



1998

*Issue Date:* January 20, 1999

*First Day City:* New York, New York

*Designer:* Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, Arizona

*Typographer:* Richard Sheaff

*Modeler:* Banknote Corporation of America

*Art Director:* Richard Sheaff

*Printer:* Banknote Corporation of America

*Manufacturing Process:* Offset

*Colors:* Light gray, dark gray and black

*Image Area:* 0.82 x 1.39 inches or  
20.83 x 35.31 millimeters

*Stamps per Pane:* 20

*Plate Numbers:* "B" followed by three (3) single digits

*Marginal Markings:* © USPS 1998, price, plate  
position diagram, plate numbers

# Malcolm X

In 1978, the U.S. Postal Service began its Black Heritage stamp series to honor great African-American individuals. This 22nd stamp in the series shows a 1964 Associated Press photograph of civil rights leader Malcolm X (1925-1965).

After leaving his childhood home of Nebraska as a teenager, Malcolm Little (as he was first known) moved to the East Coast, where he was eventually imprisoned for burglary. Extensive reading led him to the teachings of the Nation of Islam. Changing his name to Malcolm X, he became a Nation of Islam leader and preached that Caucasians were limiting African-Americans' rights. Because he believed that civil rights should be achieved "by any means necessary" (including violence, if need be), Malcolm X was feared by Caucasians.

Later, Malcolm X embraced a different philosophy. He adopted the new name El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz and formed the Organization for Afro-American Unity. He no longer considered Caucasians inherently racist, and he planned to work with some progressive Caucasian groups.

Malcolm X tackled important civil rights issues and encouraged others to do the same. Though he was assassinated in 1965, his beliefs continue to influence and inspire many Americans.



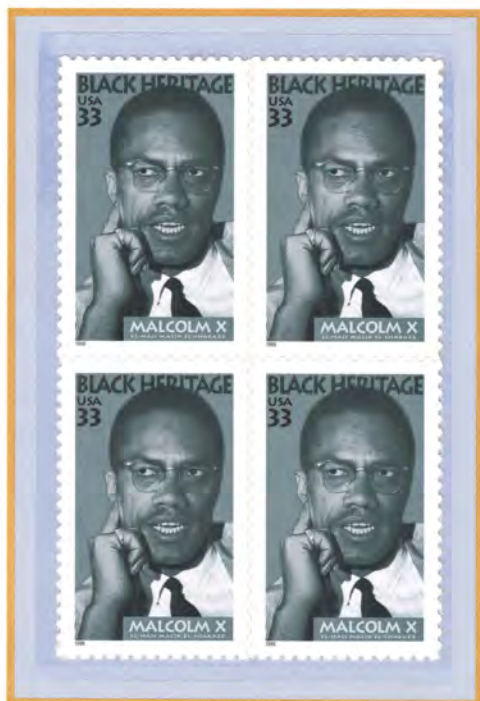
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





# AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

## M A L C O L M X EL-HAJJ MALIK EL-SHABAZZ



The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s engendered change not only because of its millions of supporters but also because of the leaders who inspired them. Controversial and brilliant, Malcolm X was one of the most important thinkers of this period.

In 1925, Malcolm X (originally Malcolm Little) was born in Omaha, Nebraska. His father, a Baptist minister, followed the teachings of Marcus Garvey, a black nationalist leader.

Midway through adolescence, Malcolm moved to the East Coast. During six years (1946-1952) in prison, he read extensively, becoming especially impressed with the work of Elijah Muhammed, a leader of the Black Muslims or Nation of Islam.

Upon his release, Malcolm Little adopted the name Malcolm X and joined a Detroit, Michigan, Black Muslim temple. In 1958, he married Betty Shabazz.

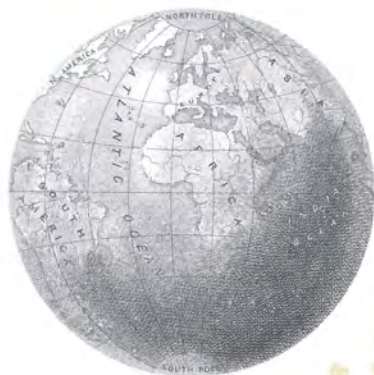
In the early 1960s, Malcolm X became the best-known member of the Nation of Islam, which advocated racial separatism. Black Muslims believed that blacks were superior and whites morally inferior. But in 1964, Malcolm X split from this group.

