



# Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB JUNE— SEPTEMBER 2003,  
VOL. 22, NO. 2 & 3, ISSN 1541-101X

# Happy Holidays

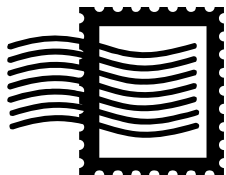
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society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

President..... Angela Watson  
 Vice President ..... Brian Lanter  
 Secretary ..... Vacant  
 Treasurer ..... Judith Beckett  
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The French Sappho,  
 Anna de Noailles

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 \$10.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$15.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

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.)

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

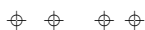
Any artwork and articles received by the editor after the aforementioned dates will appear in the next available issue, space permitting.

# News from the Editor

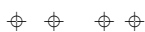
Where to begin. In late June, I received word of a new position created in the Tucson office of my employer. As of July Fourth, I was moving to Tucson. Things seemed to quickly unravel by the middle of the month. I remain in Dallas for the time being.

With the Tucson changes, the officers of GLHSC offered to step in and help with the preparations and mailings. The biggest challenge is getting articles submitted. It seems that the articles come in spurts. Unfortunately, the past year or so has seen a slowing down of submissions.

All of this, however, has led me to wonder if I should take a leave as Editor. I have been in this position since early 1991. Is there any member or members that would like to take over? If there are no takers, I could probably continue. However, lack of articles remains a major source of frustration.



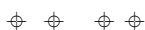
Once again, thanks go out to Paul Henefeld, co-founder of GLHSC, and his partner, Blair O'Dell. They supplied the postcards that are included with this issue of the journal. The postcard features the title page of Paul's award-winning exhibit, "Out of the Closet".



Paul Henefeld has offered to publish an updated version of his handbook, *Achilles to Zeus*. It was last printed in 1992.

There are three options for the publication. 1) The handbook can be published in this journal. It would take probably two or three issues to cover the entire, updated handbook. The major drawback to this option is if you do not collect GLBT. There would be very little room for anything other than the handbook in the journals. 2) The handbook can be printed as a stand-alone publication. Due to costs, however, we would need to know how many members are interested in purchasing a copy. 3) The final option is to have ATA publish the handbook. Ray Cartier of the ATA Central Office announced in his September-October, 2003, *Topical Time* column that ATA is now able to publish handbooks in-house.

We need to know what kind of interest there is with club members for any of these options. Please send me a post card, letter or e-mail with your thoughts. We would like as much input before proceeding. Thanks for your help and suggestions.



The final journal for 2003 should go out by the second week of January. The member directory could be distributed if members are still interested at this late date. It may be best to wait until the 2004 update. Again, let me know what ya'll think.



If any members are interested, I have many back issues of *Topical Times* (ATA), *American Philatelist* (APS) and *First Days* (AFDCS). Just let me know which issue you'd like and I can send them to you. Or does anyone know of a library that might be interested in receiving them? Let me know.



A stamp club in the Pittsburgh area issues a souvenir sheet every year. The CNEP (the French version of the ASDA) also issues one or two souvenir sheets each year. Is there any interest in possibly issuing one of our own? I envision a sheet of one or two cinderella stamps. Each stamp would depict a famous gay, lesbian, bisexual person or event. These could be used for raising awareness of and funds for the club. What do you think?



Finally, enclosed is an application form for GLHSC. Feel free to pass it on to a friend or collecting buddy that you think might be interested in joining. I have plenty of these on hand. If anyone is interested in receiving more copies, just drop me a line.



Gertrude Stein

André Gide



## Last Post from Fiume-Kupa: A Quick Philatelic History of Istria & Slovenia

by Ian Young

At the very top of the Italian boot, between the cities of Trieste to the West and Rijeka (formerly Fiume) to the East, lies the Istrian peninsula. To the North is the area once known as Venezia Giulia, now divided between the republics of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. Here, in the lands between the Austrian frontier and the Adriatic Sea, the Germanic, Italian and Slavic peoples have met, mingled and sometimes clashed. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the region saw more than two dozen different administrations, and its philatelic history is complex. The following is an attempt to bring some order to the confusion, and to elucidate some of the more obscure stamp-issuing entities such as The Regency of Carnaro, Provinz Laibach and Fiume-Kupa.

Toward the end of the First World War, Venezia Giulia and other areas of Northern Italy under Austrian occupation were provided with overprinted Austrian military stamps (1918). When the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed and Italy took control of Venezia Giulia, these were replaced by overprinted Italian issues (1918 - 1919).

Most of Venezia Giulia now became part of the Kingdom of Italy. But the city of Fiume, which had been an autonomous area of Hungary, remained in dispute. Situated to the East of the Istrian peninsula on the Gulf of Carnaro, Fiume began as the Roman settlement of Tarsattica, soon after the defeat of the Illyrian pirates in 180 B.C. In 1867, with a mixed Croat and Italian population, it became part of Hungary and a major port for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Then in 1918, its uncertain status gave an extraordinary poet-adventurer the opportunity to create his own mini-state.

Short, wall-eyed, bandy-legged and bald, the Italian poet, pilot, artist and musician Gabriele D'Annunzio was a patriotic, charismatic and vastly popular writer who raised a private army of restless young veterans, "the Arditi," who seized Fiume and proclaimed it a Free State. The new Head of State's first act was to present the crowd with the Italian flag that had covered the body of his beloved friend Giovanni Randaccio, killed in a recent battle. D'Annunzio was a devotee of St. Sebastian, whose name and myth became prominent in the years surrounding the Great War. Yet his reputation was that of a great lover and womanizer. One long-term liaison was with the famous actress Eleanora Duse, who would stand on the shore at sundown to wrap her lover in a purple robe as he emerged from the sea. At least one of D'Annunzio's biographers, Philippe Julian, believed the poet to have been bisexual. Whatever his sexuality, he was ambivalent in his politics, careening from extreme right to extreme left, torn between libertarianism to authoritarianism.

