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*Issue Date:* February 1, 1984

*First Day City:* Washington, D.C.

*Designer:* Jerry Pinkney  
Croton-on-Hudson, New York

*Art Director:* Jack Williams

*Modeler:* Richard C. Sennett

*Process:* Gravure

*Colors:* Yellow, red, blue, purple, black  
and ochre.

*Image Area:* .84 x 1.44 inches or  
21.33 x 36.57 millimeters

*Plate Numbers:* One group (preceded  
by the letter "A")

*Stamps per Pane:* 50

*Selvage:* ©U.S. Postal Service 1983  
Use Correct ZIP Code®  
Mr. ZIP® (running position)

## Carter G. Woodson Commemorative Stamp

A 20-cent commemorative stamp honoring Black historian Carter G. Woodson was issued on February 1 in Washington, D.C. The first day ceremony was held at the Shiloh Baptist Church, where he attended worship services. The son of former slaves, Carter G. Woodson was born in New Canton, Virginia, in 1875. Although he did not attend school until the age of 20, he quickly demonstrated his intellectual ability and received his high school diploma in less than two years. He attended Berea College, the University of Chicago, Harvard and the Sorbonne in Paris. Overcoming social and economic barriers of the time, Woodson became one of the principal persons responsible for researching, writing and teaching about the heritage of Black Americans during the first half of this century. As a result, he is often referred to as the "Father of Black History." In 1915, he helped organize the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Six years later he founded Associated Publishers, Inc., a company that was established to publish and circulate books about blacks, which, at the time, were not readily accepted by most publishers. A renowned historian, educator and author, he published many books which have become the foundations upon which contemporary historians have based their own work. He died in Washington, D.C., on April 3, 1950.

The Carter G. Woodson stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney and features a portrait of a serious Woodson, history book in hand. The stamp is the latest addition to the Black Heritage USA Series which includes Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Whitney Moore Young, Jackie Robinson and Scott Joplin. All of the stamps in this series have been designed by Pinkney.

The Woodson stamp is the ninth to be produced in recent years by the American Bank Note Company. The plate numbering system, as with all stamps printed by American Bank Note, features the letter "A" as a prefix.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Lawrence H. Pinkney  
Thomas G. Carpenter Library  
Special Collections





# AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



Carter G. Woodson was dedicated to the education of black Americans. He overcame a humble beginning to become a writer and teacher commonly referred to as the "Father of Black History."

Born the son of ex-slaves in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875, Woodson faced economic obstacles at an early age. He supported himself by working in coal mines, and was unable to attend school. It was not until he was 20 years old that he began high school, graduating two years later.

After high school, he attended Berea

College in Kentucky and was later admitted to Harvard University, where, in 1912, he earned a doctorate in history.

In 1915, Woodson founded the *Association for the Study of Negro Life and History*, designed to train historians in the study of black history. He wanted to encourage an awareness of the contributions made by black people in the history of the United States, and refute misconceptions associated with black Americans prevalent at that time.

Woodson widened his field further by establishing *The Journal of Negro History* in 1916, which would be published for the next 30 years. He was author of many historical works, including: *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861* (1915); *A Century of Negro Migration* (1918); and *The Negro in Our History* (1922).

While a dean at West Virginia State College, Woodson founded and became president of Associated Publishers, which published books on black history. At the time of his death on April 3, 1950, Woodson was working on a projected six-volume *Encyclopedia Africana*.

The stamp honoring Carter G. Woodson was issued on February 1, 1984 in Washington, D.C. The commemorative stamp, the latest addition to the Black Heritage USA Series, was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York.