During a subsequent trip to Mecca, the Islamic holy city, Malcolm X embraced traditional Islam. He gradually modified his position on separatism, beginning to support the integration of blacks and whites. Malcolm X, once Malcolm Little, now renamed himself El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.

On February 21, 1965, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz was speaking to followers at a New York City rally for his new organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, when he was assassinated.

The Malcolm X stamp will be the 22nd in the Black Heritage series and the fourth stamp in the series to feature a photograph. An Associated Press staff photographer captured this image of Malcolm X in 1964.

This stamp was issued on January 20, 1999, at the Apollo Theater in New York, New York.



Arms: New York City





# Malcolm X

El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz



Commemorative Stamp

New York, New York  
January 20, 1999

BLACK HERITAGE SERIES

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



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Malcolm X

El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz

Over the second half of the 20th century, few individuals have had a greater impact on the cultural consciousness and social progress of African Americans than Malcolm X. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s, his radical views sharpened the debate about America's racial inequities and strategies for social change.

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, was six feet, four inches tall, and he possessed a charismatic presence and oratorical style, a brilliant mind, and a personal fearlessness. He encouraged black Americans to find pride and unity in their African roots. Many important changes in our culture, from the introduction of African-American Studies departments to popular sayings such as "Black is beautiful," can be traced back to his philosophies.

Following the murder of his father, the emotional breakdown of his mother, and an inattentive foster care system, Malcolm took on a life of crime. Before reaching the age of 21, he was imprisoned. While in prison, he was introduced to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, upon which time he became a Black Muslim and joined the Nation of Islam.

By 1959, Malcolm was the most visible spokesperson for the NOI and a national figure in the civil rights debate. Now named Malcolm X, to symbolize the unknown African ancestral name, he gave speeches calling for black identity and cultural accountability and challenging what he saw as the naïve philosophy of the civil rights movement.

In 1963, conflict with the NOI led to his break from the group. He traveled widely throughout Europe, Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the Middle East. He was

dramatically affected by the racial inclusiveness he saw in Mecca. He changed his name to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz and returned to America, disavowing his earlier separatist preachings in favor of a more international, integrationist approach.

Ultimately, Malcolm supported the work of the civil rights movement and continued to advocate the ideas of personal integrity and racial pride. Tragically, he was assassinated on February 21, 1965, while delivering a speech in Harlem.

Though he has been dead over three decades, Malcolm's ideas—and the legend of the man—continue to inspire Americans today. The U.S. Postal Service honors his legacy with this commemorative stamp, the twenty-second in the Black Heritage series. It was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona.



# Malcolm X

## Commemorative Stamp

First Day of Issue Dedication Ceremony  
Apollo Theatre • New York, New York • January 20, 1999

### Master of Ceremonies

Harry Belafonte  
*Actor*

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### Opening Remarks

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee  
*Actor and Actress*

### Welcome and Introduction of Honored Guests

Harry Belafonte

### Remarks

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
*Member of Congress*  
16th Congressional District  
New York

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
*Member of Congress*  
2nd Congressional District  
Pennsylvania

Randall Robinson  
*President*  
TransAfrica Forum

### Musical Interlude

Boys Choir of Harlem

### A Tribute to Malcolm X

Mike Wallace  
*Senior Correspondent*  
"60 Minutes"

### Dedication of the Malcolm X Commemorative Stamp

The Honorable S. David Fineman  
*Member, Board of Governors*  
United States Postal Service

### Remarks

Percy E. Sutton  
*Former Attorney of Malcolm X Shabazz*

Attallah Shabazz  
*Daughter of Malcolm X Shabazz*

### Closing Remarks

Harry Belafonte

### Honored Guests

#### The Family of Malcolm X Shabazz

Gamilah Shabazz  
Ilyasah Shabazz  
Malaak Shabazz  
Mallkah Shabazz  
Qubilah Shabazz

The Honorable David Dinkins  
*Former Mayor of New York*

Muhammad Ali  
*Humanitarian, Sports Hero*

John Sawyer III  
*Member*  
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

#### United States Postal Service

Deborah K. Willhite  
*Senior Vice President*  
Government Relations

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*Executive Director*  
Stamp Services

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*District Manager/Postmaster*  
New York District



**MALCOLM X/EL-HAJJ MALIK EL-SHABAZZ COMMEMORATIVE STAMP**

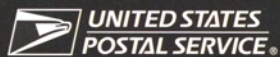
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Cover photos: UPI/Corbis-Bettmann

**Stamp Design:** Richard Sheaff

**Layout and Design:** Pat Marshall Design, Inc.

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