All these contradictions - in D'Annunzio and in Europe - gave birth to the Free State of Fiume - which the anarchist chronicler Hakim Bey called "the last of the pirate republics." Artists, anarchists and

adventurers from all over Europe ended up in Fiume. Music was declared the central principal of the state. Every morning, D'Annunzio declaimed poetry from his balcony, and at night there were concerts, parties and fireworks. Roaming bands of thugs armed with castor oil kept a rough order. Docking fees filled the treasury, much of which was apparently spent on cocaine, then a fascinating new recreational drug.



Arditi

Michael A. Ledeen, in his book *The First Duce: D'Annunzio at Fiume*, wrote that Fiume was one of the first governments to arrive at a form of consensus politics, and that D'Annunzio managed to convince the various conflicting groups and institutions that his government served their specific interests. There was complete equality for women (a rarity then), religious freedom, and a comprehensive welfare system. Yet it was D'Annunzio who first popularized some of the styles and symbols later expropriated by the fascists and Nazis - the shaved head, the black shirt, the skull and crossbones and the Roman salute.

The first stamps of Fiume were overprinted Hungarian issues. These were followed by typographed sets bearing striking images of D'Annunzio with the Latin motto "Hic Manebimus Optime" (It is good that we stay here) and a powerful image of hands clasping daggers.

As Fiume was going its own way, neighbouring Slovenia, now entering into federation with other South Slavic areas, began to issue its own stamps, including the famous "Chainbreakers" series (1919 - 1920). And from 1919 to 1922, Italy overprinted issues for its holdings along the Damatian coast.

In 1920, a plebiscite was held in the disputed area of Carinthia on the border between Slovenia and the new German Austrian Republic. Overprinted stamps were issued for each of the two zones, Austrian and Slovene,

the Austrian issues proclaiming “Kärnten Abstimmung,” the Slovene issues overprinted “K.G.C.A” for Carinthian Governmental Commission (Zone) A.

In the same year, the Duce of Fiume saw the opportunity to expand his state - and perhaps to distract attention from its foundering economy - by incorporating the islands of Arbe (now Rab) and Veglia (now Krk), dusting off his original name for his realm, “The Regency of Carnaro.” Stamps of Fiume were overprinted for each of the islands and for the “Regno di Carnaro.”



1920 stamp showing  
D'Annunzio

In 1920, Italy conceded most of Italian Dalmatia to the emerging South Slavic state, with only the city of Zara (the home of marascino) and the island of Lagosta remaining with Italy and using Italian stamps. By the end of the year, Italy decided to take over the avowedly loyal but now troublesome pirate republic on its doorstep. Fiume was bombarded and invaded from December 24 to 28 (“the Christmas of Blood”). D’Annunzio was overthrown and a Provisional Government installed. Fiume withdrew from the islands of Arbe and Veglia, and in 1921, issued overprinted stamps commemorating the new regime. More overprints announced two Constituent Assemblies, followed by a set showing historical artefacts and a charming rendering of St. Vitus, patron saint of dancers, mummers and people with sleeping disorders.

1924 saw the end of the Free State of Fiume, marked by two sets of overprints, one proclaiming “Regno d’Italia,” the other the region’s final annexation by Italy. D’Annunzio retired to his Italian villa, where he wrote and received guests (including Radcliffe Hall and her companion Lady Una Troubridge) until his death in 1938.

By 1921, the newly constituted Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes had begun issues for the whole country, replacing the earlier issues for the Slovenian region. These continued until 1930, when the country changed its name to Yugoslavia.

The region’s subsequent stability was shattered in April of 1941 with the German invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. (Some sets were issued by the Government in Exile.) Slovenia was divided among Germany, Italy and Hungary, with Italy issuing stamps for its area, around the capital Ljubljana - Lubiana in Italian (1941 - 1943). Italy also recovered contentious

areas of the Dalmatian coast. Germany set up a puppet state in Croatia, the Independent State of Croatia (incorporating most of Bosnia and Herzegovina) which issued its own stamps until 1945.

