



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538-1917
www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu 1-800-FDR-VISIT

OCTOBER 5, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR INFORMATION CALL: CLIFF LAUBE at (845) 486-7745

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
PRESENTS AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING**

ANTHONY P. MUSSO
AUTHOR OF
FDR AND THE POST OFFICE: A YOUNG BOY'S FASCINATION;
A WORLD LEADER'S PASSION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 2 PM
HENRY A. WALLACE CENTER

HYDE PARK, NY—The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host an author talk and book signing at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 15, with Anthony P. Musso, author of *FDR and the Post Office: A Young Boy's Fascination; A World Leader's Passion*, in the Henry A. Wallace Center. Musso will be available to sign copies of his book following the talk.

In *FDR and the Post Office: A Young Boy's Fascination; A World Leader's Passion*, Anthony Musso explores FDR's lifetime passion for the Post Office Department and how it extended well beyond stamp collecting. He implemented numerous stamp-related initiatives during his terms of office including the establishment of first-day ceremonies, and the introduction of philatelic windows at local post offices. FDR reviewed and approved more than 200 postage stamps issued during his presidency; and personally submitted several hand drawn designs that went on to become stamps. As part of the Works Progress Administration, Roosevelt maintained a hands-on participation in the construction of 406 post office buildings nationwide.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's interest in the Post Office came at a young age as family members regularly sent him foreign postage stamps while engaged in trade overseas. He embraced the hobby as a means to bolster his interest in geography and world history by documenting various facts related to each stamp's origin, and its significance to the issuing country's heritage.

When stricken with infantile paralysis, the thirty-nine year-old found much comfort and intellectual stimulation from working with his growing stamp collection. So significant was its impact at the time that he repeatedly credited his involvement in the hobby as having saved his life.

When he entered public service and his pastime became known, Roosevelt became the recipient of numerous philatelic gifts from both admiring supporters and world leaders. Upon being elected president of the United States, Roosevelt appointed his campaign manager and longtime friend James Farley to the position of Postmaster General. The appointment and partnership between the lifetime stamp enthusiast and savvy businessman would forever change the face of both stamp collecting and the Post Office Department. It would also present Roosevelt with the enviable opportunity to actually design several commemorative stamps and oversee virtually every one issued during his terms as president.

As part of Roosevelt's New Deal program he created the Works Progress Administration, an initiative that in the process of creating work for the nation's unemployed—resulting from the Great Depression—was responsible for the construction of hundreds of Post Office buildings.

Anthony Musso was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and relocated to New York's Hudson Valley region in the mid-1980s. His interest in history was enhanced by the region's numerous historic sites, one being the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential

Library and Museum. As a longtime philatelic enthusiast, he shares FDR's philosophy regarding the educational value of stamp collecting. As such, he has given various presentations to school groups and civic organizations on the topic for the past twenty years. A professional writer/editor and media relations manager, this is his first published book.

Copies of Mr. Musso's book will be available for sale after the lecture. There is no charge for this event. Please contact Cliff Laube, Public Affairs Specialist, at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with any questions about the book talk.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.