



Lambda Philatelic Journal

Publication of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club

Vol. 14, No. 4

DECEMBER 1995

\$2.00

A French Perspective



The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association, Number 458, and an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society, Number 205. GLHSC is also a member of the American First Day Cover Society, Number 72.

The objectives of GLHSC are to promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- λ notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation,
- λ mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture,
- λ flora and fauna scientifically proven to having prominent homosexual behavior, and
- λ even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHSC strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues are \$8.00 per year for U.S., Canadian and Mexican residents; \$10.00 or 12 IRC per year for all others (to help defray higher postage costs.) Dues are due and payable by the first of the quarter as listed on your mailing label. (196-A000 is due by January 1, 1996; 395-S000 is due by July 1, 1995.) Your help with this dues schedule will help keep the costs of mailing reminders to a minimum. Thank you.

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PO Box 515981
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USA

CLUB OFFICERS:

President.....	Angela Watson*
Vice President.....	Brian Lanter
Secretary.....	Vacant
Treasurer.....	Judith Beckett
Editor.....	Joe Petronie

* - Temporary until nominations received, and elections held.

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication. Members are also encouraged to place free advertisements of philatelic interest. The Editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

PUBLICATION DATE	ARTICLES NEEDED BY
March 15th	February 20th
June 15th	May 20th
September 15th	August 20th
December 15th	November 20th

The views expressed in the journal are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the Club or its members. Any comments should be addressed to the Editor at the address listed.

News From the Editor

To answer the several questions about the missing logo from the last journal: What do you do when you notice it missing and you are half way through printing the second side? Sorry if I caused any problems. I guess that I was having one of those days, as I thought I checked and re-checked to make sure all graphics were there!

The good news is that my other half has scanned the logo and I now have it on a handy floppy in the office. No more excuses!!

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1996 dues are now due. Please note that either the March or June issue will be a membership directory. I thought that we could try it in this fashion for the first time. If anyone has other ideas, please let me know. If it is part of the journal, no journals will be mailed to non-paying members. These are generally philatelic newspapers, gay and lesbian archives and community centers. (Nothing is set in stone as of yet.)

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Many thanks to our members in France for supplying the articles for this journal. I hope that everyone enjoys them. I have made a few changes to both articles.

While trying to expand the Marguerite Yourcenar article, I made myself read several books on her. Thus, those are the ones listed in the bibliography.

I would highly recommend reading *Marguerite Yourcenar, Inventing a Life* by Josyane Savigneau. It is a lengthy book, but well worth it. Ms. Yourcenar was a complex and interesting woman. She loved the French language. She also was able to intertwine history and fiction into believable novels.

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Several people have joined recently from the mentions in the APS and ATA magazines. I am still working on an ad for *Scott's Stamp Monthly*. If anyone has ideas, or would like to help design it, I'd really appreciate it.

My goal is to bring the number of members to over 200 in the next year. If you know of any friends, or meet anyone at a stamp show, be sure to tell them about GLHSC.

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Members of GLHSC reside in 29 states, the District of Columbia, the APO and 12 foreign countries.

AR	1	ND	1
AZ	2	NJ	2
CA	11	NM	1
CO	4	NY	14
CT	2	OH	3
DC	2	OR	3
FL	6	PA	5
GA	2	TN	1
IL	5	TX	8
LA	1	UT	1
MA	4	VA	4
MD	3	VT	1
MI	2	WA	3
MN	2	WI	1
MO	2	WV	1

APO	1
Clubs/Papers	16
Argentina	1
Australia	1
Brazil	1
Canada	3
Czech Republic	1
France	3
Greece	1
Italy	1
Japan	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Spain	1

Marguerite Yourcenar

by José Porceddu

Translated by Hervé Marchand

On April 24, 1993, La Poste, the French post office, honored one of France's most famous persons of French literature and of the French language in the Twentieth Century: Marguerite Yourcenar.

