

# Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, JUNE 2001, VOL. 20, NO. 2



# Gay Pride Month



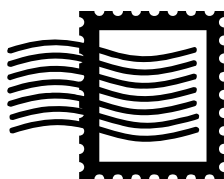
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number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

President..... Angela Watson  
 Vice President ..... Brian Lanter  
 Secretary ..... Vacant  
 Treasurer ..... Judith Beckett  
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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:

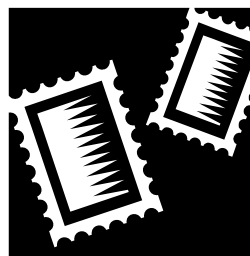
Members are entitled to free ads.

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>
September 2001	August 15, 2001
December 2001	November 15, 2001
March 2002	February 15, 2002
June 2002	May 15, 2002

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.



## News from the Editor

I'm hoping that all have had a wonderful spring, and that summer plans are well underway.

**Please note that the club mailing address has changed. The old box will remain open for a few more months. A forwarding notice will be filed, thus extending that address a little longer.**

The old post office location is in a small mall that has been vacant for several years. The chain-link fence was put up about a month ago around the building with the exception of the post office entrance and about 20 or so parking spaces. Since the postal clerks do not seem to know the status of that branch, I thought it best to get another box. Thanks for changing your records.

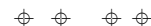


While exploring the register.com website on how to renew the GLHSC.ORG domain name, I came across a notice that we could have a web page plus 3 additional pages free! The software is very limited in design, styles available and carries a register.com banner. However, I feel it is sufficient for a temporary site. If anyone has ideas on improving it, let me know. (It is a simple, cookie-cutter type program, thus limited in the way information is displayed and the amount of graphics that can be used.)

A company affiliated with register.com, dezines.com, offers hosting starting at \$19 per month for about 100MB of space. I believe that it includes domain name registration each year. (If not, that is \$35/year.) It also includes e-mail and other extras.

A majority of club members feel we should have a website. (As tabulated in last year's survey.) In this new technological age, a web presence is becoming an important tool in reaching new members. It is also helpful in disseminating information on our collecting interests to the world.

I wouldn't mind doing it myself. However, two major factors impede my ability to do it; I cannot do both the journal and website, and I do not know enough about html to produce an effective site. Once again, are there any members that would like to develop a website for the club?

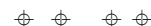


On page 8, a GLHSC member wrote to the American Philatelic Society (APS) with concerns over the relationship between APS and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Our President, Angela Watson, responded to this letter. Both Angela's and the APS' letters are included in the article.

The main intention of this is to get member feedback. It is in no way endorsing or recommending any type of action on GLHSC's part. However, if it opens up a dialog with the APS concerning their association with BSA, then publishing it is well worth it. If you would like to respond on a personal level, feel free. Remember that there is power in numbers!

If any of you have concerns, or would like to express your point of view, send them to me. I will gladly publish responses to this.

For those of you outside of the United States, the US Supreme Court recently ruled that the BSA has the right to discriminate against gays and lesbians. It was decided on a 5-4 vote. Needless to say, it was not well-received in most progressive communities.



Collecting stamps is fun!

## Per Aabel

by Nestor Norona

I was in a queue for a book signing one late afternoon on December 23, 1999. The book with autographs would be a Christmas present to my boyfriend. Wenche Foss, a famous Norwegian theatre and film actress (loved as a diva by gays and others), had just had a semi-biographical book, *Etterpå (Afterwards)*, published. Along with Ms. Foss was the co-author of the book, Sturle Scholz Nærø, a noted gay journalist.

After getting both autographs, a reporter-like guy approached Ms. Foss. He whispered something in her right ear. The news brought immediate tears to Ms. Foss and the book signing was finished for the day.

The news relayed to Ms. Foss was about the death of Per Aabel, her best friend. They had worked together in both theatre and film. As news of Per Aabel's death was released, it was announced that Foss and Aabel had just made arrangements to celebrate New Year 2000 together....

Per Aabel was born on April 25, 1902, in Oslo, Norway. His career began as a dancer, costume designer and choreographer while studying in France. His talent came through early. He obtained an extensive education as a theatre man in design at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. He spent 2 years at the Russian Ballet School in London. He also studied and appeared with Max Reinhart in Vienna and Praha. Per Aabel had his debut as a dancer in 1921, and three years later as a choreographer. He arranged the layout of Ibsen's *Brand* in Paris in 1928.

