
Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Stamp Collection

Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Papers

10-6-2006

American Commemorative Panels: Kwanzaa

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/hurst_stamps



Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Commemorative Panels: Kwanzaa. 2006. Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Papers. University of North Florida. Thomas G. Carpenter Library. Special Collections and Archives. UNF Digital Commons. https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/hurst_stamps/65/

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Papers at UNF Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Stamp Collection by an authorized administrator of UNF Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [Digital Projects](#).

© 10-6-2006 All Rights Reserved

Kwanzaa

KWANZAA IS A SEVEN-DAY festival honoring family, community, and culture. Lasting from December 26 to January 1, Kwanzaa draws on African traditions and is celebrated by millions of people in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and England. Though invented in the United States, where it was introduced forty years ago, Kwanzaa is now celebrated by some Africans.

Stamp artist Daniel Minter created the stamp art depicting seven figures in flowing robes; two have head wraps intended to identify them as mothers. Minter describes their head wraps as “crowns of fabric.” On top of each crown is a bird identified by the artist as a Sankofa bird that is known for looking to the past to understand the present. According to Minter, this bird “never forgets from where it came.”



Each figure in the design represents one of the seven days of Kwanzaa, and each day represents one of the Nguzo Saba, or seven principles to live by. These principles are Umoja (Unity); Kujichagulia (Self-determination); Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity); and Imani (Faith).

The artist chose vibrant colors for the stamp design. “I wanted to incorporate the colors of the pan-African flag: black, red, and green,” he explains. “To bring a more festive flavor to the image, I added the colors gold, yellow, and blue to the robes.” When speaking of his design and its colors, Minter said, “When these colors and patterns are displayed together on the stamp, they form a quilt of the sort that our mothers and grandmothers made. This Kwanzaa stamp is continuing a quilt that our grandmothers started long ago when they took forgotten pieces of a fabric and brought them together to stitch something new, from something very old.”

background: Brand X Pictures/Jupiterimages; center: Daniel Minter© U.S. Postal Service; right: FoodPix/Jupiterimages

Stamps printed by Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU) / No. 780 in a series / October 6, 2006 / Printed in U.S.A. / © 2006 United States Postal Service



Issue Date
October 6, 2006

First Day City
New York, NY

Illustrator
Daniel Minter
Portland, ME

Designer
Derry Noyes
Washington, DC

Art Director
Derry Noyes

Typographer
Derry Noyes

Modeler
Joseph Sheeran

Manufacturing Process
Offset/Microprint
"USPS"

Printer
Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.
(APU)

Engraver
N/A

Colors
Black, Hexachrome
Cyan, Red (PMS 1788),
Yellow (PMS 109),
Orange (PMS 143),
Green (PMS 355)

Image Area (w x h)
1.05 x 0.77 (in.)
19.558 x 26.67 (mm.)

Format
Pane of 20 (1 design)

Plate Numbers
"P" followed by six (6)
single digits

Marginal Markings
© 2003 USPS, price,
plate numbers,
plate position diagram,
barcodes

Kwanzaa

Millions of African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa, a non-religious African-American holiday that begins each year on December 26 and ends on January 1. Taking its name from the Swahili phrase for "first fruits," Kwanzaa is based on African harvest celebrations that occurred in ancient and modern times across the African continent.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, who synthesized and reinvented the harvest traditions to create a contemporary cultural festival, introduced Kwanzaa in the United States in 1966. Today the festival is celebrated in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, and England, as well as in some African countries.

The U.S. Postal Service issued its first Kwanzaa stamp in 1997. Artist Synthia Saint James created the stamp design featuring a man, a woman, and three children in brightly colored African attire.

The second Kwanzaa stamp, a new design by artist Daniel Minter, was dedicated in 2004 and reissued in 2006 at the new 39-cent denomination. Minter's design features seven different figures each representing one of the principles of Kwanzaa. The principles are Umoja (Unity in family, community, nation, and race); Kujichagulia (Self-determination); Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility to solve problems); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity to benefit the community); and Imani (Faith).



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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