Marguerite Antoinette Jeanne Marie Ghislaine de Crayencour was born on June 8, 1903 in Brussels, Belgium. Her parents were Michel Cleenewerck de Crayencour and Fernande de Cartier de Marchienne. Michel came from a long line in the Nord (North) region of France. The family name was Cleenewerck, but Crayencour was the name of the estate purchased by Michel's great-great-great-great grandfather. Peter Paul Rubens was a distant cousin. Fernande was from a prominent family in Belgium.

Fernande, having had a difficult birth with Marguerite, died on June 18, 1903 from puerperal fever and peritonitis. Her death was registered on June 19, thus both dates have been used. Shortly after Fernande's death, Marguerite and Michel traveled to Mont-Noir. Mont-Noir was his estate near the City of Lille in Northern France. The nurse, Madame Azélie, and the nursemaid, Barbe (or Barbra, as Marguerite referred to her) accompanied them. Barbe, in Marguerite's eyes, was her mother for the first years of her life. Barbe was dismissed in 1910, after an anonymous letter arrived denouncing her for her "gentlemen" visits. To compound this action, no one told young Marguerite. This left her very distrustful of everyone.

Michel had had a son, Michel-Joseph, by his first wife. He was eighteen when Marguerite was born. Father and son did not get along well.

Michel had always surrounded himself with books. Marguerite had inherited this from him. When other children played with toys, Marguerite read. Michel also encouraged her, which was unusual for

this period. Young girls were usually taught the basics in being a "good wife".

In 1912, Mont-Noir was sold and Michel and Marguerite moved to Paris. They were at their summer house on the Belgian coast when World War I began. They fled to England, staying for nearly fourteen months. In 1915, they received a safe conduct pass to return to their home in Paris. Near the end of 1917, father and daughter moved to the South of France. They lived in numerous cities, finally making Monte Carlo their somewhat permanent residence for eight years.

Le Jardin des Chimères (The Garden of the Chimeras) was published in 1921 under the pen name of Marguerite Yourcenar. Michel and Marguerite devised the anagram of Crayencour - Yourcenar. (In actuality, it is an incomplete anagram as one "c" is missing.) Marguerite would eventually take this as her legal name in 1947. They chose Perrin to publish this work. A year later, her second book, *Les Dieux ne sont pas morts (The Gods are not Dead)*, was published. This was her first book of poems.

On January 12, 1929, her father died from cancer. It was also the time of the final split with her half brother, Michel-Joseph. Yourcenar's first novel, *Alexis ou le traité du vain combat (Alexis)*, was published in November of 1929.

André Fraigneau discovered the manuscript for *Pindare* (1932) in the reject cabinet at her publisher's. Upon reading it, he requested that she visit Paris to discuss publishing it. She brought *La Nouvelle Eurydice (The New Eurydice)* with her. It was published in 1931. Fraigneau became her editor during the 1930's. She was in love with him, but to what extent is uncertain. She was known to be interested in both women and men. Fraigneau favored men.

1934 found *La Mort conduit l'attelage (Death drives the team)* and *Denier du rêve (A Coin in Nine Hands)* being published. *Feux (Fires)* was published in 1936.

Marguerite met Grace Frick in 1937. Their first meeting took place in the Hôtel Wagram in Paris. Grace Frick was born in Toledo, Ohio six months prior to Marguerite's birth in Brussels. Grace was to become her translator. They traveled together throughout the year. In September, she made a journey to the United States, staying in New Haven, Connecticut. Grace was still at Yale University. When Marguerite returned to Europe, they corresponded often. Grace's letters most likely have been lost. Marguerite's are sealed until 2037, fifty years after her death.

Marguerite had an affair in 1938 with Lucy Kyriakos, whom she had met during one of her several trips to Greece. Lucy represented the ideal feminine beauty. Marguerite had opted for a more masculine look.

During these two years, Yourcenar had *Nouvelles orientales (Oriental Tales)* and *Les Songes et les sorts (Dreams and Destinies)* published. She also translated Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*. In 1939, she made another trip to the United States. This trip had been planned for some time as a short vacation of sorts. However, with the coming war, Marguerite decided to remain in the States. She moved in with Grace.

