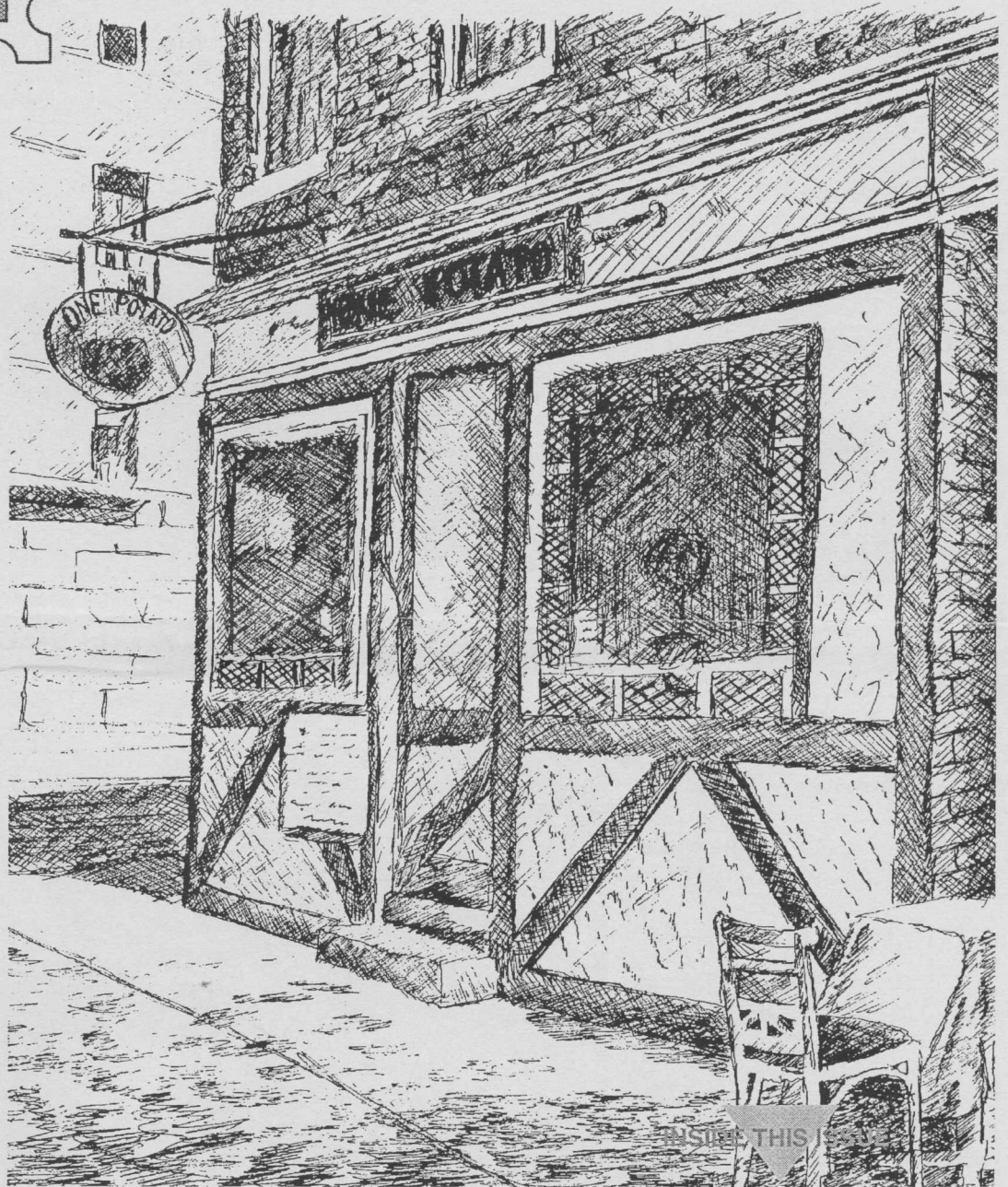




Two Decades of GLHSC

Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, JUNE 2002, VOL. 21, NO. 2



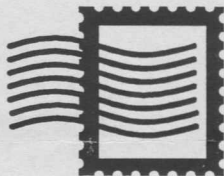
One Potato restaurant, site of the initial meeting of GLHSC in 1982. Drawing by Larry Sullivan, based on a Paul Hennefeld photograph.

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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.



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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 \$10.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$15.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

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).

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>
June 2002	May 15, 2002
September 2002	August 15, 2002
December 2002	November 15, 2002
March 2003	February 15, 2003

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.

News from the Editor

The 2002 edition of the GLHSC Membership directory is enclosed. If you notice any errors, or need to make a change to your listing, be sure to drop me a line. I hope that I caught all of the age changes.

And once again, please be sure to respond to any member inquiries. Remember, they took the time to write. Thanks!

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The glhsc.org site is up. I have added a link to Paul's collection. Any cyber gurus willing to upgrade the site for us? Or, lead us to someone who can help? Let me know.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

(Continued on page 14)

Blair Coldwell Henshaw, of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, died peacefully after a lengthy illness on June 15, 2002, aged 52 years. Predeceased by his parents, Lillian and Russell. Survived by his family of 3 brothers and a sister, 7 nephews, 3 nieces and many other loving family members and friends. A memorial celebration of Blair's life was conducted Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Vancouver.

