

African American Heritage Stamp Album®



Paul Laurence
Dunbar



African American Heritage Stamp Album®

Copyright © [2020] by [J. Thomas Nichols]

**All rights reserved. Any part of this Illustrated Album cannot be reproduced,
Scanned or distributed in any printed or electronic form without permission.**

First Edition: [December 2020]

Printed in the United States of America

African American Heritage Stamps

About this Album

This specialty album is designed for anyone interested in United States postage stamps related to African-American culture. The stamps and other postal material fall into three categories:

African-American — These are commentative stamps, regular and special issue's honoring famous African-Americans from the past.

Black Heritage — The Black Heritage Series, initiated by the United States Postal Service in 1978, recognizes the achievements of prominent African-Americans. Harriet Tubman "Moses" was the first stamp to be issued in the series.

Theme Related — These stamps relate in some way to African-American events, art, music, work, sports, culture or an image of African-Americans.

The album has capacity for all African American Heritage postage material issued from the United States between the years 1904 through 2020:

- Over 300 stamps
- 4 Souvenir Sheets
- 3 Post Cards

All stamp images are illustrated in color for ease of identification.

Several blank pages are included for future stamp issues.

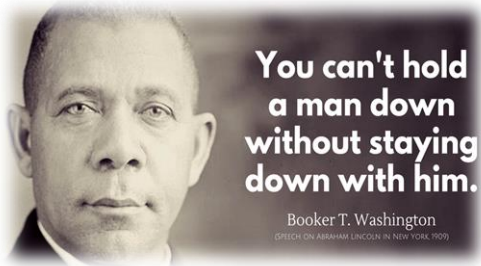
**10¢ Famous Americans Series—Educator
Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)**

Issue Date: April 7, 1940

City of Issue: Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Quantity Issued: 14,125,580

Booker T. Washington was born a slave. After the Civil War he worked his way through the Hampton Institute and Wayland Seminary and in 1881, at age 25, was named the president of the newly created Tuskegee Institute. This was the first U.S. postage stamp ever issued picturing an African-American.



3¢ Booker T. Washington Centennial

Issue Date: April 5, 1956

City of Issue: Booker T. Washington Birthplace, Virginia

Quantity Issued: 121,184,600

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Booker T. Washington. The log cabin shown on the stamp is a replica built at the plantation.



3¢ Emancipation Memorial, 13 Amendment

Issue Date: October 20, 1940

City of Issue: World's Fair, NY

Quantity Issued: 44,389,550

Issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which declared that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude" would be allowed in the United States.

3¢ George Washington Carver (1860s-1943)

Issue Date: January 5, 1948

City of Issue: Tuskegee Institute, AL

Quantity Issued: 121,548,000

Issued to honor Dr. George Washington Carver, Botanist and inventor. Carver was born into slavery in the early 1860s in Diamond Grove, Missouri and died on January 5, 1943 in Tuskegee, Alabama.

**32¢ George Washington Carver Part of the
1910 Celebrate the Century Series**

Issue Date: February 3, 1998

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Dr. George Washington Carver is honored on the 1910s Celebrate the Century Series. He was a botanist and inventor.

African American Heritage Stamps



1940
Booked T. Washington



1956
Birthplace of
Booker T. Washington



1940
Emancipation Memorial
13th Amendment



1948
George Washington Carver



1998
George Washington Carver

**25¢ Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)****Part of the Prominent Americans Series****Issue Date:** February 14, 1967**City of Issue:** Washington, DC

Born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, suffragist, author, editor, diplomat, and statesman.

32¢ Frederick Douglass**Issue Date:** June 29, 1995**City of Issue:** Gettysburg, PA**Quantity Issued:** 15,000,000

Issued to honor Frederick Douglass as part of a Civil War History of Prominent Americans pane.

6¢ W.C. Handy (1873-1953)**Issue Date:** May 17, 1969**City of Issue:** Memphis, TN**Quantity Issued:** 125,555,000

William Christopher Handy, composer and musician, was born November 16, 1873 in Florence, Alabama. As a child he apprenticed in carpentry, shoemaking, and plastering, but had a love of music largely inspired by his church.

8¢ Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937)**Issue Date:** September 10, 1973**City of Issue:** Pittsburgh, PA**Quantity Issued:** 146,008,000

Henry Ossawa Tanner was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This stamp was the first ever issued to honor an African-American artist. His work, *Sand Dunes at Sunset, Atlantic City*, is displayed in the Green Room at the White House and was the first painting by an African-American artist to be acquired for the White House's permanent collection.

8¢ Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)**Issue Date:** May 1, 1975**City of Issue:** Dayton, Ohio**Quantity Issued:** 146,365,000

The Sport of the Gods was among his better received writings and was later made into a movie. Dunbar also wrote the lyrics for *In Dahomey*, the first musical to be written and performed entirely by African-Americans.

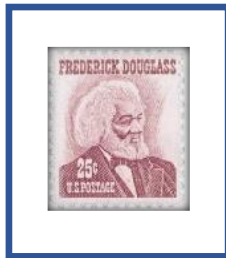
10¢ Salem Poor (1747-1802)**Issue Dated March 25, 1975****City of Issue:** Cambridge, Massachusetts**Quantity Issued:** 157,865,000

Poor was a celebrated soldier who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Fourteen officers signed a commendation citing him for bravery.

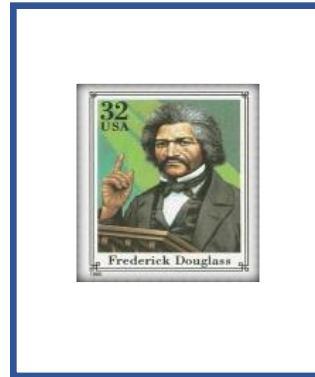
**13¢ Harriet Tubman (1820/1821-1913)****First Black Heritage Series stamp issued****Issue Date:** February 1, 1978**City of Issue:** Washington, DC**Quantity Issued:** 156,525,000

Harriet Tubman, known as the Moses of her people was a former slave who escaped bondage by fleeing to Pennsylvania. However, she returned to the South at least 19 times and helped more than 300 slaves escape to freedom. This stamps is the first stamp in the Black Heritage Series. Tubman was also featured on a 32¢ stamp Issued on June 29, 1995 as part of the Civil War History of Prominent Americans series.

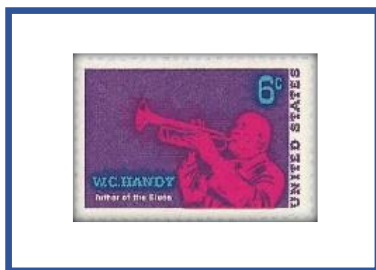
African American Heritage Stamps



1958
Frederick Douglass



1995
Frederick Douglass



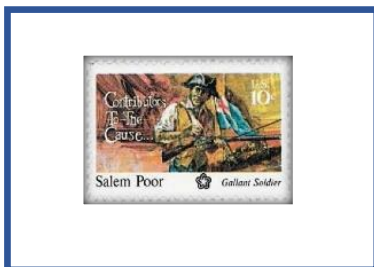
1969
W.C. Handy



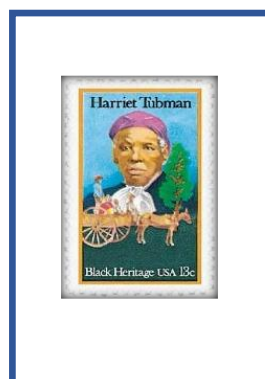
1973
Henry Ossawa Tanner



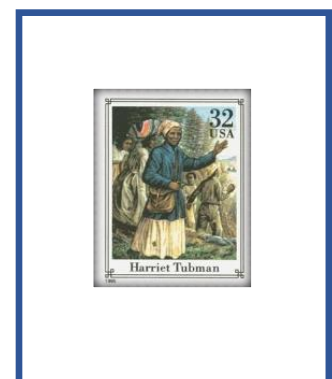
1975
Paul Laurence Dunbar



1975
Salem Poor



1978
Harriet Tubman



1995
Harriet Tubman

Martin Luther King (1929-1968) Two Stamps issued honoring King

Issue Date: January 13, 1979 13¢ & September 7, 1999 33¢

City of Issue: Atlanta, GA; Washington, DC

Around 1955 Martin Luther King Jr became actively involved in the fight against segregated bussing and played a leading role in the Civil Rights movement. In 1963 King helped organize The March on Washington where he delivered perhaps his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream." In 1963 he was honored as Time magazine's Man of the Year and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.



15¢ Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806) Black Heritage Series

Issue Date: February 15, 1980

City of Issue: Annapolis, MD

Quality Issued: 160,000,000

Benjamin Banneker was one of America's most accomplished African-Americans during the colonial period. A self-taught mathematician and astronomer, Banneker was a member of the team that surveyed and designed the layout for Washington, DC. As an astronomer Banneker was able to predict solar and lunar eclipses, times for the rising and setting of the sun and moon and created a tide-table for the Chesapeake Bay. All were included in his almanacs published between 1792-1797.

15¢ Black Heritage Series—Civil Rights Whitney Moore Young (1921-1971)

Issue Date: January 30, 1981

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quality Issued: 159,505,000

Young served as head of the National Urban League from 1961 until his death. Through the organization, Young helped thousands of black Americans find employment. He started on-the-job training programs, established Head Start and provided tutoring centers.

35¢ Charles R. Drew, M.D. (1904-1950)

Issue Date: June 3, 1981

City of Issue: Washington, DC

First African-American surgeon to serve as an examiner on the American Board of Surgery. Drew created bloodmobiles (refrigerated trucks) which allowed blood to be stored and transported farther. In 1941 he helped establish the American Red Cross Blood Bank to provide blood for American soldiers. However, he grew increasingly upset with the military's request to segregate the blood of African-Americans. Furious over the racist policy, he resigned after a few months.

20¢ Ralph Bunche (1904-1971)—Diplomat

Issue Date: January 12, 1982

City of Issue: New York, NY

Bunche worked diligently as UN Under-Secretary-General for race relations, human rights, decolonization, and international peacekeeping. He was also an active supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, writing articles and delivering speeches and attended the Selma march and the March on Washington. In addition to his Nobel Peace Prize, Bunche received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal and the Boy Scouts' Silver Buffalo Award.

20¢ Black Heritage Series—Baseball Player Jackie Robinson(1919-1972)

Issue Date: August 2, 1982

City of Issue: Cooperstown, NY

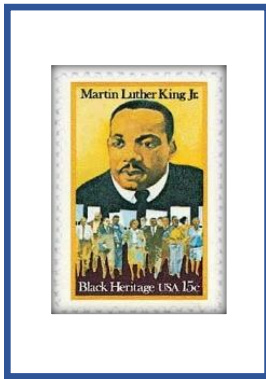
Quality Issued: 164,235,000

History was made in 1945 when Robinson signed a contract with the Montreal Royals, the Brooklyn Dodgers' best farm team. His debut with the Royals on April 18, 1946, was legendary. In five at-

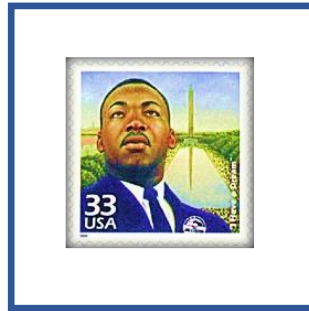


bats he hit a three-run homer and three singles, stole two bases, and scored four times. Robinson was promoted to the Dodgers the following spring. He played his first major league game on April 15, 1947. He was also honored on 2 addition U.S. stamps, in 1999 and 2000.

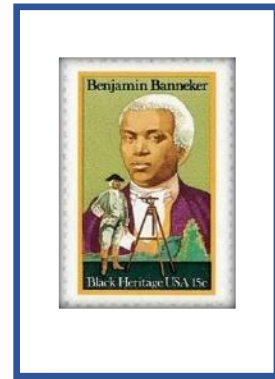
African American Heritage Stamps



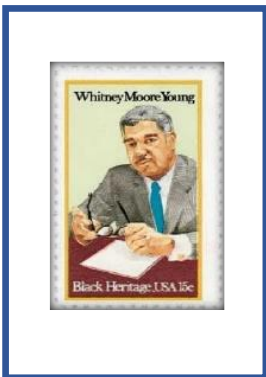
1979
Martin Luther King Jr.



1999
Martin Luther King Jr.
"I have a Dream"



1980
Benjamin Banneker



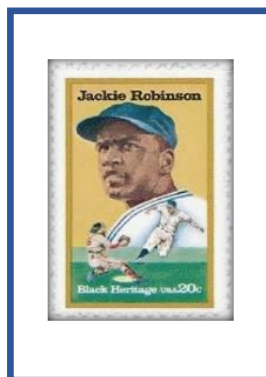
1981
Whitney Moore Young, Jr.



1981
Charles R. Drew, MD



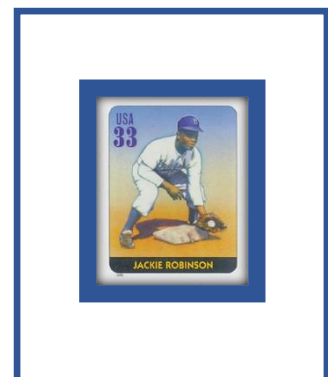
1981
Ralph Bunche



1982
Jackie Robinson



1999
Jackie Robinson



2000
Jackie Robinson

**20¢ Black Heritage Series—Song Writer
Scott Joplin (1867/1868-1917)**

Issue Date: June 9, 1983

City of Issue: North Pole, AK

Quantity Issued: 5,825,050

Joplin published his first rag, *Original Rags*, in 1897—the same year the first credited ragtime song was published by William Krell. Two years later Joplin published one of his most famous songs, the *Maple Leaf Rag*. Within a few years Joplin was dubbed the “King of ragtime writers.” His *Maple Leaf Rag* served as the inspiration for hundreds of other songs.

**20¢ Black Heritage Series—Educator
Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950)**

Issue Date: February 1, 1984

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 120,000,000

This commemorative issue honors the "Father of Black History." Woodson overcame economic and social barriers to become the person most responsible for researching, writing and teaching about the heritage of black Americans. In 1926 Woodson pioneered the acknowledgement of the second week in February as "Negro History Week." Today, the celebration has been extended throughout the entire month and February is now known as Black History Month.

**20¢ Roberto Clemente (1934-1972)—
Baseball Player**

Issue Date: August 17, 1984

City of Issue: Carolina, Puerto Rico

Quantity Issued: 119,125,000

Clemente played baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates and was admired by millions the world over. He was a four-time batting champion with an average that topped the .300 mark 13 times, an All-Star 12 times, the 1966 National League Most Valuable Player and a Gold Glove Award winner 12 years in a row. He was also a humanitarian. He was killed in a plane crash while travelling to aid earthquake victims in Nicaragua. He was also honored on an additional U.S. stamp in 2000.

**22¢ Black Heritage Series—Civil Rights
Leader**

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

Issue Date: March 5, 1985

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 120,000,000

Bethune was founder and served as president of the Florida chapter of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) from 1917 to 1925. She was elected national president in 1924 after which she opened the organization's first headquarters in Washington, DC. Bethune was also president of the Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1920 to 1925.

**22¢ Great Americans Series—Painter
John J. Audubon (1785-1851)**

Issue Date: April 23, 1985

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 500,000,000

This American naturalist and painter is best known for his accurately detailed pictures of birds in their natural habitat. His mother was of African-American descent.

**22¢ Black Heritage Series—Educator
Sojourner Truth (1797—1883)**

Issue Date: February 4, 1986

City of Issue: New Paltz, NY

Quantity Issued: 130,000,000

Born into slavery, Isabella (as she was named), finally acquired her freedom and went to live in New York City. In 1843 she changed her name to Sojourner Truth and began traveling lecturing and educating former slaves. She was considered to be one of the greatest orators of her time.

**22¢ Performing Arts Series- Composer
Duke Ellington (1899-1974)**

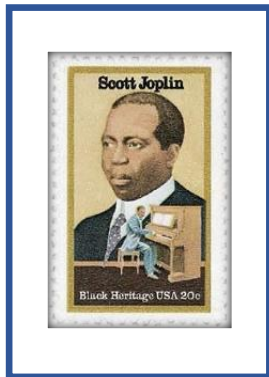
Issue Date: April 29, 1986

City of Issue: New Paltz, NY

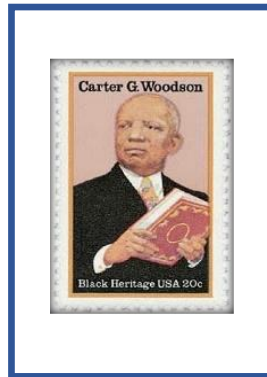
Quantity Issued: 130,000,000

Popular jazz pianist, composer, and band leader Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington wrote more than 6,000 songs during his long career, including *Satin Doll* and *Sophisticated Lady*. Ellington was hailed by some as the greatest composer American society has ever produced.

African American Heritage Stamps



1983
Scott Joplin



1984
Dr. Carter G. Woodson



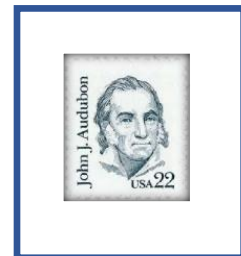
1984
Roberto Clemente



2000
Roberto Clemente



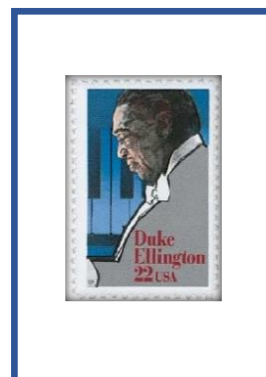
1985
Mary McLeod Bethune



1985
John J. Audubon



1986
Sojourner Truth



1986
Duke Ellington

22¢ Matthew Henson (1866-1955)—Polar Explorer

Issue Date: May 28, 1986

City of Issue: North Pole, AK

Quantity Issued: 5,825,050

Matthew Alexander Henson was an American explorer who accompanied Robert Peary on seven voyages to the Arctic over a period of nearly 23 years. He played a key role in discovering and unlocking the North Pole in 1909.

22¢ Black Heritage Series—Founder J.B. Pointe du Sable (1750-1818)

Issue Date: February 20, 1987

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 142,905,000

Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable is regarded as the first permanent non-Indigenous settler of what would later become Chicago, Illinois and is recognized as the "Founder of Chicago." The site where he settled is near the mouth of the Chicago River. A school, a museum, harbor, park and bridge have been named in his honor.

22¢ Black Heritage Series—Lawyer James W. Johnson(1871-1938)

Issue Date: February 2, 1987

City of Issue: Nashville, TN

Quantity Issued: 97,300,000

As a lawyer, James Weldon Johnson became the first black man admitted to the Florida Bar. As an educator, he established a high school for African-Americans in Jacksonville, Florida. Later in life Weldon served as a U.S. diplomat to Venezuela and Nicaragua and then as the secretary of the NAACP. However, he may be best known for his novel, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* which told of the grievances black society had against the racial policies of white society.

25¢ Black Heritage Series—Civil Right Leader

Philip Randolph (1889-1979)

Issue Date: February 3, 1989

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 151,675,000

For more than sixty years Randolph lectured on the importance of equal rights and equal opportunity. He was greatly feared by opponents, not because of his temperament, but because of his power to create change. He was named Vice-President of the AFL-CIO in 1957. Randolph was also the founder of the March on Washington. t.

25¢ Black Heritage Series—Civil Rights Leader

Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)

Issue Date: February 1, 1989

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 153,125,000

Ida Bell Wells, a strong believer of civil and women's rights, spent much of her life publicizing the horrors of black lynching. She was one of the founders of the NAACP and served as the secretary of the National Afro-American Council. Wells was the author of *Lynching and the Excuse for It* and her autobiography, *Crusade for Justice*.

