



Lambda Philatelic Journal



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANKS

FOR MAKING "YOUR CLUB" NO. ONE



Candidates for this year's Santa

As we start counting down toward the Holidays,
we should look back and be thankful for our many blessings.



Scott No. 2094

The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (G.L.H.S.C.), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458. We have served gay and lesbian philatelists since 1982.

The objective of this club is to promote and foster an interest in the collecting, studying and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material depicting men and women (and their works) for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual behavior, orientation or support; historical events or ideas (such as law and the bill of rights) significant in the history of gay and lesbian culture; and animal species that have scientifically been proven as having prominent homosexual behavior.

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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles, (both original and reprinted), ideas, viewpoints and periodicals, (clippings or copies) for future issues. We welcome members to submit any of the above. We also encourage members to place free advertisements of philatelic interest.

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON



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There were some 500,000 gays, lesbians and supporters gathered in Washington on October 11 for the largest demonstration, rally and march in U. S. history. It would be impossible to describe the enormous variety of people present. I thought several times how difficult it would have been for anyone to stereotype this vast multitude. It was inspiring and emotionally overwhelming to feel the "power of the people".



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The first marchers left the ellipse at 12:00 noon and it was nearly 4:00 before the last of the contingents began to march. We waited in line for some two hours before we entered Pennsylvania Avenue, but it was worth it. The crowd was so supportive and enthusiastic that I will always remember this day as a moving experience of my life. I spent much of the day in tears. It was so hard for me to explain to my 21 year-old lover what it was like for me when growing up.

This was an event of great political magnitude. We asked for legal recognition for gay/lesbian relationships, the repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime, passage of the congressional gay bill, and an increase in funding for AIDS education research and patient care. Among the speakers were Cesar Chavez, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Whoopie Goldberg. We have so much more work to do, but October 12th was a day of great pride for all of us.

One event that I found most touching was the NAMES PROJECT quilts. Each of the 1,920 individual panels displayed the name of someone who had died from AIDS, made by friends and family. Panels of the famous (Rock Hudson, Liberace, and Michael Bennett, to name a few) were sewn side-by-side with those of lesser-known victims. The huge strip of panels covered a large stretch of the ellipse between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. The emotional display brought tears from many of the hundreds of thousands of viewers.

Anyone interested in further information on the 1987 March, please send a S.A.S.E to: 31 Heather Ln., N. Granby, CT 06060-9726.

TOPICAL TRIVIA

And the answer to September's trivia question is OSCAR FINGALL O'FLAHERTIE WILLS WILDE. In the fall of 1891, Lord Alfred Douglas, son of the Marquess of Queensberry, was noted as a brawling whoremonger. He attached himself to Wilde somewhat as Cleopatra did to Antony. Bosie (Alfred's infamous nickname) introduced Wilde into the underworld of male prostitution in London. In late 1894, his father warned him to mend his ways and "break off relations with Wilde". Douglas wrote him stating he would go anywhere he pleases and if he raised a hand against Wilde he would kill like a dog. In early 1895, Lord Queensberry sent an insulting card to Wilde accusing him of sodomy. Wilde was encouraged by Bosie to sue for criminal libel in order to humiliate his father. However, the court didn't agree. Wilde having lost, was charged with "gross indecency" and imprisoned. His highly successful plays were pulled off the stage, his home sacked and his two sons left the country with their mother.



Wilde and Bosie together.

"I have the simplest of tastes...
I am always satisfied with the best."



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" I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of LEAVES OF GRASS. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed.

I greet you at the beginning of a great career which yet must have had a long foreground somewhere, for such a start. I am very happy in reading it..."

What 19-century American essayist, poet, and philosopher wrote Walt Whitman this now-famous letter on July 21, 1855.

Owing to the enormous response to our last trivia game, please rush in your entry to ensure a complimentary FDC.

ALL ENTRIES CAN BE SENT TO:
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THE HUMAN RIGHTS EMISSION



April 15, 1987 this commemorative issue was released to mark the fifth anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This anniversary also protects under law, the rights and privileges of the gay and lesbian citizens.



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The Constitution is upheld as Canada's highest law. Since rule from the British Parliament was enacted in 1867; and independence finally won in 1931, the Canadian Government was free to rule according to their statutes except on the issue of amending the constitution to honor the rights and freedoms of its citizens. Finally in 1981 the British Parliament gave Canada the right to amend her own constitution. Only then had Canada finally achieved full independence. The most notable modification to the constitution was the addition to the charter of rights and freedoms:



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Section 15. (1) "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular without discrimination based on sex, race, colour, religion, national or ethnic origin, age or mental physical disability.

Various groups fought unsuccessfully, for the inclusion of "sexual orientation" to be included in the above section; however, the fight for equality continues. On October 1985, a government committee submitted a report to the House of Commons recommending the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In March 1986, the Canadian Government officially accepted the report and its recommendations, pledging it would "take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination."

On October 1986, a private member's bill (from a member of an opposition party) was given first reading in the House of Commons to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation. However, the current government is reluctant to act and according to E.G.A.L.E. (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere), a national lobbying group, it is unlikely will see the amendment before the term of this government expires.

