

Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, SEPTEMBER 2001, VOL. 20, NO. 3



Leonard Bernstein, US Conductor
Scott no. 3521

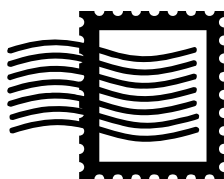
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 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.



GLHSC OFFICERS:

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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. 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 one of the addresses listed.

MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$8.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

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).

Dues include four issues of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* and a copy of the membership directory. (Names will be withheld from the directory upon request.)

ADVERTISING RATES:

Members are entitled to free ads.

Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue. Reproducible ads should be submitted, along with a check made payable to GLHSC, to the editor's address. Ads should be no larger than 1/4 page. Any ad submitted without artwork will be created by the editor and at the editor's discretion.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Articles Needed by</u>
December 2001	November 15, 2001
March 2002	February 15, 2002
June 2002	May 15, 2002
September 2002	August 15, 2002

All artwork and articles should be received by the editor no later than the end of the month prior to publication for inclusion in that issue. The membership directory will be published no later than the second quarter.

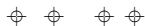


News from the Editor

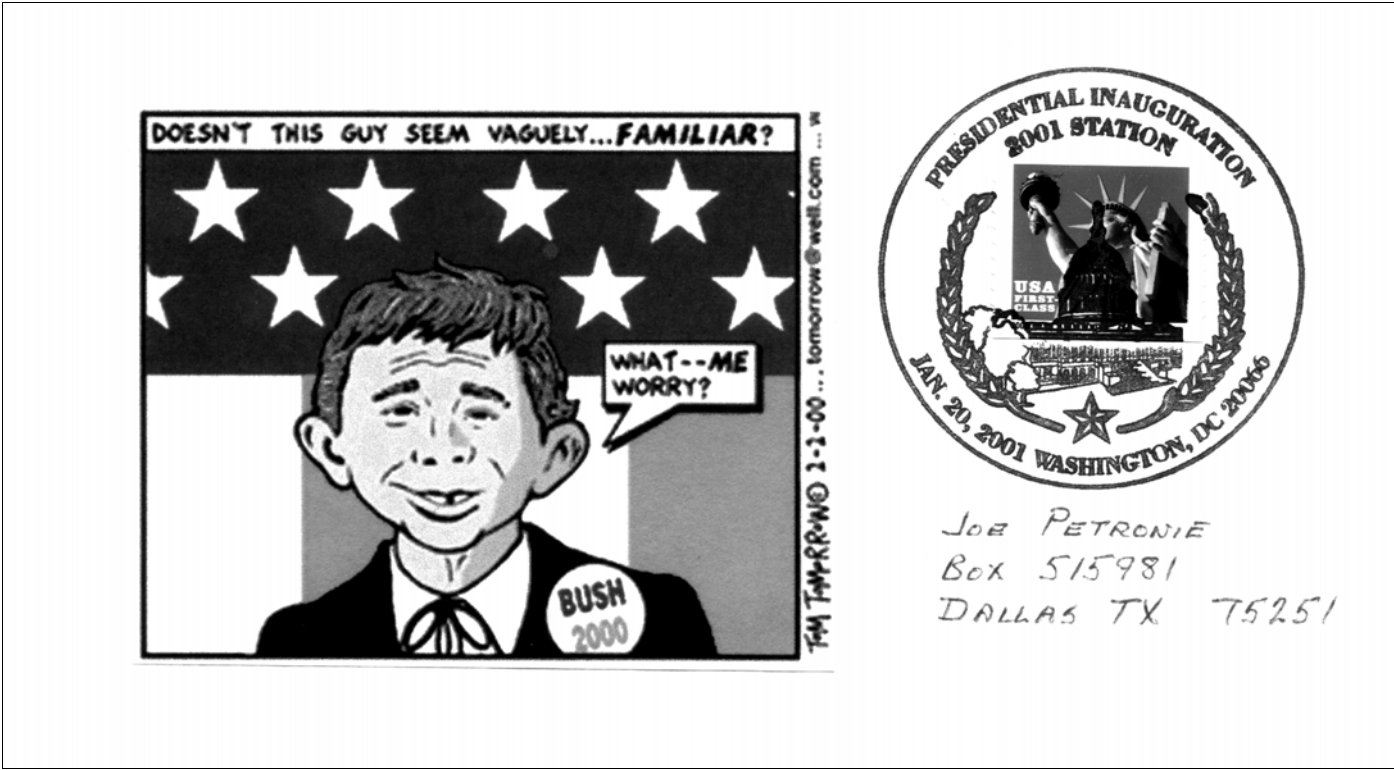
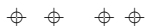
Please note that the club mailing address has changed. The old box will remain open for a few more months. A forwarding notice will be filed, thus extending that address a little longer.



A special thanks to Paul Henefeld and Blair O'Dell for the first day cancel of the Dag Hammarskjöld stamp issued by the United Nations. They generously donated the postage and took the time to travel to New York City for the first day of issue of this stamp.



