

**Emma Lazarus Does Her Share**

**Lead: At first reluctant, Emma Lazarus gave in and wrote the words that helped build the symbol of America's welcome.**

**Intro.: "A Moment in Time" with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: The money wasn't coming in and Joseph Pulitzer was becoming very frustrated. Publisher of the New York World, a Hungarian immigrant who fought in the Civil War, Pulitzer had taken, as his personal crusade, the task of raising money to build the pedestal on which the colossus was to**

**rest. The arrangement was that France would supply the statue if the United States would build the base. Work in Paris was on schedule but in America, people did not seem to be very concerned.**

**Art critics with attitude didn't think much of it as a work of art. Some wealthy people were a little nervous about erecting such an obvious symbol of revolution. Elsewhere in the nation people thought New York ought to pay for it, on the other hand New Yorkers did not want to pay for it all.**

**Pulitzer tried everything. One tactic was to hold a poetry contest. A young New York poet named Emma Lazarus did not like the idea of writing poetry**

**to raise money, but she was roused to action by the sight of thousands of persecuted Jews fleeing an outbreak of anti-Semitic riots following assassination of Czar Alexander II. Emma was touched by the sight of them pouring into New York and wrote "The New Colossus" to comfort them. The poem struck a responsive chord in the hearts of Pulitzer's readers and helped raise the money to finish the project. Today her words are etched in the base of the Statue of Liberty:**

**"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-  
tossed to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the Golden  
Door!"**

**"A Moment in Time" is produced  
at the University of Richmond. This is  
Dan Roberts.**

### **Resources**

**Burchard, Sue. *The Statue of Liberty: Birth to Rebirth*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Publishers, 1985.**

**Handlin, Oscar. *The Statue of Liberty*. New York, NY: Newsweek Publishing Company, 1971.**

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