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*Issue Date:* February 1, 1996

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

*Designer:* Richard Sheaff,  
Norwood, Massachusetts

*Typographer:* Richard Sheaff

*Modeler:* Banknote Corporation of America

*Manufacturing Process:* Offset

*Colors:* Yellow, magenta, cyan, and black

*Image Area:* .84 x 1.41 inches or  
21.33 x 35.81 millimeters

*Plate Numbers:* "B" followed by four single digits

*Stamps Per Pane:* 20

*Marginal Markings:* © USPS 1995, plate position  
diagram, plate numbers, price

## Ernest E. Just

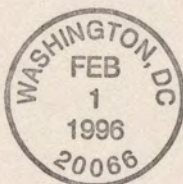
Ernest Just's vital research in cellular physiology and embryology placed him among the top biologists in the world. The NAACP awarded him the first Spingarn Medal for outstanding contributions to his field; and in 1973, Howard University dedicated Just Hall, a biology building on its Washington, D.C. campus.

Ernest Everett Just was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1883. He graduated at the top of his class at Kimball Union Academy prep school and entered Dartmouth College. His long relationship with Howard University began in 1907, when, as a *magna cum laude* graduate of Dartmouth, he began teaching English and biology. He was named head of the Howard medical school's Department of Physiology, a position he held until 1920.

Just focused on research during most of the 1920s, as a grant from Julius Rosenwald allowed him a six-month leave of absence from Howard each year. Much of his pioneering work was completed at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

As his research gained international recognition, Just felt increasingly stifled in the United States because of racial segregation and spent more and more of his research time in Europe. In 1929, he became the first American invited to work at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology—a Berlin laboratory whose staff included Nobel Prize winners.

The image on this stamp was taken from a photograph by the famous African-American photographer Robert Scurlock. Dr. Just is honored as part of the Black Heritage series.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



# AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



**E**rnest Everett Just's pioneering experiments in cellular physiology and experimental embryology earned him a place among the top biologists in the world. His long tenure at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and vital research work in Germany are hallmarks of a long and successful career that began in the early 1900s.

Just was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1883. After graduating at the top of his class from Kimball Union Academy prep school, Just went on to finish magna cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1907. He began teaching English and biology at Howard University later that year and became head of the medical school's Department of Physiology in 1912, a position he held until 1920.

## Ernest E. Just



Grants from Julius Rosenwald and the National Research Council enabled Just to continue his research throughout the 1920s. Rosenwald's grant came to Howard University on the condition that Just remain head of the Department of Zoology and that he reduce his teaching responsibilities. The grant also allowed him a six-month leave of absence each year so he could conduct his research without interruption at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Over the years, Just felt increasingly stifled by the racial segregation in America and spent more and more of his research time in Europe. In 1929, he was the first American invited to work at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology—a Berlin laboratory whose staff included Nobel Prize winners.

The NAACP honored Just with the first Spingarn Medal for his outstanding achievement in the field of biology. In 1973, Howard University dedicated the Just Hall biology building. The image on this Black Heritage stamp is taken from a photograph by well-known African-American photographer Robert Scutlock. The stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Norwood, Massachusetts, and issued in Washington, D.C., on February 1, 1996.

B 1 1 1

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.32  
x20  
\$6.40

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1995



PANE POSITION



Ernest E. Just

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

### The Postal Service takes pleasure in

recognizing Dr. Just's achieved distinction as a teacher, author, and scientist, with the issuance of the nineteenth commemorative stamp for the Black Heritage stamp series. The stamp design utilizes a photograph by Robert Scurlock, a great African American photographer. The quality of the original photograph demanded its use rather than being reinterpreted through an engraving.

#### Presiding

Robert F. Harris  
Vice President  
Diversity Development  
U.S. Postal Service

#### Presentation of Colors

Joint ROTC Color Guard  
Howard University

#### Musical Interlude

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
Alpha Omega Choral Ensemble  
Washington, D.C.