Is anyone interested in sending in their profile for the next issue? I haven't received a profile in quite some time. I'd love to resume this feature.



Inauguration cover received earlier this year. Keep these fun covers coming!

Seahorses: Jewels of the Sea

by Laura Clemente

The fascinating creature known as the seahorse is a little marvel of nature. It belongs to the family syngathidae and includes pipefish as its close relative. They come in a variety of colors, from yellow to green to red, brown or black, and may be spotted or banded. There are thirty-five known species and range in size from one-quarter of an inch to a foot or more. They are found in temperate and tropical coastal waters, living in the Indian and Pacific oceans, from the Red Sea and east Africa to the Hawaiian Islands and from southern Japan to Australia.

Seahorses have a long snout with a small mouth at the tip. Their food is eaten whole, as they have no teeth. They eat a variety of zooplankton and can consume up to 3,000 brine shrimp each day. They have prehensile tails, unlike pipefish (which are shaped just like their name) and the head is set at an angle to the body. They swim upright, their delicate fins fanning them through the water. The dorsal fin moves them forward while the pectoral fins control turning and steering. Their bodies are covered by bony plating underneath their skin, making them unpalatable to predators when they reach adulthood. Other fish and anemones eat the juvenile seahorses. Some species can change color to match their surroundings and escape predators.

The most fascinating aspects of these animals are that they are monogamous and that the male becomes pregnant. This occurs after a female deposits the eggs into the male's pouch where they are fertilized. The seahorses develop in the pouch. The gestation period lasts from 10 to 60 days, depending on the species and the water temperature. When born, the baby seahorse is fully formed and receives no parental care. They reach maturity in about six months. Once the male gives birth, he usually becomes pregnant again right away.

One of the seahorse's predators is man. Asian cultures around the world have been using them for thousands of years in medicinal cures. They are also captured for aquariums, but are difficult to keep because of their diet. They are prone to disease in a contained environment. Dried out, they make unique souvenirs. Finally, their environment, which includes grass beds and coral reefs, is being destroyed by pollution and trawling. Their life span is estimated to be between one to four years, depending on the species. Conservationists are working hard to ensure their future since they are vulnerable to extinction.

One such crusader is Amanda Vincent. She began to study seahorses because she primarily wanted to work with the sea and to be outdoors. It isn't all fun and games though. She had to get up at an ungodly hour and get into a wet suit, still damp and fishy from the day before. Trying to find the little creatures was elusive. She says it got embarrassing, "because you knew where they should be, and yet you would go round and round that little bit of sea grass until eventually you suddenly caught sight of a little tail tip and then you'd sit and watch them."

They are masters of disguise. They can change color to match their background and grow skin appendages so that they blend in with the algae. They are well camouflaged until you see the tail that wraps around whatever they are holding. Another aspect that fascinated her is the evolution of male pregnancy.



She nearly made the tale of one couple into a soap opera in her mind as the male and female seahorses (dubbed Harry and Mabel) would dance and swim together in a mating dance, which she watched for hours.

Parental care in fish is usually given only by the male, but tends to involve guarding eggs and making sure the eggs get enough oxygen and stay clean. In the case of the seahorse, the eggs are on the body.

Famed female ichthyologist (someone who studies fish – that probably rolls off the tongue easier) Eugenie Clark began to study fish the world over in the late nineteen forties. She dedicated her studies to plectognaths, an order of fish that share several characteristics such as odd shapes (like the tailless sunfish), have spiny bodies or inflate themselves (such as the blowfish) and are often poisonous. She has captured and studied some of the oddest fish in the tropical ocean waters.

Two of the most delightful she has been able to observe are the pipefish and seahorse. She observed that the "lips" on some seahorses and pipefish appear to turn out in a "pout", an appropriate expression during the gestation period. Although she had not witnessed the birth process, she reported that others who had observed the process stated that the seahorses appear to have "labor pains".

I'm sure many women out there would wish to be a seahorse, even temporarily, if only to trade places with the men of the world!

Bibliography:

Fishes of the Sea, John and Gillian Lythgoe, MIT Press
Lady with a Spear, Eugenie Clark, Harper & Brothers

Other information obtained online from:
 The Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois
 Nova Online (PBS)

July Gay Philatelic Heroes and Heroines

By Paul Hennefeld

Aphrodite (Roman Venus), the goddess of love and beauty. She was actually born a man rather than a woman. She is of a seductive character committing adultery frequently. Sappho calls upon the goddess to help her rekindle a lost love, and Aphrodite responds saying: "Sappho who wrongs you? If she flees you now she will soon pursue you; if she won't accept what you give, she'll give it; if she doesn't love you, she'll love you soon now, even unwilling."



Sappho of Lesbos composed romantic verse extolling her love for women. During periods of book burning by the Roman church, her works were almost completely destroyed. The *Ode to Aphrodite* survived, but was distorted to read as if it were a love poem to a man. We do not know her birth date.