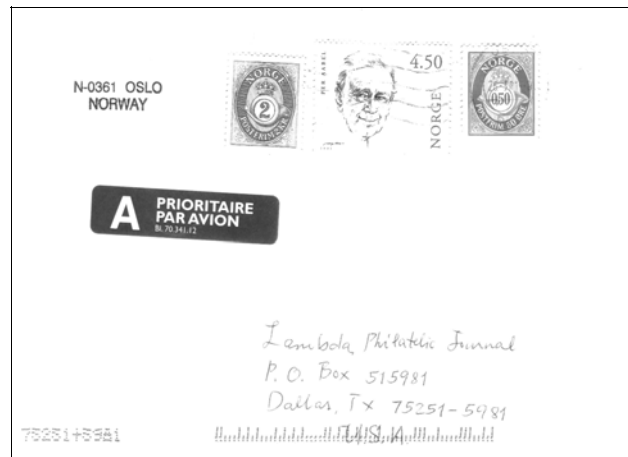
As an actor, Aabel debuted in 1931 at Det Nye Theatre (The New Theatre) in Carlos Pinto's, *The Weak Sex*. He was director of the Carl Johan Theatre from 1933 to 1938. He worked at the Central Theatre for two years, and finally, joined the National Theatre in 1940.

At the Central Theatre, he was the popular man of the world in the boulevard comedy. He introduced a new realistic, human portrayal in his comedies and cabaret. He was able to carry this over to all types of work.

Aabel was the backbone of the ensemble and a living inspiration in the Norwegian theatre for 40 years. He played Henrik in *Henrik and Pernille*. Humour and human knowledge characterize his often personal form in Moliere's comedies like *Oronte*, *Tartuffe* and *Arvolpe*. He played Valentin in the *Adventure of Caivallet and the Flers* 600 times, both home and abroad. Irony and wit filled the portrait of Bernard Shaw in *Dear Liars* by Jerome Killy (Critics Prize, 1961). He interpreted many tragic fates and did them to the biggest scenic experiences in the Norwegian theatre in the 1970's: the old actor Clark in *The Sunshine Boys* by Neil Simon, the nervous patient Harry in *Home* by David Storey and the doctor in *Sunrise in Riga*.

....The day before Per died, he had dined alone at the restaurant frequented by famous theatrical artists, Theatre-caféen. It is across the street from the National Theatre. According to the news, those that saw him dining did not notice any signs of his pending death.

I opened Yahoo.com to research more on Per Aabel, hoping to find information on his private, gay life. Nothing new seems to have been written in any of the articles I found at Yahoo.



Scott no. 1278, on cover.

I am not very familiar with Aabel since I have only lived in Norway for 10 years. Curiosity about him came when I saw him perform at his 90th birthday. (In Norway, it is a big party when one turns a round number in age. He was expecting to reach 100.) It was televised live and the show was supposed to be made for him. However, he made the show by reading a poem that made people more impressed.

He was known to be gay by close friends and the public, but it was rarely publicized. The media never seemed to make it a big story. This shows how much respect the public has for him, even after his death.

# Orson Welles

By Ian Young

Most Americans think of Orson Welles as the director of the work usually considered the greatest American film ever made, *Citizen Kane*, or as the man responsible for the legendary "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast of 1938 which, in the midst of fears of a European war, panicked much of the nation into thinking a Martian invasion was underway. And the three times married Welles (the middle marriage was to the perennially unhappy movie star Rita Hayworth) had a reputation as a connoisseur of women as well as of food and drink. But few are aware of another side to Welles, who was a many-faceted man if ever there was one.

As a young man - a striking looking "boy genius" - Welles' personality had an oblique gay angle to it, a flirtatious, sensuous, "feline" quality (his own description) that made him attractive to men as well as women. Like many great artists, Welles was basically bisexual - a quality he drew on freely in life as well as in his work.

Welles met the man who (apart from his father) was the first of a series of older men in his life at the age of just eighteen months. A friend of Welles' mother, an orthopedist called Bernstein, excitedly pronounced the tyke a genius. From then on, Dr. Bernstein, whom Welles always called Dadda, was a frequent visitor, always encouraging his favorite boy with artistic gifts like violins, conductors' batons, paints and puppets.

An amusing dandy, strongly attractive to women, Dadda Bernstein had a way of "getting himself into triangles as the third party," as Orson put it. One triangle consisted of Dadda, Orson's mother Beatrice, and the boy Orson, whom Dadda called Pookles. Dadda became a member of the family, which did not sit well with Orson's father Dick, who took to drink and eventually fled, leaving Dadda and Beatrice to prepare young Pookles for a career as a symphony conductor.