#### Invocation

Dr. Bernard L. Richardson  
Dean, Andrew Rankin Chapel  
Howard University

#### Welcome

Rev. Thaddeus Garrett, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees  
Howard University

#### Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Robert F. Harris

#### Dedication of Stamp

Honorable LeGree S. Daniels  
Governor, U.S. Postal Service

#### Remarks

Dr. Kenneth R. Manning  
Author  
*Black Apollo of Science,  
Life of Ernest Everett Just*

Dr. Dorsey C. Miller  
Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Dr. Lee Virn Leak  
Howard University  
Research Professor  
Department of Anatomy

#### Special Presentations

Governor Daniels

#### Benediction

Dr. Bernard L. Richardson

#### Honored Guests

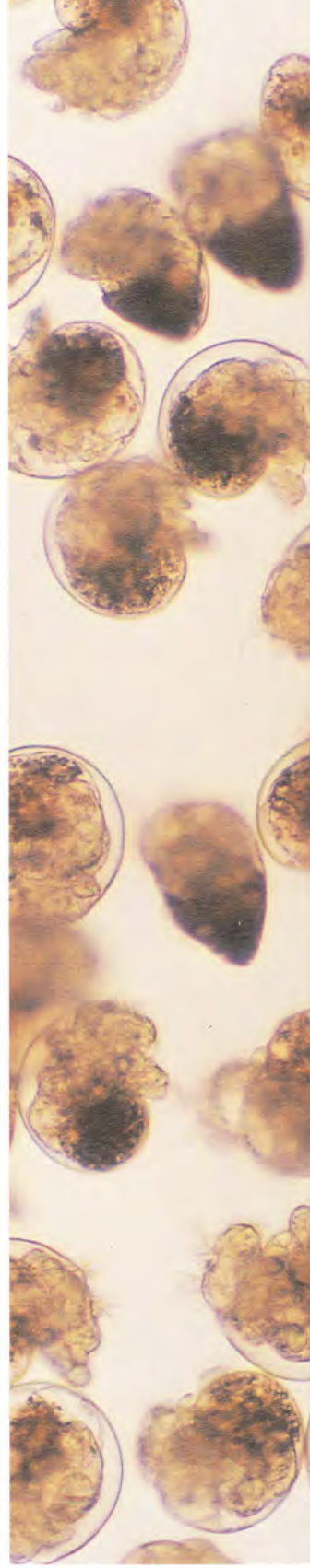
Mrs. Maribel Just Butler  
Daughter of Dr. Just

Mrs. Robert Scurlock  
Wife of Just Photographer

David A. Clark  
Postmaster  
Washington, D.C.

**Ernest Everett Just** was born on August 14, 1883, in Charleston, South Carolina. He first attended a school established by his mother from money she obtained by selling some of her property. From that school he went to the Industrial School of Orangeburg, now South Carolina State College. He later went North to study, working his way on a coastal boat service until he earned enough money to enroll in Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. After completing the four-year course in three years, he enrolled in Dartmouth College in 1903, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his degree in 1907, graduating with honors in zoology and history.

**Just came to Howard University in 1907,** as an instructor in English, and in 1908, he was asked to change from English to Biology. In 1912, he became the head of the Department of Biology, a position he held until his death. In 1912, Just published his first paper, "The Relation of the First Cleavage to the Entrance Point of the Sperm." He received the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Biology from the University of Chicago in 1916. **Prior to earning his doctorate degree,** Just was the first to receive the prestigious Spingarn Medal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was the first Negro scientist to receive a grant from the National Research Council. **On November 17, 1911,** three Howard University undergraduate students, Love, Cooper and Coleman, with the assistance of their faculty adviser gave birth to the first fraternity founded at a historically African American university. It was in the office of biology professor Ernest E. Just that Omega Psi Phi, meaning "friendship is essential to the soul," was born. **Dr. Just received many honors** for his accomplishments. As a research scientist, he had boundless enthusiasm for his chosen field. It was quiet rather than explosive enthusiasm.