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Presiding	John R. Cochran Postmaster Washington, D.C.
National Anthem	Shaw Junior High School Choir Washington, D.C. Director: James Curtis Brown
Invocation	Rev. Henry C. Gregory III Senior Minister Shiloh Baptist Church Washington, D.C.
Welcome and Introduction of Distinguished Guests	Dr. Samuel L. Banks National President The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc.
Remarks	Marion J. Pryde The Woodson Family
Musical Selection	"He Has Done Great Things For Me" arr. Shirley Berkley Shaw Junior High School Choir
Address and Presentation of Albums	Jim Finch Deputy Postmaster General
Negro National Anthem	"Lift Every Voice and Sing" by J. Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson
Benediction	Rev. Henry C. Gregory III

Honored Guests: Mrs. Sammie Whiting-Ellis  
Chairperson  
National Black History Observance Committee

Jerry Pinkney  
Designer of Stamp

**First Day of Issue**  
**Carter G. Woodson Stamp**  
**Shiloh Baptist Church**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**February 1, 1984**



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Perhaps more than any other individual, Carter Godwin Woodson is credited with opening the rich, but long neglected, field of Black history to the American public. Using a combination of extensive research and intense dedication, he was the first historian to refute many of the myths and incorrect views previously associated with the history of American Blacks.

Although born to impoverished ex-slaves, Woodson overcame both the financial and social burdens placed upon him to become a highly respected historian, a fact reflected by his honorary title – "Father of Black History."

His work to ensure that Blacks were depicted honestly in our history culminated on February 7, 1926, with the establishment of Black History Week. Today, it has become Black History Month, during which Americans of all ages take time to study the proud heritage of this country's largest minority group.

With the issuance of this commemorative stamp, Carter G. Woodson becomes the latest addition to the Black Heritage USA Series which includes Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Whitney Moore Young, Jr., Jackie Robinson and Scott Joplin.

This stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, who designed all the previous stamps in the Black Heritage USA Series.

OFFICIAL  
FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE



FOUNDER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY  
OF AFRO-AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

**Carter G. Woodson**  
HISTORIAN

BLACK HERITAGE SERIES 1984



Carter G. Woodson



Black Heritage USA 20c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

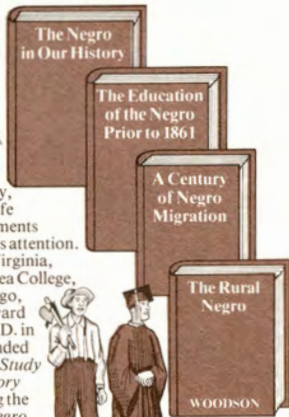




Black Heritage Series  
First Day of Issue

# Carter G. Woodson

1875-1950



As the leading writer of his time on black history, Woodson devoted his life to bringing the achievements of his race to the world's attention. Born in New Canton, Virginia, Woodson attended Berea College, the University of Chicago, the Sorbonne and Harvard where he received a Ph.D. in history. In 1915 he founded the *Association for the Study of Negro Life and History* which began publishing the scholarly *Journal of Negro History* in 1916. Woodson won the Spingarn medal in 1926.



Aristocrat Cachets



Carter G. Woodson



Black Heritage USA 20c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rodney Lawrence Hurst Special Collections  
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*"Negro in Our  
History... The  
Century of Negro  
Migration...  
Negro Christendom  
and"*

## Carter G. Woodson

He devoted his life to bringing the achievements of his race to the world's attention.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rodney Lawrence Hurst  
Thomas G. Carpenter  
Special Collections





### CARTER G. WOODSON

As if to emulate the pride and determination of his race, black American Carter G. Woodson rose from the poor backwoods of Virginia to become world-renowned as the "Father of Black History." Because he worked during his youth to help his family eke out a living, Woodson was not able to complete high school until he was twenty-one years old. But he wasn't at all discouraged, and following high school he went on to attend Berea College in Kentucky, the University of Chicago, and even the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Woodson finished his Ph.D. in history at Harvard University in 1912 and spent the rest of his life teaching and writing many detailed books about black history. His most famous volume is *The Negro in Our History*, which

many scholars consider one of the finest full-length works on black history. In addition to his writing and teaching, Woodson was active in other ways. In 1915 he organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and acted as editor for its quarterly *Journal of Negro History*. In 1926, Woodson founded Negro History Week, which in the 1970's was popularized as Black History Week, an annual observance during the first half of February, which coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and the great black leader Frederick Douglass. In commemoration of Carter G. Woodson, who devoted his life to the dissemination and study of black history, the United States Postal Service issued the stamp featured on this First Day Cover.

Carter G. Woodson



First Day of Issue



Carter G. Woodson



Black Heritage USA 20c

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