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Issue Date: February 3, 1989
First Day City: New York, New York
Designer: Thomas Blackshear,
Novato, California

Typographer: Bradbury Thompson, Design
Coordinator, Citizens' Stamp
Advisory Committee (CSAC)

Art Director: Jerry Pinkney, Design
Coordinator (CSAC)

Postal Service Manager: Jack Williams,
Program Manager
for Philatelic Design

Printing Process: Gravure, Bureau of
Engraving and Printing

Colors: Magenta, yellow, cyan, black, and
light blue

Image Area: 0.84 x 1.41 inches or
21.3 x 25.8 millimeters

Plate Numbers: Five gravure

Stamps per Pane: 50

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A. Philip Randolph Commemorative Stamp

A 25-cent commemorative stamp honoring labor and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph was issued February 3 in New York City, for many years Randolph's home and headquarters of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. Designed by Thomas Blackshear, the stamp is the 12th in the Black Heritage Series. It was issued in conjunction with Black History Month.

The son of an itinerant African Methodist Episcopal minister, Asa Philip Randolph was born in Crescent City, Florida, on April 15, 1889. Randolph read extensively in economics and philosophy, and in 1917, co-founded *The Messenger*, the most brilliantly edited black publication of its time.

In 1925, Randolph embarked on a campaign to organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. This battle, marked by fierce resistance from the Pullman company, was won finally in 1937 with the first contract signed by a white employer and black labor leader.

In 1935, when John L. Lewis led an exodus from the American Federation of Labor to form what later became the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Randolph chose to remain. His decision to fight segregation from within was the greatest impetus for progress, without which there would have been no merger with the CIO. Randolph was named Vice-President of the AFL-CIO in 1957.

To Randolph, the fight for labor and civil rights were inseparable. He developed the strategy of mass protest to win two profound concessions: President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee which banned discrimination in defense plants and President Truman's executive order to abolish segregation in the armed services.

At 74, Randolph directed the massive 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He received many awards, including the NAACP Spingarn Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



A. Philip Randolph

If the great laboring masses of people, black and white, are kept forever snarling over the question as to who is superior or inferior, they will take a long time to combine for achievement of a common benefit.

—A. Philip Randolph



Those who knew Asa Philip Randolph knew a man of great courage, and even greater compassion. A labor leader, writer and dedicated civil rights activist, Randolph believed in equality as a basic truth, and helped lead the movement striving toward justice for all people, regardless of race or social position.

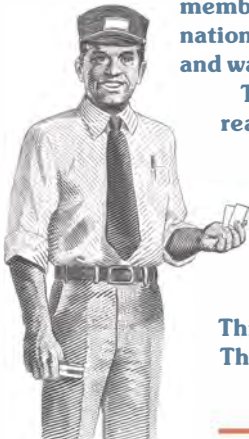
Randolph was born on April 15, 1889, in Crescent City, Florida. As a young adult, he traveled to New York, where he lived and worked while attending college at night. In 1917, Randolph and a friend, Chandler Owen, founded *The Messenger*, a magazine devoted to social reform and issues confronting black workers. The message their magazine delivered was simple: All people by necessity must work together, or none shall ever succeed.