Among the various opera singers, musicians, magicians and other cronies of Dadda who wandered in and out of Beatrice's salon, there were quite a few who took a special liking to the

sinuous, almond-eyed prodigy. Dadda's little Pookles was meat for a quick seduction," Orson recollected. Of course, everything had to be concealed from Mamma.

After Beatrice's sudden death from a liver ailment, Orson left to travel the world with his father. They were always monitored by Dadda, who had a tendency to confuse his beloved Pookles with the deceased Beatrice. "I was my mother!" was Orson's pointed joke. Mentor and father proceeded to conduct a tug-of-war over young Orson (a battle the director was later to recapitulate as the struggle between Falstaff and King Henry for the soul of young Prince Hal in *Chimes at Midnight*). A truce was declared when Orson went to stay for a year with a psychiatrist specializing in child prodigies. The professor promptly developed his own crush on Orson. "I was the Lily Langtree of the older homosexual set," Welles recalled. "Everybody wanted me."

Eventually, Orson ended up at Todd Seminary, a boys' school, where he staged school plays in which the pupils kicked up their mesh-stockinged heels in drag chorus lines. At Todd, Orson fell in love with the principal's son, Roger "Skipper" Hill, initiating a relationship that was to last all Welles' life. Skipper was heterosexual, but Orson was able to win him over anyway by charm and sheer showmanship. For decades after, Skipper and Dadda were rivals for Welles' confidences and affections.

All this left Orson's father Dick out in the cold. Though Dick loved his son, his alcoholism caused a final break, and Dick died alone in a hotel room. Dadda Bernstein signed the death certificate. Orson always blamed himself for his father's death, even saying he had "been with him at his suicide."

On leaving school, Welles headed to Ireland on a walking tour. There he fell for a young actor, Cathal O'Ceallaigh, who showed him around Dublin. He also introduced him to an older gay couple, actor Micheál MacLiammóir and director Hilton Edwards, who were to reappear again and again in Orson's life. This talented pair gave their new friend his first professional theatrical job, an important role in Feuchtwanger's *Jew Suss*, which they were staging at their Gate Theater. Welles enjoyed camping it up with MacLiammóir, who in a time of almost universal closetry, was an obvious, flaming queen.

Welles' stint in Irish theater gave him entrée to New York theatrical circles, where he was sponsored by the author Thornton Wilder. Wilder and his androgynous pal Alexander Woolcott spotted Orson at a party. They couldn't take their eyes off him. Wilder and Woolcott shrewdly recommended Welles to the bisexual husband-and-wife theatrical team of Guthrie McClintic and Catharine Cornell.



Scott no. 1386o



Scott no. 1165

John Houseman, Welles' collaborator in his famous Mercury Theater, suggested another aspect of Welles. In his memoir *Run-Through*, he depicted the Orson of those days as a "monstrous boy" with an "irresistible interior violence." When Houseman first saw him in his dressing room, sweaty and naked to the waist, he found him "frightening" - and of course, absolutely fascinating!

Throughout Welles' life he enjoyed numerous love affairs with women but, according to his long-time secretary Shifra Haran, "no one woman could satisfy him...I don't know whether he lusted after them or... was trying to prove his virility." He had affairs with men too, including the actor Francis Carpenter, with whom he was prone to furious public rows and "extravagant reconciliations." His professional collaborations, with John Houseman and others, often resembled love affairs.

He had a bawdy sense of humor. For one of his stage productions, an Elizabethan comedy, he fitted out his actors with giant codpieces, each one carefully scaled to the actors' natural endowments. But it was Welles' famous Harlem production of the traditionally jinxed play *Macbeth*, with an all-black cast, that led to the chilling incident that was to cast its shadow over Welles' later career. The leading role in the production was taken by the talented but alcoholic and unreliable Jack Carter, whose striking, muscular appearance, Welles found particularly beautiful. When a critic, Percy Hammond, denigrated the actors, they decided to retaliate. A "voodoo doll" of Hammond was sewn up by one of the black drummers Welles had hired to back up the chanting of the three witches. After Welles and the drummer had had a few drinks one night, they got to talking about laying a curse upon the unfriendly critic. The drummer was willing to go ahead if Welles would bear total responsibility for the consequences! Carelessly, Welles agreed. A ritual including several days of rhythmic drumming ensued, at the end of which Percy Hammond died.

From that time on, Welles' projects tended to be accident-prone, highly problematic, or impossible to finish. His most artistically successful film actually lost money, and many of his later works, including *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *Othello*, *Touch of Evil*, *The Other Side of the Wind* and the film of *Macbeth*, were somehow sabotaged by fate and wrested from the hands of their creator. A production of Marc Blitzstein's opera *The Cradle Will Rock* was even padlocked by the government.

