



GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS

JOURNAL



GLHSONLINE.ORG

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October 2025

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Lesya Ukrainka

By John P. Stefanek

Larysa Petrivna Kosach was born on 13 February 1871 in Novohrad-Volynsky, Russian Empire (now known as Zviahel, Zhytomyr Oblast, northern Ukraine). Her father Petro was a lawyer and was dedicated to the advancement of Ukrainian culture. Her mother Olha was a poet and translator who wrote under the pseudonym of Olena Pchilka and was equally committed to educating her children in Ukrainian literature and the Ukrainian language. Russia’s systemic suppression of the Ukrainian language began in the late 18th century.



Larysa wrote poetry very early. In 1879, her aunt Olena Kosach was arrested and sentenced to five years of exile to Siberia as part of a wave of arrests of Ukrainian political leaders. Larysa wrote her very first poem, “Hope,” in reaction. She also learned German, French, and Italian, and with her older brother, she began translating German and other European literature into Ukrainian.

In 1881 during a religious ceremony for blessing a river, Larysa caught a cold in her foot. She fell ill with tuberculosis of the bones. She would have to fight the disease for the rest of her life. It would eventually attack the bones in her left hand, her lungs, and her kidneys.

In 1891, she travelled to Vienna to see a specialist about her condition. During the trip she discovered the writings of Olha Kobylanska.

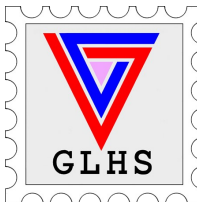


In 1892, her first collection of poems, *Na Krylakh Pisen’* (*On Wings of Songs*), was published. This was when she first used the penname Lesya Ukrainka. The book was published in Lviv, then in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, because it was still forbidden to publish books in the Ukrainian language in Russia. This book and her future published books had to be smuggled into Ukraine.

In 1894, Lesya visited her uncle, Mykhailo Drahomanov, in Sofia, Bulgaria. He was earlier forced to leave Kviv, giving up his job as professor at the university. Then, he held the Chair of History at the University of Sofia. She stayed with him until he died the following year. He inspired her to study English. After his death, Lesya wrote with fighting tones, with themes of heroic deeds and battle cries for the rights and freedom of Ukrainians.

She continued writing poetry and translating. Her literary criticism introduced Western European intellectual traditions into Ukrainian cultural life. She started writing plays, in which some laid bare the social, cultural and religious constraints on women’s lives in the everyday. She was one of the first to address women’s representation in modern literature in her 1900 essay, “New perspectives and old shadows: “The new woman” in Western European fiction.”

(Continued on page 5).



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>
January 2026	December 15
April 2026	March 15
July 2026	June 15
October 2026	September 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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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 2025 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.

Publication Content Wanted

Did you recently acquire a fun stamp?
An interesting cover? Scan it!

Did you attend a philatelic related event, in person or virtually? If so tell us about it! Write a letter to the editor. Submit a Breaking the Ice introduction. Send all submissions for publication to glhstamps2@gmail.com.

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 **83** members. 52 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 37 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

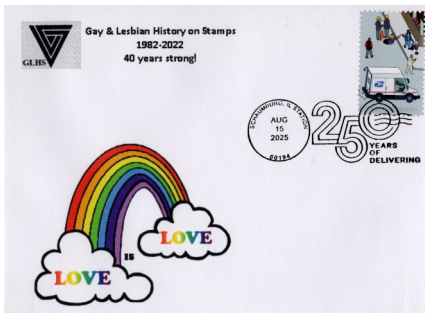
*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS
notify GLHS*

The Great American Stamp Show 2025



co-hosted by the APS, the American Topical Association, and the American First Day Cover Society was held August 14-17 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

On Friday August 15th at 4:00 PM, GLHS held their Annual meeting, followed by the presentation, *“AIDS/HIV and LGBTQ Postal History”* by **Richard Beecher**.



GLHS Members were acknowledged with a certificate and a USPS250/GLHS philatelic cover for their volunteer service with an open heart, open hands, and

helping GLHS build a better future:

The webmaster **Art von Reyn** keeps the website up to date with new issues, meetings, etc. The website received a gold medal in the 2024 Star Route Award Competition hosted by the APS.

John Stefanek for his New Issues column with 3-5 pages of new issues highlighted each quarter. John also is regular content contributor to the e-journal. This year John completed and published the 837-page LGBTQ and Related Checklist to the members only part of the GLHS website.

