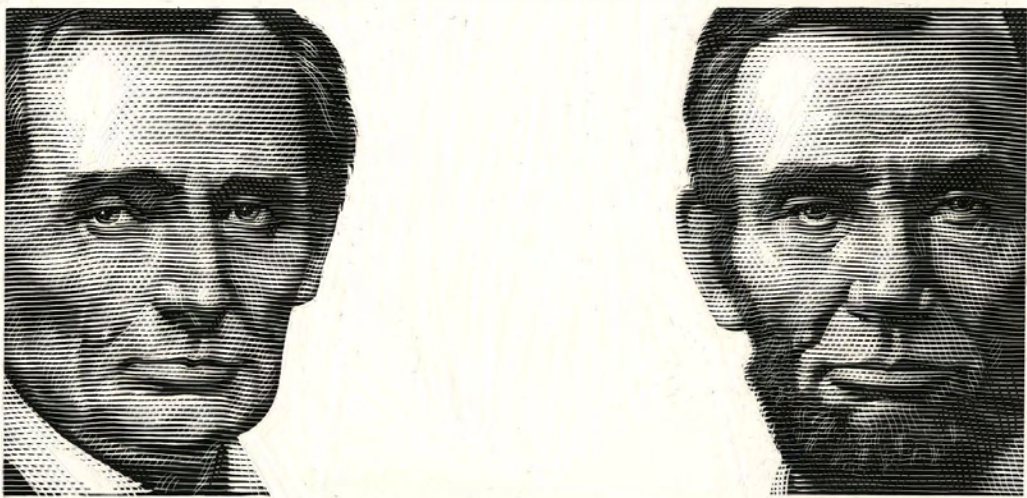


ART OF THE STAMP LINCOLN'S BICENTENNIAL



Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) first appeared on a U.S. postage stamp in 1866, around the first anniversary of his assassination. This year, the United States Postal Service honors his 200th birthday with a set of four stamps, each capturing a different aspect of his life and career. Through the cooperation of the USPS Office of Stamp Services, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum is pleased to present the original artwork for this year's stamps.

These philatelic tributes would have pleased Lincoln, whose first federal job was as postmaster of New Salem, Illinois, from 1833 to 1836. Legend holds that he excelled in the job and often walked for miles to deliver urgent mail. However, a famous letter written on September 22, 1835 paints a very different picture. It reads in part: "Post Master Mr. Lincoln is very careless about leaving his office open & unlocked during the day—half the time I go in & get my papers, etc., without anyone being there as was the case yesterday."