One of his projects, a film called *The Big Brass Ring* (which was never made) reworks themes from Welles' life. An advisor to a sinister African ruler falls in love with his male protégé, a young Presidential candidate. Many of the director's other works contain, as broadcasting researcher Keith Howes put it, "gay resonances and shivers."

Measuring himself by the high standards and expectations of young Pookles, the former enfant terrible felt he had not fulfilled his early promise. But he retained his generosity of spirit and his good humor, and when he died in 1985, he was revered as America's greatest director.

He is depicted, in costume as newspaper baron Charles Foster Kane, on a 1998 U.S. stamp (Scott No. 1386o). Micheál MacLiammóir appears on a 1999 stamp of the Irish Republic (Scott No. 1165).

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USA

## The Florida Forty Stamper

By Francis Ferguson, Jr.

There are but a handful of individuals who can be considered to have played critically important roles in the formation of the United States of America. Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison and Hamilton are often credited with the creation of the structure that became the framework for our democratic government.

The description of Hamilton while he was in his 20s gives a good idea of his character: A dashing, elegant blonde, who was also brilliant and witty, Hamilton won the hearts of both men and women with his social charm, and was highly respected for his intellect and intensity at work. Everyone who came in contact with him considered him extraordinary.

In recognition of Hamilton's contributions to our country, he has been honored on nine postage stamps, from Scott no. 143 issued in 1870 to the most recent, Scott no. 1686e issued in 1976.

There have been persistent whispers through the years about Hamilton's sexual orientation. The vast majority of historians have chosen to ignore many of Hamilton's existing letters and writings that suggest a desire for another man. These writings, even when viewed through a two-hundred and twenty-five year historical window, are highly suggestive. Especially if the extremely reserved and proper language of the time is taken into account. Was Hamilton straight, bisexual, or gay? The answer seems to be bisexual at the very least, with a strong leaning towards same-sex relationships. The events of Hamilton's life can be discussed only with the understanding that society's definition of "romantic love" during his lifetime, was much different than it is today.

Alexander Hamilton was born on the island of Nevis in the British West Indies in 1755 (this year is questioned). The youngest of two illegitimate sons, he had no birth certificate or baptismal record to document his early years. This lack of certifiable paper would come back to haunt him in later years, as his concern with matters of honor and character would contribute to his self-destructive actions.

At the age of 11, he began his working career as a clerk and bookkeeper in a store. This employment served as a foundation for his appointment, to come in his later years, as Secretary to the Treasury of the United States. In 1772, his abilities won him advancement from bookkeeper to manager. Through the good fortune bestowed on him by friends, the highly ambitious and motivated Hamilton was sent to preparatory school in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, and in the fall of 1773 he entered King's College (later Columbia) in New York.

From 1774 to 1775 as the discord with Great Britain began to boil, Hamilton penned three extraordinarily influential pam-



Scott no. 1053

phlets that began his reputation as a one of America's ablest propagandists. His contributions in later years as a major author of the Federalist Papers, cemented his reputation as a gifted writer and as a man of considerable intelligence. As a result of this writing, General George Washington took note of this remarkable young man.

Hamilton was tapped to serve as a highly trusted aide-de-camp to Washington for a four year period starting in 1777. He quickly became one of the prominent members of the large group of close aides that surrounded Washington and were referred to as "family". During this period, Hamilton had frequent encounters with Washington's other aides-de-camp. A couple of prominent names from history can be found in the "family" including; Baron von Steuben, Burr, Lafayette, and Laurens.

Hamilton's attraction to the dashingly handsome John (Jack) Laurens from South Carolina was immediate and powerful. Hamilton wrote to Laurens; "I wish, my dear Laurens.....[to] convince you that I love you". Strong, very direct words -- for a very reserved period in time. The intense nature of the correspondence continued up until Laurens' death in a minor shoot-out with a British foraging party on August 27, 1782.

Hamilton and Laurens walked common paths in life. Not only did each have numerous close male friends, but they also married into wealthy, prominent families. Laurens' marriage was forced, and resulted in extremely strained relations throughout its length. Hamilton married Elizabeth "Betsy" Schuyler from New York, at the end of 1781. In Betsy, it would appear to historians that Hamilton found a loving and adoring wife, who proved a steadfast companion even in his darkest moments. The marriage yielded seven children, but was it a sham? There is some anecdotal evidence to suggest so.