Additional e-journal content contributors include **Francis Ferguson, Richard Beecher** and **Larry Crain**.

Barry Christensen spent hours indexing the GLHS Journals since 2018. The index is posted on the website. Barry was also a content contributor this past year.

Joe Petronie as the social media chair managing the Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Facebook page with 1.3 thousand followers!

Additional GLHS members were acknowledged with a certificate and philatelic cover thanking them for their financial contributions: **Barry Christensen, Carol Costa, Philip L. Evans, David Hoylman, Brandon Nugent, Robert Pope** and **Melvin Welk**.

Attendees at the Annual GLHS Meeting 08/15/2025



From Left to Right, Back: Darrell Ertzberger, Richard L. Beecher, Tomas Griebing, Dale Smith, Andrea Smith, Marilyn Suffet, Benny Johnson, Stephen Suffet, Lisa Foster, James Ferguson. Bottom: Laurie Anderson, Arthur P von Reyn, Casey Jo White.

GASS Future Dates/Locations

2026 - Bye Approved

Boston 2026 will host APS annual meeting and C of C

May 23-30, 2026

Aug. 19-22, 2027

Albuquerque, NM



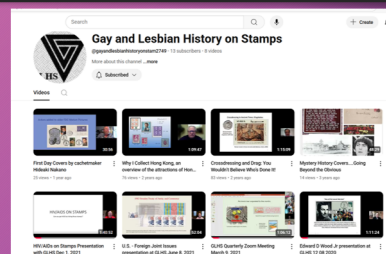
Members have requested a GLHS Meeting be held during Boston 2026.

What date/time would members prefer?

Are you willing to give a presentation?

Send email to glhstamps2@gmail.com.

Zoom Meeting Presentations on YouTube



We do not have an upcoming zoom meeting scheduled. Any one willing to volunteer to present or know anyone we should ask please reach out to glhstamps2@gmail.com.



The Future Happens – Closed Album

How many of you have planned for your future? I am referring to what happens when you hang up your tongs and your album is closed – permanently.

I have taken the necessary steps to aid my husband in the task of disposing of my collections. This is something that is of critical importance for those of us that may own expensive material. While I have no illusion that certain specialized collections that I have lovely fed over the years will garish any serious money – others will -- as they contain rare and even unique material that will find a market in the philatelic ecosystem.

Leaving instructions as to who to contact and an accurate and realistic valuation is very important to your spouse. While I do not often discuss what I spend in my philatelic pursuits it is a topic I will need to talk about sooner or later with my husband.

I am often contacted by grieving windows wanting to dispose of a “collection” – only to find out that the supposed material is nothing more than an accumulation of torn off postage from letters in a shoe box. It happens more than you would believe. I would estimate that no more than 1 out of 10 contacts that come my way actually have material that is valuable and worth further investigation. My attempts to aid a seller are sometimes met with thanks and other times with anger.

I know the anger is not directed at me but rather at the deceased spouse for not being truthful. I direct the widow to the most appropriate place, whether it be a donation to charity or to a dealer who handles that material. I never insert myself in the buying process -- as it is a line I will not cross.

In reality I consider my service to the philatelic community to be pay back for years of pleasure as a collector.

Until next time, be good and practice kindness. Pay it forward.

LGBTQs at the Center of USPS250?!?

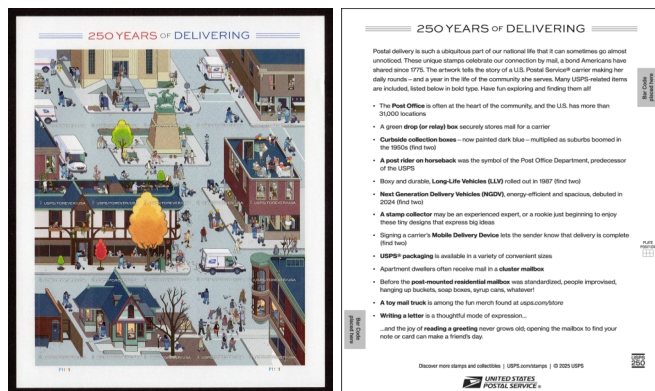
By Barry Christensen

I never realized how many of my neighbors drive Subarus until I started driving one myself! Now I see them all over the place, including two of the same model and color as mine in the neighborhood.