25¢-32¢ 2 Stamps Issued

Jesse Owens (1913-1980) —Athlete

Issue Dates: July 6, 1990 & Sept. 10, 1998

City of Issue: Minneapolis, MN; Cleveland, OH

Quantities Issued: 35,717,500 & 12,533,000

Jesse Owens won world acclaim at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, capturing four track and field gold medals.

29¢ Black Heritage Series—Inventor Jan E. Matzeliger (1852-1889)

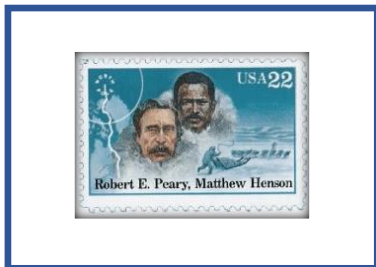
Issue Date: September 15, 1991

City of Issue: Lynn, Massachusetts

Quantity Issued: 148,973,000

Matzeliger invented various labor-saving machines that revolutionized the shoe industry. His first successful Lasting Machine was made of cigar boxes, wood and wire. After perfecting his invention, Matzeliger was able to complete up to 600 pairs of shoes each day compared to 10 a day by hand.

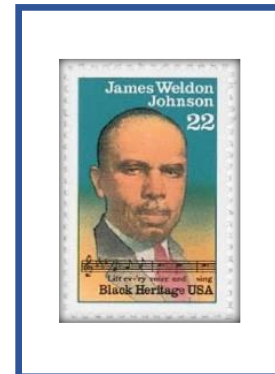
African American Heritage Stamps



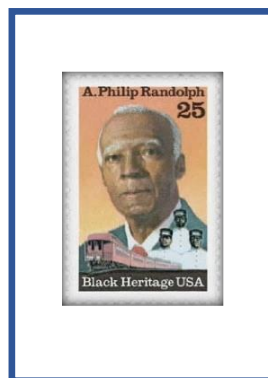
1986
Mathew Henson



1987
**Jean Baptist Pointe
Du Sable Henson**



1988
James Weldon Johnson



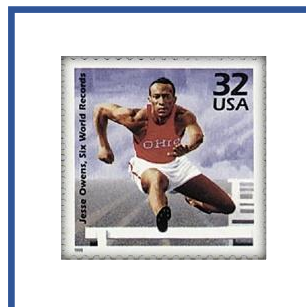
1989
A. Philip Randolph



1990
Ida B. Wells



1990
Jesse Owens



1998
Jesse Owens



1991
Jan E. Matzeliger

**29¢ Black Heritage Series & 32¢ stamp—
Civil Rights Leader—Author**

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

Issue Dates: Jan. 31, 1992 & Feb. 3, 1998

City of Issue: Atlanta, GA; Washington, DC

Quantities: 149,990,000; 12,533,333

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, scholar, author and civil rights leader whose writings include *The Philadelphia Negro*, the first sociological text about a black community; *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade* which became the first volume in the Harvard Historical Studies; and a Marxist study of the post-Civil war era *Black Reconstruction*. He died before finishing *Africana-The Encyclopedia of the African-American Experience*.

29¢ Black Heritage Series—Chemist

Percy Lavon Julian (1899-1975)

Issue Date: Jan. 29, 1993

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 105,000,000

Julian was one of the first African-Americans to receive a doctorate in chemistry and the first to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences. He pioneered the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs, developing synthetic physostigmine for glaucoma, cortisone for arthritis and the female hormone progesterone. He held more than 100 chemical patents.

29¢ Prize Fighter—"Brown Bomber"

Joe Louis (1914-1981)

Issue Date: June. 22, 1993

City of Issue: Detroit, MI

Quantity Issued: 160,000,000

Born Joe Louis Barrow he shortened his name to Joe Louis. In 1934 he won the National Amateur Association Light Heavyweight Championship and later that year turned professional. He won his first 23 bouts before being defeated by former heavyweight champion Max Schmeling in 1936. The following year he regained his title and successfully defended it 25 times until his retirement in 1949. His reign as heavyweight champion lasted 12 years and was the longest in the history of the heavyweight division. He lost his final fight to Rocky Marciano.

29¢ Legends of American Music

Issue Date: June 16, 1993

City of Issue: Cleveland, OH, Santa Monica, CA

Quantity Issued: 14,285,715 Sheet & Booklet



Clyde McPhatter (1932-1972)

Clyde McPhatter joined Billy Ward and the Dominoes in 1950 beginning a music career that made him one of the biggest names of the rhythm & blues era. In 1953 he left the band to form his own group, the Drifters. In 1958 he achieved his greatest success with his recording of *A Lover's Question*, which climbed to the number one spot on the U.S. singles chart.

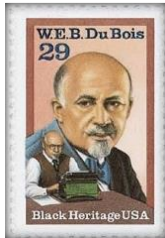
Otis Redding (1932-1972)

Hailed as the "Monarch of Soul" Otis Redding began his career in the early 60's recording as *I've Been Loving You Too Long* and *Respect*. Ironically, his best known song and only number one pop hit *Sitting on The Dock of the Bay* was release after his death in 1967.

Dinah Washington (1924-1963)

Known as the "Queen of Blues", Dinah Washington was one of the best-known and most popular female rhythm & blues singers during the 1950's. Even after her death in 1963 she continued to dominate the top-10 charts. In 1950, she began the new decade with several top-10 hits, including *What a Difference a Day Makes*, *This Bitter Earth*, and *Unforgettable* and continued with new hits until 1959.

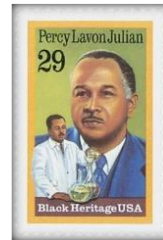
African American Heritage Stamps



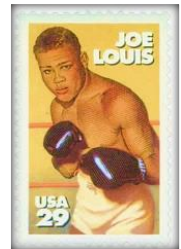
1992
W.E.B. DuBois



1998
W.E.B. DuBois



1993
Percy Lavon Julian



1993
Joe Louis



1993
Clyde McPhatter



1993
Clyde McPhatter
(Booklet)



1993
Otis Redding



1993
Otis Redding
(Booklet)



1993
Dinah Washington



1993
Dinah Washington
(Booklet)

29¢ Black Heritage Series—Educator

Dr. Allison Davis (1902-1983)

Issue Date: February 1, 1994

City of Issue: Williamstown, MA

Quantity Issued: 155,500,000

William Allison Davis spent most of his career promoting equal education. He developed the Davis-Ellis Intelligence Test to measure mental development—a test that is relatively free of class bias. He served on the White House Task Force on the Gifted, the President's Commission on Civil Rights, the Department of Labor's Commission on Manpower Retraining and was a member of the Conference to Insure Civil Rights.

29¢ Popular Singers

Issue Date: September 1, 1994

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,436,000 Each Stamp

Ethel Waters (189-1977)

As a singer, dancer and actress Ethel Waters exercised her musical creativity and dramatic expression and gained prominence on the stage and in films. Billed as "Baby Star," she made her first performance in a church program at age five.

Nat "King" Cole (1919-1965)

Described as "one of the greatest singers of the century" he is best remembered for his satiny-smooth voice. He began his career as a jazz pianist. In fact, his style of using the piano as a solo, rather than a rhythm instrument, similarly inspired other pianists and groups and is an influence still felt in the jazz world today.

29¢ Blues and Jazz Singers

Issue Date: September 17, 1994

City of Issue: Greenville, MS

Quantity Issued: 24,986,800 Each Stamp

Bessie Smith (1894-1937)

Smith's musical career began early, in fact out of necessity—as a child she was so poor she sang in the streets for pennies. Her first stage appearance was at age nine at the Ivory Theatre. Her big break was starring in Ma and Pa Rainey's traveling vaudeville shows, where she perfected her skills.

Muddy Waters (1913-1983)

Muddy's first recordings were made in 1941 by archivists preserving Negro folk music for the Library of Congress. Two years later he moved to Chicago, a haven for blues musicians. 1951 was a great year for Muddy and his records for the Aristocrat label were being played on black radio stations all over the south.

Billie Holiday (1915-1959)

In 1933 Holiday made her first recording at the age of 18. She recorded *Your Mother's Son-in-Law* and *Riffin' the Scotch*. The latter album sold 5,000 copies. In 1935 Holiday appeared in Duke Ellington's short, *Symphony in Black: A Rhapsody of Negro Life*. That same year she recorded *What a Little Moonlight Can Do*, which gave Holiday her first taste of fame.

Robert Johnson (1911-1938)

An American blues guitarist, singer and songwriter. His landmark recordings in 1936 and 1937 display a combination of singing, guitar and songwriting talent that has influenced later generations of musicians. He is now recognized as a master of the blues, particularly the Delta blues style.

Jimmy Rushing (1901-1971)

An American blues and jazz singer and pianist from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, best known as the featured vocalist of Count Basie's Orchestra from 1935 to 1948.

Gertrude "Ma" Rainey (1886-1939)

Rainey was one of the earliest African-American professional blues singers and one of the first generation of blues singers to record. The "Mother of the Blues." Rainey bridged earlier vaudeville and the authentic expression of southern blues, influencing a generation of blues singers.

African American Heritage Stamps



1994
Dr. Allison Davis



1994
Ethel Waters



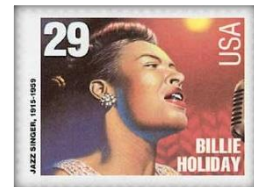
1994
Nay "King" Cole



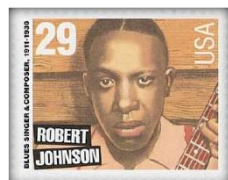
1994
Bessie Smith



1994
Muddy Waters



1994
Billie Holiday



1994
Robert Johnson



1994
Jimmy Rushing



1994
"Ma" Rainey

29¢ Blues and Jazz Singers

Issue Date: September 17, 1994

City of Issue: Greenville, MS

Quantity Issued: 24,986,800 Each Stamp

Mildred Bailey (1907-1951)

Was a Native American jazz singer during the 1930s known as "The Queen of Swing", "The Rockin' Chair Lady" and "Mrs. Swing." Her best-known hits are *For Sentimental Reasons*, *It's So Peaceful in the Country*, *Doin' The Uptown Lowdown*, *Trust in Me*, *Where Are You?*, *I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart*, *Small Fry*, *Please Be Kind*, *Darn That Dream*, *Rockin' Chair*, *Blame It on My Last Affair* and *Says My Heart*. Three singles made number one on the charts.

Howlin' Wolf Chester Arthur Burnett (1910-1976)

Was a Chicago blues singer, guitarist and harmonica player. Originally from Mississippi he moved to Chicago and became successful, forming a rivalry with Muddy Waters. His booming voice and imposing physical presence made him one of the best-known Chicago blues artists.

29¢ Legends Of the West

Bill Pickett (1870-1932)

Issue Date: October 18, 1994

City of Issue: Laramie, WY; Tucson, AZ; Lawton, OK

Quantity Issued: 19,282,800



Cowboy and showman Bill Pickett was born 1870 in the Jenks-Branch community (also known as the Miller Community) of Williamson County, Texas five miles southeast of Liberty Hill near the Travis County line. He was

the second of 13 children born to Thomas Jefferson Pickett, a former slave, and Mary "Janie" Gilbert. The family's ancestry was African-American and Cherokee. By 1888 the family had moved to Taylor, Texas. When the "Legends Of The West " was issued it was soon discovered that Bill's brother Ben was pictured on the stamp.

Jim Beckwourth (1798-1867)

Issue Date: October 18, 1994

City of Issue: Laramie, WY; Tucson, AZ; Lawton, OK

Quantity Issued: 19,282,800

Beckwourth was a mountain man, fur trader and explorer. He was also famously known as "Bloody Arm" because of his skill as a fighter. He was of mixed-race and born into slavery in Virginia. He was freed by his white father (and master) and apprenticed to a blacksmith to learn a trade. The civil rights movement of the 1960s celebrated Beckwourth as an early African-American pioneer. He has since been featured as a role model in children's literature and textbooks.

32¢ Bessie Coleman (1892-1926)

Issue Date: April 27, 1995

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

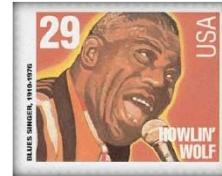
Quantity Issued: 97,000,000

Since it was exceedingly difficult in the 1920s for any woman to learn to fly, Bessie Coleman traveled to France where she was the first woman to earn an International Aeronautics license. Coleman became known as "Queen Bess, Daredevil Aviatrice" performing as a stunt flyer. She became such a celebrity that she received full honors by the African-American Eighth Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard at her burial.

African American Heritage Stamps



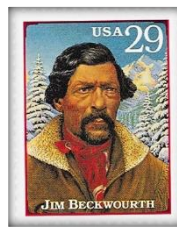
1994
Mildred Bailey



1994
Howlin' Wolf



1994
Ben Pickett



1994
Jim Beckwourth



1995
Bessie Coleman

1994 Legends of the West—Re-Issue Sheet

On October 18, 1994, the United States Postal Service issued this corrected Legends of the West stamp sheet after it was discovered they had made an error in their original design. In January 1994, the Postal Service announced it was creating a set of 20 stamps titled “Legends of the West” featuring “broadly defined, American-themed subjects.” Sixteen of the 20 stamps honored people associated with the exploration, settlement and development of the American West.

One of the people featured was black rodeo star Bill Pickett. The remaining four stamps, located at the corners of the sheet, featured conceptual designs: Home on the Range, Native American Culture, Western Wildlife and Overland Mail.

After the stamps were announced, but not officially issued, a radio reporter phoned Frank Phillips, Jr., great-grandson of Bill Pickett, and asked him about the stamp. This was the first Phillips had heard of the stamp, which was ironic—for the last 14 years Phillips had written to the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee suggesting that Bill Pickett should be honored on a stamp. Each year he had been politely turned down.

Pleasantly surprised, Phillips went to his local post office, looked at the design and recognized it as Ben Pickett—Bill’s brother and business associate. The stamp pictured the wrong man! Phillips complained to the Postal Service, and Postmaster General Marvin Runyon issued an order to recall and destroy the stamps and ordered new revised stamps be created.

But before the recall, 186 error sheets were sold by postal workers—before the official “first day of issue.” This was the second mistake.

The Postal Service then announced that 150,000 error sheets would be sold at face value by means of a mail order lottery. This unprecedented move was made with the permission of Frank Phillips, Jr., so the Post Office could recover its printing cost and not lose money. Sales were limited to one per household. The remaining stamps were destroyed. The Legends of the West error was one of the biggest stamp stories in years.

African American Heritage Stamps

1994 Legends of the West Error Sheet



32¢ Jazz Musicians

Louis Armstrong (1901-1971)

Issue Date: September 1, 1995

City of Issue: New Orleans, LA

Quantity Issued: 150,000,000

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

In September of 1995 two stamps were issued for Louis Daniel Armstrong, nicknamed "Satchmo," "Satch," and "Pops." He was a trumpeter,



composer, vocalist, actor among the most influential figures in jazz. His career spanned five decades, from the 1920s to the 1960s, different eras in the history of jazz.

James P. Johnson (1894-1955)

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

Johnson was an American pianist and composer. A pioneer of stride piano, he was one of the most important pianists in the early era of recording and, like Jelly Roll Morton, one of the key figures in the evolution of ragtime into what was eventually called jazz. Johnson was a major influence on Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Art Tatum, and Fats Waller, who was his student.

Johnson composed many hit songs including the unofficial anthem of the Roaring Twenties, *The Charleston*, and he remained the acknowledged king of New York jazz pianists through most of the 1930s.

Jelly Roll Morton (1890-1941)

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

Morton learned to play piano as a child and from 1902 was a professional pianist in the bordellos of the Storyville district of New Orleans. He was one of the pioneer ragtime piano players, but he would later invite scorn by claiming to have "invented jazz in 1902."

He pioneered the use of prearranged, semi-orchestrated effects in jazz-band performances. As a jazz composer, Morton is best remembered for such pieces as *Black Bottom Stomp*, *King Porter Stomp*, *Shoe Shiner's Drag* and *Dead Man Blues*.

John Coltrane (1926-1967)

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

Was a jazz saxophonist and composer. Working in the bebop and hard bop idioms early in his career, Coltrane helped pioneer the use of modes and was at the forefront of free jazz. He led at least fifty recording sessions and appeared on many albums by other musicians, including trumpeter Miles Davis and pianist Thelonious Monk. Over the course of his career Coltrane's music took on an increasingly spiritual dimension. He remains one of the most influential saxophonists in musical history.

Coleman Hawkins (1904-1969)

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

American jazz musician whose improvisational mastery of the tenor saxophone, which had previously been viewed as little more than a novelty, helped establish it as one of the most popular instruments in jazz. He was the first major saxophonist in the history of jazz.

African American Heritage Stamps



1995
Louis Armstrong



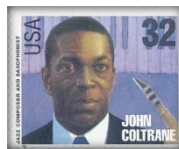
1995
Louis Armstrong



1995
James P. Johnson



1995
Jelly Roll Morton



1995
John Coltrane



1995
Coleman Hawkins

32¢ Jazz Musicians

Issue Date: September 16, 1995

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000 Each Stamp

Charlie "Bird" Parker (1920-1955)

Parker was a jazz saxophonist and composer, highly influential as a soloist and a leading figure in the development of bebop, a form of jazz characterized by fast tempos, virtuosic technique and advanced harmonies. Parker's blazingly fast virtuoso performances introduced revolutionary harmonic ideas into jazz, including rapid passing chords, new variants of altered chords and chord substitutions. Primarily a player of the alto saxophone, Bird's tone ranged from clean and penetrating to sweet and somber. He acquired the nickname "Yardbird" on the road early in his career and later shorten to "Bird" which continued to be used for the rest of his life, inspiring the titles of a number of Parker compositions, such as *Yardbird Suite*, *Ornithology*, *Bird Gets the Worm* and *Bird of Paradise*.

Eubie Blake (1883-1955)



As a child Blake studied music theory and organ. By the time he was a teen, Blake was playing piano in cafés and brothels. In 1915 he met his partner—lyricist, vocalist,

and band leader Noble Sissle. The two were among the first African-Americans to perform onstage without minstrel makeup. In 1921 Blake and Sissle wrote the hit Broadway show *Shuffle Along*, which was among the first musicals to be written, produced and directed by blacks. Eubie Blake was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1981.

Charles Mingus (1922-1979)

An accomplished jazz composer, pianist, bassist and bandleader, Charles Mingus developed an innovative style and unmistakable identity, melding counter melodies with inner harmonies. Mingus wrote his first concert piece—*Half-mast Inhibition* at age 17.

Mingus integrated many forms of music into his compositions, including European classical, gospel, the blues, jazz and folk songs. He was inspired by the orchestral structures of Duke Ellington and improvised melodic lines of Charlie Parker as well as the compositions of Igor Stravinsky and Claude Debussy.

Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)

A jazz pianist and composer. Monk had a unique improvisational style and made numerous contributions to the standard jazz repertoire including *'Round Midnight*, *Blue Monk*, *Straight, No Chaser*, *Ruby, My Dear*, *In Walked Bud* and *Well, You Needn't*. Monk is the second-most-recorded jazz composer after Duke Ellington. His compositions and improvisations feature dissonance and angular melodic twists that are consistent with his unorthodox approach to the piano, which combined a highly percussive attack with abrupt, dramatic use of switched key releases, silences and hesitations. His style was not universally appreciated; the poet and jazz critic Philip Larkin dismissed him as "the elephant on the keyboard."

