

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2003

Media Contact: Media Relations (202) 268-2155
Postal Service Web Site: www.usps.com
News Release Number: 072

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S COLLECTION
"TREASURES FROM THE STAMP VAULT"
TO DEBUT AT MEGA STAMP SHOW

WASHINGTON—The Postmaster General's Collection, "Treasures from the Stamp Vault," will debut in New York during the Oct. 23-26 American Stamp Dealer's Association Postage Stamp Mega Event. The exhibit will be officially unveiled by Postmaster General John E. Potter at 10 a.m., Oct. 23 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center Hall E, 655 West 34th St., New York. Stamp show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The Postal Service has one of the largest and finest collections of stamps and stamp art in the world," said Postmaster General Potter. "I'm proud to be able to share this spectacular collection with the American people. Through our stamp program, the Postal Service has the unique ability to depict with beauty and style the people, places and events that have made this nation great. Now the public will have the chance to see some of the most historic pieces of this collection once again."

Featured in the exhibit are the die proofs of such famous issues as the 1918 inverted Jenny airmail stamp; the approval die proofs and full panes of the 1930 Graf Zeppelin airmail stamps; the 1953 New York City 300th anniversary commemorative stamp artwork, models die proofs and full pane; and the Norman Rockwell designs for stamps including reproduction of original artwork and rejected models.

Also included are the winning designs from two stamp contests held in 1937 and 1963. Two other unique displays are the mail pouch that carried philatelic items to the moon and preliminary stamp designs that were submitted, but never produced.

It is a goal of the Postal Service to enable its customers throughout the United States to have an opportunity to experience the history of America and the Postal Service through this spectacular exhibit of stamps and stamp related materials.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 141 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68.9 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.