Similarly, I never realized how many LGBTQs there were all around me until I acquired “gaydar” as a teenager. Now, I’m not sure how many of my “gaydar” pings were wishful thinking and how many had military target accuracy. In any case, I woke up to a great big beautiful gay world in every direction!

Decades passed, and then recently the unique new USPS stamp pane “250 Years of Delivering,” issued on July 23rd at USPS headquarters along with the amazing “Putting a Stamp on the American Experience” prestige booklet, arrived with the daily mail in my latest USA Philatelic stamp order.

Issued with great pomp amid a galaxy of officialdom, the “250 Years of Delivering” set was also celebrated in a special dedication ceremony on August 15th at the Great American Stamp Show in Schaumburg, IL. Reminding me of the “Where’s Waldo” craze of the 1990’s, the back of the pane lists USPS-related items to search for as you explore the myriad details of the 20 unique stamps in this entertaining illustration.



Call me crazy or whatever, but my “gaydar” went off when I was taking a closer look. Check out the second row down, third stamp from the left. Is it just my imagination, or are there two LGBTQ couples holding hands and walking through the town square below the post rider statue?

(Continued on page 5).

(Lesya Ukrainka, continued from page 1).

While traveling to the Crimea in 1897 for her health, Lesya met a Belorussian activist named Serhiy Merzhynsky. They grew close. In 1901, she visited him in Minsk and cared for him as he died from tuberculosis.

In January 1899, Lesya travelled to Berlin for an operation that was successful. She started correspondence with Olha Kobylianska. Olha visited Lesya in Kyiv in August. Later in the year, Lesya visited Olha's home in Chernivtsi, Bukovina, Austro-Hungarian Empire (now in Ukraine). After Serhiy's death, she visited Olha again. After this visit, intimacy entered the pair's correspondence. They used terms of endearment, like "my beloved" and "my dearest," as well as coded use of the word, "someone," such as "someone loves someone" and "someone would like to kiss and stroke someone." The language appeared homoerotic.

She continued to travel for her health. She went to the Italian riviera, Odessa, and Tbilisi. During a trip touring Bukovina, she was partly accompanied by a young ethnographer named Klyment Kvitka. Their relationship would grow. In January 1907, she was arrested and briefly detained by police. In March, Lesya decided to live with Klyment in a common-law relationship. They married in July and eventually settled in Kutaisi, Georgia.

She went to a sanatorium in Crimea and travelled to Egypt before returning to Kutaisi to write her masterpiece, *The Forest Song*, a play in the form of a fairy tale. The Russian Academy of Sciences finally declared that Ukrainian was a separate language, so the first staging of one of Lesya's plays in Kyiv happened in January 1909. Her 1910 play, *The Boyar's Wife*, a Ukrainian historical play with anti-sentiments, would be banned twenty years later by the Soviets.

Lesya Ukrainka died on 19 July 1913.



Known stamp designs featuring Lesya Ukrainka:
USSR Scott #1862, #3828,
Ukraine Scott #203, #993a,
#1255-6, #1299

References:

A Biographical Dictionary of Women's Movements and Feminisms: Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, 19th and 20th Centuries, edited by Francisca de Haan, Krassimira Daskalova, and Anna Loufti, Central European University Press, New York, 2006, pp. 592-4

Lesya Ukrainka, by Constantine Bida, translated by Vera Rich, Ukrainian Canadian Committee Women's Council, University of Toronto Press, 1968

"Seven Lives: Vignettes of Ukrainian Writers in the Nineteenth Century," by George S.N. Luckyj, *The Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., Inc., Volume XX, 1998-1999, Numbers 47-48*, The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., Inc., New York, 1999

Who's Who in Gay and Lesbian History: From Antiquity to World War II, 2nd Edition, edited by Robert Aldrich and Garry Wotherspoon, Routledge, 2002, page 242

(USPS250, Continued from page 4).



Both couples are walking with their backs to the artist's perspective, but I can't help wondering. Are LGBTQs at the center of this USPS250 celebration? If so, can I expect enhanced mail delivery services in the future to our part of my community as illustrated in this very fun stamp set? Just joking, but one can always dream!

Check it out and let me know what you think. In the meantime, enjoy this tantalizing bit of postal intrigue right smack dab in the middle of the postal service's 250th birthday!

