



Lambda Philatelic Journal

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GLBT Postal History
Cover from The Gay & Lesbian Review

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205; and a member of the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), Number 72.

The objectives of GLHSC are to promote an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- Notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation,
- Mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture,
- Flora and fauna scientifically proven to having prominent homosexual behavior, and
- Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHSC strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

GLHSC OFFICERS:

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WINNER OF THE SILVER-BRONZE AWARD AT
 CANADA'S 7TH NATIONAL
 PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION

**GLHSC, PO BOX 190842,
 DALLAS, TX 75219-0842, USA**

MEMBERSHIP:

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

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.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Members are entitled to free ads.
 Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue.

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.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

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

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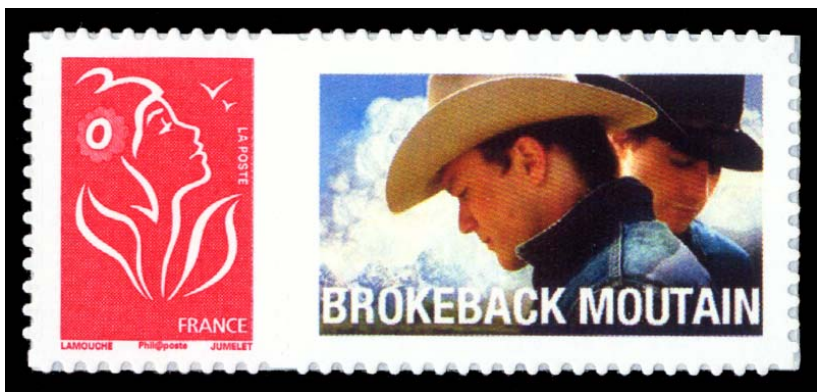
Opinions expressed here are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the GLHSC, its' officers or members.

News from the Editor

Articles are urgently needed for upcoming issues. Thanks to the members that have sent them in. I can still use articles for the coming year.

* * * * *

2011 dues are now due. Please send your check to the post office box listed on page 2. Thanks to those member who have already sent their checks.



French personalized stamp

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Eagle Comic

by Ian Young

“The greatest comic strip of all time!” proclaims a 2007 anthology of the most popular British comic paper of the 1950's, *Eagle*. The claim may be debatable, but *Eagle* was my own boyhood favourite and would still get my vote today.

Eagle began in April, 1950, at a time when Britain was still suffering the grim aftermath of a devastating war, bringing a welcome splash of colour and excitement to the boys of England and the Empire. The weekly publication was begun by Rev. Marcus Morris and artist Frank Hampson, with Hulton Press as publisher. Rev. Morris felt that the boys' comics then available tended to be either stuffy and boring or grotesque or moronic. He wanted a comic that was well-produced, exciting, entertaining, ethical and educational. The new creation featured a mixture of adventure, humour, sports and visually arresting educational features. An issue might highlight a cross-section of a submarine, advice on caring for hamsters and a break-down of the parts of a racing car. Historical and Biblical subjects such as Lindbergh's epic flight or the life of Nelson or King David were rendered as colourful comics or illustrated prose stories. Ads for foreign stamp approvals appeared frequently.



A girl makes a rare appearance in *Eagle*.

There were serial comics about the adventures of Foreign Legionnaires (“Luck of the Legion”), cowboys (“Riders of the Range”), sailors (“Storm Nelson”) and a boy who ran away with the Gypsies (“Jack O’Lantern”); in those days the word Gypsy was not considered offensive. The most popular feature, covering the first two pages, was the well-plotted interplanetary adventure “Dan Dare: Pilot of the Future,” beautifully rendered by Frank Hampson and printed in brilliant colour. It was Dan Dare who first got the young Steven Hawking interested in space and cosmology! I was a devoted reader, even in the years when we lived in Toronto; comics from overseas were unavailable in Canada, but my grandmother in London mailed me a copy every week.

