



# GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS

## JOURNAL



GLHSONLINE.ORG



Issue 024

April 2024

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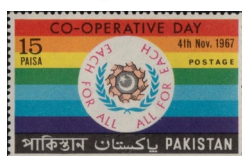
## Rainbow Flag Stamps Had Forerunners

By Arthur P. von Reyn

The first stamp to specifically illustrate a rainbow flag is the “Fight Against Discrimination” emission (Scott #2456) from Uruguay released in 2013. The stamp’s design is extracted from Eugene Delacroix’s monumental painting “Liberty Leading the People” (1830). The Uruguayan stamp designer took the liberty of replacing the Delacroix’s French tricolor with a rainbow flag, but the depicted flag is upside down!



However, the basic design of the Rainbow Flag debuted on a couple of stamps even before the rainbow flag replaced the pink triangle as a new symbol of LGBT pride and LGBT social movements.



In 1967, Pakistan issued a 15 paise Cooperative Day single (Scott #245) to publicize cooperatives formed to provide homes to economically disadvantaged people living in the world’s fifth most populated country. The cooperative movement’s logo is superimposed over seven rainbow stripes with the fifth and sixth colors from the top being pale blue and turquoise instead of the blue found on the standard six color rainbow flag of today.

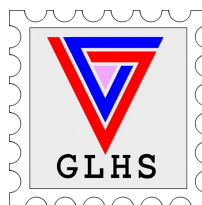
Nine years later, Rwanda issued a souvenir sheet (Scott #770) and eight single stamps (Scott #762-69) to commemorate the 1976 Montreal Olympics. The four stamps within the souvenir sheet have silhouettes of athletes and inscriptions superimposed over six rainbow stripes. This time, the strip colors are almost identical to the rainbow flag, except the second stripe from the bottom is light blue instead of blue. In the eight single stamps (not shown), the same sequence is used, but the stamps are in a vertical instead of horizontal format.

One would like to believe that artist and gay activist Gilbert Baker (1951-2017) was a stamp collector who saw these stamps and was inspired to create the rainbow flag that was first used for San Francisco’s Gay Freedom Day parade on June 25, 1978. However, a 1985 profile of Baker in the *Bay Area Reporter* said he “chose the rainbow motif because of its associations with the hippie movement of the Sixties but he notes the use of the design dates all the way back to ancient Egypt.” In fact, there was a “Brotherhood Flag” used in the 1960s that had five horizontal stripes representing different races: red, white, brown, yellow and black.

The rainbow flag has morphed into all sorts of variations over the years. In fact, Baker’s original version for San Francisco’s 1978 Gay Freedom Day parade had eight colors, with a hot pink strip at the top and a turquoise between the blue and violet stripes. The number of stripes was soon reduced to seven. In 1979, a six stripe version arrived that is the one most often seen today.

One of the advantages of collecting worldwide stamps is the vast variety of subjects depicted on more modern ones. That is how I ran across the two forerunner stamps mentioned here. If you come across others, let me know.





The *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal* is published quarterly by Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS). GLHS is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205, and a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458.

The **objective** of GLHS is 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 as having prominent homosexual behavior, and

Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHS strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Submissions due</u>
July 2023	June 15
October 2023	September 15
January 2024	December 15
April 2023	March 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

### GLHS Board of Directors 2022-2023

President: Lisa Foster (Wash.)

Vice President: John P. Stefanek (Mich.)

Secretary: Marlene Michelson (Calif.)

Treasurer: Laurie Anderson (Wash.)

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Thank you for renewing your membership in Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps and for recognizing the importance of supporting your philatelic community. Your continued participation and financial support are essential as we continually strive to strengthen our organization.

**Membership dues for 2024** continue at \$10.00 a year. You may make your dues payment online via PayPal at <http://www.glhsonline.org/pages/onlinememberform.html>.

You may also make dues payments via check or money order payable to GLHS to the Treasurer, Laurie Anderson, 646 169<sup>th</sup> St. S., Spanaway, WA 98387.

## Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **82** members. 49 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 37 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS  
notify GLHS*

## Additional volunteers are needed



- Social Media Committee to explore options for group open and/or closed online communications/meetings such as Google, Instagram, twitter, blogs, go-to meeting, HipChat, etc.
- GLHS Journal Editor
- GLHS Journal Columnists
- Index GLHS journal articles since 2018
- Give presentations in person or virtually
- Coordinate GLHS Socials
- Maintain membership
- Advertising Committee
- Submit articles, journeys, cover/postal history write ups, travels and philatelic events

## GLHS Virtual Presentation 09 April 2024



### *Cachet Maker* **Hideaki Nakano**

04/09/2024  
4:30 PM Pacific Time  
7:30 PM Eastern Time

Zoom Meeting ID:  
871 5790 9646  
Passcode: 532014

Presentation  
by  
Dale Smith

## Special Event

April 27, 2024,  
10:00 a.m. PST



Smithsonian  
National Postal Museum

**LGBTQ Philately Study Day**, sponsored by Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Invitational gathering of curators, philatelists, historians, and other practitioners from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at WESTPEX Stamp Show, Room 6096, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA.

**Registration is required to attend and participate.** Please see [instructions](#) for more details and registration information.



## Great American Stamp Show '24

GASS 2024 will be held August 15-18 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. Pre-register to avoid the lines and get a pre-made name badge. Pre-registration closes on July 31 [Pre-Registration \(stamps.org\)](https://stamps.org).

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS) will have an open meeting during the show. The time slot requested was Friday afternoon as members decided at last year's show. The date and time have not yet been confirmed. The show schedule will be available in the next few months at [APS > Great American Stamp Show > Meetings and Seminars](#).