PS—Be sure to also take a good look at the prestige booklet issued for USPS250, only the fourth in USPS history (yes, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, many of us LOVE prestige booklets!) Don't be surprised if several of the stamps have familiar faces from our GLHS website US stamp gallery, including Tennessee Williams, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Isadora Duncan, along with Ralph Ellison and Charles Demuth, to name a few. You might say, the booklet does a great job of "Putting a Stamp on the LGBTQ American Experience!"

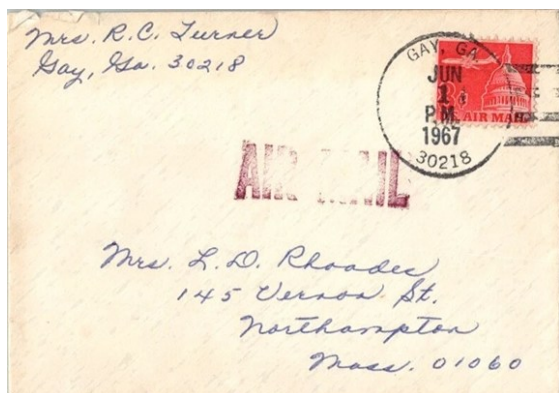


Gay U.S.A.

In the United States, several towns and communities have the name "Gay".

Here are some notable examples, along with details regarding their post offices and origins:

Gay, Georgia:



GA 1967 Gay 30218 4-bar 8c Jet
Over Capitol Air Mail

- Located in Meriwether County.
- A post office called Gay has been operating here since 1886.
- The town was incorporated in 1907.
- The name is after William F. Gay, an early postmaster.

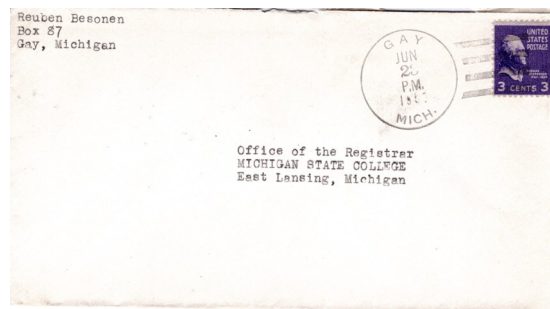
Gay, West Virginia:

- An unincorporated community in Jackson County.
- It has a post office with the ZIP Code 25244.
- The name is attributed to one Mr. Gay, an early postmaster.

Gay, North Carolina:

- A post office was established in 1907 and closed in 1953.
- The community was named after Gay Sutton, a pioneer citizen.

Gay, Michigan:




Cover courtesy of Larry Crain

- An unincorporated town located in Keweenaw County in the Upper Peninsula.
- Named after Joseph E. Gay, a mine official.
- The town established a post office in 1909, but it closed in 1988.

Gay, Oklahoma:

- The post office was established in 1901 as Lenton and later changed to Gay in 1908.
- The name is said to have been inspired by Gay, Georgia.
- The post office closed in 1932.

(Gay U.S.A. continued on page 7).



**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>. "Affiliate since: 8/31/1991."



**AMERICAN
TOPICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Exhibits in the 2025 My One-Page Exhibit Program are available for viewing on the ATA website americantopical.org.

LGBTQ Allies Honored with New USPS Stamp Issues

By Barry Christensen

Recently, the USPS 2025 stamp program included new issues honoring two well-known allies of the LGBTQ community, humanitarian Elie Wiesel (September 17th) and President Jimmy Carter (October 1st).



A striking 1999 photo by Sergey Bermeniev in black and white of Elie Wiesel (1928-2016) appears on a non-denominated two-ounce stamp, the eighteenth in the Distinguished Americans series.

Wiesel's universal human rights advocacy was summarized in his stand that "Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere." He helped the world remember the men of the pink triangle who died in Nazi concentration camps.

A 1986 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel delivered a powerful address of solidarity between the Jewish and gay communities at the 1989 benefit for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Fund. After his death in 2016, the HRC issued a statement mourning Wiesel as a hero.



President Jimmy Carter (1924-2024) appears in a 1982 painting by Herbert E Abrams on a new Forever first-class stamp. During his presidency (1977-1981), he was the first sitting president to have openly gay advocates meet with his administration. As a lifelong progressive Baptist lay leader, he endured the opposition of conservative Evangelicals by prohibiting anti-gay discrimination in the federal government and providing federal funding for gay health clinics and education materials.

