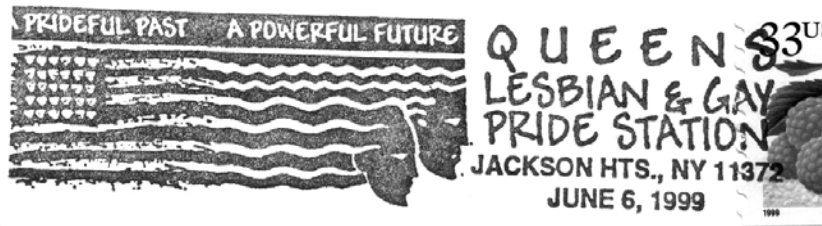


# Lambda Philatelic Journal

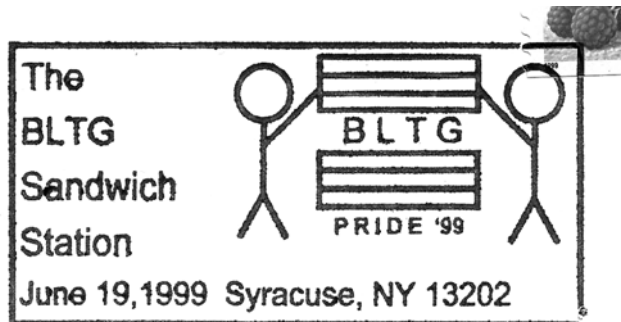
PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, SEPTEMBER 1999, VOL. 18, NO. 2



## 1999 Gay and Lesbian Pride Cancels



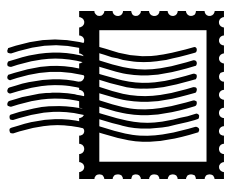
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender  
Pride Festival Station  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
June 12, 1999



The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* 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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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The views expressed in the journal are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the Club or its members. Any comments should be addressed to the Editor at one of the addresses listed.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$8.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

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.)

## ADVERTISING RATES:

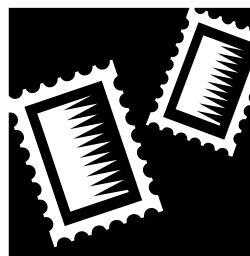
Members are entitled to free ads.

Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue. Reproducible ads should be submitted, along with a check made payable to GLHSC, to the editor's address. 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 Date</u>	<u>Articles Needed by</u>
December 1999	November 15, 1999
March 2000	February 15, 2000
June 2000	May 15, 2000
September 2000	August 15, 2000

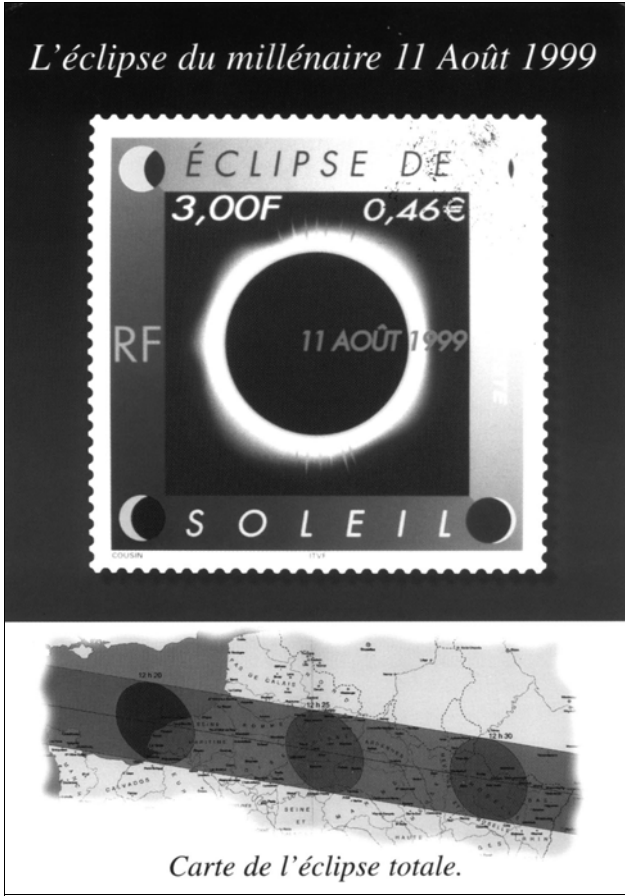
All artwork and articles should be received by the editor no later than the end of the month prior to publication for inclusion in that issue. The membership directory will be published in the first quarter.



