



GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS JOURNAL



GLHSONLINE.ORG



Issue 028

April 2025

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When the Scott Catalogue was Only One Volume

By Barry Christensen

Several years back one of my favorite stamp dealers offered a box of philatelic literature which I purchased. The printed-matter postage cost more than the books' price but was well worth it. Included in the box was the Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue for 1941 published by Scott Publications, Inc., in New York City, subtitled The Encyclopedia of Philately.

At 1543 pages, this is a hefty but compact hardbound book, originally priced \$3.50 with tabs (\$3.00 without). I find it fascinating to hold in one hand a catalogue of all the stamps ever published worldwide up to 1940. The old-style type and black and white illustrations contrast amazingly

with the 2025 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue (Amos Media, Sidney, OH) spanning six large volumes (in 12 books) with full color with clear modern type.

Of course, the prices, notations, and advertisements differ greatly between 1941 and 2025! I love looking up older stamps in the 1941 edition as I acquire them, but I am careful because of the occasional number changes that have taken place.

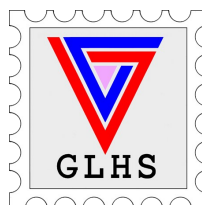
It all makes me wonder what stamp collecting was like for the original owner of this copy, almost three decades before I began my collection. Many nations listing current issues in 1941 were "dead countries" by the time I was collecting. Many had changed names, like Persia and Siam, while others were spelled differently, like Porto Rico and Corea.

Of course, the world was at war again in 1941, and there was an editorial note at the beginning of the book about "territorial changes in Central Europe." The Axis nations were featuring military and propaganda subjects on their stamps and the overrun nations had occupation issues listed.

So, how about LGBTQ+ folk on stamps? There is surprising variety in the listings. These include characters from antiquity such as Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar (Italy, 1929) and philosopher Zeno of Citium (Cyprus, 1928). Of course, there are many heads of state such as King Kamehameha III (Hawaii, 1853), Abraham Lincoln (USA, 1866), Peter the Great (Russia, 1913), Tsar Ferdinand I (Bulgaria, 1918), Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (Turkey, 1924) and Frederick the Great (Germany, 1926).

Later in the 1920's and through the 1930's, favorite sons and daughters were increasingly portrayed on the nations' stamps. Examples include Susan B Anthony (USA, 1936) and numerous people in the Famous Americans Issues (USA, 1940+). Internationally, there are many as well, including Schubert (Austria, 1922), Beethoven (Germany, 1927), Chopin (Poland, 1927), Handel (Germany, 1935), Hans Christian Andersen (Denmark, 1935) and Da Vinci (Italy, 1935). Note that Great Britain is not included in this list!

Next time you have a chance to thumb through older philatelic literature and catalogues, grab the chance to immerse yourself in the world of our GLHS philatelic forebears!



The *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal* is published quarterly by Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS). GLHS is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205, and a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458.

The **objective** of GLHS is to promote an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- Notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation,
- Mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture,
- Flora and fauna scientifically proven as having prominent homosexual behavior, and

Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHS strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Submissions due</u>
July 2025	June 15
October 2025	September 15
January 2025	December 15
April 2025	March 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

GLHS Board of Directors 2023-2025

President: Lisa Foster (Wash.)

Vice President: John P. Stefanek (Mich.)

Secretary: Marlene Michelson (Calif.)

Treasurer: Laurie Anderson (Wash.)

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Email: glhstamps2@gmail.com

Website: www.glhsonline.org



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

Membership dues for 2024 continue at \$10.00 a year. You may make your dues payment online via PayPal at <http://www.glhsonline.org/pages/onlinememberform.html>.

You may also make dues payments via check or money order payable to GLHS to the Treasurer, Laurie Anderson, 646 169th St. S., Spanaway, WA 98387.



Barry Christensen of Louisville, KY has graciously volunteered to Index GLHS journal articles since 2018!

Additional volunteers are needed

- Social Media Committee to explore options for group open and/or closed online communications/meetings such as Google, Instagram, twitter, blogs, go-to meeting, HipChat, etc.
- GLHS Journal Editor
- GLHS Journal Columnists
- Give presentations in person or virtually
- Coordinate GLHS Socials
- Maintain membership
- Advertising Committee
- Submit articles, journeys, cover/postal history write ups, travels and philatelic events

Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **82** members. 52 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 37 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS
notify GLHS*

The Boston 2026 Hotel Block is now open!

By Thomas M. Fortunato
Boston 2026 Public Relations Chair

OnPeak is the housing management company handling all reservations for Boston 2026. Do not call the hotels directly. Reservations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Click the link below to learn more about the room offerings and make reservations. compass.onpeak.com/e/012606939/in/category/40555

Eight official show hotels have been selected from throughout the Boston Seaport district representing Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Omni and Yotel chains. All are three or four-star rated, fully wheelchair-accessible and within walking distance of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. The show headquarters hotel, the Westin Boston Seaport District, and the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport, are physically attached to the center itself.