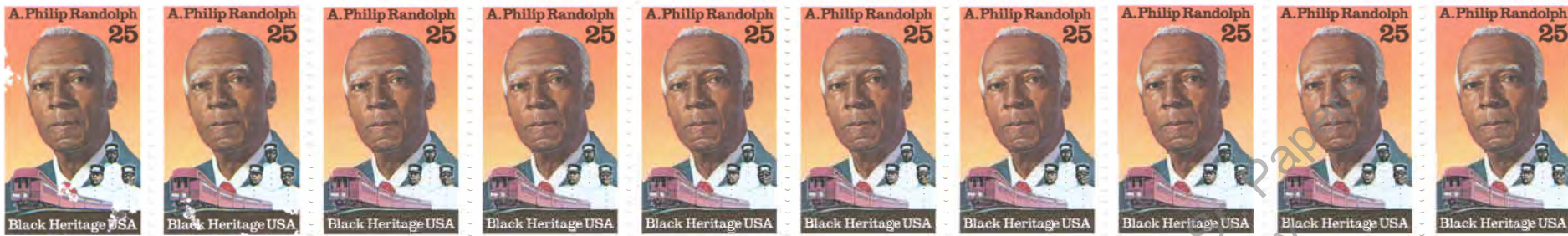
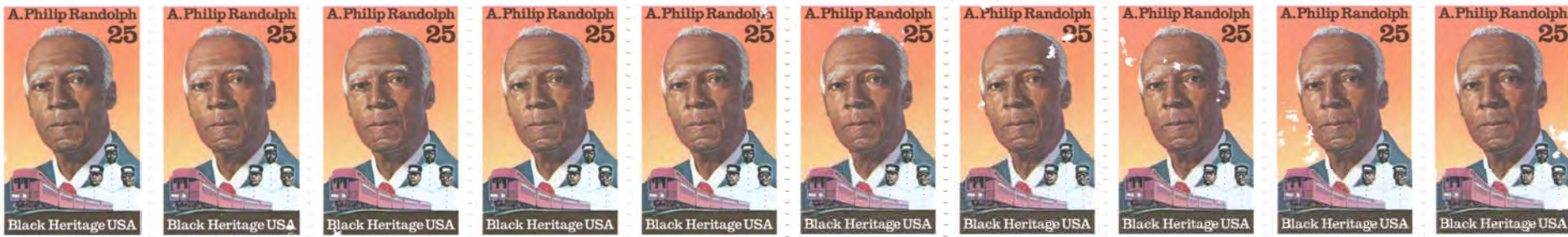
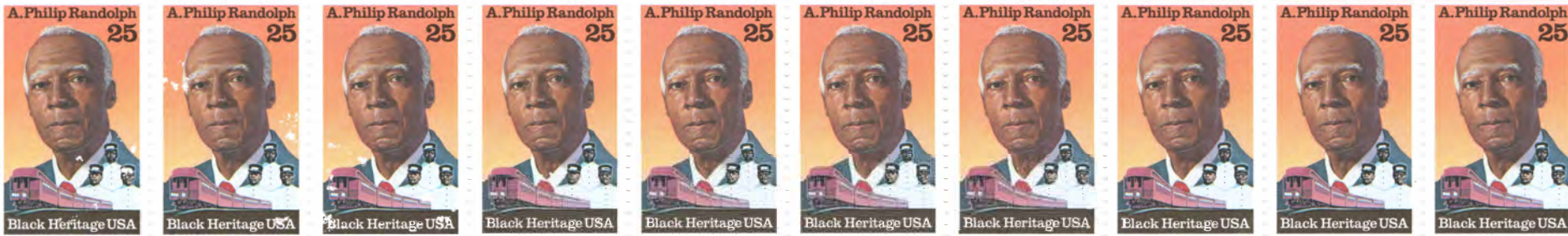
By 1925, Randolph had formed the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which he led until 1968. The brotherhood was the first successful black labor organization, and its members are still familiar friends to millions of railroad passengers across the nation. Randolph himself gained respect among government and labor leaders, and was recognized as a champion of anti-discrimination legislation.

Throughout his life, he staunchly advocated the use of peaceful protest, and realized that wise compromise was vital for success. "In politics, as in other things," he wrote in 1944, "there is no such thing as one getting something for nothing. The payoff may involve compromises of various types that may strike at the ideals and principles one has held dear all his life."

Randolph remained active in public causes until he retired at the age of 79. Today, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, which he founded in 1965, continues to aid community leaders studying poverty and social issues.

This commemorative stamp was issued February 3, 1989, in New York, New York. It was designed by Thomas Blackshear of Novato, California.





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United States
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1989

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A. PHILIP RANDOLPH



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
NEW YORK, NY FEBRUARY 3, 1989

Robert Thom Special

Presiding
Norman Hill
President
A. Philip Randolph Institute

Presentation of Colors
A. Philip Randolph Campus High School

National Anthem
George Shirley

Invocation
Rev. O'Neil Mackey
Pastor
Bethel A.M.E. Church

Welcome
John M. Nolan
General Manager/Postmaster
New York City Division

Ted H. Jacobsen
Secretary
New York City Central Labor Council
AFL-CIO

Recognition of Distinguished Guests
Thomas Scotland
President
Black Trade Unionists Leadership
Committee