# Editor's Choice



La Poste (France) issue for the last eclipse of the millennium.  
Front and back of first day postcard



Carte de l'éclipse totale.

## The Gardens at Sissinghurst

By Ian Young

Over the words "Sissinghurst: 20th Century Garden," the stamp shows a straight path making its way through flowers, hedges and garden walls until it vanishes from view. But how many collectors would know that the story behind the stamp involves one of the great, unorthodox love affairs of modern times – the relationship between a gay man and a lesbian, both writers, who discovered they were soul-mates – kindred spirits – and who married, had two sons, and together founded and laid out one of the most beautiful of modern English gardens?

Vita Sackville-West (1892 – 1962) was an aristocrat, descended from a courtier-poet cousin of Queen Elizabeth I and an Andalusian Gypsy dancer. When she met her future husband, she was eighteen years old and utterly naive about homosexuality (and much else). Harold Nicolson (1886 – 1968) was a young career diplomat attached to the foreign Office.



Harold and Vita on the steps of the tower at Sissinghurst. Like many well-matched couples, they have come to resemble one another.

During her 70 years, Vita Sackville-West wrote 55 books – novels, poetry, plays, a study of Joan of Arc and a verse drama about Chatterton. Harold Nicolson was almost as prolific, writing political and social history, fiction, travel books and biographies of Byron, Verlaine, Tennyson and others. In the 1930's, he became a member of parliament. At first, he was a follower of the radical maverick Sir Oswald Mosely, but when Mosely became a fascist, Harold broke with him, speaking out in strong opposition to the appeasement policies of the Conservative government of the day. His published diaries provide one of the most fascinating records of the period leading up to, and through, the Second World War.

During their marriage of nearly 50 years, both Harold and Vita had homosexual affairs. One of Vita's liaisons was with Virginia Woolf, who immortalized Sackville-West as the central character of her novel *Orlando*, a quasi-immortal who is sometimes a man, sometimes a woman. The two remained good friends until Virginia's suicide under the stresses of World War II. The

Nicolsons' son, Nigel, wrote that "nothing could destroy [my parents'] love, which was actually enhanced by the complete freedom they allowed each other. Harold would refer to Vita's affairs as 'your muddles'; she to his as 'your fun'." After a couple of early scares, "no jealousy ever arose because of them."

Their unusual marriage enabled them, as they put it, to "duplicate the joys of love, and halve their miseries...We are sure of each other, in this odd, intimate, mystical relationship which we could never explain to any outside person...I suppose," Vita wrote, "that ninety-nine people out of a hundred, if they knew all about us, would call us wicked and degenerate." And yet "we *are* alive, aren't we? And our two lives, outside and inside, are rich lives..." They enjoyed a close, free relationship based on shared interests, a common sense of values, and great trust in one another. They were each other's confidante, advisor and best friend, and they delighted in raising their two sons.

Though Vita was prevented from inheriting the Sackville family estate, Knole (it passed through the male line), she and Harold were relatively well off. Early in their marriage they used their money to buy a ruined estate with a huge "rubbish dump for a garden." This was Sissinghurst, and for the rest of their lives together, it was their major collaborative project. They cleared the compound, repaired the old brick tower, and turned the land surrounding the residential buildings into a great garden. It is now the property of the National Trust, and open to the public.

The stamp, Scott no. 1027, showing a section of the gardens at Sissinghurst, was issued in 1983 as one of a set of four showing great English gardens of four centuries.



Sissinghurst, the garden built by Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West.

# Robert Indiana's Love

By Laura Clemente

"Pop is love in that it accepts all..." Robert Indiana told Gene Swenson in an interview about the meaning of pop art. Pop art was born in the early 1950's out of the influence of mass consumption and mass image.

Pop art is made of images found or ready-made objects or borrowed from mass media. These images include products we use, specific works of art or celebrities. To get a better grasp of the term, think Andy Warhol's paintings of Campbell soup cans and Marilyn Monroe. Pop art is not about anything; it is the thing.

Robert Indiana's contemporaries of pop art included such stars as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg.

Indiana's pictures were composed of signs (symbols, numbers, words, targets) as seen in his painting *The Demuth Five*, an homage to gay artist Charles Demuth's *I Saw the Figure Five in Gold*. Demuth's art was, in turn, influenced by gay artist Marsden Hartley.