Yourcenar worked at Sarah Lawrence College in New York and Hartford Junior College in Connecticut. She also did a lecture tour on French literature. She did not write or publish much, a few articles in expatriate magazines the exception. The first few years were ones of depression for Yourcenar, though she was apt to deny it. By 1943, with the discovery of Mount Desert Island in Maine, her depression seems to have lifted.

In 1947, Marguerite de Crayencour officially became Marguerite Yourcenar and an American citizen. Three years later, she and Grace moved to Mount Desert Island, where they spent the rest of their lives.

At the end of the war, she asked a friend, Jacques Kayaloff, to find a trunk left in Switzerland. Once found, he had it forwarded to Yourcenar. It's

arrival in January of 1949 spurred her to begin writing *Mémoires d'Hadrien (Memoirs of Hadrian)*. *Memoirs* went on sale on December 5, 1951. In June 1952, it received the Prix Fémina Vacaresco for the best historical novel of the year.



Memoirs brought to Marguerite the fame of once again being a French writer. It also confirmed that her depression was over, never to return. Unfortunately, the attention and demands that arose seems to have put a strain on her relationship with Grace.

The years following release of *Memoirs* brought several trips to Europe. She wrote several works during this time, including a critique of Constantin Cavafy in collaboration with Constantin Dimaras. Her final trip to France was cut short by events at the Suez Canal and in Budapest. She wouldn't return to Paris until 1968. She began work on *L'Oeuvre au noir (The Abyss)*. She also reworked several earlier works or parts of them.

In July of 1958, Grace Frick had a breast removed due to cancer. Her fight against this cancer would last until her death in 1979. Grace's illness further changed their relationship. It had evolved from love to a "marriage of convenience" to supportive friends. This evolution can be seen in the numerous daybooks that were kept by Grace.

Marguerite and Grace returned to Paris for the first time in ten years in 1968. The trip was in conjunction with the release of *The Abyss*. She received her second Prix Fémina in November of the same year.

In 1970, she was elected to the Académie royale belge de Langue et de Littérature françaises. A decade later, Marguerite Yourcenar would become the first female to be elected to the Académie Française. The same year, 1980, she was promoted to the rank of officer of the Legion of Honor. Marguerite had achieved what she had wanted in her childhood: To be the best French writer of her time.

She continued to write in the 1980's. She again reworked some of her earlier works. She translated James Baldwin's play, *The Amen Corner*. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1983, she received the Erasmus Prize.

Her last decade was also one of ill health, several accidents and the loss of very important people in her life. Marguerite Yourcenar died on December 17, 1987 in her home on Mount Desert Island.

Throughout her life, Marguerite became great friends with several gay men. André Gide, who won the Nobel Prize in 1947; Jean Cocteau, artist, poet, film maker and author; André Fraigneau, her editor and her true love; are but a few. Equally, she translated the works of several gays: Constantin Cavafy, the Greek poet; Mishima, the Japanese writer; James Baldwin; Henry James and Virginia Woolf.

Most of her works' central characters were gay or bisexual, whether historical or invented. She never made an excuse for their being gay. They just

happened to be gay. This, too, is the way she lived her life. She never denied liking women, but she did not proclaim such ideals unasked.

She was a strange paradox. This woman, who manipulated the French language with great purity, lived over half of her life in the English speaking world. She was known to be stubborn, witness the several legal battles with her different publishing houses. Her works were sublime, yet able to convey the magic of Greek poetry.

Just six years after her death, La Poste honored her with a stamp. It is very rare in French philately for this short period between death and issuance of a stamp. It attests to her contributions to the furthering of French literature.

Bibliography:

Marguerite Yourcenar, Inventing a Life, published in French as *Marguerite Yourcenar: L'Invention d'une vie*, Josyane Savigneau, translated by Joan E. Howard, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1993.

Marguerite Yourcenar, Pierre L. Horn, Twayne Publishers, Boston, 1985.

How Many Years, published in French as *Archives du Nord*, Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Maria Louise Ascher, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1995.

Dear Departed, published in French as *Souvenirs Pieux*, Marguerite Yourcenar, translated by Maria Louise Ascher, Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 1995.

Illustration:

Portrait of Marguerite Yourcenar by Bérénice Cleeve, 1984, with stamp and first day cancel. Published by L'Amicale Philatélique des Flandres.

