



DESIGN YOUR OWN MUSEUM POSTCARD

Background

Souvenir postcards became popular in the United States at the Chicago World's Fair (The Columbian Exposition) in 1893. It cost the same to mail a picture postcard as it did a letter: 2 cents! Most people just kept writing letters, because you weren't allowed to write on the same side as the address.

In 1898, Congress lowered the cost to mail picture postcards to 1 cent. Sending picture postcards became very popular. In 1907 Congress allowed postcards to be printed with a divided back: half for a message and the other half for the address. Even more people sent postcards! Soon, the hobby of collecting postcards became the greatest hobby that the world had known. United States official Post Office figures ending June 30, 1908 cite 677,777,798 postcards mailed! At that time, the United States population was only 88,700,000! That's about seven to eight postcards per person!

Many early postcards were "view" postcards. They showed scenes from towns and popular vacation spots. They grew in popularity because there was a potential to show a wide range of subjects including historical buildings, famous people, art, holidays and even personal photo postcards.

Do you send picture postcards when you go away for a vacation? Do you or your family collect postcards? Where do you keep them?

Make Your Own Postcard:

- Write a note on the back of the card, about your trip to the museum.
- Draw your picture—add buildings, trees, people, or whatever you like.
- Address the card to a friend or relative. Share it with that person later.
- How much does it cost to send a postcard today? Find out how much sending a postcard cost in the year you were born – your parents – your grandparents – etc.
In 1963 it cost 3 cents. In 1983 it cost 13 cents. In 2001 it cost 21 cents.
This postcard will require a 37 cent stamp because it is over-sized.
To find out more, go to www.prc.gov/rates/postcardhistory.htm
- **Deltiology** is the collection and study of picture postcards. It is one of the three largest collecting hobbies. It is popular because a wide range of subjects and history can be traced on postcards.
- Do you collect? What do you collect?



Design Your Own Postcard!



My name and address

37 ¢

MY UNIQUE POST CARD

To:



Design Your Own Car Stamp:

"Automobiles have always been a clever way of celebrating our American history and culture," said Patrick Donahoe, Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Postal Service, in dedicating the new 2005 America On the Move Sporty Car stamps. "These cars are a perfect reminder of the 1950s and America's optimism that the nation's future was looking bright." The new stamps highlight the sporty look of American cars designed in the 1950s with sleek, aerodynamic lines and the innovative styling of the types of European sports cars American GIs favored upon their return from World War II. Is there a car you would pick to show what life is like today?