

# The 1932 Washington Bicentennial Commemorative Stamps

This traditional philatelic exhibit explores the creation, production, and usage of the Washington Bicentennial adhesive commemorative stamps. The set of twelve commemorative stamps marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of the "Father of Our Country" George Washington. It featured images of Washington at different periods in his life from a young man to his old age. Stamped envelopes were issued, but are not the focus of this exhibit.

## BACKGROUND

Congress established the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission in 1924. The Post Office Department (POD) immediately began preliminary work on a series of stamps for the 1932 celebration. In 1930 the Commission formally requested that the POD issue a series of stamps to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth. On October 1, 1931, the POD announced that on January 1, 1932, a set of twelve commemorative stamps with values from ½- to 10-cents would be issued at Washington, D.C.

## EXHIBIT PLAN

SECTION	FRAME
<b>I. DESIGN PHASE</b>	1
Essays – Pictorial Format	
Essays – Portrait Format	
<b>II. PRE-PRODUCTION &amp; PRODUCTION</b>	2
Small Die Proofs	
Large Die Proofs	
POD Official Announcement—Oct. 1, 1931	
Designers and Engravers	
<b>III. PRODUCTION</b>	3
Plate Numbers	
Plate and Perforation Varieties	
<b>IV. FIRST DAY OF ISSUE</b>	4
POD Official Announcement—Nov. 4, 1931	
Predate	
Cancellations used at Washington, DC	
Unofficial Sites	
<b>V. USAGE</b>	5 - 8
Precancels	
Perfins	
½-, 1-, 1 ½-, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, and 10-cent commemoratives	

## NOTES

Examples of usages were selected for viewer interest. Solo usages are included for all twelve values. An effort has been made to show primarily only material franked with the Washington Bicentennial Issue. However, the commemoratives were issued during the era of the Fourth Bureau Issue. So some covers are franked with a combination of Washington Bicentennials and these definitive stamps.

Significant items are described in red text or denoted with a red box around the item..

