The George C. Marshall Research Library has been chosen as the place of issue for the new twenty-cent postage stamp honoring General Marshall. The date for its release is October 24, United Nations Day, in recognition of General Marshall's role in international affairs, and the year is 1967, the twentieth anniversary of his speech at Harvard, when he outlined a program of economic assistance to Europe which came to be known as the Marshall Plan.
Ceremonies Commemorating
The Twentieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan
and
First Day Issue of the New U. S. Postage Stamp
Honoring
General of the Army George C. Marshall

UNITED NATIONS DAY
Tuesday Afternoon, October 24, 1967
two o'clock

Presiding | General of the Army Omar N. Bradley
President of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation

Invocation | Dr. Frank W. Price
Former Moderator of The Presbyterian Church, U. S.

Welcome | Major General George R. E. Shell
Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute

Opening Remarks | Dr. Forrest C. Pogue
Director, George C. Marshall Research Library

Remarks | Honorable W. Averell Harriman
United States Ambassador-at-Large and Former U. S.
Representative in Europe for the Marshall Plan

Remarks | Honorable Paul Gray Hoffman
Managing Director, United Nations Development Program
and Former Administrator of the Marshall Plan

Presentation of the OEEC Medal | Honorable Roger Ockrent
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of H. M.
the King of the Belgians; Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the Organization for Economic Cooperation
and Development and Chairman of the Executive Com-
mittee

Presentation of the National Academy of Design Mural | Honorable Edgar I. Williams
Former President of the National Academy of Design and
Chairman of the Edwin Austin Abbey Mural Committee

Address and Presentation of Albums | Honorable Lawrence F. O'Brien
Postmaster General of the United States

Closing Remarks | General Bradley

Benediction | The Right Reverend Lloyd R. Craighill
Retired Bishop of Anking, China

A reception in the Library will follow.
“It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos.”

June 5, 1947

—General Marshall

MARSHALL PLAN ROOM OPENS

The story of the world’s most remarkable and successful experiment in peaceful international cooperation is graphically told in the new Marshall Plan Room of the Library’s museum. Its various displays inform visitors of four years of concerted effort which strongly affected the course of history.

General Marshall’s proposal of a program under which the United States could assist the stricken nations of Europe was outlined in a speech at Harvard June 5, 1947, and approved by Congress the following April. Often misunderstood, the Marshall Plan was not unending—it lasted approximately four years—and its cost was a relatively small $13 billions divided in varying proportions among 17 nations.

But its effect was incalculable, for out of the wreckage of war there swiftly arose a new, prosperous—and free—Western Europe, able to withstand the forces of communism which by 1947 were already preying on want and despair.

The new room, designed to give visitors a true understanding of what the Marshall Plan meant to Europe and the world, was made possible by a special grant of $18,450 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation of New York City.

THIRTEENTH OF THE "PROMINENT AMERICANS" SERIES

The new twenty-cent George C. Marshall stamp is the thirteenth to be issued in the Post Office Department's eighteen-stamp "Prominent Americans" series. It replaces the twenty-cent Monticello stamp showing the home of Thomas Jefferson in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Reminiscent of the hue of the traditional Army uniform during two World Wars in which General Marshall distinguished himself, the olive-colored new stamp bears General Marshall's portrait surrounded by the words "George C. Marshall—Statesman—Soldier—United States." The design is embellished in the lower right-hand corner by the five stars denoting the rank of a General of the Army.

The stamp is the design of Robert Geissmann, noted graphic artist of New York whose previous work in this field includes designing the Religious Freedom in America and the National Apprenticeship Program commemorative stamps. The Marshall stamp, based on a 1943 photograph from LIFE, was modeled by Howard C. Mildner and engraved by Kenneth C. Wiram and Arthur W. Dintaman of the U. S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Postmaster General O'Brien, who authorized the Marshall stamp following recommendation by his Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, was appointed to office in 1965 by President Johnson after serving as Special Assistant to both President Kennedy and President Johnson with the task of effecting liaison between the White House and Congress.

