

# PROPOSED! Romancing the Past Keepsake Heritage Collection



J. Rickford's  
Preservation Studio



ROMANCING THE PAST

To whom it may concern:

I was not certain whether to unfold my thoughts to the PostMaster or you for I did not know where the creation of the subject matter of a national recognition month and commemorative stamps begin. I felt more comfortable sharing this with you in the long run. My name is John Rickford, "Rick", and my company is called "Poor Richard's" Restoration. I am in private practice as a preservationist and curator for over 30 years.

My idea is to place pictures on stamps of before and after restored antiques / keepsakes. By doing so, it will highlight the importance and encourage families to protect and/or restore their heirlooms, allowing them to hold on to the memories and traditions imbued in these objects while passing them along to the next generation for special occasions such as graduations and weddings. Therefore, (and my primary purpose is) creating the opportunity for the month of June (graduations and weddings), to be designated National Family Heirloom month. The value of placing these pictures on stamps could be a twofold reward. One, to celebrate our family values, our treasures, and our traditions, and one to realize a profit for the government as the stamps are sold which could be directed to maintenance and restoration projects on monuments, historic sites and objects, etc. (benefiting the National Trust and /or the Smithsonian). There would be no taxes involved, just stamps and stories to appreciate.

I am enclosing information about myself and my studio for some background.

I am really upbeat and excited about this plan and hope you too feel the same way. I know it is something that does not happen overnight, but it will be worth the effort. I am looking forward to hearing from you. I would be most grateful to speak with you at your office if you so desire. Or, if you can make it to my studio, you can enjoy a very special and unique magic carpet ride, and experience, "The Midnight Rainbow"- where the soul meets déjà vu, (a contemporary outdoor/indoor "Field of Themes" display of sentimentality today).

Sincerely,



J. Rickford

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\* Name borrowed from *Poor Richard's Almanac*, published from 1733 to 1758 by Ben Franklin, whose wit and genius, though rooted in the past, are timeless.