



OBJECT ID	2008.37.223
OBJECT NAME	Stamp, Postage
OBJECT COLLECTION	Greek Art Printing Company Artifact Collection (is part of)
MATERIAL	Paper
OBJECT ENTITIES	Damianos, John (is related to) Damianos, Aristotle (is related to)
ACCESS POINTS	1962 holiday Stamp

#### OBJECT DESCRIPTION

A rectangle shaped stamp with a groove design cut all along the borders of it. The background is off white and along the bottom in a red strip in white letters is "Christmas 1962". along the left side is a green strip with two white candles, melted at the top with a red flame on each with white glow emitted around the flames. above the candles is written "U.S." and above that is written "4c" (the "c" is a cent mark). the outside candle is slightly shorter than the inside. taking up the largest portion of the stamp, at the right side of the stamp is a green wreath with red bow tied at the bottom and around the outside of the wreath are green lines pointing inwards towards the wreath.

#### ORIGIN

Printed in 1962, this stamp US #1205, was the first holiday stamp ever printed by the United States Postal Service. This is reply to large demand for such a stamp and the sale of the stamp far exceeded the initial expectation and there were 800 million stamps printed and distributed. Postmaster General J. Edward Day announced that it was the first in a series of holiday themed stamps. The stamp was met with criticism from those who declared it was a violation of separation of church and state, however holiday themed stamps continued to be printed and the Christmas stamp was joined by the Hanukkah stamp in 1996 and the Kwanza stamp in 1997 and the Eid stamp in 2001.

**CITATION**

Stamp, Postage, Greek Art Printing Company Artifact Collection, *National Hellenic Museum*, <https://hellenic.whirlihost.com/Detail/objects/>. Accessed 05/28/26.

---