



Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB * MARCH 2011, VOL. 30, NO. 1, WHOLE NO. 113



Advance artwork for the
Barbara Jordan stamp,
The next installment of the
Black Heritage Series



Scott no. 3996

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205; and a member of the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), Number 72.

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

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

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Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$10.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$15.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC. \$1 add-on for late dues.

Single issues \$3.

There are two levels of membership:

- 1) Supportive, your name will not be released to APS, ATA or AFDCS, and
- 2) Active, your name will be released to APS, ATA and AFDCS (as required).

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication Months</u>	<u>Articles Needed by</u>
March	February 15
June	May 15
September	August 15
December	November 15

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Opinions expressed here are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the GLHSC, its' officers or members.

News from the Editor

Articles are urgently needed for upcoming issues. Thanks to the members that have sent them in. I can still use articles for the coming year.

* * * * *

Researchers looking for books on the subject of gays and lesbians in history will undoubtedly find Boze Hadleigh. He has published a number of books about celebrities, and also two on gay and lesbian music: "The Vinyl Closet" and "Sing Out." If you are tempted to acquire these, caution is warranted. A number of reviewers have found his work suspect due to lack of substantiation and documentation, especially concerning gossipy assertions about now conveniently dead performers. A common reviewer comment was "the book really could have used a bibliography. Otherwise there is a question as to the truthfulness of some of the author's claims."

* * * *

Thanks to Francis Ferguson for re-designing the GLHSC.org website. The complete index of LPJ and back issues from 1999 to 2010 are available on the Archive tab. Back issues from the Club's inception to 1998 will be posted once they are converted to a pdf format.

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2011 Dues are now due.

Mail your check
today !
Thank you.

Same-Sex Orientation Link To USPS Black Heritage Series

by Bobby Cloud

Many leading black icons have been lesbian, gay, bisexual. Unfortunately, many black activist leaders have made strenuous efforts to deny these same-sex relationships. They also suppress recognition of the full spectrum of their sexuality because of the prominence of these individuals and their contributions to history. Even the USPS, who began their "Black Heritage Series" in 1978, ignores the sexuality of individuals who are honored with a postal stamp.

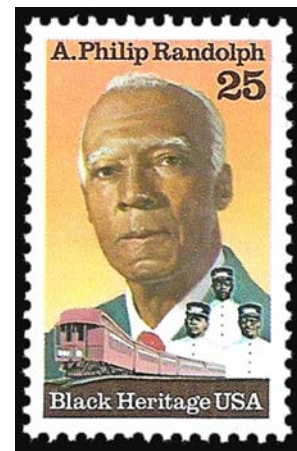
Barbara Charline Jordan (1936 –1996)

Barbara Jordan is to be honored with a stamp by the USPS. The stamp still won't be sold until September 2011 and is to be a "Forever" stamp, which means it will be valid for full first-class postage regardless of future price increases. Jordan's companion of close to 30 years was Nancy Earl. Jordan met Earl, an educational psychologist who would become an occasional speech writer in addition to Jordan's partner, on a camping trip in the late 1960s. Jordan never publicly acknowledged her sexual orientation, but in her obituary the Houston Chronicle mentioned her long relationship with Earl. However, Jordan biographer Mary Beth Rogers, author of *Barbara Jordan: American Hero*, found no "conclusive evidence" to suggest that the former congresswoman was a lesbian.. However, after Jordan's initial unsuccessful statewide races, advisers warned her to become more discreet and not bring any female companions on the campaign trail. {Editor's Note: It was well known in the Texas gay and lesbian community that Barbara Jordan was a member.}

Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806)

Banneker was a surveyor, astronomer, publisher, patriot and mathematician. Without Banneker, our nation's capital would not exist as we know it. Was Benjamin Banneker gay? A book titled *Benjamin Banneker: Surveyor, Astronomer, Publisher, Patriot*

by Charles A. Cerami and Robert M. Silverstein claims that the 18th century black scientist was not gay but asexual. However, black gay activists claim that he was. Who's right? Cerami discredits the homosexual theory because he says there's "no historical evidence to support it." There is also no evidence to support Cerami's claim of Banneker's asexuality. Banneker biography is noted in *A Few Black Gay or Bisexual Men and Women Who Changed the World* by Aslan Brooke. The truth may have disappeared in a mysterious fire that burned Banneker's cabin and his papers on the day of his 1806 burial. Banneker was honored in 1980 US Scott #1804.