Reservations are being accepted for check-ins a few days before the show's opening, during, and a few days after the close from Tuesday, May 19 through Monday, June 1.

Per night room rates run from \$229 to \$333. Rates shown are for single/double occupancy. Triple and quad occupancy is available at some show hotels. These discounted prices are only available by making reservations through the Boston 2026 web site link to onPeak, the show's contracted housing management firm. Negotiations continue to add one or two properties to the list outside of the city center. These, too, will be found on the Boston2026.org hotel page when confirmed.

Hotel rooms are offered on a first-come basis with no guarantee that additional room blocks will be released once full. In all cases a credit card or check deposit of one night's stay is required. Reservations must be cancelled 72 hours prior to the day of arrival to avoid a late cancellation fee of one night's room and tax.

Boston 2026 World Expo takes place May 23-30, 2026, at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Full show details may be found at Boston2026.org and on X and Facebook. Sign up to be added to the Boston 2026 email list and receive updates when available.



The Great American Stamp Show is co-hosted by the APS, the American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society. The show is scheduled for August 14-17 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Go to the GASS show page <https://stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show> and reserve your hotel room, and pre-register to attend.

The hotel for the show will be the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel, a Marriott property directly connected to the convention center. The convention center and hotel are located approximately 18 miles from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Exhibit entries are due by **MAY 5, 2025**. Note that StampsShow Single Frames are FULL - Still accepting NTSS and Americover singles frame entries.

Tickets are now available for the Celebration Banquet, where the top exhibit and lifetime achievement awards are presented.

There are multiple opportunities to volunteer at the show. The show website lists duties with explanations of tasks involved. Signing up to volunteer is easy with an online virtual sign up option.



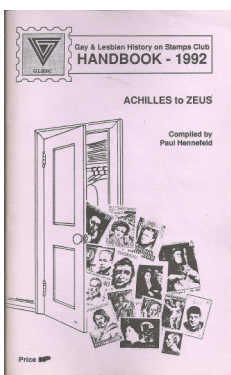
Boston 2026 stamps will be issued on the first day of GASS 2025: Thursday, August 14, in Schaumburg, IL.

LGBTQ-Related Stamps Checklist

By John P. Stefanek

The first draft of my checklist of LGBTQ-related stamps is finished and is available in the Members' Only section of www.GLHSONline.org. Please contact me at jps5@hotmail.com if you have any questions, suggestions, corrections, comments, etc.

When I first decided to collect LGBTQ-related stamps, shortly before GLHS was reborn, I searched for a checklist. I found our website with the huge amounts of information included in previous Lambda Philatelic Journals, wonderfully made available at the click of a mouse, documenting the great work done by previous members of GLHS. Through it, I learned about the *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club: Achilles to Zeus Handbook* by Paul Hennefeld.



I was able to find a practically pristine copy of the first edition at the University of Michigan library. It was what I was looking for in a checklist, but I realized there were many more names and stamps to add. I decided to make my own checklist. I carefully copied the Handbook's contents in pencil (the librarian would not let me use a pen in the restricted section). Back home, I looked into the American Philatelic Research Library and was able to borrow copies of the second and third editions of the Handbook through the mail. I made notes of the most recent names and references information from the third edition. Lastly, I found the Addendum to the third edition, included with the March, June, and September 2006 issues of the Lambda Philatelic Journal on our website.

So, I assembled a preliminary list of LGBTQ people on stamps from the Handbooks and reading all the Lambda Journals. It was a list of about 445 names. I knew there were more, so I decided that before I made a list of Scott numbers, I needed a more complete list of LGBTQ people on stamps. I obtained some *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogues* from eBay (one 2017 volume and the rest from 2014) and went through them, page by page, doing brief Internet searches of each name to see if anything LGBTQ-related appeared. The list of names grew to over 1,700 in number.

Armed with a list of names, I started the long task of creating a checklist. I used the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* for Scott numbers, eventually updating to a set of 2020 volumes. I used issues of *Scott Stamp Monthly* magazine for more recent stamp releases. I used online stamp catalogues so that I could review an image of each stamp. Lastly, I used Internet searches to check for updated information about LGBTQ people.

I looked for stamps that featured an image of the person or their name or credit. I included stamps that depicted, celebrated, or commemorated their work. I tried to include things that were directly tied to the person (for example, their gravesite or something they ordered built), but I excluded things without any direct connection (for example, things that were just named after the person, like a warship).

The checklist now available reflects only the 683 -or-so people from GLHS sources (including "new" names from the 2018 to 2024 GLHS Journals). I actually created two checklists: the second reflects all the other LGBTQ and possibly-LGBTQ people who have not yet been presented to GLHS. The two checklists are about the same size. It is for this reason that users might notice some well-known or "obviously" LGBTQ names are missing from the posted checklist (for example, k.d. lang or Luke Evans or Virginia Woolf). They haven't appeared yet in our club's journal. Please consider writing a journal article about someone to expand our checklist. It doesn't have to be long. Write something about the person and their accomplishments and include some evidence of their "LGBTQ-ness." I try to add names through the quarterly New Issues column as people appear on new releases. I have a list of about 200 names of people for which it would be relatively easy to find evidence of homosexual or bisexual sexual orientation. If you have an interest in writing something about people from a particular country or in a particular occupation or some other category, I would be happy to send you a list of names.