Steven Foster was born July 4, 1826. He was an extremely popular musician of the mid 1800's. He left his wife and family in Pittsburgh, and moved to New York City to be near his lover George Cooper. The two men combined their talents, Foster composing the music and Cooper the lyrics. Cooper cared for Foster during his final illness at Bellevue hospital.



Jean Cocteau, born July 5, 1880. This Frenchman was successful in many fields. He is world renowned as an artist, filmmaker, novelist, playwright and poet. Cocteau became distraught when he lost his life companion, and turned to opium to relieve his pain and grief. An affair with actor Jean Marais helped cure him of drug dependence, and he went on to have many lovers throughout his long, happy, successful life.

Henry David Thoreau, born in Concord, MA, July 12, 1817. This noted author's proposal of marriage to Ellen Sewall was rejected. Thoreau never married. His writings on love reveal his passionate feelings for Tom Fowler and Alek Therien.

George Cukor, born July 14, 1899 in New York City. In Hollywood he was considered a women's director. Actresses were comfortable with him, as they didn't have to worry about being propositioned. Cukor received many awards during his film career. However he was fired from the film *Gone With The Wind*, as Clark Gable refused to work for a homosexual.



Film star **Barbara Stanwyck** was born in Brooklyn, July 16, 1907. She starred in numerous Hollywood B-films, and in the TV series *The Thorn Birds*. She married twice, first to Frank Fay, and then Robert Taylor, both men having homosexual inclinations. Stanwyck preferred her constant companion, her 'publicist' Helen Ferguson. Ferguson kept reporters at bay, protecting Barbara and herself from any unflattering publicity.

Dag Hammarskjöld, born in Sweden July 29, 1905. He was Secretary General to the United Nations. He had a strong aversion to women, and was very uncomfortable in their presence. In one remarkable incident, the Secretary General discovered a person of the opposite sex hiding in his bed. He struck the culprit, had her arrested, and then immediately moved from his apartment.



September Gay Philatelic Heroes and Heroines

By Paul Hennefeld

Roger Casement was born in Kingstown, Ireland, September 1, 1846. This Irish patriot took up the cause of Irish nationalism. He was convicted of treason by the British and sentenced to be hanged. The U.S. Senate adopted a resolution in favor of his reprieve. Scotland Yard had informed President Wilson of the discovery of Casement's diaries, which recorded numerous homosexual encounters in explicit detail. Upon hearing this information, Wilson did not convey the resolution to Great Britain.



Rock Star **Freddie Mercury**, the singer of the British rock band Queen, was born in Zanzibar on September 5, 1946. Mercury and his music was greatly loved and enjoyed by thousands of his fans. The musician contracted AIDS, and died of pneumonia in England, November 24, 1990.

Social reformer and author, **Jane Addams**, was born September 6, 1860. She was the founder of Hull House in Chicago. She dedicated her life to helping women achieve economic freedom. During lecture tours, Addams always insisted in advance, that hotel establishment supply her and her female companion with a large full-size bed for the two of them to share.



King **Richard I** [The Lion-hearted] of England, was born September 8, 1157. Philip II, King of France, "so honored [Richard] ... that they ate at the same table and from the same dish, and at night their beds did not separate them ..." This was a short-lived love affair; at a later date, Philip and Richard became rivals in the Third Crusade.

Cardinal **Giovanni Maria Ciochi del Monte** was born in Rome, September 10, 1487. Little is known about del Monte's upbringing. It wasn't until he became a cardinal of the Roman church, and President of the Council of Trent

which challenged the Reformation, that he was noticed by Vatican officials. When del Monte was elected pope in February 1550, he chose the name of **Julius III**. The only notable event that occurred during this pope's five year reign was the return of England to the Roman church under Mary Tudor. This pope's numerous sexual encounters were well recorded. Julius enjoyed being 'discovered' while making love with cardinals, pages and young men he fancied. The pope made his illegitimate son, Bertuccino, a cardinal. Julius' favorite was a boy named Innocente; the two were inseparable, and when cardinals complained about this, Julius said: "The Prevostino is worth more than the whole lot of you." Julius III made Innocente a cardinal; he also advanced a number of his teenage boy-friends to the rank of cardinal.

Frederick von Steuben was born September 13, 1730. He was military aide to Frederick The Great, and Prince Henry of Prussia. [Frederick & Henry were both homosexual] It is believed that Baron von Steuben had been caught in an uncompromising position with one or several of his soldiers. Steuben fled to the USA to join General George Washington's 'family'. Steuben trained the American troops, and was the author of the 'Military Code of Regulations' handbook. Two soldiers, William North and Ben Walker, were to von Steuben's liking. He legally adopted both men, and they lived together until the general's death, at which time they shared in his estate.