The Schuyler family was one of the wealthy Dutch dynasties of New York. While Hamilton was penniless, property less and of questionable birth, did Hamilton marry for love, wealth or appearance? These are questions that will remain unanswered. Even though this marriage, on the surface, appeared to be good, Hamilton maintained numerous close "relationships" with male friends throughout the



Scott no. 190

years. These relationships may have been the foundation for the heated battle of words that Burr and Hamilton soon would exchange.

During the 1804 election season Hamilton had regularly attacked Aaron Burr as “an unprincipled schemer who would, if given the opportunity and power, tear the nation apart.” This was very strong language for 18th century civility. In June, after the election, the long-standing feud between the two men came to a head. Burr demanded satisfaction for the comment Hamilton had made at a dinner party in April, in which he said he held a “more despicable opinion” of Burr. This utterance led to a furious exchange of letters between the two men, with no resolution to be found.

Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel. This was now a matter of Hamilton’s honor. In the early morning light of July 11, the two antagonists met on the heights of Weehawken, New Jersey, with pistols drawn. (This was the same location that Hamilton’s eldest son, Philip, had died in a duel in 1801) Two shots rang out. Hamilton’s missed, while Burr mortally wounded Hamilton. Still alive, but paralyzed from the waist down, Hamilton slowly died of internal bleeding. He breathed his last at 2 p.m. on July 12, 1804. Thus ended the life of a colorful and critical thinker.

Neither Hamilton nor Burr ever revealed the nature of the “more despicable opinion”. Both apparently knew to what it referred: it seems that they will be the only ones who will ever know for sure, despite some interesting guesses by historians. Was Alexander Hamilton a member of the “family”? At the very least it appears that he was bisexual. Of course there is a valid point to be considered that his “wife” Betsy was no more than a beard for a closeted man of major importance and influence.

I would like to thank Paul Hennefeld for providing source materials used to write this article. His efforts are greatly appreciated!

The next article will deal with a King who could have been a Queen. Until we meet again, happy collecting, and maybe I will see you in cyberspace.

I can be reached at [ferg@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ferg@cfl.rr.com) for comments.

## Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS)  
PO Box 8000  
State College PA 16803-8000  
814-237-3803  
[www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)

American Topical Association (ATA)  
PO Box 50820  
Albuquerque NM 87181-0820  
505-323-8595  
[home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html](http://home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html)

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)  
PO Box 65960  
Tucson AZ 85728  
520-321-0880  
[www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org)



## BOY SCOUT BIGOTRY NOW AFFECTS STAMP COLLECTING

by Gary Konecky  
GLHSC and APS member

In the March 2001 issue of The American Philatelist (AP), Bob Lamb, the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS) wrote: “Kim Kowalczyk, our director of education, and others in State College worked with the **Boy Scouts on a revision of the stamp collecting merit badge pamphlet**. It is a very good publication, which I think presents the hobby quite well to Boy Scouts.” (emphasis original)

I found the APS’s association with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to be deeply disturbing. The BSA went to the US Supreme Court and demanded the right to discriminate against gay youth and gay men. In a misguided 5-4 US Supreme Court decision, the BSA were granted that right. The decision in the US Supreme Court case, *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, was widely reported by news outlets. Therefore, APS knows or should know of BSA’s bigoted policies.

The reply I received from APS was even more disturbing. Kim Kowalczyk wrote me the following: “I also strongly believe we cannot afford to be *reverse* bigots – excluding those who do not share our personal beliefs or lifestyles.” (emphasis original)



I have never heard of a "reverse bigot". Either one is a bigot or not. Either one stands up to bigots or one condones bigotry by associating with bigots.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) media guide defines lifestyles as follows: "**Lifestyle** SEE PROBLEMATIC TERMINOLOGY Term often used to denigrate the lives of lesbian and gay men. Avoid using. As there is no one heterosexual lifestyle, there is no one lesbian or gay lifestyle."

The GLAAD media guide then goes on to define lifestyle (in the section on problematic terminology) as follows: "There is no single lesbian or gay lifestyle; lesbians and gay men are diverse in the way they lead their lives. The phrase 'gay lifestyle' is used to denigrate lesbians and gay men, suggesting that their sexual orientation is a choice and therefore 'curable.'"

To help you write your letter, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund has provided information. Due to space constraints, only a small portion is printed here. If you would like a complete copy, contact LLDEF directly. Or you can contact me or the editor.

### **Concerns About Discrimination by the Boy Scouts of America**

#### **The BSA's policy of discrimination is harmful to all kids, gay and non-gay.**

\* BSA's anti-gay policy applies to membership, and thus hurts both youth and adult members.