Wondering how to get around? The city has a free downtown shuttle bus service, called DASH. Normally it only runs Monday through Friday 7 to 7, but service is being extended for GASS 2024. Its stops include the convention center/Marriott, the Hilton, the art museum, the train station, and historic sites. [CLICK HERE](#) for a route map. There is also an Inexpensive Airport Shuttle: CT Transit has a \$1.75 bus to and from the airport, the *Bradley Flyer*, with stops at the convention center and train station. [Shuttle Information](#).



The ATA will be celebrating 75 years at GASS 24! The Annual Meeting and Birthday Celebration will be held Friday August 16 at 2:00 PM. They are requesting RSVPs to ensure they have enough giveaways and treats for all the party goers. RSVP at <https://americantopical.org/event-5627793>

The celebration will continue with the [ATA President's Reception](#) on Friday evening (be sure to register by August 1 if you plan to attend).

## Letters Received....

**Jerry R...**

Enjoy the newsletter though I seldom run across any of the stamps.

## Collaboration and Outreach

The Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER) is an international stamp society dedicated to promoting the collecting of stamps and philatelic material depicting people and events related to the African Diaspora and to encouraging and supporting the interest and participation of Black people in all aspects of philately. <https://www.esperstamps.org/>

Don Neal, editor of ESPER's newsletter, *Reflections*, wrote, "I had done an extensive article in ESPER's *Reflections* newsletter for Pride Month (with the help of the GLHS website and other sources) back in July 2021...I try to be as inclusive as I can with *all* the connections -- cultural and philatelic -- to Black history...so much to learn!" Don requested an article from GLHS for publication.

GLHS members Carol Costa and John Stefanak answered the call for volunteers. Carol offered to write the article and John offered to assist with identifying LGBTQ individuals of color on stamps and providing stamp images.

Carol commented that the article Don wrote featured 15 Black men and women who have appeared on stamps, with images of the stamps included. "The article was very well researched and was detailed".

Thank you both for taking on this project! We all look forward to reading the article when it is published.

### Publication Content Wanted

Did you recently acquire a fun stamp?  
An interesting cover? Scan it!

Did you attend a philatelic related event, in person or virtually? If so tell us about it!

Send all submissions for publication to  
[glhstamps2@gmail.com](mailto:glhstamps2@gmail.com).

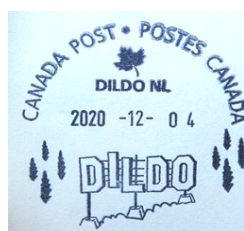
## © Fight Aids Monaco

Founded by H.S.H. Princess Stéphanie in 2004, Fight Aids Monaco is an NGO that works mainly to support people living with HIV. Addressing the mental distress, isolation, and discrimination experienced by many people with HIV, Fight Aids offers a place of calm, safety, and tolerance open to all, whether in Monaco, in France with La Maison de Vie, or internationally. The charity also carries out numerous prevention campaigns and holds fundraising events to enable it to continue its work.



40,000 stamps issued March 20, 2024. Stamps and First Day Covers available at <https://www.oetp-monaco.com/>

Tomas Griebing's exhibit on the Pink Triangle is completed and has been shown in Houston and San Diego. Be sure to see Tomas' exhibit, "*From Mark of Oppression to Symbol of Gay Pride—The Pink Triangle*" at GASS/NTSS 2024.



The postmark represents the hillside sign that overlooks the town of **Dildo**.

Dildo is a local service district and designated place in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador on the island of Newfoundland. It is located on the southeastern Dildo Arm of Trinity Bay about 100 kilometers west of St. John's. South Dildo is a community located to the south, and in 2021 had 195 residents.



## “Night Mail”

Introduction By John P. Stefanek



W. H. Auden (1907-1973) had already met Christopher Isherwood, been to Berlin, married lesbian novelist Erika Mann, become a beloved schoolteacher, and published four books of poems before he began work with the General Post Office Film Unit.

It was while working with the GPO that Auden met Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), who had recently graduated from the Royal College of Music. *Night Mail* was featured on a stamp issued on 13 May 2013 (Scott 3294a) as part of a set commemorating Great British Film.

## AN ODE TO THE NIGHT MAIL

By Jeff Stage

\*Reprinted with permission of the author and the editor from *The American Philatelist*, January 2024, Volume 138, No. 1, Page 38-42.\*



“The Traveling Post Office Euston” (1946) watercolor—Courtesy of The Royal Mail Archive, The Postal Museum, London.

There’s just something special about trains, old movies and the mail for many of us of a certain age (you know it, Baby Boomers)!

All those elements merge perfectly in a 1936 documentary titled *Night Mail*.

I was unaware of this simple black-and-white film until less than a year ago when I stumbled upon it during some late-night browsing on the internet. I wish I could recall exactly what terms I plugged in to prompt this gem to pop up, but no worries, I will provide you with several links.

The film has some name power behind it, including poet W.H. Auden, who penned the film’s concluding signature poem, and award-winning composer Benjamin Britten, who was responsible for the musical background. The film’s two directors – Harry Watt and Basil Wright – both had successful careers in British film.

The movie, which runs about 24 minutes, is dark (this is the night mail, after all) and a tad blurry when viewed online today; it’s from another era without the flash and wow factors of modern film. But the mood is perfect to convey the common but oh, so important story of the movement of mail of its time, repeated for many decades earlier and later.

Early on, the film’s narrator offers the most basic terms of the importance of this train – known then as a “postal special” – from London.

“Its 14 cars carry no passengers ... it is manned by 40 post office workers ... half a million letters are sorted, picked up or dropped at full speed during the night, or carried on for the morning delivery in Scotland. Four million miles every year ... 500 million letters every year ... 34 points between London and Glasgow mail waits.”

