



Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB * MARCH 2008, VOL. 27, NO. 1, WHOLE NO. 101



Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade (top row, left stamp)
Scott no. 1845a.

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:

President.....Angela Watson
 Vice President Brian Lanter
 Secretary Vacant
 Treasurer Judith Beckett
 Editor.....Joe Petronie

Email: glhsc@aol.com

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**GLHSC, PO BOX 190842,
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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.

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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.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

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

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication.

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News From the Editor

As we start a new year for GLHSC and the Lambda Philatelic Journal, thanks to all who have sent articles for publication. I have enough to get me through, I hope, the June issue. Since Angela is making my plea this issue, I'll skip making one!

* * * * *

If you hear from any GLHSC members, or those wishing to receive information on the club, that I have ignored their emails, please have them re-email me and offer them my apologies. I generally receive between 10 – 20 emails a day at the glhsc@aol.com address, 99.9% of them spam. I may have deleted their email in error. It is truly amazing since I rarely use this address in the first place. If just one of the junk emails that I received were true, the journal would be 20+ pages in full color and postmarked from some exotic island! [You gotta love the Nigerian scam letter.]

* * * * *

A couple of articles have been received, but the scanners at home and work died. I should be back in business with a new scanner at home shortly. [The new one at the office arrived the other day.] Until June, have a great 2008!

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From the President

With a far-flung membership, it is difficult for many GLHSC members to get to know one another. Joe Petronie & I had never met each other when we came together to work on the common goals of the club. In fact, we didn't meet until 1996 in San Francisco (naturally!) at the international exhibition there (Gosh, have we really known each that long, Joe?). It was, in my opinion, a very successful meeting!

More recently, Joe and I and treasurer Judith Beckett managed to be in the same city at the same time (Dallas, last October) so we met up for lunch and some discussions about the club and, of course, stamp collecting in general. We talked about the future of the club and how to best help it grow. One of the things that came up was that we really need more participation in the group from members just like you. We need more than the same three or four people to be doing things. So I would once again ask, plead, beg and cajole from members an article, some help with the website, assisting with design of a commemorative cover or any number of other creative and special projects we have discussed in the past.

Please contact either Joe or myself with any assistance you can render or even with new ideas that you might have for making this club stronger and more vibrant as we proceed forward through 2008.

Angela

In memory

Charles Weeks



December journal returned with note that he passed away.

Gunsels on Stamps

by Judith Beckett

Do you know what a gonsel is? Neither does my spell check. It offers me gunnels and guns as possible options. That's close.

Originally, however, it was a word derived from the German or Yiddish word "ganzel" meaning "gosling". Gonsel meant "a boy who has sexual relations with a man." In 1930, Dashiell Hammet used the word to describe Wilmer, the young homosexual gunman in his hard-boiled detective novel *The Maltese Falcon*. He suspected that the editor of "The Black Mask", the magazine that first published his novel in serial episodes, would never accept the word homosexual for publication. He would probably not be familiar with the word gonsel. He was right. Gonsel was quickly accepted by the public and the underworld as a slang word for "gun-toting gangster".

Samuel Dashiell Hammet (May 27, 1894-January 10, 1961) was an American author. He is credited with the invention of the modern detective novel. His work has had significant influence on film. He was born in Maryland and grew up in Baltimore and Philadelphia. He left school when he was 13 years old. He eventually got a job working for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency from 1915 until 1921. He also served in WWI during that period.

While working for Pinkerton in Butte, Montana, he was offered \$5,000 to murder a union organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World. The man was later lynched by masked vigilantes widely believed to be Pinkerton agents. Disillusioned, Hammet left the agency, but his work there provided him with the inspiration for his writing and with an encyclopedic knowledge of the underworld. Among the enduring characters that he created are Sam Spade (*The Maltese Falcon*) and Nick and Nora Charles (*The Thin Man*).

I've just finished reading *The Maltese Falcon*. The Vermont Arts Council chose it as part of the Big Read, a project developed by the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest to encourage citizens nationwide to read for pleasure.

Imagine my pleasure when I discovered that three of the main characters in the novel, all gangsters, were homosexuals. The characters really came to life for me when I rented and watched the film starring Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade, Peter Lorre as Joel Cairo, Sydney Greenstreet as Casper Gutman, and Elisha Cook, Jr. as Wilmer.