Hartley influenced Indiana in other ways. Like Hartley, Indiana changed his last name from Clark to the name of the state where he was born and raised. When he fled New York, he moved to Vinalhaven, Maine, where Hartley had briefly lived decades before.



Scott no. 1475

Indiana's most enduring image is of Love. The simple image – L and O on top of V and E – has appeared on a Christmas card, several sculptures and, of course, a US postage stamp. The first Love stamp was an eight cent denomination, red on a purple and green background. It was issued on January 26, 1973, in Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. The first day ceremony took place at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

However, not all is lovey for Indiana. His failure to copyright the Love design has cost him. "My Love is the most ripped-off piece of art the world has ever seen. There were 333 million love stamps. People knew the love, but not necessarily who did it. I never arrived at the type of [business] situation that Warhol did." The rest of his life has not always been full of love either. Controversy dogged him in his adopted hometown, includ-

ing his arrest for engaging a prostitute. Two young male models claimed he paid them for sex as well as nude modeling. Indiana was later found innocent on these charges.

Ironically, the drawings of the boys were part of a series of work Indiana called the Marsden Hartley Elegies, a tribute to works Hartley painted at the beginning of the first world war. Indiana said about the incident, "Fortunately, it was all resolved, but very disruptive and extremely unpleasant. However, everybody still speaks to me and I think it's pretty well over by now."

Bibliography:

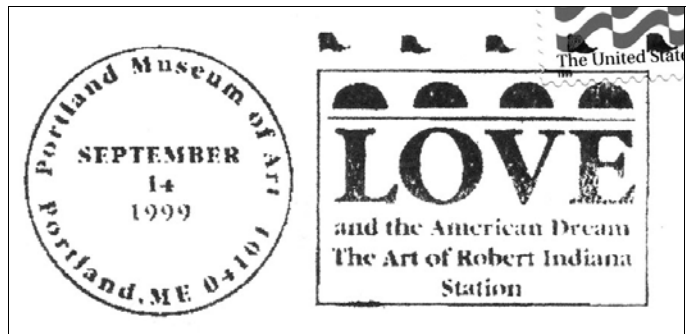
*Pop Art Redefined* by John Russell and Suzi Gablik, Jarrold and Sons Ltd., Norwich.

*Hand Painted Pop-American Art in Transition*, editor Russell Ferguson, Rizzoli International Publications, IWC.

*The Advocate* magazine, Liberation Publications Inc., March 10, 1992 issue.

"A Love of a Lifetime", article by Alicia Anstead, Bangor Daily News (Bangor, Maine), February 8, 1997. (Reprint of article obtained through the USPS.)

Other information regarding the design and release of the Love stamp was obtained through the USPS, provided by Paula Rabkin, research associate of postal history, corporate information services.



The Art of Robert Indiana postmark, Portland Museum of Art  
Portland, Maine  
September 14, 1999

## GLHSC Member Profile

By Ian Young

*Ian young was born in London, England during one of the last air raids of World War II. In the late 60's, he was one of the founders of the Canadian Gay Liberation movement. In the 70's, he founded Catalyst, the first gay literary press. He has been a member of the London Gay Liberation Front, Gay Anarchists of New York, The Hermetic Order of the Silver Sword, Spirit of Stonewall, The International Psychohistorical Association, HEAL (Toronto) and the East Toronto Stamp Club.*

*His books have included pioneering gay anthologies (The Male Muse, On the Line), bibliographies (The Male Homosexual in Literature, The AIDS Dissidents) and historical studies (Gay Resistance, The Stonewall Experiment), as well as several books of poetry (Sex Magick).*

*He has contributed to many anthologies and magazines including The Mammoth Book of Gay Short Stories, The Poets of Canada, The Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse and the Encyclopedia of AIDS. His latest book is The AIDS Cult (co-edited with John Lauristen). He writes a regular book review column for Torso magazine and is working on several books on subjects ranging from iconography to murder.*

*He lives in Toronto with his partner Wulf, editor and publisher of Proptology, a professional journal for makers of theater props.*

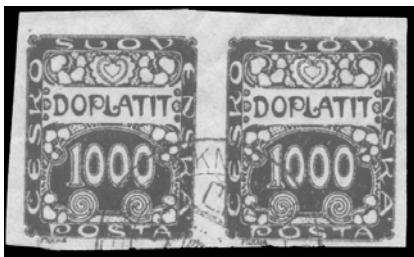


Figure 1

I first began collecting stamps at 9 or 10 years of age when a friend of my parents gave me a wonderful, fascinating gift – the remnants of his world-wide collection. Like many collectors, I put the hobby aside in my teens and took it up again in middle age. I've always been a "world-wide" collector, following my interests in modern design, history, literature and iconography.

