

# SEYCHELLES COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF U.S. BI-CENTENNIAL



**Inauguration of  
Georges Washington as  
First President of the USA**

**George Washington**  
1st President of the United States  
(1789-97)  
**Nickname:** "Father of His Country"  
**Born:** Feb 22, 1732, Pope's Creek, Va.  
**Profession:** Soldier, Planter  
**Religious Affiliation:** Episcopalian  
**Marriage:** Jan. 6, 1759 to Martha  
Dandridge Custis (1731-1802)  
**Children:** None  
**Political Affiliation:** Federalist  
**Writings:** Writings (39 vols., 1931-44,  
ed. By John C. Fitzpatrick  
**Died:** Dec. 14, 1799, Mont Vernon, Va.  
**Buried:** Mont Vernon, Va. (Family  
vault)



**William H. Seward  
and the Alaska Purchase**

**A**FTER the Civil War, the US Secretary of State, William H. Seward, an expansionist who saw the region as having strategic importance, negotiated (1867) the purchase of Alaska. A treaty of cession was signed by Russia and the United States on Mar. 30, 1867, and, after the treaty was formally transferred to the United States on Oct. 18, 1867. The United States paid \$7.2 million for Russia's rights in Alaska after a long and bitter debate in Congress. Americans occupied Alaska before the money was paid and moved quickly to take control of the assets of the Russian-American Company, to trade along the Yukon, and to exploit the profitable Pribilof fur-seal trade.



## SEYCHELLES JOINS IN THE CELEBRATIONS OF U.S. BI-CENTENNIAL

**T**HE Bicentennial marking the 200th anniversary of America's Independence was celebrated in the USA on July 4th 1976 with enormous enthusiasm and unprecedented fanfare.

Five days before – on the 29th June 1976, the Seychelles had become an independent Republic with James R. Mancham as its first President. In no time, the Seychelles Government issued a set of stamps to mark several milestones in US history. They were among the first Seychelles stamps to bear the effigy of President Mancham and they went a long way to testify the prevailing friendship and understanding between the Republic of Seychelles and the United States of America.



**Abraham Lincoln's  
Emancipation Proclamation 1863**

**T**HE US Constitution protected slavery issue so skillfully. Lincoln came to believe, the Commander in Chief could abolish slavery as a military necessity. The preliminary EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION of Sept. 22, 1862, bore the military justification, as did all of Lincoln's racial measures, including especially the decision in the final proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, to accept blacks in the army.



**Jefferson and the  
Louisiana Purchase**

**B**Y a treaty signed on Apr. 30, 1803, the United States purchased from France the Louisiana Territory, more than 2 million square kilometers (800 million square miles) of land extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. The price was 600 million francs, about \$15 million; \$11,250,000 was to be paid directly, with the balance to be covered by the assumption by the United States of French debts to America citizens.

Although Napoleon I originally intended to establish a new empire in America, he sold Louisiana to the United States in 1803. The \$15 million LOUISIANA PURCHASE represented about 4 cents an acre. Louisiana became the 18th state on Apr. 12, 1812, comprising the territory south of 30 degrees North latitude, which had been the Territory of Orleans.



**Pony Express – 1860**

**T**HE Pony Express (1860-61) was a brief but spectacular experiment in rapid mail delivery from Missouri to California. Hoping to win a government contract, the freighting and express firm to Russell, Majors, and Waddell promised to carry letters the almost 3,200 kilometres (2000 miles) between Saint Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., in 10 days. This was half the time taken by the Overland Mail Company, which followed a longer route through the Southwest. To provide fresh mounts for riders, the company established 190 way stations (16-24km) (10-15 miles) apart long a route through Nebraska, Wyoming, and Nevada. The riders, who travelled about 120 kilometres (75 miles) each in a relay system, carried the mail at a cost of \$5 an ounce, continuing even through the winter months. Successful logistically but not financially, Russell, Majors, and Waddell went bankrupt. Pony Express service ended after 18 months, in October 1861, when overland telegraph connections were completed.

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