If you haven't yet read the book or seen the film, the Maltese falcon itself is a statuette, a black bird encrusted with jewels that was sent to King Charles V of Spain by the Knight Templars of Malta in 1539 in tribute and gratitude for their occupation of the island of Malta. Stolen by pirates before it could reach the king, it showed up now and then over the centuries to receive yet another coat of black enamel paint and then disappear once more into the mysteries of time. The jewel-encrusted falcon is not just a black bird. As Sam Spade says, it's "the stuff that dreams are made of".

Hammet's Sam Spade first becomes involved with the falcon when a beautiful and sexy femme fatale, Brigid O'Shaughnessy, shows up in his detective agency in 1920's San Francisco seeking his protection. Ever susceptible to the charms of a woman, Spade becomes an unwitting participant in a plot among criminals to steal the statue from each other.



Humphrey Bogart
The Maltese Falcon
1941



Joel Cairo is the first gay character to show up in Spade's office. His character is based on a real criminal that Hammet captured for Pinkerton's in 1920 in Washington State.

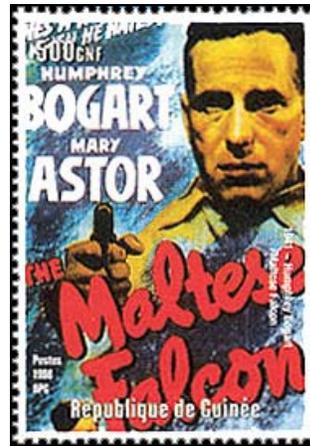
In the book, he is announced to Spade by his secretary, Effie Perine. She says, "This guy is queer." Just in case you think she means "strange" by that, consider the following description of Cairo on page 42.

"His black coat, cut tight to narrow shoulders, flared a little over slightly plump hips. His trousers fitted his round legs more snugly than was current fashion. The uppers of his patent leather shoes were hidden by fawn spats. He held a black derby hat in a chamois-gloved hand and came towards Spade with short, mincing, bobbing steps. The fragrance of chypre¹ came with him."

While in another part of the book, Spade refers to Cairo as a "fairy", blatant references to homosexuality were downplayed in the film to avoid problems with the censors. Instead, the characters were "queer-coded": Effie hands the detective a calling card that smells of gardenias and Cairo's handkerchief is gardenia scented as well. But Peter Lorre's portrayal of Cairo is decidedly effeminate and well worth the price of the rental.

When Cairo tries to search Spade's office for the falcon at gun point, Spade takes the gun away from him and knocks him unconscious. Cairo revives to fuss about the blood on his clothes, saying peevishly to Spade, "Look what you've done to my shirt."

The "gungsel", Wilmer Cook, appears in Chapter Six, "The Undersized Shadow", when Spade first notices that he is being followed. Wilmer is described as "an under-sized youth of twenty or twenty-one in neat grey cap and overcoat" with "pale face and curling lashes". Wilmer shadows Spade throughout the first half of the book, lurking in alleyways, streetcars and hotel lobbies. The boy packs two big guns (described by Spade as "tools bulging his clothes"), but whenever he



Guinea stamp, not listed in Scott.

pulls them out, Spade manages to relieve him of them without much difficulty, just as he did with Cairo.

Wilmer's boss is Casper Gutman, "the fat man". Although Wilmer is Gutman's plaything as well, it is later implied in an argument between Brigid and Joel Cairo that Wilmer also may have had a relationship with Cairo in Constantinople.

The word gungsel is first used by Spade in Gutman's hotel room. Spade still does not know what the fuss over the bird is all about and he becomes enraged when the fat man refuses to tell him the story of the black bird and why they want it so badly.

"Another thing," the usually unflappable Spade shouts, apparently suffering a severe case of homosexual panic, "Keep that gungsel away from me ... I'll kill him. I don't like him. He makes me nervous. I'll kill him the first time he gets in my way. I won't give him an even break. I won't give him a chance. I'll kill him." Spade calls all three of them "a fine lot of lollipops".

John Houston's 1941 adaptation of *The Maltese Falcon* is often credited with being the originator of film noir. While this is open to debate², the film has all the elements of the genre: a hard-boiled, anti-hero detective, a double-crossing moll, criminally minded fey gangsters, deep shadows and a dark ending.

