

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB ★ JUNE 2011, VOL. 30, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 114

# Gay & Lesbian Pride



The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) 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:**

Email: glhsc@aol.com

WINNER OF THE SILVER-BRONZE AWARD AT CANADA'S 7TH NATIONAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION

> GLHSC, PO BOX 190842, DALLAS, TX 75219-0842, USA

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$10.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$15.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC. \$1 add-on for late dues.

Single issues \$3.

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.)

New memberships received from January through September will receive all back issues and directory for that calendar year. (Their dues will be considered paid through the end of the year they join.) Memberships received October through December will be considered paid through the following year and will not receive back issues, unless they are requested.

#### **ADVERTISING RATES:**

Members are entitled to free ads. Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue.

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:**

Publication MonthsArticles Needed byMarchFebruary 15JuneMay 15SeptemberAugust 15DecemberNovember 15

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Opinions expressed here are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the GLHSC, its' officers or members.

## News from the Editor

**Articles are urgently needed for upcoming issues.** Thanks to the members that have sent them in. I can still use articles for the next few issues.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Do you think that a non-AOL email account should be created? Several members have expressed concern over the future existence of AOL. Let me know what you think.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Hello Sir,

I was a member of Gay and Lesbian History on stamps a number of years ago. I have a number of excess used stamps I would like to donate to a teen GLBT club that wants US stamps (not GLBT, just used US stamps). Can you refer me to such a group?

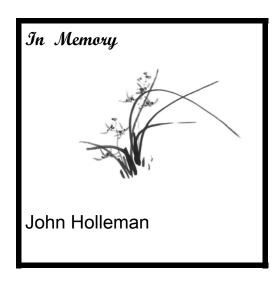
I was knocked off my stilts a number of years ago attending a stamps show in Oakland and saw the GLHSC club's display. I did not know such existed! I desire to help a young gay group with their stamp collecting.

Thanks,

Jere Rhine Cazadero, CA 95421

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## Father of the Harlem Renaissance

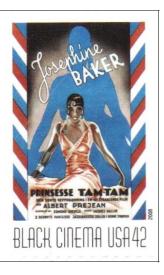
by Ian Young

"Harlem, I grant you, isn't typical - but it is significant, it is prophetic!" - Alain Locke

The years between the end of the First World War and the onset of the Depression were a relatively prosperous time for much of North America, and the "roaring twenties" saw the rise of the Manhattan district of Harlem as a thriving "negro" community. Black musicians, artists and writers began to make themselves known, both to other Black people and to the White establishment.

Harlem in those days provided something of a refuge (and an open closet) for gay and lesbian artists who were able to party at speakeasies, drag balls and privately run "buffet flats." Many of the leading figures of what came to be known as the Harlem Renaissance were gay, lesbian or bisexual, including fiction writers Claude McKay, Richard Bruce Nugent and Wallace Thurman, composer Porter Grainger, poets Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes, sculptor (and coin designer) Richmond Barthé and entertainers Bessie Smith, Alberta Hunter and Josephine Baker. (Bessie Smith once had to bail her friend Ma Rainey out of jail after a wild lesbian party.)

At the centre of the unprecedented upsurge in Black culture was the academic, scholar and editor Alain Le Roy Locke, who has been called the "father of the Harlem Renaissance" and is frequently credited with ushering in the era of "the New Negro." Born into an educated Black family in 1886, Locke graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard and, after a stint as a Rhodes Scholar, became a professor at America's most distinguished Black college, Howard University. In 1925 he edited the pioneering anthology *The New Negro* and throughout his career he promoted Black literature and encouraged young people to study both Black





and European culture and history and to make committed personal contributions to American life and letters.

A slight, dapper figure who often carried a tightly rolled umbrella (he found it useful as a means of defence on more than one occasion), he was considered somewhat eccentric (when his mother died, he had her embalmed & seated in his parlor until the funeral). Locke was a tireless promoter and encourager of young talented artists, even seeking out wealthy patrons for them. In the early 1920's he wrote to a young black friend, "We have enough talent now to begin to have a movement - and to express a school of thought." He urged young blacks to depict "a spiritual wealth which if they can properly expound will be ample for a new judgment and re-appraisal of the race."