Holocaust: Past or Present Reality?

by Hervé Marchand

The Holocaust roughly began as a cultural aggression on May 10, 1933 with the actions of Goebbels (Nazi Minister of Propaganda). In front of Berlin University, he held a book burning in which the works of Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger, Erich Maria Remarque, Albert Einstein, Jack London, H. G. Wells, Freud, André Gide, Emile Zola, Marcel Proust and many others considered non-German were destroyed.

His actions marked the first step in the Nazi campaign: Destroy and imprison ideas. Once accomplished, the imprisonment and destruction of people would commence. The final solution of a racially and ideologically pure Germanic race would be achieved.



Scott No. 1977a

It was through a system of 6,900 concentration camps that over 6 million men, women and children of the Jewish faith were exterminated. Auschwitz, Treblinka, Dachau, Flossenbug, Sachsenhausen. 15 years ago, I remember a visit to Dachau with my parents and grandmother. My grandfather had died fighting near Dachau. Two summers ago, I was able to visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. I have this picture in my mind of gas chambers and crematoriums.

Jews were not the only victims of the Holocaust. In 1936, Dr. Globke helped implement a law regarding the allowable "foreign blood" a German could have. Tziganes (gypsies) were classified as "rassengemische" or mixture of unspecified races. Nearly a half million tziganes were also exterminated. Other non-desirables were caught in the web of the Holocaust. The mentally ill, political enemies (anyone not a Nazi was suspect) and various religious sects (mainly Jehovah's Witnesses) were caught in this web.

Gays, though Hitler seemed indifferent at first, found that they were also to be included in the Nazi plans. During my visit to the Holocaust Museum, my ID card just happened to be card no. 7264, Karl Lange. He was born October 28, 1915 in Hamburg, Germany. In 1935, an informer told the police about Karl's meetings with a 15 year old youth. He was arrested under the criminal code's Paragraph 175 which outlawed homosexuality. (Ed. note: This law was on the books until the 1960's. It is the main reason that there is so little documentation on gays being persecuted. Many who were imprisoned by the Nazis were liberated by the Allies, only to be re-imprisoned because of Paragraph 175. They were also denied compensation for their internment. This law effectively kept the persecution of gays hidden from the public view. Paragraph 175 was silent on lesbianism, but it was used on rare occasions against them.)

Thanks to all of the holocaust museums, the memory of these horrors is kept alive. It is a witness for the future generations. They are also a constant reminder of the vigilance we must perform to ensure that history is not repeated. However, recent events have shown us that humans do not always learn from their past.

- ◆ Armenia: Turkish and Russian oppression.
- ◆ Bosnia: Ethnic cleansing.
- ◆ Germany: Revival of neo-nazis and other right-wing groups.
- ◆ Tibet: Chinese aggression.

- ◆ United States: Tremendous growth of Christian Coalition and other right-wing groups, especially militias.

These groups or governments sow the seeds of hatred and distrust. They place the blame of all evils on specific groups. They tend to work in a subtle fashion, to avoid debate on their proposals. Arguments are based upon fear, not logic. This mode of operation is to catch the intended victims by surprise. Gay rights has made much progress over the past few decades. These rights, as experienced recently in the US, can be quickly eroded.



Scott No. 2268

Every year, Amnesty International publishes a report on the conditions and compliance of human rights worldwide. They are the defenders of the right to be yourself, even if this self is different than your neighbors'. A similar group, but with an emphasis on gays and lesbians, is the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA). They monitor and defend the rights of gays and lesbians worldwide. Until Jesse Helms and other right-wing forces became involved, the ILGA was granted observer status at the United Nations. This was the first time in UN history that a gay oriented group had received such status.

ILGA is based in Brussels, Belgium. The address is:

ILGA Secrétariat Permanent
81, rue du Marché au Charbon
B-1000 Bruxelles - Brüssel
Belgium

Other stamps related to this article are:

- Yvert No. 1407 Deportation
- Yvert No. 1447 Return of concentration camp prisoners
- Yvert No. 2177 National Memorial of the French Resistance
- Yvert No. 2559 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Yvert numbers for stamps shown are:

- Scott No. 1977a → 2368/9
- Scott No. 2268 → 2728



Gay & Lesbian Update

Great Britain issued its 1995 Greeting stamps on March 21. One of the stamps reproduces a portrait of Alice Keppel and her daughter, Violet. The original is in the National Portrait Gallery in London. It is accepted that Alice was a mistress of King Edward VII.

