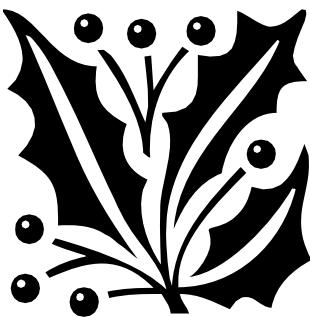


Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, DECEMBER 1999, VOL. 18, NO. 3



*Happy
Holidays*



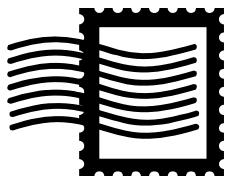
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number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



GLHSC OFFICERS:

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MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$8.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

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:

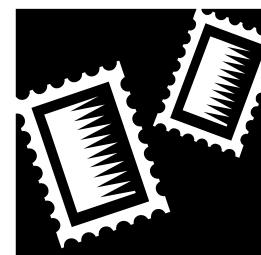
Members are entitled to free ads.

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>
December 1999	November 15, 1999
March 2000	February 15, 2000
June 2000	May 15, 2000
September 2000	August 15, 2000

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. The membership directory will be published in the first quarter.



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.

News From the Editor



Though the above bus transfers are not philatelic in nature, I thought that they might be of interest to GLHSC members. These transfers were issued in Toronto for use earlier this year. Are any members aware of other cities having issued transfers such as these? Graphics courtesy of member Phil Stager.

* * * *

The domain name, GLHSC.ORG, has been reserved for our future website. There is a web design firm that can design the site and maintain it for \$200/year. This fee would also include the yearly registration fee for the domain name.

Before venturing further, your input is needed. Is this a venture that GLHSC should pursue? Is anyone willing to help in the design of the website? Should dues be increased to \$10 per year to cover this? There currently is an excess of several hundred dollars in the account. We could use this excess to pay for the first year or two, then increase dues at a later date. Or should this excess be used for other purposes? GLHSC needs to know how its members feel. Please be sure

to include the 3 x 5 card with your dues payment, checking off whether you think we should proceed on the web site.

* * * *

As this year ends, I'd like to apologize for the sporadic publishing of the journal. I think that I am adjusting to the single life once again.

Would anyone object to a journal reduced in size? I was thinking of maybe making the journal the size of the current club directory. It would still be about a dozen or more pages. Let me know.

Once again, I am running low on articles for the journal. If anyone would like to submit them, please feel free to do so!

And finally, I hope that everyone has a great holiday season . Best wishes for the new year and century.

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LAMBDA PHILATELIC JOURNAL
PO BOX 515981
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1971, after achieving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art from Ohio State University. An established contributor to the city's artistic community, Jim Leff is widely recognized and respected as one of San Francisco's leading photo-realistic oil painters, with works on permanent display at popular spots such as Piaf's on Market Street (at Gough St.). Jim also participates in San Francisco's Open Studios every year, receiving special recognition for his StampArt as one of San Francisco's twenty most outstanding artists through participation in "Selections from '95" and "Selections from '97", juried exhibitions sponsored by the coordinators of the event. In addition to his success in San Francisco, Jim recently received an award for his work in a landmark Southwestern exhibit in Indio, California, to which he will be returning this year.

Jim Leff works in oil on canvas, and creates murals as well for businesses or individual homes. Many of his paintings are available as limited edition, signed and numbered prints. His works are widely collected here in San Francisco, throughout the United States and internationally.

If you are interested in a fine portrait in oil, commissions are encouraged. Call Jim Leff at (415)431-7662 for information.

Jim Leff Studio
170 Duboce Avenue, #8
San Francisco, CA 94103

The Art of Jim Leff

By Joe Petronie

While visiting San Francisco in September for the Folsom Street Fair, I ran across an artist vendor selling "stamp" postcards. I just had to have them. What follows is from his website that, unfortunately, is no longer functioning. However, some of these images are available in limited edition prints. You can contact Jim Leff directly.

Jim Leff has been living and painting in San Francisco since



Eleanor Roosevelt

By Judith Beckett

I remember that, when I was a little girl, my grandmother often read aloud to me anything about Eleanor Roosevelt that she found in our small town newspaper. She adored her! When she showed me a picture of ER, however, I made a face and said that I thought she was ugly. I wish now that I had been smarter than that.

I doubt that my grandmother knew that ER had intimate personal and political relationships with two lesbian couples. Esther Lape and Elisabeth Read and Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman were among ER's closest friends. I know she never suspected that Eleanor was involved in a lesbian relationship with newspaper reporter, Lorena Hickok.