In those days, of course, long before cheap modern communications, the postal system was incredibly important. Great Britain, like the United States and many places across the globe, had long used railroads to transport mail. In Great Britain, postal trains date to the 1830s with the final run that involved sorting in train cars – the Traveling Post Office – on January 9, 2004.

With a minimalist approach to hard facts and details, *Night Mail* tells and shows the story of moving the mail-between London and Scotland. Images artistically wend their way throughout.

A steam locomotive puffs through the hills of Scotland; precariously hung mail bags are suddenly snatched and plopped inside a speeding mail car with resounding thuds; a newspaper tossed from the train lands by the tracks near a rural farm; a ghostly white light appears from the firebox as a fireman feeds coal inside the locomotive; a Scottie dog rambles alongside the train, vainly trying to keep up; the light of dawn rises as Royal Mail cars casually roll into their final destination.

For train groupies out there, the locomotive for this postal special is an LMS Royal Scot Class 6115 Scots Guardsman.

## A well-known film

I wanted to get a native's point of view, so I contacted Charles Posner, a Brit who writes about U.S. stamps for *The American Philatelist*.

He noted how the General Post Office (GPO) created a program similar to the Federal Art Project of 1935, part of the United States' Depression-era Work Progress Administration. The FAP employed artists to do things like create travel posters and murals in post offices.

"The GPO did the same in 1933 under John Grierson and Stephen Tallents," Posner said. "The GPO had a film unit that produced quite a number of amazing films. The idea was to honor the work of everyday people. Many were avant-garde and gave a start to careers of many directors; the name of John Schlesinger springs to mind."

Posner said that the film *Night Mail* inspired documentaries in other countries, notably France, and "is regarded as a classic in the film world. It is regularly shown at the British Film Institute and on television," he said. The movie "marked a revolution in the filming of the everyday life of people, had innovatory techniques and a unique combination of talents."

Throughout *Night Mail* we hear familiar sounds: a train whistle, muffled announcements at a station, cars clacking over the tracks, muted conversations between busy mail sorters. Then there is Britten's background music, classical in nature, but surely evoking visions of a train on a chugga-chugga mission. After viewing the original product, the film's producers sought a better ending to it and contracted Auden to create the poem, a "verse commentary," according to some.

The final version of the poem reaches a climax with the recitation of what may be the world's finest prose presentation of the mail ever written.

Fifty-three lines total tell the tale of a train ("it carries no passengers") that travels "at 8:30 p.m., weekdays and Sundays" overnight from London to Scotland.

Black and white images from the 1936 GPO production of *Night Mail*. (Courtesy Library of Congress.)

Auden wrote the poem at the film unit's main office in Soho Square. Film director Watt described Auden's work area as "a bare table at the end of a dark, smelly, noisy corridor." The poet paced it to match the rhythm of the train's wheels with a stopwatch to fit it exactly to each shot.

It is not Auden whose voice you hear in the movie; it is Stuart Legg, who joined Grierson as one of the narrators. (Both worked as producers and writers in the film industry.) When it comes to the film's signature poem, Legg speaks slowly at first but eventually pounds out the verse as quickly and rhythmically as a speeding steam train or a modern rapper (your choice). Legg is said to have taken many deep breaths and pauses while recording it.

According to a student's detailed study, the movie includes 250 identifiable shots with such overarching scene titles as, "Signal Box Sequence," "Farmer Sequence," "Mail Handling" and "Travelling Post Office Sequence."

## Breaking it down

Here are a few of the details I learned about the creation of the movie:

Most of *Night Mail* was filmed without sound; dialogue, music and the poem added later in studio.

You can watch the full film here on the Daily Motion website: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7utm3o>

To hear just the poem with some original footage, visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_4r\\_YymgSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_4r_YymgSI)

A revised and shortened more artistic version with more modern audio effects, "This is the Night Mail" (2017), can be found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVHLED7L\\_dE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVHLED7L_dE)



Production, which took four months, was a collaborative effort among many, though much credit goes to the directors. Watt handled much of the research, the first broad script and assured that human touches, such as workers telling jokes or drinking coffee, were included.

Wright was the overriding person in charge. He developed the final script and handled the editing with *Alberto Cavalcanti*. Auden also contributed as an assistant director.

Real postal employees appear throughout, but their dialogue was written by the directors, who were inspired by conversations they overheard while observing them at work.

Background sound was recorded in various locations, including Bletchley station, where engineers were sometimes asked to pass at full speed with a blowing whistle.

Action at a station – scripted as a 13-minute stop – took several days to film and needed scaffolding and arc lights.

## Night Mail

By W.H. Auden

This is the night mail crossing the Border,  
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,

Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,  
The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb:  
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.

Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder  
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder,

Snorting noisily as she passes  
Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.

Birds turn their heads as she approaches,  
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.

Sheep-dogs cannot turn her course;  
They slumber on with paws across.

In the farm she passes no one wakes,  
But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.

Dawn freshens, Her climb is done.  
Down towards Glasgow she descends,  
Towards the steam tugs yelping down a glade of cranes  
Towards the fields of apparatus, the furnaces  
Set on the dark plain like gigantic chessmen.  
All Scotland waits for her:  
In dark glens, beside pale-green lochs  
Men long for news.

Letters of thanks, letters from banks,  
Letters of joy from girl and boy,  
Receipted bills and invitations  
To inspect new stock or to visit relations,  
And applications for situations,  
And timid lovers' declarations,  
And gossip, gossip from all the nations,  
News circumstantial, news financial,  
Letters with holiday snaps to enlarge in,  
Letters with faces scrawled on the margin,  
Letters from uncles, cousins, and aunts,  
Letters to Scotland from the South of France,  
Letters of condolence to Highlands and Lowlands  
Written on paper of every hue,  
The pink, the violet, the white and the blue,  
The chatty, the catty, the boring, the adoring,  
The cold and official and the heart's outpouring,  
Clever, stupid, short and long,  
The typed and the printed and the spelt all wrong.