He is best noted for his lobbying efforts to have Canada Post issue an AIDS stamp (Scott no. 1603) which they did during the World AIDS Conference in Vancouver. Unfortunately Blair was in the hospital recovering from heart bypass surgery during the first day ceremonies and throughout the Conference. Part of his lobbying efforts included the publishing of the *A.I.D.S. on STAMPS* newsletter. He also prepared a competitive exhibit on AIDS titled "From Diagnosis to Death." He also had an extensive collection of hologram postage stamps and postal stationery. He was active in local stamp clubs and shows in the Vancouver area. Many of us had the opportunity to meet him at Pacific 97 at the GLHSC meeting.

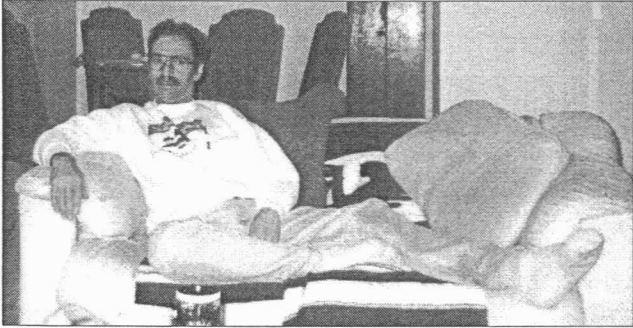


Photo courtesy of Phil Stager.

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to comment on two matters discussed in the March 2002 issue.

Gary Konecky wrote: "Given society's propensity to ignore our sexual orientation, and given the indifference that various officers...of the American Philatelic Society...have shown to our issues, I believe Dag Hammerskjöld was gay." This is quite a *non sequitur!* Dag Hammerskjöld's name is often included in gay lists. But I can find no evidence for the claim. To my knowledge, no biography or memoir discusses any close emotional relationship or sexual liaison, either heterosexual or homosexual. His book of rather oblique pensées, *Markings*, is no help. At the very least, the case is unproven.

On the matter of bogus stamps purporting to be from former Soviet autonomous republics, these labels, bearing names such as "Udmurtia," "Batum," etc., have been sold as genuine by unscrupulous dealers for years. They should not be confused with stamps issued by the governments of autonomous and secessionist states. The Republics of Tuva, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Chechnia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Pridnetsova (Transdnestria) have all issued their own stamps. Though not recognized by the U.P.U., these are nonetheless official productions, and fall into a different category from the bogus commercial labels. A good catalogue exists of official Tuvan stamps (including those printed, but unissued during the 1990's): Tuva 2000 Stamp Catalogue, published in Sweden by SilverDalen Stamps (<http://www.silverdalen.se/stamps>). As for the rest, one must find a reputable dealer - and be very careful!

Regards,

Ian Young
(See article beginning on page 7.)

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Hi all,

I noticed in the March issue (I'm a little behind!) of the GLHSC newsletter that GLHSC was considering becoming a sustaining supporter for the World Philatelic Exhibition. I think that it would be a great idea for GLHSC to be a supporter and have a presence at the Exhibition. I'd be happy to make a donation to the cost if we decided to participate.

While I'm writing, I have to say the I always enjoy the newsletter and I appreciate all the hard work that goes into it. I wish I had a spare minute or two so I could do more to help. But, I find myself permanently over committed!

Regards,
Ann Dunkin
via e-mail

The Florida Forty Stamper

By Francis Ferguson, Jr.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Before we had Hillary, we had ER. Eleanor Roosevelt was a true citizen of the world. Widely traveled, worldly in her thinking, down to earth in her manner; and as a result, highly regarded by many, far and wide.

Few women have cut as wide a swath through society as ER did in her years. Her accomplishments, even viewed from 40 years since her death, are nothing less than awesome. First Lady of the United States, "First Lady of the World", delegate to the United Nations, Democratic Party dynamo, mother to six children, wife of FDR, social commentator for the downtrodden, syndicated daily columnist, and more than likely lesbian. While some historian's often ignore the rather substantial evidence of ER's romantic connection with the famous journalist Lorena Hickok, the GL world long ago claimed this larger-than-life first lady as a member of the "family".

Born in New York City on October 11, 1884, ER was born into a family of considerable history and position. Her Uncle Teddy Roosevelt would soon be President of the United States. Tragic events leading to the death of her mother and father by the time ER was 10 years old resulted in her living with her grandmother. After being sent abroad to finish her education, she returned to New York at the age of 18 for her debut in society. Her debut can only be described as uncomfortable.

In 1903, she was engaged to the young and dashing Franklin De-lano Roosevelt, who happened to be a distant cousin with whom she shared a comfortable bond since very early childhood. The marriage in 1905, attended by her uncle The President, was considered to be the social event of the year in New York. With this, ER passed into domesticity and maternity. During the next 12 years, six children and FDR's budding political career would demand all of her attention.

The following years, thru her arrival in the White House as the First Lady in 1933, are filled with duties of motherhood, wife, nurse, and therapist as FDR slowly recovered from polio. And last but not least, ER was the eyes and ears of FDR when circumstances demanded, thus beginning her introduction to a higher social calling.



Scott 1236

ER's White House years are a standard of performance and visibility that had never before been achieved. Accordingly with this level of exposure, critics had a great deal of material to discuss. And discuss they did -- endlessly. During the 1930s and 1940s, jokes and comments about "That Women" would make the public rounds. In recent years, the only First Lady to endure such public debate would have been Hillary Clinton.

