Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB • SEPTEMBER 2009, VOL. 28, NO. 3, WHOLE NO. 107

A favorite cover!
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 have prominent homosexual behavior, and
- Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHSC strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

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

Single issues $3.

There are two levels of membership:

1) Supportive, your name will not be released to APS, ATA or AFDCS, and
2) Active, your name will be released to APS, ATA and AFDCS (as required).

Dues include four issues of the Lambda Philatelic Journal and a copy of the membership directory. (Names will be withheld from the directory upon request.)

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

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Ads should be no larger than 1/4 page. Any ad submitted without artwork will be created by the editor and at the editor’s discretion.

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News from the Editor

Articles are urgently needed for upcoming issues. I have two articles for the December issue, and another one waiting on graphics. Formats and the like can be found on page 7.

* * * * *

I have been giving this a lot of thought. Does anyone have an interest in taking over as editor of the journal? I’ve been editor since the early 1990’s. New ideas in format and content might be good for the journal and club in 2010. Let me, or one of the other officers, know if you are interested.

glhsc@aol.com

Emails

Joe,

Many of the members may have read in the July issue of American Philatelist that I was appointed to head the APS diversity committee. But, I doubt that many (if any) of the GLHSC members connected the dots and realized that I’m a GLHSC member. I’ll be writing an article for the September issue of American Philatelist with more information about the diversity committee. But, in the meantime, I wanted to connect with GLHSC members and let them know that one of their own is leading the APS diversity committee. The board has, as a whole, been very supportive of inclusion of LGBT people in our diversity outreach efforts. So, I want to reach out to GLHSC and ask them to provide me suggestions about how the APS could be more inclusive and make them feel more welcome. And, of course, I’d like to encourage members who aren’t APS members to join the APS. Finally, if any of our members are interested in helping with the APS diversity effort, I’d love to hear from them as well.

I hope all is well with you.

Regards,
Ann Dunkin

* * * * *

Hi Ann and Joe --

Thought you might like to know that, years ago, I published the following articles. The APS article taught stamp collectors about nursing and nursing history, got the cover with a nursing stamp, and won the Afelbaum award for that year. The American Journal of Nursing (publication of the American Nurses' Association) article taught nurses about nursing history and stamps!!

Thanks,

Tony Forrester, Ph.D., R.N., ANEF
GLHSC Member, New Jersey


Honors and Awards: Date:
Apfelbaum Award from The American Philatelist for Best Article 1992. Published in 1991.

* * * * *

(Continued on page 4)
To the Editor -

I was pleased to see Bill Cox's informative article on the bisexual Swiss artist Hans Erni. As well as being the designer of many beautiful stamps, Erni was a frequent contributor to the trilingual Swiss gay magazine Der Kreis, published (for the first decade under other titles) from 1932 to 1967. A later work, "The Philatelist," will be of interest to readers of the Journal.

Ian Young
Toronto

Gentlemen,

As a follow-up to [last] September article, I did manage to meet Steven Ford at a recent seminar at the John F. Kennedy Library. Certainly a fine gentleman, in the footsteps of his under-rated father.

Inquiry of anyone who may be more media savvy (or connected), does anyone even recall a Charles Jaco, who was a commentator along with Wolf Blitzer in the late 1970’s, during the Iranian hostage debacle. Does anyone have any follow-up information? I have old location of being in St. Louis, MO, in the last decade, then he fell out of sight.

Many thanks,
George Mercier
Worcester, MA

Micheal MacLiammoir (born Alfred Willmore) (October 25, 1899 – March 6, 1978) was an Irish actor, dramatist, writer, poet and painter. MacLiammoir was born to a Protestant family living in the Kensal Green neighborhood of London.

As Alfred Willmore he was one of the leading child actors on the English stage, in the company of Noel Coward. He studied painting at London’s Slade School of Art, continuing to paint throughout his lifetime. In the 1920s he traveled all over Europe. Willmore was captivated by Irish culture; he learned the Irish language which he spoke and wrote fluently in and changed his name to an Irish version, presenting himself in Ireland as a descendant of Irish Catholics.

