

Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB * JUNE & SEPTEMBER 2012, VOL. 31, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 118



Stamps featuring Apollo butterflies are mentioned frequently in the book *On Collecting Stamps*. See page 4.



Scott no. 1832 See page 5.



French Singers stamps issued in booklet form in 1990. See page 8 for the most recent Edith Piaf stamp release.

June & September 2012, Whole No. 118, Vol. 31, No. 2

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 world-wide 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.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Publication Months	<u>Articles Needed by</u>
March	February 15
June	May 15
September	August 15
December	November 15

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News from the Editor

I started a Facebook page for the club. We currently have six likes. Be sure to check it out and like us—Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club. If anyone would like to help keep it updated, I'll send you the password to log in.

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Much to my disappointment, I received just one offer to run for a club office. I'm not sure how to proceed. Any ideas?

* * * * *

I realize that this journal is extremely late in getting out. Work has been in a bit of turmoil since the middle of the summer. We have had a major reorganization with my office being eliminated. Three of us were moved to a new (for us) office. Three were demoted to the district office and two positions completely eliminated. This scenario played out across the country. My parents are beginning to show their age (85 and 79), especially my mom. No matter how much you think you're prepared, it is still a surprise when you realize it is actually here.

For these reasons, and the fact that I have been editor for way too many years, I will publish a late December edition within the next few weeks as my last journal. I do not have the time or energy to continue publishing the journal in a timely manner. The recent tardiness is not fair to club members.

If anyone would like to take over, please let me or one of the officers know. You can reach the officers at:

Angela: bleumoon3@gmail.com Brian: lanter@rt66.com Blair/Paul: blair512p@comcast.net Judith: strega@tops-tele.com Club: glhsc@aol.com

A member had offered to become several years ago, but it fell through. The post office box will remain as it is my personal box.

I apologize for the recent tardiness of the journals and the method of relaying this message.



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Remembrance of Stamps Past

by Ian Young



On Collecting Stamps by Håkan Lindquist Translated by the author from the Swedish; Berlin, Bruno Gmünder Verlag, 2012, 170 pages.

I recently attended this year's Rainbow Book Fair, an annual event held on two floors of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center on 13th Street in

Manhattan. It was a lively, friendly, well-attended event with a wide range of publishers and booksellers displaying their wares, as well as an interesting series of readings and panel discussions. In a time when we are repeatedly told that the printed book is on its way out, you'd never know it from the level of excitement coursing through the fair, or the rich diversity of material on display, from little zines to slick romances, from poetry to porn.

Browsing among the sales tables, I noticed an attractive book entitled *On Collecting Stamps*, and of course snapped it up. Not a guidebook but a novel translated from the Swedish, *On Collecting Stamps* by Håkan Lindquist, turned out to be one of the most affecting pieces of fiction I've read in recent years.

Set, like Lindquist's first book, *My Brother and His Brother*, in the small Swedish harbor town of Oskarshamn, the story takes the form of a series of ruminations by the chief character, Mattias, as he recalls his teenage years, and his friendship with an older man, Samuel, who introduces him to the pleasures of stamp collecting, butterflies, stars, bell ringing, books and poems.

When Mattias makes a journey from Stockholm back to his hometown to see his mother, he embarks on a trip into his past, a fond, sometimes melancholy reminiscence of his childhood and youth, and his relations with his old friend - a gentle, thoughtful gay man like himself, whose great love, a young sailor, remained an iconic memory for him throughout his life. Some old photographs and a cache of letters (complete with stamps) make the treasured past tangible again - and lead to the discovery of a long-hidden secret.

Throughout the novel, there are references to particular stamps - a Polynesian fisherman, a Hungarian stag beetle, a crayfish from Tristan da Cunha - which act as nostalgic touchstones of Mattias' and Samuel's long-cherished times together.





So much recent fiction has tended to be cynical and contrived, calculated to shock or appall. By contrast, Lindquist writes fiction in the great European tradition, and with great tenderness. His quiet, subtle tale, told with unobtrusive skill, feels as poignant and intimate as the clear Scandinavian light that pervades it. As a story of youth and friendship, *On Collecting Stamps*, stands on a par with Fred Uhlman's *Reunion* and Eric Jourdan's *Les Mauvais Anges*.

The translation by the author is almost impeccable, its few slight infelicities ("the female nurse,") acting as subtle reminders of the story's Swedish setting. The book's presentation is appropriately understated, with an attractive, faux-philatelic cover illustration of a handsome young man. The publisher, Bruno Gmünder of Berlin, offers a number of intriguing English-language gay novels by international authors.