And if I had any doubts about ER's bisexuality, Blanche Wiesen Cook puts them to rest in *Eleanor Roosevelt, Volume 1, 1884-1933* and *Volume 2, 1933-1938* (Viking).

Cook writes that ER saved her entire correspondence with



Scott no. 1236

Lorena Hickok, ten to fifteen pages written daily over three decades instead of a diary and sent to Hickok because she intended her to be her biographer. After ER's death, "Hick" and ER's longtime friend, Esther Lape, spent hours burning letter after letter. When Hick died, her sister burned another packet of letters found in her home.

The disappearance of so many documents is an incalculable loss. Yet, the thousands of letters that remain are "amorous and specific". There are "few ambiguities", says Cook. Soon after becoming First Lady, Eleanor wrote to Hick:

Hick darling/ Oh! How good it was to hear your voice. It was so inadequate to try to tell you what it meant. [Eldest son] Jimmy was near and I couldn't say je t'aime et je t'adore as I longed to do but always remember I am saying it & that I go to sleep thinking of you and repeating our little saying. (Vol. 2, p. 41)

Valentines that ER sent to Hickok in 1934, 1935 and 1937 have survived and are reproduced in *Volume 2*.

Lorena Hickok was the AP's [Associated Press] most astute political reporter. She covered New York state politics

for four years while FDR was governor of that state. She was proud to be a part of FDR's press entourage because, at that time, women just didn't cover men in politics.

Cook writes that Hick's detractors described her as sexually unattractive, five-foot eight and almost two hundred pounds. She also smoked cigars, cigarettes and pipes. Cook disagrees:

Hick appealed to women and men ... Because of her humor, professionalism, and her warmth, her colleagues became her lifelong friends ... With them, she smoked, played poker and drank - mostly bourbon on the rocks. She frequented saloons, enjoyed coffeehouses, and liked to entertain at home, to bake, and to cook. Hick was fun to be with ... She was a pro. (Vol. 2, pp. 477-478)

Assigned to interview the First Lady of New York State in 1928, Hick was served tea by ER. It was very unusual for a reporter to be treated in that way, but Hick made no effort to interview ER again. She wrote, "I wanted very much to know Mrs. Roosevelt. But she always held me at arm's length - and her arms were very long." (Vol. 2, p. 451)

When FDR ran for president, Hick recognized and informed the AP that ER deserved coverage of her own. Another reporter was given the assignment, but soon quit after which Hick (the only woman on the campaign trail) was expected to cover both ER and FDR. When it became clear that FDR was going to win the election, Hickok was assigned to cover ER alone. One day when there was nothing to report, Hick wired the AP "THE DAME HAS ENORMOUS DIGNITY. SHE'S A REAL PERSON."

Their friendship grew as ER's trust in Hickok and admiration for the reporter's political sense grew. Cook dates the beginning of their intimate relationship to a train ride at night across a rain swept countryside. There were no berths and they shared the only drawing room available. ER told Hick her life's story as "heavy rains streamed across the window".

Hickok soon had access to privileged information, but she ignored it. She let scoops go by, emphasizing ER's political strengths, determined vision and stamina instead. Hick is also credited with sharing the creation of ER's new press image once FDR was elected. She was responsible for ER's decision to hold press conferences for women journalists only and she encouraged her to write her syndicated column, "My Day" as well.

Volume 1 ends on the night of FDR's first inauguration with an interview that Hickok did with ER in the bathroom of the hotel, an indiscretion which was never repeated.

Eleanor Roosevelt appears on three U.S. stamps. The first, Scott no. 1236, was issued on the 20th anniversary of her death. The second, Scott no. 2105, commemorates the centenary of her birth. Most recently, she appears on a 32 cent

stamp from the Celebrate the Century-1930s sheet, Scott no. 3185d. On the back of the stamp is written: "Eleanor Roosevelt was an extremely vocal, active, and influential First Lady. During press conferences for women reporters and in her syndicated column, she championed the rights of women, youths, minorities, and the disadvantaged."

The stamp says nothing about the event depicted on it. The little girl on the stamp is five-year-old Geraldine Walker and the event is described by Cook in *Eleanor Roosevelt, Volume Two, 1933-1938*.