While acting in Ireland with the touring company of his brother-in-law Anew MacMaster, MacLiammoir met his partner and lover, Hilton Edwards. Deciding to remain in Dublin where he lived at Harcourt Terrace, the pair assisted with the inaugural production of Galway’s Irish-language theatre, An Taibhdhearc; the play was MacLiammoir’s version of the mythical story...
Diarmuid agus Grainne. MacLiammoir and Edwards then threw themselves into their own venture, co-founding the Gate Theatre in Dublin in 1928 with Edwards. The Gate became a showcase for modern plays and design (even as MacLiammoir himself maintained an ongoing fascination with Celticism). MacLiammoir’s set and costume designs were key elements of the Gate’s success. His many notable acting roles included Robert Emmet/ The Speaker in Denis Johnston’s The Old Lady Says ‘No!’ and the title role in Hamlet.

In 1948 he appeared in the NBC television production of Great Catherine with Gertrude Lawrence. He played Iago in Orson Welles’ film version of Othello (1952). His Iago is unusual in that MacLiammoir was about fifty (and looked older) when he played the role, while the play gives Iago’s age as 28. This may have been because of Welles’ intended interpretation – he wanted Iago played as an older ‘impotent’ consumed by envy for the younger Othello. The following year, he went on to play ‘Poor Tom’ in another Welles project, the TV film of King Lear (1953) for CBS. He narrated the 1963 film, Tom Jones. He was the Irish storyteller in 30 Is a Dangerous Age, Cynthia (1968) which starred Dudley Moore and, in 1971, he played an elocution teacher in Curtis Harrington’s What’s The Matter with Helen?.

In 1951, during a break in the making of Othello, MacLiammoir produced Welles’ ghost story Return to Glennascaul which was directed by Hilton Edwards.

In 1970 MacLiammoir performed the role of narrator on the cult album Peace on Earth by the Northern Irish showband, The Freshmen.

MacLiammoir wrote and performed a one-man show, The Importance of Being Oscar, based on the life and work of Oscar Wilde. The Telefis Eireann production won him a Jacob’s Award in December 1964. It was later filmed by the BBC with MacLiammoir reprising the role.

MacLiammoir claimed when talking to Irish playwright, Mary Manning, to have had a homosexual relationship with General Eoin O’Duffy, former Garda Siochana Commissioner and head of the quasi-fascist Blueshirts in Ireland, during the 1930’s. The claim was revealed publicly by RTE in a documentary, The Odd Couple, broadcast in 1999. However, MacLiammoir’s claims have not been substantiated by any evidence.

MacLiammoir is the subject of the 1990 play The Importance of Being Micheal (also published as a book) by John Keyes.

Books by Micheal MacLiammoir:

Put Money in Thy Purse
Each Actor on His Ass
Ceo Meala La Seaca
Enter a Goldfish
All for Hecuba
Oicheanna Sidhe
La agus Oiche
Aisteoiri Faoi Dha Sholas
Theatre in Ireland
Ireland
Blath agus Taibhse
An Oscar of No Importance

Plays by Micheal MacLiammoir:

Diarmuid and Grainne / Diarmuid agus Grainne
Ill Met by Moonlight
Oiche Bealtaine
Where Stars Walk
The Importance of Being Oscar (one-man show)
I Must Be Talking to My Friends (one-man show)
Talking about Yeats (one-man show)
Virginia “Ginny” Apgar was born June 7, 1909 in Westfield, NJ to parents Charles and Helen. Charles was an insurance executive who was fascinated with astronomy and inventing. Apgar's childhood home contained a basement laboratory, where her father built a telescope and pursued scientific experiments with electricity and radio waves (electromagnetic waves in the range of radio frequencies). This was a rich atmosphere of curiosity and investigation for the ever curious Ginny. High school was a busy time for Ginny. She played in the school orchestra and participated in athletics.

