

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13, 2015

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

First Smithsonian Night program at Cultural Heritage Center focuses on history & stamps

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society will host its first “Smithsonian Night” program on Tuesday, April 21, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The 7 p.m. CDT program is entitled “A History of America in Thirty-six Postage Stamps” presented by Chris West, author of the book by the same name. The program was originally broadcast from the National Postal Museum on Dec. 1, 2014, as part of their Maynard Sundman Lecture series.

The visually stunning program explores America's rich philatelic history. From George Washington's dour gaze to the charging buffalo of the western frontier and Lindbergh's soaring biplane, American stamps provide a vivid window into the nation's extraordinary and distinctive past. Individuals and families are welcome to attend.

“This is an excellent program for all ages,” commented Museum Director Jay Smith, “Specialty stamps generate a lot of interest and some of these historical stamps are truly amazing artifacts. As Mr. West suggests, there is a lot of American history portrayed in stamps, so you don't need to be a stamp collector to have an interest in this program.”

On “Smithsonian Night,” the museum and Heritage Store at the Cultural Heritage Center will be open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. giving visitors additional time in the early evening to visit the facility. Visitors are welcome to tour the museum and visit the Heritage Store from 4:30-8 p.m. during the extended evening hours leading up to and during the featured program. There will be no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees will apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

The South Dakota State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013 and it is the only affiliate in South Dakota.

-30-

About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and

administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

About Smithsonian Affiliations

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.