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## Black Heritage Stamp Series: Hattie McDaniel

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

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Footer logo

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January 25, 2006

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**Artist**  
Tim O'Brien  
Brooklyn, NY

**Designer**  
Ethel Kessler  
Bethesda, MD

**Art Director**  
Ethel Kessler

**Typographer**  
Greg Berger  
Bethesda, MD

**Modeler**  
Donald H. Woo

**Manufacturing Process**  
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**Colors**  
Magenta, Yellow, Cyan,  
Black

**Image Area (w x h)**  
0.820 x 1.40 (in.)  
20.83 x 35.56 (mm.)

**Plate Numbers**  
"S" followed by four (4)  
single digits

**Marginal Markings**  
© 2005 USPS, plate  
numbers in four (4)  
corners, plate position  
diagram, price, four (4)  
barcodes on back of  
pane, biographical text  
on back of stamp,  
promotional informational  
on back of pane

### Hattie McDaniel

On February 29, 1940, when she took home the "Best Supporting Actress" statuette for her performance in *Gone With the Wind*, Hattie McDaniel (1895-1952) became the first African American to win an Academy Award. The portrait on this stamp shows McDaniel in the dress she wore on that occasion.

McDaniel was born in Wichita, Kansas, and raised in Denver, Colorado, where she sang on local radio broadcasts. She began appearing in films after going to Hollywood in 1931, where one of her early movies was *Judge Priest* (1934), in which she sang a duet with Will Rogers. Some of her other films include *Alice Adams* (1935), *Show Boat* (1936), *Saratoga* (1937), *In This Our Life* (1942), and *Since You Went Away* (1944).

From 1947 until 1952, McDaniel played the title role in *The Beulah Show*, broadcast on national radio. Demonstrating her popularity and power, McDaniel successfully negotiated the right to alter scripts of which she did not approve.



First Day of Issue - January 25, 2006 - Beverly Hills, CA 90210

*Hattie McDaniel*  
First African American to win an Academy Award  
★

Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers  
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# Hattie McDaniel



Hattie McDaniel

FOR HER PERFORMANCE as Mammy in the 1939 film *Gone With the Wind*, actress Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win an Academy Award.

McDaniel was born in Wichita, Kansas, on June 10, 1895, and raised in Denver, Colorado, where she sang on the radio as early as 1925. She also wrote and recorded several songs of her own.

In 1931, McDaniel arrived in Hollywood, where she soon began working in the film industry. She is typically credited with appearing in more than 90 films, but by some estimates she is believed to have appeared in as many as 300, including a number in which she played uncredited roles as a maid, a chorus singer, and an extra. She worked with many of the brightest stars of her era, including Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, with whom she appeared in *Saratoga* (1937); she gave a comic performance in *Alice Adams* (1935) with Katharine Hepburn. Some of her other films included *Show Boat* (1936), *In This Our Life* (1942), which was praised for the depth and humanity of its black characters, and *Since You Went Away* (1944).

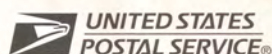
From 1947 until 1952, McDaniel played the title role in a national radio program, *The Beulah Show*, the first radio show to feature a black star. Although McDaniel played a maid, she insisted that her character would not speak in dialect, and she successfully negotiated the right to alter scripts that did not meet her approval.

Hattie McDaniel died of breast cancer at the age of 57 on October 26, 1952.



background: Courtesy Special Collections, University of Southern California; left: Photograph courtesy Photofest used with permission of Warner Bros. GONE WITH THE WIND and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Turner Entertainment Co.; center: Courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; right: Courtesy New York Public Library

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## HATTIE MCDANIEL

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

**T**he U.S. Postal Service honors **Hattie McDaniel**, movie actress, singer, and radio and television personality with the 29th stamp in its popular Black Heritage commemorative stamp series.

The stamp features a portrait of McDaniel by Tim O'Brien of Brooklyn, New York. Based on a 1941 photograph, the portrait shows McDaniel in the dress she wore on February 29, 1940, when she won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Born June 10, 1895, in Wichita, Kansas, and raised in Denver, Colorado, Hattie McDaniel showed signs of her talent at an early age; she dropped out of school as a teenager to tour with vaudeville companies, traveling musical ensembles, and minstrel shows, including one run by her father. She sang on Denver radio as early as 1925, and she also wrote and recorded several of her own songs. McDaniel arrived in Hollywood in 1931 and soon

began to appear in films. She is usually credited with appearing in more than 90 films, but is believed to have appeared in as many as 300, including uncredited roles as extras, maids and chorus singers. McDaniel is best known for her role as Mammy in the 1939 film *Gone with the Wind*, for which she won the Academy Award — the first African American to receive this honor.

McDaniel was often criticized for playing maids and other stereotypical roles, which prompted her to work behind the scenes to battle racism and discrimination. She is remembered for saying, "I'd rather play a maid than be one," and is credited with challenging any idea of subservience through her interpretative performances. Encountering racism in Hollywood, she and several other black actors worked to change the film industry during the 1940's.

Many remember her for her jovial personality, her outspoken and spunky nature, and her unmistakable laugh.



Ruby L. ...  
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JANUARY 25, 2006

10:00 A.M.

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Delores Killette  
*Vice President and Consumer Advocate  
United States Postal Service*

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

Junior R.O.T.C.  
*Hollywood High School*

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Vonzell Solomon  
*Performer  
American Idol 2005 Finalist*

**WELCOME**

Johnny Grant  
*Hollywood's Honorary Mayor*

**OFFICIAL DEDICATION**

James C. Miller III  
*Chairman, Board of Governors  
United States Postal Service*

**FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE**

Kim Goff-Crews  
*Grandniece  
Dean of Students, Wellesley College  
Wellesley, Massachusetts*

**VOCAL PERFORMANCE**

Linda Hopkins  
*"The Kid"  
Jazz and Blues Legend*

**REMARKS**

Sid Ganis  
*President, Academy of Motion Picture Arts  
and Sciences*

Dr. Mynora J. Bryant  
*International Grand Basileus  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*

Ann-Marie Johnson  
*National First Vice President  
Screen Actors Guild*

**HATTIE'S FAVORITE SONG**

Vonzell Solomon

**CLOSING**

Delores Killette

**HONORED GUESTS**

Edgar Goff  
*Nephew of Hattie McDaniel*

Mabel Collins  
*Wife of Edgar Goff*

Denise Goff-Moore  
*Grandniece*

**CAST OF "GONE WITH THE WIND" (1939)**

Ann Rutherford  
Cammie King Conlon  
Mickey Kuhn  
Patrick Curtis

Karl Malden  
*Member Emeritus, Citizens Stamp Advisory  
Committee*

Jean Picker Firstenburg  
*Member, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee  
CEO, American Film Institute*

Al Iniguez  
*Area Vice President, Pacific  
United States Postal Service*

Bill Almaraz  
*District Manager, Los Angeles  
United States Postal Service*

Koula Fuller  
*Postmaster, Beverly Hills  
United States Postal Service*

Members  
*Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.*

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First Day of Issue ★ January 25, 2006 ★ Beverly Hills, CA 90210

*Hattie McDaniel*

First African American to win an Academy Award



UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE

first day of issue ceremony

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