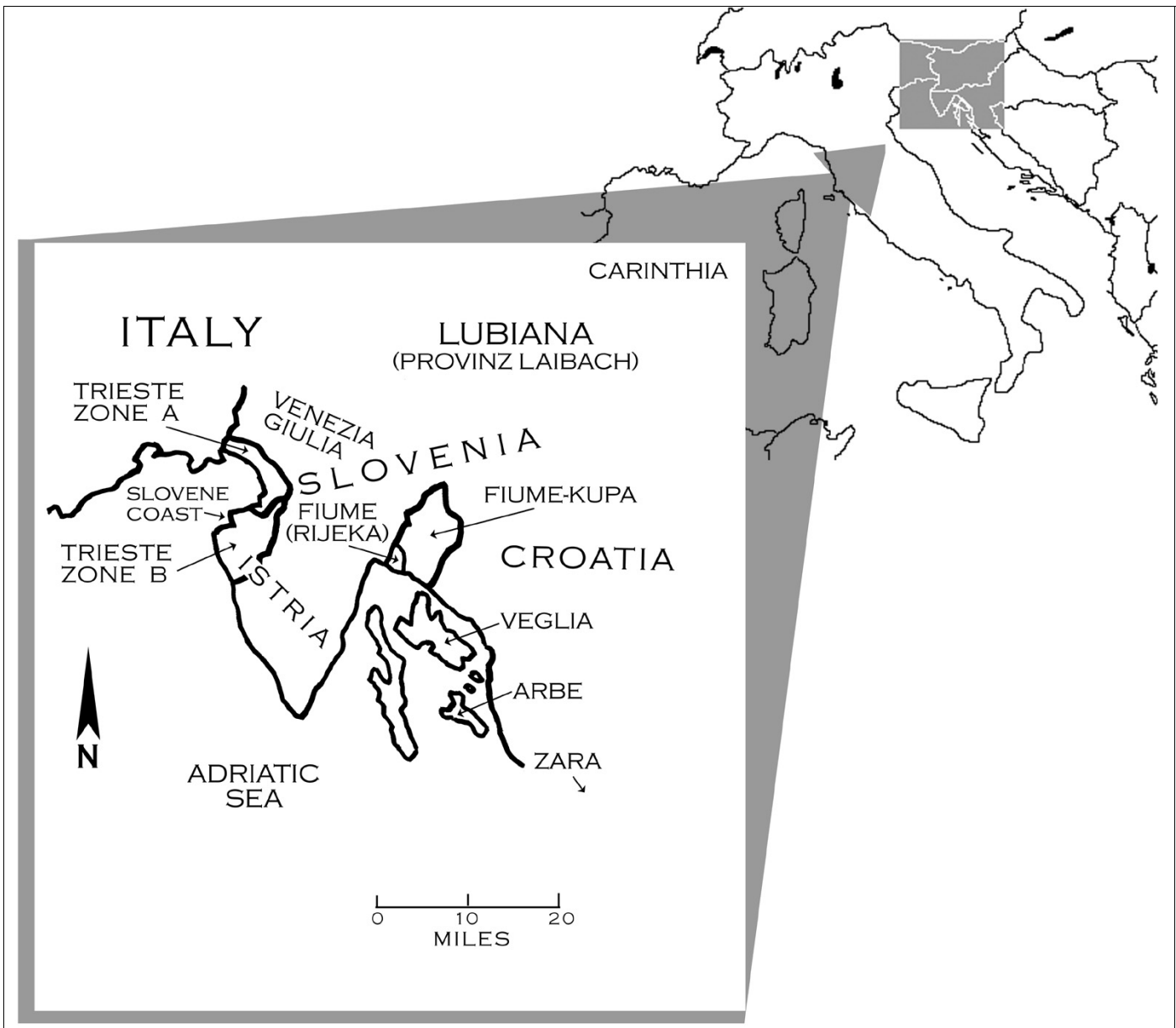
Fiume had now been part of Italy since its annexation in 1924. But the nearby border left the city impossible to defend. On May 3, 1941, perhaps to provide a military buffer area, Italy occupied the nearby Croatian town of Susak and an area extending 40 km. North-East to River Kupa. Yugoslav stamps (including some revenues) were overprinted “Zona Occupata Fiumano Kupa.”

In 1943, Mussolini fell and Italy withdrew from its partnership with Germany. German troops occupied the North of Italy where the puppet “Italian Social Republic” was set up under a captive, ailing Duce, now reduced to a shadow of his former self. Fiumian Kupa (Fiume-Kupa in the Scott catalog) also came under German occupation until it was returned to Croatia. Fiume itself remained in German hands until the last days of the war.

Italy’s defection led to other changes in administration. Much of Northern Italy, including Istria and Venezia Giulia, was incorporated into the German Reich, extending its borders to the Adriatic. Lubiana was also swallowed up, issuing its own stamps as Germany’s “Provinz Laibach” (1943 - 1944). Zara, an important naval port, came under German military administration, issuing German-overprinted Italian stamps (1943). The rest of the Dalmatian coast was now ceded to Croatia, which commemorated the occasion by overprinting its large, beautifully engraved stamp showing St. Mary’s Church and Cistercian Cloister in Zagreb as they were in 1650.



1996 Slovenia stamp



The end of World War II saw the first stamps of the new Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia. Once again, the areas of Istria, Venezia Giulia and Slovenia came into dispute as Tito's communist partisan armies swept across the area as far as Trieste, overprinting stamps of the Italian Social Republic for Istria, for Trieste and for Fiume (adding the city's Croatian name, Rijeka).

At the same time, local partisans in Slovenia overprinted some German Hitler heads with "Slovenija" and the Slovene coat of arms.

With the war's end, the area of Istria and Venezia Giulia was divided between the Anglo-American allies and the Yugoslav communists. The Istrian peninsula and adjoining Slovene coast came under Yugoslav administration (1945 - 1947). Yugoslav stamps overprinted

"Vojna Uprava Jugoslavenske Armije" were succeeded by an attractive set for Istria and the Slovene Coast depicting local products and landmarks. The rest of Venezia Giulia came under Allied Military Government, issuing Italian stamps overprinted "A.M.G. V.G" (1945 - 1947).

In 1947, these two areas were divided between Yugoslavia and Italy, leaving only the Trieste area unincorporated. The Free Territory of Trieste was established, consisting of the city of Trieste (Zone A) and the coastal areas bordering the Gulf of Trieste to the South (Zone B). Zone A remained under Allied occupation, issuing Italian stamps overprinted A.M.G. - F.T.T. - sometimes with "Trieste" added. Zone B came under Yugoslav military administration, with stamps bearing the inscription STT - VUJA. In 1954, Zone A was awarded to Italy, Zone B to the Yugoslav states of Croatia and Slovenia.