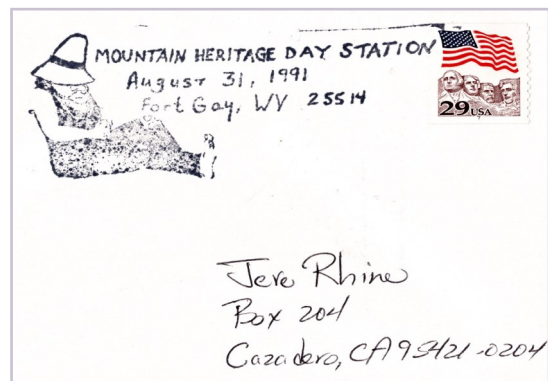
Carter opposed California's 1978 Proposition 6 "Briggs Initiative" which might have banned gays and supporters from teaching in the state's public schools. While unsuccessfully running for reelection in 1980, he was the first presidential candidate to endorse a gay rights plank for the Democratic national platform.

Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his humanitarian work, spread over the longest

life (100 years) and longest post-term career of any President. Carter opposed the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies (2007) and advocated for marriage equality from a faith perspective in 2012, saying "I think Jesus would approve of gay marriage." Carter's legacy of advocacy for LGBTQ equality and human rights continues through the efforts of the Carter Center in Atlanta.

(Gay U.S.A. continued from page 6).

Fort Gay, West Virginia:



Cover courtesy Larry Crain

- A town in Wayne County, situated along the Tug Fork and Big Sandy rivers.
- The post office in Cassville, which later became known as Fort Gay, existed as early as 1856.
- There are different theories about the name's origin, including the possibility it was named after a Civil War nurse named Gay or that the name was used to distinguish it from another Cassville in the state.

Consider expanding a collection as there are 20 additional cities named "Gay" in 10 additional countries (Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, Sudan, Poland, Liberia, Guadeloupe, Cameroon, Belgium, and Armenia.)

Why stop there? Collect covers from "Cities & Towns With Names That Evoke Gay Life" a list compiled by Rob Frydlewicz and posted to the blog [ZeitGAYst Cities & Towns With Names That Evoke Gay Life - ZeitGAYst](#).

Gongmin of Goryeo

By John P. Stefanek

King Gongmin of Goryeo (Korea) was one of late Goryeo's most gifted monarchs, widely acclaimed for his mastery with the brush as a talented artist and calligrapher. He was born on 23 May 1330, almost a century after the Mongol Yuan invasion of Goryeo. As was custom, prospective male rulers of Goryeo were sent to the Yuan court, effectively as hostages, and were expected to marry Yuan princesses. Gongmin went to the Yuan court in 1341 and married the woman who would become Queen Indeok.

During Gongmin's reign, which began in 1351, the Yuan were militarily driven north by the Chinese Ming dynasty. The aristocratic government of Goryeo began to disintegrate to be replaced with the emergence of literati, scholar-bureaucrats via an examinations system that replaced hereditary appointment. Gongmin initiated reforms that were anti-Yuan and were attempts to remove the entrenched aristocratic families. When the Ming dynasty was established in 1368, Gongmin adopted a pro-Ming stance and exchanged envoys.

Gongmin was well known for pederasty with royal catamites or *chajewi*. The names of five of these have been recorded: Hong Yun, Han An, Kwon Chin, Hong Kwan, and No Son.



Late in his reign, he grew fond of Sin Ton (the monk P'yŏnjo) and created for him the extraordinary post of Prime Minister Plenipotentiary to carry out a sweeping reorganization of government. He ousted Yi Kong-su and others of exalted lineage and established the Directorate for Reclassification of Farmland and Farming Population in order to return lands and slaves seized by the powerful families to their original owners. The actions were well received by the populace as a whole.

Gongmin died on 27 October 1374.