Prince Charles recently admitted to having an affair with Keppel's great-granddaughter, Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Violet was known to have favored men's clothing. She ran away to France with her lover, writer Victoria (Vita) Sackville-West.

Linn's Stamp News, December 4, 1995

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Israel issued a stamp on December 14 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of cinema. It features seven famous Jewish movie stars. The stars depicted are three Marx brothers, Simone Signoret, Peter Sellers, Danny Kaye and Al Jolson.

Danny Kaye was born David Daniel Kaminski in 1913 in Brooklyn. Kaye and Laurence Olivier had a nearly ten-year affair in the 1950's. Many knew of it at the time. Kaye and Olivier didn't hide their relationship among their friends. Olivier wrote about it in his memoirs, but cut the material at the behest of his then-wife, Joan Plowright.

Danny Kaye died in 1987.

See Donald Spoto's book, *Laurence Olivier: A Biography*, for more information. The affair is covered briefly.

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The author of the article on Dag Hammarskjöld in the last journal has done a great deal more research since the article was submitted for publication. If you would like to receive a 12 page listing of all

Hammarskjöld topical stamps complete with cross reference to Michel numbers, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (2 IRC's if foreign) to:

Chuck Matlack
68 Lavender Lane
Levittown PA 19054-3910
USA

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Gambia issued a miniature sheet of 8 stamps on July 6, 1995. The stamps depict World War II motion pictures and movies stars. Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman are featured on one of the stamps. (Scott No. 1628g)

Cary Grant and Randolph Scott had a relationship that spanned many years in the 1930's.

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Gambia (again!) issued a miniature sheet of 6 stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. Among those honored was Dag Hammarskjöld. This sheetlet was also released on July 6, 1995. (Scott No. 1804b)

AIDS Update

Pretoria, South Africa was using an ink spray jet marking, "PREVENT AIDS". This is probably still in use.

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Harare, Zimbabwe used a slogan machine cancel during the period June 11 - 17.

PRESENTLY THERE IS NO CURE FOR AIDS PREVENTION IS THE ONLY WEAPON
--

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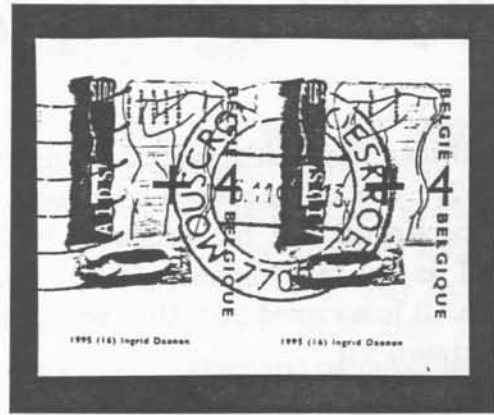
Providence, Rhode Island used a postmark for their 1995 Walk For Life on July 4. The design is of the AIDS ribbon in a crest with "Postal Employees Delivering For AIDS" and a stick figure walking.

Walk For Life is held annually in numerous cities across the United States. Walkers obtain pledges from friends, families and associates for each mile walked. The proceeds are distributed to various AIDS-related organizations in each city.

This postmark was not listed until October 30, well after the deadline for obtaining copies. If any member happens to have a sample, could you please send a copy to me so that it can be shared with other members? Thanks.

