

## WHY THE STATUE OF LIBERTY BARELY GOT BUILT

ALTHOUGH FRANCE PAID FOR THE STATUE, THE U.S. HAD TO PAY FOR THE PEDESTAL

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The construction of the Statue of Liberty was a joint project between France and the United States. France was supposed to build the copper statue of a woman raising a torch, and the United States was supposed to build its pedestal.

But for a while, it wasn't clear if the statue would go up in New York City at all. When the Statue of Liberty arrived (in pieces) in New York Harbor in June of 1885, the pedestal was still under construction, and fundraisers were still collecting the money to finish it.

CONGRESS AND GOVERNOR WOULDN'T FUND IT.



*Presentation drawing of 'The Statue of Liberty Illuminating the World', by French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi*

Discussions about France building a statue for the United States started about 20 years before the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York. The French historian Édouard de Laboulaye first proposed the idea around 1865, the year the Civil War ended and the United States began abolishing slavery.

De Laboulaye, an abolitionist and advocate for democracy, believed that funding a statue celebrating the United States victory would strengthen support for democracy in France, which was then under the dictatorship of Napoléon Bonaparte's nephew.

The French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi agreed to design the statue, which was called Liberty Enlightening the World.

When Bartholdi campaigned for public support of the statue in the United States, he promoted the statue as a commemoration of the U.S. centennial on July 4, 1876, which marked a century since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The statue wasn't anywhere near ready by the time of the centennial, but even when the statue arrived in New York City nearly a decade later, the American Committee of the Statue of Liberty still hadn't raised the roughly \$250,000 to \$300,000 necessary to build the pedestal.

Most of the money the committee had raised so far had probably come in the form of donations from wealthy Americans. There wasn't any federal funding for the pedestal, because the U.S. Congress couldn't agree on a spending package, says Alan Kraut, a history professor at American University and chair of the history advisory committee for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation.

"There was a lot of disagreement and a lot of bickering over who should put up the money," he says. Some "were all in favor of statues of [the Marquis de] Lafayette and George Washington," and didn't want the Statue of Liberty because they "thought the concept of liberty was a little bit too abstract."

In addition, New York Governor Grover Cleveland, before becoming president in 1885, had said that New York City couldn't use its city government funds to pay for the pedestal. Other cities like Boston and Philadelphia expressed interest in funding the pedestal—but this was understandably on the condition that the statue is moved to their city.

#### PULITZER'S NEWSPAPER SOLICITED FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC

Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian immigrant, and wealthy newspaper publisher, was in favor of erecting the statue in New York City. On March 16, 1885, he asked readers of his newspaper the *New York World* to send in donations for the pedestal.

"We must raise the money!" he wrote in his New York paper. "The *World* is the people's paper, and now it appeals to the people to come forward and raise the money... Let us not wait for the millionaires to give us this money. It is not a gift from the millionaires of France to the millionaires of America, but a gift of the whole people of France to the whole people of America."

Pulitzer printed the names of people who donated in the newspaper and often included details that the donors had supposedly sent him about why they were donating or how they had come up with the money. (Despite his criticisms of millionaires for not donating enough money to the pedestal, it's not clear if the wealthy newspaper owner donated any of his own money to the cause.)

The newspaper's fundraising drive succeeded: By August 1885, more than 120,000 people had donated upward of \$100,000 to complete the pedestal.

On October 28, 1886, President (and former New York Governor) Grover Cleveland, dedicated the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

Afterward, Pulitzer continued to promote his role in raising funds for the statue.

"The people of New York City realized the role that Pulitzer had played, and Pulitzer never hesitated to remind them of that," Kraut says. "Because after all, he was a man with a newspaper to sell."

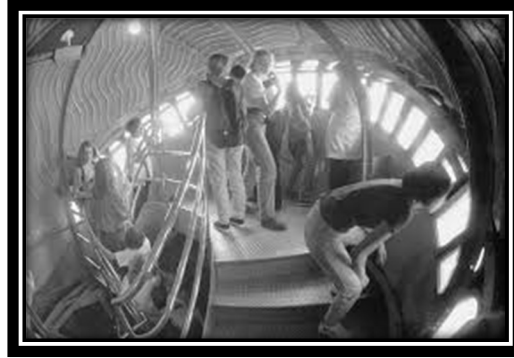
#### FACTS ABOUT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

It is struck by lightning approximately 600 times a year.