I update the checklists monthly when I receive a new *Scott Stamp Monthly* magazine. I update the checklists quarterly when I write the New Issues columns. I update the checklists quarterly after each *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal* is published. Lastly, I update the checklists when I hear about "new names:" people

(LGBTQ Checklist, Continued from page 4).

come out publicly all the time and new information about historical people is revealed all the time. Please contact me if you have any corrections, additions, or omissions.

I use the checklists almost daily, for my personal collection and when I post online in discussion threads. I hope the work will be of use to other collectors.



NAPEX 2025 will be held June 6-8 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, in McLean Virginia.

The deadline for the show hotel rate of \$134.00 a night plus taxes is May 23rd. Make reservations through the show website <https://www.napex.org/>.

As of March 20th, the exhibit entries are full. Thomas Griebing's exhibit, "From Mark of Oppression to Symbol of Gay Pride: The Pink Triangle" has been accepted.



2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of Pride celebrations in Washington, DC! The Capital Pride Alliance is excited for Washington, DC to host WorldPride 2025 and share the momentous and exciting milestone with the international community. WorldPride DC 2025 will feature a vibrant and innovative slate of events and cultural programs that will highlight the best that Washington, DC has to offer. For more information go to <https://worldpridedc.org/events/>

The World Pride Parade starts at 1:00 PM on 06/07/2025, spanning 20 blocks of one of the most iconic avenues in the world.

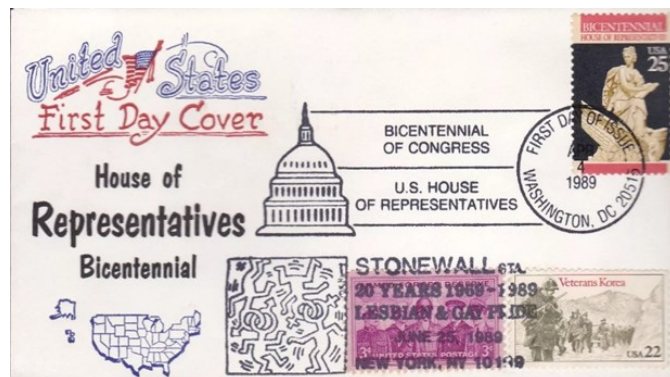
Ride Metro to get around the DC area. The Silver Line can be ridden to get from the show hotel to pride events.

GASS Future Dates/Locations

2025 August 14-17, Schaumburg, IL
2026 Bye – Boston 2026 May 23-30

LGBTQ Members of Congress

By John P. Stefanek



For those collecting LGBTQ-related US Congressional free franks, here is the list of the 13 LGBTQ members of the 119th United States Congress:

Senate:

Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin

House of Representatives:

Becca Balint, Vermont At-Large
Angie Craig, Minnesota District 2
Sharice Davids, Kansas District 3
Robert Garcia, California District 42
Julie Johnson, Texas District 32
Sarah McBride, Delaware At-Large
Chris Pappas, New Hampshire District 1
Mark Pocan, Wisconsin District 2
Emily Randall, Washington District 6
Eric Sorenson, Illinois District 17
Mark Takano, California District 41
Ritchie Torres, New York District 15

"13 LGBTQ+ elected lawmakers join the 119th Congress," by Christopher Wiggins, 3 January 2025, advocate.com



Exhibits in the 2025 My One-Page Exhibit Program will be available for viewing on the ATA website by April 1, 2025 and will remain online throughout the year. Visit americantopical.org for updates and details.



The Future

We can not predict the future. That is a rather simple statement but accurate. The best thing we can do is expect change -- as it will happen regardless of wishes and desires. Change can be good or bad (as we have all witnessed at different times in our lives). We are involved in a hobby made up of those who have many years of wisdom under their belts. Think about interactions in your different philatelic organizations. Do you see a sea of white hair? I know that is what is the majority of folks that I encounter. The younger ages are few and far between, in our hobby.

What brings up this train of thought? Simple – time passes and things change. As a 26-year APS member and a 25-year member of my local stamp club, I have seen leadership change repeated times. For the most part those changes have brought new vitality and energy to positions held by folks that have been around a number of years or even decades. This is a good thing

My local club is going to see a massive change in leadership with the start of 2026 and longtime folks will be stepping off the BoD to make room for new talent. Accepted practices and policies will be reexamined for the first time in many years, thus leading to change. I would like to think the incoming BoD will be thoughtful and precise with their actions. That is the hope. Since I will most likely be one of those who are stepping aside – I will offer to the new BoD assistance and guidance – if asked. Otherwise, I will remain silent. This is a good practice in my book.