Thousands are still asleep,  
Dreaming of terrifying monsters  
Or of friendly tea beside the band in Cranston's or  
Crawford's:

Asleep in working Glasgow, asleep in well-set Edinburgh,  
Asleep in granite Aberdeen,  
They continue their dreams,  
But shall wake soon and hope for letters,  
And none will hear the postman's knock  
Without a quickening of the heart,  
For who can bear to feel himself forgotten?



Once filming was complete, a crew member carried film reels onto an actual postal special and slept on mail bags throughout the night's journey so he could deliver the film the next day for processing at Humphries Laboratories.

Wright hired an aircraft to take aerial shots of the train chugging through the countryside. Watt filmed the interior and location shots.

Sorters are seen working and swaying as the postal train moves through the countryside. They are real post office workers but were filmed in a reconstructed set built at the GPO's studio. They were instructed to sway from side to side by following the movement of a suspended piece of string.

There's even a little action outside the stations, control room and train, and those details add depth. A work crew smokes pipes and share beer as the postal special zips past; postal agents hang heavy leather pouches from cranes for pickup; rabbits hop off into passing woods; and a dog chases the train.

Another able assistant on the project was Henry "Chick" Fowle, who is credited with capturing several dramatic shots, including the mail bag being dropped off into a trackside net at high speed.

"To do this," according to a Wikipedia entry, Fowle "leaned out of the coach where the metal arm reached outward while his two colleagues held onto his legs. [They] got the shot just before the arm quickly swung back upon contact."

Cameraman Pat Jackson took a dramatic shot inside the locomotive. He sat atop of a coal pile in the tender while holding a reflective sheet made with silver paper that acted as a mirror to make subjects brighter. As he filmed, the train passed a bridge that knocked the reflector off and narrowly missed his head.

Britten (1913-1976) was one of Britain's most influential musicians of the mid-20th century. He created a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. He lived in the U.S. during the early years of World War II and was friends with American composer Aaron Copland. Critics loved and hated his work, which include "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," "The War Requiem," and an opera, "Peter Grimes."



In 2013, Royal Mail honored Britten as part of a Famous People set of 10 stamps (Scott 3163).

Auden (1907-1973) was an equally influential British-American (he lived for a while in Brooklyn and taught English at the University of Michigan). His written word included poetry, prose, essays and films. His critics ranged from those who critiqued him as a lesser figure to Yeats and Eliot, to fellow poet and essayist Joseph Brodsky, who stated Auden had "the greatest mind of the 20th century."

A much shortened (about 4 minutes long) and more artistic revival of the film was created in 2017. The 4-minute video features a driving modern beat and select audio and visual passages from the original. The remastered film is much clearer. This reboot, created by Jamie Lowe under the KinoKast label, is well done and worth a look.

## RESOURCES

"Watt-Wright, Night Mail (1936)," Daily Motion, <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7utm3o>.

"Night Mail – Critical Analysis, Syntagmatic Analysis, Voiceover Script (2006)," by the Rev. Merle K. Peirce.

"Traveling Post Office," Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travelling\\_Post\\_Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travelling_Post_Office).

W.H. Auden, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W.\\_H.\\_Auden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._H._Auden).

Benjamin Britten, Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin\\_Britten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Britten).



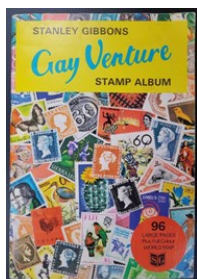
## American Philatelic Society (APS)

Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps as an APS Affiliate (AF0205).

GLHS is listed on the online directory of specialty societies at <https://stamps.org/Collect/Affiliates> and <https://classic.stamps.org/Specialty-Societies>. According to the Specialty Society site, GLHS has been an "Affiliate since: 8/31/1991."

## Gay Ventures

### A Philatelic Column - Larry Crain



The chances of finding one in a search of stamps or covers is less than one in a thousand. For that reason they are collected and specifically noted by dealers.

I'm referring to February 29 cancels. They exist as a correction to our calendar made by Pope Gregory to keep Easter in the spring, that is to make the match between our daily calendar and the time it takes the Earth to revolve around the sun closer.

The first leap day was February 29, 1584. The first postage stamp was issued May 1, 1840 and so the first leap day cancel on a postage stamp was February 29, 1844. Below is the front and back of a folded letter.



Because of their infrequency and predictability, February 29 cancels are created as an individual philatelic pursuit. One collector was in for the long run, at least 12 years.



Serendipity comes when a February 29 cancel connects with one's life. The 1936 cover is from the U.S.S. Umpqua (AT-25), a Bagaduce-class tugboat in operation 1919 to 1946. It is named after the Umpqua tribe on the Umpqua River in Oregon. My high school

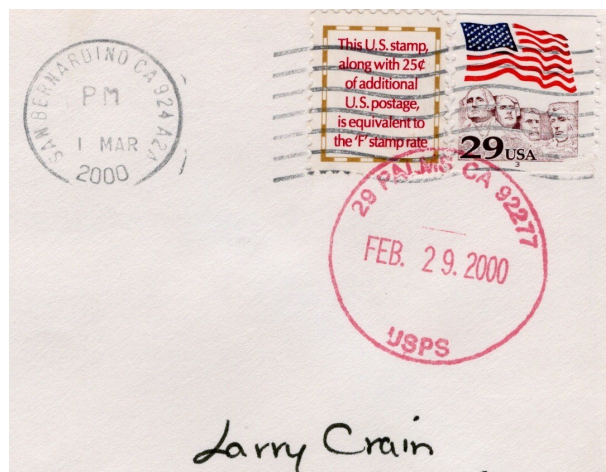
was three blocks from the South Umpqua River and our yearbook is the Umpqua.



