Lambdaa

Philatelic



Volume 8, Issue 1

SPRING 89

\$1.50 Per Issue















The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458. We have served gay and lesbian philatelists since 1982.

The objectives of the club are:

To promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material depicting:



notable men and women (and their contributions to society) for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual behavior, orientation or support.

historical events or ideas (laws) significant in the history of gay and lesbian culture.

animal species that have scientifically been proven having prominent homosexual behavior.

Even though emphasis is placed on Gay and Lesbian collecting, we strongly encourage other aspects of philatelic interests.

MEMBERSHIP

Yearly dues are \$6.00 per calendar year for U.S. and Canada residents; \$8.00 or 10 IRC per year for foreign residents (to cover higher postage costs).

MAILING ADDRESS:

G L H S C
POST OFFICE BOX 3940
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

the state of the s	
President	Ed S Centeno
Vice President	Brian Lanter
Secretary	Paul Hennefeld
Treasurer	Blair O'Dell
Women's Historian	Kathy J Hall
Editor	Paul Hennefeld

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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles (original and reprinted), alternative viewpoints and periodicals for publication. All mem bers are welcome to submit any of the above. Members are also encouraged to place free advertisements of philatelic interest.

A LICK FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The Membership Questionnaire was a big success! I had no idea the diversity of philatelic interest among fellow collectors. The most interesting discovery was that only 10% of you collect gay/lesbian history on stamps. This clearly indicates that we (GLHSC) should concentrate on other aspects of topics.

I also appreciate those who were prompt in paying membership dues and the many generous donations to the club. Thanks again for all the thoughtful letters that accompanied the questionnaire. I will promise to provide a breakdown of the results next time (Summer Issue).

Would like to take the liberty to share some segments of the letters we received from fellow collectors. I hope this will encourage you to write in about your collecting interest, take up free ads, submit inquiries you may have about stamp collecting, and express any suggestions that would benefit the club.

To those of you that have never written to me or the club its a pleasure to receive letters from fellow members. We take each letter seriously and personally answer every single one. Not a format letter or copies from articles to answer your questions!!

Dear Ed,

I concur with the GLHSC bylaws concerning the club's policy of not allowing personal ads in the journal. An adequate number of local and national publication exists for personal ads. I do not think we need any:

Lonely GWP needs mate to complete album page.

No off-centers, heavy cxld, or hinged need apply.

Contact Box 123.

I was very pleasantly surprised by the high quality of the club journal. Since I'm probably still the newest member, I don't know if it has been entered in any literature competitions at the national level. If it has not, it should be.

Very happy to receive the Reserve Grand Avard at SARAPEX '89 for my exhibit of Canadian booklets and panes. However, lack of big bucks and material got me into thematics. Since too many people collect birds, lizards and all kinds of other nice topics and Paul has done since a fine job with his exhibit, the only topic I could think of that had not been explored much was VD on stamps. As soon as I can find a decent Xerox machine available her in St. Pete, will send you copies so you can share with the members.

Time to throw another log on the fire and wrap this up.

Best wishes,

Phil Stager





Dear Ed,

In response to the previous question of what countries might issue a gay stamp; I am surprised no one mentioned The Netherlands (their laws include same-sex couples in one house hold as an economic "married couple," other legal rights guaranteed for gays, and the world's first Homomonument, (gay monument) next to the Ann Frank House. Sweden which also has liberal laws protecting gays, has created (at least once) (1983) an official Gay Day slogan cancel.



Dear Ed,

I think it's time you heard from this relatively new member. {I hope it's ok to start out on a first name basis.} I've found this to be a universal practice among philatelists, at least in the U.S.

My stamp collecting days began about 35 years ago when a cousin got tired of her collection and gave it to me. Eventually, I specialized in Israel and Palestine Mandate, but I also kept a basic U.S. collection, collected Europe omnibus issues, and had a separate album for everything else that caught my eye. Ten years ago my stamp collection was drenched by a plumbing disaster. I bought new albums, dried everything off, and somehow I lost interest. Everything sat on the shelf until last week. Fortunately, I didn't lose much because I've always preferred my stamps used. I collect stamps and not gum!