Alexander von Humboldt, world-renowned scientist, writer, and explorer, was born in Berlin, September 14, 1769. Humboldt and Aime Bonpland explored South America together. Publication of Humboldt's correspondence revealed an intimacy between the two explorers. Two other men, who shared Humboldt's love and affection, were Joseph Gay-Lussac and Francois Arago, the latter being the great love of his life.

The Russian General **Mikhail Kutuzov** was born in St. Petersburg, September 16, 1745. Kutuzov's successful military exploits earned him honors, promotions, and the love of his countrymen. The General's carnal escapades with his troops were to end drastically. General Mikhail Kutuzov died of a heart attack while making love to one of his soldiers.



(Continued on page 8)

The Florida Forty Stamper

By Francis Ferguson, Jr.

A King with attitude. A lot of it. Ludwig II, King of Bavaria (1845-1886) is remembered as the “Mad King of Bavaria”. History may remember him as the “Mad King”, but most historical evidence shows him to be perfectly sane. However, he was plagued with more than a couple behavioral eccentricities and odd extravagances.

Ludwig is commonly described as a handsome man, of great pose and bearing - until he began to put on considerable weight in his later years. Needless to say, the King was extremely vain and fussy about his looks. Even when he was forced to appear in full military uniform, Ludwig carried an open umbrella: “I’ve no intention of spoiling my coiffure”. Surely this was a sight to behold. Another quote that highlights his eccentricities; “If I don’t have my hair curled every day, how can you expect me to enjoy my food?” From the looks of his pictures in later life, he had his hair curled daily, more than once.

The House of Wittelsbach had ruled Bavaria for centuries when Ludwig became king at the age of 18 in 1864, upon the death of his father Maximilian II. He assumed the throne, during a tumultuous period of political instability that involved the German, Prussian, Austrian, and Bavarian people. Ludwig quickly became bored with the realities of governing. In an effort to minimize his involvement in the boring duties of running a government, he turned to two major diversions that did interest him considerably; men and building castles.

Ludwig’s troubled state of mind was reflected in a secret diary, which he maintained off and on, from late 1869 until his death. The often cryptic entries refer with anguish to Ludwig’s encounters with stablemen and young soldiers. His unrequited love for the heterosexual composer Richard Wagner, to whom he was deeply attached, caused considerable public and governmental tongue wagging. The King was more successful with Prince Paul von Thurn und Taxis, whom he called “My most beloved Angel”. Prince Paul’s successor was Richard Hornig, who began his career as the King’s head groom and equerry. The affair ended much to the Kings chagrin with Hornig’s hastily arranged marriage. Ludwig had no better luck with Josef Kainz, a young Hungarian actor who had dazzled the King with his performances on stage and off. After these failed attempts at relationships, the King restricted his carnal pleasures to watching strapping peasant lads, stripped to the waist, working in the fields.

In 1867, after enduring years of family and Bavarian Cabinet “suggestions”, Ludwig surprised nearly everyone by becoming engaged to Princess Sophie. Still troubled by serious and obvious doubts of his sexuality, he repeatedly postponed the wedding date until finally canceling the event in October of that year. After the so called “affair” with Princess Sophie,



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Ludwig withdrew even further from his duties as king and political leader. Building castles became his driving passion.

The castles of Bavaria that King Ludwig built have enshrined him for future generations to admire. Of the three major castles only one, Linderhof, the royal hunting estate, was ever completely finished; Neuschwanstein, and Herrenchiemsee were less than one-half finished. Nevertheless, all three castles are prime tourist destinations in modern day Germany. They represent the only earthly remains of an interesting and eclectic ruler. (Writer note – having seen Linderhof and Herrenchiemsee, I can strongly urge anyone visiting to take the time to see these wonderful structures.) All of these building projects forced the King into deep debt, for he financed the building with his personal monies, not public monies. Ludwig’s serious financial quandary was shaping up to be a potentially disastrous embarrassment to the Bavarian government – a scandal which could only be avoided if the King were removed from office.

Members of the Wittelsbach family, too, were disgusted with Ludwig’s ridiculous expenditures and his refusal to perform his responsibilities as King. Their solution was a carefully planned coup d’état, to be effected by declaring Ludwig officially insane. The certification of Ludwig’s insanity was provided in early June of 1886, by Dr. Bernhard von Gudden and three colleagues, based on an accumulated mass of evidence that was deliberately biased against Ludwig. The commission, appointed by the Bavarian Cabinet to deal with this matter, declined to examine all other evidence. The commission declared Ludwig mad. On June 10th 1886, Prince Luitpold (Ludwig’s uncle) was announced as permanent Regent in place of the “ill” King.