Eagle was decidedly a “boys’ comic” - there was a girls’ equivalent, unimaginatively called *Girl* - and presented a world that was almost entirely male. As a bright twelve year old with even less interest in the opposite sex than most boys my age, I enjoyed *Eagle*'s depiction of close relationships among men and between men and teenage boys. The hero of “Jack O’Lantern” was a winsome blond youth in tight trousers who had a dark Gypsy boyfriend; Dan Dare always had a good-looking ginger-haired cadet along on his adventures; P.C. 49 had a gang of street kids to help with crime-solving, and so on. Virtually every regular strip featured male friendships. Frank Hampson's renderings of beautiful half-naked youths (some with red hair and blue skin!) provided some of my first erotic fantasies.



A Venusian youth getting knocked out by a ray gun



Dan Dare and the Mekon, Scott No. 1538.

Dan Dare and Sondar greeting labels from the booklet containing No. 1538).

For a gay kid, far from home in the Fifties, fascinated by science and history, Eagle provided not only adventure, information, and a link to the home country, but also a depiction of attractive male figures living in a decidedly homosocial world.

Dan Dare is depicted, together with his nemesis the creepy interplanetary dictator known as the Mekon, on a 1994 stamp (Scott No. 1538). Accompanying labels from the same booklet feature Dare and his green Venusian chum Sondar, whose insistence on the “logical” could have inspired the creation of Star Trek’s Mr. Spock, decades later.

2011 Dues are now due.

Mail your check today!
Thank you.

W. Reginald Bray, The Great British Mail-Prankster

Posted by JacobSloan on September 23, 2010

The New Yorker writes about W. Reginald Bray, a legendary prankster who, more than one hundred years ago, tested the limits of the British postal system. I'm not sure whether today you could get away with mailing a stamp-covered skull:

Bray was an avid collector who amassed stamps, postmarks, train tickets, and girlfriends, and who, after reading the entire British Post Office Guide, impishly determined to take the rules as challenges. He tried posting an unimaginable array of things, to see whether the post office would deliver them. Apparently, at the time, the smallest item that could be posted was a bee, and the largest an elephant. Bray seems to have tried most things in between. At one point or another, he mailed a bowler hat, a rabbit skull (the address spelled out on the nasal bone, and the stamps pasted to the back), a purse, a slipper, a clothes brush, seaweed, shirt collars, a penny, a turnip (address and message carved into the durable tuber), an Irish Terrier, and a pipe, among other curios.

Perhaps most remarkably, he posted himself, becoming the first man to send a human through the mail in 1900, and then, through registered mail, in 1903. Tingey's book includes a picture of Bray being delivered to his own doorstep—presumably the sort of package likely to please the lady of the house.

And Bray did not stop there. He sent postcards crocheted by his mother. He made out address fields in cryptic verse, or to the inhabitants of empty caves, or describing only the latitude and longitude of the destination, or with a picture of the location to which the article was meant to be delivered (see, in the slideshow below, the postcard made out to "The Resident Nearest This Rock," for example). He threw messages into bottles and solicited the world's largest collection of autographs, including ones from Gary Cooper and Laurence Olivier, Charlie Chaplain and Maurice Chevalier. The image that emerges from this antic and visually arresting volume is of a blithe English rogue, testing the system, stretching its limits—an experimenter, playing the most relentless, and amusing, of pranks.



ATA 2011 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

New incentives for membership in the American Topical Association have been announced for 2011. Membership costs are \$25 in the U.S. or \$33 international.

Each new ATA member will receive two free ATA handbooks. One book is ATA HB 133, *Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting*, the seminal work authored by George Griffenhagen and Jerome (Jerry) Husak. This color handbook is written for collectors of all topics and has in-depth information about exploring, expanding, storing, presenting, and exhibiting topical or thematic stamps.

The second free ATA handbook will be selected by the incoming ATA member from a list of 45 different books. The topics covered are as wide as the thematic field. They include Birds, Space, Women on Stamps, the Statue of Liberty, Abraham Lincoln, Christmas, Music, Sports, Horses, Orchids and Topicals for Seniors. The offer is good while handbook supplies last; if a chosen handbook is out of stock, a different book of the new member's choice may be selected.