This is all a long winded way of saying that the Advocate article on GLHSC is what weakened my interest in philately. Last week, I started up again. Already, my Israel and Palestine stamps are in new albums, and I've remounted my misc stuff. Wext, I'll remount all of the U.S. in an album. Of course, I have a ten year hole to fill. I think my modified collecting interest will be: Israel - independence (1948) to 1977 (Sadat's visit) gay men on stamps stamps engraved by C. Slania Palestine Mandate - (1918-1948)
Netherlands - 1987 (my first visit) to present U.S. - anything I come by without spending a lot

I'm only seriously interested in used stamps - stamps that have actually been used in the mail. I'm especially partial to nicely engraved stamps.

My first interest regarding philately right now is to get involved again and to begin to know what's going on in the hobby. I've ordered the GLHSC handbook, began to read Linn's and other stamp papers. I made contact with the local stamp dealer who is putting me in touch with the local stamp club which unfortunately only meets on a night when I work.

Well, that's a lot for one letter. Peter, my other half, is trying to figure out this sudden stamp mania. No promises, but I'm thinking of being in Washington for the convention. Hope all is well.

Marc A. Kaplan Ann Arbor, MI



Dear Ed,

I joined GLHSC last year and I've really enjoyed the services and the journal very much. You and everyone else involved do a great job. I look forward to it. I find the articles informative and to the point.

When I joined the GLHSC I received a FDC honoring gay Vets and this issue (12/88) came with a cover concerning AIDS. I find these "homemade" covers poignant and pertinent. They are a wonderful thing. I would like to see an article about how to create your own cachet. With the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall Riot coming this June 28th, I look forward to a cover commemorating this important event. I would appreciate any information on how to obtain covers concerning the celebration of this event/anniversary.

I live where a large active gay/lesbian organization exists. I am enclosing you their addresses so you can send information about GLHSC to them if you wish. There may be a potential new member or two.

Thank you for bringing us gay philatelists together.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dekalb, IL







PAUL VERLAINE (1844 - 1896) by Thomas Krolak Empty Closet 3/2/89

"The poet should live life fully, live in all the senses." This was the advice of the gay writer Paul Verlaine, one of the most acclaimed and tragic artists of his time.

His words well describe his stormy existence, which began March 30, 1844, in Metz, Prance. He moved to Paris when he was seven. While attending high school, he developed an ardent interest in fiction and writing. In his late adolescence, he gave up studying law; and while working as a government clerk, Verlaine started writing poetry.

He Joined an anti-Romantic group called the Parnassians and wrote for its periodical. His first book of poems, influenced by other writers, was published when he was 22.

Three years later he published his second work, which showed his musical prose. In the 1800's Verlaine became a leading symbolist poet known for surrealist images and illusions. He wrote 18 volumes of what his biographer called "musical, evocative" poems. He also wrote criticisms and autobiographical works.

One of Verlaine's collections of poems, Songs Without Words, was based upon his life with the poet Arthur Rimbaud. They met in 1871 in Paris. The 16-year old Arthur admired Verlaine's poetry. Paul invited the youth to live with him and his wife.

Rimbaud believed that writers had to become totally deranged to reach the state of "the unknown." The poet could then express the inexpressible on a higher plane than good and evil and experience all forms of love and vice. This is what attracted and pigued his obsession with Verlaine.

Besides this philosophy, Rimbaud was notorious for his crude behavior and slovenly appearance. Verlaine introduced him to members of the city's literati, who were offended by his rudeness. Despite this, Verlaine fell in love with the young misfit while realizing his marriage was a mistake. He then shared Rimbaud's disdain for conventional life styles.

Paul became an alcoholic. He lost his job because of this and his small involvement with the revolutionary Paris Commune of 1871. His drinking binges led to violent scenes with his wife. The birth of their son a month after Rimbaud's arrival did not reform Verlaine.

For the next two years, during periodic desertions from his family, Verlaine traveled Europe. His love for Rimbaud bordered on obsession.

He resumed writing. Verlaine's time with his wife being his only unprolific period. After separation from his wife, he erupted into creativity, writing poems that included lesbian love sonnets. Verlaine influenced Rimbaud's poetry, which became more disciplined and lacked its surrealist tone.

Even though his deep attachment to Rimbaud inspired Verlaine's work, it failed to make him completely happy. While in London, much of their earnings from giving French lessons fed their drug addictions. They often quarreled, at times with knives. Verlaine had wanted to be dominated.

After Verlaine left his wife, she discovered his love letter to Arthur. This convinced her to try and get a separation; divorce (at that time was illegal) due to Roman Catholic beliefs. During a second sojourn in London, Verlaine became upset about his wife's plans. He received no support from Rimbaud, who taunted him cruelly.