The Marshall Research Library was selected by Postmaster General O'Brien as the site for the first-day issue because of its position as the leading memorial to General Marshall. Further, the Library is located adjacent to the Virginia Military Institute, from which General Marshall graduated in 1901.

One other stamp has been issued in General Marshall's honor. As a tribute to his proposing the Marshall Plan, the West German government on the first anniversary of General Marshall's death, October 15, 1960, issued a 40 Pfennig commemorative stamp bearing his likeness. The citation that accompanied the stamp presentations stated: "George C. Marshall has taken his place in history as the initiator of the Marshall Plan named after him. By this plan, the great American statesman freed Europe from its desperate economic situation and gave us Germans the possibility of reconstruction." Prompted by this action, the Marshall Foundation President, General Bradley, in October 1963, suggested to Secretary Dean Rusk that the State Department sponsor a commemorative stamp to honor General Marshall. This proposal received the Secretary's enthusiastic backing.
Henrik Martin Mayer (right), who was chosen to execute the Marshall mural, discusses his work with Edgar I. Williams, Chairman of the National Academy of Design's Abbey Mural Committee.

NATIONAL ACADEMY MURAL

A focal point of the new Marshall Plan room is a 27" x 11" mural, the gift of the National Academy of Design through its Edwin Austin Abbey Mural Fund. Nearly two years ago, the Academy announced a competition for a mural "to honor General Marshall for his patriotic and distinguished contribution to the United States' effort in the Second World War."

The artist chosen by the Academy was Henrik Martin Mayer, of Essex, Connecticut, widely known for murals he has executed in many parts of the country. In Mr. Mayer's words, his painting "deals with the spirit of General Marshall as a soldier and statesman, who with wisdom and foresight saw the deplorable condition of preparedness of the United States prior to Pearl Harbor, and by his leadership brought the United States from its unprepared state to one capable of contending with the global situation." The central portion of the mural carries out this theme. To the left General Marshall is shown in his role as a global strategist, while his service as a great humanitarian and author of the Marshall Plan in the aftermath is symbolically depicted on the right by a Europe rising from the destruction of war.

The mural, completed by Mr. Mayer after over a year's work, is unusual in that it was painted on a single piece of canvas in the artist's studio. It was placed on the wall of the new museum room during the summer under the supervision of the artist.

The National Academy of Design's Abbey Mural Fund is named after Edwin Austin Abbey, himself a renowned muralist who died in 1911. The Fund was established through a legacy bequeathed the Academy in 1931 by the artist's widow, Mrs. Mary Gertrude Abbey, to make possible awarding of commissions to distinguished artists to execute murals for buildings devoted to public service.
HONORS FOR

GENERAL MARSHALL

During the past summer celebrations were held in a number of European cities commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan. Ambassador Harriman and Mr. Hoffman were among the key participants in several meetings, particularly a symposium in Brussels, presided over by former Belgian Prime minister Paul Henri Spaak, which posed the question: “How Can the Principles of the Marshall Plan Be Applied to Today’s Problems?”

The Library’s Director, Dr. Pogue, spoke at the Brussels meeting and also attended ceremonies in Bonn on June 2. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, successor to the OEEC which was formed to implement the Marshall Plan, held ceremonies on June 5 in Paris.

Ambassador Roger Ockrent, permanent representative from Belgium to the OECD, is present for today’s program to present the Marshall Library a replica of a medal given by the OEEC to General Marshall in 1957 on the tenth anniversary of the Marshall Plan. Ambassador Ockrent joined the OEEC in 1953 as the Belgian representative. A Professor at the University of Brussels, Ambassador Ockrent served as Vice-President of the OEEC Council and now is the chairman of the OECD’s executive committee.

General Marshall was given the original medal, June 5, 1957, at the Blair House in Washington, by the British Ambassador to the United States on behalf of OEEC. In one of his last public speeches, General Marshall replied: “It is with very real humility that I come here today to receive your expressions of appreciation for the attitude of the people of this Country toward all of Western Europe in their tragic dilemma at the close of the Second World War. That attitude was helpful to a degree without precedent, I believe, in history. It was my good fortune to be in the position to give expression to this rather typical American reaction, which came from the very heart of its people.”