Postage for the free handbooks is included in the domestic membership cost, with the exception of one specific handbook. If ATA HB 138 on Railroads, a book containing several hundred pages, is selected, the incoming member will pay \$5 postage cost.

The American Topical Association is the world's largest organization for thematic or topical stamp collectors and the largest affiliate of the American Philatelic Society. Its members have contributed to more than 550 checklists available to new and continuing members. The ATA has published 160 different handbooks and almost 30 multimedia programs. Its bi-monthly color journal *Topical Time*, edited by Wayne Youngblood, is an award-winning philatelic publication.

More than 56,000 individuals have joined ATA during its 61-year history. Former members whose membership has lapsed are also eligible to receive the free handbooks upon rejoining for two years or longer.

ATA domestic membership costs are \$25 for one year, \$45 for two, \$65 for three, and \$100 for five years. International memberships cost \$33 for one year, \$60 for two, \$82 for three, and \$125 for five years. International new members will pay just \$5 postage for their two free handbooks, or actual cost for shipping the Railroad handbook. Payment may be made by check on US bank, PayPal, or Visa, MasterCard, or Discover cards.

A list of the ATA Handbooks available during this membership incentive will be provided free on request by e-mailing americantopical@msn.com, calling 618-985-5100, or writing to PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008. An application to ATA, including a list of available handbooks, is available at: http://www.americantopicalassn.org/forms/membership_application_form.pdf

Gay & Lesbian Update

Found while surfing the Internet.



* * * * *

**Submitted by
the HAPPY Foundation by the Alamo**

Some food for thought: Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, and Saint Anthony of Padua, San Antonio's patron saint—were they gay?????

It is time to just go ahead and say it. Why hasn't it been done sooner. St. Anthony was gay and so was the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin.

Now, this is a tricky subject because (as far as we know, here in Texas) there is no recorded account if St. Anthony de Padua had a male lover. But lets just get our gaydar going. Looking at his life and his sermons, he certainly was in step with a gay male community. We have to ask what gay men were really like at that time. There are plenty of gay men who do not have sex. We will give St. Anthony due respect. He believed in his mission as a servant of God and he lived his life as best as he knew how. **BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN HE WASN'T GAY.** As we gay men and women know, having a sexual relationship with the same sex is not what REALLY makes us gay. We want to bond

with someone of the same sex more than the opposite sex. And as fate would have it, his feast day is June 13. So just make plans to celebrate our gay patron saint during GLBT Pride Month this year and from now on.

Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, never married, never had children and there does not seem to be a female interest in his life. It is known that he had a close attachment to a gentleman who paid for him to go through law school. While Austin was busy helping settlers come to Texas, he maintained a correspondence with a close male friend in New Orleans. There may still be letters that have not been published in the Austin family archives and in the Texas Archives in Austin. I have not had time to go to Austin and do the necessary research. And as you can imagine this would not have been the aspect of his life that Texas would be promoting. I have just maintained a healthy curiosity about him over the years and I think his life fits the gay profile.

The question still has to be asked: What was a gay man like during the 1830s in Texas? Well for one thing these people rarely took baths, so I wonder about their sex life.

(Stephen F. Austin is on Scott nos. 776 & 778.)

* * * * *

A new book, *Grant Wood a life* by R. Tripp Evans was released in October 2010. The new biography explores Wood's closeted homosexuality and how it affected his works.

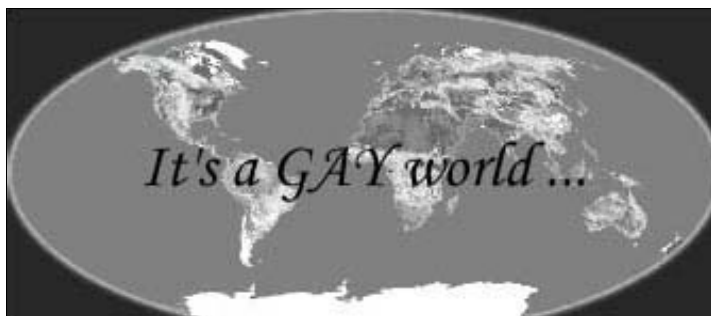
Wood is best known for his painting, *American Gothic*, which can be found on Scott No. 3236q.