Asa Philip Randolph (1889-1979)

Randolph was a prominent 20th century African-American civil rights leader and founder of the first black labor union in the United States. Randolph led a 10-year drive to organize the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) and served as the organization's first president. It was Randolph (along with openly gay activist, Bayard Rustin) who suggested that there be a march on Washington DC to demand equal rights, jobs and dignity for black people. This idea became a reality in 1963 with the famous March on Washington, with Dr. Martin Luther King. Randolph was also instrumental in bringing desegregation to the American army. Randolph married a widow, Mrs. Lucille Green, but no known children are listed. His activism brought him under the close scrutiny of FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, who threatened to expose him as a homosexual. "Hoover's FBI compiled a huge file on Randolph as well as other

prominent civil rights figures. Hoover even threatened to make Randolph's homosexuality public. Although listed as "atheist-socialist-homosexual" on the internet, no conclusive evidence suggests anything regarding Randolph's sexuality and there is no evidence to suggest Hoover's file was accurate. If the files were accurate, then A. Philip Randolph could be described today as probably bisexual or a repressed homosexual who had to keep his sexuality hidden. 1989 US, Scott 2402

Lelia McWilliams {A'Lelia Walker} (1885-1931)

Lelia was an American businesswoman and patron of the arts. She was born in Vicksburg, MS, the daughter of Moses McWilliams and Sarah Breedlove (famously known as Madam C.J. Walker). Certainly the most lavish parties in Harlem were thrown by the heiress A'Lelia Walker. Walker was a striking, tall, dark-skinned woman who was rarely seen without her riding crop and her imposing, jeweled turban. She was the only daughter of Madame C. J. Walker, a former washerwoman who had made millions marketing her own hair-straightening process. When Madame Walker died, she left virtually her entire fortune to A'Lelia. Madame Walker had been civic-minded, donating thousands of dollars to charity, but A'Lelia used most of her inheritance to throw lavish parties in her grand Hudson River estate, Villa Lewaro and at her Manhattan dwelling on 136th Street. A'Lelia adored the company of lesbians and gay men and her parties had a distinctly gay ambience. Elegant homosexuals such as Edward Perry, Edna Thomas, Harold Jackman, and Caska Bonds

were her closest friends. So were scores of white celebrities. Little is known for certain about Walker's sexual identity. She wed three times, but each marriage quickly disintegrated. The last was a long-distance relationship in which she rarely saw her husband. By all accounts, she preferred to surround herself with attractive, light-skinned women. A'Lelia has never been honored on a postal stamp, but her mother, Madame C. J. Walker was honored in 1998 US, Scott 3181.

Malcolm Little {El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz – Malcolm X} (1925-1965)

Malcolm X was an American Black Muslim minister and a spokesman for the Nation of Islam. After leaving the Nation of Islam in 1964, he made the pilgrimage to Mecca and became a Sunni Muslim. He also founded the Muslim Mosque, Inc. and the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Less than a year later, he was assassinated in Washington Heights on the first day of National Brotherhood Week. Historian Robin D.G. Kelley wrote, "Malcolm X has been called many things: Pan-Africanist, father of Black Power, religious fanatic, closet conservative, incipient socialist, and a menace to society. In 1991 author Bruce Perry added one more descriptive adjective: bisexual. Perry's acclaimed 1991 biography, *Malcolm: The Life of a Man Who Changed Black America*, documents Malcolm X's many gay experiences. Malcolm bragged he earned money servicing 'queers'. From the age of 20, Malcolm had sex with men for money - as hinted at in Spike Lee's 1992 biopic - and he had at least one sustained sexual liaison with a man. Later, Malcolm worked as a butler to a wealthy Boston bachelor, William Paul Lennon. According to Malcolm's sidekick Malcolm Jarvis, he was paid to sprinkle Lennon with talcum powder and bring him to orgasm. Perry suggests that Malcolm's gay encounters may not have been entirely financially motivated. His masculine insecurities and ambivalence towards women fit the standard of a repressed gay man and point to latent homosexuality. Sure, Malcolm married and had children, but he'd seen the black establishment crucify openly gay activist Bayard Rustin. After converting to the Muslim faith, it suggests that Malcolm successfully repressed his homosexual desires. 1999 US, Scott 3273.



