Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor

In 1876 France announced it was giving the United States a statue commemorating the American centennial. A few years later the enormous sculpture was delivered, and a few years after that the famous American journalist and philanthropist Joseph Pulitzer organized a subscription to raise money for a base to support the statue. This

endeavor provided Irving Berlin with the plot for his 1949 musical hit, Miss Liberty (with the book by Robert E. Sherwood). In a sense the base inspired the final stirring song for the show. Berlin set to music the stanza that is inscribed on the base, which is a verse from a longer poem by Emma Lazarus called "The New Colossus."