Erroll Garner (1921-1977)

A jazz pianist and composer known for his swing playing and ballads. His best-known composition, the ballad *Misty*, has become a jazz standard. Scott Yanow of Allmusic calls him "one of the most distinctive of all pianists" and a "brilliant virtuoso." He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6363 Hollywood Blvd. His live album, *Concert by the Sea*, first released in 1955, sold over a million copies by 1958 and Scott Yanow's opinion is: "this is the album that made such a strong impression that Garner was considered immortal from then on."

African American Heritage Stamps



1995
Charlie "Bird" Parker



1995
Eubie Blake



1995
Charles Mingus



1995
Thelonious Monk



1995
Erroll Garner

32¢ Ernest E. Just Dr. (1883-1941)—Scientist

Issue Date: February 1, 1996

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 92,100,000

Ernest Just received international acclaim for his experiments studying the fertilization of the marine mammal cell, cell division, hydration and dehydration in living cells and the effect of ultraviolet rays on chromosome numbers. Dr. Just served on the board of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, founded the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and was the recipient of the first Spingarn Medal (awarded annually by the NAACP for outstanding achievement by a black American).

32¢ Frederic E. Ives (1856-1937)—Inventor

Issue Date: February 22, 1996

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 23,292,500

Ives was a pioneer in the field of color photography. He first demonstrated a system of natural color photography at the 1885 Novelties Exposition of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. His fully developed Kromskop (long-vowel marks over both "o"s and pronounced "chrome-scope") color photography system was commercially available in England by late 1897 and in the US about a year later.

32¢ John Henry—Folk Hero

Issue Date: July 11, 1996

City of Issue: Anaheim, CA

Quantity Issued: 23,681,000

An African-American folk hero, he is said to have worked as a "steel-driving man"—a man tasked with hammering a steel drill into rock to make holes for explosives to blast the rock in constructing railroad tunnels.

The story of John Henry is told in a classic folk song, which exists in many versions, and has been the subject of numerous stories, plays, books, and novels.

32¢ Count Basie (1904-1984)—Band Leader

Issue Date: September 11, 1996

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 23,025,000

A jazz pianist, organist, bandleader and composer who, in 1935, formed the Count Basie Orchestra, and in 1936 took them to Chicago for a long engagement and their first recording. He led the group for nearly 50 years, creating innovations like the use of two "split" tenor saxophones, emphasizing the rhythm section, riffing with a big band and using arrangers to broaden their sound. Many musicians came to prominence under his direction.

32¢ Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. (1877-1970)—Army General

Issue Date: January 28, 1997

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 12,000,000

Brigadier General Benjamin Oliver Davis Sr. began his military career as a volunteer during the Spanish-American War. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and quickly moved up through the ranks, becoming the first African-American general in U.S. history. Davis was appointed to the Committee on Negro Troop Policies where he worked on changing the military's policies on segregation. During his career he received the Bronze Star.

32¢ Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919)**Businesswomen**

Issue Date: January 22, 1998

City of Issue: Indianapolis, IN

Quantity Issued: 45,000,000

Madam C. J. Walker developed a successful hair-care and cosmetic products business specializing in products for African-American hair. Her door-to-door and mail-order business was so good that by 1910 her company employed more than 3,000 workers. She was the first American woman to become a self-made millionaire. She gave generously to homes for the aged, the NAACP and the black YMCA.

African American Heritage Stamps



1996
Ernest E. Just DR.



1996
Frederic E. Ives



1996
John Henry



1996
Count Basie



1997
Benjamin Oliver
Davis , Sr.



1998
Madam C. J. Walker

32¢ Folk Musicians

Issue Date: March 19, 1998

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 250,000,000 Each Stamp

Huddie Ledbetter (1885-1949)

Called the “king of the 12-string guitar players,” Huddie “Leadbelly” Ledbetter was a guitarist, singer and composer. Although his musical interests began in his early years, he wasn’t recognized as a performer until after age 49.

Much of Leadbelly’s music was a result of his upbringing. Born in Moorings Port, Louisiana he was exposed to southern black music and hymns.



Josh White (1915-1969)

Was a singer, guitarist, songwriter, actor and civil rights activist. In the 1930s he also recorded under the names Pinewood Tom and Tippy Barton.

White grew up in the South during the 1920s and 1930s. He became a prominent race records artist with a prolific output of recordings in genres including Piedmont blues, country blues, gospel and social protest. In 1931, White moved to New York and within a decade his fame had spread. His repertoire expanded to include urban blues, jazz, traditional folk and political protest songs. He was in demand as an actor on radio, Broadway and in films.

Sonny Terry (1911-1986)

Saunders Terrell, known as Sonny Terry, was a Piedmont blues and folk musician who was known for his energetic harmonica style which frequently included vocal whoops and hollers and occasionally imitations of trains and fox hunts.

32¢ Gospel Singers

Issue Date: July 15, 1998

City of Issue: New Orleans, LA

Quantity Issued: 11,250,000 Each Stamp

Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972)

Mahalia Jackson was the best-known gospel singer in the world and is said to have been the vocal, physical, and spiritual symbol of religious music. She cut her first record in 1937 and in 1946 signed a contract to record for Apollo Records in New York City. She performed for audiences all over the country, including traveling with Tommy Dorsey from 1939 to 1944. During the 1960s Mahalia became associated with politics and the civil rights movement and was a friend and supporter of Martin Luther King, Jr. He loved her music; she was devoted to him. and sang at his funeral in 1968.

Roberta Martin (1907-1969)

Was one of the most articulate and influential singers of black American gospel music. A singer, pianist, composer, arranger, and organizer of groups and choirs, Roberta Martin’s unique combination of musical elements became the standard for what was known as the gospel era.

Clara Ward (192-1973)

Widely acclaimed among the greatest soloists in gospel history, Clara Ward was also the subject of much criticism. With her backing group, the Ward Singers, she pushed gospel out of the church and into nightclubs, infusing the music with glitz and glamour. Decked out in colorful gowns, towering wigs and dazzling jewelry the Wards sang only the biggest pop-gospel hits, flamboyantly delivered for maximum commercial appeal.

Sister Rosetta Rose (1921-1973)

She is credited with being the inventor of “pop gospel.” One of the premier gospel singers to perform outside of a church, in 1938 she became the first gospel singer to record with a major company. Above all the other talents Rosetta possessed, she had showmanship and a magnetic effect on people.

African American Heritage Stamps



1998
Huddie Ledbetter
"Lead Belly"



1998
Josh White



1998
Sonny Terry



1998
Mahalia Jackson



1998
Roberta Martin



1998
Clara Ward



1998
Sister Rose

33¢ Black Heritage Series—Human Rights Activities

Malcolm X (1925-1965)

Issue Date: January 20, 1999

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 100,000,000

Was an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist who was a popular figure during the civil rights movement. He is best known for his time spent as a vocal spokesman for the Nation of Islam. A controversial figure accused of preaching racism and violence, Malcolm X is also a widely celebrated figure within African-American and Muslim American communities for his pursuit of racial justice.

33¢ Black Heritage Series—Government Services

Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985)

Issue Date: January 27, 2000

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 150,000,000

Graduated first in her class at George Washington University law school in 1960. In 1969, after completing her role as ambassador, Howard University made her the first woman to head a U.S. law school. In 1970, Harris became a partner at a Washington, D.C., law firm. Soon after, companies including International Business Machines and Chase Manhattan Bank chose her to sit on their board of directors, making her the first black woman to do so. Harris became the first black woman in the cabinet in 1977, and one of the few Americans to hold three cabinet positions during her career, she served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Health and Human Services. And she was the first black woman to serve as the U.S. representative to the United Nations.

33¢ Legends of Baseball

Issue Date: July 6, 2000

City of Issue: Atlanta, GA

Quantity Issued: 11,250,000 Each Stamp

Josh Gibson (1911-1947)—Baseball Player

Gibson spent his entire baseball career in the Negro Leagues and was often called the Babe Ruth of the Negro Leagues, posting the League's highest batting average twice; his 1943 average of .517 was the second highest in league history. He also led the league in home runs nine times. Officially, Gibson's home run count stands at 137, but his at-bats during his three best seasons (1942, 1943 and 1946) were never recorded. For those years he is credited with hitting 30 homers, making his unofficial career total 167. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1972.

Satchel Paige (1906-1982)—Baseball Player

Satchel Paige played for 22 year and was arguably the star of the Negro Leagues. He possessed an assortment of pitches which he delivered with great accuracy and control. His unique hesitation fastball, a pitch illegal in the major leagues, was infamous among batters. In 1933 when he won 31 games and lost 4 with the Pittsburgh Crawfords.

34¢ Black Heritage Series—Civil Rights Leader

Roy Wilkins (1901-1981)

Issue Date: January 24, 2001

City of Issue: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Quantity Issued: 200,000,000

Wilkins was a prominent Civil Rights Activist from the 1930s to the 1970s. His most notable role was leadership of the NAACP. holding the title of Executive Secretary from 1955 to 1963 and Executive Director from 1964 to 1977. Wilkins was a central figure in many notable marches of the civil rights movement. He also made contributions in the world of African-American literature. His pursuit of social justice also touched the lives of veterans and active service members.

African American Heritage Stamps



1999
Malcolm X



2000
Patricia Roberts Harris



2000
Josh Gibson



2000
Satchel Paige



2001
Roy Wilkins

**34¢ Black Heritage Series—Poet
Langston Hughes (1902-1967)**

Issue Date: February 1, 2002

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 120,000,000

Known best for his work during the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes was a poet, playwright, newspaper columnist, and author. Hughes' work focused on the strength, courage, and humor of African-Americans. He opposed U.S. involvement in World War II and embraced some socialist ideals. His views were based on racism rather than politics.

37¢ Ethel Payne (1911-1991)—Journalist

Issue Date: September 14, 2002

City of Issue: Fort Worth TX

Quantity Issued: 61,000,000

A tough investigative reporter, Payne was known as the "First Lady of the Black Press." She reported on key events of the modern civil rights movement and was the first black female war correspondent in Vietnam as well as the first black woman commentator on a major radio and television network.

**37¢ Black Heritage Series—Supreme Court
Judge**

Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993)

Issue Date: January 1, 2003

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 150,000,000

Thurgood Marshall became famous for his views concerning the need for equitable and just



treatment of the nation's minorities. As the chief of the NAACP's legal staff he won the civil rights case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka before the U.S. Supreme Court—a landmark

case in which racial segregation in the public schools was declared unconstitutional. Marshall later served on the U.S. Court of Appeals, was the U.S. Solicitor General and was a liberal member of the Supreme Court.

37¢ Zora Neal Hurston (1891-1960)—Writer

Issue Date: January 24, 2003

City of Issue: Eatonville, FL

Quantity Issued: 70,000,000

Zora was an author, anthropologist and filmmaker. She portrayed racial struggles in the early-1900s American South and published research on hoodoo. The most popular of her four novels, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, was published in 1937. She also wrote more than 50 short stories, plays, and essays.

**37¢ Black Heritage Series—Singer/Actor
Paul Robeson Jr. (1927-2014)**

Issue Date: January 20, 2004

City of Issue: Princeton, NJ

Quantity Issued: 130,000,000

Singer/actor Paul Robeson became world famous with his version of Old Man River when he played Joe in the musical Show Boat and for his title role in Othello. He also appeared in a number of films including *Sanders of the River*, *Show Boat* and *Song of Freedom*. Robeson was an outspoken activist for racial justice and social progress.

37¢ Alvin Ailey (1931-1989)—Choreographer

Issue Date: May 4, 2004

City of Issue: Newark, NJ

Quantity Issued: 57,000,000

Ailey was one of the leading choreographers of his era. He presented the beauty and complexity of American black culture to a wide audience, blending ballet and modern dance with jazz, blues and gospel.

African American Heritage Stamps



2002
Langston Hughes



2002
Ethel Payne



2003
Thurgood Marshall



2003
Zora Neal Hurston



2004
Paul Robeson



2004
Alvin Ailey

23¢ Wilma Rudolph (1940-1994)—Athlete

Issue Date: July 14, 2004

City of Issue: Sacramento, CA

The stamp was issued in two formats sheet and booklet.

Wilma Rudolph was an African-American born with polio. Vigorous therapy enabled her to overcome the crippling disease. She went on to become a high school and college star athlete in track and field. In 1960 Rudolph became the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals.



37¢ James Baldwin(1924-1987)—Writer

Issue Date: July 23, 2004

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 60,000,000

A playwright, essayist, poet and activist, his essays, as collected in *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), explore intricacies of racial, sexual and class distinctions in Western society, most notably in regard to the mid-twentieth-century United States. Some of Baldwin's essays are book-length, including *The Fire Next Time* (1963), *No Name in the Street* (1972), and *The Devil Finds Work* (1976).

An unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, was expanded and adapted for cinema as the Academy Award-nominated documentary film *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016). In 2018 one of his novels, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, was adapted into an Academy-Award-winning dramatic film of the same name, directed and produced by Barry Jenkins.

37¢ Black Heritage Series—Contralto Marian Anderson (1897–1993)

Issue Date: January 27, 2005

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 150,000,000

From an early age Marian Anderson realized her musical ability, joining her church choir when she was six years old. Following years of not being able to sing in “white artists only” venues, she became the first black singer to appear as a member of New York’s Metropolitan Opera Company. Beyond music, Anderson was a goodwill ambassador to Asia and a delegate to the United Nations. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, and the NAACP’s Spingarn Medal.

She performed a wide range of music, from classical music to spirituals. She performed with renowned orchestras in major concert and recital venues throughout the United States and Europe.

Anderson was the first African-American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on January 7, 1955. In addition, she worked as a delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United States Department of State, giving concerts all over the world. She participated in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, singing at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

37¢ Arthur Ashe (1943-1993)—Tennis

Issue Date: August 27, 2005

City of Issue: Flushing, NY

Quantity Issued: 75,000,000

Arthur Ashe (1943-93) was a great tennis player who broke color barriers in the world of tennis. In 1968 he was the first African-American man to win the U.S. Open. In 1975 Ashe was the first black man to win at Wimbledon.

In spite of his outward good health, Ashe was slowed by a 1979 heart surgery and retired in 1980. He underwent a second bypass surgery in 1983, during which he was infected with the HIV virus. When his condition was made public, Ashe founded the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, prompting *Sports Illustrated* magazine to name him its Sportsman of the Year.

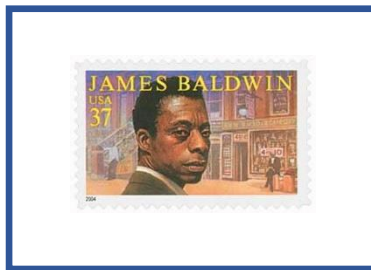
African American Heritage Stamps



2004
Wilma Rudolph



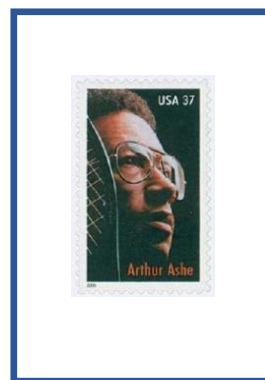
2004
Wilma Rudolph
(Booklet)



2004
James Baldwin



2005
Marian Anderson



2005
Arthur Ashe

39¢ Sugar Ray Robinson (1921-1989)—Boxer**Issue Date:** April 7, 2006**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 100,000,000

Sugar Ray was one of the greatest boxing legends of the 20th century. A prodigious child, he took to sports at an early age. And the rest as they say is history. Match after match, he gave power packed performance within the ring and rose from his amateur status with two titles under his belt. He started his professional career in 1940, defeating each of his opponents in a crushing manner. From 1943 to 1951 he went on a 91-fight unbeaten streak which is still the third longest in professional boxing history. By 1951, he posted a professional record of 128–1–2 with 84 knockouts.

**39¢ Black Heritage Series—Actress
Hattie McDaniel (1895-1952)****Issue Date:** January 25, 2006**City of Issue:** Beverly Hills, CA**Quantity Issued:** 150,000,000

Although Hattie McDaniel often played a house maid and other stereotypical roles, she is known to have worked to battle racism and discrimination. She appeared in more than ninety films. For her role in the film *Gone with the Wind*, McDaniel became the first African-American to win an Academy Award.

**39¢ Clifton R. Wharton, Sr. (1899-1990)—
Diplomat****Issue Date:** May 6, 2006**City of Issue:** Washington, DC

Clifton Wharton was the first African-American Foreign Service officer. In 1958 he became the first Black diplomat to lead a U.S. mission in Europe and in 1961 the first to become an ambassador.

**39¢ Roy Campanella (1921-1993)—Baseball
Player****Issue Date:** July 15, 2006**City of Issue:** Bronx, NY**Quantity Issued:** 200,000,000

He began his baseball career in 1937 with a local team. That same year The Baltimore Elite Giants of the Negro National League recruited him though he was still in school and could play only on weekends. The next year he joined the team full-time. He became the first catcher to break organized baseball's color line when he debuted in the Majors in 1948. A smart and skilled catcher with an accurate throwing arm who was also impressive at bat. Roy was the second African-American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

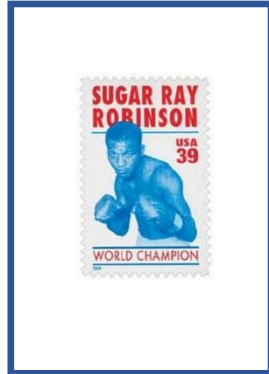
**39¢ Black Heritage Series—Singer
Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996)****Issue Date:** January 10, 2007**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 150,000,000

With her gift for pitch and rhythm Ella Fitzgerald became known as "The First Lady of Song" winning thirteen Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts, Kennedy Center Honors and induction into the Lincoln Center Jazz Hall of Fame. The Society of Singers created the "Ella" award for lifetime achievement, she was the first recipient.

**39¢ Black Heritage Series—Writer
Charles W. Chesnutt (1858-1932)****Issue Date:** January 31, 2008**City of Issue:** Cleveland, OH**Quantity Issued:** 150,000,000

Chesnutt was the first African-American writer to receive major acclaim when in 1887 his short story *The Goophered Grapevine* appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*. His writings were well known for their probing into the fight for civil rights—often revealing the contradictions at the heart of attitudes toward race. He received the NAACP's Spingarn Award for his "pioneer work as a literary artist depicting the life and struggles of Americans of Negro descent."