Edith Wharton (1862-1937)



Edith Wharton was an American writer, associated with the "Gilded Age" of United States history. She was a member of the wealthy, upper-class society that developed in the period after the Civil War and many of her novels offer insight into that world.

Wharton was born Edith Newbold Jones on January 24, 1862. Her parents were well-to-do New Yorkers with society connections. When Edith was a young girl, they moved to Europe for several years. Edith was educated at home by private tutors and through her own reading. She began writing at a young age, with her first works being published when she was still a teenager.

In 1885, Edith married an investment banker named Edward Wharton. Like the Jones family, the Whartons travelled extensively in Europe, although they never had any children. Unfortunately, their marriage wasn't a happy one and the two divorced in 1913.

Wharton settled in France after her divorce and, during World War I, wrote reports for American newspapers. She continued to write books, publishing more than 40 volumes of fiction and poetry. Wharton was friend and confidante to many gifted intellectuals of her time: Henry James, Sinclair Lewis, Jean Cocteau and André Gide.

Some of Wharton's most famous books were *The House of Mirth*, *The Age of Innocence*, and *Ethan Frome*. She was the first woman ever to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the first woman granted an honorary degree by Yale University. Edith Wharton died of a stroke in 1937. The United States postal service issued a commemorative stamp in 1980.

Related Web Sites:

The Mount, Edith Wharton's Estate – Free Library Texts of Wharton's Work

Edith Wharton on the Literature Network

Resources for Teachers : CSPAN Age of Innocence Classroom Resources-EDSITEment: Edith Wharton War Correspondent Lesson Plan (Grades 9-12)

http://www.stamponhistory.com/articles/article.php? article_id=45





Panama City Private Local Post Established

Douglas Sandler, postmaster of the newly established Panama City Private Post, announced that this service will be used to frank this stamp collector's private mail. The postmaster wanted to be sure that his local post stamps won't be confused with USPS stamps. The words "Must be used with regular postage" is printed in the lower right corner.

The first issue features a picture of the local post postmaster. The stamp comes in a sheetlet of ten 45 cent stamps. The fourth stamp in row two is intentionally printed upside down which creates a tete-beche pair. The stamp was issued on August 27, 2012. (Figure 1)

The second issue features two different stamps—the Panama City (FL) post office built in 1937 [45 cents] and the annual Oktoberfest seal [65 cents]. The horizontal formatted sheetlet contains four se-tenant pairs. Both stamps will be issued on November 10, 2012.

The third issue urges the support to free Tibet. The vertical formatted sheetlet of eight stamps features two different designs, each featuring the Tibet flag. One version has a value of 65 cents and the other 85 cents. The 85 cent version is shown in figure 1.

For further information on any of these stamps, please contact Douglas Sandler, postmaster, Panama City Private Local Post, PO Box 333, Panama City, FL 32402-0333.

Or visit his page on the net: http://www.panamacityprivatelocalpost.com



Make a Collection of Gay Heroes on Stamps

The first ever commemorative stamp issue of the Panama City Private Local post will be issued November 27, 2012 to honor Harvey Milk, a true American hero on the 34th Anniversity of his assasination. Politics and gay activism were not his early interests; he was not open about his homosexuality and did not participate in civic matters until around the age of 40, after his experiences in the counterculture of the 1960s. Milk moved from New York City to settle in San Francisco in 1972 amid a migration of gay men to the Castro District. He took advantage of the growing political and economic power of the neighborhood to promote his interests, and ran unsuccessfully for political office three times. His theatrical campaign earned him increasing popularity, and Milk won a seat as a city supervisor in 1977, part of the broader so-cial changes the city was experiencing.

Milk served 11 months in office and was responsible for passing a stringent gay rights ordinance for the city. On November 27, 1978, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by Dan White, another city supervisor who had recently resigned, but wanted his job back. Milk's election was made possible by and was a key component of a shift in San Francisco politics. The assassinations and the ensuing events were the result of continuing ideological conflicts in the city. The stamps will be issued in a sheet of 10 stamps. Individuals wanting to purchase a sheet, send \$4.50 for a FDC \$1.50 or a single 0.45 may send requests to Panama City Private Local Post P.O. Box 333 Panama City, FL 32402.

Edith Piaf

by Bobby Cloud

Édith Giovanna Gassion (aka Edith Piaf), was a French singer and cultural icon who became widely regarded as France's national popular singer, as well as being one of France's greatest international stars. She was born December 19, 1915.

