

African-American Subjects on United States Postage Stamps

Beginning in 1940 with a ten-cent stamp honoring Booker T. Washington, the United States Post Office Department began issuing stamps to commemorate the contributions of African Americans. A list of these stamps, their denomination, and their dates of issue follows. Stamps on which African Americans are part of a mixed scene – for example, the 15-cent "International Year of the Child" issued in 1979 and the 22-cent "Help End Hunger" stamp issued in 1985 – are not included.

The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps lists all U.S. postage stamps and other useful information, including illustrations. You can find the *Guide* in bookstores and Post Offices, or you can order a copy by calling 1-800-STAMP-24 or from the Postal Store at www.usps.com.



Die proof of ten-cent Booker T. Washington stamp, the first U.S. postage stamp to honor an African American.

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Date Issued</i>
Booker T. Washington	10¢	April 7, 1940
13th Amendment	3¢	October 20, 1940
Dr. George Washington Carver	3¢	January 5, 1948
Centennial of Booker T. Washington	3¢	April 5, 1956
Emancipation Proclamation	5¢	August 16, 1963
Frederick Douglass	25¢	February 4, 1967
W. C. Handy	6¢	May 17, 1969
Henry Ossawa Tanner	8¢	September 10, 1973
Paul Laurence Dunbar	10¢	May 1, 1975
Salem Poor	10¢	March 25, 1975
Black Heritage: Harriet Tubman	13¢	February 1, 1978
Black Heritage: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	15¢	January 13, 1979
Black Heritage: Benjamin Banneker	15¢	February 15, 1980
Black Heritage: Whitney Moore Young, Jr.	15¢	January 30, 1981
Charles R. Drew, MD	35¢	June 3, 1981
Ralph Bunche	20¢	January 12, 1982
Black Heritage: Jackie Robinson	20¢	August 2, 1982
Black Heritage: Scott Joplin	20¢	June 9, 1983
Black Heritage: Dr. Carter G. Woodson	20¢	February 1, 1984
Black Heritage: Mary McLeod Bethune	22¢	March 5, 1985
Black Heritage: Sojourner Truth	22¢	February 4, 1986
Duke Ellington	22¢	April 29, 1986
Arctic Explorers: Matthew Henson	22¢	May 28, 1986
Black Heritage: Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable	22¢	February 20, 1987
Black Heritage: James Weldon Johnson	22¢	February 2, 1988

Black Heritage: A. Philip Randolph	25¢	February 3, 1989
Black Heritage: Ida B. Wells	25¢	February 1, 1990
Olympians: Jesse Owens	25¢	July 6, 1990
Black Heritage: Jan E. Matzeliger	29¢	September 15, 1991
Black Heritage: W.E.B. DuBois	29¢	January 31, 1992
Black Heritage: Percy Lavon Julian	29¢	January 29, 1993
Rock & Roll / Rhythm & Blues:		
Clyde McPhatter	29¢	June 16, 1993
Otis Redding	29¢	June 16, 1993
Dinah Washington	29¢	June 16, 1993
Joe Louis	29¢	June 22, 1993
Broadway Musicals: Porgy & Bess	29¢	July 14, 1993
Black Heritage: Dr. Allison Davis	29¢	February 1, 1994
Buffalo Soldiers	29¢	April 22, 1994
Popular Singers: Nat 'King' Cole	29¢	September 1, 1994
Popular Singers: Ethel Waters	29¢	September 1, 1994
Jazz and Blues Singers:		
Mildred Bailey	29¢	September 17, 1994
Billie Holiday	29¢	September 17, 1994
Robert Johnson	29¢	September 17, 1994
'Ma' Rainey	29¢	September 17, 1994
Jimmy Rushing	29¢	September 17, 1994
Bessie Smith	29¢	September 17, 1994
Muddy Waters	29¢	September 17, 1994
Howlin' Wolf	29¢	September 17, 1994
Legends of the West:		
Jim Beckwourth	29¢	October 18, 1994
Bill Pickett	29¢	October 18, 1994
Black Heritage: Bessie Coleman	32¢	April 27, 1995
Civil War: Frederick Douglass	32¢	June 29, 1995
Civil War: Harriet Tubman	32¢	June 29, 1995
Jazz Musicians:		
Louis Armstrong *	32¢	September 16, 1995
Eubie Blake	32¢	September 16, 1995
John Coltrane	32¢	September 16, 1995
Erroll Garner	32¢	September 16, 1995
Coleman Hawkins	32¢	September 16, 1995
James P. Johnson	32¢	September 16, 1995
Charlie Parker	32¢	September 16, 1995
Charles Mingus	32¢	September 16, 1995
Thelonious Monk	32¢	September 16, 1995
'Jelly Roll' Morton	32¢	September 16, 1995
Black Heritage: Ernest E. Just	32¢	February 1, 1996
Folk Heroes: John Henry	32¢	July 11, 1996