Remarks
Frederick O'Neal
Vice-President, AFL-CIO
President, Associated Actors
and Artists of America

William S. Norman
Executive Vice-President
National Railway Passenger Association
(AMTRAK)

Maida Springer-Kemp
Board Member
A. Philip Randolph Institute

Jack F. Otero
International Vice-President
Transportation Communications
International Union
and President
Labor Council for Latin American
Advancement

Dorothy Height
President
National Council of Negro Women

Keynote Address
Lane Kirkland
President
American Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial Organizations

Musical Selection
George Shirley

Dedication of Stamp
Elwood A. Mosley
Assistant Postmaster General

Benediction
Rev. Mackey

Honored Guests
Jervis Anderson
Author

Moe Biller
President
American Postal Workers Union

David Dinkins
Manhattan Borough President

Thomas R. Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer
AFL-CIO

Ira D. Hall
Governor
United States Postal Service

Denis M. Hughes
Assistant to the President
New York State AFL-CIO

Leon Lynch
Chairman
A. Philip Randolph Institute
and International Vice-President
United Steelworkers of America

Benjamin McLaurin
President
Friends of A. Philip Randolph
Campus High School

Edgar Romney
Secretary
A. Philip Randolph Institute
and International Vice President
ILGWU

Albert Shanker
Treasurer
A. Philip Randolph Institute
and President
American Federation of Teachers

Lottie Taylor
Principal
A. Philip Randolph Campus High School



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Salvation for a race, nation, or class must
come from within. Freedom is never
granted; it is won.*

A. Philip Randolph

Throughout a long career marked in equal measure by struggle and distinction, A. Philip Randolph was a symbol of a simple, radiant truth: A fair day's pay for a fair day's work is the key to basic human dignity.

Randolph was a towering figure with a graceful carriage and resonant voice, yet his leadership emanated from his integrity and understanding of the human condition. It was an understanding that knew neither fear nor frustration nor surrender.

For his outspoken and eloquent

advocacy, he was characterized by opponents as "The Most Dangerous Negro in America." It was a telling epithet, not because of Randolph's temperament -- he was the most gentle of men -- but because of his power to create change. To him, the fights for labor and civil rights were inseparable. And, whether organizing the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters or working to abolish segregation in the armed forces, he applied the same tireless effort to achieve the same glorious results.

A. Philip Randolph is the 12th

subject in the Black Heritage Series of United States postage stamps. Previous honorees include Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Whitney Moore Young, Jackie Robinson, Scott Joplin, Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Sojourner Truth, Jean Baptiste Point DuSable and James Weldon Johnson.

The A. Philip Randolph stamp was designed by Thomas Blackshear of Novato, California. Mr. Blackshear also developed the designs for the DuSable and Johnson tributes.



*A. Philip Randolph
Black Heritage Series*



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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Thomas G Carpentier Lib.
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A. Philip Randolph Black Heritage Series

First Day of Issue: *February 3, 1989*

First Day City: *New York, New York,
headquarters of the
A. Philip Randolph Institute*

Stamp Designer: *Thomas Blackshear
Novato, California*

This U.S. stamp marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Asa Philip Randolph (1889-1979), an eloquent and effective promoter of minority labor rights. His crusade to win equal opportunities for all Americans spanned nearly 50 years and earned him numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Randolph's economic philosophy stressed jobs as the true passports to human rights. He first aired it in *The Messenger*, a publication he co-founded in 1917. It later became the cornerstone of his campaign to organize the sleeping car

porters. Fiercely opposed in this endeavor, he remained resolute and, in 1937, finally won the first contract signed by a white employer and black labor leader. Over the next decade, Randolph built the Sleeping Car Porters Brotherhood into the most influential black political institution in the country. He was named a vice president of the AFL-CIO in 1957.

Randolph developed the strategy of mass protest and used it with great effectiveness. By threatening a black march on Washington during World War II, he persuaded President Franklin Roosevelt to ban discrimination in defense plants and create the Fair Employment Practice Committee. Later, by suggesting to President Truman that blacks would refuse induction, he eliminated segregation in the armed forces. In 1963, he again demonstrated the enormous impact of his strategy when he joined with Dr. Martin Luther King to direct the massive March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.