For Locke, wrote historian Steven Watson, "every aspect of the black heritage - from folklore to spirituals, from jazz to African sculpture - offered rich source material from which a black image might be fashioned" through the "transformative power of art." Black sociologist Charles S. Johnson described Locke as "the virtual dean of the (Black literary) movement."

Among Locke's many protégés were folklorist Zora Neale Hurston and poet Countee Cullen, whose work has often been regarded as inaugurating the black cultural upsurge. Soon after Locke met the teenaged Cullen, they were sharing confidences about homosexuality. Locke recommended Whitman disciple Edward Carpenter's important gay anthology *Ioläus* 

to his young protégé. Cullen wrote him: "I secured Carpenter's Ioläus from the library. I read it through at one sitting, and steeped myself in its charming and comprehending atmosphere. It opened up for me soul windows which had been closed; it threw a noble and evident light on what I had begun to believe, because of what the world believes, ignoble and unnatural. I loved myself in it." Typically, Locke encouraged the young poet to be proud of himself, as a black man and as a homosexual. Though he married twice (once to the daughter of the influential W.E.B. DuBois), Cullen maintained a long-term relationship with school teacher Harold Jackman; the couple were known as "the David and Jonathan of the Harlem Renaissance."

Encouraged by Locke, many black writers were daring enough to include gay incidents or themes in their work. McKay, Thurman, Nugent and others touched on the subject at a time when white writers were ignoring it altogether. Even the guarded, somewhat asexual Langston Hughes (another of Locke's protégés) wrote some subtly coded gay poems.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the repeal of prohibition a few years later hit Harlem hard. As the district went into a decline the Black cultural Renaissance petered out and artists dispersed as jobs and patrons grew scarce. But in the French colonies of Africa and the Caribbean, a new Black cultural consciousness was emerging, itself influenced by Locke's ideas and the example of the



Harlem Renaissance. This new intellectual climate gave rise to the movement known as "Negritude," championed by writers Aimé Césaire of Martinique and Leopold Senghor, who decades later became the first President of newly-independent Senegal.

Locke, still greatly respected as a professor and scholar, died in 1954. Black artistic culture did not begin to revive in America until the 1950's and '60's - encouraged, inevitably, by "the winds of change" in Africa.

Alain Locke is depicted on a 1971 stamp of Senegal (Scott No. C97). Langston Hughes is depicted on a U.S. stamp of 2001 (Scott No. 3557). Josephine Baker is depicted on a French stamp of 1994 (Scott No. B658) and a U.S. stamp of 2008 (Scott No. 4338). Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey are on 1994 U.S. stamps (Scott Nos. 2854 and 2859).

## Mother, I have a Worrying Secret

by Bobby Cloud

The seemingly forgotten Samuel Barber (1910-1981) was one of the most successful American composers of the 20th century. He composed operas, violin concerto, orchestral and chamber music, yet you probably will find him only on a few play lists (if any) of the 21st century.

He was twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music, for his opera, *Vanessa* and his *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*. Barber began composing music at the age of 7. At the age 14, he entered the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. At age 9 he wrote to his mother his confession:

"I have written this to tell you my worrying secret. Now don't cry when you read it because it is neither yours nor my fault. I suppose I will have to tell it now without any nonsense. To begin with I was not meant to be an athlet [sic]. I was meant to be a composer, and will be I'm sure. I'll ask you one more thing - Don't ask me to try to forget this unpleasant thing and go play football."

What he has never been known to confess to the public nor to his mother was his homosexuality. It was during his studies at Curtis (1924-1932), he met the young Italian composer, Gian Carlo Menotti (b. 1911), a fellow student who became his life partner for more than 32 years and his occasional artistic collaborator.