Beautifully designed and finely engraved stamps like those of Sweden and the old British and French colonies especially appeal to me. Among my favorite engravers and artists are Waterlow, De la Rue, Gandon, and the

great master, Edmund Dulac, whose always graceful work encompasses the understated romanticism of the British George VI low-value definitives (Scott 235-243), the classic French Mariannes of the 40's (Scott 505-523A) and the expressive, fondant-colored wartime Free French colonial sets. His Lotus design for French India (Scott 143-156) is especially lovely.

Even a crudely or simply printed stamp can be attractive – Alfons Mucha's colorful, typographed Czechoslovakian postage dues (Scott J1 – 14) for example (Figure 1). But with the flood of new issues since the 60's, there are sadly too many ugly stamps around (usually because too much has been crammed into the frame).

I try to obtain stamps that reflect their country of origin - its archi-



Figure 2



Figure 3

itecture (Moorish architecture, for some reason, looks particularly good on stamps), its landscape, history, costumes and folk arts, especially masks. I love the old issues of countries like Hejaz showing intricate Arabic calligraphy. And I prize issues from intriguing, short-lived or obscure entities such as Tuva, Fiume, Katanga, Rattlesnake Island, Zil Elwanin Sesel and the Far Eastern Republic. I try to hunt down stamps from as many places as I can, including those not listed in Scott.

The politics of Scott's catalogue never cease to annoy me: its refusal to price – or in some cases, even list – issues from various regimes that have displeased the U.S. Government is as irritating as its fractured, inconsistent listing system. The old Minkus catalogues were so much more rationally organized, better annotated and easier to use. No wonder Minkus' friend, Ayn Rand, favored them! (Her article "Why I Like Stamp Collecting" is a classic!)

Flag lore fascinates me and I try to obtain stamps showing changes in national flags. Also coats of arms and favorite animals – wolves, squirrels, hedgehogs and badgers. And political controversy is always fun – the 1954 Greek set showing British parliamentary debates on Cyprus defaced by an ink blot (Scott 568-573) or the 1978 Cuban issue honoring the Rosenbergs, the American communist couple executed as spies (Scott C313). Of course, gays and lesbians on stamps are always welcome, including the unofficial patron saint of gay men, St. Sebastian!

A few of my favorite stamps: The handsome 1930's native head from Madagascar (Scott 148). (Figure 3) The 1943 Dutch partial

set of 7 showing Germanic symbols – horses, birds and trees – exquisitely smooth designs by Pijke Koch, showing subtle use of tone and shadow (Scott 245-251). (Figure 4) The Art Deco-influenced set of the 1940's, scenes from French Morocco (Scott 221-243). (Figure 2) The lovely, inexpensive Spanish colonials of the 1950's and 60's such as the Ifni pairs showing sea creatures (Scott 59-60) and a spirit protecting a desert caravan (Scott B21-22). (Figure 5) The striking, chalky colors and antique-style male nudes of the Greek 1960 Olympics set (Scott 677-687). And the minutely detailed U.S. James Dean commemorative (Scott 3082).

Only in stamp collecting are so many of my interests combined, offering me a miniature personalized picture gallery of the



Figure 4



Figure 5

world. I would welcome correspondence from fellow collectors, especially those with stamps to trade!

2483 Gerrard St. East  
Toronto, Ontario M1N 1W7  
Canada

## Selected Poems of Federico Garcia-Lorca

### The Faithless Wife

So I took her to the river  
believing she was a maiden,  
but she already had a husband.  
It was on St. James night  
and almost as if I was obliged to.

The lanterns went out  
and the crickets lighted up.  
In the farthest street corners  
I touched her sleeping breasts  
and they opened to me suddenly  
like spikes of hyacinth.  
The starch of her petticoat  
sounded in my ears  
like a piece of silk  
rent by ten knives.  
Without silver light on their foliage  
the trees had grown larger  
and a horizon of dogs  
barked very far from the river.