The seven spikes in the crown represent the Seven Seas and the Seven Continents of the world.

The statue sways 3 inches in the wind and the torch sways 5 inches.

Visitors climb 354 steps (22 stories) to get to the 25 windows at the top of the torch.



The statue is 151 feet tall and was the largest structure in the US at that time. The distance from the ground to the top of the torch is 305 feet, about the distance of a regular 100 yard football field.

Lady Liberty's face is modeled after the mother of Frederick Auguste Bartholdi, the sculptor who designed the statue.

Lady Liberty's (Statue of Liberty) real name is "Liberty Enlightening The World." She sets on "Liberty Island".



THE ORIGINAL STATUE OF LIBERTY TORCH



THE NEW TORCH INSTALLED IN 1984

Officials with the National Park Service and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation said the torch was removed in 1984 because it was too badly damaged to restore.

It was replaced by a replica and was moved into what will become its permanent home at a new museum on Liberty Island.

The Statue of Liberty was built in France between 1875 and 1884. It was disassembled and shipped to New York City in 1885. The statue was reassembled on Liberty Island in 1886, although the torch has been redesigned or restored several times since its installation.

The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886. It was designated as a National Monument in 1924. Employees of the National Park Service have been caring for the colossal copper statue since 1933.

Visitors must go through airport-style security to enter the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

The statue weighs a whopping 450,000 pounds.



At the Statue's unveiling, in 1886, it was brown, like a penny. By 1906, oxidation had covered it with a green patina. The thin layer of oxidation that covers copper (and bronze, an alloy made mostly of copper) can preserve the metal for centuries, even millennia, as shown by objects from the ancient world. According to the National Park Service, the statue is made of thirty tons of copper - enough to make 435 million pennies

Women were barred from the original dedication ceremony. Upset suffragists held their ceremony in a nearby harbor, lamenting that a giant female figure stood in the harbor representing liberty while American women were still being denied the right to vote. (Library of Congress)

In the 1980s, restorers discovered the statue had turned into a giant battery. This was due to galvanic corrosion, in which dissimilar metals are brought into electrical contact under water. In the statue's case, moisture was trapped between the copper skin and the iron frameworks.

Thomas Edison tried to make it talk. In 1878, he announced plans (that never came to fruition) to make a giant phonograph to place inside the statue. This would have enabled it to give speeches that could be heard throughout New York.

The statue's head is misaligned by two feet. The issue was discovered during the restoration of the statue before its 100th anniversary in 1986.

Surprisingly, no one died during the building of the Statue of Liberty, either in France or in the United States.

Two people have successfully committed suicide by jumping off the statue. The deaths occurred 68 years apart, one in 1929 and the other in 1997.

Gustave Eiffel, the man responsible for designing the Eiffel Tower, helped design the Statue of Liberty. Eiffel worked on the internal structural elements of the statue, with Bartholdi serving as the main designer.



THE ERRONEOUS STAMP



LEFT - REAL STATUE IN NY / RIGHT - STATUE IN LAS VEGAS

The United States Post Office issued the Statue of Liberty Forever stamp on December 1, 2010. The stamp shows the replica of the Statue of Liberty (*Liberty Enlightening the World*) located at the New York-New York Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip rather than the original Statue of Liberty in New York. The error was not noticed until March 2011. The error was identified by Sunipix, a stock photo agency in Texas. Ten and a half billion of the error stamps were produced The mistake is the largest run of an error on a postage stamp.

In 2013, sculptor Robert S. Davidson sued the Postal Service for copyright infringement<sup>[6]</sup> and was awarded a 3.5-million-dollar settlement from the Post Office

The Freemasons have a plaque on the cornerstone of the statue. There are critics of this choice, but Bartholdi was a member of the Freemasons, and when the plaque was placed, the Grand Master of New York, William A. Brodie, declared that "No other organization has done more to promote liberty and to liberate men from the chains of ignorance and tyranny than the Freemasons.

Despite the statue's immense size, its copper skin is barely 1/16 of an inch thick.

If winds reach speeds of 50 mph, the statue can sway up to three inches. The torch can sway even farther — up to six inches.

