

Issue Date
June 11, 2009

First Day City
Washington, DC

Artist
Kadir Nelson
San Diego, CA

Designer
Ethel Kessler
Bethesda, MD

Art Director
Ethel Kessler

Typographer
Ethel Kessler

Modeler
Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process
Offset/Microprint
"USPS"

Printer
Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.
(APU)

Engraver
N/A

Colors
Black, Cyan,
Magenta, Yellow,
Cool Gray (PMS 8C)

Image Area (w x h)
0.84 x 1.42 in.
21.37 x 36.07 mm

Format
Pane of 20 (1 design)

Plate Numbers
"P" followed by five
single digits

Marginal Markings
© 2008 USPS, header:
"BLACK HERITAGE 32nd
IN A SERIES," plate
position diagram, price,
plate numbers, USPS
logo, barcodes

Anna Julia Cooper

Anna Julia Cooper (circa 1858–1964)—who once described her vocation as “the education of neglected people”—viewed learning as a means of true liberation. She is best known for her educational leadership and her groundbreaking collection of essays and speeches, *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South* (1892).

Born into slavery, Cooper graduated with a degree in mathematics from Oberlin College in Ohio in 1884, one of the first African-American women to graduate from the school. Three years later, she was invited to teach math and science at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth (later M Street High School and today Dunbar) in Washington, D.C.

Cooper became principal of M Street High School in 1902 and immediately worked to strengthen the curriculum, which stressed both liberal arts and vocational training. “We are not just educating heads and hands,” she stated, “we are educating the men and women of a race.” Refusing to use inferior textbooks, Cooper sought to better prepare students for admission to some of the nation’s top colleges and universities, including the Ivy League.

Four years later, she was removed from her position under allegations of incompetence and misconduct, but more likely because of her steadfast resistance to the racist notion of African Americans’ intellectual inferiority. Cooper then taught languages at the Lincoln Institute (now Lincoln University) in Missouri until 1910, when she was invited to return to M Street to teach Latin.

Noted for the breadth of her education, Cooper earned a Ph.D. from the University of Paris, Sorbonne, in France in 1925. She was only the fourth African-American woman in the U.S. to earn a Ph.D. and the first black woman from any country to do so at the Sorbonne.

Cooper retired from teaching in 1930. She died at her home in Washington, D.C., on February 27, 1964, and is buried next to her husband in Raleigh, North Carolina.



First Day of Issue
ANNA JULIA COOPER
JUNE 11, 2009 • WASHINGTON, DC 20066

Anna Julia Cooper

THE 32ND STAMP in the Black Heritage series honors Anna Julia Cooper, an educator, scholar, feminist, and activist who gave voice to the African-American community during the 19th and 20th centuries, from the end of slavery to the beginning of the civil rights movement.

Born into slavery around 1858 in Raleigh, North Carolina, Cooper developed a love of learning at a young age and earned a degree in mathematics from Oberlin College in Ohio. In

1887, she was invited to teach at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth (later M Street High School and today Dunbar) in Washington, D.C., the largest and most prestigious public high school for African Americans in the nation. She served as the school's principal from 1902 until 1906, when she was removed from her position most likely because of her steadfast resistance to the

racist notion of African Americans' inferiority. She returned to teach at M Street in 1910.

Published in 1892, *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South*, Cooper's groundbreaking collection of essays and speeches, was the first book-length volume of black feminist analysis in the United States.



Across the contexts of religion, education, and literature, Cooper explored race relations, poverty, and gender inequality. Well received by black and white critics alike, the collection was regarded as "one of the most readable books on the race question of the South" by the *Kingsley Times* of Iowa.

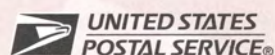
Cooper retired from teaching in 1930 but continued to give lectures, publish essays, and stay active in community affairs. She died at her home in Washington, D.C., on February 27, 1964.

The stamp features a portrait of Cooper created by Kadir Nelson, who based his painting on an undated photograph.



background: Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Smithsonian Institution; top left: Association for the Study of African American Life and History; bottom left: Fotosearch Stock Photography; top right: Oberlin College Archives; bottom right: Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Behring Center, Smithsonian Institution

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

BLACK HERITAGE

32nd IN A SERIES

P11111

P11111



P11111

PLATE POSITION

P11111

© 2008
USPS

.44
x 20
\$8.80

ANNA JULIA COOPER

Commemorative Stamp

FIRST-DAY-OF-ISSUE CEREMONY

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
1301 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC

June 11, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Master of Ceremonies

Yverne "Pat" Moore
Postmaster
Washington, DC

Welcome

R. Gerald Austin
Principal
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Remarks

Malik Shabazz
2009 Graduate
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Presentation of Colors

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Junior ROTC

Official Dedication

Delores J. Kilette
Vice President and
Consumer Advocate
United States Postal Service

Carla L. Peterson
Professor of English
University of Maryland

National Anthem

Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Musical Tribute

Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir

Closing

Yverne "Pat" Moore

Anna Julia Cooper

Educator, scholar, feminist, and activist Anna Julia Cooper (c.1858-1964) gave voice to the African-American community from the end of slavery to the beginning of the civil rights movement. Describing her vocation as “the education of neglected people,” she viewed learning as a means of true liberation.

Born into slavery, Cooper developed a love of learning at a young age. In 1887, three years after earning a degree in mathematics from Oberlin College, she was invited to Washington, D.C., to teach at the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth (later M Street High School and today Dunbar), the nation’s largest and most prestigious public high school for African Americans. Later named principal of the school, Cooper worked to strengthen the curriculum. Refusing to use inferior textbooks, she sought to better prepare students for admission to the nation’s top colleges and universities. She was removed from her position in 1906, most likely because of her steadfast resistance to the racist notion of African Americans’ inferiority, but she returned to teach at M Street in 1910.

In 1892, Cooper published *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South*, the first book-length volume of black feminist analysis in the United States. Cooper explored topics such as race relations, poverty, and gender inequality and encouraged the African-American community to take advantage of education and to develop and promote its own folklore, literature, and artistic culture.

Noted for the breadth of her education, Cooper also earned a Ph.D. from the University of Paris, Sorbonne, in 1925. At the time, she was one of only four African-American women to earn a Ph.D. and the first black woman from any country to do so at the Sorbonne.

This 32nd stamp in the Black Heritage series features a portrait of Cooper by Kadir Nelson, who based his painting on an undated photograph.



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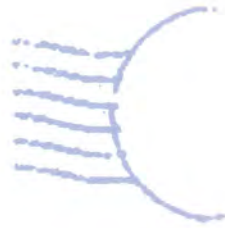
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