Scott no. 2105



Scott no. 3185d

It occurred in Detroit where ER had gone to launch the Brewster Community slum clearance project, the first national PWA housing development. Fifteen blocks of slums were to be replaced by "modern, low-cost apartments". (p. 291)

At City Hall, ER received a "large bouquet of roses and a corsage of gardenias" which she carried with her to the ceremony. The large number of flowers she received from the thousands of cheering spectators were later given to hospitals and to an orphanage. Cook relates, however:

"That was not the end of the story. A photographer had filmed ER smiling and leaning over to receive a bouquet of roses from a five-year-old Negro girl, Geraldine Walker, whose home was among those to be 'rehabilitated'. There was another photograph of ER handing a single rose from her bouquet back to Geraldine Walker ... These photographs were twisted into hate propaganda for the 1936 election campaign ... The crime was not that ER gave a flower to a child ... the First Lady had crossed the color bar." (p. 292)

On the same page, Cook concludes: "It is amazing how radical a simple decency seems in a mean-spirited and bigoted time, when the rule of the Klan was more acceptable than handing a flower to a child."

On the stamp, the flowers that the little girl is giving ER are not roses, but chrysanthemums. From the photograph in Cook's book, it's impossible to identify what flowers ER received or, for that matter, who is giving flowers to whom, but Cook's version is probably correct. In any case, the image of ER handing

a rose back to the little girl would be a more fitting tribute. But maybe that image is still too controversial.

ER has always been a part of my collection of lesbians on stamps. I have stamps, souvenir sheets and covers honoring ER from China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, the Republic of Guinee, Hungary, India, Israel, Jamaica, Liberia, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Paraguay, the Seychelles, and the Sudan. She is part of my United Nation's International Women's Year collection and my collection of the U.N.'s 1980s Decade for Women stamps.

Reading Blanche Wiesen Cook's biography, I am only beginning to understand the huge role that Eleanor Roosevelt played in the history of our country and of the world. I am awed. What a woman!

Collectors Club of Chicago

The Collectors Club of Chicago has established a website -

<http://www.askphil.org> (phil is short for philately)

that will reply to any questions on collecting stamps. This is a service to get people involved in stamp collecting and NOT a project to generate funds or new members for the CCC.

GLHSC is listed on this website. Be sure to look the site over and then tell your collecting friends about this website. There are over 1,000 stamp clubs, 2,300 dealers and lots more listed by state and country...and CCC is continuing to add!

If your specialty is a topic or theme, the CCC will be happy to list your checklist on the site. Contact the webmaster for details on how this should be submitted. You will get worldwide publicity as well as immediate updating.

Collecting stamps is fun!

GLHSC Member Profile: It never really dawned on me....

By Francis Ferguson, Jr.
ferg@gdi.net

As a child I was given my father's collection of US stamps, to which I added through much of my teen years, branching off into FDC, PB, EFO and just about any other category that crossed my path. I was even an active member of a club in the Ft. Lauderdale area that was founded in the 1950s; where the average age was well advanced from my then early-teen-years. More than one comment was made to me, by elders at the club, about my "skewing" of the average age. (I just recently learned that the club disbanded in the late 1980s, because of everyone passing away.) I remained an active collector until entering college, when life changed in ways that I had not thought of. Throughout my teen years I was aware that I was different, but nothing was done about this until entering college many miles from home and family. Needless to say, the pressure of dealing with college, work and other associated events caused the pursuit of little pieces of paper to be shelved. For nearly twenty years, I moved those boxes of albums and accumulations around from one place to another - knowing someday that I would return to the hobby.



Scott no. 952



Scott no. 1271

Little did I know that a long-time friend (straight) was to act as the catalyst in bringing me back into the hobby and a chance encounter on eBay would connect me with the "other side" of myself. My work profession of dealing with computers demanded, at times, another less stressful pursuit, like reading a book - or stamp collecting. I had been toying with the idea for many years of starting back into the hobby, but something always seemed to get in the way. A 2.5 year renovation project on my current home did not help time or money wise...



Scott no. 1355

but that is another story. My long-time friend, who I correspond with regularly, was really getting involved, all the while nudging me back into the hobby. The single biggest reason for returning to the hobby was my experience of selling no longer wanted items from my diverse collection on eBay. How interesting - my work and pursuit of pleasure coming together in one medium! As my holding started to reduce to more manageable levels, I started to place bids on eBay to buy items to fill long empty spots in a now more selective collection. No longer did I have to hunt for dealers to obtain material; stamps just a click of the mouse away, while sitting in the comfort of my home! One of these first successful bids on eBay hooked me up with an obviously openly gay man. His eBay user name left no room for doubt! I have been active in my local Orlando gay community for nearly ten years, but the thought of "advertising" that on eBay did not even cross my mind. That obviously openly gay man was the one who informed me of this group, for which I thank him.