The two men traveled extensively in Europe during the 1930s, which was a period that saw the composition of Barber's best known and most enduring work, Adagio for Strings (1938). Barber's partner in life and in music, Gian Carlo Menotti not only had a distinguished career, but also achieved acclaim at a time when his uncloseted homosexuality could have been a major barrier to his work being accepted or him gaining recognition. This was during the era of McCarthyism and the government's persecution of homosexual and homosexuality in America. On September 12, 1997, the USPS issued as part of it's American music series, Composers and Conductors, which included a stamp to honor Samuel Barber (Scott 3162) as a Classical Composer.

Gian Carlo Menotti died at the age of 95 on February 1, 2007, The centennial anniversary of his birth is July 7, 2011. So far his native country of Italy and his long time residence of Monaco have ignored the anniversary of his birth and not issued nor announced any issues to commemorate Menotti's lifetime of classical composing and operas. Perhaps they await the 10 year anniversary of his death.

#### Bibliography:

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http://gayfortoday.blogspot.com/2008/03/samuel-barber.html

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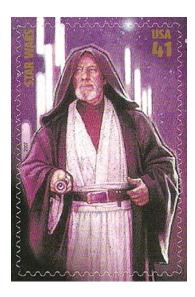
## The Florida Fifty Stamper Sir Alec Guinness – The Best of the Best!

Alec's birth in London on April 2, 1914, was overshadowed by a mystery that was never fully resolved. His birthday certificate had a conspicuous blank spot where the name of the father was to be listed. It was speculated that Alec's father was a member of the well known Irish Guinness family. However, no proof either way has been established. Alec enjoyed a private school education, paid for by a Scottish banker named Andrew Geddes. Guinness and Geddes never met. And no evidence has ever turned up that establishes the connection between the two, other than the payment for schooling. Guinness was uninterested in any continued connection with his mother, Agnes Cuff, and effectively cut her out of his life entirely.

Guinness's career in the theater started on his 20th birthday, while still a student. After a 2 year series of bit-parts he landed the role of Osric in John Gielgud's highly regarded production of *Hamlet*. This was the starting of a spectacular career that would span nearly seven decades.

Like many actors, World War II side-tracked Guinness from his beloved theater. He served in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, first serving as a

seaman in 1941 and later being commissioned in 1942. In the thick of action, he commanded a landing craft taking part in the invasion of Sicily and Elba.



After the conclusion of World War II, Guinness continued to work in the theater, but also started to act in films. Guinness starred opposite William Holden in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, establishing him as a seasoned and highly respected film actor. His performance as Colonel Nicholson won him an Academy Award. A total of seven Academy Awards were taken by this film 1957 film.

Guinness conquered both the film world and the theater, but his most visible and enduring role was as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the original Star Wars trilogy. This role was to cement Guinness in the minds of a whole new generation of film watchers – much to his dismay! While he was one of the few cast members who believed the film would be a box office smash, he agreed to take the role on the condition that he would not be involved in any publicity to promote the film. Guinness's negotiation of 2% of the gross film royalties would make him very wealthy in later life. Furthermore, his role resulted in Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations.

Guinness was highly regarded in his life and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1955 and knighted in 1959, thus becoming Sir Alec Guinness.

Guinness was apparently bisexual. His marriage to Merula Salaman in 1938 endured until his death in 2000 and produced a son Matthew Guinness. The one public event that remained hidden from the public eye for many decades occurred in a Liverpool public lavatory in 1946. Guinness was arrested and fined 10 guineas for a homosexual act. Guinness's bisexual nature was well known to his family and friends, even though there was almost no public knowledge of it.

Religion played a strong part in the life of Guinness. In 1956 he was formally received into the Roman Catholic Church and remained a devote Catholic. He regularly attended church with his wife for the remainder of his life.

Liver cancer claimed the life of Sir Alec Guinness on August 5, 2000. His widow, Lady Guinness also died of cancer two months after his passing. Both are interred in Petersfield, Hampshire, England.

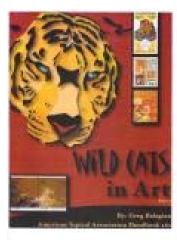
Sir Alec Guinness left a rich legacy of theater and film work that will remain vibrant for many decades. Sadly, his life as a bisexual man, who could have been a well respected role-model, never happened during his lifetime.