The border between Yugoslavia and Italy (which had become a republic) now left Trieste in Italy, Istria and Fiume/Rijeka in Yugoslavia. This arrangement continued until the breakup of the Yugoslav federation in 1991 and the foundation of the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia, both issuing their own stamps, including some bright, highly original Slovene issues showing folk pageants and masks. Istria (apart from the small Slovene Coast area) and Rijeka are now part of the Republic of Croatia.

In the 73 years between the end of the First World War in 1918 to the fall of Communism in 1991, Istria and Slovenia saw nearly thirty different administrations come and go. Some, like the Free State of Fiume, have gone down in history. Others, like Fiume-Kupa, are merely obscure footnotes - and notations in stamp collectors' want lists.

\* \* \*

*Thanks to John F. Gilbert for research assistance, to Hakim Bey for the gift of his book T.A.Z. The Temporary Autonomous Zone (Autonopedia, 1991), and to Wulf for help with the map.*

## Post Cards and Stamps

by Rick VanGorder

I am a post card collector as well as a stamp collector. About 2 years ago I decided to combine the two hobbies and create some pseudo-maximum cards. I call them "pseudo-" because they are not cancelled on the first day of issue and the post card does not show the same image that is depicted on the stamp. However, the card represents the person or subject shown on the stamp.

There are many stamps available for making these cards, but there are not many suitable post cards available to me. I scour antique stores, collectables shows and book stores for cards and it can take months to find a post card to go with a stamp. I restrict this project to U.S. stamps since domestic post cards are the easiest to find and I go for the cheapest cards and stamps: It can be a problem finding a single mint U.S. stamp of a particular person, place or event at a reasonable cost. As an example, most stamp dealers do not carry singles of the multi-subject stamp panes, i.e., Legends of the West (Scott 2869, the Civil War (Scott 2975), etc. I had to wait 10 months between purchasing Geronimo and Wyatt Earp post cards and obtaining the stamps at Aripex 2003 in Tucson (Scott 2869m & 2869j),

Although I usually use mint stamps on the post cards, sometimes I glue a used stamp to the card if it is rela-

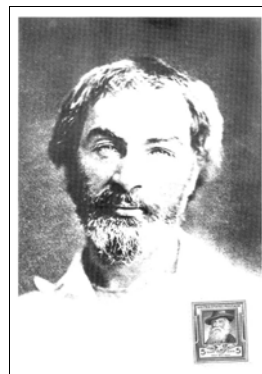
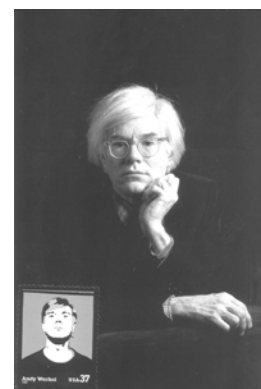
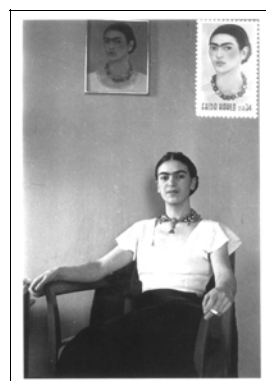
tively clean (see the James Dean card as an example).

Illustrated are the following cards:

James Dean: Scott 3082  
 Billie Holiday: Scott 2856  
 Frida Kahlo: Scott 3509  
 Andy Warhol: Scott 3652  
 Walt Whitman: Scott 867

I especially like the Frida Kahlo card as the self-portrait shown on the stamp is hanging on the wall above the artist in the photo.

I currently have dozens of these cards in my collection and this is an ongoing project. The problem I have now is finding room to store all of them!



## Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered Postmark Checklist

Stockholm, Sweden	08/23/83	Gay Pride Week
Stockholm, Sweden	08/16/86	Gay Pride Week
New York, NY, US	06/25/89	20th Anniversary of Stonewall riots
Bristol, Avon, England	06/11/91	Avon Pride, 1977 - 1991
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/28/92	15th Anniversary of South Florida's Pridefest
Hartford, CT, US	06/19/93	Pridefest '93
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/26/93	Festival of Pride (6/27 also exists)
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/27/93	Pridefest '93 & Pride March
San Diego, CA, US	07/01/93	Lesbian and Gay Pride
Asbury Park, NJ, US	06/05/94	New Jersey's 3rd Annual Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Parade
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/05/94	Pridefest '94 & Pride March
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/05/94	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
New York, NY, US	06/17/94	Gay Games IV (Dates available from 6/17 - 6/24)
Berlin, Germany	06/18/94	Christopher Street Day
New York, NY, US	06/26/94	25th Anniversary of Stonewall Riots
Washington, DC, US	07/01/94	International Association of Gay Square Dance Club (7/2 also exists)
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	10/09/94	International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators
Phoenix, AZ, US	06/02/95	Arizona Central Pride (6/3 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/04/95	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Hartford, CT, US	06/17/95	Pridefest '95
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/24/95	Pridefest '95 & Pride March
West Hollywood, CA, US	06/25/95	Christopher Street West
Walhalla, MI, US	08/??/95	Michigan Womyn's Music Festival 20th Anniversary
Tempe, AZ, US	05/31/96	Arizona Central Pride (6/1 & 6/2 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/02/96	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Philadelphia, PA, US	06/09/96	Diversity of Pride
Portland, ME, US	06/15/96	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/23/96	Pridefest '96 & Pride March
Philadelphia, PA, US	10/06/96	Outfest, National Coming Out Day
Tempe, AZ, US	05/30/97	Arizona Central Pride (5/31 & 6/1 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/01/97	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Ft. Lauderdale, FL, US	06/15/97	Pridefest '97 & Pride March
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/28/97	Twin Cities Pride (6/29 also exists)
Morristown, NJ, US	09/22/97	Gay Activist Alliance of Morris County 25th Anniversary
Rome, Italy	11/17/97	Origin of Gay Movement in Italy
New York, NY, US	04/25/98	5th National Gay & Lesbian Business & Consumer Expo (4/26 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/07/98	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/14/98	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/20/98	Celebrating Pride and the Lavender Line
Minneapolis, MN, US	06/27/98	Twin Cities Pride (6/28 also exists)
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/06/99	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/12/99	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/19/99	The BLTG Sandwich
Jackson Heights, NY, US	06/04/00	Queens Lesbian & Gay Pride
Baltimore, MD, US	06/10/00	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Washington, DC, US	06/11/00	Capital Pride Festival
Syracuse, NY, US	06/16/01	Got Pride! Station
Baltimore, MD, US	06/17/01	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride Festival
Burlington, VT, US	06/14/03	Just for All, Pride Station