Past the blackberries,  
the reeds and the hawthorne  
underneath her cluster of hair  
I made a hollow in the earth  
I took off my tie,  
she took off her dress.  
I, my belt with the revolver,  
She, her four bodices.  
Nor nard nor mother-o'-pearl  
have skin so fine,  
nor does glass with silver  
shine with such brilliance.  
Her thighs slipped away from me  
like startled fish,  
half full of fire,  
half full of cold.  
That night I ran  
on the best of roads  
mounted on a nacre mare  
without bridle stirrups.

As a man, I won't repeat  
the things she said to me.  
The light of understanding  
has made me more discreet.  
Smeared with sand and kisses  
I took her away from the river.  
The swords of the lilies  
battled with the air.

I behaved like what I am,  
like a proper gypsy.  
I gave her a large sewing basket,  
of straw-colored satin,  
but I did not fall in love  
for although she had a husband  
she told me she was a maiden  
when I took her to the river.

## Ditty of First Desire

In the green morning  
I wanted to be a heart.  
A heart.

And in the ripe evening  
I wanted to be a nightingale.  
A nightingale.

(Soul,  
turn orange-colored.  
Soul,  
turn the color of love.)

In the vivid morning  
I wanted to be myself.  
A heart.

And at the evening's end  
I wanted to be my voice.  
A nightingale.

Soul,  
turn orange-colored.  
Soul,  
turn the color of love.



Scott no. 2946

Ed. Note: Poems were downloaded from a Federico Lorca website.

## Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS)  
PO Box 8000  
State College PA 16803-8000

American Topical Association (ATA)  
PO Box 50820  
Albuquerque NM 87181-0820

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)  
PO Box 65960  
Tucson AZ 85728



## Gay & Lesbian Update

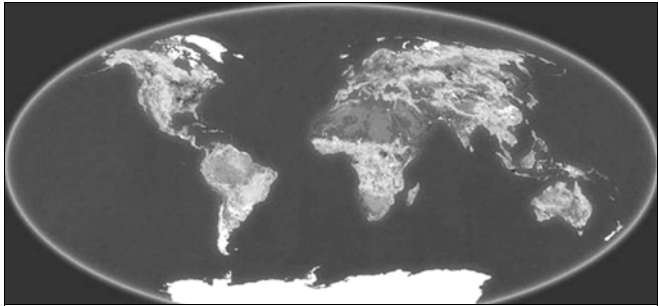
**King of Morocco Outed.** Dutch national television news has reported that the new king of Morocco, Sidi Moulay Mohammed (Mohammed VI) is gay, according to the Dutch newspaper *De Gay Krant*. Mohammed, 36, went to college in Brussels, Belgium, and regularly hung out in gay bars there, *De Gay Krant* said. The king's homosexuality is "common knowledge" in Moroccan intellectual circles, Marrakech resident Tony Flavel told the newspaper, "But you better not talk about it," he said. "The police and the armed forces are against the new king for precisely this reason. They would prefer his younger straight brother, Moulay Rashid."

Be sure to keep a watch for stamps issued with the new king's likeness.

**Trieste (Italy)** used a special slogan during the month of June to promote an Elton John concert scheduled for July 5.

**Elton John**  
*in concerto*  
TRIESTE 5 LUGLIO '99





**It's a GAY world...**

**Bosnia & Herzegovina** (Bosnian Croat administration located in Mostar) issued its Christmas stamp on December 3, 1993. The stamp features *Madonna of the Grand Duke* by Raphael. Scott no. 6.

**Equatorial Guinea** issued a strip of 3 stamps for Easter in 1998. The *Holy Family* by Michelangelo can be found on Scott no. 232c.

**France** issued a stamp in honor of the 800th anniversary of the death of Richard I on April 10, 1999. Scott no. 2715.



**Great Britain** issued its fifth set in its Millennium series on May 4, 1999. The series will comprise 48 stamps, four for each month in 1999.

David Hockney, one of Britain's most famous artists, designed the 26-penny stamp in the Workers' Tale set. The stamp is called Mill Towns. The image is of Salts Mill in Saltaire, near Bradford, England. Hockney, who is gay, currently resides in Los Angeles. Scott no. 1856.

Also, as mentioned in the June 1999 issue of the journal, rock star Freddie Mercury was honored in the June release of the Millennium series. Scott no. 1859.