The GLHSC will also be going through changes in leadership sometime in the future. Lisa Foster has done an extraordinary job of bringing a moribund organization back from the dead. For about 4 years the only evidence of the club was the website that brought our existence to the World Wide Web. Through the actions of a small number of people, myself included, we did not disappear. Credit is also given to an anonymous financial backer, who was not even a member (MR), who provided monies to pay for the web services to keep the site active and available. While, they are still to remain unnamed their assistance was invaluable to continuation of the website.

As the club was reborn a new webmaster took over and has done a wonderful job of keeping the website relevant; making it an important World Wide Web resource for one and all. Thank you to the talented and dedicated webmaster: Arthur von Reyn.

How will the GLHSC move into the future? That is a question that I dearly hope can be answered before it becomes a crisis. Become part of the solution – you can help in many ways.

Until next time, be good and practice kindness.

Pay it forward.

Sarasota Meeting Advances Postal Museum's LGBTQ Collecting Plan

By: Daniel A. Piazza, Chief Curator of Philately
Smithsonian National Postal Museum

Sarasota, FL – Curators from the National Postal Museum convened with collectors, exhibitors, and scholars at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition on January 18, 2025, to build on previous efforts at developing a comprehensive LGBTQ collecting plan for the museum. This meeting, a continuation of last year's Westpex study day, explored key themes and historical milestones to shape the museum's approach to LGBTQ postal and cultural history.

The Sarasota meeting brought together nine attendees who delved into the history and evolution of gay interest magazines and postal history. Professor David Johnson of the University of South Florida led a discussion of periodizing these publications, beginning with the 1951–1962 era, when magazines masked their gay content as bodybuilding or health-themed, through the post-1967 era when politically activist publications such as *The Advocate* and mail-order services like Directory Services International emerged alongside pictorial magazines.

The group also explored the backlash to gay publications, including materials linked to Anita Bryant's *Save Our Children* coalition and the post office's anti-obscurity campaigns of the 1950s and early '60s, designed to mobilize opposition to gay rights by highlighting perceived threats to social order.

The meeting concluded with a show-and-tell session. Noted thematic exhibitor Phil Stager brought selections from his award-winning *Ailments of Venus* competitive exhibit focusing on AIDS-related stamps and postal history, highlighting the importance of these artifacts in documenting public health responses and stigmatization during the AIDS crisis. Dr. Johnson displayed examples of early physique magazines and mail-order catalogues, while Dan Piazza brought an example of the earliest LGBT postal cancel in the U.S., commemorating the 20th anniversary of Stonewall.

The shared study of material underscored the importance of collecting to document and preserve LGBTQ+ history.

Professor Johnson's book, *Buying Gay: How Physique Entrepreneurs Sparked a Movement* received a National Postal Museum Award for Scholarship in Postal History in 2020. It is available online from Columbia University Press, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

For more information, please visit the National Postal Museum's website at <https://postalmuseum.si.edu> and the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club at <http://www.glhsonline.org>.



From left: Dr. Alison Bazylinski, Phil Stager, Dr. David K. Johnson, Dr. Doug Mattox, Kathy Johnson, Dan Piazza. Not pictured: Lisa Foster (online), Ian Gibson-Smith (online), and Liz Hisey. Photo courtesy Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.



2025 Membership Renewal

Melven W. of Saint Paul, MN renewed their membership with an additional generous donation and kind words, "The wonderful information found on the website and in the newsletters is a great help to me. I feel as though I take more than give. Hence, the extra contribution."

Thank you, Melven, for your generous support.

Thanks to all of you for renewing your membership in Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps and for recognizing the importance of supporting your philatelic community. Your continued participation and financial support are essential as we continually strive to strengthen our organization. Membership dues for 2025 continue at \$10.00 a year. You may make your dues payment online via PayPal at <http://www.glhsonline.org/pages/onlineform.html>.

You may also make dues payments via check or money order payable to GLHS to the Treasurer, Laurie Anderson, 646 169th St. S., Spanaway, WA 98387.

Professor David Johnson's book shared at Sarasota Study Day

Lisa Foster

At the Sarasota Study Day on 01/18/2025, National Postal Museum's curator Daniel Piazza stated the museum would like to have representative magazine examples in their collection. Magazines, for example, which were banned from mail under the obscenity laws, or pen pal magazines with wrappers, and mailers.

Author David Johnson, an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida was present and listed magazine titles that the museum should consider as the most influential. Attendees offered additional suggestions and discussion ensued.

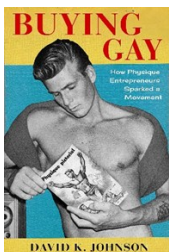
Professor Johnson's book is available from many sources, but the following description was taken from Amazon.com.