# The Profile of Barry Burros



Scott no. 1331a

Born: March 28, 1926  
 School: Townsend Harris HS - NYC 1940 - 43  
           CCNY 1943 - 45 Latin/Classical Studies  
 Career: Market Research 1945 - 87

Relationships: Vincent Menill 1987 - present  
                   Larry Dorne 1969 - 87 (deceased)  
                   Edward Bobe 1945 - 69 (deceased)

Philately...

1938 - Original collection. Started with my brother. General worldwide. Kept up-to-date for many years. Current generation not interested, but holding it anyway.

1969 - Met my friend Larry on July 20th weekend. This was the moon landing Apollo XI event. Started collecting commemorative covers. Now have a vast collection organized and mounted in over 25 albums. Still collecting. Member of Space Stamp Club, subscribe to Linn's Stamp News, go to stamp shows, etc.

Would like to hear from other space stamp collectors...and, if by chance, any members whoever met any of "my guys"! I split my year between New York City, Ft. Lauderdale and Paris. I can always be reached at my NYC address: 160 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

N.B. Though I've certainly been extremely fortunate to have had three long personal relationships, it is interesting to note...none of the three guys is/was interested in stamp collecting!!!



Scott no. 1193  
 From the editor's collection.

# The Man Whose Shoes Were Too Tight

By David R. Conchado

Reprinted from the Fall 1989 issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

His nonsense poetry has never been equaled, nor have his whimsical illustrations. Anyone who reads his limericks, a form that he virtually perfected, can doubt that he was anything other than a comic genius on the order of Lewis Carroll. Still, all the signs of probable homosexuality are present. His entire life is characterized by close friendships with handsome young men many years his junior, by dozens of reasons - from poor eyesight to a big nose - found or invented for never marrying, and by references in his journal to intense suffering each time one of the young men married. (Greif, p. 85)

Throughout his life, Edward Lear (1812 - 1888) made a concerted effort to project a certain image of himself before the public. Ever conscious of the importance of making a good impression on those with money who would become buyers of his drawings and paintings, he made appoint of learning the social graces, of dressing appropriately, and of appearing as a kindly, fun-loving soul. He even kept his almost daily bouts with epileptic seizures from friends by excusing himself at the first indications of the aura invariably preceding these attacks, which plagued him from early childhood.

Lear came from a large family of 21 and two parents who had little time for him. He had an older sister, Ann, who looked after him and saw to his basic schooling. She taught him the three R's and appreciation for art. There is very little mention in his later writings of his formal education, which had begun at age eleven and lasted until age fifteen and a half.

Lear was very young when his father went to a debtor's prison, and the children were dispersed to earn their living. Most of Lear's sisters became governesses, but Ann, the oldest, made a home for him.

It was at this time that he began to use the artistic talents he'd nurtured in his formative years to take advantage of the craze that was sweeping England at the time; to acquire exotic animals and birds from far-off lands or at least to own good drawings and paintings of them. Lear had the good fortune to befriend wealthy patrons who boasted their private menageries, which provided him with a rich array of subjects for his art. His drawings of birds were praised for their Audubon quality.



Scott no. 1229a

When not busy drawing animals, Lear could frequently be found entertaining his patrons' children by composing nonsense lyrics and drawing cartoons to match them. In that era, the only literature available to children was drab adult books and moralistic tales.

Lear's nonsense verse and cartoons were a treat that kept the children thoroughly amused. Lear compiled a collection of these amusements and had them published. His name soon became a household word in England and his work is considered the forerunner of the modern tradition of cartooning and absurdity.

Despite these successes, Edward Lear was not content to remain in England. He attributed his unhappiness to the unwholesome English climate. Thus, he sought out the more clement climes of Italy, Greece, Corfu, and even India. He wandered through these strange lands ever searching for landscapes he could preserve on canvas and sell to culture-hungry English patrons. He almost never traveled alone and always with a male companion.

Frank Lushington was to figure prominently. At first, the two were very close; the intensity of Lear's feelings apparently caused Frank to panic, for he quickly backed away, married and had a family. This unrequitable love gave Lear years of frustration and depression. Grounds exist for speculation that Lear had affairs with other men after Frank, but it was with Lushington that he shared an English background and culture. There is, however, no indication that their friendship was not platonic.