Both Boston and Philadelphia wanted the statue to be built in their cities. New York was having trouble raising the money for it and both cities offered to pay full price. In the end, New York was able to raise the funds, and Lady Liberty has called the Big Apple home ever since.

The 7 points of her crown symbolize the 7 seas and the 7 continents — as well as the rays of the sun.

The statue has broken chains at its feet, and its right foot is raised to symbolize moving away from oppression. The U.S. abolished slavery, which inspired Bartholdi in the first place, just 21 years before the statue's dedication.

The huge statue is a structure of choice for lightning strikes due to its conductive material and height.

The statue is two and a half times taller than Christ the Redeemer. Lady Liberty looms at 305 feet, while Brazil's Christ the Redeemer stands 124.5 feet tall.

The face of the statue alone is more than eight feet tall. Just its nose accounts for four feet and six inches of that height.

The steadfast statue survived 2012's Hurricane Sandy without any damage. However, both Liberty and Ellis islands were closed for a time after the giant storm.

The statue was damaged by German saboteurs during World War I. Michael Kristoff, along with two other German spies, is believed to have blown up a munitions stash in 1916 on nearby Black Tom Island. Shrapnel pierced the statue, causing about \$100,000 worth of damage.

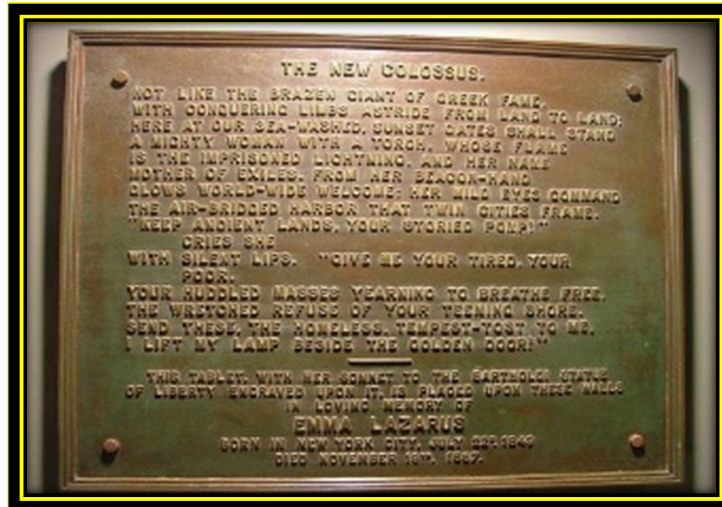
The Statue of Liberty was originally going to wear a pileus, a cap given to emancipated slaves in Rome. Instead, Bartholdi used a diadem or crown.

Only 240 people are allowed to visit the crown every day. This policy was implemented after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when evacuation procedures became a high priority.

300 types of hammers were used to shape the copper for the statue.

The statue was originally meant to be taller. The pedestal was first designed to be 114 feet tall. This measurement was scaled back to 89 feet to cut construction costs





*The 1903 bronze plaque is located on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. A replica of this plaque is now located in the Statue of Liberty Museum. It reads as follows:*

### **THE NEW COLOSSUS**

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow's worldwide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that the twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Emma Lazarus November 2, 1883



The first sketch of New York's Statue of Liberty by architect Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was first intended to represent an "Egyptian peasant in Muslim garments." In his early designs, Bartholdi called the sculpture "Egypt Carrying the Light to Asia."

However, Egyptian officials rejected the statue as too expensive, ...May 7, 2018

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### STATUE OF LIBERTY MUSEUM

GO TO

<https://www.nps.gov/stli/planyourvisit/visiting-the-museum.htm>

Lady Liberty's legacy expanded with the *opening of the Statue of Liberty Museum in May 2019*. Housed within the Statue of Liberty Museum are three interactive galleries that tell the statue's history in thought-provoking ways. Each gallery is designed to inspire visitors.

**WATCH A 3 MINUTE VIDEO SHOWING THE MUSEUM BEING BUILT**

**COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoelZEA49Kc>



Liberty's Original Torch resides in the Statue of Liberty Museum

**TAKE A 360 VIDEO TOUR OF THE MUSEUM**

**COPY AND PASTE THE BELOW LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER**

<https://360sitevisit.com/libertyisland/>