



Copyright U. S. Postal Service 1982

Issue Date: June 10, 1983
First Day City: West Hartford, Connecticut
Designer: Dennis Lyall
Norwalk, Connecticut
Modeler: Clarence Holbert
Engravers: Gary M. Chaconas (vignette)
Gary M. Slaght (lettering and numerals)

Press: Intaglio
Color: Green
Image Area: .75 × .87 inches or
19.05 × 22.09 millimeters
Plate Number: One
Stamps per Pane: 100
Selvaqe: U. S. Postal Service 1983©
® Use Correct ZIP Code

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet Regular Stamp

A 20-cent regular stamp honoring Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, the renowned educator of the hearing impaired, was issued June 10 in West Hartford, Connecticut. The first day of issue ceremony was held at the American School for the Deaf, which Gallaudet founded.

Gallaudet was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on December 10, 1787, and as a boy, moved with his family to Hartford, Connecticut. He was graduated from Yale University in 1805, and from the Andover Theological Seminary in 1814. About this time, Gallaudet became acquainted with Alice Cogswell, a deaf child whom he tried to teach. Through this association, he became interested in the education of the deaf and decided to devote his life to the education of the hearing- and speaking-impaired. In 1815, he sailed to Europe to study at the Institut Royal des Sourds-Muets in Paris, one of the earliest schools for people with those handicaps. Gallaudet returned to the United States in 1816, with Laurent Clerc, a deaf teacher at the Paris Institute and, in 1817, established in Hartford the first free American school for the deaf (now called the American School for the Deaf). Gallaudet presided over the school until 1830.

His work went beyond teaching the deaf. Gallaudet also worked for the general advancement of education for women and stressed the need for well-trained women in the teaching profession. He also was interested in education for blacks. And he fostered the advancement of manual training for students of all races in the public schools. He died in Hartford, on September 10, 1851.

The Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet stamp is in the Great American Series of regular postage stamps, which was initiated in 1980 to recognize the diverse accomplishments of outstanding Americans.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE