

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. Postal Service Issues Weather Vanes Stamps *Eye-Catching Architectural Treasures Add Charm to Mailing Letters*

To obtain a high-resolution image of the stamp for media use only, email mark.r.saunders@usps.gov.

SHELBURNE, VT — The U.S. Postal Service today issued the 45-cent Weather Vanes First-Class Mail stamps in five designs available in pressure-sensitive adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000. The stamps are available at Post Offices nationwide, online at usps.com and by phone at 800-782-6724.

Each of the five designs features a photograph of eye-catching 19th century weather vanes made in the United States. All the weather vanes featured are part of Shelburne Museum's collection: a cow, an eagle, two roosters and a centaur. Sally Anderson-Bruce of New Milford, CT, photographed the weather vanes under the art direction of Derry Noyes of Washington, DC.

"These stamps are truly beautiful reminders of an era gone by," said U.S. Postal Service Senior Manager, Post Office Operations Shawn Patton, while dedicating the stamps at Shelburne Museum. "We hope Americans will buy and use the stamps when communicating with friends, family and other loved ones."

Joining Patton in dedicating the stamps were Kory Rogers, Curator of Design Arts, stamp photographer Sally Andersen-Bruce and Deborah Blondin, Postmaster, Shelburne.

The Weather Vanes

- The cow weather vane was made of hammered sheet iron circa 1870 and was later found in Hardwick, VT. Its manufacturer is unknown.
- The eagle weather vane is made of sheet iron and dates from sometime in the 19th century. Its manufacturer is unknown.
- The rooster with the thick, rounded tail was made between 1875 and 1900 by Rochester Iron Works in Rochester, NH. This painted, cast iron weather vane resembles several others from the late 19th century originally found in the Boston area and now in the museum collections nationwide.
- Made of copper, the centaur weather vane was found near New Haven, CT, during the 1940s. It was made during the 19th century by a firm in Waltham, MA, first known as A.L. Jewell and Co., then Cushing and White, then L.W. Cushing and Sons.
- The rooster with the bushy tail feathers is made of carved, painted wood and is believed to have been created circa 1890 by James Lombard (1865 -1920), a farmer and woodcarver who lived in Bridgton, ME. He specialized in hens and roosters that are often identifiable by their intricately cut

tail feathers.

The Weather Vanes stamps — as well as many of this year's other stamps — may be viewed on Facebook at [facebook.com/USPSStamps](https://www.facebook.com/USPSStamps), through *Twitter* [@USPSstamps](https://twitter.com/USPSstamps) or on the website *Beyond the Perf* at beyondtheperf.com/2012-preview. *Beyond the Perf* is the Postal Service's online site for background on upcoming stamp subjects, first-day-of-issue events and other philatelic news.

How to Order the First-Day-of-Issue Postmark

Customers have 60 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at a local Post Office, at The Postal Store website at usps.com/shop or by calling 800-STAMP-24. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others) and place them in larger envelopes addressed to:

Weather Vanes Stamp
Postmaster
495 Falls Road
Shelburne, VT 05482-9998

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes by mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by March 20, 2012.

How to Order First-Day Covers

The Postal Service also offers first-day covers for new stamp issues and Postal Service stationery items postmarked with the official first-day-of-issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the quarterly *USA Philatelic* catalog. Customers may request a free catalog by calling 800-STAMP-24 or writing to:

Information Fulfillment
Dept. 6270
U.S. Postal Service
P.O. Box 219014
Kansas City, MO 64121-9014

Philatelic Product

There is one philatelic product available for this stamp issue: 788963, First-Day Cover Set of 5, \$4.45

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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For reporters interested in speaking with a regional Postal Service public relations professional on this issue, please go to <http://about.usps.com/news/media-contacts/usps-local-media-contacts.pdf>.

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 151 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, *usps.com*, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$65 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 35th in the 2011 Fortune 500. *Black Enterprise* and *Hispanic Business* magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for six years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

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