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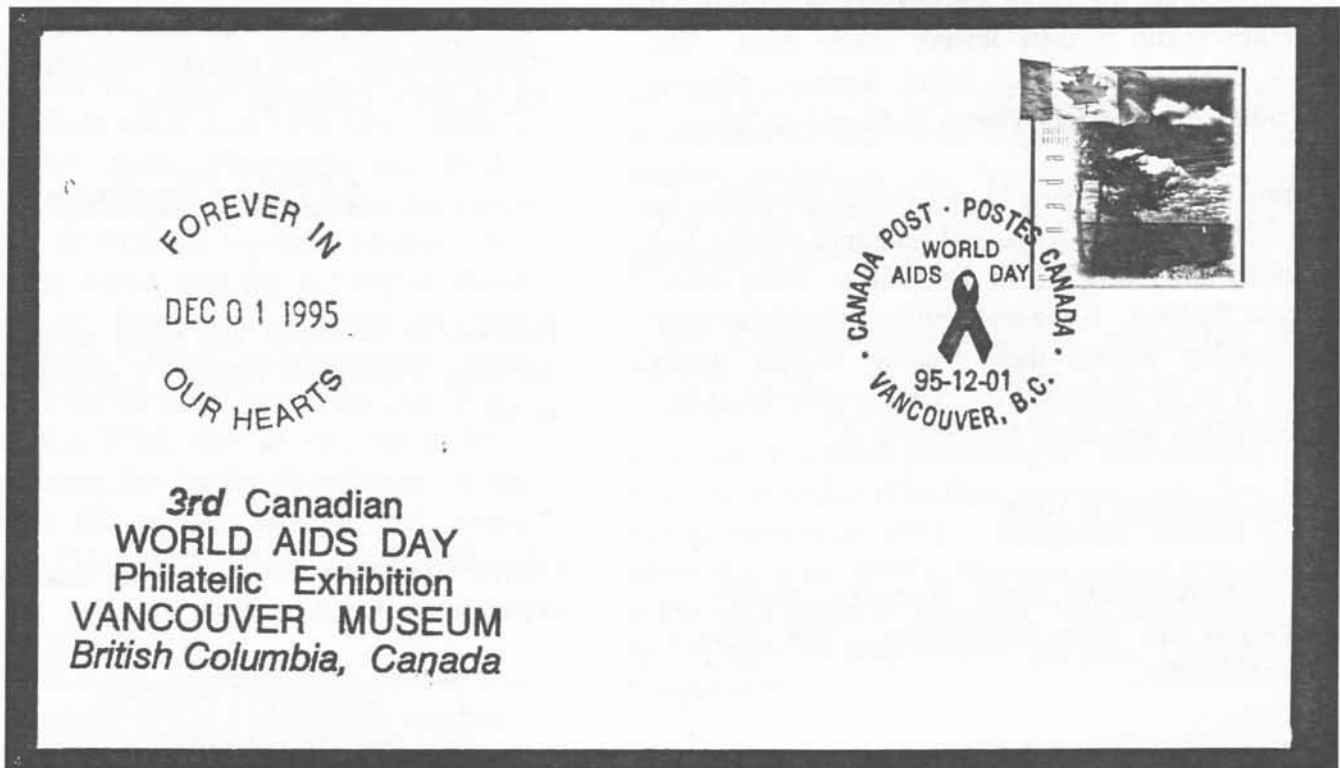
Belgium issued a semi-postal on November 6, 1995. The stamp features two figures embracing, a condom, "AIDS" and "SIDA". The plus sign used



on semi-postals just happens to appear where the bodies meet. Needless to say, this design has caused some furor.

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Once again, Canada Post used a postmark to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1, 1995.



The Republic of Mali issued a two stamp set for the fight against AIDS on June 30, 1994. The low value features a woman and man each holding a condom. The high value features a nurse with an AIDS patient and a researcher looking into a microscope. Scott Nos. 700-01

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Paraguay issued a set of two stamps in the fight against AIDS. This set was issued on May 4, 1995. Scott Nos. 2508-09.

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Cyprus issued a set of four stamps on June 26, 1995 for Health Matters. The 10 c value features two figures and the word AIDS. The other values feature nutrition/exercise (7 c), narcotics (15 c) and smoking (20 c).



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Canada Post Corporation has finally agreed to issue an AIDS stamp in 1996. It will be issued in conjunction with the XIth International Conference on AIDS to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, July 7 - 12, 1996. Details of the stamp and the exact issue date have not been released at this time. Canada Post generally releases this information on a quarterly basis.