On June 12th Ludwig was imprisoned at the Castle Berg on the shore of Lake Starnberg. During the early evening hours of June 13th, Dr. Gudden took Ludwig for a walk along the shore. When they had not returned by 9:00 p.m., a general search was ordered. Both Ludwig’s and Dr. Gudden’s bodies were found in the lake – Gudden’s disfigured by several bruises, cuts and gashes. The precise nature of the tragedy remains unknown, and unknowable –

speculations through the years have included suicide, assassination, and an escape attempt. (Writer note – oddly enough I happened to be visiting Linderhof on June 13th of 1986, and witnessed a number of memorial services for Ludwig, marking the 100th anniversary of his death. I was deeply touched by the warmth of the public out-pouring for the King that had been dead for 100 years.) In retrospect, Ludwig was born too late and too early to be himself.

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 ferg@cfl.rr.com. The next article will be about Michelangiolo di Lodovico Buonarroti-Simoni -- otherwise known as Michelangelo.

(Continued from page 6)

Greta Garbo was born in Sweden, September 18, 1905. Greta Garbo had many love affairs throughout her life. She thrilled audiences dressed in men's tux, and wearing pants before it was the style. Both men and women flocked to Garbo's movies. Her fans adored her. Garbo is quoted as saying: "I could not choose between love for a man or love for a woman ... I became a slave to both sexes ... I was equally fascinated by both female and male bodies."

Augustus Caesar was born in Rome, September 23, 63 BC. He desired to be emperor of Rome. He achieved this goal by catering to the advances of Julius Caesar. Young Augustus followed Julius Caesar to Spain, becoming sexually acquainted with the Emperor. Julius then adopted Augustus, making him heir to the throne.



Be the next GLHSC
Member Profile...
submit yours
today!

Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS)
PO Box 8000
State College PA 16803-8000
814-237-3803
www.stamps.org

American Topical Association (ATA)
PO Box 50820
Albuquerque NM 87181-0820
505-323-8595
home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)
PO Box 65960
Tucson AZ 85728
520-321-0880
www.afdcs.org



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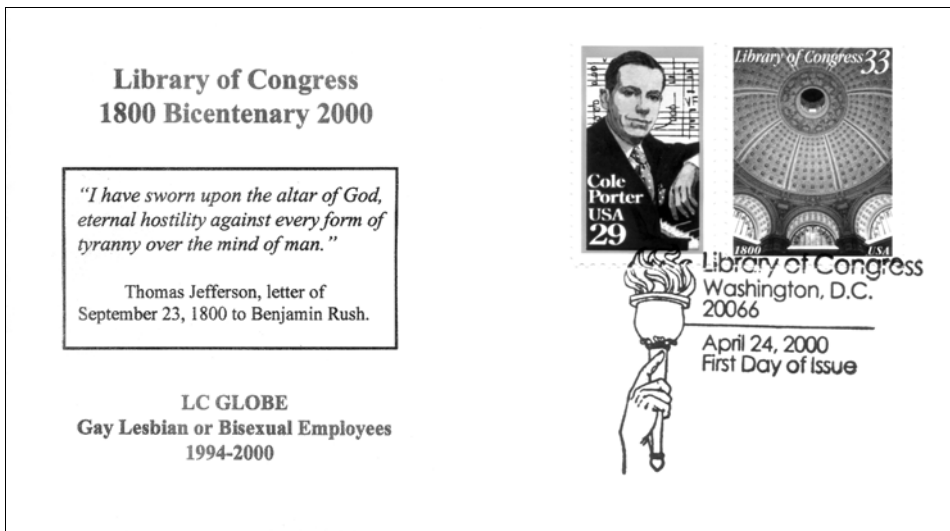
Sebastian Safiano
9046 SW 112th Court
Miami, FL 33176
USA

Library of Congress Gay Lesbian or Bisexual Employees

The Library of Congress Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees (LC GLOBE) prepared several covers that were canceled on the first day of issue of the Library of Congress bicentennial stamp. The covers include the Library of Congress stamp along with another US stamp that features a noted gay or lesbian figure. Cole Porter, Willa Cather and General von Steuben appear on the covers provided to GLHSC by LC GLOBE. A quote of Thomas Jefferson is also included on each cover.

For more information, you can try contacting:

LC GLOBE
 Library of Congress
 c/o Employee Relations Office
 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20540



Pride's Mailbox at Syracuse, New York



Pride's Mailbox was exhibited during the month of June 2001 at the Onondaga County Public Library (the main Syracuse public library) for GLBT Pride Month. Syracuse Pride was held on June 17, 2001.

Pride's Mailbox is available for loan exhibition to public educational facilities during GLBT Pride Month in June and GLBT History Month in October. To arrange an exhibition free of charge, contact the collection's curator.

Pride's Mailbox
 J.E. Klopfer
 623 Springfield Road
 Somers, CT 06071-1202

Syracuse Pride used their third postmark during their celebrations held on June 17, 2001. The postmark date is June 16 which was the preceding Saturday.

Baltimore and Syracuse are the only two known Pride postmarks used this year. Information on other postmarks would be greatly appreciated.



Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered Postmark Checklist

Stockholm, Sweden	08/23/83	Gay Pride Week
Stockholm, Sweden	08/16/86	Gay Pride Week
New York, NY, US	06/25/89	20th Anniversary of Stonewall riots
Bristol, Avon, England	06/11/91	Avon Pride, 1977 - 1991
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/28/92	15th Anniversary of South Florida's Pridefest
Hartford, CT, US	06/19/93	Pridefest '93
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/26/93	Festival of Pride (6/27 also exists)
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/27/93	Pridefest '93 & Pride March
San Diego, CA, US	07/01/93	Lesbian and Gay Pride
Asbury Park, NJ, US	06/05/94	New Jersey's 3rd Annual Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Parade
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/05/94	Pridefest '94 & Pride March
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/05/94	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
New York, NY, US	06/17/94	Gay Games IV (Dates available from 6/17 - 6/24)
Berlin, Germany	06/18/94	Christopher Street Day
New York, NY, US	06/26/94	25th Anniversary of Stonewall Riots
Washington, DC, US	07/01/94	International Association of Gay Square Dance Club (7/2 also exists)
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	10/09/94	International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators
Phoenix, AZ, US	06/02/95	Arizona Central Pride (6/3 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/04/95	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Hartford, CT, US	06/17/95	Pridefest '95
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/24/95	Pridefest '95 & Pride March
West Hollywood, CA, US	06/25/95	Christopher Street West
Walhalla, MI, US	08/??/95	Michigan Womyn's Music Festival 20th Anniversary
Tempe, AZ, US	05/31/96	Arizona Central Pride (6/1 & 6/2 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/02/96	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Philadelphia, PA, US	06/09/96	Diversity of Pride
Portland, ME, US	06/15/96	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/23/96	Pridefest '96 & Pride March
Philadelphia, PA, US	10/06/96	Outfest, National Coming Out Day
Tempe, AZ, US	05/30/97	Arizona Central Pride (5/31 & 6/1 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/01/97	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/15/97	Pridefest '97 & Pride March
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/28/97	Twin Cities Pride (6/29 also exists)
Morristown, NJ, US	09/22/97	Gay Activist Alliance of Morris County 25th Anniversary
Rome, Italy	11/17/97	Origin of Gay Movement in Italy
New York, NY, US	04/25/98	5th National Gay & Lesbian Business & Consumer Expo (4/26 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/07/98	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/14/98	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/20/98	Celebrating Pride and the Lavender Line
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/27/98	Twin Cities Pride (6/28 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/06/99	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/12/99	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/19/99	The BLTG Sandwich
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/04/00	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/10/00	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Washington, DC, US	06/11/00	Capital Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/16/01	Got Pride! Station
Baltimore, MD, US	06/17/01	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Festival

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is with amusement that I read the article and letters in the last issue of the Lambda Philatelic Journal over the APS supporting the Boy Scouts organization. While I will certainly agree that the BSA should not be allowed to discriminate, arguing over a Supreme Court decision is not going to help the Gay/Lesbian cause. Whether the Boy Scouts discriminate or not, we are not going to change the situation at this time. I do not and will not support the Boy Scouts, but that doesn't mean that I won't help some one who happens to be a member. The local PTA at the school where I work would like every teacher to become a member and every year I refuse. When asked, I tell them that I don't agree with the politics of the national organization; it has never been much of a secret about my private life outside of school.

Rather, I believe that we should be progressive as a part of the great Gay/Lesbian community. Too often I find that we are reactive and defensive. Laws and public opinions can't change the fact that we exist and have committed relationships. I was recently back in the United States and was appalled at how little [really] had changed for gays politically in the last 13 years. No one in Europe would give a scoundrel such as Mr. Falwell more than ten seconds to state his views and then get on with their lives. Germany is not known for being a liberal country, but even here Gay and Lesbian couples can register their partnership as a marriage effective August 1, 2001. Despite what activists consider setbacks, it is time we simply promoted the rights we should already have and not heed the backlash from conservatives and bigots. The best defense is a good offense.

As a gay stamp collectors group, I do have an additional concern. If one has ever seen the German movie, *Taxi Zum Klo*, there is a short within the broader film entitled *The Stamp Collector*. In it, an older gay man entices a young boy for sex after inviting the lad over to view his stamp collection. This is not what our group is about and while I cannot vouch for the conduct of every member, I have no reason to believe that this is the unspoken goal of the club. Yet, this film is out in the general domain and irregardless of conservative criticism of gay culture, I'm sure many of our nay-sayers have watched this short or one like it on the sly.

Likewise, we should stop the witch hunt to support our history. The Journal has had several articles that purported several historical figures were gay or bisexual without any proof. Yet one of our objectives states that we study notable people..."for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual...orientation." For example, our journal included an article on Alexander Hamilton alleging he was gay or bisexual even though absolutely no evidence of this exists. As was correctly stated in the article, the "more despicable

opinion" between Hamilton and Aaron Burr was never publicized. Further, many people confuse the language of the 17th and 18th centuries with that of the Victorian era. It might interest readers that in a record of parliament concerning one of the affairs King George IV, one of his servants was asked about His Majesty's hobbies. The answer: "His Majesty is fond of fucking." Likewise, terms of endearment were used throughout the English speaking world to close friends, even of the same sex. It was not until after the trial of Oscar Wilde that society changed and that men would become both more formal in their language and in the physical distance that they kept between themselves. Our ancestors were not quite the prudes which we tend to believe them to be. Such accusations need to be supported by scholarly research and cited in the Journal for credibility.