\* The United States Supreme Court said that Boy Scouts of America has a right to discriminate, but it did not say that discrimination is right. The decision of whether discrimination is right or wrong is left to those who have the choice to support the BSA or instead to channel support to the many youth groups that are non-discriminatory.

\* With its anti-gay policy, BSA is teaching disrespect and discrimination lessons harmful to all children and it is stigmatizing gay kids.

\* Non-gay youth also need to hear a message of respect for all people. All kids deserve to hear a message of welcome and inclusion, learning to respect others who are different from them, rather than being taught to look down on others or feel superior to those not like them.

\* BSA is contradicting its own oath that calls on members to "respect and defend the rights of all people."

\* The BSA's policy of discrimination hurts more than the youth and adult members who are expelled. The BSA's "anti-gay badge" is one more generally of bigotry; one that teaches all the children who are part of

BSA programs that it is okay to look down upon people who are different from themselves.

Even before the U.S. Supreme Court issued its 5-4 ruling allowing the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to exclude gay youth and adult members, public discussion and response was steadily growing. Funders, schools, parents, organizations, corporations, and fair-minded individuals who have until now been supportive of scouting based on BSA's now-broken pledge to be "open to all boys" have begun to dissociate themselves from discrimination, and to support youth programs that are inclusive and truly teach a message of "respecting the rights of all people." As BSA depends on special privileges from sponsors and funders, this sort of swift and strong action could help bring an end to discrimination soon, benefiting all kids.

#### Alternatives to the Boy Scouts: Youth Organizations That Do Not Discriminate

- \* Boys and Girls Clubs of America, [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)
- \* National 4-H Council, [www.fourhcouncil.edu](http://www.fourhcouncil.edu)
- \* Camp Fire Boys and Girls, [www.campfire.org](http://www.campfire.org)
- \* Center for Youth as Resources, [www.yar.org](http://www.yar.org)
- \* Girl Scouts, [www.gsusa.org](http://www.gsusa.org)
- \* Jewish Community Centers, [www.jcca.org](http://www.jcca.org)
- \* YMCA, [www.ymca.net](http://www.ymca.net)

#### Action Steps & Background Information:

- \* Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund: [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org)
- \* Scouting for All: [www.scoutingforall.org](http://www.scoutingforall.org)
- \* Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network: [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

Given the widespread opposition to the BSA's bigoted policy, and given the number of youth groups listed above, it is inexcusable for APS to associate and encourage bigotry in the name of promoting stamp collecting.

Please write to the following officials of the APS:

Peter P. McCann, President  
Robert E. Lamb, Executive Director  
Kim Kowalczyk, Director of Education

The address for the above officials is:

The American Philatelic Society  
P.O. Box 8000  
State College, PA 16803

Please send copies of your letters to GLHSC or to me at 350 Plaza Road North, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410. If you have any questions, I can be e-mailed at [konecky@earthlink.net](mailto:konecky@earthlink.net).

# AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 Phone: 814-237-3803 Fax: 814-237-6128 www.stamps.org



Robert E. Lamb  
Executive Director

April 11, 2001

Gary Konecky  
350 Plaza Road North  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Gary:

I was pleased to hear from you! It's always good to know that our members are reading *The American Philatelist*, cover to cover, and that they find time in their schedules to write about philatelic issues that concern them.

I understand your concern with some of the membership policies of the Boy Scouts of America and the recent Supreme Court decision, and I agree that we in the American Philatelic Society cannot afford to be bigots. However, I also strongly believe we cannot afford to be *reverse* bigots — excluding those who do not share our personal beliefs or lifestyles.

I have worked for the APS for more than ten years as an editor/writer, and for a year as director of education. My policy has always been one of inclusion, not exclusion, and while I understand your position, I do not agree that we should exclude *anyone* on the basis of their beliefs, religious practices, sexual orientation, skin color, etc.

In the same way that the APS supports and encourages the Boy Scouts' stamp collecting merit badge program, we are currently working with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to accredit a course that instructs teachers in how they can use stamps in the classroom to promote literacy. In the same vein, I am working with a number of universities to increase awareness on how stamp collecting facilitates literacy, researching, writing, and creative skills, as well as traditional subjects like geography, science, and history.