Last Lick

I would like to correspond with other members. I collect stamps with the themes of seas/ships and autographs.

Marek Wysoczynski
ul.Krzywoustego 22/14
80-360 Gdansk
Poland

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STAMPSHOW 96, the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society, is scheduled for August in Orlando, Florida. If any members would like to get together for an informal meeting, Phil Stager would be glad to coordinate it. Any members interested, please contact Phil at:

4184 51st Ave., S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33711-4734

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TOPEX 96, the ATA show, is to be held in June or July in Dallas. Any members that would like to meet, contact the editor. Should a room be scheduled?

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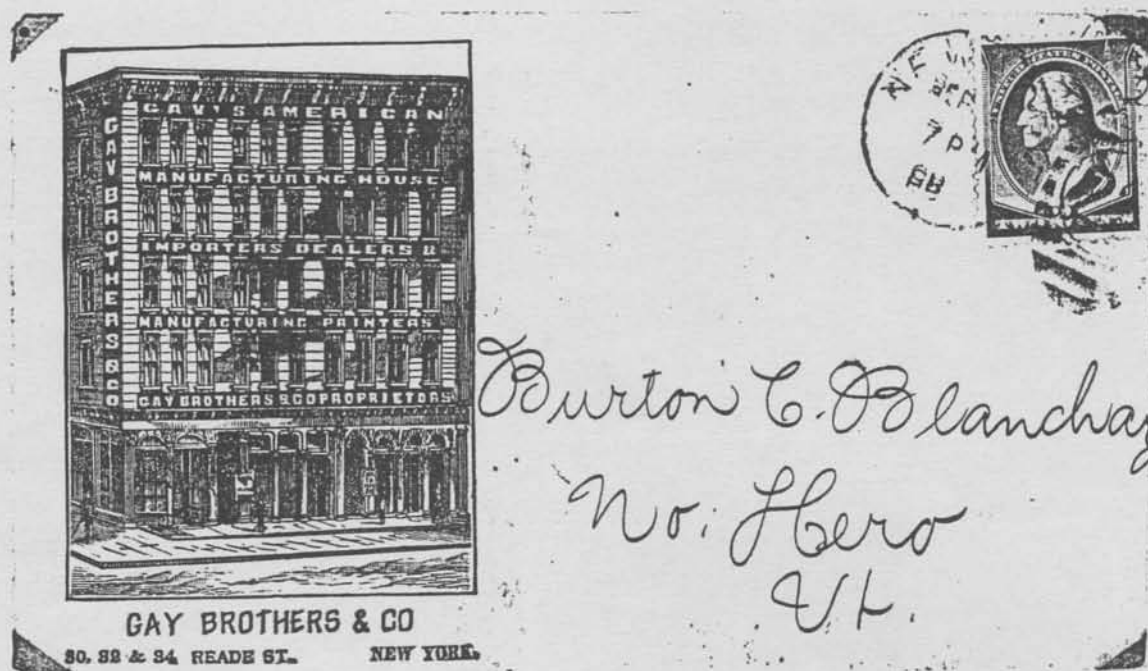
GLHSC is planning on reserving a room at Pacific 97, to be held in San Francisco in 1997.

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Re: Sharing Our Collections Through Photocopies: The APRL (American Philatelist Research Library) maintains a file of exhibits. This is probably a good a repository as one will find. The APRL is located in State College, Pennsylvania.

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Here is a copy of cover that a reader asked to share with GLHSC. Again, looking in those bargain boxes can find unusual and interesting covers! If you have covers that you would like to share, please feel free to send either originals or reproducible copies to the editor. All originals will be returned.



Hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes for a wonderful new year. The next journal will be issued in March. Please, if you have any submittals, I would like them prior to the end of February. Thanks to everyone who has submitted articles, covers and information on persons who should be included in a GLHSC collection during the past year. If anyone would like to help with the membership directory, please drop me a line. Would anyone in the San Francisco area like to speak to the San Francisco Pacific Philatelic Society in 1996? They would like a speaker from GLHSC. Their meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. There are openings each month after February. You can contact them at:

870 40th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94121-3317

(415) 751-1335
Tom Stillman, Program Chairman