

Heritage Month News

THE OFFICIAL MULTICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

BLACK HISTORY

Canada Post African Heritage Stamps

In 2009, Canada Post will release its black history commemorative stamps of historical figures Abraham D. Shadd and Rosemary Brown. Abraham Shadd was a strong community leader who advocated for education and once built a school on his farm. He was the first black person to be elected to the Raleigh township council in southwestern Ontario. His daughter Mary Ann Shadd became the first black female editor and publisher in North America.

Rosemary Brown, born in Jamaica, moved to Canada in 1950 to study at McGill University. She became a well-known activist and was the first black woman to serve as a member of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia. On October 2, 2007, the McLynn Park in Montreal was renamed in her honour.

Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States on January 20, 2009, in Washington, DC. President Obama is the first African American to hold the office of U.S. president.

Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961. The son of an African father from Kenya and an American mother from Kansas, Obama graduated from Harvard University with a law degree and later taught constitution law at the University of Chicago. He provided many years of public service and also worked closely with his community of Chicago, alongside his wife, Michelle, and daughters, Malia and Sasha. The former Illinois senator was elected president of the United States on November 4, 2008.

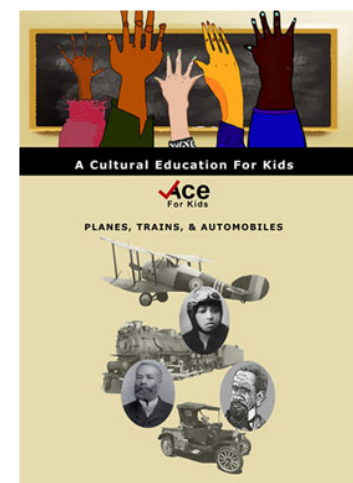
CHILDREN'S PUBLICATION **NEW!**

ACE for Kids

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- ✓ Asian Heritage Month

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**United States Postal Service
African-American Stamps**

WOMEN HISTORY

The U.S. Postal Service honours 12 civil rights pioneers in its 2009 African-American commemorative stamps. The ceremony of the unveiling of the stamps will be held on February 21, 2009, in the New York Hilton Hotel and Towers.

The stamps will feature:

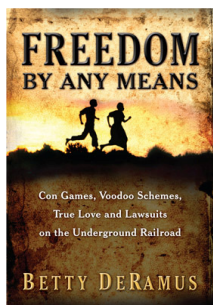
- Mary Church Terrell
- Mary White Ovington
- J. R. Clifford
- Joel Elias Spingarn
- Oswald Garrison Villard
- Daisy Gatson Bates
- Charles Hamilton Houston
- Walter White
- Medgar Evers
- Fannie Lou Hamer
- Ella Baker
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BOOKS NEW!



history.

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An inspiring collection of true stories, **Freedom by Any Means: Con Games, Voodoo Schemes, True Love and Lawsuits on the Underground Railroad** looks at the slavery-era freedom

Raymonde de la Roche

Elise Raymonde Deroche was born on August 22, 1886, in France. An actress, she used the stage name “Raymonde de la Roche,” which is the name she came to be known by. She was also an experienced balloonist, and when friend and aviator Charles Voisin suggested she could learn to fly an airplane, de la Roche took his advice. In 1910, she became the first woman in the world to earn her pilot’s licence.

Harriet Quimby

Born in Michigan on May 11, 1875, Harriet Quimby was a journalist who also authored five screenplays that were made into short silent films. During a visit to an aviation tournament in Long Island, NY, she developed an interest in aviation. One year later, in 1911, she took her pilot’s test and became the first woman in the U.S. to obtain a pilot’s licence.

Bessie Coleman

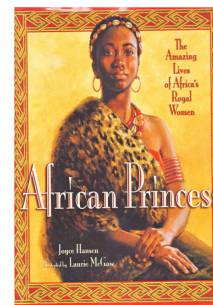
Bessie Coleman was born on January 26, 1892, in Atlanta, Texas. Mesmerized by the stories she had heard about French women flying airplanes, Bessie decided to become a pilot. Unable to find a flight school in the U.S. willing to train a black woman to fly, though, Bessie went to France to learn. In 1921, she earned an international licence, becoming the first African-American woman licensed pilot.

Bessie Coleman’s story is told in the children’s multicultural publication ACE for Kids. www.hmonth.com

A BOOK FOR CHILDREN

The remarkable stories of six African women of royalty are told in the book **African Princess: The Amazing Lives of Africa’s Royal Women.**

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