Known stamp designs referencing Gongmin: North Korea 4470b, 11/20/13, 10/22/14 booklet cover

References:

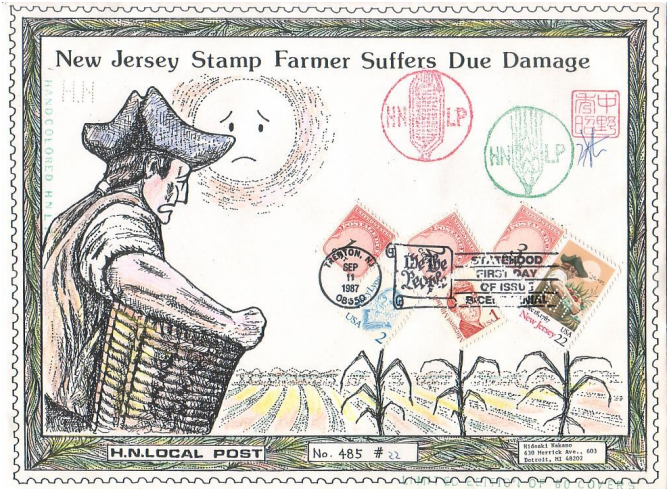
"Homosexuality in Ancient and Modern Korea," by

Young-Gwan Kim and Sook-Ja Hahn, *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, Volume 8, Number 1, Jan-Feb 2006, Taylor and Francis, Ltd., pp.59-65

Goryeo Dynasty: Korea's Age of Enlightenment, 918-1392, by Kumja Paik Kim, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, 2003

A New History of Korea, by Ki-baik Lee, translated by Edward W. Wagner with Edward J. Schultz, Ilchokak, Publishers, Seoul, 1984

H.N. Local Post



The 1987 22 cent Bicentenary Statehood Stamp for New Jersey, issued September 11, was designed by Jim Lamb and featured an agrarian scene of a farmer carrying a basket of fresh produce. After the stamp was released, there was some criticism that it pictured tomatoes, which many thought were poison before the 1800s. Lamb said he was aware of that, but knew that the state was famous for its "Jersey tomatoes."

In the 1980s a farm crisis occurred in the United States with an agricultural recession, low crop prices and low farm incomes.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 was enacted in response to the severe financial crisis which affected both farmers and their lending institutions.

In 2025, farmers are again facing a farm crisis, which is being referred to as "Farmageddon". Across the US, farmers describe increasingly dire circumstances stemming from a confluence of factors — trade wars, Trump's immigration crackdown, inflation and high interest rates.

GLHSC ARCHIVES

It's All in How You Look at It...I Suppose

by Richard Lee Peavler

Even before I came out in 1983 I knew that gay, lesbian bi-sexual and transgendered people have never been held in high esteem by most people. That is why I was surprised to find that the US National Zip Code Directory listed a number of towns and cities with "Gay", "Dick", "Queen", etc. in their names.

A very short note and an uncanceled envelope quickly got me a postmark of their name which grew into a small, but interesting collection of town names of double meaning, possibly not thought of or recognized when the towns were named.

You just have to look at it correctly: After all my own home, Kansas City, Missouri was originally named Possum Trot. Go figure!



From the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*,
June 2008, Volume 27, No. 2, Whole No. 102, Page 07

New Issues

By John P. Stefanek

On 18 September 2025, Austria released a crypto stamp celebrating Greek Mythology, featuring **Zeus (Jupiter)**.

On 18 September 2025, Luxembourg released a crypto stamp celebrating Greek Mythology, featuring **Artemis (Diana)**.

On 18 September 2025, the Netherlands released a crypto stamp celebrating Greek Mythology, featuring **Hermes (Mercury)**.

On 18 September 2025, Portugal released a crypto stamp celebrating Greek Mythology, featuring **Poseidon (Neptune)**.

On 11 September 2025, Ireland released a booklet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet commemorating 25 Years of Westlife, including one stamp and the souvenir sheet featuring **Mark Feehily (born 1980)**. He was born in Sligo and rose to fame as a member of the boy band Westlife. He is the highest-charting LGBT performer on the UK Singles Chart, with 15 number one appearances. Mark came out publicly as gay during an August 2005 interview with *The Sun*.



On 4 September 2025, Germany released a stamp celebrating Wonder Woman, inspired by **Olive Byrne**.

On 14 August 2025, the United Kingdom released six stamps, a miniature sheet, and a Collectors sheet celebrating Monty Python, including one stamp featuring King **David** of Israel and work by **Michelangelo**, twelve stamps featuring **Graham Chapman**, four stamps featuring men in drag, and two stamps featuring an illustration of a male policeman revealing female breasts.

On 14 August 2025, the United Nations (New York, Geneva, Vienna) released three stamps commemorating No Nukes, featuring art by **Sergio Baradat**.