James Mercer Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

Langston Hughes was a prolific writer. In the forty-odd years between his first book in 1926 and his death in 1967, he devoted his life to writing and lecturing. He wrote sixteen books of poems, two novels, three collections of short stories, four volumes of "editorial" and "documentary" fiction, twenty plays, children's poetry, musicals and operas, three autobiographies, a dozen radio and television scripts and dozens of magazine articles. Hughes, whose literary legacy is enormous and varied, was closeted, but homosexuality was an important influence on his literary imagination. One of the greatest ironies in the life of the people's poet was his own understandable silence regarding the oppression of gays. As a gay man, Hughes lived that secret life silently in the confines of a very narrow, but well-constructed closet—one that still shelters him today. Focusing on such poems as "Joy," "Desire," "Café: 3 A. M.," "Waterfront Streets," "Young Sailor," "Trumpet Player," "Tell Me," and many poems in *Montage of a Dream Deferred* (1951), we can identify homoeroticism and other gay influences. The stamp honoring Hughes commemorates both the centennial of Hughes' birth and the 25th anniversary of the Black Heritage series. Issued in 2002, Scott # 3557.



Paul LeRoy Bustill Robeson (1898 –1976)

Robeson was a multi-lingual American actor, athlete, Basso cantante concert singer, writer, civil rights activist, fellow traveler, Spingarn Medal winner, and Stalin Peace Prize laureate.

In 1921 Robeson married Eslanda Cordoza Goode. The couple had one child. Robeson would not play a significant role in Gay and Lesbian history was it not for the fact of rumors concerning his bisexuality. In a 1981 issue of the left-wing magazine *WIN* (now defunct), an article on Robeson had referred to his bisexuality as if it were a well-established fact. Some years later *The Advocate* (a national gay magazine) printed the claim that Robeson had "recently [been] revealed to have been gay." Again in a 1990 article by Hugh Murray, the author insisted that the matter of Robeson's bisexuality remained "an open question." His biographer, Martin Duberman, an American historian, playwright, and gay-rights activist and himself openly gay, insists adamantly he had evidence to the contrary and that "he found absolutely no evidence of Robeson's erotic interest in men." and that Robeson was "singularly, rigorously, contentedly heterosexual." Duberman did find that Robeson had many sexual liaisons and that his most intense, long-lasting affairs were nearly all with white women and that Robeson's wife seemingly accepted these extramarital sexual adventures. So the rumor of Robeson's bisexuality appears to be just a rumor started and continued, but also seems to have been disproved by an openly gay scholar who was chosen by Robeson's own son to complete the biography of the father. 2004 US, Scott 3834.

Hattie McDaniel (1895 –1952)

McDaniel was an American actress and the first black performer to win an Academy Award. She won the award for Best Supporting Actress for her role of Mammy in *Gone with the Wind* (1939). McDaniel was also a professional singer-songwriter, comedienne, stage actress, radio performer and television star. Hattie McDaniel was the first black woman to sing on the radio. Over the course of her career, McDaniel appeared in over 300 films, although she only received screen credits for about 80. According to the biography by Carlton Jackson, *Hattie: The Life of Hattie McDaniel*, Madison Books, 1989, McDaniel was bisexual and may have had a sexual relationship with Tallulah Bankhead. Hattie was married four times, but none of her marriages lasted very long. According to the book, *Katherine the Great*, a novel about Katherine Hepburn, by Barbara Leaming, McDaniel was

(Continued on page 12)

Travels with Toby McCutcheon

(Thanks to Canadian member, Ian Young, for directing me to this website. Please contact the owner at the main website for permission to reproduce any portions of this article or the website in general.)

