

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2004

Contact: Media Relations
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Stamp News Release No. 04-019
www.usps.com

**LONG RUNNING HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SERIES
ADDS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY STAMPED CARD**

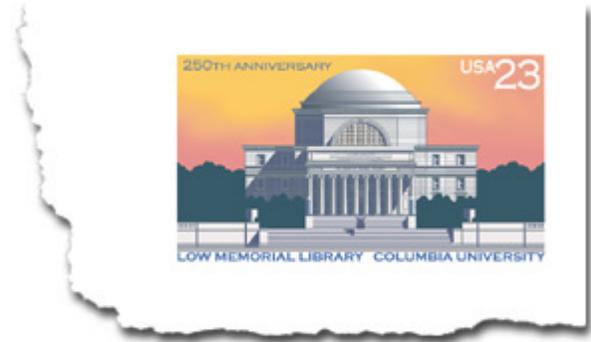
NEW YORK – A first-day-of-issue ceremony for the Columbia University stamped postal card celebrating the 250th anniversary of the University’s founding was held today at Columbia’s Morningside Heights Campus, New York, NY.

“Every stage of Columbia’s long life has been meaningful,” said Donna M. Peak, Vice President of Finance and Controller for the U.S. Postal Service, and an alumna of the university’s Senior Executive Program, who dedicated the stamp. “From its earliest days, when classes were held at Trinity Church, to today, when it is now one of the preeminent research institutions in the world.”

Joining Peak at the first-day-of-issue ceremony was former New York City mayor David Dinkins, who served as master of ceremonies. Dinkins is a Professor in the Practice of Public Affairs at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs. Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia, offered welcoming remarks to the crowd.

The Columbia University stamped postal card is the 56th in the long-running Historical Preservation series, which began in 1977 with the issuance of the 9-cent Federal Court House (Galveston, TX) stamped postal card.

First established as King’s College by King George II of England in 1754, Columbia University’s name was changed to Columbia College after the Revolutionary War, and is officially known today as Columbia University in the City of New York.



Low Memorial Library is the centerpiece of Columbia's Morningside Heights Campus in New York. Completed in 1897, this classically designed building served as the university's main library until 1934. Today it houses the Columbiana Collection — which includes archives and memorabilia of the history of the university — and is home to the university's administration. The rotunda, once the library's main reading room, is now used for major events, including the annual Pulitzer Prize award ceremony.

To see the Columbia University stamped postal card and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Service Web site and open this press release at www.usps.com/shop. Click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

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

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.