The Mercury stamp represents the third stamp so far issued in this series that either features a gay person or honors a gay person. Alan Turning was honored with the release of

the first set in the Millennium Series. David Hockney's painting of Salts Mill was included in the fifth set in the series.

Mercury was also honored with a postmark on June 1, 1999.



Scott no. 1842



Scott no. 1856



Scott no. 1859

**Grenada** issued 2 sheets of 3 stamps and 2 souvenir sheets in honor of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German Poet, on May 24, 1999. Scott nos. 2858 – 2861.

**Niger** issued 2 sheets of 9 stamps and 1 souvenir sheet one month after Princess Diana's death in 1997. The stamps issued show various photos of Princess Diana. Elton John posing with Princess Diana can be found on Scott no. 944d.

**St. Vincent** issued 2 sheets of 3 stamps and 2 souvenir sheets on June 25, 1999. The stamps show various scenes of Faust and several portraits of Johann von Goethe. Scott nos. 2709 – 2712.

# AIDS Update

**Macedonia** issued another postal tax stamp on December 1, 1998, for AIDS Awareness. It was obligatory on mail from December 1 - 7, 1998. Scott no. RA100.

**Malaysia** issued a set of 3 stamps for the 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, held in Kuala Lumpur. Scott nos. 699 - 701.

# South Africa AIDS Awareness Booklet

Stamp issue date: April 1, 1999

Design: Thea Swanepoel

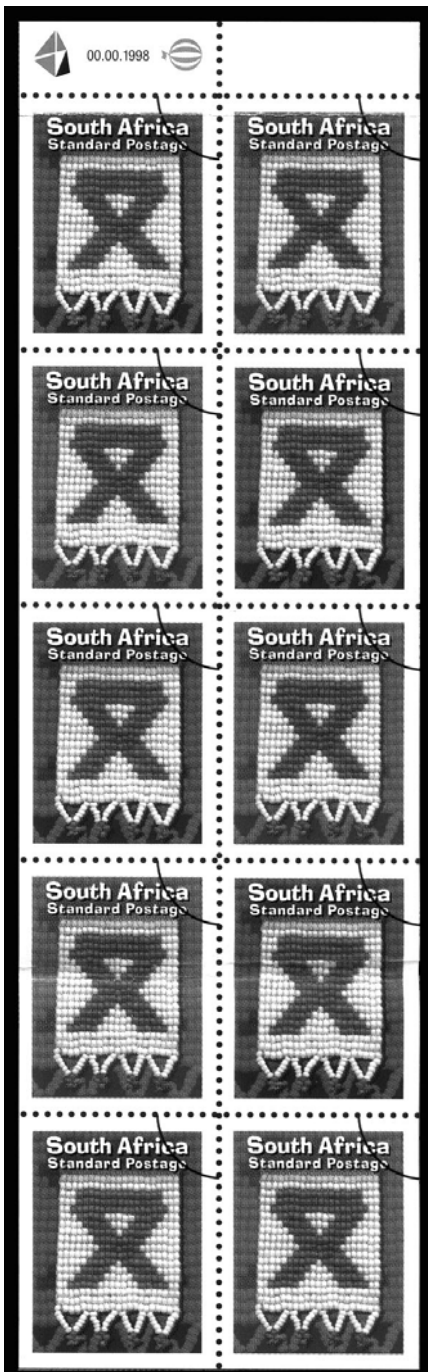
Stamp size: 23.9 mm x 30.225 mm

The South African Post Office issued a booklet of 10 AIDS Awareness stamps on April 1, 1999. The booklet contains five sets of two se-tenant standard rate postage stamps. These stamps depict a traditional Nguni beadwork "loveletter" pin. The AIDS ribbon is crafted into the "loveletter" in red beads against a white background. The border beads are either blue or green. "Support our children in a world with AIDS" is printed on the cover of the booklet.

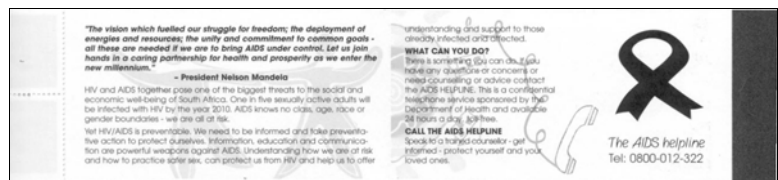
Beaded "loveletters" were traditionally made by maidens from the Nguni group, for example Zulu and Xhosa, and worn by young men and women as love tokens. They were subject to a fairly complex code with different messages, for example that a particular girl is unmarried. Using the red AIDS ribbon, the AIDS awareness pin cleverly combines local custom and traditional crafts with the necessity of disseminating the message of the hard reality of AIDS.

