

## COLLECTING THE PRESIDENTS: OBAMA

by Melvin Morris

The inundation of Obama stamp issues not only has continued but actually increased to the point of being overwhelming! A total of 27 areas (plus 3 locals/cinderellas) had been released by Inauguration Day (20 January 2009) — and don't forget to pick up at least a couple of those Inauguration covers! I hope I'll be able to describe many of these in the next edition of the APN.

In the meantime, the following is a list of all those discovered by Inauguration Day. These include 16 from Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp (identified by \*)• Also see Liberia's Obama issues on pages 1 & 20 of this edition of the APN. A total of more than 85 ms or ss of anywhere's from 1 to 9 stamps each have been released. More than half sold for an average price of around \$15.00 or a sum of well over \$1,000.00 — and that does not include imperf sheets or fdcs? I'm very fond of the great Humphrey Bogart movie, "Casablanca." Very apropos to the Obama situation were the words of the French Police Inspector — "Round up the usual suspects!" The "usual suspects" in this situation are quite were quite easy to identify! Leading the way was St Thomas & Principe with 19 ms or ss; closely followed by Guinea with 16 and Chad with 15 sheets! Once again imperfs & fdcs were not counted in the totals.

To expand their rip-offs of collectors — and the general public who might be interested in obtaining a souvenir of this historical event (the First Black American to become President) and might turn this interest into a stamp collection — an excessive amount of other persons & topics were included. 3 "usual suspects" in particular were guilty of this crime. Thus, every single member of the Obama Family appeared on stamps including grandparents & aunts. Then there were the stamps or sheets with Marilyn Monroe, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Winston Churchill, Josef Stalin, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King,

Malcom X, famous sports & Civil Rights figures, astronauts, the US Flag, American Bald Eagle, White House, Statue of Liberty, etc. If, like myself, you "Collect the Presidents" then the Mount Rushmore 4 (Washington, Jefferson, "Teddy" Roosevelt, Lincoln), Kennedy galore, FDR, Truman, Clinton and Hillary Nixon, Reagan, & others made frequent appearances. Most of the "usual suspects" had several presidents on most of their sheets. Indeed, St. Thomas & Principe had several sheets with more than 20 tiny portraits of different Presidents.

In the meantime, the 200 anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln — one of the Greatest of our Presidents — went almost ignored. The US, Gambia, & Antigua & Barbuda are the only nations to honor our 16 President. So, I thought it only fitting to close this article by displaying these stamps & some of the Obama items that also include Abraham Lincoln.

## Obama Preliminary Check list

- 1) \*Antigua & Barbuda
- 2) Chad
- 3) \*Dominica
- 4) "Gambia
- 5) \*Gren
- 6) "Grenada Carriacou & Petite Martinique
- 7) Guinea
- 8) Guinea Bissau
- 9) "Liberia
- 10) Malawi
- 11) "Maldives
- 12) "Micronesia
- 13) Mozambique
- 14) "Nevis
- 15) \*Palau
- 16) \*St Kitts
- 17) St Thomas & Principe
- 18) "St. Vincent (3renadines
- 19) \*St Vincent Bequia
- 20) \*St. Vincent Canouan
- 21) \*St Vincent Mayreau
- 22) "St Vincent Mustique
- 23) "St Vincent Union Island
- 24) \*Sieffa Leone
- 25) "Tanzania
- 26) \*Tuvalu
- 27) "Uganda