A personal scrapbook by Angus Fitzroy, Edinburgh, 1949. This is a spiral notebook that was acquired in an auction, some 85 pages of photos, drawings, postage stamps and, most of all, memories of the travels of these two men.

The introduction states these are remembrances of the 30 years Angus knew Tony, and closes with the comment that "he was a remarkable man." This perhaps meant Toby had passed away by that time, but there can be no doubt that Toby was the love of Angus' life.

Can anyone provide the years of the stamps depicted on the various pages? Please notify either me or the webmaster. To see the complete journal, visit the following sites:

www.queermusicheritage.com
www.queermusicheritage.com/toby1.html



The Florida Fifty Stamper Paul Lynde – The Man in the Middle

Paul Lynde born June 13, 1926 in Mount Vernon, Ohio, was one of six children. His precocious nature showed early when upon seeing the original “Ben-Hur” film at the age of 5, he announced that he would be a rich and famous actor when he grew up. There is little to dispute – he was both when he passed away on January 10, 1982.

Lynde attended Mount Vernon High school, graduating in 1944. Lynde’s high school drama coach encouraged his admittance to Northwestern University’s Speech and Drama School. Fellow students of his, also are well known names; Cloris Leachman, Charlotte Rae, Patricia Neal, Jeffrey Hunter and Claude Akins. Completing studies in 1948 he was voted “Best Student Actor of the Year.” The bright lights and glitter of New York drew Lynde. Unfortunately, the cliché of the struggling actor was easily hung on Lynde. He survived four long years doing stand-up comedy, waiting tables and selling his own blood to pay the bills.

His first break came in 1952, when Lynde made his Broadway debut in the hit revue *New Faces of 1952* in which he co-starred with fellow newcomers Eartha Kitt, Alice Ghostley, and Carol Lawrence. This was the start of a long and often troubled career.

Regular work on Broadway and extensive appearances on television continued to broaden Lynde’s exposure and name recognition. The re-occurring role of Uncle Arthur, Endora’s brother, in “Bewitched” kept his face and comic talent on the forefront of the public’s awareness from the mid 1960s to the early 1970s.

In 1968, Lynde landed the job that would go on to define his career almost in total. The center square on Hollywood Squares would allow Lynde to showcase his “off-center” humor in an environment where the boundaries were a little less defined. The art of double entendre and the under-the-breath utterances made it the show to watch – if for no other

reason just to watch and hear what Lynde gushed forth with. [Writer’s note – I remember well as a youngster in the early 1970s watching Hollywood Squares just because of Paul Lynde. He rarely disappointed a close listener!]

Lynde’s comedic talents for short, salty one-liners was best showcased with the following: Asked “You’re the world’s most popular fruit. What are you?”, Lynde replied, “Humble.” [Writer’s note – my brother and I were watching when he delivered that line and we both screamed with laughter! Of course my mother who was home that morning – did not get it at all -- which made it all the funnier.]

With comic genius often there are personal problems and issues that are beyond control. [The comic manic Andy Kaufman during the 1970s and early 1980s comes to mind.] In spite of his visibility and immense popularity, Lynde was fiercely closeted during his lifetime. His growing popularity seemed to do nothing more than exasperate his chronic alcoholism, weight problems, and loneliness.

Unfortunately, with such great talent also comes great tragedy. In 1965, a “close friend”, Jim Davidson, fell or jumped from the eighth-floor window of Lynde’s San Francisco hotel room, after a night of drinking and pub-crawling. The matter was downplayed and kept very much off the radar in the popular press, so as to not harm Lynde’s growing popularity with the straight world.

On the night of January 9, 1982, he died in his Beverly Hills home after a sudden cardiac arrest, the result of decades of substance abuse. He was discovered in his home, naked, clutching a bottle of amyl nitrate (poppers) in his hand. Whatever young man he was “passing the time with,” had run off after Lynde’s heart attack --- not even bothering to call 911 for help.