The White House afforded this dynamic woman a showcase to officially entertain many thousands of people, with grace, charm and friendliness. She shattered all previous precedent by holding press-conferences, traveling extensively, giving lectures and radio broadcasts, and expressing her opinions candidly in a daily syndicated newspaper column, "My Day".

In 1932, Lorena Hickok met ER while working for the Associated Press. Assigned to cover the activities of the First Lady, Lorena at 40 was nearly a decade younger than the 49 year old ER. Their intense attachment and resulting correspondence continued to flourish over the following 30 years, only ending with ER's death in 1962.



Scott 2105

Much of the personal correspondence was destroyed to conceal content, but a good deal still remains to allow one to reconstruct the thoughts and hopes of these two very close women.

The years following her departure from the White House in 1945, are filled with boundless activity, and served to further re-enforce the admiration that the public felt for this remarkable woman.

(Writers note: It is painfully obvious that I have only grazed the surface of information that exists about ER. Countless volumes of material have been written over the years and I encourage you to seek out a well-balanced biography about ER.)

We once again draw to the close of another article. Have a great summer, enjoying the outdoors; and of course, the pursuit of our hobby (when time allows)! I always welcome comments or suggestions on future topics. My email address is ferg@cfl.rr.com

Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Club

Originally published in Vol. 11, No. 2, of LPJ with the title "A Decade of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club." Minor editing changes have been made, along with an additional update.

The idea of a gay stamp club arose in Hamburg, Germany in 1921. Whether the club was ever founded is unknown, but Germany was home to an active gay movement in the 1920's. Hitler's rise to power ended this era in 1933.

In 1969, gays fought back in New York City at the Stonewall bar. This event sparked the renewal of the gay movement in the United States. The 70's saw a proliferation of gay clubs, bars and books. Several of these books were on gay history. With the energy of the 70's, the idea of a gay stamp club was sure to be revived.

Paul Hennefeld is an avid stamp collector and an avid reader. Two books, Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History* and Noel Garde's *Jonathan to Gide*, allowed Paul to merge these two favorite hobbies. He began compiling a list of famous gays and lesbians on stamps from throughout the world. His two objectives were to form a gay stamp club and have the club become a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA).

The first attempt at forming a club was in 1980. Paul wrote a letter to the editor of *Gay Community News* (GCN) of Boston, Massachusetts asking anyone interested in forming a club to contact him. He received only one response. It was the editor of GCN asking Paul to write an article for the newspaper on the topic of stamp collecting. The article was published on January 17, 1981.

Paul eventually heard from Lambda Stamps of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was a gay first day cover dealer. This response led Paul to several other philatelists that were also collecting gay and lesbians on stamps. On a Sunday afternoon in the spring of 1982, Paul, Blair (his partner) and Brian Lanter met at the Greenwich Village restaurant One Potato. The discussion centered on the formation of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club. Advertisements were submitted to the *New York Native*, *the Advocate*, *Christopher Street* and others. The editor of *Mandate* was the first to respond. An article and layout of the stamps were featured in their August 1982 issue.

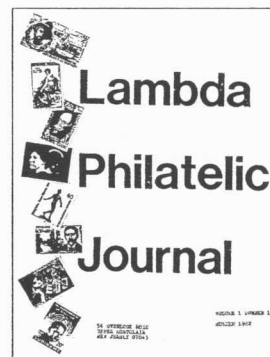
In December 1982, an application for study unit status for GLHSC was submitted to ATA. There

were four seemingly easy steps: submit a membership list (at least 10 ATA members), a copy of the proposed unit's constitution and bylaws, a list of officers (3 elected plus an editor, all ATA members) and a copy of the latest newsletter or journal.

After several months had passed, though favorable comments were made by various interested parties, GLHSC officers had not heard from the ATA Board. Finally, a July 11, 1983 letter from the ATA President arrived. The Board of Directors of the ATA voted not to charter GLHSC as a study unit. No explanation was given for the rejection. Meanwhile, Paul Hennefeld's exhibit, originally titled "Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People - A Gay and Lesbian Philatelic Collection," won the bronze award at its first presentation at INTERPEX '83, held in New York City in March 1983. It was felt the winning of the bronze award should have helped gain study unit status.

For the next two years, the mails carried letters to and from both GLHSC and ATA. The officers of GLHSC were trying to discover the reason that the application was rejected by the ATA Board. ATA never gave a clear answer, nor would they allow the minutes of the meeting to be released. In the spring of 1984, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. was contacted for its assistance in gaining study unit status. At the time, ATA was chartered in the State of Wisconsin, which had a non-discrimination law that included sexual orientation. The only drawback was that the law specifically exempted non-profit corporations. The ATA fit this category. However, the possibility existed that ATA's tax exempt status could be revoked due to discrimination.

Study unit status was finally granted by the ATA Board of directors at their June 20, 1985 meeting held in Reno, Nevada. GLHSC was given the charter with the study unit number 458. The struggle to receive recognition lasted nearly three years.



During this process, GLHSC doubled in size. The first submission of the application was comprised of 21 members. By the time study unit status was granted, GLHSC had 53 active and 20 supportive members. Paul's exhibit, renamed "Alternate Lifestyles...Out of the Closet," continued to win awards at various stamp shows.