Despite numerous biographies, much of Piaf's life seems to be shrouded in mystery. She was discovered by nightclub owner Louis Leplée whose club Le Gerny, off the Champs-Élysées in Paris, was a club frequented by the upper and lower classes alike. Leplée persuaded her to sing despite her extreme nervousness which, combined with her height of only 4 ft 8 in, was what inspired him to give her the nickname that would stay with her for the rest of her life and serve as her stage name, La Môme Piaf (translatable as "The Little Sparrow").

Piaf had many male lovers throughout her career, including Marcel Cerdan (France, Scott 2267), Raymond Asso, Yves Montand (1994 France, Scott B656) and at least one famous female lover, Marlene Dietrich – (Germany, Scott # 1797).

During World War II, Piaf became nationally known and was in great demand. She was very successful in Paris as France's most popular entertainer. After the war, she became known internationally, touring Europe, South America, and the United States – she made 8 appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and made 2 appearances at Carnegie Hall. She knew many of France's celebrities including Maurice Chevalier (bisexual), Jean Cocteau (homosexual) and many others. Piaf appeared in one of Cocteau's films.

Her triumphant and tragic story is too long for a short article, but she was a star. She sang tragic songs about heartbreak that have been called the French equivalent of the blues. Numerous songs by Piaf are used in films (such as *Saving Private Ryan* and *Inception*) and other media.

Edith Piaf passed away of lung cancer on October 11, 1963. Ironically, later that day, her friend, Jean Cocteau died of a heart attack, after recording a tribute to her earlier in the day.

Piaf was honored by the USPS in June 2012 in a joint issue with France, which also featured Miles Davis. Piaf was previously honored by France in 1990 on a semi-postal issue (Scott B618). Her fellow actor and friend, Maurice Chevalier, was honored in that series as well. (Scott B620)

Sources:

The Piaf Legend, by David Bret, Robson Books, 1988.

No Regrets: The Life of Edith Piaf, by Carolyn Burke, Alfred A. Knopf 2011.

Marlene, My Friend, by David Bret, Robson Books, 1993. (Dietrich dedicates a whole chapter to her friendship with Piaf.)

Piaf: A Passionate Life, by David Bret, Robson Books, 1998; revised JR Books, 2007.





Man/Woman: A Study of Hermaphroditus

by Laura Clemente First published in the June 2005 issue of LPJ

In Lucie Delarue-Mardrus' book, the Angel and the Perverts, the hero/heroine Marion (note that this can be woman or man's name) goes through life changing sexual identities in reaction to his/her circumstances. He/she can never participate in life, but can only view it with a wide knowledge.

The theme of hermaphroditism has occurred frequently in literature. This book contains a fascinating example of such a person. One who is not privy to his/her physical peculiarity, but is nonetheless categorized by certain anatomical features and lumped in as a woman because it suits society.

In Robertson Davies' World of Wonders, one book in a trilogy of novels, Diego Matamoros is made up for his role in the circus of Gus the Hermaphrodite by appearing half-male and half-female. He is divided laterally so that one side of him is wearing a suit, the other a dress. One side of his face is made up while the other "masculine" side sports a moustache. It was adapted for the stage by Elliott Hayes and debuted on the Stratford, Ontario stage. The actor portraying the character is literally split into two personae, one half female wit a long dress and oldfashioned wig complete with make-up, the other male, with a formal suit, half a bowtie, half a moustache and slicked back hair.





In Milan Kundera's the Unbearable Lightness of Being, the protagonist, Tomas, recalls that in Plato's symposium that people were hermaphrodites until God split them in two and now all the halves wander the world in search of each other. In conclusion, love is the longing for the half of ourselves we have lost. From ancient times such a being has been described and deified.

Aristophanes described the original human as being with two male or two female halves or a male and female half. This being was separated and condemned to spend the rest of its life looking for its mate.

In Greek mythology, Hermaphrodites was the son of Hermes, the messenger god and Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty. She was a woman who charmed every man she met. He was Zeus' messenger due to his swiftness and grace. He was a clever and cunning god who is also the guide of the dead, leading them on their journey to the underworld.

Their son possessed the best attributes of both parents - his father's athleticism and his mother's charm. It is telling that he took a combination of both their names. Raised by nymphs who took care of him until he was a young man, he went wandering in the wilderness when he came of age. He traveled through the forests encountering many of the creatures that lived there, including the Dryads (forest nymphs), Nereids (sea nymphs), Oreads (mountain nymphs), Oceanids (nymphs of the oceans) and Naiads (nymphs that protected springs and pools).

Salmacis was a Naiad. She lived in a clear pool of water near Halicarnassus. She was the living spirit of the water she inhabited. She liked to stay in the water most of the time, and although she could leave her home she preferred to stay there. She never ventured far, but one day when she returned to her waters after gathering flowers, she found Hermaphrodites washing off the dust of his travels in her pool.