*Winner of Smithsonian's Award for Scholarship in Postal History

*The Advocate and Attitude best LGBT Books of 2019

*Finalist for the American Publishers PROSE Award in U.S. History

*Finalist for the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction



In 1951, a new type of publication appeared on American newsstands--the physique magazine produced by and for gay men. For many in Cold War America, these magazines served as an initiation into an extensive world of photography studios, mail-order catalogs, pen-pal services, and book clubs, targeting a gay market. In this book, David K. Johnson shows how this gay commercial network--long thought to be a result of the gay rights movement--was actually a crucial catalyst for the gay rights movement.

Each chapter offers a vivid, behind-the-scenes look at a physique entrepreneur and their continual struggle with the U.S. Post Office, which considered their products obscene and waged a relentless battle to shut them down. It reveals how Bob Mizer founded *Physique Pictorial* in Los Angeles as a direct response to postal authority intimidation. It uncovers the story of *The Grecian Guild*, founded by a gay couple who met at the University of Virginia, who offered their subscrib-

ers membership in a gay fraternal order. It tells the story of a New York publishing executive who pioneered the notion of niche marketing of gay books. And it recounts the untold story of Elsie Carlton, a straight woman who ran one of the nation's first gay mail-order book clubs.

Threatening all these pioneering entrepreneurs was Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, who had members of the first gay pen pal service arrested and sent its founders to prison. It would take Lynn Womack, who consolidated the field into a physique publishing empire--including a distribution network, printing plant, and legal library--to take his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, winning one of the first and most important gay rights cases. *Manual v. Day* in 1962 paved the way for a vibrant gay print and commercial world that could help sustain a movement.

Combining LGBT studies and the history of capitalism for the first time, *Buying Gay* reconceives the history of the gay rights movement and shows how consumer culture helped create community and a site for resistance.



Goosetav and Augoosetus are in their pride outfits today. Stay strong out there y'all. Much love ❤️🏳️‍🌈



Like

Send

Share

1.5K



U.S. Postal Service Love 2025 Stamp

**How to Order the
First-Day-of-Issue
Postmark:**



Customers have 120 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office® or at The Postal Store® website at store.usps.com/store/home. They must affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

**FDOI – Love Stamp
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900**

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service™ will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to a quantity of 50. There is a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark over 50. All orders must be postmarked by **May 17, 2025**.



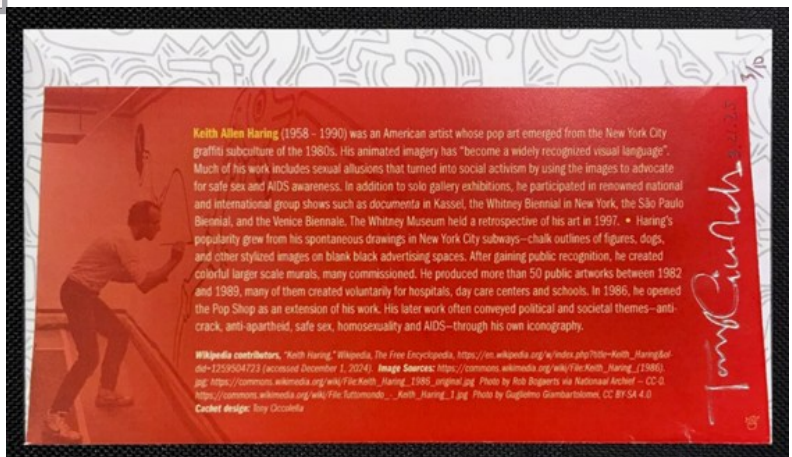
Love FDC available from
McIntosh Cachets.

http://mcintoshcachets.com/mc_fdc_2025.htm

Have you created or purchased any cachets with the new love stamp? Received any fun mail with the stamp? Scan the cover and send it to glhstamps2@gmail.com to be published and shared with our readers.



2025 Love Forever Stamp First Day Cover w/
Digital Print Cachet by Tony Ciccolella.
For sale on eBay by Cachets Ciccolella.



GLHS received a fantastic report in “Chapter News” a column written by D. A. Lux. The column focused on AFDCS Chapters events/meetings/seminars during GASS2024, and a whole page of the Jan Feb 2025 issue (WN 480) of First Days was dedicated to Chapter 72.

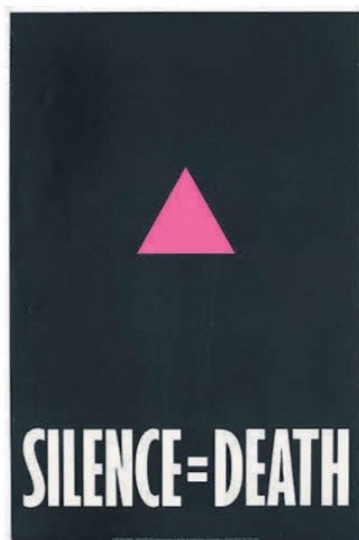


Figure 11.