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* also grew during the first few years. Though it has remained a quarterly journal, it grew from four pages in 1982 to the current 14 pages.

(Continued on page 9)

British Library displays stamps designed by Lawrence of Arabia

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A stamp collection containing more than 5,000 stamps that relate to World War I is on loan to the British Library from the Imperial War Museum. The collection has not been publicly displayed in more than 40 years.

The collection includes stamps for the Sherifate of Hejaz designed by Capt. T.E. Lawrence, later to gain fame as Lawrence of Arabia.

In June 1916, Grand Sherif Hussein of Mecca launched an Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire, then one of the Central Powers at war with Great Britain.

Lawrence, an obscure junior intelligence officer at British military headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, proposed issuing stamps for Hejaz, a region of the Arabian peninsula controlled by the Grand Sherif.

In a letter to his brother, Lawrence explained that the situation gave him the opportunity to carry out his dream of creating postage stamps, down to specifying the flavor of the gum.

The design chosen by Lawrence incorporated Arabesque ornamentation in a deliberately non-Ottoman style to emphasize the Sherifate's assertion of its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

The 1-piaster Details of an Ancient Prayer Niche in the Mosque of El Amri at Qus in Upper Egypt stamp, Scott Saudia Arabia L3, the blue high-value stamp in the set of three, is shown here.



A Sherifate of Mecca 1-piaster blue stamp designed by Lawrence of Arabia. The stamp is Saudi Arabia Scott L3.

In keeping with strict Islamic avoidance of graven images, all stamps in the set show only abstract designs and writing.

Without any great hope for his success, the British Army sent Lawrence to assist the Arabs in their revolt. What was the possible loss of one junior officer, more or less, while millions were dying on the Western Front?

Lawrence and the Arabs were successful beyond his own expectations and anyone else's wildest dreams.

Other items in the collection include an unused block of four 2-anna stamps overprinted in Iraq during the British Occupation of Baghdad in 1917, Scott Mesopotamia N5.

The collection includes a complete sheet of 228 Latvian 5-kapeikis Arms stamps printed on the back of a German WWI military map, Scott 2. The stamps were printed on map backs because of a shortage of paper at the end of the war. Individual map-back stamps are common, but full sheets are not.

The collection goes on display in February. The library is open seven days a week, and admission is free.

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's great research libraries. Visit the library's web site at www.bl.uk.

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Bogus Russian Locals: The Origins of an International Hoax

by Ian Young

At the twice-a-year stamp show I attend, there is always a dealer with a colorful display of paper stickers which he sells as "Russian locals." His booth always seems crowded and many customers appear to be building large collections. If anyone strikes up a conversation with me at this booth, I ask if they know that the "locals" on sale are bogus, have nothing to do with Russia and are not valid for postage anywhere. Sometimes I'm met with surprise. This is, after all, an official stamp show, sanctioned by that august body the national dealers' association; surely everything must be in order - isn't it? And in fact, the various dealers' associations do have strict, printed rules forbidding "deceptive practices" and "false or misleading claims." But as with many official documents, the reassuring words apparently have little relevance to the real world. And so far as I know, no member of any of the dealers' associations has voiced any public objection.

The March 2002 issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* included a brief warning about these "illegal postage stamps issued in the names" of various Russian regions. Six regions were listed as examples, including Tuva. The warning is timely as bogus stamps from many ex-soviet regions continue to circulate. But the inclusion of Tuva without further explanation is unfortunate; it confuses the issue, as there are genuine recent stamps from Tuva - and several other largely self-governing regions. What follows is an attempt to throw some light on a rather murky situation.

One phenomenon of the late 20th century was the rise of various kinds of multi-national and trans-national corporations. Among these were - and are - the international stamp producing companies. Governments that preferred not to bother with the tedious responsibilities of commissioning,



Bogus commercial imitation, purportedly from Mordovia, bearing unauthorized World Wildlife federation logo.

designing and producing their own stamps were now able simply to hand over a fee - and have their nation's stamp issues commercially produced and managed from outside of the country, from the conception through production and on to the ultimate end - not postage, but sale on the international collectors' market. This arrangement had particular appeal to a number of newly independent states which consequently began sanctioning generic, company-designed, look-alike productions featuring dinosaurs, American celebrities, British royalty, and licensed Disney cartoons.

One result of this sordid commerce was a noticeable deterioration in the overall quality of new stamps. Think of the early Ghanaian issues of the late 1950's and early '60's - colorful, beautifully designed and so distinctive as to be immediately recognizable! And compare them with the company produced issues of several other Commonwealth countries in the 1980's and '90's. Though competently produced, the lackluster, contracted-out depictions of Princess Diana, domestic cats and Chinese politicians are utterly lacking in national distinction and seem designed solely to enrich the issuing governments - and the stamp production company.

The situation soon began to deteriorate further. As a number of states struggled to survive military coups or descended into the chaos of civil war, their putative governments continued to commission and dispose of large number of stamps. Few or none of these commissioned issues ever saw postal duty, particularly in countries like Sierra Leone where the postal system had collapsed. "Used" copies were "cancelled to order," with some bogus cancellations even being machine-overprinted onto the stamp sheets as they flew through the presses! For a dictator whose country is crumbling around him, it is far easier - and probably more lucrative - to order the commissioning of endless sheets of stamps (perforate and imperforate, mint and cancelled to order) than it is to actually maintain a functioning postal system.