What a stunningly tragic end to a funny, funny man.

[Writer’s note – I had the good fortune in the summer of 1980 or 1981 to see Paul in Neil Simon’s “Plaza Suite.” It was classic Lynde with all the

bells and whistles. I will always remember that delightful and magical 2.5 hours.]

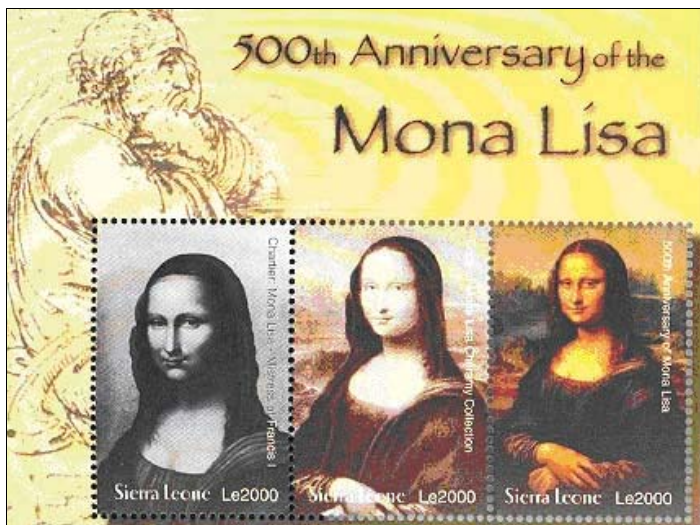
Until next time, have a great time collecting, and I look forward to hearing from any readers with comments or suggestions.

I can be reached at hampton@cfl.rr.com.

Salai, the “REAL” Mona Lisa

by Bobby Cloud

The *Mona Lisa*, perhaps the most famous recognizable painting in the world, has long been subject to speculation concerning the model. New research now suggests that most probable - “she was a he”. In other words, the model was Gian Giacomo Caprotti, nicknamed “Salai”. He was one of da Vinci’s male apprentices with whom da Vinci most



likely had a love affair, according to Silvano Vincenti, the head of the National Historic Commission in Italy.

Vincenti further states that Salai was a favorite model for Leonardo and that da Vinci most certainly inserted characteristics of Salai in the *Mona Lisa*. A confirmed painting depicting Salai himself is a portrait of him as John the Baptist issued by Gambia in 1993 and recognized as Scott 1354a.

A few examples of stamps depicting the *Mona Lisa* are 2002 Moldova, Scott 417b; 1999 France, Scott 2713b; 1952 German Federal Republic, Scott 687; 2000 Ireland, Scott 1220d; 1969 Mali, Scott C82 (Mona Lisa); 1981 Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Scott 2134 Hungary #2280 1974;; Bhutan 1972, Scott 144e; 1980 Bulgaria Scott 2723; Sierra Leone, Scott 2630, 2630a, 2630b issued 2003 Mona Lisa or Mon Salai? by Louie Parsons 2006-11-17.

Source:

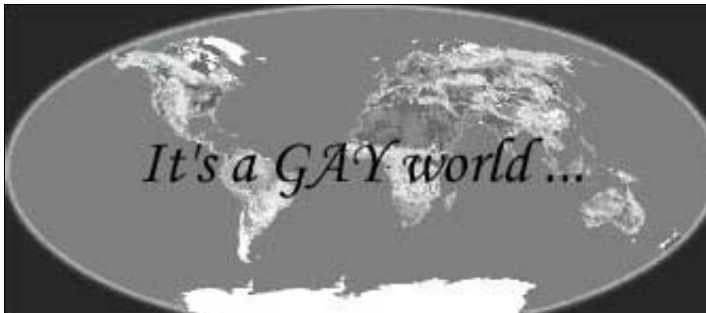
Discovery News: Mr. Mona Lisa: Did a Male Model Inspire Da Vinci? By: Elizabeth Tyler.