Tired of the constant tention, Verlaine left for Brussels. He wrote to his wife and Rimbaud that he would commit suicide. His wife ignored him, but Rimbaud, however felt quilty and met him July 1873. He saw that Verlaine was often drunk and irrational. threatened to leave. But Verlaine shot him, wounding his wrist. Later that day, after another threat was arrested.

Even though Rimbaud's wound was minor, he didn't want to press charges. While talking to the police, Rimbaud revealed why Madame Verlaine wanted a separation. The results of a physical on Verlaine convinced the court that he had had gay sex. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

While he was there, his wife obtained a separation and Verlaine lost custody of his son. He wept when told, and converted to Catholicism to soothe his grief. During his incarceration he wrote a volume of religious poems, Visdom. Its publication won him many Catholic admirers.

In 1872, a change in the law allowed Verlaine's wife to divorce him. Verlaine was poor by then, but his mother's death left him with a small inheritance which his ex-wife seized. She claimed he hadn't paid support, although her father provided well for her.

After his release in 1875, Verlaine met Rimbaud in Stuttgart. Verlaine tried to convert him to Catholicism. They fought and Rimbaud knocked Verlaine unconscious, who fled leaving Verlaine a poem and to never see each other again.

That same year Verlaine went to England to live in the country and teach French. He found peace in the rural surroundings. After two years he returned to France, hoping to restore his literary reputation and to see his wife and son. But with one brief moment, she never permitted him to visit their child.

In 1879, after his hopes for a reconciliation with Rimbaud had failed, now professor Verlaine again turned to alcohol, once getting some students drunk with him. One of his pupils was 19-year old Lucien Letinois. Verlaine saw him as a substitute for his child and spoke of him as his adopted son. Letinois' love for Verlaine was not as intense as Verlaine's for him, and the older man felt jealous when he thought Letinois loved a woman.

They lived in a farm and Paul wrote poetry about Letinois there. In a book about his new conservative views, Verlaine addressed Letinois, urging him to resist temptation, in fear he would lose. Letinois' death in 1883 was interpreted by the poet as God punishing him for his past life style. A long poetic tribute to his dead lover is published in his book Amour.

Before this tragedy Verlaine lost the farm due to massive debts. He was rejected for a clerical job because of his association with the Paris Commune; (this was one reason the court in Brussels rejected his appeal.) Ironically, by the time of his rejection he had become quite patriotic. His only income came from writing, so he was not able to attain the respectable life part of him craved. He admitted that there was an angel and a beast within him.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI): SELECTIVE IN ITS PUSH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International (AI) has just completed its 25th year of service in its pursuit of protecting human rights throughout the world. A number of nations have produced stamps honoring this organization including the two from Brazil and Denmark which are illustrated in this article.



Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement that plays a specific role in the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of prisoners of conscience detained anywhere for their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion, who have not used or advocated violence.

Human rights are the responsibility of the entire human race. We they are violated, we all are victims. What is the record of Amnes ty International when it comes to the rights of gays and lesbians throughout the world??

At its meeting in Brazil, held in November of last year, the International Council of Amnesty International rejected by a large majority a proposal from the Dutch section that persons imprisoned solely on the grounds of their sexual preference recognized as "prisoners of conscience"

The "Don't Die of Ignorance" campaign focused primarily on dirty needles in the visuals of their campaign, with TV and billboard advertising, yet the unspoken truth is that Britons have nonetheless been encouraged to believe that AIDS is primarily a gay disease. And, at the same time, Margaret Thatcher has unleashed an unprecedented attack on civil liberties of unpopular marginal groups (IRS terrorists in particular), while simultaneously curtailing any activity that may be construed as "promoting" homosexuality. In a very real sense, "Don't Die of Ignorance" is little more than a cover-up on the attack of gays in Britain, based on fear and ignorance.

I would greatly appreciate any further materials GLHSC members can bring to light. And I would like to hear from anyone interested in starting up an AIDS on stamps study group within the GLHSC membership. My address: P O BOX 14278, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114.