Some of the more unscrupulous stamp production companies soon realized they could eliminate government postal ministries (and their share of the profits) entirely; they began issuing gummed, perforated products with no connection whatsoever to the countries and regions emblazoned on them. This began in the early 1990's, just when the Soviet Union was breaking up and the resulting postal turmoil was producing official and



Bogus commercial imitation, supposedly from Karjala.



Bogus imitation showing James Dean, supposedly from Touva.



Genuine Touvan definitive
from the unissued set of 1994.

unofficial issues, genuine and bogus overprints and an array of genuine and bogus locals. The situation in the former Soviet territories was ripe for unregulated capitalist exploitation.

The market is now awash with bogus stamps purporting to be from various formerly Soviet regions (Batumi, Sakhalin, etc.), autonomous republics (Udmurtia, Kalmukia, Dagestan, etc.) and ethnic entities (Gagauzia), and even from independent (but relatively weak) countries such as Turkmenistan, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The bogus stamps are sold (usually misidentified as "locals") through various dealers, large and small. Most of the issues are fairly easy to identify. They are usually printed from color photographs (easier and cheaper than having to commission artwork). Their denominations (usually 50, 100, 200, etc.) show no currency units and are in fact meaningless. And though superficially attractive, they are often sloppily designed. Sometimes - especially on the souvenir sheets - the placing of the perforations making an unattractive jigsaw puzzle of the picture!

One or more of the guilty companies are thought to be based somewhere in Eastern Europe. Another is a British firm called Stampdile, which has faced legal action for using unauthorized material. *Linn's* website reported recently that the company was fined for selling stamps bearing unlicensed images of *Teletubbies* and *Star Wars* characters. According to *The Philatelic Exporter*, Stampdile was fined about \$10,000 for violation of copyright. In our litigious society, unauthorized depiction of a Teletubby is no laughing matter. (Jerry Falwell, beware!) Harry Potter may be the next to sue - or perhaps cast a spell.

Apparently undeterred by its little scrape with the law, Stampdile has also issued bogus stamps for various British islands. Eastdale Island's website warns against some of these, naming Stampdile and its proprietor Clive Feigenbaum as the culprits. (Unfortunately, the island community's assertion that they are "part of the United Kingdom and therefore our postal service is provided by The Royal Mail" is misleading as Lundy Island has used a local service to carry letters to the mainland for many years.)

Some of the bogus issues have come to the notice of the World Wildlife Fund which licenses the use of its logo as a

fund-raising and publicity device. Some companies have been using the logo on their bogus stamps without permission - a clear case fraud.

The problem, especially as it pertains to the ex-Soviet bloc regions, is complicated by the fact that the governments of a number of breakaway states still struggling for independence have officially issued their own stamps. These are unrecognized by the U.P.U. (and thus would not qualify for Stamp Control Numbers), but are nonetheless genuinely issued; at least some probably see postal duty within the borders of the secessionist territories, and perhaps even occasionally beyond.

The stamp-issuing breakaway states are: Chechnia (in Russia), Xussar Iryston (South Ossetia) and Abkhazia (both in Georgia), Nagorno-Karabakh (an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan), the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (in the Transdnistrian region of Moldova), and in Croatia, the Serb Republic of Krajina (1993-95) and its successor the Sremsko Baranska Oblast



Genuine Abkhazian
issue of 1993.



Genuine 1995 issue of
Hussar Iryston (South Ossetia).

(1995-97). In addition, Tuva (a once separate country incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1944), though not seceding from the Russian Federation, printed its own stamps during the early 1990's. The designs of some of these recalled the classic Tuvan issues of the 1930's, which are recognized by Gibbons and Michel, but still omitted by Scott. Moscow objected to the idea of Tuvan stamps and they were never put into postal use.

For some areas, both bogus commercial issues (produced by Stampdile or some other company) and issues produced by autonomous or breakaway governments are in concurrent circulation internationally. For example, there is a notorious six-stamp souvenir sheet showing a cartoon of Bill Clinton (in

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today!



Genuine 1996 issue of Nagorno-Karabakh.

boxer shorts and a party hat) and Monica Lewinsky (dressed like a school girl). The set purports to be from Abkhazia. It is in fact commercially produced, with no connection, official or otherwise, to Abkhazia. Most of the genuine productions of the Abkhazian government that I have seen show national sites and symbols and historic figures. Sets of stamps, purportedly from Tuva, showing James Dean and Laurel and Hardy are bogus. Those showing local animals and archaeological artifacts are the genuine (though unissued) article. Andreas Bachman's excellent full color catalogue, *Tuva 2000*, produced by SilverDalen Stamps in Sweden, lists and illustrates all the genuine 1990's Tuvan issues and reproduces the official resolution of the Tuvan Parliament that led to their production. I have yet to see any genuine stamps from the breakaway state of (once British) Somaliland, but a number of bogus sets are in circulation, including some showing the sinking of the Titanic - with crooked funnels.

The Universal Postal Union has now recognized the seriousness of the situation and is proposing a new system of "Stamp Control Numbers" to be printed on every stamp issued by a U.P.U. member nation. Of course, non-members like Nagorno-Karabakh and the Order of Malta, which makes its own reciprocal postal arrangements with individual governments, would remain outside the new system.