On 12 August 2025, Australia released three stamps and a miniature sheet commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of **Margaret Preston (1875-1963)**. She was born in Port Adelaide and moved with her family to Sydney in 1885.



She studied at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School and the School of Design in Adelaide. She taught art at St. Peter's College and at Presbyterian Ladies' College. She wished to foster an Australian "national art" and was one of the first non-indigenous Australian artists to use Aboriginal motifs in her work. She is regarded as one of Australia's leading modernists of the early 20th century. Margaret had relationships with former student Bessie Davidson and with intimate companion artist and potter Gladys Reynell before marrying businessman William George Preston.

On 6 August 2025, New Zealand released four stamps celebrating the Black Ferns Women's Rugby Team, including one stamp featuring **Ruby Tui**.

On 4 August 2025, Bosnia & Herzegovina (Muslim/Bosniak/Sarajevo) released a stamp commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Death of **Hans Christian Andersen**.

On 4 August 2025, the Republic of China (Taiwan) released four stamps commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Death of **Hans Christian Andersen**.

On 1 August 2025, Romania released four stamps and a souvenir sheet celebrating the European Art Gallery, Iasi, including one stamp featuring **Apollo**, one stamp featuring **John the Apostle**, and the souvenir sheet featuring **Julius Caesar**.

On 1 August 2025, the United States released four stamps celebrating **SpongeBob SquarePants**, a fictional character in an animated television series created by Stephen Hillenburg for Nickelodeon, premiering on 17 July 1999. He is an energetic and optimistic sea sponge who lives in a submerged pineapple. In a 2002 interview,



Stephen Hillenburg said SpongeBob was asexual. In 2020, Nickelodeon seemed to confirm SpongeBob's membership in the LGBTQ+ community by including him, along with two other Nickelodeon characters known to be LGBTQ+, in a tweet celebrating Pride Month.

On 23 July 2025, the United States released a prestige booklet commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the United States Postal Service, depicting images of prior stamps featuring **Isadora Duncan**, **Tennessee Williams**, work by **Georgia O'Keeffe**, work by **Charles Demuth**, work by **Matthew Murphy**, work by **Sergio Baradat**, and a caduceus (**Hermes (Mercury)**). **Charles Demuth (1883-1935)** was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and studied at Franklin & Marshall Academy, Drexel University, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, where he met his lifelong close friend, William Carlos Williams. He returned to Lancaster and lived with his mother for the rest of his life. He maintained a studio on the second floor of the family home where he specialized in watercolors before turning to oils late in his career, developing a style of painting known as Precisionism. Starting in 1909, Charles maintained a romantic relationship with interior decorator and stage designer Robert Evans Locher.



On 21 July 2025, Australia released a Stamp Pack of 19 stamps celebrating the 2024 Disney animated musical adventure film, *Moana 2*, including six stamps featuring the character Moana, voiced by **Auli'i Cravalho (born 2000)**. She was born in Kohala, Hawai'i, and made her acting debut as the voice of the title character of the 2016 Disney animated musical film, *Moana*. She has performed



on television, in the West End, on Broadway, and in additional films, including 2024's adaptation of *Mean Girls: The Musical*. Auli'i came out publicly as bisexual in 2020.



On 14 July 2025, Vietnam released a stamp commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 1 July 2025, Spain released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 20th Anniversary of **Marriage Equality**.



On 27 June 2025, Moldova released a stamp commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Death of **Hans Christian Andersen**.

On 24 June 2025, Australia released a Stamp Pack of nine stamps celebrating the 2024 Disney animated musical adventure film, *Moana 2*, including four stamps featuring the character Moana, voiced by **Auli'i Cravalho**.

On 16 June 2025, Bulgaria released a stamp commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of **Georgi Partsalev**.

On 10 June 2025, Bulgaria released a souvenir sheet commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 28 February 2025, Panama released a stamp commemorating the Centenary of the White Elephant Complex, Santo Tomás Hospital, featuring the Rod of **Asclepius**.

On 29 November 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 385th Anniversary of the Birth of Peter Paul Rubens, including one stamp featuring **Artemis (Diana)** and one souvenir sheet featuring **Saint Sebastian**.

On 29 November 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 550th Anniversary of the Birth of **Michelangelo**.

On 29 November 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets commemorating the 515th Anniversary of the Death of **Sandro Botticelli**, including one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)** and **Zephyrus (Favonius)**, one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)**, **Eros (Cupid)**, **Hermes (Mercury)**, and **Zephyrus (Favonius)**, one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)**, one stamp featuring **John the Apostle**, and one souvenir sheet selva featuring **John the Apostle**.