In summary, while I am willing to support GLHSC and write to the APS concerning their policy with the Boy Scouts, I am not willing to write a detailed letter over something that is now trivial as it is now the status quo. Perhaps this will change in time, but as an APS member I don't see much hope of the APS leadership or membership changing their minds anytime soon. Ditto for American society.

Sincerely,

Tony Andren

The Florida Forty Stamper columnist responds:

What is History? Simply put it is the interpretation of events that have molded our past. If that history has been written by the winners of a war, then you can be sure that the resulting accounts will be skewed in favor of the victor, and the loser will be the one who is damned. This is a common thread that is seen repeatedly throughout history.

For the sake of this discussion, let us define modern history as events that have happened in the last two hundred years. While these modern history events may be clearly defined and documented, there also may be a major component of doubt that can lurk in the shadows. This is especially of concern when obvious signs of tampering with documentation, or questionable interpretations of historical facts are found. Whether the tampering was done to hide the true meaning of words in a document or simply to protect the reputation of the people involved, is immaterial. The simple fact the attempt was made to alter historical material should raise a flag of caution, and beg the question --"Why?"

When researching through history to gather information about GL figures, frequently materials have to be interpreted to determine the meaning of the words. Even when consideration is given to the language that was used at the time, (for example the flowery, romantic verbiage of the 1700-1900) the meaning of the written words is not difficult to determine. These written words are all that remain of those GL figures of history.

(Continued on page 14)

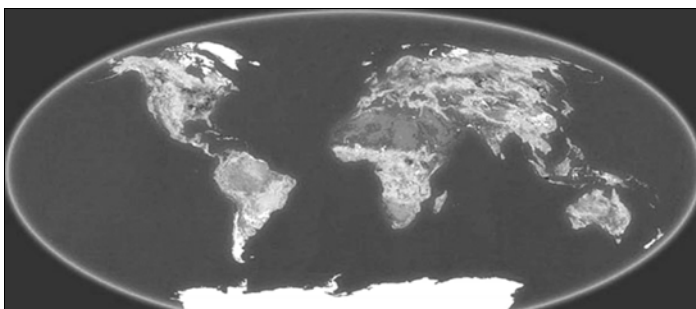
Gay & Lesbian Update

Langston Hughes is scheduled to be featured on the 25th stamp in the US Black Heritage series. Hughes was a celebrated poet in the Harlem literary renaissance of the 1920's. He was born in Joplin, Missouri in 1902. Joplin is the most likely choice for the first day of issue.

Andy Warhol will be featured on a United States stamp, tentatively scheduled for release on August 6, 2002 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Warhol was born in Pittsburgh in 1928.

Paul Hennefeld's award-winning collection, *Out of the Closet*, will be on exhibit at the Montclair Public Library in Montclair, New Jersey, during the month of October.

Pride's Mailbox is currently on exhibit at Central Connecticut State University for Gay History Month in Hartford, Connecticut. A reception is planned for October 17.



It's a GAY world...

Grenada issued a sheet of 4 stamps honoring Marlene Dietrich on May 15, 2001. Scott no. 3112. (a-d)

Italy issued a stamp on March 20, 2001, featuring *Perseus* by Benvenuto Cellini. Scott no. 2379.

Italy issued a stamp featuring *The Annunciation* by Botticelli on January 18, 2001. Scott no. 2385.

Senegal issued three sheets of nine stamps featuring actors and actresses.

Rudolph Valentino, Scott no. 1423b.

Errol Flynn, Scott no. 1423c.

James Dean, Scott no. 1423g.

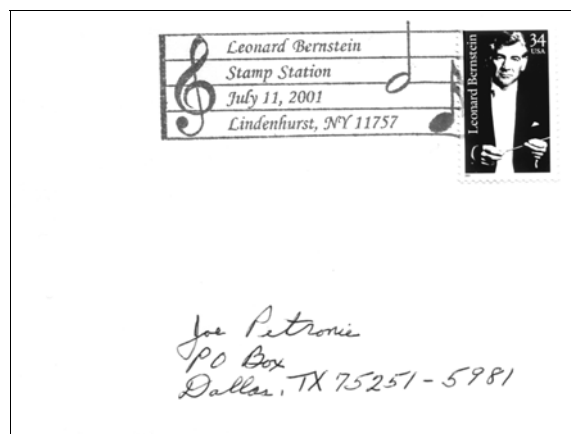
Greta Garbo, Scott no. 1424d.