Ginny’s father’s love of science and the chronic childhood illness of two of her brothers seem to have planted the seeds of her career path. She entered Mount Holyoke College with the plan of becoming a doctor. Although she held several part-time jobs to generate cash flow while attending college, she still managed to edit the school paper, participated in seven sports teams, acted in the school plays, played in the orchestra – and still did very well academically.

At a time when few women even attended college, Apgar was determined to make medicine her life's work. Following her BA, she studied medicine in New York, graduating M.D. from the Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1933. From 1933 to 1936, she was surgical intern and resident under Alan Whipple (1881-1963) at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Her superior, who had seen former female surgeons educated by him encounter problems in commencing their own practice and supporting themselves, advised her instead to switch to anesthesiology which needed reinforcement at the Columbia P & S. After two frustrating years of practice; Apgar, convinced that as a woman she could not support herself in the predominantly male field of surgery, followed Whipple's advice and turned to the newly emerging field of anesthesiology.

During the years of 1936 and 1937, she learned the basics of anesthesiology by the nurse anesthetist at the Columbia Presbyterian. Further internships in 1937-1938 gave her more training and experience. Thus prepared, in 1938 Apgar, returned to the Columbia Presbyterian, division of anesthesia. In 1939 she received her Board Certification from the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the second woman to get this diploma. The same year she was appointed anesthesiologist-in-chief at the division of anesthesia under the department of surgery at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. She become the first woman to head a department there. Ginny was a trailblazer, many years ahead of her time.

Apgar’s interests did not only revolve around medicine, but also continued to include music. In 1956, she set up a workshop in her small apartment and handcrafted her own violin, cello, mezzo violin, and viola. Apgar was intense, and did everything in high-gear -- including talking. She was well known for her rapid-fire delivery which confounded students and colleagues alike.

The lasting legacy that Apgar has left is known as the “Apgar Score” that is assigned to each new born immediately upon birth. The score summarizes critical health elements in an easy to understand way. The scoring method has been in use since the early 1950s.

This dynamic lady never married, never retired and remained active in medical practice and research.
until shortly before her untimely death at the age of 65 in 1974. Her hobbies not only included fly fishing, golfing, and watching baseball --- she was also an avid stamp collector. Apgar was very blunt about her feelings. She had no use for organized feminism and women’s liberation movement. She is reported to have said “Women are liberated from the time they leave the womb”. That says it all.

Until next time, have a great time collecting, and I look forward to hearing from any readers with comments or suggestions. I can be reached at hampton@cfl.rr.com.

**Aikane to the King of Hawaii**

by Bobby Cloud

Polysexuality refers to people who are attracted to more than one gender, but do not wish to identify as bisexual because it implies that there are only two binary genders. Polysexuals are those people sexually attracted to many different sorts of ideas and characteristics; i.e. poly meaning many.

It was in 1779 that the celebrated South Seas explorer Captain James Cook became the first official non-Polynesian to happen upon Hawaii. Captain Cook’s crew kept detailed journals of the island’s “strange goings-on”. They learned of concubines (often male) whose business, as the journals put it, “is to commit the Sin of Onan upon the old King” - a reference to oral sex. However, onanism often refers to masturbation. The crew of Captain Cook looked upon the male concubine as performing an oral masturbation upon the king. “It is an office that is esteemed honorable among them,” continued the shocked log writer, “and they have frequently asked us on seeing a handsome young fellow if he was not an “Ikany “[aikane] to some of us.”

Same-sex relationships are an important part of the traditional Hawaiian culture. The “ohana” or extended family often included same-sex relationships. Most of the ruling chiefs, including Kamehameha the Great, had several aikane in their households. Sometimes children were raised specifically to enter the royal household and become the “aikane’ of the chief. Hawaiian legend records that this was the custom back to the beginning, including
the household of the legendary first parents of Hawaiian tradition, “Wakea” and “Papa”.

