

STAMP SCOOP



FLANNERY O'CONNOR

As one of the greatest short story writers of the 20th century, Flannery O'Connor spun the gravitas of a Southern, Catholic upbringing into an art that was all American and powerful.

Born in Savannah, Flannery lost her father to lupus when she was a teenager. She had a gift for storytelling, and began writing in earnest while pursuing a Masters degree at the University of Iowa, a haven for writers. It was there she began work on her first novel, *Wise Blood*, and her first short story, "The Geranium," was published. Upon graduating, she joined a writers' retreat in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Flannery's work paid homage to her history as a Catholic in the South, riddled with bleak situations, grandiose and righteous characters, and the promise of hope. Her characters were often wise and nihilistic, or realistic and humbling, forcing her readers to face sobering truths in the 1950s and 60s. She was acclaimed by her peers, receiving three O. Henry Awards and a posthumous National Book Award. Tragically, in 1964, she succumbed to the same illness that took her father.

O'Connor's stamp art features a digitally painted version of a black-and-white college photograph of the author among peacock feathers, a symbol that is largely associated with her.

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