



# GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS JOURNAL



GLHSONLINE.ORG



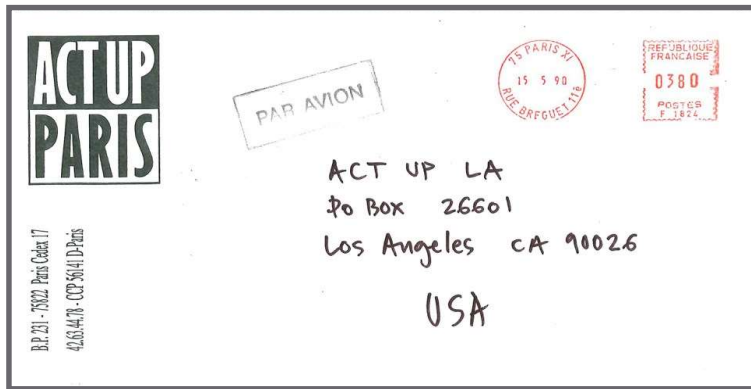
Issue 027

January 2025

## Mail From ACT UP to ACT UP

By Richard L. Beecher

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By the late 1980s and early 1990s, the activist organization AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) had developed a global reach, with chapters established in cities around the world.

In the years that I spent managing the business affairs for the Los Angeles chapter, many of the members knew that I was a stamp collector and an accumulator of AIDS/HIV-related postal history. When ACT UP's annual budget had reached a point where the organization could afford a small office in the Sunset Junction section of Los Angeles, I frequently reminded the volunteers who worked in that office to save any incoming mail that they thought might be of interest to me. They were more than obliging.

The accumulation of material that came my way during this period yielded a lot of covers mailed from other ACT UP chapters, not just in the U.S., but from international chapters as well. The two covers shown here represent, at least for me, some of the crown jewels in my HIV/AIDS collection. I think they are exceptional, and I'm pleased that they were saved for me and that I have them to show.

Both covers stand out because of their elaborate corner cards that dominate the upper left corner. Whoever designed them was clearly looking for a bold approach. The first cover shows the ACT UP/Paris logo in an unmediated fashion. The postage is paid with a 3,80- franc postage meter.



The second cover, from ACT UP/Berlin, is just as striking. It appears that the Berlin chapter was affiliated with Mann-O-Meter, a LGBT organization still in existence today. The total postage of 190 pfennigs is paid with four stamps from Germany's Famous Women series. The letter is addressed to Mark Kostopoulos, one of the founding members of ACT UP/LA who was also a USPS letter carrier.

For both covers, the actual contents are a mystery. They may have contained information about chapter events and activities or even personal correspondence. We will never know for sure.



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>
April 2025	March 15
July 2025	June 15
October 2025	September 15
January 2025	December 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

### GLHS Board of Directors 2023-2025

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.

## 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

## Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **83** members. 52 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*

## ‘24 Star Route Newsletter Competition



The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal received a Large Vermeil Medal in the 2024 Star Route Newsletter Competition sponsored by the American Philatelic Society.

The Newsletter as a whole was Good, the content, communication about meetings, events, and recognition of members was Very Good.

The Judge's written feedback included positive comments such as, "The new issues section is a very valuable part of the newsletter."

Another Judge commented: The content is so valuable! I am so glad this newsletter exists, acknowledging 2SLGBTQIA+ representation on stamps and 2SLGBTQIA+ themes in postal history and philately is so important. The tone of the articles written for this newsletter is so fun and engaging.

Enthusiasm from contributors was "Excellent!" So, hint, hint...if more members contribute to the journal, GLHS may just earn a Gold Medal in 2025.



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## 2024 Star Route Website Competition



The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Website received a Gold Medal in the 2024 Star Route Website Competition sponsored by the American Philatelic Society.

The Website as a whole was excellent, with excellent, accurate content and design.

The judge's written feedback was also very complementary:

There is so much detailed and worthwhile content on this website! The site is useful for both members and to inform philatelists (and others) about the presence, contributions, and relevance of the LGBTQ community. Just an all-around great contribution to philately! It is obvious that a lot of thought and effort has been invested in creating this excellent website.

Congratulations webmaster Arthur von Reyn, and Thank You!



## 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."

## GASS Future Dates/Locations

2025 August 14-17, Schaumburg, IL

The hotel for the show will be the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, a Marriott property directly connected to the convention center. The convention center and hotel are located approximately 18 miles from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

2026 Bye – Boston 2026 May 23-30