Until next time, have a great time collecting, and I look forward to hearing from any readers with comments or suggestions.

I can be reached at hampton@cfl.rr.com.



#### **ATA Publishes Wild Cats in Art**



The American Topical Association is releasing its 161<sup>st</sup> handbook on topical collecting at APS AmeriStamp in Charleston. The title of the newest handbook is Wild Cats in Art. Authored by Greg Balagian, it is the first multi-part book released by the ATA. Extensive in detail, it includes both Scott and Michel numbers for listed stamps.

The new ATA handbook will be of special interest to collectors of art on stamps as well as those interested in feline philately. Wild Cats consists of 357 pages, size 8.5" x 11", with more than 2500 high-quality color illustrations. Stamps from 220 countries are listed and illustrated. Hundreds of illustrations have accompanying vignettes that show the details of the felines in the art work of the stamps.

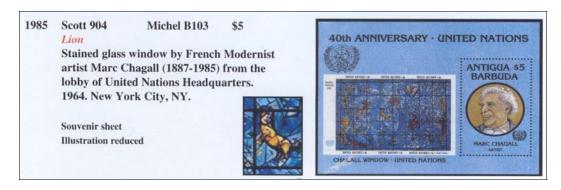
Balagian is a noted philatelist and has exhibited "Big Cats and Humans," where he showcased the representation of felines in art, religion, literature, entertainment, heraldry and astrology. This book is a natural extension of his interest and expertise.

The graphic designer for the latest ATA handbook is Amanda Morgenstern, a young American philatelist with a BA (Honors) in Graphic Design and an MA in Typographic Design from Cambridge School of Art in the UK. Morgenstern began her career with Hallmark Cards in the UK and is now a freelance designer. Her clientele includes the ATA as well as other US and international entities. In 2009, her work for a client won a Platinum MarCom award. Morgenstern's online portfolio can be found at http://abovevivid.carbonmade.com/

The professional printing of Wild Cats in Art was done by Minuteman Press of Toledo, Ohio, which is donating a copy of the handbook to the American Philatelic Society. Presentation of newly-printed copies of the book, to the author and Ken Martin, Executive Director of APS, is occurring at an ATA Member Roundtable meeting at APS AmeriStamp in Charleston on Feb. 12.

Price of the new handbook is \$75 (\$72 for ATA members), plus \$3.50 domestic postage. Copies will be available later this year at ATA society tables at the National Topical Stamp Show in Milwaukee, APS StampShow in Columbus, the ASDA National Stamp Show in New York, and Chicagopex. A limited number of books has been printed. After the initial printing will be sold, printed-on-demand books will be available at an approximate cost of \$90, domestic delivery included.

Orders for the new ATA handbook may be made by check sent to ATA, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008, by MasterCard/Visa/Discover called or faxed to the ATA Central Office at 618-985-5100, or by Pay-Pal to americantopical@msn.com.



#### La Chambre syndicale française des Négociants et Experts en Philatélie (CNEP)

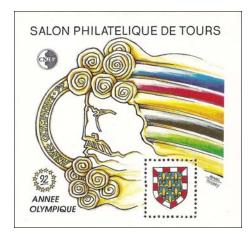
CNEP is the French equivalent of the American Stamp Dealers Association. In 1980, they began to issue a souvenir sheet (referred to as CNEP Blocs) at the annual stamp show that was held in various cities throughout France. Starting in 1992, a second sheet was issued during the annual fall stamp show in Paris.



Left: First CNEP block issued during show in Strasbourg.

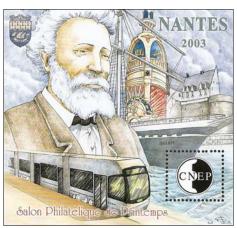
Right: First CNEP block that was re-engraved. Two varieties exist.





Left: First year that a block was issued in the fall.

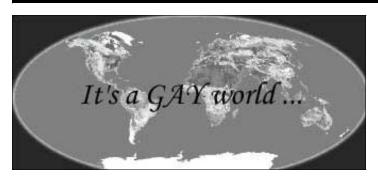
Right: Each block features local scenes, persons, etc.