Melvyn Douglas, Greta Garbo, Scott no. 1425c.

Gary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, Scott no. 1425b.

Ingrid Bergman, Cary Grant, Scott no. 1425i.

United States issued a stamp featuring Leonard Bernstein, Conductor, on July 10, 2001. Scott no. 3521.



AIDS Update

Germany issued a sheetlet of four stamps on July 12, 2001, for health. The four topics are heart disease, cancer, AIDS, and depression. The AIDS stamp is in the lower left corner and designated as infectious diseases. The text (translated) states, "AIDS is the most dangerous and widespread of infectious diseases. Unprotected sexual intercourse is the cause of most (AIDS) infections worldwide." The sheetlet also has "Gib AIDS Keine Chance" in the lower left hand corner of the selvedge. Each stamp has a value of 110 pfs (56 euro-cents).

Peru issued a single stamp on October 12, 2000, for the campaign against AIDS. This was part of the America Issue. Scott no. 1278.

Slovenia issued a postal card in November 2000 for World AIDS Day.

Spain issued a single stamp for the America Issue on October 19, 2000. Fight against AIDS was the theme. Scott no. 3070.

Uruguay issued a se-tenant pair of two stamps in the fight against AIDS on October 10, 2000. These were part of the America issue. Scott no. 1881.

An updated AIDS listing will be published in the December Journal.

**Collector seeks
Postcards/Ephemera**

I collect real photo postcards (gay oriented, sports/physique, nudes, affectionate couples, cross-dressing). Also, early gay magazines/ephemera. Prompt payment ensured.

Frank Serafino
61 Woodland Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523
USA

Or leave message at:
(773) 342-1906

**Always buying
collections.**

I buy everything...not just gay-related, but USA, worldwide, whatever...even cinderellas!

Robert W. Gesell
PO Box 8248
Ann Arbor MI 48107-8248

E-mail: Rgesell3@juno.com
Phone: (734) 662-5460
APS member

**Urgently needed for my gay/
lesbian collection
"Out Of The Closet"**

My collection is in need of a commercial cover of USA Scott # 1932, Babe Didrikson Zaharias 18 cent. This is a difficult item to find as the 'Didrikson' stamp was issued Sept. 22, 1981, and postage was raised to 20 cents on Oct. 28, 1981. It is very important that I find a commercial cover. I have two FDC, but for an exhibit a commercial cover is a must. Judges frown upon First Day Covers

Paul Hennefeld,
512 Park Street
Montclair, NJ 07043-1944



WANTED:
**Articles on your
 favorite gay,
 lesbian, bisexual or
 other philatelic
 topics to be
 included in future
 journals.**

**Submit to the editor at
 address on page 2.**

Here's an idea for collectors (Thanks to Rick in Arizona):

Looking for a new area of collecting? Try compiling a collection of U.S. stamps that have a connection to your home state, your state of residence, or any state you prefer. Start with the state flag, bird and flower stamps issued by the USPS in 1976 (Scott 1633-82) and 1982 (Scott 1953-2002). All states have an anniversary stamp issued that can go into the collection. Look for stamps of people, historic events, wildlife, plants and cultural artifacts. Also include relevant postal stationary items (envelopes and postal cards) and you may want to look to foreign stamps as well. You'd be surprised at what you can find and it will make a great exhibit.

As an example, my growing Arizona collection has well over 100 stamps in it. I was surprised that so many stamps have an Arizona connection and I am not counting all the Lincoln stamps, envelopes and post cards (71 at last count - he created the Arizona Territory in 1863 to thwart Confederate designs on the area). Bald eagles are native to AZ and there are 89 of those items that I have identified. I also have found U.N. stamps with an AZ connection: The Grand Canyon is a World Heritage site and several of the endangered species subjects (regrettably) are AZ natives.

(Continued from page 11)

Sadly, it is often found that either the interpretation of those written words by "well meaning" historians is seriously questionable or the physical record of those words has been altered/obscured to hide the true words. Both of these problems became evident when doing the research on a recent article on Alexander Hamilton. Numerous references can be found in the historical record to obviously altered/damaged/obscured written records. Some of these altered historical records are in Hamilton's own hand, with what appear to be changes made by supposedly well-meaning historians of later time periods. Why was the defacement done? There is no one left living that can answer that question. The only answer is simply a guess as to the reason and motive. In addition, there are countless letters written by Hamilton to his close male friends that have been mostly ignored, because (in my opinion) those letters imply a closeness that makes historians more than a little uncomfortable.

Writing about a long dead GL figure (or one that is suspected of being) can be a real adventure through history. Thankfully GL figures of the last century have left more clear-cut documentation as to their leanings. However keep in mind, that unless a declaration of "I am one" is heard from that person's own lips or via their written word that once again the question is unanswered.



Presidents, dictators, kings,
 even a few

OLD QUEENS

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 in my "collector made" lots. Five dollars post-
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