This is a brief summary of a complicated situation. Collectors of course are at liberty to collect whatever they like, including labels, fakes and bogus stamps. But they should know what they are buying and realize that there are unscrupulous dealers who misrepresent their wares. It is disheartening to purchase what you think are sets of Russian locals, only to discover you have nothing but a drawer full of bogus gummed labels, all produced by the same sleazy outfit.

Some of the items are illustrated, as aids to correct identification.

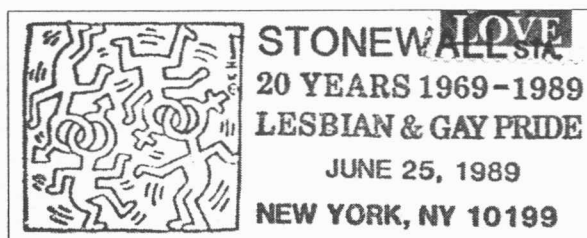


Genuine 1997 issue of the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic.

(Continued from page 5)

An article in *the Advocate*, issue number 500, printed in May 1988 contained a one page article, "If You Can't Lick'em, Collect'em." It included general information on GLHSC and several stamps from Paul's collection. The response to the article was tremendous. Membership grew to over 100 members.

The following year, 1989, was another successful year for GLHSC. Another organization, GLAAD, independently arranged to have a postal cancellation created to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Artist Keith Haring designed the cancel. Senator Jesse Helms thought this was unacceptable. His objections helped pique interest in the cancel, which in turn helped GLHSC experience another boost in membership.



In the fall, GLHSC held a meeting at World Stamp Expo '89 held in Washington, DC. Nearly 30 people attended this meeting. GLHSC was also asked to assemble one frame (16 pages) for the exhibition area. Another major GLHSC meeting was held in conjunction with Pacific '97, held in San Francisco, CA.

The 1990's were quiet, though numerous gay, lesbian and transgender cancels and postmarks were issued. The first GLHSC membership directory was published in 1996.

With greater access to the internet and a proliferation of computer games in the late 90's, the stamp collecting hobby has seen an overall decline in the past few years. GLHSC, like many other philatelic groups, has experienced a loss in membership. GLHSC seems to be holding steady at 135 - 140 members, down from a high of nearly 175 in the early 1990's.

As GLHSC enters its third decade, acceptance of gays and lesbians seems to be increasing. More and more people are coming out of the closet, thus increasing the potential for more GLBT personalities to be featured on stamps. Look for their stories to be featured in the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

Narcissus

By Ian Young

In his classic study *Understanding Media*, Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan identified as a central symbol of our modern, technological society, the figure of Narcissus, the Greek youth whose myth inspired Oscar Wilde to create Dorian Gray. The classic Narcissus myth has two versions: a heterosexual one, which is well known, and a gay one, which has been neglected. In the gay version, Narcissus is a city boy: "he was very handsome but scorned the joys of love. He was loved by a young man, Ameinias, but did not love him in return, kept rejecting him, and finally sent him the present of a sword. Ameinias used the sword to commit suicide in front of Narcissus' door, calling down curses on Narcissus as he died."

Even this terrible tragedy did not free Narcissus from his trance; he did not take up his staff and wander into the desert, meditating on love, death, and immortality, like Gilgamesh after his companion, the wild man Enkidu, mysteriously sickened and died. Instead he gazed into a pool, fell - finally - in love (with his own reflection) and, desperate with passion, drowned. The narcissus flower, with its intoxicating perfume, sprung up from the river bank where he was washed ashore.

The Narcissus myth has had many interpretations. Herbert Marcuse saw Narcissus as the fantasizing opposite of Prometheus, and a symbol for the "refusal to accept separation...aiming at liberation, at the reunion of what has become separated." McLuhan ruminated on the "Narcissus narcosis" of the technological society: we fall in love with, and are mesmerized by, our gadgets and innovations (drugs, television, etc.) not realizing that they are extensions of our own nervous systems. We refuse love, and then have to cope with the blood on our doorstep.

Whatever interpretation we choose to follow, there is no doubt the ancient myth still has resonance today, and the legend of the beautiful young man who turns away from the world's love to gaze instead on his own reflected image still inspires philosophers and artists, thousands of years after the tale was first told.



Scott no. 624

The name Narcissus has appeared in a number of modern fictions about close male bonding. In Hermann Hesse's novel *Narcissus and Goldmund: The Story of a Friendship*, Narcissus is a studious, spiritual monk whose friend breaks away to wander the world and fulfill his sensual self, eventually returning to create his artistic masterpiece - a carving of the Madonna. Hesse based his story of two close male friends on his own relationship with his "double," Hugo Ball, who died, still young, in 1927, the year Hesse had prophesied as the date of his own possible suicide.



Scott no. 2239

A Narcissus figure plays a key role in the genesis of T.S. Eliot's masterpiece *The Waste Land*. In an earlier poem, "The Death of St. Narcissus," Eliot created a complex, solipsistic central character, a blending of the pagan Narcissus and the martyred Christian saint, Sebastian, another figure sacred to gay men. In *The Waste Land* itself, this figure, both blessed and cursed, reappears as prophet, penitent and pilgrim.

From the high culture of Hesse and Eliot, Narcissus has wandered into gay pop culture as well. Jim Bidgood's anonymous 1971 film *Pink Narcissus*, a lush kaleidoscope of colorful erotic fantasies starring the handsome, sultry Bobby Kendall, remains a camp favorite.