African American Heritage Stamps



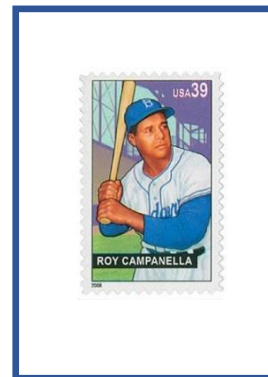
2006
Sugar Ray Robinson



2006
Hattie McDaniel



2006
Clifton R. Wharton Sr.



2006
Roy Campanella



2007
Ella Fitzgerald



2008
Charles W. Chesnutt



2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
Mary Church Terrell & Mary White Ovington
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY



2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
Charles Hamilton Houston & Walter White
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY



2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
J.R. Clifford & Joel Elias Spingarn
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY



2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
Medgar Evers & Fannie Lou Hamer
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY



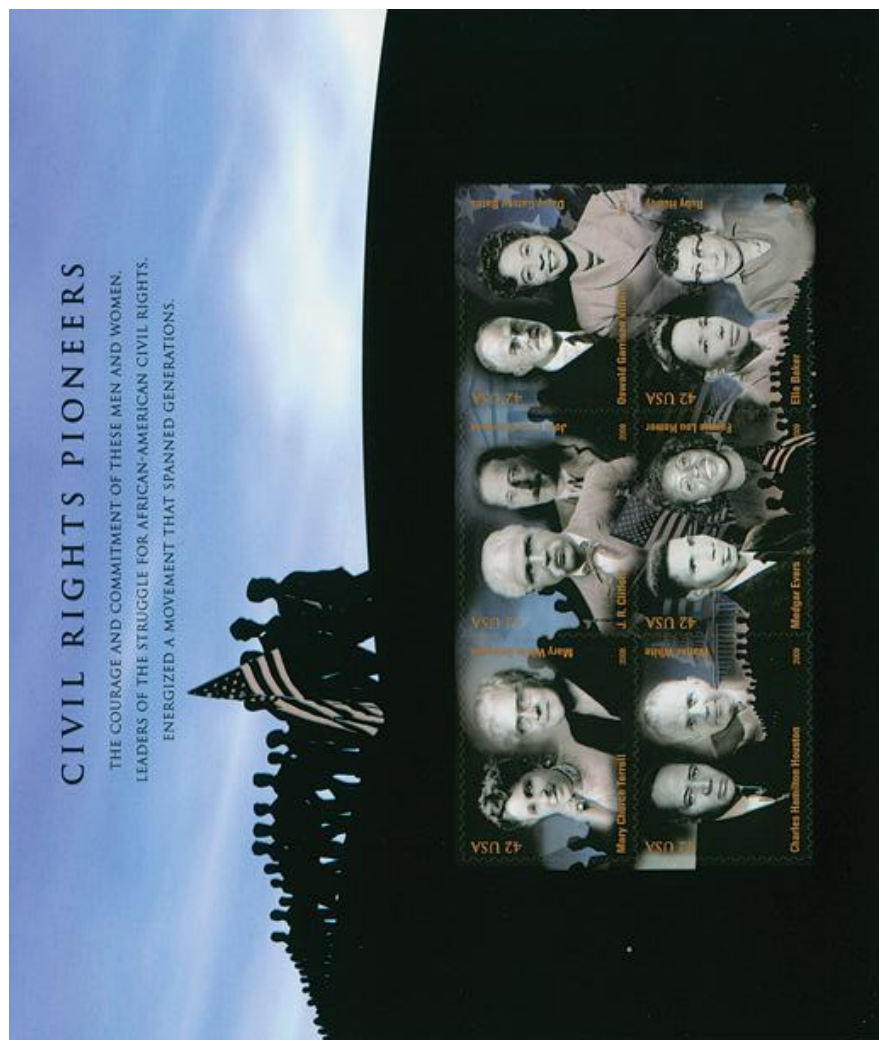
2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
Oswald Garrison Villard & Daisy Bates
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY



2009 42c Civil Rights Pioneers
Ella Baker & Ruby Hurley
Issue Date: February 21, 2009
City of Issue: New York, NY

African American Heritage Stamps

Civil Rights Pioneers – Souvenir Sheet



61¢ Richard Wright (1908-1960)—Writer

Issue Date: April 9, 2009

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

A novelist and short-story writer who was among the first African-American writers to protest white treatment of Blacks, notably in his novel *Native Son* (1940) and his autobiography, *Black Boy* (1945). He inaugurated the tradition of protest explored by other Black writers after WW II.

44¢ Black Heritage Series—Educator

Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964)

Issue Date: June 11, 2009

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Anna Julia Haywood Cooper was an educator, leader and voice for middle-class African-American women. She founded several organizations to promote black civil rights including the Colored Women's League. At that time, the YMCA and YWCA did not accept African-Americans; she created "colored" branches to provide support for young black migrants.

44¢ Doris Miller (1919-1943)—Navy Sailor

Issue Date: February 4, 2010

City of Issue: Washington, DC

During the attack on Pearl Harbor Miller manned a .50-caliber anti-aircraft gun—even though he'd never been trained in its use. That didn't prevent him from shooting down three confirmed Japanese planes, with three more unconfirmed. Miller received a Navy Cross for his courage. He was the first African-American to be awarded the medal and was called one of the first U.S. heroes of WWII.

44¢ Black Heritage Series—Actor

Oscar Micheaux (1884-1951)

Issue Date: June 22, 2010

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 80,000,000

Oscar Micheaux was an author, film director, screenwriter and producer who worked to break stereotypes with his storytelling and characters. He hired all black writers and actors for his films.

44¢ Negro Leagues Baseball

Rube Foster (1879-1930)

Issue Date: July 15, 2010

City of Issue: Kansas City, MO

In 1920 Rube Foster met with several other Negro baseball team owners at the YMCA in Kansas City. When the meeting concluded Foster introduced the Negro National League. The first game of the Negro National Baseball League was played in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 2, 1920.

44¢ Celia Cruz (1925-2003)

Issue Date: March 16, 2011

City of Issue: Austin, TX

Cruz was a key inspiration for the salsa style of music and dance in America.

44¢ Black Heritage Series—Politician

Barbara Jordan (1936-1996)

Issue Date: September 16, 2011

City of Issue: Houston, TX

Quantity Issued: 100,000,000

Barbara Jordan was the first African-American woman elected to the Texas legislature. She supported many pieces of legislation extending the federal protection of civil rights. Jordan also became the first woman and first African-American to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 1976. She was named as one of the most influential American women in the twentieth century.

45¢ Black Heritage Series—Businessman

John H. Johnson (1918-2005)

Issue Date: January 31, 2012

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 80,000,000

John H. Johnson was perhaps the greatest minority entrepreneur in American history. His business empire included magazines, radio stations, cosmetics and more. His published magazines showcased African-American accomplishments: *Negro Digest*, *Jet*, and *Ebony*. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal, was named publisher of the year and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

African American Heritage Stamps



2009
Richard Wright



2009
Anna Julia Cooper



2010
Doris Miller



2010
Oscar Micheaux



2010
Negro Leagues Baseball – Rube Foster



2011
Celia Cruz



2011
Barbara Jordan



2012
John H. Johnson

20 Century Black American Poets

Issue Date: April 21, 2012

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 2,000,000 Each Stamp

(Forever) Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)—Poet

Gwendolyn Brooks moved to Chicago at a young age. She began writing and publishing as a teenager, eventually achieving national fame for her 1945 collection "A Street in Bronzeville." In 1950 Brooks became the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize, for her book "Annie Allen".

(Forever) Robert Hayden (1913-1980)—Poet

Robert Hayden studied poetry at the University of Michigan and went on to teaching at both Michigan and Fisk Universities. Hayden was one of the most celebrated African-American poets of his day, producing enduring works including *The Middle Passage* and *Those Winter Sundays*.

(Forever) Miles Davis (1926-1991)—Jazz Musician

Issue Date: June 12, 2012

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

An African-American jazz trumpeter, bandleader and composer, he is among the most influential and acclaimed figures in not only the history of jazz, but 20th-century music in general. Davis' five-decade career saw him take a variety of musical directions that kept him at the forefront of many stylistic innovations.

Major League All Stars

Issue Date: July 20, 2012

City of Issue: Cooperstown, NY

Quantity Issued: 20,000,000 Each Stamp

(Forever)Larry Doby (1923-2003)—Baseball

He followed Jackie Robinson as the second black player in baseball (Doby was first in the American League). He would go on to play in seven All-Star games and was elected to the Hall of Fame.

(Forever) Willie Stargell (1940-2001)—Baseball Player

Stargell was a seven-time All-Star and two-time NL home run leader. In 1979 he became the first and currently only player to win the NL Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award, the NL Championship Series MVP Award and the World Series MVP Award in one season. In 1982 the Pirates retired his uniform number 8. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1988.

(Forever) Katherine Dunham (1909-2006)—Choreographer

Issue Date: June 28, 2012

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 6,250,000

A dancer, choreographer, author, educator, anthropologist and social activist, Dunham had one of the most successful dance careers in American and European theater. She directed her own dance company for many years and has been called the "matriarch and queen mother of black dance."

(Forever) Rosa Parks (1913-2005)—Civil Rights Activist

Issue Date: February 4, 2013

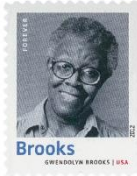
City of Issue: Dearborn & Detroit, MI

Quantity Issued: 63,000,000



Civil rights activist whose refusal to relinquish her seat to a white man on a public bus precipitated the 1955–56 Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama which is recognized as the spark that ignited the U.S. civil rights movement.

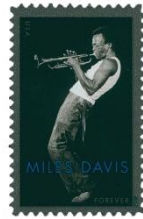
African American Heritage Stamps



2012
Gwendolyn



2012
Robert Hayden



2012
Miles Davis



2012
Larry Doby - (Perforated/Imperforate)



2012
Willie Stargell
(Perforated)



2012
Willie Stargell
(Imperforate)



2012
Katherine Dunham



2013
Rosa Parks - (Perforated/Imperforate)



(Forever) Black Heritage Series—Tennis Star Althea Gibson (1927-2003)

Issue Date: August 23, 2013

City of Issue: Flushing, NY

Althea became the first black Wimbledon champion. The tall, lean Gibson was fast, had a long reach, a booming serve and precise volleys. She blazed the trail for future generations of black players. The first to win a major singles tournament, she helped integrate her sport at the height of the civil rights movement.

(Forever) Ray Charles (1930-2004)—Singer

Issue Date: September 22, 2013

City of Issue: Atlanta, GA

Ray Charles overcame blindness, racism, and being orphaned at age 15 to become a music pioneer. His fusion of rhythm and blues with gospel and jazz helped give birth to rock 'n' roll. Sinatra called Charles "the only true genius in show business."

(Forever) Black Heritage Series—Congress Women

Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005)

Issue Date: January 31, 2014

City of Issue: Brooklyn, NY

An African-American politician, educator and author. In 1968, she became the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress, representing New York's 12th congressional district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. In the 1972 United States presidential election, she became the first African-American candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

70¢ C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson (1907-1996)—Pilot

Issue Date: March 13, 2014

City of Issue: Bryn Mawr, PA

Quantity Issued: 20,000,000

In 1940, Anderson was recruited by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to serve as the Chief Civilian Flight Instructor for its new program to train black pilots. He developed a pilot training program, taught the Program's first advanced course, and earned his nickname, "Chief". In June 1941 Anderson was selected by the Army as Tuskegee's Ground Commander and Chief Instructor for aviation cadets of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, nicknamed the Red Tails, America's first all-black fighter squadron.

91¢ Ralph Ellison (1914-1994)—Author

Issue Date: February 18, 2014

City of Issue: Kansas City, MO

An African-American novelist, literary critic and scholar best known for his novel *Invisible Man*, which won the National Book Award in 1953. He also wrote *Shadow and Act* (1964), a collection of political, social and critical essays, *Going to the Territory* (1986) and *Juneteenth*, a posthumous novel. According to *The New York Times*, the best of these essays in addition to the novels put him "among the gods of America's literary Parnassus."

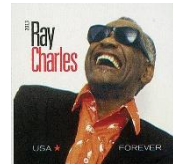
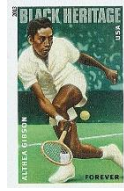
(Forever) Jimi Hendrix (1942-1970)—Musician

Issue Date: March 13, 2014

City of Issue: Austin, TX

One of the greatest guitarists of all time according to *Rolling Stone* magazine. Hendrix used guitar and speaker effects to pioneer a new sound and inspire generations, yet he could not read or write music.

African American Heritage Stamps

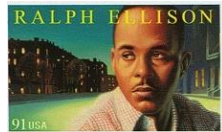


2013

Althea Gibson - (Perforated/Imperforate)

2013

Ray Charles - (Perforated/Imperforate)

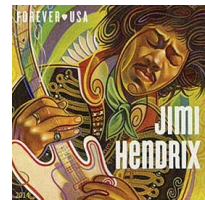
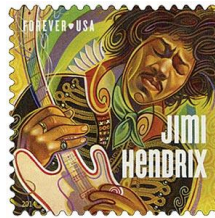
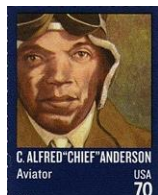
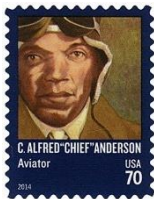


2014

Ralph Ellison - (Perforated/Imperforate)

2014

Shirley Chisholm - (Perforated/Imperforate)



2014

C. Alfred Anderson - (Perforated/ Imperforate)

2014

Jimi Hendrix - (Perforated/Imperforate)

**(Forever) Wilt Chamberlain (1936-1999)—
Basketball**

Issue Date: December 5, 2014

City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

Quantity Issued: 25,000,000 Each Stamp

There were two stamps issued, one with Wilt in a L.A. Lakers uniform and one in a Philadelphia Warriors uniform.

He played the center position for both the Philadelphia/San Francisco Warriors, the Philadelphia Seventy-Sixers and the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA). He played for the University of Kansas and for the Harlem Globetrotters before playing in the NBA.

Chamberlain holds numerous NBA records in scoring, rebounding and durability categories. He is the only player to score 100 points in a single NBA game or average more than 40 and 50 points in a season. He won seven scoring, eleven rebounding and nine field goal percentage titles and led the league in assists once.

Chamberlain is the only player in NBA history to average at least 30 points and 20 rebounds per game in a season, which he accomplished seven times. He is also the only player to average at least 30 points and 20 rebounds per game over the entire course of his NBA career.

(Forever) Edna Lewis (1916-2006)—Celebrity

Issue Date: September 26, 2014

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 4,000,000

At a time when female chefs were few and far between, let alone black female chefs, made a name for herself. Miss Lewis, originally from Virginia, became the co-owner and only chef at her first restaurant, Café Nicholson, in New York City in 1949. There she revived a long-lost style of simple Southern cooking and was an instant success.

Robert Robinson Taylor (1868-1942)

Issue Date: February 12, 2015

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 30,000,000

Taylor spent much of his career at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he supervised the design and construction of the campus while also overseeing the school's programs in industrial education and the building trades. He was the first African-American to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and likely was the country's first academically-trained black architect.

(Forever) Maya Angelou (1914-1994)—

Author

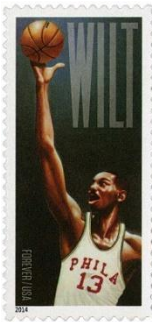
Issue Date: April, 7 2015

City of Issue: Washington, DC

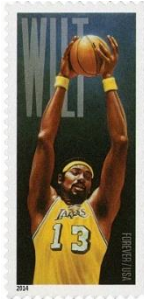
Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

Angelou has been hailed as one of American Literature's most dynamic voices of the 20th century. Her notable works included: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, and a poetry collection, *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*. In 2011, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

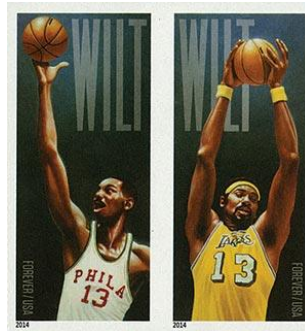
African American Heritage Stamps



2014
Wilt Chamberlain
Philadelphia
Warriors



2014
Wilt Chamberlain
Los Angeles Lakers



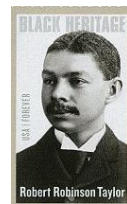
2014
Wilt Chamberlain
(Imperforate)



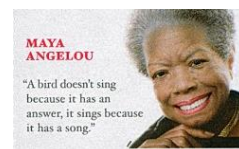
2014
Edna Lewis - (perforated/Imperforate)



2015
Robert Robinson Taylor - (Perforated/Imperforate)



2015
Maya Angelou - (Perforated/Imperforate)



(Forever) Black Heritage Series
Richard Allen (1760-1831)—Minster

Issue Date: February 2, 2016

City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

Quantity Issued: 30,000,000

The Richard Allen issue coincided with the 200th anniversary of the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. After purchasing his freedom from slavery, Allen became a minister. In 1794, he founded the Bethel Church in Philadelphia, PA; however, it was controlled by white church leaders. In 1816, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declared that the church could be independent of the white leaders and it became the AME Church.

(Forever) Sarah Vaughan (1924-1990)—
Singer

Issue Date: March 29, 2016

City of Issue: Newark, NJ

Quantity Issued: 25,000,000

An African-American Nicknamed "Sassy" and "The Divine One", she won four Grammy Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. She was given an NEA Jazz Masters Award in 1989. Critic Scott Yanow wrote that she had "one of the most wondrous voices of the 20th century."

(Forever) Black Heritage Series
Dorothy Height (1912-2010)—Civil Rights
Leader

Issue Date: February 1, 2017

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

Height was an activist who fought for the rights of women, especially women of color. She helped to form the National Women's Political Caucus, and was leader of the National Council of Negro Women when they joined the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership. She shared the stage with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech; however, because of her gender, she was not permitted to speak.

(Forever) Black Heritage Series
Lena Horne(1917-2010)—Singer

Issue Date: January 30, 2018

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

Horne was one of the great icons of the 20th century. She spent over 70 years in the entertainment industry as an actress and jazz singer and was also an acclaimed civil rights activist. As an African American woman, Horne faced discrimination throughout her career, but refused to accept roles that portrayed African Americans in a demeaning way. She joined the civil rights movement in the 1960s and participated in the 1963 March on Washington.

(Forever) Black Heritage Series
Gregory Hines (1917-2010)—Entertainer

Issue Date: January 28, 2019

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

Hines unique style of tap dancing injected new artistry and excitement into a traditional American form. A versatile performer who danced, acted and sang on Broadway, on television and in movies, Hines developed the entertainment traditions of tap into an art form for a younger generation and is credited with renewing interest in tap during the 1990s.

(Forever) Marvin Gaye (1939-1984)—
Singer/Songwriter

Issue Date: April 2, 2019

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

Gaye was an African-American singer, songwriter, and record producer. He helped to shape the sound of Motown in the 1960s, first as an in-house session player and later as a solo artist with a string of hits, earning him the nicknames "Prince of Motown" and "Prince of Soul".

African American Heritage Stamps



2016
Bishop Richard Allen - (Perforated/Imperforate)

2016
Sarah Vaughan



2017
Dorothy Height



2018
Lena Horne



2019
Gregory Hines



2019
Marvin Gaye

(Forever) Black Heritage Series
Gwen Ifill (1955-2016)—Journalists

Issue Date: January 30, 2020
City of Issue: Washington, DC
Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

One of America's most esteemed journalists she was among the first African-Americans to hold prominent positions in both broadcast and print journalism. Ifill was a trailblazer in the profession. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp. She was the moderator and managing editor of Washington Week and co-anchor and co-managing editor, with Judy Woodruff, of the PBS News Hour, both of which air on PBS. Ifill was a political analyst and moderated the 2004 and 2008 vice-presidential debates. She authored the best-selling book *The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama*.

Voices of the Harlem Renaissance

Issue Date: May 21, 2020
City of Issue: New York, NY
Quantity Issued: 16,000,000 Each Stamp

These four stamps celebrate one of the great artistic and literary movements in American history, the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s, which firmly established African-Americans as a vital force in literature and the arts. Four stamps showcase four stylized pastel portraits of these literary figures.

(Forever) Nella Larsen (1891-1964)—
Novelist

An American novelist of the Harlem Renaissance working as a nurse and a librarian, she published two novels, *Quicksand* (1928) and *Passing* (1929), and a few short stories. Though her literary output was scant, she earned recognition by her contemporaries.

A revival of interest in her writing has occurred since the late 20th century when issues of racial and sexual identity have been studied. Her works have been the subjects of numerous academic studies, and she is now widely lauded as "not only the premier novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, but also an important figure in American modernism."