I also collect Plate Number Coils of the Transportation series and covers with the copyright symbol on the selvage. The second cover I created.



Another cover I created was for February 29, 2000. February 29s are exceptions in the calendar and February 29, 2000 is even more of an exception. February 29 is every four years divisible by four, except for the even 100 years such as 1900, except for 2000 which does have a February 29. My created cover repeats the 29 with the postage and with the post office name.



Collect your February 29, 2024 covers now while they are easier to find.

## Isle of Capris

Philip E. mailed this stamp to Lisa F. and wrote the following:



*One of my all-time favorite stamps has a long gay and lesbian history attached to the Isle of Capri.*

*I have been an amateur gay and lesbian historian for a few years now, I love Greek culture, the nude statues and the geography, ancient temples and the like. I bought a wonderful book about Capri awhile back that made a brief reference to the small gay colony so I spent time on researching it. As for the stamp, I probably never noticed what it was so I put it with the thousands of others that I have; when I took a close look and saw that it was Capri, it made my day, it connects with our history.*

Lisa, unfamiliar with the history, browsed the internet:

Prior to WWI the island was extremely popular with wealthy gay men. A wealthy German Industrialist, Friedrich Alfred Krupp (Essen, 1854-1902), resided for months in a suite of the Grand Hotel Quisisana. Land he purchased for a future construction, was later donated and transformed into the Gardens of Augustus. The public park opened in 1902 and includes a panoramic coastal path (Via Krupp) which zigzags its way down the cliffs all the way to the bay of Marina Piccola.



Via Krupp con la piccola Marina, early 1900s

Krupp was the subject of Germany's biggest gay scandal of the early 20th century. In 1902 he was accused in opposition newspapers of having sexual relations with various local boys on Capri, including an 18-year-old local barber and amateur musician named Adolfo Schiano. Krupp was also

rumored to have orgies with the local youth at the bottom of his path, where his yacht, the *Puritan*, was often moored. After Krupp was expelled from Italy, he returned to his home in Essen, where he died officially from ill health, although it is believed he committed suicide.

In 1897, Oscar Wilde, stayed at the Hotel Quisisana, with his lover Lord Alfred Douglas. The visit lasted only one night as Wilde was refused service in one of Capri's restaurants.

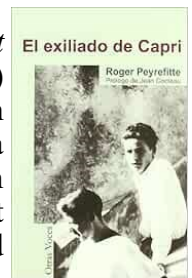


Oscar Wilde, Ireland 2000

French poet and real-estate heir, Jacques d'Adelsward-Fersen (Parigi, 1880 - Capri, 1923) first visited the island in 1897 and shortly after decided to seek refuge here following his involvement in several sex scandals in his native France. In 1905, Baron Fersen decided to construct his Art Nouveau style villa, Villa Lysis, named for Plato's dialogue on the nature of male love. The entrance features four white columns decorated with gold mosaics. Baron Fersen lived on the Island of Capri for two decades, accompanied by his faithful secretary and lover, Nino Cesarini. Fersen also committed suicide on Capri, in 1923, by drinking champagne mixed with cocaine.

Wilhelm Pluschow an early photographer of male nudes, also lived on Capri and photographed Cesarini. Today Villa Lysis' tiled opium den remains intact, and the villa is filled with photographs of Cesarini dressed as Pan.

Fersen wrote the *roman à clef* *Et le feu s'éteignit sur la mer* (1910) about Capri and its residents in the early 20th century, causing a minor scandal. Fersen's life on Capri became the subject of Roger Peyrefitte's fictionalized biography, *L'Exilé de Capri*.



Today, Capri has become more of a resort and is visited by tourists during the summer months of July and August.



Tourism - Capris Italy 1986

# PHILATUNES

## Songs, Stamps...and Snacks?

By Barry Christensen

After sharing my musings in the January 2024 issue of the GLHS Journal about the musical soundtrack for my stamp collection, I received a wonderful email from GLHS member Ingo Nessel who graciously agreed for me to share his "Philatetunes" with you all.

Ingo wrote,



USPS  
03/15/2024  
Owensboro,  
KY

"I generally listen to music while stamping. Depending upon the activity I usually choose one of my personally curated playlists on iTunes. My interests are very broad, including folk, bluegrass, country, rock, international (I studied ethnomusicology), Motown, funk (can't beat James Brown), blues, easy listening, dance, etc. But my two very favorite genres are jazz and classical. I have numerous specialized playlists in those two.

"My 'classical moody' playlist is a frequent accompaniment during daytime stamp activities. At night, when I am writing an article or producing a presentation, jazz (sub-lists: piano, sax, organ, soft, faves, 20's-30's) is usually playing in the background.

"I feel lucky to have grown up in Montreal during the 50's and 60's. There was a liberal ethos that accepted diverse music genres (and other diversity too). In the 1970's I hosted informal music learning parties with friends in my first apartment away from my parents' home. We would pick a theme (examples: Indian sitar and tabla, Stravinsky, a solo guitar performance by a friend, Gregorian chant [that one bombed], really anything anyone wanted to explore. It was blast."



India,  
Communal  
Harmony  
Campaign—  
Sitar,  
11/19/1995

Thank you, Ingo, for inspiring us to curate our stamp collecting playlists from a wide variety of music! As I considered all those fascinating musical genres, the thought came to me, "What snacks and drinks would pair well with those soundtracks?" My sixth-grade teacher, who taught me

the love of literature, once commented to me, "When I'm reading, I always want to get a snack!" (my version of that is, "When I'm snacking, I always want something to read!")