In all my years of collecting (and being gay), it never dawned on me until exchanging email with that gentleman that I did not know of any other gay men who collected little pieces of paper. Fortunately, my companion tolerates my collecting desires and one day he may even go to a show! In recent months, I have joined the APS and expect to join a local club in the near future. (From what I have observed meeting some of the local club members, I will still "skew" the average age, even now as a forty-year old!) I look forward to many years of collecting and self revelation...and who knows, I may actually meet another gay man or woman collector!

Be the next GLHSC
Member Profile...
submit yours today!

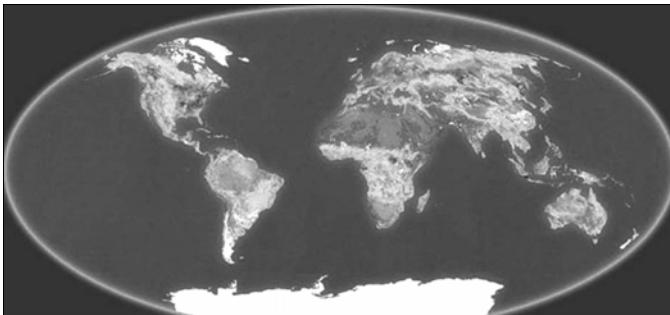
Gay & Lesbian Update

Eight nations are joining together to issue stamps honoring the 250th anniversary of the birth of German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832). Five of the countries (Antigua, Dominica, Gambia, Guyana and Lesotho) are included in this journal's *It's a Gay World....*

The stamps were designed by Joel Iskowitz, who spent much time studying the classic von Goethe drama *Faust*. Each country issued a sheet of three different stamps plus a souvenir sheet of a single stamp. The middle stamp in each sheet of three is the same, showing portraits of von Goethe and Friedrich von Schiller.

Von Goethe and Schiller strongly influenced the writing style of each other. They were major members of the German literary movement called "Sturm und Drang" (Storm and Stress).

Von Goethe is honored on the new stamp omnibus series primarily for having written the classic drama *Faust*, which appeared in two segments in 1808 and 1832.



It's a GAY world...

Antigua issued a sheet of 3 stamps and a souvenir sheet on June 24, 1999, for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Scott nos. 2264 - 65.

Bulgaria issued a set of four stamps featuring foreign culture and art on May 18, 1999. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe can be found on Scott no. 4077.

Chile issued a set of two stamps on July 16, 1999. The stamps were issued to celebrate the 200th anniversary of scientific research in Latin America. They feature Alexander von Humboldt. Scott nos. 1291 - 92.

Dominica issued a sheet of three stamps and a souvenir

Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS)
PO Box 8000
State College PA 16803-8000

American Topical Association (ATA)
PO Box 50820
Albuquerque NM 87181-0820

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)
PO Box 65960
Tucson AZ 85728



sheet on June 22, 1999. The stamps were part of the omnibus issue featuring Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Scott nos. 2156 - 57.

Gambia issued their sheet of three stamps and a souvenir sheet honoring Johann Wolfgang von Goethe on July 6, 1999. Scott nos. 2123 - 24.

Germany issued a single stamp for the 250th anniversary



of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe on August 12, 1999. Scott no. 2052.

Grenada issued two sheets of eight and two souvenir sheets on August 18, 1999. These stamps were issued to celebrate the "Birth of the Silver Screen".

Musicians sheet:
Bessie Smith, Scott no. 2882d.
Cole Porter, Scott no. 2882g.

Actors sheet:
Marlene Dietrich, Scott no. 2883g.
Ramon Novarro, Scott no. 2883h.

Guyana issued a sheet of three and souvenir sheet on June

22, 1999, honoring Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Scott nos. 3413 - 14.

Korea issued a stamp and souvenir sheet honoring the



250th anniversary of the birth of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe on August 12, 1999. Scott nos. 1964 - 65.

Lesotho issued a sheet of three stamps and a souvenir sheet on August 16, 1999, to honor Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Scott nos. 1209 - 10.

Liechtenstein issued a set of two stamps on September 9, 1999 (9/9/99), in honor of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The stamps feature quotations and scenes from *Faust*. Scott nos. 1151 - 52.

The **United States** issued a block of six stamps in the American Music series, honoring Broadway Songwriters. Lorenz Hart can be found on Scott no. 3347.

(Look for an article on this songwriter in an upcoming journal.)



AIDS Update

Brazil issued a block of six stamps on July 24, 1998 for the Brazilian cinema centennial (in 1997). Glauber Rocha's *New Cinema* can be found on Scott no. 2684e.

Several magazines have speculated on Rocha's death in 1981. He was a known drug user and had several symptoms of AIDS-related diseases prior to his death. Does any member know of any further information on Glauber Rocha's life, and if he did indeed succumb to AIDS?