(Forever) Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (1874-1938)—Historian

Schomburg was a historian, writer, and activist. He was a Puerto Rican of African and German descent who moved to the United States and researched and raised awareness of the great contributions that Afro-Latin Americans and Afro-Americans have made to society. He was an important intellectual figure in the Harlem Renaissance. Over the years, he collected literature, art, slave narratives, and other materials of African history, which were purchased to become the basis of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, named in his honor, at the New York Public Library (NYPL) branch in Harlem.

(Forever) Anne Spencer (1881-1975)—Poet

Spencer went on to become a teacher, librarian, gardener, and famous writer and activist. She published her first poem at 40 years old and became the first African American to have her poetry included in the renowned *Norton Anthology of American Poetry*. Her work coincided perfectly with the themes of the Harlem Renaissance. While far from Harlem itself, Spencer's home was a cultural hub a wide variety of African American writers, artists, and scholars came to visit.

(Forever) Alain Locke (1885-1954)—Writer

Locke is heralded as the "Father of the Harlem Renaissance" for his publication in 1925 of "The New Negro"—an anthology of poetry, essays, plays, music and portraiture by white and black artists. Locke is best known as a theorist, critic and interpreter of African-American literature and art.

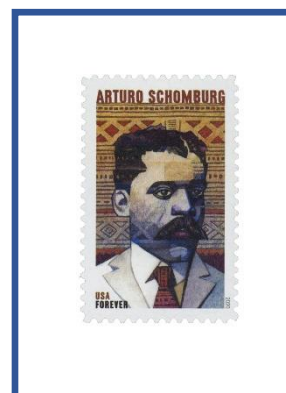
African American Heritage Stamps



2020
Gwen Ifill



2020
Nella Larsen



2020
Arturo Schomburg



2020
Anne Spencer



2020
Alain Locke

10¢ Louisiana Territory Louisiana Purchase Commemorative

Issue Date: April 30, 1904

Quantity Issued: 4,011,200

The Louisiana Territory was broken into smaller portions for administration, and the territories passed slavery laws similar to those in the southern states but incorporating provisions from the preceding French and Spanish rule. In a freedom suit that went from Missouri to the US Supreme Court, slavery of Native Americans was finally ended in 1836. The institutionalization of slavery under U.S. law in the Louisiana Territory contributed to the American Civil War a half century later.

3¢ Children of the World

Issue Date: December 15, 1956

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 100,975,000

The Stamp honors the importance of all children in promoting world peace. The shining key in the design represents the "Key of Friendship," used to unlock the "doors to peace." The stamp is typically called the "Children's Stamp."

1963 5¢ Emancipation Proclamation

Issue Date: August 16, 1963

City of Issue: Chicago, Illinois

Quantity Issued: 132,435,000

Issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

5¢ John James Audubon American Painting Series

Issue Date: December 7, 1963

City of Issue: Henderson, KY

Quantity Issued: 175,175,000

The stamp honors John James Audubon. The stamp pictures his hand-colored engraving titled, "Columbia Jay."

5¢ Traffic Safety

Issue Date: September 3, 1965

City of Issue: Baltimore, MD

Quantity Issued: 114,085,000

Publicizes the importance of traffic safety, the prevention of traffic accidents, and the necessity of lowering the highway death rate. The first automatic three-way traffic light was invented by Garrett Morgan an African-American.

20¢ Columbia Jays "U.S. Air Mail"

Issue Date: April 26, 1967

City of Issue: Audubon, NY

Quantity Issued: 50,000,000

Because the regular postal issue featuring John James Audubon's work was so popular with the public, the "Columbia Jays" design was selected for this airmail stamp.

6¢ Support Our Youth, Order of Elks

Issue Date: May 1, 1968

City of Issue: Chicago, IL

Quantity Issued: 147,120,000

This stamp honors the youth service program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, on the organization's 100th anniversary.

1968 6¢ Historic American Flags: Rhode Island

Issue Date: July 4, 1968

City of Issue: Pittsburgh, PA

Quantity Issued: 228,040,000

The Flag of the 1st Rhode Island, all-black American regiment of the Continental Army.

8¢ George Gershwin American Arts Issue

Issue Date: February 28, 1973

City of Issue: Beverly Hills, CA

Quantity Issued: 139,152,000

Stamp honors George Gershwin the composer of *Porgy & Bess* a play about the music and lifestyle of the Impoverished African-Americans.

African American Heritage Stamps



1904
Louisiana purchase



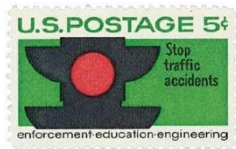
1956
Children of the World



1963
Emancipation Proclamation



1963
"Jays" by John J. Audubon



1965
Traffic Safety



1967 Air Mail
"Jays" by John J. Audubon



1968
Support Our Youth



1968
1st Rhode Island



1973
George Gershwin
"Porgy & Bess"

Postal Service Employees

8¢ Mail Pickup

Issue Date: April 30, 1973

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued : 48,602,000

Mail is picked up from nearly a third of a million local collection boxes, as well as your own mailbox.

8¢ Conveyor Belt

Issue Date: April 30, 1973

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 48,602,000

More than 87 billion letters and packages are handled yearly—almost 300 million every delivery day.

8¢ Mail Canceling

Issue Date: April 30, 1973

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued : 48,602,000

Thousands of machines, buildings, and vehicles must be operated and maintained to keep your mail moving.

8¢ Machine Sorting

Issue Date: April 30, 1973

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued : 8,602,000

Employees use modern, high speed equipment to sort and process huge volumes of mail in central locations.

15¢ International Year of the Child

Issue Date: February 15, 1979

City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

Quantity Issued: 162,535,000

Issued in honor of the International Year of the Child, this stamp features children as the key for peace in tomorrow's world.

African American Heritage Stamps



1973
Mail Collection



1973
Conveyor Belt



1973
Mail Canceling



1973
Electronic Letter Routing



1979
Children of Different Races



1976
Prince Whipple

**Painting of Washington Crossing the
Delaware on a Souvenir Sheet with 5 24c
stamps**

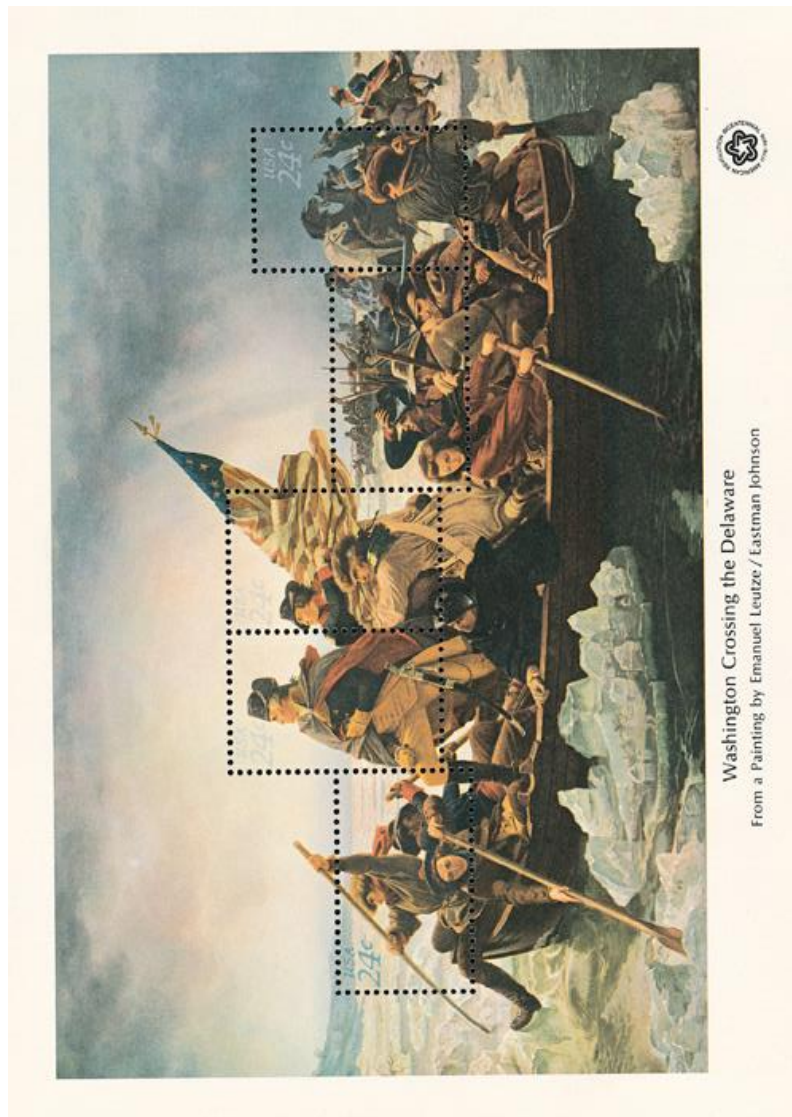
Issued Date: May 29, 1976

City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

This Souvenir Sheet honors the night of December 25, 1776 when George Washington led his men across the Delaware River in a surprise attack on the force of 1,500 Hessians (German troops fighting for the British). According to legend, Prince Whipple a former African- American slave was pictured on the painting as a boatman fending off ice with an oar at Washington's knee during the crossing.

African American Heritage Stamps

Washington Crosses The Delaware – Souvenir Sheet



10¢ 1979—1980 Summer Olympics Postal

Card

Issue Date: September 17, 1979

City of Issue: Eugene, OR

This post card was issued in anticipation of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. Image of an African-American runner is on the post card.

15¢ Runners Summer Olympic Games

Issue Date: September 28, 1979

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 46,726,250

Images of African-American runner.

31¢ High Jumper Olympic Games Air Mail

Issue Date: November 1, 1979

City of Issue : Colorado Springs, CO

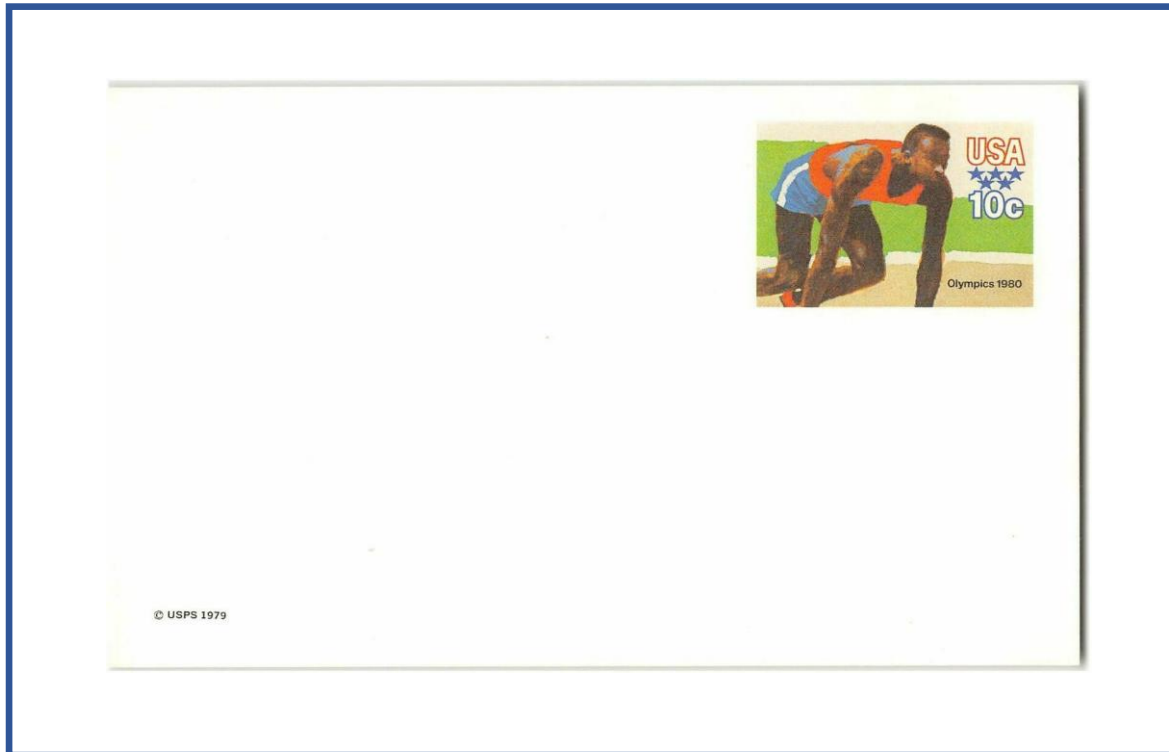
Quantity Issued: 47,200,000

Image of African-American high jumper.

African American Heritage Stamps

1979

Moscow Summer Olympics 1980



1979
Moscow Summer Olympics 1980
Running



1979
Moscow Summer Olympics 1980
High Jump

10¢ 1781–Battle of Cowpens—Post Card

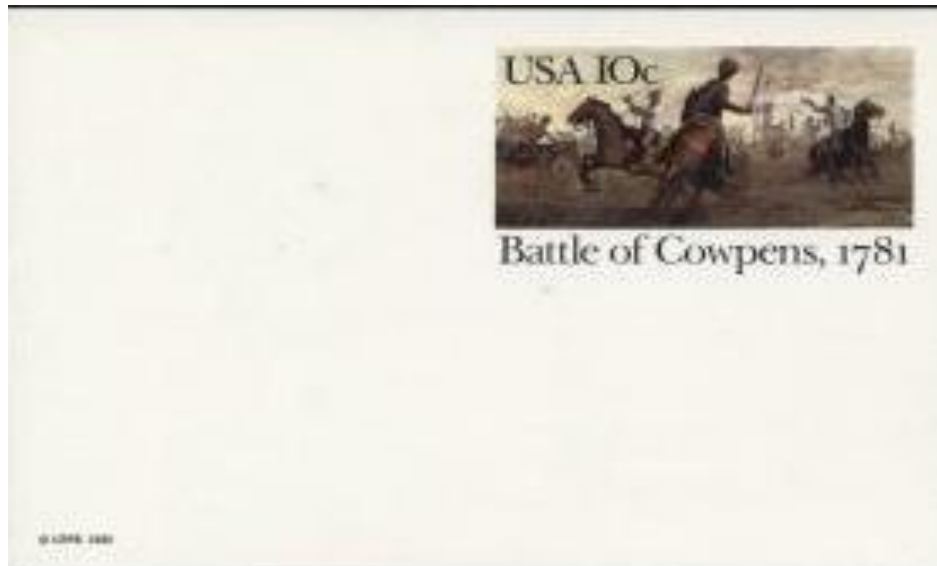
Issue Date: January 17, 1981

City of Issue: Cowpens, SC

On January 17, 1781 a fourteen-year-old African-American, whose name may have been William Ball, saved colonel William Washington, second cousin of the future first president, when his gunshot felled a British officer intent on slaying the Colonel during Battle of Cowpens, a decisive Continental Army victory in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. In 1843 George Washington's biographer, John Marshall, described the young man as "a waiter, too small to wield a sword"

African American Heritage Stamps

1981
Battle of Cowpens
William Ball



Contemporary Christmas 1982
20¢ Sledding Seasons Greetings

Issue Date: October 28, 1982

City of Issue: Snow, OK

Quantity Issued: 197,220,000

The popular theme that Christmas is a time for children. Colorful renderings illustrate children at play in the snow and sledding.

20¢ Building a Snowman Seasons Greetings

Issue Date: October 28, 1982

City of Issue: Snow, OK

Quantity Issued: 197,220,000

The popular theme that Christmas is a time for children. Colorful renderings illustrate children at play building a snowman.

20¢ Ice Skating Seasons Greetings

Issue Date: October 28, 1982

City of Issue: Snow, OK

Quantity Issued: 197,220,000

The popular theme that Christmas is a time for children is captured in the colorful rendering of children at play ice skating.

20¢ Decorating the Tree Seasons Greetings

Issue Date: October 28, 1982

City of Issue: Snow, OK

Quantity Issued: 197,220,000

The popular theme that Christmas is a time for children is captured in the colorful rendering of children at play Decorating the Tree.

20¢ Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Issue Date: April 5, 1983

City of Issue: Luray, VA

Quantity Issued: 114,290,000

This stamp honors the 50 years during which The C.C.C. established in 1933, constructed new roads, irrigation dams, telephone lines, fire towers, campgrounds and trails across the country.

20¢ Physical Fitness

Issue Date: May 14, 1983

City of Issue: Houston, TX

Quantity Issued: 111,775,000

Issued to salute the millions of Americans attaining good physical health, and to help inspire the remaining millions to partake in some form of exercise.

African American Heritage Stamps



1982
Sledding



1982
Building a Snowman



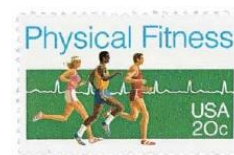
1982
Decorating the Tree



1982
Ice Skating



1983
Civilian Conservation Corps



1983
Physical Fitness

**28¢ Hurdles Los Angeles Summer Olympics
Air Mail**

Issue Date: June 17, 1983
City of Issue: San Antonio, TX
Quantity Issued: 41,250,000

This stamp is commemorating the 1984 23rd Olympic Games which were held in Los Angeles during the summer of 1984. The stamps features the men's hurdles.

13¢ Boxing Los Angeles Summer Olympics

Issue Date: July 28, 1983
City of Issue: South Bend, IN
Quantity Issued: 98,856,000

This stamp is commemorating the 1984 23rd Olympic Games which were held in Los Angeles during the summer of 1984. The stamps features the men's boxing.

**28¢ Women's Basketball Los Angeles
Summer Olympics Air Mail**

Issue Date: June 17, 1983
City of Issue: San Antonio, TX
Quantity Issued: 41,250,000

This stamp is commemorating the 1984 23rd Olympic Games which were held in Los Angeles during the summer of 1984. The stamp features the women's basketball.

**20¢ Wrestling Los Angeles Summer
Olympics**

Issue Date: May 4, 1984
City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA
Quantity Issued: 78,337,500

This stamp is commemorating the 1984 23rd Olympic Games which were held in Los Angeles during the summer of 1984. The stamp features the men's wrestling event.

22¢ Help End Hunger

Issue Date: October 15, 1985
City of Issue: Washington, DC
Quantity Issued: 120,000,000

This issue calls for the need for all Americans to aid in ending hunger in our country as well as around the world.

22¢ United Way

Issue Date: April 28, 1987
City of Issue: Washington, DC
Quantity Issued: 156,995,000

In 1887, a group of clergy recognized that sporadic collections were not enough to meet the needs of Denver's poor. With the help of volunteers, they were able to raise funds for food, shelter, and medical supplies. Today, with the aid of millions of volunteers, the United Way is the nation's largest and most active non-governmental community planning network.

25¢ Summer Olympics

Issue Date: August 19, 1988
City of Issue: Colorado Springs, CO
Quantity Issued: 157,215,000

Commemorating the 1988 Summer Olympics, this stamp features a male gymnast on the rings.

African American Heritage Stamps



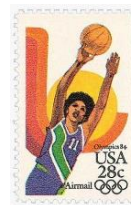
1983

L.A. Summer Olympics 1984
Hurdles



1983

L.A. Summer Olympics 1984
Boxing



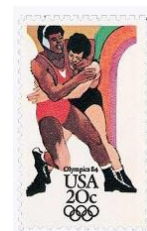
1983

L.A. Summer Olympics 1984
Basketball



1983

L.A. Summer Olympics 1984
Long Jump



1983

L.A. Summer Olympics 1984
Wrestling



1985

Help World Hunger



1987

United Way



1988

Seoul Summer Olympics 1988
Rings

15¢ Healy Hall Postal Card**Issue Date:** January 23, 1989**City of Issue:** Washington, DC

Upon completion of his doctoral studies, Patrick Healy would become the first African-American president of a major college or university. The small Jesuit University went by the name of Georgetown College and Healy would hail as its "second founder" for his efforts realized during his tenure. He was credited for improving the curriculum as well as the construction of a building which bears his name and is the oldest, most historic structure on the century's old campus. Healy also expanded and improved the medical and law programs and founded the alumni association. Under Healy's tenure Georgetown College earned accreditation as Georgetown University. On January 10, 1910 Patrick Healy was laid to rest in the Jesuit cemetery on the campus of Georgetown College.

