

October 30, 2009

Jean Picker Firstenberg
Chairperson
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432.

Dear Mrs. Firstenberg,

Benjamin Franklin is recognized all over the world as the inventor of bifocals yet no country has ever created a stamp which honors this incredibly useful instrument.

Included with this letter are two photos of what are believed to be the world's earliest known Ben Franklin style split-lens bifocals. This optical treasure is currently on loan to the "Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World" exhibit that will be touring the United States over the next three years.

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) has noted that Franklin was, "one of the most extraordinary human beings the world has ever known." His simple concept, an optical device made of two half-lenses in the same round frame, has positively impacted the lives of billions of people for nearly 240 years.

Please give serious consideration to the idea of a stamp to commemorate this wonderful innovation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David A. Fleishman, MD
Retired ophthalmologist.
Sharon, MA