Here at the APS, our Statement of Purpose, identifies that our role is:

- \* to promote stamp collecting for people of all ages
- \* to offer services to APS members and philately in general, including knowledge and education, which enhances the pleasure and friendliness of stamp collecting

Our involvement with the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge fulfills that purpose, and is a very small part of our many educational activities: club slide programs, StampCampus online and correspondence courses, Summer Seminar programs, book and pamphlet publications, All\*Star Stamp Clubs, our new Stamp Camp for Kids, Stamp Saturday (one-day adult beginners' program), Stamp Adventures (one-day youth beginners' program), Mentor Program, and in-school presentations. In addition, we spend hundreds of hours answering general hobby questions, researching individual collector's problems, directing people to different resources, and much more.

Help us to continue promoting the hobby, in an inclusive, positive way, by getting involved in your area. If you'd like to know more, drop me a line.

All the best,

Kim J. Kowalczyk  
Director of Education

cc: R.E. Lamb  
Peter McCann



The APS is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(3) under the Internal Revenue Code



**GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB**  
**P.O. Box 190842**  
**DALLAS, TX 75219-0842**  
**GLHSC@AOL.COM**

American Philatelic Society  
Kim Kowalczyk, Director of Education  
P.O. Box 8000  
State College, PA 16803

Dear Kim,

I am in receipt of letters initiated by Gary Konecky to American Philatelic Society, concerning the APS' involvement with Boy Scouts of America. I wanted to take this opportunity as President of Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club to not only address some of the issues brought up in these letters, but some other discussion points that GLHSC thinks are relevant to this larger issue.

First and foremost, GLHSC will not withdraw our charter from APS over the issue of APS' support of the Boy Scouts of America in the realm of education and their stamp collecting badge. With nearly 130 members, we are proud to be a part of the APS and value our membership in the premier US philatelic organization.

Second, we agree with some of the points made in Gary's letters, namely that the Boy Scouts of America are active discriminators against gay and lesbian individuals and apparently teach to their youth that homosexuals are not worthy to participate in scouting. To GLHSC and the larger gay and lesbian community, this signals intolerance and is worth working to change.

It is important to note that many Fortune 500 companies view the Boy Scout's anti-homosexual policy with disapproval. So much so, in fact, that some of the largest names in American business are withdrawing their financial support from the Boy Scouts of America. Some of these corporate entities include: Chase Manhattan, Novell, Inc., Merrill Lynch, Knight Ridder Communications, Inc., Levi Strauss and Wells Fargo. In fact, a large number of local United Way chapters across the US have also withdrawn their support of BSA. Certainly, if companies this big see something wrong with the Boy Scouts policy then the APS might want to reconsider their outreach program to BSA.

For GLHSC, we would prefer that APS not support the Boy Scouts. We would like to see the APS do more significant educational outreach to other national organizations that serve America's youth and do not have a posted policy of discrimination against gays and lesbians. Some examples of such organizations would be the Girl Scouts of America, 4-H, Campfire Girls and Boys of America, Jewish Community Centers, YMCA/YWCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. These are but a few examples; I am sure there are many others.

We would like to see APS make specific overtures to these organizations not just because they do not overtly discriminate, but also because they represent a rich source of potential new eager collectors. It is exactly these youth that will make up the next generation of philatelists; why not work with Girl Scouts to introduce a stamp collecting badge? What a wonderful event and public relations coup that would be for APS!

Lastly, we know that APS works hard to accomplish outreach, and GLHSC would like to ensure that regular youth education continues to take place at ALL levels to ALL individuals, regardless of what other factors are present in their lives.

Sincerely,

Angela Watson  
President

cc: Robert Lamb, President, APS  
Bill Welch, Editor, *The American Philatelist*  
Joe Petronie, Editor, *Lambda News*, GLHSC  
Judith Beckett, Secretary-Treasurer, GLHSC

## Collector seeks Postcards/Ephemera

I collect real photo postcards (gay oriented, sports/physique, nudes, affectionate couples, cross-dressing). Also, early gay magazines/ephemera.  
Prompt payment ensured.

Frank Serafino  
61 Woodland Drive  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
USA

Or leave message at:  
(773) 342-1906

## 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



Presidents, dictators, kings,  
even a few

## OLD QUEENS

General collectors will find all kinds of goodies in my "collector made" lots. Five dollars post-paid brings hours of fun and surprises.

Chip Bergeron  
58-2F Orange Street  
Manchester, NH 03104-6060

## Urgently needed for my gay/ lesbian collection "Out Of The Closet"

My collection is in need of a commercial cover of USA Scott # 1932, Babe Didrikson Zaharias 18 cent. This is a difficult item to find as the 'Didrikson' stamp was issued Sept. 22, 1981, and postage was raised to 20 cents on Oct. 28, 1981. It is very important that I find a commercial cover. I have two FDC, but for an exhibit a commercial cover is a must. Judges frown upon First Day Covers

Paul Hennefeld,  
512 Park Street  
Montclair, NJ 07043-1944



## Gay & Lesbian Update

**Baltimore Pride** is commemorating its 21st annual Pride Celebration with another postmark. The postmark will be used on June 17, 2001. To order the postmark by mail, write to:

Pride Festival Station  
Main Office window Services  
US Postal Service  
900 East Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21233-9715  
USA

Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Mail order requests must be postmarked no later than July 17, 2001.