25¢ Letter Carriers**Issue Date:** August 30, 1989**City of Issue:** Milwaukee, WI**Quantity Issued:** 188,400,000

The Letter Carriers stamp honors the "mailpersons" (over 240,000 of them in 1989, with more than 40,000 of them women) who deliver the mail to over 100 million delivery points across the U.S. The three smiling carriers pictured seem to bear out the motto: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

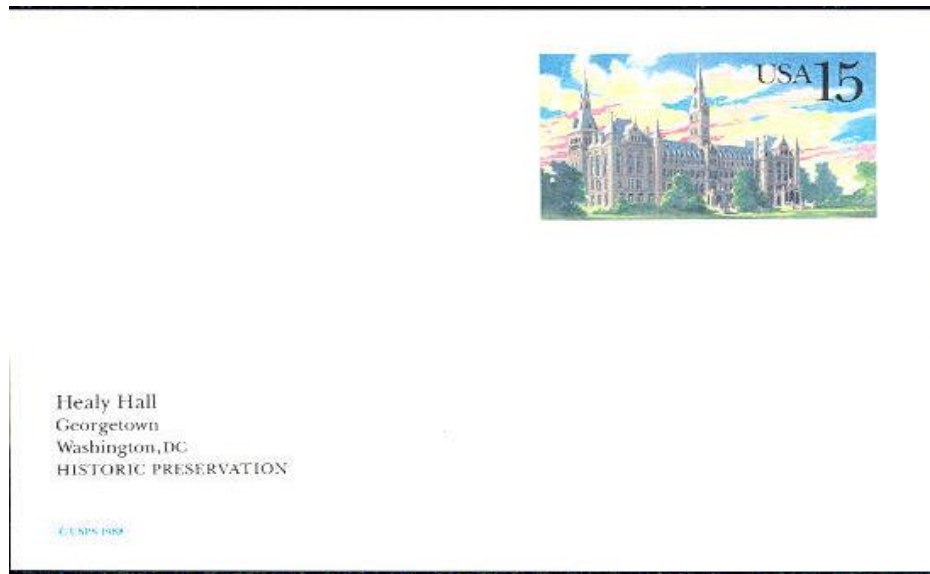
29¢ Alaska Highway**Issue Date:** May 30, 1992**City of Issue:** Fairbanks, AK**Quantity Issued:** 159,505,000

The Alaska portion of the road probably the most difficult and hazardous section, was built by the all-black 93rd, 97th and 95th Army Engineer General Services regiments of the Corps of Engineers.

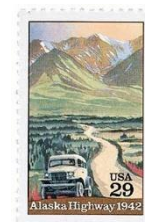
African American Heritage Stamps

1989

Healy Hall - Georgetown



1989
Letter Carriers



1992
Alaska Highway

29¢ Hurdles Summer Olympics**Issue Date:** July 12, 1991**City of Issue:** Los Angeles, CA**Quantity Issued:** 34,005,120

The Olympic Field and Track stamps are the first computer-designed stamps. Illustrator Joni Carter, who the Postal Service describes as “a pioneer in the field of computer-designed art,” designed and illustrated the stamps with an IBM computer and advanced multimedia technology.

29¢ Basketball**Issue Date:** August 28, 1991**City of Issue:** Springfield, MA**Quantity Issued:** 149,810,000

Basketball inventor James Naismith was born on November 6, 1861 in Almonte, Ontario, Canada. Naismith struggled in school but enjoyed spending time outside, playing catch, hide-and-seek, and other games. He was orphaned at a young age and was raised by an aunt and uncle.

29¢ Boxing Summer Olympics**Issue Date:** June 11, 1992**City of Issue:** Baltimore, MD**Quantity Issued:** 32,000,000

The Olympic spirit continued into the summer of 1992 with a fight that commemorated the world’s most popular sporting event—the Summer Olympics. These action-packed stamps used the same semi-jumbo commemorative format as the 1992 Winter Olympic stamps. Featuring tightly-cropped pictures of five favorite summer events—soccer, women’s gymnastics, volleyball, boxing, and swimming—the stamps sported the Olympic rings to publicize the Postal Service’s sponsorship of the Olympic Games.

**29¢ World University Games****Issue Date:** February 25, 1993**City of Issue:** Buffalo, NY**Quantity Issued:** 110,000,000

First held in Paris in 1923 the World University Games is the second largest international amateur athletic event next to the Summer Olympic Games. More than 5,000 athletes from 120 countries competed in the largest international sports event of the year. The games were held in Buffalo, NY—the first U.S. city to host the games in their 70-year history.

African American Heritage Stamps



1991
Barcelona Summer Olympics 1992
Sprint



1991
Barcelona Summer Olympics 1992
Hurdles



1991
Basketball Centennial



1992
Barcelona Summer Olympics 1992
Boxing



1993
World Unity Games

29¢ Showboat

Issue Date: July 14, 1993

City of Issue : New York, NY

Quantity: 128,735,000

Ferber's most famous novel, *Show Boat*, was adapted into a musical in 1927. The play broke from musical theatre tradition in that it was based on a serious literary work. It was one of the first musicals to consider the difficult themes of racism and poverty.

29¢ Porgy and Bess

Issue Date: July 14, 1993

City of Issue : New York, NY

Quantity Issue: 128,735,000

Porgy and Bess opened on Broadway in 1935. It was the realization of George Gershwin's longtime dream of staging a black folk opera. The play is set in Catfish Row, a Negro tenement in Charleston, South Carolina. The 1935 run of 124 performances was modest by Broadway standards; for an opera, it was exceptional. Since then it has been performed throughout the world.



29¢ Buffalo Soldier

Issue Date: April 22, 1994

City of Issue: Dallas, TX

Quantity Issue: 185,500,000

Long missing from the history of the West is the story of the all African-American cavalry regiments or "Buffalo Soldiers." These valiant soldiers were named by their Native American opponents who thought they were as tough as buffalo.

29¢ Heading the Ball

Issue Date: May 26, 1994

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issue: 269,370,000

The world's most popular team sport, soccer is played in more than 140 countries, from Argentina and Bulgaria to Sweden and South Korea. Games similar to soccer were played in China as early as 206 B.C. However, it wasn't until the mid-1800s that the modern game of soccer was developed.

32¢ Softball—Recreational Sports

Issue Date: May 20, 1995

City of Issue: Jupiter, FL

Quantity Issue: 30,000,000

Softball is played by more than 30 million people worldwide. Although batting and field strategy are the same as in baseball, the rules differ in several ways. Most noticeably, the ball is larger, and the playing field is smaller. Also, pitching is done underhand, players must stay on the bases until the ball has left the pitcher's hand, and games are only seven innings, not nine.

32¢ Krazy Kat—Comic Strip Classics

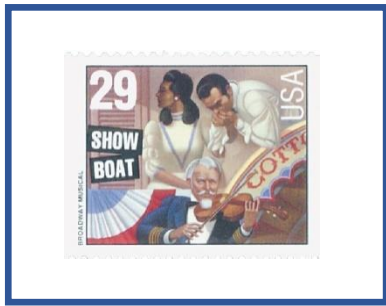
Issue Date: October 1, 1995

City of Issue: Boca Rotan, FL

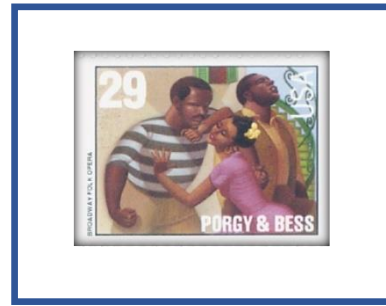
Quantity Issue: 300,000,000

The strip was begun by African-American George Harriman as a cat-and-mouse chase in his *Dingbat Family* strip. In October 1913 Krazy got his own strip, and thus began the imaginative fantasy life of Krazy Ignatz Mouse, and the other inhabitants of Cokonino County. A visit to cartoonist James Swinnerton (creator of Little Jimmy) began a lifelong love affair with the Arizona deserts, whose scenery often turned up as bizarre landscapes in Krazy's world.

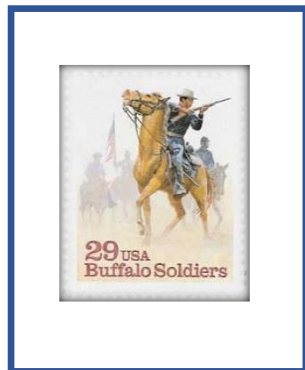
African American Heritage Stamps



1993
Broadway Musicals - Showboat



1993
Broadway Musicals – Porgy & Bess



1994
Buffalo Soldiers



1994
World Cup Soccer



1994
Softball—Recreational Sports



1995
Krazy Kat



32¢ Women's Running 1996 Summer Olympics

Issue Date: May 2, 1996

City of Issue: Washington, DC & Atlanta, GA

Quantity Issued: 16,207,500

Women's running events are relatively new to the Olympics. The 1928 games hosted the first two races—the 100 meters and 800 meters (the 800 meters was not held again until 1960). Additional races were added in 1948, the 200 meters; 1964, the 400 meters; 1972, the 1500 meters; and in 1984, both the 3000 meters and marathon (26 miles) events were added.

32¢ Men's Sprints 1996 Summer Olympics

Issue Date: May 2, 1996

City of Issue: Washington, DC & Atlanta, GA

Quantity Issued: 16,207,500

A 400-meter oval track is used to stage sprinting events. The track is marked in lanes, and sprinters must stay in their lane for the entire race. In races which involve curves on the track, the runners start at staggered intervals to equalize the distance to be run.

32¢ Men's Hurdles 1996 Summer Olympics

Issue Date: May 2, 1996

City of Issue: Washington, DC & Atlanta, GA

Quantity Issued : 16,207,500

Hurdle races are exciting track and field events in which competitors jump over fence-like obstacles called hurdles. Men compete in two hurdle races: the 110-meter and the 400-meter. Women have two hurdle races: the 100 meter and the 400 meter. The hurdles used in these races are L-shaped. When a runner fails to clear a hurdle, it is knocked down and out of the runner's way. Athletes are not penalized for knocking down hurdles.

32¢ Men's Basketball 1996 Summer Olympics

Issue Date: May 2, 1996

City of Issue: Washington, DC & Atlanta, GA

Quantity Issued: 16,207,500

The first professional basketball league was formed in 1898. Basketball was made an official Olympic sport at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

32¢ Tree Decorating Contemporary Christmas Sheet & Booklet

Issue Date: October 8, 1996

City of Issue: North Pole, AK

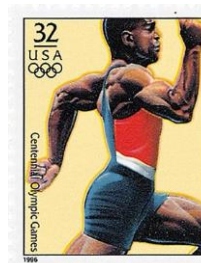
Quantity Issued: 56,479,000

A fully decorated fir tree is one of the universal symbols of Christmas. The very sound of spruce, balsam, and cedar conjures up images of piney fragrances and of Christmases past and Christmases yet to come.

African American Heritage Stamps



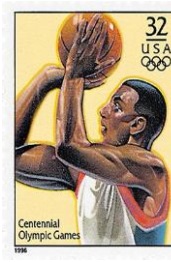
**1996
Atlanta Olympic
Women's Running**



**1996
Atlanta Olympic
Men's Sprints**



**1996
Atlanta Olympic
Men's Hurdles**



**1996
Atlanta Olympic
Men's Basketball**



**1996
Tree Decorating**



**1996
Tree Decorating (Booklet)**

32¢ P-51 Classic American Aircraft**Issue Date:** July 19, 1997**City of Issue:** Dayton, OH**Quantity Issued :** 161,000,000

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. During World War II black Americans in many U.S. states were still subject to the Jim Crow laws and the American military was racially segregated, as was much of the federal government. The Tuskegee Airmen were subjected to discrimination, both within and outside the army. The Tuskegee Airmen flew the North American P-51 Mustang. When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group painted the tails of their P-47s red, the nickname "Red Tails" was coined.

32¢ Alabama Baby Classic American Dolls**Issue Date:** July 28, 1997**City of Issue:** Anaheim, CA**Quantity Issued:** 7,000,000

Advertised as "The Alabama Indestructible Doll," the Alabama Baby, as it came to be called, had its beginnings when Ella Smith repaired a bisque doll for a neighbor's child and realized the need for a doll that was unbreakable. Eventually, a factory worker claimed a delivery truck ran over one of her cloth dolls and never even cracked the paint. Black Alabama Babies, such as the one shown on this stamp, are extremely rare and valuable. Black models of dolls were occasionally produced for black children, but white children also owned and loved the dolls.

32¢ Babyland Rag Doll Classic American Dolls**Issue Date:** July 28, 1997**City of Issue:** Anaheim, CA**Quantity Issued:** 7,000,000

E. I. Horsman Co. began manufacturing its Baby Land Rag Dolls as early as 1893. Simple in design, the earliest dolls had hand-painted faces and removable clothing. Starting in 1907 the dolls were produced with lithographed "Life Like" faces—a result of technological advances in the printing industry. However, the hand-painted dolls were created simultaneously until 1912.

32¢ Women in the Military**Issue Date:** October 18, 1997**City of Issue:** Washington, DC**Quantity Issued:** 37,000,000

Females have served with distinction as nurses, pilots, training specialists, clerks, and in many other capacities—sometimes even illegally, as combat soldiers. Yet, the efforts and sacrifices of America's 1.8 million women veterans have seldom been recognized.

This stamp was issued in conjunction with the dedication of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial on September 18, 1997. Located on a four-acre site at the grand entrance to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC.

32¢ Kwanzaa Holiday Celebrations**Issue Date:** October 22, 1997**City of Issue:** Los Angeles, CA**Quantity Issued:** 133,000,000

October 22, 1997 marks the first time that a Kwanzaa holiday stamp was issued.

So, on December 26, 1966 Maulana Karenga, a college professor, led his community in celebrating the first Kwanzaa. The name is taken from Swahili, an East African language, phrase meaning "first fruits."

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday symbolizing the need for a harmonious and principled togetherness in the family, the neighborhood, the nation, and the world. The seven guiding principles that Kwanzaa celebrates are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

African American Heritage Stamps



**1997
P51 Mustang**



**1997
Alabama Baby
Classic American Doll**



**1997
Babyland Rag Doll
Classic American Doll**



**1997
Women in
Military Service**



**1997
Kwanzaa**

\$3 Mars Pathfinder

Issue Date: December 10, 1997

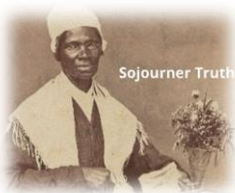
City of Issue: Pasadena, CA

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

The Mars Pathfinder Priority Mail stamp was the last stamp issued in 1997. It commemorates the successful landing of the Mars Pathfinder on July 4, 1997. The stamp pictures the first image sent from the Pathfinder, the remote-controlled vehicle, "*Sojourner*" which collected data about the soil and rocks with the Mars landscape in the background.

It is the largest U.S. stamp ever made for regular postage. Special "USA" perforations were added to the bottom row. The vertical perforations extend beyond the stamp to the bottom of the selvage for easier removal of the stamp.

The name Sojourner was chosen for the Mars Pathfinder rover after a year-long, worldwide competition in which students up to 18 years old were invited to select a heroine and submit an essay about her historical accomplishments. The students were asked to address in their essays how a planetary rover named for their heroine would translate these accomplishments to the Martian environment.

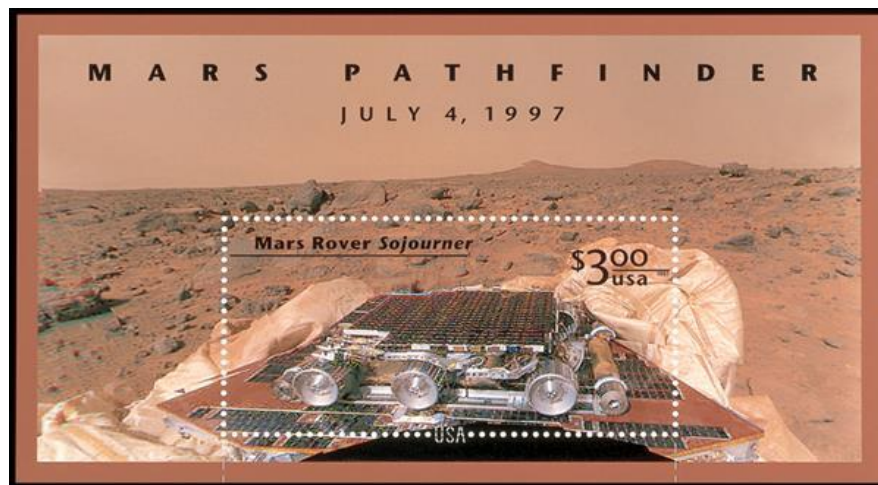


Valerie Ambrose 12, of Bridgeport, CT submitted the winning essay about Sojourner Truth, an African-American reformist who lived during the

Civil War era. An abolitionist and champion of women's rights, Sojourner Truth, whose legal name was Isabella Van Wagener, made it her mission to "travel up and down the land," advocating the rights of all people to be free and the rights of women to fully participate in society. The name Sojourner was selected because it means "traveler." JPL scientists and engineers working on the Mars Pathfinder project and Planetary Society staff members reviewed the 3,500 total entries received from all over the world, including essays from students living in Canada, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Poland and Russia. Nearly 1,700 of the essays were submitted.

African American Heritage Stamps

1997 Mars Pathfinder Mars Rover "Sojourner"



Celebrate the Century Issue

32¢ Scouting Founded—1910s

Issue Date: February 3, 1998

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

Scouting groups were first started in England by Lord Robert Baden-Powell who began the Boy Scouts movement in 1907. When girls became interested in belonging to a similar group he helped his sister Agnes Baden-Powell organize the Girl Guides program as well. Scouting quickly spread to other countries.

32¢ Flappers Do the Charleston—1920s

Issue Date: May 28, 1998

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

This ballroom dance sensation of the 1920s evolved from a black folk dance which was well known throughout the southern United States. The dance was named for Charleston, South Carolina, the city credited with its origin.

32¢ Jazz Flourishes—1920's

Issue Date: May 28, 1998

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

Jazz affected society's perceptions of race and created the first black superstars Louis Armstrong, for one, went on to enjoy international fame.

32¢ Eleanor Roosevelt—1930s

Issue Date: September 10, 1998

City of Issue: Cleveland, OH

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

Eleanor frequently spoke out for the rights of African Americans, even challenging her husband's New Deal policies because they did not equally benefit all races. In 1939 she stood up for African American singer Marian Anderson, who was denied use of Constitution Hall. She arranged for Anderson to sing at the Lincoln Memorial. While she was extremely popular with African Americans, her firm stance made her unpopular in the South. This was one of many factors that led to her being considered the most controversial U.S. First Lady.

32¢ Stephen Vincent Benet (1898-1943)—Poet

Issue Date: July 22, 1998

City of Issue: Harper's Ferry, WV

Quantity Issued: 32,000,000

The background image on this stamp is the memorial to the all-black 54th Massachusetts Infantry who fought in the Civil War with honors.