So, what about our stamp collections? Is sipping and snacking something you do when the stamps are front and center? I learned the hard way about mixing food and hobby time with my other great passion, model railroading. I foolishly set my cup of tea next to the cup of water I was using to clean my paint brushes. Fortunately, I use non-toxic paints, or the outcome could have included a trip to urgent care!

Slovenia,  
Comic strip  
heroes—  
Lakotnik,  
03/25/1998



Sweden, Coffee set  
01/12/2017

Another time, when visiting a stamp show bourse, I grabbed a cup of coffee and foolishly sat down at a dealer's table to peruse some stamp sets. The dealer loudly and angrily told me no food or drink was allowed at his booth. A reasonable request, to be sure! Interestingly, the stamp material he showed me had visible water damage and wasn't worth buying. I never saw him again at a stamp show. Another dealer and I became great acquaintances that same day, and every time I sit down at his tables, he asks me if I would like a cup of coffee with a twinkle in his eye!

So, what think ye? Do stamps, snacks and sips blend well? Or should munchies be "apres stamps," to borrow a term from the sport of skiing for social activities and entertainment AFTER a day of skiing?

P.S.: Do pass on any favorite recipes you might have for stamp time, and what adult beverages pair best with various parts of your collection!



Jersey,  
Piña Colada  
10/06/2020

## Great American Stamp Show

Hartford, Connecticut  
August 15 - 18, 2024  
*Free Admission!*

**Show Highlights**

- 80+ Stamp Dealers
- Stamp Exhibits and Rarities
- First Day Ceremonies
- Federal Duck Stamp Art Displays
- Societies / Seminars / Gatherings
- Youth Area

Sponsored by United States Postal Service®

Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society, American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society

September 1999

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## The Gardens at Sissinghurst

By Ian Young

Over the words "Sissinghurst: 20th Century Garden," the stamp shows a straight path making its way through flowers, hedges and garden walls until it vanishes from view. But how many collectors would know that the story behind the stamp involves one of the great, unorthodox love affairs of modern times – the relationship between a gay man and a lesbian, both writers, who discovered they were soul-mates – kindred spirits – and who married, had two sons, and together founded and laid out one of the most beautiful of modern English gardens?

Vita Sackville-West (1892 – 1962) was an aristocrat, descended from a courtier-poet cousin of Queen Elizabeth I and an Andalusian Gypsy dancer. When she met her future husband, she was eighteen years old and utterly naive about homosexuality (and much else). Harold Nicolson (1886 – 1968) was a young career diplomat attached to the foreign Office.



Harold and Vita on the steps of the tower at Sissinghurst. Like many well-matched couples, they have come to resemble one another.

During her 70 years, Vita Sackville-West wrote 55 books – novels, poetry, plays, a study of Joan of Arc and a verse drama about Chatterton. Harold Nicolson was almost as prolific, writing political and social history, fiction, travel books and biographies of Byron, Verlaine, Tennyson and others. In the 1930's, he became a member of parliament. At first, he was a follower of the radical maverick Sir Oswald Mosely, but when Mosely became a fascist, Harold broke with him, speaking out in strong opposition to the appeasement policies of the Conservative government of the day. His published diaries provide one of the most fascinating records of the period leading up to, and through, the Second World War.

During their marriage of nearly 50 years, both Harold and Vita had homosexual affairs. One of Vita's liaisons was with Virginia Woolf, who immortalized Sackville-West as the central character of her novel *Orlando*, a quasi-immortal who is sometimes a man, sometimes a woman. The two remained good friends until Virginia's suicide under the stresses of World War II. The

Nicolsons' son, Nigel, wrote that "nothing could destroy [my parents'] love, which was actually enhanced by the complete freedom they allowed each other. Harold would refer to Vita's affairs as 'your muddles'; she to his as 'your fun'." After a couple of early scares, "no jealousy ever arose because of them."

Their unusual marriage enabled them, as they put it, to "duplicate the joys of love, and halve their miseries...We are sure of each other, in this odd, intimate, mystical relationship which we could never explain to any outside person...I suppose," Vita wrote, "that ninety-nine people out of a hundred, if they knew all about us, would call us wicked and degenerate." And yet "we *are* alive, aren't we? And our two lives, outside and inside, are rich lives..." They enjoyed a close, free relationship based on shared interests, a common sense of values, and great trust in one another. They were each other's confidante, advisor and best friend, and they delighted in raising their two sons.

Though Vita was prevented from inheriting the Sackville family estate, Knole (it passed through the male line), she and Harold were relatively well off. Early in their marriage they used their money to buy a ruined estate with a huge "rubbish dump for a garden." This was Sissinghurst, and for the rest of their lives together, it was their major collaborative project. They cleared the compound, repaired the old brick tower, and turned the land surrounding the residential buildings into a great garden. It is now the property of the National Trust, and open to the public.

The stamp, Scott no. 1027, showing a section of the gardens at Sissinghurst, was issued in 1983 as one of a set of four showing great English gardens of four centuries.



Sissinghurst, the garden built by Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West.

## New Issues

By John P. Stefanek

On 23 February 2024, Slovakia released a stamp celebrating Easter, featuring **John the Apostle**.

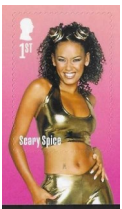
On 21 February 2024, Greece released a souvenir sheet commemorating the Centenary of *Philotelia*, featuring **Hermes (Mercury)**.

On 21 February 2024, Sri Lanka released ten stamps and three miniature sheets commemorating the Scouting Movement in Sri Lanka, featuring **Robert Baden-Powell**.

On 8 February 2024, Russia released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, featuring **Peter the Great** in the selva.

On 31 January 2024, Russia released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 300th Anniversary of St. Petersburg, featuring **Peter the Great** in the selva.