Though Lear toyed with the idea of marriage, he instead availed himself of the services of a Greek servant named Giorgio Kakali, a rather handsome young fellow who must have served Lear well. They stayed together for the rest of Giorgio's life, some 27 years. Ever conscious of his public image, Lear saw to it that Giorgio kept his distance in public. What they did together in private is another matter. The only inkling we

have of the level of intimacy between the two men surfaced when Giorgio "confessed" to his family and Lear provided financial favors to Giorgio's relatives.

Curiously, in his writings Lear professes to despise a life without women. He decried the monks of Athos for living in an atmosphere of falsehood and ignorance...falsehood, because I am positive that living alone banishing all women who God has made to be our equals and companions, passing life in everlasting repetition of formal prayers - in fact - turning god's will and works upside down - I say this is falsehood - though it may be ignorance as well. (Byrom, p. 19)

Lear and John Addington Symonds (also gay) became close friends; they never discussed their sexuality with one another. How beneficial it would have been for them if they had! The silence among homosexuals of the Victorian period kept them hopelessly alone and in despair. The subject just was not discussed and the public "must never know."

Lear's feeling about homosexuality and marriage are revealed in two of his nonsense poems with accompanying drawings. "The Owl and the Pussy-cat," which he had composed for Symonds's eldest daughter, sick in bed at Christmas, we get a glimpse of Lear's ambivalence about marriage.

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat;  
They took some money, and plenty of honey  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The Owl looked up to the Moon above  
and sang to a small guitar:  
O Beautiful Pussy, Pussy my Love  
What a Beautiful Pussy, you are...

The other poem, "Incidents in the Life of My Uncle Arly," is quite autobiographical. Lear's very name is hidden in the relative's name, UncLE ARly. The poem capsulizes the artist's whole life.

A railway ticket is made the symbol of his life long wandering, his too tight-fitting shoes are his bottle-up emotions, while a cricket on his back could be his nonsense muse urging him to be more public about his feelings, his alienation from society, and the homosexuality that sets him apart from that repressive Victorian culture. But his shoes are much too tight - he will not allow that society to enter his private world.

In the following limerick, the cricket returns as a grasshopper, this time to the consternation of the hapless protagonist.

There was an old person in black  
A Grasshopper jumped on his back;  
When it chirped in his ear,  
he was smitten with fear,  
That helpless old person in black

Does the cricket make public some secret between the man and itself? Is it the threatened disclosure that frightens him? These questions could not be answered by Edward Lear, who lived in a time when homosexuality was illegal.

During most of his life, the punishment for "going public" was life imprisonment. It should not surprise us then, that Lear prudently remained silent about his sexual preference. What the image of the grasshopper on the man's back suggests I will leave to your imagination.

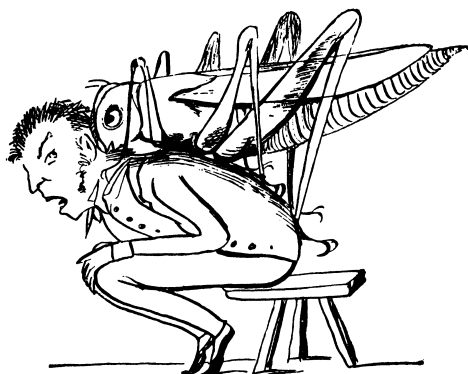
References:

Byrom, Thomas. *Nonsense and Wonder: The Poems and Cartoons of Edward Lear*. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1977.

Chitty, Susan. *That Singular Person Called Lear*. New York: Atheneum, 1988.

Greif, Martin. *The Gay Book of Days*. New York: Carol Publishing Group, 1989.

Noakes, Vivien. *Edward Lear: The Life of a Wanderer*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1969.



**Letters to the Editor**

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Hello,

My name is Marcos and I am a young philatelist of Brazil. I am starting now a collection about literature and my interest in philately came from my work at [www.filatelia77.com.br](http://www.filatelia77.com.br) Since I started work there I could get in touch with this subject that I hardly knew before, and my interest could only get larger after I started to see how much one is able to get from collecting stamps.

I found your address in the Scott Catalogue and me and my boss are really interested in exchanging experiences and knowledge (and, who knows, stamps.) We are both gay and we believe that this work you are doing is very important as a way of inclusion of the "queer" individual in society and history.

We make ourselves available to give any information about Brazilian stamps - or any kind of stamps we know. We were really glad to see a stamp of Cazuza [Brazilian rock star who died from complications dues to AIDS.] in your website. Soon, Filatelia77 will have its own website (the current address is only a virtual store) with general information for philatelists and we'll, for sure, publish something about your work. I hope you can write us back so we can establish a dialogue.

Best wishes,

Marcos de Campos Visnadi  
R. Lopes Trovao, 276 Bl. 7 Ap. 2  
Jundiaí—SP 13218-034  
Brasil



Greetings from Boston -

I'm not sure if anyone could be of assistance with any of the following, but thought I'd drop a note...as I've begun the past 3 years or so of attempting autographs on FDC....

1. Cleve Jones was the main proponent on the AIDS Quilt phenomena. Wasn't there/isn't there a second person who may have been involved?
2. Gilbert Baker is the creator of the "Rainbow Flag".

Would anyone have further information or mailing addresses on these people? I've had no luck through my sources.

[Also] There was a recent article, and accompanying photo, of a "retired" postal carrier, also T.V. Does anyone have a photocopy of the article? I accidentally trashed mine.