Big Band Leaders: Count Basie	32¢	September 11, 1996
Black Heritage: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.	32¢	January 28, 1997
Kwanzaa	32¢	October 22, 1997
Black Heritage: Madam C. J. Walker	32¢	January 28, 1998
Celebrate the Century-1900s: W. E. B. DuBois, Social Activist	32¢	February 3, 1998
Celebrate the Century-1910s: George Washington Carver	32¢	February 3, 1998
Celebrate the Century-1920s: Jazz Flourishes	32¢	May 28, 1998
Folk Musicians:		
Leadbelly	32¢	June 26, 1998
Sonny Terry	32¢	June 26, 1998
Josh White	32¢	June 26, 1998
Gospel Singers:		
Mahalia Jackson	32¢	July 15, 1998
Roberta Martin	32¢	July 15, 1998
Sister Rosetta	32¢	July 15, 1998
Clara Ward	32¢	July 15, 1998
Celebrate the Century-1930s: Jesse Owens	32¢	September 10, 1998
Black Heritage: Malcolm X	33¢	January 20, 1999
Celebrate the Century-1940s: Jackie Robinson	33¢	February 18, 1999
Celebrate the Century-1950s: Desegregating Public Schools	33¢	May 26, 1999
Celebrate the Century-1960s: "I Have A Dream"	33¢	September 17, 1999
Celebrate the Century-1980s:		
"The Cosby Show"	33¢	January 12, 2000
Hip-hop Culture	33¢	January 12, 2000
Black Heritage: Patricia Roberts Harris	33¢	January 27, 2000
Legends of Baseball:		
Josh Gibson	33¢	July 6, 2000
Satchel Paige	33¢	July 6, 2000
Jackie Robinson	33¢	July 6, 2000
Black Heritage: Roy Wilkins	34¢	January 24, 2001
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa	34¢	October 21, 2001
Black Heritage: Langston Hughes	34¢	February 1, 2002
Masters of American Photography: James VanDerZee	37¢	June 13, 2002
Women in Journalism: Ethel L. Payne	37¢	September 14, 2002
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa	37¢	October 10, 2002
Black Heritage: Thurgood Marshall	37¢	January 7, 2003
Literary Arts: Zora Neale Hurston	37¢	January 24, 2003
Black Heritage: Paul Robeson	37¢	January 20, 2004
American Choreographers: Alvin Ailey	37¢	May 4, 2004
Distinguished Americans: Wilma Rudolph	23¢	July 14, 2004
Literary Arts: James Baldwin	37¢	July 23, 2004

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa	37¢	October 16, 2004
Black Heritage: Marian Anderson	37¢	January 27, 2005
Arthur Ashe	37¢	August 27, 2005
To Form a More Perfect Union:		
Selma March	37¢	August 30, 2005
Montgomery Bus Boycott	37¢	August 30, 2005
Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit In	37¢	August 30, 2005
Freedom Riders	37¢	August 30, 2005
Little Rock Nine	37¢	August 30, 2005
Civil Rights Act of 1964	37¢	August 30, 2005
Brown v. Board of Education	37¢	August 30, 2005
Executive Order 9981	37¢	August 30, 2005
March on Washington	37¢	August 30, 2005
Voting Rights Act of 1965	37¢	August 30, 2005
Black Heritage: Hattie McDaniel	39¢	January 25, 2006
Sugar Ray Robinson	39¢	April 7, 2006
Distinguished American Diplomats: Clifton R. Wharton Sr.	39¢	May 30, 2006
Baseball Sluggers: Roy Campanella	39¢	July 15, 2006
American Treasures: Gee's Bend Quilts	39¢	August 24, 2006
Black Heritage: Ella Fitzgerald	39¢	January 10, 2007
Black Heritage: Charles W. Chesnutt	41¢	January 31, 2008
Vintage Black Cinema:		
<i>The Sport of the Gods</i>	42¢	July 16, 2008
<i>Black and Tan</i>	42¢	July 16, 2008
<i>Princess Tam-Tam</i>	42¢	July 16, 2008
<i>Caldonia</i>	42¢	July 16, 2008
<i>Hallelujah</i>	42¢	July 16, 2008
Civil Rights Pioneers:		
Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovington	42¢	February 21, 2009
J.R. Clifford and Joel Elias Spingarn	42¢	February 21, 2009
Oswald Garrison Villard and Daisy Gatson Bates	42¢	February 21, 2009
Charles Hamilton Houston and Walter White	42¢	February 21, 2009
Medgar Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer	42¢	February 21, 2009
Ella Baker and Ruby Hurley	42¢	February 21, 2009
Richard Wright	61¢	April 9, 2009
Black Heritage: Anna Julia Cooper	44¢	June 11, 2009
Distinguished Sailors: Doris Miller	44¢	February 4, 2010
Black Heritage: Oscar Micheaux	44¢	June 22, 2010
Negro Leagues Baseball: Rube Foster	44¢	July 15, 2010

* A separate stamp honoring Louis Armstrong was issued in July 1995; the same stamp also was part of the Jazz Musicians series in September 1995.