



Secretariat

IC/Geneva/2003/44  
20 October 2003

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**INFORMATION CIRCULAR No. 44**

**Subject: First Day of Issue – 24 October 2003  
World Heritage – U.S.A.**

1. The United States of America was the first country to ratify the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This international agreement was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1972. Its primary mission is to define and conserve the world's heritage, by drawing up a list of sites whose outstanding values should be preserved for all humanity and by ensuring their protection through closer cooperation among nations.
2. On 24 October 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps and three prestige booklets on the theme "World Heritage - U.S.A."

**3. Yosemite -37-Cent Stamp**

Yosemite National Park, located in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, embraces a spectacular tract of mountain-and-valley scenery.



**4. Hawaii Volcanoes -60-Cent Stamp**



Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is thought that the Hawaiian Islands were created when molten rock pushed through the earth's crust, forming volcanoes.



**5. Great Smoky Mountains - S.Fr. 0,90 Stamp**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, encompassing more than 800 square miles, is located in the states of North Carolina and Tennessee. It protects one of the world's finest temperate deciduous forests.

## 6. Yellowstone – S.Fr. 1,30 Stamp

In a vast natural forest in Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park covers more than 9,000 square kilometres. It was declared a national park in 1872, making it the first national park established anywhere in the world. Its hot springs, geysers and geyser basins, lava formations, lakes, waterfalls, rivers and river canyons make it a place of unrivalled beauty.



## 7. Olympic - € 0,55 Stamp



Located in the north-west corner of Washington State, Olympic National Park is dominated by Mount Olympus (2,428 metres high), which gave the park its name. A great variety of landscapes and ecosystems can be found there, with a great wealth of marine life along its rocky coast, forests of giant conifers in the valleys.

## 8. Everglades - € 0,75 Stamp

The Everglades is a fragile ecosystem that demonstrates the delicate balance within nature and the threats from humankind.



## 9. Stamp Booklets



The three prestige booklets on the theme "World Heritage – U.S.A." have a common design based on the six commemorative stamps for this issue and each contains a total of 24 mint stamps in United States, Swiss or euro denominations.

- Staff members and mission personnel wishing to procure these stamps, booklets and first day covers can obtain them from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on 24 October 2003 at the UNPA sales counter at door 6 of the Palais des Nations.
- Staff members are encouraged to use United Nations stamps on their personal mail. By doing so, these miniature messengers of peace can educate unseen thousands of people to the activities and goals of the United Nations.

(Signed) Bertrand **Jupp**in de Fondaumière  
Director, Division of Administration