Many thanks,

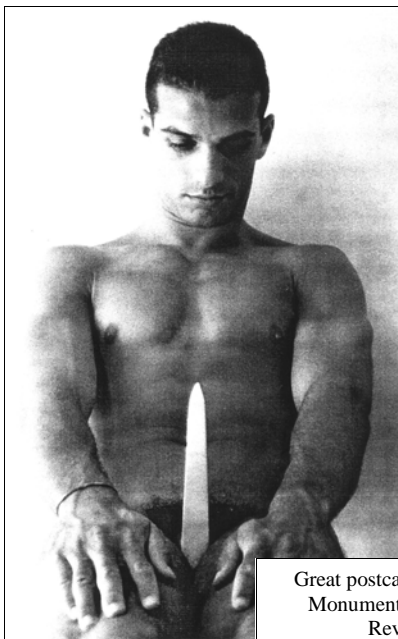
George Mercier  
Box 180707  
Boston MA 02118



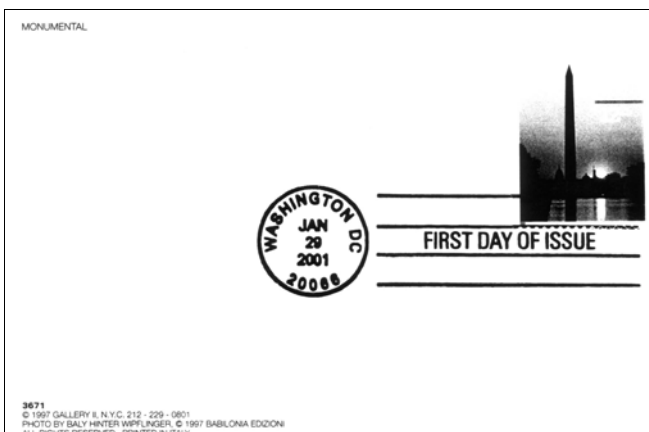
## Members' Covers



Envelope used by a New York member.



Great postcard to use for Washington Monument stamp first day cancel.  
Reverse side below.  
Thanks to Bob in Austin.



## Gay & Lesbian Update

The United States has announced that a stamp to honor writer James Baldwin will be released in 2004. It will be the next stamp issued in the Literary Arts Series. The release date is tentatively August 2, 2004.

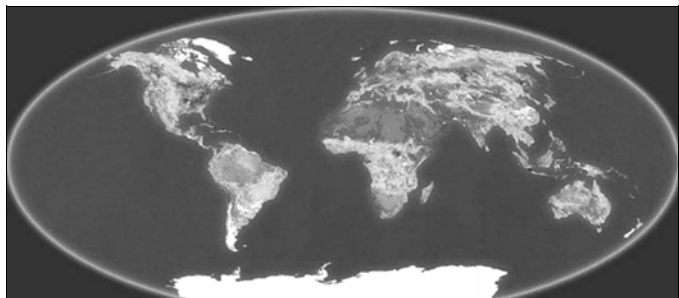
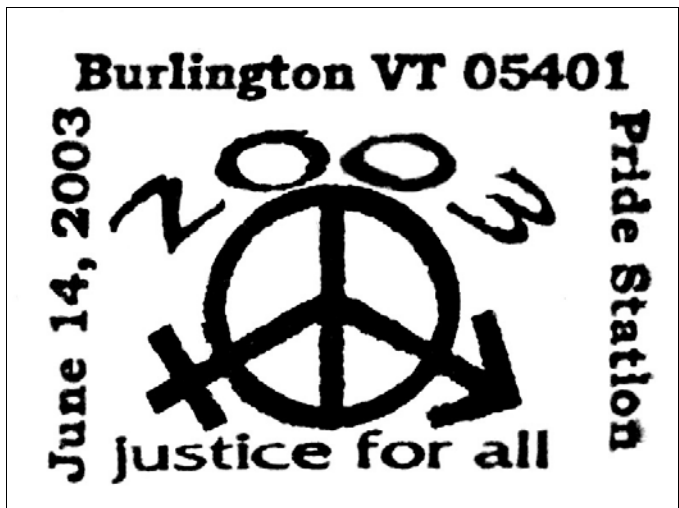
France is scheduled to issue a stamp featuring the Andy Warhol work of Marilyn Monroe, completed in 1967, on November 10, 2003.



Here are a few postmarks used to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Peter Pan story, written by Sir James Barrie.



Burlington, VT used a pride postmark on June 14, 2003 to celebrate Gay/Lesbian Pride. This is the 44th known postmark used in the United States and the 49th known worldwide.



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

**Bahamas** issued a set of six stamps featuring various pirates on March 18, 2003. Anne Bonney can be found on Scott no. 1065.

**Bosnia & Herzegovina** (Croat Administration) issued a stamp on April 15, 2002 featuring Leonardo da Vinci. Scott no. 84.

**Cambodia** issued a set of five stamps and a souvenir sheet in 2001 featuring film personalities.

Marlene Dietrich, Scott no. 2081.  
Rudolph Valentino, Scott no. 2086a.

**France** issued a stamp on January 11, 2003. The stamp is a semi-permanent issue to announce a birth. A Keith Haring drawing is featured on the stamp in bright orange on a blue background. Haring was gay and also died due to AIDS complications. Scott no. 2947.



**France** issued a stamp featuring “The Dying Slave” and “The Rebel Slave” on May 24, 2003. Both statues are by Michelangelo. Scott no. 2947.

**Palau** issued a sheet of six stamps and a souvenir sheet on January 13, 2003. The stamps were to commemorate the 20th World Scout Jamboree held in Thailand in 2002. Lord Robert Baden Powell is featured on the souvenir sheet, Scott no. 709.