In film noire, gay characters are ultimately tamed by a manlier male. In fact, the femininity of these characters serves to make the hero appear even more masculine by comparison.

Although lesbians are not as common in the genre, Spade's loyal secretary, Effie Perine, may be worth a second look by glbt readers. In spite of Spade's perception of women only as sex objects, there appears to be no sexual relationship between her and Spade. She is referred to in the book several times as "boyish".

As far as I know, Joel Cairo, Wilmer Cook and Casper Gutman don't appear on any stamps. However, the following stamps have been issued to honor Dashiell Hammet's *Maltese Falcon*.

In 1972, in celebration of fifty years of the International Police Organization (Interpol), Nicaragua issued a set of airmail stamps depicting famous detectives. On one of the stamps, Humphrey Bogart appears to be the model for Dashiell Hammet (Scott no. C803.)

Bogart appears as Sam Spade alongside a black falcon on Guyana's 1993 Elvis Presley mini-sheet.

In 1996 Dominica issued a sheet of nine stamps and a souvenir sheet honoring "100 Years of Cinema: Legendary Sleuths of the Silver Screen". Sam Spade is portrayed (see cover.)

Finally, in 1998, Guinea issued a stamp as part of their "20th Century" series. "The 40's" sheet features Mary Astor (Brigid O'Shaughnessy) and Humphrey Bogart on a movie poster advertising *The Maltese Falcon*. This sheet is not listed in Scott.

¹ Chypre is French for Cyprus. It was first used in perfumery in 1917 to describe a family of "warm" and "woody" citrus, herbaceous and floral perfumes. Most modern chypre perfumes contain oak moss and ambergris.

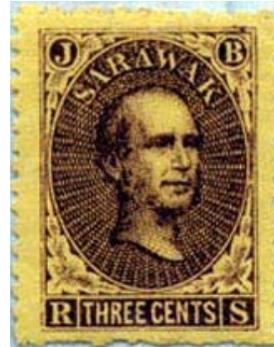
² Fritz Lang's *M*, a 1931 German film, is sometimes suggested because of its intense expressionism and perverse subject matter. Peter Lorre became famous for his portrayal of the serial killer in the film.



Scott no. C803

The Homosocial Life of the White Rajah of Sarawak

by Bobby Cloud



Sarawak local post

Sir James Brooke, 1803 – 1868, was born in India of English parents. After active service in Burma (1825 – 26), he retired from the army of the East India Company in 1830. The East India Company was granted a royal charter by Elizabeth I. Its sole purpose was to open trade privileges with India, but in actual fact became the sole rule by military force of that country and others in the region.

In 1838 Brooke sailed for Borneo. After a few years on the west coast there, he assisted Rajah Muda Hassim, uncle of the reigning sultan, to suppress rebel Dyak tribes (the various indigenous peoples on the island of Borneo). For his services he was made Rajah in 1841, by the sultan of Brunei (at the time the 23rd Sultan, Omar Ali Saifuddin II). [Rajah translated means a king, or princely ruler.] Brooke proceeded to create a government. He put down head-hunting and piracy; he was given a baronetcy (named Knight Commander of Baths, a British order of chivalry found by George I) by the British government and entrusted with the governorship (1847–57) of Labuan (a part of the Brunei Sultanate that became a Crown Colony).

The "White Rajah" Brooke began to establish and cement his rule over Sarawak; reforming the administration, codifying laws and fighting piracy. Piracy proved to be an ongoing issue throughout his rule. His professional life was set. However his personal life is a matter of controversy.

Throughout his life, Brooke's principal emotional bonds were with adolescent boys, while he exhibited a total lack of interest in women. Among his more notable relationships with boys was the one with Badruddin, a Sarawak prince. He wrote, "my love for him was deeper than anyone I knew." In 1848, Brooke fell in love with Charles Grant (grandson of Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin and 11th Earl of Kincardine – who has his own colorful history), who had just been recruited into service. Grant was sixteen at the time. Though at the time “pederasty” was technically illegal, the age of consent in the United Kingdom today is 16.