Chapter 72

The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps, Chapter 72, held their annual meeting at the show with approximately 25 attendees. President Lisa Foster introduced the presenter, Tomas Griebling, M.D., who discussed his two-frame exhibit that was displayed at the NTSS portion of the exhibit floor: “From Mark of Oppression to Symbol of Gay Pride – The Pink Triangle.” The exhibit was first shown at the Greater Houston Stamp Show Single Frame Color Competition in 2023 where it was awarded a Vermeil medal as well as the Most Popular exhibit. 2023 was the first year that pink was picked as the featured color for the Houston show. Griebling described the use of the Nazi badge coding system (yellow Star of David for Jews, pink triangle for gay men, purple for Jehovah’s Witnesses, green triangle for crooks and criminals, black for “asocial” people including Roma people, pacifists, mentally ill and lesbians.

All of these triangles were inverted (with the base at the top) and the symbols were used as means to shame and denigrate those groups required to wear the badge. After this introduction of the overall badge system, Griebling then focused on the development of the gay rights movement in the US including the 1969 6-day Stonewall Riots in New York City; these were the catalysts for the formation of the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. The 1980s AIDS crisis led to the formation of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT UP.

This group was formed to protest the very high cost of the AIDS drug AZT and quickly was joined by another New York City Group, Silence=Death project, whose iconic poster, Figure 11 (from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silence%3DDeath_Project), was used by ACT UP in their activist campaign against AIDS. As seen in Figure 11, the triangle is now right side up and is still being used as a powerful symbol of AIDS activism. Griebling has shown his audience how a symbol (or word, or whatever), initially used as a slur or other negative connotation, can be taken from the oppressors and reconstituted by the previously disparaged group with a new meaning, a new positive and forward thinking meaning. Griebling’s presentation was very well received by the 25 attendees and by your correspondent. For more information about the Gay & Lesbian History Stamp Club, contact Lisa Foster, glhstamps2@gmail.com.

The Chapter 50, The 7/1/71 Affair was initially scheduled to meet at GASS but was cancelled as President David Wallman was unable to attend. Information on this chapter is available from David at 6740 Shadow Ridge Road, Lincoln, NE 68512.

My next chapter report will revert to summaries of the journals and emails sent to me from the various representatives. Hopefully readers enjoyed my travels visiting and reporting on some of our active chapters at GASS. 🐾

Seahorses: Jewels of the Sea

by Laura Clemente

The fascinating creature known as the seahorse is a little marvel of nature. It belongs to the family syngathidae and includes pipefish as its close relative. They come in a variety of colors, from yellow to green to red, brown or black, and may be spotted or banded. There are thirty-five known species and range in size from one-quarter of an inch to a foot or more. They are found in temperate and tropical coastal waters, living in the Indian and Pacific oceans, from the Red Sea and east Africa to the Hawaiian Islands and from southern Japan to Australia.

Seahorses have a long snout with a small mouth at the tip. Their food is eaten whole, as they have no teeth. They eat a variety of zooplankton and can consume up to 3,000 brine shrimp each day. They have prehensile tails, unlike pipefish (which are shaped just like their name) and the head is set at an angle to the body. They swim upright, their delicate fins fanning them through the water. The dorsal fin moves them forward while the pectoral fins control turning and steering. Their bodies are covered by bony plating underneath their skin, making them unpalatable to predators when they reach adulthood. Other fish and anemones eat the juvenile seahorses. Some species can change color to match their surroundings and escape predators.

The most fascinating aspects of these animals are that they are monogamous and that the male becomes pregnant. This occurs after a female deposits the eggs into the male's pouch where they are fertilized. The seahorses develop in the pouch. The gestation period lasts from 10 to 60 days, depending on the species and the water temperature. When born, the baby seahorse is fully formed and receives no parental care. They reach maturity in about six months. Once the male gives birth, he usually becomes pregnant again right away.

One of the seahorse's predators is man. Asian cultures around the world have been using them for thousands of years in medicinal cures. They are also captured for aquariums, but are difficult to keep because of their diet. They are prone to disease in a contained environment. Dried out, they make unique souvenirs. Finally, their environment, which includes grass beds and coral reefs, is being destroyed by pollution and trawling. Their life span is estimated to be between one to four years, depending on the species. Conservationists are working hard to ensure their future since they are vulnerable to extinction.

One such crusader is Amanda Vincent. She began to study seahorses because she primarily wanted to work with the sea and to be outdoors. It isn't all fun and games though. She had to get up at an ungodly hour and get into a wet suit, still damp and fishy from the day before. Trying to find the little creatures was elusive. She says it got embarrassing, "because you knew where they should be, and yet you would go round and round that little bit of sea grass until eventually you suddenly caught sight of a little tail tip and then you'd sit and watch them."

They are masters of disguise. They can change color to match their background and grow skin appendages so that they blend in with the algae. They are well camouflaged until you see the tail that wraps around whatever they are holding. Another aspect that fascinated her is the evolution of male pregnancy.



She nearly made the tale of one couple into a soap opera in her mind as the male and female seahorses (dubbed Harry and Mabel) would dance and swim together in a mating dance, which she watched for hours.