The oral sex with the king or member of royalty was supposed to increase the “spiritual power” of the aikane by receiving the royal seed, and therefore the seed of the gods since the royalty of Hawaii were thought to be descended from the gods. It is known the Kamehameha, who united the tribes and became the first ruling monarch of Hawaii, had several of these men to perform the ritual – adding to the disgust and outrage of the Europeans who had come as explorers and ended up as exploiters of the Polynesian culture. It is possible/probable that the son, Kamehameha II continued the tradition as he had not yet embraced Christianity. However, his successor and younger brother Kamehameha III embraced the Christian traditions brought to the Islands by the Europeans and the American missionaries. It is most likely he ended the practice of performing the “sin of onan” on the king.

If you collect stamps that honor those that were “same-sex oriented”, then USPS Scott 799 honors Kamehameha I with a 3 cent stamp showing a statue of the king; Hawaii, Scott 76 and 82 (5 cent) also shows a similar statue of the great Hawaiian monarch. Hawaii Scott 47 (25c) can also be included. USPS Scott 2080 honors the 25th anniversary of Hawaii’s admission as a state (showing Eastern Polynesian Canoe Golden Plover Mauna Loa Volcano); US Airmail, Scott C55 (7c) also honors Hawaiian statehood; Scott 3694 (Hawaiian Missionary Sheet) issued in 2001; Scott C84 (City of Refuge, Hawaii), Scott C46 airmail (Diamondhead); Scott 1963 (State flower and Hawaiian Goose). The “greetings from” series with Scott 3571 (34c) and Scott 3706 (37c) can be added to a collection to honor the same-sex traditionalist of Hawaiian culture of the Kingdom of Hawaii (until 1893 when it became a republic).

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has apologized for the British government’s "horrifying" treatment a half-century ago of Alan Turing, the mathematical genius who played a key role in defeating Nazi Germany, but was later convicted of "gross indecency" for having sex with another man. Turing, now widely considered a founding father of computer science, led the successful effort to break Germany's complex Enigma military codes, thus giving the Allies a crucial edge in prosecuting the war. "It is no exaggeration to say that, without his outstanding contribution, the history of World War II could well have been very different," Brown said in a statement from Downing Street.

http://news.aol.com/article/gordon-brown-apologizes-for-treatment-of/666717

Turing can be found on:

2005 St. Helena
2000 St Vincent & the Grenadines, Scott 2764m
1999 Great Britain, Scott 1842
2000 Portugal, Scott 2345j
2006 Tatarstan {Illegal Issue}
He was featured in the LPJ March 2006 Vol. 25 No. 1

References:

Link, Matthew; The Out Traveler: Hawaii; Alyson Books, 2008

Gowen, Herbert; The Napoleon of the Pacific: Kamehameha the Great. Revell., 1919

Post Office Pulls Gay Pride Display - Diversity Team Didn’t Follow Regs, says Milwaukee PO Spokesperson

From Gay Daily News 07.13.2009 – It’s nice to know the Milwaukee post office has a diversity team, even though the chairman, Dale J. Schuster, has just quit. He had asked Maggi Cage, Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, to assemble a gay pride display for the downtown post office, in accord with President Obama’s declaration of June as “Gay Pride Month.” The display went up on the morning of June 1, but by afternoon it was gone.

Marge Oehlke, a spokesperson for the USPS, admitted to removing the display. “It did not fit our qualifications.” If you’ve been inside a post office lately, you might wonder what qualifications are required for decoration. Anyway, the display was out, and it never came back.

As Cage told the Milwaukee Sentinel, “I think it’s plain and simple homophobia. I really do think it’s a case of discrimination.”

Schuster summed up his feelings as he announced his resignation from the diversity team. “In light of the controversy over the pride month display being taken down, I had no other recourse than to resign. I believe it is important that everybody is treated with dignity and respect, and that nobody should feel excluded.”