Apparently, Brooke's love was reciprocated by the boy. Brooke's other liaisons were of a “homosocial nature”. Using today's terminology he could be called bisexual, but with a predominant homosexual nature. Although he died unmarried, he did acknowledge one son (George Brooke). It has also been claimed that he married by Muslim rites Pengiran Anak Fatima, daughter of Pengiran Anak Abdul Kadir, and granddaughter of Omar Ali Saifuddin II, Sultan of Brunei. It is further said that he too had a daughter. The identity of the son's mother is not clear.

The first definitive stamp depicting James Brooke was issued March 1, 1869. Sarawak local postal service was established by Brooke. He was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Charles Anthony Johnson Brooke. This Brooke ruled from 1868 - 1917 and he, in turn, was succeeded by his son, Sir Charles Vyner de Windt Brooke. Charles was the third and final Rajah who ruled until 1946 when Sarawak became an overseas British Protectorate. Sarawak eventually became a part of the Malaysian Federation in 1963.

In 1946, four stamps were issued to mark the centenary of Sarawak. They picture all three Rajahs in order of succession. The controversy of Sir James Brooke's personal life is as controversial as the exploitive nature of the British Empire conquering native indigenous people for their own gain.



Scott nos. 155 - 158

Bibliography:

- Hyam, Ronald, *Empire and Sexuality: The British Experience*, pp. 44-45
- Walker, J.H., *This Peculiar Acuteness of Feeling: James Brooke and the Enactment of Desire*; Borneo Research Bulletin, Vol. 29, 1998; pp. 148-189
- Sir Steven Runciman, *The White Rajahs* (1960)
- R. Pringle, *Rajahs and Rebels* (1970)
- N. Tarling, *Britain, the Brookes and Brunei* (1972).

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The Florida Forty Stamper: Mystery of Lincoln - The After-Life

by Francis Ferguson

The life of Lincoln is a subject that has generated millions of words, due to the inherent nature of the subject material. This man was by all accounts a study in contrasts for the era. The words, kind, caring, considered, thoughtful, sensitive, and introspective can all be used to describe Lincoln the common man and Lincoln the President. How does one determine the context of Lincoln's era versus the modern one? This is a major point of discussion when looking at many of the actions of well-known male figures of historical note. Lincoln is no different.



Two stamps from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial issue.
Left, Scott no. 1113; right, Scott no. 1114.

Many generations have devoured what Sandburg and Herndon wrote. Sandburg wrote some wonderful material, however what was often missing was a vetted source; thus casting a shadow of doubt on the integrity of the material. Herndon, on the other hand, did a much better job to the point of obsession, documenting and cross checking his sources. Of the two works, the Herndon volumes have stood the test of time best.

With all of this material gathered and analyzed, the conclusion that can be reached is one of ambiguity. What seems correct when viewed by one person, can be interpreted completely differently by someone else.

When viewing Lincoln within the context of his life, the concept of a kind, thoughtful, and sensitive male is not a stretch of the imagination. The early influence of the death of Lincoln's mother, the hard scrabble life that resulted, and the influence of the beloved step-mother are all factors that played into the development of the young Lincoln. This foundation was used to build the adult Lincoln who would guide a nation in troubled, troubled times.

While Lincoln seemed to have numerous close male friends (Greene, Speed, Ellsworth & Derickson), until evidence comes to light that unequivocally points in one direction or another, the assumption can be made that Lincoln was at the very least a bisexual male at some points in his life. His relationship with Ann Rutledge and marriage to Mary Todd cast further doubt on Lincoln's orientation as an exclusive gay male. One has to remember that the marriage to Mary Todd, did produce four children.

Theories have been floated that Lincoln took Mary Todd as his wife purely for political gain. Considering the nature of the women, who was widely described as calculating, cold and "shrew-like", one has to wonder as to the reasons. Those reasons will forever be open to discussion.

Was Lincoln a president that might have been a little "lavender"? Unless evidence comes to light that has never seen the light of day, the answer can only be one of "Who knows?" The only people that can answer that question are long buried and can no longer weigh-in for this discussion.

[I have always thought of Lincoln as one of my personal heroes in life. The things he accomplished through all the turmoil of the era are monumental. I believe that Lincoln was bi-sexual to an indefinable degree. His life-long behaviors seem to make me question the depth of his friendships with his close male friends. The friendships while sometimes brief, seemed to carry a great deal of weight for both Lincoln and the other person involved leading to the question --- Why? In my mind the answer makes no difference, Lincoln will always be the greatest President of the United States.]