First and only, so far, odd-shaped block. Issued during Philex France 99.

## Gay & Lesbian Update



*Liberia* issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet on December 16, 2010. Paintings of Sandro Botticelli are featured. Scott nos. 2688 a-d, 2689.

*Micronesia* issued a sheet of four stamps on December 16, 2010. Four different moments in Abraham Lincoln's presidency are featured. Scott no. 903 a-d.

*Nevis* issued a single stamp and a sheet of four stamps featuring Abraham Lincoln on December 10, 2010. Scott nos. 1627, 1628 a-d.

**Palau** issued a sheet of four stamps on April 22, 2010. Four portraits of Abraham Lincoln are featured. Scott no. 1005 a-d.

**Palau** issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring paintings by Sandro Botticcelli. Scott nos. 1014 a-d, 1015.

**Palau** issued four stamps for Christmas on September 8, 2010. *Adoration of the Magi*, by Leonardo da Vinci can be found on Scott no. 1017.

### **AIDS Update**

A new website is on the Internet. Be sure to visit <u>www.aidsonstamps.com</u>. The site is the result of hard work of one of GLHSC's newest members.

You can friend AIDS on Stamps at http://www.facebook.com/pages/AIDS-on-Stamps/155576304505226

Facebook will automatically give us a nicer URL once we have 25 followers. The main difference between this and the AIDS on Stamps website is that the Facebook page is updated more frequently, but with far less detail. The brief updates are flushed out with appropriate detail during the next AIDS on Stamps website update (which happens every month or two, depending on how much is happening).

Another nice perk of the AoS Facebook page is that anyone can post links and news. So if someone else spots a new release, they can upload photos and write information about it as well.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Netherlands** issued a block of six stamps for the stop AIDS campaign on October 12, 2010. Scott no. 1376 a-f.

## APS STAMPSHOW



## APS Introduces the "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" Archive

APS would like to honor authors by creating a "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive on their website. In addition to awarding the authors, this opportunity will give publicity and a link to GLHSC, encourage philatelic writing and benefit membership by sharing the articles.

How does it work? Each APS affiliate/club will have an annual "best article" competition. All philatelic related articles published in the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* are eligible to win.

The winning article will be submitted to APS. The article must be accompanied with a form that provides information on the club and author as well as permission to post the article to the APS site.

APS will post the article to the "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive and provide a certificate of achievement to the author. Articles will be uploaded and archived by topic with a link to GLHSC.

If anyone would like to nominate an article, please send an email to glhsc@aol.com.

#### Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS & APRL) 100 Match Factory Place Bellefonte PA 16823 814-933-3803 www.stamps.org



American Topical Association (ATA) PO Box 8 Carterville IL 62918-0008



www.americantopicalassn.org

www.stamplibrary.org

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) PO Box 16277 Tucson AZ 85732-6277 520-321-0880 www.afdcs.org



Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library
PO Box 830643
Richardson TX 75083-0643
www.utdallas.edu/library/uniquecoll/speccoll/wprl/wprl.htm

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives One Institute 909 West Adams Blvd. West Hollywood CA 90007-2406 213-741-0094 www.onearchives.org



Homodok (Gay Archives) Oosterdoksstraat 110 NL—1011 DK Amsterdam The Netherlands www.ihlia.nl



National Postal Museum MRC 570 Smithsonian Institution Washington DC 20560-0001 www.postalmuseum.si.edu



The British Library
Philatelic Collections
96 Euston Road
NW1 2DB London
United Kingdom
www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic



## WANTED: ARTICLES

Send in articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual, topical or country for publication in a future issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

- Text file via email or diskette preferred.
- Graphics 300 dpi or better quality.
- Will scan originals and return if needed.



Would any members like to trade the Canadian (English and French on back), Mexican or other country version of Starbucks cards? Can trade stamps (US, France) or US bucks cards.

Cards shown are examples only.



Contact:

Joe Petronie PO Box 190842 Dallas TX 75219-0842