The mythical Narcissus has appeared on stamps of Greece (Scott no. 624) and Albania (Scott no. 1521). The flower that grew from his remains is held to be symbolic of youth, beauty and desire, and of the cycle of birth, death and regeneration. It has appeared on stamps of about a dozen countries.

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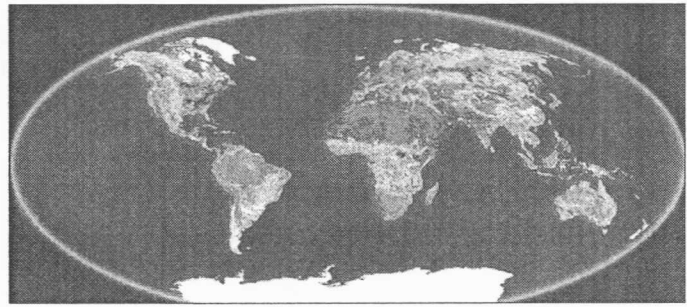
Gay & Lesbian Update

Paul Hennefeld and Blair, his partner, have spent an enormous amount of time, in conjunction with a web site designer, to develop a site to display Paul's award-winning exhibit, 'Out of the Closet, A Gay and Lesbian Philatelic Collection.' They have been working on this project for months, and at long-last almost all the pages are up on the site. There are many typos which still need to be corrected, but, most importantly, there is a big 'issue', unresolved, regarding how well these pages are being displayed utilizing various computer makes, Internet Service Providers, monitor styles, and browsers. For example, they have found that some of the site's pages, depending upon the foregoing variables, are too wide - they need a left-right scroll. Or the text wraps in a peculiar manner or some of the links don't work.

Paul and Blair would appreciate it if the members would take a look at various sections of the site... www.paulsgaystamps.com/ to see how it looks on their own monitors. Paul, Blair and their web site designer would value this input. Please reply to them directly at hennefeld@earthlink.net, and give as much exact info as possible regarding the nature of the errors as well as the name of your internet service provider and specifics regarding your computer and browser utilized. They do not need any data regarding typos, as they have pages and pages of corrections which still need to be inputted.

To all the GLHSC members who help them with this task of perfecting their site, they extend a huge thank you in advance.

Paul and Blair would also appreciate it if you could all get the word out about their site. If you know of any organizations or sites which would be interested in linking to theirs, please let them know. They are attempting to get www.paulsgaystamps.com hooked up to search engines, but that is a long, tedious process, and it will be a while before that actually happens.



It's a GAY world...

Cuba issued a set of nine stamps on December 20, 2001. The set features film stars who never won an Academy Award.

Tyrone Power, Scott no. 4187.
James Dean, Scott no. 4191.
Rock Hudson, Scott no. 4192.

Gambia issued a souvenir sheet of four stamps on April 26, 2001. The sheet features four different photos of Marlene Dietrich. Scott no. 2466 a-d.

New Zealand issued a set of six stamps in four different formats on December 4, 2001. These stamps were to commemorate the filming of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in New Zealand. Sir Ian McKellen portrayed Gandalf the Grey in the movies. He can be found on Scott nos. 1750, 1750a and 1756. He is also featured on the cover of the self-adhesive booklet, shown on page 13.

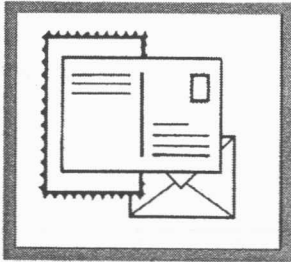
The six stamps were issued in sheets of ten, souvenir sheets of one, a self-adhesive strip of six (one of each design) and a self-adhesive booklet of ten stamps (four #1756, one #1757, two #1758, one #1759, one #1760 and one #1761.)

Paraguay issued an air post souvenir sheet featuring Ludwig van Beethoven on February 28, 1977. Scott no. C448.

Palau issued a set of three sheets of six stamps and three souvenir sheets on October 30, 2001 for the centennial of the Nobel Prizes. André Gide can be found on Scott no. 625f.


Uruguay issued a stamp of David by Michelangelo, for its 500th anniversary, on March 22, 2001. Scott no. 1897.