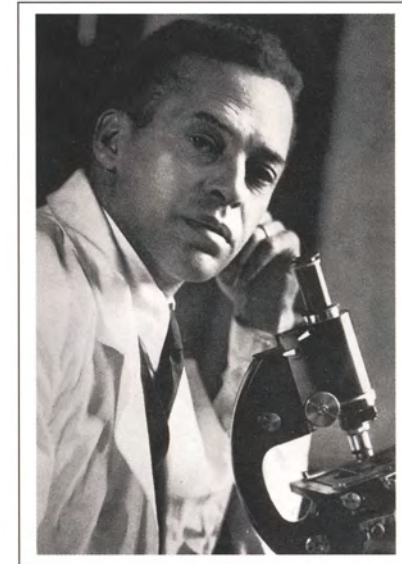
Ernest E. Just

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Paper  
Thomas G. Calverton Library  
Special Collections

**In 1909, Just began graduate studies at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, under Dr. Frank R. Lille, Head of the Zoology Department at the University of Chicago. It was at the Marine Biological Laboratory that he would spend most of his summers for the next thirty years, with marine eggs becoming the center of his research interest.**



## *Ernest E. Just*

**Cover Photograph:**

Courtesy of Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

**Back Cover Photograph:**

Courtesy of the New York Public Library,  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
© Associated Publishers.

**Page 5, Left Photograph (Sea Urchin Egg):**

Courtesy of Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

**Page 5, Right & Page 2, Photographs: (Veliger Larvae: Seahare).**

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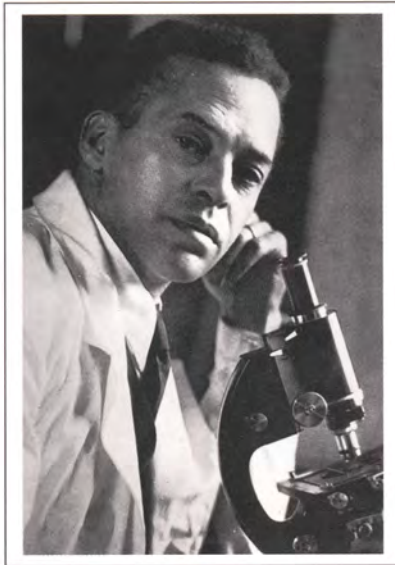
**Program Design & Layout:**

Roberta Wojtkowski.