We're on the web!
www.GLHSC.com

Gay & Lesbian Update

Should we try to have a GLHSC meeting/get-together at NAPEX? The United Nations Postal Administration will hold a first day ceremony at the show in McLean, VA on Friday, June 3 for their 30th Anniversary of Identification of AIDS stamps.

Let me know if anyone is interested. Thanks.



Argentina issued a stamp on September 18, 2010, for the 2010 Census. A male-male and female-female couple on the stamp. Argentina is one of ten countries that allows same sex marriage. Scott no. 2593. (Thanks for the heads up, John!)

China (PRC) issued a set of four stamps on July 25, 2010 featuring four composers. Ludwig van Beethoven can be found on Scott no. 3841.

Dominica issued a set of two souvenir sheets of four stamps on June 22, 2010. One sheet includes four different photos of Abraham Lincoln. The other sheet includes four different statues of Lincoln. Scott nos. 2748 - 2749.

France issued a souvenir sheet of two stamps in their Art Series on November 8, 2010. The sheet features *Allegory of Spring* by Sandro Botticelli. Scott no. 3775 a - b.

Gambia issued a souvenir sheet of six stamps on August 26, 2010. Six paintings are featured. Scott no. 3301 a - f.

Gambia issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet, also on August 26, 2010, featuring Robert Schumann. Scott nos. 3304 a - d, 3305.



Grenada issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring Frederic Chopin on September 1, 2010. Scott nos. 3766 a - d, 3767.

Grenada issued two horizontal strips of three stamps. Abraham Lincoln is featured on the stamps. Scott nos. 3773 - 3774, each a - c.

Grenada Grenadines issued a sheet of six stamps and a souvenir sheet on November 10, 2010. Works of Leonardo da Vinci are featured. Scott nos. 2765 a - f, 2766.

Italy issued a stamp on October 29, 2010 featuring the *Adoration of the Magi*, by Sandro Botticelli on October 29, 2010. Scott no. 3034.

Macedonia issued two stamps on June 8, 2010. Both stamps featured a different composer. Robert Schumann can be found on Scott no. 523. Frederic Chopin can be found on Scott no. 524.

Moldova issued a stamp on March 1, 2010, featuring composer Frederic Chopin. Scott no. 664.

Peru issued a stamp on September 21, 2010 featuring Frederic Chopin. Scott no. 1746.

Uruguay issued a souvenir sheet of two stamps to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederic Chopin on July 21, 2010. Scott no. 2298a - b.

AIDS Update

A new website is on the Internet. Be sure to visit www.aidsonstamps.com. The site is the result of hard work of one of GLHSC's newest members.

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The United Nations Postal Administration will hold a first day ceremony at NAPEX in McLean, VA on Friday, June 3 for their 30th Anniversary of Identification of AIDS stamps.

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Moldova issued a stamp for the campaign against AIDS on July 1, 2010. Scott no. 679.

Mongolia issued a stamp for the campaign against AIDS on April 10, 2008. Scott no. 2659.

Upcoming Stamp Shows

National Topical Stamp Show 2011, June 24 - 26, Milwaukee, WI.
 Email: americantopical@msn.com

Americover 2011, August 5 - 7, Indianapolis, IN
 Email: showinfo@afdcs.org

APS StampShow, August 11 - 14, Columbus, OH
 Email: stampshow@stamps.org

Helpful Addresses

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www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic



WANTED: ARTICLES

Send in articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual, topical or country for publication in a future issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

- Text file via email or diskette preferred.
- Graphics - 300 dpi or better quality.
- Will scan originals and return if needed.

(Continued from page 6)

purported to be the lover of Talullah Bankhead. This would certainly account for the briefness of her relationships with her husbands. 2006 US, Scott 3996.

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Queer Representations: Reading Lives, Reading Cultures (A Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Book) by Martin Duberman 1997 NYC Press.

Would any members like to trade the Canadian (English and French on back), Mexican or other country version of Starbucks cards? Can trade stamps (US, France) or US bucks cards.

Cards shown are examples only.



Contact:

Joe Petronie
PO Box 190842
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