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 hamp-ton@cfl.rr.com.

Anne Murray

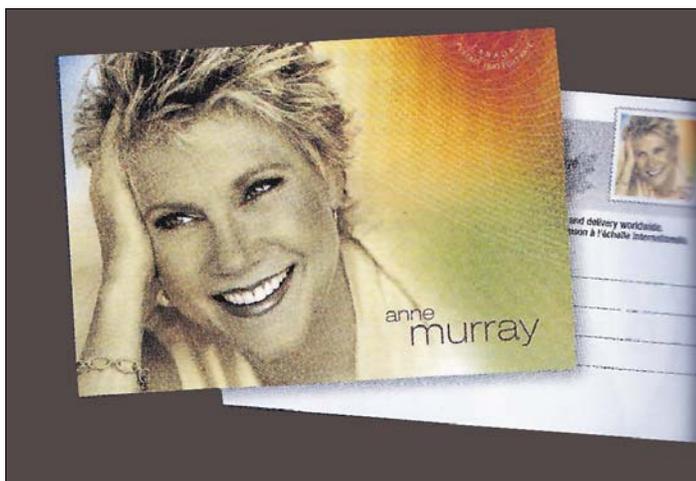
by Angela Watson

Anne Murray (born Morna Anne Murray)

Elton John once said: "I know two things about Canada: hockey and Anne Murray." With a career spanning almost four decades, it's no wonder that Murray is as well-known as Canada's beloved sport.

Murray was born on June 20, 1945, in Springhill, Nova Scotia. Her musical talent was apparent from childhood, and she began training in piano and vocals at a young age. After her 1966 graduation from university, she was offered a spot on Canadian Broadcast Corp.'s "Singalong Jubilee." Her popularity increased with the release of her first hit single, "Snowbird" and when she became a regular on the The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour TV show. A variety of hits followed, including "Danny's Song," "You Needed Me" and "Could I Have This Dance?" Interestingly, her hits often made both the pop and country charts, sometimes simultaneously.

Murray's success drew national and international respect. Her many accolades include four Grammy Awards, three American Music Awards, three Country Music Association Awards, three Canadian



We're on the web!
www.GLHSC.com

County Music Association Awards, 24 Junos, and an induction into the Canadian Country Hall of Fame and the Juno Hall of Fame, as well as being the recipient of the Companion of the Order of Canada.

"I was deeply honoured to be chosen by Canada Post to grace a stamp this year," Murray recently said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime acknowledgment and I'm pleased to be a part of this series."

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From OpinionatedLesbian.com

Remember when Anne Murray was the lesbian wet dream? She was a gym teacher in Nova Scotia turned hit maker. An old university classmate of Murray's once insisted to me that Annie was known as the big dyke on campus. And so we all went gaga, even as mainstream Canuckistan embraced Murray for her earnest blandness.

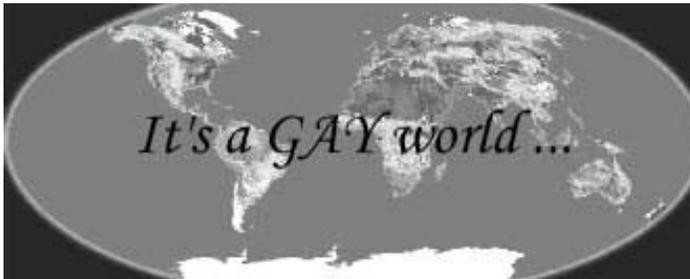
"After all, as Larry Leblanc wrote in Maclean's in 1974, 'If you close your eyes and think of a naked Anne Murray, parts of her always come up airbrushed.'"

But married or not, we've always claimed Murray. Leblanc again: "Even though Anne remains decidedly heterosexual she has the flinty good looks, the athletic figure, broad shoulders and boyish hair-style that naturally make her a darling of the butch set."

Respond the "Mondo Canuck" boys: "Flinty good looks? The Chicago Tribune put it rather less poetically: "There's always going to be this lingering whiff of phys. ed. classes about the woman."

## Gay & Lesbian Update

The 2008 stamp program for Germany includes a stamp for the 150th anniversary of Swedish author Selma Lagerlof. The stamp has tentative issue date of November 13.