**Peru** issued a stamp and label on November 20, 2002. The stamp celebrated the bicentennial of Alexander von Humboldt’s visit to Peru. Scott no. B49.

**Russia** issued a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet on November 12, 2002. The stamps were released to commemorate Emperor Alexander I. Scott nos. 6723 - 27.

**Yugoslavia** issued a set of four stamps for Christmas on December 2, 2002. *Adoration of the Magi*, by Sandro Botticelli can be found on Scott no. 2583.

## AIDS Update

### New issues...

**Botswana** issued a set of four stamps for their 2002-03 AIDS Campaign on December 1, 2002. Scott nos. 757-60.

**French Polynesia** issued a stamp in the fight against AIDS on September 20, 2001. Scott no. 810.



**Macedonia** issued another postal tax stamp on December 1, 2002. This is their ninth stamp since 1994. Scott no. RA120.

**Nambia** issued a set of four stamps for the prevention of AIDS on December 1, 2002. Scott no. 1002-05.

**Poland** issued a stamp on October 25, 2002. It features a pink ribbon. It has been listed as a fight against cancer issue. However, several members have sent e-mails stating that it is for the fight against AIDS. Scott no. 3660. (Does anyone else have any information on this issue?)



### South African Stamps Reinforce the AIDS Prevention Message

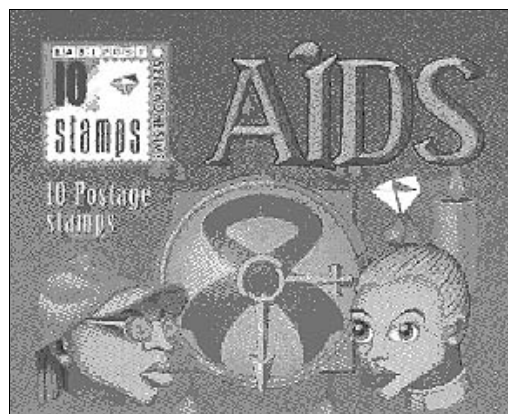
To help reinforce the AIDS prevention message, the postal authorities of the South Africa Republic has issued a booklet containing 10 self-adhesive stamps on November 29, 2002. The stamps bear the standard postage rate. The stamps were designed by Peter Sibanda.

The booklet is in a hip-hop style to appeal to the youth. Each individual stamp design can also stand on its own. South Africa is one of the countries most severely affected by AIDS in the world. It is estimated that 4.8 million individuals are now infected with HIV despite the intensive HIV prevention programs in place by many governments.

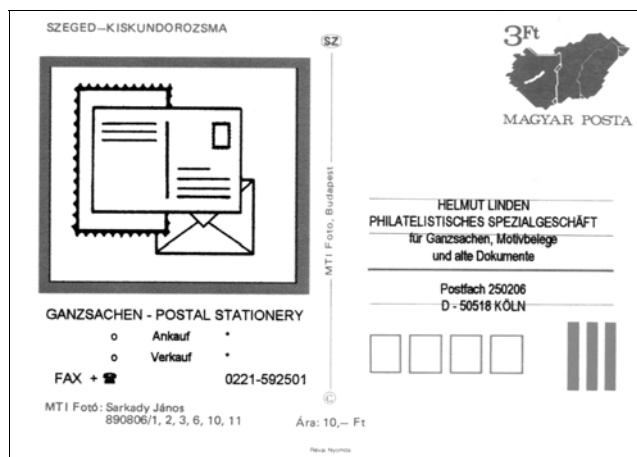
Scott nos. 1302 a - j.



Book of 10 self-adhesive stamps



Front cover of booklet.



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**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.**

**Collector seeks  
 Postcards/Ephemera**

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

**Frank Serafino  
 61 Woodland Drive  
 Oak Brook, IL 60523  
 USA**

**Or e-mail Frank at:  
 Ffino69@aol.com**

**Helpful Addresses**

American Philatelic Society (APS)  
 PO Box 8000  
 State College PA 16803-8000  
 814-237-3803  
 www.stamps.org  
 www.stamplibrary.org



American Topical Association (ATA)  
 PO Box 57  
 Arlington TX 76004-0057  
 817-274-1181  
 www.americantopical.org



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



Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library  
 PO Box 830643  
 Richardson TX 75083-0643  
 www.utdallas.edu/library/special/wprl.html

International Gay & Lesbian Archives  
 One Institute  
 PO Box 69679  
 West Hollywood CA 90069-0679

Homodok (Gay Archives)  
 Oudezijds Achterburgwal 185  
 NL—1012 DK Amsterdam  
 The Netherlands

National Postal Museum  
 MRC 570  
 Smithsonian Institution  
 Washington DC 20560-0001

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 fun!**

## Last Lick

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### 2004 ATA Annual Convention


The National Topical Stamp Show is scheduled for June 11 - 13, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport. This will be the 55th annual ATA convention, the first time being held in "The River City."

Memphis was founded in 1819 by Andrew Jackson and others. It's name means "city of good abode." Memphis is home of several attractions, such as the *Memphis Belle*, the first B-17 to survive 25 bombing missions over Germany in World War II; Graceland Mansion, home and burial place of Elvis Presley; and the National Civil Rights Museum housed in the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated.

It's also time for another GLHSC meeting. Should I reserve a room for a meeting? Memphis isn't that far from Dallas, about a 7 hour drive. Anyone that is planning to attend the NTSS, let me know soon.

www.AFDCS.org

**The 2002 AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest Earl Planty Award Winners — Page 37**



**2002 Top Cachet**  
 By Brenda Little



***WANTED:***

Member profiles  
 Articles on your favorite subjects