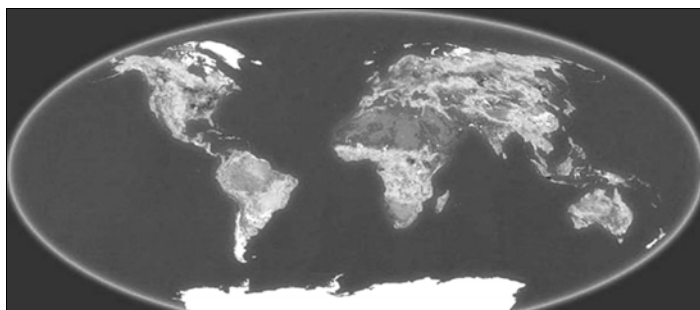
**Frida Kahlo** will be featured on a United States and Mexican stamp on June 21, 2001. She was a Mexican painter, married to Diego Rivera. She will be the first Hispanic woman to be featured on a US postage stamp.

The selection of Kahlo has brought some criticism. Some feel that since she was a member of the Mexican Communist Party, she should not receive such an honor. Others feel that her being bisexual and dislike of Americans should disqualify her. She had numerous affairs with Georgia O'Keefe, Dolores Del Rio, Paulette Goddard and Leon Trotsky among the many.

The United States Postal Service said that they selected her because of her influence on Mexican-American artists and because "she is a role model for women in the Mexican-American and feminist communities."

The stamp is based on Kahlo's 1933 painting, *Self-portrait With Necklace*. Mexico will issue a similar stamp on the same day.

(*Linn's Stamp News*, June 11, 2001.)



### It's a GAY world...

**Angola** issued two sheets of four stamps, one sheet of six stamps and three souvenir sheets honoring famous monarchs on October 2, 2000. James I can be found on Scott no. 1167a.

**Cuba** issued a set of two stamps on December 9, 2000, for the bicentennial of the visit by Alexander von Humboldt. Scott nos. 4118-19.

**Gambia** issued two sheets of eight stamps and two souvenir sheets featuring the history of the theater on January 30, 2001.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Scott no. 2390b.

Tennessee Williams, Scott no. 2390h.

**Grenada** issued four sheets of six stamps and four souvenir sheets for the bicentennial of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam on January 15, 2001.

St. Sebastian by Joachim Wtewael, Scott no. 3080d.

St. Sebastian by Hendrick ter Brugghen, Scott no. 3080e.



**Luxembourg** issued a set of three stamps on March 20, 2001, featuring writers. André Gide can be found on Scott no. 1051.

**Monaco** issued a stamp to commemorate the International Mathematics Year on September 4, 2000. The study of man by Leonardo da Vinci is included in the design. Scott no. 2175.

**Morocco** issued a set of two stamps and a souvenir sheet of two stamps to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the enthronement of King Mohammed VI on July 30, 2000. Scott nos. 877-78, SS is 878a.

**Netherlands** issued a sheet of ten stamps on August 21, 2000 to commemorate Sail 2000, Amsterdam Harbor. Green Sail, Alexander von Humboldt, Germany, is featured on Scott no. 1054g.

**Norway** issued a set of five stamps featuring Norwegian actors and actresses. Per Aabel is on Scott no. 1278.

**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.

## AIDS Update

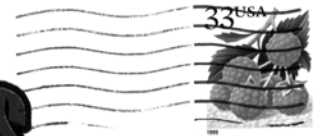
**Chile** issued a set of two stamps on October 12, 2000, for World AIDS day. These were part of the Americas Series. Scott nos. 1346 - 47.

**Colombia** issued a single stamp for the Americas Series. Campaign against AIDS was the theme. Exact date of issue is unknown at this time. Scott no. 1171.

**Lesotho** issued a set of four stamps in the fight against AIDS on January 22, 2001. Scott nos. 1257 - 60.

**Paraguay** issued a set of two stamps in the fight against AIDS on October 19, 2000. These were part of the Americas issue. Scott nos. 2648 - 49.

# Women's Soccer Rules



YLAHC  
P.O. Box 515981  
Dallas TX  
75251-5981



75251/5981 |||