



GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS

JOURNAL



GLHSONLINE.ORG



Issue 030

October 2025

Lesya Ukrainka	1
GASS 2025	3
Giving Back	4
USPS250	4
Gay U.S.A.	6
Allies Honored	7
Gongmin of Goryeo	8
H.N. Local Post	8
GLHSC Archives	9
New Issues	10

Lesya Ukrainka

By John P. Stefanek

Larysa Petrivna Kosach was born on 13 February 1871 in Novohrad-Volynsky, Russian Empire (now known as Zviahel, Zhytomyr Oblast, northern Ukraine). Her father Petro was a lawyer and was dedicated to the advancement of Ukrainian culture. Her mother Olha was a poet and translator who wrote under the pseudonym of Olena Pchilka and was equally committed to educating her children in Ukrainian literature and the Ukrainian language. Russia's systemic suppression of the Ukrainian language began in the late 18th century.



Larysa wrote poetry very early. In 1879, her aunt Olena Kosach was arrested and sentenced to five years of exile to Siberia as part of a wave of arrests of Ukrainian political leaders. Larysa wrote her very first poem, "Hope," in reaction. She also learned German, French, and Italian, and with her older brother, she began translating German and other European literature into Ukrainian.

In 1881 during a religious ceremony for blessing a river, Larysa caught a cold in her foot. She fell ill with tuberculosis of the bones. She would have to fight the disease for the rest of her life. It would eventually attack the bones in her left hand, her lungs, and her kidneys.

In 1891, she travelled to Vienna to see a specialist about her condition. During the trip she discovered the writings of Olha Kobylanska.

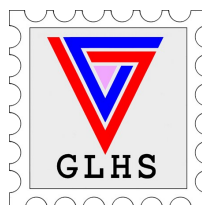


In 1892, her first collection of poems, *Na Krylakh Pisen'* (*On Wings of Songs*), was published. This was when she first used the penname Lesya Ukrainka. The book was published in Lviv, then in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, because it was still forbidden to publish books in the Ukrainian language in Russia. This book and her future published books had to be smuggled into Ukraine.

In 1894, Lesya visited her uncle, Mykhailo Drahomanov, in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was earlier forced to leave Kiv, giving up his job as professor at the university. Then, he held the Chair of History at the University of Sofia. She stayed with him until he died the following year. He inspired her to study English. After his death, Lesya wrote with fighting tones, with themes of heroic deeds and battle cries for the rights and freedom of Ukrainians.

She continued writing poetry and translating. Her literary criticism introduced Western European intellectual traditions into Ukrainian cultural life. She started writing plays, in which some laid bare the social, cultural and religious constraints on women's lives in the everyday. She was one of the first to address women's representation in modern literature in her 1900 essay, "New perspectives and old shadows: "The new woman" in Western European fiction."

(Continued on page 5).



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>
January 2026	December 15
April 2026	March 15
July 2026	June 15
October 2026	September 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.)

CONTACTS:

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps

646 169th Street S.

Spanaway WA 98387, USA

Email: glhstamps2@gmail.com

Website: www.glhsonline.org



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 2025 continue at \$10.00 a year. You may make your dues payment online via PayPal at <http://www.glhsonline.org/pages/onlineform.html>.

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

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! Write a letter to the editor. Submit a Breaking the Ice introduction. Send all submissions for publication to glhstamps2@gmail.com.

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
- 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).

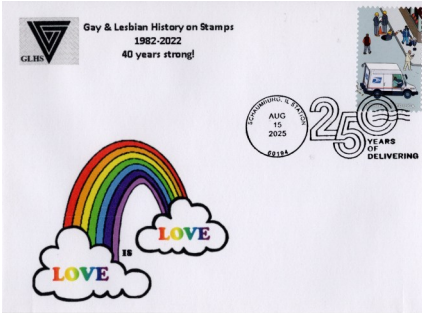
*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS
notify GLHS*

The Great American Stamp Show 2025



co-hosted by the APS, the American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society was held August 14-17 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

On Friday August 15th at 4:00 PM, GLHS held their Annual meeting, followed by the presentation, *"AIDS/HIV and LGBTQ Postal History"* by **Richard Beecher**.



GLHS Members were acknowledged with a certificate and a USPS250/GLHS philatelic cover for their volunteer service with an open heart, open hands, and

helping GLHS build a better future:

The webmaster **Art von Reyn** keeps the website up to date with new issues, meetings, etc. The website received a gold medal in the 2024 Star Route Award Competition hosted by the APS.

John Stefanek for his New Issues column with 3-5 pages of new issues highlighted each quarter. John also is regular content contributor to the e-journal. This year John completed and published the 837-page LGBTQ and Related Checklist to the members only part of the GLHS website.

Additional e-journal content contributors include **Francis Ferguson, Richard Beecher** and **Larry Crain**.

Barry Christensen spent hours indexing the GLHS Journals since 2018. The index is posted on the website. Barry was also a content contributor this past year.

Joe Petronie as the social media chair managing the Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Facebook page with 1.3 thousand followers!

Additional GLHS members were acknowledged with a certificate and philatelic cover thanking them for their financial contributions: **Barry Christensen, Carol Costa, Philip L. Evans, David Hoylman, Brandon Nugent, Robert Pope** and **Melvin Welk**.

Attendees at the Annual GLHS Meeting 08/15/2025



From Left to Right, Back: Darrell Ertzberger, Richard L. Beecher, Tomas Griebeling, Dale Smith, Andrea Smith, Marilyn Suffet, Benny Johnson, Stephen Suffet, Lisa Foster, James Ferguson. Bottom: Laurie Anderson, Arthur P von Reyn, Casey Jo White.

GASS Future Dates/Locations

2026 - Bye Approved

Boston 2026 will host APS annual meeting and C of C

May 23-30, 2026

Aug. 19-22, 2027

Albuquerque, NM



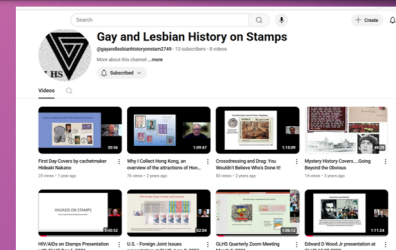
Members have requested a GLHS Meeting be held during Boston 2026.

What date/time would members prefer?

Are you willing to give a presentation?

Send email to glhstamps2@gmail.com.

Zoom Meeting Presentations on YouTube



We do not have an upcoming zoom meeting scheduled. Any one willing to volunteer to present or know anyone we should ask please reach out to glhstamps2@gmail.com.