

Collection #
SC 2854

**MADAM C. J. WALKER
STAMP DEDICATION PROGRAM, 1998**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1998

PROVENANCE: Anonymous donor

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: M0399, Madam C.J. Walker Papers; Bundles, A'Lelia, *On her
own ground :The life and times of Madam C.J. Walker*;
Colman, Penny, *Madam C.J. Walker : building a business
empire*; Koehn, Nancy, *Madam C.J. Walker : entrepreneur,
leader, and philanthropist*; Lowry, Beverly, *Her dream of
dreams : The rise and triumph of Madam C.J. Walker*; Rooks,
Noliwe, *Hair-raising : African American women, beauty
culture, and Madame C.J. Walker* and *From cabin to castle :
The life story of Madame C.J. Walker*.

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1998.0213

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The United States Postal Service first offered a commemorative stamp honoring a black American in 1940. That year Booker T. Washington was celebrated. In 1978, Harriet Tubman was honored with a 13-cent stamp inaugurating the postal service's Black Heritage Series. The 21st Black Heritage Series stamp was assigned to Madam C. J. Walker (1867–1919), a beauty culturist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, in 1998. The stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona.

In January 2005, the USPS commemorated Marian Anderson with a 37-cent stamp that was part of the Black Heritage Series. African American subjects have also been honored as individuals and as a part of other more general series. Some of these other series include: Legends of Baseball, Olympic Summer Games, Distinguished Americans, Holiday Celebrations, Folk Musicians, Gospel Singers, Literary Arts, and Celebrate the Century.

Sources:

Material in the collection

http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/_pdf/AfrAmer.pdf#search='black heritage stamp'
accessed December 13, 2008

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

On January 28, 1998 a program observing the first day of issue for a 32-cent commemorative stamp honoring Sarah Breedlove (better known as Madam C. J. Walker) was held at the Madame Walker Theatre Center in Indianapolis. The collection is made up of an invitation to a January 27 evening reception (includes a folded card, RSVP card laid in, and a single card describing the event laid in) and a program booklet for the official dedication ceremony.

The program booklet for the commemoration is multi-layered. It is contained in a floral folder (7"X10"). The inside cover has a lace background. The inside back cover contains the stamp with a postmark (dated with January 28, 1998, Indianapolis and zip code, 46206) and a brief biographical sketch of Madam Walker. The inside front cover contains a floral pocket that holds four loose sheets laid in. The first sheet describes the program for the ceremony including a list of participants: Carole Simpson (ABC News Senior Correspondent and Anchor for "World News Tonight Sunday") was Master of Ceremonies; Rev. Anne Henning Byfield gave the invocation; Honorable LeGree Daniels (Board of Governors, United States Postal Service) dedicated the stamp; A'Lelia Bundles (great-great granddaughter of Madam Walker) and Cicely Tyson (actress) gave remarks; and Brenda Williams presented a musical tribute. The three additional sheets list the honored guests; provide the lyrics for "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (national Negro anthem); and acknowledge individuals and companies associated with the ceremony.

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Invitation (folded card; single card; and RSVP card)

Madam C.J. Walker Commemorative Stamp Program
Booklet (folder with four sheets)

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2854).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.