She was indignant until he spoke. He begged for forgiveness for startling and disturbing her. Instantly, she fell in love with his beauty and voice. She promised to love him forever if he would stay, blocking his departure. Her overzealous infatuation wasn't new to him, but it was quite fervent. His intent to run away in his eyes, she leapt on him and both tumbled into the pool of water. She implored to the gods that they never be separated and they merged into one form, becoming both male and female at the same time.

In modern times, the hermaphrodite found its home in the sideshows of the circus. It was a natural place for sexual phenomenon. But most carnival hermaphrodites were deemed fakes. They usually divided literally in half, with half man and half woman acts like Josephine-Joseph.

Some were born as female with small breasts and an oversized clitoris resembling a penis. Other congenital anomalies include men with extra penises or testicles. On the other hand some were born with less than the norm. Some were born with neither ovaries nor testicles, but a sterile combination of both.

There are other medical conditions that come close to true hermaphrodism such as women with Turner's syndrome. They are flat chested and short. Men can have Klinefelter's syndrome and have characteristics of female breasts and small genitals.

There are many more examples of various intersexed people, as they are now known. Many suffered psychological harm when they were classed as male or female according to their external genitalia. Some were operated on as infants and classed according to the traditional gender class. Now it is believed that the intersexed should be allowed to grow up and make their own decision regarding their gender and that any subsequent surgery not be performed without their consent.

In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, sex organs and physical appearances can be altered even further with the advent of plastic surgery turning women and men into sometimes comic exaggerations of the "norm". In other instances, sex reassignment surgery illustrates another faux example of a hermaphrodite.

In rare cases, a person may be born with the cells of two distinct people. One such hermaphrodite had two different colored eyes. When DNA was examined, half of it contained female chromosomes and the other half male. As well the child had one normal ovary and the second was a hybrid ovotestis. Such a person is called a chimera and can occur in animals or plants. Grafting, hybridization or mixing cells of embryos may artificially create them. Naturally occurring chimeras are very rare.

In nature, some species of animal also change sex. Take example the Bluehead wrasse. When a dominant male dies, the largest remaining fish takes his place regardless of the fish's gender. If it is a female, she will lose her ovaries, grow testes, her head will turn blue and she will change her markings. Her behavior will be aggressive and she will also court females. Typical male!

That's an extreme example, but there are other fish that will change gender in order to propagate the species. This change is quite difficult; some fish only changing sex once, while others may do so frequently. It takes a great deal of energy, time and from an evolutionary standpoint risky, since the fish in transition does not look like the other fish and stands out to predators.

Isn't Mother Nature weird and wonderful?

Bibliography:

Fanfares newsletter; Publication for members of the Stratford Festival; 19921 Spring/Summer issue.

World of Wonders, by Robertson Davies Penguin Books

Mythology-timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes, by Edith Hamilton Meridian Books

Inside Teradome, by Jack Hunter Creation Books

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, by Milan Kundera Harper and Row

The Angel and the Perverts, by Lucie Delarue-Mardrus New York University Press

The Science of the X-Files, by Jeanne Cavelos Berkley Boulevard

Internet source: Mythology Web

ATA Releases Halloween Checklist and Crossword Puzzle on its Website

Members of the American Topical Association (ATA) have prepared a new Halloween Checklist and also a Halloween Crossword Puzzle, and posted them for free download on the organization's website at http:// www.americantopicalassn.org. The checklist is available in both Excel and .pdf format through October 31.

Checklists are a member-to-member service of the ATA, as its members have created and continue to update more than 590 checklists covering a plethora of stamp collecting themes, ranging from abacus to zoology. Releasing an extensive ATA checklist to the stamp collecting public is a new event. Once philate-lists are aware of the number of stamps relating to a topic and the challenge in creating an in-depth collection of those stamps, they realize some of the exciting possibilities inherent in topical/thematic collecting.

The new Halloween checklist comprises ~285 philatelic items relating to such themes as black cats, bats, owls, witches, spiders, monsters, ghosts, and horror stories. Combining these various topics into a single Halloween-themed checklist is a "first." The checklist has been made possible through the combined work of several ATA members, notably ATA Board Member Jean Stout of Pearl, Miss.

The first section of the ATA checklist includes stamps issued by postal authorities and listed in the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*. The second section lists stamps and "cinderellas" that are not listed in the catalog. The third section lists other philatelic items not usually listed in the general *Scott Catalogue*, including cancellations, air letter sheets, booklet covers, meter stamps, postal cards, postmarks, stamped envelopes and wrappers. ATA checklists also include related topical information such as other available checklists, published handbooks, and Study Units related to the theme.

