

# The Little White House NEWSLETTER



Roosevelt's Little White House - 706-655-5870 - 401 Little White House Rd. - Warm Springs, Ga. 31830

Fall Quarter 2017

## FDR: America's Stamp Collecting President

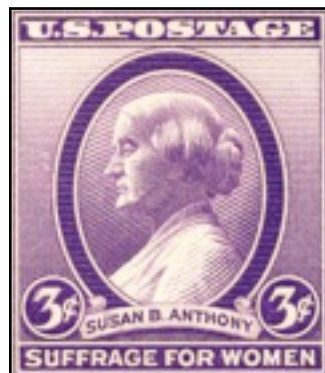
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a passion for stamp collecting, a hobby he had cherished since childhood.

The rewards of stamp collecting blessed much of FDR's life. As a child, he looked to stamps for



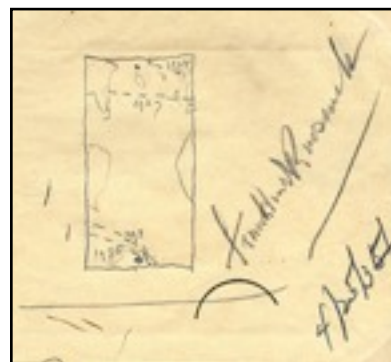
knowledge about the world. As a polio-stricken adult, they offered solace. Throughout his entire life, including his presidency, he spent time each day

with his collection. During the 1930s, he and Postmaster General James A. Farley enthusiastically brainstormed over stamp designs, colors, and themes.



Roosevelt actually sketched numerous ideas for stamp designs. During his administration, Roosevelt played a

critical role in much of the creation, design and promotion of some 200 stamps released during his time



in office. The time each day spent with his stamps relaxed President Roosevelt during those very tense times. He claimed, "I owe my life to my hobbies – especially stamp collecting." His son James recollected, "I have vivid memories of Father sitting at his desk when he had a half hour or hour with no appointments . . . with his stamp books and an expression of complete relaxation and enjoyment on his face." In addition to enjoying his stamps privately each day, FDR joined stamp clubs, bought stamps from dealers and in auction, and promoted the hobby by association with stamp shows such as the 1936 international exhibition TIPEX in New York City.

source: Smithsonian Inst.



During the 1930s, the White House released numerous photographs of FDR working on his stamp collection. As international relations became chaotic, the image of a relaxed president metaphorically “putting the world in order” reassured the nation. Several countries—including the Cook Islands, Monaco, Philippines, Turks & Caicos, and Yemen—have used these images of FDR studying stamps with his magnifier for stamp designs. Over eighty nations have honored FDR on postage stamps and philatelic issues.



AROUND THE WORLD WITH FDR ON STAMPS





# Commemorative Stamps Approved During The Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt

This collection presented to the Little White House in 1947 by Postmaster General Robert Hannagen is on display in the FDR Memorial Museum



In 1946, following FDR's death, his family sold his philatelic estate through Harmer Auction. The four

FDR stamp sales brought high prices and controversy. Most philatelists wanted to own a piece of the nation's most famous stamp collection, but some argued that the U.S. government actually owned the fabulous holdings of U.S. essays and proofs. Winning bidders in Harmer's FDR auctions



could have their purchases marked with a rubber stamp to verify that they came from the president's collection. Stamp dealers bought many

large lots of common stamps and mounted them on cards for sale as inexpensive souvenirs. Today, collectors still eagerly seek these ex-FDR philatelic items for their own collections.



In April, 1945, FDR approved the "Towards United Nations" stamp. The design letter is below. He planned to pick up a First Day Issue at the first UN Conference on April 25. While in the Little White House, on April 12, 1945, FDR suffered a stroke and passed away. A change from the approved design of the stamp would be printed with the name Franklin D. Roosevelt attributed to the quote.

4362

Carbon initialed "No. 1 5¢ blue OK F.D.R." and returned with the designs to the Postmaster General 4/11/45, elb.

three



## Office of the Postmaster General

Washington, D. C. 25

April 9, 1945.

Memorandum for the President.

With reference to the proposed commemorative postage stamp for the United Nations Conference, April 25, 1945, two models prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are herewith as No. 1 and 2. Also, herewith is a sketch identified as No. 3.

x13

x4725-21

- No. 1 - The design on this model carries only the words "Toward United Nations April 25, 1945," with a Laurel branch as an embellishment.
- No. 2 - This model portrays the symbolism of a stamp issued in 1943, "United Nations For Victory." "For Victory" has been deleted and the date April 25, 1945, has been added. This stamp, as you will recall, was of ordinary size.
- No. 3 - This model is an embodiment of both designs. The symbolism used in 1943 for the United Nations was strikingly effective and its use now, together with the words "Toward United Nations April 25, 1945," would in our opinion be most effective.

In view of the international character of the conference, we are wondering if it would not be better to have a stamp of the five-cent denomination with printing in blue, the color designated for stamps of international exchange.

As the Bureau of Engraving and Printing will have to begin work on this stamp immediately, we would appreciate your advice as to the design and denomination just as soon as possible. If you will have someone telephone us your decision it would be appreciated.

*Irwin Cullen*

Postmaster General.



Starting in July 1945, the USPS began to issue commemorative stamps of FDR. The 1 cent stamp depicts Hyde Park, NY. The 2 cent stamp was issued in Warm Springs. The 3 cent stamp shows the White House and the 4 cent stamp highlights the Four Freedoms that President Roosevelt espoused.



As of today, twelve stamps have been issued by the USPS depicting or relating to FDR and his legacy. Although stamp collecting as a hobby is in decline, FDR is credited with a rise in stamp collecting enthusiasts during his terms and after his death.



We feature many FDR stamp related items in our Gift Shop that include sweat shirts and commemorative stamps with a steel penny issued during WWII. If you have any questions or would like to purchase an item from us, we will mail your souvenir to you or who you like to have it shipped to as a gift. Call 706-655-5870 to place an order.

