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**HARVARD SCHOLAR APPOINTED
TO CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WASHINGTON — Distinguished scholar, author, literary critic and Harvard University professor Dr. Henry L. Gates Jr. will serve as the newest member of the Postmaster General's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, effective January 2005.

"Dr. Gates' extensive knowledge of African American history and culture will greatly assist the Postal Service in selecting individuals, subjects and events to be commemorated on U.S. postage stamps," said Postmaster General John E. Potter.

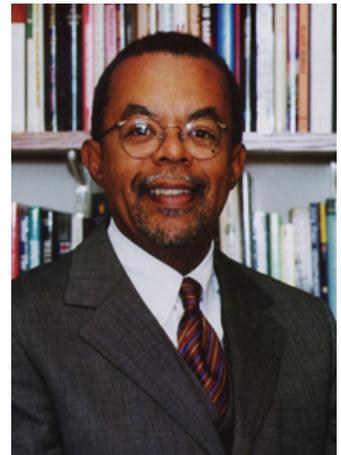
Holder of more than 40 honorary degrees, Gates has authored 12 books and edited more than three dozen books on African American issues. He has also served as director on more than 30 boards.

"I've been fascinated with stamps ever since I saw George Washington Carver's face on a stamp when I was a little boy," said Gates. "This is a marvelous honor for me and I hope to help the committee to continue to make judicious selections on stamp subjects that should be honored for their historic contributions."

Gates is W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities and Chairman of African and African American Studies and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

He obtained his B.A. summa cum laude from Yale University in 1973 in English Literature and Literature. Gates earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England, 1973-1979. Before joining Harvard University's faculty in 1991, Gates taught at Yale, Cornell and Duke Universities.

His honors and grants include a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" (1981); the George Polk Award for Social Commentary (1993); Chicago Tribune Heartland Award (1994); the Golden Plate Achievement Award (1995); Time magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans"



list (1997); a National Humanities Medal (1998); election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1999) and the Carl Sandburg Award (2004).

Established in 1957, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee receives more than 50,000 cards and letters in support of stamp subject proposals annually and is responsible for making subject and design recommendations to the Postmaster General.

The members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Postmaster General. The Committee is composed of 14 members whose backgrounds reflect a wide range of educational, artistic, historical and professional expertise. All share an interest in philately and fulfilling the needs of postal customers.

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.