An American poet, short story writer, and novelist, he is best known for his book-length narrative poem of the American Civil War, *John Brown's Body* (1928), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and for the short stories *The Devil and Daniel Webster* (1936) and *By the Waters of Babylon* (1937). In 2009 The Library of America selected his story *The King of the Cats* (1929) for inclusion in its two-century retrospective of American Fantastic Tales.

32¢ Joshua Johnson (1763-1832)—Artist

Issue Date: August 27, 1998

City of Issue: Santa Clara, CA

Quantity Issued: 4,000,000

Folk artist Joshua Johnson was the first African American to make his living by painting. Little is known about Johnson, who was a member of Baltimore's free African American community.

Johnson produced many portraits of Baltimore's prominent families, ship captains and local merchants. Stiff limbs, three-quarter view of the body, and objects held by the subject are hallmarks of Johnson's artistic style. One of his most famous works, *The Westwood Children*, is displayed in the National Gallery of Art.

African American Heritage Stamps



1998
Boy and Girl
Scouting



1998
Flappers Do the
Charleston



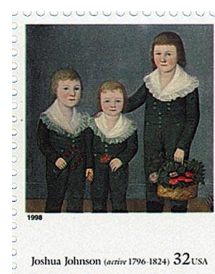
1998
Jazz Flourishes



1998
Eleanor Roosevelt



1998
Stephen Vincent Benet



1998
Joshua Johnson

Celebrate the Century Issue

33¢ Jitterbug Sweeps Nation—1940s

Issue Date: February 18, 1999

City of Issue: Dobbins AFB, GA

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

The jitterbug is a kind of dance popularized among African-Americans in the United States in the early 20th century and is associated with various types of swing dances such as the Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing.

33¢ Big Band Sound—1940s

Issue Date: February 18, 1999

City of Issue: Dobbins AFB, GA

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

The 1930s and 1940s were the age of big band music, or “swing.” With their arranged orchestral songs, improvised solos and meaningful lyrics, bands struck a chord with Americans during World War II.

33¢ Desegregating Public Schools—1950s

Issue Date: May 26, 1999

City of Issue: Springfield, MA

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

In September 1957, when Little Rock’s Central High School was forced to allow nine black students to attend classes there. Governor Orval Faubus prevented their admission for over three weeks. After much tension and unrest, the students were escorted into the school by National Guard units on September 25.

33¢ Rock ‘n Roll—1950s

Issue Date: May 26, 1999

City of Issue: Springfield, MA

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

The development of rock and roll from blues and country western music was a reaction against the ballads and novelty tunes popular during the 1940s and early 1950s. The music represented a rebellion against the standards set by parents, schools and other authority figures.

33¢ Movies Go 3-D—1950s

Issue Date: May 26, 1999

City of Issue: Springfield, MA

Quantity Issued: 12,533,000

A variety of fads came and went during the 1950s, including 3-D movies. With the increasing popularity of television, movie audiences were dwindling. The motion picture industry was groping for a gimmick to renew America’s interest in the theater when the Natural Vision Corporation came up with 3-D.

33¢ California Gold Rush

Issue Date: June 18, 1999

City of Issue: Sacramento, CA

Quantity Issued: 89,270,000

The 150th Anniversary of the California Gold Rush.

37¢ Woodstock—1960s

Issue Date: September 17, 1999

City of Issue: Green Bay, WI

Quantity Issued: 8,000,000

Jimi Hendrix was slated to take the stage on Sunday night, August 17. However, heavy rains delayed his performance until 8:30 Monday morning. The crowd of 400,000 had shrunk to about 30,000 by the time Hendrix took the stage.

37¢ The Peace Corps—1960s

Issue Date: September 17, 1999

City of Issue: Green Bay, WI

Quantity Issued: 8,000,000

On March 1, 1961, Kennedy officially created the Peace Corps when he signed a special executive order. He felt it was a way to counter anti-American sentiment around the world.

33¢ Kwanzaa Holiday Celebrations

Issue Date: October 29, 1999

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 95,000,000

As December 26th approaches, African-American families select their best fruits and vegetables. They also gather symbols of their ancestry to celebrate Kwanzaa. It is a time to reflect on the past while reinforcing the bonds of unity in families and communities.

African American Heritage Stamps



1999
Jitterbug Sweeps
Nation



1999
Big Band Sound



1999
Desegregating
Public Schools



1999
Rock 'n' Roll



1999
Movies Go 3-D



1999
California Gold Rush



1999
Woodstock



1999
The Peace Corps



1999
Kwanzaa

Celebrate the Century Issue

33¢ San Francisco 49ers—1980s

Issue Date: January 12, 2000

City of Issue: Kennedy Space Center, FL

Quantity Issued: 6,000,000

Coach Bill Walsh led the 49ers to three of their four Super Bowl victories. In 1982, they beat the Cincinnati Bengals 26-21; in 1985, the score was 38-16 over the Miami Dolphins; and the team beat the Bengals again in 1989, 20-16. George Seifert coached the team to a resounding 1990 victory over the Denver Broncos, 55-10.

33¢ The Cosby Show—1980s

Issue Date: January 12, 2000

City of Issue: Kennedy Space Center, FL

Quantity Issued: 6,000,000

Prior to *The Cosby Show*, few positive depictions of the two-parent, black family had appeared on TV. Cliff and Clair used warmth, humor and discipline to raise their kids. The characters were role models faced with everyday problems.

33¢ Hip-Hop Culture—1980s

Issue Date: January 12, 2000

City of Issue: Kennedy Space Center, FL

Quantity Issued: 6,000,000

Hip-hop culture, with its own dynamic music, dance and clothing styles, became a cultural influence in the 1980s. Black youths who lived in south Bronx spread hip-hop to other urban areas. Disc jockeys like Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash played an important role in hip-hop culture and the start of its music style, called "rap."

33¢ Cellular Phones—1990s

Issue Date: May 2, 2000

City of Issue: Monterey, CA

Quantity Issued: 8,250,000

The basic idea behind the modern mobile telephone network was proposed in 1947, but it took a longtime for technology to catch up with the concept. The broadcast of radio messages over airwaves is controlled by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which slowed cellular phone development for many years.

33¢ Summer Sports

Issue Date: May 5, 2000

City of Issue: Spokane, WA

Quantity Issued: 90,600,00

America's love of summer sports like baseball, swimming, boating, water skiing, tennis, and golf. By the time spring's rain unfolds into the long, warm days of summer, fans and athletes are eager to enjoy their favorite events. People young and old participate in and watch sports during this season.

33¢ Soccer Youth Team Sports

Issue Date: May 27, 2000

City of Issue: Lake Buena Vista, FL

Quantity Issued: 88,000,000

America's football fields, baseball diamonds, and basketball courts have never been so full of children playing competitive and recreational sports. Youth athletics have grown to include more than just school-based teams. Select "travel clubs," made up of kids specially chosen for advanced play, have sprung up around the U.S. Sports like hockey, once just a winter activity, are now played all year. During the off-season, kids travel to sports clinics to improve their skills.

34¢ Kwanzaa Reissue

Issue Date: October 19, 2001

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

The African-American cultural holiday of Kwanzaa was first celebrated on a U.S. stamp in 1997 with this same design. In 1999, the stamp was updated with the 33¢ denomination, and in 2001, it reappeared as a 34¢ stamp.

African American Heritage Stamps



2000
San Francisco 49ers



2000
The Cosby Show



2000
Hip-hop Culture



2000
Cellular Phones



2000
Summer Sports



2000
**Youth Team Sports
Soccer**



2001
Kwanzaa

37¢ My Corsage by James Van DerZee**Issue Date:** June 13, 2002**City of Issue:** San Diego, CA**Quantity Issued:** 3,000,000

James Van DerZee took thousands of photos of ordinary people and community groups, recording the emerging Harlem middle class.

37¢ The Birds of American**Issue Date:** June 27, 2002**City of Issue:** Santa Clara, CA**Quantity Issued:** 3,000,000

A drawing of birds by African-American James Audubon.

37¢ Kwanzaa**Issue Date:** October 10, 2002**City of Issue:** Washington, DC**Quantity Issued:** 40,000,000

First celebrated on December 26, 1966, Kwanzaa has its roots in African "first harvest" celebrations.

80¢ Special Olympics**Issue Date:** February 13, 2003**City of Issue:** Chicago, IL**Quantity Issued:** 60,000,000

Founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968, Special Olympics offers athletic training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation. The stamp features scrambled indicia, visible with a USPS decoder lens, that shows a Special Olympics logo. The stamp paid the basic international rate for letters weighing up to one ounce.

37¢ Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial**Issue Date:** April 30, 2003**City of Issue:** New Orleans, LA**Quantity Issued:** 54,000,000

The institutionalization of slavery under U.S. law in the Louisiana Territory contributed to the American Civil War a half century later.

37¢ Lewis & Clark Expedition**Issue Date:** May 14, 2004**City of Issue:** Astoria, OR**Quantity Issued:** 62,000,000

An African-American by the name of York was the only African-American on the Lewis & Clark expedition and the first African-American to have crossed North America to reach the Pacific. He was a lifelong body servant willed to him by his father.

37¢ USS Constellation**Issue Date:** June 30, 2004**City of Issue:** Baltimore, MD**Quantity Issued:** 45,800,000

Commissioned on July 28, 1855, the vessel was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and later assigned to interdict the slave trade off the west coast of Africa.

37¢ Sickle Cell Disease Awareness**Issue Date:** September 29, 2004**City of Issue:** Atlanta, GA**Quantity Issued:** 96,400,000

Sickle cell is an inherited blood disease. In the U.S., it occurs chiefly among African-Americans, affecting one in 12. The disease changes soft, smooth, round red blood cells into hard, sticky, sickle shapes that can block blood flow through tiny blood vessels. This results in damage to organs. There is no cure for the disease, but advancements in treatment have increased average survival to about 42 years for men and 48 years for women.

37¢ Kwanzaa**Issue Date:** October 16, 2004**City of Issue:** Chicago, IL**Quantity Issued:** 60,000,000

Kwanzaa is a modern African-American holiday that is celebrated from December 26 through January 1. Its origin was inspired by African harvest celebrations and African cultural values.

African American Heritage Stamps



2002
My Corsage



2002
John James Audubon



2002
Kwanzaa



2003
Special Olympics



2003
**Louisiana Purchase
Bicentennial**



2004
**Lewis & Clark
Expedition**



2002
USS Constellation



2004
Sickle Cell Awareness



2004
Kwanzaa



To Form a More Perfect Union

Souvenir Sheet

Issue Date: August 27, 2005

City of Issue: Washington, DC

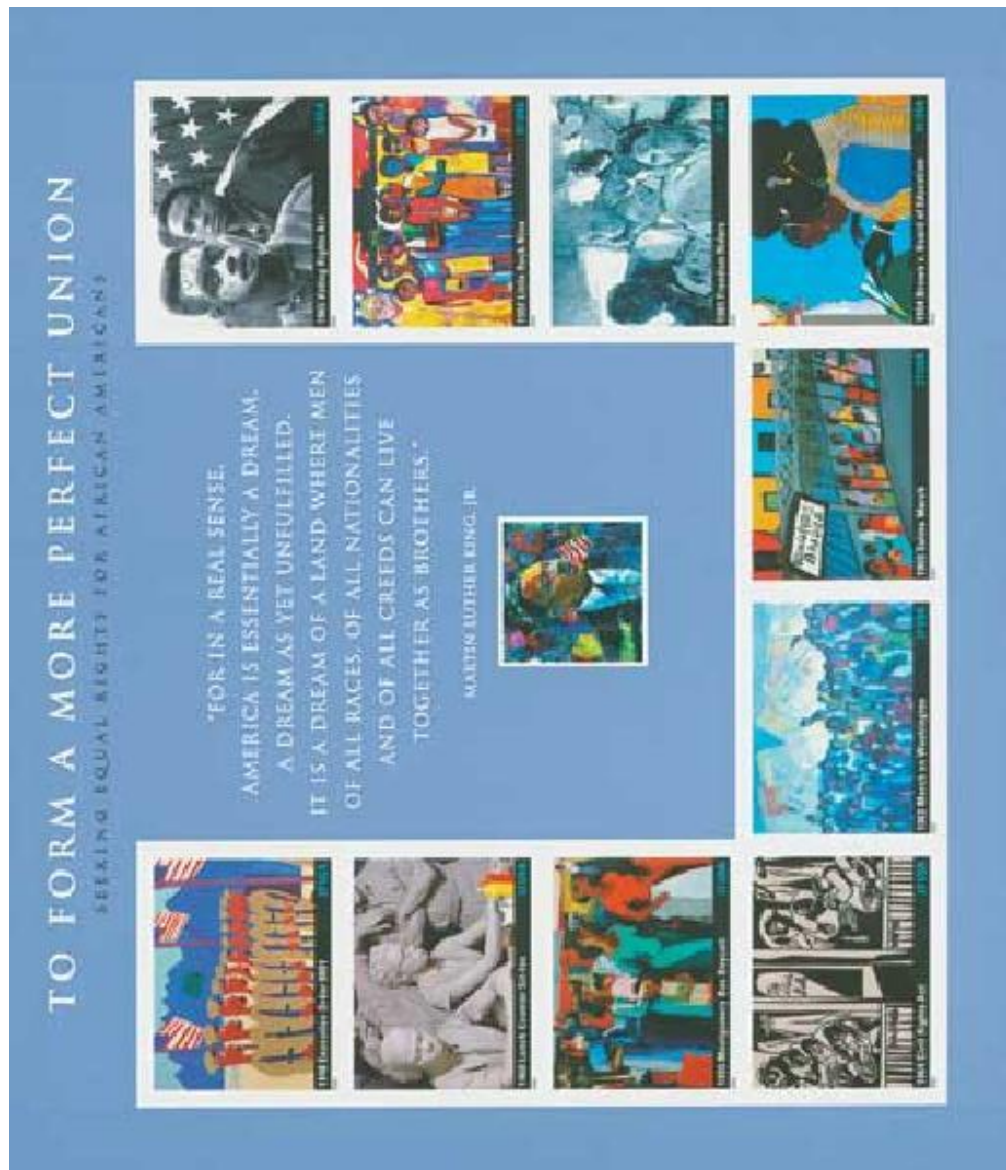
Quantity Issued: 5,000,000 Each Stamp

This Souvenir Sheet of 10 37¢ stamps was issued to commentate the events in the fight for equal rights for African-Americans in the United States.

African American Heritage Stamps

“To Form a More Perfect Union”

2005



37¢ 1948—Executive Order 9981

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 calling for the end of racial discrimination in the US armed forces.

37¢ 1954—Brown v. Board of Education

On May 17, 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the desegregation of schools as a result of the case of Brown vs. Board of Education.

37¢ 1955—Montgomery Bus Boycott

On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, boarded a city bus. A few stops later, several white people got on, one of whom was left standing. The driver told Parks to give the white man her seat. She refused and was arrested. Black community leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association to organize a Monday bus boycott to protest Parks' arrest.

37¢ 1957—Little Rock Nine

On September 23 the Little Rock Nine braved a mob outside the school to pass through the school doors. Inside, white students spit at them, tripped them and yelled insults. President Eisenhower responded by sending troops of the 101st Airborne Division to protect them. The 101st patrolled outside the school and accompanied each black student inside the school. A task force of Arkansas guardsmen then assumed the duty and continued to protect the students for the remainder of the year.

37¢ 1960—Lunch Counter Sit-Ins

Throughout the South in 1960 and for decades before, people were segregated by race in restaurants and other public places. On February 1, 1960 four African-American college students sat at the "whites only" lunch counter of the F. W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, NC and tried to order lunch. When asked to leave they remained in their seats. A larger group of students returned the next day. Hundreds of students and others joined in sitting-in at the lunch counter and boycotting the store. Six months later, the Woolworth lunch counter was desegregated.

37¢ 1961—Freedom Riders

On May 5, 1961 the "Freedom Riders" began their highly publicized ride through the south to protest segregation laws. A group of activists boarded a bus in Washington, DC, that was bound for New Orleans. They would drive through Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi before ending their trip in New Orleans, Louisiana, where they staged a civil rights rally.

37¢ 1963—March On Washington

As African-Americans struggled against segregation and mistreatment, Civil Rights leaders organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963.

37¢ 1964—Civil Rights Act

On July 2, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, fulfilling a goal set by his predecessor, John F. Kennedy.

37¢ 1965—Voting Rights Act

On August 6, 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting. Additionally, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provided some voting rights protections including a requirement that literacy tests be distributed equally. In spite of all these attempts, voting discrimination still persisted. Shortly after the 1964 elections President Lyndon B. Johnson told his Attorney General to draft the "toughest voting rights act" he could.

37¢ 1965—Selma March

On March 21, 1965 Martin Luther King, Jr. led the third (and finally successful) march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to protest for voting rights.

African American Heritage Stamps



1948 – Executive Order 9981



1965 – Voting Rights Act



1960 – Lunch Counter Sit-Ins



1957 – Little Rock Nine



1955 – Montgomery Bus Boycott



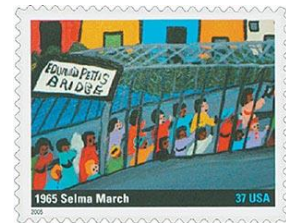
1961 – Freedom Riders



1964 – Civil Rights Act



1963 – March On Washington



1965 – Selma March

1954 – Brown v.
Board of Education





39¢ Quilts of Gee's Bend

Different Stamps Issued: 10

Issue Date: August 24, 2006

City of Issue: Des Plaines, IL

Quantity Issued: 500,000,000 (This total includes both sheet and booklet formats)

Gee's Bend is a small, isolated, rural community in southern Alabama. Joseph Gee had a cotton plantation there that he sold to Mark Pettway in 1845. After the Civil War Pettway's freed slaves became tenant farmers. Many bought their farms in a 1940s' New Deal program.

The African-American women of Gee's Bend a small remote Black community in Alabama made dozens of quilts. They were needed for warm bed coverings. Quilts were hung on walls to keep out drafts and laid on floors for children to sit on. The quilters passed their skills down through generations. They pieced together recycled fabrics in a bold, geometric style more like modern abstract paintings than familiar quilt patterns.

In Gee's Bend, the top is designed and stitched by one quilter. Sewing together the top, batting, and back is sometimes done communally. In 2003 more than 40 women founded the Gee's Bend Quilter's Collective. Typically, half of the proceeds from each quilt sold goes to the designer and the rest is divided among the collective's members.

In the 1930s Gee's Bend quilts sold for two dollars. Now, having been discovered by the outside world and displayed in museums across the country, top Gee's Bend quilts sell for as much as \$35,000. Gee's Bend Quilt stamps are part of the American Treasures Series.

African American Heritage Stamps

2006 Quilts of Gee's Bend – Sheet Stamps



Pig in a Pen



Nine Patch



House Top Log Cabin



Roman Stripes



Chinese Coins



Medallion & Checkered Center



Medallion



Bar & Columns



Blocks & Strips



Housetop

39¢ Quilts of Gee's Bend

Different Stamps Issued: 10

Issue Date: August 24, 2006

City of Issue: Des Plaines, IL

The Quilts of Gee's Bend were issued in two formats: sheets and booklet, both contained 20 39¢ stamps each.

Shown here is an image of the booklet. The same stamps that are in the sheet format are also in the booklet format.

Front Side



Back Side

African American Heritage Stamps

2006 Quilts of Gee's Bend – Booklet Stamps



Pig in a Pen



Nine Patch



House Top Log Cabin



Roman Stripes



Chinese Coins



Medallion & Checkered Center



Medallion



Bar & Columns



Blocks & Strips



Housetop

39¢ Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 6, 2006

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

The seven robed figures from the 2004 Kwanzaa stamp line-up again on this 2006 holiday issue. The figures represent the seven days and seven principles of this African-American celebration.