The AIDS pin has become a familiar sight on the lapels of prominent South Africans, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, who supports the government's AIDS awareness campaign.

For further details, please contact Philatelic Services, Private Bag X505, Pretoria 0001, South Africa. Tel: (012) 342-3422; Fax: (012) 342-0264.



Outside cover for AIDS Awareness booklet.



Inside cover for AIDS Awareness booklet.

For sale: Latin American stamps, FDC, pictorial postmarks on AIDS and persons depicted in the 1992 Handbook.

Easy payment, ATA member.  
You pay after receipt of order.

Bianco  
PO Box 62-056  
65000 Fray Bentos  
URUGUAY

Always buying collections.

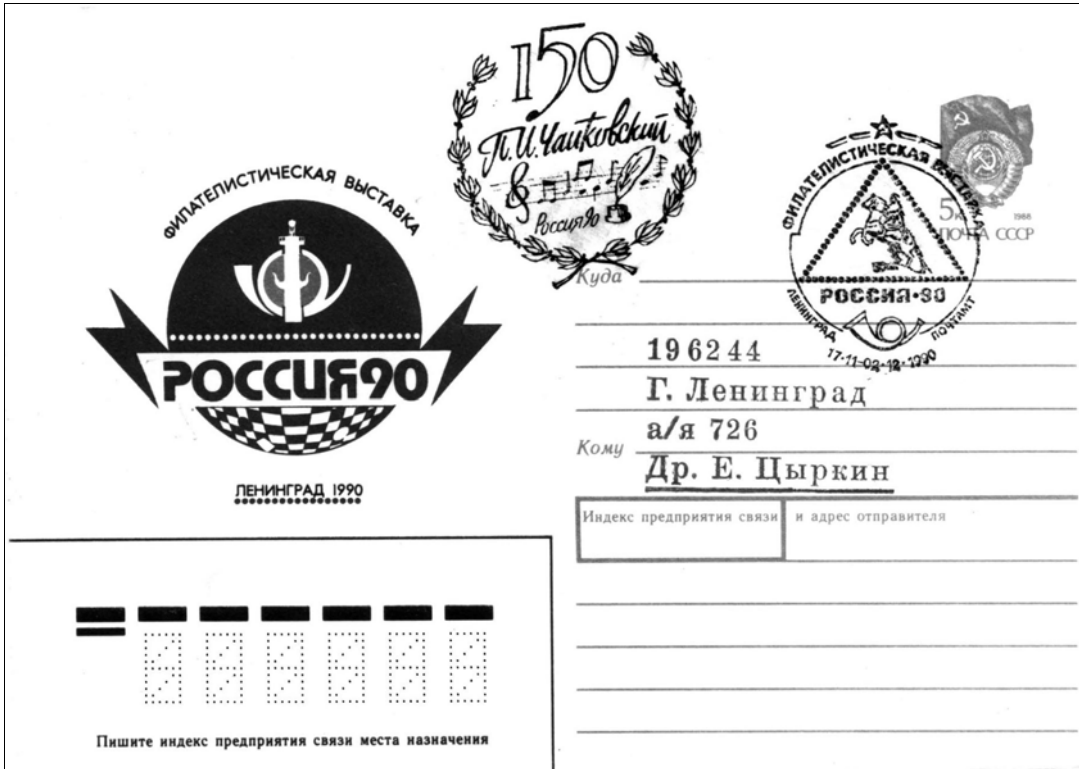
I buy everything...not just gay-related, but USA, worldwide, whatever...even cinderellas!

Robert W. Gesell  
PO Box 8248  
Ann Arbor MI 48107-8248

E-mail: Rgesell3@juno.com  
Phone: (734) 662-5460  
APS member

**WANTED:**  
Articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual or other philatelic topics to be included in future journals.

Submit to the editor at address on page 2.



Postally used cover with Peter I. Tchaikovsky Day cancel used during the exhibition "Russia 90". Back of cover with date stamp.