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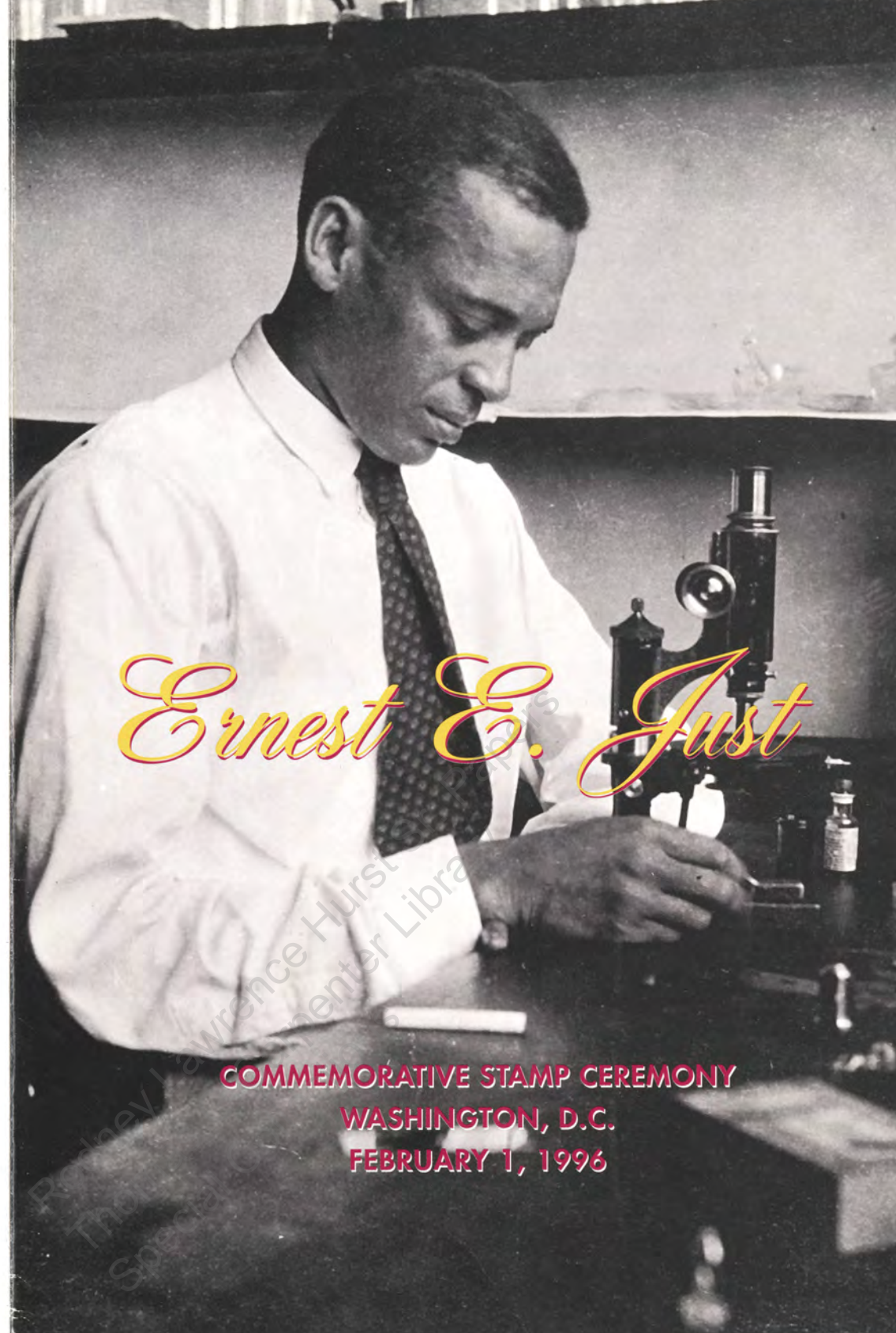
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Roberta Wojtkowski.

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## *Ernest E. Just*

**COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CEREMONY**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**FEBRUARY 1, 1996**



*Ernest E. Just*  
*Black Heritage Series*



Ernest E. Just



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr.  
Thomas G Carpenter  
Special Collections



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Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers  
Thomas G Carpenter Library  
Special Collections

# Ernest E. Just

## Black Heritage Series

*First Day of Issue: February 1, 1996*

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

*home of Howard University*

*Stamp Designer: Richard Sheaff*

*Norwood, Massachusetts*

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Ernest Everett Just (1883-1941), who is honored on this U.S. stamp, was a pioneer researcher in the field of marine biology. He was also a well-known educator who served on the faculty of Howard University from 1907 until his death.

Just graduated from Dartmouth College, where he majored in zoology and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. His first job was teaching at Howard, and he eventually became head of both the zoology department and the medical school's physiology department. In 1909, he also began work at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Between 1912 and 1937, Just published 50 papers based on his research. He also found time to earn his Ph.D. degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Chicago. His research took him to marine laboratories and institutes not only in the U.S., but also in Berlin, Paris, and Naples. One of his most famous papers, *Basic Methods for Experiments in Eggs of Marine Animals*, reported on his pioneering experiments in the process of fertilization in marine invertebrates. Another, *The Biology of the Cell Surface*, grew out of his studies of the role of the cell surface in the development of organisms.

In 1915, Just was the first recipient of the Spingarn Medal awarded by the NAACP to an outstanding African-American citizen. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of many leading scientific organizations.