The Halloween Crossword Puzzle offered on the ATA website is courtesy of Australian member Will Cochrane, whose popular website is found at www.philatelicdatabase.com. A large variety of philatelic material related to popular topics/themes is always found on the website. Other interactive crossword puzzles using topical themes (including one with ATA as the subject) are also available on the site.

A free copy of the Halloween checklist and crossword puzzle will be mailed to any collector who sends a SASE to ATA by the end of October.

For further information about ATA, email americantopicalassn@msn.com, call 618-985-5100, or address letter to ATA Halloween, PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008.





Gay & Lesbian Update

The April issue of *First Days* published a seven page article on the Liberty Series 50 cent stamp: Susan B. Anthony. Many examples of cachets for this issue are included. The article is by Peter Martin. *First Days* is the journal of the American First Day Cover Society.



Great Britain's dressage team, which includes out equestrian rider Carl Hester won gold at the London Olympics. This win earned Hester, 45, his first Olympic medal.

Several other countries have also issued stamps celebrating their gold medal winners. Does anyone know of any other out athletes featured on any of these stamps? Maurice Sendak, the children's author and illustrator best known for the 1963 classic "Where the Wild Things Are," died May 8, 2012.

Sendak came out during an interview with *New York Times* writer Patricia Cohen in 2008. He was with his partner, Eugene Glynn, for 50 years. (Glynn died in 2007.)



Canada Post issued a sheetlet of eight se-tenant pairs to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Canada's successful defeat of an American invasion. The stamps feature General Sir Isaac Brock and his ally Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. More on Sir Isaac Brock can be found in the March 2005 issue of this journal.



Lambda Philatelic Journal



Germany issued a stamp for the 300th anniversary of the birth of King Frederick II. The single stamp was issued on January 2, 2012. Scott no. 2647.



Germany issued a stamp on March 1, 2012, for the 500th anniversary of the *Sistine Madonna*, by Raphael. Scott no. 2666.

Ireland issued a pair of stamps and a souvenir sheet for the 100th anniversary of the death of Bram Stoker. Stoker wrote the book, *Dracula*. His sexual orientation is unknown and unproven. He was married and he also associated with several gay men (Henry Irving, Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman are just three). Dracula is considered homoerotic by many. He definitely needs more research. Scott nos. 1961 - 62, 1962b. *Sierra Leone* issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet on March 25, 2011, featuring works of Sandro Botticelli. Scott nos. 3062 a-d and 3063.

Sierra Leone issued a sheet of four stamps and a sheet of three stamps for the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Abraham Lincoln is featured on three of the stamps. Scott nos. 3090 a-d and 3091 a-c.



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.

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.

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Armenia issued a mini-sheet of two stamps for the United Nations program on AIDS. Scott nos. 886 a-b.

Colombia issued a stamp on December 1, 2011, for the campaign against AIDS. Scott no. 1367.

Iraq issued a stamp on January 3, 2012, for the 30th anniversary of the discovery of AIDS. Scott no. 1852.



Macedonia issued another postal tax stamp in the campaign against AIDS. Macedonia has issued an AIDS stamp annually since 1997. The stamp was issued December 1, 2011. Scott no. RA158.

Morocco issued a single stamp on July 27, 2011, for the campaign against AIDS. Scott no. 1137.

Serbia issued their stamp in the campaign against AIDS on June 1, 2011. Scott no. 550.

Serbia also issued a postal tax stamp on November 1, 2007, in the campaign against AIDS. It was obligatory on mail November 1 - 30. Scott no. RA13.

Ukraine issued a stamp on December 1, 2011, for the 30th anniversary of the Campaign Against AIDS. Scott no. 847.

Uruguay issued a stamp on June 30, 2011, for the 30th anniversary of the campaign against HIV. Scott no. 2342. [Most countries use the phrase "campaign against AIDS".]

Uzbekistan issued a stamp on December 16, 2011, for the 30th anniversary of the campaign against AIDS. Scott no. 683.







January/February 2012

Volume 1 Issue 1

PENGUINS

Welcome to the very first issue of *Topical Tidbits*. Inside, you will find many activities that will introduce you to the world of penguins and the fun of collecting penguins on stamps from around the world.

Penguin Food Chain

Like all wild animals, penguins must find their own food. They hunt underwater for small shrimp-like animals called krill, squid, and many kinds of fish.

Other animals like to eat penguins. In the water, penguins must watch out for leopard seals, orcas, sea lions, and sharks. On land, several kinds of birds may try to steal penguin eggs or attack the chicks. People are also considered a predator to penguins. Now all penguins are protected by law.

