

# STATUE OF LIBERTY



## Monumental Moments

- In 1885, France presented the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a symbol of the long friendship between these two great nations dating back to the American Revolution.
- Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (pronounced Fray-day-reek O-goost Bar-tol-dee), a French sculptor enchanted by America, was commissioned to design the Statue. Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel was assigned the task of designing the internal steel framework to support the great weight of the Statue. He was also the engineer well known for later designing and building the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- In July 1884, the Statue was shipped in 350 individual pieces and packed into 214 crates. The trip took 11 months by ship.
- President Grover Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty on October 28, 1886, remarking that, "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected."

## Statue Stats

- Also known as "Lady Liberty," the Statue of Liberty is as remarkable for its sheer size as its symbolism. The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet tall or 305 feet in height including the base. The Statue is made of 250,000 pounds of steel and covered with 62,000 pounds of copper.
- **A Sculptor's Vision:** Bartholdi designed each piece of the Statue to embody American ideals and international cooperation:
  - **Torch:** Lady Liberty holds a torch high above her head to show the path to enlightenment.
  - **Crown:** The rays of the crown represent the seven seas and seven continents.
  - **Chains:** Lady Liberty has chains and a broken shackle at her feet, symbolizing freedom from oppression and servitude.
  - **Tablet:** The tablet in the Statue's left hand carries the inscription "July IV MDCCLXXVI"

which translates to July 4, 1776, the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

- **A Poet's Patriotism:** American poet, Emma Lazarus, wrote "The New Colossus," a now-famous poem that describes America's welcoming of weary 19th century immigrants fleeing persecution and seeking new opportunities in the United States. A plaque inscribed with the poem was installed on the Statue's pedestal in 1903. The poem concludes:  
*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*
- **A President's Vision:** On Lady Liberty's fiftieth anniversary in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt remarked: "Millions...adopted this homeland because in this land they found a home in which the things they most desired could be theirs—freedom of opportunity, freedom of thought, freedom to worship...It is the memory of all these eager, seeking millions that makes this one of America's places of great romance...It is fitting, therefore, that this should be a service of rededication to the liberty and peace which this statue symbolizes. Liberty and peace are living things. In each generation—if they are to be maintained—they must be guarded and vitalized anew."

## Coin Connection

- The reverse side of every Presidential \$1 Coin features the Statue of Liberty. The front of each coin features different United States Presidents.
- To celebrate her 100th anniversary, the Statue of Liberty was featured on a United States commemorative coin in 1986. A close-up image of Lady Liberty appears on the obverse (the front side of the coin) of the 1997 American Eagle platinum coins.
- The 2001 New York State Quarter® features the Statue of Liberty and the inscription "Gateway to Freedom."



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