

OOPS! Vegas Statue on Latest Liberty Stamp



The USPS has confirmed news reports that the Statue that appears on its latest Statue of Liberty stamps is a replica in Las Vegas, not the original Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

The early news reports cited a “stamp expert” as first noticing that the wrong Statue of Liberty appeared on the stamp. In acknowledging the mistake, the USPS now states that “Raimund Linke’s close-up photograph of the Lady Liberty replica at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada appears on the stamp art. The original Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.”

For stamp design aficionados, this design error is important; and the general media has been having a field day with the postal mistake. With billions of the stamps having been sold it

is safe to say that at least 99% of the population did not notice the difference. However a comparison above does show some tell-tale differences, certainly enough to have warranted the stamp designer and art director—Terrence McCaffrey of the USPS—to have noticed something was amiss. We have been unable to reach the photographer who supplied the photo used for the stamp, but it appears that the mistake was on the USPS side, in selecting an inaccurate stock photo.

There are hundreds of Statue of Liberty replicas around the world. The half-size replica in front of the Las Vegas hotel is part of a New York skyline that welcomes visitors to the hotel complex. This suggests a new greeting for the Statue of Liberty on the new stamp, from the standard, “Give me your tired, your poor...yearning to be free” to “Give me your tourists yearning to have fun...and I will send them home poor.”