Arthur Salm Foundation, Report #5

The Arthur Salm foundation, formed by the Collectors Club of Chicago, is pleased to announce the publication of Report #5. The 2,300 word report is titled Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive United States Stamps.

When pressure sensitive stamps first appeared in the 1960s, most stamp collectors considered it as a gimmick. Today, fully 85% of the production of U.S. stamps is devoted to pressure-sensitive stamps.

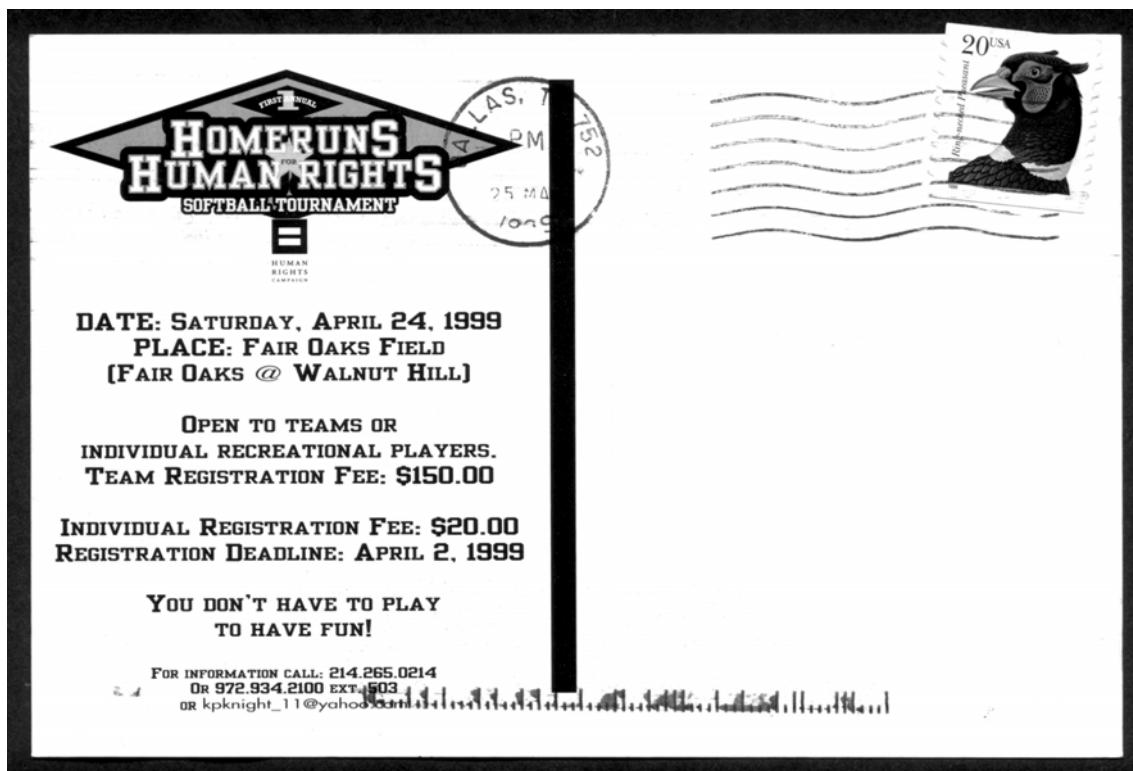
Collectors want to know how to store and preserve these self-stick issues, whether mint or used. Even the simple task of removing the self-stick stamps from envelopes or other mailing pieces can present problems. The report answers many of the collector concerns.

The Salm Foundation, in its continuing effort to select only the very best sources, commissioned Ken Lawrence, an experienced researcher and expert on self-adhesive stamps, to write this report. Lawrence pioneered the application of forensic science to stamp and cover expertizing.

The Collectors Club of Chicago formed the Arthur Salm Foundation to conduct research on philatelic products. The foundation is based at the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610. The CCC is making the reports available as a public service.

Salm report no. 5 is available free of charge for a legal size stamped-self-addressed envelope. Overseas collectors can receive a copy of the report by enclosing two IRC coupons, obtainable from their post office. Write to Salm Foundation, 1029 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610. The first four reports are also available from the same address, but with \$1.01 in postage affixed. Overseas collectors can send five IRC coupons.

Front and back of postcard received this past year for a Human Rights Campaign Softball Tournament held in Dallas, Texas.



For sale: Latin American stamps, FDC, pictorial postmarks on AIDS and persons depicted in the 1992 Handbook.

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WANTED:
Articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual or other philatelic topics to be included in future journals.

Submit to the editor at address on page 2.

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