

Is Lady Liberty’s Real Name “Marianne”?
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Marianne is a symbol of Republican France. She symbolizes the attachment of the common citizens of the revolution to the Republic - Marianne is liberty, equality and fraternity. The origins of the Marianne “goddess of liberty” symbol date back to 1775 when a French artist first painted her as a symbol of French liberty. The image became popular in 1792 when France changed from a monarchy to a republic after a revolution. Marianne was chosen to represent the republic. Marianne has been used on most definitive stamps issued since 1944, as well as several commemoratives. (Source: <https://www.abelard.org/france/marianne.ph>)



Figure 1. French definitives featuring Marianne.

Marianne is most commonly shown wearing a Phrygian cap, a red hat that was given to freed slaves in Ancient Rome. The hat was a symbol of their transition from slavery to freedom. She is also depicted as a warrior symbolizing the idea that liberty is something that must be fought for. In

other places, she is depicted as thoughtful, serious, and in a more serene posture draped in a long tunic. Marianne is displayed throughout France in government buildings like city halls and courts, on flags, and as a monument (Source: <https://www.historymuseumofmobile.com>).

Figure 2. Great Seal of France. Note the spiked crown.



Figure 3 One of many monuments featuring Marianne



.Figure 4. The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

The Statue was a gift from France to the United States. It was designed by the French sculptor, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, who most certainly was aware of Marianne’s place in French history and culture.

So, is Marianne the real name of Lady Liberty? What do you think?

(Figures 1, 2, and 3 are from <https://frenchmoments.eu>). Figure 4 is from the Statue of Liberty website).