

1953-04-30

Louisiana Purchase

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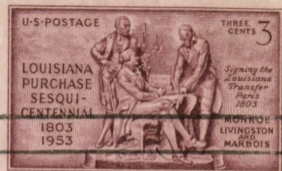
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LOUISIANA PURCHASE

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, UNDER PRESIDENT JEFFERSON, ADDED TO THE TERRITORY OF UNITED STATES ALL OF THE WESTERN DRAINAGE AREA OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER EXCEPT FOR A SMALL PART HELD BY SPAIN... THIS VAST REGION, NOW OCCUPIED BY ELEVEN STATES AND PARTS OF TWO OTHERS, WAS PURCHASED FROM FRANCE IN 1803 AT A COST OF 11½ MILLION DOLLARS.

C. STEPHEN ANDERSON



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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**INSTRUCTION OF
ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL
BUREAU OF FINANCE**

3-CENT LOUISIANA PURCHASE COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP

The Department will issue a 3-cent Louisiana Purchase commemorative postage stamp through the Saint Louis, Mo., post office on April 30, 1953.

The stamp will be 0.84 by 1.44 inches in dimensions, arranged horizontally with a double outline frame, printed by the rotary process, electric-eye perforated, and issued in sheets of 50. The color of the stamp will be maroon. An initial printing order of 110,000,000 Louisiana Purchase commemorative stamps has been authorized.

The central subject of this stamp is a reproduction of a sculptured plaque by Karl Bitter, depicting James Monroe, Robert R. Livingston, and Francois Barbe Marbois, signing the Louisiana Transfer at Paris in 1803. The figure of Livingston is shown seated between the upright figures of Monroe to the left and Marbois to the right, against a shaded background. In the upper left appears the wording "U. S. Postage." Directly below, arranged in six lines, is the wording "Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial 1803 1953." In the upper right, arranged in two lines, is the wording "Three Cents" and the numeral "3." Just below, arranged in five lines, is the wording "Signing the Louisiana Transfer Paris 1803" and under this, arranged in four lines, is the wording "Monroe Livingston and Marbois." All inscriptions are in dark architectural roman, with the exception of the wording "Signing the Louisiana Transfer Paris 1803" which is in dark roman italic.

Stamp collectors and dealers desiring first-day cancellations of this stamp may send a reasonable number of addressed envelopes to the Postmaster, Saint Louis, Mo., with money-order remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed. **Postage stamps and personal checks will not be accepted in payment.**

Envelopes submitted should be of ordinary letter size and each must be properly addressed. An enclosure of medium weight should be placed in each envelope, and the flap either sealed or turned in. An outside envelope must not be sent for return of first-day covers. The envelope to the Postmaster, Saint Louis, Mo., should be endorsed "First-Day Covers." Collectors should refrain from requesting hand cancellations, since covers will be machine-canceled so far as practicable. Orders for first-day covers must not include requests for uncanceled stamps.

For the benefit of collectors desiring stamps of selected quality for philatelic use, the 3-cent Louisiana Purchase commemorative stamp will be available at the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., on and after May 1, 1953. To insure prompt shipment, mail orders to the agency should include no other stamp issues. **The Philatelic Agency does not service first-day covers.**

Postmasters at direct- and central-accounting post offices will receive an initial supply of the Louisiana Purchase commemorative stamps on orders prepared in the Department. Therefore, postmasters at these offices will not submit requisitions for the same. Direct- and central-accounting postmasters are furnished commemorative stamps as fast as they can be manufactured. They are, therefore, requested to refrain from reporting the nonreceipt of shipments until a reasonable time has elapsed after the first day of issue.

Postmasters at district accounting offices may obtain needed quantities of the 3-cent Louisiana Purchase commemorative stamps by requisition on the central-accounting postmaster.

Postmasters will please post a copy of this notice on the bulletin board, give information to the press, and notify all local stamp clubs regarding the issuance of the 3-cent Louisiana Purchase commemorative stamp.

Postmasters are cautioned not to place the stamp herein announced on sale before May 1, 1953.