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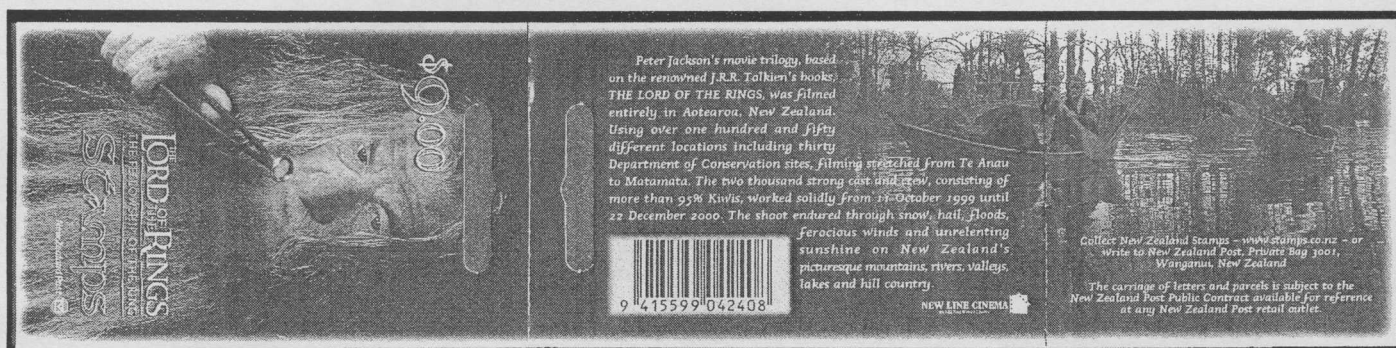
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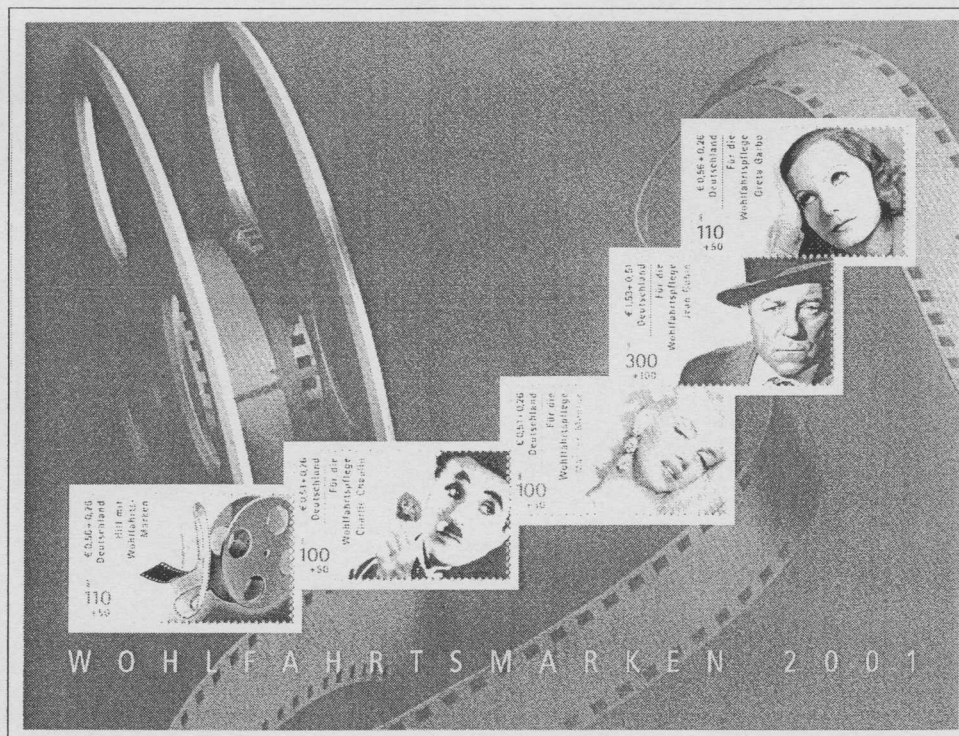




Souvenir Sheet featuring Sir Ian McKellen,
Scott no. 1750a



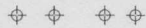
Cover of New Zealand's Lord of the Rings self-adhesive booklet.



German Scott no. B894b

(Continued from page 3)

I received word that Bob Gesell passed away sometime last spring. His ad has been removed from the journal



Several members, including Ann, have expressed interest in GLHSC becoming a supporting member of Washington 2006. Should GLHSC pay the \$500, then collect from members when they pay their 2003 dues? Or, should we wait until January or February and pay after we collect the \$500? Your input would be greatly appreciated.

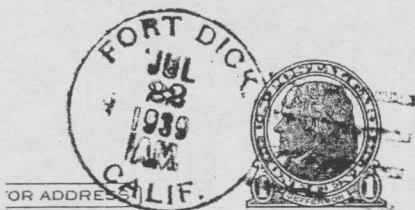
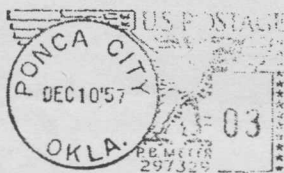


Some fun meters and postmarks submitted by various GLHSC members:

HELP A BOY
BECOME A MAN



TRADE
with the
BOYS



TION
g NEXT TO MYSELF
" LIKE B.V.D. BEST "



Last Lick

APS STAMPSHOW 2002 in Atlantic City, New Jersey

The largest annual postage stamp show in the United States will run from August 15-18, 2002 at the (new) Atlantic City Convention. More than 150 dealers will have booths at the show which will also include nearly 15,000 pages of exhibits, three first day ceremonies including one for the four United States stamps celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Teddy Bear, 125 Society meetings and seminars, a cachet makers bourse, at least two auctions, and the American Philatelic Society general and board meetings. Admission is free and door prizes will be awarded hourly.

Special activities will include a large interactive youth area, an adult beginner program, an area where a bucket of stamps may be purchased for only \$5 (\$1 for youth age 15 and under) and more than fifteen booths at which all stamps will sell for 10 cents or less and all covers for \$1 or less.

Visit http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_StampShow_intro.htm for the latest information on the show schedule, participating dealers and Societies, and hotel and travel discounts. Also on the website, individuals may register for the show, sign up for a monthly e-mail bulletin, or volunteer to help. If you do not have access to the web, the APS can be reached at PO Box 8000, State College, PA 16803-8000, telephone 814-237-3803, ext 218, fax 814-237-6128. E-mail queries may be sent to stampshow@stamps.org.