On 17 January 2024, Greece released five stamps commemorating Ancient Greek Literature, including one stamp featuring **Pindar**.

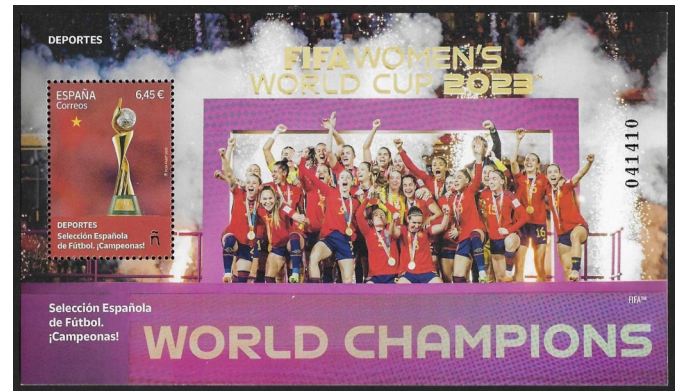


On 11 January 2024, the United Kingdom released ten stamps, a miniature sheet, a prestige booklet, two Collectors sheets, and a Fan sheet celebrating 30 Years of the Spice Girls, including 13 stamps featuring **Mel B (born 1975)**. She was born in Harehills, Leeds, and in 1994, co-founded the group that was named the Spice Girls in the following year. While a member, she was known as “Scary Spice.” Their debut album, *Spice*, was a worldwide commercial success, becoming the biggest-selling album in history by a girl group and one of the most successful albums of all time. Mel B debuted as a solo artist in 1998 with the single, “I Want You Back.” She released her autobiography, *Catch a Fire*, in 2002. She has married twice and is currently engaged to Rory McPhee. Melanie has had two relationships with women, including with film producer Christine Crokos.



On 19 December 2023, Spain released a souvenir sheet commemorating the FIFA Women’s World Cup World Championship Won by the Spanish Women’s Football Team, featuring **Teresa Abelleira**, **Ivana Andrés**, **Irene Paredes**, and **Alba Redondo** in the selva.

**Teresa Abelleira (born 2000)** currently plays



football as midfielder for Real Madrid CF, as well as for Spain’s women’s national team. She is currently in a relationship with former teammate Patricia Curbelo.

**Ivana Andrés (born 1994)** currently plays football as center-back and captain for Real Madrid, as well as for Spain’s women’s national team. She married wife Anabel in 2022.

**Irene Paredes (born 1991)** currently plays football as center-back for Barcelona, as well as for Spain’s women’s national team. She is in a relationship with former Spain hockey player Lucia Ybarra.

**Alba Redondo (born 1996)** currently plays football as forward for Levante UD, as well as for Spain’s women’s national team. She is currently in a relationship with sports and exercise scientist Cristina Monleón.

On 11 December 2023, Australia released a Souvenir Stamp Sheet commemorating the 2023 AFLW Grand Final Champions Brisbane Lions, featuring **Belle Dawes** in the selva.

On 1 December 2023, India released a stamp commemorating the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, featuring the Rod of **Asclepius**.

On 23 November 2023, Peru released a stamp commemorating the 135th Anniversary of the National Academy of Medicine, featuring the Rod of **Asclepius**.

On 9 October 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of **Janis Joplin**.

On 9 October 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 195th Anniversary of the Death of Francisco Goya, including one stamp featuring **Augustine of Hippo** and the souvenir sheet selva featuring **Hannibal**.

On 9 October 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the First American Woman in Space, featuring **Sally Ride**.



On 9 October 2023, Djibouti released a souvenir sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Republic of Turkey, featuring **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk** in the selva.

On 9 October 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the First Anniversary of the Death of Queen Elizabeth II, including her in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell** in the miniature sheet selva, one souvenir sheet featuring a photograph by **Antony Armstrong-Jones** and her in a dress designed by **Kenneth Fleetweed**, and the other souvenir sheet featuring her in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 9 October 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the Second Coronation of King Charles III in Scotland, including one stamp featuring Elizabeth II wearing a dress designed by **Hardy Amies** in a photograph by **Cecil Beaton** and the souvenir sheet featuring Elizabeth II wearing a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 9 October 2023, Liberia released a souvenir sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of Prince Rainier III, featuring Grace Kelly in a costume designed by **Edith Head** in the selva.

On 9 October 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets celebrating Marilyn Monroe, including one stamp featuring her in the film, *Bus Stop*, based on a play by **William Inge** and one souvenir sheet featuring her in the film, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, partly based on a play by **Zoe Akins**.

On 9 October 2023, Niger released two miniature

sheets and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of **Janis Joplin**.

On 9 October 2023, Niger released two miniature sheets and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Death of John F. Kennedy, including four stamps, a souvenir sheet, and a souvenir sheet selva featuring Queen Elizabeth II in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 19 September 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Birth of Michael Jackson, including one stamp featuring **Whitney Houston**.

On 19 September 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Death of **Eugène Delacroix**, including one stamp featuring **Virgil**.

On 15 September 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of **Mick Jagger**, including the souvenir sheet featuring art by **Andy Warhol**.

On 15 September 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.

On 15 September 2023, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of Prince Ranier III, including one stamp featuring Grace Kelly in a costume designed by **Edith Head**.

On 15 September 2023, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet celebrating Christmas Paintings, including one stamp featuring work by **Caravaggio** and the souvenir sheet selva featuring work by **Albrecht Dürer** and **Sandro Botticelli**.

On 5 September 2023, Guinea released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the First Anniversary of the Death of Queen Elizabeth II, including two stamps and the souvenir sheet selva featuring her in photographs by **Cecil Beaton** and three stamps and the souvenir sheet featuring her in dresses designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 5 September 2023, Guinea released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.

