



# GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS JOURNAL



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## Johannes Kerkorrel

By John P. Stefanek

Ralph John Rabie was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 27 March 1960. From an early age, he wanted to be a singer. He learned piano and taught himself to write songs at age 13 before switching to guitar.

He obtained a degree in industrial psychology and journalism from Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education before graduating with honors in English literature from the University of Cape Town.

After completing compulsory military service, he started work as an editor at daily Afrikaans newspaper, *Die Burger*, in 1984.

He performed publicly for the first time in a highly satirical political cabaret at the Green Room in 1986. He moved back to Johannesburg and started collaborating on another political cabaret at the Black Sun in Berea. In 1987, he workshopped a play, *Piekniek by Dingaans*, that won a “Pick of the Fringe Award” at the Grahamstown Festival but cost him any engagement by drama departments at Arts Councils.

He adopted the alias, Johannes Kerkorrel, and started performing with Andre Letoit, who adopted the alias, Koos Kombuis. Other musicians joined to form Johannes Kerkorrel en die Gereformeerde Blues Band (GBB). The band attracted artists that were part of a trendy urban young white generation who rebelled against the autocratic dictates of the apartheid state. A 1988 concert at The Pool Club in Johannesburg helped change the future of Afrikanerdom. The music was dubbed “alternative Afrikaans.”

In 1989, GBB released the album, *Eet Kreef*, which was promptly banned from airplay by the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

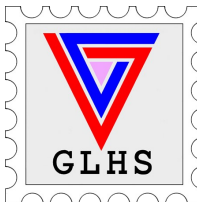
Voëlvry, a nationwide tour of campuses followed and unleashed an uproar in Afrikaner circles. Broederbond-controlled campuses banned the performances, though they continued at locations off campus.

In 1990, after the end of the tour and after GBB split up, Johannes went to Amsterdam before touring solo in Belgium. He was the first white Afrikaans singer who got completely accepted by the media and public. He returned to South Africa to record a second album, *Bloudruk*, and tour.

From 1992 until 2001, he worked as a South African correspondent for a Belgium Radio 1 program, offering a weekly Sunday column. He did some tours in BeNeLux countries and performed at Nelson Mandela’s Presidential Inauguration. He released his third album, *Cyanide in the Beefcake*, an attempt to break into the English market. He was at his most nihilistic, paranoid, and decadent. He had lost a lover to suicide. In 1995, he won the South African Music Award for best rock music performance.

His fourth album, *Ge-trans-for-meer*, won two South African Music Awards.

(Continued on page 4).



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.

### **! New Members !**

James P., Washington D.C.

### **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:**

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### **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

### **PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:**

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Submissions due</u>
April 2026	March 15
July 2026	June 15
October 2026	September 15
January 2027	December 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

### **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*



### **Happy New Year!**

On February 3, 2026, in Houston, TX, the USPS will issue the *Lunar New Year \* Year of the Horse* forever stamp.

2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse (Feb 17, 2026 to Feb 5, 2027). It is anticipated to be filled with enthusiasm, exploration and forward momentum.



## 2026 Membership Dues

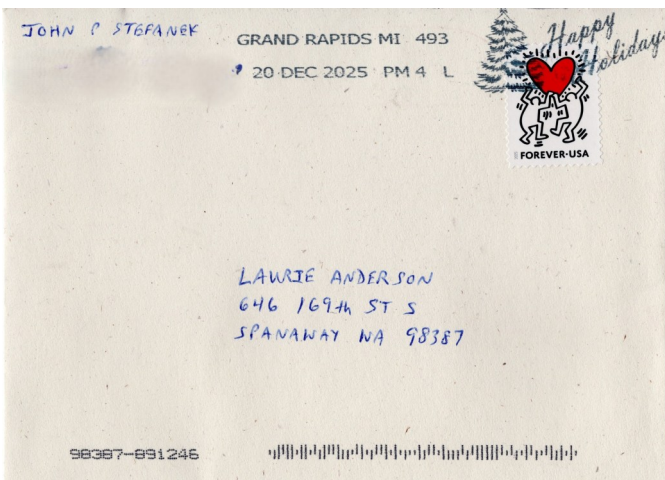
Thank you for renewing your membership in Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps and for recognizing the importance of supporting your philatelic community. Your continued participation and financial support are essential as we continually strive to strengthen our organization.

Membership dues for 2026 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.



Richard Beecher's Dues Renewal cover.



John Stefanek's Dues Renewal cover.



## Boston 2026 World Expo

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS)  
Presentation

May 29, 2026

1:00 PM -2:00 PM ET

Location TBD

Speaker? Topic?

Are you willing to give a presentation?

Send email to [glhstamps2@gmail.com](mailto:glhstamps2@gmail.com).

Register at <https://web.cvent.com/event/bbbdc1d9-e50e-44dd-8bef-eb36c9d1251f/register?rp=207bb8bf-7308-4339-a55c-ff4592546fa3>

## 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

Barry Christensen updated the GLHS Journal cumulative index to include the 2025 issues.

The updated index has been forwarded to the webmaster for posting on the GLHS website.

*Thank you Barry!*

## 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