 x 6.125 in./66.29 x 155.58 mm
Plate Size:	5 books across x 6 books around (30 per press sheet)
Plate Numbers:	"V" followed by five (5) single digits
Marginal Markings:	
Front:	Plate numbers • "Peel here to fold" • © 2003 USPS
Back:	Text • Barcode

Catalog Item Number(s): 566940 PSA ATM 18 — \$6.66
566963 First Day Cover Set of 4 — \$3.00

How to Order the First-Day-Of-Issue Postmark

Customers have 30 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, by telephone at 1-800-STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at www.usps.com/shop. For the *Holiday Ornaments* stamps, customers 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 ORNAMENTS COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS
POSTMASTER
SPECIAL EVENTS UNIT
421 8TH 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. 17, 2004.

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 1-800-STAMP24 or writing to:

INFORMATION FULFILLMENT
DEPT 6270
US POSTAL SERVICE
PO BOX 219014
KANSAS CITY MO 64121-9014

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