A plaque in Chateau de la Muette, Paris, headquarters of OEEC and now of OECD, was dedicated on the same day in tribute to General Marshall. The new Marshall Library museum room will feature a permanent exhibit, a gift of OECD, which will include the replica of the 1957 medal, a photograph of the plaque, and certain background material on OECD.

A special display describing the Marshall Scholarship to Britain has been presented for the new museum room by the British Embassy. As a gesture of thanks for Marshall Aid, the British Government established the Marshall Scholarships in 1953 to enable Americans to study for degrees at British Universities. Twenty four awards are offered every year to American college graduates.

The carpet for the new room was given by Lees Carpets, and photographs and statistical information for the presentation were made available by OECD Information Service in Paris and the Agency for International Development in Washington.
General of the Army George C. Marshall was born December 31, 1880, at Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He died at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., October 16, 1959. In his 79 years, he devoted fifty years of active service to his country in its highest military and nonelective civilian posts. His contributions to international betterment were recognized in 1953 by the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

The General's military career began at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, from which he was graduated in 1901 after serving as First Captain. Commissioned a second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1902, with rank from February 1901, he gained Army-wide recognition during World War I as Chief of Operations of the 1st Division, the first American unit to go overseas, and as Chief of Operations of the First Army. Perhaps his most important assignment between wars came in the period 1927-32 when he was Assistant Commandant of the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he had charge of instruction. With a faculty and staff composed of men who were to be leaders of World War II—a group including Generals Bradley, Ridgway, Collins, Stilwell, and Bedell Smith—he instituted methods of instruction still in use today.

Assuming the post of Chief of Staff, United States Army, on September 1, 1939, the day Hitler invaded Poland, General Marshall worked unceasingly to prepare this country for national defense, to raise new units, to train recruits, to develop materiel, and to improve morale. World leaders such as Roosevelt and Churchill and his colleagues in the Combined Chiefs of Staff testified to his skill as a strategist and administrator. President Truman hailed him as "architect of victory" and Bernard Baruch described him as America's "first global strategist."

General Marshall retired in November 1945 after six years as head of the United States Army. Within a few weeks he was recalled by President Truman to head a mission to China. Marshall's sense of duty impelled him to accept a task he felt was hopeless from the start.

At the close of his tour in China, General Marshall again headed the call to duty. At the age of 67, he took up the heavy duties of Secretary of State. With Europe in a state of near collapse as a result of the war's devastation, he became impressed with the need of helping the stricken continent. Twenty years ago on June 5, 1947, in his historic Harvard speech, he made the proposal for a European Recovery Program that became known in history as the "Marshall Plan." He played a major role in winning public and congressional support for the enactment of legislation which brought that program into effect in 1948. His role in what has been called "the most unsordid act in history" was recognized in 1953 by the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace. He was the first military man to receive it.

Many other problems claimed his attention as Secretary of State, including attendance at five major international conferences at Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, London, Bogotá, and Paris. The North Atlantic Treaty, although not signed until after he retired from his post, had its genesis in this period.

The General resigned early in 1949 because of illness. Later that year, he was back on duty, this time as President of the American Red Cross. He travelled extensively, visiting chapters from coast to coast. In September, 1950, as the Korean War gained momentum, President Truman called on him to become Secretary of Defense. In the year he held this office, Marshall worked extremely hard to prepare the Army for its heavy duties in the Far Eastern conflict.

Leaving the Defense post in the fall of 1951, General Marshall spent his remaining years quietly, except for service with the American Battles Monuments Commission, of which he served as chairman. He represented General Eisenhower in 1953 as the head of the official American delegation at the coronation of Elizabeth II. Dying in 1959, General Marshall was buried at Arlington, where he lies amidst thousands of men who served with or under him in two global conflicts.

General Marshall was married to Miss Elizabeth Carter Coles of Lexington, February 11, 1902. The first Mrs. Marshall died in 1927. Three years later, October 15, 1930, he married Mrs. Katherine Boyce Tupper Brown of Baltimore, Maryland, who now makes her home in Tryon, North Carolina.