On 29 November 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet and two souvenir sheets celebrating Nude Paintings, including one stamp featuring **Zeus (Jupiter)** disguised as **Artemis (Diana)** in the painting *Jupiter and Callisto*, one stamp featuring **Aphrodite (Venus)**, and one souvenir sheet featuring **Zeus (Jupiter)**



transformed into a swan in work by **Leonardo da Vinci**. *Jupiter and Callisto* was painted by Peter Paul Rubens in 1613 in a heroic classicist style, highlighting figures in

the foreground, giving an almost relief-like appearance. The subject was taken from Ovid as the nymph Callisto was seduced by Jupiter, who disguised himself as Diana.

On 12 November 2024, France released a booklet of twelve stamps celebrating Around the World, including one stamp featuring **Isaac Newton**.

On 9 September 2024, Colombia released a miniature sheet commemorating the Royal Road from Santafé to Honda, including one stamp featuring **Alexander von Humboldt**.

On 5 July 2024, Central African Republic released a miniature sheet commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Birth of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, including one stamp featuring



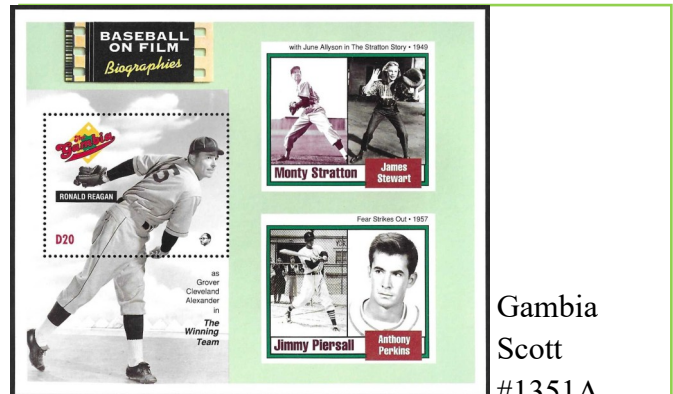
In Bed the Kiss. The 1892 painting portrayed two women in bed in an intimate embrace. The artist considered this painting as the epitome of pleasurable and sensual delight.

On 5 July 2024, France released a booklet of twelve stamps celebrating Fountains, including one stamp featuring **Poseidon (Neptune)**.

On 28 May 2024, Djibouti released a miniature sheet celebrating Scouts, including one stamp featuring **Robert Baden-Powell**.

On 1 March 2024, the Netherlands released a miniature sheet commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Keukenhof Gardens, including one stamp featuring a yellow daffodil (**Narcissus**).

On 31 October 2023, Brazil released a miniature sheet celebrating Families, including one stamp featuring a **male couple** and one stamp featuring a **female couple**.



Anthony Perkins (1932-1992) was born in Manhattan and began his career as a teenager in summer stock programs. He made his film debut in 1953's *The Actress* and made his Broadway debut in 1953's *Tea and Sympathy*. His next film, 1956's *Friendly Persuasion*, earned him a Golden Globe Award and an Oscar nomination. He received a Tony nomination for *Look Homeward, Angel*, and 1960's *Psycho* established him as a horror icon. Anthony had relationships with actor Tab Hunter, artist Christopher Makos, and dancer-choreographer Grover Dale. In the 1970s, Anthony attempted conversion therapy and married Berry Berenson in 1973. He died in 1992 from AIDS-related causes.

Danny Kaye (1911-1987) was born in Brooklyn, New York, and entertained his schoolmates with songs and jokes. He left school, had a succession of jobs, eloped with Sylvia Fine, and learned his trade as a tumbler in the Borscht Belt. His first break came in 1933 when he joined a vaudeville dance act. He made his film debut in 1937 making two-reel comedies for Educational Pictures. He made his Broadway debut in 1939 in *The Straw Hat Revue*. He stopped the show in 1941's *Lady in the Dark*, which led to his feature film debut in 1944's *Up in Arms*. He would star in 23 films and become the first ambassador-at-large of UNICEF in 1954. Biographer Donald Spoto wrote that Danny had a ten-year secret affair with Laurence Olivier, confirmed in a letter written by Laurence to Vivien Leigh.



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