



The most impressive ceremony of its kind in the history of the United States Post Office Department set the stage Thursday, April 8th, for the introduction of the Nation's first regular stamp combining a religious message and the Statue of Liberty.

At the request of thousands of persons who have urged the Post Office Department to issue a regular stamp with a religious sentiment, the new 8c Statue of Liberty stamp carries the inscription of "In God We Trust" arched over the symbolic torch bearer which stands at the entrance of New York Harbor on Bedloe's Island. Under this symbol of freedom that thrills returning citizens and visitors to the United States is the word "Liberty."

"The symbolism of God and Country in this

.75 by .87 inch stamp," Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield said, "marks the first time that a religious tone has been incorporated into a regular or ordinary stamp, as distinguished from a commemorative stamp which is discontinued after the initial printing order.

"Since this new stamp will be used primarily for international regular mail," Mr. Summerfield noted, "it is 'a postal Ambassador' which will go abroad at the rate of 200 million or more stamps a year."

This stamp was introduced to a nationwide television and radio audience during a 15-minute program in which President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Postmaster General Summerfield participated with the leaders of the Nation's three largest religious groups.