On 5 September 2023, Guinea released a miniature sheet celebrating Marilyn Monroe, with art by **Andy Warhol** in the selvage.

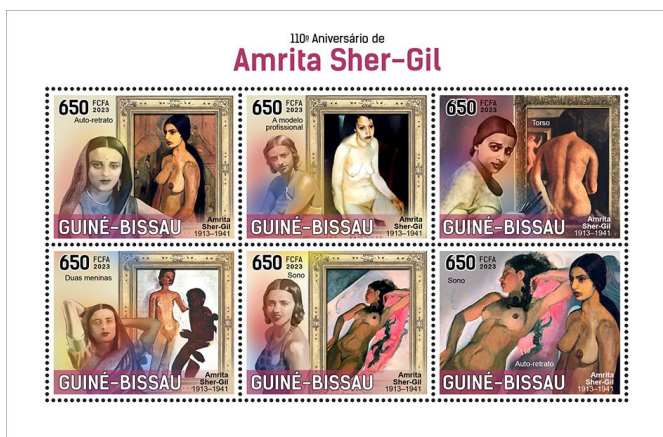
On 5 September 2023, Guinea released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the Centenary of the End of the Ottoman Empire, including two stamps and the souvenir sheet selvage featuring **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**.

On 11 August 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 170th Anniversary of the Death of **Eugène Delacroix**, including one stamp featuring **Virgil** and the souvenir sheet featuring work inspired by a play by **Lord Byron**.

On 11 August 2023, Djibouti released a souvenir sheet celebrating Monuments of Egypt, with the selvage featuring a Falcon from King Tutankhamun's Tomb symbolizing **Horus**.

On 11 August 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Launching of RMS Queen Elizabeth at Clydebank, including one stamp and the selvage featuring Elizabeth II in dresses designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the Birth of **Amrita Sher-Gil**.



On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Death of Audrey Hepburn, including one stamp featuring **Cary Grant**, one stamp featuring a poster for the film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, based on a novella by **Truman Capote**, four stamps featuring her in dresses designed by **Hubert de Givenchy**, and one stamp featuring a poster for the film, *Funny Face*, written by **Leonard Gershe** and produced by **Roger Edens**.



**Leonard Gershe (1922-2002)** was born in New York City and made his Broadway debut as lyricist for the 1950 revue, *Alive and Kicking*. He received a 1958 Oscar nomination for writing *Funny Face*. He won Writers Guild of America Awards for the films, *Funny Face*, *40 Carats*, and *Butterflies Are Free*. Leonard had a long-term relationship with composer Roger Edens.

**Roger Edens (1905-1970)** was born in Hillsboro, Texas, before conducting music on Broadway and going to Hollywood with his protégée Ethel Merman. He worked closely with and became a lifelong friend of Judy Garland. He is considered one of the major creative figures in Arthur Freed's musical film production unit at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer during the "golden era of Hollywood." His song, "Our Love Affair," sung by Judy Garland in the film, *Strike Up the Band*, was nominated for an Academy Award. Roger divorced before living openly with a gay man and having a relationship with screenwriter Leonard Gershe.

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Walt Disney Company, including one stamp featuring **Salvador Dalí**.

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 170th Anniversary of the Birth of Vincent van Gogh, including one stamp featuring cypress trees (**Cyparissus**).

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of **Alberto Santos-Dumont**.

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.

On 11 August 2023, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet celebrating Nude Paintings, including one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)** and the selvage featuring work by **Albrecht Dürer**.

On 11 August 2023, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of **Alberto Santos-Dumont**.

On 11 August 2023, Sierra Leone released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the New London Bridge by Queen Elizabeth II, featuring her in the coronation

dress designed by **Norman Hartnell** in a photograph by **Cecil Beaton**.

On 11 August 2023, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Death of John F. Kennedy, including one stamp featuring Queen Elizabeth II in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 1 August 2023, Djibouti released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a souvenir sheet commemorating the First Anniversary of the Death of Queen Elizabeth II, with the selva featuring her in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Battle of Leipzig, including one stamp featuring Emperor **Alexander I** of Russia.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Death of **Eugène Delacroix**, including the souvenir sheet selva featuring **Virgil**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Abolishment of Slavery by **Abraham Lincoln**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Death of Betty Grable, including one stamp featuring her in the film, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, partly based on a play by **Zoe Akins**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the First Anniversary of the Death of Queen Elizabeth II, including one stamp featuring her in a dress designed by **Norman Hartnell**.



On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of **Janis Joplin**.

On 5 July 2023, Central African Republic released

a miniature sheet commemorating the 170th Anniversary of the Birth of Vincent van Gogh, including one stamp featuring cypress trees (**Cyparissus**).

On 30 June 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet commemorating the Centenary of the Discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb by **Howard Carter**.

On 30 June 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.



On 30 June 2023, Liberia released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Birth of **Whitney Houston**.

On 28 June 2023, Niger released a miniature sheet commemorating the 380th Anniversary of the Birth of **Isaac Newton**.

On 28 June 2023, Niger released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 225th Anniversary of the Birth of **Eugène Delacroix**.

On 28 June 2023, Niger released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 540th Anniversary of the Birth of **Raphael**.

On 28 June 2023, Niger released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Birth of **Tamara de Lempicka**.



On 28 June 2023, Niger released a miniature sheet commemorating the 210th Anniversary of the Birth of **Richard Wagner**.

On 28 June 2023, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of Catherine Deneuve, including one stamp featuring her in the film, *The Young Girls of Rochefort*, written and directed by **Jacques Demy**, one stamp featuring **David Bowie**, and one stamp featuring her in a dress designed by **Yves Saint Laurent**.

On 28 June 2023, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Death of **Eugène Delacroix**.