AIDS PHILATELIC CHECK LIST

compiled by Les Wright

Country	Scott No. & year	Description
Congo (LPJ 8:1)		816-18 - 12/1/88 UN AIDS Day (3)
Italy	Law as Name	Anti-AIDS (1)
Ethiopia (LPJ 8:1)	1181-84- 12/1/88	World AIDS Day Overprinted (4)
GUYANA		
San Marino (LPJ 7:4)	1162-5- 9/19/88	four different designs and wording
Uganda (LPJ 7:4)	622-5- 10/28/88	Intl Red Cross, 125th Anniv. only one stamp with AIDS wording
Yugoslavia (LPJ 7:4)	1910-11- 9/24/88	Anti Cancer & AIDS prevention (2)
Maldive Islands (LPJ 8:1)	1307-08- 12/1/88	40th Anniv.* World Health Organiza tion * U.N. WORLD AIDS DAY cancel- lation appeared on stamp.
Switzerland		

AIDS Slogans

United Nations (LJP 7:4) - New York, Geveva and Vienna - postage meter and slogan used for cancellation the entire month of December '88. It reads: WORLD AIDS DAY - Join the worldwide effort.

Canada - Prevent AIDS: Call 392-AIDS (1987-)

Great Britain (LPJ 6:1) - Don't Die of Ignorance (1987-)

West Germany - Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe, Berlin (1986-)







AIDS Related Stamps

Antiqua & Barbuda (LPJ 6:3, 7:3 \$ 7:4) issued 5/11/87

Rock Hudson

Commonwealth of Dominica issued 9/8/88 Dominica (LPJ 7:4)

Liberace

AIDS Related Cinderellas

Terra Candella (LPJ 7:4) GLHSC member designed local stamp for the AIDS Awareness Month. Cancelled Oberlin, OH 12.1.88

Zimbabwe (LPJ 8:1) AIDS "Don't Die of Ignorance" Lion's Club seal

STAMP OUT AIDS Project of New York (LPJ 7:3 & LPJ 6:1) - set of stamps to raise funds for organizations serving PWA.

AIDS Related Covers

The Gertrude Stein Philatelic Society issued the following covers:

(LPJ 4:4 & 4:2) - 1983 San Francisco International Lesbian/Gay Freedom Gay Parade * Sunday, June 26, 1983. This cover was issued as a semipostal, bearing a \$5.00 surcharge as a charitable contribution to Shanti Project of San Francisco.

1986 - Castro Street * Happy Halloween 1986. The cover bears a strip of STAMP OUT AIDS labels hand cancelled

(LPJ 6:1 & 7:3) - For the opening of the FIRST AIDS HOSPICE FOR THE TERMI-NALLY ILL in San Francisco * March 2, 1987.

Most of the items listed can be viewed in back issues of Lambda Philatelic Journal. Anyone wishing to obtain back issues of any of the mentioned journals can send \$1.00 (to cover copy and postage expense) to the club.

If you come across any AIDS related philatelic material, please contact the GLHSC. Also, can you help us find Scott number for the check list.











LAMBDA PHILATELIC JOURNAL CUMULATIVE INDEX (THROUGH VOL. 7)

 \underline{B} = brief mention \underline{W} = where to buy \underline{A} = article \underline{FDC} = First Day Cover \underline{S} = special cachet with gay theme.

* all articles are illustrated with philatelic material

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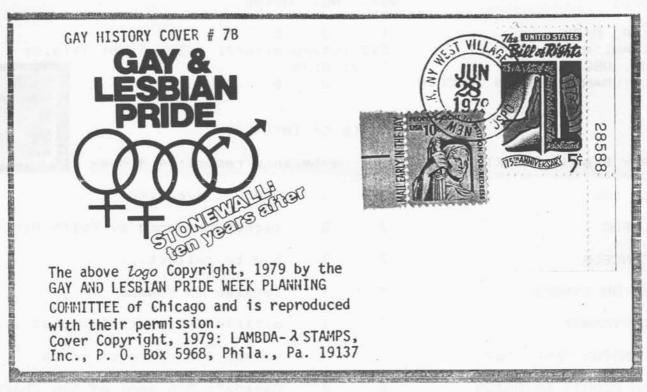
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* all articles are illustrated with philatelic materia	*	all	articles	are	illustrated	with	philatelic	materia:	1
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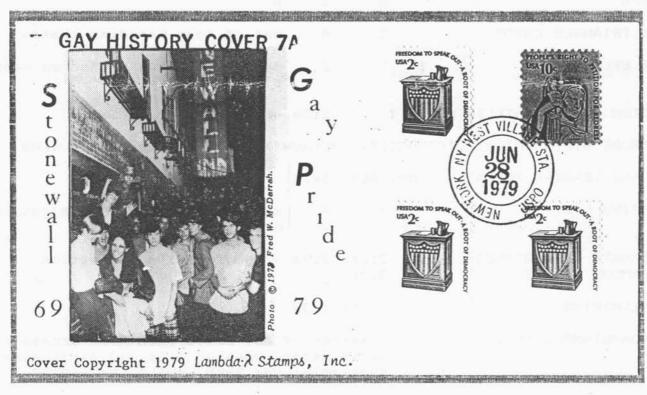
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LAMBDA STAMPS, INC.	ilust	ratio	f day history on FDC cachets - n appeared 1:3; 3:2 still some BOX 5968, PHILA, PA 19137