Individual provinces in Canada have their own human rights acts; and at the provincial level, the news has been much more encouraging. In 1977 Quebec became the first Canadian province to include sexual orientation in its Human Rights Charter. In the words of a former president of the Quebec human rights commission: "the recognition and protection of basic human rights cannot be at the mercy of evolving social attitudes. Gay people are more widely understood and accepted than we commonly believe and this understanding and acceptance increased considerable with the explicit recognition of their rights."



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In that same year, a nationwide poll shows 52% of Canadians in favoured inclusion of orientation in human rights legislation, in a similar poll taken in 1985 70% of the Canadians supported much a move.

Ontario became the second province to curb discrimination against gays and lesbian in December, 1986. David Peterson, head of Ontario's ruling liberal party wrote:



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"The inclusion of sexual orientation in the human rights code means that an individual cannot be discriminated against with respect to goods, facilities, services, accommodations, contracts and employment merely on the basis of that person's sexual orientation. The underlying principle of the code is that a person should be assessed on the basis of his or her individual merit and abilities, and not on the basis of stereotypical assumptions made about the group to which that person belongs."

On February 12, 1987 the Territorial Government of the Yukon, one of Canada's two Northern Territories, adopted its first human rights code, listing sexual orientation among the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited.

The next provincial jurisdiction to enact a law against anti-gay discrimination was Manitoba in July, 1987

This list of three provinces and one territory now means that over two thirds of Canada's citizens live in areas where discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is unlawful. At the federal level and in the remaining provinces the struggle still continues.

In the words of Canada's prime minister, Brian Mulroney, spoken on October 28, 1985: "I am against any kind of discrimination, whatsoever, our imperfections notwithstanding, we are trying to build a more tolerant and equitable society in Canada and, with great difficulty, we will succeed I am sure." His government has made a commitment to introduce legislation protecting gay people but not yet acted to fulfill this commitment.

THE SKELETON IN THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL CLOSET

by David R. Conchado



After having read both Blackberry Winter, the autobiography of Margaret Mead's first four decades, and With A Daughter's Eye, Mary Catherine Bateson's account of her mother's life as a parent, I came to understand why this woman became internationally famous and respected as an authority on the people of the South Sea Islands. Mead's was a mind that could keenly observe the human environment, then use her data on primitive

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people to formulate hypotheses applicable to advanced cultures. She could integrate concepts that to the casual observer, were not related, and come up with novel, convincing syntheses.

After completing her undergraduate training at Barnard College, she began her graduate education at Columbia. Her mentors, Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict, saw in Margaret, the promise of great achievements necessary in the study of primitive cultures. It was an arena that was quickly being obliterated by the encroaching influence of advanced societies and required researchers capable of working quickly and effectively.

Despite misgivings about sending a young female alone half way around the world to study the peoples of Samoan Islands, both Boas and Benedict agreed to Margaret's decision to travel to the South Seas. With their blessings, she sailed off to the Samoan Islands and remained there for several months, learning the language of the natives, observing their social behavior, developing new techniques for studying her subjects, and collecting data on the transition period from childhood to pubescence of Samoan girls. An overwhelming assignment for anything but a brilliant, creative, courageous mind.

Margaret corresponded regularly with Ruth Benedict, the two women developing a close bond between them, intellectually and emotionally. Years later, after Ruth's death, Margaret wrote her dear friend's biography.

Mead went through three marriages during her lifetime. At graduation from Barnard in 1923, she married Luther Cressman, an episcopal minister with whom she had planned to settle down as wife and mother of a large family. When she was told that she couldn't have children because of a tipped uterus, her appeal for Cressman evaporated. Following field work in Samoa, she sailed for Marseilles, France from Sidney, Australia. In Europe, she planned to meet with her husband Luther. During that voyage, she met Reo Fortune, thought he would make an excellent companion in her future field-work, and so married him in 1927. Since she could not have children, the fact that she felt Reo would not make a good father was irrelevant.

Then, during field work in New Guinea, she met Gregory Bateson, found his temperament more aligned to hers, and so decided to marry him in 1936. By this time, she was a well-established and famous international figure.

To her surprise, she became pregnant, and gave birth to her only child, Mary Catherine, in 1939.

Her views about homosexuality and bisexuality were not always clear-cut. She once advised a friend not to have children, believing that her husband had latent homosexual tendencies and would, therefore, not make a good father for her children.

In contrast to this attitude, she wrote an article entitled, Bisexuality: What's it all about? that appeared in Redbook in 1974. The piece was a discussion of Nigel Nicolson's book Portrait of a Marriage. She acknowledged the changing attitudes regarding homosexuality and bisexuality, though disdaining the use of labels to characterize sexual preference. Human beings were too complex and dynamic to delegate them into specific categories. She was aware of the self-imposed limits the heterosexual majority was placing on itself, viewing the gay community as the mirror image of the heterosexual world, both camps tenaciously espousing the virtues of their respective orientations. Mead believed that those who couldn't be intimate with people of either sex were limited to superficial friendships without meaningful depth.