41¢ Star Wars “Darth Vader”

Issue Date: May 25, 2007

City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA

Quantity Issued: 30,000,000

The “Darth Vader” character was voiced by African-American stage and screen legendary actor James Earl Jones.

75¢ Harriet Beecher Stowe

Issue Date: June 13, 200

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was the best-selling novel of the 19th century and the second best-selling book after the Bible. The story popularized a number of African-American stereotypes for which it has been extensively criticized in the years since.

41¢ Mendez v. Westminster

Issue Date: September 14, 2007

City of Issue: Santa Ana, CA

Quantity Issued: 40,000,000

On April 14, 1947 the court case of *Mendez v. Westminster* was decided in favor of Gonzalo Mendez, an early success in the fight against segregation. Gonzalo Mendez’ determination to provide a good education for his children helped pave the way for the American civil rights movement.

41¢ Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 26, 2007

City of Issue: New York, NY

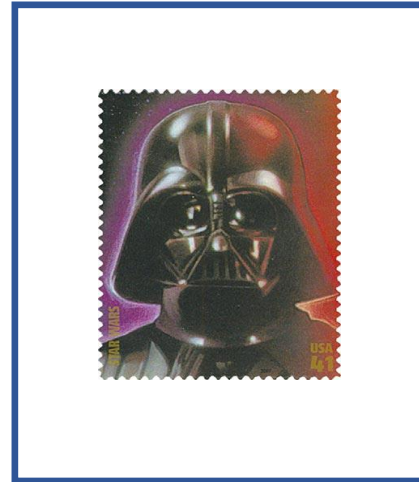
Quantity Issued: 72,000,000

The seven robed figures from the 2004 Kwanzaa stamp line up again on this 2007 holiday issue. The figures represent the seven days and seven principles of this African-American celebration.

African American Heritage Stamps



2006
Kwanzaa



2007
Star Wars
Darth Vader



2007
Harriet Beecher Stowe



2007
Mendez v. Westminster
School District



2007
Kwanzaa

Vintage Black Cinema Films

Issue Date: July 16, 2008

City of Issue: Newark, NJ

42¢ Black and Tan

Black and Tan was released in February, 1929, by RKO Radio Pictures. The short 19-minute film, also called *Black and Tan Fantasy*, begins with the legendary Duke Ellington composing a new song with trumpeter Arthur Wetzell.

Black and Tan, the first screen appearance of Duke Ellington, was honored on a 2008 U.S. postage stamp in a set of five stamps commemorating Vintage Black Cinema.

42¢ The Sport of the Gods

Released in 1921, *The Sport of the Gods* was based on a novel by author Paul Lawrence Dunbar. The film and novel are about a former white plantation owner, Maurice Oakley, living in the South during Reconstruction and is a dramatic retelling of the state of America following the Civil War.

42¢ Princess Tam-Tam

Princess Tam-Tam is a 1935 French black-and-white film which stars Josephine Baker as a local Tunisian girl who is educated and then introduced to Parisian high society. Baker sings two songs, *Dream Ship* and *Neath the Tropical Blue Skies* in the film and dances a number of times.

42¢ Caledonia

In 1945 Louis Jordan and his band, the Tympany Five, produced an 18-minute short film, also known as a "soundie," called *Caldonia*. In the short film Felix Paradise tempts Jordan to move to New York with false promises that he will have a great movie career. Blinded by Paradise's false offers, Jordan loses his Hollywood contract as well as his girlfriend, Caldonia.

42¢ Hallelujah

Released in 1929, *Hallelujah* was one of the first all-black major studio motion pictures. The film follows the story of a sharecropper named Zeke.

42¢ Latin Jazz

Issue Date: September 8, 2008

City of Issue: Washington, DC

During the late 1800s, musical styles from the Caribbean and the United States were joined together. Latin jazz blended the improvisation of American jazz with the intense drums of Latin American and African dance rhythms.

42¢ Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 24, 2008

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

So, on December 26, 1966, Karenga led his community in celebrating the first Kwanzaa. The name is taken from a phrase meaning "first fruits" in Swahili, an East African language.

With its fusion of ancient African practices and African-American ideals and aspirations, Kwanzaa is a non-denominational celebration. It is seen as a time for the gathering of families, and for rededication to the seven principles of *Nguzo Saba*, a set of values as expressed by Karenga.

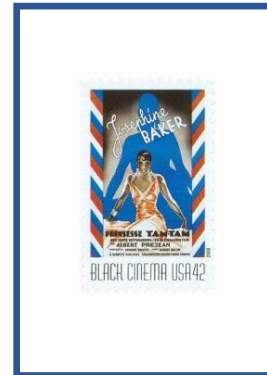
African American Heritage Stamps



2008
Black & Tan



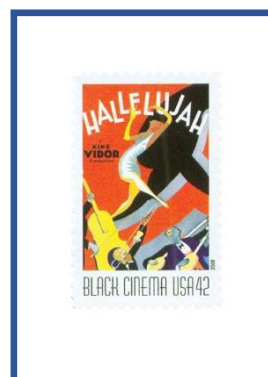
2008
The Sport of the Gods



2008
Princess Tam-Tam



2008
Caldonia



2008
Hallelujah



2008
Latin Jazz



2008
Kwanzaa

44¢ Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 9, 2009

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

With its fusion of ancient African practices and African-American ideals and aspirations, Kwanzaa is a non-denominational celebration. It is seen as a time for the gathering of families and for rededication to the seven principles of *Nguzo Saba*, a set of values as expressed by Karenga.



(Forever) Jazz

Issue Date: March 26, 2011

City of Issue: New Orleans, LA

Jazz is a music genre that originated from African American communities of New Orleans in the U.S. during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It emerged in the form of independent traditions and popular musical styles all linked by the common bonds of African American and European American styles.

(Forever) Fix Water Leaks Go Green

Issue Date: April 14, 2011

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 160,000,000

Leaks have greater costs than a good night's rest and inflated water bill. An estimated 14% of private U.S. water consumption is wasted by leaky faucets. That is water which communities must pay to filter, sanitize, and transport. In areas with low supplies of water, the impact is much more meaningful. Leaks can also be a sign of plumbing problems elsewhere that can result in damage to homes.

Romare Bearden—Art

(Forever) Conjunction

(Forever) Odysseus

(Forever) Conjur Woman

(Forever) Falling Star

Issue Date: September 28, 2011

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 10,000,000 Each Stamp

Bearden was a talented black artist and an innovative American craftsman who used his work to speak for his African-American culture.

Romare Bearden once said, "What I've attempted to do is establish a world through art in which the validity of my Negro experience could live and make its own logic."

To make that goal a reality, Bearden used collages, like those pictured on the 2011 stamps, to share his experiences. He used materials that seem to be unrelated and put them together to form masterpieces.

Bearden helped found the Spiral Group during the 1960s, which served as both an outlet for his talent and increased his social awareness. A gathering of black artists, the group used art to make their voices heard in the struggle for Civil Rights. In 1963, Bearden recommended the members make a collage together. That was his first attempt with the technique, a form he favored for the rest of his life and used to show the richness of black culture.

(Forever) Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 14, 2011

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

During each evening of the seven-day holiday, family members light one of the seven candles of the *kinara* (candleholder), and then discuss that day's principle. The first is the black candle in the center, which symbolizes African people everywhere. Three red candles, representing the blood of ancestors, are on the left. Three green candles, symbolizing the earth, life, and promise for the future are on the right.

African American Heritage Stamps



**2009
Kwanzaa**



**2011
Jazz**



**2011
Fix Water Leaks**



**2011
Conjunction**



**2011
Odysseus**



**2011
Conjurer Women**



**2011
Falling Star**



**2011
Kwanzaa**

(Forever) Flowers by William H. Johnson

Issue Date: April 11, 2012

City of Issue: Baltimore, MD

Quantity Issued: 70,000,000

One of the leading African-American artists of the 20th century, William H. Johnson.

In 1967 all of Johnson's 1,300 paintings were donated to the Smithsonian Institution where they were put on display, reviving interest and establishing him as a leading painter of his time. Perhaps one of his greatest honors came when President Barack Obama chose four of Johnson's paintings to decorate the White House—the most by any single artist.

(Forever) Emancipation Proclamation

Issue Date: January 1, 2013

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 55,000,000

150th anniversary of President Lincoln issuing the order to free all slaves.

(Forever) Painting "The Prodigal Son"

Issue Date: March 7, 2013

City of Issue: New York, NY

Quantity Issued: 1,950,000

Aaron Douglas's painting *The Prodigal Son* is one of twelve featured on the Modern Art in America: 1913-1931 stamps.

The "Father of African-American Arts," Aaron Douglas refuted this title, saying "I am just a son of Africa and paint for what inspires me."

(Forever) Linotype Operator

Issue Date: August 8, 2013

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 2,500,000

Pictured on the Stamp is an African-American operating a Linotype machine.

(Forever) March on Washington

Issue Date: August 23, 2013

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 2,500,000

As African-Americans struggled against segregation and mistreatment, Civil Rights leaders organized the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963.

(Forever) Kwanzaa

Issue Date: November 26, 2013

City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

Quantity Issued: 35,000,000

On December 26, 1966 Karenga led his community in celebrating the first Kwanzaa. The name is taken from a phrase meaning "first fruits" in Swahili, an East African language. With its fusion of ancient African practices and African-American ideals and aspirations, Kwanzaa is a non-denominational celebration. It is seen as a time for the gathering of families, and for rededication to the seven principles of *Nguzo Saba*, a set of values as expressed by Karenga.

(Forever) Battle of Petersburg

Issue date: July 30, 2014

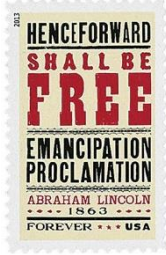
City of Issue: Petersburg, VA

Pierre G. T. Beauregard, the general in command of Petersburg's defense, had fewer than 6,000 soldiers and local militia on June 15 when William F. Smith's Eighteenth Corps, some 14,000 strong, stormed the city's fortifications. Two brigades of African-American soldiers spearheaded the assault and were poised to enter the city. The United States Colored Troops (USCT) were regiments in the United States Army composed primarily of African-American (colored) soldiers. They were first recruited during the American Civil War, and by the end of that war in April, 1865, the 175 USCT regiments constituted about one-tenth of the manpower of the Union Army.

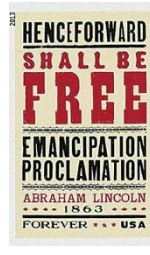
African American Heritage Stamps



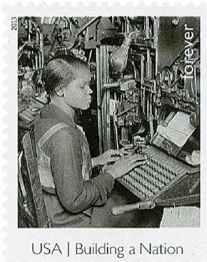
2012
Painting by
William H. Johnson



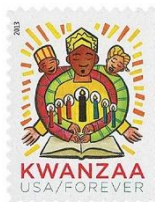
2013
The Emancipation Proclamation
(Perforated/Imperforate)



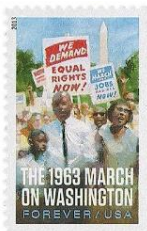
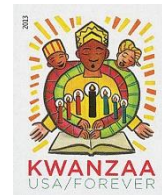
2013
Art by
Aaron Douglas



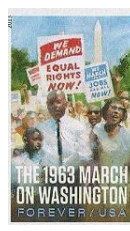
2013
Linotype Operator



2013
Kwanzaa - (Perforated/Imperforate)



2013
March on Washington – (Perforated/Imperforate)



2014
The Battle of Petersburg

(Forever) Kwanzaa

Issue Date: October 1, 2016

City of Issue: Charleston, SC

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

Kwanzaa was created in the mid-1960s to encourage African-Americans to re-discover their African culture and heritage. Through group meditation and study, the week-long holiday is an opportunity for African-Americans to celebrate themselves and their history.

(Forever) Mississippi Bicentennial

Issue Date: March 31, 2017

City of Issue: Gulfport, MS

Quantity Issued: 25,000,000

On December 10, 1817 Mississippi became the 20th state in the Union. Before the Civil War Mississippi was most known for its cotton production. But in the early 20th century, it became famous for something new—blues music. Blues music was inspired by Mississippi's large population of African-Americans. Its origins lie in the work songs of slaves toiling in the cotton fields. These songs repeated lyrics and included a call-and-response style (one group singing first and another responding). Once slavery was abolished these songs mixed with spirituals and folk tunes and were named the blues.

(Forever) "The Snowy Day" Booklet

Issue Date: October 4, 2017

City of Issue: Brooklyn, NY

Quantity Issued: 5,000,000 Each Stamp

Ezra Keats published *The Snowy Day*, his most famous work. The story follows a young African-American child named Peter who experiences the delight of a first snowfall in his neighborhood. This children's book was one of the first to have an African-American as the main character. Keats earned the Caldecott Medal in 1963 for *The Snowy Day*.

The following four captions with images were used in publishing the stamps:

- Peter Making a Snowball
- Peter Sliding Down a Hill of Snow
- Peter Making a Snow Angel
- Peter Looking at His Footprints in the Snow



(Forever) National Museum of African-American History and Culture

Issue Date: September 24, 2017

City of Issue: Washington, DC

Quantity Issued: 15,000,000

On September 24, 2016 the National Museum of African-American History and Culture opened in Washington, DC.

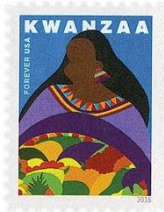
Calls for a museum honoring African-American history and culture date back to 1915. That year, a group of African-American Union Army veterans met in Washington, DC for a reunion and parade, but were met with discrimination. After that, the group made plans to create a memorial to African-American achievements.

In 1981 Congress approved the creation of the National Afro-American Museum in Wilberforce, Ohio. However, some still called for a stand-alone museum in Washington, DC. The attention these calls received inspired the Smithsonian to stage an exhibit, "Field to Factory," which in turn gained further support for the museum idea.

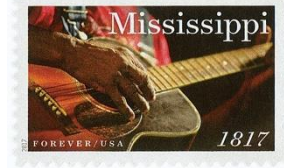
On November 19 the House passed the National Museum of African-American History and Culture Act, providing funds and a location for the museum. The legislation also included funding for other African-American museums to help improve their operations and collections.

The museum officially opened to the public on September 24, 2016 with President Barack Obama participating in the dedication ceremony. President Obama and the Bonner family, descendants of escaped slave Elijah B. Odom, rang the Freedom Bell to mark the museum's official opening.

African American Heritage Stamps



**2016
Kwanzaa**



**2017
Mississippi Bicentennial**



**2017
Peter Making a
Snowball**



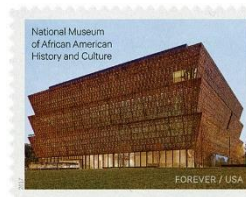
**2017
Peter Sliding Down
a Hill of Snow**



**2017
Peter Making a
Snow Angel**



**2017
Peter Looking
at His
Footprints in
the Snow**



**2017
National
Museum of
African
American
History &
Culture**

(Forever) Kwanzaa**Issue Date:** October 10, 2018**City of Issue:** Raleigh, NC**Quantity Issued:** 15,000,000

Kwanzaa is still a fairly new holiday. It was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a Black Power activist, as part of the Black Freedom Movement. The theme of community is deeply embedded in the holiday. Moreover, it serves to join African-Americans with their heritage.

**(Forever) Enjoy the Great Outdoors—
Sandcastles****Issue Date:** June 13, 2020**City of Issue:** Incline Village, NV**Quantity Issued:** 35,000,000

Who could forget all the joys of summer vacation as a child? No school, warm weather and annual family vacations. And some of the best were trips to the beach. But one of the most fun things about going to the beach is building a sandcastle.

(Forever) Hip Hop—MCing**Issue Date:** July 1, 2020**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 20,000,000

In hip hop, the MC (Master of Ceremonies) draws in audiences through spoken word performances of clever rhymes and compelling lyrics. This aspect of hip hop has roots that stretch back centuries.

One of the oldest of these is the *griots* of West Africa. Griots were storytellers who shared their people's history through rhythmic singing accompanied by drums.

(Forever) Hip Hop—B-Boy**Issue Date:** July 1, 2020**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 20,000,000

Giving movement to the music, b-boys and b-girls (b stands for break) are talented performers who display their athleticism through impressive dance moves that often seem to defy gravity. While acrobatic street performances have been popular since the 1800s, "breaking" was born in the 1970s. DJ Kool Herc was the first to loop the rhythmic breakdown of songs, creating a beat for dancers to improvise moves to.

(Forever) Hip Hop—Graffiti Art**Issue Date:** July 1, 2020**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 20,000,000

Graffiti is the visual aspect of hip hop. It can be found hidden in out-of-the-way places and covering massive walls. While some consider graffiti to be vandalism, others consider it to be an art form. Graffiti has a long history, dating back centuries.

(Forever) Hip Hop—DJ**Issue Date:** July 1, 2020**City of Issue:** New York, NY**Quantity Issued:** 20,000,000

In the 1970s, hip hop pioneer DJ Kool Herc developed the technique of mixing between two records to lengthen the instrumental section. This marked the rise of turntablism, in which the turntables didn't just play music, they also created sounds and new music. This led to hip hop's signature scratching technique.

(Forever) Woman Vote**Issue Date:** August 23, 2020**City of Issue:** Nashville, TN

With this stamp, the Postal Services commemorates the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guarantees women the right to vote.

(Forever) Kwanzaa**Issue Date:** October 13, 2020**City of Issue:** Seneca Falls, NY**Quantity Issued:** 35,000,000

The 2020 Kwanzaa stamp features the face of a woman in profile with her eyes closed. A kinara (candleholder) with the seven lit candles sits in front of her.

African American Heritage Stamps



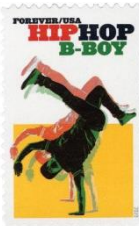
2018
Kwanzaa



2020
Sandcastles



2020
Hip Hop MCing



2020
Hip Hop B-Boy



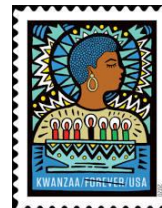
2020
Hip Hop Graffiti Art



2020
Hip Hop DJ



2020
Women Vote - 19th Amendment



2020
KWANZAA

**Add Future Issues of African American Heritage
Postal Material to the following blank pages**

African American Heritage Stamps

Glossary

Booklet: A unit of one or more small panes or blocks of stamps (known as booklet panes) glued, stitched or stapled together between thin card covers to form a convenient unit for mailers to purchase and carry. For some modern booklets of self-adhesive stamps, the liner (backing paper) serves as the booklet cover

Forever Stamps: Forever Stamps were created by the United States Postal Service® (USPS®) in 2007. They are non-denominational First Class® postage, which means that they can be used to mail First Class letters no matter what the postal rate.

Perforations: Are small rows of holes punched between stamps to make them easier to separate. A perforation gauge is used to measure the number of holes or teeth within two centimeters. If a stamp has 11 perforations in 2 cm, it is said to be “Perf 11.”

Imperforate: Stamps which have been deliberately printed and issued without perforations, so that they bear straight edges on all four sides.

Sheet: A sheet of stamps is a unit of stamps as printed, usually on large sheets of paper that are sold at post offices.

Souvenir Sheet: A single stamp or a pair, block, or set of stamps having the same or different designs commemorating an event or a group of people.

Philatelic Reference Sources

- **Ebony Society of Philatelic Events And Reflections** - <https://www.esperstamps.org/>
- **American Philatelic Society** - <https://stamps.org/>
- **National Postal Museum** - <https://www.si.edu/museums/postal-museum>
- **American Topical Association** - <https://americantopical.org/>