VATICAN CITY

Claiming Oscar Wilde: The Vatican has embraced writer Oscar Wilde as a Catholic thinker. The writer, who was jailed in 1895 for homosexual acts, converted to Catholicism on his deathbed. The Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano published an article [this week] arguing that Wilde was not merely "an aesthete", but also "a man who behind a mask of amorality asked himself what was just and what was mistaken, what was true and what was false." Through his writings, the article said, Wilde followed "a long and difficult path toward that Promised Land which gives us the reason for existence, a path which led him to his conversion to Catholicism." Wilde once wrote that the Catholic Church was "for sinners and sinners alone -- for respectable people, the Anglican Church will do."

What a wonder! Who knows that some day, The Vatican will honor Oscar Wilde with a postage stamp; and as with Cardinal Newman, try to make him a Saint. Fags, Gays, Homosexuals, Queers, Transgendered Persons and Lesbians could pray to Saint Oscar Wilde, for guiding them to the pathway to heaven while on their 'Deathbed'?? This has happened so many times in the past. Remember it was Pat Boon who guided the unconscious actor Rock Hudson to the Promised Land. Blues singer Bessie Smith, on her deathbed, was persuaded in a similar manor to take that path to the 'Other World'.
Australia issued stamps for gold medalists in Beijing. Matthew Mitcham won gold in diving, men’s 10m platform. Scott no. 2925.

Maldives Islands issued a sheet of four stamps featuring Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 2009. Scott nos. 2965a-d.

Solomon Islands issued a set of eight stamps on July 15, 2008. The set features British monarchs. James I can be found on Scott no. 1112.

Ukraine issued a se-tenant pair on March 21, 2008, featuring Nicolay Gogol. Scott nos. 725a-b.

AIDS Update

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

*   *   *   *   *   *   *

Israel issued a sheet of 12 stamps featuring Israeli musicians on April 22, 2009. Ofra Haza, who passed away from complications due to AIDS, can be found on Scott no. 1773l.

Rwanda issued a set of four stamps on January 1, 2003. The stamps were for AIDS prevention for children. Only two of the set are known to have been postally used. Those two have Scott nos. 1395 - 96. The other two will be given Scott numbers once Scott editors verify that they indeed exist.


We’re on the web! www.GLHSC.com
Here’s an interesting cachet sent in by a GLHSC member. It features the Western Union Company’s observation tower located on Fire Island. The cover artwork, individually hand painted, is based on a 1915 photo (of the tower) and another photo of the tower’s main observer’s son. For more information, you can write to Collins, PO Box 188, Allentown, NJ 08501. Item #U4401

Another gay postcard submitted by a GLHSC member.
ATA to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

The American Topical Association, the world’s largest group of topical stamp collectors, will mark the 60th anniversary of its founding at a celebratory meeting on Nov. 3 in Community Room G110, Lower Level of the Mayfair Mall, 2500 N. Mayfair Rd. (Hwy 100), Wauwatosa, WI 53226. The public is welcome. All stamp collectors and especially ATA members are cordially invited to attend. A special cacheted cover [envelope with illustration] will commemorate the event.

The ATA was founded in 1949 by Jerome D. (Jerry) Husak, at the age of 17 in his home town of Milwaukee. In the 1940s, topical or thematic collecting was largely unrecognized in the field of philately. As a young philatelist, Jerry recognized and publicized the creativity inherent in topical collecting. With the founding of ATA and the guidance of Jerry and other pioneers in the field, topical collecting has assumed its place as a significant area of philately.

The ATA Articles of Incorporation were signed on Nov. 3, 1949. Since that time the ATA has been continuously incorporated as a nonprofit educational 501(c)(3) organization.

The 60th anniversary will be commemorated by the ATA and the Milwaukee Philatelic Society. The anniversary is being spearheaded by Robert J. (Bob) Mather, former ATA President and current Board member. Members of ATA Chapter #5, Milwaukee, will give short presentations highlighting their topical interests. Chapter #5 member and former professional singer Mel Graffenius will sing versions of “Thanks for the Memory” written by stamp collectors for a recent MILCOPLEX contest. Current ATA executive director Vera Felts will also speak and a celebratory cake will be served. ATA handbooks, multimedia programs, and the anniversary cacheted cover will be available.

More information can be found on the organization’s website - www.americantopicalassn.org.