Parental care in fish is usually given only by the male, but tends to involve guarding eggs and making sure the eggs get enough oxygen and stay clean. In the case of the seahorse, the eggs are on the body.

Famed female ichthyologist (someone who studies fish – that probably rolls off the tongue easier) Eugenie Clark began to study fish the world over in the late nineteen forties. She dedicated her studies to plectognaths, an order of fish that share several characteristics such as odd shapes (like the tailless sunfish), have spiny bodies or inflate themselves (such as the blowfish) and are often poisonous. She has captured and studied some of the oddest fish in the tropical ocean waters.

Two of the most delightful she has been able to observe are the pipefish and seahorse. She observed that the "lips" on some seahorses and pipefish appear to turn out in a "pout", an appropriate expression during the gestation period. Although she had not witnessed the birth process, she reported that others who had observed the process stated that the seahorses appear to have "labor pains".

I'm sure many women out there would wish to be a seahorse, even temporarily, if only to trade places with the men of the world!

Bibliography:

Fishes of the Sea, John and Gillian Lythgoe, MIT Press

Lady with a Spear, Eugenie Clark, Harper & Brothers

Other information obtained online from:

The Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois
Nova Online (PBS)

New Issues

By John P. Stefanek

On 6 March 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosniak/Federation/Sarajevo) released a miniature sheet commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 4 March 2025, Italy released a stamp commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 20 February 2025, Romania released a miniature sheet commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 18 February 2025, Spain released a stamp celebrating Archaeology: Cástulo, featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)** and **Hermes (Mercury)**.

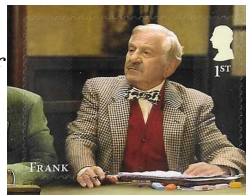
On 17 January 2025, the United States released a stamp celebrating Love, featuring art by **Keith Haring**.

In January, Oman released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 280th Anniversary of the Reign of the Al Busaid Dynasty, including one stamp and the souvenir sheet featuring **Qaboos bin Said**.

On 15 January 2025, Russia released a stamp commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Birth of **Sofya Kovalevskaya (1850-1891)**. She was born in Moscow. Despite demonstrated aptitude, she, like most women in Europe at the time, was not allowed to attend university. She did manage to audit lectures and take independent instruction. She was a pioneer for women in mathematics around the world. She made noteworthy contributions to analysis, partial differential equations, and mechanics. She was the first woman appointed to a full professorship in northern Europe. Sofya had a romantic friendship with actress, novelist, and playwright Anne Charlotte Edgren-Leffler from 1883 until her death.

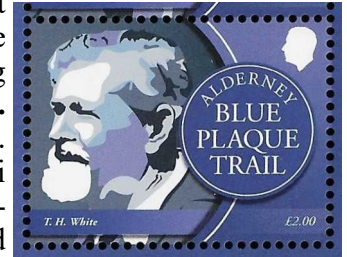


On 14 January 2025, the United Kingdom released eight stamps, a miniature sheet, and a Collectors Sheet commemorating *The Vicar of Dibley*, including three stamps and one label featuring **Frank Pickle**. He was a fictional character on the television se-



ries, *The Vicar of Dibley*, portrayed by John Bluthal, who came out as gay during the second episode of the second series (season). He is the dull but friendly Parish Secretary.

On 6 January 2025, Alderney released six stamps and a miniature sheet celebrating the Blue Plaque Trail, including one stamp featuring **T. H. White (1906-1964)**.



He was born in Mumbai and studied at Cheltenham College and Queens' College, Cambridge. He is best known for his Arthurian novels published together in 1958 as *The Once and Future King*. Terence is not known to have had a romantic relationship with any woman or man during his life. In his diaries of Zed, a young boy, he wrote, "I have fallen in love with Zed. ...the whole situation is an impossible one. All I can do is behave like a gentleman. It has been my hideous fate to be born with an infinite capacity for love and joy with no hope of using them." Toward the end of his life, he underwent psychological treatment for homosexuality.

On 13 December 2024, Peru released a stamp celebrating the Yellow-Tailed Woolly Monkey: *Lagothrix flavicauda*, first described by **Alexander von Humboldt**.

In September 2024, Kyrgyzstan released a stamp commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the Birth of **Salvador Dalí**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, including one stamp featuring **Bernard Montgomery**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 110th Anniversary of the Beginning of World War I, including one stamp featuring **Herbert Kitchener**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, including two stamps featuring **Bernard Montgomery**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of **Frédéric Chopin**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet celebrating Elvis Presley, including two stamps featuring him in films with hair styling by **Sydney Guilaroff**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of Operation Neptune, featuring **Bernard Montgomery** in the selva.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 505th Anniversary of the Death of **Leonardo da Vinci**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released two stamps celebrating the Louvre Museum, including one stamp featuring work by **Leonardo da Vinci** and one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet celebrating Impressionists, including one stamp featuring work by **Frederic Bazille**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet celebrating Great Painters: **Albrecht Dürer**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet celebrating Great Painters: Diego Velázquez, including one stamp featuring **Apollo** and the selva featuring **Dionysus (Bacchus)** and **Hephaestus (Vulcan)**.