Scouting Centennial issues showing Lord Robert Baden-Powell:

**Bahamas**, July 9, 2007, Scott no. 1219b.

**Bermuda**, August 23, 2007, Scott no. 947.

**Bolivia**, 2007, Scott no. 1322.

**Brazil**, April 23, 2007, Scott no. 3017.

**Cayman Islands**, July 9, 2007, Scott no. 998b.

**Fiji**, July 9, 2007, Scott no. 1140b.

**Macao**, July 9, 2007, Scott nos. 1226 - 31.

**Nepal**, September 4, 2007, Scott no. 794.

**Palau**, February 15, 2007, Scott no. 876.

**Portugal**, May 9, 2007, Scott no. 2903. (Europa issue)

**Tristan da Cunha**, July 9, 2007, Scott no. 813b.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Bosnia & Herzegovina (Serb Administration)** issued a sheet of eight stamps and a label on March 22, 2007, honoring Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Scott no. 289.

**Bosnia & Herzegovina (Serb Administration)** issued a set of two stamps on April 16, 2007.

The stamps honor Leonardo da Vinci. Scott nos. 291 - 92.

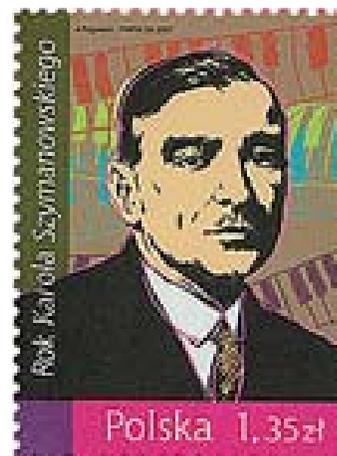
**Canada** issued a sheet of four stamps and a self-adhesive booklet on June 29, 2007. Popular Canadian singers are featured. Anne Murray can be found on Scott nos. 2221c and 2222c.



**Mexico** issued a stamp on June 13, 2007, for the birth centennial of Frida Kahlo, painter. Scott no. 2540.

**Moldova** issued a set of four stamps on February 28, 2007, showing various portraits in the National Art Museum. *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* by James Hopwood is on Scott no. 551.

**Poland** issued a stamp on May 26, 2007, featuring Karol Szymanowski. Scott no. 3861.



## AIDS Update

A new website is on the Internet. Be sure to visit [www.aidsonstamps.com](http://www.aidsonstamps.com). The site is the result of hard work of one of GLHSC's newest members.

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**Bangladesh** issued a stamp for World AIDS Day on December 6, 2006. Scott no. 716.

**Macedonia** issued another postal tax stamp for the campaign against AIDS on December 1, 2006. It was obligatory on mail December 1 through 7. Scott no. RA138.

**Morocco** issued a stamp for World AIDS Day on December 1, 2006. Scott no. 1030.



## GLHSC Received Donation of FDC Collection

by Joe Petronie

A former member of GLHSC has generously donated her FDC cover collection to the Club. The bulk of the collection is Women on Stamps and Butterflies. Two boxes have been received, with several more promised.

Once this issue of the journal and the 2008 Directory are in the mail, I will begin to go through the collection. Portions, if not all, of the collection will hopefully find a place in future journals.

This is the first collection that has been donated to GLHSC. As a group, we need to decide what we will do with this collection. I sent an email to those members whose emails I had when I first received the donation offer. Two of the responses were from members with ties to either glbt libraries or archives. Both would like a CD or DVD copy of the collection. Other responses were to have an auction to raise money for the Club. What are your opinions?

Do we keep the main collection and auction off any of the remainder? Do we keep the entire collection? Or do we donate all or part of the collection to ONE Institute (glbt archives in Los Angeles) or to a glbt library?

I envision going through the collection and see what we have. I would like to scan the covers and stamps for use in future journals. I can create CDs or DVDs of the scans for the aforementioned libraries/archives. I will need to have help in scanning the collection if any members would be willing. Duplicates, if any exist, can be auctioned to Club members. One member has offered to help arrange an auction should we take that route.

I'm excited to help GLHSC build a permanent collection and library. Let me know what you think we should do. Any offers of help would be greatly appreciated.

Let me know your thoughts at [glhsc@aol.com](mailto:glhsc@aol.com) or the post office box. [I'll pay close attention before deleting spam!]

## Helpful Addresses

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## Editor's Favorites



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