

1883

THE NEW COLOSSUS

Emma Lazarus

Lazarus, Emma (1849-1887) - American poet, essayist and philanthropist, her work blossomed as she championed the Jewish people during their persecution in Russia. She believed America promised hope to all oppressed people.

New Colossus (1883) - In 1903 this poem was engraved on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in "loving memory" of the author. Opening lines: Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, / With conquering limbs astride from land to land; ...

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 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command The air-bridged harbor that 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!”

THE END