On 25 April 2024, Togo released a miniature sheet celebrating Great Painters: **Sandro Botticelli**, including one stamp featuring **Hermes (Mercury)** and the selva featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)** twice and **Zephyrus (Favonius)**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Opening of the Channel Tunnel, including the selva featuring Queen Elizabeth II in a dress designed by **Kenneth Fleetwood**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of **Frédéric Chopin**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Birth of Audrey Hepburn, including a stamp and the souvenir sheet selva featuring her in a costume designed by **Herbert de Givenchy** for the film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, based on a novel by **Truman Capote**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Death of **Marlon Brando**, including the souvenir sheet featuring him in the film, *Guys and Dolls*, with costumes designed by **Irene Sharaff**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Birth of Alfred Hitchcock, including the souvenir sheet featuring a costume designed by **Edith Head** and a label featuring an image of the film, *Rear Window*, based on a short story by **Cornell Woolrich**, with costume design by **Edith Head**.

On 28 March 2024, Guinea-Bissau released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Death of **Frida Kahlo**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Birth of Audrey Hepburn, including eight stamps featuring her in a dress designed by **Hubert de Givenchy**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released two miniature sheets commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Death of **Marlon Brando**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 505th Anniversary of the Death of **Leonardo da Vinci**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet and a souvenir sheet commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of **Howard Carter**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of **Frédéric Chopin**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a miniature sheet commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, including eight stamps featuring **Janis Joplin**.

On 12 February 2024, Sierra Leone released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, featuring **Bernard Montgomery** in the selva.

On 5 January 2024, Liberia released a miniature

sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the Death of Queen Elizabeth II, including one stamp and one souvenir sheet selvaže featuring her in dresses designed by **Norman Hartnell**, and the other souvenir sheet featuring her wearing the coronation overlay designed by **Norman Hartnell**.

On 3 January 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of **Frédéric Chopin**.



On 1 September 2022, Ireland released four stamps celebrating Urban Street Art in Ireland, including one stamp featuring the work of **Joe Caslin**. He is an Irish street artist, teacher, activist,

and speaker. He grew up in Roscommon and holds a degree in glass design and a MFA in illustration. He is best known for beautifully rendered pencil drawings, which manifest as towering images of street art. In 2016, Joe revealed in a post on Twitter that he came out to his parents as gay.



On 5 July 2022, Australia released a Stamp Pack commemorating the film, *Thor: Love and Thunder*, including two stamps featuring **Valkyrie**. She was a fictional superheroine created by Steve Engelhart and

Sal Buscema in 1972 for Marvel Comics. She is a close ally of Thor, and she leads Odin's personal unit of shield-maidens, the Valkyrior. She has been portrayed in films by Tessa Thompson. In 2013's *The Fearless Defenders*, Valkyrie had a romance with Annabelle Riggs.



American Philatelic Society (APS)

Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps as an APS Affiliate (AF0205).

GLHS is listed on the online directory of specialty societies at <https://stamps.org/Collect/Affiliates> and <https://classic.stamps.org/Specialty-Societies>. According to the Specialty Society site, GLHS has been an "Affiliate since: 8/31/1991."

American First Day Cover Society



Derwin Mak

Top contributor 2d ·

My covers for Transgender Day of Visibility show Jacqueline Dufresnoy, a.k.a. Coccinelle (French for ladybug), an actress and singer in France in the 1950's. She was the first French trans celebrity and possibly the first person in France to get gender reassignment surgery (or the first who said so).

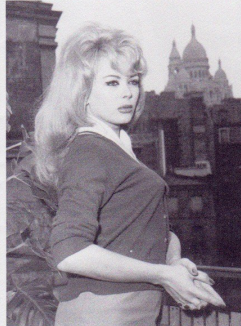
She was also one of the first persons in France to get her gender changed on her official ID -- with the help of the Roman Catholic Church in France! Although her first wedding was a civil ceremony, she could not legally get married while still identified as male. The Roman Catholic clergy, however, helped her by rebaptizing her under the female name Jacqueline and identifying her as a woman.

Jacqueline Dufresnoy (Coccinelle)



Derwin Mak Cachet

Jacqueline Dufresnoy (Coccinelle)



Derwin Mak Cachet

The AFDSC is a volunteer non-profit and non-commercial organization serving the needs of First Day Cover collectors, cachetmakers, and dealers. Founded in 1955, the society has a membership of over 1,100 active first day cover collectors, including many who design and manufacture their own cacheted FDCs.

The AFDSC has over 30 active chapters. Some are groups of FDC specialists, featuring lively newsletters on their specialty. Other AFDSC Chapters are regional affiliates, giving AFDSC members opportunities to meet other local FDC collectors at regular meeting times.

To learn more visit [Welcome to the American First Day Cover Society \(afdcs.org\)](https://www.afdcs.org)