* * * * *

Don't think this stamp design would fly in the US. Just issued in Germany.

Not entirely sure what's going on -- it's some comedy story about two guests in a hotel bathtub arguing to be the "Lord of the Tub," but translating the German to English -- well, it gets lost in translation.

Thanks for sharing, Darrell!



Austria issued a stamp on July 3, 2010, for the 15th anniversary of the Vienna Gay Pride Parade. (Called the Rainbow Parade on the stamp.) Scott no. 2269.

Bulgaria released two souvenir sheets of four stamps and labels on June 8, 2010. Robert Schumann can be found on Scott no. 4545.

Gambia issued two sheets of four stamps featuring Abraham Lincoln. Scott nos. 3242 - 43.

Hungary issued a stamp on June 18, 2010 for the bicentennial of the birth of Frederic Chopin. Scott no. 4168.

Ireland issued a booklet of 18 stamps (six panes of three stamps of each design; six different designs) featuring the work of Irish designers on July 15,

2010. Philip Treacy, who in 2006 was declared one of the 100 most influential gay and lesbian people in Britain by the *Independent*, can be found on Scott no. 1889.

Liberia issued two souvenir sheets of four stamps featuring eight different portraits of Abraham Lincoln on June 25, 2010. Scott nos. 2651 - 52.

United States issued a stamp on August 12, 2010. *Boys in a Pasture*, by Winslow Homer is featured. Scott no. 4473.

Vatican City issued a stamp on June 22, 2010. *The Deposition*, by Caravaggio is featured. Scott no. 1438.

Vatican City issued three stamps featuring two composers on September 20, 2010. Frederic Chopin can be found on Scott no. 1446. Robert Schumann can be found on Scott no. 1447. Scott no. 1448 features both composers and includes an attached label.

Viet Nam issued a stamp for the bicentennial of the birth of Frederic Chopin. Scott no. 3379.



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.

* * * * *

The international bureau of the Universal Postal Union has asked postal administrations to issue stamps in 2011 to mark 30 years of the fight against AIDS.

The request is part of a campaign of the UPU, UNAIDS (the joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS) and the International Labor Organization to raise awareness of how AIDS is spread.

The UPU's international bureau also has recommended that the stamps include the UNAIDS logo and other logos that may be designed for the occasion.

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

Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS & APRL)
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-933-3803
www.stamps.org
www.stamplibrary.org



American Topical Association (ATA)
PO Box 8
Carterville IL 62918-0008



www.americantopicalassn.org

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)
PO Box 16277
Tucson AZ 85732-6277
520-321-0880
www.afdcs.org



Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library
PO Box 830643
Richardson TX 75083-0643
www.utdallas.edu/library/uniquecoll/speccoll/wpri/wpri.htm

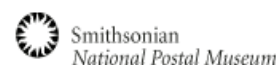
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
One Institute
909 West Adams Blvd.
West Hollywood CA 90007-2406
213-741-0094
www.onearchives.org



Homodok (Gay Archives)
Oosterdoksstraat 110
NL—1011 DK Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.ihlia.nl



National Postal Museum
MRC 570
Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC 20560-0001
www.postalmuseum.si.edu



The British Library
Philatelic Collections
96 Euston Road
NW1 2DB London
United Kingdom
www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic



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WANTED: ARTICLES

Send in articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual, topical or country for publication in a future issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

- Text file via email or diskette preferred.
- Graphics - 300 dpi or better quality.
- Will scan originals and return if needed.

Would any members like to trade the Canadian (English and French on back), Mexican or other country version of Starbucks cards? Can trade stamps (US, France) or US bucks cards.



Cards shown are examples only.

Contact:

Joe Petronie
PO Box 190842
Dallas TX 75219-0842