GLHSC WILL BE PART OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF STONEWALL BY HAVING A BOOTH AT THE NEW YORK GAY PRIDE DAY JUNE 25TH 1989 ANYONE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE PARADE - WE ASK TO PLEASE STOP BY "YOUR BOOTH" AND MEET THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS.



ANYONE WISHING TO ENHANCE THEIR COLLECTION WITH THIS COVERS ARE ENCOURAGE TO WRITE:

LAMBDA STAMPS
POST OFFICE BOX 5968
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19137



last lick last lick last lick last lick

Have U.S.P.S send you their monthly stamp catalog of U.S. stamps (free): U.S.P.S., PHILATELIC SALES DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20265 9997

I fantasized about John Lennon being gay or gay inclined, but I have not been persuaded by the present evidence that this is true. You might think I have all the stamps that came out on him, but ironically I don't. My true collecting interest are: modern coils- fractional as well precancels, particularly PNC's FDC and specially commercial covers, France, Peoples Republic of China. Recently GLHSC has awakened my interest in gay history on stamps and male nudes. Drop me a line: Jere Rhine, Box 204, Cazadero, CA 95421-0204

FREE ASDA TICKETS

The American Stamp Dealer's Association invites any collector to attend the forthcoming Spring Fair as its guest.

Spring Fair '89 is scheduled for June 16-18 at the Sheraton Center Hotel, New York City. The event will feature free appraisals, free lectures and the opportunity to visit more than 75 booths of stamp dealers and postal administrations.

Free tickets to show (limit four per person) available by sending a # 10 SASE to: ASDA SPRING FAIR TICKETS, 3 SCHOOL STREET, GLEN COVE, NY 11542

WHERE TO BUY AIDS STAMPS AND LABELS

STAMP CUT AIDS P.O. BOX 471- PRINCE STATION NEW YORK CITY, NY 10012-9998

\$1.00 for each set of six, along with SABE.

HERRICK STAMP COMPANY
P.O. BOX 2119
LAWRENCE, NEW YORK 11559

Congo - the three illustrated on page five for only \$1.57. Maldives - the two illustrated on page six for only \$1.20 If interested in purchasing other AIDS stamps see LPJ 7:4

GLHSC member just bought a huge mixture of Switzerland used stamps and would like to share with other members. Anyone interested please write to: TERRY HOWELL, 305 E. 9th STREET, NEW YORK CITY, NY 10003. He also would like to hear from computer buffs.

Seeking advanced material for my Arab Struggle For Palestine collection. Need propaganda labels, covers, stamps, and other philatelic material of interest. Willing to trade and buy. Please help: CARL HANKS, 6335 MAYHAW, BEAUMONT, TX 77708.

Would like to hear from collectors having any philatelic material pertaining to AIDS on stamps. I would like to exhibit and continue to update Mr. Wright's current checklist. Willing to exchange and or buy. Please write. Will promise to answer all letters.

PHIL STAGER, 4184 51st AVENUE, SOUTH, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33711 4734

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GAY POST EXCHANGE



mailing address:

GPX P. O. BOX 14278 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114 U. S. A.



PERSONALS * PENFRIENDS * HOBBIES

Dear GLHSC Members,

GPX: The Gay Post Exchange will resume the hobby, penpal, and personal ads that were previously published in the International Gay Philatelic Journal - official publication to the Gertrude Stein Philatelic Society. The GPX appears as an adjunct of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club. Even though the GPX is not a part of the club, it exists as a forum for gay and lesbian philatelists, hobbyists, and private individuals to meet each other and pursue interests beyond the topical subject matter of the GLHSC itself.

GPX is not-for-profit. Printing and mailing costs are paid for directly through subscriptions.

We welcome exchange ads, joint publicity, and publication of information of interest to our readers. Please acknowledge GPX is specifically geared to foster contacts between gay and lesbian friends.

The first issue of GPX will be released in September 1989 for only \$1.00 U.S. (or 3 IRC).

Sincerely,

Les Wright Publisher