But she spoke in the abstract, never being personal about her own lesbian relationships and feelings. This secrecy was contrary to her nature, for she was a very social being, seeking always to share her ideas and feelings with others, and yet disdained possessiveness. She was aware of and saddened by her increasing isolation from more and more people during her later years.



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Her daughter was caught totally by surprise by love letters she had found after her mother's death which were apparently quite explicit about the sexual nature of Margaret's relationship with her lifelong friend and colleague, Ruth Benefict. In fact, she was hurt by her mother's failing even to tell her about this relationship in confidence.

Margaret was always concerned about how she would be perceived by her public. To have kept her lesbian love affair from them, would have been quite understandable, given the nature of the homophobic society we live in. But, not to confide in someone as close to her as her own daughter, in whom she had instilled the humanity of tolerance for individual differences can only lead me to conclude that homophobia was directed against self.

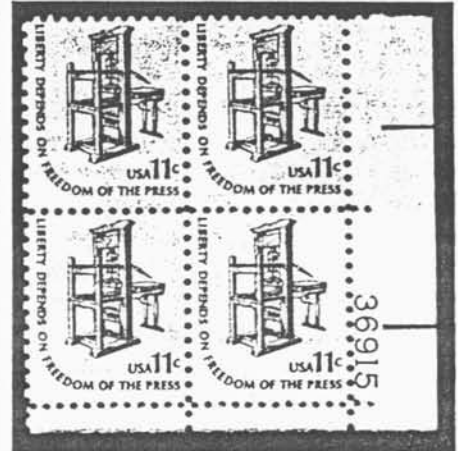
Broad-minded people often affirm the legitimacy of the homosexual lifestyle in the abstract, but when it hits them personally, as when a child of their's comes out to them, their underlying homophobia surfaces in an emotional maelstrom.

Perhaps, Margaret felt so shamed of her own lesbian desires and actions, she could not bring herself to accept them positively in herself. The self loathing this wonderfully creative mind may very well have experienced, should sadden all of us, gay and straight alike.

The following article appeared in Metroline, Hartford's biweekly gay newspaper:

Bad news: Time and Newsweek "neglected" to cover the National March on Washington. Good news: there is finally a use for those annoying little subscription cards that always fall out of the magazines.

Except for a one liner in Newsweek, Time and Newsweek gave no press coverage whatsoever to what have been the largest civil rights demonstration in this country's history.



Scott No 1593

Needless to say, this has upset many people and it has been suggested writing letters of complaint to the editors of both magazines. I say go ahead and write, but personally, I'm sick and tired of writing to people in power who continue to believe that gay people are a silent minority and are best left ignored.

It's time for something completely different.

I suggest taking those postage prepaid subscription cards and mailing them back to Time and Newsweek with a personalized message on the back. Tell them how you feel about their lack of coverage of the March.

It's a great way to let them know we're mad and we're not going to take it anymore!! It's easy - it's fun, and best of all, it's free!!!

The purpose for reprinting this article is not to suggest its intensions but to share the author's point of view and the lack of support from the press.

FORMATION OF A GAY AND LESBIAN STAMP CLUB IN SAN DIEGO. I am primarily a topical collector, but would like to invite anyone interested in other aspects of philately to please get in touch with me. My address is:

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12882 Corbett Court
San Diego, CA. 92130
Phone: (619) 259-1318

Congratulations to our Secretary (Paul) for his victory at the National Postage Stamp Show, held at Madison Square Garden, Oct. 22-25. Although he won a gold at Sepex-Topex last June '87, that was a regional show. Now that he has received the national recognition for his extraordinary collection, "Alternate Life-styles of Famous People", he is looking into the possibility of exhibiting next year in Toronto. Paul's new twist to stamp collecting has given a chance to others to learn the many facets of our culture.

The Postal Service claims that "we can deliver almost anything day or night" and people are challenging this statement. The following appeared in the Hartford Courant 10/10/87:

New Haven - The Hospital of St. Raphael receives over 200,000 pieces of mail a year, very little of which grows on trees.

That was not the case Friday, however, when a ripe yellow banana arrived addressed to an 88-year-old unit patient.

A 22 cent stamp and a 28 cent stamp - taped to the banana to keep them from falling off - were enough to get the tropical fruit admitted to the hospital. The postmark was not legible so they could not tell when it was sent.

The American Topical Association will be holding their annual convention in Toronto, one of Canada's most exciting cities. Paul and I (Ed) are planning to attend the show, and to get the most of our dollar we are preparing to camp. There's a beautiful campground (stayed twice) 20 minutes from downtown Toronto. The show will be held in June '88; if anyone interested or would like additional information, please drop me (president) a line.

The Canadiana Study Unit, member of the Am. Top. Assoc., is devoted to the collection and study of world wide postage stamps and philatelic material pertaining to or depicting Canadian themes. The club also produces an informative 18 page quarterly journal, The Canadian Connection, and for only \$5.00 (to cover one year's postage) you can enjoy this facet of stamp collecting. The club invites anyone interested to drop them a note.

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